

Childrens Court of Queensland

Annual Report 2019 - 20

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PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW

General

- [1] As with most aspects of daily life in 2020, the operations of the courts, particularly the Magistrates Court, went into lockdown after the global pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020 and jury trials at the Supreme and District Court ceased. The court system returned to operations in mid-June. The Childrens Court of Queensland was able to continue to hear matters as trials are generally conducted without juries in that jurisdiction.
- [2] Statistics for the year show a significant decrease of finalised appearances for child defendants in the Magistrates Court. Whilst numbers in the Childrens Court of Queensland and the District Court increased slightly, numbers in the Magistrates Court fell by 33.4% (2,790 appearances). Whilst there was a significant drop in matters finalised in March, April and May due to COVID shutdowns, the numbers were reduced over the whole year (Figure 2). Corresponding to that decrease, there has been an increase of 23.4% (2,914) in cautions administered to children by police (Table 9) and an increase in restorative justice referrals with an extra 359 conferences taking place. Of those conferences 98% resulted in an agreement being reached. It is axiomatic to note that cautions are administered for less serious offending and in situations where children are unlikely to be committed to the Childrens Court of Queensland. Similarly restorative justice referrals are most likely to take place in the Magistrates Court jurisdiction. These figures may have contributed to the reduction of appearances in the Magistrates Court. The measures taken to redirect children away from the court are in keeping with the youth justice principle that a child should be treated in a way that diverts a child from the court's criminal justice system unless the offence or the child's criminal history directs otherwise (see s3 *Youth Justice Act 1992*).
- [3] Unfortunately the trend noted in 2018/19 continued this year with 10 per cent of all young offenders being responsible for 48% of all proven offences (Figure 5). The number of young people in custody dropped this year from 252 in 2018/19 to 208 in 2019/20, a number similar to the 2017/18 year. In keeping with

previous years the majority of young people in custody are being held on remand, averaging 82% over the last five years (Figure 18).

- [4] The last two annual reports raised the serious problem of children being kept in watch houses on remand with 294 children staying in the watch houses for periods in excess of 15 days in 2018/19. With the expansion of beds in facilities throughout the State and the reduction of children in custody overall, that problem has been significantly alleviated. During 2019/20 the average length of stay in a watch house was two days and only 11 children stayed in the watch house in excess of 15 days with the majority staying less than five (Table 38). In a state with a large number of rural or regional courts such as Queensland, watch house stays are inevitable for children remanded in custody who are arrested in locations which are distant to the detention centres in Townsville and Brisbane.
- [5] The youth justice strategy devised by the State Government is being implemented through the Department of Youth Justice. The focus has been on working with families with children who are at risk of involvement in the youth justice system, together with co-ordinating the assessment of at risk children across multiple agencies with an aim to engage differently with young people in trouble with the law to enable them to see a future within society. There is an increasing focus within the youth justice system on endeavouring to engage children and their families at a stage earlier than first appearance in court by providing services that engage young people, support the family, keep the children engaged with education and ensure their mental health is assessed and supported. There has also been a focus on expanding services within the Youth Detention Centre to equip children with the necessary skills to reintegrate into the community upon release.
- [6] The Queensland Education Justice Initiative operates within a growing number of Magistrates Courts to assist children to reengage with education. From January to September of 2020 the education justice initiative supported 794 children. Of those children 35% were re-enrolled at a new State or non-State school, 41% received ongoing support by a specialist, 7% were directed to vocation, education and training and 17% were otherwise dealt with (including being supported in education whilst in detention). This initiative has been a

tremendous success in assisting children to access education at a time when they are experiencing contact with the criminal justice system and have often disengaged from schooling.

- [7] The Legal Aid Office and in particular the Youth Legal Aid team continue to support a large number of children charged with offences throughout the State. Throughout the year they have continued to provide assistance by way of accreditation and advice to practitioners in this jurisdiction throughout the state. During this financial year the youth justice hotline was expanded upon the amendment of s 421 of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act*. The hotline which had previously operated from 8.00 am to 9.00 pm Monday to Friday and Saturday 7.00 am to 5.00 pm was expanded to 8.00 am to 9.00 pm Monday to Thursday and then remained open from 8.00 am Friday until Sunday at 5.00 pm, (only closing on Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Christmas day). This was chiefly driven by the requirement under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act* that a police officer must, unless a child has already arranged for a lawyer to be present during questioning, inform the child that a representative of a Legal Aid organisation will be notified that the child is in custody for the offence and must allow the child to speak to a support person before questioning. Whereas calls received by the hotline in 2019 totalled 1,595, for the first three months of 2020 the hotline received 2,043 calls. Obviously this service fulfils a significant need in the community and the Legal Aid Office is to be congratulated for making the hotline available over the weekend when solicitors would otherwise be difficult to contact.
- [8] Challenges have been experienced in the youth mental health area with COVID making it difficult for the service to operate efficiently within the court system. The Child Youth Mental Health Service provides services to young people residing in southeast and central Queensland and is comprised of consultant psychiatrists, occupational therapists, social workers, psychologists, art therapists and clinical nurses. The service also has an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service integration co-ordinator.
- [9] The Court Liaison Service provides assessments to young people with mental health concerns who are in the watch house or appearing before a Childrens Court

including assessments relating to fitness for trial and soundness of mind. They also assess and treat children in the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. Given that there is a significant shortage of psychiatrists who are able to deal with the complex issues experienced by many of the children that appear before the Court, the initial assessment by the Child Youth Mental Health Service is invaluable and the service performs significant work with little resources.

- [10] Despite the effect of the pandemic on the criminal statistics or perhaps because of the effect of the pandemic, child protection orders continue to increase at an alarming rate. In 2019/20 there were 6,810 applications for child protection orders; a rise of approximately 741 cases from the previous year (Table 25). Appeals from those applications rose from 18 to 26. The number of children with a prior child protection order who appear before the Childrens Court is a matter of concern. In the last financial year 20.5% of children appearing before the Childrens Court of Queensland had prior protection orders. It reflects a system which is struggling to cope with the number of children in need of protection. Very few of the children that appear before the court are in foster care. Most of those children are in residential care facilities from which they regularly abscond.
- [11] The Childrens Court of Queensland has focused in the last year on implementing changes to assist children with their understanding of the process in the Childrens Court. Difficulties with receptive and expressive language skills are being identified at higher rates in young people in custody which disadvantages a young person in the criminal justice system during police investigations or trial, participation in programs, engagement with educational and vocational programs and in restorative justice contexts. An inability to engage in the process and/or the therapeutic programs can easily lead to higher rates of recidivism. A core principle of the *Youth Justice Act* is that a child should have procedures and other matters explained to the child in a way they understand and they should be given the opportunity to participate in and understand the proceeding. Children with speech, language and communication issues have enormous difficulty understanding the process and the language that lawyers use. To that end, the court has introduced explanation statements to be accompanied with indictments

so that a simple explanation of the charges can be given to the children. Practitioners are encouraged to speak in simple terms. The child is seated at the bar table so they can communicate easily with their lawyers and if they have support, their supporters are engaged in the process. It is hoped explanation statements will be able to be introduced to the Magistrates Court in the coming financial year.

Youth justice trends summary

- [12] As previously stated there was an overall decrease of 30.6% of finalised appearances before the Queensland Courts involving child defendants. This was due to a drop of 33.4% in the Magistrates Court. 73.6% of all finalised appearances were by male children. Seventeen year olds remain the largest single age group in Queensland Childrens Courts consisting of 29.1% of all children (see Table 3).
- [13] The trend of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continues with 46% of all child defendants being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. This is a telling statistic when the 2016 census reveals that Aboriginal and Torres Strait people make up only 4% of the Queensland population. This over representation is even starker in younger children with 96% of 10 year olds, 82% of 11 year olds and 66% of 12 year olds being indigenous. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are 10 times as likely as their cohort to have had a charge finalised in Queensland Courts in 2019-20 (See Figure 9 and Table 6). Sadly the figures in relation to indigenous children in custody remain fairly static with 70% of children in custody being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.
- [14] The time taken to finalise matters in the courts increased with the Magistrates Court time increasing steadily over the last five years from 49 days in 2015 to 69 days in 2019 (Table 11). The Childrens Court of Queensland also increased slightly from 325 days to 329 days.
- [15] The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 3,167 charges in 698 appearances of child defendants. Almost half of those finalised appearances were children aged 17 years and older. There was a significant increase in the number of 13

year old defendants appearing in the Childrens Court of Queensland, (36 appearances compared to 20 the previous year). There was a decrease of 19 in the number of 17 year olds (see Table 12) with an average of 4.5 charges disposed of per finalised appearance. 82% of matters in the Childrens Court of Queensland resulted in a guilty outcome with the most common penalty being probation (56.9 per cent) (Table 14). Applications for sentence review increased slightly and applications for bail decreased significantly. This is possibly a reflection of the changes to the bail provisions of the *Youth Justice Act*. Applications for parentage orders under the *Surrogacy Act* decreased slightly from 13 to 11 in the last year.

[16] In the Magistrates Court there were 5,560 finalised appearances of child defendants. There were an additional 450 appearances which resulted in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence, a significant decrease from the previous year of 22.5%. Of the finalised appearances, 66.7% resulted in conviction and 33.3% were discharged (Table 20).

[17] The Magistrates Court finalised 28,004 charges against child defendants, a decrease of 20.3% from the previous year. The most prevalent offences were theft and related offences and those offences together with unlawful entry with intent accounted for 54.6% of all charges finalised in the Magistrates Court. Of the charges against child defendants in the Magistrates Court, 93.5% were finalised in that court whilst 6.5% were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence. It can be seen that the Magistrates do the lion's share of the work in this jurisdiction. The Supreme and District Courts finalised 67 charges against 19 defendants in the last year (see Tables 26 and 27).

[18] There were 2,225 referrals in 2019-20 for youth justice referrals. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders accounted for 44.9% of all referrals and of the referrals conferenced 98% resulted in an agreement being reached between conference participants. Evaluations from the Department of Youth Justice have shown previously that 77% of young people who completed a restorative justice conference either do not reoffend or show a decrease in the magnitude of their reoffending within six months of their conference. Victims of youth crime who participate in restorative justice conferences are positive about their value with

earlier surveys indicating 89% report being satisfied with the outcome of the conference.

Childrens Court Committee

- [19] The Childrens Court Committee met on a reduced basis during the COVID crisis but has now returned to monthly meetings and continues to meet in a co-ordinated approach to youth justice throughout the State. The Committee continued to monitor the children being kept in custody in the watch house although numbers are significantly reduced.
- [20] The COVID crisis resulted in difficulties with the implementation of programs and particularly with restorative justice and counselling services and that was monitored. There was work done by the Department of Youth Justice to try and deal with a backlog that had arisen as a result of the pandemic.
- [21] The Youth Justice benchbook was commissioned with retired Judge Michael Shanahan writing that document for the court and it is anticipated that it will be available to all practitioners on the court website. Legal Aid continues to work on the Childrens Court certification process and whilst that has been hampered by the pandemic, the youth advice hotline has been operating throughout the crisis.
- [22] There were advances in relation to the administration of the courts with monthly statistics now being provided in relation to the Childrens Court of Queensland, a record of adjournment reasons pilot has commenced, guidelines were finalised in relation to video-links. Work was also completed on a Childrens Court dashboard which gives a regular updated view of the type of matters before the courts, the number of matters, the delays in the court and other statistics at a glance. Nicole Drew and Samantha Smith are to be commended on the work they have done in that regard.
- [23] The trial project of Radar was discussed which was a risk and dynamic assessment register to further assess children in Brisbane, Southport and Townsville. Youth Legal Aid advised that they had done work in relation to communication barriers and techniques and with the help of the senior

practitioner of speech and language pathology service had produced a resource kit with legal precedents to be sent out to practitioners in language that can be easily understood by a child.

- [24] The Committee was advised that intensive case management was being rolled out in five locations, cultural mentoring services and community youth responses had also commenced as well as family led decision-making being tried at four sites.

Court Case Management Committee

- [25] The Court Case Management Committee continues to meet and monitor the use of single affidavits to grant applications under the *Child Protection Act*. Whilst those affidavits have only recently been introduced they have been well received. The Committee is also exploring the role of the Adult Guardian with unrepresented parents with mental health issues in the child protection area.

Activities and consultations

- [26] Throughout the year I met regularly with Amanda O'Brien in relation to children in court, custody issues and the youth bench book and statistics.

On 8 November 2019 I attended a meeting with the heads of jurisdiction of Australia and New Zealand in Melbourne ahead of the AIJA Youth Justice Conference which was held on 8 and 9 November 2019.

On 12 November 2019 I met with Nicole Drew in relation to developments in the youth courts and the technological assistance that could be provided.

On 28 November 2019 I had a meeting with stakeholders in Cairns in relation to Childrens Court issues in North Queensland.

On 11 February 2020 I had a meeting with David Laws in relation to simplified bail conditions.

On 13 February 2020 I had a meeting with Nicole Drew, Amada O'Brien, Melissa Wilson and Samantha Smith about the Childrens Court benchbook and court statistics including adjournment reasons.

On 17 February 2020 I had a meeting with Carl Heaton about explanation statements.

On 26 February 2020 I had a meeting with a speech pathologist, Stella Martin from Youth Justice in relation to the work that is being done in relation to speech and language problems particularly in the detention centre.

On 29 February 2020 I presented a paper on the Childrens Court at a criminal law conference for Toowoomba practitioners

On 3 June 2020 I had a discussion with Michael Shanahan in relation to the Childrens Court bench book.

On 9 June 2020 I had a meeting with Nicole Drew in relation to the adjournment reasons.

On 11 June 2020 I chaired a human rights symposium held virtually in Brisbane.

Thanks

- [27] I would like to thank the Judges of the Childrens Court of Queensland for their assistance in managing the work load of the court.
- [28] Special recognition should be given Deputy Chief Magistrate Leanne O’Shea for her work in this area and her participation in both the Childrens Court Committee and the Court Case Management Committee. She continues to provide assistance and support in this area and her input is always greatly appreciated.
- [29] The Magistrates throughout the State should also be thanked for their work in this area. They perform in excess of 90 per cent of the judicial work in the Youth Justice system and are dealing with ever increasing numbers of child protection matters which are often complex and involve parents who generally have significant mental health issues of their own and are often unrepresented. They have a very heavy workload.
- [30] The new Department of Youth Justice continues to work at developing new programs to improve the outcome for children within the system and is ably led by their Director General Bob Gee.

- [31] I also acknowledge the hard work of those involved in the Childrens Court system generally, in particular the staff of the Youth Legal Aid team under the leadership of David Law, the Youth Advocacy Centre and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service all of whom are dedicated professionals who appear in the court regularly and are of enormous assistance. I also acknowledge the work of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Queensland who are working towards the timely disposal of matters and have enthusiastically embraced the supply of explanation statements in the Childrens Court of Queensland. The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, the Department of Youth Justice, the Registry of the Childrens Court of Queensland, the Director of Child Protection Litigation and its staff, the Child Practitioner’s Association of Queensland, officers and volunteers of PACT as well as officers from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General all work tirelessly to ensure the court can run efficiently.
- [32] Finally can I thank Alex Smith of Youth Justice as well as Danielle Palmer, Legal Officer, Office of the Chief Magistrate who act as co-ordinators of the business of the Childrens Court Committee and the Case Management Committee. They are extremely efficient and their work is always appreciated. A special mention should also go to Nicole Drew, Samantha Smith and Amanda O’Brien who have been working behind the scenes to analyse and improve the technology and the systems available to the courts.
- [33] I thank the officers of the court’s reporting unit and the Queensland Government statisticians, for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

Deborah Richards
President
Childrens Court of Queensland

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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

Reference year

The statistics in this report relate primarily to the 2019–20 financial year, i.e. 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. Where possible, data from the previous financial year, and in some cases the previous nine years, are provided for comparison.

Data sources

Statistical information used in this report has been collected and presented by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO), Queensland Treasury.

Finalised appearances and charges data have been sourced from QGSO's Courts Database, which contains operational data sourced from and managed on behalf of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data were extracted in August 2020.

Cautions and victims of child offenders data were sourced from the Queensland Police Service. Data were extracted in July 2020.

Youth justice data, including distinct defendants, rates, youth justice conferencing, and supervised youth justice orders were provided by the Department of Youth Justice. Data were extracted in July 2020.

Other data were sourced from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for use in this report. Data were extracted in August 2020.

