



QUEENSLAND
COURTS

Childrens Court of Queensland

Annual Report 2008–2009



Childrens Court Act 1992

CHILDRENS COURT RULES 1997

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**DISTRICT COURT OF
QUEENSLAND**

CHAMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT,
CHILDRENS COURT OF QUEENSLAND

30 November 2009

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The Honourable Cameron Dick MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations
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Dear Attorney

In accordance with the requirements of s. 24 of the *Childrens Court Act 1992*, I am pleased to present the sixteenth annual report of the Childrens Court of Queensland for the year ended 30 June 2009.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Dick'.

Judge JM Dick SC
President of the Childrens Court of Queensland

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Introduction

This is the sixteenth annual report of the Childrens Court of Queensland. As part of my statutory duty as President of the Court, I am required to report annually to the Parliament on the operation of the court in the preceding financial year.

The juvenile justice trends summary has demonstrated an overall decrease in the number of juveniles whose case was disposed of in Queensland.

In the District Court there was a 14.3 per cent decrease in the number of young people appearing before the court.

Most encouragingly there has been an overall decrease in the number of charges against young people.

Perhaps the most pleasing statistic relates to the number of detention and/or immediate/conditional release orders made in 2008–09. The decrease is significantly larger than the decrease in the overall number of charges. These penalties are awarded in only the most serious cases and it is to be hoped the statistics reflect a decrease in these serious charges.

One of the most encouraging statistics in the last two years relates to youth conferencing. In those years, the number of youth conferences held has increased and the conferences are well accepted by all stakeholders as forming part of the juvenile justice framework.

Juvenile justice trends—summary

- Following an increase from 2006–07 to 2007–08, there was an overall decrease of 4.6 per cent in the number of juveniles whose cases were disposed in Queensland, from 6853 in 2007–08 to 6541 in 2008–09.
- There was a 7.3 per cent increase in the number of youth justice conferences held during 2008–09. Forty-seven per cent of conferences were as a result of police referral, 37 per cent were indefinite court referrals, and 16 per cent were pre-sentence court referrals.
- There was a 15.4 per cent decrease in the number of young people coming before the Childrens Court of Queensland. There was a 14.3 per cent decrease in the number appearing before the District Court and a 25.0 per cent decrease in those appearing before the Supreme Court, resulting in an overall decrease across the higher courts of 15.2 per cent.
- There was an overall decrease in the number of charges against young people from 20 301 to 19 033 (or 6.2 per cent) between 2007–08 and 2008–09 respectively.
- Overall males accounted for 76.9 per cent, while 15 to 16 year olds represented 59.7 per cent of juvenile defendants. Young people appearing before the Supreme and District Courts were aged 16 years or older in 78.8 per cent of cases.
- Theft and related offences and unlawful entry with intent offences accounted for 43.3 per cent of all charges against juveniles. These offences saw a combined decrease of 8.1 per cent since 2007–08.
- Detention orders decreased 9.0 per cent from 210 in 2007–08 to 191 in 2008–09; immediate/conditional release orders also decreased 12.4 per cent from 193 to 169. These most serious of penalties were awarded in only 6.7 per cent of cases. Detention orders in the Childrens Court of Queensland decreased 47.9 per cent from 71 to 37, immediate/conditional release orders in that court also decreased by 41.5 per cent compared to 2007–08, from 53 to 31.
- Cautions administered by police decreased, from 14 787 to 14 293.
- The Magistrates Courts disposed of 93.5 per cent of juvenile cases in 2008–09.
- As in previous years, the majority of victims of juvenile offenders were under 20 years of age (61.3 per cent of those where age was recorded) and only 5.2 per cent were aged 50 years or over. Assault victims accounted for 65.2 per cent of all victims of juvenile offenders, with 25.4 per cent of those victims aged between 10 and 14 years.

General

During the year under review, I have taken part in a number of projects linked to the Childrens Court of Queensland.

On 24 February 2009, I met with Associate Professor Clare Tilbury, School of Human Services and Social Work, Griffith University. Professor Tilbury is conducting a national study of Australia's Childrens Courts.

On 26 February 2009, I took part in an ABC talkback interview with students from St Thomas Moore College.

On 1 April 2009, I attended a Protect All Children Today Inc. (PACT) stakeholder consultative meeting.

On 24 April 2009, I attended the official opening of the Youth Advocacy Centre premises at Newmarket.

On 13 May 2009, I attended the Youth Justice Demand Management CEO Forum which was a meeting between representatives of the Department of Communities, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the former Department of Child Safety, the Queensland Police Service and the Childrens Court Magistrate. The purpose of the forum was to:

- discuss key youth justice trends
- seek a mandate for officers of departments to progress initiatives to reduce rates of remand and rates of diversion

- encourage better outcomes for young people involved in the youth justice system.

On 19 May 2009, the *Juvenile Justice and Other Act Amendment Bill 2009* was introduced into state parliament.

In the fifteenth annual report, I identified the importance of the South Pacific Council of Youth and Childrens Courts. I attended the meeting of the council in Samoa in 2007. There was no meeting held in 2008 because of global financial constraints. The council's charter is to support the development of youth justice and child protection systems and the maintenance of law in the region. The council is supported in its activities by UNICEF, AusAID, NZAID and the Pacific Islands Forum. I hope the council resumes its annual meeting next year and that the delegates are invigorated to continue its essential work.

I also extend my sympathy and best wishes after the tsunami to the people of Samoa, Justice Clarence Nelson and his staff who made our conference in 2007 such a memorable experience.

I should note that in 2009, Judge Irwin was granted a commission as a judge of the Childrens Court.

I would like to thank the 22 Childrens Court of Queensland judges whose efforts contribute to the efficiency and productivity of the court.

Judges of the Childrens Court

During the year under report the judges were:

President

Her Honour Judge Julie Dick SC

Judges

His Honour Senior Judge Gilbert Trafford-Walker

His Honour Judge Kerry John O'Brien

His Honour Judge John Elwell Newton

His Honour Judge John Mervyn Robertson

His Honour Judge Clive Frederick Wall RFD, ED

His Honour Judge Robert Douglas Pack

His Honour Judge Nicholas Samios

His Honour Judge Grant Thomas Britton SC

Her Honour Judge Deborah Richards

Her Honour Judge Sarah Bradley

His Honour Judge Michael John Shanahan

His Honour Judge Alan Muir Wilson SC

His Honour Judge Walter Henry Tutt

His Honour Judge Milton Griffin SC

His Honour Judge Ian Francis Macrae Dearden

Her Honour Judge Fleur Kingham

His Honour Judge Stuart Durward SC

His Honour Judge Anthony Rafter SC

His Honour Judge Terence Martin SC

Her Honour Judge Leanne Clare SC

His Honour Judge William G Everson

His Honour Judge Marshall Irwin

Statistical tables and analysis

For a proper understanding of this section, reference should be made to *A Case Restated for the Third Time* (p. 9 in the third annual report), where the court structure is explained. It may also be helpful to refer back to the first annual report under the rubric Statistical Tables (pp. 128–146) for some of the underlying assumptions and general principles which govern the compilation of the statistical data. It should be borne in mind that an unknown number of crimes committed by children are not reflected in this report. This is because these crimes are either not reported or not detected.

There has been a change in the scope of the court statistics, and caution should be used in comparing the data in this report to those published in previous reports. Defendants appearing for resentencing due to breach of juvenile justice orders have been excluded from the data, as such breaches are not criminal offences according to the *Juvenile Justice Act 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).

Explanatory notes

Reference period

The statistics in this report focus on the financial year 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. 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 Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR), Queensland Treasury, using:

- operational data collected by court staff in all criminal courts in Queensland
- juvenile caution and victims data from the Queensland Police Service
- youth justice conferencing data from the Department of Communities.

