



Australian Government

Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare

# Juvenile justice: A new national collection

## Introduction

Tracking the involvement of juveniles in the criminal justice system is a matter of keen interest to many stakeholders. Governments, policy-makers, community groups and researchers alike seek information about this group of young people—particularly about the extent of and reasons for their involvement with the criminal justice system, and their experiences within it. However, with responsibility for juvenile justice resting at the state and territory level in Australia, nationally comparable data has been scarce. The Australian Institute of Criminology has, for a number of years, produced snapshot data on the numbers of juveniles in detention centres around Australia. All data regarding community-based sanctions and the possibilities of providing information to track young people’s involvement with the systems have remained at jurisdictional level. The Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (NMDS), successfully piloted and now undergoing implementation by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) on behalf of Australian jurisdictions, addresses this information gap. The Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators provide valuable direction and resources for this project. This important new national collection will provide information on the broad characteristics of juvenile justice clients and the way in which they move through the juvenile justice system. This bulletin reports on the history of the development of the Juvenile Justice NMDS, and provides an overview of its content.

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