

Childrens Court of Queensland

Annual Report 2023 - 24

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PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW

General

- [1] In Queensland, 99.4% of young people aged 10-17 have never had a proven criminal offence and many of the 0.6% remaining have had transient contact with the youth justice system¹. It is important to recognise and celebrate the young people in our community that these numbers represent. However, although small in number, there is a core of young offenders who cause deep concern to our community and who negatively impact on feelings of safety and wellbeing. Those concerns have led to increasing calls for harsher and/or different penalties and programmes to reduce the impacts of this cohort, who are driving fear within the community. These young people, who are identified using the serious repeat offenders index, account for 19% of all the young people before the courts, but they are responsible for 51.6% of proven offences.²
- [2] Overall, there was an increase in finalised charges against child defendants from 43,033 in 2022-2023 to 49,612 in 2023-2024³. The increase in numbers was primarily in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court, where charges increased from 40,496 to 46,941. The increase was driven, in large part, by charges of breach of bail.
- [3] 2023-2024 was the first full year in which the offence of breach of bail was recorded having been introduced into legislation in March of 2023. There were 6,697 convictions for breach of bail in the Queensland Childrens Court⁴. This should be compared to a total of 938 the year before. Breaches typically involve failure to comply with curfews, being away from a place of residence, being in the company of prohibited persons or committing further offences. Some young offenders were charged with multiple breaches of bail.
- [4] The Youth Justice System continues to struggle to accommodate the number of children in detention. In 2024, the Queensland Auditor General published a report on serious youth crime, noting that more could be done to monitor and

¹ Community Summary- *Exiting Youth Detention*. Queensland Family & Child Commission

² Figure 4, page 23.

³ Table 6, page 26.

⁴ Table 8, page 26.

rehabilitate serious repeat offenders.⁵ It examined whether serious repeat offenders were given sufficient rehabilitation whilst in detention.⁶ The report noted that time in detention is an opportunity for rehabilitation programs to address underlying causes of offending behaviour as well as an opportunity for teachers to deliver education to young offenders, many of whom have dropped out of school at a very early age. All detentions centres have on-site schools that aim to deliver 17 hours of education to young offenders each week. However, the report noted that there are problems with lockdowns, which effect the delivery of services. It was difficult to determine exactly how much time young offenders spent locked down prior to November 2023 because of insufficient data collection; however, analysis of the figures collected showed that Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in Townsville, which experienced the highest periods, was in lockdown in 2022-2023 for 81% of the time. That is equivalent to 294 days in that year.⁷ The number of young offenders who completed rehabilitation programs in Cleveland Youth Detention Centre decreased from 215 in 2018 to 31 in 2022, with most young offenders only receiving an average of between three and five hours of face-to-face education each week from 2021 to 2023. The primary cause of lockdowns in the centres in 2022-2023 was staff shortages. The report noted that all detention centres were operating above capacity, which increased the risk of safety incidents and the likelihood of lockdowns.

- [5] The number of young people in detention increased last year to an average daily number of 286⁸. 86% of those children are waiting sentence or trial⁹.
- [6] With the detention centres at capacity, the numbers of children in watchhouses remain high. Except for June this year, on any given month there were more than 500 young people in watchhouses around the State and on most months those numbers were well in excess of 500¹⁰.

⁵ Queensland Audit Office – Performance Audit Report tabled 28 June 2024, *Reducing serious youth crime*

⁶ Page 31 Queensland Audit Office Report, *Reducing serious youth crime*

⁷ Page 32 Queensland Audit Office Report, *Reducing serious youth crime*

⁸ Figure 12, page 42.

⁹ Figure 18, page 46.

¹⁰ Table 38, page 47.

- [7] It is inevitable in a state the size of Queensland that there will be times when it is necessary for a young person to spend a night in a watchhouse; however, the length of time spent in watchhouses for some young people in this state is significant. In the last year 447 young people spent more than a week in a watchhouse and another 259 spent more than two weeks in a watchhouse¹¹. Watchhouses are not meant for, or equipped to, hold prisoners for extended periods. They are not appropriate places for children to be housed.
- [8] The Fast Track Sentencing Pilot continues to operate in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court in Cairns, Southport, Brisbane and Ipswich. There are early signs of success in improved clearance rates and reduced time before the court. It is hoped that consideration may be given to expanding the project to include committals and involving Officers of the Director of Prosecutions Office so that negotiations in relation to all charges can take place in an earlier stage and thereby further reduce the time and resources taken to finalise charges.
- [9] Electronic monitoring devices continue to be rolled out across the State. The program was expanded to include 15-year-olds in March 2023. As at 30 June 2024, seven young offenders were on electronic monitoring devices, and there have been a total of 55 grants of bail with an electronic monitoring device fitted since the trial commenced in May 2021.
- [10] The Youth Justice Act was amended in March 2023 to enable the prosecution to make an application to the court to have a child declared to be a serious violent offender. There were 17 declarations made in the first year of operation from 22nd March to 30 June 2023 and a further 51 declarations made from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.
- [11] In December of 2023, the Community Youth Response and Diversion Program was evaluated.¹² The Program is an early intervention and diversion initiative targeting young people aged 10 to 15 at high risk of offending or reoffending but generally not involved in statutory youth justice interventions. It has four

¹¹ Table 39, page 47.

¹² Nous Group | Community Youth Response and Diversion Evaluation – Final Findings Report | 5 December 2023

components: diversion, intensive case management, cultural mentoring and bridging to education. It supported 1,400 people across six locations – Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane CBD, South Logan, Ipswich and Gold Coast. The participants were primarily Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males with a range of complex needs. The service supported young people to comply with their bail and orders, whilst diverting them from remand and increasing access to pro-social activities and other services including health, education and employment-related services. The program was evaluated as saving between \$7.4 million and \$10.6 million in avoided costs due to reduced offending alone.

- [12] Youth Co-responder Teams are a joint initiative between the Department of Youth Justice and Queensland Police Service. They connect young people to appropriate support and services, particularly with support to comply with court ordered bail conditions and statutory orders. The teams operate across Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Moreton Bay and Logan and were evaluated in June of 2024 by the Nous Group. Co-responder teams operated 24/7 outreach service, typically to children who are at risk of offending because of multiple underlying and ongoing risk factors. It was evaluated that there were substantial reductions in the volume and severity of offences committed by young people in the six months after their most recent engagement with the Youth Co-responding Team.¹³
- [13] Child Protection applications and orders rose from 6,149 in 2022-2023 to 6,626 in 2023-2024¹⁴. A review of residential care in Queensland carried out by the Department of Child Safety and Disabilities Services noted that there are 11,593 children and young people in care in Queensland as at 30 June 2023, which was an increase from 9,647 in June 2019. In June 2019, 951 of the children were being cared for by residential care services, but by June 2023 that number had almost doubled to 1,763 with 747 of those children being identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. 30% of children in residential care arrangements have a National Disability Insurance Scheme plan.

¹³ Nous Group | Youth Co-Responder Team – Outcome evaluation report | 12 June 2024
¹⁴ Table 25, page 36.

- [14] An examination of young people under Youth Justice supervision and their interaction with the child protection system by the Queensland Family and Child Commission found that Queensland has the second highest percentage of children under youth justice supervision who have had prior child protection interaction at 72.9% (7.5% higher than the national rate). Of the children subject to a Youth Justice Supervision order in Queensland, 67.2% were subject to an investigated notification in the past 10 years and 28.3% were subject to a Care and Protection order in the past 10 years. 28.2% had out of home care in the past 10 years. There was significant over representation of First Nations children. 45% of young people under community-based supervision and 50% of those in detention had one or more investigated notification substantiated.¹⁵ Neglect and emotional abuse were the most common substantiations of abuse. It can be seen from those figures that there is a strong correlation between youth offending and the involvement of the Department of Child Safety.
- [15] Given the significant level of adverse child experiences amongst children in detention and within the youth justice system generally, the importance of the Child and Youth Mental Health Service and the Griffith Youth Forensic Service should not be underestimated. The Child and Youth Mental Health Service provides services generally in the community but specifically adolescent forensic mental health services, including within the Youth Detention Centre and within the Childrens (Magistrates) Court. They provide important services by identifying mental health treatment needs for young people and making appropriate referrals. The Griffith Youth Forensic Service provides detailed reports about young people who have been convicted of sexual offences and continued treatment if needed once the offender has been sentenced. They continue to provide an invaluable service to the Queensland community, particularly because of the expertise they have developed over time but also because of the scarcity of practitioners available to provide expert reports to assist the Court.

¹⁵ Queensland Family and Child Commission | Crossover Cohort: Young people under youth justice supervision and their interaction with the child protection system Data Insights: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare | November 2024

- [16] Legal Aid Queensland, particularly the Youth Legal Aid Team, continues to act as an overarching body in the defence of young people. They operate the Youth Legal Advice Hotline to assist children who have been arrested, they provide training and accreditation for solicitors who are not part of Legal Aid Queensland and the Legal Aid Queensland website has extensive material available to practitioners to assist in representing children effectively. They also act for children on sentence reviews and bail applications where they consider there is merit in proceeding. They have been funded to assist with the Fast Track Sentencing Pilot.

Youth justice trends summary

- [17] There was an overall increase of 5.3% in finalised appearances in the Childrens Court in 2023-2024. This was largely driven by appearances in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court, where appearances increased from 6,338 to 6,735. Finalised appearances in the Childrens Court of Queensland fell from 591 to 555, however finalised appearances in the Supreme Court increased from 11 to 20.¹⁶
- [18] Despite the increase in finalised appearances, there was a small reduction (from 3302 to 3281) in the number of young people who had a proven offences finalised in the Queensland Courts¹⁷. Young males continue to outnumber females, as they represent 71 percent of children convicted.¹⁸ Consistently with previous years, 17-year-olds constitute the largest single age group with a proven charge finalised in Queensland Courts with 25.6% of the proven charges finalised, followed by 16-year-olds with 19.8% of proven charges. However, both age groups have decreased in number for the third year a row. The number of young people who are no longer children, that is 18 and over, increased slightly by 3.8%.¹⁹
- [19] Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people continue to be overrepresented in the Childrens Court accounting for 55.4% of all distinct young people with proven charges finalised. This shows a steady increase since 2020-

¹⁶ Table 1, page 20. It should be noted this includes breach of bail appearances.

¹⁷ Figure 3, page 21.

¹⁸ Table 2, page 22.

¹⁹ Table 3, page 22.

2021.²⁰ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were more likely to have proven charges finalised than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females.²¹ Further, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are disproportionately represented among the younger age groups, with 82% of 10 and 11 year old children being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.²² Given the small percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people relative to the total Queensland population, this translates to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young person being 15 times more likely to have had a proven charge finalised in Queensland than any other child who has been charged.²³

[20] In terms of orders imposed, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children represented 46 percent of the children who were referred to restorative justice conferencing²⁴ and 67 percent of all distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order in 2023-2024.²⁵ This translates to an Indigenous young person being 24.4 percent more likely to commence a supervised youth justice order.²⁶ Finally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people continue to dominate the numbers in youth detention, accounting for between 65 and 71% of young people in youth detention on an average day over the last four years. This translates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people being 29.1 times more likely than other young people to have been held in detention in 2023-2024 and this is the highest rate in the last four years.²⁷

[21] In 2023, the average number of charges finalised per appearance of child defendants increased from 6.2 to 6.8, and the number of charges increased from 43,033 in the previous year to 49,612. Again, the largest increase was in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court, which increased from 40,496 to 46,934²⁸. The largest increase in proven charges was in relation to breach of bail offences,

²⁰ Figure 5, Page 23.

²¹ Table 4, figure 6, page 24.

²² Figure 7 page 25

²³ Table 5, page 25.

²⁴ Page 28.

²⁵ Figure 11, page 39.

²⁶ Table 31, page 40.

²⁷ Figure 14 and Table 35, page 43.

²⁸ Table 6, page 26.

which rose by 5759.²⁹ Breaches of domestic violence orders rose from 311 in the previous year to 388³⁰. The ten-year comparison of finalised charges shows an increase over the period from 24,514 in 2014 to 42,240 in 2024.³¹

- [22] Theft and related offences represented 32.2% of charges adjudicated in 2023-2024 with offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations at 19.8% and unlawful entry with intent, burglary, break and enter at 19.1%. In total, those three categories of offences represent 71.8% of all charges finalised in Childrens Courts.³²
- [23] Detention was the most serious penalty imposed in 7.8% of convicted child appearances in 2023-2024 with a further 6.7% resulting in a conditional release order. The most common penalty was reprimand and other minor penalties, which represented 33.9% of penalties followed by probation at 30.6%.³³ The number of cautions administered remains stable³⁴ and represent 28% of all police actions taken against young people. There was a 5% increase in restorative justice conferencing, with a total of 2,246 distinct young people being referred to restorative justice. The most common offence type conferenced in 2023-2024 (at 33.9% of total) was theft and related offences.³⁵
- [24] In order for the criminal justice process to be impactful for young offenders, it is important that the matters proceed in a timely fashion. Projects such as Fast Track Sentencing are designed to aid in that endeavour. In 2023-2024, the average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court was 85 days (seven days fewer than the previous year).³⁶ In the Childrens Court of Queensland, the time taken to resolve matters was on average 307 days from date of first mention in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court which is 12 days fewer than the previous year. The process of committing the child for trial from the Magistrates (Childrens) Court, waiting for an indictment to be presented before

²⁹ Table 8, page 26.

³⁰ Table 7, page 26.

³¹ Table 6, 7 and 8 and figure 8, page 26.

³² Appendix Table A1 and page 25.

³³ Table 9, page 27.

³⁴ Table 10, page 28.

³⁵ Table 11, page 29.

³⁶ Table 12, page 30.

there can be a first mention in the Childrens Court of Queensland and then instructions being taken, is unfortunately a slow process.

- [25] On average, over 85% of young people in detention are on remand.³⁷ There was a slight decrease in young people on remand in 2023-2024 and a slight increase in young people serving a sentence in detention. The average length of time a young person spent on remand was 48 nights, which is slightly longer than the previous year, and that figure has increased steadily over the last four years³⁸. The finalised appearances where detention was ordered resulted in 37.8% of young people being released from court after sentencing with no time remaining to serve in custody. This reflects the significant amount of time that the child has served as pre-sentence custody.³⁹ There was an average daily number of 286 young people in detention, and that number has steadily increased since 2020, when the average daily number was 229 children in detention. Young males account for between 87 and 97% of all young people in youth detention.⁴⁰
- [26] The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 2,582 charges in 555 appearances in 2023-2024. 36 fewer child defendants appeared in the court than the previous year. Young people aged 16 years and over made up over 70% of those appearances.⁴¹ There were increases in adjudicated hearings for offences of robbery, unlawful entry with intent /burglary, and sexual assault related offences.⁴² In the Childrens Court of Queensland, 440 appearances resulted in a conviction, and of those, 20% received a custodial sentence, with a further 13.4% given a conditional release order as the most serious penalty. Probation was the most common penalty at 55.9%.⁴³
- [27] In relation to the other work of the Court, there were fewer applications for sentence review at 46 applications in total,⁴⁴ fewer applications for bail down by

³⁷ Figure 18, page 46

³⁸ Table 36, page 46.

³⁹ Table 36, page 46.

⁴⁰ Figure 12 and 13, page 42.

⁴¹ Table 13, page 30.

⁴² Table 14, page 31.

⁴³ Table 15, page 31.

⁴⁴ Table 16, page 32.

42 applications to 162,⁴⁵ and fewer child protection appeals down from 32 appeals to 15⁴⁶. Applications for parenting orders pursuant to the *Surrogacy Act 2010* have steadily increased since 2020, with 30 applications heard in the last financial year⁴⁷.

- [28] In the Magistrates (Childrens) Court, there were 6,735 finalised appearances, with a further 503 appearances resulting in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence. There was a decrease of 14.3% in the number of appearances sent by committal to the Childrens Court of Queensland. 5,572 appearances were adjudicated, and of those, 80.3% resulted in a conviction which is slightly higher than the previous year. In total, 40,014 charges were adjudicated in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court, and of those, 92% were convicted.⁴⁸ Young offenders 17 years and over account for over a third of all finalised appearances at 34.5%⁴⁹. There were 46,941 charges finalised against child defendants in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court, which represents an increase of 6,445 from the previous year.⁵⁰ Theft and related offences represented 32.5% of all charges (an increase of 4.3%). Unlawful entry with intent accounted for 20.6% of finalised charges (a decrease of 6.3%).⁵¹
- [29] Reprimands were the most common penalty imposed of the finalised appearances in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court at 36.8% followed by probation at 28.1%. A custodial sentence was imposed in 6.4% of cases and a conditional release order in 6% of cases.⁵²
- [30] In the Supreme and District Courts, there were 27 finalised appearances, which represents an increase of 6 appearances of young people, and all defendants were 17 and over.⁵³ The most common offence charged was acts intended to cause

⁴⁵ Table 17, page 32.

