

Childrens Court of Queensland

Annual Report 2014 - 2015

12 November 2015

The Hon. Yvette D'Ath MP
Queensland Attorney-General and
Minister for Justice
GPO Box 149
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Attorney,

In accordance with the requirements of s 24 of the *Childrens Court Act 1992* (Qld), I am pleased to present the Twenty-Second Annual Report of the Childrens Court of Queensland for 2014-2015.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Shanahan
President, Childrens Court of Queensland

Contents

PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW	4
General	4
Youth justice trends summary.....	5
Activities and consultations	6
Court Case Management Committee	7
Legislative matters	8
Seventeen year olds	8
Thanks	8
EXPLANATORY NOTES.....	10
Definitions	10
Interpreting the data	13
SUMMARY	15
Juvenile defendants by court level.....	15
Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	18
Charges against juveniles by court level.....	19
Penalties received by juvenile offenders	20
Cautions	21
Youth justice conferencing.....	21
THE COURTS	24
Childrens Court of Queensland.....	24
Applications for bail	25
Appeals.....	26
Applications for parentage orders	27
Magistrates Court.....	28
Applications for child protection orders under the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i>	30
Supreme and District Courts	30
Time elapsed to finalise court proceedings	32
SUPERVISED YOUTH JUSTICE ORDERS	33
Community supervision.....	36
Youth detention	38
Remand in custody.....	40
VICTIMS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS.....	42
APPENDIX.....	44
Detailed tables	44

Tables and graphs

Table 1	Juvenile defendants ^(a) by court level of final disposal ^(b) , Queensland, 2013–14r to 2014–15	15
Table 2	Distinct young people with a charge disposed of ^(a) in a Queensland court, by age	16
Table 3	Distinct young people with a charge disposed of ^(a) in a Queensland court, by sex	16
Table 4	Rate of young people with a charge disposed of ^(a) in a Queensland court per 1,000, by Indigenous status.....	18
Table 5	Charges against juveniles by court level of final disposal ^(a) , Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15.....	19
Table 6	Juvenile offenders ^(a) by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15	20
Table 7	Juvenile offenders ^(a) proceeded against by caution, by offence type, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15	21
Table 8	Offences for which young people were proceeded against by community conference, by offence type, 2013–14 and 2014–15	22
Table 9	Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile defendants ^(a) disposed of by age, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15.....	24
Table 10	Childrens Court of Queensland: Charges against juveniles disposed of by offence type, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15	24
Table 11	Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile offenders ^(a) by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15.....	25
Table 12	Applications for bail to the Childrens Court of Queensland, 2012–13, 2013–14 and 2014–15 ^{(a)(b)}	25
Table 13	Appeals to Childrens Court of Queensland, 2012–13, 2013–14 and 2014–15, Department of Child Safety as respondent ^{(a)(b)(c)}	26
Table 14	Appeals ^(a) lodged pursuant to s222 of the <i>Justices Act 1886</i> , by court location and financial year, 2010–11 to 2014–15	26
Table 15	Originating applications to Childrens Court of Queensland for Surrogacy Act parentage orders ^(a) , 2012–13, 2013–14 and 2014–15 ^{(b)(c)}	27
Table 16	Magistrates Court: Juvenile defendants ^(a) by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15	28
Table 17	Magistrates Court: Charges against juveniles by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15.....	28
Table 18	Magistrates Court: Charges against juveniles disposed ^(a) by offence type, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15.....	29
Table 19	Magistrates Court: Juvenile offenders ^(a) by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15	29
Table 20	Applications for child protection orders ^(a) , 2010–11 to 2014–15	30
Table 21	Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile defendants ^(a) disposed of, by age, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15.....	30
Table 22	Supreme and District Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed of, by offence type, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15	31
Table 23	Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile offenders ^(a) by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15.....	31
Table 24	Average number of days ^(a) to finalise youth justice proceedings, by court type..	32
Table 25	Age of juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order	33
Table 26	Rate of young people aged 10–17 years on a supervised youth justice order per 1,000, by Indigenous status.....	35
Table 27	Supervised youth justice orders commenced ^(a) by juvenile offenders, by order type	35
Table 28	Supervised youth justice orders commenced by juvenile offenders in 2013–14: type of order by completion status as at 30 June 2015 ^(a)	36
Table 29	Supervised youth justice orders commenced by juvenile offenders: type of order by completion status as at 30 June of the following period ^(a)	36
Table 30	Rate of young people in youth detention per 1,000, by Indigenous status	39
Table 31	Detention orders by custody status ^(a) at time of sentencing.....	41

Figure 1	Distinct young people aged 10–17 years with a charge disposed of ^{(a)(b)} in a Queensland court	15
Figure 2	Percentage of proven offences ^{(a)(b)} accounted for by juvenile offenders in 2014–15	17
Figure 3	Ten year comparison ^(a) of number of juvenile defendants ^(b) disposed of ^(c) in all Queensland Courts ^(d)	17
Figure 4	Percentage of young people aged 10–17 years with a charge disposed of ^(a) in a Queensland court, by Indigenous status ^(b)	18
Figure 5	Ten year comparison ^(a) of number of charges ^(b) against juvenile defendants disposed of ^(c) in all Queensland courts ^(d)	19
Figure 6	Number of distinct juvenile offenders aged 10–17 years commencing a supervised youth justice order ^{(a)(b)}	33
Figure 7	Percentage of juvenile offenders aged 10–17 years commencing a supervised youth justice order, by sex	34
Figure 8	Percentage of juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status ^(a)	34
Figure 9	Average daily number of young people in youth detention ^(a)	38
Figure 10	Average daily number of young people in youth detention, by sex	38
Figure 11	Percentage of average daily number of young people in youth detention, by Indigenous status ^(a)	39
Figure 12	Total daily number of young females in youth detention, 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015	40
Figure 13	Average daily number of young people in youth detention, by legal status	40
Figure 14	Victims of acts intended to cause injury by juvenile offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2014–15	42
Figure 15	Victims of sexual assault and related offences by juvenile offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2014–15	43

PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW

General

This year's Annual Report includes a variety of new data that provides additional information as to the operation of the Juvenile Justice system. There are additional tables showing the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders dealt with by the Childrens Court, the time elapsed to finalise court proceedings, and additional information as to supervised youth justice orders and as to juveniles held in detention. Much of that information is subdivided further by sex and Indigenous status. Also included are data concerning the number of s 222 *Justices Act 1886* appeals lodged and heard by the Childrens Court of Queensland and, at the suggestion of the Youth Advocacy Centre, statistics indicating the number of child protection applications under the *Child Protection Act 1999* lodged before the Childrens Court when constituted by a Magistrate.

The format of the report has also been updated to ensure consistency and make it more user friendly. I am grateful for the work undertaken by officers of the Queensland Government Statisticians Office (Queensland Treasury) and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) in that regard.

Again included in the report are tables concerning juvenile justice trends over the last ten years. These include tables concerning the number of juvenile defendants dealt with by the courts and the number of charges against juveniles disposed of by the courts. This enables the trend line in relation to that information to be analysed.

In past reports there may have been some confusion caused by the figures in relation to the "number of juvenile defendants disposed of in all Queensland Courts". That figure does not relate to the number of individual juveniles dealt with by the Courts in the reporting period. A juvenile is counted as a defendant more than once if dealt with more than once on different dates during the reporting period. Thus, the total figure of "juvenile defendants disposed of" does not relate to individual juveniles. To show the distinction, Youth Justice Services, DJAG has provided data concerning distinct individuals dealt with during the reporting period. Thus, whilst in 2014–15, 6,515 juvenile defendants were "disposed of" by the Queensland Courts, that involved only 3,712 individuals. The Explanatory Notes, footnotes to tables and tables showing "distinct young people with a charge disposed of" will allow that distinction to be seen. Those latter tables allow a five year comparison and are again subdivided by age and sex. The trend line in relation to individual juveniles has declined over that 5 year period.

The trend line in relation to the ten year comparison of the number of juvenile defendants disposed of in all Queensland Courts shows a slight increase, although in 2014–15, there was a 8.7% decrease from the previous year. The trend line in relation to the ten year comparison of the number of charges against juvenile defendants continues to rise, although in 2014–15 there was a 4.9% decrease from the previous year. Again, these figures do not show the total of all offending juveniles or charges proved. The figures include matters where charges were dismissed or acquittals entered or charges were withdrawn by the prosecution. In the reporting period, 86.3% of the 6,515 juveniles "disposed of" were found guilty or pleaded guilty.

As noted in last year's Annual Report, the figures do not show an "explosion" of crimes committed by juveniles. The number of detention orders made against juveniles continues to rise. There was a 38% increase from the previous year (from 113 to 156). The number of supervised youth justice orders commenced fell from 3,903 to 3,644.

In 2014–15, ten percent of juvenile offenders were responsible for 45% of all proven offences. These figures demonstrate the comments I have made in previous Annual Reports that there are a number of persistent offenders who commit multiple offences. It is this identifiable group to which attention must be given in attempts to rehabilitate if a significant decrease in offending by them as juveniles and, later, as adults is to be achieved. They are young people, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, with significant problems in life, including poverty,

lack of family support, exclusion from education and training, substance abuse, mental health issues and some themselves the subject of physical and sexual abuse and neglect.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander juveniles continue to be overrepresented. In 2014–15, young Indigenous people accounted for 43% of all young people with a charge disposed of in a Queensland court. This proportion has been trending upward in the last five years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander juveniles were nine times more likely to have a charge disposed of in a Queensland court than other juveniles. In 2014–15, 64% of the average daily number of juveniles in detention were Indigenous.

The average daily number of young people in youth detention on remand increased to 135 per day compared with 130 per day in the previous year. The majority of young people in youth detention are held on remand with the percentage increasing from 67% to 80% between 2010–11 and 2014–15. This is a major concern. In 36% of all detention orders made, the offender had served the full period at the date of sentence with no period of supervised release in the community.

Youth justice trends summary

There was an overall decrease of 8.7% in the number of juvenile defendants whose cases were disposed of in all Queensland courts in 2014–15 from the previous year (from 7,134 to 6,515). As noted above, that figure includes cases where charges were withdrawn or acquittals were entered. The number of individual juveniles dealt with fell from 3,883 to 3,712. There was an overall decrease in the number of charges against juveniles from 25,574 to 24,330 (4.9%). Again, these figures include charges which were withdrawn or acquittals entered.

The Childrens Court of Queensland disposed of 1,787 charges against 308 defendants in 2014–15, a decrease of 23.9% in the number of defendants from the previous year. There was a decrease of 32.2% in the number of charges dealt with. The Magistrates Court dealt with 6,468 juvenile defendants, a decrease of 8.1% from the previous year. There were also 275 juvenile defendants committed to a higher court (a fall of 16.4%). There was a 3.6% decrease in the number of charges dealt with in the Magistrates Court (from 24,281 to 23,398). Of those, 930 charges were committed to a higher court. The Magistrates Court disposed of 95.1% of juvenile defendants and 92.3% of charges.

As noted above, in 2014–15, ten percent of juvenile offenders were responsible for 45% of all proven offences.

In relation to community-based orders commenced in 2013–14, the majority were successfully completed by 30 June 2015 (71% of probation orders and 68% of community service orders). Over 80% of graffiti removal orders were successfully completed. Approximately one-quarter of probation orders and community service orders and one-third of conditional release orders were subject to breach action in the reporting period.

In 2014–15, 42 boot camp (vehicle offences) orders (a mandatory sentence based on geographic location) were made. Twenty boot camp orders were made in the same period.

Cautions administered by the Queensland Police Service increased by 6.4% from the previous year (from 10,132 to 10,786). This follows decreases of 9.1% in 2011–12, 13.3% in 2012–13, and 5.8% in 2013–14. The youth justice conferencing program received a total of 894 referrals from police, a 5% increase. The ability of a court to refer to youth justice conferencing was discontinued in January 2013. (See my comments in the two previous Annual Reports).

There were 3,570 applications for child protection orders lodged in the Magistrates Court, an increase from 3,499 the previous year. There were 12 appeals to the Childrens Court of Queensland from that number, a decrease from 21 the previous year.

Activities and consultations

Throughout the year, I continued to chair meetings of the Court Case Management Committee (see below).

From 30 June to 3 July 2014 I attended the 19th annual meeting of the South Pacific Council of Youth and Children's Courts ('SPCYCC') in Samoa. As reported in previous reports, the charter of the Council is to support the development of youth justice and child protection systems and the maintenance of law in the region. Details of the Council, its charter and its role can be found at the SPCYCC website. The theme of this meeting included the impact of domestic violence and court responses to it, youth justice in Samoa and police diversion from the juvenile court system. It included a visit to the Samoan Youth Detention Centre and the Annual General Meeting of the Council. The attendees came from New South Wales, South Australia, the Northern Territory, the ACT, New Zealand, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, the Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati and UNICEF. It was resolved that the 2015 meeting be held in Canberra. Attendance at the meeting was funded from my Jurisprudential Allowance.

On 17 September 2014 I attended the joint Annual General Meeting of Protect All Children Today Inc (PACT) and the PACT Foundation Ltd.

On 4 October 2014 I responded to a request for comment on proposed amendments to the *Public Guardian Act 2014*.

On 13 October 2014 I was consulted by an officer of Youth Justice (DJAG) in relation to an internal review of Youth Justice's role in courts across Queensland.

In October 2014 I was invited to become a member of the General Committee of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates. I accepted.

On 27 January 2015 I provided feedback to Legal Aid Queensland on their development of best practice guidelines for working with children and young people. On 28 May 2015 I attended the official launch of those guidelines.

On 10 February 2015 I wrote to the Assistant Director-General, Youth Justice (DJAG) in relation to an issue involving insufficient Youth Justice staff to monitor and take responsibility for juveniles in detention who were in the Brisbane Court cells for the purpose of court appearances in both the Magistrates Court Building and the Supreme and District Courts Building. The Assistant Director-General responded on 25 February 2015 that the matter had been addressed.

On 10 February 2015 I addressed the inaugural conference of Childrens Court Magistrates in Brisbane.

On 17 March 2015 I provided requested feedback to the Griffith Youth Forensic Service (GYFS) about the service provided by GYFS. I canvassed the views of Childrens Court Judges throughout Queensland and advised that all were extremely satisfied with the reports provided by GYFS and the expedient way in which they were delivered. The only concern expressed was whether treatment services by GYFS were available for 17 year olds.

On 27 March 2015 I responded to a request from the Chief Magistrate for comment on a proposal for Judicial Registrars to deal with uncontested child protection matters or in relation to uncontested bail applications. I responded that I had no concerns about the proposal.

On 21 May 2015 I met with representatives of KPMG about the Youth Justice Boot Camp Program Evaluation. I expressed no views as to policy considerations except to raise the issues I spoke about in last year's Annual Report.

On 26 May 2015 the Chief Judge and I met with representatives from PACT as one of the regular liaison meetings.