Symbols used in tables

–	nil
..	not applicable

Definitions

Caution	an official warning given at police discretion to juveniles as an alternative to charging.
Charge	a formal accusation of an offence.
Child	see juvenile.
Childrens Court of Queensland	an intermediate court created to deal with juveniles charged with serious offences. It is presided over by a Childrens Court judge.
Committal	the referral of a case from a Magistrates Court to a higher court for trial or sentence.
Court of Appeal	the Supreme Court sitting in judgement on an appeal.
Defendant	a juvenile charged with a criminal offence. A juvenile is counted as a defendant more than once if disposed of more than once during the reference period.
Disposal	the ultimate finalisation and clearing of all matters to do with a defendant (for instance by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal, but not by transfer to another court).
District Court of Queensland	a court constituted by a District Court judge (see <i>Right of Election</i> , p9; 4 th annual report).
Ex officio indictment	an indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of Prosecutions without a committal.
Guilty finding	a determination by the court or as a result of a guilty plea that a defendant is legally responsible for an offence.
Juvenile	a person younger than 17 years old. A person who has attained 17 years of age may be dealt with as a juvenile if the offence with which he or she is charged was committed before the age of 17 years.
Magistrates Court	a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate or, in some circumstances, by two justices of the peace.
Offence	an act or omission which renders the person doing the act or making the omission liable to punishment.
Offence type	a category within a classification describing the nature of the offence. The Queensland extension of the Australian Standard Offence Code is used in this report.
Offender	a juvenile who has been found guilty, or has pleaded guilty of an offence.

Penalty	<p>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.</p> <p>Penalties include:</p> <p><i>detention orders</i> – custodial penalties placing juveniles in a youth detention centre</p> <p><i>conditional release orders</i> – suspensions by the sentencing court of detention orders against juvenile offenders conditional on participation in a program of up to three months</p> <p><i>intensive supervision orders</i> – 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</p> <p><i>community service orders</i> – supervision penalties requiring offenders to perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work</p> <p><i>probation orders</i> – penalties allowing freedom under supervision for a specified period, conditional upon compliance with the terms of the order</p> <p><i>fines</i> – monetary penalties requiring offenders to make a payment of a specified sum to the Crown</p> <p><i>good behaviour orders</i> – penalties where offenders are ordered to be of good behaviour for a specified period and where a breach thereof may be taken into account if a juvenile re-offends during the period of the order</p> <p><i>reprimands</i> – formal reproofs given by the court to juvenile offenders upon a guilty finding.</p>
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 (<i>Juvenile Justice Act 1992</i> , s. 8).
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 court can then either divert or order a pre-sentence conference or indefinite referral as a method of dealing with a charge. The victim of an offence has the right to veto any conference.

Data issues

There has been a change in the scope of the court statistics in recent years, and caution should be used in comparing the data in this report to those published in early reports.

Breach of juvenile justice orders	<p>a juvenile found to have breached the conditions of a juvenile justice order (ie conditional release, probation, community service and good behaviour orders) will appear in court for re-sentencing for the offence for which the order was originally made (<i>Juvenile Justice Act 1992</i> ss. 129, 135, 154 and 185). Therefore, as such breaches are not criminal offences, juveniles appearing for re-sentencing have been excluded from the data in this report. Earlier reports of the Childrens Court of Queensland have included such breaches.</p> <p>In 2008–09, 149 defendants appeared in Queensland courts for breach of juvenile justice orders compared to 6690 appearing for criminal offences. Breach of justice orders which are criminal offences have been included in the court statistics (for example those related to escaping custody, breach of bail or domestic violence protection orders).</p>
Recording of ages	<p>where possible, age has been calculated from the date of birth of the defendant to the date of finalisation.</p>
Most serious penalty	<p>offenders may receive more than one type of penalty. Tables in this report show the number of offenders by their most serious penalty. For example, a person ordered to be detained and also placed on probation is placed in the 'detention' row only, because it is the more serious penalty.</p>
Percentage totals	<p>in tables in this report, constituent percentages may not add to 100 per cent due to rounding to one decimal place.</p>
Classification of offences	<p>this report shows the classification of charges by 'offence type'. The offence classification used is based on the Australian Standard Offence Classification, Queensland Extension (QASOC) 2000. Offences are first classified into one of sixteen divisions using QASOC 2000 then the National Offence Index (97) is applied to establish an order of seriousness.</p>

These divisions are further broken down into offence types.

The Australian Standard Offence Classification, Queensland Extension (QASOC) 2000 was revised during the 2008–09 period but is currently not applied to the data in this report. Future reports will be released using the Australian Standard Offence Classification, Queensland Extension (QASOC) 2008.

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

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

Cautions

only one caution is counted for each different offence type on a crime report. Thus a person cautioned for three property damage offences will only be counted once for that offence type, and a person cautioned for one burglary offence and one property damage offence will be counted twice, once for each offence type.

The total number of cautions recorded is therefore less than the total number of offences for which offenders were cautioned.

Imprisonment

as a general rule, there is no power of imprisonment as opposed to detention under the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*. In rare cases, however, the power of imprisonment exists. For example, if a person commits a crime as a child, absconds and is arrested pursuant to warrant after attaining the age of 18, the court is empowered in an appropriate case to impose imprisonment by way of penalty (see *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, s.105).

Summary

Juvenile defendants by court level

There were 6541 juveniles whose cases were disposed in all Queensland courts in 2008–09, a decrease of 4.6 per cent from 6853 in 2007–08. Overall the number of juvenile defendants in the Supreme and District Courts decreased by 25.0 per cent and 14.3 per cent respectively.

In 2008–09, Magistrates Courts disposed 93.5 per cent of juvenile defendants, the Childrens Court of Queensland 6.0 per cent, the District Court 0.5 per cent, and the Supreme Court 0.05 per cent.

Juvenile defendants by court level of final disposal^(a), Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Court level	2007–08 ^(b)		2008–09		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Magistrates	6 353	92.7	6 118	93.5	-3.7
Childrens Court of Queensland	461	6.7	390	6.0	-15.4
District	35	0.5	30	0.5	-14.3
Supreme	4	0.1	3	0.05	-25.0
Total	6 853	100.0	6 541	100.0	-4.6

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

(b) Revised.

Following the pattern of previous years, males accounted for 76.9 per cent of all finalised defendants in 2008–09. Fifteen to sixteen year olds represented 59.7 per cent of juvenile defendants, with a further 15.5 per cent aged 17 years and over. (For more detail refer to Table 8.)

Charges against juveniles by court level

The number of defendants in the Childrens Court of Queensland decreased 15.4 per cent in 2008–09, charges heard also decreased by 14.2 per cent. The number of charges per defendant increased from 4.8 to 4.9. The number of defendants in the District Court decreased by 14.3 per cent, charges heard increased by 8.9 per cent. Both defendant and charge numbers decreased in the Supreme and Magistrates Courts in 2008–09.

The offence categories with the largest number of charges were unlawful entry with intent with 3186 charges (17.8 per cent), theft (except motor vehicles) with 2458 charges (13.7 per cent), public order offences 2074 charges (11.6 per cent), road traffic offences with 2001 charges (11.2 per cent) and motor vehicle theft and related offences with 1527 charges (8.5 per cent). In total, unlawful entry with intent, theft and related offences, public order offences and road traffic offences represented over half of all charges against juveniles (66.0 per cent). (For more detail refer to Table 1.)

Charges against juveniles by court level of final disposal (a), Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Court level	2007–08 ^(b)		2008–09		Change
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Magistrates	17 965	88.5	17 088	89.4	-4.9
Children's Court of Queensland	2 220	10.9	1 905	10.0	-14.2
District	101	0.5	110	0.6	8.9
Supreme	15	0.1	10	0.1	-33.3
Total	20 301	100.0	19 033	100.0	-6.2

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

(b) Revised.

Penalties received by juvenile offenders

In 2008–09, 81.8 per cent (5348) of the 6541 juvenile defendants in Queensland's courts were either found guilty or pleaded guilty.

Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Penalty ^(a)	2007–08 ^(b)	2008–09	Change %
Detention ^(c)	210	191	-9.0
Immediate/conditional release ^(d)	193	169	-12.4
Community service	992	827	-16.6
Probation	967	957	-1.0
Fine	296	278	-6.1
Compensation	94	75	-20.2
Good behaviour	974	974	. .
Disqualification of licence	36	42	16.7
Reprimand ^(e)	1 885	1 835	-2.7
Total	5 647	5 348	-5.3

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment and intensive supervision orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Of those found guilty in 2008–09, 191 (or 3.6 per cent) were sentenced to detention, and a further 169 (or 3.2 per cent) received immediate/conditional release orders.

Reprimands and other minor penalties were ordered for 1835 juveniles (34.3 per cent). The next largest group of 974 (18.2 per cent) received good behaviour as their most serious penalty with 957 receiving probation orders (17.9 per cent), followed by 827 (15.5 per cent) receiving community service orders.

Cautions

Data provided by the Queensland Police Service showed that 14 293 juvenile offenders were given cautions in 2008–09, a decrease of 3.3 per cent from 2007–08. In comparison 14 787 charges were disposed against juvenile offenders in court in the last year.

As in 2007–08, the greatest number of cautions were administered for theft and related offences (5470 or 38.3 per cent of all cautions) in 2008–09. Another 3144 juveniles received cautions for other offences (22.0 per cent) and 2086 for property damage (14.6 per cent).

Juvenile offenders proceeded against by caution^(a) by offence type, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Offence type ^(b)	2007–08 ^(c)	2008–09	Change %
Homicide and related offences	—	—	..
Acts intended to cause injury	798	899	12.7
Sexual assault and related offences	168	214	27.4
Robbery and extortion	17	29	70.6
Unlawful entry with intent	1 604	1 417	-11.7
Theft and related offences	5 697	5 470	-4.0
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	340	314	-7.6
<i>[Other theft]</i>	5 039	4 848	-3.8
<i>[Receiving and handling]</i>	318	308	-3.1
Deception and related offences	183	179	-2.2
Illicit drug offences	822	836	1.7
Property damage	2 229	2 086	-6.4
Road traffic offences	28	19	-32.1
Other offences ^(d)	3 241	3 144	-3.0
Total	14 787	14 293	-3.3

(a) A person is counted as an offender more than once if he or she has been cautioned for more than one type of offence, or for offences against more than one victim, or for offences during more than one incident.

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

(c) Revised.

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

Offences before the Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland disposed 1905 charges against 390 defendants in 2008–09, a decrease of 15.4 per cent defendants since 2007–08.

Defendants

The majority of defendants in 2008–09 were aged 15 years or older (353 or 90.5 per cent), with 46.2 per cent of all defendants aged 17 years or older, appearing for offences committed before the age of 17. Only 3.8 per cent of defendants were aged less than 14 years.

Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Age	2007–08 ^(a)	2008–09 ^(c)	Change %
11	2	—	-100.0
12	2	2	. .
13	16	13	-18.8
14	38	21	-44.7
15	90	67	-25.6
16	128	106	-17.2
17 and over ^(b)	182	180	-1.1
Total	461	390	-15.4

(a) Revised.

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

(c) In 2007–08, the total has been adjusted to incorporate three defendants with an unknown age. In 2008–09 the total has been adjusted to incorporate one defendant with an unknown age.

Charges against juveniles

The Childrens Court of Queensland dealt with 1905 charges in 2008–09, a decrease of 14.2 per cent from the previous year. The average number of charges per defendant increased from 4.8 in 2007–08 to 4.9 in 2008–09.

Childrens Court of Queensland: Charges against juveniles disposed^(a) by offence type, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Offence type ^(b)	2007–08 ^(c)	2008–09	Change %
Homicide and related offences	1	—	-100.0
Acts intended to cause injury	210	232	10.5
Sexual assault and related offences	253	127	-49.8
Robbery and extortion	277	211	-23.8
Unlawful entry with intent	639	583	-8.8
Theft and related offences	473	423	-9.9
<i>[Motor vehicle theft]</i>	199	220	11.6
<i>[Other theft]</i>	222	178	-19.8
<i>[Receiving & handling]</i>	52	25	-51.9
Deception and related offences	13	9	-30.8
Illicit drug offences	15	3	-80.0
Property damage	172	213	23.8
Road traffic offences	33	17	-48.5
Other offences ^(d)	134	87	-35.1
Total	2 220	1 905	-14.2

(a) Defendants who are indefinitely referred to youth justice conferencing are not counted here.

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

(c) Revised.

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

Unlawful entry with intent accounted for 30.6 per cent of all charges, a decrease since 2007–08. Theft and related offences accounted for 22.2 per cent of all charges, with motor vehicle theft representing 11.5 per cent and other theft representing 9.3 per cent of these offences.

Penalties received by juvenile offenders

Of the 390 juveniles before the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2008–09, 326 (83.6 per cent) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 37 juvenile offenders (11.3 per cent) received a custodial sentence as their most serious penalty, with a further 31 (9.5 per cent) receiving an immediate/conditional release sentence. The most common penalties were probation (49.7 per cent) and community service orders (21.8 per cent).

Childrens Court of Queensland: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Penalty ^(a)	2007–08 ^(b)	2008–09	Change %
Detention ^(c)	71	37	-47.9
Immediate/conditional release ^(d)	53	31	-41.5
Community service	82	71	-13.4
Probation	139	162	16.5
Fine	—	1	100.0
Compensation	—	1	100.0
Good behaviour	14	11	-21.4
Reprimand ^(e)	11	12	9.1
Total	370	326	-11.9

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment and intensive supervision orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Offences before the Magistrates Courts of Queensland

Juvenile defendants

In 2008–09, 6118 juvenile defendants were dealt with in Magistrates Courts in Queensland, a decrease of 3.7 per cent from 6353 in the previous year. Of these, 325 were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence and 5793 were disposed, either by a guilty finding (5001 or 81.7 per cent) or by discharge (792 or 12.9 per cent).

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile defendants by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Method of finalisation	2007–08 ^(a)	2008–09	Change %
Committed	363	325	-10.5
Disposed ^(b)	5 990	5 793	-3.3
Found guilty	5 247	5 001	-4.7
Discharged ^(c)	743	792	6.6
Total	6 353	6 118	-3.7

(a) Revised.

(b) Defendants who are indefinitely referred to youth justice conferencing are not counted here.

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

The difference between the 325 defendants committed to the higher court and the 423 disposed in the Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts in 2008–09 is accounted for by *ex officio* indictments and matters committed to the higher court in 2007–08 and being disposed in 2008–09. Figures are also influenced by committals made in 2007–08 being disposed in 2008–09.

Charges against juveniles

Of the 17 907 charges against juveniles in 2008–09, 15 882 (88.7 per cent) were disposed in the Magistrates Courts, while 2025 (11.3 per cent) were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence.

Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles by method of finalisation, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Method of finalisation	2007–08 ^(a)	2008–09	Change %
Committed	1 196	1 126	-5.9
Disposed ^(b)	16 769	15 882	-5.3
Total	17 965	17 008	-5.3

(a) Revised.

(b) Charges of defendants who are indefinitely referred to youth justice conferencing are not counted here.

The largest number of charges disposed were for theft and related offences (4133 or 26.0 per cent), followed by unlawful entry with intent (2597 or 16.4 per cent) and road traffic offences (1983 or 12.5 per cent).

In total, theft and related offences, unlawful entry with intent and road traffic offences accounted for 54.9 per cent of all charges disposed in the Magistrates Court.

