

1 Overview

1.1 Number of young people under supervision

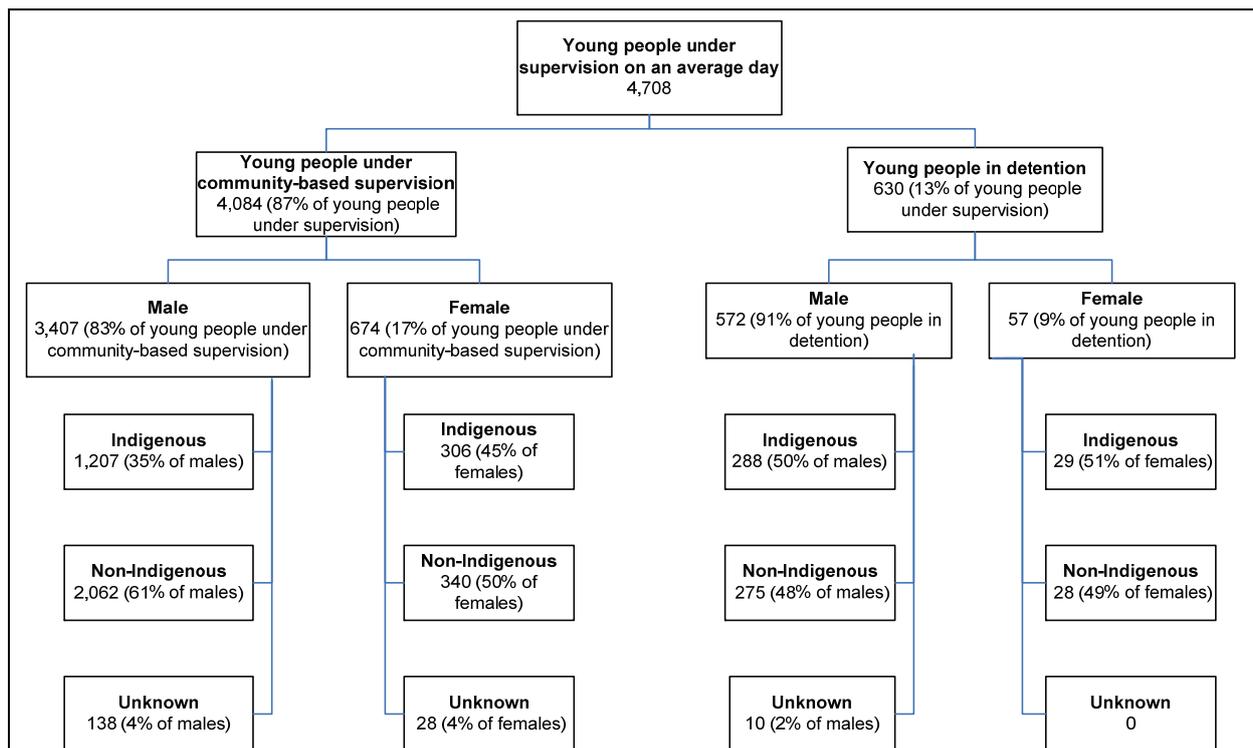
On an average day in 2007–08, 4,708 young people were under supervision in all states and territories except New South Wales, for which data were not available (Figure 1.1). Around 4,000 young people were under community-based supervision on an average day and 630 were in detention. Half of those in detention were on remand and half were sentenced.

A total of 9,540 young people were under juvenile justice supervision at some time during the year; 8,592 young people had community-based supervision and 3,378 young people were detained, which means that 2,430 young people had both community-based supervision and detention during 2007–08.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were over-represented in juvenile justice supervision. Although only about 5% of young Australians are Indigenous, almost 40% of those under supervision on an average day were Indigenous. The over-representation was higher in detention, where over half of those in detention and almost 60% of unsentenced detainees were Indigenous.

As with the adult correctional system (ABS 2009), most of those under juvenile justice supervision were male. Almost 85% of those under community-based supervision on an average day were male, and over 90% of those in detention were male (Figure 1.1).

Most of those under supervision on an average day were aged between 14 and 16 years old, and less than 1% was aged 10 or 11 years old. Of those in detention, nearly half were aged 16 or 17 years old and only 7% were aged less than 14 years.



Sources: Tables A1, A13 and A19.

Figure 1.1: Summary characteristics of the average daily population of young people under supervision, Australia (excluding NSW), 2007–08

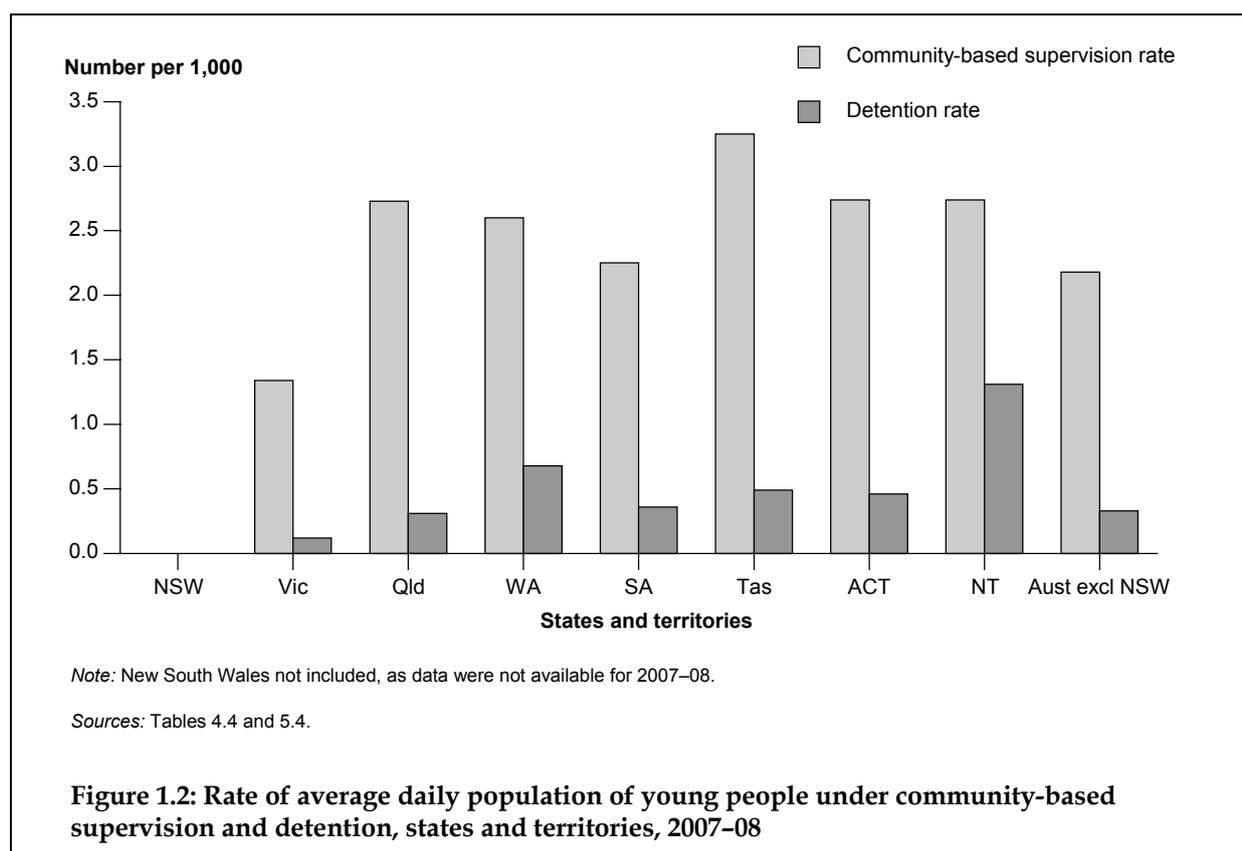
1.2 Rate of young people under supervision

Overall, there were 2.5 young people under supervision per 1,000 aged 10–17 years on an average day in 2007–08. There were 2.2 young people per 1,000 aged 10–17 years under community-based supervision and 0.3 young people in detention.

Supervision rates varied by state and territory (Figure 1.2). In Tasmania, around 3.3 young people per 1,000 aged 10–17 years were under community-based supervision on an average day compared with 1.3 in Victoria. In the Northern Territory, around 1.3 young people per 1,000 aged 10–17 years were in detention compared with 0.1 in Victoria. In Victoria, a young person aged 10–17 years was 23 times as likely to be under community-based supervision as in detention, while in the Northern Territory a young person of this age was only twice as likely to be under community-based supervision as in detention.

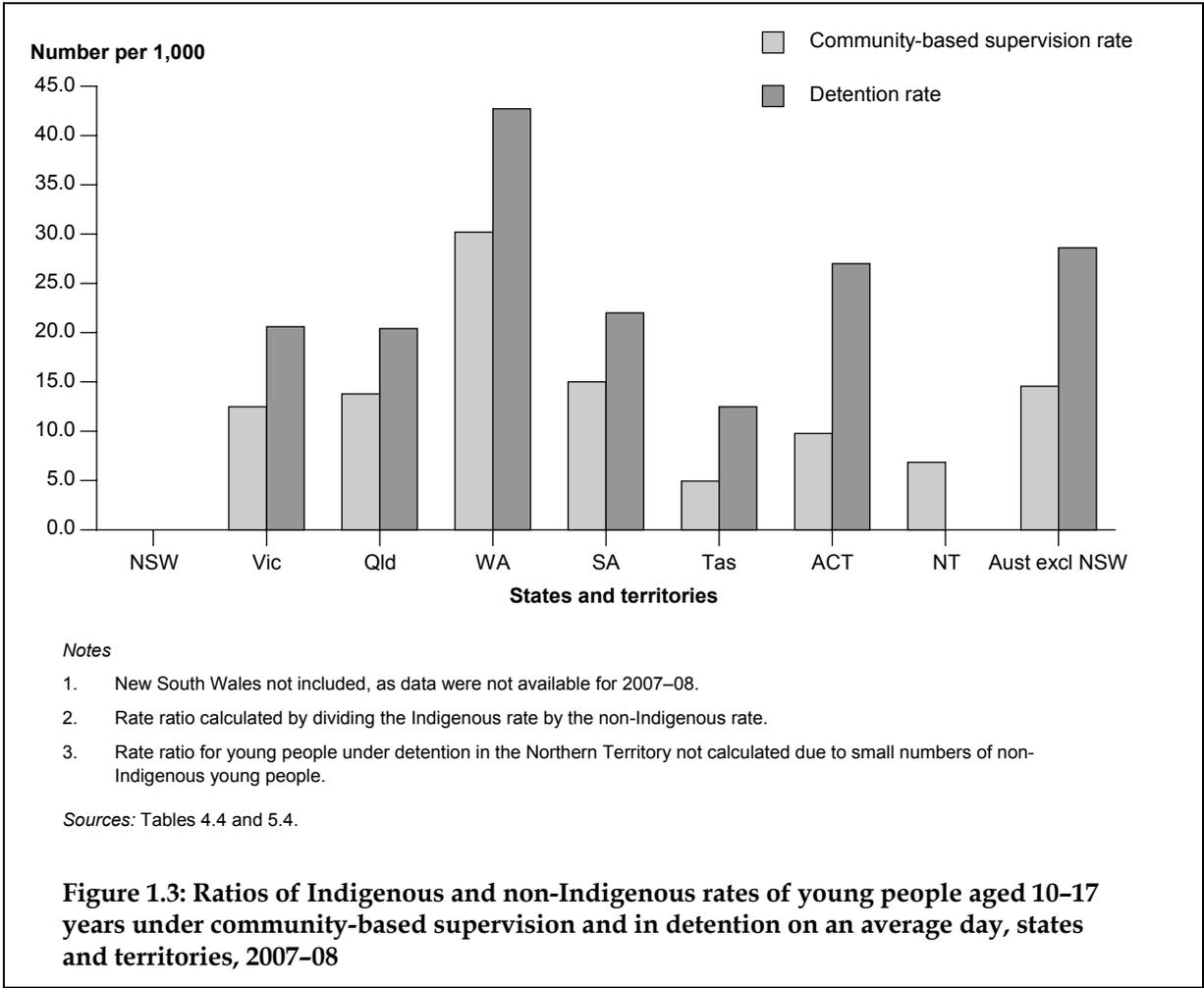
Males were much more likely to be under supervision than females, especially in detention. On an average day, males were 4 times as likely to be under community-based supervision and 8 times as likely to be in detention as females.

Young people were more likely to be under supervision at older ages than at younger ages. Young people aged 17 years were 5 times as likely as 13 year olds to be under community-based supervision and to be in detention on an average day.



1.3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation

Overall, Indigenous young people were 16 times as likely to be under supervision as non-Indigenous young people on an average day. They were nearly 15 times as likely to be under community-based supervision and 29 times as likely to be in detention on an average day as non-Indigenous young people. While the level of over-representation varied among the states and territories, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were over-represented in all states and territories and this over-representation (as shown by the rate ratio) was higher for detention than for community-based supervision (Figure 1.3).



1.4 Types of supervision

Community-based supervision

Most (92%) of those under community-based supervision on an average day were serving a sentence. For over three-quarters (77%) of those under community-based supervision, their most serious order was probation or similar; for 10% it was suspended detention or

immediate release, and for 5% it was parole. Only 8% of those under community-based supervision on an average day had a most serious order of supervised bail.

The majority (53%) of periods of supervision where the most serious order was probation or similar ended with the conditions of sentence being met, while almost 40% ended because a more serious unrelated order began. Where the most serious order was parole or supervised release, only 45% ended because the conditions of sentence were met, compared with 35% for suspended detention or immediate release.

Detention

On an average day in 2007–08, there were 320 young people on remand and 307 young people in sentenced detention. Almost three-fifths (57%) of those on remand were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people, compared with 43% of those in sentenced detention.

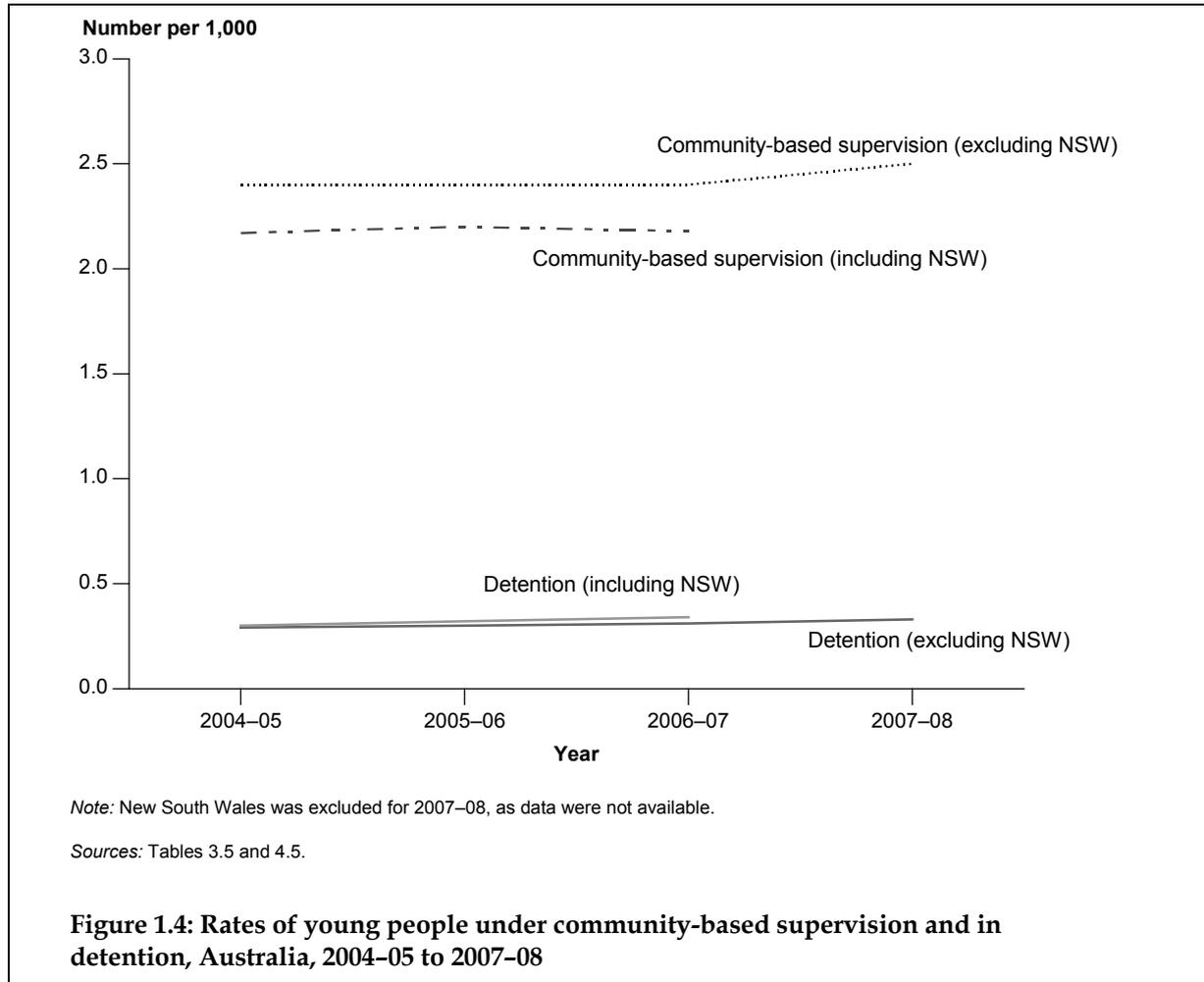
The median length of completed periods of remand was 11 days, compared with almost 3 months (81 days) for sentenced detention. Remand periods completed by Indigenous young people had a longer median length than those completed by non-Indigenous young people, while the reverse was true for sentenced detention. However, for both remand and sentenced detention, Indigenous young people completed more periods, on average, than non-Indigenous young people.

Around half (49%) of remand periods completed in 2007–08 ended with the young person being sentenced, and around one-quarter of these (or 12% of all completed remand periods) were followed by a period of sentenced detention. Around 40% of remand periods ended with the young person being released on bail. Two-thirds of periods of sentenced detention ended with the young person being released on parole or supervised release, while just over one-quarter ended with the conditions of the sentence being met.

Over the 4 years from 2004–05, the total time the average young person spent on remand during the financial year increased from 38 days to 46 days. For sentenced detention, the average length decreased from 2004–05 to 2005–06 but increased in the next 2 years, from 109 days in 2005–06 to 114 days in 2007–08.

1.5 Trends in supervision

Over the 4 years from 2004-05, the rate of community-based supervision for young people aged 10-17 years (without New South Wales, for which data were not available for 2007-08) decreased from 2.13 in 2004-05 to 2.11 in 2006-07 but increased to 2.18 in 2007-08. In contrast, the detention rate (without New South Wales) steadily increased over the 4 years, from 0.29 in 2004-05 to 0.33 in 2007-08.



2 Background

In Australia, juvenile justice is the responsibility of the states and territories. It involves a number of agencies including police, courts and juvenile justice agencies, each with different responsibilities relating to young people who are involved in crime. One major aspect of the juvenile justice system is the supervision of young people who have committed or are alleged to have committed an offence. This report contains data from the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (JJ NMDS) and provides information on the young people supervised by juvenile justice agencies in Australia, both in detention and in the community, and the types of supervision they experience.

2.1 Juvenile justice system in Australia

Age of criminal responsibility

In all states and territories, a young person is deemed to have criminal responsibility if they are 10 years or older. Children under the age of 10 cannot be charged with a criminal offence in any state or territory in Australia. The relevant juvenile justice legislation applies to young people aged 10–17 years in all states and territories except Queensland, where it applies to young people aged 10–16 years. This upper age limit refers to the age at which the offence was committed (or allegedly committed), which means that people who are aged 18 years or older (17 years or older in Queensland) when they commit an offence will be dealt with under the criminal legislation relating to adults.

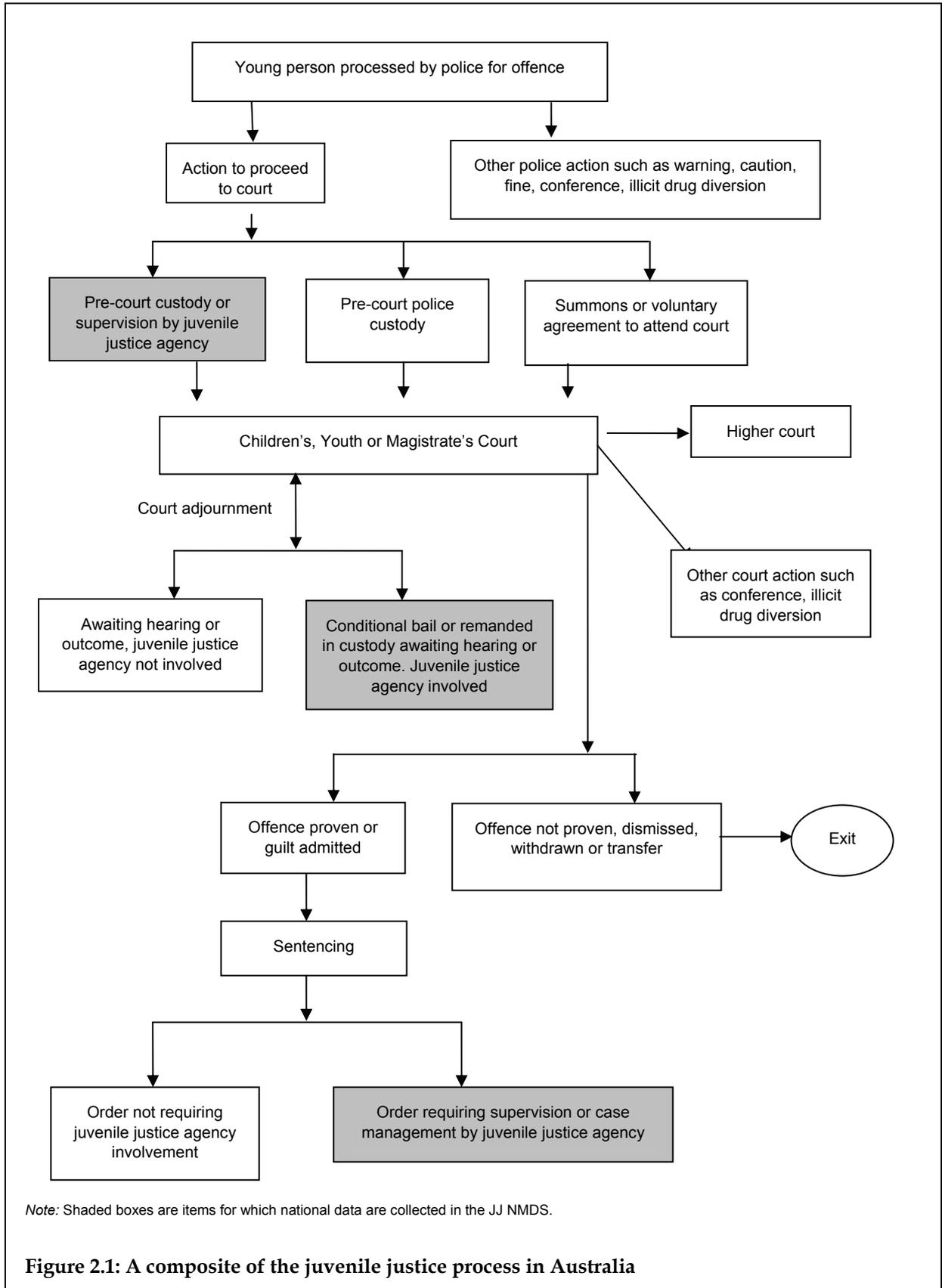
However, it is possible for young people who are 18 years or older to be under juvenile justice supervision. Firstly, they may have been apprehended for an offence that was (allegedly) committed when they were aged 17 years or younger. Secondly, if they entered supervision when aged 17 years or younger, they may continue to be supervised by the juvenile justice system once they turn 18 years old; alternatively, they may be transferred to the adult correctional system. Thirdly, young people aged 18 years and older may be supervised by juvenile justice agencies due to their vulnerability or immaturity. Additionally, young people in Victoria aged 18–20 years may be sentenced to detention in a juvenile detention centre (rather than an adult prison) where the court deems appropriate.

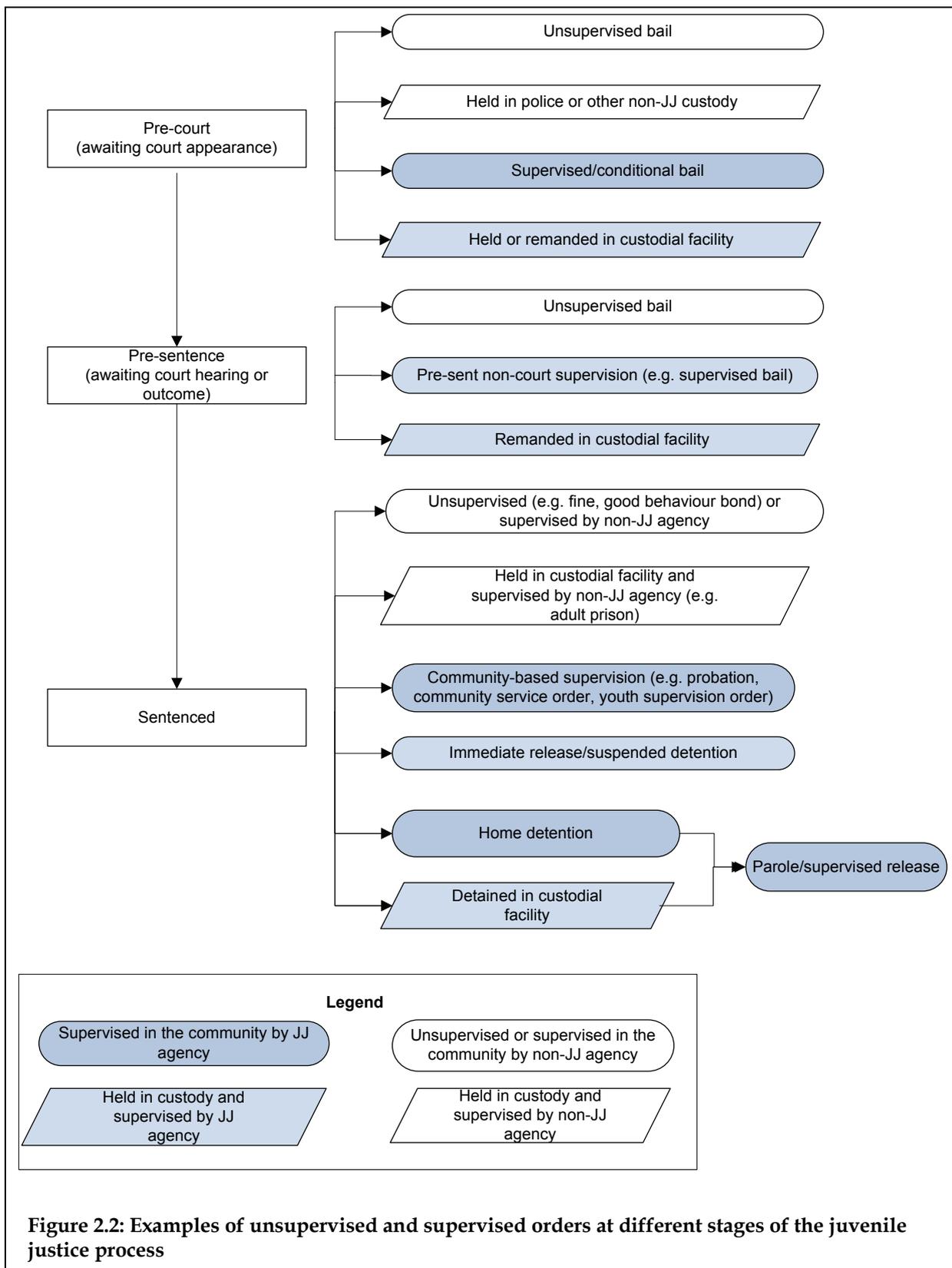
Stages in the juvenile justice system

The first contact that most young people have with the juvenile justice system is when they are apprehended by the police for allegedly committing an offence (Figure 2.1). An important feature of the juvenile justice system in Australia is diversion, and police may divert young people from further involvement with the juvenile justice system through the use of warnings, informal and formal cautions, and other actions. If the young person is not diverted, then the matter proceeds to court. While awaiting their initial court appearance, the young person may be unsupervised in the community, detained by police or supervised by the juvenile justice agency either in the community or in detention. Following the initial court appearance, the court will remand the young person in custody until the next court appearance or release them into the community, either unsupervised or under the

supervision of the juvenile justice agency. Once the trial has concluded and if the court has found the young person guilty, they may be sentenced to a period of detention or community-based supervision (such as probation, community service order or suspended detention), or be given an unsupervised order such as a fine or a good behaviour bond. Young people sentenced to a period of detention may also be released on parole or supervised release before the end of their sentence.

Thus there are a number of different legal arrangements or orders that can apply while a young person is awaiting the initial court appearance, awaiting the court hearing or outcome, or completing a sentence (Figure 2.2). Some of these orders do not require the young person to be supervised, some require the young person to be supervised by the relevant juvenile justice agency, while others require supervision by another agency (such as police). This report contains information on young people who are supervised at each of these three stages by juvenile justice agencies, either in the community or in detention (examples of these orders are shaded in Figure 2.2). Information on young people who are unsupervised and young people who are supervised by agencies other than juvenile justice agencies are not included in this report.





