

# **Childrens Court of Queensland**

**Annual Report 2020 - 21**

# Contents

PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW .....	1
General .....	1
Youth justice trends summary.....	6
Childrens Court Committee.....	8
Court Case Management Committee .....	9
Thanks .....	9
EXPLANATORY NOTES.....	11
Definitions .....	12
Interpreting the data.....	14
SUMMARY .....	16
Appearances .....	16
Distinct defendants.....	17
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander distinct defendants .....	20
Charges.....	22
Penalties .....	23
Cautions .....	24
Restorative justice conferencing .....	24
THE COURTS .....	26
Time lapsed to finalise court proceedings.....	26
Childrens Court of Queensland.....	26
Applications for sentence review.....	28
Applications for bail .....	28
Appeals.....	29
Applications for parentage orders .....	30
Magistrates Court.....	30
Applications for child protection orders under the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> .....	32
Supreme and District Courts.....	33
SUPERVISED YOUTH JUSTICE ORDERS .....	34
Conditional bail.....	37
Community supervision.....	37
Young people in custody.....	40
Remand in custody.....	42
VICTIMS OF CHILD OFFENDERS .....	44
APPENDIX.....	47
Detailed tables .....	47

## Tables and figures

Table 1	Finalised appearances of child defendants, by court level.....	16
Table 2	Proportion of distinct child defendants by sex, all courts.....	18
Table 3	Distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance, by age, all courts .....	19
Table 4	Age group at offence by distinct defendants and number of proven offences, 2020–21 .....	20
Table 5	Distinct defendants, by age at offence, sex and Indigenous status, 2020–21 ....	21
Table 6	Rate of distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance, by Indigenous status, all courts .....	22
Table 7	Finalised charges against child defendants, by court type .....	22
Table 8	Convicted appearances of child defendants, by most serious penalty, all courts ... ..	23
Table 9	Cautions administered to child offenders, by offence type .....	24
Table 10	Offences for which offenders were proceeded against by restorative justice conference, 2020–21 .....	25
Table 11	Average number of days to finalise youth justice proceedings, selected courts .	26
Table 12	Finalised appearances, by age, Childrens Court of Queensland .....	26
Table 13	Finalised charges by offence type, Childrens Court of Queensland .....	27
Table 14	Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty, Childrens Court of Queensland .....	27
Table 15	Applications lodged for sentence review – <i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i> , Childrens Court of Queensland.....	28
Table 16	Applications for bail, Childrens Court of Queensland.....	28
Table 17	Appeals to Childrens Court of Queensland, Child Safety Services (DCYJMA) as respondent .....	29
Table 18	Appeals lodged pursuant to s222 of the <i>Justices Act 1886</i> , by court location ....	29
Table 19	Applications to Childrens Court of Queensland for <i>Surrogacy Act 2010</i> parentage orders .....	30
Table 20	Appearances of child defendants, by outcome, Magistrates Court.....	30
Table 21	Finalised appearances, by age, Magistrates Court .....	31
Table 22	Finalised charges against child defendants by offence type, Magistrates Court	31
Table 23	Charges against child defendants, by outcome, Magistrates Court .....	32
Table 24	Convicted appearances of child defendants, by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court .....	32
Table 25	Applications for child protection orders, Magistrates Court .....	32
Table 26	Finalised appearances of child defendants, by age, Supreme and District Courts	33
Table 27	Finalised charges against child defendants, by offence type, Supreme and District Courts .....	33
Table 28	Convicted appearances of child defendants, by most serious penalty, Supreme and District Courts .....	34
Table 29	Distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by age .....	35
Table 30	Rate of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status.....	36
Table 31	Supervised youth justice orders commenced, by order type.....	37
Table 32	Court-ordered conditional bail commenced by child offenders.....	37
Table 33	Supervised youth justice orders commenced in 2019–20: completion status as at 30 June 2021 .....	38
Table 34	Supervised youth justice orders commenced: completion status as at 30 June of the following period .....	39
Table 35	Rate of young people in detention / court-ordered custody, by Indigenous status . .....	41
Table 36	Detention orders by custody status at time of sentencing.....	43
Table 37	Distinct young persons in court-ordered custody in watchhouses in each month, by age, 2020–21 .....	43
Table 38	Watchhouse stay episodes during 2020–2021.....	44

Figure 1	Finalised appearances of child defendants, all courts.....	16
Figure 2	Finalised appearances of child defendants, Magistrates Court.....	17
Figure 3	Finalised appearances of child defendants, higher courts .....	17
Figure 4	Distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance, all courts .....	18
Figure 5	Proven offences by child offenders, all courts, 2020–21 .....	19
Figure 6	Proportion of distinct child defendants by Indigenous status, all courts.....	20
Figure 7	Distinct defendants aged 10–16 years at date of offence, by Indigenous status, 2020–21 .....	21
Figure 8	Distinct defendants aged 17 years at date of offence, by Indigenous status, 2020–21 .....	21
Figure 9	Proportion of distinct child defendants by Indigenous status, by age at offence, 2020–21 .....	21
Figure 10	Ten-year comparison of finalised charges against child defendants, all courts ..	23
Figure 11	Distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order .....	34
Figure 12	Distribution of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by sex.....	35
Figure 13	Distribution of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status .....	36
Figure 14	Average daily number of young people in custody.....	40
Figure 15	Average daily number of young people in custody, by sex .....	40
Figure 16	Average daily number of young people in detention / court-ordered custody, by Indigenous status .....	41
Figure 17	Total daily number of young females in youth detention / court-ordered custody	42
Figure 18	Average daily number of young people in detention / court-ordered custody, by legal status .....	42
Figure 19	Victims of acts intended to cause injury by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2020–21 .....	45
Figure 20	.....Victims of sexual assault and related offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2020–21 .....	45
Figure 21	Victims of robbery and extortion offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2020–21 .....	46

## PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW

### General

- [1] Unfortunately, the courts and the country continue to be affected by the COVID pandemic. However, the turnover of work in the courts has increased. Queensland was in the fortunate position last year where lockdowns were less frequent than in other states and as a result the courts were able to operate at close to normal capacity.
- [2] In 2020/2021 there were 7,422 finalised appearances of child defendants in all Queensland Criminal Courts. That was an overall increase of 18.3 per cent (or 1,147 appearances) over the previous year. The primary increase was in the Magistrates Court where numbers increased by 23.8 per cent (or 1,323 appearances).<sup>1</sup> However, over the last 10 years the numbers remain reasonably consistent with the exception of 2018/19 when 17-year-olds were included in the youth justice system.<sup>2</sup> There were fewer cautions administered to children in 2021 resulting in a drop of 11.7 per cent (a decrease of 1,809) compared with 2019/20.<sup>3</sup> This may account, in part, for the increase in finalised court appearances. Whilst the greatest number of cautions administered were for theft and related offences (24 per cent), those offences also represented the greatest drop in cautions administered. Restorative justice conferencing also decreased from 3,247 in 2019/20 to 3,169. 98 per cent of those referrals resulted in an agreement being reached between conference participants. The reduction in conference numbers may be indicative of the delays that were experienced during the year when, at times, there was reduced capacity for contact.
- [3] In March of 2021 the Queensland Family and Child Commission issued their report: *Changing the Sentence Overseeing Queensland Youth Justice Reforms*. The focus of the report was to assist in monitoring youth justice initiatives and examining options that would inform future youth justice systems and processes. The report provides useful insights into the youth justice system and in particular

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<sup>1</sup> See Table 1.

<sup>2</sup> See Figure 1.

<sup>3</sup> See Table 9.

into the type of young people who offend. It presents a snapshot of children in the system<sup>4</sup> :

“On any given day in Queensland approximately 1,643 young people aged 10 to 17 are on community supervision in the statutory system and a further 252 are in custody. This represents 0.4 of 1 per cent of the 512,416 people in Queensland aged 10 to 17. Of the young people who have had a finalised court appearance 45 per cent have never returned to the statutory youth justice system.”

Further it was noted that<sup>5</sup>:

“Eighty per cent of Queensland’s young offenders have reported using at least one drug or volatile substance (such as sniffing solvents, aerosols or petrol) and sixty-three per cent have experienced or been affected by domestic and family violence. Fifty-six per cent have a mental health and/or behavioural disorder (diagnosed or suspected) and fifty-three per cent are disengaged from education, training or employment.”

The report highlights the fact that many of the children who appear before the courts come from significantly deprived backgrounds

- [4] On 26 January 2021 a stolen car driven by a 17-year-old struck and tragically killed a Brisbane couple and their unborn child. Then on 5 February 2021 in Townsville, an adult pursuing a stolen car driven by juveniles, lost control and killed a motorcyclist. This resulted in public outcry and the government amended the bail provisions of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* to create a presumption against bail in certain circumstances particularly where a child was on bail at the time of offending. Electronic monitoring devices for offenders aged 16 and 17 were introduced, assurances from parents and guardians were sought prior to release on bail and a youth crime taskforce was established to implement the new measures and to focus, in particular, on the small cohort of offenders that are responsible for the majority of criminal offences in this jurisdiction.
- [5] It is unsurprising, in those circumstances, that the number of children held in custody (both on remand and serving a sentence) increased in 2021 to an average daily number of 233 children in custody on any given day.<sup>6</sup> The average daily

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<sup>4</sup> See Page 31 para 2.2.

<sup>5</sup> See Page 33 para 2.2.1.

<sup>6</sup> See Figure 14.

number of young people in custody on remand increased to 204 per day compared to 176 in the previous year<sup>7</sup>. Unfortunately, this often means that by the time the majority of children who are on remand are sentenced they have already served their sentence or in some cases spent more time in custody than would otherwise have been ordered by the courts.

[6] With the expansion of beds in the detention centres and the establishment of the West Moreton Youth Detention Centre the need for children to be kept in watch houses was reduced. During 2021, 631 young people spent at least one night at a police watch house but nearly 71 per cent of those children were there for one day and on average the length of stay was two days. Three children were in custody in a watch house for more than 15 days.<sup>8</sup> The Youth Justice Taskforce headed by Assistant Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon and Michael Drane from Youth Justice continued to work towards strategies to address the cohort of offenders who are recidivist offenders. They have travelled the state speaking to people and endeavouring to find solutions to assist these children to turn away from criminal offending. There is a focus in their work on engaging both children and their families, to keep the children engaged with education and ensure their mental health is assessed and supported. The taskforce has also established co-responder teams which are designed to ensure that young people comply with the conditions of their bail particularly their obligations to observe curfew and residential conditions. Special prosecutors have been introduced to the courts to monitor bail applications and review bail decisions.

[7] The Queensland Education and Justice Initiative continues to operate within the Magistrates Court to assist children to re-engage with education. It performs a vital role in connecting children to the appropriate education facilities for their needs. The Child Youth Mental Health Service provides significant services to children throughout the state, but their numbers are small and their workload is enormous. They continue to provide assessments in the watchhouses and magistrates courts for young people with mental health concerns. They assess and treat children in the detention centres and offer assistance upon their release

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<sup>7</sup> See Figure 18.

<sup>8</sup> See Tables 37 and 38.

from detention to access services. The shortage of mental health professionals that are able to assist children in the youth justice system remains a concern as it leads to large delays in the resolution of charges.

- [8] The Griffith Youth Forensic Service also provides an invaluable service in relation to children charged with sexual offences. The service assesses children who have pleaded guilty or been found guilty of those offences, providing invaluable assistance to the court and ongoing treatment for the children on orders. It is a unique service and it is pleasing to see that funding has been provided for the next five years to ensure that service continues.
- [9] The Legal Aid Office, in particular the Legal Aid team continue to support a large number of children charged with offences throughout the state. They operate the Youth Legal Advice Hotline to assist children who are arrested following the amendment of Section 421 of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* requiring a police officer to inform a child that a representative of a legal aid organisation will be notified that the child is in custody for an offence and to notify a legal aid representative of that fact. The Hotline is available from 8am to 9pm during the week and over the weekend when solicitors would otherwise be difficult to contact. They continue as well to monitor bail decisions throughout the State and to assess merit on bail applications. They provide valuable expertise and advice to practitioners in the area of youth justice.
- [10] Child protection application numbers dropped from 6,810 in 2019/2020 to 6,361 in 2020/2021.<sup>9</sup> However, this still represents a substantial increase in applications from the 2016/17 years. Appeals from these applications also rose from 26 to 46. The increasing workload involved in these child protection applications remains a concern for the magistrates who are already dealing with the majority of Childrens Court matters. The applications are particularly difficult in this arena as the parents are often unrepresented and struggle with addiction, mental health and domestic violence issues of their own. The system could be much better managed if there was funding for Legal Aid to provide assistance for parents in these applications regardless of the merit of the case. An

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<sup>9</sup> See Table 25.



independent review is currently being undertaken in relation to the current litigation model supporting child protection applications.

- [11] The number of children who have been previously named in a child protection proceeding who have also appeared before the Childrens Court charged with criminal offences continues to be a matter of concern. As at 30 June 2021, a total of 264 children were subject to dual child protection orders and youth justice orders. These children usually have complex needs that are difficult to manage but are very much in need of protection. They are often in residential care facilities or bouncing from kinship carer to families of friends and they regularly abscond from their placements. Urgent work needs to be done to assist these children.
- [12] The court continues to examine ways in which the youth justice system can be made more relevant to children. Dr Terry Hutchinson has prepared a research paper on the use of video-link technology in the Childrens Court. With the COVID pandemic the use of video-links have become more prevalent in the courts and it is important to note that where video-links are used, primarily for children who are in detention, that the court be aware of the type of children who are in detention. They represent some of the most disadvantaged children in Queensland and care needs to be taken to ensure that they understand the procedure and are given an opportunity to participate fully in the procedure. The report recommends that video-links are not to be used for sentence or trial where possible.
- [13] Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to be overrepresented in the youth justice system. Steps are being taken to investigate the utility of a Murri Court in the Childrens Court. Magistrate Pearson and the other Childrens Court Magistrates in Cairns have begun a Murri Court for children and recently a pilot program has begun to investigate ways in which the Elders in Cairns can engage the children awaiting sentence in the Childrens Court of Queensland in Cairns. That project will be reviewed again in March of 2022 to ascertain whether the Elders are able to assist and whether the children are willing to engage in the process. It is hoped if successful this can be expanded to other jurisdictions throughout the state.

- [14] Parliament passed the *Meriba Omasker Kawiz Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020* on 16 July 2020. It was assented to on 14 September 2020. The act recognises and establishes a scheme for a cultural recognition order to acknowledge and recognise the Ailan Kastom child rearing practices in the Torres Strait.

### **Youth justice trends summary**

- [15] As previously stated, there was an overall increase in finalised appearances before the Queensland courts. 17-year-old offenders account for almost 30 per cent of all offenders and represent the largest group of juvenile offenders.<sup>10</sup> Boys continue to outnumber girls representing 72 per cent of the cohort.<sup>11</sup> 17-year-olds accounted for 29 per cent of the defendants before the court and committed 20.5 per cent of the offences.<sup>12</sup> Once again 10 per cent of juvenile offenders have committed 46 per cent of the finalised charges in the youth justice system.<sup>13</sup>
- [16] There continues to be significant over - representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the youth justice system. The Queensland Family and Child Commission is currently investigating this issue and will publish findings in the future. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children represent 46 per cent of all child defendants before the courts.<sup>14</sup> In the 10-year-old age group ATSI children represent 87 per cent of child defendants and 85 per cent of 11-year-olds. That percentage reduces as the children age and by the time they are 17 the percentage drops to 33 per cent.<sup>15</sup> They are 10 times more likely to have had a charge finalised in a Queensland Court in 2020/21.<sup>16</sup> The number of indigenous children in custody by percentage has reduced marginally from 70 per cent in 2019/2020 to 64 per cent in 2020/2021 although it is still very high compared to the rest of the population.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> See Figure 4.  
<sup>11</sup> See Table 2.  
<sup>12</sup> See Table 4.  
<sup>13</sup> See Figure 5.  
<sup>14</sup> See Figure 6.  
<sup>15</sup> See Figure 9.  
<sup>16</sup> See Table 6.  
<sup>17</sup> See Figure 16.

- [17] The time taken to finalise matters in the court increased in the Magistrates Court with the time increasing steadily over the last five years from 49 days in 2015 to 76 days 2020/2021.
- [18] In the Childrens Court of Queensland the time taken to finalise matters have reduced from 329 days in 2019/2020 to 309. This is the lowest number of days taken to finalise proceedings in the last five years.<sup>18</sup>
- [19] The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 2,594 charges in 527 appearances in 2020/2021. Almost half of those appearances related to 17-year-old defendants and older (47.8 per cent). There was a decrease in the number of 13-year-old defendants appearing in the court ( -52.8 per cent).<sup>19</sup> The average number of charges disposed of per appearance was 4.9 slightly more than the previous year. Property damage charges increased slightly however all other charges decreased in number with theft and related offences decreasing by 170, robbery and extortion by 24, acts intended to cause injury by 74 and sexual offences by 54.<sup>20</sup> 84 per cent of all matters in the Childrens Court of Queensland resulted in a guilty outcome with 4.3 per cent receiving a custodial sentence as the most serious penalty. The most prevalent penalty imposed was probation at 57.6 per cent.<sup>21</sup> These outcomes are affected by the period of time children have spent on remand before sentence. Generally, applications for sentence review decreased as did applications for bail. Applications for parentage orders increased from 11 in 2019/2020 to 18 in 2020/2021.
- [20] In the Magistrates Court there were 6,881 finalised appearances. This represents an increase of 23.8 per cent. In addition, 579 appearances resulted in a committal to a higher court. This represents an increase of 28.7 per cent. Of those appearances, 68 per cent resulted in conviction and 32 per cent were discharged. This is relatively similar to the results in 2019/2020.<sup>22</sup> Children aged 17 years and over accounted for 37.3 per cent of all finalised appearances in the

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<sup>18</sup> See Table 11.

<sup>19</sup> See Table 12.

<sup>20</sup> See Table 13.

<sup>21</sup> See Table 14.

<sup>22</sup> See Table 20.

Magistrates Court which was relatively stable compared to the previous year.<sup>23</sup> It is comforting to see that the number of 10-year olds appearing in the Magistrates Court decreased significantly between 2018 and 2020 from 29 in 2018, 15 in 2019 and six in 2020.