⁴⁶ Table 19, page 33.

⁴⁷ Table 20, page 33.

⁴⁸ Table 21, page 34.

⁴⁹ Table 22, page 22

⁵⁰ Table 23, page 35.

⁵¹ Table 23, page 35

⁵² Table 24, page 36.

⁵³ Table 27, page 37.

injury. 70% of finalised appearances in the Supreme and District Court resulted in conviction and 57.9% of those received detention as the most serious penalty.⁵⁴

[31] The number of conditional bail programs commenced decreased by 16% in the last financial year. Most community-based supervised orders commenced in 2022-2023 were successfully completed by the end of 2023-2024.⁵⁵

[32] In 2023-2024, there was a total of 5,575 recorded victims of personal offences, where at least one offender was between 10 to 17 years of age⁵⁶. Where the age of the victim was recorded, almost half of those victims were aged 18 years or younger (47%), and of those, 25.2% were 10 to 14 years of age. This younger group represented the largest victim group for sexual assault (52.1%), robbery (26.6%) and acts intended to cause injury (21.4%). 10.4% of victims of youth offenders were aged 50 years or older.⁵⁷

Childrens Court Committee

[33] 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 and emerging issues in youth justice throughout the State. The committee provides an important avenue for communication and remains a vital cross-agency initiative.

Court Case Management Committee

[34] The Court Case Management Committee continues to meet as required and discusses issues arising in the child protection arena. It connects practitioners and agencies and allows discussion and potential problems to be worked through in an efficient manner.

Acknowledgements and Thanks

[35] It is appropriate to note that the vast majority of the daily business of the Childrens Court is done by the Magistrates. The Magistrates generally work

⁵⁴ Table 29, page 38.

⁵⁵ Table 34, page 41.

⁵⁶ Page 48.

⁵⁷ Figure 19, page 48.

under enormous time pressures to deliver timely results. The specialist Childrens Court Magistrates have the unenviable job of not only dealing with youth justice matters but also the heavy workload of the Child Protection jurisdiction. The work in Child Protection is particularly stressful. The paperwork is voluminous, and the parties are often unrepresented and extremely stressed. The patience and good sense displayed by the Magistrates when dealing with these matters is remarkable. In relation to youth justice sentencing, Magistrates are often criticised and sometimes threatened, but they manage to remain impartial and apply the legislation as enacted by Parliament. They deserve thanks and gratitude.

- [36] The Magistrates are led by Chief Magistrate Brassington, who works to ensure the efficiency of the Court. She has overseen many innovations in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court, as many of the pilot projects are initiated in that Court, and her leadership is second to none.
- [37] I also thank the Judges of the Childrens Court of Queensland for their assistance in managing the workload of court. The State is large and diverse, and it is necessary for a large number of the Judges of the District Court to take on the mantle of Childrens Court Judges, particularly when away on circuit, and without exception, they take on that responsibility seriously.
- [38] It is also important to acknowledge the professionals that work in Youth Justice. They never lose sight of the fact that these young offenders are mostly teenagers, and teenagers can present challenges but also opportunities. 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 professional and dedicated to their clients, particularly those involved in the Youth Legal Aid Team, the Youth Advocacy Centre, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and the duty lawyers who attend the Magistrates (Childrens) Court providing general assistance to children at their first appearances before the Court. The police prosecutors and the Queensland Director of Public Prosecutions officers, as well as the officers of Youth Justice who give assistance and information to the Court, are essential to the smooth running of the Court. Their contribution is appreciated.

- [39] The office of the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training, the Registry of the Magistrates (Childrens) Court and Childrens Court of Queensland, the Director of Child Protection Litigation and his staff, officers from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, officers of the Office of the Adult Guardian and the police all contribute significantly to ensuring the efficient running of the Court.
- [40] Special mention must go, as always, to Alex Robinson from Youth Justice Services and Anna Ellis from the Office of the Chief Magistrate, who act as secretaries for the two committees I've previously mentioned. Both are patient souls who must wonder what they did to deserve their current situations.
- [41] Amanda O'Brien, Claire Slater and Kylie Chaczko also provide enormous support to the Court through their statistical expertise and technical support. Without them, this report would not be possible.
- [42] Many thanks to the officers of the Courts Reporting Unit and the Queensland Government Statistician's Office for their assistance in providing the statistics for 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 2023–24 financial year, i.e. 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. 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 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 2024.

Cautions, victims of child offenders data and data relating to young people held in custody in police watchhouses and police stations were sourced from the Queensland Police Service. Data were extracted in July 2024.

Youth justice data, including distinct defendants, rates, restorative justice conferencing, and supervised youth justice orders were provided by the Department of Youth Justice. Data were extracted in July 2024.

Other data were sourced from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for use in this report, and were extracted in August 2024.

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

Symbols used in tables — nil
.. not applicable

Definitions

<i>adjudicated</i>	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 <i>not adjudicated</i>).
<i>caution</i>	an official warning given at police discretion to a young offender as an alternative to a charge.
<i>charge</i>	a formal accusation of an offence. A charge may be finalised by a guilty finding and sentence, discharge or withdrawal. In this report, unless otherwise specified, a finalised charge refers only to those finalised by adjudication.
<i>child</i>	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.
<i>Childrens Court</i>	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.
<i>Childrens Court of Queensland</i>	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.
<i>Childrens Court judge</i>	a District Court judge appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act 1992</i>).
<i>Childrens Court magistrate</i>	a magistrate appointed to the Childrens Court (s3, <i>Childrens Court Act</i>).
<i>committal</i>	referral of a case from a Childrens Court (Magistrates) to a higher court for trial or sentence.
<i>convicted</i>	a determination (finding) by the court, or as a result of a guilty plea, that a defendant is legally responsible for an offence.
<i>Court of Appeal</i>	the Supreme Court sitting in judgement on an appeal.
<i>defendant</i>	a person charged with a criminal offence and appearing in a criminal court.
<i>disposition</i>	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).
<i>District Court</i>	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.

ex officio indictment

an indictment presented to a higher court by the Director of Public Prosecutions without a committal from a lower court.

finalised appearance

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, unless otherwise specified, finalised appearance refers only to those finalised by adjudication.

Magistrates Court

a court of summary jurisdiction constituted by a magistrate or, in some circumstances, by two Justices of the Peace.

not adjudicated

includes cases where the prosecution has discontinued the proceedings. In some instances, these cases are replaced by a new case with amended charges.

not convicted

a determination by the court that a defendant is not guilty of an offence, and hence is acquitted.

offence

any act or omission by a person(s) for which a penalty could be imposed by the Australian legal system.

offence type

a category within a classification describing the nature of the offence; the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification* (ANZSOC), 2011 is used in this report.

offender

a person who is deemed responsible for, has been found guilty of, or pleaded guilty to an offence.

penalty

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.

detention order a custodial penalty placing a child offender in a youth detention centre.

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

intensive supervision order (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.

community service order a supervision penalty requiring an offender to perform a specified number of hours of unpaid community work.

graffiti removal order an order made against a child 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.

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

in this report, 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 2023–24, there were 245 finalised appearances by child defendants in Queensland courts for breaches of youth justice orders compared with 7,317 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 <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification</i> (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, imprisonment may be imposed. 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).

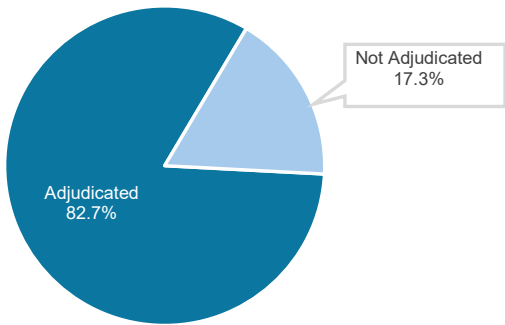
SUMMARY

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.

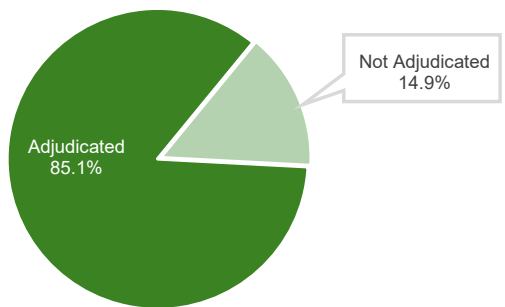
In this report, matters which are committed or transferred to another court are not considered finalised at that point. Those which are finalised in a higher or other court during the reference period are presented in that jurisdiction.

Method of finalisation

Figure 1 Finalised appearances, 2023–24



Finalised charges, 2023–24



Appearances

In 2023–24, there was a total of 7,317 finalised appearances of child defendants in all Queensland criminal courts. Compared with 2022–23 (6,950), this represents an overall increase of 5.3% (or 367 appearances). This was driven by the Magistrates Court, where numbers increased by 6.3% (397 appearances). (Table 1 and Figure 2).

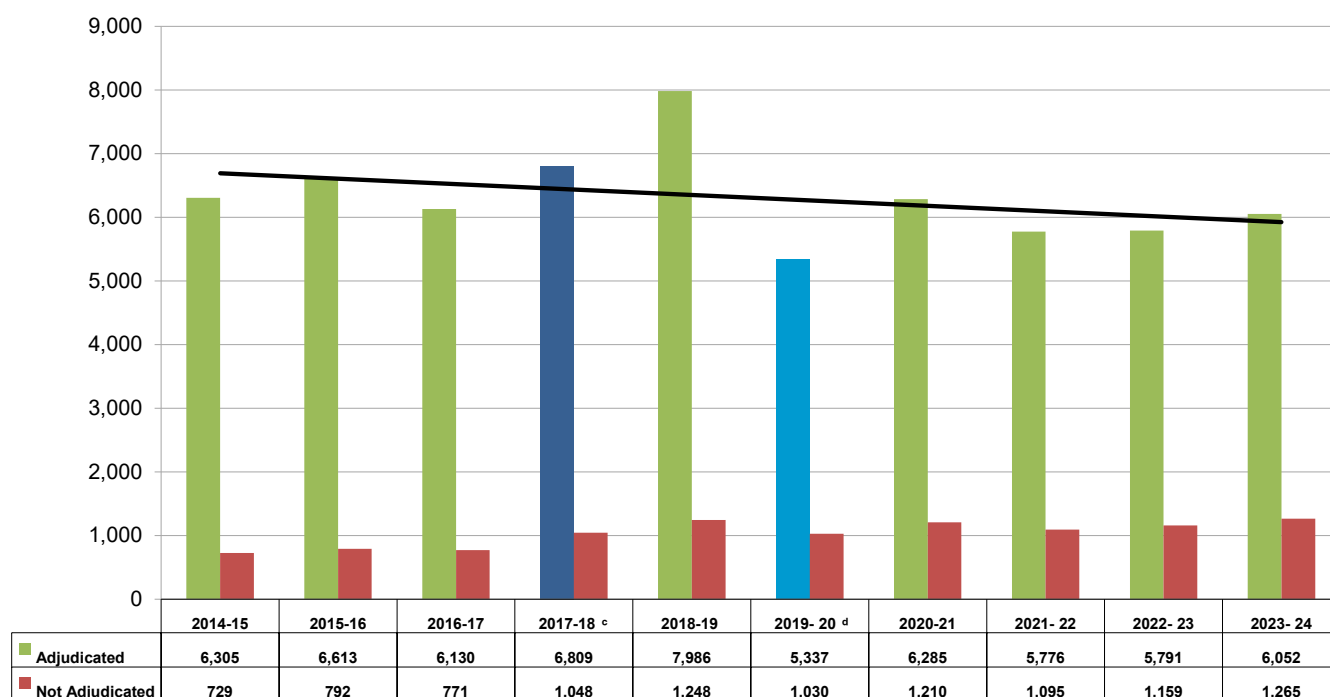
Table 1 Finalised appearances^(a) of child defendants, by method of finalisation, by outcome, by court type

Court	2022–23				2023–24			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Magistrates (Childrens)	1,051	4,078	1,209	6,338	1,163	4,476	1,096	6,735
Childrens Court of Queensland	102	476	13	591	97	440	18	555
District	1	9	–	10	1	5	1	7
Supreme	5	6	–	11	4	14	2	20
Total	1,159	4,569	1,222	6,950	1,265	4,935	1,117	7,317

(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 2024.

Figure 2 Finalised appearances^(a) of child defendants, by method of finalisation, all courts^(b)



(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.

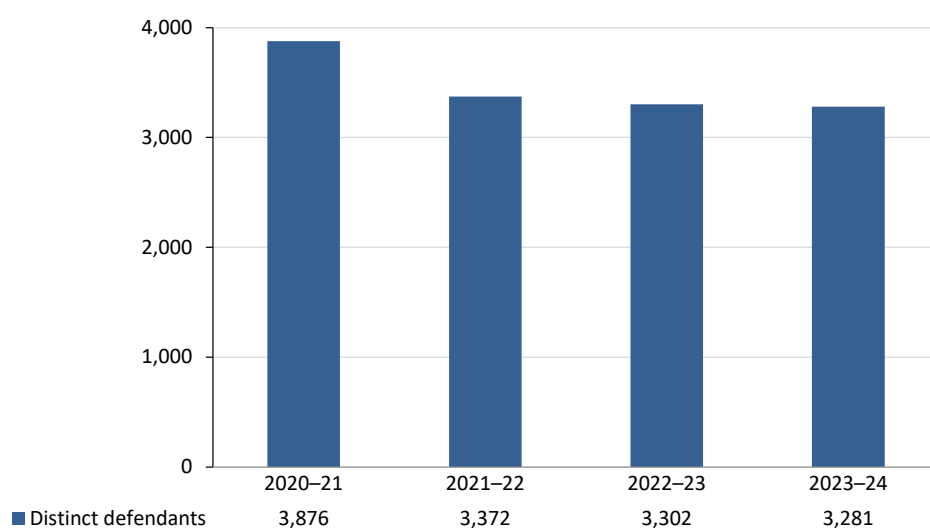
Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data are current as at August 2024.

Distinct defendants

In 2023–24, there were 3,281 distinct young people aged 10 years and over who had a proven offence finalised in a Queensland court. This is a decrease of 21 persons from the previous year, which saw 3,302 distinct young people with a proven charge finalised. Serious Repeat Offenders continue to be responsible for a disproportionate amount of offending by young people in Queensland — accounting for 51.6 per cent of all proven charges 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^(a) convicted, all courts



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

(b) Proven charges exclude those that were dismissed or withdrawn.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

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^(a)

Sex	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	Per cent ^(b) (%)			
Female	28	28	30	29
Male	72	72	70	71
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Distinct child defendants across all court levels.

(b) 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. Data current as at July 2024.

In 2023–24, as in previous years, 17-year-olds were the largest single age group with a proven charge finalised in a Queensland court, for offences committed by juveniles. This age group accounted for 841 (25.6%) young people with a proven charge finalised, while 16-year-olds accounted for 651 (19.8%) young people convicted during the year. These were the only two age groups that decreased in both number and proportion for the second year running. There were 384 (11.7%) convicted child defendants aged 18 years and over. Notably, defendants aged 13 years and 15 years have both steadily increased in proportion throughout the period shown. (Table 3).

Table 3 Distinct child defendants convicted, by age, all courts^(a)

Age at finalised appearance (years) ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	—Defendants—			
10	3	1	4	1
11	25	11	17	18
12	88	77	66	74
13	225	220	236	246
14	463	428	450	426
15	643	615	605	640
16	824	704	688	651
17	1,064	936	866	841
18 & over	541	380	370	384
Total	3,876	3,372	3,302	3,281

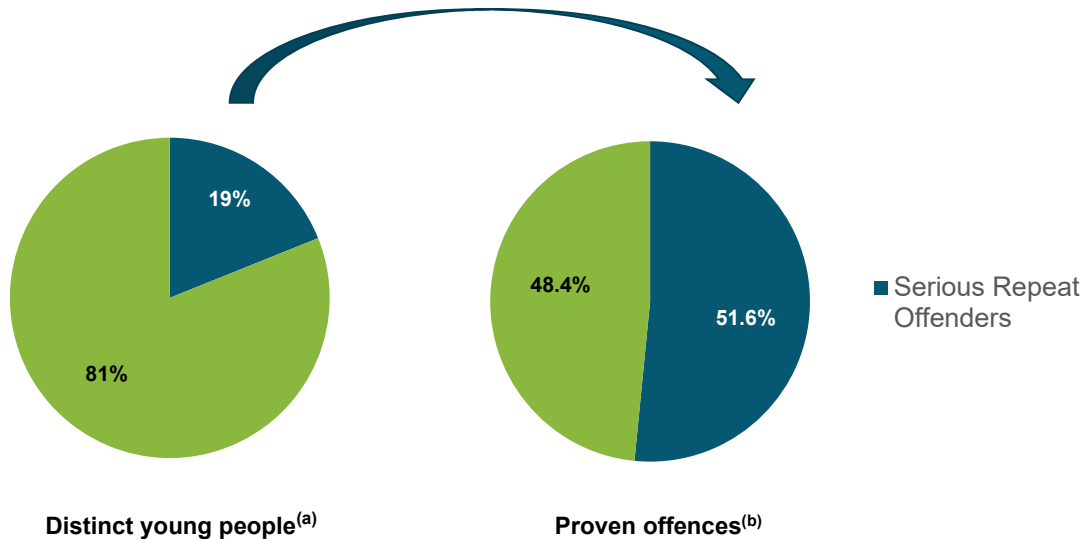
(a) Count of distinct young people with a proven charge finalised across all court levels.