Counting rules

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

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

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

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

Symbols used in tables

— nil
.. not applicable
r revised

Definitions

caution	an official warning given at police discretion to a young offender as an alternative to a charge.
charge	a formal accusation of an offence. A charge is finalised by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal.
child	In the context of youth justice, a child is a person aged between 10 and 17 years of age at date of offence. Prior to 12 February 2018, when changes to the <i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i> came into effect in Queensland, a child was aged 10–16 years.
Childrens Court	The Childrens Court is a special court which deals with Magistrates Court matters involving child defendants. (For the purposes of this report, Magistrates Court is the term used.) It is presided over by a Childrens Court magistrate.
Childrens Court of Queensland	an intermediate court created to deal with children charged with serious offences, child safety appeals pursuant to s117 of the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> and applications for parentage orders under the <i>Surrogacy Act 2010</i> . It is presided over by a Childrens Court judge, who is also a judge of the District Court of Queensland.
Childrens Court judge	a District Court judge appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act 1992</i>).
Childrens Court magistrate	a magistrate appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act</i>).
committal	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 person charged with a criminal offence and appearing in a criminal court.
disposition	the finalisation and clearing of matters to do with a defendant (for instance by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal, but not by committal or transfer to another court).
District Court	<p>a court constituted by a District Court judge (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act</i>, and s5, <i>District Court of Queensland Act 1967</i>). A District Court Judge who does not have a commission as a Childrens Court Judge has jurisdiction to deal with a child in circumstances where a Childrens Court Judge is not available.</p> <p>Matters involving child defendants can be heard in the adult District Court if the child is charged as an adult, or in other special circumstances, such as when a child is co-accused with an adult, in accordance with guidelines set down in the <i>Childrens Court Act</i> and the <i>Youth Justice Act</i>.</p>
ex officio indictment	an indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of Prosecutions without a committal.

<i>finalised appearance</i>	a collection of offences for a single offender that are finalised on the same day, at the same court level and court location. An appearance is finalised when the charges against a defendant are proven or dismissed or withdrawn.
<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>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>	any act or omission by a person(s) for which a penalty could be imposed by the Australian legal system.
<i>offence type</i>	a category within a classification describing the nature of the offence; the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification</i> (ANZSOC), 2011 is used in this report.
<i>offender</i>	a person who is deemed responsible for, has been found guilty of, or pleaded guilty to an offence.
<i>penalty</i>	<p>a term of 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><i>detention order</i> a custodial penalty placing a child offender in a youth detention centre.</p> <p><i>boot camp order</i> an order suspending a detention order upon a child, who is aged 13 years or older, 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. <i>This penalty was discontinued from 30 September 2015.</i></p> <p><i>boot camp (vehicle offences) order</i> an order made in relation to a child who is aged 13 years or older, 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. <i>This penalty was discontinued from 30 September 2015.</i></p> <p><i>conditional release order</i> suspension by the sentencing court of a detention order against a child offender conditional on participation in a program of up to three months.</p> <p><i>intensive supervision order</i> a sentencing option for a child offender who has been found guilty of an offence that if committed by an adult would make them liable to imprisonment.</p> <p><i>community service order</i> a supervision penalty requiring an offender to perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work.</p> <p><i>graffiti removal order</i> an order made against a child offender aged 12 years or older who is found guilty of a graffiti offence, to perform graffiti removal service for a specified number of hours.</p>

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

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

good behaviour order a penalty where an offender is ordered to be of good behaviour for a specified period and where a breach thereof may be taken into account if the offender re-offends during the period of the order.

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

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

Interpreting the data

Breaches of youth justice orders

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

In 2019–20, 349 appearances by child defendants were finalised in Queensland courts for breaches of youth justice orders compared with 6,277 appearing for criminal offences.

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

Caution

On a crime report, a caution is counted once only for each type of offence committed by an offender. Thus, a person cautioned by police for three property damage offences will only be counted once for that offence type, and a person cautioned for one burglary offence and one property damage offence will be counted twice, once for each offence type. The total number of cautions recorded may be less than the total number of offences for which offenders were cautioned.

Classification of offences

This report shows the classification of charges by “offence type”. The offence classification used is the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification* (ANZSOC), 2011. Offences are first classified into one of sixteen divisions of ANZSOC, then the National Offence Index (2018) 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, such as: defamation, libel and privacy offences; public health and safety offences; or breaches of commercial/industry/financial regulations.

Finalised appearance versus distinct defendant

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

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

Imprisonment

As a general rule, there is no power of imprisonment as opposed to detention under the Youth Justice Act. In rare cases, however, the power of imprisonment exists. For example, if a person commits a crime as a child, absconds and is arrested pursuant to warrant 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, s140).

Most serious penalty

Offenders may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition. 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 sum to exactly 100% due to rounding to one decimal place.

Recording of age

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

Please note: On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic in response to the global spread of COVID-19 and governments in Australia responded by introducing a range of social-distancing measures in efforts to contain the spread of the virus. In Queensland, Magistrates Courts heavily scaled back operations in mid-March and jury trials in the Supreme and District courts ceased. While the courts system returned to near-normal operations in mid-June, the ensuing backlog in the Magistrates Court may take some months to clear.

SUMMARY

Appearances

In 2019–20, there were 6,277 finalised appearances of child defendants in all Queensland criminal courts. Compared with the number in 2018–19 (9,043), this shows an overall decrease of 30.6% (or –2,766 appearances), apparent only in the Magistrates Court where numbers fell by 33.4% (–2,790 appearances). Following the pattern of previous years, boys accounted for 73.6% of all finalised appearances of child defendants in 2019–20. (See Appendix Table 12).

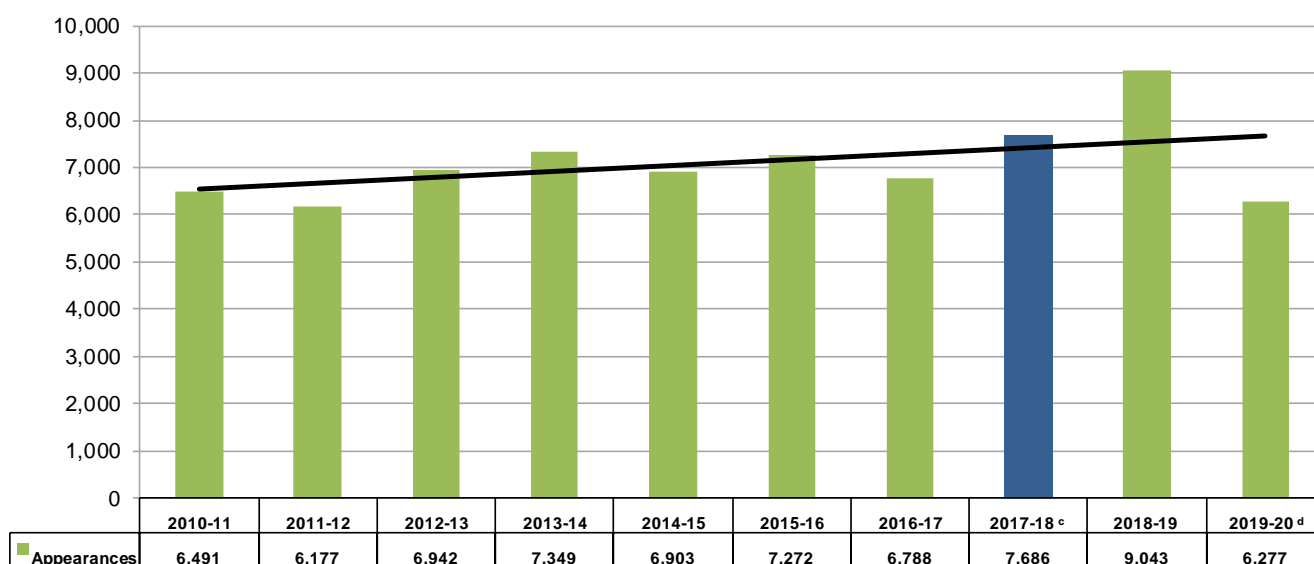
Table 1 Finalised appearances^(a) of child defendants, by court level

Court ^(b)	2018–19 ^r		2019–20	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
Magistrates ^(c)	8,350	92.3	5,560	88.6
Childrens Court of Queensland	676	7.5	698	11.1
District	5	0.1	11	0.2
Supreme	12	0.1	8	0.1
Total^(d)	9,043	100.0	6,277	100.0

- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within a reference year.
- (b) Appearances in a Magistrates Court resulting in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence are finalised in the higher court and are counted here only at that level.
- (c) From mid-March to June 2020, Magistrates Courts operations were heavily scaled back in response to COVID-19.
- (d) An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Figure 1 Finalised appearances^(a) of child defendants, all courts^(b)

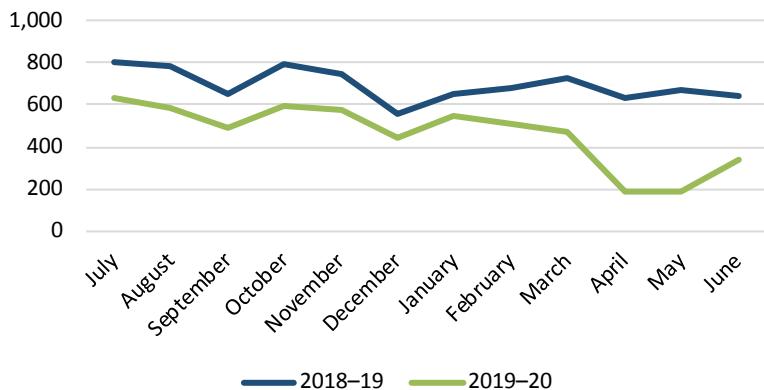


- (a) Appearances for committal to a higher court, or for breaches of youth justice orders, are excluded, as are appearances resulting in indefinite referral to youth justice conferencing. An individual defendant may have one or multiple finalised appearances within a reference year.
- (b) Includes Magistrates, Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme courts.
- (c) Since 12 February 2018, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with as children in Queensland's Criminal Justice System.
- (d) From mid-March to June 2020, Magistrates Courts operations were heavily scaled back in response to COVID-19.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data are current as at August 2020, therefore include revisions.

Figure 2 presents finalised appearance numbers on a month-by-month basis, showing that, in the Magistrates Court, which represents the vast majority of all finalised appearances, numbers were already lower throughout the first seven months of 2019–20 than in the previous year, while following the same seasonal pattern. However, during the three months of scaled-back operations in March to May, numbers fell dramatically, with appearances in April 2020 at less than 30% of the number in April 2019. Since operations were restored in June, finalised appearances increased by 81.5%.

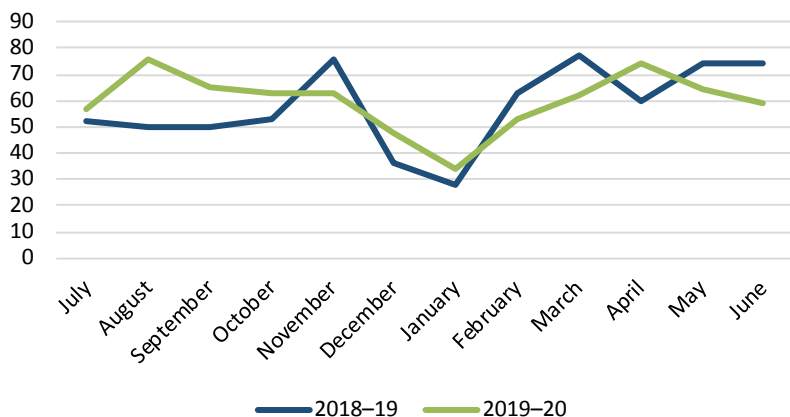
Figure 2 Finalised appearances of child defendants, Magistrates Court



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

In contrast, finalised appearance numbers in the higher courts, while higher than usual in the first four months of 2019–20, showed no apparent impact from COVID restrictions.

Figure 3 Finalised appearances of child defendants, higher courts



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

Distinct defendants

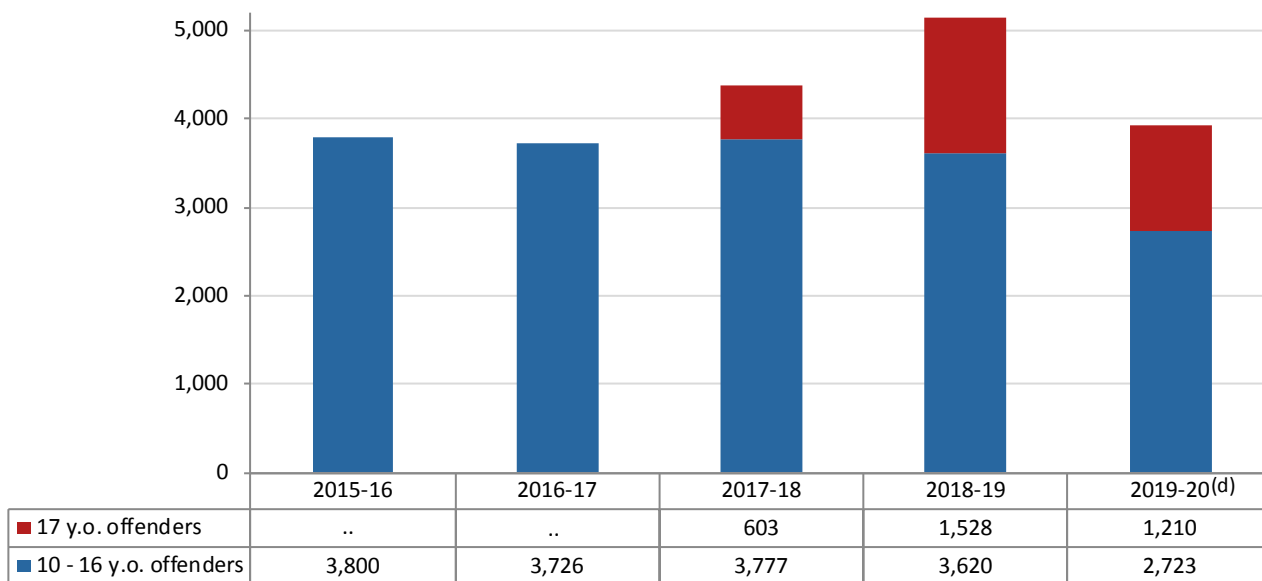
Since 12 February 2018, young offenders aged 10–17 years are dealt with as children in Queensland’s Criminal Justice System, previously it was 10–16 years. The 2017–18 reference year contains approximately four months of data for offenders aged 10–17 years and represents a break in the time series.

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

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

In 2019–20, there were 3,933 distinct child defendants aged 10 years and over who had a finalised appearance in a Queensland court. The number of distinct child defendants decreased by 1,215 from 2018–19 to 2019–20.

Figure 4 Distinct child defendants^{(a)(b)} with a finalised appearance, all courts^(c)



- (a) Since 12 February 2018, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with as children in Queensland’s Criminal Justice System. To allow for comparison between financial years, defendants have been split into young people who offended aged 10–16 years, and those who offended aged 17 years.
- (b) Young people who offended at both 16 and 17 years are included within the 10–16 year old offenders. The count of 17-year-old offenders in 2017–18, 2018–19 and 2019–20 is of young people who offended only at 17 years old in the reference year.
- (c) Count of distinct child defendants across all court levels.
- (d) From mid-March to June 2020, Magistrates Courts operations were heavily scaled back in response to COVID-19.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

In the same pattern seen throughout the five years to 2019–20, boys continue to outnumber girls, accounting for between 72 and 73 per cent of all distinct child defendants with a charge finalised (Table 2). Boys accounted for 76 per cent of distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance who were aged 17 years at time of offence, six percentage points higher than the average of those aged 10–16 years.

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

Sex	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
	Per cent ^(b) (%)				
Female	27	28	28	27	28
Male	73	72	72	73	72
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

- (a) Count of distinct child defendants across all court levels.
- (b) Percentages exclude child defendants who reported being intersex or where sex was not reported. These accounted for less than 0.1 per cent of defendants per reference year.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

In 2019–20, young people aged 17 years at final appearance were the largest single age group in a Queensland childrens court. This age group accounted for 29.1% of all distinct child defendants (1,143), while those aged 16 years accounted for 20.6% (812) during the period. Distinct defendants aged 14–15 years made up 27.7% of the total (Table 3).

Table 3 Distinct child defendants with a finalised appearance, by age, all courts^(a)

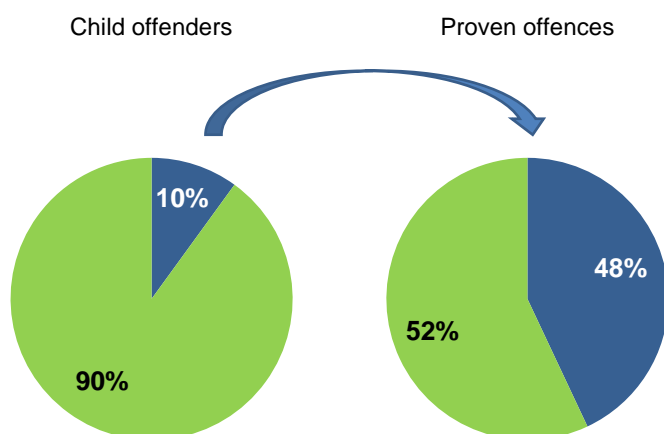
Age at final appearance ^(b)	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20 ^(c)
	Defendants				
10	18	17	13	22	11
11	70	54	70	60	39
12	154	157	160	159	113
13	341	348	375	373	266
14	651	652	635	615	449
15	918	918	927	863	641
16	1,156	1,128	1,127	1,090	812
17	433	405	888	1,448	1,143
18	59	47	185	518	459
Total	3,800	3,726	4,380	5,148	3,933

- (a) Count of distinct child defendants across all court levels.
- (b) Age represents age of defendant at date of final appearance, not at date of offence, and is reported as at the earliest finalised appearance within the reference year.
- (c) From mid-March to June 2020, Magistrates Courts operations were heavily scaled back in response to COVID-19.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

In 2019–20, ten per cent of all young offenders were responsible for 48 per cent of all proven offences (Figure 5), compared with 44 per cent in 2018–19.

