



Youth justice in Australia 2022-23

Web report | Last updated: 28 Mar 2024 | Topic: [Youth justice](#)

About

Most of the 4,542 young people under youth justice supervision on an average day in 2022-23 were male (81%) and supervised in the community (82%). Overall rates of supervision varied among the states and territories, from 4.7 per 10,000 in Victoria to 79 per 10,000 in the Northern Territory. Rates of supervision for community-based supervision and detention fell over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

Cat. no: JUV 143

- [Data visualisation](#)
- [State and territory fact sheets](#)
- [Data](#)

Findings from this report:

- [On an average day in 2022-23, 4,542 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision](#)
- [Of young people under supervision on an average day, 82% were supervised in the community, the remainder in detention](#)
- [The number of young people under supervision on an average day fell by 20% between 2018-19 and 2022-23](#)
- [First Nations young people made up 57% of those aged 10-17 under youth justice supervision on an average day](#)



Summary

This report looks at young people who were under youth justice supervision in Australia during 2022-23 because of their involvement or alleged involvement in crime. It explores the key aspects of supervision, both in the community and in detention, as well as recent trends. Some data are included from the period during which COVID-19 and related social restrictions were present in Australia, specifically between March 2020 and June 2022.

About 4,500 young people aged 10 and over were under supervision on an average day

A total of 4,542 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision on an average day in 2022-23 and 9,157 young people were supervised at some time during the year.

Nearly all young people (96%) under youth justice supervision on an average day were aged 14 and over. This was similar for community-based supervision (96%) and detention (95%).

Among those aged 10-17 under youth justice supervision, the rate of youth justice supervision on an average day in 2022-23 was 13 per 10,000.

Most young people were supervised in the community

Just over 4 in 5 (82%) young people under supervision on an average day were supervised in the community, and about 1 in 5 (18%) were in detention.

The majority of young people in detention were unsentenced

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

Young people spent an average of 6 months under supervision

Individual periods of supervision completed during 2022-23 lasted for a median of 90 days or about 3 months. (This includes time under supervision before 1 July 2022 if the period started before that date.)

When all time spent under supervision during 2022-23 is considered (including multiple periods and periods that were not yet completed), young people who were supervised during the year spent an average of 181 days (about 6 months) under supervision.

Supervision rates varied among the states and territories

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

In 2022-23, the rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day ranged from 4.7 per 10,000 in Victoria to 79 per 10,000 in the Northern Territory.

Across each supervision type, the average daily number and the rate of supervision have fallen over the 5 years to 2022-23

Over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23, the number of young people aged 10 and over under supervision on an average day fell by 20% (from 5,693 to 4,542), while the rate of young people aged 10-17 fell by 28% (from 18 to 13 per 10,000).

Between 2018-19 and 2022-23, the number of young people aged 10 and over under community-based supervision on an average day fell by 22% (from 4,770 to 3,743), while the rate fell 31% (from 15 to 11 per 10,000) for those aged 10-17.

Over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23, the number of young people aged 10 and over in detention on an average day fell by 13% (from 952 to 828), while the rate of young people aged 10-17 declined by 15% (3.2 to 2.7 per 10,000).

Rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under supervision have fallen

The vast majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) young people have never been under supervision, with 1.3% of First Nations young people aged 10-17 being under supervision on an average day in 2022-23.

On an average day in 2022-23, there were:

- 2,423 First Nations young people under youth justice supervision
- 1,958 First Nations young people under community-based supervision
- 483 First Nations young people in detention.

First Nations young people are under youth justice supervision at much higher rates than non-Indigenous young people. Between 2018-19 and 2022-23, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day fell from 161 to 132 per 10,000. The rate of non-Indigenous young people under supervision also fell over the period, from 9.3 to 5.8 per 10,000.

The rate of First Nations young people under community-based supervision aged 10-17 declined from 130 per 10,000 in 2018-19 to 103 per 10,000 in 2022-23, while non-Indigenous rates fell from 8.0 to 4.8 per 10,000.

Over the 5-year period from 2018-19 to 2022-23 the rate for First Nations young people aged 10-17 in detention declined from 32 to 30 per 10,000, while the non-Indigenous rates declined, from 1.4 to 1.1 per 10,000.

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

Although most young people under supervision had come from cities and regional areas (84%), those from geographically remote areas had the highest rates of supervision.

On an average day in 2022-23, young people aged 10-17 who were from *Very remote* areas were 11 times as likely to be under supervision as those from *Major cities*. This largely reflects the higher proportions of First Nations Australians living in these areas.

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

Almost 2 in 5 young people (38%) under supervision on an average day in 2022-23 were from the lowest socioeconomic areas, compared with about 1 in 20 young people (4.9%) from the highest socioeconomic areas.

About 1 in 3 young people were new to supervision

Almost 2 in 5 (38%) young people under youth justice supervision in 2022-23 were new to supervision in that year. The rest (62%) had been supervised in a previous year.

First Nations young people (66%) were slightly more likely than non-Indigenous young people (61%) to have been under supervision in a previous year.

First Nations young people were younger when they entered supervision than their non-Indigenous counterparts

On average, First Nations young people entered youth justice supervision at a younger age than non-Indigenous young people.

More than a third (34%, or 1,572) of First Nations young people under supervision in 2022-23 were first supervised when aged 10-13 compared with about 1 in 7 (15%, or 634) non-Indigenous young people.



Data dashboard

This figure shows the number of young people in under youth justice supervision on an average day and during the year in Australia. It includes data for 2022-23 and each state and territory. Additionally, it presents the proportion of young people under youth justice supervision by Indigenous status, sex, age and over time.

This figure shows that there were 4,542 young people aged 10 and over under youth justice supervision in 2022-23. Queensland had the largest number (1,595), followed by New South Wales (1,001), while the Australian Capital Territory (58) had the lowest. Of these young people under supervision, 53.3% were Indigenous and 81% were male. There were 198 young people aged 10-13, 3,249 aged 14-17 and 1,096 aged 18 and over under supervision. Overall the number of young people aged 10 and over under youth justice supervision has declined from 2013-14 to 2022-23 (from 6,240 to 4,542).

Figure: Young people under youth justice supervision, 2022-23

Filters

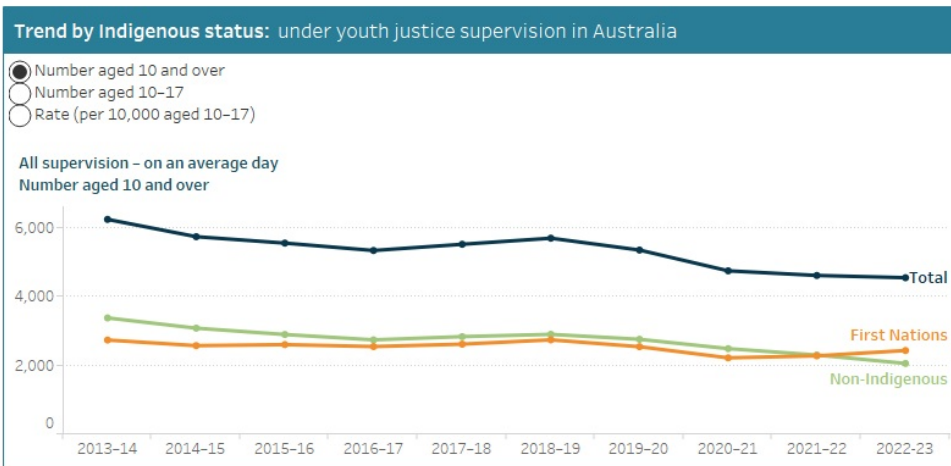
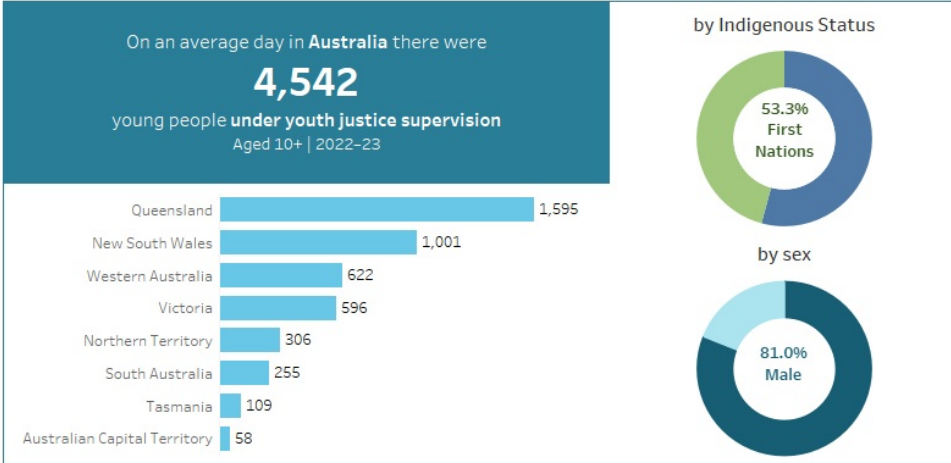
Type of supervision:

All supervision Community Detention

Unit of measurement:

during the year
 on an average day

State/Territory:
 Australia



See [Hover for notes] for further explanation about blank observations.

