

3 Young person characteristics

This chapter presents information about young people in Australia under juvenile justice supervision at some time during 2004–05. The numbers and rates of young people in supervision and the age at which they first had supervision, as well as broad demographic information such as age, sex and Indigenous status, are included.

3.1 Number of young people in supervision

Table 3.1 shows the number of young people under juvenile justice supervision in each state and territory for 2001–02 to 2004–05. The community figure includes all young people in community-based juvenile justice supervision at any time during that collection year. Similarly, the detention figure represents those young people who have experienced detention-based supervision at any time during the collection year. The numbers for community and detention will not add up to the ‘all young people’ figure, as some young people will have had both community and detention supervision during the collection year. Each year, around 13,000 young people experience some form of juvenile justice supervision. For most this is in the community rather than in a detention setting and some may experience both. In 2004–05, 12,649 young people experienced juvenile justice supervision in Australia. Of these 10,704 (85%) had community-based supervision, and 4,780 (38%) had detention-based supervision, which means that 2,835 (22%) experienced both community-based and detention supervision at some time during the year.

Table 3.1: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, states and territories, 2001–02 to 2004–05

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
Community									
2001–02	2,863	1,875	2,745	1,666	1,240	459	n.a.	191	(11,039)
2002–03	2,930	1,838	2,632	1,588	1,252	507	n.a.	218	(10,965)
2003–04	2,849	1,767	2,537	1,585	1,141	543	324	275	11,021 (10,697)
2004–05	2,760	1,572	2,538	1,668	1,066	512	279	309	10,704 (10,425)
Detention									
2001–02	1,939	645	881	784	644	126	n.a.	94	(5,113)
2002–03	1,950	597	912	775	673	105	n.a.	117	(5,129)
2003–04	1,902	500	961	907	579	101	134	122	5,206 (5,072)
2004–05	1,948	439	642	882	534	97	116	122	4,780 (4,664)
All young people									
2001–02	3,653	2,072	3,041	2,309	1,454	516	n.a.	228	(13,273)
2002–03	3,668	2,001	2,904	2,249	1,460	536	n.a.	257	(13,075)
2003–04	3,547	1,896	2,820	2,407	1,332	569	339	315	13,225 (12,886)
2004–05	3,484	1,699	2,637	2,448	1,211	542	289	339	12,649 (12,360)

Notes

1. This table includes young people who have had at least one day of juvenile justice supervision during the collection year. The numbers for community and detention will not add up to the 'all young people' figure, as some young people will have experienced both community and detention supervision during the collection year.
2. Victoria has special sentencing options for 18–20 year olds (see Section 1.2, The juvenile justice process in Australia).
3. In time series tables in this report, bracketed numbers exclude the Australian Capital Territory, for which data were unavailable for 2000–01 to 2002–03.

There has been a decline nationally since 2001–02 in the number of young people under juvenile justice supervision (Figure 3.1). Between 2001–02 and 2004–05 the number of young people under juvenile justice supervision decreased by 6.9% from 13,273 to 12,360 (excluding the Australian Capital Territory as data from 2001–02 and 2002–03 were unavailable).

