



Australian Government

**Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare**

Child protection Australia 2012–13

CHILD WELFARE SERIES NO. 58



Australian Government

**Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare**

*Authoritative information and statistics
to promote better health and wellbeing*

CHILD WELFARE SERIES

Number 58

Child protection Australia

2012–13

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Canberra

Cat. no. CWS 49

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is a major national agency which provides reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. The Institute's mission is authoritative information and statistics to promote better health and wellbeing.

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2014



This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 3.0 (CC-BY 3.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build upon this work. However, you must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder of the work in compliance with our attribution policy available at <www.aihw.gov.au/copyright/>. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/>>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to the Head of the Digital Communications and Media Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601.

This publication is part of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Child Welfare series. A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Institute's website <www.aihw.gov.au>.

ISSN 1320-081X

ISBN 978-1-74249-603-0

Suggested citation

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2014. Child protection Australia: 2012–13. Child Welfare series no.58. Cat. no.CWS 49. Canberra: AIHW.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Board Chair
Dr Andrew Refshauge

Director
David Kalisch

Any enquiries about or comments on this publication should be directed to:

Digital Communications and Media Unit
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
GPO Box 570
Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6244 1032
Email: info@aihw.gov.au

Published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

This publication is printed in accordance with ISO 14001 (Environmental Management Systems) and ISO 9001 (Quality Management Systems). The paper is sourced from sustainably managed certified forests.



Please note that there is the potential for minor revisions of data in this report. Please check the online version at <www.aihw.gov.au> for any amendments.

Contents

- Acknowledgments..... v**
- Abbreviations..... vi**
- Summary viii**
- 1 Introduction.....1**
 - 1.1 Child Protection National Minimum Data Set.....1
 - 1.2 Child protection overview2
 - 1.3 Child protection data components7
- 2 Children receiving child protection services10**
 - 2.1 Overview and key statistics.....10
 - 2.2 Child protection services received.....11
 - 2.3 Characteristics of child protection clients.....13
- 3 Notifications, investigations and substantiations16**
 - 3.1 Overview and key statistics.....16
 - 3.2 Cases and the children involved.....18
 - 3.3 National trends.....27
- 4 Care and protection orders33**
 - 4.1 Overview and key statistics.....33
 - 4.2 Types of orders issued.....35
 - 4.3 Children and orders.....35
 - 4.4 National trends.....41
- 5 Out-of-home care.....45**
 - 5.1 Overview and key statistics.....45
 - 5.2 Children.....47
 - 5.3 National trends.....53
- 6 Carers.....57**
 - 6.1 Overview and key statistics.....57
 - 6.2 Foster carer households58
 - 6.3 Relative/kinship carer households60
- 7 Intensive family support services62**
 - 7.1 Overview and key statistics.....62
 - 7.2 Children commencing services62
- Appendix A Detailed tables65**

Children receiving child protection services.....	65
Notifications, investigations and substantiations.....	69
Care and protection orders	84
Out-of-home care	96
Foster and relative/kinship carers.....	103
Intensive family support services	105
National trend data.....	106
Population data	112
Appendix B Technical notes.....	115
Population data	115
Age	116
Average and median.....	117
Identification of Indigenous status	117
Points of analysis.....	118
Appendix C Data quality statement: Child Protection National Minimum Data Set.....	120
Summary of key issues.....	120
Glossary.....	126
References.....	134
List of tables	138
List of figures	142
Related publications	144

Acknowledgments

The authors of this report were Kristy Raithel and Rachel Kilo. Sam Chambers, Arianne Schlumpp, Tim Beard, Pamela Kinnear and members of the Child Welfare and Prisoner Health Unit provided valuable input and feedback.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare would also like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the technical experts from each jurisdiction. Thanks are extended to the state and territory departments that provided data for this report:

- Department of Family and Community Services, New South Wales
- Department of Human Services, Victoria
- Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Queensland
- Department for Child Protection and Family Support, Western Australia
- Department for Education and Child Development, South Australia
- Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania
- Community Services Directorate, Australian Capital Territory
- Department of Children and Families, Northern Territory.

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CDSMAC	Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CP NMDS	Child Protection National Minimum Data Set
IRSAD	Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage
NCSIIA	National Community Services Information Infrastructure Agreement
NFIWG	National Framework Implementation Working Group
NMDS	National Minimum Data Set
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SCCDSAC	Standing Council on Community and Disability Services Advisory Council
SCCDS	Standing Council on Community and Disability Services
SCRGSP	Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
SEIFI	Socio-Economic Index for Individuals
Tas	Tasmania
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

Symbols

–	nil or rounded to zero
..	not applicable
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not publishable because of small numbers, confidentiality or other concerns about the quality of the data

Technical Notes

1. Percentages in tables may exclude unknowns.
2. Percentages in tables may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Summary

Child protection Australia 2012–13 is the seventeenth annual comprehensive report on child protection. This report represents a significant milestone in national child protection reporting, as it is the first time that unit-record level data have been available for analysis and reporting. This has allowed the inclusion in the report, for the first time, of a number of previously unavailable analyses – specifically, unique counts of children receiving child protection services in each jurisdiction; the number of substantiations per child; co-occurring types of abuse and neglect; socioeconomic status; and ‘average day’ measures. As in previous years, the report also includes detailed statistical information on state and territory child protection and support services, and some of the characteristics of the children receiving these services. Key findings are outlined below.

135,000 children receiving child protection services

- In 2012–13 there were 135,000 children, a rate of 26.1 per 1,000 children, receiving child protection services (investigation, care and protection order and/or in out-of-home care).
- More than half (56%) of these children were subject only to an investigation (that is, they were not subsequently placed on an order or in out-of-home care) and 8% were involved in all 3 components of the system.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to be over-represented

- In 2012–13, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were 8 times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be receiving child protection services (150.9 per 1,000 children compared with 18.5 for non-Indigenous children).

Increasing numbers of children in substantiations, on care and protection orders and in out-of-home care

- Between 2010–11 and 2012–13 there was a 29% increase in the number of children who were the subjects of substantiations, rising from 31,527 in 2010–11 to 40,571 in 2012–13, reversing the previous downward trend between 2008–09 and 2010–11.
- From 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013, the rate of children aged 0–17 on orders increased from 7.0 to 8.2 per 1,000.
- The rate of Australian children in out-of-home care at 30 June increased between 2009 and 2013 – from 6.7 to 7.8 per 1,000.

Characteristics of children who were the subjects of substantiations

- Most children (42%) who were the subjects of substantiations were from the areas of lowest socioeconomic status.
- One in 5 children were the subjects of more than 1 substantiation in 2012–13.

Emotional abuse and neglect the most common types of abuse/neglect

- Emotional abuse and neglect were the most common primary types of substantiated abuse and neglect. They were also the most likely types of co-occurring abuse or neglect, with an average co-occurrence of around 27% each.

Over 23,000 households are authorised to provide foster or relative/kinship care

- On an average day in 2012–13, there were 23,354 households approved/authorised to provide funded out-of-home care placements. Most of these households were approved/authorised to provide foster or relative/kinship care

1 Introduction

1.1 Child Protection National Minimum Data Set

Over the past few years, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), with dedicated national resources made available through the Australian Government, has worked with all jurisdictions to develop a new Child Protection National Minimum Data Set (CP NMDS) for reporting on child protection. This NMDS, launched in 2013, replaces the existing collection of aggregated data, and for the first time allows for analysis at the child level (unit record)

The establishment of a national unit record data collection is a significant milestone substantially improving the quality of information available on child protection, which will benefit national reporting and research. It provides a more comprehensive and accurate picture of children within the statutory child protection system in Australia than has been previously available. The implementation of the CP NMDS marks a large step towards improving the comparability of child protection data across jurisdictions, and positions Australia alongside only a handful of other countries with this type of national resource to support the monitoring of child protection programs and policies.

This report presents findings from the latest national data on child protection, including new analyses included for the first time in this report (see Box 1.1 for a summary).

Box 1.1 New analyses included in this report

The following new national analyses have been included for the first time in this report:

- Unique counts of children receiving child protection services during the year, including the components of services received and breakdowns by Indigenous status and age (Chapter 2). Children may receive a combination of child protection services and as such there are links and overlaps between the data for the notification, investigation and substantiation; care and protection order; and out-of-home care data collections. Previously, these were reported only as separate collections. This report includes, for the first time, analyses relating to unique children *across* the three areas.
- Children in finalised investigations by outcome (Figure 3.2). Previously, this was reported for the number of finalised investigations (cases).
- The number of substantiations per child, indicating the proportion of children who were involved in multiple statutory child protection cases during the year (Table 3.2).
- Co-occurring types of abuse and neglect, indicating the number of cases where more than one type of abuse or neglect was substantiated (Table 3.3).
- Socioeconomic status, indicating the level of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage for children at the point of notification (Figure 3.5).
- 'Average day' measures for children on orders (Box 4.1, Table A15) or in out-of-home care (Box 5.1, Table A25) and for carer households approved/authorised to provide funded out-of-home care placements (Table 6.1). Average day measures are calculated by summing the number of days each person was subject to the same event during the year and dividing this total by the number of days in the financial year. This provides a view of the data that accounts for each day during the year.

1.2 Child protection overview

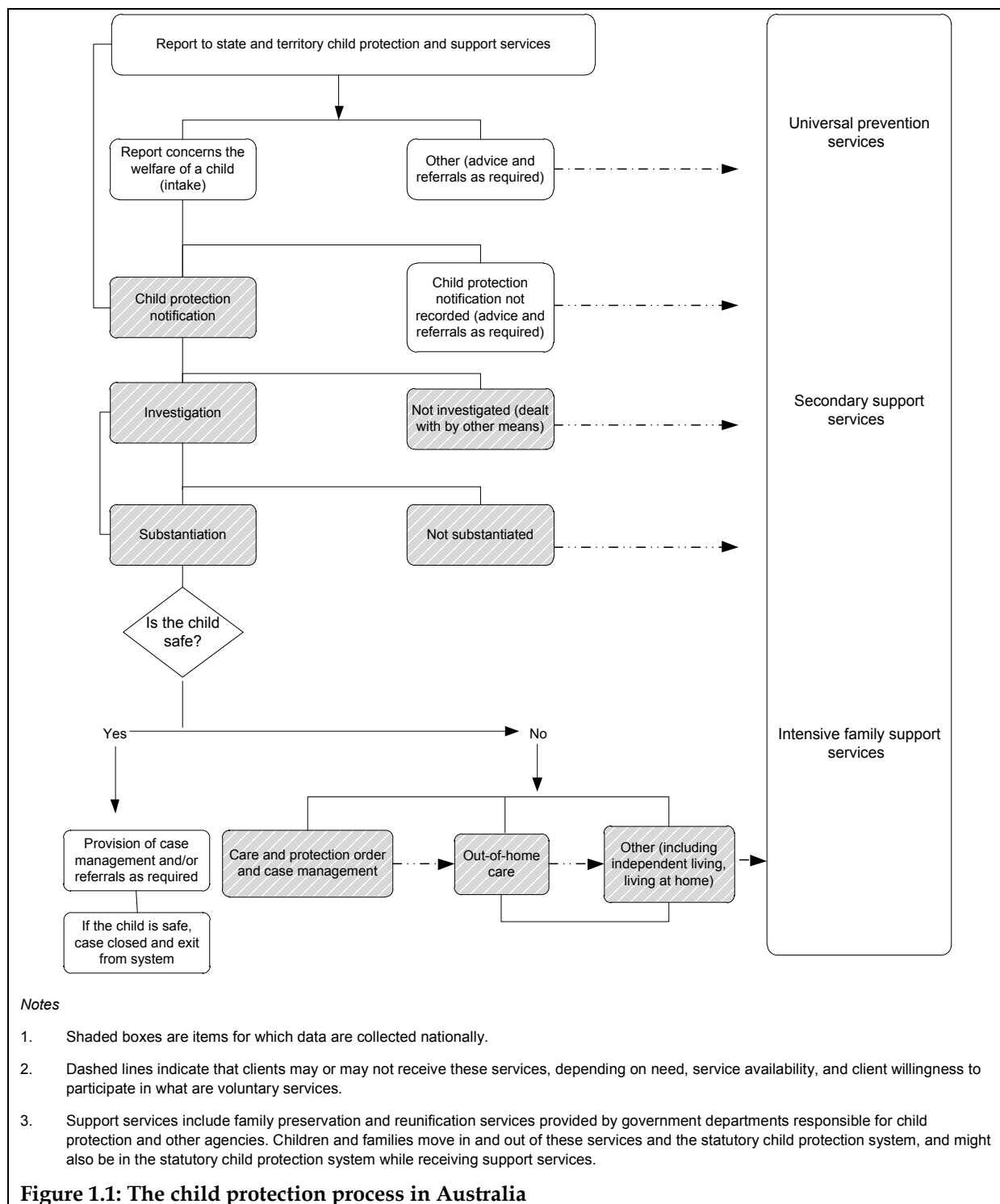
In Australia, statutory child protection is the responsibility of state and territory governments. Each state and territory department responsible for child protection provides assistance to vulnerable children who have been, or are at risk of being, abused, neglected, or otherwise harmed, or whose parents are unable to provide adequate care or protection. Children and young people are defined as those aged less than 18. This includes unborn children in jurisdictions where they are covered under the child protection legislation.

A number of government and non-government organisations share a common duty of care towards the protection of children and young people. Departments responsible for child protection investigate, process and oversee the handling of child protection cases. Assistance is provided to children and their families through the provision of, or referral to, a wide range of services.

The national recurrent expenditure on child protection and out-of-home care services was about \$3.2 billion in 2012–13, a real increase of \$177.5 million (5.8%) from 2011–12 (SCRGSP 2014).

Child protection processes

Across Australia, the broad processes in child protection systems are similar. A simplified version of the main processes used is shown in Figure 1.1. These processes are outlined in more detail in this chapter.



Child protection intake processes

Child concern reports

Children in need of protection can come into contact with departments responsible for child protection through a number of avenues. Reports of concern about a child may be made by community members; professionals (for example, police or health practitioners); organisations; the children themselves; their parent(s); or another relative. These reports may

relate to abuse and neglect or to broader family concerns, such as economic problems or social isolation.

Child protection intake services across jurisdictions screen incoming reports to determine whether further action is required. The defined threshold for intervention varies across jurisdictions and this can lead to jurisdictional differences in the responses taken to initial reports. Reports that are deemed to require further action are generally classified as either a 'family support issue' or a 'child protection notification'.

Reports classified as requiring family support are further assessed and may be referred to support services. The national child protection data collection does not include those reports that are not classified as child protection notifications.

Child protection statutory processes

Notifications, investigations and substantiations

Child protection notifications are assessed to determine whether an investigation is required; if referral to support services is more appropriate; or if no further protective action is necessary. The aim of an investigation is to obtain more detailed information about a child who is the subject of a notification and to determine whether the notification is 'substantiated' or 'not substantiated'. A substantiation indicates there is sufficient reason (after an investigation) to believe the child has been, is being, or is likely to be, abused, neglected or otherwise harmed. The relevant department will then attempt to ensure the safety of the child or children through an appropriate level of continued involvement, including the provision of support services to the child and family.

Care and protection orders

In situations where further intervention is required, the department may apply to the relevant court to place the child on a care and protection order. Court is usually a last resort – for example, where the families are unable to provide safe care, where other avenues for resolution of the situation have been exhausted, or where the extended family is unable to provide safe alternatives for care of children. The level of departmental involvement mandated by a care and protection order will vary depending on the type of order. (Refer to Box 4.2 for the national categories of care and protection orders.)

Out-of-home care

Box 5.2 outlines the national categories for types of out-of-home care. Some children are placed in out-of-home care because they were the subject of a child protection substantiation and require a more protective environment. Other situations in which a child may be placed in out-of-home care include those where parents are incapable of providing adequate care for the child, or where alternative accommodation is needed during times of family conflict. However, there are no national data available on the reasons children are placed in out-of-home care.

Out-of-home care is considered an intervention of last resort, with the current emphasis being to keep children with their families wherever possible. Where children, for various reasons, need to be placed in out-of-home care, the practice is to attempt to reunite children with their families. If it is necessary to remove a child from his or her family, then placement within the wider family or community is preferred. This is particularly the case with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, in order to be consistent with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle (see Section 5.2).

Family support services

At any point in the child protection process, departments may refer children and their families to family support services. Family support services can include programs that seek to prevent the occurrence of family dysfunction and child maltreatment, that provide treatment, support and advice to families, and more intensive programs to assist the most vulnerable families (COAG 2009). Family support services may be used instead of, or as a complementary service to, a statutory child protection response. Examples include parenting and household skills development; therapeutic care; and family reunification services. Information on intensive family support services (one type of treatment and/or support service) can be found in Chapter 7.

Child protection policies and practices

Child protection policies and practices are under continual development. In recent years there has been increasing national focus on early intervention and family support services to help prevent families entering or re-entering the child protection system and to help minimise the need for more intrusive interventions (AIFS: Holzer & Bromfield 2008). Cross-departmental strategies have also been introduced in a number of jurisdictions. These strategies attempt to assist families in a more holistic way, by coordinating service delivery and providing better access to different types of child and family services.

Jurisdictional policy context

Although the processes used by each jurisdiction to protect children are broadly similar (AIFS: Bromfield & Higgins 2005; Figure 1.1), there are some important differences between jurisdictions' child protection policies and practices that should be taken into account when making comparisons across jurisdictions. Key differences across jurisdictional policy are briefly discussed here. Further details relating to each jurisdiction's policy and practice are in [Appendixes D-I \(online\)](#).

Mandatory reporting

All jurisdictions have legislative requirements governing the reporting of suspected child abuse. In some jurisdictions, only those in selected professions are mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect, whereas in others anyone who suspects child abuse or neglect is legally obliged to report it to the appropriate authority. Commonwealth legislation (the *Family Law Act 1975*) also contains provisions mandating certain court personnel to report suspected incidences of child abuse. Further details about mandatory reporting requirements in each state and territory are in [Appendixes D-I \(online\)](#).

Notifications

The policies that provide the framework for assessing child protection notifications vary broadly across jurisdictions. For example, in some jurisdictions, notifications are 'caller-defined'; that is, all contacts to the authorised department regarding concerns for children (and child protection reports) are considered to be a notification. In other jurisdictions, notifications are 'agency-defined'. In these cases, the initial report is subject to an assessment and considered a notification only when the information received suggests that a child needs care or protection. This may result in higher levels of notifications being recorded in jurisdictions where notifications are 'caller-defined'.

Substantiation threshold

Thresholds for what is substantiated vary – some jurisdictions substantiate the harm or risk of harm to the child, and others substantiate actions by parents or incidents that cause harm. In considering harm to the child, the focus of the child protection systems in many jurisdictions has shifted away from the actions of parents to the outcomes for the child.

In addition to variation in policy at the jurisdictional level, the definition of what constitutes child abuse and neglect has also broadened at a national level over time (AIFS: Bromfield & Holzer 2008). These changes affect the comparability of data included in this report. Legislative, policy and definitional differences between jurisdictions and detailed information on recent policy and practices changes are outlined in [Appendixes D-I \(online\)](#).

National policy context

In consultation with the states and territories, the non-government sector, academics, carers and young people, the then Community and Disability Services Ministerial Advisory Committee (CDSMAC) developed the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020 (COAG 2009). The National Framework is underpinned by the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), and aims to ensure Australia's children are safe and well. As a measure of this outcome, a target of 'a substantial and sustained reduction in child abuse and neglect in Australia' has been set. There are 6 broad supporting outcome areas under the National Framework:

- Children live in safe and supportive communities
- Children and families access adequate support to promote safety and intervene early
- Risk factors for child abuse and neglect are addressed
- Children who have been abused or neglected receive the support and care they need for their safety and wellbeing
- Indigenous children are supported and safe in their families and communities
- Child sexual abuse and exploitation is prevented and survivors receive adequate support.

Twenty-nine indicators of change were originally developed to measure the extent to which the supporting outcomes are being achieved (COAG 2010). The third annual report to COAG, focusing on the status of the first 3-years of work underneath the Framework, was released in April 2013 (COAG 2013).

In the lead-up to the beginning of the second 3-year action plan, which commenced in mid-2012, the existing indicators were reviewed by the National Framework Implementation Working Group (NFIWG). A revised set of indicators was endorsed by Community and Disability Services ministers and is included in the second 3-year action plan (FaHCSIA 2012b). The operational definitions, primary data sources, data gaps and limitations for these indicators are outlined in a technical paper released in August 2013 (AIHW 2013a). Recommendations for new indicators and options for future reporting against the first supporting outcome have also been proposed (AIHW 2013b).

The second action plan builds on, and strengthens delivery of, the identified national priorities from the first action plan. The focus of the second plan is 'working together' across governments and non-government sectors to improve the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children. The implementation of the CP NMDS, on which the data in this report are based, is a specific action aimed at enhancing the evidence base. A number of dedicated data

development projects have also been undertaken which work towards achieving its goal. For example, national data linkage work has been explored (or is underway) in relation to treatment and support services; educational outcomes; and youth justice data. Additional consideration has been given to linking CP NMDS data with other relevant national collections such as disability and homelessness services. Other new priorities in the areas of early childhood; education; domestic and family violence; health and mental health; disability; sector development; and community and business will also be explored during the life of the second action plan (FaHCSIA 2012b).

Development and implementation of National Standards for Out-of-Home Care is another priority area under the second plan. These standards were designed to deliver consistency and drive improvements in the quality of care provided to children and young people (FaHCSIA 2011). Available data for a subset of measures were reported in the 2010–11 and 2011–12 annual reports to COAG on the National Framework (COAG 2013; FaHCSIA 2012a). Work is currently underway to progress a number of measures including the development of carer-related indicators and an indicator which captures safe reunification.

On 12 November 2012, the then Prime Minister, the Hon. Julia Gillard, MP, recommended the establishment of a Royal Commission into institutional responses to instances and allegations of child sexual abuse in Australia (Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2012). All governments support the Commonwealth Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Contexts. COAG agreed that it is a national priority to identify what further systemic responses are necessary to protect children from sexual abuse in institutional contexts and to ensure appropriate responses to any such abuse (COAG 2012). On 11 January 2013, the then Governor-General, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, appointed a six-member Royal Commission to investigate Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Royal Commission has been asked to prepare an interim report by 30 June 2014 (Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2012).

1.3 Child protection data components

Data sources

Data in this report are largely drawn from the new Child Protection National Minimum Data Set (CP NMDS), implemented for reporting from 2012–13. The use of this new data source has allowed several new analyses to be included in this report for the first time (see Box 1.1).

The CP NMDS consists of a range of files extracted from state and territory child protection administrative data sets according to nationally agreed definitions and technical specifications. The state and territory departments and the AIHW jointly fund the annual collation, analysis and publication of child protection data.

The AIHW, in collaboration with jurisdictions, annually reviews the national technical specifications and definitional materials associated with the CP NMDS. Any required changes are agreed to by the AIHW and the states and territories. The jurisdictions provide data to the AIHW across 7 broad components:

- notifications, investigations and substantiations
- care and protection orders
- out-of-home care

- foster carers
- relative/kinship carers
- intensive family support services
- national standards for out-of-home care.

For the first time, in 2012–13, data for these components have been based on unit record level data for all jurisdictions except Queensland and New South Wales. (Data from New South Wales and Queensland are based on aggregate data using the methodology from previous years.) Data were also supplied in aggregate format by other jurisdictions for tables where unit record data were not available. This includes all data relating to the use of intensive family support services for all jurisdictions.

National child protection data are analysed and published annually in:

- *Child protection Australia* (this report)
- the annual report on the progress of implementing the National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009–2020
- the Productivity Commission’s *Report on government services* (SCRGSP 2014). For all jurisdictions, except South Australia and Tasmania, data reported for 2012–13 in the *Report on government services 2014* were based on aggregate data supplied by jurisdictions. Data for South Australia and Tasmania were produced from the CP NMDS for that report.

Indigenous populations and associated rates presented in this report are based on an interim methodology, pending a more detailed analysis and consultation process currently being undertaken by AIHW. See Box 1.2 for details.

Box 1.2 Indigenous population and rates

Population projections and backcasting for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were recently revised based on the 2011 Census. The AIHW is currently undertaking an agency-wide analysis, including consultation with a range of data committees, regarding the impact of the revised Indigenous population projections. It is anticipated that this process will result in an agreed methodology for future reporting of Indigenous populations and their associated rates across all AIHW and other governments reports. Given that this process is not yet complete, this report utilises the methodology agreed as the most appropriate in the interim (see Appendix B for more information). Future iterations of this report will take into account the revised Indigenous population estimates – note that this will require some back-casting of trend data.

Scope and limitations of the CP NMDS

National child protection data are based on those cases reported to departments responsible for child protection and, therefore, are likely to understate the true prevalence of child abuse and neglect across Australia. Further, notifications made to other organisations, such as the police or non-government welfare agencies, are only included if these notifications were also referred to departments responsible for child protection.

For counts of children during the year, there may be some small level of double-counting due to inter-jurisdictional movement. Not all jurisdictions were able to supply unit record

level data for all tables included in this report. As such, some tables include aggregated data provided by jurisdictions. Footnotes have been included to identify tables where aggregate data are included.

The practices used to identify and record the Indigenous status of children in the child protection system vary across states and territories. Over the last few years, several jurisdictions have introduced measures to improve the identification of Indigenous clients (AIHW 2012). However, in some jurisdictions, the high proportion of children whose Indigenous status is unknown still affects the quality of data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Improvements to the quality of Indigenous identification in the national notifications, investigations and substantiations data set have affected the comparability of these data before 2009–10.

The data systems used by jurisdictions can be upgraded and changed between reporting cycles. Details regarding jurisdictions' data systems and any significant changes from the previous year are in [Appendixes D–I \(online\)](#).

2 Children receiving child protection services

2.1 Overview and key statistics

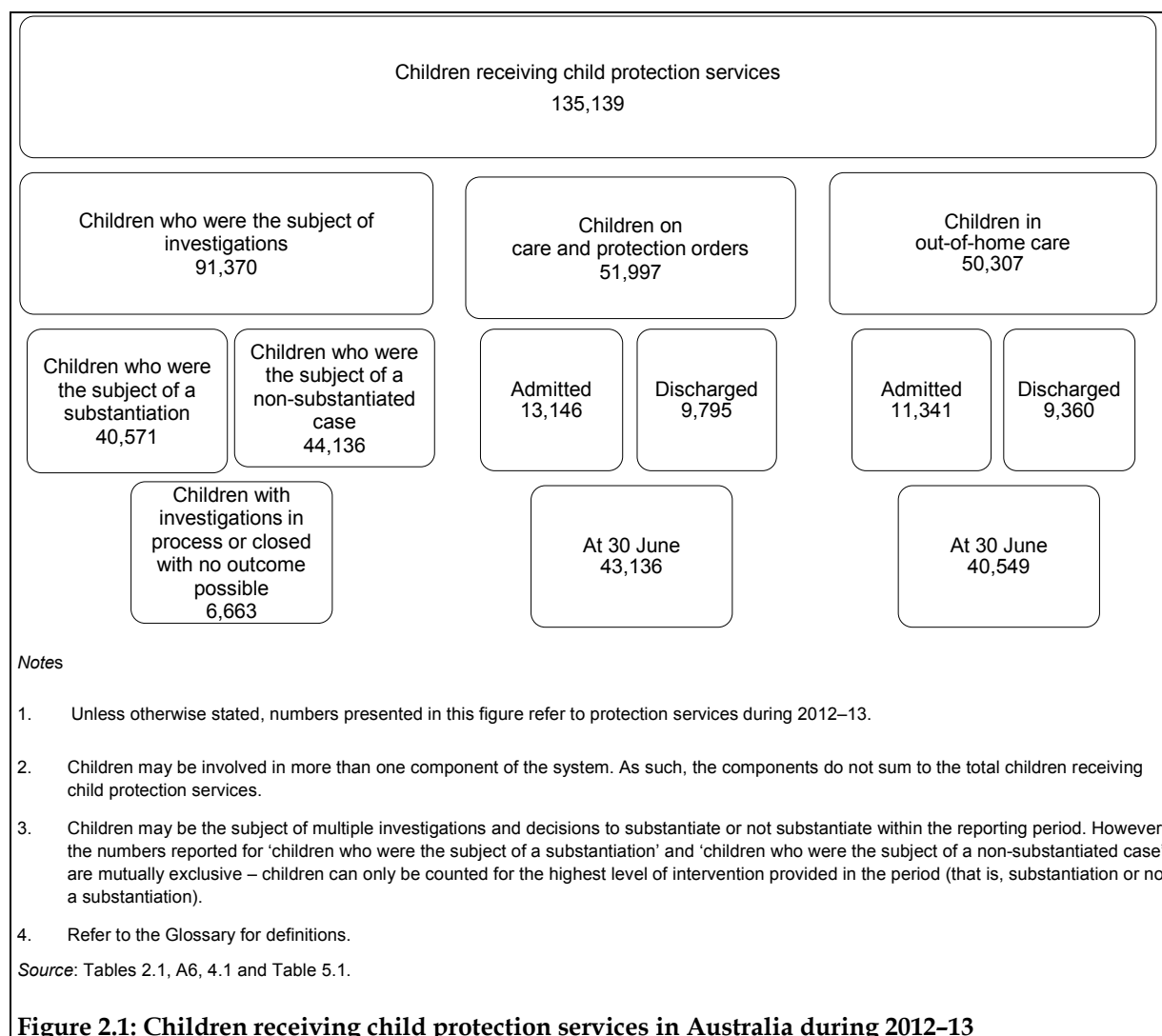
As noted in Chapter 1, there are a range of services that fall under the umbrella of child protection services; these services may be provided at any point in the child protection process. The availability of unit record level data, and the provision of selected aggregate tables by New South Wales and Queensland, has enabled a count of unique children receiving child protection services in each jurisdiction to be reported for the first time in 2012–13.

For the purpose of this section, children receiving child protection services are defined as those children who in the reporting period were:

- the subject of an investigation of a notification; and/or
- on a care and protection order; and/or
- in out-of-home care.

Children who were only the subject of a notification which was not subsequently investigated have not been included. This is because, apart from an initial risk assessment, it is expected that the department responsible for child protection would have a limited level of involvement with these children and their families. Children who only received intensive family support services have not been included in this section as unit record level data were not available. See Chapter 7 for information about children receiving intensive family support services.

In 2012–13, 135,139 children received child protection services – 91,370 were the subject of an investigation; 51,997 were on a care and protection order; and 50,307 were in out-of-home care (Figure 2.1).



2.2 Child protection services received

In 2012–13, 135,139 children received child protection services, a rate of 26.1 per 1,000 children aged 0–17 in the general population (Figure 2.1). Of these, 91,370 were the subject of an investigation (17.6 per 1,000), 51,997 were on a care and protection order (10.0 per 1,000) and 50,307 were in out-of-home care (9.7 per 1,000). These rates varied across jurisdictions (Table 2.1). Children may be involved in more than one component of the system. As such, the components do not sum to the total children receiving child protection services (see Figure 2.2 for the overlap of services received).

Children who were the subject of an investigation represent a large component of the analysis of unique children receiving services. It is worthwhile noting that the rate of children who were the subject of substantiation following investigation was substantially lower than those who were the subject of investigation – a rate of 7.8 per 1,000 children were the subject of substantiation in 2012–13 (see Table 3.4).

Table 2.1: Children receiving child protection services, states and territories, by number and number per 1,000 children, 2012–13

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
Children who were the subject of an investigation of a notification	32,859	17,476	21,254	9,688	3,675	1,729	1,577	3,112	91,370
Children on care and protection orders	18,659	10,790	10,920	4,962	3,216	1,497	844	1,109	51,997
Children in out-of-home care	20,069	9,416	10,362	4,271	3,095	1,298	765	1,031	50,307
Children receiving child protection services	48,399	27,272	30,389	13,657	6,380	2,947	2,215	3,880	135,139
Number per 1,000 children									
Children who were the subject of an investigation of a notification	19.8	14.0	19.4	17.1	10.3	15.0	19.0	49.5	17.6
Children on care and protection orders	11.3	8.6	10.0	8.7	9.0	13.0	10.2	17.6	10.0
Children in out-of-home care	12.1	7.5	9.4	7.5	8.7	11.3	9.2	16.4	9.7
Children receiving child protection services	29.2	21.9	27.7	24.1	17.9	25.6	26.6	61.7	26.1

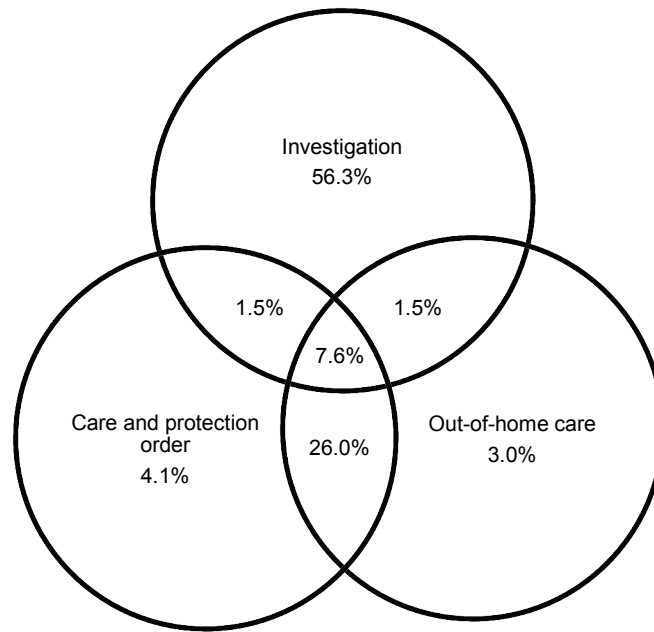
Notes

1. 'Children receiving child protection services' is defined as one or more of the following occurring within the reporting period: an investigation of a notification, being on a care and protection order, or being in out-of-home care. It is not a total count of these three areas; it is a count of unique children across the three areas.
2. Refer to Table A44 for the population data.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Children may receive a combination of child protection services and as such there are links and overlaps between the data for the notification, investigation and substantiation; care and protection orders; and out-of-home care data collections. For the first time, the overlap between the separate data collections has been analysed, drawing on unit record data from the majority of jurisdictions (and aggregate information specifically provided by NSW).

Figure 2.2 shows that just over half (56%) of children receiving child protection services during 2012–13 were the subject of an investigation only. One quarter (26%) of children were both on an order and in out-of-home care. Overall, 8% of children were involved in all 3 components of the system.



Source: Table A1.

Figure 2.2: Children receiving child protection services by components of service received, 2012-13

The CP NMDS will be used in future to provide more detailed analyses regarding the movement of children within the child protection system. For example, identifying children who are new clients and those returning to the child protection system; and the flow of children through the system, such as the number of children who are the subject of a substantiation who are subsequently placed on care and protection orders and/or in out-of-home care.

2.3 Characteristics of child protection clients

Box 2.1 describes recent development work undertaken to enable reporting of new and repeat child protection clients.

Box 2.1 Preliminary analysis of new and repeat clients

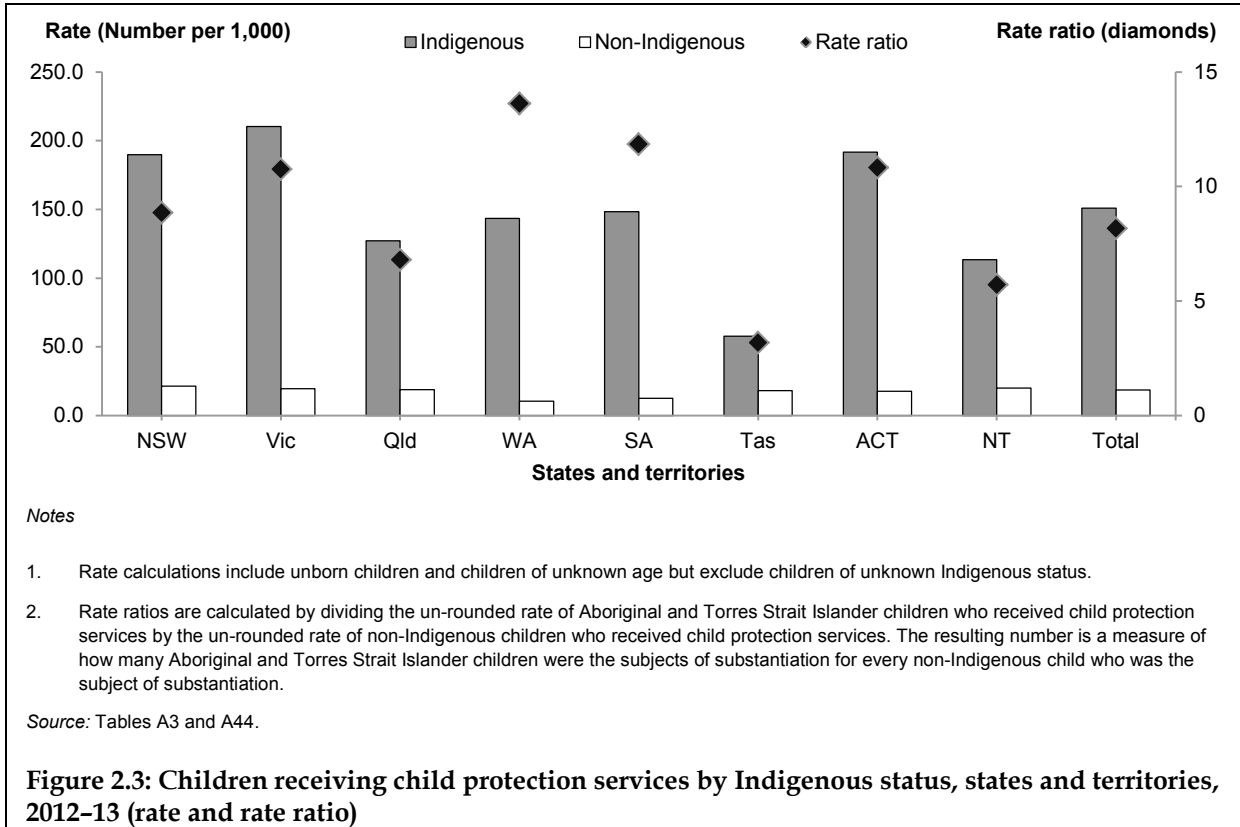
- 'New clients' are defined as those children or young people who have never previously been the subject of an investigation, any type of national care and protection order, or funded out-of-home care placement (excluding respite placements lasting less than 7 days) within the jurisdiction.
- 'Repeat clients' are children or young people who have previously been the subject of an investigation; or were discharged (according to national specifications) from any type of national care and protection order or funded out-of-home care placement (excluding respite placements lasting less than 7 days); or whose earliest order and/or placement in the current reporting period is part of a preceding continuous episode of care.

Data for determining whether children were new or repeat clients of the reporting jurisdiction were only available for 3 jurisdictions in 2012–13, representing 10% of children receiving child protection services. However, these data may provide some insight into whether child protection services are primarily being received by new children or those with a prior involvement with child protection.

For example, Table A2 shows that, in the jurisdictions for which data were available, 67% of children receiving child protection services were repeat clients. However, the proportion of new clients was substantially higher when only children who were the subject of an investigation are considered, compared with children on an order or in out-of-home care (47%, 13% and 12% respectively).