Source: AIHW 2024. Youth Justice in Australia 2022-23,
<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

[Hover for notes]

Introduction

Youth justice system

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

Young people can be charged with a criminal offence if they are aged 10 and over; however, this will change in the coming years in some states and territories as governments move to raise the age of criminal responsibility. There are separate justice systems for young people and adults. The upper age limit for the youth system is 17 (at the time of the offence) in all states and territories. Those aged 18 and over are dealt with under criminal legislation relating to adults.

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

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

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

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

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

A court may decide to:

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

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

Youth justice supervision

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

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

- contained in youth justice legislation in each state and territory
- consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations 1989) - which states that children should be deprived of liberty only as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period - and with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice ('Beijing Rules') (United Nations 1985).

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

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

Table 1.1: Types of youth justice supervision

Type of supervision	Community-based	Detention
Unsentenced supervision	Supervised or conditional bail Home detention bail	Remanded in custody (can be police- or court-referred)

Sentenced supervision	Probation or similar	Sentenced to detention
	Suspended detention	
	Parole or supervised release	

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

Sentenced community-based supervision comprises:

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

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

Table 1.2 Supervised youth justice services in the YJ NMDS, by state and territory, 2022-23

Services and outcomes	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Unsentenced								
Community-based supervision								
Supervised or conditional bail or similar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Detention								
Police-referred detention	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓ ^(a)	✓	
Remand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sentenced								
Community-based supervision								
Good behaviour bond	✓	✓ ^(b)		✓ ^(b)	✓	✓ ^(b)	✓	
Probation and similar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community service	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Suspended detention ^(c)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Home detention					✓			✓
Parole or supervised release from detention ^(c)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Detention								
Detention	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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

(a) In Tasmania, legislation does not explicitly preclude police-referred detention, but orders of this type are outside the scope of YJ NMDS submission since Tasmania began reporting in 2006-07.

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

(c) Suspended detention and supervised release from detention includes probation and parole.

Key policy directions in 2022-23

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

In 2022-23, some of the most commonly identified policy directions included:

- undertaking early intervention to provide services and programs to at-risk young people and their families
- offering alternatives to detention, including the use of warnings, cautions and conferencing

- providing bail assistance for young people to reduce unnecessary remand, particularly where a young person does not have access to suitable accommodation
- delivering better outcomes for First Nations young people
- providing effective evidence-based assessment processes, case-planning, and intervention/rehabilitation programs to mitigate the offending behaviour of young people under supervision
- improving infrastructure in detention facilities
- improving the pre- and post-release support provided to young people leaving custody, including accommodation and assistance to reintegrate into the community.

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

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

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

In March 2023, a new information system was implemented in the Northern Territory; hence, data published in *Youth Justice in Australia 2022-23* will not be comparable with data in previous editions of the report.

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

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

In May 2023, the Australian Capital Territory introduced legislation to raise the criminal age of responsibility to 12 initially (implemented in November 2023), then to 14 within the next 2 years (expected to be implemented in mid-2025).

In April 2023, Victoria announced it would raise the criminal age of responsibility to 12 by the end of 2024, and then to 14 by 2027, with exceptions for serious crimes and subject to the design and implementation of an alternative service model.

In June 2022, Tasmania committed to raising the age of criminal detention from age 10 to age 14. Subsequently, in September 2023, the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings recommended that the Tasmanian Government work towards increasing the minimum age of detention (including remand) to 16 by developing alternatives to detention for children aged 14 and 15 who are found guilty of serious violent offences and who may be a danger to themselves or the community.

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

This report

This report presents information about young people in Australia who were under youth justice supervision during 2022-23, both in the community and in detention. It looks at the characteristics of these young people, key aspects of their supervision, and recent trends. It is based on data from the YJ NMDS for all states and territories in Australia.

Numbers in this report include those for young people of all ages (including those aged 18 and over) unless otherwise specified. Proportions presented in this report are calculated off numbers presented in the report and/or supplementary tables. Population rates are calculated only for young people aged 10-17, as this is the main age group for youth justice supervision in most states and territories. Unless stated otherwise, all rates are per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 under youth justice supervision. See Appendix A - Data quality and technical notes for the impact of COVID-19 on population rates.

All data presented in this report are available through the online supplementary tables: [Youth justice in Australia 2022-23, Data](#).

Average daily data, broken down by age, will not be comparable with data in *Youth Justice in Australia* releases before 2019-20. For more information on the calculation of age, see Appendix A

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data (2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 'first wave' of social restrictions was introduced in Australia in mid-March 2020. These restrictions were progressively eased in most states/territories from May 2020. A 'second wave' of social restrictions was introduced in Victoria from July 2020 and started to progressively ease from September 2020. A 'third wave' of social restrictions was introduced in New

South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory from June 2021 and started to progressively ease from October 2021. Since then, additional waves of COVID-19 have affected all jurisdictions with small restrictions in place during that time.

While - as outlined in the Prime Minister's media announcement on 18 March 2020 - youth justice centres and other places of custody, courts or tribunals were considered essential services (the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister 18 March 2020), COVID-19 has had a substantial impact on their operations, and restrictions they face may have continued beyond the easing of restrictions in the general community. The impact may differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction (Judicial College of Victoria 2020):

- In New South Wales, for example, Children's Court hearings were vacated from 24 March to 1 May 2020 with few exceptions. This led to a decrease in the number of court finalisations between March and June 2020, which resulted in a reduction of young people in sentenced detention.
- During this same period, there was also a decline in unsentenced detention as more young people were discharged to bail and fewer young people had their bail revoked when breaching bail conditions (Chan 2021).

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2023, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors including:

- variability of the data
- variations in state-based legislation, policy and practice
- small numbers of young people under supervision.
- More research is required to better understand the impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on youth justice youth justice supervision across Australia.

References

Chan N (2021) *The impact of COVID-19 on young people in the criminal justice system*, Bureau brief number BB151, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

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

Judicial College of Victoria (2020) *Coronavirus and the courts*, Judicial College of Victoria.

MAG (Meeting of Attorneys-General) (2022). *Council of Attorneys-General communique*. Canberra: Age of Criminal Responsibility Working Group. Viewed 12 September 2022.

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

The Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister (18 March 2020) *Update on coronavirus measures* [media release], Press Office of the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister, Canberra.

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

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



Numbers and rates of young people under supervision

National

On an average day in 2022-23, 4,542 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision in Australia (Figure 2.1; Table 2.1). A total of 9,157 young people were supervised at some time during the year (Table S1b).

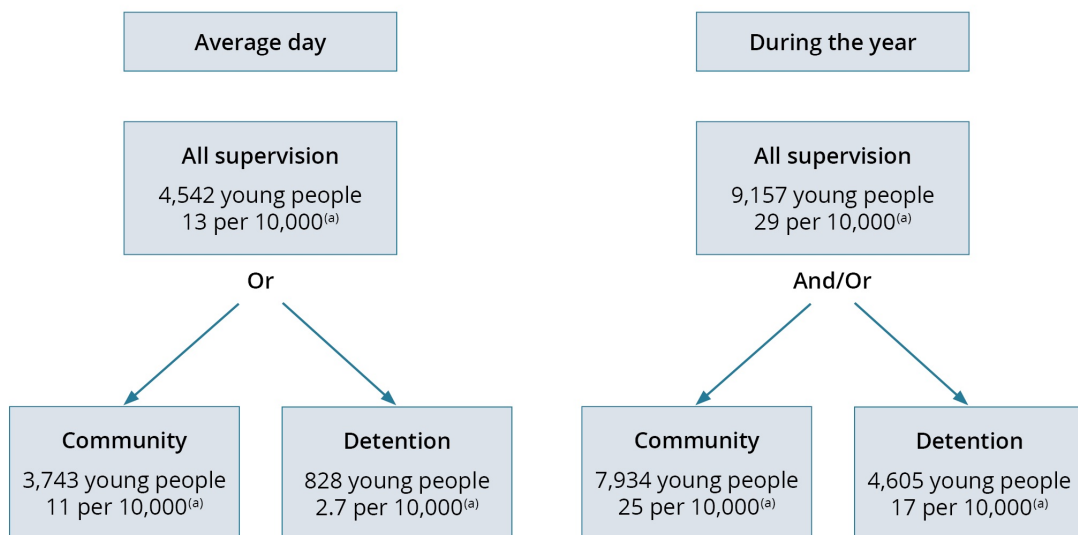
On an average day, most young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision were supervised in the community (82%); the remainder (18%) were in detention (tables S1a, S34a and S72a).

Although relatively few young people were in detention on an average day, about half (50%, or 4,605) of all young people who were supervised during 2022-23 had been in detention at some time during the year (Figure 2.1). A high proportion of young people who were supervised during 2022-23 had also been under community-based supervision at some point during the year (87%, or 7,934). The high proportions of young people under community-based supervision and detention during the year indicates that young people often experience both community-based supervision and detention during the year (Figure 2.1).

As well, the difference between the number in detention on an average day and the number who had been in detention during the year indicates that most young people typically spend a short time in detention (see Appendix A).