- [21] The Magistrates Court finalised 37,248 charges. This is an increase of 33 per cent from the previous years.<sup>24</sup> The increases of significance relate to acts intended to cause injury up from 1,353 to 2,111, unlawful entry with intent up from 5,694 to 7,810 and motor vehicle theft up from 2,832 to 4,602. Theft and related offences and unlawful entry with intent together accounted for more than half (54 per cent) of all charges finalised in the Magistrates Court in 2020/2021 and 54.6 per cent in 2019/2020.<sup>25</sup> Of all the charges before the Magistrates Court 93.8 per cent were finalised in that court with 6.2 per cent committed to a higher court for trial or sentence.<sup>26</sup> These represent similar figures to 2019/2020 and underline the fact that the Magistrates Court takes the lion's share of the work in this jurisdiction. This coupled with the increase in child protection orders over the years represents a sizeable increase in the workload for the Magistrates Court sitting as a Childrens Court. There was a decrease in matters committed to the Supreme and District Courts, namely 52 charges in 14 appearances a decrease from 19 appearances in the previous year.<sup>27</sup>

### **Childrens Court Committee**

- [22] The Childrens Court Committee again continued to meet on a reduced basis during the year but nonetheless remains a valuable tool for court to exchange information between agencies and to facilitate a coordinated approach to youth justice throughout the state. Dr Hutchinson presented her report to the committee during the year. The Queensland Family and Child Commission became a member of the committee and presented their findings in relation to their report. Michael Drane continued to keep the committee updated as to the developments with the Youth Justice Taskforce.

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<sup>23</sup> See Table 21.

<sup>24</sup> See Table 22.

<sup>25</sup> See Table 22.

<sup>26</sup> See Table 23.

<sup>27</sup> See Table 26.

## **Court Case Management Committee**

[23] The Court Case Management Committee continues to meet and discuss issues arising in the child protection area. The undergoing review of the litigation model within the child protection area will no doubt influence the role of the committee. It continues to monitor issues such as parental rights and representation before the court.

## **Thanks**

[24] I would like to thank the Judges of the Childrens Court of Queensland for their assistance in managing the workload of the court.

[25] Special recognition should be given to the Magistrates and in particular the specialist Childrens Court Magistrates who work hard to manage a significant workload in that court. Deputy Chief Magistrate Janelle Brassington has taken on the role of managing the Magistrates Court branch of the Childrens Court upon the retirement of Magistrate O'Shea. Her contribution to the jurisdiction is greatly appreciated.

[26] I also acknowledge the hard work of those involved in and supporting the work of the Children's Court. The practitioners in the Youth Legal Aid Team led by David Law, the Youth Advocacy Centre and the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Legal Service who provide assistance to the court on a daily basis. I also acknowledge the work of the Queensland Director of Public Prosecutions and the police prosecutors who work to provide assistance to the court in a professional and timely manner. The officers of the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, the registry of the Childrens Court, the Director of Child Protection Litigation and his staff, the members of the Qld Family and Child Commission as well as officers from the Department of Justice and Attorney General all work tirelessly to ensure the efficient running of the court.

[27] Finally, special mention should go to Alex Robynson from Youth Justice Services and Danielle Palmer from the Office of the Chief Magistrate who act as coordinators of the business of the Childrens Court Committee and the Case Management Committee. They are patient and efficient. These are qualities I

both admire and appreciate. Those qualities are also present in Amanda O'Brien, Nicole Drew, Claire Slater and Kylie Chaczko who provide statistical information and technical support and who are always available to assist the court.

[28] I thank the officers of the court's reporting unit and the Queensland Government statisticians for their assistance in the 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 comparison between publications.

### **Reference year**

The statistics in this report relate primarily to the 2020–21 financial year, i.e. 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. Where possible, data from up to nine previous financial years are provided for comparison.

### **Data sources**

Statistical information used in this report has been collected and presented by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO), Queensland Treasury. As all data are current at time of extraction, historical data may 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 2021.

Cautions and victims of child offenders data were sourced from the Queensland Police Service. Data were extracted in August 2021.

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 (Youth Justice). Data were extracted in July/August 2021.

Other data were sourced from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for use in this report. Data were extracted in August 2021.

### **Counting rules**

The Childrens Court of Queensland Annual Report uses counting rules prescribed 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](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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

### **Symbols used in tables**

— nil  
.. not applicable

## Definitions

<b>caution</b>	an official warning given at police discretion to a young offender as an alternative to a charge.
<b>charge</b>	a formal accusation of an offence. A charge is finalised by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal.
<b>child</b>	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.
<b>Childrens Court</b>	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.
<b>Childrens Court of Queensland</b>	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.
<b>Childrens Court judge</b>	a District Court judge appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act 1992</i> ).
<b>Childrens Court magistrate</b>	a magistrate appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act</i> ).
<b>committal</b>	referral of a case from a Magistrates Court to a higher court for trial or sentence.
<b>Court of Appeal</b>	the Supreme Court sitting in judgement on an appeal.
<b>defendant</b>	a person charged with a criminal offence and appearing in a criminal court.
<b>disposition</b>	the finalisation and clearing of matters to do with a defendant (for instance by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal, but not by committal or transfer to another court).
<b>District Court</b>	<p>a court constituted by a District Court judge (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act</i>, and s5, <i>District Court of Queensland Act 1967</i>).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>Childrens Court Act</i> and the <i>Youth Justice Act</i>.</p>
<b>ex officio indictment</b>	an indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of Prosecutions without a committal.
<b>finalised appearance</b>	a collection of offences for a single offender that are disposed (finalised) on the same day, at the same court level and court



location. An appearance is finalised when the charges against a defendant are proven or dismissed or withdrawn.

**guilty finding**

a determination by the court or as a result of a guilty plea that a defendant is legally responsible for an offence.

**Magistrates Court**

a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate or, in some circumstances, by two Justices of the Peace.

**offence**

any act or omission by a person(s) for which a penalty could be imposed by the Australian legal system.

**offence type**

a category within a classification describing the nature of the offence; the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification* (ANZSOC), 2011 is used in this report.

**offender**

a person who is deemed responsible for, has been found guilty of, or pleaded guilty to an offence.

**penalty**

a term of imprisonment or detention, fine or other payment, community service or supervision, surrender of licence or other imposition ordered by the court as part of the punishment of an offender after a guilty finding.

**detention order** a custodial penalty placing a child offender in a youth detention centre.

**conditional release order** suspension by the sentencing court of a detention order against a child offender conditional on participation in a program of up to three months.

**intensive supervision order** a sentencing option for a child offender who has been found guilty of an offence that if committed by an adult would make them liable to imprisonment.

**community service order** a supervision penalty requiring an offender to perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work.

**graffiti removal order** 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.

**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.

<b>sentence</b>	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).
<b>serious offence</b>	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).
<b>Supreme Court of Queensland</b>	the highest court in the Queensland judicial system (with unlimited jurisdiction and dealing with murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and the most serious drug offences).
<b>trial (criminal)</b>	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

<b>Breach of youth justice order</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>In 2020–21, 308 appearances by child defendants were finalised in Queensland courts for breaches of youth justice orders compared with 7,422 appearing for criminal offences.</p> <p>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).</p>
<b>Caution</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Classification of offences</b>	<p>This report shows the classification of charges by “offence type”. The offence classification used is the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification</i> (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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

***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 finalised appearances. 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.

**Please note:** 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, and many of these continued throughout 2020–21. In Queensland, from mid-March to mid-June 2020, Magistrates (including Childrens) Courts heavily scaled back operations and jury trials in the Supreme and District courts ceased, and a backlog ensued. The COVID-19 pandemic remains a significant and ongoing event, both globally and nationally, which has impacted crime and justice statistics in 2020–21. Therefore, comparisons with figures in periods before the pandemic must be made with caution.

## SUMMARY

### Appearances

In 2020–21, there were 7,422 finalised appearances of child defendants in all Queensland criminal courts. Compared with the number in 2019–20 (6,275), this shows an overall increase of 18.3% (or 1,147 appearances). This is driven mainly by the Magistrates Court where numbers increased by 23.8% (1,323 appearances), however this is still 17.6% lower than in 2018–19 (Table 1 and Figure 1).

**Table 1 Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup> of child defendants, by court level**

Court <sup>(b)</sup>	2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(c)</sup>		2020–21	
	Appearances	% of total	Appearances	% of total	Appearances	% of total
Magistrates	8,350	92.3	5,558	88.6	6,881	92.7
Childrens Court of Queensland	676	7.5	698	11.1	527	7.1
District	5	0.1	11	0.2	1	0.0
Supreme	12	0.1	8	0.1	13	0.2
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>9,043</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,275</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7,422</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

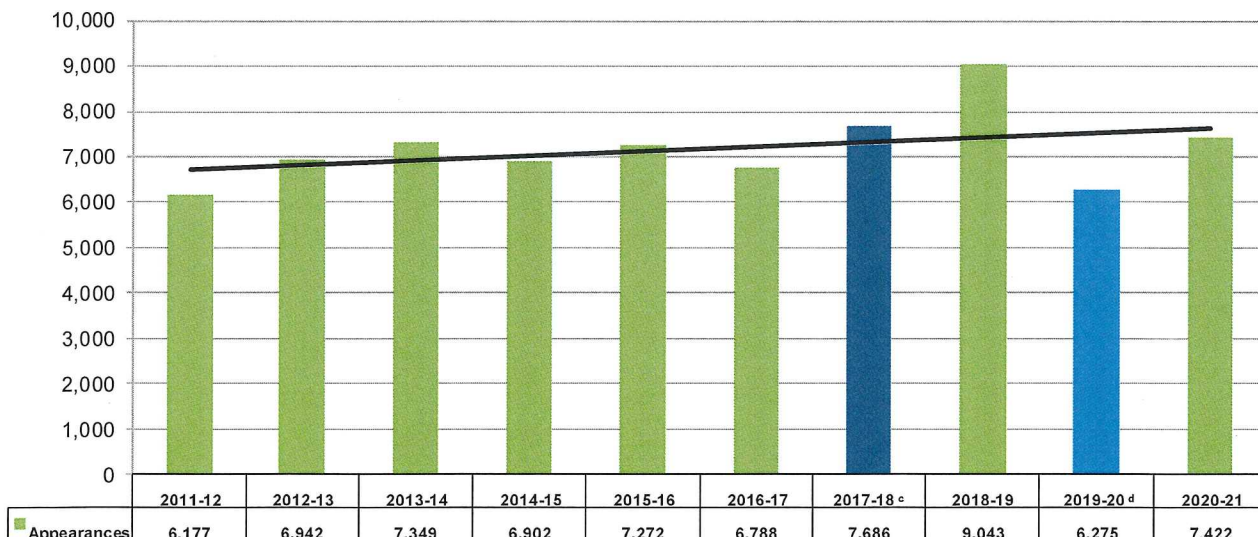
(b) Appearances in a Magistrates Court resulting in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence are finalised in the higher court and are counted here only at that level.

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

(d) An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

**Figure 1 Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup> of child defendants, all courts<sup>(b)</sup>**



(a) Appearances for committal to a higher court, or for breaches of youth justice orders, are excluded, as are appearances resulting in indefinite referral to restorative justice conferencing. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within a reference year.

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

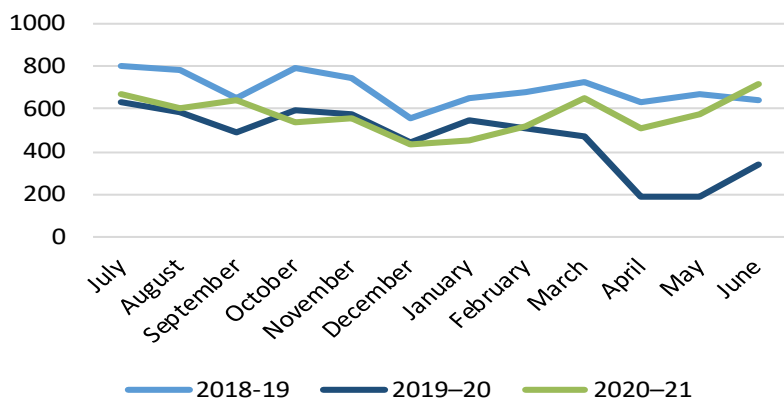
(c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(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 2021.

Figure 2 presents finalised appearance numbers on a month-by-month basis for the three most recent years, to illustrate the effect of the pandemic. In the Magistrates Court, which represents the vast majority of all finalised appearances, a recovery towards pre-COVID-19 numbers was apparent from the end of 2019–20, when normal court operations resumed. Numbers were somewhat subdued throughout the year, but 2020–21 ended with appearances back to pre-COVID level.

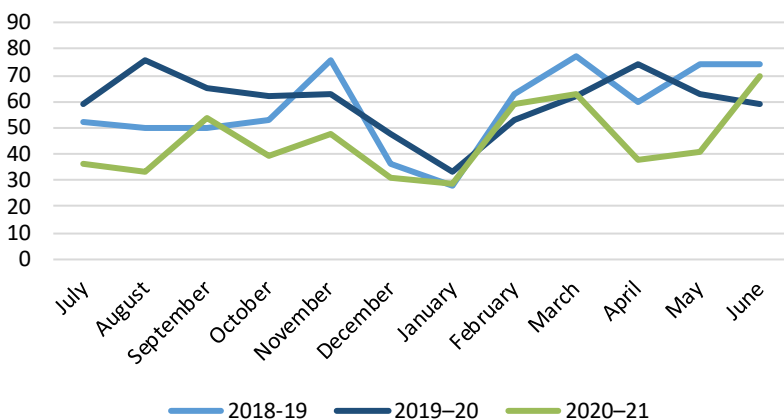
**Figure 2 Finalised appearances of child defendants, Magistrates Court**



(a) An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within a reference year.

Finalised appearance numbers in the higher courts were lower at the start of 2020–21, possibly due to a drop in committals from the Magistrates Court in 2019–20 (see Table 20 on p.21). While finalised appearance numbers in the higher courts were subdued throughout most of the year compared with the previous two years, they returned to pre-COVID level as the year ended.

**Figure 3 Finalised appearances of child defendants, higher courts**



(a) An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within a reference year.

### Distinct defendants

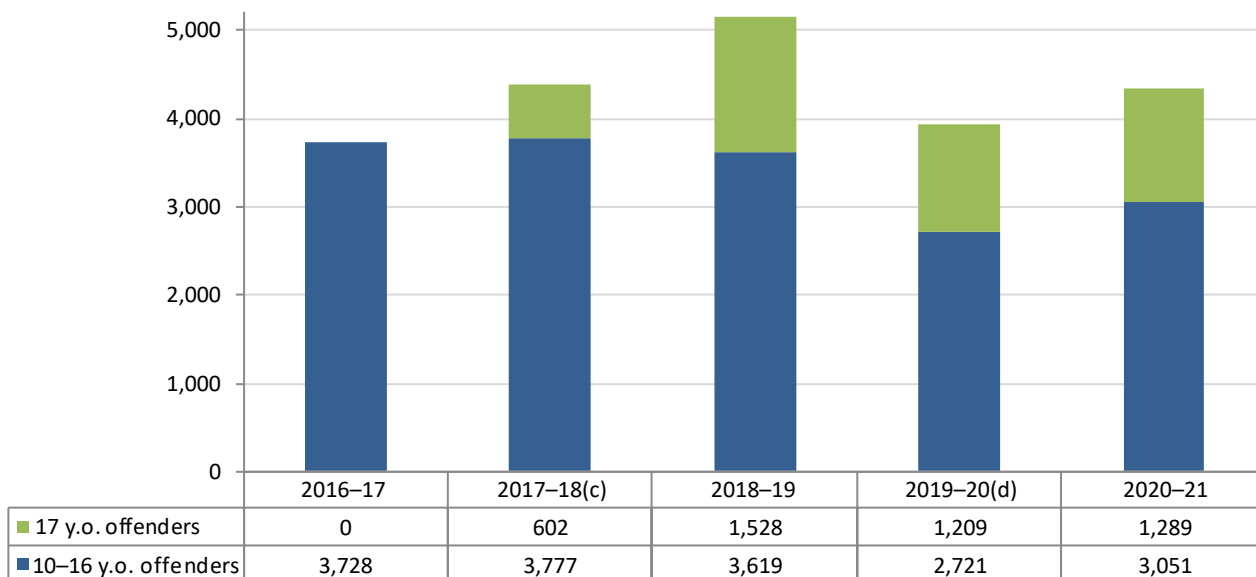
Since 12 February 2018, 17-year-old offenders have been included in Queensland’s youth justice system, while previously the age range was 10–16 years. The 2017–18 reference year therefore includes approximately four months of data for offenders aged 17 years and represents a break in the time series.

Distinct young offenders are counted once in the reported financial year, irrespective of the number of finalised appearances they have had in the year. Based on their age at offending, they have been grouped into two offender cohorts (10–16 years and 17-year-olds) (Figure 4).

Due to the time it takes to have charges heard and finalised in court, there is always a small number of young people aged 18 years and over at time of finalisation who are dealt with in the youth justice system. In addition, detention counts include young people aged 18 years and over who are completing their detention orders in a youth detention centre for offences they committed as a child.

In 2020–21, there were 4,340 distinct child defendants aged 10 years and over who had a finalised appearance in a Queensland court (Figure 4), representing an overall increase of 410 from 2019–20 to 2020–21.

**Figure 4 Distinct child defendants<sup>(a)(b)</sup> with a finalised appearance, all courts**



- (a) Young people who offended at both 16 and 17 years are included within the 10-16 year old offenders. The count of 17-year-old offenders in 2017-18 and thereafter is of young people who offended only at 17 years old in the reference year.
- (b) Count of distinct child defendants across all court levels.
- (c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018. To allow for comparison between financial years, defendants have been split into young people who offended aged 10-16 years, and those who offended aged 17 years.
- (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 August 2021.

In the same pattern seen throughout the five years to 2020-21, boys continue to outnumber girls, accounting for between 72 and 73 per cent of all distinct child defendants with a charge finalised (Table 2).

**Table 2 Proportion of distinct child defendants by sex, all courts<sup>(a)</sup>**

Sex	2016-17	2017-18 <sup>(b)</sup>	2018-19	2019-20 <sup>(c)</sup>	2020-21
	Per cent <sup>(d)</sup> (%)				
Female	28	28	27	28	28
Male	72	72	73	72	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- (a) Count of distinct child defendants across all court levels.
- (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020-21.
- (d) Percentages exclude child defendants who reported being intersex or where sex was not reported. These accounted for less than 0.07 per cent of defendants per reference year.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.



