



## Victoria: overview of youth justice supervision in 2011–12



This fact sheet focuses on youth justice supervision in Victoria during 2011–12.

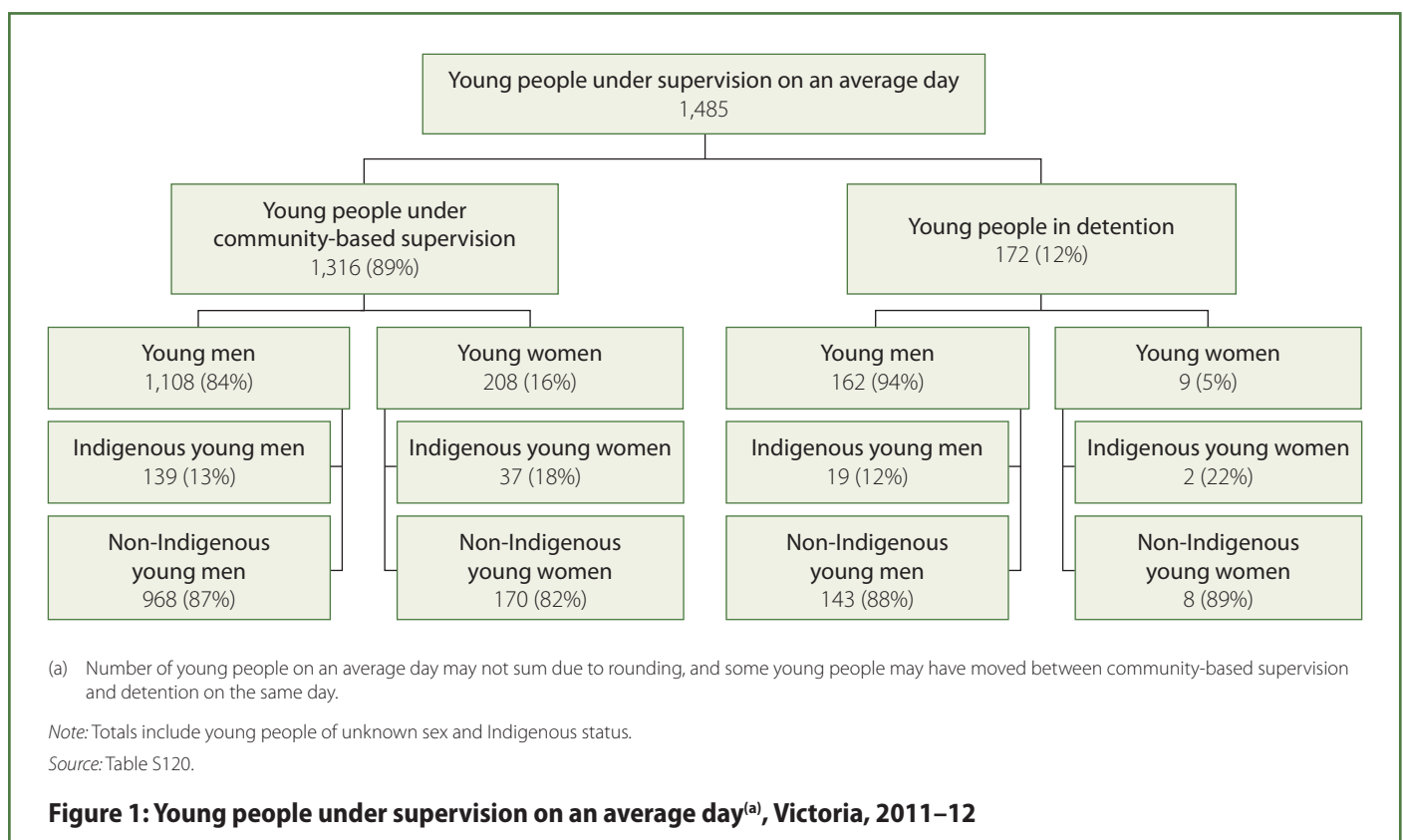
Differences in youth justice supervision between the states and territories may reflect variations in legislation, policy and practice. Detailed information about the youth justice systems, policies and programs in each state and territory during 2011–12 is available from <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/youth-justice/states-territories>>.

