



# South Australia: overview of youth justice supervision in 2011–12



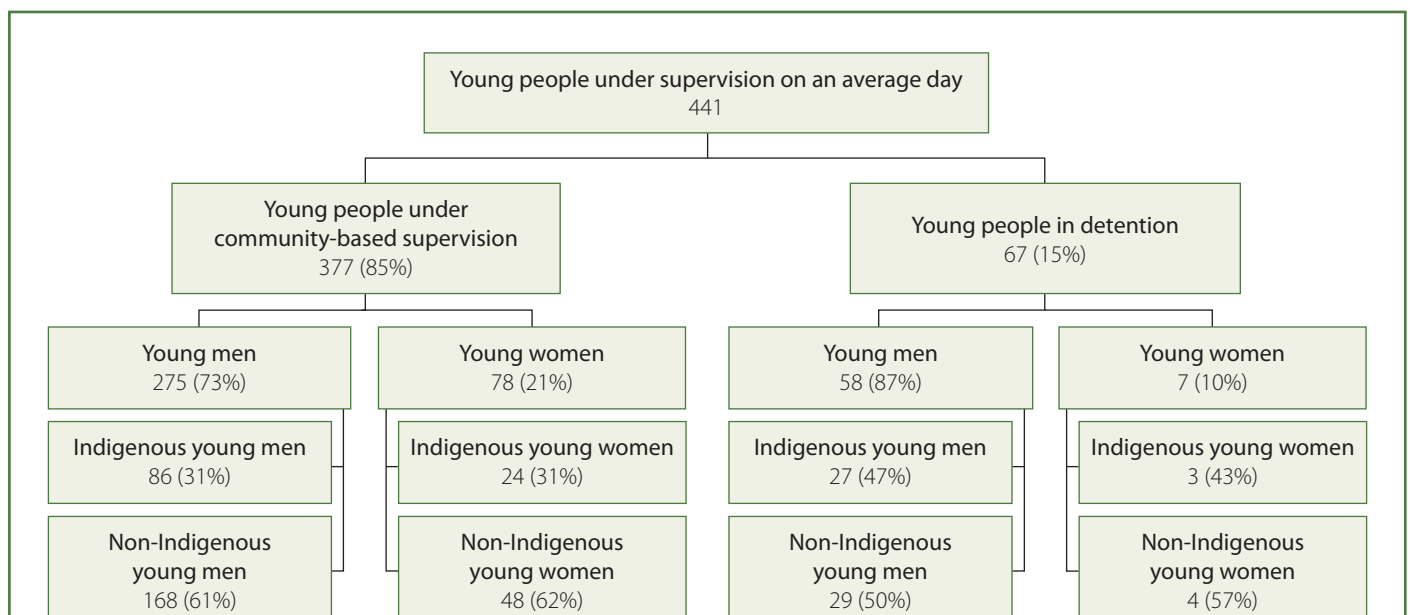
This fact sheet focuses on youth justice supervision in South Australia during 2011–12.

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

There were 441 young people under supervision on an average day in South Australia in 2011–12 (Figure 1). Most (85%) young people were under community-based supervision and 15% were in detention.

The rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day was 23 per 10,000 in the population, comprising 20 per 10,000 under community-based supervision and 3.7 per 10,000 in detention (young people may have moved between community-based supervision and detention on the same day) (Table S125). This means that young people in South Australia were about 5 times as likely to be under community-based supervision as in detention on an average day.



(a) Number of young people on an average day may not sum due to rounding, and some young people may have moved between community-based supervision and detention on the same day.

Note: Totals include young people of unknown sex and Indigenous status.

Source: Table S124.