(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.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

A small proportion of offenders (19.0%) in 2023–24 was disproportionately responsible for just over half (51.6%) 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 takes into account 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, 2023–24



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 2023–24 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 2023–24.

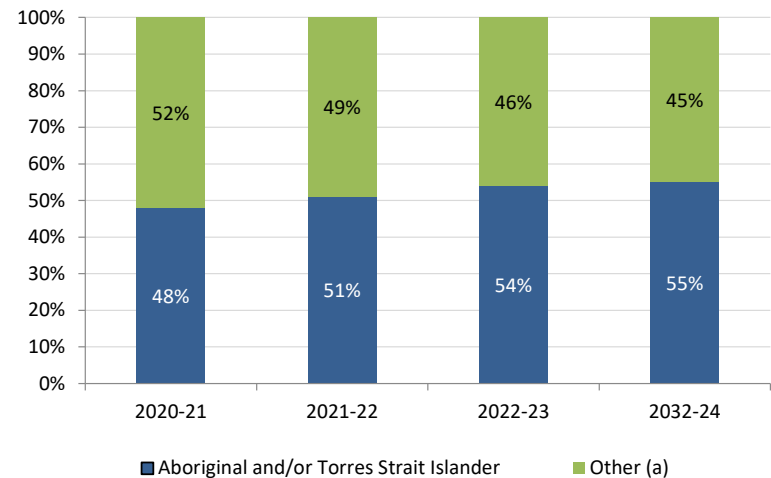
(b) Proportion of all proven charges finalised across all court levels in 2023–24.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander distinct defendants

In 2023–24, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for over half (55.4%) of all distinct young people with a proven charge 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 Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Males accounted for 71.1% of all young people with a proven charge finalised in 2023–24. Amongst young people with a proven charge finalised in 2023–24, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (37.4%) made up a slightly larger proportion than other males (33.7%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females (18.0%) made up a larger proportion than other females (10.9%).

Table 4 Demographic intersection of distinct young people convicted, all courts, 2023–24

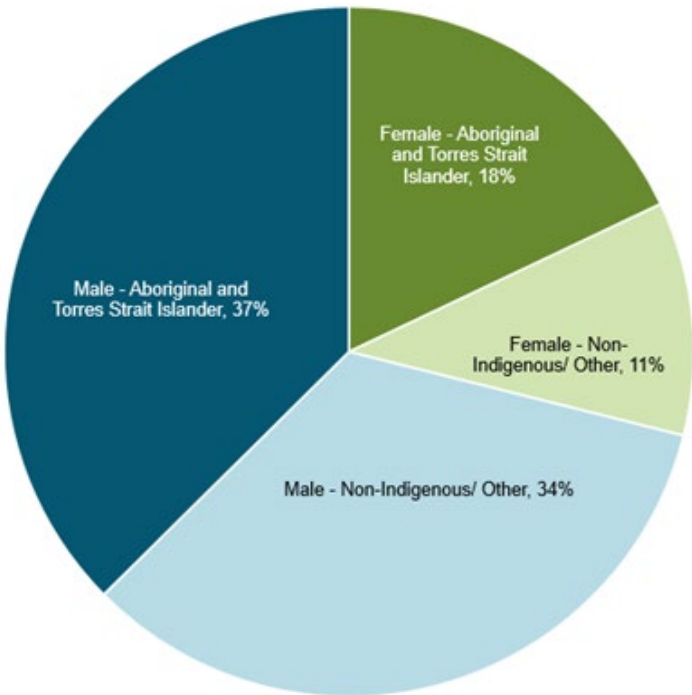
Indigenous status	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander		Other ^(a)		Total	
Sex	Defendants	% of total defendants	Defendants	% of total defendants	Defendants	% of overall total
Female	589	18.0	359	10.9	948	28.9
Male	1,227	37.4	1,105	33.7	2,332	71.1
Total ^(b)	1,816	55.4	1,465	44.6	3,281	100.0

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

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Figure 6 Demographic intersection of distinct young people with a proven offence finalised, 2023–24



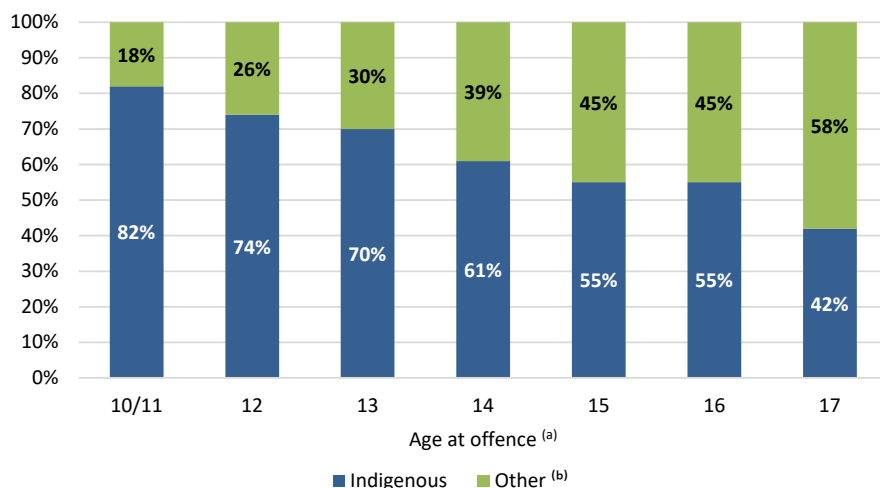
(a) 'Other' includes those who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and those whose Indigenous status is unknown or not stated.

(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. Data current as at July 2024.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people with a proven finalised offence 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, 2023–24



(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 2023–24 financial year.

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

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 15.0 times as likely as non-Indigenous/other young people to have had a proven charge finalised in a Queensland Court in 2023–24 (Table 5).

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

Indigenous status	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Distinct young people with a proven charge finalised – rate per 1,000 persons ^(a)				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	43.9	39.8	40.6	41.2
Other ^(b)	4.0	3.2	2.9	2.7
Total	7.2	6.1	5.8	5.7
Over-representation ^(c) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, as compared to other young people				
Over-representation ^(c)	10.9	12.3	13.9	15.0

(a) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–17-year-olds, from ABS, Quarterly Population by age and sex (2023 September Quarter release).

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

(c) 'Over-representation' (or rate ratio) 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 an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young person is likely to have a proven finalised charge, as compared to other young people.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Charges

In 2023–24, the average number of charges per finalised appearance of a child defendant increased from 6.2 to 6.8, compared with the previous year. Magistrates (Childrens) Court increased to 7.0 charges per finalised appearance. Over the same period there was an increase in the Supreme Court, from 2.5 to 3.5 charges per appearance.

Of all charges adjudicated in 2023–24, the offence categories with the largest number of charges against child defendants were *theft and related offences* with 13,914 charges (32.9%), *offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations* with 8,343 charges (19.8%) and *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* with 8,056 charges (19.1%). In total, these three offence categories represent more than two-thirds (71.8%) of all charges finalised in childrens courts in 2023–24. (For more detail, refer to Appendix Table A1.)

Table 6 Finalised charges against child defendants, by court type

Court	2022–23				2023–24			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Magistrates (Childrens)	5,443	32,134	2,919	40,496	6,927	36,804	3,210	46,941
Childrens Court of Queensland	434	2,008	40	2,482	424	2,088	70	2,582
District	5	22	0	27	1	15	3	19
Supreme	10	18	0	28	20	48	2	70
Total	5,892	34,182	2,959	43,033	7,372	38,955	3,285	49,612

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

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

Court	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Magistrates (Childrens) Court	250	254	298	360
Childrens Court of Queensland	11	12	13	28
Total	261	266	311	388

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

Table 8 Convicted charges against child defendants for breach of bail, by court type

Court	2022–23	2023–24
Magistrates (Childrens) Court	937	6,646
Childrens Court of Queensland	1	51
Total	938	6,697

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

Figure 8 Ten-year comparison of finalised charges^(a) against child defendants, all courts^(b)

(a) Includes breaches of bail conditions (introduced as a criminal offence for child offenders from March 2023) and breaches of domestic violence orders. Breaches of youth justice orders are excluded.

(b) Includes Magistrates Court, 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 2024.

Penalties

In 2023–24, of the 6,052 adjudicated appearances of child defendants in Queensland courts, 4,935 (81.5%) resulted in conviction compared with 4,569 (78.9%) in 2022–23 (Table 9).

Detention was the most serious penalty imposed in 386 (7.8%) convicted child appearances in 2023–24, and a further 330 (6.7%) resulted in a conditional release order. Reprimand and other minor penalties as the most serious penalty represented the largest proportion of convicted appearances at 33.9% (or 1,672), followed by probation (30.6% or 1,511), with 10.1% (or 496) receiving a good behaviour order.

Table 9 Convicted appearances^(a) of child defendants, by most serious penalty, all courts^(b)

Most serious penalty ^(c)	2022–23	2023–24
	Appearances	
Detention ^(d)	352	386
Conditional release	279	330
Community service	417	397
Probation	1,449	1,511
Treatment orders	17	20
Fine	26	27
Compensation	11	6
Good behaviour	485	496
Disqualification of drivers licence	102	90
Reprimand ^(e)	1,431	1,672
Total	4,569	4,935

(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 Court, 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) May include imprisonment, intensive correction and intensive supervision orders.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

Cautions

In the 2023–24 reporting period, the Queensland Police Services data showed a slight decrease in cautions administered for juvenile offenders, with a total of 15,589 cautions, 13 cautions (–0.1%) fewer than in the previous year (Table 10). Cautions made up 28.0% of all police actions taken against juvenile offenders, which is a small increase compared with the 26.7% recorded in 2022–23.

Theft and related offences continued to be the most frequently cautioned offence type, with 4,505 cautions administered in 2023–24, accounting for more than a quarter (28.9%) of all cautions administered. The largest year-on-year percent change was in cautions administered for *robbery, extortion & related offences*, with 162 or 62.3% more than in the previous financial year. This offence type accounted for 2.7% of all cautions in 2023–24, up from 1.7% in the 2022–23 period. Modest increases in cautions were seen for both *acts intended to cause injury* (+3.7%) and *sexual assault and related offences* denoted (+5.3%), while their proportion of the total cautions remained stable at 11.6% and 5.1% respectively. The number of cautions administered for *illicit drug offences* decreased considerably, with 257 or 13.2% less, reversing the previous year's trend and reducing the proportion of drug-related cautions from 12.5% in 2022–23 to 10.8% in 2023–24. Additionally, police were less likely to administer cautions to young offenders for *fraud, deception and related offences* in 2023–24 (–176 or –38.3%) than in the previous year.

Table 10 Cautions administered^(a) to child offenders, by offence type

Offence type ^(b)	2022–23	2023–24
	—Cautions—	
Acts intended to cause injury	1,745	1,809
Sexual assault and related offences	754	794
Robbery, extortion and related offences	260	422
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,850	1,917
Theft & related offences	4,146	4,505
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	1,350	1,358
<i>Other theft</i>	2,608	2,948
<i>Receiving & handling</i>	188	199
Fraud, deception and related offences	460	284
Illicit drug offences	1,944	1,687
Property damage and environmental pollution	1,830	1,721
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	36	40
Other offences ^(c)	2,577	2,410
Total	15,602	15,589

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

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

(c) 'Other offences' = *dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosives offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences*, and offences unable to be classified. Cautions for breaches of bail are excluded.

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at July 2024.

Restorative justice conferencing

A total of 2,246 distinct young people were referred to a restorative justice process in 2023–24, representing a five per cent increase compared with 2022–23. Restorative justice processes include group conferencing (which includes an offender and victim) and alternative diversion processes (which do not include a victim).

Of the 2,246 young people, 46 per cent identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, which represents a small increase compared with the previous year (43%).

In 2023–24, a total of 1,462 distinct young people participated in a restorative justice process. Of these young people, 43 per cent identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, a small increase compared with 39% in the previous year.

Theft and related offences was the most common offence type conferenced in 2023–24 at 2,330 (33.9% of the total), followed by *unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter* (1,167 or 17.0% of the total), and *acts intended to cause injury* (459 or 6.7%). Together, these three offence types accounted for over half (57.6%) of all offences conferenced in the period (Table 11).

Table 11 Offences for which a restorative justice process^(a) was held for child offenders, 2023–24

Offence type ^(b)	2023–24	%
Acts intended to cause injury	459	6.7
Assault	431	
Other acts intended to cause injury ^(c)	28	
Sexual assault and related offences	269	3.9
Sexual assault	186	
Non–assaultive sexual offences	83	
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	170	2.5
Dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle	123	
Other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons ^(c)	47	
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	52	0.8
Abduction and kidnapping	2	
Deprivation of liberty / false imprisonment	6	
Harassment and threatening behaviour	44	
Robbery, extortion and related offences	253	3.7
Robbery	250	
Blackmail and extortion	3	
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	1,167	17.0
Theft and related offences	2,330	33.9
Motor vehicle theft and related offences	944	
Theft (except motor vehicles)	1,160	
Receive or handle proceeds of crime	226	
Fraud, deception and related offences	184	2.7
Obtain benefit by deception	90	
Other fraud and deception offences ^(c)	94	
Illicit drug offences	403	5.9
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	103	
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	3	
Possess and/or use illicit drugs	152	
Other drug offences ^(c)	145	
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	94	1.4
Prohibited weapons/explosives offences	8	
Regulated weapons/explosives offences	86	
Property damage and environmental pollution	404	5.9
Property damage	404	
Public order offences	375	5.5
Disorderly conduct	250	
Regulated public order offences	4	
Offensive conduct	121	
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	321	4.7
Driver licence offences	176	
Vehicle registration and roadworthiness offences	74	
Regulatory driving offences	71	
Offences against justice procedures, government security and government operations	375	5.5
Breach of community-based orders	139	
Breach of custodial order offences	1	
Breach of violence and non-violence orders	8	
Offences against government operations	4	
Offences against justice procedures	223	
Miscellaneous offences	22	0.3
Total	6,878	100.0

(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. Data current as at July 2024.

THE COURTS

Time lapsed to finalise court proceedings

For charges finalised in 2023–24, the average time taken to finalise proceedings in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court was 85 days, which is 7 days fewer than the 92 days taken on average in 2022–23 (Table 12).

By comparison, the average time to finalise proceedings in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2023–24 was 307 days from the date of first mention in a Magistrates (Childrens) Court. This is 12 days fewer compared with 2022–23 (319 days).

Table 12 Average number of days^(a) to finalise convicted charges, selected courts

Court ^(b)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	—Days—			
Magistrates (Childrens) Court	104	85	92	85
Childrens Court of Queensland ^(c)	307	300	319	307

(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 and Supreme Courts are excluded due to low numbers of youth justice charges finalised in these jurisdictions.

(c) Time lapsed for charges finalised in the Childrens Court of Queensland is calculated from date of first mention in a Magistrates Court.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland finalised 2,582 charges in 555 appearances of child defendants in 2023–24. Over half of all finalised appearances related to defendants aged 17 years and older (52.3%), and just over a third were aged 15–16 years (34.1%) (Table 13).

Finalised appearances in the Childrens Court of Queensland decreased for all other age groups in 2023–24 compared with the previous year, with 14-year-olds the only exception (+12.1% or +7 appearances).

Table 13 Finalised appearances, by outcome and age of defendant, Childrens Court of Queensland

Age at finalised appearance (years) ^(a)	2022–23				2023–24			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
10	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	–	3	–	3	–	1	–	1
13	4	21	–	25	–	10	–	10
14	8	49	1	58	18	47	–	65
15	25	80	2	107	9	71	1	81
16	18	106	3	127	13	95	–	108
17	22	108	2	132	23	113	4	140
18 & over	25	108	5	138	34	103	13	150
Total	102	476	13	591	97	440	18	555

(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 2024.

An average of 4.7 charges were disposed per finalised appearance in the Childrens Court of Queensland in 2023–24, slightly more than the 4.2 disposed in 2022–23 (Table 14)

Finalised charges of *unlawful entry with intent* increased by 48 charges (+13.5%) in 2023–24, *robbery & extortion* by 58 charges (+9.2%) and *illicit drug offences* by 57 charges (+154.1%) while, over the same period, *acts intended to cause injury* decreased by 138 charges (–39.7%) and *theft & related offences* decreased by 29 charges (–4.9%) (Table 14).

