

3 Young person characteristics

This chapter presents information about young people in Australia under juvenile justice supervision at some time during 2005–06. The numbers and rates of young people in supervision and the age at which they first had supervision, as well as broad demographic information such as age, sex and Indigenous status, are included.

3.1 Number of young people in supervision

Table 3.1 shows the number of young people under juvenile justice supervision in each state and territory for 2002–03 to 2005–06. The community figure includes all young people in community-based juvenile justice supervision at any time during that collection year. Similarly, the detention figure represents those young people who have experienced detention-based supervision at any time during the collection year. The numbers for community and detention will not add up to the 'all young people' figure, as some young people will have had both community and detention supervision during the collection year.

Each year, around 13,000 young people experience some form of juvenile justice supervision. For most this is in the community rather than in a detention setting and some may experience both. In 2005–06, 13,254 young people experienced juvenile justice supervision in Australia. Of these 11,150 (84%) had community-based supervision, and 5,137 (39%) had detention-based supervision, which means that 3,033 (23%) experienced both community-based and detention supervision at some time during the year.

Table 3.1: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by type of supervision, states and territories, 2002–03 to 2005–06

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
Community									
2002–03	2,930	1,838	2,640	1,588	1,332	507	n.a.	221	(11,056)
2003–04	2,849	1,766	2,547	1,585	1,200	543	325	278	11,093 (10,768)
2004–05	2,760	1,610	2,550	1,668	1,118	512	279	310	10,807 (10,528)
2005–06	2,839	1,801	2,526	1,895	1,037	529	236	287	11,150 (10,914)
Detention									
2002–03	1,950	597	912	775	679	105	n.a.	117	(5,135)
2003–04	1,902	500	961	907	589	101	131	122	5,213 (5,082)
2004–05	1,948	444	642	882	549	96	117	122	4,800 (4,683)
2005–06	2,126	533	709	884	488	127	130	140	5,137 (5,007)
All young people									
2002–03	3,668	2,001	2,912	2,249	1,536	536	n.a.	260	(13,162)
2003–04	3,547	1,895	2,830	2,407	1,387	569	337	318	13,290 (12,953)
2004–05	3,484	1,736	2,648	2,448	1,277	542	290	340	12,765 (12,475)
2005–06	3,687	1,951	2,654	2,612	1,210	559	255	326	13,254 (12,999)

Notes

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

Following a decrease in the number of young people under juvenile justice supervision between 2002-03 and 2004-05, there was an increase of 4% in 2005-06 to 12,999 (Figure 3.1), from a low of 12,475 in 2004-05 (excluding the Australian Capital Territory as data for 2002-03 were unavailable). Nationally, there was a 7% increase in the number of young people in detention, compared with a 3% increase for those in community supervision.