**Figure 1: Young people under supervision on an average day<sup>(a)</sup>, South Australia, 2011–12**

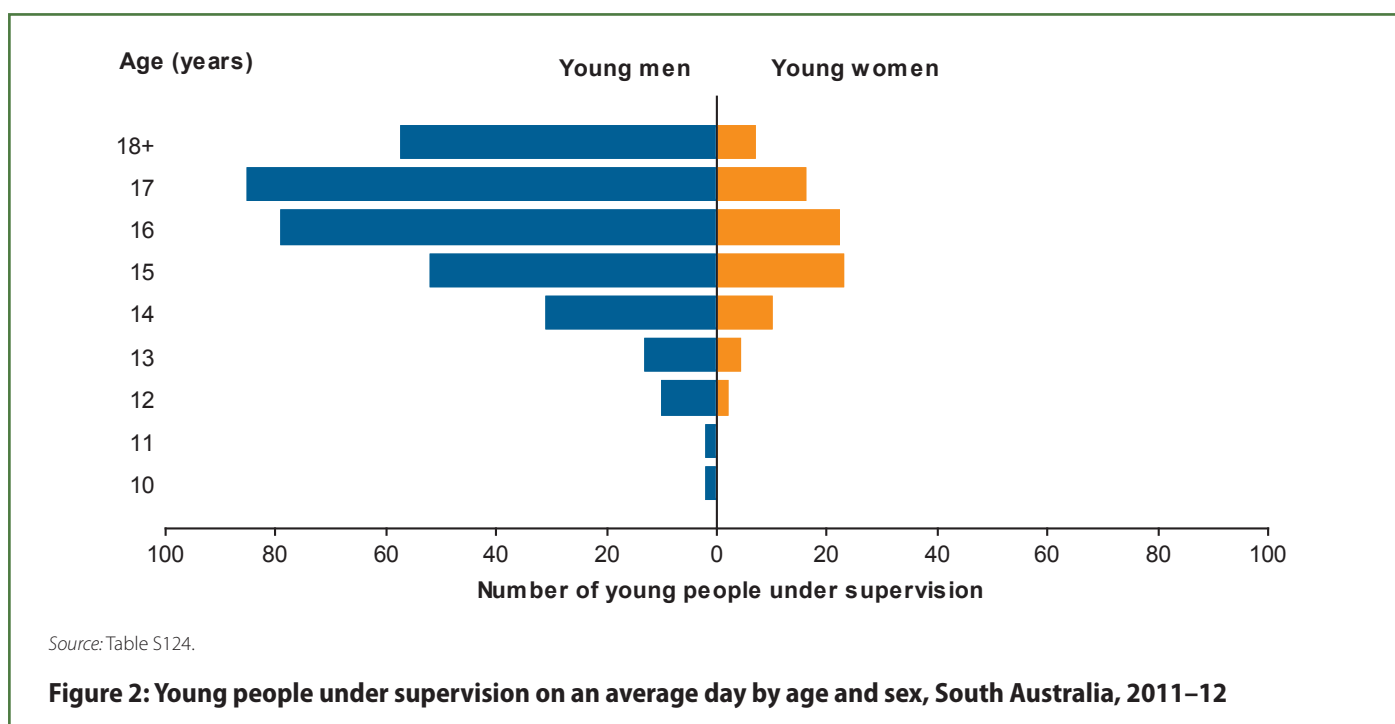
## Age and sex

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. More information on the age limits for youth justice supervision is available from <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/youth-justice>>.

Most (85%) young people under supervision on an average day in South Australia were aged 10–17 (Figure 2 and Table S124). This proportion was higher among young people in detention (90%) than under community-based supervision (83%). There were few young people in the younger age groups under supervision (7% aged 10–13). The rate of young people under supervision on an average day increased progressively with each year of age from 6.3 per 10,000 at age 12 to 53 per 10,000 at age 17 (rates were not available for young people aged 10 and 11 due to small numbers) (Table S125).

Three-quarters (75%) of young people under supervision on an average day in South Australia in 2011–12 were young men (Figure 2). This included about 7 males in 10 (73%) young people under community-based supervision and almost 9 in 10 (87%) in detention (Table S124). On an average day in 2011–12, males in South Australia were 3 times as likely as females to be under community-based supervision and almost 7 times as likely to be in detention (tables S39 and S72).

The age distribution for males and females under supervision was similar—about 8 in 10 were aged 15–18 (Table S124).