Figure 5 Proven offences^(a) by child offenders, all courts^(b), 2019–20^(c)



- (a) A proven offence excludes charges that were dismissed or withdrawn.
- (b) Includes counts across all court levels
- (c) This figure is based on charges finalised during 2019–20.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

The 2019–20 financial year was the second full year of 17-year-old offenders being dealt with in the youth justice system, and a total of 3,933 distinct child defendants had a charge disposed (Table 4).

Of the 30,516 proven offences during the financial year, 10–16 year old offenders made up 69.2 per cent of all defendants but accounted for 78.8 per cent of all proven offences (24,049 offences).

Table 4 Age group at offence by distinct defendants and number of proven offences, 2019–20

Age at offence ^(a)	Distinct defendants ^(b)	Proven offences
10–16 years old	2,723	24,049
17 years old	1,210	6,467
Total	3,933	30,516

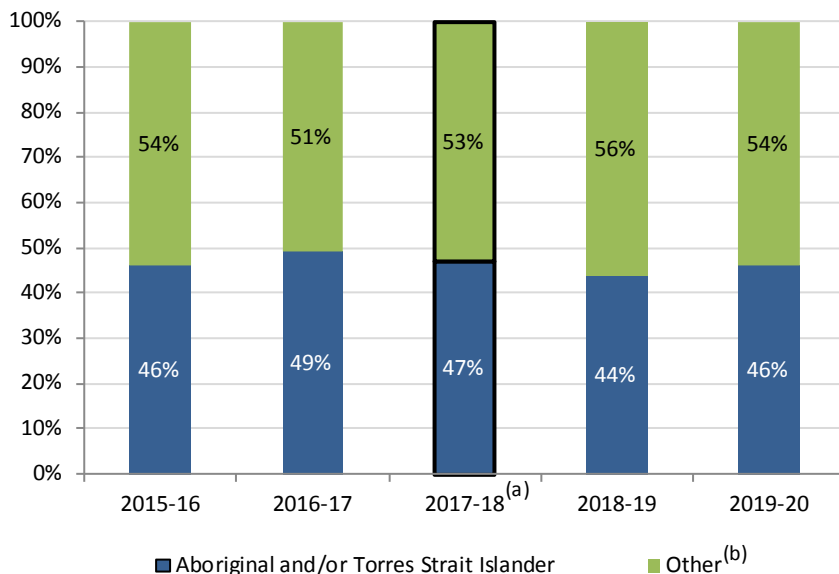
- (a) Age at date of offence is determined by the earliest offence associated with a young person’s first finalised appearance date in the reference year.
- (b) Count of distinct child defendants across all court levels.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander distinct defendants

In 2019–20, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for 46 per cent of all child defendants who had a charge finalised in a Queensland court (Figure 6).

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



(a) 17-year-old offenders are included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Around one-half of distinct defendants who were 10–16 year old offenders were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, compared with just over a third (36%) in the 17-year-old offender cohort.

Table 5 Distinct defendants, by age at offence^(a), sex and Indigenous status, 2019–20

Sex	10–16 years old at time of offence		17 years old at time of offence		Total
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other ^(b)	
Female	432	382	118	176	1,108
Male	960	948	315	600	2,823
Total^(c)	1,392	1,331	433	777	3,933

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

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

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Figure 7 Distinct defendants aged 10–16 years at date of offence, by Indigenous status, 2019–20

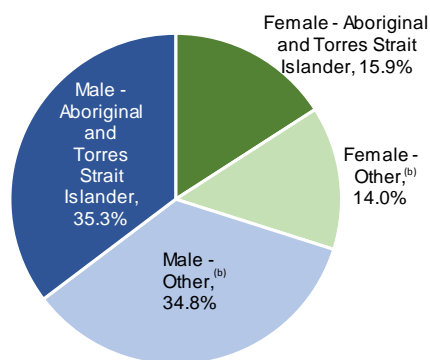
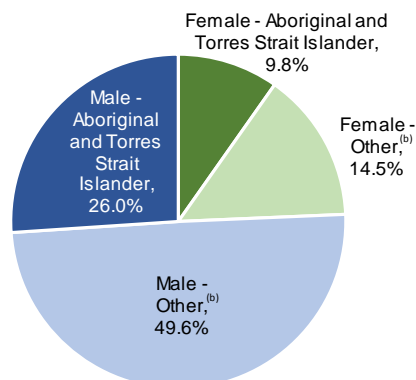


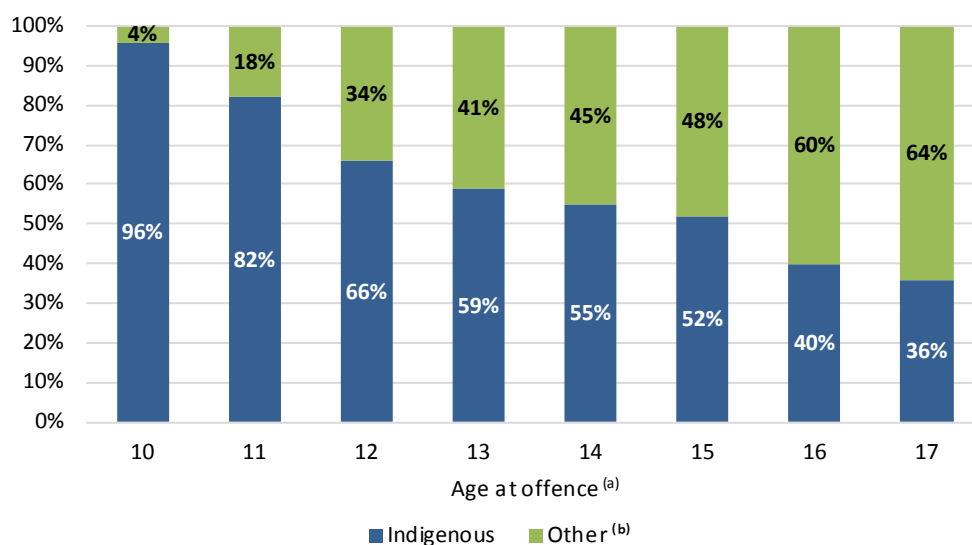
Figure 8 Distinct defendants aged 17 years at date of offence, by Indigenous status, 2019–20



Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

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

Figure 9 Proportion of distinct child defendants by Indigenous status, by age at offence, 2019–20



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

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were ten times as likely as other young people to have had a charge finalised in a Queensland Court in 2019–20. This is higher than in 2018–19 (9 times as likely).

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

Indigenous status	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
	Rate per 1,000 persons (a)				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	50.4	51.4	57.1	54.7	42.9
Other(b)	5.2	4.7	5.6	5.9	4.3

(a) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–16 year olds for the periods 2015–16 to 2017–18, and for 10–17 year olds for 2018–19 and 2019–20.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice, data current as at July 2020; Total population estimates data sourced from ABS 3101.0 *Australian Demographic Statistics*, Sep 2019 release, Table 53. Estimated Resident Population by single year of age, Queensland, Indigenous population estimates data sourced from ABS 3238.0 *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2006 to 2031*. Table 3 Estimated and projected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, Series B(a), Single year of age, Queensland, 2006 to 2031, (released 11 July 2019); Other population figures were derived by subtracting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population figures from the total population figures.. 'Note: ERP Estimates for 2009 to 2017 are final, 2018 is revised, 2019 is preliminary, 2020 is QGSO-derived using absolute growth between 2018 and 2019 and applied to 2019 (2020ERP = 2019ERP – 2018ERP + 2019ERP).

Charges

Across all court levels, the average number of charges per finalised appearance by a child defendant increased to 5.0 in 2019–20 from 4.2 in the previous year, reflecting the increase seen in the Magistrates Court. In the Supreme Court the average number increased from 3.8 in 2018–19 to 5.0 in 2019–20. In contrast, over the same period, there were decreases in both the Childrens Court of Queensland, from 4.8 to 4.5 charges per finalised appearance, and in the District Court, where the average number decreased from 2.6 to 2.4.

The offence categories with the largest number of charges against child defendants in 2019–20 were *theft and related offences* with 10,374 charges (33.2%), *unlawful entry with intent* with 6,200 charges (19.8%), *public order offences* with 2,503 charges (8.0%) and *property damage* with 1,992 charges (6.4%). In total, these four offence categories represent two-thirds (67.4%) of all charges finalised against child defendants in 2019–20. (For more detail, refer to Appendix Table 1.)

Table 7 Finalised charges against child defendants, by court type

Court ^(a)	2018–19r		2019–20	
	Number	%	Number	%
Magistrates ^(b)	35,129	91.4	28,004	89.6
Childrens Court of Queensland	3,263	8.5	3,167	10.1
District	13	0.0	27	0.1
Supreme	46	0.1	40	0.1
Total^(c)	38,451	100.0	31,238	100.0

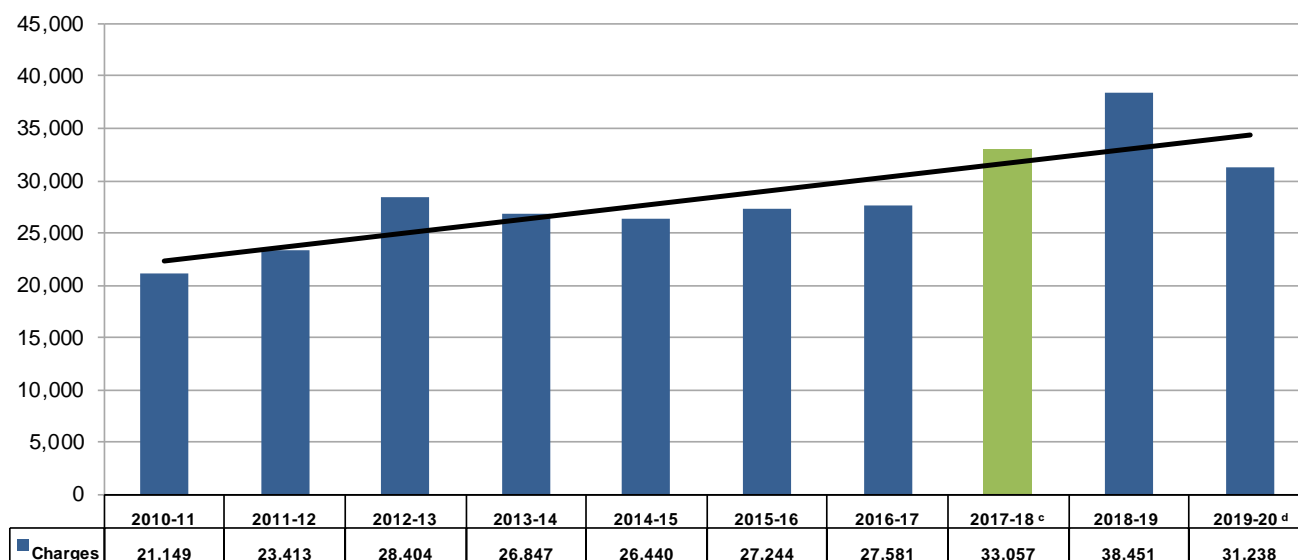
(a) Charges in a Magistrates Court resulting in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence are finalised in a higher court and are counted here only at that level.

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Figure 10 Ten-year comparison of finalised charges^(a) against child defendants, all courts^(b)



(a) Breaches of youth justice orders are excluded.

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

(c) Since 12 February 2018, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with as children in Queensland's Criminal Justice System.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020 and include revisions.

Penalties

In 2019–20, of the 6,277 finalised appearances by child defendants in Queensland courts, 68.4% (4,296) were proven, i.e. they resulted in a guilty finding (conviction)(Table 8). By comparison, 73.8% were proven in 2018–19 and 77.2% in 2017–18.

Detention was the most serious penalty imposed in 81 (1.9%) convicted child appearances in 2019–20, and a further 454 (10.6%) resulted in an immediate/conditional release order. Reprimand and other minor penalties were the most serious penalty in 1,256 appearances (29.2%), followed by probation (1,097 or 25.5%), and 581 (13.5%) received a good behaviour order.

Table 8 Convicted appearances^(a) of child defendants, by most serious penalty, all courts^(b)

Most serious penalty ^(c)	2018–19r	2019–20 ^(d)
	Appearances	
Detention ^(e)	90	81
Immediate / conditional release ^(f)	590	454
Community service	974	555
Probation	1,465	1,097
Treatment orders	107	62
Fine	153	72
Compensation	26	6
Good behaviour	1,130	581
Disqualification of drivers licence	126	132
Reprimand ^(g)	2,014	1,256
Total	6,675	4,296

(a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants.

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

(c) In descending order of seriousness.

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

(e) Includes imprisonment and intensive supervision orders.

(f) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Cautions

Queensland Police Service data showed that 15,349 cautions were administered to child offenders in 2019–20, an increase of 2,914 or 23.4% since 2018–19 (Table 9). In contrast, there were 6,277 finalised court appearances of child defendants in the same period, a decrease of 30.6% (–2,766 appearances) compared with the previous year.

In 2019–20, the greatest number of cautions was administered for *theft and related offences* (4,327 or 28.2% of all cautions). A further 2,754 cautions (or 17.9%) were administered for *illicit drug offences* and 2,286 (or 14.9%) for *other offences*, including dangerous or negligent acts, public order offences etc. (See table footnote for details.)

Table 9 Cautions administered^(a) to child offenders, by offence type

Offence type ^(b)	2018–19r	2019–20
	Cautions	
Acts intended to cause injury	1,038	1,209
Sexual assault & related offences	605	723
Robbery & extortion	117	266
Unlawful entry with intent	1,379	1,733
Theft & related offences	3,344	4,327
<i>(Motor vehicle theft)</i>	837	1,304
<i>(Other theft)</i>	2,294	2,777
<i>(Receiving & handling)</i>	213	246
Deception & related offences	445	411
Illicit drug offences	2,280	2,754
Property damage	1,340	1,615
Road traffic offences	27	25
Other offences ^(c)	1,860	2,286
Total	12,435	15,349

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

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

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

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at August 2020.

Youth justice conferencing

In 2019–20, youth justice conferencing received a total of 3,247 referrals, with 579 (17.8%) relating to 17-year-old offenders. A total of 2,225 referrals were conferenced in 2019–20, including referrals received in a previous financial year.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders accounted for 44.9% (1,457) of all referrals received in 2019–20, a greater proportion than in 2018–19 (40.6%).

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

Theft, breaking and entering etc was the offence type most conferenced in 2019–20, at 1,948 or 27.5% of the total, followed by *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* at 1,108 (15.7%), and *property damage* (596 or 8.4%). Together, these three offence types accounted for half of all offences conferenced in the period (Table 10).

Table 10 Offences for which offenders were proceeded against by youth justice conference^(a), 2019–20

Offence type^(b)	2019–20
Acts intended to cause injury	553
<i>Assault</i>	547
<i>Other acts intended to cause injury^(c)</i>	6
Sexual assault and related offences	383
<i>Sexual assault</i>	275
<i>Non–assaultive sexual offences</i>	108
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	105
<i>Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle</i>	73
<i>Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons^(c)</i>	32
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	61
<i>Deprivation of liberty / false imprisonment</i>	2
<i>Harassment and threatening behaviour</i>	59
Robbery, extortion and related offences	265
<i>Robbery</i>	265
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,108
Theft and related offences	1,948
<i>Illegal use of property (except motor vehicles)</i>	1
<i>Motor vehicle theft and related offences</i>	498
<i>Theft (except motor vehicles)</i>	1,213
<i>Receive or handle proceeds of crime</i>	236
Fraud, deception and related offences	281
<i>Obtain benefit by deception</i>	140
<i>Forgery and counterfeiting</i>	2
<i>Other fraud and deception offences^(c)</i>	139
Illicit drug offences	439
<i>Deal or traffic in illicit drugs</i>	89
<i>Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs</i>	11
<i>Possess and/or use illicit drugs</i>	167
<i>Other drug offences^(c)</i>	172
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	88
<i>Prohibited weapons/explosives offences</i>	9
<i>Regulated weapons/explosives offences</i>	79
Property damage and environmental pollution	596
<i>Property damage</i>	596
Public order offences	611
<i>Disorderly conduct</i>	394
<i>Regulated public order offences</i>	19
<i>Offensive conduct</i>	198
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	279
<i>Driver licence offences</i>	137
<i>Vehicle registration and roadworthiness offences</i>	67
<i>Regulatory driving offences</i>	75
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	320
<i>Breach of custodial order offences</i>	1
<i>Breach of violence and non-violence orders</i>	14
<i>Offences against government operations</i>	5
<i>Offences against justice procedures</i>	300
Miscellaneous offences	37
Total	7,074

(a) Data are a count of offences for which conferences were held, not a count of conferences held or child offenders who participated in a conference.

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

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

THE COURTS

Time lapsed to finalise court proceedings

For charges finalised in 2019–20, the average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Magistrates Court was 69 days, a further increase on the 58 days taken in 2018–19 and the longest period in the 5–year time series (Table 11).

By comparison, the average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Childrens Court of Queensland was 329 days from the date of first mention in a Magistrates Court, slightly more than in 2018–19 (325 days) but still less than in earlier years.