Figure 2.1: Young people under supervision on an average day and during the year, by supervision type, 2022-23 (number and rate)

a.



Rates are presented for young people aged 10-17.

Notes

1. The average daily number of all supervision will not equal the sum of community-based supervision and detention because young people can be in both types of supervision on the same day.
2. Young people can be in both community-based supervision and detention during the year so the sum of these types of supervision will not be equal to the total number of young people under youth justice supervision.

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

The rate of young people aged 10-17 under youth justice supervision on an average day was about 13 per 10,000 (Figure 2.1).

On an average day, the rate of young people aged 10-17 under community-based supervision was 11 per 10,000 and the rate for those in detention was 2.7 per 10,000 (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Young people under supervision, by supervision type and state and territory, 2022-23

Type of supervision	Number - all ages									
	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia	

Average day^(a) Community	806.5	491.0	1,295.0	528.2	230.3	95.4	39.7	256.5	3,742.6
Average day^(a) Detention	199.8	108.1	310.1	98.7	27.0	13.6	18.7	52.2	828.1
Average day^(a) All supervision	1,001.2	595.9	1,595.3	622.1	254.9	108.6	57.8	306.1	4,542.0
During the year: Community	1,741	1,101	2,474	1,296	539	184	107	492	7,934
During the year: Detention	1,489	441	1,101	809	323	58	109	275	4,605
During the year: All supervision	2,443	1,153	2,567	1,527	602	199	155	511	9,157

Rate - age 10-17 (number per 10,000)									
Type of supervision	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Average day^(a) Community	9.1	3.7	15.8	15.7	10.9	12.4	8.2	61.2	10.6
Average day^(a) Detention	2.0	1.1	5.0	3.0	1.5	2.4	3.4	19.2	2.7
Average day^(a) All supervision	11.0	4.7	20.7	18.6	12.2	14.7	11.5	79.5	13.3
During the year: Community	20.5	9.1	34.5	42.3	27.1	26.7	24.8	142.4	25.0
During the year: Detention	17.3	5.7	18.9	27.9	18.1	10.8	25.2	102.4	16.9
During the year: All supervision	28.3	9.8	36.2	50.4	30.6	29.5	33.8	151.0	29.4

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

Notes

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

Sources: tables S1, S4, S34, S37, S72 and S75

States and territories

The size of youth justice populations in states and territories can be impacted by the population size of the jurisdiction, as well as by differences in state-based legislation, policies and practices, including the available types of supervised orders and options for diversion.

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

Young people in Queensland made up:

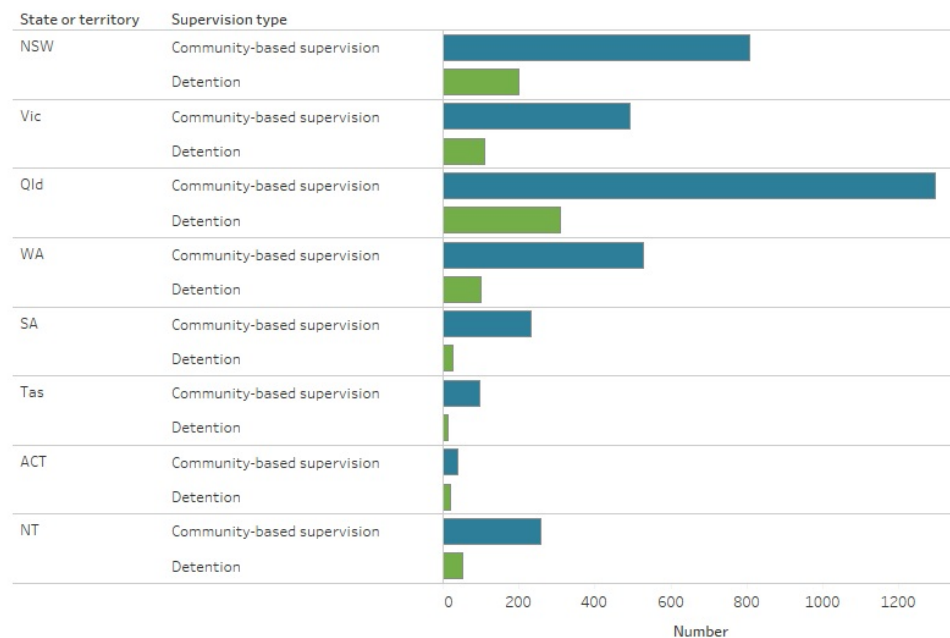
- 35% of all young people under supervision
- 35% of all young people under community-based supervision
- 37% of all young people under detention (Table 2.1).

Young people in New South Wales made up:

- 22% of all young people under supervision
- 22% of all young people under community-based supervision
- 24% of all young people under detention (Figure 2.2; Table S1a).

Figure 2.2: Young people under supervision on an average day, by supervision type and State or territory, 2022-23 (number)

This horizontal bar chart shows the number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention in each state and territory. It shows that Queensland and New South Wales had the highest numbers of young people under community-based supervision and detention.



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

Sources: tables S34a and S72a

On an average day in 2022-23, rates of young people aged 10-17 under supervision varied among the states and territories (Figure 2.3; Table 2.1). Rates of young people:

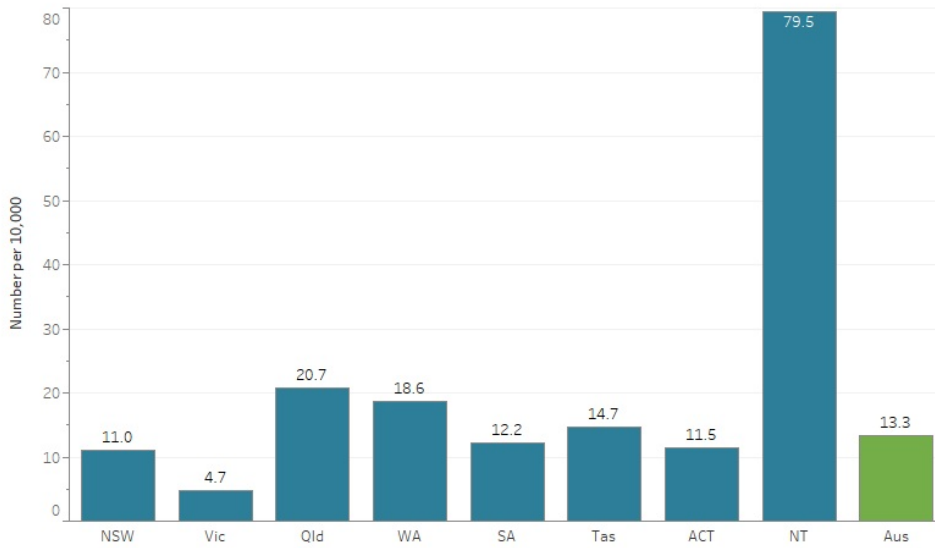
- under any type of supervision were lowest in Victoria (4.7 per 10,000) and highest in the Northern Territory (79 per 10,000)
- under community-based supervision ranged from 3.7 per 10,000 in Victoria to 61 per 10,000 in the Northern Territory
- in detention ranged from 1.1 per 10,000 in Victoria to 19 per 10,000 in the Northern Territory.

Figure 2.3: Rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type and State or territory, 2022-23 (number per 10,000)

This figure contains three vertical bar charts displaying rates of young people under youth justice supervision, community-based supervision and detention. While most states vary by supervision type, the Northern Territory had the highest rates and Victoria the lowest across all supervision types.

Select type of supervision

- All supervision
- Community-based supervision
- Detention



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

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

Source: Table 2.1.



Characteristics of young people under supervision

Age and sex

The majority of young people under supervision on an average day in 2022-23 were male (81%) (Figure 3.1; Table S2a). This proportion was higher among those in detention (90%) than among those supervised in the community (79%) (tables S35a and S73a).

Among young people aged 10-17, males (20 per 10,000) were almost 4 times as likely as females (5.6 per 10,000) to be under supervision on an average day (Table S4a).