A range of services and outcomes (including court orders) for young people in the juvenile justice system are available in the states and territories (Table 2.1). These services and outcomes can be categorised into three groups: those that require the young person to be supervised in the community or detained, those that do not require the young person to be supervised (such as fines), and those that divert the young person from further involvement with the juvenile justice system (such as cautions and conferencing).

Table 2.1: Juvenile justice services and outcomes, states and territories, July 2009

Juvenile justice services and outcomes	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Diversionsary outcomes								
Informal caution/warning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Formal caution	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conferencing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Does not require supervision								
Discharge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Obligation without supervision	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Requires supervision								
<i>Unsentenced</i>								
Supervised bail or similar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓
Remand/unsentenced detention	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Sentenced</i>								
Good behaviour bond	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓
Probation or similar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community service	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Suspended detention	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Home detention	—	—	—	—	(a) ✓	—	—	✓
Detention	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supervised release from detention (parole)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	(b) ✓

(a) Item that is within JJ NMDS scope but for which data are unavailable for the JJ NMDS.

(b) In the Northern Territory, supervised release from detention includes probation and parole.

Note: Shaded cells indicate items that are within JJ NMDS scope and for which data are collected in the JJ NMDS. Other ticked cells indicate juvenile justice outcomes and services that the states and territories offer that are outside the scope of the JJ NMDS.

Most states and territories now include ‘victim-offender conferencing’ as part of juvenile justice. Conferences typically involve both the victim and the young person, with representatives from government and non-government organisations. The aim is to develop a negotiated response to the crime with the young person taking responsibility for the offence, and the needs of both the victim and young person being heard and met. Conferences may be held at a number of stages of the juvenile justice process and are administered variously by the police, courts or juvenile justice agencies.

Further details of the juvenile justice systems in each state and territory are provided in Appendix B.

2.2 Policy directions

New South Wales

For juvenile justice in New South Wales, key policy directions include:

- implementing the 'effective practice' model and quality assurance framework for community services staff
- developing an intensive supervision program (ISP) for high-risk juvenile offenders that targets multiple factors linked to antisocial behaviour, which will provide the tools and opportunities for offenders and their families to make changes to their lives to reduce the risks of re-offending
- implementing the Aboriginal Strategic Policy Framework to support, provide direction to and ensure consistency in decision making about services for Indigenous young people
- developing a tool and processes to assess and support young people and victims with complex needs who are participating in youth justice conferences
- implementing the Intensive Bail Supervision Program to maximise opportunities for young people to remain in their communities while on bail and reduce their risks of re-offending.

Victoria

Key policy directions for youth justice in Victoria are:

- implementing the Youth Justice Community Support Service for integrated provision of intensive support and services, which will complement the statutory case management undertaken by Youth Justice units and reduce the likelihood of further offending by Youth Justice clients
- continuing the diversion of young people from entering or progressing through the justice system by providing court advice, group conferencing, and the central after-hours assessment and bail placement service
- expanding the Group Conferencing Program across the state in accordance with the legislative basis provided by the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*
- effectively managing young people to reduce offending through effective assessment processes (Victorian Offender Needs Indicator for Youth – VONIY), targeted and evidence-based interventions and case management systems
- continuing the rehabilitation review and the development of significant cognitive-behavioural interventions and specifically targeted programs to reduce offending behaviours, and transitional support and post-release services to reintegrate young people into the community
- continually developing and expanding ways of reducing the over-representation of young Indigenous people in the justice system, and making links with appropriate and culturally specific agencies, including the Children's Koori Court and the further development of the Koori Youth Justice Program.

Queensland

Key policy directions for youth justice in Queensland include:

- reviewing the options for reducing offending, including implementing more effective risk and needs assessments for young people (matched to the needs of the young person), quality audit frameworks and evidence-based programs such as Aggression Replacement Therapy, Changing Habits and Reaching Targets, as well as post-detention programs that encourage reintegration into communities, which is vital for achieving long-term behavioural change
- reviewing service delivery, including assessing good practice models for case management, and implementing a new needs-based assessment framework, which is the basis of the new electronic Integrated Client Management System – a system which facilitates a continuum of care for young people in the youth justice system with case plans that follow a young person through the system
- reviewing and developing youth justice conferencing, with a continued focus on the effectiveness of the enhanced service delivery model, including further development of procedural and practice guidelines that inform responses to complex and serious matters brought to conference, and development and delivery of advanced or specialist convenor training programs to provide targeted professional development opportunities for staff who facilitate complex conferences
- reviewing the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*
- developing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Justice Strategy to guide the implementation of policy and program responses to the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the justice system and the under-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in youth justice conferencing.

These policy projects are aligned to the major funding commitment for the expansion of community-based youth justice service centres across the state, as well as responding to an increased demand for youth justice conferencing.

Western Australia

Key policy directions for juvenile justice in Western Australia include:

- reviewing juvenile justice services and structures with a view to implementing integrated service delivery practices and models between Juvenile Custodial Services and Community Justice Services
- implementing regional youth justice services in the Midwest and Goldfields based in Geraldton and Kalgoorlie
- formalising the intent of the Young Women and Girls Project; the improved infrastructure will support enhanced programs and services for young women and girls held in detention at Rangeview Remand Centre
- implementing a juvenile justice needs assessment tool to help in identifying and prioritising the individual needs of young people, which will improve the department's ability to deliver tailored case management interventions
- implementing the VONIY tool, which enhances case management practices and improves through-care for young people in custodial and community juvenile justice

- introducing new Juvenile Custodial Services rules, which provide regulations and processes for the management, control and security of Western Australia's two juvenile custodial facilities.

South Australia

The policy directions of Families SA for youth justice include:

- implementing consistent state-wide standards, policies and procedures
- implementing the Connected Client Case Management System
- implementing the Community Youth Justice program's intensive case management services, which provides intensive intervention for the most serious and repeat offenders, including young people appearing before the recently formed Community Protection Panel
- progressing the Public Private Partnership new youth training centre project
- implementing across-government initiatives arising from the report *To break the cycle* (Cappo 2007).

Tasmania

Key policy directions in Tasmania include:

- reviewing and implementing improved coordinated, collaborative and integrated case management policy and guidelines
- finalising and trialling a quality assurance framework for youth justice services, including service-specific standards
- reviewing the *Youth Justice Act 1997*
- improving education, training and employment opportunities for disengaged young people who are in custody, exiting custody or at high risk of entering custody
- providing pre- and post-custodial release support and relapse prevention programs
- providing court diversionary community conferencing and community-based statutory supervision, court support and case management
- developing community capacity to help rehabilitate young people who have socially offended in the community and restore the harm they may have caused
- reviewing the Behaviour Development Model at Ashley Youth Detention Centre and implementing the findings.

Australian Capital Territory

Key policy directions for 2007-08 included:

- continuing to support and promote the One Stop Shop, which allows clients to access drug and alcohol, employment and counselling services when they attend for supervision
- promoting the benefits that restorative justice can bring to young people, as victims of crime or as young people who have been cautioned, charged or convicted of criminal offences

- implementing Changing Habits and Reaching Targets, which is an evidence-based cognitive and behavioural tool for use across community youth justice and centre-based case management
- providing enhanced education and training options for young people in detention
- continuing to promote and consolidate a common case management approach across youth justice services and the broader youth sector
- reviewing the Narrabundah Indigenous Supported Accommodation service, which resulted in 20 recommendations, to support young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males on bail and community-based orders, and those released from custodial sentences
- strengthening the Turnaround Program's role of case coordination to increase the number of participants with high and complex needs
- establishing a new youth detention centre, which is due to be completed in late 2008, that will better support the case management and delivery of programs to young people in detention.

Northern Territory

The major theme of policy in the Northern Territory is diversion. Directions include:

- implementing the new Youth Justice Act that came into force in August 2006, which includes provisions for diversion, including a presumption for diversion and the capacity for courts to refer matters back to Youth Diversion
- continuing the Youth Diversion Scheme (YDS), whose major purpose to work with young offenders through formal assessment, restorative justice conferences and referral to a diversionary program
- providing funding under the CYDU program to the communities of Borroloola, Galiwin'ku, Tiwi Islands, Groote Eylandt, Docker River, Imanpa and Gunbalanya, as well as to Tangentyere Central Australian Youth Link Up Service, which provides invaluable support to the Southern Region CYDUs and other youth programs in the region
- providing one-off capital funding and other support to the communities of Maningrida, Papunya, Mt Liebig, Kintore and Mutitjulu
- providing ongoing training for the YDS and restorative justice conference facilitation.

2.3 Data and methods

The data in this report are extracted from the JJ NMDS. The JJ NMDS contains information on all young people who are supervised by juvenile justice agencies in Australia, both those supervised in the community and those in detention. The JJ NMDS does not contain information on young people in the juvenile justice system who are not supervised (for example, young people on unsupervised bail), nor does it contain information on young people supervised by agencies other than juvenile justice agencies, such as police.

The data for the JJ NMDS are extracted from the administrative systems of the state and territory departments responsible for juvenile justice in Australia according to definitions and counting rules agreed to by the departments and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The relevant departments are:

- Department of Juvenile Justice, New South Wales
- Department of Human Services, Victoria
- Department of Communities, Queensland
- Department of Corrective Services, Western Australia
- Department for Families and Communities, South Australia
- Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania
- Office for Children, Youth and Family Support, Australian Capital Territory
- Department of Justice, Northern Territory.

Data on young people under juvenile justice supervision

The JJ NMDS contains information on all young people who are supervised by a juvenile justice agency in Australia because they have:

- committed or allegedly committed an offence between the ages of 10 and 17 years, or
- committed or allegedly committed an offence when aged over 17 years and are treated as a young person due to their vulnerability or immaturity.

Consequently, there may be young people in the JJ NMDS who are aged 18 years or older:

- young people who committed or allegedly committed an offence while aged 17 years or younger may be supervised in relation to that offence when they are aged 18 years or older
- some young people who were aged 18 years or older at the time of the offence may be supervised by the juvenile justice system rather than the adult correctional system because of their vulnerability or immaturity.

Data are collected on the sex, date of birth, Indigenous status and date of first supervision for each young person in the JJ NMDS. The JJ NMDS also contains an identification code for each young person; full names are not collected. Specific combinations of letters are collected and, in combination with other data items, can be used to create a statistical linkage key. A statistical linkage key allows records to be linked across states and territories and between other collections that contain the same statistical linkage key; these linkage possibilities are not explored in this report. For further information on the feasibility of linking the records of young people under juvenile justice supervision with records in other collections, see AIHW (2008).

Data on types of supervision

The current version of the JJ NMDS contains information on a young person's most serious legal arrangement or order at any one time. The most serious legal arrangement or order is determined by the national classification of order types, in which orders relating to sentenced detention are the highest and orders not elsewhere classified are the lowest. If a young person is supervised in relation to two or more order types at a time, then only information about the highest ranked order type is recorded in the JJ NMDS. For example, if a young person is serving a sentence of probation at the same time as they are on supervised bail for another matter, information about the supervised bail would not be available in the JJ NMDS.

Table 2.2: National classification of supervised legal arrangements and orders

Rank	Order type
1	Detention—sentenced
2	Detention—remand
3	Detention—pre-court
4	Community—home detention
5	Community—immediate release or suspended detention
6	Community—parole or supervised release
7	Community—probation or similar (with or without additional mandated requirements)
8	Community—other sentenced not elsewhere classified
9	Community—supervised bail or other unsentenced supervision
10	Other not elsewhere classified

Information about a young person's most serious order includes the order type, the date on which supervision relating to that order type began, the date that supervision ended and the reason why the supervision ended. Reasons for the supervision ending include the young person being sentenced or placed on bail or remand; the start of a more serious order that is unrelated to the current order; and the young person breaching the order, or escaping or absconding.

In future years, it is anticipated that information on all supervised orders, not just the most serious order, will be collected and reported.

Data quality and coverage

Overall, the quality of data in the JJ NMDS is good. Around 3% of young people who were under supervision during 2007–08 and 8% of all young people since 2000–01 have an unknown Indigenous status. For all other variables, the amount of missing data is less than 0.1%. Because of the variation in the administration of juvenile justice across Australia, there are a number of differences in the data systems and recording practices of the states and territories. In most cases, this does not adversely affect the ability of the jurisdictions to extract JJ NMDS-compliant data, but there are some exceptions.

In Western Australia, information for community-based supervision and detention are recorded in separate databases. These databases are not linked and to extract the necessary data for the JJ NMDS, the information from the separate databases are matched using a

statistical linkage key. While this linkage is sufficiently accurate for statistical purposes, it is not accurate for administrative purposes such as case management.

In Tasmania, information for periods of detention before February 2006 are inaccurate and result in the over-counting of young people in detention for 2000–01 to 2005–06. Remedial action is being taken to improve the quality of data for future reports.

New South Wales did not supply 2007–08 data for the JJ NMDS.

Data for all jurisdictions for all other years are complete, with the exception of 2000–01 to 2002–03, for which data for the Australian Capital Territory are not available.

In New South Wales, 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. It was renamed the Kariiong Juvenile Correctional Centre. As the scope of the JJ NMDS includes only young people who are supervised by juvenile justice agencies in Australia, information about young people in custody in the Kariiong Juvenile Correctional Centre after 10 November 2004 is not included in this report. There are typically 20–25 young people on an average day in the Kariiong Juvenile Correctional Centre (Taylor 2009), and therefore they form only a small proportion of young people in detention in New South Wales.

Data development

While the current version of the JJ NMDS only contains information on a young person's most serious order, information on all supervised orders will be collected in future years. Additionally, the feasibility of expanding the information collected on client characteristics and including information on diversionary activities is being explored.

Methods

Number under supervision

In this report, the number of young people under supervision is measured by:

- the number of young people under supervision during the year
- the number of young people under supervision on an average day.

For the first measure, each young person is counted only once, even if they entered and left supervision multiple times during the year. For the second measure, the number of days that each young person spends under supervision during the financial year are summed and divided by the number of days in the financial year. Comparing the two measures provides information on the average length of supervision during the year. For example, if the number under supervision during the year has remained steady over a number of years but the average number per day has increased, this means that the average length of supervision has increased. Where there are many people under supervision for long periods, the ratio of the two measures (the first measure divided by the second measure) will be smaller than when there are the same number of young people under supervision but the average length of supervision is shorter.

Population rates

While the number under supervision varies by state and territory, so does the total number of young people who live in that state and territory. One way of comparing the number under supervision while taking into account differences in population sizes is to calculate population rates. Population rates are calculated by dividing the number of young people under supervision by the number of young people who are eligible to be supervised. Those who are eligible must relate to those under supervision (that is, if the rate is calculated for males under supervision, then those who are eligible can only be males).

Population rates are calculated for both the number under supervision during the year and the number under supervision on an average day. Because there are differences between the states and territories in the extent to which young people aged 18 years and older can be supervised by juvenile justice agencies, all rates are calculated for those aged 10–17 years. For this report, this number is then multiplied by 1,000 (although any multiplier could be used). The rate can then be expressed as the number per 1,000 young people. For example, if there were 10,000 young people aged 10–17 years under supervision during the year and there were 2,000,000 young people aged 10–17 years in Australia, then there were 5 young people under supervision for every 1,000 young people aged 10–17 years in Australia (or 0.5% of the population aged 10–17 years). Similarly, if there were 5,000 Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years under supervision in Australia and there were 100,000 Indigenous young people of this age in Australia, then there were 50 Indigenous young people under supervision for every 1,000 Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years in Australia (or 5% of the Indigenous population aged 10–17 years).

The calculation for rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people exclude young people with unknown Indigenous status.

The populations used in calculating rates are available in Appendix A.

2.4 Online appendixes

Additional tables and state and territory appendixes for *Juvenile justice in Australia 2007–08* are available from <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/>.

3 Young people under supervision

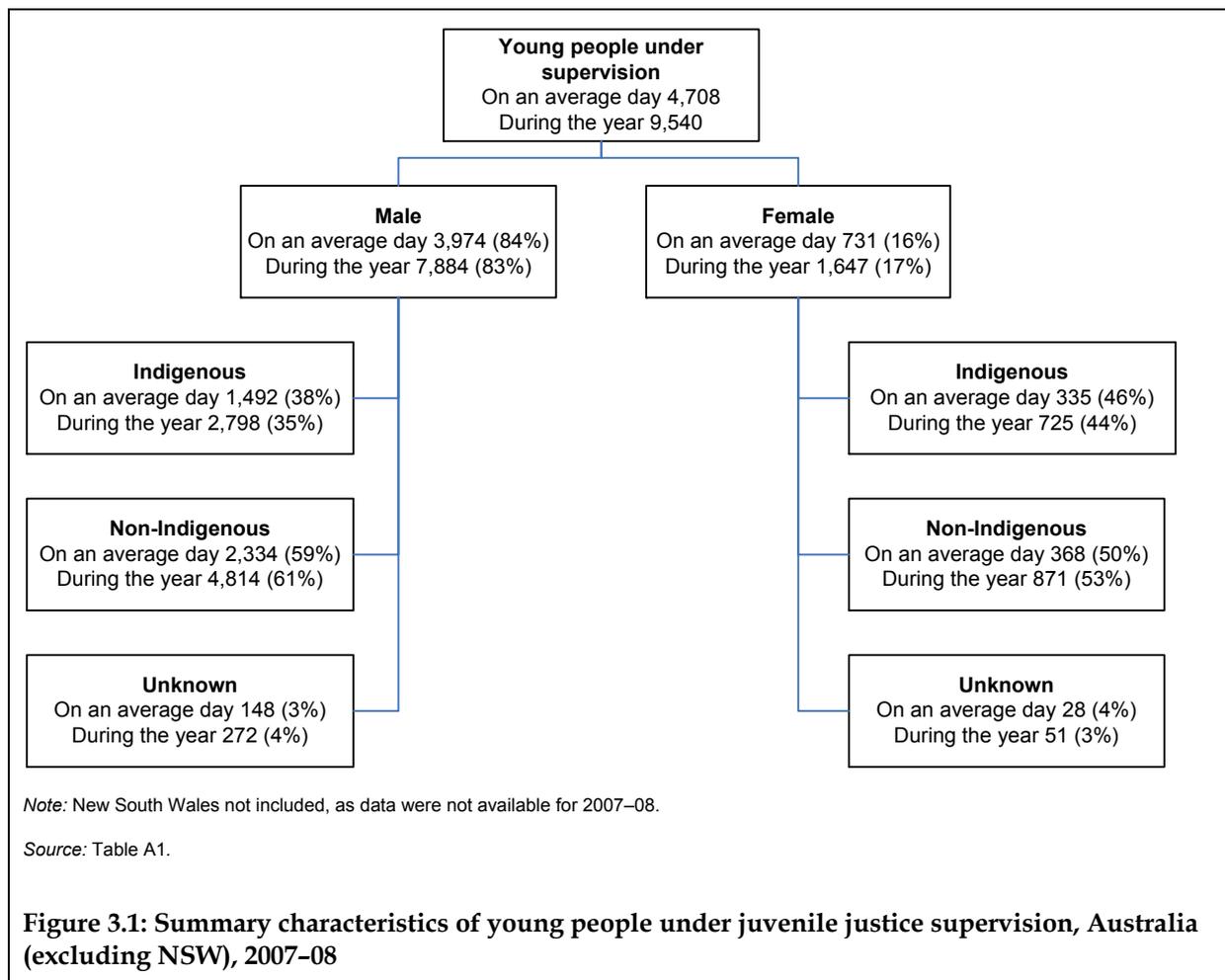
Young people under juvenile justice supervision may be supervised either in the community or in detention. This chapter focuses on all young people under juvenile justice supervision in Australia, irrespective of where they were supervised. (Later chapters focus on young people under community-based supervision and young people in detention.)

In this chapter, information is presented on the number and rate of young people under supervision in 2007–08 and over the 4 years from 2004–05 to 2007–08, as well as their age at first supervision and their length of supervision. This information is disaggregated by sex, age, Indigenous status and state or territory.

Two methods are used to count the number of young people under supervision. The first is the number of young people under supervision at some time during the year, irrespective of how many times they entered or left supervision or how long they were under supervision. This means that a person who spends only 1 day under supervision and a person who spends the entire year under supervision both contribute 1 to the count of young people during the year. The second measure is the number of young people under supervision on an average day, which is a summary statistic that takes into account the length of time each person spends under supervision during the year, and is conceptually similar to a census count of the number of people under supervision on any given day. Comparing the number under supervision during the year with the number under supervision on an average day provides information about the length of supervision during the year.

3.1 Summary

Around 4,700 young people were under supervision on an average day and around 9,500 were under supervision during the year in 2007–08 in all states and territories except New South Wales (for which data were not available; Figure 3.1). Most of those under supervision were male (84% on an average day, 83% during the year) and over 80% of those under supervision on an average day and during the year were aged 10–17 years (the remainder were aged over 17 years). Although only around 5% of young Australians are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, close to 40% of males and over 45% of females under supervision on an average day were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people.



The rates of young people aged 10–17 years under supervision on an average day and during the year increased slightly over the 4 years from 2004–05. In 2007–08, there were 2.5 young people aged 10–17 years per 1,000 under supervision on an average day, and 5.1 young people per 1,000 during the year.

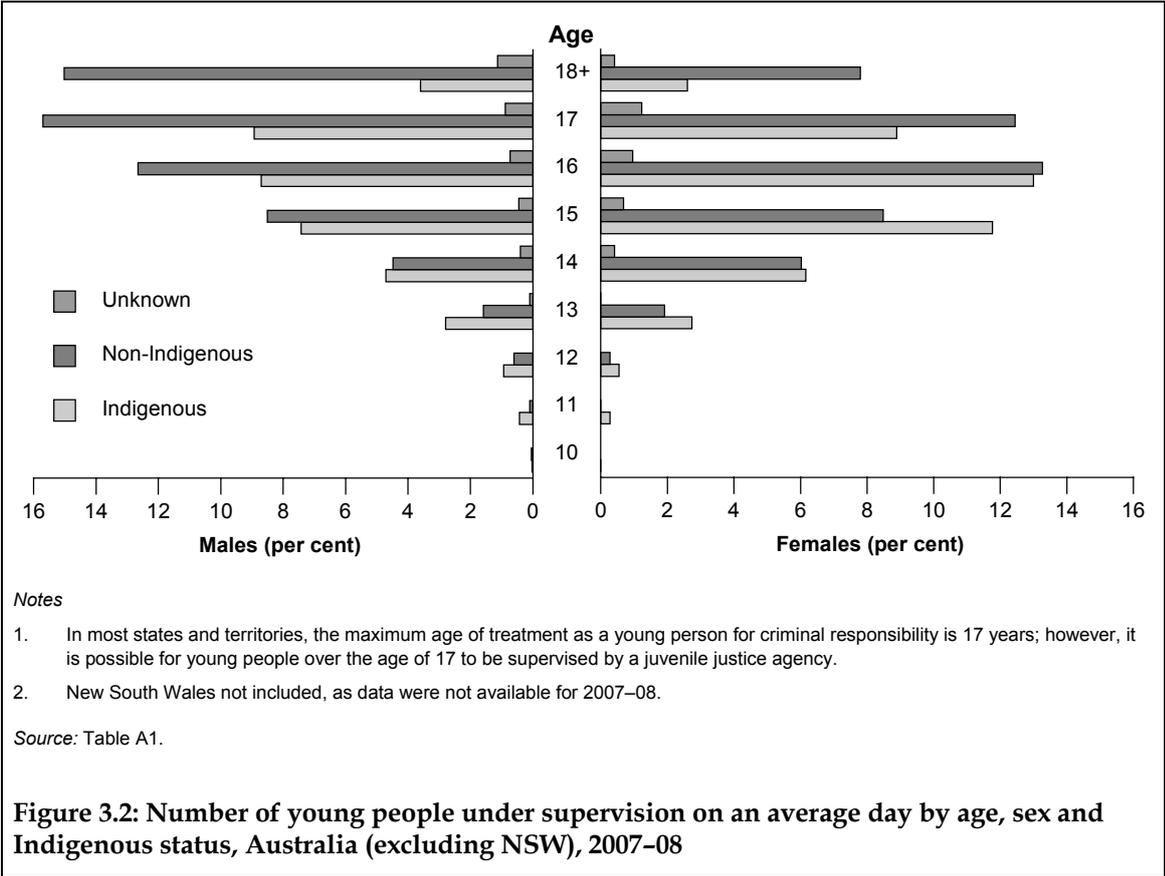
As in previous years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are over-represented in juvenile justice supervision. The proportion of young people under supervision on an average day who were Indigenous steadily increased from 32% in 2000–01 to 39% in 2007–08. In 2007–08, Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years were 16 times as likely to be under supervision on an average day as non-Indigenous young people.

3.2 Sex, age and Indigenous status

Most of the 4,700 young people under supervision in Australia on an average day were male (84%) and half (50%) were aged between 14 and 16 years old; less than 1% of the average daily population (26 young people) were aged 10 or 11 years old and 18% (864) were aged 18 years or older (Table A1, Figure 3.2). Males were slightly more likely to be in the younger age groups and in the 18 years and over age group than females: around 90% of those in the 10-12 years age group and in the 18 years and over age group were male, while around 80% of those aged 13-16 years were male.

Nearly 60% of the young people under supervision on an average day in 2007-08 were non-Indigenous and almost 40% were Indigenous (the remainder were of unknown Indigenous status). Females were more likely to be Indigenous than males: close to half (46%) of females under supervision on an average day were Indigenous, compared with 38% of males (Table A1).

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people were over-represented in the younger age groups (Figure 3.2). Of the average daily population aged 10-13 years, 63% were Indigenous, compared with 42% of those aged 14-17 years and 19% of those aged 18 years or older.



In 2007–08, there were 3,844 young people aged 10–17 years under supervision on an average day (82% of the total average daily population) and 7,898 young people of this age under supervision at some time during the year (83% of the total under supervision during the year; Table A1). This equates to 2.5 young people per 1,000 under supervision on an average day and 5.1 under supervision during the year, which is less than 1% of all young people aged 10–17 years in Australia (Table 3.1).

Males were 4 times as likely to be under supervision as females: on an average day, 4.0 per 1,000 males aged 10–17 years were under supervision compared with only 0.9 females (Table 3.1). Those in older age groups were also more likely to be under supervision on an average day than those in younger age groups, although the difference was more dramatic for males. There were 9.9 males per 1,000 aged 17 years old under supervision on an average day in 2007–08, compared with 0.6 males aged 12 years. In contrast, there were 1.7 females per 1,000 aged 17 years old and 2.1 aged 16 years under supervision on an average day, but 0.1 per 1,000 aged 12 years.

Table 3.1: Rate of young people aged 10–17 years under supervision by age and sex, Australia (excluding NSW), 2007–08

Sex	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10–17
Supervision rate—average day									
Male	n.p.	0.22	0.62	1.80	3.85	6.54	8.72	9.94	4.04
Female	n.p.	n.p.	0.06	0.36	0.98	1.62	2.08	1.71	0.87
Total	n.p.	0.12	0.35	1.10	2.46	4.16	5.49	5.95	2.50
Supervision rate—during the year									
Male	0.16	0.63	1.74	4.24	8.33	13.15	17.41	18.30	8.13
Female	n.p.	0.08	0.27	1.01	2.43	3.74	4.20	3.71	1.96
Total	0.09	0.36	1.03	2.67	5.48	8.58	10.99	11.22	5.14

Notes

1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
2. Age calculated as at start of financial year if supervision began before start of financial year, otherwise age calculated as at start of supervision.
3. Rates are not published where there were fewer than five young people under supervision.
4. Rates are number of young people per 1,000 relevant population.

Most of those under supervision on an average day in Australia during 2007–08 were in Queensland and Victoria (data were not available for New South Wales) – one-third (33%) were under supervision in Queensland and one-quarter (26%) were in Victoria (Table 3.2). Close to 40% of those aged 10–17 years on an average day were under supervision in Queensland, while around 20% of this age group were under supervision in Victoria and a further 20% in Western Australia. Over half (53%) of those aged 18 years or older under supervision on an average day were in Victoria. The proportion aged 10–13 years was small in all states and territories, and ranged from 2% in the Northern Territory to 11% in the Australian Capital Territory.

In each state and territory the majority of those under supervision on an average day were male; this ranged from 80% in the Australian Capital Territory to 94% in the Northern Territory (Table 3.3).

Table 3.2: Number of young people under supervision by age, states and territories, 2007–08

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW
Number of young people—average day									
10	n.a.	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	3
11	n.a.	1	13	4	6	—	—	—	23
12	n.a.	7	27	13	14	3	3	1	67
13	n.a.	24	91	53	19	13	12	1	212
14	n.a.	93	183	97	54	22	18	8	474
15	n.a.	151	334	155	87	41	22	16	807
16	n.a.	213	470	185	110	51	19	31	1,078
17	n.a.	299	326	253	140	73	39	50	1,180
10–17	n.a.	788	1,444	760	430	203	113	107	3,844
18+	n.a.	455	133	60	92	97	24	2	864
Total	n.a.	1,243	1,576	820	523	300	137	109	4,708
Number of young people—during the year									
10	n.a.	1	2	6	8	—	—	—	17
11	n.a.	4	27	23	12	1	1	—	68
12	n.a.	16	65	61	40	5	7	2	196
13	n.a.	66	172	171	49	24	27	5	514
14	n.a.	195	333	305	121	43	39	21	1,057
15	n.a.	325	602	382	198	77	43	38	1,665
16	n.a.	434	802	482	230	99	49	60	2,156
17	n.a.	583	521	521	298	125	82	95	2,225
10–17	n.a.	1,624	2,524	1,951	956	374	248	221	7,898
18+	n.a.	905	220	96	178	181	55	7	1,642
Total	n.a.	2,529	2,744	2,047	1,134	555	303	228	9,540

Notes

1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
2. Total includes young people with unknown age.