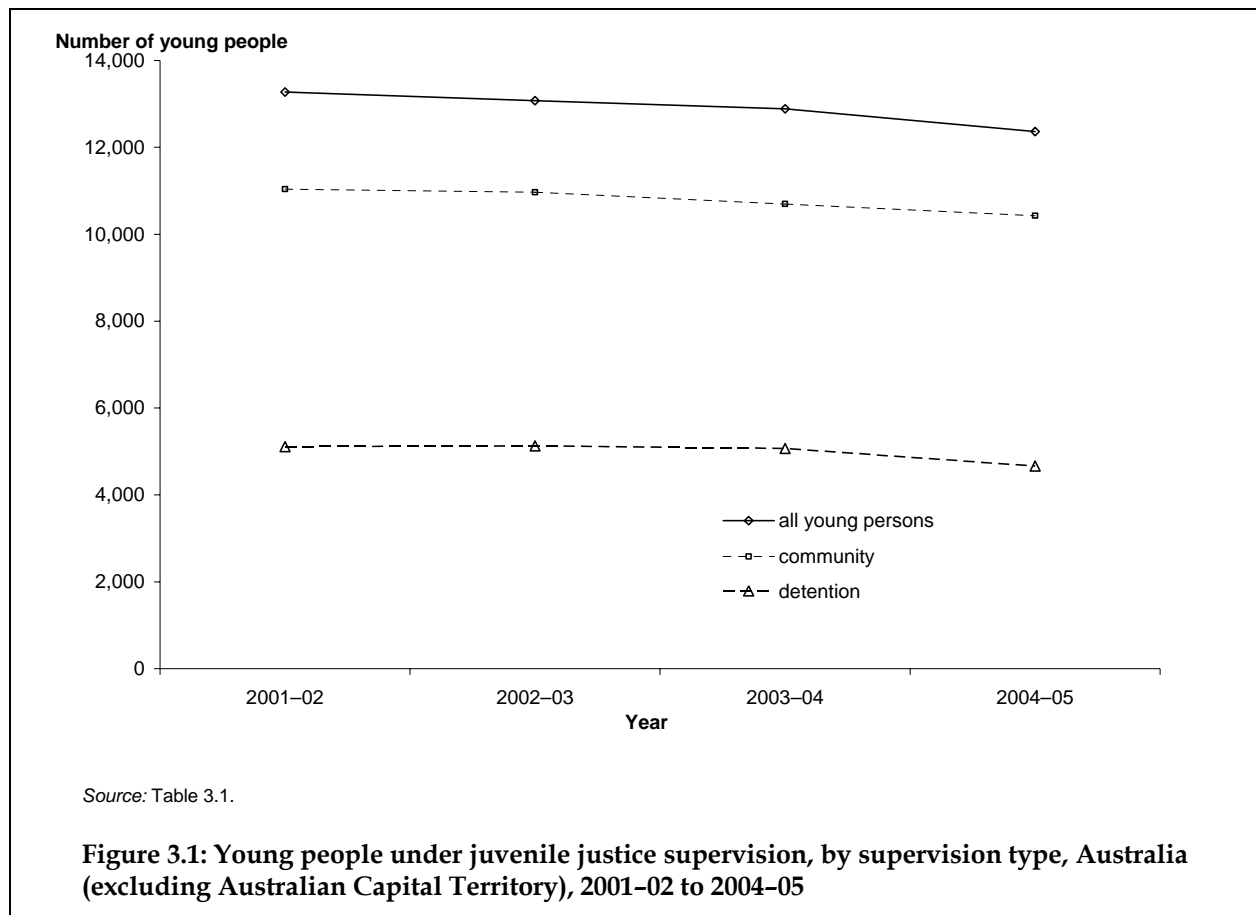


Table 3.2 presents the rates per 1,000 population for 10–17 year olds. Due to the differences among jurisdictions regarding the status of 18 year olds in the juvenile justice system (see Section 1.2), all population rates in this chapter have been calculated for the 10–17 age group. Again, the figures for community and detention represent the number of young people who were subject to that type of juvenile justice supervision at any time during the collection year. Note that these whole-year figures are different to average daily numbers as presented in Chapter 4 and to one-day snapshot figures that capture only those young people who are in supervision on that particular day¹.

There is variation in the rates of young people under community-based and detention-based supervision across jurisdictions. For Australia overall in 2004–05, 4.9 per 1,000 young people had juvenile justice supervision; 4.1 per 1,000 were in community-based supervision, and 1.9 per 1,000 were in detention-based supervision at some time during each year, with some young people in both. These rates are slightly lower than for each of the previous three years. Legislative differences among the states and territories mean that there are varying numbers of young people over the age of 17 who have been excluded from Table 3.2. In Victoria, for example, legislation specifically allows for young people aged up to 21 to be detained in juvenile justice facilities rather than adult correctional facilities. In contrast, in Queensland, only young people aged 10–16 are recognised as juveniles under the Juvenile Justice Act 1992.

¹ The *Statistics on juvenile detention* series produced by the Australian Institute of Criminology provides one-day snapshot figures taken quarterly.

Table 3.2: Rates of young people under juvenile justice supervision, aged 10–17 years, per 1,000 young people, 2001–02 to 2004–05

Year	Community								
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
(number of young people)									
2001–02	2,466	1,493	2,445	1,551	1,029	314	n.a.	165	(9,463)
2002–03	2,530	1,484	2,395	1,468	1,051	310	n.a.	183	(9,421)
2003–04	2,441	1,454	2,308	1,486	946	332	268	243	9,478 (9,210)
2004–05	2,344	1,266	2,316	1,566	872	324	239	266	9,193 (8,954)
(rate per 1,000)									
2001–02	3.4	2.8	5.4	6.8	6.3	5.7	n.a.	6.5	(4.3)
2002–03	3.5	2.8	5.3	6.4	6.5	5.6	n.a.	7.2	(4.2)
2003–04	3.3	2.7	5.1	6.5	5.8	6.0	7.6	9.5	4.3 (4.1)
2004–05	3.2	2.4	5.1	6.9	5.4	5.9	6.8	10.5	4.1 (4.0)
Year	Detention								
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
(number of young people)									
2001–02	1,709	300	855	768	576	102	n.a.	94	(4,404)
2002–03	1,762	305	889	763	616	82	n.a.	117	(4,534)
2003–04	1,699	285	946	889	514	76	129	122	4,660 (4,531)
2004–05	1,724	234	623	863	485	85	112	122	4,248 (4,136)
(rate per 1,000)									
2001–02	2.3	0.6	1.9	3.4	3.6	1.9	n.a.	3.7	(2.0)
2002–03	2.4	0.6	2.0	3.3	3.8	1.5	n.a.	4.6	(2.0)
2003–04	2.3	0.5	2.1	3.9	3.2	1.4	3.7	4.8	2.1 (2.0)
2004–05	2.4	0.4	1.4	3.8	3.0	1.5	3.2	4.8	1.9 (1.9)
Year	All young people								
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
(number)									
2001–02	3,073	1,547	2,725	2,179	1,193	363	n.a.	202	(11,282)
2002–03	3,124	1,527	2,650	2,117	1,216	329	n.a.	222	(11,185)
2003–04	2,998	1,501	2,580	2,290	1,089	346	281	283	11,368 (11,087)
2004–05	2,906	1,312	2,406	2,328	985	349	248	296	10,830 (10,582)
(rate per 1,000)									
2001–02	4.2	2.9	6.0	9.6	7.4	6.6	n.a.	7.9	(5.1)
2002–03	4.3	2.9	5.9	9.3	7.5	6.0	n.a.	8.7	(5.0)
2003–04	4.1	2.8	5.7	10.0	6.7	6.3	8.0	11.1	5.1 (5.0)
2004–05	4.0	2.5	5.3	10.2	6.1	6.3	7.0	11.6	4.9 (4.8)

