

# **Childrens Court of Queensland**

**Annual Report 2022 - 23**

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# PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW

## General

- [1] During the past year community concern was heightened after a series of significant criminal offences committed by young people which tragically ended the lives of a number of innocent victims. That offending involved fatal assaults on individuals and dangerous driving of stolen vehicles resulting in fatalities. Legislative changes were introduced through the *Strengthening Community Safety Act* of 2023 commenced on assent on 22 March 2023. The chief amendments involved: expanding the electronic monitoring device trial by location and eligibility, removing the requirement for the police to consider alternatives to arrest of a child in certain prescribed circumstances, introducing serious repeat offender declarations, changes to conditional release orders, expanding the breach offence provisions in the *Bail Act* to include children and increasing the penalty for and adding further circumstances of aggravation to the offence of unlawful use of a motor vehicle. Although the legislation has been in force for a short period of time, this seems to have resulted in an increase in the number of children in detention on remand. It has not, as yet, resulted in a decrease in offending.
- [2] Overall, the figures provided in this report show that there has been a decrease in adjudicated appearances in the Courts over the 10-year period from 2013 to 2023.<sup>1</sup> Unsurprisingly, there was a spike in numbers when 17-year-olds were brought into the Childrens Court jurisdiction but despite this significant addition, the numbers have decreased.
- [3] In the 2021/22 year the way in which the number of serious repeat offenders were counted was changed and a formula adopted to endeavour to consistently capture the number of young offenders who disproportionately appear in the criminal justice system. Prior to that date the measure was somewhat arbitrarily applied and opaque. The Serious Repeat Offender Index<sup>2</sup> now provides a score at a particular date for all young people who have offended in the last 12 months. It

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<sup>1</sup> Figure 2, p 22.

<sup>2</sup> See Explanatory Notes (definition of 'Serious Repeat Offender Index'), p 19-20.

takes into account a young person's age, the type, seriousness, frequency, recency and clustering of offending as well as time in custody to score the young person. Scores of six or above are considered serious repeat offenders.

- [4] Using that measure, 20 per cent of young people in the last 12 months were responsible for 54.5 per cent of charges before the Courts.<sup>3</sup> This represents an increase from the previous year where 17 per cent of young people accounted for 48 per cent of the charges before the court. It is this core group which the Youth Justice Taskforce is targeting. Many of this group have been subject to Intensive Case Management ('ICM') which targets high risk young people with a high intensity therapies, youth support and family work sessions. On 10 February 2023 the Nous Group published an evaluation of this initiative.<sup>4</sup> The evaluation found that the qualitative evidence suggested that the ICM Program is effective in achieving outcomes at the family and systems level and that the reductions in reoffending from the ICM Program yield strong, positive economic benefits for the criminal justice system and broader society.<sup>5</sup>
- [5] Taskforce Guardian was set up in mid-May of 2023 as a state-wide initiative comprising a team of expert Youth Justice workers and Queensland Police Service Officers to be deployed to key locations around the State to assist local police dealing with youth crime offending.<sup>6</sup> They work with agencies on the ground including the Courts, Health, Education, Disability and First Nations Organisations. Taskforce Guardian will be evaluated in 2024.
- [6] On 29 December 2022 the Premier of Queensland announced an 18-month fast track sentencing pilot in the Brisbane, Southport, Cairns and Townsville Childrens Court. The pilot commenced on 1 March 2023 and with the objective to reduce, if possible, the delay to ensure a timely finalisation of matters before the Magistrates (Childrens) Court. The pilot will be evaluated in mid-2024. Early

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<sup>3</sup> Figure 4, p 24.

<sup>4</sup> Nous Group, Summary Report: Evaluation of Intensive Case Management, 10 February 2023 <<https://www.dcssds.qld.gov.au/resources/dcsyw/youth-justice/program-eval/summary-report-evaluation-of-intensive-case-management.pdf>>.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p 5.

<sup>6</sup> The Honourable Di Farmer, 'First of five new 24/7 Co-responder teams rolled out' (Media Release, 20 May 2023) <<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/97762>>.

signs are that this is having some success in fast tracking sentencing particularly in Brisbane and Cairns.

[7] An area of significant concern this year has been the number of children on remand who have been either kept in watchhouses or kept separated from the general population in detention. The average daily number of young people in youth detention who are on remand has increased from 170 in 2019/20 to 249 in 2022/23.<sup>7</sup> The number of children who have spent time in police watchhouses and stations totalled to 8,119. A significant majority of those children spent one day or less in the watchhouse, however, close to 1,000 children spent five or more days in the watchhouse and 146 of those children spent 15 or more days in the watchhouse.<sup>8</sup>

[8] Watchhouses are not made to house children. They do not have capacity to allow exercise, family visits or programmes to operate. While time spent in the watchhouse is difficult for young children, many of whom have significant mental health issues, time in the watchhouse is not the only concern. The staffing levels at detention centres, particularly at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre are such that a child remanded in detention can spend significant periods of time locked in his or her cell because the ratio of staff to children is below the level set in the certified Industrial Agreement between the Department and the unions representing staff at the Centre.<sup>9</sup> In the *Commissioner of Police v David Taylor* (a pseudonym),<sup>10</sup> Magistrate Mac Giolla Ri sentenced a child who had spent 10 days in the Mt Isa Watchhouse before being transferred to the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. A separation report was provided in relation to 21 days of his time in custody at that Centre. He was locked in his cell for 21 hours and 23 minutes per day on average per day due to staffing issues. In *R v TA*,<sup>11</sup> Judge Fantin sentenced a 13-year-old child who suffered from foetal alcohol syndrome and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. He had spent 139 days in juvenile detention. During a period of 87 days in custody, it was noted that he was

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<sup>7</sup> Figure 18, p 48.

<sup>8</sup> Table 39, p 49.

<sup>9</sup> *Commissioner of Police v David Taylor* (a pseudonym) [2023] QChCM 2.

<sup>10</sup> [2023] QChCM 2.

<sup>11</sup> [2023] QChC 2 delivered on 21 February 2023.

confined in his cell for 20 hours or more on 78 days. For 10 of those 87 days, he was held in his cell for 24 hours a day. It is accepted that the Department is endeavouring to recruit new employees, nonetheless it remains of concern that children in detention may be held in solitary confinement for significant periods of time.

- [9] A recent report of the Australian Institute of Criminology looked at adverse child experiences and trauma among young people in the Youth Justice system.<sup>12</sup> The study focused on the South Australian Youth Justice population, however, there is no reason to imagine that there are significant differences amongst young offenders in the Queensland population. It highlighted the significant prevalence of adverse child experiences amongst children in detention including problematic substance abuse and emotional and behavioural problems. 89 per cent of these children experienced a combination of maltreatment and household dysfunction.<sup>13</sup> 94 per cent were known to the child protection system.<sup>14</sup> This study highlights the importance of the Forensic Child Youth Mental Health Service and the Griffith Youth Forensic Service.
- [10] The Forensic Child Youth Mental Health Service provides services generally in the community but specifically adolescent forensic mental health services with specialist assessments within the Youth Detention Centre and Court Liaison Services. Court Liaison Services assist with the identification of mental health treatment needs for a young person when they appear in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court. They facilitate appropriate referral to services including, if appropriate, diversion from the criminal justice system. The Griffith Youth Forensic Service provides detailed reports for young people who have been convicted of sexual offences and continuing treatment if needed for those children once they are on orders. They provide a unique and invaluable service to the Queensland community.

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<sup>12</sup> Catia Malvaso et al, 'Adverse Childhood Experiences And Trauma Among Young People In The Youth Justice System' (Trends & Issues Paper No. 651 June 2022, Australian Institute of Criminology).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, p 5.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, p 5.

- [11] The Queensland Education and Justice Initiative continues to operate in the Magistrates (Children’s) Court. In 2022, a total of 1,344 young persons were supported by court liaison officers. The Initiative also takes on a monitoring function in relation to the education of young people in youth detention. The difficulties with staff retention and recruitment in some detention centres has raised challenges in relation to the education of those young people. Written materials are provided where the Department is unable to engage personally with young people although, given that many of the young people have poor reading, writing and comprehension skills, this is clearly not an ideal solution.
- [12] The Legal Aid Office, particularly the Youth Legal Aid Team continues to operate the Youth Legal Advice hotline to assist children who are arrested. They also act for children on sentence review and bail applications where they consider there is merit in proceeding. They are a valuable source of expertise and provide accreditation of those practising in this area. They are also involved in the fast-track sentencing pilot
- [13] Child protection applications increased over the last 12 months to 6,149 applications for child protection orders from 5,870 the previous year. This figure is a reduction from the 6,810 applications in 2019/20.<sup>15</sup>
- [14] Changes to the child protection system were introduced by the *Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act* of 2022 which commenced on 31 October 2022 and 21 May 2023. The key amendments relate to the general principles applying to decisions relating to the child’s safety, wellbeing and best interests and to provide ways for a child to be able to express views about what is and is not in their best interests. The Act also amended the partnership principle to clarify what is relevant to both significant decisions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and decisions relating to the development and delivery of services provided by the Department. The placement principle was also amended in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children as well as the definition of kin.

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<sup>15</sup> Table 24, p 37.

- [15] A concerning trend is emerging in relation to domestic and family violence and young people. There has been a significant increase in applications for domestic violence orders involving young people as respondents increasing from 328 in 2019 to 424 in 2022/23.<sup>16</sup> Similarly breaches of domestic violence orders have increased from 159 in 2019/20 to 364 in 2022/23.

### **Youth justice trends summary**

- [16] In terms of trends the finalised appearances of child defendants remained fairly static in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court with an increase of three appearances only. The more significant increase was in the Childrens Court of Queensland, where numbers increased from 525 in 2021/22 to 591 appearances in 2022/23.<sup>17</sup> There are also increases in the District and Supreme Courts although numbers in those Courts are generally low.<sup>18</sup>
- [17] There was a decrease in numbers of individual children appearing in the courts from 3,334 in 2021/22 to 3,260 in this financial year.<sup>19</sup> Young males continue to outnumber females 70:30 per cent.<sup>20</sup> This is a slight drop in male participation from the year before although not significant.<sup>21</sup> 17-year-old offenders were the largest age group of children with proven offences. They, together with 16-year-olds, accounted for 48 per cent of child defendants convicted during the period. Children 18 and over accounted for 10 per cent of youth offenders.<sup>22</sup>
- [18] Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children continue to be significantly overrepresented in the youth justice system accounting for 53 per cent of all distinct young people convicted in 2022/23. This represents a slight increase from previous years<sup>23</sup> and disturbingly, a higher proportion of the younger group of children convicted are indigenous.<sup>24</sup> In terms of gender, 36 per cent of young

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<sup>16</sup> Table 25, p 37.  
<sup>17</sup> Table 1, p 21.  
<sup>18</sup> Table 1, p 21.  
<sup>19</sup> Table 3, p 23.  
<sup>20</sup> Table 4, p 25.  
<sup>21</sup> Table 2, p 23.  
<sup>22</sup> Table 3, p 23.  
<sup>23</sup> Figure 5, p 24.  
<sup>24</sup> Figure 7, p 25.

males convicted of offences are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 17 per cent of females.<sup>25</sup> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are represented at a higher rate in the 10 to 14 age group.<sup>26</sup> Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are 13 times more likely to have had a proven offence finalised in a Queensland Court. This is an increase from 11.8 in the previous year.<sup>27</sup> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are 21.4 times as likely as non-indigenous young people to commence a supervised youth justice order in 2022/23 and make up 65 per cent of all young offenders on such orders.<sup>28</sup> They also accounted for between 65 and 71 per cent of young people in youth detention on an average day over the last four years.<sup>29</sup> An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young person remains over 25.9 times more likely than non-indigenous youth to have been in youth detention in 2022/23.<sup>30</sup> The Closing the Gap Information Repository records that nationally in 2021/22, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention on an average day was 28.3 per 10,000 young people in the population.<sup>31</sup> By comparison, the average number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in detention in Queensland in 2021/22 was 41.6 per 10,000 persons and has now increased to 45.1 per 10,000 persons.<sup>32</sup>

- [19] In 2022/23 the average number of charges per finalised appearance of a child defendant increased from 5.4 to 6.2 compared with the previous year.<sup>33</sup> There was an increase in the Magistrate (Childrens) Court with a decrease in the Supreme Court. In total, the number of charges increased from 37,156 to 43,031.<sup>34</sup> Over a 10-year period this represents an increase from 24,872 adjudicated charges in 2013/14 to 37,139 in 2022/23.<sup>35</sup> There were 5,791 adjudicated

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<sup>25</sup> Figure 6, p 25, Table 4, p 25.

<sup>26</sup> Figure 7, p 25.

<sup>27</sup> Table 5, p 26.

<sup>28</sup> Table 30, p 41.

<sup>29</sup> Figure 14, p 46.

<sup>30</sup> See p 46.

<sup>31</sup> Productivity Commission, *Closing the Gap: Annual Data Compilation Report* (Report, July 2023) 64.

<sup>32</sup> Table 35, p 46

<sup>33</sup> See p 26.

<sup>34</sup> Table 6, p 26.

<sup>35</sup> Figure 8, p 27.

appearances in Queensland Courts and that resulted in 78.9 per cent convictions, slightly down from last year.<sup>36</sup> 13.8 per cent of convictions resulted in orders of detention to be served either by way of actual time in custody or a conditional release order. Probation was the most serious penalty imposed for the largest number of convicted appearances at 31.7 per cent, followed by reprimand or other minor penalties at 31.3 per cent.<sup>37</sup> [It should be noted that time on remand is often taken into account in placing a child on probation or other community-based sentence orders. Where a child has spent a significant time on remand that often hampers the Court's ability to impose what otherwise might be seen as an appropriate sentence on a child.]<sup>38</sup>

[20] Restorative justice conferencing reduced over the 2022/23 year with a total of 2,164 young people being referred. This was a three per cent decrease from the previous year. Of those 2,164 people, 43 per cent were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander which represents a slight increase. The most prevalent offences for referral to restorative justice were theft and related offences at 30.8 per cent.<sup>39</sup>

[21] Cautions in 2022/23 increased by 8.2 per cent. 26.6 per cent of cautions were administered for theft and related offences.<sup>40</sup>

[22] The time taken to finalise proceedings in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court was 93 days, increasing from 84 days in the previous year. Similarly, the time taken to finalise matters in the Childrens Court of Queensland, from the date of first mention in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court increased from 286 days to 314.<sup>41</sup>

[23] The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 2,482 charges in 591 appearances.<sup>42</sup> 85.3 per cent of those appearances involved children who are 15 years and older. There was an increase in the number of 14-year-olds appearing in the Childrens Court of Queensland with 58 appearances compared with 51 the previous year.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Table 8, p 27.

<sup>37</sup> Table 8, p 27.

<sup>38</sup> Figure 18, p 48, Table 37 p 48.

<sup>39</sup> Table 10, p 29.

<sup>40</sup> Table 9, p 28.

<sup>41</sup> Table 11, p 30.

<sup>42</sup> Table 6, p 26, Table 12, p 30.

<sup>43</sup> Table 12, p 30.

476 of the 591 appearances (80.5 per cent) resulted in convictions. 26.9 per cent of the young people convicted were sentenced to detention or a conditional release order as the most serious penalty. Probation was the most prevalent penalty imposed at 59.9 per cent.<sup>44</sup>

[24] There were some significant increases in the finalised type of charges in the Childrens Court of Queensland: unlawful entry with intent increased by 74 charges, acts intended to cause injury increased by 66 charges, theft and related offences increased by 86 charges and robbery and extortion by 112 charges.<sup>45</sup> In addition to dealing with young people charged with offences, there were 24 applications for parentage orders,<sup>46</sup> 32 appeals in relation to child protection matters,<sup>47</sup> and 53 applications for sentence review.<sup>48</sup> In relation to applications for bail, it is noted that the changes to the bail laws have meant a significant increase in applications rising from 145 in 2021/2022 to 204 in 2022/2023.<sup>49</sup>

[25] There were 6,338 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court in Queensland in addition to a further 587 appearances which resulted in committals to a higher court for trial or sentence. 64.3 per cent of the appearances resulted in convictions. 19.1 per cent resulted in a discharge.<sup>50</sup> Defendants aged 17 years and over accounted for over a third (34.4 per cent) of all finalised appearances in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court, slightly less than the previous year. It should be noted that appearances of children aged 12 and 15 years decreased over the same period while all other age groups increased.<sup>51</sup> Overall, the number of finalised appearances remained static. There was, however, a significant increase in the number of charges (5,523 or 15.8 per cent more charges) from the previous year.<sup>52</sup>

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44 Table 14, p 31.

45 Table 13, p 31.

46 Table 19, p 34.

47 Table 17, p 33.

48 Table 15, p 32.

49 Table 16, p 32.

50 Table 20, p 34.

51 Table 21, p 35.

52 Table 22, p 36.

- [26] In relation to the finalised charges, theft and related offences increased by 17.6 per cent and unlawful entry with intent offences increased by 33.4 per cent. Those two categories of offences accounted for almost two thirds of all charges finalised in the Court. The penalties imposed most frequently were reprimands (34.3 per cent) or probation (28.4 per cent). Sentences of detention were imposed in 12.2 per cent of the cases, with 5.7 per cent of those orders being served as conditional release orders.<sup>53</sup>
- [27] As already noted, there was an increase in the number of applications for child protection orders from 5,870 in 2021/22 to 6,149 in 2022/23.<sup>54</sup>
- [28] In the Supreme and District Court, numbers almost doubled from the previous year. Numbers in the Supreme Court are small but any increase in the defendants in that court are significant due to the serious nature of the charges heard in that jurisdiction. Total convicted children increased from 8 defendants to 15 defendants.<sup>55</sup> 55 charges were finalised in total, the majority of which were homicide and related offences and acts intended to cause injury.<sup>56</sup> The conviction rate in the Supreme and District Courts was 71.4 per cent with 53.3 per cent receiving detention as the most serious penalty and six offenders offered probation.<sup>57</sup>
- [29] There were 1,572 young people who commenced a supervised youth justice order in 2022/23. This represents a three per cent increase from 2021/22, but a decrease from the year before.<sup>58</sup> The majority of the orders were placed against 16 and 17-year-olds who constitute 47.3 per cent of all offenders on supervised orders.<sup>59</sup> It is unsurprising given the distribution of males to female offenders that 76 per cent of the orders were made against male offenders.<sup>60</sup> Probation was the most prevalent order type averaging around half of all supervised youth justice

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<sup>53</sup> Table 23, p 37.

<sup>54</sup> Table 24, p 37.

<sup>55</sup> Table 26, p 38.

<sup>56</sup> Tables 26 and 27, p 38.

<sup>57</sup> Table 28, p 39.

<sup>58</sup> Figure 9, p 39.

<sup>59</sup> Table 29, p 40.