Magistrates Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Offence type ^(a)	2007–08 ^(b)	2008–09	Change %
Homicide and related offences	1	9	800.0
Acts intended to cause injury	842	916	8.8
Sexual assault and related offences	53	74	39.6
Robbery and extortion	134	130	-3.0
Unlawful entry with intent	2 858	2 597	-9.1
Theft and related offences	4 434	4 133	-6.8
[Motor vehicle theft]	1 539	1 300	-15.5
[Other theft]	2 368	2 294	-3.1
[Receiving & handling]	527	539	2.3
Deception and related offences	330	281	-14.8
Illicit drug offences	460	367	-20.2
Property damage	1 537	1 572	2.3
Road traffic offences	2 124	1 983	-6.6
Other offences ^(c)	3 996	3 820	-4.4
Total	16 769	15 882	-5.3

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

(b) Revised.

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

Penalties received by juvenile offenders

Of the 6118 juvenile defendants disposed in Magistrates Court in 2008–09, 5001 (81.7 per cent) were found guilty or pleaded guilty. Of these, 149 offenders (3.0 per cent) received a custodial sentence as their most serious penalty, with a further 136 (2.7 per cent) receiving immediate/conditional release orders. Over one third of juveniles (1823 or 36.5 per cent) received a reprimand, 960 (19.2 per cent) received a good behaviour order, 789 (15.8 per cent) received probation and 751 (15.0 per cent) received a community service order as their most serious penalty.

Magistrates Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Penalty ^(a)	2007–08 ^(b)	2008–09	Change %
Detention ^(c)	134	149	11.2
Immediate/conditional release ^(d)	135	136	0.7
Community service	902	751	-16.7
Probation	817	789	-3.4
Fine	296	277	-6.4
Compensation	94	74	-21.3
Good behaviour	960	960	. .
Disqualification of licence	36	42	16.7
Reprimand ^(e)	1 873	1 823	-2.7
Total	5 247	5 001	-4.7

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment orders and intensive supervision orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Offences before the Supreme and District Courts of Queensland

In 2008–09, Supreme and District Courts disposed 120 charges against 33 juveniles. This was a decrease of 15.4 per cent in the number of defendants from 2007–08. In comparison, defendants and charges dealt with in the Childrens Court of Queensland also showed a decrease.

The Supreme Court disposed a small proportion of the charges and defendants. In 2008–09, there were 10 charges against three defendants disposed in the Supreme Court, compared with 110 charges against 30 defendants disposed in the District Court.

Defendants

In 2008–09, 78.8 per cent of juvenile defendants before the Supreme and District Courts were aged 16 years and older, with a further 12.1 per cent aged 15 years. The majority of defendants were male (72.7 per cent). For more detail refer to Table 5.

Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile defendants disposed by age, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Age	2007–08 ^(a)	2008–09	Change %
13	2	—	-100.0
14	—	3	300.0
15	4	4	. .
16	9	4	-55.6
17 and over ^(b)	24	22	-8.3
Total	39	33	-15.4

(a) Revised.

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

Charges against juveniles

Of the 120 charges before Supreme and District Courts, acts intended to cause injury accounted for the largest number with 33 charges (27.5 per cent), while sexual assault accounted for 27 charges (22.5 per cent of the total). Within theft and related offences (8.3 per cent of the total), the largest number of charges were for motor vehicle theft (seven or 70.0 per cent) and receiving and handling (two or 20.0 per cent). Unlawful entry with intent offence accounted for six charges (5.0 per cent).

Supreme and District Courts: Charges against juveniles disposed by offence type, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Offence type ^(a)	2007–08 ^(b)	2008–09	Change %
Homicide and related offences	6	1	-83.3
Acts intended to cause injury	35	33	-5.7
Sexual assault and related offences	26	27	3.8
Robbery and extortion	3	15	400.0
Unlawful entry with intent	25	6	-76.0
Theft and related offences	7	10	42.9
[Motor vehicle theft]	2	7	250.0
[Other theft]	5	1	-80.0
[Receiving and handling]	—	2	200.0
Deception and related offences	—	—	..
Illicit drug offences	6	7	16.7
Property damage	3	5	66.7
Road traffic offences	2	1	-50.0
Other offences ^(c)	3	15	400
Total	116	120	3.4

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

(b) Revised.

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

Penalties received by juvenile offenders

Of the 33 juveniles before the District and Supreme Courts in 2008–09, 21 (63.6 per cent) were found guilty or had pleaded guilty. Of these, six (28.6 per cent) received probation as their most serious penalty, five (or 23.8 per cent) received a detention order, five (23.8 per cent) received a community service order and three (14.3 per cent) received a good behaviour order.

Supreme and District Courts: Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Penalty ^(a)	2007–08 ^(b)	2008–09	Change %
Detention ^(c)	5	5	0.0
Immediate/conditional release ^(d)	5	2	-60.0
Community service	8	5	-37.5
Probation	11	6	-45.5
Fine	—	—	..
Compensation	—	—	..
Good behaviour	—	3	300.0
Reprimand ^(e)	1	—	-100.0
Total	30	21	-30.0

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment orders and intensive supervision orders.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Compliance with court orders

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

In 2007–08 there were 2832 admissions to these types of orders. Of these, 1578 (55.7 per cent) were probation, 1048 (37.0 per cent) were community service orders, 203 (7.2 per cent) were conditional release orders and 3 (0.1 per cent) were intensive supervision orders.

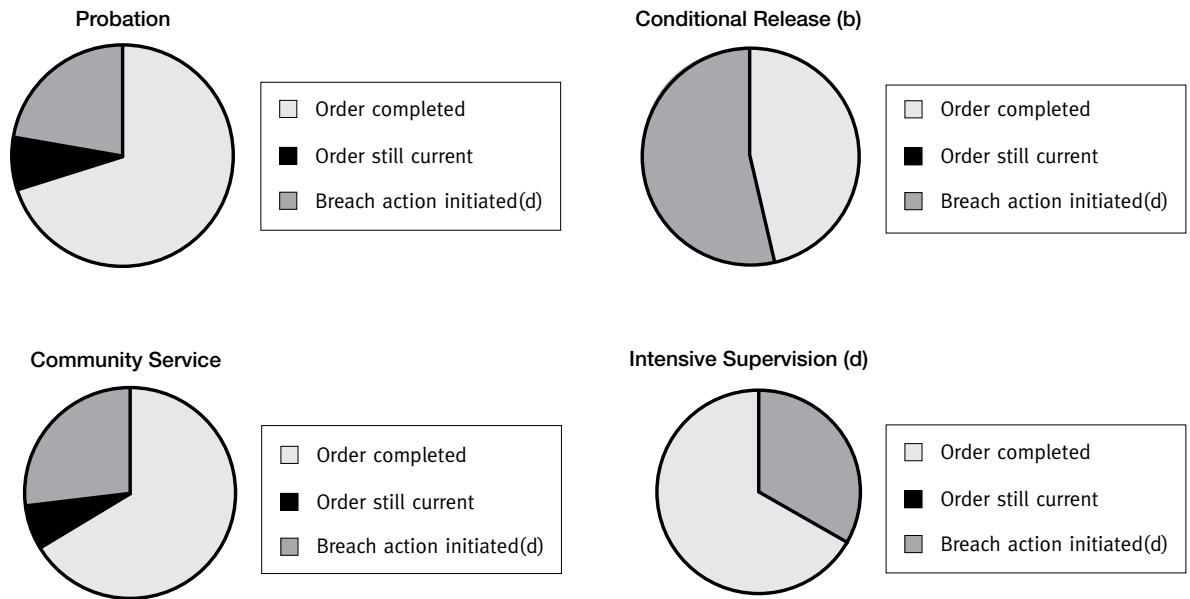
Orders breached

Orders can be breached either by the juvenile re-offending during the period of the order or by not meeting other conditions of the order.

The majority (67.0 per cent) of orders made in 2007–08 had been complied with and completed by 30 June 2009.

Of community service orders from 2007–08, 6.7 per cent were still in effect 12 months after the end of that year, and of probation orders 7.5 per cent were still in effect. Probation orders may be up to three years in length. The length of time within which community service orders should be completed is 12 months. Longer periods may be due to subsequent variations to the original order, including extension of orders and those which are not administratively closed after the specified date. Immediate release orders are a maximum of three months in duration.

