

# Youth justice in Australia 2024-25

Web report | Last updated: 12 May 2026 | Topic: [Youth justice](#)

## About

*Youth justice in Australia 2024-25* looks at the 4,147 young people who were under youth justice supervision on an average day in Australia during 2024-25 because of their involvement or alleged involvement in crime. The report examines the number and rate of young people under community-based supervision and in detention.

The report explores the characteristics of young people under youth justice supervision, with a focus on First Nations young people, who continue to be overrepresented in the youth justice system. Other areas of focus in the report include the length of time spent under supervision, supervision history, trends in supervision and state and territory findings.

**Cat. no:** JUV 148

## Key findings

- [4,147 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision in Australia on an average day in 2024-25](#)
  - [4 in 5 \(80%\) young people under supervision on an average day were male](#)
  - [56% of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day in 2024-25 were First Nations Australians](#)
  - [81% of young people under supervision on an average day were supervised in the community with the remainder in detention](#)
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## Summary

### In this section

- Availability of Northern Territory data for 2023–24 and 2024–25
- About 4,100 young people aged 10 and over were under supervision on an average day
- Most young people were supervised in the community
- The majority of young people in detention were unsentenced
- Young people spent an average of 6 months under supervision
- Supervision rates varied among the states and territories
- The average daily numbers and rates of young people under community supervision have fallen over the 5 years to 2024–25, and increased for young people in detention over the same period
- The rate of First Nations young people under supervision has increased over the 5 years to 2024–25.
- Young people in remote areas were more likely to be under supervision
- Young people from lower socioeconomic areas were more likely to be under supervision
- About 1 in 3 young people were new to supervision
- First Nations young people were younger when they entered supervision than non-Indigenous young people

This report looks at young people who were under youth justice supervision in Australia during 2024–25 due to their involvement or alleged involvement in crime. It explores the key aspects of supervision, both in the community and in detention, as well as recent trends. Some data are included from the period during which COVID-19 and related social restrictions were present in Australia, specifically between March 2020 and June 2022.

### Availability of Northern Territory data for 2023–24 and 2024–25

The following data were not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 and 2024–25:

- All supervision (average day).
- Community-based supervision (average day).
- Orders.
- Completed supervision periods (all supervision and community-based supervision).
- Average length of time spent under supervision during the year (all supervision and community-based supervision).

The Australia total for these measures exclude the Northern Territory for both numbers and rates per 10,000.

### Impact of changes to the age of criminal responsibility on rates

In this report, rates are usually calculated for young people aged 10–17. In 2023, the Australian Capital Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. This means that 10 and 11-year-olds cannot be held criminally responsible for their conduct in the Australian Capital Territory and are not within the scope of youth justice data from 2023–24 onwards.

In 2023, the Northern Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. This means that 10 and 11-year-olds cannot be held criminally responsible for their conduct in the Northern Territory during 2023–24 and were excluded from the scope of youth justice data during this time. In October 2024, the Northern Territory lowered the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 10. This means that 10 and 11-year-olds can be held criminally responsible for their conduct in the Northern Territory during 2024–25 and were within the scope of youth justice data during this time.

#### 2024–25 rates

To account for the increased age of criminal responsibility in the Australian Capital Territory across the 2024–25 reference period, the Australian Capital Territory rates are for young people aged 12–17 (instead of 10–17) as 10 and 11-year-olds are absent from both the number (numerator) and population (denominator) used to calculate rates. The national rates for Australia in 2024–25 use the sum of the 12–17 population for the Australian Capital Territory, and the 10–17 population for all other jurisdictions. All rates prior to 2023–24 use the 10–17 population for all jurisdictions and Australia.

#### 2023–24 rates

To account for the increased age of criminal responsibility in these jurisdictions across the 2023–24 reference period, the rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 (instead of 10–17) as 10 and 11-year-olds are absent from both the number (numerator) and population (denominator) used to calculate rates. The rates for Australia in 2023–24 use the sum of the 12–17 population for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory, and the 10–17 population for all other jurisdictions. All rates prior to 2023–24 use the 10–17 population for all jurisdictions and Australia.

#### Use caution when comparing rates across reference years

Note that care should be taken when comparing the 2024–25 and 2023–24 rates with prior years for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory. The exclusion of 10 and 11-year-olds for these jurisdictions in 2023–24 reduced the total in-scope population (denominator) by about 25%, causing rates to appear higher than in prior years. For 2024–25, the Northern Territory total in-scope population increased by 38%, causing rates to appear lower than in 2023–24. Further, in the Northern Territory, 10- and 11-year-olds were only within scope for youth justice data for part of the 2024–25 reporting period (from October 2024).

When reporting rates at the state and territory level, this report presents rates for young people aged 12–17 (for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24), separate to rates for young people aged 10–17 (for all other jurisdictions).

## About 4,100 young people aged 10 and over were under supervision on an average day

A total of 4,147 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision on an average day in 2024–25 and 9,579 young people were supervised at some time during the year.

Nearly all young people (97%) under youth justice supervision on an average day were aged 14 and over. This was similar for community-based supervision (97%) and detention (95%).

Among those aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision, the rate of youth justice supervision on an average day in 2024–25 was 12 per 10,000.

## Most young people were supervised in the community

Just over 4 in 5 (81%) young people under supervision on an average day were supervised in the community, and 1 in 5 (21%) were in detention. (The number of young people under all supervision will not equal the sum of community-based supervision and detention because young people can be in both types of supervision on the same day).

## The majority of young people in detention were unsentenced

Four in 5 (80%) young people in detention on an average day were unsentenced – that is, awaiting the outcome of their legal matter or sentencing.

## Young people spent an average of 6 months under supervision

Individual periods of supervision that were completed during 2024–25 lasted for a median of 84 days or about 3 months. (This includes time under supervision before 1 July 2024 if the period started before that date.)

When all time spent under supervision during 2024–25 is considered (including multiple periods and periods that were not yet completed), young people who were supervised during the year spent an average of 177 days (about 6 months) under supervision.

## Supervision rates varied among the states and territories

In this report, rates and proportions for small states and territories should be interpreted with caution as they may represent a very small number of young people.

Rates of youth justice supervision varied among the states and territories, reflecting, in part, the differences in legislation, policies and practices between each state and territory.

In 2024–25, the rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day ranged from 4.5 per 10,000 in Victoria to 20 per 10,000 in Tasmania.

In 2024–25, the rate of young people aged 12–17 under supervision on an average day in the Australian Capital Territory was 19 per 10,000. Note that rates in the Australian Capital Territory for 2024–25 are for young people aged 12–17 following the increase of the minimum age of criminal responsibility in 2023–24.

## The average daily numbers and rates of young people under community supervision have fallen over the 5 years to 2024–25, and increased for young people in detention over the same period

This section uses the Australia total excluding the Northern Territory for all supervision and community-based supervision due to Northern Territory all supervision and community-based supervision (average day) data not being available in 2023–24 and 2024–25. This is to maintain a consistent timeseries over the last 5 years.

The Australia total includes the Northern Territory for detention.

Over the 5 years from 2020–21 to 2024–25, the number of young people aged 10 and over who were **under supervision** on an average day fell by 9.7% (from 4,590 to 4,147), while the rate of young people aged 10–17 fell by 14% (from 14 to 12 per 10,000).

Over the 5 years from 2020–21 to 2024–25, the number of young people aged 10 and over **under community-based supervision** on an average day fell by 13% (from 3,857 to 3,358), while the rate fell by 9% (from 11 to 10 per 10,000) for those aged 10–17.

Over the 5 years from 2020–21 to 2024–25, the number of young people aged 10 and over **in detention** on an average day rose by 8.5% (from 792 to 860), while the rate of young people aged 10–17 increased slightly by 3.8% (from 2.6 to 2.7 per 10,000).

## Over half of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day in 2024–25 were First Nations young people

The vast majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) young people have never been under supervision with 1.1% of First Nations young people aged 10–17 being under supervision on an average day in 2024–25.

On an average day in 2024–25, there were:

- 2,183 First Nations young people under youth justice supervision
- 1,743 First Nations young people under community-based supervision
- 497 First Nations young people in detention.

## The rate of First Nations young people under supervision has increased over the 5 years to 2024–25

Between 2020–21 and 2024–25, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day rose from 106 to 109 per 10,000.

The rate of non-Indigenous young people **under supervision** fell between 2020–21 to 2024–25, from 7.2 to 5.4 per 10,000.

On an average day over the 5-year period from 2020–21 to 2024–25, the number of First Nations young people aged 10 and over **in detention** increased by 26% (from 394 to 497).

Between 2020-21 and 2024-25, First nations over-representation increased. In 2020–21, First Nations young people aged 10-17 were about 16 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be **in detention**, rising to about 23 times as likely in 2024–25.

The rate for First Nations young people aged 10-17 **in detention** increased from 20 to 26 per 10,000 over the 5-year period.

### **Young people in remote areas were more likely to be under supervision**

Although most young people under supervision on an average day had come from cities and regional areas (88%), those from geographically remote areas had the highest rates of supervision (ABS 2021).

On an average day in 2024–25, young people aged 10–17 who were from *Very remote* areas were 10 times as likely to be under supervision as those from *Major cities*. This largely reflects the higher proportions of First Nations Australians under Youth Justice supervision living in these areas.

### **Young people from lower socioeconomic areas were more likely to be under supervision**

Almost 2 in 5 young people (38%) under supervision on an average day in 2024-25 were from the lowest socioeconomic areas, compared to about 1 in 17 young people (5.9%) from the highest socioeconomic areas.

### **About 1 in 3 young people were new to supervision**

Just over 1 in 3 (36%) young people under youth justice supervision in 2024-25 were new to supervision in that year. All other young people (64%) had been supervised in a previous year.

### **First Nations young people were younger when they entered supervision than non-Indigenous young people**

About 3 in 10 (30%, or 1,583) First Nations young people under supervision in 2024-25 were first supervised when aged 10–13.

Around 1 in 7 (13%) of non-Indigenous young people under supervision 2024-25 were first supervised when aged 10–13.

### **References**

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ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2021) *Remoteness structure*, ABS, Australian Government.

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## Data dashboard

This data dashboard (Figure 1) shows the number of young people under youth justice supervision on an average day and during the year in Australia. It includes data for 2024–25 and each state and territory. Additionally, it presents the proportion of young people under youth justice supervision by Indigenous status, sex, age and over time.



Type of supervision:

All supervision

Community

Detention

Unit of measurement:

- during the year  
 on an average day

Select Jurisdiction:

Australia

On an average day in **Australia** there are

**4,147**

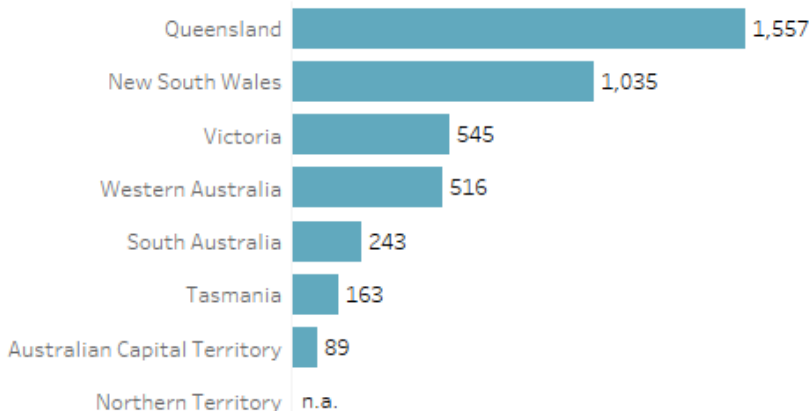
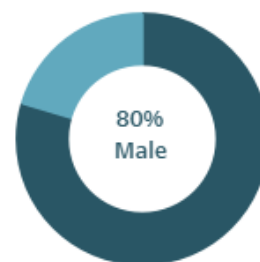
young people **under youth justice supervision**

Aged 10+ | 2024-25

by Indigenous status



by sex



Age group: under youth justice supervision in Australia

**142**

young people aged 10-13  
under youth justice supervision on an  
average day

**3,035**

young people aged 14-17  
under youth justice supervision on an  
average day

**970**

young people aged 18 and over  
under youth justice supervision on an  
average day

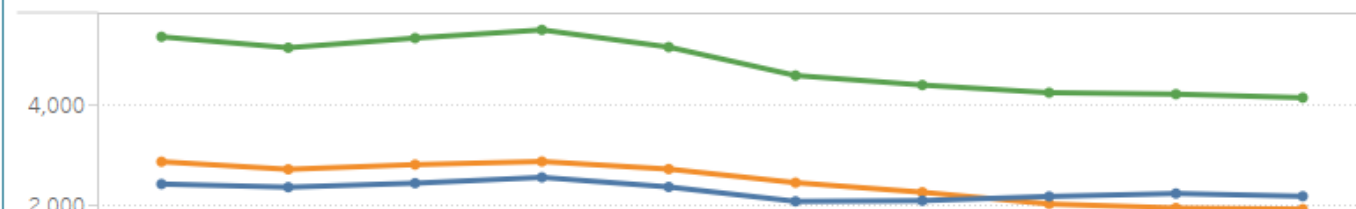
Trend by Indigenous status: under youth justice supervision in Australia ...

Select number/rate

Number aged 10 and over, excl NT

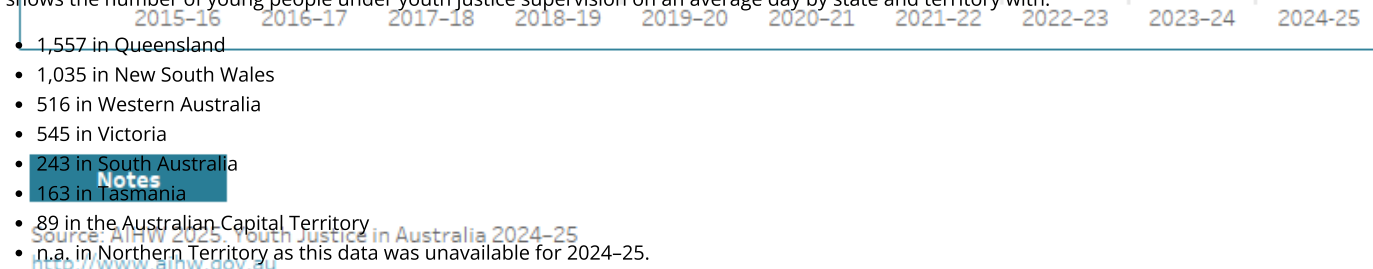
All supervision - on an average day

Number aged 10 and over, excl NT



## Extended description for the data dashboard

This data dashboard shows that there were 4,147 young people under youth justice supervision on an average day in Australia in 2024–25. A bar chart shows the number of young people under youth justice supervision on an average day by state and territory with:



Of young people aged 10 and over under youth justice supervision on an average day in Australia:

- 53% were First Nations
- 80% were male.

On an average day in Australia in 2024–25, there were:

- 142 young people aged 10–13 under youth justice supervision
- 3,035 young people aged 14–17 under youth justice supervision
- 970 young people aged 18 and over under youth justice supervision.

Under youth justice supervision in Australia\* on an average day, the number of:

- young people decreased from 5,362 in 2015–16 to 4,147 in 2024–25
- non-Indigenous young people decreased from 2,871 in 2015–16 to 1,927 in 2024–25
- First Nations young people decreased from 2,426 in 2015–16 to 2,183 in 2024–25.



# Introduction

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## Youth justice system

The youth justice system is the set of processes and practices for managing children and young people who have committed or allegedly committed an offence. Each state and territory in Australia has its own youth justice legislation, policies and practices. The general processes by which young people are charged and sentenced, and the types of legal orders available to the courts, are similar.

In 2024–25, young people can be charged with a criminal offence if they are aged 10 and over, except in the Australian Capital Territory after the minimum age of criminal responsibility was raised from 10 to 12 years old in 2023. Whilst the Northern Territory also raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years old in 2023, in 2024–25 it was lowered to 10 years old again. Victoria increased the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years old in September 2025, however, this is not included in the scope of 2024–25 data in this report. Tasmania has committed to raising the age of criminal responsibility in the coming years.

### Age limits for the youth justice system

There are separate justice systems for young people and adults. The upper age limit for the youth system is 17 (at the time of the offence) in all states and territories. Those aged 18 and over are dealt with under criminal legislation relating to adults.

Legislation to increase Queensland's age limit for the youth justice system to 17 was passed in November 2016 and enacted in February 2018. Before this, the age limit was 16. This change in legislation initially led to a rise in the number of young people supervised by youth justice in Queensland and nationally.

Some people aged 18 and over are also involved in the youth justice system. This can occur when:

- the young person committed the offence when aged 17 and under, but was sentenced when aged 18 and over
- the supervision is continued once the young person turns 18
- the young person is particularly vulnerable or immature.

In Victoria, some people aged 18–20 may be sentenced to detention in a youth facility under the state's ['dual track' sentencing system](#).

### Initial contact with the youth justice system

Generally, young people first make contact with the youth justice system when police investigate them for allegedly committing a crime. Legal action taken by police may include court actions (the laying of charges to be answered in court) and non-court actions (such as cautions, conferencing, counselling, or infringement notices).

A court may decide to:

- dismiss a charge
- divert the young person from further involvement in the system (for example, by referral to other services), or
- transfer the young person to specialist courts or programs.

If the matter proceeds and the charge is proven, the court may hand down various orders, either supervised or unsupervised.

## Youth justice supervision

A major feature of any youth justice system is the supervision of young people on legal orders. They may be supervised in the community or in detention facilities.

Most young people under youth justice supervision are supervised in the community rather than in detention. This is partly because a key principle in Australian youth justice is the idea that young people should be placed in detention only as a last resort.

This principle is contained in youth justice legislation in each state and territory, with the exception of Queensland and the Northern Territory (see [Principles, services and outcomes](#)). It is also consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN 1989) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (also known as the Beijing Rules) (UN 1985). The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children should be deprived of liberty only as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period.

Supervision may take place while young people are unsentenced – that is, when they have been charged with an offence and are awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or when they have been found or have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

Most of those under supervision on an average day are sentenced – that is, they have been found guilty in court, and received a sentence. Both unsentenced and sentenced supervision can take place in the community and in detention (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1: Types of youth justice supervision

Type of supervision	Community-based	Detention
<b>Unsentenced supervision</b>	Supervised or conditional bail Home detention bail	Remanded in custody (can be police- or court-referred)
<b>Sentenced supervision</b>	Probation or similar Suspended detention Parole or supervised release	Sentenced to detention

Unsentenced community-based supervision consists of supervised or conditional bail (which may include conditions such as curfew or a monetary bond) and home detention bail.

Sentenced community-based supervision comprises:

1. probation and similar orders – where regular reporting to the youth justice agency and participation in treatment programs may be required
2. suspended detention – where the young person must meet certain conditions (for example, abiding by a curfew, reporting to police or living at a specified address) or not re-offend within a specified time period
3. parole or supervised release – supervision that follows a period of detention.

In Australia, information about young people under youth justice supervision is collected in the Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS). Table 1.2 provides a summary of the types of youth justice services that are available in the states and territories, and specifies the availability of data across the jurisdictions.

Table 1.2: Supervised youth justice services in the YJ NMDS, by state and territory, 2024–25

Services and outcomes	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
-	<b>Unsentenced</b>							
<b>Community-based supervision</b>	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Supervised or conditional bail or similar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Detention</b>	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Police-referred detention	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>(a)</sup>	✓	-
Remand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
-	<b>Sentenced</b>							
<b>Community-based supervision</b>	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Good behaviour bond	✓	✓ <sup>(b)</sup>	-	✓ <sup>(b)</sup>	✓	✓ <sup>(b)</sup>	✓	-
Probation and similar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community service	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Suspended detention <sup>(c)</sup>	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Home detention	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓
Parole or supervised release from detention	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Detention</b>	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Detention	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Youth justice outcome or service that is available in the state or territory.

a. In Tasmania, legislation does not explicitly preclude police-referred detention, but no orders of this type have been included in the NMDS submission.

b. This is a youth justice outcome or service that is available in the state or territory but is outside the scope of the YJ NMDS.

c. Suspended detention and supervised release from detention includes probation and parole. [Principles, services and outcomes](#)



## Key policy directions in 2024–25

Youth justice policies are determined by state and territory governments and are largely implemented by youth justice agencies. Appendix 4 outlines information about the policy directions in each state and territory.

In 2024–25, some of the most commonly identified policy directions included:

- undertaking early intervention to provide services and programs to at-risk young people and their families
- offering alternatives to detention, including the use of warnings, cautions and conferencing
- delivering better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
- providing an individualised, therapeutic, culturally safe and trauma-informed approach to youth justice service delivery to prevent escalation of anti-social or offending behaviour
- designing and delivering programs to reduce reoffending
- increasing the minimum age of criminal responsibility, or announcing an intention to do so in the coming years
- improving the services and supports provided to young people with disability to achieve equity and inclusion in the youth justice system
- improving infrastructure in detention facilities, and investing in the capacity and capability of the youth justice workforce to maximise safety and stability within the youth justice system
- the removal of detention as a last resort as a principle guiding youth justice (NT and Qld specific)
- the introduction of tougher sentencing and consequences for youth justice offenders in an effort to promote community safety and support victims of crime
- working collaboratively to support shared clients in child protection, out of home care and youth justice, to improve their individual circumstances and life trajectory.

Young people's involvement in the youth justice system is affected not only by policies implemented by youth justice agencies but also by policies developed in other areas such as child protection, accommodation and housing assistance services, education, employment, family and community services, and health.

Recommendations from the *Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory* continue to be considered and implemented (Royal Commission, Australian Government 2017). As recommended by the Royal Commission, the Northern Territory provided YJ NMDS standard data from 2017–18 onwards, which had not been possible since 2008–09.

In August 2023, the Northern Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. In October 2024, the Northern Territory lowered the criminal age of responsibility back to 10.

Due to the implementation of a new information system ahead of the 2022–23 YJ NMDS submission, data for the Northern Territory will not be comparable to *Youth justice in Australia* releases prior to 2022–23.

Additionally, new legislation was implemented to the Northern Territory youth justice system on 15 May 2021 – the *Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Act (YJLAA) 2021* (the Act). The intent of the Act was to target repeat youth offenders to reduce youth crime. The Act resulted in some key changes to processes of the youth justice system. This change in legislation may have affected the number and rate of young people in detention in the Northern Territory.

In Australia, the Meeting of Attorneys-General (MAG) reviewed Australia's age of criminal responsibility. MAG noted that the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory committed to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and states supported the development of proposals to raise the minimum age, having regard to any carve outs, timing and discussion of implementation requirements (MAG 2022).

In May 2023, the Australian Capital Territory introduced legislation to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 12 initially (this was implemented in November 2023). The minimum age was again raised from 12 to 14 years of age on the 1 July 2025.

In April 2023, Victoria made an announcement to raise the criminal age of responsibility to 12 by the end of 2024, and to 14 in 2027. In August 2024, Victoria announced that they would no longer raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14. In September 2025, the minimum age of criminal responsibility was raised to 12.

In June 2022, Tasmania committed to raising the age of criminal detention from 10 to 14 years old. Subsequently, in September 2023, the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings report recommended that the Government introduce legislation to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, without exception. It was recommended that Tasmania work towards increasing the minimum age of detention (including remand) to 16 years by developing alternatives to detention for children aged 14 and 15 years who are found guilty of serious violent offences and who may be a danger to themselves or the community. The Tasmanian Government has accepted this recommendation.

In July 2020, the Australian Government released *The National Agreement on Closing the Gap*. Outcome 11 of the new agreement aims to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the criminal justice system. The target is to reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention by at least 30% by 2031 from 31.9 per 10,000 young people on an average day in 2018–19 to 22.3 per 10,000 young people by 2030–31 (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet 2020).


## References

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Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (2020) [Closing the Gap report 2020](#), Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra.

MAG (Meeting of Attorneys-General) (2023) Council of Attorneys-General communique. Canberra: [Age of Criminal Responsibility Working Group Report 2023](#), accessed 11 November 2023.

Royal Commission and Board of Inquiry (2017) *Final report - Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory*, report to the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government, Royal Commission and Board of Inquiry, Darwin.

UN (United Nations) (1985)  *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice ('Beijing Rules')*, adopted by General Assembly resolution 40/33 on 29 November 1985, United Nations General Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland.

UN (1989) *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, adopted by General Assembly resolution 44/25 on 20 November 1989, United Nations General Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland.

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## About this report

This report presents information about young people in Australia who were under youth justice supervision during 2024–25, both in the community and in detention. It looks at the characteristics of these young people, key aspects of their supervision, and recent trends. It is based on data from the YJ NMDS for all states and territories in Australia.

Numbers in this report include young people of all ages (including those aged 18 and over) unless otherwise specified. Proportions presented in this report are calculated using numbers presented in the report and/or supplementary tables. Population rates are calculated only for young people aged 10–17, as this is the main age group for youth justice supervision in most states and territories. Please see [Appendix A: data quality and technical notes](#) for the impact of COVID-19 and the minimum age of criminal responsibility on population rates.

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors. For more information on the impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data see [Appendix A](#).

All data presented in this report are available through the online supplementary tables: [Youth justice in Australia 2024–25, Data](#).

Average daily data, broken down by age, will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20. For more information on the calculation of age, see [Appendix A](#).

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## Numbers and rates of young people under supervision

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## National

On an average day in 2024–25, 4,147 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision in Australia (Figure 2.1; Table 2.1). A total of 9,579 young people were supervised at some time during the year (Table S1b).

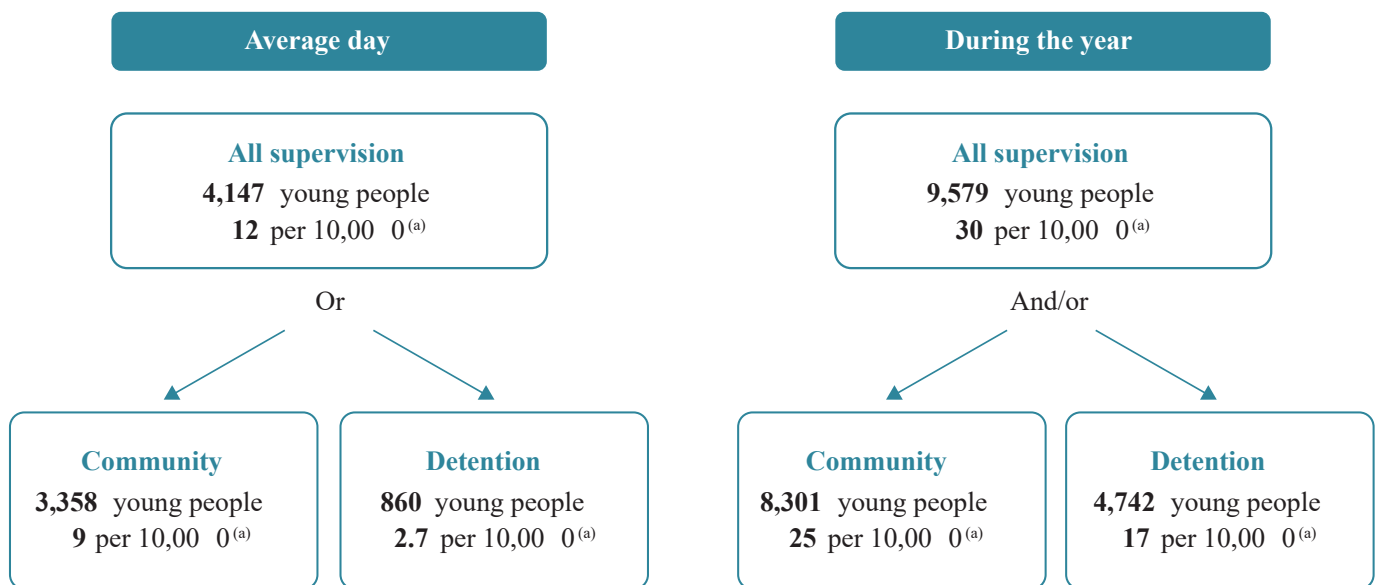
On an average day, most young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision were supervised in the community (81%); and about 1 in 5 (21%) were in detention (Tables S1a, S34a and S72a). (Proportions may not sum to 100% as some young people are supervised under community-based supervision and detention on the same day).

Although relatively few young people were in detention on an average day, almost half (50%, or 4,742) of all young people who were supervised during 2024–25 had been in detention at some time during the year (Figure 2.1).

Most young people supervised in 2024–25 experienced community-based supervision at some point during the year (87% or 8,301). The high proportions of young people under community-based supervision and detention during the year reflect the fact that young people often experience both community-based supervision and detention during the year (Figure 2.1).

Additionally, the difference between the number in detention on an average day and the number who had been in detention during the year reflects the fact that most young people typically spend a short time in detention (see [Appendix A](#)).

**Figure 2.1: Young people under supervision on an average day and during the year, by supervision type, 2024–25 (number and rate)**



(a) Rates are presented for young people aged 10–17.

Notes:

1. The average daily number of all supervision will not equal the sum of community-based supervision and detention because young people can be in both types of supervision on the same day.
2. Young people can be in both community-based supervision and detention during the year so the sum of these types of supervision will not be equal to the total number of young people under youth justice supervision.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day is not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2024–25 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.

Source: tables S1a, S1b, S4a, S4b, S34a, S34b, S37a, S37b, S72a, S72b, S75a and S75b.

### Extended description for Figure 2.1

This diagram/flowchart is split into 2 streams, that is, 'average day' and 'during the year'.

Under the first stream, 'average day', the first box contains the heading 'all supervision' with 4,147 young people (12 per 10,000).

There are 2 boxes flowing from 'all supervision', with the qualifier 'or', as follows:

- Box 1: Community - 3,358 young people (9 per 10,000)
- Box 2: Detention - 860 young people (2.7 per 10,000).

Under the second stream, 'during the year', the first box contains the heading 'all supervision' with 9,579 young people (30 per 10,000).

There are 2 boxes flowing from 'all supervision', with the qualifiers 'and/or', as follows:

- Box 1: Community – 8,031 young people (25 per 10,000)
- Box 2: Detention – 4,742 young people (17 per 10,000)

The rate of young people aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision on an average day was about 12 per 10,000 (Figure 2.1).

On an average day, the rate of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision was 9.5 per 10,000 and the rate for those in detention was 2.7 per 10,000 (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1a: Number of young people under supervision, by supervision type and state and territory, 2024–25

Type of supervision	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT <sup>(b)</sup>	NT	Australia
<b>Community – Average day<sup>(a)</sup></b>	808.9	419.4	1,263.8	444.9	203.4	147.2	70.9	n.a.	3,358.4
<b>Detention – Average day<sup>(a)</sup></b>	231.3	128.6	300.7	75.5	42.0	15.8	19.1	46.5	859.5
<b>All supervision – Average day<sup>(a)</sup></b>	1,034.5	545.0	1,556.6	516.2	243.1	162.5	89.3	n.a.	4,147.9
<b>Community – During the year</b>	1,741	999	2,456	1,177	522	257	154	995	8,301
<b>Detention – During the year</b>	1,561	442	1,077	809	351	70	99	333	4,742
<b>All supervision – During the year</b>	2,456	1,054	2,653	1,441	609	266	176	1,014	9,579

Footnotes and notes are provided following Table 2.1b.

Table 2.1b: Rate (per 10,000) of young people under supervision, by supervision type and state and territory, 2024–25

Type of supervision	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT <sup>(b)</sup>	NT	Australia
<b>Community – Average day<sup>(a)</sup></b>	8.9	3.4	14.8	12.3	9.5	17.8	14.0	n.a.	9.5
<b>Detention – Average day<sup>(a)</sup></b>	2.2	1.1	5.0	2.5	2.1	2.6	5.0	15.4	2.7
<b>All supervision – Average day<sup>(a)</sup></b>	11.0	4.5	19.6	14.6	11.5	20.4	18.8	n.a.	12.0
<b>Community – During the year</b>	20.1	9.0	33.2	35.8	25.8	38.5	39.2	229.2	25.1
<b>Detention – During the year</b>	17.7	5.3	18.1	26.9	19.0	13.0	29.2	119.7	16.9
<b>All supervision – During the year</b>	27.8	9.5	35.4	44.7	30.4	40.0	44.8	236.8	29.6

(Footnotes and notes for tables 2.1a and 2.1b)

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

(b) Numbers and rates for the Australian Capital Territory from 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.

#### Notes

1. Numbers of young people on an average day represent all young people aged 10 and over under youth justice supervision. This includes some young people aged 18 and over. Rates are age specific and are calculated for young people aged 10–17 as this is the core age group of the youth justice population.
2. See [Appendix A](#) for more information about 'average day' and 'during the year' measures.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in [Youth justice in Australia releases before 2019–20](#)
4. The number and rate of young people on an average day is not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.

Source: tables S1, S4, S34, S37, S72 and S75.

## States and territories

The size of youth justice populations in each state and territory are related to the size of the population in that state or territory, as well as to differences in state-based legislation, policies and practices, including the available types of supervised orders and options for diversion.

Among the states and territories, Queensland and New South Wales accounted for more than half of all young people under supervision on an average day, regardless of supervision type.

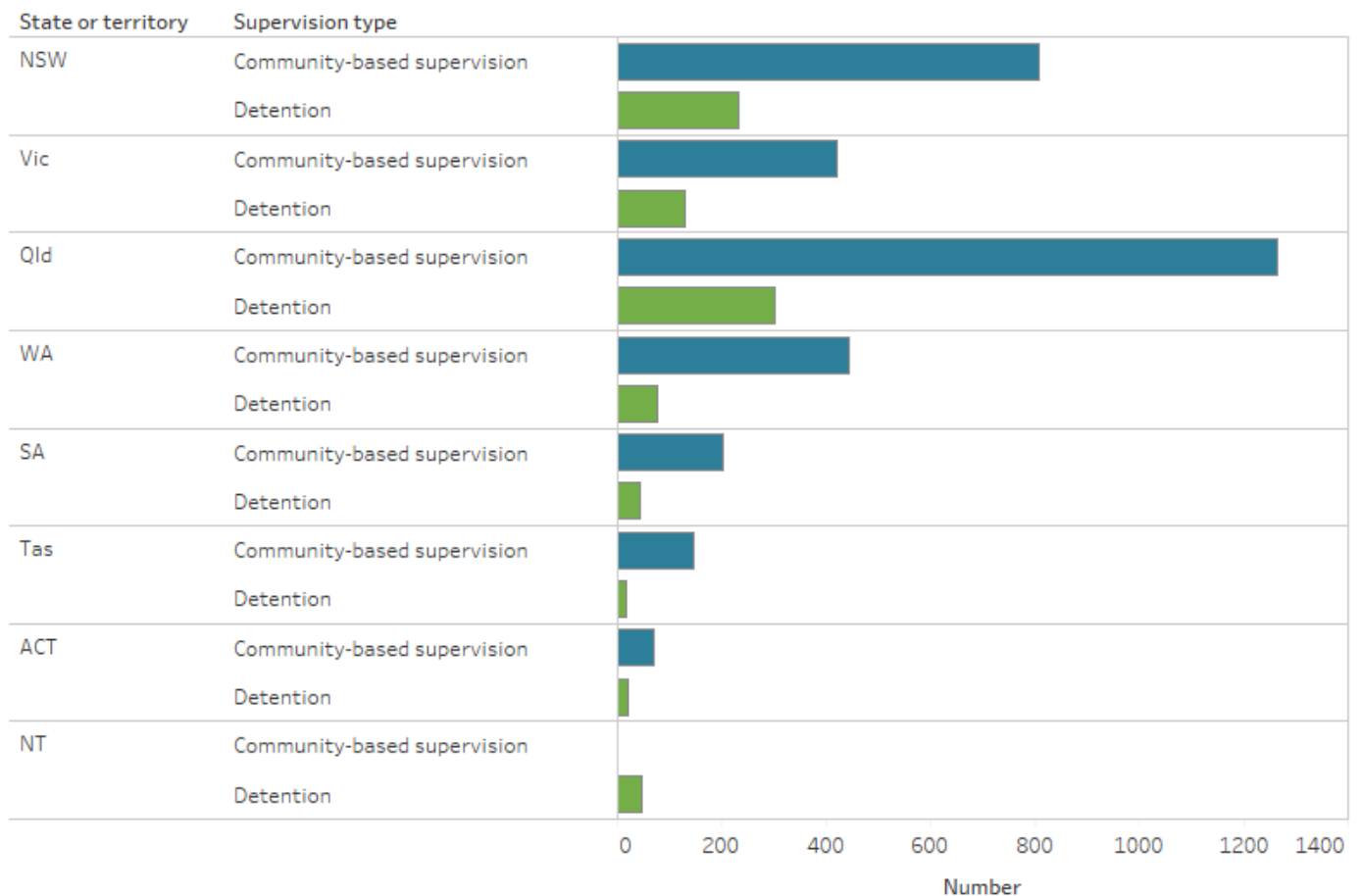
Young people in Queensland made up:

- 38% of all young people under supervision (Table S1a)
- 38% of all young people under community-based supervision (Table S34a)
- 35% of all young people under detention (Tables 2.1, S72a).

Young people in New South Wales made up:

- 25% of all young people under supervision (Table S1a)
- 24% of all young people under community-based supervision (Table 34a)
- 27% of all young people under detention (Tables 2.1; S72a).

Figure 2.2: Young people under supervision on an average day, by supervision type and state and territory, 2024–25 (number)



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes:

1. The number of young people under community-based supervision on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25.
2. Average day numbers for the Australian Capital Territory for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Source: tables S34a and S72a.

On an average day in 2024–25, rates of young people aged 10–17 under supervision varied among the states and territories (Figure 2.3; Table 2.1). Noting there is no data for NT for community-based supervision or any supervision, the rates of young people:

- under any type of supervision were lowest in Victoria (4.5 per 10,000) and highest Tasmania (20 per 10,000) (Table S4a)

- under community-based supervision ranged from 3.4 per 10,000 in Victoria to 18 per 10,000 in Tasmania. (Table S37a)
- in detention ranged from 1.1 per 10,000 in Victoria to 15 in the Northern Territory (Table S75a).

On an average day in 2024–25, rates of young people aged 12-17 under supervision were:

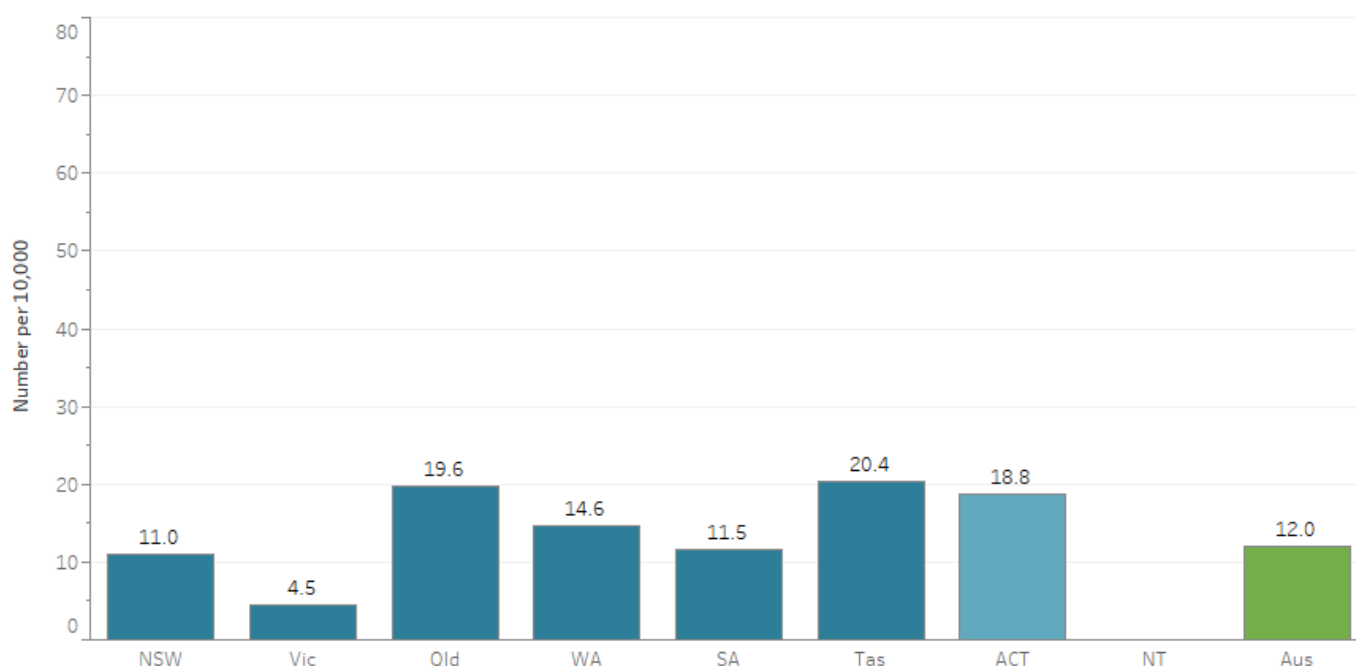
- 19 per 10,000 for young people under any type of supervision in the Australian Capital Territory (Table S4a)
- 14 per 10,000 for young people under community-based supervision in the Australian Capital Territory (Table S37a)
- 5.0 per 10,000 for young people in detention in the Australian Capital Territory (Table S75a).

Note that rates in the Australian Capital Territory for 2024-25 are for young people aged 12-17 following the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility and are not directly comparable with rates prior to 2023-24.

Figure 2.3: Young people under supervision on an average day, by supervision type and state and territory, 2024–25 (number per 10,000)

Select type of supervision

- All supervision
- Community-based supervision
- Detention



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

#### Notes

1. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
2. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2024-25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
3. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory 2024–25 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in 2023–24.

Source: table S4a.

# First Nations young people under supervision

## Overview

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) uses 'First Nations people' to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this report.

First Nations people have a long history of over-representation in the youth and adult justice systems in Australia (House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs 2011; Johnston 1991). It is important to understand how the past shapes the lives of First Nations Australians today: they have a long history of trauma, cultural dispossession, and forced displacement and assimilation, which affects their physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Disconnection from family and kinship systems, from Country, from spirituality and cultural practices, as well as the loss of parenting practices, are sources of trauma that can be passed from caregiver to child. First Nations Australians' experience of child welfare policies has historically been traumatic, with the policy of forcible removal of children leading to what is now known as the Stolen Generations.

These forcible removal policies have long-term consequences, not just for those who were removed but also their descendant. The consequences include enduring social, physical and psychological impacts for those directly involved and their families and communities (AIHW 2018, 2019). The overrepresentation of First Nations children in juvenile justice systems reflects this history of trauma and the stressors that have affected their parents, families and communities.

Please note: To provide a clear reference point for understanding the extent of First Nations over representation in the youth justice system in Australia in 2024-25, non-indigenous data are presented at times throughout this section to highlight key points

## References

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AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) (2018) *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations and descendants: numbers, demographic characteristics and selected outcomes*, catalogue number IHW 195, AIHW, Australian Government.

— (2019) *Children living in households with members of the Stolen Generations*, catalogue number IHW 214, AIHW, Australian Government.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (2011) *Doing time – time for doing: Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system*, Commonwealth of Australia. Johnston E (1991) *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody: national reports*, Volumes 1–5, Australian Government Publishing Service.

Johnston E (1991) *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody: national reports*, Volumes 1–5, Australian Government Publishing Service.

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## First Nations people under youth justice supervision

The vast majority of First Nations young people have never been under supervision. About 6.2% of young people aged 10–17 in Australia identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. More than half (1,793, or 56%) of the young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day in 2024–25 were First Nations Australians (Tables S143 and S3a). This means that 1.1% of First Nations young people were under supervision in 2024–25.

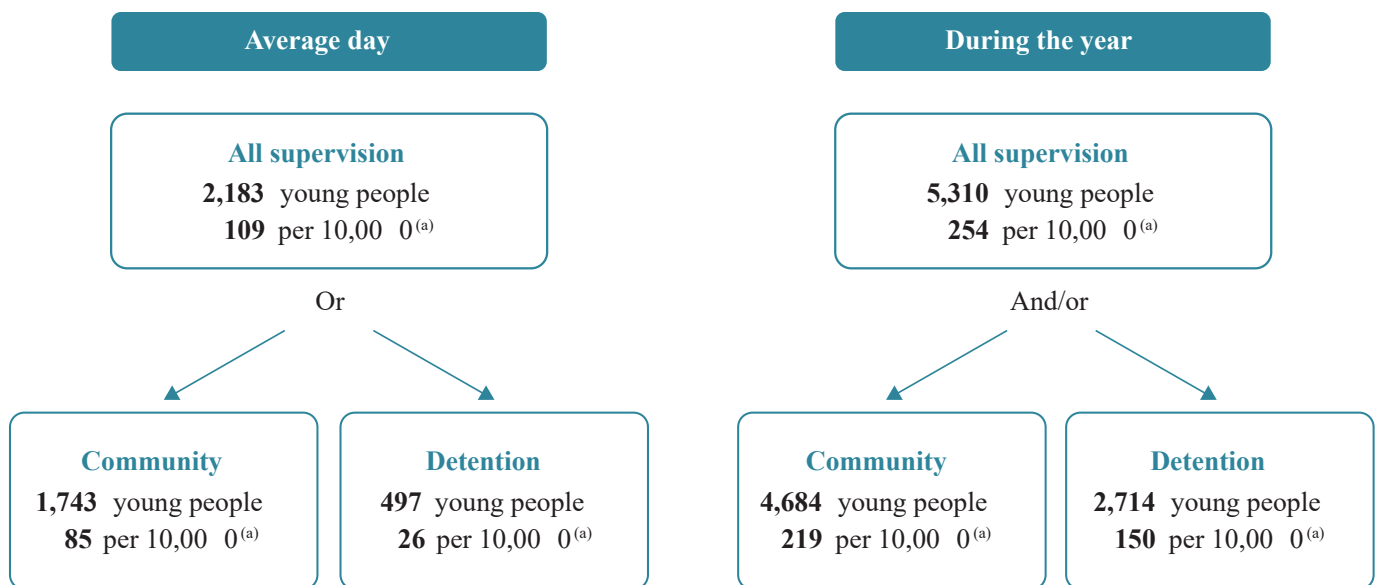
About half (56%) of those aged 10–17 under community-based supervision were First Nations Australians, while around 3 in 5 (62%) of those aged 10–17 in detention were First Nations Australians (Tables S36a and S74a).

Of young First Nations people who were aged 10 and over, 2,183 were under youth justice supervision in Australia and 5,310 young people were supervised at some time during the year (Figure 3.1).

On an average day, most First Nations young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision were supervised in the community (80%); and about 1 in 5 were in detention (23%) (Figure 3.1). (Proportions may not sum to 100% as some young people are supervised under community-based supervision and detention on the same day).

Although just 497 First Nations young people were in detention on an average day, about half (51%, or 2,714) of all First Nations young people who were supervised during 2024–25 had been in detention at some time during the year (Figure 3.1).

**Figure 3.1: First Nations young people under supervision on an average day and during the year, by supervision type, 2024–25 (number and rate)**



(a) Rates are presented for young people aged 10–17.

Notes:

1. The average daily number of all supervision will not equal the sum of community-based supervision and detention because young people can be in both types of supervision on the same day.
2. Young people can be in both community-based supervision and detention during the year so the sum of these types of supervision will not be equal to the total number of young people under youth justice supervision.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory from 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increased minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.

Source: tables S2a, S2b, S4a, S4b, S35a, S35b, S37a, S37b, S73a, S73b, S75a and S75b.

### Extended description for Figure 3.1

This diagram/flowchart is split into 2 streams, that is, 'average day' and 'during the year' for First Nations young people under youth justice supervision in 2024–25.

Under the first stream, 'average day', the first box contains the heading 'all supervision' with 2,183 First Nations young people under supervision (at a rate of 109 per 10,000).

There are 2 boxes flowing from 'all supervision', with the qualifier 'or', as follows:

- Box 1: Community – 1,743 First Nations young people (85 per 10,000)
- Box 2: Detention – 497 First Nations young people (26 per 10,000).

Under the second stream, 'during the year', the first box contains the heading 'all supervision' with 5,310 First Nations young people under supervision (254 per 10,000).

There are 2 boxes flowing from 'all supervision', with the qualifiers 'and/or', as follows:

- Box 1: Community – 4,684 First Nations young people (219 per 10,000)
- Box 2: Detention – 2,714 First Nations young people (150 per 10,000)

In 2024–25, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day was 109 per 10,000 (Figure 3.2; Table S4a). The rate was 5.4 per 10,000 for non-Indigenous young people (Figure 3.2; Tables 3.1 and S4a). This means First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 20 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be under supervision on an average day.

The rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day ranged from 38 per 10,000 in Victoria to 155 per 10,000 in Queensland (Table S4a). The over-representation of First Nations young people under youth justice supervision, as measured by the rate ratio among jurisdictions with available data, ranged from about 5 times as high in Tasmania to about 24 times as high in South Australia (Tables 3.1 and S4a).

Table 3.1a: Young people aged 10–17\* under community-based supervision on an average day, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2024–25 (rate per 10,000)

Community-based supervision	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT*	NT*	Australia
<b>First Nations</b>	63.9	30.2	115.0	103.9	101.6	62.6	143.9	n.a.	84.6
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	4.1	2.8	5.1	5.4	4.1	12.1	9.6	n.a.	4.4
<b>All young people</b>	8.9	3.4	14.8	12.3	9.5	17.8	14.0	n.a.	9.5
<b>Rate ratio</b>	15.6	10.8	22.5	19.2	24.8	5.2	15.0	n.a.	19.2

Footnotes and notes are provided following Table 3.1c.

Table 3.1b: Young people aged 10–17\* in detention on an average day, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2024–25 (rate per 10,000)

Detention	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT <sup>(a)</sup>	NT	Australia
<b>First Nations</b>	18.9	8.1	40.7	21.9	21.4	7.8	51.9	35.1	25.7
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	0.9	1.0	1.5	1.0	1.0	2.0	3.5	1.3	1.1
<b>All young people</b>	2.2	1.1	5.0	2.1	2.1	2.6	5.0	15.4	2.7
<b>Rate ratio</b>	21.0	8.1	27.1	21.4	21.4	3.9	14.8	27.0	23.4

Footnotes and notes are provided following Table 3.1c.

Table 3.1c: Young people aged 10–17\* under all youth justice supervision on an average day, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2024–25 (rate per 10,000)

All youth justice supervision	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT <sup>(a)</sup>	NT	Australia
<b>First Nations</b>	82.3	38.0	154.6	124.7	121.6	70.1	193.6	n.a.	108.9
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	5.0	3.8	6.6	6.4	5.1	14.0	12.9	n.a.	5.4
<b>All young people</b>	11.0	4.5	19.6	14.6	11.5	20.4	18.8	n.a.	12.0
<b>Rate ratio</b>	16.5	10.1	23.4	19.5	23.8	5.0	15.0	n.a.	20.2

(Footnotes and notes for tables 3.1a, 3.1b and 3.1c)

(a) Numbers and rates for the Australian Capital Territory from 2023-24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.

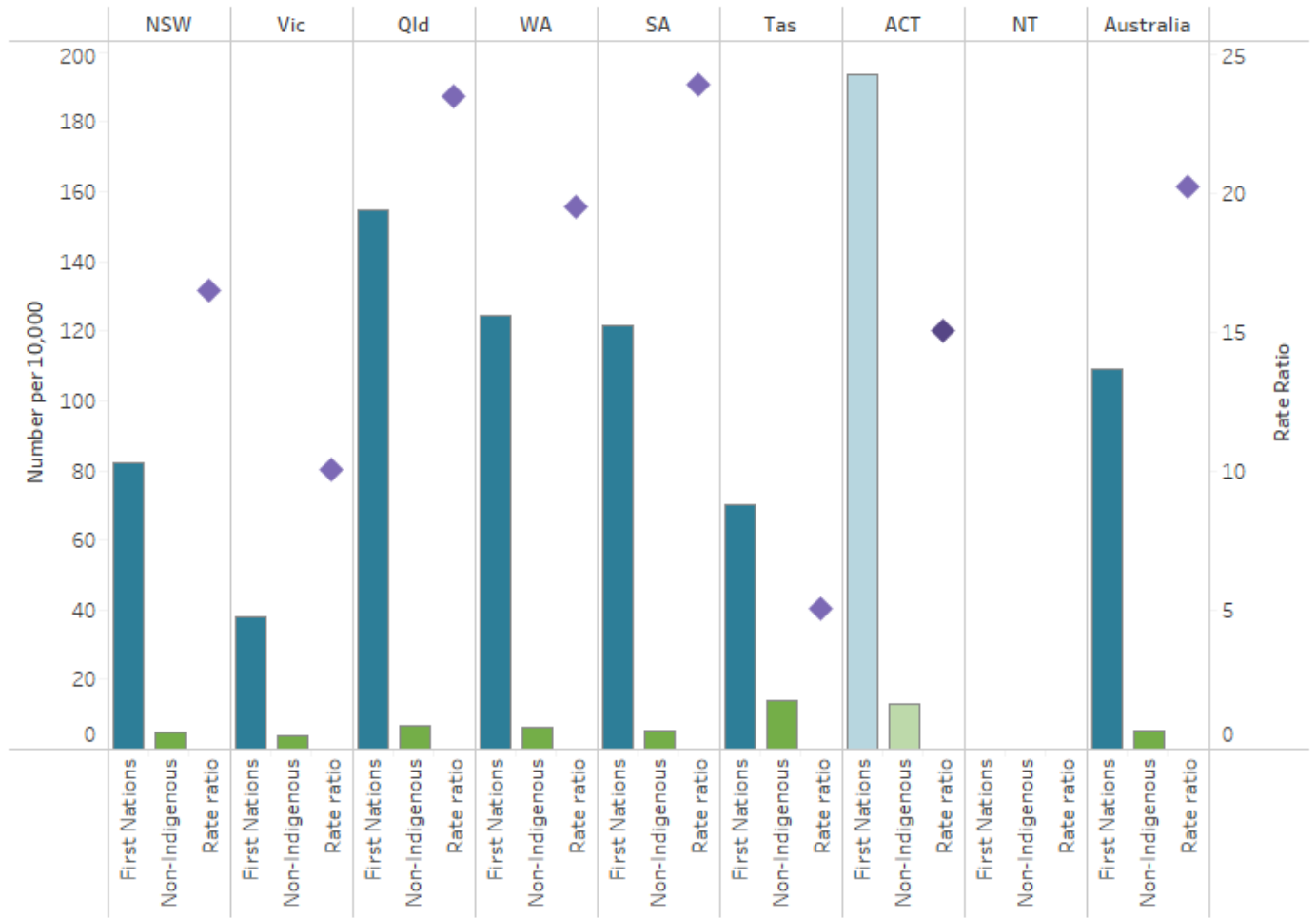
#### Notes

1. Rates are not published where there were fewer than 5 young people.
2. First Nations rates for Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution due to First Nations population denominators that are less than 10,000.
3. The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the First Nations rate by the non-Indigenous rate.
4. The rate ratio has been calculated using rates to 3 decimal places.
5. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in [Youth justice in Australia releases before 2019–20](#).
6. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.

7. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2024–25 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.

Source: tables S4a, S37a and S75a.

Figure 3.2: Young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by Indigenous status and state and territory 2024–25 (rate)



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes

1. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
2. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for all supervision.
3. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2024–25 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.

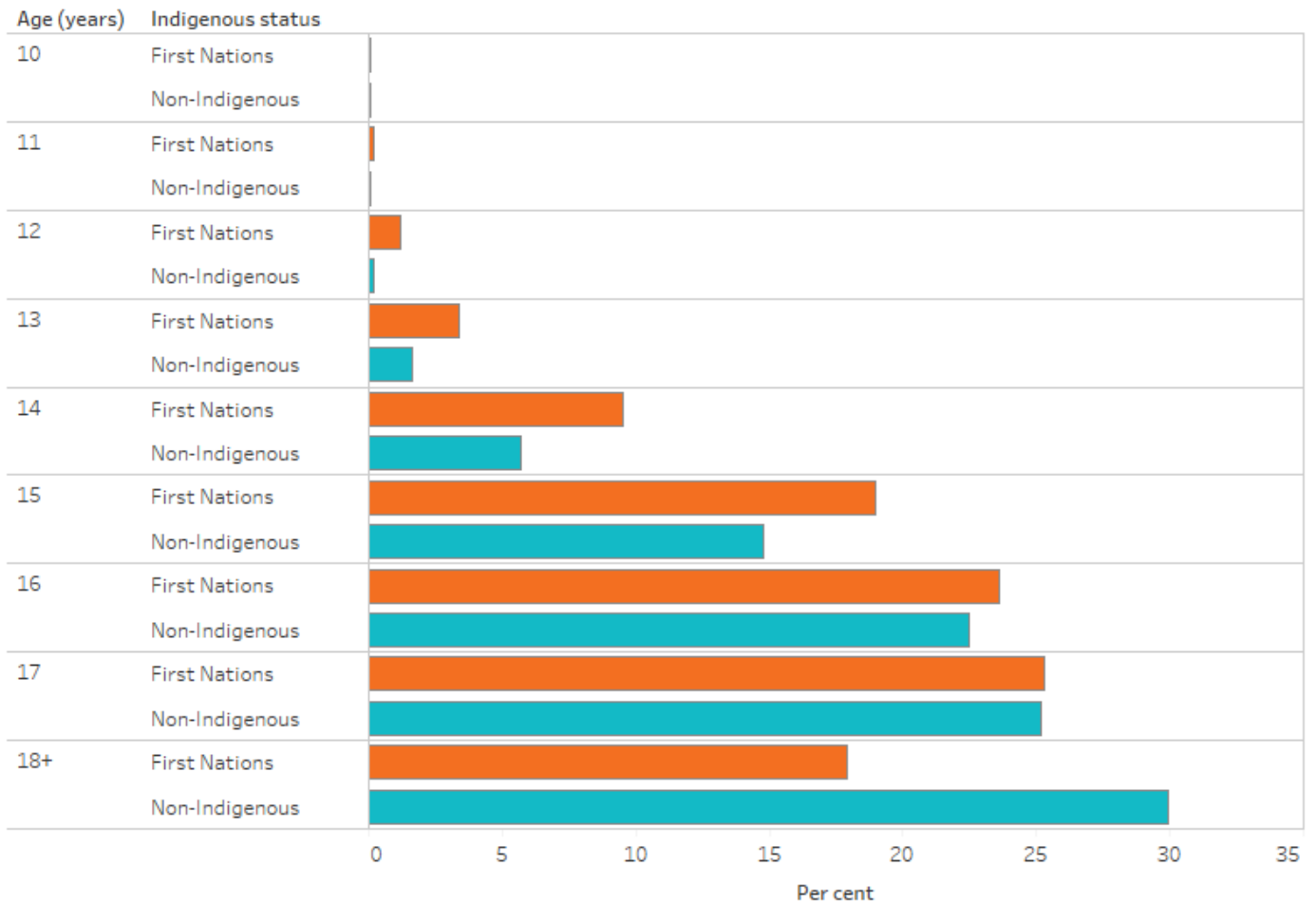
Source: table S4a.