Table 14 Finalised charges by offence type, by outcome, Childrens Court of Queensland

Offence type ^(a)	2022–23				2023–24			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Acts intended to cause injury	72	265	11	348	39	171	–	210
Sexual assault & related offences	82	72	25	179	136	85	49	270
Robbery & extortion	114	515	1	630	104	583	1	688
Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter	48	306	1	355	49	352	2	403
Theft & related offences	73	522	–	595	71	494	1	566
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	45	291	–	336	51	291	–	342
<i>Other theft^(b)</i>	28	195	–	223	18	185	1	204
<i>Receiving & handling</i>	–	36	–	36	2	18	–	20
Fraud, deception & related offences	2	27	–	29	1	14	–	15
Illicit drug offences	1	36	–	37	12	82	–	94
Property damage and environmental pollution	22	99	–	121	6	88	15	109
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	–	22	2	24	–	35	1	36
Other offences ^(c)	20	144	–	164	6	184	1	191
Total	434	2,008	40	2,482	424	2,088	70	2,582

(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 offences unable to be classified. Breaches of youth justice orders are excluded.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

Of the 555 appearances finalised in the Childrens Court of Queensland, 440 (79.3%) resulted in a conviction in 2023–24. Of these, 88 (20.0%) received a custodial sentence, with a further 59 (13.4%) given a conditional release order as the most serious penalty. Probation remains the most prevalent penalty (55.9%) (Table 15).

Table 15 Convicted appearances, by most serious penalty, Childrens Court of Queensland

Most serious penalty ^(a)	2022–23		2023–24	
	Convicted appearances ^(b)	% of total	Convicted appearances ^(b)	% of total
Detention ^(c)	80	16.8	88	20.0
Conditional release ^(d)	48	10.1	59	13.4
Community service	17	3.6	14	3.2
Probation	285	59.9	246	55.9
Fine	1	0.2	2	0.5
Compensation	1	0.2	–	..
Good behaviour	11	2.3	8	1.8
Reprimand ^(e)	33	6.9	23	5.2
Total	476	100.0	440	100.0

(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 the year.

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

(d) May include wholly suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

Applications for sentence review

Table 16 Applications lodged for sentence review – *Youth Justice Act 1992*, Childrens Court of Queensland

Court location	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	—Applications ^(a) —			
Brisbane	51	44	52	42
Gympie	—	1	—	—
Mackay	2	—	—	—
Maroochydore	—	—	1	—
Rockhampton	—	1	—	—
Townsville	—	—	—	4
Total	53	46	53	46

(a) 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 2024.

Applications for bail

Table 17 Applications for bail, Childrens Court of Queensland

Court location	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	—Applications ^(a) —			
Beenleigh	3	1	4	—
Brisbane	79	119	174	147
Cairns	5	4	5	1
Hervey Bay	—	—	1	—
Ipswich	4	10	6	6
Kingaroy	1	—	5	—
Mackay	4	1	1	—
Maroochydore	2	—	1	5
Mount Isa	1	—	1	—
Rockhampton	—	2	—	1
Southport	4	5	4	—
Toowoomba	—	—	—	1
Townsville	2	3	2	1
Total	105	145	204	162

(a) 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 2024.

Appeals

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

Court location	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	—Appeals ^(a) —			
Beenleigh	—	—	2	—
Bowen	—	—	—	1
Brisbane	4	—	—	7
Ipswich	—	—	—	1
Maroochydore	—	—	1	1
Mount Isa	—	1	—	—
Total	4	1	3	10

(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 2024.

Table 19 Appeals to Childrens Court of Queensland regarding child protection

Court location	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	—Appeals ^{(a)(b)(c)} —			
Beenleigh	1	—	—	—
Brisbane	27	16	16	4
Bundaberg	—	—	2	—
Cairns	6	—	1	2
Gladstone	—	—	1	—
Gympie	1	—	—	—
Ipswich	—	—	3	4
Kingaroy	—	—	2	—
Maroochydore	2	1	—	4
Rockhampton	1	—	5	—
Southport	7	3	1	—
Toowoomba	1	—	1	1
Townsville	—	1	—	—
Total	46	21	32	15

(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 and Family Services, Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services or the Director of Child Protection Litigation (DCPL) were either respondents or appellants in each of the matters. The DCPL commences 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 2024.

Applications for parentage orders

Table 20 Applications to Childrens Court of Queensland for *Surrogacy Act 2010* parentage orders

Originating court location	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	—Applications ^{(a)(b)(c)} —			
Brisbane	18	16	21	25
Cairns	—	—	1	—
Emerald	—	—	—	1
Hervey Bay	—	1	—	—
Maroochydore	—	1	—	—
Southport	—	—	2	1
Toowoomba	—	—	—	2
Townsville	—	—	—	1
Total	18	18	24	30

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

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

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

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2024.

Magistrates Court

In 2023–24, there were 6,735 finalised appearances of child defendants in Queensland Magistrates Courts. A further 503 appearances resulted in committal to a higher court for trial or sentence, a decrease of 14.3% compared with 2022–23. Of the 5,572 appearances that were adjudicated, 4,476 (80.3%) resulted in conviction and 1,096 (19.7%) were acquitted, compared with 77.1% and 22.9% respectively in 2022–23 (Table 21).

Of the 40,014 charges against child defendants adjudicated in the Magistrates Court, 36,804 (92.0%) were convicted (proven), while 3,210 (8.0%) were acquitted, similar proportions to those in the previous year (91.7% and 8.3% respectively).

Table 21 Appearances and charges of child defendants, by most serious outcome, Magistrates (Childrens) Court

Outcome	2022–23		2023–24	
	Appearances ^(a)	Charges ^(a)	Appearances ^(a)	Charges ^(a)
Committed to a higher court^(b)	587	2,460	503	2,578
Finalised^(c)	6,338	40,496	6,735	46,941
Adjudicated	5,287	35,053	5,572	40,014
<i>Convicted</i>	<i>4,078</i>	<i>32,134</i>	<i>4,476</i>	<i>36,804</i>
<i>Not convicted^(d)</i>	<i>1,209</i>	<i>2,919</i>	<i>1,096</i>	<i>3,210</i>
Not adjudicated	1,051	5,443	1,163	6,927

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

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

(c) Breach of bail was introduced as a criminal offence for child offenders from March 2023.

(d) 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 2024.

The difference between the 503 appearances of child defendants committed to a higher court in 2023–24 and the 582 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 2022–23 but finalised in 2023–24.

Table 22 shows the number of finalised appearances increased by 6.3% in 2023–24 compared with 2022–23. Defendants aged 17 years and over accounted for over a third of all finalised appearances (+34.5% or +2,326 appearances) in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court in 2023–24. Appearances of defendants aged 11 and 12 years increased (+29.5% and +20.3% respectively), while all other age groups from 13 years to 15 years saw smaller increases of between 1.6% and 13.6%. Appearances decreased for defendants aged 10 (–14.3%) and 16 years (–2.4%).

Table 22 Finalised appearances, by age and outcome, Magistrates (Childrens) Court

Age at finalised appearance ^(a) (years) ^(b)	2022–23				2023–24			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
10	3	7	4	14	9	2	1	12
11	8	19	17	44	19	26	12	57
12	29	86	33	148	51	92	35	178
13	87	347	114	548	106	362	89	557
14	138	544	154	836	155	613	142	910
15	196	766	205	1,167	209	920	197	1,326
16	246	953	202	1,401	243	931	194	1,368
17	237	995	360	1,592	262	1,141	326	1,729
18 & over	107	361	120	588	108	389	100	597
Not stated	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
Total	1,051	4,078	1,209	6,338	1,163	4,476	1,096	6,735

(a) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or more finalised appearances within the 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 2024.

There were 46,941 charges finalised against child defendants in the Magistrates Court in 2023–24, an increase of 6,445 (+15.9%) compared with the previous year (Table 23).

The largest number of finalised charges was for *theft and related offences* (15,241), which represented an increase of 627 (or +4.3%) compared with 2022–23, and 32.5% of all charges.

Charges for *unlawful entry with intent* accounted for 9,688 or 20.6% of all charges finalised, a 6.3% decrease compared with 10,338 charges in 2022–23.

Combined, these two offence types accounted for just over half (53.1%) of all charges finalised in the Magistrates (Childrens) Court in 2023–24.

Breach of bail conditions was introduced in March 2023 as a criminal offence for young offenders. This has more than doubled the number of finalised charges for *other offences* (+6,928 or +113.4%) in 2023–24 compared with 2022–23, and also almost doubled the proportion of *other offences* from 15.1% to 27.8% of all finalised charges.

Table 23 Finalised charges against child defendants by offence type, Magistrates (Childrens) Court

Offence type ^(a)	2022–23				2023–24			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Homicide and related offences	2	–	4	6	2	–	–	2
Acts intended to cause injury	358	1,549	137	2,044	444	1,591	186	2,221
Sexual assault and related offences	32	18	4	54	20	19	9	48
Robbery, extortion and related offences	200	33	17	250	276	30	20	326
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	2,073	8,075	190	10,338	1,993	7,461	234	9,688
Theft and related offences	1,419	12,415	780	14,614	1,825	12,530	886	15,241
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	569	5,779	160	6,508	639	5,571	151	6,361
<i>Other theft^(b)</i>	594	5,139	520	6,253	894	5,592	648	7,134
<i>Receiving and handling</i>	256	1,497	100	1,853	292	1,367	87	1,746
Fraud, deception and related offences	158	841	36	1,035	129	508	33	670
Illicit drug offences	181	1,319	277	1,777	164	1,297	200	1,661
Property damage and environmental pollution	284	1,651	181	2,116	316	1,544	220	2,080
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	116	1,506	533	2,155	160	1,323	486	1,969
Other offences ^{(c)(d)}	620	4,727	760	6,107	1,598	10,501	936	13,035
Total	5,443	32,134	2,919	40,496	6,927	36,804	3,210	46,941

(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' = breach of bail + dangerous or negligent acts + abduction & related offences + weapons & explosives offences + public order offences + justice & government offences + miscellaneous offences, and offences unable to be classified. Breaches of youth justice orders are excluded.

(d) Breach of bail conditions was introduced as a criminal offence for child offenders from March 2023.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

Of the 6,735 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Magistrates Court in 2023–24, two-thirds (66.5% or 4,476 appearances) resulted in a conviction (Table 24).

For more than a third of these (1,649 or 36.8%) a *reprimand* was the most serious penalty imposed, followed by *probation* (28.1%). A custodial sentence was imposed in 287 appearances (6.4%) and a *conditional release order* in 270 (6.0%).

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

Most serious penalty ^(a)	2022–23		2023–24	
	Convicted appearances ^(b)	% of total	Convicted appearances ^(b)	% of total
Detention ^(c)	264	6.5	287	6.4
Conditional release ^(d)	231	5.7	270	6.0
Community service	400	9.8	383	8.6
Probation	1,158	28.4	1,258	28.1
Treatment order	17	0.4	20	0.4
Fine	25	0.6	25	0.6
Compensation	10	0.2	6	0.1
Good behaviour	474	11.6	488	10.9
Disqualification of drivers licence	102	2.5	90	2.0
Reprimand ^(e)	1,397	34.3	1,649	36.8
Total	4,078	100.0	4,476	100.0

(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 the year.

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

(d) May include wholly suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

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

Table 25 Applications for child protection orders, Magistrates Court

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Applications for child protection orders ^(a)	6,361	5,870	6,149	6,626

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

Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Data current as at August 2024.

Applications for domestic violence protection orders

Table 26 Applications for domestic violence order involving a child as respondent, Magistrates Court

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Applications for domestic violence order ^(a)	367	425	424	398

(a) The data 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 2024.

Supreme and District Courts

There were 27 finalised appearances of children in the Supreme and District Courts in 2023–24, an increase of six appearances compared with 2022–23, and all defendants were aged 17 years and over. Over this period, the average number of charges finalised per appearance in these courts also increased from 2.6 to 3.3. (For more detail refer to Appendix Table 10.)

Table 27 Finalised appearances of child defendants, by age and outcome, Supreme and District Courts

Age at finalised appearance ^(a) (years)	2022–23				2023–24			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
14	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
15	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
16	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
17	–	5	–	5	1	3	–	4
18 & over	5	8	–	13	4	16	3	23
Total	6	15	–	21	5	19	3	27

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

Of the 89 charges finalised in the Supreme and District Courts, *acts intended to cause injury* accounted for 24.7% or 22 charges, with 17 convicted), almost double the number in 2022–23. *Homicide & related offences* accounted for 21 charges (23.6%), with eight convicted. There was also an increase in charges for *robbery, extortion & related offences*, from seven in 2022–23 to 12 in 2023–24, with 10 charges convicted.

Table 28 Finalised charges against child defendants, by offence type and outcome, Supreme and District Courts

Offence type ^(a)	2022–23				2023–24			
	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total	Not adjudicated	Adjudicated		Total
		Convicted	Not convicted			Convicted	Not convicted	
Homicide and related offences	5	5	–	10	11	8	2	21
Acts intended to cause injury	3	9	–	12	2	17	3	22
Sexual assault and related offences	–	1	–	1	–	4	–	4
Robbery, extortion and related offences	2	5	–	7	2	10	–	12
Unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter	3	5	–	8	–	7	–	7
Theft and related offences	–	5	–	5	3	3	–	6
<i>Motor vehicle theft</i>	–	4	–	4	1	3	–	4
<i>Other theft^(b)</i>	–	1	–	1	2	–	–	2
Fraud, deception and related offences	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
Illicit drug offences	–	3	–	3	–	6	–	6
Property damage and environmental pollution	2	1	–	3	1	–	–	1
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	–	2	–	2	–	–	–	–
Other offences ^(c)	–	4	–	4	1	8	–	9
Total	15	40	–	55	21	63	5	89

(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 offences unable to be classified.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

In 2023–24, of the 27 finalised appearances of child defendants in the Supreme and District Courts, 19 (70.4%) resulted in conviction (Table 29). Of these, 11 (57.9%) received *detention* as most serious penalty and seven (36.8%) were sentenced to *probation*.

Table 29 Convicted appearances of child defendants, by most serious penalty, Supreme and District Courts

Most serious penalty ^(a)	2022–23		2023–24	
	Convicted appearances ^(b)	% of total	Convicted appearances ^(b)	% of total
Detention ^(c)	8	53.3	11	57.9
Conditional release ^(d)	–	–	1	5.3
Probation	6	40.0	7	36.8
Reprimand ^(e)	1	6.7	–	–
Total	15	100.0	19	100.0

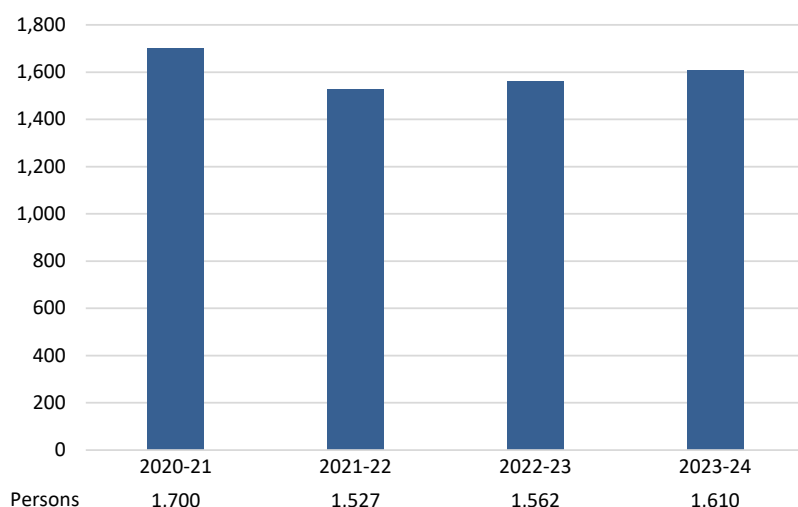
- (a) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.
- (b) Data are a count of appearances, not defendants. An individual defendant may have one or more convicted appearances within the year.
-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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

SUPERVISED YOUTH JUSTICE ORDERS

A total of 1,610 distinct young people commenced a supervised youth justice order in 2023–24. This represents a 3 per cent increase on the previous year (1,562).

Figure 9 Distinct young people^(a) commencing a supervised youth justice order^{(b)(c)}



- (a) Distinct young people are 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.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Young people aged 17 years represented the largest age group commencing a supervised youth justice order in 2023–24, constituting a quarter (401 or 24.9%) of the 1,610 distinct young people commencing an order. Those aged 16 years made up a further 361 (22.4%).

In 2023–24 there were increases in the number of distinct young people commencing a supervised order within the 11, 15, 17 and 18+ year age groups compared to the previous period. There were fewer offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order in 2023–24 than in 2020–21 for every age group except those aged and 13 years and 15 years. These two groups increased by 10.0% and 10.6% respectively over the period (Table 30).