Note: Age is calculated as at first date of supervision during the relevant financial year.

3.2 Number of males and females in supervision

As is the case throughout the criminal justice system, most young people under juvenile justice supervision during 2004–05 were male (Table 3.3). Although there is some variation among states and territories, overall 84% of young people were male. The highest percentage of males was found in the Northern Territory (93%) and the lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (72%).

Table 3.3: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by sex, states and territories, 2004–05

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of young people)									
Male	2,957	1,468	2,183	1,992	988	444	208	314	10,554
Female	527	231	454	451	223	98	81	25	2,090
Unknown	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Total	3,484	1,699	2,637	2,448	1,211	542	289	339	12,649
(per cent of young people)									
Male	84.9	86.4	82.8	81.4	81.6	81.9	72.0	92.6	83.5
Female	15.1	13.6	17.2	18.4	18.4	18.1	28.0	7.4	16.5
Unknown	—	—	—	0.2	—	—	—	—	—
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Australian percentages do not include unknowns.

Table 3.4 indicates that, during 2004–05, males aged 10–17 years were subject to juvenile justice supervision at a rate of 7.9 per 1,000 compared with females at 1.7 per 1,000. There were almost five times as many males as females under supervision.

Table 3.4: Rates of young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision, per 1,000 young people, by sex, 2004–05

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of young people)									
Male	2,440	1,118	1,973	1,882	802	282	174	273	8,944
Female	466	194	433	442	183	67	74	23	1,882
Unknown	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Total	2,906	1,312	2,406	2,328	985	349	248	296	10,830
(rate per 1,000 young people)									
Male	6.5	4.1	8.5	16.1	9.6	10.0	9.7	20.6	7.9
Female	1.3	0.7	2.0	4.0	2.3	2.5	4.3	1.9	1.7
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4.0	2.5	5.3	10.2	6.1	6.3	7.0	11.6	4.9

Notes

1. Australian rates do not include unknowns.
2. Age is calculated as at first date of supervision during 2004–05.

3.3 Age of young people in supervision

Two-thirds of young people (63%) in 2004–05 were aged 16 years or older (Table 3.5). Less than 9% of young people were aged 13 years or less. The distribution of age was relatively consistent among states and territories.

Across jurisdictions the proportion of young people in juvenile justice supervision who were aged 18 years and over varied between 5% and 36%. There are several distinct reasons for this. Firstly, most jurisdictions continue to supervise some young people who commence their sentence when they are under 18 until after they turn 18. The reasons for this include the appropriateness of continued and consistent supervision, and the level of maturity of some young people.

Secondly, the legislative requirements of a number of jurisdictions require the age at the time of the offence to determine whether the juvenile courts have jurisdiction. As there may be delays between the date of the alleged offence and the court proceedings, this also contributes to the numbers under juvenile justice supervision who are over the age of 18.

Finally, Victoria has legislative provision that allows adult courts to sentence young people who are between the ages of 18 and 20 years to periods of detention in juvenile justice facilities. This allows the adult courts to take into account the maturity of the young person and the relative benefit of adult or juvenile supervision.

Table 3.5: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by age, states and territories, 2004–05