On average, First Nations young people under supervision were younger than their non-Indigenous counterparts (Figure 3.3). This was the case among both males and females (Table S5a).

On an average day in 2024–25, 5.4% of First Nations young people under supervision were aged 10–13 compared with 2.1% of non-Indigenous young people (Table S7a).

Similar proportions of First Nations and non-Indigenous young people under supervision were male (77% and 82%, respectively) (Table S5a).

Figure 3.3: Young people under supervision on an average day, by age and Indigenous status, 2024–25



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes

1. Numerators are the number of young people of a particular age; denominators are the total number of young people of all ages for First Nations and non-Indigenous people.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for all supervision.

Source: table S5a.

## First Nations young people under community-based supervision

More than half (1,393, or 56%) of the young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day in 2024–25 were First Nations young people (Table S36a).

In 2024–25, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 in community-based supervision on an average day was 85 per 10,000. The rate of non-Indigenous young people aged 10–17 in community-based supervision on an average day was 4.4 per 10,000 (Table S37a).

This means First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 19 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be under community-based supervision on an average day (Table S37a).

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## First Nations young people in detention

About 3 in 5 (453, or 62%) of the young people aged 10–17 in detention on an average day in 2024–25 were First Nations young people (Table S74a).

In 2024–25, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 in detention on an average day was 26 per 10,000. The rate of non-Indigenous young people aged 10–17 in detention on an average day was 1.1 per 10,000 (Table S75a).

This means that First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 23 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be in detention on an average day (Table S75a).

The level of First Nations over-representation (as measured by the rate ratio – see Appendix A) was higher for those in detention than for those under community-based supervision (about 19 times as likely) (Tables 3.1 and S37a).

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## Trends in supervision of First Nations young people

### In this section

- Introduction
- Recent trends – 2020-21 to 2024-25
- Longer trends – 2016-17 to 2024-25

This section uses the Australia total excluding the Northern Territory for all supervision and community-based supervision due to Northern Territory all supervision and community-based supervision (average day) data not being available in 2023–24 and 2024–25. This is to maintain a consistent and comparable time series.

The Australia total includes the Northern Territory for detention.

Due to the increased minimum age of criminal responsibility in the Australian Capital Territory in 2023, the 2023–24 and 2024–25 rates are presented for young people aged 12–17. The Northern Territory increased the minimum age of criminal responsibility for 2023–24 only, so 2023–24 rates are presented for young people aged 12–17 whilst 2024–25 rates are for young people aged 10–17. The Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory have been removed from any rates trend commentary due to the break in series as the rates are not comparable to previous years.

Trends for First Nations people in this report are calculated using population estimates and projections based on the 2021 Census. Trends are limited to 2016 onwards, due to a large non-demographic increase in Census counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people between 2016 and 2021. The rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this report are generally lower than, and are not comparable to, those in previous reports.

For further information, see:

- [Understanding change in counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#)
- [Guide to using historical estimates for comparative analysis and reporting.](#)

### Recent trends – 2020-21 to 2024-25

On an average day over the 5-year period between 2020–21 and 2024–25 under youth justice supervision:

- the number of First Nations young people (including those aged 18 and over) rose by 4.9% from 2,081 to 2,183 (Table S11a)
- the number of non-Indigenous young people aged 10 and over fell by 21% – from 2,453 to 1,927 (Table S11a)
- the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision rose from 106 to 109 per 10,000. In the most recent year from 2023–24, the rate fell from 113 to 109 per 10,000 in 2024–25 (Table S12a)
- the rate of non-Indigenous young people fell from 7.2 to 5.4 per 10,000 (Table S12a)
- First Nations over-representation increased. In 2020–21, First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 15 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be under supervision, rising to about 20 times as likely in 2024–25 (Table S12a).

On an average day over the same 5-year period under community-based supervision:

- the number of First Nations young people aged 10 and over remained largely constant, increasing by only 1% – from 1,731 to 1,743 (Table S44a)
- the number of non-Indigenous young people aged 10 and over fell by 24% – from 2,072 to 1,581 (Table S44a)
- the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 fell from 87 to 85 per 10,000 (Table S45a)
- the rate of non-Indigenous young people fell from 6.0 to 4.4 per 10,000 (Table S45a)
- First Nations over-representation increased. In 2020–21, First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 14 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be under community-based supervision, rising to about 19 times as likely in 2024–25 (Table S45a).

On an average day over the 5-year period in detention:

- the number of First Nations young people aged 10 and over increased by 26% (from 394 to 497) (Table S82a)
- the number of non-Indigenous young people fell by 9% (from 396 to 359) (Table S82a)
- the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 increased from 20 to 26 per 10,000 (Table S83a)
- the non-Indigenous rate declined marginally from 1.3 to 1.1 per 10,000 (Table S83a)
- First Nations over-representation increased. In 2020–21, First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 16 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be in detention, rising to about 23 times as likely in 2024–25 (Table S83a).

On an average day over the 5-year period, when comparing states and territories:

- the rates of First Nations young people under supervision fell in Victoria (58 to 38 per 10,000) and Western Australia (139 to 125 per 10,000) (Tables S3.2 and S12a)
- the rates for non-Indigenous young people fell in all states and territories where data was available, except for Tasmania. New South Wales (7.6 to 5.0 per 10,000) and Victoria (6.2 to 3.8 per 10,000) had the largest declines over the 5-year period (Table S12a).
- the rates for First Nations young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision fell in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, with Victoria (50 to 30 per 10,000) showing the largest decline (Table S45a)

there was a decline in the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 in detention for Western Australia (from 37 to 22 per 10,000) and Victoria (from 8.8 to 8.1 per 10,000). The Northern Territory (26 to 35 per 10,000) had the largest increase over the 5-year period (see Table 3.2) (Table S83a).

Table 3.2: Overall change in young people under supervision on an average day, by indigenous status, supervision type and state and territory, 2020–21 to 2024–25 (rate)

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Community</b>									
First Nations	↓	↓	↓	↔	↑	↑	↑	n.a.	↓
Non-Indigenous	↓	↓	↓	↓↑	↑↓	↑	n.a.	n.a.	↓
<b>Total</b>	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	n.a.	↓
<b>Detention</b>									
First Nations	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Non-Indigenous	↔	↓↑	↔	↔	↑	↑	n.a.	↑	↔
<b>Total</b>	↔	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	↔
<b>All supervision</b>									
First Nations	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑	n.a.	↑
Non-Indigenous	↓	↓	↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑	n.a.	n.a.	↓
<b>Total</b>	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	n.a.	↓

#### Notes

- Arrows indicate an overall change between 2020–21 and 2024–25. Unchanged arrows (↔) indicate a change of +/-0.4 over the 5-year period. Trends might have fluctuated between these years, particularly for smaller jurisdictions.
- Data might differ from those previously published due to data revisions.
- Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in Youth justice in Australia releases before 2019–20.
- The number and rate of young people in the Northern Territory is not available for 2024–25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
- Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2024–25 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in that jurisdiction.

Source: tables S12a, S45a, and S83a.

### Longer trends – 2016–17 to 2024–25

On an average day over the 9-year period between 2016–17 and 2024–25, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17:

- under youth justice supervision fell from 150 to 109 per 10,000, while the non-Indigenous rate fell from 9.5 to 5.4 per 10,000 (Table S12a)
- under community-based supervision fell from 122 to 85 per 10,000 (Table S45a)
- in detention fell from 29 to 26 per 10,000 (Table S83a).

Nationally, between 2016–17 and 2024–25, the rate of detention for First Nations young people remains above the levels required to meet [Closing the Gap Target 11](#) "By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10–17 years) in detention by at least 30%", that is from 31.9 per 10,000 young people on an average day in 2018–19 to 22.3 per 10,000 young people by 2030–31 (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, 2020).

Between 2016–17 and 2024–25 the drop in the rate of young people under supervision on an average day for non-Indigenous young people was proportionally greater than that for First Nations young people. This means that First Nations over-representation rose (from 16 to 20 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Table S12a).

The over-representation of First Nations young people under youth justice supervision (as measured by the rate ratio) on an average day increased overall in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania between 2016–17 and 2024–25 and declined in Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia (Table S12a). Results for the smaller states and territories should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of First Nations and non-Indigenous young people under youth justice supervision.

The rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 under supervision fell overall in most states and territories between 2016–17 and 2024–25, except for Tasmania where rates fluctuated over the period. The largest falls were seen in Western Australia (from 252 to 125 per 10,000), Victoria (from 106 to 38 per 10,000) and South Australia (190 to 122 per 10,000) (Table S12a).

### References

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (2020), *Closing the Gap report 2020*, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, accessed 13 April 2026. <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au>





# Characteristics of young people under supervision

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## Age and sex

The majority of young people under supervision on an average day in 2024–25 were male (80%) (Figure 4.1; Table S2a). This proportion was higher among those in detention (90%) than among those supervised in the community (77%) (Tables S35a and S73a).

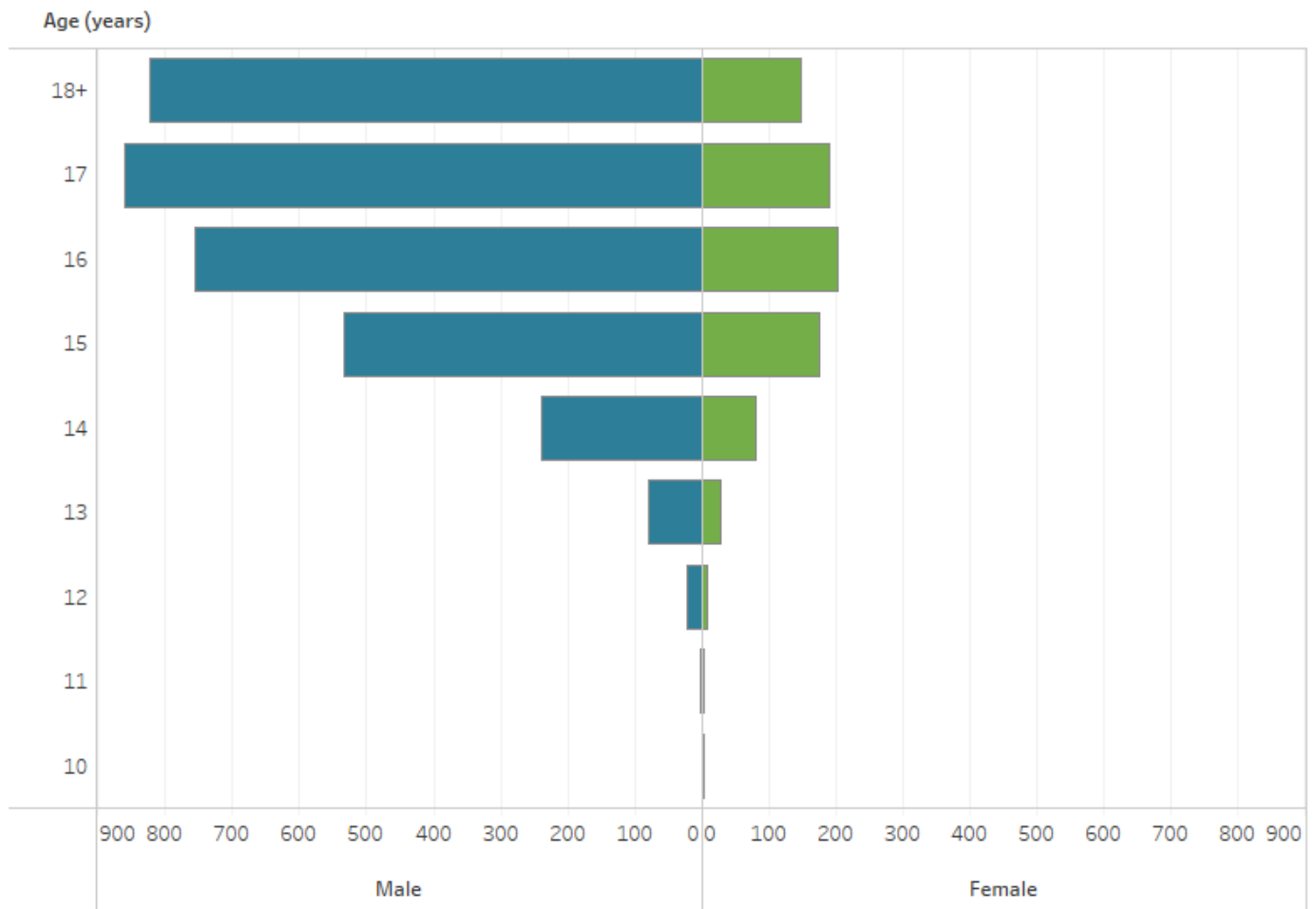
Among young people aged 10–17, males (18 per 10,000) were 3 times as likely as females (5.3 per 10,000) to be under supervision on an average day (Table S4a).

Males under supervision substantially outnumbered females in all states and territories. The proportion of young males under supervision on an average day ranged from 70% of young people under supervision in Tasmania to 90% in Victoria (Table S2a).

Almost 3 in 4 (73%) young people under supervision on an average day were aged 14–17 (Figure 4.1; Table S7a). The number of young people under supervision was highest among those aged 17 (1,051 young people) (Figure 4.1; Table S5a). Of young people aged 10–17, the rate of young people under supervision was highest among those aged 17 (31 per 10,000) (Table S6a). About one quarter (23%) of young people under supervision on an average day were aged 18 and over and 3.4% were aged 10–13 (Table S7a).

Similarly, most young people under community-based supervision were aged 14–17 (72%) and 18 and over (25%), while a small proportion were aged 10–13 (3.1%) (Table S40a). This was also the case for young people in detention, although there were higher proportions of young people aged 10–13 (4.7%) and 14–17 (81%), and a lower proportion aged 18 and over (15%) (Table S78a).

Figure 4.1: Young people under supervision on an average day, by age and sex, 2024–25 (number)



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

### Notes

1. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
2. The number of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for all supervision.

Source: table S5a.

The age profiles of young people under supervision varied among the states and territories. Queensland had the largest proportion of young people aged 10–13 under supervision on an average day (5.5%), followed by Western Australia (5.2%) (Table S7a).

In Victoria, some young people aged 18–20 may be sentenced to detention in a youth facility (known as the 'dual track' system), which results in a comparatively older population compared with other states and territories, on average (45% aged 18 and over and 0.3% aged 10–13) (Table S7a).

A greater proportion of males were in the older age groups (aged 18 and over) than females (Figure 4.1). In 2024–25, 25% of males under supervision were aged 18 and over, compared with 18% of females (Table S5a).

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## Remoteness area

### Defining rural and remote

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The [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\) Remoteness Structure](#) (ABS 2021) defines remoteness areas in 5 classes of relative remoteness:

- *Major cities*
- *Inner regional*
- *Outer regional*
- *Remote*
- *Very remote.*

These remoteness areas are centred on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia, which is based on the road distances people have to travel for services (ABS 2021).

On an average day in 2024–25, most young people under supervision were living in *Major cities* (54%), or *Inner regional* or *Outer regional* areas (34%) before entering supervision (based on their postcode of last address) (Table S21a).

About 7.7% had lived in *Remote* or *Very remote* areas. A remoteness area could not be determined for 4.8% of young people.

These data contrast with young people aged 10–17 in the general population, where a higher proportion were living in *Major cities* (71%) and lower proportions were living in *Inner regional* or *Outer regional* areas (26%) and in *Remote* or *Very remote* areas (2.0%) (Tables S144 and S148).

On an average day in 2024–25, First Nations young people under supervision were most likely to have lived in *Inner regional* or *Outer regional* areas (45%), followed by *Major cities* (38%), and then *Remote* or *Very remote* areas (13%) (Table S21a).

Non-Indigenous young people under supervision on an average day were most likely to have lived in *Major cities* (71%), followed by *Inner regional* or *Outer regional* areas (22%), and then *Remote* or *Very remote* areas (0.7%) (Table S21a).

Patterns were similar for community-based supervision and detention (Tables S56a and S96a).

Although most young people under supervision had come from cities and regional areas, those from geographically remote areas had the highest rates of supervision.

On an average day in 2024–25, young people aged 10–17 who were from *Very Remote* areas (88 per 10,000) were about 10 times as likely to be under supervision as those from *Major cities* (8.8 per 10,000) (Figure 4.2; Table S22c).

This pattern was similar for young people under community-based supervision and in detention.

On an average day, young people aged 10–17 from *Remote* areas were about:

- 5 times as likely as those from *Major cities* to be under community-based supervision (Table S57c)
- 6 times as likely to be in detention (Figure 4.2; Table S97c).

Young people aged 10–17 from *Very remote* areas were about:

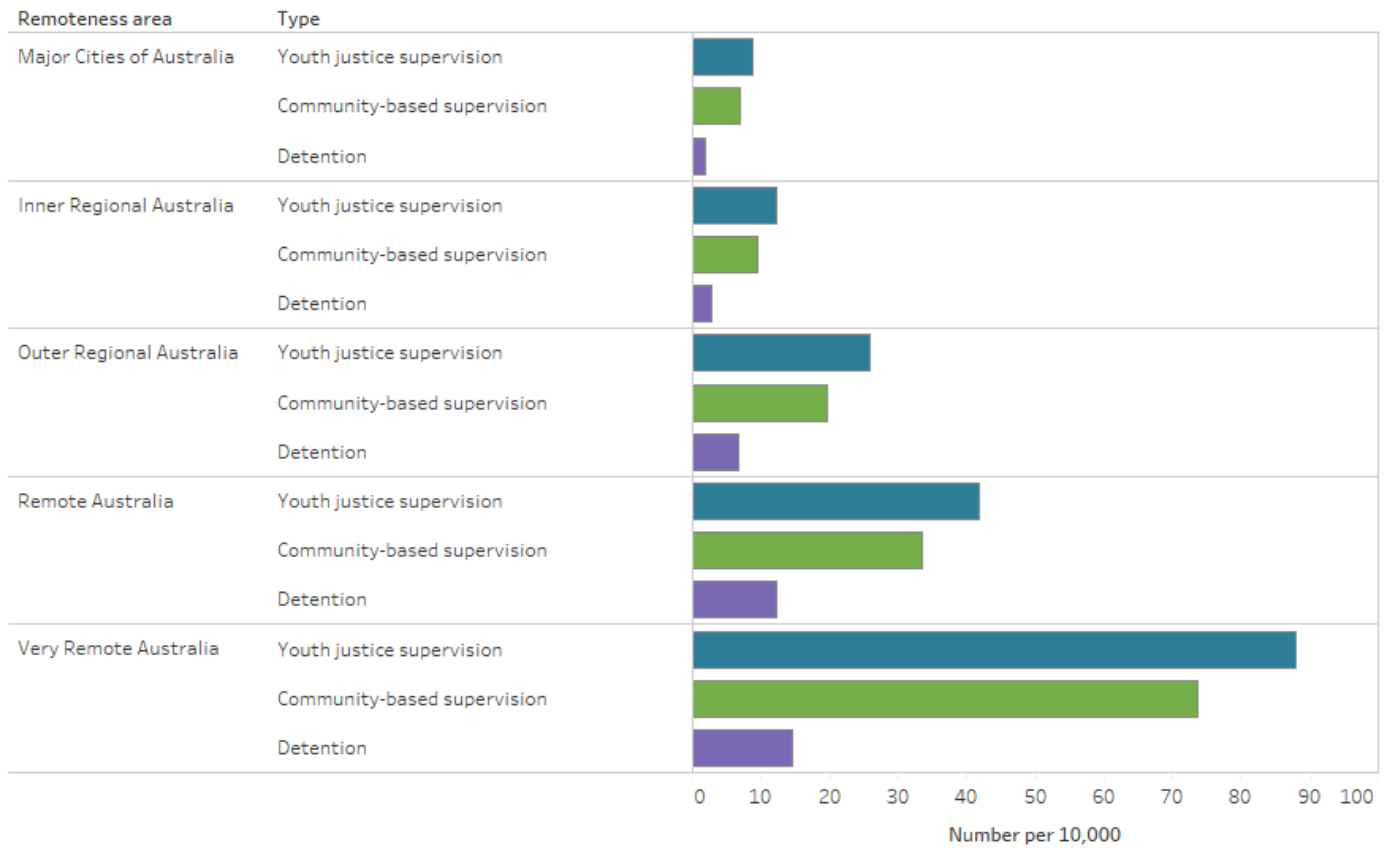
- 11 times as likely as those from *Major cities* to be under community-based supervision (Table S57c)
- 8 times as likely to be in detention (Figure 4.2; Table S97c).

While First Nations young Australians comprise of almost 7% of the total youth population, they make up around 56% of those under supervision (Tables S35b and S142). In 2021, the proportion of the total population who were First Nations increased with remoteness, comprising 30% of the population in *Remote* areas and nearly half of the total population in *Very remote* areas (AIHW, 2025; AIHW, 2025a).

People in remote and very remote areas of Australia face higher levels of relative disadvantage compared to those in major cities (ABSa, 2021). Higher rates of young people under supervision most often lived in lower socioeconomic areas before entering supervision.

These factors, amongst others, contribute to *Remote* and *Very remote* areas being associated with a greater likelihood for youth justice supervision.

Figure 4.2: Young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by remoteness of usual residence and supervision type, Australia, 2024–25 (rate)



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes

1. Remoteness area could not be determined for 4.9% of young people under youth justice supervision.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2024–25 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.

Source: tables S22c, S57c and S97c.

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2021) *Remoteness structure*, ABS, Australian Government.

— (2021a), *Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia*, ABS Website, accessed 14 March 2026.

AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) (2025). *Profile of First Nations people*, AIHW, Australian Government, accessed 16 March 2026.

— (2025a). *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework: summary report June 2025*. AIHW: Australian Government. Accessed 16 March 2026.

## Socioeconomic area

This report uses a 5-group ranking to measure the socioeconomic area in which a young person lives. Area 1 represents the population living in the lowest socioeconomic areas, with the greatest level of disadvantage (that is 20% of the population that live in the lowest socioeconomic areas). Area 5 represents the population living in highest socioeconomic areas with the lowest level of disadvantage, or the 20% of the population that live in the highest socioeconomic areas. The postcode of a young person's last known address is used to determine their socioeconomic area.

A socioeconomic area could be determined for about 96% of young people in the data set (for more information, see the Glossary and Appendix 1).

Young people under youth justice supervision in 2024–25 most often lived in lower socioeconomic areas before entering supervision. Nearly 2 in 5 young people (38%) under supervision on an average day were from the lowest socioeconomic area (area 1), compared with only 5.9% from the highest socioeconomic areas (area 5) (Table S23a).

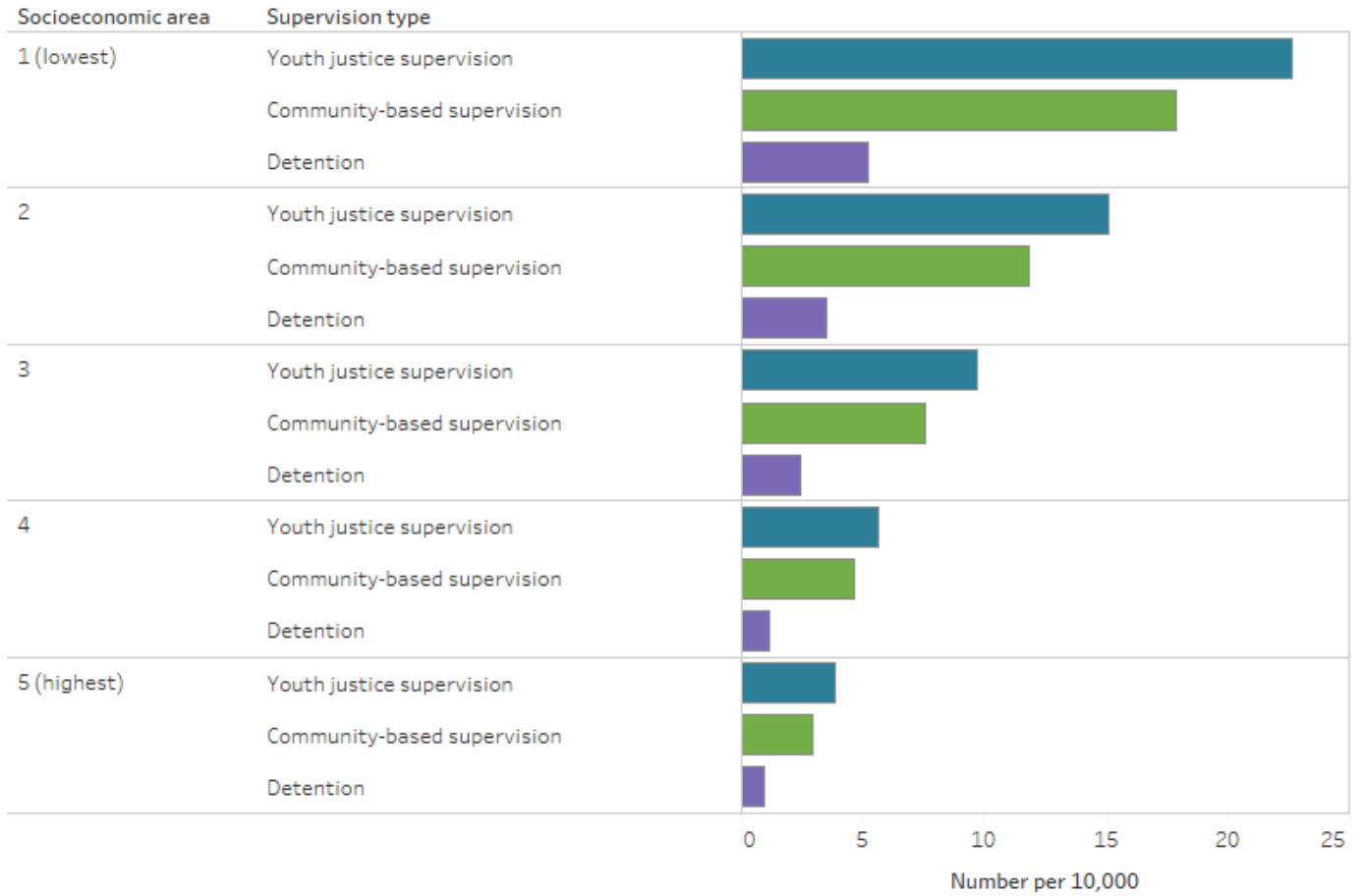
On an average day in 2024–25, 23 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 from the lowest socioeconomic areas were under supervision compared with 3.8 per 10,000 from the highest socioeconomic areas (Figure 4.3; Table S24c).

This means that young people from the lowest socioeconomic areas were about 6 times as likely to be under supervision as those from the highest socioeconomic areas. The results were similar across supervision types (community-based supervision and detention).

More than 2 in 5 (45%) of young First Nations Australians lived in the lowest socioeconomic areas before entering supervision. This reflects the geographical distribution of First Nations population in Australia (Table S23a).

Almost 1 in 3 (31%) of non-Indigenous young people lived in the lowest socioeconomic areas before entering youth justice supervision (Table S23a).

Figure 4.3: Young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by socioeconomic area of usual residence and supervision type, Australia, 2024–25 (rate)



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes

1. Socioeconomic position could not be determined for 4.0% of young people under youth justice supervision.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2024–25 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.

Source: tables S24c, S59c and S99c.

## Community-based supervision

### In this section

- Unsentenced community-based supervision
- Sentenced community-based supervision

#### Availability of Northern Territory data for 2023–24 and 2024–25

The number of young people under youth justice supervision on an average day was unavailable for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 and 2024–25 for community-based supervision. The Australia total for these measures exclude the Northern Territory for both numbers and rates per 10,000. Community-based supervision during the year estimates are unaffected by this and are included in numbers and rates.

Northern Territory data on community-based orders is also unavailable in 2023–24 and 2024–25 and is excluded from the Australia total.

On an average day in 2024–25, 81% (3,358) of young people aged 10 and over under supervision were supervised in the community (Tables S35a and S7a).

Of those under community-based supervision on an average day aged 10 and over, about 1 in 5 (21%) were on unsentenced orders and more than 8 in 10 (82%) were on a sentenced order (Table S64a).

A total of 8,301 young people were under community-based supervision at some time during the year (Table S64b).

Young people who are supervised in the community may be on unsentenced or sentenced orders, and may be on multiple orders of different types at the same time. Community-based supervision may be interrupted by time spent in detention due to another offence or a breach of a supervised release or parole order.

In this chapter, proportions should be interpreted with caution, especially in the smaller jurisdictions as they may represent a very small number of young people.

### Unsentenced community-based supervision

Unsentenced community-based supervision orders include supervised bail (also known as conditional bail) and other orders such as home detention bail.

Supervised or conditional bail refers to the release of a young person into the community while awaiting the outcome of court action and may include conditions such as supervision, a curfew or a monetary bond. Information about unsupervised bail is not available in the YJ NMDS.

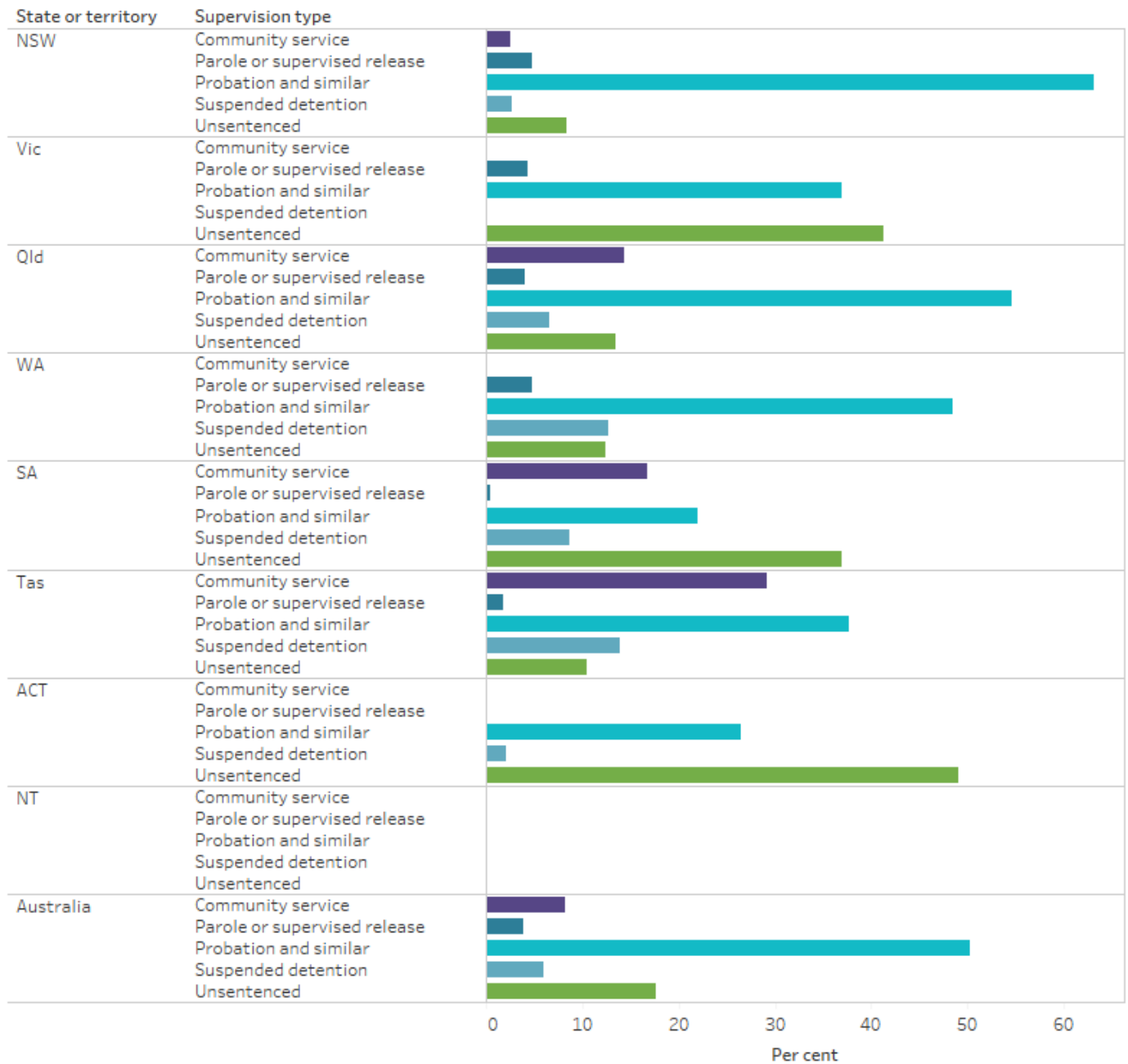
In 2024–25, 21% of young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day were on unsentenced orders (Figure 5.1; Table S64a).

Almost 1 in 5 (20%) First Nations young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day were on unsentenced orders (Table S64a).

Nearly 1 in 4 (23%) of non-Indigenous young people who were under community-based supervision on an average day were on unsentenced orders (Table S64a).

Among the states and territories, the proportion of young people under community-based supervision on an average day who were unsentenced ranged from 10% in New South Wales to 68% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table S64a).

Figure 5.1: Young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day, by type of supervision and state and territory, 2024–25



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes

1. Numerators are the number of young people on a particular community-based supervision order on an average day in each state and territory. Denominators are the total number of young people on all orders in each state and territory.
2. Unsentenced community-based supervision orders include supervised bail (also known as conditional bail), and other orders such as home detention bail.
3. Under the Young Offenders Act 1994 (WA), Western Australia does not operate with the terms ‘probation and similar’ or ‘suspended detention’, so these data should be interpreted with caution. For Western Australia, orders reported under ‘probation and similar’ consist of intensive youth supervision orders, youth community-based orders and adult community-based orders. Orders reported under ‘suspended detention’ include intensive youth supervision orders with detention.
4. Components might not sum to the total as young people might have been under supervision for multiple types of orders on the same day.
5. These data exclude young people under other types of orders.
6. The number of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for community-based supervision.

Source: table S60

Nationally, about 2 in 5 (42%) young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision during 2024–25 were on unsentenced community-based orders at some point during the year (Table S64b). About 1 in 2 (45%) First Nations young people aged 10 and over were on unsentenced community-based orders at some point during the year (Table S64b). For non-Indigenous young people, this statistic was 39%. The difference between the proportion on an average day and during the year reflects the relatively short duration of unsentenced orders compared with sentenced orders.

The national rate of young people aged 10–17 under unsentenced community-based supervision on an average day was 2.1 per 10,000 (Table S66a). Among the states and territories, rates ranged from 0.9 per 10,000 in New South Wales to 4.6 per 10,000 in South Australia (Figure 5.2; Table S66a).

The rate of young people aged 12–17 under unsentenced community-based supervision on an average day in the Australian Capital Territory was 8.8 per 10,000 (Table S66a).

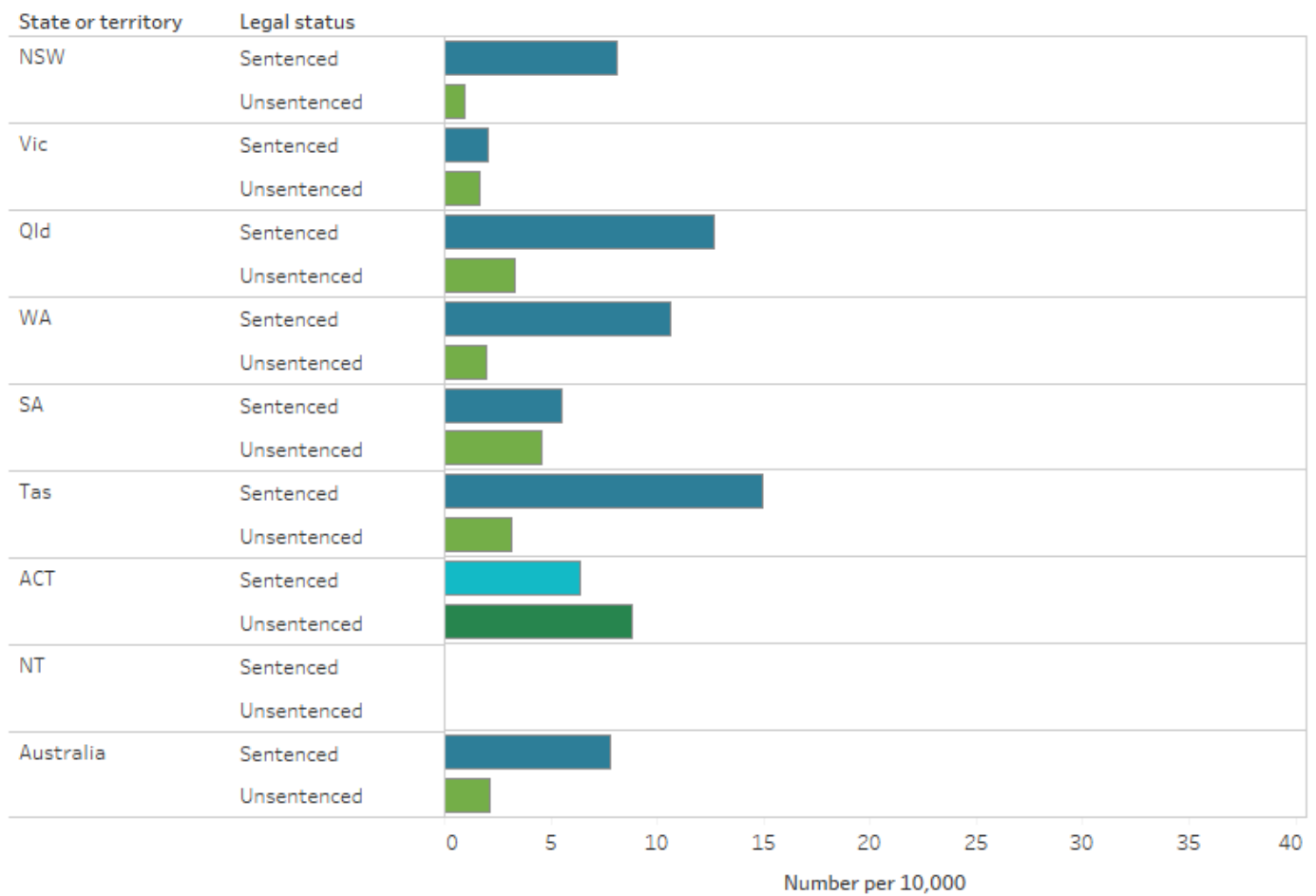
The national rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 in unsentenced community-based supervision on an average day was 18 per 10,000 (Table S66a). For the states and territories with data available, the rate ranged from 8.6 per 10,000 in New South Wales to 51 per 10,000 in South Australia (Table S66a).

For non-Indigenous young people, the national rate was 1.1 per 10,000, which ranged from 0.3 per 10,000 in New South Wales to 1.9 per 10,000 in South Australia (Table S66a).

The rate of First Nations young people aged 12–17 in unsentenced community-based supervision in the Australian Capital Territory was 98 per 10,000. For non-Indigenous young people, the rate was 5.8 per 10,000 (Table S66a).

Note that rates in the Australian Capital Territory for 2024–25 following the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility are not directly comparable with rates prior to 2023–24.

Figure 5.2: Young people under community-based supervision on an average day, by legal status and state and territory, 2024–25 (rate)



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

#### Notes

1. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
2. The number of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for community-based supervision.
3. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2024–25 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in 2023–24.

Source: table S66a.

Community-based supervision orders may end because:

- the specified term was successfully completed
- a sentence was handed down (for unsentenced community-based supervision, such as bail, only), or
- for other reasons, including because the young person breached the conditions of the order, or the order was varied or cancelled.

Where more complex cases are considered by the courts, sentencing decisions can take time, leading to extended or repeated bail orders. This also impacts how unsentenced community orders are ended.

In 2024–25, 69% of unsentenced community-based orders ended because they were successfully completed (Table S68). This ranged from 45% in South Australia to 96% in Victoria (Table S68).

About two-thirds (68%) of successfully completed unsentenced orders lasted fewer than 3 months. In those states and territories where the data was available the proportions ranged from 44% in Queensland to 90% in Western Australia (Table S68).

### **Sentenced community-based supervision**

In 2024–25, more than 8 in 10 (83%) young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day were on a sentenced order (Table S64a).

Of First Nations young people aged 10 and over, 85% who were under community-based supervision on an average day were serving a sentence. Table S64a Around 8 in 10 (80%) of non-Indigenous young people who were under community-based supervision on an average day were serving a sentence (Table S64a).

A similar proportion (80%) of young people were under sentenced community-based supervision during the year (Table S64b).

The rate of young people aged 10–17 who were under sentenced community-based supervision on an average day was 7.9 per 10,000. Among the states and territories, the rate was lowest in Victoria (2.0 per 10,000) and highest in Tasmania (15 per 10,000) (Figure 5.2; Table S66a)

The rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 in sentenced community-based supervision on an average day was 71 per 10,000. For the states and territories, this ranged from 18 per 10,000 in Victoria to 99 per 10,000 in Queensland (Table S66a).

For non-Indigenous young people, the national rate was 3.5, ranging from 1.7 per 10,000 in Victoria to 10 per 10,000 in Tasmania (Table S66a).

### **Probation and similar orders**

Probation and similar orders involve supervision by a youth justice agency for a specified period. Young people under these orders are often required to report to the agency regularly and be involved in treatment programs.

On an average day in 2024–25, half (50%) of young people aged 10 and over supervised in the community were serving a probation or similar order (Figure 5.1). This ranged from 22% in South Australia to 63% in New South Wales (Table S60).

In 2024–25, more than 4 in 5 (83%) probation and similar orders that ended were successfully completed (see Glossary) (Table S69). This proportion was lowest in the New South Wales (79%) and highest in South Australia (94%) (Table S69).

Almost 4 in 5 (77%) of successfully completed orders lasted for fewer than 12 months and the remainder lasted for 12 months or more (Table S69).

Almost 1 in 10 (9.2%) probation and similar orders ended due to a breach of conditions (Table S70). This proportion was lowest in the Queensland (6.4%) and highest in Western Australia (19%) (Table S70).

### **Suspended detention**

Under a suspended detention order, the young person remains in the community, as long as they do not breach conditions of the order or re-offend within a specified period. If the order is breached, they may be placed in detention.

On an average day in 2024–25, 6% of young people aged 10 and over under community-based supervision were serving a suspended detention order (Figure 5.1). This proportion was highest in Tasmania (14%) (Table S60).

Among the states and territories with data available and that issued suspended detention orders during 2024–25, the proportion that ended because they were successfully completed was highest in South Australia (77%) and lowest in Queensland (59%) (Table S71).

Successfully completed suspended detention orders were not published for the Australian Capital Territory due to small numbers, to protect the confidentiality of young people.

### **Parole or supervised release**

Parole or supervised release refers to supervision within the community following a period of detention.

On an average day in 2024–25, 3.9% of young people under community-based supervision were on parole or supervised release (Figure 5.1). This proportion was highest in New South Wales and Western Australia (4.8%) (Table S60).

## Detention

On an average day in 2024–25, 21% (860) of young people aged 10 and over who were under youth justice supervision were in detention. Of all young people in detention on an average day aged 10 and over, 4 in 5 were unsentenced (80%) and 1 in 4 young people in detention (23%) were in sentenced detention (Table S108a),

A total of 4,742 young people were in detention at some time during the year (Table S108b).

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## Unsentenced detention

### In this section

- Introduction
- Number and rate
- Completion of periods

As with community-based supervision, young people may be detained when they are unsentenced or sentenced. Some young people may also be in unsentenced and sentenced detention on the same day. This can occur when the young person has changed legal status or has both types of legal orders at the same time for different legal matters.

### Number and rate

Young people may be referred to unsentenced detention either by the police (pre-court) or by a court (remand). Young people enter remand when they have been either:

- charged with an offence and are awaiting the outcome of their court matter
- found guilty, or have pleaded guilty, and are awaiting sentencing.

Young people enter police-referred pre-court detention before their initial court appearance. Police-referred pre-court detention is not available in all states and territories and most young people in unsentenced detention are on remand.

On an average day in 2024–25, of all young people in detention aged 10 and over, 4 in 5 were unsentenced (80%) (Figure 6.1). In all states and territories, a substantial proportion of those in detention on an average day were unsentenced – ranging from 60% in Victoria to 100% in the Northern Territory (Table 108a).

The lower proportion in Victoria (60%) is largely due to the state's 'dual track' sentencing system, which allows some young people aged 18–20 to be sentenced to detention in a youth facility rather than in an adult prison if the young person is particularly impressionable, immature or likely to be subject to undesirable influences in adult prison. When only young people aged 10–17 are considered, a similar proportion of those in detention in Victoria and nationally on an average day were unsentenced (86% and 87%, respectively) (Table S109a).

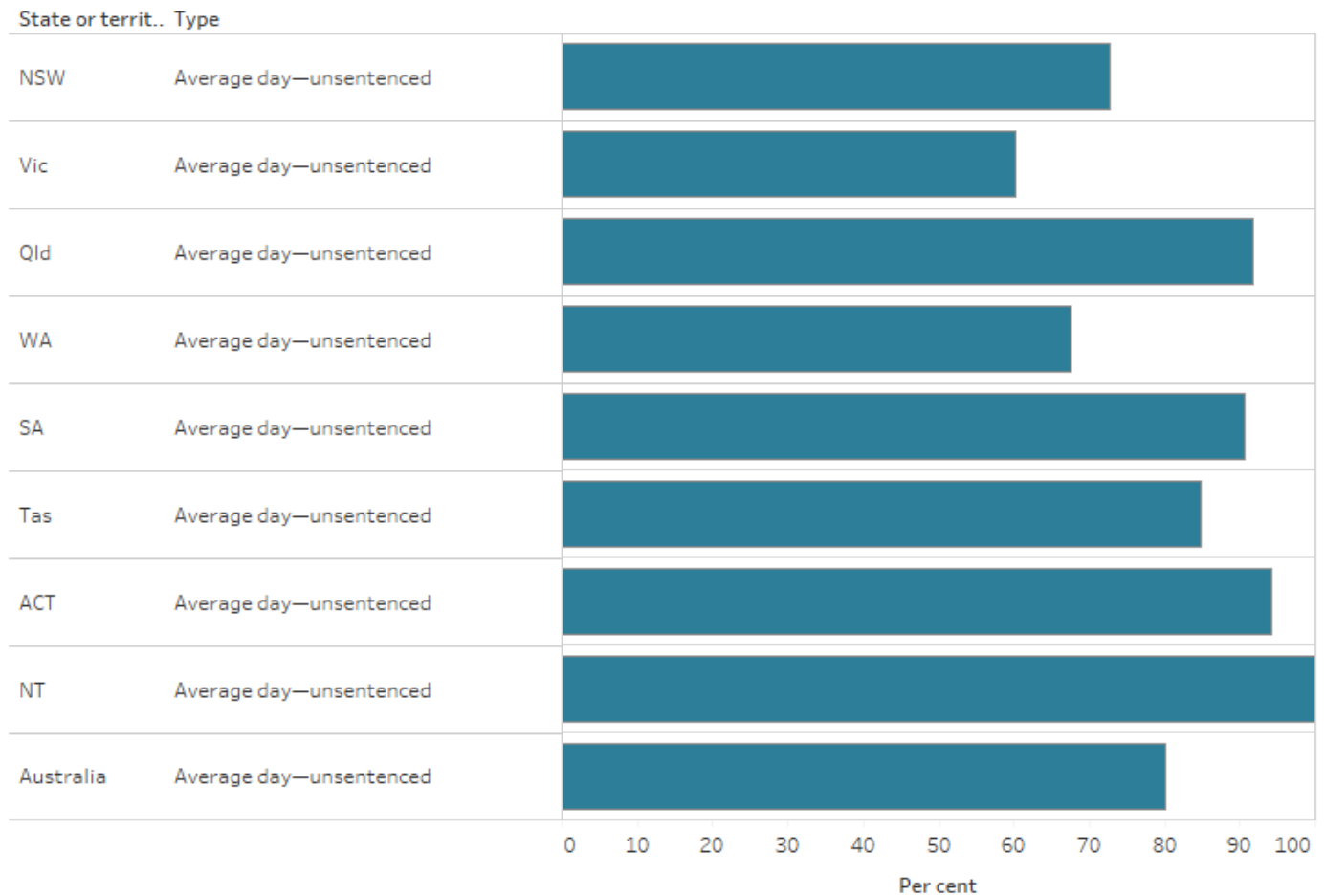
More than 9 in 10 (97%) young people who were in detention during 2024–25 had been in unsentenced detention at some time during the year. This highlights the typically shorter duration of periods of unsentenced detention compared with sentenced detention (Table 108b).

On an average day in 2024–25, more than 4 in 5 (84%) First Nations young people in detention aged 10 and over were unsentenced (Table S108a). Almost all (98%) of First Nations young people in detention during 2024–25 had been in unsentenced detention at some time during the year (Table S108b).

For non-Indigenous young people, this proportion was 3 in 4 (75%) (Table S108a). More than 9 in 10 (95%) of non-Indigenous young people in detention during 2024–25 had been in unsentenced detention at some time during 2024–25 (Table S108b).

A similar proportion of First Nations and non-Indigenous young people aged 10–17 who had been in detention through the year, had been in unsentenced detention at some point during the year (99% and 98% respectively) (S109b).

Figure 6.1: Young people aged 10 and over in unsentenced detention on an average day as a proportion of all young people in detention, by state and territory, 2024–25



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes

1. Numerators are the number of young people in unsentenced detention on an average day for each state and territory. Denominators are the total number of young people in detention on an average day for each state and territory.
2. In the Northern Territory, sentenced periods were backdated to take into account time spent in unsentenced detention. This has resulted in a large number of young people reported as being in sentenced and unsentenced detention at the same time and an over-count of young people in sentenced detention.

Source: tables S108a and S108b.

Nationally, on an average day in 2024–25, most (97%) young people aged 10 and over in unsentenced detention were on remand, awaiting the outcome of their court matters (Table S108a). The remainder were in police-referred pre-court detention awaiting their initial court appearance (see Glossary for definitions), which was available in some jurisdictions (New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory).

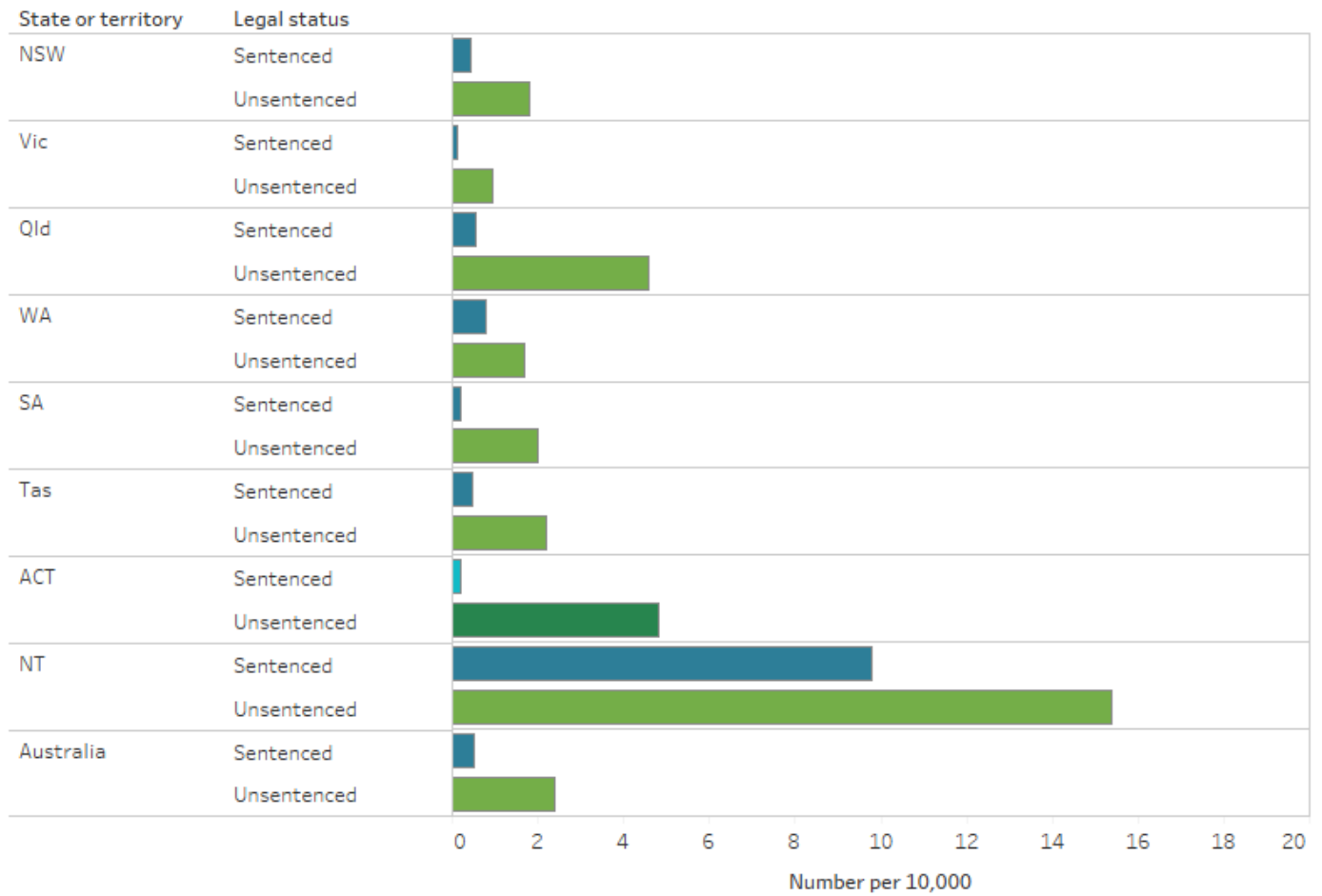
In those states and territories where the data was available, the proportion of young people in police-referred pre-court detention ranged from 12% of those who had been in unsentenced detention during the year in Queensland to 83% of those in the Australian Capital Territory (Table S108b).

Three-in-five (60%) young people in unsentenced detention aged 10 and over on an average day were First Nations (Table S108a). This proportion varied substantially among the states and territories, from 15% in Victoria to 93% in the Northern Territory (Table S108a).

The rate of young people aged 10–17 in unsentenced detention on an average day in 2024–25 was 2.4 per 10,000 (Figure 6.2). Among the states and territories, this rate was lowest in Victoria (1.0 per 10,000) and highest in the Northern Territory (15.4 per 10,000) (Table s110a).

Rates of unsentenced detention on an average day were higher than sentenced detention in all states and territories.

Figure 6.2: Young people aged 10-17 in detention on an average day, by legal status and state and territory, 2024-25 (rate)



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes

1. In the Northern Territory, sentenced periods were backdated to take into account time spent in unsentenced detention. This resulted in a large number of young people reported as being in sentenced and unsentenced detention at the same time and an over-count of young people in sentenced detention.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in Youth justice in Australia releases before 2019-20.