On 25 June 2015 I was advised by the Assistant Director-General (DJAG) that the government had decided to conclude the Youth Boot Camp trial after considering the findings of the KPMG review.

Court Case Management Committee

As reported in last year's Annual Report, the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry (QCPCI) (The Carmody Inquiry) recommended the establishment of a Court Case Management Committee to formulate a case management process to expedite child protection matters in the Magistrates Court. I chair that committee.

The first meeting occurred on 24 March 2014. The committee comprised the Chief Magistrate, the Deputy Chief Magistrate and Childrens Court Magistrate, representatives of the Crown Solicitors Office, the Supreme, District and Land Court Service, the Magistrates Court Service, DJAG officers, a representative of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, and representation from the Law Society and Legal Aid Queensland.

On 3 June 2014 I forwarded an Interim Report to the Director-General DJAG containing a number of recommendations. The committee endorsed a case management framework comprised of proposed new Childrens Court Rules, a series of Practice Directions and a new bench book for the assistance of magistrates. Various legislative amendments were also recommended.

On 22 July 2014 I received a letter from the Acting Director-General DJAG advising that the Interim Report had been referred to the Attorney-General. He also advised that work was to commence on drafting the Childrens Court Rules as proposed by the committee. The committee met on 17 July, 28 July, 19 September and 24 October 2014.

On 6 November 2014, I forwarded a further report to the Director-General, DJAG in relation to a number of specific matters including disclosure obligations under the proposed case management system. I noted that that report completed the specific items tasked to the committee by the QCPCI. I noted that there was a continuing consultation and advisory role for the committee in the implementation of the recommendations that were accepted by the government, any resulting proposed amendments to the *Child Protection Act 1999*, the revised Childrens Court Rules and the development of the Child Protection Bench Book.

On 15 December 2014 I received a response from the Director-General DJAG advising that the second report had been forwarded to the Attorney-General. The Director-General acknowledged the ongoing work of DJAG on the Rules and the ongoing advisory role of the committee in the implementation of court-related QCPCI recommendations.

On 17 June 2015 I received a letter from the Attorney-General. She noted the two interim reports of the committee and advised that DJAG was continuing its work on implementing the recommendations. She advised she was committed to progressing the development of the Childrens Court Rules, to developing and establishing the Director of Child Protection as an independent body responsible for litigating child protections matters on behalf of the State and progressing justice-related amendments to the Child Protection Act. She acknowledged the ongoing consultation role of the Committee.

I again acknowledge the able assistance given to the committee by Ms Sue Johnson, consultant and the Principle Legal Officer, Chief Magistrate's Office, Ms Maryanne May.

Legislative matters

In last year's Annual Report, I raised a number of concerns about recent amendments to the *Childrens Court Act 1992* and the *Youth Justice Act 1992*.

The new Queensland Government has announced that it will be reintroducing the Childrens Courts' power to refer a matter to Youth Justice Conferencing. As noted in the last two Annual Reports, such a mechanism is an extremely useful (and successful) diversionary mechanism as well as being a tried and tested method of restorative justice. The government is presently consulting as to what form that scheme will take.

The government also announced that it had decided to conclude the Youth Boot Camp trial after considering the findings of an evaluation of the trial by KPMG. The evaluation report supported a need to explore evidence-based responses to address the often complex needs of young people involved in the youth justice system. In my view, such responses should also investigate early intervention into the lives of young people at risk of committing offences as was attempted by the "Early Intervention Boot Camps".

In relation to the other matters I raised in last year's Annual Report, the government has indicated that it is consulting widely in relation to them before reaching any conclusions. There are two of those specific matters to which I wish to refer.

The first concerns the abolition of Sentence Reviews. As I noted in last year's Annual Report, "The sentence review process was an efficient way to deal speedily with inappropriate sentences imposed on juveniles. It provided a speedy resolution where most sentences imposed on juveniles are of relatively short duration and quickly corrected errors made by sentencing magistrates." Sentence Reviews were abolished by the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act which was assented to on 28 March 2014. Any sentence appeals after that date were pursuant to s 222 *Justices Act 1886*. Such appeals are cumbersome, formal matters requiring a number of administrative steps. In 2014–15 only 9 s 222 Appeals were lodged in the Childrens Court of Queensland. In 2011–12 there were 73 sentence reviews, in 2012–13 there were 53, in the part-year 2013–14 there were 37. This, in my view, is proof that the s 222 process is not being used and there may well be inappropriate sentences imposed by magistrates which have not been appealed.

The second concerns the introduced offence of a juvenile committing an offence on bail. The offence was introduced by the above Amendment Act as s 59A *Youth Justice Act 1992*. In *R v S; R v L* [2015] Q ChC 3, Richards DCJ ruled that the part of the section that provided a penalty of 12 months imprisonment for the offence (a penalty of imprisonment is not available for juvenile offenders) should be excluded from the provision thus limiting the sentencing options. More importantly, her Honour ruled that the provision offended s 16 of the Criminal Code (Person not to be twice punished for same offence) so that a child could not be punished for an offence against s 59A.

Seventeen year olds

There has again been no move to amend the age of a child for the purpose of the criminal law to 18 in line with Australia's obligations under the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child. (See my comments in the Childrens Court Annual Report 2010-11).

Thanks

I would like to thank the Judges of the Childrens Court for their assistance in managing the workload of the Court. During 2014–15, Judges Burnett, Morzone and Bowskill were appointed Judges of the Childrens Court. There are 28 District Court Judges who hold commissions as Childrens Court Judges.

I again thank the magistrates for their work in this area. The magistrates across the state perform over 90% of the judicial work in the youth justice system. It should be noted that the Magistrates Court is developing specialist Childrens Court Magistrates across the state rather than having only the one in Brisbane.

I thank the court and registry staff for the contribution they make to the youth justice system.

Again, it is appropriate to recognise the dedication of others involved in the youth justice system, including staff in the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions (Qld), Legal Aid Queensland, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, the Youth Advocacy Centre, the Child Practitioners' Association of Queensland and other Youth Advocacy workers, the officers and volunteers of Protect All Children Today, as well as officers from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, particularly Youth Justice and Strategic Policy.

I wish to record my thanks for the work done by the members of the Court Case Management Committee.

Finally, I wish to thank the officers of the Performance and Reporting Unit, Reform and Support Services (DJAG) and the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (Queensland Treasury) for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

Michael Shanahan
President
Childrens Court of Queensland

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Background

Caution should be used in comparing the data in this report to those published in earlier reports, as changes in the scope of the court statistics occur from time to time.

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 *Youth Justice Act 1992*. 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).

Reference period

The statistics in this report focus on the financial year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. Where possible, data from the previous financial year are provided for comparison.

Data collection

Statistical information used in this report has been collected and prepared by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, from operational data collected by courts staff in all criminal courts in Queensland; juvenile caution and victims data from the Queensland Police Service; and youth justice data from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

The Childrens Court of Queensland Annual Report uses counting rules prescribed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). 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 the two reports incomparable. The main difference is the unit counted in the RoGS counting rules is lodgements, which gives a measure of workload, while the unit counted in the ABS counting rules is disposals, which gives a measure of results.

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

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

Report on Government Services: www.pc.gov.au/gsp/rogs

Symbols used in tables

—	nil
. .	not applicable
r	revised

Definitions

caution

an official warning given at police discretion to juveniles as an alternative to a charge.

charge

a formal accusation of an offence.

child

see *juvenile*.

<i>Childrens Court judge</i>	a District Court judge appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act 1992</i>).
<i>Childrens Court of Queensland</i>	an intermediate court created to deal with juveniles charged with serious offences, child safety appeals pursuant to s117 of the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> and applications under the <i>Surrogacy Act 2010</i> . It is presided over by a Childrens Court judge, who is also a judge of the District Court of Queensland.
<i>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 judgement on an appeal.
<i>defendant</i>	a person charged with a criminal offence. A person 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 committal or transfer to another court).
<i>District Court of Queensland</i>	a court constituted by a District Court judge (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act 1992</i> , and s5, <i>District Court of Queensland Act 1967</i>).
<i>ex officio indictment</i>	an indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of 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 reached 17 years of age. (A person who has attained 17 years 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 and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (QASOC 2008) 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.

detention order a custodial penalty placing a juvenile in a youth detention centre.

boot camp order an order suspending a detention order upon a child, who is aged 13 years or above, entering a boot camp program for a period of at least three months but not more than six months. Such an order requires one month placement at a boot camp centre and the remainder as a period of community supervision.

boot camp (vehicle offences) order an order made in relation to a child who is aged 13 years or above, who usually resides in an area prescribed by regulation and who is a recidivist vehicle offender. The provisions in relation to a “boot camp order” apply.

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

intensive supervision order is a sentencing option for young people who have 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 aged 12 years or above who is found guilty of a graffiti offence, to perform graffiti removal service for a specified number of hours.

probation order a penalty allowing 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 juvenile re-offends during the period of the order.

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

sentence

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

serious offence

an offence that, if committed by an adult, would make the adult liable to imprisonment for life or for 14 years or more (s8, *Youth Justice Act 1992*).

Supreme Court of Queensland

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

trial (criminal)

a hearing (in a District or Supreme Court) before a judge sitting with a jury or (in the Childrens Court of Queensland) by

a judge alone to determine the guilt of a defendant charged with an offence.

***youth justice
conferencing***

a diversionary option based on restorative justice principles whereby the police can divert young offenders from the court system. The victim of an offence has the right to veto any conference.

Interpreting the data

***Breach of juvenile
justice orders***

A juvenile found to have breached the conditions of a juvenile justice order (i.e. conditional release, probation, community service and good behaviour orders) will appear in court for re-sentencing for the offence for which the order was originally made (*Youth Justice Act 1992*). Therefore, as such breaches are not criminal offences, juveniles appearing for re-sentencing have been excluded from the data in this report.

In 2014–15, 413 defendants appeared in Queensland courts for breach of juvenile justice orders compared with 6,515 appearing for criminal offences.

Breaches 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 counted 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 Queensland extension of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (QASOC) 2008. Offences are first classified into one of sixteen divisions using QASOC 2008, then the National Offence Index (2009) is applied to establish an 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 particular interest.

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

Caution

On a crime report, a caution is counted once only for each type of offence committed by an offender. 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 *Youth 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 *Youth Justice Act 1992*, s140).

***Juvenile defendants
disposed of versus
distinct young people
disposed of***

In this report, the Queensland courts and Youth Justice use different terms to explain volume counts. With courts data, a person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period. Whereas, a distinct young person in Youth Justice is counted only once regardless of how many times the young person had a charge disposed of in the reference period.

SUMMARY

Juvenile defendants by court level

There were 6,515 juvenile defendants disposed of in all Queensland courts in 2014–15, a decrease of 8.7% from 7,134 in 2013–14. The number of defendants in the Magistrates Court decreased by 516 (7.7%). Over the same 12-month period in the Childrens Court of Queensland, the number decreased by 97 (23.9%).

In 2014–15, the Magistrates Court disposed of 95.1% of juvenile defendants, the Childrens Court of Queensland 4.7%, and the District and Supreme Courts the remaining 0.2%.

Table 1 Juvenile defendants^(a) by court level of final disposal^(b), Queensland, 2013–14r to 2014–15

Court Level	2013–14r		2014–15		Change
	number	%	number	%	%
Magistrates	6,709	94.0	6,193	95.1	–7.7
Childrens Court of Queensland	405	5.7	308	4.7	–23.9
District	16	0.2	9	0.1	–43.7
Supreme	4	0.1	5	0.1	25
Total	7,134	100.0	6,515	100.0	–8.7

(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

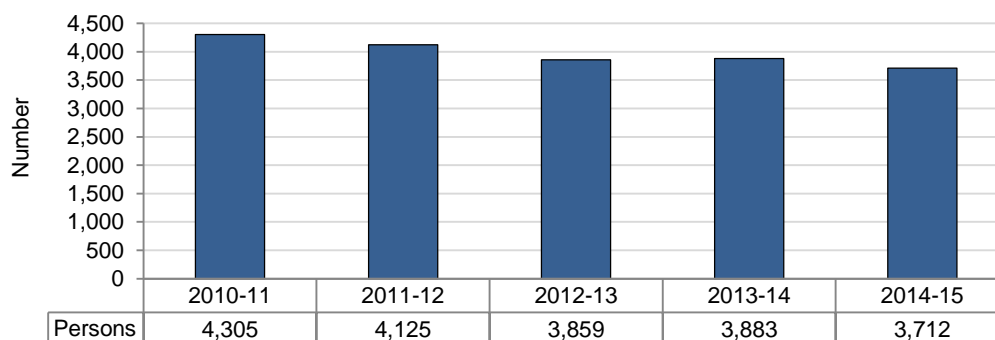
(b) A defendant is disposed of when all the charges against him/her are proved or dismissed or withdrawn. Juveniles committed from a Magistrates Court are disposed of at a higher court and are counted here only at that level.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Following the pattern of previous years, males accounted for 74.4% of all finalised defendant disposals in 2014–15. Fifteen to sixteen year olds represented 55.9% of all defendants, with a further 16.7% aged 14 years. (For more detail refer to Appendix Table 12).

In 2014–15, there were 3,712 distinct young people aged 10 to 17 years who had a charge disposed of in a Queensland court. This represents a 4% decrease from the previous year.

Figure 1 Distinct young people aged 10–17 years with a charge disposed of^{(a)(b)} in a Queensland court



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

(b) Charges disposed of include those that were proven, dismissed or withdrawn.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Young people aged 16 years were consistently the largest single age group with a charge disposed of in a Queensland court, accounting for around one-third of all young people in any given period. Those aged 15 years accounted for a quarter. Apart from some year to year variations, the overall proportions for single age groups with a charge disposed of have remained relatively unchanged over the five years to 2014–15.

Table 2 Distinct young people with a charge disposed of^(a) in a Queensland court, by age

Age ^(b)	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
10	13	24	17	19	23
11	46	41	60	58	52
12	130	138	110	140	157
13	342	324	322	307	315
14	619	609	613	589	602
15	1,061	1,032	949	957	869
16	1,487	1,407	1,233	1,322	1,236
17	607	550	555	491	458
Total	4,305	4,125	3,859	3,883	3,712

(a) Charges disposed of include those that were proven, dismissed or withdrawn.

(b) Age is reported as at the earliest disposal per person per financial year.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Young males continue to outnumber young females across the five years to 2014–15, accounting for 73% or more of all young people with a charge disposed.