### Number and rate under supervision

In 2011–12, there were 1,485 young people under supervision on an average day in Victoria (Figure 1). This equates to a rate of 19 young people aged 10–17 per 10,000 population, which was the lowest rate of all the states and territories for which data are available (Table S4).

About 9 out of 10 (89%) young people were supervised in the community, and 12% were in detention (young people may have moved between community-based supervision and detention on the same day) (Figure 1).

Victoria had the lowest rates of both community-based supervision (17 per 10,000) and detention (1.4 per 10,000) among the states and territories (tables S39 and S72). Young people aged 10–17 in Victoria were almost 12 times as likely to be under community-based supervision on an average day as in detention.



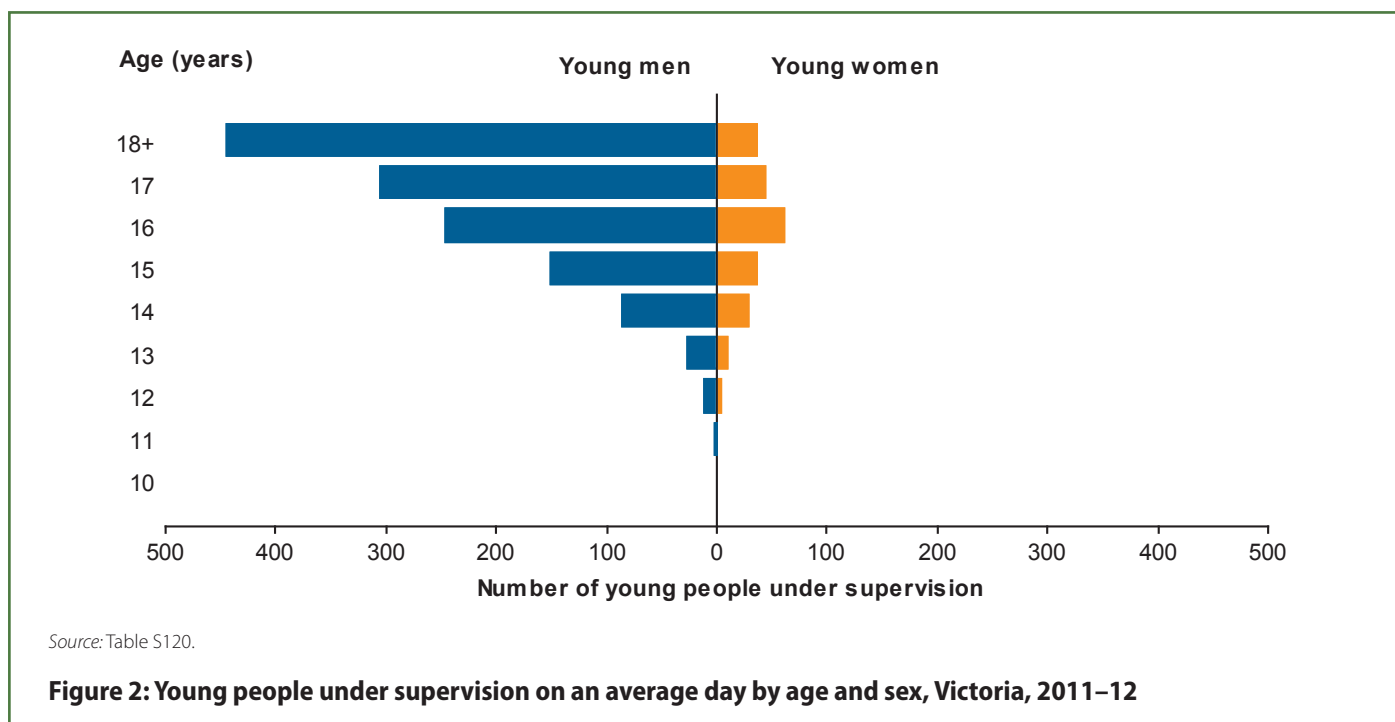
## Age and sex

In most cases, the upper age limit in the youth justice system is 17 years at the time of the offence; however, some young people aged 18 and over are under youth justice supervision. Reasons for this may include their age at the time of the offence, or their vulnerability or immaturity. In Victoria, some young people aged 18–20 may also be sentenced to detention in a youth detention centre rather than in an adult prison (known as the 'dual track' system; for more information about the youth justice system, policies and programs in Victoria, see <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/youth-justice/states-territories/vic/>>).