Table 30 Distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by age at commencement

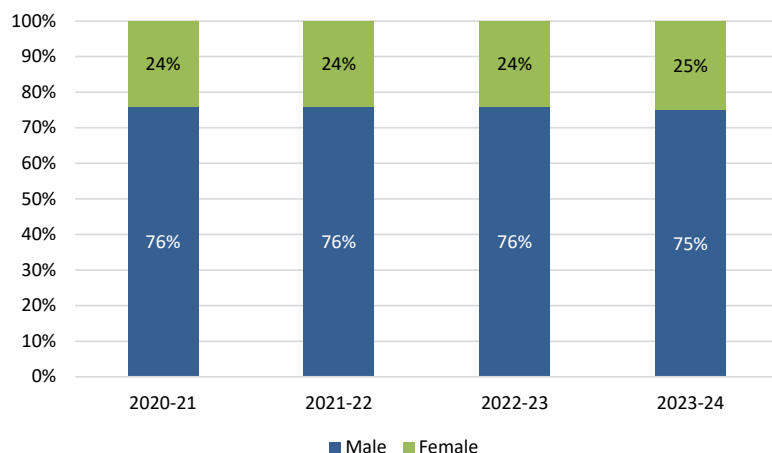
Age at commencement of order (years) ^(a)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
—Offenders—				
10	1	—	1	1
11	9	4	3	5
12	27	31	19	21
13	100	91	110	110
14	228	202	216	198
15	311	307	307	344
16	391	360	366	361
17	416	390	376	401
18 and over	217	142	164	169
Total	1,700	1,527	1,562	1,610

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

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

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

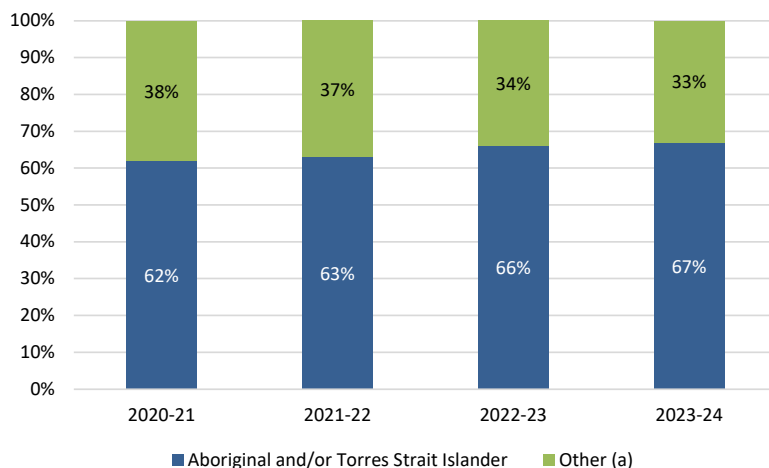
Figure 10 Distribution of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by sex



Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for two-thirds (67%) of all distinct young offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order in 2023–24, up by 1 percentage point compared with 2022–23.

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. Data current as at July 2024.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were 24.3 times as likely as other young people to commence a supervised youth justice order in 2023–24 (Table 31). This disproportionate representation has gradually increased since 2020–21.

Table 31 Rate of distinct offenders commencing a supervised youth justice order, by Indigenous status

Indigenous status	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Distinct young people commencing a supervised youth justice order - rate per 1,000 persons ^(a)				
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	24.5	22.1	23.5	24.4
Other ^(b)	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0
Over-representation ^(c) of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people, as compared to other ^(c) young people				
Over-representation ^(c)	18.7	19.8	22.8	24.3

(a) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–17-year-olds, from ABS, Quarterly Population by age and sex (2023 September Quarter release).

(b) 'Other' includes young people who do not identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, or 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, compared to other young people.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Probation was the most prevalent order type, averaging around half of all supervised youth justice orders commenced between 2020–21 and 2023–24. By comparison, community service orders as a proportion of all order types have been decreasing over the same time, representing 13 per cent of orders in 2020–21, down to 11 per cent of orders commenced in 2023–24. Detention orders (excluding suspended detention) has seen a steady increase from 8 per cent in 2020–21 to 12 per cent in 2023–24 (Table 32).

Table 32 Supervised youth justice orders commenced, by order type

Order type	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
—Orders commenced ^(a) —				
Community service	440	392	365	354
Conditional release	300	308	284	328
Detention ^(b)	275	302	349	389
Graffiti removal ^(c)	137	94	74	75
Intensive supervision	3	8	1	2
Probation	1,794	1,704	1,665	1,706
Restorative justice	503	445	432	437
Total	3,452	3,253	3,170	3,291

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

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

(c) These counts exclude graffiti removal program referrals by police and as a result of youth justice conference agreements

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Conditional bail

The number of conditional bail programs commenced decreased by 16.0% in the 2023–24 financial year, however it is at its second-highest for the most recent four years (Table 33).

Table 33 Court-ordered conditional bail commenced by young people

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Conditional bail program	688	826	1,051	885

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Community supervision

Most community-based supervised orders that commenced in 2022–23 were successfully completed by the end of 2023–24 (75% of probation orders and 65% of community service orders, the two most prevalent community-based order types).

Around one in five probation (21%) and around one in five community service orders (22%) were subject to breach action on or before 30 June 2024, compared with around 41 per cent of all conditional release orders (Table 34).

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 financial year	Probation orders commenced ^(a)					
	2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	1,354	74	1,307	76	1,276	75
Remained active	101	6	88	5	75	4
Breach action initiated ^(b)	365	20	325	19	351	21
Total^(c)	1,820	100	1,720	100	1,702	100

Completion status at 30 June in the following financial year	Conditional release orders commenced ^(a)					
	2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	214	64	212	61	194	57
Remained active	8	2	5	1	6	2
Breach action initiated ^(b)	113	34	131	38	138	41
Total^(c)	335	100	348	100	338	100

Completion status at 30 June in the following financial year	Community service orders commenced ^(a)					
	2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	259	57	212	53	245	65
Remained active	73	16	62	15	49	13
Breach action initiated ^(b)	121	27	127	32	83	22
Total^(c)	453	100	401	100	377	100

Completion status at 30 June in the following financial year	Intensive supervision orders commenced ^(a)					
	2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	3	100	5	63	–	–
Remained active	–	–	1	13	–	–
Breach action initiated ^(b)	–	–	2	25	1	100
Total^(c)	3	100	8	100	1	100

Completion status at 30 June in the following financial year	Graffiti removal orders commenced ^(a)					
	2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	112	79	80	84	60	81
Remained active	9	6	1	1	4	5
Breach action initiated ^(b)	20	14	14	15	10	14
Total^(c)	141	100	95	100	74	100

Completion status at 30 June in the following financial year	Restorative justice orders commenced ^(a)					
	2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Successfully completed	419	82	364	81	366	84
Remained active	11	2	12	3	22	5
Breach action initiated ^(b)	89	16	73	16	50	11
Total^(c)	511	100	449	100	438	100

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

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

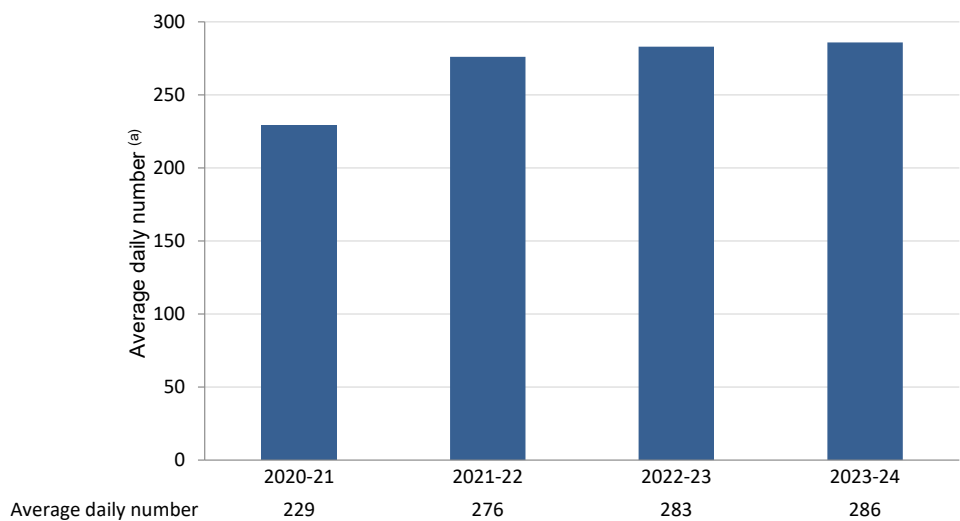
(c) Percentages may not sum to 100% in every case due to rounding.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Young people in youth detention

This section presents young people held in a Queensland youth detention centre in sentenced and unsentenced custody. In 2023–24, there was an increase in the average daily number of young people in youth detention, with an upward trend evident over the last four years (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.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Young males continue to outnumber young females in youth detention, accounting for between 87 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 2023–24 (13%) compared with 2022–23 (12%).

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

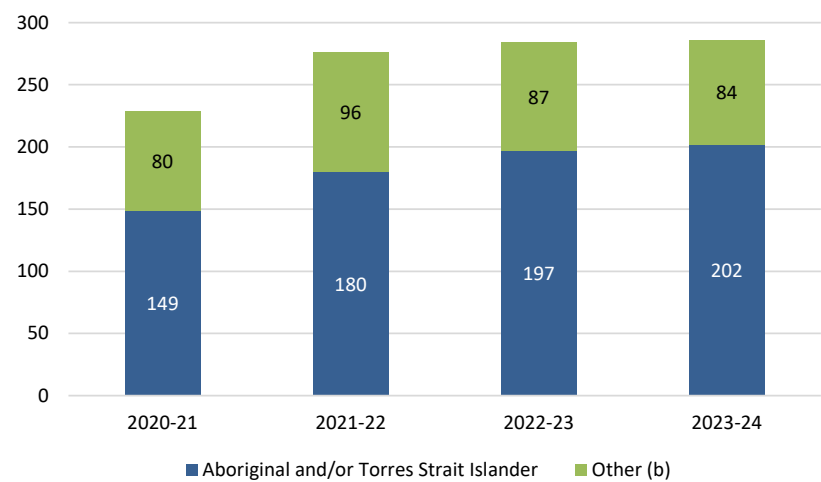


(a) As a result of rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items in Figure 13 and the totals in Figure 12.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

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 2023–24, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people accounted for 71% of those in youth detention on an average day. This represents a 1-percentage point increase compared with the previous year (70%).

Figure 14 Average daily number of young people in youth detention, 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. Data current as at July 2024.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were 29.1 times as likely as other young people to have been in youth detention in 2023–24. This is the highest rate in the last four years.

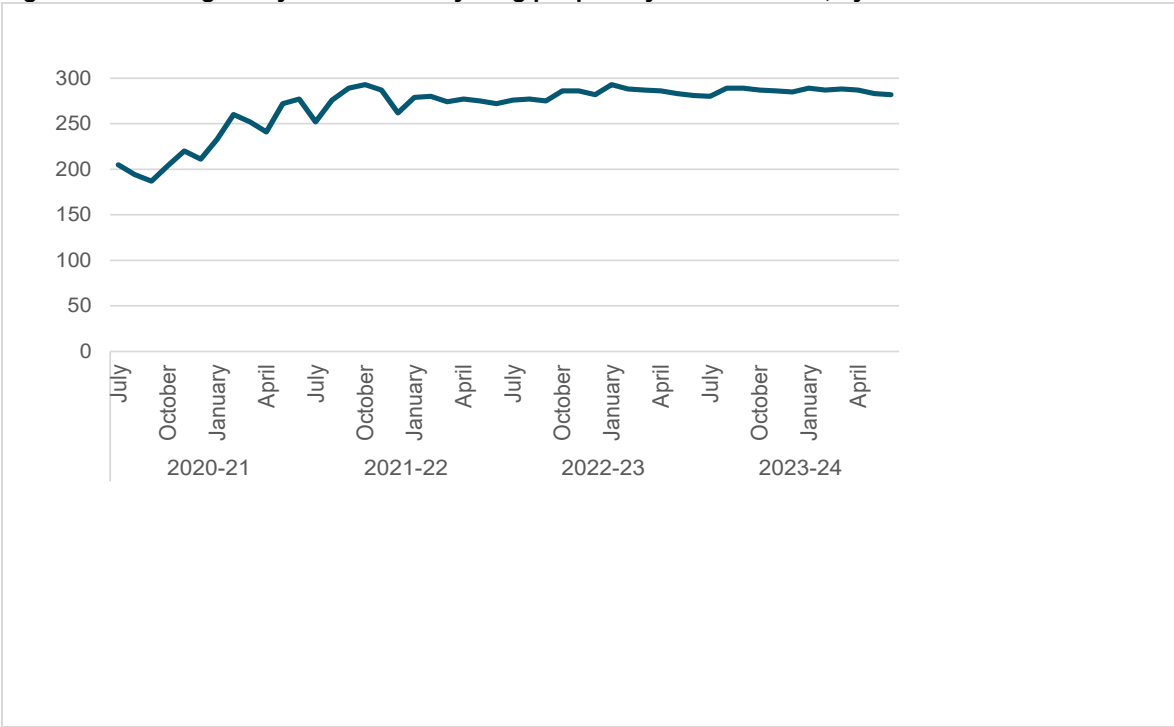
Table 35 Rate of young people in detention / court-ordered custody, by Indigenous status

Indigenous status	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Average daily number of young people in youth detention - rate per 10,000 persons ^(a)				
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	34.8	41.6	45.0	45.9
Other ^(b)	1.6	1.9	1.7	1.6
Over-representation ^(c) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, as compared to other ^(c) young people				
Over-representation ^(c)	21.5	22.0	27.0	29.1

(a) Rates have been calculated using population estimates for 10–17-year-olds, from ABS, Quarterly Population by age and sex (2023 September Quarter release).
(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.
(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. Data current as at July 2024.

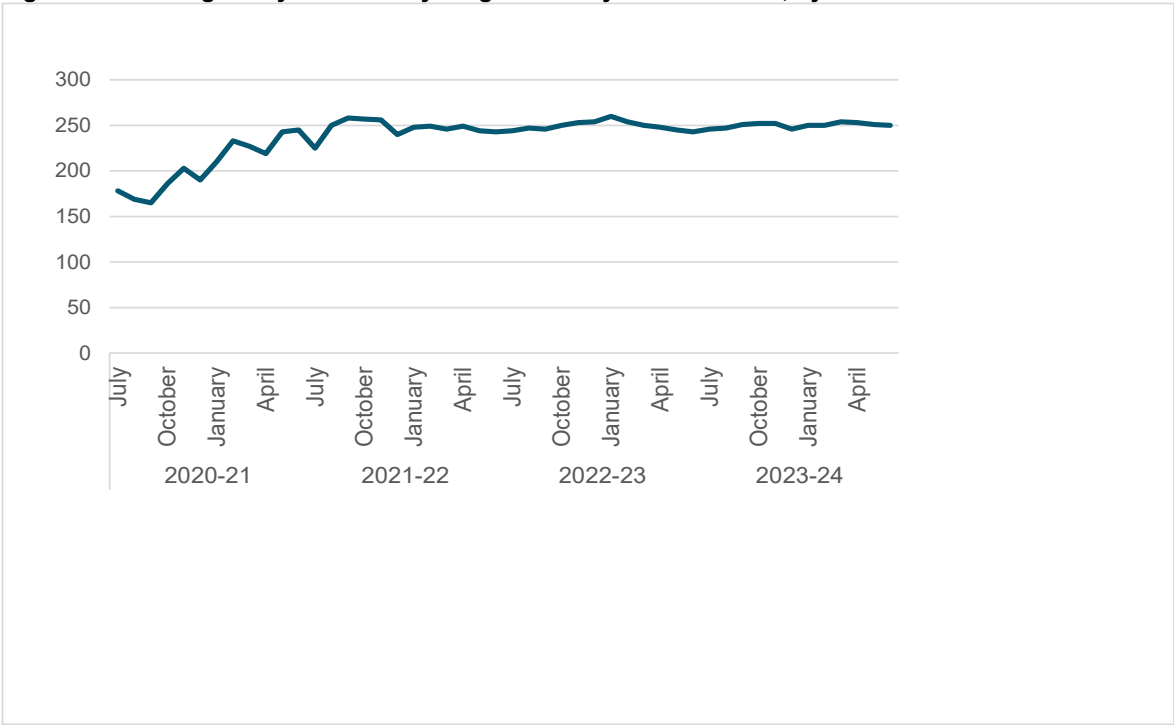
The three figures below show the average daily number respectively of young people (total), young males and young females in youth detention between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2024.