In 2020–21, young people aged 17 years at final appearance were the largest single age group in a Queensland children’s court. This age group accounted for 27.5% of all distinct child defendants (1,194), while those aged 16 years accounted for 21.3% (925) during the period. Over 13.0% (568) of all disposed charges were for 18-year-old defendants (Table 3).

**Table 3 Distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance, by age, all courts<sup>(a)</sup>**

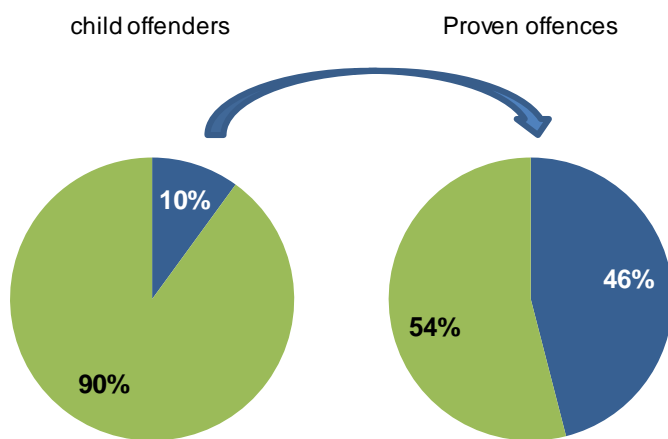
Age at final appearance <sup>(b)</sup>	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(c)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(d)</sup>	2020–21
	—Defendants—				
10	17	14	22	11	5
11	54	70	60	39	38
12	158	160	159	113	105
13	347	374	371	264	264
14	653	634	618	450	516
15	919	932	858	641	724
16	1,133	1,127	1,097	809	925
17	406	887	1,443	1,145	1,194
18	46	181	519	458	568
20	–	–	–	–	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,733</b>	<b>4,379</b>	<b>5,147</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>4,340</b>

- (a) Count of distinct child defendants across all court levels.
- (b) Age represents age of defendant at date of final appearance, not at date of offence, and is reported as at the earliest finalised appearance within the reference year.
- (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: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

In 2020–21, ten per cent of all young offenders were responsible for 46 per cent of all proven offences (Figure 5), compared with 48 per cent in 2019–2020.

**Figure 5 Proven offences<sup>(a)</sup> by child offenders, all courts<sup>(b)</sup>, 2020–21<sup>(c)</sup>**



- (a) A proven offence excludes charges that were dismissed or withdrawn.
- (b) Includes counts across all court levels
- (c) This figure is based on charges finalised during 2020–21.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

The 2020–21 financial year was the third full year of 17-year-old offenders being dealt with in the youth justice system, and a total of 4,340 distinct child defendants had a charge disposed, 1,289 (29.7%) more than if the legislation had not been passed. That is, they had charges disposed relating to offences that occurred only while they were aged 17 years (Table 4).

Of the 39,103 proven offences committed by 10–17-year-old offenders during the financial year, offences by 17-year-olds accounted for 20.5% (8,016 offences).

**Table 4 Age group at offence by distinct defendants and number of proven offences, 2020–21**

Age at offence <sup>(a)</sup>	Distinct defendants <sup>(b)</sup>	Proven offence <sup>(c)</sup>
10–16 years old	3,051	31,087
17 years old	1,289	8,016
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>39,103</b>

(a) Age at date of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person’s first finalised appearance date in the reference year.

(b) Count of distinct child defendants across all court levels.

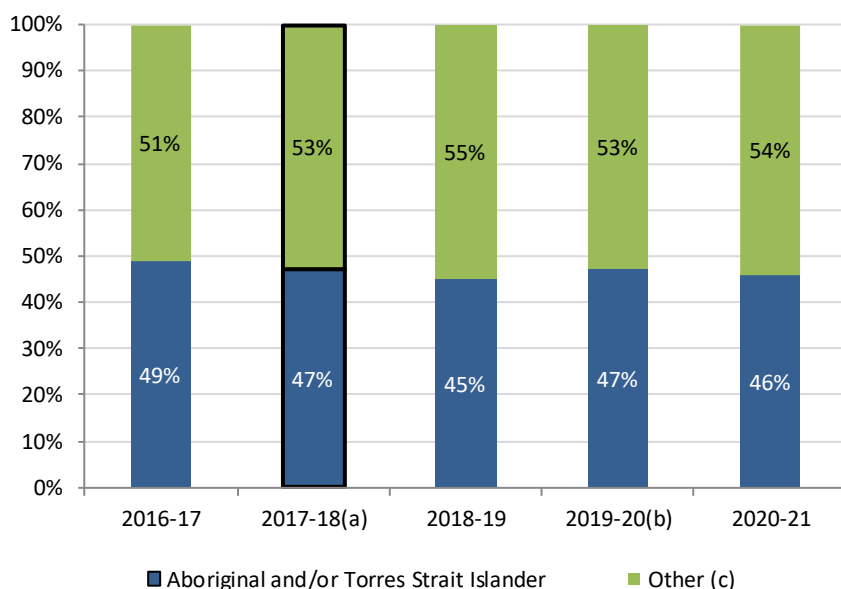
(c) Includes counts across all court levels.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander distinct defendants

In 2020–21, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for 46 per cent of all child defendants who had a charge finalised in a Queensland court. This proportion is slightly smaller than in 2019–20 but slightly higher than in 2018–19 (Figure 6).

**Figure 6 Proportion of distinct child defendants by Indigenous status, all courts**



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

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

(c) “Other” includes non-Indigenous persons and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

Males accounted for 75.6% of distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance who were aged 17 years at time of offence, six percentage points higher than the average of those aged 10–16 years.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander offenders accounted for around a third (32.5%) of the 17-year-old offender group, compared with 51.4% of 10–16 year old offenders.



**Table 5 Distinct defendants, by age at offence<sup>(a)</sup>, sex and Indigenous status, 2020–21**

	10–16 years old at time of offence		17 years old at time of offence		Total
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other <sup>(b)</sup>	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other <sup>(b)</sup>	
<b>Sex</b>	—Defendants—				
<b>Female</b>	515	402	118	197	<b>1,232</b>
<b>Male</b>	1,054	1,078	301	673	<b>3,106</b>
<b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>1,569</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>4,340</b>

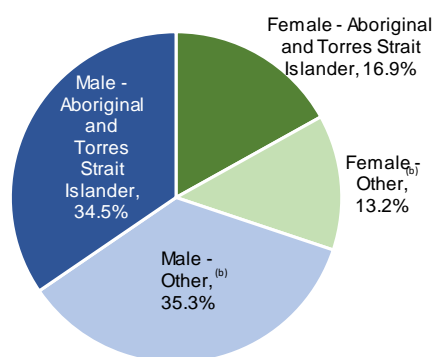
(a) Age at offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with defendant’s first finalised appearance date in the reference year.

(b) “Other” includes non-Indigenous persons and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

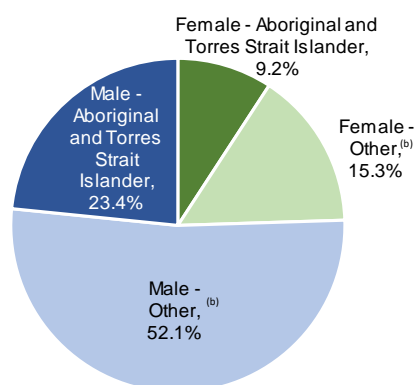
(c) Total includes defendants identified as intersex or indeterminate.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

**Figure 7 Distinct defendants aged 10–16 years at date of offence<sup>(a)</sup>, by Indigenous status, 2020–21**



**Figure 8 Distinct defendants aged 17 years at date of offence<sup>(a)</sup>, by Indigenous status, 2020–21**



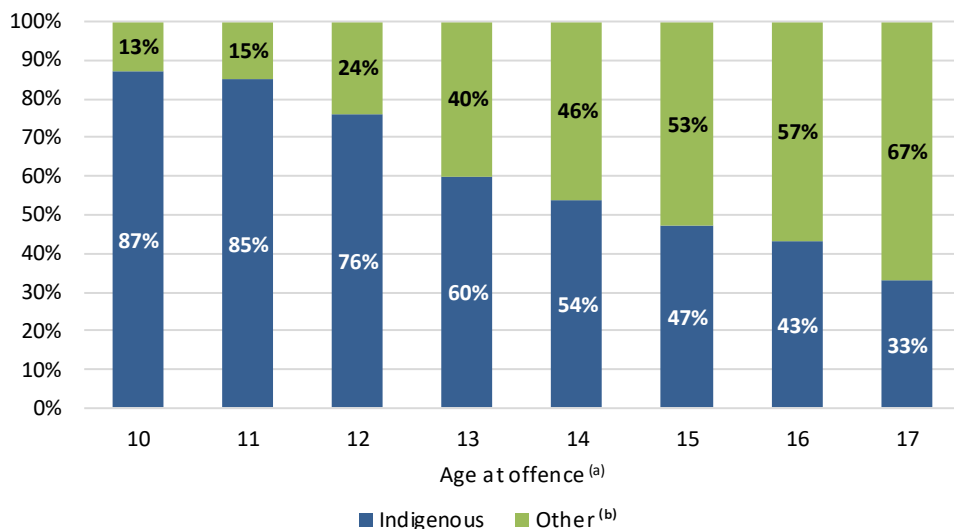
(a) Includes all distinct defendants with a charge disposed who were aged 10–17 years at date of offence. Age at offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a defendant’s first finalised appearance date in the financial year.

(b) “Other” includes non-Indigenous defendants and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander distinct defendants continue to be substantially over-represented in the younger age groups between 10 and 14 years.

**Figure 9 Proportion of distinct child defendants by Indigenous status, by age at offence, 2020–21**



(c) Includes all distinct defendants with a charge disposed who were aged 10–17 years at date of offence. Age at offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a defendant’s first finalised appearance date in the financial year.

(d) “Other” includes non-Indigenous defendants and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were ten times as likely as other young people to have had a charge finalised in a Queensland Court in 2020–21. This is similar to the previous year.

**Table 6 Rate of distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance, by Indigenous status, all courts**

Indigenous status	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21
	Rate per 10,000 persons <sup>(c)</sup>				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	517.3	572.5	551.8	434.4	464.7
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	46.8	55.8	59.0	42.9	47.7

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

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

(c) Rates were calculated using population estimates for 10–16 yr olds for 2015–16 to 2017–18, and for 10–17 yr olds for 2018–19 to 2020–21.

(d) “Other” includes non-Indigenous persons and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021. Total population estimates for 2016 to 2019 are sourced 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 and 2021 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.

## Charges

Across all court levels, the average number of charges per finalised appearance increased to 5.4 in 2020–21 from 5.0 in the previous year, reflecting the increase seen in the Magistrates Court. Over the same period, there were also increases in both the Childrens Court of Queensland, from 4.5 to 4.9 charges per appearance, and in the District Court, where the average number increased from 2.5 to 3.0. In contrast, in the Supreme Court, the average number decreased from 5.0 per appearance in 2019–20 to 3.8 in 2020–21.

The offence categories with the largest number of charges against child defendants in 2020–21 were *theft and related offences* with 12,903 charges (32.3%), *unlawful entry with intent* with 8,236 charges (20.6%), *public order offences* with 2,948 charges (7.4%) and *property damage* with 2,615 charges (6.6%). In total, these four offence categories represent two-thirds (66.9%) of all charges finalised in children’s courts in 2020–21. (For more detail, refer to Appendix Table 1.)

**Table 7 Finalised charges against child defendants, by court type**

Court <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>		2020–21	
	Charges	% of total	Charges	% of total	Charges	% of total
Magistrates	35,130	91.4	28,007	89.6	37,248	93.4
Childrens Court of Queensland	3,263	8.5	3,167	10.1	2,594	6.5
District	13	0.0	27	0.1	3	0.0
Supreme	46	0.1	40	0.1	49	0.1
<b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>38,452</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31,241</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>39,894</b>	<b>100.0</b>

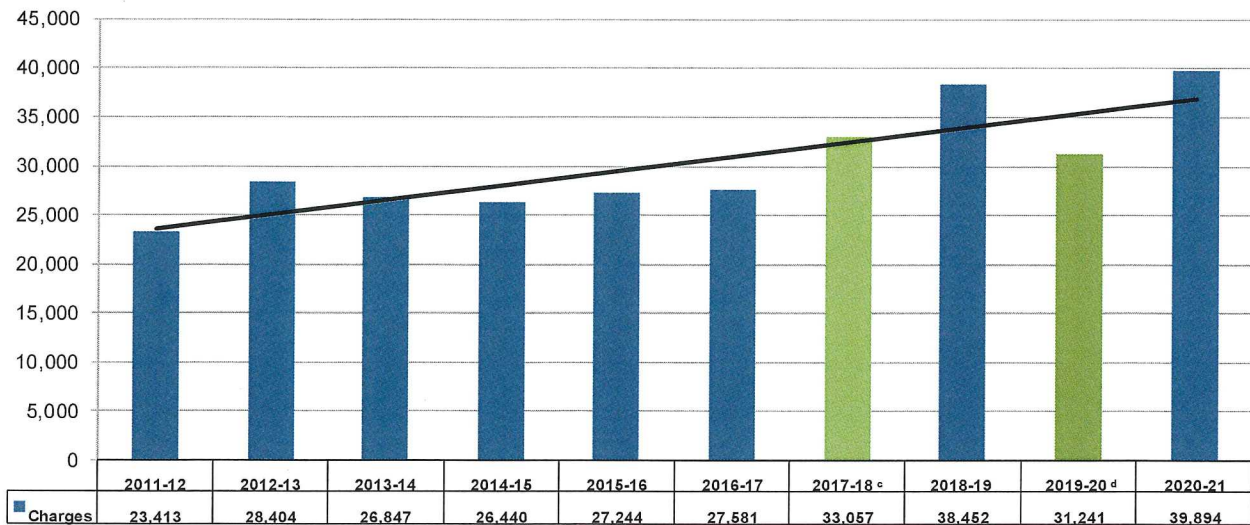
(a) Charges in a Magistrates Court resulting in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence are finalised in a higher court and are counted here only at that level.

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

(c) Percentages may not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

**Figure 10 Ten-year comparison of finalised charges<sup>(a)</sup> against child defendants, all courts<sup>(b)</sup>**



- (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 2021.

## Penalties

In 2020–21, of the 7,422 finalised appearances by child defendants in Queensland courts, 69.2% (5,135) were proven, i.e. they resulted in a guilty finding (conviction)(Table 8). By comparison, 68.5% were proven in 2019–20 and 73.8% in 2018–19.

Detention was the most serious penalty imposed in 72 (1.4%) convicted child appearances in 2020–21, and a further 500 (9.7%) resulted in an immediate/conditional release order. Reprimand and other minor penalties were the most serious penalty in 1,493 appearances (29.1%), followed by probation (1,491 or 29.0%), and 754 (14.7%) received a good behaviour order.

**Table 8 Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup> of child defendants, by most serious penalty, all courts<sup>(b)</sup>**

Most serious penalty <sup>(c)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(d)</sup>	2020–21
	Appearances		
Detention <sup>(e)</sup>	93	81	72
Immediate / conditional release <sup>(f)</sup>	587	454	500
Community service	974	555	534
Probation	1,465	1,097	1,491
Treatment orders	107	62	61
Fine	153	72	58
Compensation	26	6	10
Good behaviour	1,130	581	754
Disqualification of drivers licence	126	132	162
Reprimand <sup>(g)</sup>	2,014	1,256	1,493
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,675</b>	<b>4,296</b>	<b>5,135</b>

- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants.
- (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 disposition, only the most serious is counted here.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (e) Includes imprisonment, intensive correction and intensive supervision orders.
- (f) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

## Cautions

Queensland Police Service data showed that 13,619 cautions were administered to child offenders in 2020–21, a decrease of 1,809 (–11.7%) compared with 2019–20 (Table 9). In contrast, there were 7,422 finalised court appearances of child defendants in the same period, an increase of 1,147 (18.3%) compared with the previous year.

In 2020–21, the greatest number of cautions was administered for *theft and related offences* (3,276 or 24.1% of all cautions). A further 2,240 cautions (16.4%) were administered for *illicit drug offences* and 2,142 (15.7%) for *other offences*, including dangerous or negligent acts, public order offences etc. (See table footnote for details.)

**Table 9 Cautions administered<sup>(a)</sup> to child offenders, by offence type**

Offence type <sup>(b)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(c)</sup>	2020–21
	—Cautions—		
Homicide & related offences	–	–	1
Acts intended to cause injury	1,043	1,209	1,534
Sexual assault & related offences	605	723	729
Robbery & extortion	117	268	199
Unlawful entry with intent	1,380	1,744	1,547
Theft & related offences	3,343	4,350	3,276
<i>(Motor vehicle theft)</i>	837	1,311	1,201
<i>(Other theft)</i>	2,293	2,792	1,898
<i>(Receiving &amp; handling)</i>	213	247	177
Deception & related offences	445	416	376
Illicit drug offences	2,282	2,769	2,240
Property damage	1,340	1,624	1,534
Road traffic offences	27	25	41
Other offences <sup>(d)</sup>	1,860	2,300	2,142
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,442</b>	<b>15,428</b>	<b>13,619</b>

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

(d) 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 August 2021.

## Restorative justice conferencing

In 2020–21, restorative justice conferencing received a total of 3,169 referrals, with 615 of these referrals being for 17-year-old offenders (19.4%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders accounted for 43.7% (1,384) of all referrals received in 2020–21. This is lower than the proportion in 2019–20 (45.7%).

In 2020–21, a total of 2,295 referrals were conferenced. This may include referrals that were received in a previous financial year.

Of the referrals conferenced, 98 per cent resulted in an agreement being reached between conference participants.

*Theft and related offences* was the offence type most conferenced in 2020–21, at 2,393 or 28.6% of the total, followed by *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* at 1,300 or 15.5%, and *illicit drug offences* (683 or 8.2%). Together, these three offence types accounted for half of all offences conferenced in the period. (Table 10).