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

Court ^{(a)(b)}	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(c)	2018–19	2019–20
	Days				
Magistrates Court ^(d)	49	51	52	58	69
Childrens Court of Queensland ^(e)	348	370	347	325	329

- (a) District, Supreme and Murri Courts excluded due to low numbers of youth justice charges finalised in these jurisdictions.
 (b) Figures are based on days lapsed between the date of first mention and date of disposition of each charge, averaged across all charges disposed in the reported financial year.
 (c) Since 12 February 2018, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with as children in Queensland's Criminal Justice System.
 (d) From mid-March to June 2020, Magistrates Courts operations were heavily scaled back in response to COVID-19.
 (e) Time lapsed for charges disposed in the Childrens Court of Queensland is calculated from date of first mention in a Magistrates Court.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 3,167 charges in 698 appearances of child defendants in 2019–20. Almost half of all finalised appearances related to defendants aged aged 17 years and older (49.3%), and those aged 15–16 years accounted for over a third (37.1%)(Table 12).

There was a notable increase (80.0%) in the number of 13-year-old defendants appearing in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2019–20, with 36 appearances compared with 20 the previous year. In contrast, there was a decrease of 19 (–10.2%) in the number of appearances of 17-year-olds over the same period.

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

Age at final appearance ^(a)	2018–19 ^r		2019–20	
	Appearances ^(b)	%	Appearances ^(b)	%
11	1	0.1	1	0.1
12	–	..	4	0.6
13	20	3.0	36	5.2
14	53	7.8	54	7.7
15	114	16.9	120	17.2
16	130	19.2	139	19.9
17	176	26.0	158	22.6
18 & over	182	26.9	186	26.6
Total^(c)	676	100.0	698	100.0

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

An average of 4.5 charges were disposed per finalised appearance in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2019–20, slightly less than the 4.8 disposed in 2018–19.

While finalised charges of *theft & related offences* decreased in number (–19) overall in 2019–20, *motor vehicle theft* charges increased by 9.9% (or 38 charges), the only theft offence to increase compared with 2018–19. Over the same period, *acts intended to cause injury* also increased by 39 charges (12.1%) and *robbery & extortion* increased by 11 charges (1.7%). Charges for all other offence types showed a decrease, or no change over that period.

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

Offence type ^(a)	2018–19r		2019–20	
	Charges	%	Charges	%
Homicide and related offences	–	..	1	0.0
Acts intended to cause injury	321	9.8	360	11.4
Sexual assault & related offences	284	8.7	247	7.8
Robbery & extortion	630	19.3	641	20.2
Unlawful entry with intent	534	16.4	503	15.9
Theft & related offences	792	24.3	773	24.4
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	385	11.8	423	13.4
<i>Other theft</i>	295	9.0	264	8.3
<i>Receiving & handling</i>	112	3.4	86	2.7
Deception & related offences	81	2.5	44	1.4
Illicit drug offences	198	6.1	180	5.7
Property damage	204	6.3	152	4.8
Road traffic offences	56	1.7	56	1.8
Other offences ^(b)	163	5.0	210	6.6
Total^(c)	3,263	100.0	3,167	100.0

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

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Of the 698 finalised appearances in the Childrens Court of Queensland, 573 (82.1%) resulted in a guilty outcome in 2019–20. Of these, 28 (4.9%) received a custodial sentence as the most serious penalty, with a further 141 (24.6%) given an immediate/conditional release order. The most prevalent penalty continues to be probation (56.9%).

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

Penalty ^(a)	2018–19r	2019–20
	Appearances ^(b)	
Detention ^(c)	24	28
Immediate/conditional release ^(d)	137	141
Community service	41	41
Probation	283	326
Fine	–	1
Compensation	1	–
Good behaviour	9	17
Reprimand ^(e)	14	19
Total	509	573

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

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

(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: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Applications for sentence review

Table 15 Applications lodged for sentence review – Youth Justice Act 1992^(a), Childrens Court of Queensland

Court location	2013–14 ^(a)	2016–17 ^(a)	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20
	Applications ^(c)				
Beenleigh	–	–	–	–	–
Brisbane	36	25	21	59	62
Hervey Bay	–	–	–	1	–
Maroochydore	–	–	1	–	–
Townsville	–	–	–	–	–
Total	36	25	22	60	62

(a) Sentence review legislation was repealed on 28 March 2014 and was enacted again on 1 July 2016.

(b) Since 12 February 2018, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with as children in Queensland's Criminal Justice System.

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

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at July 2020.

Applications for bail

Table 16 Applications for bail, Childrens Court of Queensland

Court location	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20
	Applications ^(b)				
Beenleigh	7	10	–	2	7
Brisbane	35	30	91	140	93
Cairns	2	–	6	4	18
Dalby	–	–	–	–	1
Hervey Bay	2	–	1	1	1
Ipswich	2	6	3	5	–
Mackay	1	1	–	3	3
Maroochydore	–	1	3	5	–
Maryborough	1	–	–	1	–
Rockhampton	3	–	2	3	–
Southport	2	3	3	2	4
Toowoomba	7	–	–	1	1
Townsville	–	4	1	6	2
Total	62	55	110	173	130

(a) Since 12 February 2018, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with as children in Queensland's Criminal Justice System.

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

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at July 2020.

Appeals

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

Court location	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
	Appeals ^{(a)(b)(c)}				
Beenleigh	–	–	10	–	–
Brisbane	4	21	20	7	19
Bundaberg	–	–	–	1	–
Cairns	2	–	3	–	2
Gladstone	–	1	–	1	–
Hervey Bay	1	–	–	–	–
Ipswich	1	2	–	–	1
Mackay	–	–	–	–	1
Maroochydore	–	–	1	–	1
Mount Isa	–	–	–	1	–
Rockhampton	–	4	1	–	1
Southport	3	1	2	6	1
Toowoomba	3	–	–	2	–
Total	14	29	37	18	26

- (a) The statistics are a count of appeals from a Magistrates Court to the Childrens Court of Queensland, relating to temporary assessment orders, temporary custody orders, court assessment orders or child protection orders under the *Child Protection Act 1999*.
- (b) Child Safety Services, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women or the Director of Child Protection Litigation (DCPL) were either respondents or appellants in each of the matters. The DCPL commenced 1 July 2016.
- (c) The count is based on the originating appeal document lodged in the Childrens Court of Queensland within the reference year.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at July 2020.

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

Court location	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20
	Appeals ^(b)				
Brisbane	22	–	3	1	1
Bundaberg	1	–	–	–	3
Emerald	–	–	–	–	2
Hervey Bay	–	–	–	1	–
Maroochydore	–	1	–	–	–
Southport	–	1	–	–	–
Toowoomba	2	–	–	–	–
Townsville	–	–	–	–	1
Total	25	2	3	2	7

- (a) Since 12 February 2018, 17-year-old offenders are dealt with as children in Queensland's Criminal Justice System.
- (b) Under s222 of the *Justices Act 1886*, if a person feels aggrieved by an order made in the Magistrates Court for an offence, the person may appeal the order to a District Court Judge.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland higher courts civil database (QCivil). Data current as at July 2020.

Applications for parentage orders

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

Originating court location	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
	Applications ^{(a)(b)(c)}				
Brisbane	14	13	12	12	9
Maroochydore	–	1	–	–	1
Southport	–	–	–	1	–
Toowoomba	–	–	–	–	1
Total	14	14	12	13	11

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

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

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

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at July 2020.

Magistrates Court

In 2019–20, there were 5,560 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Magistrates Court in Queensland, a decrease of 33.4% from 8,350 in the previous year. In addition, 450 appearances resulted in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence, a decrease of 22.5% since 2018–19.

Of the 5,560 finalised appearances, 3,707 (66.7%) resulted in conviction and 1,853 (33.3%) were discharged, compared with 73.7% and 26.3% respectively in 2018–19.

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

Outcome	2018–19r		2019–20 ^(a)	
	Appearances ^(b)	%	Appearances ^(b)	%
Committed to a higher court ^(c)	581	..	450	..
Finalised	8,350		5,560	
<i>Found guilty</i>	6,152	73.7	3,707	66.7
<i>Discharged</i> ^(d)	2,198	26.3	1,853	33.3

(a) From mid-March to June 2020, Magistrates Courts heavily scaled back operations as a COVID-19 containment measure.

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

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

The difference between the 450 appearances of child defendants committed to a higher court and the 717 finalised appearances in the Childrens Court of Queensland, and the District and Supreme Courts in 2019–20 is accounted for by ex officio indictments and matters committed to a higher court in 2018–19 but finalised in 2019–20.

Table 21 shows that while the number of finalised appearances decreased by 33.4% in 2019–20 compared with 2018–19, the age distribution for appearances changed very little over that time. Defendants aged 17 years and over accounted for 36.5% of all finalised appearances in the Magistrates Court in 2019–20, slightly more than in 2018–19 (35.1%).

Table 21 Finalised appearances, by age, Magistrates Court

Age at final appearance	2018–19r		2019–20 ^(a)	
	Appearances ^(b)	%	Appearances ^(b)	%
10	29	0.3	15	0.3
11	92	1.1	62	1.1
12	282	3.4	187	3.4
13	669	8.0	447	8.0
14	1,041	12.5	745	13.4
15	1,483	17.8	918	16.5
16	1,821	21.8	1,158	20.8
17	2,224	26.6	1482	26.7
18 & over	704	8.4	542	9.7
Unknown	5	0.1	4	0.1
Total	8,350	100.0	5,560	100.0

(a) From mid-March to June 2020, Magistrates Courts heavily scaled back operations as a COVID-19 containment measure.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

In 2019–20, there were 28,004 charges finalised against child defendants in the Magistrates Court, a decrease of 7,125 (–20.3%) from the previous year (Table 22).

The largest number of finalised charges was for *theft and related offences* (9,594), which also represented a decrease (–1,461 or –13.2%) since 2018–19. However, at 34.3% of all charges, the proportion was greater in 2019–20 than in the previous year (31.5%).

Similarly, charges for *unlawful entry with intent* accounted for 5,690 or 20.3% of all charges finalised in 2019–20, compared with 6,261 (17.8%) in 2018–19.

Combined, these two offence types accounted for more than half (54.6%) of all charges finalised in the Magistrates Court in 2019–20, and 49.3% in 2018–19.

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

Offence type ^(a)	2018–19r		2019–20 ^(b)	
	Charges ^(c)	%	Charges ^(c)	%
Homicide & related offences	3	0.0	1	0.0
Acts intended to cause injury	1,683	4.8	1,353	4.8
Sexual assault & related offences	31	0.1	26	0.1
Robbery & extortion	234	0.7	230	0.8
Unlawful entry with intent	6,261	17.8	5,690	20.3
Theft & related offences	11,055	31.5	9,594	34.3
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	2,961	8.4	2,832	10.1
<i>Other theft^(d)</i>	6,330	18.0	5,243	18.7
<i>Receiving & handling</i>	1,764	5.0	1,519	5.4
Deception & related offences	1,643	4.7	1,070	3.8
Illicit drug offences	2,394	6.8	1,819	6.5
Property damage	3,148	9.0	1,840	6.6
Road traffic offences	2,356	6.7	1,803	6.4
Other offences ^(e)	6,321	18.0	4,578	16.3
Total	35,129	100.0	28,004	100.0

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

(b) From mid-March to June 2020, Magistrates Courts heavily scaled back operations as a COVID-19 containment measure.

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

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

In 2019–20, of the 29,945 charges against child defendants in the Magistrates Court, 28,004 (93.5%) were finalised, while 1,941 (6.5%) were committed to a higher court for trial or sentence, similar proportions to those in the previous year (92.9% and 7.1% respectively).

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

Outcome	2018–19r	2019–20 ^(a)
	Charges	
Committed to a higher court	2,676	1,941
Finalised	35,129	28,004
Total	37,805	29,945

(a) From mid-March to June 2020, Magistrates Courts heavily scaled back operations as a COVID-19 containment measure.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

In 2019–20, of the 5,560 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Magistrates Court, 3,707 (66.7%) resulted in a conviction (Table 24). Of these, one-third (1,237 or 33.4%) received a reprimand as the most serious penalty, a custodial sentence was imposed in 53 appearances (1.4%), and 310 (8.4%) received an immediate/conditional release order. Probation was the most serious penalty imposed in 20.5% of convicted appearances.

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

Penalty ^(a)	2018–19r		2019–20 ^(b)	
	Appearances ^(c)	%	Appearances ^(c)	%
Detention ^(d)	66	1.1	53	1.4
Immediate/conditional release ^(e)	446	7.2	310	8.4
Community service	933	15.2	512	13.8
Probation	1,175	19.1	762	20.6
Treatment order	107	1.7	62	1.7
Fine	153	2.5	70	1.9
Compensation	25	0.4	6	0.2
Good behaviour	1,121	18.2	563	15.2
Disqualification of drivers licence	126	2.0	132	3.6
Reprimand ^(f)	2,000	32.5	1,237	33.4
Total	6,152	100.0	3,707	100.0

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

(b) From mid-March to June 2020, Magistrates Courts heavily scaled back operations as a COVID-19 containment measure.

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

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

(e) Includes suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

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

Table 25 Applications for child protection orders^(a), Magistrates Court

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Applications for child protection orders	3,979	4,255	4,527	6,069	6,810

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

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at 8 August 2020

Supreme and District Courts

The Supreme and District Courts finalised 67 charges in 19 appearances of child defendants in 2019–20. While the number of appearances and charges have both increased in these courts compared with the previous year, the average number of charges per appearance remained the same at 3.5.

In 2019–20, 18 of the 19 finalised appearances of children in the Supreme and District Courts were of defendants aged 17 years and over. (For more detail refer to Appendix Table 9.)

Table 26 Finalised appearances of child defendants, by age, Supreme and District Courts

Age at final appearance	2018–19r	2019–20
	Appearances ^(a)	
15	2	–
16	4	1
17	3	3
18 & over	8	15
Total	17	19

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Of the 67 charges finalised in the Supreme and District Courts, *illicit drug offences* accounted for almost a third (32.8% or 22 charges), while in the previous year they accounted for close to half of all charges (45.8% or 27 charges). *Sexual assault & related offences* accounted for 9 (13.4%).

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

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

(a) Only selected offence types are shown (in italics) 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: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

In 2019–20, of the 19 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Supreme and District Courts, 16 (84.2%) were found guilty or pleaded guilty (Table 28). Of these, 9 (56.2%) received probation as most serious penalty and 3 (18.7%) were sentenced to an immediate/conditional release order.

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

Penalty ^(a)	2018–19r	2019–20
	Appearances ^(b)	
Immediate / conditional release ^(c)	7	3
Community service	–	2
Probation	7	9
Fine	–	1
Good behaviour	–	1
Total	14	16

(a) In descending order of seriousness.

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

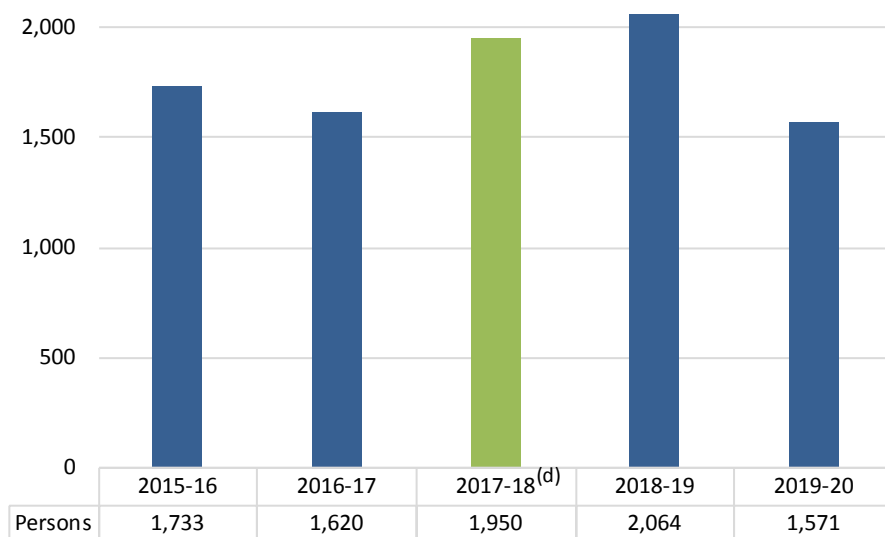
(c) Includes suspended imprisonment.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

SUPERVISED YOUTH JUSTICE ORDERS

In 2019–20, a total of 1,571 distinct young offenders commenced a supervised youth justice order.

Figure 11 Distinct offenders^(a) commencing a supervised youth justice order^{(b)(c)}



(a) An offender is counted once only in a reference year, irrespective of the number of supervised orders commenced in that period.

(b) A supervised youth justice order may commence at a later date than the date the court made the order.

(c) This count excludes admissions to a supervised release order, the part of a detention order that is completed in the community.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Young offenders aged 17 years and over represented the largest age group among the 1,571 distinct persons commencing an order in 2019–20, comprising 38.1% (599) of the total. A further 22.9% were aged 16 years (Table 29). The number of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order decreased in every age group except for 10-year-olds in 2019–20.