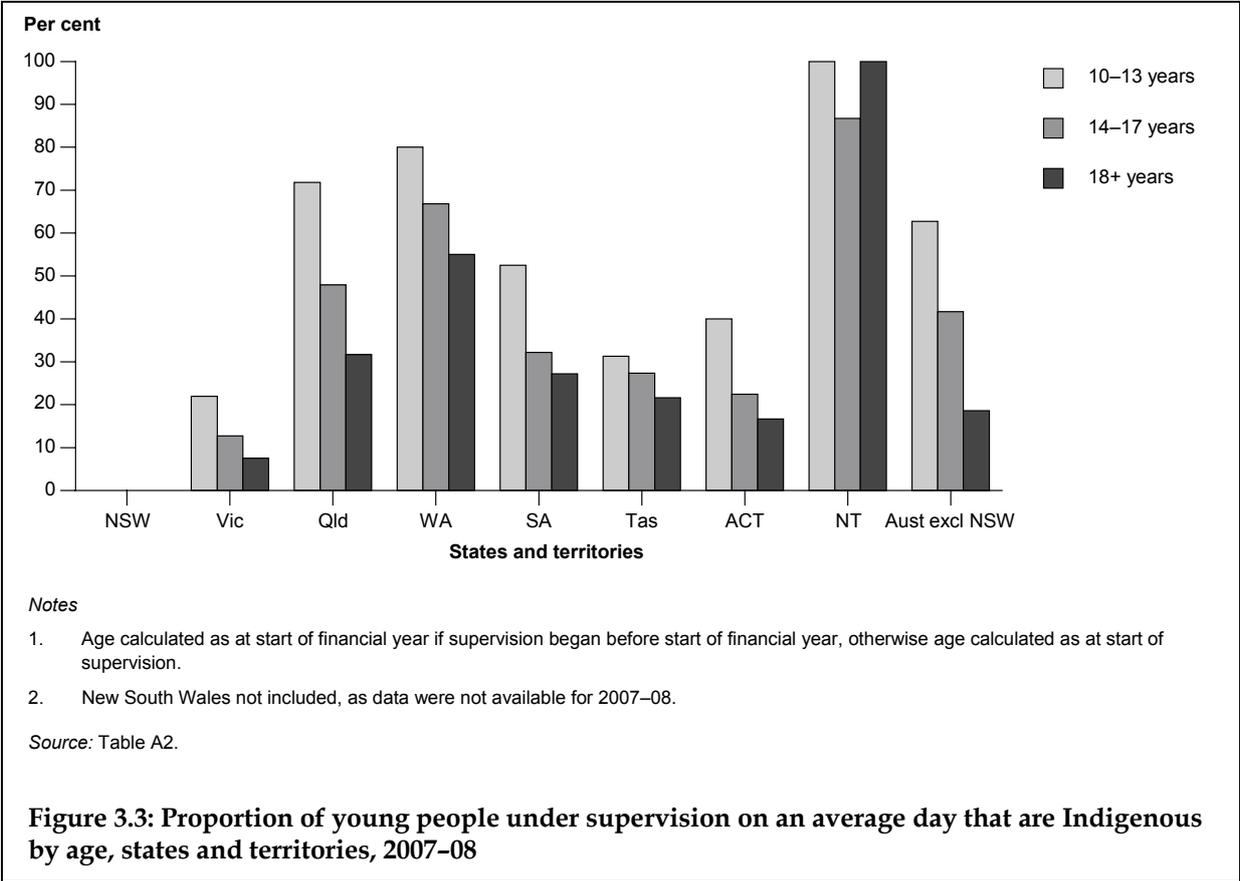
Table 3.3: Number of young people under supervision by sex and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2007–08

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW
Number of young people—average day									
Male									
Indigenous	n.a.	117	604	450	139	67	28	87	1,492
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	878	700	224	278	161	80	14	2,334
Unknown	n.a.	100	1	4	26	16	2	—	148
Total	n.a.	1,095	1,304	678	443	244	109	101	3,974
Female									
Indigenous	n.a.	20	161	99	33	10	5	7	335
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	113	111	37	45	38	23	1	368
Unknown	n.a.	15	—	2	2	8	—	—	28
Total	n.a.	148	272	138	80	56	28	8	731
All young people									
Indigenous	n.a.	138	764	551	172	77	32	94	1,828
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	991	811	263	323	199	102	15	2,704
Unknown	n.a.	115	1	7	28	24	2	—	176
Total	n.a.	1,243	1,576	820	523	300	137	109	4,708
Number of young people—during the year									
Male									
Indigenous	n.a.	233	954	1,010	271	104	50	176	2,798
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	1,806	1,276	614	598	317	173	30	4,814
Unknown	n.a.	161	3	19	51	35	3	—	272
Total	n.a.	2,200	2,233	1,643	920	456	226	206	7,884
Female									
Indigenous	n.a.	44	275	277	83	14	14	18	725
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	260	236	112	125	73	62	3	871
Unknown	n.a.	25	—	6	6	12	1	1	51
Total	n.a.	329	511	395	214	99	77	22	1,647
All young people									
Indigenous	n.a.	277	1,229	1,291	354	118	64	194	3,527
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	2,066	1,512	731	723	390	235	33	5,690
Unknown	n.a.	186	3	25	57	47	4	1	323
Total	n.a.	2,529	2,744	2,047	1,134	555	303	228	9,540

Notes

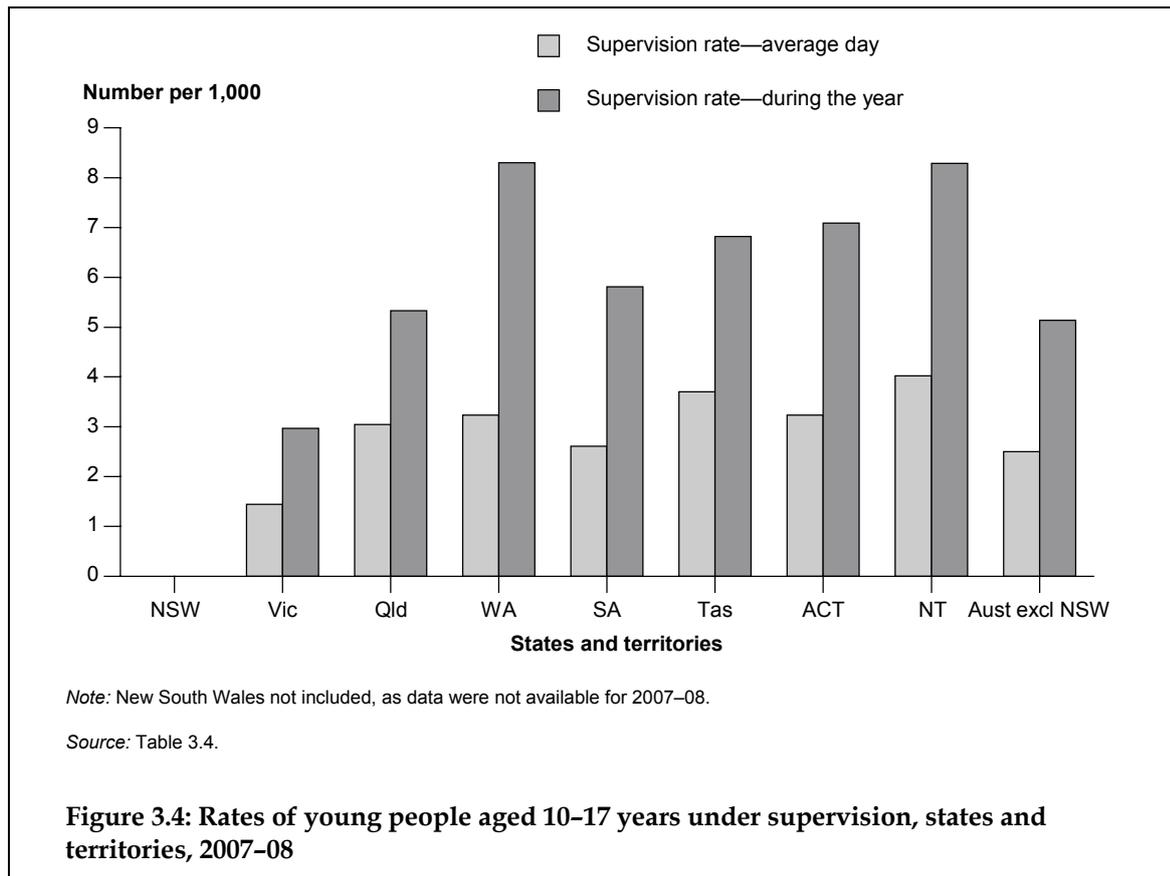
1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
2. Total includes young people with unknown age.

Nationally, the proportion of young people under supervision who were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is highest in the younger age groups (Figure 3.3). In general, the states and territories with a greater proportion of Indigenous young people in the general population had higher proportions under supervision in each age group but, in all states and territories except the Northern Territory, the proportion that was Indigenous was less in each successive age group.



On an average day in Australia, the rate of young people aged 10–17 years under supervision ranged from 1.4 per 1,000 young people aged 10–17 years in Victoria to 4.0 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory (Figure 3.4). Rates for males ranged from 2.4 in Victoria to 7.2 in the Northern Territory and from 0.4 in Victoria to 1.6 in Tasmania for females (Table 3.4).

Victoria also had the lowest rate of young people under supervision during the year, with 3.0 per 1,000, while Western Australia and the Northern Territory had the highest rates with 8.3 each (Figure 3.4). Rates for males ranged from 4.9 in Victoria to 14.5 in the Northern Territory, and from 0.9 in Victoria to 4.0 in Australian Capital Territory for females (Table 3.4).



As in previous years, the Indigenous rate of supervision was much higher than the non-Indigenous rate. On an average day in Australia in 2007–08, 2.2% (22.4 per 1,000) of the Indigenous population aged 10–17 were under supervision, compared with 0.1% (1.4 per 1,000) of the equivalent non-Indigenous population. During the year, 4% (43.4 per 1,000) of Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years in Australia were under supervision at some time during the year, compared with only 0.3% (3.0 per 1,000) of the non-Indigenous population (Table 3.4). Thus, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were 16 times as likely to be under supervision on an average day as non-Indigenous young people and 14 times as likely to be under supervision during the year. The higher level of over-representation for an average day compared with the number under supervision during the year indicates that Indigenous young people were more likely to be under supervision for longer than non-Indigenous young people.

Table 3.4: Rate of young people aged 10–17 years under supervision by sex and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2007–08

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW
Supervision rate—average day									
Male									
Indigenous	n.a.	24.29	35.93	55.36	41.49	23.57	48.08	14.75	35.37
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	1.88	2.72	1.74	2.70	3.97	3.59	1.75	2.31
Total	n.a.	2.40	4.88	5.12	4.26	5.71	4.94	7.15	4.04
Female									
Indigenous	n.a.	4.87	10.27	13.54	10.11	4.85	n.p.	1.30	8.73
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	0.32	0.48	0.33	0.53	1.09	1.20	n.p.	0.44
Total	n.a.	0.43	1.12	1.18	0.89	1.58	1.40	0.62	0.87
All young people									
Indigenous	n.a.	14.65	23.38	35.29	26.08	14.55	28.03	8.21	22.43
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	1.12	1.63	1.07	1.64	2.55	2.41	0.97	1.40
Total	n.a.	1.44	3.05	3.23	2.61	3.70	3.23	4.02	2.50
Supervision rate—during the year									
Male									
Indigenous	n.a.	44.62	56.15	127.32	82.29	40.12	80.77	29.15	66.54
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	4.02	5.05	5.03	5.92	7.67	7.81	3.75	4.90
Total	n.a.	4.93	8.38	12.80	9.00	10.75	10.10	14.45	8.13
Female									
Indigenous	n.a.	10.32	17.55	38.08	27.09	5.93	20.88	3.16	18.90
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	0.70	1.03	1.02	1.48	2.02	3.41	0.40	1.04
Total	n.a.	0.90	2.11	3.39	2.44	2.67	3.96	1.64	1.96
All young people									
Indigenous	n.a.	27.60	37.27	84.48	55.17	23.65	52.05	16.69	43.40
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	2.40	3.09	3.12	3.76	4.92	5.65	2.14	3.03
Total	n.a.	2.97	5.33	8.30	5.81	6.82	7.09	8.29	5.14

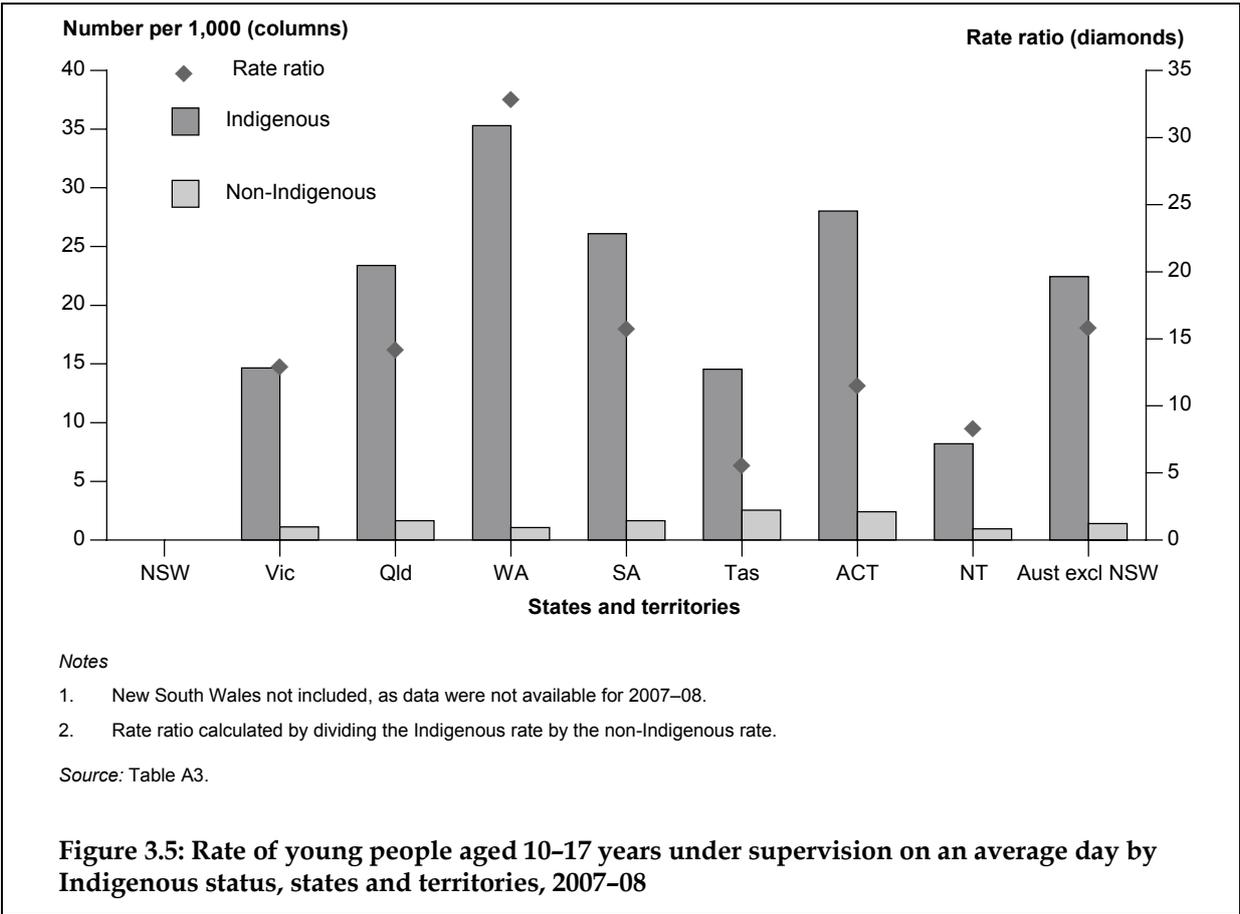
Notes

1. Rates are number of young people per 1,000 relevant population.
2. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
3. Total includes young people with unknown Indigenous status.

While the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under supervision was higher than the equivalent rate for non-Indigenous young people in each state and territory, there was considerable variation in the rate of Indigenous young people among the states and territories but less variation in the non-Indigenous rate (Figure 3.5). In five states and territories, fewer than 2 non-Indigenous young people for every 1,000 aged 10–17 years were under supervision on an average day and, in the remaining two states and territories, between 2 and 3 were under supervision on an average day. In contrast, the lowest rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people was in the Northern Territory, where

there were 8 Indigenous young people for every 1,000 aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day. The Indigenous rate was around 15 young people per 1,000 in Victoria and Tasmania, and between 20 and 30 in Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. In Western Australia, there were 36 Indigenous young people per 1,000 under supervision on an average day, which is equivalent to nearly 4% of the Indigenous population aged 10–17 years.

The level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation (as shown by the ratio of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates) remains high. Nationally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years were 16 times as likely to be under supervision on an average day as non-Indigenous young people. Indigenous young people were over-represented in all states and territories, although the level of over-representation varied greatly. The highest rate ratio was in Western Australia, where Indigenous young people were 33 times as likely to be under supervision on an average day as non-Indigenous young people. In contrast, Indigenous young people were 8 times as likely to be under supervision as non-Indigenous young people in the Northern Territory, which, like Western Australia, has a high proportion of Indigenous young people (Figure 3.5). Even in Tasmania, the state with the smallest rate ratio, Indigenous young people were 6 times as likely to be under supervision. In the remaining states and territories, the rate ratio ranged from 12 to 16.



3.3 Trends

Over the 4 years from 2004-05, the rate of young people aged 10-17 years under supervision increased slightly, from 2.4 to 2.5 per 1,000 for the average daily population and from 4.9 to 5.1 for the population under supervision during the year (Figure 3.6). In most states and territories, rates either remained steady or there was no clear trend over the 4 years. However, in Victoria and Tasmania, the rate under supervision on an average day and the rate under supervision during the year increased each year in the 4-year period, while in the Northern Territory the opposite occurred (Table 3.5).

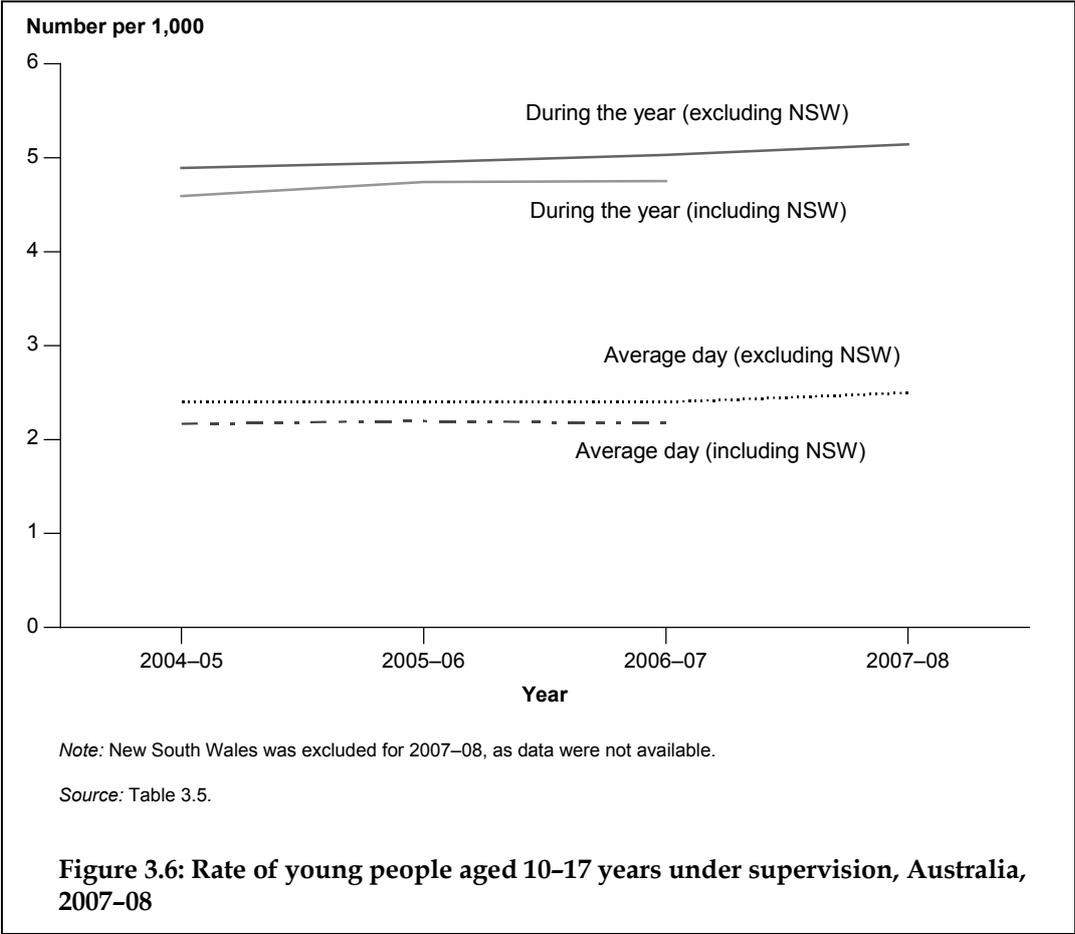


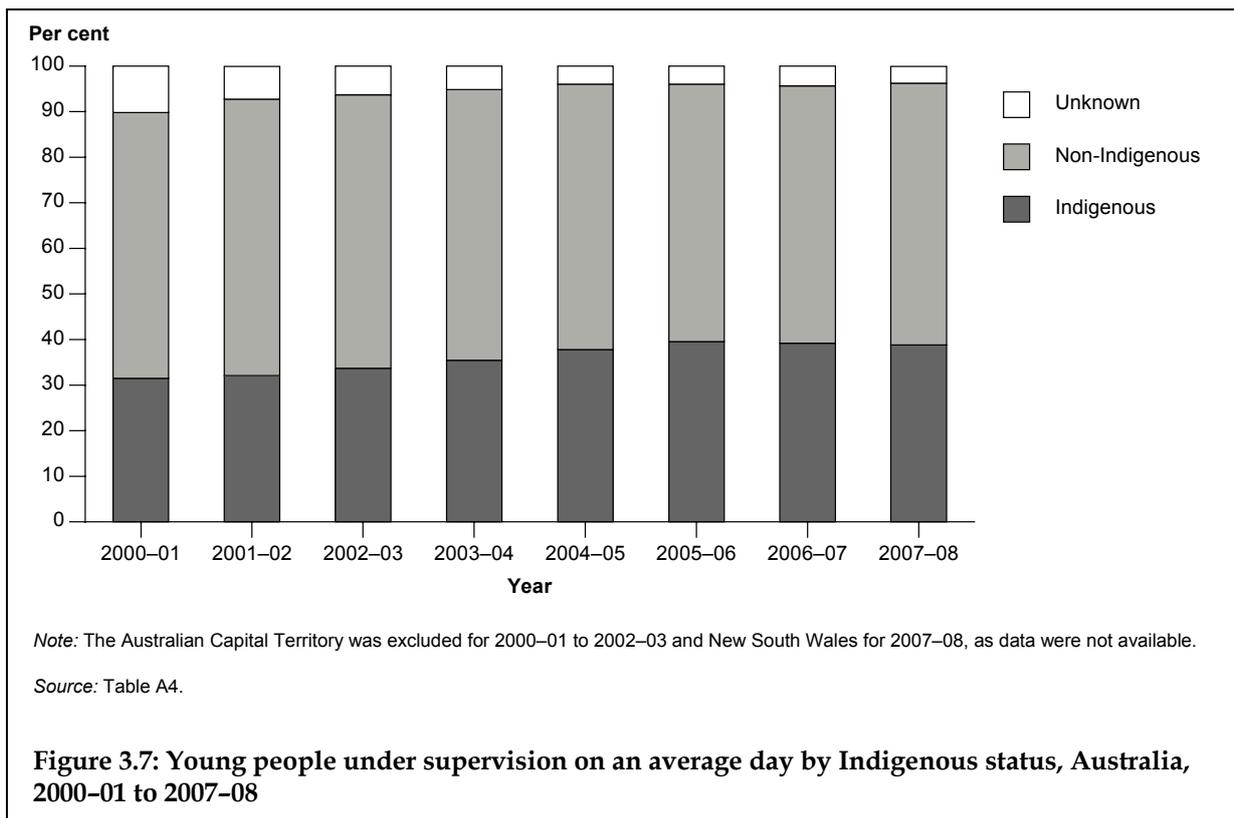
Table 3.5: Rate of young people aged 10–17 years under supervision, states and territories, 2004–05 to 2007–08

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW	Aust
Supervision rate—average day										
2004–05	1.70	1.20	3.03	2.77	2.93	3.22	4.05	6.14	2.40	2.17
2005–06	1.80	1.22	2.97	3.16	2.54	3.50	2.92	6.06	2.40	2.20
2006–07	1.71	1.29	2.99	3.12	2.44	3.55	3.11	5.01	2.40	2.18
2007–08	n.a.	1.44	3.05	3.23	2.61	3.70	3.23	4.02	2.50	n.a.
Supervision rate—during the year										
2004–05	3.98	2.49	5.36	7.58	6.11	5.37	6.94	11.47	4.89	4.59
2005–06	4.30	2.54	5.34	8.14	5.81	5.93	6.06	11.25	4.95	4.74
2006–07	4.17	2.84	5.24	8.35	5.64	5.95	6.19	9.88	5.03	4.75
2007–08	n.a.	2.97	5.33	8.30	5.78	6.82	7.09	8.29	5.14	n.a.

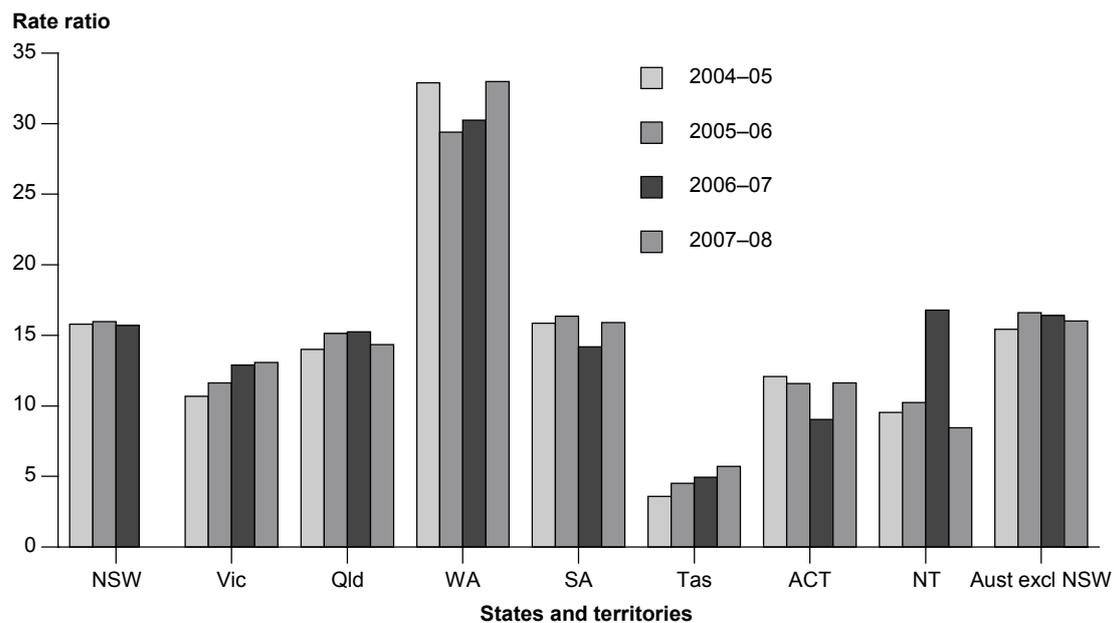
Notes

1. New South Wales was excluded for 2007–08, as data were not available.
2. Rates are number of young people per 1,000 relevant population.

The over-representation of Indigenous young people under supervision is increasing. Over the 8 years from 2000–01, the proportion of Indigenous young people under supervision on an average day (all ages) steadily increased from 32% to 39% (Figure 3.7). The proportion of non-Indigenous young people increased from 2000–01 to 2001–02 (the proportion of those with unknown Indigenous status decreased over the same period) before it decreased from 61% in 2001–02 to 57% in 2007–08. The numerical increase of Indigenous young people is far greater than the decrease in the number of young people with unknown Indigenous status, suggesting that the increase is not just a result of improved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification.



For young people aged 10-17 years, the propensity of Indigenous young people to be under supervision on an average day compared with non-Indigenous young people (as shown by the rate ratio) changed little in recent years. Nationally, Indigenous young people aged 10-17 years were just as over-represented in 2004-05 as they were in 2007-08 (around 16 times as likely to be under supervision as non-Indigenous young people on an average day; Figure 3.8). There was little change in the levels of over-representation in most states and territories but in some over-representation increased over the 4-year period.