**Table 10 Offences for which offenders were proceeded against by restorative justice conference<sup>(a)</sup>, 2020–21**

<b>Offence type<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>2020–21</b>
<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>	<b>618</b>
<i>Assault</i>	610
<i>Other acts intended to cause injury<sup>(c)</sup></i>	8
<b>Sexual assault and related offences</b>	<b>278</b>
<i>Sexual assault</i>	209
<i>Non–assaultive sexual offences</i>	69
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons</b>	<b>168</b>
<i>Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle</i>	115
<i>Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons<sup>(c)</sup></i>	53
<b>Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person</b>	<b>40</b>
<i>Deprivation of liberty / false imprisonment</i>	5
<i>Harassment and threatening behaviour</i>	35
<b>Robbery, extortion and related offences</b>	<b>272</b>
<i>Blackmail and extortion</i>	3
<i>Robbery</i>	269
<b>Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter</b>	<b>1,300</b>
<b>Theft and related offences</b>	<b>2,393</b>
<i>Motor vehicle theft and related offences</i>	915
<i>Theft (except motor vehicles)</i>	1,090
<i>Receive or handle proceeds of crime</i>	388
<b>Fraud, deception and related offences</b>	<b>498</b>
<i>Obtain benefit by deception</i>	232
<i>Forgery and counterfeiting</i>	2
<i>Other fraud and deception offences<sup>(c)</sup></i>	264
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	<b>683</b>
<i>Deal or traffic in illicit drugs</i>	130
<i>Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs</i>	11
<i>Possess and/or use illicit drugs</i>	271
<i>Other drug offences<sup>(c)</sup></i>	271
<b>Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences</b>	<b>125</b>
<i>Prohibited weapons/explosives offences</i>	13
<i>Regulated weapons/explosives offences</i>	112
<b>Property damage and environmental pollution</b>	<b>590</b>
<i>Property damage</i>	590
<b>Public order offences</b>	<b>553</b>
<i>Disorderly conduct</i>	315
<i>Regulated public order offences</i>	14
<i>Offensive conduct</i>	224
<b>Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences</b>	<b>477</b>
<i>Driver licence offences</i>	255
<i>Pedestrian offences</i>	1
<i>Vehicle registration and roadworthiness offences</i>	108
<i>Regulatory driving offences</i>	113
<b>Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations</b>	<b>354</b>
<i>Breach of custodial order offences</i>	1
<i>Breach of violence and non-violence orders</i>	11
<i>Offences against government operations</i>	3
<i>Offences against justice procedures</i>	339
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,379</b>

(a) Data are a count of offences for which conferences were held, not a count of conferences held or child offenders who participated in a conference. One offence had insufficient data to determine its offence type, this offence was excluded from the counts.

(b) Offence categories and sub-categories correspond to divisions and subdivisions in *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 August 2021.

## THE COURTS

### Time lapsed to finalise court proceedings

For charges finalised in 2020–21, the average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Magistrates Court was 76 days, compared with 69 days in 2019–20 (Table 11).

By comparison, the average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Childrens Court of Queensland was 309 days from the date of first mention in a Magistrates Court. This was lower than in 2019–20 (329 days) and is the lowest number of days taken to finalise proceedings in the last five years.

**Table 11 Average number of days to finalise youth justice proceedings, selected courts**

Court <sup>(a)(b)</sup>	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(c)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(d)</sup>	2020–21
	—Days—				
Magistrates Court <sup>(e)</sup>	54	52	58	69	76
Childrens Court of Queensland <sup>(f)</sup>	374	347	325	329	309

- (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 charge, averaged across all charges disposed in the reported financial year.  
 (c) 17-year-old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.  
 (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.  
 (e) From mid-March to June 2020, Magistrates Courts operations were heavily scaled back in response to COVID-19.  
 (f) Time lapsed for 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 August 2021.

### Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 2,594 charges in 527 appearances of child defendants in 2020–21. Almost half of all finalised appearances related to defendants aged 17 years and older (47.8%), and those aged 15–16 years accounted for over a third (36.2%)(Table 12).

There was a decrease (–52.8%) in the number of 13-year-old defendants appearing in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2020–21, with 17 appearances compared with 36 the previous year and a decrease of 48 (–40.0%) in the number of appearances of 15-year-olds over the same period.

**Table 12 Finalised appearances, by age, Childrens Court of Queensland**

Age at final appearance <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>		2020–21	
	Appearances <sup>(c)</sup>	%	Appearances <sup>(c)</sup>	%	Appearances <sup>(c)</sup>	%
11	1	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.4
12	–	..	4	0.6	2	0.4
13	20	3.0	36	5.2	17	3.2
14	53	7.8	54	7.7	62	11.8
15	114	16.9	120	17.2	72	13.7
16	130	19.2	139	19.9	119	22.6
17	176	26.0	158	22.6	120	22.8
18 & over	182	26.9	186	26.6	132	25.0
Unknown	–	..	–	..	1	0.2
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>676</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- (a) Age represents age of defendant at date of final appearance, not at date of offence, and is reported 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 finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within a reference year.  
 (d) Percentages may not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

An average of 4.9 charges were disposed per finalised appearance in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2020–21, slightly more than the 4.5 disposed in 2019–20.

Finalised charges of *theft & related offences* decreased in number (–170) in 2020–21. Over the same period, *illicit drug offences* decreased by 101 charges (–56.1%), *acts intended to cause injury* decreased by 74 charges (–20.6%) and *robbery & extortion* decreased by 24 charges (–3.7%). Charges for *property damage* were the only offence type to show an increase (18 charges or 11.8%) over that period.

**Table 13 Finalised charges by offence type, Childrens Court of Queensland**

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>		2020–21	
	Charges	%	Charges	%	Charges	%
Homicide & related offences	–	..	1	0.0	1	0.0
Acts intended to cause injury	321	9.8	360	11.4	286	11.0
Sexual assault & related offences	284	8.7	247	7.8	193	7.4
Robbery & extortion	630	19.3	641	20.2	617	23.8
Unlawful entry with intent	534	16.4	503	15.9	426	16.4
Theft & related offences	792	24.3	773	24.4	603	23.2
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	385	11.8	423	13.4	307	11.8
<i>Other theft</i>	295	9.0	264	8.3	245	9.4
<i>Receiving &amp; handling</i>	112	3.4	86	2.7	51	2.0
Deception & related offences	81	2.5	44	1.4	36	1.4
Illicit drug offences	198	6.1	180	5.7	79	3.0
Property damage	204	6.3	152	4.8	170	6.6
Road traffic offences	56	1.7	56	1.8	34	1.3
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	163	5.0	210	6.6	149	5.7
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>3,263</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,167</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

(d) Percentages may not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

Of the 527 finalised appearances in the Childrens Court of Queensland, 443 (84.1%) resulted in a guilty outcome in 2020–21. Of these, 19 (4.3%) received a custodial sentence as the most serious penalty, with a further 130 (29.3%) given an immediate/conditional release order. The most prevalent penalty continues to be probation (57.6%).

**Table 14 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty, Childrens Court of Queensland**

Most serious penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21
	—Appearances <sup>(c)</sup> —		
Detention <sup>(d)</sup>	26	28	19
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(e)</sup>	135	141	130
Community service	41	41	17
Probation	283	326	255
Fine	–	1	–
Compensation	1	–	–
Good behaviour	9	17	11
Reprimand <sup>(f)</sup>	14	19	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>443</b>

(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) 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 finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not distinct defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within a reference year.

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

(e) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

## Applications for sentence review

**Table 15 Applications lodged for sentence review – Youth Justice Act 1992, Childrens Court of Queensland**

Court location	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21
	—Applications <sup>(c)</sup> —				
Brisbane	25	21	59	62	51
Hervey Bay	–	–	1	–	–
Mackay	–	–	–	–	2
Maroochydore	–	1	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>53</b>

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

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

(c) 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 2021.

## Applications for bail

**Table 16 Applications for bail, Childrens Court of Queensland**

Court location	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21
	—Applications <sup>(c)</sup> —				
Beenleigh	10	–	2	7	3
Brisbane	30	91	140	93	79
Cairns	–	6	4	18	5
Dalby	–	–	–	1	–
Hervey Bay	–	1	1	1	–
Ipswich	6	3	5	–	4
Kingaroy	–	–	–	–	1
Mackay	1	–	3	3	4
Maroochydore	1	3	5	–	2
Maryborough	–	–	1	–	–
Mount Isa	–	–	–	–	1
Rockhampton	–	2	3	–	–
Southport	3	3	2	4	4
Toowoomba	–	–	1	1	–
Townsville	4	1	6	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>105</b>

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

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

(c) 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 2021.



## Appeals

**Table 17 Appeals to Childrens Court of Queensland, Child Safety Services (DCYJMA) as respondent**

Court location	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	—Appeals <sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup> —				
Beenleigh	–	10	–	–	1
Brisbane	24	23	7	19	27
Bundaberg	–	–	1	–	–
Cairns	–	3	–	2	6
Gladstone	1	–	1	–	–
Gympie	–	–	–	–	1
Ipswich	2	–	–	1	–
Mackay	–	–	–	1	–
Maroochydore	–	1	–	1	2
Mount Isa	–	–	1	–	–
Rockhampton	4	1	–	1	1
Southport	1	2	6	1	7
Toowoomba	–	–	2	–	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>46</b>

- (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 Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs 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 2021.

**Table 18 Appeals lodged pursuant to s222 of the *Justices Act 1886*, by court location**

Court location	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	—Appeals <sup>(b)</sup> —				
Brisbane	–	3	1	1	4
Bundaberg	–	–	–	3	–
Emerald	–	–	–	2	–
Hervey Bay	–	–	1	–	–
Maroochydore	1	–	–	–	–
Southport	1	–	–	–	–
Townsville	–	–	–	1	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>

- (a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (b) 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 2021.

## Applications for parentage orders

**Table 19 Applications to Childrens Court of Queensland for *Surrogacy Act 2010* parentage orders**

Originating court location	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	—Applications <sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup> —				
Brisbane	13	12	12	9	18
Maroochydore	1	–	–	1	–
Southport	–	–	1	–	–
Toowoomba	–	–	–	1	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>

- (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 2021.

## Magistrates Court

In 2020–21, there were 6,881 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Magistrates Court in Queensland, an increase of 23.8% from 5,558 in the previous year. In addition, 579 appearances resulted in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence, an increase of 28.7% since 2019–20.

Of the 6,881 finalised appearances, 4,679 (68.0%) resulted in conviction and 2,202 (32.0%) were discharged, compared with 66.7% and 33.3% respectively in 2019–20.

**Table 20 Appearances of child defendants, by outcome, Magistrates Court**

Outcome	2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>		2020–21	
	Appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	%	Appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	%	Appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	%
Committed to a higher court <sup>(c)</sup>	581	..	450	..	579	..
Finalised	8,350		5,558		6,881	
<i>Found guilty</i>	6,152	73.7	3,707	66.7	4,679	68.0
<i>Discharged</i> <sup>(d)</sup>	2,198	26.3	1,851	33.3	2,202	32.0

- (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 finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference year.  
 (c) Includes only those appearances where committal to a higher court was the most serious outcome.  
 (d) Where all charges against the defendant were dismissed or withdrawn.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

The difference between the 579 appearances of child defendants committed to a higher court and the 541 finalised appearances in the Childrens Court of Queensland, and the District and Supreme Courts in 2019–20 is accounted for by ex officio indictments and matters committed to a higher court in 2019–20 but finalised in 2020–21.

Table 21 shows that while the number of finalised appearances increased by 23.8% in 2020–21 compared with 2019–20, the age distribution for appearances changed very little over that time. Defendants aged 17 years and over accounted for 37.3% of all finalised appearances in the Magistrates Court in 2020–21, slightly more than in 2019–20 (36.4%).

**Table 21 Finalised appearances, by age, Magistrates Court**

Age at final appearance	2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>		2020–21	
	Appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	%	Appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	%	Appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	%
10	29	0.3	15	0.3	6	0.1
11	92	1.1	62	1.1	67	1.0
12	282	3.4	187	3.4	178	2.6
13	669	8.0	447	8.0	472	6.9
14	1,041	12.5	745	13.4	871	12.7
15	1,483	17.8	918	16.5	1,308	19.0
16	1,821	21.8	1,158	20.8	1,408	20.5
17	2,224	26.6	1,481	26.6	1,820	26.4
18 & over	704	8.4	541	9.7	748	10.9
Unknown	5	0.1	4	0.1	3	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,350</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,558</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,881</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(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 finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

In 2020–21, there were 37,248 charges finalised against child defendants in the Magistrates Court, an increase of 9,241 (33.0%) from the previous year (Table 22).

The largest number of finalised charges was for *theft and related offences* (12,297), which also represented an increase (2,703 or 28.2%) since 2019–20. However, at 33.0% of all charges, the proportion was lower in 2020–21 than in the previous year (34.3%).

Charges for *unlawful entry with intent* accounted for 7,810 or 21.0% of all charges finalised in 2020–21, compared with 5,694 (20.3%) in 2019–20.

Combined, these two offence types accounted for more than half (54.0%) of all charges finalised in the Magistrates Court in 2020–21, and 54.6% in 2019–20.

**Table 22 Finalised charges against child defendants by offence type, Magistrates Court**

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>		2020–21	
	Charges <sup>(c)</sup>	%	Charges <sup>(c)</sup>	%	Charges <sup>(c)</sup>	%
Homicide & related offences	3	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.0
Acts intended to cause injury	1,683	4.8	1,353	4.8	2,111	5.7
Sexual assault & related offences	31	0.1	26	0.1	49	0.1
Robbery & extortion	234	0.7	231	0.8	277	0.7
Unlawful entry with intent	6,261	17.8	5,694	20.3	7,810	21.0
Theft & related offences	11,055	31.5	9,594	34.3	12,297	33.0
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	2,961	8.4	2,832	10.1	4,602	12.4
<i>Other theft</i> <sup>(d)</sup>	6,330	18.0	5,243	18.7	5,847	15.7
<i>Receiving &amp; handling</i>	1,764	5.0	1,519	5.4	1,848	5.0
Deception & related offences	1,643	4.7	1,068	3.8	1,541	4.1
Illicit drug offences	2,394	6.8	1,819	6.5	2,368	6.4
Property damage	3,148	9.0	1,840	6.6	2,445	6.6
Road traffic offences	2,356	6.7	1,803	6.4	2,453	6.6
Other offences <sup>(e)</sup>	6,322	18.0	4,578	16.3	5,895	15.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,130</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>28,007</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>37,248</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

(c) Excludes charges committed to a higher court, and transfers.

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

(e) 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 2021.

In 2020–21, of the 39,712 charges against child defendants in the Magistrates Court, 37,248 (93.8%) were finalised, while 2,464 (6.2%) were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence, similar proportions to those in the previous year (93.5% and 6.5% respectively).

**Table 23 Charges against child defendants, by outcome, Magistrates Court**

Outcome	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21
	—Charges—		
Committed to a higher court	2,676	1,941	2,464
Finalised	35,130	28,007	37,248
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,806</b>	<b>29,948</b>	<b>39,712</b>

(a) 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 2021.

In 2020–21, of the 6,881 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Magistrates Court, 4,679 (68.0%) resulted in a conviction (Table 24). Of these, one-third (1,482 or 31.7%) received a reprimand as the most serious penalty, a custodial sentence was imposed in 52 appearances (1.1%), and 368 (7.9%) received an immediate/conditional release order. Probation was the most serious penalty imposed in 26.3% of convicted appearances.

**Table 24 Convicted appearances of child defendants, by most serious penalty, Magistrates Court**

Most serious penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>		2020–21	
	Appearances <sup>(c)</sup>	%	Appearances <sup>(c)</sup>	%	Appearances <sup>(c)</sup>	%
Detention <sup>(d)</sup>	66	1.1	53	1.4	52	1.1
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(e)</sup>	446	7.2	310	8.4	368	7.9
Community service	933	15.2	512	13.8	515	11.0
Probation	1,175	19.1	762	20.6	1,229	26.3
Treatment order	107	1.7	62	1.7	61	1.3
Fine	153	2.5	70	1.9	58	1.2
Compensation	25	0.4	6	0.2	10	0.2
Good behaviour	1,121	18.2	563	15.2	742	15.9
Disqualification of drivers licence	126	2.0	132	3.6	162	3.5
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	2,000	32.5	1,237	33.4	1,482	31.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,152</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,707</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,679</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(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) 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 finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not distinct defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference year.

(d) Includes intensive correction and intensive supervision orders

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

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

**Table 25 Applications for child protection orders, Magistrates Court**

	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21
Applications for child protection orders <sup>(b)</sup>	4,255	4,527	6,069	6,810	6,361

(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 2021

## Supreme and District Courts

The Supreme and District Courts finalised 52 charges in 14 appearances of child defendants in 2020–21. While the number of appearances and charges have both decreased in these courts compared with the previous year, the average number of charges per appearance increased from 3.5 in 2019–20 to 3.7 in 2020–21.

In 2020–21, 13 of the 14 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 26 Finalised appearances of child defendants, by age, Supreme and District Courts**

Age at final appearance	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21
	—Appearances <sup>(b)</sup> —		
15	2	–	1
16	4	1	–
17	3	3	1
18 & over	8	15	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>

(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 finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

Of the 52 charges finalised in the Supreme and District Courts, *illicit drug offences* accounted for 84.6% or 44 charges), while in the previous year they accounted for close to a third of all charges (32.8% or 22 charges). *Theft & related offences* accounted for 3 (5.8%).

**Table 27 Finalised charges against child defendants, by offence type, Supreme and District Courts**

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21
	—Charges—		
Homicide & related offences	3	5	2
Acts intended to cause injury	9	6	–
Sexual assault & related offences	2	9	–
Robbery & extortion	5	5	1
Unlawful entry with intent	3	7	–
Theft & related offences	7	7	3
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	5	3	2
<i>Other theft</i>	–	1	–
<i>Receiving and handling</i>	2	3	1
Deception & related offences	–	1	1
Illicit drug offences	27	22	44
Property damage	1	–	–
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	2	5	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>52</b>

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

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

(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 2021.

In 2020–21, of the 14 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Supreme and District Courts, 13 (92.9%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty (Table 28). Of these, 7 (53.8%) received probation as most serious penalty and 2 (15.4%) were sentenced to an immediate/conditional release order.