As a result, almost one-third (32%) of young people under supervision on an average day in 2011–12 were aged 18 and older (Figure 2). This included more than half (55%) of young people in detention and almost one-third (30%) of those under community-based supervision (Table S120).

The majority (85%) of young people under supervision on an average day in Victoria in 2011–12 was male (Figure 2). The proportion of young people under supervision who were male was greater in detention (94%) than under community-based supervision (84%) (Figure 1).

Females under supervision tended to be younger than males, on average, with only 17% of females aged 18 and over compared with 35% of males.



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

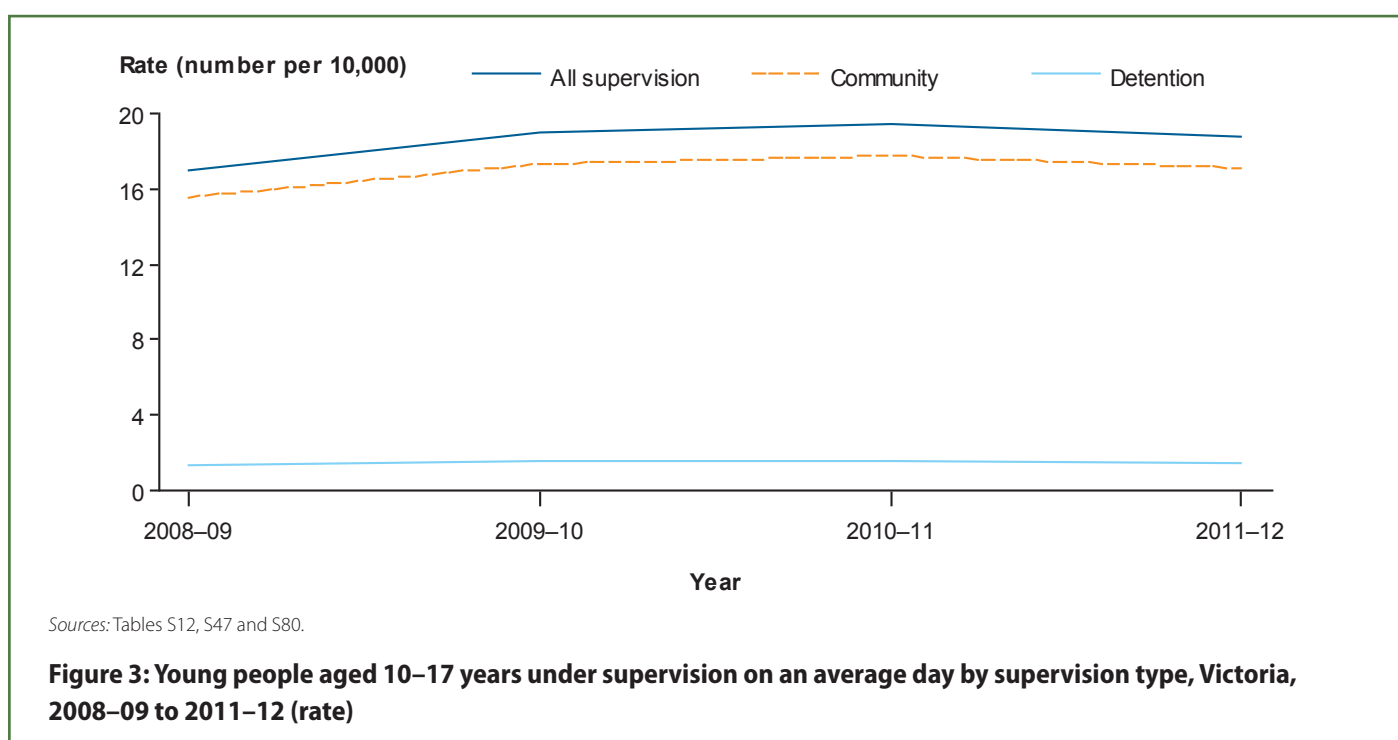
Despite forming only 1% of the Victorian population aged 10–17 (ABS 2009, 2012), around 15% of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day were Indigenous (Table S120). Indigenous young people made up 13% of young people under community-based supervision on an average day and 12% in detention (14% and 18%, respectively, among those aged 10–17).