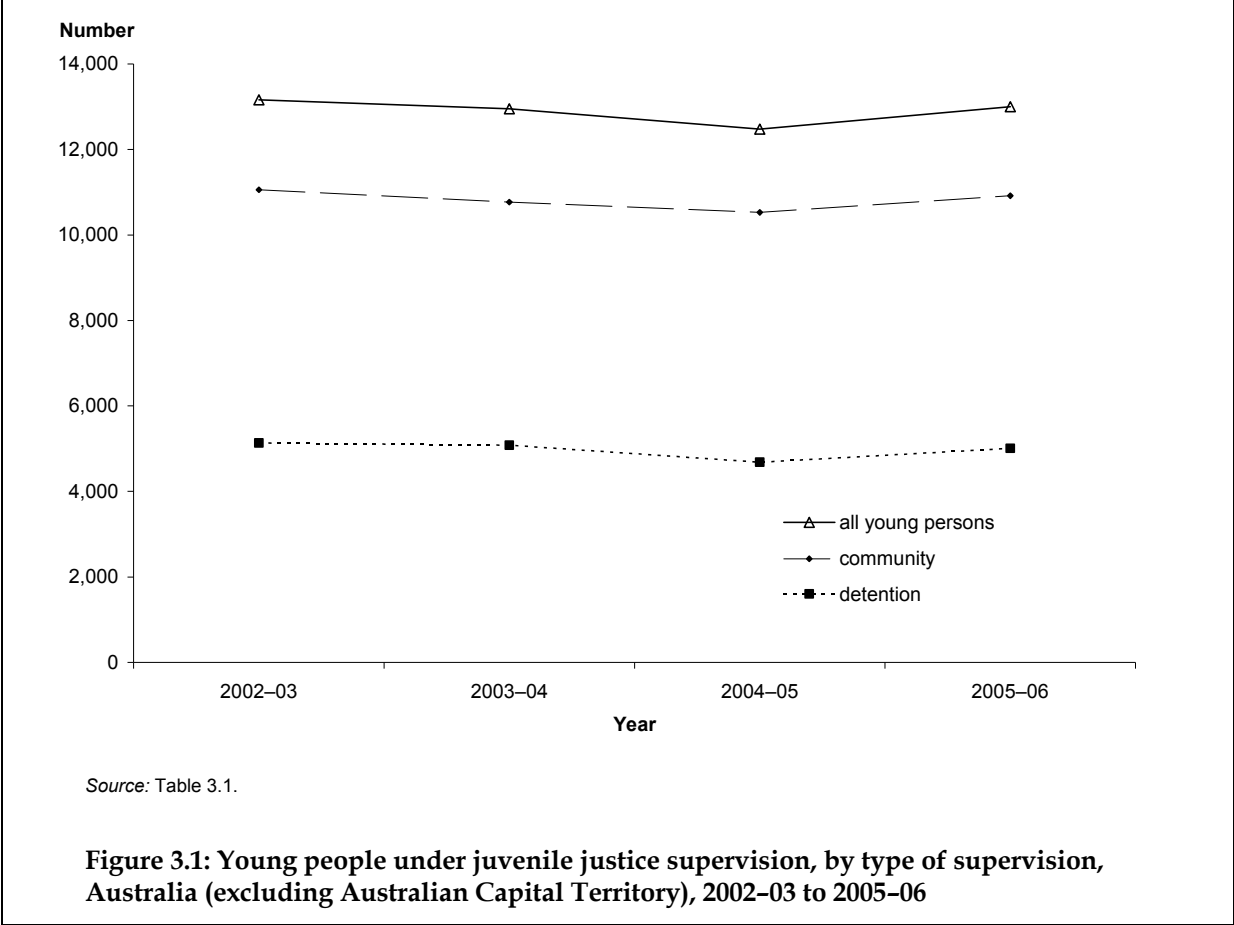


Table 3.2 presents the rates per 1,000 population for 10–17 year olds. Due to the differences among jurisdictions regarding the status of 18 year olds in the juvenile justice system (see Section 1.2), all population rates in this chapter have been calculated for the 10–17 age group. Again, the figures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

There is variation in the rates of young people under community-based and detention-based supervision across jurisdictions. For Australia overall in 2005–06, 5.0 per 1,000 young people had juvenile justice supervision; 4.2 per 1,000 were in community-based supervision, and 2.0 per 1,000 were in detention-based supervision at some time during each year, with some young people in both. These national rates are higher than the previous year, and reverse the decline in rates that occurred between 2002–03 and 2004–05, although an increase in rates did not occur in every jurisdiction. In Victoria, from 1 July 2005 the upper limit of the age jurisdiction of the Children’s Court increased from 16 to 17 years. The inclusion of 17 year olds in the Victorian numbers for 2005–06 may account for the increase in these figures compared to 2004–05.

Legislative differences among the states and territories mean that there are varying numbers of young people over the age of 17 who have been excluded from Table 3.2. In Victoria, for example, legislation specifically allows for young people aged up to 21 to be detained in juvenile justice facilities rather than adult correctional facilities. In contrast, young people aged 10–16 in Queensland are recognised as juveniles under the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*.

¹ Data published by the Australian Institute of Criminology from the *Juveniles in detention in Australia* monitoring project provide one-day snapshot figures taken quarterly.

Table 3.2: Rates of young people under juvenile justice supervision, aged 10–17 years, per 1,000 young people, states and territories, 2002–03 to 2005–06

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
Community									
(number of young people)									
2002–03	2,530	1,484	2,396	1,468	1,065	310	n.a.	184	(9,437)
2003–04	2,441	1,454	2,310	1,486	944	332	269	244	9,480 (9,211)
2004–05	2,344	1,300	2,318	1,566	873	324	240	264	9,229 (8,989)
2005–06	2,454	1,326	2,325	1,772	808	360	198	248	9,491 (9,293)
(rate per 1,000)									
2002–03	3.5	2.8	5.5	6.5	6.6	5.7	n.a.	7.4	4.3 (4.4)
2003–04	3.3	2.7	5.2	6.5	5.8	6.0	7.6	9.7	4.3 (4.2)
2004–05	3.2	2.4	5.1	6.9	5.4	5.9	6.8	10.4	4.2 (4.1)
2005–06	3.4	2.5	5.1	7.7	5.0	6.5	5.7	9.7	4.2 (4.2)
Detention									
(number of young people)									
2002–03	1,762	305	889	763	622	82	n.a.	117	(4,540)
2003–04	1,699	285	946	889	525	76	127	122	4,669 (4,542)
2004–05	1,724	238	623	863	495	84	114	122	4,263 (4,149)
2005–06	1,906	279	703	872	441	110	127	140	4,578 (4,451)
(rate per 1,000)									
2002–03	2.4	0.6	2.0	3.4	3.8	1.5	n.a.	4.7	2.1 (2.1)
2003–04	2.3	0.5	2.1	3.9	3.2	1.4	3.6	4.9	2.1 (2.1)
2004–05	2.4	0.4	1.4	3.8	3.1	1.5	3.2	4.8	1.9 (1.9)
2005–06	2.6	0.5	1.5	3.8	2.7	2.0	3.6	5.5	2.0 (2.0)
All young people									
(number of young people)									
2002–03	3,124	1,527	2,651	2,117	1,232	329	n.a.	223	(11,203)
2003–04	2,998	1,501	2,582	2,290	1,089	346	279	284	11,369 (11,090)
2004–05	2,906	1,345	2,407	2,328	996	349	250	294	10,875 (10,625)
2005–06	3,133	1,371	2,450	2,477	950	381	216	287	11,265 (11,049)
(rate per 1,000)									
2002–03	4.3	2.9	6.1	9.4	7.6	6.0	n.a.	8.9	5.1 (5.2)
2003–04	4.1	2.8	5.8	10.1	6.7	6.3	7.9	11.3	5.1 (5.1)
2004–05	4.0	2.5	5.3	10.2	6.1	6.3	7.1	11.6	4.9 (4.9)
2005–06	4.3	2.6	5.3	10.8	5.8	6.9	6.2	11.2	5.0 (5.0)

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

3.2 Number of males and females in supervision

As is the case throughout the criminal justice system, most young people under juvenile justice supervision during 2005–06 were male (Table 3.3). Although there is some variation among states and territories, overall 83% of young people were male. The highest percentage of males was found in the Northern Territory (93%) and the lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (75%).