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of young people)									
10	4	—	6	1	3	—	—	—	14
11	15	5	23	30	15	6	2	5	101
12	54	16	56	88	34	8	5	4	265
13	156	61	181	172	69	16	16	16	687
14	366	143	348	265	115	37	34	39	1,347
15	590	293	531	469	190	76	54	71	2,274
16	787	408	783	620	268	92	59	78	3,095
17	934	386	478	683	291	114	78	83	3,047
18+	578	387	231	120	225	193	41	43	1,818
Unknown	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	3,484	1,699	2,637	2,448	1,210	542	289	339	12,649
(per cent of young people)									
10	0.1	—	0.2	0.0	0.2	—	—	—	0.1
11	0.4	0.3	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.7	1.5	0.8
12	1.5	0.9	2.1	3.6	2.8	1.5	1.7	1.2	2.1
13	4.5	3.6	6.9	7.0	5.7	3.0	5.5	4.7	5.4
14	10.5	8.4	13.2	10.8	9.5	6.8	11.8	11.5	10.6
15	16.9	17.2	20.1	19.2	15.7	14.0	18.7	20.9	18.0
16	22.6	24.0	29.7	25.3	22.1	17.0	20.4	23.0	24.5
17	26.8	22.7	18.1	27.9	24.0	21.0	27.0	24.5	24.1
18+	16.6	22.8	8.8	4.9	18.6	35.6	14.2	12.7	14.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Australian percentages do not include unknowns.
2. Age is calculated as at first date of supervision during 2004–05.

3.4 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in supervision

Over one-third of young people under juvenile justice supervision during 2004–05 identified/were identified as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (Table 3.6). There is much variation among states and territories, both in the proportion of young people who are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin and in the proportion of young people whose Indigenous status is ‘unknown/not recorded’.

The jurisdictions with the highest proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under juvenile justice supervision (Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia) were jurisdictions with higher proportions of the population who were of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (see Figure 2.2).

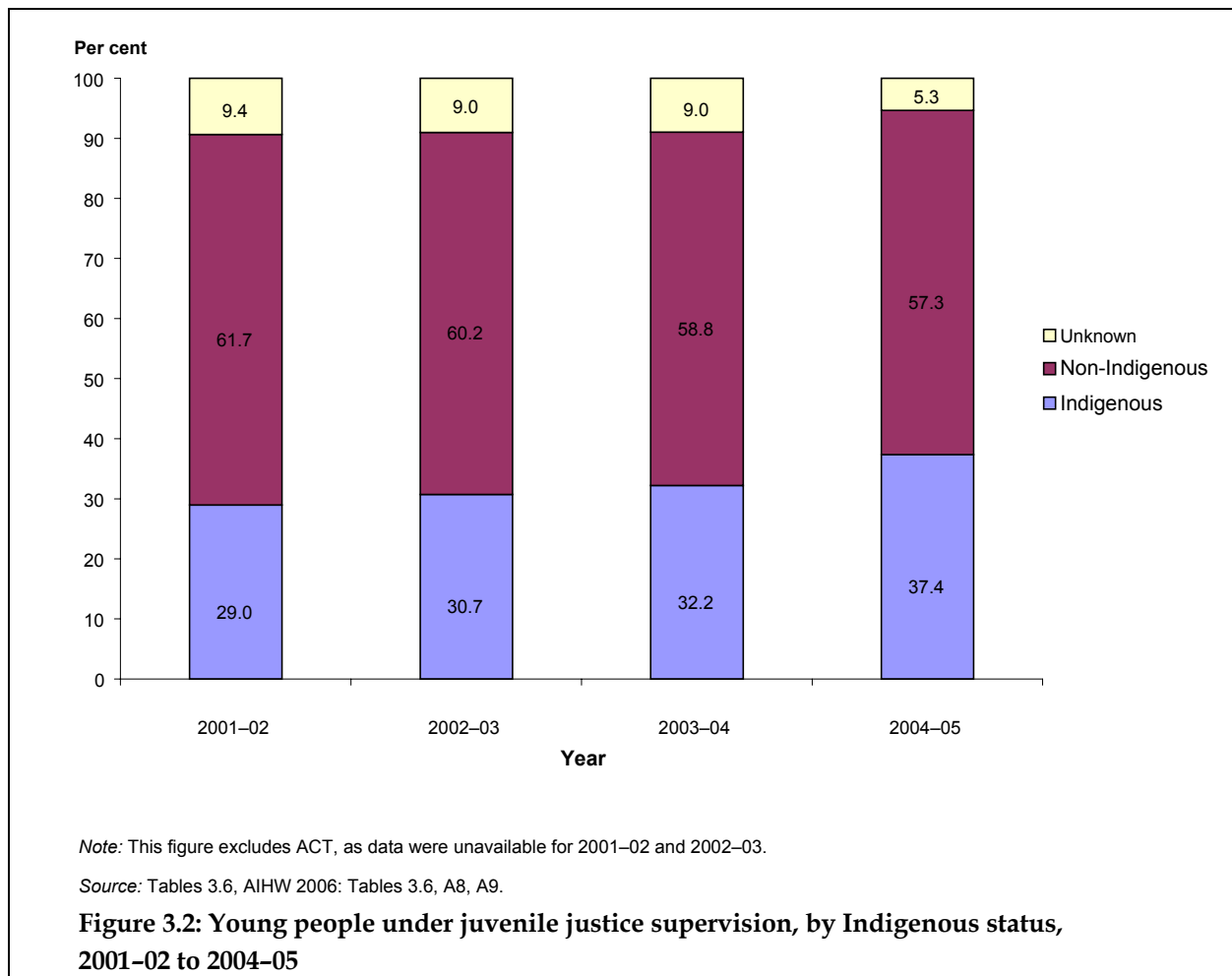
Table 3.6: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2004–05