**Table 28 Convicted appearances of child defendants, by most serious penalty, Supreme and District Courts**

Most serious penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21
	—Appearances <sup>(c)</sup> —		
Detention	1	–	1
Immediate / conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	6	3	2
Community service	–	2	2
Probation	7	9	7
Fine	–	1	–
Good behaviour	–	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>

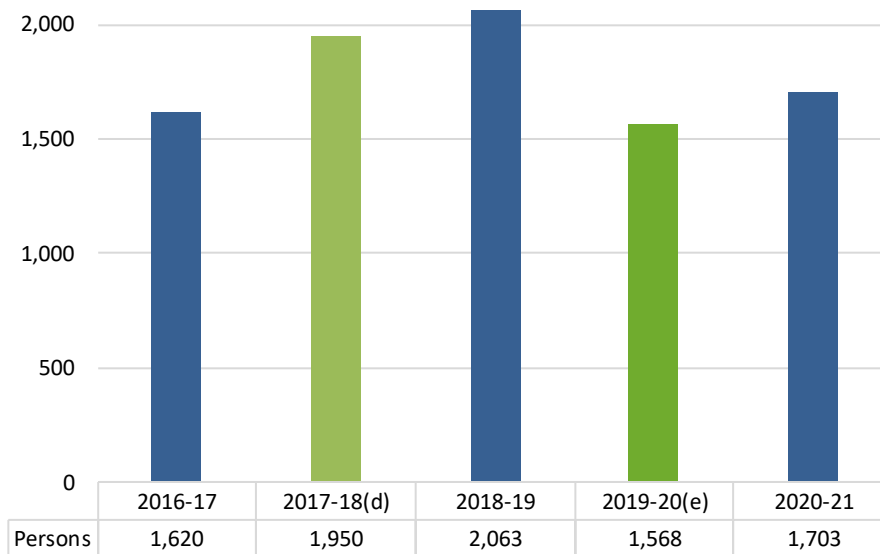
- (a) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (c) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not distinct defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference year.
- (d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

## SUPERVISED YOUTH JUSTICE ORDERS

In 2020–21, a total of 1,703 distinct young offenders commenced a supervised youth justice order.

**Figure 11 Distinct offenders<sup>(a)</sup> commencing a supervised youth justice order<sup>(b)(c)</sup>**



- (a) An offender is counted once only in a reference year, irrespective of the number of supervised orders 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 part of a detention order that is completed in the community.
- (d) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (e) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

Young offenders aged 17 years and over represented the largest age group commencing a supervised youth justice order in 2020–21, constituting 37.2% (634) of the 1,703 distinct offenders commencing an order. Young offenders aged 16 years made up almost one-quarter (22.9%) of all young people commencing an order. In 2020–21 the number of distinct offenders commencing a supervised order increased for all age groups except 10-year olds, 12-year olds and 13-year olds (Table 29).

**Table 29 Distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by age**

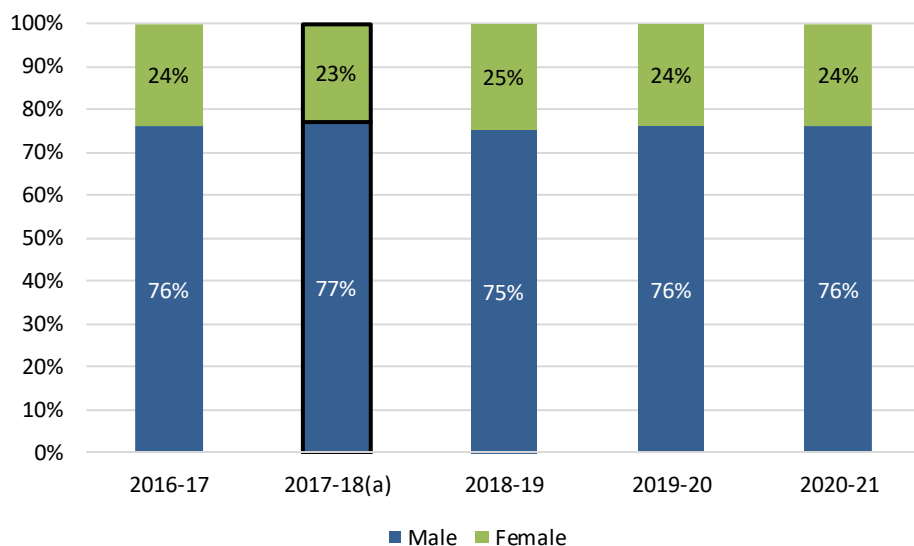
Age at commencement of order <sup>(a)</sup>	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(c)</sup>	2020–21
	—Offenders—				
10	6	1	–	1	1
11	12	25	19	8	10
12	49	40	48	38	27
13	166	175	140	104	101
14	277	264	251	177	227
15	416	426	395	285	313
16	488	492	484	357	390
17+	206	527	726	598	634
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>2,063</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>1,703</b>

- (a) Age represents age of offender as at the earliest commencement of a supervised order within a reference year.
- (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

Distinct young males commencing a supervised youth justice order continue to outnumber young females by approximately three to one. This pattern has remained consistent throughout the 5-year time series.

**Figure 12 Distribution of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by sex**

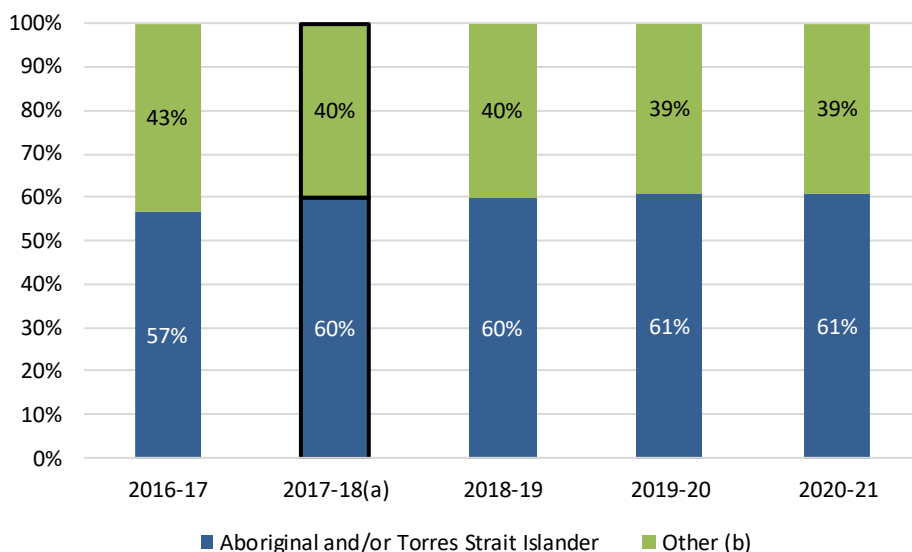


- (a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

In 2020–21, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders accounted for 61 per cent of all distinct young offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order. This is consistent since 2017–18.

**Figure 13 Distribution of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status**



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

(b) "Other" includes non-Indigenous offenders and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2021.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were over 17 times as likely as other young people to commence a supervised youth justice order in 2020–21 (Table 30).

**Table 30 Rate of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status**

Indigenous status	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21
	—Rate per 10,000 persons <sup>(c)</sup> —				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	258.5	322.0	297.6	225.8	241.2
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	17.3	19.0	17.0	12.5	13.6

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

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

(c) Rates were calculated using population estimates for 10–16 yr olds for 2016–17 and 2017–18, and for 10–17 yr olds for 2018–19 to 2020–21.

(d) "Other" includes non-Indigenous offenders and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021. Total population estimates for 2016 to 2019 are sourced 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 and 2021 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.

The most prevalent order types commenced by young offenders were consistently probation, averaging around half of all supervised youth justice orders commenced between 2016–17 and 2020–21. By comparison, community service orders averaged around 19 per cent, with a low of 12.8% in 2020–21. Detention orders (excluding suspended detention) averaged around nine per cent of orders commenced during the last five years (Table 31).



**Table 31 Supervised youth justice orders commenced, by order type**

Order type	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21
	—Orders <sup>(c)</sup> —				
Community service	731	871	859	467	443
Conditional release	226	230	317	238	301
Detention <sup>(d)</sup>	272	305	359	298	275
Graffiti removal <sup>(e)</sup>	186	214	224	139	137
Intensive supervision <sup>(f)</sup>	2	13	6	4	3
Probation	1,511	1,954	1,964	1,403	1,797
Restorative justice	272	201	286	444	505
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,788</b>	<b>4,015</b>	<b>2,993</b>	<b>3,461</b>

- (a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (c) Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of offenders, as an individual offender may commence more than one supervised order during the reference year.
- (d) Detention order counts exclude suspended detention orders associated with a conditional release order.
- (e) Court-ordered graffiti removal orders came into effect on 27 September 2013. These counts exclude graffiti removal program referrals by police and as a result of youth justice conference agreements.
- (f) Intensive supervision orders (ISOs) are a sentencing option for offenders aged between 10 and 12 years where the court considers that the child, unless subject to an intensive period of supervision and support in the community, is likely to commit further offences. ISOs can only be ordered in cases where the young person has been found guilty of an offence that if committed by an adult would make the adult liable to imprisonment.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

## Conditional bail

The number of conditional bail programs commenced shows an increase from 2016–17 to 2018–19, returning to 2017–18 levels in 2019–20, with a decrease in 2020–21 (Table 32).

**Table 32 Court-ordered conditional bail commenced by child offenders**

	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21
Conditional bail orders	450	768	870	770	685

- (a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

## Community supervision

The majority of community-based supervised orders that commenced in 2019–20 were successfully completed by the end of 30 June 2021 (69.9% of probation orders and 60.9% of community service orders, the two most prevalent community-based order types).

Almost one in five probation, and one in four community service orders, were subject to breach action on or before 30 June 2021. Over 27 per cent of all conditional release orders were subject to breach action on or before 30 June 2021 (Table 33).

**Table 33 Supervised youth justice orders commenced in 2019–20: completion status as at 30 June 2021**

Completion status as at 30 June 2021	Type of order commenced <sup>(a)</sup> in 2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>											
	Probation		Conditional release		Community service		Intensive supervision		Graffiti removal		Restorative justice	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Order successfully completed	1,012	69.9	210	70.9	288	60.9	3	60.0	123	83.7	383	84.4
Order remains active	131	9.0	4	1.4	64	13.5	1	20.0	6	4.1	16	3.5
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	305	21.1	82	27.7	121	25.6	1	20.0	18	12.2	55	12.1
<b>Total <sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>1,448</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of 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 2021 are reported as “breach action initiated” irrespective of the completion status of the order at 30 June 2021.

(d) Percentages may not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2021.

**Table 34 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 <sup>(a)</sup>									
	2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>		2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(c)</sup>	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	1,183	70.5	1,071	69.9	1,413	70.8	1,400	69.9	1,012	69.9
Remained active	77	4.6	110	7.2	137	6.9	192	9.6	131	9.0
Breach action initiated <sup>(d)</sup>	418	24.9	352	23.0	445	22.3	412	20.6	305	21.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,448</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Conditional release orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>									
	2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>		2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(c)</sup>	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	166	59.7	165	63.0	164	61.2	227	62.5	210	70.9
Remained active	1	0.4	–	–	2	0.7	4	1.1	4	1.4
Breach action initiated <sup>(d)</sup>	111	39.9	97	37.0	102	38.1	132	36.4	82	27.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Community service orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>									
	2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>		2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(c)</sup>	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	650	69.2	511	69.0	608	68.8	579	66.2	288	60.9
Remained active	48	5.1	44	5.9	60	6.8	88	10.1	64	13.5
Breach action initiated <sup>(d)</sup>	241	25.7	186	25.1	216	24.4	208	23.8	121	25.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Intensive supervision orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>									
	2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>		2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(c)</sup>	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	5	50.0	1	50.0	6	42.9	4	66.7	3	60.0
Remained active	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	20.0
Breach action initiated <sup>(d)</sup>	5	50.0	1	50.0	8	57.1	2	33.3	1	20.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Court-ordered graffiti removal orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>									
	2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>		2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(c)</sup>	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	169	83.7	159	84.6	184	82.1	201	86.3	123	83.7
Remained active	3	1.5	3	1.6	3	1.3	8	3.4	6	4.1
Breach action initiated <sup>(d)</sup>	30	14.9	26	13.8	37	16.5	24	10.3	18	12.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Restorative justice orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>									
	2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 <sup>(b)</sup>		2018–19		2019–20 <sup>(c)</sup>	
	number	%	number.	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	–	–	241	87.6	177	87.2	247	85.2	383	84.4
Remained active	–	–	6	2.2	5	2.5	15	5.2	16	3.5
Breach action initiated <sup>(d)</sup>	–	–	28	10.2	21	10.3	28	9.7	55	12.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

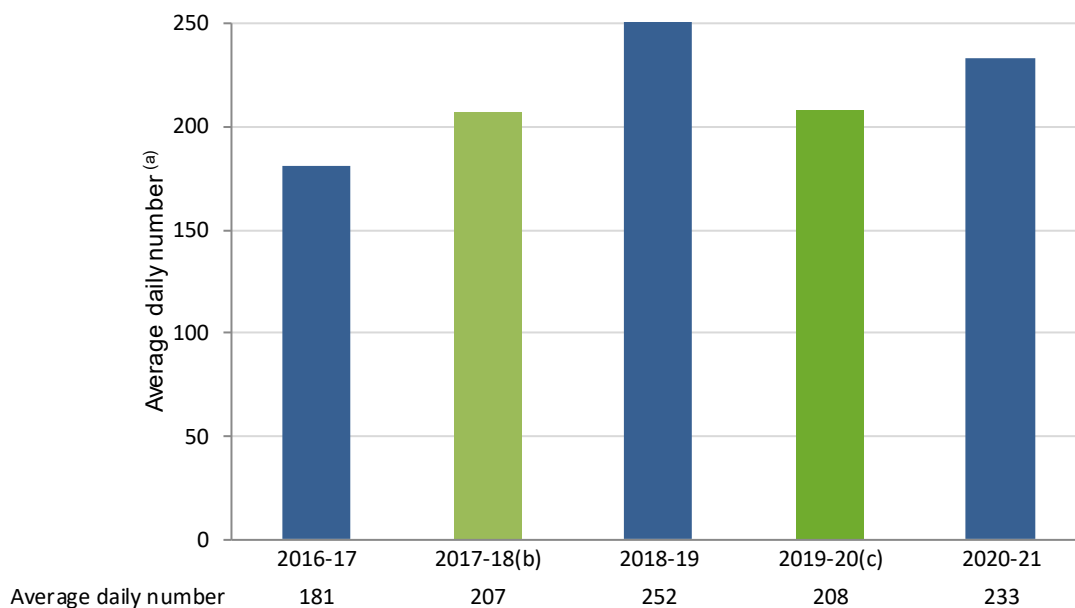
(d) Orders against which breach action was initiated on or prior to 30 June in the following period are reported as “Breach action initiated”, irrespective of the completion status of the order at 30 June.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at July 2021.

## Young people in custody

“In custody” refers to young people held in youth detention centres on pre-court custody, remand or sentence, young people held in police watchhouses on post-court remand or sentence, or young people in other locations (such as in police transit or in hospital) on remand or sentence. It excludes pre-court custody in locations other than a youth detention centre.

**Figure 14 Average daily number of young people in custody**



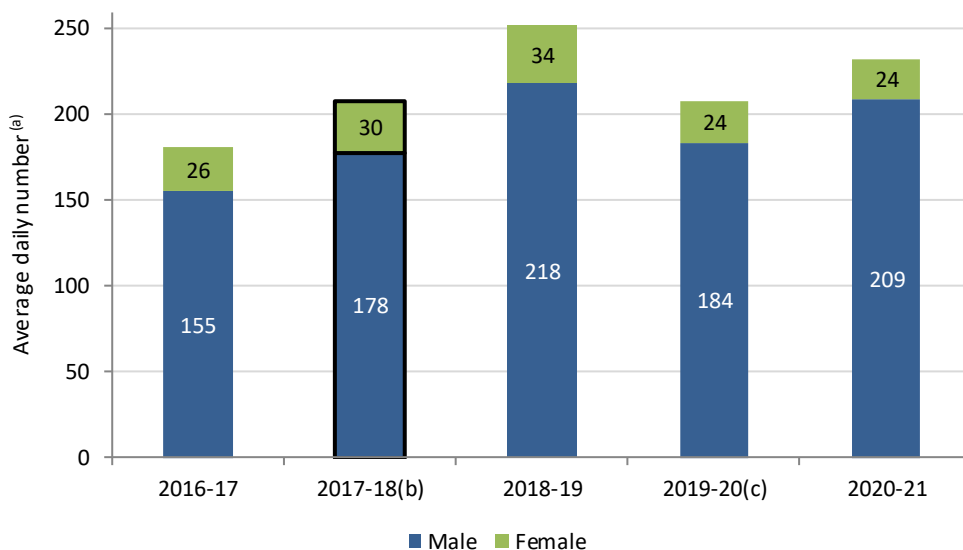
- (a) The average daily number of young people in detention / court-ordered custody is calculated based on the number who were physically located in a detention centre or a police watchhouse at 11:59pm on each day during the reference year. This includes young people held in pre-court custody in a detention centre, but not pre-court custody in a police watchhouse.
- (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

Young males continued to outnumber young females in custody, accounting for between 86 and 90 per cent of young people in custody on average in any given period over the time series. In 2020–21, the rate of young males in custody per 10,000 male population was 7.6, compared to that of young females at 0.9 per 10,000 female population.

The number of young females in custody was lower in 2020–21, at 10 per cent of all young persons in custody, compared with previous years, where the proportion ranged between 11 per cent and 14 per cent.

**Figure 15 Average daily number of young people in custody, by sex**

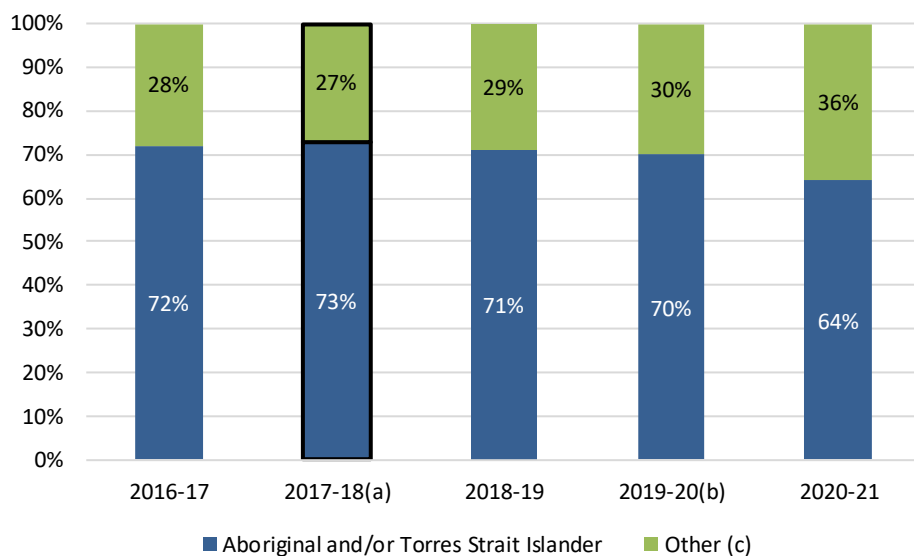


- (a) As a result of rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.
- (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (c) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people continue to dominate the numbers in youth detention / court-ordered custody, accounting for between 64 and 73 per cent of young people in custody on an average day. However, the 2020–21 period saw a 6 percentage points decrease compared to the previous period in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people held in custody on an average day.

