

Childrens Court of Queensland

Annual Report 2021 - 22

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PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW

General

- [1] The COVID pandemic continued to impact the criminal justice system generally, and the Childrens Court, specifically in 2021-2022. There were issues with COVID within the detention centres and with transportation of children to court as well as children and services being impacted by illness and isolation periods. Despite this, a significant number of matters were finalised during the year.
- [2] In 2021-2022 finalised appearances decreased from 7382 to 6773 a decrease of 8.2 percent from the previous year.¹ The numbers were reasonably stable in the Childrens Court of Queensland but there were 603 less appearances in the Childrens Court. Individuals charged also reduced in number from 3,827 to 3,341 (this number is similar to 2019-2020).² The decrease in finalised matters may in part be reflected in the use of cautions which rose by 902 or 6.6 percent.³
- [3] It can be seen over the ten-year period shown in Figure 2 that there was a spike in appearances in 2018-2019 which coincided with the legislative changes which brought 17-year-old young people into the youth justice system. Generally, however, the numbers of finalised appearances have decreased slightly over this period. In contrast, over the same ten-year period, numbers of finalised charges have increased.⁴
- [4] Following on from some significant reforms to the *Youth Justice Act* in 2021, there was a review by Mr Bob Atkinson AO APM. The final report was delivered to the Government in March of 2022. Mr Atkinson identified that there was confidence in the likely long-term value of the metal detection wandering trial, the hooning legislation, the presumption against bail for young people alleged to be serious repeat offenders, and for joint police and youth justice co-responder teams. He also noted valuable contributions from the Youth Justice Taskforce, the Youth Justice Senior Officers Reference Group and the Youth Justice Cabinet Committee.

¹ Table 1, p 16.

² Figure 2. p 17.

³ Table 8, p 23.

⁴ Figure 9, p 22.

- [5] It was noted that the electronic monitoring trial had not been taken up in great numbers, so it was difficult to say how effective that trial had been. The trial had been well implemented but whether it is effective in preventing further offending whilst the child is on bail was not apparent.
- [6] His report noted further areas for consideration by the Government, in particular partnerships with First Nations peoples, identifying and managing cognitive impairments and a sustained commitment to early intervention. It was noted in the report,⁵ “Neuro developmental impairments make young people vulnerable to committing offences, misunderstanding their experience in the criminal justice system and adversely impact their ability to engage in conventional rehabilitation programs”.
- [7] The identification and management of cognitive impairments is an area that presents a significant gap in the youth justice arena. The lack of identification of impairments can lead to significant miscarriages of justice when capacity issues arise and the poor management of impairments inhibits a young person’s ability to understand and engage with the court process.
- [8] The Forensic Child Youth Mental Health Service continues to provide significant services to children throughout the State, but they continue to be chronically understaffed. They assess children as required at the Childrens Court and they treat young people whilst in detention, when they are released on bail and when they are on other orders. They are unable to provide assessments or reports to the Childrens Court of Queensland. It remains a significant concern that there is a chronic shortage of mental health professionals that are able to assist young people in the youth justice system, both at the assessment and treatment stage. It leads to large delays in the resolution of charges and leaves children’s significant mental health issues untreated.
- [9] In relation to sexual offences, the Griffith Youth Forensic Service continues to provide court reports for young people who have been convicted of sexual offences. Their assistance to the Court is invaluable and they provide significant

⁵ At p 155.

ongoing treatment for children on orders. The success rate of this particular service is significant, and it is important work that must continue.

- [10] The Queensland Education and Justice Initiative continues to operate within the Children’s Court to assist young people to reengage with education. It has a significant presence throughout the State as well as monitoring the education of young people in youth detention. There have been significant problems with access to young people in detention, particularly in North Queensland, due to staff shortages within the detention centres during the year. However, the Department of Education remains committed to assisting where there is a safe environment to engage with the young people. Their efforts in trying to ensure that children connect with an appropriate educational facility when they are waiting for final hearings are to be commended.
- [11] The Legal Aid Office, particularly the Youth Legal Aid team, continues to operate the youth legal advice hotline to assist children who are arrested. Section 421 of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (Qld) requires police to inform them or a legal representative that they have a child in custody for an offence. They also continue to monitor the bail status of children in custody and, where appropriate, seek reviews of bail decisions and to act for children on sentence review applications. They are a valuable source of expertise and advice to practitioners who appear in the Children’s Court and provide accreditation for those practising in the area.
- [12] Child protection applications fell from 6,361 to 5,870⁶ in the past year, as did appeals from those applications (from 46 to 21). During the year the Nous group undertook a review of the child protection litigation model. They have provided an interim report in relation to that review and the court is still awaiting a final report. It is significant that Legal Aid does not have a model which supplies solicitors during child protection trials in circumstances where the parents often present with mental health challenges or intellectual disabilities.

⁶ Table 23, p 32.

- [13] First Nations young peoples continue to be overrepresented in the youth justice system. The Youth Murri Court operates in some of the Magistrates Court jurisdictions including Cairns, Rockhampton and Mackay, however, more needs to be done to make the Childrens Court a more relevant place for First Nations peoples. A pilot program continues to operate in relation to the Childrens Court of Queensland in Cairns, however, the take-up has not been strong.

Youth justice trends summary

- [14] As already stated, there was a decrease in finalised appearances before the Court and a decrease in the numbers of distinct young people who are convicted of charges. Males continue to outnumber females, making up to 73 percent of all distinct child defendants convicted before the court.⁷ Seventeen-year-olds continue to be the largest single age group of child offenders, accounting for 28 percent of young people convicted, followed by 16-year-old's, who account for 21 percent. Ten percent of young people were aged 18 when convicted in the Childrens Court.⁸
- [15] There was a drop in numbers of very young children (aged 10-12) convicted of charges in 2021-2022 although this corresponded to a drop in numbers in all age categories.⁹ As in previous years, a small proportion of offenders account for a large amount of the offences. Young people categorised as serious repeat offenders under the Serious Repeat Offender Index accounted for 17 percent of young people convicted and 48 percent of the charges.¹⁰ This represents a larger percentage of young people than in previous years, however, this is the first time those young people have been measured against the Serious Repeat Offender Index so that may account for the difference.
- [16] Significantly, in relation to First Nations young peoples, they remain overrepresented in the youth justice system. There was an increase in the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children convicted of offences in the Court, sitting at 50 percent of all matters as opposed to 48 percent

⁷ Table 2, p 18.

⁸ Table 3, p 19.

⁹ Table 3, p 19.

¹⁰ Figure 6, p 19.

in the previous year.¹¹ Of the First Nations young peoples, there was a slightly smaller percentage of First Nations males to other males but a larger proportion of females to other females.¹²

[17] It is disturbingly familiar that First Nations young peoples continue to be substantially overrepresented in the younger age groups with 86 percent in the 10-11 age group, 81 percent in the 12-year-old group, 65 percent in the 13-year-old group and 58 percent in the 14-year-old group.¹³ The statistics show that they are 11.5 times more likely to have a proven charge finalised in a Queensland Court in the last 12 months and that rate is increasing.¹⁴ In terms of penalties, they are 18.7 times as likely as other young people to commence a supervised order¹⁵ and again this is increasing. They are over 21.4 times as likely as other young people to have been in youth detention in 2021-2022 although this rate has decreased since 2018-2019.¹⁶

[18] There was a decrease in the conviction rate in the last year from 82.8 percent to 81.4 percent with detention being the most serious penalty imposed in 6.6 percent of cases with a further 6.4 percent resulting in the conditional release order. This represents an increase in both categories from the previous year.¹⁷ Probation was the most serious penalty imposed in the largest number of offences, namely 31.9 percent of cases, followed by reprimand and other minor penalties at 29.9 percent. Sentences of detention and conditional release orders are affected by the time the young person spends unsentenced in detention which must be taken into account at sentence. 86 percent of young people in custody are unsentenced with an average time spent in youth detention unsentenced of 43 nights which is a substantial increase from the year before of 36 nights.¹⁸

¹¹ Figure 7, p 20.

¹² Table 4, p 20.

¹³ Figure 8, 21

¹⁴ Table 5, p 21.

¹⁵ Table 28, p 36

¹⁶ Table 33, p 40.

¹⁷ Table 7, p 23.

¹⁸ Figure 19, p 42.

- [19] There were 14,589 cautions administered to young people during the year.¹⁹ This represents an increase of 6.6 percent. There was a significant drop in restorative justice referrals from 3,169 to 2,249 in the last year.²⁰
- [20] In relation to time taken to finalise matters, the Children’s Court took 84 days to finalise matters on average which was substantially less than the year before (102 days). By comparison the Childrens Court of Queensland finalisation rate was 286 days from the date of first mention in the Children’s Court. This was a decrease from 304 days the year before and is comparable to the 2018-2019 period.²¹
- [21] In the Childrens Court there were 6,237 appearances and 34,061 charges finalised, 561 of those appearances and 2,239 of those charges resulted in a committal to the Childrens Court of Queensland or the Supreme Court.²² The most prevalent offences were unlawful entry with intent, theft and related offences.²³ Of the finalised appearances in the Magistrates Court, 67.6 percent resulted in a conviction: one third of those convictions received a reprimand, a custodial sentence was imposed in 5.9 percent of cases with 5.8 percent receiving a conditional release order. Probation was the second most serious penalty imposed with 28.7 percent of convicted appearances.²⁴ In the Magistrates Court, defendants aged 17 years and over accounted for 35.3 percent of finalised appearances and 11-year-old defendants showed the largest decrease at 60.3 percent.²⁵
- [22] In relation to the Childrens Court of Queensland, 81.1 percent of young people were convicted: of those, 13.8 percent received a custodial sentence and a further 12.9 percent were given a conditional release order. The most prevalent penalty continued to be probation at 63.1 percent.²⁶

¹⁹ Table 8, p 23.

²⁰ Table 9, p 24.

²¹ Table 10, p 25

²² Table 19, p 29.

²³ Table 21, p 31

²⁴ Table 22, p 31

²⁵ Table 20, p 30

²⁶ Table 13, p 27.

- [23] There were 18 applications for parentage orders under the *Surrogacy Act 2010* which was the same number as the previous year.²⁷ In relation to sentence reviews, there was a reduction from 53 to 46 sentence reviews heard over the year but an increase in bail applications from 105 to 145. This is not surprising given the increased number of children remanded in custody over the year.
- [24] There were 11 appearances in the Supreme and District Courts for child defendants in 2022. There was an average number of charges per appearance at 4.7. This represents a decrease from the previous year in appearances and an increase in the number of charges per child. Drug offences accounted for 59.6 percent of the charges.²⁸
- [25] The majority of community-based supervision orders commenced in 2021 but completed in 2022 were successfully completed, with 74 percent probation orders and 57 percent community service orders being the most prevalent type.²⁹
- [26] There was a significant increase in young people being held in youth detention in the last 12 months, from 229 in 2020-2021 to 275 in 2021-22.³⁰ Young males accounted for between 86 and 90 percent of young people in detention on average in any given period.³¹ The average daily number of young people in youth detention that were not sentenced increased substantially to 238 per day from 202 the previous year.³² This is unsurprising given the changes to the Act in relation to bail for young people and the show cause provisions.
- [27] As previously stated, young people spend on average 43 nights unsentenced as opposed to 36 nights in the previous year. In relation to finalised appearances at which detention was ordered, 45 percent of appearances resulted in the young offender being released from Court following sentence with no time remaining to serve in custody and the offender in 26 percent of the cases was not required to serve a supervised release order.³³

²⁷ Table 18, p 29.

²⁸ Table 24, p 32

²⁹ Table 31, p 37

³⁰ Figure 13, p 39.

³¹ Figure 14, p 39.

³² Figure 19, p 42.

³³ Table 34, p 42.

[28] A number of young people were required to serve time in police watchhouses around the state. Table 35³⁴ shows a month by month breakdown of the numbers of children in custody in police watchhouses. It seems on average, the numbers sit above 460 young people. In total there were 7,001 admissions of young people into police watchhouses and concerningly 166 of those young people spent 8 to 14 days in a watchhouse with a further 305 young people spending 5 to 7 days in a watchhouse.³⁵

[29] In relation to victims of child offenders, half of all victims were younger than 20 years of age with those aged 10 to 14 accounting for 48 percent of that group. Victims aged 50 and over comprise 11 percent of all victims.³⁶

Childrens Court Committee

[30] The Childrens Court Committee continued to meet during the year and remains a valuable way for the Court to exchange information between agencies and to discuss any developments in the youth justice space throughout the State. The Committee provides an important way for complaints or issues to be aired and solved without delay. It remains a vital cross agency initiative.

Court Case Management Committee

[31] The Court Case Management Committee meets once every four to six months and discusses issues arising in the child protection area, the review of the litigation model will no doubt influence the role of the Committee and the Committee awaits the final report. It continues to monitor issues before the Court.

Thanks

[32] I thank the Judges of the Childrens Court of Queensland for their assistance in managing the workload of the Court. Special thanks goes to Judge Rafter KC, who acted as President of the Childrens Court in my absence on leave from 30 May 2022.

³⁴ Table 35, p 43.

³⁵ Table 36, p 43.

³⁶ Figure 20, p 44.

- [33] Special recognition should always be given to the Magistrates, in particular the specialist Childrens Court Magistrates who work hard to manage a significant workload in that Court. Their work is unrelenting and at times frustrating and they manage it with dedication to the task. A particular thanks to the Chief Magistrate Janelle Brassington who, up until her appointment as Chief Magistrate, was managing the Childrens Court.
- [34] I also acknowledge the work of the agencies involved in supporting the Childrens Court and the Youth Justice system generally. The practitioners involved in the Youth Legal Aid team, the Youth Advocacy Centre, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and the duty lawyers who attend the Childrens Court provide assistance to the Court on a daily basis. I also acknowledge the work of the Queensland Director of Public Prosecutions and Police Prosecutors who provide assistance to the Court in a professional and timely manner.
- [35] The officers of the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, the Registry of the Childrens Court and the Childrens Court of Queensland, the Director of Child Protection Litigation and his staff, members of the Queensland Family and Child Commission as well as officers from the Department of Justice and Attorney General have all worked tirelessly to ensure the efficient running of the Court. A special mention should also go to Alex Robynson from Youth Justice Services and Danielle Palmer and Christelle Tan from the Office of the Chief Magistrate who act as coordinators for the business of the Childrens Court Committee and the Case Management Committee. They are patient and efficient. Amanda O'Brien, Nicole Drew, Claire Slater and Kylie Chaczko also provide enormous support to the Court through their statistical expertise and technical support and are always cheerily available to assist when requested.
- [36] I thank the officers of the Courts Reporting Unit and the Queensland Government statisticians for their assistance in preparation of this report.

Deborah Richards
President
Childrens Court of Queensland

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics presented in this report may vary from data published elsewhere, due to differences in the dates administrative data were extracted, and frequency of revision, or in counting rules or statistical standards applied. Changes in the scope of the court statistics also occur from time to time. Readers are therefore urged to exercise caution when making comparisons between publications.

Reference year

The statistics in this report relate primarily to the 2021–22 financial year, i.e. 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. Where possible, data from up to nine previous financial years are provided for comparison.

Data sources

Data which form the basis of the statistics presented in this report have been collected and collated by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO), Queensland Treasury. As all data are current at time of extraction, historical data include revisions.

Finalised appearances and charges data have been sourced from QGSO's Courts Database, which contains operational data sourced from and managed on behalf of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data were extracted in August 2022.

Cautions and victims of child offenders data were sourced from the Queensland Police Service. Data were extracted in August 2022.

Youth justice data, including distinct defendants, rates, restorative justice conferencing, and supervised youth justice orders were provided by the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data were extracted in July/August 2022.

Other data were sourced from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for use in this report, and were extracted in August 2022.

Counting rules

The Childrens Court of Queensland Annual Report uses counting rules based on those used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for presenting courts statistics. In contrast, the Magistrates Court Annual Report uses Report on Government Services (RoGS) counting rules as prescribed by the Australian Government Productivity Commission. The differences in the counting rules make these two reports incomparable. The main difference is the counting unit used for RoGS and the Magistrates Court Annual Report is lodgements, which gives a measure of workload, whereas the unit counted by the ABS is finalised appearances, which gives a measure of results.

Further information regarding these counting rules is available from the following websites:

Australian Bureau of Statistics: www.abs.gov.au

Report on Government Services: <https://www.pc.gov.au/>

Symbols used in tables

— nil
.. not applicable

Definitions

<i>adjudicated</i>	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). (See <i>not adjudicated</i>).
<i>caution</i>	an official warning given at police discretion to a young offender as an alternative to a charge.
<i>charge</i>	a formal accusation of an offence. A charge may be finalised by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal. In this report, a finalised charge refers only to those finalised by adjudication.
<i>child</i>	In the context of youth justice, a child is a person aged between 10 and 17 years of age at date of offence. Prior to 12 February 2018, when changes to the <i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i> came into effect in Queensland, the age range was 10–16 years.
<i>Childrens Court</i>	The Childrens Court is a special court which deals with Magistrates Court matters involving child defendants. (For the purposes of this report, Magistrates Court is the term used.) It is presided over by a Childrens Court magistrate.
<i>Childrens Court of Queensland</i>	an intermediate court created to deal with children charged with serious offences, child safety appeals pursuant to s117 of the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> and applications for parentage orders under the <i>Surrogacy Act 2010</i> . It is presided over by a Childrens Court judge, who is also a judge of the District Court of Queensland.
<i>Childrens Court judge</i>	a District Court judge appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act 1992</i>).
<i>Childrens Court magistrate</i>	a magistrate appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act</i>).
<i>committal</i>	referral of a case from a Magistrates Court to a higher court for trial or sentence.
<i>convicted</i>	a determination (finding) by the court, or as a result of a guilty plea, that a defendant is legally responsible for an offence.
<i>Court of Appeal</i>	the Supreme Court sitting in judgement on an appeal.
<i>defendant</i>	a person charged with a criminal offence and appearing in a criminal court.
<i>disposition</i>	the finalisation and clearing of matters to do with a defendant (for instance by a conviction (guilty finding) and sentence, acquittal (not guilty), discharge or withdrawal, but not by committal or transfer to another court).
<i>District Court</i>	a court constituted by a District Court judge (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act</i> , and s5, <i>District Court of Queensland Act 1967</i>). A District Court judge who does not have a commission as a Childrens Court judge has jurisdiction to deal with a child in circumstances where a Childrens Court judge is not available. Matters involving child defendants can be heard in the adult District Court if the child is charged as an adult, or in other

special circumstances, such as when a child is co-accused with an adult, in accordance with guidelines set down in the Childrens Court Act and the Youth Justice Act.