<sup>60</sup> Figure 10, p 40.

orders.<sup>61</sup> Almost all the community based supervision orders that commenced in 2021/22 were successfully completed by the end of 2022/23<sup>62</sup>. Breach action was commenced in 19 per cent of probation orders and 37 per cent of conditional release orders.<sup>63</sup> Conditional bail programs increased by 26 per cent in the 2022/23 financial year totalling 1,041 conditional bail programs.<sup>64</sup> 81 per cent of restorative justice orders were successfully completed in 2021/22.<sup>65</sup>

[30] The number of children in youth detention both sentenced and unsentenced has increased steadily since 2019 when there were 200 children in detention to 2022 where the average daily number was 283.<sup>66</sup> Young males outnumber young females in youth detention, accounting on average for between 88 and 90 per cent of all young people in youth detention.<sup>67</sup>

[31] 88 per cent of children in detention are unsentenced.<sup>68</sup> In 2022/23 the average amount of days spent in unsentenced youth detention was 51 days. This represents an increase from 43 days in 2021/22 and a substantial increase from 29 days in 2019/20.<sup>69</sup> Where a child has spent a substantial amount of time in custody, they are often released directly from Court following sentencing as the Court is required to take into account when reaching a sentence, the amount of time the child has spent in detention waiting to be sentenced. In 2022/23, 49.9 per cent of children were not required to serve further time in custody with 30.1 per cent released without a supervised release order<sup>70</sup>

[32] The number of children in custody in police watchhouses in the past year was over 500 on any month,<sup>71</sup> with children as young as 10 and 11 spending time in watchhouses. Many of those children have spent one night in the watchhouse after being arrested and then transported to a detention centre or granted bail, but

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<sup>61</sup> Table 31, p 42.

<sup>62</sup> Table 33, p 43.

<sup>63</sup> Table 33, p 43.

<sup>64</sup> Table 32, p 42.

<sup>65</sup> Table 34, p 43.

<sup>66</sup> Figure 12, p 45.

<sup>67</sup> Figure 13, p 45.

<sup>68</sup> Figure 18 p 48.

<sup>69</sup> Table 36, p 48.

<sup>70</sup> Table 37, p 48.

<sup>71</sup> Table 38, p 49.

a significant portion of those individuals have spent a number of nights, some up to 15 or more, in the watchhouse where there are no facilities suitable for children and no programs offered to children.<sup>72</sup>

[33] There were 5,000 victims of personal offences where at least one offender was considered a child at the time of offending. Almost half of those victims were themselves aged 18 years or younger (47.9 per cent) and 25 per cent were between 10 and 14 years of age.<sup>73</sup> The most common personal offence type committed was acts intended to cause injury (assault, stalking and other acts intended to cause injury). This category of offending accounts for 71.8 per cent of personal offences with the largest group of victims between 10 to 14 years (22.3 per cent).<sup>74</sup> There was almost three times more female than male victims of sexual assault and related offences with the largest group again in the 10 to 14 year age group.<sup>75</sup> Young males aged 10 to 14 years were the most prevalent group of victims of robbery and related offences.<sup>76</sup>

[34] In terms of offences committed by young people, there were increases from the previous year in relation to assaults from 1,726 to 1,957, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle from 308 to 359 and motor vehicle theft and related offences from 4,685 to 6,234 and an increase in robbery offences from 491 to 563 but a decrease in sexual assaults and related offences from 138 to 120.<sup>77</sup>

## **Childrens Court Committee**

[35] The Childrens Court Committee continues to meet during the year and remains a valuable way for the Court and the agencies connected to the courts to exchange information and to discuss developments in and emerging issues in youth justice throughout the State. The Committee provides an important way for issues to be discussed and it remains a vital cross agency initiative.

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<sup>72</sup> Table 39, p 49.

<sup>73</sup> Figure 19, p 50.

<sup>74</sup> Figure 19, p 50.

<sup>75</sup> Figure 20, p 51.

<sup>76</sup> Figure 21, p 51.

<sup>77</sup> Table A1, p 53.

## **Court Case Management Committee**

[36] The Court Case Management Committee continues to meet as required and discusses issues arising in the child protection area. It connects practitioners and agencies and allows discussion and potential problems to be resolved in a timely way.

## **Thanks**

[37] During this year Judge Rafter, KC continued to act as President of the Childrens Court in my absence on leave until mid-November of 2022. I thank him for taking on that role at short notice. I also thank the judges of the Childrens Court of Queensland for their assistance in managing the workload of the Court.

[38] Chief Magistrate Brassington leads the Magistrates (Childrens) Court in its daily functions and her work is appreciated always.

[39] As can be seen from the figures outlined in this report, the vast majority of the daily business of the Childrens Court rests on the shoulders of the Magistrates. In particular, the specialist Childrens Court Magistrates work hard to manage a significant workload of the Court. They are faced with a steadily increasing number of child protection applications. The work in that area is taxing, often urgent and the parents are likely to be unrepresented and distraught. It is difficult to make headway at times in relation to the complexity of these applications. Similarly, in relation to youth justice sentencing, the Magistrates work with a heavy workload, are often criticised, and sometimes threatened but they manage to remain dedicated to the task and apply the legislation as required. They deserve thanks and gratitude.

[40] There are many professionals working tirelessly in youth justice and I acknowledge the work of the agencies that support the Childrens Court and the Youth Justice system generally. The solicitors and barristers who appear regularly in the Court are generally professional and dedicated to their clients, particularly those involved in the Youth Legal Aid Team, the Youth Advocacy Centre, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and the duty lawyers who attend the Childrens Court providing general assistance to children at their first appearances before the Court.

- [41] I also acknowledge the work of the Queensland Director of Public Prosecutions and police prosecutors and the officers from Youth Justice who give assistance and information to the Court in a professional and timely manner. They provide an invaluable service.
- [42] The Office of the Department of Youth Justice Employment, Small Business and Training, the Registry of the Childrens Court and the Childrens Court of Queensland, the Director of Child Protection Litigation and his staff, members of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, officers from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the police all contribute significantly to ensure the efficient running of the Court. A special mention should go to Alex Robinson from Youth Justice Services and Danielle Palmer and Crystal Tan from the Office of the Chief Magistrate who act as co-ordinators for the business of the Childrens Court Committee and the Case Management Committee. They are patient with me and experts in organisation.
- [43] Amanda O'Brien, Claire Slater and Kylie Chaczko also provide enormous support to the Court through their statistical expertise and technical support and are always cheerily available to assist when requested.
- [44] Finally, thanks to 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 comparisons between publications.

### **Reference year**

The statistics in this report relate primarily to the 2022–23 financial year, i.e. 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Where possible, data from up to nine previous financial years are provided for comparison.

### **Data sources**

Data which form the basis of the statistics presented in this report have been collected and collated by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO), Queensland Treasury. As all data are current at time of extraction, historical data include revisions.

Finalised appearances and charges data have been sourced from QGSO's Courts Database, which contains operational data sourced from and managed on behalf of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data were extracted in August 2023.

Cautions, victims of child offenders data and data relating to young people held in custody in police watchhouses and stations were sourced from the Queensland Police Service. Data were extracted in August 2023.

Youth justice data, including distinct defendants, rates, restorative justice conferencing, and supervised youth justice orders were provided by the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data were extracted in July 2023.

Other data were sourced from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for use in this report, and were extracted in August 2023.

### **Counting rules**

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

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

Australian Bureau of Statistics: [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

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

### **Symbols used in tables**

— nil  
.. not applicable

## Definitions

<b><i>adjudicated</i></b>	criminal proceedings resulting in a judgement or decision made by the court as to whether or not the defendant is guilty of a criminal charge(s). (See <b><i>not adjudicated</i></b> ).
<b><i>caution</i></b>	an official warning given at police discretion to a young offender as an alternative to a charge.
<b><i>charge</i></b>	a formal accusation of an offence. A charge may be finalised by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal. In this report, a finalised charge refers only to those finalised by adjudication.
<b><i>child</i></b>	In the context of youth justice, a child is a person aged between 10 and 17 years of age at date of offence. Prior to 12 February 2018, when changes to the <i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i> came into effect in Queensland, the age range was 10–16 years.
<b><i>Childrens Court</i></b>	The Childrens Court is a special court which deals with Magistrates Court matters involving child defendants. (For the purposes of this report, Magistrates Court is the term used.) It is presided over by a Childrens Court magistrate.
<b><i>Childrens Court of Queensland</i></b>	an intermediate court created to deal with children charged with serious offences, child safety appeals pursuant to s117 of the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> and applications for parentage orders under the <i>Surrogacy Act 2010</i> . It is presided over by a Childrens Court judge, who is also a judge of the District Court of Queensland.
<b><i>Childrens Court judge</i></b>	a District Court judge appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act 1992</i> ).
<b><i>Childrens Court magistrate</i></b>	a magistrate appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act</i> ).
<b><i>committal</i></b>	referral of a case from a Children’s Court (Magistrates) to a higher court for trial or sentence.
<b><i>convicted</i></b>	a determination (finding) by the court, or as a result of a guilty plea, that a defendant is legally responsible for an offence.
<b><i>Court of Appeal</i></b>	the Supreme Court sitting in judgement on an appeal.
<b><i>defendant</i></b>	a person charged with a criminal offence and appearing in a criminal court.
<b><i>disposition</i></b>	the finalisation and clearing of matters to do with a defendant (for instance by a conviction (guilty finding) and sentence, acquittal (not guilty), discharge or withdrawal, but not by committal or transfer to another court).
<b><i>District Court</i></b>	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. 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 Childrens Court Act and the Youth Justice Act.

<b><i>ex officio indictment</i></b>	an indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of Public Prosecutions without a committal from a lower court.
<b><i>finalised appearance</i></b>	a collection of offences for a single offender that are disposed (finalised) on the same day, at the same court level and court location. In this report, finalised appearance refers only to those finalised by adjudication.
<b><i>Magistrates Court</i></b>	a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate or, in some circumstances, by two Justices of the Peace.
<b><i>not adjudicated</i></b>	includes cases where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these cases are replaced by a new case with amended charges.
<b><i>not convicted</i></b>	a determination by the court that a defendant is not guilty of an offence, and hence is acquitted.
<b><i>offence</i></b>	any act or omission by a person(s) for which a penalty could be imposed by the Australian legal system.
<b><i>offence type</i></b>	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.
<b><i>offender</i></b>	a person who is deemed responsible for, has been found guilty of, or pleaded guilty to an offence.
<b><i>penalty</i></b>	<p>a term of detention (occasionally imprisonment), fine or other payment, community service or supervision, or other imposition ordered by the court as part of the punishment of an offender after a guilty finding.</p> <p><b><i>detention order</i></b> a custodial penalty placing a child offender in a youth detention centre.</p> <p><b><i>conditional release order</i></b> 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><b><i>intensive supervision order</i></b> (ISO) 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.</p> <p><b><i>community service order</i></b> a supervision penalty requiring an offender to perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work.</p> <p><b><i>graffiti removal order</i></b> 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.

**restorative justice conference**

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

**sentence**

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

**Serious Repeat Offender**

a young person who scored higher than 6 on the Serious Repeat Offender Index (SROI) on any day (see **Serious Repeat Offender Index** in Interpreting the data, below).

**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.

## Interpreting the data

**Breach of youth justice order**

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 2022–23, there were 198 finalised appearances by child defendants in Queensland courts for breaches of youth justice orders compared with 6,950 for criminal offences.

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

**Caution**

On a crime report, a caution is counted once only for each type of offence committed by an offender. Thus, if a person is cautioned

by police for three property damage offences, only one caution will be counted for that offence type, and if a person is cautioned for one burglary offence and one property damage offence, two cautions will be counted, one 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, and further broken down into offence types. Then the National Offence Index (2018) is applied to establish an order of seriousness.

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

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

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

***Imprisonment***

As a general rule, there is no power of imprisonment (as opposed to detention) under the Youth Justice Act. In rare cases, however, the power of imprisonment exists. For example, if a person commits a crime as a child, absconds and is arrested pursuant to warrant one year or more after becoming an adult, the court is empowered in an appropriate case to impose a penalty of imprisonment (see Youth Justice Act, s140).

***Most serious penalty***

Offenders may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition. Tables in this report show only their most serious penalty. For example, a person ordered to be detained in custody and also given a probation order is counted under “Detention” only, because it is the more serious penalty.

***Percentage totals***

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

***Recording of age***

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

***Serious Repeat Offender Index (SROI)***

The SROI is a 'point in time' measurement that represents the volume/seriousness of a young person's recent offending behaviour. The SROI provides a score as at a particular

measurement date for all young people who, as at the relevant measurement date:

- were alleged to have committed an offence in the previous 12 months that was subsequently referred to a restorative justice process by Queensland Police or heard in a Queensland court, and
- were aged 10–17 years, and
- were not deceased, and
- had either a proven offence or a referral to a restorative justice process in their lifetime, or one or more adjourned charges still waiting finalisation in court.

SROI scores take into account the young person's age at that measurement date, as well as the young person's offending (including seriousness, frequency, clustering and recency) and custody nights over the 24 months leading up to that measurement date. Higher index scores indicate more serious/frequent offending behaviour. Young people with scores of 6 or above are considered a 'Serious Repeat Offender' (as at that measurement date).

## COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the social restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2019–20 is an anomaly. A range of social restrictions was introduced in the last quarter of 2019–20, and Queensland courts heavily scaled back operations and a backlog ensued. Court restrictions were not lifted until the end of the same quarter and, as a result, figures for 2019–20 were lower than expected. Conversely, figures for 2020–21 were higher than expected due to courts seeking to clear the backlog of matters. Comparisons between figures before and since the pandemic must be made with caution.

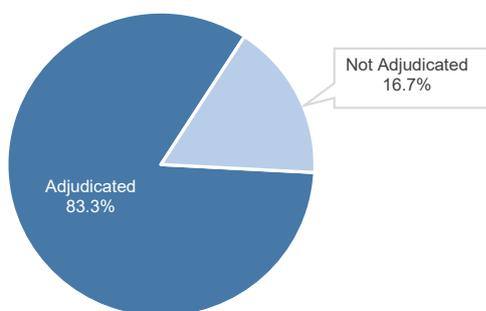
## SUMMARY

**Finalised matters are presented in this report by their method of finalisation**, i.e. readers will see where the court has handed down a judgement or decision as to whether or not the defendant is guilty (convicted) or not guilty (not convicted) of a criminal charge(s). Appearances where all charges were withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication are presented as “not adjudicated”. In terms of finalised charges, each receives an outcome individually.

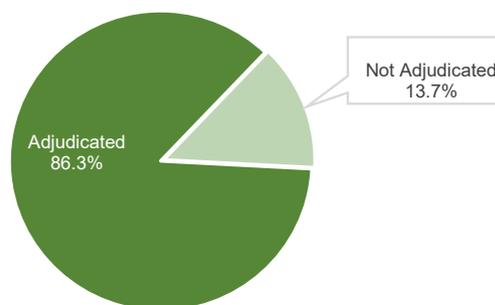
In this report, matters which are committed or transferred to another court are not considered finalised at that point. Those which are finalised in a higher or other court during the reference period are presented in that jurisdiction.

## Method of finalisation

Figure 1 Finalised appearances, 2022–23



Finalised charges, 2022–23



## Appearances

In 2022–23, there was a total of 6,950 finalised appearances of child defendants in all Queensland criminal courts. Compared with 2021–22 (6,871), this is an overall increase of 1.1% (or 79 appearances). This is driven mainly by the Childrens Court of Queensland where numbers increased by 12.6% (66 appearances). (Table 1 and Figure 2).

Appearances for breaches of youth justice orders are excluded from these statistics, as are appearances resulting in indefinite referral to restorative justice conferencing.

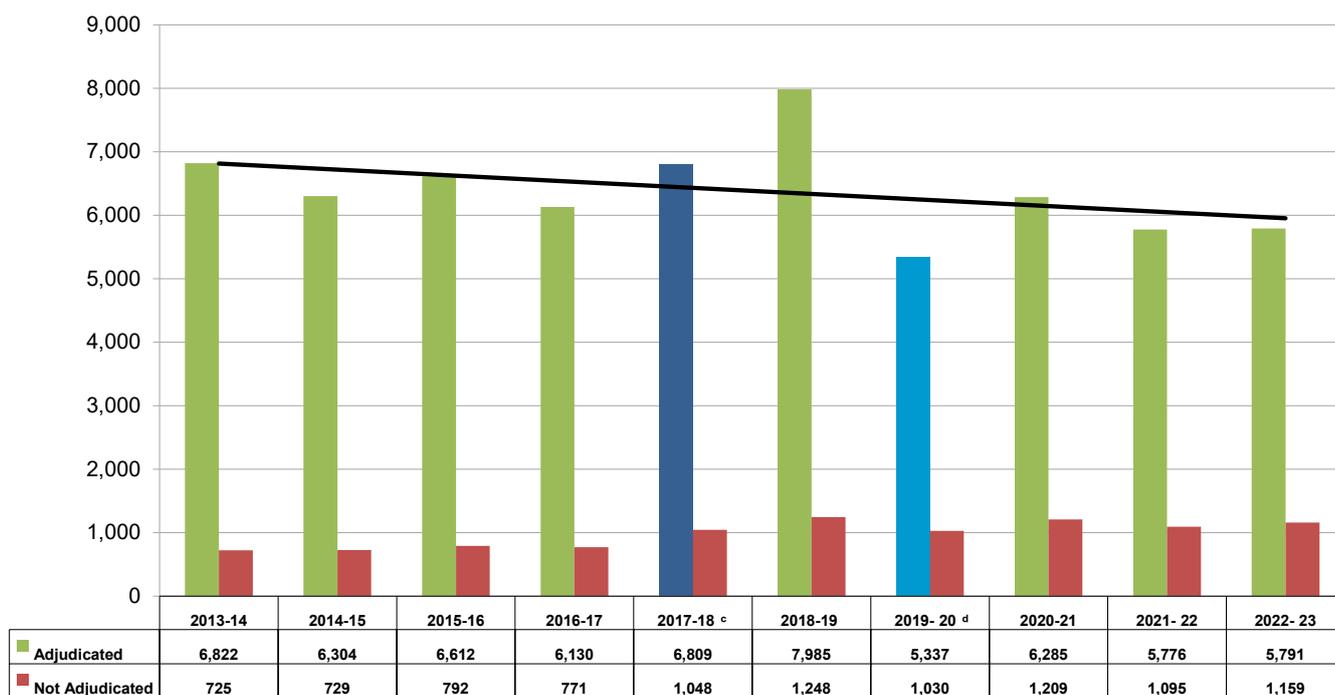
Table 1 Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup> of child defendants, by method of finalisation, by outcome, by court type

Court	2021–22				2022–23			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Magistrates (Children's)	1,014	4,260	1,061	6,335	1,051	4,078	1,209	6,338
Childrens Court of Queensland	78	426	21	525	102	476	13	591
District	1	1	–	2	1	9	–	10
Supreme	2	7	–	9	5	6	–	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>4,694</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>6,871</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>4,569</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>6,950</b>

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. Appearances for breaches of youth justice orders, are excluded, as are appearances resulting in indefinite referral to restorative justice conferencing. An individual may have one or more appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

**Figure 2 Finalised appearances<sup>(a)</sup> of child defendants, by method of finalisation, all courts<sup>(b)</sup>**



- (a) Appearances for breaches of youth justice orders, are excluded, as are appearances resulting in indefinite referral to restorative justice conferencing. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.
- (b) Includes Magistrates, Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts.
- (c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

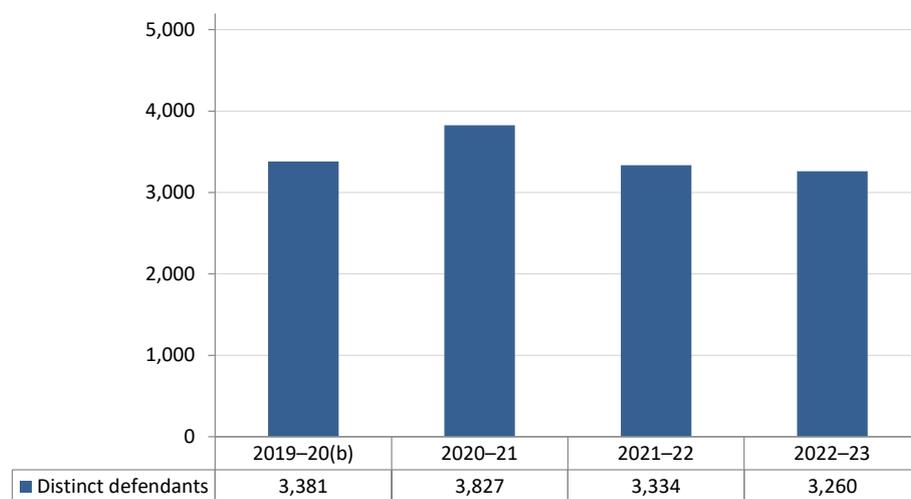
Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data are current as at August 2023.