**Figure 16 Average daily number of young people in detention / court-ordered custody, by Indigenous status**



- (a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (c) “Other” includes non-Indigenous young people and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were over 20 times as likely as other young people to have been in youth custody in 2020–21. This is a decrease from the 2019–20 rate of 27.

**Table 35 Rate of young people in detention / court-ordered custody, by Indigenous status**

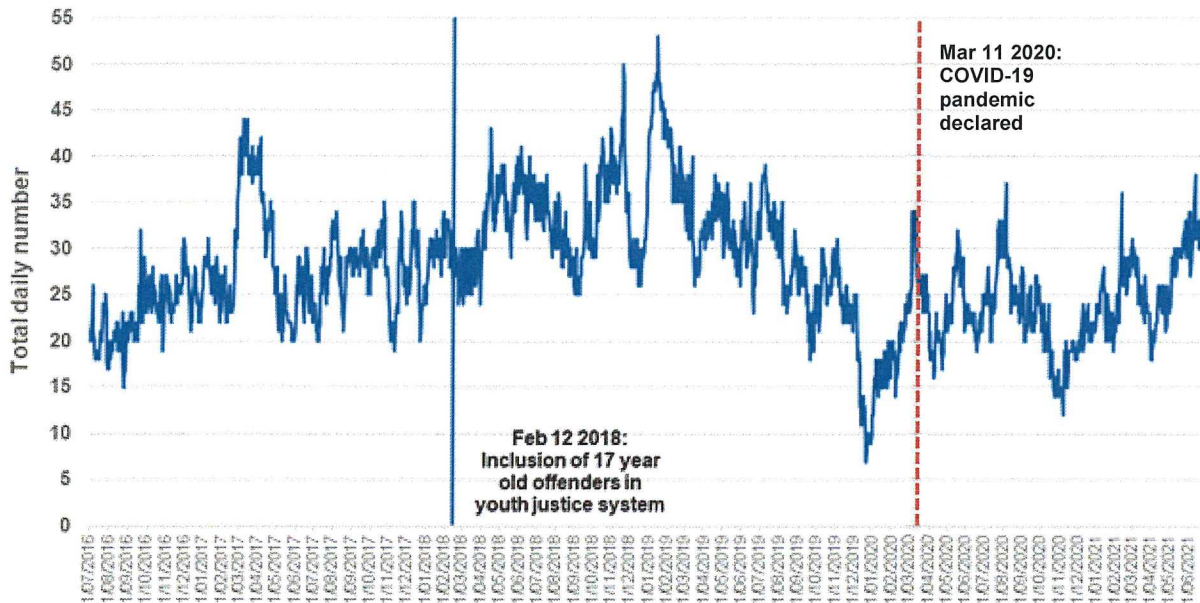
Indigenous status	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21
	—Rate per 10,000 persons aged 10–17 years <sup>(c)</sup> —				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	36.4	41.6	42.8	34.5	35.0
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.4</b>

- (a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (c) Rate is based on the average daily number in youth detention, by Indigenous status. Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–16 year olds for the periods 2016–17 and 2017–18, and for 10–17 year olds for 2018–19 to 2020-21.
- (d) “Other” includes non-Indigenous young people and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021. Total population estimates for 2016 to 2019 are sourced 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 and 2021 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.

Figure 17 shows the total daily number of young females in custody between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2021. Females were admitted to the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) for the first time on 22 January 2015. Prior to this date, young females who were admitted to detention (either remanded in custody or sentenced) were transferred to the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC).

**Figure 17 Total daily number of young females in youth detention / court-ordered custody<sup>(a)</sup>**



Note: Line represents break in the time series, as labelled.

(a) Data are based on custody daily number and include young females in pre-court custody, on remand or sentence in youth detention centres and young females on remand or sentence in other locations.

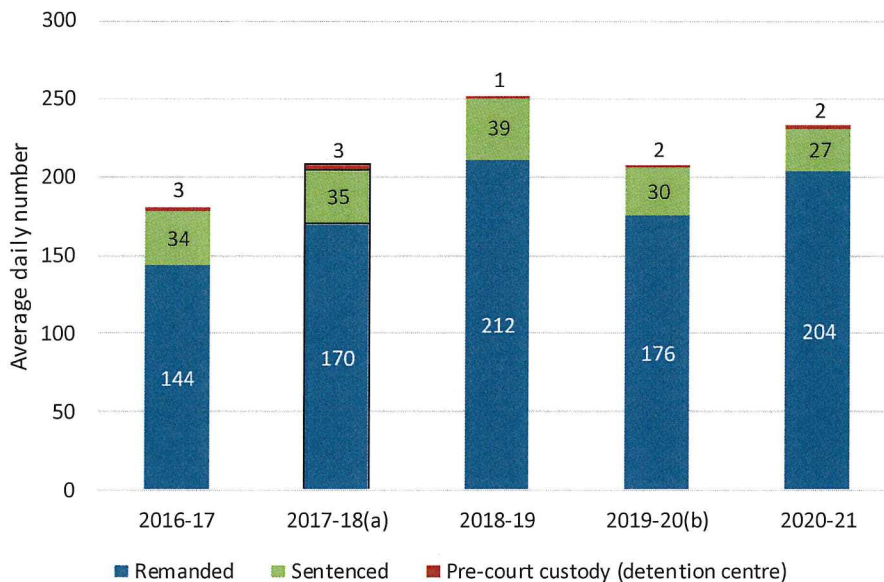
Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

### Remand in custody

The average daily number of young people in custody on remand<sup>28</sup> increased to 204 per day in 2020–21 compared with 176 in the previous year. Over the same period, the average daily number in sentenced detention decreased to 27 young people per day compared with 30 in 2019–20 (Figure 18).

The majority of young people in custody are held on remand (averaging around 84 per cent over the last five years). In 2020–21, 87.6% were on remand on an average day, an increase from the previous year (84.6%).

**Figure 18 Average daily number of young people in detention / court-ordered custody, by legal status**



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

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

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

In 2020–21, the average length of time a young person spent in custody per remand episode was 31 days, the same as in 2019–20. The average length is based on remand episodes that ended in each financial year.

<sup>28</sup> This excludes all young people held in pre-court custody.

Of all finalised court appearances in 2020–21 at which a detention order was made, 45 per cent resulted in the young offender being released from court following sentencing with no time remaining to serve in custody. In 25 per cent 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 custody<sup>29</sup>. Just over half (55%) of all sentencing events resulting in a detention order involved the offender serving a period of custody following sentencing (Table 36)

**Table 36 Detention orders by custody status at time of sentencing**

Custody status	2016–17	2017–18 <sup>(a)</sup>	2018–19	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21
	—Per cent (%) <sup>(c)</sup> —				
<b>Released directly from court following sentencing</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>
<i>Without a supervised release order</i>	26	26	21	28	25
<i>With a supervised release order</i>	15	22	20	22	20
<b>Custodial period to serve following sentencing</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>55</b>

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

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

(c) Percentages may not sum to 100.0 in every case due to rounding .

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

The number of distinct young people in court-ordered custody in a watchhouse was fluctuating between 53 and 99 distinct young people per month over the 2020–21 financial year.

**Table 37 Distinct young persons in court-ordered custody in watchhouses in each month, by age, 2020–21<sup>(a)</sup>**

Age	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	—Persons—											
10	1	–	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
11	2	1	–	1	2	1	2	3	–	1	–	–
12	1	1	1	–	1	–	2	6	13	3	11	4
13	6	10	10	11	15	8	7	9	8	12	11	5
14	13	17	19	13	11	10	10	8	17	13	22	18
15	10	14	19	10	16	14	13	14	17	13	19	21
16	12	14	23	20	15	8	11	21	27	15	17	13
17	8	14	15	15	13	11	16	19	16	12	15	21
18	1	1	3	–	–	–	–	1	1	3	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>84</b>

(a) Excludes police transit, Brisbane court cells, or hospital.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

During 2020–21, a total of 631 distinct young persons spent at least one night in a police watchhouse while on remand or sentenced custody, for a total of 925 distinct stays (Table 38). Nearly 71 per cent of stays lasted just one day. Overall, the average length of stay was two days, with a median of one day. The majority (99.7%) of stays lasted for two weeks or less, with a maximum stay length of 19 days.

<sup>29</sup> Pre-sentence custody includes time spent in custody on remand and pre-court custody.

**Table 38 Watchhouse stay episodes during 2020–2021**

Length of watchhouse stay episode (days) <sup>(a)</sup>	Distinct episodes <sup>(b)</sup>
1	653
2	112
3–4	107
5–7	38
8–14	12
15+	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>925</b>

(a) Length of watchhouse stays may be influenced by transit difficulties to remote courts.

(b) Figures are counts of distinct episodes in watchhouses, not of distinct persons.

Source: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Data current as at August 2021.

## VICTIMS OF CHILD OFFENDERS

Data relating to the victims of child offenders in 2020–21 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.

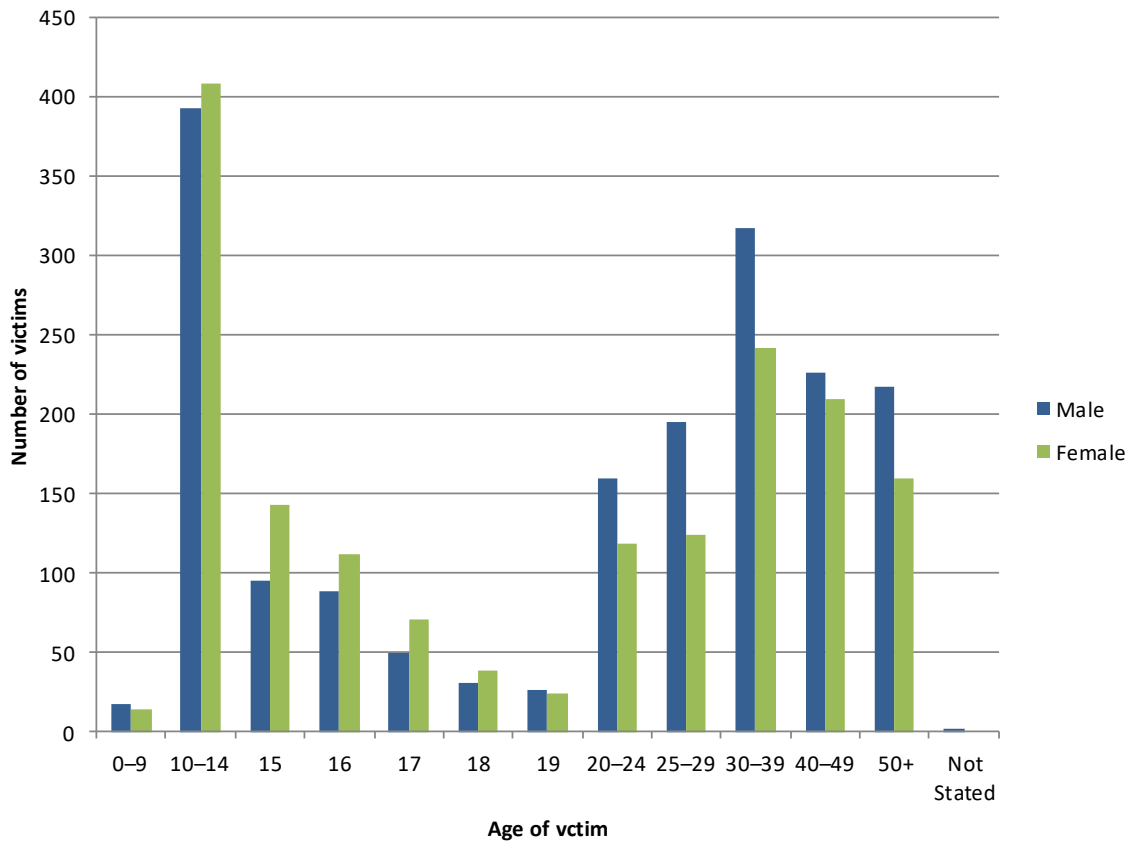
Of the 4,867 victims of offences against the person by child offenders in 2020–21, only 13 were of unknown age. Half (50.9%) of all victims were under 20 years of age, one-quarter (25.4%) were aged 10 to 14 years, and 22.1% aged 15 to 19 years. Victims aged 50 years or over comprised 9.6%.

For all offences against the person, 49.4% of victims were female and 50.6% were male. However, female victims comprised 80.1% of victims of *sexual assault and related offences* and 47.8% of victims of *acts intended to cause injury*, while 67.8% of victims of *robbery and extortion* and 52.2% of victims of *acts intended to cause injury* were male.

*Acts intended to cause injury* accounted for 71.6% of all victims of offences against the person by child offenders. Within this offence group, 25.2% of victims were aged between 25 and 39 years, 23.0% aged between 10 and 14 years, and a further 23.3% aged 40 years and over.



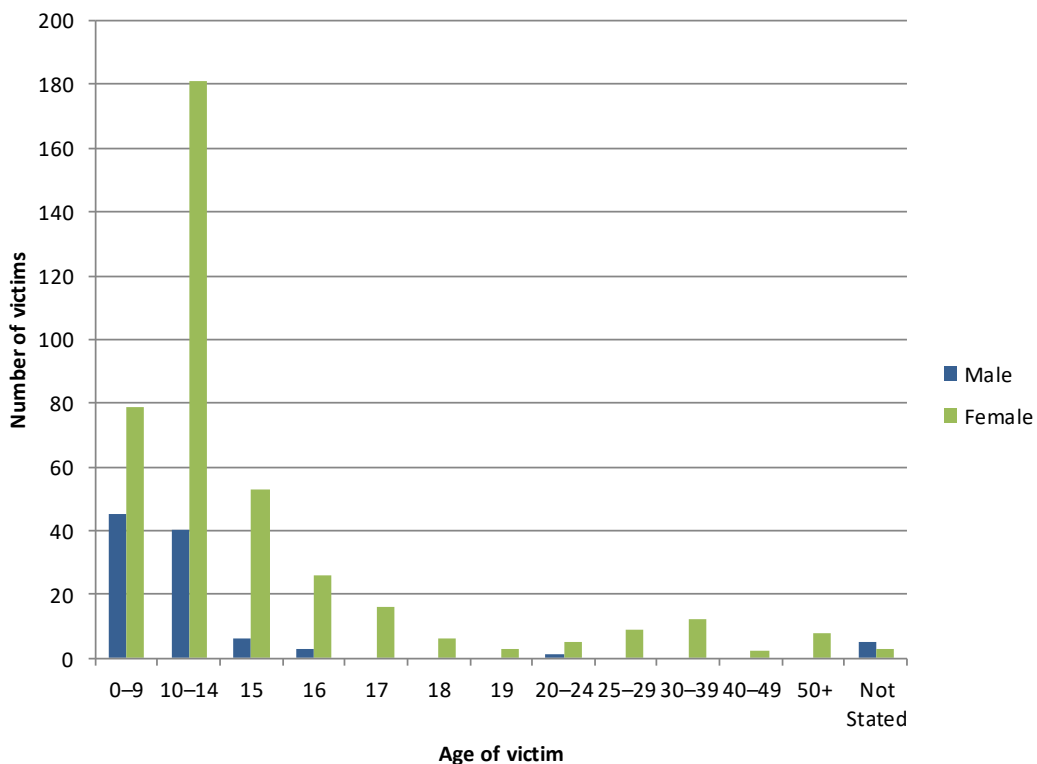
**Figure 19 Victims of acts intended to cause injury<sup>(a)</sup> by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2020–21**



(a) Includes assault, stalking, administer harmful substance, and other acts intended to cause injury.  
 Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at August 2021.

In 2020–21, victims of *sexual assault and related offences* accounted for 10.3% of all offences against the person by child offenders. Within this offence group, victims aged between 10 and 14 years accounted for 44.6%, and a further 25.1% of victims were under 10 years of age.

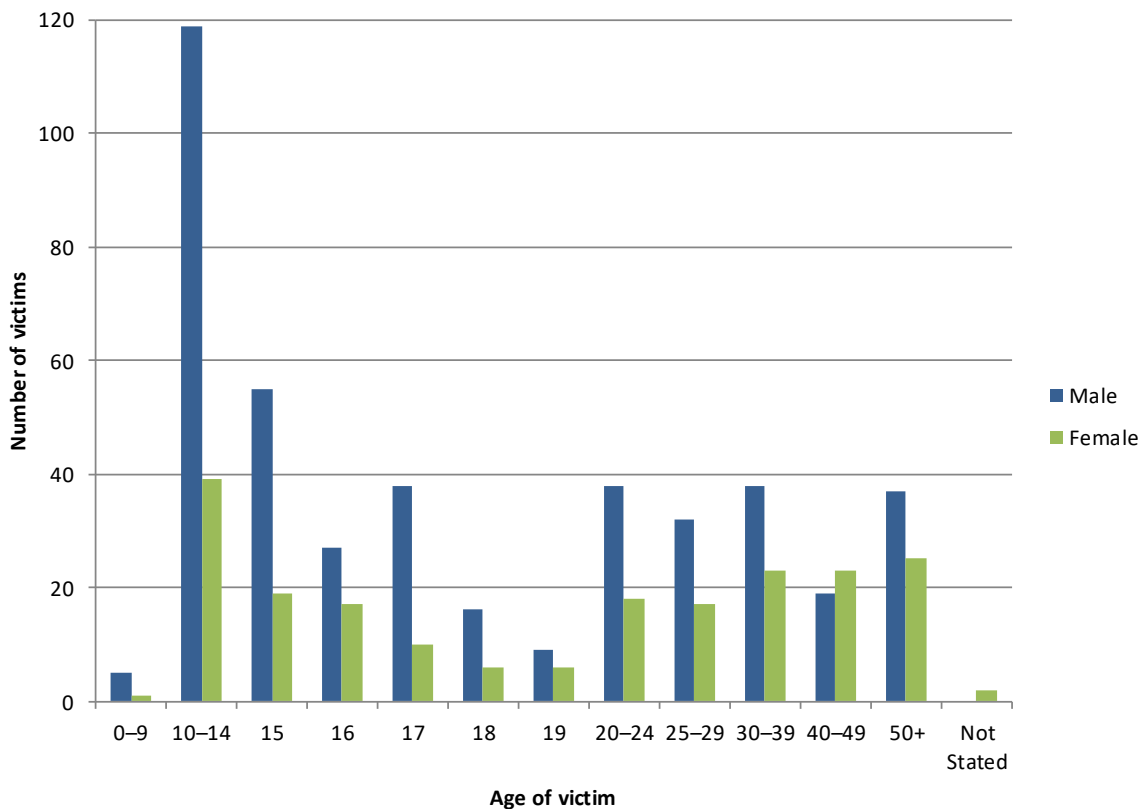
**Figure 20 Victims of sexual assault and related offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2020–21**



Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at August 2021.