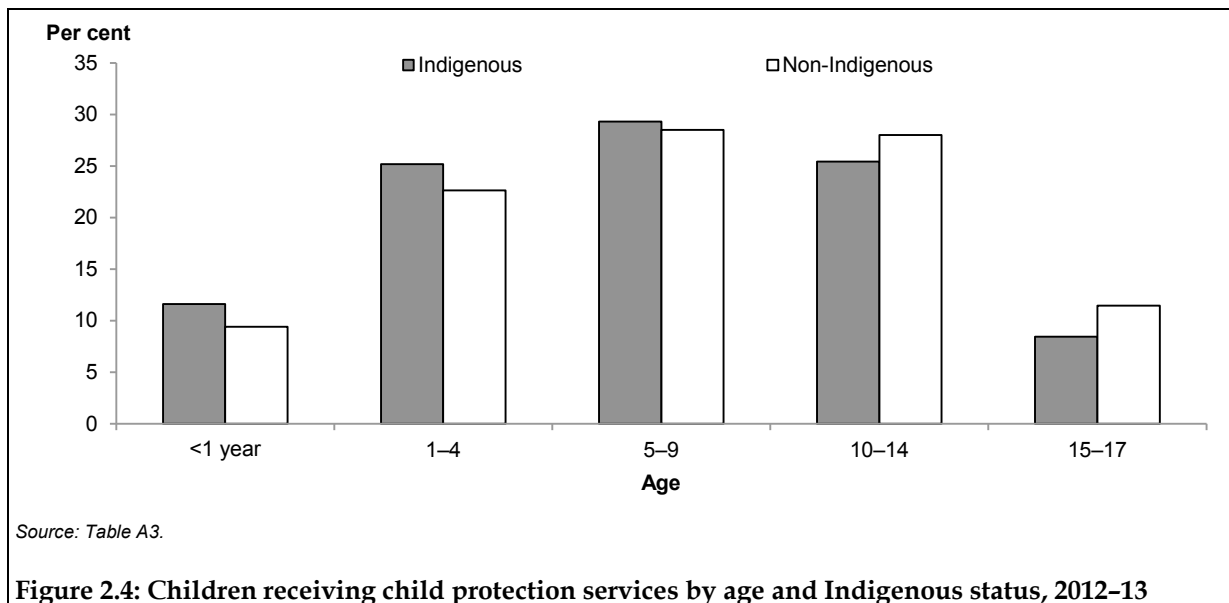
Indigenous status and age

During 2012–13, 36,656 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children received child protection services, a rate of 150.9 per 1,000 children. Overall, Indigenous children were 8 times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be receiving child protection services (compared with a rate of 18.5 for non-Indigenous children). However, there was substantial variation across the jurisdictions in the rate ratio— from 3 times as likely in Tasmania to nearly 14 times as likely in Western Australia (Figure 2.3).



More than half (55%) of all children receiving child protection services were aged between 5 and 14. One quarter (24%) of children were aged 1-4, with the smallest number of all children aged less than 1 (11%). The median age of children receiving services was 8.

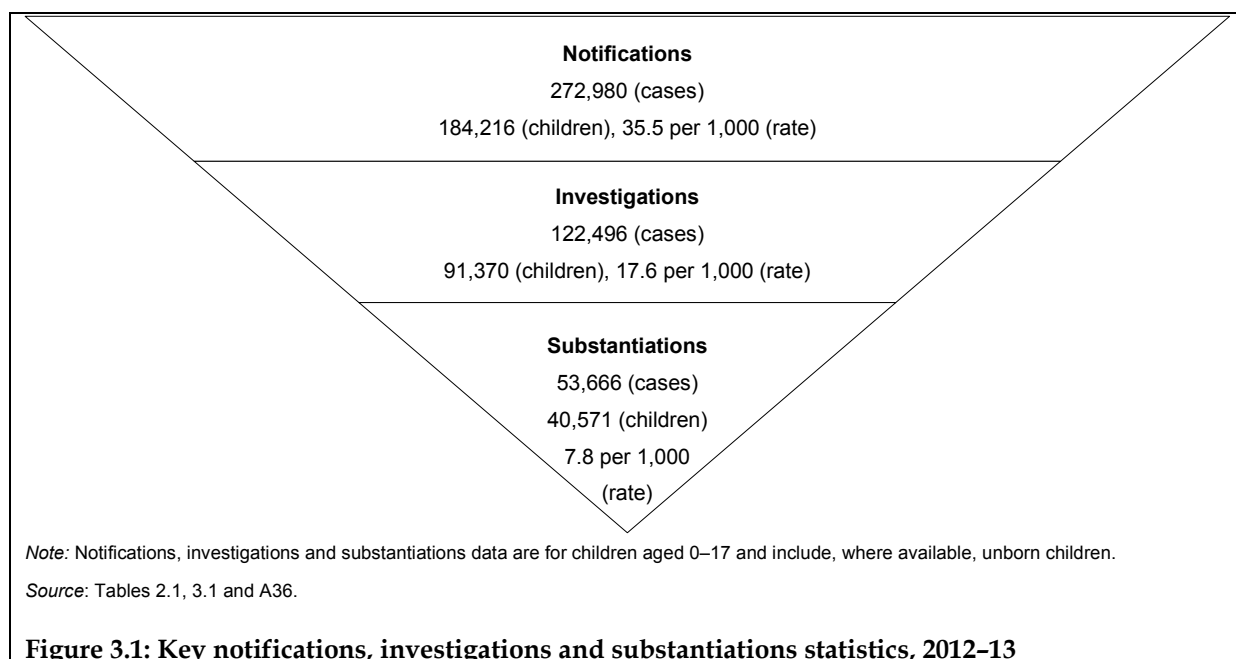
On average, Indigenous children receiving child protection services were slightly younger than non-Indigenous children, with median ages of 7 and 8 respectively. Additionally, 37% of Indigenous children were aged under 5 compared to 32% of non-Indigenous children (Figure 2.4).



3 Notifications, investigations and substantiations

3.1 Overview and key statistics

In 2012–13, there were 272,980 notifications involving 184,216 children, a rate of 35.5 per 1,000 children in Australia. Of the notifications, 45% (122,496) were investigated, with 53,666 substantiations (after investigation) relating to 40,571 children – a rate of 7.8 per 1,000 children (Figure 3.1).



This chapter contains information on the number of notifications, investigations and substantiations (see Box 3.1) and the number of children who were the subject of these. ‘Children and young people’ are defined as those under the age of 18. In some jurisdictions, this may include pregnant women where there are concerns about their unborn children (where unborn children are covered under the child protection legislation).

The data in this chapter relate to notifications received by departments responsible for child protection between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. Finalised investigations are those notifications made during 2012–13 that were investigated and had an outcome of either ‘substantiated’ or ‘not substantiated’ recorded by 31 August 2013. The cut-off point of 31 August is applied to allow time for investigating notifications made close to the end of the financial year. The outcomes of investigations that are still in process after this cut-off (5%, or 6,172, in 2012–13) are not reported in the data for this or subsequent reporting periods. It is important to note that substantiations as reported here (that is, substantiations of notifications received during the year) are therefore an undercount of the actual number of substantiations made during the year, due to the use of this methodology in preceding reporting periods.

Box 3.1: Notifications, investigations and substantiations

- Notifications consist of contacts made to an authorised department by persons or other bodies making allegations of child abuse or neglect, child maltreatment or harm to a child. The national child protection data collection does not include those reports that are not classified as child protection notifications.
A notification can only involve one child. Where it is claimed that two children have been abused or neglected or harmed, this is counted as two notifications, even if the children are from one family. Where there is more than one notification about the same 'event' involving a child, this is counted as one notification. Where there is more than one notification between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013, but relating to different events, these are counted as separate notifications.
- **Investigations** are the process whereby the relevant department obtains more detailed information about a child who is the subject of a notification received between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. Departmental staff make an assessment about the harm or degree of harm to the child and their protective needs. An investigation includes sighting or interviewing the child where it is practical to do so.
- **Substantiations** of notifications received during the current reporting year refer to child protection notifications made to relevant authorities during the year ended 30 June 2013 that were investigated, and the investigation was finalised by 31 August 2013, and it was concluded that there was reasonable cause to believe that the child had been, was being, or was likely to be, abused, neglected or otherwise harmed. Substantiations may also include cases where there is no suitable caregiver, such as children who have been abandoned or whose parents are deceased.

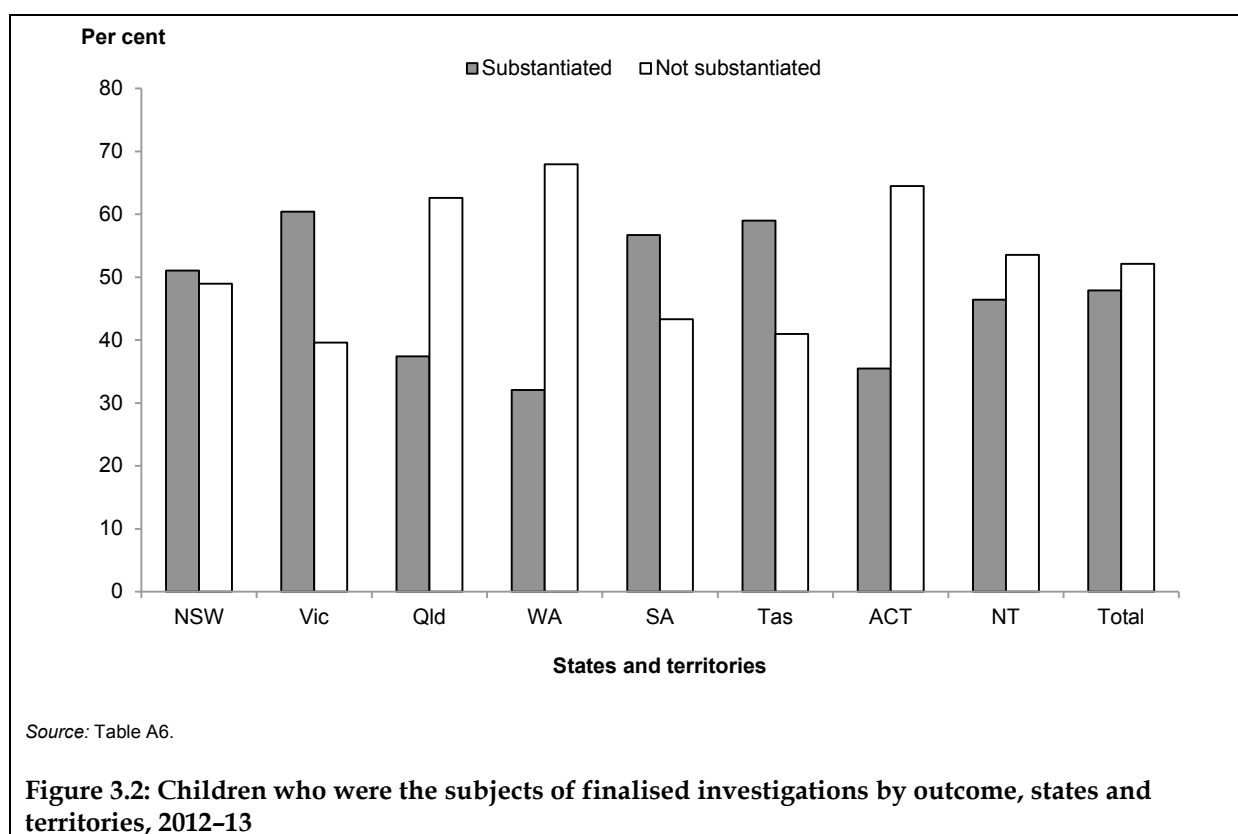
Instances of alleged abuse or neglect by family members (other than parents/guardians) and non-family members are generally included in the count of notifications if the notification was referred to the state and territory departments responsible for child protection. These cases are only included in counts of investigations and substantiations where there has been a finding or allegation of a failure to protect by the parent or guardian.

3.2 Cases and the children involved

Of the 272,980 notifications, 45% (122,496) were further investigated while the remaining 55% (150,484) were dealt with by other means, such as being referred to a support service. The proportion of notifications that were investigated ranged from 16% in Tasmania to 100% in Queensland, where the policy is to investigate all notifications (Table A4).

For investigations in 2012–13, the most common source of the related notification was police (25%), followed by school personnel (17%). This was the case in all jurisdictions except for Queensland, where medical practitioners were the second most common source (16%), and for Tasmania where social workers were ranked second (23%). Nationally, the least common sources of a notification for investigation were the subject child and child care personnel (0.4% and 1.2%, respectively) (Table A5). Notifications to departments responsible for child protection come from a range of sources, and legislation relating to mandatory reporting varies across jurisdictions. This should be taken into consideration when interpreting these data (see [Appendixes D–I, online](#), for details).

Overall, 48% of the 84,707 children in finalised investigations were the subject of a substantiation in 2012–13. The proportion varied across the jurisdictions, from 32% in Western Australia to 60% in Victoria (Figure 3.2).



Children within the child protection system may be involved in multiple statutory child protection cases during any given year. Across Australia in 2012–13, the total number of notifications (272,980) and substantiations (53,666) involved 184,216 and 40,571 children, respectively (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Number of notifications, substantiations of notifications and number of children who were the subject of a notification and/or substantiation of a notification, states and territories, 2012–13

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^(a)	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Children in notifications	64,470	52,115	21,254	12,885	12,422	8,006	6,431	6,633	184,216
Total notifications	104,817	73,265	24,763	15,201	19,120	12,311	13,518	9,985	272,980
Children in substantiations	16,236	10,048	7,149	2,686	1,836	918	494	1,204	40,571
Total substantiations	26,860	10,489	8,069	2,915	2,221	1,035	720	1,357	53,666

(a) In Western Australia, initial inquiries for a child that commenced during 2012–13 where the primary concern of the initial inquiry for the child was emotional, psychological, physical, sexual abuse or neglect are counted as notifications in this table.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

These data reflect the fact that a number of children were the subject of more than 1 notification and/or substantiation. This report includes for the first time, the number of substantiations per child in 2012–13. Table 3.2 shows that just over 1 in 5 children (21%) who were the subject of any substantiation during the year were the subject of more than one.

Table 3.2: Number of substantiations per child, 2012–13 (%)

Number of substantiations	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
1	65.2	95.7	n.a.	92.2	84.5	88.8	73.7	88.3	79.2
2	19.6	4.2	n.a.	7.3	11.5	10.0	17.0	10.8	12.9
3	8.1	0.1	n.a.	0.4	2.7	0.9	3.2	0.8	4.3
4+	7.0	—	n.a.	0.1	1.3	0.3	6.1	0.1	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	n.a.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children in substantiations	16,236	10,048	7,149	2,686	1,836	918	494	1,204	40,571

n.a. not available.

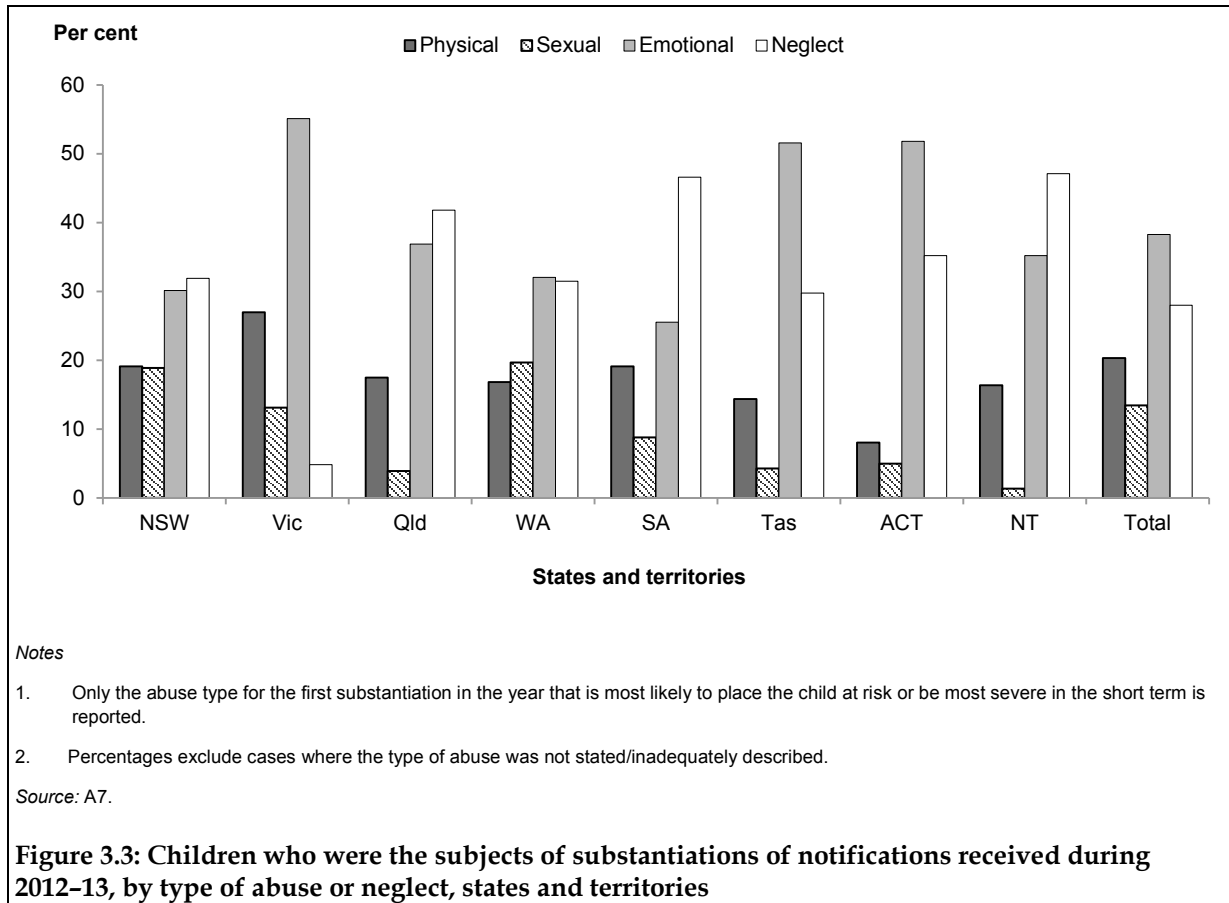
Note: The number of substantiations per child was not available for Queensland. Therefore, the total used for calculating the proportions excludes Queensland.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Types of abuse and neglect

Nationally, emotional abuse was the most common substantiation type for children (38%), followed by neglect (28%). However, there was some variation between jurisdictions, with neglect being the most common reported type for children in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Across Australia, 20% of children who were the subject of substantiations were substantiated for physical abuse. This ranged from 8% in the Australian Capital Territory to 27% in Victoria. Of children who were the subject of substantiated notifications, 13% were substantiated for sexual abuse. This ranged from 1% in the Northern Territory to 20% in Western Australia (Figure 3.3).



This reporting of substantiated type of abuse or neglect is based on the type of abuse or neglect that is considered most likely to place the child at risk or be most severe in the short term – generally known as the ‘primary’ type of abuse or neglect. Other types of abuse or neglect may also be recorded as part of the substantiation. The co-occurrence of abuse and neglect refers to substantiations where both primary and other types of abuse are recorded.

Table 3.3 shows the co-occurrence of primary types of abuse or neglect with other types of abuse or neglect that were recorded for children. Emotional abuse and neglect were also the most likely types to co-occur, with an average co-occurrence of around 27% each, and a high proportion of co-occurrence between the two types. Where emotional abuse was the primary type of substantiated abuse, neglect co-occurred in almost one third (32%) of cases; similarly, where neglect was the primary type substantiated, emotional abuse co-occurred in just over one fifth of cases. High proportions of co-occurrence of emotional abuse and neglect (37% and 26% respectively) were also seen in cases of substantiated physical abuse (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3: Co-occurrence of substantiated types of abuse and neglect, 2012–13 (%)

Primary type of abuse or neglect	Co-occurring type of abuse or neglect ^(a)				Total
	Physical abuse	Sexual abuse	Emotional abuse	Neglect	
Physical abuse	..	1.2	37.3	26.3	9,063
Sexual abuse	2.3	..	21.3	11.9	6,358
Emotional abuse	14.3	1.5	..	32.0	17,052
Neglect	1.7	0.6	21.8	..	12,800
Average co-occurrence^(b)	7.8	1.1	26.7	26.5	..

(a) Not all jurisdictions were able to provide data for all types of co-occurring abuse or neglect—some jurisdictions are only able to report primary and secondary types. Therefore the proportion of co-occurring abuse types may be understated.

(b) 'Average co-occurrence' is equal to the number of cases where the type of abuse or neglect of interest was identified as co-occurring, divided by the number of cases where the given type of abuse or neglect was not the primary type.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Characteristics of children

Age

Age is one of the factors that child protection workers take into consideration when determining the time taken to respond to a notification, the type of response and whether a notification will be substantiated. Younger children are regarded as the most vulnerable, and most jurisdictions have specific policies and procedures in place to protect them. There has also been an increased focus nationally on early intervention and the provision of services early in a child's life to improve long-term outcomes and reduce the negative impacts of trauma and harm (COAG 2009; FaHCSIA 2012b).

Across Australia in 2012–13, children in younger age groups were more likely to be the subject of a substantiation than those in older age groups. Children aged under 1 were most likely (14.4 per 1,000 children) and those aged 15–17 were least likely (3.5 per 1,000 children) to be the subject of a substantiation. This pattern was consistent across all jurisdictions (Table 3.4).

The rate of children aged under 1 who were the subject of a substantiation ranged from 6.4 per 1,000 children in Western Australia to 43.3 in the Northern Territory. Overall, the Northern Territory rates were higher than other jurisdictions for all age categories, while Western Australia had the lowest rates for age categories under 5 and South Australia had the lowest rates for age categories between 5 and 17 (Table 3.4).

Table 3.4: Rates of children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by age, states and territories (number per 1,000 children)

Age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^(a)	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<1	15.9	17.2	10.3	6.4	18.0	12.5	13.3	43.3	14.4
1–4	11.2	8.4	7.0	4.8	6.7	9.8	5.9	26.6	8.7
5–9	9.6	8.0	6.5	5.3	4.9	8.8	6.2	17.2	7.8
10–14	8.9	8.0	6.2	5.0	3.8	7.0	5.6	15.9	7.3
15–17	4.5	4.2	2.6	1.8	1.5	2.4	3.1	7.0	3.5
0–17	9.3	8.0	6.1	4.6	5.2	7.6	5.9	19.1	7.5
All children	9.8	8.1	6.5	4.7	5.2	8.0	5.9	19.2	7.8
Children in substantiations	16,236	10,048	7,149	2,686	1,836	918	494	1,204	40,571

Notes

1. Refer to Table A8 for numbers of substantiations for this table and to Table A46 for population data.
2. Unborn children may be covered under the child protection legislation and are therefore included in this report. However, they are excluded in rate calculations for the 'less than 1' and '0–17' categories. Unborn children are included in the 'All children' rates.
3. 'All children' includes children of unknown age.
4. Finalised investigations, and thus substantiations, refer only to cases that were notified during the year, not the total number of investigations finalised by 31 August 2013.

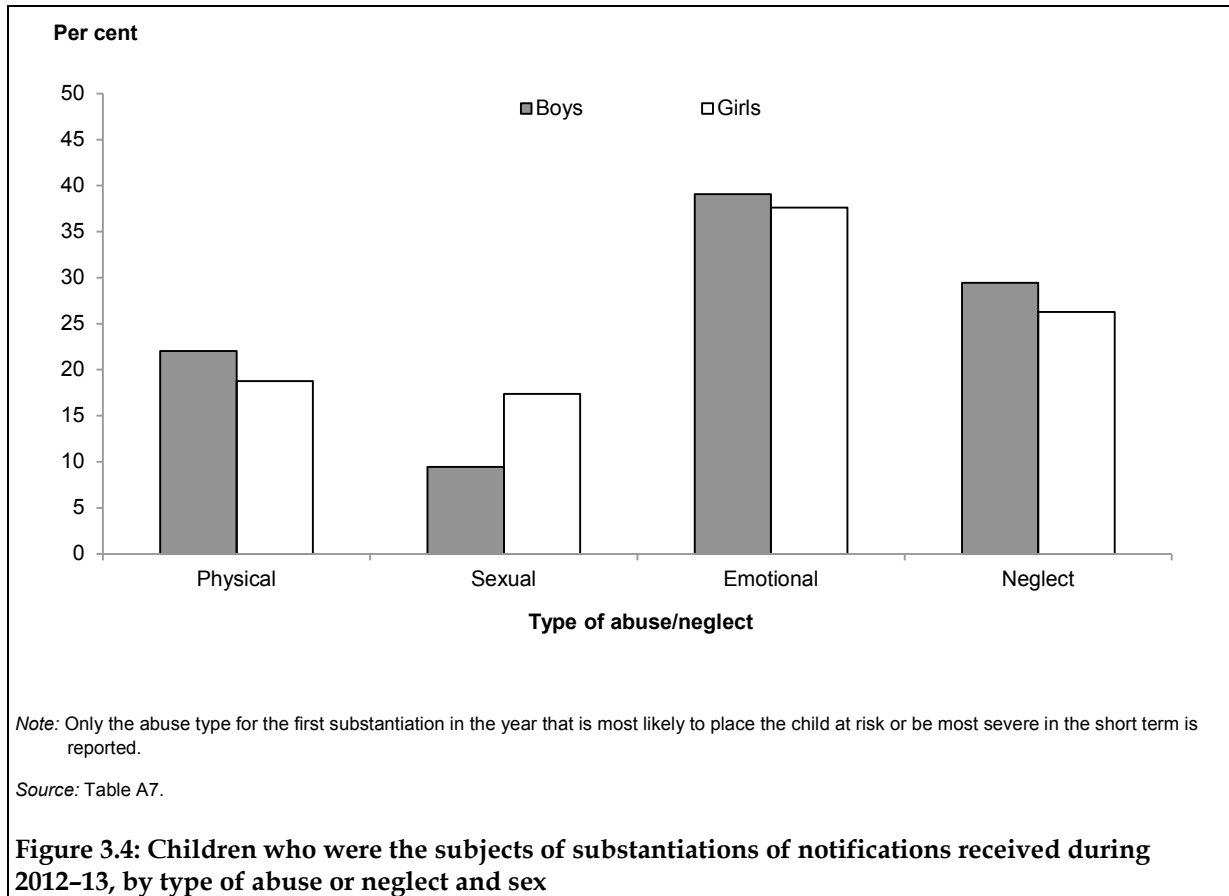
Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Sex

Overall, just over half (51%) of children who were the subject of a substantiation were girls (20,603 compared with 19,586 boys). However, in Victoria and the Northern Territory, slightly more boys than girls were the subject of substantiations (Table A7).

In all jurisdictions, girls were more likely to be the subject of a substantiation of sexual abuse than boys (17% and 9%, respectively) (Figure 3.4). This is consistent with recorded crime statistics for sexual assault (ABS 2012c).

In contrast, boys were more likely to be the subject of a substantiation of physical abuse in all jurisdictions. Nationally, boys also had higher proportions of substantiations for neglect and emotional abuse (29% and 39%, respectively), although this varied at the jurisdictional level (Table A7).

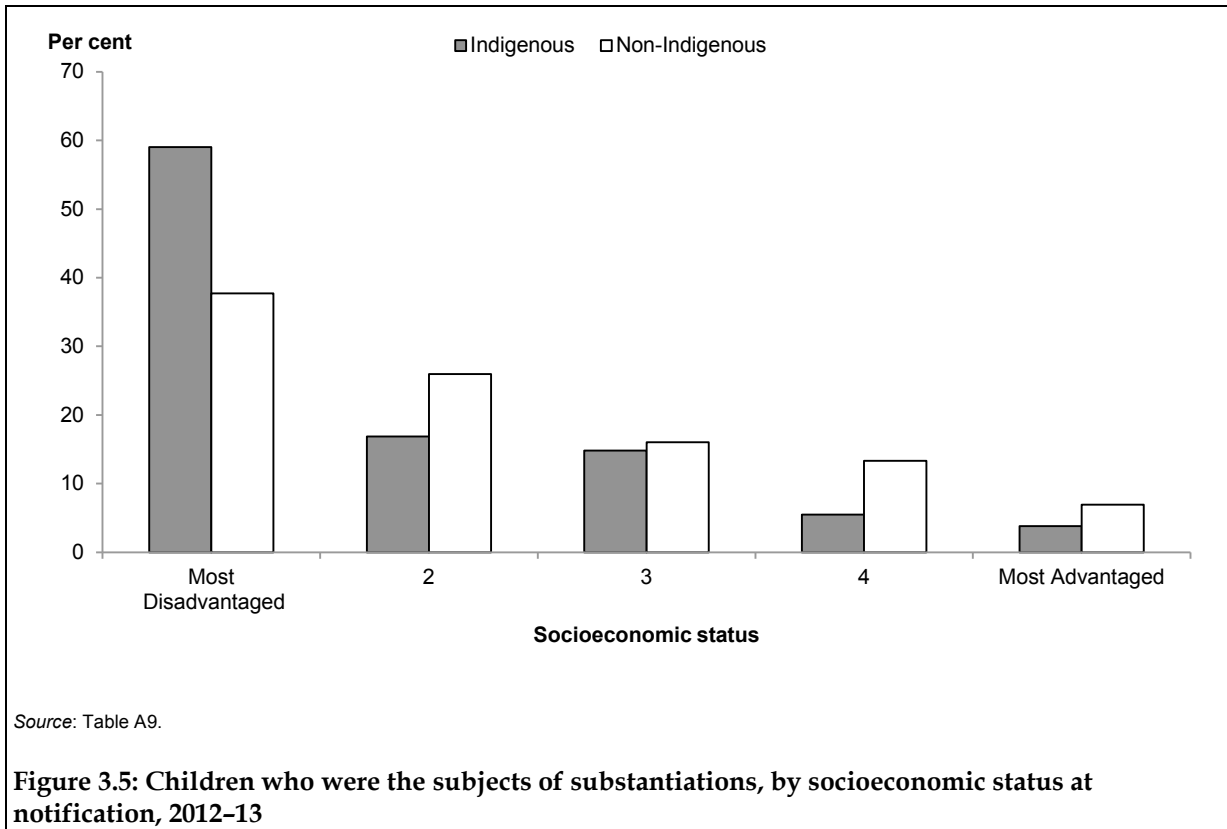


Family characteristics

There is limited evidence about whether some family structures expose children to a higher risk of child maltreatment, and the available research has produced ambiguous and conflicting results (AIFS 2012). The data in the following sections need to be interpreted with caution due to variations in data systems and methodologies used across jurisdictions. For example, Victoria and South Australia report a large proportion of family types in the 'not stated' category and, as such, have not been included in the total. Western Australia records single-parent families in the 'other' category. Information on family structure and socioeconomic status can also be recorded at different times: at the time the abuse or neglect took place, or at the time of the notification, investigation, or substantiation.

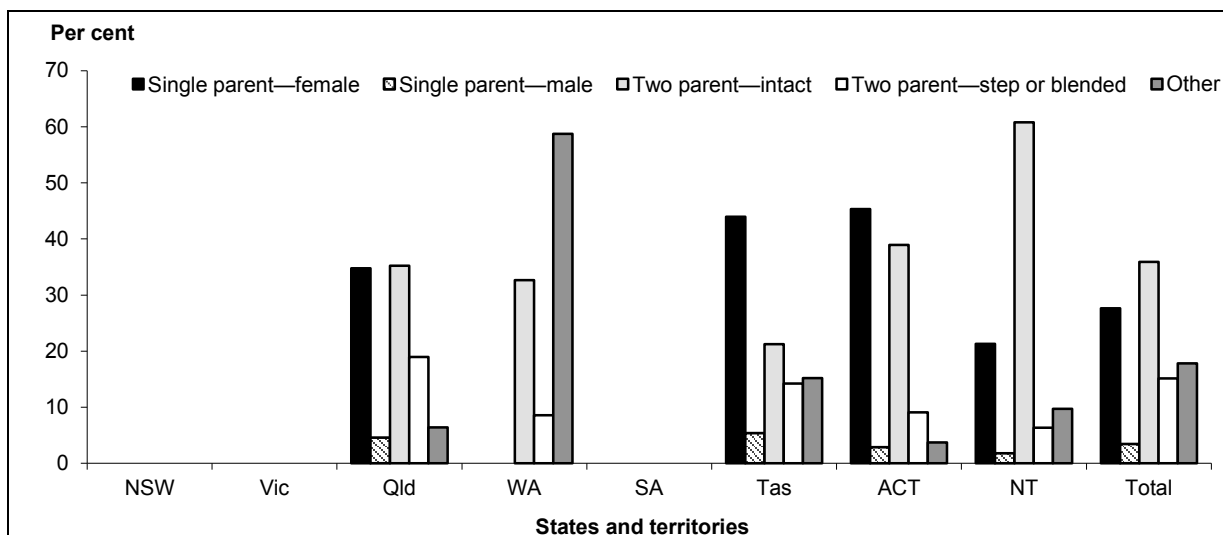
Socioeconomic status

Across jurisdictions with available data (representing 35% of children in substantiations), about two-fifths (42%) of children who were the subject of a substantiation were from the areas of the lowest socioeconomic status (based on postcode at the time of the first notification that was substantiated) (Figure 3.5). Indigenous children were far more likely to be from areas of the lowest socioeconomic status—59% compared to 38% for non-Indigenous children.



Family type

Across jurisdictions with available data of sufficient quality (representing 32% of children in substantiations), intact two-parent families had the highest proportion of substantiations (36%) followed by female single-parent families (28%) (Figure 3.6).



Notes

1. New South Wales was not able to provide data for this measure.
2. Family type percentages for Victoria and South Australia are not published due to a high proportion of 'not stated'.
3. Queensland does not have a category of 'foster care'. Relevant substantiations would be recorded in 'other'.
4. Western Australia introduced a new client system on 8 March 2010. In this system, the approach to recording family type is different to that used in the past. The family types 'single parent female' and 'single parent male' can no longer be identified. Only the category 'single parent with children' is used and these have been grouped under 'other'.
5. 'Total' excludes New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia
6. 'Other' category includes: 'other relatives/kin', 'foster care' and other unspecified categories.

Source: Table A10.

Figure 3.6: Children who were the subjects of substantiations, by type of family in which the child was residing, states and territories, 2012-13

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Children in substantiations

In 2012-13, 10,991 (45.3 per 1,000) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were the subject of a child protection substantiation: 8 times the rate of non-Indigenous children (5.7 per 1,000) (Table 3.5).

The reasons for the over-representation of Indigenous children in child protection substantiations are complex. The legacy of past policies of forced removal; intergenerational effects of previous separations from family and culture; lower socioeconomic status; and perceptions arising from cultural differences in child-rearing practices are all underlying causes for their over-representation in the child welfare system (HREOC 1997).

Table 3.5: Children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by Indigenous status, states and territories (number and number per 1,000 children)

State/ territory	Number of children				Number per 1,000 children			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown	All children	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	All children	Rate ratio Indigenous/non-Indigenous
NSW	4,934	11,216	86	16,236	68.3	7.2	9.8	9.5
Vic	1,067	8,977	4	10,048	68.6	7.3	8.1	9.4
Qld	2,184	4,666	299	7,149	30.1	4.5	6.5	6.7
WA ^{(a)(b)}	944	1,034	708	2,686	30.1	2.0	4.7	15.0
SA	581	1,200	55	1,836	45.0	3.5	5.2	13.0
Tas ^(b)	143	554	221	918	16.9	5.1	8.0	3.3
ACT ^(b)	84	309	101	494	42.5	3.9	5.9	10.8
NT	1,054	150	0	1,204	38.0	4.1	19.2	9.3
Total	10,991	28,106	1,474	40,571	45.3	5.7	7.8	7.9

(a) Western Australia is currently unable to report a child's characteristics based on their first substantiation. As a result, a small number of children may be double-counted in this table where they have more than one substantiation and the notifications had differing characteristics such as age or abuse type.

(b) In Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the higher proportion of children with unknown Indigenous status may affect the reliability of the rate ratio calculation. Rate ratios should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Notes

1. Refer to Table A44 for the populations used in the calculation of rates. Rate calculations include unborn children and children of unknown age.
2. Legislation and practice differs across jurisdictions in relation to children aged 17. In some jurisdictions, children aged 17 are not substantiated and this means the number per 1,000 children who were the subject of a substantiation may be lower for those jurisdictions.
3. Rate ratios are calculated by dividing the un-rounded rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were the subject of substantiations by the un-rounded rate of non-Indigenous children who were the subject of substantiations. The resulting number is a measure of how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were the subjects of substantiations for every non-Indigenous child who was the subject of substantiation.

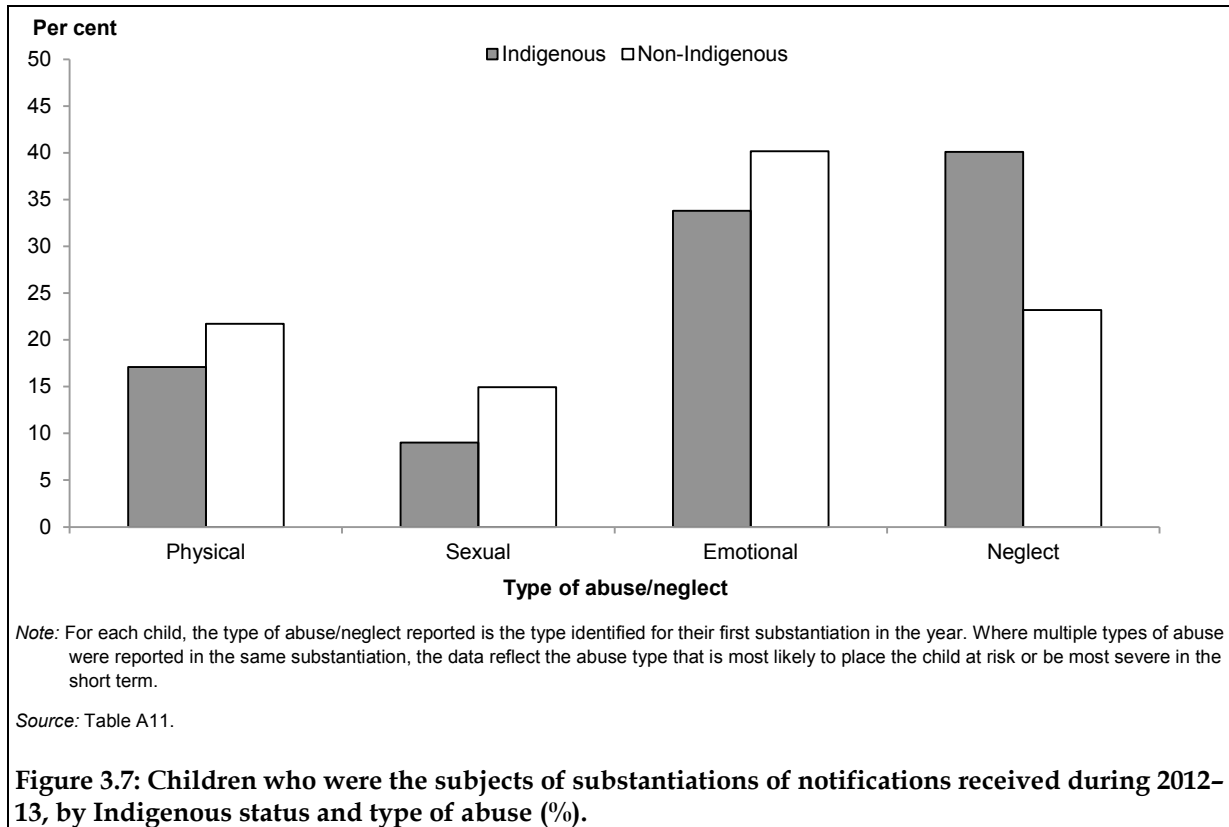
Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Abuse and neglect type

Overall, the most common type of substantiated abuse for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was neglect, which represented 40% of substantiations (compared with 23% for non-Indigenous children). The proportion of substantiations for all other abuse types was accordingly higher for non-Indigenous children (Figure 3.7). Nationally, the second most common substantiation type for Indigenous children was emotional abuse, which was 34% compared with 40% for non-Indigenous children.

There was significant variation across jurisdictions in the proportion of Indigenous children substantiated for neglect – ranging from 8% in Victoria to 50% in South Australia (Table A11). Variation across jurisdictions was also reflected in the proportions of Indigenous children substantiated for emotional abuse – ranging from 29% in South Australia to 61% in Victoria.

Across all jurisdictions, sexual abuse was the least common type of substantiation for Indigenous children (9%). Sexual abuse was also the least common type of substantiation for non-Indigenous children in all jurisdictions except New South Wales and Western Australia.