Figure 15 Average daily number of all young people in youth detention, by month^(a)



(a) Figures are daily counts, averaged over the relevant month.
Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

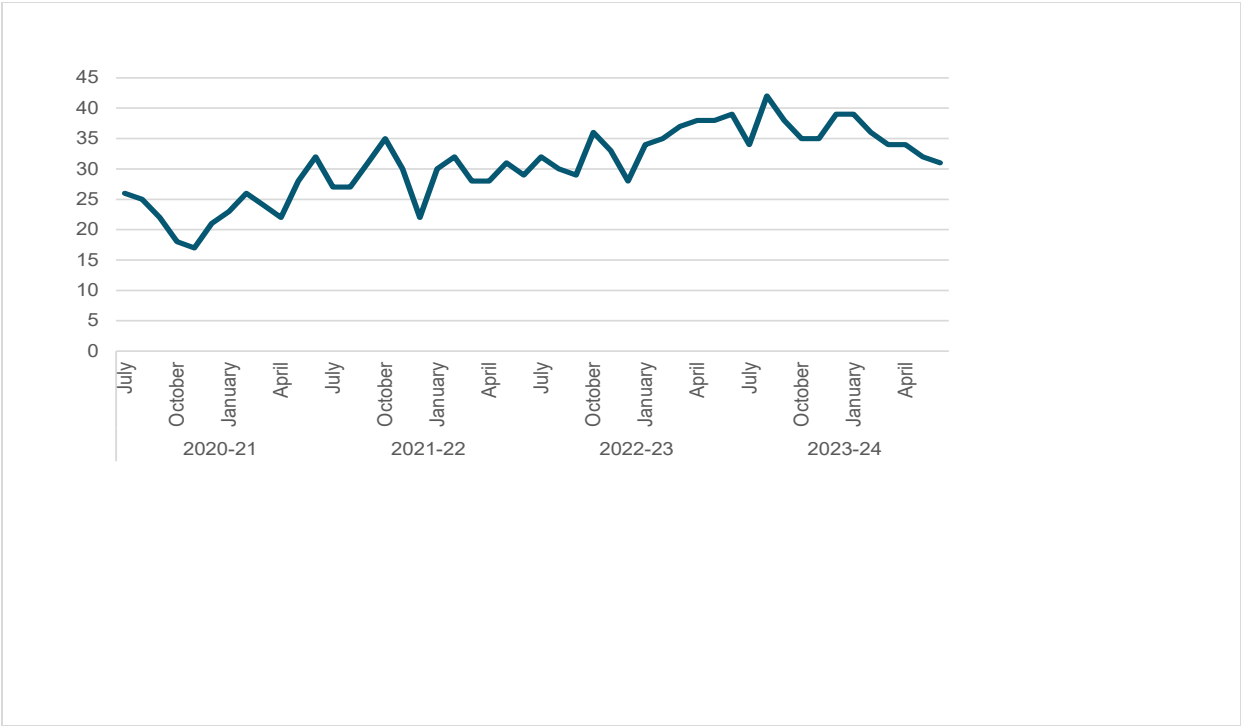
Figure 16 Average daily number of young males in youth detention, by month^(a)



(a) Figures are daily counts, averaged over the relevant month.
Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Note the difference in scale for the following figure relating to young females in detention.

Figure 17 Average daily number of young females in youth detention, by month ^(a)



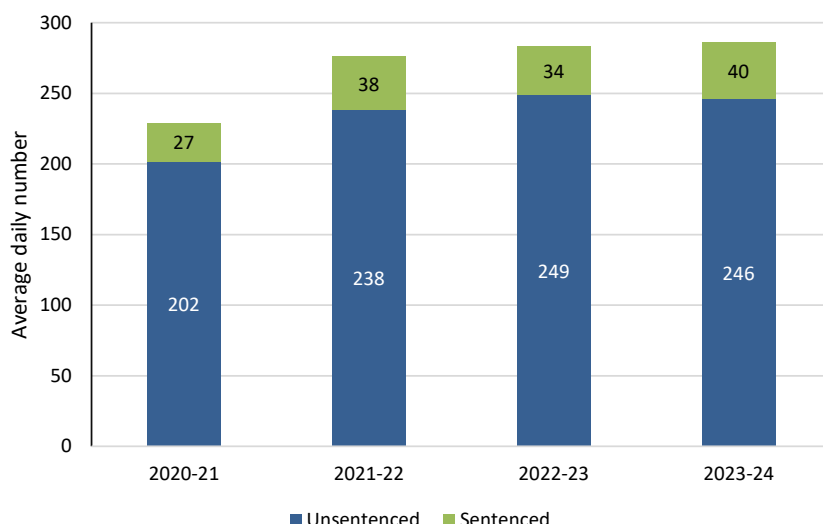
(a) Figures are daily counts, averaged over the relevant month.
Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Unsentenced youth detention

The average daily number of young people in youth detention in unsentenced custody decreased to 246 per day in 2023–24, compared with 249 in 2022–23. The average daily number in sentenced detention increased to 40 per day compared with 34 in the previous year (Figure 18).

Most young people in youth detention on an average day in 2023–24 were in unsentenced detention (86%). This figure is slightly lower than in the previous period (88%).

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



(a) Unsentenced encompasses all custody that is not a result of a detention order.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

In 2023–24, the average length of time a young person spent in youth detention per unsentenced episode was 48 nights, which is three nights longer than in 2022–23 (45 nights). The average length is based on unsentenced periods of youth detention that concluded in each financial year. Both the average and median lengths of an unsentenced episode in youth detention have been steadily increasing over the last four financial years. (Table 36)

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

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Average (days)	34	39	45	48
Median (days)	16	23	24	27

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Of all finalised appearances in 2023–24 at which a detention order was made, 37.8 per cent resulted in a young offender being released from court following sentencing, with no time remaining to serve in custody. In 18.8% 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, 62.2% 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	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
	—Per cent (%)—			
Released directly from court following sentencing	44.7	45.7	49.3	37.8
Without a supervised release order	24.7	25.5	30.1	18.8
With a supervised release order	20.0	20.2	19.2	19.0
Custodial period to serve following sentencing	55.3	54.3	50.7	62.2

(a) Pre-sentence custody includes time spent in custody on remand and pre-court custody.

Source: Department of Youth Justice. Data current as at July 2024.

Table 38 Unique young persons in custody in police watchhouses and stations by month and age, 2023–24

Age (years)	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	—Persons—											
10	4	2	4	2	1	1	2	3	—	2	1	3
11	9	9	7	9	9	7	11	8	9	10	10	10
12	25	19	22	20	23	23	19	22	19	14	27	29
13	67	59	66	61	63	64	54	46	54	49	70	53
14	77	100	89	87	104	101	94	93	93	96	110	100
15	125	138	115	119	123	129	106	116	122	123	134	108
16	124	110	116	135	131	128	111	115	107	111	118	98
17	122	112	98	109	115	138	136	128	129	96	99	92
Total	550	547	515	539	567	587	532	529	530	501	565	491

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 unique count of persons. A person with multiple custody reports during the period will be counted once 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 2024.

Table 39 Admissions of young people and length of stay in custody in police watchhouses and stations, 2023–24

Length of stay (days)	Number of admissions
1 or less	5,897
2	453
3–4	375
5–7	375
8–14	447
15 or more	259
Total	7,806

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 2024.

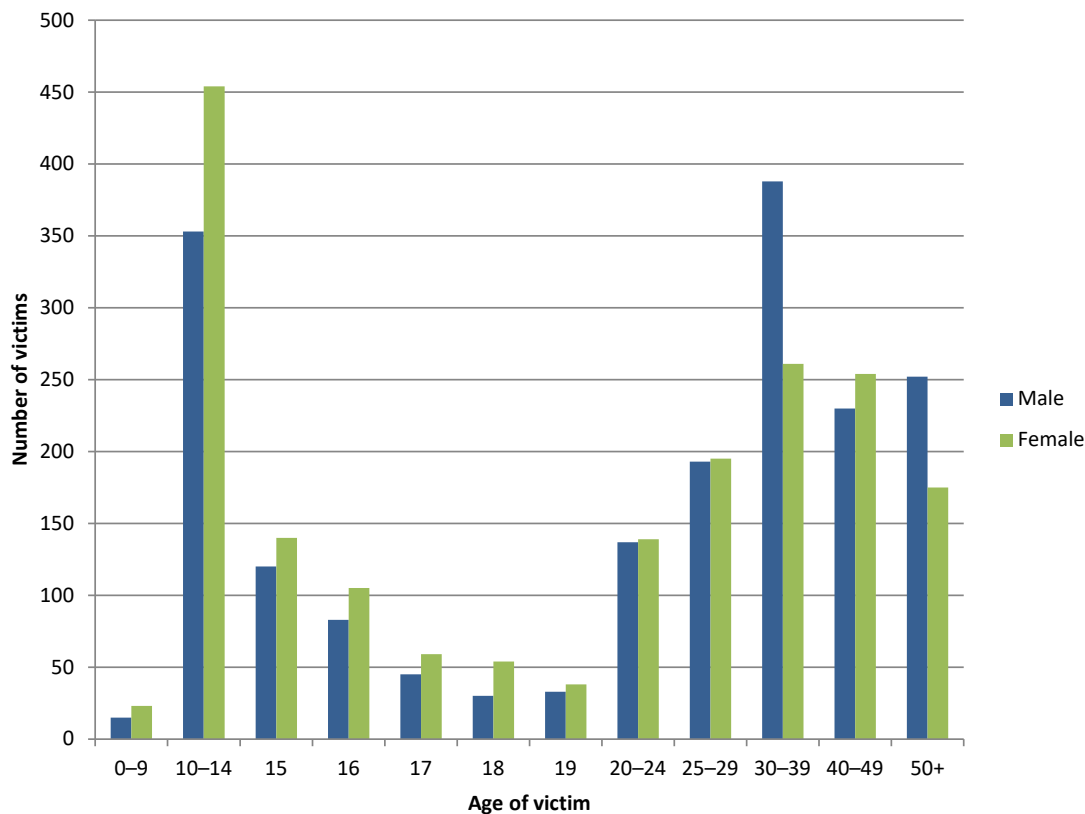
VICTIMS OF CHILD OFFENDERS

Data relating to victims of child offenders in 2023–24 were extracted from Queensland Police Service administrative data. They represent all occurrences where at least one of the alleged offenders was aged 10–17 years when the crime was recorded. The focus was on offences against the person and all victims data are presented in that context in this report.

In 2023–24, there was a total of 5,575 recorded victims of personal offences where at least one offender was aged 10–17 years. Of all victims whose age was recorded (5,284), almost half were aged 18 years or younger (2,481 or 47.0%), and those aged 10–14 years accounted for a quarter of all victims (1,333 or 25.2%). This age group is notably vulnerable and represented the largest victim proportions for *sexual assault and related offences* (52.1%), *robbery and extortion offences* (26.6%) and *acts intended to cause injury* (21.4%). Only 1 in 10 victims of youth offenders was aged 50 years or older (10.4%) in 2023–24.

Acts intended to cause injury was the predominant personal offence type among all victims, constituting 3,793 or 68.0% of all personal offences involving youth offenders. Of all victims of this offence type whose age and sex were recorded (3,776), those aged 10–14 and 30–39 years were victimised most often (807 or 21.4% and 649 or 17.2% respectively) in 2023–24. The most prevalent victim group was females aged 10–14 years (454 victims), closely followed by males aged 30–39 years (388 victims). There were more female than male victims of *acts intended to cause injury* in every age group except those aged 30–39 years and 50 years and older. Nevertheless, the gender distribution of victimisation was more balanced overall, females representing 50.2% and males 48.8% of all victims of this offence type in 2023–24. (Figure 19).

Figure 19 Victims of *acts intended to cause injury*^(a) by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2023–24

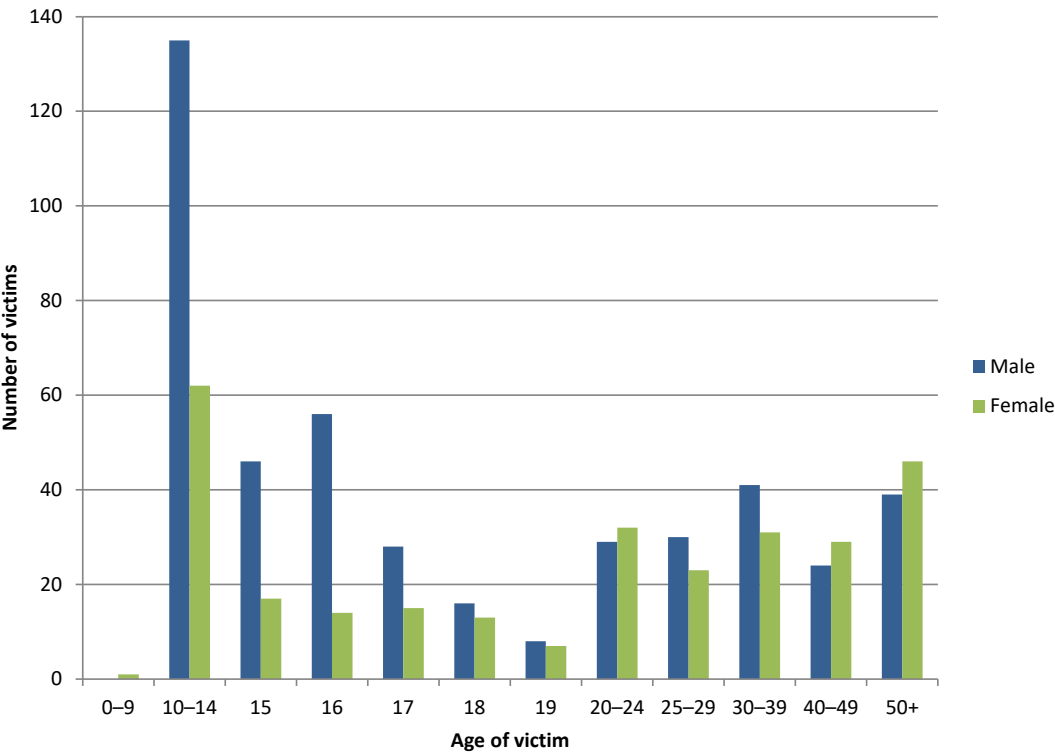


(a) Includes assault, stalking, administer harmful substance, and other acts intended to cause injury.

Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at July 2024.

The second most prevalent offence type among victims was *robbery and extortion offences*, at 16.3% (911) of all victims in 2023–24. Victims of this offence type whose age and sex were recorded displayed a similar age distribution pattern to victims of *acts intended to cause injury*. The most prevalent victim age group among those whose age and sex were recorded was 10–14 years (197 victims or 26.6%), with males representing the largest single victim group in this age group for this offence type (135 victims). Overall, three (61%) out of five *robbery and extortion* victims in 2023–24 were male, and one female victim was aged 0–9 years. (Figure 20).

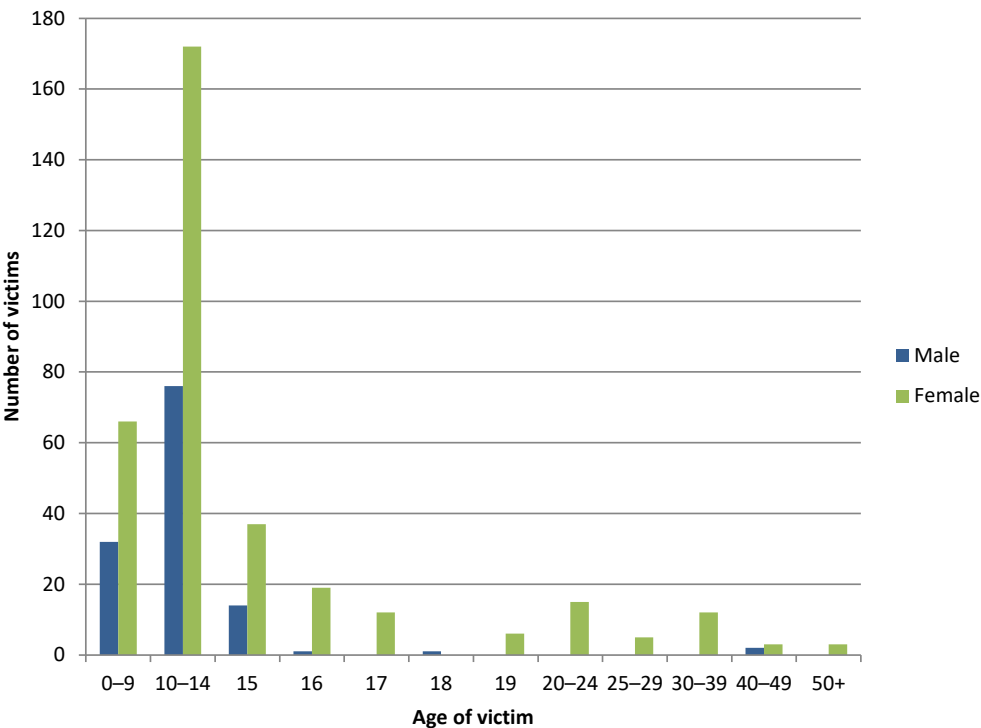
Figure 20 Victims of robbery, extortion and related offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2023–24



Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at July 2024.