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

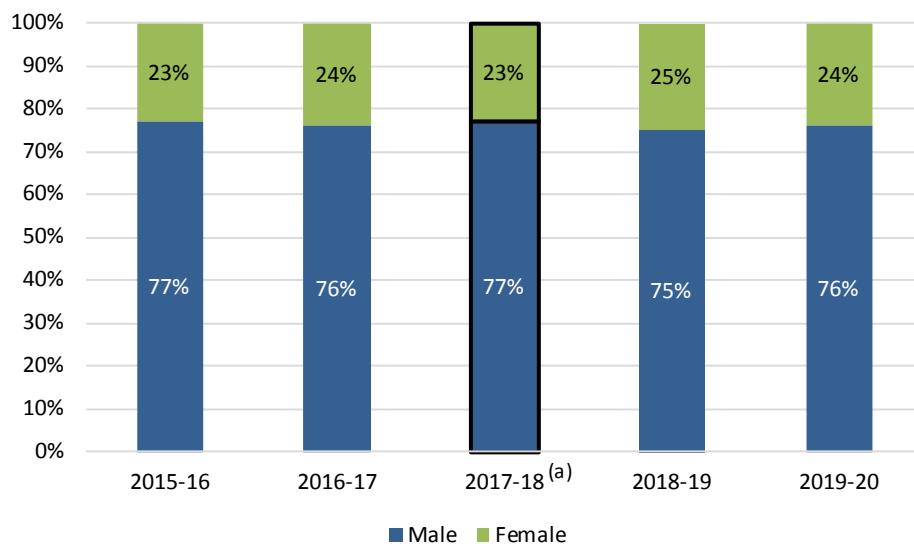
Age at commencement of order ^(a)	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(b)	2018–19	2019–20
	Offenders				
10	4	6	1	–	1
11	20	12	25	19	8
12	73	49	40	48	38
13	162	166	175	140	104
14	330	277	264	251	176
15	433	416	426	397	286
16	500	488	492	482	359
17+	211	206	527	727	599
Total	1,733	1,620	1,950	2,064	1,571

(a) Age represents age of offender as at the earliest commencement of a supervised order within a reference year.
 (b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

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

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

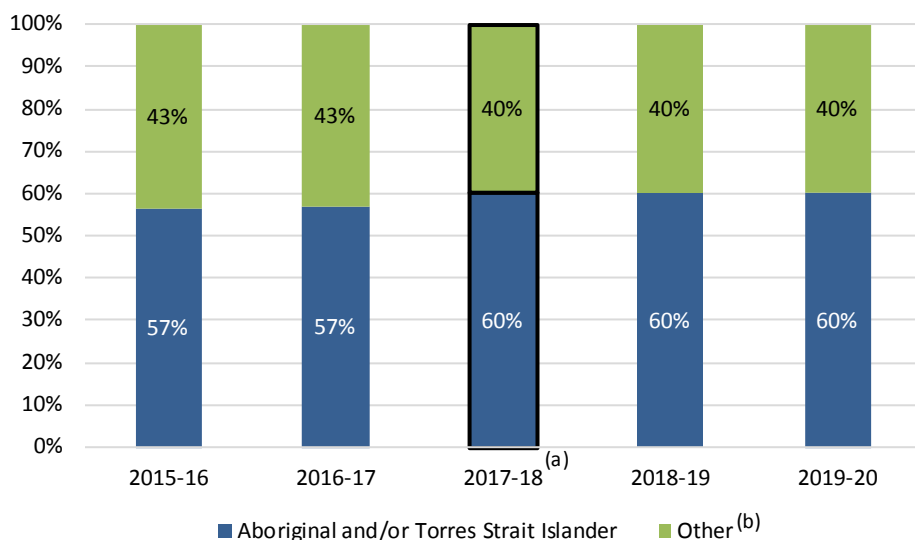


(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

In 2019–20, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders accounted for 60 per cent of all distinct young offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order. This is consistent since 2017–18.

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



(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
 (b) "Other" includes non-Indigenous offenders and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were 18 times as likely as other young people to commence a supervised youth justice order in 2019–20 (Table 30).

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

Indigenous status	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20
	Rate per 1,000 persons ^(b)				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	28.4	25.8	32.1	29.7	22.3
Other ^(c)	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.3

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
 (b) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–16 year olds for the periods 2015–16 to 2017–18, and for 10–17 year olds for 2018–19 and 2019–20.
 (c) "Other" includes non-Indigenous offenders and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, data current as at July 2020; Total population estimates data sourced from ABS 3101.0 *Australian Demographic Statistics*, Sep 2019 release, Table 53. Estimated Resident Population by single year of age, Queensland, Indigenous population estimates data sourced from ABS 3238.0 *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2006 to 2031*. Table 3 Estimated and projected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, Series B(a), Single year of age, Queensland, 2006 to 2031, (released 11 July 2019); Other population figures were derived by subtracting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population figures from the total population figures. Note: ERP Estimates for 2009 to 2017 are final, 2018 is revised, 2019 is preliminary, 2020 is QGSO derived using absolute growth between 2018 and 2019 and applied to 2019 (2020ERP = 2019ERP - 2018ERP + 2019ERP).

Detention orders (excluding suspended detention) increased to 11.1% of all orders commenced in 2019–20, the highest proportion and number over the 5–year time series. The most prevalent order type commenced by young offenders was probation, averaging around half of all supervised youth justice orders commenced between 2015–16 and 2019–20. Community service normally accounts for around a quarter of all supervised orders commenced, however the number of commencements dropped to 268 (or 17.1%) in 2019–20 (Table 31).

Table 31 Supervised youth justice orders commenced, by order type

Order type	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20
	Orders ^(b)				
Boot camp ^(c)	2	–	–	–	–
Boot camp (vehicle offences) ^(d)	8	–	–	–	–
Community service	489	387	496	459	268
Conditional release	123	94	104	155	127
Detention ^(e)	164	124	143	173	176
Graffiti removal ^(f)	96	100	112	117	75
Intensive supervision ^(g)	5	–	6	1	1
Probation	846	814	1,032	1,046	772
Restorative justice ^(h)	–	101	57	113	152
Total	1,733	1,620	1,950	2,064	1,571

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

(b) Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of offenders, as an individual offender may commence more than one supervised order during the reference year.

(c) Boot camp orders came into effect in the Cairns area on 31 January 2013, were temporarily discontinued between April 2013 and December 2013, and discontinued from 30 September 2015. Boot camp (sentenced) order counts exclude boot camp (vehicle offences) order counts.

(d) Boot camp (vehicle offence) orders came into effect in the Townsville area in April 2014 and expanded to the Cairns area in October 2014. They were discontinued from 30 September 2015.

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

(f) Court-ordered graffiti removal orders came into effect on 27 September 2013. These counts exclude graffiti removal program referrals by police and as a result of youth justice conference agreements.

(g) Intensive supervision orders (ISOs) are a sentencing option for offenders aged between 10 and 12 years where the court considers that the child, unless subject to an intensive period of supervision and support in the community, is likely to commit further offences. ISOs can only be ordered in cases where the young person has been found guilty of an offence that if committed by an adult would make the adult liable to imprisonment.

(h) Restorative justice orders commenced on 1 July 2016.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Conditional bail

The number of conditional bail programs commenced shows a decrease in 2019–20 (768) compared with 2018–19 (870)(Table 32).

Table 32 Court-ordered conditional bail commenced by child offenders

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20
Conditional bail orders	323	450	768	870	768

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Community supervision

The majority of community-based supervised orders that commenced in 2018–19 were successfully completed by the end of 30 June 2020 (69.9% of probation orders and 66.2% of community service orders, the two most prevalent community-based order types).

Almost one in five probation, one in four community service orders and more than a third of all conditional release orders were subject to breach action on or before 30 June 2020 (Table 33).

Table 33 Supervised youth justice orders commenced in 2018–19: completion status as at 30 June 2020

Completion status as at 30 June 2020	Type of order commenced ^(a) in 2018–19 ^(b)											
	Probation		Conditional release		Community service		Intensive supervision		Graffiti removal		Restorative justice	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Order successfully completed	1,401	69.9	227	62.5	579	66.2	4	66.7	201	86.3	248	85.5
Order remains active	189	9.4	3	0.8	84	9.6	–	–	8	3.4	15	5.2
Breach action initiated ^(c)	414	20.7	133	36.6	212	24.2	2	33.3	24	10.3	27	9.3
Total^(d)	2,004	100.0	363	100.0	875	100.0	6	100.0	233	100.0	290	100.0

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

(b) 17-year-old offenders were included in the youth justice system from February 2018.

(c) Orders against which breach action was initiated on or prior to 30 June 2020 are reported as “breach action initiated” irrespective of the completion status of the order at 30 June 2020.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Table 34 Supervised youth justice orders commenced: completion status as at 30 June of the following period

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Probation orders commenced ^(a)									
	2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 ^(b)		2018–19	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	1,074	66.8	1,184	70.6	1,071	69.9	1,415	70.9	1,401	69.9
Remained active	81	5.0	77	4.6	111	7.2	136	6.8	189	9.4
Breach action initiated ^(c)	453	28.2	417	24.9	351	22.9	444	22.3	414	20.7
Total	1,608	100.0	1,678	100.0	1,533	100.0	1,995	100.0	2,004	100.0

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Conditional release orders commenced ^(a)									
	2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 ^(b)		2018–19	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	138	52.3	166	59.7	165	63.0	163	60.8	227	62.5
Remained active	1	0.4	1	0.4	–	–	2	0.7	3	0.8
Breach action initiated ^(c)	125	47.3	111	39.9	97	37.0	103	38.4	133	36.6
Total	264	100.0	278	100.0	262	100.0	268	100.0	363	100.0

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Community service orders commenced ^(a)									
	2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 ^(b)		2018–19	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	720	70.5	650	69.2	511	69.0	607	68.7	579	66.2
Remained active	46	4.5	48	5.1	44	5.9	60	6.8	84	9.6
Breach action initiated ^(c)	256	25.0	241	25.7	186	25.1	217	24.5	212	24.2
Total	1,022	100.0	939	100.0	741	100.0	884	100.0	875	100.0

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Intensive supervision orders commenced ^(a)									
	2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 ^(b)		2018–19	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	8	57.1	5	50.0	1	50.0	6	42.9	4	66.7
Remained active	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Breach action initiated ^(c)	6	42.9	5	50.0	1	50.0	8	57.1	2	33.3
Total	14	100.0	10	100.0	2	100.0	14	100.0	6	100.0

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Court-ordered graffiti removal orders commenced ^(a)									
	2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 ^(b)		2018–19	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	213	82.6	169	83.7	160	85.1	184	82.1	201	86.3
Remained active	4	1.6	3	1.5	3	1.6	3	1.3	8	3.4
Breach action initiated ^(c)	41	15.9	30	14.9	25	13.3	37	16.5	24	10.3
Total	258	100.0	202	100.0	188	100.0	224	100.0	233	100.0

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Restorative justice orders commenced ^(a)									
	2014–15		2015–16		2016–17		2017–18 ^(b)		2018–19	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Successfully completed	–	–	–	–	241	87.6	175	86.2	248	85.5
Remained active	–	–	–	–	6	2.2	7	3.4	15	5.2
Breach action initiated ^(c)	–	–	–	–	28	10.2	21	10.3	27	9.3
Total	–	–	–	–	275	100.0	203	100.0	290	100.0

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

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

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

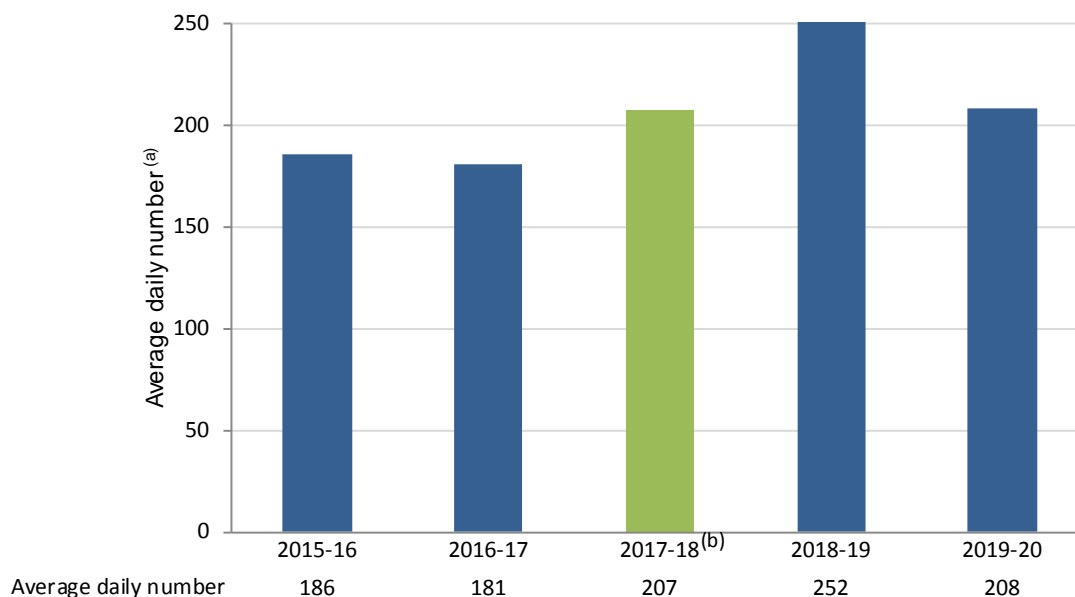
(d) Percentages may not sum to 100.0 in every case due to rounding.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Young people in custody

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

Figure 14 Average daily number of young people in custody



Note: Previous financial year custody figures have been updated to reflect new counting rules and therefore may not be the same as presented in previous publications.

(a) The average daily number of young people in detention / court-ordered custody is calculated based on the number who were physically located in a detention centre or a police watchhouse at 11:59pm on each day during the reference year. This includes young people held in pre-court custody in a detention centre, but not pre-court custody in a police watchhouse.

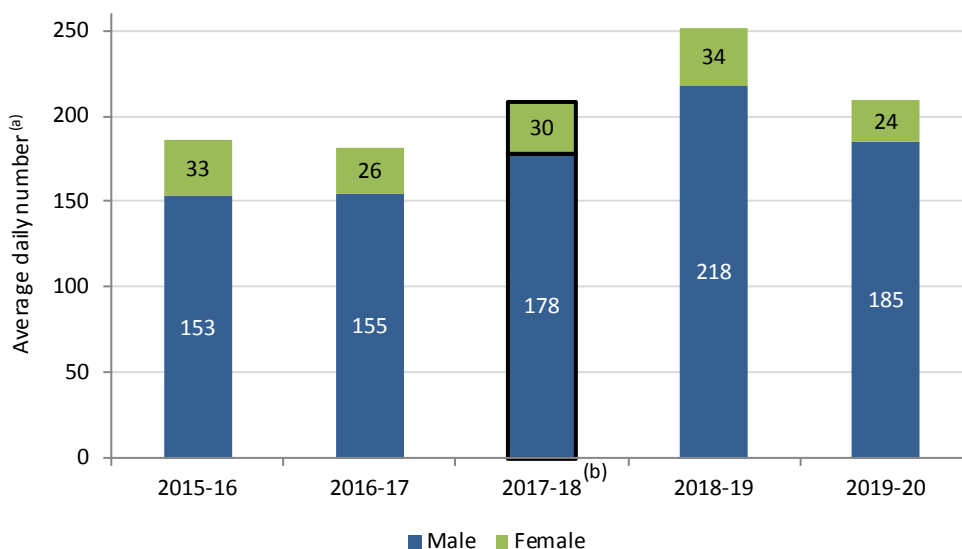
(b) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Young males continue to outnumber young females in custody, accounting for between 82 and 89 per cent of young people in custody on average in any given period. In 2019–20, the rate of young males in custody per 10,000 male population was 6.7, compared to that of young females at 0.9 per 10,000 female population.

Young females in custody was lower in 2019–20, at 11 per cent of all young persons in custody, compared with previous years, where the proportion ranged between 14 per cent and 18 per cent.

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



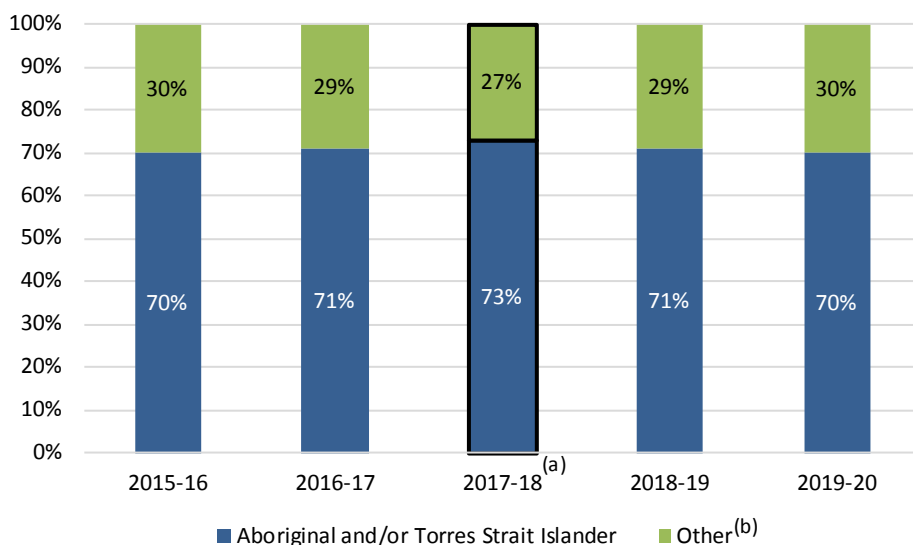
(a) As a result of rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people continue to dominate the numbers in youth detention / court-ordered custody, accounting for over 70 per cent of young people in custody on an average day in 2019–20.