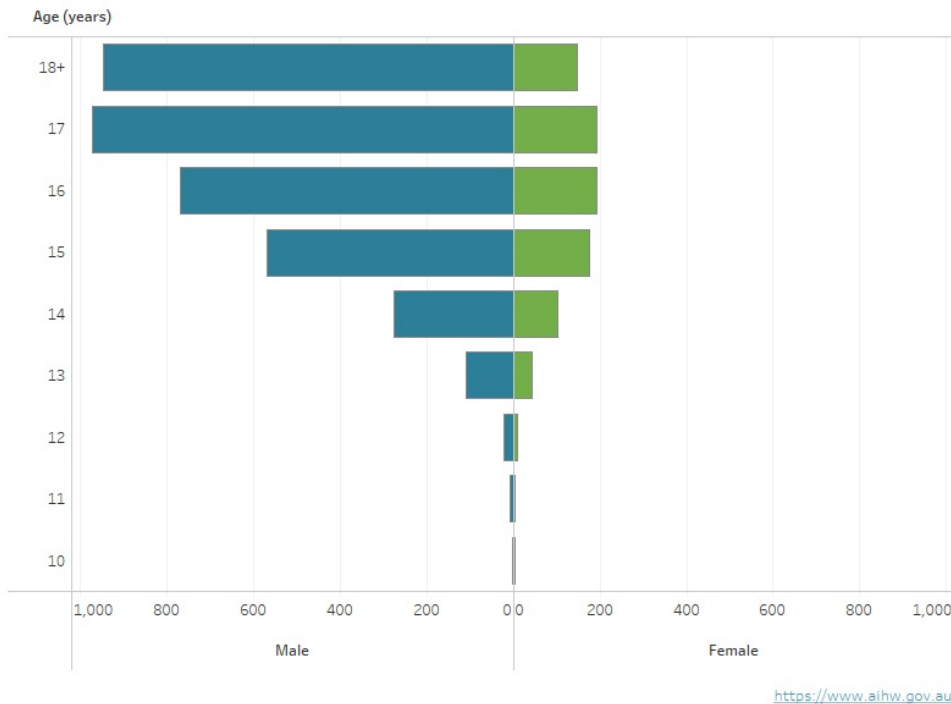
Males under supervision substantially outnumbered females in all states and territories. The proportion of young males under supervision on an average day ranged from 71% of young people under supervision in Tasmania to 89% in Victoria (Table S2a).

Almost 3 in 4 (72%) young people under supervision on an average day were aged 14-17 (Figure 3.1; Table S7a). The number of young people under supervision was highest among those aged 17 (1,164 young people) (Figure 3.1). Of young people aged 10-17, the rate of young people under supervision was highest among those aged 17 (38 per 10,000) (Table S6a). One quarter (24%) of young people under supervision on an average day were aged 18 and over and 4.3% were aged 10-13 (Table S7a).

Similarly, most young people under community-based supervision were aged 14-17 (70%) and 18 and over (26%), while a small proportion were aged 10-13 (4.2%) (Table S40a). This was also the case for young people in detention, although there were higher proportions of young people aged 10-13 (5.1%) and 14-17 (80%), and a lower proportion aged 18 and over (15%) (Table S78a).

Figure 3.1: Young people under supervision on an average day, by age and sex, 2022-23 (number)

This population pyramid shows that there were more males under supervision than females. The age distribution of males and females was broadly similar, however males under supervision were slightly older on average than females.



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

Source: Table S5a.

The age profiles of young people under supervision varied among the states and territories. Western Australia had the largest proportion of young people aged 10-13 under supervision on an average day (8.4%), followed by the Northern Territory (6.5%) (Table S7a).

In Victoria, some young people aged 18-20 may be sentenced to detention in a youth facility (known as the 'dual track' system), which results in a comparatively older population, on average (49% aged 18 and over and 1.0% aged 10-13) (Table S7a).

A greater proportion of males were in the older age groups (aged 18 and over) than females (Figure 3.1). In 2022-23, about 26% of males under supervision were aged 18 and over, compared with 17% of females (Table S5a).

First Nations young people under supervision

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

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

These removal policies have long-term consequences, including enduring social, physical and psychological impacts for those directly involved and their families and communities. The over-representation of First Nations children in juvenile justice systems reflects this history of trauma and the stressors that have affected their parents, families and communities.

The vast majority of First Nations young people have never been under supervision. About 5.7% of young people aged 10-17 in Australia identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. More than half (1,961, or 57%) of the young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day in 2022-23 were First Nations Australians (tables S143 and S3a). This means that 1.3% of First Nations young people were under supervision in 2022-23.

About half (55%) of those aged 10-17 under community-based supervision were First Nations Australians, while 3 in 5 (63%) of those aged 10-17 in detention were First Nations Australians (tables S36a and S74a).

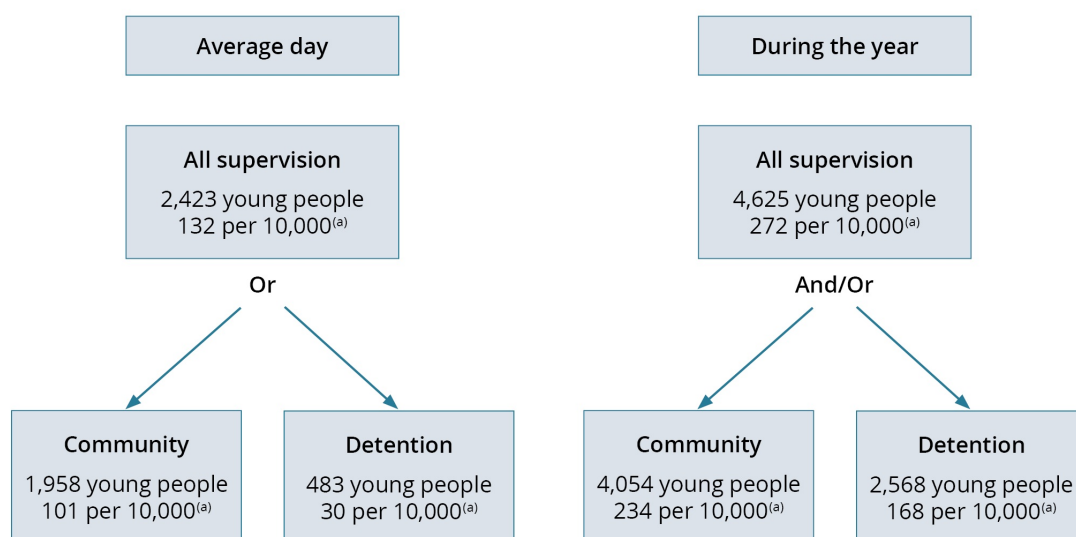
Of young First Nations people who were 10 and over, 2,423 were under youth justice supervision in Australia and 4,625 were supervised at some time during the year (Figure 3.2).

On an average day, most First Nations young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision were supervised in the community (81%); the remainder (20%) were in detention (Figure 3.2). (Proportions may not sum to 100% as some young people are supervised under community-based supervision and detention on the same day.)

Although relatively few First Nations young people were in detention on an average day, about half (56%, or 2,568) of all young people who were supervised during 2022-23 had been in detention at some time during the year (Figure 2.1).

Figure 3.2: First Nations young people under supervision on an average day and during the year, by supervision type, 2022-23 (number and rate)

a.



Rates are presented for young people aged 10-17.

Notes

1. The average daily number of all supervision will not equal the sum of community-based supervision and detention because young people can be in both types of supervision on the same day.
2. Young people can be in both community-based supervision and detention during the year so the sum of these types of supervision will not be equal to the total number of young people under youth justice supervision.

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

In 2022-23, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day was 132 per 10,000, compared with 5.8 per 10,000 for non-Indigenous young people (Table 3.1). This means First Nations young people aged 10-17 were about 23 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be under supervision on an average day.

First Nations young people were over-represented under youth justice supervision in every state and territory (Figure 3.2).

The rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day was lowest in Victoria (41 per 10,000) and highest in Western Australia (189 per 10,000). The level of First Nations over-representation under youth justice supervision, as measured by the rate ratio, was lowest in Tasmania (4 times as likely) and highest in the Northern Territory (about 44 times as likely) (Table 3.1; Figure 3.3).

Table 3.1: Young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2022-23 (rate)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Community-based supervision rate (per 10,000)									
First Nations	73.5	32.9	133.2	156.3	106.6	38.5	49.5	134.0	103.2
Non-Indigenous	4.3	3.2	5.8	6.2	6.0	9.1	6.8	3.0	4.8
All young people	9.1	3.7	15.8	15.7	10.9	12.4	8.2	61.2	10.6
Rate ratio	17.0	10.4	22.8	25.1	17.9	4.3	7.3	44.7	21.5
Detention rate (per 10,000)									
First Nations	19.5	9.1	46.0	34.6	18.8	7.3	34.6	42.9	29.8
Non-Indigenous	0.8	1.0	1.6	0.9	0.6	1.9	2.4	1.0	1.1
All young people	2.0	1.1	5.0	3.0	1.5	2.4	3.4	19.2	2.7
Rate ratio	24.1	9.3	28.8	39.7	31.4	3.9	14.2	42.6	28.0
All supervision rate (per 10,000)									
First Nations	92.4	41.5	177.6	189.2	123.7	45.6	83.6	174.7	131.9
Non-Indigenous	5.1	4.1	7.4	7.0	6.5	10.9	9.1	4.0	5.8
All young people	11.0	4.7	20.7	18.6	12.2	14.7	11.5	79.5	13.3
Rate ratio	18.1	10.1	24.0	26.9	19.0	4.2	9.1	43.8	22.7

