

4 Average daily numbers

This chapter presents information on the average daily number of young people in juvenile justice supervision, both community-based and detention. The total number of supervision days is obtained by adding the duration of all *episodes* during each year. This total is divided by 365.25 to get an average daily number. These data are the average number of young people in supervision each day. They do not represent caseload figures. For example, if during one year there were 10 young people who each had a supervision lasting for 90 days, the total number of supervision days would be 900, with an average of 2.5 young people in supervision each day.

The average daily numbers are presented by age, sex and Indigenous status.

4.1 Average daily numbers in community supervision

The average daily number of young people on some form of community-based juvenile justice supervision, for each year from 2000–01 to 2004–05 is presented in Table 4.1. In most states and territories there was a decrease over the five years, with the average daily number across Australia decreasing from 5,172 in 2000–01 to 4,905 in 2004–05 (excluding the Australian Capital Territory for which data for 2000–01 to 2002–03 were unavailable).

Table 4.1: Young people, average daily number in community supervision, states and territories, 2000–01 to 2004–05

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
(average daily number of young people)									
2000–01	1,278	733	1,685	630	493	210	n.a.	144	(5,172)
2001–02	1,296	731	1,466	614	539	281	n.a.	89	(5,017)
2002–03	1,328	749	1,421	639	567	312	n.a.	92	(5,107)
2003–04	1,286	736	1,408	646	545	314	163	135	5,233 (5,070)
2004–05	1,240	697	1,380	636	481	308	142	162	5,047 (4,905)
(total number of supervision days)									
2000–01	466,776	267,760	615,337	229,984	180,023	76,610	n.a.	52,660	(1,889,150)
2001–02	473,239	267,149	535,487	224,355	196,936	102,708	n.a.	32,613	(1,832,487)
2002–03	485,090	273,616	519,047	233,487	206,940	113,796	n.a.	33,481	(1,865,457)
2003–04	469,795	268,677	514,367	235,892	199,064	114,822	59,528	49,147	1,911,292 (1,851,764)
2004–05	453,060	254,631	504,026	232,342	175,841	112,395	51,967	59,188	1,843,450 (1,791,483)

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

In the period 2000–01 to 2004–05, the average daily number of females in community supervision decreased by 6.2% from 802 to 752. During this time, the decrease for males was 4.8% from 4,363 to 4,152 (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Young people, average daily number in community supervision, by sex, Australia, 2000–01 to 2004–05

Year	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
2000–01	4,363	802	7	5,172
2001–02	4,213	795	9	5,017
2002–03	4,280	821	7	5,107
2003–04	4,292	773	5	5,070
2004–05	4,152	752	1	4,905

Notes

1. Australian Capital Territory excluded as data for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 were unavailable.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

The overall decrease in average daily numbers of young people in community supervision is largely attributable to a 35% decrease in the number aged 18+ years (Table 4.3). The younger age groups fluctuated during the period 2000–01 to 2004–05.

Table 4.3: Young people, average daily number in community supervision, by age, Australia, 2000–01 to 2004–05

Year	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
2000–01	9	36	93	300	657	1,038	1,409	1,033	596	5,172
2001–02	9	43	100	282	663	1,027	1,434	1,045	414	5,017
2002–03	7	43	104	303	658	1,051	1,427	1,074	441	5,107
2003–04	8	40	120	308	684	1,044	1,369	1,108	390	5,070
2004–05	6	48	106	321	620	1,027	1,341	1,048	389	4,905

Notes

1. Age is calculated as at first date of community supervision in the year.
2. Australian Capital Territory is excluded as data for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 were unavailable.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

The average number of young people of each age in community-based supervision each day during 2004–05 is presented in Table 4.4 by jurisdiction. In each state and territory, most young people in community-based supervision were aged 15–17 years. For Australia, almost 70% of young people in community supervision on an average day were in this age group.

Table 4.4: Young people, average daily number in community supervision, by age, states and territories, 2004–05

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
10	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	6
11	6	3	16	11	5	4	2	2	50
12	16	8	29	24	16	10	1	3	107
13	66	35	111	50	31	16	8	13	330
14	150	82	204	77	53	26	18	27	638
15	243	158	320	137	76	56	35	37	1,062
16	325	190	449	163	122	52	31	39	1,372
17	330	122	215	154	115	73	37	41	1,085
18+	104	99	30	19	64	71	10	1	399
Total	1,240	697	1,380	636	481	308	142	162	5,047

Notes

1. Age is calculated as at first date of community supervision in the year.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

During 2000–01 to 2004–05, the average daily number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in community supervision increased by 15% from 1,579 to 1,814. This compares to a 5% decrease from 2,980 to 2,833 for non-Indigenous young people (Table 4.5). Part of the increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander numbers is likely to be due to a decrease in the number of young people whose Indigenous status was unknown, from 613 to 258.