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



(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
 (b) "Other" includes non-Indigenous young people and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were 27 times as likely as other young people to have been in youth custody in 2019–20.

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

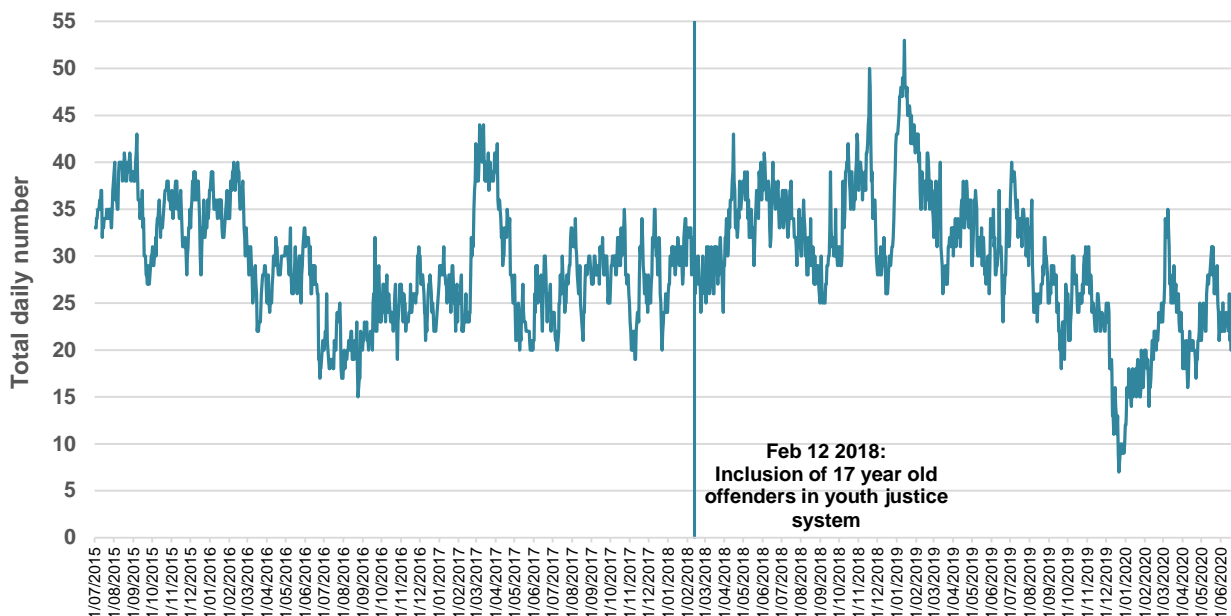
Indigenous status	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20
	Rate per 1,000 persons aged 10–17 years ^(b)				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	37.1	36.3	41.5	42.7	34.3
Other ^(c)	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.3
Total	4.3	4.1	4.6	4.8	3.9

(a) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
 (b) Rate is based on the average daily number in youth detention, by Indigenous status. Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–16 year olds for the periods 2015–16 to 2017–18, and for 10–17 year olds for 2018–19 and 2019–20.
 (c) "Other" includes non-Indigenous young people and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, data current as at July 2020; Total population estimates data sourced from ABS 3101.0 *Australian Demographic Statistics*, Sep 2019 release, Table 53. Estimated Resident Population by single year of age, Queensland, Indigenous population estimates data sourced from ABS 3238.0 *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2006 to 2031*. Table 3 Estimated and projected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, Series B(a), Single year of age, Queensland, 2006 to 2031, (released 11 July 2019); Other population figures were derived by subtracting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population figures from the total population figures.. 'Note: ERP Estimates for 2009 to 2017 are final, 2018 is revised, 2019 is preliminary, 2020 is QGSO derived using absolute growth between 2018 and 2019 and applied to 2019 (2020ERP = 2019ERP - 2018ERP + 2019ERP).

Figure 17 shows the total daily number of young females in custody between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2020. Females were admitted to the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC) for the first time on 22 January 2015. Prior to this date, young females who were admitted to detention (either remanded in custody or sentenced) were transferred to the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC).

Figure 17 Total daily number of young females in youth detention / court-ordered custody^(a)



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

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

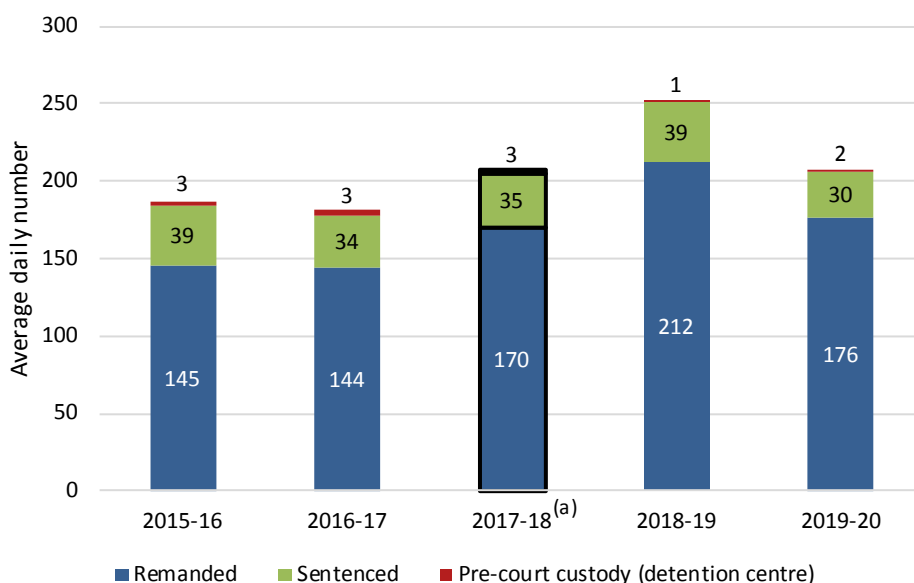
Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

Remand in custody

The average daily number of young people in custody on remand¹ decreased to 176 per day in 2019–20 compared with 212 in the previous year. At the same time, the average daily number in sentenced detention decreased to 30 young people per day compared with 39 in the previous period (Figure 18).

The majority of young people in custody are held on remand (averaging around 82 per cent over the last five years). In 2019–20, 84.5% were on remand on an average day, a slight increase from the previous year (84.4%).

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



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

¹ This excludes all young people held in pre-court custody.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

In 2019–20, the average length of time a young person spent per remand in custody episode was 30 days, compared with an average of 27 days in 2018–19. The average length is based on remand episodes that ended in 2019–20.

Of all finalised court appearances in 2019–20 at which a detention order was made, 50 per cent resulted in the young offender being released from court following sentencing with no time remaining to serve in custody. In 28 per cent of all appearances resulting in a detention order, the offender was not required to serve a supervised release order. This reflects the number of detention orders that had been served as pre-sentence custody². Fifty per cent of all sentencing events resulting in a detention order involved the offender serving a period of custody following sentencing (Table 36)

Table 36 Detention orders by custody status at time of sentencing

Custody status	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18 ^(a)	2018–19	2019–20
	Per cent (%) ^(b)				
Released directly from court following sentencing	43	41	48	41	50
<i>Without a supervised release order</i>	25	26	26	21	28
<i>With a supervised release order</i>	18	15	22	20	22
Custodial period to serve following sentencing	57	59	52	59	50

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

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

The number of distinct young people in court-ordered custody in a watchhouse had a downward trend over the 2019–20 financial year.

Table 37 Distinct young persons in court-ordered custody in watchhouses in each month, by age, 2019–20^(a)

Age	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	Persons											
10	–	–	1	2	1	–	–	–	1	1	–	–
11	1	3	1	1	1	–	3	1	7	1	1	–
12	4	8	11	5	6	4	4	6	12	9	8	2
13	21	16	8	18	14	11	14	16	16	4	7	5
14	18	32	14	21	12	20	16	15	25	16	10	22
15	28	31	28	29	23	18	19	26	25	16	14	22
16	42	33	40	23	23	25	26	23	27	8	15	18
17	26	45	40	45	26	23	21	20	26	18	7	18
18	4	4	3	–	3	5	2	2	3	3	2	–
Total	144	172	146	144	109	106	105	109	142	76	64	87

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

During 2019–20, a total of 866 distinct young persons spent at least one night in a police watchhouse while on remand or sentenced custody, for a total of 1,480 distinct stays (Table 38). About 63 per cent of stays lasted just one day. Overall, the average length of stay was two days, with a median of one day. Almost all stays lasted for two weeks or less, with a maximum stay length of 20 days.

² Pre-sentence custody includes time spent in custody on remand and pre-court custody.

Table 38 Watchhouse stay episodes during 2019–2020

Length of watchhouse stay episode (days) ^(a)	Distinct episodes ^(b)
1	928
2	248
3–4	176
5–7	70
8–14	47
15+	11
Total	1,480

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

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2020.

VICTIMS OF CHILD OFFENDERS

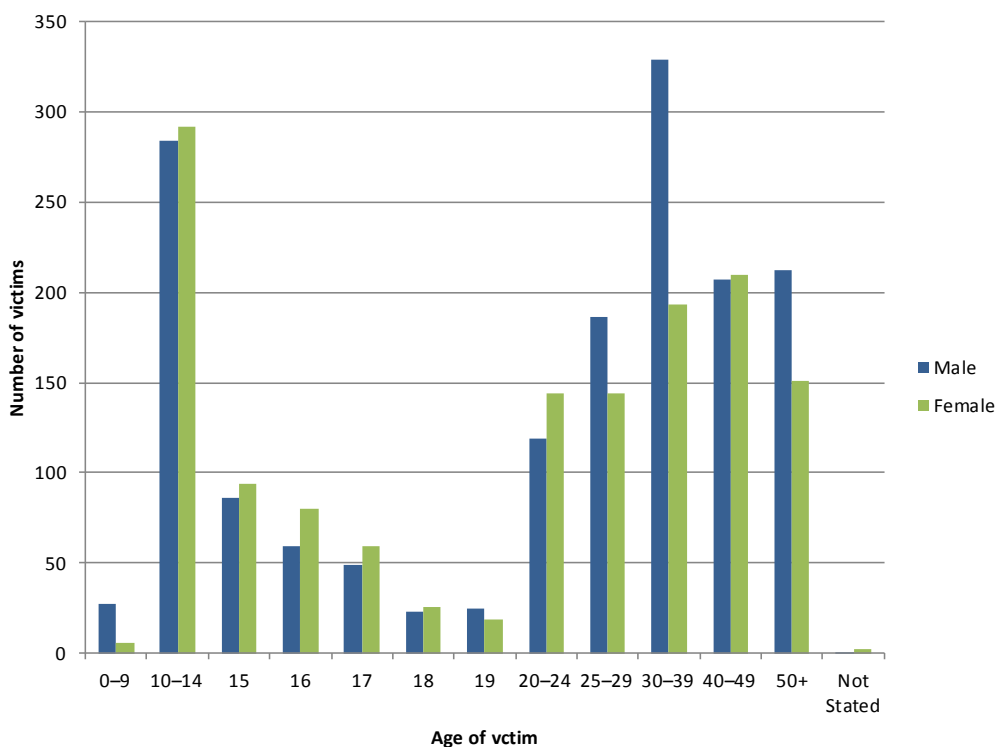
Data relating to the victims of child offenders in 2019–20 were extracted from official crime reports in Queensland Police Service’s administrative data, where at least one of the alleged offenders identified was aged between 10 and 17 years. Offenders were restricted to those involving an offence against the person. This is the context in which all victims data are presented in this report.

Of the 4,285 victims of offences against the person by child offenders in 2019–20, only four were of unknown age. Almost half (46.5%) of all victims were under 20 years of age, 22.3% were aged 10 to 14 years, and 20.3% aged 15 to 19 years. Only 10.2% of victims were aged 50 years or over.

For all offences against the person, 47.7% of victims were female and 52.3% were male. However, female victims comprised 78.1% of *sexual assault and related offences* and 46.9% of *acts intended to cause injury* victims, while male victims accounted for 67.9% of *robbery and extortion* and 53.1% of *acts intended to cause injury* victims.

Acts intended to cause injury accounted for 70.7% of all victims of offences against the person by child offenders. Within this offence group, 28.1% of victims were aged between 25 and 39 years, 19.1% aged between 10 and 14 years, and a further 25.8% aged 40 years and over.

Figure 19 Victims of acts intended to cause injury^(a) by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2019–20

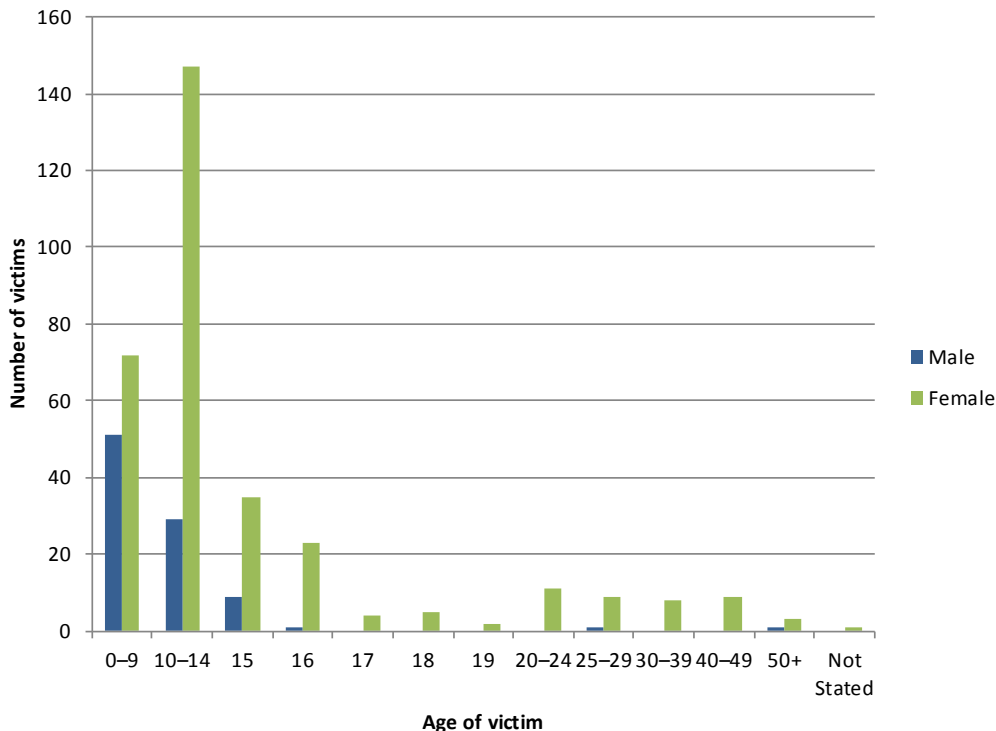


(a) Includes assault, stalking, administer harmful substance, and other acts intended to cause injury.

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at August 2020.

In 2019–20, victims of *sexual assault and related offences* accounted for 9.8% of all offences against the person by child offenders. Within this offence group, victims aged between 10 and 14 years accounted for 41.9%, and a further 29.3% of victims were under 10 years of age.

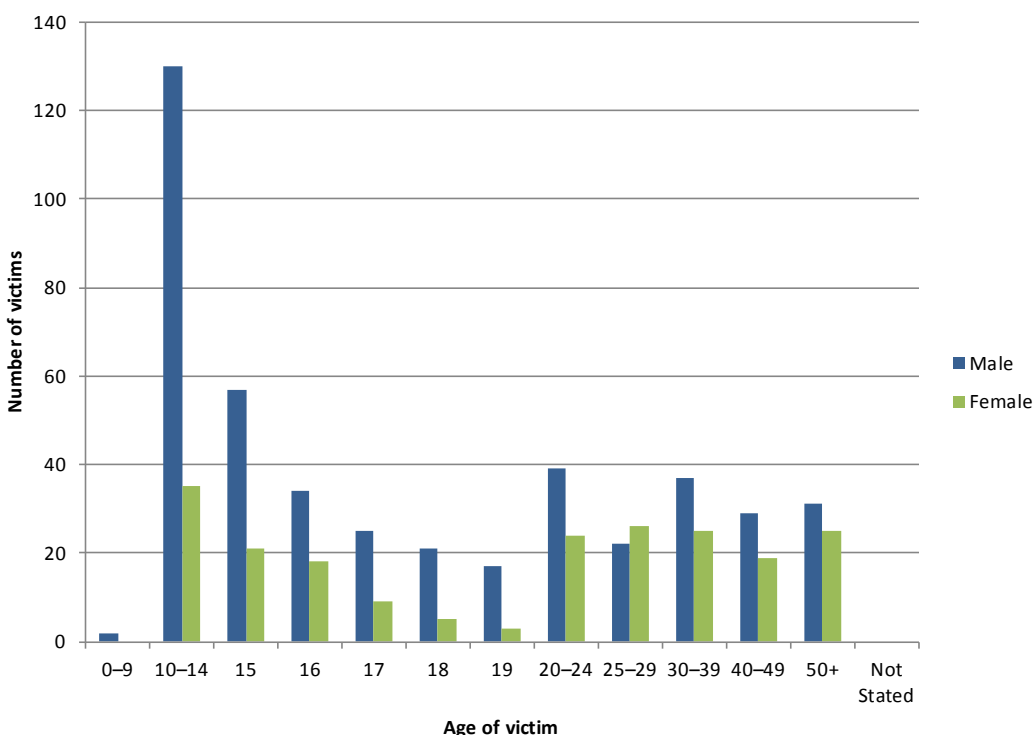
Figure 20 Victims of sexual assault and related offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2019–20



Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at August 2020.