Table 3.3: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by sex, states and territories, 2005–06

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of young people)									
Male	3,145	1,667	2,165	2,118	993	450	191	302	11,031
Female	542	284	489	491	217	109	64	24	2,220
Unknown	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Total	3,687	1,951	2,654	2,612	1,210	559	255	326	13,254
(per cent of young people)									
Male	85.3	85.4	81.6	81.1	82.1	80.5	74.9	92.6	83.2
Female	14.7	14.6	18.4	18.8	17.9	19.5	25.1	7.4	16.7
Unknown	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 3.4 indicates that, during 2005–06, males aged 10–17 years were subject to juvenile justice supervision at a rate of 8.1 per 1,000, compared with females at 1.8 per 1,000. There were over four times as many males as females under supervision.

Table 3.4: Rates of young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision, per 1,000 young people, by sex, states and territories, 2005–06

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of young people)									
Male	2,644	1,139	1,983	1,999	776	298	161	265	9,265
Female	489	232	467	475	174	83	55	22	1,997
Unknown	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Total	3,133	1,371	2,450	2,477	950	381	216	287	11,265
(rate per 1,000 young people)									
Male	7.0	4.1	8.4	17.0	9.3	10.5	9.0	19.8	8.1
Female	1.4	0.9	2.1	4.2	2.2	3.1	3.2	1.8	1.8
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4.3	2.6	5.3	10.8	5.8	6.9	6.2	11.2	5.0

Notes

1. Australian rates do not include unknowns.
2. Age is calculated as at first date of supervision during 2005–06.

3.3 Age of young people in supervision

About two-thirds of young people (64%) in supervision during 2005–06 were aged 16 years or older (Table 3.5). Fewer than 9% of young people were aged 13 years or less. The distribution was relatively consistent among states and territories for young people aged 10–17 years.

Across jurisdictions, the proportion of young people in juvenile justice supervision who were aged 18 years and over varied between 5% and 32%. There are several distinct reasons for this. Firstly, most jurisdictions continue to supervise some young people who commence their sentence when they are under 18 until after they turn 18. The reasons for this include the appropriateness of continued and consistent supervision, and the level of maturity of some young people. Secondly, the legislative requirements of a number of jurisdictions require the age at the time of the offence to determine whether the juvenile courts have jurisdiction. As there may be delays between the date of the alleged offence and the court proceedings, this also contributes to the numbers under juvenile justice supervision who are over the age of 18. Finally, Victoria has legislative provision that allows adult courts to sentence young people who are between the ages of 18 and 20 years to periods of detention in juvenile justice facilities. This allows the adult courts to take into account the maturity of the young person and the relative benefit of adult or juvenile supervision.

Table 3.5: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by age, states and territories; 2005–06

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of young people)									
10	4	1	11	6	4	—	2	—	28
11	24	2	19	31	12	9	4	—	101
12	53	15	52	75	24	8	3	6	236
13	169	63	188	190	60	32	13	14	729
14	387	144	374	341	123	31	26	30	1,456
15	630	260	543	473	178	74	39	71	2,268
16	824	428	752	650	240	115	55	75	3,139
17	1,042	458	511	711	309	112	74	91	3,308
18+	554	580	204	135	260	178	39	39	1,989
Total	3,687	1,951	2,654	2,612	1,210	559	255	326	13,254
(per cent of young people)									
10	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	—	0.8	—	0.2
11	0.7	0.1	0.7	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.6	—	0.8
12	1.4	0.8	2.0	2.9	2.0	1.4	1.2	1.8	1.8
13	4.6	3.2	7.1	7.3	5.0	5.7	5.1	4.3	5.5
14	10.5	7.4	14.1	13.1	10.2	5.5	10.2	9.2	11.0
15	17.1	13.3	20.5	18.1	14.7	13.2	15.3	21.8	17.1
16	22.3	21.9	28.3	24.9	19.8	20.6	21.6	23.0	23.7
17	28.3	23.5	19.3	27.2	25.5	20.0	29.0	27.9	25.0
18+	15.0	29.7	7.7	5.2	21.5	31.8	15.3	12.0	15.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Age is calculated as at date of first supervision during 2005–06.

3.4 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in supervision

Over one-third of young people under juvenile justice supervision during 2005–06 identified/were identified as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (Table 3.6). There is much variation among states and territories, both in the proportion of young people who are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin and in the proportion of young people whose Indigenous status is ‘unknown/not recorded’.