<i>ex officio indictment</i>	an indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of Prosecutions without a committal.
<i>finalised appearance</i>	a collection of offences for a single offender that are disposed (finalised) on the same day, at the same court level and court location. In this report, finalised appearance refers only to those finalised by adjudication.
<i>Magistrates Court</i>	a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate or, in some circumstances, by two Justices of the Peace.
<i>not adjudicated</i>	includes cases where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these cases are replaced by a new case with amended charges.
<i>not convicted</i>	a determination by the court that a defendant is not guilty of an offence, and hence is acquitted.
<i>offence</i>	any act or omission by a person(s) for which a penalty could be imposed by the Australian legal system.
<i>offence type</i>	a category within a classification describing the nature of the offence; the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification</i> (ANZSOC), 2011 is used in this report.
<i>offender</i>	a person who is deemed responsible for, has been found guilty of, or pleaded guilty to an offence.
<i>penalty</i>	<p>a term of detention (occasionally imprisonment), fine or other payment, community service or supervision, or other imposition ordered by the court as part of the punishment of an offender after a guilty finding.</p> <p><i>detention order</i> a custodial penalty placing a child offender in a youth detention centre.</p> <p><i>conditional release order</i> suspension by the sentencing court of a detention order against a child offender conditional on participation in a program of up to three months.</p> <p><i>intensive supervision order</i> (ISO) 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.</p> <p><i>community service order</i> a supervision penalty requiring an offender to perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work.</p> <p><i>graffiti removal order</i> 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.</p>

probation order a penalty allowing an offender freedom under supervision for a specified period, conditional upon compliance with the terms of the order.

fine a monetary penalty requiring an offender to make a payment of a specified sum to the Crown.

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.

reprimand a formal reproof given by the court to a child offender upon a guilty finding.

restorative justice conference

a diversionary option based on restorative justice principles whereby a child offender is diverted from the court system to a restorative justice conference—a meeting between a child who has committed a crime and the people most affected by that crime. The victim of an offence has the right to veto any conference.

sentence

the determination by a court of the punishment to be imposed on a person who has been found guilty or has pleaded guilty to a charge(s).

Serious Repeat Offender

a young person who scored higher than 6 on the Serious Repeat Offender Index (SROI) on any day (See **Serious Repeat Offender Index** in Interpreting the data, below).

serious offence

an offence that, if committed by an adult, would make the adult liable to imprisonment for life or for 14 years or more (s8, Youth Justice Act).

Supreme Court of Queensland

the highest court in the Queensland judicial system (with unlimited jurisdiction and dealing with murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and the most serious drug offences).

trial (criminal)

a hearing (in a District or Supreme Court) before a judge sitting with a jury or (in the Childrens Court of Queensland) by a judge alone to determine the guilt of a defendant charged with an offence.

Interpreting the data

Breach of youth justice order

An offender found to have breached the conditions of a youth justice order (i.e. conditional release, probation, community service and good behaviour order) will appear in court for re-sentencing for the offence for which the order was originally made (Youth Justice Act). Therefore, as such breaches are not criminal offences, offenders appearing for re-sentencing have been excluded from the data in this report.

In 2021–22, there were 291 finalised appearances by child defendants in Queensland courts for breaches of youth justice orders compared with 6,773 for criminal offences.

Only breaches of youth justice orders which are criminal offences have been included in the court statistics (for example those related to escaping custody, breach of bail, or breach of domestic violence protection order).

Caution

On a crime report, a caution is counted once only for each type of offence committed by an offender. Thus, a person cautioned by

police for three property damage offences will only be counted once for that offence type, and a person cautioned for one burglary offence and one property damage offence will be counted twice, once for each offence type. The total number of cautions recorded may be less than the total number of offences for which offenders were cautioned.

Classification of offences

This report shows the classification of charges by “offence type”. The offence classification used is the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification* (ANZSOC), 2011. Offences are first classified into one of sixteen divisions of ANZSOC, and further broken down into offence types. Then the National Offence Index (2018) is applied to establish an order of seriousness.

Detailed tables contain figures for all offence types. Summary tables in the body of the text give figures for all categories at the higher level (division) and those at the lower level that are of particular interest.

Miscellaneous offences contain those that involve the breach of statutory rules or regulations that are not explicitly dealt with in any other division, such as: defamation, libel and privacy offences; public health and safety offences; or breaches of commercial/industry/financial regulations.

Finalised appearance versus distinct defendant

In this report, the Queensland Courts and Youth Justice use different terms to explain volume counts. With Courts data, except in the case of finalised charges, the counting unit is appearances finalised by adjudication. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised court appearances during the reference year, and each is counted.

By comparison, each distinct child defendant with a finalised appearance is counted by Youth Justice only once per reference year, regardless of how many finalised appearances they had during that time.

Imprisonment

As a general rule, there is no power of imprisonment (as opposed to detention) under the Youth Justice Act. In rare cases, however, the power of imprisonment exists. For example, if a person commits a crime as a child, absconds and is arrested pursuant to warrant one year or more after becoming an adult, the court is empowered in an appropriate case to impose a penalty of imprisonment (see Youth Justice Act, s140).

Most serious penalty

Offenders may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition. Tables in this report show only their most serious penalty. For example, a person ordered to be detained in custody and also given a probation order is counted under “Detention” only, because it is the more serious penalty.

Percentage totals

In tables in this report, constituent percentages may not sum to exactly 100% due to rounding to one decimal place.

Recording of age

Where possible, age has been calculated from the date of birth to the date of offence, or the date of finalised appearance, whichever is applicable.

Serious Repeat Offender Index (SROI)

The SROI is a 'point in time' measurement that represents the volume/seriousness of a young person's recent offending behaviour. The SROI provides a score as at a particular

measurement date for all young people who, as at the relevant measurement date:

- were alleged to have committed an offence in the previous 12 months that was subsequently referred to a restorative justice process by Queensland Police or heard in a Queensland court, and
- were aged 10–17 years, and
- were not deceased, and
- had either a proven offence or a referral to a restorative justice process in their lifetime, or one or more adjourned charges still waiting finalisation in court.

SROI scores take into account the young person's age at that measurement date, as well as the young person's offending (including seriousness, frequency, clustering and recency) and custody nights over the 24 months leading up to that measurement date. Higher index scores indicate more serious/frequent offending behaviour. Young people with scores of 6 or above are considered a 'Serious Repeat Offender' (as at that measurement date).

COVID-19 Pandemic

When the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic on 11 March 2020 in response to the global spread of COVID-19, governments in Australia responded by introducing a range of social restrictions in efforts to contain the spread of the virus. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic response, 2019–20 is an anomaly. A range of social restrictions was introduced in the last quarter of 2019–20, and Queensland courts heavily scaled back operations and a backlog ensued. Court restrictions were not lifted until the end of the same quarter and, as a result, figures for 2019–20 were lower than expected. Conversely, figures for 2020–21 were higher than expected due to courts seeking to clear the backlog of matters. The COVID-19 pandemic remains a significant and ongoing event, both globally and nationally, which has impacted crime and justice statistics in various ways since 2019–20. Therefore, comparisons with figures in periods before the pandemic must be made with caution.

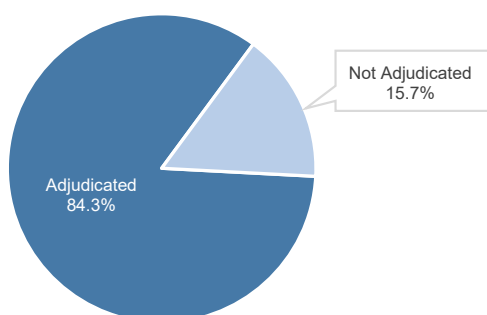
SUMMARY

In previous editions of this report, finalised appearances/charges have been presented in total, irrespective of their method of finalisation. **This report will now present all finalised matters by their method of finalisation**, i.e., readers will see where the court has handed down a judgement or decision as to whether or not the defendant is guilty (convicted) or not guilty (not convicted) of a criminal charge(s). Appearances where all charges were withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication are presented as “not adjudicated”. In terms of finalised charges, each receives an outcome individually.

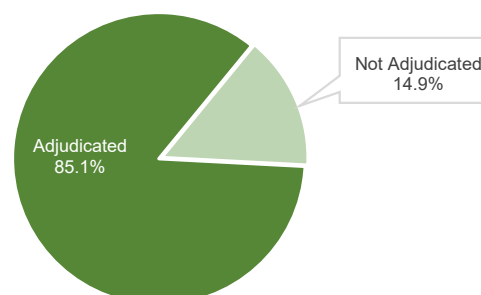
Matters which are committed or transferred to another court are not considered finalised at that point. Those which are finalised in a higher or other court during the reference period are presented in that jurisdiction.

Method of finalisation

Figure 1 Finalised appearances, 2021–22



Finalised charges, 2021–22



Appearances

In 2021–22, there was a total of 6,773 finalised appearances of child defendants in all Queensland criminal courts. Compared with 2020–21 (7,382), this is an overall decrease of 8.2% (or 609 appearances). This is driven mainly by the Magistrates Court where numbers decreased by 8.8% (603 appearances). (Table 1 and Figure 2).

Appearances for breaches of youth justice orders are excluded from these statistics, as are appearances resulting in indefinite referral to restorative justice conferencing.

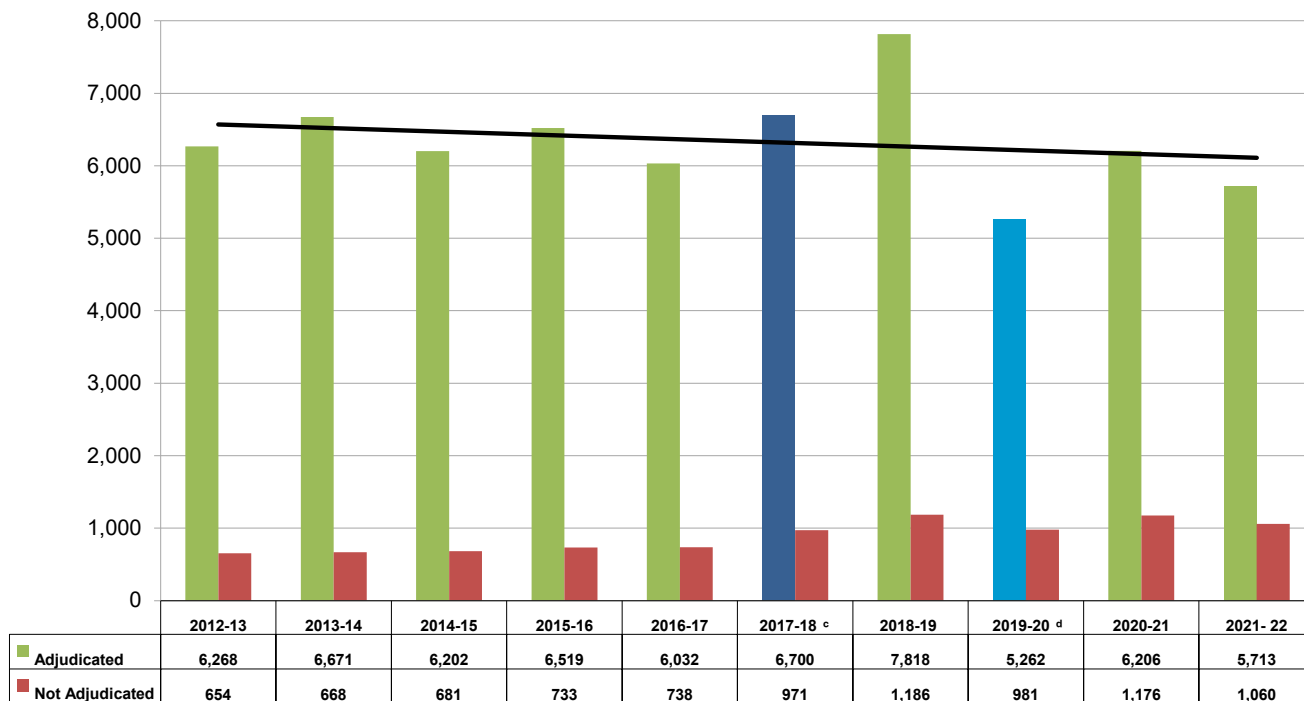
Table 1 Finalised appearances^(a) of child defendants, by method of finalisation, by outcome, by court type

Court	2020–21				2021–22			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Magistrates	1,101	4,681	1,058	6,840	979	4,216	1,042	6,237
Childrens Court of Queensland	74	444	10	528	78	426	21	525
District	–	1	–	1	1	1	–	2
Supreme	1	12	–	13	2	7	–	9
Total	1,176	5,138	1,068	7,382	1,060	4,650	1,063	6,773

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. Appearances for breaches of youth justice orders, are excluded, as are appearances resulting in indefinite referral to restorative justice conferencing. An individual may have one or more appearances in a reference year

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Figure 2 Finalised appearances^(a) of child defendants, by method of finalisation, all courts^(b)



- (a) Appearances for breaches of youth justice orders, are excluded, as are appearances resulting in indefinite referral to restorative justice conferencing. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.
- (b) Includes Magistrates, Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts.
- (c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data are current as at August 2022.

The two figures below present finalised appearance numbers on a month-by-month basis for the four most recent years, to illustrate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the Magistrates Court, which represents the vast majority of finalised appearances, a recovery towards pre-pandemic numbers was apparent from the end of 2019–20, when normal court operations resumed following lockdown. Numbers in 2021–22 followed a very similar monthly distribution pattern to the previous year, and in June 2022 the number of appearances exceeded those in all three preceding years. (Figure 3)

In the higher courts (Figure 3), 2021–22 began with finalised appearances at the same level as in the previous year. While the monthly distribution of appearances differed from that in 2020–21, overall numbers for the two years were very similar. Numbers in the higher courts have yet to rise to the level seen during and prior to the pandemic. (Figure 4)

Figure 3 Finalised appearances^(a) of child defendants, Magistrates Court

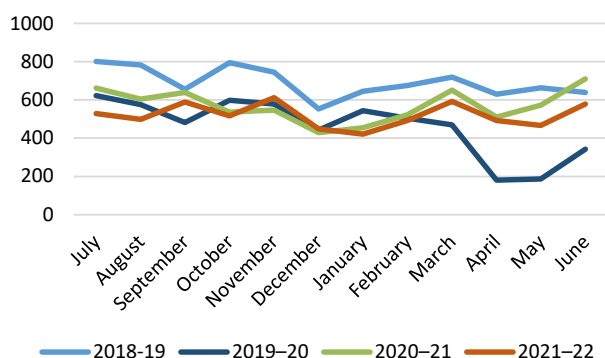
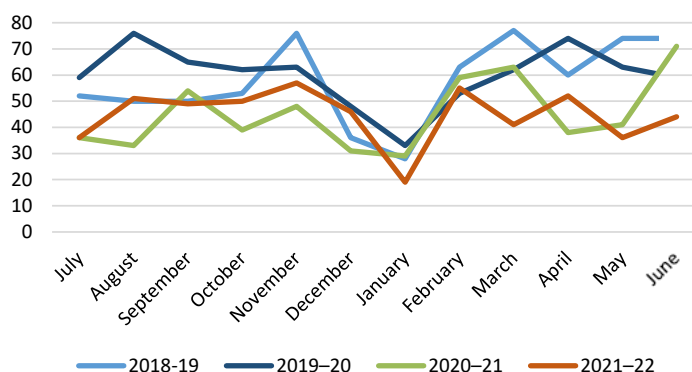


Figure 4 Finalised appearances^(a) of child defendants, higher courts



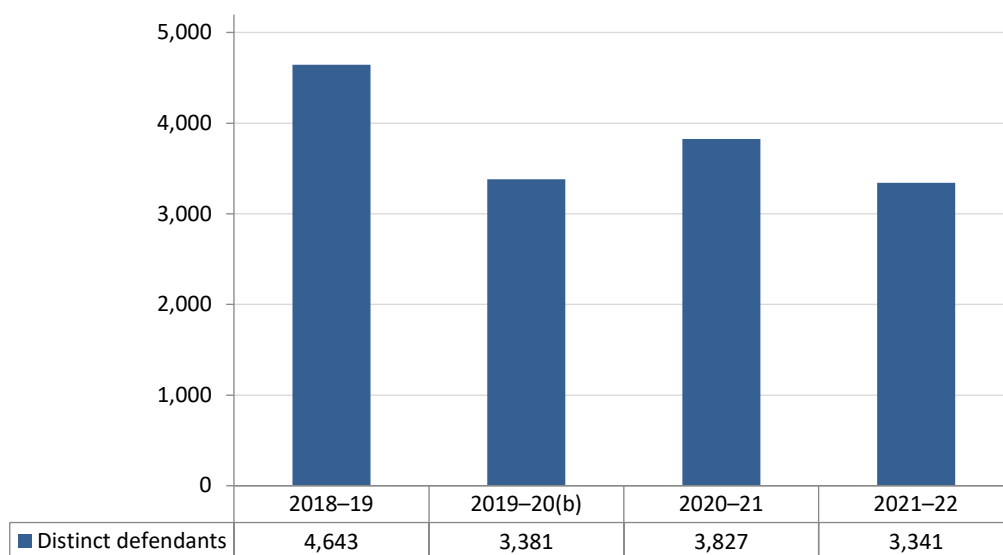
- (a) Includes all finalised appearances, both adjudicated and non-adjudicated. An individual may have one or more appearances in a reference year.

Distinct defendants

In 2021–22, there were 3,341 distinct young people aged 10 years and over who were convicted of one or more charges in a Queensland court. This is fewer than in the previous year, when 3,827 distinct young people received a guilty outcome. Serious repeat offenders continue to be responsible for a disproportionate amount of offending by young people in Queensland — almost half of all charges with a guilty outcome.

Due to the time it takes for charges to be heard and finalised in court, there will be some young people aged over 17 years at time of finalisation who are dealt with in the youth justice system. In addition, detention counts include young people aged over 17 years who are completing their detention orders in a youth detention centre for offences that were committed as a juvenile.

Figure 5 Distinct child defendants^(a) convicted, all courts



(a) These figures are based on first finalisation of charges only (e.g. they exclude re-sentenced offences).

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

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Young males continue to outnumber young females, consistently accounting for between 72 and 73 per cent of all distinct child defendants convicted (Table 2).

Table 2 Proportion of distinct child defendants convicted, by sex, all courts^(a)

Sex	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	Per cent ^(c) (%)			
Female	27	28	28	28
Male	73	72	72	72
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Distinct child defendants across all court levels.

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

(c) Percentages exclude young people who reported being intersex or where sex was not reported. These accounted for less than 0.06 per cent of young people per reference year.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

In 2021–22, 17-year-olds were the largest single age group among child offenders convicted of a charge in a Queensland court. This age group accounted for 939 (28%) young people convicted, while 16-year-olds accounted for 700 (21%) during the same period. Of the total, 344 (10%) young people were aged 18 years when convicted as a child offender (Table 3).