### Distinct defendants

In 2022–23, there were 3,260 distinct young people aged 10 years and over who had a proven offence finalised in a Queensland court. This is a decrease from the previous year which saw 3,334 distinct young people with a proven offence finalised. Serious Repeat Offenders continue to be responsible for a disproportionate amount of offending by young people in Queensland — accounting for almost 56 per cent of all proven offences finalised.

Due to the time it takes to have charges heard and finalised in court, there will be some 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 that were committed as a juvenile.

**Figure 3 Distinct child defendants<sup>(a)</sup> convicted, all courts**



- (a) These figures are based on first finalisation of charges only (i.e. they exclude re-sentenced offences).
- (b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

Young males continue to outnumber young females, consistently accounting for between 70 and 72 per cent of all distinct child defendants convicted (Table 2).

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

Sex	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	Per cent <sup>(c)</sup> (%)			
Female	28	28	28	30
Male	72	72	72	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Distinct child defendants across all court levels.

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

(c) Percentages exclude young people who reported being intersex or where sex was not reported. These accounted for less than 0.06 per cent of young people per reference year.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

In 2022–23, 17-year-olds were the largest single age group with a proven offence finalised in a Queensland court, for offences committed by juveniles. This age group accounted for 869 (27%) young people with a proven offence, while 16-year-olds accounted for 686 (21%) child defendants convicted during the period. Only 335 (10%) young people were aged 18 years and over (Table 3).

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

Age at finalised appearance (years) <sup>(b)</sup>	2019–20 <sup>(c)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	—Defendants—			
10	4	3	1	4
11	22	25	11	18
12	85	87	76	63
13	231	225	221	238
14	378	463	426	443
15	561	643	614	604
16	714	824	704	686
17	986	1,065	937	869
18 & over	400	492	344	335
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,381</b>	<b>3,827</b>	<b>3,334</b>	<b>3,260</b>

(a) Count of distinct young people with a proven charge finalised across all court levels.

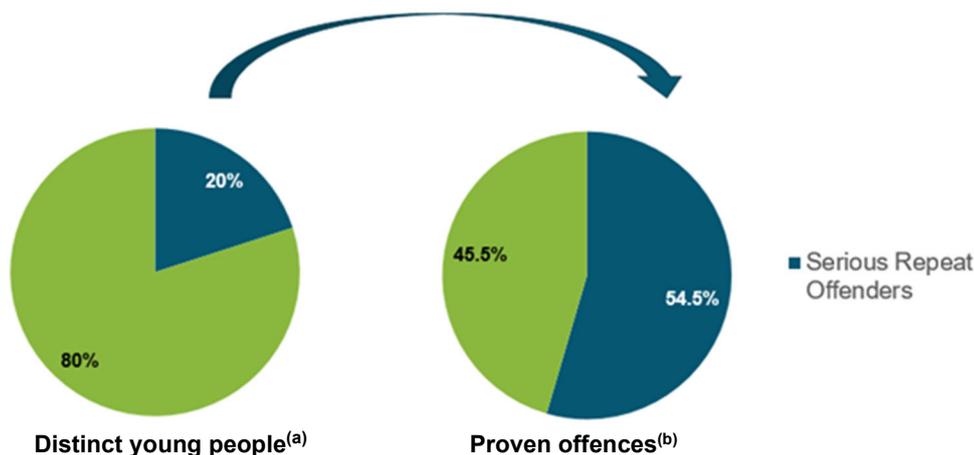
(b) Represents age of defendant on the date their earliest proven charge was finalised in the financial year, not the date the offence was committed.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

A small proportion of offenders (20%) in 2022–23 was disproportionately responsible for 54.5 per cent of proven offences committed by young people in Queensland (Figure 4). These young people (Serious Repeat Offenders) are identified using the Serious Repeat Offender Index, which considers a young person's recent offending history (including offending frequency and seriousness), the time a young person has spent in custody, and their age.

**Figure 4 Demographic intersection of distinct young people convicted, all courts, 2022–23**



Note: In this figure a young person is defined as a Serious Repeat Offender if they scored higher than 6 on the Serious Repeat Offender Index (SROI) on any day during the 2022–23 financial year. The SROI is a 'point in time' measurement that represents the volume/seriousness of a young person's recent offending behaviour. The SROI provides a score as at a particular measurement date for all young people who, as at the relevant measurement date:

- were alleged to have committed an offence in the previous 12 months that was subsequently referred to a restorative justice process by Queensland Police or heard in a Queensland court, and
- were aged 10–17 years, and
- were not deceased, and
- had either a proven offence or a referral to a restorative justice process in their lifetime, or one or more adjourned charges still waiting finalisation in court.

SROI scores take into account the young person's age at that measurement date, as well as the young person's offending (including seriousness, frequency, clustering and recency) and custody nights over the 24 months leading up to that measurement date. Higher index scores indicate more serious/frequent offending behaviour. Young people with scores of 6 or above are considered a 'Serious Repeat Offender' (as at that measurement date).

(a) Proportion of all distinct young people with a proven charge finalised across all court levels in 2022–23.

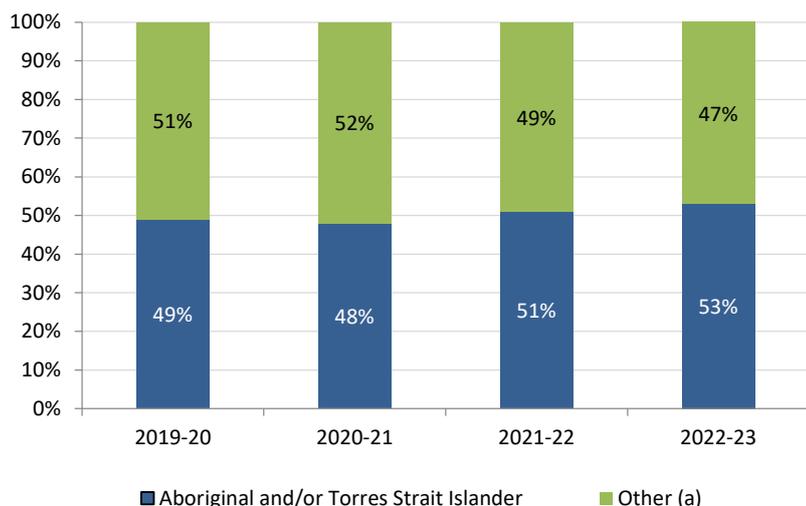
(b) Proportion of all proven charges finalised across all court levels in 2022–23.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander distinct defendants

In 2022–23, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for 53 per cent of all distinct young people with a proven offence finalised. This is an increase compared to previous periods (Figure 5).

**Figure 5 Distinct young people convicted, by Indigenous status, all courts**



(a) 'Other' includes those who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

Males accounted for 70 per cent of all young people with a proven offence finalised in 2022–23. Among young people with a proven offence finalised in 2022–23, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (36%) made up a slightly larger proportion than non-Indigenous / other males (34%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (17%) made up a larger proportion than non-Indigenous / other females (12%).

**Table 4 Demographic intersection of distinct young people convicted, all courts, 2022–23**

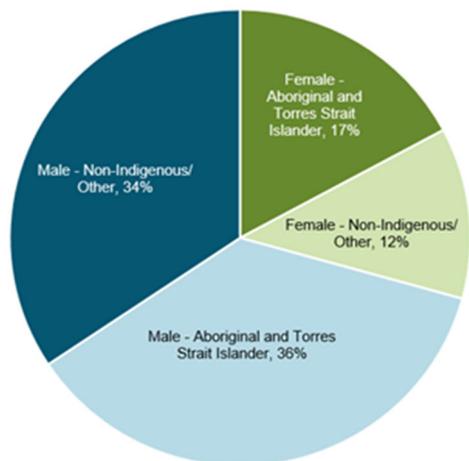
Indigenous status	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Total
<b>Sex</b>	—Defendants—		
Female	556 (17%)	406 (12%)	<b>962 (30%)</b>
Male	1,175 (36%)	1,121 (34%)	<b>2,296 (70%)</b>
<b>Total<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>1,732 (53%)</b>	<b>1,528 (47%)</b>	<b>3,260 (100%)</b>

(a) 'Other' includes those who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

(b) Total includes those who identify as intersex or indeterminate sex.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

**Figure 6 Demographic intersection of distinct young people with a proven offence finalised, 2022–23**



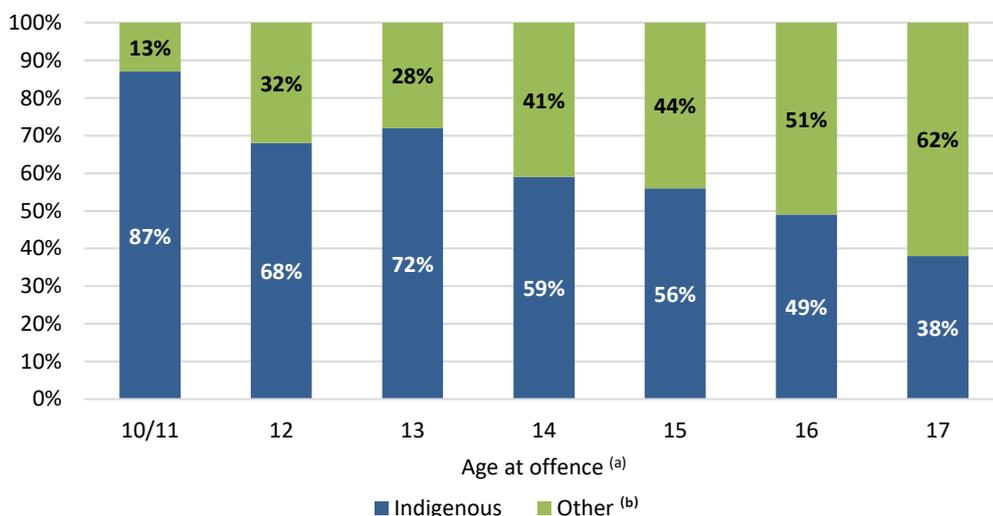
(a) 'Other' includes those who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

(b) Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number, therefore the sum of individual percentages reported may total more than 100%.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people with a proven offence finalised continue to be disproportionately represented among the younger age groups (10 to 14 years).

**Figure 7 Proportion of distinct child defendants by Indigenous status, by age at offence, 2022–23**



(a) Includes all distinct young people aged 10–17 years at the date of offence. Age at offence is determined as the youngest age at offence of any proven charge finalised for the young person in the 2022–23 financial year.

(b) 'Other' includes those who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

The total rate per 1,000 of the Queensland population aged 10–17 years with a proven finalised charge has decreased since 2020–21. However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people continue to be disproportionately represented, being 13.0 times as likely as non-Indigenous/other young people to have had a proven offence finalised in a Queensland Court in 2022–23 (Table 5).

**Table 5 Rate of distinct young people convicted, by Indigenous status, all courts**

Indigenous status	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Distinct young people with a proven offence finalised – rate per 1,000 persons <sup>(b)</sup>				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	38.9	43.0	39.1	39.8
Non-Indigenous/Other <sup>(c)</sup>	3.6	4.0	3.3	3.1
Total	6.4	7.1	6.2	6.0
Over-representation <sup>(d)</sup> of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, as compared to other young people				
Over-representation <sup>(d)</sup>	10.9	10.7	11.8	13.0

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

(b) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–17 year-olds, using population estimates as at 30 June in the relevant financial year, from figures from ABS: Estimated Resident Population, Customised Report, Estimated Resident Population; Age by Sex, by Queensland LGAs (2016 ASGS) 30 June: 2011 to 2019 and QGSO: Population estimates by Indigenous status, age, sex, statistical area level 2 (SA2), 2006 to 2019 (2016 ASGS). The 2020 to 2023 population figures are derived from the 2019 (preliminary) population figures using an age-progression method such that those falling within the juvenile age population (i.e., 10-17) will be advanced by one year for each new period.

(c) 'Other' includes those who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

(d) 'Over-representation' is calculated by dividing the rate per population for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people by the rate per population figures for 'other' young people. Over-representation figures indicate the amount of times as likely an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young person is to have a proven finalised charge, as compared to non-Indigenous/other young people.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

## Charges

In 2022–23, the average number of charges per finalised appearance of a child defendant increased from 5.4 to 6.2, compared with the previous year. Magistrates (Children's) Court increased to 6.4 charges per finalised appearance, while over the same period, there was a decrease in the Supreme Court, from 5.6 to 2.5 charges per appearance.

Of all charges adjudicated in 2022–23, the offence categories with the largest number of charges against child defendants were *theft and related offences* with 13,721 charges (36.9%), *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* with 8,577 charges (23.1%), *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* with 2,358 charges (6.3%) and *traffic and vehicle regulatory offences* with 2,065 charges (5.6%). In total, these four offence categories represent over two-thirds (71.9%) of all charges finalised in children's courts in 2022–23. (For more detail, refer to Appendix Table A1.)

**Table 6 Finalised charges against child defendants, by court type**

Court	2021–22				2022–23			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Magistrates (Children's)	5,208	27,385	2,378	34,971	5,443	32,132	2,919	40,494
Childrens Court of Queensland	296	1,788	49	2,133	434	2,008	40	2,482
District	1	1	0	2	5	22	0	27
Supreme	3	47	0	50	10	18	0	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,508</b>	<b>29,221</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>37,156</b>	<b>5,892</b>	<b>34,180</b>	<b>2,959</b>	<b>43,031</b>

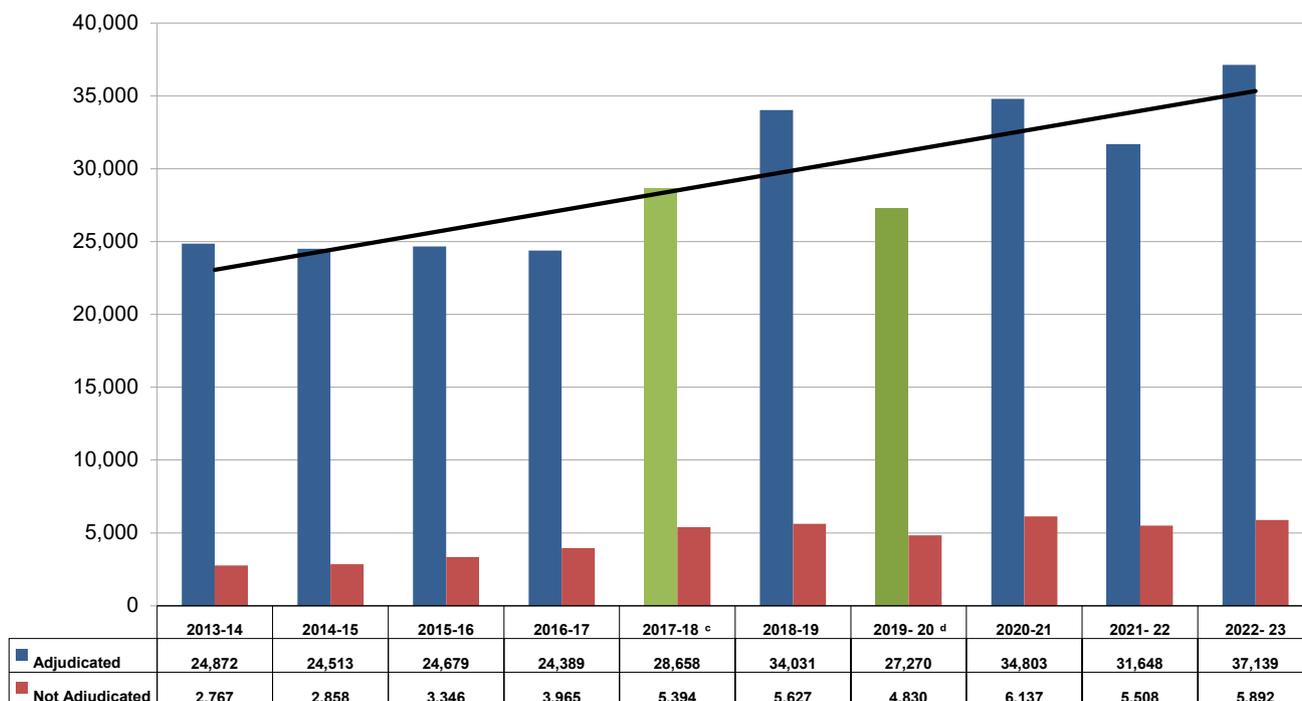
Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

**Table 7 Finalised charges against child defendants for breach of violence order, by court type**

Court	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Magistrates (Childrens) Court	152	250	261	351
Childrens Court of Queensland	7	11	12	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>364</b>

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

**Figure 8 Ten-year comparison of finalised charges<sup>(a)</sup> against child defendants, all courts<sup>(b)</sup>**



- (a) Breaches of youth justice orders are excluded.
- (b) Includes Magistrates, Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts.
- (c) Break in time series due to the inclusion of 17-year-old offenders in the youth justice system from February 2018.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

## Penalties

In 2022–23, of the 5,791 adjudicated appearances of child defendants in Queensland courts, 78.9% (4,569) resulted in conviction compared with 81.3% (4,694) in 2021–22 (Table 8).

Detention was the most serious penalty imposed in 352 (7.7%) convicted child appearances in 2022–23, and a further 279 (6.1%) resulted in a conditional release order. Probation as the most serious penalty represented the largest proportion of convicted appearances at 31.7% (or 1,449), followed by reprimand and other minor penalties (31.3% or 1,431), with 10.6% (or 485) receiving a good behaviour order.

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

Most serious penalty <sup>(c)</sup>	2021–22	2022–23
	Appearances	
Detention <sup>(d)</sup>	309	352
Conditional release <sup>(e)</sup>	300	279
Community service	453	417
Probation	1,483	1,449
Treatment orders	22	17
Fine	51	26
Compensation	9	11
Good behaviour	527	485
Disqualification of drivers licence	110	102
Reprimand <sup>(f)</sup>	1,430	1,431
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,694</b>	<b>4,569</b>

- (a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more convicted appearances in a reference year.
- (b) Includes Magistrates, Childrens Court of Queensland, District and Supreme Courts.
- (c) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single finalisation, only the most serious is counted here.
- (d) Includes imprisonment, intensive correction and intensive supervision orders.
- (e) Includes wholly suspended imprisonment (for defendants aged 18 years or older).
- (f) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

## Cautions

Queensland Police Service data showed that 15,515 cautions were administered to child offenders in 2022–23, an increase of 1,170 (+8.2%) compared with 2021–22 (Table 9). In comparison, there were 6,852 finalised court appearances of child defendants in the same period, an increase of 79 (+1.2%) compared with the previous year. More than two-thirds of the increase was driven by more cautions administered for *theft and related offences*, *acts intended to cause injury* and *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break & enter* (+331 or 8.7%, +268 or 18.3%, and +198 or 12.1% respectively).