**Admissions to orders against juveniles in 2007–08:
Type of order by completion status at 30 June 2009, Queensland^(a)**



Admissions orders are counted once for each type of order made in the same court on the same day. Admissions to combined orders are counted under the main order category (e.g., a probation/community service order is counted as a probation order).

- (a) Formerly “Immediate Release Orders”.
- (b) Intensive Supervision Orders (ISOs) are a sentencing option for young people 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.
- (c) If an order has had a breach action initiated, it will not be counted as being completed or still current, even if the order had been completed or was still current (at 30 June 2009) as a result of the action.

Source: Families and Youth Justice Database Department of Communities, preliminary data current as at 5 November 2009.

Victims of juvenile offenders

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

Of the 3882 victims of juvenile offenders in 2008–09, the majority were under the age of 20 years (61.3 per cent of those where age was recorded), with 27.6 per cent aged 10 to 14 years and 27.0 per cent aged 15 to 19 years. Only 5.2 per cent of victims were aged 50 years or over.

Assault victims accounted for 65.2 per cent of all victims of juvenile offenders, with 25.4 per cent of those victims aged between 10 and 14 years and a further 22.3 per cent aged between 25 and 39 years.

Victims aged 10 to 14 years accounted for 51.3 per cent of victims of sexual offences by juvenile offenders, and a further 31.3 per cent were under 10 years of age.

For offences committed by juveniles, 54.8 per cent of victims were male. Males comprised 70.8 per cent of robbery victims and 58.1 per cent of assault victims, while females comprised 72.5 per cent of sexual assault victims and 41.9 per cent of assault victims.

Youth justice conferencing

In 2008–2009 the Youth Justice Conferencing Program, Department of Communities, received 2846 referrals. This represents an increase of 194 referrals or 7.3 per cent from the previous year. During the same period 2633 referrals were conferenced, 426 (19.3 per cent) more than in 2007–2008.

Courts referred 1051 (37 per cent) indefinite and 458 (16 per cent) before sentence matters while 1337 (47 per cent) diversionary referrals were made by police. Of these, Indigenous young people accounted for 26 per cent of all referrals received. Male offenders comprised 75 per cent of all referrals.

In 2008–09, 12 Indigenous Conference Support Officer positions were recurrently funded across Queensland. The role of the Indigenous Conference Support Officer is to assist youth justice conferencing staff in engaging with Indigenous young people, victims, families and communities in a culturally appropriate manner to improve conference outcomes for Indigenous clients.

Youth justice conferencing has continued to achieve restorative justice outcomes where young people and victims reach agreement about how the young person can make amends for the offence they have committed. Of the 2633 youth justice conferences held in 2008–09, 96 per cent resulted in an agreement being reached. Referrals that do not proceed to conference are returned to either police or the courts for further action.

Every person who attends a conference, including young people and victims, has opportunity to provide feedback of their experience. The responses received in 2008–09 indicated that 98.9 per cent (9103 responses) thought that the process was fair, 98.4 per cent (8998 responses) were satisfied with the agreement made and 97.6 per cent (8376 responses) would tell a friend in the same position as them to go to a conference.

Offences for which juvenile offenders were proceeded against by youth justice conference, by offence type, 2008–09.

Offence type ^(a)	2007–08	2008–09	Change %
Assaults ^(b)	655	830	26.7
<i>[Major assault]</i>	235	273	16.2
<i>[Minor assault]</i>	306	394	28.8
<i>[Other violations of persons]</i>	–	163	..
Sexual Offences	40	87	117.5
<i>[Rape]</i>	3	4	33.3
<i>[Other sexual offences]</i>	37	83	124.3
Robbery and extortion	81	91	12.3
Fraud and misappropriation	220	271	23.2
Theft, breaking and entering, etc.	2 714	3 216	18.5
<i>[Theft / unlawful Use of MV]</i>	536	648	20.9
<i>[Other theft]</i>	1 134	1 180	4.1
<i>[Receiving, unlawful possession]</i>	128	138	7.8
<i>[Breaking and entering](c)</i>	916	1 250	36.5
Property damage	1 308	1 613	23.3
<i>[Arson]</i>	14	55	292.9
<i>[Other property damage]</i>	1 294	1 558	20.4
Driving, traffic and related offences	355	449	26.5
<i>[Licence offences]</i>	192	239	24.5
<i>[Driving under the influence]</i>	29	48	65.5
<i>[Dangerous or negligent driving]</i>	22	28	27.3
<i>[Other traffic offences]</i>	112	134	19.6
Drug offences	150	135	-10.0
<i>[Possession or use of drugs]</i>	73	53	-27.4
<i>[Other drug offences](d)</i>	77	82	6.5
Public nuisance offences	277	316	14.1
<i>[Trespassing and vagrancy]</i>	259	284	9.7
<i>[Offensive behaviour]</i>	18	32	77.8
Other offences ^(e)	380	447	17.6
Total	6 180	7 455	20.6

*NB: all data valid as at 5 November 2009

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

(b) Major assault includes = Assault occasioning bodily harm + Assault occasioning bodily harm in company + other. Minor assault includes = Common assault + Resist and Obstruct police + other.

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

(d) Other drug offences = Dealing & trafficking in drugs + Manufacturing & growing drugs + Other drug offences.

(e) Other offences = Drunkenness + weapons offences + Environmental offences + Liquor offences + Gambling + Other.

NB – Total offences (5741) differs from the number of conferences held (2040) as multiple offences may be handled in one conference.

Source: Youth Justice Operations Unit, Department of Communities

Detailed tables

Summary, Queensland 2007–08 and 2008–09

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Table 1 All courts—charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court

Offence type	2007–08 ^(b)				2008–09			
	Magistrates Courts ^(a)	Childrens Court of Qld	District and Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts ^(a)	Childrens Court of Qld	District and Supreme Courts	Total
Homicide and related offences	1	1	6	8	9	—	1	10
Murder	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	1
Conspiracy to murder	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder	—	—	4	4	9	—	—	9
Manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Driving causing death	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acts intended to cause injury	842	210	35	1 087	916	232	33	1 181
Assault	840	210	35	1 085	914	232	33	1 181
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	2
Sexual assault and related offences	53	253	26	332	74	127	27	228
Sexual assault	47	222	26	295	62	106	27	195
Non-assaultive sexual offences	6	31	—	37	12	21	—	33
Dangerous or negligent acts	178	37	1	216	186	15	—	201
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	119	34	1	154	116	12	—	128
Other dangerous or negligent acts	59	3	—	62	70	3	—	73
Abduction and related offences	21	7	—	28	5	5	1	11
Robbery and extortion	134	277	3	414	130	211	15	356
Robbery	122	276	3	401	123	209	15	347
Blackmail and extortion	12	1	—	13	7	2	—	9
Unlawful entry with intent	2 858	639	25	3 522	2 597	583	6	3 186
Theft and related offences ^(c)	4 434	473	7	4 914	4 133	423	10	4 566

Table 1 All courts—charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court (continued)

Offence type	2007–08 ^(b)				2008–09			
	Magistrates Courts ^(a)	Childrens Court of Qld	District and Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts ^(a)	Childrens Court of Qld	District and Supreme Courts	Total
Motor vehicle theft and related offences	1 539	199	2	1 740	1 300	220	7	1 527
Other theft and related offences	23	2	—	25	12	3	—	15
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	527	52	—	579	539	25	2	566
Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles)	2 345	220	5	2 570	2 282	175	1	2 458
Deception and related offences	330	13	—	343	281	9	—	290
Fraud, forgery or false instruments	268	6	—	274	213	6	—	219
Dishonest conversion	57	6	—	63	60	3	—	63
Counterfeiting and related offences	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Other deception offences	4	1	—	5	7	—	—	7
Illicit drug offences	460	15	6	481	367	3	7	377
Import or export illicit drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	31	—	3	34	17	—	1	18
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	21	—	—	21	18	—	1	19
Possess and/or use illicit drugs	185	9	3	197	154	1	3	158
Other illicit drug offences	223	6	—	229	178	2	2	182
Weapons and explosives offences	152	11	—	163	138	6	—	144
Property damage	1 537	172	3	1 712	1 572	213	5	1 790
Property damage	1 536	172	3	1 711	1 572	213	5	1 790
Environmental pollution	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Public order offences	2 065	52	—	2 117	2 038	28	8	2 074
Road traffic offences	2 124	33	2	2 159	1 983	17	1	2 001
Justice and government offences	1 524	26	2	1 552	1 387	29	6	1 422