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

Table 3.6: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2005–06

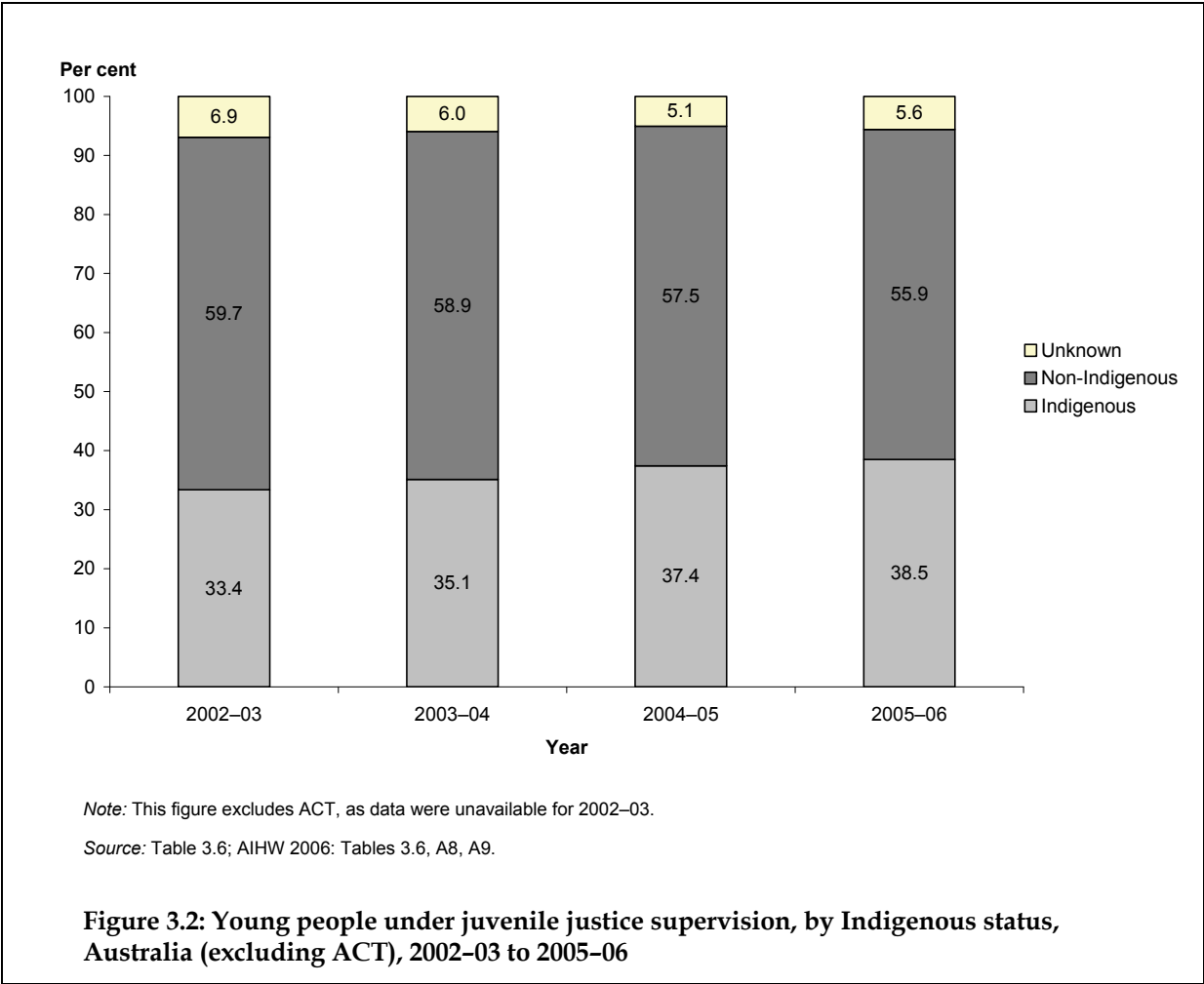
Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of young people)									
Indigenous	1,225	207	1,248	1,622	352	85	48	267	5,054
Non-Indigenous	2,154	1,555	1,404	943	782	366	207	59	7,470
Unknown/not recorded	308	189	2	47	76	108	—	—	730
Total	3,687	1,951	2,654	2,612	1,210	559	255	326	13,254
(per cent of young people)									
Indigenous	33.2	10.6	47.0	62.1	29.1	15.2	18.8	81.9	38.1
Non-Indigenous	58.4	79.7	52.9	36.1	64.6	65.5	81.2	18.1	56.4
Unknown/not recorded	8.4	9.7	0.1	1.8	6.3	19.3	—	—	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

During the period 2002-03 to 2005-06, there was a gradual increase from 33% to 38% in the proportion of young people under juvenile justice supervision who identified/were identified as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (Figure 3.2). This figure excludes the Australian Capital Territory as data for 2002-03 were unavailable, and thus the numbers for 2005-06 will be slightly different from the Australia totals in Table 3.6.

The increase may have been due to an actual increase in the proportion of young people under juvenile justice supervision who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, or to increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification among this group. It could also be partly due to improvements in data quality as the proportion of 'unknown' or 'not recorded' responses on this item has generally decreased over the period.

The over-representation of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in juvenile detention has been apparent for a number of years (AIC 2006; AIHW 2006; AIHW: Loke & Johnston 2007). These results presented here reflect this over-representation for both community and detention supervision.



The rates of juvenile justice supervision for all young people aged 10–17 years show high levels of over-representation of Indigenous youth, relative to their population distribution, throughout the states and territories during 2005–06 (Table 3.7). Overall, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were under juvenile justice supervision at a rate of 44 per 1,000, compared with 3 per 1,000 for non-Indigenous young people. Western Australia, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory had the highest rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under juvenile justice supervision, while Victoria and the Northern Territory had the lowest (excluding Tasmania, where there is a very high proportion of unknown/not recorded).

Table 3.7: Rates of young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision, per 1,000 young people, by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2005–06

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of young people)									
Indigenous	1,091	159	1,171	1,539	287	68	41	236	4,592
Non-Indigenous	1,789	1,070	1,279	899	612	251	175	51	6,126
Unknown/not recorded	253	142	—	39	51	62	—	—	547
Total	3,133	1,371	2,450	2,477	950	381	216	287	11,265
(rate per 1,000)									
Indigenous	34.7	23.8	39.8	106.6	51.4	17.7	44.2	21.2	44.4
Non-Indigenous	2.6	2.0	3.0	4.2	3.9	4.9	5.1	3.5	2.9
Unknown/not recorded
Total	4.3	2.6	5.3	10.8	5.8	6.9	6.2	11.2	5.0

Notes

1. The Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania has reported that the Indigenous data for Tasmania may not be reliable due to limitations in the reporting capabilities of the information system.
2. Calculation of rates excludes unknown/not recorded.
3. Age is calculated as at date of first supervision during 2005–06.