Although Indigenous young people were over-represented in both community-based supervision and detention, the level of over-representation was higher in detention. An Indigenous young person aged 10–17 was 13 times as likely as a non-Indigenous young person to be under community-based supervision on an average day and almost 18 times as likely to be in detention (Table S121). This was slightly lower than the national levels of Indigenous over-representation in community-based supervision and detention (15 and 25 times the non-Indigenous rate, respectively) (tables S39 and S72).

## Recent trends: 2008–09 to 2011–12

Overall, the number of young people and rate of those aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day increased over the 4 years from 2008–09 to 2011–12 (Figure 3 and Table S11). The rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision increased overall, from 17 per 10,000 in 2008–09 to about 19 per 10,000 in 2011–12 (Figure 3). The number of young people under supervision increased by 7%—from 1,393 in 2008–09 to 1,485 in 2011–12.

The number of young people and rate of those aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day in Victoria increased slightly from 2008–09 to 2011–12 (from 1,260 to 1,316 and from 16 to 17 per 10,000, respectively) (Table S46 and Figure 3). Similarly, the number and rate of young people in detention on an average day increased over the 4 years (from 136 to 172 and from 1.4 to 1.6 per 10,000 (Table S79 and Figure 3).



## Trends in sentenced and unsentenced detention

Young people may be in detention when they are unsentenced—that is, when they have been charged with an offence and are awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or when they have been found or pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. They may also be sentenced to a period of detention if proven guilty in a court.

In 2011–12, there was a greater number of young people in sentenced than unsentenced detention on an average day in Victoria (135 and 37, respectively) (Table S103). The number of young people in unsentenced detention on an average day was lowest in October 2011 (29 young people) and highest in February and March 2012 (45–46) (Table S102). The number in sentenced detention was higher in the first half of the financial year (July to December 2011, around 140–146 each month) and lower (around 118–133) during the second half.

Over the 4 years to 2011–12, the number of young people in sentenced detention increased (from 94 to 135) (Table S103). Conversely, the number in unsentenced detention decreased (from 42 to 37).

## References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2009. Indigenous population projections by age and sex at 30 June 2009: unpublished projections for the Indigenous population based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing data (Series B). Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2012. Population by age and sex at 31 December 2011: unpublished estimates. Canberra: ABS.


### Box 1: Youth justice supervision fact sheets

This is one of a series of fact sheets on youth justice supervision in 2011–12 published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). These fact sheets can be downloaded for free from the AIHW website at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/youth-justice/>.

The supplementary data tables (those with a prefix of S) referred to in this fact sheet accompany the bulletin *Youth justice in Australia 2011–12: an overview*, and can be downloaded from <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129543149&tab=3>.

Technical and data quality information, including definitions of key terms used in this fact sheet, is available from <http://www.aihw.gov.au/youth-justice/data-quality/>.

For more information about young people under youth justice supervision, see <http://www.aihw.gov.au/youth-justice/>.

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