Table 1 All courts—charges against juveniles disposed by offence type and court (continued)

Offence type	2007–08 ^(b)				2008–09			
	Magistrates Courts ^(a)	Childrens Court of Qld	District and Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Courts ^(a)	Childrens Court of Qld	District and Supreme Courts	Total
Breach of justice order ^(d)	505	4	—	509	429	1	5	435
Other offences against justice	1 013	22	2	1 037	950	28	1	979
Offences against government	6	—	—	6	8	—	—	8
Miscellaneous offences	56	1	—	57	66	4	—	70
Total	16 769	2 220	116	19 105	15 882	1 905	120	17 907

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

(b) Revised

(c) Total includes offences not further disaggregated.

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

Magistrates Courts (committals), Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Table 2 Juvenile defendants and charges committed for sentence or trial by court location

Statistical division and court location ^(b)	2007–08 ^(a)			2008–09			Percentage change	
	Defendants ^(c)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants ^(c)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants ^(c)	Charges
Brisbane								
Brisbane City								
Brisbane Childrens Court	38	133	3.50	22	81	3.68	-42.1	-39.1
Holland Park	6	17	2.83	4	16	4.00	-33.3	-5.9
Richlands	50	172	3.44	40	126	3.15	-20.0	-26.7
Sandgate	4	18	4.50	1	3	3.00	-75.0	-83.3
Wynnum	5	7	1.40	3	10	3.33	-40.0	42.9
Remainder of Brisbane								
Beenleigh	27	72	2.67	44	161	3.66	63.0	123.6
Caboolture	13	47	3.62	9	63	7.00	-30.8	34.0
Cleveland	9	17	1.89	4	12	3.00	-55.6	-29.4

Table 2 Juvenile defendants and charges committed for sentence or trial by court location (continued)

Statistical division and court location ^(b)	2007–08 ^(a)			2008–09			Percentage change	
	Defendants ^(c)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants ^(c)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants ^(c)	Charges
Remainder of Brisbane (continued)								
Ipswich	27	85	3.15	41	140	3.41	51.9	64.7
Pine Rivers	12	54	4.50	4	9	2.25	-66.7	-83.3
Redcliffe	12	143	11.92	5	17	3.40	-58.3	-88.1
Moreton								
Beaudesert	1	4	4.00	1	2	2.00	—	-50.0
Caloundra	1	21	21.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Maroochydore	10	22	2.20	3	6	2.00	-70.0	-72.7
Noosa	—	—	..	2	3	1.50	..	..
Southport	38	101	2.66	17	33	1.94		-67.3
Toogoolawah	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Wide Bay – Burnett								
Bundaberg	2	3	1.50	8	29	3.63	300.0	866.7
Gympie	2	2	1.00	1	3	3.00	-50.0	50.0
Hervey Bay	1	14	14.00	16	83	5.19	1,500.0	492.9
Kingaroy	1	2	2.00	2	3	1.50	100.0	50.0
Maryborough	6	14	2.33	5	8	1.60		
Nanango	1	3	3.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Darling Downs								
Chinchilla	1	4	4.00	2	27	13.50	100.0	575.0
Dalby	3	7	2.33	1	2	2.00	-66.7	-71.4
Stanthorpe	1	2	2.00	—	1	..	-100.0	-50.0
Toowoomba	4	6	1.50	3	6	2.00	-25.0	—
Warwick	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
South West								
Charleville	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Cunnamulla	—	—	..	1	2	2.00	..	..
Roma	1	5	5.00	2	3	1.50	100.0	-40.0
Fitzroy								
Emerald	—	—	..	5	34	6.80	..	..
Gladstone	1	7	7.00	1	2	2.00	—	-71.4
Rockhampton	5	12	2.40	12	28	2.33	140.0	133.3
Yeppoon	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..

Table 2 Juvenile defendants and charges committed for sentence or trial by court location (continued)

Statistical division and court location ^(b)	2007–08 ^(a)			2008–09			Percentage change	
	Defendants ^(c)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants ^(c)	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants ^(c)	Charges
Central West Mackay								
Mackay	9	20	2.22	2	3	1.50	-77.8	-85.0
Moranbah	1	5	5.00	1	1	1.00	—	-80.0
Proserpine	3	3	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Woorabinda	—	2	..	1	1	1.00	..	-50.0
Northern								
Ayr	3	6	2.00	1	1	1.00	-66.7	-83.3
Bowen	1	1	1.00	—	6	..	-100.0	500.0
Great Palm Island	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Ingham	2	2	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Townsville	18	43	2.39	14	91	6.50	-22.2	111.6
Far North								
Atherton	1	2	2.00	1	2	2.00	—	—
Aurukun	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Bamaga	—	1	..	—	—	..	..	-100.0
Cairns	23	72	3.13	29	61	2.10	26.1	-15.3
Cooktown	—	—	..	2	3	1.50	..	..
Innisfail	2	7	3.50	1	1	1.00	-50.0	-85.7
Lockhart River	—	—	..	1	1	1.00	..	..
Mareeba	1	4	4.00	1	7	7.00	—	75.0
Thursday Island	2	7	3.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Tully	1	1	1.00	—	2	..	-100.0	100.0
Weipa	1	1	1.00	1	1	1.00	—	—
North West								
Camooweal	—	—	..	1	4	4.00	..	..
Doomadgee	3	3	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Mount Isa	7	12	1.71	7	25	3.57	—	108.3
Total	363	1 196	3.29	325	1,126	3.46	-10.5	-5.9

(a) Revised

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

(c) 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.

Magistrates Courts (disposals), Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Table 3 Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex

Age	2007–08 ^(a)			2008–09			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total
10	9	—	9	6	2	8	-33.3	..	-11.1
11	52	3	55	36	3	39	-30.8	—	-29.1
12	162	24	186	110	19	129	-32.1	-20.8	-30.6
13	356	86	442	312	89	402	-12.4	3.5	-9.0
14	683	226	909	646	264	912	-5.4	16.8	0.3
15	1 096	365	1 462	975	359	1 334	-11.0	-1.6	-8.8
16	1 676	457	2 134	1 713	480	2 195	2.2	5.0	2.9
17+	619	151	770	606	151	760	-2.1	—	-1.3
Unknown	21	2	23	9	5	14	-57.1	150.0	-39.1
Total	4 674	1 314	5 990	4 413	1 372	5 793	-5.6	4.4	-3.3

(a) Revised.

(b) Includes persons with sex not recorded (2 in 2007–08 and 8 in 2008–09).