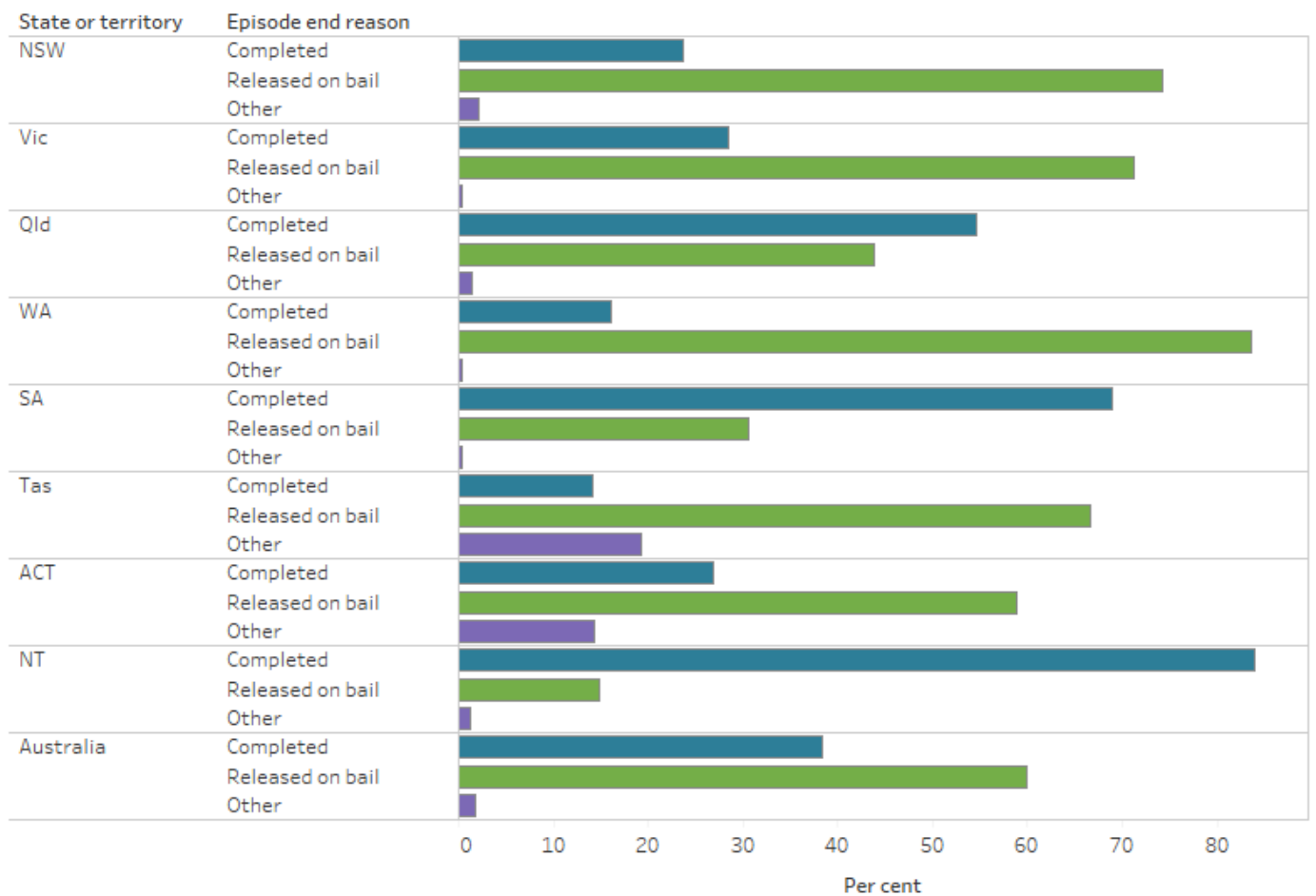
Source: table S110a.

**Completion of periods**

Of remand periods (unsentenced detention) that ended in 2024-25, 3 in 5 (60%) ended because the young person was released on bail (Figure 6.3; Table S118).

The proportion of remand periods that ended with release on bail was lowest in the Northern Territory (15%) and highest in Western Australia (84%) (Table S118).

Figure 6.3: Periods of remand by end reason and state and territory, 2024-25



\* Data have been suppressed.

<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: table S118.

Almost 2 in 5 (38%) remand periods ended because they were completed (see Glossary) (Table S118). This was higher for First Nations young people than non-Indigenous young people (44% and 30%, respectively). The remaining periods ended for other reasons, including transfer (which can include transfer to another youth detention centre, the adult system or interstate) (Table S118).

## Sentenced detention

### In this section

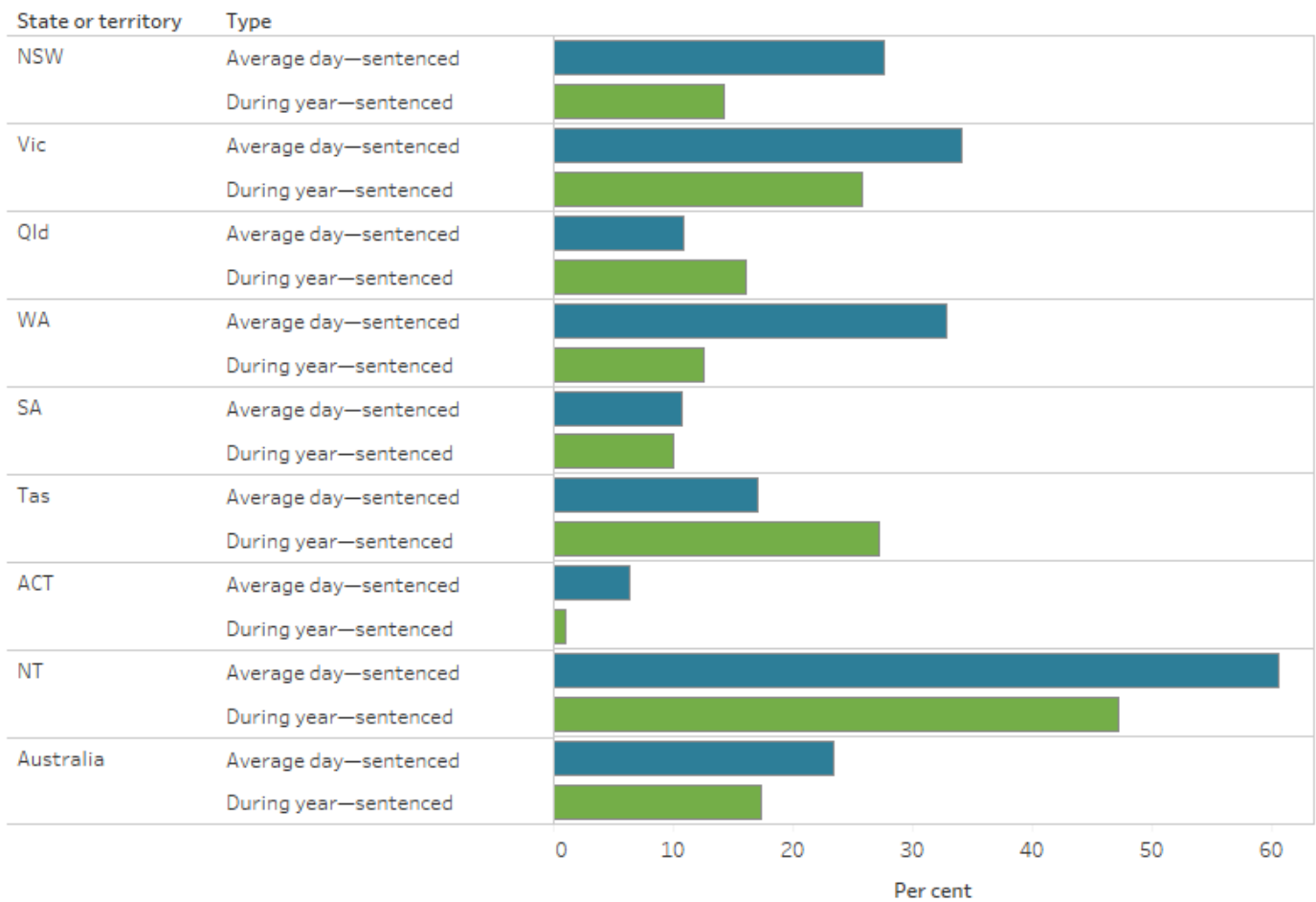
- Introduction
- Number and rate
- Completion of periods

Young people may be sentenced to detention if they are judged to be guilty, or plead guilty, in court. Sentenced detention comprises young people who have received control orders or youth residential orders or who have had their parole revoked (which can be due to re-offending or non-compliance with parole conditions).

### Number and rate

On an average day in 2024–25, around 1 in 4 young people in detention (23%) were in sentenced detention (Figure 6.4). Among the states and territories, this ranged from 6.3% in the Australian Capital Territory to 60% in the Northern Territory (Table S108a).

Figure 6.4: Young people aged 10 and over in sentenced detention on an average day and during the year as a proportion of all young people in detention, by state and territory, 2024–25



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

### Notes

1. Numerators are the number of young people in sentenced detention on an average day or during the year by state and territory. Denominators are the number of young people in detention on an average day or during the year by state and territory.
2. In the Northern Territory, sentenced periods were backdated to take into account time spent in unsentenced detention. This resulted in a large number of young people reported as being in sentenced and unsentenced detention at the same time and an over-count of young people in sentenced detention.

Source: table S108.

Nationally, almost 3 in 5 (57%) young people in sentenced detention on an average day identified as being First Nations (Table S108a). This proportion varied considerably among the states and territories.

On an average day in 2024–25, the rate of young people aged 10–17 in sentenced detention was 0.5 per 10,000 (Table S110a). Among the states and territories for which rates could be calculated, rates were lowest in Victoria (0.1 per 10,000) and highest in the Northern Territory (9.8 per 10,000) (Table S110a).

### Completion of periods

Almost half (49%) of sentenced detention periods that ended in 2024–25 ended because the young person was released on parole (also known as supervised release) (Table S123). This proportion was lower for First Nations young people than non-Indigenous young people (46% and 57%, respectively) (Table S123).

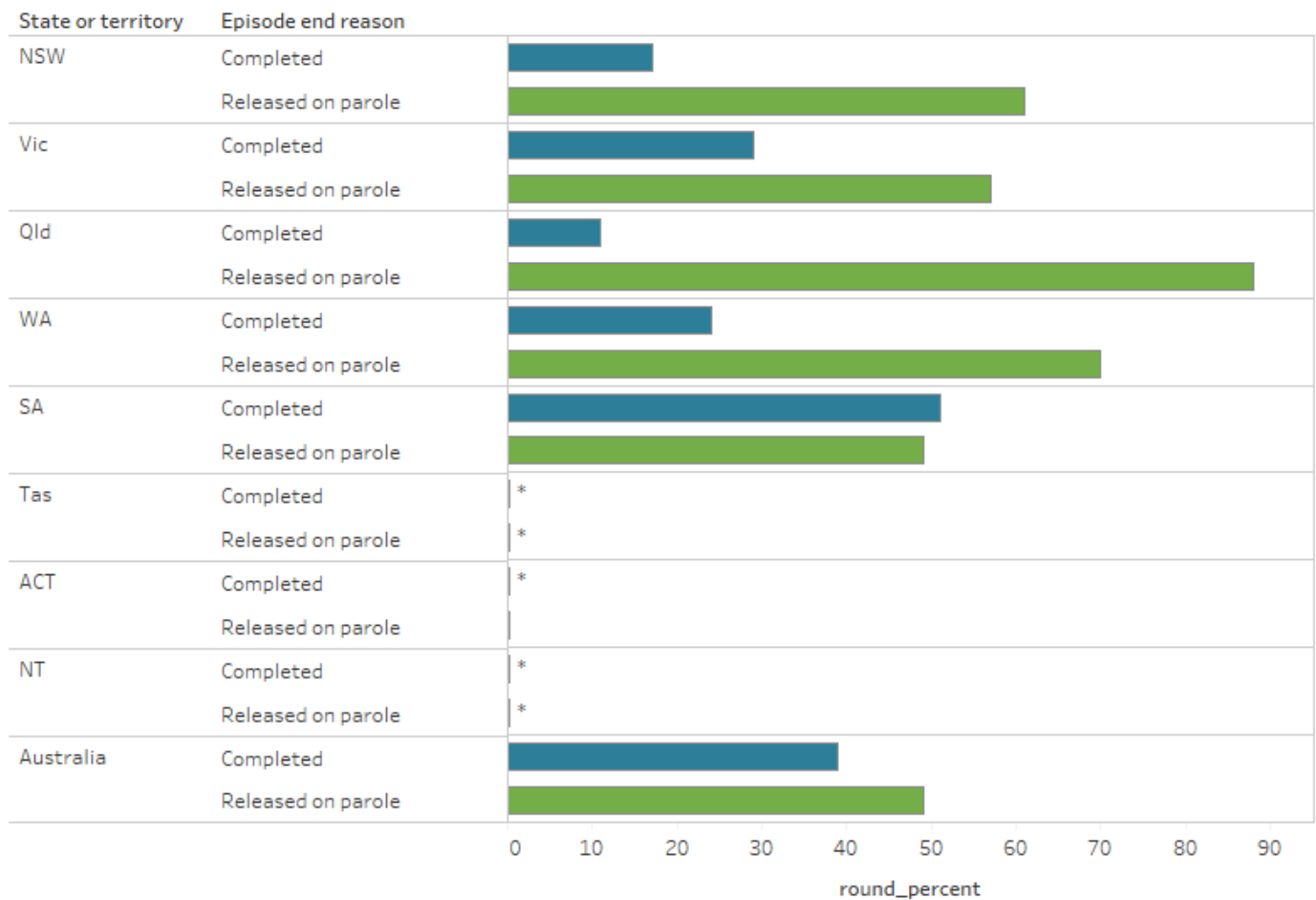
Almost half (46%) of First Nations young people in sentenced detention were released on parole. This proportion was similar among First Nations young people whose sentenced detention ended due to completion (44%). The remaining periods (10%) ended for other reasons, including transfer (which can include transfer to another youth detention centre, the adult system or interstate) (Table S123).

Two-in-five (39%) of sentenced detention periods ended with the period being completed (see Glossary). This proportion was higher for First Nations young people than non-Indigenous young people (44% and 27%, respectively) (Table S123).

The states and territories varied:

- In New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia more than half (57–88%) of sentenced detention periods ended with the young person being released on parole (Table S123).
- In South Australia, 49% of sentenced detention periods ended with the young person being released on parole, whilst the other periods (51%) ended with the period being completed (Figure 6.5; Table S123).

Figure 6.5: Sentenced detention ending with either sentence completion or release on parole (supervised release), by state and territory, 2024–25



\* Data have been suppressed.

<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

### Notes

1. Numerators are the number of sentenced detention periods that were completed or ended because the young person was released on parole, by state and territory. Denominators are the number of periods of sentenced detention, by state and territory.
2. In some states and territories, a minimum duration of sentenced detention applies before a young person may be considered eligible for supervised release or parole. This affects the results and comparability.

Source: table S123.

## Detention entries and exits

In this report:

- a 'reception' is when a young person enters detention (either sentenced or unsentenced), having not been detained immediately before
- a 'release' is when a young person leaves detention and is not detained immediately afterwards.

That is, to account for young people transported to court who return to detention after their court hearing, and young people transferred between detention centres, the start of a detention period is considered a reception only when it starts at least 2 full days after the end of the previous detention period.

Similarly, the end of a detention period is considered a release only when it ends at least 2 full days before the start of the next detention period. A change in legal status – for example, from unsentenced to sentenced detention within 2 days – is not counted as a new reception.

A release from detention comprises young people being released either to community-based supervision (such as on parole or supervised release) or out of youth justice supervision altogether (on sentence completion).

There may be a small number of young people who are counted as having a reception or release if their travel time is longer than 2 full days when travelling to and from remote locations.

### Receptions

In 2024–25, 4,395 young people experienced 8,848 receptions into detention (Tables S103a and S103b). Among all young people in detention in 2024–25, 93% were received at some point during the year, with an average of about 2 receptions per young person, reflecting the short durations of detention periods. The remaining others were received in a previous year (Table S103b).

Almost half (46%) of young people who were received into detention during the year were received more than once (Table S105a).

Most receptions (98%) were for young people entering unsentenced detention, which consists of police-referred pre-court detention and remand (Table S103a).

Just over two-thirds of receptions (70%) were for remand, almost one-third (28%) were for police-referred pre-court detention and 1.6% were for sentenced detention (Table S103a).

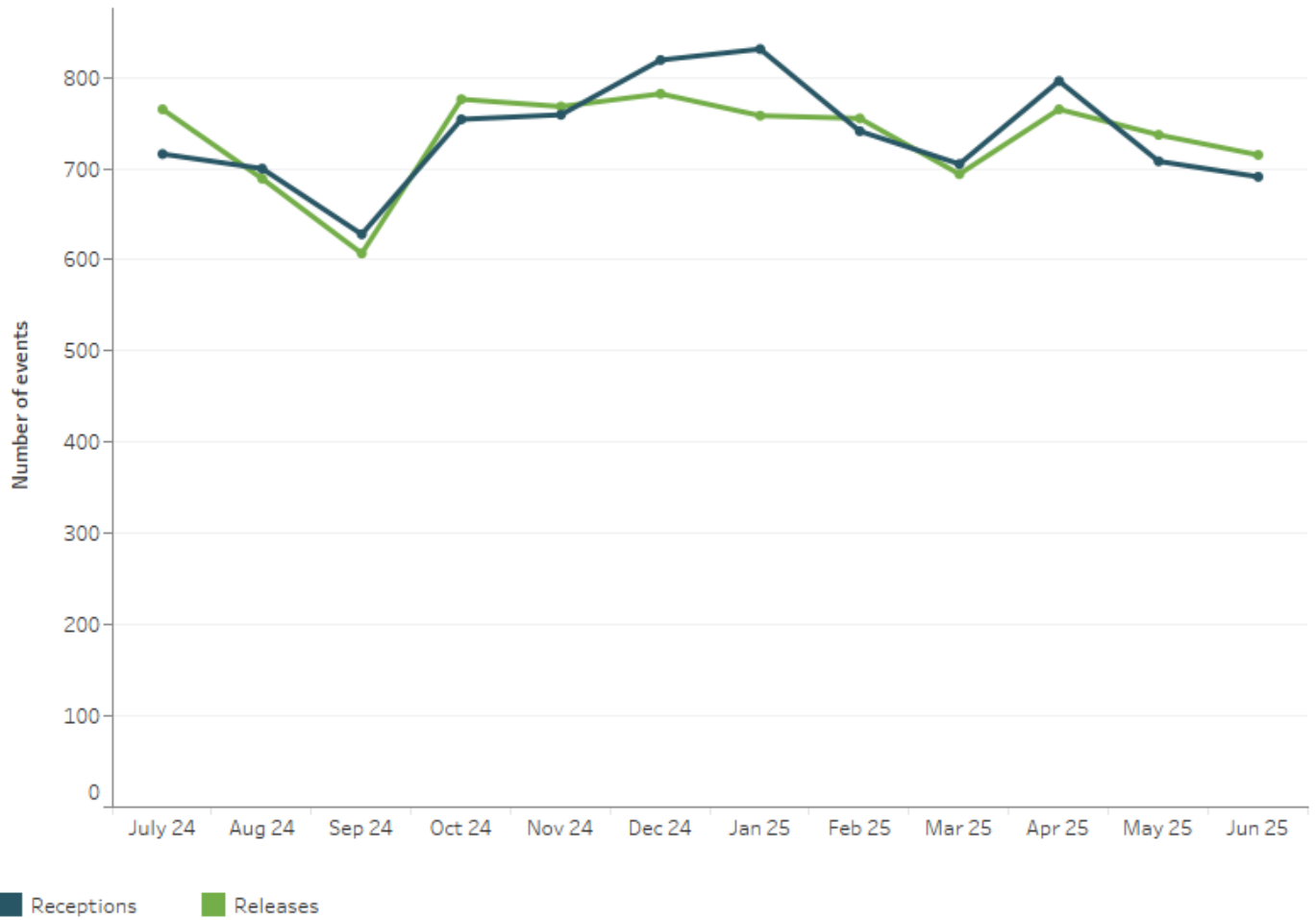
About 1 in 6 (17%) young people in sentenced detention during 2024–25 were received during the year (Table S103a and S108b). This indicates that the others were either received into sentenced detention in a previous year, or were in unsentenced detention immediately before they began their period of sentenced detention (and their sentenced period started within 2 days of their non-sentenced period ending).

### Releases

In 2024–25, 4,477 young people experienced 8,811 releases from detention. The vast majority of young people (94%) who were detained during the year were released at least once, with an average of 2 releases per young person (Tables S72b, S104a and S104b). Similar to receptions, 91% of releases were from unsentenced detention. About 3 in 4 releases (73%) were from remand and 17% were from police-referred pre-court detention (Table S104a). The proportion of releases from sentenced detention (8.0%) was higher than the proportion of receptions to sentenced detention (1.6%) (Tables S103a and S104a).

In 2024–25, the numbers of receptions and releases were closely aligned each month, despite some fluctuations (Figure 6.6). The highest number of receptions (831) occurred in January 2025, and the highest number for releases (782) occurred in December 2024 (Tables S107a and S107b).

Figure 6.6: Monthly trends in youth detention receptions and releases, Australia, 2024-25



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: table S107.

## Time under supervision

### Availability of Northern Territory data for 2023–24 and 2024–25

Northern Territory data are unavailable in 2023–24 and 2024–25 and excluded from the Australia total for these measures:

- Orders.
- Supervision periods (all supervision and community-based supervision).
- Time under supervision (all supervision and community-based supervision).

## Orders and supervision periods

### Supervised orders

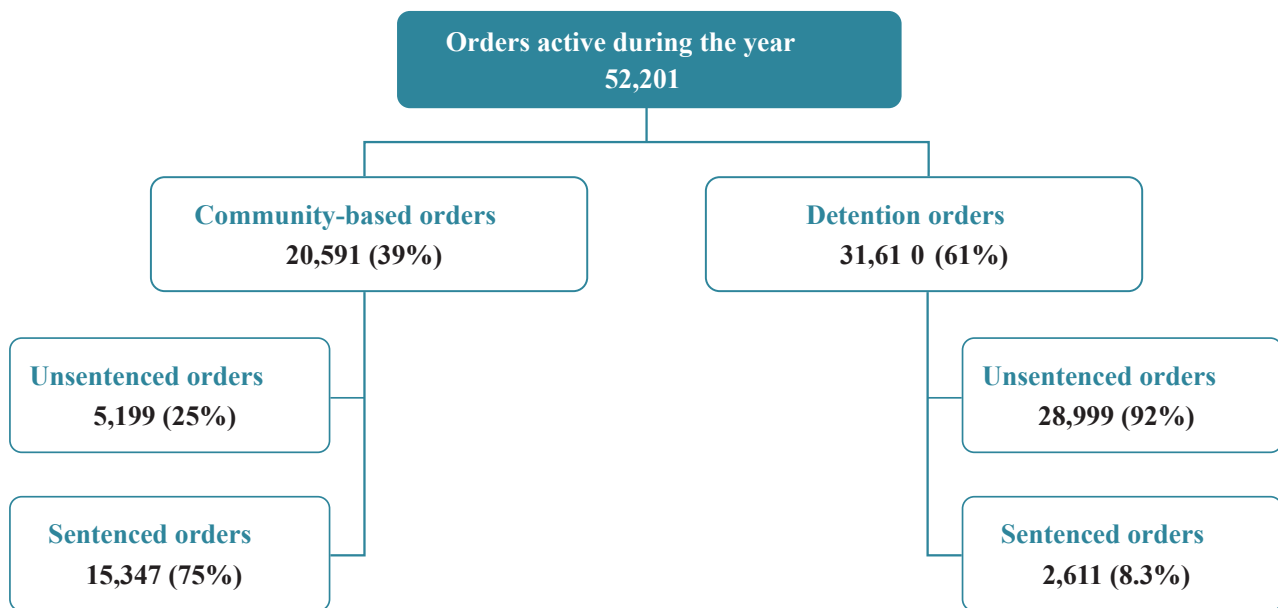
In 2024–25, the 9,579 young people under youth justice supervision during the year were supervised under 52,201 sentenced and unsentenced orders (Tables S1b and S25).

Although most (81%) young people were supervised in the community on an average day in 2024–25, detention orders were the most common type of order active in the same year (61%) (Figure 7.1; Tables S1a, 2.1, S34a and S25).

This difference between the most common type of supervision on an average day and the most common type of order during the year reflects differences in the typical durations of each type of order. Sentenced community-based orders typically last longer than unsentenced detention orders and, as a result, young people on community-based supervision orders make up a larger proportion of the average daily count than those on detention orders.

Of all detention orders active during the year, most (92%) were unsentenced, while most community-based orders were sentenced (75%). Orders are active if they start, end or are ongoing during the reference period (Table S25).

**Figure 7.1: Supervised orders, by type of order and legal status, 2024–25**



#### Notes

1. Totals for community-based orders, detention orders and orders active during the year include orders with 'other' legal status.
2. Northern Territory orders data is not available for 2024-25.

Source: table S25.

#### Extended description for Figure 7.1

This diagram/flowchart starts with 1 box, 'orders active during the year', which shows that there are 52,201 total orders. This first box is then split into 2 streams, that is, 'community-based orders', of which there are 20,591 orders (or 39% of all orders), and 'detention orders', of which there are 31,610 orders (61% of orders).

The 'community-based orders' stream is broken down into 2 boxes for 'unsentenced orders' and 'sentenced orders'. There are 5,199 unsentenced orders (25% of community-based orders) and 15,347 sentenced orders (75% of community-based orders).

The 'detention orders' stream is also broken down into 2 boxes for 'unsentenced orders' and 'sentenced orders'. There are 28,999 unsentenced orders (92% of detention orders) and 2,611 sentenced orders (8.3% of sentenced orders).

In 2024–25:

- Detention orders comprised the majority of active orders in New South Wales (68%) and the Australian Capital Territory (62%) (Table S25)
- Tasmania (57%) and South Australia (49%) had the largest proportions of active orders that were community-based (Table S25).

About two-thirds (68%) of young people under supervision during 2024–25 had multiple supervision orders during the year (Table S26c). More than one-third (37%) of young people had both community-based supervision and detention orders during the year (Tables S26a, S26b and S26c).

During 2024–25, there were:

- 52,201 active orders (Table S25) for the 9,579 young people under supervision (Table S20), an average of 5.4 orders per young person

- 20,591 community orders (Table S25) for the 8,301 young people under community-based supervision (Table S34b), an average of 2.5 community orders per young person
- 31,610 detention orders (Table S25) for the 4,742 young people in detention (Table S72), an average of 6.7 detention orders per young person (Tables 2.1 and S25).

Of those under supervision, First nations young people were more likely to have multiple supervision orders (72%) than their non-Indigenous counterparts (65%) (Table S26c).

Young people under community-based supervision were more likely than those in detention to have had only one order (45% compared with 19%) (Tables S26a and S26b). About 2 in 5 (39%) young people in detention had 6 or more detention orders within the year, and about 1 in 8 (12%) young people under community-based supervision had 6 or more community-based orders (Tables S26a and S26b).

## Periods of supervision

In this report, a period of supervision refers to an amount of time spent under continuous supervision of any type. A period of supervision may be made up of 1 or more community and/or detention orders. A period of community-based supervision or detention may be made up of 1 or more orders of that specified type.

Young people may be on any number and type of orders at any time, but they might not serve the originally specified duration of these orders for several reasons. For example, a community order might not be served entirely in the community when there is a concurrent detention order; in which case, the young person may be supervised in detention.

The original duration of a sentenced detention order might also not be served in a detention facility – for example, where the young person is released on parole or supervised release. This report looks at the actual time spent under each type of supervision.

In 2024–25, the 9,579 young people under supervision during the year (Table S1b) received 11,635 periods of supervision (continuous supervision of any type), an average of about 1.2 periods per person (Tables 2.1 and S27).

Among the 5,521 young people who completed a period of supervision in 2024–25 most (80%) completed only 1 period (Table S28).

About 2 in 3 (63%, or 5,259 of 8,301) young people who were under community-based supervision during the year completed at least 1 period of community-based supervision (Tables S34b and S61). Of the young people who completed a period of community-based supervision in 2024–25, about 7 in 10 (73%) young people completed only 1 period of community-based supervision (Table S61).

More than 9 in 10 (95%, or 4,482 of 4,742) young people who were in detention during the year completed at least 1 period of detention, and 43% (2,052 of 4,742) completed at least 2 periods of detention (Tables S72b and S100). Of those young people who completed a period of detention, more than half (54%) completed only 1 period of detention (Table S100). Of young people in detention, just over 1 in 7 (14%) completed at least 1 period of sentenced detention (Tables S72b and S121) and most (93%) completed a period of unsentenced detention (Tables 7.1, S72b and S115).

**Table 7.1: Proportion of young people who completed only 1 or at least 1 period of youth justice supervision, by supervision type**

Type of supervision	Completed only 1 period <sup>(a)</sup>	Completed at least 1 period <sup>(b)(c)</sup>
All supervision	81%	58%
Community	73%	63%
Detention	54%	94%
• Sentenced	76%	14%
• Unsentenced	53%	93%

(a) Denominator is all young people who completed a period of youth justice supervision of that type.

(b) Denominator is all young people in that supervision type

(c) For young people in sentenced and unsentenced detention the denominator is all young people in detention

Note: Completed supervision periods for all supervision and community-based supervision are not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24.

Source: tables S1b, S28, S34b, S61, S72b, S100, S115 and S121.

Young people who completed a period of unsentenced detention during the year completed 2 periods of unsentenced detention on average. Those who completed a period of sentenced detention, completed 1.4 periods of sentenced detention on average (Table S122).

First Nations young people (22%) were more likely than non-Indigenous young people (16%) to have completed multiple periods of supervision (Table S28). This was the case for periods completed in both community-based supervision and detention (Tables S61 and S100).

## Length of supervision periods

Individual periods of supervision completed during 2024-25 lasted for a median length of 84 days, or about 12 weeks (this includes time under supervision before 1 July 2024 if the period started before that date) (Table S29).

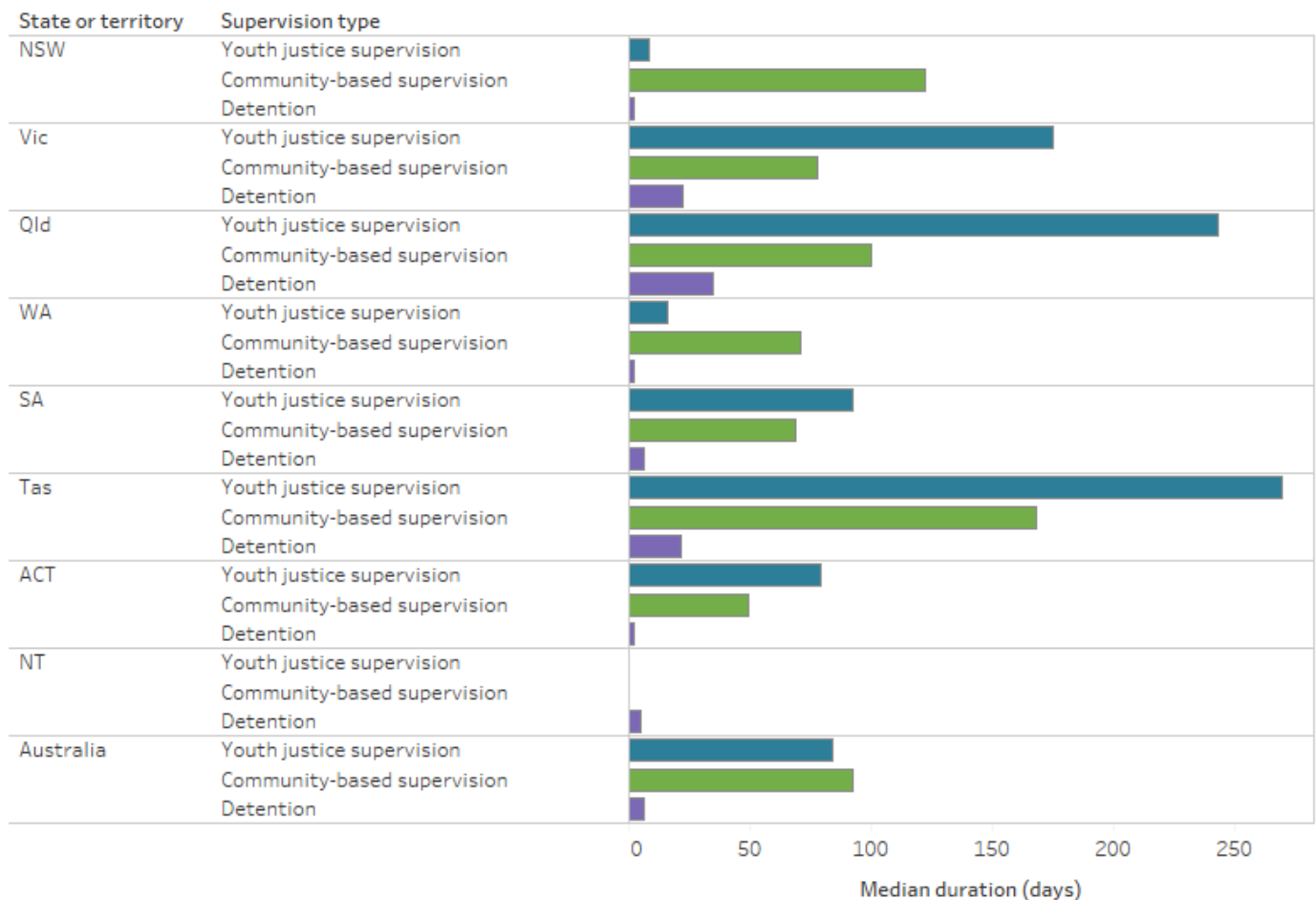
The median duration of completed periods varied substantially between states and territories, ranging from 8 days in New South Wales to 269 days in Tasmania (periods include days before 1 July 2024) (Figure 7.2; Table S29).

Completed periods of community-based supervision were much longer than completed periods of detention, with a median length of 92 days (about 13 weeks) compared with 6 days, respectively (Tables S62 and S101).

Again, there were differences among the states and territories. In 2024–25, the median length of completed periods of:

- community-based supervision ranged from 50 days in the Australian Capital Territory to 168 days in Tasmania (Table S62)
- detention ranged from 2 days in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, and Western Australia to 35 days in Queensland (Figure 7.2; Table S101).

Figure 7.2: Median duration of completed supervision periods, by supervision type and state and territory, 2024–25



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Note: Completed supervision periods were not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.

Source: tables S29, S62 and S101.

The median duration of completed individual periods of unsentenced detention during 2024-25 was 5 days (Table S116). This varied among the states and territories, from 2 days in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, and Western Australia to 32 days in Queensland.

For completed periods of sentenced detention, the median duration was much longer, at 40 days. This varied among the states and territories, from 7 days in the Northern Territory to 112 days in Victoria (Table S122).

On average, First Nations young people completed longer periods of unsentenced detention than non-Indigenous young people (median of 6 days compared with 5 days) (Table S116). But First Nations young people completed shorter periods of sentenced detention than their non-Indigenous counterparts (median of 33 days compared with 74 days) (Table S122).



## Total time under supervision

In 2024–25, young people under youth justice supervision on average spent:

- 177 days under supervision during the year (Figure 7.3; Table S30)
- 168 days under community-based supervision during the year (Figure 7.3; Table S63)
- 66 days in detention during the year (Figure 7.3; Table S102)
- 55 days in unsentenced detention during the year (Figures 7.4 and 7.5; Table S117)
- 89 days in sentenced detention during the year (Figures 7.4 and 7.5; Table S124).

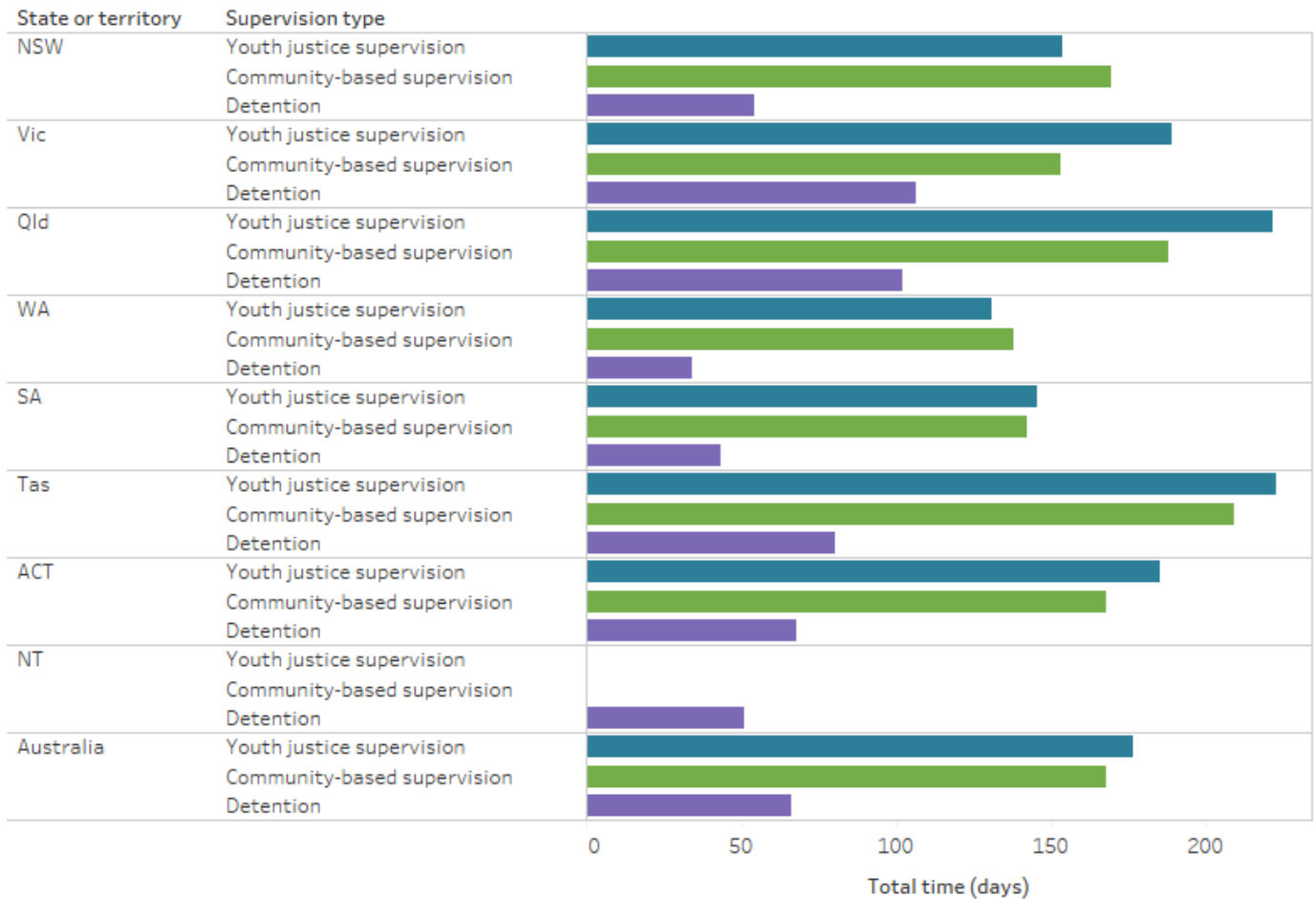
When all the time spent under supervision during 2024–25 is considered (including multiple periods of supervision and periods that were not yet completed as at 30 June 2024), young people who were supervised during the year spent about 6 months (a total of 177 days, or 25 weeks), on average, under supervision (Figure 7.3; Table S30).

This time spent under supervision was lowest in Western Australia (131 days) and highest in Tasmania (223 days) (Figure 7.3; Table S30).

Young people spent more time, on average, under community-based supervision during the year (168 days, or about 24 weeks) than in detention (66 days, or about 9 weeks). This varied among the states and territories (Figure 7.3; Tables S102 and S63). The average total time spent:

- under community-based supervision ranged from 138 days Western Australia to 209 days in Tasmania
- in detention ranged from 34 days in Western Australia to 106 days in Victoria (Figure 7.3; Tables S102 and S63).

Figure 7.3: Average total time young people spent under supervision during the year, by supervision type and state and territory, 2024–25



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Note: Average time spent under supervision was not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.

Source: tables S30, S63 and S102.

During the year, young people spent much more time, on average, in sentenced detention (88 days in total, or about 13 weeks) than in unsentenced detention (55 days, or nearly 8 weeks) (Tables S124 and S117). This is to be expected, as young people are typically placed in unsentenced detention for relatively short periods while awaiting the outcome of their legal matter or sentencing.

The total amount of time young people spent in unsentenced detention during 2024–25 ranged from 24 days, on average, in Western Australia to 94 days in Queensland (Figure 7.4; Table S117).

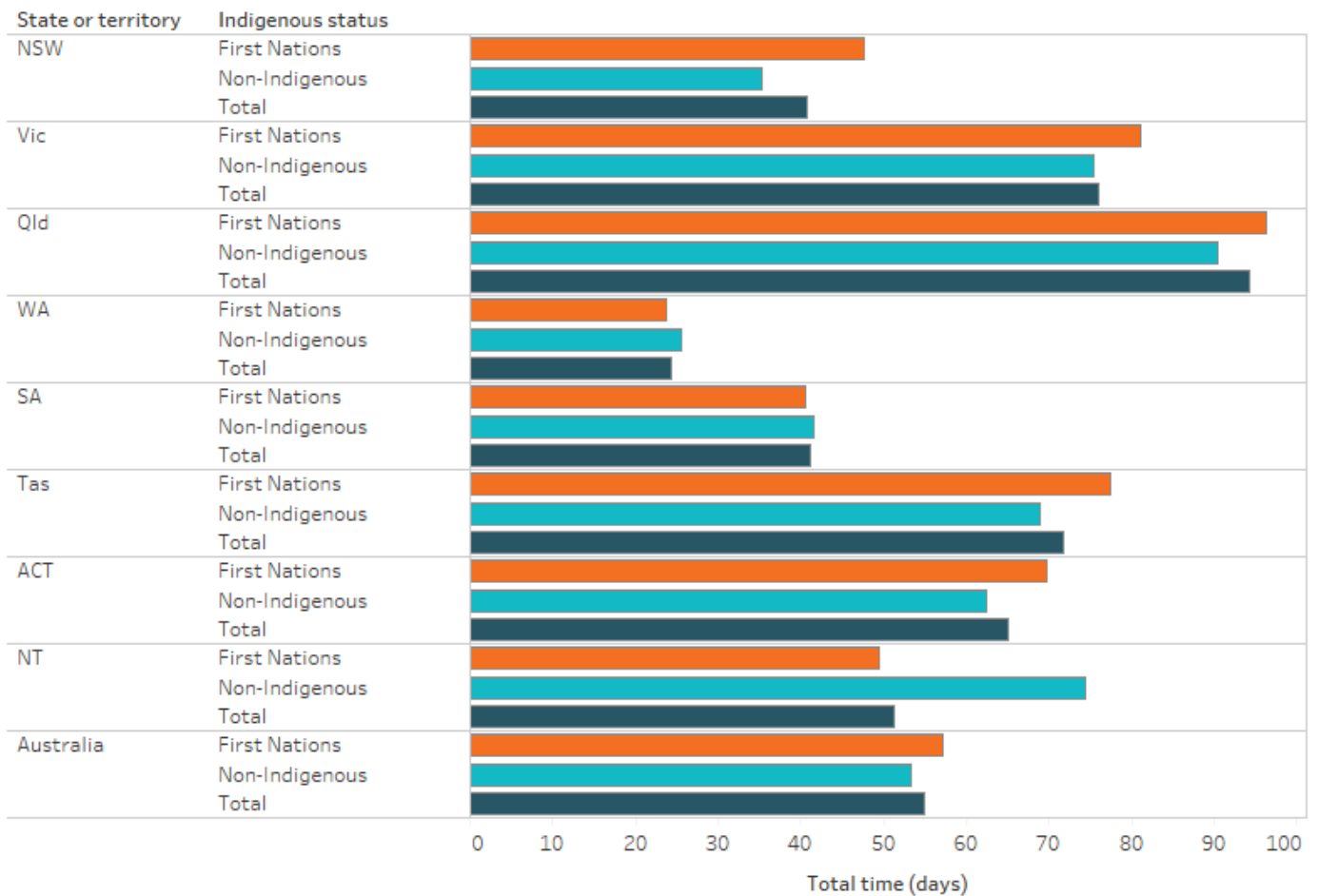
The average total time spent in sentenced detention was lowest in South Australia (47 days, and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (142 days) (Figure 7.5; Table S124).

Males spent more time (181 days), on average, under supervision during the year than females (161 days) (Table S30). Males and females spent similar lengths of time, on average, under community-based supervision (166 and 174 days, respectively), but males (74 days) spent more than twice as long in detention as females (34 days) (Tables S63 and S102).

In 2024–25, First Nations young people on average spent:

- 182 days under supervision during the year (Table S30)
- 169 days under community-based supervision during the year (Table S63)
- 67 days in detention during the year (Table S102)
- 56 days in unsentenced detention during the year (Table S117)
- 78 days in sentenced detention during the year and (Figures 7.4 and 7.5; Table S124).

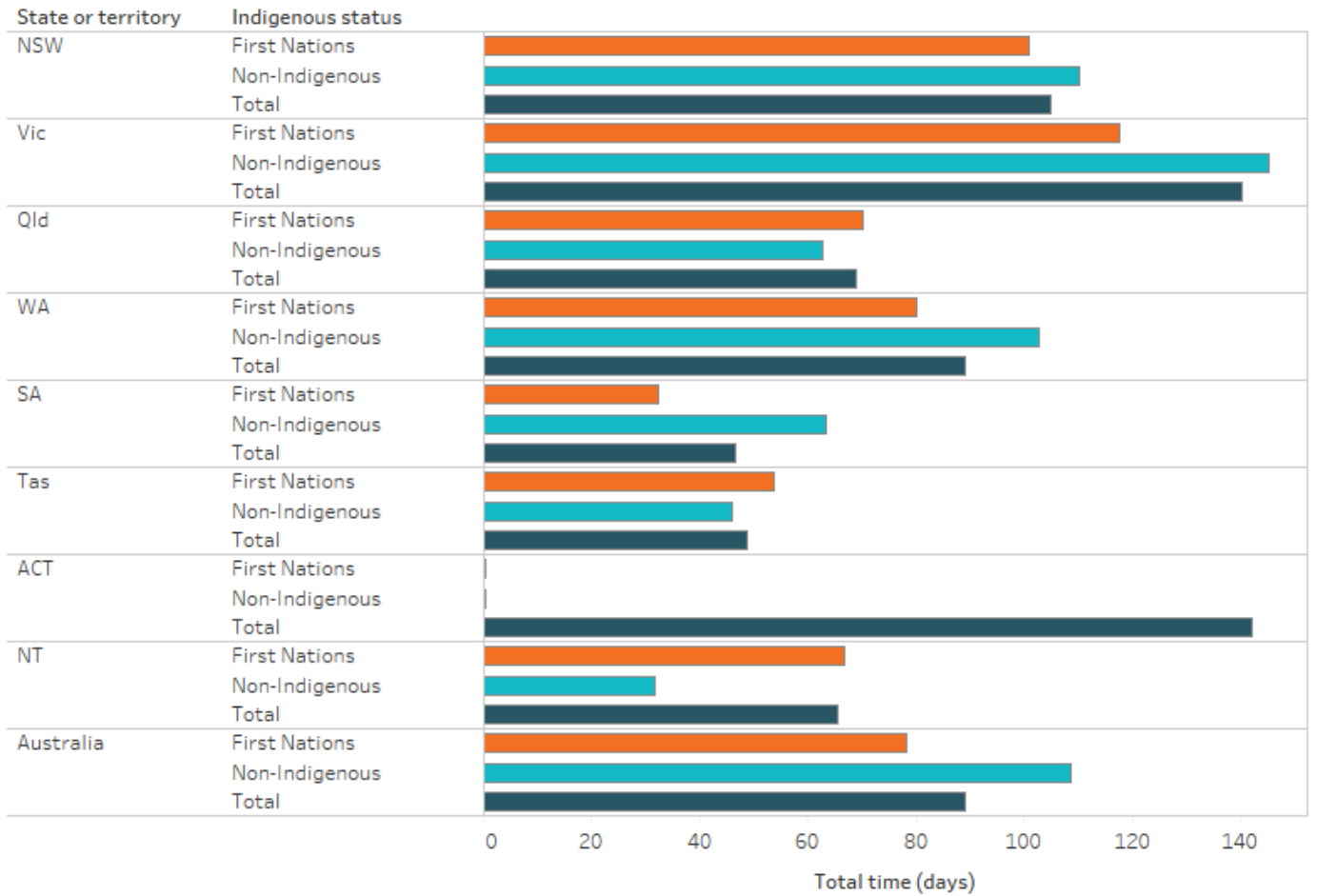
Figure 7.4: Average total time young people spent in unsentenced detention during the year, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2024–25



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: table S117.

Figure 7.5: Average total time young people spent in sentenced detention during the year, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2024–25



\* Data have been suppressed.

<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Note: First Nations and non-Indigenous young people in sentenced detention in the ACT in 2024–25 were suppressed to protect the confidentiality of young people.

Source: table S124

## Supervision history

### First entry to supervision

First entry to supervision refers to the first time a young person came under youth justice supervision and includes periods of supervision that occurred before the reference period (2024–25).

### Entry to supervision

About one-third (36%) of young people under youth justice supervision in 2024–25 were new to supervision in that year. The remaining others (64%) had been supervised in a previous year (Table S17).

About one-third (31%) of First Nations young people were new to youth justice supervision in 2024–25 and more than 2 in 3 (69%) had been under supervision in a previous year.

Around 2 in 5 (42%) non-Indigenous young people were new to youth justice supervision in 2024–25 and about 3 in 5 (58%) had been under supervision in a previous year.

Of young people under community-based supervision, 68% had been supervised (under any type of supervision) in a previous year, compared with 57% of those in detention (Tables S53 and S91).

### Age at first supervision

Among all young people who were supervised during 2024–25 (Figure 8.1; Table S19):

- almost three-quarters (73%) had first entered youth justice supervision when they were aged 14–17
- about one-quarter (22%) had first entered supervision when they were aged 10–13
- 4.8% had first entered supervision when they were aged 18 and over.

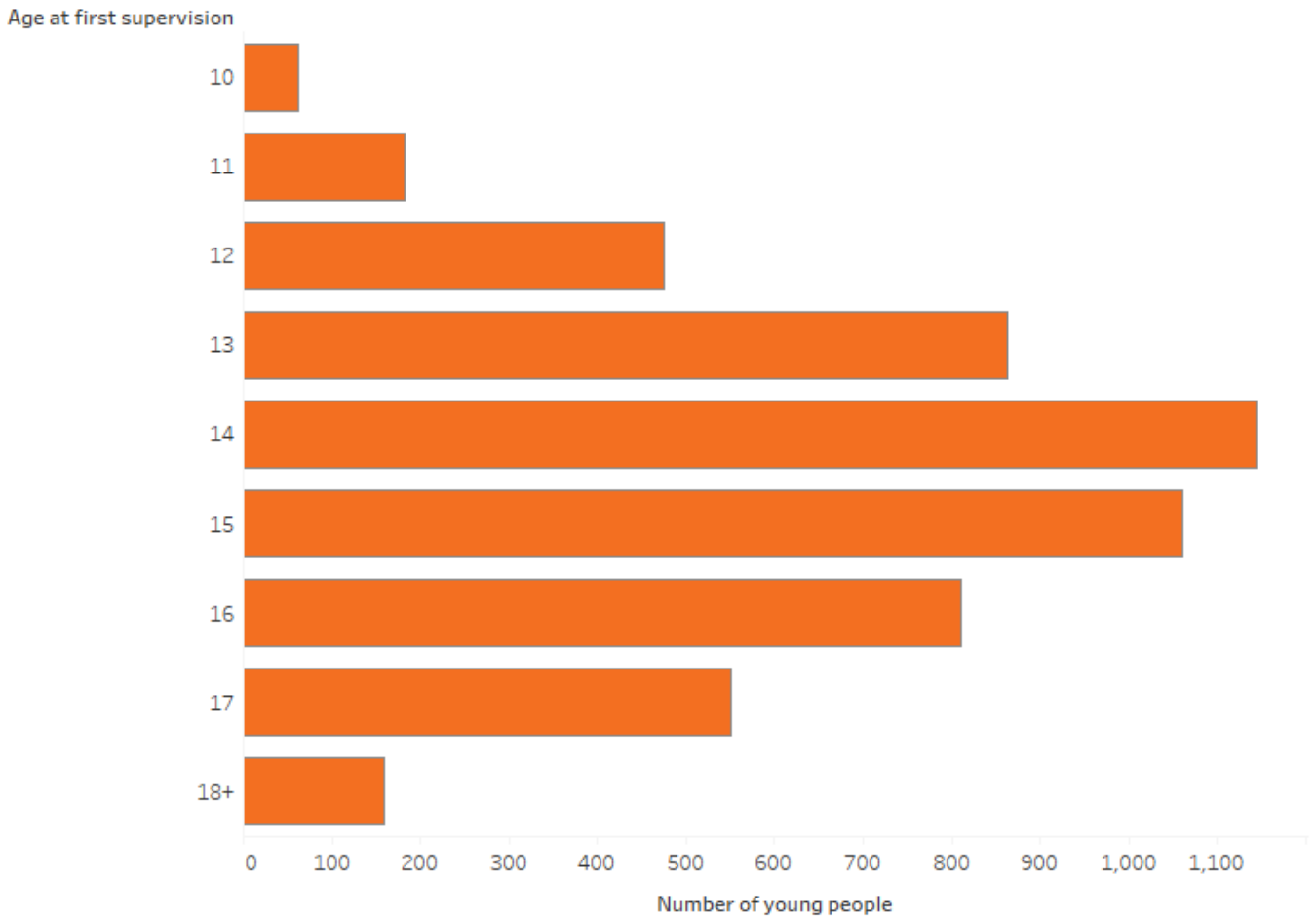
Young people who were supervised in 2024–25 were most likely to be aged 14–17 when they first entered supervision in all states and territories, ranging from 68% in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, to 81% in New South Wales (Table S19).

Western Australia had the highest proportion of young people who first entered supervision when aged 10–13 (32%), while Victoria had the highest proportion who first entered supervision when aged 18 and over (20%) (likely a result of Victoria's 'dual track' sentencing system).

About a third (30%) of First Nations young people under supervision in 2024–25 were first supervised when aged 10–13 (Table S19). The most common age for first entry to youth justice supervision for First Nations young people was 14 (Table S18).

Almost 1 in 6 (13%) non-Indigenous young people under supervision in 2024–25 were first supervised when aged 10–13 (Table S19). The most common age for first entry to youth justice supervision for non-Indigenous young people was 15 (Table S18).

Figure 8.1: First Nations young people under supervision, by age at first supervision, Australia, 2024–25



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Note: Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.

Source: table S18.

### First type of supervision

Among all those who were supervised during 2024–25, the most common first types of supervision were remand (a type of unsentenced detention) at 36% and probation and similar (a type of sentenced community-based supervision) at 24% (Figure 8.2).

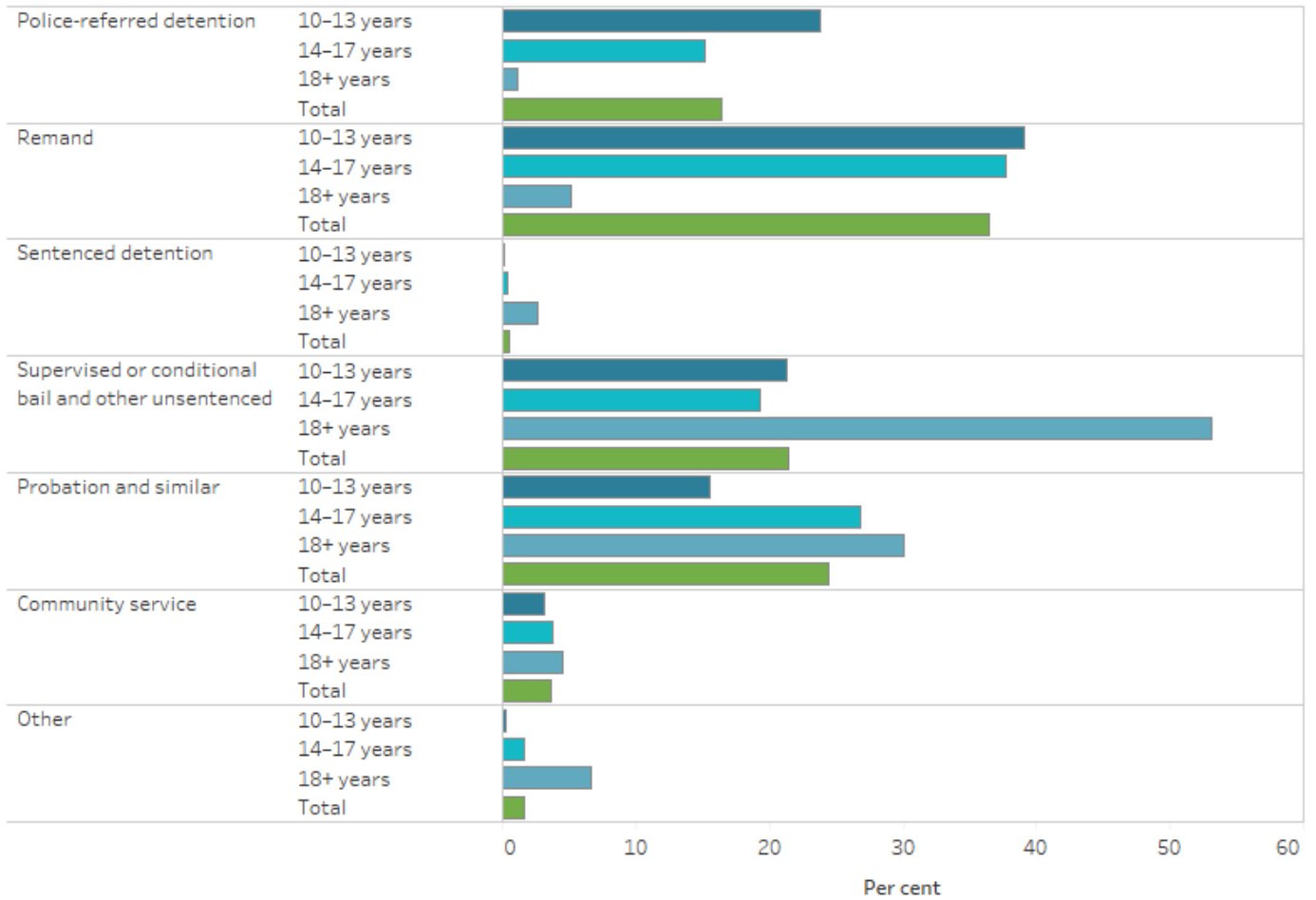
For young people entering supervision for the first time when aged 10–13 the most common types of supervision were remand, police-referred detention, and supervised or conditional bail (and other unsentenced supervision) (Figure 8.2).