Victims of *robbery and extortion* offences accounted for a further 13.2% of offences against the person by child offenders in 2020–21. Victims aged between 10 and 14 years accounted for 24.8% of those, and a further 31.7% were aged 15 to 19 years.

**Figure 21 Victims of robbery and extortion offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2020–21**



Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at August 2021.

# APPENDIX

## Detailed tables

All tables represent data for child defendants, for Queensland only, for 2019–20 and 2020–21.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data are current as at August 2021 and may include revisions.

### 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 Finalised appearances, by age and sex

Figure A1 Finalised appearances, by age

Table A4 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4 of court

Table A5 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex

Figure A2 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

### Childrens Court of Queensland

Table A6 Finalised appearances, by age and sex

Figure A3 Finalised appearances, by age

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 Finalised appearances, by age and sex

Figure A5 Finalised appearances, by age

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 Finalised appearances, by age and sex

Figure A7 Finalised appearances, by age

**Table A1 All courts: Finalised charges<sup>(a)</sup>, by offence type and court level**

Offence type	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>				2020–21			
	Magistrates Court <sup>(c)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Court <sup>(c)</sup>	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
<b>Homicide &amp; related offences</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
Murder	1	—	4	5	—	—	1	1
Attempted murder	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
Manslaughter and driving causing death	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	1
<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,397</b>
Assault	1,337	354	6	1,697	2,094	284	—	2,378
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	16	6	—	22	17	2	—	19
<b>Sexual assault &amp; related offences</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>242</b>
Sexual assault	22	215	8	245	32	159	—	191
Non-assaultive sexual offences	4	32	1	37	17	34	—	51
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>536</b>
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	242	33	—	275	364	21	—	385
Other dangerous or negligent acts	104	6	1	111	141	10	—	151
<b>Abduction &amp; related offences</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>140</b>
Deprivation of Liberty	12	14	—	26	10	16	—	26
Harrassment and Threatening Behaviour	71	19	1	91	96	18	—	114
<b>Robbery &amp; extortion</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>895</b>
Robbery	219	629	4	852	271	610	1	882
Blackmail & extortion	12	12	1	25	6	7	—	13
<b>Unlawful entry with intent</b>	<b>5,694</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6,204</b>	<b>7,810</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8,236</b>
<b>Theft &amp; related offences<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>9,594</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10,374</b>	<b>12,297</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12,903</b>
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	2,832	423	3	3,258	4,602	307	2	4,911
Other theft & related offences	4	—	—	4	3	1	—	4
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	1,519	86	3	1,608	1,848	51	1	1,900
Theft (except motor vehicles)	5,239	264	1	5,504	5,844	244	—	6,088
<b>Deception &amp; related offences</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,578</b>
Obtain benefit by deception	334	14	1	349	468	7	1	476
Forgery & counterfeiting	8	—	—	8	5	1	—	6
Other fraud and deception offences	726	30	—	756	1,068	28	—	1,096
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2,491</b>
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	149	71	3	223	85	29	22	136
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	10	2	—	12	31	—	—	31
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	746	60	13	819	1,022	34	12	1,068
Other illicit drug offences	914	47	6	967	1,230	16	10	1,256
<b>Weapons &amp; explosives offences</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>592</b>
Prohibited weapons/explosives offences	53	3	3	59	101	1	—	102
Regulated weapons/explosives offences	365	8	—	373	480	9	1	490
<b>Property damage</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>2,445</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,615</b>
Property damage	1,840	152	—	1,992	2,443	170	—	2,613
Environmental pollution	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
<b>Public order offences</b>	<b>2,440</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,948</b>
<b>Road traffic offences</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,859</b>	<b>2,453</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,487</b>
<b>Justice &amp; government offences</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,687</b>
Breach of justice order <sup>(e)</sup>	164	7	—	171	289	11	—	300
Offences against government operations	57	9	—	66	109	5	—	114
Offences against justice procedures	1,023	45	—	1,068	1,252	21	—	1,273
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,007</b>	<b>3,167</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>31,241</b>	<b>37,248</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>39,894</b>

(a) Data are a count of charges disposed, not defendants.

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

(c) Charges are finalised at Magistrates Court level by conviction, dismissal or withdrawal, but not by committal, transfer or referral to youth justice conference.

(d) Total includes offences not further disaggregated.

(e) 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 2021.

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

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>			2020–21		
	Appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	74	254	3.4	165	552	3.3
Brisbane East	18	85	4.7	9	35	3.9
Cairns	62	209	3.4	65	227	3.5
Central Queensland	40	150	3.8	47	196	4.2
Darling Downs–Maranoa	10	63	6.3	13	24	1.8
Gold Coast	55	125	2.3	81	180	2.2
Ipswich	65	153	2.4	99	295	3.0
Logan–Beaudesert	61	135	2.2	57	194	3.4
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	11	99	9.0	8	12	1.5
Moreton Bay–North	36	115	3.2	34	128	3.8
Moreton Bay–South	17	85	5.0	12	40	3.3
Queensland–Outback	16	59	3.7	22	47	2.1
Sunshine Coast	24	56	2.3	47	114	2.4
Toowoomba	29	109	3.8	29	103	3.6
Townsville	48	194	4.0	56	263	4.7
Wide Bay	19	50	2.6	22	54	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>1,941</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>2,464</b>	<b>3.2</b>

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

(b) Appearances in this table comprise only those resulting in a committal to a higher court for sentence or trial, regardless of whether or not this was the most serious outcome. An individual defendant may have one or multiple such appearances within the reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

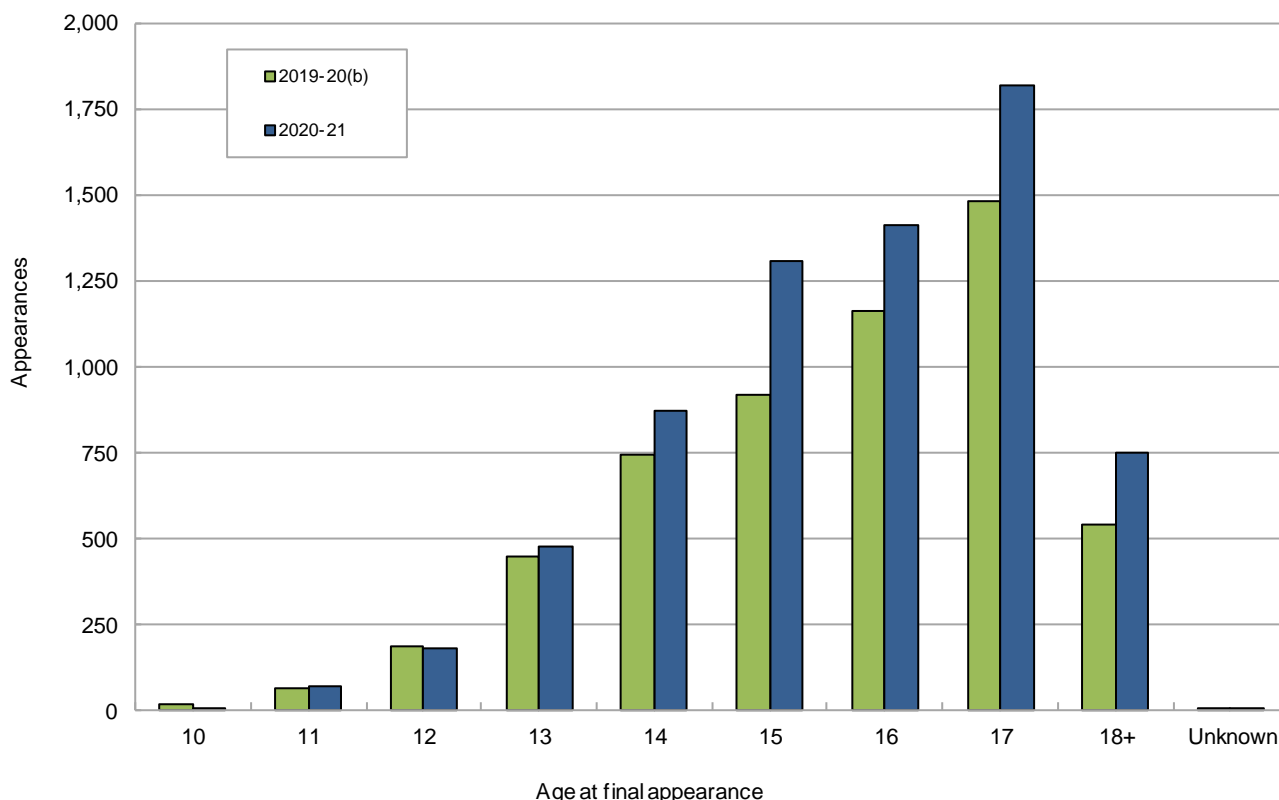
**Table A3 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age and sex**

Age at final appearance	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>			2020–21		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(c)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(d)</sup>
10	14	1	15	6	—	6
11	49	13	62	59	8	67
12	132	55	187	124	54	178
13	284	163	447	326	146	472
14	523	221	745	587	283	871
15	654	264	918	949	359	1,308
16	848	309	1,158	1,012	396	1,408
17	1,138	342	1,481	1,382	437	1,820
18+	415	125	541	574	174	748
Unknown	4	—	4	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,061</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>5,558</b>	<b>5,021</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>6,881</b>

- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances 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) Includes four appearances by defendants whose sex was unknown or not stated.
- (d) Includes two appearances by defendants whose sex was unknown or not stated.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

**Figure A1 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age**



- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reference year.
- (b) 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 2021.

**Table A4 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup> and charges, by SA4 of court**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>			2020–21		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	814	4,827	5.9	1,142	8,071	7.1
Brisbane–East	128	631	4.9	117	543	4.6
Brisbane–North	1	2	2.0	—	—	..
Brisbane–South	—	—	..	2	3	1.5
Cairns	733	3,554	4.8	874	4,001	4.6
Central Queensland	261	1,377	5.3	305	1,451	4.8
Darling Downs–Maranoa	178	788	4.4	225	905	4.0
Gold Coast	389	1,600	4.1	553	2,528	4.6
Ipswich	462	2,290	5.0	614	2,905	4.7
Logan–Beaudesert	382	2,610	6.8	470	3,324	7.1
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	76	276	3.6	128	652	5.1
Moreton Bay–North	263	1,222	4.6	258	1,374	5.3
Moreton Bay–South	135	525	3.9	130	658	5.1
Queensland–Outback	405	1,953	4.8	548	3,178	5.8
Sunshine Coast	254	1,002	3.9	266	1,270	4.8
Toowoomba	289	1,431	5.0	354	1,613	4.6
Townsville	536	2,713	5.1	603	3,319	5.5
Wide Bay	252	1,206	4.8	292	1,453	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,558</b>	<b>28,007</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>6,881</b>	<b>37,248</b>	<b>5.4</b>

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reference year.

(b) 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 2021.

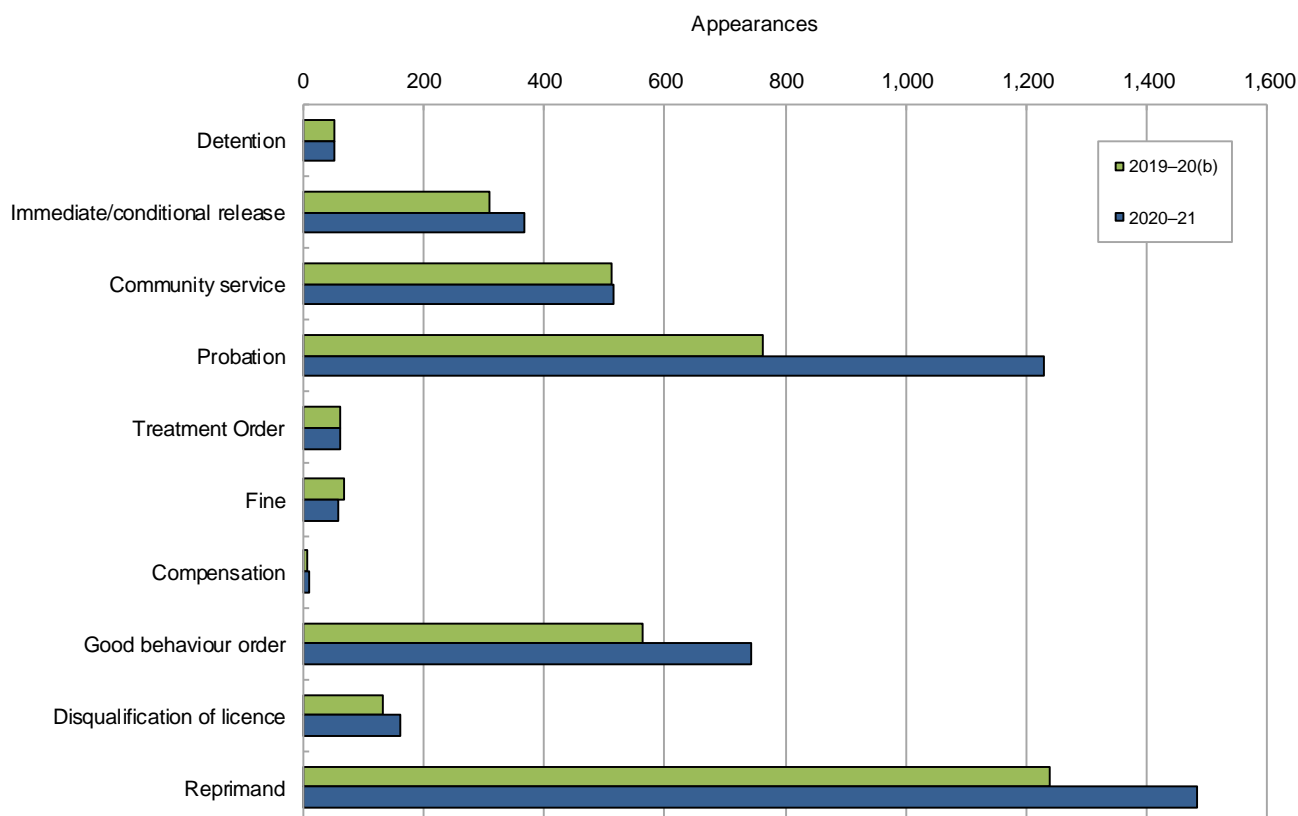
**Table A5 Magistrates Court: Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty and sex**

Most serious penalty <sup>(c)</sup>	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>			2020–21		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(d)</sup>	Male	Female	Total
Detention <sup>(e)</sup>	49	4	53	48	4	52
Immediate/conditional release	282	28	310	321	47	368
Community service	404	108	512	393	122	515
Probation	560	202	762	901	328	1,229
Treatment Order	46	16	62	45	16	61
Fine	59	11	70	48	10	58
Compensation	4	2	6	8	2	10
Good behaviour order	384	179	563	511	231	742
Disqualification of licence	100	32	132	127	35	162
Reprimand <sup>(f)</sup>	874	362	1,237	1,052	430	1,482
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,762</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>3,707</b>	<b>3,454</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>4,679</b>

- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple such appearances during the reference year.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (c) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.
- (d) Includes one appearance in the reference year by a child defendant whose sex was unknown or not stated.
- (e) Includes intensive supervision and intensive correction.
- (f) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

**Figure A2 Magistrates Court: Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty**



- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple such appearances during the reference year. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.
- (b) 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 2021.



**Table A6 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age and sex**

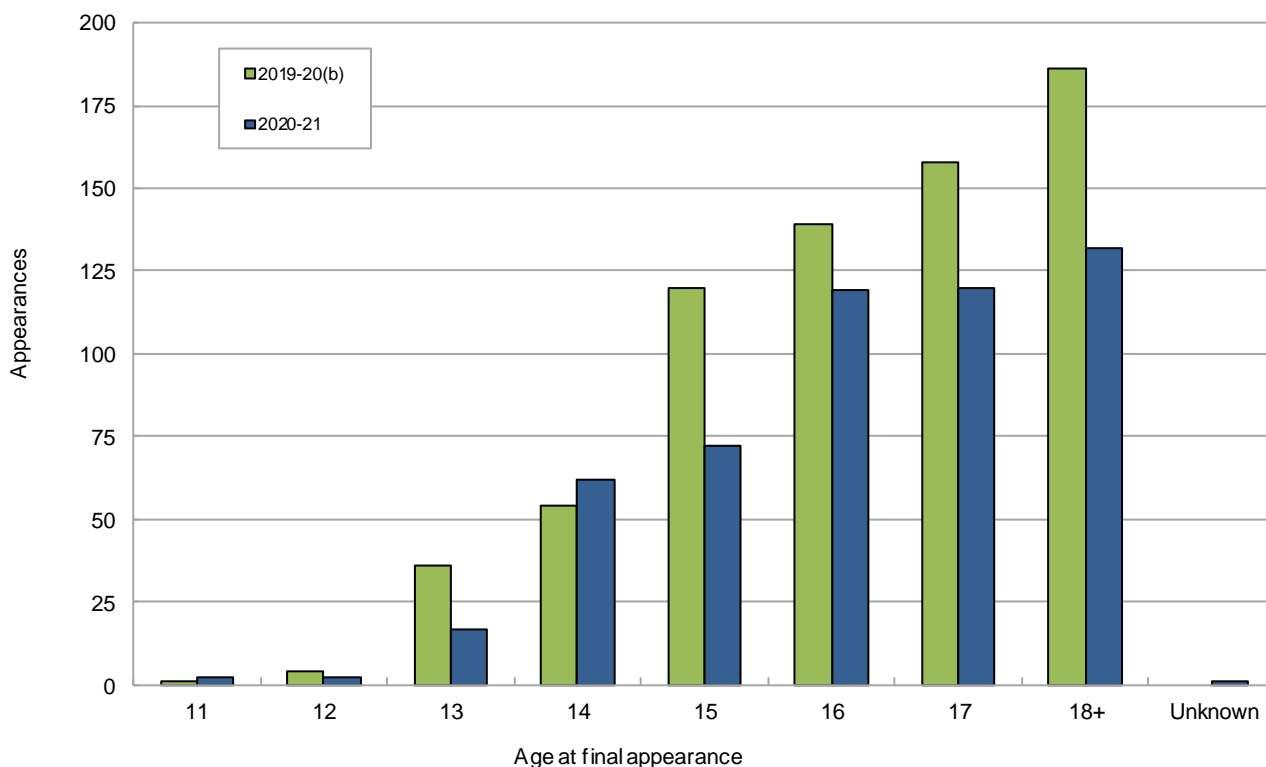
Age at final appearance	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>			2020–21		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
11	1	—	1	2	—	2
12	2	2	4	1	1	2
13	28	8	36	14	3	17
14	36	18	54	43	19	62
15	81	39	120	52	20	72
16	107	32	139	85	34	119
17	134	24	158	107	13	120
18+	159	27	186	116	16	132
Unknown	—	—	—	—	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>527</b>

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reference year.