Victims of *robbery and extortion* offences accounted for a further 15.3% of offences against the person by child offenders in 2019–20. Victims aged between 10 and 14 years accounted for 25.2% of those, and a further 32.1% were aged 15 to 19 years.

Figure 21 Victims of robbery and extortion offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2019–20



Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at August 2020.

APPENDIX

Detailed tables

All tables represent data for child defendants, for Queensland only, for 2018–19 and 2019–20.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Summary

Table 1 All Courts: Finalised charges, by offence type and court

Magistrates Court (committals)

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

Magistrates Court (dispositions)

Table 3 Finalised appearances, by age and sex

Figure 1 Finalised appearances, by age

Table 4 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4

Table 5 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex

Figure 2 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

Childrens Court of Queensland

Table 6 Finalised appearances, by age and sex

Figure 3 Finalised appearances, by age

Table 7 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4

Table 8 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex

Figure 4 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

District and Supreme Courts

Table 9 Finalised appearances, by age and sex

Figure 5 Finalised appearances, by age

Table 10 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4

Table 11 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex

Figure 6 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

All Courts

Table 12 Finalised appearances, by age and sex

Figure 7 Finalised appearances, by age

Table 1 All courts: Finalised charges^(a), by offence type and court level

Offence type	2018–19r				2019–20			
	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	1	1	5	7
Murder	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	5
Attempted murder	3	—	3	6	—	—	—	—
Manslaughter and driving causing death	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Acts intended to cause injury	1,683	321	9	2,013	1,353	360	6	1,719
Assault	1,653	315	7	1,975	1,337	354	6	1,697
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	30	6	2	38	16	6	—	22
Sexual assault & related offences	31	284	2	317	26	247	9	282
Sexual assault	20	255	2	277	22	215	8	245
Non-assaultive sexual offences	11	29	—	40	4	32	1	37
Dangerous or negligent acts	519	28	—	547	347	39	1	387
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	321	20	—	341	243	33	—	276
Other dangerous or negligent acts	198	8	—	206	104	6	1	111
Abduction & related offences	149	20	—	169	83	33	1	117
Abduction and kidnapping	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Deprivation of Liberty	14	3	—	17	12	14	—	26
Harrasment and Threatening Behaviour	135	16	—	151	71	19	1	91
Robbery & extortion	234	630	5	869	230	641	5	876
Robbery	230	622	5	857	218	629	4	851
Blackmail & extortion	4	8	—	12	12	12	1	25
Unlawful entry with intent	6,261	534	3	6,798	5,690	503	7	6,200
Theft & related offences^(c)	11,055	792	7	11,854	9,594	773	7	10,374
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	2,961	385	5	3,351	2,832	423	3	3,258
Other theft & related offences	4	—	—	4	4	—	—	4
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	1,764	112	2	1,878	1,519	86	3	1,608
Theft (except motor vehicles)	6,326	295	—	6,621	5,239	264	1	5,504
Deception & related offences	1,643	81	—	1,724	1,070	44	1	1,115
Obtain benefit by deception	691	26	—	717	335	14	1	350
Forgery & counterfeiting	10	—	—	10	8	—	—	8
Deceptive business/government practices	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
Other fraud and deception offences	941	54	—	995	727	30	—	757
Illicit drug offences	2,394	198	27	2,619	1,819	180	22	2,021
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	200	96	12	308	149	71	3	223
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	14	1	—	15	10	2	—	12
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	949	53	10	1,012	746	60	13	819
Other illicit drug offences	1,231	48	5	1,284	914	47	6	967
Weapons & explosives offences	476	12	—	488	418	11	3	432
Prohibited weapons/explosives offences	82	—	—	82	53	3	3	59
Regulated weapons/explosives offences	394	12	—	406	365	8	—	373
Property damage	3,148	204	1	3,353	1,840	152	—	1,992
Property damage	3,147	204	1	3,352	1,840	152	—	1,992
Environmental pollution	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Public order offences	3,362	50	—	3,412	2,439	64	—	2,503
Road traffic offences	2,356	56	—	2,412	1,803	56	—	1,859
Justice & government offences	1,746	53	2	1,801	1,244	61	—	1,305
Breach of justice order ^(d)	191	2	—	193	164	7	—	171
Offences against government operations	102	14	—	116	57	9	—	66
Offences against government security	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Offences against justice procedures	1,452	37	2	1,491	1,023	45	—	1,068
Miscellaneous offences	69	—	—	69	47	2	—	49
Total	35,129	3,263	59	38,451	28,004	3,167	67	31,238

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

(b) Charges are finalised at Magistrates Court level by conviction, dismissal or withdrawal, but not by committal, transfer 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: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Table 2 Magistrates court: Appearances and charges committed for sentence or trial, by statistical area level 4

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2018–19r			2019–20		
	Appearances (a)	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances (a)	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	170	663	3.9	74	254	3.4
Brisbane East	15	41	2.7	18	85	4.7
Cairns	80	374	4.7	64	209	3.3
Central Queensland	31	124	4.0	41	150	3.7
Darling Downs–Maranoa	10	36	3.6	10	63	6.3
Gold Coast	75	157	2.1	55	125	2.3
Ipswich	81	203	2.5	65	153	2.4
Logan–Beaudesert	62	344	5.5	62	135	2.2
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	14	32	2.3	11	99	9.0
Moreton Bay–North	56	131	2.3	36	115	3.2
Moreton Bay–South	24	58	2.4	17	85	5.0
Queensland–Outback	27	60	2.2	16	59	3.7
Sunshine Coast	32	68	2.1	24	56	2.3
Toowoomba	28	120	4.3	29	109	3.8
Townsville	33	93	2.8	49	194	4.0
Wide Bay	41	172	4.2	19	50	2.6
Total	779	2,676	3.4	590	1,941	3.3

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

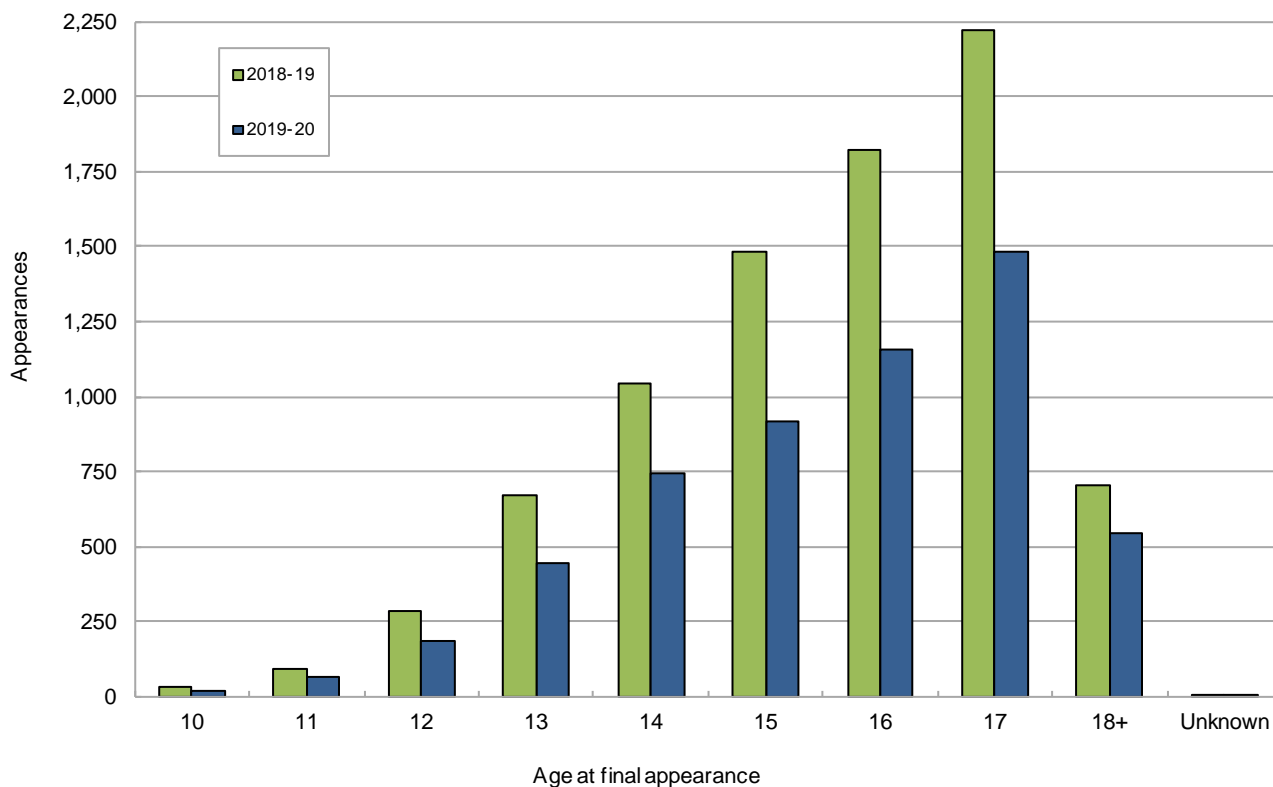
Table 3 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances^(a), by age and sex

Age at final appearance	2018–19r			2019–20		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)
10	24	5	29	14	1	15
11	73	19	92	49	13	62
12	228	54	282	132	55	187
13	464	205	669	284	163	447
14	667	374	1,041	522	222	745
15	1,014	469	1,483	654	264	918
16	1,314	506	1,821	848	309	1,158
17	1,722	502	2,224	1,139	342	1,482
18+	565	139	704	415	126	542
Unknown	5	—	5	4	—	4
Total	6,076	2,273	8,350	4,061	1,495	5,560

- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple finalised appearances within the reference year.
- (b) Includes one appearance by a 16-year-old defendant whose sex was unknown or not stated.
- (c) Includes four appearances by juvenile defendants whose sex was unknown or not stated.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Figure 1 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances^(a), by age



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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Table 4 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances^(a) and charges, by statistical area level 4

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2018–19r			2019–20		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	1,082	5,644	5.2	815	4,829	5.9
Brisbane–East	166	786	4.7	128	631	4.9
Brisbane–North	1	1	1.0	1	2	2.0
Brisbane–South	2	4	2.0	—	—	..
Cairns	887	3,836	4.3	733	3,554	4.8
Central Queensland	445	2,033	4.6	261	1,374	5.3
Darling Downs–Maranoa	242	712	2.9	178	788	4.4
Gold Coast	724	2,787	3.8	389	1,600	4.1
Ipswich	895	3,091	3.5	462	2,290	5.0
Logan–Beaudesert	417	2,062	4.9	382	2,609	6.8
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	143	570	4.0	77	277	3.6
Moreton Bay–North	471	2,363	5.0	263	1,222	4.6
Moreton Bay–South	239	843	3.5	135	525	3.9
Queensland–Outback	712	2,827	4.0	405	1,953	4.8
Sunshine Coast	427	1,327	3.1	254	1,002	3.9
Toowoomba	420	1,771	4.2	289	1,431	5.0
Townsville	643	2,534	3.9	536	2,713	5.1
Wide Bay	434	1,938	4.5	252	1,204	4.8
Total	8,350	35,129	4.2	5,560	28,004	5.0

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

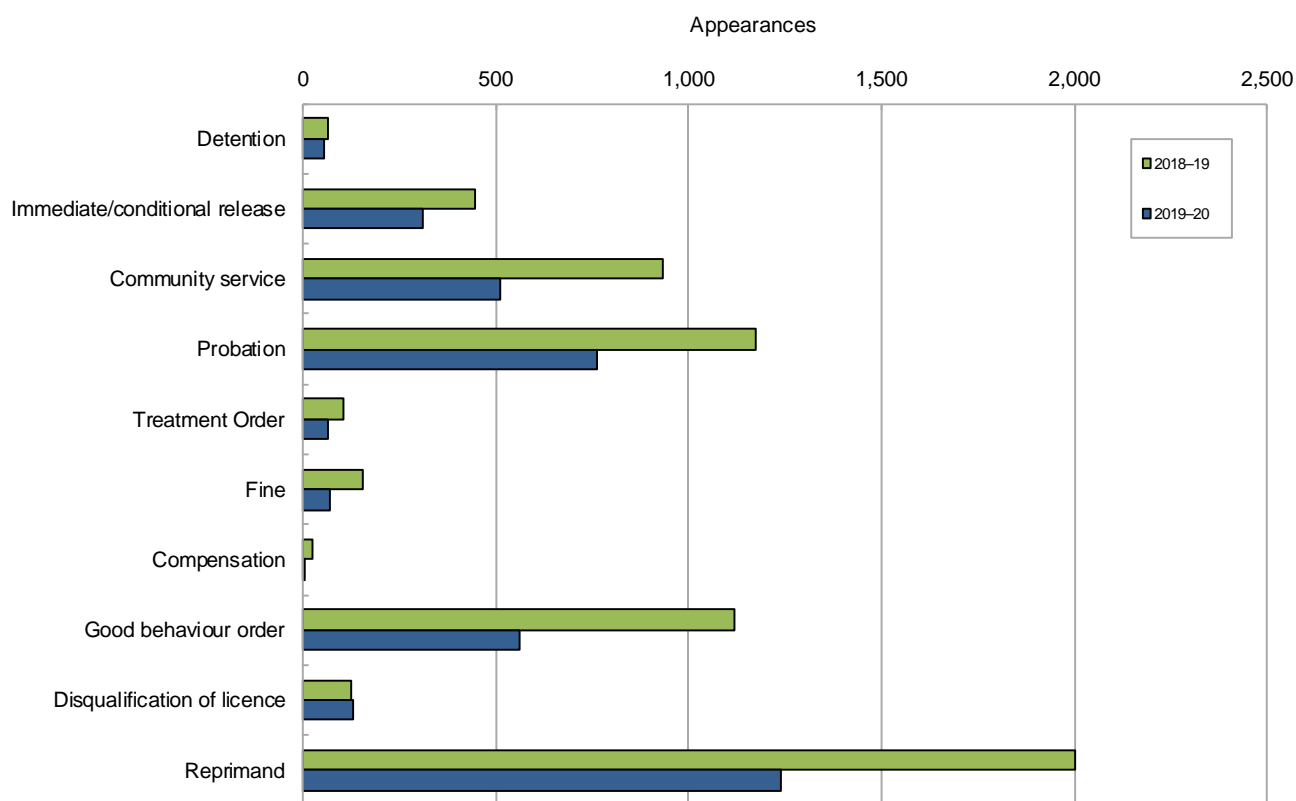
Table 5 Magistrates Court: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty and sex

Most serious penalty ^(b)	2018–19r			2019–20		
	Male	Female	Total ^(c)	Male	Female	Total ^(d)
Detention ^(e)	59	7	66	49	4	53
Immediate/conditional release ^(f)	394	52	446	282	28	310
Community service	705	228	933	404	108	512
Probation	833	342	1,175	560	202	762
Treatment Order	82	25	107	46	16	62
Fine	123	30	153	59	11	70
Compensation	23	2	25	4	2	6
Good behaviour order	792	329	1,121	384	179	563
Disqualification of licence	100	26	126	100	32	132
Reprimand ^(g)	1,394	605	2,000	874	362	1,237
Total	4,505	1,646	6,152	2,762	944	3,707

- (a) Data are a count of finalised appearances resulting in a guilty outcome, not defendants. An individual may have one or multiple such appearances during the reference year.
- (b) In descending order of seriousness.
- (c) Includes one appearance in the reference year by a child defendant whose sex was unknown or not stated.
- (d) Includes one appearance in the reference year by a child defendant whose sex was unknown or not stated.
- (e) Includes intensive supervision, imprisonment, intensive correction and boot camp orders.
- (f) Includes suspended imprisonment.
- (g) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Figure 2 Magistrates Court: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty



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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

