
CHILDRENS COURT OF QUEENSLAND ANNUAL REPORT 2003–2004



Childrens Court
of Queensland

Childrens Court of Queensland

11th Annual Report

2003-2004

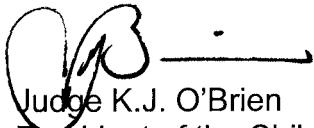
19 November 2004

The Honourable R.J. Welford M.P.
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
GPO Box 149
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Attorney,

In accordance with the requirements of s.22 of the Childrens Court Act 1992, I am pleased to present the Eleventh Annual Report of the Childrens Court of Queensland for 2003-2004.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K.J. O'Brien', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Judge K.J. O'Brien
President of the Childrens Court of Queensland

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Introduction

This is my second report as President of the Childrens Court of Queensland. From the Court's perspective the most significant occurrence during the past year has been the implementation of the provisions of the *Juvenile Justice Amendment Act* of 2002. Although certain parts of that Act came into force in December 2002, the more substantial provisions of the amending legislation were proclaimed to commence on 1 July 2003. In general terms, on and from that date all young persons committed for trial or sentence before a higher court other than the Supreme Court, must now be committed to the Childrens Court. Although the Act provides for certain limited exceptions, the District Court no longer has general criminal jurisdiction over juvenile offenders.

Apart from these jurisdictional changes, the amending Act introduced other important changes which included the creation of new sentencing options and an expansion of the power to order youth justice conferencing. These amendments undoubtedly represent the most significant changes made to the administration of juvenile justice in this State since the *Juvenile Justice Act* was first introduced in 1992 and they reflect the very real importance of a specialist youth court jurisdiction as part of our criminal justice system.

Juvenile Justice Trends

- There was an overall decrease of 10.3% in the number of juveniles whose cases were disposed of in all Queensland Courts from 8,109 in 2002-03 to

7,276 in 2003–04. This is likely to be the consequence of a huge increase in the number of youth justice conferences held in 2003–04.

- There was a 175.5% increase in the number of youth justice conferences held during 2003–04. Forty-seven per cent of conferences were as a result of police referrals, 35% were indefinite court referrals, and 18% were pre-sentence court referrals.
- There was a 31.1% increase in the number of young people coming before the Childrens Court of Queensland, there was a 25% decrease in the number appearing before the District Court and a 44.4% decrease in those appearing before the Supreme Court, resulting in an overall decrease across the higher courts of 9.3%.
- There was an overall decrease in the number of charges against young people from 19,223 to 16,627 or 13.5%.
- Males accounted for 80.2%, while 15–16 year olds represented 58.5% of juvenile defendants. Young people appearing before the District and Supreme Courts were aged 16 years or older in 74.2% of cases. Theft and related offences in unlawful entry offences accounted for almost half of all charges against juveniles. These offences saw a combined decrease of 18% since 2002–03.
- Detention orders increased from 126 in 2002–03 to 133 in 2003–04, an increase of 5.6%, while detention orders with immediate/conditional release orders decreased 18.2% from 154 to 126. These most serious of penalties were awarded in only 4.2% of cases. Detention orders in the Childrens Court of

Queensland increased from 22 to 31, however immediate/conditional release orders in that Court decreased by 50% since 2002-03, from 24 to 12.

- Cautions administered by police decreased this year, from 15,139 to 14,092 following an increase in the previous year.
- The Magistrates Court disposed of 93% of juvenile cases in 2003-04.
- Community service and probation orders have had a high compliance rate of 70% and 79% respectively. Immediate/conditional release orders have again experienced the highest non-compliance rate of 44.3%.
- As in previous years, the victims of juvenile offenders are predominantly under 20 years of age (69% of those where age was recorded) and only 3% were 55 years or over. Assault victims accounted for 69.4% of all victims of juvenile crime, with 32.6% of assault victims aged between 10 and 14 years.

Commentary on Juvenile Justice Trends

During the year there was a decrease overall of more than 10% in the number of juvenile offenders appearing before the Courts. The increased use of youth justice conferencing in the case of less serious offences was no doubt a factor contributing to this reduction in numbers, but it is to be noted that the figures give no indication of any increase in juvenile crime rates. There was in fact a decrease in the number of charges heard against young persons in courts of all levels across the State.

During the year the number of juvenile offenders appearing before the Childrens Court of Queensland, that is the Court as presided over by a Childrens Court Judge, increased by about 31%. At the same time the number of young offenders appearing before the District Court fell by 25%. These figures reflect, to a large extent, the impact of the changes brought about by the introduction of the *Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2002*. With the conferring of exclusive jurisdiction, in respect of higher court matters, on the Childrens Court, it was to be expected that there would be a reduction in the volume of work flowing to the District Court. It is noteworthy however that the increase in the total number of matters coming before the Childrens Court follows upon a 22% increase in 2002-03. This increasing workload in the Childrens Court will require additional sittings of the Court during the coming year and will, I anticipate, require the granting of additional Childrens Court commissions to Judges of the District Court.

Although theft and related offences continue to account for almost half of all charges against juveniles, it is encouraging to note that there was a combined decrease of 18% in the incidence of those offences since 2002-03.

It is encouraging also to note the significant increase in the number of referrals to youth justice conferencing during the year. During the year, increased government funding has allowed for an expansion in conferencing services throughout the State and the figures demonstrate a greater awareness on the part of both police and the Courts of the purposes and benefits to be had from such conferences in appropriate cases. The participant satisfaction rate, including victims of crime, remains at a very high level of about 98%.

Issues in Juvenile Justice

A. Supervised Orders and Recidivism

It is encouraging to note that the statistics for the past year indicate a high rate of compliance with community service orders and probation orders. During the year the Crime and Misconduct Commission released a paper containing the key findings of the 'Youth Justice: Criminal Trajectories Research Project', a project which focussed on recidivism among young offenders. The research indicated that by September 2002, almost 80% of juvenile offenders placed on supervised orders (detention, immediate release orders, probation orders and community service orders) in 1994-95 had progressed to the adult correctional system and 49% had been subject to at least one term of imprisonment. The rate of recidivism was even greater in the case of those young persons subject to particular risk factors, for example, male, indigenous or subject to a care and protection order.

The authors of the report point out that no single agency can be held responsible for the apparent high rate of progression from juvenile supervised orders to the adult corrections system and stressed the importance of early intervention targeting those factors that ultimately give rise to offending behaviour. These findings are entirely consistent with my own observations over more than 30 years in the criminal law. No order made by a court can undo the commission of a criminal offence. If we are, in the long term, to achieve any real reduction in juvenile crime rates then we can only do so through addressing those many factors—social, economic and cultural—wherein the root cause of so much offending is to be found. The authors of the Criminal and Misconduct Commission report go on to say:

'If interventions are to be developed, implemented and evaluated to effectively address the precursors to juvenile offending, they will need to involve a very wide range of government departments, some of which may not immediately see their core business as incorporating a crime prevention dimension. Genuinely effective crime prevention strategies will need to involve arms of government as diverse as Housing, Education, Health, Police, Families, Treasury, Public Amenities (parks, roads, swimming pools etc), and Transport. A coordinate whole of government approach to crime prevention would yield very substantial benefits over the long term but would also produce significant benefits in the short term if properly developed and implemented.'

I wholeheartedly endorse these comments as I do the call for more rigorous evaluations of current intervention strategies and their effectiveness in reducing the incidence of re-offending in particular sub-groups of young offenders.

B. A Youth Drug Court

In my first report as President I made reference to a Youth Justice Conference held in Brisbane in February 2003 which considered the desirability of a specialist Youth Drug Court system in this State. The first Australian Drug Court, created to deal with adult offenders, was set up in New South Wales in 1999. Since that time, similar adult courts have been established in a number of Australian jurisdictions, including Queensland. Given the undoubted difficult nature of its task, the Drug Court for adult offenders seems to have worked well in this State. In June, the Queensland Drug Court celebrated its 100th graduation and the State government has invested additional funds over the next two years in the Drug Court program in South-East Queensland and a trial program in North Queensland.

As I have indicated in my last report, anyone with any length of association with the criminal justice system would know only too well the role that is played by

substance abuse in the commission of offences. There can moreover be little doubt that a major cause of juvenile crime, particularly property crime, is the abuse of drugs. It might therefore seem somewhat incongruous that adult offenders, who may often have long established drug habits, should have the benefits of the remedial measures offered by a specialist drug court while children, in the early stages of drug abuse, do not.