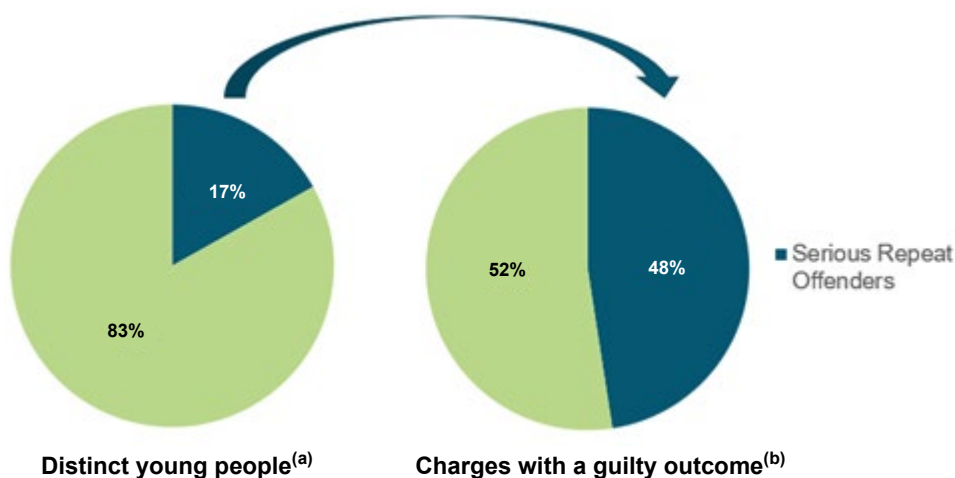
Table 3 Distinct child defendants convicted, by age, all courts^(a)

Age at finalised appearance (years) ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(d)	2020–21	2021–22
	—Defendants—			
10	12	4	3	1
11	51	22	25	11
12	134	85	89	76
13	326	231	225	223
14	565	378	463	427
15	791	560	645	620
16	997	715	822	700
17	1,300	986	1,063	939
18 & over	467	400	492	344
Total	4,643	3,381	3,827	3,341

(a) Count of distinct young people convicted of a charge(s) in at least one court level in the reporting period.
 (b) Age represents age of defendant on the date of their first convicted appearance in the financial year, not the date the offence occurred.
 (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
 Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

A small proportion of offenders is disproportionately responsible for offences committed by young people in Queensland. Seventeen per cent of all young people convicted accounted for 48% of all convicted charges in 2021–22 (Figure 6). These young people (Serious Repeat Offenders) are identified using the Serious Repeat Offender Index, which considers a young person’s recent offending history (including offending frequency and seriousness), the time a young person has spent in custody, and their age.

Figure 6 Demographic intersection of distinct young people convicted, all courts, 2021–22



Note: In this figure a young person is defined as a Serious Repeat Offender if they scored higher than 6 on the Serious Repeat Offender Index (SROI) on any day during the 2021–22 financial year. The SROI is a 'point in time' measurement that represents the volume/seriousness of a young person's recent offending behaviour. The SROI provides a score as at a particular measurement date for all young people who, as at the relevant measurement date:

- were alleged to have committed an offence in the previous 12 months that was subsequently referred to a restorative justice process by Queensland Police or heard in a Queensland court, and
- were aged 10–17 years, and
- were not deceased, and
- had either a proven offence or a referral to a restorative justice process in their lifetime, or one or more adjourned charges still waiting finalisation in court.

SROI scores take into account the young person's age at that measurement date, as well as the young person's offending (including seriousness, frequency, clustering and recency) and custody nights over the 24 months leading up to that measurement date. Higher index scores indicate more serious/frequent offending behaviour. Young people with scores of 6 or above are considered a 'Serious Repeat Offender' (as at that measurement date).

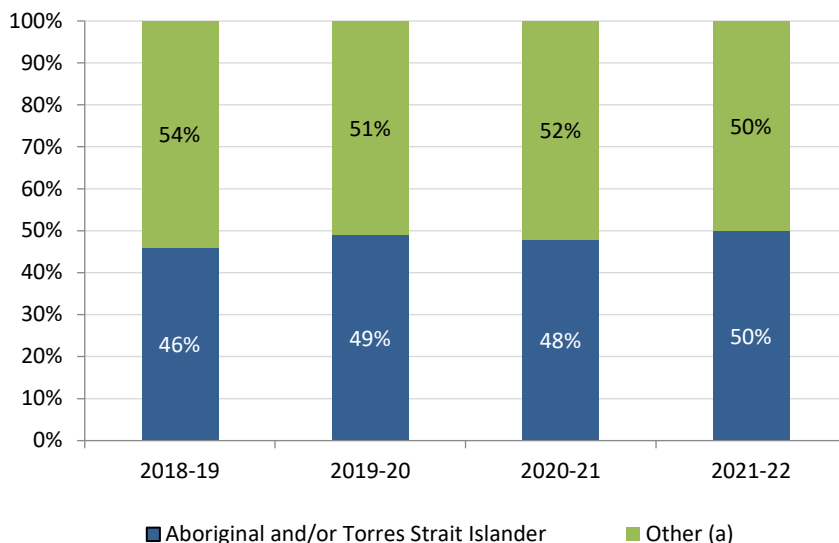
(a) Proportion of all distinct young people with a proven charge (conviction) finalised across all court levels in 2021–22.
 (b) Proportion of all proven charges finalised across all court levels in 2021–22.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data accurate as 31 July 2022.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander distinct defendants

In 2021–22, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for half of all distinct young people convicted in court. This is a slight increase compared with previous periods (Figure 7).

Figure 7 Distinct young people convicted, by Indigenous status, all courts



(a) 'Other' includes young people who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Males accounted for 72 per cent of young people convicted in 2021–22. Of all young people convicted in 2021–22, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (35%) made up a slightly smaller proportion than other males (37%), while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (16%) comprised a slightly larger proportion than other females (13%).

Table 4 Demographic intersection of distinct young people convicted, all courts, 2021–22

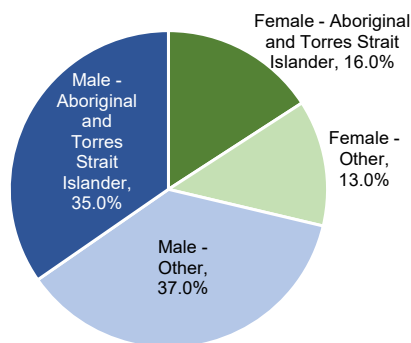
Indigenous status	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(a)	Total
Sex	—Defendants—		
Female	520 (16%)	419 (13%)	939 (28%)
Male	1,153 (35%)	1,248 (37%)	2,401 (72%)
Total^(b)	1,674 (50%)	1,667 (50%)	3,341 (100%)

(a) 'Other' includes young people who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

(b) Total includes those who identify as intersex or indeterminate sex.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Figure 7 Demographic intersection of distinct young people with a proven offence finalised, 2021–22



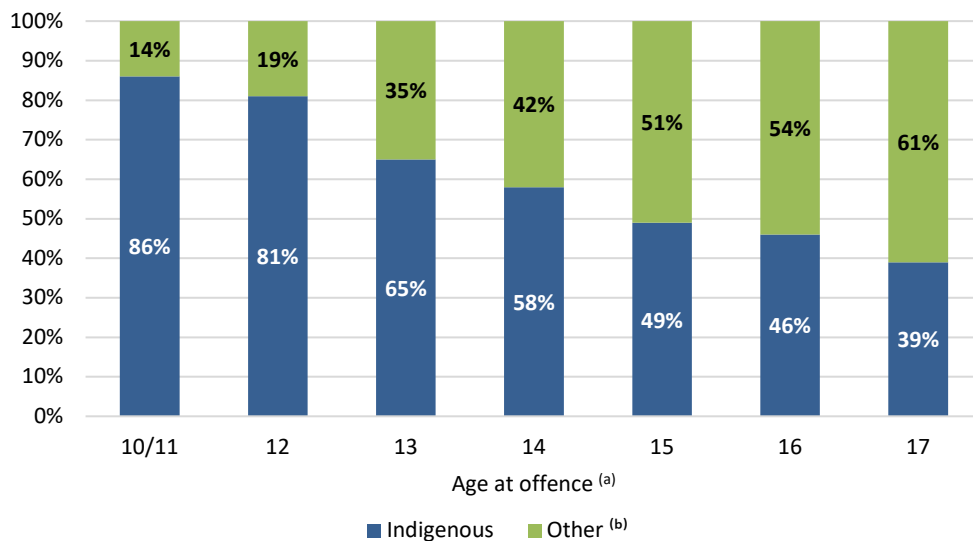
(a) 'Other' includes those who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

(b) Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number, therefore the sum of individual percentages reported may total more than 100%.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people continue to be substantially over-represented in the younger offender age groups from 10 to 14 years.

Figure 8 Proportion of distinct child defendants by Indigenous status, by age at offence, 2021–22



(a) Includes all distinct young people aged 10–17 years at the date of offence. Age at offence is determined as the youngest age at offence of any proven charge finalised for the young person in the 2021–22 financial year.

(b) ‘Other’ includes those who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

The overall rate per population of distinct young people in Queensland with a proven charge finalised has been decreasing over time. However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were 11.5 times as likely as other young people to have had a proven charge finalised in a Queensland Court in 2021–22, and this overrepresentation has been increasing.

Table 5 Rate of distinct young people convicted, by Indigenous status, all courts

Indigenous status	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22
Distinct young people with a proven charge – rate per 1,000 persons ^(b)				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	51.1	38.8	42.7	38.7
Other ^(c)	5.2	3.6	4.1	3.4
Over-representation ^(d) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, as compared to other young people				
Over-representation ^(d)	9.8	10.9	10.5	11.5

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

(b) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–17 year-olds, using population estimates as at 30 June in the relevant financial year, from figures from ABS: Estimated Resident Population, Customised Report, Age by Sex, by Queensland LGAs (2016 ASGS) 30 June: 2011 to 2019p. The 2019 figures are preliminary and are as at 30 June. The 2020, 2021, and 2022 population figures are derived from the 2019 (preliminary) population figures using an age-progression method such that those falling within the juvenile age population (i.e. 10–17) will be advanced by one year for each new period.

(c) ‘Other’ includes young people who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

(d) ‘Over-representation’ is calculated by dividing the rate per population for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people by the rate per population figures for ‘other’ young people. Over-representation figures indicate the amount of times as likely an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young person is to have a proven charge, as compared to other young people.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Charges

In the two courts where the majority of matters against child defendants were disposed in 2021–22, the average number of charges per finalised appearance remained the same at 5.4. Magistrates court increased to 5.5 charges per finalised appearance, while over the same period, there was a decrease in the Childrens Court of Queensland, from 4.9 to 4.1 charges per appearance.

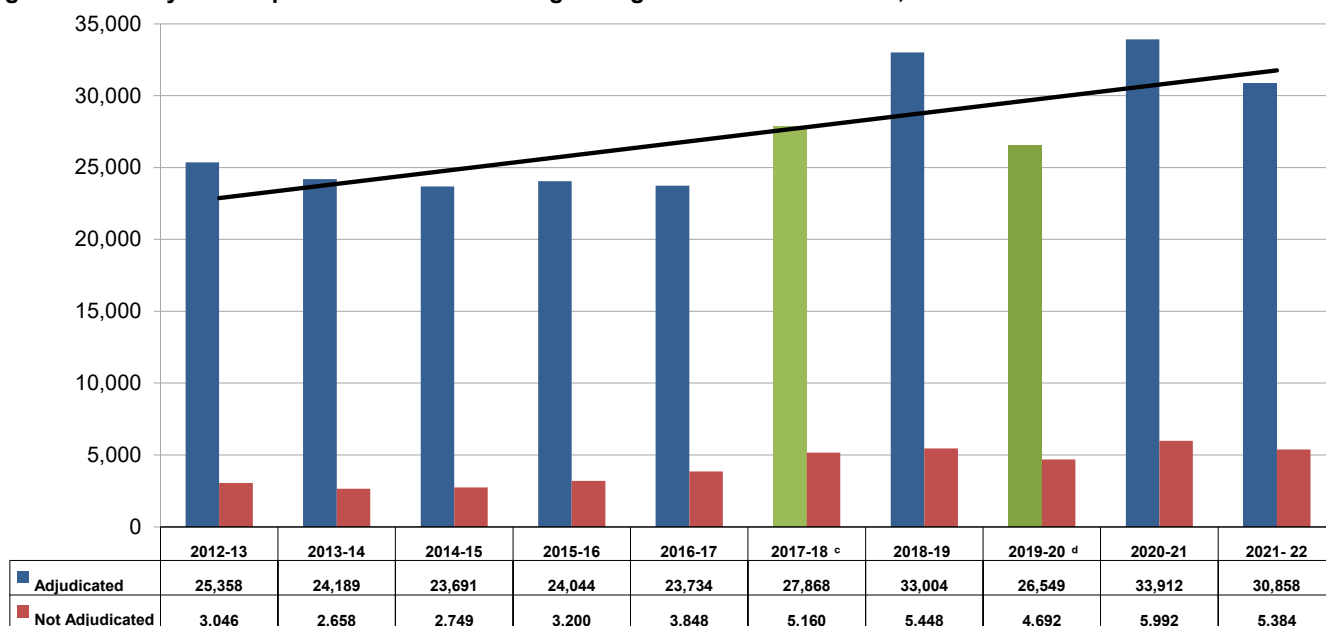
Of all charges adjudicated in 2020–21, the offence categories with the largest number of charges against child defendants were *theft and related offences* with 11,476 charges (37.2%), *unlawful entry with intent* with 6,275 charges (20.3%), *public order offences* with 2,056 charges (6.7%) and *road traffic offences* with 1,833 charges (5.9%). In total, these four offence categories represent over two-thirds (70.1%) of all charges finalised in children’s courts in 2021–22. (For more detail, refer to Appendix Table A1.)

Table 6 Finalised charges against child defendants, by court type

Court	2020–21				2021–22			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Magistrates	5,694	29,255	2,308	37,257	5,084	26,672	2,305	34,061
Childrens Court of Queensland	295	2,269	31	2,595	296	1,784	49	2,129
District	1	2	0	3	1	1	0	2
Supreme	2	47	0	49	3	47	0	50
Total	5,992	31,573	2,339	39,904	5,384	28,504	2,354	36,242

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Figure 9 Ten-year comparison of finalised charges^(a) against child defendants, all courts^(b)



- (a) Breaches of youth justice orders are excluded.
- (b) Includes Magistrates, Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts.
- (c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Penalties

In 2021–22, of the 5,713 adjudicated appearances of child defendants in Queensland courts, 81.4% (4,650) resulted in conviction (Table 7), compared with 82.8% (5,138) in 2020–21.

Detention was the most serious penalty imposed in 309 (6.6%) convicted child appearances in 2021–22, and a further 299 (6.4%) resulted in a conditional release order. Probation was the most serious penalty in the largest proportion of convicted appearances, at 31.9% (or 1,483), followed by reprimand and other minor penalties (29.9% or 1,389), and 11.3% (or 527) received a good behaviour order.

Table 7 Convicted appearances^(a) of child defendants, by most serious penalty, all courts^(b)

Most serious penalty ^(c)	2020–21	2021–22
	Appearances	
Detention ^(d)	276	309
Conditional release ^(e)	296	299
Community service	534	452
Probation	1,492	1,483
Treatment orders	64	22
Fine	58	50
Compensation	10	9
Good behaviour	754	527
Disqualification of drivers licence	162	110
Reprimand ^(f)	1,492	1,389
Total	5,138	4,650

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more convicted appearances in a reference year.

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

(c) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single finalisation, only the most serious is counted here.

(d) Includes imprisonment, intensive correction and intensive supervision orders.

(e) Includes wholly suspended imprisonment (for defendants aged 18 years or older).

(f) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Cautions

Queensland Police Service data showed that 14,589 cautions were administered to child offenders in 2021–22, an increase of 902 (6.6%) compared with 2020–21 (Table 8). In contrast, there were 6,773 finalised court appearances of child defendants in the same period, a decrease of 609 (–8.2%) compared with the previous year.

In 2021–22, the greatest number of cautions was administered for *theft and related offences* (3,838 or 26.3% of all cautions). A further 2,410 cautions (16.5%) were administered for *other offences* including dangerous or negligent acts, public order offences etc (See table footnote for details.) and 1,914 (13.1%) for *illicit drug offences*.

Table 8 Cautions administered^(a) to child offenders, by offence type

Offence type ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	—Cautions—	
Homicide & related offences	1	–
Acts intended to cause injury	1,542	1,501
Sexual assault & related offences	732	813
Robbery & extortion	200	246
Unlawful entry with intent	1,553	1,679
Theft & related offences	3,288	3,838
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	1,204	1,340
<i>Other theft^(c)</i>	1,903	2,299
<i>Receiving & handling</i>	181	199
Deception & related offences	387	419
Illicit drug offences	2,257	1,914
Property damage	1,535	1,723
Road traffic offences	42	46
Other offences ^(d)	2,150	2,410
Total	13,687	14,589

(a) Data are a count of cautions administered, not offenders or offences. During a reference year, an individual may be cautioned for more than one type of offence, or for offences against more than one victim, or for offences during more than one incident.

(b) Only selected offence types are shown (*in brackets*) at the more detailed level.

(c) Other offences = *dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosives offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences*, and *inadequate data*.

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at October 2022.

Restorative justice conferencing

In 2021–22, a total of 2,249 distinct young people were referred to a restorative justice process. Restorative justice processes include group conferencing (which include an offender and victim) and alternative diversion processes (which do not include a victim).

Of these 2,249 young people, 42% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, a small decrease from the previous year (43%).

In 2021–22, a total of 1,527 distinct young people participated in a restorative justice process. Of these young people, 38% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, a small increase on the previous year (37%).

Theft and related offences was the offence type most conferenced in 2021–22, at 1,997 (29% of the total), followed by *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* at 1,163 (17% of the total), and *acts intended to cause injury* at 576 (8%). Together, these three offence types accounted for more than half of all offences conferenced in the period. (Table 9).

Table 9 Offences for which a restorative justice process^(a) was held for child offenders, 2021–22

Offence type ^(b)	2021–22
Acts intended to cause injury	576
<i>Assault</i>	570
<i>Other acts intended to cause injury^(c)</i>	6
Sexual assault and related offences	290
<i>Sexual assault</i>	200
<i>Non–assaultive sexual offences</i>	90
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	166
<i>Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle</i>	115
<i>Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons^(c)</i>	51
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	46
<i>Abduction and kidnapping</i>	1
<i>Deprivation of liberty / false imprisonment</i>	13
<i>Harassment and threatening behaviour</i>	32
Robbery, extortion and related offences	217
<i>Blackmail and extortion</i>	2
<i>Robbery</i>	215
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,163
Theft and related offences	2,015
<i>Motor vehicle theft and related offences</i>	816
<i>Theft (except motor vehicles)</i>	942
<i>Receive or handle proceeds of crime</i>	257
Fraud, deception and related offences	368
<i>Deceptive Business/government practices</i>	1
<i>Obtain benefit by deception</i>	147
<i>Forgery and counterfeiting</i>	9
<i>Other fraud and deception offences^(c)</i>	211
Illicit drug offences	371
<i>Deal or traffic in illicit drugs</i>	57
<i>Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs</i>	5
<i>Possess and/or use illicit drugs</i>	160
<i>Other drug offences^(c)</i>	149
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	125
<i>Prohibited weapons/explosives offences</i>	16
<i>Regulated weapons/explosives offences</i>	109
Property damage and environmental pollution	422
<i>Property damage</i>	422
Public order offences	411
<i>Disorderly conduct</i>	247
<i>Regulated public order offences</i>	11
<i>Offensive conduct</i>	153

Offence type ^(b) (cont.)	2021–22
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	353
<i>Driver licence offences</i>	185
<i>Vehicle registration and roadworthiness offences</i>	74
<i>Regulatory driving offences</i>	94
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	279
<i>Breach of violence and non-violence orders</i>	8
<i>Offences against government operations</i>	5
<i>Offences against justice procedures</i>	266
Miscellaneous offences	66
Total	6,868

(a) Data are a count of offences, not a count of restorative justice processes held or child offenders who participated in a restorative justice process.

(b) Offence categories and sub-categories correspond to Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC), 2011. Offence types with zero values have been excluded.