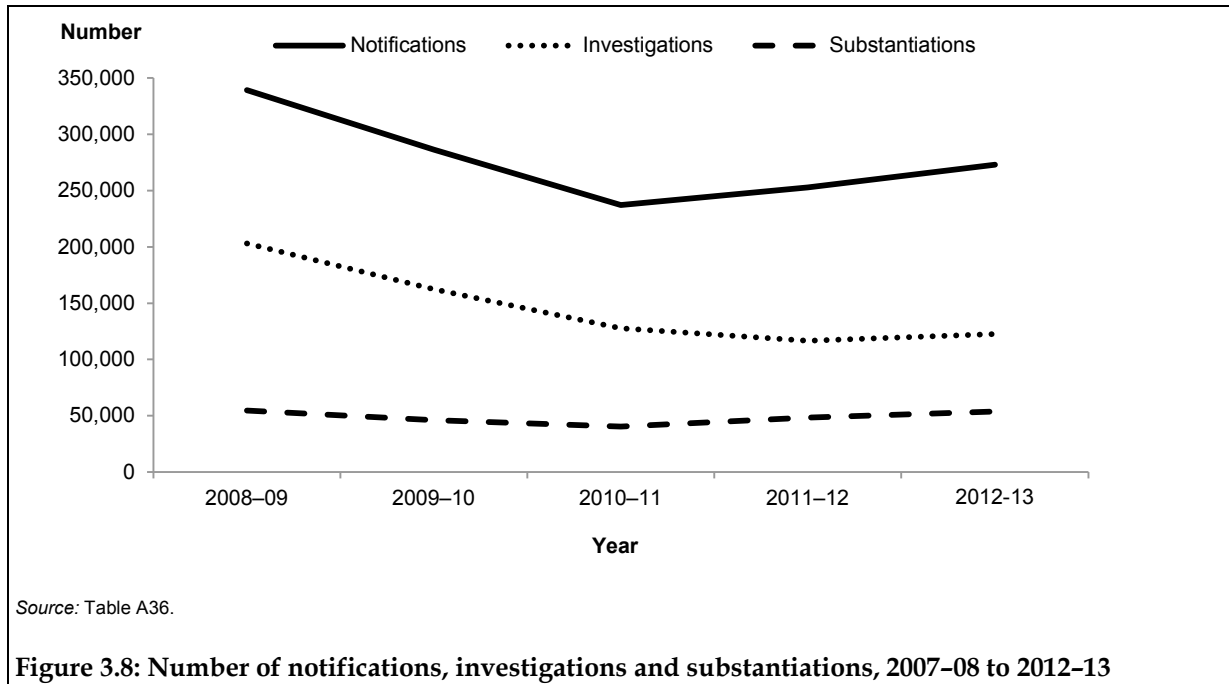


3.3 National trends

Trends in number of cases

A declining trend was evident for the number of notifications, investigations and substantiations between 2008-09 and 2010-11. This was followed by an increase in the number of notifications, from 237,273 to 272,980, between 2010-11 and 2012-13. The number of substantiations also increased during this period, from 40,466 to 53,666. The downward trend for investigations did not reverse until 2012-13, when the number increased from 116,528 to 122,496 (Figure 3.8).

Although nationally there was a decrease in notifications and substantiations over the 5 years, the size and direction of change varied across jurisdictions (Tables A12 and A13).



The decline in investigations between 2008-09 and 2011-12, coupled with an increase in substantiations over the past 2 years, has narrowed the gap between the number of investigations and substantiations.

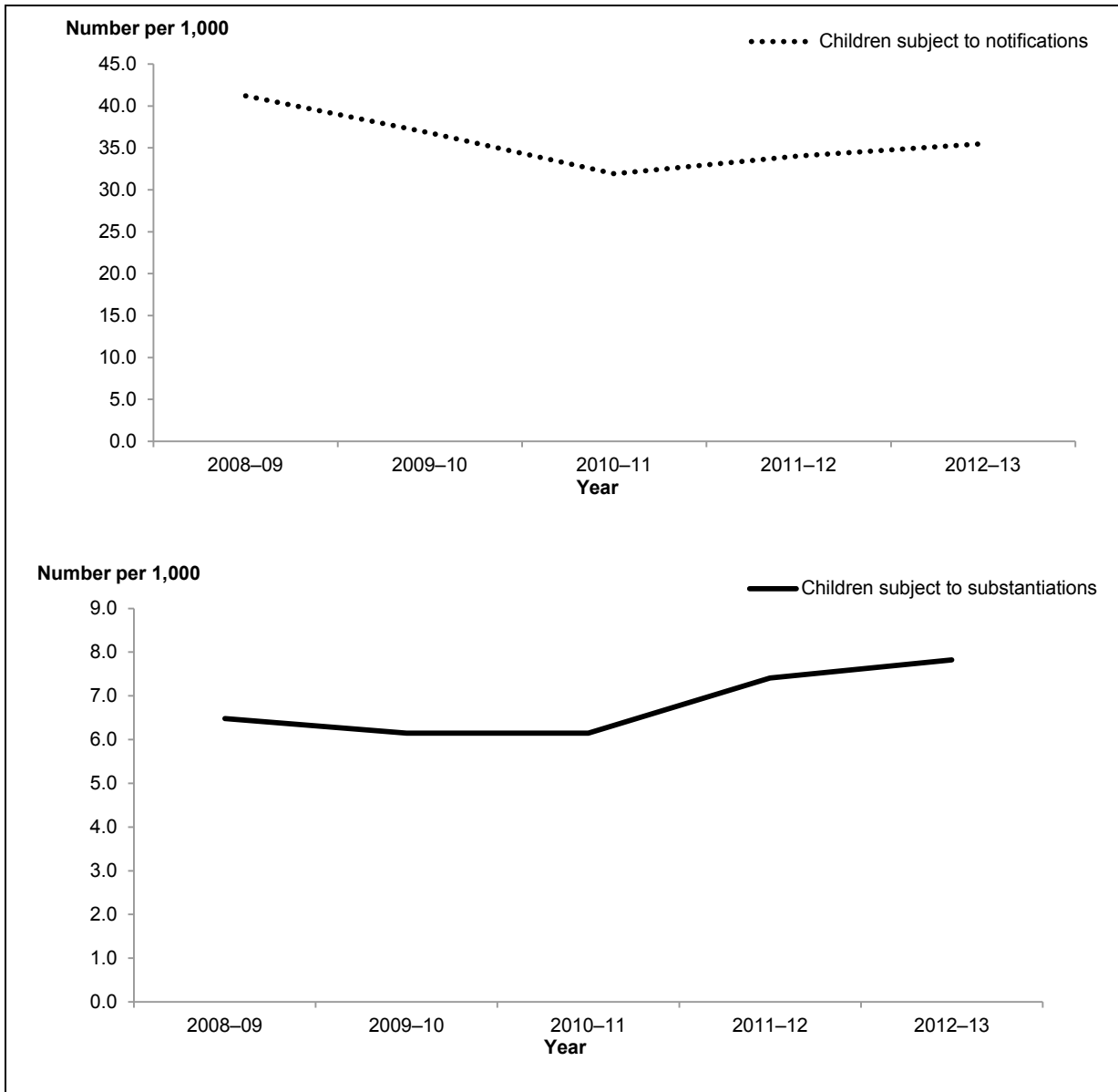
Trends relating to children

The rate of children who were the subject of notifications decreased from 41.2 per 1,000 children in 2008-09 to 31.9 per 1,000 in 2010-11. However, this downward trend then reversed between 2011-12 and 2012-13, with the rate of children who were the subject of notifications increasing to 35.5 per 1,000 children in 2012-13 (Figure 3.9).

The rate of children who were the subject of substantiations showed a slight downward trend from 6.5 per 1,000 children in 2008-09 to 6.1 in 2009-10 and 2010-11. However, over the past two years there has been a 29% increase in the number of children who were the subject of substantiations, rising from 31,527 in 2010-11 to 40,571 in 2012-13 (Table A37). This has reversed the downward trend, resulting in an increase in the rate from 6.1 per 1,000 children in 2010-11 to 7.8 per 1,000 in 2012-13.

Increases in the number of notifications and substantiations, and the children who were the subject of them, could be influenced by legislative changes, enhanced public awareness and inquiries into child protection processes, along with real increases in abuse and neglect. Additionally, recent increases could be related to an increased focus on providing statutory responses to those who are most likely to need intervention and protection. This may have resulted in a more targeted approach to investigations and an increase in the children who were the subject of substantiations.

[Appendixes D-I \(online\)](#) provide information on state and territory policy and practice and the various inquiries into state and territory child protection services that may have enhanced public awareness.



Note: The ABS improved the methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population, which has caused a downward revision of the 2011-12 estimates based on the 2011 Census (see ABS 2012 a, b). Due to these changes, comparisons of rates over time should be interpreted with caution.

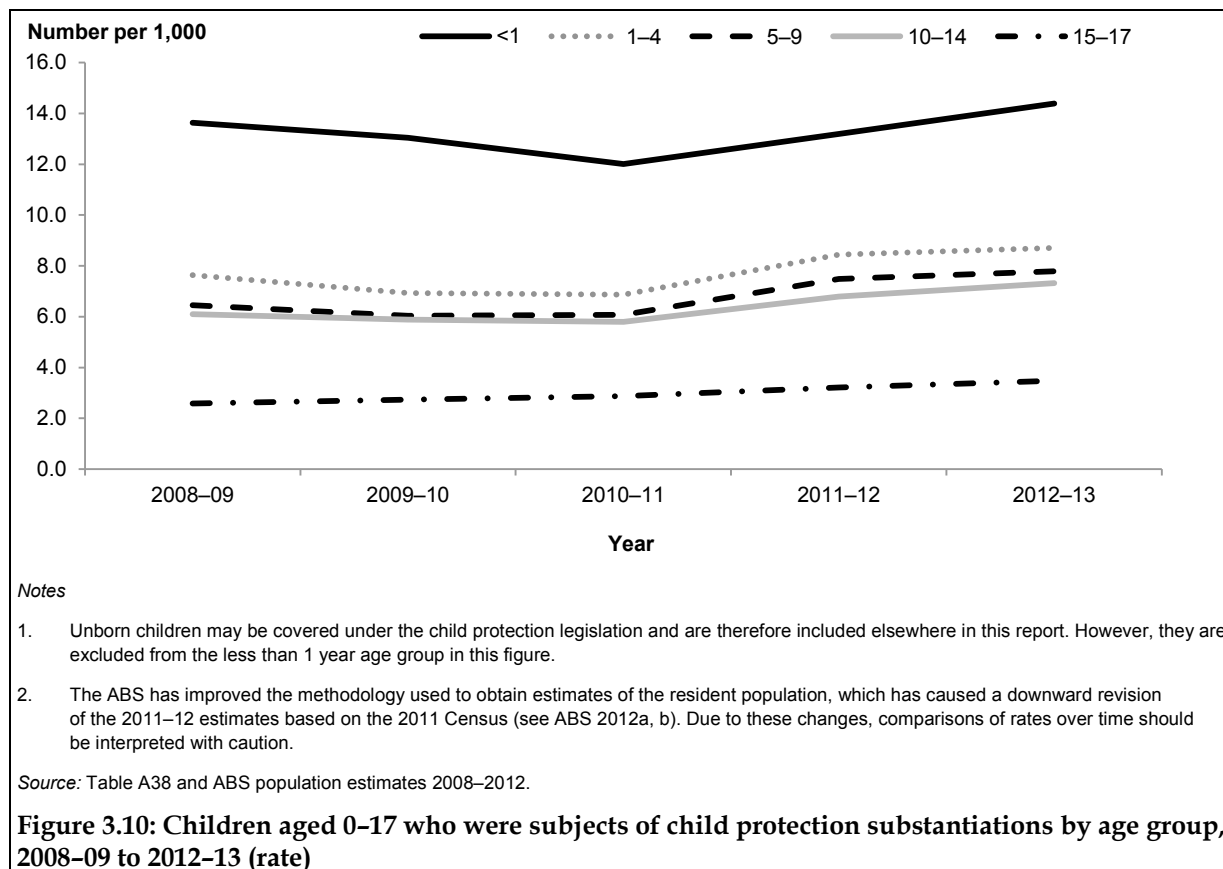
Source: Table A36 and ABS population estimates 2008-2012.

Figure 3.9: Children who were the subjects of child protection notifications and substantiations, 2008-09 to 2012-13 (rate)

Across states and territories, rates of children who were the subject of substantiations have fluctuated over the last 5 years. Since 2008-09, rates have increased for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory and decreased for, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. The largest increase over this period was for the Northern Territory (from 12.3 per 1,000 children in 2008-09 to 19.2 in 2012-13). Over the past 12 months, rates have increased in New South Wales and Victoria, decreased in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory and remained stable in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania (Table A14).

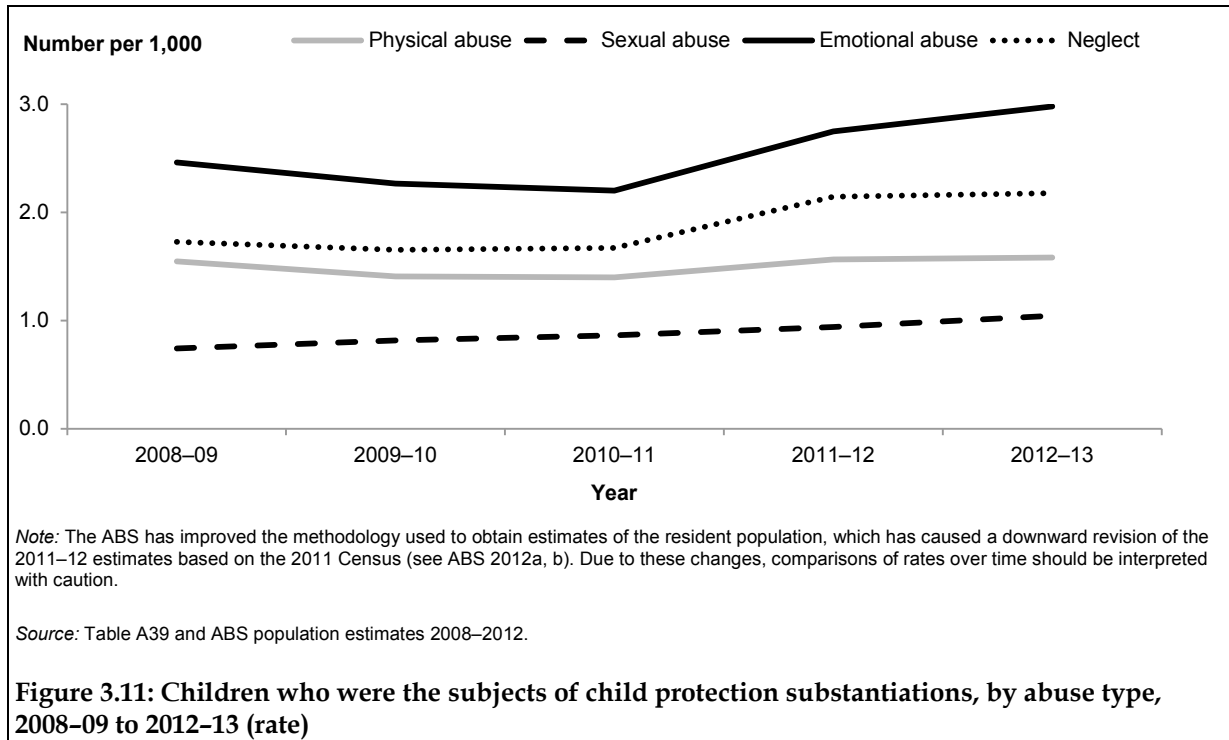
Age profile

Between 2008–09 and 2010–11, the rate of children under 1 year who were the subject of a substantiation steadily decreased (from 13.6 to 12.0 per 1,000 children). However, over the past 2 years the rate has increased from 12.0 in 2010–11 to 14.4 in 2012–13. In line with increasing rates overall, other age groups have also showed increases over the past 2 years (Figure 3.10).



Abuse and neglect type

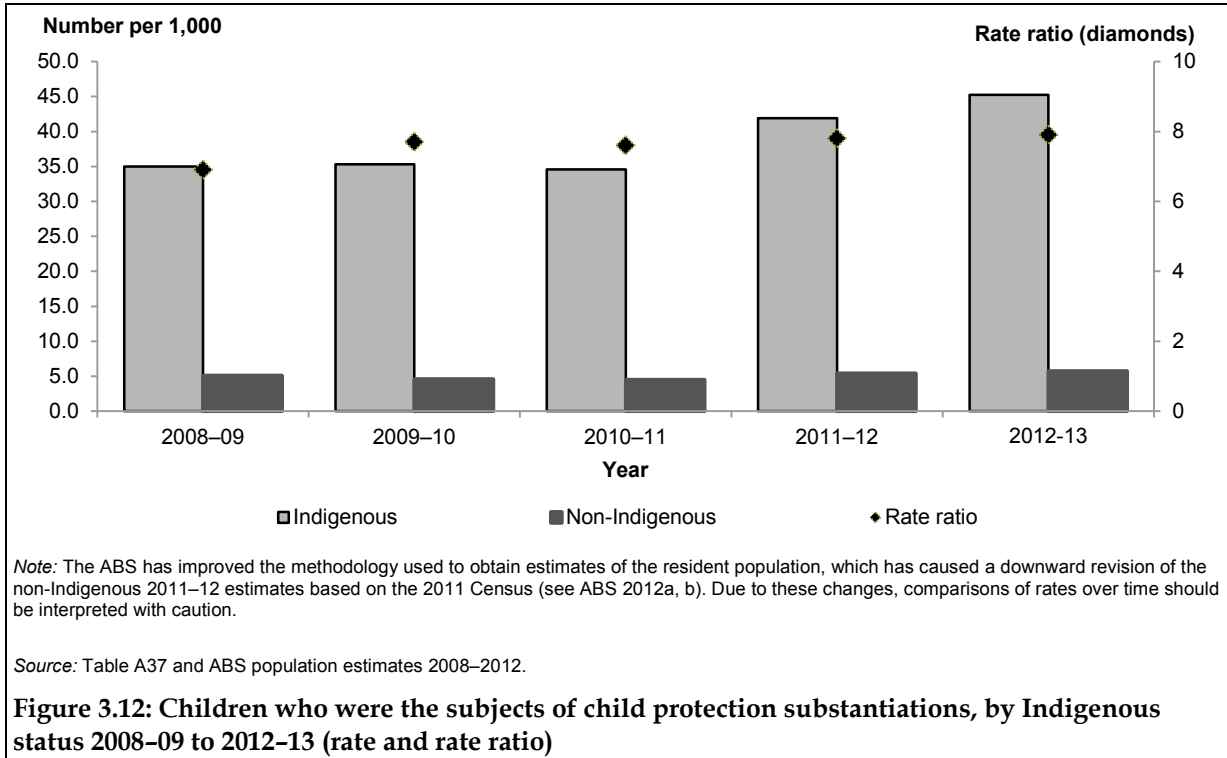
From 2008–09 to 2012–13, the rates of children who were the subjects of substantiations have increased for all types of abuse and neglect; although the size and pattern of the change varied. Rates for emotional abuse decreased between 2008–09 and 2010–11, with a considerable increase evident over the past 2 years (from a rate of 2.2 in 2010–11 to 3.0 in 2012–13). Rates for neglect were stable between 2008–09 and 2010–11 but have also increased over the past 2 years (from a rate of 1.7 in 2010–11 to 2.2 in 2012–13). The rate for sexual abuse has steadily increased from a rate of 0.7 in 2008–09 to 1.0 in 2012–13, while the rate for physical abuse has remained relatively stable, increasing from 1.5 to 1.6 over the same period (Figure 3.11).



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

The substantiation rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children have both increased since 2011-12, from 41.9 to 45.3 per 1,000 and from 5.4 to 5.7 per 1,000, respectively. The rate ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous children has remained relatively stable since 2009-10 (ranging from 7.7-7.9) (Figure 3.12).

The revised methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in 2012-13 may have resulted in minor adjustments to the rates calculated for 2012-13 (see Appendix B for further details). Due to these changes, comparisons of rates over time should be interpreted with caution.



4 Care and protection orders

4.1 Overview and key statistics

In 2012–13, there were 28,330 care and protection orders issued across jurisdictions, with 13,146 children admitted to an order during that time. Nationally, in 2012–13, more children were admitted to care and protection orders than were discharged from orders (13,146 compared with 9,795). At 30 June 2013, 43,136 children were on a care and protection order – a rate of 8.2 per 1,000 Australian children (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1: Key care and protection order statistics, 2012–13

	Number	Rate (number per 1,000 children)
Care and protection orders issued (during 2012–13)	28,330	. .
Children admitted to an order (during 2012–13)	13,146	2.5
Children discharged from an order (during 2012–13)	9,795	1.9
Children on a care and protection order (during 2012–13)	51,997	10.0
Children on a care and protection order (as at 30 June 2013)	43,136	8.2

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

The number of children on a care and protection order on an average day is reported in Box 4.1.

Box 4.1 Children on an order on an average day in 2012–13

Average day measures are calculated by summing the number of days each person was subject to the same event during the year and dividing this total by the number of days in the financial year. This provides a view of the data that accounts for each day during the year. See Appendix B Technical notes for more detail.

On an average day in 2012–13 there were 32,469 children on a care and protection order. As for counts of orders at 30 June 2013, the largest number were on guardianship or custody orders (23,718) followed by finalised third party parental responsibility orders (4,370) (Table A15). Data quality issues for some jurisdictions may impact on these results.

Care and protection orders are legal orders or arrangements that give child protection departments some responsibility for a child's welfare (see Box 4.2 for national categories).

For this report, children are counted only once, even if they were admitted to, or discharged from, more than one order, or were on more than one order at 30 June 2013. If a child was on more than one order at 30 June 2013 then the child is counted as being on the order that implies the highest level of intervention by the department (with finalised guardianship or custody orders being the most interventionist, and interim and temporary orders the least interventionist).

Box 4.2: National care and protection order types

- **Finalised guardianship or custody orders:** Guardianship orders involve the transfer of legal guardianship to the relevant state or territory department or non-government agency. These orders involve considerable intervention in the child's life and that of their family, and are sought only as a last resort.
Custody orders generally refer to orders that place children in the custody of the state or territory department responsible for child protection or non-government agency. These orders usually involve the child protection department being responsible for the daily care and requirements of the child, while the parent retains legal guardianship.
- **Finalised third-party parental responsibility:** Orders transferring all duties, powers, responsibilities and authority parents are entitled to by law, to a nominated person(s) considered appropriate by the court. The nominated person may be an individual such as a relative or an officer of the state or territory department.
- **Finalised supervisory orders:** Under these orders, the department supervises and/or directs the level and type of care that is to be provided to the child. Children under supervisory orders are generally under the responsibility of their parents and the guardianship or custody of the child is unaffected.
- **Interim and temporary orders:** Orders covering the provisions of a limited period of supervision and/or placement of a child. Parental responsibility under these orders may reside with the parents or with the department responsible for child protection.
- **Administrative arrangements:** Agreements with the child protection departments, which have the same effect as a court order of transferring custody or guardianship. These arrangements can also allow a child to be placed in out-of-home care without going through the courts.

Children are counted in the state or territory where the order is operative, regardless of where the child is residing. The following are excluded from the collection:

- children on offence orders, unless they are also on a care and protection order (as defined above)
- administrative and voluntary arrangements with the community services department that do not have the effect of transferring custody or guardianship.

4.2 Types of orders issued

Of the 28,330 care and protection orders issued in 2012–13, most were interim and temporary orders (44%, or 12,588) or finalised guardianship or custody orders (37%, or 10,396) (Figure 4.1). The types of care and protection orders issued varied across jurisdictions, reflecting both the different types of orders available and the different policies and practices in putting them into effect. In all jurisdictions except Victoria and Western Australia, interim and temporary orders were the most commonly issued type of order (comprising about 45% to 78% of orders issued). In Western Australia, finalised guardianship or custody orders were the most common (47%), while in Victoria, finalised supervisory orders were the most common (52%).

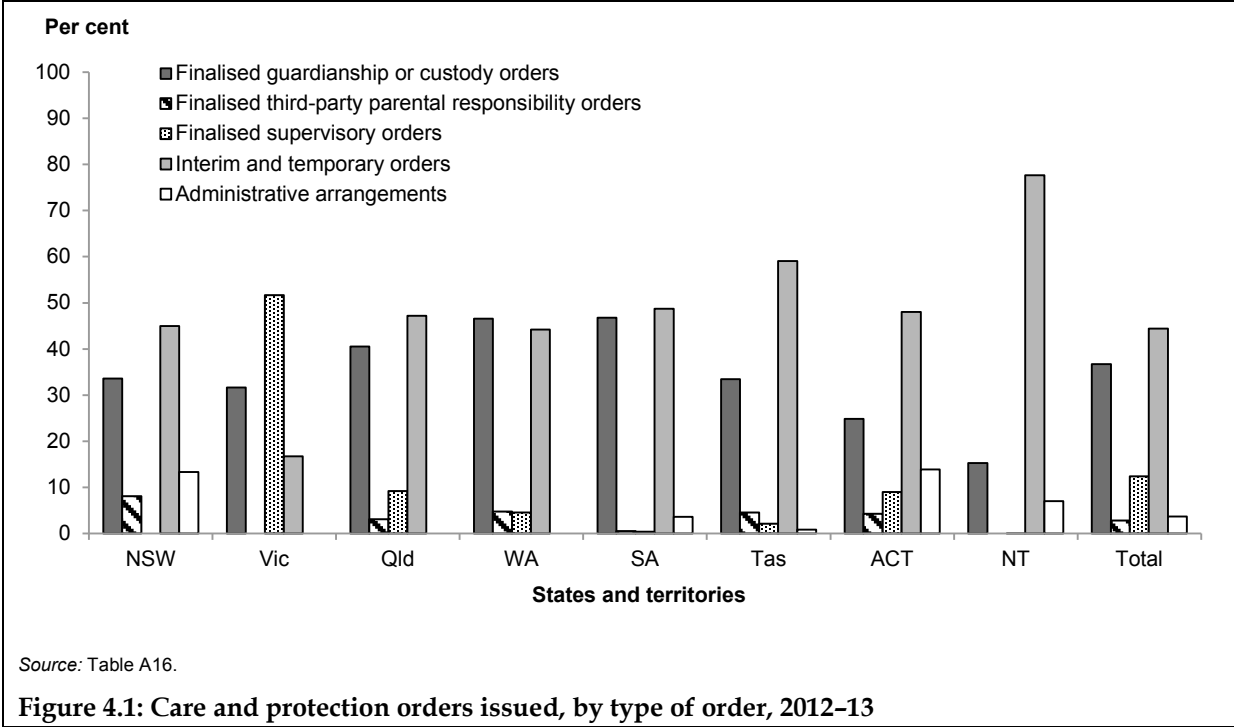


Figure 4.1: Care and protection orders issued, by type of order, 2012-13

4.3 Children and orders

Children admitted to, and discharged from, orders

A total of 13,146 children were admitted to orders in 2012–13. Among this group, almost two-thirds (63%) were admitted to an order for the first time. The proportion of children admitted for the first time ranged from 37% in Queensland to 91% in Western Australia (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Children admitted to, and discharged from, care and protection orders, states and territories, 2012–13

	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA ^(c)	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Children admitted to orders	2,756	3,741	4,368	926	513	381	128	333	13,146
Children admitted for the first time	2,328	2,398	1,601	846	457	237	104	260	8,231
<i>Percentage of all admissions</i>	<i>84.5</i>	<i>64.1</i>	<i>36.7</i>	<i>91.4</i>	<i>89.1</i>	<i>62.2</i>	<i>81.3</i>	<i>78.1</i>	<i>62.6</i>
Children discharged from orders	2,060	3,680	2,018	713	465	375	175	309	9,795

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders. New South Wales is working to improve the way it counts admissions to care and protection orders, but currently does not strictly conform to the national counting rules.

(b) In Queensland, previous admissions to care and protection orders in other jurisdictions could not be counted.

(c) Data for 2012–13 in Western Australia are not comparable to previous years due to a difference in the methodology used for determining admissions.

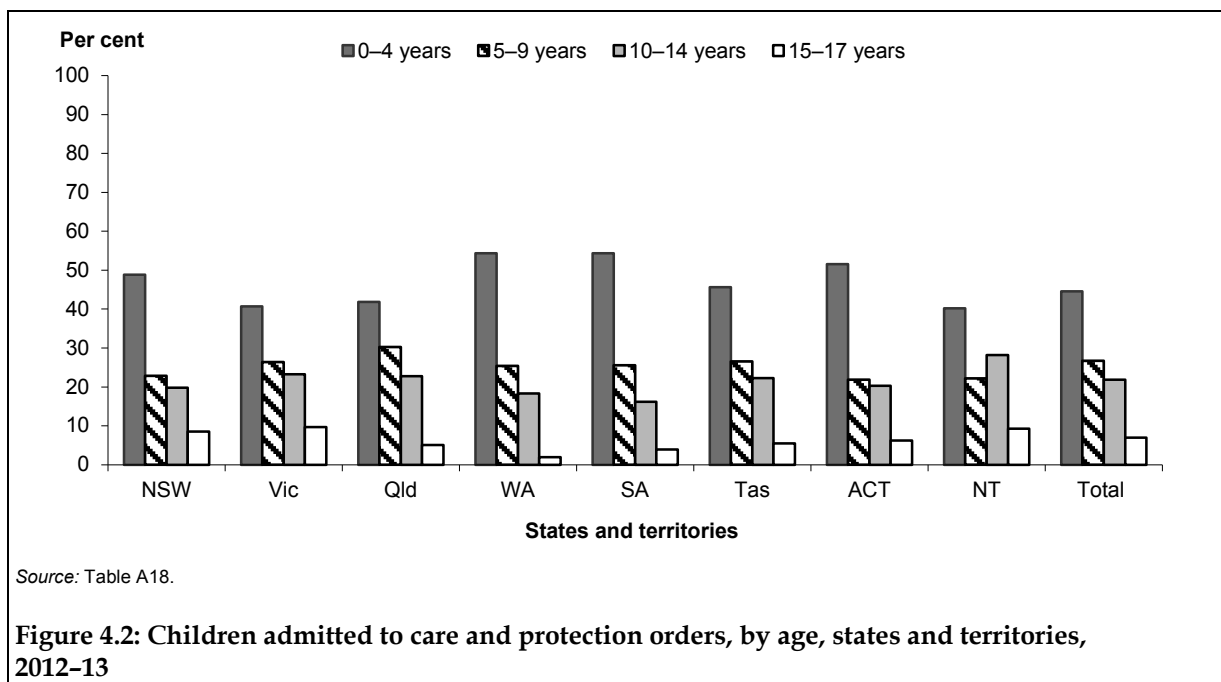
Notes

1. Data may include children who were discharged on their 18th birthday.
2. If a new care and protection order is applied in 5 days or less of the discharge of another order, neither an admission or discharge are counted.
3. A renewal of an existing order is not counted as an admission.
4. If a child is on multiple care and protection orders/arrangements, all orders/arrangements must be discharged before a discharge for the purposes of this table is counted.
5. If a child is admitted to, or discharged from, multiple care and protection orders/arrangements, the child is only counted for one admission and/or one discharge for the year.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Children may be admitted (or re-admitted) to a care and protection order for a number of reasons, including substantiated abuse; irretrievable breakdown in the relationship between the child and their parents; or where parents were unwilling and/or unable to adequately care for the child. The proportion of children who were the subject of substantiation in 2011–12, and who were subsequently placed on a care and protection order within 12 months, ranged from 20% in the Northern Territory to 32% in Victoria (Table A17). A re-admission to a care and protection order can also reflect a change in order type; for example, from a temporary order to a longer-term order to ensure a child's continuing safety.

Almost half (45%) of children admitted to orders in 2012–13 were aged between 0 and 4; this ranged from 40% in the Northern Territory to 54% in Western Australia and South Australia (Figure 4.2). The median age of children admitted to orders was 5. Age patterns were similar to those for substantiations of notifications, with a decreasing proportion as age increased (Table A8).

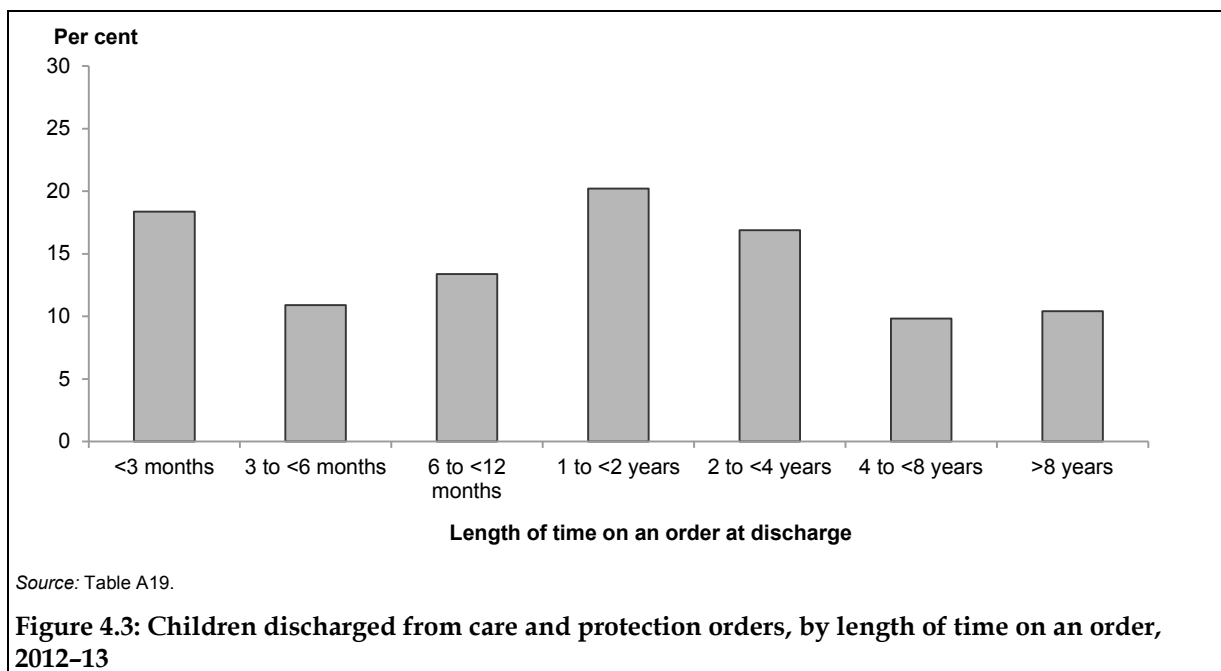


Length of time on an order at discharge

More than half (57%) of the children discharged from care and protection orders in 2012-13 had been continuously on an order for 1 year or more (Figure 4.3). This pattern was consistent across most jurisdictions, with lower proportions reported for Victoria (44%) and the Northern Territory (29%) (Table A19).

In 2012-13, 18% of children who were discharged had been on an order continuously for less than 3 months, which ranged from 4% of children discharged in Western Australia to 59% in the Northern Territory. Some of these children may have been on interim or temporary orders and have had more permanent order arrangements applied later.

At the other end of the spectrum, 10% of children who were discharged from an order had been continuously on an order for 8 years or more. There was moderate variation across jurisdictions – ranging from 3% in the Northern Territory to 22% in New South Wales (Table A19).



Children on orders

Nearly three-quarters (71%; or 30,780) of the 43,136 children who were on care and protection orders at 30 June 2013 were on finalised guardianship or custody orders (Table 4.3). Across states and territories, the proportion ranged from 66% in New South Wales to 92% in South Australia.

For the other types of orders children were on at 30 June 2013, there was greater variation among the jurisdictions. For example, in New South Wales, 24% of children were on finalised third-party parental responsibility arrangements compared with 13% or less in other jurisdictions. In Victoria, 26% of children were on finalised supervisory orders compared with 6% overall. With the exception of Victoria and South Australia, about 8% to 14% of children were on interim or temporary orders. Overall, only a small proportion of children (less than 1%) were on administrative arrangements that did not require intervention by the courts.

Table 4.3: Children on care and protection orders, by type of order, states and territories, 30 June 2013

Type of order	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
Finalised guardianship/ custody	10,745	5,485	6,641	3,169	2,572	966	495	707	30,780
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	3,883	..	1,197	368	76	152	60	..	5,736
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	2,032	418	113	13	25	57	1	2,659
Interim and temporary orders	1,601	234	955	607	104	108	51	95	3,755
Administrative arrangements	144	..	..	..	33	2	11	13	203
Not stated	..	0	..	3	0	0	0	0	3
Total	16,373	7,751	9,211	4,260	2,798	1,253	674	816	43,136
%									
Finalised guardianship/ custody	65.6	70.8	72.1	74.4	91.9	77.1	73.4	86.6	71.4
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	23.7	..	13.0	8.6	2.7	12.1	8.9	..	13.3
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	26.2	4.5	2.7	0.5	2.0	8.5	0.1	6.2
Interim and temporary orders	9.8	3.0	10.4	14.2	3.7	8.6	7.6	11.6	8.7
Administrative arrangements	0.9	..	..	..	1.2	0.2	1.6	1.6	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

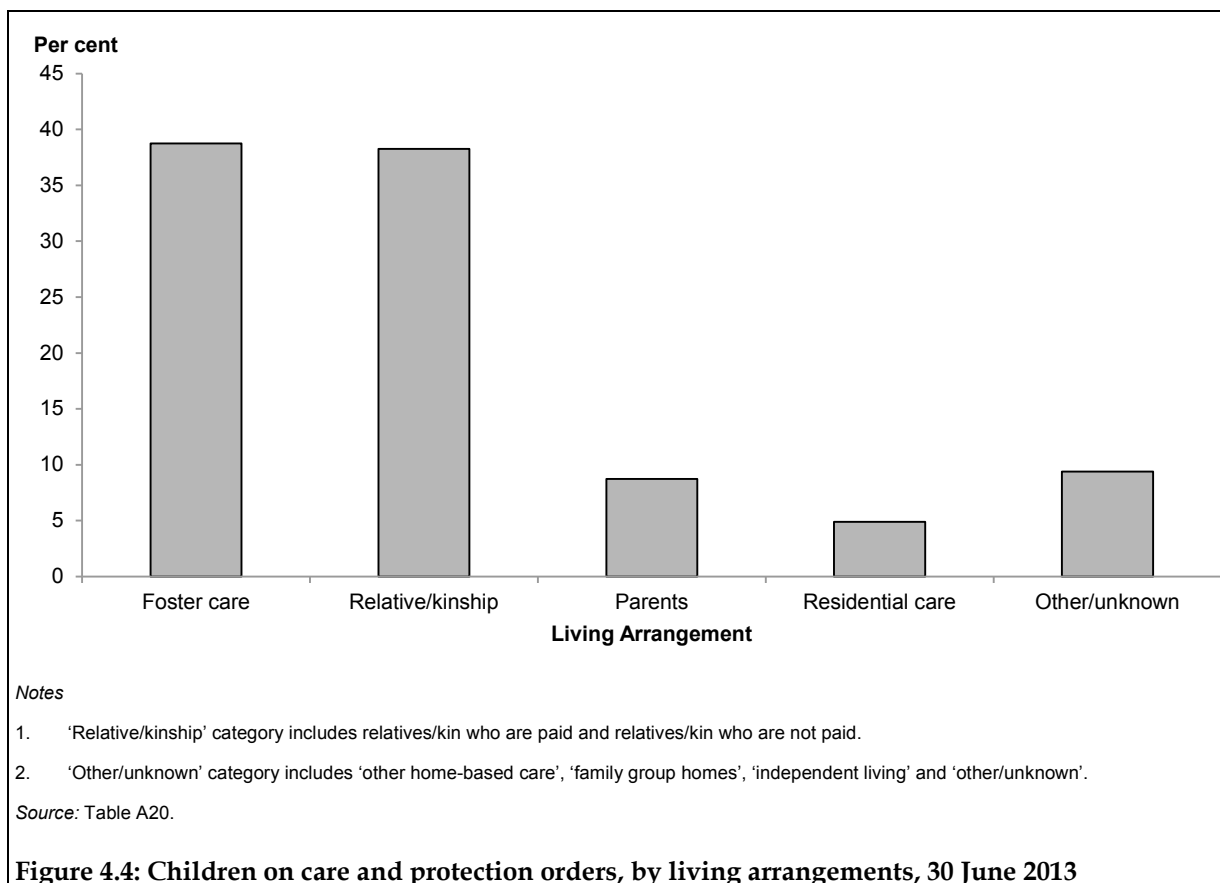
(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

Note: Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Living arrangements

At 30 June 2013, the majority of children on orders lived with either relative/kinship carers or in foster care (38% and 39% of children, respectively). For jurisdictions with available data, a relatively smaller proportion of children on orders were living with their parents (9%) or in residential care (5%) (Figure 4.4).