While rates of juvenile justice supervision in Australia for Indigenous young people aged 10 to 17 years increased slightly in 2005–06 after decreasing in the previous three years, rates for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people decreased overall in most states and territories during the period 2002–03 to 2005–06 (Table 3.8). However, both Western Australia and the Northern Territory experienced increases in the rates of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people in juvenile justice supervision over the four-year period. Table 3.8 contains the rates of young people under supervision. The numbers of young people aged 10–17 years from which these rates were calculated are in Appendix D.

Table 3.8: Rates of young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision, per 1,000 young people, by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2002–03 to 2005–06

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
2002–03^(a)									
Indigenous	36.2	28.1	45.4	93.6	76.0	8.8	n.a.	16.8	(45.5)
Non-Indigenous	2.7	2.6	3.7	3.7	4.9	3.3	n.a.	3.3	(3.2)
Total	4.3	2.9	6.1	9.4	7.6	6.0	n.a.	8.9	(5.2)
2003–04									
Indigenous	35.8	26.5	41.6	99.6	63.0	11.9	56.7	21.6	45.1 (45.0)
Non-Indigenous	2.5	2.6	3.6	3.8	4.5	3.8	6.7	3.9	3.1 (3.1)
Total	4.1	2.8	5.8	10.1	6.7	6.3	7.9	11.3	5.1 (5.1)
2004–05									
Indigenous	33.8	23.9	39.7	103.4	58.0	14.4	59.3	23.0	44.3 (44.1)
Non-Indigenous	2.5	2.2	3.1	3.8	4.0	4.1	5.8	3.3	2.9 (2.8)
Total	4.0	2.5	5.3	10.2	6.1	6.3	7.1	11.6	4.9 (4.9)
2005–06									
Indigenous	34.7	23.8	39.8	106.6	51.4	17.7	44.2	21.2	44.4 (44.4)
Non-Indigenous	2.6	2.0	3.0	4.2	3.9	4.9	5.1	3.5	2.9 (2.8)
Total	4.3	2.6	5.3	10.8	5.8	6.9	6.2	11.2	5.0 (5.0)

(a) Rates for 2002–03 do not include the Australian Capital Territory as data were unavailable.

Notes

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

3.5 Relationships between sex, age and Indigenous status

In 2005–06, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under juvenile justice supervision were younger on average than non-Indigenous young people under juvenile justice supervision (Table 3.9). For young people aged 10 to 17 years, the median age of Indigenous young people under juvenile justice supervision was 15 years, compared with 16 years for non-Indigenous young people. The proportion who were Indigenous showed a steady decrease from age 12 (72%) to age 18 years (23%).

Proportionally more females were aged 14 to 16 years than males (60% and 50% respectively), while proportionally fewer females were aged 17 or older (31%, compared with 42% for males).

Table 3.9: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Australia, 2005–06

Sex	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
(number of young people)										
Male										
Indigenous	17	61	146	346	552	738	910	885	389	4,044
Non-Indigenous	8	28	55	218	543	967	1,561	1,789	1,216	6,385
Unknown/ not recorded	—	5	2	14	32	83	144	161	161	602
Total	25	94	203	578	1,127	1,788	2,615	2,835	1,766	11,031
Female										
Indigenous	3	4	24	84	184	209	219	209	73	1,009
Non-Indigenous	—	3	9	62	132	240	273	237	128	1,084
Unknown/ not recorded	—	—	—	5	13	29	31	27	22	127
Total	3	7	33	151	329	478	523	473	223	2,220
All young people										
Indigenous	20	65	170	430	736	^(a) 948	1,129	1,094	462	5,054
Non-Indigenous	8	31	64	280	675	1,207	^(b) 1,835	2,026	1,344	7,470
Unknown/ not recorded	—	5	2	19	45	^(a) 113	175	188	183	730
Total	28	101	236	729	1,456	^(a)2,268	^(b)3,139	3,308	1,989	13,254
(per cent of young people)										
Male										
Indigenous	68.0	64.9	71.9	59.9	49.0	41.3	34.8	31.2	22.0	36.7
Non-Indigenous	32.0	29.8	27.1	37.7	48.2	54.1	59.7	63.1	68.9	57.9
Unknown/ not recorded	—	5.3	1.0	2.4	2.8	4.6	5.5	5.7	9.1	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female										
Indigenous	100.0	57.1	72.7	55.6	55.9	43.7	41.9	44.2	32.7	45.5
Non-Indigenous	—	42.9	27.3	41.1	40.1	50.2	52.2	50.1	57.4	48.8
Unknown/ not recorded	—	—	—	3.3	4.0	6.1	5.9	5.7	9.9	5.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All young people										
Indigenous	71.4	64.4	72.0	59.0	50.5	41.8	36.0	33.1	23.2	38.1
Non-Indigenous	28.6	30.7	27.1	38.4	46.4	53.2	58.5	61.2	67.6	56.4
Unknown/ not recorded	—	5.0	0.8	2.6	3.1	5.0	5.6	5.7	9.2	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes one Indigenous young person of unknown sex and one young person with unknown Indigenous status of unknown sex.