Notes

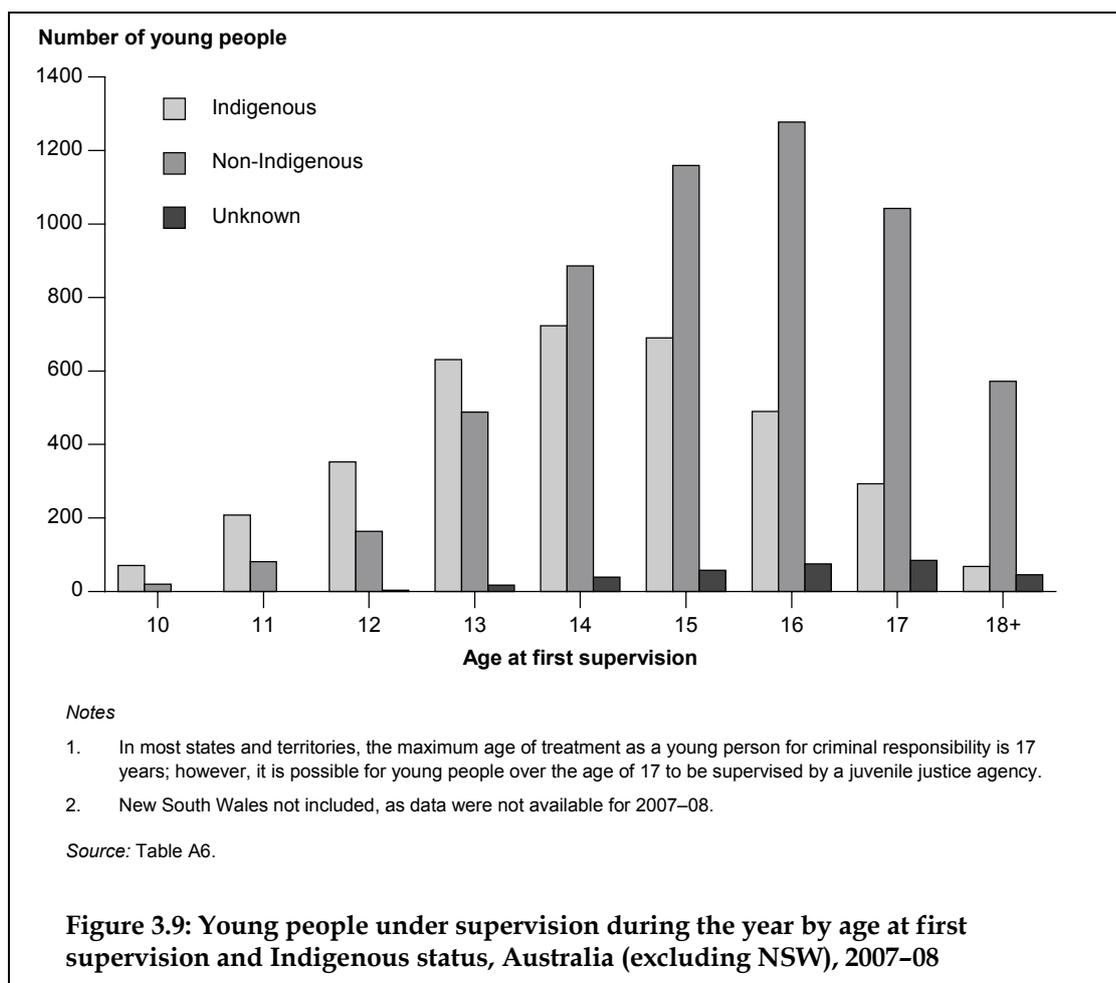
1. New South Wales not included in Australian total, as data were not available for 2007-08.
2. Rate ratio calculated by dividing the Indigenous rate by the non-Indigenous rate.

Source: Table A5.

Figure 3.8: Ratios of Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates of young people aged 10-17 years under supervision on an average day, states and territories, 2004-05 to 2007-08

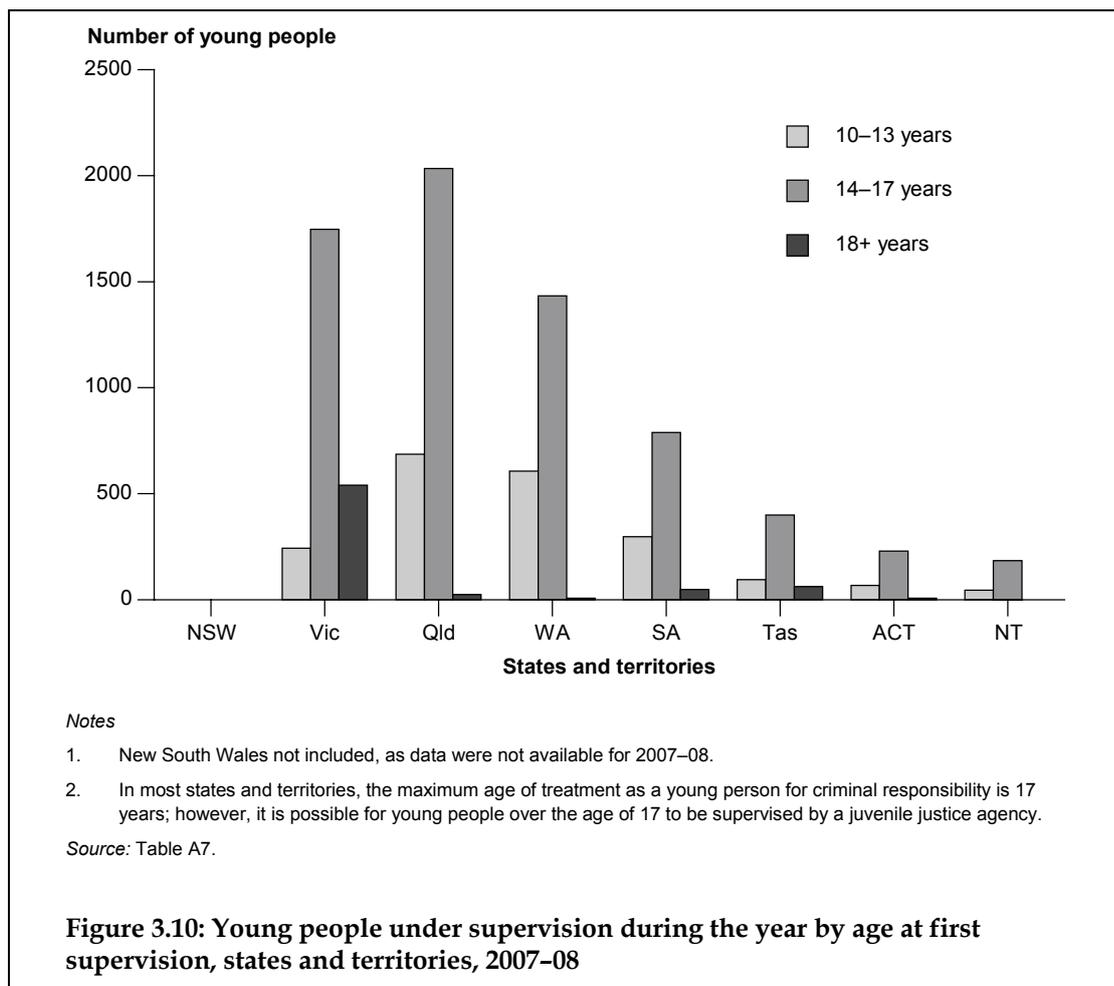
3.4 Age at first supervision

Almost three-quarters (71%) of young people under supervision in 2007–08 first entered supervision when aged between 14 and 17 years old, while fewer than 10% were aged 12 years or under (Figure 3.9). However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are over-represented in the younger age groups: 18% of Indigenous young people began their first supervision while aged 10–12 years, compared with 5% of non-Indigenous young people.



Most young people first entered supervision aged 14–17 years old in all states and territories, although around one-quarter of those under supervision in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory had their first supervision when aged 10–13 years old (Figure 3.10). In contrast, only 10% of those in Victoria (or 12% of young people in this age group nationally) first entered supervision at this age. Nationally, few (7%) were aged 18 years or older at their first supervision. However, close to 80% of those who began at this age were in Victoria, which is most likely the result of legislation in that state that allows for young people aged 18–20 years to be sentenced to a juvenile detention centre.

While the number of young people under supervision is increasing, young people are not entering juvenile justice supervision at younger ages: there was relatively little change in the distribution of age at first supervision in the 4 years from 2004–05 to 2007–08 (Table A8).



3.5 Length of supervision

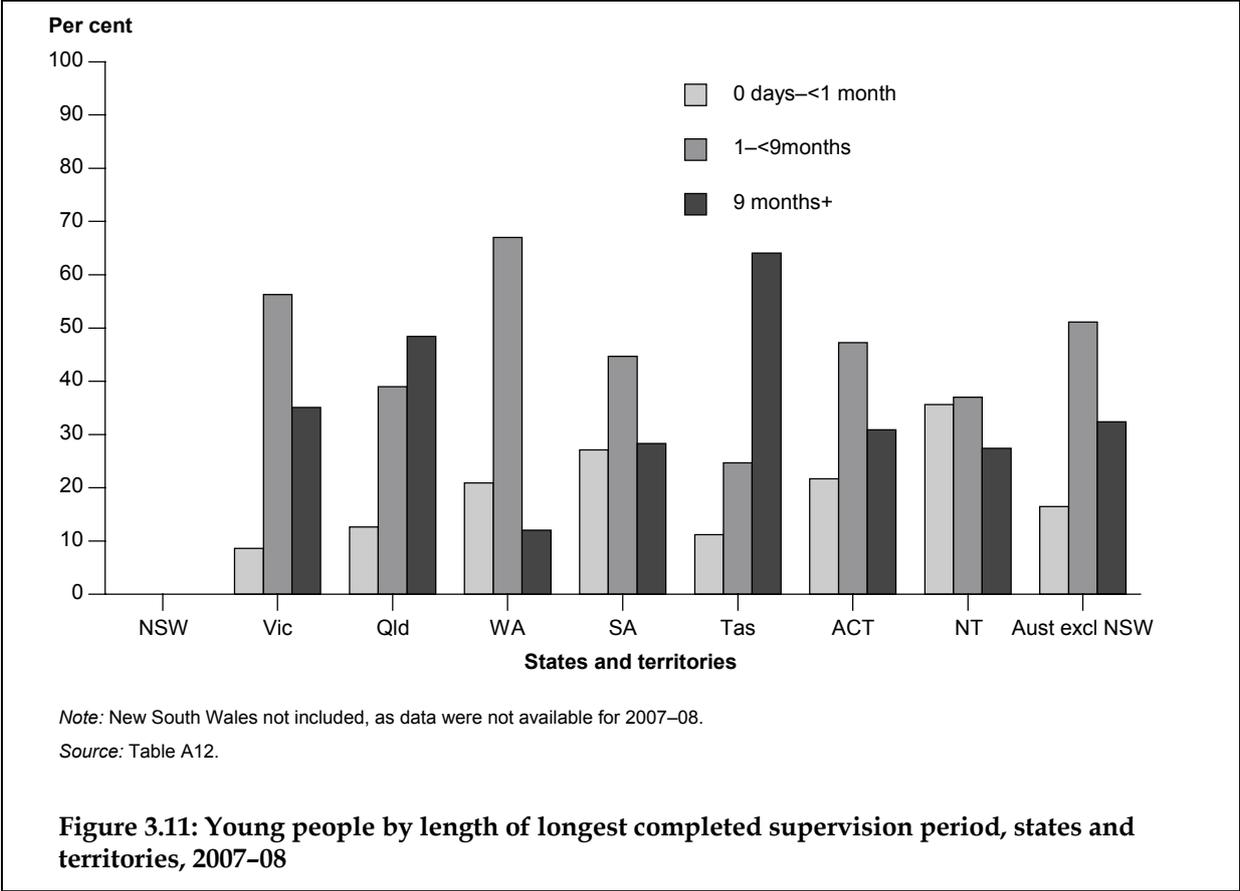
Of the 9,540 young people who were under supervision during 2007-08, nearly two-thirds (5,879) entered supervision during or before 2007-08 and left supervision for at least 1 day during 2007-08 (Table A12); that is, they completed at least one supervision period. Therefore, after entering supervision (which was either in or before 2007-08), one-third of young people under supervision had not left supervision for at least 1 full day by the end of 2007-08. Around half (55%) of those who did complete a supervision period only completed one supervision period during the year, while 13% completed four or more.

The 7,115 supervision periods that were completed in 2007-08 had a mean length of half a year (mean = 183 days, median = 127 days). The supervision periods completed by Indigenous young people were, on average, about 1 month shorter than those completed by non-Indigenous young people, but Indigenous young people were more likely to complete more supervision periods than non-Indigenous young people (tables A9 and A11). While the supervision periods completed by females were also, on average, about 1 month shorter than those completed by males, an equal proportion completed two or more supervision periods.

Of those who completed one or more supervision periods, over 80% completed a supervision period that lasted at least 1 month while one-third (33%) completed a supervision period that

lasted 9 months or more (Figure 3.11). Only 17% did not complete a supervision period longer than 1 month.

The length of supervision periods varied by state and territory. In Western Australia, only 12% of young people completed a supervision period that lasted 9 months or more, while over one-third completed supervision periods of this length in Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania. In Victoria, less than 10% completed supervision periods that were less than 1 month, compared with one-third in the Northern Territory.



4 Young people under community-based supervision

A young person may be supervised in the community while unsentenced or while serving a sentence following the finalisation of a court case. Community-based supervision includes supervised bail, probation, community service orders, suspended detention, parole or supervised release, and home detention. Not all types of supervision are available in all states and territories; see Table 2.1 for further information. Young people may also be unsupervised in the community while awaiting court appearances or hearings, or while serving sentences; however, information on unsupervised orders is not included in this report.

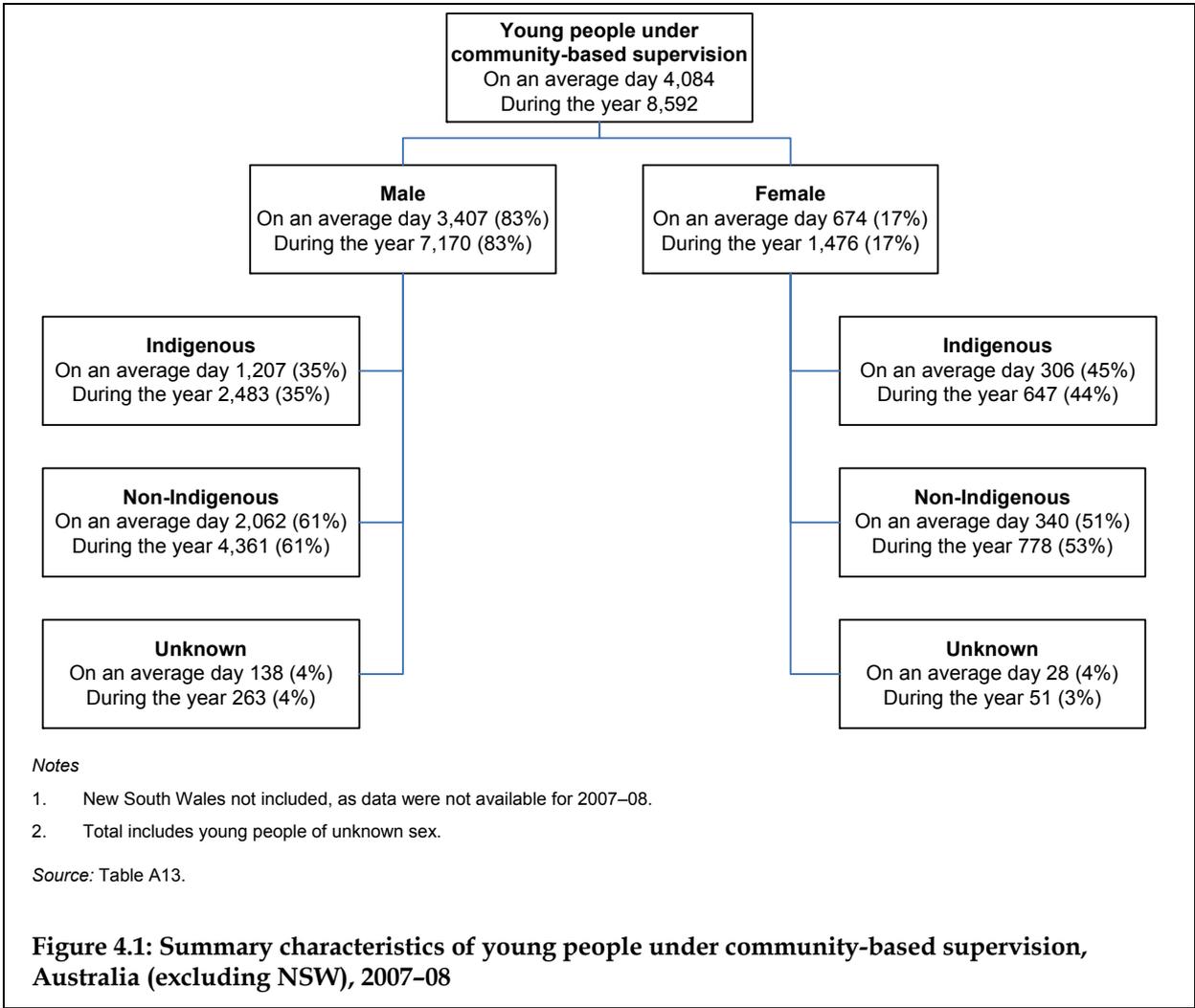
Furthermore, while a young person may be supervised in relation to a number of different types of legal arrangements or orders at any one time, the data on which this report is based only contains information about a young person's most serious supervised legal arrangement or order. The most serious order is determined using a hierarchy of order types (see section 'Data on types of supervision' for further information). Home detention is ranked highest of the sentenced community-based orders, followed by immediate release or suspended detention, parole or supervised release, and probation or similar. Unsented community-based orders such as supervised bail are ranked lower than sentenced orders, followed by other order types not elsewhere categorised. Therefore, if a young person is recorded as being on a supervised bail order, then the only other order type that they could possibly have at the same time is an 'other' type. However, if a young person is recorded as being on suspended detention, then at the same time they may be on one or more of the order types that are lower in the hierarchy, that is, parole or supervised release, probation or similar, supervised bail, or other types. Detention orders are ranked higher than community-based orders when determining the most serious order, so a young person will not be recorded as being on a supervised community-based order where they are in detention, although a supervised community-based order may still be in force for the period the young person is in detention.

This chapter contains information on the number and rate of young people under community-based supervision in 2007–08 and over the 4 years from 2004–05 to 2007–08, as well as the number of young people supervised under different types of legal arrangements or orders, the length of these periods of supervision and their outcomes. As in the previous chapter, data on both the number of young people under supervision on an average day and the number under supervision during the year are presented.

4.1 Summary

In 2007–08, there were 4,084 young people under community-based supervision on an average day and 8,592 under community-based supervision during the year; most (83%) were male (data were not available for New South Wales; Figure 4.1). Around one-third (35%) of males under community-based supervision on an average day were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, compared with 45% of females. Around 80% of those under community-based supervision both on an average day and during the year were aged 10–17 years (the remaining 20% were aged 18 years or older). Half of those under

community-based supervision on an average day were aged 14–16 years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were particularly over-represented in the younger age groups.



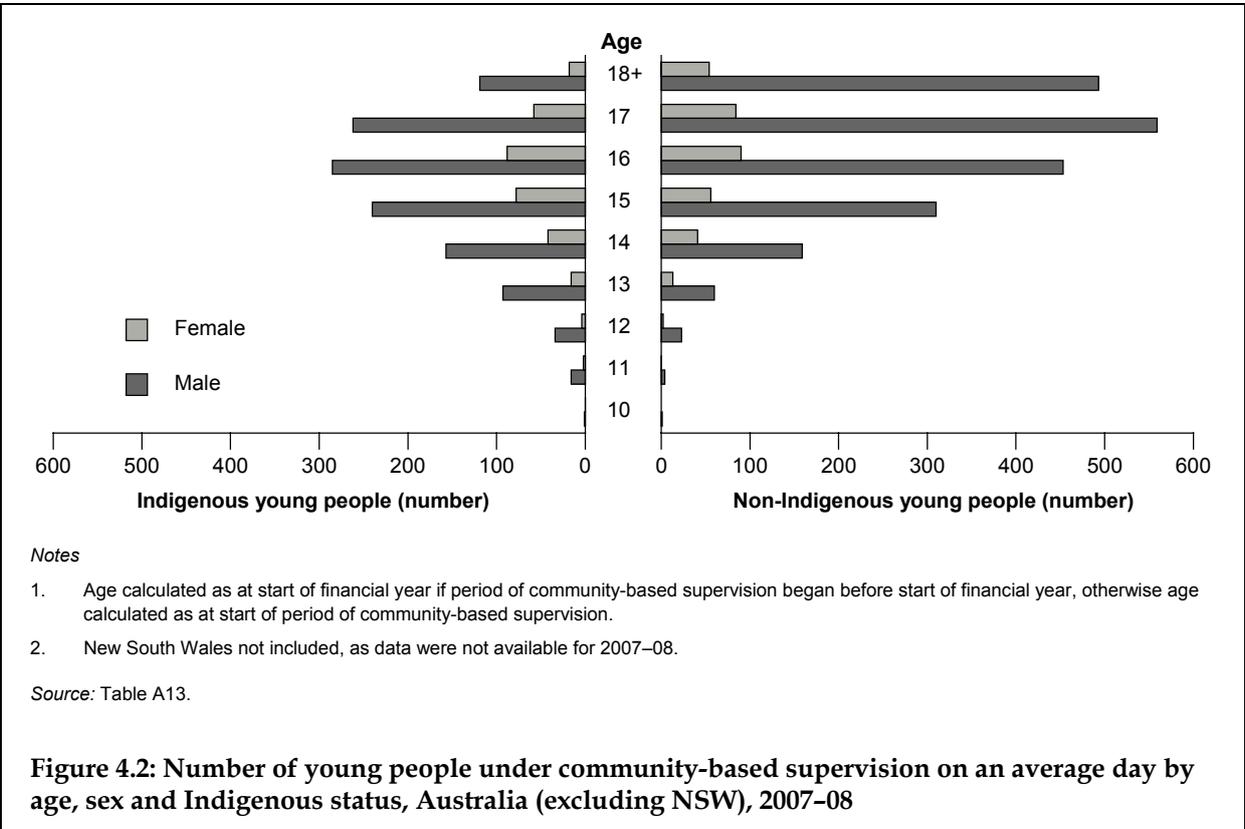
Around 2 young people out of every 1,000 aged 10–17 years were under community-based supervision on an average day, while nearly 5 young people out of every 1,000 aged 10–17 years were under community-based supervision during the year. For Indigenous young people, nearly 19 out of every 1,000 aged 10–17 years were under community-based supervision on an average day – a rate that is nearly 15 times as high as the equivalent non-Indigenous rate. The rate of young people under community-based supervision on an average day changed little over the 4 years from 2004–05, although the rate under community-based supervision during the year increased.

Most of those under community-based supervision on an average day were sentenced, and the most serious order for over three-quarters (77%) of the average daily population was probation or similar.

4.2 Sex, age and Indigenous status

The majority (83%) of the 4,084 young people under community-based supervision on an average day were male and over half (59%) were non-Indigenous (Figure 3.2). Females were more likely to be Indigenous than males: nearly half (45%) of females under community-based supervision on an average day were Indigenous, compared with around one-third (35%) of males.

Half (51%) of those under community-based supervision on an average day were aged 14–16 years. Females were more likely to be in this age group than males (61% of females were 14–16 years compared with 49% of males), while over 90% of those aged 10–12 years were male. Indigenous young people were more likely to be younger than non-Indigenous young people. Two-thirds (66%) of those aged 10–12 years were Indigenous, compared with 40% of those aged 14–17 years and only 19% of those aged 18 years and older.



Just over 80% of those under community-based supervision were aged 10–17 years – 3,356 young people on an average day and 7,038 during the year, which equates to 2.2 young people per 1,000 under community-based supervision on an average day and 4.6 per 1,000 during the year (tables 4.1 and 4.2). Males were 4 times as likely to be under community-based supervision on an average day as females in 2007–08 (there were 3.5 males and 0.8 females per 1,000 aged 10–17 years). Those in older age groups were more likely to be under community-based supervision than those in younger age groups, although there was less variation in age for females than for males. Overall, a 17 year old was 5 times as likely to be under community-based supervision on an average day as a 13 year old, and 42 times as likely to be under community-based supervision as an 11 year old.

Table 4.1: Rate of young people aged 10–17 years under community-based supervision by age and sex, Australia (excluding NSW), 2007–08

Sex	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10–17
Community-based supervision rate—average day									
Male	n.p.	0.21	0.58	1.58	3.35	5.70	7.59	8.38	3.49
Female	n.p.	n.p.	0.06	0.32	0.92	1.48	1.93	1.57	0.80
Total	n.p.	0.12	0.33	0.97	2.17	3.66	4.83	5.08	2.18
Community-based supervision rate—during the year									
Male	0.11	0.51	1.55	3.61	7.42	11.87	15.52	16.44	7.25
Female	n.p.	0.08	0.21	0.86	2.09	3.30	3.82	3.33	1.74
Total	0.06	0.30	0.90	2.27	4.85	7.71	9.84	10.08	4.58

Notes

1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
2. Rates are number of young people per 1,000 relevant population.
3. Age calculated as at start of financial year if period of community-based supervision began before start of financial year, otherwise age calculated as at start of period of community-based supervision.
4. Rates are not published where there were fewer than five young people under supervision.
5. Total includes young people of unknown sex.

Most of the young people under community-based supervision on an average day were in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia (data for New South Wales were not available for 2007–08). Around one-third (35%) of young people under community-based supervision on an average day in 2007–08 were in Queensland, while just over one-quarter (27%) were in Victoria (Table 4.2). The pattern was similar for the number of young people under community-based supervision during the year. Just under one-third (30%) of those under community-based supervision during the year were in Queensland and nearly the same proportion (28%) were in Victoria.

While Queensland had the highest number of young people under community-based supervision, both on an average day and during the year, Victoria had the highest number of young people aged 18 years and older, with 353 young people (48% of the Australian total) of this age on an average day and 834 (54%) during the year. The proportion of young people under community-based supervision on an average day who were aged 18 years or older ranged from 33% in Victoria to 3% in the Northern Territory.

In all states and territories, there were more males than females under community-based supervision, although the proportion of those who were female ranged from 7% in the Northern Territory to 20% in Tasmania and 21% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 4.3).

Table 4.2: Number of young people under community-based supervision by age, states and territories, 2007–08

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW
Number of young people—average day									
10	n.a.	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
11	n.a.	1	12	4	5	—	—	—	22
12	n.a.	6	24	14	13	3	2	1	62
13	n.a.	25	79	43	16	12	10	1	187
14	n.a.	86	162	82	47	18	16	6	418
15	n.a.	150	295	123	73	35	19	15	710
16	n.a.	192	421	158	96	45	18	18	948
17	n.a.	271	302	186	121	65	32	31	1,007
10–17	n.a.	733	1,295	611	370	178	96	73	3,356
18+	n.a.	353	126	49	83	93	23	2	728
Total	n.a.	1,086	1,422	659	453	271	119	75	4,084
Number of young people—during the year									
10	n.a.	1	2	3	5	—	—	—	11
11	n.a.	2	25	16	11	1	1	—	56
12	n.a.	17	63	49	29	5	7	2	172
13	n.a.	62	152	134	42	22	22	4	438
14	n.a.	190	307	252	105	36	33	12	935
15	n.a.	309	561	316	165	72	44	30	1,497
16	n.a.	412	745	405	198	92	39	39	1,930
17	n.a.	556	518	438	237	112	71	67	1,999
10–17	n.a.	1,549	2,373	1,613	792	340	217	154	7,038
18+	n.a.	834	217	102	159	185	49	8	1,554
Total	n.a.	2,383	2,590	1,715	951	525	266	162	8,592

Notes

1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
2. Total includes young people with unknown age.

Table 4.3: Number of young people under community-based supervision by sex and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2007–08

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW
Number of young people—average day									
Male									
Indigenous	n.a.	96	523	343	110	54	21	58	1,207
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	760	640	187	245	148	71	11	2,062
Unknown	n.a.	91	1	4	25	16	1	—	138
Total	n.a.	947	1,163	535	380	218	94	69	3,407
Female									
Indigenous	n.a.	19	153	87	30	9	4	4	306
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	104	105	32	41	36	20	1	340
Unknown	n.a.	15	—	2	2	8	—	—	28
Total	n.a.	139	258	121	73	53	25	5	674
All young people									
Indigenous	n.a.	116	676	431	141	63	25	62	1,514
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	864	745	222	285	184	92	12	2,404
Unknown	n.a.	106	1	7	27	24	2	—	166
Total	n.a.	1,086	1,422	659	453	271	119	75	4,084
Number of young people—during the year									
Male									
Indigenous	n.a.	218	911	866	223	98	43	124	2,483
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	1,693	1,185	500	509	295	155	24	4,361
Unknown	n.a.	157	1	19	49	35	2	—	263
Total	n.a.	2,068	2,097	1,385	781	428	200	148	7,107
Female									
Indigenous	n.a.	43	273	231	64	13	12	11	647
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	247	220	84	100	72	53	2	778
Unknown	n.a.	25	—	6	6	12	1	1	51
Total	n.a.	315	493	321	170	97	66	14	1,476
All young people									
Indigenous	n.a.	261	1,184	1,101	287	111	55	135	3,134
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	1,940	1,405	589	609	367	208	26	5,144
Unknown	n.a.	182	1	25	55	47	3	1	314
Total	n.a.	2,383	2,590	1,715	951	525	266	162	8,592

Notes

1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
2. Total includes young people with unknown age.
3. Total includes young people of unknown sex.