Table 3 Distinct young people with a charge disposed of^(a) in a Queensland court, by sex

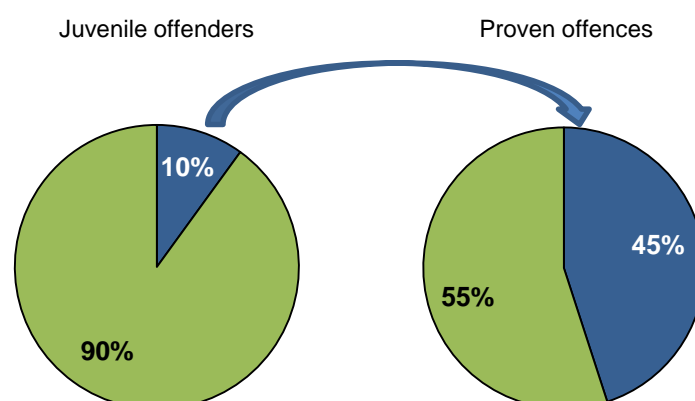
Sex	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Female	26%	25%	25%	26%	27%
Male	74%	75%	75%	74%	73%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

(a) Charges disposed of include those that were proven, dismissed or withdrawn.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

In 2014–15, ten percent of juvenile offenders were responsible for 45% of all proven offences.

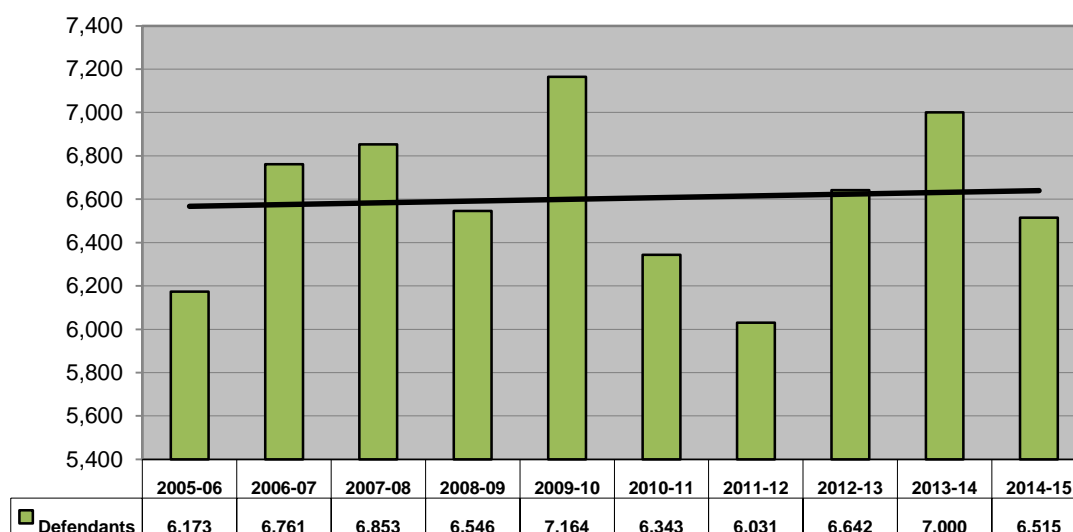
Figure 2 Percentage of proven offences^{(a)(b)} accounted for by juvenile offenders in 2014–15



- (a) This figure is based on proven offences disposed of during 2014–15.
(b) A proven offence excludes charges that were dismissed or withdrawn.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Figure 3 Ten year comparison^(a) of number of juvenile defendants^(b) disposed of^(c) in all Queensland Courts^(d)



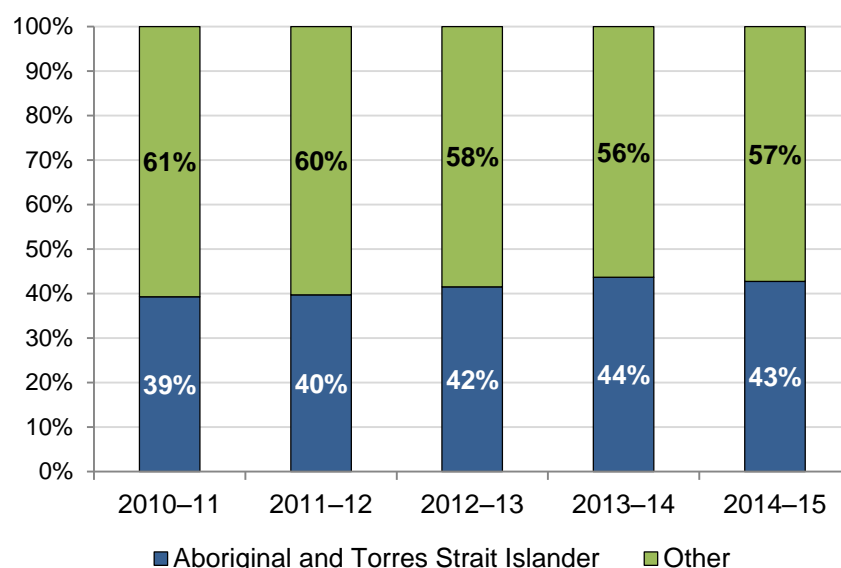
- (a) Figures for all years are as at September 2015, and therefore include revisions.
(b) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.
(c) A defendant is disposed of when all the charges against him/her are proved or dismissed or withdrawn. Breaches of juvenile justice orders are excluded. Juveniles committed from a Magistrates Court are disposed of at a higher court and are counted here only at that level. Similarly, those defendants who are indefinitely referred to youth justice conferencing are not counted here.
(d) Includes counts from all court levels — Magistrates, Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

In 2014–15, young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accounted for 43% of all young people with a charge disposed of in a Queensland court.

Figure 4 Percentage of young people aged 10–17 years with a charge disposed of^(a) in a Queensland court, by Indigenous status^(b)



(a) Charges disposed of include those that were proven, dismissed or withdrawn.

(b) "Other" includes young people who have not identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander or whose Indigenous status is unknown.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 10–17 years were nine times more likely than other young people to have had a charge disposed of in a Queensland Court in 2014–15¹. (Table 4)

Table 4 Rate of young people with a charge disposed of^(a) in a Queensland court per 1,000, by Indigenous status

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	47.9	45.5	44.2	46.6	43.5
Other ^(b)	6.0	5.6	5.1	4.9	4.8

(a) Charges disposed of include those that were proven, dismissed or withdrawn.

(b) "Other" includes those who have not identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander or whose Indigenous status is unknown.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General; 2013 estimated residential population data obtained from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office

¹ The rate at which young people were charged with an offence(s) per 1,000 young people aged 10–17 years is based on the distinct number of young people charged, by Indigenous status.

Charges against juveniles by court level

For all courts, the average number of charges increased from 3.6 per defendant in 2013–14 to 3.7 in 2014–15. The average number of charges per juvenile defendant in the Magistrates Court increased from 3.4 in 2013–14 to 3.6 in 2014–15, and those in the District Court from 2.2 to 7.3. Average charges per defendant in the Childrens Court of Queensland fell from 6.5 in 2013–14 to 5.8 in 2014–15, and in the Supreme Court from 6.5 to 1.8.

The offence categories with the largest number of charges in 2014–15 were theft and related offences with 6,348 charges (26.1%), unlawful entry with intent with 4,067 charges (16.7%), property damage with 3,809 charges (15.6%) and public order offences with 2,892 charges (11.9%). In total, these four offence categories represented 70.3% of all charges against juveniles. (For more detail refer to Appendix Table 1)

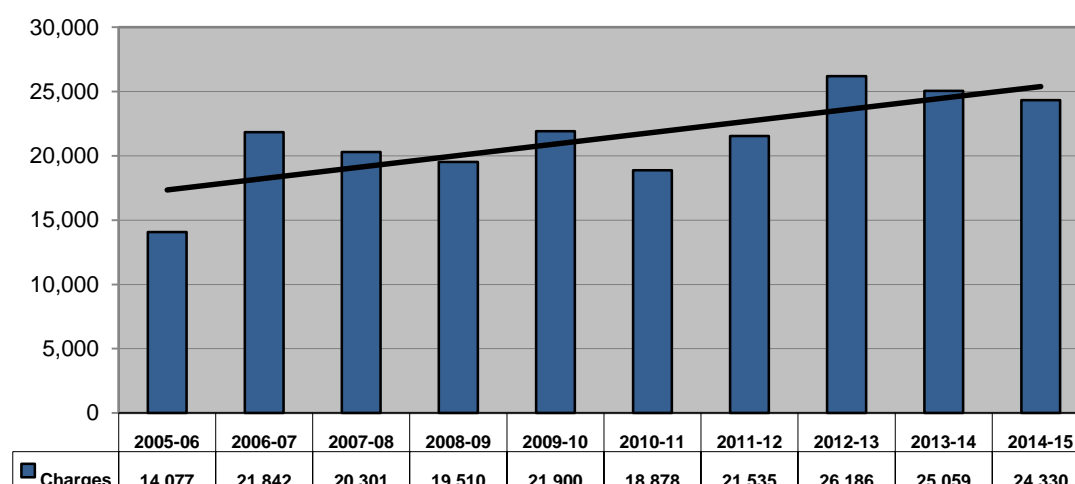
Table 5 Charges against juveniles by court level of final disposal^(a), Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Court Level	2013–14r		2014–15		Change
	number	%	number	%	%
Magistrates	22,876	89.5	22,468	92.3	–1.8
Childrens Court of Queensland	2,637	10.3	1,787	7.3	–32.2
District	35	0.1	66	0.3	88.6
Supreme	26	0.1	9	0.1	–65.4
Total	25,574	100.0	24,330	100.0	–4.9

(a) Charges against juveniles committed from a Magistrates Court are disposed of at a higher court and are counted here only at that level.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Figure 5 Ten year comparison^(a) of number of charges^(b) against juvenile defendants disposed of^(c) in all Queensland courts^(d)



(a) Figures for all years are as at September 2015, and therefore include revisions.

(b) Breaches of juvenile justice orders are excluded.

(c) A charge is disposed of by being proven or dismissed or withdrawn. Charges committed from a Magistrates Court are disposed of at a higher court and are counted here only at that level.

(d) Includes counts from all court levels — Magistrates, Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Penalties received by juvenile offenders

In 2014–15, 86.3% (5,621) of the 6,515 juvenile defendants in Queensland courts were either found guilty or pleaded guilty.

Table 6 Juvenile offenders^(a) by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Penalty^(b)	2013–14r	2014–15	Change %
Detention ^(c)	113	156	38.0
Immediate / conditional release ^(d)	450	355	–21.1
Community service	1,133	1,077	–4.9
Probation	1,229	1,039	–15.5
Fine	53	78	47.2
Compensation	55	35	–36.4
Good behaviour	1,142	1,006	–11.9
Disqualification of drivers licence	10	18	80.0
Reprimand ^(e)	2,001	1,857	–7.2
Total	6,186	5,621	–9.1

(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes imprisonment, intensive supervision orders and boot camp orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Of those found guilty in 2014–15, 156 (or 2.8%) were sentenced to detention, and a further 355 (6.3%) received immediate/conditional release orders.

Reprimands and other minor penalties were ordered for 1,857 offenders (33.0%). The next largest group of 1,077 (19.2%) received a community service order as their most serious penalty, followed by 1,039 (18.5%) with a probation order.

Cautions

Data provided by the Queensland Police Service showed that 10,786 cautions were administered to juveniles in 2014–15, an increase of 654 or 6.4% since 2013–14. In comparison, 6,515 juvenile defendants were disposed of in court in the same period.

As in 2013–14, the greatest number of cautions was administered for theft and related offences (2,998 or 27.8% of all cautions) in 2014–15. A further 1,889 juvenile offenders received a caution for “other offences” (17.5%), including dangerous or negligent acts, public order offences etc (see table footnote, below), and 1,606 for illicit drug offences (14.9%).

Table 7 Juvenile offenders^(a) proceeded against by caution, by offence type, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Offence type ^(b)	2013–14r	2014–15	Change %
Acts intended to cause injury	581	616	6.0
Sexual assault & related offences	857	1,047	22.2
Robbery & extortion	35	13	-62.9
Unlawful entry with intent	1,007	932	-7.4
Theft & related offences	3,032	2,998	-1.1
<i>(Motor vehicle theft)</i>	730	565	-22.6
<i>(Other theft)</i>	2,076	2,225	7.2
<i>(Receiving & handling)</i>	226	208	-8.0
Deception & related offences	241	325	34.8
Illicit drug offences	1,383	1,606	16.1
Property damage	1,150	1,351	17.5
Road traffic offences	8	9	12.5
Other offences ^(c)	1,838	1,889	2.8
Total	10,132	10,786	6.4

(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if he/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) 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

Youth justice conferencing

In 2014–15, the youth justice conferencing program received a total of 894 referrals, a 5% increase in referrals compared with the previous financial year. All referrals to the program were made by Police. Court referrals to the youth justice conferencing program were discontinued in January 2013.

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accounted for 27% (241) of all referrals received in 2014–15, compared with 34% of all referrals in the previous financial year.

In 2014–15, a total of 770 referrals were conferenced, including referrals received in 2013–14 that were conferenced in 2014–15.

Of the referrals conferenced, 97% resulted in an agreement being reached between conference participants; two percentage points higher than in 2013–14. In addition, of those conference participants who responded to a participant satisfaction survey:

- 99 per cent indicated they thought the conference was fair
- 99 per cent were satisfied with the agreement made in the conference
- 99 per cent would tell a friend in the same position to go to a conference.

Table 8 Offences for which young people were proceeded against by community conference, by offence type, 2013–14 and 2014–15

Offence type ^(a)	2013–14 ^(b)	2014–15 ^(b)
Assaults	125	128
<i>(Assault)</i>	119	127
<i>(Other acts intended to cause injury)^(c)</i>	6	1
Sexual Offences	229	150
<i>(Non-assaultive sexual offences)</i>	65	45
<i>(Sexual assault)</i>	164	105
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	17	44
<i>(Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle)</i>	7	14
<i>(Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons)^(c)</i>	10	30
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	12	18
Deprivation of liberty/false imprisonment	8	1
Robbery & extortion	15	7
Fraud and Misappropriation	84	371
<i>(Obtain benefit by deception)</i>	29	133
<i>(Other fraud and deception offences)^(c)</i>	55	238
Theft, breaking and entering etc	1,081	817
<i>(Theft / Unlawful use of MV)</i>	155	94
<i>(Other theft)</i>	406	310
<i>(Receiving, unlawful possession)</i>	72	22
<i>(Breaking and entering)</i>	448	391
Property damage	687	623
Driving, traffic and related offences	95	52
<i>(Licence offences)</i>	44	35
<i>(Other traffic offences)^(c)</i>	51	17
Drug offences	349	125
<i>(Possession or use of drugs)</i>	116	43
<i>(Deal or traffic illicit drugs)</i>	105	43
<i>(Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs)</i>	1	2
<i>(Other drug offences)^(c)</i>	127	37
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	12	22
Public nuisance offences	183	184
<i>(Offensive conduct)</i>	26	22
<i>(Disorderly conduct)</i>	143	154
<i>(Regulated public order offences)</i>	14	8

Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	10	19
<i>(Offences against government operations)</i>	4	7
<i>(Offences against justice procedures)</i>	6	12
Other offences	20	57
Total	2,927	2,618

- (a) Offence categories and sub-categories correspond to Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (Queensland Extension) (QASOC) descriptions, where possible.
- (b) Data are a count of offences for which conferences were held, not a count of conferences held or juvenile offenders who participated in a conference.
- (c) Sub-categories relating to "other" offences include offences which are peripheral to the main offence category.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

THE COURTS

Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland disposed of 1,787 charges against 308 defendants in 2014–15. The majority of defendants in 2014–15 were aged 15 years or older (255 or 82.8%), with 39.6% of all defendants aged 17 years or older, appearing for offences committed before the age of 17. Only 17.2% of defendants were aged less than 15 years.