In New South Wales, a specialist drug court for juveniles, was set up in July 2000. The Court there operates within the existing legislative framework of the *New South Wales Childrens Court Act* and within the existing Childrens Court system. The program involves intensive supervision and case management and aims to address not only the legal issues involved in the offence but also the accumulation of health and welfare issues that have contributed to the young person's substance abuse and associated offending.

At present the legislation contains only limited provisions for drug assessment and education sessions before sentencing. It is my belief that serious consideration should now be given to the establishment of a specialist Youth Drug Court in this State. Such a Court operating at Magisterial level along the lines of the NSW model would, I believe, provide a positive means of addressing one of the major causes of juvenile offending and criminal offending generally, in this State.

C. Other Matters

In March 2004, a Youth Murri Court sat for the first time in the Childrens Court at Brisbane. This system, established on the initiative of the Childrens Court Magistrate, Mr Tony Pascoe, allows elders and respected persons from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to have input into the

sentencing of young offenders from those communities. The Murri Court represents a positive development in the administration of juvenile justice and its operation is entirely consistent with the provisions of the juvenile justice legislation. It continues to function well under the guidance of Magistrate Pascoe.

During the year a number of legislative changes were made to the *Child Protection Act 1999* and the new Department of Child Safety was established following an inquiry conducted by the Crime and Misconduct Commission into the abuse of children in foster care. There are early indications that these developments may result in a significant increase in the number of protection applications being brought before the Courts. In practice these applications are heard before a Childrens Court Magistrate with any subsequent appeals being determined by a Childrens Court Judge.

If, as appears likely, there is a marked increase in the number of these applications then there may arise a need for additional resources to be allocated to the Magistrates Court. This is a matter which will need to be monitored closely in coming months. A number of Magistrates to whom I have spoken have also expressed concern about the availability of legal aid to unrepresented parents involved in these applications, particularly in those cases in which the parent may suffer some form of disability. I understand that this matter has been reviewed by Legal Aid Queensland.

Finally, I would again make mention of the sentence review provisions of the legislation. These provisions provide a relatively inexpensive means of reviewing a sentence order without the formality of a full appeal. Applications for a review may be brought not only by the offender, but also on behalf of a complainant or the prosecuting authority. It remains a matter of surprise to me that these provisions, so conveniently available, are so infrequently used.

D. General

The 2003-04 year has been a significant one in the development of a court that now exercises, at both the Magistrates and higher courts level, almost exclusive jurisdiction in relation to juvenile justice.

During the year sittings of the Childrens Court were conducted in the District Court complex in George Street rather than in the Childrens Court complex at 40 Quay Street where the Childrens Court Magistrate regularly sits. I consider that, ideally, a Childrens Court should be physically separate from the adult courts but there are practical difficulties in achieving this ideal when, unlike the situation in other Australian States, there are no 'full-time' Childrens Court Judges or registry staff in Queensland. This is a matter which I hope to peruse in future reports but the notion of the court sitting in the purpose built Childrens Court building in North Quay should not be seen as having been abandoned.

On a personal level, I have during the year continued to meet whenever possible with those involved with issues of juvenile justice around the State. In April 2004, as an adjunct to the annual District Court Judges Conference, a short conference involving those Judges who hold Childrens Court commissions was held in Brisbane. The conference involved input from the Department of Communities and from Mr Ian Nisbet from the Griffith University Adolescent Forensic Assessment and Treatment Centre. During the year I was also able to attend the annual meeting of the Council of Youth Courts held in Canberra. This very worthwhile conference enables an exchange of views and a discussion of developments in other youth court jurisdictions throughout the Pacific region. The conference involved the heads of jurisdiction from all Australian States and

Territories as well as New Zealand, Fiji, and, for the first time this year, Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa.

The very nature of the Childrens Court is such that there is an ongoing need for communication between the Court and its many user groups. As President of the Court I am always prepared to listen to the views of those groups and I am sure that these existing levels of communication will be maintained in the coming year.

Statistical Tables and Analysis

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INTRODUCTION

For a proper understanding of this section, reference should be made to *A Case Restated for the Third Time* (p.9 in the third annual report), where the court structure is explained. It may also be helpful to refer back to the first annual report under the rubric *Statistical Tables* (pp. 128–46) for some of the underlying assumptions and general principles which govern the compilation of the statistical data. It should be borne in mind that an unknown number of crimes committed by children are not reflected in this report. This is because these crimes are either not reported or not detected.

There has been a change in the scope of the court statistics, and caution should be used in comparing the data in this report to those published in previous reports. Defendants appearing for resentencing due to breach of juvenile justice orders have been excluded from the data, as such breaches are not criminal offences according to the Juvenile Justice Act. However, breaches of justice orders from other legislation have been included (for example those related to escaping custody, breach of bail or Domestic Violence Protection Orders).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

<i>Reference period</i>	The statistics in this report focus on the financial year 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. Where possible, data from the previous financial year are provided for comparison.
<i>Data collection</i>	Statistical information used in this report has been collected and prepared by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR) from data collected by court staff in all criminal courts in Queensland.
<i>Symbols used in tables</i>	– nil .. not applicable

DEFINITIONS

<i>Caution</i>	An official warning given at police discretion to juveniles as an alternative to charging.
<i>Charge</i>	A formal accusation of an offence.
<i>Child</i>	See juvenile.

<i>Childrens Court of Queensland</i>	An intermediate court created to deal with juveniles charged with serious offences. It is presided over by a Childrens Court judge.
<i>Committal</i>	Referral of a case from a Magistrates Court to a higher court for trial or sentence.
<i>Court of Appeal</i>	The Supreme Court sitting in judgment on an appeal.
<i>Defendant</i>	A juvenile charged with a criminal offence. A juvenile is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.
<i>Disposal</i>	The ultimate finalisation and clearing of all matters to do with a defendant (for instance by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal, but not by transfer to another court).
<i>District Court of Queensland</i>	A court constituted by a District Court judge (see <i>Right of Election</i> , p. 9; 4 th annual report).
<i>Ex officio indictment</i>	An indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of Public Prosecutions without a committal.
<i>Guilty finding</i>	A determination by the court or as a result of a guilty plea that a defendant is legally responsible for an offence.
<i>Juvenile</i>	A person who has not turned 17 years. (A person who has attained 17 years of age may be dealt with as a juvenile if the offence with which he or she is charged was committed before the age of 17 years.)
<i>Magistrates Court</i>	A court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate or, in some circumstances, by two justices of the peace.
<i>Offence</i>	An act or omission which renders the person doing the act or making the omission liable to punishment.
<i>Offence type</i>	A category within a classification describing the nature of the offence; the Queensland extension of the Australian Standard Offence Code is used in this report.
<i>Offender</i>	A juvenile who has been found or has pleaded guilty of an offence.
<i>Penalty</i>	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.
	<i>Detention order</i> – A custodial penalty placing a juvenile in a youth detention centre.
	<i>Immediate/conditional release order</i> – Suspension by the sentencing court of a detention order against a juvenile offender conditional on participation in a program of up to three months.
	<i>Community service order</i> – A supervision penalty requiring an offender to perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work.

	<i>Probation order</i> – A penalty allowing freedom under supervision for a specified period, conditional upon compliance with the terms of the order.
	<i>Fine</i> – A monetary penalty requiring an offender to make a payment of a specified sum to the Crown.
	<i>Good behaviour order</i> – 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 juvenile reoffends during the period of the order.
	<i>Reprimand</i> – A formal reproof given by the court to a juvenile offender upon a guilty finding.
<i>Sentence</i>	The determination by a court of the punishment to be imposed on a person who has been found guilty or has pleaded guilty.
<i>Serious offence</i>	An offence that, if committed by an adult, would make the adult liable to imprisonment for life or for 14 years or more (<i>Juvenile Justice Act 1992</i> , s. 8).
<i>Supreme Court of Queensland</i>	The highest court in the Queensland judicial system (with unlimited jurisdiction and dealing with murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and the most serious drug offences).
<i>Trial (criminal)</i>	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.
<i>Youth Justice Conferencing</i>	A diversionary option based on restorative justice principles whereby firstly the police can divert young offenders from the court system, and then the court can either divert or order a pre-sentence conference or indefinite referral as a method of dealing with a charge. The victim of an offence has the right to veto any conference.