Cautions administered to child offenders for *theft and related offences* accounted for more than a quarter of all such cautions, making it the highest volume offence police actioned in that way (4,121 or 26.6%). *Sexual assault and related offences* were less likely to be actioned by way of a caution in 2022–23 compared with the previous year (–47 or –5.9%).

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

Offence type <sup>(b)</sup>	2021–22	2022–23
	—Cautions—	
Acts intended to cause injury	1,467	1,735
Sexual assault and related offences	798	751
Robbery, extortion and related offences	244	254
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,637	1,835
Theft & related offences	3,790	4,121
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	1,311	1,337
<i>Other theft</i>	2,284	2,597
<i>Receiving &amp; handling</i>	195	187
Fraud, deception and related offences	414	460
Illicit drug offences	1,885	1,938
Property damage and environmental pollution	1,705	1,818
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	44	36
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	2,361	2,567
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,345</b>	<b>15,515</b>

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

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

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

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at July 2023.

## Restorative justice conferencing

In 2022–23, a total of 2,164 distinct young people were referred to a restorative justice process. This represents a three per cent decrease compared with 2021–22. Restorative justice processes include group conferencing (which includes an offender and victim) and alternative diversion processes (which do not include a victim).

Of the 2,164 young people, 43 per cent identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, which represents a small increase compared with the previous year (42%).

In 2022–23, a total of 1,604 distinct young people participated in a restorative justice process. Of these young people, 38 per cent identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, a small decrease compared with the previous year (39%).

*Theft and related offences* was the most common offence type referred to a restorative justice process in 2022–23 at 2,175 (30.8% of the total), followed by *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* (1,183 or 16.7% of the total), and *acts intended to cause injury* (542 or 7.7%). Together, these three offence types accounted for over half (55.1%) of all offences referred in the period (Table 10).

**Table 10 Offences for which a restorative justice process<sup>(a)</sup> was held for child offenders, 2022–23**

Offence type <sup>(b)</sup>	2022–23	%
<b>Homicide and related offences</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.01</b>
<i>Manslaughter and driving causing death</i>	1	
<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<i>Assault</i>	539	
<i>Other acts intended to cause injury<sup>(c)</sup></i>	3	
<b>Sexual assault and related offences</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<i>Sexual assault</i>	234	
<i>Non–assaultive sexual offences</i>	94	
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<i>Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle</i>	141	
<i>Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons<sup>(c)</sup></i>	41	
<b>Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<i>Deprivation of liberty / false imprisonment</i>	5	
<i>Harassment and threatening behaviour</i>	52	
<b>Robbery, extortion and related offences</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<i>Robbery</i>	235	
<b>Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>16.7</b>
<b>Theft and related offences</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>30.8</b>
<i>Motor vehicle theft and related offences</i>	898	
<i>Theft (except motor vehicles)</i>	985	
<i>Receive or handle proceeds of crime</i>	292	
<b>Fraud, deception and related offences</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<i>Obtain benefit by deception</i>	92	
<i>Forgery and counterfeiting</i>	5	
<i>Other fraud and deception offences<sup>(c)</sup></i>	171	
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<i>Deal or traffic in illicit drugs</i>	70	
<i>Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs</i>	6	
<i>Possess and/or use illicit drugs</i>	169	
<i>Other drug offences<sup>(c)</sup></i>	153	
<b>Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<i>Prohibited weapons/explosives offences</i>	11	
<i>Regulated weapons/explosives offences</i>	100	
<b>Property damage and environmental pollution</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>6.7</b>
<i>Property damage</i>	474	
<b>Public order offences</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<i>Disorderly conduct</i>	246	
<i>Regulated public order offences</i>	16	
<i>Offensive conduct</i>	141	
<b>Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<i>Driver licence offences</i>	221	
<i>Vehicle registration and roadworthiness offences</i>	98	
<i>Regulatory driving offences</i>	113	
<i>Pedestrian offences</i>	1	
<b>Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<i>Breach of violence and non-violence orders</i>	6	
<i>Offences against government operations</i>	8	
<i>Offences against justice procedures</i>	247	
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,073</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Data are a count of offences for which a restorative justice process was held, not a count of Restorative Justice Processes held or child offenders who participated in a restorative justice process.

(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, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

## THE COURTS

### Time lapsed to finalise court proceedings

For charges finalised in 2022–23, the average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court was 93 days, which is an increase compared with 84 days in 2021–22 (Table 11).

By comparison, the average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2022–23 was 314 days from the date of first mention in a Magistrates (Childrens) Court. This is 28 days longer than in 2021–22 (286 days).

**Table 11 Average number of days<sup>(a)</sup> to finalise convicted charges, selected courts**

Court <sup>(b)</sup>	2019–20 <sup>(c)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	—Days—			
Magistrates (Childrens) Court <sup>(d)</sup>	90	102	84	93
Childrens Court of Queensland <sup>(e)</sup>	306	304	286	314

(a) Figures are based on days lapsed between the date of first mention and date of disposition of each charge, averaged across all proven charges disposed in the reported financial year.

(b) District, Supreme and Murri Courts excluded due to low numbers of youth justice charges finalised in these jurisdictions.

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

(d) From mid-March to end of 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, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

### Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 2,482 charges in 591 appearances of child defendants in 2022–23. Almost half of all finalised appearances related to defendants aged 17 years and older (45.7%), and almost four in ten were aged 15–16 years (39.6%) (Table 12).

There was an increase (+13.7%) in the number of 14-year-old defendants appearing in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2022–23, with 58 appearances compared with 51 the previous year and an increase of 11 (+11.5%) in the number of appearances of 15-year-olds over the same period.

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

Age at finalised appearance (years) <sup>(a)</sup>	2021–22				2022–23			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
10	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
11	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
12	–	3	–	3	–	3	–	3
13	4	18	–	22	4	21	–	25
14	9	42	–	51	8	49	1	58
15	16	78	2	96	25	80	2	107
16	20	92	6	118	18	106	3	127
17	12	117	5	134	22	108	2	132
18 & over	17	75	8	100	25	108	5	138
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>591</b>

(a) Age represents age of defendant as at the earliest finalised appearance within the reference year.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

An average of 4.2 charges were disposed per finalised appearance in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2022–23, slightly more than the 4.1 disposed in 2021–22. (Table 13)

Finalised charges of *unlawful entry with intent* increased by 74 charges (26.3%) in 2022–23, while, over the same period, *acts intended to cause injury* increased by 66 charges (23.4%), *robbery & extortion* by 112 charges (21.6%), and *theft & related offences* by 86 charges (16.9%). Charges for *illicit drug offences* decreased (52 charges or –58.4%) over that period.

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

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2021–22				2022–23			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Acts intended to cause injury	66	210	6	282	72	265	11	348
Sexual assault & related offences	60	74	38	172	82	72	25	179
Robbery & extortion	69	446	3	518	114	515	1	630
Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter	25	256	–	281	48	306	1	355
Theft & related offences	41	468	–	509	73	522	–	595
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	28	270	–	298	45	291	–	336
<i>Other theft<sup>(b)</sup></i>	13	156	–	169	28	195	–	223
<i>Receiving &amp; handling</i>	–	42	–	42	–	36	–	36
Fraud, deception & related offences	–	31	–	31	2	27	–	29
Illicit drug offences	2	87	–	89	1	36	–	37
Property damage and environmental pollution	28	90	2	120	22	99	–	121
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	–	23	–	23	–	22	2	24
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	5	103	–	108	20	144	–	164
<b>Total</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>1,788</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>2,008</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2,482</b>

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

(b) Other theft = theft (except motor vehicles) + theft and related offences not further defined

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

Of the 591 appearances finalised in the Childrens Court of Queensland, 476 (80.5%) resulted in a conviction in 2022–23. Of these, 80 (16.8%) received a custodial sentence, with a further 48 (10.1%) given a conditional release order as the most serious penalty. The most prevalent penalty continues to be probation (59.9%).

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

Most serious penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21		2022–23	
	Convicted appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	% of total	Convicted appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	% of total
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	59	13.8	80	16.8
Conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	55	12.9	48	10.1
Community service	16	3.8	17	3.6
Probation	269	63.1	285	59.9
Fine	1	0.2	1	0.2
Compensation	–	–	1	0.2
Good behaviour	13	3.1	11	2.3
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	13	3.1	33	6.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) In descending order of seriousness. Offender may receive more than one penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is presented.

(b) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more convicted appearances within a reference year.

(c) May include imprisonment, partially suspended imprisonment, intensive correction and intensive supervision orders.

(d) May include wholly 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 2023.

## Applications for sentence review

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

Court location	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	—Applications <sup>(b)</sup> —			
Brisbane	62	51	44	52
Gympie	–	–	1	–
Mackay	–	2	–	–
Maroochydore	–	–	–	1
Rockhampton	–	–	1	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>53</b>

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

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

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2023.

## Applications for bail

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

Court location	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	—Applications <sup>(b)</sup> —			
Beenleigh	7	3	1	4
Brisbane	93	79	119	174
Cairns	18	5	4	5
Dalby	1	–	–	–
Hervey Bay	1	–	–	1
Ipswich	–	4	10	6
Kingaroy	–	1	–	5
Mackay	3	4	1	1
Maroochydore	–	2	–	1
Mount Isa	–	1	–	1
Rockhampton	–	–	2	–
Southport	4	4	5	4
Toowoomba	1	–	–	–
Townsville	2	2	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>204</b>

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

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

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2023.

## Appeals

**Table 17 Appeals to Childrens Court of Queensland regarding child protection**

Court location	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	—Appeals <sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup> —			
Beenleigh	–	1	–	–
Brisbane	19	27	16	16
Bundaberg	–	–	–	2
Cairns	2	6	–	1
Gladstone	–	–	–	1
Gympie	–	1	–	–
Ipswich	1	–	–	3
Kingaroy	–	–	–	2
Mackay	1	–	–	–
Maroochydore	1	2	1	–
Rockhampton	1	1	–	5
Southport	1	7	3	1
Toowoomba	–	1	–	1
Townsville	–	–	1	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>

- (a) The statistics are a count of appeals from a Magistrates Court to the Childrens Court of Queensland, relating to temporary assessment orders, temporary custody orders, court assessment orders or child protection orders under the *Child Protection Act 1999*.
- (b) Child Safety Services, Department of 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 August 2023.

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

Court location	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	—Appeals <sup>(a)</sup> —			
Beenleigh	–	–	–	2
Brisbane	1	4	–	–
Bundaberg	3	–	–	–
Emerald	2	–	–	–
Maroochydore	–	–	–	1
Mount Isa	–	–	1	–
Townsville	1	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

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

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland higher courts civil database (QCivil). Data current as at August 2023.

## Applications for parentage orders

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

Originating court location	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	—Applications <sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup> —			
Brisbane	9	18	16	21
Cairns	–	–	–	1
Hervey Bay	–	–	1	–
Maroochydore	1	–	1	–
Southport	–	–	–	2
Toowoomba	1	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>

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

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

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

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2023.

## Magistrates Court

In 2022–23, there were 6,338 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Magistrates Court in Queensland. A further 587 appearances resulted in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence, an increase of 4.6% compared with 2021–22. Of the 6,338 finalised appearances, 4,078 (64.3%) resulted in conviction and 1,209 (19.1%) were discharged in 2022–23, compared with 67.2% and 16.7% respectively in 2021–22.

Of the 40,494 charges against child defendants in the Magistrates Court, 32,132 (79.4%) were convicted, while 2,919 (7.2%) were acquitted, similar proportions to those in the previous year (78.3% and 6.8% respectively).

**Table 20 Appearances and charges of child defendants, by most serious outcome, Magistrates (Children’s) Court**

Outcome	2021–22		2022–23	
	Appearances <sup>(a)</sup>	Charges <sup>(a)</sup>	Appearances <sup>(a)</sup>	Charges <sup>(a)</sup>
Committed to a higher court <sup>(b)</sup>	561	2,239	587	2,460
Finalised	6,335	34,971	6,338	40,494
Adjudicated	5,321	29,763	5,287	35,051
<i>Convicted</i>	4,260	27,385	4,078	32,132
<i>Not convicted</i> <sup>(c)</sup>	1,061	2,378	1,209	2,919
Not adjudicated	1,014	5,208	1,051	5,443

(a) Data are a count of appearances and charges, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or more appearances/charges within a reference year.

(b) Includes only those appearances where committal to a higher court for trial/sentence was the most serious outcome.

(c) Where the defendant has been acquitted (found not guilty) of the charge(s) against them.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

The difference between the 587 appearances of child defendants committed to a higher court in 2022–23 and the 612 finalised appearances in the Childrens Court of Queensland, and the District and Supreme Courts in the same period is accounted for by ex officio indictments and matters committed to a higher court in 2021–22 but finalised in 2022–23.

Table 21 shows the number of finalised appearances increased by less than one per cent in 2022–23 compared with 2021–22. Defendants aged 17 years and over accounted for over a third (34.4% or 2,180) of all finalised appearances in the Magistrates (Children’s) Court in 2022–23, slightly less than in 2021–22 (35.4%). Appearances of defendants aged 12 and 15 years also decreased over the same period (–23.3% and –7.0% respectively), while all other age groups from 13 years saw increases of between 1.0% and 17.6%. Appearances of defendants aged 10 and 11 years showed the greatest increases in percentage terms, while numbers for both groups totalled 58.

**Table 21 Finalised appearances, by age and outcome, Magistrates (Children’s) Court**

Age at finalised appearance <sup>(a)</sup> (years) <sup>(b)</sup>	2021–22				2022–23			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
10	3	–	–	3	3	7	4	14
11	8	8	11	27	8	19	17	44
12	28	122	43	193	29	86	33	148
13	74	303	89	466	87	347	114	548
14	119	568	141	828	138	544	154	836
15	184	895	176	1,255	196	766	205	1,167
16	223	912	183	1,318	246	953	202	1,401
17	257	1,077	324	1,658	237	995	360	1,592
18 & over	117	374	91	582	107	361	120	588
Not stated	1	1	3	5	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>4,260</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>6,335</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>1,209</b>	<b>6,338</b>

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

(b) Age represents age of defendant as at the earliest finalised appearance within the reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

In 2022–23, there were 40,494 charges finalised against child defendants in the Magistrates Court, an increase of 5,523 (15.8%) compared with the previous year (Table 22).

The largest number of finalised charges was for *theft and related offences* (14,613), which represented an increase of 2,185 (or +17.6%) and a slightly higher proportion (36.1%) than in 2021–22 (35.5%).

Charges for *unlawful entry with intent* accounted for 10,338 or 25.5% of all charges finalised in 2022–23, a 33.4% increase compared with 7,749 (22.2%) in 2021–22.

Combined, these two offence types accounted for almost two-thirds (61.6%) of all charges finalised in the Magistrates (Children’s) Court in 2022–23, and 57.7% in 2021–22.

**Table 22 Finalised charges against child defendants by offence type, Magistrates (Children’s) Court**

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2021–22				2022–23			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Homicide and related offences	–	–	–	–	2	–	4	<b>6</b>
Acts intended to cause injury	292	1,444	86	<b>1,822</b>	358	1,549	137	<b>2,044</b>
Sexual assault and related offences	25	10	15	<b>50</b>	32	18	4	<b>54</b>
Robbery, extortion and related offences	210	39	18	<b>267</b>	200	33	17	<b>250</b>
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,732	5,821	196	<b>7,749</b>	2,073	8,075	190	<b>10,338</b>
Theft and related offences	1,427	10,275	726	<b>12,428</b>	1,419	12,414	780	<b>14,613</b>
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	458	4,290	123	<b>4,871</b>	569	5,779	160	<b>6,508</b>
<i>Other theft<sup>(b)</sup></i>	667	4,516	510	<b>5,693</b>	594	5,138	520	<b>6,252</b>
<i>Receiving and handling</i>	302	1,469	93	<b>1,864</b>	256	1,497	100	<b>1,853</b>
Fraud, deception and related offences	279	830	32	<b>1,141</b>	158	841	36	<b>1,035</b>
Illicit drug offences	285	1,507	183	<b>1,975</b>	181	1,319	277	<b>1,777</b>
Property damage and environmental pollution	224	1,535	167	<b>1,926</b>	284	1,650	181	<b>2,115</b>
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	140	1,438	370	<b>1,948</b>	116	1,506	533	<b>2,155</b>
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	594	4,486	585	<b>5,665</b>	620	4,727	760	<b>6,107</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,208</b>	<b>27,385</b>	<b>2,378</b>	<b>34,971</b>	<b>5,443</b>	<b>32,132</b>	<b>2,919</b>	<b>40,494</b>

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

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

In 2022–23, of the 6,338 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Magistrates Court, 4,078 (64.3%) resulted in a conviction (Table 23). For a third of these (1,397 or 34.3%) a reprimand was the most serious penalty imposed, followed by probation (28.4%). A custodial sentence was imposed in 264 appearances (6.5%) and a conditional release order in 231 (5.7%).

**Table 23 Convicted appearances of child defendants, by most serious penalty, Magistrates (Children's) Court**

Most serious penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2021–22		2022–23	
	Convicted appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	% of total	Convicted appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	% of total
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	249	5.8	264	6.5
Conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	244	5.7	231	5.7
Community service	437	10.3	400	9.8
Probation	1,209	28.4	1,158	28.4
Treatment order	22	0.5	17	0.4
Fine	50	1.2	25	0.6
Compensation	9	0.2	10	0.2
Good behaviour	513	12.0	474	11.6
Disqualification of drivers licence	110	2.6	102	2.5
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	1,417	33.3	1,397	34.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,260</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.

(b) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more convicted appearances within a reference year.

(c) Includes imprisonment, intensive correction and intensive supervision orders

(d) Includes wholly 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 2023.

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

**Table 24 Applications for child protection orders, Magistrates Court**

	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Applications for child protection orders <sup>(b)</sup>	6,810	6,361	5,870	6,149

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

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

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2023.

## Applications for domestic violence protection orders

**Table 25 Applications for domestic violence order involving a child as respondent, Magistrates Court**

	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Applications for Domestic Violence Order <sup>(b)</sup>	328	367	425	424

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

(b) The statistics are a count of cases lodged where a respondent within the proceedings was under 18 years of age when the application was lodged.

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2023.

## Supreme and District Courts

There were 21 finalised appearances of children in the Supreme and District Courts in 2022–23, almost double that of the previous year (11), with the majority of defendants aged 17 years and over in both years. However, the average number of charges per appearance in these courts decreased from 4.7 in 2021–22 to 2.6 in 2022–23. (For more detail refer to Appendix Table 10.)

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

Age at finalised appearance <sup>(a)</sup> (years)	2021–22			2022–23		
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Not adjudicated	Adjudicated	
		Convicted	Not convicted		Convicted	Not convicted
14	–	–	–	1	–	–
15	–	–	–	–	1	–
16	1	–	–	–	1	–
17	1	1	–	–	5	–
18 & over	1	7	–	5	8	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>–</b>

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or more appearances within a reference year. Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

Of the 55 charges finalised in the Supreme and District Courts, *acts intended to cause injury* accounted for 21.8% or 12 charges, with nine convicted), up significantly from 1.9% of charges in 2021–22. *Homicide & related offences* accounted for 10 charges (18.2%), with five convicted. In contrast, *Illicit drug offences* charges dropped from 31 charges in 2021–22 to three in 2022–23, with all charges convicted.