Table 9 Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile defendants^(a) disposed of by age, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Age	2013–14r	2014–15	Change %
11	1	0	–100.0
12	5	2	–60.0
13	13	8	–38.5
14	50	43	–14.0
15	88	53	–39.8
16	105	80	–23.8
17 & over ^(b)	143	122	–14.7
Total	405	308	–23.9

(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

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

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

The Childrens Court of Queensland disposed of 1,787 charges in 2014–15, 32.2% fewer than the previous year. The average number of charges per defendant also decreased, from 6.5 in 2013–14 to 5.8 in 2014–15.

Table 10 Childrens Court of Queensland: Charges against juveniles disposed of by offence type, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Offence type ^(a)	2013–14r	2014–15	Change %
Homicide and related offences	3	0	–100.0
Acts intended to cause injury	237	187	–21.1
Sexual assault & related offences	221	211	–4.5
Robbery & extortion	319	192	–39.8
Unlawful entry with intent	542	401	–26.0
Theft & related offences	631	368	–41.7
(Motor vehicle theft)	330	187	–43.3
(Other theft)	243	144	–40.7
(Receiving & handling)	58	37	–36.2
Deception & related offences	20	13	–35.0
Illicit drug offences	44	78	77.3
Property damage	365	199	–45.5
Road traffic offences	84	23	–72.6
Other offences ^(b)	171	115	–32.7
Total	2,637	1,787	–32.2

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

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

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Unlawful entry with intent accounted for 22.4% of all charges, followed by theft & related offences at 20.6% in 2013–14. The number of charges for property damage almost halved since 2013–14, to 199 charges, but still represented 11.1% of all charges in 2014–15 compared with 13.8% in 2013–14. (Table 10)

Of the 308 juvenile defendants before the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2014–15, 238 (77.3%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. (Table 11) Of these, 18 offenders (7.6%) received a custodial sentence as their most serious penalty, with a further 73 (30.7%) given an immediate/conditional release order. The most prevalent penalty was probation (42.0%).

Table 11 Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile offenders^(a) by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Penalty^(b)	2013–14r	2014–15	Change %
Detention ^(c)	18	18	–
Immediate / conditional release ^(d)	91	73	–19.8
Community service	73	33	–54.8
Probation	123	100	–18.7
Good behaviour	12	8	–33.3
Reprimand ^(e)	14	6	–57.1
Total	331	238	–28.1

(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes imprisonment, intensive supervision orders and boot camp orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Applications for bail

Table 12 Applications for bail to the Childrens Court of Queensland, 2012–13, 2013–14 and 2014–15^{(a)(b)}

Location	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Beenleigh	1	7	3
Brisbane	50	44	36
Cairns	–	3	2
Hervey Bay	–	–	1
Ipswich	5	12	5
Mackay	–	–	2
Maroochydore	–	–	1
Roma	–	–	1
Southport	–	2	2
Toowoomba	5	3	5
Townsville	2	–	2
Total	63	71	60

(a) This count is based on originating applications lodged at the Childrens Court of Queensland within the reported period.

(b) The count is not a count of defendants as a defendant may apply for bail more than once.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, data current as at 21 August 2015

Appeals

Table 13 Appeals to Childrens Court of Queensland, 2012–13, 2013–14 and 2014–15, Department of Child Safety as respondent ^{(a)(b)(c)}

Location	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Brisbane	9	8	4
Cairns	—	1	1
Hervey Bay	—	1	—
Ipswich	3	—	—
Mackay	1	—	—
Maroochydore	—	1	—
Maryborough	—	1	—
Southport	1	6	7
Toowoomba	—	3	—
Total	14	21	12

- (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 Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services was either respondent or appellant in each of the matters.
- (c) The count is based on the originating appeal document lodged at the Childrens Court of Queensland within the reported period.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, data current as at 21 August 2015

Table 14 Appeals^(a) lodged pursuant to s222 of the *Justices Act 1886*, by court location and financial year, 2010–11 to 2014–15

Court location	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Brisbane	1	0	2	5	4
Cairns	0	0	1	0	0
Ipswich	0	0	0	0	1
Kingaroy	0	0	2	0	0
Maroochydore	0	0	1	0	2
Maryborough	0	1	0	1	0
Southport	1	0	0	0	0
Toowoomba	0	2	0	3	1
Townsville	0	0	0	0	1
Total	2	3	6	9	9

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

Source: Queensland higher courts civil database (QCivil), Department of Justice and Attorney-General, November 2015

Applications for parentage orders

Table 15 **Originating applications to Childrens Court of Queensland for Surrogacy Act parentage orders^(a), 2012–13, 2013–14 and 2014–15^{(b)(c)}**

Originating location	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Brisbane	8	5	9
Rockhampton	1	–	–
Southport	1	–	–
Total	10	5	9

- (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 reporting period.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, data current as at 21 August 2015

Magistrates Court

In 2014–15, 6,468 juvenile defendants were dealt with in the Magistrates Court in Queensland, a decrease of 8.1% from 7,038 in the previous year. Of these, 275 were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence, a decrease of 16.4% since 2013–14 and 6,193 were disposed, either by a guilty finding (5,377 or 86.8%) or by discharge (816 or 13.2%).

Table 16 Magistrates Court: Juvenile defendants^(a) by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Method of finalisation	2013–14r	2014–15	Change %
Committed ^(b)	329	275	–16.4
Disposed	6,709	6,193	–7.7
<i>Found guilty</i>	5,841	5,377	–7.9
<i>Discharged^(c)</i>	868	816	–6.0
Total	7,038	6,468	–8.1

- (a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.
(b) Includes only those appearances where committal to a higher court was the defendant's most serious outcome.
(c) Where all charges against the defendant were dismissed or withdrawn.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

The difference between the 275 juvenile defendants committed to a higher court and the 322 disposed in the Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts in 2014–15 is accounted for by ex officio indictments and matters committed to a higher court in 2013–14 and being disposed in 2014–15.

Of the 23,398 charges against juveniles in the Magistrates Court in 2014–15, 22,468 (96.0%) were disposed, while 930 (4.0%) were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence.

Table 17 Magistrates Court: Charges against juveniles by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Method of finalisation	2013–14r	2014–15	Change %
Committed	1,405	930	–33.8
Disposed	22,876	22,468	–1.8
Total	24,281	23,398	–3.6

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

In 2014–15, 22,468 charges were disposed in the Magistrates Court in 2014–15, 408 (1.8%) less than in the previous year. (Table 17)

The largest number of charges disposed were for theft and related offences (5,974 or 26.6%), followed by "other offences" (4,766 or 21.2%) and unlawful entry with intent (3,651 or 16.2%). (Table 18)

In total, these three offence types accounted for 64.0% of all charges disposed in the Magistrates Court in 2014–15.

Charges for both property damage offences and deception & related offences saw a significant increase, rising from 3,093 to 3,602, and 487 to 862 respectively in the year to 30 June 2015.

Table 18 Magistrates Court: Charges against juveniles disposed^(a) by offence type, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Offence type ^(b)	2013–14r	2014–15	Change %
Acts intended to cause injury	1,241	1,114	–10.2
Sexual assault & related offences	46	41	–10.9
Robbery & extortion	74	45	–39.2
Unlawful entry with intent	4,120	3,651	–11.4
Theft & related offences	6,609	5,974	–9.6
<i>(Motor vehicle theft)</i>	1,898	1,474	–22.3
<i>(Other theft)</i>	3,714	3,561	–4.1
<i>(Receiving & handling)</i>	997	939	–5.8
Deception & related offences	487	862	77.0
Illicit drug offences	874	1,114	27.5
Property damage	3,093	3,602	16.5
Road traffic offences	1,620	1,299	–19.8
Other offences ^(c)	4,712	4,766	1.1
Total	22,876	22,468	–1.8

(a) Excludes committals.

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

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

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Of the 6,193 juvenile defendants disposed of in the Magistrates Court in 2014–15, 5,377 (86.8%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, over one third (1,849 or 34.4%) received a reprimand as their most serious penalty. A custodial sentence was given to 137 offenders (2.5%) and 281 (5.2%) received an immediate/conditional release order as their most serious penalty.

Table 19 Magistrates Court: Juvenile offenders^(a) by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Penalty ^(b)	2013–14r	2014–15	Change %
Detention ^(c)	95	137	44.2
Immediate / conditional release ^(d)	357	281	–21.3
Community service	1,059	1,044	–1.4
Probation	1,097	937	–14.6
Fine	53	78	47.2
Compensation	55	35	–36.4
Good behaviour	1,130	998	–11.7
Disqualification of drivers licence	10	18	80.0
Reprimand ^(e)	1,985	1,849	–6.8
Total	5,841	5,377	–7.9

(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes imprisonment, intensive supervision orders and boot camp orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

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

Table 20 Applications for child protection orders^(a), 2010–11 to 2014–15

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Applications for child protection orders	3,959	3,776	3,951	3,499	3,570

(a) The unit of measurement of workload used for these applications in Childrens Courts is lodgements based on the number of cases.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, data current as at 21 August 2015

Supreme and District Courts

In 2014–15, the Supreme and District Courts disposed 75 charges against 14 juveniles. The number of defendants decreased by 30.0% from 2013–14, whereas the number of charges increased by 22.9%. A District Court Judge who does not have a commission as a Childrens Court Judge has jurisdiction to deal with a juvenile in circumstances where a Childrens Court Judge is unavailable.

In 2014–15, there were 9 charges against 5 defendants disposed of in the Supreme Court, compared with 66 charges against 9 defendants disposed in the District Court.

In 2014–15, 64.3% of the 14 juvenile defendants before the Supreme and District Courts were aged 17 years and older, with the remaining 35.7% aged 16 years. (For more detail refer to Appendix Table 9.)

Table 21 Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile defendants^(a) disposed of, by age, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Age	2013–14r	2014–15
14	1	0
15	3	0
16	7	5
17 & over ^(b)	9	9
Total	20	14

(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed more than once during the reference period.

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

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

In 2014–15, of the 75 charges before Supreme and District Courts, acts intended to cause injury accounted for the largest number, with 16 charges (21.3%), while unlawful entry with intent accounted for 15 charges (20.0%). Sexual assault and related offences accounted for 12 charges (or 16.0%) of the total. (Table 22)

Table 22 Supreme and District Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed of, by offence type, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Offence type ^(a)	2013–14r	2014–15
Homicide and related offences	3	4
Acts intended to cause injury	14	16
Sexual assault & related offences	9	12
Robbery & extortion	12	1
Unlawful entry with intent	1	15
Theft & related offences	1	6
(Motor vehicle theft)	1	4
(Other theft)	0	2
Illicit drug offences	3	2
Property damage	0	8
Road traffic offences	7	1
Other offences ^(b)	11	10
Total	61	75

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

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

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Of the 14 juveniles before the District and Supreme Courts in 2014–15, 6 (42.9%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 1 (16.7%) received detention, 1 (16.7%) received an immediate/conditional release order as their most serious penalty, and 2 (33.3%) were given probation.

Table 23 Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile offenders^(a) by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2013–14r and 2014–15

Penalty ^(b)	2013–14r	2014–15
Detention ^(c)	0	1
Immediate / conditional release ^(d)	2	1
Community service	1	0
Probation	9	2
Reprimand ^(e)	2	2
Total	14	6

(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if disposed more than once during the reference period.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes imprisonment, intensive supervision orders and boot camp orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Time elapsed to finalise court proceedings

For charges disposed of in 2014–15, it took an average of 50 days to finalise proceedings in the Magistrates Court compared with 47 days in 2013–14, and 24 days in 2010–11.

In 2014–15, the average time to finalise proceedings in the Childrens Court of Queensland was 324 days from the date of first mention in a Magistrates Court.

Table 24 Average number of days^(a) to finalise youth justice proceedings, by court type

Court jurisdiction ^(b)	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Magistrates Court	24	42	50	47	50
Childrens Court of Queensland ^(c)	286	279	351	322	324

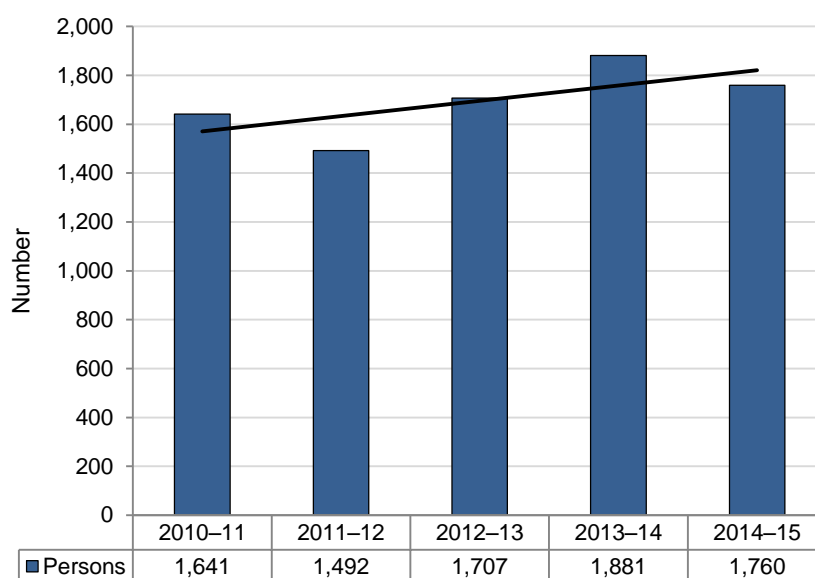
- (a) These figures are based on days elapsed between the date of first mention and date of disposal of each charge, averaged across all charges disposed of in the reported financial year.
- (b) These figures exclude the District Court, Supreme Court and Murri Court due to low numbers of youth justice charges disposed of in these jurisdictions.
- (c) Time elapsed for charges disposed of in the Childrens Court of Queensland is calculated from the date of first mention in a Magistrates Court.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

SUPERVISED YOUTH JUSTICE ORDERS

In 2014–15, 1,760 distinct juvenile offenders aged 10 to 17 years commenced a supervised youth justice order, 6% fewer than the previous period.

