

Glossary

Symbols and Abbreviations

n/a	not available
..	not applicable
-	nil
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
n.f.d.	not further defined

Offence

For statistical purposes an offence is any act reported to or becoming known by the police, which they consider, prima facie, to be in breach of the criminal law. With the exception of Murder, each offence count represents an actual offence, an attempted offence, a conspiracy, or the aiding or abetting of an offence. In the case of Murder, these categories are distinguished.

Reported Offences

Reported offences refer to all established offences reported to or becoming known to the police within the relevant reference period.

Not Substantiated

An offence is “not substantiated” or “unfounded” when investigation has established that the alleged offence was not in fact committed. This includes a false report, a mistake in the facts as reported by the informant, or no breach of the law involved in the alleged offence.

Inability to prove an ingredient of an offence does not make an offence “not substantiated” nor does a decision by a complainant not to proceed after the offence has been reported.

Cleared Offences

An offence is deemed to be cleared under, but not restricted to, the following circumstances:

- At least one offender has been arrested or summonsed or issued with a Notice to Appear, or information has been laid to compel an offender’s appearance before a court;

- Action has been taken against at least one offender under the provisions of the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992* (e.g. administration of an official caution, issue of a Notice to Attend or summons or reference to a community conference);
- At least one offender has been dealt with in accordance with Queensland Police Service policy (e.g. informal counselling of children and elderly persons);
- The offender has admitted the offence but there is an obstacle to proceedings (e.g. diplomatic immunity);
- The offender is known and sufficient evidence has been obtained, but the complainant refuses to prosecute;
- The offender is in another jurisdiction and extradition is not desired or not available;
- The offender is serving a sentence and no useful purpose would be served by prosecution;
- The offender has died before proceedings can be commenced;
- The offender has been admitted to a mental institution before an information is laid and release is unlikely;
- The offender is being offered drug diversion for a minor drug offence;
- There is some other bar to prosecution;
- The offender is dealt with by ex-officio indictment;
- The offender is being dealt with by another agency NOT QPS e.g. Marine Brief of evidence, Family, Youth and Community Care;
- The complainant or essential witness has died and proceedings would be abortive;
- The complainant has requested police to take no further action;

The recovery of stolen or otherwise unlawfully obtained property, e.g. a motor vehicle, does not in itself clear or solve an offence.

Number of Offences Cleared

Cleared offences are presented in this publication in two groups, i.e., those that were both reported and cleared in the reference period, and those that were cleared in the reference period but reported previously.

Percentage Cleared

Percentage Cleared is the percentage of offences that were reported within a specified period that were also cleared within that period.

Offender

An offender is any person who, through the clearance of an offence, is deemed to be responsible for committing that offence.

Action Type

The following definitions apply to the action types presented in the tables appearing on pages 72 and 73, Offenders - Queensland by Type of Action by Age:

- Arrest: The taking into custody of an offender to compel that person's appearance before a court;
- Summons: A direction or command issued by a magistrate or justice to a defendant to appear before a court with reference to a matter described therein, at a given time and place;
- Notice to Appear: A notice issued and personally served by a police officer upon an adult whom he/she reasonably suspects has committed or is committing an offence, to appear before a court, with reference to a matter described therein, at a stated time and place;
- Attendance Notice: A notice personally served by a police officer upon a juvenile whom he/she believes on reasonable grounds has committed an offence, requiring the child to appear before a Children's Court, in relation to a matter described therein, at a specified time and place;
- Warrant: For the purposes of this application, a warrant is an authority under the hand of a judge or justice to arrest an offender in order that the person may be dealt with according to the law;
- Caution: An official caution administered to a child under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1992 and includes the cautioning of persons over 65 years of age and intellectually disabled persons for minor criminal offences in accordance with official service policy. The term does not apply to any informal process where a child is spoken to by an officer where the officer is exercising discretion in relation to the child's particular behaviour or actions;

- Community Conference: The referral of a child under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1992 to community conference by a police officer before the start of a proceeding for an offence, or by court after a finding of guilt is made against a child for the offence;
- Other: The offender is known and sufficient evidence has been obtained but there is a bar to prosecution or other official process (see also definition of Cleared Offences on the previous page).

Victim

The description of a victim varies according to offence type:

- for Homicide, Assault, Sexual Offences, Kidnapping, Abduction and Deprivation of Liberty, and Other Offences Against the Person sub-divisions, the victim is an individual person;
- for Robbery, Extortion, Arson, Other Property Damage, Stealing (excluding Motor Vehicles), and Fraud, the victim may be either an individual person or an organisation;
- for Motor Vehicle Theft, the victim is the motor vehicle;
- for offences of Unlawful Entry, the victim is the place/premise as defined on the basis of occupation/ownership.

Crime Location

The crime location is the initial site where a criminal incident occurred, classified by the primary function of that site where the site has more than one function.

Offender/Victim Relationship

The Offender/Victim Relationship only relates to Offences Against the Person, and is recorded according to the victim's perception of the relationship. In instances where there is more than one victim, the relationship of the offender to the primary victim is used.