For those entering supervision for the first time aged 14–17, the most common type of first supervision was remand and probation and similar.

For those entering supervision for the first time aged 18 and over, the most common type of first supervision was supervised or conditional bail (and other unsentenced supervision).

Very few young people under youth justice supervision were given sentenced detention as their first type of supervision (0.4% overall, and 2.6% of those aged 18 and over) (Table S20).

Figure 8.2: Young people under supervision, by type of first supervision and age at first supervision, Australia, 2024–25



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes

1. Numerators are the number of young people who were under a given type of supervision by age group of first supervision (Table S20). Denominators are the total number of young people under supervision during the year by age group of first supervision (Table S19).
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.

Source: table S20.

## Youth justice supervision history

About 9 in 10 (89%) young people who were supervised during 2024–25 had been under community-based supervision at some time during their supervision history (either during 2024–25 or in a previous year) (Figure 8.3). More than two-thirds (72%) had spent time in detention.

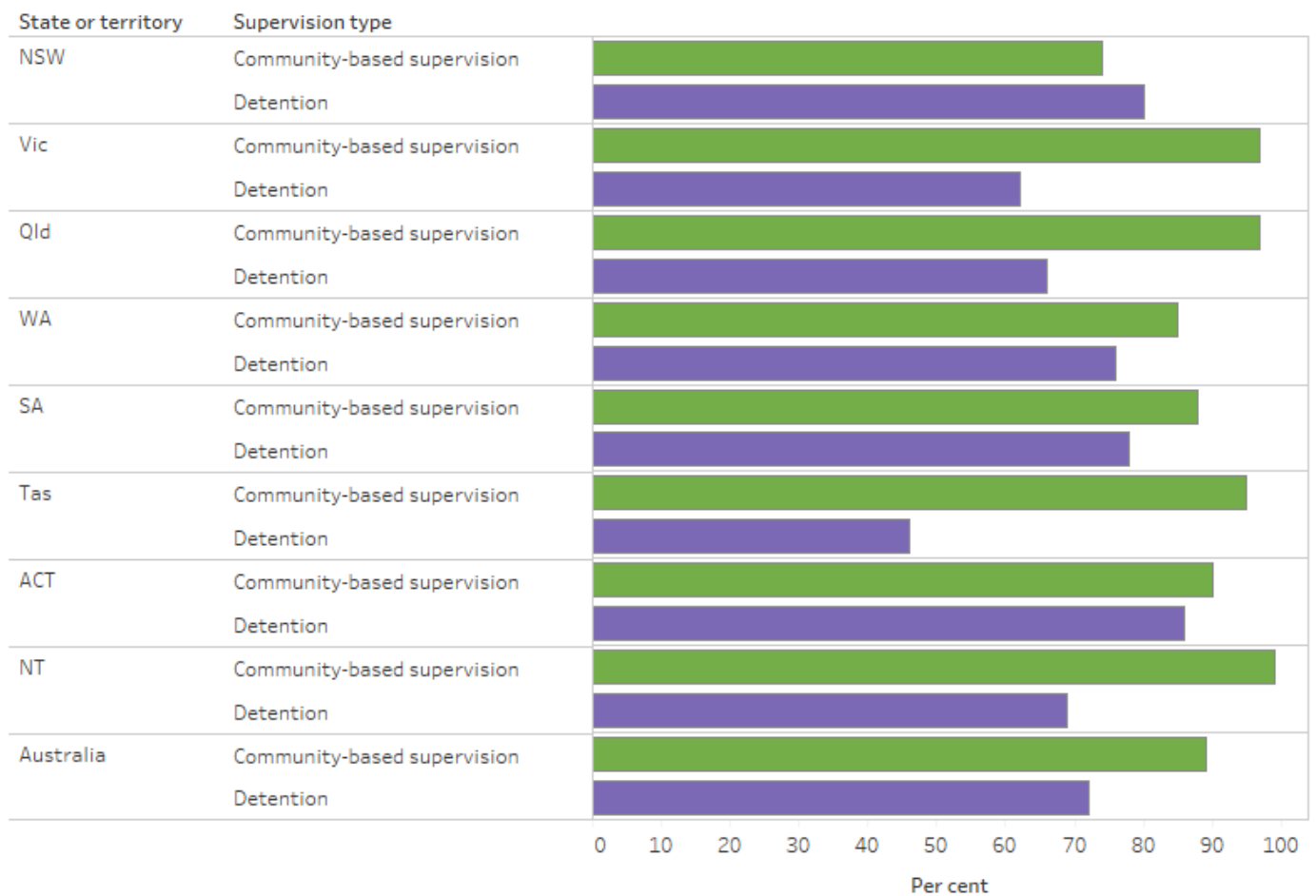
About 3 in 5 (61%) young people under supervision during 2024–25 had been under both community-based supervision and in detention at some time during their supervision history.

About 3 in 10 (28%) had been under community-based supervision only, and 11% had been only in detention (Tables S2b, S33k and S33o).

Among the states and territories, the proportion of young people supervised during 2024–25 who had been:

- under community-based supervision at some point during their supervision history ranged from 74% in New South Wales to 99% in the Northern Territory
- in detention ranged from 46% in Tasmania to 86% in the Australian Capital Territory (Figure 8.3).

Figure 8.3: Young people under supervision during the year, by supervision history, and state and territory, 2024–25



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### Notes

1. Numerators are the number of young people who had a supervision history containing any type of community-based supervision (Table S33c) or detention (Table S33g), by state and territory. Denominators are the number of young people under supervision during the year, by state and territory (Table S2b).

2. Supervision history was not available for all young people under supervision (see Appendix 1).

Source: tables S2b, S33c and S33g.

Similar proportions of males and females under youth justice supervision during 2024–25 had been under community-based supervision at some point during their supervision history (89% and 87%, respectively). Males (73%) were slightly more likely than females (67%) to have previously been in detention (Tables S2b, S33c and S33g).

More than 9 in 10 (91%) First Nations young people under supervision in 2024–25 had been under community-based supervision at some time during their supervision history (Tables S2b and S33c) and three-quarters (75%) had a supervision history containing any type of detention (Tables S2b and S33g).



## Trends in supervision

Due to the increased minimum age of criminal responsibility in the Australian Capital Territory in 2023, the 2023–24 and 2024–25 rates are presented for young people aged 12–17. The Northern Territory increased the minimum age of criminal responsibility for 2023–24 only, so 2023–24 rates are presented for young people aged 12–17 whilst 2024–25 rates are for young people aged 10–17. The Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory have been removed from any rates trend commentary due to the break in series as the rates are not comparable to previous years.

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## Recent trends

### In this section

- National
- States and territories
- Age and sex
- Time under supervision

### National

Due to Northern Territory all supervision and community-based supervision data (average day) being unavailable in 2023–24 and 2024–25, the Australia total excluding the Northern Territory has been used for trends in national numbers and rates for all supervision and community-based supervision. The Australia total excluding the Northern Territory has also been used for the average length of time under supervision.

For detention (average day) and during the year measures, Northern Territory data is available in 2023–24 and 2024–25 and the Australia total includes the Northern Territory

Overall, over the 5 years from 2020–21 to 2024–25, the number of young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision on an average day fell by 9.6% (from 4,590 to 4,147) (Table S11a). The total number of individual young people who were supervised was lower over the 5 years in all states and territories except South Australia, Tasmania, and the Australian Capital Territory, where numbers rose.

Overall, the national rate of young people aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision on an average day fell from 14 to 12 per 10,000 young people over the 5-year period to 2024–25 (Figure 9.1; Table S15a).

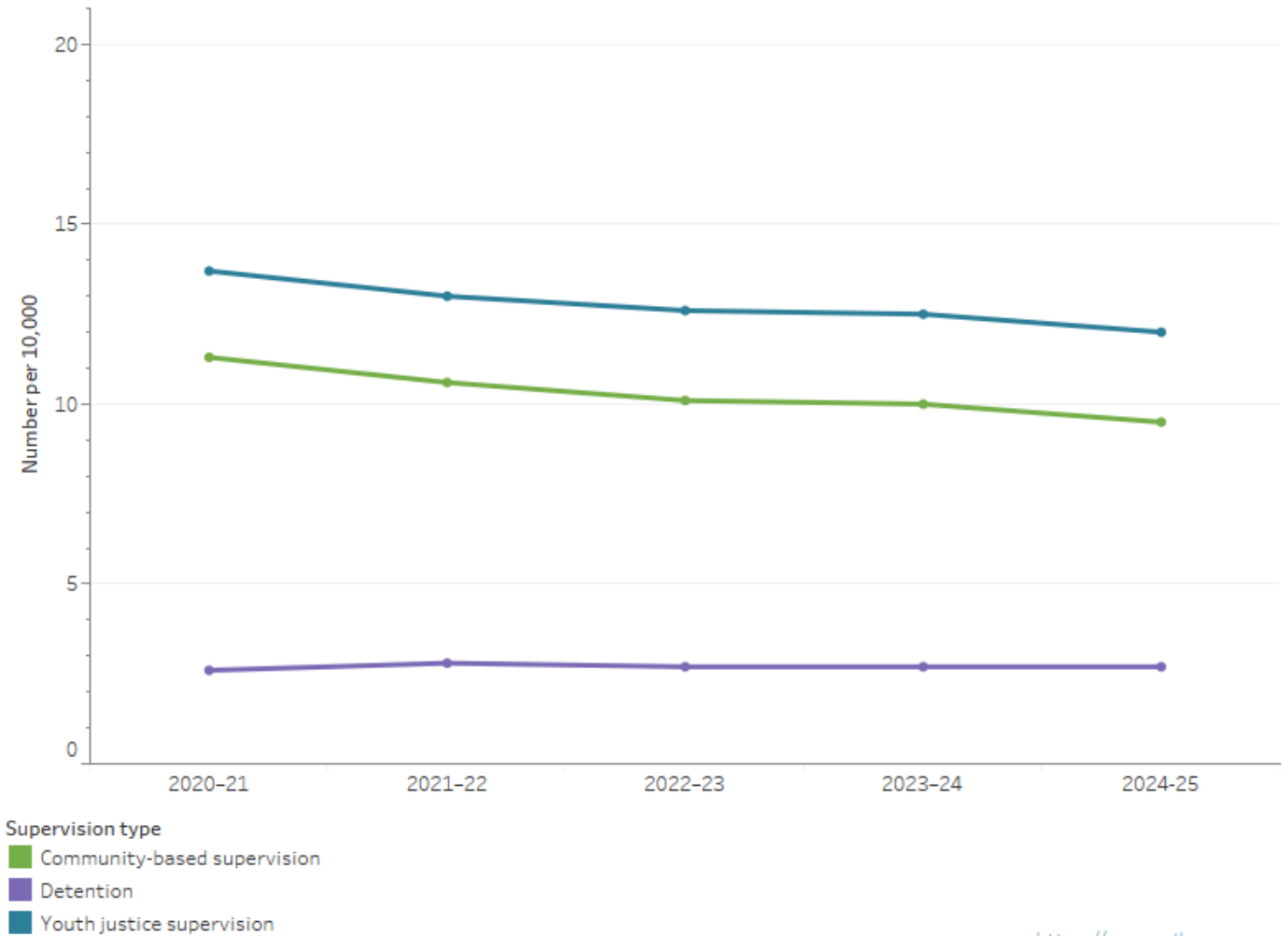
Compared to the previous year, the number of young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision fell by 1.68% (from 4,218 to 4,147) (Table S11a) and the rate of young people aged 10–17 remained steady at 12 per 10,000 (Table S15a).

Between 2020–21 and 2024–25, the total number of young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision during the year rose slightly by 1.5% (from 9,437 to 9,579) (Table S11b). The average total time young people spent under supervision during the year declined over the 5-year period, from 185 days in 2020–21 to 177 days in 2024–25 (Table S30).

The decrease in the number of young people under supervision is partly due to a fall in the numbers of young people who have been the subject of legal action by police and who had charges finalised in the children's courts in recent years. COVID-19 restrictions, beginning in March 2020, also led to temporary closures of courts and the deferral of cases which may have had an impact.

Between 2019–20 and 2023–24, the number of young people aged 10–17 who had their matters finalised in court increased by 8.8%, with an increase of 0.7% in the most recent year (ABS 2025a).

Figure 9.1: Trends in young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, 2020–21 to 2024–25 (rate)



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

#### Notes

1. Trend data might differ from those previously published due to data revisions.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in Youth justice in Australia releases before 2019–20.
3. The number and rate of young people in the Northern Territory is not available for 2023–24 and 2024–25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory from 2023–24 and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.
5. Rates for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 are for young people aged 10–17 due to the minimum age of criminal responsibility being lowered from 12 to 10.

Source: tables S15a, S48a and S86a.

Between 2020–21 and 2024–25, the number of young people aged 10 and over under community-based supervision on an average day fell by 13% (from 3,857 to 3,358) (Table S44a). The rate dropped from 11 to 10 per 10,000 for those aged 10–17 (Figure 9.1) (Table S48a). In the most recent year, the number under community-based supervision fell by 2.9% (from 3,460 to 3,358) (Table S44a) and the rate remained stable at 10 per 10,000 (Table S48a).

Between 2020–21 and 2024–25, the number of young people aged 10 and over in detention on an average day rose by 8.5% (from 792 to 859) (Table S82a). The rate rose from 2.6 to 2.7 per 10,000 for those aged 10–17 between 2020–21 and 2024–25 (Figure 9.1; Table S86a). In the most recent year, the number of young people increased marginally (from 829 to 859) (Table S82a) and the rate remained stable at 2.7 per 10,000 (Table S83a).

#### States and territories

Between 2020–21 and 2024–25, the rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day fell overall in some states and territories. The largest fall was in Victoria (from 7.3 to 4.5 per 10,000) (Figure 9.2; Table S15a).

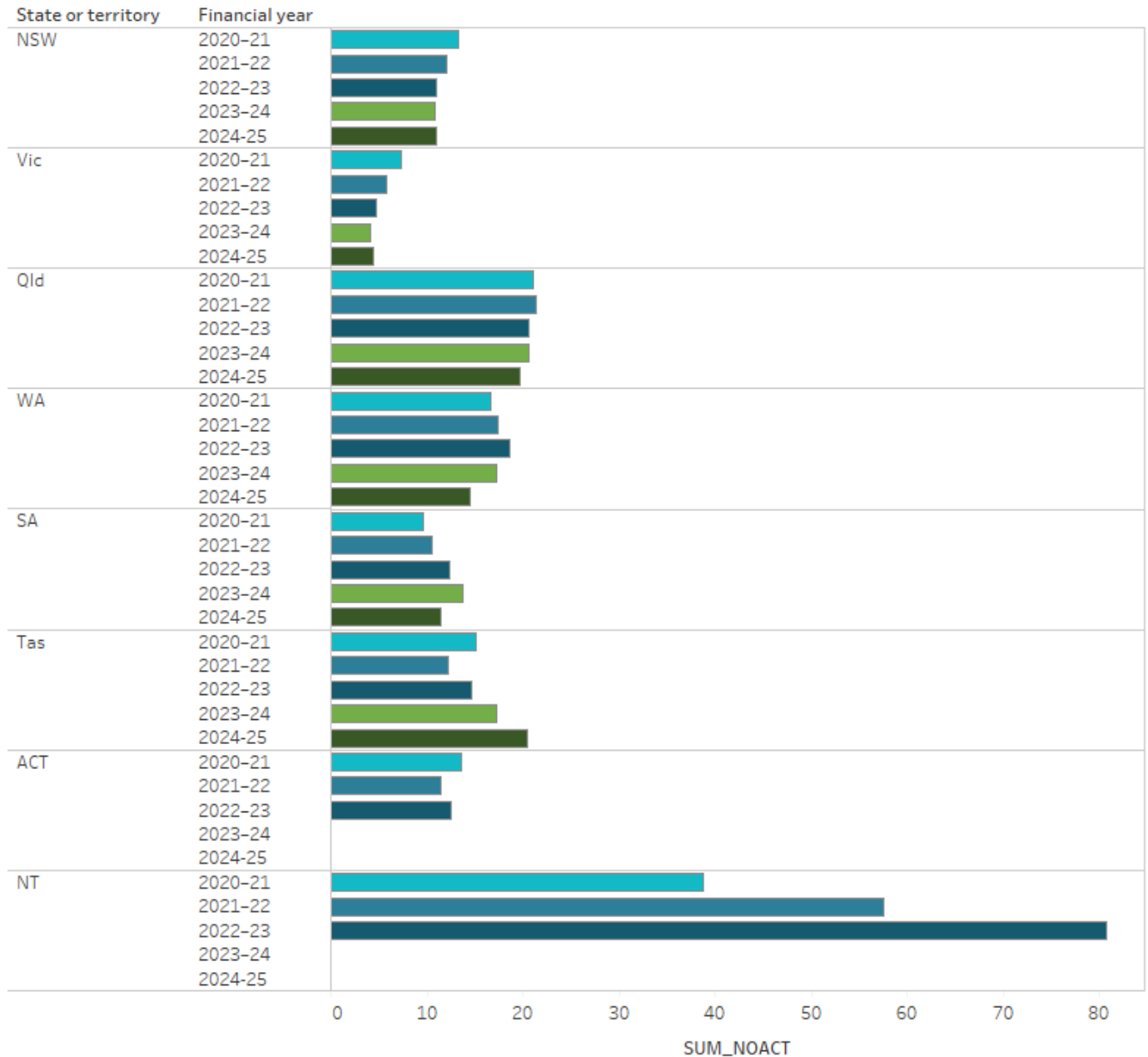
The rates of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day decreased overall in most states and territories, except for South Australia and Tasmania. The largest fall was in New South Wales (from 11 to 8.9 per 10,000) (Table S48a).

The rates of young people aged 10–17 in detention over the 5-year period varied across the states and territories, with the largest absolute decline in Western Australia (from 3.5 to 2.5 per 10,000), and the largest percentage decline over this time in Victoria (from 1.7 to 1.1 per 10,000) (Table S83a).

The largest increases in the rates of young people aged 10–17 in detention were in the Northern Territory (from 12 to 15 per 10,000) and Tasmania (from 1.5 to 2.6 per 10,000) (Table S86a).

Note that the rate in the Northern Territory for 2023–24 is for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and is not directly comparable with previous years.

Figure 9.2: Trends in young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by state and territory, 2020–21 to 2024–25 (rate)



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Notes

1. Trend data might differ from those previously published due to data revisions.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
3. In Queensland, legislation to increase the age limit in the youth justice system from 16 to 17 was enacted in February 2018. This change resulted in an increase in the number and rate of young people aged 17 under youth justice supervision from 2017–18 onwards.
4. The number and rate of young people in the Northern Territory is not available for 2023–24 and 2024–25 for all supervision.
5. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2023–24 and 2024–25 have been removed, as they are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12, and are not comparable to previous years.

Source: table S15a.

Table 9.1a: Overall change in young people under community-based supervision on an average day, by supervision type and Indigenous status, and state and territory, 2019–20 to 2023–24 (rate)

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
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First Nations	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓
Non-Indigenous	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓
<b>Total</b>	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓

Footnotes and notes are provided following Table 9.1c.

Table 9.1b: Overall change in young people in detention on an average day, by supervision type and Indigenous status, and state and territory, 2019–20 to 2023–24 (rate)

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
First Nations	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓
Non-Indigenous	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓
<b>Total</b>	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓

Footnotes and notes are provided following Table 9.1c.

Table 9.1c: Overall change in young people under all youth justice supervision on an average day, by supervision type and Indigenous status, and state and territory, 2019–20 to 2023–24 (rate)

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
First Nations	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓
Non-Indigenous	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓
<b>Total</b>	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓

(Footnotes and notes for tables 9.1a, 9.1b and 9.1c)

#### Notes

- Arrows indicate an overall change between 2019–20 and 2023–24. Unchanged arrows (↔) indicate a change of +/-0.4 over the 5-year period. Trends might have fluctuated between these years, particularly for smaller jurisdictions.
- Data might differ from those previously published due to data revisions.
- Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia releases before 2019–20*.
- The number and rate of young people in the Northern Territory is not available for 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
- Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

Source: tables S12a, S15a, S45a, S48a, S83a and S86a.

### Age and sex

Over the 5 years to 2024–25, the rates of young males and females under supervision fell. For males aged 10–17 on an average day, the rate fell from 21 to 18 per 10,000; for females, it fell marginally overall from 5.8 to 5.3 per 10,000 (Table S15a). On an average day each year, males aged 10–17 were 3–4 times as likely as females aged 10–17 to be under supervision.

The rate of males aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day fell over the 5-year period from 17 to 15 per 10,000, while the rate of young females fell from 5.3 to 4.7 per 10,000 (Table S48a). For detention, the rate of males aged 10–17 on an average day increased slightly from 4.5 to 4.8 per 10,000, and the rate of females rose marginally from 0.5 to 0.6 per 10,000 (Table S86a).

On an average day each year, young males aged 10–17 were about 3 times as likely as young females aged 10–17 to be under community-based supervision, and about 8 times as likely to be in detention (Tables S48a and S86a).

The fall in rates of young males under supervision on an average day occurred for all ages, with the largest fall being for those aged 17 (from 66 to 50 per 10,000 over the 5-year period) (Table S9a).

Among young females, rates fell overall for most ages, with the largest fall being for those aged 17 (from 14 to 12 per 10,000) (Table S9a).

### Time under supervision

Over the 5 years from 2020–21 to 2024–25, the average amount of time young people spent under youth justice supervision during the year declined from 185 days in 2020–21 to 177 days in 2024–25 (Table S30).

A similar trend was seen for young people under community-based supervision, with a decline from 176 days in 2020–2021 to 168 days in 2024–25 (Table S63).

The average amount of time spent in detention fluctuated over the years, with a slight decrease from 67 days in 2020–21 to 66 days in 2024–25 (Table S102).

The average amount of time young people spent under youth justice supervision varied among the states and territories, with the largest overall rise in Tasmania (from 189 to 223 days). The largest overall fall was in Western Australia (from 156 to 131 days) (Table S30).

### References



## Longer trends

### In this section

- National
- States and territories

### National

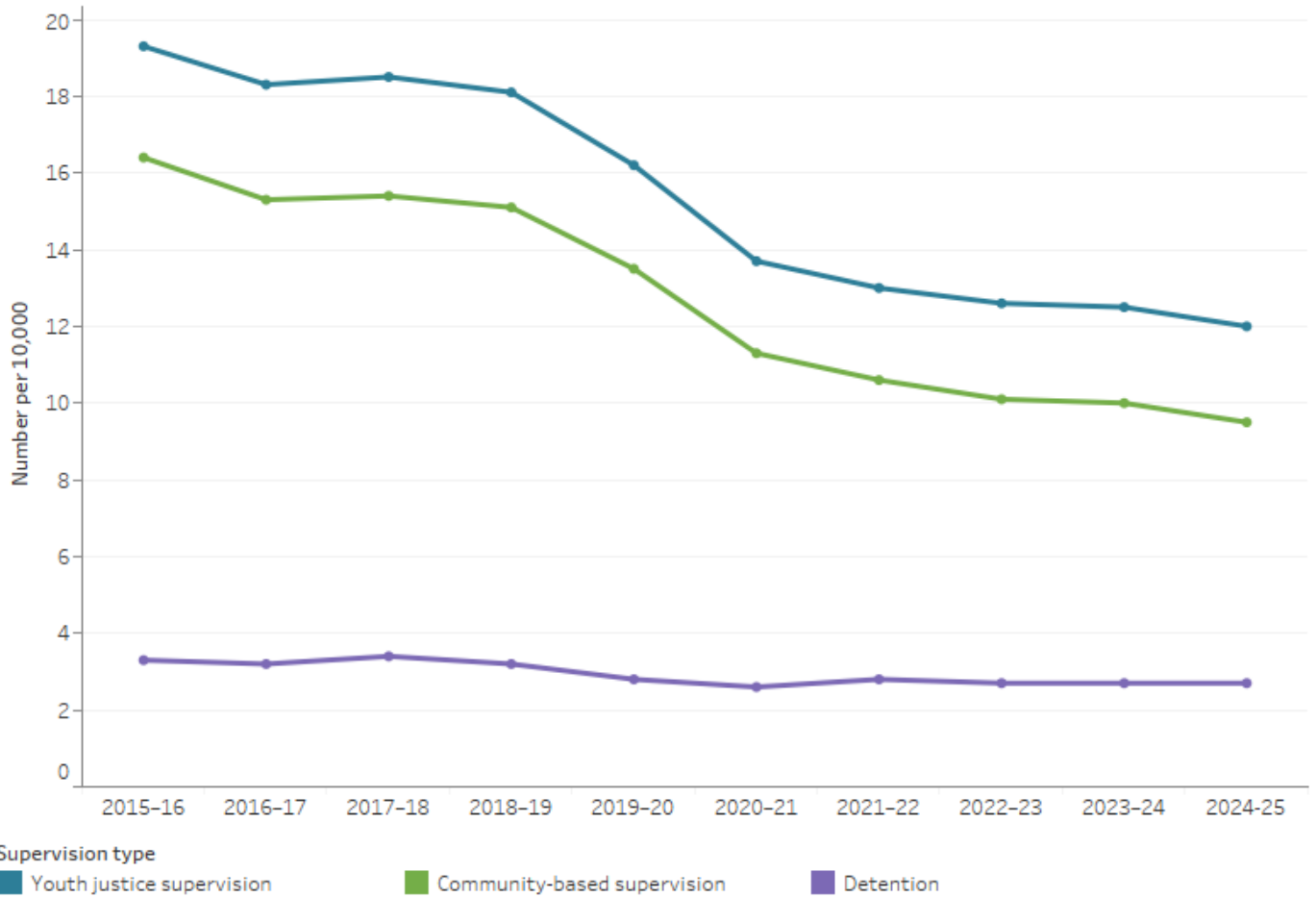
Nationally, the rate of young people aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision on an average day fell over the 10 years to 2024–25, from 19 per 10,000 in 2015–16 to 12 per 10,000 in 2024–25 (Figure 9.3; Table S15a).

Similarly, the rate of young people under supervision during each year (rather than on an average day) fell steadily from 42 per 10,000 in 2015–16 to 30 per 10,000 in 2024–25 (Table S15b).

This trend decrease is largely associated with changes in the rate of community-based supervision, as 82% of all young people under supervision on an average day in 2024–25 were supervised in the community (Table 2.1). The rate of community-based supervision for young people aged 10–17 on an average day decreased over the years from 16 per 10,000 in 2015–16, to 10 per 10,000 in 2024–25 (Figure 9.3; Table S48a).

The rate of young people in detention was slightly lower in 2024–25 compared with 2015–16 (2.7 per 10,000 compared with 3.3 per 10,000) (Table S86a).

Figure 9.3: Trends in young people under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, 2015–16 to 2024–25 (rate)



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

#### Notes

1. Trend data might differ from those previously published due to data revisions.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in Youth justice in Australia releases before 2019–20.
3. The number and rate of young people in the Northern Territory is not available for 2023–24 and 2024–25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory from 2023–24 and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.
5. Rates for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 are for young people aged 10–17 due to the minimum age of criminal responsibility being lowered from 12 to 10.

Source: tables S15a, S48a and S86a.

Rates of males under supervision were highest in 2015–16 (31 per 10,000). The rate dropped steadily to 18 per 10,000 in 2024–25. Rates for females under supervision fluctuated across the 10-years with an overall decline from 7.5 in 2015–16 to 5.3 per 10,000 in 2024–25 (Table S15a).

#### States and territories

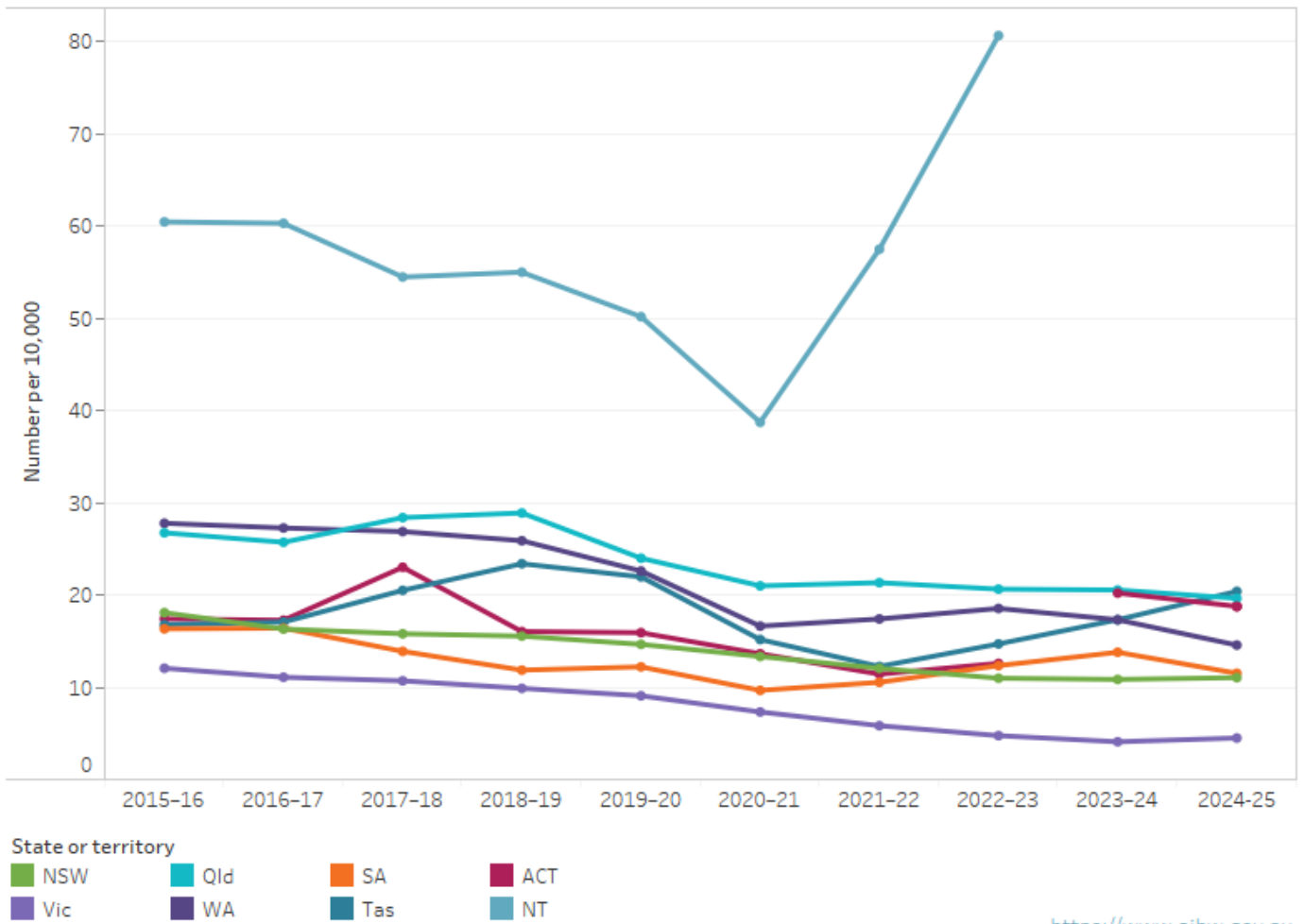
On an average day from 2015–16 to 2024–25, Victoria had the lowest rate of supervision each year, at fewer than 13 per 10,000 young people throughout the period (Figure 9.4; Table S15a)

The rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day declined over the 10 years in most states and territories.

In the Northern Territory, the rate of supervision was 60 per 10,000 in 2015–16 before falling to its lowest point (39 per 10,000) in 2020–21, and then increasing substantially in 2022–23 (81 per 10,000) (note that Northern Territory average day data was not available in 2023–24 and 2024–25). In Tasmania, the rate fluctuated with a low in 2021–22 (12 per 10,000) and a high in 2018–19 (23 per 10,000). Prior to the increase of the minimum age of criminal responsibility in 2023–24, rates in the Australian Capital Territory fell relatively consistently from 2015–16 to 2022–23 (with the exception of 2017–18) (Figure 9.4; Table S15a).

The rate of supervision declined in each of the last 10 years in Victoria and New South Wales and Western Australia (with the exception of 2021–22 and 2022–23). Rates in South Australia and Queensland fluctuated over the 10-year period. For South Australia, rates were lowest in 2020–21 (9.7 per 10,000), and rates in Queensland were lowest in 2024–25 (20 per 10,000 (Figure 9.4; Table S15a).

Figure 9.4: Trends in young people under supervision on an average day, by state and territory, 2015–16 to 2024–25 (rate)



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#### Notes

1. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in Youth justice in Australia releases before 2019–20.
2. In Queensland, legislation to increase the age limit in the youth justice system from 16 to 17 was enacted in February 2018. This change resulted in an increase in the number and rate of young people aged 17 under youth justice supervision from 2017–18 onwards.
3. The number and rate of young people in the Northern Territory is not available for 2023–24 and 2024–25 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory from 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

Source: table S15a.

Trends in the rate of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day followed similar patterns to those for all supervision in most states and territories.

Over the 10-year period, there was an overall decline between 2015–16 and 2024–25 in the rate of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day in most states and territories (with data was available). There were some minor fluctuations in some states and territories, where rates:

- rose in Queensland in 2017–18 and 2018–19, before declining from 2019–20 onwards
- rose in Tasmania in 2017–18 and 2018–19, before falling again to a low in 2021–22, with a rise since 2022–23
- fell in South Australia in most years up to 2020–21, before rising since 2021–22 (Table S48a).

Trends in the rate of young people aged 10–17 in detention on an average day varied among the states and territories over the 10 years.

Between 2015–16 and 2024–25, detention rates for young people aged 10–17 fell overall in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia, and the Northern Territory, whilst they rose in Queensland and Tasmania (Table S86a).

#### References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2025a) *Recorded crime – offenders, 2023–24*, ABS, Australian Government.





## Youth justice in context

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## Youth and adult justice systems in Australia

### Contact with police

People first enter the justice system when they are investigated by police for allegedly committing an offence. Police may start legal action against them (proceed against) via court actions or non-court actions. Court actions are those where charges are laid that must be answered in court; non-court actions include cautions, conferences, counselling or infringement notices.

Young people are more likely than adults to be proceeded against for allegedly committing an offence. This is due, in part, to the fact that involvement in crime tends to be highest in adolescence or early adulthood and diminishes with age (Farrington 1986; Rocque et al. 2015; Ulmer and Steffensmeier 2014).

In 2023–24, police proceeded against 175 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (the primary group in the youth justice system) and 136 per 10,000 among those aged 18 and over (ABS 2025b).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes information on the types of principal (most serious) offences among young people who were proceeded against by police.

In 2023–24, the most common principal offences among young people aged 10–17 were:

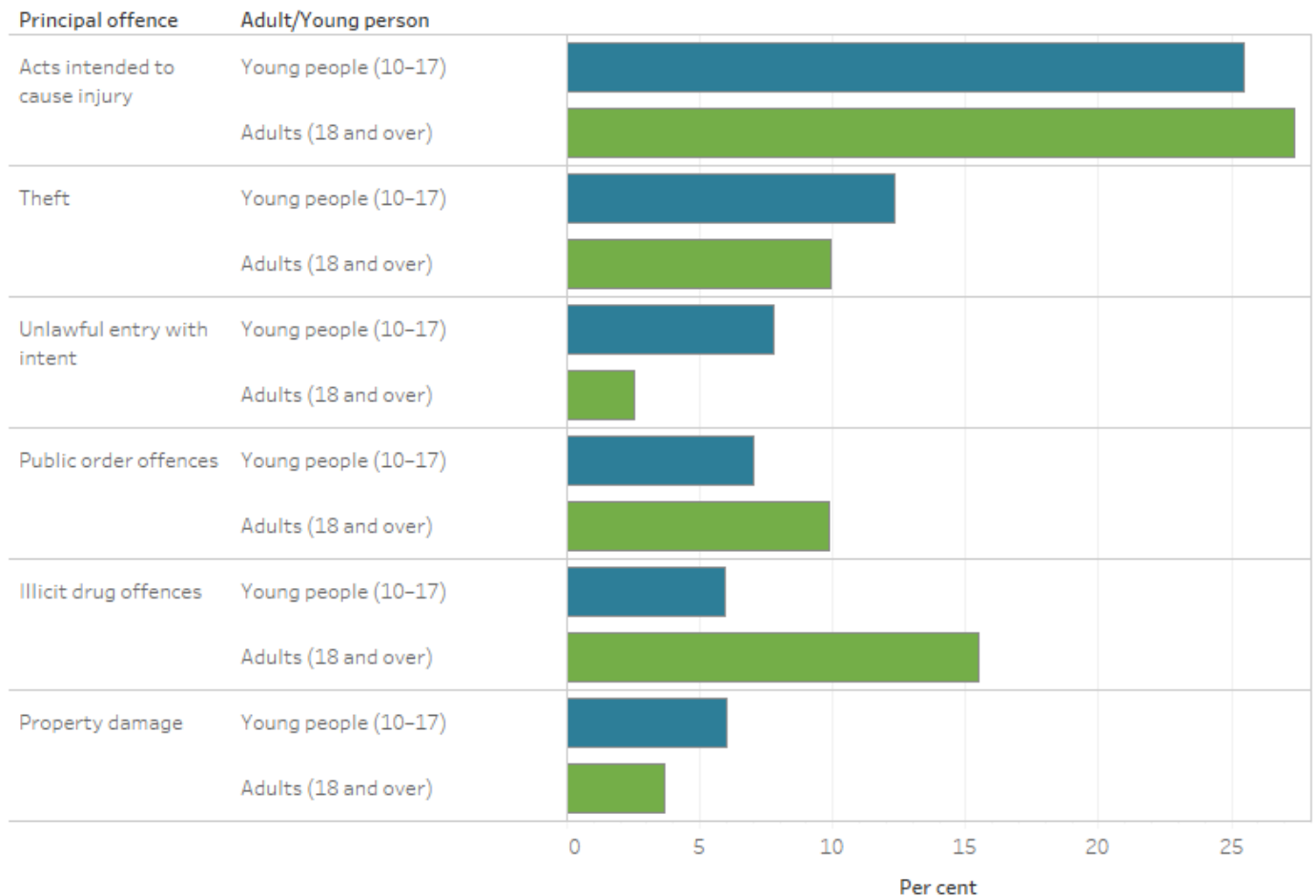
- acts intended to cause injury (25%)
- theft (12%)
- unlawful entry with intent (7.8%) (Figure 10.1).

The most common principal offences among adults aged 18 and over were:

- acts intended to cause injury (27%)
- illicit drug offence (15%)
- public order offences (9.9%) (Figure 10.1).

The adult category includes a much broader age group than the young people category and this might influence the results. (ABS 2025c).

**Figure 10.1: Young people and adults proceeded against by police, by selected principal offence, 2024–25**



## Community-based supervision, detention and prison

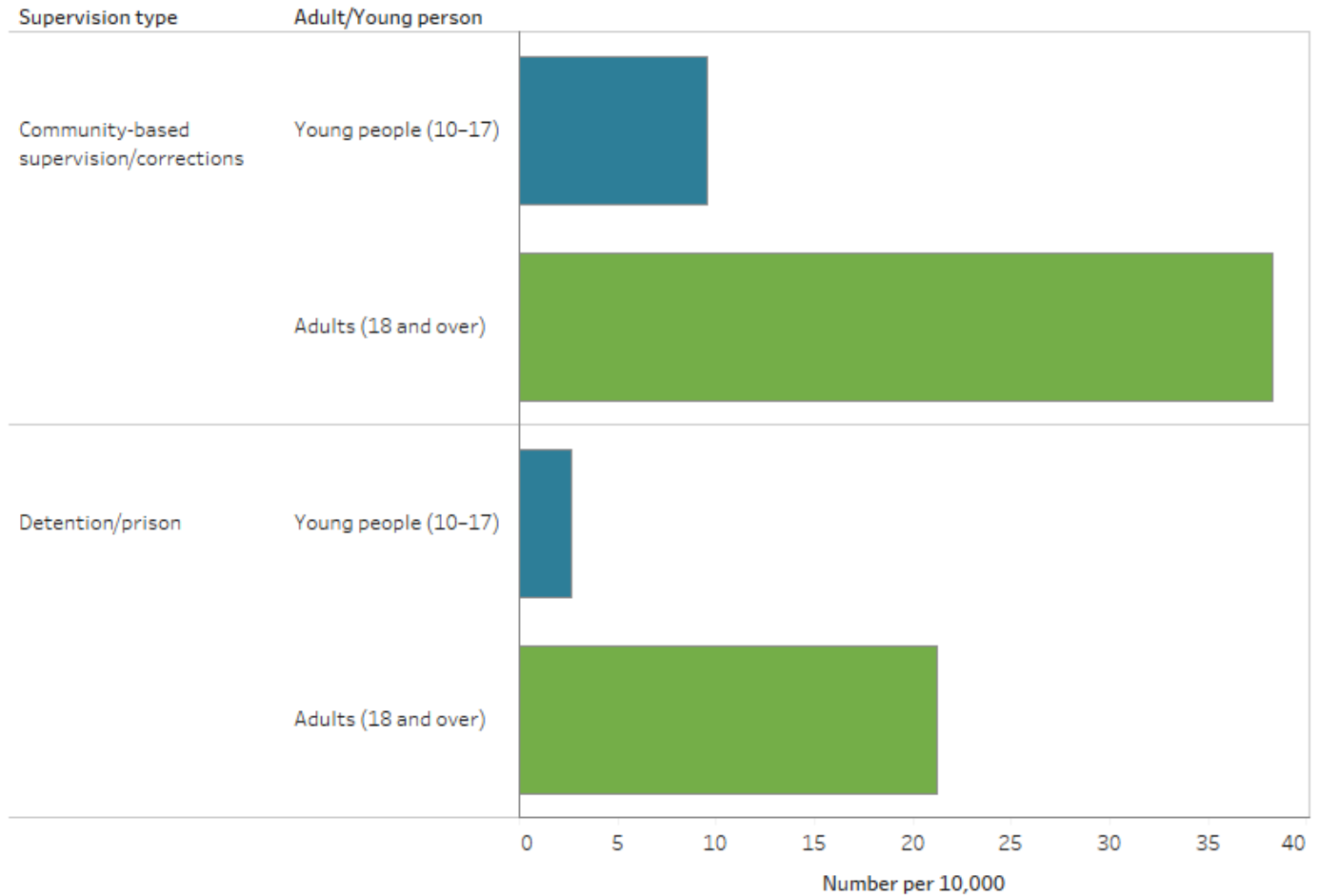
Although young people were more likely than adults to be proceeded against by police, adults were more likely to be placed under formal supervision.

On an average day in 2024–25, 38 per 10,000 adults aged 18 and over were in adult community-based corrections (Figure 10.2).

This compares with 10 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 under community-based youth justice supervision on an average day in 2024–25 (Figure 10.2).

At the same time, 21 per 10,000 adults were in prison compared with 2.7 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 in youth justice detention (Figure 10.2).

**Figure 10.2: Young people aged 10–17 and adults under supervision on an average day, by type of supervision, 2024–25**



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

### Notes

1. Data on young people under supervision are for 2024–25.
2. Available ABS data on adults under supervision are the average of monthly snapshots taken on the first day of the month from July 2024 to June 2025.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day is not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory young people in 2024–25 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.

Sources: ABS 2025; tables S37a and S75a.

Young people aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision were more likely to identify as First Nations people than adults under supervision. More than half (56%) of young people aged 10–17 supervised in the community and around 1 in 4 (27%) adults in community corrections were First Nations people (Figure 10.3).

Similarly, on an average day in 2024–25, almost two-thirds (61%) of young people aged 10–17 in detention were First Nations people compared with about one-third (36%) of adults in full-time prison (Figure 10.3).

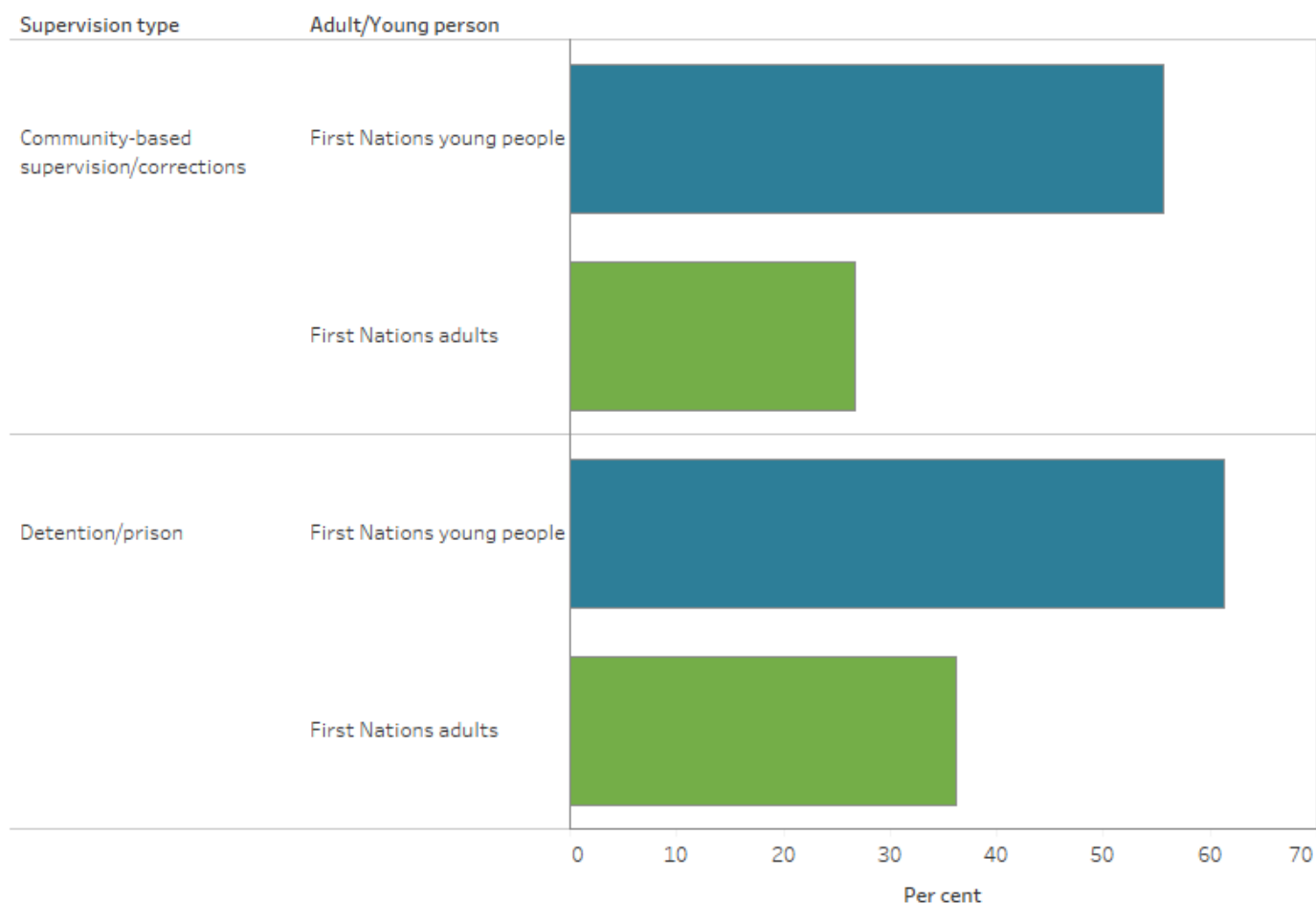
As a result, the level of First Nations over-representation was higher among the youth detention population on an average day in 2024–25 than among adults in full-time prison on an average day in the 2024 calendar year (Figure 10.3). Available ABS data for First Nations and non-Indigenous adults are crude rates, by calendar year.

First nations young people aged 10–17 (26 per 10,000) were about 23 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be in detention (1.1 per 10,000). First nations adults (273 per 10,000) were about 20 times as likely as non-Indigenous adults to be in full-time prison (14 per 10,000) (ABS 2024b; Table S75a).

On an average day, the proportions of young people aged 10–17 and of adults under justice supervision who were male were similar:

- About 89% of young people in detention and 92% of adults in prison were male
- 76% of young people and 80% of adults supervised in the community were male (ABS 2024; Tables S36a and S74a).

Figure 10.3: First nations young people under youth justice supervision and adults under adult criminal justice supervision on an average day, by type of supervision, 2024–25



<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes

1. Data on young people under supervision are for 2024–25.
2. Available ABS data on adults under supervision are the average of monthly snapshots taken on the first day of the month from July 2024 to June 2025.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day is not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 for community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory young people in 2024–25 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.

Sources: ABS 2025; tables S36 and S74.

Young people in detention were more than twice as likely as adults in prison to be unsentenced (that is, to be awaiting the outcome of their court matter or sentencing). On an average day in 2024–25, 87% of young people aged 10–17 in detention were unsentenced compared with 41% of adults in prison (ABS 2025; Table S109a).

# Australian and international approaches to youth justice

## In this section

- International agreements, standards and guidelines
- Age for treatment as a young person
- Principles, services and outcomes

## International agreements, standards and guidelines

Many countries have developed or revised their youth justice policies and practices over the last 30 years.

A major influencing factor has been the introduction of international agreements and guidelines by the United Nations. For example, under the United Nations' 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, member states regularly report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. This has influenced youth justice systems in many countries, including the principles underpinning each system, and the decision-making processes. Australia has been signatory to this convention since 1990.

Three additional influential United Nations agreements that relate specifically to youth justice are the:

- Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice 1985 (also known as the Beijing Rules)
- Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency 1990 (also known as the Riyadh Guidelines)
- Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty 1990 (also known as the Havana Rules).

Within the broad framework of these international agreements, the philosophies, systems and processes for dealing with young people involved in criminal behaviour vary substantially among countries. In addition, the United States of America has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, so its youth justice policies and practices are not bound by the Convention's principles.

## Age for treatment as a young person

Article 40(3) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN 1989) encourages member states to establish a minimum age of criminal responsibility but previously did not specify a particular age.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2019) recently issued an update to the International Standards for the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility. In paragraph 22 of its 'General comment no. 24 (2019) on children's rights in juvenile justice', the Committee deemed the previously recommended age of criminal responsibility of 12 years to be too low.

The Committee now encourages state parties to 'take note of recent scientific findings, and to increase their minimum age to at least 14 years'. It commends those that have set higher minimum ages of 15 and 16.

The recommendation to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility reflects current research in child development and neuroscience which provides evidence that the capacity for abstract reasoning is not fully developed in children aged 12 and 13 (UN Committee on the Rights of the Child 2019).

In Australia, the Meeting of Attorneys-General (MAG) reviewed Australia's age of criminal responsibility in 2022. At that time, MAG noted that the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory had committed to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and that states supported the development of proposals to raise the age, having regard for any carve outs, timing and discussion of implementation requirements (MAG 2022). This followed on from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory (Royal Commission, Australian Government 2017), which resulted in recommendations for Australia to:

- raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12
- keep young people aged 14 and under out of detention unless they have committed a serious crime or pose a serious risk to the community.

Since then, the Northern Territory became the first Australian jurisdiction to commit to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility in November 2022, from 10 to 12 years. The change was implemented in August 2023. The Australian Capital Territory also raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years in November 2023.

The Northern Territory subsequently lowered the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 10 years in October 2024. The Australian Capital Territory again raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 14 years in July 2025, whilst in September 2025 Victoria increased the age from 10 to 12.

The age of criminal responsibility varies considerably across countries. An investigation of 90 countries found that the minimum age of criminal responsibility ranged from 6 to 18; the median age was 13.5 (Hazel 2008).

In Australia, along with New Zealand, England and Wales, young people are deemed to have criminal responsibility if they are aged 10 or over (Table 10.1).

But there are some allowances for children in younger age brackets. For example, young people in New Zealand aged 10 or 11 can only be prosecuted for murder and manslaughter (Child Rights International Network 2020).

In Australia, young people aged between 10 and 14 are given the presumption of *doli incapax*, meaning that they cannot be held criminally responsible unless it can be proved beyond reasonable doubt that the young person knew that their conduct was wrong. In England and Wales, young people aged under 12 cannot be prosecuted for an offence, though the offence may be included on a child's criminal record (Child Rights International Network 2020).

In other countries, minimum ages of criminal responsibility include 11 in Japan; 12 in Canada; 13 in Greece; 14 in Germany, Italy and Spain; and 15 in Scandinavian countries (Table 10.1).

Some countries have alternative programs to avoid sentencing young people of a certain age to penalties such as deprivation of liberty. For example, in Greece, where the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 13, young people aged 13–15 may be required only to undertake reformatory or therapeutic measures, rather than receive a penalty of detention.

Similarly, in Japan, where the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 11, young people aged 11–14 may be required to attend Juvenile Training Schools administered by the Ministry of Justice Correction Bureau rather than receive detention.

Table 10.1: Minimum age of criminal responsibility, by selected countries

Age (years)	Country
10	Australia <sup>(a)</sup> , New Zealand, England, Wales
11	Japan
12	Belgium, Canada, Israel, Netherlands
13	Greece
14	Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain
15	Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden
16	Portugal

(a) In Australia, one territory and one state have raised the age of criminal responsibility. The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) raised the age to 12 in November 2023 and then to 14 in July 2025. Victoria raised the age to 12 in September 2025. Only the November 2023 ACT change is in scope for the 2024–25 reporting year.

Source: Child Rights International Network 2025.

Almost all countries have separate criminal justice systems for young people and adults, each with their own legislation.

The age at which individuals are processed as adults in the justice system is referred to as ‘criminal majority’. In Australia, the age of criminal majority is 18 in all jurisdictions. In Queensland, legislation to increase the age of criminal majority to 18 was enacted on 12 February 2018; before then, it was 17.

This is consistent with the typical age of criminal majority internationally (18), though it does vary between countries. Countries with a higher minimum age of criminal responsibility tend to have a higher age of criminal majority (Hazel 2008).

## Principles, services and outcomes

Key principles established in the United Nations’ agreements and guidelines include:

- the ability to divert young people away from further involvement with the youth justice system, where appropriate
- the notion that young people should be detained only as a last resort, and for the shortest appropriate time (UN 1985, 1989).

The principle of detention as a last resort can be found in youth justice legislation in most states and territories in Australia (with the exception of Queensland and the Northern Territory).

In August 2024, Queensland introduced legislation to reword and clarify youth justice principle 18 (detention as a last resort) in the *Youth Justice Act 1992*. The principle now reads: “A child should be detained in custody, where necessary, including to ensure community safety, where other non-custodial measures of prevention and intervention would not be sufficient, and for no longer than necessary to meet the purpose of detention”.

In October 2024, the Northern Territory amended its youth justice framework as part of broader “law and order” reforms, including removing the long-standing principle that detention should be used only as a last resort for children. The revised approach provides that a child may be detained where necessary to protect community safety or respond to serious offending.

Diversion is also a key principle of youth justice systems in all jurisdictions in Australia. This takes various forms, including:

- complete diversion from the system (such as an informal warning by police)
- referral to services outside the system (such as drug and alcohol treatment programs)
- diversion from continued contact with the system by the police or courts (through mechanisms such as conferencing – a facilitated meeting to discuss the offence and its impact, and to make a plan for action).

Again, there are wide variations between countries, and various diversionary approaches have emerged since the 1960s (Hazel 2008).

The police often play a key role in diversionary action, as they are generally the first point of contact a young person has with the justice system. In a 1998 United Nations survey, 19 of 51 countries surveyed allowed diversion to be instituted by the police (Hazel 2008).

The types of outcomes and sentences available for young offenders vary among countries. For example, young people in custody in the Netherlands can be released to take part in training courses or treatment during their sentences. Other outcomes include intermittent custody (such as night or weekend detention) and training in various forms, such as in Austria where trainees receive a wage throughout their vocational training (Hazel 2008).

Rates of young people in detention in various countries generally reflect the principles and operation of their respective youth justice systems. High rates are commonly seen in countries that operate under what is often termed a ‘justice model’, which emphasises accountability and punishment. Lower rates are seen in countries that operate under a ‘welfare model’, which focuses on rehabilitation and meeting the needs of the young person (Noetic Solutions 2010).

Countries with lower rates of young people in detention tend to adopt the principle of custody as a last resort (Hazel 2008).

Some countries have alternated between the justice and welfare models, and aspects of both approaches are increasingly used in many countries. The Australian youth justice system has typically used elements of both the welfare and justice models (Richards 2011).

International information on numbers of young people involved in youth justice systems as a whole is limited, but some data are available on numbers and rates of young people in detention in selected countries.

On an average day in 2024–25, the rate of young people in youth detention in Australia (2.7 per 10,000 young people) was higher than in England and Wales (0.7 per 10,000) but lower than Canada (3.0 per 10,000) and the United States of America (7.3 per 10,000) (Table 10.2, see footnotes for the differences in measurement).