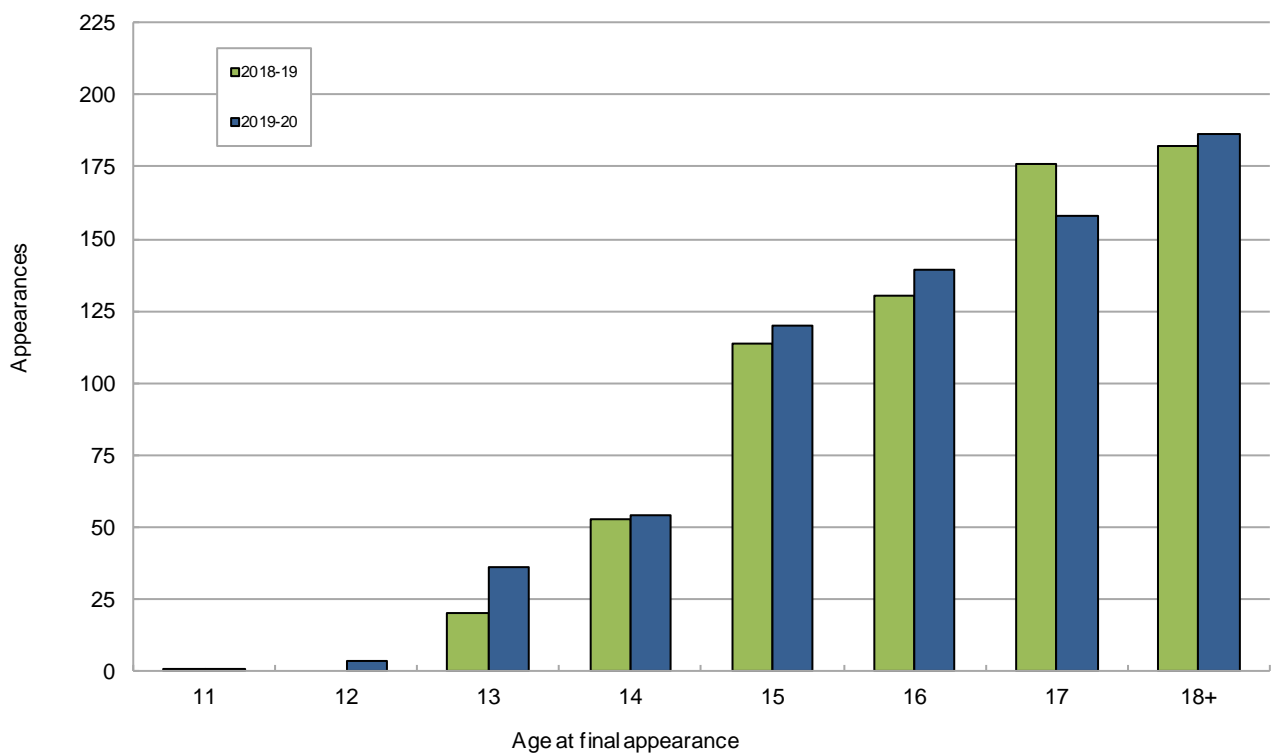
Table 6 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances^(a), by age and sex

Age at final appearance	2018–19r			2019–20		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
11	1	—	1	1	—	1
12	—	—	—	2	2	4
13	17	3	20	28	8	36
14	31	22	53	35	19	54
15	83	31	114	81	39	120
16	100	30	130	107	32	139
17	144	32	176	134	24	158
18+	168	14	182	159	27	186
Total	544	132	676	547	151	698

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Figure 3 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances^(a), by age at final appearance



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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Table 7 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances^(a) and charges, by statistical area level 4

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2018–19r			2019–20		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	296	1,311	4.4	251	909	3.6
Cairns	65	385	5.9	80	377	4.7
Central Queensland	33	194	5.9	23	239	10.4
Darling Downs–Maranoa	6	44	7.3	10	31	3.1
Gold Coast	71	199	2.8	73	214	2.9
Ipswich	31	174	5.6	52	169	3.3
Logan–Beaudesert	30	202	6.7	59	437	7.4
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	8	51	6.4	13	46	3.5
Queensland–Outback	15	26	1.7	9	54	6.0
Sunshine Coast	38	152	4.0	27	81	3.0
Toowoomba	21	156	7.4	31	189	6.1
Townsville	35	262	7.5	46	333	7.2
Wide Bay	27	107	4.0	24	88	3.7
Total	676	3,263	4.8	698	3,167	4.5

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

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

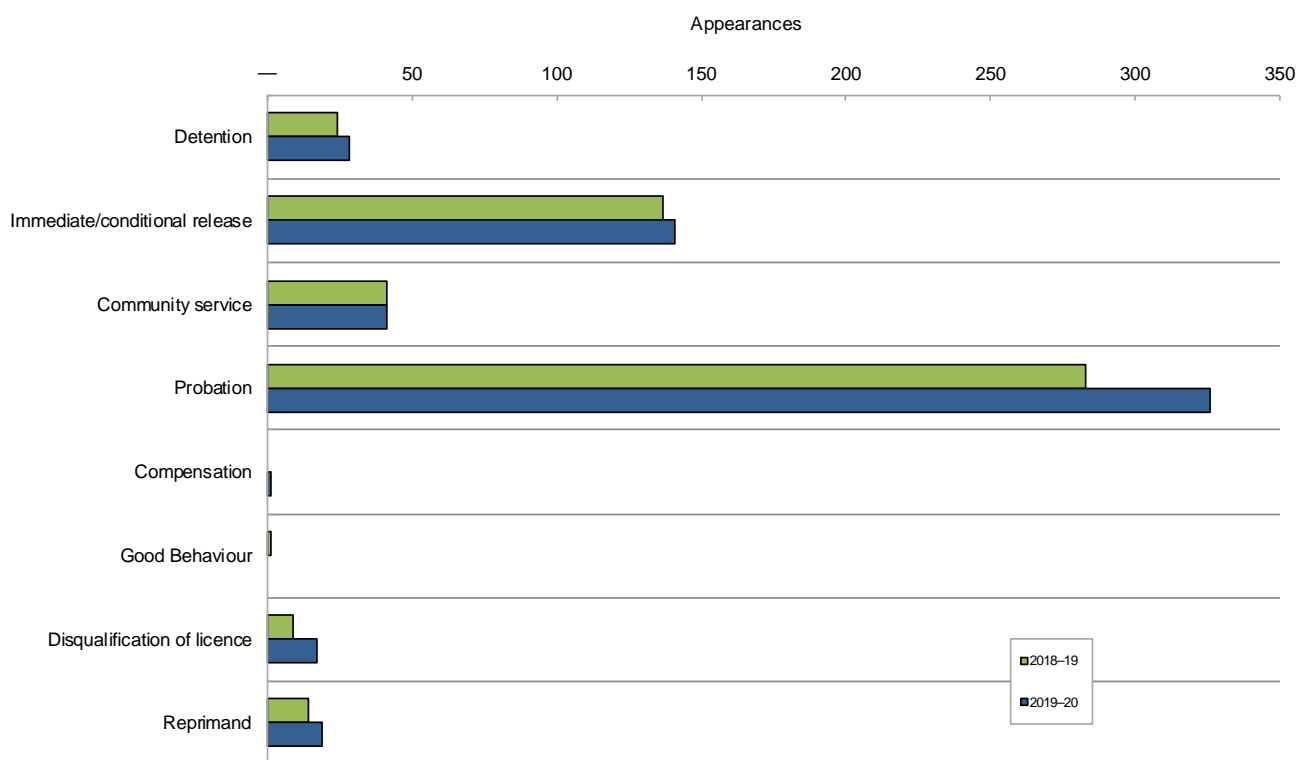
Most serious penalty ^(b)	2018–19r			2019–20		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	24	—	24	25	3	28
Immediate/conditional release	122	15	137	118	23	141
Community service	36	5	41	34	7	41
Probation	205	78	283	246	80	326
Fine	—	—	—	1	—	1
Compensation	1	—	1	—	—	—
Good behaviour order	6	3	9	8	9	17
Reprimand	12	2	14	16	3	19
Total	406	103	509	448	125	573

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

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



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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

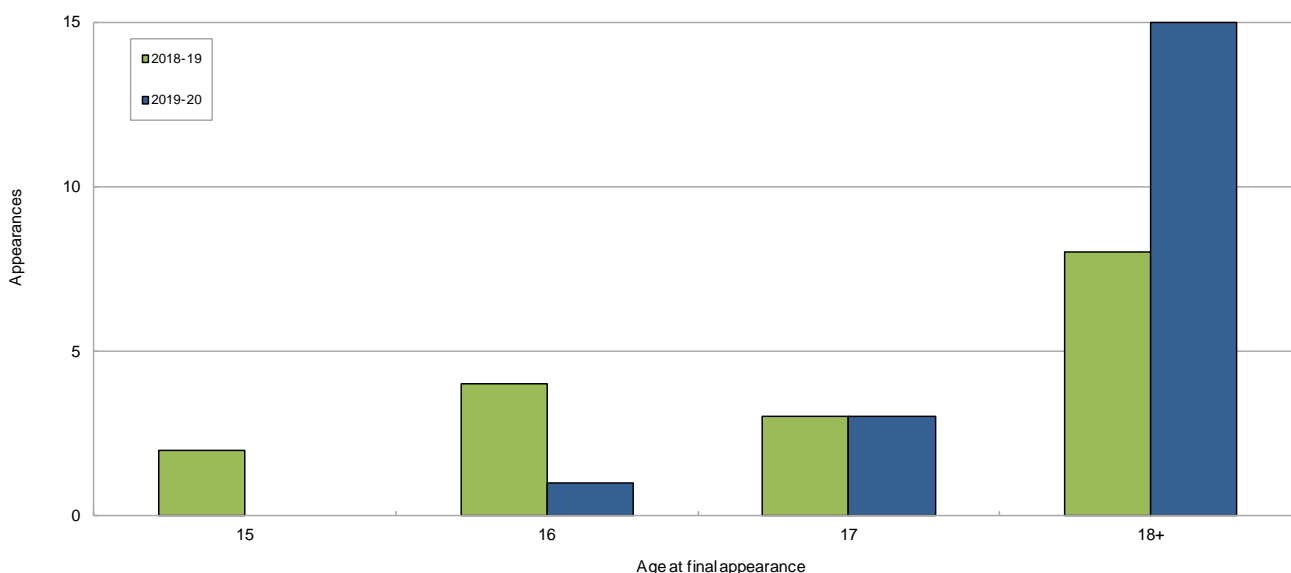
Table 9 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances^(a), by age and sex

Age at final appearance	2018–19r			2019–20		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
15	—	2	2	—	—	—
16	—	4	4	1	—	1
17	3	—	3	3	—	3
18+	3	5	8	11	4	15
Total	6	11	17	15	4	19

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Figure 5 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances^(a), by age at final appearance



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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Table 10 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances^(a) and charges, by statistical area level 4

Statistical area level 4 (SA4)	2018–19r			2019–20		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City ^(b)	9	42	4.7	5	32	6.4
Cairns ^(b)	2	2	1.0	3	9	3.0
Central Queensland ^(b)	1	3	3.0	—	—	..
Ipswich	—	—	..	1	4	4.0
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	1	1	1.0	1	2	2.0
Sunshine Coast	—	—	..	2	3	1.5
Townsville ^(b)	4	11	2.8	4	13	3.3
Wide Bay	—	—	..	3	4	1.3
Total	17	59	3.5	19	67	3.5

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Table 11 Supreme and District Courts: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty and sex

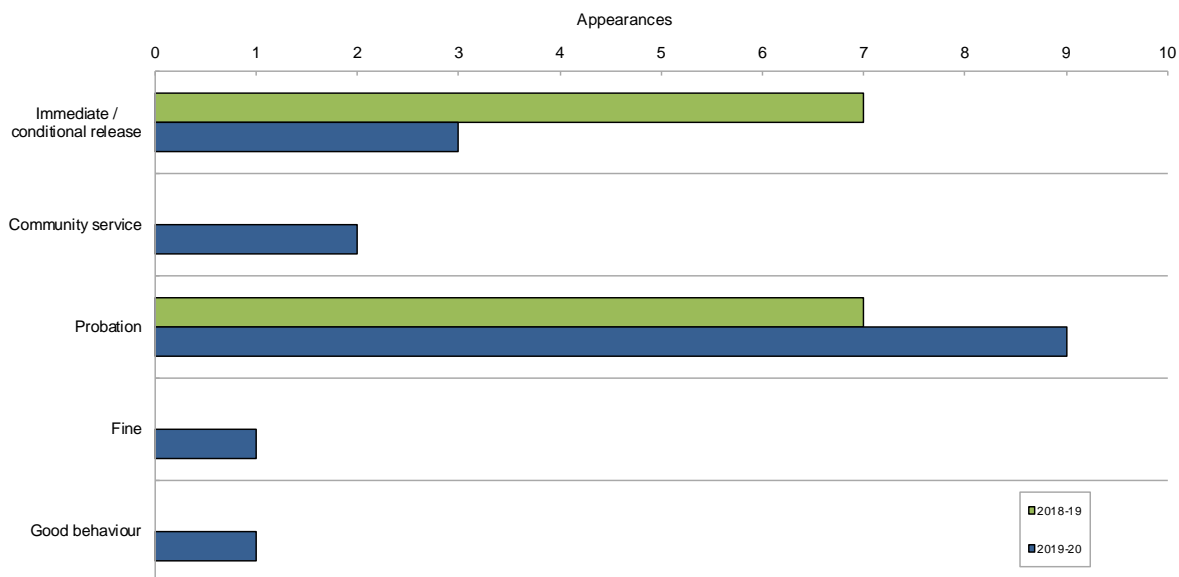
Most serious penalty ^(b)	2018–19r			2019–20		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Immediate/conditional release	3	4	7	2	1	3
Community service	—	—	—	2	—	2
Probation	3	4	7	8	1	9
Fine	—	—	—	—	1	1
Good behaviour	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	6	8	14	13	3	16

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

(b) In descending order of seriousness.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Figure 6 Supreme and District Courts: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty



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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

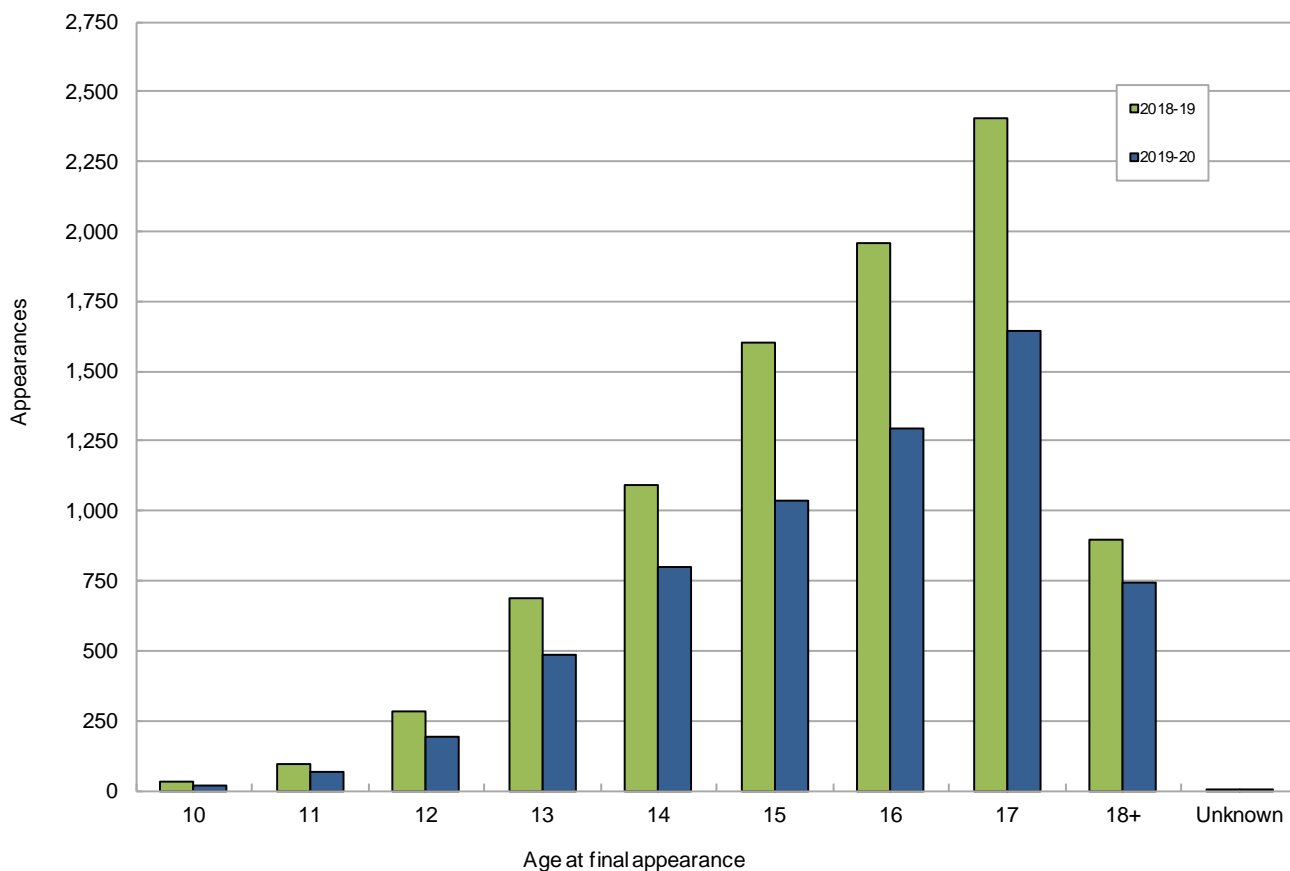
Table 12 All Courts: Finalised appearances^(a), by age and sex

Age at final appearance	2018–19r			2019–20		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)
10	24	5	29	14	1	15
11	74	19	93	50	13	63
12	228	54	282	134	57	191
13	481	208	689	312	171	483
14	698	396	1,094	557	241	799
15	1,097	502	1,599	735	303	1,038
16	1,414	540	1,955	956	341	1,298
17	1,869	534	2,403	1,276	366	1,643
18+	736	158	894	585	157	743
Unknown	5	—	5	4	—	4
Total^(d)	6,626	2,416	9,043	4,623	1,650	6,277

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.

Figure 7 All Courts: Finalised appearances^(a), by age



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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2020.