DATA ISSUES

	There has been a change in the scope of the court statistics, and caution should be used in comparing the data in this report to those published in previous reports. (See below for more detail.)
<i>Breach of juvenile justice orders</i>	A juvenile found to have breached the conditions of a juvenile justice order (ie conditional release, probation, community service and good behaviour orders) will appear in court for resentencing for the offence for which the order was originally made (<i>Juvenile Justice Act 1992</i> sections 129, 135, 154 and 185). Therefore, as such breaches are not criminal offences, juveniles appearing for resentencing have been excluded from the data in this report. Earlier reports of the Childrens Court of Queensland have included such breaches.

In 2003–04, 227 defendants appeared in Queensland courts for breach of juvenile justice orders compared to 7,049 appearing for criminal offences.

Breach of justice orders which are criminal offences have been included in the court statistics (for example those related to escaping custody, breach of bail or Domestic Violence Protection Orders).

Recording of ages

Where possible, age has been calculated from the date of birth of the defendant to the date of finalisation.

Most serious penalty

Offenders may receive more than one type of penalty. Tables in this report show the number of offenders by their most serious penalty. For example, a person ordered to be detained and also placed on probation is placed in the 'Detention' row only, because it is the more serious penalty.

Percentage totals

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

Classification of offences

This report shows the classification of charges by 'Offence type'. The offence classification used is based on the Australian Standard Offence Classification Queensland Extension (QASOC). Offences are first classified into one of sixteen divisions shown in order of seriousness. These divisions are further broken down into offence types.

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 and those at the lower level that are of significant interest.

Miscellaneous offences contains those that involve the breach of statutory rules or regulation that are not explicitly dealt with in any other division, for example harassment, public health and safety offences, or commercial regulations.

Cautions

Only one caution is counted for each different offence type on a crime report. Thus a person cautioned 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 is therefore less than the total number of offences for which offenders were cautioned.

Imprisonment

As a general rule, there is no power of imprisonment as opposed to detention under the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*. 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 after attaining the age of 18, the court is empowered in an appropriate case to impose imprisonment by way of penalty (see *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, s.105).

SUMMARY

Juvenile defendants by court level

There were 7,276 juveniles whose cases were disposed in all Queensland courts in 2003-04, a decrease of 10.3% from 8,109 in 2002-03. Overall the number of juvenile defendants in District, Supreme and Magistrate's Courts decreased 11.1%, whereas defendants in the Children's Court of Queensland increased by 31.1%.

In 2003-04, Magistrates Courts disposed 93.0% of juvenile defendants, the Childrens Court of Queensland 2.9%, the District Court 4.0% and the Supreme Court 0.1%.

Juvenile defendants by court level of final disposal^(a), Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Court level	2002-03 ^(b)		2003-04		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Magistrates	7,547	93.1	6,766	93.0	-10.4
Childrens Court of Queensland	161	2.0	211	2.9	31.1
District	392	4.8	294	4.0	-25.0
Supreme	9	0.1	5	0.1	-44.4
Total	8,109	100.0	7,276	100.0	-10.3

(a) A defendant is disposed when all the charges against him or her are proved or dismissed or withdrawn. Juveniles committed from a Magistrates Court are disposed at a higher court and are counted here only at that level. Similarly, those defendants who are indefinitely referred to Youth Justice Conferencing are also not counted here.

(b) Revised.

Following the pattern of previous years, males accounted for 80.2% of all defendants in 2003-04. Fifteen to sixteen year olds represented 58.5% of juvenile defendants, with a further 15.1% aged 17 years and over. (For more detail refer to Table 8.)

Charges against juveniles by court level

Although the number of defendants in the Childrens Court of Queensland increased 31.1% in 2003-04, charges heard decreased by 11.1%, due the number of charges per defendant decreasing by 32.1%, from 7.4 to 5.0. Charges against juveniles in the District Court decreased by 35.6%, whereas the number of defendants decreased by 25.0%. Both defendant and charge numbers decreased at similar rates in the Magistrates Court. The Supreme Court also dealt with fewer defendants and charges in 2003-04.

The offence categories with the largest number of charges were theft (except motor vehicles) with 3,417 charges (20.6%), unlawful entry with intent 2,685 charges (16.1%) and motor vehicle theft 1,675 charges (10.1%). As in 2002-03, in total, theft and related offences and unlawful entry offences represented almost half of all charges against juveniles (46.8%) (for more detail refer to Table 1).

Charges against juveniles by court level of final disposal^(a), Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Court level	2002-03 ^(b)		2003-04		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Magistrates	16,187	85.1	14,396	86.6	-11.1
Childrens Court of Queensland	1,185	6.2	1,054	6.3	-11.1
District	1,810	8.5	1,165	7.0	-35.6
Supreme	40	0.2	12	0.1	-70.0
Total	19,223	100.0	16,627	100.0	-13.5

(a) Charges against juveniles committed from a Magistrates Court are disposed at a higher court and are counted here only at that level. Similarly, those defendants who are indefinitely referred to Youth Justice Conferencing are also not counted here.

(b) Revised.

Penalties received by juvenile offenders

In 2003-04, 84.5% (6,149) of the 7,276 juvenile defendants in Queensland's courts were either found guilty or pleaded guilty.

Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Penalty ^(a)	2002-03 ^(b)	2003-04	Change %
Detention	126	133	5.6
Immediate/conditional release	154	126	-18.2
Community service	1,161	966	-16.8
Probation	1,058	945	-10.7
Fine	501	461	-8.0
Compensation	241	131	-45.6
Good behaviour order	1,530	1,410	-7.8
Disqualification of licence	87	59	-32.2
Reprimand ^(c)	2,034	1,918	-5.7
Total	6,892	6,149	-10.8

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Including other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Of those found guilty in 2003-04, 133 (or 2.2%) were sentenced to detention, and a further 126 (or 2.1%) received an immediate/conditional release order.

Reprimands and other minor penalties were ordered for 1,918 juveniles (31.2%). The next largest group of 1,410 (22.9%) received good behaviour orders as their most serious penalty with 966 (15.7%) receiving community service orders, followed closely by 945 receiving probation (15.4%).

CAUTIONS

Data provided by the Queensland Police Service showed that 14,092 juvenile offenders were administered cautions in 2003-04, a decrease of 6.9% from 2002-03. In comparison 16,627 charges were disposed against juvenile offenders in court in the last year.

As in 2002-03, the greatest number of cautions were administered for theft and related offences (6,079 or 43.1% of all cautions) in 2003-04. Another 1,957 juveniles received cautions for property damage (13.9%) and 1,534 for unlawful entry with intent (10.9%).

Juvenile offenders proceeded against by caution^(a) by offence type, Queensland, 2002–03 and 2003–04

Offence type ^(b)	2002–03 ^(c)	2003–04	Change %
Homicide & related offences	–	–	..
Acts intended to cause injury	679	754	11.0
Sexual assault & related offences	228	175	-23.2
Robbery & extortion	32	32	..
Unlawful entry with intent	1,580	1,534	-2.9
Theft & related offences	6,947	6,079	-12.5
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	1,092	842	-22.9
<i>[Other theft]</i>	5,514	4,773	-13.4
<i>[Receiving & handling]</i>	271	337	24.4
Deception & related offences	266	435	63.5
Illicit drug offences	1,397	1,260	-9.8
Property damage	2,165	1,957	-9.6
Road traffic offences	10	22	120.0
Other offences ^(d)	1,835	1,844	0.5
Total	15,139	14,092	-6.9

(a) A person is counted as a n offender more than once if he or she has been 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) Revised.

(d) Other offences = *Dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosives offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences.*

OFFENCES BEFORE THE COURTS

Childrens Court Of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland disposed 1,054 charges against 211 defendants in 2003–04, an increase of 31.1% defendants since 2002–03. This increase followed a 22.0% increase from 132 juvenile defendants in 2001–02.

Defendants in the Childrens Court of Queensland

The majority of defendants in 2003–04 were aged 15 years or older (181 or 85.8%), with 42.0% of these aged 17 years or older appearing for offences committed before the age of 17. Only 5.2% of defendants were aged less than 14 years.

Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Age	2002-03(a)	2003-04	Change %
10	—	—	—
11	1	—	..
12	3	4	33.3
13	4	7	75.0
14	15	19	26.7
15	19	53	178.9
16	52	52	—
17 & over(b)	67	76	13.4
Not Stated	—	—	—
Total	161	211	31.1

(a) Revised

(b) A person may be dealt with as a juvenile if the offence with which he or she is charged was committed before the age of 17 years.

Charges against juveniles in the Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland dealt with 1,054 charges in 2003-04, a decrease of 11.1% from the previous year. The average number of charges per defendant decreased from 7.4 in 2002-03 to 5.0 in 2003-04.

Contributing to last year's higher rate were 3 defendants who appeared for a total of 163 charges of unlawful entry with intent.

Childrens Court of Queensland: Charges against juveniles disposed(a) by offence type, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Offence type ^(b)	2002-03	2003-04	Change %
Homicide & related offences	—	—	—
Acts intended to cause injury	78	85	9.0
Sexual assault & related offences	83	65	-21.7
Robbery & extortion	100	75	-25.0
Unlawful entry with intent	495	398	-19.6
Theft & related offences	324	303	-6.5
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	207	159	-23.2
<i>[Other theft]</i>	106	97	-8.5
<i>[Receiving & handling]</i>	11	47	327.3
Deception & related offences	9	4	-55.6
Illicit drug offences	—	4	..
Property damage	73	76	4.1
Road traffic offences	—	8	..
Other offences ^(c)	23	36	56.5
Total	1,185	1,054	-11.1

(a) Defendants who are indefinitely referred to Youth Justice Conferencing are not counted here.

(b) Only selected offence types are shown [in brackets] at the more detailed level. For more detail refer to Table 1.

(c) Other offences = *Dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosive offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences.*

Unlawful entry with intent accounted for 37.8% of all charges. Theft and related offences accounted for 28.7% of charges, with motor vehicle theft (15.1%) representing more than half of these.

Penalties received by juvenile offenders before the Childrens Court of Queensland

Of the 211 juveniles before the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2003-04, 175 (82.9%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 31 juvenile offenders (17.7%) received detention as their most serious penalty, with a further 12 (6.9%) receiving an immediate/conditional release order. The most common penalties were probation (46.3%) and community service orders (26.3%).

Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Penalty ^(a)	2002-03	2003-04	Change %
Detention	22	31	40.9
Immediate/conditional release	24	12	-50.0
Community service	40	46	15.0
Probation	44	81	84.1
Fine	—	—	—
Compensation	—	1	..
Good behaviour order	1	2	100.0
Disqualification of licence	—	—	—
Reprimand ^(b)	4	2	-50.0
Total	135	175	29.6

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Including other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Magistrates Courts

Juvenile defendants in Magistrates Courts

In 2003-04, 7,175 juvenile defendants were finalised in Magistrates Courts in Queensland, a decrease of 10.4% from 8,009 in the previous year. Of these, 409 were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence and 6,766 were disposed, either by a guilty finding (5,737 or 84.8%) or by discharge (1,029 or 15.2%).

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Method of finalisation	2002-03 ^(a)	2003-04	Change %
Committed	462	409	-11.5
Disposed	7,547	6,766	-10.3
<i>Found guilty</i>	6,464	5,737	-11.2
<i>Discharged^(b)</i>	1,083	1,029	-5.0
Total	8,009	7,175	-10.4

(a) Revised.

(b) Where all charges against the defendant were dismissed or withdrawn.

The difference between the 409 defendants committed to the higher court and the 510 disposed in the Childrens, District and Supreme Courts in 2003-04 is accounted for by *ex officio* indictments and matters committed to the higher court in 2002-03 and being disposed in 2003-04. Figures are also influenced by committals made in 2003-04 being disposed in 2004-05.

Charges against juveniles in Magistrates Courts

Of the 15,561 charges against juveniles in Magistrates Courts in 2003-04, 14,396 (92.5%) were disposed in the Magistrates Courts and the remaining 1,165 (7.5%) were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence.

Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Method of finalisation	2002-03(a)	2003-04	Change %
Committed	1,276	1,165	-8.7
Disposed(b)	16,187	14,396	-11.1
Total	17,463	15,561	-10.9

(a) Revised.

(b) Charges of defendants who are indefinitely referred to Youth Justice Conferencing are not counted here.

Charges against juveniles disposed in Magistrates Courts

In 2003-04 14,396 charges were disposed in the Magistrates Courts.

The largest number of charges disposed were for theft and related offences (4,389 or 30.5%), unlawful entry with intent (1,987 or 13.8%) and road traffic offences (1,523 or 10.6%).

In total, theft and related offences and unlawful entry with intent accounted for 44.3% of all charges disposed in the Magistrates Court.

Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Offence type ^(a)	2002-03 ^(b)	2003-04	Change %
Homicide & related offences	4	10	150.0
Acts intended to cause injury	770	679	-11.8
Sexual assault & related offences	85	323	280.0
Robbery & extortion	82	78	-4.9
Unlawful entry with intent	2,234	1,987	-11.1
Theft & related offences	5,401	4,389	-18.7
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	1,570	1,281	-18.4
<i>[Other theft]</i>	3,200	2,486	-22.3
<i>[Receiving & handling]</i>	629	622	-1.1
Deception & related offences	559	501	-10.4
Illicit drug offences	577	605	4.9
Property damage	1,387	1,337	-3.6
Road traffic offences	1,879	1,523	-18.9
Other offences ^(c)	3,209	2,964	-7.6
Inadequate data provided	—	—	—
Total	16,187	14,396	-11.1

(a) Only selected offence types are shown [in brackets] at the more detailed level. For more detail refer to Table 1.

(b) Revised.

(c) Other offences = *Dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosive offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences.*

Penalties received by juvenile offenders before Magistrates Courts

Of the 6,766 juvenile defendants disposed in Magistrates Court in 2003-04, 5,737 (84.8%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 75 offenders (1.3%) received detention as their most serious penalty, with a further 88 (1.5%) receiving an immediate/conditional release order. Almost one third of juveniles (31.7%) received reprimands, 24.4% received good behaviour orders, 14.3% received community service orders and 13.9% received probation as their most serious penalty.

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Penalty ^(a)	2002-03 ^(b)	2003-04	Change %
Detention	71	75	5.6
Immediate/conditional release	76	88	15.8
Community service	1,017	823	-19.1
Probation	925	796	-13.9
Fine	500	459	-8.2
Compensation	237	129	-45.6
Good behaviour order	1,521	1,399	-8.0
Disqualification of licence	87	59	-32.2
Reprimand ^(c)	2,030	1,909	-6.0
Total	6,464	5,737	-11.2

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Including other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

District and Supreme Courts

In 2003-04, District and Supreme Courts disposed 1,177 charges against 299 juveniles. This was a decrease of 25.4% in the number of defendants from 2002-03.

The Supreme Court disposed a small proportion of the charges and defendants. In 2003-04, there were 12 charges against 5 defendants disposed in the Supreme Court, compared with 1,165 charges against 294 defendants disposed in the District Court.

Defendants in District and Supreme Courts

In 2003-04, 74.2% of juvenile defendants before the District and Supreme Courts were aged 16 years and older, with a further 15.1% aged 15 years. The majority of defendants were male (86.0%). (For more detail refer to Table 5.)

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Age	2002-03(a)	2003-04	Change %
10	1	—	..
11	3	1	-66.7
12	3	2	-33.3
13	11	6	-45.5
14	38	23	-39.5
15	57	45	-21.1
16	134	103	-23.1
17 & over (b)	153	119	-22.2
Unknown	1	—	..
Total	401	299	-25.4

(a) Revised.

(b) A person may be dealt with as a juvenile if the offence with which he or she is charged was committed before the age of 17 years.

Charges against juveniles in District and Supreme Courts

Of the 1,177 charges before District and Supreme Courts, theft and related offences accounted for the largest number with 400 charges or 34.0% of the total. Within theft and related offences, the largest numbers of charges were for motor vehicle theft (235 or 20.0%) and other theft (140 or 11.9 %). Assault accounted for 186 charges (15.8%).