There was some variation in the rates of young people under community-based supervision among the states and territories. On an average day, there were 1.3 young people aged 10–17 years per 1,000 under supervision in Victoria compared with 3.3 per 1,000 in Tasmania; in the remaining states and territories, the rate ranged from 2.3 to 2.7 (Table 4.4). Victoria also had the lowest rate of young people under community-based supervision during the year, with 2.8 per 1,000. In most of the other states and territories, 5–6 young people aged 10–17 years per 1,000 were under community-based supervision during the year. In Western Australia, where the rate was 6.9, a young person was nearly 2.5 times as likely to be under community-based supervision during the year as a young person in Victoria.

There were similar patterns for the rate of supervision for males and females. For males, the rate under supervision on an average day ranged from 2.2 per 1,000 in Victoria to 4.9 in Tasmania and the Northern Territory. For females, the rate ranged from 0.4 per 1,000 in Victoria and the Northern Territory to 1.5 per 1,000 in Tasmania. In the Northern Territory, males were 13 times as likely to be under community-based supervision as females, while in the Australian Capital Territory, they were only 3 times as likely to be under community-based supervision.

As for supervision overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were over-represented in community-based supervision. Nationally, there were 18.6 young people aged 10–17 years per 1,000 Indigenous young people under community-based supervision on an average day, which is 15 times as high as the non-Indigenous rate. And nearly 4% of all Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years (38.3 per 1,000) were under community-based supervision at some time during the year, compared with around 0.27 per cent of non-Indigenous young people (2.7 per 1,000).

Again, while the rates of supervision for Indigenous young people varied by state and territory, they were always much higher than the equivalent non-Indigenous rates. In Tasmania, Indigenous young people were around 5 times as likely to be under community-based supervision as non-Indigenous young people. They were around 15 times as likely to be under supervision in South Australia, and in Western Australia, Indigenous young people were 30 times as likely to be under community-based supervision as non-Indigenous young people (rate ratios were similar for average daily rates and the rate under supervision during the year for all states and territories).

Although the rates for females were much smaller than the rates of supervision for males, in nearly all states and territories the level of Indigenous over-representation was higher for females than for males. Nationally, female Indigenous young people were around 20 times as likely as non-Indigenous females to be under supervision on an average day and around 19 times as likely to be under supervision during the year, compared with rate ratios of 14 and 13 for males respectively. In Western Australia, Indigenous females were 42 times more likely to be under community-based supervision (both on an average day and during the year) than non-Indigenous females.

Table 4.4: Rate of young people aged 10–17 years under community-based supervision by sex and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2007–08

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW
Community-based supervision rate—average day									
Male									
Indigenous	n.a.	21.18	30.86	41.91	33.47	18.56	34.62	9.77	28.50
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	1.76	2.48	1.47	2.33	3.51	3.18	1.37	2.09
Total	n.a.	2.23	4.33	4.03	3.62	4.93	4.21	4.91	3.49
Female									
Indigenous	n.a.	4.87	9.74	11.85	9.03	4.31	n.p.	n.p.	7.96
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	0.30	0.45	0.28	0.46	1.01	1.08	n.p.	0.40
Total	n.a.	0.41	1.06	1.03	0.80	1.46	1.28	0.39	0.80
All young people									
Indigenous	n.a.	13.09	20.53	27.46	21.47	11.43	21.02	5.35	18.51
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	1.05	1.49	0.91	1.43	2.32	2.15	0.78	1.27
Rate ratio	n.a.	12.47	13.78	30.18	15.01	4.93	9.78	6.86	14.57
Total	n.a.	1.34	2.73	2.60	2.25	3.25	2.74	2.74	2.18
Community-based supervision rate—during the year									
Male									
Indigenous	n.a.	42.64	53.36	108.21	67.64	35.61	69.23	20.06	58.52
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	3.83	4.67	3.99	4.93	6.80	7.00	3.00	4.40
Total	n.a.	4.71	7.84	10.63	7.53	9.61	8.93	10.19	7.25
Female									
Indigenous	n.a.	10.03	17.42	31.59	20.95	5.93	n.p.	n.p.	16.86
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	0.65	0.95	0.75	1.19	1.94	2.87	0.27	0.91
Total	n.a.	0.85	2.03	2.73	1.94	2.59	3.38	1.01	1.74
All young people									
Indigenous	n.a.	26.46	35.78	71.47	44.70	21.31	45.05	11.33	38.29
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	2.29	2.86	2.45	3.11	4.43	4.97	1.68	2.70
Rate ratio	n.a.	11.55	12.51	29.17	14.37	4.81	9.06	6.74	14.18
Total	n.a.	2.83	5.01	6.86	4.81	6.20	6.20	5.78	4.58

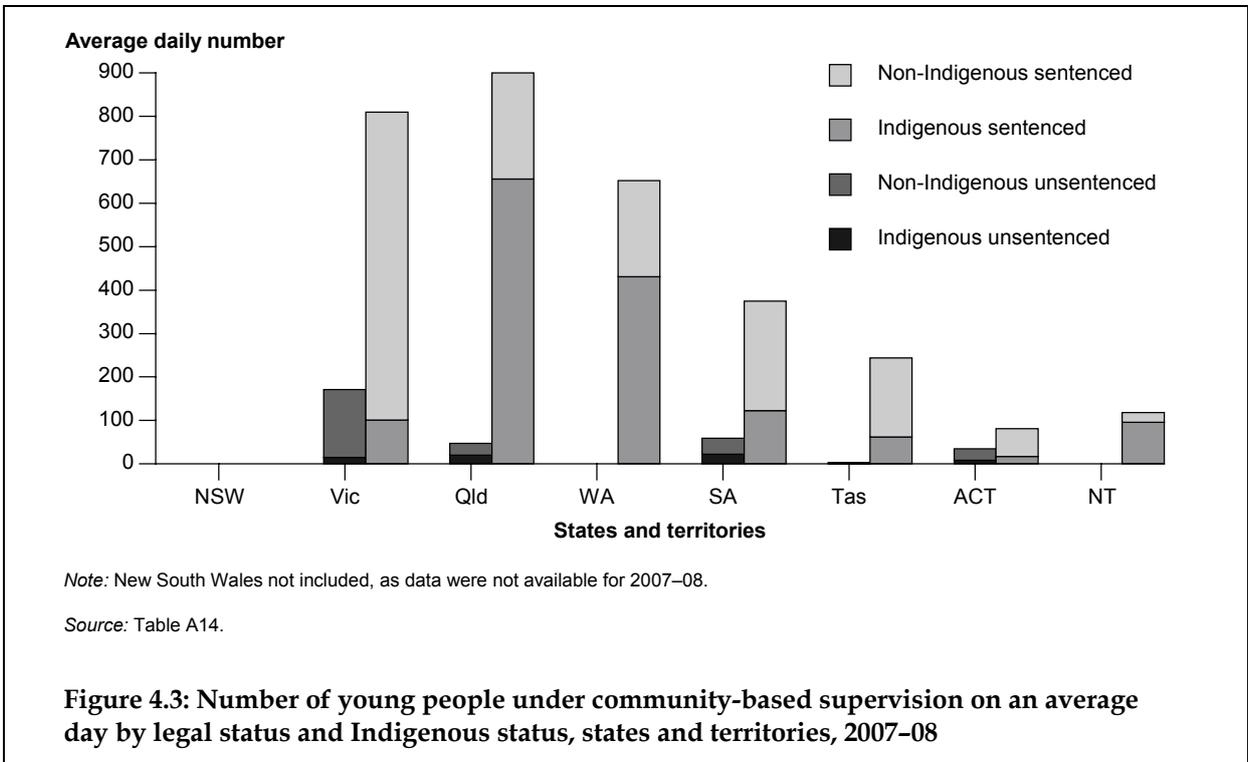
Notes

1. Rates are number of young people per 1,000 relevant population.
2. Rates are not published where there were fewer than five young people under supervision.
2. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
3. Age calculated as at start of financial year if period of community-based supervision began before start of financial year, otherwise age calculated as at start of period of community-based supervision.
4. Total includes young people of unknown sex.
5. Total includes young people with unknown Indigenous status.
6. Rate ratio calculated by dividing the Indigenous rate by the non-Indigenous rate.

4.3 Legal status

Most (92%) of the 4,084 young people under community-based supervision on an average day were serving a sentence and this pattern was found in all states and territories (Table A14). The remainder were unsentenced and waiting for their court case to be finalised. (Young people may also be on unsupervised bail while waiting for their court case to be finalised; information on these young people is not included in this report.) The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of young people unsentenced (31%), followed by Victoria (16%; Figure 4.3).

Overall, Indigenous young people were more likely to be under sentenced community-based supervision and less likely to be under unsentenced community-based supervision than non-Indigenous young people. Nationally, 20% of those who were unsentenced were Indigenous compared with 40% of those who were sentenced (Table A14).



4.4 Trends

The overall rate of young people under community-based supervision on an average day was steady from 2004-05 to 2006-07 at 2.1 per 1,000 but increased slightly in 2007-08 to 2.2 per 1,000 (Figure 4.4 and Table 4.5). The rate for the Northern Territory fell over the 4 years from 4.5 to 2.7, but increased in Tasmania from 2.7 to 3.2. There were no clear patterns for the remaining states and territories.

The rate for community-based supervision during the year showed a similar pattern. The rate increased slightly from 4.4 in 2004-05 to 4.6 in 2007-08. As with the average daily rate, the rate fell in the Northern Territory and increased in Tasmania. There was also a slight decrease in the rates for Queensland and South Australia.

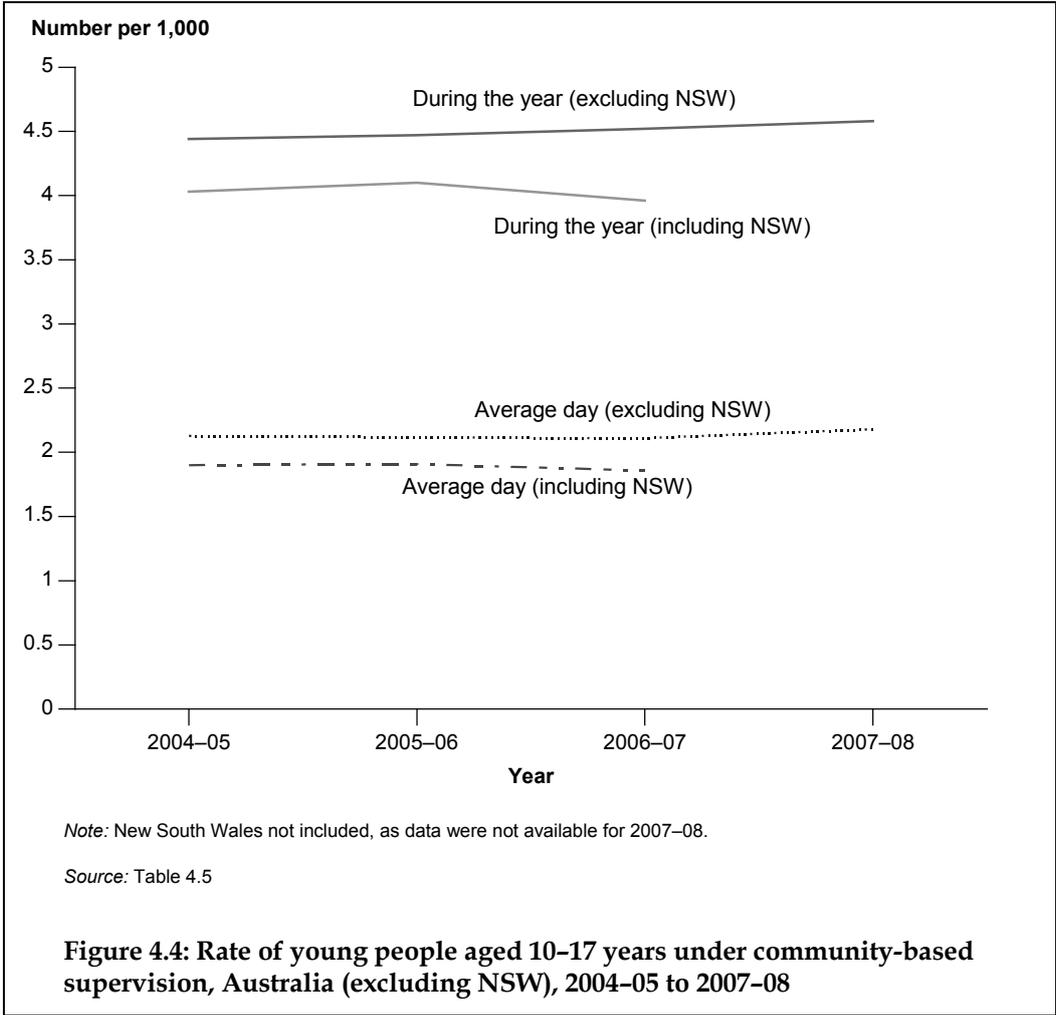


Table 4.5: Rates of young people aged 10–17 years under community-based supervision, states and territories, 2004–05 to 2007–08

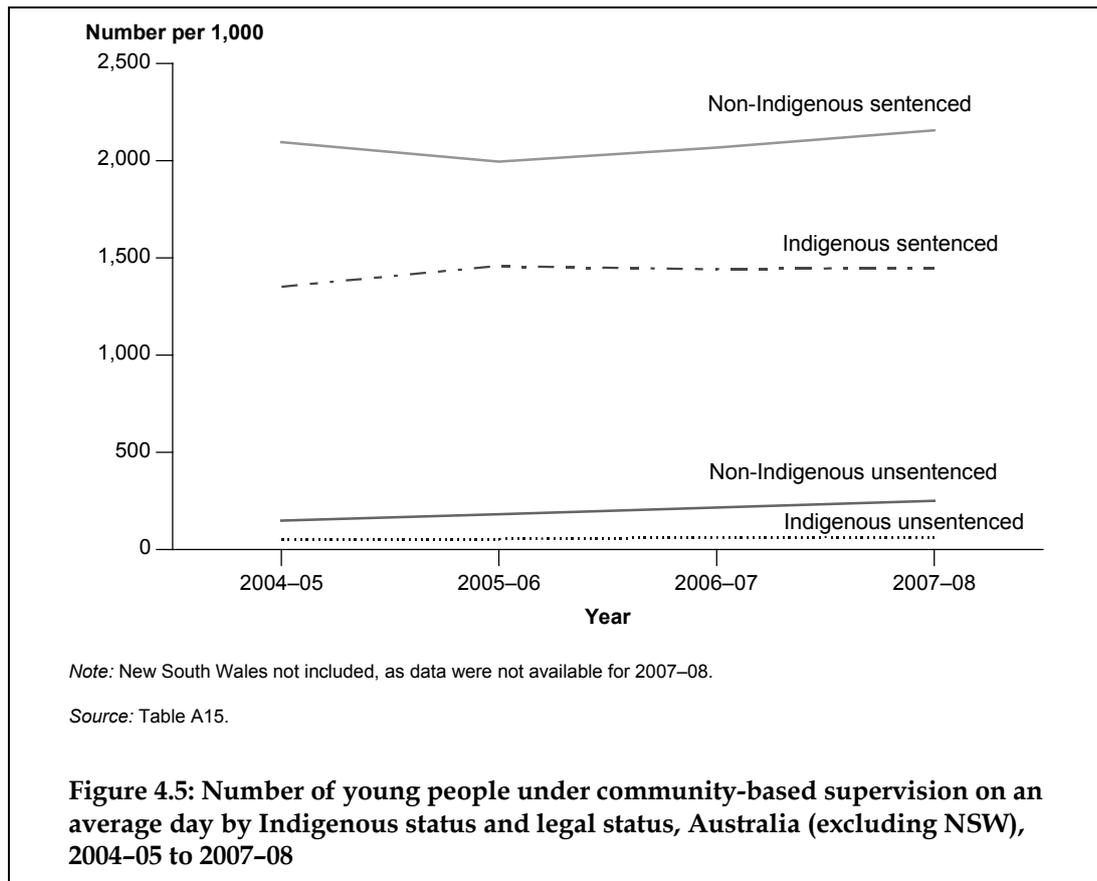
Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW	Aust
Community-based supervision rate—average day										
2004–05	1.42	1.10	2.81	2.28	2.56	2.66	3.58	4.51	2.13	1.90
2005–06	1.48	1.13	2.70	2.68	2.25	2.98	2.44	4.35	2.12	1.91
2006–07	1.34	1.22	2.70	2.57	2.11	3.04	2.74	3.39	2.11	1.86
2007–08	n.a.	1.34	2.73	2.60	2.25	3.25	2.74	2.74	2.18	n.a.
Community-based supervision rate—during the year										
2004–05	3.18	2.40	5.16	6.26	5.33	4.89	6.61	9.10	4.44	4.03
2005–06	3.32	2.44	5.07	6.89	4.93	5.48	5.55	8.70	4.47	4.10
2006–07	2.78	2.68	5.02	6.92	4.85	5.51	5.68	7.16	4.52	3.96
2007–08	n.a.	2.83	5.01	6.86	4.81	6.20	6.20	5.78	4.58	n.a.

Notes

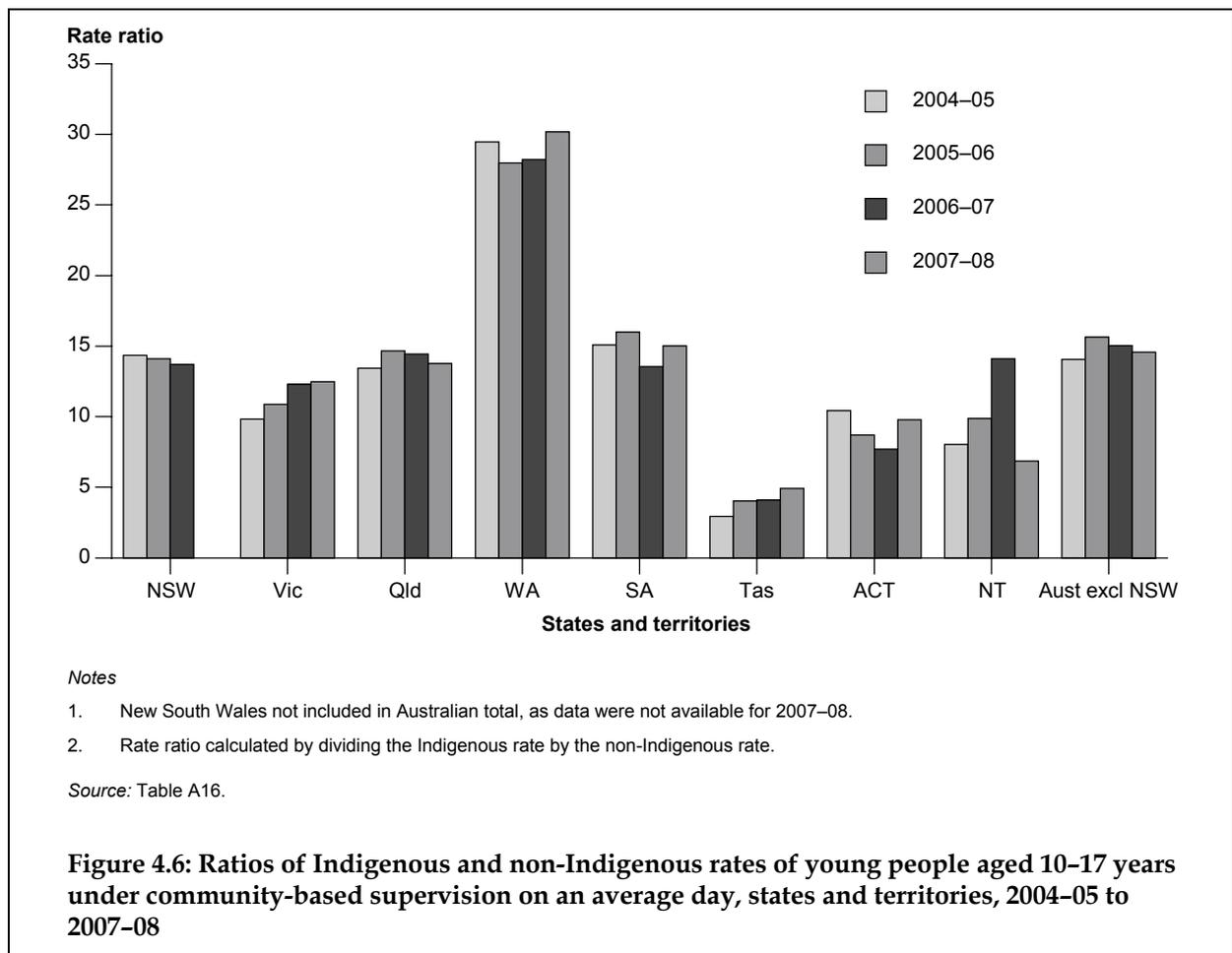
1. New South Wales was excluded for 2007–08, as data were not available.
2. Age calculated as at start of financial year if period of community-based supervision began before start of financial year, otherwise age calculated as at start of period of community-based supervision.
3. Rates are number of young people per 1,000 relevant population.

Most of the young people under community-based supervision on an average day are serving a sentenced order (although they may also be on an unsentenced order), and this was true for each of the 4 years from 2004–05 (Figure 4.5). In 2007–08, less than 10% of young people under community-based supervision on an average day were not sentenced.

During the 4 years from 2004–05, both the number of unsentenced and sentenced young people under community-based supervision on an average day increased, although the number of unsentenced young people increased at a faster rate (Table A15). This increase occurred for both Indigenous young people and non-Indigenous young people (Figure 4.5). However, in 2007–08, sentenced non-Indigenous young people were still the largest group under community-based supervision on an average day. These increases occurred in most states and territories (Table A15).



In each of the 4 years from 2004-05, Indigenous young people were around 14 to 16 times as likely to be under community-based supervision as non-Indigenous young people (as shown by the rate ratio; Figure 4.6).



4.5 Types of supervision

While a young person may be supervised in relation to a number of different types of legal arrangements or orders at any one time, the following tables only contain information on a young person's most serious supervised community-based legal arrangement or order at any one time (see section 2.3 'Data and methods').

Nationally, around 6,700 young people, or 78% of all those under community-based supervision during the year, had a most serious order of probation or similar at some time during the year (Table 4.6). The proportion of young people who had a most serious order of probation on an average day was similarly high – this was the most serious order type for 77% of those under community-based supervision on an average day. Only 8% of those under community-based supervision on an average day had a most serious order type of supervised bail or similar, but 17% of those who had community-based supervision during the year had this as a most serious order type, which reflects the typically short duration of this order type. Around 10% of those under community-based supervision on an average day had a most serious order of suspended detention and 5% had a most serious order of parole.

In all states and territories, the majority of young people under community-based supervision had most serious orders of probation. In Victoria, nearly 70% of young people under community-based supervision during the year had a most serious order of probation or similar at some time during the year, while in Queensland 94% of young people had this supervision type.

Table 4.6: Young people by most serious type of community-based supervision, states and territories, 2007–08

Most serious order type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW
Number of young people—average day									
Immediate release/suspended detention	n.a.	—	49	172	76	73	—	19	389
Parole/supervised release	n.a.	119	34	62	—	6	—	—	222
Probation or similar	n.a.	790	1,291	420	318	189	82	55	3,145
Supervised bail or other unsentenced supervision	n.a.	178	48	1	59	3	37	1	325
Other ^(a)	n.a.	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Total	n.a.	1,086	1,422	659	453	271	119	75	4,084
Number of young people—during the year									
Immediate release/suspended detention	n.a.	—	240	437	158	151	—	42	1,028
Parole/supervised release	n.a.	309	164	241	—	21	—	1	736
Probation or similar	n.a.	1,648	2,427	1,258	675	413	191	124	6,736
Supervised bail or other unsentenced supervision	n.a.	815	179	6	276	7	169	5	1,457
Other ^(a)	n.a.	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	15
Total	n.a.	2,383	2,590	1,715	951	525	266	162	8,592

(a) Other includes home detention and other order types not elsewhere categorised.

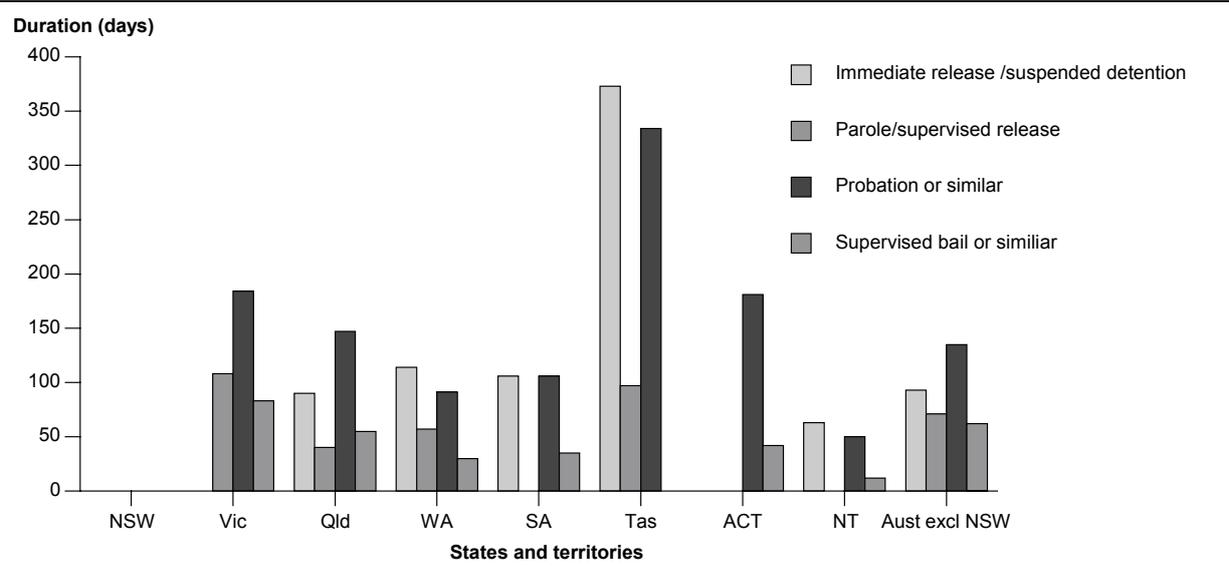
Notes

1. Totals will not sum as some young people may have had more than one most serious order type during the year or during the same day (e.g. if they ended one type of supervision and began another type of supervision on the same day).
2. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.

Related tables: Supplementary tables, Tables 11 and 12.

During 2007–08, around 7,000 young people completed over 9,000 periods of community-based orders (Table A17). Nearly 5,000 young people completed over 6,000 periods where probation or similar was the most serious order type, while around 1,200 young people completed around 1,400 periods where supervised bail or similar was the most serious order type.

Overall, the most serious type of community-based supervision with the longest median length was probation or similar (135 days), followed by suspended detention (93 days) and parole (71 days; Figure 4.7). Supervised bail or similar had a median length of around 2 months (62 days). Note that this is the median length of time for which the supervision type was the most serious type, and not necessarily the length of time for which young people were under that supervision type.