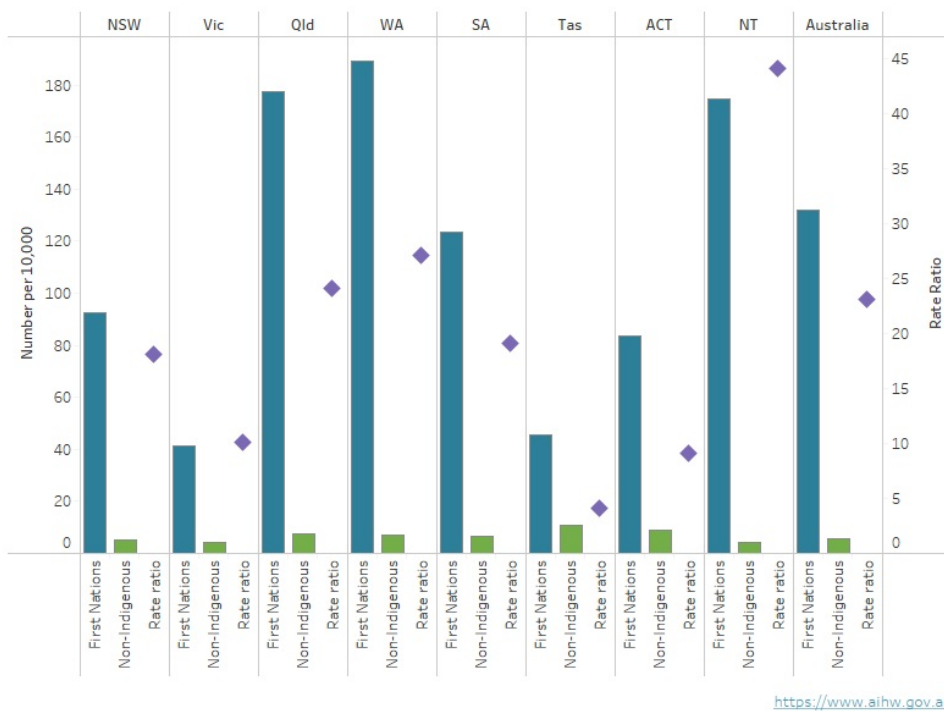
Notes

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

Sources: tables S4a, S37a and S75a.

Figure 3.3: Young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by Indigenous status and state and territory 2022-23

This vertical bar chart shows that across all states and territories the rate of First Nations young people under supervision were as higher than the non-Indigenous rate. Western Australia had the highest rate of First Nations young people under supervision (189 per 10,000), while Victoria had the lowest (41 per 10,000).



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

Source: Table 3.1.

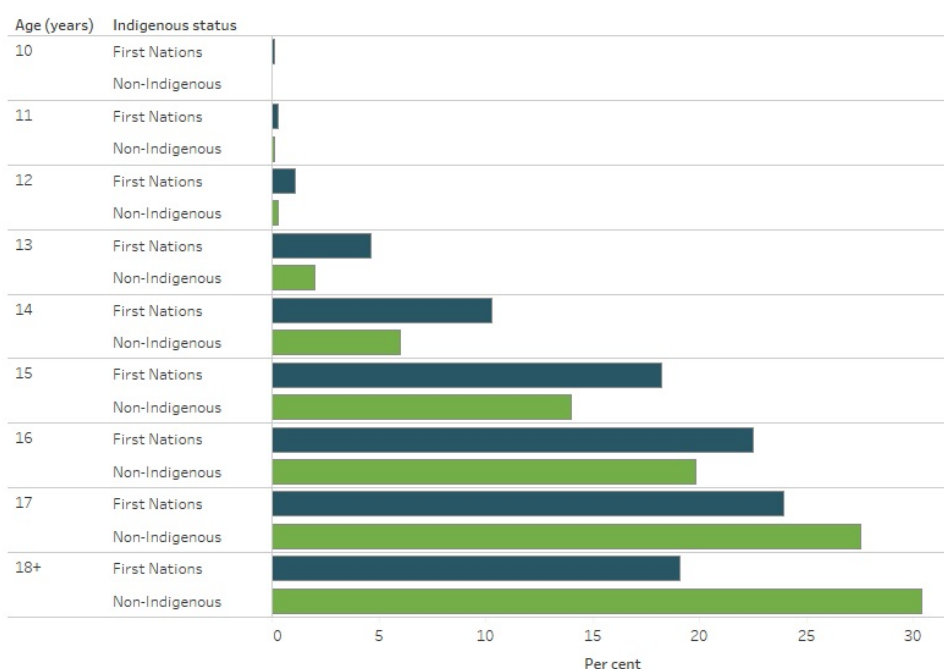
On average, First Nations young people under supervision were younger than their non-Indigenous counterparts (Figure 3.3). This was the case among both males and females (Table S5a).

On an average day in 2022-23, 6.1% of First Nations young people under supervision were aged 10-13 compared with 2.3% of non-Indigenous young people (Table S7a).

Similar proportions of First Nations and non-Indigenous young people under supervision were male (79% and 83%, respectively) (Table S5a).

Figure 3.4: Young people under supervision on an average day, by age and Indigenous status, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows that First Nations young people under supervision were younger on average than non-Indigenous young people. First Nations young people were most commonly aged 17 when under supervision, compared with 18 and over for non-Indigenous young people.



Notes:

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

Source: Table S5a.

Remoteness area

On an average day in 2022-23, most young people under supervision were living in *Major cities* (50%), or *Inner regional* or *Outer regional* areas (34%) before entering supervision (based on postcode of last address) (Table S21a).

About 11% had lived in *Remote* or *Very remote* areas. A remoteness area could not be determined for 5.2% of young people.

These data contrast with data for young people aged 10-17 in the general population, where a higher proportion were living in *Major cities* (70%) and lower proportions were living in *Inner regional* or *Outer regional* areas (27%) and in *Remote* or *Very remote* areas (2.0%) (tables S144 and S148).

On an average day in 2022-23, First Nations young people under supervision were more likely than non-Indigenous young people to have lived in *Inner regional* or *Outer regional* areas (44% compared with 21%) and *Remote* or *Very remote* areas (20% compared with 1.1%). First Nations young people under supervision were less likely than non-Indigenous young people to have lived in *Major cities* (32% compared with 72%) (Table S21a).

Patterns were similar for community-based supervision and detention and largely reflect the geographical distribution of the First Nations Australian population (tables S56a and S96a).

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

On an average day in 2022-23, young people aged 10-17 who were from *Very Remote* areas (102 per 10,000) were about 11 times as likely to be under supervision as those from *Major cities* (9.1 per 10,000) (Figure 3.5).

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

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

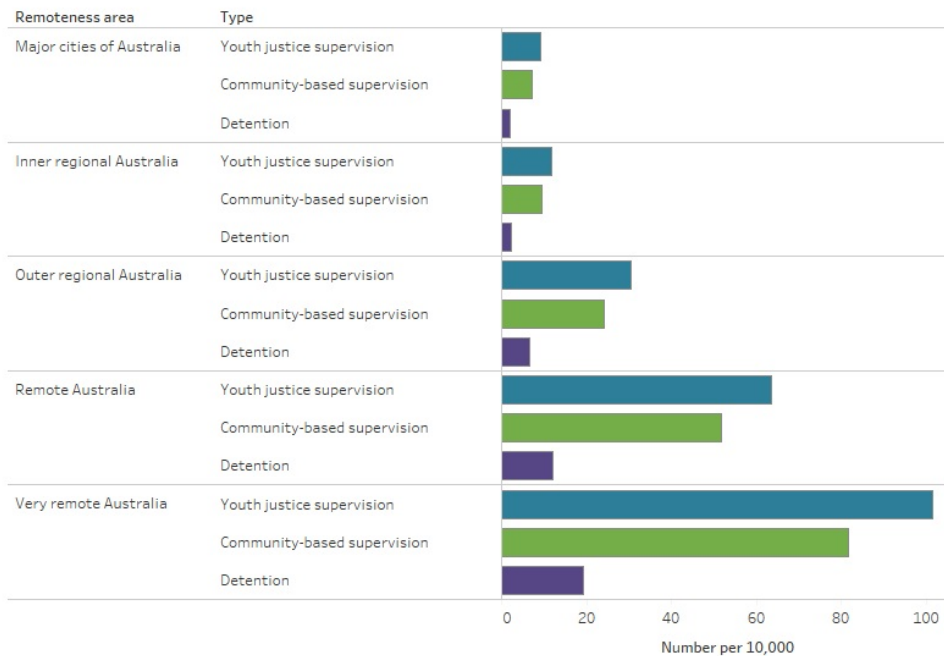
- 7 times as likely as those from *Major cities* to be under community-based supervision
- 6 times as likely to be in detention (tables S57c and S97c).

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

- 11 times as likely as those from *Major cities* to be under community-based supervision
- 10 times as likely to be in detention (tables S57c and S97c).

Figure 3.5: Young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by remoteness of usual residence and supervision type, Australia, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows that the rate of young people under youth justice supervision generally increased with remoteness. Those who were classified as living in 'remote' and 'very remote' areas had the highest rates of any youth justice supervision and those living in 'major cities' had the lowest rates of any youth justice supervision.



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Notes

1. Remoteness area could not be determined for 4.7% of young people under youth justice supervision.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If the age of a young person changes during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019-20.

Sources: tables S22c, S57c and S97c.

Socioeconomic area

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

A socioeconomic area could be determined for about 95% of young people in the data set (for more information, see the [Glossary](#) and Appendix A).

Young people under youth justice supervision in 2022-23 most commonly lived in lower socioeconomic areas before entering supervision. Nearly 2 in 5 young people (38%) under supervision on an average day were from the lowest socioeconomic areas (area 1), compared with only 4.9% from the highest socioeconomic areas (area 5) (Table S23a).