The living arrangements of children on orders generally reflected the expected living arrangements given the age of the child (Table A21). Across Australia, 96% of children on orders who were living independently were aged 15–17, while 96% of children on orders who were under 5 were living in family care or home-based care.

Age and sex

The age profile of children on orders was similar across the jurisdictions. The proportion of children on orders who were under 5 ranged from 22% in New South Wales and Tasmania to 26% in Western Australia. The proportion of children in the 15–17 age group ranged from 12% in Western Australia to 19% in Victoria (Table A22).

The age distribution of children admitted to orders during 2012–13 was considerably younger than that for all children on orders at 30 June 2013 – 45% of children admitted to orders were under 5, compared with 23% of children on orders at 30 June. Conversely, only 7% of children admitted to orders were aged 15–17, compared with 16% of children on orders at 30 June. This difference reflects the fact that many children are on long-term orders and that the count of children on orders at 30 June 2013 includes children admitted during previous years (Table A18 and Table A22).

Overall, there were slightly more boys (52%) than girls (48%) on care and protection orders (Table A23). This was consistent across all jurisdictions, except the Northern Territory (where 51% were girls).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

At 30 June 2013, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children on orders was 10.2 times that of non-Indigenous children. In all jurisdictions, the rate of Indigenous children on orders was higher than the rate for non-Indigenous children, with rate ratios ranging from 3.7 in Tasmania to 16.3 in Western Australia (Table 4.4).

Table 4.4: Children on care and protection orders, by number and number per 1,000 children aged 0–17 and Indigenous status, states and territories, 30 June 2013

State/ territory	Number of children				Number per 1,000 children			Rate ratio Indigenous/ non- Indigenous
	Indigenous	Non- Indigenous	Unknown	All children	Indigenous	Non- Indigenous	All children	
NSW ^(a)	5,594	10,776	3	16,373	77.1	6.9	9.8	11.1
Vic	1,283	6,460	8	7,751	82.0	5.3	6.2	15.6
Qld	3,547	5,602	62	9,211	48.4	5.3	8.3	9.1
WA	2,099	2,121	40	4,260	66.7	4.1	7.4	16.3
SA	803	1,957	38	2,798	61.9	5.7	7.8	10.9
Tas	276	951	26	1,253	32.4	8.7	10.9	3.7
ACT	169	481	24	674	85.1	6.1	8.0	14.0
NT	684	132	0	816	24.6	3.6	12.9	6.9
Total	14,455	28,480	201	43,136	59.2	5.8	8.2	10.2

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

Notes

1. Refer to Table A45 for the populations used in the calculation of rates.
2. Rate ratios are calculated by dividing the unrounded rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were on a care and protection order by the unrounded rate of non-Indigenous children who were on a care and protection order. The resulting number is a measure of how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were on a care and protection order for every non-Indigenous child who was on a care and protection order.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Of those Indigenous children on orders, nearly three-quarters (73%) were on finalised guardianship and custody orders (Table A24). This is consistent with the proportion of all children on finalised guardianship or custody orders (71%) (Table 4.3). Indigenous and non-Indigenous children were generally on similar types of orders; however, Indigenous children were less likely to be on finalised supervisory orders than non-Indigenous children (4% and 7%, respectively) and more likely to be on interim or temporary orders (10% and 8%, respectively) (Table A24).

4.4 National trends

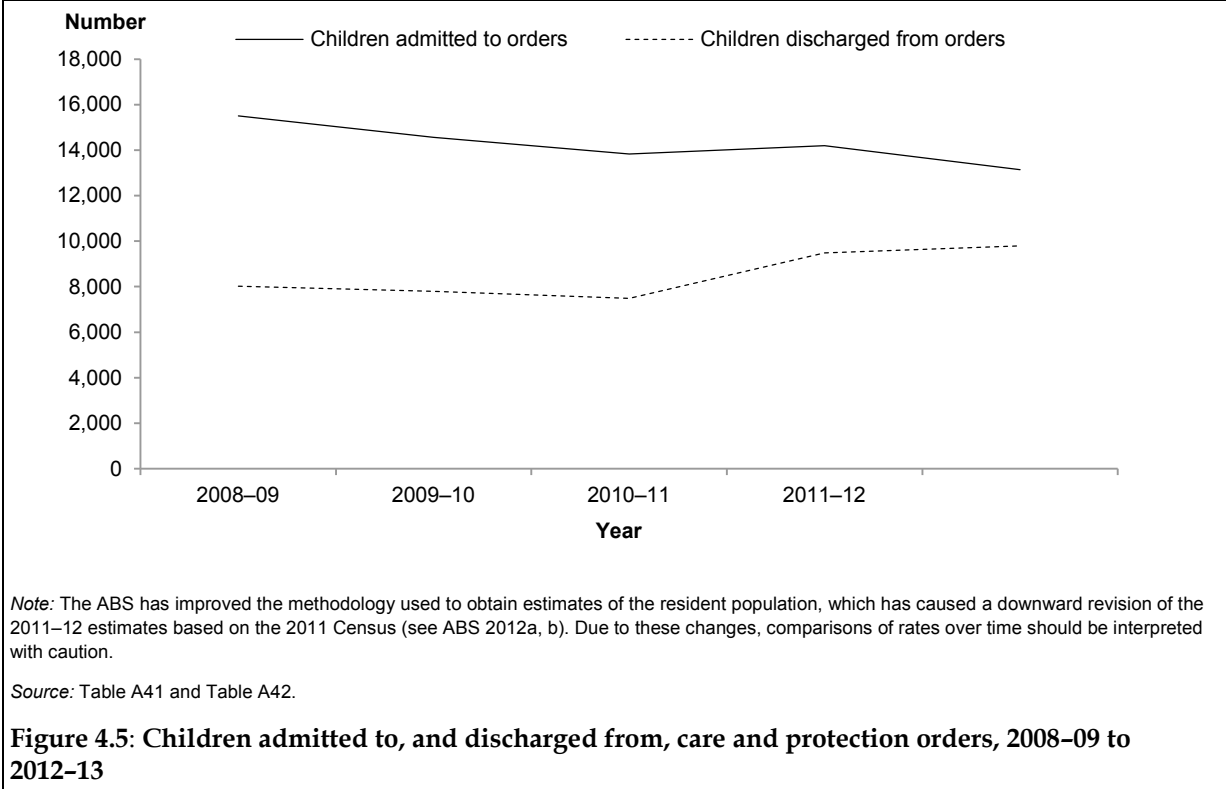
Children admitted to, and discharged from, orders

The number of children admitted to, and discharged from, orders has fluctuated over the past 5 years. Between 2008–09 and 2010–11, the number of children admitted to orders decreased by 11% – from 15,509 to 13,830. In 2011–12, there was a smaller increase (3%); followed by a 7% decrease in 2012–13. The decrease during the last 12 months was mirrored

across most jurisdictions, ranging from 9% in New South Wales to 45% in South Australia. However, it should be noted that decreases over the past year may be largely due to a change in methodology used for determining admissions to orders. Admissions in Victoria and Queensland increased during 2012-13 (20% and 2% respectively) (Table A41).

Between 2011-12 and 2012-13, the number of children discharged from orders increased slightly from 9,478 to 9,795. Changes in the numbers of children discharged in individual jurisdictions varied considerably with decreases in New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory. In the remaining jurisdictions, the number of discharges increased in varying proportions; with the increase in Western Australia quite large, and small to moderate increases across Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and the Australian Capital Territory (Table A42). The increase in the number of discharges between 2011-12 and 2012-13 is likely to have been influenced by an improvement in reporting processes in 2012-13.

Between 2008-09 and 2012-13, the number of children admitted to orders has remained consistently higher than the number discharged (Figure 4.5); however, over the past 5 years, the difference has decreased. In 2008-09, there were 7,482 more children admitted than discharged, whereas in 2012-13, 3,351 more children were admitted than discharged.



Children on care and protection orders

From 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013, the rate of children aged 0–17 on orders increased from 7.0 to 8.2 per 1,000 (Table 4.5). There were increases in all jurisdictions, with the largest increase in the Northern Territory (from 9.2 per 1,000 in 2009 to 12.9 in 2013).

The increases in the overall number of children on care and protection orders during this period are being driven by the substantial increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children on orders.

Table 4.5: Rates of children on care and protection orders, states and territories, 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013 (number per 1,000)

Year	NSW ^(a)	Vic ^(b)	Qld	WA ^(c)	SA ^(d)	Tas ^(e)	ACT	NT	Total
2009	8.3	5.0	7.4	6.3	6.7	8.4	7.8	9.2	7.0
2010	9.0	5.3	7.4	6.4	7.1	9.4	8.2	11.1	7.4
2011	9.4	5.4	7.7	6.0	7.3	10.0	9.0	11.6	7.6
2012 ^(f)	9.7	5.9	8.2	6.3	7.6	10.2 ^(g)	8.9	12.5	8.0
2013	9.8	6.2	8.3	7.4	7.8	10.9	8.0	12.9	8.2

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) The data for Victoria for previous years were updated in 2009. This data may not match that published in publications of *Child protection Australia*. Note that this has also affected the 'Totals'.

(c) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

(d) In 2008, South Australia has included, for the first time in this collection, the number of children who were placed on third-party parental responsibility orders and administrative arrangements. Therefore, data from 2008 onwards are not comparable with previous years.

(e) Data for Tasmania may not be comparable year to year due to considerable data lag with the recording of order status.

(f) The ABS has improved the methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population, which has caused a downward revision of the 2012 estimates based on the 2011 Census (see ABS 2012a, b). Due to these changes, comparisons of rates over time should be interpreted with caution.

(g) Rates for 2012 for Tasmania should not be compared with previous years due to the change in methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population.

Notes

1. Some rates may not match those published in previous *Child protection Australia* publications due to retrospective updates to data.

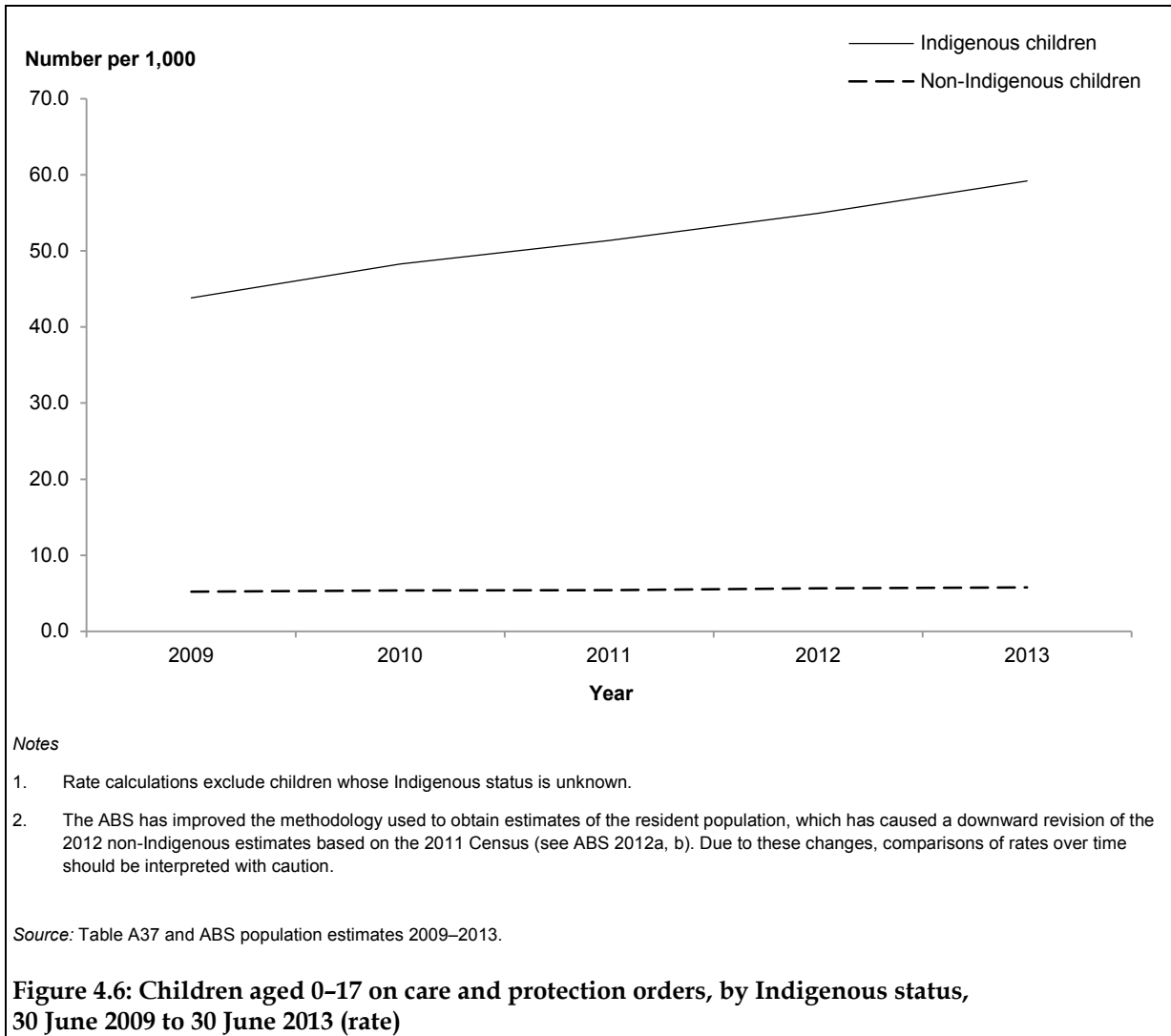
2. Refer to Table A40 for the numbers used to calculate these rates.

3. Rates were calculated using ABS population estimates 2009–2013.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

From 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children on care and protection orders has increased steadily (from 43.8 to 59.2 per 1,000), while the non-Indigenous rate has remained relatively stable (increasing slightly from 5.2 to 5.8 per 1,000) (Figure 4.6).



5 Out-of-home care

5.1 Overview and key statistics

In 2012–13, 11,341 children were admitted to out-of-home care, while 9,360 children were discharged. At 30 June 2013, there were 40,549 children in out-of-home care; a rate of 7.8 per 1,000 Australian children (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1: Key out-of-home care statistics, 2012–13

	Number	Number per 1,000 children
Children admitted to out-of-home care (during 2012–13)	11,341	2.2
Children discharged from out-of-home care (during 2012–13)	9,360	1.8
Children in out-of-home care during 2012–13	50,307	9.7
Children in out-of-home care (at 30 June)	40,549	7.8

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

The number of children in out-of-home care on an average day is reported in Box 5.1.

Box 5.1 Children in out-of-home care on an average day in 2012–13

'Average day' measures are calculated by summing the number of days each person was subject to the same event during the year and dividing this total by the number of days in the financial year. This provides a view of the data that accounts for each day during the year.

On an average day in 2012–13 there were 31,966 children in out-of-home care. Of these, the largest number were placed with relative/kinship carers (16,239) or in foster care (13,251) (Table A25). These numbers are similar to the number of children in out-of-home care at 30 June 2013. Data quality issues for some jurisdictions may impact on these results.

Out-of-home care is overnight care for children aged 0–17 years, where the state or territory makes a financial payment or where a financial payment has been offered but has been declined by the carer (see Box 5.2 for types of out-of-home care).

Box 5.2: Types of out-of-home care

- **Residential care** – where placement is in a residential building whose purpose is to provide placements for children and where there are paid staff.
- **Family group homes** – homes for children provided by a department or community-sector agency which have live-in, non-salaried carers who are reimbursed and/or subsidised for the provision of care.
- **Home-based care** – placement in the home of a carer who is reimbursed (or who has been offered but declined reimbursement) for expenses for the care of the child. This is broken down into the three subcategories: relative/kinship care, foster care and other home-based out-of-home care.
- **Independent living** – including private board and lead tenant households.
- **Other** – includes placements that do not fit into the above categories and unknown placement types. This includes boarding schools, hospitals, hotels/motels and the defence forces.

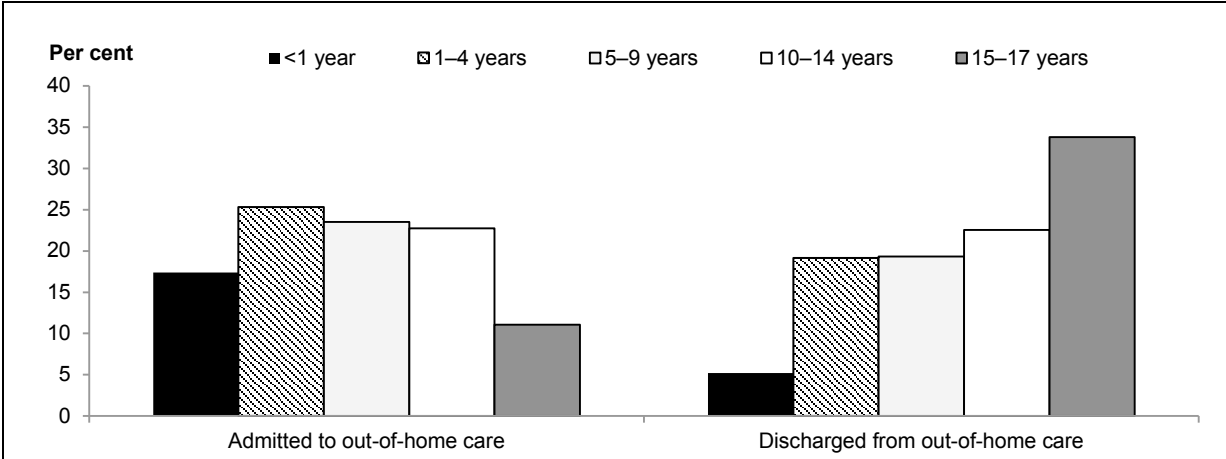
Placements solely funded by disability services, medical or psychiatric services, juvenile justice facilities, overnight child care services or supported accommodation assistance placements, and children in placements with parents where the jurisdiction makes a financial payment are excluded.

5.2 Children

Children admitted to, and discharged from, out-of-home care

Of the 11,341 children admitted to out-of-home care during 2012–13, 4,839 (43%) were under 5. Almost one-quarter (24%, or 2,667) were aged between 5 and 9 and a further quarter (23%, or 2,577) were between 10 and 14. Children aged 15–17 represented 11% (1,254) of all children admitted to out-of-home care in 2012–13. The median age of children admitted to out-of-home care was 6 years.

The age distribution of children discharged from out-of-home care was older than that of children admitted to out-of-home care – the median age of children discharged was 11 years. Nationally, 34% of those discharged were aged 15–17, compared with 11% admitted to out-of-home care (Figure 5.1). This reflects children being admitted to out-of-home care at a younger age and remaining there for longer.

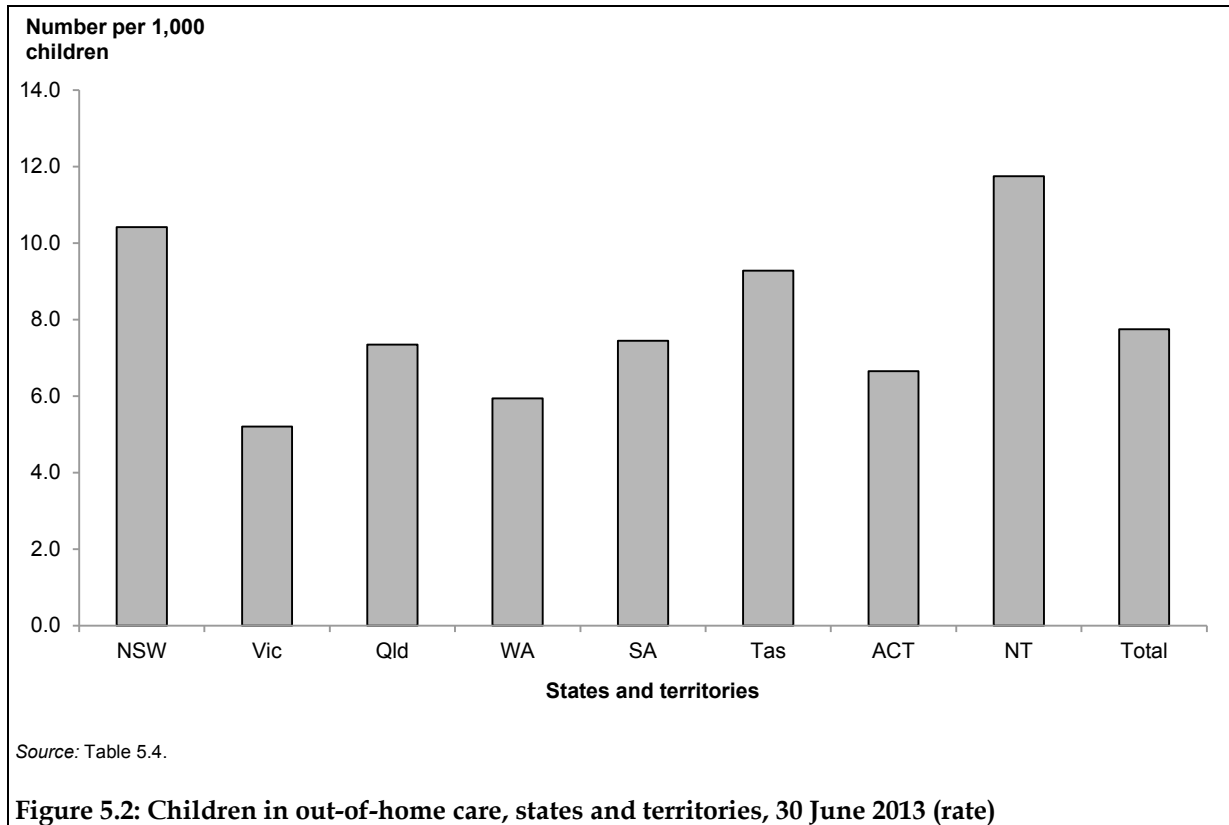


Source: Tables A26 and A27

Figure 5.1: Children admitted to, and discharged from, out-of-home care, by age group, 2012–13

Children in out-of-home care

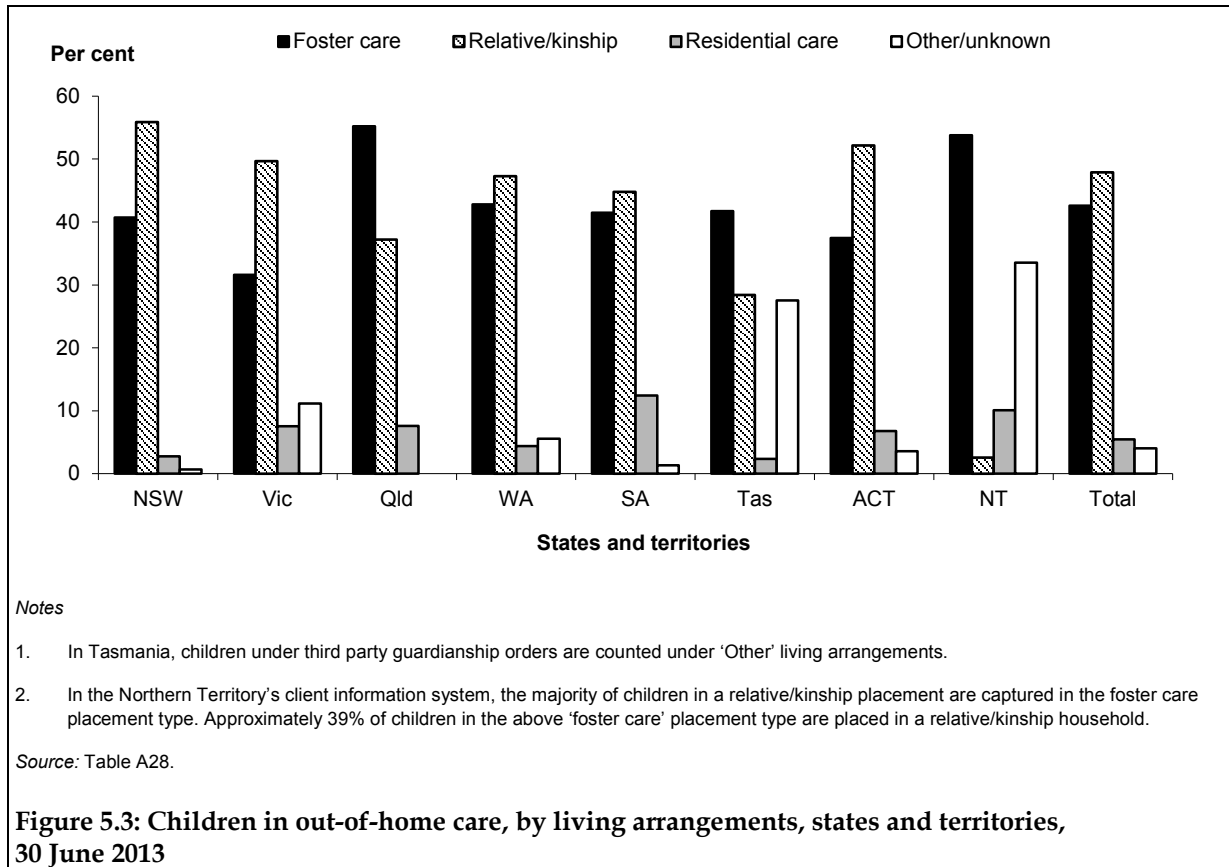
Nationally, the rate of children in out-of-home care at 30 June 2013 was 7.8 per 1,000 children, ranging from 5.2 per 1,000 in Victoria to 11.7 in the Northern Territory (Figure 5.2).



Types of placement

The vast majority of children (93%) in out-of-home care at 30 June 2013 were in home-based care—43% in foster care, 48% in relative/kinship care and 3% in other types of home-based care (Table A28). The proportions varied across jurisdictions; for example, the proportion of children in foster care ranged from 32% in Victoria to 55% in Queensland (Figure 5.3).

Nationally, around 1 in 20 children in out-of-home care were living in residential care (Figure 5.3). Higher proportions than the national level of children in residential care were reported for all jurisdictions except New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania. Residential care is mainly used for children who have complex needs. However, in many jurisdictions, priority is given to keeping siblings together, which sometimes results in periods of residential care for larger family groups.



Length of time in continuous placement

Nationally, at 30 June 2013, about 4 in 5 children (82%) had been in their current out-of-home care placement for more than 1 year—ranging from 75% of children in Victoria to 87% in New South Wales. Almost one-third (30%) had been in a continuous placement for between 2 and 5 years, while a further 39% had been in a continuous placement for 5 years or more (Table 5.2). Eighteen per cent of children had been in their current placement for less than 1 year.

Table 5.2: Children in out-of-home care, by length of time in continuous placement, states and territories, 30 June 2013

Time in continuous placement	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT ^(a)	Total ^(a)
	Number								
<1 month ^(b)	233	200	163	85	23	20	5	11	740
1 month to <6 months	1,015	765	702	343	208	117	44	59	3,253
6 months to <1 year	1,092	698	662	377	179	68	42	109	3,227
1 year to <2 years	1,956	1,043	1,194	555	322	148	83	110	5,411
2 years to <5 years	5,636	1,711	2,254	902	813	332	165	261	12,074
5 years or more	7,490	2,125	3,161	1,163	1,112	382	219	198	15,850
Total	17,422	6,542	8,136	3,425	2,657	1,067	558	748	40,555
	%								
<1 month	1.3	3.1	2.0	2.5	0.9	1.9	0.9	1.5	1.8
1 month to <6 months	5.8	11.7	8.6	10.0	7.8	11.0	7.9	7.9	8.0
6 months to <1 year	6.3	10.7	8.1	11.0	6.7	6.4	7.5	14.6	8.0
1 year to <2 years	11.2	15.9	14.7	16.2	12.1	13.9	14.9	14.7	13.3
2 years to <5 years	32.3	26.2	27.7	26.3	30.6	31.1	29.6	34.9	29.8
5 years or more	43.0	32.5	38.9	34.0	41.9	35.8	39.2	26.5	39.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Aggregate data were provided by the Northern Territory. As such, the number of children in out-of-home care for the Northern Territory and 'Total' do not match numbers reported elsewhere.

(b) Not all jurisdictions were able to identify whether children were in respite care. However, where it was known that children were in respite care, they were included in the 'less than 1 month' category.

Notes

1. If a child has a return home or break of less than 60 days before returning to the same or different placement, they are considered to be continuously in care during this period.
2. Percentages exclude cases where the length of time in a continuous placement was unknown or not stated.
3. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Children on a care and protection order

Nationally, 91% of children in out-of-home care were also on care and protection orders. In the Northern Territory, all children in out-of-home care are required to be on care and protection orders. In other jurisdictions, the proportion of children in out-of-home care who were on care and protection orders ranged from 78% in Victoria to 98% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 5.3). In South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, a small proportion of children in out-of-home care were on orders other than care and protection orders (for example, offence orders).

Table 5.3: Children in out-of-home care, order status, states and territories, 30 June 2013

Order status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^(a)	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	Number								
On care and protection order	15,559	5,120	7,888	3,251	2,557	1,036	546	742	36,699
On another type of order	0	0	0	0	90	0	5	0	95
<i>Total children on orders</i>	<i>15,559</i>	<i>5,120</i>	<i>7,888</i>	<i>3,251</i>	<i>2,647</i>	<i>1,036</i>	<i>551</i>	<i>742</i>	<i>36,794</i>
Not on an order	1,863	1,422	248	174	10	31	7	0	3,755
Total	17,422	6,542	8,136	3,425	2,657	1,067	558	742	40,549
	%								
On care and protection order	89.3	78.3	97.0	94.9	96.2	97.1	97.8	100.0	90.5
On another type of order	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.2
<i>Total children on orders</i>	<i>89.3</i>	<i>78.3</i>	<i>97.0</i>	<i>94.9</i>	<i>99.6</i>	<i>97.1</i>	<i>98.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>90.7</i>
Not on an order	10.7	21.7	3.0	5.1	0.4	2.9	1.3	0.0	9.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Children not on an order are children in negotiated placements, placement service and those awaiting prospective adoption.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Age and sex profile

Almost one-third (32%) of children in out-of-home care were aged 5 to 9 and a similar proportion (31%) were aged 10 to 14 (Table A29). The median age of children in out-of-home care was 9 years. In line with the general population distribution, just over half (52%) of all children in out-of-home care were boys (Table A30).

Living arrangements for children in out-of-home care were similar across age groups to children on care and protection orders. Children in residential care were older than children in home-based care – 84% of children in residential care or family group homes were aged 10 or older, with a median age of 14. The corresponding proportion of children aged over 10 in home-based care was 43% (Table A31). Five per cent of children in residential care or family group homes in Australia were under 5, compared with 24% of those in home-based care. The median age of children in home-based care was 9 years.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

At 30 June 2013, there were 13,952 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care, a rate of 57.1 per 1,000 children. These rates ranged from 22.2 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory to 85.5 per 1,000 in New South Wales (Table 5.4).

Nationally, the rate of Indigenous children in out-of-home care was 10.6 times the rate for non-Indigenous children. In all jurisdictions, the rate of Indigenous children in out-of-home care was higher than for non-Indigenous children, with rate ratios ranging from 3.9 in Tasmania to 16.1 in Western Australia.

Table 5.4: Children in out-of-home care, by number and number per 1,000 children aged 0–17 and Indigenous status, states and territories, 30 June 2013

State/ territory	Number of children				Number per 1,000 children			
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown	All children ^(a)	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	All children ^(a)	Rate ratio Indigenous/non-Indigenous
NSW	6,203	11,214	5	17,422	85.5	7.2	10.4	11.8
Vic	1,087	5,442	13	6,542	69.5	4.4	5.2	15.7
Qld	3,195	4,884	57	8,136	43.6	4.7	7.3	9.4
WA	1,678	1,721	26	3,425	53.3	3.3	5.9	16.1
SA	788	1,835	34	2,657	60.7	5.3	7.4	11.5
Tas	243	803	21	1,067	28.5	7.3	9.3	3.9
ACT	140	399	19	558	70.5	5.1	6.6	14.0
NT	618	124	0	742	22.2	3.4	11.7	6.6
Total	13,952	26,422	175	40,549	57.1	5.4	7.8	10.6

(a) 'All children' includes children whose Indigenous status was unknown.

Notes

1. Refer to Table A45 for the populations used in the calculation of rates.
2. Rate ratios are calculated by dividing the un-rounded rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were in out-of-home care by the unrounded rate of non-Indigenous children who were in out-of-home care. The resulting number is a measure of how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were in out-of-home care for every non-Indigenous child who was in out-of-home care.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

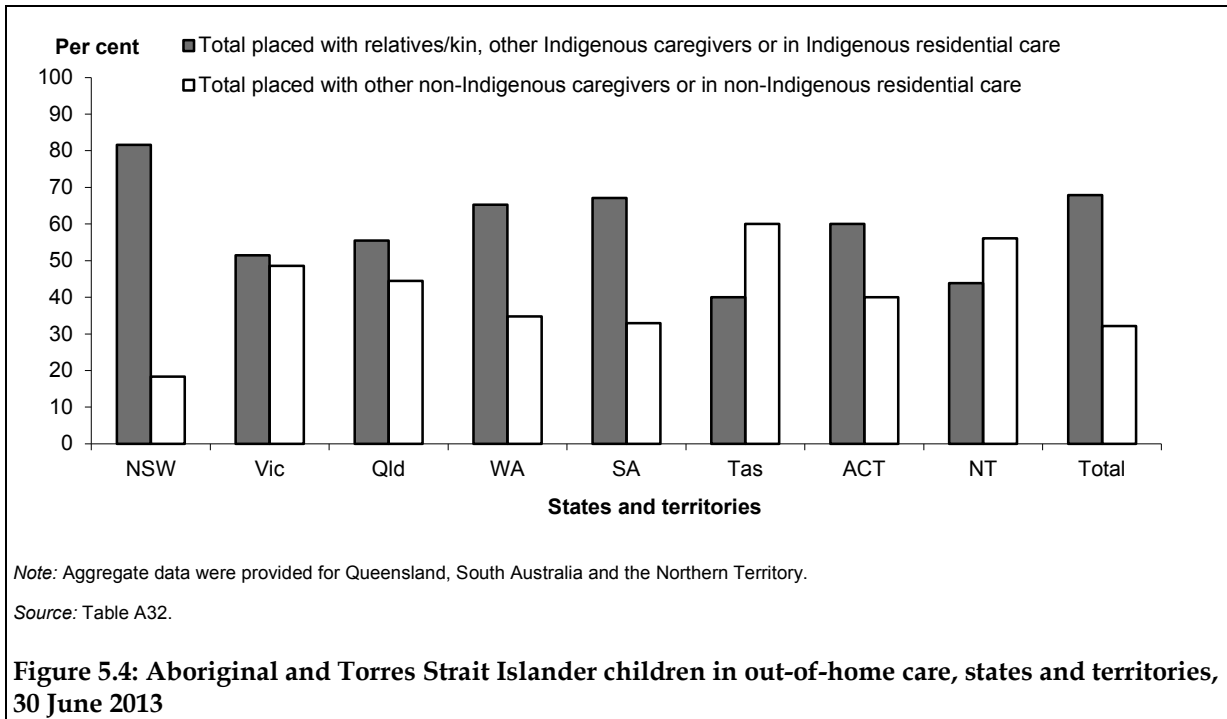
The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle

The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle outlines a preference for the placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when they are placed outside their family (Lock 1997:50). The Principle has the following order of preference for the placement of Indigenous children:

- with the child's extended family
- within the child's Indigenous community
- with other Indigenous people.

All jurisdictions have adopted the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle in legislation and policy. The impact of the Principle is reflected in the relatively high proportions of Indigenous children who were placed either with Indigenous caregivers or with relatives in many jurisdictions (Figure 4.4). Across Australia, 68% of Indigenous children were placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care.

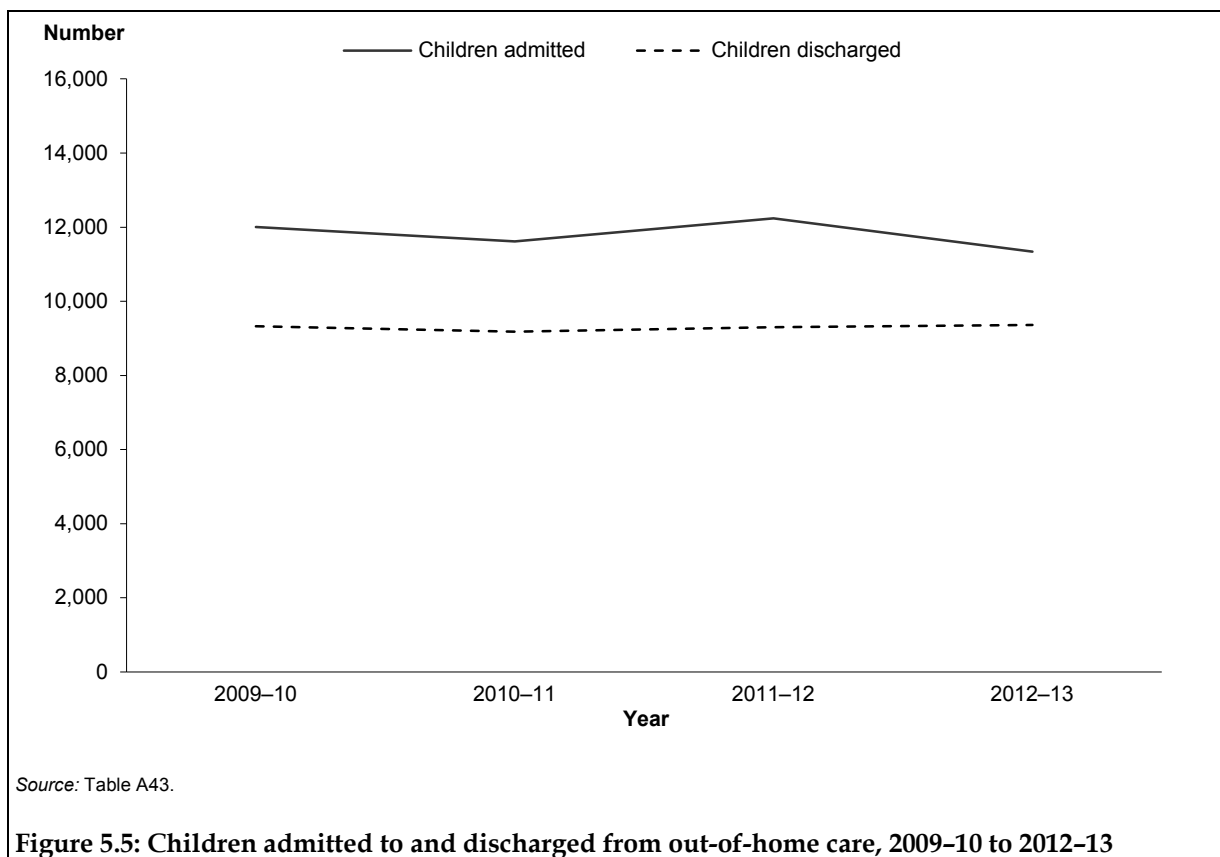
The Principle is just one of the many considerations taken into account when making decisions on placements for Indigenous children. Where placement options outlined in the Principle are not optimal for a child's safety and wellbeing, the child may be placed in an alternative care arrangement, this is usually only done after extensive consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and/or organisations.



5.3 National trends

Children admitted to, and discharged from, out-of-home care

Over the past 4 years, the number of children discharged from out-of-home care has remained relatively stable while the number of children admitted has fluctuated. The number of admissions has consistently outnumbered discharges; in 2012–13, almost 2,000 more children were admitted to out-of-home care than were discharged (Figure 5.5).



Over the past year, the number of children admitted to out-of-home care has decreased by 7% from 12,240 in 2011-12 to 11,341 in 2012-13 (Table 5.5). Trends in admissions from 2008-09 to 2011-12 varied across jurisdictions. Over the last year, the number of children admitted to out-of-home care increased in Western Australia and Tasmania. All other jurisdictions had decreases (ranging from 5% in Queensland to 18% in the Australian Capital Territory).