Rates of young people in detention are similar to previous reporting periods for Australia (2.7 per 10,000), England and Wales (0.8), the United States (7.3) and Canada (2.5).

Table 10.2: Young people aged 10–17 in detention on an average day, by selected countries, 2024–25

Number/rate	Australia <sup>(a)</sup>	England and Wales	Canada <sup>(b)</sup>	United States of America
Number	734	430 <sup>(c)</sup>	614	24,852 <sup>(d)</sup>
Number per 10,000	2.7	0.7	3.0	6.3

a. Data for 2024–25.

b. Data for young people aged 12–17 in detention on an average day during 2023–24.

c. Average monthly population of young people aged 10–17 in custody for the year ending March 2024.

d. Number in youth detention in 2023.

Sources: Office for National Statistics 2025; Puzanchara et al. 2021; Puzanchara et al. 2023; Statistics Canada 2025; Youth Justice Board for England and Wales 2025; YJ NMDS: tables S74a and S75a.

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## State and territory overviews

These state and territory overviews are part of the Youth justice in Australia 2024–25 release. Together, these provide comprehensive information about young people under youth justice supervision in Australia due to their involvement, or alleged involvement, in crime.

### Overviews

- [New South Wales](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [Western Australia](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)
- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)

## New South Wales

### In this section

- Introduction
- Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data
- Number and rate
- Age and sex
- First Nations young people
- Time under supervision
- Sentenced and unsentenced detention
- Trends to 2024-25
- More information

This section summarises key findings of young people under youth justice supervision for New South Wales, including the number and rate of young people under community-based supervision and in detention. It also summarises data on young people by age, sex, Indigenous status, legal status, time under supervision and contains trends.

### Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

### Number and rate

On an average day in 2024–25, in New South Wales:

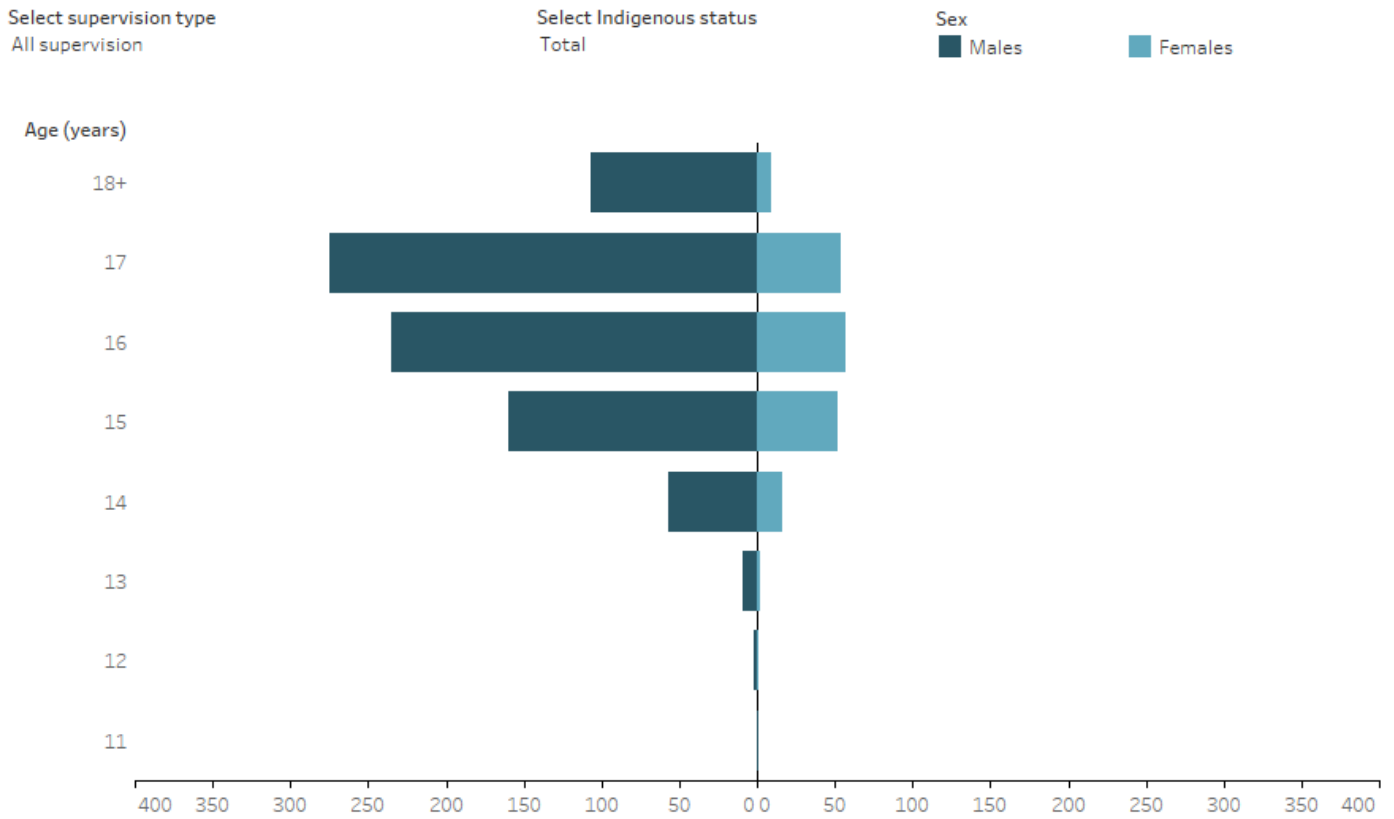
- 1,035 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S126a)
- about 4 in 5 (78%) were supervised in the community (Table S126b), and the rest (22%) in detention (Table S126c) (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 11 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S127a)
- 9 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (Table S127b), and 2 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S127c).

### Age and sex

On an average day in 2024–25, in New South Wales:

- 89% of those under supervision were aged 10–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 82% of those under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 17, and females aged 16 (Table S126a).

Figure 11.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, New South Wales, 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes:

- Age categories are not presented where they represent averages that are equal to or rounded to 0.0.
- Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
- Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
- Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to Youth justice in Australia releases prior to 2019–20.
- The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25, <http://www.aihw.gov.au>

**First Nations young people**

On an average day in 2024–25, in New South Wales:

- First Nations young people made up 7.5% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 56% (or 511) of those aged 10–17 under supervision (Tables S126a and S143)
- 54% (397) of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision were First Australians. A higher proportion of young people in detention were First Nations young people (64% or 117) (Tables S126b and S126c)
- First Nations young people aged 10–17 were 17 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under youth justice supervision (82 per 10,000 compared with 5 per 10,000) (Table S127a)
- First Nations over-representation was 16 times the non-Indigenous rate in community-based supervision but was higher in detention (21 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Tables S127b and S127c).

**Time under supervision**

In 2024–25, in New South Wales:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 8 days (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 154 days (around 22 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

**Sentenced and unsentenced detention**

On an average day in 2024–25, in New South Wales:

- About 3 in 4 (73%) young people in detention were unsentenced - that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing

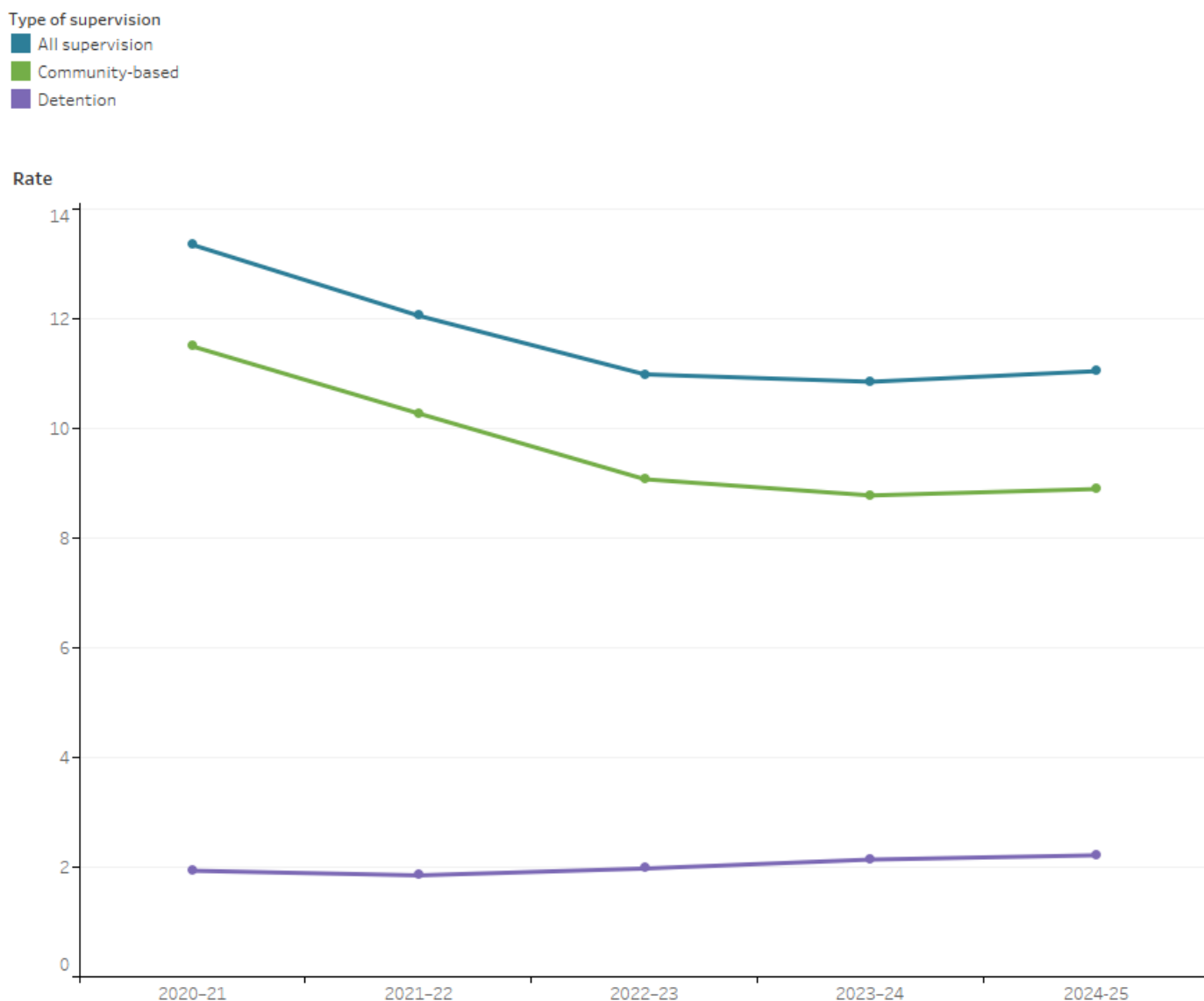
- 28% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a). Trends to 2023–24

## Trends to 2024-25

Over the 5 years to 2024–25, on an average day, in New South Wales:

- the number of young people under supervision fell by 13% (from 1,185 in 2020–21 to 1,035 in 2024–25) (Table S126a), while the rate fell from 13 to 11 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S15a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell by 18% (Table S126b), while the rate fell from 11 to 9 per 10,000 (Table S48a)
- in detention, the number rose by 12% (Table S126c), while the rate rose from 1.9 to 2.2 per 10,000 (Table S86a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision rose from 76 to 82 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Figure 11.2: Rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, New South Wales, 2020–21 to 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

### Notes:

1. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
2. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to Youth justice in Australia releases prior to 2019–20.
4. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
5. Rates are number of young people per 10,000 relevant population.

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25](#)

## More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2024–25* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and [supplementary data tables](#).

Together, these provide comprehensive information about young people under youth justice supervision in Australia due to their involvement, or alleged involvement, in crime.

For more information see the [Youth justice](#) topic.

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## Victoria

### In this section

- Introduction
- Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data
- Number and rate
- Age and sex
- First Nations young people
- Time under supervision
- Sentenced and unsentenced detention
- Trends to 2024–25
- More information

This section summarises key findings of young people under youth justice supervision for Victoria, including the number and rate of young people under community-based supervision and in detention. It also summarises data on young people by age, sex, Indigenous status, legal status, time under supervision and contains trends.

### Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

### Number and rate

On an average day in 2024–25, in Victoria:

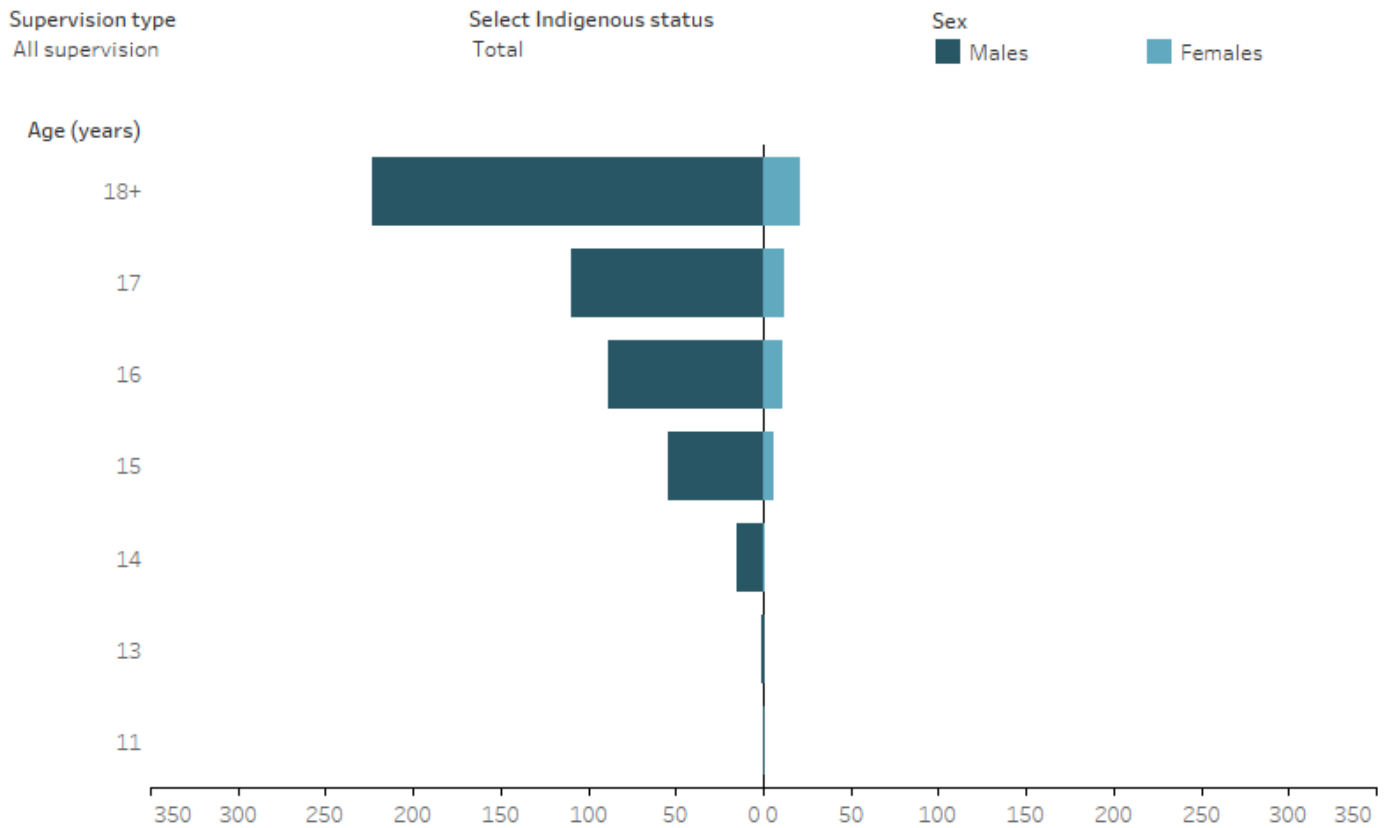
- 545 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S128a)
- more than 3 in 4 (77%) were supervised in the community (Table S128b), and the rest (24%) were in detention (Table S128c)
- the rate of supervision was 5 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S129a)
- 3 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (Table S129b), and 1 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S129c).

### Age and sex

On an average day in 2024–25, in Victoria:

- 55% (300) of those under supervision were aged 10–17, and the rest were 18 and over (in Victoria, some young people aged 18–20 may be sentenced to detention in a youth facility rather than adult prison under the 'dual track' system).
- 90% of those under supervision were male
- males and females under supervision were most likely to be aged 18 or over (Table S128a).

Figure 12.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Victoria, 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes:

1. Age categories are not presented where they represent averages that are equal to or rounded to 0.0.
2. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
3. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
4. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to Youth justice in Australia releases prior to 2019–20.
5. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25

**First Nations young people**

On an average day in 2024–25, in Victoria:

- First Nations young people made up 2.1% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 18% (or 53) of those of the same age under youth justice supervision (Tables S128a and S143)
- 18% of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision were First Nations (18% or 42), similar to 15% of young people aged 10–17 in detention (15% or 11) (Tables S128b and S128c)
- First Nations young people aged 10–17 were 10 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (38 per 10,000 compared with 3.8 per 10,000) (Table S129a)
- First Nations over-representation was higher in community-based supervision (11 times the non-Indigenous rate) and similar in detention (8 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Tables S129b and S129c).

**Time under supervision**

In 2024–25, in Victoria:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 175 days (about 25 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 189 days (27 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

**Sentenced and unsentenced detention**

On an average day in 2024–25, in Victoria:

- about 3 in 5 (60%) young people in detention were unsentenced - that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing

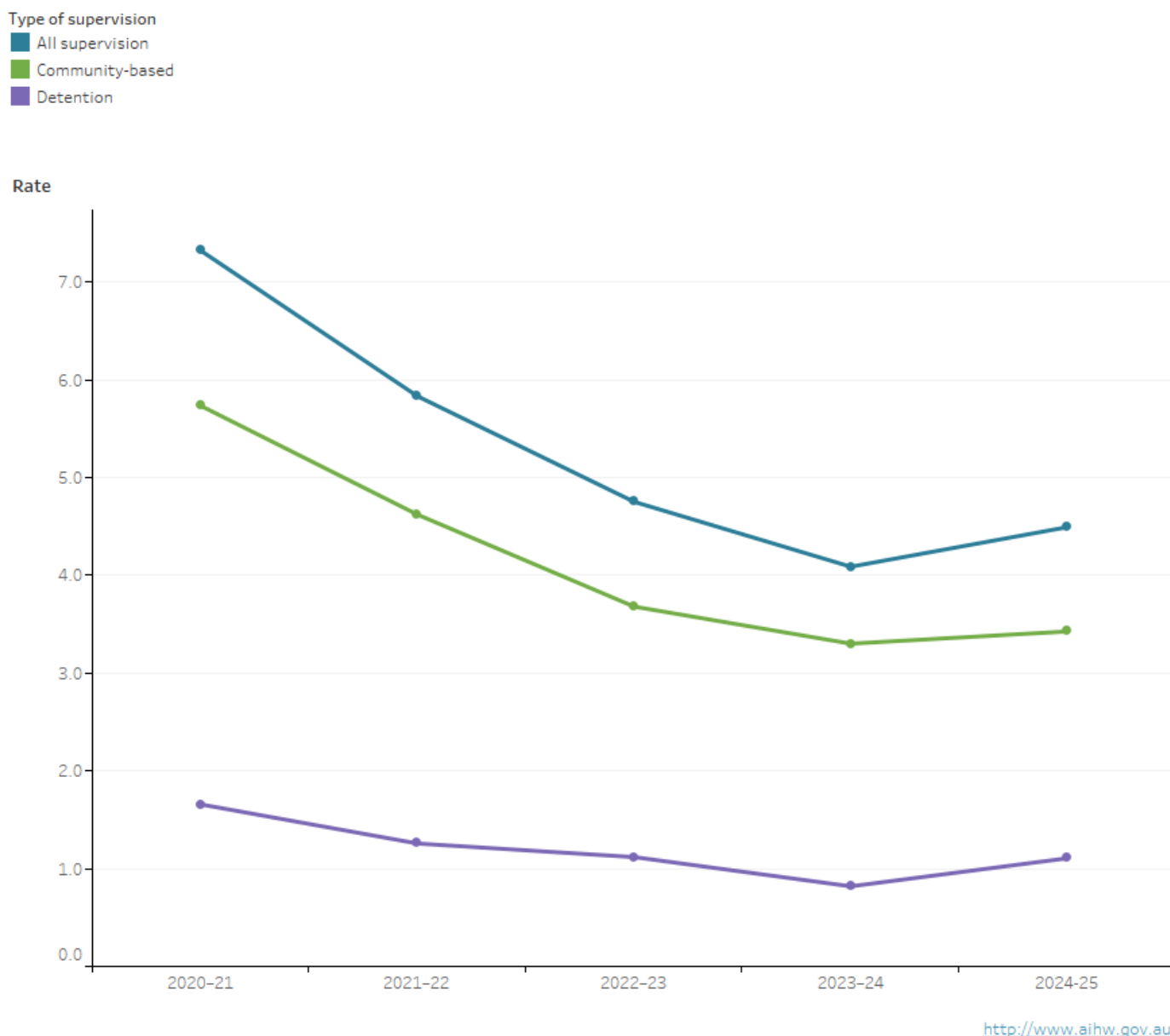
- 34% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

## Trends to 2024-25

Over the 5 years to 2024-25, on an average day, in Victoria:

- the number of all young people under supervision fell by 35% (from 846 in 2020-2021 to 545 in 2024-25) (Table S128a), while the rate fell from 7 to 5 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S15a)
- for community-based supervision, the number fell by 39% (Table S128b), while the rate fell from 6 to 3 per 10,000 (Table S48a)
- in detention, the number fell overall from 163 in 2020-21 to 129 in 2024-25 (Table S128c), while the rate fell overall from 1.7 to 1.1 per 10,000 (Table S86a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision fell from 58 to 38 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Figure 12.2: Rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Victoria, 2020-21 to 2024-25



### Notes:

1. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
2. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to Youth justice in Australia releases prior to 2019-20.
4. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
5. Rates are number of young people per 10,000 relevant population.

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024-25

## More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2024–25* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and [supplementary data tables](#).

Together, these provide comprehensive information about young people under youth justice supervision in Australia due to their involvement, or alleged involvement, in crime.

For more information see the [Youth justice](#) topic.

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## Queensland

### In this section

- Introduction
- Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data
- Number and rate
- Age and sex
- First Nations young people
- Time under supervision
- Trends to 2024–25

This section summarises key findings of young people under youth justice supervision for Queensland, including the number and rate of young people under community-based supervision and in detention. It also summarises data on young people by age, sex, Indigenous status, legal status, time under supervision and contains trends.

### Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

### Number and rate

On an average day in 2024–25, in Queensland:

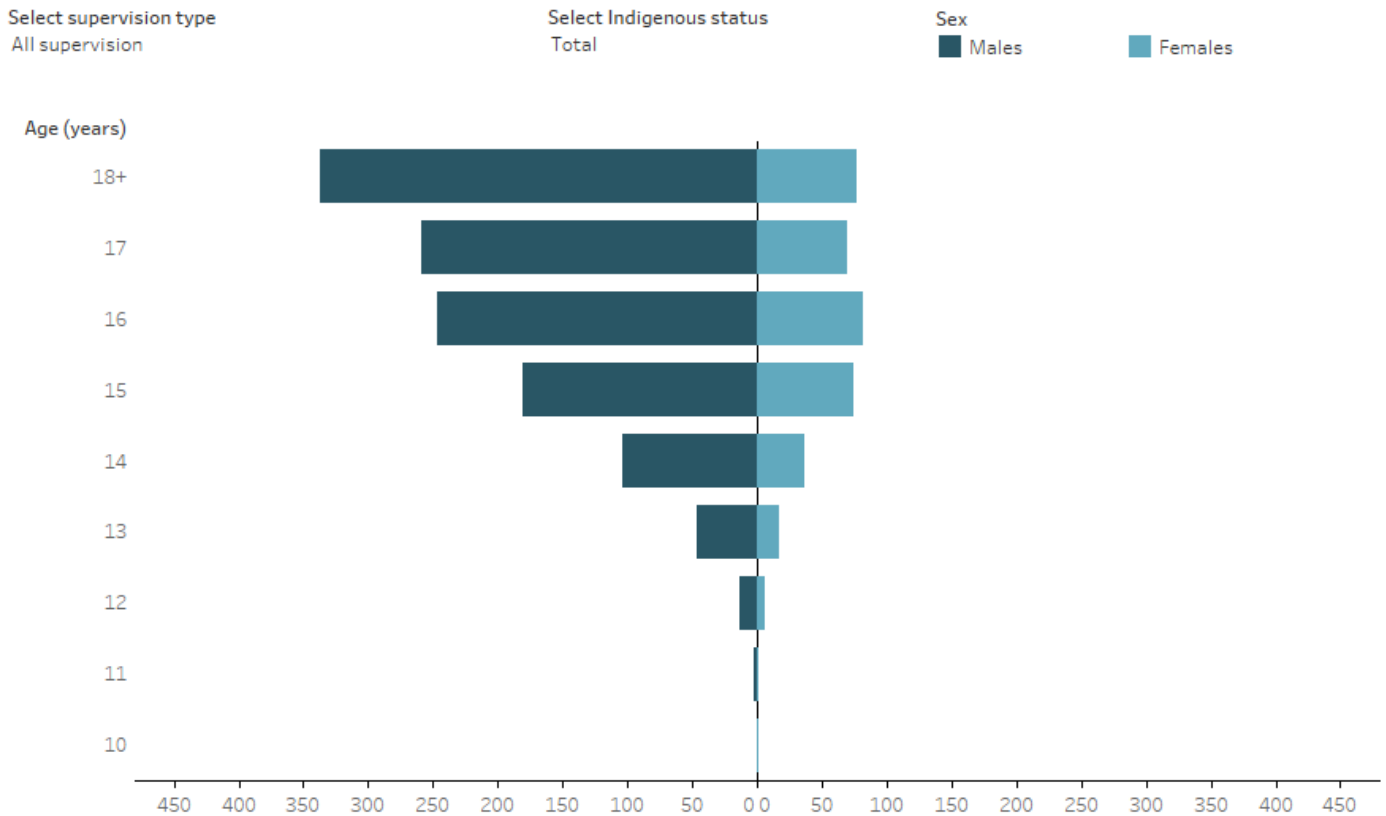
- 1,142 young people aged 10–17 were under youth justice supervision (Table S130a)
- about 3 in 4 (75%) were supervised in the community (Table S130b), and 25% in detention (Table S130c) (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 20 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S131a)
- 15 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (Table S131b), and 5 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S131c).

### Age and sex

On an average day in 2024–25, in Queensland:

- 73% (1,138) of those under supervision were aged 10–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- nearly 4 in 5 (76%) of young people under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 18 and over, whilst females were most likely to be aged 16 (Table S130a).

Figure 13.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Queensland, 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes:

- Age categories are not presented where they represent averages that are equal to or rounded to 0.0.
- Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
- Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
- Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to Youth justice in Australia releases prior to 2019–20.
- The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25](#)

**First Nations young people**

On an average day in 2024–25, in Queensland:

- First Nations young people made up 8.8% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 69% (or 785) of those of the same age under supervision (Tables S130a and S143)
- 68% (or 599) of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision were First Nations young people and 71% (or 192) under detention were First Nations young people (Tables S130b and S130c)
- First Nations over-representation was 23 times the non-Indigenous rate in community-based supervision and higher in detention (27 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Tables S131b and S131c).
- First Nations young people aged 10–17 were 23 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under youth justice supervision (155 per 10,000 compared with 7 per 10,000) (Table S131a)

**Time under supervision**

In 2024–25, in Queensland:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 243 days (about 35 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 222 days (about 32 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2024–25, in Queensland:

- More than 9 in 10 (92%) young people in detention were unsentenced - that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing

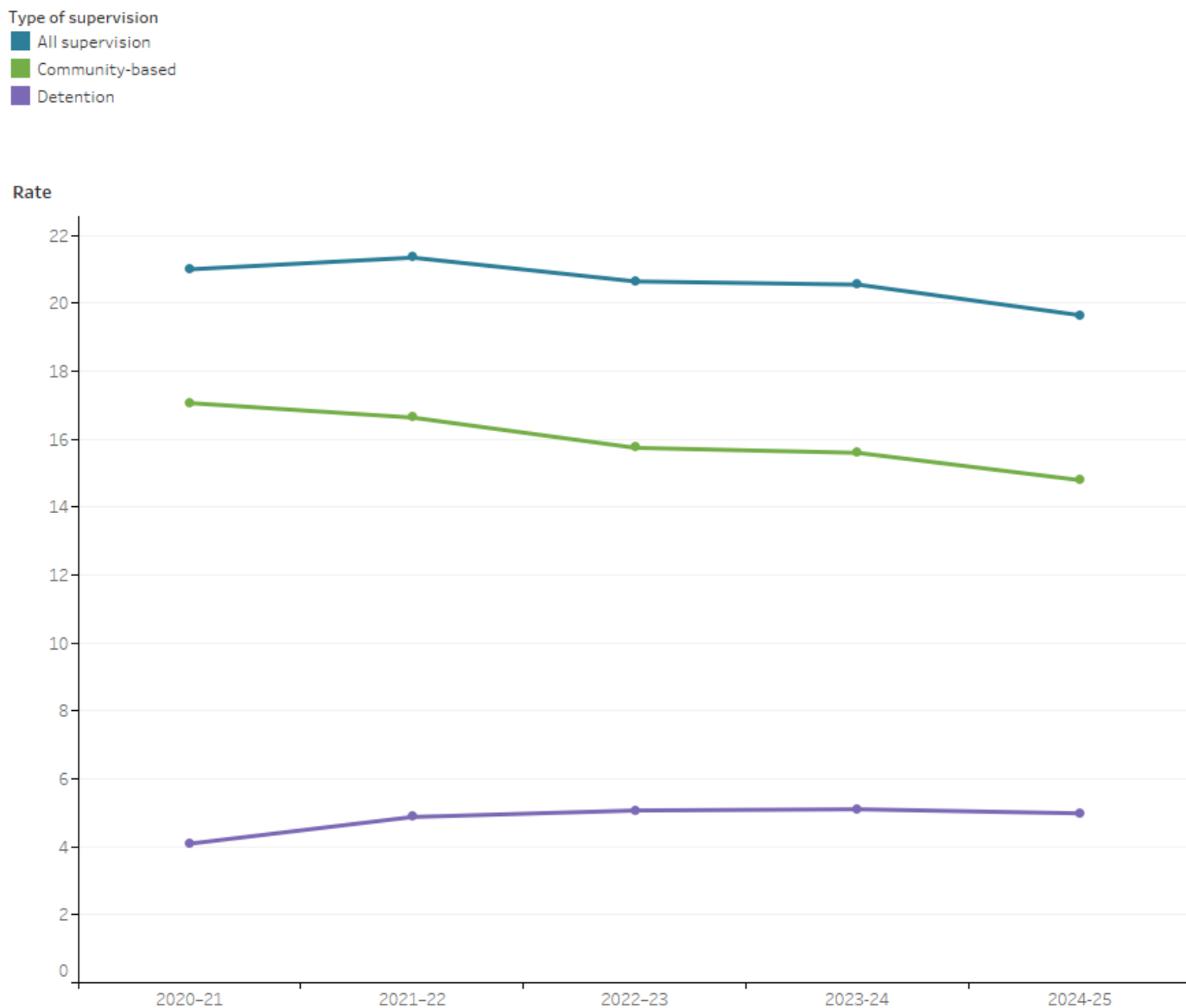
- 10% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

## Trends to 2024–25

Over the 5 years to 2024–25, on an average day, in Queensland:

- the number of young people under supervision fell by 3.1% (from 1,606 in 2020–21 to 1,557 in 2024–25) (Table S130a), while the rate fell slightly from 21 to 20 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S15a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell by 6.6% (Table S130b), while the rate fell from 17 to 15 per 10,000 (Table S48a)
- in detention, the number rose by 27% (Table S130c), while the rate remained steady from 4 to 5 per 10,000 (Table S86a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision remained steady from 153 to 155 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Figure 13.2: Rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Queensland, 2020–21 to 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

### Notes:

1. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
2. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to Youth justice in Australia releases prior to 2019–20.
4. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
5. Rates are number of young people per 10,000 relevant population.

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25](#)

## More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2024–25* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and [supplementary data tables](#).

Together, these provide comprehensive information about young people under youth justice supervision in Australia due to their involvement, or alleged involvement, in crime.

For more information see the [Youth justice](#) topic.

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## Western Australia

### In this section

- Introduction
- Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data
- Number and rate
- Age and sex
- First Nations young people
- Time under supervision
- Sentenced and unsentenced detention
- Trends to 2024–25
- More information

This section summarises key findings of young people under youth justice supervision for Western Australia, including the number and rate of young people under community-based supervision and in detention. It also summarises data on young people by age, sex, Indigenous status, legal status, time under supervision and contains trends.

### Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

### Number and rate

On an average day in 2024–25, in Western Australia:

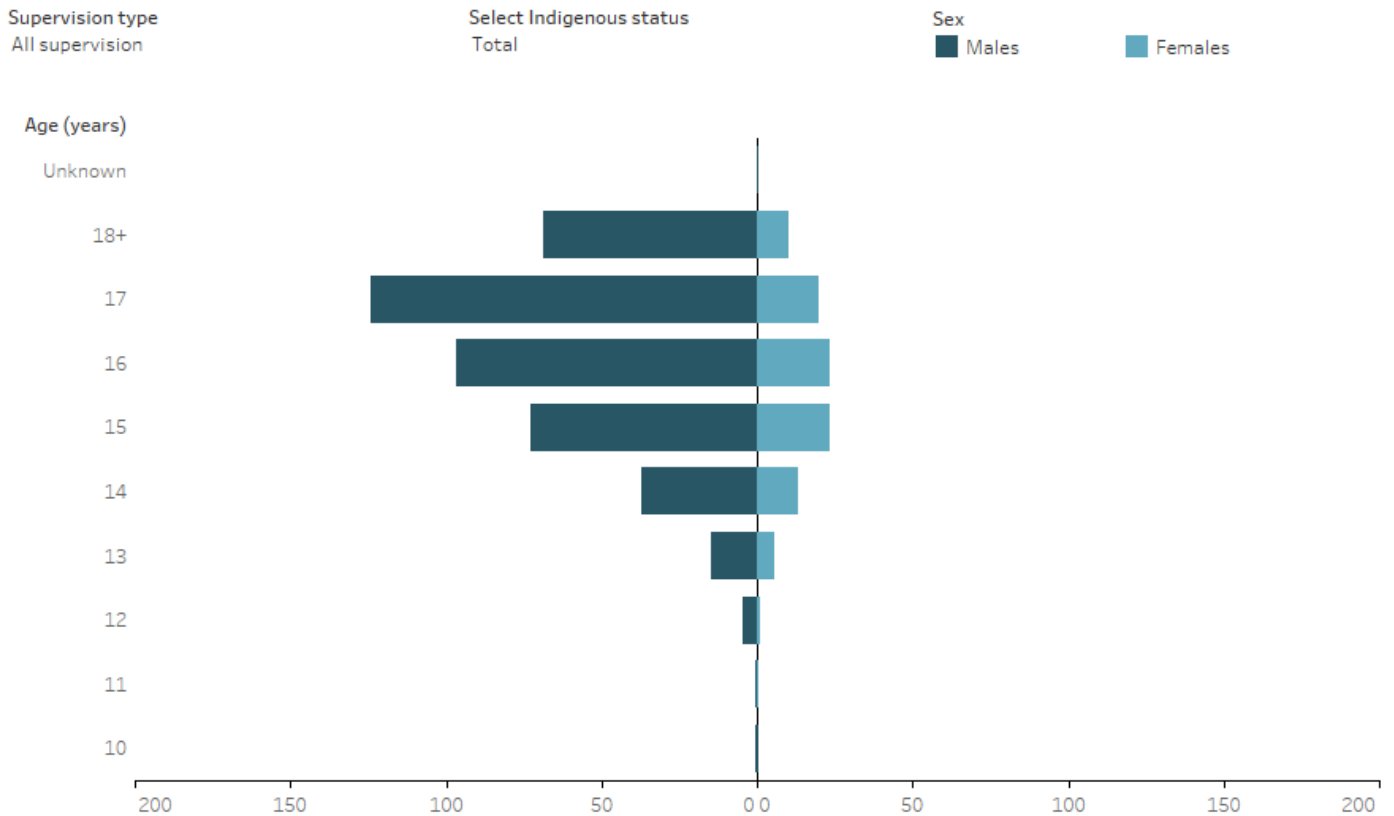
- 516 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S132a)
- 4 in 5 (86%) were supervised in the community (Table S132b), and 15% in detention (Table S132c) (proportions may not sum to 100% as some young people were under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- The rate of supervision was 15 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S133a)
- 12 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (Table S133b), and 2 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S133c).

### Age and sex

On an average day in 2024–25, in Western Australia:

- 85% (438) of those under supervision were aged 10–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 81% of those under supervision were male
- Males under supervision were most likely to be aged 17, whilst females were most likely to be aged 16 (Table S132a).

Figure 14.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Western Australia, 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes:

1. Age categories are not presented where they represent averages that are equal to or rounded to 0.0.
2. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
3. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
4. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to Youth justice in Australia releases prior to 2019–20.
5. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25

**First Nations young people**

On an average day in 2024–25, in Western Australia:

- First Nations young people made up 6.9% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 59% (or 259) of those of the same age under supervision (Tables S132a and S143)
- 59% (216) of young people under community-based supervision were First Nations young people and 62% (46) of young people aged 10-17 were in detention (Tables S132b and S132).
- First Nations over-representation was 19 times the non-Indigenous rate in community-based supervision and higher in detention (22 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Tables S133b and S133c).
- First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 19 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under youth justice supervision (125 per 10,000 compared with 6 per 10,000) (Table S133a).

**Time under supervision**

In 2024–25, in Western Australia:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 16 days (around 2 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 131 days (about 19 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

**Sentenced and unsentenced detention**

On an average day in 2024–25, in Western Australia:

- around 2 in 3 (68%) young people in detention were unsentenced - that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing

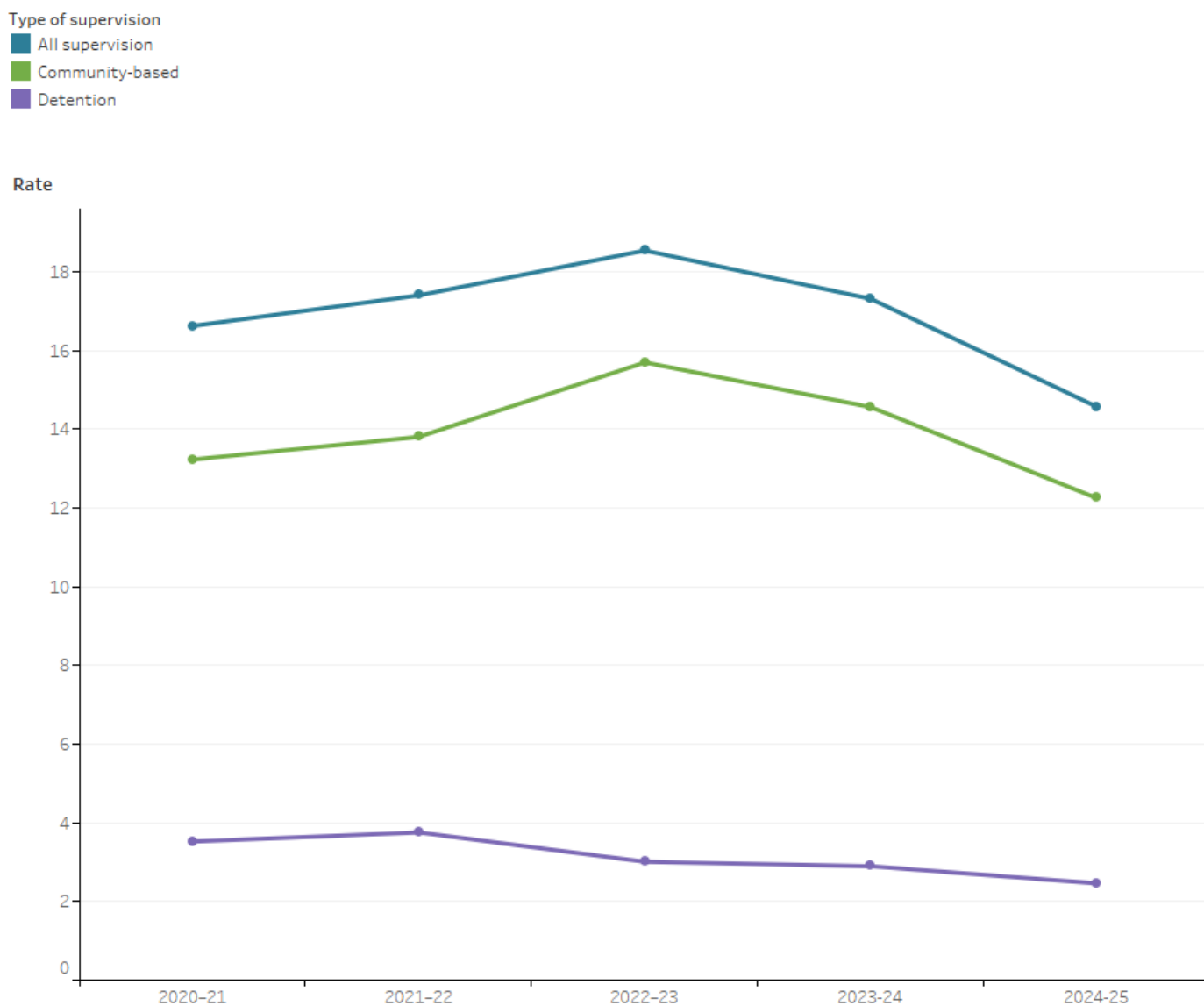
- about 1 in 3 (33%) young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

## Trends to 2024–25

Over the 5 years to 2024–25, on an average day, in Western Australia:

- the number of young people under supervision fell by 6% (from 549 in 2020–21 to 516 in 2024–25) (Table S132a), and the rate declined from 17 to 15 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S15a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fluctuated, with the rate declining overall from 13 to 12 (Table S48a),
- in detention, the number fell from 106 to 76 (Table S132c), and the rate fell from 4 to 3 per 10,000 (Table S83a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision fell from 140 to 125 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Figure 14.2: Rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Western Australia, 2020–21 to 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

### Notes:

1. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
2. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to Youth justice in Australia releases prior to 2019–20.
4. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
5. Rates are number of young people per 10,000 relevant population.

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25

## More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2024–25* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and [supplementary data tables](#).

Together, these provide comprehensive information about young people under youth justice supervision in Australia due to their involvement, or alleged involvement, in crime.

For more information see the [Youth justice](#) topic.

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## South Australia

### In this section

- Introduction
- Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data
- Number and rate
- Age and sex
- First Nations young people
- Time under supervision
- Sentenced and unsentenced detention
- Trends to 2024–25
- More information

This section summarises key findings of young people under youth justice supervision for South Australia, including the number and rate of young people under community-based supervision and in detention. It also summarises data on young people by age, sex, Indigenous status, legal status, time under supervision and contains trends.

### Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

### Number and rate

On an average day in 2024–25, in South Australia:

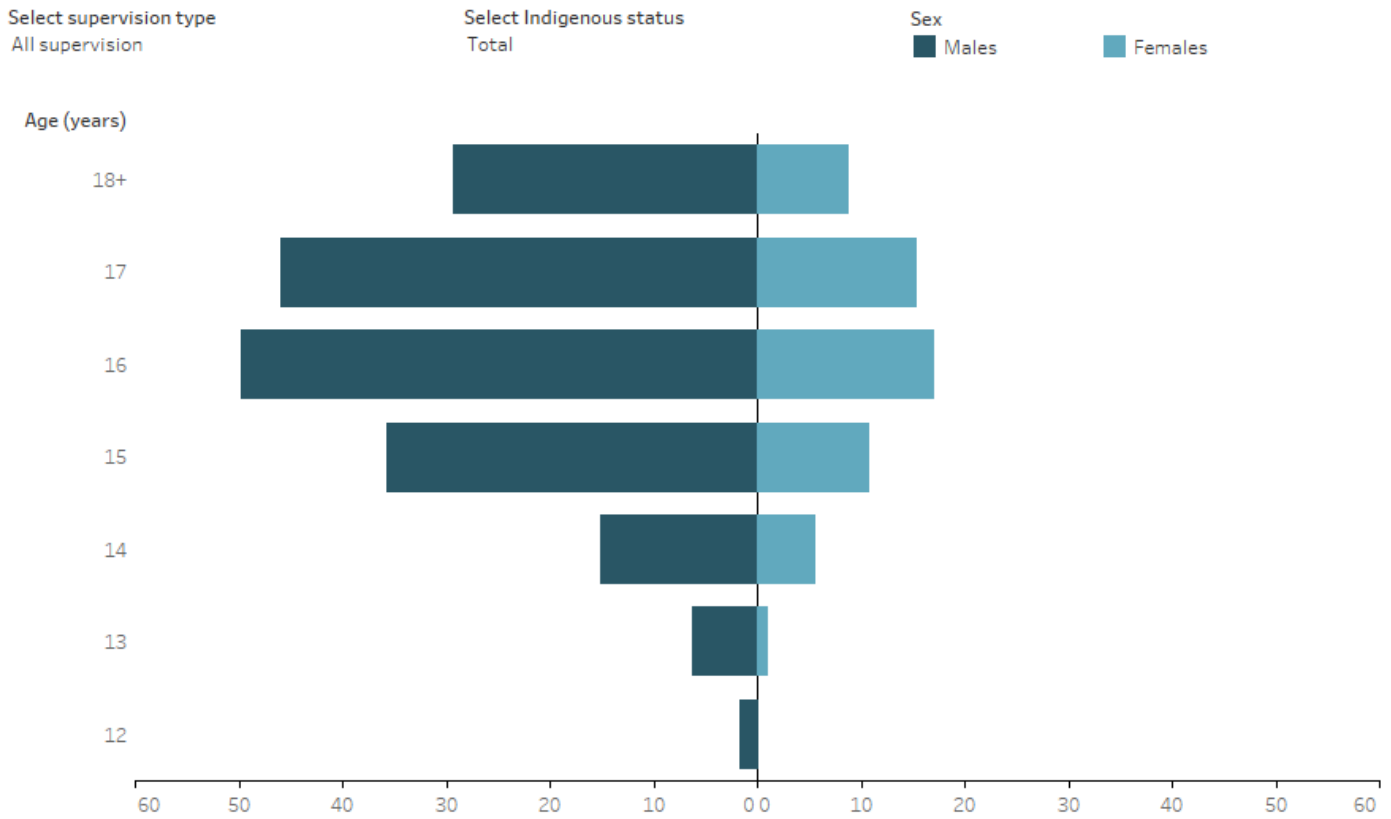
- 243 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S134a)
- most (84%) were supervised in the community (Table S134b), and 17% in detention (Table S134c) (proportions might not sum to 100% because some young people were under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 12 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S135a)
- 9 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (Table S135b), and 2 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S135c).

### Age and sex

On an average day in 2024–25, in South Australia:

- 84% (205) of those under supervision were aged 10–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- About 3 in 4 (76%) of those under supervision were male
- Males and females under supervision were most likely to be aged 16 (Table S134a).

Figure 15.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, South Australia, 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes:

1. Age categories are not presented where they represent averages that are equal to or rounded to 0.0.
2. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
3. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
4. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to *Youth Justice in Australia* releases prior to 2019–20.
5. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25](#)

**First Nations young people**

On an average day in 2024–25, in South Australia:

- First Nations young people made up 5.4% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 57% (or 116) of those of the same age under supervision (Tables S134a and S143)
- 57% of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision were First Nations young people (57% or 97) with a similar proportion in detention (53% or 20) (Tables S134b and S134c)
- First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 25 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (102 per 10,000 compared with 4.1 per 10,000) (Table S135a)
- First Nations over-representation was similar in community-based supervision and detention (about 25 and 21 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Tables S135b and S135c).

**Time under supervision**

In 2024–25, in South Australia:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 92 days (about 13 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 146 days (21 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

**Sentenced and unsentenced detention**

On an average day in 2024–25, in South Australia:

- 91% of young people in detention were unsentenced - that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing

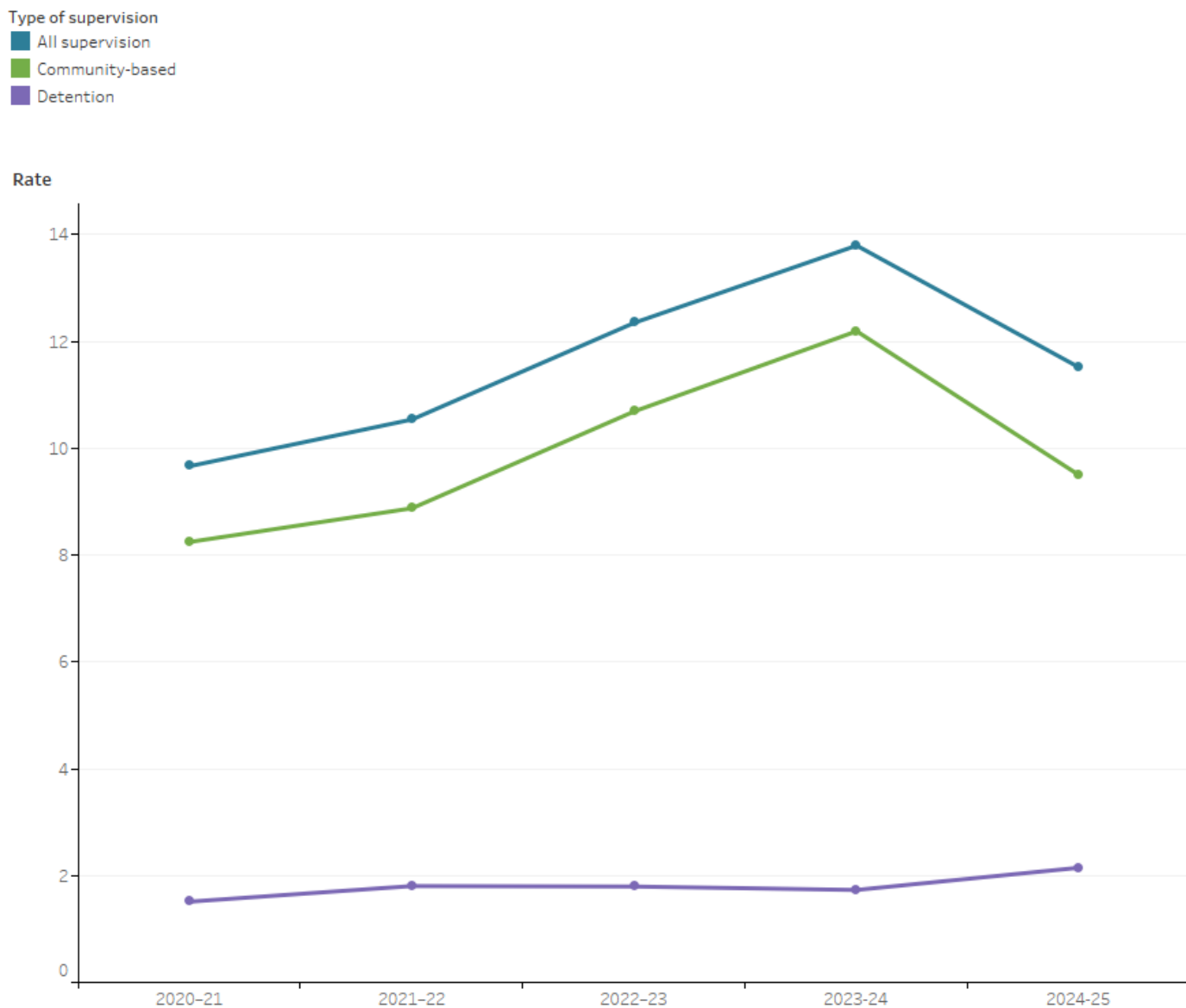
- 11% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

## Trends to 2024–25

Over the 5 years to 2024–25, on an average day, in South Australia:

- the number of young people under supervision rose overall by 12% (from 217 in 2020–21 to 243 in 2024–25) (Table S134a), while the rate rose from 10 to 12 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S15a)
- in community-based supervision, the number rose overall by 6.7% (Table S134b), while the rate rose from 8 to 10 per 10,000 (Table S48a)
- in detention, the number rose overall from 28 in 2020-21 to 42 in 2024-25 (Table S134c), while the rate rose from 1.5 to 2.1 per 10,000 (Table S83a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision rose from 86 to 122 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Figure 15.2: Rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, South Australia, 2020–21 to 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

### Notes:

1. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
2. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to *Youth justice in Australia* releases prior to 2019–20.
4. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
5. Rates are number of young people per 10,000 relevant population.

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25](#)

## More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2024–25* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and [supplementary data tables](#).

Together, these provide comprehensive information about young people under youth justice supervision in Australia due to their involvement, or alleged involvement, in crime.

For more information see the [Youth justice](#) topic.

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## Tasmania

### In this section

- Introduction
- Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data
- Number and rate
- Age and sex
- First Nations young people
- Time under supervision
- Sentenced and unsentenced detention
- Trends to 2024–25
- More information

This section summarises key findings of young people under youth justice supervision for Tasmania, including the number and rate of young people under community-based supervision and in detention. It also summarises data on young people by age, sex, Indigenous status, legal status, time under supervision and contains trends.

### Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

### Number and rate

On an average day in 2024–25, in Tasmania:

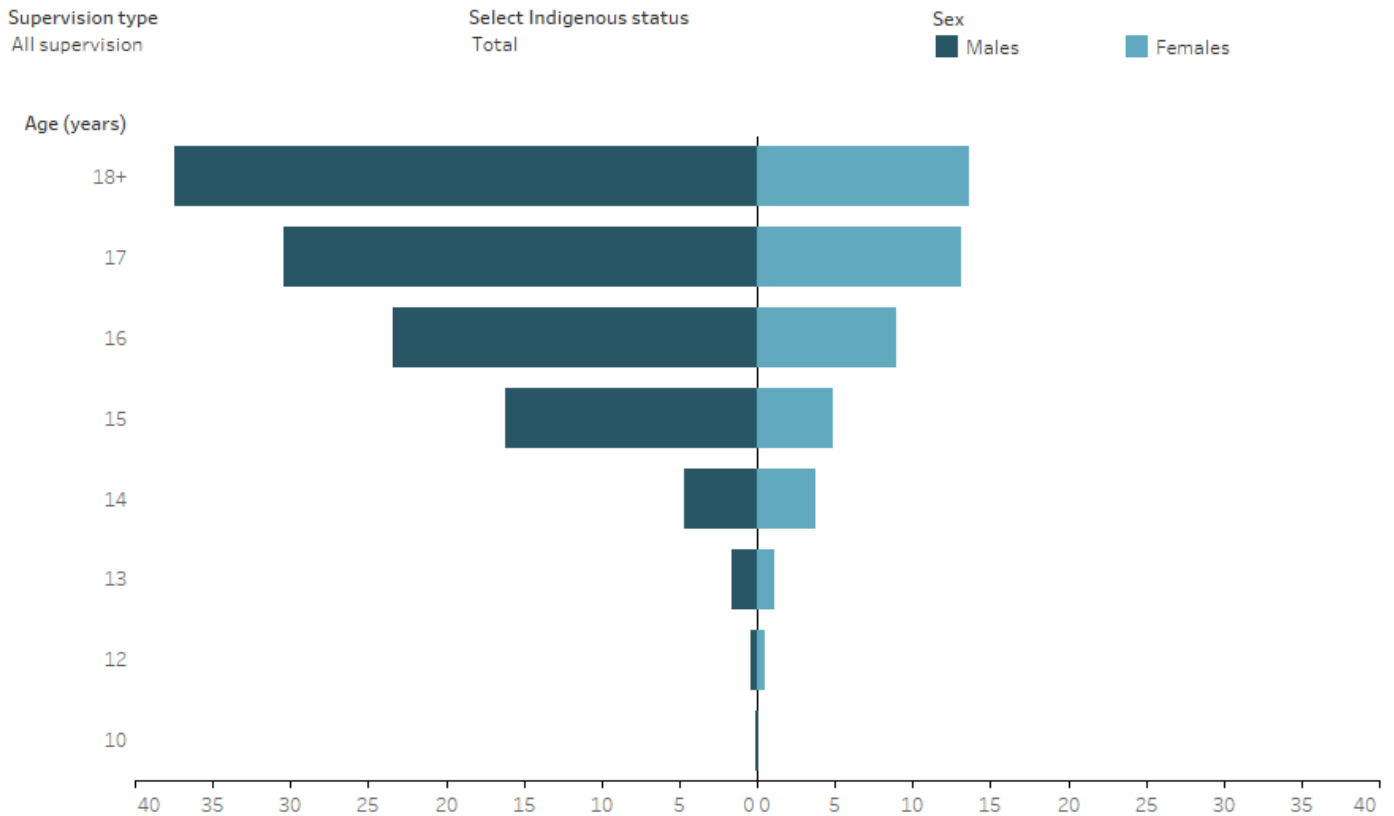
- 163 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S136a)
- 9 in 10 (91%) were supervised in the community (Table S136b), and the rest (10%) in detention (Table S136c) (the numbers may not sum to 100% as some young people experience both types of supervision within the same year)
- the rate of supervision was 20 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S137a)
- 18 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (Table S137b), and 3 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S137c).