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of young people)									
Indigenous	1,134	179	1,155	1,469	349	56	64	276	4,682
Non-Indigenous	2,092	1,520	1,482	854	786	288	225	63	7,310
Unknown/not recorded	258	—	—	125	76	198	—	—	657
Total	3,484	1,699	2,637	2,448	1,211	542	289	339	12,649
(per cent of young people)									
Indigenous	32.5	10.5	43.8	60.0	28.8	10.3	22.1	81.4	37.0
Non-Indigenous	60.0	89.5	56.2	34.9	64.9	53.1	77.9	18.6	57.8
Unknown/not recorded	7.4	—	—	5.1	6.3	36.5	—	—	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: The Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania has reported that the Indigenous data for Tasmania may not be reliable due to limitations in the reporting capabilities of the information system.

During the period 2001–02 to 2004–05, there was a gradual increase from 29% to 37% in the proportion of young people under juvenile justice supervision who identified/were identified as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (Figure 3.2). This may have been due to an actual increase in the proportion of young people under juvenile justice supervision who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, or to increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification among this group. It is partly due to improvements in data quality as the proportion of ‘unknown’ or ‘not recorded’ responses on this item has decreased over the period.

The over-representation of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in juvenile detention has been apparent for a number of years (AIC 2006). These results reflect this over-representation for both community and detention supervision.



The rates of juvenile justice supervision for all young people aged 10-17 years show high levels of over-representation of Indigenous youth, relative to their population distribution, throughout the states and territories during 2004-05 (Table 3.7). Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were under juvenile justice supervision at a rate of 42.3 per 1,000, compared with 2.9 per 1,000 for non-Indigenous young people. Western Australia, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory had the highest rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under juvenile justice supervision, while Victoria and the Northern Territory had the lowest (excluding Tasmania where there is a very high proportion of unknown/not recorded).

Table 3.7: Rates of young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision, per 1,000 young people, by Indigenous status, 2004–05

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of young people)									
Indigenous	981	146	1,067	1,414	300	40	57	245	4,250
Non-Indigenous	1,732	1,166	1,339	811	630	188	191	51	6,108
Unknown/not recorded	193	—	—	103	55	121	—	—	472
Total	2,906	1,312	2,406	2,328	985	349	248	296	10,830
(rate per 1,000)									
Indigenous	32.3	22.6	37.7	100.3	54.5	10.4	64.9	22.4	42.3
Non-Indigenous	2.5	2.2	3.2	3.8	4.0	3.7	5.6	3.5	2.9
Unknown/not recorded	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total	4.0	2.5	5.3	10.2	6.1	6.3	7.0	11.6	4.9

Notes

1. The Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania has reported that the Indigenous data for Tasmania may not be reliable due to limitations in the reporting capabilities of the information system.
2. Calculation of rates excludes unknown/not recorded.
3. Age is calculated as at first date of supervision during 2004–05.

3.5 Relationships between sex, age and Indigenous status

In 2004–05, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under juvenile justice supervision were younger on average than non-Indigenous young people under juvenile justice supervision (Table 3.8). For young people aged 10 to 17 years the median age of Indigenous young people under juvenile justice supervision was 15 years, compared with 16 years for non-Indigenous young people. The proportion who were Indigenous showed a steady decrease from age 11 (70%) to age 18 years (24%). The opposite was true for non-Indigenous young people.

Table 3.8: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by age and Indigenous status, Australia, 2004–05

Indigenous status	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Unknown	Total
(number of young people)											
Indigenous	9	71	183	383	648	890	1,101	965	432	—	4,682
Non-Indigenous	5	26	78	289	662	1,293	1,870	1,885	1,201	1	7,309
Unknown/not recorded	—	4	4	15	37	91	124	197	185	—	657
Total	14	101	265	687	1,347	2,274	3,095	3,047	1,818	1	12,649
(per cent of young people)											
Indigenous	64.3	70.3	69.1	55.7	48.1	39.1	35.6	31.7	23.8	..	37.0
Non-Indigenous	35.7	25.7	29.4	42.1	49.1	56.9	60.4	61.9	66.1	..	57.8
Unknown/not recorded	—	4.0	1.5	2.2	2.7	4.0	4.0	6.5	10.2	..	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	100.0

Notes

1. Percentages in the total column are based on total minus unknowns.
2. Age is calculated as at first date of supervision during 2004–05.

The largest proportion of females was found in the middle of the age range (Table 3.9). Around 19% of 13–16 year olds were female, compared with around 13% of young people aged 17 or older and 15% of 10–12 year olds.