District and Supreme Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Offence type ^(a)	2002-03 ^(b)	2003-04	Change %
Homicide & related offences	5	3	-40.0
Acts intended to cause injury	190	186	-2.1
Sexual assault & related offences	143	60	-58.0
Robbery & extortion	66	66	—
Unlawful entry with intent	525	300	-42.9
Theft & related offences	505	400	-20.8
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	271	235	-13.3
<i>[Other theft]</i>	202	140	-30.7
<i>[Receiving & handling]</i>	32	25	-21.9
Deception & related offences	23	5	-78.3
Illicit drug offences	31	4	-87.1
Property damage	260	102	-60.8
Road traffic offences	16	2	-87.5
Other offences ^(c)	86	49	-43.0
Inadequate data provided	—	—	—
Total	1,850	1,177	-36.4

(a) Only selected offence types are shown [in brackets] at the more detailed level. For more detail refer to Table 1.

(b) Revised.

(c) Other offences = *Dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosive offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences.*

Penalties received by juvenile offenders before District and Supreme Courts

Of the 299 juveniles before the District and Supreme Courts in 2003-04, 237 (79.3%) were found guilty or had pleaded guilty. Of these, 27 (or 11.4%) received detention as their most serious penalty, 26 (11.0%) received an immediate/conditional release order, 97 (40.9%) received community service orders and 68 (28.7%) received probation.

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Penalty ^(a)	2002-03 ^(b)	2003-04	Change %
Detention	33	27	-18.2
Immediate/conditional release	54	26	-51.9
Community service	104	97	-6.7
Probation	89	68	-23.6
Fine	1	2	100.0
Compensation	4	1	-75.0
Good behaviour order	8	9	12.5
Disqualification of licence	—	—	—
Reprimand ^(c)	—	7	..
Total	293	237	-19.1

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised

(c) Including other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDERS

The Juvenile Justice Program, Department Communities, supervises juveniles on community correction orders (i.e. probation, immediate/conditional release and community service orders). The following information has been extracted from their Families and Youth Justice Database.

In 2002-03 there were 3,155 admissions to these types of orders. Of these, 1,716 (54.4%) were probation, 1,256 (39.8%) were community service orders and 183 (5.8%) were immediate/conditional release orders.

Orders breached

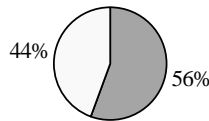
Probation and immediate/conditional release orders can be breached either by the juvenile re-offending during the period of the order or by not meeting other conditions of the order.

The majority of orders made in 2002-03 had been complied with and completed by 30 June 2004, with community service and probation orders having compliance rates of 75.4%. The largest non-compliance rate (where a breach action had been initiated and/or finalised) was for immediate/conditional release orders (44.3%), compared with 17.6% for probation and community service orders.

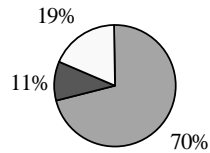
Of community service orders from 2002-03, 10.6% were still in effect 12 months after the end of that year, and of probation orders 4.4% were still in effect. Probation orders may be up to three years in length. The length of time within which community service orders should be completed is twelve months. Longer periods may be due to subsequent variations to the original order, including extension of orders and those which are not administratively closed after the specified date. Immediate release orders are a maximum of three months in duration.

Admissions to orders against juveniles in 2002-03: Type of order by completion status at 30 June 2004, Queensland

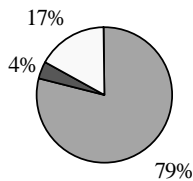
Immediate/Conditional Release



Community Service



Probation



- Order completed
- Order still current
- Breach action initiated

Source: Families and Youth Justice Database Department of Communities.

VICTIMS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

The Queensland Police Service provided information about the victims of juvenile offenders. Data was extracted from the statistical system for incidents where at least one of the offenders identified was under the age of 17 years. The incidents were restricted to those involving an offence against the person and where the age and sex of the victim were recorded and the age of the offender was known.

Of the 2,713 victims of juvenile offenders in 2003-04, the majority were aged under 20 years (69.0% of those where age and sex were recorded), with 30.7% aged 10 to 14 years and 29.0% aged 15 to 19 years. Only 3.0% of victims were aged 55 years or over.

Assault victims accounted for 69.4% of all victims of juvenile offenders, with 32.6% of those victims aged between 10 and 14 years and a further 18.8% aged between 25 and 39 years.

Victims aged under 10 years accounted for 45.8% of victims of sexual offences by juvenile offenders, and a further 36.2% were aged 10 to 14 years.

For offences committed by juveniles, 60.1% of victims were male. Males comprised 79.0% of robbery victims and 63.4% of assaults, whereas 67.2% of victims of sexual offences were female.

YOUTH JUSTICE CONFERENCING

Youth Justice conferencing has been expanded across the State to encourage more offenders to take responsibility for their actions by meeting with victims, with a view to decreasing the number of repeat offenders. During 2003–04 conference services were established in the regions of Toowoomba and South West, Mackay and Whitsunday and Wide Bay and Burnett. The availability of conferencing services in all areas of the State fulfils an undertaking made in the 2002–03 State Budget, where an allocation of \$2.4 million was made available over two years for this initiative. The Youth Justice Conferencing program won the 2003 Premier’s Award for Excellence in Public Sector Management in the category ‘Focussing on our People’.

A total of 2059 referrals were received for the year with 1438 conferences held. This represents a 168.5% increase in referrals received since the last fiscal year and an increase of 175.5% in the number of conferences held. 676 police referrals were received (47.0%), 504 indefinite court referrals (35.0%) and 257 presentence referrals (18.0%). Of young people conferenced, 81.0% were males. Of all referrals 32.0% were for young people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, compared to 24.0% for the previous financial year.

The conferencing program continues to record very high participant satisfaction rates on evaluation forms completed by all participants in conferences. Overall, the level of participant satisfaction achieved for the year 2002–2003, was 97.8%. Results from participants, including victims of crime, who participated in a conference in the year, indicate that 98.2% believed the conference was fair, 98.1% were satisfied with the agreement reached and 97.2% would advise a friend to proceed via a conference.

The increased use of conferencing has enabled more young people, victims and families to participate in a process that promotes the reparation of the effects of crime. Conferencing provides an opportunity for the young person to admit the offence and accept responsibility for their actions. It also allows them to understand the consequences of their actions upon others so that they may begin to make amends. For victims and families, the process provides them with an opportunity to be heard, to tell their story and to be involved in decision making about the offending behaviour.

Offences for which young people were conferred, by offence type, in Queensland, 2002–03 and 2003–04*

Offence type ^(a)	2002–03	2003–04	Change %
Homicide, etc. (b)	–	1	..
Assaults (inc. sexual offences), etc.	74	311	320.3
<i>[Major assault]</i>	37	133	259.5
<i>[Minor assault]</i>	29	152	424.1
Robbery & extortion	5	39	680.0
Fraud and Misappropriation	39	136	248.7
Theft, breaking & entering, etc.	453	1,813	300.2
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	57	390	584.2
<i>[Other theft]</i>	165	710	330.3
<i>[Receiving, unlawful possession]</i>	22	98	354.5
<i>[Breaking and entering]^(c)</i>	209	615	194.3
Property damage	156	920	489.7
Driving, traffic & related offences	15	76	406.7
Other offences ^(d)	78	604	674.4
<i>[Drug offences]^(e)</i>	24	68	183.3
Total	820	3,901	375.7

*NB: all data valid as at 30 August 2004

(a) Queensland Offence Classification. Only selected offence types are shown [in brackets] at the more detailed level.

(b) Includes *manslaughter + dangerous driving causing death*.

(c) Breaking and entering = *burglary and housebreaking + other breaking and entering*.

(d) Other offences = *drunkenness + offensive behaviour + trespassing & vagrancy + weapons offences + environmental offences + liquor offences + enforcement of orders + Other + drug offences + possession or use of drugs + dealing and trafficking in drugs + manufacturing and growing drugs + other drug offences*.