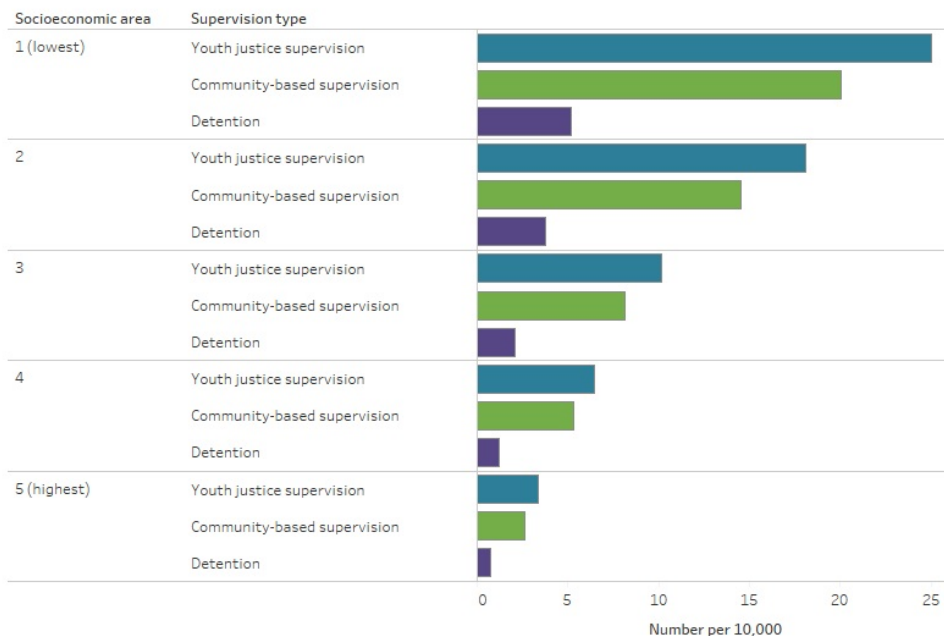
On an average day in 2022-23, 25 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 from the lowest socioeconomic areas were under supervision compared with 3.3 per 10,000 from the highest socioeconomic areas (Figure 3.6).

This means that young people from the lowest socioeconomic areas were just over 7 times as likely to be under supervision as those from the highest socioeconomic areas. The results were similar across supervision types (community-based supervision and detention).

Young First Nations Australians (43%) were more likely than their non-Indigenous counterparts (32%) to have lived in the lowest socioeconomic areas before entering supervision (Table S23a). This reflects the geographical distribution of the First Nations population in Australia.

Figure 3.6: Young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by socioeconomic area of usual residence and supervision type, Australia, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows that the rate of young people living in the lowest socioeconomic areas were more likely to be in community based supervision and detention than young people living in higher socioeconomic areas. The rate of young people under youth justice supervision declined as the level of socioeconomic advantage increased.



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Notes

1. Socioeconomic position could not be determined for 4.5% of young people under youth justice supervision.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If the age of a young person changes during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019-20.

Sources: tables S24c, S59c and S99c.

References

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (2011) *Doing time - time for doing: Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system*, Commonwealth of Australia.

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



Community-based supervision

On an average day in 2022-23, 82% (3,743) of young people aged 10 and over under supervision were supervised in the community; more than half of these (1,958, or 52%) were First Nations young people (Table S35a).

Of all young people under community-based supervision on an average day aged 10 and over, about 1 in 4 (24%) were on unsentenced orders and more than 8 in 10 (82%) were on a sentenced order.

A total of 7,934 young people were under community-based supervision at some time during the year (Table S64).

In 2022-23, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 in community-based supervision on an average day was 103 per 10,000, compared with 4.8 per 10,000 for non-Indigenous young people (Table S45a). This means First Nations young people aged 10-17 were about 22 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be under community-based supervision on an average day.

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

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

Unsentenced community-based supervision

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

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

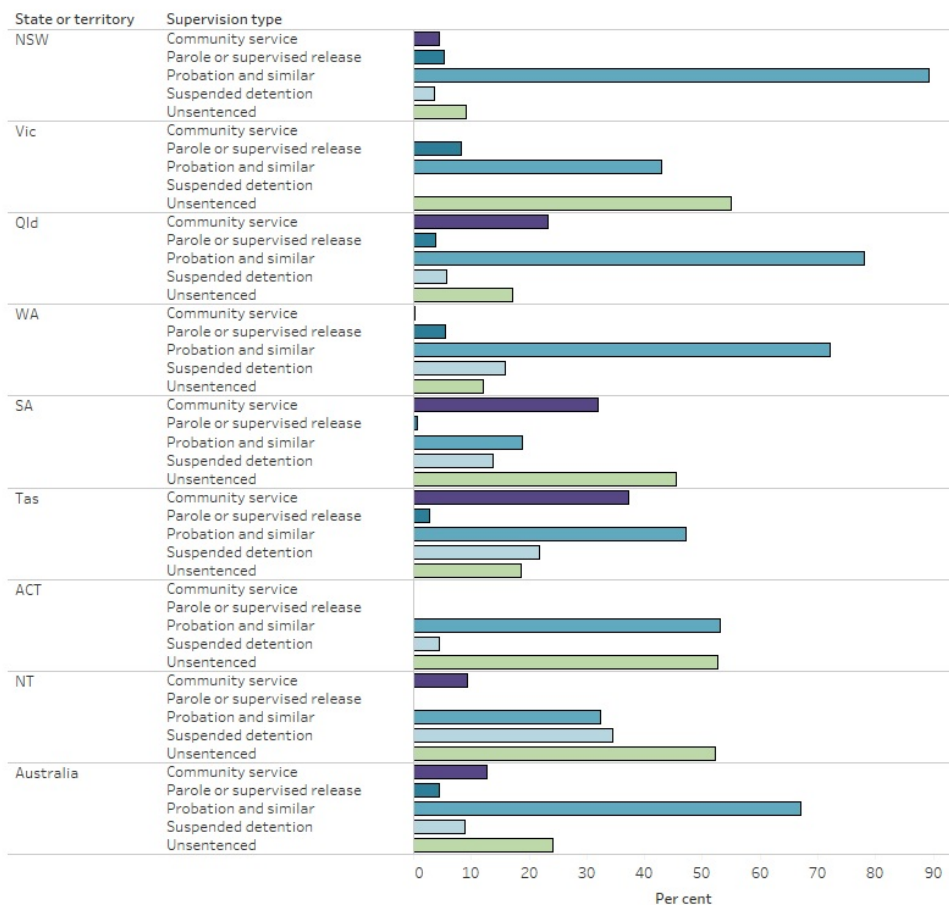
In 2022-23, 24% of young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day were on unsentenced orders (Table S64a; Figure 4.1).

Almost 1 in 4 (24%) First Nations young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day were on unsentenced orders. This compares with 25% for non-Indigenous young people (Table S64a).

Among the states and territories, the proportion of young people under community-based supervision on an average day who were unsentenced ranged from 9.0% in New South Wales to 55% in Victoria (Table S64a; Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day, by type of supervision and State or territory, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows that 'probation and similar' was the most common type of community-based supervision in all states and territories, except for Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory.



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Notes

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

Source: Table S60.

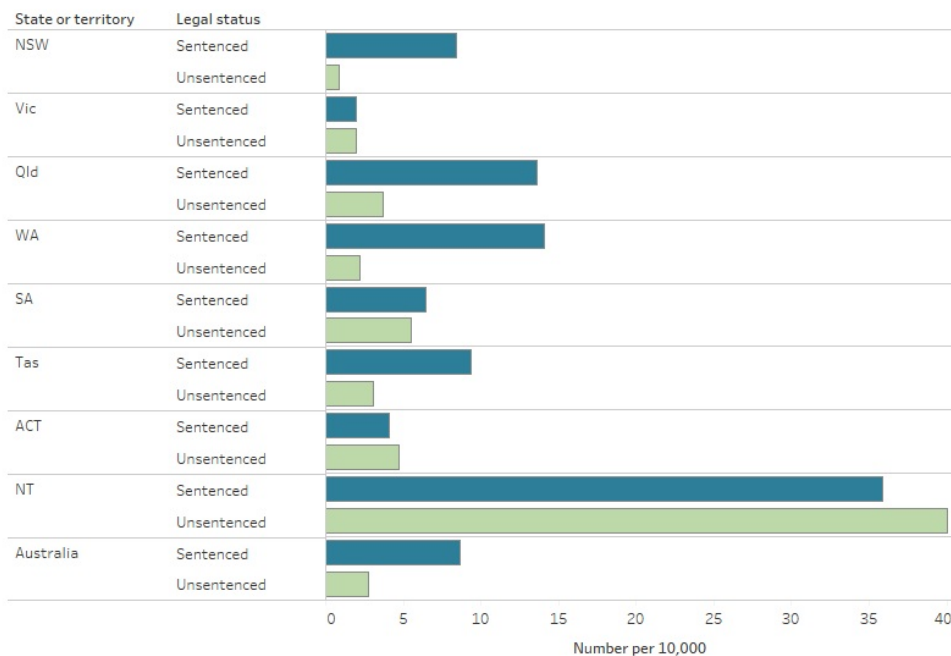
Nationally, 2 in 5 (40%) young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision during 2022-23 were on unsented community-based orders at some point during the year (Table S64b), with no difference evident in the data between the proportion of First Nations and non-Indigenous young people (40%). The difference between the proportion on an average day and during the year reflects the relatively short duration of unsented orders compared with sented orders.

