



Tasmania: overview of youth justice supervision in 2011–12



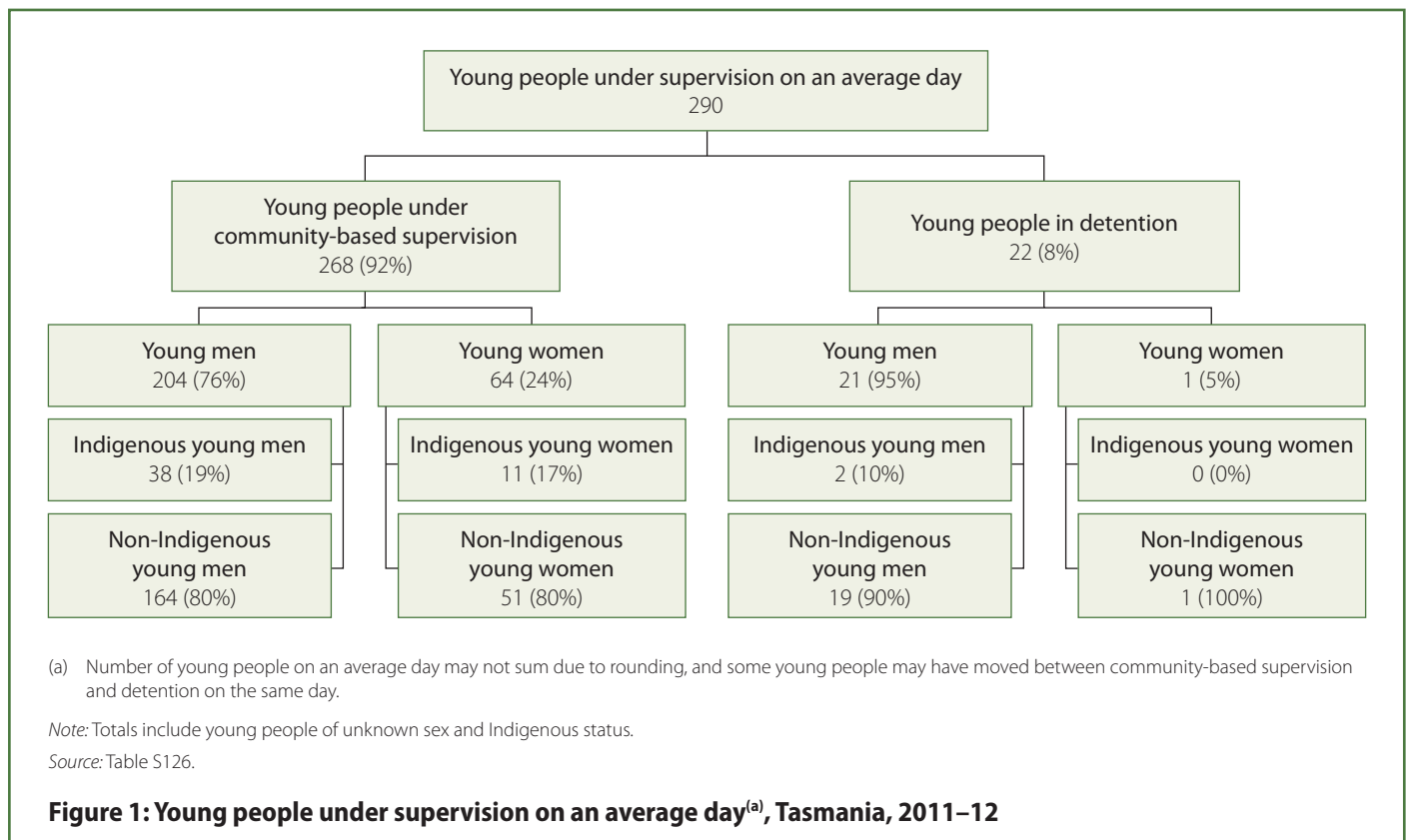
This fact sheet focuses on youth justice supervision in Tasmania during 2011–12.

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 290 young people under youth justice supervision in Tasmania on an average day (Figure 1). Just over 9 in 10 (92%) were supervised in the community, and almost 1 in 10 (8%) were in detention.

Tasmania had the highest overall rate of young people aged 10–17 years under supervision on an average day (40 per 10,000) among the states and territories for which data are available (Table S4). Tasmania had the highest rate of young people under community-based supervision (36 per 10,000) (Table S39), but only the third-highest rate in detention (3.9 per 10,000) (Table S72). In 2011–12, a young person aged 10–17 in Tasmania was 9 times as likely to be under community-based supervision as in detention on an average day (Table S127).