(c) Sub-categories relating to "other" offences include offences which are peripheral to the main offence category.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

THE COURTS

Time lapsed to finalise court proceedings

For charges finalised in 2021–22, the average time taken to finalise those convicted in the Magistrates Court was 84 days, which is substantially less time than the 102 days taken in 2020–21 (Table 10).

By comparison, the average time taken to finalise those convicted in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2021–22 was 286 days from the date of first mention in a Magistrates Court. This was less time than in 2020–21 (304 days) and is comparable to the average time taken in 2018–19 (284 days).

Table 10 Average number of days to finalise convicted charges, selected courts

Court ^{(a)(b)}	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)	2020–21	2021–22
	—Days—			
Magistrates Court ^(d)	79	90	102	84
Childrens Court of Queensland ^(e)	284	306	304	286

(a) District, Supreme and Murri Courts excluded due to low numbers of youth justice charges finalised in these jurisdictions.

(b) Figures are based on days lapsed between the date of first mention and date of disposition of each convicted charge, averaged across all convicted charges disposed in the reported financial year.

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

(d) From mid-March to end of June 2020, Magistrates Courts operations were heavily scaled back in response to COVID-19.

(e) Time lapsed for convicted charges disposed in the Childrens Court of Queensland is calculated from date of first mention in a Magistrates Court.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 2,129 charges in 525 appearances of child defendants in 2021–22. Almost half of all finalised appearances related to defendants aged 17 years and older (44.6%), and four in ten were aged 15–16 years (40.8%) (Table 11).

There was a decrease (–17.7%) in the number of 14-year-old defendants appearing in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2021–22, with 51 appearances compared with 62 the previous year and an increase of 23 (31.5%) in the number of appearances of 15-year-olds over the same period.

Table 11 Finalised appearances, by outcome and age of defendant, Childrens Court of Queensland

Age at finalised appearance (years) ^(a)	2020–21 ^(b)				2021–22			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
11	–	2	–	2	–	1	–	1
12	–	2	–	2	–	3	–	3
13	1	15	1	17	4	18	–	22
14	6	54	2	62	9	42	–	51
15	17	55	1	73	16	78	2	96
16	17	100	2	119	20	92	6	118
17	16	104	–	120	12	117	5	134
18 & over	17	111	4	132	17	75	8	100
Unknown	0	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
Total	74	444	10	528	78	426	21	525

(a) Age represents age of defendant as at the earliest finalised appearance within the reference year.

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

(c) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or more finalised appearances within a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

An average of 4.1 charges were disposed per finalised appearance in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2021–22, slightly fewer than the 4.9 disposed in 2020–21. (Table 12)

Finalised charges of *unlawful entry with intent* decreased by 145 charges (–34.0%) in 2021–22, while, over the same period, *robbery & extortion* decreased by 100 charges (–16.2%), and *theft & related offences* by 94 charges (–15.6%) and *property damage* by 50 charges (–29.4%). Charges for *illicit drug offences* was the only offence type to show an increase (10 charges or 12.7%) over that period.

Table 12 Finalised charges by offence type, by outcome, Childrens Court of Queensland

Offence type ^(a)	2020–21				2021–22			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Homicide & related offences	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
Acts intended to cause injury	36	246	4	286	66	210	6	282
Sexual assault & related offences	65	112	16	193	60	74	38	172
Robbery & extortion	84	532	2	618	69	446	3	518
Unlawful entry with intent	37	388	1	426	25	256	–	281
Theft & related offences	41	559	3	603	41	468	–	509
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	18	289	–	307	28	270	–	298
<i>Other theft^(b)</i>	22	220	3	245	13	156	–	169
<i>Receiving & handling</i>	1	50	–	51	–	42	–	42
Deception & related offences	3	33	–	31	–	31	–	31
Illicit drug offences	1	77	1	87	2	87	–	89
Property damage	16	154	–	90	28	90	2	120
Road traffic offences	–	32	2	23	–	23	–	23
Other offences ^(c)	12	135	2	149	5	99	–	104
Total	295	2,269	31	2,595	296	1,784	49	2,129

(a) Offences are based on the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification* (ANZSOC), 2011. Only selected offence types are shown (in italics) at the more detailed level.

(b) Other theft = theft (except motor vehicles) + theft and related offences not further defined

(c) Other offences = dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosives offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences, and inadequate data.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Of the 525 appearances finalised in the Childrens Court of Queensland, 426 (81.1%) resulted in a conviction in 2021–22. Of these, 59 (13.8%) received a custodial sentence, with a further 55 (12.9%) given a conditional release order as the most serious penalty. The most prevalent penalty continues to be probation (63.1%).

Table 13 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty, Childrens Court of Queensland

Most serious penalty ^(a)	2020–21		2021–22	
	Convicted appearances ^(b)	% of total	Convicted appearances ^(b)	% of total
Detention ^(c)	83	18.7	59	13.8
Conditional release ^(d)	66	14.9	55	12.9
Community service	17	3.8	16	3.8
Probation	256	57.7	269	63.1
Fine	–	–	1	0.2
Good behaviour	11	2.5	13	3.1
Reprimand ^(e)	11	2.5	13	3.1
Total	444	100.0	426	100.0

(a) In descending order of seriousness. Offender may receive more than one penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is presented.

(b) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more convicted appearances within a reference year.

(c) May include imprisonment, partially suspended imprisonment, intensive correction and intensive supervision orders.

(d) May include wholly suspended imprisonment.

(e) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Applications for sentence review

Table 14 Applications lodged for sentence review – Youth Justice Act 1992, Childrens Court of Queensland

Court location	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22
	—Applications ^(b) —			
Brisbane	59	62	51	44
Gympie	–	–	–	1
Hervey Bay	1	–	–	–
Mackay	–	–	2	–
Rockhampton	–	–	–	1
Total	60	62	53	46

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

(b) Count is based on originating applications lodged at the Childrens Court of Queensland within the reference year, pursuant to section 119 of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2022.

Applications for bail

Table 15 Applications for bail, Childrens Court of Queensland

Court location	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22
	—Applications ^(b) —			
Beenleigh	2	7	3	1
Brisbane	140	93	79	119
Cairns	4	18	5	4
Dalby	–	1	–	–
Hervey Bay	1	1	–	–
Ipswich	5	–	4	10
Kingaroy	–	–	1	–
Mackay	3	3	4	1
Maroochydore	5	–	2	–
Maryborough	1	–	–	–
Mount Isa	–	–	1	–
Rockhampton	3	–	–	2
Southport	2	4	4	5
Toowoomba	1	1	–	–
Townsville	6	2	2	3
Total	173	130	105	145

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

(b) Figures represent a count of bail applications, not defendants, and is based on originating applications lodged in the Childrens Court of Queensland within the reference year.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2022.

Appeals

Table 16 Appeals to Childrens Court of Queensland regarding child protection

Court location	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
	—Appeals ^{(a)(b)(c)} —			
Beenleigh	–	–	1	–
Brisbane	7	19	27	16
Bundaberg	1	–	–	–
Cairns	–	2	6	–
Gladstone	1	–	–	–
Gympie	–	–	1	–
Ipswich	–	1	–	–
Mackay	–	1	–	–
Maroochydore	–	1	2	1
Mount Isa	1	–	–	–
Rockhampton	–	1	1	–
Southport	6	1	7	3
Toowoomba	2	–	1	–
Townsville	–	–	–	1
Total	18	26	46	21

(a) The statistics are a count of appeals from a Magistrates Court to the Childrens Court of Queensland, relating to temporary assessment orders, temporary custody orders, court assessment orders or child protection orders under the *Child Protection Act 1999*.

(b) Child Safety Services, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women or the Director of Child Protection Litigation (DCPL) were either respondents or appellants in each of the matters. The DCPL commenced 1 July 2016.

(c) The count is based on the originating appeal document lodged in the Childrens Court of Queensland within the reference year.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2022.

Table 17 Appeals lodged pursuant to s222 of the *Justices Act 1886*, by court location

Court location	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
	—Appeals ^(a) —			
Brisbane	1	1	4	–
Bundaberg	–	3	–	–
Emerald	–	2	–	–
Hervey Bay	1	–	–	–
Mount Isa	–	–	–	1
Townsville	–	1	–	–
Total	2	7	4	1

(a) Under s222 of the *Justices Act 1886*, if a person feels aggrieved by an order made in the Magistrates Court for an offence, the person may appeal the order to a District Court Judge.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland higher courts civil database (QCivil). Data current as at August 2022.

Applications for parentage orders

Table 18 Applications to Childrens Court of Queensland for *Surrogacy Act 2010* parentage orders

Originating court location	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
	—Applications ^{(a)(b)(c)} —			
Brisbane	12	9	18	16
Hervey Bay	–	–	–	1
Maroochydore	–	1	–	1
Southport	1	–	–	–
Toowoomba	–	1	–	–
Total	13	11	18	18

(a) Chapter 3, Part 2 of the *Surrogacy Act 2010*, Making a parentage order, facilitates the transfer of children born as a result of a surrogacy arrangement.

(b) The statistics reflect a count of originating applications for parentage orders made per section 21 of the *Surrogacy Act*.

(c) The count is based upon the originating application document lodged at the Childrens Court of Queensland within the reference year.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2022.

Magistrates Court

In 2021–22, there were 6,237 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Magistrates Court in Queensland, a decrease of 8.8% from 6,840 in the previous year. A further 561 appearances resulted in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence, a decrease of 10.0% since 2020–21. Of the 6,237 finalised appearances, 4,216 (67.6%) resulted in conviction and 1,042 (16.7%) were discharged in 2021–22, compared with 68.4% and 15.5% respectively in 2020–21.

Of the 34,061 charges against child defendants in the Magistrates Court, 26,672 (78.3%) were convicted, while 2,305 (6.8%) were discharged, similar proportions to those in the previous year (78.5% and 6.2% respectively).

Table 19 Appearances and charges of child defendants, by most serious outcome, Magistrates Court

Outcome	2020–21		2021–22	
	Appearances ^(b)	Charges ^(b)	Appearances ^(b)	Charges ^(b)
Committed to a higher court ^(c)	623	2,464	561	2,239
Finalised	6,840	37,257	6,237	34,061
Adjudicated	5,739	31,563	5,258	28,977
<i>Convicted</i>	<i>4,681</i>	<i>29,255</i>	<i>4,216</i>	<i>26,672</i>
<i>Not convicted</i> ^(d)	<i>1,058</i>	<i>2,308</i>	<i>1,042</i>	<i>2,305</i>
Not adjudicated	1,101	5,694	979	5,084

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

(b) Data are a count of appearances and charges, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or more appearances/charges within a reference year.

(c) Includes only those appearances where committal to a higher court was the most serious outcome.

(d) Where the defendant has been acquitted (found not guilty) of the charge(s) against them.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

The difference between the 561 appearances of child defendants committed to a higher court and the 536 finalised appearances in the Childrens Court of Queensland, and the District and Supreme Courts in 2021–22 is accounted for by ex officio indictments and matters committed to a higher court in 2020–21 but finalised in 2021–22.

Table 20 shows that while the number of finalised appearances decreased by 8.8% in 2021–22 compared with 2020–21, the age distribution for appearances changed very little over that time. Defendants aged 17 years and over accounted for 35.3% of all finalised appearances in the Magistrates Court in 2021–22, slightly less than in 2020–21 (37.3%). Defendants aged 11 years showed the largest decrease at 60.3%.

Table 20 Finalised appearances, by age and outcome, Magistrates Court

Age at finalised appearance ^(a) (years) ^(b)	2020–21				2021–22			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
10	2	3	1	6	3	–	–	3
11	20	34	14	68	8	8	11	27
12	31	104	42	177	26	121	42	189
13	78	303	90	471	70	302	88	460
14	140	593	133	866	113	563	139	815
15	209	914	178	1,301	177	883	174	1,234
16	217	971	208	1,693	215	903	179	1,297
17	264	1,244	303	1,811	249	1,065	318	1,632
18 & over	140	515	88	743	116	365	88	569
Not stated	–	–	1	1	2	6	3	11
Total	1,101	4,681	1,058	6,840	979	4,216	1,042	6,237

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or more finalised appearances within a reference year.

(b) Age represents age of defendant as at the earliest finalised appearance within the reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

In 2021–22, there were 34,061 charges finalised against child defendants in the Magistrates Court, a decrease of 3,196 (8.6%) from the previous year (Table 21).

The largest number of finalised charges was for *theft and related offences* (12,428), which represented an increase (130 or 1.1%) since 2020–21. At 36.5% of all charges, the proportion was higher in 2021–22 than in the previous year (33.0%).

Charges for *unlawful entry with intent* accounted for 7,749 or 22.8% of all charges finalised in 2021–22, compared with 7,810 (21.0%) in 2020–21.

Combined, these two offence types accounted for more than half (59.2%) of all charges finalised in the Magistrates Court in 2021–22, and 54.0% in 2020–21.

Table 21 Finalised charges against child defendants by offence type, Magistrates Court

Offence type ^(a)	2020–21				2021–22			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Homicide and related offences	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–
Acts intended to cause injury	347	1,625	141	2,113	292	1,444	86	1,822
Sexual assault & related offences	36	11	2	49	25	10	15	50
Robbery & extortion	219	38	20	277	210	39	18	267
Unlawful entry with intent	1,888	5,770	152	7,810	1,732	5,821	196	7,749
Theft & related offences	1,520	10,125	653	12,298	1,427	10,275	726	12,428
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	498	4,023	81	4,602	458	4,290	123	4,871
<i>Other theft^(b)</i>	678	4,674	496	5,848	667	4,516	510	5,693
<i>Receiving & handling</i>	344	1,428	76	1,848	302	1,469	93	1,864
Deception & related offences	347	1,154	40	1,541	279	830	32	1,141
Illicit drug offences	203	1,946	222	2,371	285	1,507	183	1,975
Property damage	436	1,884	127	2,447	224	1,535	167	1,926
Road traffic offences	179	1,887	387	2,453	140	1,438	370	1,948
Other offences ^(c)	517	4,815	564	5,896	470	3,773	512	4,755
Total	5,694	29,255	2,308	37,257	5,084	26,672	2,305	34,061

(a) Offences are based on the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC)*, 2011. Only selected offence types are shown (in italics) at the more detailed level.

(b) Other theft = theft (except motor vehicles) + theft and related offences not further defined.

(c) Other offences = dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosives offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences, and inadequate data.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

In 2021–22, of the 6,237 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Magistrates Court, 4,216 (67.6%) resulted in a conviction (Table 22). Of these, about a third (1,376 or 32.6%) received a reprimand as the most serious penalty, while a custodial sentence was imposed in 249 appearances (5.9%) and 243 (5.8%) received a conditional release order. Probation was the second most serious penalty imposed in 28.7% of convicted appearances. (Table 22)

Table 22 Convicted appearances of child defendants, by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court

Most serious penalty ^(a)	2020–21		2021–22	
	Convicted appearances ^(b)	% of total	Convicted appearances ^(b)	% of total
Detention ^(c)	191	4.1	249	5.9
Conditional release ^(d)	229	4.9	243	5.8
Community service	515	11.0	436	10.3
Probation	1,229	26.3	1,209	28.7
Treatment order	64	1.4	22	0.5
Fine	58	1.2	49	1.2
Compensation	10	0.2	9	0.2
Good behaviour	742	15.9	513	12.2
Disqualification of drivers licence	162	3.5	110	2.6
Reprimand ^(e)	1,481	31.6	1,376	32.6
Total	4,681	100.0	4,216	100.0

(a) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.

(b) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more convicted appearances within a reference year.

(c) Includes imprisonment, intensive correction and intensive supervision orders

(d) Includes wholly suspended imprisonment.

(e) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Applications for child protection orders under the *Child Protection Act 1999*

Table 23 Applications for child protection orders, Magistrates Court

	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22
Applications for child protection orders ^(b)	6,069	6,810	6,361	5,870

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

(b) The unit of measurement of workload used for these applications is lodgements based on the number of cases.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2022.

Supreme and District Courts

The Supreme and District Courts finalised 52 charges in 11 appearances of child defendants in 2021–22. While the number of charges decreased in these courts compared with the previous year, the average number of charges per appearance increased from 3.7 in 2020–21 to 4.7 in 2021–22.

In 2021–22, all finalised appearances of children in the Supreme and District Courts were of defendants aged 17 years and over. (For more detail refer to Appendix Table 9.)

Table 24 Finalised appearances of child defendants, by age and outcome, Supreme and District Courts

Age at finalised appearance ^(a) (years)	2020–21			2021–22		
	Not adjudicated	Convicted	Not convicted	Not adjudicated	Convicted	Not convicted
15	–	1	–	–	–	–
16	–	–	–	1	–	–
17	1	–	–	1	1	–
18 & over	–	12	–	1	7	–
Not stated	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	1	13	–	3	8	–

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or more appearances within a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Of the 52 charges finalised in the Supreme and District Courts, *illicit drug offences* accounted for 59.6% or 31 charges), while in the previous year they accounted for eight out of ten charges (84.6% or 44 charges). *Theft & related offences* accounted for 7 (13.5%).

Table 25 Finalised charges against child defendants, by offence type and outcome, Supreme and District Courts

Offence type ^(a)	2020–21				2021–22			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Homicide & related offences	1	1	–	2	1	2	–	3
Acts intended to cause injury	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Sexual assault & related offences	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	2
Robbery & extortion	1	–	–	1	2	–	–	2
Unlawful entry with intent	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2
Theft & related offences	1	2	–	3	–	7	–	7
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	1	1	–	2	–	2	–	2
<i>Other theft^(b)</i>	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Receiving & handling</i>	–	1	–	1	–	5	–	5
Deception & related offences	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
Illicit drug offences	–	44	–	44	–	31	–	31
Property damage	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Road traffic offences	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2
Other offences ^(c)	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	1
Total	3	49	–	52	4	48	–	52

(a) Only selected offence types are shown (in italics) at the more detailed level.

(b) Other theft = theft (except motor vehicles) + theft and related offences not further defined.

(c) Other offences = dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosives offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences, and inadequate data.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

In 2021–22, of the 11 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Supreme and District Courts, eight (72.7%) were found guilty (Table 26). Of these, five (62.5%) received probation as most serious penalty and 1 (12.5%) were sentenced to detention and a conditional release order.

Table 26 Convicted appearances of child defendants, by most serious penalty, Supreme and District Courts

Most serious penalty ^(a)	2020–21		2021–22	
	Convicted appearances ^(b)	% of total	Convicted appearances ^(b)	% of total
Detention ^(d)	2	15.4	1	12.5
Conditional release ^(e)	1	7.7	1	12.5
Community service	2	15.4	–	–
Probation	7	53.8	5	62.5
Good behaviour	1	7.7	1	12.5
Total	13	100.0	8	100.0

(a) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.

(b) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or more convicted appearances within a reference year.

(c) Includes imprisonment, partially suspended imprisonment, intensive correction and intensive supervision orders.

