



Queensland: overview of youth justice supervision in 2011–12



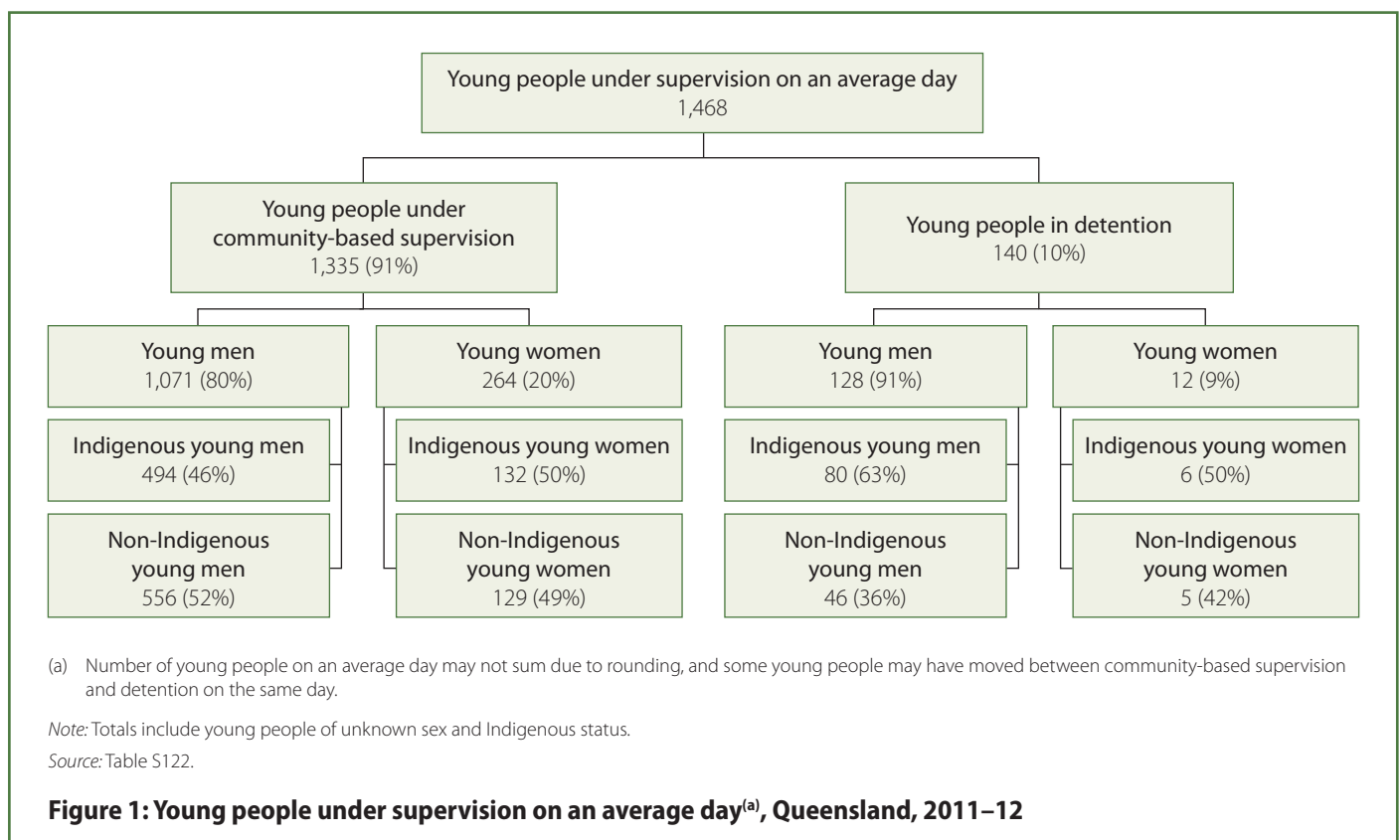
This fact sheet focuses on youth justice supervision in Queensland during 2011–12.

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

Among the 1,468 young people under supervision on an average day in Queensland in 2011–12, most (91%) were under community-based supervision and 10% were in detention (young people may have moved between community-based supervision and detention on the same day) (Figure 1).

There were 28 young people aged 10–17 years per 10,000 in the population under supervision in Queensland on an average day in 2011–12 (Table S123). Young people were almost 9 times as likely to be under community-based supervision on an average day as in detention (rates of 25 and 2.9 per 10,000, respectively).