Table 5.5: Children admitted to out-of-home care, states and territories, 2008-09 to 2012-13

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^(a)	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2008-09	4,564	2,936	3,015	797	660	349	194	318	12,833
2009-10	3,922	3,112	2,618	838	644	334	168	366	12,002
2010-11	3,542	3,067	2,644	879	583	298	244	356	11,613
2011-12	3,407	3,526	2,671	1,088	618	284	247	399	12,240
2012-13	3,038	3,204	2,551	1,107	569	304	203	365	11,341

(a) Data for 2009-10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

Note: This table includes all children admitted to out-of-home care for the first time in the period, as well as those children returning to care who had exited care 60 days or more previously. Children admitted to out-of-home care more than once during the year were only counted at the first admission.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Children in out-of-home care

Nationally, the rate of children in out-of-home care in Australia at 30 June has increased between 2009 and 2013, from 6.7 to 7.8 per 1,000 (Table 5.6). Overall, 6,480 more children (an increase of 19%) were in out-of-home care at 30 June 2013 compared with 30 June 2009.

Increases in the rate of children in out-of-home care may reflect the cumulative impact of children being admitted to, and remaining in, out-of-home care. As with the number of children on care and protection orders (see Chapter 4), the overall increase in the number of children in out-of-home care is largely driven by the increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care.

Table 5.6: Children aged 0–17 in out-of-home care, states and territories, 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013 (number and number per 1,000)

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^{(a)(b)}	SA ^(c)	Tas ^(d)	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
2009	15,211	5,283	7,093	2,682	2,016	808	494	482	34,069
2010	16,175	5,469	7,350	2,737	2,188	893	532	551	35,895
2011	16,740	5,678	7,602	3,120	2,368	966	540	634	37,648
2012	17,192	6,207	7,999	3,400	2,548	1,009	566	700	39,621
2013	17,422	6,542	8,136	3,425	2,657	1,067	558	742	40,549
Number per 1,000 children									
2009	9.4	4.3	6.7	5.1	5.7	6.8	6.3	7.7	6.7
2010	9.9	4.4	6.8	5.1	6.1	7.5	6.7	8.8	7.0
2011	10.2	4.6	7.0	5.7	6.6	8.1	6.7	10.2	7.3
2012 ^(e)	10.5	5.1	7.4	6.1	7.2	8.7	7.0	11.2	7.7
2013	10.4	5.2	7.3	5.9	7.4	9.3	6.6	11.7	7.8

(a) Data for 2008 onwards are not strictly comparable with earlier figures for Western Australia because they previously included children whose whereabouts were unknown or who were living with relatives who were not reimbursed.

(b) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

(c) South Australia could only provide the number of children in out-of-home care where the Department is making a financial contribution to the care of a child.

(d) Rates for 2012 for Tasmania should not be compared with previous years due to the change in methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population.

(e) The ABS has improved the methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population, which has caused a downward revision of the 2012 estimates based on the 2011 Census (see ABS 2012a, b). Due to these changes, comparisons of rates over time should be interpreted with caution.

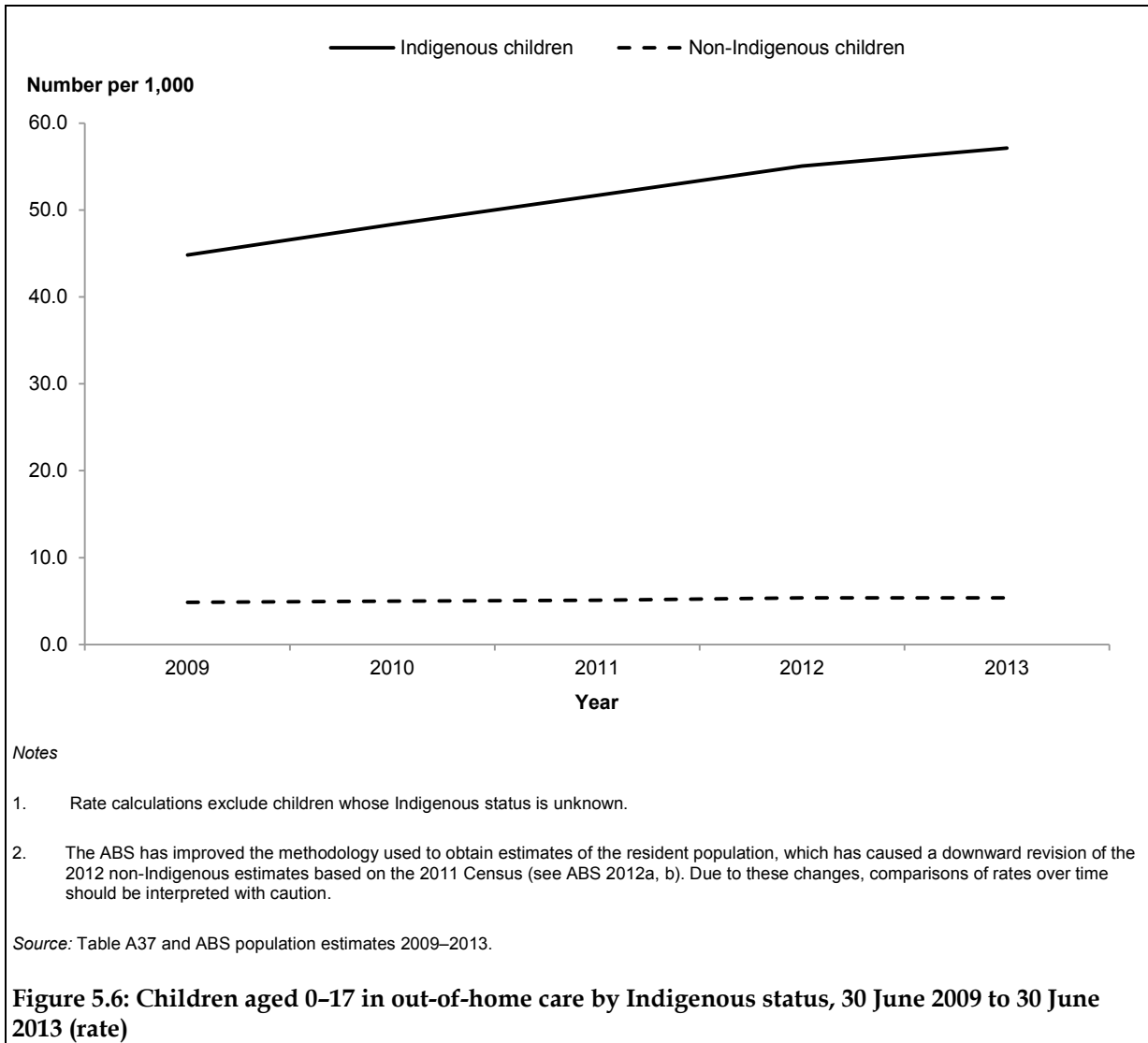
Notes

- Some rates may not match those published in previous publications of *Child protection Australia* due to retrospective updates to data.
- Refer to Table A45 for the population used in the calculation of rates for 2013.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

The rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children placed in out-of-home care has steadily increased since 2009, from 44.8 to 57.1 per 1,000 children, while the non-Indigenous rate has increased slightly from 4.9 to 5.4 per 1,000 children (Figure 5.6).



6 Carers

6.1 Overview and key statistics

On an average day in 2012–13, there were 23,354 households approved/authorised to provide funded out-of-home care placements. Most of these households were approved/authorised to provide foster or relative/kinship care (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1: Overview of funded out-of-home carer households, on an average day during 2012–13

Authorisation type	Number	%
Foster carer	9,943	42.7
Relative/kinship carer	12,709	54.5
Both foster and relative/kinship carer	430	1.8
Respite-only carer	206	0.9
Long-term guardianship	18	0.1
Not stated	49	—
Total	23,354	100.0

Notes

1. 'Not stated' are excluded from the total when calculating proportions.
2. Data quality issues for some jurisdictions may impact on these results.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

This finding corresponds with the types of placements most commonly used for out-of-home care – the vast majority (93%) of children in out-of-home care in Australia are placed in home-based care with foster carers or with relatives/kin (see Chapter 5). Foster care and relative/kinship care are forms of overnight care provided by one or more adults in a private household to a child who is living apart from his/her natural or adoptive parents (see Box 6.1).

Box 6.1: Foster and relative/kinship care

- **Foster care** is where the caregiver is authorised and reimbursed (or was offered but declined reimbursement) by the state/territory for the care of the child. These substitute parents are generally called 'foster carers'. There are varying degrees of reimbursement made to foster carers.
- **Relative/kinship care** is where the caregiver is a relative (other than parents), considered to be family or a close friend, or is a member of the child or young person's community (in accordance with their culture) who is reimbursed (or who has been offered but declined reimbursement) by the state/territory for the care of the child.

The information in this chapter describes foster and relative/kinship carer households at 30 June 2013 and commencements and exits during 2012–13. State and territory differences in policies and practices in relation to foster care and relative/kinship care should be taken into account when interpreting the data. Some notable differences:

- There are varying degrees of reimbursement made to foster carers. For example, some carers are paid a wage beyond the reimbursement of expenses.
- Where a carer is authorised to provide both foster and relative/kinship care, they may be included in the count of both foster and relative/kinship carers.
- In some jurisdictions, respite carers known to the department are registered as either 'general foster carers' or 'relative carers' and therefore may be included in the scope of these collections.

6.2 Foster carer households

At 30 June 2013, there were 9,561 households with one or more foster care placements (Table 6.2). Nationally, during 2012–13 there were 12,737 households that had one or more foster care placements at some point during the year (Table 6.2).

Table 6.2: Foster carer households with a placement, states and territories, at 30 June 2013 and during 2012–13

Households	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA	SA	Tas ^(c)	ACT	NT ^(d)	Total
Households with a placement at 30 June 2013	3,825	1,531	2,291	688	645	210	122	249	9,561
Household with a placement during 2012–13	4,816	2,414	2,821	909	993	269	194	321	12,737

(a) In New South Wales, the total number of foster carer households are those that had a placement in the last 2 years. 'Households with a placement at 30 June' includes those households that only had a short-term respite placement during the year. Counts of foster carer households are slightly understated as complete information is not available for some non-government agencies.

(b) Queensland data exclude provisionally approved carer households.

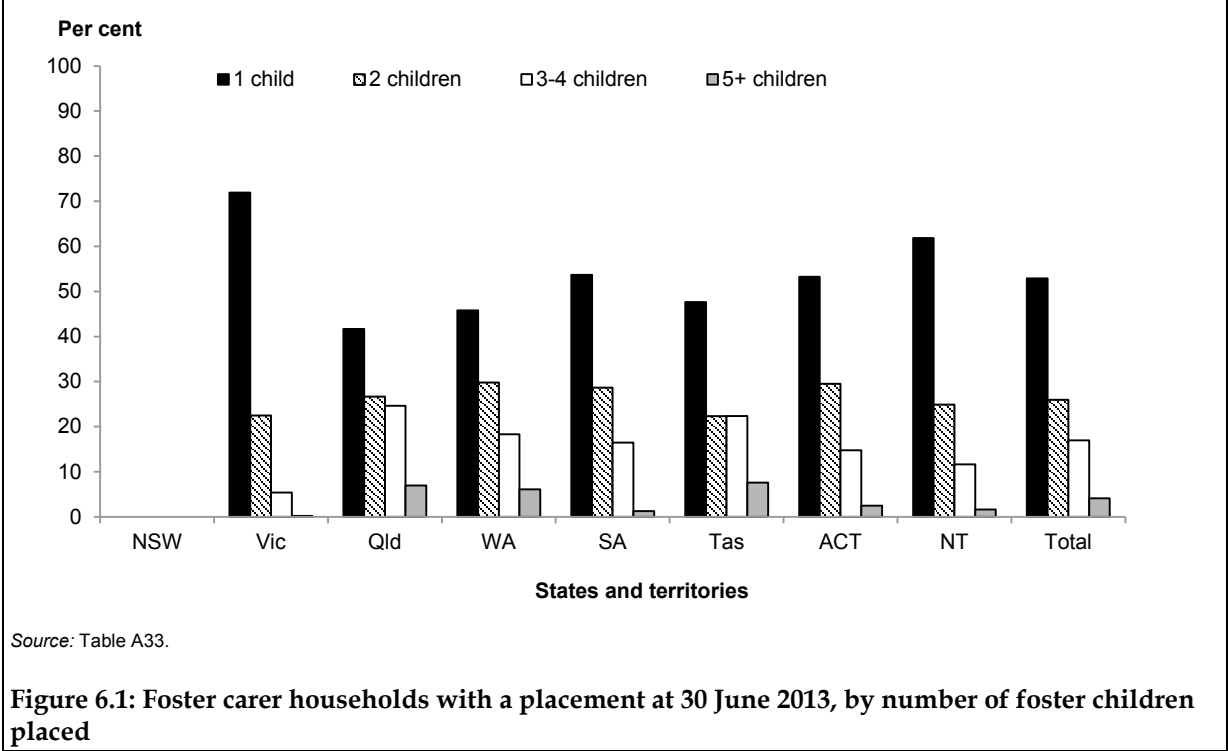
(c) In Tasmania, delays in administrative processes can result in carers being maintained as approved in the system when they are no longer accepting child placements. As such, the number of foster carer households reported in this table is considered to be higher than the actual number. For the purpose of reporting active foster care households, if no termination date is recorded, a foster care household that has not had a placement in 12 months is considered to be no longer active.

(d) Aggregate data were provided for the Northern Territory.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Number of children in placements

Across jurisdictions (except New South Wales), 53% of foster carer households with a placement had 1 child placed with them at 30 June 2013 while 47% had multiple children placed with them. Across jurisdictions, the proportion of carer households with multiple placements ranged from 28% in Victoria to 58% in Queensland. Across Australia (excluding New South Wales), 43% of households with a placement had between 2 and 4 foster children placed and 4% had 5 or more (Figure 6.1).



Household commencements and exits

Among jurisdictions with available data, 2,248 households commenced foster care and 1,494 exited foster care in 2012–13 (Table 6.3). In all jurisdictions except Victoria, a greater number of households commenced than exited foster care. With the need for foster carers increasing, the attraction and retention of appropriately skilled foster carers is a high priority across Australia (COAG 2009).

Table 6.3: Number of households commencing and exiting foster care, 2012–13

Households	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA	SA	Tas ^(c)	ACT	NT ^(d)	Total
Households commencing foster care	663	442	481	235	185	64	37	141	2,248
Households exiting foster care	n.a.	616	437	182	73	49	31	106	1,494

- (a) New South Wales data include Community Services and non-government agency foster carer households. This count excludes some non-government agency carer households because there is no information collected on their commencement date. For households exiting foster care, New South Wales was unable to provide data for 2012–13.
- (b) Queensland data do not include provisionally approved carer households that have commenced providing foster care but are yet to receive approval as a foster carer.
- (c) In Tasmania, delays in administrative processes can result in carers being maintained as approved in the system when they are no longer accepting child placements, resulting in an under-count of the number of carers exiting foster care.
- (d) Aggregate data were provided for the Northern Territory.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

6.3 Relative/kinship carer households

At 30 June 2013, there were 11,973 households with 1 or more relative/kinship care placements (Table 6.4). There were 14,353 households that had a relative/kinship placement during 2012–13 (for jurisdictions where data were available).

Table 6.4: Relative/kinship carer households with a placement, state and territories, at 30 June 2012 and during 2012–13

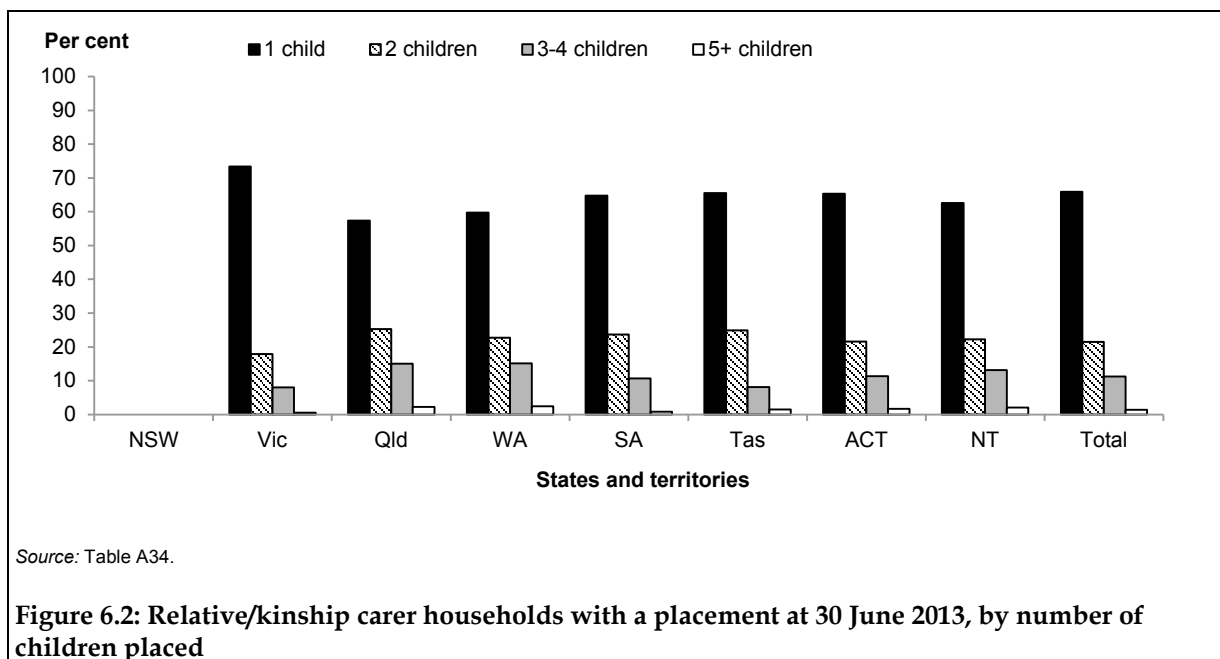
Households	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA	SA	Tas ^(c)	ACT	NT ^(d)	Total
Households with a placement at 30 June 2013	6,167	2,352	1,272	916	794	197	176	99	11,973
Household with a placement during 2012–13	7,437	3,795	n.a.	1,305	1,161	293	233	129	14,353

- (a) In New South Wales, the total number of relative/kinship carer households are those who had a placement in the last 2 years. 'Households with a placement at 30 June' includes those households that only had a short-term respite placement during the year.
- (b) Queensland data exclude provisionally approved carer households.
- (c) In Tasmania, delays in administrative processes can result in carers being maintained as approved in the system when they are no longer accepting child placements. As such, the number of relative/kinship carer households reported in this table is considered to be higher than the actual number. For the purpose of reporting active relative/kinship care households, if no termination date is recorded, a relative/kinship care household that has not had a placement in 12 months is considered to be no longer active.
- (d) Aggregate data were provided for the Northern Territory.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Number of children in placements

For jurisdictions with available data, almost two-thirds (66%) of relative/kinship carer households with a placement had 1 child placed with them at 30 June 2013, compared to 53% of foster carer households. The proportion of relative/kinship carer households with 1 child ranged from 57% in Queensland to 73% in Victoria. Across Australia (excluding New South Wales), 33% of households with a placement had between 2 and 4 children placed and 1% had 5 or more (Figure 6.2). The relatively high proportion of households with multiple children placed with them may partially reflect the fact that in many jurisdictions priority is given to keeping siblings together.



Household commencements and exits

Among those jurisdictions with available data, 4,670 households commenced relative/kinship care and 2,523 exited relative/kinship care in 2012–13. In all jurisdictions, a greater number of households commenced than exited relative/kinship care (Table 6.5).

Table 6.5: Number of households commencing and exiting relative/kinship care, 2012–13

Households	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA	SA	Tas ^(c)	ACT	NT ^(d)	Total
Households commencing relative/kinship care	1,182	1,651	656	557	351	149	50	74	4,670
Households exiting relative/kinship care	n.a	1,362	541	422	46	98	5	49	2,523

(a) New South Wales data include Community Services and non-government agency relative/kinship carer households. New South Wales was unable to provide data for 2012–13 for 'Households exiting relative/kinship care'.

(b) Queensland data do not include provisionally approved carer households that have commenced providing relative/kinship care but are yet to receive approval as a relative/kinship carer.

(c) In Tasmania, delays in administrative processes can result in carers being maintained as approved in the system when they are no longer accepting child placements, resulting in an under-count of the number of carers exiting relative/kinship care.

(d) Aggregate data were provided for the Northern Territory.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

7 Intensive family support services

7.1 Overview and key statistics

Key statistics

In 2012–13, there were 274 intensive family support service providers nationally (Table 7.1). The services were delivered across 297 locations, most of which (81%) were in capital cities or other urban centres (AIHW IFSS Aggregate Collection 2012–13). Nationally, 22,081 children commenced intensive family support services during 2012–13 (Table 7.1).

Table 7.1: Key intensive family support services statistics, 2012–13

	Number
Number of intensive family support services	274
Number of children commencing intensive family support services	22,081

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Intensive family support services aim to prevent imminent separation of children from their primary caregivers because of child protection concerns, and reunify families where separation has already occurred.

This chapter provides information on children commencing intensive family support services in 2012–13 that are funded by the state and territory departments responsible for child protection. Currently, the national data collection is limited to intensive family support services (see Box 7.1).

Box 7.1: Intensive family support services

To be included in the intensive family support services data collection, services must meet all the following criteria:

- They are provided explicitly to work to prevent separation or to reunify families
- A range of services are provided as part of an integrated strategy focussing on improving family functioning and skills, rather than just one type of service, such as emergency or respite care
- They are intensive in nature, averaging at least 4 hours of service provision per week for a specified short-term period (usually less than 180 days)
- Generally referrals will come from the statutory agency and will have been identified through the child protection process. Most cases will have been the subject of a child protection substantiation.

7.2 Children commencing services

Age profile

Almost half (45%) of children commencing intensive family support services were under 5 (among those jurisdictions with available data). However, the age distribution varied across

jurisdictions – the proportion of children aged 0–4 commencing intensive family support services ranged from 29% in Tasmania to 56% in New South Wales (Table 7.2).

Table 7.2: Number of children aged 0–17 commencing intensive family support services, by age at commencement of service, states and territories, 2012–13

Age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA ^(a)	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
0–4	4,731	2,328	1,559	311	n.a.	519	65	55	9,568
5–9	2,367	1,531	1,161	270	n.a.	522	65	40	5,956
10–17	1,418	2,082	975	257	n.a.	738	71	58	5,599
Total^(b)	8,526	5,941	3,714	838	877	1,831	201	153	22,081
%									
0–4	55.6	39.2	42.2	37.1	..	29.2	32.3	35.9	45.3
5–9	27.8	25.8	31.4	32.2	..	29.3	32.3	26.1	28.2
10–17	16.7	35.0	26.4	30.7	..	41.5	35.3	37.9	26.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) South Australia was not able to provide an age breakdown.

(b) The total includes children of unknown age and, as such, will not equal the sum of the age groups.

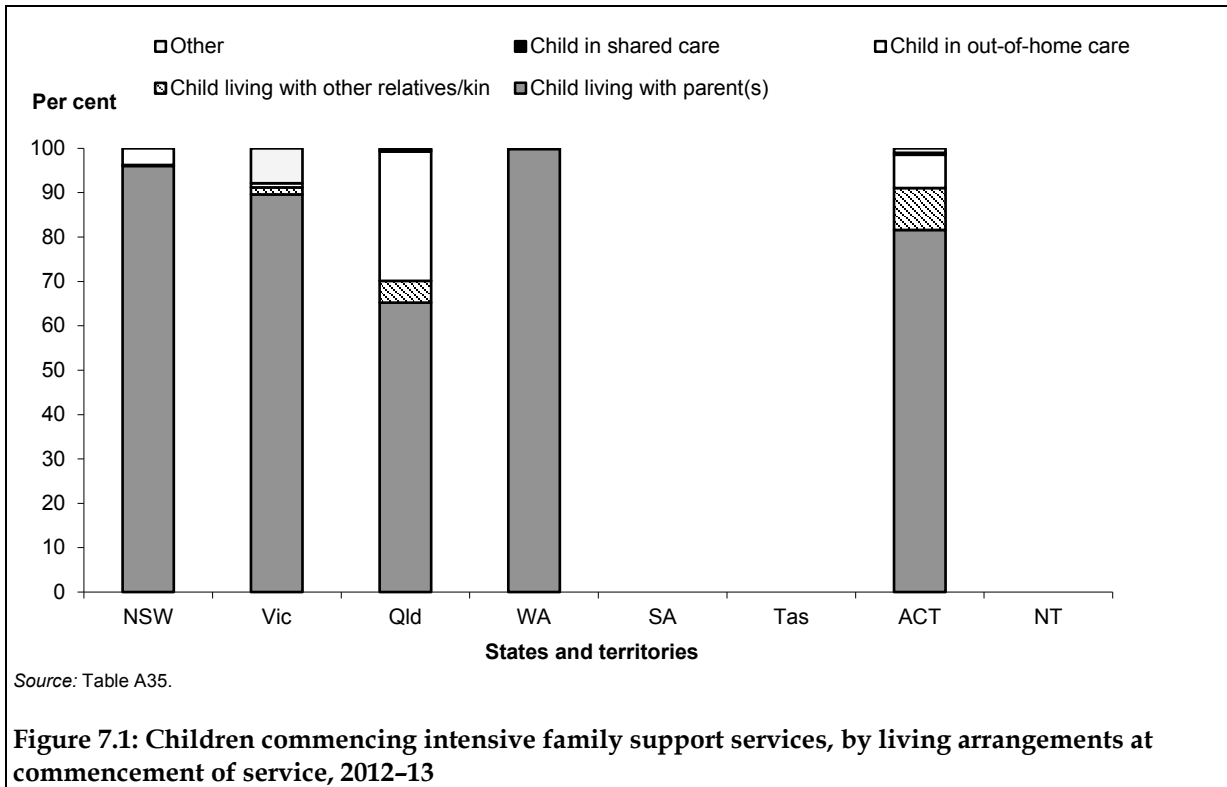
Notes

1. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

The majority (88%) of children who commenced an intensive family support service were living with their parents. For those jurisdictions with available data, this ranged from 65% of children in Queensland to 100% of children in Western Australia (Figure 7.1).

In Queensland, a substantially higher proportion of children in out-of-home care used family support services – 29% compared with 8% overall.



Appendix A Detailed tables

Children receiving child protection services

Table A1: Number of children receiving child protection services, by components of service, states and territories, 2012–13

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	Number								
Investigation only	27,367	14,530	n.a.	8,516	3,028	1,424	1,304	2,770	58,939
On an order and in out-of-home care	13,097	6,325	n.a.	3,133	2,417	1,056	512	705	27,245
Investigation, order and out-of-home care	4,599	1,137	n.a.	956	542	216	186	325	7,961
Care and protection order only	596	2,455	n.a.	743	178	156	85	62	4,275
Out-of-home care only	1,847	1,016	n.a.	93	110	6	41	1	3,114
Investigation and out-of-home care	526	936	n.a.	89	26	20	26	0	1,623
Investigation and care and protection order	367	873	n.a.	127	79	69	61	17	1,593
	%								
Investigation only	56.5	53.3	n.a.	62.4	47.5	48.3	58.9	71.4	56.3
On an order and in out-of-home care	27.1	23.2	n.a.	22.9	37.9	35.8	23.1	18.2	26.0
Investigation, order and out-of-home care	9.5	4.2	n.a.	7.0	8.5	7.3	8.4	8.4	7.6
Care and protection order only	1.2	9.0	n.a.	5.4	2.8	5.3	3.8	1.6	4.1
Out-of-home care only	3.8	3.7	n.a.	0.7	1.7	0.2	1.9	0.0	3.0
Investigation and out-of-home care	1.1	3.4	n.a.	0.7	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.0	1.5
Investigation and care and protection order	0.8	3.2	n.a.	0.9	1.2	2.3	2.8	0.4	1.5
Number of children receiving child protection services	48,399	27,272	30,389	13,657	6,380	2,947	2,215	3,880	135,139

Note: The breakdown by components of service was not available for Queensland. The denominator used to calculate proportions for the 'Total' excludes Queensland.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A2: New and repeat clients receiving child protection services, by service type, 2012–13

Client type	Children receiving child protection services	Children on care and protection orders	Children in out-of-home care	Children who were the subject of an investigation of a notification
	Number			
New client	4,319	736	672	4,004
Repeat client	8,888	5,086	4,752	4,512
Total	13,207	5,822	5,424	8,516
	%			
New client	32.7	12.6	12.4	47.0
Repeat client	67.3	87.4	87.6	53.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Due to data availability and quality issues, data are reported for three jurisdictions only (South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory).
2. 'Children receiving child protection services' is defined as one or more of the following occurring within the reporting period: an investigation of a notification; being on a care and protection order; or being in out-of-home care. It is not a total count of the above three areas; it is a count of unique children across the three areas.
3. New clients are children or young people who have not ever previously been the subject of an investigation, any type of national care and protection order, or funded out-of-home care placement (including only those respite placements of 7 days or more) within the jurisdiction.
4. Repeat clients are children or young people who have previously been the subject of an investigation or were discharged (according to national specifications) from any type of national care and protection order or funded out-of-home care placement (including only those respite placements of 7 days or more), or whose earliest order and/or placement in the current reporting period is part of a preceding continuous episode of care.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A3: Number of children receiving child protection services by age and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2012–13

Age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Indigenous children									
<1 year	1,639	366	1,259	382	208	33	34	331	4,252
1–4	3,188	901	2,505	1,029	486	109	95	918	9,231
5–9	3,967	909	2,635	1,464	599	168	122	883	10,747
10–14	3,611	772	2,158	1,296	452	130	89	808	9,316
15–17	1,308	322	668	330	169	49	39	208	3,093
Unknown	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	1	17
Total	13,713	3,270	9,241	4,501	1,914	489	379	3,149	36,656
Non-Indigenous children									
<1 year	3,360	2,132	1,979	357	437	100	101	44	8,510
1–4	7,356	5,388	4,689	1,066	1,041	480	307	167	20,494
5–9	9,312	6,668	5,654	1,688	1,266	608	419	213	25,828
10–14	9,546	6,672	5,262	1,647	1,069	579	373	207	25,355
15–17	3,734	3,057	1,886	667	509	225	194	99	10,371
Unknown	0	13	25	0	0	0	0	1	39
Total	33,308	23,930	19,495	5,425	4,322	1,992	1,394	731	90,597
Unknown Indigenous status									
<1 year	498	16	511	447	70	133	69	0	1,744
1–4	233	15	343	1,071	57	103	117	0	1,939
5–9	261	26	380	1,065	4	107	101	0	1,944
10–14	283	12	286	831	8	92	118	0	1,630
15–17	103	3	84	317	5	29	32	0	573
Unknown	0	0	49	0	0	2	5	0	56
Total	1,378	72	1,653	3,731	144	466	442	0	7,886

(continued)

Table A3 (continued): Number of children receiving child protection services by age and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2012–13

Age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
All children									
<1 year	5,497	2,514	3,749	1,186	715	266	204	375	14,506
1–4	10,777	6,304	7,537	3,166	1,584	692	519	1,085	31,664
5–9	13,540	7,603	8,669	4,217	1,869	883	642	1,096	38,519
10–14	13,440	7,456	7,706	3,774	1,529	801	580	1,015	36,301
15–17	5,145	3,382	2,638	1,314	683	303	265	307	14,037
Unknown	0	13	90	0	0	2	5	2	112
Total	48,399	27,272	30,389	13,657	6,380	2,947	2,215	3,880	135,139

Notes

1. 'Children receiving child protection services' is defined as one or more of the following occurring within the reporting period: an investigation of a notification, being on a care and protection order, or being in out-of-home care. It is not a total count of these three areas; it is a count of unique children across the three areas.
2. 'All children' includes children of unknown Indigenous status.
3. Age is calculated as at the start of the financial year (that is, 1 July 2012) if the first contact began before the start of the financial year (that is, children continuing on an order or in out-of-home care into the financial year); otherwise, age is calculated as at the date of first contact during the period (that is, date of notification, order start or placement start for children whose contact occurred during the period).

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Notifications, investigations and substantiations

Table A4: Notifications, by type of action, states and territories, 2012–13

Type of action	NSW ^(a)	Vic ^(b)	Qld ^(c)	WA ^(d)	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
Investigations finalised ^(e)	52,509	17,985	22,046	9,378	4,652	1,778	1,932	3,061	113,341
Investigation closed—no outcome possible	333	0	871	690	308	168	302	311	2,983
<i>Total closed investigations</i>	<i>52,842</i>	<i>17,985</i>	<i>22,917</i>	<i>10,068</i>	<i>4,960</i>	<i>1,946</i>	<i>2,234</i>	<i>3,372</i>	<i>116,324</i>
Investigations in process ^(f)	1,394	1,018	1,846	947	373	73	87	434	6,172
<i>Total investigations</i>	<i>54,236</i>	<i>19,003</i>	<i>24,763</i>	<i>11,015</i>	<i>5,333</i>	<i>2,019</i>	<i>2,321</i>	<i>3,806</i>	<i>122,496</i>
Notifications in process	30	1	0	98	109	23	26	0	287
Notifications resolved without investigation	50,551	54,261	0	4,088	13,678	10,269	11,171	6,179	150,197
<i>Total dealt with by other means^(g)</i>	<i>50,581</i>	<i>54,262</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4,186</i>	<i>13,787</i>	<i>10,292</i>	<i>11,197</i>	<i>6,179</i>	<i>150,484</i>
Total notifications	104,817	73,265	24,763	15,201	19,120	12,311	13,518	9,985	272,980
%									
Investigations finalised ^(e)	50.1	24.5	89.0	61.7	24.3	14.4	14.3	30.7	41.5
Investigation closed—no outcome possible	0.3	0.0	3.5	4.5	1.6	1.4	2.2	3.1	1.1
<i>Total closed investigations</i>	<i>50.4</i>	<i>24.5</i>	<i>92.5</i>	<i>66.2</i>	<i>25.9</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>33.8</i>	<i>42.6</i>
Investigations in process ^(f)	1.3	1.4	7.5	6.2	2.0	0.6	0.6	4.3	2.3
<i>Total investigations</i>	<i>51.7</i>	<i>25.9</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>72.5</i>	<i>27.9</i>	<i>16.4</i>	<i>17.2</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>44.9</i>
Notifications in process	0.0	—	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1
Notifications resolved without investigation	48.2	74.1	0.0	26.9	71.5	83.4	82.6	61.9	55.0
<i>Total dealt with by other means^(g)</i>	<i>48.3</i>	<i>74.1</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>27.5</i>	<i>72.1</i>	<i>83.6</i>	<i>82.8</i>	<i>61.9</i>	<i>55.1</i>

.. not applicable.

- (a) New South Wales figures are not comparable with those of other jurisdictions. New South Wales has a differential investigation response whereby an investigation can be undertaken over two stages (stage 1—information gathering; stage 2—assessment). Only the more serious cases, which receive the higher-level response, may lead to a recorded substantiation outcome.
- (b) In Victoria, there is not category identified as 'dealt with by other means'. All notifications are either 'investigations', 'investigations in process' or 'resolved without investigation'. For the purposes of national reporting 'dealt with by other means' is the total of 'notifications in process' and 'notifications resolved without investigations'.
- (c) In Queensland, 'investigation closed—no outcome possible' is considered to be a finalised investigation. This category includes notifications where there was insufficient information to enable an assessment outcome of 'substantiated' or 'unsubstantiated' to be determined. This may occur in situations where the family was unable to be identified or located or has moved overseas and the investigation is considered finalised and closed.
- (d) In Western Australia, initial inquiries for a child that commenced during 2012–13 where the primary concern on the initial inquiry for the child was emotional/psychological, physical, sexual abuse or neglect, and the next action is a safety and wellbeing assessment, are counted as notifications in this table.
- (e) 'Investigations finalised' are investigations that were completed and an outcome of 'substantiated' or 'not substantiated' recorded by 31 August 2012.
- (f) 'Investigations in process' are investigations that were begun, but not completed, by 31 August 2013.

- (g) 'Total dealt with by other means' includes notifications that were responded to by means other than an investigation, such as referral to police, referral to family services or provision of advice. 'Dealt with by other means' also includes some cases that were previously reported as 'no investigation possible/no action'.

Note: Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A5: Number of investigations, by source of notification, states and territories, 2012–13

Source of notification	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA ^(b)	SA	Tas ^(c)	ACT	NT	Total
Police	10,424	5,484	7,809	2,883	1,178	565	505	1,190	30,038
School personnel	9,618	3,569	3,692	1,606	797	410	500	596	20,788
Hospital/health centre	3,596	93	..	399	295	1	269	509	5,162
Parent/guardian	2,720	964	1,631	755	169	84	113	83	6,519
Non-government organisation	2,760	2,011	1,202	0	563	8	212	236	6,992
Sibling/other relative	3,207	1,056	1,680	694	271	112	104	209	7,333
Other ^(d)	2,132	568	1,222	1,115	125	39	142	191	5,534
Anonymous	3,292	0	545	0	176	52	11	70	4,146
Friend/neighbour	2,780	648	1,411	268	245	71	70	129	5,622
Social worker	8,324	742	..	1,296	-	463	27	52	10,904
Medical practitioner	1,275	820	3,993	415	189	60	35	62	6,849
Departmental officer	1,324	0	1,078	789	557	13	259	379	4,399
Other health personnel	1,691	962	..	183	412	108	35	89	3,480
Child care personnel	912	138	260	46	91	24	20	4	1,495
Subject child	181	0	199	49	6	9	19	7	470
Not stated	0	1,948	41	517	259	0	0	0	2,765
Total	54,236	19,003	24,763	11,015	5,333	2,019	2,321	3,806	122,496

(a) New South Wales figures are not comparable with those of other jurisdictions. New South Wales has a differential investigation response whereby an investigation can be undertaken over two stages (stage 1—information gathering; stage 2—assessment).

(b) Western Australia introduced a new client system on 8 March 2010. In this system, the approach to recording source of notification is different to that used in the past. The source 'non-government organisation' can no longer be identified. The source 'social worker' can now be identified separately, which could not be reported in the past.

(c) Data reported for Tasmania aligns with the AIHW technical specifications except in the case of notifications received from departmental officers, which could also be classified in another category (for example, social worker). Notifications from departmental officers were assigned to the category of 'departmental officer' regardless of whether the source of notification could be classified in other categories.

(d) 'Other' category may include the person responsible.

Note: Investigations include 'investigations finalised', 'investigations in process' and 'investigations closed—no outcome possible'.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A6: Children who were the subjects of investigations by outcome, states and territories, 2012–13 (number)

	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Substantiated	16,236	10,048	7,149	2,686	1,836	918	494	1,204	40,571
Not substantiated	15,573	6,582	11,962	5,691	1,403	638	898	1,389	44,136
<i>Total finalised investigations</i>	<i>31,809</i>	<i>16,630</i>	<i>19,111</i>	<i>8,377</i>	<i>3,239</i>	<i>1,556</i>	<i>1,392</i>	<i>2,593</i>	<i>84,707</i>
Investigations in process	833	846	n.a.	779	227	46	46	357	3,134
<i>Investigation closed—no outcome possible</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>532</i>	<i>209</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>1,386</i>
Children in investigations	32,859	17,476	21,254	9,688	3,675	1,729	1,577	3,112	91,370

(a) New South Wales figures are not comparable with those of other jurisdictions. New South Wales has a differential investigation response whereby an investigation can be undertaken over two stages (stage 1—information gathering; stage 2—assessment). Only the more serious cases, which receive the higher-level response, may lead to a recorded substantiation outcome.