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

Offence type <sup>(a)</sup>	2021–22				2022–23			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Homicide and related offences	1	2	–	3	5	5	–	10
Acts intended to cause injury	–	1	–	1	3	9	–	12
Sexual assault and related offences	1	1	–	2	–	1	–	1
Robbery, extortion and related offences	2	–	–	2	2	5	–	7
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	–	2	–	2	3	5	–	8
Theft and related offences	–	7	–	7	–	5	–	5
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	–	2	–	2	–	4	–	4
<i>Other theft<sup>(b)</sup></i>	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
<i>Receiving and handling</i>	–	5	–	5	–	–	–	–
Illicit drug offences	–	31	–	31	–	3	–	3
Property damage and environmental pollution	–	1	–	1	2	1	–	3
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	–	2	–	2	–	2	–	2
Other offences <sup>(c)</sup>	–	1	–	1	–	4	–	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>55</b>

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

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

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

In 2022–23, of the 21 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Supreme and District Courts, 15 (71.4%) were found guilty (Table 28). Of these, eight (53.3%) received detention as most serious penalty and six (40.0%) were sentenced to probation.

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

Most serious penalty <sup>(a)</sup>	2021–22		2022–23	
	Convicted appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	% of total	Convicted appearances <sup>(b)</sup>	% of total
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	1	12.5	8	53.3
Conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	1	12.5	–	–
Probation	5	62.5	6	40.0
Good behaviour	1	12.5	–	–
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	–	–	1	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100.0</b>

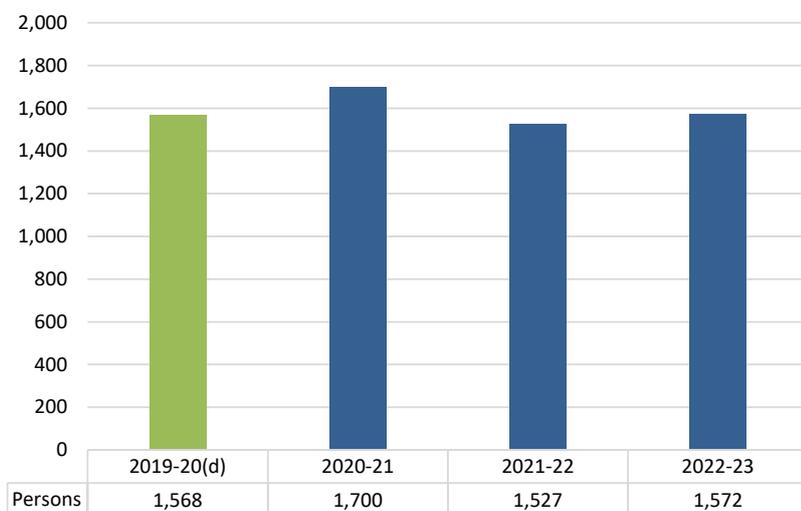
- (a) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.
- (b) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or more convicted appearances within a reference year.
- (c) Includes imprisonment, partially suspended imprisonment, intensive correction and intensive supervision orders.
- (d) Includes wholly 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 2023.

## SUPERVISED YOUTH JUSTICE ORDERS

A total of 1,572 distinct young people commenced a supervised youth justice order in 2022–23. This is a 3 per cent increase on the previous year (1,527).

**Figure 9 Distinct young people<sup>(a)</sup> commencing a supervised youth justice order<sup>(b)(c)</sup>**



- (a) Distinct young people can be counted once only in each financial year, irrespective of the number of supervised orders they 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 portion of a detention order that is completed in the community.
- (d) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

Young people aged 17 years represented the largest age group commencing a supervised youth justice order in 2022–23, constituting 374 (23.8%) of the 1,572 distinct young people commencing an order. Those aged 16 years made up 369 (23.5%) of all distinct offenders. In 2022–23, there were increases in the number of distinct young people commencing a supervised order within the 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18+ year age groups compared with the previous period (Table 29).

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

Age at commencement of order (years) <sup>(a)</sup>	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	—Offenders—			
10	1	1	–	1
11	8	9	4	3
12	38	27	30	19
13	104	100	92	111
14	177	229	202	216
15	285	310	307	311
16	357	391	360	369
17	389	416	390	374
18 and over	209	217	143	168
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>1,572</b>

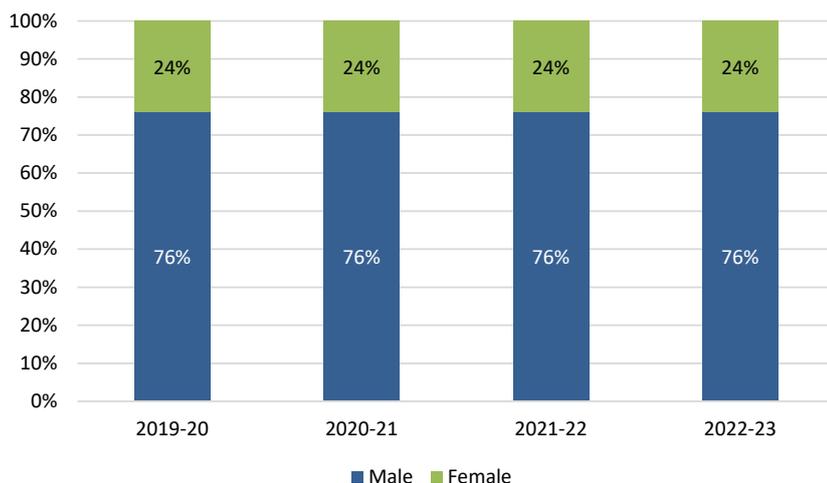
(a) Age represents age of the young person on the date of the earliest commencement of any supervised order within the relevant financial year.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

Distinct young males commencing a supervised youth justice order outnumber young females by approximately three to one. This pattern has remained consistent over time.

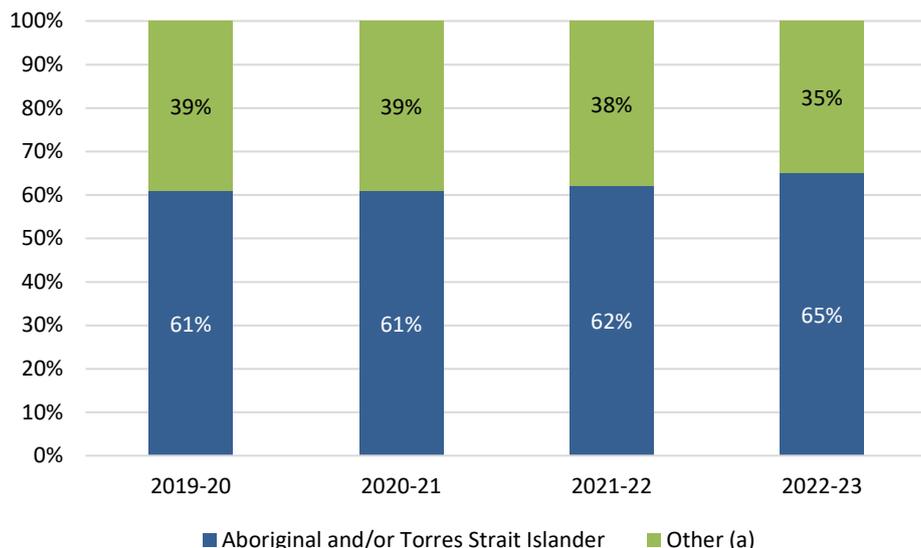
**Figure 10 Distribution of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by sex**



Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

In 2022–23, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for 65 per cent of all distinct young offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order. This represents a 3–4 percentage point increase compared with previous years.

**Figure 11 Distinct young people commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status**



(a) 'Other' includes young people who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were 21.4 times as likely as non-Indigenous/other young people to commence a supervised youth justice order in 2022–23 (Table 30). This disproportionate representation has gradually increased since 2019–20.

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

Indigenous status	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Distinct young people commencing a supervised youth justice order - rate per 1,000 persons <sup>(b)</sup>				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	22.7	24.4	22.0	23.5
Other <sup>(c)</sup>	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1
Over-representation <sup>(d)</sup> of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people, as compared to other <sup>(c)</sup> young people				
Over-representation <sup>(d)</sup>	18.3	18.3	19.1	21.4

- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.
- (b) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–17 year-olds, using population estimates as at 30 June in the relevant financial year, from figures from ABS: Estimated Resident Population, Customised Report, Estimated Resident Population; Age by Sex, by Queensland LGAs (2016 ASGS) 30 June: 2011 to 2019 and QGSO: Population estimates by Indigenous status, age, sex, statistical area level 2 (SA2), 2006 to 2019 (2016 ASGS). The 2020 to 2023 population figures are derived from the 2019 (preliminary) population figures using an age-progression method such that those falling within the juvenile age population (i.e., 10-17) will be advanced by one year for each new period. 'Other' includes young people who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, or who's status is unknown or missing.
- (c) 'Over-representation' is calculated by dividing the rate per population for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people by the rate per population figures for 'other' young people. 'Over-representation' figures indicate the number of times as likely an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young person is to commence a supervised youth justice order, as compared to other young people.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

Probation was the most prevalent order type, averaging around half of all supervised youth justice orders commenced between 2019–20 and 2022–23. By comparison, community service orders as a proportion of all order types have been decreasing over the same time, representing 16 per cent of orders in 2019–20, down to 12 per cent of orders commenced in 2022–23. Detention orders (excluding suspended detention) averaged around 10 per cent of orders commenced during the last four years (Table 31).

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

Order type	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	—Orders commenced <sup>(b)</sup> —			
Community service	467	440	392	367
Conditional release	238	300	308	285
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	298	275	302	349
Graffiti removal <sup>(d)</sup>	139	137	94	74
Intensive supervision <sup>(e)</sup>	4	3	8	1
Probation	1,403	1,794	1,704	1,663
Restorative justice <sup>(f)</sup>	444	503	444	441
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,993</b>	<b>3,452</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>3,180</b>

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

(b) Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of young people, as an individual young person may commence more than one supervised order during the reference period.

(c) Detention order counts exclude suspended detention orders associated with a conditional release order.

(d) 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

(e) 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.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

## Conditional bail

The number of conditional bail programs commenced increased by 26.0% in the 2022–23 financial year and is the highest it has been in the last four years (Table 32).

**Table 32 Court-ordered conditional bail commenced by young people**

	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Conditional bail program	770	688	826	1,041

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

## Community supervision

Most community-based supervised orders that commenced in 2021–22 were successfully completed by the end of 2022–23 (76% of probation orders and 52% of community service orders, the two most prevalent community-based order types).

Almost one in five probation (19%), and almost one in three community service orders (30%), were subject to breach action on or before 30 June 2023, while around 37 per cent of all conditional release orders were subject to breach action on or before 30 June 2023 (.Table 33).

**Table 33 Supervised youth justice orders commenced in 2021–22: completion status as at 30 June 2023**

Completion status as at 30 June 2022	Type of order commenced <sup>(a)</sup> in 2021–22											
	Probation		Conditional release		Community service		Intensive supervision		Graffiti removal		Restorative justice	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Order successfully completed	1,302	76%	212	61%	209	52%	5	63%	79	83%	361	81%
Order remains active	94	5%	6	2%	71	18%	1	13%	4	4%	14	3%
Breach action initiated <sup>(b)</sup>	324	19%	130	37%	121	30%	2	25%	12	13%	73	16%
<b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Data are a count of orders commenced, not a count of distinct young people.

(b) Orders against which breach action was initiated on or prior to 30 June 2023 are reported as “breach action initiated” irrespective of the completion status of the order as at 30 June 2023.

(c) Percentages may not sum to 100% in every case due to rounding.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

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

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Probation orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>					
	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>		2020–21		2021–22	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	1,014	70	1,352	74	1,302	76
Remained active	129	9	101	6	94	5
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	304	21	366	20	324	19
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>1,447</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>100</b>

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Conditional release orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>					
	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>		2020–21		2021–22	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	209	71	215	64	212	61
Remained active	4	1	7	2	6	2
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	83	28	113	34	130	37
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>296</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>100</b>

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Community service orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>					
	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>		2020–21		2021–22	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	290	61	259	57	209	52
Remained active	61	13	73	16	71	18
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	122	26	121	27	121	30
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>473</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>100</b>

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Intensive supervision orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>					
	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>		2020–21		2021–22	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	3	60	3	100	5	63
Remained active	1	20	–	–	1	13
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	1	20	–	–	2	25
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Court-ordered graffiti removal orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>					
	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>		2020–21		2021–22	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	123	84	112	79	79	83
Remained active	6	4	9	6	4	4
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	18	12	20	14	12	13
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100</b>

Completion status at 30 June in the following period	Restorative justice orders commenced <sup>(a)</sup>					
	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>		2020–21		2021–22	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	382	84	418	82	361	81
Remained active	16	4	12	2	14	3
Breach action initiated <sup>(c)</sup>	56	12	81	16	73	16
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>454</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>100</b>

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

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

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

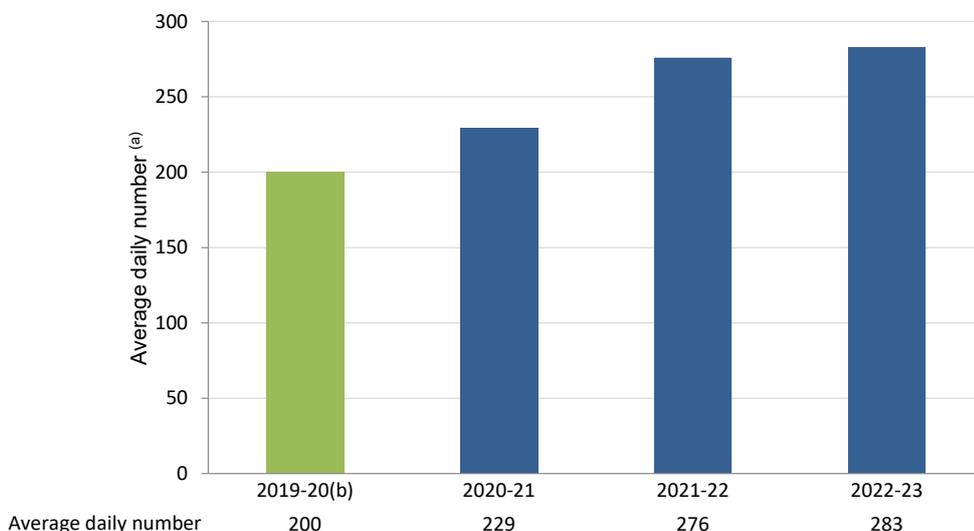
(d) Percentages may not sum to 100% in every case due to rounding.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

## Young people in youth detention

This section presents young people held in a Queensland youth detention centre in sentenced and unsentenced custody. The 2022–23 period saw an increase in the average daily number of young people in youth detention, with an upward trend evident over the last four periods (Figure 12).

**Figure 12 Average daily number of young people in youth detention**



(a) The average daily number of young people in youth detention is calculated based on the number who were physically located in a detention centre at 11:59pm on each day during the period.

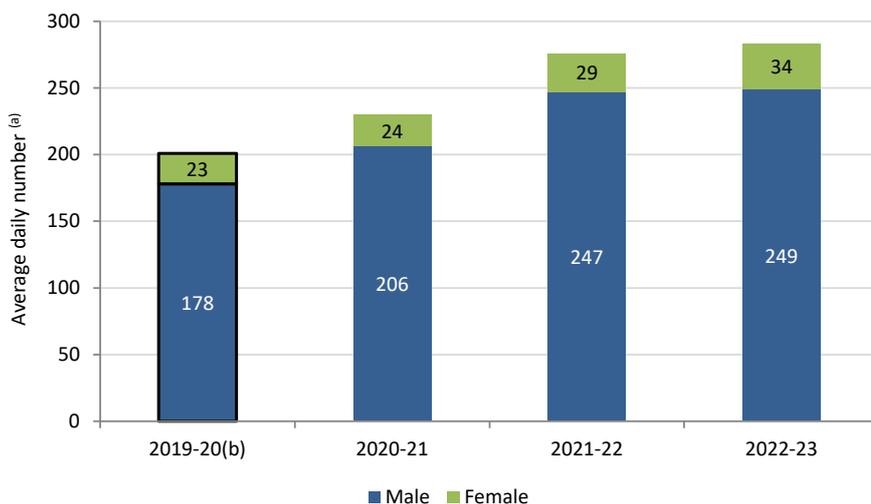
(b) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

Young males continue to outnumber young females in youth detention, accounting for between 88 and 90 per cent of all young people in youth detention on average in any given financial year.

The proportion of young females in youth detention was slightly higher in 2022–23 (12%) compared with 2021–22 (11%).

**Figure 13 Average daily number of young people in youth detention, by sex**



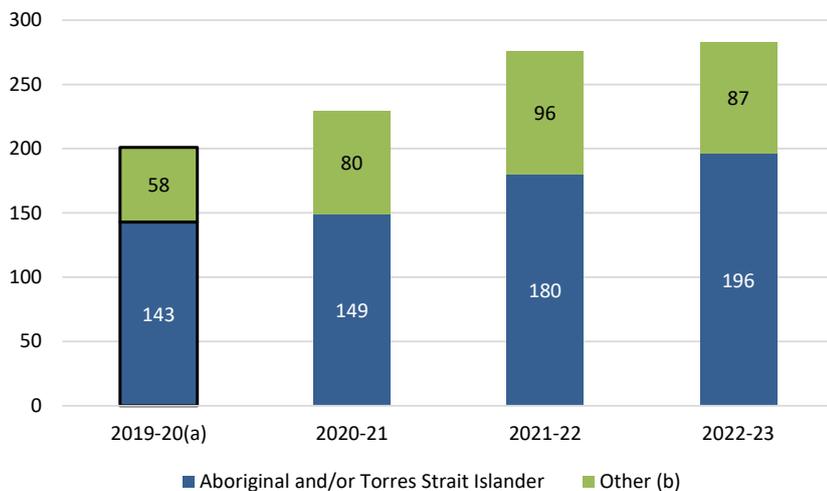
(a) As a result of rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items in Figure 13 and the totals in Figure 12.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people continue to dominate the numbers in youth detention, accounting for between 65 and 71 per cent of young people in youth detention on an average day over the last four years (Figure 14). In 2022–23, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for 69 per cent of those in youth detention on an average day. This represents a 4-percentage point increase compared with the previous year (65%) but was still lower than in 2019–20 (71%).

**Figure 14 Average daily number of young people in youth detention, by Indigenous status**



- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.  
 (b) 'Other' includes young people who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were over 25.9 times as likely as non-Indigenous/other young people to have been in youth detention in 2022–23. This is higher than the rates in 2020–21 (21.3) and 2021–22 (21.5).