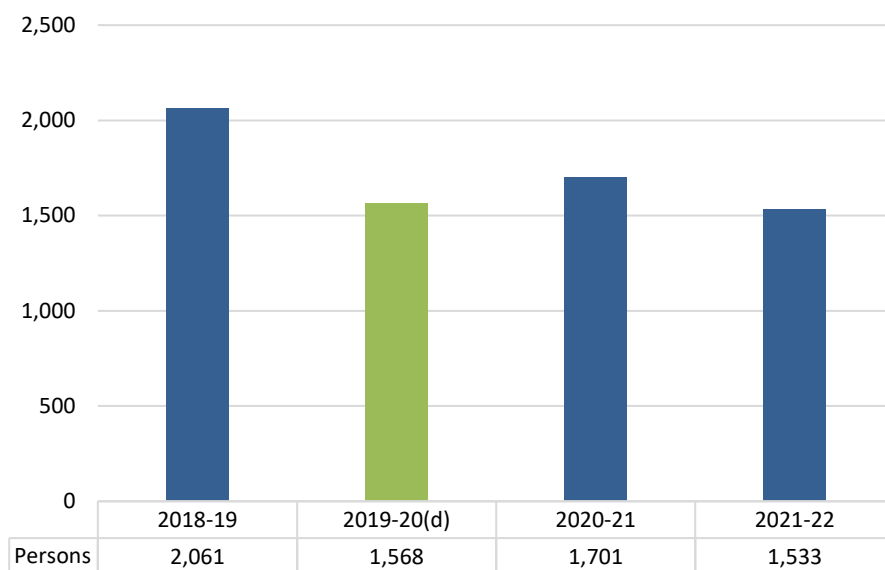
(d) Includes wholly suspended imprisonment.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

SUPERVISED YOUTH JUSTICE ORDERS

In 2021–22, a total of 1,533 distinct young people commenced a supervised youth justice order. This is a substantial decrease compared to the number of young people commencing supervised orders in 2020–21 (1,701).

Figure 10 Distinct young people^(a) commencing a supervised youth justice order^{(b)(c)}



- (a) Distinct young people can be counted once only in each financial year, irrespective of the number of supervised orders they commenced in that period.
- (b) A supervised youth justice order may commence at a later date than the date the court made the order.
- (c) This count excludes admissions to a supervised release order, the portion of a detention order that is completed in the community.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Young people aged 17 years represented the largest age group commencing a supervised youth justice order in 2021–22, comprising 392 (26%) of the 1,533 distinct young people commencing an order. Young people aged 16 years made up 360 (23%) of the total. In 2021–22, the number of distinct young people commencing a supervised order decreased for all age groups except 12 and 15-year-olds (Table 27Table 27).

Table 27 Distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by age at commencement

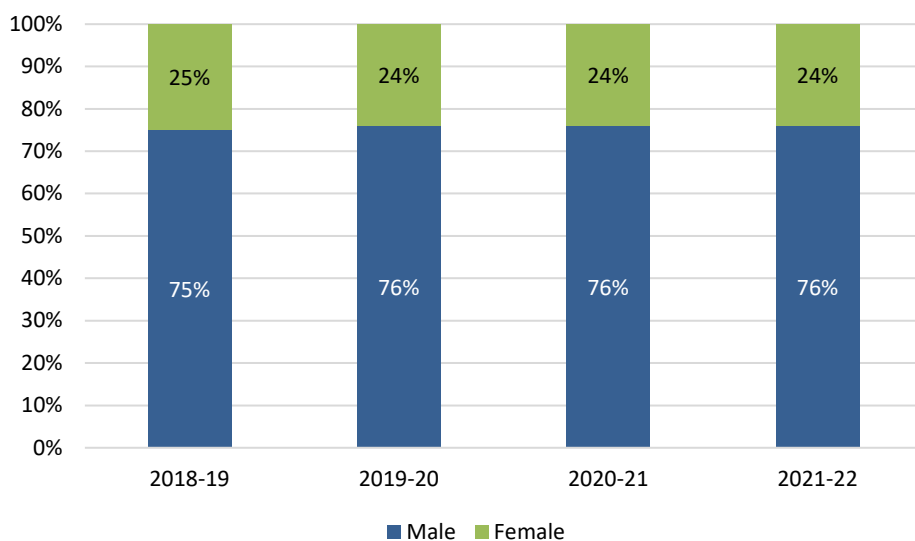
Age at commencement of order (years) ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
	—Offenders—			
10	–	1	1	–
11	19	8	9	4
12	48	38	27	30
13	140	104	100	92
14	250	177	229	202
15	395	284	310	310
16	484	358	392	360
17	499	389	415	392
18 and over	226	209	218	143
Total	2,061	1,568	1,701	1,533

- (a) Age represents age of the young person on the date of the earliest commencement of any supervised order within the relevant financial year.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Distinct young males commencing a supervised youth justice order outnumber young females by approximately three to one. This pattern has remained consistent over time.

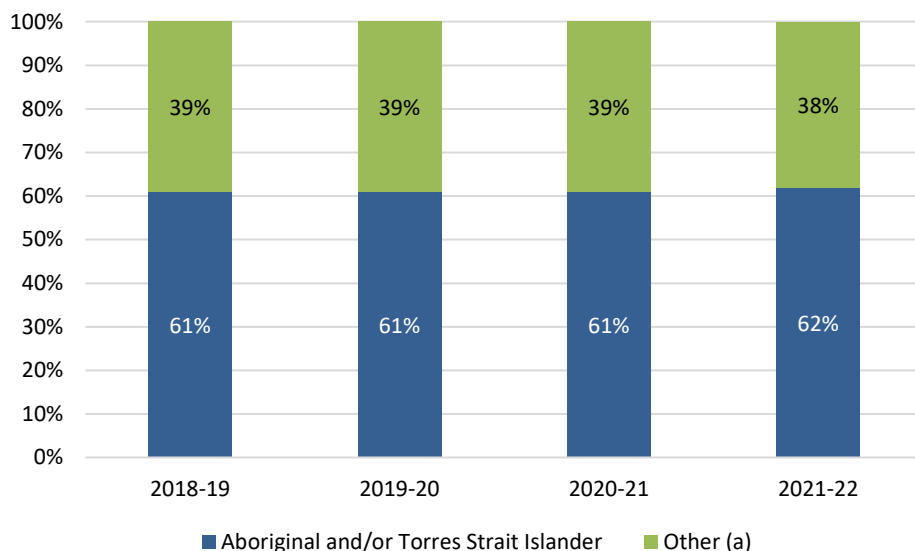
Figure 11 Distribution of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by sex



Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

In 2021–22, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for 62 per cent of all distinct young offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order. This has been relatively consistent since 2018–19.

Figure 12 Distinct young people commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status



(a) 'Other' includes young people who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were 18.7 times as likely as other young people to commence a supervised youth justice order in 2021–22 (Table 28). This overrepresentation has gradually increased since 2018–19.

Table 28 Rate of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status

Indigenous status	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22
Distinct young people commencing a supervised youth justice order - rate per 1,000 persons ^(b)				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	29.8	22.7	24.3	21.9
Other ^(c)	1.7	1.2	1.3	1.2
Over-representation ^(d) of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people, as compared to other ^(c) young people				
Over-representation ^(d)	17.6	18.3	18.0	18.7

- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (b) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–17 year-olds, using population estimates as at 30 June in the relevant financial year, from figures from ABS: Estimated Resident Population, Customised Report, Estimated Resident Population; Age by Sex, by Queensland LGAs (2016 ASGS) 30 June: 2011 to 2019p. The 2019 figures are preliminary and are as at 30 June. The 2020, 2021, and 2022 population figures are derived from the 2019 (preliminary) population figures using an age-progression method such that those falling within the juvenile age population (i.e. 10-17) will be advanced by one year for each new period.
- (c) 'Other' includes young people who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, or who's status is unknown or missing.
- (d) 'Over-representation' is calculated by dividing the rate per population for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people by the rate per population figures for 'other' young people. 'Over-representation' figures indicate the amount of times as likely an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young person is to commence a supervised youth justice order, as compared to other young people.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

The most prevalent order types commenced by young offenders were consistently probation, averaging around half of all supervised youth justice orders commenced between 2018–19 and 2021–22. By comparison, community service orders as a proportion have been decreasing over time, representing 21 per cent of orders commenced in 2018–19, but only 12 per cent of orders commenced in 2021–22. Detention orders (excluding suspended detention) averaged around nine per cent of orders commenced during the last five years (Table 29).

Table 29 Supervised youth justice orders commenced, by order type

Order type	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22
—Orders commenced ^(b) —				
Community service	859	467	441	394
Conditional release	317	238	300	310
Detention ^(c)	359	298	274	304
Graffiti removal ^(d)	224	139	137	94
Intensive supervision ^(e)	6	4	3	8
Probation	1,963	1,403	1,796	1,709
Restorative justice	285	444	503	446
Total	4,013	2,993	3,454	3,265

- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (b) Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of persons. An individual may commence more than one supervised order during the reference period.
- (c) Excludes suspended detention orders associated with a conditional release order.
- (d) These counts exclude graffiti removal program referrals by police and as a result of youth justice conference agreements.
- (e) Intensive supervision order (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.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Conditional bail

The number of conditional bail programs commenced shows a notable decrease from 2018–19, through the peak pandemic period, before increasing again in the 2021–22 financial year (Table 30).

Table 30 Court-ordered conditional bail commenced by young people

	2018–19	2019–20 ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22
Conditional bail program	870	770	688	821

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

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Community supervision

The majority of community-based supervision orders that commenced in 2020–21 were successfully completed by the end of 2021–22 (74% of probation orders and 57% of community service orders, the two most prevalent order types).

One in five probation (20%) and one in four community service orders (26%) were subject to breach action on or before 30 June 2022. Around a third (33%) of all conditional release orders were subject to breach action on or before that date (Table 31).

Table 31 Supervised youth justice orders commenced in 2020–21: completion status as at 30 June 2022

Completion status as at 30 June 2022	Type of order commenced ^(a) in 2020–21											
	Probation		Conditional release		Community service		Intensive supervision		Court-ordered graffiti removal		Restorative justice	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Order successfully completed	1,354	74%	219	65%	257	57%	3	100%	112	79%	420	82%
Order remains active	104	6%	7	2%	78	17%	–	0%	9	6%	12	2%
Breach action initiated ^(c)	364	20%	109	33%	119	26%	–	0%	20	14%	79	16%
Total^(d)	1,822	100	335	100	454	100	3	100	141	100	511	100

(a) Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of distinct young people.

(b) Orders against which breach action was initiated on or prior to 30 June 2022 are reported as “breach action initiated” irrespective of the completion status of the order as at 30 June 2022.

(c) Percentages may not sum to 100% in every case due to rounding.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Table 32 Supervised youth justice orders commenced: completion status as at 30 June of the following period

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Probation orders commenced ^(a)					
	2018–19		2019–20 ^(b)		2020–21	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	1,402	70	1,014	70	1,354	74
Remained active	189	9	128	9	104	6
Breach action initiated ^(c)	412	21	305	21	364	20
Total^(d)	2,003	100	1,447	100	1,822	100

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Conditional release orders commenced ^(a)					
	2018–19		2019–20 ^(b)		2020–21	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	227	63	210	71	219	65
Remained active	4	1	4	1	7	2
Breach action initiated ^(c)	132	36	82	28	109	33
Total^(d)	363	100	296	100	335	100

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Community service orders commenced ^(a)					
	2018–19		2019–20 ^(b)		2020–21	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	579	66	290	61	257	57
Remained active	87	10	61	13	78	17
Breach action initiated ^(c)	209	24	122	26	119	26
Total^(d)	875	100	473	100	454	100

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Intensive supervision orders commenced ^(a)					
	2018–19		2019–20 ^(b)		2020–21	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	4	67	3	60	3	100
Remained active	–	–	1	20	–	–
Breach action initiated ^(c)	2	33	1	20	–	–
Total^(d)	6	100	5	100	3	100

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Court-ordered graffiti removal orders commenced ^(a)					
	2018–19		2019–20 ^(b)		2020–21	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	201	86	123	84	112	79
Remained active	8	3	6	4	9	6
Breach action initiated ^(c)	24	10	18	12	20	14
Total^(d)	233	100	147	100	141	100

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Restorative justice orders commenced ^(a)					
	2018–19		2019–20 ^(b)		2020–21	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	247	85	382	84	420	82
Remained active	15	5	16	4	12	2
Breach action initiated ^(c)	28	10	56	12	79	15
Total^(d)	290	100	454	100	511	100

(a) Orders are reported against the financial year in which they commenced. Order status is reported as at 30 June in the following financial year. Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of child offenders.

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

(c) Orders against which breach action was initiated on or prior to 30 June in the following period are reported as “breach action initiated”, irrespective of the completion status of the order at 30 June.

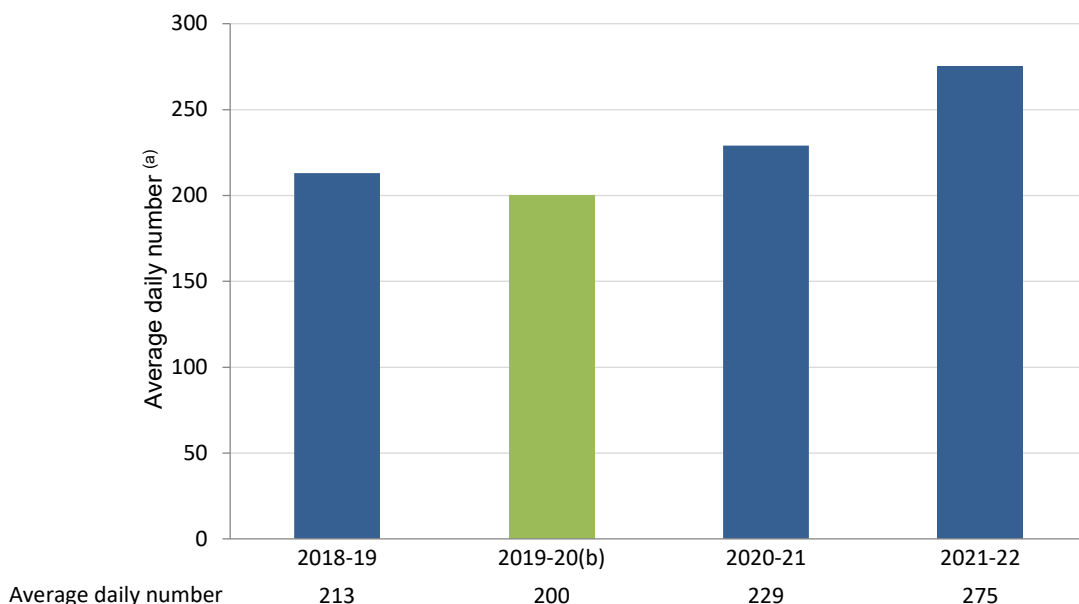
(d) Percentages may not sum to 100% in every case due to rounding.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Young people in youth detention

This section presents young people held in a Queensland youth detention centre on sentenced and unsentenced custody. Figure 13 shows the average daily number of young people in youth detention per financial year.

Figure 13 Average daily number of young people in youth detention



(a) The average daily number of young people in youth detention is calculated based on the number who were physically located in a detention centre at 11:59pm on each day during the period.

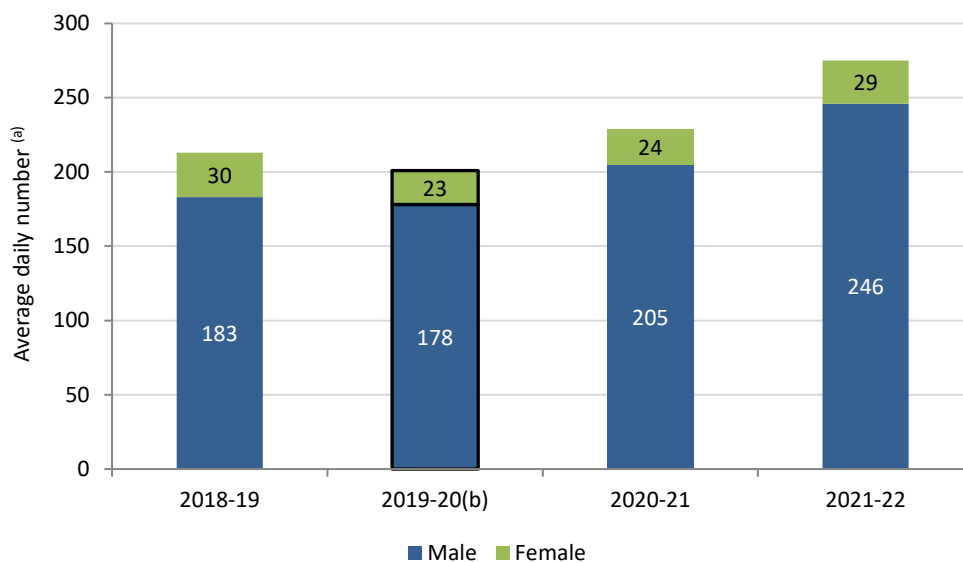
(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Young males continue to outnumber young females in youth detention, accounting for between 86 and 90 per cent of all young people in youth detention on average in any given period.

The proportion of young females in youth detention was slightly higher in 2021–22 (11%) compared with 2020–21 (10%).

Figure 14 Average daily number of young people in youth detention, by sex



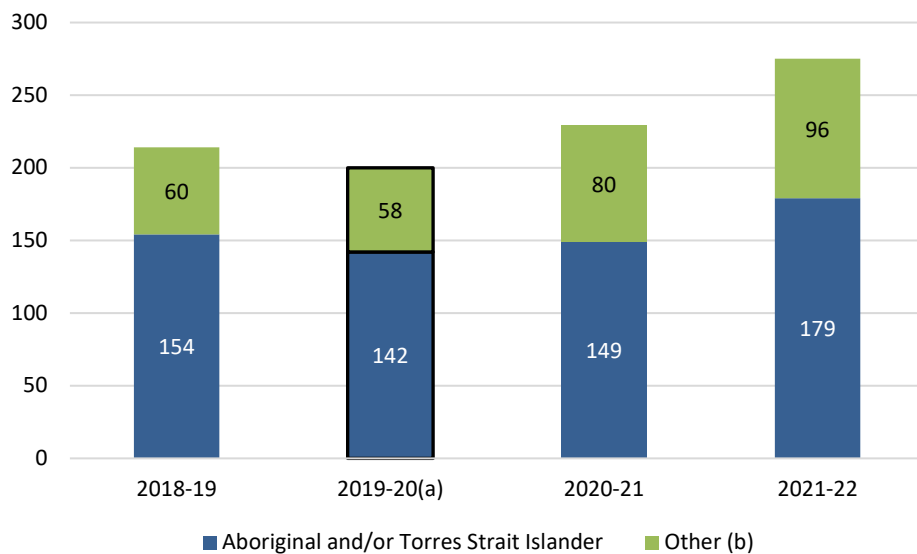
(a) As a result of rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items in Figure 14 and the totals in Figure 13.

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

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people continue to dominate the numbers in youth detention, accounting for between 65 and 72 per cent of young people in youth detention on an average day (Figure 16). However, the 2020–21 and 2021–22 financial years saw a 6–7 percentage point decrease compared to 2018–19 and 2019–20.

Figure 15 Average daily number of young people in youth detention, by Indigenous status



- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (b) 'Other' includes young people who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were over 21.4 times as likely as other young people to have been in youth detention in 2021–22. This is similar to the rate in 2020–21 rate of 21.3.