Note: Finalised investigations, and thus substantiations, refer only to cases that were notified during the year, not to the total number of investigations finalised by 31 August 2013.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A7: Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by type of abuse or neglect and sex, states and territories

Type of abuse or neglect	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^(a)	SA ^(b)	Tas ^(b)	ACT ^(b)	NT	Total
Number									
Boys									
Physical	1,619	1,420	665	216	180	75	16	108	4,299
Sexual	955	627	66	116	62	9	3	4	1,842
Emotional	2,400	2,829	1,291	381	213	212	84	217	7,627
Neglect	2,620	253	1,487	449	449	129	70	288	5,745
Not stated	0	0	0	3	0	9	61	0	73
Total	7,594	5,129	3,509	1,165	904	434	234	617	19,586
Girls									
Physical	1,455	1,288	569	214	168	52	13	89	3,848
Sexual	2,102	691	210	406	99	28	15	12	3,563
Emotional	2,430	2,700	1,329	451	255	237	103	207	7,712
Neglect	2,454	230	1,452	385	398	130	57	279	5,385
Not stated	0	0	0	4	1	18	72	0	95
Total	8,441	4,909	3,560	1,460	921	465	260	587	20,603
Not stated									
Physical	26	1	15	21	3	1	0	0	67
Sexual	8	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	16
Emotional	65	8	16	26	0	10	0	0	125
Neglect	102	0	48	9	8	6	0	0	173
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	201	10	80	61	11	19	0	0	382
All children									
Physical	3,100	2,709	1,249	451	351	128	29	197	8,214
Sexual	3,065	1,319	277	527	161	38	18	16	5,421
Emotional	4,895	5,537	2,636	858	468	459	187	424	15,464
Neglect	5,176	483	2,987	843	855	265	127	567	11,303
Not stated	0	0	0	7	1	28	133	0	169
Total	16,236	10,048	7,149	2,686	1,836	918	494	1,204	40,571

(continued)

Table A7 (continued): Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by type of abuse or neglect and sex, states and territories

Type of abuse or neglect	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^(a)	SA ^(b)	Tas ^(b)	ACT ^(b)	NT	Total
%									
Boys									
Physical	21.3	27.7	19.0	18.6	19.9	17.6	9.2	17.5	22.0
Sexual	12.6	12.2	1.9	10.0	6.9	2.1	1.7	0.6	9.4
Emotional	31.6	55.2	36.8	32.8	23.6	49.9	48.6	35.2	39.1
Neglect	34.5	4.9	42.4	38.6	49.7	30.4	40.5	46.7	29.4
Girls									
Physical	17.2	26.2	16.0	14.7	18.3	11.6	6.9	15.2	18.8
Sexual	24.9	14.1	5.9	27.9	10.8	6.3	8.0	2.0	17.4
Emotional	28.8	55.0	37.3	31.0	27.7	53.0	54.8	35.3	37.6
Neglect	29.1	4.7	40.8	26.4	43.3	29.1	30.3	47.5	26.3
All children									
Physical	19.1	27.0	17.5	16.8	19.1	14.4	8.0	16.4	20.3
Sexual	18.9	13.1	3.9	19.7	8.8	4.3	5.0	1.3	13.4
Emotional	30.1	55.1	36.9	32.0	25.5	51.6	51.8	35.2	38.3
Neglect	31.9	4.8	41.8	31.5	46.6	29.8	35.2	47.1	28.0

(a) Western Australia is currently unable to report a child's characteristics based on their first substantiation. As a result, a small number of children may be double-counted in this table where they have more than one substantiation and the notifications had differing characteristics, such as age or abuse type.

(b) In South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the abuse type for some substantiations was recorded as 'not stated' and could not be mapped to physical, sexual, emotional or neglect. These substantiations are included in the totals: as such, totals may not equal the sum of categories.

Notes

1. Finalised investigations, and thus substantiations, refer only to cases that were notified during the year, not to the total number of investigations finalised by 31 August 2013.
2. If a child was the subject of more than one type of abuse or neglect as part of the same notification, the type of abuse or neglect reported is the one considered by the child protection workers to cause the most harm to the child. Where a child is the subject of more than one substantiation during the year, the type of abuse or neglect reported is the one associated with the first substantiation decision relating to the earliest notification during the year. As such, only the abuse type for the first substantiation in the year that is most likely to place the child at risk, or be most severe in the short term, is reported.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A8: Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by age and Indigenous status, states and territories

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^{(a)(b)}	SA	Tas ^(b)	ACT ^(b)	NT	Total
Indigenous children									
<1	485	204	234	83	106	12	15	157	1,296
1–4	1,375	319	612	212	178	35	23	364	3,118
5–9	1,347	248	583	285	161	50	24	261	2,959
10–14	1,091	238	475	277	115	33	16	222	2,467
15–17	316	57	93	49	21	10	5	49	600
Not stated	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	4
Total	4,934	1,067	2,184	944	581	143	84	1,054	10,991
Non-Indigenous children									
<1	1,022	1,100	361	75	227	30	31	13	2,859
1–4	2,897	2,115	1,086	221	330	165	77	30	6,921
5–9	3,060	2,512	1,348	325	316	176	94	44	7,875
10–14	2,868	2,416	1,316	298	259	144	77	45	7,423
15–17	907	822	361	77	68	28	30	18	2,311
Not stated	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	10
Total	11,216	8,977	4,666	1,034	1,200	554	309	150	28,106
Unknown Indigenous status									
<1	6	1	47	56	31	35	25	0	201
1–4	4	1	44	192	21	47	20	0	329
5–9	2	2	65	218	0	48	23	0	358
10–14	1	0	48	189	1	50	26	0	315
15–17	3	0	20	44	2	10	7	0	86
Not stated	4	0	7	0	0	1	0	0	12
Total	86	4	299	708	55	221	101	0	1,474

(continued)

Table A8 (continued): Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by age and Indigenous status, states and territories

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^{(a)(b)}	SA	Tas ^(b)	ACT ^(b)	NT	Total
All children									
<1	1,513	1,305	642	214	364	77	71	170	4,356
1–4	4,276	2,435	1,742	625	529	247	120	394	10,368
5–9	4,409	2,762	1,996	828	477	274	141	305	11,192
10–14	3,960	2,654	1,839	764	375	227	119	267	10,205
15–17	1,226	879	474	170	91	48	42	67	2,997
Not stated	6	5	13	0	0	1	0	1	26
Total	16,236	10,048	7,149	2,686	1,836	918	494	1,204	40,571

(a) Western Australia is currently unable to report a child's characteristics based on their first substantiation. As a result, a small number of children may be double-counted in this table where they have more than one substantiation and the notifications had differing characteristics, such as age or abuse type.

(b) In Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the proportion of substantiations for children with an unknown Indigenous status affects the reliability of these data.

Notes

1. Finalised investigations, and thus substantiations, refer only to cases that were notified during the year, not to the total number of investigations finalised by 31 August 2013.
2. Totals include children of unknown age.
3. Unborn children may be covered under the child protection legislation and are therefore included in this report. The 'less than 1' category excludes unborn children for New South Wales (846), Victoria (8), Queensland (443), Western Australia (85), Tasmania (44) and the Australian Capital Territory (1). These children are included in the totals.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A9: Number of children who were the subjects of substantiations by socioeconomic status and Indigenous status, 2012–13

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Not stated	Total
	Number			
Most Disadvantaged	1,686	4,167	171	6,024
2	481	2,871	56	3,408
3	423	1,773	14	2,210
4	157	1,472	51	1,680
Most Advantaged	108	768	73	949
Total	2,855	11,051	365	14,271
	%			
Most Disadvantaged	59.1	37.7	46.8	42.2
2	16.8	26.0	15.3	23.9
3	14.8	16.0	3.8	15.5
4	5.5	13.3	14.0	11.8
Most Advantaged	3.8	6.9	20.0	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage broadly assesses 'people's access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society' (ABS 2013c). For more information see Appendix B or ABS (2013c).
2. Socioeconomic data exclude New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia because location data were not available.
3. Of jurisdictions that provided data, 229 records were excluded either due to missing location data, or because they were unable to be mapped to geographical areas to calculate the index.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A10: Children who were the subjects of substantiations during 2012–13, by type of family in which the child was residing, states and territories

Family type	NSW ^(a)	Vic ^(b)	Qld ^(c)	WA ^(d)	SA ^(b)	Tas ^(e)	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
Two parent—intact	n.a.	300	2,839	875	300	193	189	640	5,336
Two parent—step or blended	n.a.	90	1,529	230	202	129	44	67	2,291
Single parent—female	n.a.	347	2,803	n.a.	525	399	220	224	4,518
Single parent—male	n.a.	51	371	n.a.	52	49	14	19	556
Other relatives/kin	n.a.	48	99	77	0	47	7	72	350
Foster	n.a.	15	..	17	0	49	4	3	88
Other	n.a.	18	417	1,481	24	42	7	27	2,016
Not stated	n.a.	9,179	11	6	733	10	9	152	26,297
Total	16,236	10,048	8,069	2,686	1,836	918	494	1,204	41,491
%									
Two parent—intact	..	n.p.	35.2	32.6	n.p.	21.3	39.0	60.8	35.9
Two parent—step or blended	..	n.p.	19.0	8.6	n.p.	14.2	9.1	6.4	15.2
Single parent—female	..	n.p.	34.8	..	n.p.	43.9	45.4	21.3	27.7
Single parent—male	..	n.p.	4.6	..	n.p.	5.4	2.9	1.8	3.4
Other relatives/kin	..	n.p.	1.2	2.9	n.p.	5.2	1.4	6.8	2.3
Foster	..	n.p.	..	0.6	n.p.	5.4	0.8	0.3	0.6
Other	..	n.p.	5.2	55.3	n.p.	4.6	1.4	2.6	15.0
Total	..	n.p.	100.0	100.0	n.p.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) New South Wales was not able to provide data for this measure.

(b) Family type percentages for Victoria and South Australia are not published due to a high proportion of 'not stated'.

(c) Data for Queensland represent substantiations rather than children in substantiations. Queensland does not have a category of 'foster care'. Relevant substantiations would be recorded in 'other'.

(d) Western Australia introduced a new client system on 8 March 2010. In this system, the approach to recording family type is different to that used in the past. The family types 'single parent female' and 'single parent male' can no longer be identified. Only the category 'single parent with children' is used and these have been grouped under 'other'.

(e) Due to the introduction of a new Child Protection Information System in Tasmania in 2010, the family type at the time of notification has not been entered correctly for a significant number of substantiations. For many of these cases, if the child was placed in care either during the investigation or at finalisation, then a family type of 'foster' was recorded even though the abuse or neglect did not occur in foster care. For this reason the substantiations with a family type of 'foster' reported above is considerably over-inflated for Tasmania and the relevant figure in this table is an incorrect representation of the true number of substantiated notifications where the abuse or neglect occurred in foster care.

Notes

1. The type of family in which the child was living is recorded at different points for each jurisdiction. In Queensland, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, it is categorised as where the child was living at the time of the investigation. In Tasmania, it is categorised as where the child was living when the abuse, neglect or harm occurred. In Western Australia, it is at the time of the notification. For Victoria and South Australia, it is at the time of the substantiation.
2. Percentages exclude cases where the family type was not stated.
3. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A11: Children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by type of abuse or neglect and Indigenous status, states and territories

Type of abuse or neglect	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^(a)	SA ^(b)	Tas ^(b)	ACT ^(b)	NT	Total
Number									
Indigenous children									
Physical	841	262	372	143	94	9	4	147	1,872
Sexual	660	71	72	141	27	2	2	14	989
Emotional	1,473	649	659	277	167	80	33	367	3,705
Neglect	1,960	85	1,081	380	293	46	21	526	4,392
Not stated	0	0	0	3	0	6	24	0	33
Total	4,934	1,067	2,184	944	581	143	84	1,054	10,991
Non-Indigenous children									
Physical	2,253	2,444	818	167	239	91	17	50	6,079
Sexual	2,396	1,248	186	177	131	30	13	2	4,183
Emotional	3,396	4,887	1,874	355	286	281	107	57	11,243
Neglect	3,171	398	1,788	331	544	139	86	41	6,498
Not stated	0	0	0	4	0	13	86	0	103
Total	11,216	8,977	4,666	1,034	1,200	554	309	150	28,106
Unknown Indigenous Status									
Physical	6	3	59	141	18	28	8	0	263
Sexual	9	0	19	209	3	6	3	0	249
Emotional	26	1	103	226	15	98	47	0	516
Neglect	45	0	118	132	18	80	20	0	413
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1	9	23	0	33
Total	86	4	299	708	55	221	101	0	1,474
All children									
Physical	3,100	2,709	1,249	451	351	128	29	197	8,214
Sexual	3,065	1,319	277	527	161	38	18	16	5,421
Emotional	4,895	5,537	2,636	858	468	459	187	424	15,464
Neglect	5,176	483	2,987	843	855	265	127	567	11,303
Not stated	0	0	0	7	1	28	133	-	169
Total	16,236	10,048	7,149	2,686	1,836	918	494	1,204	40,571

(continued)

Table A11 (continued): Children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by type of abuse or neglect and Indigenous status, states and territories

Type of abuse or neglect	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^(a)	SA ^(b)	Tas ^(b)	ACT ^(b)	NT	Total
%									
Indigenous children									
Physical	17.0	24.6	17.0	15.2	16.2	6.6	6.7	13.9	17.1
Sexual	13.4	6.7	3.3	15.0	4.6	1.5	3.3	1.3	9.0
Emotional	29.9	60.8	30.2	29.4	28.7	58.4	55.0	34.8	33.8
Neglect	39.7	8.0	49.5	40.4	50.4	33.6	35.0	49.9	40.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Non-Indigenous children									
Physical	20.1	27.2	17.5	16.2	19.9	16.8	7.6	33.3	21.7
Sexual	21.4	13.9	4.0	17.2	10.9	5.5	5.8	1.3	14.9
Emotional	30.3	54.4	40.2	34.5	23.8	51.9	48.0	38.0	40.1
Neglect	28.3	4.4	38.3	32.1	45.3	25.7	38.6	27.3	23.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All children									
Physical	19.1	27.0	17.5	16.8	19.1	14.4	8.0	16.4	20.3
Sexual	18.9	13.1	3.9	19.7	8.8	4.3	5.0	1.3	13.4
Emotional	30.1	55.1	36.9	32.0	25.5	51.6	51.8	35.2	38.3
Neglect	31.9	4.8	41.8	31.5	46.6	29.8	35.2	47.1	28.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Western Australia is currently unable to report a child's characteristics based on their first substantiation. As a result, a small number of children may be double-counted in this table where they have more than one substantiation and the notifications had differing characteristics such as age or abuse type.

(b) In South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the abuse type for some substantiations was recorded as 'not stated' and could not be mapped to physical, sexual, emotional or neglect. These substantiations are included in the totals: as such; totals may not equal the sum of categories. The proportion of substantiations for children with an unknown Indigenous status affects the reliability of these data. As such, comparisons to previous year's data should be made with caution.

Notes

1. Finalised investigations, and thus substantiations, refer only to cases that were notified during the year, not to the total number of investigations finalised by 31 August 2013.
2. If a child was the subject of more than one type of abuse or neglect as part of the same notification, then the abuse and/or neglect reported is the one considered by the child protection workers to cause the most harm to the child. Where a child is the subject of more than one substantiation during the year, then the type of abuse reported in this table is the type of abuse and/or neglect associated with the substantiation decision relating to the earliest notification during the year.
3. In Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were the subject of a substantiation should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers.
4. Percentages include children whose Indigenous status was unknown.
5. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A12: Number of notifications, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13

Year	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA ^{(b)(c)}	SA ^(d)	Tas ^(e)	ACT	NT	Total
2008–09	213,686	42,851	23,408	10,159	23,221	10,345	9,595	6,189	339,454
2009–10	156,465	48,369	21,885	12,160	20,298	9,895	10,780	6,585	286,437
2010–11	98,845	55,718	21,655	10,976	21,145	10,689	11,712	6,533	237,273
2011–12	99,283	63,830	24,823	13,745	19,056	11,836	12,419	7,970	252,962
2012–13	104,817	73,265	24,763	15,201	19,120	12,311	13,518	9,985	272,980

- (a) New South Wales figures are not comparable with those of other jurisdictions. New South Wales has a differential investigation response whereby an investigation can be undertaken over two stages (stage 1—information gathering; stage 2—assessment). Following the New South Wales 'Keep Them Safe' reforms, the 2010–11 data reflect the first full year of reporting under legislative changes to the New South Wales *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*, proclaimed on 24 January 2010. This includes raising the reporting threshold from 'risk of harm' to the new 'risk of significant harm'.
- (b) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.
- (c) In Western Australia, initial inquiries for a child that commenced during 2012–13, where the primary concern of the initial inquiry for the child was emotional, psychological, physical, sexual abuse or neglect, are counted as notifications in this table.
- (d) During 2009–10, South Australia implemented a new client information system and this was accompanied by policy and practice changes. Therefore, data for this year are not fully comparable with previous years' data.
- (e) In Tasmania, from February 2008, there was a change in the processes for recording notifications. New contacts made about similar concerns during an open notification/investigation period, within the first 6 weeks, were added to the notification as a 'case note'. Case notes are not included in the count of notifications, hence comparison between values from 2007–08 to 2008–09 should be interpreted with caution.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2008–09 to 2012–13.

Table A13: Number of substantiations of notifications received during the relevant year, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13

Year	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA ^(c)	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2008–09	34,078	6,344	7,315	1,523	2,419	1,188	896	858	54,621
2009–10	26,248	6,603	6,922	1,652	1,815	963	741	1,243	46,187
2010–11	18,596	7,643	6,598	1,907	2,220	1,225	636	1,641	40,466
2011–12	23,175	9,075	7,681	2,759	2,139	1,025	861	1,705	48,420
2012–13	26,860	10,489	8,069	2,915	2,221	1,035	720	1,357	53,666

(a) New South Wales figures are not comparable with those of other jurisdictions. New South Wales has a differential investigation response whereby an investigation can be undertaken over two stages (stage 1—information gathering; stage 2—assessment). Only the more serious cases that receive the higher level response may lead to a recorded substantiation outcome. Following the New South Wales 'Keep Them Safe' reforms, the 2010–11 data reflect the first full year of reporting under legislative changes to the New South Wales *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*, proclaimed on 24 January 2010. This includes raising the reporting threshold from 'risk of harm' to the new 'risk of significant harm'.

(b) During 2011–12, additional staff focused on investigations and assessments were deployed across Queensland. This resulted in a decrease in the number of investigations not yet finalised, and an increase in the number of investigations with a finalised outcome of 'substantiated', 'unsubstantiated' or 'no investigation and assessment' outcome.

(c) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2008–09 to 2012–13.

Table A14: Rates of children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during the relevant year, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13 (number per 1,000 children)

Year	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA ^{(c)(d)}	SA ^(e)	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2008–09	8.7	5.0	6.3	2.8	5.4	9.1	7.8	12.3	6.5
2009–10	8.0	5.2	5.7	2.9	4.2	7.4	7.0	16.6	6.1
2010–11	7.0	5.9	5.4	3.4	5.1	9.5	5.8	22.8	6.1
2011–12 ^{(f)(g)}	9.0	7.1	6.5	4.7	5.1	8.1	6.9	24.4	7.4
2012–13	9.8	8.1	6.5	4.7	5.2	8.0	5.9	19.2	7.8

- (a) New South Wales figures are not comparable with those of other jurisdictions. New South Wales has a differential investigation response whereby an investigation can be undertaken over two stages (stage 1—information gathering; stage 2—assessment). Only the more serious cases that receive the higher level response may lead to a recorded substantiation outcome. Following the New South Wales 'Keep Them Safe' reforms, the 2010–11 data reflect the first full year of reporting under legislative changes to the New South Wales *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*, proclaimed on 24 January 2010. This includes raising the reporting threshold from 'risk of harm' to the new 'risk of significant harm'.
- (b) During 2011–12, additional staff focused on investigations and assessments were deployed across Queensland. This resulted in a decrease in the number of investigations not yet finalised, and an increase in the number of investigations with a finalised outcome of 'substantiated', 'unsubstantiated' or 'no investigation and assessment' outcome.
- (c) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.
- (d) For 2010–11, Western Australia was unable to report a child's characteristics based on their first substantiation. As a result, a small number of children may be double-counted in this table where they have more than one substantiation and the notifications had differing characteristics, such as age or abuse type.
- (e) During 2009–10, South Australia implemented a new client information system and this was accompanied by policy and practice changes. Therefore, data for this year are not fully comparable with previous years' data.
- (f) The ABS has improved the methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population, which has caused a downward revision of the 2011–12 estimates, based on the 2011 Census (see ABS 2012a, b). Due to these changes, comparisons of rates over time should be interpreted with caution.
- (g) Rates for 2012 for Tasmania should not be compared with previous years due to the change in the methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population.

Notes

1. Unborn children are included in rate calculations.
2. Children may have been the subject of more than one substantiation.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2008–09 to 2012–13 and ABS Population Estimates 2009–2013.

Care and protection orders

Table A15: Children on care and protection orders, on an average day, by type of order, 2012–13

Type of order	Number	%
Finalised guardianship/custody	23,718	72.6
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	4,370	13.4
Finalised supervisory orders	2,177	6.7
Interim and temporary orders	2,175	6.7
Administrative arrangements	202	0.6
Assessment order	24	0.1
Not stated	4	—
Total children on an order on an average day	32,469	. .

Notes

1. The number of children by type of order on an average day does not sum to the total number of children, as children may be on more than one type of order at the same time.
2. Data quality issues for some jurisdictions may impact on these results.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A16: Care and protection orders issued, by type of order, states and territories, 2012–13

Type of order	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	Number								
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	1,575	1,644	2,825	960	2,488	441	100	363	10,396
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	377	..	213	97	27	60	17	..	791
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	2,682	642	93	19	28	36	1	3,501
Interim and temporary orders	2,111	869	3,291	911	2,593	778	193	1,842	12,588
Administrative arrangements	627	..	..	..	192	11	56	167	1,053
Not stated	..	0	..	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	4,690	5,195	6,971	2,062	5,319	1,318	402	2,373	28,330
	%								
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	33.6	31.6	40.5	46.6	46.8	33.5	24.9	15.3	36.7
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	8.0	..	3.1	4.7	0.5	4.6	4.2	..	2.8
Finalised supervisory orders	..	51.6	9.2	4.5	0.4	2.1	9.0	—	12.4
Interim and temporary orders	45.0	16.7	47.2	44.2	48.7	59.0	48.0	77.6	44.4
Administrative arrangements	13.4	..	..	..	3.6	0.8	13.9	7.0	3.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

.. not applicable.

n.a. not available.

— nil or rounded to zero.

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

Note: Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A17: Children substantiated in 2011–12 and subsequently placed on care and protection orders within 12 months, states and territories

State/territory	Number subsequently placed on a care and protection order	Percentage of all children substantiated in 2011–12
New South Wales ^(a)	n.a.	..
Victoria	2,828	31.8
Queensland	2,130	26.0
Western Australia	665	30.8
South Australia	465	23.3
Tasmania	286	26.9
Australian Capital Territory	167	30.3
Northern Territory	272	19.7
Total	6,813	28.1

n.a. not available.

.. not applicable.

(a) New South Wales was unable to provide these data.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A18: Children admitted to care and protection orders, by age, states and territories, 2012–13

Age (years)	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
<1	612	477	475	206	133	59	30	49	2,041
1–4	734	1,045	1,354	297	146	115	36	85	3,812
5–9	630	987	1,322	235	131	101	28	74	3,508
10–14	546	869	996	170	83	85	26	94	2,869
15–17	234	361	221	18	20	21	8	31	914
Unknown	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	2,756	3,741	4,368	926	513	381	128	333	13,146
%									
<1	22.2	12.8	10.9	22.2	25.9	15.5	23.4	14.7	15.5
1–4	26.6	27.9	31.0	32.1	28.5	30.2	28.1	25.5	29.0
5–9	22.9	26.4	30.3	25.4	25.5	26.5	21.9	22.2	26.7
10–14	19.8	23.2	22.8	18.4	16.2	22.3	20.3	28.2	21.8
15–17	8.5	9.7	5.1	1.9	3.9	5.5	6.3	9.3	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) In Queensland, previous admissions to care and protection orders in other jurisdictions could not be counted.

Notes

1. A renewal of an existing order is not counted as an admission.
2. Children are counted for only one admission and discharge during the year. However, a change to an order is counted as an admission.
3. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
4. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A19: Children discharged from care and protection orders, by length of time on an order, states and territories, 2012–13

State/territory	Length of time continually on an order at time of discharge							Total ^(b)
	Months			Years				
	<3	3 to <6	6 to <12	1 to <2	2 to <4	4 to <8	8 or more	
	Number							
New South Wales ^(a)	492	115	142	251	292	318	448	2,060
Victoria	476	752	833	867	409	186	157	3,680
Queensland	340	80	186	485	465	231	231	2,018
Western Australia	25	34	76	114	308	107	49	713
South Australia	127	34	33	98	52	46	75	465
Tasmania	130	18	10	126	33	25	33	375
Australian Capital Territory	27	11	15	18	62	23	19	175
Northern Territory ^(b)	181	23	16	21	33	26	8	308
Total	1,798	1,067	1,311	1,980	1,654	962	1,020	9,794
	%							
New South Wales	23.9	5.6	6.9	12.2	14.2	15.5	21.8	100.0
Victoria	12.9	20.4	22.6	23.6	11.1	5.1	4.3	100.0
Queensland	16.8	4.0	9.2	24.0	23.0	11.4	11.4	100.0
Western Australia	3.5	4.8	10.7	16.0	43.2	15.0	6.9	100.0
South Australia	27.3	7.3	7.1	21.1	11.2	9.9	16.1	100.0
Tasmania	34.7	4.8	2.7	33.6	8.8	6.7	8.8	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	15.4	6.3	8.6	10.3	35.4	13.1	10.9	100.0
Northern Territory	58.8	7.5	5.2	6.8	10.7	8.4	2.6	100.0
Total	18.4	10.9	13.4	20.2	16.9	9.8	10.4	100.0

— nil or rounded to zero.

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) Aggregate data were provided by the Northern Territory for this table. As such, the total number of children discharged from care and protection orders for the Northern Territory and the state/territory 'Total' do not match numbers reported elsewhere in this report.

Notes

1. If a child is discharged from an order and a new care and protection order/arrangement is applied in 5 days or less of the discharge, the orders are deemed to be consecutive (that is, the length of time continuously on an order will include both orders).
2. If a child is on multiple care and protection orders/arrangements, all orders/arrangements must be discharged before a discharge, for the purposes of this table, is counted.
3. The length of time continuously on an order is counted only for the first order/arrangement that the child is discharged from during the year.
4. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A20: Children on care and protection orders, by living arrangements, states and territories, 30 June 2013

Living arrangements	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA ^(b)	Tas ^(c)	ACT	NT ^(d)	Total
Number									
Parents	593	1,758	837	275	n.a.	146	102	54	3,765
Relatives/kin ^(e)	0	0	0	0	n.a.	4	7	19	30
<i>Total family care</i>	<i>593</i>	<i>1,758</i>	<i>837</i>	<i>275</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>3,795</i>
Foster care ^(f)	7,053	1,810	4,323	1,401	1,079	437	207	399	16,709
Relatives/kin ^{(f)(g)}	7,948	2,284	2,984	1,539	1,114	294	288	19	16,470
Other	0	572	0	0	6	232	18	202	1,030
<i>Total home-based care</i>	<i>15,001</i>	<i>4,666</i>	<i>7,307</i>	<i>2,940</i>	<i>2,199</i>	<i>963</i>	<i>513</i>	<i>620</i>	<i>34,209</i>
Residential care	509	424	581	134	330	25	33	75	2,111
Family group homes	19	0	0	177	0	19	0	4	219
Independent living ^(h)	216	30	68	17	28	29	3	2	393
Other/unknown	35	873	418	717	241	67	16	42	2,409
Total	16,373	7,751	9,211	4,260	2,798	1,253	674	816	43,136
%									
Parents	3.6	22.7	9.1	6.5	..	11.7	15.1	6.6	8.7
Relatives/kin ^(e)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	..	0.3	1.0	2.3	0.1
<i>Total family care</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>22.7</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>16.2</i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>8.8</i>
Foster care ^(f)	43.1	23.4	46.9	32.9	38.6	34.9	30.7	48.9	38.7
Relatives/kin ^{(f)(g)}	48.5	29.5	32.4	36.1	39.8	23.5	42.7	2.3	38.2
Other	0.0	7.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	18.5	2.7	24.8	2.4
<i>Total home-based care</i>	<i>91.6</i>	<i>60.2</i>	<i>79.3</i>	<i>69.0</i>	<i>78.6</i>	<i>76.9</i>	<i>76.1</i>	<i>76.0</i>	<i>79.3</i>
Residential care	3.1	5.5	6.3	3.1	11.8	2.0	4.9	9.2	4.9
Family group homes	0.1	0.0	0.0	4.2	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.5	0.5
Independent living ^(h)	1.3	0.4	0.7	0.4	1.0	2.3	0.4	0.2	0.9
Other/unknown	0.2	11.3	4.5	16.8	8.6	5.3	2.4	5.1	5.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

n.a. not available

.. not applicable.

— nil or rounded to zero.

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders and only includes funded out-of-home care placements. The 'other/unknown' category for New South Wales includes children on orders for whom a living arrangement was not provided.

(b) Data for South Australia only includes funded out-of-home care placements. The 'other/unknown' category for South Australia includes children on orders for whom a living arrangement was not provided.

(c) In Tasmania, children under third-party guardianship orders are counted under 'other home-based care' living arrangements.

(d) In the Northern Territory's client information system, the majority of children in a relative/kinship placement are captured in the 'foster care' placement type. Approximately 39% of children in the 'foster care' placement type are placed in a relative/kinship household.

- (e) This category includes relatives/kin, other than parents, who were not reimbursed.
- (f) Some foster carers may be relatives of the child being cared for and some relative carers may actually be fully assessed as registered foster carers.
- (g) This category includes relatives/kin, other than parents, who were reimbursed.
- (h) 'Independent living' includes private board.

Note: Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A21: Children on care and protection orders, by age and living arrangements, 30 June 2013

Age (years)	Family care ^(a)	Home-based out-of-home care ^(b)	Residential care	Family group homes	Independent living ^(c)	Other	Total
<1	172	913	2	0	0	48	1,135
1–4	1,063	7,244	76	20	0	272	8,675
5–9	1,076	11,762	153	83	0	561	13,635
10–14	979	10,279	809	90	15	704	12,876
15–17	505	4,009	997	26	378	898	6,813
Unknown	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total^(d)	3,795	34,209	2,037	219	393	2,483	43,136
	%						
<1	4.5	2.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.9	2.6
1–4	28.0	21.2	3.7	9.1	0.0	11.0	20.1
5–9	28.4	34.4	7.5	37.9	0.0	22.6	31.6
10–14	25.8	30.0	39.7	41.1	3.8	28.4	29.9
15–17	13.3	11.7	48.9	11.9	96.2	36.2	15.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total living arrangements	8.8	79.3	4.7	0.5	0.9	5.8	100.0

(a) This category includes relatives/kin, other than parents, who were not reimbursed.

(b) This category includes relatives/kin, other than parents, who were reimbursed.

(c) This category includes private board.

(d) Total includes one child of unknown age.

Notes

1. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A22: Children on care and protection orders, by age, states and territories, 30 June 2013

Age (years)	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
<1	417	190	250	143	70	33	18	14	1,135
1–4	3,112	1,593	1,857	982	571	240	141	179	8,675
5–9	5,422	2,235	2,869	1,396	887	381	220	225	13,635
10–14	5,010	2,241	2,762	1,212	804	396	184	267	12,876
15–17	2,411	1,491	1,473	527	466	203	111	131	6,813
Unknown	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total^(b)	16,373	7,751	9,211	4,260	2,798	1,253	674	816	43,136
%									
<1	2.5	2.5	2.7	3.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	1.7	2.6
1–4	19.0	20.6	20.2	23.1	20.4	19.2	20.9	21.9	20.1
5–9	33.1	28.8	31.1	32.8	31.7	30.4	32.6	27.6	31.6
10–14	30.6	28.9	30.0	28.5	28.7	31.6	27.3	32.7	29.9
15–17	14.7	19.2	16.0	12.4	16.7	16.2	16.5	16.1	15.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

Notes

1. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A23: Children on care and protection orders, by sex, states and territories, 30 June 2013

Sex of child	NSW^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
Boys	8,585	3,957	4,705	2,194	1,442	655	354	400	22,292
Girls	7,788	3,793	4,506	2,061	1,354	598	320	416	20,836
Unknown	0	1	0	5	2	0	0	0	8
Persons	16,373	7,751	9,211	4,260	2,798	1,253	674	816	43,136
%									
Boys	52.4	51.1	51.1	51.6	51.6	52.3	52.5	49.0	51.7
Girls	47.6	48.9	48.9	48.4	48.4	47.7	47.5	51.0	48.3
Persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

Notes

1. Percentages exclude children of unknown sex.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A24: Children on care and protection orders, by type of order and Indigenous status, states and territories, 30 June 2013

Type of order	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
Indigenous children									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	3,765	913	2,569	1,559	745	215	133	586	10,485
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	1,297	..	383	176	12	29	13	..	1,910
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	331	120	54	6	0	13	1	525
Interim and temporary orders	503	39	475	309	25	32	5	86	1,474
Administrative arrangements	29	..	..	..	15	0	5	11	60
Not stated	..	0	..	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	5,594	1,283	3,547	2,099	803	276	169	684	14,455
Non-Indigenous children									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	6,977	4,565	4,038	1,604	1,797	734	351	121	20,187
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	2,586	..	814	192	64	123	47	..	3,826
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	1,700	289	46	5	25	42	0	2,107
Interim and temporary orders	1,098	195	461	277	73	67	38	9	2,218
Administrative arrangements	115	..	..	0	18	2	3	2	140
Not stated	..	0	..	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	10,776	6,460	5,602	2,121	1,957	951	481	132	28,480
Unknown Indigenous status									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	3	7	34	6	30	17	11	0	108
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	0	..	0	0	0	0	0	..	0
Finalised supervisory orders	n.a.	1	9	13	2	0	2	0	27
Interim and temporary orders	0	..	19	21	6	9	8	0	63
Administrative arrangements	0	..	..	..	0	0	3	0	3
Not stated	..	0	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	8	62	40	38	26	24	0	201
All children									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	10,745	5,485	6,641	3,169	2,572	966	495	707	30,780
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	3,883	..	1,197	368	76	152	60	..	5,736
Finalised supervisory orders	0	2,032	418	113	13	25	57	1	2,659
Interim and temporary orders	1,601	234	955	607	104	108	51	95	3,755
Administrative arrangements	144	..	..	0	33	2	11	13	203
Not stated	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Total	16,373	7,751	9,211	4,260	2,798	1,253	674	816	43,136

(continued)

Table A24 (continued): Children on care and protection orders, by type of order and Indigenous status, states and territories, 30 June 2013

Type of order	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
%									
Indigenous children									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	67.3	71.2	72.4	74.3	92.8	77.9	78.7	85.7	72.5
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	23.2	..	10.8	8.4	1.5	10.5	7.7	..	13.2
Finalised supervisory orders	0.0	25.8	3.4	2.6	0.7	0.0	7.7	0.1	3.6
Interim and temporary orders	9.0	3.0	13.4	14.7	3.1	11.6	3.0	12.6	10.2
Administrative arrangements	0.5	..	..	0	1.9	0.0	3.0	1.6	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Non-Indigenous children									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	64.7	70.7	72.1	75.6	91.8	77.2	73.0	91.7	70.9
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	24.0	..	14.5	9.1	3.3	12.9	9.8	..	13.4
Finalised supervisory orders	0.0	26.3	5.2	2.2	0.3	2.6	8.7	0.0	7.4
Interim and temporary orders	10.2	3.0	8.2	13.1	3.7	7.0	7.9	6.8	7.8
Administrative arrangements	1.1	..	..	..	0.9	0.2	0.6	1.5	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All children									
Finalised guardianship or custody orders	65.6	70.8	72.1	74.4	91.9	77.1	73.4	86.6	71.4
Finalised third-party parental responsibility orders	23.7	..	13.0	8.6	2.7	12.1	8.9	..	13.3
Finalised supervisory orders	0.0	26.2	4.5	2.7	0.5	2.0	8.5	0.0	6.2
Interim and temporary orders	9.8	3.0	10.4	14.2	3.7	8.6	7.6	11.6	8.7
Administrative arrangements	0.9	..	..	..	1.2	0.2	1.6	1.6	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

Note: Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Out-of-home care

Table A25: Children in out-of-home care, on an average day, by living arrangements, 2012–13

Living arrangements	Number	%
Foster care	13,251	40.4
Relatives/kin	16,239	49.5
Other home-based care	1,152	3.5
<i>Total home-based care</i>	<i>30,641</i>	<i>93.4</i>
Family group homes	259	0.8
Residential care	1,636	5.0
Independent living	199	0.6
Other/unknown	75	0.2
Total	31,966	..

Notes

1. The number of children by living arrangement on an average day does not sum to the total number of children, as children may have more than one living arrangement recorded at the same time.
2. Data quality issues for some jurisdictions may impact on these results.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A26: Children admitted to out-of-home care, by age group, states and territories, 2012–13

Age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
<1	618	446	452	202	126	48	30	49	1,971
1–4	785	778	623	329	135	77	48	93	2,868
5–9	713	789	569	262	132	72	51	79	2,667
10–14	643	781	602	239	104	68	35	105	2,577
15–17	279	406	305	75	72	39	39	39	1,254
Unknown	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total	3,038	3,204	2,551	1,107	569	304	203	365	11,341
%									
<1	20.3	13.9	17.7	18.2	22.1	15.8	14.8	13.4	17.4
1–4	25.8	24.3	24.4	29.7	23.7	25.3	23.6	25.5	25.3
5–9	23.5	24.7	22.3	23.7	23.2	23.7	25.1	21.6	23.5
10–14	21.2	24.4	23.6	21.6	18.3	22.4	17.2	28.8	22.7
15–17	9.2	12.7	12.0	6.8	12.7	12.8	19.2	10.7	11.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. The table includes all children admitted to out-of-home care for the first time, as well as those children returning to care who had exited care 60 days or more previously. Children admitted to out-of-home care more than once during the year were only counted at the first admission.
2. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
3. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A27: Children discharged from out-of-home care, by age group, states and territories, 2012–13

Age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
	Number								
<1	122	186	63	36	27	9	14	31	488
1–4	407	617	311	215	87	49	37	68	1,791
5–9	441	624	289	205	94	48	46	61	1,808
10–14	619	668	338	210	89	54	44	87	2,109
15–17	1,173	852	563	218	143	81	68	63	3,161
Unknown	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	2,762	2,950	1,564	884	440	241	209	310	9,360
	%								
<1	4.4	6.3	4.0	4.1	6.1	3.7	6.7	10.0	5.2
1–4	14.7	20.9	19.9	24.3	19.8	20.3	17.7	21.9	19.1
5–9	16.0	21.2	18.5	23.2	21.4	19.9	22.0	19.7	19.3
10–14	22.4	22.7	21.6	23.8	20.2	22.4	21.1	28.1	22.5
15–17	42.5	28.9	36.0	24.7	32.5	33.6	32.5	20.3	33.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. The data for children exiting care include those who left care and had not returned in less than 60 days. Where a child exits care more than once during the year, the last discharge is counted.
2. Children who were discharged from care around their 18th birthday are included in the 15–17 age category.
3. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
4. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A28: Children in out-of-home care, by type of placement, states and territories, 30 June 2013

Type of placement	NSW	Vic ^(a)	Qld	WA	SA	Tas ^(b)	ACT	NT ^(c)	Total
	Number								
Foster care ^(d)	7,091	2,069	4,492	1,465	1,102	445	209	399	17,272
Relatives/kin ^(d)	9,730	3,248	3,026	1,619	1,190	303	291	19	19,426
Other home-based care	0	695	0	0	6	235	20	202	1,158
<i>Total home-based care</i>	<i>16,821</i>	<i>6,012</i>	<i>7,518</i>	<i>3,084</i>	<i>2,298</i>	<i>983</i>	<i>520</i>	<i>620</i>	<i>37,856</i>
Family group homes	19	0	0	191	n.a.	22	0	4	236
Residential care	480	495	618	150	330	25	38	75	2,211
Independent living	93	33	0	0	29	5	0	2	162
Other/unknown	9	2	0	0	n.a.	32	0	41	84
Total	17,422	6,542	8,136	3,425	2,657	1,067	558	742	40,549
	%								
Foster care	40.7	31.6	55.2	42.8	41.5	41.7	37.5	53.8	42.6
Relatives/kin	55.8	49.6	37.2	47.3	44.8	28.4	52.2	2.6	47.9
Other home-based care	0.0	10.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	22.0	3.6	27.2	2.9
<i>Total home-based care</i>	<i>96.6</i>	<i>91.9</i>	<i>92.4</i>	<i>90.0</i>	<i>86.5</i>	<i>92.1</i>	<i>93.2</i>	<i>83.6</i>	<i>93.4</i>
Family group homes	0.1	0.0	0.0	5.6	..	2.1	0.0	0.5	0.6
Residential care	2.8	7.6	7.6	4.4	12.4	2.3	6.8	10.1	5.5
Independent living	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.4
Other/unknown	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	..	3.0	0.0	5.5	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) In Victoria, the 'foster care' category includes children in permanent care placements. These placements are different to foster care as they involve granting permanent guardianship and custody of a child to a third party via a permanent care order. Unlike adoptions, permanent care orders do not change the legal status of the child and they expire when the child turns 18 or marries.