The national rate of young people aged 10-17 under unsented community-based supervision on an average day was 2.7 per 10,000. Among the states and territories, rates ranged from 0.8 per 10,000 in New South Wales to 40 per 10,000 in the Northern Territory (Figure 4.2).

The national rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 in unsented community-based supervision on an average day was 27 per 10,000. For the states and territories where data were available, the rate ranged from 9.5 per 10,000 in New South Wales to 87 per 10,000 in the Northern Territory. For non-Indigenous young people, the national rate was 1.2 per 10,000, which ranged from 0.3 per 10,000 in New South Wales to 3.8 per 10,000 in the Australian Capital Territory (Table S66a).

Figure 4.2: Young people aged 10-17 under community-based supervision on an average day, by legal status and State or territory, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows the rate of sented community-based supervision was substantially higher than the rate of unsented community-based supervision across most states and territories. Nationally, 8.7 per 10,000 young people under community-based supervision were sented compared to 2.7 per 10,000 who were unsented.



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

Source: Table S66a.

Community-based supervision orders may end because:

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

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

In 2022-23, 59% of unsentenced community-based orders ended because they were successfully completed (Table S68). This ranged from 8.4% in the Australian Capital Territory to 98% in Victoria.

The lower number of ‘successfully completed’ orders in the Australian Capital Territory is a result of young people on bail experiencing repeated bail orders due to the complexity of their cases. The very small numbers of young people on bail orders in the Australian Capital Territory reflect a group of high-risk young people.

Just under three-quarters (72%) of successfully completed unsentenced orders lasted less than 3 months, with the proportion ranging from 52% in South Australia to 84% in Western Australia (Table S68). Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory are excluded due to the suppression of small numbers.

Sentenced community-based supervision

In 2022-23, more than 8 in 10 (82%) young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day were on a sentenced order (Table S64a).

More than 8 in 10 (83%) of First Nations young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day were serving a sentence. This was 80% for non-Indigenous young people (Table S64a).

Similar proportions of young people were under sentenced community-based supervision during the year (Table S64b).

The rate of young people aged 10-17 who were under sentenced community-based supervision on an average day was 8.7 per 10,000. Among the states and territories, the rate was lowest in Victoria (2.0 per 10,000) and highest in the Northern Territory (36 per 10,000) (Figure 4.2).

The rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 in sentenced community-based supervision on an average day was 84 per 10,000. For the states and territories, this ranged from 19 per 10,000 in the Australian Capital Territory to 140 per 10,000 in Western Australia. For non-Indigenous young people, the national rate was 3.9, ranging from 1.5 per 10,000 in the Northern Territory to 7.2 per 10,000 in Tasmania (Table S66a).

Probation and similar orders

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

On an average day in 2022-23, more than two-thirds (67%) of young people supervised in the community were serving a probation or similar order (Figure 4.1). This ranged from 19% in South Australia to 89% in New South Wales.

In 2022-23, more than 4 in 5 (82%) probation and similar orders (see [Glossary](#)) that ended were successfully completed (Table S69). This proportion was lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (19%) and highest in Victoria (94%).

More than two-thirds (74%) of successfully completed orders lasted less than 12 months and the remainder for 12 months or more.

About 1 in 10 (11%) probation and similar orders ended due to a breach of conditions (Table S70). This proportion was lowest in South Australia (2.7%) and highest in Western Australia (24%).

Suspended detention

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

On an average day in 2022-23, 8.8% of young people under community-based supervision were serving a suspended detention order (Figure 4.1). This proportion was highest in the Northern Territory (35%).

Among the states and territories where data were available and that had suspended detention orders during 2022-23, the proportion that ended because they were successfully completed was highest in Queensland (62%) and lowest in the Northern Territory (36%) (Table S71).

Parole or supervised release

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

On an average day in 2022-23, 4.4% of young people under community-based supervision were on parole or supervised release (Figure 4.1). This proportion was highest in Victoria (8.2%).

Detention

On an average day in 2022-23, 18% (828) of young people aged 10 and over who were under youth justice supervision were in detention. Almost 2 in 3 (483, or 58%) of whom were First Nations young people (Table S73a).

Of all young people in detention on an average day aged 10 and over, almost 4 in 5 were unsentenced (80%) and 1 in 4 (25%) were in sentenced detention.

A total of 4,605 young people were in detention at some time during the year (Table S108).

In 2022-23, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 in detention on an average day was 30 per 10,000, compared with 1.1 per 10,000 for non-Indigenous young people (Table S75a). This means First Nations young people aged 10-17 were about 28 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be in detention on an average day.

This level of First Nations over-representation (as measured by the rate ratio - see Appendix A) was higher for those in detention than for those under community-based supervision (about 22 times as likely) (Table 3.1). In this section proportions should be interpreted with caution, especially in the smaller jurisdictions as they may represent a very small number of young people.

Unsentenced detention

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

Number and rate

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

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

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

On an average day in 2022-23, of all young people in detention aged 10 and over, 4 in 5 were unsentenced (80%) (Figure 5.1). In all states and territories, a substantial proportion of those in detention on an average day were unsentenced - ranging from 62% in Western Australia to 93% in the Northern Territory.

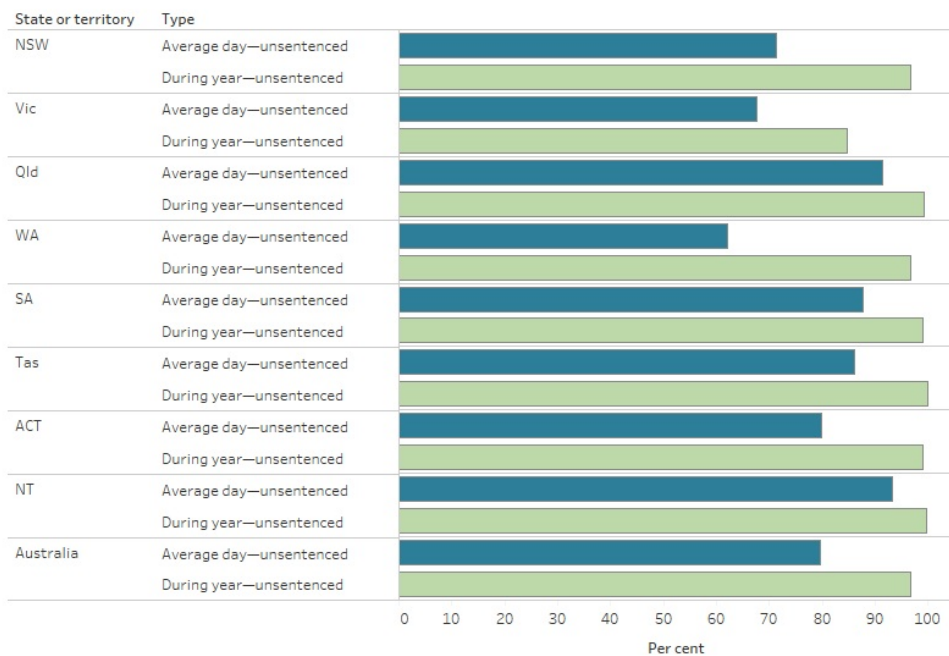
The low proportion in Victoria (68%) is due, in part, to the state's 'dual track' sentencing system, which allows some young people aged 18-20 to be sentenced to detention in a youth facility rather than in an adult prison if the young person is particularly impressionable, immature or likely to be subject to undesirable influences in an adult prison. When only young people aged 10-17 are considered, a similar proportion of those in detention in Victoria and nationally on an average day were unsentenced (88% and 85%, respectively) (Table S109a).

More than 9 in every 10 (97%) young people who were in detention during 2022-23 had been in unsentenced detention at some time during the year (Figure 5.1). This highlights the typically shorter duration of periods of unsentenced detention compared with sentenced detention.

On an average day in 2022-23, more than 4 in 5 (83%) First Nations young people in detention aged 10 and over were unsentenced. For non-Indigenous young people, this proportion was about 3 in 4 (76%). A similar proportion of First Nations and non-Indigenous young people had been in unsentenced detention at some point during the year (98% and 95%, respectively).

Figure 5.1: Young people aged 10 and over in unsentenced detention on an average day and during the year as a proportion of all young people in detention, by State or territory, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows that the Northern Territory (93%) had the highest proportion of unsentenced young people on an average day, while Western Australia (62%) had the lowest. During the year, Tasmania and the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of unsentenced young people (both 100%), while Victoria (85%) had the lowest.



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Notes

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

Sources: tables S108a and S108b.

Nationally, on an average day in 2022-23, most (98%) young people aged 10 and over in unsentenced detention were on remand, awaiting the outcome of their court matters (Table S108a). The remainder were in police-referred pre-court detention (see [Glossary](#)) awaiting their initial court appearance, which was available in some jurisdictions (New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory).