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

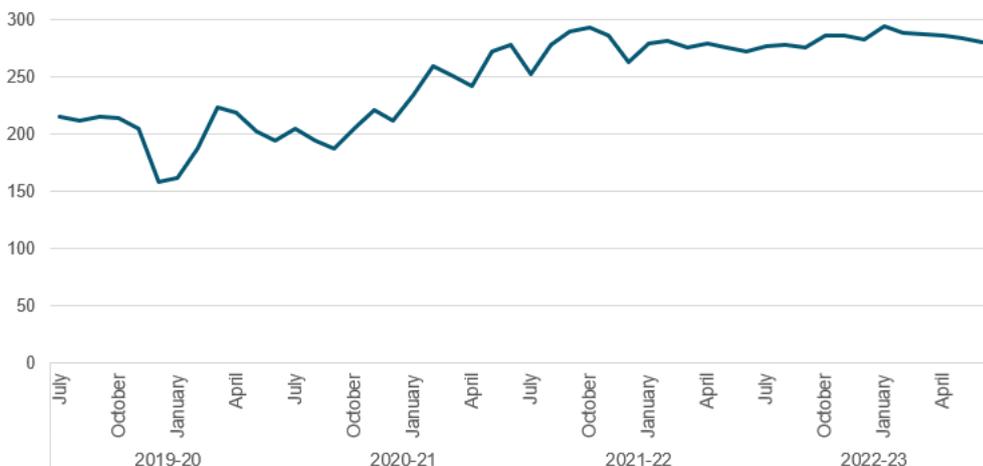
Indigenous status	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Average daily number of young people in youth detention - rate per 10,000 persons <sup>(b)</sup>				
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	33.7	34.8	41.6	45.1
Other <sup>(c)</sup>	1.2	1.6	1.9	1.7
Over-representation <sup>(d)</sup> of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, as compared to other <sup>(c)</sup> young people				
Over-representation <sup>(d)</sup>	28.3	21.5	21.6	25.9

- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.  
 (b) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–17 year-olds, using population estimates as at 30 June in the relevant financial year, from figures from ABS: Estimated Resident Population, Customised Report, Estimated Resident Population; Age by Sex, by Queensland LGAs (2016 ASGS) 30 June: 2011 to 2019 and QGSO: Population estimates by Indigenous status, age, sex, statistical area level 2 (SA2), 2006 to 2019 (2016 ASGS). The 2020 to 2023 population figures are derived from the 2019 (preliminary) population figures using an age-progression method such that those falling within the juvenile age population (i.e., 10-17) will be advanced by one year for each new period. Other includes young people who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose status is unknown or not stated.  
 (c) 'Over-representation' is calculated by dividing the rate per population for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people by the rate per population figures for 'other' young people. 'Over-representation' figures indicate the number of times as likely an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young person is to commence a supervised youth justice order, as compared to other young people.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

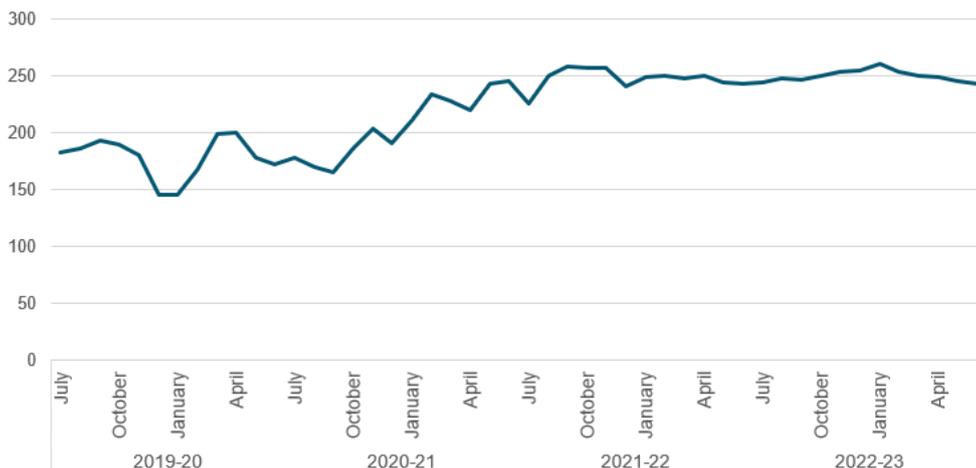
The three figures below show the average daily number respectively of young people (total), young males and young females in youth detention between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2023.

**Figure 15 Average daily number of all young people in youth detention, by month<sup>(a)</sup>**

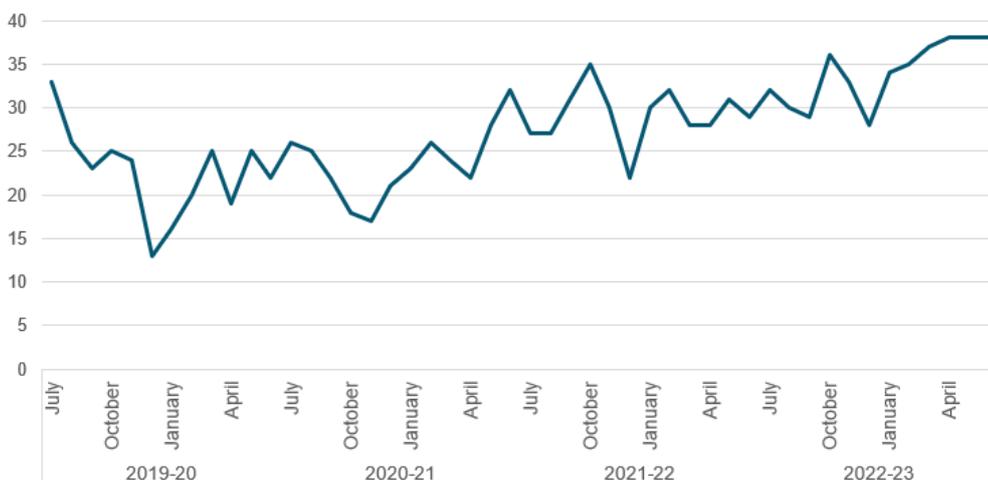


**Note** the difference in scale for the second figure.

**Figure 16 Average daily number of young males in youth detention, by month<sup>(a)</sup>**



**Figure 17 Average daily number of young females in youth detention, by month<sup>(a)</sup>**



(a) Figures are daily counts, averaged over the relevant month.

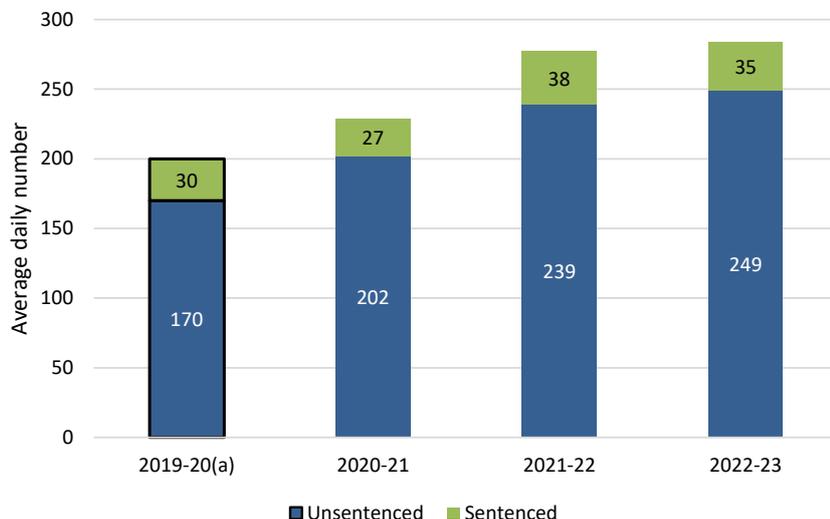
Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

## Unsentenced youth detention

The average daily number of young people in youth detention in unsentenced custody increased to 249 per day in 2022–23, compared with 239 in 2021–22. The average daily number of young people in sentenced detention decreased to 35 per day compared with 38 in the previous year (Figure 18).

Most young people in youth detention on an average day in 2022–23 were in unsentenced detention (88%). This figure is slightly higher than the previous period (87%).

**Figure 18 Average daily number of young people in youth detention, by legal status**



- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.  
 (b) Unsentenced encompasses all custody that is not a result of a detention order.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

In 2022–23, the average length of time young people spent in youth detention per unsentenced episode was 51 nights, which is higher than in 2021–22 (43 nights). The average length is based on unsentenced periods of youth detention that concluded in each financial year. The average length of unsentenced episodes in youth detention has been steadily increasing over the last four financial years. (Table 37)

**Table 36 Average length of episodes (days) spent in unsentenced youth detention**

	2019–20 <sup>(b)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Average (days)	29	35	43	51
Median (days)	15	19	27	28

One half of all finalised appearances in 2022–23 at which a detention order was made resulted in a young offender being released from court following sentencing, with no time remaining to serve in custody. In 30 per cent of all appearances resulting in a detention order, the offender was not required to serve a supervised release order. This reflects the number of detention orders that had been served as pre-sentence custody. Of all sentencing events resulting in detention orders, 50 per cent involved the offender serving a period of custody following sentencing (Table 37).

**Table 37 Detention orders by custody status at time of sentencing**

Custody status	2019–20 <sup>(a)</sup>	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	—Per cent (%) <sup>(b)</sup> —			
<b>Released directly from court following sentencing</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>49.9</b>
Without a supervised release order	28.2	24.7	25.5	30.1
With a supervised release order	21.5	20.0	20.2	19.8
<b>Custodial period to serve following sentencing</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>50.1</b>

- (a) The COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020 and resulted in social restrictions which continued throughout 2020–21.  
 (b) Percentages may not sum to 100 in every case due to rounding.  
 (c) Pre-sentence custody includes time spent in custody on remand and pre-court custody.

Source: Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training. Data current as at July 2023.

**Table 38 Number of unique young persons in custody in police watchhouses and stations by month and age, 2022–23**

Age (years)	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	—Persons—											
10	–	–	3	3	3	1	4	6	9	4	3	2
11	5	7	6	5	8	9	9	13	14	12	6	6
12	26	16	24	28	29	33	30	26	26	29	30	31
13	55	54	54	48	77	61	73	69	76	56	68	64
14	85	102	98	94	87	102	108	88	120	87	89	83
15	124	122	122	111	161	120	131	115	115	126	117	108
16	116	111	116	132	141	145	121	112	146	114	107	122
17	108	128	119	135	113	153	117	103	118	88	103	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>527</b>

Notes:

1. Data are preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Data relate to persons in custody in police watchhouses and selected stations, for any reason, aged 10–17 years on admission to custody.
3. Police watchhouses are those where the organisational unit name contains 'Watchhouse' and are based on the latest detention unit a person was in.
4. Police stations refer to selected stations which are used as watchhouses.
5. Number of persons refers to a count of unique persons. A person with multiple custody reports during the period will be counted once only in the breakdown.
6. Data do not indicate the number of persons held in a police watchhouse on any individual day.
7. Data may differ from statistics reported and published by other Queensland Government agencies.
8. Individual counts may not add up to the total, as the total is the number of unique persons in the period.

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at September 2023.

**Table 39 Number of admissions of juveniles and length of stay in custody in police watchhouses and stations, 2022–23**

Length of stay (days)	Number of admissions
1 or less	6,208
2	491
3–4	427
5–7	439
8–14	408
15 or more	146
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,119</b>

Notes:

1. Data are preliminary and may be subject to change.
2. Data relate to persons in custody in police watchhouses and selected stations, for any reason, aged 10–17 years on admission to custody.
3. Police watchhouses are those where the organisational unit name contains 'Watchhouse' and are based on the latest detention unit a person was in.
4. Police stations refer to selected stations which are used as watchhouses.
5. Number of admissions refers to the number of custody reports for persons aged 10–17 years and includes persons taken into custody for any reason.
6. Data do not indicate the number of persons held in a police watchhouse on any individual day.
7. Data may differ from statistics reported and published by other Queensland Government agencies.

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at September 2023.

## VICTIMS OF CHILD OFFENDERS

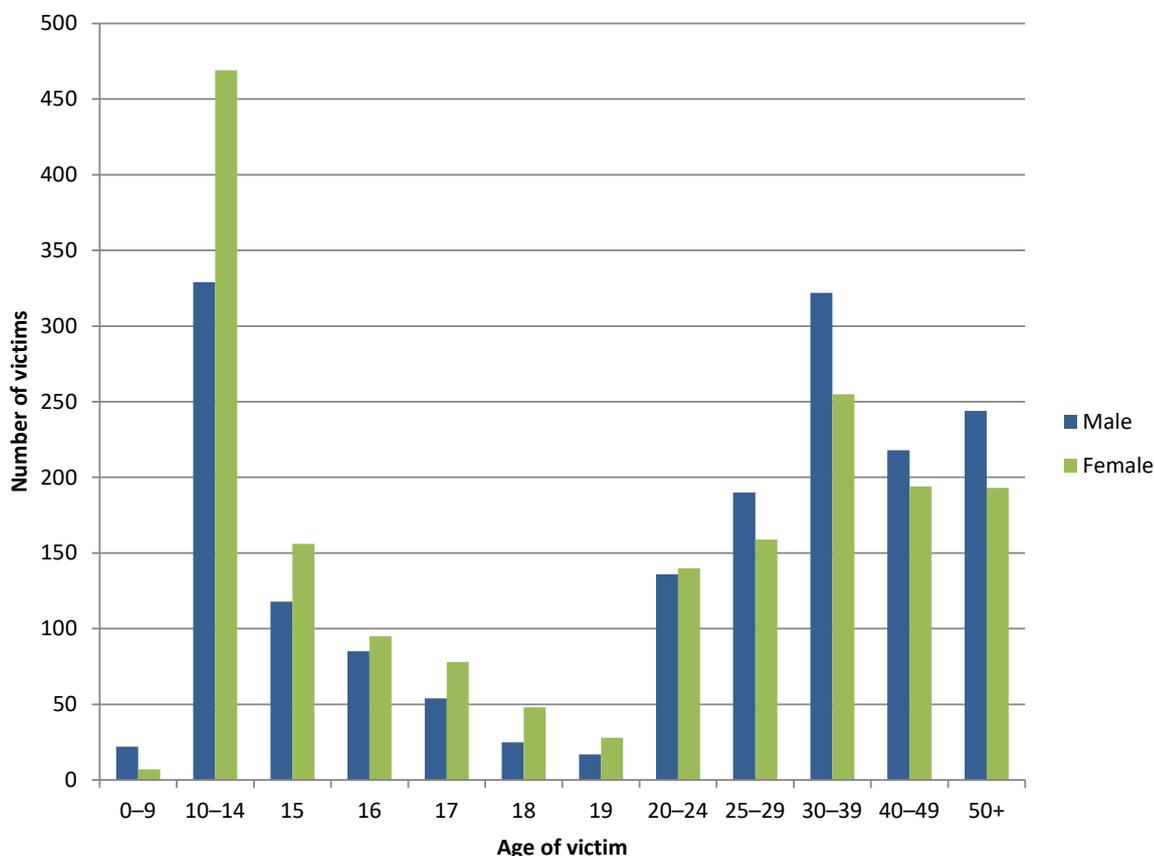
Data relating to victims of child offenders in 2022–23 were extracted from official crime reports in Queensland Police Service’s administrative data, where at least one of the alleged offenders was aged between 10 and under 18 years when the crime was recorded. The focus was offenders involved in offences against the person and all victims data are presented in that context in the report.

There were 5,000 victims of person offences where at least one offender was considered a child at time of recording in 2022–23. Almost half of all victims of child offenders were themselves aged 18 years or younger (47.9%) and one in four victims was between 10 and 14 years old, making it the most prevalent victim age group. Despite aggregation, victims 50 years and older accounted for just 11.6% of victims overall.

Overall, victimisation rates were not gender specific (females 51.6%) although profiles differ depending on the offence. Females were three times as often victims of *sexual assault and related offences* as males (74.4%), but less than half as often victims of *robbery, extortion and related offences* (37.6%). Males and females both experienced similar victimisation rates for *acts intended to cause injury* (50.9% females).

*Acts intended to cause injury* was by far the most common personal offence type (71.8%) and the largest victim group was females aged 10–14 years (469 or 13.1%), closely followed by males of the same age (329 or 9.2%). The second-largest age group was those aged 30–39 years, accounting for 16.1% of all victims of *acts intended to cause injury*, although males were more often victimised than females in this group (322 vs 255)(Figure 19).

**Figure 19 Victims of acts intended to cause injury<sup>(a)</sup> by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2022–23**

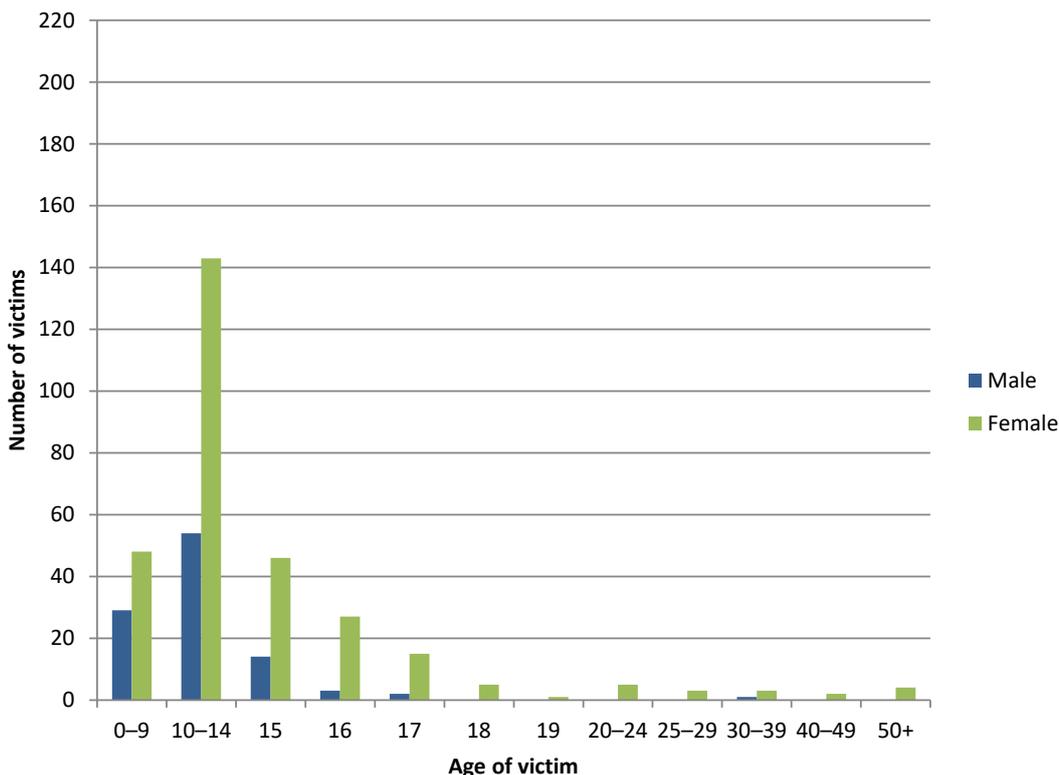


(a) Includes assault, stalking, administer harmful substance, and other acts intended to cause injury.

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at July 2023.

In 2022–23, there were almost three times more female than male victims of *sexual assault and related offences*. Almost half of all victims were aged 10–14 years (197 or 48.6%) and 143 of those were girls (72.6%), despite this group accounting for only 14.1% of victims overall. Almost one in five victims was under the age of 10 (77 or 19.0%) (Figure 20).