(b) In Tasmania, children under third party guardianship orders are counted under 'Other home-based care' living arrangements.

(c) In the Northern Territory's client information system, the majority of children in a relative/kinship placement are captured in the 'foster care' placement type. Approximately 39% of children in the above 'foster care' placement type are placed in a relative/kinship household.

(d) Where a child is placed with a relative who is also fully registered to provide foster care for other children, they are counted in the 'foster care' category for Victoria and Western Australia, whereas they are counted in the 'relatives/kin' category in Queensland and South Australia. Relatives/kin in some jurisdictions undergo assessment, registration and review processes similar to foster carers under the national definition, and are considered as (relative) foster carers in local practice, policy and reporting.

Notes

1. Percentages include children with 'other/unknown' living arrangements.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A29: Children in out-of-home care, by age, states and territories, 30 June 2013

Age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
<1	399	200	248	124	64	31	15	12	1,093
1–4	3,106	1,255	1,680	841	549	206	118	170	7,925
5–9	5,746	1,844	2,657	1,180	869	340	184	207	13,027
10–14	5,582	1,928	2,506	954	781	351	155	241	12,498
15–17	2,588	1,312	1,045	326	394	139	83	112	5,999
Unknown	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total	17,422	6,542	8,136	3,425	2,657	1,067	558	742	40,549
%									
<1	2.3	3.1	3.0	3.6	2.4	2.9	2.7	1.6	2.7
1–4	17.8	19.2	20.6	24.6	20.7	19.3	21.1	22.9	19.5
5–9	33.0	28.2	32.7	34.5	32.7	31.9	33.0	27.9	32.1
10–14	32.0	29.5	30.8	27.9	29.4	32.9	27.8	32.5	30.8
15–17	14.9	20.1	12.8	9.5	14.8	13.0	14.9	15.1	14.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Percentages exclude children of unknown age.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A30: Children in out-of-home care, by sex, states and territories, 30 June 2013

Sex of child	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
Boys	9,110	3,300	4,164	1,809	1,373	556	301	360	20,973
Girls	8,312	3,236	3,972	1,616	1,282	511	257	382	19,568
Unknown	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	0	8
Persons	17,422	6,542	8,136	3,425	2,657	1,067	558	742	40,549
%									
Boys	52.3	50.5	51.2	52.8	51.7	52.1	53.9	48.5	51.7
Girls	47.7	49.5	48.8	47.2	48.3	47.9	46.1	51.5	48.3
Persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Percentages exclude children of unknown sex.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A31: Children in out-of-home care, by age and type of placement, 30 June 2013 (%)

Age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Home-based									
<1	2.4	3.3	3.3	4.0	2.8	3.2	2.9	1.6	2.9
1–4	18.4	20.7	22.3	26.0	22.1	20.7	22.5	27.1	20.6
5–9	34.1	30.2	34.8	35.2	34.9	32.9	34.8	31.1	33.7
10–14	32.0	29.2	29.5	26.4	28.2	31.9	27.3	29.4	30.3
15–17	13.2	16.5	10.1	8.5	12.0	11.4	12.5	10.8	12.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Residential (including family group homes)									
<1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
1–4	1.6	2.0	1.0	11.7	12.1	6.4	2.6	1.3	4.5
5–9	3.0	5.7	6.1	27.9	20.3	25.5	7.9	16.5	11.1
10–14	39.5	34.3	46.9	41.3	40.3	36.2	34.2	53.2	41.0
15–17	55.7	57.8	46.0	19.1	27.3	31.9	55.3	29.1	43.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Percentages exclude children who were living independently or whose living arrangements were classified as 'other' (including unknown); and children of unknown age.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.
3. The proportions shown in this table exclude from the denominator 4 children whose age was unknown.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A32: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care, by Indigenous status and relationship of carer, states and territories, 30 June 2013

Relationship	NSW	Vic ^(a)	Qld	WA	SA ^(b)	Tas	ACT	NT ^(b)	Total
	Number								
Indigenous relative/kin	2,927	325	729	688	286	14	58	189	5,216
Other Indigenous caregiver	1,144	59	608	203	91	31	6	83	2,225
Other relative/kin	973	173	436	200	149	51	20	0	2,002
<i>Total placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care</i>	<i>5,044</i>	<i>557</i>	<i>1,773</i>	<i>1,091</i>	<i>526</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>272</i>	<i>9,443</i>
Other caregiver	1,133	526	1,422	581	258	144	56	348	4,243
<i>Total not placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care</i>	<i>1,133</i>	<i>526</i>	<i>1,422</i>	<i>581</i>	<i>258</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>348</i>	<i>4,243</i>
Total	6,177	1,083	3,195	1,672	784	240	140	620	13,911
	%								
Indigenous relative/kin	47.4	30.0	22.8	41.1	36.5	5.8	41.4	30.5	37.5
Other Indigenous caregiver	18.5	5.4	19.0	12.1	11.6	12.9	4.3	13.4	16.0
Other relative/kin	15.8	16.0	13.6	12.0	19.0	21.3	14.3	13.4	14.4
<i>Total placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care</i>	<i>81.7</i>	<i>51.4</i>	<i>55.5</i>	<i>65.3</i>	<i>67.1</i>	<i>40.0</i>	<i>60.0</i>	<i>43.9</i>	<i>67.9</i>
Other caregiver	18.3	48.6	44.5	34.7	32.9	60.0	40.0	56.1	30.5
<i>Total not placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>48.6</i>	<i>44.5</i>	<i>34.7</i>	<i>32.9</i>	<i>60.0</i>	<i>40.0</i>	<i>56.1</i>	<i>30.5</i>
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) For Victoria, 225 children for whom relationship of carer and/or their Indigenous status were unknown are included in the categories 'Other caregiver' and 'Total not placed with relatives/kin, other Indigenous caregivers or in Indigenous residential care'.

(b) Aggregate data were provided by South Australia and the Northern Territory for this table.

Notes

1. This table does not include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were living independently or for whom relationship of carer and/or their Indigenous status were unknown.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.
3. Family group homes and residential care are reported under 'other caregiver'.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Foster and relative/kinship carers

Table A33: Foster carer households with a placement at 30 June 2013, by number of foster children placed

Number of children	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT ^(c)	Total
	Number								
1 child	n.a.	1,101	955	315	346	100	65	154	3,036
2 children	n.a.	345	612	205	185	47	36	62	1,492
3–4 children	n.a.	82	565	126	106	47	18	29	973
5+ children	n.a.	3	159	42	8	16	3	4	235
Total households with a placement	n.a.	1,531	2,291	688	645	210	122	249	5,736
	%								
1 child	..	71.9	41.7	45.8	53.6	47.6	53.3	61.8	52.9
2 children	..	22.5	26.7	29.8	28.7	22.4	29.5	24.9	26.0
3–4 children	..	5.4	24.7	18.3	16.4	22.4	14.8	11.6	17.0
5+ children	..	0.2	6.9	6.1	1.2	7.6	2.5	1.6	4.1
Total households with a placement	..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) New South Wales was unable to provide data for 2012–13.

(b) Queensland data exclude provisionally approved carer households.

(c) Aggregate data were provided for the Northern Territory.

Notes

1. Percentages exclude households where the number of children placed was unknown.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Table A34: Relative/kinship carer households with a placement at 30 June 2013, by number of children placed

Number of children	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT ^(c)	Total
	Number								
1 child	n.a.	1,727	730	547	514	129	115	62	3,824
2 children	n.a.	421	322	208	188	49	38	22	1,248
3–4 children	n.a.	190	191	139	85	16	20	13	654
5+ children	n.a.	14	29	22	7	3	3	2	80
Total households	n.a.	2,352	1,272	916	794	197	176	99	5,806
	%								
1 child	..	73.4	57.4	59.7	64.7	65.5	65.3	62.6	65.9
2 children	..	17.9	25.3	22.7	23.7	24.9	21.6	22.2	21.5
3–4 children	..	8.1	15.0	15.2	10.7	8.1	11.4	13.1	11.3
5+ children	..	0.6	2.3	2.4	0.9	1.5	1.7	2.0	1.4
Total households	..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) New South Wales was unable to provide data for 2012–13.

(b) Queensland data exclude provisionally approved carer households. Queensland data only includes those kinship carers where there is an 'open placement' event for a child on the reference date. In some cases, a child can have more than one open placement event (for example, as part of respite care arrangements where more than one kin is approved to care for the child).

(c) Aggregate data were provided for the Northern Territory.

Note: Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

Intensive family support services

Table A35: Children commencing intensive family support services, by living arrangements at commencement of service, states and territories, 2012–13 (%)

Living situation	NSW	Vic ^(a)	Qld	WA	SA ^(b)	Tas ^(b)	ACT	NT ^(b)	Total
Family care									
Child living with parent(s)	96.0	89.6	65.2	99.9	..	..	81.6	..	88.0
Child living with other relatives/kin	0.2	1.6	4.9	0.0	..	..	9.5	..	1.6
Child in out-of-home care	3.8	0.9	29.2	0.0	..	..	7.5	..	8.2
Child in shared care	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	..	..	0.5	..	0.1
Other	..	7.9	0.4	0.1	..	..	1.0	..	2.1
Total	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	..	100.0	..	100.0

(a) Total percentage for Victoria not reported due to the high proportion of children whose living situation at the commencement of service was not available.

(b) South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory are not able to provide these data for 2012–13.

Notes

1. Percentages exclude children whose living arrangement was not available.
2. Percentages in the table may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collection 2013.

National trend data

Table A36: National child protection trend data, 2008–09 to 2012–13

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12 ^(a)	2012–13
	Number				
Notifications	339,454	286,437	237,273	252,962	272,980
Investigations	203,225	162,321	127,759	116,528	122,496
Substantiations	54,621	46,187	40,466	48,420	53,666
Children in notifications	207,462	187,314	163,767	173,502	184,216
Children in substantiations	32,641	31,295	31,527	37,781	40,571
Children on care and protection orders ^(b)	35,409	37,730	39,058	40,962	43,136
Children in out-of-home care ^(b)	34,069	35,895	37,648	39,621	40,549
	Number per 1,000 children				
Notifications	..	..	..	..	..
Investigations	..	..	..	..	..
Substantiations	..	..	..	..	..
Children in notifications	41.2	36.8	31.9	34.0	35.5
Children in substantiations	6.5	6.1	6.1	7.4	7.8
Children on care and protection orders ^(b)	7.0	7.4	7.6	8.0	8.2
Children in out-of-home care ^(b)	6.7	7.0	7.3	7.7	7.8

(a) The ABS has improved the methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population, which has caused a downward revision of the 2011–12 estimates based on the 2011 Census (see ABS 2012a, b). Due to these changes, comparisons of rates over time should be interpreted with caution.

(b) Children on care and protection orders and in out-of-home care are measured as at 30 June each year.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2008–09 to 2012–13.

Table A37: Children in the child protection system, by Indigenous status, 2009 to 2013

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number					
Indigenous children					
Children in substantiations ^{(a)(b)}	8,172	8,334	8,231	10,058	10,991
Children on care and protection orders ^(c)	10,271	11,451	12,280	13,268	14,455
Children in out-of-home care ^(c)	10,512	11,468	12,358	13,299	13,952
Non-Indigenous children					
Children in substantiations ^{(a)(b)}	24,469	22,335	22,144	26,183	28,106
Children on care and protection orders ^(c)	25,052	26,215	26,531	27,531	28,480
Children in out-of-home care ^(c)	23,374	24,279	24,929	26,127	26,422
All children^(d)					
Children in substantiations ^{(a)(b)}	32,641	31,295	31,527	37,781	40,571
Children on care and protection orders ^(c)	35,409	37,730	39,058	40,962	43,136
Children in out-of-home care ^(c)	34,069	35,895	37,648	39,621	40,549
Number per 1,000 children					
Indigenous children					
Children in substantiations ^{(a)(b)}	35.0	35.3	34.6	41.9	45.3
Children on care and protection orders ^(c)	43.8	48.3	51.4	54.9	59.2
Children in out-of-home care ^(c)	44.8	48.4	51.7	55.1	57.1
Non-Indigenous children					
Children in substantiations ^{(a)(b)}	5.1	4.6	4.5	5.4	5.7
Children on care and protection orders ^(c)	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.8
Children in out-of-home care ^(c)	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.4	5.4
All children^(d)					
Children in substantiations ^{(a)(b)}	6.5	6.1	6.1	7.4	7.8
Children on care and protection orders ^(c)	7.0	7.4	7.6	8.0	8.2
Children in out-of-home care ^(c)	6.7	7.0	7.3	7.7	7.8

(a) Children in substantiations are measured in financial years (2008–09, 2009–10, 2010–11, 2011–12 and 2012–13).

(b) Substantiations data for non-Indigenous children for 2008–09 include children of unknown Indigenous status; therefore, there is a break in the time series for children in substantiations between 2008–09 and 2009–10.

(c) Children on care and protection orders and in out-of-home care are measured as at 30 June each year.

(d) 'All children' includes children of unknown Indigenous status: as such, total may not equal the sum of categories.

Notes

1. 'Children in substantiations' includes unborn children and children of unknown age.
2. 'Children on care and protection orders' and 'children in out-of-home care' include children of unknown age.
3. The ABS has improved the methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population, which has caused a downward revision of the 2012 'non-Indigenous' and 'all children' estimates based on the 2011 Census (see ABS 2012a, b). Due to these changes, comparisons of rates over time should be interpreted with caution.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2008–09 to 2012–13.

Table A38: Children who were the subjects of substantiations, by age group, 2008–09 to 2012–13

Age (years)	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13
<1	4,086	3,919	3,562	3,862	4,356
1–4	8,439	7,935	8,054	9,908	10,368
5–9	8,713	8,227	8,338	10,380	11,192
10–14	8,551	8,263	8,130	9,381	10,205
15–17	2,258	2,405	2,536	2,771	2,997
0–17	32,641	31,295	31,527	37,781	40,571

Notes

1. Some data may not match those published in previous *Child protection Australia* publications due to retrospective updates to data.
2. Total for the 0–17 age group includes children of unknown age and may not equal the sum of age categories.
3. The 'less than 1' category excludes unborn children.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2008–09 to 2012–13.

Table A39: Children who were the subjects of substantiations, by abuse type and sex, 2008–09 to 2012–13

Type of abuse or neglect	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13
Boys					
Physical abuse	4,079	3,652	3,681	4,065	4,299
Sexual abuse	1,002	1,134	1,305	1,525	1,842
Emotional abuse	6,143	5,823	5,571	6,940	7,627
Neglect	4,505	4,416	4,473	5,587	5,745
Girls					
Physical abuse	3,678	3,473	3,442	3,848	3,848
Sexual abuse	2,728	3,010	3,101	3,250	3,563
Emotional abuse	6,176	5,658	5,646	6,991	7,712
Neglect	4,124	3,927	4,008	5,231	5,385
All children^(a)					
Physical abuse	7,801	7,169	7,186	7,980	8,214
Sexual abuse	3,735	4,155	4,427	4,801	5,421
Emotional abuse	12,397	11,549	11,290	14,024	15,464
Neglect	8,708	8,422	8,570	10,936	11,303

(a) 'All children' includes children whose sex was unknown.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2008–09 to 2012–13.

Table A40: Trends in children on care and protection orders, states and territories, 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013

Year	NSW	Vic ^(a)	Qld	WA ^(b)	SA ^(c)	Tas ^(d)	ACT	NT	Total
Number									
2009	13,491	6,100	7,942	3,337	2,361	991	610	577	35,409
2010	14,689	6,515	8,090	3,432	2,543	1,112	653	696	37,730
2011	15,339	6,735	8,456	3,277	2,620	1,186	723	722	39,058
2012	15,981	7,262	8,863	3,492	2,680	1,185	719	780	40,962
2013	16,373	7,751	9,211	4,260	2,798	1,253	674	816	43,136

(a) The data for Victoria for previous years were updated in 2009. This data may not match that published in publications of *Child protection Australia*. Note that this has also affected the totals.

(b) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

(c) In 2008, South Australia has included, for the first time in this collection, the number of children who were placed on third-party parental responsibility orders and administrative arrangements. Therefore, data from 2008 onwards are not comparable with 2007 data.

(d) Data for Tasmania may not be comparable year to year due to considerable data lag with the recording of order status.

Notes

1. Some data may not match those published in previous *Child protection Australia* publications due to retrospective updates to data.

2. New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2008–09 to 2012–13.

Table A41: Trends in children admitted to care and protection orders, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13

Year	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld ^(b)	WA ^(c)	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2008–09	3,827	3,241	4,647	1,355	1,087	627	381	344	15,509
2009–10	3,381	3,057	4,318	1,364	1,095	622	331	396	14,564
2010–11	3,006	3,151	4,353	1,238	966	570	207	339	13,830
2011–12	3,017	3,118	4,282	1,619	936	638	183	398	14,191
2012–13 ^(d)	2,756	3,741	4,368	926	513	381	128	333	13,146

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders. New South Wales is working to improve the way it counts admissions to care and protection orders. New South Wales currently does not strictly conform to the national counting rules.

(b) In Queensland, previous admissions to care and protection orders in other jurisdictions could not be counted.

(c) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

(d) Data for 2012–13 may not be comparable to previous years due to a difference in the methodology used for determining admissions.

Notes

1. A renewal of an existing order is not counted as an admission. If a new care and protection order is applied in 5 days or less of the discharge of another order, an admission is not counted.

2. Each child is counted for one admission for the year.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2008–09 to 2012–13.

Table A42: Trends in children discharged from care and protection orders, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13

Year	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA ^(b)	SA	Tas ^(c)	ACT	NT	Total
2008–09	2,114	1,777	2,268	547	539	274	175	333	8,027
2009–10	2,003	1,663	2,363	627	495	188	160	292	7,791
2010–11	2,086	1,662	2,185	397	512	221	128	289	7,480
2011–12	2,238	3,017	2,603	361	420	356	134	349	9,478
2012–13	2,060	3,680	2,018	713	465	375	175	309	9,795

(a) New South Wales data do not include children on finalised supervisory orders.

(b) Data for 2009–10 for Western Australia are not comparable with other years due to the introduction of a new client information system in March 2010. Proxy data were provided for that year.

(c) Data for Tasmania may not be comparable year to year due to considerable data lag with the recording of order status.

Note: For the purposes of this table, if a child is on multiple care and protection orders/arrangements, all orders/arrangements must be discharged before a discharge is counted. If a new care and protection order is applied in 5 days or less of the discharge of another order, a discharge is not counted.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2008–09 to 2012–13.

Table A43: Children admitted to and discharged from out-of-home care, 2008–09 to 2012–13

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13
Admitted	12,833	12,002	11,613	12,240	11,341
Discharged	8,653 ^(a)	9,330	9,183	9,304	9,360

(a) Excludes the Northern Territory as data were not available.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2008–09 to 2012–13.

Population data

Table A44: Population of children aged 0–17, by age and Indigenous status, December 2012

Age of child (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Indigenous children									
0–4	22,465	4,690	22,273	9,231	3,795	2,677	613	8,072	73,816
5–9	19,255	4,179	19,660	8,383	3,408	2,181	531	7,632	65,229
10–14	18,819	4,167	19,257	8,761	3,588	2,204	510	7,781	65,087
15–17	11,663	2,517	11,411	5,008	2,115	1,414	324	4,253	38,705
0–17	72,202	15,553	72,601	31,383	12,906	8,476	1,978	27,738	242,837
Non-Indigenous children									
0–4	428,786	351,375	293,169	145,650	96,175	30,903	22,752	11,814	1,380,624
5–9	428,820	335,556	285,305	141,491	93,333	29,848	21,430	10,336	1,346,119
10–14	429,054	330,149	286,455	140,679	95,159	29,903	20,429	9,075	1,340,903
15–17	265,960	207,109	176,515	87,555	60,671	18,867	14,101	5,499	836,277
0–17	1,552,620	1,224,189	1,041,444	515,375	345,338	109,521	78,712	36,724	4,903,923
All children									
0–4	476,842	364,084	312,021	165,094	99,518	31,469	25,615	18,749	1,493,392
5–9	459,981	344,842	305,592	157,234	97,089	31,289	22,858	17,682	1,436,567
10–14	445,578	331,445	297,541	151,853	97,565	32,221	21,300	16,819	1,394,322
15–17	274,164	207,523	182,289	93,420	61,739	20,252	13,344	9,617	862,348
0–17	1,656,565	1,247,894	1,097,443	567,601	355,911	115,231	83,117	62,867	5,186,629

Notes

1. The December 2012 populations for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children are the average of 30 June 2012 and 30 June 2013 population projections. This methodology may result in the sum of age groups not equalling the total due to rounding.
2. Due to small Indigenous population counts in the ACT, an estimate of the number of 15–17 year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is not available directly from ABS population projections. It is derived from data for the 15–19 year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections by taking the 15–19 year age group, dividing this by the number of single year of age categories in the 15–19 year age group (5) and then multiplying by the number of single year of age categories in the 15–17 year age group (3). This is based on the assumption that there is a fairly even distribution of children in each single year of age between 15 and 19.

Sources: ABS 2009, 2013a.

Table A45: Population of children aged 0–17, by age and Indigenous status, June 2013

Age of child (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Indigenous children									
0–4	22,806	4,768	22,633	9,333	3,850	2,730	620	8,116	74,856
5–9	19,484	4,219	19,852	8,415	3,423	2,221	537	7,613	65,764
10–14	18,689	4,146	19,284	8,718	3,590	2,188	504	7,836	64,955
15–17	11,583	2,504	11,453	5,025	2,113	1,386	325	4,285	38,674
0–17	72,562	15,637	73,222	31,491	12,976	8,525	1,986	27,850	244,249
Non-Indigenous children									
0–4	429,806	352,361	294,822	146,683	96,367	30,827	22,788	11,882	1,385,536
5–9	430,355	339,538	289,996	143,726	94,358	30,235	21,697	10,502	1,360,407
10–14	428,962	330,611	287,626	141,208	94,933	29,771	20,440	9,058	1,342,609
15–17	265,062	206,193	176,692	87,573	60,340	18,622	14,068	5,472	834,022
0–17	1,554,185	1,228,703	1,049,136	519,190	345,998	109,455	78,993	36,914	4,922,574
All children									
0–4	487,532	368,787	316,233	168,543	100,127	31,362	26,079	18,969	1,517,632
5–9	464,602	349,597	310,072	160,825	97,884	31,577	23,254	17,701	1,455,512
10–14	446,514	332,730	298,398	152,940	97,292	32,020	21,406	16,919	1,398,219
15–17	273,172	206,673	182,459	94,058	61,395	20,057	13,219	9,572	860,605
0–17	1,671,820	1,257,787	1,107,162	576,366	356,698	115,016	83,958	63,161	5,231,968

Note: Due to small Indigenous population counts in the ACT, an estimate of the number of 15–17 year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is not available directly from ABS population projections. It is derived from data for the 15–19 year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections by taking the 15–19 year age group, dividing this by the number of single year of age categories in the 15–19 year age group (5) and then multiplying by the number of single year of age categories in the 15–17 year age group (3). This is based on the assumption that there is a fairly even distribution of children in each single year of age between 15 and 19.

Sources: ABS 2009, 2013b.

Table A46: Population of all children aged 0–17, by age, December 2012

Age of child (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<1	95,370	75,865	62,266	33,626	20,220	6,173	5,343	3,922	302,785
1–4	381,472	288,219	249,755	131,468	79,298	25,296	20,272	14,827	1,190,607
5–9	459,981	344,842	305,592	157,234	97,089	31,289	22,858	17,682	1,436,567
10–14	445,578	331,445	297,541	151,853	97,565	32,221	21,300	16,819	1,394,322
15–17	274,164	207,523	182,289	93,420	61,739	20,252	13,344	9,617	862,348
All children 0–17	1,656,565	1,247,894	1,097,443	567,601	355,911	115,231	83,117	62,867	5,186,629

Source: ABS 2013a.

Table A47: Population of all children aged 0–17, by age, June 2013

Age of child (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
<1	100,504	76,450	63,560	34,783	20,308	6,090	5,401	4,016	311,112
1–4	387,028	292,337	252,673	133,760	79,819	25,272	20,678	14,953	1,206,520
5–9	464,602	349,597	310,072	160,825	97,884	31,577	23,254	17,701	1,455,512
10–14	446,514	332,730	298,398	152,940	97,292	32,020	21,406	16,919	1,398,219
15–17	273,172	206,673	182,459	94,058	61,395	20,057	13,219	9,572	860,605
All children 0–17	1,671,820	1,257,787	1,107,162	576,366	356,698	115,016	83,958	63,161	5,231,968

Source: ABS 2013b.

Appendix B Technical notes

Population data

The ABS has improved the methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population. This caused a downward revision of estimates from 2011–12 based on the 2011 Census (see ABS 2012a, b). As revised population projections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were not available at the time of reporting, an alternative methodology for estimating the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations was used for 2012–13.

For *Child protection Australia 2012–13*, the AIHW has used the following population data:

- All Australian populations ('All children') are based on the final populations rebased to the 2011 Census (released 20 June 2013)
- Indigenous analyses are based on the 2006 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experimental projections of Indigenous populations to 2021 (Series B).

In order to ensure comparability, non-Indigenous populations are derived by subtracting the Indigenous population from the equivalent 2006 Census-based population projections for all time periods from 2006 onwards until new projections become available.

Calculation of rates

Rates for 'All children'

The rates for 'All children' on care and protection orders and 'All children' in out-of-home care were calculated using the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) most recent population estimates for 30 June 2013 (ABS 2013b). The rate of 'All children' who were the subjects of child protection substantiations during 2012–13 were calculated using the ABS population estimates for 31 December 2012 (ABS 2013a).

Rates of children on care and protection orders were calculated in the following way:

$$\frac{\text{Number of children aged 0–17 on care and protection orders at 30 June 2013}}{\text{ABS estimated population of children aged 0–17 at 30 June 2013}} \times 1,000$$

Rates of children in out-of-home care were calculated in the following way:

$$\frac{\text{Number of children aged 0–17 in out-of-home care at 30 June 2013}}{\text{ABS estimated population of children aged 0–17 at 30 June 2013}} \times 1,000$$

Rates of children who were the subjects of child protection substantiations were calculated in the following way:

$$\frac{\text{Number of children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations in 2012–13}}{\text{ABS estimated population aged 0–17 at 31 December 2012}} \times 1,000$$

Note, legislation and practice differs across jurisdictions in relation to children aged 17. In some jurisdictions, children aged 17 are not substantiated and this means the number per 1,000 children who were the subjects of substantiations may be lower for those jurisdictions. Where substantiation rates are calculated for the 'less than 1' and '0–17' year age groups', unborn children are excluded; these children are included in the calculation of substantiation rates for 'All children'.

Rates for 'Indigenous' and 'non-Indigenous' children

The rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous children on care and protection orders and Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in out-of-home care were calculated using the population projections for 30 June 2013 based on the 2006 Census. The rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children who were the subjects of child protection substantiations during 2012–13 was calculated using the average of the 30 June 2012 and 30 June 2013 population estimates based on the 2006 Census as a proxy for 31 December 2012.

Rates for states and territories with small numbers of children in their child protection data and small Indigenous populations (notably the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania) should be interpreted carefully. Small changes in the numbers of Indigenous children in the child protection systems, or in population estimates, can have a major impact on rates.

Rate ratio

Rates can be compared using a rate ratio, which is the ratio of 2 rates. Rate ratios should be interpreted with caution where there are small denominators or a large proportion of data is recorded as 'unknown'. In *Child protection Australia* reporting, rate ratios are mainly used to compare Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates and to provide a measure of the level of Indigenous over representation. Rates are also presented to guide interpretation.

Rate ratios are not calculated where one or both of the rates have fewer than 5 young people in the numerator.

Age

Age is always calculated in complete years. For example, a child who was 5 years and 9 months old is recorded as being 5 years of age.

Throughout *Child protection Australia* 2012–13, the AIHW has calculated age at different points in time for a child, depending on the analysis in question.

- For **30 June** analyses, age is calculated as at 30 June 2013.
- For analyses of events occurring **during the year**, age is calculated at the relevant point in time during 2012–13:
 - For analyses of children who were the subject of a child protection notification or substantiation, age is calculated at the earliest date of notification during the period.
 - For analyses of children who were admitted to, or discharged from, a care and protection order or an out-of-home care placement, age is calculated at the date of first admission and first discharge during the period.
- For analyses of children **receiving child protection services**, age is calculated at the earliest point of contact during 2012–13 or at 1 July 2012 if the child was on an on-going care and protection order or in an on-going out-of-home care placement at the beginning of the period.
- For **'average day'** analyses, age is calculated on each day of the event being analysed. This means that a child or young person can potentially contribute to the reported averages for two different ages if the event being analysed spanned either side of their birthday. For example, a 4 year old child, whose birthday is 19 May, is placed on a care and protection order on 1 May until 31 May. For the day days prior to their birthday the child would contribute to the reported average with an age of 4. From the day of their

birthday until the end of the order, the child would contribute to the reported average with an age of 5.

Average and median

Two measures of 'central tendency' (the central value or typical value for a probability distribution) are reported in *Child Protection Australia 2012–13*:

- **Average (mean)**—the average, or mean, is calculated by summing all of the values and dividing by the number of observations. In *Child Protection Australia*, averages are used in the reporting of 'average day' numbers (see below) and the average co-occurrence of abuse and neglect.
- **Median**—the middle value of a set of observations, when arranged in order of value. Medians are often reported where data are not normally distributed, or include extreme values that would distort the average. In *Child Protection Australia*, median is used in the reporting of the number of notifications that were substantiated for a child or young person during the year.

Identification of Indigenous status

Children

The practices used to identify and record the Indigenous status of children vary across states and territories, with some jurisdictions recording large numbers of unknowns. No state or territory can validate the data on Indigenous children by other means and the quality of the data is therefore unknown.

In this collection, children are counted as Indigenous if they are identified as such in the state and territory data collections. Children whose Indigenous status is recorded as 'unknown' are excluded, where possible, from calculations of rates and proportions. The counts for Indigenous children are therefore likely to be an underestimate of the actual number of Indigenous children in the child protection system.

Break in times series for children in notifications, investigations and substantiations

Notifications, investigations and substantiations data for non-Indigenous children before 2009–10 included children of unknown Indigenous status. Following improvements to the data collection methodology in 2009–10, these children are able to be separately identified and excluded from the non-Indigenous count. Therefore, there is a break in the time series presented in this report for children in substantiations between 2008–09 and 2009–10.

Caregivers

In the out-of-home care data collection, the Indigenous status of caregivers was collected as well as the Indigenous status of children in out-of-home care. Carers who are identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are included in the Indigenous category. Where the Indigenous children were living in facility-based care specifically for Indigenous children, the caregiver was counted as Indigenous. Where children were living in other types of facility-based care, the caregiver was not counted as Indigenous.

Points of analysis

Average day

Counts of people subject to an event (such as a type of child protection order) on an average day are calculated by summing the number of days each person was subject to the same event during the year and dividing this total by the number of days in the financial year.

For example, the number of children and young people subject to a finalised guardianship or custody order on an average day is calculated by summing the number of days each child or young person was on this order type during the year and dividing this total by the number of days in the financial year.

For the number on an average day, components may not sum to the total because:

- people can experience different types of events on the same day (for example, 2 different, consecutive child protection orders).
- a person may change age part way through an event
- the number on an average day is rounded to the nearest whole person.

For example, if there are 3.4 girls on an average day and 3.4 boys on an average day, the total is 6.8 children and young people. When these numbers are rounded, the corresponding table would show a count of 3 girls, 3 boys and a total of 7 children and young people.

During the year

Counts of people during the year are calculated by counting each distinct person subject to the event of interest during the financial year. Each person is counted only once, even if they had multiple occurrences of the event during the year. For example, when calculating the number of children and young people subject to a substantiation of a child protection notification during the year, a child or young person will be counted if a notification received during the financial year was substantiated, but will only contribute a count of 1 regardless of how many notification were substantiated for them in the financial year.

30 June (at the end of the financial year)

Counts of people at 30 June are calculated by counting each distinct person for whom the event of interest was on-going at the end of the financial year. Each person is counted only once, even if they had multiple occurrences of the event on-going at 30 June. In instances where a child or young person has multiple child protection orders ongoing at 30 June, the child or young person is counted against the national order type that represented the highest level of intervention. In instances where a child or young person has multiple living arrangements ongoing at 30 June, the child or young person is counted against the living arrangement type that is considered their usual placement.

For example, when calculating the number of children and young people on a care and protection order at 30 June, a child or young person will be counted if they were on a care and protection order during the reporting period and the order had not ended, or ended after 30 June. If the child or young person had an ongoing finalised guardianship order and an ongoing interim order at 30 June, they would be counted in the finalised guardianship order category, as this represents the higher level of intervention of the two orders.

Socioeconomic status

Child protection Australia reporting uses the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), developed by ABS to analyse socioeconomic status (ABS 2013c).

The SEIFA comprises four indexes that are constructed using information from the 5-yearly Census of Population and Housing. These 4 indexes are the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage, the Index of Economic Resources and the Index of Education and Occupation.

The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage is used to compare the average level of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage. The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) the SEIFA index used in this report, ranks geographic areas on a continuum from 'most disadvantaged' to 'least disadvantaged' using a combination of income, education, employment, occupation, housing and other Census variables (ABS 2013c). These census variables relate to both advantage and disadvantage, including low levels of income and education, as well as high levels of education and income. This index can be used to measure both disadvantage and advantage. A high score indicates a relatively high level of advantage and a relatively low level of disadvantage. An area containing some relatively disadvantaged people and some relatively advantaged people may have a low score on the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage, due to the levels of disadvantage, but a relatively high score on the Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage, due to the existence of both advantage and disadvantage. Population-based quintiles are used.

Socioeconomic status is determined by allocating the relevant SEIFA population-based (2011 population) quintile score to postcode information available for the child or young person. Invalid, missing or unknown postcodes of last known home address were excluded from the analysis.

Some postcode areas were split between 2 or more areas with different SEIFA scores. Where this was the case, the data were weighted according to the proportion of the population of the postcode area in each SEIFA area.

The SEIFA represents the average of all people living in the area, and not the socioeconomic status of a particular individual living in the area. Therefore, socioeconomic analyses in *Child protection Australia* reporting indicate the level of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage in the area corresponding to the postcode information available for the child or young person, not the level of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage of the child or young person or their family.

If inferences are made about individuals in an area based purely on SEIFA (the characteristics of the area in which they live) they could be misleading. This brings the potential for error in any conclusions, referred to as the ecological fallacy. Area-level and individual-level socio-economic disadvantage are interrelated but distinct concepts, and thus are measured differently. Using their Socio-Economic Index for Individuals (SEIFI), the ABS has found that the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory have the greatest proportions of highly socio-economically diverse neighbourhoods, and, as an aggregate measure, SEIFA only captures a fraction of the true level of disadvantage being experienced in these jurisdictions. SEIFA information used at a suburb or postcode level can have the effect of minimising the actual levels of disadvantage in some areas (ABS 2011).

Appendix C Data quality statement: Child Protection National Minimum Data Set

Summary of key issues

- The Child Protection National Minimum Data Set (CP NMDS) was implemented in 2012–13. This unit record level data collection replaces the aggregate collection previously used for national reporting.
- The CP NMDS contains information on:
 - notifications, investigations and substantiations
 - care and protection orders
 - out-of-home care
 - foster carers
 - relative/kinship carers.

Data relating to intensive family support services are also reported in *Child protection Australia*, but are based on a separate aggregate collection.

- The AIHW compiles the national collection each year using data extracted from the administrative systems of the state and territory departments responsible for child protection.
- Unit record level data were not available for Queensland in 2012–13; aggregate data have been reported.
- Although New South Wales provided unit record data to the AIHW, a decision was made to report aggregated data to maintain consistency across reporting in 2012–13.
- Overall, the quality and coverage of data in the child protection data collection are good. However, data availability issues mean a small number of tables in the collection do not provide fully national data; and in relation to substantiated child abuse and neglect, in some jurisdictions, there is a high proportion of children whose Indigenous status is unknown.
- Differences in jurisdictional policy, practice, legislation and data systems must be taken into consideration when interpreting all child protection data (see [Appendixes D–I \(online\)](#) of *Child protection Australia 2012–13*).
- The ABS has improved the methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population, which caused a downward revision of estimates based on the 2011 Census. An alternative methodology for estimating the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations was used for 2012–13 reporting. Due to these changes, comparisons of rates over time should be interpreted with caution.

Description

In Australia, statutory child protection is the responsibility of state and territory governments. Each state and territory department responsible for child protection provides assistance to vulnerable children who are suspected of being abused, neglected, or otherwise harmed, or whose parents are unable to provide adequate care or protection.

A number of government and non-government organisations share a common duty of care towards the protection of children and young people. Departments responsible for child protection investigate, process and oversee the handling of child protection cases. Assistance is provided to children and their families through the provision of, or referral to, a wide range of services.

The data for this collection are collected from each of the eight state and territory departments responsible for child protection, and collated and analysed by the AIHW. The CP NMDS was implemented in 2012–13. The data are extracted from the administrative systems of the state and territory departments according to definitions and technical specifications agreed to by those departments and the AIHW. This data collection represents the only national source of child protection data.

The collection is a part of the child welfare series. The agreement for ongoing funding of this series forms Schedule 3 of the National Community Services Information Infrastructure Agreement (NCSIIA). This agreement operates under the auspices of the Standing Council on Community and Disability Services Advisory Council (SCCDSAC), formerly the Community and Disability Services Ministerial Advisory Committee (CDSMAC).

Institutional environment

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) is a major national agency set up by the Australian Government under the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987* to provide reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare. It is an independent statutory authority established in 1987, governed by a management board and accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Health and Ageing portfolio.

The AIHW aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians through better health and welfare information and statistics. It collects and reports information on a wide range of topics and issues, ranging from health and welfare expenditure, hospitals, disease and injury, and mental health, to ageing, homelessness, disability and child protection.

The Institute also plays a role in developing and maintaining national metadata standards. This work contributes to improving the quality and consistency of national health and welfare statistics. The Institute works closely with governments and non-government organisations to achieve greater adherence to these standards in administrative data collections to promote national consistency and comparability of data and reporting.

One of the main functions of the AIHW is to work with the states and territories to improve the quality of administrative data and, where possible, to compile national datasets based on data from each jurisdiction, to analyse these datasets and disseminate information and statistics.

The *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987*, in compliance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth), ensures that the data collections managed by the AIHW are kept securely and under the strictest conditions with respect to privacy and confidentiality.

For further information see the AIHW website <www.aihw.gov.au>.

Timeliness

The reference period for the 2012–13 Child Protection Collection is from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. Data relating to child protection investigations includes investigation outcomes recorded up until 31 August 2013, to maximise the currency of these data items.

The state and territory departments responsible for child protection provide data to the AIHW annually, after the end of each financial year. For the 2012–13 collection, the first iteration of data was due to the AIHW by 31 October 2013, and data were finalised for all states and territories in April 2013. Data from the 2012–13 Child Protection Collection were published in July 2014.

The data for each collection period are released in the AIHW's *Child protection Australia* annual publication.

Accessibility

Publications containing national child protection data, including the annual *Child protection Australia* reports, are available on the AIHW website <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/child-protection/>>. These reports are available free of charge. Concurrent with the annual publication, key findings are also presented online.