Figure 1 Juvenile defendants disposed by age

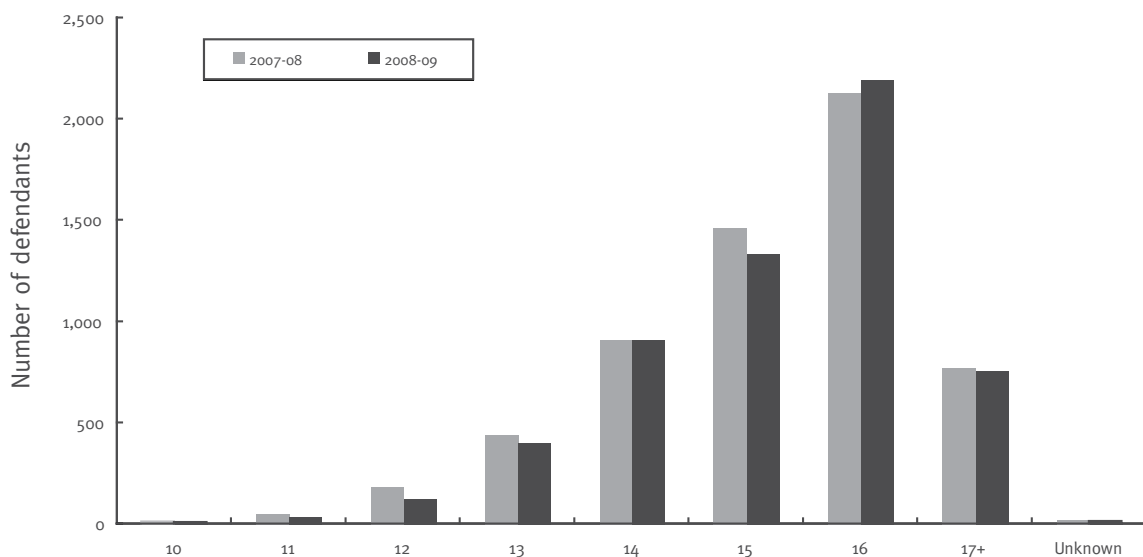


Table 4 Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex

Penalty ^(a)	2007–08 ^(b)			2008–09			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total
Detention ^(d)	122	12	134	138	11	149	13.1	-8.3	11.2
Immediate/ conditional release ^(e)	121	14	135	121	15	136	—	7.1	0.7
Community service	776	126	902	642	109	751	-17.3	-13.5	-16.7
Probation	612	205	817	608	181	789	-0.7	-11.7	-3.4
Fine	256	40	296	238	38	277	-7.0	-5.0	-6.4
Compensation	56	38	94	50	24	74	-10.7	-36.8	-21.3
Good behaviour order	737	223	960	706	253	960	-4.2	13.5	—
Disqualification of licence	30	6	36	35	7	42	16.7	16.7	16.7
Reprimand ^(f)	1 377	495	1 873	1 296	523	1 823	-5.9	5.7	-2.7
Total	4 087	1 159	5 247	3 834	1 161	5 001	-6.2	0.2	-4.7

(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

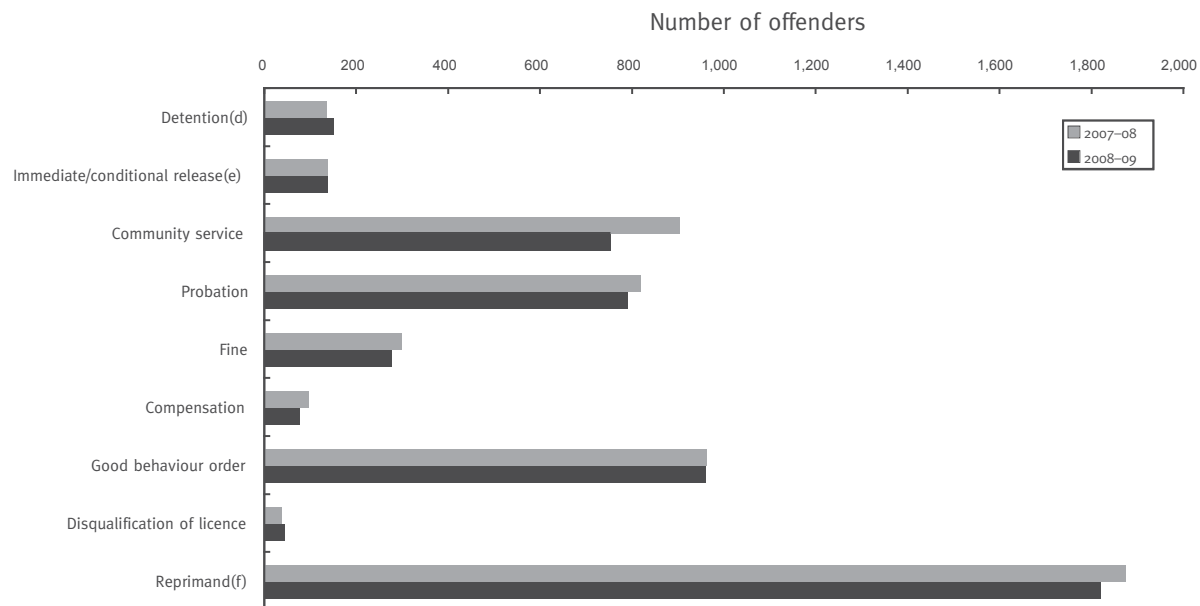
(b) Revised.

(c) Includes persons with sex not recorded (1 in 2007–08 and 6 in 2008–09).

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

(e) Includes immediate release orders and conditional release orders.

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

Figure 2 Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty**Supreme and District Courts, Queensland, 2007-08 and 2008-09****Table 5 Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex**

Age	2007-08(a)			2008-09			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
13	—	2	2	—	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
14	—	—	—	1	2	3	..	..	..
15	4	—	4	4	—	4	—	..	—
16	7	2	9	2	2	4	-71.4	—	-55.6
17+	20	4	24	17	5	22	-15.0	25.0	-8.3
Total	31	8	39	24	9	33	-22.6	12.5	-15.4

(a) Revised.

Figure 3 Juvenile defendants disposed by age

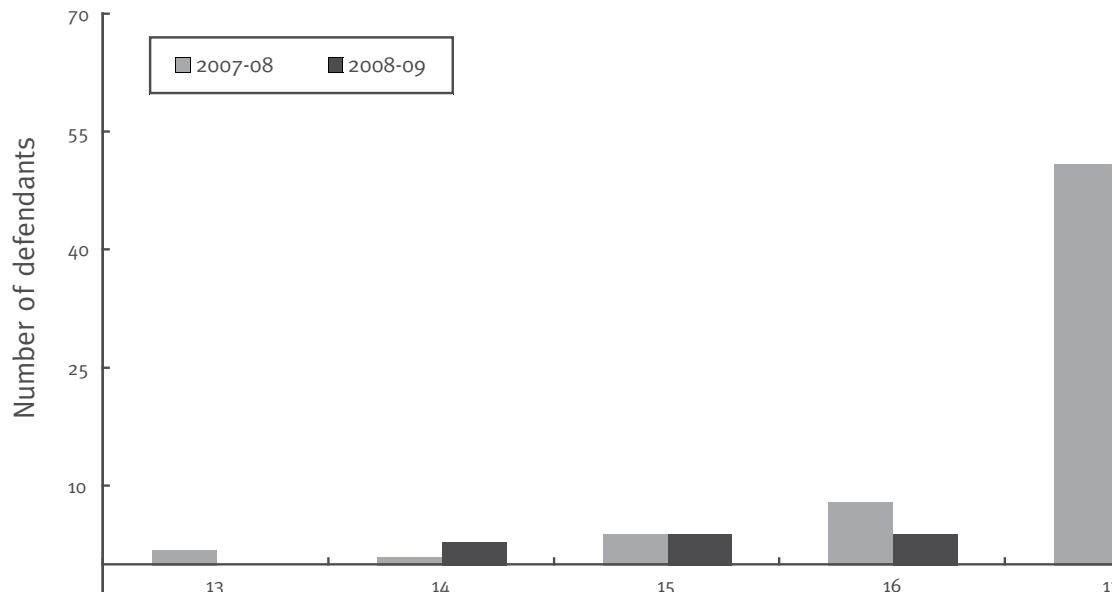


Table 6 Juvenile defendants and charges disposed by court location

Statistical division and court location ^(b)	2007-08 ^(a)			2008-09			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
Brisbane								
Brisbane Supreme	4	15	3.75	1	3	3.00	-75.0	-80.0
Brisbane	10	42	4.20	7	28	4.00	-30.0	-33.3
Beenleigh	1	4	4.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Ipswich	2	7	3.50	7	17	2.43	250.0	142.9
Moreton								
Maroochydore	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Southport	2	8	4.00	4	22	5.50	100.0	175.0