Table 3.9: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by age and sex, Australia, 2004–05

Sex	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
(number of young people)										
Male	11	91	221	537	1,036	1,835	2,581	2,632	1,609	10,554
Female	3	10	44	150	311	439	512	413	208	2,090
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	5
Total	14	101	265	687	1,347	2,274	3,095	3,047	1,818	12,649
(per cent of young people)										
Male	78.6	90.1	83.4	78.2	76.9	80.7	83.4	86.4	88.5	83.4
Female	21.4	9.9	16.6	21.8	23.1	19.3	16.5	13.6	11.4	16.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Percentages in the total column are based on total minus unknowns.
2. Age is calculated as at first date of supervision during 2004–05.
3. Total includes 1 male of unknown age.

Females under juvenile justice supervision included relatively more Indigenous young people than males (Table 3.10). During the 2004–05 year, 45% of females under juvenile justice supervision were Indigenous, compared with 36% of males. Most states and territories reflected this finding.

Table 3.10: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by sex and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2004–05

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Male									
(number of young people)									
Indigenous	929	144	927	1,130	267	46	49	253	3,745
Non-Indigenous	1,822	1,324	1,256	767	651	237	159	61	6,277
Unknown	206	—	—	95	70	161	—	—	532
Total	2,957	1,468	2,183	1,992	988	444	208	314	10,554
Female									
Indigenous	205	35	228	337	82	10	15	23	935
Non-Indigenous	270	196	226	86	135	51	66	2	1,032
Unknown	52	—	—	28	6	37	—	—	123
Total	527	231	454	451	223	98	81	25	2,090
All persons									
Indigenous	1,134	179	1,155	1,467	349	56	64	276	4,680
Non-Indigenous	2,092	1,520	1,482	853	786	288	225	63	7,309
Unknown	258	—	—	123	76	198	—	—	655
Total	3,484	1,699	2,637	2,443	1,211	542	289	339	12,644
Unknown	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Total	3,484	1,699	2,637	2,448	1,211	542	289	339	12,649
Male									
(per cent of young people)									
Indigenous	31.4	9.8	42.5	56.7	27.0	10.4	23.6	80.6	35.5
Non-Indigenous	61.6	90.2	57.5	38.5	65.9	53.4	76.4	19.4	59.5
Unknown	7.0	—	—	4.8	7.1	36.3	—	—	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female									
Indigenous	38.9	15.2	50.2	74.7	36.8	10.2	18.5	92.0	44.7
Non-Indigenous	51.2	84.8	49.8	19.1	60.5	52.0	81.5	8.0	49.4
Unknown	9.9	—	—	6.2	2.7	37.8	—	—	5.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All persons									
Indigenous	32.5	10.5	43.8	60.0	28.8	10.3	22.1	81.4	37.0
Non-Indigenous	60.0	89.5	56.2	34.9	64.9	53.1	77.9	18.6	57.8
Unknown	7.4	0.0	0.0	5.0	6.3	36.5	0.0	0.0	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Australian percentages do not include unknowns.
2. The Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania has reported that the Indigenous data for Tasmania may not be reliable due to limitations in the reporting capabilities of the information system.

3.6 Age of initial juvenile justice supervision

The Juvenile Justice NMDS includes information on the date each young person's first ever juvenile justice supervision began, even if this was prior to 2000-01.

The date of the beginning of the first supervision a young person had that would have constituted a juvenile justice *episode* in the NMDS was collected and used to calculate the age at first supervision. Diversions and other juvenile justice outcomes that are not collected in the NMDS are not included.

Table 3.11 includes all young people who experienced juvenile justice supervision at any time in the five years from 2000-01 to 2004-05 (thus percentages add to 100% of all young people in the NMDS from 2000-01 to 2004-05). Almost three-fifths (59%) of young people began their first ever juvenile justice supervision when they were aged 15-17 years and only 3.8% of young people were aged 10 or 11 when their first ever juvenile justice supervision began (see also Figure 3.3).

