

Main Features

Higher Courts

- During 2009–10, there were 5,457 defendants finalised in Queensland Higher Courts, accounting for 32.4% of the total number of finalised defendants in Australian Higher Courts. In Queensland 4,545 finalised defendants were adjudicated, which made up 31.5% of the total number of adjudicated defendants in Australia (Table 1).
- Queensland had the second-highest rate of adjudicated defendants of any state or territory in Australia (133 adults for every 100,000), behind the Northern Territory (199 adults for every 100,000). The rate for Queensland was significantly higher than the rate of Australian adjudications, which was 84 adults for every 100,000 adults (Figure 1).
- In 2009–10, the highest percentage of adjudicated defendants by offence type in Queensland Higher Courts was for homicide or acts intended to cause injury (29.2%) as their principal offence (Figure 2).

Magistrates Courts

- Queensland had 170,685 defendants finalised in Magistrates' Courts in 2009–10, which accounted for 28.3% of the total number of defendants finalised in Magistrates Courts in Australia (Table 1).
- In 2009–10, the highest percentage of adjudicated defendants by offence type in Queensland Magistrates Courts was for traffic, justice procedural and miscellaneous offences (49.5%) as their principal offence (Figure 3).

Children's Courts

- Queensland had 8,165 minors finalised in Children's Courts in 2009–10, which accounted for 19.8% of the total number of minors finalised in Children's Courts in Australia (Table 1).
- In 2009–10, the highest percentage of adjudicated defendants by offence type in the Queensland Children's Courts was for robbery, unlawful entry, theft and deception (45.6%).

Table 1: Finalised defendants in Queensland and Australia, 2009–10

	Qld	Aust.	Qld as % of Aust.
Higher Courts	— persons —		
Finalised Appearances	5,457	16,834	32.4
Non-Adjudicated	912	2,425	37.6
Adjudicated	4,545	14,409	31.5
Magistrates Courts			
Finalised Appearances	170,685	603,604	28.3
Non-Adjudicated	12,699	57,946	21.9
Adjudicated	157,986	545,658	29.0
Children's Courts			
Finalised Appearances	8,165	41,272	19.8
Non-Adjudicated	936	7,803	12.0
Adjudicated	7,229	33,469	21.6

Figure 1: Adjudicated defendants in Higher Courts per 100,000 adult persons, 2009–10

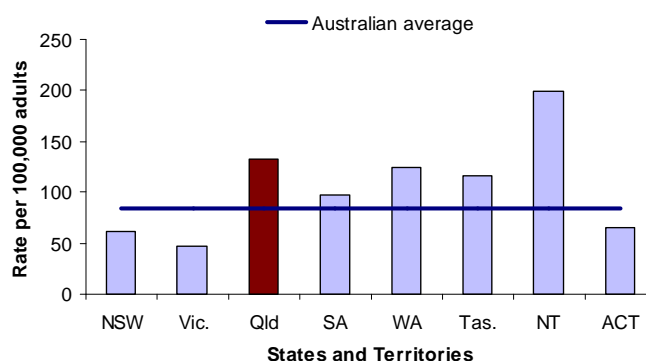


Figure 2: Offences adjudicated in Higher Courts of Queensland, by offence type, 2009–10

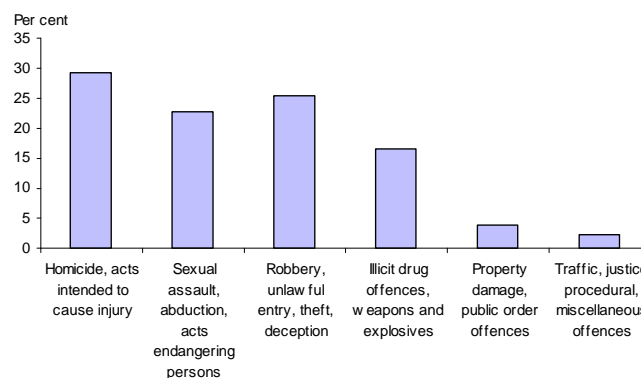
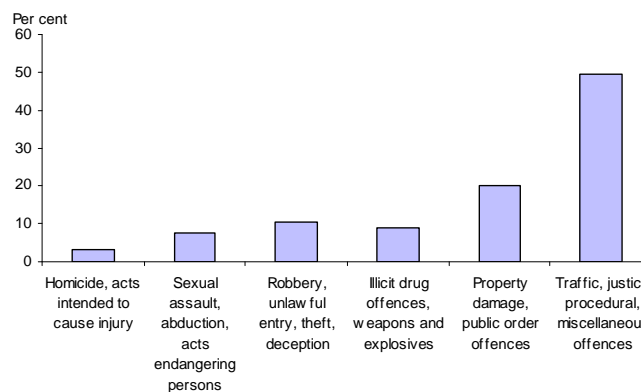


Figure 3: Offences adjudicated in Magistrates Courts of Queensland, by offence type, 2009–10



Definitions

Defendant: A person/organisation against whom one or more criminal charges have been laid and which are heard together as the one unit of work by a court level.

Finalised defendant: A defendant for whom all charges have been formally completed and so cease to be dealt with by the court.

Adjudicated: Method of finalisation based on judgement/decision by the court as to whether the defendant is guilty of the charge(s) laid against them.

Non-adjudicated: Case considered completed, ceases to be active in a court, including withdrawal of a charge by the prosecution etc.