(b) Includes one non-Indigenous young person of unknown sex.

Note: Age is calculated as at date of first supervision during 2005–06.

Overall, proportionally more females were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders than males (46% for females compared with 37% for males; Table 3.10). In only three jurisdictions (Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory) were males more likely to be Indigenous than females.

Table 3.10: Young people under juvenile justice supervision, by sex and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2005–06

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of young people)									
Male									
Indigenous	1,012	160	980	1,266	263	74	40	249	4,044
Non-Indigenous	1,879	1,344	1,183	819	664	292	151	53	6,385
Unknown/ not recorded	254	163	2	33	66	84	—	—	602
Total	3,145	1,667	2,165	2,118	993	450	191	302	11,031
Female									
Indigenous	213	47	268	355	89	11	8	18	1,009
Non-Indigenous	275	211	221	123	118	74	56	6	1,084
Unknown/ not recorded	54	26	—	13	10	24	—	—	127
Total	542	284	489	491	217	109	64	24	2,220
All young people									
Indigenous	1,225	207	1,248	1,622	352	85	48	267	5,054
Non-Indigenous	2,154	1,555	1,404	943	782	366	207	59	7,470
Unknown/ not recorded	308	189	2	47	76	108	—	—	730
Total	3,687	1,951	2,654	2,612	1,210	559	255	326	13,254
(per cent of young people)									
Male									
Indigenous	32.2	9.6	45.3	59.8	26.5	16.4	20.9	82.5	36.7
Non-Indigenous	59.7	80.6	54.6	38.7	66.9	64.9	79.1	17.5	57.9
Unknown/ not recorded	8.1	9.8	0.1	1.6	6.6	18.7	—	—	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female									
Indigenous	39.3	16.5	54.8	72.3	41.0	10.1	12.5	75.0	45.5
Non-Indigenous	50.7	74.3	45.2	25.1	54.4	67.9	87.5	25.0	48.8
Unknown/ not recorded	10.0	9.2	—	2.6	4.6	22.0	—	—	5.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All young people									
Indigenous	33.2	10.6	47.0	62.1	29.1	15.2	18.8	81.9	38.1
Non-Indigenous	58.4	79.7	52.9	36.1	64.6	65.5	81.2	18.1	56.4
Unknown/ not recorded	8.4	9.7	0.1	1.8	6.3	19.3	—	—	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes one Indigenous young person of unknown sex, one non-Indigenous young person of unknown sex, and one young person with unknown Indigenous status of unknown sex.

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

3.6 Age of initial juvenile justice supervision

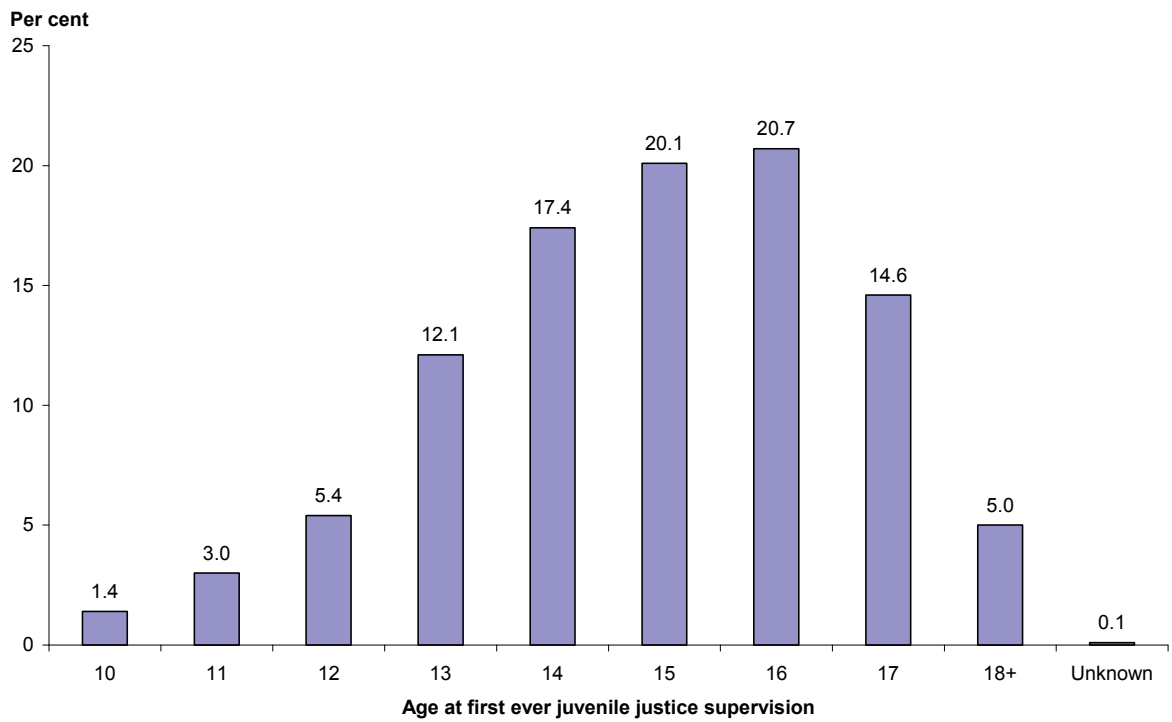
The Juvenile Justice NMDS includes information on the date each young person's first ever juvenile justice supervision began, even if this was before 2000-01. The date at which a young person began his/her first supervision that would have constituted a juvenile justice *episode* in the NMDS was collected and used to calculate the age at first supervision. Diversions and other juvenile justice outcomes that are not collected in the NMDS are not included.