In total, there were 476 victims of *sexual assault and related offences* in 2023–24, accounting for 8.7% of all victims of youth offenders. Victims of this offence type whose age and sex were recorded displayed vastly different age and sex distributions than *acts intended to cause injury* and *robbery and extortion offences*. The majority (83.4%) of *sexual assault and related offences* victims were aged 15 years or younger, and over half aged 10–14 years (52.1%). One in five victims was under 10 years old (98 or 20.6%), and *sexual assault and related offences* was the only personal offence type where this age group represented such a high proportion of victims. Focusing on this offence type, female victims were over-represented proportionally, at 73.5%. Females aged 15 years and younger accounted for the largest group of *sexual assault and related offences* victims (275 or 69.3%), despite this cohort accounting for only one in five (19.5%) victims across all personal offences.

Figure 21 Victims of sexual assault and related offences by child offenders, by age and sex of victim, 2023–24



Source: Queensland Police Service. Data current as at July 2024.

APPENDIX

Detailed tables

All tables in this section relate to charges and appearances of child defendants in Queensland courts, for 2022–23 and 2023–24.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Courts Database. Data are current as at August 2024 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

	2022–23				2023–24			
	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total	Magistrates Court	Childrens Court of Qld	District & Supreme Courts	Total
Adjudicated, by offence type								
Homicide & related offences	4	—	5	9	—	—	10	10
Murder	—	—	4	4	—	—	1	1
Attempted murder	4	—	—	4	—	—	3	3
Manslaughter and driving causing death	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	6
Acts intended to cause injury	1,686	276	9	1,971	1,777	171	20	1,968
Assault	1,672	276	9	1,957	1,753	170	20	1,943
Acts intended to cause injury, nec	14	—	—	14	24	1	—	25
Sexual assault & related offences	22	97	1	120	28	134	4	166
Sexual assault	12	83	1	96	25	113	4	142
Non-assaultive sexual offences	10	14	—	24	3	21	—	24
Dangerous or negligent acts	511	36	2	549	466	31	1	498
Dangerous operation of a vehicle	329	28	2	359	320	29	—	349
Other dangerous or negligent acts	182	8	—	190	146	2	1	149
Abduction & related offences	119	17	—	136	134	16	—	150
Abduction and kidnapping	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	2
Deprivation of Liberty	3	4	—	7	10	8	—	18
Harassment and Threatening Behaviour	115	13	—	128	122	8	—	130
Robbery & extortion	50	516	5	571	50	584	10	644
Robbery	44	514	5	563	43	581	10	634
Blackmail & extortion	6	2	—	8	7	3	—	10
Unlawful entry with intent	8,265	307	5	8,577	7,695	354	7	8,056
Theft & related offences^(a)	13,195	522	5	13,722	13,416	495	3	13,914
Motor vehicle theft & related offences	5,939	291	4	6,234	5,722	291	3	6,016
Other theft & related offences	5	—	—	5	6	1	—	7
Receiving or handling proceeds of crime	1,597	36	—	1,633	1,454	18	—	1,472
Theft (except motor vehicles)	5,654	195	1	5,850	6,234	185	—	6,419
Deception & related offences	877	27	—	904	541	14	—	555
Obtain benefit by deception	321	11	—	332	177	7	—	184
Forgery & counterfeiting	5	2	—	7	8	3	—	11
Other fraud and deception offences	551	14	—	565	356	4	—	360
Illicit drug offences	1,596	36	3	1,635	1,497	82	6	1,585
Deal or traffic in illicit drugs	61	8	1	70	18	54	2	74
Manufacture or cultivate illicit drugs	4	—	—	4	7	1	—	8
Possess &/or use illicit drugs	718	17	—	735	699	12	3	714
Other illicit drug offences	813	11	2	826	773	15	1	789
Weapons & explosives offences	501	5	—	506	408	9	5	422
Prohibited weapons/explosives offences	80	2	—	82	35	1	—	36
Regulated weapons/explosives offences	421	3	—	424	373	8	5	386
Property damage	1,832	99	1	1,932	1,764	103	—	1,867
Property damage	1,832	99	1	1,932	1,763	103	—	1,866
Environmental pollution	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Public order offences	2,025	24	—	2,049	2,167	18	1	2,186
Road traffic offences	2,039	24	2	2,065	1,809	36	—	1,845
Justice & government offences	2,295	61	2	2,358	8,232	110	1	8,343
Breach of justice order ^(b)	1,402	15	—	1,417	7,378	80	—	7,458
Offences against government operations	96	31	—	127	108	4	—	112
Offences against government security	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Offences against justice procedures	797	15	2	814	744	25	1	770
Miscellaneous offences	36	1	—	37	30	1	—	31
Total adjudicated	35,053	2,048	40	37,141	40,014	2,158	68	42,240
Not adjudicated	5,443	434	15	5,892	6,927	424	21	7,372
Total	40,496	2,482	55	43,033	46,941	2,582	89	49,612

(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 2024.

Table A2 Magistrates (Childrens) Court: Appearances and charges committed for sentence or trial, by SA4 of court

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2022–23			2023–24		
	Appearances (a)	Charges	Average charges per appearance	Appearances (a)	Charges	Average charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	129	430	3.3	112	465	4.2
Brisbane East	16	45	2.8	22	174	7.9
Cairns	85	243	2.9	59	158	2.7
Central Queensland	45	97	2.2	32	161	5.0
Darling Downs–Maranoa	13	81	6.2	11	87	7.9
Gold Coast	35	80	2.3	53	152	2.9
Ipswich	122	476	3.9	79	236	3.0
Logan–Beaudesert	51	143	2.8	42	156	3.7
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	7	30	4.3	8	22	2.8
Moreton Bay–North	45	214	4.8	29	80	2.8
Moreton Bay–South	12	25	2.1	15	30	2.0
Queensland–Outback	17	46	2.7	12	34	2.8
Sunshine Coast	14	39	2.8	33	116	3.5
Toowoomba	34	80	2.4	27	109	4.0
Townsville	56	231	4.1	60	278	4.6
Wide Bay	48	200	4.2	51	320	6.3
Total	729	2,460	3.4	645	2,578	4.0

(a) Appearances in this table comprise any resulting in a committal to a higher court for sentence or trial, irrespective 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 2024.

Table A3 Magistrates (Childrens) Court: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

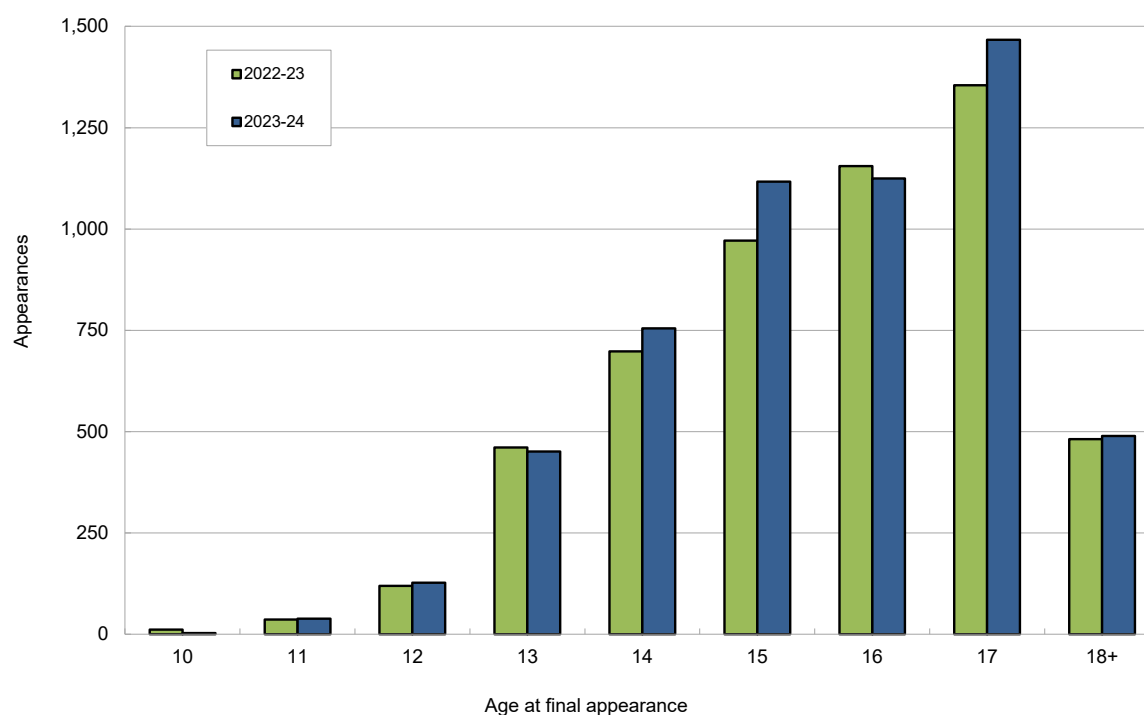
Age at final appearance	2022–23			2023–24		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)
10	9	2	11	3	—	3
11	34	2	36	31	7	38
12	66	53	119	94	33	127
13	312	149	461	304	147	451
14	456	242	698	467	288	755
15	666	305	971	771	345	1,117
16	828	327	1,155	801	324	1,125
17	1,005	348	1,355	1,121	345	1,467
18+	363	117	481	376	112	489
Total	3,739	1,545	5,287	3,968	1,601	5,572

(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 2024.

Figure A1 Magistrates (Childrens) Court: Appearances^(a) 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 2024.

Table A4 Magistrates Court: Finalised appearances^(a) and charges, by SA4 of court

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2022–23			2023–24		
	Appearances	Charges	Average charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Average charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	797	6,536	8.2	721	5,487	7.6
Brisbane–East	116	524	4.5	92	527	5.7
Brisbane–South	—	—	—	1	1	1.0
Cairns	772	6,467	8.4	883	7,280	8.2
Central Queensland	289	2,029	7.0	352	2,382	6.8
Darling Downs–Maranoa	177	1,002	5.7	122	554	4.5
Gold Coast	365	2,027	5.6	406	3,627	8.9
Ipswich	379	2,073	5.5	382	2,965	7.8
Logan–Beaudesert	272	1,903	7.0	293	2,026	6.9
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	42	185	4.4	63	393	6.2
Moreton Bay–North	213	1,170	5.5	269	1,215	4.5
Moreton Bay–South	90	516	5.7	69	438	6.3
Queensland–Outback	363	1,942	5.3	378	2,607	6.9
Sunshine Coast	203	1,066	5.3	282	1,485	5.3
Toowoomba	357	1,945	5.4	325	2,264	7.0
Townsville	626	4,230	6.8	691	5,089	7.4
Wide Bay	226	1,438	6.4	243	1,674	6.9
Total adjudicated	5,287	35,053	6.6	5,572	40,014	7.2
Not adjudicated ^(a)	1,051	5,443	5.2	1,163	6,927	6.0
Total	6,338	40,496	6.4	6,735	46,941	7.0

(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 2024.

Table A5 Magistrates Court: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty and sex of defendant

Most serious penalty ^(b)	2022–23			2023–24		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total ^(c)
Detention ^(d)	239	25	264	257	30	287
Conditional release	195	36	231	232	38	270
Community service	299	101	400	270	113	383
Probation	865	293	1,158	933	325	1,258
Treatment Order	13	4	17	16	4	20
Fine	25	—	25	21	4	25
Compensation	9	1	10	5	1	6
Good behaviour order	287	187	474	309	179	488
Disqualification of licence	88	14	102	85	5	90
Reprimand ^(e)	929	468	1,397	1,104	544	1,649
Total	2,949	1,129	4,078	3,232	1,243	4,476

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

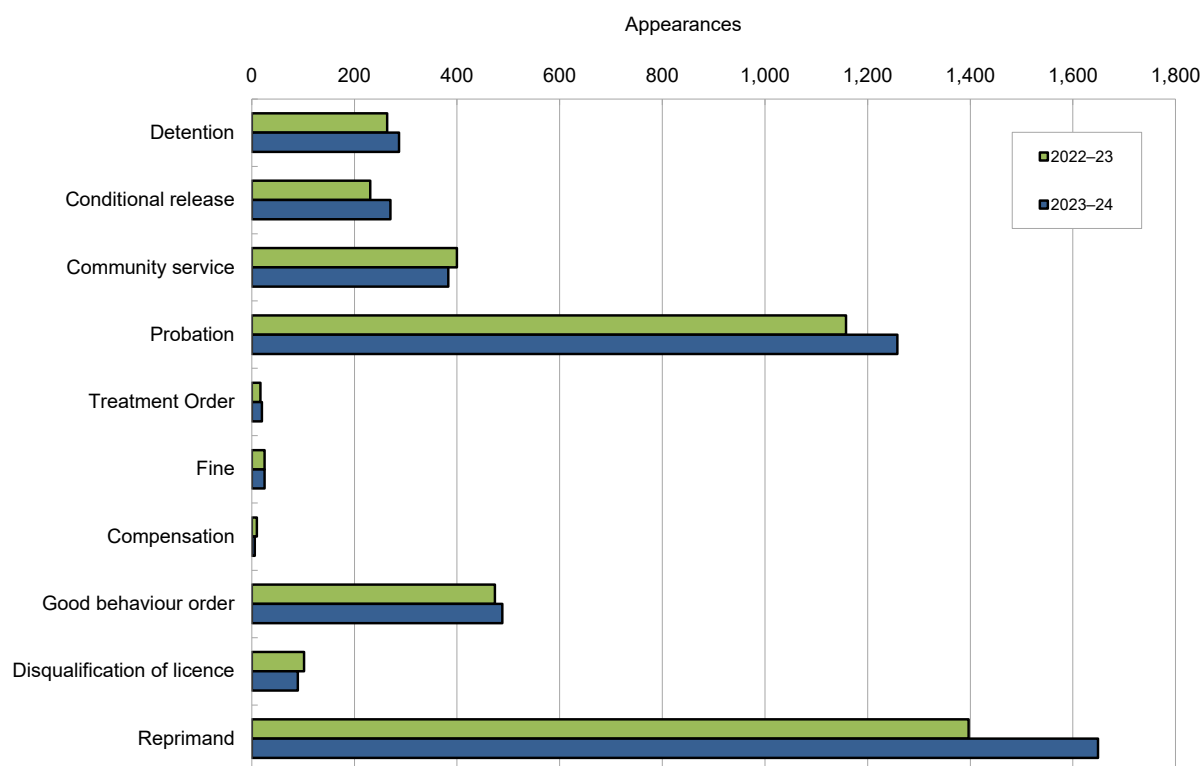
(b) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.

(c) Includes one appearance where sex of defendant was unknown or not stated

(d) May include intensive supervision and intensive correction orders.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

Figure A2 Magistrates Court: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty^(b)

(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.

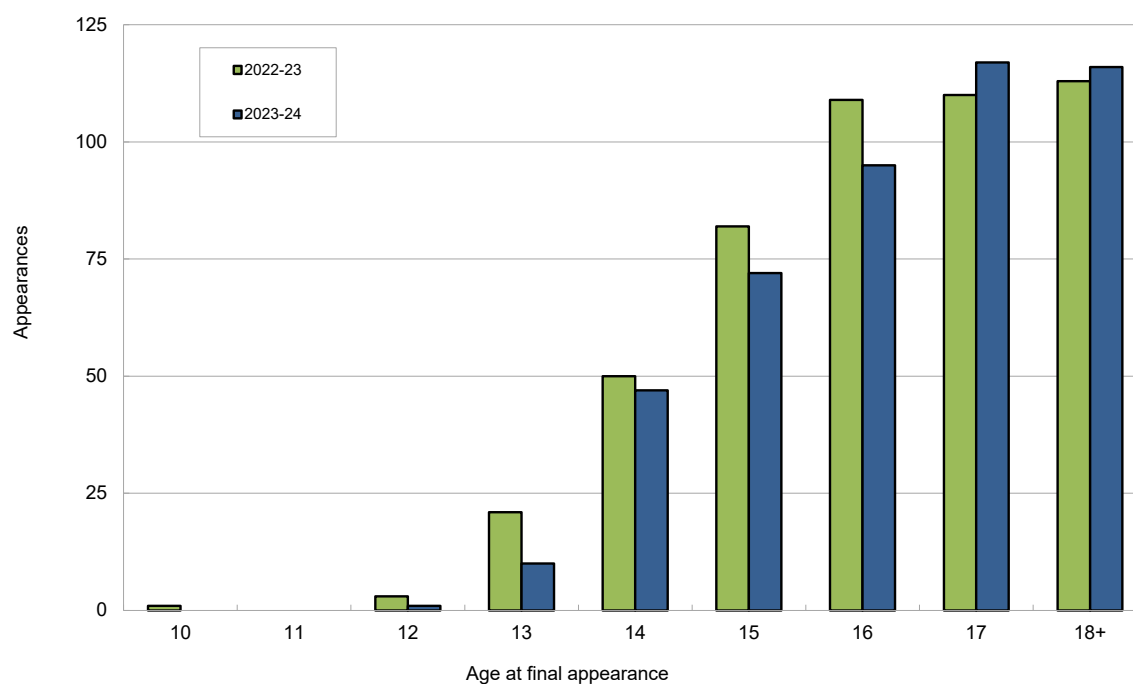
Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

Table A6 Childrens Court of Queensland: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Age at final appearance	2022–23			2023–24		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
10	1	—	1	—	—	—
11	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	1	2	3	1	—	1
13	14	7	21	8	2	10
14	31	19	50	33	14	47
15	53	29	82	53	19	72
16	84	25	109	76	19	95
17	93	17	110	93	24	117
18+	98	15	113	96	20	116
Total	375	114	489	360	98	458

(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 2024.