(e) Drug offences = *possession or use of drugs + dealing & trafficking in drugs + manufacturing & growing drugs + other drug offences*

Source: Youth Justice Operations Unit, Department of Communities

DETAILED TABLES

	Summary, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04
<i>Table 1</i>	All Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court
	Magistrates Courts (committals), Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04
<i>Table 2</i>	Juvenile defendants and charges committed for sentence or trial by court location
	Magistrates Courts (disposals), Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04
<i>Table 3</i>	Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex
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<i>Table 4</i>	Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex
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<i>Table 5</i>	Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex
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	All Courts, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04
<i>Table 8</i>	Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex
<i>Figure 5</i>	Juvenile defendants disposed by age

Table 1

**All Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court type, Queensland,
2002-03 and 2003-04**

Offence type	2002-03 ^(b)				2003-04			
	Magistrates Courts ^(a)	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts ^(a)	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
Homicide & related offences	4	—	5	9	10	—	3	13
Murder	2	—	1	3	—	—	1	1
Conspiracy to murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder	2	—	2	4	7	—	—	7
Manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Driving causing death	—	—	2	2	3	—	—	3
Acts intended to cause injury	770	78	190	1,038	679	85	186	950
Assault	767	78	190	1,035	673	85	186	944
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	3	—	—	3	6	—	—	6
Sexual assault & related offences	85	83	143	311	323	65	60	448
Sexual assault	77	76	143	296	290	62	59	411
Non-assaultive sexual offences	8	7	—	15	33	3	1	37
Dangerous or negligent acts	211	16	23	250	195	14	9	218
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	127	14	12	153	122	14	6	142
Other dangerous or negligent acts	84	2	11	97	73	—	3	76
Abduction & related offences	21	3	6	30	15	1	7	23
Robbery & extortion	82	100	66	248	78	75	66	219
Robbery	79	100	66	245	78	74	66	218
Blackmail & extortion	3	—	—	3	—	1	—	1
Unlawful entry with intent	2,234	495	525	3,254	1,987	398	300	2,685
Theft & related offences	5,401	324	505	6,230	4,389	303	400	5,092
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	1,570	207	271	2,048	1,281	159	235	1,675
Other theft & related offences	3,200	106	200	3,506	2,486	97	138	2,721
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	629	11	32	672	622	47	25	694
Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles)	2	—	2	4	—	—	2	2
Deception & related offences	559	9	23	591	501	4	5	510
Fraud, forgery or false instruments	398	—	8	406	383	—	4	387
Dishonest conversion	147	9	15	171	103	4	1	108
Bribery	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other deception offences	14	—	—	14	14	—	—	14
Illicit drug offences	577	—	31	608	605	4	4	613
Import or export illicit drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	20	—	27	47	38	—	2	40
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	37	—	1	38	45	—	—	45
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	256	—	2	258	264	—	1	265
Other illicit drug offences	264	—	1	265	258	4	1	263
Weapons & explosives offences	130	—	1	131	135	1	—	136
Property damage	1,387	73	260	1,720	1,337	76	102	1,515
Property damage	1,387	73	260	1,720	1,337	76	102	1,515
Environmental pollution	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public order offences	1,626	1	30	1,657	1,486	9	13	1,508
Road traffic offences	1,879	—	16	1,895	1,523	8	2	1,533
Justice & government offences	1,099	3	8	1,110	1,023	7	9	1,039
Breach of justice order ^(c)	297	2	1	300	284	—	—	284
Other offences against justice	789	1	7	797	719	7	9	735
Offences against government	13	—	—	13	20	—	—	20
Miscellaneous offences	122	—	18	140	110	4	11	125
Total	16,187	1,185	1,850	19,222	14,396	1,054	1,177	16,627

(a) Charges are disposed at Magistrates Court level by conviction, dismissal or withdrawal, but not by committal or referral to Youth Justice Conference.

(b) Revised

(c) Includes offences such as breach of bail, breach of Domestic Violence Protection Order, and escape custody.

Table 2 Magistrates courts: Juvenile charges committed for sentence or trial by court location, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04								
Statistical division and court location ^(b)	2002-03 ^(a)			2003-04			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
Brisbane								
Brisbane City								
Brisbane Childrens Court	78	238	3.05	71	220	3.10	-9.0	-7.6
Holland Park	3	19	6.33	4	9	2.25	33.3	-52.6
Inala	19	33	1.74	19	63	3.32	—	90.9
Sandgate	15	47	3.13	11	46	4.18	-26.7	-2.1
Wynnum	7	9	1.29	1	1	1.00	-85.7	-88.9
Remainder of Brisbane								
Beenleigh	19	64	3.37	28	79	2.82	47.4	23.4
Caboolture	11	46	4.18	12	23	1.92	9.1	-50.0
Cleveland	8	14	1.75	1	1	1.00	-87.5	-92.9
Ipswich	50	134	2.68	45	166	3.69	-10.0	23.9
Petrie	6	17	2.83	10	22	2.20	66.7	29.4
Redcliffe	18	51	2.83	11	22	2.00	-38.9	-56.9
Moreton								
Gatton	1	6	6.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Maroochydore	26	79	3.04	24	74	3.08	-7.7	-6.3
Noosa	4	7	1.75	3	5	1.67	-25.0	-28.6
Southport	8	13	1.63	13	39	3.00	62.5	200.0
Wide Bay – Burnett								
Bundaberg	6	15	2.50	4	6	1.50	-33.3	-60.0
Gympie	2	5	2.50	1	6	6.00	-50.0	20.0
Hervey Bay	12	21	1.75	9	45	5.00	-25.0	114.3
Kingaroy	1	2	2.00	11	42	3.82	1,000.0	2,000.0
Maryborough	4	5	1.25	12	27	2.25	200.0	440.0
Murgon	6	11	1.83	3	6	2.00	-50.0	-45.5
Nanango	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Darling Downs								
Chinchilla	1	2	2.00	1	2	2.00	—	—
Dalby	6	11	1.83	1	1	1.00	-83.3	-90.9
Goondiwindi	1	4	4.00	1	2	2.00	—	-50.0
Toowoomba	10	30	3.00	12	19	1.58	20.0	-36.7
Warwick	—	—	..	5	13	2.60	..	..
South West								
Charleville	2	6	3.00	2	7	3.50	—	16.7
Cunnamulla	—	—	..	2	6	3.00	..	..
Quilpie	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
St George	1	6	6.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Roma	3	4	1.33	2	2	1.00	-33.3	-50.0
Fitzroy								
Gladstone	6	15	2.50	8	27	3.38	33.3	80.0
Rockhampton	10	39	3.90	11	23	2.09	10.0	-41.0
Yeppoon	1	5	5.00	1	1	1.00	—	-80.0
Central West								
Mackay								
Mackay	11	16	1.45	11	27	2.45	—	68.8
Proserpine	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Woorabinda	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Northern								
Ayr	2	10	5.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Bowen	2	2	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Charters Towers	10	11	1.10	6	8	1.33	-40.0	-27.3
Great Palm Island	2	2	1.00	1	4	4.00	-50.0	100.0
Townsville	42	143	3.40	21	52	2.48	-50.0	-63.6

Table 2

Continued

Statistical division and court location ^(b)	2002-03 ^(a)			2003-04			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
Far North								
Atherton	3	6	2.00	1	1	1.00	-66.7	-83.3
Aurukun	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Bamaga	3	4	1.33	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Cairns	16	67	4.19	10	32	3.20	-37.5	-52.2
Cooktown	1	1	1.00	2	3	1.50	100.0	200.0
Innisfail	2	9	4.50	1	1	1.00	-50.0	-88.9
Mareeba	4	4	1.00	6	9	1.50	50.0	125.0
Mossman	3	13	4.33	1	3	3.00	-66.7	-76.9
Thursday Island	3	5	1.67	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Tully	—	—	..	2	2	1.00	..	..
Yarrabah	—	—	..	2	4	2.00	..	..
North West								
Kowanyama	3	3	1.00	2	2	1.00	-33.3	-33.3
Mount Isa	7	14	2.00	2	10	5.00	-71.4	-28.6
Normanton	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Total	463	1,276	2.76	409	1,165	2.85	-11.7	-8.7

(a) Revised

(b) Magistrates courts not shown did not commit any juveniles during the relevant year(s).

Table 3

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 2002–03 and 2003–04

Age	2002–03 ^(a)			2003–04			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total
10	18	1	19	19	—	19	5.6	-100.0	—
11	61	13	74	68	5	73	11.5	-61.5	-1.4
12	184	44	228	161	35	196	-12.5	-20.5	-14.0
13	433	127	561	373	108	481	-13.9	-15.0	-14.3
14	918	299	1,217	821	262	1,083	-10.6	-12.4	-11.0
15	1,398	385	1,783	1,310	379	1,689	-6.3	-1.6	-5.3
16	2,213	498	2,711	1,895	419	2,315	-14.4	-15.9	-14.6
17+	791	158	951	749	156	906	-5.3	-1.3	-4.7
Unknown	2	1	3	4	—	4	100.0	-100.0	33.3
Total	6,018	1,526	7,547	5,400	1,364	6,766	-10.3	-10.6	-10.3

(a) Revised.