Figure 6 Number of distinct juvenile offenders aged 10–17 years commencing a supervised youth justice order^{(a)(b)}



- (a) A supervised youth justice order may commence at a later date than the date the court made the order.
 (b) This count excludes commencements of a supervised release order. A supervised release order is the part of a detention order that is completed in the community.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Juvenile offenders aged 16 years were consistently the largest single age group commencing a supervised youth justice order in any given period (ranging between 28% and 34%), with those aged 15 years the next largest group.

Table 25 Age of juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order

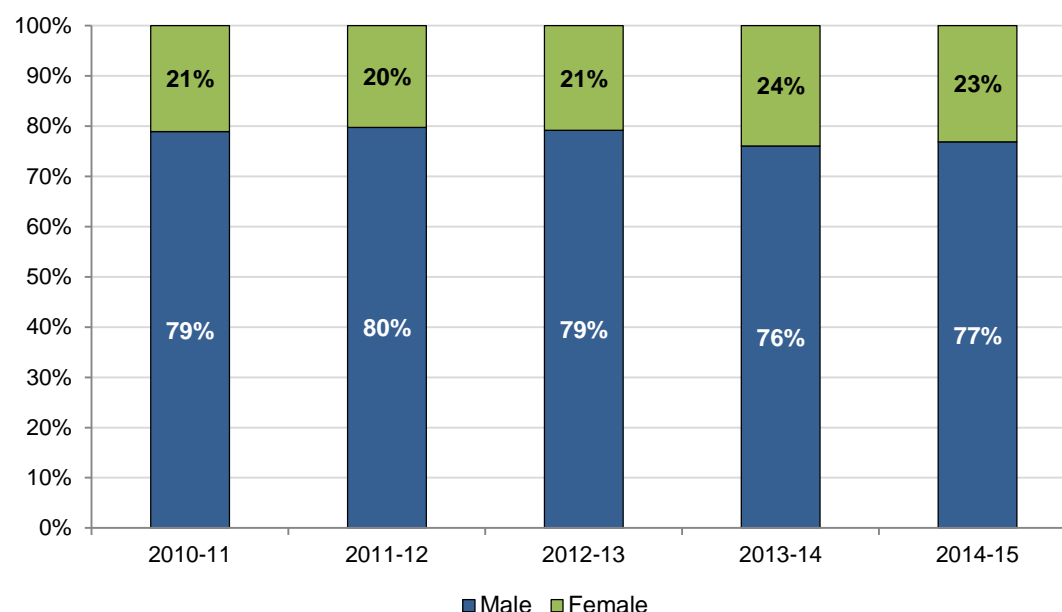
Age ^(a)	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
10	1	3	2	5	4
11	15	16	25	15	19
12	49	37	45	73	71
13	129	115	158	167	166
14	264	235	273	332	295
15	417	367	447	496	431
16	512	511	489	576	559
17	254	208	268	217	215
Total	1,641	1,492	1,707	1,881	1,760

- (a) Age is reported as at the earliest commencement of a supervised order per person per financial year.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Young males commencing a supervised youth justice order continue to outnumber young females by three to one. This pattern has remained consistent during the five years to 2014–15, with young males accounting for 77% or more of juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order.

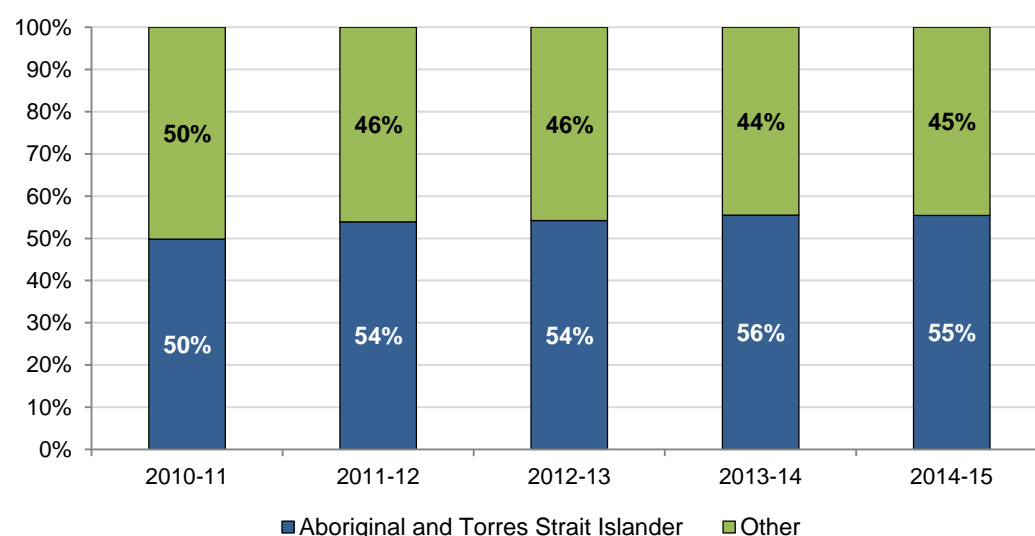
Figure 7 Percentage of juvenile offenders aged 10–17 years commencing a supervised youth justice order, by sex



Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

In 2014–15, young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprised 55% of juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order. There has been an overall increase in the percentage of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people commencing a supervised youth justice order in the past five years, from 50% in 2010–11 to 55% in 2014–15.

Figure 8 Percentage of juvenile offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status^(a)



(a) "Other" includes young people who have not identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander or whose Indigenous status is unknown.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 10–17 years were 17 times more likely than other young people to commence a supervised youth justice order in 2014–15².

Table 26 Rate of young people aged 10–17 years on a supervised youth justice order per 1,000, by Indigenous status

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	18.6	16.9	17.8	19.7	20.6
Other ^(a)	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2

(a) "Other" includes those who have not identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander or whose Indigenous status is unknown.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General; 2013 estimated resident population data obtained from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office

The most prevalent supervised order types commenced by juvenile offenders were probation (averaging 48% of orders commenced in 2010–11 to 2014–15) and community service (29%). Detention (excluding suspended detention) generally accounted for approximately 12% of orders commenced.

Table 27 Supervised youth justice orders commenced^(a) by juvenile offenders, by order type

Order type	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Boot camp ^(b)	–	–	3	15	20
Boot camp (vehicle offences) ^(c)	–	–	–	5	42
Community service	1,108	858	994	1,140	1,024
Conditional release	348	276	260	292	264
Detention ^(d)	439	382	339	464	427
Graffiti removal ^(e)	–	–	–	113	258
Intensive supervision ^(f)	5	8	6	12	14
Probation	1,771	1,449	1,727	1,862	1,615
Total	3,671	2,973	3,329	3,903	3,664

(a) Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of juvenile offenders.

(b) Boot camp orders came into effect in the Cairns area on 31 January 2013 and were temporarily discontinued between April 2013 and December 2013. Boot camp order counts exclude boot camp (vehicle offences) order counts.

(c) Boot camp (vehicle offence) orders came into effect in the Townsville area in April 2014 and expanded to the Cairns area in October 2014.

(d) Detention order counts exclude suspended detention orders associated with a conditional release order or boot camp order.

(e) 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 juvenile 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: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

² The rate at which young people were under a supervised youth justice order per 1,000 young people aged 10–17 years is based on the average daily number of young people under a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status. Excludes conditional bail program.

Community supervision

The majority of community-based supervised orders commenced in 2013–14 were successfully completed by the end of 2014–15 (71% of probation orders and 68% of community service orders). More than four in five graffiti removal orders were successfully completed by 30 June 2015.

Approximately one quarter of probation and community service orders and over one third of conditional release orders were subject to breach action on or before 30 June 2015.

Table 28 Supervised youth justice orders commenced by juvenile offenders in 2013–14: type of order by completion status as at 30 June 2015^(a)

Completion Status at 30 June 2015	Type of Order commenced in 2013–14													
	Probation		Conditional release		Community service		Intensive supervision		Graffiti removal		Boot camp		Boot camp (vehicle offences)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Order successfully completed	1,325	71%	184	63%	780	68%	10	83%	94	83%	7	47%	5	100%
Order remains active	110	6%	1	0%	70	6%	0	0%	5	4%	0	0%	0	0%
Breach action initiated ^(b)	427	23%	107	37%	290	25%	2	17%	14	12%	8	53%	0	0%
Total	1,862	100%	292	100%	1,140	100%	12	100%	113	100%	15	100%	5	100%

(a) Includes orders that commenced during 2013–14. Order status is reported as at 30 June 2015. Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of juvenile offenders.

(b) Orders against which breach action was initiated on or prior to 30 June 2015 are reported as "Breach action initiated" irrespective of the completion status of the order at 30 June 2015.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Table 29 Supervised youth justice orders commenced by juvenile offenders: type of order by completion status as at 30 June of the following period^(a)

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Probation orders commenced									
	2009–10		2010–11		2011–12		2012–13		2013–14	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	1,130	66%	1,303	74%	1,062	73%	1,235	72%	1,325	71%
Remained active	152	9%	136	8%	121	8%	124	7%	110	6%
Breach action initiated ^(b)	443	26%	332	19%	266	18%	368	21%	427	23%
Total	1,725	100%	1,771	100%	1,449	100%	1,727	100%	1,862	100%

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Conditional release orders commenced									
	2009–10		2010–11		2011–12		2012–13		2013–14	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	172	56%	209	60%	198	72%	160	62%	184	63%
Remained active	0	0%	2	1%	1	0%	3	0%	1	0%
Breach action initiated ^(b)	135	44%	137	39%	77	28%	97	37%	107	37%
Total	307	100%	348	100%	276	100%	260	100%	292	100%

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Community service orders commenced									
	2009–10		2010–11		2011–12		2012–13		2013–14	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	671	67%	808	73%	639	74%	714	72%	780	68%
Remained active	51	5%	64	6%	38	4%	58	6%	70	6%
Breach action initiated (b)	282	28%	236	21%	181	21%	222	22%	290	25%
Total	1,004	100%	1,108	100%	858	100%	994	100%	1,140	100%

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Intensive supervision orders commenced									
	2009–10		2010–11		2011–12		2012–13		2013–14	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	5	63%	2	40%	6	75%	3	50%	10	83%
Remained active	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Breach action initiated (b)	3	38%	3	60%	2	25%	3	50%	2	17%
Total	8	100%	5	100%	8	100%	6	100%	12	100%

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Graffiti removal orders commenced									
	2009–10		2010–11		2011–12		2012–13		2013–14	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	94	83%
Remained active	5	4%
Breach action initiated (b)	14	12%
Total	113	100%

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Boot camp orders commenced									
	2009–10		2010–11		2011–12		2012–13		2013–14	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	1	33%	7	47%
Remained active	0	0%	0	0%
Breach action initiated (b)	2	67%	8	53%
Total	3	100%	15	100%

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Boot camp (vehicle offences) orders commenced									
	2009–10		2010–11		2011–12		2012–13		2013–14	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	5	100%
Remained active	0	0%
Breach action initiated (b)	0	0%
Total	5	100%

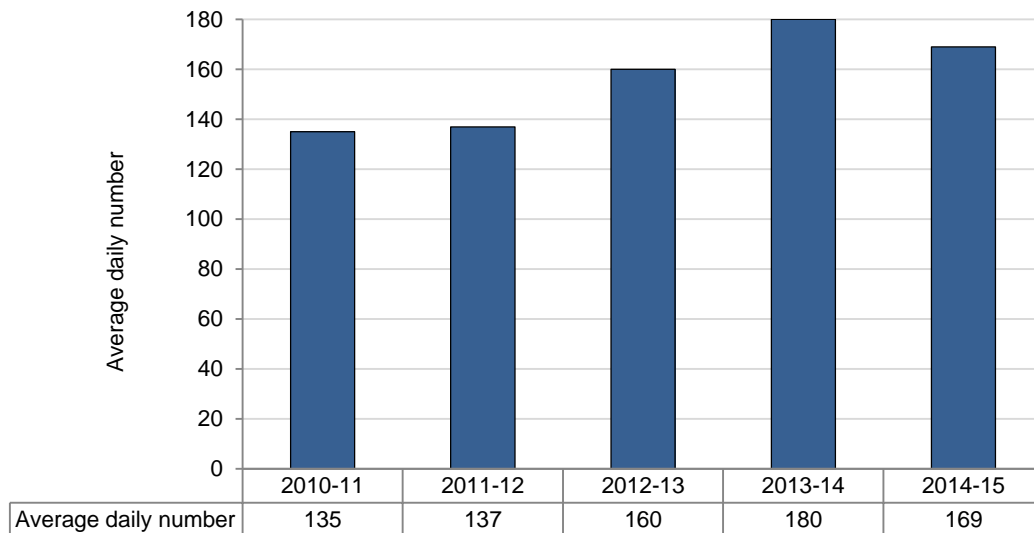
- (a) Orders are reported against the financial year in which they commenced. Order status is reported as at 30 June in the following financial year. Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of juvenile offenders.
- (b) Orders against which breach action was initiated on or prior to 30 June in the following period are reported as "Breach action initiated" irrespective of the completion status of the order at 30 June.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Youth detention

In 2014–15, the average daily number of young people in youth detention was 169, compared with 180 in 2013–14³.

Figure 9 Average daily number of young people in youth detention^(a)



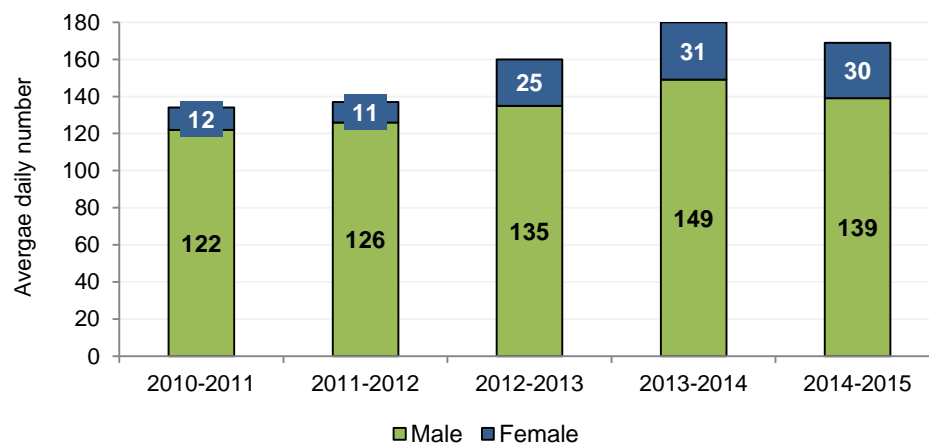
(a) The average daily number of young people in youth detention is calculated based on the number of young people who were physically located in a detention centre at midnight on each night during the period.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Young males continue to outnumber young females in youth detention, accounting for more than 80% of young people on average in any given period. In 2014–15, the rate of young males in youth detention per 1,000 was 0.6, compared with that of young females at 0.1.

However, the increased number of young females entering youth detention has been an emerging issue with the proportion of young females in detention more than doubling in recent years, from 8.3% in 2011–12 to 17.8% in 2014–15.