### Age and sex

On an average day in 2024–25, in Tasmania:

- 68% (110) of those under supervision were aged 10–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 70% of those under supervision were male
- Males and females under supervision were most likely to be aged 18 years and over (Table S136a).

Figure 16.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Tasmania, 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes:

1. Age categories are not presented where they represent averages that are equal to or rounded to 0.0.
2. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
3. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
4. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to *Youth Justice in Australia* releases prior to 2019–20.
5. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25](#)

**First Nations young people**

On an average day in 2024–25, in Tasmania:

- First Nations young people made up 11% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 39% (or 43) of those aged 10–17 under supervision (Tables S136a and S143)
- 40% of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision were First Nations (40% or 38) similar to 33% of those in detention (33% or 5) (Tables S136b and S136c)
- First Nations over-representation was similar in community-based supervision (about 5 times the non-Indigenous rate) and detention (about 4 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Table S137b).
- First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 5 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (70 per 10,000 compared with 14 per 10,000) (Table S137a)

**Time under supervision**

In 2024–25, in Tasmania:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 269 days (about 38 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 223 days (about 32 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

**Sentenced and unsentenced detention**

On an average day in 2024–25, in Tasmania:

- 85% of young people in detention were unsentenced - that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing (Table S108a)

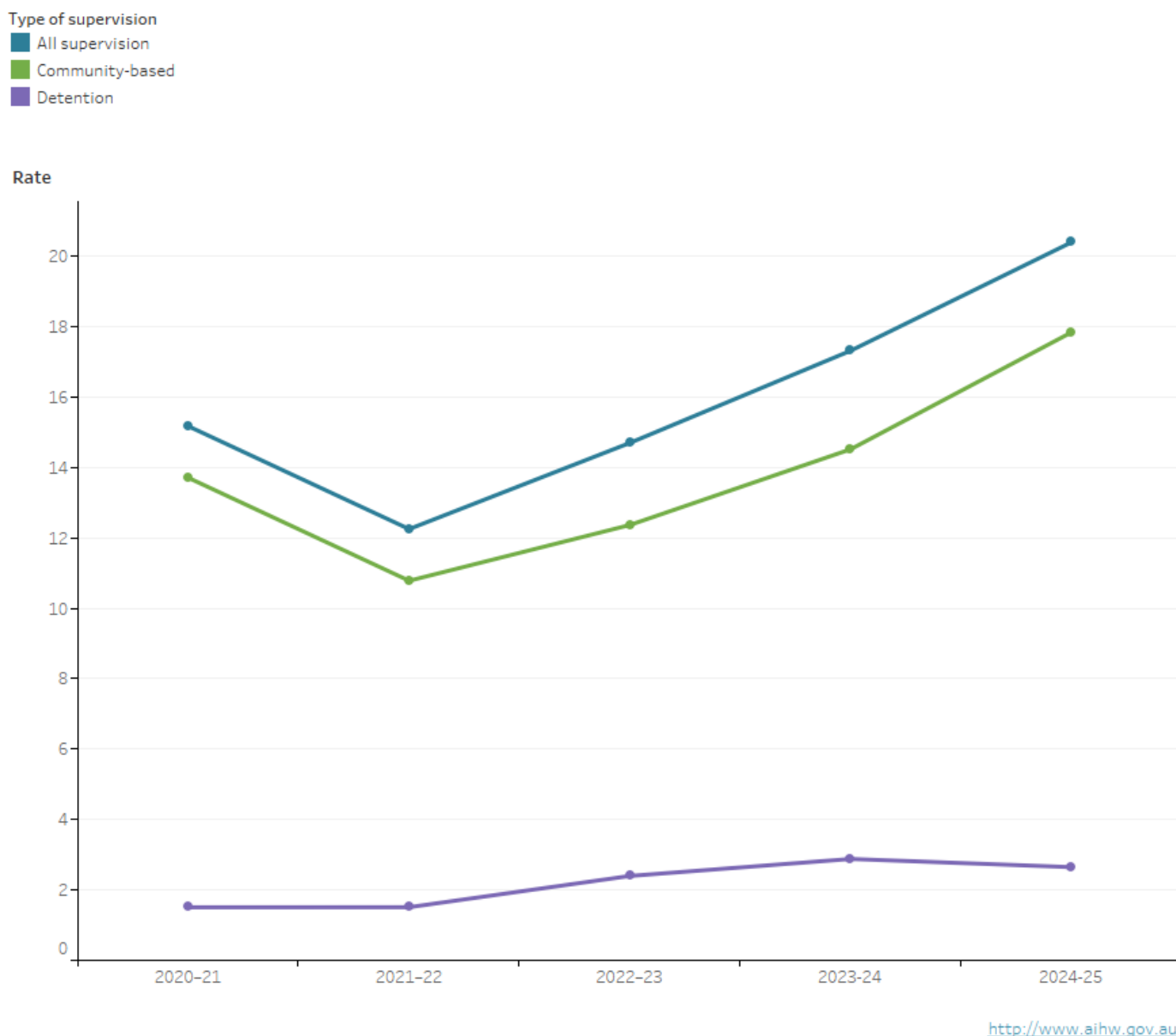
- about 1 in 6 (17%) young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100% because some young people were in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

## Trends to 2024–25

Over the 5 years to 2024–25, on an average day in Tasmania:

- the number of young people under supervision rose overall by 37% from 118 in 2020-21 to 163 in 2024-25 (Table S14a), while the rate rose from 15 to 20 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S15a)
- in community-based supervision, the number rose overall by 35% (Table S136b), while the rate increased from 14 to 18 per 10,000 (Table S48a)
- in detention, the number rose from 9.4 in 2020-21 to 16 in 2024-25 (Table S136c), while the rate rose overall from 2 to 3 per 10,000 (Table S86a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision rose overall from 45 to 70 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Figure 16.2: Rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Tasmania, 2020–21 to 2024–25



### Notes:

1. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
2. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to *Youth justice in Australia* releases prior to 2019–20.
4. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
5. Rates are number of young people per 10,000 relevant population.

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25

## More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2024–25* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and [supplementary data tables](#).

Together, these provide comprehensive information about young people under youth justice supervision in Australia due to their involvement, or alleged involvement, in crime.

For more information see the [Youth justice](#) topic.

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## Australian Capital Territory

### In this section

- Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2024–25
- Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data
- Number and rate
- Age and sex
- First Nations young people
- Time under supervision
- Sentenced and unsentenced detention
- Trends to 2024–25
- Trends to 2022–23
- More information

### Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2024–25

Due to the Australian Capital Territory increasing the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years old in 2023, the rates for 2023–24 onwards are for young people aged 12–17 (instead of 10–17).

Rates are higher in 2023–24 and 2024–25 because the in-scope population (denominator) is now about 25% smaller than in prior years. As a result, rates are not directly comparable with years prior to 2023–24.

This section summarises key findings of young people under youth justice supervision for the Australian Capital Territory, including the number and rate of young people under community-based supervision and in detention. It also summarises data on young people by age, sex, Indigenous status, legal status, time under supervision and contains trends.

### Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

### Number and rate

On an average day in 2024–25, in the Australian Capital Territory:

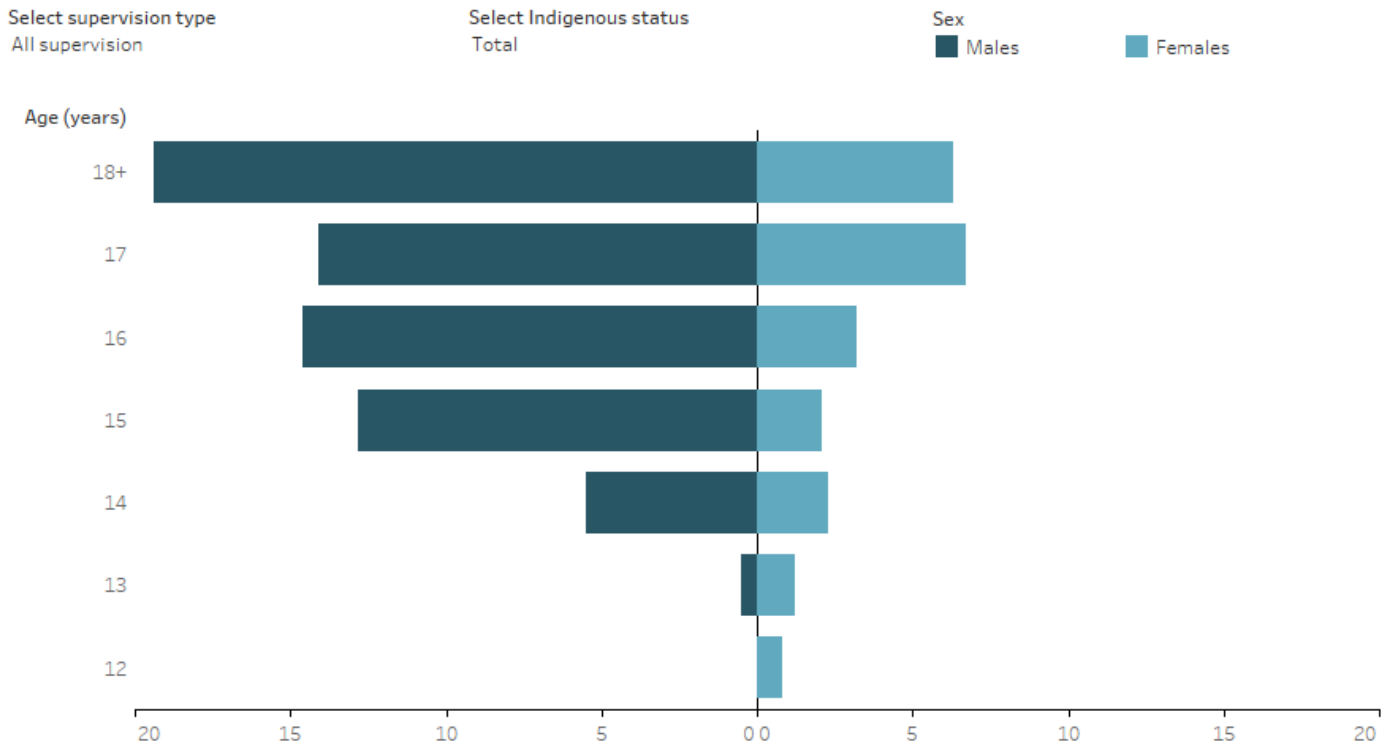
- 89 young people aged 12 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S138a)
- 79% were supervised in the community (Table S138b), and 21% in detention (Table S138c) (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 19 per 10,000 young people aged 12–17 (Table S139a)
- 14 per 10,000 young people aged 12–17 were under community-based supervision, and 5 per 10,000 were in detention (Tables S139b and S139c).

### Age and sex

On an average day in 2024–25, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- 71% (64) of those under supervision were aged 12–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 3 in 4 (75%) of those under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 18 or over and females were most likely to be aged 17 (Table S138a).

Figure 17.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes:

1. Age categories are not presented where they represent averages that are equal to or rounded to 0.0.
2. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
3. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
4. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to *Youth justice in Australia* releases prior to 2019–20.
5. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
6. In November 2023, the Australian Capital Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. The population for the Australian Capital Territory in 2023–24 are young people aged 12–17.

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25](#)

**First Nations young people**

On an average day in 2024–25, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- First Nations young people made up 3.2% of those aged 12–17 in the general population, but 33% (or 21) of those aged 12–17 under supervision (Tables S138a and S150)
- First Nations young people aged 12–17 made up similar proportions of those under community-based supervision (33% or 16) and in detention (33% or 6) (Tables S138b and S138c)
- First Nations over-representation was similar in community-based supervision and detention (15 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Tables S139b and S139c).
- First Nations young people aged 12–17 were about 15 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (194 per 10,000 compared with 13 per 10,000) (Table S139a)

**Time under supervision**

In 2024–25, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 79 days (about 11 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 185 days (about 26 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

**Sentenced and unsentenced detention**

On an average day in 2024–25, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- more than 9 in 10 (94%) young people in detention were unsentenced - that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing

- 6% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (the number of unsentenced and sentenced young people on an average day may not sum to total number of young people in detention as young people may have been in both detention types on the same day) (Table S108a).

### **Trends to 2024–25**

From 2023–24 to 2024–25, on an average day in the Australian Capital Territory:

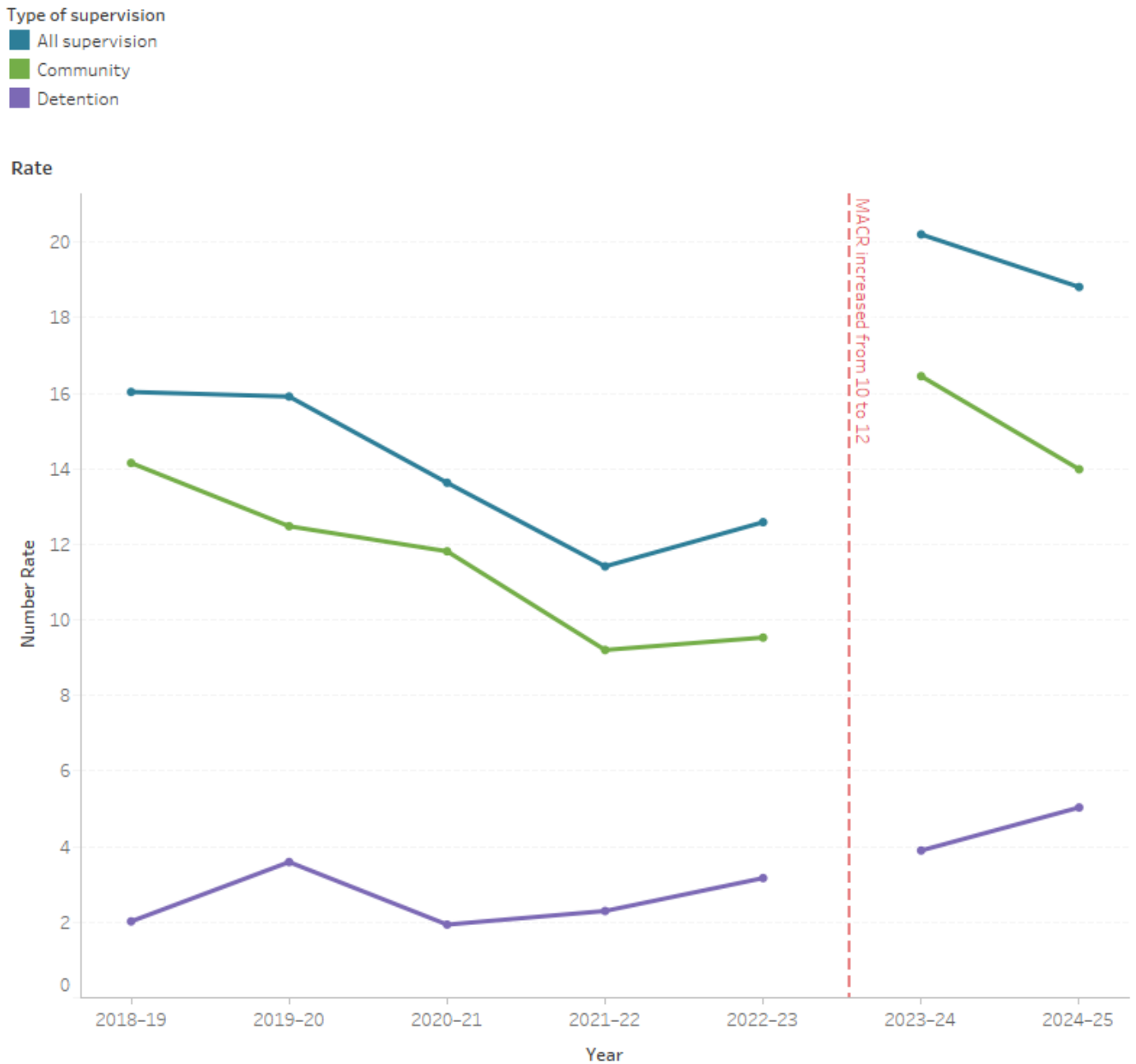
- the number of young people under supervision rose
- First Nations young people aged 12–17 were 15 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (193.6 per 10,000 compared with 12.9 per 10,000) (Table S139a)
- the number of young people in community-based supervision remained stable from 72 in 2023-24 to 71 in 2024-25 (Table S138b)
- the number of young people in detention rose from 16 to 19 (Table S138c).

### **Trends to 2022–23**

Over the 5 years to 2022–23 on an average day in the Australian Capital Territory:

- the number of young people under supervision fell from 79 in 2018–19 to 73 in 2022–23 (Table S11a), while the rate fell from 16 to 13 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S15a)
- the number of young people under community-based supervision fell from 69 in 2018–19 to 55 in 2022–23 (Table S47a), while the rate fell from 14 to 10 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S48a)
- the number of young people in detention rose from 10 in 2018–19 to 18 in 2022–23 (Table S85a), while the rate rose from 2 to 3 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S86a).
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision fell from 102 to 79 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Figure 17.2: Rate of young people under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Australian Capital Territory, 2018–19 to 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes:

1. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
2. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to Youth justice in Australia releases prior to 2019–20.
4. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
5. Rates are number of young people per 10,000 relevant population.
6. In November 2023, the Australian Capital Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. The population for the Australian Capital Territory in 2023-24 onwards are young people aged 12-17.
7. Rates for 2023–24 and 2024-25 are a break in time series and are not comparable to previous years.

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024-25](#)

**More information**

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2024–25* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and [supplementary data tables](#).

Together, these provide comprehensive information about young people under youth justice supervision in Australia due to their involvement, or alleged involvement, in crime.

For more information see the [Youth justice](#) topic.

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## Northern Territory

### In this section

- Availability of Northern Territory data in 2024-25
- Rates for the Northern Territory in 2023-24 and 2024-25
- Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data
- Number and rate
- Age and sex
- First Nations young people
- Sentenced and unsentenced detention
- Trends to 2024-25
- More information

#### Availability of Northern Territory data in 2024-25

The following Northern Territory data were unavailable in 2023-24 and 2024-25 and are excluded from this overview:

- All supervision (average day)
- Community-based supervision (average day)
- Time under supervision.

#### Rates for the Northern Territory in 2023-24 and 2024-25

Due to the Northern Territory increasing the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years old in 2023, the rates for 2023-24 are for young people aged 12-17 (instead of 10-17).

In October 2024, the Northern Territory lowered the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 10. Rates for 2024-25 are for young people aged 10-17.

This section summarises key findings of young people under youth justice supervision for the Northern Territory, including the number and rate of young people in detention. It also summarises data on young people by age, sex, Indigenous status, legal status, time under supervision and contains trends.

#### Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

#### Number and rate

On an average day in 2024-25, in the Northern Territory:

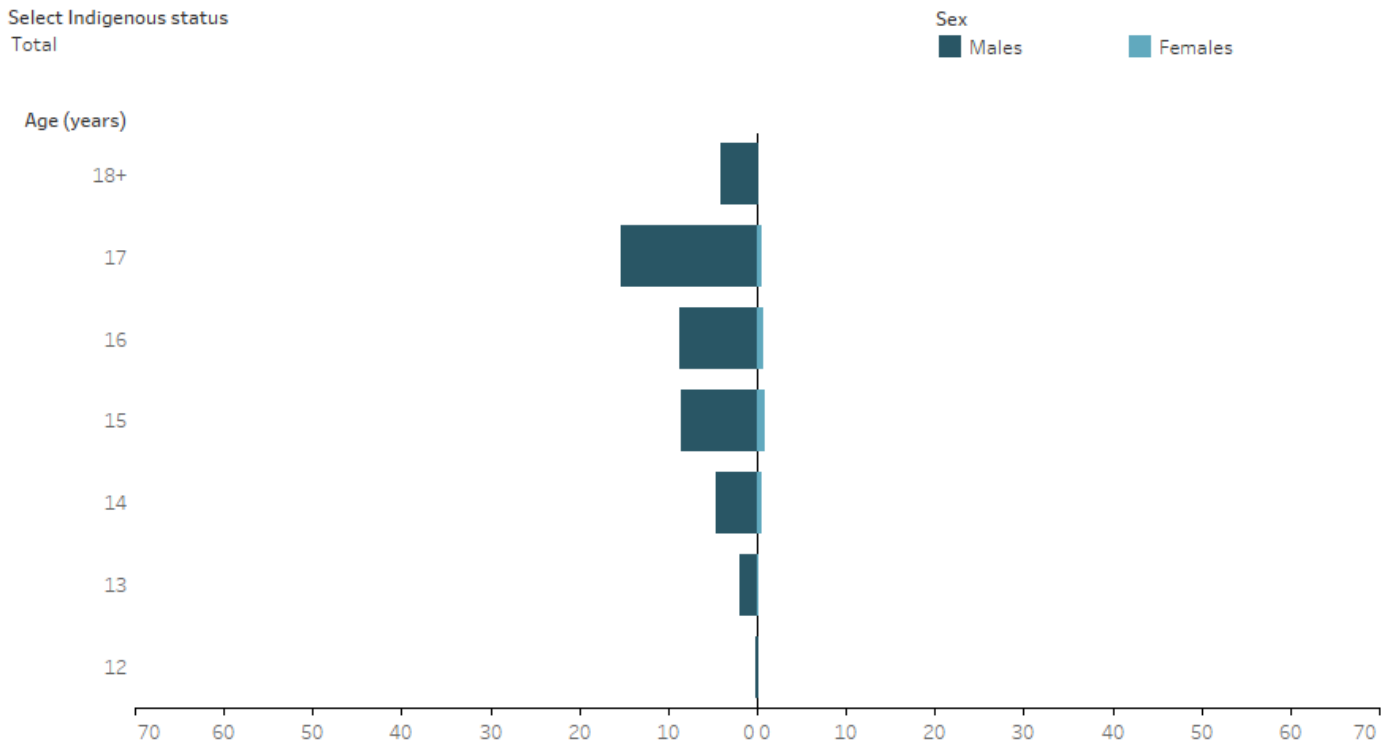
- 47 young people aged 10 and over were in detention (Table S140c)
- 15 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 were in detention (Table S141c).

#### Age and sex

On an average day in 2024-25, in the Northern Territory:

- 91% of those in detention were aged 10-17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 94% of those in detention were male
- Males in detention were most likely to be aged 17, and females in detention were most likely to be aged 15 (Table S140c).

Figure 18.1: Number of young people in detention on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Northern Territory, 2024–25



<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Notes:

1. Age categories are not presented where they represent averages that are equal to or rounded to 0.0.
2. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to Youth justice in Australia releases prior to 2019–20.
4. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
5. In October 2024, the Northern Territory lowered the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 10. The population for the Northern Territory in 2024-25 are young people aged 10-17.

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024–25](#)

**First Nations young people**

On an average day in 2024–25, in the Northern Territory First Nations young people made up 41% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 94% (or 40) of those of the same age in detention (tables S140c and S150).

**Sentenced and unsentenced detention**

On an average day in 2024–25, in the Northern Territory:

- all (100%) young people in detention were unsentenced - that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 60% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (Table S108a).

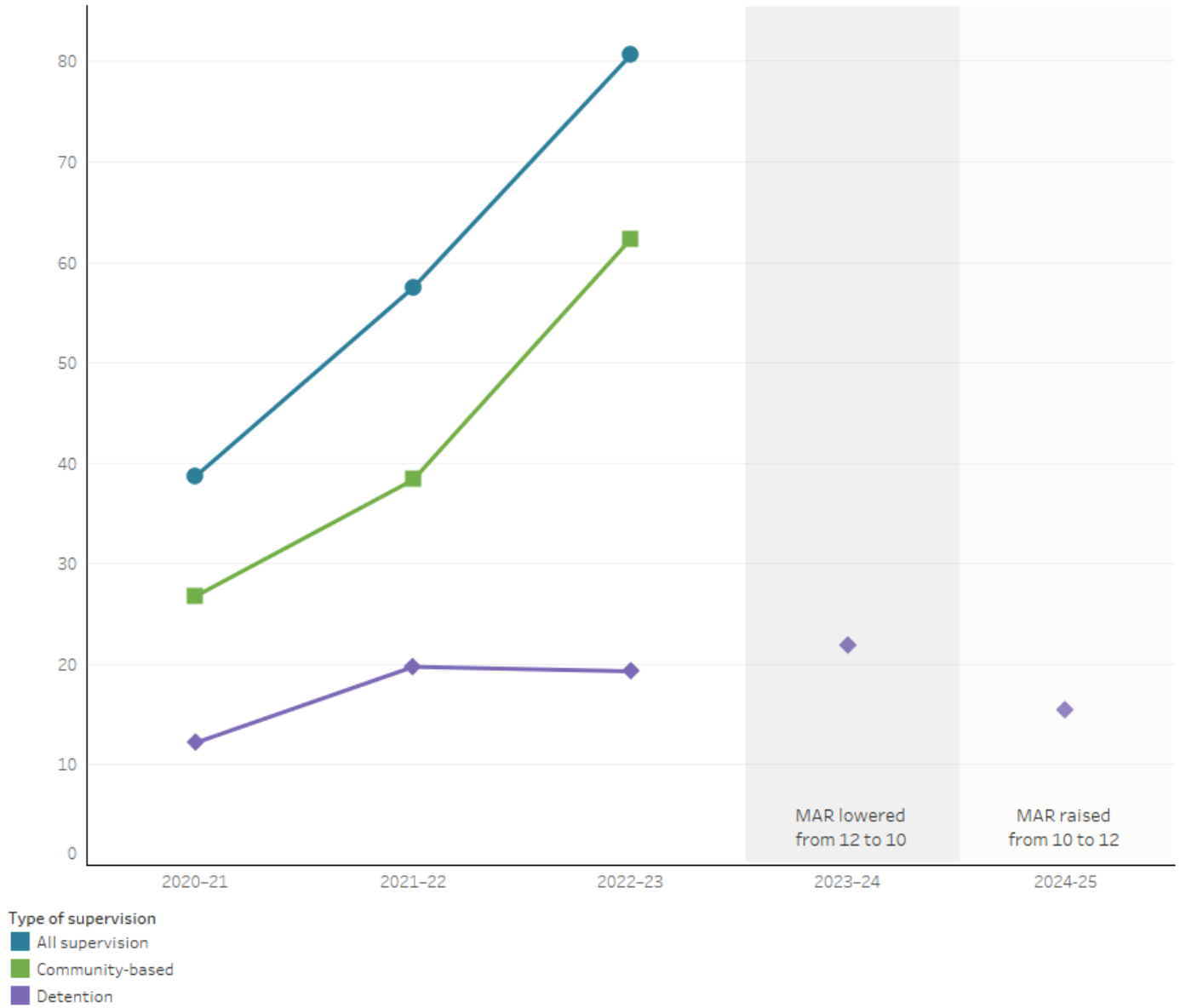
The proportion of unsentenced and sentenced young people on an average day does not sum to 100% as periods of sentenced detention in the Northern Territory have been backdated to take into account periods of unsentenced detention already served.

**Trends to 2024–25**

Over the 5 years to 2024–25, on an average day in the Northern Territory:

- the number of young people aged 10–17 who were in detention rose from 32 in 2020-21 to 42 in 2024-25 (Table S140c).
- Whilst the rate fluctuated, there was an overall increase from 32 per 10,000 to 42 per 10,000 (Table S81).

Figure 18.2: Rate of young people under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Northern Territory, 2020-21 to 2024-25



Notes:

- Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
- Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
- Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to Youth justice in Australia releases prior to 2019-20.
- The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
- Rates are number of young people per 10,000 relevant population.
- In August 2023, the Northern Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.
- The population for the Northern Territory in 2023-24 are for young people aged 12-17.
- Rate of young people under all supervision and community-based supervision were not available for 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- In October 2024, the Northern Territory lowered the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 10. The population for the Northern Territory in 2024-25 is for young people aged 10-17.

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2024-25

**More information**

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2024-25* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and [supplementary data tables](#).

Together, these provide comprehensive information about young people under youth justice supervision in Australia due to their involvement, or alleged involvement, in crime.

For more information see the [Youth justice](#) topic.





## Technical notes

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## Abbreviations

Table 1: Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
MAG	Meeting of Attorneys-General
YJ NMDS	Youth Justice National Minimum Dataset

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## Glossary

### active order

An order is active if it starts, ends or is ongoing during the reference period.

### age

In Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS) youth justice reporting, age is calculated as at the start of the first relevant period of supervision, unless it began before the financial year in question, in which case age is calculated as at the start of the financial year.

### average day

A measure of the number of young people under supervision from the YJ NMDS. The 'average day' measure is calculated by summing the number of days each young person spends under supervision during the financial year and dividing this by the total number of days in the year. It reflects the number of young people under supervision on any given day during the year and indicates the average number of young people supported by the supervision system at any time. This summary measure reflects both the number of young people supervised and the amount of time they spent under supervision.

### breach

A breach occurs when a young person reoffends or fails to comply with the conditions of a community-based order.

### community-based supervision

A legal arrangement that requires a young person to be supervised by a youth justice agency within the community. Community-based supervision may be unsentenced or sentenced. Unsented community-based legal orders include supervised or conditional bail and home detention bail. Sentenced community-based orders include probation and similar orders, suspended detention, and parole or supervised release.

### detention

A legal arrangement that requires a young person to be detained in a youth justice facility. This comprises both sentenced and unsentenced detention.

### detention sentence

A sentence that requires the young person to be detained in a youth justice facility.

### dual track system

The system in Victoria whereby young people aged 18–20 can be sentenced to a youth detention centre rather than to an adult prison if the young person is particularly impressionable, immature or likely to be subject to undesirable influences in an adult prison.

### during the year

A measure of the number of young people under supervision from the YJ NMDS. The 'during the year' measure is a count of the number of individuals who were supervised at any time during the financial year. It is calculated by counting each distinct young person once, even if they entered and exited supervision multiple times.

### First nations

A person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island descent who identifies and is identified as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

### legal status

A term that defines whether a young person is subject to unsentenced or sentenced orders. Young people may also have a legal status of 'other' (neither sentenced nor unsentenced).

### parole or supervised release

A sentenced community-based supervision order that is issued or enacted following a period of sentenced detention. Release on parole or supervised release is possible in some situations when a young person has served a specified proportion of their detention sentence. A breach of the parole or supervised release order usually results in the young person returning to detention to serve the rest of the sentence.

### police-referred detention

Unsentenced detention that occurs before the young person's initial court appearance.

### probation and similar

A sentenced community-based supervision order that may be issued with additional mandated requirements, such as community work or program attendance. The youth justice agency may or may not directly supervise any additional mandated requirements, but remains responsible for the overall supervision and case management of the young person. Includes probation, recognisance, and community service orders that a youth justice agency supervises or case manages.

### rate

One number (the numerator) divided by another number (the denominator). The numerator is commonly the number of events in a specified time. The denominator is the population 'at risk' of the event. In YJ NMDS reporting, rates are multiplied by 10,000 to create whole numbers.

### rate ratio

A means of comparing rates by dividing one rate by another. Rate ratios may be used to compare First nations and non-Indigenous rates, and to provide a measure of First nations over-representation.

### reception

The event of entering a detention centre to begin an unsentenced or sentenced detention order. Neither a transfer to a new detention facility nor a change in legal status constitutes a reception, but if a young person is released from detention and then re-enters at a later date, this is counted as a new reception.

### release on bail

Following a period of remand, a court may order a young person to be released into the community pending the court outcome. Bail may be either unsupervised or supervised.

### remand

The act of placing in custody a young person who is accused of an offence to await trial or the continuation of the trial.

### remoteness

YJ NMDS reporting uses the ABS's Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) remoteness structure to analyse the remoteness of a young person's usual town or suburb of residence. This structure enables areas that share common characteristics of remoteness to be classified into

broad geographical regions of Australia. These areas are *Major cities, Inner regional, Outer regional, Remote* and *Very remote*.

**socioeconomic position**

A measure of how well off a person, group or area is. YJ NMDS reporting uses the ABS's Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas to analyse the socioeconomic position of the usual residence of a young person under supervision. It comprises 4 indexes that each focus on a different aspect of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage. The YJ NMDS uses the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage. People living in the 20% of areas with the greatest overall level of disadvantage are described as living in the lowest socioeconomic areas (area 1). The 20% of people at the other end of the scale – those living in areas with the least overall level of disadvantage – are described as living in the highest socioeconomic areas (area 5).

**successfully completed community-based order**

A community order where a young person has completed the hours and/or conditions on their community order without it being revoked or overturned.

**successfully completed detention order**

A detention order where a young person has completed the hours and/or conditions of their detention order without it being revoked, overturned or ending due to an escape.

**supervised or conditional bail**

The act of allowing a young person who is accused of an offence to await trial, or the continuation of a trial, in the community under the supervision of a youth justice agency.

**suspended detention**

A sentence that usually involves a period of intensive supervision in the community, with the possibility of detention if the young person breaches the conditions of community supervision. It consists of immediate release orders, suspended detention orders, and intensive supervision of young people with detention orders.

**unsentenced supervision**

Youth justice supervision (community-based or detention) that occurs when a young person has not been sentenced. This might occur when the young person has been charged with an offence and is awaiting the outcome of the legal matter, or when they been found guilty in court and are awaiting sentencing.

**young person**

A person whom a youth justice agency supervises as a result of their having committed or allegedly committed an offence.

**youth justice agency**

The state or territory government agency or department responsible for youth justice supervision.

**youth justice detention centre**

A place administered and operated by a youth justice agency where young people are detained while under the supervision of the relevant youth justice agency.

**youth justice system**

The set of processes and practices for managing children and young people who have committed, or allegedly committed, an offence.



## Appendices

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## Appendix A: data quality

### In this section

- Introduction
- Data quality and coverage
- States and territories

The Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS) contains information on all children and young people in Australia who were supervised by youth justice agencies in the community and in detention.

Data are extracted from the administrative systems of the state and territory departments responsible for youth justice in Australia.

The YJ NMDS 2024–25 includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia and related social restrictions. The full impact of COVID-19 on youth justice supervision may be difficult to determine due to variability of the data and small numbers of young people under supervision on an average day. More research is required to better understand the impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on youth justice supervision across Australia.

### Data quality and coverage

Overall, the levels of missing data in the YJ NMDS are low. 5.2% of all young people in the YJ NMDS since 2000–01 have an unknown Indigenous status, and similar proportions of records in each of the order (4.4 to 5%) and detention (4%) files have unknown or missing information for the postcode, suburb and state of the young person's last known address. For all other variables in the YJ NMDS, the proportion of missing data is 1% or less.

Not all participating states and territories were able to provide YJ NMDS data in the current format for all years of the YJ NMDS (2000–01 to 2024–25).

### States and territories

#### New South Wales

For New South Wales, data provided from 2019–20 onwards will differ from previous years after a review of order end reason classifications. Order end reasons affected include:

- '1 – Completed' reported as 'successful completions', and
- '88 – Other'.

Order type data submitted from 2018–19 onwards will differ from previous years after a review of the mapping of local to national order type classifications. Order types affected include:

- '31–Community-based *with* and *without* additional mandated requirements' reported as 'probation and similar', and
- '37–Other community sentence' reported as 'other'.

In New South Wales, responsibility for the Kariiong Juvenile Justice Centre was transferred from the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice to the NSW Department of Corrective Services on 10 November 2004, and it was renamed the Kariiong Juvenile Correctional Centre.

As the YJ NMDS includes only young people who are supervised by youth justice agencies in Australia, information about young people in custody in the Kariiong Centre after 10 November 2004 is not included. In 2012–13 there were 28 young people in the Kariiong Centre on an average day, and therefore they formed only a small proportion (around 8%) of young people in detention in New South Wales.

Kariiong Juvenile Correctional Centre was closed in early 2015. During April and May 2015, 23 young people were transferred out of the Kariiong Centre to another youth detention centre under the supervision of Juvenile Justice NSW. All young people under the age of 18 who were transferred out of the Kariiong Centre, and who entered the supervision of Juvenile Justice NSW, entered the YJ NMDS data collection on the date they were transferred.

#### Victoria

For Victoria, data provided from 2018–19 onwards will differ from previous years after a review of order end reason classifications. Order end reasons affected include:

- '1 – Completed' reported as 'successful completions', and
- '88 – Other'.

#### Queensland

In Queensland, legislation to increase the youth justice age limit to 17 was passed in 2016, and enacted on 12 February 2018. Before then, the age limit in Queensland was 16, and young people aged 17 and older were treated as adults.

From February 2018, young people aged 17 have been transferred from the adult justice system into the youth justice system, which has, in part, led to an initial rise in the number of young people held in youth justice supervision in Queensland and nationally.

#### Western Australia

The 2024–25 reporting period is the ninth year to include YJ NMDS data from Western Australia since 2007–08.

For the 2015–16 and 2016–17 submissions the Western Australia data supply included only the sentenced detention period, where a young person was both sentenced and unsentenced at the same time. As a result, there may have been an undercount of young people on unsentenced detention orders in those YJ NMDS submissions.

From 2017–18 onwards, Western Australia was able to capture more accurate legal status changes, so unsentenced detention periods will appear to have increased. Western Australia also began backdating sentenced orders in the 2017–18 submission which led to variations in the number of sentenced orders captured within a reporting period.

### **South Australia**

South Australian order type data reported from 2018–19 will vary from that reported in previous years due to a review of the mapping of local to national order type classifications. This affected most community order types to a small degree.

### **Australian Capital Territory**

In 2021, the Australian Capital Territory implemented a new youth justice information system which improved data quality and availability. Police-referred pre-court detention and remand (court-referred detention) are now included as separate records from the 2020–21 YJ NMDS submission onwards.

A review of the mapping of local to national order type classifications resulted in changes to 2018–19 YJ NMDS data for the Australian Capital Territory. Suspended detention orders are now being reported where previously they were combined with probation or similar orders.

### **Northern Territory**

The 2024–25 reporting period is the thirteenth year to include YJ NMDS data for the Northern Territory. Data before 2012–13 are not available in YJ NMDS format.

Due to the implementation of a new information system ahead of the 2022–23 YJ NMDS submission, data for the Northern Territory will not be comparable to *Youth justice in Australia* releases prior to 2022–23.

The following data were not available for the Northern Territory in 2024–25 and 2023–24:

- All supervision (average day).
- Community-based supervision (average day).
- Orders.
- Completed supervision periods (all supervision and community-based supervision).
- Average length of time spent under supervision during the year (all supervision and community-based supervision).

For Northern Territory YJ NMDS data, periods of sentenced detention have been backdated to account for periods of unsentenced detention already served. As a result, there may be an over-count of young people in sentenced detention and a high proportion of young people reported as being in sentenced and unsentenced detention at the same time. The Northern Territory hopes to remedy this in future to align more closely to other jurisdictions.

### **Indigenous status**

About 5.2% of all young people in the YJ NMDS since 2000–01 have an unknown Indigenous status. In 2024–25, 2.0% of all young people under supervision during the year had an unknown Indigenous status.

Among the states and territories, this ranged from less than 2.0% in Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia to 4.7% in New South Wales. Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory had no unknown Indigenous status.

## Appendix A2: technical information

### In this section

- Age
- Age range for treatment as a young person
- Average and median
- Community-based supervision
- Duration
- First supervision and supervision history
- Population rates
- Rate ratios
- Receptions
- Releases
- Remand periods followed by a period of sentenced supervision
- Remoteness
- Socioeconomic position
- Supervision periods
- Other orders not elsewhere classified
- Probation and similar
- Supervised or conditional bail and other unsentenced
- Unsentenced detention
- Trends

### Age

Numbers of young people under supervision include young people of all ages (as well as those aged 18 and over), unless otherwise specified. Rates refer to young people aged 10–17 only, in order to enable meaningful comparisons (see 'Rates' in this section).

Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to *Youth justice in Australia* releases prior to 2019–20, as age was previously calculated using a different methodology.

For example, the days that the young person was aged 17 will be counted in the daily average for 17 year olds, and the days that they were aged 18 will be counted in the daily average for 18 year olds. This allows for precise measurement of the age of young people under supervision on an average day.

For 'during the year' presentations of data (or unique counts of young people) age is calculated as at the start of the first relevant period of supervision unless that period of supervision began before the financial year, in which case age is calculated as at the start of the financial year. As a result, a young person's age can vary across tables, as age is calculated in respect to the type of supervision being analysed.

For example, a young person enters supervised bail aged 17 on 1 August and leaves on 30 August. They turn 18 on 15 September, enter sentenced detention on 1 December and are released on 1 January on parole, which ends on 30 January. They have no other periods of community-based supervision during the financial year.

- In the supervised bail analysis, they will appear as a 17-year-old.
- In the sentenced detention analysis, they will appear as an 18-year-old.
- In the parole analysis, they will appear as an 18-year-old.

This means that for a particular age group, the total number of young people under supervision may not be the sum of the number of young people under particular types of supervision for 'during the year' tables.

### Age range for treatment as a young person

Across Australia, young people may be charged with a criminal offence if they are aged 10 or over. The upper age limit for treatment as a young person is 17 (at the time an offence was allegedly committed) in all states and territories. In Queensland, the age limit was previously 16, but changed to 17 years from 12 February 2018. Young people aged 18 and older at the time an offence was allegedly committed are dealt with under the criminal legislation relating to adults.

However, it is possible for young people aged 18 and over to be under youth justice supervision. This can be because:

- the offence was committed when the young person was aged 17 or younger,
- the continuation of supervision once they turn 18, or
- their vulnerability or immaturity.

In addition, in Victoria, some young people aged 18–20 may be sentenced to detention in a youth facility (known as the 'dual track' system).

### Average and median

Two measures of central tendency are reported using data from the YJ NMDS:

- Average (mean)—the average, or mean, is calculated by summing all of the values and dividing by the number of observations. In YJ NMDS data, averages are used in the reporting of 'average day' numbers (see 'Average day' in this section) and the total amount of time spent under supervision during the year.
- Median—this is 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 YJ NMDS data, median is used to report the duration of completed periods of supervision, due to the skewed distribution of the data. The duration of completed periods of supervision ranges from 1 day to more than 10 years.

## Community-based supervision

The YJ NMDS contains information on the start and end of supervised orders that youth justice agencies administer, as well as on the start and end of detention periods.

As the start and end dates in the YJ NMDS do not include time stamps, a young person is counted as being under community-based supervision for any day that is covered by a community-based supervised order and is not covered by a detention period.

In some circumstances, the young person is considered to have moved between community-based supervision and detention on the same day and is counted as having both types of supervision:

- When a detention period starts on a particular day (and the previous detention period ended before that day) and a community-based supervision order starts on or before that day and ends on or after that day, the young person is counted as having both community-based supervision and detention on that day.
- When a detention period ends on a particular day (and the next detention period starts after that day) and a community-based supervision order starts on or before that day and ends on or after that day, the young person is counted as having both community-based supervision and detention on that day.
- When a detention period ends on a particular day and another detention period starts on the same day and a community-based supervision order starts on or before that day and ends on or after that day, the young person is counted as having only detention on that day.
- Where any detention periods either end before a particular day or start after that particular day and a community-based supervision order starts on or before that day and ends on or after that day, the young person is counted as having only community-based supervision on that day. See also Supervision periods.

## Duration

Duration is calculated in whole days. For example:

- if a young person entered supervision on 1 January and left on 5 January, this is counted as 5 days under supervision,
- if a young person entered and left supervision on the same day, this is counted as 1 day under supervision.

## First supervision and supervision history

The YJ NMDS contains the date on which the youth justice agency first supervised or case managed each young person under supervision. This date is used in analyses of age at first supervision.

In contrast to the age at first supervision, analyses of the first type of supervision and supervision history are restricted to those young people for whom information on this first supervision is available in the YJ NMDS.

For all states and territories except Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, information on the first type of supervision is available for all young people whose first supervision was on or after 1 July 2000. For Tasmania, this is 1 January 2006 (as complete data on detention are available only from this date). For the Australian Capital Territory, this is 1 July 2008 (as data for 2003–04 to 2007–08 are available only in YJ NMDS 2007 format). For the Northern Territory, this is 1 July 2012.

The first supervision type is determined for each young person with available data by selecting the records with the earliest start date. Because it is possible for young people to be under more than 1 type of supervision at the same time, young people may have multiple first supervision types.

A young person's supervision history is composed of all available information in the YJ NMDS, up to and including the current reporting year. Only young people with information from their first supervision are included in this analysis.

## Number under supervision

Reports based on the YJ NMDS contain information on both:

- the number of young people under supervision on an average day and
- the number of young people under supervision during the year.

The 'average day' measure reflects the number of young people under supervision on a typical day during the year, and gives an indication of the average number of young people supported by the supervision system at any one time. It is a summary measure that reflects both the number of young people supervised, and the amount of time they spent under supervision. This measure is the main focus of most YJ NMDS data.

In contrast, the 'during the year' measure is a count of the number of unique individuals who were supervised at any time during the year.

Comparing the 'average day' and 'during the year' measures provides information on the average amount of time spent under supervision during the year.

For example, there could be 100 young people under community-based supervision at some time during the year, but only 50 on an average day.

This tells us that the average length of time those young people were supervised during the year was 6 months ( $50/100 \times 12$  months). By contrast, if 100 people are in detention during the year and 25 on an average day, the average length of time those young people spent in detention is 3 months ( $25/100 \times 12$  months).

In 2024–25, only 20% of young people under supervision were in detention on an average day, but 49% experienced detention at some time during the year. This difference reflects the fact that young people spent substantially less time in detention, overall, than under community-based supervision.

Both the 'average day' and 'during the year' counts are provided in most supplementary tables, where appropriate.

### Average day

The number of young people under supervision on an average day is calculated by summing the number of days each young person spends under supervision 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 young people can experience different types of supervision on the same day.

### During the year

The number of young people under supervision during the year is calculated by counting each distinct young person under supervision during the financial year. Each young person is counted only once, even if they entered and exited supervision multiple times during the year.

For the number during the year, components may not sum to the total because:

- young people can experience different types of supervision during the year
- age is calculated specific to the type of supervision being analysed.

For example, if there were 100 young people under supervision in a particular year and each of these 100 young people had been detained and under community-based supervision at different times during the year, the relevant totals would show that there were 100 young people in detention, 100 young people under community-based supervision and a total of 100 young people under supervision.

### Population rates

Population rates allow for the comparison of different groups while taking into account differences in population sizes. Because there are differences between the states and territories in the extent to which youth justice agencies can supervise young people aged 18 and over, rates compared in this report are restricted to young people aged 10–17.

#### Box 1: The impact of changes to the minimum age of criminal responsibility on rates in 2024–25

In this report, rates are usually calculated for young people aged 10–17. In 2023, the Australian Capital Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. This means that 10 and 11-year-olds cannot be held criminally responsible for their conduct in the Australian Capital Territory and are not within the scope of youth justice data from 2023–24 onwards.

In 2023, the Northern Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. This means that 10 and 11-year-olds cannot be held criminally responsible for their conduct in the Northern Territory during 2023–24 and were excluded from the scope of youth justice data during this time. In October 2024, the Northern Territory lowered the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 10. This means that 10 and 11-year-olds can be held criminally responsible for their conduct in the Northern Territory during 2024–25 and were within the scope of youth justice data during this time.

#### 2024–25 rates

To account for the increased age of criminal responsibility in the Australian Capital Territory across the 2024–25 reference period, the rates are for young people aged 12–17 (instead of 10–17) as 10 and 11-year-olds are absent from both the number (numerator) and population (denominator) used to calculate rates. The rates for Australia in 2024–25 use the sum of the 12–17 population for the Australian Capital Territory, and the 10–17 population for all other jurisdictions. All rates prior to 2023–24 use the 10–17 population for all jurisdictions and Australia.

#### 2023–24 rates

To account for the increased age of criminal responsibility in these jurisdictions across the 2023–24 reference period, the rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 (instead of 10–17) as 10 and 11-year-olds are absent from both the number (numerator) and population (denominator) used to calculate rates. The rates for Australia in 2023–24 use the sum of the 12–17 population for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory, and the 10–17 population for all other jurisdictions. All rates prior to 2023–24 use the 10–17 population for all jurisdictions and Australia.

#### Use caution when comparing rates across reference years

Note that care should be taken when comparing the 2024–25 and 2023–24 rates with prior years for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory. The exclusion of 10 and 11-year-olds for these jurisdictions in 2023–24 reduced the total in-scope population (denominator) by about 25%, causing rates to appear higher than in prior years. For 2024–25, the Northern Territory total in-scope population increased by 38%, causing rates to appear lower than in 2023–24.

When reporting rates at the state and territory level, this report presents rates for young people aged 12–17 (for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24, separate to rates for young people aged 10–17 for all other jurisdictions).

The calculation of rates excludes young people for whom data on particular variables are not available and are not calculated where there are fewer than 5 young people, due to a lack of reliability.

Rates are expressed as the number per 10,000 of young people in the population.

The number of young people on an average day is rounded to 1 decimal place. The rate for an average day is calculated using the number on an average day before rounding.

#### Box 2: Updates and changes to populations used in 2024–25

##### 2021 Census counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Trends for First Nations people in this report are calculated using population estimates and projections based on the 2021 Census. Trends are limited to 2016 onwards, due to a large non-demographic increase in Census counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people between 2016 and 2021. The rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this report are generally lower than, and are not comparable to, those in previous reports.

For further information, see [Understanding change in counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#) and [Guide to using historical estimates for comparative analysis and reporting](#).

### **2024-25 changes – Population table S142**

Due to the unavailability of the usual ABS data in the 2021 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experimental projections of Indigenous populations to 2021 (Series B), the populations in table S142 were derived using the 2021 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experimental projections of Indigenous populations by Remoteness Areas of Australia.

Remoteness areas are not available by state and territory, which meant that 10 and 11-year-olds in the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory could not be removed due to the increased age of criminal responsibility of 12 years old in 2023-24. This has led to slightly inconsistent populations between Table S142 and other population tables.

This also meant that an additional table excluding the Northern Territory population could not be produced for rates tables where the Northern Territory is absent from the numerator in 2023-24. This means that rates derived from the populations in Table S124 will be slightly lower due to the slightly higher populations.

### **2024-25 changes – Population tables S143 and S146**

For population tables S143 and S146 (note that table S146 is currently unavailable due to the pausing of time trend analysis by Indigenous status – see above), the AIHW estimated the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory populations for the required age groups, as these are not published by the ABS. This is a result of these jurisdictions increasing the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 12 years old in 2023-24. The statistical estimation process produces minor discrepancies with ABS published totals. These discrepancies have negligible effects on rate calculations.

## **Population rates and COVID-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Australian Government closure of the international border from 20 March 2020, caused significant disruptions to the usual Australian population trends. This report uses Australian Estimated Resident Population (ERP) estimates that reflect these disruptions.

In the year July 2020 to June 2021, the overall population growth was much smaller than the years prior and there was a relatively large decline in the population of Victoria. ABS reporting indicates these were primarily due to net-negative international migration ([National, state and territory population](#)).

Please be aware that this change in the usual population trends may complicate your interpretation of statistics calculated from these ERPs. For example, rates and proportions may be greater than in previous years due to decreases in the denominator (population size) of some sub-populations.

## **Rate ratios**

Rate ratios are used to compare First Nations and non-Indigenous rates and to provide a measure of the level of First Nations over-representation. They should be interpreted with caution where there are small denominators, rare events, or rates that converge while declining (or diverge while increasing).

Rate ratios are calculated using the rates rounded to 3 decimal places. Rates are presented in the supplementary tables to 1 decimal place.

Rate ratios are not calculated where 1 or both of the rates have fewer than 5 young people in the numerator.

## **Receptions**

A reception occurs when a detention period starts and the young person:

- was not in detention immediately before the start of the current detention period, or
- did not escape from detention or abscond from leave in the immediately preceding detention period.

The start of a detention period is considered a reception only when the detention period starts at least 2 full days after the end of the previous detention period. This accounts for young people being transported to court and returning to detention on remand or sentenced detention following a court hearing, as well as for young people transferred between detention centres.

There may be a small number of young people who are counted as having a reception where their travel time is longer than 2 full days when travelling to and from remote locations.

## **Releases**

A release from detention occurs where a detention period ends and the young person was not detained immediately following the end of the current detention period.

A release does not include instances where the young person escaped from detention or absconded from leave.

The end of a detention period is considered a release only when the detention period ends at least 2 full days before the start of the next detention period. This accounts for young people being transported to court and returning to detention on remand or sentenced detention following a court hearing, as well as for young people transferred between detention centres.

There may be a small number of young people who are counted as having a release where their travel time is longer than 2 full days when travelling to and from remote locations.

## Remand periods followed by a period of sentenced supervision

All periods of sentenced supervision that start within 1 day of the end of a remand period are included except where there is a further remand period that starts on the same day as the period of sentenced supervision. Remand periods are also only included in the analysis where they end with detention end reason '1 – Complete'. For example, remand periods that ended because a young person was released into bail to await their sentencing are not included.

## Remoteness

YJ NMDS reporting uses the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Areas Structure that the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has developed to analyse the remoteness of the usual residence of the town or suburb of young people under supervision.

This structure allows areas that share common characteristics of remoteness to be classified into broad geographical regions of Australia. These areas are *Major cities*, *Inner regional*, *Outer regional*, *Remote* and *Very remote*.

The remoteness of the young person's usual residence was determined using the most recent postcode of their last known address. Young people with invalid, missing or unknown postcodes of last known home address were excluded from the analysis.

The number of young people under supervision in each remoteness area was estimated based on each young person's most recent postcode.

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

Some young people may appear in remoteness areas for which there is no population within that state or territory. This is due to young people whose last known home address is in a different state or territory to the one in which they are under supervision.

## Socioeconomic position

YJ NMDS reporting uses the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) that the ABS has developed to analyse the socioeconomic position of the usual residence of young people under supervision. The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage is used.

The socioeconomic position of the area of the young person's usual residence was determined by allocating the relevant SEIFA population-based (2016) quintile score to the most recent postcode of the last known home address. Young people with invalid, missing or unknown postcodes of last known home address were excluded from the analysis.

The number of young people under supervision in each area was estimated based on each young person's most recent postcode. 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 position of a particular individual living in the area. As a result, socioeconomic analyses in YJ NMDS reporting indicate the level of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage in the area of usual residence of the young person, not the level of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage of each individual young person or their family.

Some young people may appear in socioeconomic areas for which there is no population within that state or territory. This is due to young people whose last known home address is in a different state or territory to the one in which they are under supervision.

## Supervision periods

A supervision period is the period of time a young person spent under continuous youth justice supervision. It should be noted that:

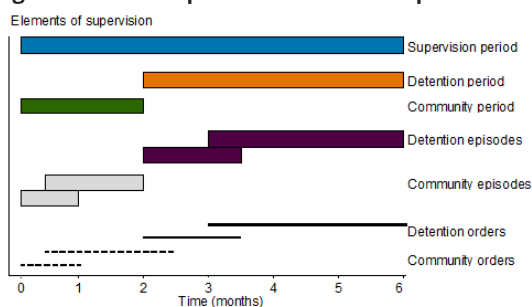
- periods of youth justice supervision may be comprised of both periods under community-based supervision and periods in detention
- periods spent either under community-based supervision or in detention may consist of multiple or concurrent orders and episode types.

Young people may not serve the full duration of orders for several reasons, including:

- community orders and periods spent under community-based supervision may be interrupted by time spent in detention
- the full duration of a sentenced detention order may not be served where the young person is released on parole or supervised release.

An example of the relationship between periods, episodes and orders is shown in Figure A1.1. In this example, a young person spent 6 continuous months under supervision, with the first 2 months under community-based supervision and the remaining 4 months in detention. The young person experienced 2 different types of community supervision in the first 2 months (for example, probation and bail). The young person then experienced 2 different types of detention (for example, remand and sentenced detention).

**Figure A1.1: Example of the relationship between orders, episodes and periods in YJ NMDS data**



## Extended description for Figure A1.1

The figure provides an example of the relationship between orders, episodes and periods of youth justice supervision. In this example, a young person:

- spent 6 continuous months under supervision, with the first 2 months under community-based supervision and the remaining 4 months in detention
- experienced 2 different types of community supervision in the first 2 months (for example, probation and bail). The young person then experienced 2 different types of detention (for example, remand and sentenced detention)
- was on 2 separate community orders that overlap with the community period in the first 2 months. The second community order extended into the third month of supervision, overlapping with the commencement of the first detention order. The young person was then on 2 separate detention orders that overlapped with the detention episodes in the last 4 months.

## Supervision types

The YJ NMDS contains information on the type of supervision using the national classification of supervised legal arrangements and orders.

Table A1.1: National classification of supervised legal arrangements and orders

Legal status	Supervision type	Order type	Includes
Unsentenced	Detention	Police-referred detention	-
		Remand (court-referred)	
	Community	Supervised bail	Conditional bail, Griffith remand
		Home detention bail	-
-	-	Other court-referred arrangements	Deferral of sentence
-	-	Police-referred other	-
Sentenced	Detention	Sentenced detention	Control order, revocation of parole, youth residential order
		Community	Probation or similar with or without additional mandated requirements
	Home detention	-	
	Suspended detention	Suspended sentence, conditional release order	
	Parole	Supervised release order, fixed release order	
-	-	Community service orders	Community service order, community work order, graffiti removal order
-	-	Other community sentence	-
Other	-	Not elsewhere classified	Mental health order

In YJ NMDS reporting, several of these order types are routinely combined and are reported as:

- other orders not elsewhere classified, probation and similar orders, supervised or conditional bail and other unsentenced community-based orders, and
- unsentenced detention.

## Other orders not elsewhere classified

Orders not elsewhere classified are classified as 'other' in tables where data are broken down by legal status.

## Probation and similar

'Probation and similar' is composed of order types with and without additional mandated requirements.