Table 33 Rate of young people in detention / court-ordered custody, by Indigenous status

Indigenous status	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22
Average daily number of young people in youth detention - rate per 10,000 persons ^(b)				
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	36.7	33.5	34.8	41.4
Other ^(c)	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.9
Over-representation ^(d) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, as compared to other ^(c) young people				
Over-representation ^(d)	29.6	28.3	21.3	21.4

- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (b) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–17 year-olds as at 30 June in the relevant financial year, from figures from ABS: Estimated Resident Population, Customised Report; Estimated Resident Population, Age by Sex, by Queensland LGAs (2016 ASGS) 30 June: 2011 to 2019p. The 2019 figures are preliminary and are as at 30 June. The 2020, 2021, and 2022 population figures are derived from the 2019 (preliminary) population figures using an age-progression method such that those falling within the juvenile age population (i.e. 10–17 years) will be advanced by one year for each new period.
- (c) Other includes young people who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.
- (d) Over-representation is calculated by dividing the rate per population for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people by the rate per population figures for 'other' young people. Over-representation figures indicate the amount of times as likely an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young person is to commence a supervised youth justice order, as compared to other young people.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

The three figures below show the average daily number respectively of young people (total), young males and young females in youth detention between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2022.

Figure 16 Average daily number of all young people in youth detention, by month^(a)

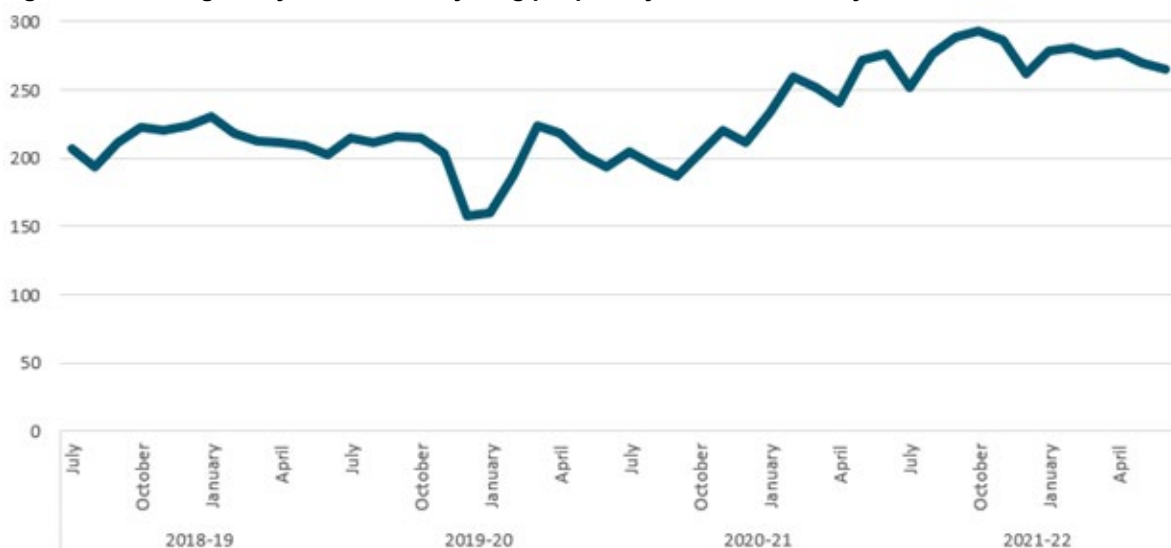


Figure 17 Average daily number of young males in youth detention, by month^(a)

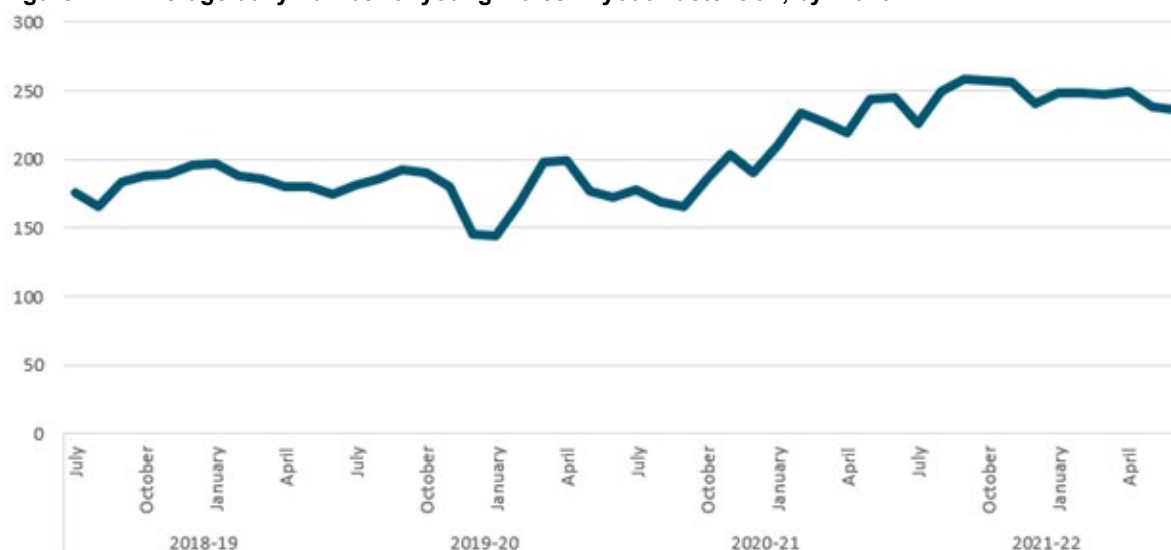


Figure 18 Average daily number of young females in youth detention, by month^(a)



Note the differences in scale between the top two figures and the third.

(a) Figures are daily counts, averaged over the relevant month.

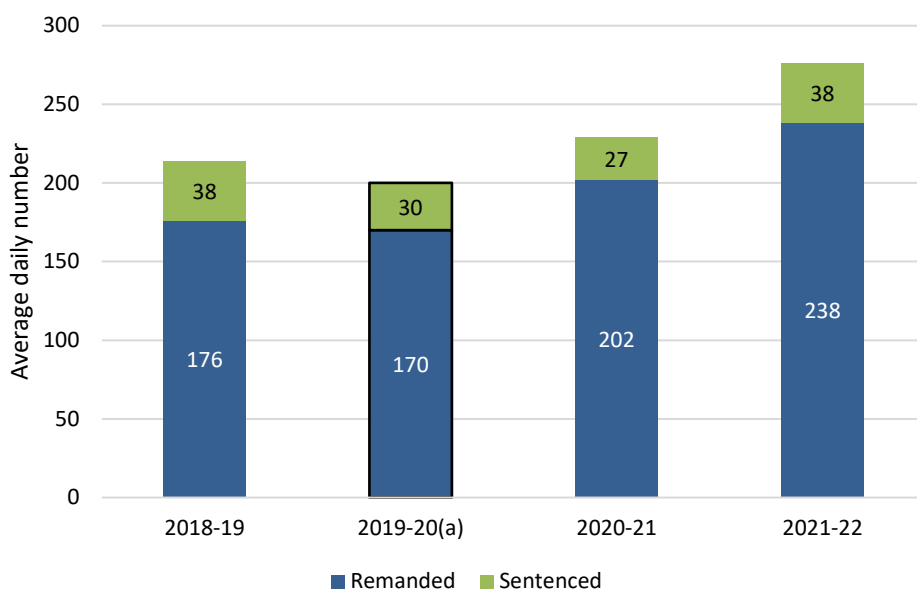
Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

Unsentenced youth detention

The average daily number of young people in youth detention on unsentenced custody³⁷ saw a substantial increase to 238 per day in 2021–22, compared with 202 in the previous year. (Figure 19) The average daily number of young people in sentenced detention also increased to 38 per day compared with 27 in the previous financial year, returning to the same level seen in 2018–19, prior to the pandemic.

The majority of young people in youth detention are unsentenced. At 86% in 2021–22, this figure is slightly below the previous year, when 88% of young people in youth detention on an average day were unsentenced.

Figure 19 Average daily number of young people in youth detention, by legal status



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

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

In 2021–22 the average length of time young people spent on an episode of unsentenced youth detention was 43 nights, which represents a substantial increase compared with 2020–21 (36 nights). The average length is based on all unsentenced periods of youth detention that concluded in a financial year.

Of all finalised appearances in 2021–22 at which a detention order was made, almost half (45%) resulted in the young offender being released from court following sentencing with no time remaining to serve in custody. In about a quarter (26%) of all appearances resulting in a detention order, the offender was not required to serve a supervised release order. This reflects the number of detention orders that had been served as pre-sentence custody³⁸. Just over half (55%) of all sentencing events resulting in a detention order involved the offender serving a period of custody following sentencing (Table 34)

Table 34 Detention orders by custody status at time of sentencing

Custody status	2018–19	2019–20 ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22
	—Per cent (%) ^(b) —			
Released directly from court following sentencing	40	50	45	45
<i>Without a supervised release order</i>	20	28	25	26
<i>With a supervised release order</i>	20	21	20	20
Custodial period to serve following sentencing	60	50	55	55

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

(b) Percentages may not sum to 100 in every case due to rounding.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2022.

³⁷ Unsentenced encompasses all custody that is not a result of a detention order.

³⁸ Pre-sentence custody includes time spent in custody on remand and pre-court custody.

Table 35 Number of unique young persons in custody in police watchhouses in each month, by age, 2021–22

Age (years)	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	—Persons—											
10	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	2	–	1	2
11	2	4	5	5	4	5	4	5	1	3	5	4
12	17	25	26	27	24	26	20	21	16	21	12	21
13	40	47	44	49	47	52	54	31	58	57	52	53
14	86	87	85	96	84	96	70	91	97	72	79	72
15	108	138	90	109	106	88	109	119	120	104	120	124
16	102	100	122	96	106	103	102	95	113	85	109	103
17	90	120	107	114	99	99	104	94	84	79	86	97
Total	442	519	476	495	468	468	464	452	487	417	460	472

Notes:

Data are preliminary and may be subject to change.

1. Data relate to persons in custody in police watchhouses for any reason, aged 10–17 years on admission to custody.
2. Police watchhouses are those where the organisational unit name contains 'Watchhouse' and are based on the latest detention unit a person was in. Young persons in police custody in a police station (as opposed to a watchhouse) will not be counted.
3. Number of admissions refers to the number of custody reports for persons aged 10–17 years and includes persons taken into custody for any reason.
4. Number of persons refers to a count of unique persons. A person with multiple custody reports during the period will be counted once only in the breakdown.
5. Data do not indicate the number of persons held in a police watchhouse on any individual day.
6. Data may differ from statistics reported and published by other Queensland Government agencies.
7. Individual counts may not add up to the total, as the total is the number of unique persons in the period (for example, a person in custody in the months of July and September is counted once in each of the months, and is counted once only in the total).

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at October 2022.

Table 36 Number of admissions of juveniles and length of stay in custody in a police watchhouse, 2021–22¹

Length of watchhouse stay (days)	Distinct admissions
1 or less	5,645
2	461
3–4	423
5–7	305
8–14	166
15 or more	1
Total	7,001

Notes:

1. Data are preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Data relate to persons in custody in police watchhouses for any reason, aged 10–17 years on admission to custody.
3. Police watchhouses are those where the organisational unit name contains 'Watchhouse' and are based on the latest detention unit a person was in. Young persons in police custody in a police station (as opposed to a watchhouse) will not be counted.
4. Number of admissions refers to the number of custody reports for persons aged 10–17 years and includes persons taken into custody for any reason.
5. Number of persons refers to a count of unique persons. A person with multiple custody reports during the period will be counted once only in the breakdown.
6. Data do not indicate the number of persons held in a police watchhouse on any individual day.
7. Data may differ from statistics reported and published by other Queensland Government agencies.

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at October 2022.

VICTIMS OF CHILD OFFENDERS

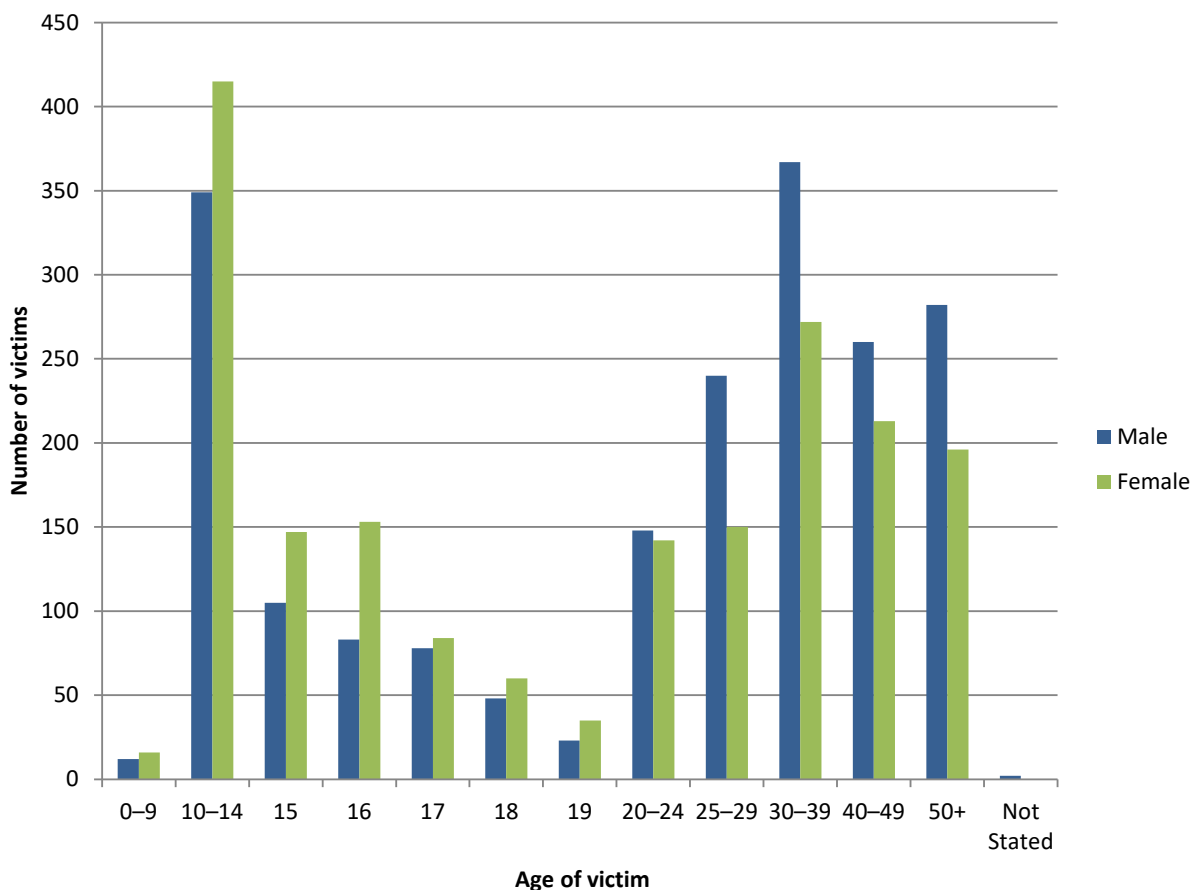
Data relating to the victims of child offenders in 2021–22 were extracted from official crime reports in Queensland Police Service’s administrative data, where at least one of the alleged offenders identified was aged between 10 and 17 years. Offenders were restricted to those involving an offence against the person. This is the context in which all victims data are presented in this report.

Of the 5,456 victims of offences against the person by child offenders in 2021–22, only four were of unknown age. Half (49.6%) of all victims were younger than 20 years of age — those aged 10–14 years and those aged 15–19 years respectively accounted for 48% and 47% of this group. Victims aged 50 years or over comprised 11.1% of all victims.

For all victims of offences against the person, females and males each accounted for around half (50.5% and 49.5% respectively). Female victims comprised 80.5% of victims of *sexual assault and related offences* and 48.5% of victims of *acts intended to cause injury*, while 62.7% of victims of *robbery and extortion* and 51.5% of victims of *acts intended to cause injury* were male.

Acts intended to cause injury accounted for 71.3% of all victims of child offenders. Within this victim group, 26.6% of victims were aged 25–39 years, 24.5% were aged 40 years or older, while a further 19.7% were aged 10–14 years. Female victims of young offenders outnumbered male victims in every age group from birth to 19 years, while male victims outnumbered female victims in every age group thereafter. (Figure 20)

Figure 20 Victims of acts intended to cause injury^(a) by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2021–22

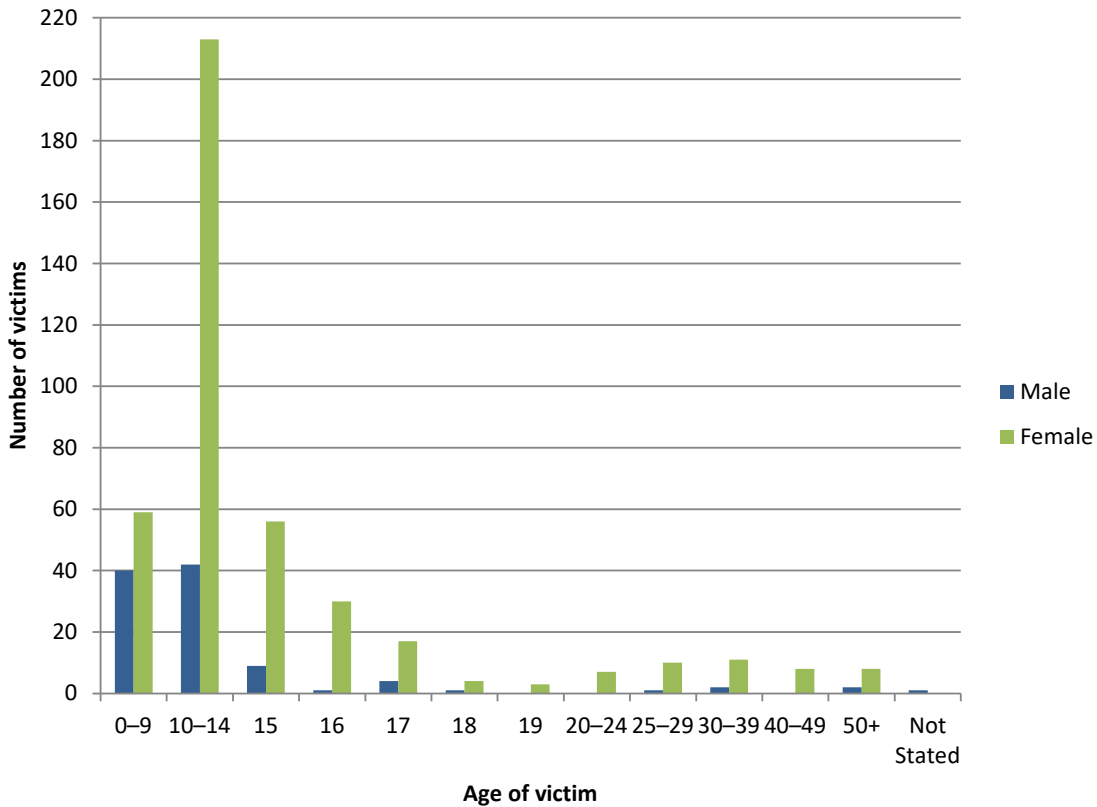


(a) Includes assault, stalking, administer harmful substance, and other acts intended to cause injury.

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at October 2022.