(b) Includes persons with sex not recorded (3 in 2002-03, 2 in 2003-04).

Figure 1

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2002–03 and 2003–04

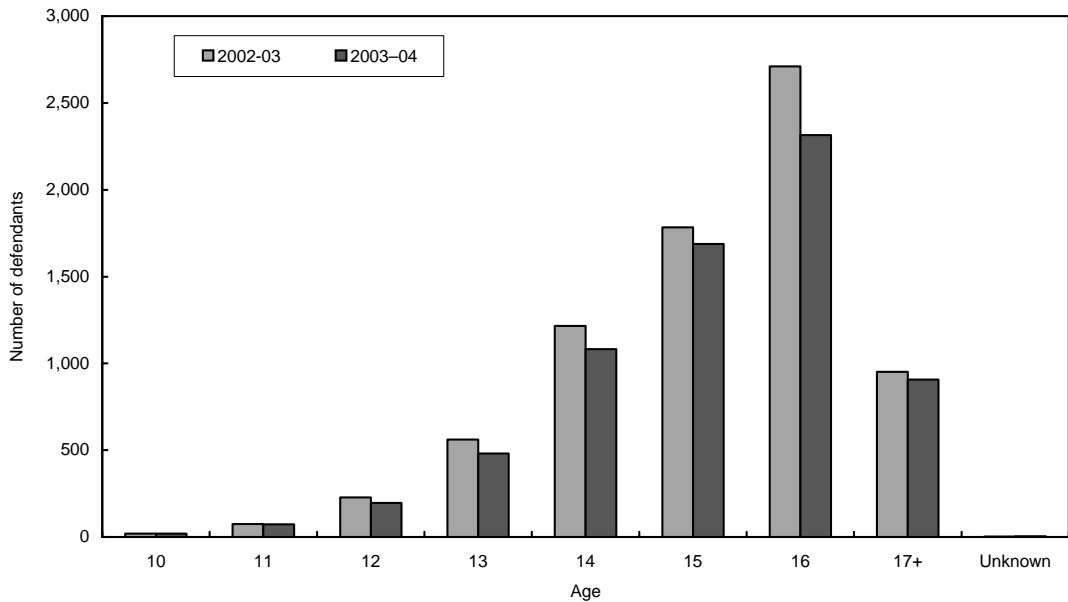


Table 4

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Penalty ^(a)	2002-03 ^(b)			2003-04			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total
Detention	70	1	71	68	7	75	-2.9	600.0	5.6
Immediate/conditional release	71	5	76	79	9	88	11.3	80.0	15.8
Community service	894	123	1,017	731	92	823	-18.2	-25.2	-19.1
Probation	718	207	925	648	148	796	-9.7	-28.5	-13.9
Fine	442	58	500	400	59	459	-9.5	1.7	-8.2
Compensation	187	50	237	103	26	129	-44.9	-48.0	-45.6
Good behaviour order	1,200	321	1,521	1,071	327	1,398	-10.8	1.9	-8.0
Disqualification of licence	74	13	87	50	8	58	-32.4	-38.5	-32.2
Reprimand ^(d)	1,501	528	2,030	1,422	487	1,909	-5.3	-7.8	-6.0
Total	5,157	1,306	6,464	4,572	1,163	5,737	-11.3	-10.9	-11.2

- (a) In decreasing order of seriousness.
- (b) Revised.
- (c) Includes offenders with sex not recorded (1 in 2002-03 and 2 in 2003-04).
- (d) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Figure 2

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

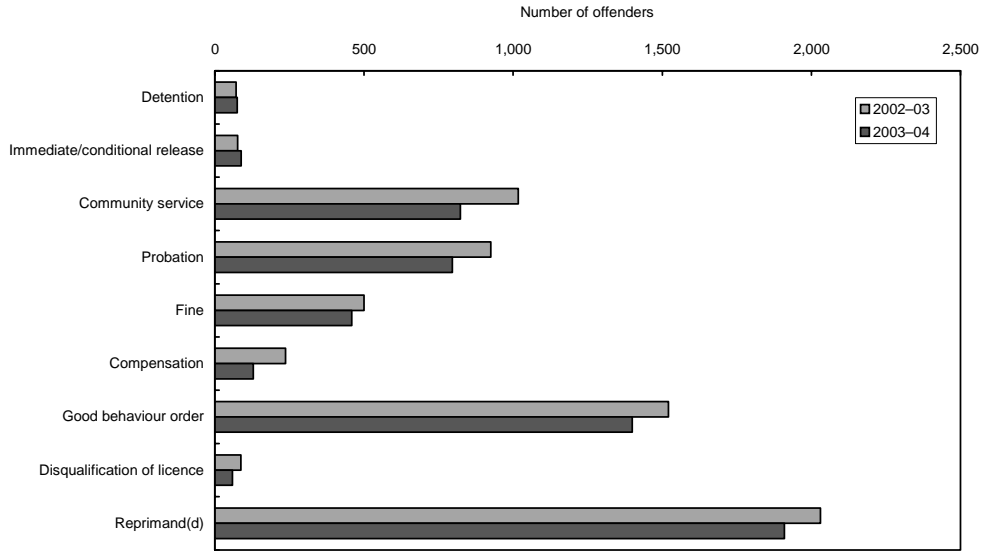


Table 5

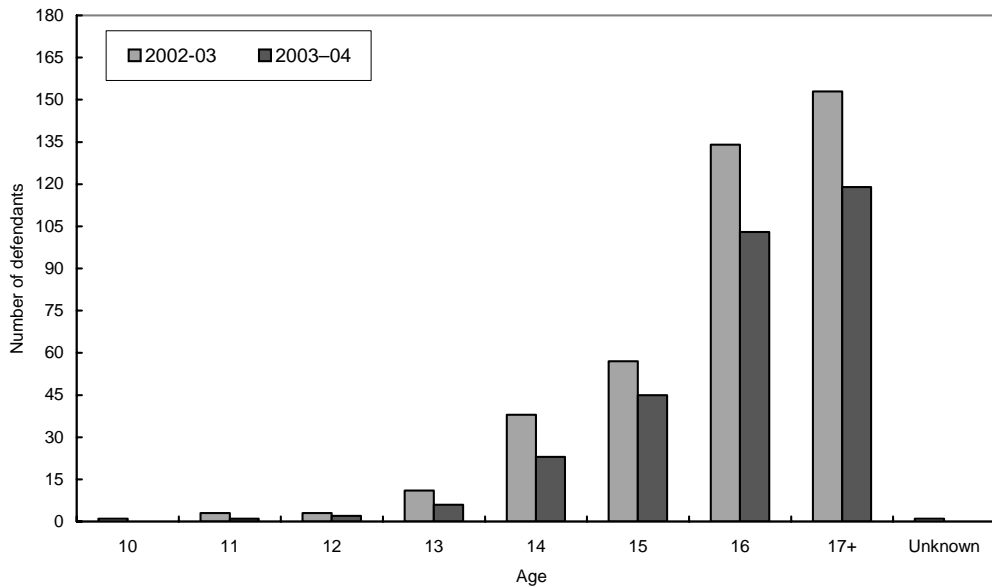
District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 2002–03 and 2003–04

Age	2002–03(a)			2003–04			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
10	1	—	1	—	—	—	-100.0	..	-100.0
11	3	—	3	1	—	1	-66.7	..	-66.7
12	3	—	3	2	—	2	-33.3	..	-33.3
13	10	1	11	6	—	6	-40.0	-100.0	-45.5
14	34	4	38	18	5	23	-47.1	25.0	-39.5
15	45	12	57	34	11	45	-24.4	-8.3	-21.1
16	118	16	134	85	18	103	-28.0	12.5	-23.1
17+	132	21	153	111	8	119	-15.9	-61.9	-22.2
Unknown	1	—	1	—	—	—	-100.0	..	-100.0
Total	347	54	401	257	42	299	-25.9	-22.2	-25.4

(a) Revised.