## Supervised or conditional bail and other unsentenced

This category includes young people on supervised or conditional bail, home detention bail and other unsentenced community-based supervised orders. Young people who are supervised under more than 1 of these types of orders on the same day or during the same year are counted only once for this category.

## Unsentenced detention

This category includes young people in police-referred detention and on court-referred remand. Young people who are detained for both these types of detention on the same day or during the same year are counted only once for this category.

## Trends

Where the number of young people under supervision on an average day is relatively small, the amount of random variation from year to year is more noticeable. This may affect the appearance of trends, which should therefore be interpreted with caution, particularly where they relate to small numbers. In recognition of this, percentage changes are not calculated where they relate to groups of fewer than 100 people.

*Youth justice in Australia* reports aim to highlight the overall or net change over a defined period (that is, comparing the start and end of the period), while taking into account the trend within the period. Where possible, changes in the interim years are explored in the text. Full details are available in the supplementary tables.

Trend data may differ from data in previously published reports due to data revisions.

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## Appendix B: remand and detention centres

Youth justice remand and detention centres that were operational during 2024–25.

### New South Wales

- Acmena Youth Justice Centre (Grafton)
- Cobham Youth Justice Centre (St Marys)
- Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre (Kariiong)
- Orana Youth Justice Centre (Dubbo)
- Reiby Youth Justice Centre (Airds)
- Riverina Youth Justice Centre (Wagga Wagga)

### Victoria

The Parkville Youth Justice Precinct consisting of:

- Parkville Youth Justice Centre
- Parkville Youth Residential Centre
- Parkville Youth Justice Remand Centre.

The Cherry Creek Youth Justice Precinct consisting of:

- Cherry Creek Youth Justice Centre
- Cherry Creek Youth Justice Remand Centre

### Queensland

- Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (Wacol)
- Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (Townsville)
- Wacol Youth Remand Centre (Wacol)
- West Moreton Youth Detention Centre (Wacol)

### Western Australia

- Banksia Hill Detention Centre
- Unit 18 Youth Detention Centre

### South Australia

Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre

### Tasmania

Ashley Youth Detention Centre

### Australian Capital Territory

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre

### Northern Territory

- Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre
- Alice Springs Intake and Transfer Facility
- Don Dale Youth Detention Centre
- Holtze Youth Detention Centre

## Appendix C: youth justice legislation

### New South Wales

- *Bail Act 2013*
- *Children (Community Service Orders) Act 1987*
- *Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987*
- *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987*
- *Children (Interstate Transfer of Offenders) Act 1988*
- *Young Offenders Act 1997*
- *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013*
- *Victims Legislation Amendment (Victims Registers) Act 2025*

### Victoria

- *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*
- *Youth Justice Act 2024* (provisions to commence in stages throughout 2024-2026)
- *Bail Act 1977*
- *Crimes Act 1958*
- *Crimes (Mental Impairment and Unfitness to be Tried) Act 1997*
- *Criminal Procedure Act 2009*
- *Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012*
- *Sentencing Act 1991*
- *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*
- *Terrorism (Community Protection) Act 2003*
- *Children, Youth and Families Regulations 2017*

### Queensland

- *Childrens Court Act 1992*
- *Young Offenders (Interstate Transfer) Act 1987*
- *Youth Justice Act 1992*
- *Youth Justice Regulation 2016*

### Western Australia

- *Young Offenders Act 1994*
- *Young Offenders Regulations 1995*
- *Bail Act 1982*
- *Children's Court of Western Australia Act 1988*
- *Court Security and Custodial Services Act 1999*
- *Inspector of Custodial Services Act 2003*
- *Sentence Administration Act 2003*
- *Children and Community Services Act 2004*
- *Sentencing Act 1995*
- *Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913*
- *High Risk Serious Offenders Act 2020*
- *Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004*

### South Australia

- *Bail Act 1985*
- *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*
- *Criminal Procedure Act 1921*
- *Debt Recovery Act 2017*
- *Sentencing Act 2017*
- *Summary Offences Act 1953*
- *Young Offenders Act 1993*
- *Young Offenders Regulations 2023*
- *Youth Court Act 1993*
- *Youth Justice Administration Act 2016*
- *Youth Justice Administration Regulations 2016*
- *Controlled Substances Act 1984*
- *Controlled Substances (Youth Treatment Orders) Regulations 2021*

### Tasmania

- *Bail Act 1994*
- *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*
- *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2016*
- *Corrections Act 1997*

- *Custodial Inspector Act 2016*
- *Police Offences Act 1935*
- *Sentencing Act 1997*
- *Youth Justice Act 1997*

## **Australian Capital Territory**

- *Bail Act 1992*
- *Children and Young People Act 2008*
- *Crimes Act 1900*
- *Crimes (Restorative Justice) Act 2004*
- *Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act 2005*
- *Crimes (Sentencing) Act 2005*
- *Criminal Code 2002*
- *Justice (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Legislation Amendment Act 2023*

## **Northern Territory**

- *Bail Act 1982*
- *Bail Regulations 1983*
- *Criminal Code Act 1983*
- *Parole Act 1971*
- *Sentencing Act 1995*
- *Sentencing Regulations 1996*
- *Youth Justice Act 2005*
- *Youth Justice Regulations 2006*



## Appendix D: state and territory youth justice systems, policies and programs 2024-25

### In this section

- New South Wales
- Victoria
- Queensland
- Western Australia
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Australian Capital Territory
- Northern Territory

### New South Wales

#### Policy directions

Key policy directions in Youth Justice<sup>[1]</sup> New South Wales include:

- through the creation of the Department of Communities and Justice, working more collaboratively to support shared clients in child protection, out of home care and youth justice, to improve their individual circumstances and life trajectory
- diverting young people under the *Young Offenders Act 1997*, through the use of warnings, cautions (administered by the New South Wales Police Force) and the Youth Justice Conferencing scheme (administered by Youth Justice NSW)
- intervening early in a young person's criminal trajectory with evidence-based programs such as the Youth on Track program and collaborating in whole-of-government initiatives including the Short-Term Remand Project
- providing bail support and accommodation through the Bail Accommodation Support Service, to reduce the number of young people on remand unnecessarily due to a lack of availability of suitable accommodation
- a deep commitment to delivering better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, their families and communities by embedding Culture into Practice through Aboriginal Practice Officers and the Aboriginal Practice Mandate. Aboriginal Practice Officers use their knowledge and lived experience around culture to intervene with Aboriginal Youth Justice clients around offending behaviour
- provision of culturally appropriate services for young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, guided by a range of multicultural initiatives
- identifying and supporting young people experiencing and/or using violence in the home to ensure they receive the specialist support
- recognising and responding to the overrepresentation of young people in the justice system with disability, mental health and other health needs through upskilling our workforce and strengthening referral pathways
- working in a way that protects young people from abuse, keeping them safe when they are in the care of Youth Justice, and empowering them to realise their full potential in line with the Child Safe Standards produced by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- strengthening pre- and post-release supports with individualised exit-planning for all young people leaving custody, and partnerships with non-government service providers to deliver programs designed to connect young people with supports in the community

Youth Justice NSW is focused on targets to contribute to NSW Government implementation plan under the National Agreement for Closing the Gap, specifically to deliver reductions in the numbers of Aboriginal young people in custody.

#### Agencies

##### Youth Justice NSW

The Department of Communities and Justice<sup>[2]</sup> is responsible for providing youth justice services in New South Wales. These services are provided by the agency Youth Justice NSW.

Youth Justice NSW is responsible for:

- supervising young people sentenced to community-based or custodial orders
- supporting young people to meet the conditions of bail
- supervising young people who are on conditional bail or remanded in custody
- preparing reports for the courts to consider in determining sentences
- managing the Youth on Track early intervention program
- administering Youth Justice Conferencing
- supporting young people who may have fines to register under the Work and Development Order scheme
- delivering interventions designed to reduce reoffending
- Specialised practice-based assessments and interventions for youth offenders that are at risk of or engaged in extremism including terrorism offences
- funding non-government service partners to deliver complementary services to facilitate young people's reintegration into community.

Youth Justice NSW operates 34 community offices and 6 youth justice centres.

Youth Justice NSW shares responsibility for addressing the offending behaviour of young people with a number of other NSW agencies including the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (JHFMHN); the Department of Education; and other Department of Communities and Justice entities.

Youth Justice NSW implemented a Strategic Plan 2024-2030 which drives the significant reform the agency is currently undergoing in response to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and creating better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families, and communities in contact with the criminal justice system in NSW. Youth Justice NSW will achieve these outcomes by actions oriented under the four priority reforms which reflects a strategic shift toward culturally responsive, community-led, and outcomes-focused service delivery.

Youth Justice NSW has implemented an Anti-Racism Plan to transform the organisation so that it is culturally safe and responsive for all young people and their families, as well as our workforce.

## **Police**

Youth Justice works closely with police. Police may choose to use alternatives to court proceedings, such as warnings, cautions or referral to Youth Justice Conferences, as set out in the *Young Offenders Act 1997*, or may commence court proceedings under the *Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987*. Police may also refer young people to the Youth on Track early intervention scheme.

Police also provide specialist support to young people through the Youth Crime Prevention Command, in collaboration with Police and Community Youth Clubs, and engage young people through a variety of recreational and social programs.

## **Courts**

Court proceedings against young people who are alleged to have committed an offence and are not eligible to be diverted under the *Young Offenders Act 1997* are governed principally by the *Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987*.

Possible outcomes for young people appearing before the court include:

- diversion, dismissal or withdrawal of case: including under Section 32 of the *Mental-Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990* which gives the court the power to divert a defendant who is suffering from a mental health condition into the care and treatment of mental health professionals rather than dealing with them through the criminal justice system
- unsupervised options: cautions, fines, good behaviour bonds
- supervised community-based orders: good behaviour bond, probation, community service orders
- custodial orders
- youth justice conference.

Within seven Children's Court locations, young people also have access to the Children's Court Assistance Scheme where trained youth workers provide support to young people and their families while in court including referrals to support services following court.

## **Elements, programs and services**

### **Diversion**

The *Young Offenders Act 1997* provides for warnings, cautions and Youth Justice Conferencing in New South Wales. Youth Justice Conferencing is a restorative justice process that facilitates a meeting between the young person, the victim and other support people. Not all young people are eligible for a Youth Justice Conference. Some categories of offence, such as sexual assault, serious drug offences, breaches of apprehended violence orders, traffic offences and offences causing death, can be dealt with only by a court.

### **Early intervention**

Youth Justice NSW contracts non-government service providers to deliver the Youth on Track early intervention scheme in nine sites across New South Wales. Six of the nine sites are delivered by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO). The scheme is designed to coordinate services for 10–17-year-olds who are at risk of long-term involvement with the justice system, and their families, to address the underlying causes of their offending. Young people can be referred to the scheme by NSW Police, school staff, solicitors, and other community and health services without requiring a court order. Youth Justice NSW can also refer eligible young people to this scheme.

### **Supported accommodation and bail programs**

Youth Justice NSW provides bail support and remand interventions to help young people meet their bail conditions and avoid unnecessary placement in custodial remand.

Community-based staff work with young people, court officials and other service providers to ensure that, where appropriate, young people can remain in the community while being supervised for compliance with bail conditions.

The Bail Accommodation Support Service (BASS) provides an after-hours service for police who are considering granting conditional bail to a young person in their custody. The service also receives referrals from courts, Youth Justice centres and community offices. It aims to assist in the granting of conditional bail to divert young people from unnecessary short-term remand. The BASS also works to improve pathways into the broader Youth Specialist Homelessness Service system.

A multi-agency Short-Term Remand Project Steering Committee (with senior executive representatives from NSW Police, the Children's Court of NSW, the Department of Communities and Justice, NSW Education, Legal Aid NSW, The Advocate for Children and Young people, and Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT) aims to identify the drivers of short-term remand and then develop and implement a suite of reforms, to address this issue, through coordinated multi-agency responses, volunteer support networks, and culturally safe service delivery through Aboriginal community controlled organisations.

With a focus on young people on remand, A Place to Go provides targeted intervention for 10-17 year olds in contact with the justice system. Operating in Nepean Police Area Command and Parramatta Children's Court, it offers wraparound supports to prevent reoffending and reduce custodial entry, presenting a cost-effective alternative to remand.

## **Case management and Practice Framework**

Casework interventions aim to:

- assess a young person's risks, needs, responsivity issues, strengths and protective factors, using the Youth Level of Service Case Management Inventory—Australian Adaptation (YLS/CMI-AA)
- plan a specific, comprehensive, individualised case plan to address a young person's criminogenic needs, in collaboration with the young person
- deliver treatments, referral to necessary services and put support systems in place to assist young people to reduce re-offending and build their capacity to attain positive life outcomes
- review and monitor the young person's progress and advocate on their behalf
- be evidence-based, using key theories and skills underpinned by 'What Works'
- be trauma-informed and use a strengths-based approach
- be informed by Aboriginal 8 ways learning techniques and processes
- use core effective practice skills, including role clarification, pro-social modelling, collaborative problem solving, and balanced relationships
- use motivational interviewing
- use cognitive behaviour techniques to target underlying pro-criminal attitudes and beliefs.

The Practice Framework outlines the key theories and fundamental skills which underpin the practice and function of all Youth Justice NSW staff in reducing the reoffending behaviour of young people. The Framework provides evidence-based guidance across the spectrum of engagement, assessment, case planning and intervention programs.

### **Offence-specific and therapeutic interventions**

Youth Justice NSW delivers a range of programs and services within community and custodial environments in accordance with the individual needs of young people, their level of risk, and their ability to respond to program content. Offence-focused interventions incorporate a range of techniques designed to change negative patterns of behaviour and reduce recidivism rates. Some examples of programs offered include:

- the Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART) program, a structured intervention designed specifically for caseworkers to engage and work with young people who require moderate to high intervention to reduce their risk of re-offending
- counselling and therapeutic interventions with a Youth Justice psychologist, particularly when there is complex trauma, more entrenched or violent offending requiring specialised assessment and therapeutic intervention
- X-Roads (pronounced 'crossroads'), an interactive cognitive-behavioural intervention designed for young people who have significant substance misuse issues.

### **Working with young people with a disability**

Youth Justice NSW recognises the over-representation of young people with disability among the cohort, and provides a range of strategies to identify and support the vulnerabilities with disability including:

- Youth Justice psychologists, based within the custodial and community settings, who deliver trauma-focussed and culturally responsive therapeutic services for young people who offend and can undertake comprehensive psychological assessment and reports.
- A sensory room in each custodial centre
- Building workforce capacity through training, including 'Working with young people with disability' and 'Youth Justice and the NDIS' training.
- An interagency collaborative response through regular consultation with Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health System, and the NDIS Justice Liaison team.
- A centralised disability resource tool kit available to all staff.

Youth Justice NSW is currently developing the Youth Justice Disability Action Plan 2026-2029, which will outline our strategy for continued disability reform over the coming four years.

### **Support for high-risk and high-needs detainees**

**In 2020, Youth Justice implemented a new Operating Model including the following key features:**

- two High Risk Units, one located in Cobham and the other at Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre, aimed to de-escalate high-risk behaviours of young people through focused intervention to reintegrate them back to the mainstream units
- an Enhanced Support Unit located in Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre to provide therapeutic support, including a Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist and Clinical Manager, to young people with high risk and high needs
- a High-Risk Young Offender Review Panel (HRYORP) to provide oversight on the management of young people displaying high-risk behaviours across Youth Justice Centres. The panel governs entry and exit decision for the High-Risk Units and the Enhanced Support Unit.

### **Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people**

Youth Justice is focused on strategies to address the significant over-representation of Aboriginal young people in our system. Aboriginal-led decision making is key in the design and implementation of programs for Aboriginal young people. Specific programs have been developed and are delivered to Aboriginal young people in Youth Justice Centres and Community offices including:

- Dthina Yuwali, a group work program for Aboriginal young people with substance-related offending.
- My Journey My Life, developed in 2000 in partnership with Gilgai Aboriginal Centre, is an intergenerational violence prevention program aimed at reducing the incidence of violence against others. A specific version of this program for young women has been developed, Yinnar.
- Ngudjoong Billa Reintegration and Transition Program is an intensive reintegration and transition support program for Aboriginal young people who are leaving custody or community supervision to build resilience and wellbeing and reduce the risk of reoffending, with a key focus on building cultural identity by strengthening connections to country and family.
- Youth Justice implements the Small Grants Aboriginal Engagement and Innovative Activities Program (AEIA). The AEIA program was developed to provide new avenues for Aboriginal employees to embed Aboriginal cultural practices into their day-to-day work with Youth Justice clients. A key aim of the AEIA Small Grants Program is to drive innovation in practice and responding to Aboriginal young people's needs by creating opportunities for Aboriginal culturally appropriate engagement.

## Work and Development Orders

The Work and Development Order (WDO) scheme is jointly delivered by the Department of Communities and Justice, Revenue NSW and Legal Aid NSW. The voluntary scheme allowing young people to satisfy debt due to outstanding fines through unpaid work, approved courses or treatment. Youth Justice NSW is an approved sponsor for WDO and is one of the largest participating organisations in the scheme.

## Pre- and post-release programs

Youth Justice NSW provides pre- and post-release casework in collaboration with other agencies, particularly the Department of Education, NSW Health, and other partners within the Department of Communities and Justice.

The Waratah pre-release unit at the Reiby Youth Justice Centre prepares young people in detention for their release back into the community.

Youth Justice NSW also funds non-government organisations to provide a range of services to young people. These include the delivery of education and health services within Youth Justice Centres, rural residential adolescent alcohol and other drug rehabilitation, post-release support and accommodation programs, health and mental health support, mentoring programs, cultural support, spiritual and religious support and legal services.

## Program evaluation

Core programs and interventions are evaluated either internally by the Research and Information Unit, or by external organisations. Pre- and post-program assessments are used for offending-focused programs. Youth Justice NSW has also engaged the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research to conduct a randomised controlled trial to measure Youth on Track's impact on reoffending compared to a brief intervention.

## Victoria

Within the Department of Justice and Community Safety, Youth Justice is responsible for the statutory supervision of children and young people who come into contact with the Victorian justice system. These children and young people are either supervised in the community, or within Youth Justice custodial facilities. Youth Justice also operates the Children's Court Youth Diversion Service.

Youth Justice works with children, young people and their families to address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour and helps them to achieve positive change in their lives. Youth Justice also funds community service organisations to deliver supports with a strong focus on diversion, early intervention and an evidence-based rehabilitative approach to reduce the risk of further offending and enhance community safety.

Most young people sentenced to Youth Justice supervision are aged 12–17 (although prior to 30 September 2025 the court could also sentence children aged 10 and 11 years old). However, 18–20-year-old offenders can be sentenced to Youth Justice custodial supervision through Victoria's dual track system if the court believes the young person has reasonable prospects for rehabilitation, or the young person is particularly impressionable, immature, or likely to be subjected to undesirable influences in an adult prison.

## Policy directions

Youth Justice's approach is guided by a number of key frameworks and policies. These include the following documents:

### Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020-2030

The *Youth Justice Strategic Plan* reflects Victoria's 10-year vision for how we will deliver a leading youth justice system in Victoria. It is the roadmap for our ongoing commitment to reforming the Youth Justice system, anchored by the landmark Armytage and Ogloff Youth Justice Review and Strategy.

The *Strategic Plan's* vision is for Victoria to have a leading youth justice system that reduces offending by children and young people and improves community safety and works with others to provide genuine opportunities for children and young people to turn their lives around.

This vision is supported by four key reform directions for youth justice in Victoria:

1. Improving diversion and supporting early intervention and crime prevention.
2. Reducing reoffending and promoting community safety by supporting children and young people to turn their lives around.
3. Strengthening partnerships with children and young people, families and all services and professionals who support their rehabilitation and positive development.
4. Investing in a skilled, safe and stable Youth Justice.

### Wirkara Kulpa (Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy)

*Wirkara Kulpa* is Victoria's Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy.

*Wirkara Kulpa* is about making sure Aboriginal children and young people live culturally rich lives with family and community away from the justice system. Every single Aboriginal child and young person has an abundance of strength and knowledge that deserves to be heard and supported. Improving the youth justice system and services so they always build on children and young peoples' strengths and listens to their voices, lies at the heart of this document.

*Wirkara Kulpa* is accompanied by a set of guiding principles that has informed its development and will help to achieve its vision – that Aboriginal children and young people are not in the youth justice system.

These principles are underpinned by, and informed by, self-determination and guide all of *Wirkara Kulpa's* actions. These principles are centred around:

- amplifying children and young people's voice and participation
- Aboriginal cultural values and connection
- valuing the strengths of Aboriginal children and young people
- supporting child and family centred approaches
- embedding trauma informed healing approaches
- promoting and protecting children and young people's right.

## Agencies

### Youth Justice, Department of Justice and Community Services (DJCS)

Youth Justice is responsible for Victoria's youth justice system.

Youth Justice incorporates custodial and community services. Victoria's custodial precincts are the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct and the Cherry Creek Youth Justice Precinct. Community Youth Justice has teams based across metropolitan and regional Victoria.

All young people on a supervised youth justice order are case-managed and supervised by a youth justice worker to address their offending, develop their motivation, and support them to lead pro-social lives.

Typically, this involves the youth justice worker:

- meeting regularly with the young person
- supervising compliance with court-ordered conditions
- assessing the young person's risk and needs
- planning and facilitating access to targeted interventions such as offending behaviour programs
- collaborating with key statutory and non-statutory agencies to coordinate access to services such as education and housing.

The Youth Justice Community Support Service (YJCSS) provides case work support to complement the statutory case management undertaken by community youth justice teams. The program is managed by Youth Justice and delivered by community sector organisations. The YJCSS model recognises that young people have a range of complex needs that require an individualised response. The program aims to enhance rehabilitation, increase economic participation and improve social connectedness. YJCSS also provides transitional housing support for young people residing in transitional properties across Victoria.

### Police

Victoria Police is responsible for investigating crime in Victoria. In Victoria, police may caution young people and may refer them to appropriate support services.

One such service is the Youth Support Service (YSS), which aims to intervene early and divert young people away from the youth justice system by addressing the underlying causes of their offending behaviour. It is managed by Youth Justice and delivered by community sector organisations. The YSS works with young people aged between 10 and 17, following contact with Victoria Police.

### Courts/Youth Parole Board

The Criminal Division of the Children's Court of Victoria has jurisdiction to hear and determine most charges against young people aged between 12 and 17 at the time they allegedly committed an offence. If a young person has turned 19 by the time their court case commences in the Children's Court, the case is transferred to the appropriate adult court.

The sentencing principles in the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* distinguish the developmental needs of children and adolescents as separate from the needs of adults. The Children's Court has a hierarchy of sentencing options for young people convicted of criminal offences that recognise the distinct developmental needs of young people. These include unsupervised orders such as non-accountable undertakings, accountable undertakings, good behaviour bonds and fines as well as supervised orders including community-based supervision orders and custodial orders.

The *Youth Justice Act 2024* will update and expand the sentencing and general principles that apply to young people in the youth justice system.

Victoria's unique dual track system allows adult courts (for example, the Magistrates' Court and County Court) to sentence young offenders aged between 18 and 20 to serve custodial sentences in youth detention instead of adult prison. For a young offender to qualify for youth detention under the dual track system, the court must believe that he or she has reasonable prospects of rehabilitation, or that he or she is particularly impressionable, immature, or likely to be subjected to undesirable influences in an adult prison.

Each young person ordered by a court to be detained in a custodial centre on a youth justice order is subject to the jurisdiction of the Youth Parole Board, which is empowered to grant parole to young people subject to its jurisdiction. The Board aims to balance the rehabilitative needs of the young person with the safety of the community through supervision and support provided by the community youth justice officers.

### Elements, programs and services

Youth Justice seeks to enhance community safety through diverting young people from entering or progressing further into the criminal justice system, providing rehabilitation services to young people at high risk of offending, and delivering pre-release, transition and post release support programs to reduce their risk of reoffending. To complement its legislated obligations and to realise its service objectives, Youth Justice engages with a range of stakeholders. These include other government departments and agencies, community sector organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

### Diversion

The Children's Court Youth Diversion Service assists young people early in their contact with the Children's Court to address the underlying causes of their offending and prevent further progression into the criminal justice system. Legislation directs that successful completion of a diversion plan will see the court discharge the matter and the child avoid a disclosable criminal record for those offences.

In addition, the YSS supports the diversion of young people away from the criminal justice system, as discussed above.

### Youth Justice Bail Service

The Youth Justice Bail Service operates in the Children's Court of Victoria, and in the Magistrate's Court (for young people aged 18-21 years). The service provides bail assessments and advice to the court and provides supervision and support to young people on supervised bail while they await a court outcome.

YJ bail assessments consider the unique circumstances of the young person, service referrals to address the young person's needs and assist with supporting bail compliance, the nature of the offending and community safety.

The Youth Justice Bail Service offers Supervised and Intensive Bail, and Enhanced Bail Supervision and Support, with or without electronic monitoring. The YJ bail service provides supervision appointments and referrals to appropriate support services, as determined by a tailored bail plan. YJ provides regular progress reports to the Court for young people on supervised, intensive and enhanced bail.

The Youth Justice Bail After-hours Service (YJBAS) commenced on 30 April 2023. YJBAS is a state-wide, after-hours bail assessment service for young people, delivered by Youth Justice. It provides advice after-hours to bail decision makers including both Bail Justices and the Weekend Online Remand Court. YJBAS is improving engagement with young people, working more closely with other after-hours services, and enhancing handover processes to the Youth Justice custodial and community teams to better support young people.

Bail justices are volunteers, some of whom are not legally trained, who can make decisions about bail and remand after, or sometimes during, business hours. Victoria is the only jurisdiction in Australia to feature bail justices as part of its bail system.

In May 2017, Victoria also established a Fast Track Remand Court to actively case manage the criminal proceedings of children who are held on remand. The aim of the Fast Track Remand Court is to resolve cases more quickly and to provide earlier access to education and rehabilitation programs.

The Weekend Online Remand Children's Court (WORC) commenced on 3 September 2022 and hears online bail and remand applications from across the State over the weekend and public holidays, increasing access to justice for young people. This initiative has expanded access to justice for young people being considered for remand, as matters can now be brought before the Court over the weekend.

## **Group Conferencing**

A legislated, pre-sentence Youth Justice Group Conferencing program exists across Victoria. The program is available to the Children's Court where a young person has been found guilty of an offence and the court is considering sentencing the young person to youth justice supervision. The conference, facilitated by a convener, must be attended by the young person, their legal representative and the police. Also in attendance may be the young person's family/carer and the victim or their representative. The aim of the conference is to increase the young person's understanding of the impact of their offending and reduce the likelihood of their reoffending. The outcome of the conference must be taken into consideration by the court when sentencing the young person.

In 2022, Children's Court Youth Diversion conferences were introduced to increase access to restorative justice processes for young people at the diversion stage.

## **Offence-specific and therapeutic programs**

The Statewide Rehabilitation Service undertakes forensic risk assessment and intervention for justice-involved young people. Broadly, there are 3 different types of intervention delivered. These include:

- offence-specific criminogenic manualised intervention programs to directly address criminogenic needs and reduce the risk of reoffending. Programs include the Adolescent Violence Intervention Program (AVIP-2), including the High Intensity Addendum and the Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality (MAPPS). Other criminogenic programs offered include On Track, a motor vehicle related offending program, Pathways to Change, an alcohol and other drugs offending program and Well Families, a family violence program. These programs are predominantly delivered to sentenced young people by forensically trained clinicians in individual or group formats.
- offence-related programs are five session manualised programs which focus on challenging antisocial attitudes that support offending and manage the risk of reoffending, such as alcohol and other drug (AOD) harm reduction, relapse prevention and psychoeducational programs, risky behaviours programs, problem-solving programs and behavioural change programs. These programs are delivered to young people on remand or sentence by forensically trained clinicians in individual or group formats.
- psychosocial programs, which are two session manualised programs focusing on improving personal skills and enhancing self awareness, such as anger management, communication skills, understanding alcohol and other drugs, emotional regulation and healthy relationships. These programs are delivered to young people on remand and sentenced, and are delivered by both clinicians and a non-clinical behaviour support workforce.

Where young people may have multiple complex, criminogenic treatment needs, they may be engaged in individual counselling that draws session plans and modules from the programs listed above to offer an individualised intervention.

## **Aboriginal Youth Justice Program**

Aboriginal-specific programs have been developed to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in youth justice and provide culturally safe and responsive services. They are delivered primarily by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

The programs are funded by the department under the auspices of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement phase 4, Burra Loptja Dunduludja, and Wirkara Kulpa, in line with its guiding principles of self-determination.

The Aboriginal Youth Justice Program facilitates culturally safe supports for Aboriginal young people at risk of, or subject to, youth justice involvement. A range of interventions are utilised including connecting to culture through individual and group programs, cultural planning, advocacy, case work and cultural consultation for non-Aboriginal service providers.

## **Education**

Parkville College is a specialist Victorian Government school, operating in both youth justice custodial centres, which provides education to students under youth justice custodial supervision.

In addition to the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), Parkville College also offers alternatives such as:

- the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning, for senior secondary students to obtain literacy and numeracy skills, practical work experience and a qualification recognised by TAFE institutes and employers
- Vocational Education and Training units for young people undertaking the VCE or those no longer of compulsory school age (17 years or over).

## Health and mental health services

Primary health services provided to young people in custodial centres include general practitioner services, general and mental health nursing, , pharmacy, pharmacotherapy treatment, AOD assessment and treatment, pathology, radiology, dental, audiology, optometry, podiatry, physiotherapy, and health promotion activities.

In addition to primary health services, the Custodial Forensic Youth Mental Health Service, a specialist mental health service, is available to young people in custodial centres. This service comprises a multidisciplinary team that provides specialist mental health services for young people in custody, including psychiatry, mental health assessment and treatment, music and art therapy, speech therapy and a specialist neurodevelopmental team. The Cherry Creek Youth Justice Precinct also has a mental health and wellbeing unit, which is co-staffed by Youth Justice Workers and mental health nurses to undertake intensive mental health assessment and intervention for young people with significant mental health support needs.

The Community Forensic Youth Mental Health Service provides mental health services to support community mental health services to respond to young people who are exhibiting problem behaviours associated with emerging mental illness and who are at risk of offending. The Community Forensic Youth Mental Health Service provides early intervention support for community mental health services in the North West and Southern Metropolitan areas of Victoria, and secondary consultations to mental health services in other areas of Victoria.

## Queensland

The youth justice system in Queensland applies to youth aged 10 to 17 years. The system integrates a range of custodial, prevention, early intervention, rehabilitation and diversion initiatives to provide earlier responses to reduce the likelihood of youths coming into contact with the youth justice system, and to provide more targeted responses to those engaged in offending behaviour.

This includes the provision of education and rehabilitation through mandated specialised programs and receive intensive staff support and supervision in custody. Youth justice in Queensland is underpinned by the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (Qld) (YJ Act).

## Policy directions

### 2024 State Election

On 26 October 2024, a state election was held in Queensland, resulting in a change of government. From 1 November 2024, the Department of Youth Justice became the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support (the Department).


The new government introduced changes to the YJ Act through the *Making Queensland Safer Act 2024* and the *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Act 2025*. As a result of these amendments:

- youth who commit specified offences are liable to the same maximum, mandatory, and minimum penalties as adults – the ‘Adult Crime, Adult Time’ sentencing scheme
- there is no longer a principle that detention should be a last resort, or that a non-custodial order is better than detention in promoting a youth’s ability to reintegrate into the community
- a court must have primary regard to any impact on a victim when sentencing youth
- detainees automatically transfer from a youth detention centre to an adult corrective services facility once they turn 18, with the Department’s Director-General having discretion to override the transfer
- cautions, restorative justice agreements, various community-based sentence orders, and breaches of supervised release orders and community-based sentence orders are all included in a youth’s criminal history
- a person’s youth criminal history is admissible when they are sentenced as an adult, for up to five years after the most recent youth entry
- direct victims of youth offences, and immediate family members of victims who have died as a result of the offence, are automatically placed on the ‘eligible persons register’ to receive prescribed information about the custody status of the offender, unless they opt out (removing the need for an application).

The *Childrens Court Act 1992* was also amended to ensure relatives of the victim and accredited media may be present during criminal proceedings before a Childrens Court magistrate.

### Strategic direction

The Department’s vision is to ensure safer Queensland communities with fewer victims of crime by restoring consequences for action through stronger laws and reducing reoffending through effective early intervention and rehabilitation. The department is committed to supporting victims of crime through the provision of victim support services such as the Victims Advocate Service.

The  [Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support Strategic Plan 2025–2029 \(PDF, 1.8 MB\)](#) provides clear strategies and performance indicators, demonstrating the Department’s role in advancing the Queensland Government’s objectives.

## Agencies

### Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support

The Department is responsible for providing youth justice services in Queensland<sup>[3]</sup>. The Department is also responsible for providing support to victims of crime, including victims of youth crime.

The Department provides legislated, tertiary, offence-focused interventions and case management for youth subject to a supervised community-based or detention-based order by the court. The Department also has a key role in ensuring the assessed needs of youth are addressed through the delivery of government, non-government and community interventions and supports, including outsourced early intervention and prevention programs.

For the small cohort of youth who commit serious, repeat offences, the Department delivers intensive responses and high levels of supervision to hold them to account while working intensively with them to turn their lives around. This is done through the provision of evidence-based programs and multi-agency supports to address factors that have contributed to their offending.

### Police

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is responsible for investigating crime and charging youth with offences. The QPS is the first point of contact for youth entering the criminal justice system. Under the YJ Act, police can divert youth from the Courts by taking no action, administering a caution, referring them to a restorative justice conference, or diverting to a graffiti removal program or drug diversion program. QPS partners with government agencies, non-government organisations, and community groups to link youth with support services and provide pathways to reduce youth offending.

## **Courts**

Youth aged between 10 and 17 at the time they allegedly commit an offence and who are not diverted by police are dealt with by the Childrens Court (constituted by a magistrate or, for matters proceeding on indictment, a judge) or the Supreme Court (for the most serious offences), under the provisions of the YJ Act and the *Childrens Court Act 1992* (Qld).

Depending on each case, the possible outcomes for youth in relation to an offence include:

- Dismissal and caution
- Dismissal and referral to a restorative justice process
- Referral to a drug assessment and education session
- Court diversion referral to a restorative justice process
- Reprimand
- Good behaviour order
- Fine
- Probation order
- Community service order
- Restorative justice order
- Graffiti removal order
- Intensive supervision order (for youth under 13)
- Conditional release order (where a detention order is suspended on the condition that the youth participate in an intensive program)
- Detention order.

## **Elements, programs and services**

### **Youth Justice Framework for Practice**

The Department has developed a *Youth Justice Framework for Practice: Our Way of Working* (the Framework) to help guide its programs and services. The Framework outlines the required values, principles, knowledge and skills to support quality work with youth, families, partners and communities, and to achieve positive outcomes that drive reduced offending and reoffending. The Framework helps staff, stakeholders and those in contact with the youth justice system understand how they contribute to achieving significant outcomes across the youth justice system through consistent and collaborative practice.

The Department has also developed frameworks to enhance service responses to vulnerable cohorts within the youth justice system. This includes a gendered framework for working with girls and young women in the youth justice system, as well as the Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Framework and Domestic and Family Violence Framework.

### **Diversion**

The YJ Act provides QPS with the ability to divert a youth who commits an offence from the courts by administering a caution. If the offence committed is a minor drug offence, the QPS may offer the youth an opportunity to attend a drug diversion assessment program. This consists of an education program arranged by Queensland Health.

Where a youth admits to committing a graffiti offence, a QPS officer may refer them to a graffiti removal program instead of bringing the matter before a court. Graffiti removal programs, arranged by the Department, hold youth offenders accountable by requiring them to perform unpaid work to remove graffiti.

QPS also have access to protected admissions and police cautioning, which enable youth offenders who admit responsibility for certain offences to be provided with other diversionary options such as a caution or referral to restorative justice conferencing.

### **Restorative justice**

A youth may be referred to a restorative justice process by QPS or the Court. If victims consent to participate in the process, conferences are facilitated between affected parties (i.e. victims, youth offender, families, community representatives, QPS and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, where relevant) to discuss what happened, the effects of the crime on the victim and how the harm caused can be repaired. A facilitated conference allows participants to talk about what happened and the effects of the offence, with the aim to develop an agreement about how the youth can make reparations.

Alternative Diversion Processes (ADPs) were introduced in 2016 as an alternative restorative justice process to allow youth to remain diverted in circumstances where it was not possible to progress a restorative justice conference (for example, when a victim is not willing to participate in a conference). ADPs address the causal factors of a youth's offending and provide an opportunity for youth to take responsibility for their actions.

Restorative justice conferencing has had a positive impact on reducing reoffending. Conferences have also resulted in positive outcomes for victims as it provides them with the opportunity to receive an apology from the youth.

Under the *Adult Crime, Adult Time* laws, youth offenders who commit an Adult Crime, Adult Time offence can no longer be sentenced by the Court to a Restorative Justice order as a final outcome. The *Making Queensland Safer Act 2024* removed this option as restorative justice orders are not available to adults as a sentencing option.

### **Early Intervention**

Prevention and early intervention are shared community and government responsibilities. A range of government agencies and community stakeholders are working together to prevent youth crime in ways that are tailored to their local communities. These include:

- Crime Prevention Schools, to address education disengagement as a key driver of youth crime to help re-engage at-risk youth and provide them with the tools to build a brighter future to prevent crime before it happens. Delivered under the Special Assistance Schools model, this initiative will deliver four new specialised schools across the state in Townsville, Gold Coast, Ipswich and Rockhampton for up to 900 students.
- Gold Standard Early Intervention Kickstarter grants, which will bring the best research-backed youth intervention models to Queensland, restoring community safety through locally focused, community-led initiatives.
- Proven Initiatives, which will work with youth aged 8-17 demonstrating early signs of criminal and anti-social behaviours and are on a trajectory to entering the youth justice system.
- Regional Reset, which will support youth showing early criminogenic risk factors or anti-social behaviours by equipping them with the skills to divert from crime before they become serious repeat offenders. The program includes short-stay 'resets' to address high-risk behaviours including drug and alcohol misuse and anger management issues.
- Circuit Breaker Sentencing, which will offer an alternative to youth detention through intensive, structured and evidence-based rehabilitation. It will emphasise discipline and consequences to rehabilitate youth offenders, offering wraparound social and health services to break the cycle of crime.
- Project Booyah, a QPS youth mentoring program that uses adventure-based learning, leadership skills, decision-making/problem-solving exercises, resilience training and family-inclusive principles to help youth aged 14-17 years who are at risk of offending or disengaging from education. Framing the Future provides post-program mentoring and support to Project Booyah graduates.
- Early Action Groups, a joint initiative with key government agencies to provide a co-located early intervention and intensive coordination of tailored services and support to youth aged 8-16 years who are at risk of falling into a cycle of crime.
- Youth Co-Responder Teams (YCRT), which are highly visible, dedicated teams of police and youth justice professionals working together in specially marked cars, engaging with youth at risk of offending or on bail. The teams link youth and their families and carers to local supports and services to get the help they need with issues such as health, education and housing. The majority of YCRT operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **Bail and support programs**

Conditional Bail Programs assist at-risk youth to remain in the community while their matters are before the courts as a condition of their bail. Programs address educational and vocational needs and mental health issues while providing family intervention and accommodation. They give the court confidence that youth will receive individualised and intensive supervision while they are on bail.

Queensland is currently trialling the use of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for youth aged 15 or older. Electronic monitoring devices (EMDs), which are GPS enabled, may be fitted to suitable youth as a component of bail conditions. In April 2025, the *Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Act 2025* extended the trial to 30 April 2026. The use of EMD is designed to protect community safety. EMDs as a condition of bail are only imposed on repeat offenders charged with 'prescribed indictable offences', who would benefit from more intensive bail conditions. Wrap around support and supervision is provided to youth fitted with the devices by YCRTs and intensive bail support services.

Non-government agencies are also funded to deliver support services to improve bail compliance in high demand locations.

### **Case management**

Youth under the statutory supervision of youth justice service centres and youth detention centres are actively case managed to ensure risk factors linked to a youth's offending behaviour are addressed at an intensity that reflects the criminogenic needs and risk level of the youth. Case management service responses are informed by a comprehensive risk/needs assessment and a case planning process which engages the youth, their family, other government departments and community stakeholders. Service response plans are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that service responses remain relevant to their level of risk and needs.

A collaborative case coordination system, known as Multi-Agency Collaborative Panels, delivers coordinated service responses across Queensland, involving government and non-government agencies, to high-risk youth with complex needs and their families. This includes youth engaged in serious repeat offending. Core member agencies, including the Department, police, child safety, health, education, housing and non-government stakeholders, work together to address challenges and barriers to stop youth offending and keep the community safe.

Where a youth is offending, they may be referred to a Young Offender Support Service (YOSS) which provides culturally safe, client centred, evidence-based services, including intensive family support aligned with the youth's assessed needs. YOSS are delivered by non-government organisations funded by the Department. These services integrate with the local community service system and use cultural methods such as connection to country and cultural activities. The program assists youth to obtain stable accommodation and develop skills for relationship-building, health, decision-making and goal setting.

Intensive Case Management (ICM), delivered by the Department, provides additional support for youth aged 10-17 years who are assessed as having a high or very high risk of reoffending, and their families, to help break the cycle of crime. It aims to reduce the frequency and severity of offending by addressing risk and encouraging pro-social decision making and behaviour by the youth and their family. This program provides intensive intervention to address multiple factors that drive chronic youth offending including substance abuse, enhance family and kinship connections and promote engagement in education and training.

### **Offence-specific and therapeutic programs**

A number of core change-oriented programs and services designed to address criminogenic needs and reduce reoffending are delivered by the Department as part of a youth's case management. A number of programs are available, including:

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART®), an evidence-based, change-oriented group program designed to influence positive thinking and moral value development for youth with violent or aggressive behaviours. ART® aims to build prosocial skills, enhance positive communication, develop strategies to reduce aggression and regulate emotions and build capacity for youth to consider consequences of their behaviour.
- Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART), an evidence-based, change-orientated program designed to support youth to reflect on their offending behaviour and develop skills to reduce further offending.
- Emotional Regulation and Impulse Control (ERIC), which is an evidence-informed change-oriented program designed to encourage healthy social and emotional development by teaching youth skills to better identify, describe, and manage impulsivity, and make better decisions leading to better behaviours.

- Re-thinking Our Attitudes to Driving (ROAD) is an evidence-informed, change-oriented group program designed to reduce motor vehicle (MV) related offending. Youth are supported to explore thoughts, feelings and behaviours about their MV offending and the impact on victims themselves their families and the community. ROAD develops the youth offender's awareness of the consequences of unsafe MV behaviours and builds on concepts of victim empathy, understanding emotions and the connections between thoughts and actions. ROAD is delivered together with CHART to address MV offending.

The Department also provides two specific responses, delivered by non-government organisations, for youth who have committed sexual offences:

- Bravehearts Foundation is a specialist counselling service which provides therapeutic intervention for adolescents who have committed sexual offences, their families, and persons harmed and their families and/or significant others where appropriate, who have been referred to restorative justice conferencing processes in the south-east corner of the state. The organisation also provides a telehealth service outside of the south-east corner.
- Griffith Youth Forensic Service (GYFS) provides evidence-based specialist psychological assessments and treatment services to youth who have sexually offended, their families and communities, including youth held in youth detention centres.

### **Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth**

The First Nations Council (FNC) and the Department's Cultural Capability Team provide cultural advice to the executive leadership of the Department to ensure policies, programs and services are culturally responsive and meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Members of the FNC represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives from Youth Justice. In addition, a cultural practice manager has temporarily been appointed as part of each of the six regional leadership teams to support First Nations staff, assist ongoing cultural capability, and enable culturally responsive practice and service delivery for First Nations youth and their families.

The Youth Justice First Nations Action Groups (FNAG) and First Nations Action Board (FNAB) have been embedded within the central office, regions and youth detention centres. They ensure all youth justice policies, programs and processes appropriately address the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in contact with the youth justice system. In recognition of individual communities requiring individual and localised responses, members from each region are represented on the Board.

Youth Detention Cultural Units and cultural staff provide essential frontline support to ensure service delivery respects and promotes youth's cultural identity. These staff work directly with youth, detention and community-based staff and other stakeholders including families, communities and Elders to promote and provide:

- regular opportunities for youth to participate in culturally specific programs
  - community-led cultural healing-based initiatives and services that support cultural wellbeing
  - holistic culturally specific therapeutic, intervention and cultural programs
  - localised cultural awareness training for all staff members and key stakeholders to ensure that professional conduct and services are culturally appropriate
  - culturally competent case management and transition processes such as kinship mapping, engaging Elders and community members and restorative practices
  - regular opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and/or respected persons to participate in advisory groups to provide cultural leadership, mentoring and advice on policies, procedures and processes.
- Young Black & Proud (YBP) is an evidence-informed, change-oriented cultural group program delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in partnership with identified community leaders such as Elders and traditional owners. YBP supports Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth to develop and strengthen positive cultural knowledge, awareness and identity through structured activities and passing on cultural knowledge. YBP also supports First Nations young men to build readiness to engage in other programs and services.
  - Black Chicks Talking (BCT) is an evidence-informed, change-oriented cultural group program designed to reduce reoffending, delivered in partnership with First Nations community leaders such as Elders and traditional owners for First Nations young women. The program aims to support cultural connections to community and identify and explore identity, behaviour, experiences, and cultural histories through storytelling, yarning, and adventure activities.
  - Murri Watch Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation provides cultural support to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth detained in watchhouses across Queensland to help meet their welfare and emotional support needs and keep them connected with their family.
  - Family-Led Decision Making encourages youth to avoid offending and reoffending through the facilitation of a process which involves the participation of family and community members. During the process, youth are dealt with in a culturally appropriate manner that acknowledges their needs and gives them the opportunity to accept responsibility for their actions and develop responsible, pro-social behaviours.
  - Intensive On Country programs provide culture-based rehabilitation for young First Nations peoples under the supervision of senior First Nations leaders. This unique community-led program aims to reduce ongoing offending, using cultural immersion and experiences to address the motivation and pre-contemplative behaviour of youth who commit crime under the one-on-one mentorship of First Nations adult mentors, Elders and traditional owners. The program focuses on high-risk Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth and is tailored to their individual needs, with a focus on healing and transferring cultural knowledge to prevent motivation to reoffend.
  - Cultural mentoring, where the Department works closely with members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to provide a cultural mentoring service model as an alternative intervention to QPS charging and/or remanding youth in custody.
  - Neuro Ability Support Service works with First Nations youth with suspected neurodevelopmental disabilities who are in the youth justice system and their families to improve access to services (including diagnostic services) to address their disability support needs, particularly where a disability may contribute to a youth's risk of offending.
  - Building Up Support Service, a Cairns-based trial supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young men and boys aged 10-17 years who are involved in or at risk of involvement in the youth justice system and are displaying abusive, controlling or coercive behaviour towards family members and/or intimate partner. The service provides case management through a healing framework.

### **Services that address developmental and support needs**

Transition to Success (T2S) is an evidence-based, vocational training and behaviour change program delivered by the Department to prevent youth who are involved in the youth justice system from reoffending. The program is delivered in partnership with local community organisations to flexibly tailor the service to its community. The program is delivered in a community setting to youth aged 15 and above with a high or very high risk of

reoffending. T2S helps youth address risk factors to re-engage with education, training, and employment and gives youth the opportunity to:

- learn and achieve nationally recognised certificate qualifications
- set goals for their future
- participate in challenge-based activities
- identify and access a number of alternative pathways that divert them from the justice system and keep them out of custody
- build the social, cognitive, and behavioural skills they need to attain and maintain further education and employment.

The Education Justice Initiative is delivered by Department of Education Court Liaison Officers who support youth who appear before the Childrens Court to re-engage in education and training. The initiative provides specialised referral and advocacy services to ensure youth receive support to connect with education or training pathways.

Navigate Your Health (NYH) coordinates the provision of health and development assessments and connects youth with relevant health and support services. This initiative connects youth with a Nurse Navigator to engage primary health care providers, coordinate their health care and meet identified health needs. Nurse Navigators engage community providers, public health, Aboriginal medical services, as well as private and non-government organisation service providers.

### **Place-based initiatives**

Several place-based initiatives have been implemented across Queensland to assist youth in areas that experience higher rates of youth crime, including:

- JYouGotThis Program is a 10-week program for youth who are at risk of or have early involvement in the youth justice system. Delivered by the Johnathon Thurston Academy in Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa, the program focuses on enhancing internal strength and building resilience.
- Community Youth Response and Diversion (CYRD) targets youth aged 10 to 15 years who are at high risk of offending or reoffending but generally not involved in statutory youth justice interventions. Delivered by community-based organisations across a number of locations, the programs consists of diversion services, intensive case management, education bridging support and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural mentoring.
- Transitional youth hubs in Mount Isa and Townsville provide culturally safe after-hours support to youth who are at risk of offending. Hubs aim to provide a safe place and assistance for youth, particularly youth on the streets at night, to divert them from offending behaviours and keep them out of custody.
- The Youth Crime Prevention Grants brings together the Community Partnership Innovation Grants and the Community Based Crime Action Committee Grants under one overarching program banner to support communities to deliver local programs to youth across the youth justice continuum.
- The Youth Justice Alcohol and Drug Treatment Service helps reduce the impact of drugs and alcohol as a criminogenic factor. The service delivers three 10-bed residential facilities across South-East Queensland, providing three months residential treatment followed by over three years of follow-up treatment.
- The Cairns Safer Streets initiative is a whole-of-government approach to intervening early, diverting at-risk youth from the justice system and connecting youth to social, recreational, training and employment opportunities.
- Cultural Family Partnerships delivers culturally specific family support services in the context of addressing the in-home factors that may contribute to a youth's risk of offending. The service is culturally specific to African families in the south & west Brisbane corridor, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in Hervey Bay and surrounding communities, and Pasifika families in the Logan area.
- Townsville Engagement and Integrated Diversion Service provides late night activities and a place of safety for high risk youth, particularly those with prior engagement in motor vehicle offending and those congregating at shopping centres.

### **Youth detention centres**

Youth detention centres (YDCs) continue to focus on the safety, wellbeing, and rehabilitation of youth. In Queensland, Brisbane YDC, West Moreton YDC, Cleveland YDC and the newly commissioned Wacol Youth Remand Centre (opened in April 2025 as an interim option to manage capacity while new YDC infrastructure is built) provide secure accommodation for remanded and sentenced youth to protect the safety of the community and address offending behaviour.

In 2023, the former Queensland Government announced it would build two new YDCs – one at Woodford in South-East Queensland and one in the Cairns region. Following extensive efforts to identify a suitable location for a new Cairns YDC, community consultation is underway to inform decision-making regarding the location and of a future YDC.

By partnering with agencies such as Health and Education, YDCs address the underlying drivers of offending behaviour through targeted, individualised and goal-orientated case management activities; therapeutic and cultural support; and innovative programs and services which assist youth with achieving rehabilitation goals and reintegration into community. YDC staff work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to provide on-site services and support to youth.

Youth Education and Training Centres are led by the Department of Education and operate as educational units akin to mainstream schools and provide on-site education and training programs and services for youth 48 weeks per year (an additional 8 weeks to the community-based school year). Under the Detention with Purpose (DWP) initiative, education in detention is compulsory, and youth offenders will no longer be able to 'opt out' of schooling, violence against staff will not be tolerated, and behaviour management will be strengthened to ensure clear consequences for action. In partnership with the Department of Education, YDCs have increased session availability, improved risk management, and introduced flexible delivery models to improve attendance and readiness for reintegration.

Queensland Health operates 24/7 health centres in each YDC, staffed by registered nurses. Mental health services are also available onsite during business hours, with on-call arrangements in place for any urgent or high-risk matters. Education and health staff work closely with their community-based counterparts and the onsite multi-disciplinary teams to achieve rehabilitation goals and support a youth offender's transition from detention to community.

All youth admitted to a YDC are assessed by a team of multi-disciplinary professionals to promote their safety and wellbeing while in custody. These assessments inform tailored interventions, custodial management plans and integrated case planning with community youth justice stakeholders to promote service continuity upon a youth offender's release. Assessments include:

- primary and mental health assessments completed by Queensland Health registered nurses and mental health professionals. These assessments identify any immediate health concerns and ongoing support needs.
- case management, therapeutic, safety and risk assessments including identification of any suicide or non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) risk conducted by departmental multi-disciplinary teams that include caseworkers, psychologists and speech and language pathologists.
- psychologists and speech and language pathologists use a range of evidence-based and culturally safe methods to comprehensively assess the mental and cognitive health of each youth admitted to a YDC, including in relation to neurodevelopmental or cognitive disability/disorders, such as foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Outcomes of these assessments are included in youth's service response plans to support consistent and responsibility-driven services that match their abilities.
- educational assessments, including numeracy, literacy and comprehension testing and identification of learning difficulties completed by Department of Education teaching staff.

In accordance with their assessed needs, youth in detention are involved in a variety of programs including evidence-based offence-focused, therapeutic, educational, vocational, behavioural, life skills, cultural, and recreational programs. These programs are regularly reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet needs.

Positive behaviour support models in youth detention centres are designed to incentivise well-adjusted social behaviour, are underpinned by trauma informed practice and aim to be culturally safe for all participants. Restorative practices assist youth to resolve conflict, repair harm and take accountability for their actions.

As outlined above, DWP is a new initiative focusing on rehabilitation, discipline and accountability for youth offenders detained in YDCs. Under DWP, education is compulsory, staff safety is enhanced, and behaviour management is prioritised. In doing so, DWP supports youth offenders' transition to the Staying on Track program by ensuring continuity of education, programs and reintegration supports between detention and the community.

### **Post-release support**

Continuity of service delivery for youth who have been held in custody is critical. YDCs and community-based service centres work together to ensure services and programs are ongoing for youth transitioning from detention back to the community.

Transition planning is incorporated into a youth's existing service response plan and commences upon a youth offender's admission to youth detention. This process involves an integrated response between caseworkers, cultural supports, transition officers, education facilitators, mental health practitioners and the youth's family/care providers. YDCs keep youth connected with their community by ensuring access to community services and supports and promoting routine engagement with youth.

Information sharing, facilitated through Memorandums of Understanding across government agencies, enable a coordinated multi-department approach to reducing a youth's offending behaviour. Non-government agencies are also involved in supporting a youth's transition to the community.

Staying on Track is an intensive rehabilitation program, providing 12 months of post-release rehabilitation support to support every youth offender leaving detention to reintegrate back into the community with post-release support. Non-government organisations will work with youth offenders in detention, helping them transition back into community, education and employment in partnership with the Department and YDC caseworkers. Individualised 12-month support plans will be developed for every youth offender's reintegration into the community post-detention, including at least six months of intensive support to reintegrate them into the community and prevent them from falling into a cycle of repeat crime.

Youth who continue to be subject to a supervised youth justice order after their release from custody continue to be case managed by community-based youth justice services through their individualised service response plan and are re-connected with community-based education and/or training or suitable employment. Youth continue engagement in change-orientated programs they had been undertake in detention, as well as support to access necessary offence-focused interventions that match their assessed criminogenic needs.

## **Western Australia**

### **Policy directions**

Key policy directions in youth justice in Western Australia include:

providing mandated services in accordance with the *Young Offenders Act 1994 and Young Offenders Regulations 1995*

- the Young People Strategy 2025-2030 identifies four strategic priorities and outlines how the Department of Justice, Corrective Services (the Department) will work with the mission of a fair, just, and safe community for all Western Australians
- programs help to achieve a reduction in reoffending, with a particular focus on programs designed for Aboriginal young people
- reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal young people in the justice system, with a particular focus on collaborative partnerships and innovative service delivery in regional areas.

## **Agencies**

### **Youth Justice Agencies**

Department of Justice, Corrective Services, Young People (YP) Directorate is informed by the principles and functions outlined in the *Young Offenders Act 1994 (YOA)* and the Department's Strategic Framework 2022-2027.

The *YOA* and the *Young Offender Regulations 1995* provides for the administration of youth justice in Western Australia. The *YOA* sets out the provisions for dealing with young persons who have, or are alleged to have, committed offences and to ensure that the legal rights of young people involved with the criminal justice system are observed.

The Young People Directorate (YPD) is responsible for the safety, security and rehabilitation of young people both in community and in custody. The core objective is to reduce reoffending among young people through:

- programs and services to divert young people away from the criminal justice system
- programs and services for young people on orders in the community
- programs and services in custody.

YPD work holistically with young people and their families to improve outcomes for young people in contact with the justice system.

YJ will always:

- prioritise the safety of the young person and the community
- consider what is in the best interests of the young person and their family
- deliver services to young people that recognise vulnerability, developmental levels, gender, and cultural and religious beliefs and practices
- be informed by evidenced-based practice
- deliver a comprehensive model of practice that is informed by:
  - the needs of each young person and is age, gender, culturally and linguistically appropriate
  - recognition and understanding that many young people in the justice system have experienced multiple traumas and that rehabilitation and care will need to address the trauma's causes and symptoms
  - the identification of protective and risk factors
  - communicate clearly and in a timely manner with all key stakeholders
  - partner with other agencies and organisations to address complex issues contributing to youth offending in the planning and delivery of services
  - engage with Aboriginal people to seek, promote and support culturally competent and Aboriginal designed and led initiatives that reduce reoffending.

## **Police**

Young people who come into contact with the justice system do so through contact with the police. The police have the option of issuing a caution, referring the matter to the Juvenile Justice Team (JJT), or referring the matter to court.