Figure 10 Average daily number of young people in youth detention, by sex

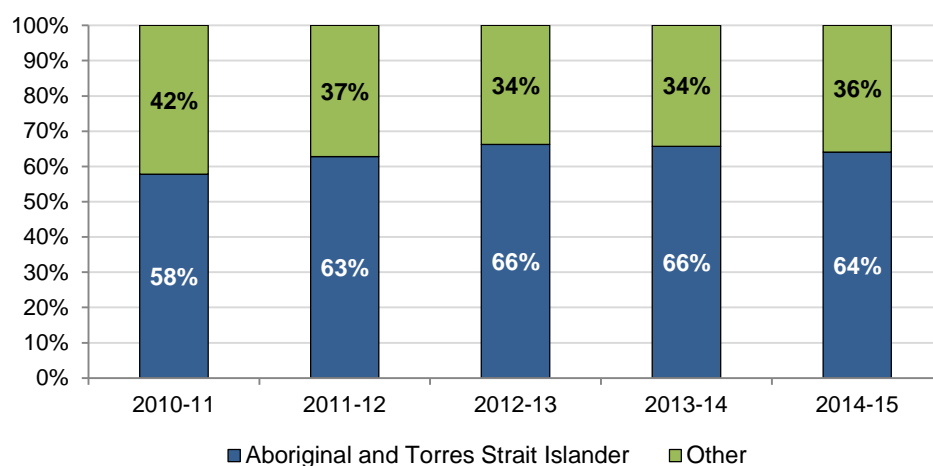


Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

³ Average daily number is counted as at midnight.

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to dominate the numbers in youth detention, accounting for almost two out of every three young people in youth detention on average.

Figure 11 Percentage of average daily number of young people in youth detention, by Indigenous status^(a)



(a) "Other" includes young people who have not identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander or whose Indigenous status is unknown.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 10–17 years were 23 times more likely than other young people to have been in youth detention in 2014–15⁴.

Table 30 Rate of young people in youth detention per 1,000, by Indigenous status

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2.2	2.4	2.9	3.3	3.0
Other ^(a)	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.14	0.13

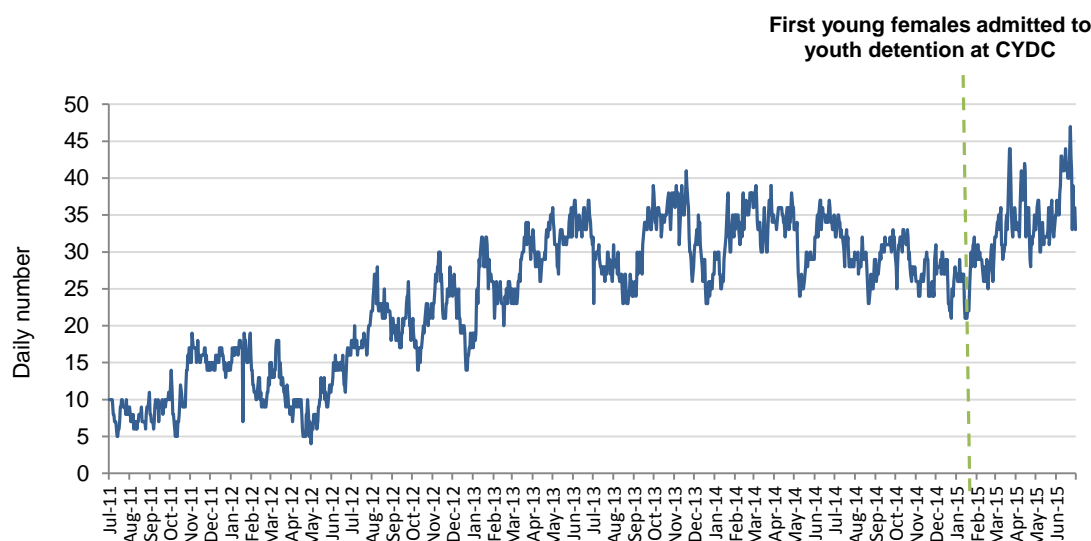
(a) "Other" includes young people who have not identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander or whose Indigenous status is unknown.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General; 2013 estimated resident population data obtained from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office

⁴ The rate at which young people were in youth detention per 1,000 young people aged 10–17 years is based on the average daily number of young people in detention, by Indigenous status.

Figure 12 shows the total daily number of young females in Brisbane and Cleveland youth detention centres between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2015. Young 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 12 Total daily number of young females in youth detention, 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015



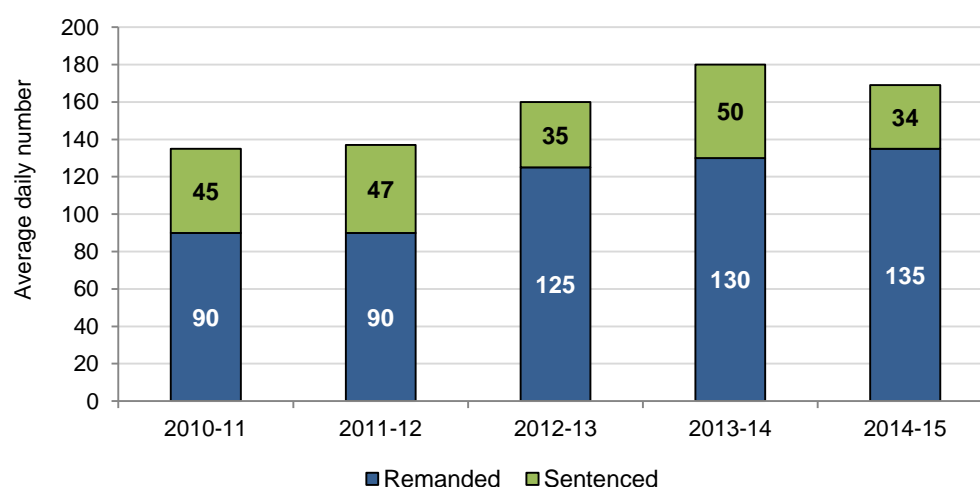
Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Remand in custody

The average daily number of young people in youth detention on remand increased to 135 per day in 2014–15 compared with 130 in the previous year. At the same time, the average daily number in sentenced detention decreased to 34 young people per day compared with 50 in the previous period.

The majority of young people in youth detention are held on remand, with this majority increasing from 67% to 80% between 2010–11 and 2014–15.

Figure 13 Average daily number of young people in youth detention, by legal status



Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

In 2014–15, the average length of time young people spent in youth detention per remand in custody episode was 36 days, compared with an average of 33 days in 2013–14.

Of all detention orders made in 2014–15, 53% resulted in the young person being released from court following sentencing with no time remaining to serve in custody. In 36% of all detention orders the young person was not required to serve a supervised release order. This reflects the number of detention orders where the full duration of the detention order had been served as pre-sentence custody. Approximately half of all detention orders (47%) resulted in the young person serving a period of custody following sentencing.

Table 31 Detention orders by custody status^(a) at time of sentencing

Custodial period status	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Released directly from court following sentencing	42%	38%	55%	43%	53%
<i>Without a supervised release order</i>	31%	26%	35%	27%	36%
<i>With a supervised release order</i>	11%	12%	20%	16%	18%
Custodial period to serve following sentencing	58%	62%	45%	57%	47%

(a) Custody status refers to the period of the detention order to be served in custody.

Source: Youth Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

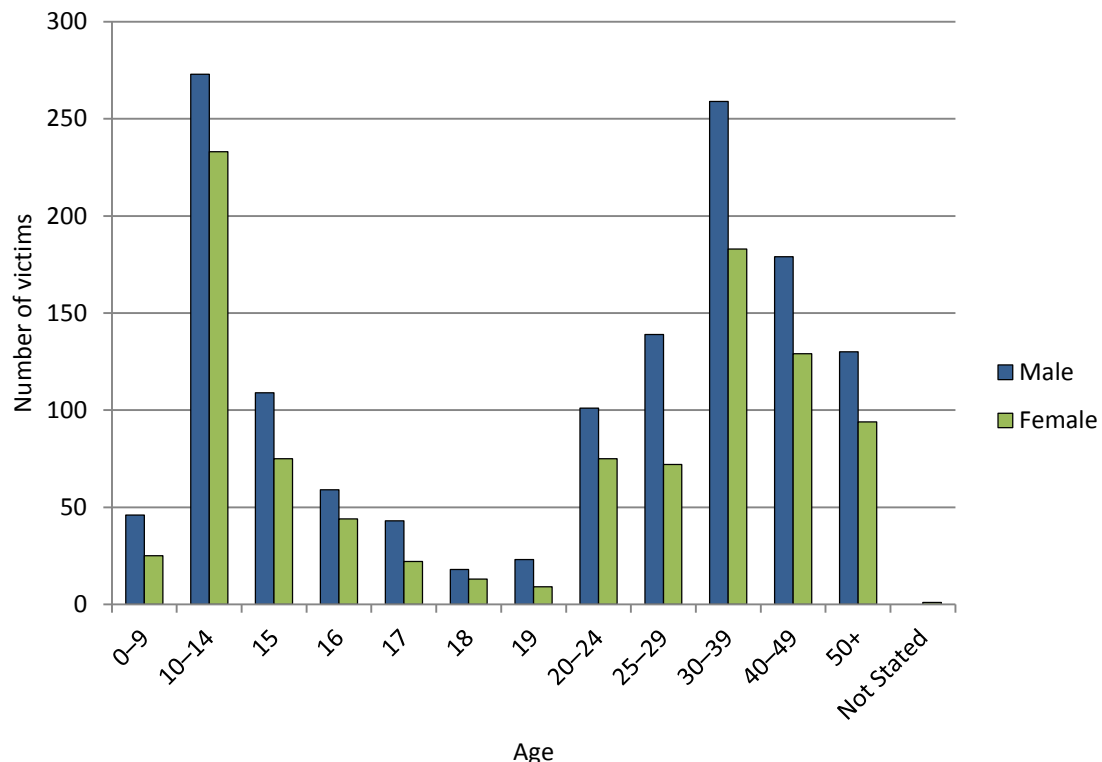
VICTIMS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

The Public Safety Business Agency provided Queensland Police Service (QPS) information about the victims of juvenile offenders. Data were extracted from QPS' statistical system for incidents where at least one of the offenders identified was under the age of 17 years. The incidents extracted were restricted to those involving an offence against the person and where the age of the offender was known. This is the context in which all victim data are reported in this report.

Of the 3,952 victims of offences against the person by juvenile offenders in 2014–15, the majority were under the age of 20 years (57.6% of those where age was recorded), with 29.4% aged 10 to 14 years and 19.4% aged 15 to 19 years. Only 6.8% of victims were aged 50 years or over.

Assault victims accounted for 59.6% of all victims of those juvenile offenders, with 27.7% of those victims aged between 25 and 39 years, 22.6% aged 40 years and over, and a further 21.5% aged between 10 and 14 years. (Figure 14)

Figure 14 Victims of acts intended to cause injury by juvenile offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2014–15

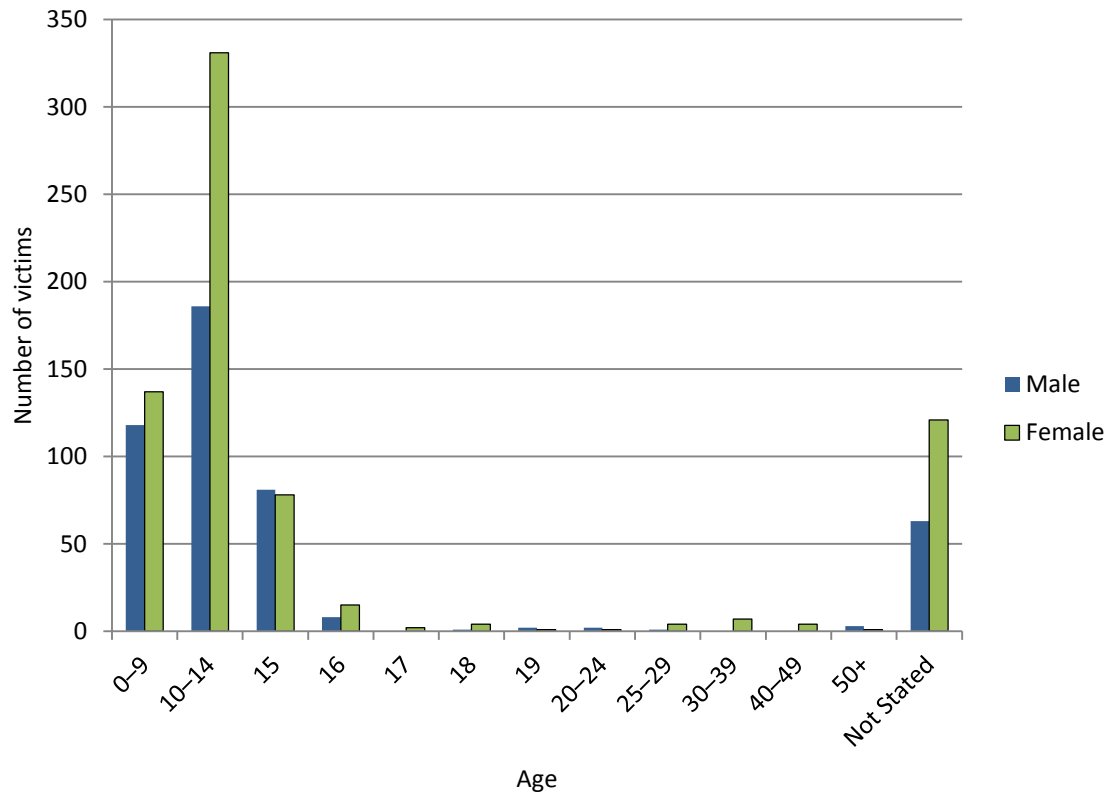


Source: Queensland Police Service unpublished data

Victims of sexual assault and related offences accounted for a further 29.7% of offences against the person by juvenile offenders. Victims aged 10 to 14 years accounted for 44.2% of those, and a further 21.8% were under 10 years of age. (Figure 15)

For all offences against the person committed by juveniles, 52.5% of victims were male. Females comprised 60.2% of sexual offences victims and 41.4% of assault victims, while males comprised 50.7% of robbery victims and 58.5% of assault victims.