Figure A3 Childrens Court of Queensland: Appearances^(a) 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 2024.

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

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2022–23			2023–24		
	Appearances	Charges	Average charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Average charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	151	584	3.9	170	868	5.1
Cairns	72	287	4.0	64	193	3.0
Central Queensland	25	182	7.3	30	118	3.9
Darling Downs–Maranoa	10	56	5.6	4	20	5.0
Gold Coast	38	85	2.2	16	54	3.4
Ipswich	38	139	3.7	36	160	4.4
Logan–Beaudesert	21	58	2.8	31	99	3.2
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	5	14	2.8	2	3	1.5
Queensland–Outback	5	45	9.0	3	6	2.0
Sunshine Coast	21	95	4.5	12	102	8.5
Toowoomba	30	128	4.3	19	104	5.5
Townsville	50	279	5.6	39	157	4.0
Wide Bay	23	96	4.2	32	274	8.6
Total adjudicated	489	2,048	4.2	458	2,158	4.7
Not adjudicated ^(a)	102	434	4.3	97	424	4.4
Total	591	2,482	4.2	555	2,582	4.7

(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 2024.

Table A8 Childrens Court of Queensland: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty and sex of defendant

Most serious penalty ^(b)	2022–23			2023–24		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention ^(c)	73	7	80	77	11	88
Conditional release ^(d)	37	11	48	45	14	59
Community service	14	3	17	12	2	14
Probation	209	76	285	180	66	246
Fine	1	—	1	2	—	2
Compensation	1	—	1	—	—	—
Good behaviour order	7	4	11	6	2	8
Reprimand ^(e)	22	11	33	20	3	23
Total	364	112	476	342	98	440

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

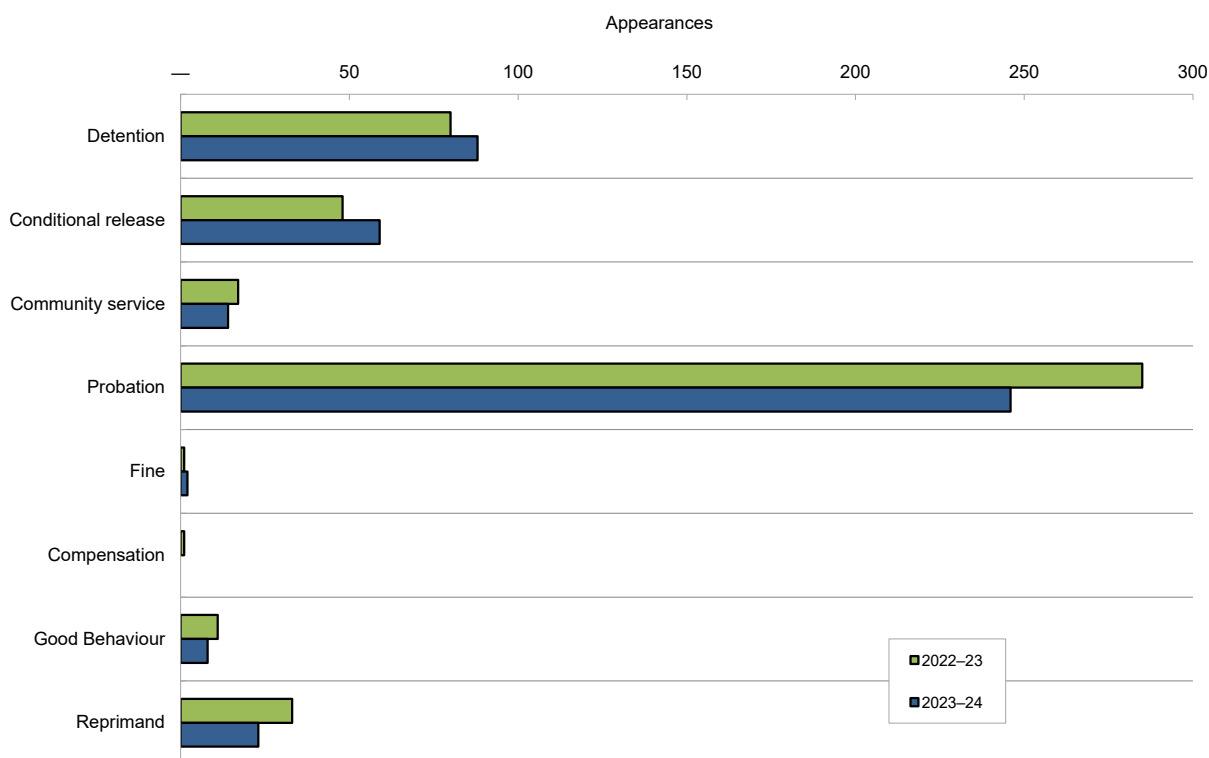
(b) In descending order of seriousness. An offender may receive more than one type of penalty in a single disposition, only the most serious is counted here.

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

(d) May include suspended imprisonment.

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

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

Figure A4 Childrens Court of Queensland: Convicted appearances^(a), 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 2024.

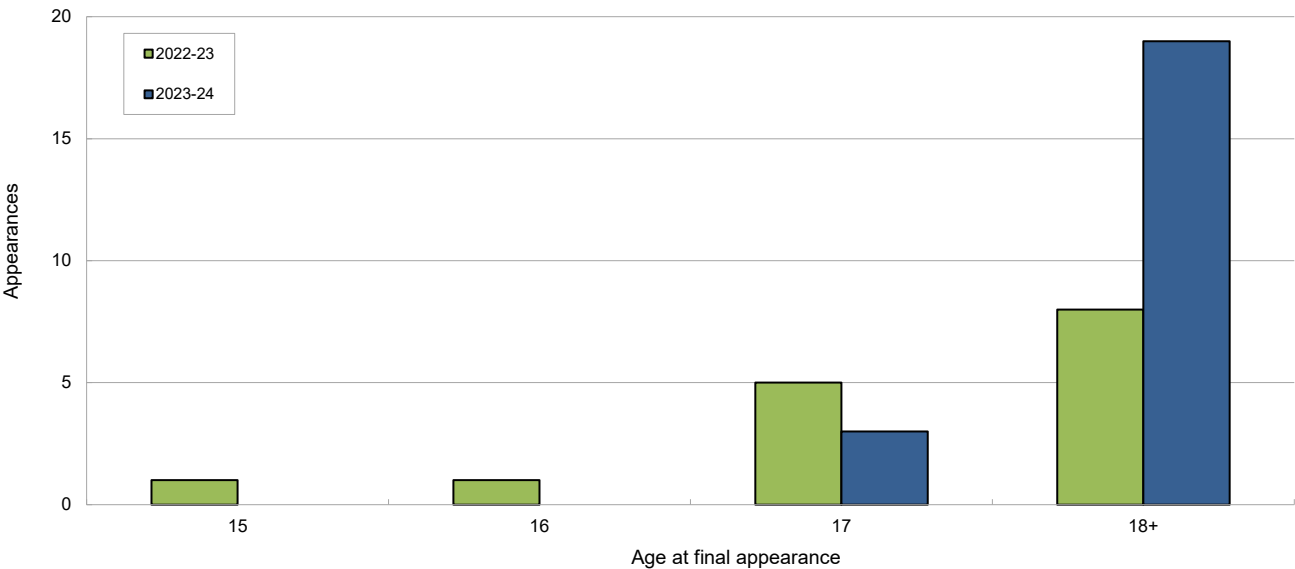
Table A9 Supreme and District Courts: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Age at final appearance	2022–23			2023–24		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
15	1	—	1	—	—	—
16	1	—	1	—	—	—
17	5	—	5	2	1	3
18+	8	—	8	16	3	19
Total	15	—	15	18	4	22

(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 2024.

Figure A5 Supreme and District Courts: Appearances^(a) 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 2024.

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

Statistical area level 4 (SA4) of court	2022–23			2023–24		
	Appearances	Charges	Average charges per appearance	Appearances	Charges	Average charges per appearance
Brisbane Inner City	7	28	4.0	12	44	3.7
Cairns ^(c)	1	5	5.0	—	—	..
Central Queensland ^(b)	—	—	..	1	1	1.0
Gold Coast ^(b)	3	3	1.0	—	—	..
Ipswich ^(b)	1	1	1.0	—	—	..
Logan–Beaudesert ^(b)	—	—	..	1	2	2.0
Queensland–Outback ^(c)	—	—	..	1	1	1.0
Sunshine Coast ^(b)	—	—	..	1	3	3.0
Toowoomba ^(c)	—	—	..	1	3	3.0
Townsville	1	1	1.0	3	9	3.0
Wide Bay	2	2	1.0	2	5	2.5
Total adjudicated	15	40	2.7	22	68	3.1
Not adjudicated^(a)	6	15	2.5	5	21	4.2
Total	21	55	2.6	27	89	3.3

(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.

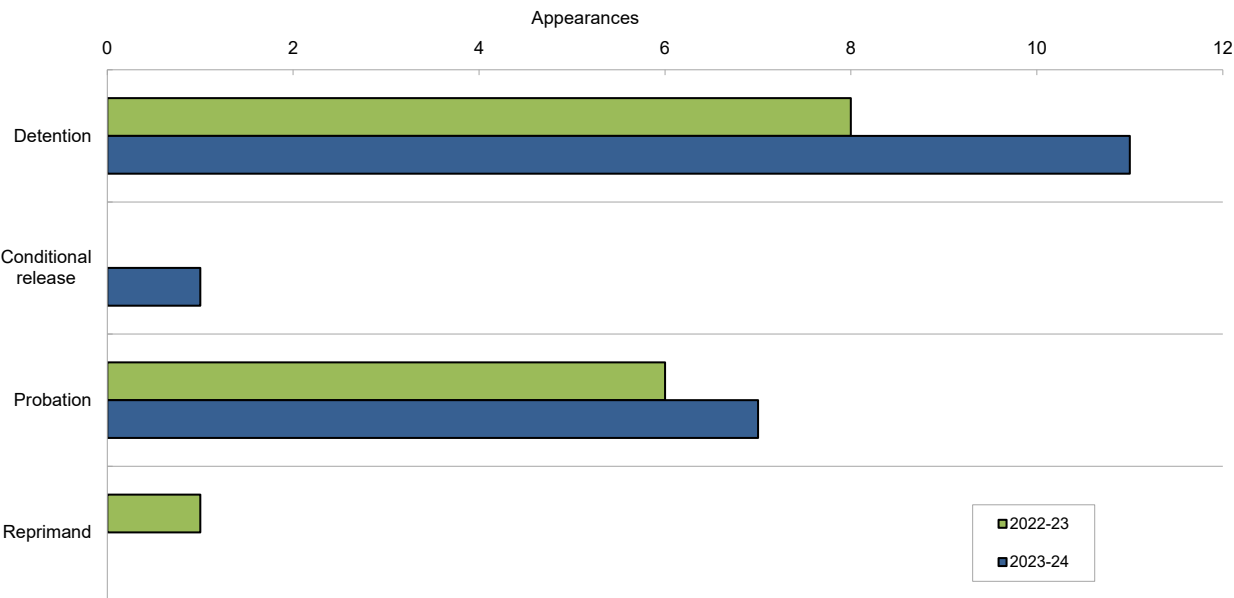
Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

Table A11 Supreme and District Courts: Convicted appearances^(a), by most serious penalty and sex

Most serious penalty ^(b)	2022–23			2023–24		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Detention ^(c)	8	—	8	10	1	11
Conditional release	—	—	—	—	1	1
Probation	6	—	6	5	2	7
Reprimand	1	—	1	—	—	—
Total	15	—	15	15	4	19

- (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) May include imprisonment, intensive supervision and intensive correction orders.
- Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Courts Database. Data current as at August 2024.

Figure A6 Supreme and District Courts: Convicted appearances^(a), 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 2024.

Table A12 All Courts: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age and sex of defendant

Age at final appearance	2022–23			2023–24		
	Male	Female	Total ^(b)	Male	Female	Total ^(c)
10	10	2	12	3	—	3
11	34	2	36	31	7	38
12	67	55	122	95	33	128
13	326	156	482	312	149	461
14	487	261	748	500	302	802
15	720	334	1,054	824	364	1,189
16	913	352	1,265	877	343	1,220
17	1,103	365	1,470	1,216	370	1,587
18+	469	132	602	488	135	624
Total^(d)	4,129	1,659	5,791	4,346	1,703	6,052

(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.

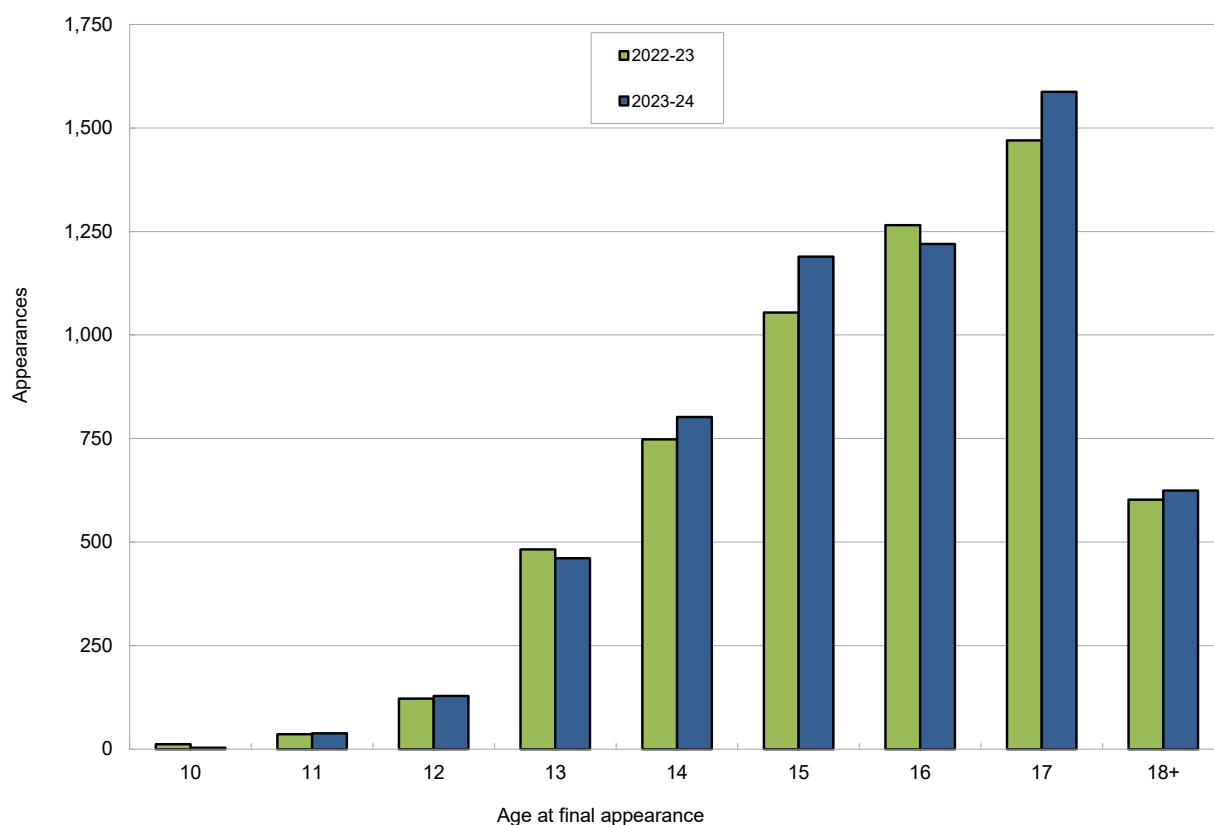
(b) Includes three appearances by a child defendant(s) whose sex was unknown or not stated.

(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 2024.

Figure A7 All Courts: Appearances^(a) finalised by adjudication, by age ^(b)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 2024.