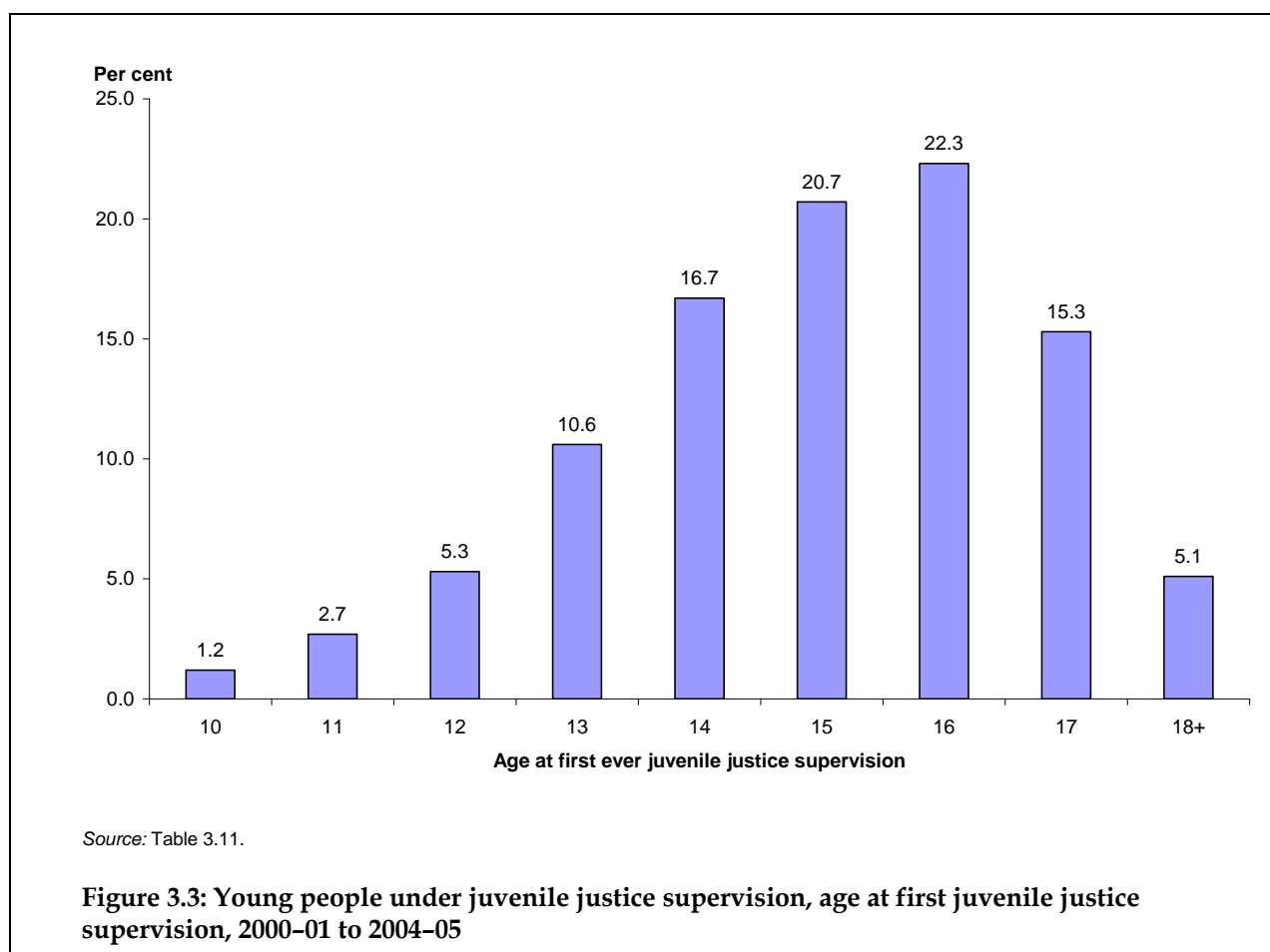
In Victoria, a higher proportion of young people were aged 18 or over during their first ever juvenile justice supervision than in other states and territories. This may be due to the legislation in Victoria which allows for some young people aged up to 21 to be supervised by juvenile justice (see Section 1.2). In Queensland, there were few young people who had their first juvenile justice supervision when aged 17 years or over, probably due to the legislation in Queensland that recognises 17 year olds as adults rather than juveniles.

Table 3.11: Young people, age at first juvenile justice supervision, states and territories, 2000–01 to 2004–05 (per cent)

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
10	0.5	0.2	0.8	3.7	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.5	1.2
11	1.4	0.8	2.1	6.9	2.4	2.3	0.7	1.7	2.7
12	3.7	2.4	4.6	11.7	4.4	3.4	5.3	4.4	5.3
13	8.9	6.4	11.7	16.6	9.0	7.2	11.2	11.4	10.6
14	15.7	14.6	18.6	19.2	15.1	12.1	17.2	17.2	16.7
15	20.8	21.8	24.7	16.8	18.7	18.4	21.3	21.3	20.7
16	22.5	25.7	28.8	13.5	20.8	21.2	22.0	22.6	22.3
17	20.9	14.7	8.2	11.1	20.0	21.8	18.4	20.7	15.3
18+	5.5	13.4	0.5	0.4	8.8	12.7	3.3	0.2	5.1
Total (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Unknown (number)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	75
Total (number)	9,673	5,269	7,285	6,714	3,560	1,141	429	819	34,890

Notes

1. Percentages are based on the total minus unknowns.
2. Australian Capital Territory data include only 2003–04 to 2004–05.



Young people entering the NMDS for the first time during 2004–05 showed a similar pattern of age at initial juvenile justice supervision to that seen over the last five years (Table 3.12). These young people were either entering juvenile justice supervision for the first time or were re-entering supervision but had not previously been recorded on the NMDS, which means that they have not had supervision for at least the last five years.