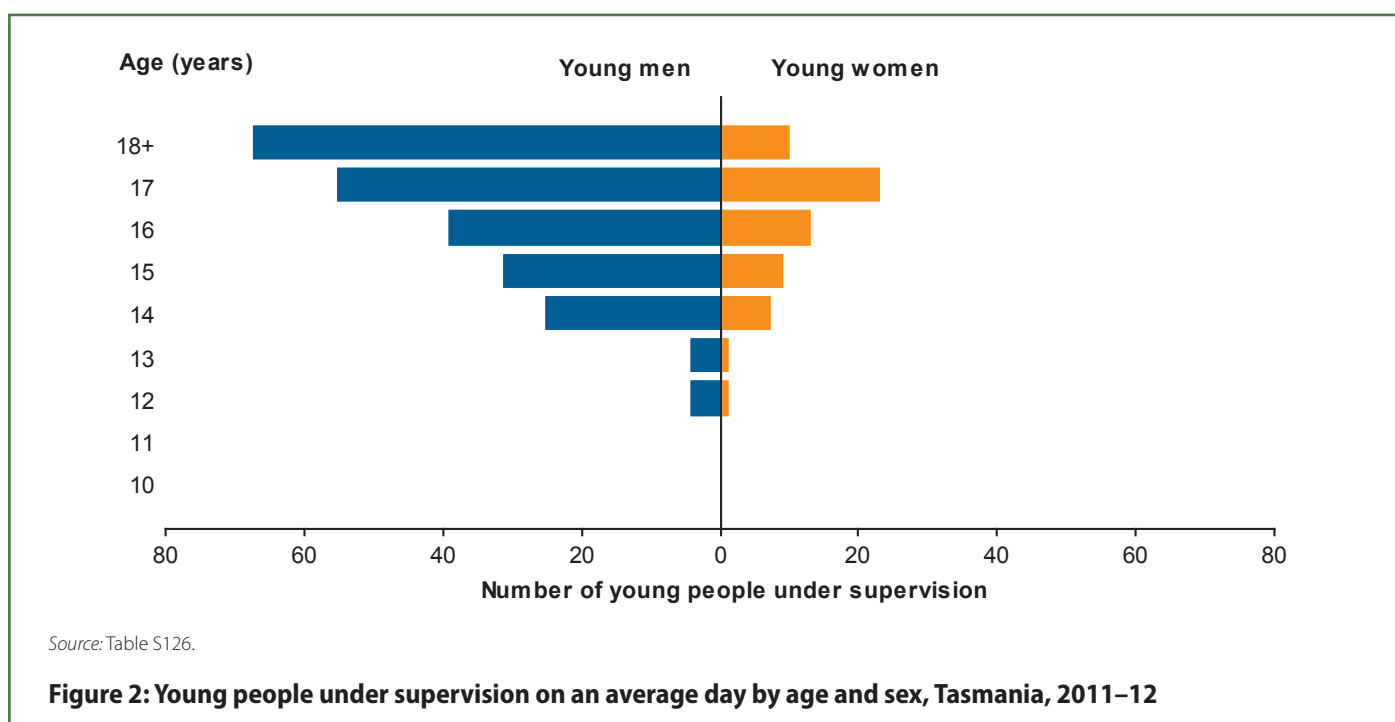


Age and sex

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>>.

On an average day in 2011–12, about three-quarters (73%) of young people under supervision in Tasmania were aged 10–17 and the remainder was aged 18 and over (Figure 2).

Almost 4 in 5 (78%) young people under supervision on an average day in Tasmania were male (Figure 2). This proportion was higher among young people in detention (95%) than under community-based supervision (76%) (Table S126). Females under supervision tended to be younger than males, on average—15% of females were aged 18 and over compared with 30% of males.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