Figure 15 Victims of sexual assault and related offences by juvenile offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2014–15



Source: Queensland Police Service unpublished data

APPENDIX

Detailed tables

All tables represent data for Queensland only, for both 2013–14 and 2014–15.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Summary

Table 1 All Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court

Magistrates Court (committals)

Table 2 Juvenile defendants and charges committed for sentence or trial by statistical area level 4 (SA4)

Magistrates Court (disposals)

Table 3 Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex

Figure 1 Juvenile defendants disposed by age

Table 4 Juvenile defendants and charges disposed by SA4

Table 5 Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex

Figure 2 Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty

Childrens Court of Queensland

Table 6 Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex

Figure 3 Juvenile defendants disposed by age

Table 7 Juvenile defendants and charges disposed by SA4

Table 8 Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex

Figure 4 Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty

District and Supreme Courts

Table 9 Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex

Figure 5 Juvenile defendants disposed by age

Table 10 Juvenile defendants and charges disposed by SA4

Table 11 Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex

Figure 6 Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty

All Courts

Table 12 Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex

Figure 7 Juvenile defendants disposed by age

Table 1 All courts: Charges against against juvenile defendants^(a) disposed of by offence type and court type, Queensland

Offence type	2013–14 ^r				2014–15			
	Magistrates Court ^(b)	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Court ^(b)	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
Homicide & related offences	—	3	3	6	—	—	4	4
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Attempted murder	—	3	3	6	—	—	2	2
Manslaughter and driving causing death	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Acts intended to cause injury	1,241	237	14	1,492	1,114	187	16	1,317
Assault	1,231	233	13	1,477	1,109	186	16	1,311
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	10	4	1	15	5	1	—	6
Sexual assault & related offences	46	221	9	276	41	211	12	264
Sexual assault	35	188	9	232	27	137	9	173
Non-assaultive sexual offences	11	33	—	44	14	74	3	91
Dangerous or negligent acts	260	33	1	294	271	21	—	292
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	126	25	—	151	109	16	—	125
Other dangerous or negligent acts	134	8	1	143	162	5	—	167
Abduction & related offences	77	17	5	99	67	10	2	79
Abduction and kidnapping	—	2	—	2	1	2	—	3
Deprivation of Liberty	15	10	3	28	2	3	—	5
Harassment and Threatening Behaviour	62	5	2	69	64	5	2	71
Robbery & extortion	74	319	12	405	45	192	1	238
Robbery	69	318	12	399	39	189	1	229
Blackmail & extortion	5	1	—	6	6	3	—	9
Unlawful entry with intent	4,120	542	1	4,663	3,651	401	15	4,067
Theft & related offences^(c)	6,609	631	1	7,241	5,974	368	6	6,348
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	1,898	330	1	2,229	1,474	187	4	1,665
Other theft & related offences	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	1
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	997	58	—	1,055	939	37	—	976
Theft (except motor vehicles)	3,712	243	—	3,955	3,560	144	2	3,706
Deception & related offences	487	20	—	507	862	13	—	875
Obtain benefit by deception	303	9	—	312	441	5	—	446
Forgery & counterfeiting	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Deceptive business/government practices	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Other fraud and deception offences	177	11	—	188	421	8	—	429
Illicit drug offences	874	44	3	921	1,114	78	2	1,194
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	22	14	1	37	114	47	—	161
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	22	—	1	23	17	—	—	17
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	335	16	—	351	386	15	—	401
Other illicit drug offences	495	14	1	510	597	16	2	615
Weapons & explosives offences	198	7	2	207	217	8	1	226
Prohibited weapons/explosives offences	14	1	—	15	17	3	—	20
Regulated weapons/explosives offences	184	7	1	192	200	5	1	206
Property damage	3,093	365	—	3,458	3,602	199	8	3,809
Property damage	3,091	365	—	3,456	3,602	199	8	3,809
Environmental pollution	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Public order offences	2,769	65	2	2,836	2,861	26	5	2,892
Road traffic offences	1,620	84	7	1,711	1,299	23	1	1,323
Justice & government offences	1,366	44	1	1,411	1,298	48	2	1,348
Breach of justice order ^(d)	32	—	—	32	41	10	—	51
Offences against government operations	56	1	—	57	62	5	—	67
Offences against government security	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Offences against justice procedures	1,278	43	1	1,322	1,192	33	2	1,227
Miscellaneous offences	42	5	—	47	52	2	—	54
Total	22,876	2,637	61	25,574	22,468	1,787	75	24,330

(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

(b) Charges are disposed of at Magistrates Court level by conviction, dismissal or withdrawal, but not by committal or referral to youth justice conference.

(c) Total includes offences not further disaggregated.

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

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Table 2 Magistrates court: Juvenile charges committed for sentence or trial by SA4, Queensland

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2013–14r			2014–15		
	Defendants (a)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants (a)	Charges	Charges per defendant
Brisbane Inner City	51	147	2.88	39	108	2.77
Brisbane East	9	25	2.78	4	7	1.75
Brisbane North	1	2	2.00	—	—	..
Brisbane South	4	20	5.00	3	5	1.67
Cairns	22	114	5.18	35	104	2.97
Darling Downs–Maranoa	6	15	2.50	4	19	4.75
Fitzroy	16	35	2.19	11	21	1.91
Gold Coast	23	83	3.61	22	46	2.09
Ipswich	69	260	3.77	38	99	2.61
Logan–Beaudesert	52	307	5.90	39	149	3.82
Mackay	5	16	3.20	9	81	9.00
Moreton Bay–North	34	200	5.88	27	85	3.15
Moreton Bay–South	14	32	2.29	8	52	6.50
Queensland–Outback	9	18	2.00	5	7	1.40
Sunshine Coast	8	21	2.63	13	27	2.08
Toowoomba	17	33	1.94	11	21	1.91
Townsville	21	54	2.57	18	73	4.06
Wide Bay	13	23	1.77	15	26	1.73
Total	374	1,405	3.76	301	930	3.09

(a) Defendants here include those whose appearance resulted in a committal to a higher court for sentence or trial, regardless of whether or not this was their most serious outcome. A person is counted as a defendant more than once if committed more than once during the reference period.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Table 3 Magistrates Court: Juvenile defendants^(a) disposed of by age and sex, Queensland

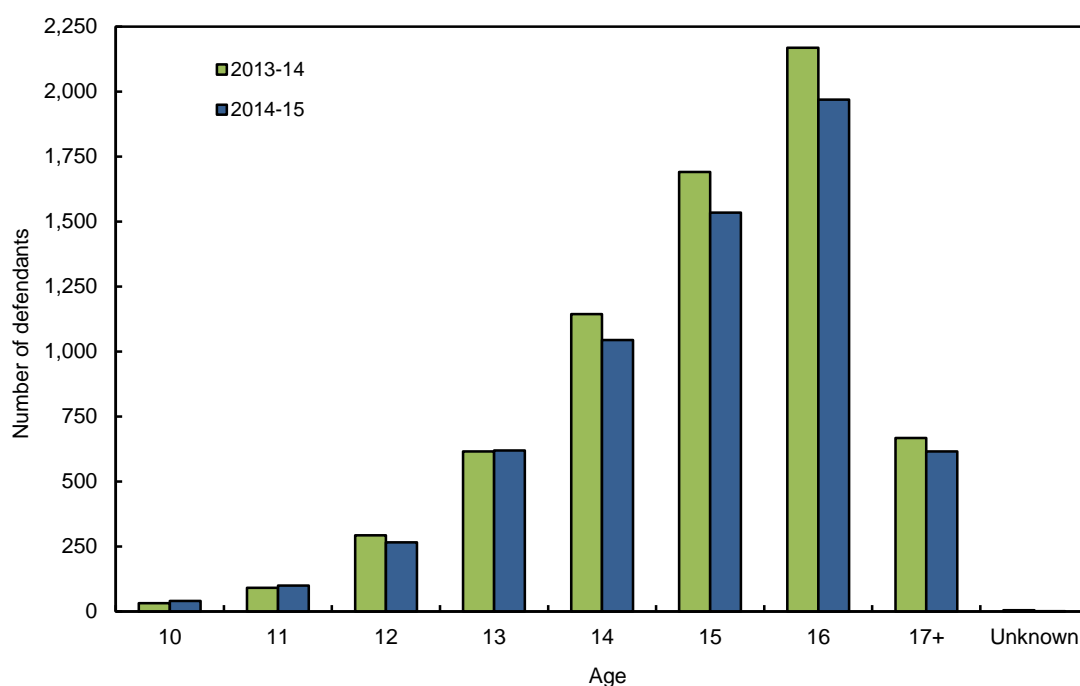
Age	2013–14r			2014–15			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total
10	28	4	32	32	9	41	14.3	125.0	28.1
11	84	8	92	76	24	100	-9.5	200.0	8.7
12	252	41	293	207	59	266	-17.9	43.9	-9.2
13	470	146	616	450	169	620	-4.3	15.8	0.6
14	809	335	1,144	727	318	1,045	-10.1	-5.1	-8.7
15	1,193	498	1,691	1,120	414	1,535	-6.1	-16.9	-9.2
16	1,605	561	2,168	1,491	478	1,969	-7.1	-14.8	-9.2
17+	534	133	668	476	140	616	-10.9	5.3	-7.8
Unknown	3	2	5	—	1	1	-100.0	-50.0	-80.0
Total	4,978	1,728	6,709	4,579	1,612	6,193	-8.0	-6.7	-7.7

(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

(b) Includes five defendants with unknown gender.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Figure 1 Magistrates Court: Juvenile defendants^(a) disposed of by age, Queensland



(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Table 4 Magistrates Court: Juvenile defendants^(a) and charges disposed of by SA4, Queensland

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2013–14r			2014–15		
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant
Brisbane Inner City	640	2,099	3.28	512	2,286	4.46
Brisbane–East	191	674	3.53	164	655	3.99
Brisbane–North	21	94	4.48	14	31	2.21
Brisbane–South	76	211	2.78	50	151	3.02
Cairns	726	2,542	3.50	701	2,200	3.14
Queensland–Outback	470	1,584	3.37	543	1,755	3.23
Townsville	702	2,513	3.58	671	2,320	3.46
Logan–Beaudesert	496	1,849	3.73	544	2,763	5.08
Fitzroy	512	1,640	3.20	353	1,125	3.19
Mackay	163	515	3.16	116	325	2.80
Wide Bay	549	1,807	3.29	517	1,726	3.34
Moreton Bay–North	332	1,216	3.66	318	1,073	3.37
Moreton Bay–South	132	564	4.27	144	590	4.10
Sunshine Coast	240	1,018	4.24	230	1,304	5.67
Gold Coast	311	909	2.92	296	911	3.08
Darling Downs–Maranoa	206	634	3.08	146	487	3.34
Ipswich	624	2,112	3.38	611	1,954	3.20
Toowoomba	318	895	2.81	263	812	3.09
Total	6,709	22,876	3.41	6,193	22,468	3.63

(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Table 5 Magistrates Court: Juvenile offenders^(a) by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland

Penalty ^(b)	2013–14r			2014–15			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total ^(f)	Male	Female	Total
Detention ^(c)	80	15	95	112	25	137	40.0	66.7	44.2
Immediate/conditional release ^(d)	293	64	357	238	43	281	-18.8	-32.8	-21.3
Community service	858	201	1,059	865	179	1,044	0.8	-10.9	-1.4
Probation	803	294	1,097	669	268	937	-16.7	-8.8	-14.6
Fine	43	8	53	59	19	78	37.2	137.5	47.2
Compensation	36	19	55	27	8	35	-25.0	-57.9	-36.4
Good behaviour order	812	318	1,130	738	258	998	-9.1	-18.9	-11.7
Disqualification of licence	9	1	10	16	2	18	77.8	100.0	80.0
Reprimand ^(e)	1,398	586	1,985	1,265	584	1,849	-9.5	-0.3	-6.9
Total	4,332	1,506	5,841	3,989	1,386	5,377	-7.9	-8.0	-7.9

(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

(c) Includes intensive supervision, imprisonment, intensive correction and boot camp orders.

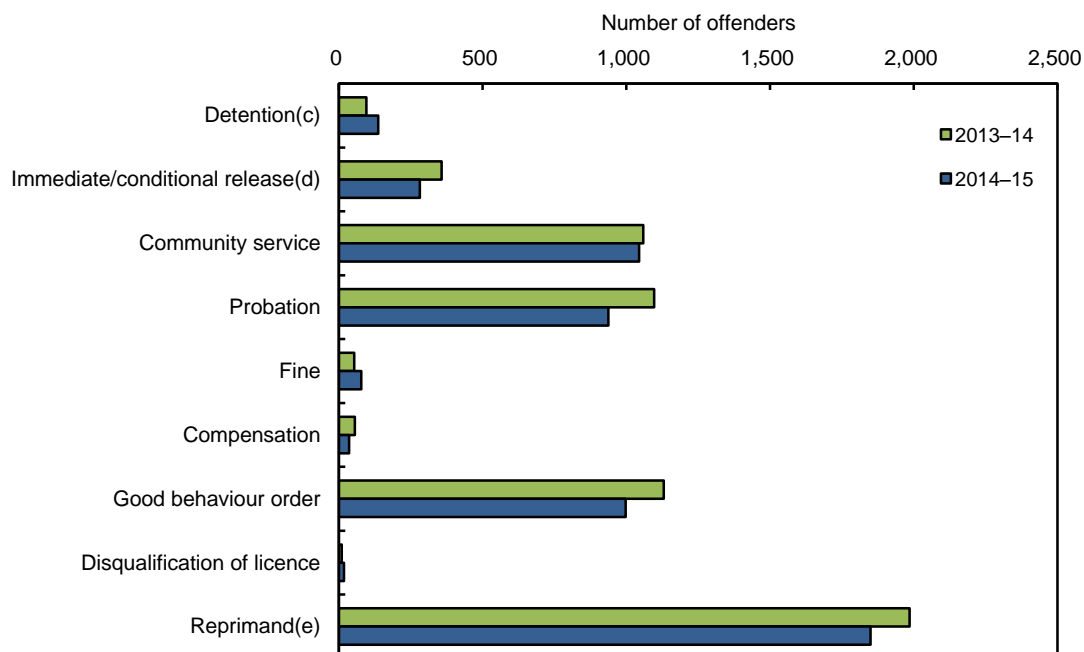
(d) Includes immediate release order and conditional release order.