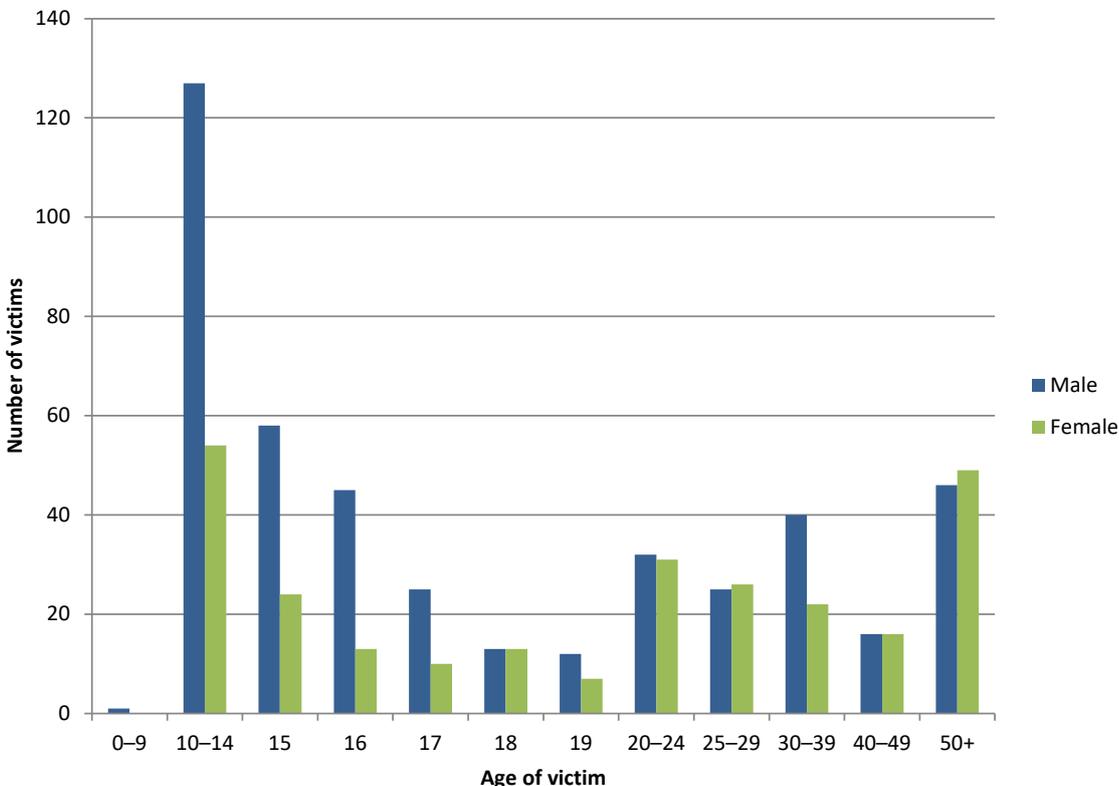
**Figure 20** Victims of sexual assault and related offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2022–23



Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at July 2023.

Ten to 14-year-olds were also the most prevalent victim group of *robbery, extortion and related offences* (25.7%), although males that age were more often victimised than females (127 or 70.2% males)(Figure 21).

**Figure 21** Victims of robbery, extortion and related offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2022–23



Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at July 2023.

# APPENDIX

## Detailed tables

All tables in this section relate to charges and appearances of child defendants in Queensland courts, for 2021–22 and 2022–23.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data are current as at August 2023 and include revisions to data published in previous reports.

### Summary

Table A1 All Courts: Finalised charges, by offence type and court

### Magistrates Court (committals)

Table A2 Appearances and charges committed for sentence or trial, by statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court

### Magistrates Court (dispositions)

Table A3 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Figure A1 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant

Table A4 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4 of court

Table A5 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex of defendant

Figure A2 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

### Childrens Court of Queensland

Table A6 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Figure A3 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant

Table A7 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4 of court

Table A8 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex of defendant

Figure A4 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

### District and Supreme Courts

Table A9 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Figure A5 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant

Table A10 Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4 of court

Table A11 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty and sex of defendant

Figure A6 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty

### All Courts

Table A12 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Figure A7 Appearances finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant

**Table A1 All courts: Finalised charges, by offence type and court level**

Adjudicated, by offence type	2021–22				2022–23			
	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
<b>Homicide &amp; related offences</b>	—	—	2	2	4	—	5	9
Murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Attempted murder	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
Manslaughter and driving causing death	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	1
<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>	1,530	216	1	1,747	1,686	276	9	1,971
Assault	1,515	210	1	1,726	1,672	276	9	1,957
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	15	6	—	21	14	—	—	14
<b>Sexual assault &amp; related offences</b>	25	112	1	138	22	97	1	120
Sexual assault	20	99	1	120	12	83	1	96
Non-assaultive sexual offences	5	13	—	18	10	14	—	24
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts</b>	475	27	1	503	511	36	2	549
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	288	19	1	308	329	28	2	359
Other dangerous or negligent acts	187	8	—	195	182	8	—	190
<b>Abduction &amp; related offences</b>	72	16	—	88	119	17	—	136
Abduction and kidnapping	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Deprivation of Liberty	1	5	—	6	3	4	—	7
Harrassment and Threatening Behaviour	71	11	—	82	115	13	—	128
<b>Robbery &amp; extortion</b>	57	449	—	506	50	516	5	571
Robbery	43	448	—	491	44	514	5	563
Blackmail & extortion	14	1	—	15	6	2	—	8
<b>Unlawful entry with intent</b>	6,017	256	2	6,275	8,265	307	5	8,577
<b>Theft &amp; related offences<sup>(a)</sup></b>	11,001	468	7	11,476	13,194	522	5	13,721
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	4,413	270	2	4,685	5,939	291	4	6,234
Other theft & related offences	1	—	—	1	5	—	—	5
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	1,562	42	5	1,609	1,597	36	—	1,633
Theft (except motor vehicles)	5,025	156	—	5,181	5,653	195	1	5,849
<b>Deception &amp; related offences</b>	862	31	—	893	877	27	—	904
Obtain benefit by deception	292	7	—	299	321	11	—	332
Forgery & counterfeiting	2	—	—	2	5	2	—	7
Other fraud and deception offences	568	24	—	592	551	14	—	565
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	1,690	87	31	1,808	1,596	36	3	1,635
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	40	41	10	91	61	8	1	70
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	15	—	—	15	4	—	—	4
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	758	30	7	795	718	17	—	735
Other illicit drug offences	877	16	14	907	813	11	2	826
<b>Weapons &amp; explosives offences</b>	458	9	—	467	501	5	—	506
Prohibited weapons/explosives offences	54	4	—	58	80	2	—	82
Regulated weapons/explosives offences	404	5	—	409	421	3	—	424
<b>Property damage</b>	1,702	92	1	1,795	1,831	99	1	1,931
Property damage	1,702	92	1	1,795	1,831	99	1	1,931
<b>Public order offences</b>	2,035	21	—	2,056	2,025	24	—	2,049
<b>Road traffic offences</b>	1,808	23	2	1,833	2,039	24	2	2,065
<b>Justice &amp; government offences</b>	1,959	30	—	1,989	2,295	61	2	2,358
Breach of justice order <sup>(b)</sup>	1,052	16	—	1,068	1,402	15	—	1,417
Offences against government operations	61	—	—	61	96	31	—	127
Offences against justice procedures	846	14	—	860	797	15	2	814
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	72	—	—	72	36	1	—	37
<b>Total adjudicated</b>	<b>29,763</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>31,648</b>	<b>35,051</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37,139</b>
<b>Not adjudicated</b>	<b>5,208</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5,508</b>	<b>5,443</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5,892</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,971</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>37,156</b>	<b>40,494</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43,031</b>

(a) Includes theft and related offences not further disaggregated.

(b) Includes offences such as breach of bail, breach of violence order, and escape custody. Breaches of youth justice orders are excluded.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

**Table A2 Magistrates (Children's) court: Appearances and charges committed for sentence or trial, by SA4 of court**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2021–22			2022–23		
	Appearances (a)	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances (a)	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	130	449	3.5	129	430	3.3
Brisbane East	8	38	4.8	16	45	2.8
Cairns	66	185	2.8	85	243	2.9
Central Queensland	38	107	2.8	45	97	2.2
Darling Downs–Maranoa	19	143	7.5	13	81	6.2
Gold Coast	79	171	2.2	35	80	2.3
Ipswich	98	317	3.2	122	476	3.9
Logan–Beaudesert	34	105	3.1	51	143	2.8
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	9	51	5.7	7	30	4.3
Moreton Bay–North	48	159	3.3	45	214	4.8
Moreton Bay–South	11	28	2.5	12	25	2.1
Queensland–Outback	18	37	2.1	17	46	2.7
Sunshine Coast	25	52	2.1	14	39	2.8
Toowoomba	32	132	4.1	34	80	2.4
Townsville	50	221	4.4	56	231	4.1
Wide Bay	28	44	1.6	48	200	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>2,239</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>2,460</b>	<b>3.4</b>

(a) Appearances in this table comprise any resulting in a committal to a higher court for sentence or trial, regardless of whether other matters for the defendant were finalised in the same appearance.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

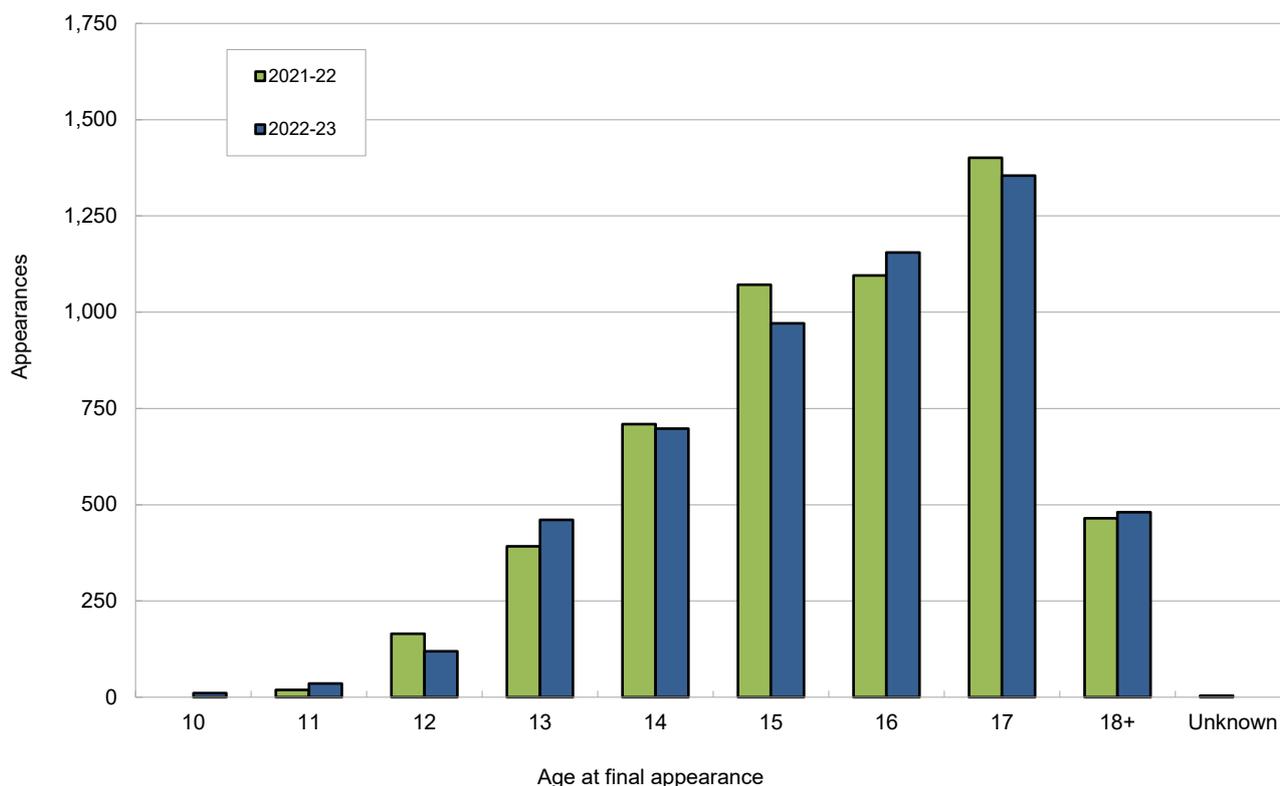
**Table A3 Magistrates (Children’s) Court: Appearances<sup>(a)</sup> finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant**

Age at final appearance	2021–22			2022–23		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(c)</sup>
10	—	—	—	9	2	11
11	13	6	19	34	2	36
12	120	45	165	66	53	119
13	257	135	392	312	149	461
14	489	219	709	456	242	698
15	751	320	1,071	666	305	971
16	803	292	1,095	828	327	1,155
17	1,061	339	1,401	1,005	348	1,355
18+	362	102	465	363	117	481
Unknown	4	—	4	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,860</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>5,321</b>	<b>3,739</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>5,287</b>

- (a) Data are a count of appearances only, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or multiple adjudicated appearances in a reference year.
- (b) Includes three appearances where sex of defendant was unknown or not stated.
- (c) Includes three appearances where sex of defendant was unknown or not stated.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

**Figure A1 Magistrates (Children’s) Court: Appearances<sup>(a)</sup> finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant**



- (a) Data are a count of appearances only, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

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

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2021–22			2022–23		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	718	4,669	6.5	797	6,536	8.2
Brisbane–East	100	479	4.8	116	524	4.5
Brisbane–South	2	3	1.5	—	—	..
Cairns	779	4,719	6.1	772	6,467	8.4
Central Queensland	255	1,396	5.5	289	2,029	7.0
Darling Downs–Maranoa	148	680	4.6	177	1,002	5.7
Gold Coast	478	2,815	5.9	365	2,027	5.6
Ipswich	417	1,862	4.5	379	2,073	5.5
Logan–Beaudesert	263	1,775	6.7	272	1,903	7.0
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	48	195	4.1	42	185	4.4
Moreton Bay–North	243	1,231	5.1	213	1,170	5.5
Moreton Bay–South	84	429	5.1	90	515	5.7
Queensland–Outback	453	2,360	5.2	363	1,942	5.3
Sunshine Coast	214	1,040	4.9	203	1,066	5.3
Toowoomba	317	1,781	5.6	357	1,945	5.4
Townsville	537	2,950	5.5	626	4,230	6.8
Wide Bay	265	1,379	5.2	226	1,437	6.4
<b>Total adjudicated</b>	<b>5,321</b>	<b>29,763</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5,287</b>	<b>35,051</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>Not adjudicated<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>5,208</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>5,443</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,335</b>	<b>34,971</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6,338</b>	<b>40,494</b>	<b>6.4</b>

(a) Not adjudicated matters are those which were withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated and/or non-adjudicated appearances/charges in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

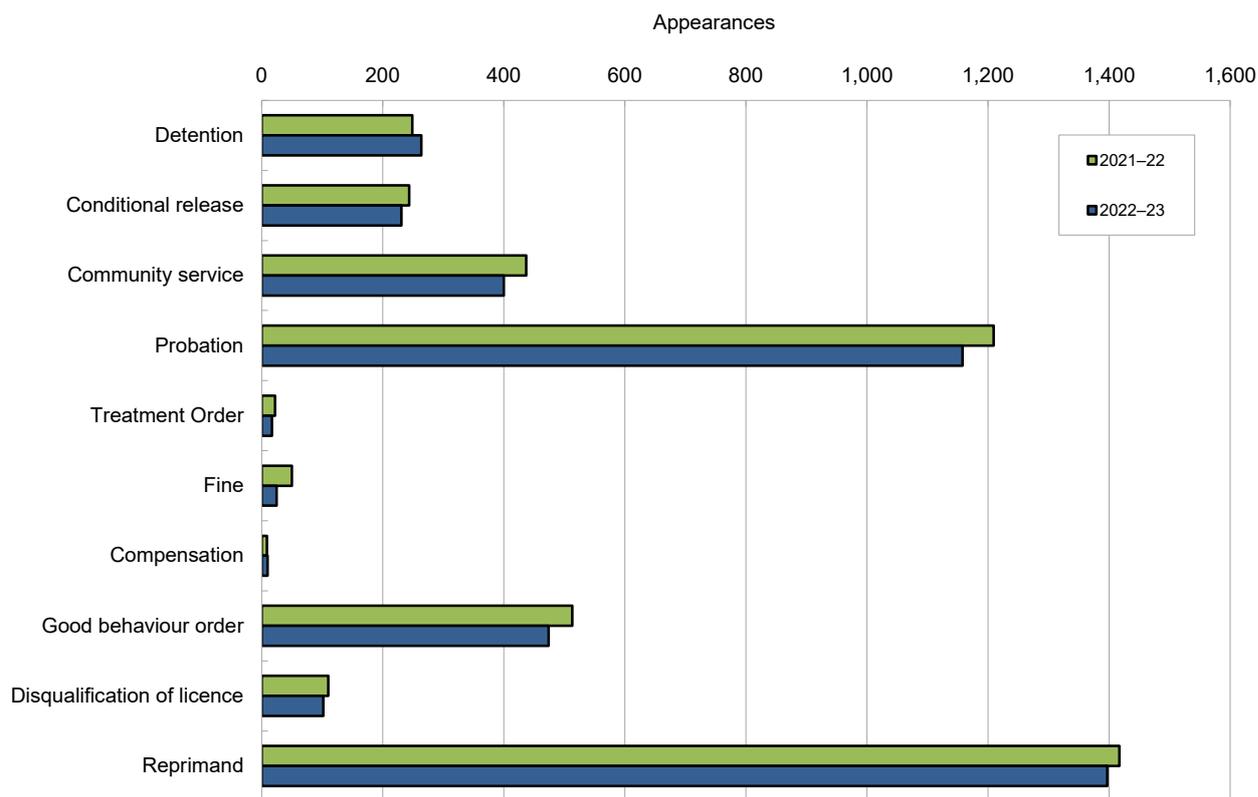
**Table A5 Magistrates Court: Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty and sex of defendant**

Most serious penalty <sup>(b)</sup>	2021–22			2022–23		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(c)</sup>	Male	Female	Total
Detention <sup>(d)</sup>	221	28	249	239	25	264
Conditional release	208	36	244	195	36	231
Community service	325	112	437	299	101	400
Probation	903	306	1,209	865	293	1,158
Treatment Order	17	5	22	13	4	17
Fine	42	7	50	25	—	25
Compensation	6	3	9	9	1	10
Good behaviour order	337	176	513	287	187	474
Disqualification of licence	89	21	110	88	14	102
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	998	419	1,417	929	468	1,397
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,146</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>4,260</b>	<b>2,949</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>4,078</b>

- (a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more convicted appearances in a reference year.
- (b) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.
- (c) Includes one appearance where sex of defendant was unknown or not stated
- (d) Includes intensive supervision and intensive correction.
- (e) Includes other minor penalties such as convicted not punished.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

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



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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