Table 4.5: Young people, average daily number in community supervision, by Indigenous status, Australia, 2000–01 to 2004–05

Year	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown	Total
2000–01	1,579	2,980	613	5,172
2001–02	1,543	3,026	448	5,017
2002–03	1,674	3,026	407	5,107
2003–04	1,757	2,969	344	5,070
2004–05	1,814	2,833	258	4,905

Notes

1. Australian Capital Territory is excluded as data for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 were unavailable.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

In most states and territories, the majority of young people in community-based supervision on an average day during 2004–05 were non-Indigenous (Table 4.6). The exceptions (Western Australia, Northern Territory) were the jurisdictions where a higher proportion of the general population was Indigenous (see Figure 2.2). Overall, 37% of young people on an average day in community supervision identified/were identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Table 4.6: Young people, average daily number in community supervision, by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2004–05

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Indigenous	419	71	629	395	139	31	31	130	1,845
Non-Indigenous	731	626	751	205	311	176	111	32	2,943
Unknown	90	—	—	37	31	100	—	—	258
Total	1,240	697	1,380	636	481	308	142	162	5,047

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

For the 2004–05 year, the relationships between age, sex and Indigenous status in the average daily number of young people in community-based supervision are presented in Table 4.7. The average daily numbers of males and females show similar patterns with age. Indigenous representation is highest for young males aged 10–13 years (see also Table 3.8).

Table 4.7: Young people, average daily number in community supervision, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Australia, 2004–05

Indigenous status	Male									Total
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	
Indigenous	5	31	60	146	229	315	367	278	68	1,500
Non-Indigenous	—	11	30	118	256	529	745	605	245	2,540
Unknown	—	3	1	6	17	37	47	64	41	215
Total	5	46	92	269	501	881	1,160	947	354	4,255
Indigenous status	Female									Total
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	
Indigenous	—	2	10	35	74	68	87	59	8	345
Non-Indigenous	—	1	5	24	58	105	111	70	29	404
Unknown	—	—	—	2	4	8	13	9	7	43
Total	—	4	15	61	136	181	212	138	44	791
Indigenous status	Total									Total
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	
Indigenous	5	34	70	180	303	384	455	337	76	1,845
Non-Indigenous	—	13	35	142	314	634	857	675	274	2,944
Unknown	—	3	1	8	20	45	60	72	48	258
Total	6	50	107	330	638	1,062	1,372	1,085	399	5,047

Notes

1. Age is calculated as at first date of community supervision during 2004–05.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

4.2 Average daily numbers in detention

The average daily number of young people on either remand or sentenced detention for each year 2000–01 to 2004–05 is presented in Table 4.8. In most states and territories there has been a decrease, with the Australian average declining 13% from 881 in 2000–01 to 766 in 2004–05.

The figures presented here may differ in several ways from other published figures on the number of young people in detention². Firstly, these tables include young people of all ages, and are not restricted to young people aged 10–17 years. Secondly, they are averages calculated from an entire year of unit record data, rather than a snapshot taken on one particular day. Thirdly, supervisions that begin and end on the same day are counted as one day, which may differ from jurisdictional practice. Finally, these data include some young people held in police watchhouses rather than in a juvenile detention facility.

Table 4.8: Young people, average daily number in detention, all ages, states and territories, 2000–01 to 2004–05

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
(average daily number of young people)									
2000–01	324	190	143	87	72	49	n.a.	17	881
2001–02	313	186	135	99	69	65	n.a.	19	886
2002–03	304	157	136	93	65	52	n.a.	26	833
2003–04	315	140	121	119	60	42	22	17	836 (814)
2004–05	288	138	105	113	65	39	18	19	784 (766)
(total number of supervision days)									
2000–01	118,344	69,254	52,291	31,776	26,130	17,873	n.a.	6,217	321,885
2001–02	114,240	67,992	49,191	36,185	25,363	23,712	n.a.	6,847	323,530
2002–03	111,142	57,332	49,584	34,009	23,730	18,918	n.a.	9,537	304,252
2003–04	115,014	51,275	44,269	43,529	22,037	15,159	7,889	6,054	305,226 (297,337)
2004–05	105,023	50,379	38,233	41,252	23,796	14,311	6,435	6,805	286,234 (279,799)