Of the young people who had juvenile justice supervision in 2005-06, almost three-fifths (58%) were aged between 14 and 16 years at the start of their first juvenile justice supervision, which may have occurred in any year up to and including 2005-06 (Table 3.11, Figure 3.3). Fewer than 5% were aged 10 or 11 years at the start of their first supervision.

There was some variation between states and territories. The proportion of young people aged 17 and over at the time of their first supervision ranged from 15% to 34% for all jurisdictions except Queensland, where only 7% of young people were aged 17 or over at their first supervision. This is probably due to the legislation in Queensland that recognises 17 year olds as adults rather than juveniles. Victoria had the highest proportion of young people who began their first supervision aged at least 18 years. Legislation in Victoria allows for some young people aged up to 21 to be supervised by juvenile justice (see Section 1.2).

Table 3.11: Young people, by age at first supervision, states and territories, 2005-06 (per cent)

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
10	0.6	0.2	1.5	3.5	2.0	0.4	1.2	—	1.4
11	2.2	0.9	3.4	5.1	4.2	3.8	2.7	1.5	3.0
12	4.5	3.0	5.7	8.0	6.6	4.8	4.3	3.4	5.4
13	10.9	7.9	16.5	13.4	11.6	10.2	11.4	10.7	12.1
14	17.1	14.2	21.6	17.6	16.4	12.0	16.9	19.0	17.4
15	20.9	19.2	22.0	18.7	18.3	19.0	18.0	24.8	20.1
16	22.0	20.8	22.2	18.3	19.2	18.1	22.4	20.9	20.7
17	17.6	16.5	6.5	14.4	16.1	19.0	22.0	19.0	14.6
18+	4.2	17.2	0.6	0.7	5.7	12.9	1.2	0.3	5.0
Unknown	—	—	0.0	0.4	—	—	—	0.3	0.1
Total (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (number)	3,687	1,951	2,654	2,612	1,210	559	255	326	13,254



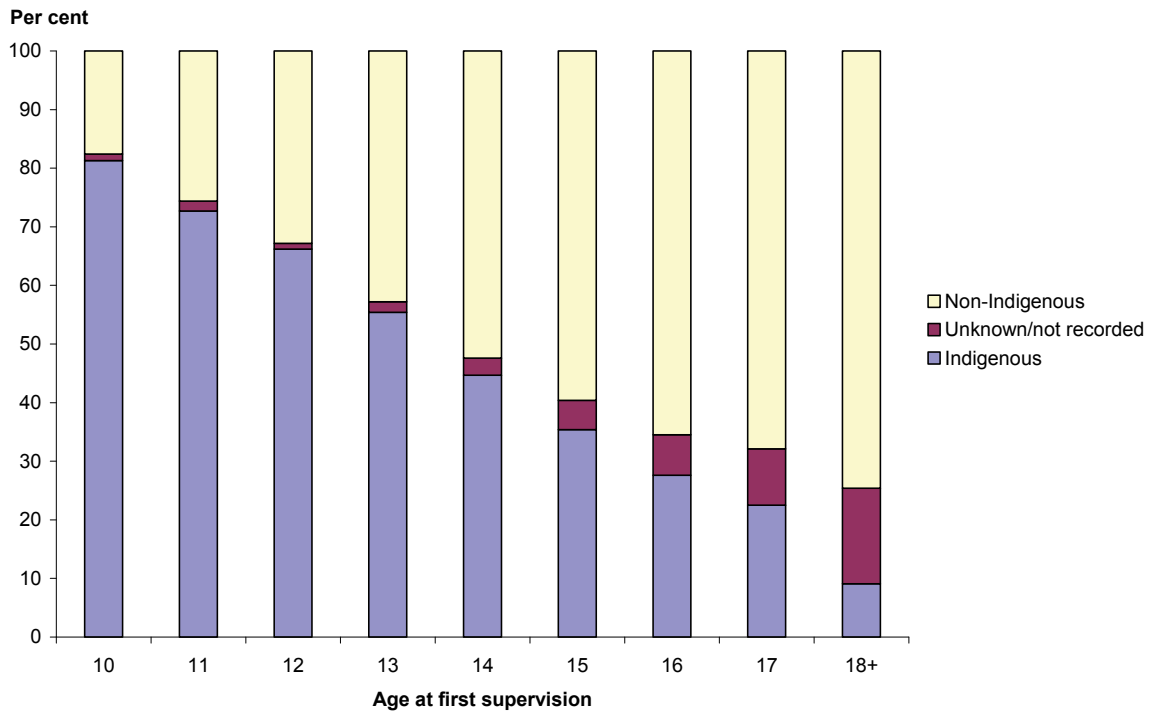
Source: Table 3.11.

Figure 3.3: Young people, by age at first supervision, Australia, 2005-06

For young people under juvenile justice supervision in 2005–06, there were differences between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous young people with regard to the age at their first ever juvenile justice supervision. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were younger on average at the time of first ever supervision than non-Indigenous young people (Table 3.12). Of those aged 10, 11 or 12 years at their first ever juvenile justice supervision, 81%, 73% and 66%, respectively, were Indigenous, compared with 9% of those whose first supervision occurred at age 18 or older. Indeed, 56% of Indigenous young people were aged 14 years or less during their initial supervision, compared with 30% of non-Indigenous young people (see also Figure 3.4).