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

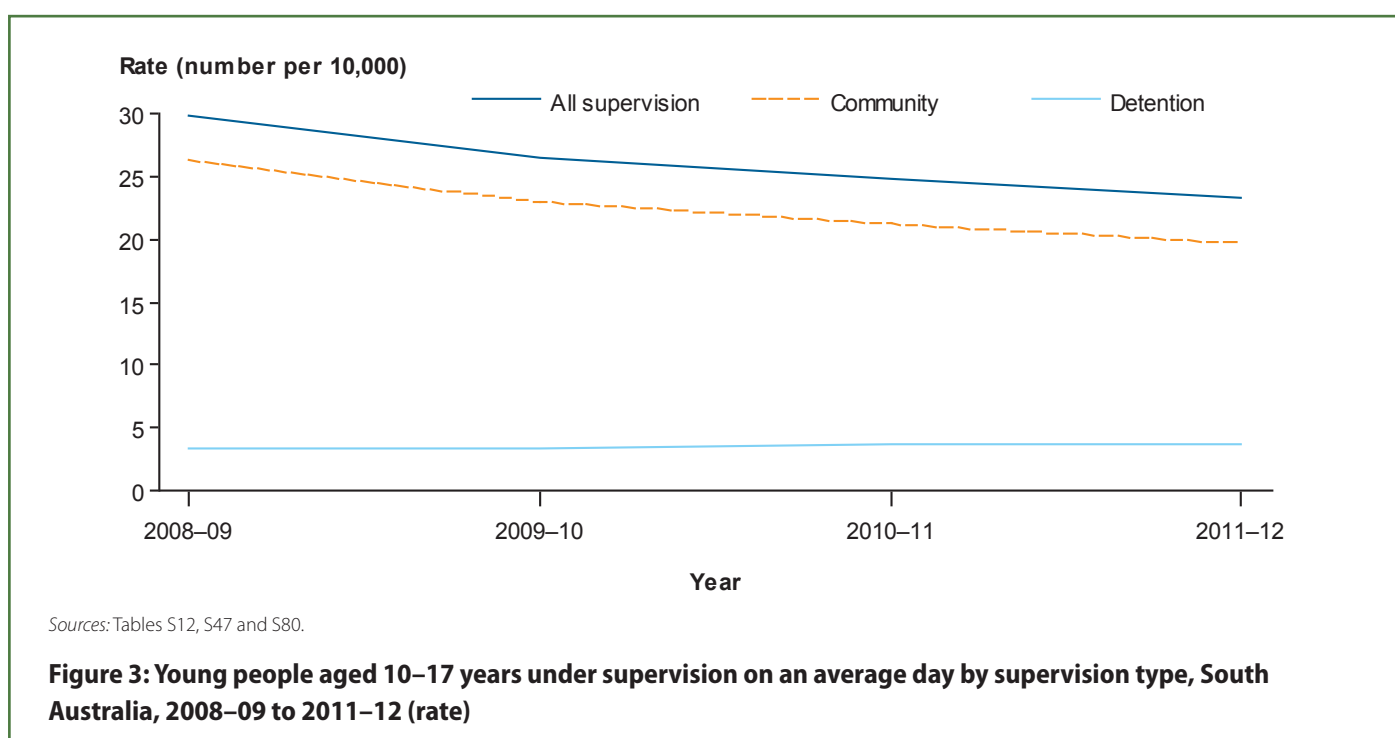
About one-third (33%) of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day in South Australia in 2011–12 were Indigenous (Table S124), despite constituting only 4% of those aged 10–17 in the South Australian population (ABS 2009, 2012).

The level of Indigenous over-representation was greater in detention than under community-based supervision. Indigenous young people aged 10–17 were 15 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under community-based supervision in 2011–12, and more than 24 times as likely to be in detention (Table S125). This was similar to the national level of 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

Between 2008–09 and 2011–12, the number of young people under supervision on an average day in South Australia decreased (from 623 to 441), along with the rate of those aged 10–17 (from 30 to 23 per 10,000) (Figure 3 and Table S11). This was driven by a substantial decrease in the rate under community-based supervision (from 26 to 20 young people aged 10–17 per 10,000). However, there was a slight increase in the rate in detention (from 3.4 to 3.7 per 10,000) over the same period. In comparison, at the national level, there was little change in the rates of young people either under community-based supervision on an average day (about 22–23 per 10,000) or in detention (3.5–3.7 per 10,000) (tables S47 and S80).

The level of Indigenous over-representation (as measured by the rate ratio) remained fairly stable between 2008–09 and 2010–11 at around 17 times the non-Indigenous rate, before declining to 16 in 2011–12. This was due to a relatively greater decrease in the rate of Indigenous young people under supervision compared with that of non-Indigenous young people.



## 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.

On an average day in 2011–12, there were more young people in unsentenced than sentenced detention in South Australia (48 and 20, respectively) (Table S103). Throughout the year, there were 39–54 young people in unsentenced detention on an average day each month, and 16–26 in sentenced detention (Table S102).

Over the 4 years to 2011–12, the number of young people in unsentenced detention on an average day increased (from 32 to 48), while the number in sentenced detention decreased (from 36 to 20) (Table S103). This was the case for 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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