Figure 3

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2002–03 and 2003–04



Statistical division and court location ^(b)	2002–03 ^(a)			2003–04			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
Brisbane								
Brisbane Supreme	8	39	4.88	4	11	2.75	-50.0	-71.8
Brisbane	131	557	4.25	63	247	3.92	-51.9	-55.7
Beenleigh	11	54	4.91	15	149	9.93	36.4	175.9
Ipswich	36	169	4.69	29	120	4.14	-19.4	-29.0
Moreton								
Maroochydore	27	182	6.74	34	141	4.15	25.9	-22.5
Southport	14	49	3.50	8	36	4.50	-42.9	-26.5
Wide Bay – Burnett								
Bundaberg	3	3	1.00	3	3	1.00	—	—
Gympie	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Kingaroy	7	29	4.14	19	47	2.47	171.4	62.1
Maryborough	20	59	2.95	17	46	2.71	-15.0	-22.0
Darling Downs								
Dalby	2	8	4.00	2	40	20.00	—	400.0
Goondiwindi	2	3	1.50	1	4	4.00	-50.0	33.3
Toowoomba	—	—	..	6	8	1.33	..	..
Warwick	—	—	..	1	3	3.00	..	..
South West								
Charleville	—	—	..	5	19	3.80	..	..
Fitzroy								
Emerald	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Gladstone	37	295	7.97	15	50	3.33	-59.5	-83.1
Rockhampton	11	30	2.73	10	21	2.10	-9.1	-30.0
Mackay								
Mackay	10	25	2.50	17	41	2.41	70.0	64.0
Northern								
Bowen	3	3	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Charters Towers	—	—	..	5	6	1.20	..	..
Townsville	43	226	5.26	30	152	5.07	-30.2	-32.7
Far North								
Cairns Supreme	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Cairns	23	86	3.74	7	22	3.14	-69.6	-74.4
Innisfail	—	—	..	1	3	3.00	..	..
Thursday Island	3	4	1.33	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
North West								
Mount Isa	8	23	2.88	6	7	1.17	-25.0	-69.6
Total	401	1,850	4.61	299	1,177	3.94	-25.4	-36.4

(a) Revised.

(b) District Courts unless otherwise indicated. Courts not shown did not dispose any juveniles during the relevant year(s).

Table 7

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Penalty ^(a)	2002-03 ^(b)			2003-04			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	33	—	33	27	—	27	-18.2	..	-18.2
Immediate/conditional release	43	11	54	23	3	26	-46.5	-72.7	-51.9
Community service	92	12	104	88	9	97	-4.3	-25.0	-6.7
Probation	78	11	89	56	12	68	-28.2	9.1	-23.6
Fine	1	—	1	2	—	2	100.0	..	100.0
Compensation	1	3	4	1	—	1	—	-100.0	-75.0
Good behaviour order	5	3	8	4	5	9	-20.0	66.7	12.5
Reprimand ^(c)	—	—	—	4	3	7	..	..	..
Total	253	40	293	205	32	237	-19.0	-20.0	-19.1

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

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

Figure 4

District and Supreme Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

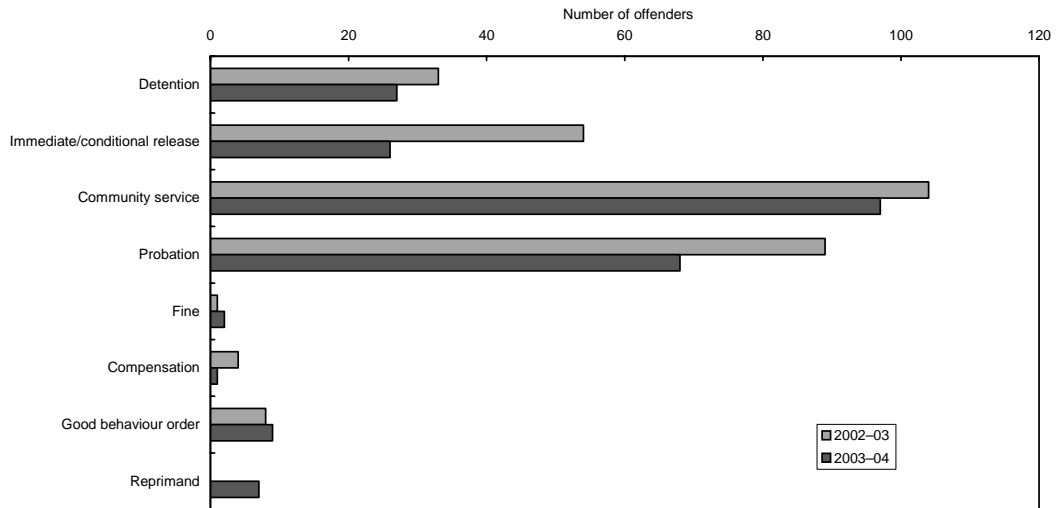


Table 8

All Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Age	2002-03 ^(a)			2003-04			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total
10	19	1	20	19	—	19	—	-100.0	-5.0
11	64	14	78	69	5	74	7.8	-64.3	-5.1
12	190	44	234	166	36	202	-12.6	-18.2	-13.7
13	447	128	576	383	111	494	-14.3	-13.3	-14.2
14	965	305	1,270	854	271	1,125	-11.5	-11.1	-11.4
15	1,462	397	1,859	1,387	400	1,787	-5.1	0.8	-3.9
16	2,376	521	2,897	2,023	446	2,470	-14.9	-14.4	-14.7
17+	985	184	1,171	928	172	1,101	-5.8	-6.5	-6.0
Unknown	3	1	4	4	—	4	33.3	-100.0	—
Total ©	6,511	1,595	8,109	5,833	1,441	7,276	-10.4	-9.7	-10.3

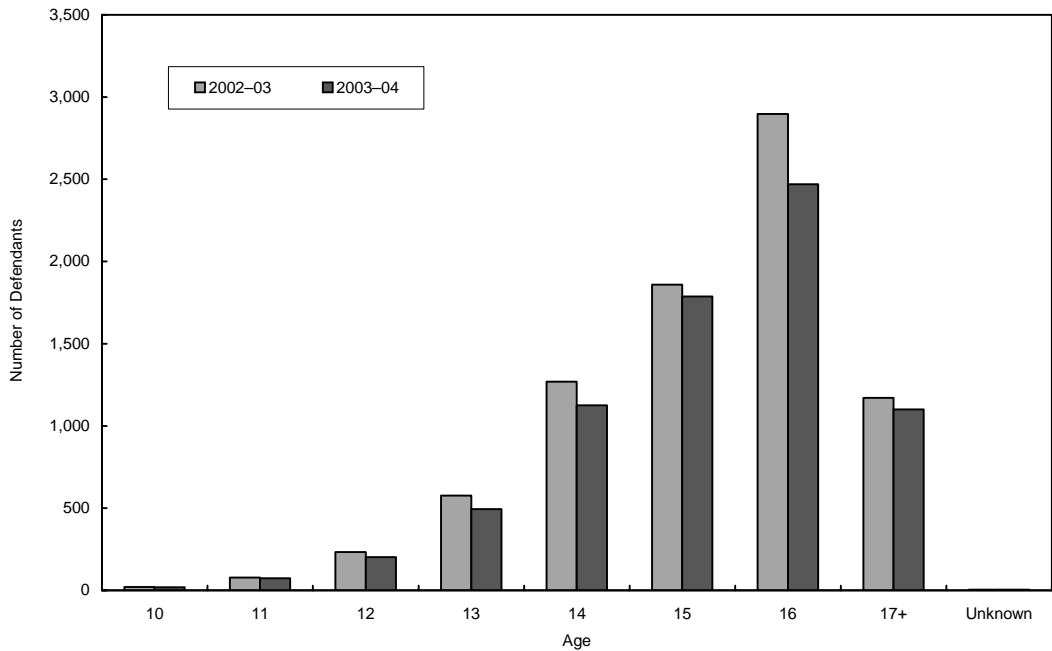
(a) Revised

(b) Includes persons with sex not recorded (3 in 2002-03 and 2 in 2003-04).

(c) Includes charges disposed at Magistrates Court level by conviction, dismissal or withdrawal, but not by committal or referral to conference.

Figure 5

All Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2002-03 and 2003-04



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