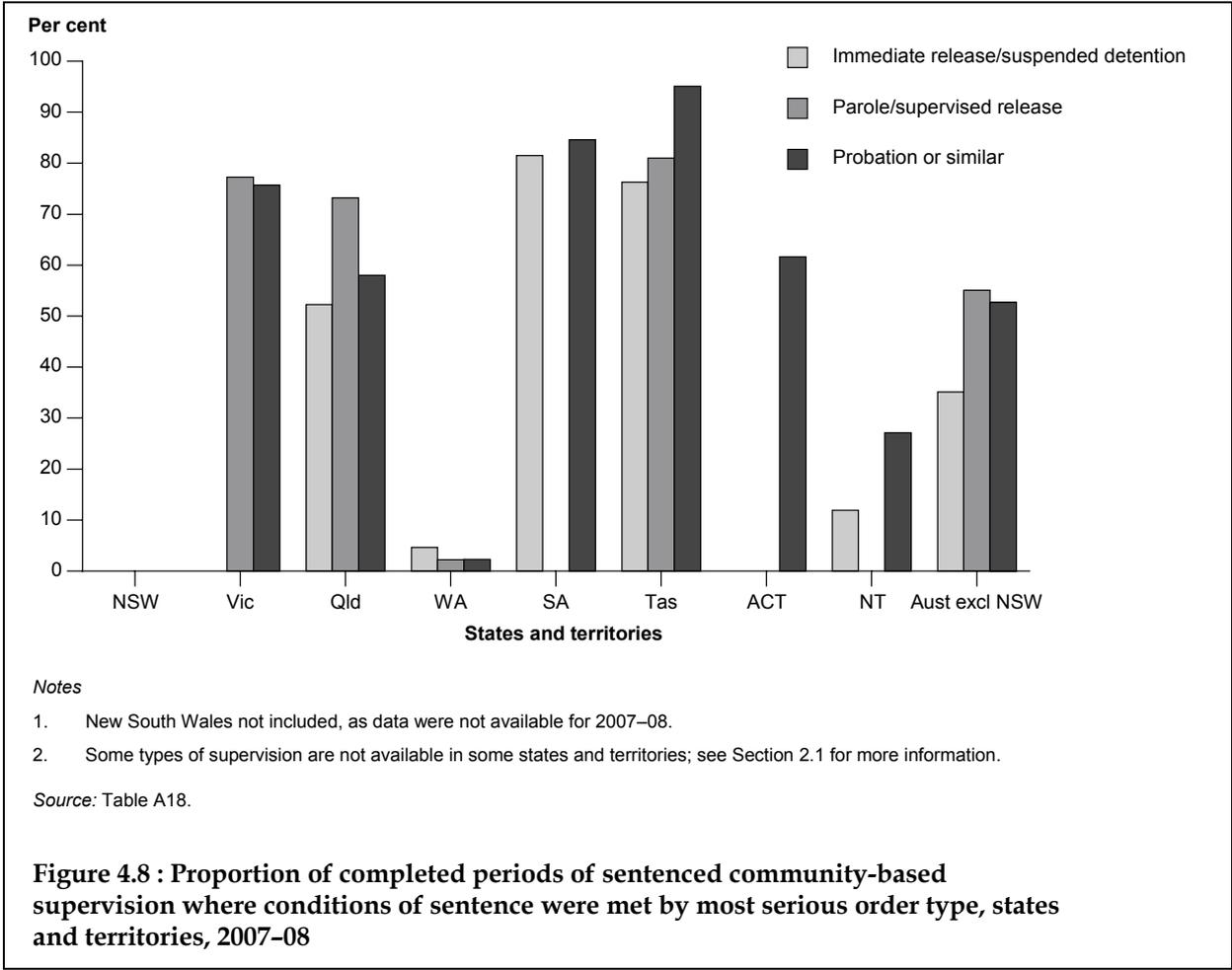
Notes

1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
2. Some types of supervision are not available in some states and territories; see Section 2.1 for more information.

Source: Table A17.

Figure 4.7: Median length of completed periods of community-based supervision by most serious order, states and territories, 2007–08

The main reasons why the most serious sentenced community-based order may end include meeting the conditions of the sentence, breaching the order or beginning a more serious order. Nationally, 53% of periods of supervision where the most serious order type was probation or similar ended with the conditions of sentence being met (Figure 4.8), while nearly 40% ended because a more serious unrelated order began (Table A18). The proportion ending with conditions of sentence being met was lower where the most serious order type was parole or supervised release (45%) or suspended detention (35%), although the proportion ending due to the start of a more serious unrelated order was similar (36% for parole or supervised release and 50% for immediate release or suspended detention; Table A18).



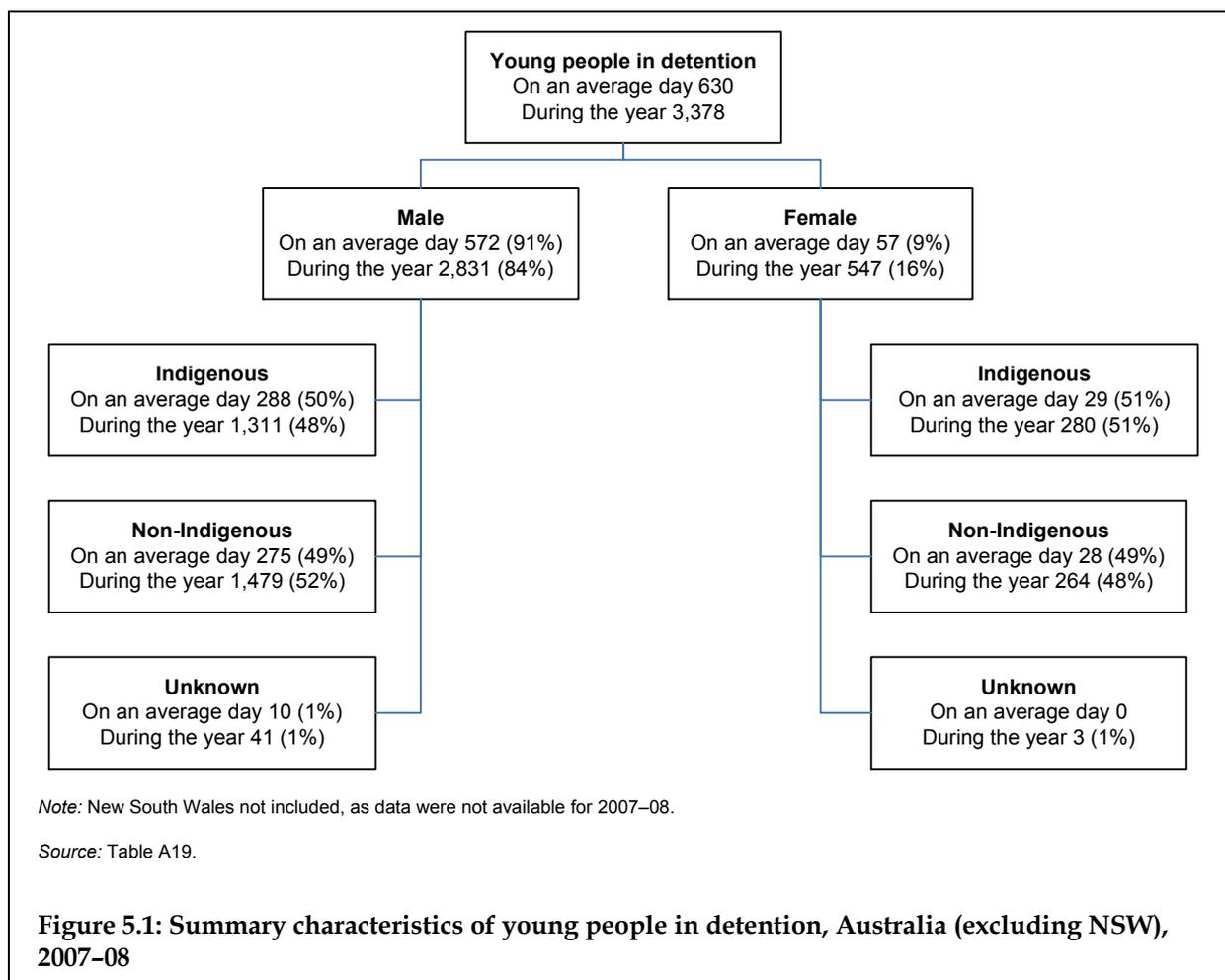
5 Young people in detention

As with community-based supervision, a young person can be detained while awaiting an initial court appearance for an alleged offence, waiting for a court hearing or outcome, or serving a sentence following the finalisation of a court case. Most young people in detention either have been sentenced to detention or are remanded in detention until their next court appearance, but a small number of young people are detained while awaiting their initial court appearance. In this chapter, 'unsentenced' refers to both those young people who are remanded in detention by a court and those awaiting their initial court appearance (in contrast, unsentenced young people supervised by a juvenile justice agency in the community have usually already had their initial court appearance).

This chapter contains information on the number and rate of young people in detention in 2007–08 and over the 4 years from 2004–05 to 2007–08, as well as the lengths of these periods of detention. As in the previous chapters, data on both the number of young people under supervision on an average day and the number under supervision during the year are presented.

5.1 Summary

In 2007–08, there were 641 young people in detention on an average day, and 3,378 young people were detained some time during the year in Australia (excluding New South Wales, for which data were not available; Figure 5.1). Nearly all of those detained on an average day were male (90%) and just over half (52%) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. Most were aged over 15 years and almost 20% were aged 18 years and older. Only 7% were aged less than 14 years.



Both the rate of young people aged 10–17 years in detention on an average day and the rate during the year increased in each of the 4 years from 2004–05. In 2007–08, 0.3 young people for every 1,000 were in detention on an average day and nearly 2 young people per 1,000 were detained some time during the year.

The rate of detention on an average day was much higher for Indigenous young people than for non-Indigenous young people, and Indigenous young people were 29 times as likely to be detained on an average day in 2007–08 as non-Indigenous young people.

About half of those in detention on an average day were on remand, and nearly 60% of these were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, compared with 44% of the sentenced population. Over the 4 years from 2004–05, the average length of time spent on remand during the year increased from 38 days to 46 days. In contrast, the average length of time spent in sentenced detention during the year decreased from 2004–05 to 2005–06 but increased over the next 2 years to 114 days in 2007–08.

Most young people completed only one period of remand during the year, but Indigenous young people were slightly more likely to complete multiple periods of remand than non-Indigenous young people, and these periods were, on average, 5 days longer than those of non-Indigenous young people.

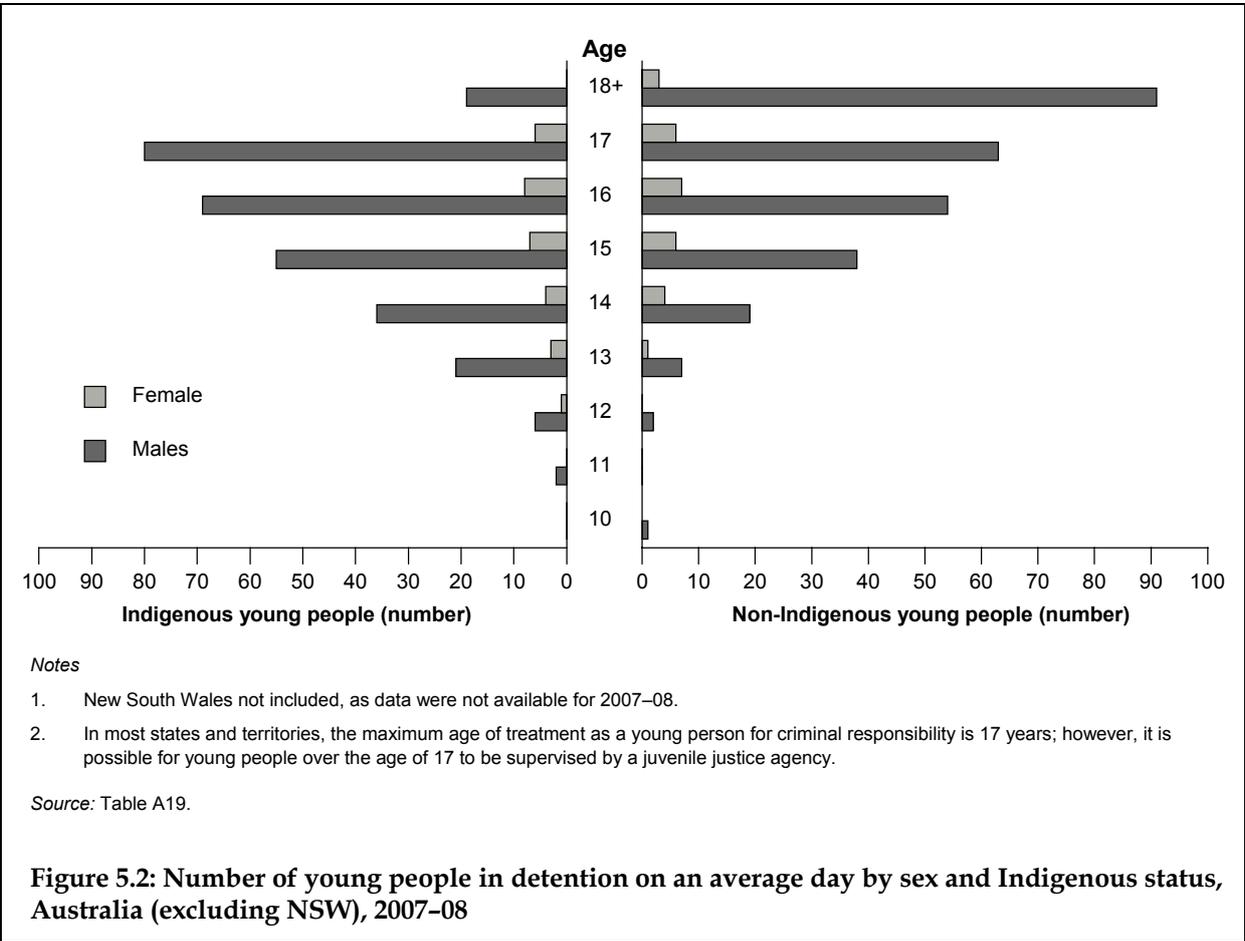
On average, young people completed nearly two periods of remand during 2007–08. Indigenous young people completed more periods of remand than non-Indigenous young people and these periods were, on average, longer for Indigenous young people. In contrast, completed periods of sentence detention were, on average, shorter for Indigenous young people, although they were more likely to complete multiple periods of sentenced detention.

About half (49%) of completed remand periods ended with the young person being sentenced, although only one-quarter (24%) of the remand periods that ended with the young person being sentenced were followed by a period of sentenced detention. Two-fifths (39%) of remand periods ended with the young person released on bail. Remand periods for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were more likely to end with the young person being sentenced than released on bail. In contrast, the remand periods for non-Indigenous young people were equally likely to end with the young person being sentenced or released on bail. Nearly two-thirds of periods of sentenced detention ended with the young person released on parole or supervised release, and this proportion was the same for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people.

5.2 Sex, age and Indigenous status

Most (91%) of the 630 young people in detention on an average day in 2007–08 were male and half (50%) were Indigenous (Figure 5.2 and Table A19). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were particularly over-represented in the younger age groups – 73% of those in detention aged 10–13 years were Indigenous – and in all age groups except those aged 18 and older, more than half were Indigenous young people (Figure 4.2). A similar proportion of females and males in detention were Indigenous (50% of males and 51% of females).

Most of those in detention on an average day were in the older age groups – 47% were aged 16 or 17 years old and only 7% were aged 13 years or younger. Overall, 81%, or 513 young people, were aged 10–17 years; the remainder were aged 18 years or older (Figure 5.2, Table 5.2).



In 2007–08, there were 0.3 young people per 1,000 aged 10–17 years in detention on an average day and 2.0 per 1,000 in detention at some time during the year (Table 5.1). Young people in older age groups were more likely to be in detention than those in younger age groups. The rate in detention on an average day was higher in each successive age group; however, young people aged 16 years were the most likely to be in detention at some time during the year. Despite this, 17 year olds spent longer in detention, on average.

Overall, males were 8 times as likely to be in detention on an average day as females but only 5 times as likely to be in detention at some time during the year, indicating that, on average, males spent longer in detention than females in 2007–08 (Table 5.4).

The propensity for males to be in detention compared with females was higher for those in older age groups compared with those in younger age groups. Males aged 17 years were 12 times as likely to be in detention on an average day as females of that age, while males aged 14 years were only 6 times as likely to be in detention as females of the same age. Similarly, males aged 17 years were 6 times as likely to be in detention at some time during the year as females of that age, but 14 year olds were only 3 times as likely.

Table 5.1: Rate of young people aged 10–17 years in detention by age and sex, Australia (excluding NSW), 2007–08

Sex	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10–17
Detention rate—average day									
Male	n.p.	n.p.	0.08	0.28	0.55	0.94	1.25	1.41	0.58
Female	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.05	0.09	0.14	0.16	0.12	0.07
Total	n.p.	n.p.	0.05	0.17	0.33	0.55	0.72	0.78	0.33
Detention rate—during the year									
Male	0.09	0.30	0.77	2.32	3.54	5.34	6.69	6.03	3.18
Female	n.p.	n.p.	0.14	0.55	1.21	1.37	1.24	1.02	0.70
Total	0.05	0.17	0.46	1.46	2.41	3.40	4.04	3.59	1.98

Notes

1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
2. Rates are not published where there were fewer than five young people under supervision.

Overall, 81% of those in detention on an average day were aged 10–17 years, and, in most states and territories, between 86% and 100% of those in detention on an average day were of this age (Table 5.2). However, the majority (58%) of those in detention in Victoria were aged 18 years or older. This is most likely a reflection of the sentencing option in Victoria that allows for young people aged 18–20 years to be sentenced to detention in a juvenile facility instead of an adult prison.

Most (91%) of those in detention on an average day were male (Table 5.3). The proportion of females in detention on an average day ranged from 6% in Victoria to 17% in the Australian Capital Territory. The proportion that was Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ranged from 14% in Victoria to 91% in the Northern Territory.

Table 5.2: Number of young people in detention on an average day and during the year by age, states and territories, 2007–08

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW
Number of young people—average day									
10	n.a.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
11	n.a.	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
12	n.a.	1	3	3	1	—	—	—	9
13	n.a.	3	12	11	3	1	2	1	33
14	n.a.	7	20	20	7	5	2	2	63
15	n.a.	12	39	31	14	5	3	3	107
16	n.a.	20	48	38	14	7	2	11	141
17	n.a.	25	25	54	20	8	7	17	155
10–17	n.a.	67	148	159	60	27	16	35	512
18+	n.a.	93	7	4	10	2	1	—	117
Total	n.a.	160	155	164	70	29	18	35	630
Number of young people—during the year									
10	n.a.	1	—	3	6	—	—	—	10
11	n.a.	2	8	13	7	—	1	—	31
12	n.a.	3	28	30	21	1	4	1	88
13	n.a.	27	91	98	33	9	20	3	281
14	n.a.	54	136	144	74	17	25	14	464
15	n.a.	91	203	203	100	22	21	21	661
16	n.a.	98	260	222	110	40	25	37	792
17	n.a.	127	61	241	152	38	37	57	713
10–17	n.a.	403	787	954	503	127	133	133	3,040
18+	n.a.	267	12	10	28	7	14	—	338
Total	n.a.	670	799	964	531	134	147	133	3,378

Notes

1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
2. Total includes young people with unknown age.

Table 5.3: Number of young people in detention on an average day and during the year by sex and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2007–08

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW
Number of young people—average day									
Male									
Indigenous	n.a.	21	81	109	29	13	6	29	288
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	120	60	37	33	13	8	2	275
Unknown	n.a.	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	10
Total	n.a.	150	141	146	63	26	15	32	572
Female									
Indigenous	n.a.	1	8	13	3	1	1	3	29
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	9	6	5	4	2	2	—	28
Unknown	n.a.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	n.a.	10	14	17	7	3	3	3	57
All young people									
Indigenous	n.a.	22	89	122	31	14	7	32	317
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	129	66	42	37	15	11	2	302
Unknown	n.a.	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	10
Total	n.a.	160	155	164	70	29	18	35	630
Number of young people—during the year									
Male									
Indigenous	n.a.	83	370	524	157	40	29	108	1,311
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	489	299	261	257	80	80	13	1,479
Unknown	n.a.	33	2	—	3	—	3	—	41
Total	n.a.	605	671	785	417	120	112	121	2,831
Female									
Indigenous	n.a.	8	75	131	46	4	5	11	280
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	54	53	48	68	10	30	1	264
Unknown	n.a.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Total	n.a.	65	128	179	114	14	35	12	547
All young people									
Indigenous	n.a.	91	445	655	203	44	34	119	1,591
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	543	352	309	325	90	110	14	1,743
Unknown	n.a.	36	2	—	3	—	3	—	44
Total	n.a.	670	799	964	531	134	147	133	3,378

Notes

1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
2. Total includes young people with unknown age.
3. Total includes young people of unknown sex.

There was some variation in the detention rate between the states and territories. The rate of young people in detention ranged from 0.1 per 1,000 in Victoria to 1.3 in the Northern Territory for an average day, and from 0.7 per 1,000 in Victoria to 5.0 in the Northern Territory during the year (Table 5.4).

As with community-based supervision, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were over-represented in detention. Nationally, there were around 4 Indigenous young people per 1,000 in detention on an average day, which is 29 times the non-Indigenous rate (Table 5.4). Indigenous males aged 10–17 years were 29 times as likely to be in detention on an average day as non-Indigenous males of the same age, and Indigenous females were 20 times as likely to be in detention as non-Indigenous females.

While Indigenous young people were more likely to be detained than non-Indigenous young people in all states and territories, the likelihood was greater in some states and territories than in others. An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young person aged 10–17 years in Western Australia was 4 times as likely to be in detention on an average day as one in Victoria, and 5 times as likely to be in detention some time during the year. In 2007–08, 7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males aged 10–17 years in Western Australia and 5% of those in the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia were in detention at some time during the year. Additionally, while the non-Indigenous rates were much smaller than the Indigenous rates, there were state and territory variations. A non-Indigenous young person in Tasmania was 3 times as likely to be detained on an average day as a non-Indigenous young person in Victoria.

Table 5.4: Rate of young people aged 10–17 years in detention by sex and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2007–08

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW
Detention rate—average day									
Male									
Indigenous	n.a.	3.39	5.07	13.97	8.37	6.02	11.54	4.97	7.05
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	0.15	0.24	0.32	0.37	0.46	0.40	n.p.	0.24
Total	n.a.	0.21	0.55	1.17	0.64	0.85	0.79	2.31	0.58
Female									
Indigenous	n.a.	n.p.	0.53	1.83	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.80
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	0.02	0.03	0.05	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.04
Total	n.a.	0.03	0.06	0.15	0.09	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	0.07
All young people									
Indigenous	n.a.	1.85	2.85	8.11	4.61	3.38	7.01	2.86	4.01
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	0.09	0.14	0.19	0.21	0.27	0.26	n.p.	0.14
Rate ratio	n.a.	20.6	20.4	42.7	22.0	12.5	27.0	n.p.	28.6
Total	n.a.	0.12	0.31	0.68	0.36	0.49	0.46	1.31	0.33
Detention rate—during the year									
Male									
Indigenous	n.a.	16.10	23.38	68.27	51.26	19.06	53.85	18.52	33.17
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	0.97	1.27	2.25	2.99	2.94	3.93	1.62	1.62
Total	n.a.	1.25	2.72	6.36	4.65	4.08	5.56	8.74	3.18
Female									
Indigenous	n.a.	1.72	4.90	18.47	15.89	1.62	8.35	2.05	7.54
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	0.16	0.25	0.45	0.85	0.36	n.p.	n.p.	0.35
Total	n.a.	0.19	0.55	1.58	1.37	0.45	1.98	0.94	0.70
All young people									
Indigenous	n.a.	8.96	14.35	44.22	33.88	10.65	32.03	10.62	20.69
Non-Indigenous	n.a.	0.58	0.77	1.38	1.95	1.69	2.88	0.91	1.00
Rate ratio	n.a.	15.4	18.6	32.0	17.4	6.3	11.1	11.7	20.7
Total	n.a.	0.74	1.66	4.06	3.05	2.32	3.80	4.99	1.98

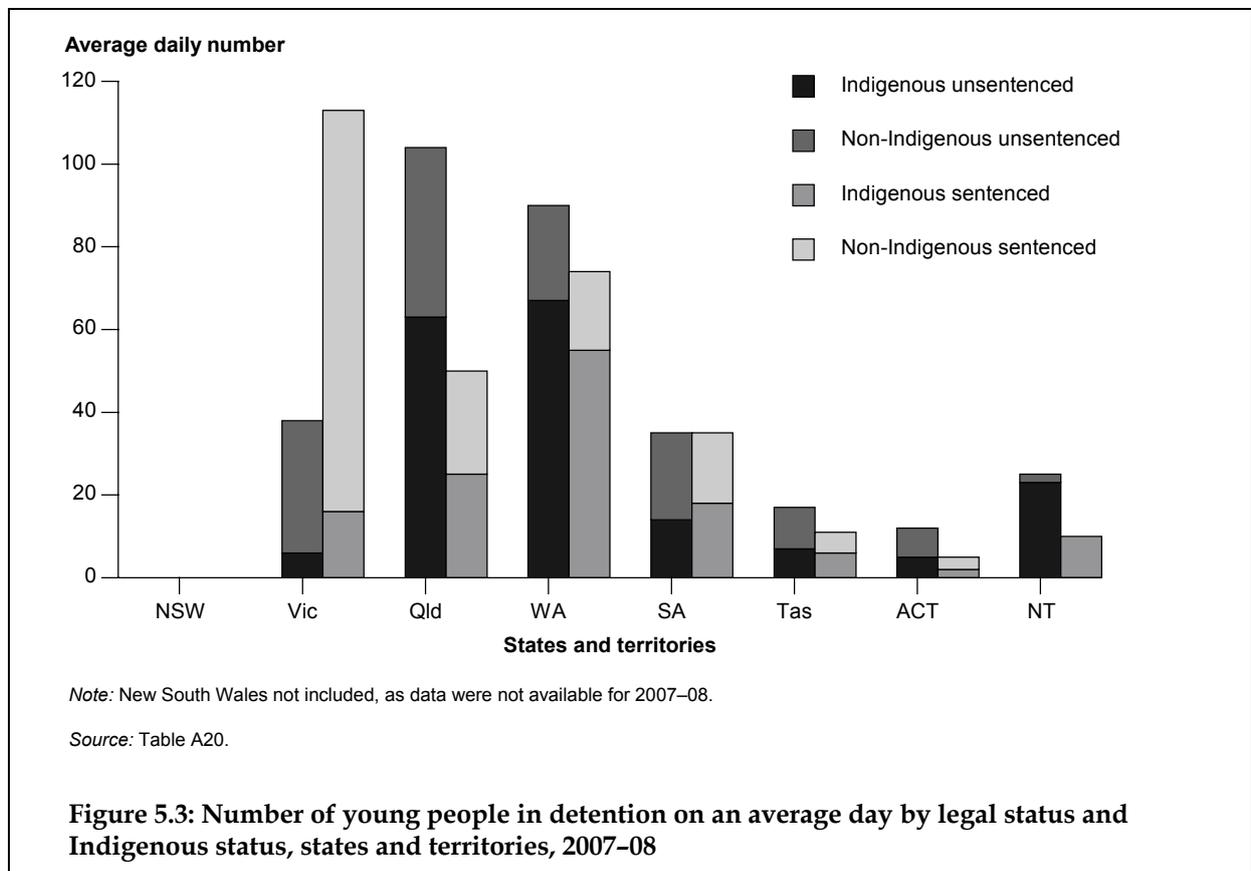
Notes

1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
2. Rates are number of young people per 1,000 relevant population.
3. Rates are not published where there were fewer than five young people under supervision.
4. Total includes young people with unknown age.
5. Total includes young people of unknown sex.

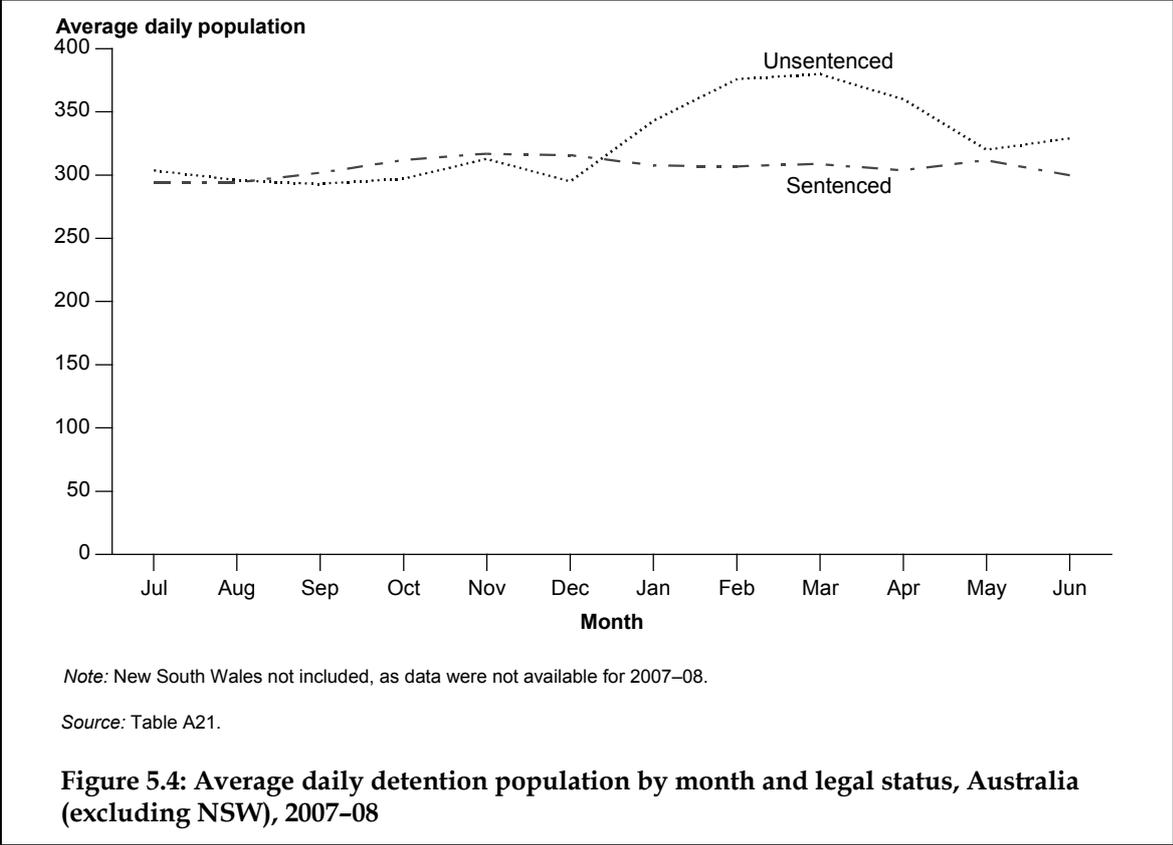
5.3 Legal status

Overall, half (52%) of young people in detention on an average day during 2007–08 were unsentenced, although the proportion varied by state and territory (Table A20). Around two-thirds were unsentenced in the Northern Territory, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory, and over half were unsentenced in Western Australia and Tasmania. In contrast, just under half (49%) of those in detention on an average day were unsentenced in South Australia and only one-quarter (26%) were unsentenced in Victoria (Figure 5.3).