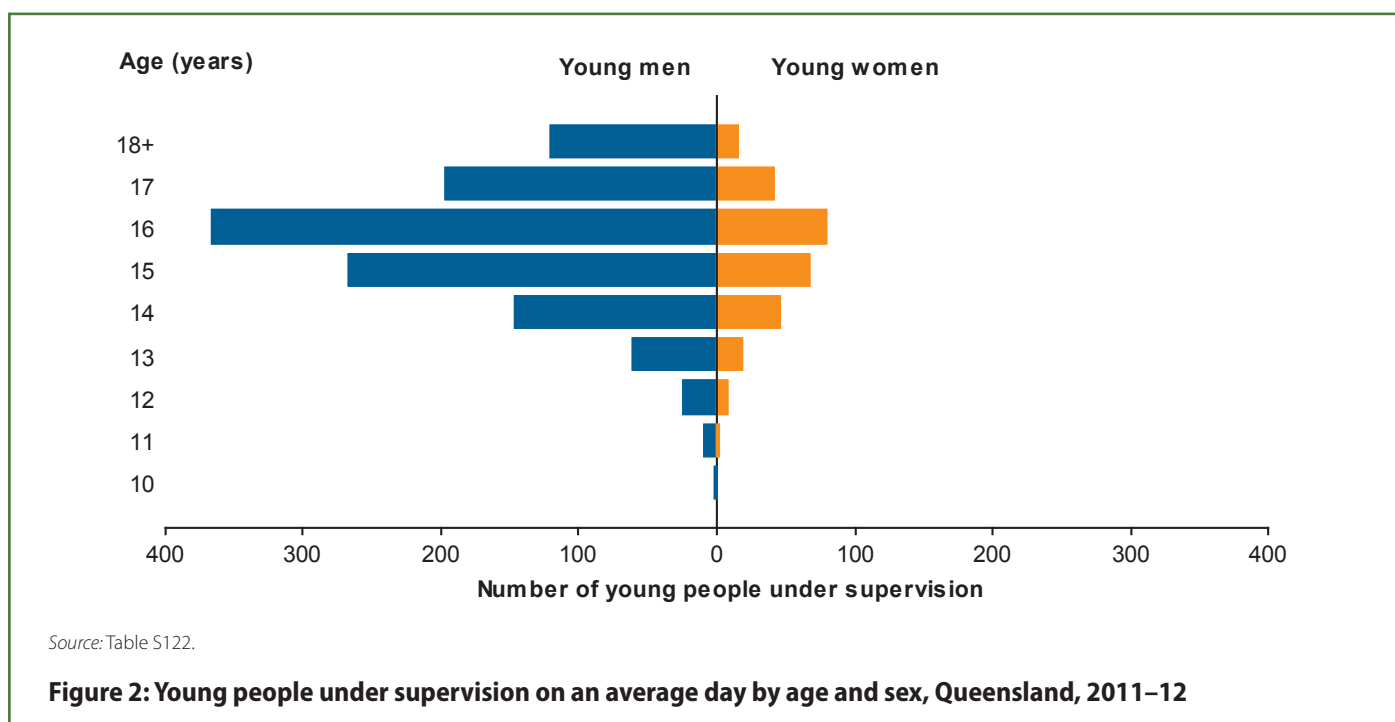


Age and sex

The majority of young people under supervision on an average day in Queensland was male (81%), with a higher proportion of males in detention than under community-based supervision (91% and 80%, respectively) (Table S122). This was similar to the distribution of males and females under supervision nationally.

Young people under supervision in Queensland were younger, on average, than those in other states and territories. Three in four (75%) young people under supervision on an average day in Queensland were aged 10–16, compared with 44–66% among all other states and territories (Table S1). This is partly due to legislative differences as, in Queensland, young people who are aged 10–16 at the time of the offence are processed in the youth justice system (compared with those aged 10–17 in other states and territories). However, young people in Queensland may be aged 17 years or older by the time their court matter or sentence is finalised. More information on the age limits for youth justice supervision is available from <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/youth-justice>>.

Males under supervision in Queensland tended to be slightly older than females, on average, with 10% of males aged 18 and over, compared with about 5% of females (Figure 2).



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

Although only about 6% of young people aged 10–17 in Queensland are Indigenous (ABS 2009, 2012), Indigenous young people made up half (50%) of those aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision on an average day (Table S122).