Table 6 Juvenile defendants and charges disposed by court location (continued)

Statistical division and court location ^(b)	2007–08 ^(a)			2008–09			Percentage change	
	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges	Charges per defendant	Defendants	Charges
Wide Bay – Burnett								
Gympie	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Kingaroy	—	—	..	1	5	5.00	..	..
Maryborough	—	—	..	1	4	4.00	..	..
Darling Downs								
Dalby	—	—	..	1	11	11.00	..	..
Toowoomba Supreme	—	—	..	1	4	4.00	..	..
Toowoomba	2	7	3.50	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Warwick	1	5	5.00	1	8	8.00	—	60.0
South West								
Charleville	1	2	2.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Fitzroy								
Rockhampton	1	2	2.00	2	7	3.50	100.0	250.0
Mackay								
Longreach	1	1	1.00	—	—	..	-100.0	-100.0
Northern								
Townsville	1	2	2.00	3	5	1.67	200.0	150.0
Brisbane								
Cairns Supreme	—	—	..	1	3	3.00	..	..
Cairns	7	9	1.29	2	2	1.00	-71.4	-77.8
North West								
Mount Isa	4	8	2.00	1	1	1.00	-75.0	-87.5
Total	39	116	2.97	33	120	3.64	-15.4	3.4

(a) Revised.

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

Table 7 Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty and sex

Penalty ^(a)	2007-08 ^(b)			2008-09			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention ^(c)	5	—	5	5	—	5	—	..	—
Immediate/ conditional release ^(d)	2	3	5	2	—	2	—	-100.0	-60.0
Community service	7	1	8	5	—	5	-28.6	-100.0	-37.5
Probation	8	3	11	3	3	6	-62.5	—	-45.5
Good behaviour order	—	—	—	3	—	3	..	..	..
Reprimand ^(e)	1	—	1	—	—	—	-100.0	..	-100.0
Total	23	7	30	18	3	21	-21.7	-57.1	-30.0

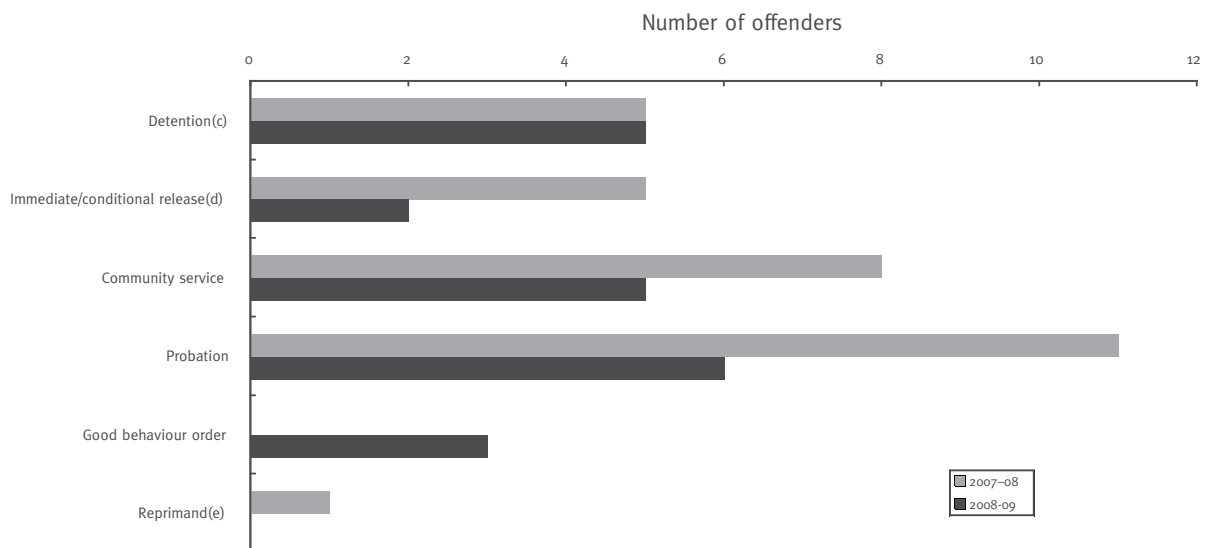
(a) In decreasing order of seriousness.

(b) Revised.

(c) Includes imprisonment.

(d) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Figure 4 Juvenile offenders by most serious penalty

All courts, Queensland, 2007–08 and 2008–09

Table 8 Juvenile defendants disposed by age and sex

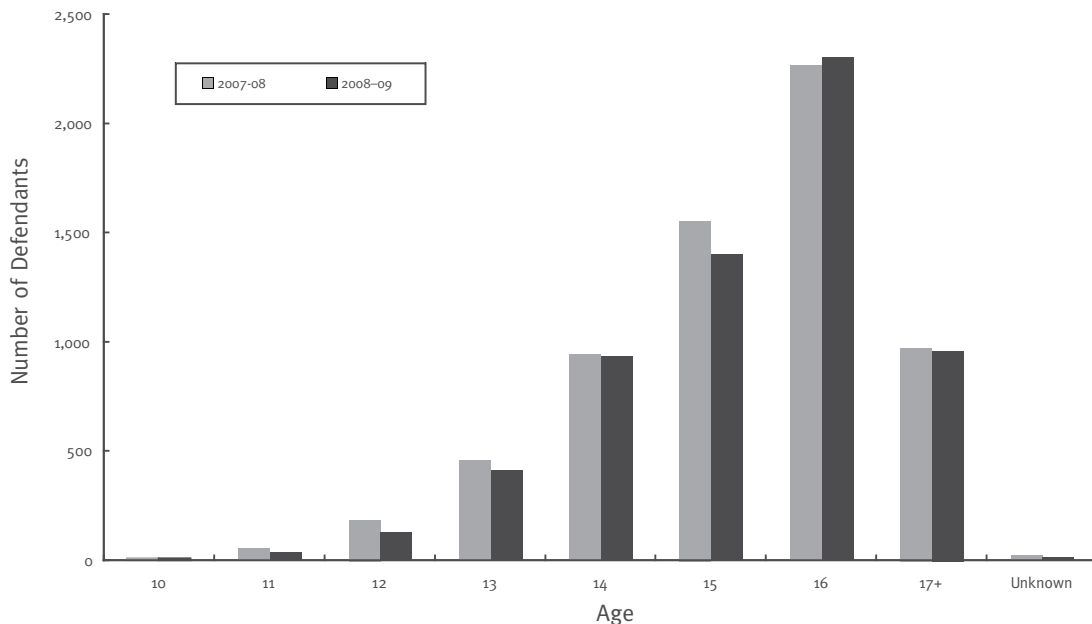
Age	2007–08 ^(a)			2008–09			Percentage change		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total
10	9	—	9	6	2	8	-33.3	..	-11.1
11	54	3	57	36	3	39	-33.3	—	-31.6
12	164	24	188	111	20	131	-32.3	-16.7	-30.3
13	371	89	460	324	90	415	-12.7	1.1	-9.8
14	717	230	947	662	272	936	-7.7	18.3	-1.2
15	1 172	383	1 556	1 035	370	1 405	-11.7	-3.4	-9.7
16	1 798	472	2 271	1 811	492	2 305	0.7	4.2	1.5
17+	798	178	976	786	172	962	-1.5	-3.4	-1.4
Unknown	24	2	26	10	5	15	-58.3	150.0	-42.3
Total^(c)	5 107	1 381	6 490	4 781	1 426	6 216	-6.4	3.3	-4.2

(a) Revised

(b) Includes persons with sex not recorded (2 in 2007–08 and 9 in 2008–09).

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

Figure 5 Juvenile defendants disposed by age



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