Over half (57%) of unsentenced detainees were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, compared with 44% of sentenced detainees (Table A20). However, in Western Australia, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention were equally likely to be sentenced or unsentenced, while in South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, they were more likely to be sentenced than unsentenced (Figure 5.3).



While the number of young people in detention on an average day who were sentenced was relatively stable throughout the year, the number of young people who were unsentenced varied (Figure 5.4). The sentenced detention population was highest in the second quarter of the financial year (October to December), and peaked at 317 in November 2007. In contrast, the number of unsentenced young people was lowest in late 2007, with 293 young people in September. The unsentenced population then increased markedly in early 2008 and overtook the sentenced population in January 2008. The unsentenced population peaked in March 2008 at 380 young people.



Most of the 3,378 young people who were detained at some time during 2007–08 had unsentenced detention (87%) and 29% were in sentenced detention, which means that 16% experienced both unsentenced and sentenced detention during the year (Table 5.5). In six states and territories (Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory), at least 90% of those who were detained during 2007–08 were in unsentenced detention at some time during the year, compared with 58% in Victoria. In contrast, over half (55%) of those detained in Victoria were in sentenced detention at some time during the year, while in the remaining states and territories, no more than one-third were in sentenced detention. The proportion that was in both unsentenced and sentenced detention during the year ranged from 10% in South Australia to 26% in Tasmania.

Table 5.5: Number of young people in detention during the year by legal status, states and territories, 2007–08

Legal status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW
	Number								
Unsentenced	n.a.	390	744	919	500	123	144	119	2,939
Sentenced	n.a.	365	183	247	82	46	20	43	986
Both unsentenced and sentenced	n.a.	85	128	202	51	35	17	29	547
Total	n.a.	670	799	964	531	134	147	133	3,378
	Per cent								
Unsentenced	n.a.	58.2	93.1	95.3	94.2	91.8	98.0	89.5	87.0
Sentenced	n.a.	54.5	22.9	25.6	15.4	34.3	13.6	32.3	29.2
Both unsentenced and sentenced	n.a.	12.7	16.0	21.0	9.6	26.1	11.6	21.8	16.2
Total	n.a.	100.0							

Note: New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.

Related table: Supplementary tables, Table 21.

5.4 Receptions and releases

Nearly 3,100 young people were received into detention in 2007–08 and there were around 5,750 individual receptions, which means that the 3,100 young people had, on average, fewer than two receptions during the year (Table 5.6). In the same year, slightly more young people were released from detention. As there were nearly 5,800 individual releases, this means that each of these young people was released, on average, just under two times during the year.

Overall, most (89%) receptions were of unsentenced young people, and this was the case in all states and territories (Table 5.6). Similarly, most of the releases were of unsentenced young people (84%); this ranged from 59% in the Northern Territory to 93% in the Australian Capital Territory.

Table 5.6: Receptions and releases by legal status, states and territories, 2007–08

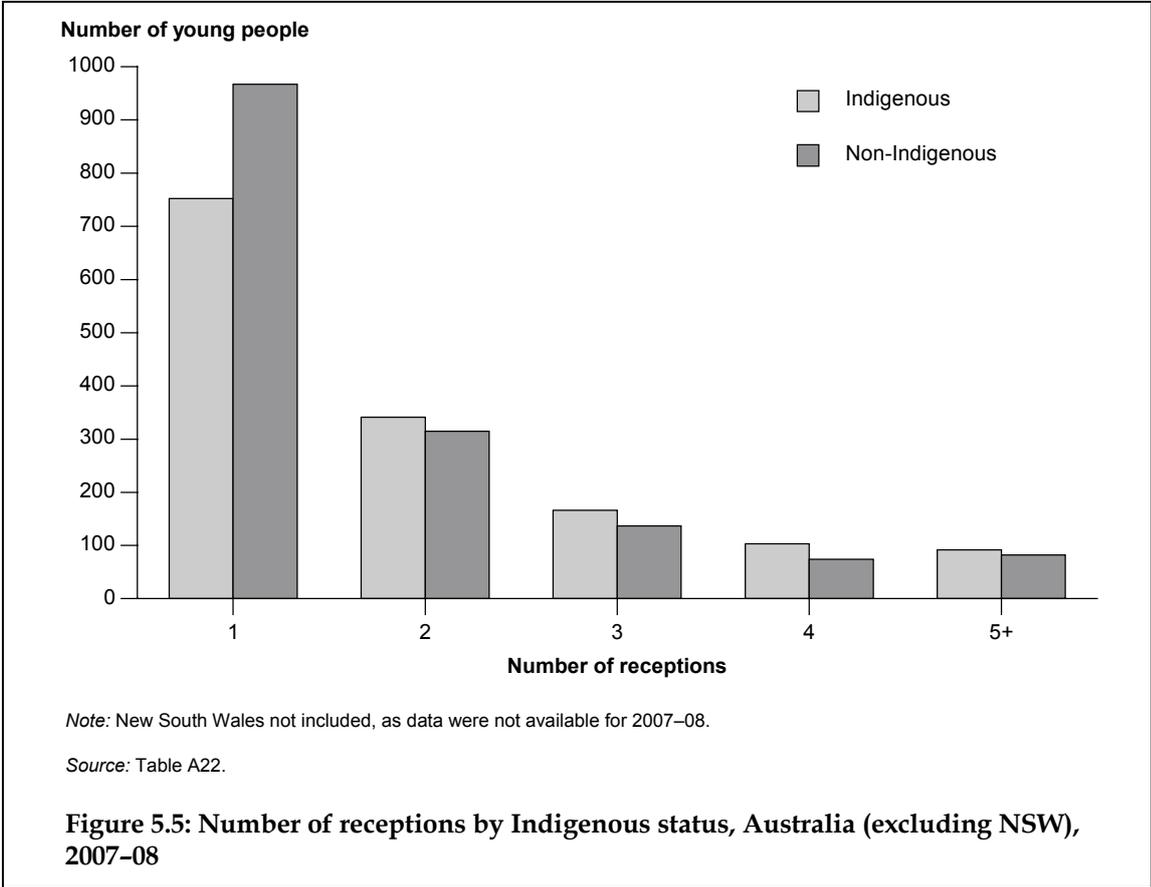
Legal status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW
Number of receptions									
Unsentenced	n.a.	596	1,325	1,643	977	171	269	153	5,134
Sentenced	n.a.	218	179	89	80	43	2	17	628
Total receptions	n.a.	814	1,504	1,732	1,057	214	271	170	5,752
Total young people	n.a.	557	732	907	503	122	139	106	3,066
Number of releases									
Unsentenced	n.a.	500	1,360	1,450	975	170	260	106	4,855
Sentenced	n.a.	316	159	258	87	43	19	40	922
Total releases	n.a.	816	1,519	1,708	1,062	213	279	180	5,777
Total young people	n.a.	589	764	923	517	125	144	117	3,179

Notes

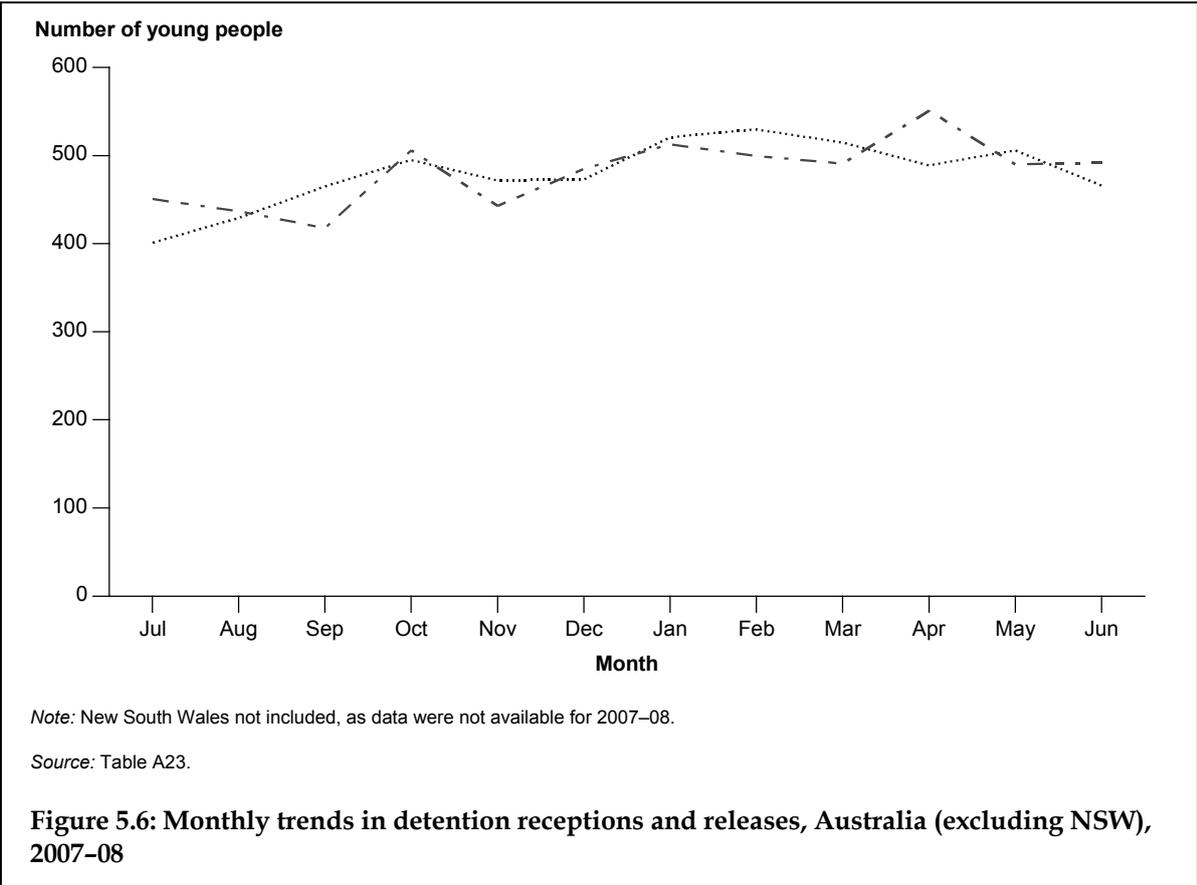
1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007–08.
2. Data for Tasmania are affected by recording practices for backdated orders.

Related tables: Supplementary tables, tables 22 and 23.

The majority (57%) of young people who were received into detention in 2007–08 had only one reception; however, 6% had five or more receptions in 2007–08 (Table A22). Indigenous young people were more likely to have more receptions in 2007–08 than non-Indigenous young people (Figure 5.5). While 61% of non-Indigenous young people who were received into detention in 2007–08 had only one reception in that year, only 52% of Indigenous young people had only one reception.



During 2007–08, the number of receptions and releases followed the same general pattern: both were lower in the first half of the financial year and higher in the second half (Figure 5.6). However, the number of releases was more volatile than the number of receptions. The number of releases was lowest in September 2007 with 418 young people released and highest in April 2008 with 551. However, there were also peaks in October 2007 (506) and January 2008 (513). In contrast, the number of receptions rose from a low of 401 young people received in July 2007 to 495 in October, before falling slightly in November and December. The number of receptions then increased in early 2008 and peaked at 530 in February 2008.



5.5 Trends

Both the rate of young people aged 10–17 years in detention on an average day and the rate in detention during the year increased in each of the 4 years from 2004–05 (Figure 5.7). Queensland and Western Australia experienced increases in both the average daily rate and the rate during the year, as did New South Wales for 2004–05 to 2006–07 (data were not available for 2007–08), while the average daily rate decreased over the 4 years in Tasmania. The rate of young people in detention during the year increased in all states and territories except the Northern Territory and South Australia, where no trend was apparent (Table 5.7).

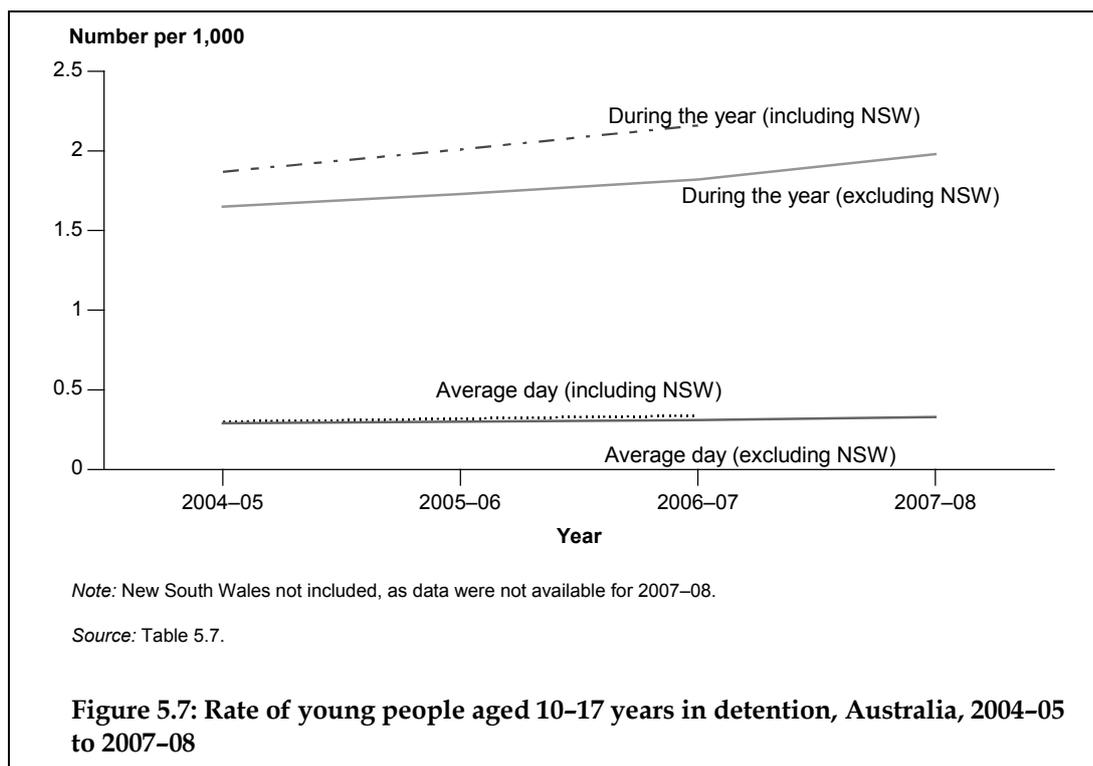


Table 5.7: Rate of young people aged 10-17 years in detention, states and territories, 2004-05 to 2007-08

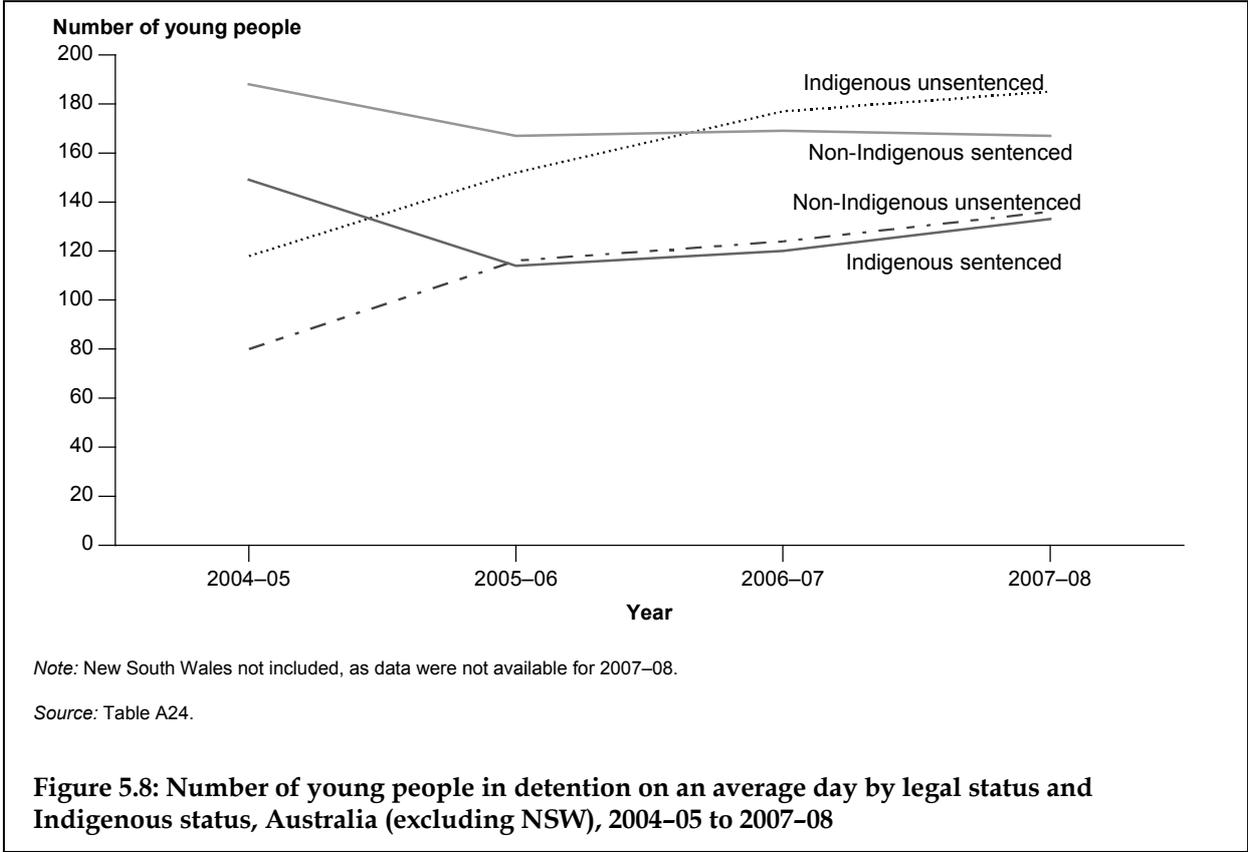
Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust excl NSW	Aust
Detention rate—average day										
2004-05	0.31	0.11	0.21	0.55	0.37	0.62	0.47	1.67	0.29	0.30
2005-06	0.36	0.11	0.27	0.52	0.30	0.56	0.50	1.75	0.30	0.32
2006-07	0.41	0.09	0.29	0.60	0.33	0.56	0.42	1.62	0.31	0.34
2007-08	n.a.	0.12	0.31	0.68	0.36	0.49	0.46	1.31	0.33	n.a.
Detention rate—during the year										
2004-05	2.34	0.42	1.38	3.52	2.97	1.47	3.17	5.09	1.65	1.87
2005-06	2.60	0.50	1.53	3.57	2.68	1.96	3.56	5.61	1.73	2.01
2006-07	2.86	0.57	1.62	3.79	2.72	2.02	3.79	5.16	1.82	2.16
2007-08	n.a.	0.74	1.66	4.06	3.05	2.32	3.80	4.99	1.98	n.a.

Notes

1. New South Wales not included, as data were not available for 2007-08.
2. Rates are number of young people per 1,000 relevant population.
3. New South Wales was excluded for 2007-08, as data were not available.

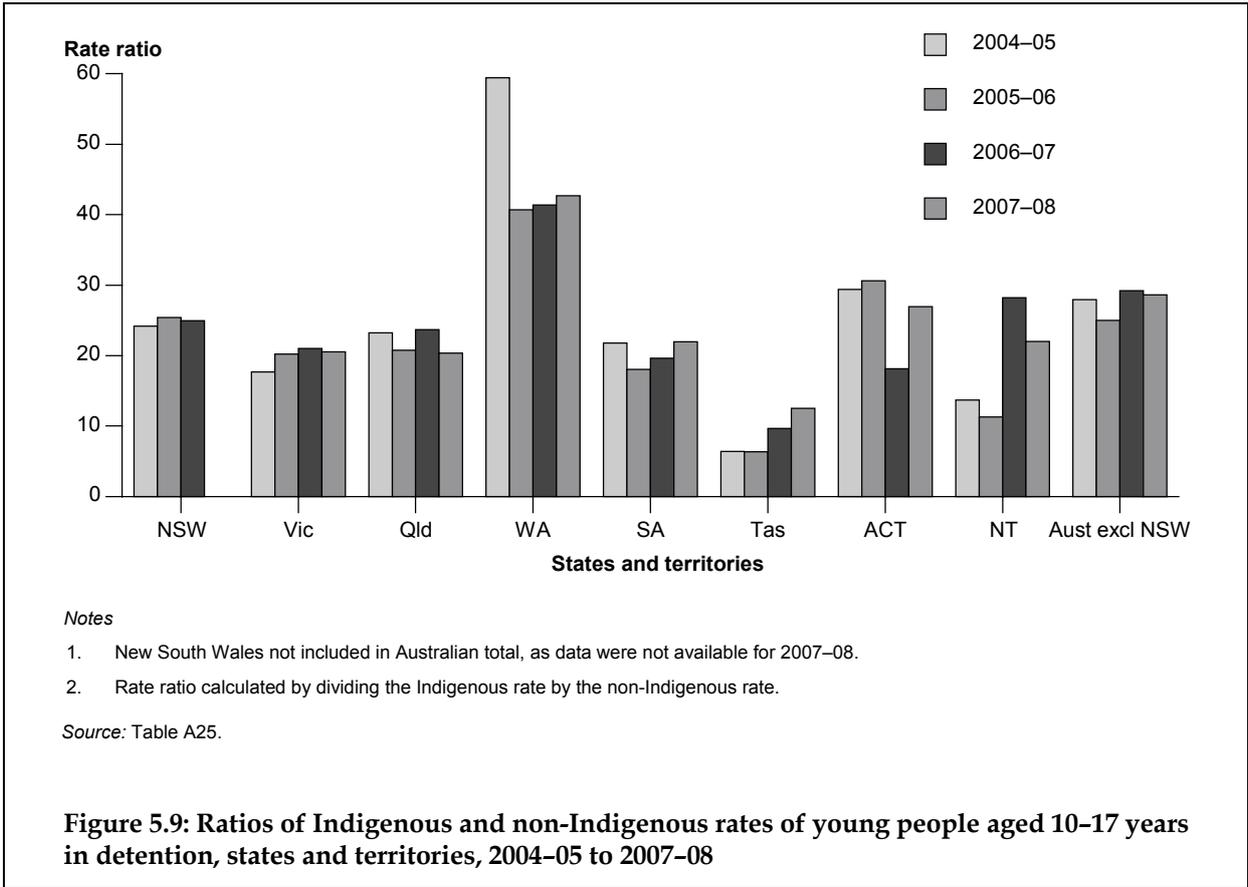
Overall, the number of unsentenced young people in detention on an average day increased from 2004-05 to 2007-08 while the number of sentenced young people decreased (Table A24). In 2004-05, just over one-third of the average daily detention population were unsentenced, but by 2007-08 there were more unsentenced young people in detention on an average day than sentenced young people.

The increase in the unsentenced detention population occurred for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people (Figure 5.8). Similarly, for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people, the number in sentenced detention decreased in 2005-06 from 2004-05 levels. However, while the non-Indigenous sentenced population remained steady over the following 3 years, the equivalent Indigenous population increased each year from 2005-06.



The overall rate of young people in detention on an average day increased over the 4 years from 2004–05 (Table 5.7). However, while the rate of non-Indigenous young people in detention on an average day remained relatively constant, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention decreased in 2005–06 from 2004–05 levels before increasing in 2006–07 and again in 2007–08.

At the start of the 4-year period (2004–05), Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years in Australia (excluding New South Wales) were 28 times as likely to be in detention as non-Indigenous young people (Figure 5.9). This rate ratio decreased slightly in 2005–06 but returned to 28 in 2007–08. The high level of Indigenous over-representation in detention remained relatively steady over the 4 years in most states and territories.

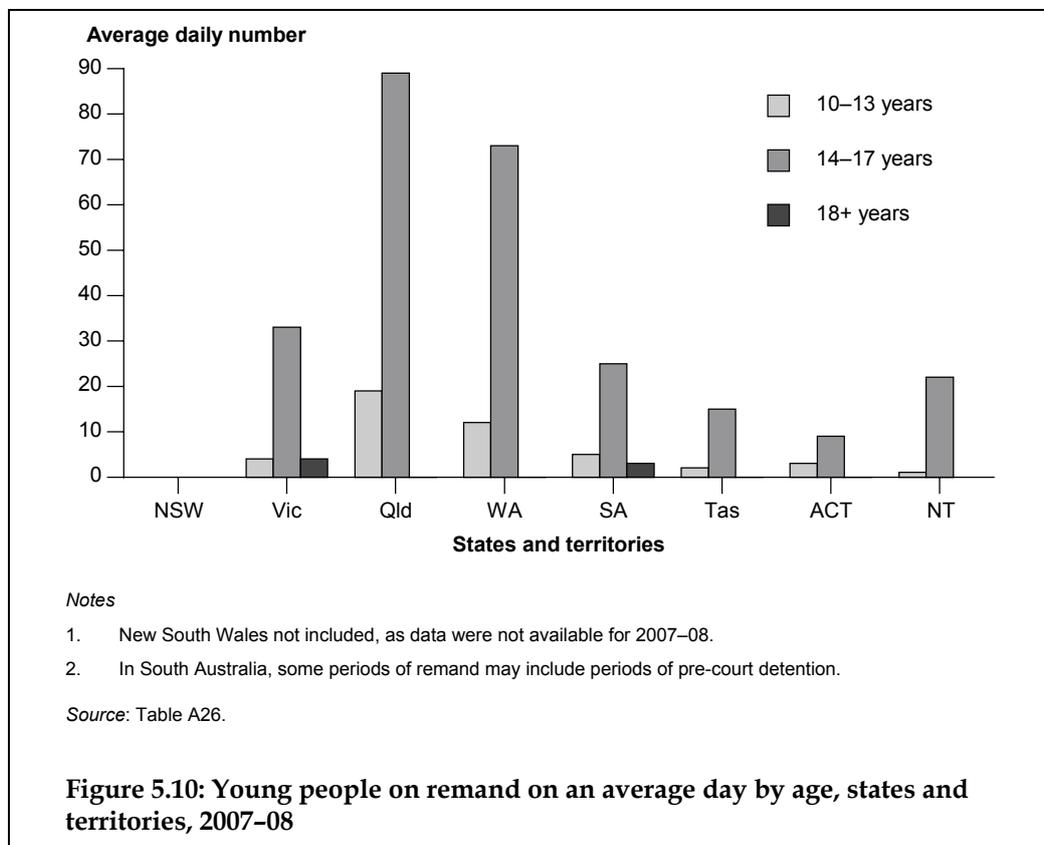


5.6 Remand

In this section, 'remand' refers to young people who have been remanded in custody by a court and excludes young people who are detained by police and supervised by juvenile justice agencies while awaiting their first appearance in court. Young people who are concurrently on remand and serving a sentence of detention are included in the section on sentenced detention.

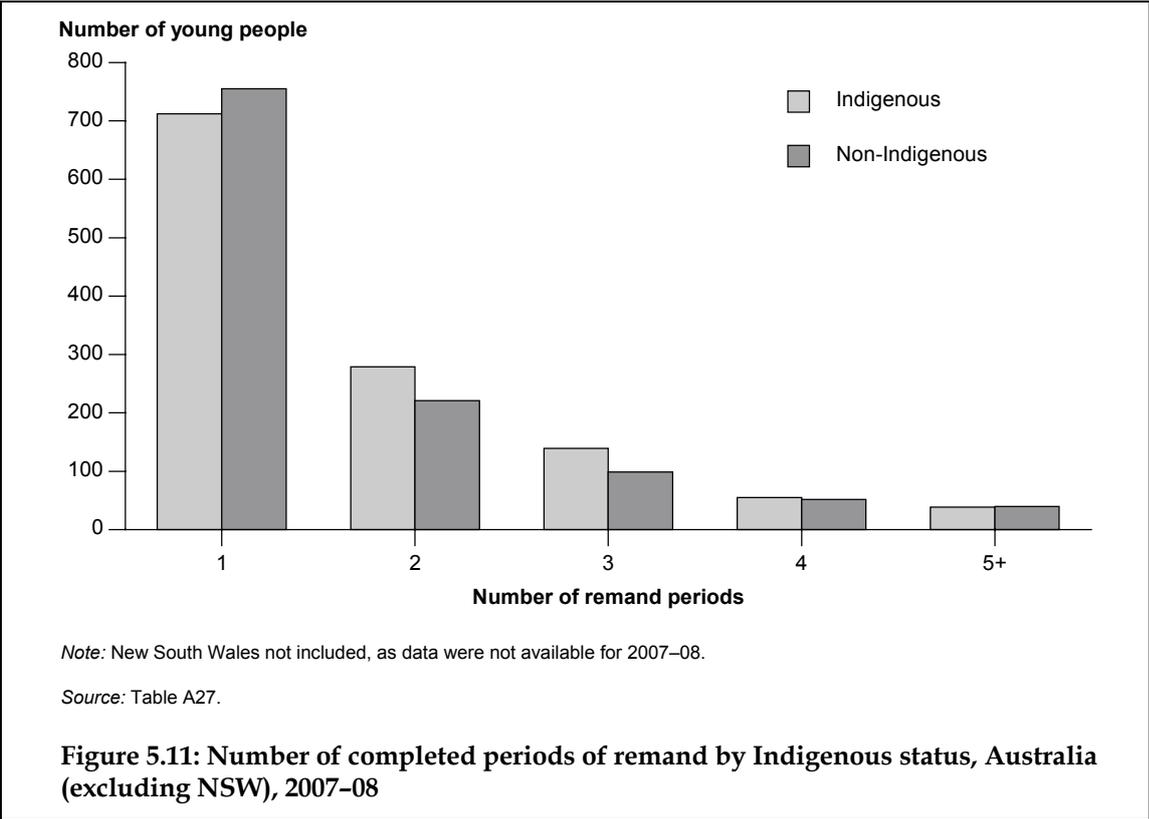
In 2007–08, 2,540 young people were on remand at some time during 2007–08 and there was an average of 320 young people on remand each day in Australia (excluding New South Wales; Table A26). Most (83%) of those on remand on an average day were aged 14–17 years. Only 2% were aged 18 years or older, and only Victoria and South Australia averaged more than one young person of this age in remand per day (some states and territories had no young people of this age in remand; Figure 5.10). The proportion of young people on remand aged 10–13 years ranged from 4% in the Northern Territory to 25% in the Australian Capital Territory.