(b) 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 2021.

**Figure A3 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age at final appearance**



(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reference year.

(b) 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 2021.

**Table A7 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup> and charges, by SA4 of court**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>			2020–21		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	251	909	3.6	197	953	4.8
Cairns	80	377	4.7	65	257	4.0
Central Queensland	23	239	10.4	27	198	7.3
Darling Downs–Maranoa	10	31	3.1	—	—	. .
Gold Coast	73	214	2.9	41	157	3.8
Ipswich	52	169	3.3	26	73	2.8
Logan–Beaudesert	59	437	7.4	29	203	7.0
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	13	46	3.5	7	62	8.9
Queensland–Outback	9	54	6.0	11	57	5.2
Sunshine Coast	27	81	3.0	41	139	3.4
Toowoomba	31	189	6.1	22	84	3.8
Townsville	46	333	7.2	43	244	5.7
Wide Bay	24	88	3.7	18	167	9.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>3,167</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>4.9</b>

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reference year.

(b) 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 2021.

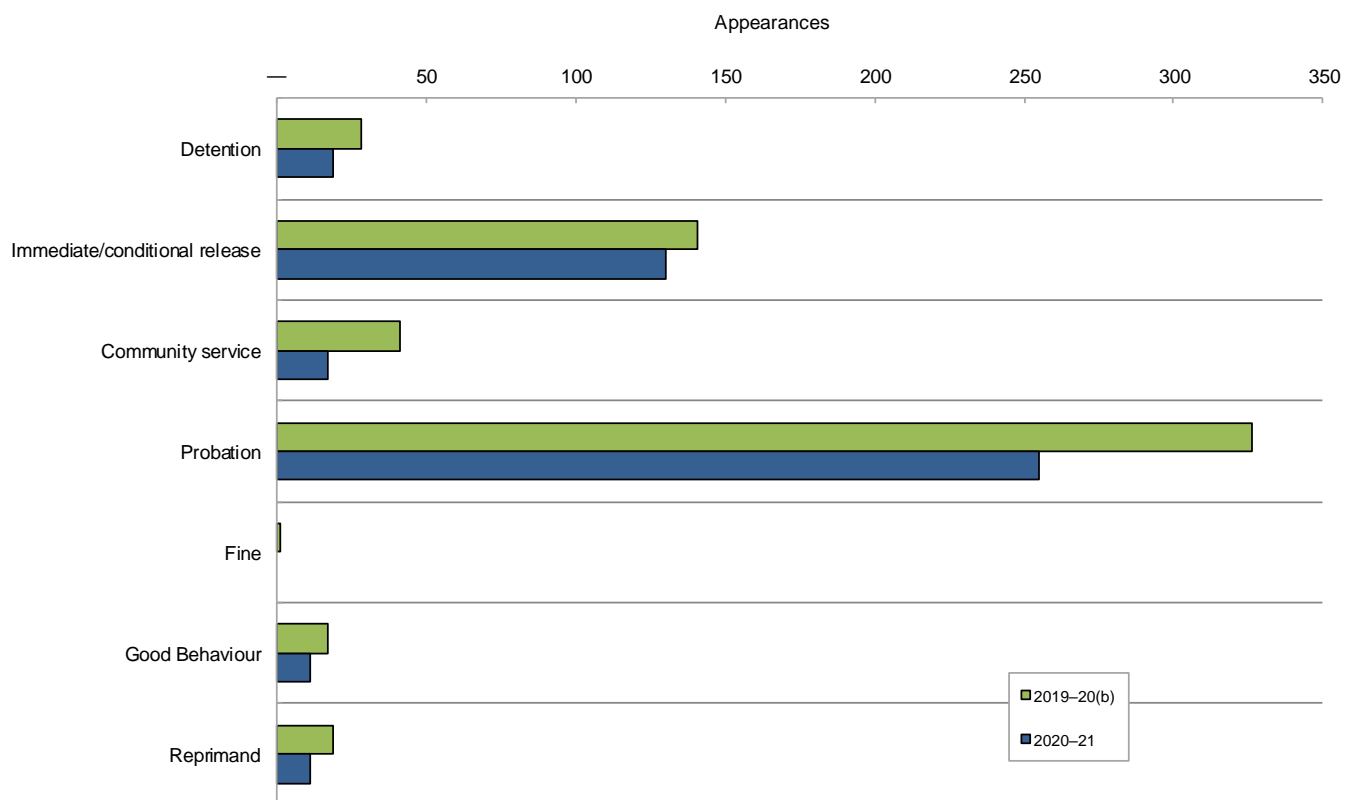
**Table A8 Childrens Court of Queensland: Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty and sex**

Most serious penalty <sup>(c)</sup>	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>			2020–21		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention <sup>(d)</sup>	25	3	28	19	—	19
Immediate/conditional release <sup>(e)</sup>	118	23	141	108	22	130
Community service	34	7	41	15	2	17
Probation	247	79	326	195	60	255
Fine	1	—	1	—	—	—
Good behaviour order	8	9	17	10	1	11
Reprimand <sup>(f)</sup>	16	3	19	8	3	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>443</b>

- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple such appearances during the reference year.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (c) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.
- (d) Includes imprisonment, intensive supervision and intensive correction.
- (e) Includes suspended imprisonment.
- (f) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

**Figure A4 Childrens Court of Queensland: Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty**



- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple such appearances during the reference year. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.
- (b) 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 2021.

**Table A9 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age and sex**

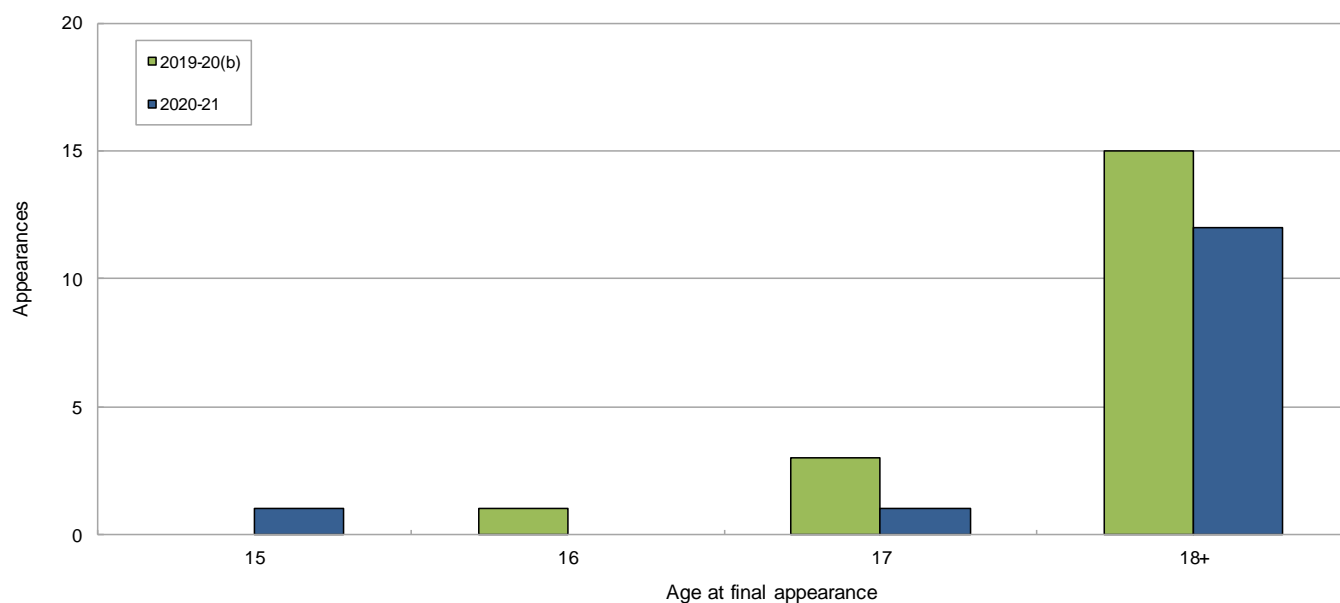
Age at final appearance	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>			2020–21		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
15	—	—	—	—	1	1
16	1	—	1	—	—	—
17	3	—	3	1	—	1
18+	11	4	15	11	1	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reference year.

(b) 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 2021.

**Figure A5 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age at final appearance**



(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reference year.

(b) 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 2021.

**Table A10 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup> and charges, by SA4 of court**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>			2020–21		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City <sup>(c)</sup>	5	32	6.4	10	24	2.4
Cairns <sup>(c)</sup>	3	9	3.0	1	3	3.0
Ipswich	1	4	4.0	—	—	..
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	1	2	2.0	1	3	3.0
Sunshine Coast	2	3	1.5	—	—	..
Toowoomba <sup>(c)</sup>	—	—	..	1	17	17.0
Townsville <sup>(c)</sup>	4	13	3.3	1	5	5.0
Wide Bay	3	4	1.3	—	—	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>3.7</b>

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances during the reference year.

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

(c) Includes Supreme and District courts. All other locations, except where indicated, are District Court only.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

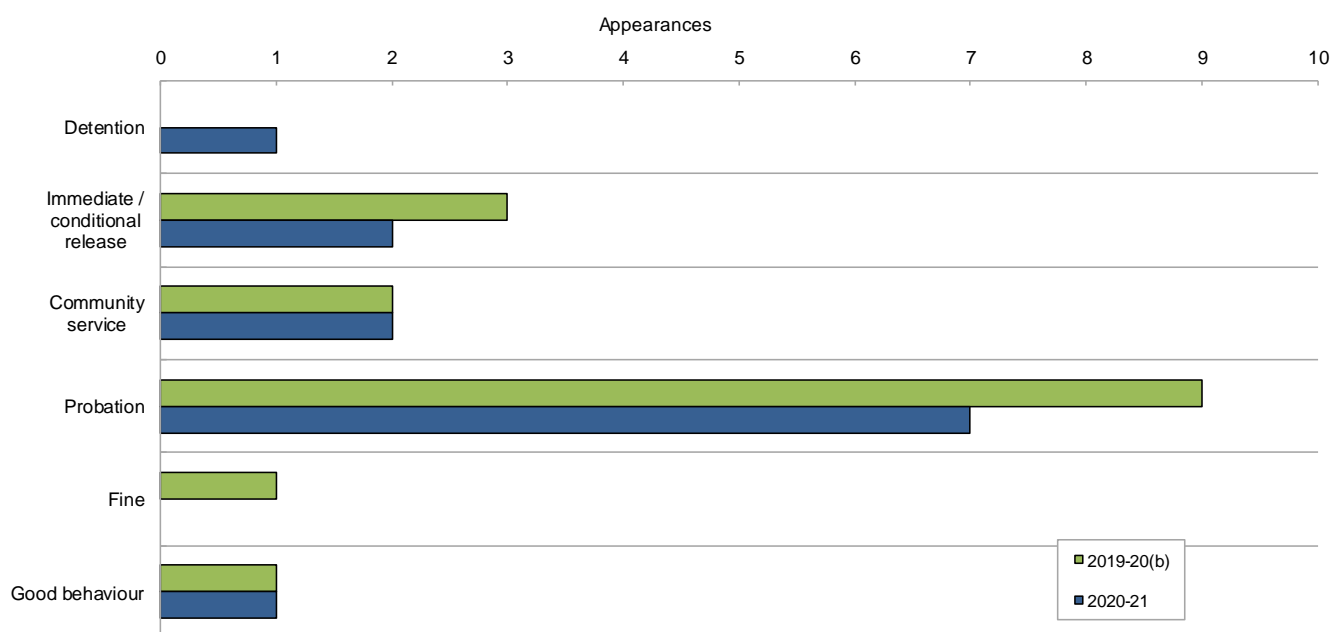
**Table A11 Supreme and District Courts: Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty and sex**

Most serious penalty <sup>(c)</sup>	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>			2020–21		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	—	—	—	1	—	1
Immediate/conditional release	2	1	3	2	—	2
Community service	2	—	2	1	1	2
Probation	8	1	9	6	1	7
Fine	—	1	1	—	—	—
Good behaviour	1	—	1	1	—	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>

- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple such appearances during the reference year.
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (c) In descending order of seriousness. 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 2021.

**Figure A6 Supreme and District Courts: Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty**



- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple such appearances during the reference year. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.
- (b) 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 2021.

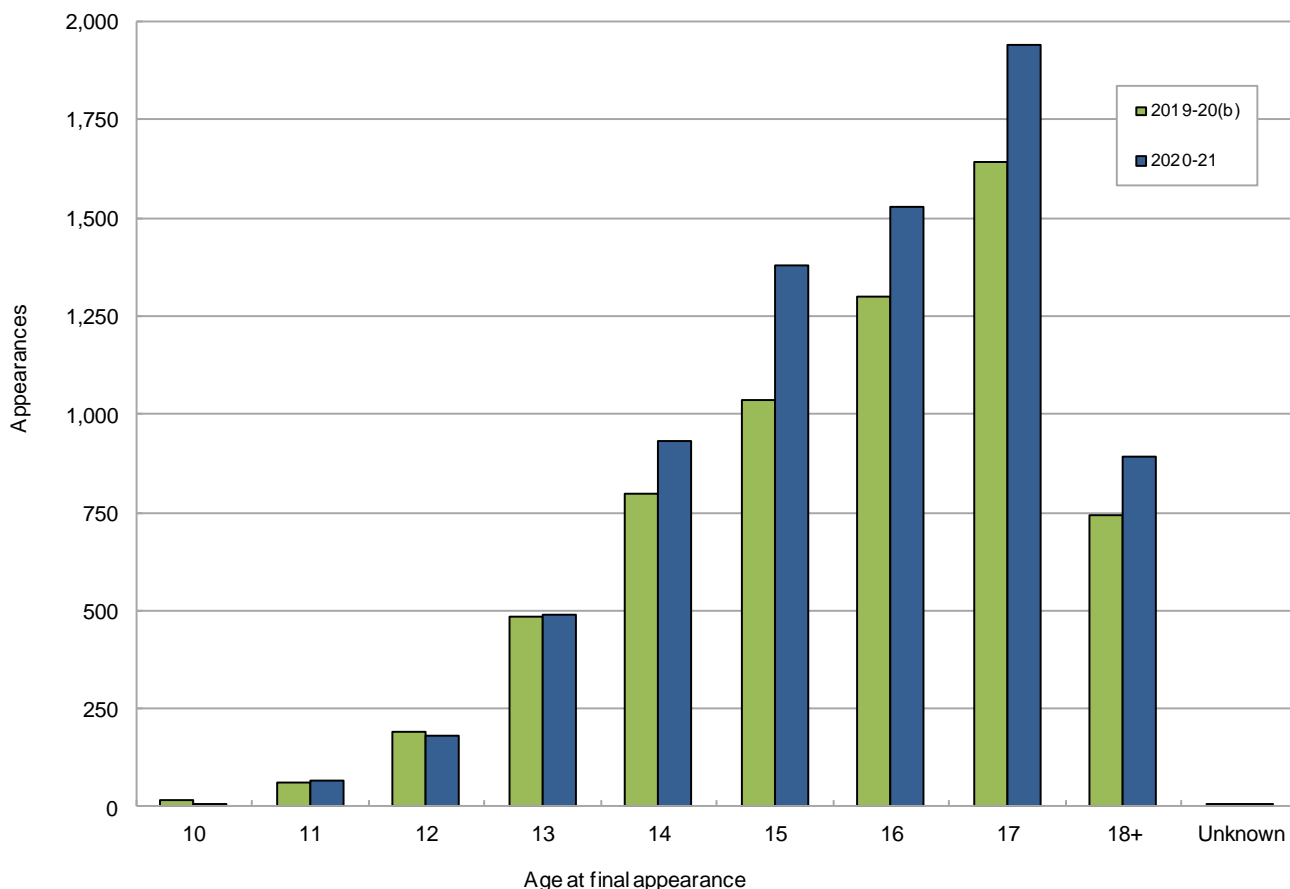
**Table A12 All Courts: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age and sex**

Age at final appearance	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>			2020–21		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(c)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(d)</sup>
10	14	1	15	6	—	6
11	50	13	63	61	8	69
12	134	57	191	125	55	180
13	312	171	483	340	149	489
14	559	239	799	630	302	933
15	735	303	1,038	1,001	380	1,381
16	956	341	1,298	1,097	430	1,527
17	1,275	366	1,642	1,490	450	1,941
18+	585	156	742	701	191	892
Unknown	4	—	4	2	2	4
<b>Total<sup>(e)</sup></b>	<b>4,624</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>6,275</b>	<b>5,453</b>	<b>1,967</b>	<b>7,422</b>

- (a) An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances 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) Includes four appearance in the reference year by a child defendant(s) with unknown gender.
- (d) Includes two appearances in the reference year by a child defendant(s) with unknown gender.
- (e) Includes appearances finalised at Magistrates Court level by conviction, dismissal or withdrawal, but not by committal, transfer or referral to conference.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2021.

**Figure A7 All Courts: Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by age**



- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants.
- (b) 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 2021.