Notes

1. An average daily number of 10–17 year olds in detention is presented as a subtotal in Table 4.10)
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. A list of detention centres included in the data is in Appendix C.
4. The Australian Capital Territory figures presented here vary from those published elsewhere due to differences in counting rules between collections and identified issues in the current manual statistical collection process.

² Other statistics on juvenile detention are published in the Australian Institute of Criminology series *Statistics on juvenile detention*.

Between 2000–01 and 2004–05, there was a marked decrease of 35% in the average daily number of female young people in detention in Australia, from 89 to 58. During this time, the decrease for males was 11% from 792 to 708 (Table 4.9).

Table 4.9: Young people, average daily number in detention, by sex, Australia, 2000–01 to 2004–05

Year	Male	Female	Total
2000–01	792	89	881
2001–02	799	87	886
2002–03	762	71	833
2003–04	757	58	814
2004–05	708	58	766

Notes

1. Australian Capital Territory is excluded as data for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 were unavailable.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

The most substantial decrease in the average daily number of young people in detention occurred for those aged 18 years or over (Table 4.10). This number dropped by 33% from 190 in 2000–01 to 127 in 2004–05. For other ages the average daily number of young people in detention fluctuated over the period; however, for those aged 14 to 17 years there was a decrease between 2003–04 and 2004–05. Overall for young people aged 10–17, the average daily number in detention peaked in 2001–02 with a decline of 11% between 2001–02 and 2004–05.

Table 4.10: Young people, average daily number in detention, by age, Australia, 2000–01 to 2004–05

Year	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10–17 subtotal	18+	Total
2000–01	—	3	14	38	75	150	209	203	691	190	881
2001–02	—	3	11	38	80	153	220	211	715	170	886
2002–03	—	3	7	37	89	153	221	188	697	136	833
2003–04	1	4	14	28	82	155	203	200	686	128	814
2004–05	1	6	15	40	72	145	187	173	639	127	766

Notes

1. Age is calculated as at first date of detention supervision that year.
2. Australian Capital Territory is excluded as data for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 were unavailable.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

The average daily number of young people in detention during 2004–05 is presented in Table 4.11 by age for each state and territory. In all states and territories, the majority (66% for Australia) were aged between 15 and 17 years.

During 2004–05 there were, on average, 22 young people aged 10–12 in detention each day in Australia. Victoria’s special sentencing option for detention is reflected in their higher number of young people aged at least 18 in detention each day (see Section 1.2).

Table 4.11: Young people, average daily number in detention, by age, states and territories, 2004–05

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
11	2	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	6
12	5	—	3	3	2	1	—	—	15
13	14	2	9	8	6	1	1	1	41
14	27	5	18	12	4	4	3	2	75
15	49	12	29	24	12	14	4	5	149
16	63	23	33	35	21	7	4	5	191
17	81	25	10	29	14	8	5	6	178
18+	46	72	1	—	4	3	1	—	128
Total	288	138	105	113	65	39	18	19	784

Notes

1. Age is calculated as at first date of detention supervision in the year.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

During 2000–01 to 2004–05, the average daily number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention supervision increased from 321 in 2000–01 to 341 in 2004–05 (excluding the Australian Capital Territory for which data from 2000–01 to 2002–03 were unavailable). This compares to a 19% decrease from 501 to 406 for non-Indigenous young people (Table 4.12). Part of this trend is from improved data quality; during this time the average daily number of young people in detention whose Indigenous status was unknown decreased from 59 to 19.

Table 4.12: Young people, average daily number in detention, by Indigenous status, Australia, 2000–01 to 2004–05

Year	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown	Total
2000–01	321	501	59	881
2001–02	340	501	44	886
2002–03	333	465	35	833
2003–04	346	438	29	814
2004–05	341	406	19	766

Notes

1. Australian Capital Territory is excluded as data for 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 were unavailable.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Including the Australian Capital Territory, during 2004–05, there was an average of 348 Indigenous young people and 417 non-Indigenous young people in detention each day in

Australia (Table 4.13). As was the case for community-based supervision, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland were the jurisdictions with higher proportions of Indigenous young people both in the general population and in detention (see Figure 2.2).