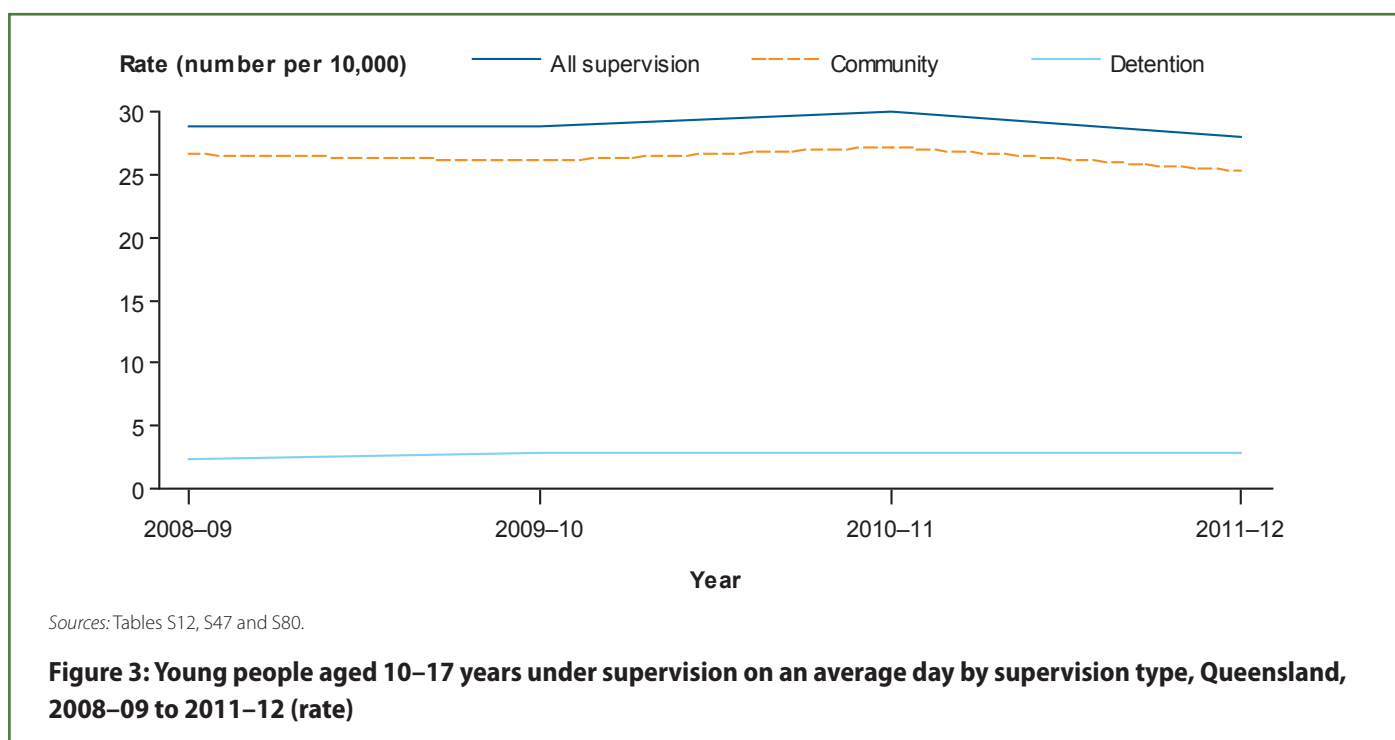
In 2011–12, Indigenous young people were about 15 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision, with rates of 220 and 14 young people per 10,000, respectively (Table S123). Indigenous over-representation (as measured by the rate ratio) was greater in detention (26 times as likely) than in community-based supervision (15 times).

Recent trends: 2008–09 to 2011–12

The rate of young people under supervision in Queensland on an average day remained relatively stable over the 4 years to 2011–12, with a high of 30 young people per 10,000 aged 10–17 under supervision in 2010–11, and a low of 28 per 10,000 in 2011–12 (Figure 3).

Overall, from 2008–09 to 2011–12, there was a slight decrease in the rate of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day (from almost 27 to about 25 per 10,000, respectively), while the rate of young people in detention increased slightly (from 2.3 to 2.9 young people per 10,000, respectively). This differed slightly from the national trends: nationally, there was little change in the rates of young people on an average day either under community-based supervision (about 22–23 per 10,000) or in detention (3.5–3.7 per 10,000) over the 4-year period (tables S47 and S80).

Over this time, the overall level of Indigenous over-representation increased slightly from 14 to 15 times the non-Indigenous rate, due to a greater decrease in the non-Indigenous than the Indigenous rate (Table S12). This trend occurred in the rates for community-based supervision (from 13 to 15 times) (Table S47). However, the level of Indigenous over-representation in detention decreased slightly over the period, from 27 to 26 times (Table S80).



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.

There were more young people in unsentenced detention than sentenced detention in Queensland on an average day in each month during 2011–12 (Table S102). The number of young people in unsentenced detention on an average day each month increased over the year, with the lowest number in August 2011 (82) and the highest in May 2012 (127). There were 39–62 young people in sentenced detention each month.

Over the 4 years to 2011–12, the number of young people in unsentenced detention on an average day increased overall (from 78 to 101), while the number in sentenced detention remained relatively stable (from 44 to 47) (Table S103). The increase in unsentenced detention occurred among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people.

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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