## **Courts**

The Children's Court of Western Australia deals with offences alleged to have been committed by young people aged 10 to under the age of 18.

The court may impose one of the following penalties:

- no punishment and no conditions
- no punishment but with conditions
- fines, costs, restitution and compensation
- responsible adult bond
- good behaviour bond
- referral to a juvenile justice team
- Youth Community Based Order
- Intensive Youth Supervision Order (with or without detention)
- Adult Community Based Order or Adult Intensive Supervision Order
- custodial sentence (imprisonment or detention).

Young people in the Perth metropolitan area whose offending behaviour is linked to drug use can apply to participate in the Children's Drug Court.

## **Elements, programs and services**

### **Diversion**

#### **Juvenile Justice Teams**

Juvenile Justice Teams (JJT) provide alternative ways of dealing with minor offending behaviour by diverting young people away from the criminal justice system. Over the past 12-18 months WA has focussed on updating all policies and procedures relating to the JJT. The central focus has been to place a greater emphasis on restorative justice/working appropriately with victims of crime, whilst also ensuring that JJT's are completed in an efficient and effective manner.

JJT referrals are generated by police or the Children's Court. The JJT process offers the opportunity for victims and responsible adults to be involved in the development of an action plan that encourages the young person to take responsibility for their actions and address their offending behaviour. If the young person successfully completes the action plan, they do not receive a criminal record.

#### ***Metropolitan Youth Bail Services (MYBS)***

Metropolitan Youth Bail Services aims to divert young people from and minimise their time spent in custody in instances where they have been granted bail, but no responsible adult is willing or able to enter into a bail undertaking. The primary remit of the service is to ensure young people attend court appearances.

Metropolitan Youth Bail Services staff have a duty of care to ensure that young people being bailed have access to a safe and supportive living environment. MYBS Prevention and Diversion Officers provide case management support and monitor community and family placements to provide the Court with updates on compliance. They also assist young people to access supported and/or independent accommodation options in the event family placements are not available or suitable.

Bail accommodation services are also provided in the East and West Kimberley, Pilbara (South Hedland), Mid-West Gascoyne (Geraldton), and Goldfields (Kalgoorlie).

### **Case management**

The YJ in the community deliver pre-release, transition, and post-release interventions, programs support, and services to assist young people in developing skills to manage their lives without further offending.

YJ case management is the day-to-day management of young people subject to community-based orders. It provides the framework for the planning and coordination of activities and services directed towards the young person with the objective of meeting statutory and policy requirements. Case management provides the structure in which interventions are provided to the young person. YJ develops and maintains productive and collaborative

relationships with stakeholders and works to support cross-agency approaches to address the complex issues and needs of young people.

YJ use the risk/needs assessments tools:

- Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory 2.0
- Youth Level Services/Case Management Inventory: 5-Item Screener Tool
- Level of Services/Risk Needs and Responsivity.

Risk/needs assessment tools identify the young person's criminogenic needs and are used to inform the level and types of interventions to ensure that the court report plan and case planning activities are focused in the appropriate areas of need.

Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART) is the principal casework intervention used by YJ.

CHART is a structured casework intervention program and provides a way of working with young people subject to Supervised Release Orders, community-based orders with supervision, detention sentences and long-term remand. CHART provides a consistent practical tool to address the young person's criminogenic needs.

### **Youth Justice Programs**

YJ provides a range of services to young people subject to statutory conditions in the community and in custody across Western Australia. These programs seek to address health, rehabilitative, recreational, cultural and educational needs and are delivered by either Departmental staff or externally contracted service providers.

The current externally contracted services include:

- mentoring and case management support services in each major region across the state for young people subject to community-based supervision orders or early release orders,
- vocational based engagement day program for young people in the metropolitan region subject to community-based supervision order or early release orders,
- Youth Bail Services (24/7 supervised accommodation in a facility) in each major region across the state (with the exception of the Great Southern Region),
- transitional accommodation services (24/7 supervised accommodation in a facility) in the metropolitan region for young people being released from custody with no suitable accommodation,
- specialist Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) counselling in the metropolitan region for young people in custody and/or subject to community-based supervision orders or early release orders,
- psycho-social programs and support services to young people in custody.

YJ also fund the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (ALSWA) to deliver a metropolitan-based Youth Engagement Program (YEP) to engage Aboriginal young people appearing in the Perth Children's Court to support them through bail and court processes. YEP provides case management, court support and mentoring to young people, as well as referrals to a range of culturally appropriate external services and supports with a focus on diverting young people at the earliest opportunity.

### **Supported accommodation and bail programs**

The Youth Bail Services (YBS) provides temporary and short-term accommodation placements for young people remanded on bail where no responsible adult or appropriate placement can be located. Bail services require 24-hour, 7 days a week supervision and include the provision of day programs and transport to appointments for young people and opportunities to increase their pro-social behaviours prior to their next court appearance. YBS diverts regional and remote Aboriginal young people from custody and enables them to remain on country and in contact with their family and community.

The Youth Transitional Accommodation Program (YTAP) is an accommodation service for young people between 13 years and 17 years and nine months providing 24-hour, 7 days a week supervision and includes the provision of day program and transport to appointments for young people. This service is designed to provide young people opportunities to gain independent or long term supported accommodation upon release from custody on an early release order or community-based supervision order.

### **Pre- and post-release support**

All educational and vocational programs that a young person engages in while in custody are aimed to be compatible with the young person's abilities and areas of interest. A young person can be referred to a variety of personal development and treatment programs such as:

- drug and alcohol intervention
- emotional management programs
- personal development programs: cultural, employability and life skills courses, and recreational activities
- individual psychological counselling
- sex offender treatment (individual counselling with centre psychologist).

Youth Justice Officers provide support to young people exiting detention on Supervised Release Orders. As part of their release plan young people are referred to a range of services including the YJ programs service providers to assist with their rehabilitation in the community.

### **Psychological services**

Youth Justice Psychological Services is a team responsible for providing psychological services to young people managed by YJ in both community and custody.

Youth Justice Psychological Services are responsible for offence-specific counselling, risk assessments, and pre-sentence psychological reports to the courts. The business unit co-ordinates specialist assessments and interventions to young people and provides support in accordance with their identified needs and release plans.

Services are offered to custodial and community-based centres in the following areas:

- forensic and clinical psychology

- child development
- behavioural management
- counselling to address criminogenic needs
- risk issues and managing vulnerable young people.

## Regional services for young people

Youth Justice is located in six regional areas across the state and provide:

- the management of young people on bail, juvenile justice teams, community-based orders or supervised release orders
- emergency short-stay accommodation for young people who have been remanded on bail where no responsible adult or appropriate placement can be located.

## South Australia

### Policy directions

Key policy directions for youth justice in South Australia include:

- Enhancing and further embedding individualised, therapeutic, culturally safe and disability and trauma-informed approaches into the case management and service delivery of Department of Human Services (DHS) Youth Justice, underpinned by an evidence-based practice framework.
- Strengthening programs, services and partnerships to provide early intervention and structural supports to Aboriginal children and young people and their families, to improve outcomes and address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in detention in line with commitments under the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- Addressing repeat young offenders through the South Australian Government's Young Offender Plan, with measures including the toughening of bail laws for repeat young offenders with a review to be conducted by the South Australian Law Reform Institute, strengthening penalties for young offenders with extensive criminal histories, and cracking down on youth street gangs through giving South Australia Police greater powers.
- Committing \$3m to an intervention program to support young repeat offenders to break the cycle of re-offending under the Young Offender Plan. DHS is leading the development of the Young Offender Program under the plan, to be delivered in 2025-26.

## Agencies

### Youth Justice agency

In South Australia, DHS Youth Justice has oversight of supervised orders determined by courts under the *Bail Act 1995* and *Young Offenders Act 1993*. DHS Youth Justice is responsible for providing statutory youth justice services, both custodial and community-based, in accordance with the *Youth Justice Administration Act 2016*.

Within the legislative framework, DHS Youth Justice strives for contemporary practice standards in youth justice administration, to improve rehabilitation outcomes for young people and reduce re-offending, while contributing to community safety and upholding victims' rights.

DHS also works with key partner agencies and community partners to connect children, young people and their families with supports, programs and services to achieve positive outcomes.

### Police

In South Australia, the police are the first point of contact for young people entering the youth justice system. The police may issue cautions (either informal or formal) to a child or young person who has admitted to an offence. They may also divert young people who admit an offence to a Family Conference, which is provided by the Courts Administration Authority.

### Courts

In South Australia, children and young people who are alleged to have committed an offence and who are not diverted to a Family Conference are primarily dealt with by the Youth Court under the provisions of the *Young Offenders Act 1993*. The Youth Court is established under the *Youth Court Act 1993* and presided over by a District Court judge who is designated by proclamation as the Judge of the Youth Court. The Court sits in metropolitan and suburban Adelaide as well as regional locations.

A young person may also have their matters referred to a higher court subject to the seriousness of the offence (for trial as an adult) or if there is a pattern of serious repeat offending.

## Elements, programs and services

### Diversion

In South Australia, two tiers of pre-court diversion apply where it is the first offence or relatively low-level offending, and the young person admits to the alleged offending.

Informal and formal cautions by police constitute the first tier of diversion. Young people who commit offences that are considered too serious for an informal or formal caution may be directed to attend a Family Conference. To be eligible for a Family Conference, the young person must admit to carrying out the offence. If the charge is denied, the matter is referred to the Youth Court.

The Youth Court has discretion to refer matters back to be dealt with by formal police caution or family conference where appropriate.

### Bail

The *Bail Act 1985* provides for a presumption of bail. A child or young person who has been arrested can apply for and be granted bail on the condition that they will appear in court at a specified date, place and time. Bail can be granted by the South Australia Police on arrest or, if police bail is refused, an application can be made to the Youth Court. Children and young people who are denied police bail are entitled to a telephone review by a Magistrate where the Youth Court is not readily available (for example on weekends or in remote areas).

DHS Youth Justice is responsible for supporting children and young people on supervised bail to comply with their bail conditions.

## Community Service Orders

DHS Youth Justice has a role in overseeing the performance of community service stemming from a Family Conference outcome, an agreement with the Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit or imposed as part of sentencing.

In the metropolitan Adelaide and inner regional areas, SYC delivers the Community Service Order Program, in partnership with DHS. The Program supports young people to meet their community service requirements while developing important skills for studying, working and living independently. DHS Youth Justice delivers the Community Service Order Program outside the metropolitan and inner regional areas.

## Case management

Case management is provided to all children and young people under DHS Youth Justice supervision, including for those on both sentenced and unsentenced mandates. DHS Youth Justice takes a flexible and individualised approach to case management, focusing on engagement, dynamic worker-young person relationships, goal setting and goal achievement. Case management promotes desistance from offending and places emphasis on a rehabilitative approach.

South Australia uses a continuum of care approach in the application of case management for those exiting custody into the community, with a particular focus on re-integration and reconnecting to the community. Case conferencing with relevant stakeholders, including young people and their families, is an integral component of our case management approach and supports effective collaboration between DHS Youth Justice and partner agencies.

DHS Youth Justice utilises an evidence-based practice model as part of case management, which prioritises a set of practice skills and approaches in all interactions with children, young people and their families. This includes a focus on the client-young person relationship, role clarification and balancing competing priorities of supervision and support, pro-social modelling and other techniques such as cognitive behavioural strategies and working with families.

## Offence-focused and related programs

DHS Youth Justice, together with its sector partners, delivers or facilitates delivery of a range of offence-focused and other related programs to support rehabilitation and drive positive outcomes for children and young people. These include therapeutic interventions, life skill development and social integration that builds engagement back to community.

For example, CHART (Changing Habits and Reaching Targets), is a structured, individualised intervention program used as part of case management. It adopts a skills-oriented, cognitive behavioural focus to challenge offending behaviour for young people who require a moderate to high level of intervention to reduce their risk of reoffending. The focus for delivery is to use participatory learning methods and to be responsive to client needs, motivations and learning styles.

A range of programs are offered to children and young people at Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre covering different life domains and areas of need, including to:

- support engagement by children and young people in culture and community
- practically engage young people about alcohol and other drug misuse
- build self esteem
- support young people to build independent living skills and other post-release life skills
- support sexual health and wellbeing
- build understanding of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression
- support the development of emotion management tools such as self-regulation, mediation and resilience
- develop young people's peer relationship skills including teamwork
- support engagement in physical and recreational activity.

DHS Youth Justice works collaboratively with partner agencies to provide culturally appropriate programs to Aboriginal children and young people in Kurlana Tapa, including:

- Yarning Circles, which create a safe space for Aboriginal young people to speak about culture, and men's and women's business with significant Aboriginal role models.
- Cultural Catch-Ups, facilitated by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, which is an informal program designed to meet the cultural needs of the young people attending. Session content includes activities such as the design and creation of boomerangs, learning to play the didgeridoo, exploring the environment, food, traditions and storylines of participants.
- Small group catch-ups with Kurlana Tapa's Cultural Support Workers. Cultural Support Workers are Aboriginal staff who have youth work qualifications.
- Cultural events during Reconciliation Week and National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee Week.

All programs at Kurlana Tapa are reviewed to ensure they are informed by evidence or assessed as suitable for the population.

## Education

The Department for Education operates the Youth Education Centre (YEC) on-site at Kurlana Tapa. YEC is a fully accredited secondary school and SACE institution, engaging children and young people in individualised education and training opportunities. Each student at the YEC has an education and training plan, tailored to meet their assessed education and training goals.

## Youth Justice Therapeutic Services (YJTS)

YJTS brings together specialist multi-disciplinary clinicians and teams that provide individualised and responsive therapeutic support to children and young people across both custodial and community settings.

YJTS comprises of Youth Justice Clinical Services (YJCS) and the KIND (Kinship, Improving Relationships, No violence, Developing skills) Program.

YJCS is a multi-disciplinary team of psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists who provide consultation, assessment and individual intervention services, including:

- Criminogenic psychological assessments to assist case planning and case management - assessments cover background history, patterns of offending, and include analysis of risk and recommendations for interventions to reduce the likelihood of further offending by a young person
- Development of individualised behaviour support plans to enable operational staff to better understand and respond to behaviours of concern
- Working with young people to develop communication and social skills, functional life skills and to address interpersonal violence
- Providing reports for the Youth Court
- Provision of training to other areas of Youth Justice in trauma-informed and disability-aware therapeutic models and approaches.

The KIND Program, a nine-module tailored intervention for young people who engage in adolescent family violence or dating violence. Delivered by specialist family violence therapists and involving the young person's families/partner where appropriate, the program focuses on improving relationships, safety and interpersonal skills.

### **Programs for Aboriginal children and young people**

DHS acknowledges the important role culture plays in the positive growth and development of Aboriginal children and young people within their family and wider cultural community. Aboriginal children and young people and their families are provided with access to a range of cultural support services, including specialist Aboriginal programs delivered at Kurlana Tapa that focus on problem solving and the positive aspects of their cultural identity.

Aboriginal children and young people at Kurlana Tapa are supported by the Cultural Support Team, comprising of a Senior Aboriginal Cultural Advisor and Aboriginal Cultural Support Workers, who work with children, young people and their families and communities to meet their individual cultural needs. A Senior Aboriginal Cultural Advisor also supports Community Youth Justice Case Managers in providing culturally informed services and support, as well as direct engagement with Aboriginal children and young people in the community.

The Circles of Trust engagement tool assists Case Managers to gather information about Aboriginal clients, their family, cultural group and community supports. The information gathered through this tool promotes an understanding of the young person's kinship and family structure. It can assist to identify strengths and issues within this structure, the young person's connection to culture and community, and the impact of any grief and loss.

### **Child Diversion Program (CDP)**

The CDP aims to divert Aboriginal children aged between 10 and 14 years who have been charged with a minor offence away from a custodial environment with appropriate supports, by providing short term culturally safe bail accommodation for children who do not have an identified suitable bail address, and on-going wraparound case management.

The CDP model uses an evidence-informed approach, focusing on Aboriginal methodologies and culturally centred approaches to engagement. These include Aboriginal Family-Led Decision Making, Relationship Based Practice, Kinship and Family Mapping.

The South Australian Government has committed \$3m over four years (2025-26 to 2028-29) to continue the CDP.

### **Metropolitan Aboriginal Youth and Family Services (MAYFS)**

MAYFS is a dedicated Aboriginal service within DHS with a focus on diverting young people away from the justice system and towards improved life outcomes. MAYFS restorative and family inclusive service has a strong focus on strengthening Aboriginal young people's connection to family, community and culture. As part of this, MAYFS works closely with other agencies, including South Australia Police, Courts, schools and non-government and community service organisations to facilitate access to a range of services and programs. Services are delivered through mentoring and a culturally informed practice model.

### **Aboriginal Youth Pathways to Employment**

The Aboriginal Youth Pathways to Employment pilot program operates in partnership with the RAW Group, a 100% Aboriginal owned and managed company. The pilot program is running over a 24-month period and provides culturally safe training and employment opportunities for young Aboriginal people in contact with the youth justice system.

## **Tasmania**

### **Policy directions**

The key policy directions in youth justice in Tasmania include:

- On 9 September 2021 the Premier announced the closure of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) to be replaced by a smaller purpose-built facility in the south as part of the broader youth justice reform.
- In December 2021 the *Reforming Tasmania's Youth Justice System: Discussion Paper* was released, providing the foundation for the consultation process to inform the development of the ten-year Blueprint outlining the strategic direction for Youth Justice in Tasmania.
- In December 2023 the final version of the Youth Justice Blueprint 2024-34 (Blueprint) was released. The Blueprint outlines the strategic direction for Tasmania's youth justice system for the next 10 years with the aim of improving and supporting the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and their families whilst addressing the underlying drivers of offending behaviours, reducing offending and improving community safety.
- The Blueprint was developed based on analysis of current data about youth offending, research on contemporary and evidence-based practice nationally and internationally, discussions with children and young people in the youth justice system and extensive consultation and collaboration with the Tasmanian community and government agencies.
- To deliver a contemporary, evidence informed and connected youth justice system for Tasmania, five key strategies have been identified for focus over the next ten years. The five strategies are:
  - Prioritise prevention and early intervention to reduce engagement with the youth justice system.
  - Ensure diversion from the justice system is early and lasting.
  - Establish a therapeutically based criminal justice response for children and young people.
  - Integrate and connect whole-of-government and community service systems.
  - Provide an appropriately trained and supported therapeutic workforce.
- The Blueprint recognises that Aboriginal communities are best placed to ensure there are appropriate responses to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in the youth justice system in Tasmania. This will be achieved by partnering with these communities to provide culturally appropriate supports and services for their children and young people at risk of offending or reoffending.

- Implementing the Blueprint over a ten-year timeframe will be a dynamic process that continues to evolve as we make progress and evaluate our responses. It will therefore be supported by a series of Action Plans implemented through a whole of government, whole of community approach. Focus areas and priority actions may change over time to reflect the views of children and young people, new priorities, and reflections on existing work.
- In 2025 the New Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility Masterplan and Youth Justice Diversionary Services Framework (Framework) were released. The Masterplan outlines the design, operating philosophy, and facilities that will be built at the new Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility. Designed to be used in conjunction with the new Youth Justice Model of Care, the Framework outlines expectations for service providers delivering diversionary services for children and young people.
- The Commission of Inquiry into the *Tasmanian Government's responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings* recommendations report was publicly released in September 2023. The Tasmanian Government has accepted all the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and are guiding and informing youth justice reform. Current actions also includes ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the children and young people at Ashley Youth Detention Centre until its intended closure.
- As part of this reform, the Government has also announced the intention to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years and work towards increasing the minimum age of detention (including remand) to 16 years.

## Agencies

### Services for Youth Justice

The Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) is responsible for providing the following youth justice services:

- Coordinating diversionary community conferencing.
- Providing statutory community-based supervision of young people on court orders.
- Providing support for court processes.
- Providing safe and secure custodial services and pre- and post-release support.
- Providing integrated case management of young people on legal orders.
- Managing the community service order program.

### Police

Tasmania Police (within the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management) are the first point of contact for young people entering the criminal justice system, and are responsible for:

- Dealing with reported youth crime and deciding whether to divert or to prosecute matters in the courts.
- Providing diversionary pre-court and informal and formal cautioning services.
- Referring a young person to Community Youth Justice for a non-court-based community conference.

### Courts

In Tasmania, young people alleged to have committed an offence who are not diverted are dealt with by the Magistrates Court (Youth Justice Division) through a magistrate, under the provisions of the *Youth Justice Act 1997*. The Supreme Court may hear offences prescribed under the Act.

The Magistrates Court uses specialist lists to improve timeliness to finalisation, consistency in court decisions, coordination of youth justice services to the court and collaboration between relevant agencies. These lists have a nominated magistrate which provides continuity.

## Elements, programs and services

### Early Intervention

The Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line provides the single front door for young people experiencing vulnerabilities and can assist with targeted and coordinated support.

### Diversion

The *Youth Justice Act 1997* provides a comprehensive framework for restorative justice, including the restoration or reparation of harm done in the community. Under the Act, diversion from the criminal justice system is the principal outcome sought for all young people. Detention is considered a sentencing option of last resort.

There are 2 primary levels of non-court-based diversion in Tasmania:

- Police have the power to informally or formally caution young people who have admitted to committing an offence.
- If the matter is considered more serious, police may request Community Youth Justice to conduct a community conference, which is convened by an independent facilitator.

A formal caution or a community conference can bring young people face to face with their victims to decide how best to rectify the harm caused by their offending.

### Case management

Case management in Community Youth Justice identifies:

- The requirements of the court order and strategies to fulfil these.
- The services and strategies required to address needs as determined by the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory risk assessment tools and general assessment process, including other professional assessments as required.
- The relevant people and services to help identify strategies and goals.
- The level of agreement among those involved, including the young person and Community and/or Custodial Youth Justice, on the goals and strategies to achieve these goals, and the associated level of commitment.
- The process of assessing and monitoring progress, and the point at which involvement with the young person will diminish.

The case management approach in place at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) takes account of the needs of the individual young person and any court-ordered obligations, as well as community expectations. A comprehensive assessment process undertaken upon admission informs this approach and continues throughout the period of detention.

### **Offence-specific and therapeutic programs**

#### **Targeted Youth Support Service**

The Targeted Youth Support Service is a state-wide community-based program funded by the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) to provide intensive case management and therapeutic interventions for young people aged 10–17. The target group are young people with substantial or multiple-risk issues who, without intensive support, would be at risk of notification to the Child Safety Service or entry into, or escalation within, the youth justice system.

#### **Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART)**

CHART is an offending behaviour program that addresses the offending needs of high-risk young people on supervised orders. The program uses active, participatory learning methods and employs a skills-oriented, cognitive-behavioural approach to casework with young offenders.

### **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Assessments for Youth at Risk**

Patches provides a multi-disciplinary assessment for FASD in a non-judgemental manner, with a focus on building on people's strengths and working toward their goals. For those requiring therapy and support, Patches provides ongoing allied health and psychology services for common issues experienced by individuals with FASD, such as anxiety, attention and sleep difficulties, social communication difficulties and behavioural dysregulation. Patches provides FASD assessment services for youth at risk of involvement in the youth justice system so that they can receive the supports they need to achieve better life outcomes.

### **NDIS Justice Liaison Officers (JLOs)**

JLOs support people with disabilities while they are in custody and when transitioning back into the community. JLOs can:

- Work with mainstream justice services to help a person to access the NDIS.
- Proactively respond to enquiries and resolve any barriers between the NDIS and mainstream services.
- Provide support and help a young person during the NDIS access process and help others understand the process.
- Provide education and promote a best practice approach.

Further, JLOs can also provide support across the NDIS pathway, including access, developing a NDIS plan, using your funded supports and making any changes.

### **Youth Justice Education Liaison Officers**

Through Community Youth Justice, Education Liaison Officers provide support from an education perspective for young people engaging with Tasmania Police and/or with the Youth Justice system. They support young people through leading, establishing, and maintaining effective communication between students, families, courts, magistrates, schools, Learning Services and other agencies (e.g., NDIS, Centrelink) as required to effectively reengage young people in a suitably appropriate education provision. Through case management, Education Liaison Officers provide advice, support, recommendations, and options and assist in the development and implementation of programs that support the engagement and re-engagement of at-risk students in education.

### **Step Up**

Step Up is a statewide program provided by Home Base, formerly known as Colony 47. Home Base works with adolescents aged 11 to 17 who are using violent behaviour in the home, towards family members or intimate partners. The program is a one-on-one case management, outreach model that works with both the young person and their family or intimate partner. Young people learn and practice nonviolent, respectful ways of communicating and resolving conflict with those they have been abusive towards, while parents learn a model of respectful parenting that balances leadership and positive support, promoting non-violence in the family.

### **Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC)**

PCYC is a not-for-profit, community organisation that provides a range of sporting and recreational activities for young people after school and during the school holidays. PCYC staff aim to create positive connections with young people and the community with the aim to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. PCYC is statewide and runs several mobile activity centre trailers travelling to all parts of Tasmania providing recreational activities to regional and remote areas.

### **Juvenile Fire Lighting Intervention Program**

The Firelighting Risk Awareness Program (FireRAP) is a free, confidential, state-wide behaviour change program designed for children aged 4–14 who engage in unsafe fire-setting. It is a family-based program delivered in the home by trained FireRAP fire-fighters. FireRAP is designed as an early intervention program to prevent youth in participating in further firelighting.

### **Health services at AYDC**

AYDC offers an onsite health centre in conjunction with Correctional Primary Health Services and Forensic Mental Health Services. It functions 7 days a week, 12 hours a day with an on-call service extending this to 24-hour coverage. Health services provided include general practitioner, general and mental health nursing, mental health assessment and treatment, pharmacy, pharmacotherapy treatment, alcohol or other drug use and dental. The centre also facilitates access to community-based health and assessment services.

#### **Rehabilitative programs at AYDC**

AYDC has a comprehensive Practice Framework based on evidence and best practice therapeutic strategies. All young people at AYDC participate in a range of rehabilitative programs aligned with this framework. The programs offered and techniques applied take place within a case management context, are evidence-based and focus on offender rehabilitation. The program framework is designed to provide cognitive-based therapeutic programs for persistent and serious offenders and address specific criminogenic and social needs. Basic interventions that address issues that may affect community integration, such as employment, education, accommodation and leisure, are also included.

#### Transition from Ashley Youth Detention Centre

The REBOOT program, delivered by 54 reasons (Save the Children), works with young people aged 12–18 who are in detention and/or remand in AYDC, assisting them to reintegrate into the community. Youth workers support young people both in AYDC and when they transition back into the community to support young people by increasing support networks and providing one-on-one sustainable skill building. 54 reasons will also work with the young person to identify and meet their recreational, educational and vocational and/or employment goals and aspirations.

#### Supporting Young People on Bail

Through the REBOOT program, 54 reasons work in partnership with Community Youth Justice, the Magistrates Court, Early Intervention Units, Tasmania Police and other community agencies to support children and young people aged 12–18 who have been placed on bail. Youth workers work with young people to identify their recreational, educational and vocational/employment goals and aspirations. These goals form the young person's Bail Support Plan. Support is provided to the young person during their bail period to help them meet their goals.

#### Education

DECYP operates a school on site at the AYDC for young people of compulsory and non-compulsory school age. The educational focus for detainees reflects the curriculum used in schools and training facilities in the community.

### Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

Youth Justice has a number of partnerships with Indigenous organisations, including:

- Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (TAC), which has supervised a number of young people on community service orders and involved them in health and wellbeing programs, as well as tasks such as land care.
- The Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation delivers the Youth Prevention and Diversion Program which provides case management, mentoring and referrals to other service providers for Indigenous Youth (aged 12 to 24) at risk of offending or entering the criminal justice system. The program also offers reintegration services for young people returning to the community from AYDC and support services to bridge the gap to education and employment services.
- Representation from an Aboriginal organisation is often involved in the Care Team process and Community Conferencing for a young person who identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

### Other programs and services

Tasmania's Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) acts as an advocate for all young people detained at AYDC. As advocate for young people at AYDC, the commissioner is concerned with the overall physical and emotional wellbeing of each young person. In fulfilling this role, the commissioner listens to and gives voice to concerns and grievances, educates young people on their rights, and facilitates resolution of issues and access to support services as appropriate. From March 2022, the CCYP has had a dedicated full time Advocate for Young People in Detention working two days onsite at AYDC.

AYDC is also subject to the oversight of the Custodial Inspector. The purpose of the Custodial Inspector is to provide independent, proactive, preventative and systemic oversight of custodial centres. In particular, the Custodial Inspector provides external scrutiny through an independent statutory office and the publication of reports and recommendations. The focus of the Inspector is on systemic issues relating to the management, control and security of the state's prisons and youth detention centre and the care and welfare of prisoners and detainees.

## Australian Capital Territory

### Policy directions

The ACT's youth justice system operates within a trauma-informed and therapeutic practice approach, based on an understanding of the neurological, biological, psychological and social effects of trauma on a young person. This approach seeks to prevent escalation of anti-social or offending behaviour and is respectful of young people's histories, experience, needs, culture and aspirations.

A number of ACT Government strategies support the policy direction of the youth justice system, including:

- Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The law reform raises the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) to 14 years as of 1 July 2025. For serious and violent offences have a lower age of 12, while retaining the doctrine of *doli incapax* for this cohort. This reform creates an imperative to improve the therapeutic service system for those involved in, or at risk of, harmful behaviour and their families, as an alternative to involvement in the youth justice system.
- The ACT has supported this reform by establishing the Therapeutic Support Panel for Children and Young People (panel), a multi-disciplinary team of experts chaired by an independent statutory office holder to facilitate individualised services that address the therapeutic needs of children and young people who engage in harmful behaviour. A key role of the chair and panel is to identify areas for systemic reform and development of the broader service system so it is better able to support children and young people and their families. The chair of the panel reports systemic issues directly to the Minister for Children, Youth and Families.
- The Territory is continuing to monitor the impact of raising the MACR on the service system to identify supports needed to further enhance the therapeutic service system for children, young people and families.
  - *Next Steps for our Kids 2022-2030: ACT Strategy to Strengthen Families and Keep Children and Young People Safe* (Next Steps) was launched in June 2022. Next Steps sets out an ambitious 8-year reform strategy that builds on the positive outcomes of *A Step Up for Our Kids: One step can make a lifetime of difference (Out of Home Care strategy 2015-2020)* and addresses the ongoing challenges of the child and youth protection system. Next Steps includes an integration of earlier family support, prevention services, child protection, out of home care and youth justice and seeks to strengthen families who interact with these systems.
  - The *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019–2028*, including an Action Plan to achieve the outcome of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families and communities thriving in a safe environment and having equitable access to justice and culturally safe restorative justice, prevention and diversion programs.
  - The *Disability Justice Strategy 2019-2029*, which aims to achieve equity and inclusion for people with disability in the justice system.
  - The findings of the second *Healthy Centre Review of Bimberri Youth Justice Centre 2024* build on the first review, and government response, from 2020. The review finds strong foundations of therapeutic practice, but advises that an emphasis on security and safety can undermine this therapeutic approach. It found that safety and wellbeing have improved since 2019.

Building on these strategies, the ACT has commenced planning for a new youth justice strategic plan, which will focus on embedding therapeutic culture across the system.

## Agencies

### Youth Justice and Adolescent Services (YJAS) Branch

The Health and Community Services Directorate (the Community Services Directorate during the reporting period) is responsible for delivering youth justice services in the ACT through the Youth Justice and Adolescent Services (YJAS) Branch. This branch oversees a range of key services, including the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, Youth Justice case management, Youth Justice Residential Services, the Intensive Adolescent Services and Therapeutic Support teams and an After-Hours Crisis Service.

YJAS oversees the assessment, supervision, and support of young people who are subject to bail or justice orders, whether they are in the community or in custody. The branch prepares pre-sentence reports for the courts and leads the coordination of supports and interventions for young people.

In response to significant legislative reforms, such as the raising of MACR and changes to the Act, a major transformation of youth justice and child protection services commenced in 2023. As part of this reform, the YJAS Branch was formally established as a distinct entity within the Directorate, commencing operations in July 2024.

This structural change aims to enhance service delivery by providing more targeted and specialised support of young people involved in the justice system.

### Police

ACT Policing is the first point of contact for young people entering the criminal justice system in the ACT. Police officers have discretionary powers to divert young people who have committed minor offences using a warning and diversionary system. If a decision is made to prosecute, ACT Policing may issue a summons for a criminally responsible young person to attend court or detain them until the next sitting of the Childrens Court.

ACT Policing, along with the ACT Childrens Court, is a primary referral source linking young people to a restorative justice response. The Restorative Justice Unit within the Justice and Community Safety Directorate is responsible for managing all restorative justice conferences.

### Courts

The ACT Childrens Court deals with young people who are alleged to have committed an offence while aged 12 to 17 years (14 to 17 years from 1 July 2025), and who are not diverted from the criminal justice system. Exceptional charges and Commonwealth offences apply for young people aged 10 – 12 years.

Young people convicted of indictable offences in the Childrens Court may be committed to the Supreme Court for sentencing. Young people who are convicted by the Supreme Court may be remitted to the Childrens Court for sentencing.

The Warrumbul Children's Circle Sentencing Court is an alternative model of sentencing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people attending the ACT Children's Court. It is a type of restorative practice that aims to provide culturally relevant and effective sentencing options for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

ACT legislation enables a young person's criminal matters to be dismissed if a Court considers the young person is in need of care and protection. The Court may take this action on its own accord or following receipt of a report prepared by the Health and Community Services Directorate.

## Elements, programs and services

### Diversion

Diversionary programs provide a targeted response for young offenders, many of whom are first-time offenders and may be at risk of becoming persistent offenders. These programs divert young people from entering or continuing in the youth justice system in the ACT:

- The After-Hours Crisis Service aims to keep young people out of custody by providing community-based options as an alternative to being remanded in Bimberi and assists young people on justice orders to comply with the conditions of their orders.
- The Restorative Justice Unit (RJU) provides a safe process for people harmed by crime and those responsible to discuss what happened, who has been impacted and how, as well as what can be done to try to address the harm caused. The RJU is committed to providing a culturally safe and trauma-informed space to support and guide that communication. An Indigenous Guidance Partner and Indigenous Convenor are available to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients through the restorative justice process.
- Youth Alcohol and Drug Diversion Program (YDAP) aims to divert young people away from the youth justice system, referring them to assessment and education programs:
  - The Youth Alcohol Diversion Program provides intervention and education to young people who engage in underage drinking.
  - The Illicit Drug Diversion Program provides intervention and education to people who engage in drug taking.
  - These programs, delivered through a partnership between ACT Policing and Canberra Health Services, also collect data on young people and their use of alcohol and other drugs, with a view to reducing harm, binge drinking and associated social and health problems in the community.
- Functional Family Therapy – Youth Justice. In early 2021, a pilot program was launched to strengthen family supports and community connections with the goal of reducing young people's involvement in criminal activity and lowering their risk of engagement with the youth justice system. The pilot concluded in July 2022, and an independent evaluation was conducted to assess its impact, outcomes, and implementation processes. Following the positive findings of the evaluation, the ACT Government committed \$3.076 million over four years from 2023-24 to implement the Functional Family Therapy – Youth Justice (FFT-YJ) program as an ongoing service. The FFT-YJ provides structured, evidence-based therapeutic support to young people and their families, with a focus on improving family functioning, reducing offending behaviour, and strengthening community connections.

### Offence-specific and therapeutic programs

A range of programs and interventions are delivered within the community and custodial environments to address the needs of young people. These include programs that focus on alcohol and other drug issues, relationship issues and educational needs. The Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART) program, a cognitively based intervention designed to help young people to change their thinking and decision-making processes, is delivered in the community and Bimberi.

Young people at Bimberi are provided with tailored case plans that recognise the importance of recovery from trauma, consider a disability assessment and strengthen life skills. A full-time Principal Practitioner is employed at Bimberi to strengthen trauma-informed therapeutic treatment and case management support for young people with complex and challenging presentations. A range of partnerships also operate to assist young people through a focus on education; employment skills programs; post-release support; disability support; and health and mental health support.

### **Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people**

Yarrabi Bamirr (meaning 'walk tall' in the Ngunnawal language) was officially launched as a trial in mid-2017 at Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services under the name 'Justice Reinvestment Program'. This approach targets families with children and uses a family-centric model of service support with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, to improve life outcomes and reduce or prevent contact with the criminal justice system. In 2020, the program ceased being a trial, was expanded, and continues to be delivered by program is delivered by Winnunga Nimmityjah and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations in the ACT.

Yarrabi Bamirr is designed to address complex needs using a comprehensive approach that is co-designed with the client and their family. A range of agencies work collaboratively to support the issues clients are experiencing. This involves intensive support that gradually builds the clients' own capacity to navigate issues and self-manage their affairs.

Bimberi employs a designated Family Engagement Officer, who supports engagement between young people and families, and works with case managers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community service providers to ensure young people transitioning from custody are supported within their community.

The Murrumbidgee School at Bimberi also has two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Transition Officers, who facilitates the transition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people into appropriate training, education or employment options.

Canberra Health Services' Aboriginal Liaison Officers attend Bimberi each week to provide wellbeing support and Aboriginal Health Assessments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community service providers run various programs at Bimberi, including counselling, family support and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

### **Supported accommodation and bail programs**

The After-Hours Crisis Service aims to keep young people out of custody by providing community-based options as an alternative to being remanded in Bimberi and assisting young people on justice orders to comply with the conditions of their orders. Staff work with young people, court officials and other service providers to ensure that, where appropriate, young people are able to remain in the community while being supervised for compliance with bail conditions.

Support for young people in the community is also provided by Youth Justice Community Residential Services that provides crisis, short to medium-term accommodation options for young people who are on community-based justice orders. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are prioritised for this service.

### **Safer Youth Response Service Pilot**

Starting in December 2023, the ACT Government has funded the Safer Youth Response Service (SYRS) pilot program, a new front-line initiative designed to support the recently enacted MACR legislation and government priorities of improved therapeutic supports and services to children, young people and families. The pilot works with children and young people through a direct referral pathway from ACT Policing to on-call youth workers and overnight crisis accommodation for young people unable to return home if required. As of 2025, the program is being delivered by Marymead CatholicCare, ACT Policing, and the ACT Government. It provides specialist, culturally safe support to children aged 10–14 who are at risk of entering the youth justice system. Services include emergency accommodation, case management, and therapeutic support, with referrals managed by ACT Policing.

### **Oversight mechanisms**

The ACT youth justice system operates within a human rights framework, governed by the *Human Rights Act 2004* (ACT), and is committed to delivering transparent and accountable services. Existing oversight mechanisms and agencies include:

- an Official Visitor for Children and Young People and an Official Visitor who identifies as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person supports young people in detention or in out of home care to raise concerns and complaints.
- the ACT Human Rights Commission and Public Advocate provides external oversight of Bimberi and the broader youth justice system.
- the Inspector of Custodial Services, established under the *Custodial Inspector Act 2017* to oversee and examine the operations of the adult and youth detention systems in the ACT.
- the Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people established under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner Act 2022*, to advocate for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, to identify and examine issues that affect the human rights and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people; and make recommendations to government and non-government agencies on legislation, policies, practices and services that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.
- the ACT's National Preventative Mechanism (NPM), consisting of the ACT Ombudsman, the ACT Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services has been appointed as part of the ACT's human rights obligations under the *Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (OPCAT).

YJAS works with these agencies to promote continuous practice improvement. A Charter of Rights for Young People in Bimberi Youth Justice Centre also operates to strengthen the protection of young people in Bimberi.

## Northern Territory

### Policy directions

The Northern Territory's (NT) youth justice system has undergone significant reform to promote community safety by preventing and addressing offending behaviour. The NT Government (NTG) invests heavily in youth justice programs and services to intervene early and divert young people away from crime.

The Department of Corrections (DoC) is responsible with leading youth justice policy and strategic direction in the NT. Following the 2024 Machinery of Government (MoG) changes, formal youth justice policy governance framework within DoC is under development and will be focused on the Government's three pillars of reducing crime, rebuilding the economy and restoring the Territory lifestyle. The Government has already made several key changes to increase community safety and support victims of crime, including lowering the age of criminal responsibility to 10 years old, removing detention as a last resort from the NT *Youth Justice Act 2005* (the Act) and increasing the level of consideration given by judges to the impact on victims when sentencing youth.

DoC is now in the process of redesigning a comprehensive youth justice policy. This will involve the Government's key priorities and ensuring alignment with both the department's overall objectives and the new government's commitments.

### Department of Corrections Strategic Plan 2024-2028

The DoC Strategic Plan provides a clear vision and direction, bringing together adult and youth correctional services into a unified roadmap aligned with the NTG's commitments to reduce crime, rebuild the economy, and restore the Territory lifestyle.

The Strategic Plan is a practical framework to guide decision-making, improve efficiency, and ensure resources are aligned to key initiatives, aimed at aligning long-term priorities, improve performance, manage risk, and respond proactively to change.

## Agencies

### Youth Justice

Youth Justice (YJ) is a division of the DoC. It manages a dynamic framework comprising of laws, policies and practices.

The framework is designed to address young people who have committed or are suspected of committing an offence and aims to balance holding young offenders accountable with providing support and rehabilitation to reduce reoffending.

### Police

The NT Police Youth Diversion Unit (YDU) facilitates youth diversion assessments and delivers youth justice conferencing and diversion programs in regional and remote locations across the NT where there are no contracted providers.

The YDU, part of the Domestic Violence and Youth Command, operates from Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. The YDU Darwin unit is co-located with DoC's Youth Justice Programs unit, for ease of collaboration, sharing of resources and information collaborating with service providers and other stakeholders to facilitate Territory-wide youth diversion assessments and deliver youth justice conferencing and diversion programs in regional and remote locations.

### Courts

If the court finds a charge proven against a young person, the decision may be made to:

- dismiss the charge or discharge the young person without penalty
- adjourn the matter for up to 6 months and, if the young person does not commit a further offence during that period, discharge them without penalty
- adjourn the matter to a specified date within 12 months of the finding of guilt, and grant bail to the young person for the purposes of assessing prospects for rehabilitation, allowing the youth to demonstrate they have rehabilitated or for any other purpose the court considers appropriate
- order the young person to participate in a specified program that has been approved by the Minister
- order that the young person be released, subject to conditions including to observe any specified conditions, be of good behaviour for a specified period or appear before the court if called to do so
- impose a fine
- make a community work order
- order that the young person serve a term of detention or imprisonment that is suspended
- order that the young person serve a term of detention or imprisonment
- make any other order that another court could make if the young person were an adult.

## Key Programs and Support Mechanisms

### Community Youth Justice

Community Youth Justice (CYJ) is responsible for the supervision of young people who have committed, or are accused of committing a crime, and supports them to complete court ordered requirements as authorised primarily under the Act.

Community Youth Justice Officers (CYJOs) are located in Alice Springs, Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Tennant Creek. CYJO are responsible for case management and assessments, completing requested court reporting, supervising young people on a court order, support young people meet their legal obligations, supporting positive behaviour change, support young people and their families to navigate the YJ system, support young people to being compliant with their supervision orders, and community engagement and liaison. An on-call after-hours service for outside of normal business hours is available for families, young people on orders, Police and the electronic monitoring device company contact the on-call officers outside of hours relating to curfews, breaches and other immediate incidents involving supervised clients.

CYJOs play a crucial role in the YJ system, dedicated to supporting and rehabilitating young people in contact with the justice system. CYJOs work with young people, families, community organisations, and various stakeholders to deliver programs and services that promote positive behavioural changes, accountability, and reintegration into the community.

### **Case Management and Assessment**

- CYJOs conduct comprehensive assessments of young people, considering various factors such as background, risk of re-offending, family circumstances, and specific needs. Based on these assessments, they develop individualised case plans to guide each young person's rehabilitation journey.
- CYJOs case management encompasses the Signs of Success model, Youth Level of Services/Case Management Inventory (YLS-CMI) assessments, and throughcare planning completed with care/case management team meetings (including National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) supports (CYJOs lead unless the young person is a child in care of Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in which case, DCF have the lead). Support differs for each young person depending on their circumstances.

### **Community Engagement and Liaison**

- CYJOs work with community organisations, family members, educational institutions, and healthcare providers to ensure a holistic approach to youth rehabilitation. CYJOs strengthen community ties, provide resources, and involve local services in the young person's support network.

### **Court Support and Reporting**

- CYJOs prepare and present reports for the YJ court, including bail assessments, supervision assessments and pre-sentence reports and recommendations on conditions that should be placed on orders. CYJOs also complete parole reports.
- CYJOs represent the agency in youth and supreme court and can complete on the spot electronic monitoring device (EMD) assessments, compliance reporting and also provide insights to the court into the young person's progress, challenges, and suitability for specific programs.

### **Monitoring and Compliance**

- CYJOs monitor compliance with court orders, diversion programs, community work orders and conditions such as curfews, attendance at education or employment, and participation in programs. CYJOs conduct regular check-ins to assist young person meets their obligations.
- CYJOs are responsible for electronic monitoring when a young person is subject to an EMD. Assisting a young person to comply and reporting breached to the court or police.

### **Diversion Programs**

Diversion programs are a central component of the NT youth justice strategy, aiming to divert young people away from formal court processes and towards constructive, community-based mandatory activities that address identified criminogenic needs and drivers of crime.

Programs value the importance of giving victims of youth crime a voice and empowers victims to contribute to remediation activities for a young person. External providers also case management, provide intervention and address criminogenic behaviours to promote a pro-social identity.

Funded diversion providers collaborate with local community services to tailor programs that align with the young person's cultural and individual needs, fostering accountability and promoting positive social behaviour.

### **Youth Diversion Program**

NTG invests over \$4.3 million in annual funding across 17 organisations to deliver the Youth Diversion Program (YDP). The YDP provides a formal pathway for young people who are alleged to have committed an offence, and are considered eligible for youth diversion under sections 39 and 64 of the [Youth Justice Act 2005](#).

The program recognises that young people who have engaged in offending behaviour require support to change their behaviour by:

- Working with them to accept and take responsibility for their actions
- Addressing issues impacting their decision-making
- Building capacity to make better decisions in the future.

YDP provides case management through a tiered system aligned to the severity and frequency of offending, with program length and mandatory requirements tailored accordingly.

### **Supported Bail Accommodation Facilities**

Three Supported Bail Accommodation facilities (facility/ies) operate in the NT to provide suitable accommodation and programs for young people on bail orders as well as supporting young people's transition to community following a period of detention.

DoC operates two facilities and funds a community organisation to operate the third facility.

The facilities aim to increase the number of young people receiving bail instead of being remanded in custody, increase the young person's ability to comply with the bail conditions, and reduce the risk factors associated with non-compliance with bail conditions.

The facilities may be used for police or court bail which may be conditional or unconditional and may or may not involve supervision by CYJOs.

While residing at a facility, a young person is supported to comply with their bail conditions, attend school or other education and training courses, connect with family and community and participate in programs, activities and specialist sessions appropriate to their developmental needs to reduce the risks of offending.

Supported short-term accommodation is also available at the facilities for young people leaving detention to assist their integration and reconnection with family and community.

DOC has a Supported Bail Accommodation support line to receive enquiries and referrals from police, courts and providers. The support line operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

## **Restorative Youth Justice Conferencing**

Restorative Youth Justice Conferencing (RYJC) is an evidence-based justice process used as a response to offences committed by a young person. The objective of utilising RYJC is to create an opportunity for the young person, the victim, a facilitator and when appropriate, other individuals or community members affected by the crime, to attend a conference to talk about the crime that occurred.

RYJF is proven to be an effective system to reduce reoffending and divert young people from the usual court processes. This program provides the courts with options for family group conferences and victim offender conferences.

## **Restorative Youth Justice Conferencing Victim Support Program**

DOC funds Victims of Crime NT to deliver the RYJF Victim Support Program. The service provides dedicated, tailored and holistic victim support for victims of youth crime throughout the youth justice conferencing process. Conference occurs in a safe, structured, client focussed manner where all voices are invited and heard.

Victims have the chance to speak openly and directly with the young person about how their offending has affected them, and those around them. Having victims involved in the conferencing process provides the victim with an opportunity for closure, and for young people to understand the impact of their actions. This process enables all parties to feel heard and agree on shared outcomes and goals, and opportunities to identify how the young person can give back.

A number of options are currently available to the Courts through good behaviour orders, sentenced to a skill program, statutory community-based orders and community work orders.

More programs are being designed to offer further community-based sentencing options and alternatives to detention through intensive mentoring and skills development.

## **Sentenced to a Skill**

Sentenced to a Skill (STAS) is a structured, community-based sentencing option for young people aged 10 to 17 years old. The program provides skills development and supervision to support young people to meet their legal obligations, reduce the likelihood of reoffending, and build pathways into education and employment.

Young people may be sentenced to the STAS by a court for a period of 3 to 12 months. The decision may be based on a pre-sentence report prepared by CYJOs, or determined at sentencing where appropriate.

STAS is delivered in partnership with approved community organisations delivering tailored support and practical training based on the individual's risks and needs.

Providers are responsible for:

- Pre-vocational and life skills may include:
- Reintegration into education
- Financial literacy
- Health and wellbeing
- Communication and relationships
- Cultural and community connection
- Volunteering and service to the community.

Vocational training and pathways may include:

- Job readiness and workplace expectations
- Industry courses (for example, white card, first aid, barista training)
- Raineeships, apprenticeships or accredited short courses
- Re-engagement with formal education.

## **Youth Boot Camps**

Youth boot camps (YBC) are designed as an alternative option to detention for young people aged 10 to 17 years old who have been found guilty of an offence and granted bail.

YBC offer structured and supervised community-based interventions, designed to address criminogenic behaviours, promote accountability and reparation, and give young people skills to support rehabilitation and re-integration.

DoC delivers YBC in partnership with local organisations and businesses in Alice Springs, Darwin and Tennant Creek.

## **Community Work Order**

Young person aged 10 to 17 years old found guilty of an offence, a court may issue them with a community work order (CWO). Under a CWO, young people do unpaid work that benefits the community and aims to repair the harm that they have caused. CWO also allows young people to develop pro-social behaviours, learn new skills and set a positive pathway.

A CWO may involve:

- Assisting charity stores or food banks
- Helping in aged care or Aboriginal and youth community centres
- Helping with outdoor projects such as:
- Removing graffiti
- Grounds maintenance
- Rubbish removal

- Conservation and land management
- Landscaping
- CWO are delivered through partnerships with the DOC and community organisations.

Before the court makes their decision, a young person's suitability for this work may be assessed by DOC. If a young person is issued a CWO, it's their responsibility to take part in a project for a set amount of hours. The type of community work and number of hours they do is up to the court to decide. DOC will support the young person to follow their order and document their attendance. While completing the work, they will also be monitored at all times by the community organisation project's supervisor as well as a CYJOs.

### **Register of Appropriate Support Persons**

The Register of Appropriate Support Persons (RASP) provides police with 24 hour access to support persons who are able to assist unaccompanied young people aged 10 to 17 years old when they are required to attend interviews and engage with police in relation to possible criminal matters.

The RASP is a legislated program in the Act (sections 14 and 35) that provides appropriate support for young people who are required to be interviewed or charged by police when a responsible adult is unavailable.

Within RASP, support persons are present to provide emotional support for the young person, monitor the young person's comprehension of the proceedings, while at the same time ensuring that their rights are upheld, and needs met. The young person will be supported to pursue their preferred way of proceeding within legal requirements, e.g., if the young person chooses not to interview.

### **Youth Detention**

The Holtze Youth Detention Centre (HYDC), located in Darwin, is the NT's only youth detention facility. A separate facility in Alice Springs supports the transfer of young people to HYDC from Central Australia.

HYDC partners with the Australian Childhood Foundation who employ Aboriginal Cultural Mentors to provide support and culturally appropriate through care for Central Australian young people in detention.

The HYDC focuses on young person's accountability and the addressing of offending behaviour. In July 2025, the Act was amended to increase safety for staff and allow for appropriate responses to challenging behaviours by reintroducing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and spit masks. Additional amendments were made to ensure that young people would be held accountable for their behaviour whilst in detention.

HYDC provides education, medical care, rehabilitation, reintegration and job readiness through self-delivered services such as leave of absences, external work experience and Vocational Education and Training (VET).

### **Case Coordination Team**

Young people at HYDC are supported by an onsite Case Coordination Team (CCT) who are a team of professionals who provide case co-ordination for young people while in detention to ensure they are connected to appropriate programs and supports. The CCT develop comprehensive care plans and through-care planning to support the young person post-release including connection to family where possible. The CCT has Cultural Mentors to provide culturally informed support and advice on the cultural needs and family mapping.

### **Assessment and Treatment Team**

Young people at HYDC are also supported by an onsite Assessment and Treatment Team (ATT) which is made up of specialist psychologists and allied professionals who provide psychological support services, therapeutic and criminogenic programs, risks and psychologist assessments and therapeutic counselling.

The ATT oversee the court directed multi-disciplinary assessments and undertake assessment for young people with complex needs.

Tailored programs are delivered to address the diverse needs of young people with a focus on rehabilitation and successful reintegration into the community. Their interventions typically include undertaking the initial risk and needs assessment of the young person on admission and support the journey of the young person while in detention. This is through the intake assessment which assists in understanding the young person and their immediate needs, alongside identifying appropriate assessment/s, supports and referrals that may be needed.

### **Intake/Transfer Facility**

Alice Springs Intake and Transfer Facility have a capacity for 4-6 detainees. Detainees are transferred to HYDC within 24-48 hours of entry to custody on the next available commercial flight and where required, a charter flight.

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[1] On 1 July 2019 Juvenile Justice NSW became Youth Justice NSW under machinery of government changes following the March 2019 state election

[2] Under the same machinery of government changes, following the state election in March 2019, the Department of Justice and the Department of Family and Community Services were merged to form the Department of Communities and Justice

[3] As a result of the Machinery of Government change following the 2024 Queensland State Election the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support was established.

## Notes

### Amendments

**14 May 2026** – In the [Summary](#), under 'The average daily numbers and rates of young people under community supervision have fallen over the 5 years to 2024–25 and increased for young people in detention over the same period', three percentages in the first three sentences were corrected.

On [Trends in supervision of First Nations young people](#), under 'Recent trends – 2020-21 to 2024-25', two errors have been corrected. In the first dot point of the first section, the percentage has changed from 4.7% to 4.9% and the first dot point of the third section, the percentage has changed from 21% to 26%.

On [First Nations people under youth justice supervision](#), a typographical error was corrected in the second-last sentence, with the ranges in year changed from 2023-24 to 2024-25.

### Data quality statement

[Youth Justice NMDS 2024-25; Quality Statement](#)

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## Data

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### Data tables: Characteristics of young people under supervision

#### Data

Tables S1 to S33  
XLSX 251kB

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### Data tables: Characteristics of young people under community-based supervision

#### Data

Tables S34 to S71  
XLSX 264kB

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### Data tables: Characteristics of young people in detention

#### Data

Tables S72 to S125  
XLSX 270kB

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### Data tables: State and territory summary

#### Data

Tables S126 to S141  
XLSX 1.4MB

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### Data tables: Population numbers

#### Data

Tables S142 to S151  
XLSX 90kB

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## Report editions

- Youth justice in Australia 2024-25 |  
**Web report** | 12 May 2026  
This release
- Youth justice in Australia 2023-24 |  
**Web report** | 28 Mar 2025
- Youth justice in Australia 2022-23 |  
**Web report** | 28 Mar 2024
- Youth justice in Australia 2021-22 |  
**Publication** | 31 Mar 2023
- Youth justice in Australia 2020-21 |  
**Publication** | 31 Mar 2022
- Youth justice in Australia 2019-20 |  
**Publication** | 28 May 2021
- Youth justice in Australia 2018-19 |  
**Publication** | 15 May 2020
- Youth justice in Australia 2017-18 |  
**Publication** | 10 May 2019
- Youth justice in Australia 2016-17 |  
**Publication** | 25 May 2018
- Youth justice in Australia 2015-16 |  
**Publication** | 31 Mar 2017
- Youth justice in Australia 2014-15 |  
**Publication** | 27 Apr 2016
- Youth justice in Australia 2013-14 |  
**Publication** | 29 Apr 2015
- Youth justice in Australia 2012-13 |  
**Publication** | 17 Apr 2014
- Youth justice in Australia 2011-12: an overview |  
**Publication** | 30 Apr 2013
- Juvenile justice in Australia 2010-11: an overview |  
**Publication** | 10 Aug 2012
- Juvenile justice in Australia 2009-10: an overview |  
**Publication** | 21 Oct 2011
- Juvenile justice in Australia 2009-10 |  
**Publication** | 21 Oct 2011
- Juvenile justice in Australia 2008-09 |  
**Publication** | 14 Apr 2011
- Juvenile justice in Australia 2008-09: interim report - main tables |  
**Publication** | 21 Dec 2010
- Juvenile justice in Australia 2007-08 |  
**Publication** | 04 Nov 2009
- Juvenile justice in Australia 2006-07 |  
**Publication** | 27 Aug 2008
- Juvenile justice in Australia 2005-06 |  
**Publication** | 10 Aug 2007
- Juvenile justice in Australia 2004-05 |  
**Publication** | 28 Mar 2007

## Related material

### Resources

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#### Youth detention population in Australia 2025

Resource

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#### Young people returning to sentenced youth justice supervision 2023–24

Resource

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#### Young people under youth justice supervision and their interaction with the child protection system 2022–23

Resource

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#### Pathways through youth justice supervision

Resource

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### Related topics

- [Youth justice](#)
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