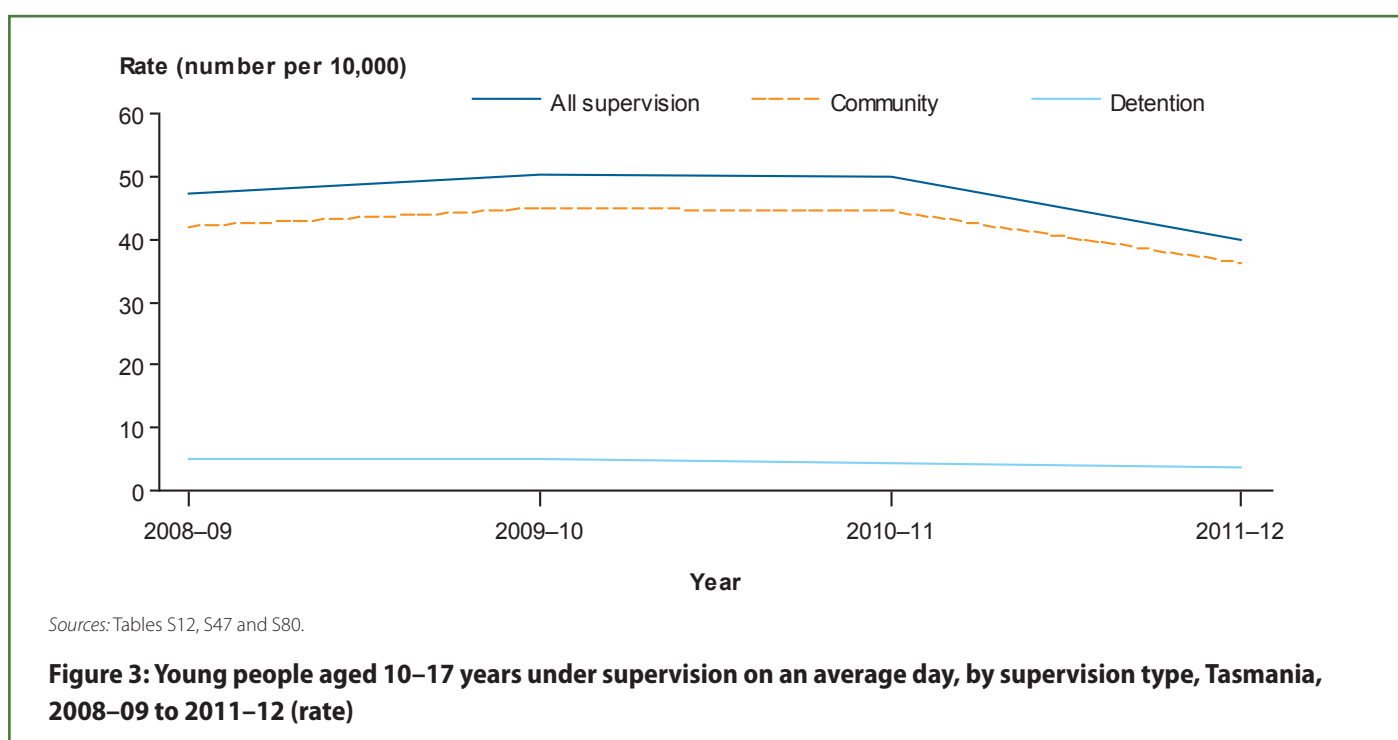
Although only about 7% of young people aged 10–17 in Tasmania are Indigenous (ABS 2009, 2012), about 14% of those aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision on an average day were Indigenous (Table S126).

On an average day in 2011–12, an Indigenous young person aged 10–17 was 2.3 times as likely to be under supervision as a non-Indigenous young person (Table S4). This rate of Indigenous over-representation was lower than for all the other states and territories for which data are available (from 14 to 19 times as likely). This was because Tasmania had a lower rate of Indigenous young people under supervision, and a higher rate of non-Indigenous young people under supervision, than all other states and territories.

Recent trends: 2008–09 to 2011–12

Between 2008–09 and 2011–12, there was an overall decrease in both the number of young people (of all ages) under supervision in Tasmania on an average day (from 329 to 290) and the rate of those aged 10–17 (from 47 to 40 per 10,000), which was driven by a decrease in the last 12 months (Figure 3 and Table S11). This decrease occurred for both community-based supervision (rates decreased from 42 to 36 per 10,000) and detention (from 5.2 to 3.9 per 10,000).

There was a decrease in the level of Indigenous over-representation on an average day (as measured by the rate ratio) over the 4 years to 2011–12, from 3.6 to 2.3 times the non-Indigenous rate (Table S12). This included a slight decrease in the level of over-representation under community-based supervision, from 3.2 to 2.4 (Table S47) and a larger decrease in detention, from 8.9 to 3.9 in 2010–11 (data are not available for 2011–12 due to small numbers of Indigenous young people in detention) (Table S80). This was in contrast to the national level of Indigenous over-representation: over the 4 years, there was an increase in the Indigenous rate ratio under community-based supervision (from 13 to 15), and little overall change in detention (about 23–25 each year) (tables S47 and 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.

In 2011–12, young people in unsentenced detention on an average day in Tasmania slightly outnumbered those in sentenced detention (14 compared with 9) (Table S103). This was true for all months of the year (Table S102). There were 8–11 sentenced young people on an average day each month, compared with 11–19 unsentenced 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 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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