Victims of *sexual assault and related offences* accounted for 9.7% of all victims of personal offences against the person by child offenders in 2021–22, with female victims outnumbering male victims in every age group. Almost half (48.2%) of all victims in this offence group were aged 10–14 years, with female victims outnumbering male victims five to one, and a further 18.9% were younger than 10 years of age. (Figure 21)

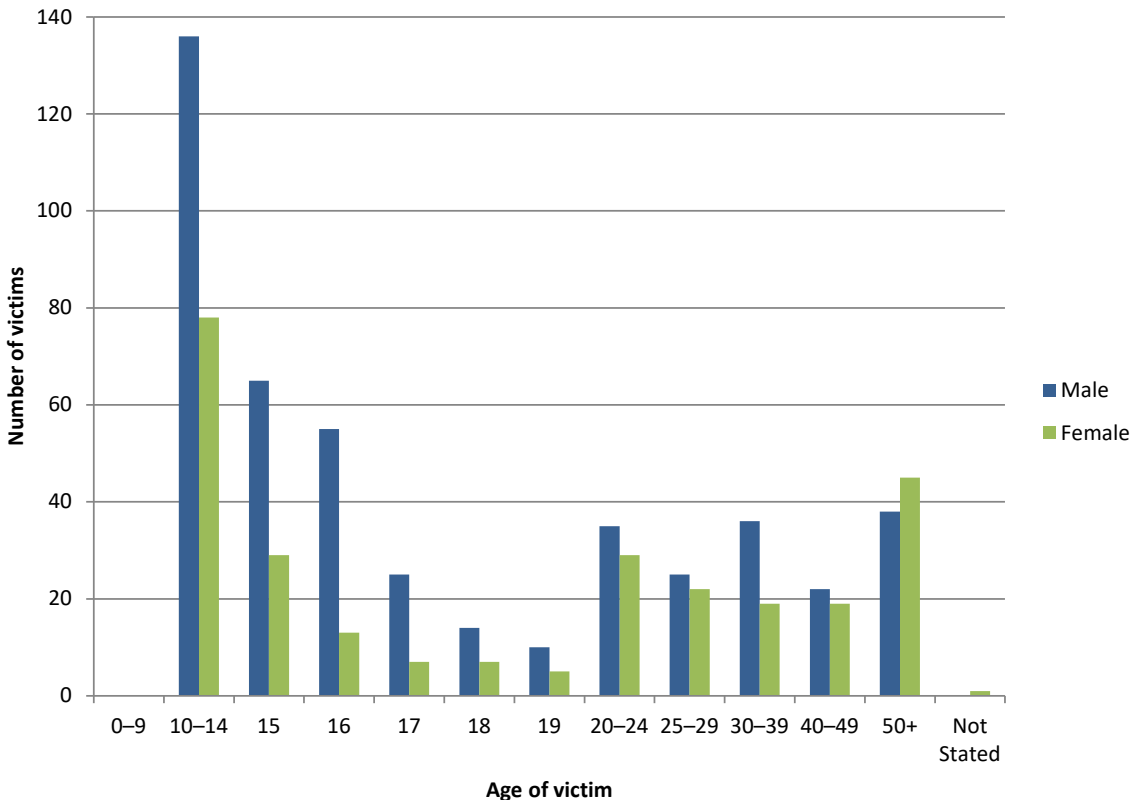
Figure 21 Victims of sexual assault and related offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2021–22



Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at October 2022.

Victims of *robbery and extortion* offences accounted for 13.5% of all offences against the person by child offenders in 2021–22. Victims aged 10–14 years accounted for 29.0% of those, and a further 31.3% were aged 15–19 years. Male victims outnumbered female victims in every age group except 50 years and older. (Figure 22)

Figure 22 Victims of robbery and extortion offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2021–22



Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at October 2022.

APPENDIX

Detailed tables

All tables represent data relating to child defendants in Queensland courts, for 2020–21 and 2021–22.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data are current as at August 2022 and include revisions to data published in previous reports.

Summary

Table A1 All Courts: Finalised charges, by offence type and court

Magistrates Court (committals)

Table A2 Appearances and charges committed for sentence or trial by statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court

Magistrates Court (dispositions)

Table A3 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Figure A1 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant

Table A4 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4 of court

Table A5 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex of defendant

Figure A2 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

Childrens Court of Queensland

Table A6 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Figure A3 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant

Table A7 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4 of court

Table A8 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex

Figure A4 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

District and Supreme Courts

Table A9 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Figure A5 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant

Table A10 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4 of court

Table A11 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex

Figure A6 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

All Courts

Table A12 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Figure A7 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant

Table A1 All courts: Finalised charges, by offence type and court level

Adjudicated, by offence type	2020–21				2021–22			
	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court of Qld	& Supreme Courts	Total
Homicide & related offences	—	1	1	2	—	—	2	2
Murder	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Manslaughter and driving causing death	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	2
Acts intended to cause injury	1,766	250	—	2,016	1,530	216	1	1,747
Assault	1,759	248	—	2,007	1,515	210	1	1,726
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	7	2	—	9	15	6	—	21
Sexual assault & related offences	13	128	—	141	25	112	1	138
Sexual assault	11	101	—	112	20	99	1	120
Non-assaultive sexual offences	2	27	—	29	5	13	—	18
Dangerous or negligent acts	433	26	—	459	475	27	1	503
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	320	18	—	338	288	19	1	308
Other dangerous or negligent acts	113	8	—	121	187	8	—	195
Abduction & related offences	85	29	—	114	72	16	—	88
Deprivation of Liberty	6	12	—	18	1	5	—	6
Harrasment and Threatening Behaviour	79	17	—	96	71	11	—	82
Robbery & extortion	58	534	—	592	57	449	—	506
Robbery	53	531	—	584	43	448	—	491
Blackmail & extortion	5	3	—	8	14	1	—	15
Unlawful entry with intent	5,922	389	—	6,311	6,017	256	2	6,275
Theft & related offences^(a)	10,778	562	2	11,342	11,001	468	7	11,476
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	4,104	289	1	4,394	4,413	270	2	4,685
Other theft & related offences	3	1	—	4	1	—	—	1
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	1,504	50	1	1,555	1,562	42	5	1,609
Theft (except motor vehicles)	5,167	222	—	5,389	5,025	156	—	5,181
Deception & related offences	1,194	33	1	1,228	862	31	—	893
Obtain benefit by deception	380	7	1	388	292	7	—	299
Forgery & counterfeiting	5	1	—	6	2	—	—	2
Other fraud and deception offences	809	25	—	834	568	24	—	592
Illicit drug offences	2,168	78	44	2,290	1,690	87	31	1,808
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	57	28	22	107	40	41	10	91
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	28	—	—	28	15	—	—	15
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	934	34	12	980	758	30	7	795
Other illicit drug offences	1,149	16	10	1,175	877	16	14	907
Weapons & explosives offences	536	9	1	546	458	9	—	467
Prohibited weapons/explosives offences	91	1	—	92	54	4	—	58
Regulated weapons/explosives offences	445	8	1	454	404	5	—	409
Property damage	2,011	154	—	2,165	1,702	92	1	1,795
Property damage	2,009	154	—	2,163	1,702	92	1	1,795
Environmental pollution	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Public order offences	2,714	35	—	2,749	2,035	21	—	2,056
Road traffic offences	2,274	34	—	2,308	1,808	23	2	1,833
Justice & government offences	1,487	37	—	1,524	1,173	26	—	1,199
Breach of justice order ^(b)	251	11	—	262	266	12	—	278
Offences against government operations	92	5	—	97	61	—	—	61
Offences against justice procedures	1,144	21	—	1,165	846	14	—	860
Miscellaneous offences	124	1	—	125	72	—	—	72
Total adjudicated	31,563	2,300	49	33,912	28,977	1,833	48	30,858
Not adjudicated	5,694	295	3	5,992	5,084	296	4	5,384
Total	37,257	2,595	52	39,904	34,061	2,129	52	36,242

(a) Includes theft and related offences not further disaggregated.

(b) Includes offences such as breach of bail, breach of domestic violence protection order, and escape custody.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Table A2 Magistrates court: Appearances and charges committed for sentence or trial, by SA4 of court

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2020–21			2021–22		
	Appearances (a)	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances (a)	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	165	552	3.3	130	449	3.5
Brisbane East	9	35	3.9	8	38	4.8
Cairns	65	227	3.5	66	185	2.8
Central Queensland	47	196	4.2	38	107	2.8
Darling Downs–Maranoa	13	24	1.8	19	143	7.5
Gold Coast	81	180	2.2	79	171	2.2
Ipswich	99	295	3.0	98	317	3.2
Logan–Beaudesert	57	194	3.4	34	105	3.1
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	8	12	1.5	9	51	5.7
Moreton Bay–North	34	128	3.8	48	159	3.3
Moreton Bay–South	12	40	3.3	11	28	2.5
Queensland–Outback	22	47	2.1	18	37	2.1
Sunshine Coast	47	114	2.4	25	52	2.1
Toowoomba	29	103	3.6	32	132	4.1
Townsville	56	263	4.7	50	221	4.4
Wide Bay	22	54	2.5	28	44	1.6
Total	766	2,464	3.2	693	2,239	3.2

(a) Appearances in this table comprise any resulting in a committal to a higher court for sentence or trial, regardless of whether other matters for the defendant were finalised in the same appearance.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

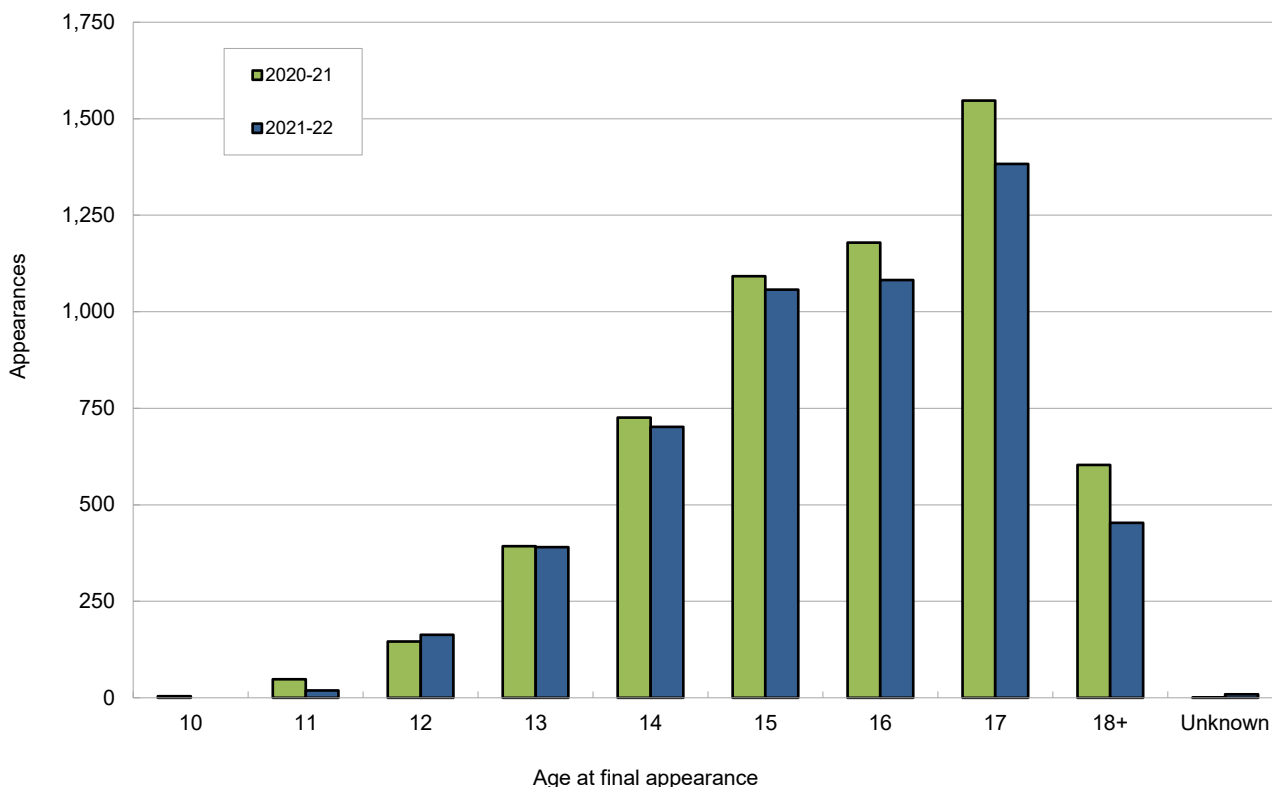
Table A3 Magistrates Court: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Age at final appearance	2020–21			2021–22		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)
10	4	—	4	—	—	—
11	43	5	48	13	6	19
12	102	44	146	119	44	163
13	269	124	393	256	134	390
14	488	237	726	484	217	702
15	776	316	1,092	744	313	1,057
16	849	330	1,179	796	286	1,082
17	1,175	371	1,547	1,047	335	1,383
18+	460	143	603	354	98	453
Unknown	1	—	1	8	1	9
Total	4,167	1,570	5,739	3,821	1,434	5,258

- (a) Data are a count of appearances only, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or multiple adjudicated appearances in a reference year.
- (b) Includes two appearances where sex of defendant was unknown or not stated.
- (c) Includes three appearances where sex of defendant was unknown or not stated.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Figure A1 Magistrates Court: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant



- (a) Data are a count of appearances only, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Table A4 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances^(a) and charges, by SA4 of court

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2020–21			2021–22		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	920	6,495	7.1	712	4,533	6.4
Brisbane–East	100	487	4.9	100	467	4.7
Brisbane–South	2	3	1.5	2	3	1.5
Cairns	744	3,590	4.8	771	4,651	6.0
Central Queensland	252	1,192	4.7	254	1,373	5.4
Darling Downs–Maranoa	197	720	3.7	148	671	4.5
Gold Coast	461	2,077	4.5	474	2,732	5.8
Ipswich	487	2,535	5.2	408	1,804	4.4
Logan–Beaudesert	384	2,772	7.2	259	1,703	6.6
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	92	506	5.5	48	184	3.8
Moreton Bay–North	233	1,211	5.2	238	1,203	5.1
Moreton Bay–South	108	558	5.2	82	422	5.1
Queensland–Outback	474	2,795	5.9	447	2,292	5.1
Sunshine Coast	231	1,098	4.8	212	1,017	4.8
Toowoomba	309	1,374	4.4	313	1,721	5.5
Townsville	504	2,906	5.8	529	2,865	5.4
Wide Bay	241	1,244	5.2	261	1,336	5.1
Total adjudicated	5,739	31,563	5.5	5,258	28,977	5.5
Not adjudicated^(a)	1,101	5,694	5.2	979	5,084	5.2
Total	6,840	37,257	5.4	6,237	34,061	5.5

(a) Not adjudicated matters are those which were withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated and/or non-adjudicated appearances/charges in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

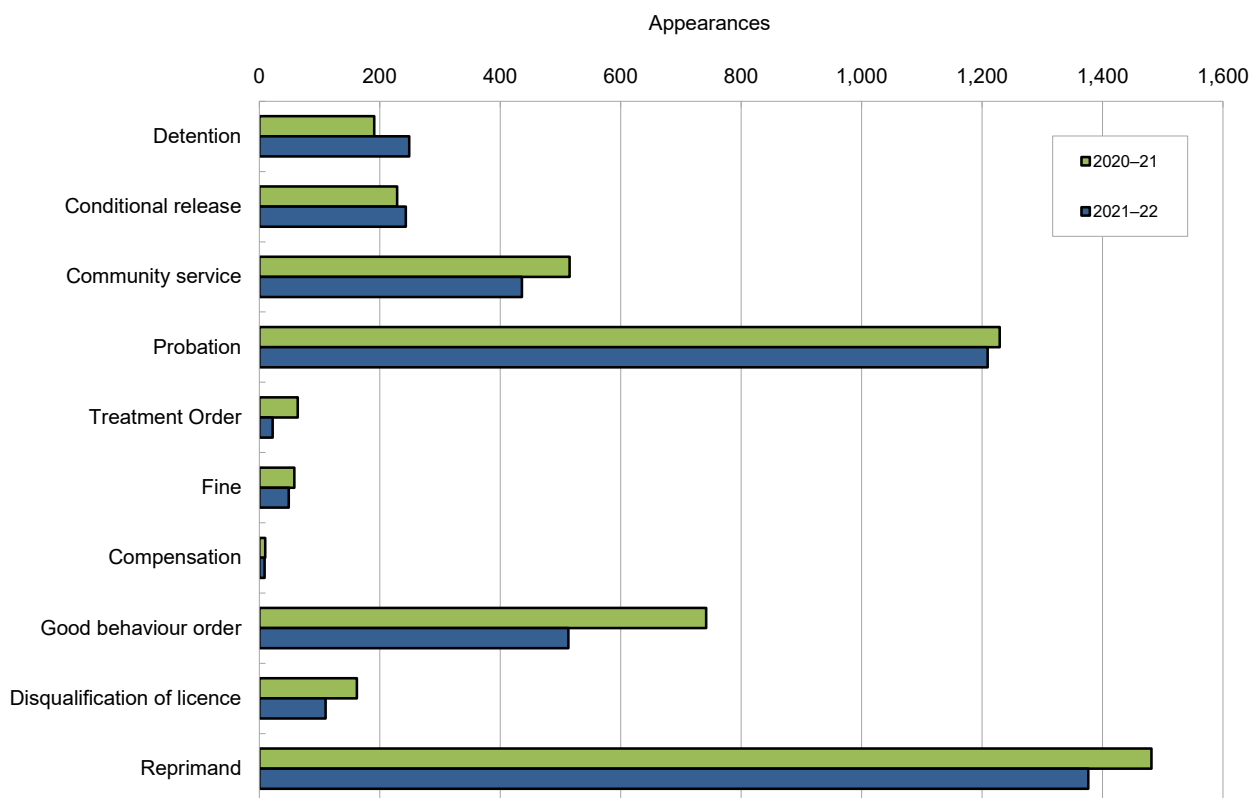
Table A5 Magistrates Court: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty and sex of defendant

Most serious penalty ^(b)	2020–21			2021–22		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total ^(c)
Detention ^(d)	180	11	191	221	28	249
Conditional release	189	40	229	207	36	243
Community service	393	122	515	324	112	436
Probation	901	328	1,229	903	306	1,209
Treatment Order	48	16	64	17	5	22
Fine	48	10	58	41	7	49
Compensation	8	2	10	6	3	9
Good behaviour order	511	231	742	337	176	513
Disqualification of licence	127	35	162	89	21	110
Reprimand ^(e)	1,051	430	1,481	972	404	1,376
Total	3,456	1,225	4,681	3,117	1,098	4,216

- (a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more appearances in a reference year.
- (b) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.
- (c) Includes one appearance where sex of defendant was unknown or not stated
- (d) Includes intensive supervision and intensive correction.
- (e) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Figure A2 Magistrates Court: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty^(b)



- (a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more appearances in a reference year.
- (b) An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