Table 3.12: Young people, by age at first supervision and Indigenous status, Australia, 2005–06

Indigenous status	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Unknown	Total
(number of young people)											
Indigenous	152	293	474	891	1,032	945	757	437	61	12	5,054
Non-Indigenous	33	103	235	687	1,211	1,591	1,794	1,317	499	—	7,470
Unknown/not recorded	2	7	7	29	67	134	188	187	109	—	730
Total	187	403	716	1,607	2,310	2,670	2,739	1,941	669	12	13,254
(column per cent)											
Indigenous	81.3	72.7	66.2	55.4	44.7	35.4	27.6	22.5	9.1	100.0	38.1
Non-Indigenous	17.6	25.6	32.8	42.8	52.4	59.6	65.5	67.9	74.6	—	56.4
Unknown/not recorded	1.1	1.7	1.0	1.8	2.9	5.0	6.9	9.6	16.3	—	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
(row per cent)											
Indigenous	3.0	5.8	9.4	17.6	20.4	18.7	15.0	8.6	1.2	0.2	100.0
Non-Indigenous	0.4	1.4	3.1	9.2	16.2	21.3	24.0	17.6	6.7	—	100.0
Unknown/not recorded	0.3	1.0	1.0	4.0	9.2	18.4	25.8	25.6	14.9	—	100.0



Source: Table 3.12.

Figure 3.4: Young people, by age at first supervision and Indigenous status, Australia, 2005-06

There were also differences in age at first supervision between males and females for young people who were under juvenile justice supervision in 2005–06. Females were more likely than males to have begun juvenile justice supervision when aged around 13–16 years and were less likely than males to have begun juvenile justice supervision for the first time when aged 10 or 11 years (Table 3.13).

Table 3.13: Young people, by age at first supervision and sex, Australia, 2005–06

Sex	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Unknown	Total
(number of young people)											
Male	168	371	612	1,308	1,818	2,174	2,293	1,671	605	11	11,031
Female	19	31	104	299	492	494	446	270	64	1	2,220
Unknown	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3
Total	187	403	716	1,607	2,310	2,670	2,739	1,941	669	12	13,254
(per cent of young people)											
Male	89.8	92.1	85.5	81.4	78.7	81.4	83.7	86.1	90.4	91.7	83.2
Female	10.2	7.7	14.5	18.6	21.3	18.5	16.3	13.9	9.6	8.3	16.7
Unknown	—	0.2	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 3.14 shows young people's age at first supervision by the year in which that supervision began for all young people in the NMDS; for example, in 2000–01, 4,785 people began their first juvenile justice supervision, compared with 5,232 in 2005–06. This is in contrast with the previous tables, which showed the age at first supervision for all young people who were under juvenile justice supervision in 2005–06, regardless of the year in which they first began juvenile justice supervision.

The age at which young people begin juvenile justice supervision has remained relatively constant. In the six years, the majority of young people (67–68%) entered juvenile justice supervision for the first time aged between 15 and 17 years. In each year, only 4–5% of young people who began juvenile justice supervision in that year were aged between 10 and 12 years.

Table 3.14: Young people, by age at first supervision and year of first supervision, Australia, 2000–01 to 2005–06 (per cent)

Year of first supervision	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total (per cent)	Total (number)
2000–01	0.4	1.0	2.6	6.8	14.8	19.9	27.1	20.0	7.4	100.0	4,785
2001–02	0.3	1.4	2.6	7.2	14.2	21.1	25.9	20.3	7.0	100.0	4,861
2002–03	0.3	1.0	2.9	7.6	14.5	22.5	26.1	19.2	5.8	100.0	5,082
2003–04	0.3	1.5	3.4	8.4	14.3	20.8	25.9	20.0	5.4	100.0	4,923
2004–05	0.2	1.3	3.3	7.9	14.0	20.9	25.4	20.4	6.6	100.0	4,721
2005–06	0.4	1.4	2.5	7.7	14.2	19.8	24.5	22.1	7.6	100.0	5,232

Notes

1. This table excludes young people with unknown age.
2. This table excludes the Australian Capital Territory as data were not available for 2000–01 to 2002–03.

3.7 Summary

In 2005–06, there were 13,254 young people in juvenile justice supervision at some time during the year. The rate of young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision in Australia was 5.0 per 1,000. Compared with previous years, there was an increase in the number of young people in some form of juvenile justice supervision at some time during the year to 12,999, the highest number since 2002–03 (these trends data exclude the Australian Capital Territory).

The majority of young people under juvenile justice supervision were in community-based supervision only. Some young people had both community-based and detention supervision within a year. In 2005–06, 5.0 per 1,000 young people aged 10–17 years were subject to juvenile justice supervision; 4.2 per 1,000 had community-based supervision and 2.0 per 1,000 were in detention at some point during the year.

Most young people under juvenile justice supervision in 2005–06 were male (83%) and two-thirds of young people were aged at least 16 years. More than one-third of young people were of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, and these young people were, on average, younger than non-Indigenous young people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were represented under juvenile justice supervision at a rate of 44.4 per 1,000, compared with 2.9 per 1,000 for non-Indigenous young people. Proportionally more females were Indigenous than males (46% and 37%, respectively).

Most young people under juvenile justice supervision in 2005–06 were aged between 14 and 16 years at the start of their first juvenile justice supervision. However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people experienced their first supervision at a younger age than non-Indigenous young people. More than half of the Indigenous young people entered their first supervision aged less than 15 years.