Table 4.13: Young people, average daily number in detention, by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2004–05

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Indigenous	126	17	62	87	26	8	7	16	348
Non-Indigenous	153	121	43	26	39	20	10	3	417
Unknown	8	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	19
Total	288	138	105	113	65	39	18	19	784

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

For the 2004–05 year, the relationships between age, sex and Indigenous status in the average daily number of young people in detention are presented in Table 4.14. For ages 10 to 15 years, there were more Indigenous than non-Indigenous young people in detention on an average day, while the reverse was true for those aged 16 to 18 years.

Table 4.14: Young people, average daily number in detention, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Australia, 2004–05

Indigenous status	Male									Australia
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	
Indigenous	—	5	10	25	39	76	86	61	17	318
Non-Indigenous	—	1	3	11	25	59	90	103	96	388
Unknown	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	3	7	17
Total	—	6	13	37	66	138	177	167	120	723
Indigenous status	Female									Australia
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	
Indigenous	—	—	1	3	6	7	7	5	1	30
Non-Indigenous	—	—	1	1	4	4	7	5	6	29
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Total	—	—	2	5	9	11	15	11	7	60
Indigenous status	Total									Australia
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	
Indigenous	—	5	11	28	44	83	93	65	18	348
Non-Indigenous	—	1	4	12	29	63	97	108	103	417
Unknown	—	—	—	1	2	3	2	4	7	19
Total	1	6	15	41	75	149	191	178	128	784

Notes

1. Age is calculated as at first date of detention supervision during 2004–05.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

4.3 Average daily numbers in juvenile justice supervision

The average daily number of young people in supervision was calculated by adding together the average daily number on community-based supervision with the average daily number in detention supervision. During 2000–01 to 2004–05, there was a decline of around 6.3% in the average number of young people in juvenile justice supervision each day (Table 4.15).

Table 4.15 shows that on an average day there were over 6 times as many young people in community-based supervision as in detention.

Table 4.15: Young people, average daily number in supervision, states and territories, 2000–01 to 2004–05

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
(average daily number in community)									
2000–01	1,278	733	1,685	630	493	210	n.a.	144	5,172
2001–02	1,296	731	1,466	614	539	281	n.a.	89	5,017
2002–03	1,328	749	1,421	639	567	312	n.a.	92	5,107
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2004–05	1,240	697	1,380	636	481	308	142	162	5,047 (4,905)
(average daily number in detention)									
2000–01	324	190	143	87	72	49	n.a.	17	881
2001–02	313	186	135	99	69	65	n.a.	19	886
2002–03	304	157	136	93	65	52	n.a.	26	833
2003–04	315	140	121	119	60	42	22	17	836 (814)
2004–05	288	138	105	113	65	39	18	19	784 (766)
(average daily number in supervision)									
2000–01	1,602	923	1,828	717	564	259	n.a.	161	6,053
2001–02	1,608	918	1,601	713	609	346	n.a.	108	5,903
2002–03	1,632	906	1,557	732	632	363	n.a.	118	5,940
2003–04	1,601	876	1,529	765	605	356	185	151	6,068 (5,884)
2004–05	1,528	835	1,485	749	547	347	160	181	5,831 (5,671)

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Of the 10,704 young people in community-based supervision during 2004–05 (see Table 3.1), 47% (5,047) were under supervision on an average day. However, of the 4,788 young people in detention in 2004–05, only 16% (784) were in detention on an average day. This difference reflects the fact that periods of detention are on average shorter than periods of community supervision.

Summary

During 2004–05 there were on average 5,831 young people in juvenile justice supervision each day. Of these, 87% (5,047) were in community-based supervision, and 13% (784) were in detention, either on remand or in sentenced detention.

Indigenous young people represented over one-third of young people in community-based supervision and 44% of those in detention on an average day in 2004–05.

Overall there has been a decrease of about 6% since 2000–01 in the average daily number of young people in juvenile justice supervision in Australia. Community-based supervision has decreased by over 5%, with a larger decline of 13% in detention. The decrease in the average daily number of young people in detention occurred in most states and territories.

Proportionally, the largest decreases occurred for females (35% from 89 to 58) and for young people aged 18 years and over (33% from 190 to 127).