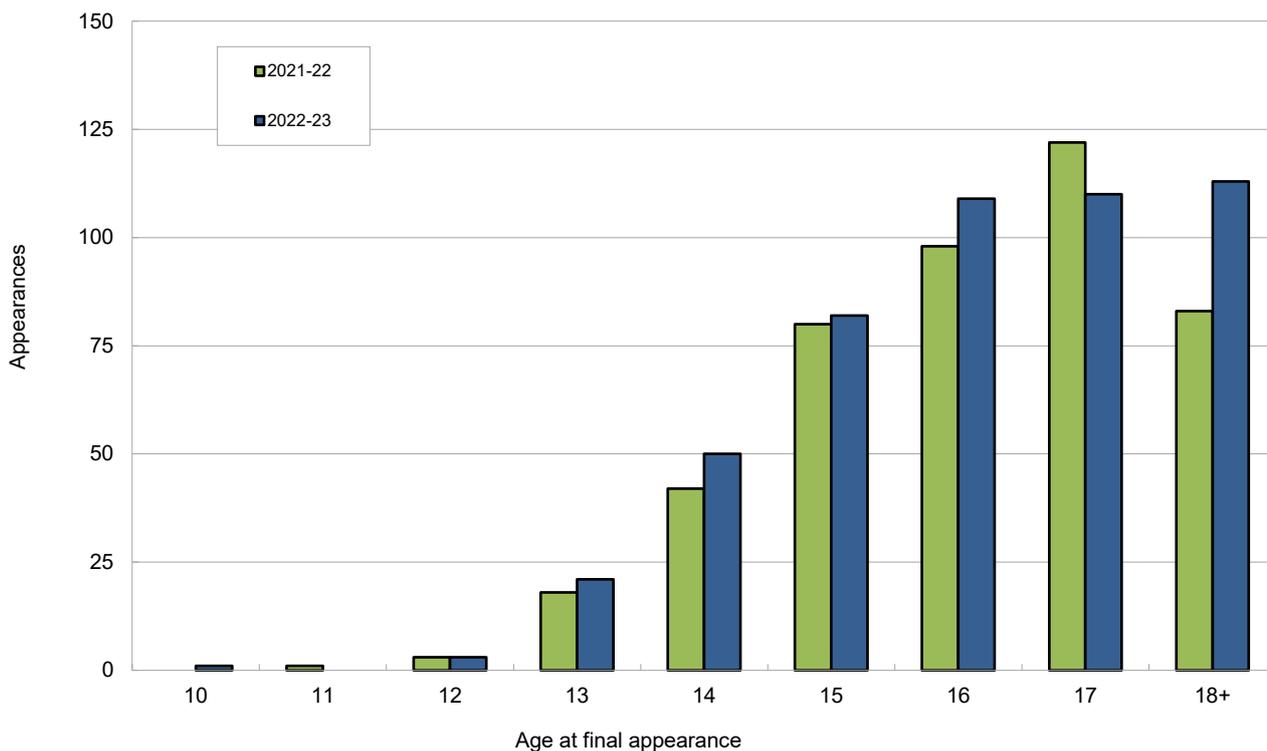
**Table A6 Childrens Court of Queensland: Appearances<sup>(a)</sup> finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant**

Age at final appearance	2021–22			2022–23		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
10	—	—	—	1	—	1
11	1	—	1	—	—	—
12	1	2	3	1	2	3
13	12	6	18	14	7	21
14	30	12	42	31	19	50
15	58	22	80	53	29	82
16	78	20	98	84	25	109
17	99	23	122	93	17	110
18+	76	7	83	98	15	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>489</b>

(a) Data are a count of appearances only, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

**Figure A3 Childrens Court of Queensland: Appearances<sup>(a)</sup> finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant**



(a) Data are a count of appearances only, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

**Table A7 Childrens Court of Queensland: Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4 of court**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2021–22			2022–23		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	163	587	3.6	151	584	3.9
Cairns	48	207	4.3	72	287	4.0
Central Queensland	36	387	10.8	25	182	7.3
Darling Downs–Maranoa	9	13	1.4	10	56	5.6
Gold Coast	41	104	2.5	38	85	2.2
Ipswich	14	29	2.1	38	139	3.7
Logan–Beaudesert	17	57	3.4	21	58	2.8
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	5	19	3.8	5	14	2.8
Queensland–Outback	6	16	2.7	5	45	9.0
Sunshine Coast	24	87	3.6	21	95	4.5
Toowoomba	19	100	5.3	30	128	4.3
Townsville	49	196	4.0	50	279	5.6
Wide Bay	16	35	2.2	23	96	4.2
<b>Total adjudicated</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>Not adjudicated<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>78</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>4.2</b>

(a) Not adjudicated matters are those which were withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated and/or non-adjudicated appearances/charges in a reference year .

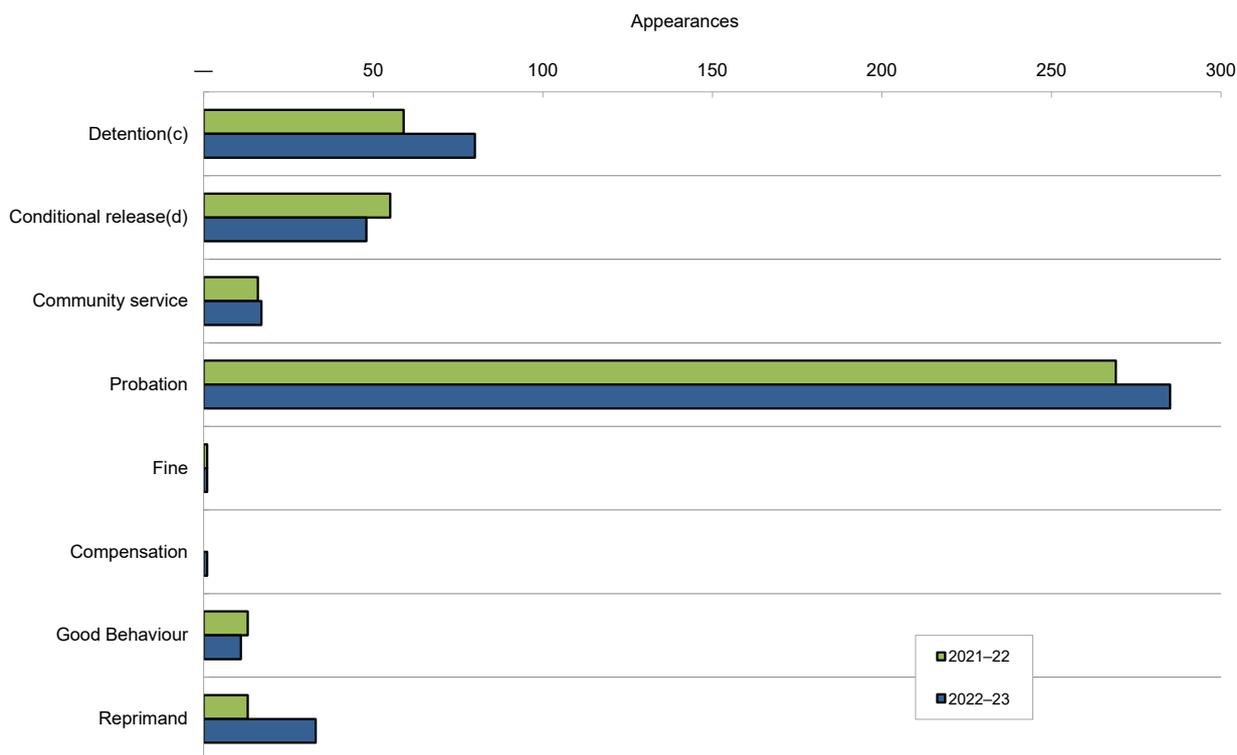
Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

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

Most serious penalty <sup>(b)</sup>	2021–22			2022–23		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention <sup>(c)</sup>	56	3	59	73	7	80
Conditional release <sup>(d)</sup>	41	14	55	37	11	48
Community service	14	2	16	14	3	17
Probation	200	69	269	209	76	285
Fine	1	—	1	1	—	1
Compensation	—	—	—	1	—	1
Good behaviour order	11	2	13	7	4	11
Reprimand <sup>(e)</sup>	12	1	13	22	11	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>476</b>

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more convicted appearances in a reference year.  
 (b) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.  
 (c) Includes imprisonment, intensive supervision and intensive correction.  
 (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 2023.

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



(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more convicted appearances in a reference year. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.  
 Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

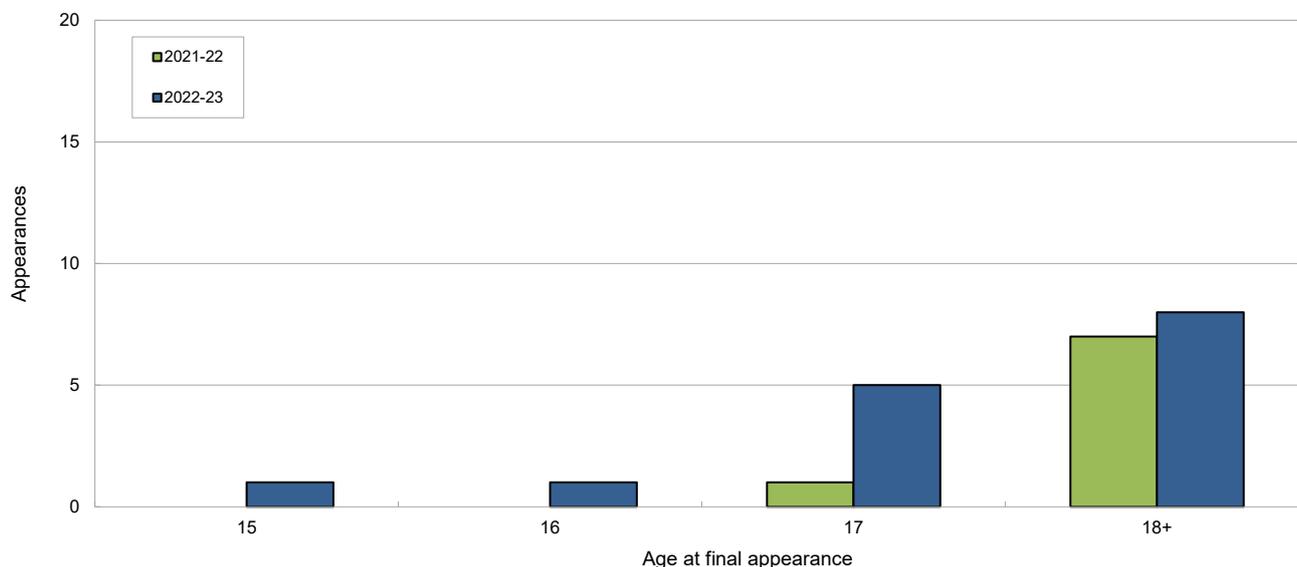
**Table A9 Supreme and District Courts: Appearances<sup>(a)</sup> finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant**

Age at final appearance	2021–22			2022–23		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
15	—	—	—	1	—	1
16	—	—	—	1	—	1
17	1	—	1	5	—	5
18+	5	2	7	8	—	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>15</b>

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

**Figure A5 Supreme and District Courts: Appearances<sup>(a)</sup> finalised by adjudication, by age of defendant**



(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

**Table A10 Supreme and District Courts: Finalised appearances and charges, by SA4 of court**

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2021–22			2022–23		
	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	4	24	6.0	7	28	4.0
Cairns <sup>(c)</sup>	1	1	1.0	1	5	5.0
Gold Coast <sup>(b)</sup>	—	—	..	3	3	1.0
Ipswich <sup>(b)</sup>	—	—	..	1	1	1.0
Logan–Beaudesert <sup>(b)</sup>	1	1	1.0	—	—	..
Townsville	2	22	11.0	1	1	1.0
Wide Bay	—	—	..	2	2	1.0
<b>Total adjudicated</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Not adjudicated<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>2.6</b>

(a) Not adjudicated matters are those which were withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated and/or non-adjudicated appearances/charges in a reference year .

(b) Counts are for District Court only.

(c) Counts are for Supreme Court only.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

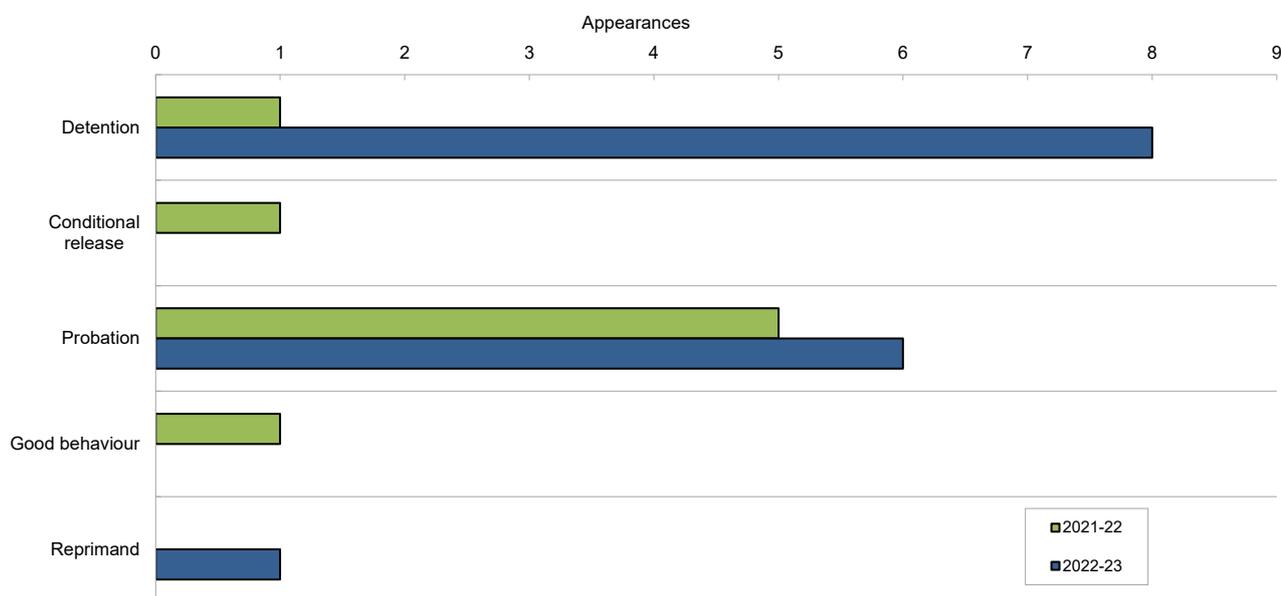
**Table A11 Supreme and District Courts: Convicted appearances<sup>(a)</sup>, by most serious penalty and sex**

Most serious penalty <sup>(b)</sup>	2021–22			2022–23		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention	1	—	1	8	—	8
Conditional release	1	—	1	—	—	—
Probation	4	1	5	6	—	6
Good behaviour	—	1	1	—	—	—
Reprimand	—	—	—	1	—	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>15</b>

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more convicted appearances in a reference year.  
 (b) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

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



(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual may have one or more convicted appearances in a reference year. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

**Table A12 All Courts: Appearances<sup>(a)</sup> finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant**

Age at final appearance	2021-22			2022-23		
	Male	Female	Total <sup>(b)</sup>	Male	Female	Total <sup>(c)</sup>
10	—	—	—	10	2	12
11	14	6	20	34	2	36
12	121	47	168	67	55	122
13	269	141	410	326	156	482
14	519	230	750	487	261	748
15	807	342	1,149	719	334	1,053
16	880	312	1,192	913	352	1,265
17	1,160	362	1,523	1,103	364	1,469
18+	443	111	555	469	132	602
Unknown	8	1	9	1	1	2
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>4,221</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>5,776</b>	<b>4,129</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>5,791</b>

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. Count includes appearances finalised by adjudication, and excludes those withdrawn or dismissed prior to adjudication. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

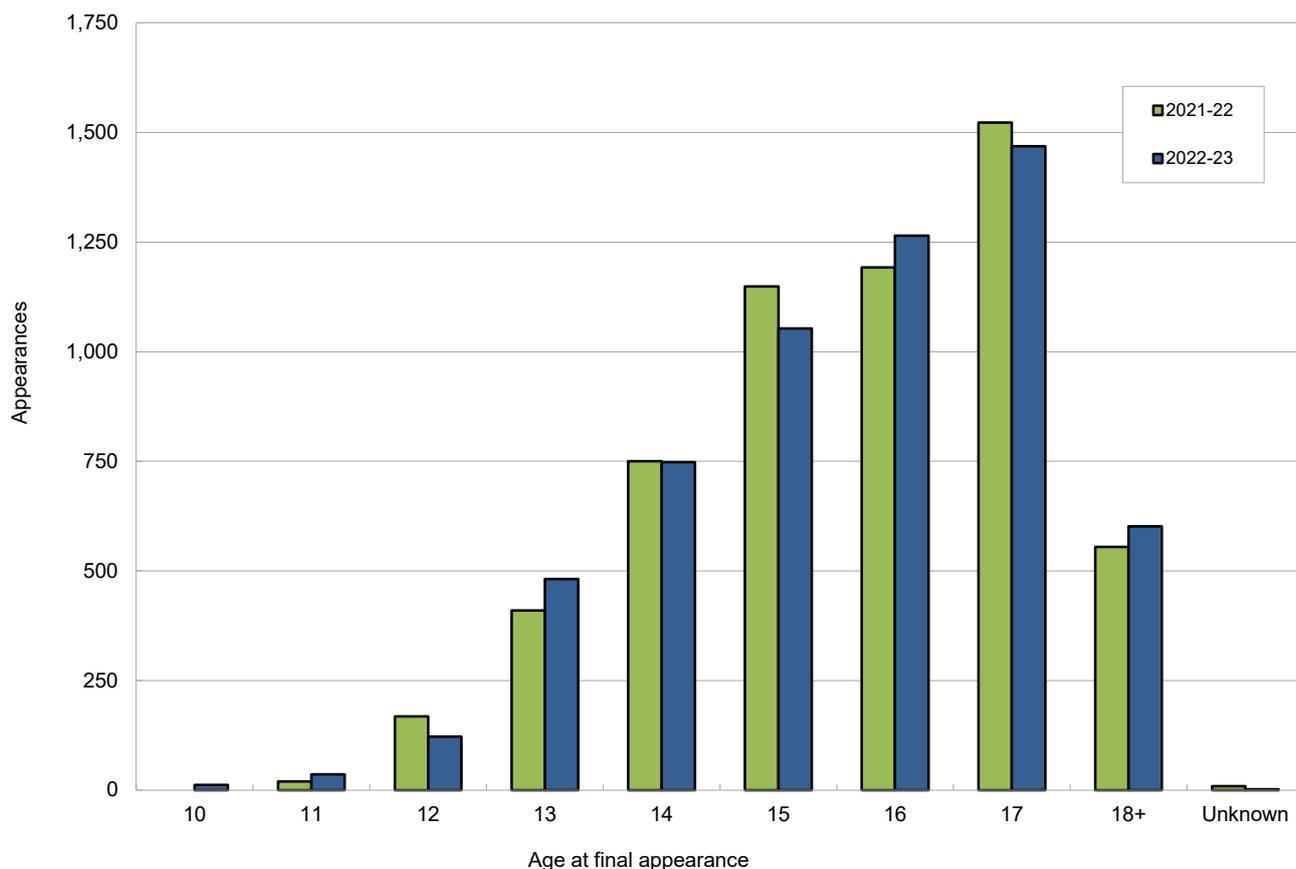
(b) Includes three appearances by a child defendant(s) whose sex was unknown or not stated.

(c) Includes three appearances by a child defendant(s) whose sex was unknown or not stated.

(d) Excludes appearances finalised at Magistrates Court level by committal, transfer or referral to conference.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.

**Figure A7 All Courts: Appearances<sup>(a)</sup> finalised by adjudication, by age <sup>(b)</sup>of defendant**



(a) Data are a count of adjudicated appearances only, not defendants. An individual may have one or more adjudicated appearances in a reference year.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2023.