Nearly 60% of those on remand on an average day were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, who were particularly over-represented in the younger age groups. Of those on remand on an average day, 72% of those aged 10–13 years, 56% of those aged 14–17 years and 29% of those aged 18 years or older were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (Table A26). The proportion of Indigenous 14–17 year olds on remand ranged from 15% in Victoria to 95% in the Northern Territory. In most states and territories, the proportion of those aged 10–13 years who were Indigenous was higher than the equivalent proportion for those aged 14–17 years (although in most states and territories the actual number in remand aged 10–13 years on an average day was small).

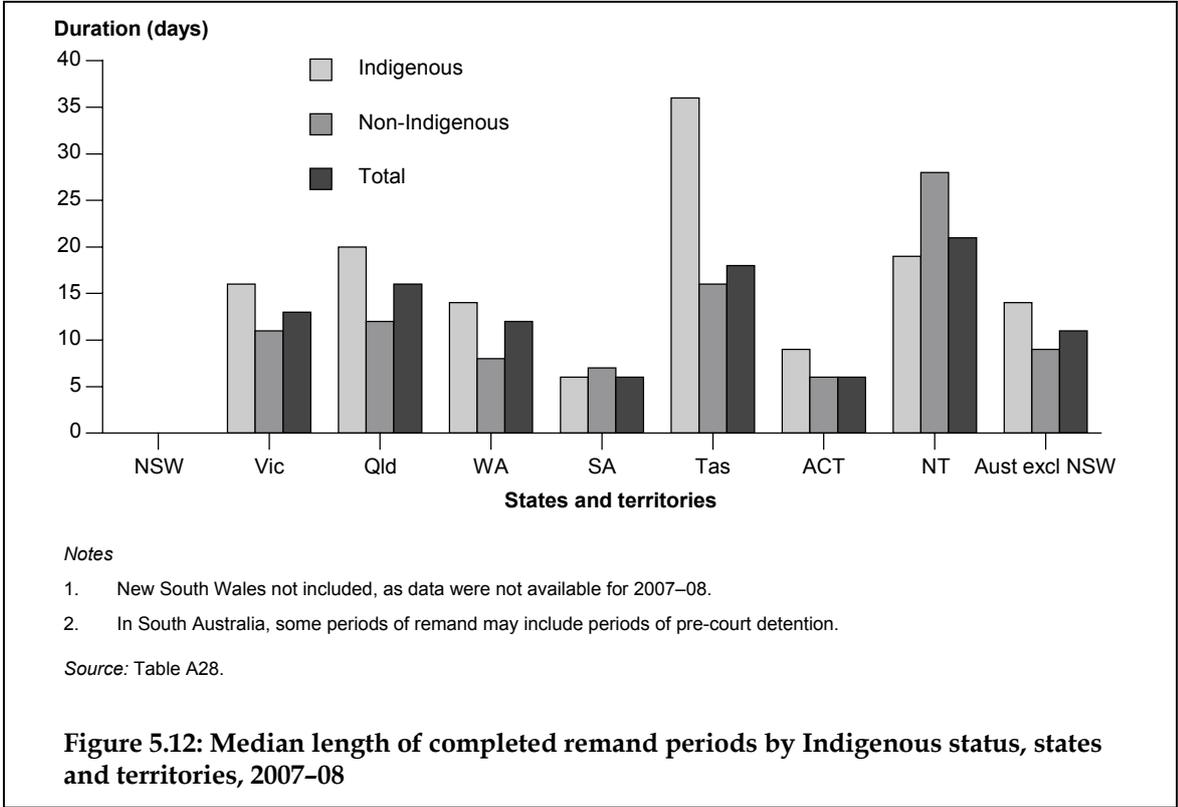


In 2007-08, 2,422 young people completed 4,121 periods of remand (tables A27 and A28). Most (61%) completed only one period of remand during the year, but one-fifth (18%) completed three or more remand periods in 2007-08.

More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people completed periods of remand during the year than non-Indigenous young people, and they were slightly more likely to complete multiple periods of remand than non-Indigenous young people (Table A28, Figure 5.11). Just over 40% of Indigenous young people completed two or more periods of remand, compared with 35% of non-Indigenous young people.



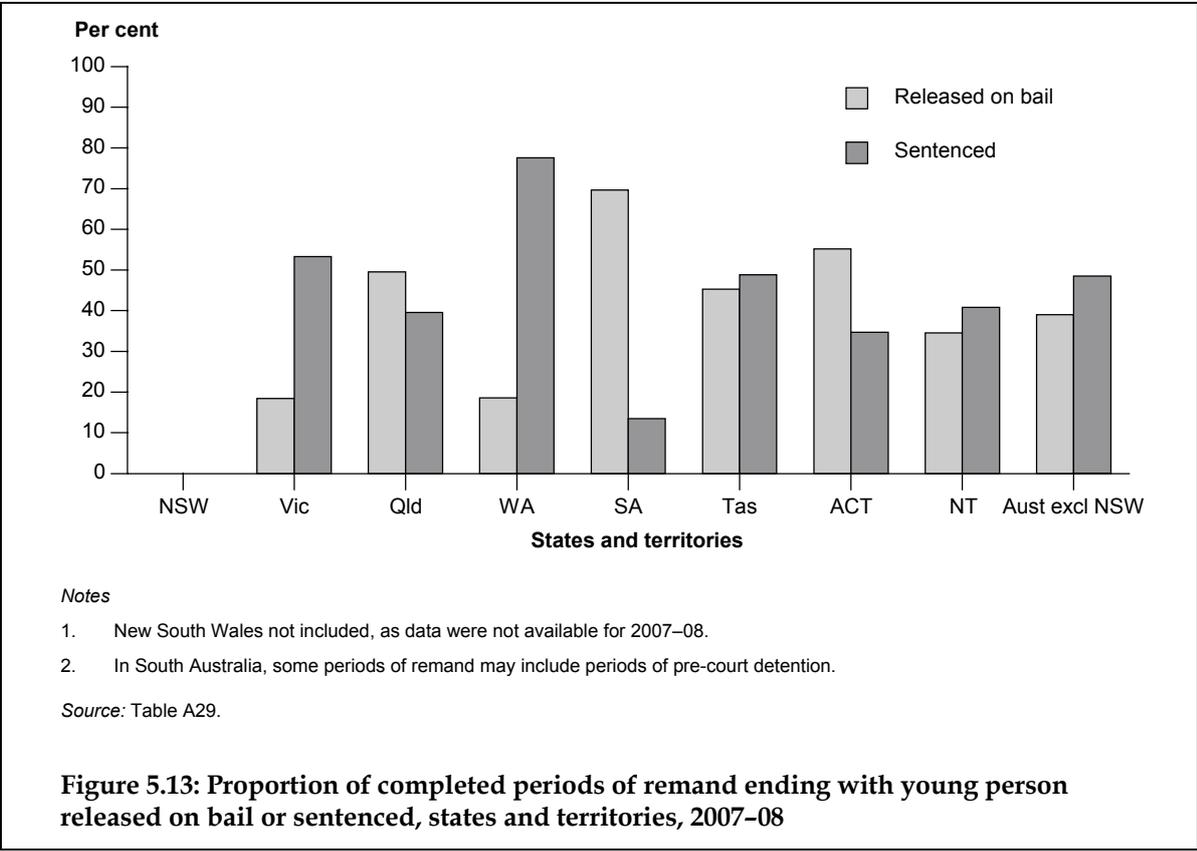
Nationally, the median length of periods of remand completed in 2007–08 was 11 days (Figure 5.12). The shortest median length was 6 days in South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, and the longest was 21 days in the Northern Territory. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people spent an average of 5 days longer on remand, and the median length of remand periods was longer for these young people in most states and territories.



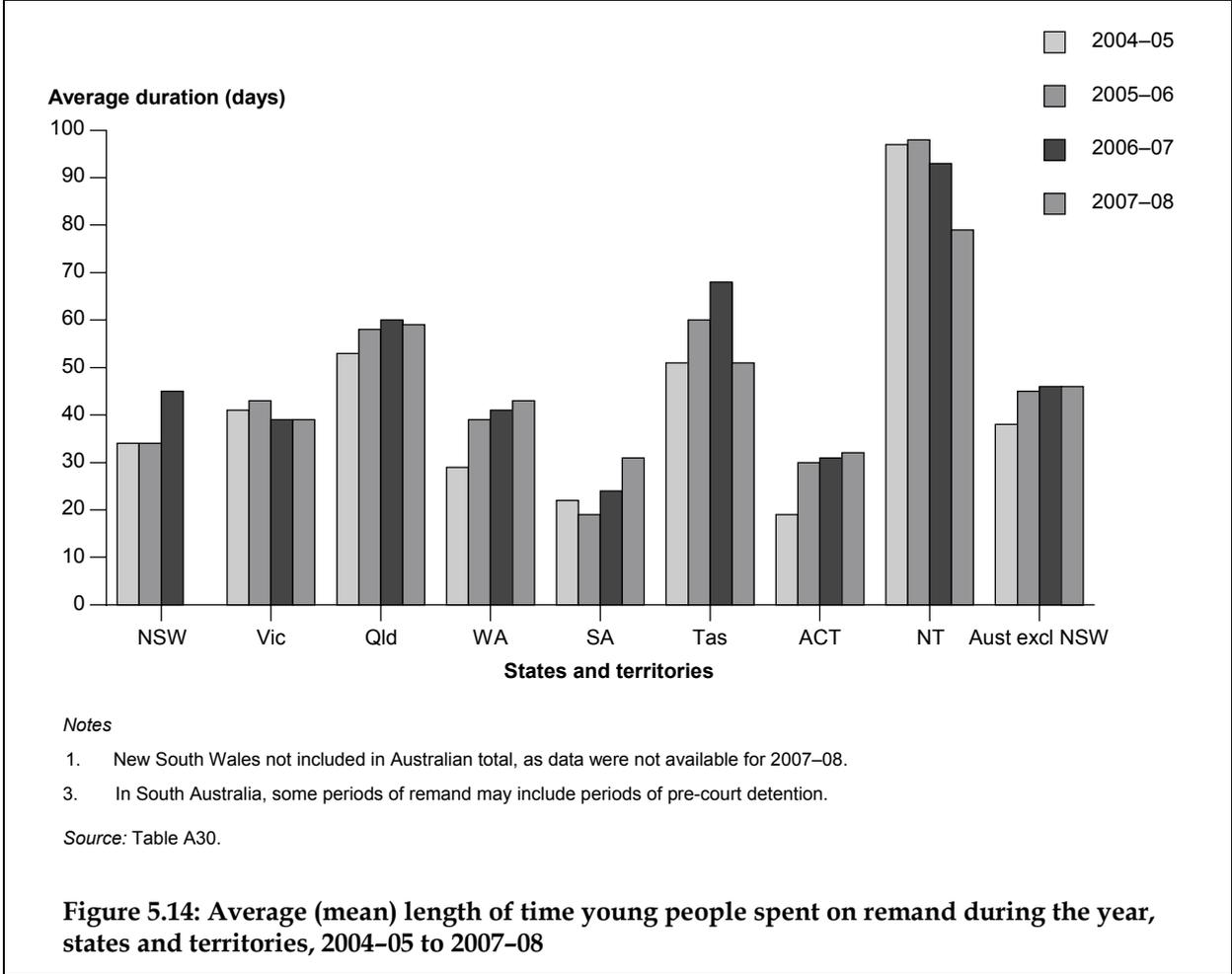
Overall, nearly half (49%) of remand periods ended with the young person being sentenced (Figure 5.13). However, only one-quarter (25%) of periods ending with the young person being sentenced were followed by a period of sentenced detention (Table A29). Over one-third of remand periods (39%) ended with the young person being released on bail, and the remainder ended with the young person transferred (2%) or exiting for a reason not further defined (10%; Table A29).

The proportion of remand periods ending with the young person being sentenced ranged from 13% in South Australia to 78% in Western Australia (Figure 5.13). In several states, remand periods were more likely to end with the young person released on bail than sentenced.

Remand periods for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were more likely to end with the young person being sentenced than released on bail (55% ended with a sentence, 35% ended with a release on bail; Table A29). In contrast, remand periods for non-Indigenous young people were equally likely to end with the young person being sentenced or released on bail (42% ended with a sentence, 43% ended with a release on bail).



In 2007-08, young people spent, on average, a total of 46 days in remand, compared with 38 days in 2004-05 (Figure 5.14). Over the 4 years, the average length spent on remand during the year fell in the Northern Territory but increased in Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. In 2007-08, the average time spent on remand ranged from 31 days in South Australia to 79 days in the Northern Territory.

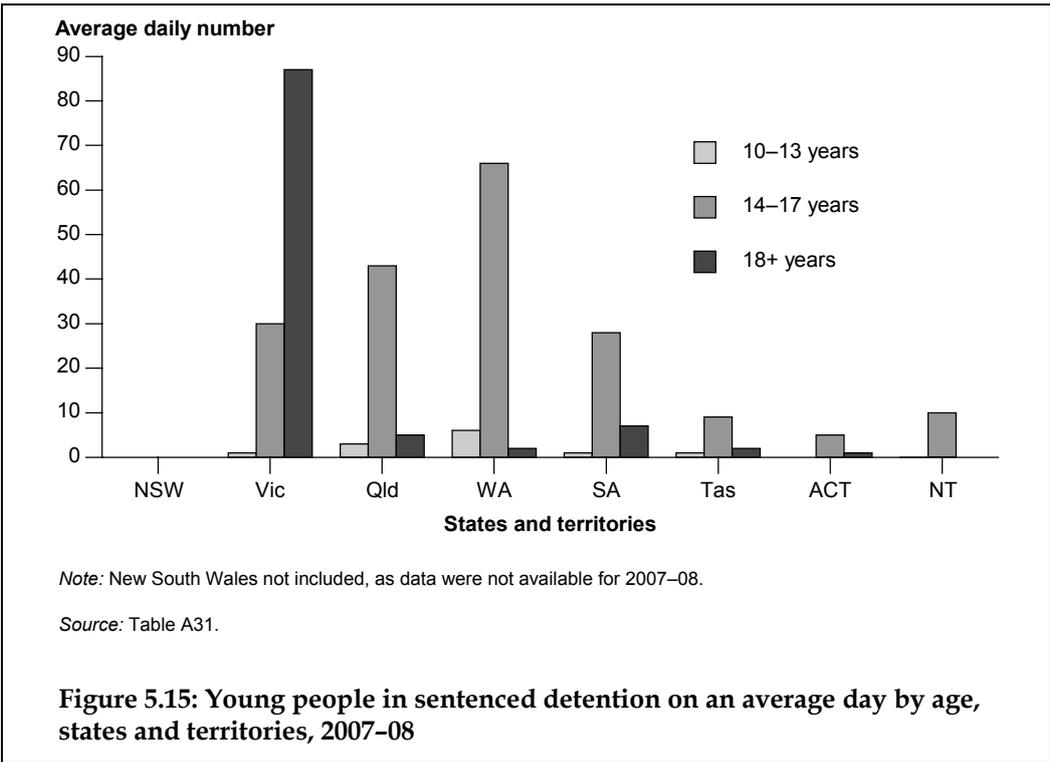


5.7 Sentenced detention

In Australia (excluding New South Wales), 986 young people were in sentenced detention during 2007–08, with an average of 307 young people in sentenced detention on an average day (Table A31). Over half (54%) of those in sentenced detention on an average day were non-Indigenous, 43% were Indigenous and the remainder were of unknown Indigenous status. Over 60% of those in sentenced detention were aged 14–17 years; only 4% were aged 10–13 years and 34% were aged 18 years or older.

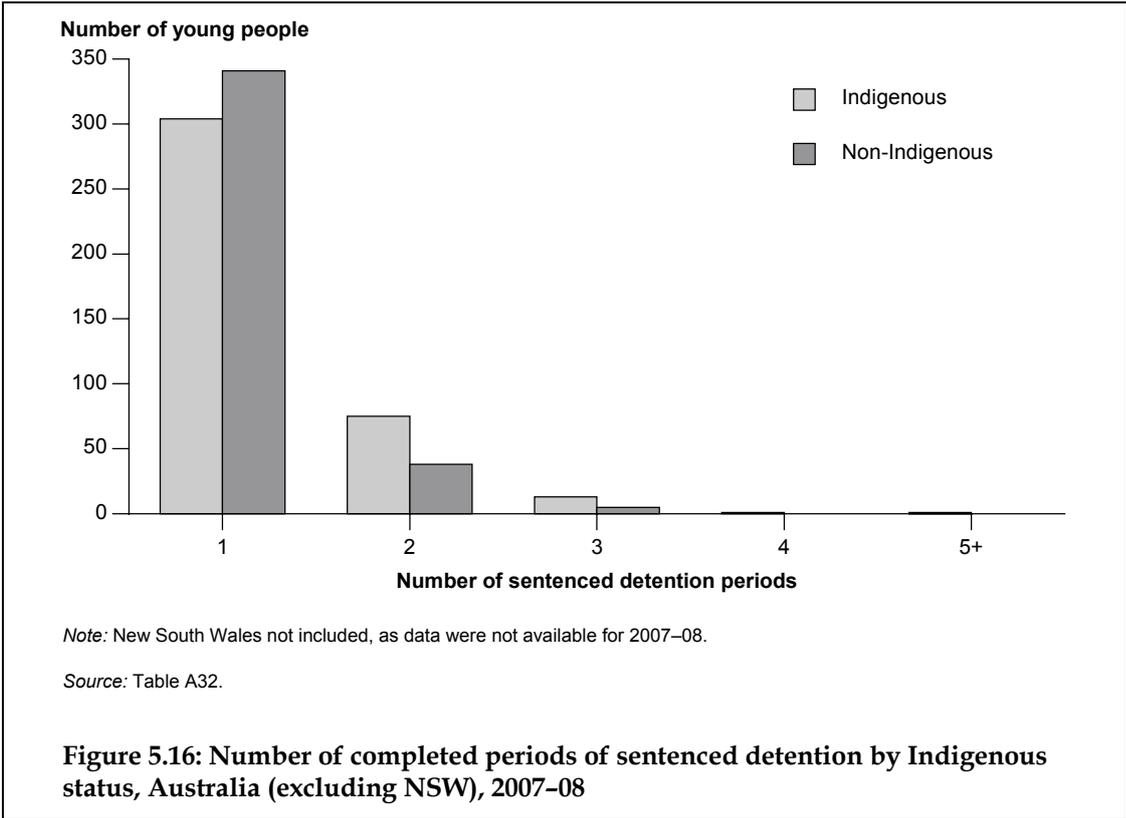
The number of young people in sentenced detention on an average day ranged from 5 in the Australian Capital Territory to 119 in Victoria (Table A31). In contrast to most of the other states and territories, nearly three-quarters of those in sentenced detention in Victoria were aged 18 years or older (Figure 5.15). In most states and territories, there was an average of none or 1 young person aged 10–13 years in sentenced detention each day; in Queensland there was an average of 3 young people of this age in sentenced detention each day and there was an average of 6 young people aged 10–13 years in Western Australia.

The proportion of young people in sentenced detention on an average day that was Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander varied from 13% in Victoria to 100% in the Northern Territory (Table A31).



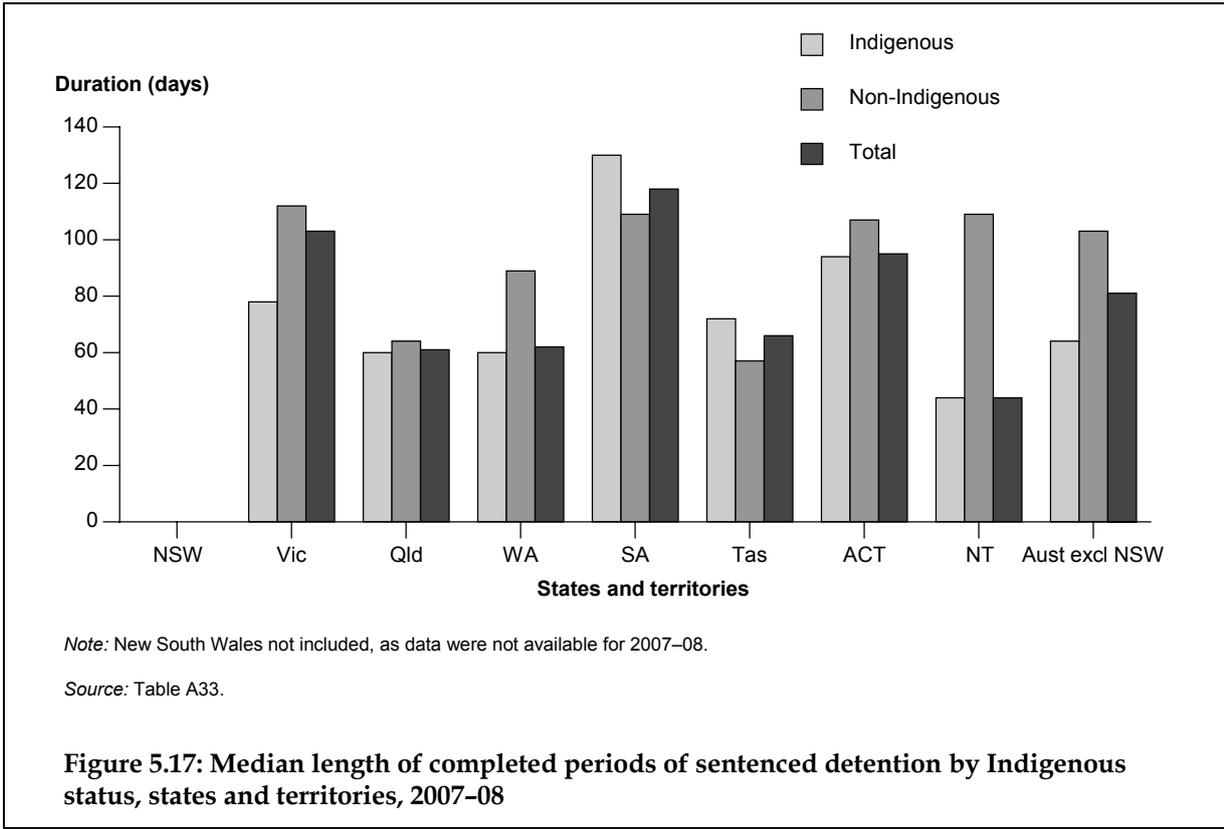
In 2007-08, 792 young people completed 950 periods of sentenced detention (tables A32 and A33). Most (83%) completed only one period of sentenced detention during the year, but 3% completed three or more periods of sentenced detention during the year.

Slightly more Indigenous young people completed periods of sentenced detention than non-Indigenous young people (394 periods and 384 periods, respectively) (Table A33). They were also more likely to complete multiple periods of sentenced detention during the year than non-Indigenous young people. Nearly one-quarter (23%) of Indigenous young people completed two or more periods of sentenced detention, compared with 11% of non-Indigenous young people.



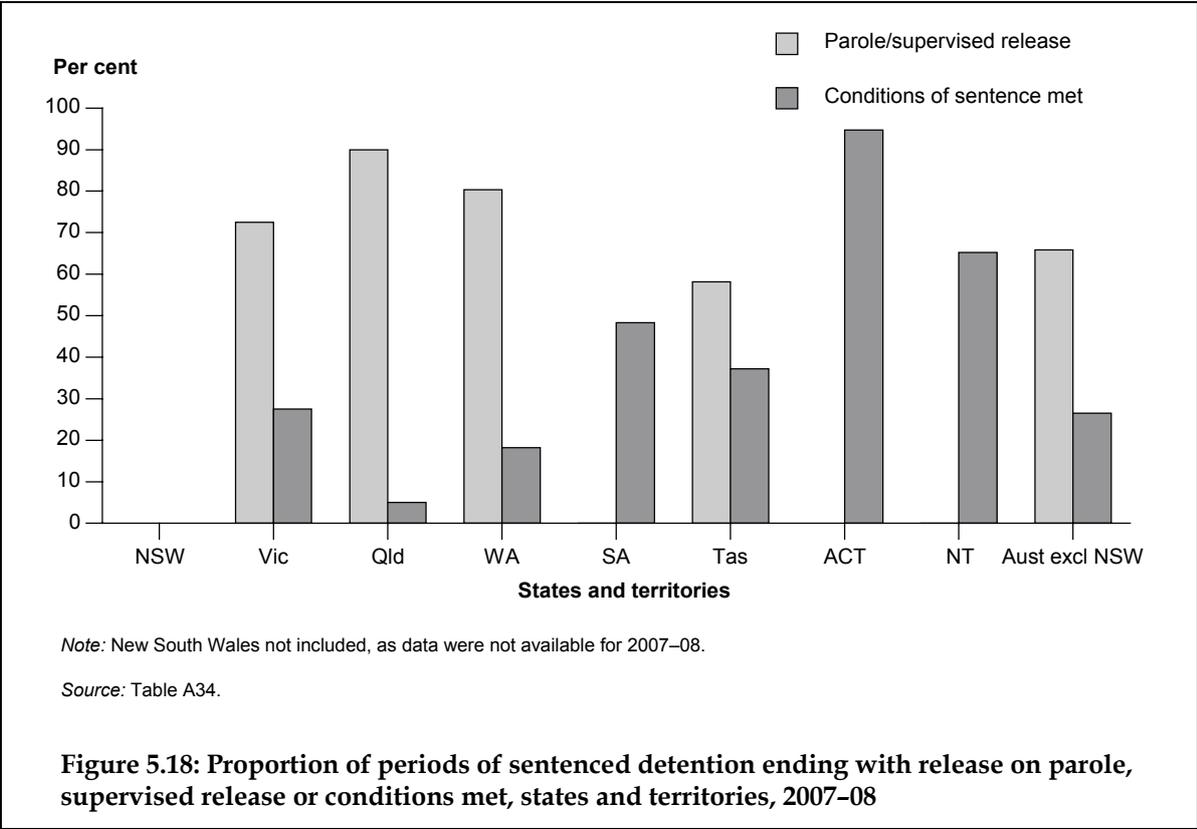
The median length of completed periods of sentenced detention was almost 3 months (81 days; Figure 5.17). On average, Indigenous young people had shorter periods of sentenced detention than non-Indigenous young people (64 days compared with 103 days). However, they were more likely to complete multiple periods of sentenced detention than non-Indigenous young people (tables A32 and A33).

The median length of periods of sentenced detention was around 1.5 months in the Northern Territory and 2 months in Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania. It was over 3 months in the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria and almost 4 months in South Australia. The median length of sentenced detention periods were longer for non-Indigenous young people compared with Indigenous young people in most states and territories.



Overall, two-thirds (66%) of the periods of sentenced detention completed in 2007–08 ended with the young person being released on parole or supervised release, and just over one-quarter (27%) ended with the conditions of the sentence being met (Figure 5.18). Around 5% ended with the young person being transferred (to a location other than a remand or detention centre within the jurisdiction) and 2% ended for unspecified reasons (Table A34). Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people were equally likely to be released on parole or supervised release.

Most of the periods of sentenced detention in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia and just over half of those in Tasmania ended with the young person being released on parole or supervised release (Figure 5.18). In the Australian Capital Territory, where parole or supervised release is not available, 95% of sentenced detention periods ended with the conditions of sentence being met.



In 2007-08, young people spent a total of 114 days in sentence detention, on average. While the average length of time in sentenced detention during the year was higher in 2004-05 (128 days), it decreased to 109 in 2005-06 but increased in the next 2 years to 114 days in 2007-08 (Figure 5.19). The average length of time spent in sentenced detention in 2007-08 ranged from 85 days in the Northern Territory to 159 days in South Australia.

Overall, non-Indigenous young people spent longer in sentenced detention on average during the year than Indigenous young people, and this difference increased over the 4 years (Table A35). In 2004-05, non-Indigenous young people spent, on average, 1 day less in sentenced detention than Indigenous young people, but in 2007-08 they spent 21 more days in sentenced detention.