Table 3.12: Young people new to national minimum data set, age at first supervision, states and territories, 2004–05 (per cent)

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
10	0.2	–	0.5	0.1	0.5	–	–	–	0.2
11	0.6	0.3	1.7	1.9	2.7	2.8	1.1	1.5	1.3
12	2.8	1.9	3.1	5.4	3.1	1.7	3.3	0.8	3.3
13	6.7	5.0	12.2	8.8	6.5	5.6	11.1	5.4	7.9
14	14.3	10.3	18.3	14.2	11.6	8.3	14.4	13.1	14
15	21.0	20.3	23.5	19.7	19.6	16.7	18.9	27.7	20.9
16	23.5	26.2	30.8	24.7	23.4	21.7	20.0	26.2	25.4
17	23.6	18.0	9.4	23.9	22.5	26.1	27.8	24.6	20.5
18+	7.3	18.0	0.5	1.3	10.1	17.2	3.3	0.8	6.5
Total (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Unknown	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7
Total (number)	1,406	644	863	1,070	414	180	90	130	4,797

There were differences between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous young people with regard to the age at their first ever juvenile justice supervision. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were younger on average at the time of first ever supervision than non-Indigenous young people (Table 3.13). Of those aged 10, 11 or 12 years at their first ever juvenile justice supervision 63–77% were Indigenous compared with 9% of those whose first supervision occurred at age 18 or older. Indeed, 56% of Indigenous young people were aged 14 years or less during their initial supervision compared with 29% of non-Indigenous young people.

Table 3.13: Young people, age at first juvenile justice supervision, by Indigenous status, 2000–01 to 2004–05

Indigenous status	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Unknown	Total
(number of young people)											
Indigenous	309	629	1,156	1,730	2,058	1,871	1,630	873	163	37	10,456
Non-Indigenous	82	271	634	1,788	3,338	4,756	5,434	3,648	1,337	26	21,314
Unknown/not recorded	11	23	69	183	416	596	717	815	278	12	3,120
Total	402	923	1,859	3,701	5,812	7,223	7,781	5,336	1,778	75	34,890
(column per cent)											
Indigenous	76.9	68.1	62.2	46.7	35.4	25.9	20.9	16.4	9.2	49.3	30.0
Non-Indigenous	20.4	29.4	34.1	48.3	57.4	65.8	69.8	68.4	75.2	34.7	61.1
Unknown/not recorded	2.7	2.5	3.7	4.9	7.2	8.3	9.2	15.3	15.6	16.0	8.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
(row per cent)											
Indigenous	3.0	6.0	11.1	16.6	19.7	17.9	15.6	8.4	1.6	0.4	100.0
Non-Indigenous	0.4	1.3	3.0	8.4	15.7	22.3	25.5	17.1	6.3	0.1	100.0
Unknown/not recorded	0.4	0.7	2.2	5.9	13.3	19.1	23.0	26.1	8.9	0.4	100.0

Note: Australian Capital Territory data include only 2003–04 to 2004–05.

The pattern of age at first ever juvenile justice supervision by sex closely follows that of the age at current supervision during 2004–05. Females were most likely to have begun juvenile justice supervision when aged around 13–15 years (Table 3.14). Females were less likely than males to have begun juvenile justice supervision for the first time when aged 10 or 11 years.

Table 3.14: Young people, age at first juvenile justice supervision, by sex, Australia, 2000–01 to 2004–05

Sex	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Unknown	Total
(number of young people)											
Male	362	831	1,550	2,958	4,585	5,835	6,401	4,544	1,503	64	28,633
Female	39	91	306	737	1,221	1,379	1,377	786	274	9	6,219
Unknown	1	1	3	6	6	9	3	6	1	2	38
Total	402	923	1,859	3,701	5,812	7,223	7,781	5,336	1,778	75	34,890
(per cent of young people)											
Male	90.1	90.0	83.4	79.9	78.9	80.8	82.3	85.2	84.5	85.3	82.1
Female	9.7	9.9	16.5	19.9	21.0	19.1	17.7	14.7	15.4	12.0	17.8
Unknown	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	2.7	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Australian Capital Territory data include only 2003–04 to 2004–05.

Summary

During 2004–05 the rate of young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision in Australia was 4.9 per 1,000. During the years 2001–02 to 2004–05, the number of young people in some form of juvenile justice supervision at some time during each year declined from over 13,000 to under 12,500 (these trends data exclude the Australian Capital Territory).

The majority of young people under juvenile justice supervision were in community-based supervision only. Some young people had both community-based and detention supervision within a year. In 2004–05, 4.9 per 1,000 young people aged 10–17 years were subject to juvenile justice supervision; 4.1 per 1,000 had community-based supervision and 1.9 per 1,000 were in detention at some point during the year.

The majority of young people under juvenile justice supervision each year were male (84%). The proportion of females was highest among young people aged 13–17 years. Females were most likely to have experienced their first ever juvenile justice supervision at around the same ages.

The most common age for young people to experience juvenile justice supervision was 16 years or older (63%), with less than 9% being aged 13 or younger. This is in keeping with the finding that 75% of young people experienced their first ever juvenile justice supervision aged 14–17 years.

Overall 37% of young people under juvenile justice supervision identified/were identified as of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were represented under juvenile justice supervision at a rate of 42.3 per 1,000, compared with 2.9 per 1,000 for non-Indigenous young people.