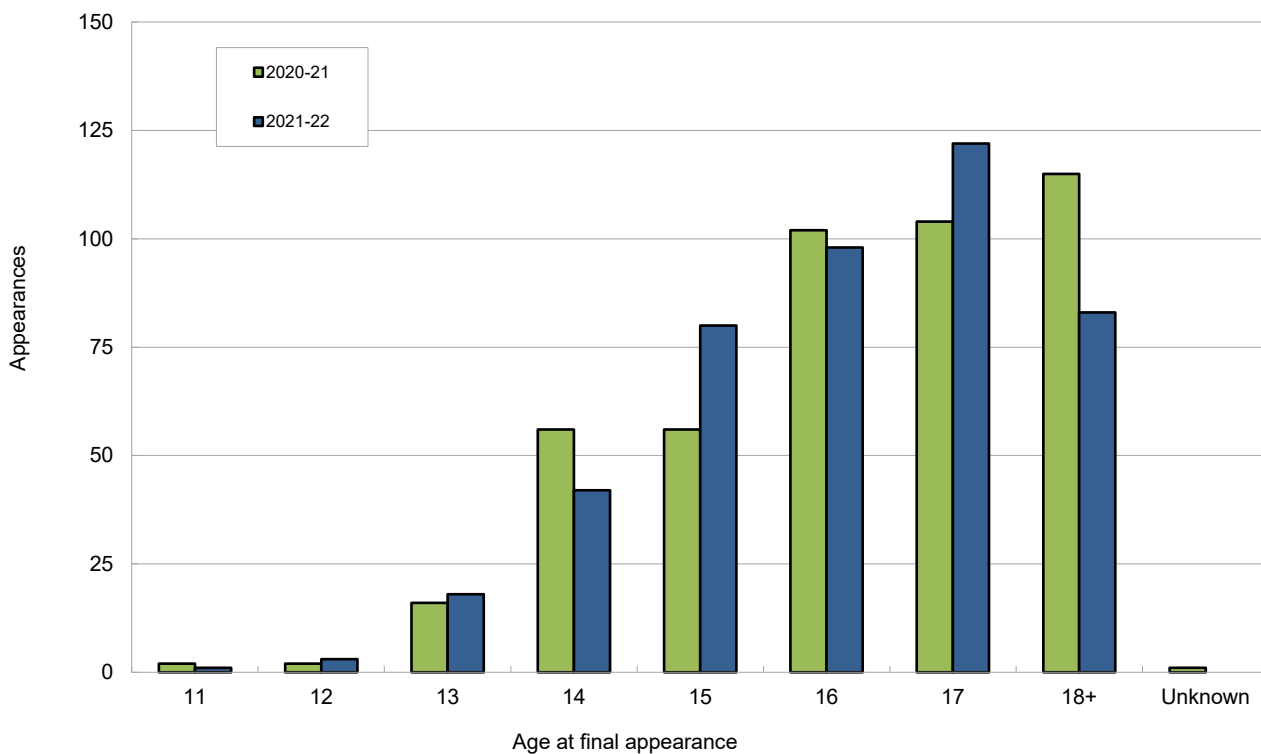
Table A6 Childrens Court of Queensland: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Age at final appearance	2020–21			2021–22		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
11	2	—	2	1	—	1
12	1	1	2	1	2	3
13	13	3	16	12	6	18
14	40	16	56	30	12	42
15	42	14	56	58	22	80
16	75	27	102	78	20	98
17	91	13	104	99	23	122
18+	100	15	115	76	7	83
Unknown	—	1	1	—	—	—
Total	364	90	454	355	92	447

(a) Data are a count of appearances only, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Figure A3 Childrens Court of Queensland: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant at final appearance



(a) Data are a count of appearances only, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Table A7 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4 of court

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2020–21			2021–22		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	166	803	4.8	163	585	3.6
Cairns	65	252	3.9	48	207	4.3
Central Queensland	26	192	7.4	36	385	10.7
Darling Downs–Maranoa	—	—	—	9	13	1.4
Gold Coast	30	119	4.0	41	104	2.5
Ipswich	24	63	2.6	14	29	2.1
Logan–Beaudesert	24	182	7.6	17	57	3.4
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	6	61	10.2	5	19	3.8
Queensland–Outback	10	56	5.6	6	16	2.7
Sunshine Coast	29	117	4.0	24	87	3.6
Toowoomba	19	80	4.2	19	100	5.3
Townsville	37	221	6.0	49	196	4.0
Wide Bay	18	154	8.6	16	35	2.2
Total adjudicated	454	2,300	5.1	447	1,833	4.1
Not adjudicated^(a)	74	295	4.0	78	296	3.8
Total	528	2,595	4.9	525	2,129	4.1

(a) Not adjudicated matters are those which were withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated and/or non-adjudicated appearances/charges in a reference year .

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

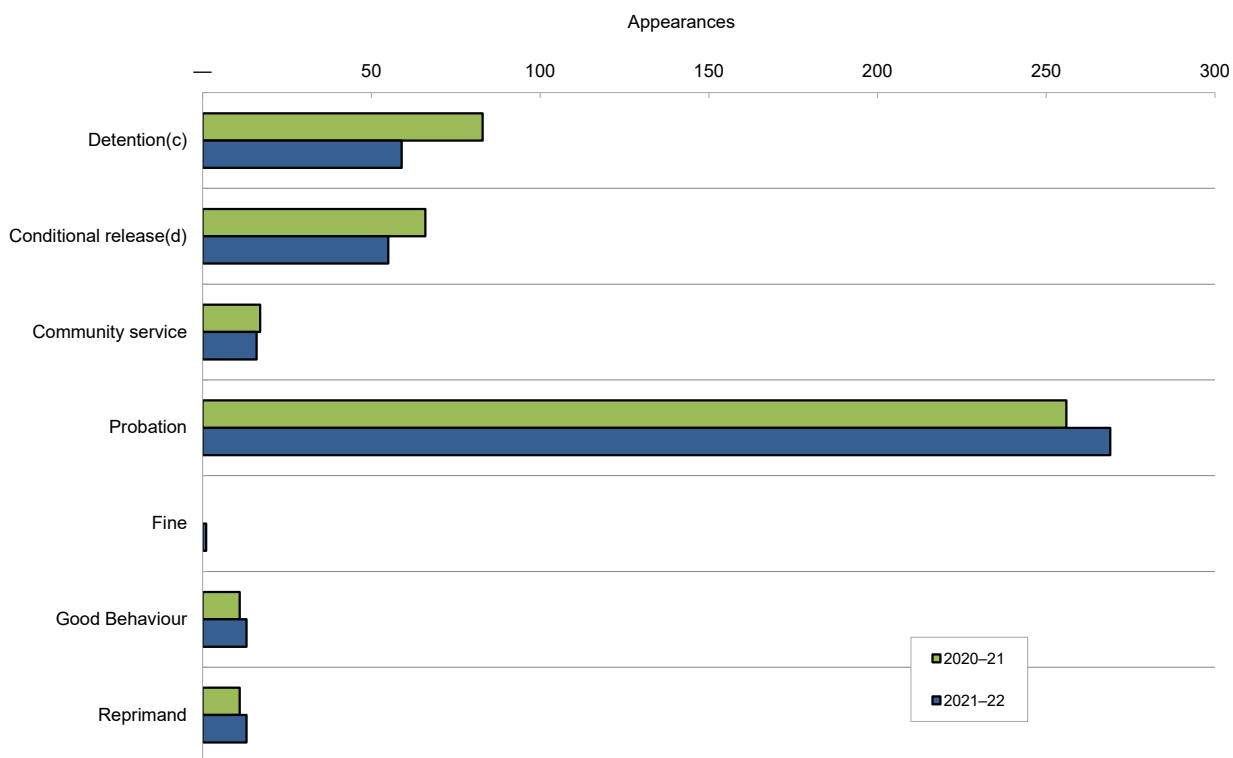
Table A8 Childrens Court of Queensland: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty and sex of defendant

Most serious penalty ^(b)	2020–21			2021–22		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention ^(c)	78	5	83	56	3	59
Conditional release ^(d)	49	17	66	41	14	55
Community service	15	2	17	14	2	16
Probation	196	60	256	200	69	269
Fine	—	—	—	1	—	1
Good behaviour order	10	1	11	11	2	13
Reprimand ^(e)	8	3	11	12	1	13
Total	356	88	444	335	91	426

- (a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more such appearances during a reference year.
- (b) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.
- (c) Includes imprisonment, intensive supervision and intensive correction.
- (d) Includes suspended imprisonment.
- (e) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Figure A4 Childrens Court of Queensland: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty



- (a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more such appearances during a reference year. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

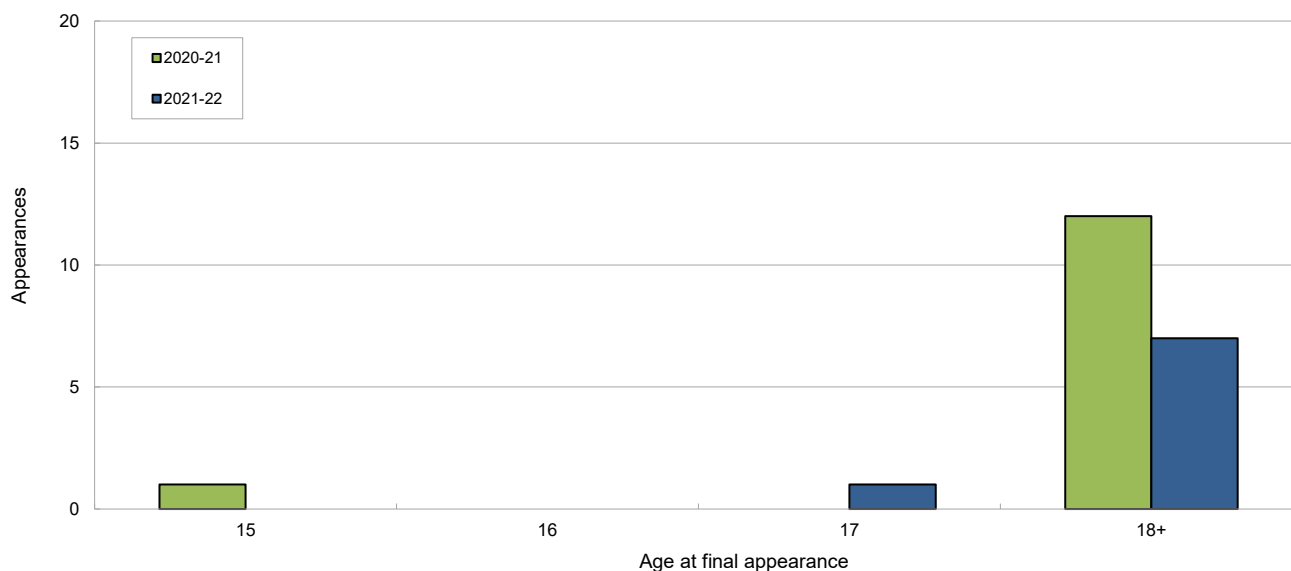
Table A9 Supreme and District Courts: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Age at final appearance	2020–21			2021–22		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
15	—	1	1	—	—	—
16	—	—	—	—	—	—
17	—	—	—	1	—	1
18+	11	1	12	5	2	7
Total	11	2	13	6	2	8

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Figure A5 Supreme and District Courts: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant at final appearance



(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Table A10 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4 of court

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2020–21			2021–22		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City ^(c)	9	22	2.4	4	24	6.0
Cairns ^(c)	1	3	3.0	1	1	1.0
Logan–Beaudesert ^(b)	—	—	..	1	1	1.0
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday ^(b)	1	2	2.0	—	—	..
Toowoomba ^(c)	1	17	17.0	—	—	..
Townsville ^(c)	1	5	5.0	2	22	11.0
Total adjudicated	13	49	3.8	8	48	6.0
Not adjudicated^(a)	1	3	3.0	3	4	1.3
Total	14	52	3.7	11	52	4.7

(a) Not adjudicated matters are those which were withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated and/or non-adjudicated appearances/charges in a reference year .

(b) Counts are for District Court only.

(c) Counts are for Supreme Court only.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Table A11 Supreme and District Courts: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty and sex

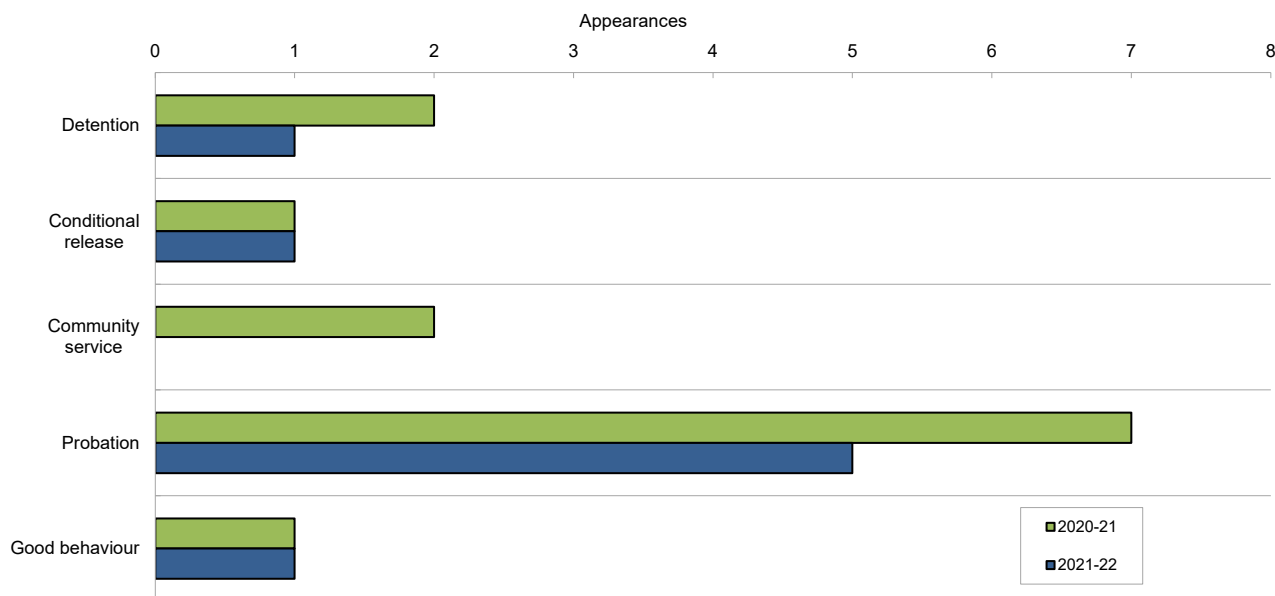
Most serious penalty ^(b)	2020–21			2021–22		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	2	—	2	1	—	1
Conditional release	1	—	1	1	—	1
Community service	1	1	2	—	—	—
Probation	6	1	7	4	1	5
Good behaviour	1	—	1	—	1	1
Total	11	2	13	6	2	8

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more appearances during a reference year. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.

(b) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Figure A6 Supreme and District Courts: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty



(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more appearances during a reference year. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Table A12 All Courts: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Age at final appearance	2020–21			2021–22		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)
10	4	—	4	—	—	—
11	45	5	50	14	6	20
12	103	45	148	120	46	166
13	282	127	409	268	140	408
14	528	253	782	514	229	744
15	818	331	1,149	802	335	1,137
16	924	357	1,281	874	306	1,180
17	1,266	384	1,651	1,147	358	1,506
18+	571	159	730	435	107	543
Unknown	1	1	2	8	1	9
Total^(d)	4,542	1,662	6,206	4,182	1,528	5,713

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

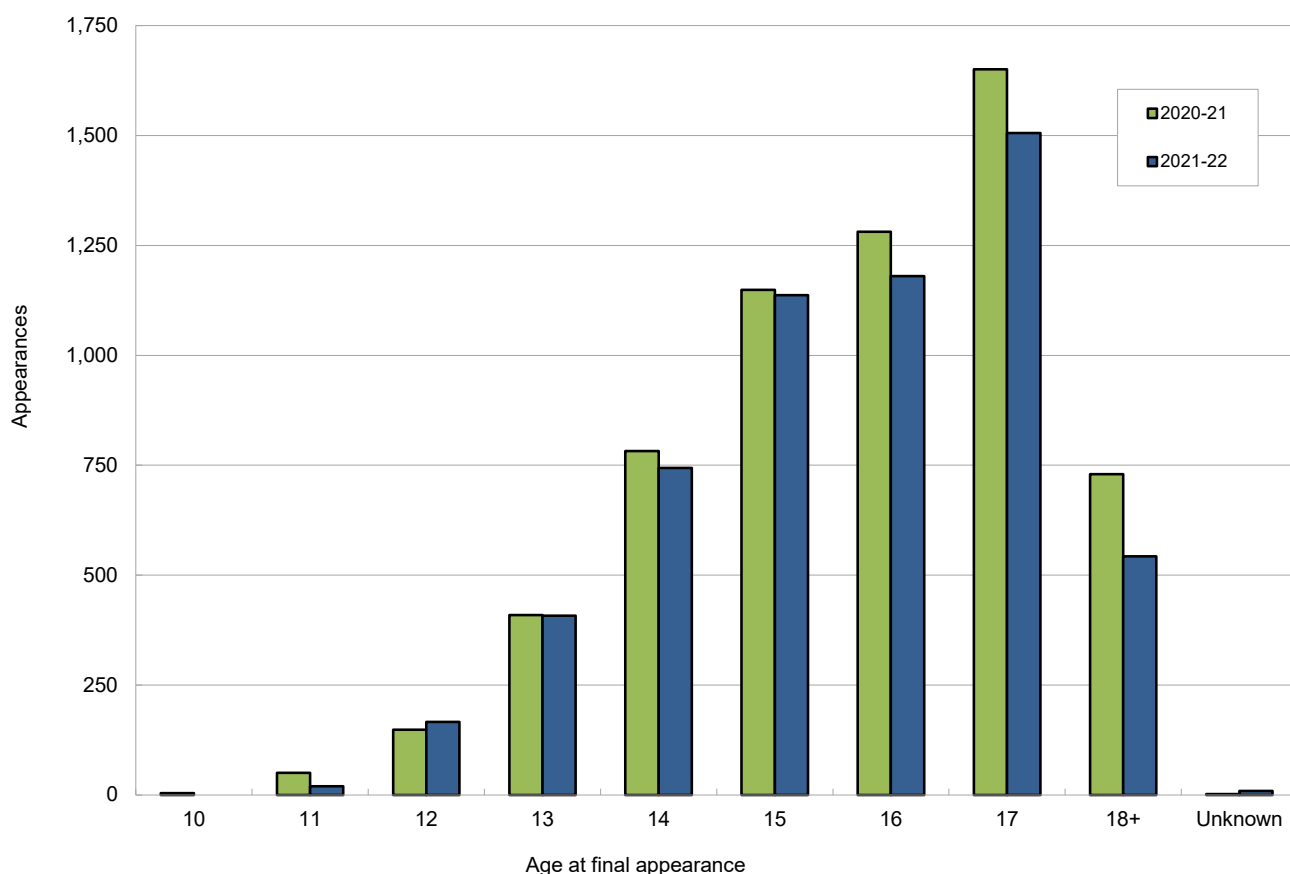
(b) Includes two appearances by a child defendant(s) whose sex was unknown or not stated.

(c) Includes three appearances by a child defendant(s) whose sex was unknown or not stated.

(d) Excludes appearances finalised at Magistrates Court level by committal, transfer or referral to conference.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.

Figure A7 All Courts: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age ^(b)of defendant



(a) Data are a count of adjudicated appearances only. An individual may have one or more finalised appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2022.