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

(f) Includes five defendants with unknown gender.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Figure 2 Magistrates Court: Juvenile offenders^(a) by most serious penalty, Queensland



(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

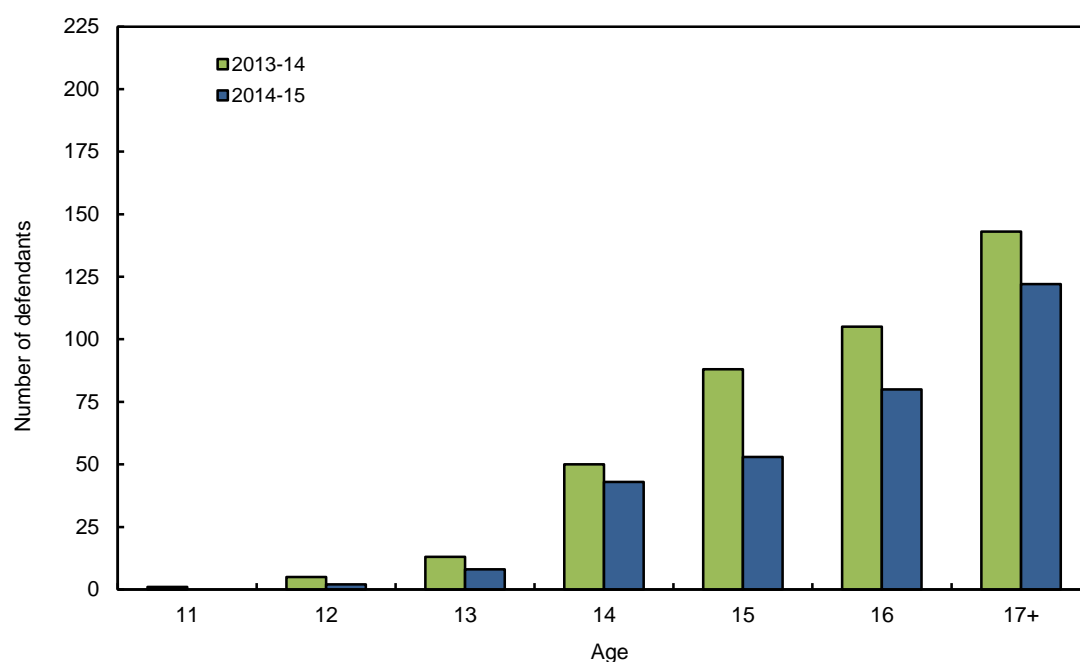
Table 6 Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile defendants^(a) disposed of by age and sex, Queensland

Age	2013–14r			2014–15			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
11	1	—	1	—	—	—	-100.0	. .	-100.0
12	5	—	5	2	—	2	-60.0	. .	-60.0
13	9	4	13	5	3	8	-44.4	-25.0	-38.5
14	40	10	50	35	8	43	-12.5	-20.0	-14.0
15	57	31	88	43	10	53	-24.6	-67.7	-39.8
16	75	30	105	68	12	80	-9.3	-60.0	-23.8
17+	117	26	143	102	20	122	-12.8	-23.1	-14.7
Total	304	101	405	255	53	308	-16.1	-47.5	-24.0

(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Figure 3 Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile defendants^(a) disposed of by age, Queensland



(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Table 7 **Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile defendants^(a) and charges disposed of by SA4, Queensland**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2013–14r			2014–15		
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant
Brisbane Inner City	147	1,035	7.04	92	433	4.71
Cairns	37	320	8.65	40	245	6.13
Queensland–Outback	5	9	1.80	5	43	8.60
Townsville	31	154	4.97	18	114	6.33
Logan–Beaudesert	40	472	11.80	49	536	10.94
Fitzroy	9	31	3.44	12	28	2.33
Mackay	7	15	2.14	8	60	7.50
Wide Bay	10	28	2.80	9	27	3.00
Sunshine Coast	11	46	4.18	14	34	2.43
Gold Coast	31	126	4.06	20	92	4.60
Darling Downs–Maranoa	3	7	2.33	—	—	. .
Ipswich	54	316	5.85	24	117	4.88
Toowoomba	20	78	3.90	17	58	3.41
Total	405	2,637	6.51	308	1,787	5.80

(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Table 8 Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile offenders^(a) by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland

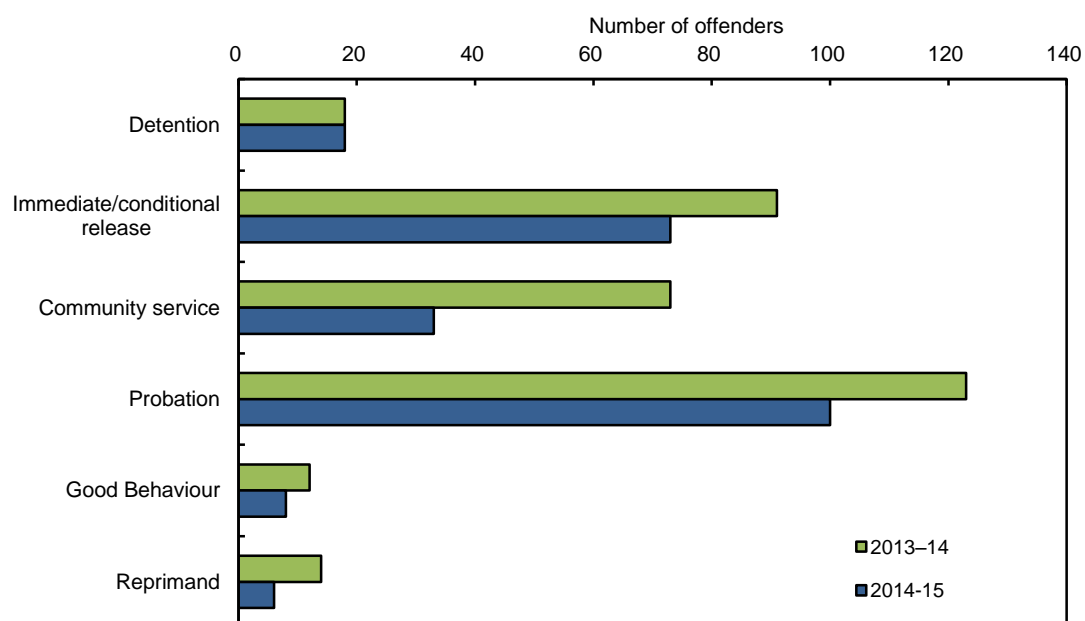
Penalty ^(b)	2013–14 ^r			2014–15			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	16	2	18	16	2	18	—	—	—
Immediate/conditional release	71	20	91	58	15	73	-18.3	-25.0	-19.8
Community service	54	19	73	26	7	33	-51.9	-63.2	-54.8
Probation	83	40	123	82	18	100	-1.2	-55.0	-18.7
Good behaviour order	9	3	12	8	—	8	-11.1	-100.0	-33.3
Reprimand	13	1	14	4	2	6	-69.2	100.0	-57.1
Total	246	85	331	194	44	238	-21.1	-48.2	-28.1

(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Figure 4 Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile offenders^(a) by most serious penalty, Queensland



(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

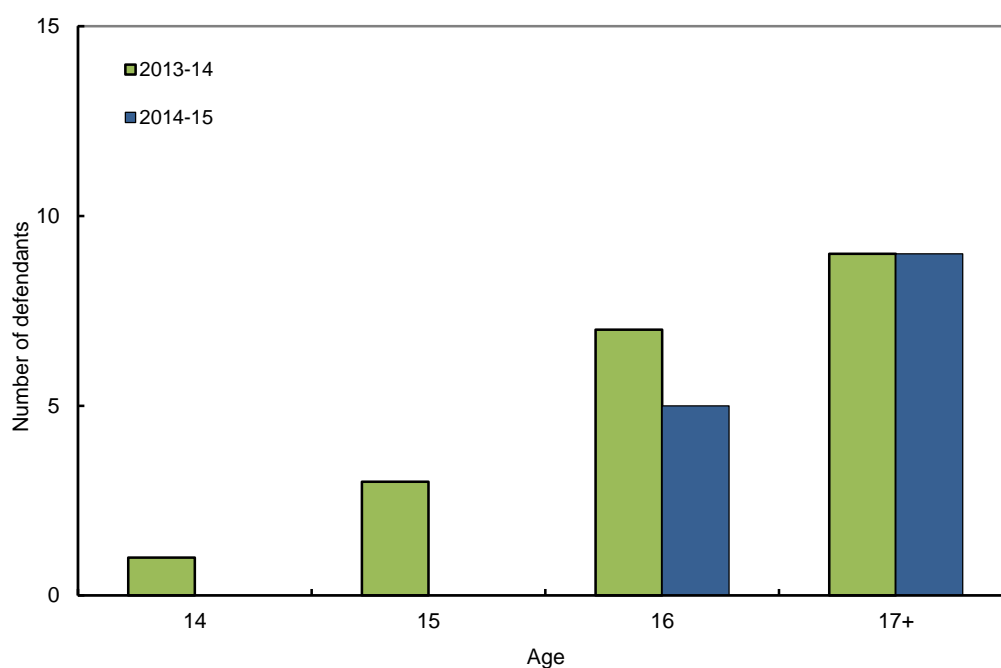
Table 9 Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile defendants^(a) disposed of by age and sex, Queensland

Age	2013–14r			2014–15		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
14	1	—	1	—	—	—
15	3	—	3	—	—	—
16	4	3	7	5	—	5
17+	8	1	9	7	2	9
Total	16	4	20	12	2	14

(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Figure 5 Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile defendants^(a) disposed of by age, Queensland



(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Table 10 **Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile defendants^(a) and charges disposed of by SA4, Queensland**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2013–14r			2014–15		
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant
Brisbane Inner City ^(b)	10	19	1.90	9	31	3.44
Logan–Beaudesert	1	6	6.00	1	10	10.00
Queensland–Outback	—	—	. .	1	30	30.00
Cairns	2	3	1.50	—	—	. .
Ipswich	2	4	2.00	1	1	1.00
Fitzroy	2	2	1.00	1	2	2.00
Wide Bay	—	—	. .	1	1	1.00
Townsville ^(b)	3	27	9.00	—	—	. .
Total	20	61	3.05	14	75	5.36

(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

(b) Includes Supreme and District Courts.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Table 11 Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile offenders^(a) by most serious penalty and sex, Queensland

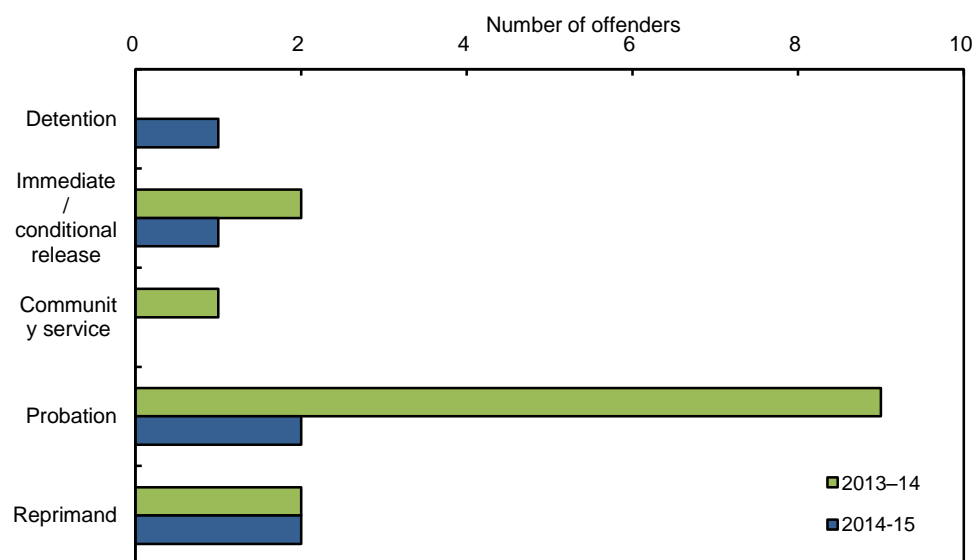
Penalty ^(b)	2013–14r			2014–15		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	—	—	—	—	1	1
Immediate/conditional release	2	—	2	1	—	1
Community service	1	—	1	—	—	—
Probation	6	3	9	2	—	2
Reprimand	2	—	2	2	—	2
Total	11	3	14	5	1	6

(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Figure 6 Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile offenders^(a) by most serious penalty, Queensland



(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Table 12 All Courts: Juvenile defendants^(a) disposed of by age and sex, Queensland

Age	2013–14r			2014–15			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total
10	28	4	32	32	9	41	14.3	125.0	28.1
11	85	8	93	76	24	100	-10.6	200.0	7.5
12	257	41	298	209	59	268	-18.7	43.9	-10.1
13	479	150	629	455	172	628	-5.0	14.7	-0.2
14	850	345	1,195	762	326	1,088	-10.4	-5.5	-9.0
15	1,253	529	1,782	1,163	424	1,588	-7.2	-19.8	-10.9
16	1,684	594	2,280	1,564	490	2,054	-7.1	-17.5	-9.9
17+	659	160	820	585	162	747	-11.2	1.3	-8.9
Unknown	3	2	5	—	1	1	-100.0	-50.0	-80.0
Total^(c)	5,298	1,833	7,134	4,846	1,667	6,515	-8.5	-9.1	-8.7

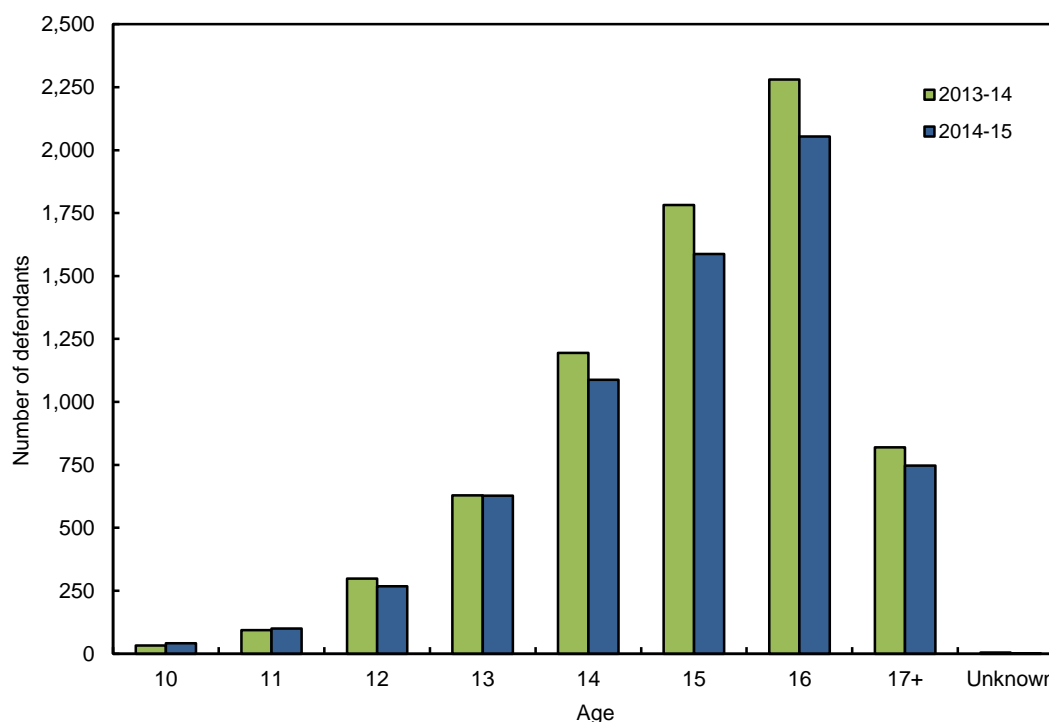
(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

(b) Includes five defendants with unknown gender.

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

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015

Figure 7 All Courts: Juvenile defendants^(a) disposed of by age, Queensland



(a) A person is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.

Source: Courts Database, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, September 2015