Requests for unpublished data can be made by contacting the AIHW. See <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/data/>>. A cost-recovery charge may apply to requests that take substantial resources to compile. Depending on the nature of the request, requests for access to unpublished data may require approval from the state and territory data custodians and/or the AIHW Ethics Committee.

General inquiries about AIHW publications can be made to the Communications, Media and Marketing Unit on (02) 6244 1032 or via email to info@aihw.gov.au.

Interpretability

Supporting information on relevant mandatory reporting requirements, legislation, jurisdictional policy and data systems are presented in the [Appendixes D–I \(online\)](#) of the *Child protection Australia* reports. Supporting information is also provided in the footnotes accompanying tables and the report Glossary. Chapter 1 of the report provides an overview of the child protection process and data collection. Readers are advised to consider all supporting and contextual information to ensure appropriate interpretation of analyses presented by the AIHW.

Metadata for the Child Protection Collection is currently being updated for entry on to METeOR, the AIHW's online metadata repository.

Relevance

The Child Protection Collection is the authoritative source of national Australian child protection data.

The collection includes several modules on notifications, investigations, substantiations; care and protection orders; out-of-home care, foster and relative/kinship carers; and intensive family support services. Where available, these collections provide information on children within each system and the child protection cases, placements and households relating to children.

For the first time in 2012–13, the overlaps between the three primary modules (notifications, investigations and substantiations; care and protection orders; and out-of-home care) has been analysed at the national level. A range of information about children who come into contact with the child protection system, including their age, sex, Indigenous status and living arrangements, is included. Data are also collected on the main type of substantiated abuse or neglect that has occurred: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect.

The collection also includes numbers of admissions to, and discharges from, care and protection orders and out-of-home care; and information on households providing foster and relative/kinship care placements.

In addition to providing information on the current collection period, the collection also allows for some trends to be examined. As part of the 'child welfare' schedule under the NCSIIA, the collection is a valuable source for monitoring various components of the child protection system. Overall, these data give a detailed view of statutory child protection in Australia.

Data sourced from national child protection collections are used for reporting under the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020* and in the annual *Report on Government Services* for some jurisdictions.

Accuracy

Data for the child protection data collections are extracted each year from the administrative systems of the state and territory departments responsible for child protection in Australia, according to definitions and technical specifications agreed to by the departments and the AIHW. Overall, the quality and coverage of data in the child protection data collection are good.

Scope and coverage

National child protection data are only based on those cases reported to departments responsible for child protection and therefore are likely to understate the true prevalence of child abuse and neglect across Australia. Further, notifications made to other organisations, such as the police or non-government welfare agencies, are only included if they were also referred to departments responsible for child protection.

There are significant links and overlaps between the notifications, investigations and substantiations; care and protection orders; and out-of-home care data modules. For example, children who are the subjects of substantiations may be placed on care and protection orders, and many children on care and protection orders are also in out-of-home care. For the first time in 2012–13, the overall number of children receiving child protection services, along with the overlaps between the separate data modules, have been reported.

Each year a number of children are the subjects of more than one notification and/or substantiation during the year. For the first time in 2012–13, the proportion of children who were the subject of more than one substantiation in the year has been reported.

Ongoing work is being undertaken on the CP NMDS to broaden the scope of the national data collection and to improve comparability of data across jurisdictions.

Data quality

Overall, the quality and coverage of data in the child protection data collection are good. However, data availability affects the interpretability of some data presented.

- For data on *Children in substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by type of family in which the child was residing*, Victoria and South Australia report a large proportion of family types in the ‘not stated’ category (91% and 40%, respectively) and these have not been included in the total. These data are also not available for New South Wales.
- *Children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by Indigenous status* should be interpreted with caution due to the high proportion of children whose Indigenous status was unknown in Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania (26%, 24% and 20%, respectively).
- Children substantiated in 2011–12, and who were subsequently placed on care and protection orders within 12 months, are not available for New South Wales.
- Households exiting foster care and the number of foster children placed per household are not available for New South Wales.
- Relative/kinship carer households with a placement during the year are not available for Queensland.
- Households exiting relative/kinship care and the number of children in relative/kinship care placements that were placed per household are not available for New South Wales.
- The age of children commencing intensive family support services are not available for South Australia.
- The living arrangements of children commencing intensive family support services are not available for South Australia and Tasmania.

Coherence

National child protection data have been provided to the AIHW since 1993 under the agreement between the Australian Government, the states and territories and the AIHW concerning the provision of data on welfare services. In 1993, separate reports were published on child abuse and neglect (*Child abuse and neglect Australia 1990–91*) and care and protection orders (*Children under care and protection orders Australia 1990–91*).

Child protection Australia 1996–97 contained consolidated information on several child protection data modules (notifications, investigations, substantiations; care and protection orders; and out-of-home care) for the first time. *Child protection Australia* has subsequently been released as an annual report in that format. Limited data on intensive family support services were included for the first time in *Child protection Australia 2003–04*. Data on foster carer households were included for the first time in *Child protection Australia 2009–10* and relative/kinship carer data were included for the first time in *Child protection Australia 2010–11*. New analyses included for the first time in *Child protection Australia 2012–13* relate to:

- unique children receiving child protection services in each jurisdiction
- the number of substantiations per child
- co-occurring types of abuse and neglect
- socioeconomic status
- average day measures of children on orders; children in out-of-home care; and carer households approved/authorised to provide funded out-of-home care placements.

The ability to replicate and expand on existing national reporting was the primary focus of the new unit record level collection following the implementation of the CP NMDS in 2012–13. Existing national technical specifications were retained and clarified as part of this process.

It is standard practice to present 5-year trends in data, as changes in state and territory legislation, policy/practice and information management systems reduce the ability to accurately compare data over longer periods. Changes that have an impact on the data are provided as caveats to the data and in relevant appendixes to *Child protection Australia* reports.

Notifications, investigations and substantiations data for non-Indigenous children before 2009–10 included children of unknown Indigenous status. Following improvements to the data collection methodology in 2009–10, these children are able to be separately identified and excluded from the non-Indigenous count. Therefore, there is a break in the time series for children in substantiations by Indigenous status between 2008–09 and 2009–10.

The ABS has improved the methodology used to obtain estimates of the resident population, which caused a downward revision of estimates based on the 2011 Census. As revised population projections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were not available at the time of reporting, an alternative methodology for estimating the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations was used for 2012–13.

- All Australian populations ('All children') are based on the final populations rebased to the 2011 Census (released 20 June 2013)
- Indigenous analyses are based on the 2006 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experimental projections of Indigenous populations to 2021 (Series B).

In order to ensure comparability, non-Indigenous populations are derived by subtracting the Indigenous population from the equivalent 2006 Census-based population projections for all time periods from 2006 onwards until new projections become available.

Due to these changes, comparisons of rates over time should be interpreted with caution.

Glossary

administrative arrangements: Agreements with the child protection departments, which have the same effect as a court order of transferring custody or guardianship. These arrangements can also allow a child to be placed in out-of-home care without going through the courts.

age: The age of a person in completed years, or 'unborn' for those in utero and 'less than 1 year' where age is between live birth and less than 1 year. The tables containing information for notifications, investigations and substantiations show age at the time of notification. The tables containing information on children on orders by type of living arrangements and children in out-of-home care at 30 June show age at 30 June 2012. Tables containing information on admissions or discharges show age at the time of first admission or discharge. For intensive family support services, age is shown as at the commencement of the service.

agency: A body funded by state and territory departments responsible for child protection to provide services.

anonymous: Of unknown name.

capital city: A state or territory capital city.

care and protection orders: Legal orders or arrangements that give child protection departments some responsibility for a child's welfare. See also: **finalised guardianship or custody orders; finalised third-party parental responsibility orders; finalised supervisory orders; interim and temporary orders; and administrative arrangements.**

child: A person aged 0-17years.

child care personnel: Those engaged in providing occasional, part-time or full-time day care for children.

child concern reports: Reports to community services departments regarding concerns about a child, where there is no indication that a child may have been, or is at risk of being, harmed through abuse or neglect. This may include concerns about a child's welfare related to the quality of his or her home environment or the standard of care that he or she is receiving.

child protection and support services: Those departments in each state and territory that are responsible for child protection matters.

children receiving child protection services: Children who are the subjects of an investigation of a notification; on a care and protection order; and/or in out-of-home care.

children subject to orders: Children aged 0-17 on a care and protection order or other formal arrangement, or children aged 18 or under who were discharged from those care and protection orders/arrangements. See also **care and protection orders.**

custody orders: see **finalised guardianship or custody orders.**

dealt with by other means: A notification that was responded to by means other than an investigation, such as the provision of advice or referral to services. Notifications dealt with by other means are divided into two categories: **notifications in process** and **notifications resolved without investigation.**

departmental officer: Any person who is employed by a state or territory department responsible for child protection who is not classified under any other 'source of notification' category.

emotional abuse: Any act by a person having the care of a child that results in the child suffering any kind of significant emotional deprivation or trauma. Children affected by exposure to family violence would also be included in this category.

family care Where the child is residing with parents (natural or adoptive) or other relatives/kin (other than parents) who are not reimbursed. See also **two parent – intact; two parent – step or blended; single parent – female; single parent – male; and relatives or kin (other than parents) who are not reimbursed.**

family group homes: Homes for children provided by a department or community-sector agency which have live-in, non-salaried carers who are reimbursed and/or subsidised for the provision of care.

family of residence: The family type where a child is living at the time of notification of child abuse or neglect. The family type of a child is classified into eight main categories: **two parent – intact; two parent – step or blended; single parent – female; single parent – male; other relatives/kin; foster care; other; and not stated.**

finalised guardianship or custody orders: Orders involving the transfer of legal guardianship to the relevant state or territory department or non-government agency. These orders involve considerable intervention in the child's life and that of their family, and are sought only as a last resort. Guardianship orders convey responsibility for the welfare of the child to the guardian (for example, regarding the child's education, health, religion, accommodation and financial matters). They do not necessarily grant the right to the daily care and control of the child, or the right to make decisions about the daily care and control of the child, which are granted under custody orders.

Custody orders generally refer to orders that place children in the custody of the state or territory department responsible for child protection or non-government agency. These orders usually involve the child protection department being responsible for the daily care and requirements of the child, while the parent retains legal guardianship. Custody alone does not bestow any responsibility regarding the long-term welfare of the child.

finalised investigation: A notification received between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013 that was investigated, and where the investigation was completed and an outcome recorded by 31 August 2013. The cut-off point of 31 August is applied to allow time for investigating notifications made close to the end of the financial year. The 'outcomes of finalised investigations' are classified into two categories: **substantiated** and **not substantiated.**

finalised supervisory orders: Orders giving the department responsible for child protection some responsibility for a child's welfare. Under these orders, the department supervises and/or directs the level and type of care that is to be provided to the child.

Children under supervisory orders are generally under the responsibility of their parents and the guardianship or custody of the child is unaffected. Finalised supervisory orders are therefore less interventionist than finalised guardianship or custody orders, but require the child's parent or guardian to meet specified conditions, such as medical care of the child.

finalised third-party parental responsibility orders: Orders transferring all duties, powers, responsibilities and authority parents are entitled to by law, to a nominated person(s) considered appropriate by the court. The nominated person may be an individual such as a relative or an officer of the state or territory department. Third-party parental responsibility may be ordered in the event that a parent is unable to care for a child, and as such parental responsibility is transferred to a relative.

'Permanent care orders' are an example of a third-party parental responsibility order and involve the transfer of guardianship to a third-party carer. Such orders can also be applied to the achievement of a stable arrangement under a long-term guardianship order to the age of 18 without guardianships being transferred to a third party. These orders are only applicable in some jurisdictions.

foster care: A form of out-of-home care where the caregiver is authorised and reimbursed (or was offered but declined reimbursement) by the state/territory for the care of the child. (This category excludes relatives/kin who are reimbursed). There are varying degrees of reimbursement made to foster carers.

formal shared care: Where a case plan exists for children to live in family care and to have regular planned periods in out-of-home care.

foster carer household: A private household containing one or more foster carers:

- who have undergone the relevant screening/selection and approval process
- who have received authorisation from the relevant department or agency to enable a child to be placed in their care
- for whom reimbursement is available from the state or territory government for expenses incurred in caring for the child. (There are varying degrees of reimbursement made to foster carers)
- who are part of an ongoing review process.

friend/neighbour An unrelated person or acquaintance who is known to, or lives in close proximity to, the subject child or their family, or to the person believed to be responsible for the abuse or neglect.

guardianship orders: see finalised guardianship or custody orders.

home-based out-of-home care Where placement is in the home of a carer who is reimbursed (or who has been offered but declined reimbursement) for the cost of care of the child. There are three categories of home-based out-of-home care: **relatives/kin who are reimbursed; foster care; and other home-based out-of-home care.**

hospital/health centre personnel: Any person not elsewhere classified who is employed at a public or private hospital or other health centre or clinic.

independent living: Accommodation including private board and lead tenant households.

Indigenous status: Whether a person identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives. See also **Indigenous, non-Indigenous** and **unknown Indigenous status.**

Indigenous: Includes children of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent who identify and are identified as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

intensive family support services: Services that aim to prevent imminent separation of children from their primary caregivers because of child protection concerns, and those services that aim to reunify families where separation has already occurred.

interim and temporary orders: Orders covering the provision of a limited period of supervision and/or placement of a child. Parental responsibility under these orders may reside with the parents or with the department responsible for child protection. 'Unfinalised orders' (such as applications to the court for care and protection orders) are also included in this category, unless another finalised order is in place.

investigation: Investigations are the process whereby the relevant department obtains more detailed information about a child who is the subject of a notification received between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. Departmental staff make an assessment about the harm or degree of harm to the child and their protective needs. An investigation includes sighting or interviewing the child where it is practical to do so. See also **investigation in process; investigation closed – no outcome possible; and finalised investigation.**

investigation in process: A notification received between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013 that was investigated, but where the investigation was not completed and an investigation outcome was not recorded by 31 August 2013.

investigation closed – no outcome possible: A notification made between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013 that was investigated, but where the investigation was not able to be finalised in order to reach the outcome of 'substantiated' or 'not substantiated' and files were closed for administrative purposes. This may happen, for example, in cases where the family has relocated. These investigations would be completed between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013.

living arrangements: The type of care in which a child on an order was residing. See also: **residential care, foster care, family group homes, home-based out-of-home care and family care.**

living situation: The type of care in which the child or children in the family at the time of case commencement for intensive family support services. See also **family care; out-of-home care; formal shared care; and other living arrangement.**

location: The site at which the intensive family support service workers are based. If an agency has more than one location, each location must be counted.

medical practitioner: Registered medical practitioners. This includes both general practitioners and specialists in hospitals or in the community.

neglect: Any serious acts or omissions by a person having the care of a child that, within the bounds of cultural tradition, constitute a failure to provide conditions that are essential for the healthy physical and emotional development of a child.

non-government organisation: Any non-government organisation that provides services to the community on a non-profit-making basis, not classified under any other 'source of notification' category.

non-Indigenous: Includes children who have not been identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; this excludes children of unknown Indigenous status.

notifications: Contacts made to an authorised department by persons or other bodies making allegations of child abuse or neglect, child maltreatment or harm to a child.

notifications in process: Notifications where the decision to investigate has not been reached.

notifications resolved without investigation: Notifications that were responded to by means other than an investigation such as provision of advice or referral to services.

not stated: Where information was unknown or not recorded.

not substantiated: A notification received between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013 where an investigation concluded that there was no reasonable cause to suspect prior, current or future abuse, neglect or harm to the child.

other family of residence: Family of residence not otherwise categorised. This includes non-family situations, such as hostels and institutional accommodation.

other health personnel: Any person engaged in supplementary, paramedical and/or ancillary medical services. This includes nurses, infant welfare sisters, dentists, radiographers, physiotherapists, pharmacists, and so forth. It does not include social workers and non-medical hospital/health centre personnel.

other home-based out-of-home care: Where the child was in home-based out-of-home care, other than with relatives/kin who are reimbursed or in foster care.

other living arrangements: Living arrangements not otherwise classified, including unknown living arrangements. For children on orders, this also includes any placements made in disability services; psychiatric services; juvenile justice facilities; specialist homelessness services and over-night child-care services; boarding schools; hospitals; hotels/motels; and the defence forces. These living arrangements may have rostered and/or paid staff, and are generally not a home-like environment.

other out-of-home care: Out-of-home care placements that are not otherwise categorised, including unknown placement types. This includes boarding schools; hospitals; hotels/motels; and the defence forces.

other relative/kin: Relatives of the child (other than parents), including grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins. The relationship can be full, half or step, or through adoption, and can be traced through, or to, a person whose parents were not married to each other at the time of his or her birth. This category also includes members of Indigenous communities who are accepted by that community as being related to the child.

other source of notification: All other persons or organisations not classified by any other source of notification category (for example, ministers of religion or government agencies and instrumentalities not classified above).

other urban: Cities and towns other than the capital city.

out-of-home care: Overnight care for children aged 0–17 years, where the state makes a financial payment or where a financial payment has been offered but has been declined by the carer. See also **residential care; family group homes; foster care; relative/kinship care; independent living;** and **other out-of-home care.**

parent/guardian: A natural or substitute parent; spouse of a natural parent; adoptive parent or spouse of an adoptive parent; or any other person who has an ongoing legal responsibility for the care and protection of a child.

permanent care orders: See **finalised third-party parental responsibility orders.**

physical abuse: Any non-accidental physical act inflicted upon a child by a person having the care of a child.

police: Any member of a Commonwealth, state or territory law enforcement agency.

prevention services: Services specifically aimed at assisting families in order to prevent imminent separation of children from their primary caregivers for child protection reasons.

relative kinship care: A form of out-of-home care where the caregiver is:

- a relative (other than parents)
- considered to be family or a close friend
- a member of the child or young person's community (in accordance with their culture)
- who is reimbursed by the state/territory for the care of the child (or who has been offered but declined reimbursement).

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, a kinship carer may be another Indigenous person who is a member of their community, a compatible community or from the same language group.

relative/kinship carer household: A private household containing one or more relative/kinship carers:

- who have undergone the relevant screening/selection and approval process
- who have received authorisation from the relevant department or agency to enable a relative/kinship child to be placed in their care
- for whom reimbursement is available from a government authority or non-government organisation for expenses incurred in caring for the child (there are varying degrees of reimbursement made to relative/kinship carers)
- who are part of an ongoing review process.

relatives/kin who are not reimbursed: Relatives/kin (other than parents) who are not reimbursed by the state/territory for the care of the child.

relatives/kin who are reimbursed: Where the caregiver is:

- a relative (other than parents)
- considered to be family or a close friend
- a member of the child or young person's community (in accordance with their culture)
- who is reimbursed by the state/territory for the care of the child (or who has been offered but declined reimbursement).

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, a kinship carer may be another Indigenous person who is a member of their community, a compatible community or from the same language group.

residential care: Where the placement is in a residential building whose purpose is to provide placements for children and where there are paid staff.

respite care: Respite care is a form of out-of-home care used to provide short-term accommodation for children and young people where the intention is for the child to return to their prior place of residence. Respite placements include:

- respite from birth family, where a child is placed in out-of-home care on a temporary basis for reasons other than child protection (for example, the child's parents are ill or unable to care for them on a temporary basis; as a family support mechanism to prevent

entry into full-time care; as part of the reunification process; or as a shared cared arrangement)

- respite from placement, where a child spends regular, short and agreed periods of time with another carer other than their primary carer.

reunification services: Services that seek to reunify families where separation of children from their primary caregivers has already occurred for child protection reasons.

rural or remote: Areas outside the cities and towns.

school personnel: Any appropriately trained person involved in the instruction of, or imparting of knowledge to, children, or providing direct support for this education. This includes teachers, teachers' aides, school principals and counsellors who work in preschool, kindergarten, primary, secondary, technical, sporting or art-and-crafts education.

sexual abuse: Any act by a person, having the care of a child, that exposes the child to, or involves the child in, sexual processes beyond his or her understanding or contrary to accepted community standards.

sibling: A brother or half-brother, sister or half-sister, whether natural (that is, biological), adopted or foster.

single parent – female: Families with a female single parent, whether biological, step or adoptive.

single parent – male: Families with a male single parent, whether biological, step or adoptive.

social worker/welfare worker/psychologist/other trained welfare worker: Any person engaged in providing a social- or welfare-work service in the community.

source of notification: The person or organisation that initially made a child protection notification to the relevant authority. The source is classified according to the relationship to the child allegedly abused, neglected or harmed. The source of notification is reported into 16 categories: **parent/guardian; sibling; other relative; friend/neighbour; medical practitioner; other health personnel; hospital/health centre personnel; social worker/welfare worker/psychologist/other trained welfare worker; school personnel; child care personnel; police; departmental officer; non-government organisation; anonymous; other; and not stated.**

substantiations of notifications: Substantiations of notifications received during the current reporting year refer to child protection notifications made to relevant authorities between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013, which were investigated and the investigation was finalised by 31 August 2013, and where it was concluded that there was reasonable cause to believe that the child had been, was being, or was likely to be, abused, neglected or otherwise harmed. Substantiation does not necessarily require sufficient evidence for a successful prosecution and does not imply that treatment or case management was provided. Substantiations may also include cases where there is no suitable caregiver, such as children who have been abandoned or whose parents are deceased.

third-party parental responsibility orders: See **finalised third-party parental responsibility orders.**

two parent – intact: Two-parent families where both parents are either the biological or adoptive parents of the child.

two parent – step or blended: Blended and reconstituted families (one biological parent and one step parent).

type of abuse or neglect: Substantiations are classified into four categories: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. Each category includes findings of actual harm or significant risk of harm. Where more than one type of abuse or neglect has occurred, the substantiation should be classified to the type likely to be the most severe in the short term or to place the child at risk in the short term – or, if such an assessment is not possible, classified to the most obvious form of abuse or neglect. See also **physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect**.

type of action for notifications: Actions taken by the department responsible for child protection in response to notifications. See also **investigation** and **dealt with by other means**.

type of placement: The type of out-of-home care in which a child was residing. See also: **residential care; family group homes; home-based out-of-home care; independent living; and other out-of-home care**.

unknown Indigenous status: Includes children of whose Indigenous status was unknown.

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2009. Indigenous population projections by age and sex at June 2011: unpublished projections for the Indigenous population based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing data (Series B). Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2011. Socio-economic indexes for areas: getting a handle on individual diversity within areas. ABS cat. no.1351.0.55.036. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2012a. Australian Demographic Statistics December 2011. Feature article: Preliminary rebasing of Australia's population estimates using the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. ABS cat. no. 3101.0 Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2012b. Census of Population and Housing: details of undercount, 2011. ABS cat. no. 2940.0. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2012c. Recorded crime victims, Australia. ABS cat. no. 4510.0. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2013a. Population by age and sex at 31 December 2012: unpublished estimates based on June 2011 Census of Population and Housing data. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2013b. Population of children aged 0–17 years by state/territory and sex at 30 June 2013: unpublished estimates based on June 2011 Census of Population and Housing data. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2013c. Socio-economic indexes for areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2011. ABS cat. no. 2033.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS.

AIFS (Australian Institute of Family Studies): Bromfield L & Higgins DJ 2005. National comparison of child protection systems. Melbourne: AIFS.

AIFS: Bromfield, L & Holzer P 2008. A national approach for child protection: project report. Melbourne: AIFS.

AIFS: Holzer P & Bromfield L & 2008. NCPASS comparability of child protection data: project report. Melbourne: AIFS.

AIFS: Hunter C & Price-Robertson R 2012. Family structure and child maltreatment: do some family types place children at greater risk? CFCA Paper No. 10. Melbourne: AIFS.

AIHW 2009. Child protection Australia 2007–08. Child welfare series no. 45. Cat. no. CWS 33. Canberra: AIHW.

AIHW 2011. Educational outcomes of children on guardianship or custody orders: a pilot study, stage 2. Child welfare series no. 49. Cat. no. CWS 37. Canberra: AIHW.

AIHW 2012. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification in community services data collections: an updated data quality report. Cat. no. IHW 80. Canberra: AIHW.

AIHW 2013a. National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020: technical paper on operational definitions and data issues for key national indicators. Cat. no. CWS 44. Canberra: AIHW.

AIHW 2013b. Scoping reportable measures for the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020: supporting outcome 1. Cat. no. CWS 45. Canberra: AIHW.

COAG (Council of Australian Governments) 2009. Protecting children is everyone's business: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.

COAG 2010. Protecting children is everyone's business: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020. Annual report to the Council of Australian Governments 2009–10. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.

COAG 2012. Council of Australian Governments Meeting – Communiqué, Canberra, 7 December 2012. Canberra: COAG. Viewed 12 December 2012, <www.coag.gov.au/sites/default/files/FINAL%20COMMUNIQUE%20-%207%20DECEMBER%202012.pdf>.

COAG 2013. Protecting children is everyone's business: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children. Annual report to the Council of Australian Governments 2011–12. Canberra: COAG.

Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions (Forde Inquiry) 1999. Report of the commission of inquiry into abuse of children in Queensland institutions. Brisbane: Queensland Government.

Commissioner for Children Tasmania 2010. Inquiry into the circumstances of a 12 year old child under Guardianship of the Secretary: Final Report. Tasmania: Commissioner for Children.

Commissioner for Public Administration 2004a. The Territory as a parent: a review of the safety of children in care in the ACT and of ACT Child Protection management. Canberra: Commissioner for Public Administration.

Commissioner for Public Administration 2004b. The Territory's children: ensuring safety and quality of care for children and young people. Report on the audit and case review. Canberra: Commissioner for Public Administration.

Crime and Misconduct Commission 2004. Protecting children: an inquiry into the abuse of children in foster care. Brisbane: CMC.

Dawe S, Harnett P & Frye S 2008. Improving outcomes for children living in families with parental substance misuse: What do we know and what should we do. Child abuse prevention issues no. 29. Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Department of Human Services 2012. Protecting children, changing lives: a new way of working. Melbourne: Victorian Government Department of Human Services.

FaHCSIA (Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) 2011. An outline of National Standards for out-of-home care: a priority project under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.

FaHCSIA 2012a. Protecting children is everyone's business: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020. Annual report to the Council of Australian Governments 2010–11. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.

FaHCSIA 2012b. Protecting children is everyone's business. National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020: second three-year action plan. Canberra: FaHSCIA.

Ford P 2007. Review of the Department for Community Development: review report. Perth: Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

- Gordon S, Hallahan K & Henry D 2002. Putting the picture together: inquiry into response by government agencies to complaints of family violence and child abuse in Aboriginal communities. Perth: Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- HREOC (Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission) 1997. Bringing them home. Report of the national inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. Sydney: HREOC.
- ISPCAN (International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) 2012. World perspectives on child abuse, 10th edn. Aurora, Colorado: ISPCAN.
- Jacob A & Fanning D 2006. Report on child protection services in Tasmania. Hobart: Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services and the Commissioner for Children.
- Layton L 2003. Our best investment: a state plan to protect and advance the interests of children. Adelaide: Department of Human Services. Viewed 8 December 2009, < www.decd.sa.gov.au/speced2/files/links/Child_Protection_Review_FU.pdf >.
- Lock JA 1997. The Aboriginal Child Placement Principle: research project no. 7. Sydney: New South Wales Law Reform Commission.
- Mullighan EP 2008a. Children in state care: commission of inquiry. Adelaide: Office of the Commissioner.
- Mullighan EP 2008b. Children on Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands: commission of inquiry. Adelaide: Office of the Commissioner.
- New South Wales Ombudsman 2011. Keep Them Safe? A special report to Parliament under s31 of the Ombudsman Act 1974. Sydney: NSW Ombudsman.
- Northern Territory Government 2010. Growing them strong, together: promoting the safety and wellbeing of the Northern Territory's children. Report of the Board of Inquiry into the child protection system in the Northern Territory 2010. Darwin: Northern Territory Government.
- OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) 1989. Convention on the Rights of the Child. Geneva: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Viewed 16 October 2012, < www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/crc.pdf >.
- Parliament of Tasmania 2011. Select Committee on Child Protection: final report. Hobart: Parliament of Tasmania.
- Pears KC & Capaldi DM 2001. Intergenerational transmission of abuse: a two-generational prospective study of an at-risk sample. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 25(11): 1439–61.
- Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry 2013. Taking responsibility: a roadmap for Queensland Child Protection. Queensland: Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry.
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2012. Sydney: Commonwealth of Australia. Viewed 26 November 2012, < www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/ >.
- SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2014. Report on government services 2014. Canberra: Productivity Commission.

Standing Committee on Social Issues 2002. Care and support: final report on child protection services. Report 29, December 2002, Parliamentary paper no. 408. Sydney: New South Wales Parliament.

State Government of Victoria 2012. Report of the Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry. Melbourne: Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet.

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) 2009. Progress for children: a report card on child protection, number 8, September 2009. New York: UNICEF. Viewed 16 October 2012, <[www.unicef.org/protection/files/Progress_for_Children-No.8_EN_081309\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/Progress_for_Children-No.8_EN_081309(1).pdf)>.

Victorian Government 2012. Victoria's vulnerable children - our shared responsibility directions paper. Melbourne: Victorian Government.

Wood J 2008. Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW. Sydney: State of NSW through the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW.

List of tables

Table 2.1:	Children receiving child protection services, states and territories, by number and number per 1,000 children, 2012–13.....	12
Table 3.1:	Number of notifications, substantiations of notifications and number of children who were the subject of a notification and/or substantiation of a notification, states and territories, 2012–13.....	19
Table 3.2:	Number of substantiations per child, 2012–13 (%).....	19
Table 3.3:	Co-occurrence of substantiated types of abuse and neglect, 2012–13 (%).....	21
Table 3.4:	Rates of children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by age, states and territories (number per 1,000 children).....	22
Table 3.5:	Children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by Indigenous status, states and territories (number and number per 1,000 children).....	26
Table 4.1:	Key care and protection order statistics, 2012–13.....	33
Table 4.2:	Children admitted to, and discharged from, care and protection orders, states and territories, 2012–13.....	36
Table 4.3:	Children on care and protection orders, by type of order, states and territories, 30 June 2013.....	39
Table 4.4:	Children on care and protection orders, by number and number per 1,000 children aged 0–17 and Indigenous status, states and territories, 30 June 2013.....	41
Table 4.5:	Rates of children on care and protection orders, states and territories, 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013 (number per 1,000).....	43
Table 5.1:	Key out-of-home care statistics, 2012–13.....	45
Table 5.2:	Children in out-of-home care, by length of time in continuous placement, states and territories, 30 June 2013.....	50
Table 5.3:	Children in out-of-home care, order status, states and territories, 30 June 2013.....	51
Table 5.4:	Children in out-of-home care, by number and number per 1,000 children aged 0–17 and Indigenous status, states and territories, 30 June 2013.....	52
Table 5.5:	Children admitted to out-of-home care, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13.....	54
Table 5.6:	Children aged 0–17 in out-of-home care, states and territories, 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013 (number and number per 1,000).....	55
Table 6.1:	Overview of funded out-of-home carer households, on an average day during 2012–13.....	57
Table 6.2:	Foster carer households with a placement, states and territories, at 30 June 2013 and during 2012–13.....	58
Table 6.3:	Number of households commencing and exiting foster care, 2012–13.....	60
Table 6.4:	Relative/kinship carer households with a placement, state and territories, at 30 June 2012 and during 2012–13.....	60
Table 6.5:	Number of households commencing and exiting relative/kinship care, 2012–13.....	61
Table 7.1:	Key intensive family support services statistics, 2012–13.....	62

Table 7.2:	Number of children aged 0–17 commencing intensive family support services, by age at commencement of service, states and territories, 2012–13	63
Table A1:	Number of children receiving child protection services, by components of service, states and territories, 2012–13	65
Table A2:	New and repeat clients receiving child protection services, by service type, 2012–13	66
Table A3:	Number of children receiving child protection services by age and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2012–13	67
Table A4:	Notifications, by type of action, states and territories, 2012–13	69
Table A5:	Number of investigations, by source of notification, states and territories, 2012–13	71
Table A6:	Children who were the subjects of investigations by outcome, states and territories, 2012–13 (number).....	72
Table A7:	Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by type of abuse or neglect and sex, states and territories	73
Table A8:	Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by age and Indigenous status, states and territories	75
Table A9:	Number of children who were the subjects of substantiations by socioeconomic status and Indigenous status, 2012–13.....	77
Table A10:	Children who were the subjects of substantiations during 2012–13, by type of family in which the child was residing, states and territories	78
Table A11:	Children aged 0–17 who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by type of abuse or neglect and Indigenous status, states and territories	79
Table A12:	Number of notifications, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13.....	81
Table A13:	Number of substantiations of notifications received during the relevant year, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13.....	82
Table A14:	Rates of children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during the relevant year, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13 (number per 1,000 children)	83
Table A15:	Children on care and protection orders, on an average day, by type of order, 2012–13	84
Table A16:	Care and protection orders issued, by type of order, states and territories, 2012–13	85
Table A17:	Children substantiated in 2011–12 and subsequently placed on care and protection orders within 12 months, states and territories	86
Table A18:	Children admitted to care and protection orders, by age, states and territories, 2012–13	87
Table A19:	Children discharged from care and protection orders, by length of time on an order, states and territories, 2012–13.....	88
Table A20:	Children on care and protection orders, by living arrangements, states and territories, 30 June 2013.....	89
Table A21:	Children on care and protection orders, by age and living arrangements, 30 June 2013	91

Table A22: Children on care and protection orders, by age, states and territories, 30 June 2013	92
Table A23: Children on care and protection orders, by sex, states and territories, 30 June 2013	93
Table A24: Children on care and protection orders, by type of order and Indigenous status, states and territories, 30 June 2013	94
Table A25: Children in out-of-home care, on an average day, by living arrangements, 2012–13	96
Table A26: Children admitted to out-of-home care, by age group, states and territories, 2012–13	97
Table A27: Children discharged from out-of-home care, by age group, states and territories, 2012–13	98
Table A28: Children in out-of-home care, by type of placement, states and territories, 30 June 2013	99
Table A29: Children in out-of-home care, by age, states and territories, 30 June 2013	100
Table A30: Children in out-of-home care, by sex, states and territories, 30 June 2013	100
Table A31: Children in out-of-home care, by age and type of placement, 30 June 2013 (%)	101
Table A32: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care, by Indigenous status and relationship of carer, states and territories, 30 June 2013	102
Table A33: Foster carer households with a placement at 30 June 2013, by number of foster children placed	103
Table A34: Relative/kinship carer households with a placement at 30 June 2013, by number of children placed	104
Table A35: Children commencing intensive family support services, by living arrangements at commencement of service, states and territories, 2012–13 (%)	105
Table A36: National child protection trend data, 2008–09 to 2012–13	106
Table A37: Children in the child protection system, by Indigenous status, 2009 to 2013	107
Table A38: Children who were the subjects of substantiations, by age group, 2008–09 to 2012–13	108
Table A39: Children who were the subjects of substantiations, by abuse type and sex, 2008–09 to 2012–13	109
Table A40: Trends in children on care and protection orders, states and territories, 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013	110
Table A41: Trends in children admitted to care and protection orders, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13	110
Table A42: Trends in children discharged from care and protection orders, states and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13	111
Table A43: Children admitted to and discharged from out-of-home care, 2008–09 to 2012–13	111
Table A44: Population of children aged 0–17, by age and Indigenous status, December 2012	112
Table A45: Population of children aged 0–17, by age and Indigenous status, June 2013	113

Table A46: Population of all children aged 0-17, by age, December 2012.....	114
Table A47: Population of all children aged 0-17, by age, June 2013	114

List of figures

Figure 1.1: The child protection process in Australia.....	3
Figure 2.1: Children receiving child protection services in Australia during 2012–13.....	11
Figure 2.2: Children receiving child protection services by components of service received, 2012–13.....	13
Figure 2.3: Children receiving child protection services by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2012–13 (rate and rate ratio).....	15
Figure 2.4: Children receiving child protection services by age and Indigenous status, 2012–13.....	15
Figure 3.1: Key notifications, investigations and substantiations statistics, 2012–13.....	16
Figure 3.2: Children who were the subjects of finalised investigations by outcome, states and territories, 2012–13.....	18
Figure 3.3: Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by type of abuse or neglect, states and territories.....	20
Figure 3.4: Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by type of abuse or neglect and sex.....	23
Figure 3.5: Children who were the subjects of substantiations, by socioeconomic status at notification, 2012–13.....	24
Figure 3.6: Children who were the subjects of substantiations, by type of family in which the child was residing, states and territories, 2012–13.....	25
Figure 3.7: Children who were the subjects of substantiations of notifications received during 2012–13, by Indigenous status and type of abuse (%).	27
Figure 3.8: Number of notifications, investigations and substantiations, 2007–08 to 2012–13.....	28
Figure 3.9: Children who were the subjects of child protection notifications and substantiations, 2008–09 to 2012–13 (rate).....	29
Figure 3.10: Children aged 0–17 who were subjects of child protection substantiations by age group, 2008–09 to 2012–13 (rate).....	30
Figure 3.11: Children who were the subjects of child protection substantiations, by abuse type, 2008–09 to 2012–13 (rate).....	31
Figure 3.12: Children who were the subjects of child protection substantiations, by Indigenous status 2008–09 to 2012–13 (rate and rate ratio).....	32
Figure 4.1: Care and protection orders issued, by type of order, 2012–13.....	35
Figure 4.2: Children admitted to care and protection orders, by age, states and territories, 2012–13.....	37
Figure 4.3: Children discharged from care and protection orders, by length of time on an order, 2012–13.....	38
Figure 4.4: Children on care and protection orders, by living arrangements, 30 June 2013.....	40
Figure 4.5: Children admitted to, and discharged from, care and protection orders, 2008–09 to 2012–13.....	42
Figure 4.6: Children aged 0–17 on care and protection orders, by Indigenous status, 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013 (rate).....	44

Figure 5.1: Children admitted to, and discharged from, out-of-home care, by age group, 2012–13	47
Figure 5.2: Children in out-of-home care, states and territories, 30 June 2013 (rate).....	48
Figure 5.3: Children in out-of-home care, by living arrangements, states and territories, 30 June 2013	49
Figure 5.4: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care, states and territories, 30 June 2013	53
Figure 5.5: Children admitted to and discharged from out-of-home care, 2009–10 to 2012–13.....	54
Figure 5.6: Children aged 0–17 in out-of-home care by Indigenous status, 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2013 (rate).....	56
Figure 6.1: Foster carer households with a placement at 30 June 2013, by number of foster children placed.....	59
Figure 6.2: Relative/kinship carer households with a placement at 30 June 2013, by number of children placed.....	61
Figure 7.1: Children commencing intensive family support services, by living arrangements at commencement of service, 2012–13.....	64

Related publications

This report, *Child protection Australia 2012–13*, is part of an annual series. Earlier editions can be downloaded for free from the AIHW website: < <http://www.aihw.gov.au/child-protection-publications/>>. The website also includes information on ordering printed copies.

The following AIHW publications relating to children, youth and families might also be of interest:

- AIHW 2013. *Australia's welfare 2013*. Australia's welfare no. 11. Cat. no. AUS 174. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2012. *A picture of Australia's children 2012*. Cat. no. PHE 167. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2011. *Educational outcomes of children under guardianship or custody orders: a pilot study, Stage 2*. Child welfare series no. 49. Cat. no. CWS 37. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2011. *Headline indicators for children's health, development and wellbeing, 2011*. Cat. no. PHE 144. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2011. *National outcome measures for early childhood development: development of indicator based reporting framework*. Cat. no. PHE 134. Canberra: AIHW.
- AIHW 2011. *Young Australians: their health and wellbeing 2011*. Cat. no. PHE 140. Canberra: AIHW.

Child protection Australia 2012–13 represents a significant milestone in national child protection reporting as it is the first time that unit record level data have been available for analysis and reporting. This report shows that:

- there were 135,000 children, a rate of 26.1 per 1,000 children, receiving child protection services (investigation; care and protection order; and/or placed in out-of-home care).
- more than half (56%) of these children were subject only to an investigation (that is, they were not subsequently placed on an order or in out-of-home care) while 8% were involved in all three components of the system.
- in 2012–13, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were 8 times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be receiving child protection services.