In those states and territories where the data were available, the proportion of young people in police-referred pre-court detention ranged from 20% of those who had been in unsentenced detention during the year in Queensland to 93% of those in the Australian Capital Territory (Table S108b).

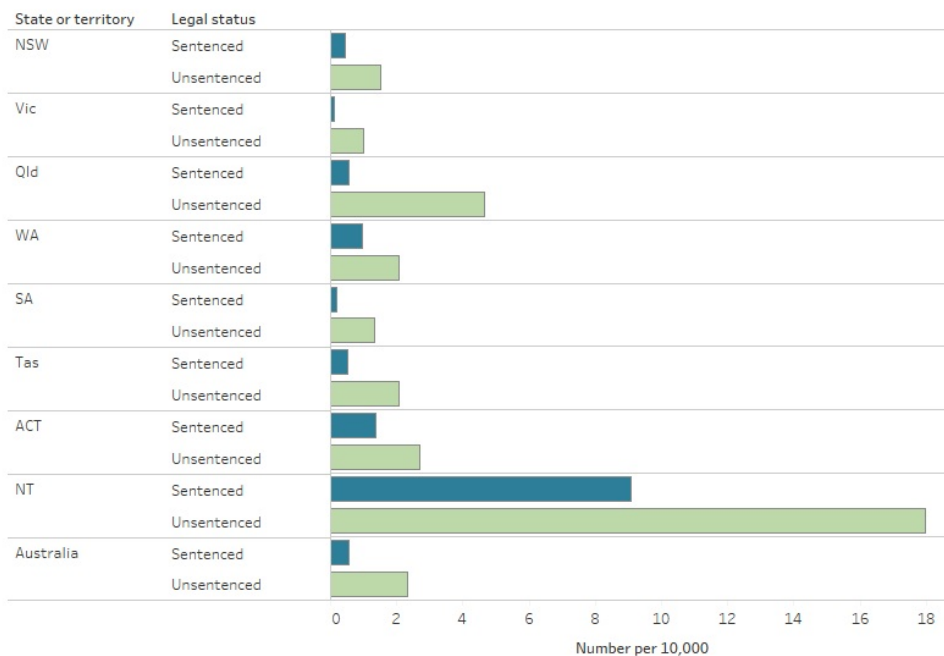
Almost 3 in 5 (60%) young people in unsentenced detention aged 10 and over on an average day identified as being First Nations people (Table S108a). This proportion varied substantially among the states and territories, from 13% in Victoria to 95% in the Northern Territory.

The rate of young people aged 10-17 in unsentenced detention on an average day in 2022-23 was 2.3 per 10,000 (Figure 5.2). Among the states and territories, this rate was lowest in Victoria (1.0 per 10,000) and highest in the Northern Territory (18 per 10,000).

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

Figure 5.2: Young people aged 10-17 in detention on an average day, by legal status and State or territory, 2022-23 (rate)

This horizontal bar chart shows the rate of young people in unsentenced detention was higher than the rate of those in sentenced detention in every state and territory. The rates of young people aged 10-17 in sentenced and unsentenced detention on an average day were highest in the Northern Territory (9.1 and 18 per 10,000, respectively) and lowest in Victoria (0.1 and 1.0 per 10,000, respectively).



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Notes

1. The sentenced rates in South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory are not presented in this figure, as there were fewer than 5 young people in the numerator.
2. In the Northern Territory, sentenced periods were backdated to take into account time spent in unsentenced detention. This resulted in a large number of young people reported as being in sentenced and unsentenced detention at the same time and an over-count of young people in sentenced detention.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If the age of a young person changes during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019-20.

Source: Table S110a.

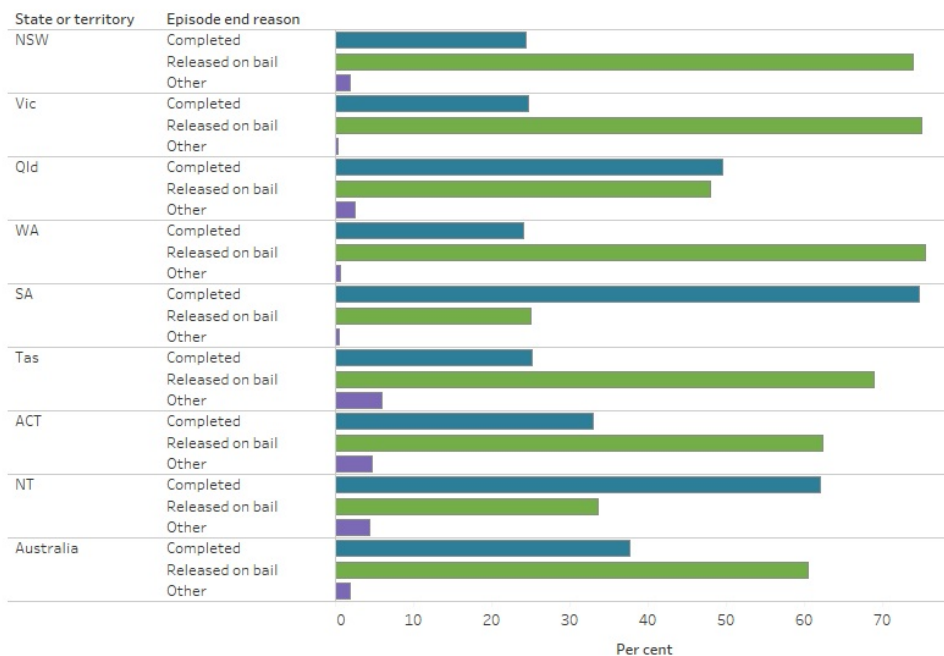
Completion of periods

Of remand periods (unsentenced detention) that ended in 2022-23, 3 in 5 (60%) ended because the young person was released on bail (Figure 5.3). This proportion was lower for First Nations young people than non-Indigenous young people (57% and 67%, respectively).

The proportion of remand periods that ended with release on bail was lowest in South Australia (25%) and highest in Victoria and Western Australia (75%) (Table S118).

Figure 5.3: Periods of remand, by episode end reason and State or territory, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows that periods of remand were more likely to end because a young person was released on bail across all jurisdictions except for Queensland, South Australia, and the Northern Territory. In these states and territories, young people were most likely to end a period of remand because it was completed.



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Notes

1. These data should be interpreted with caution due to potential issues with recording and updating of custodial order details in Tasmania.
2. Periods of remand may be slightly understated for Tasmania for 2022-23.

Source: Table S118.

Almost 2 in 5 (38%) remand (see [Glossary](#)) periods ended because they were completed. This episode end reason was higher for First Nations young people than non-Indigenous young people (41% and 32%, respectively). The remaining periods ended for other reasons, including transfer (which can include transfer to another youth detention centre, the adult system or interstate).

Sentenced detention

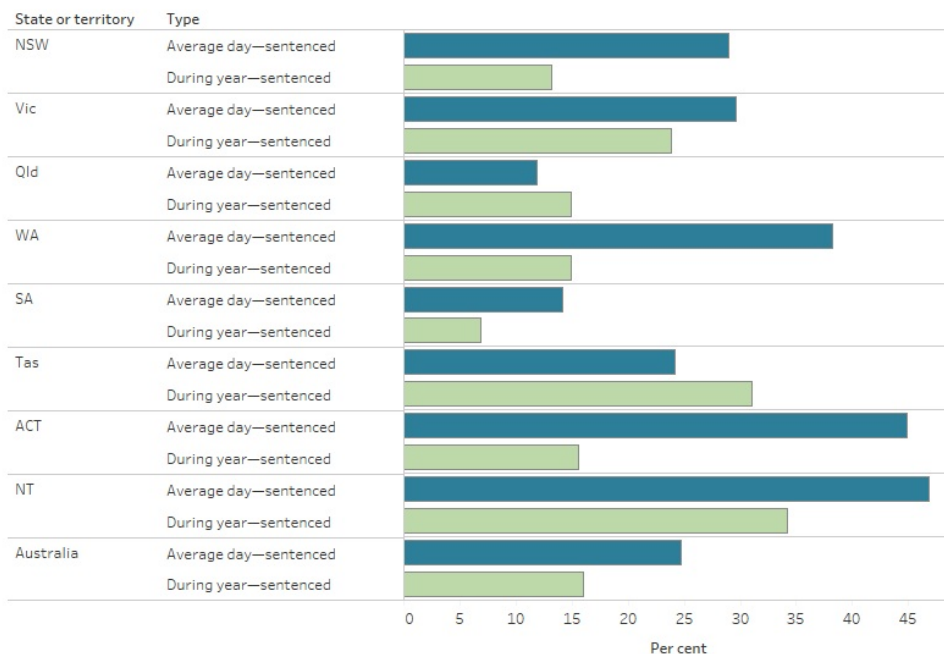
Young people may be sentenced to detention if they are judged to be guilty, or have pleaded guilty, in court. Young people sentenced to detention are those who have received control orders or youth residential orders or who have had their parole revoked (which can be due to re-offending or non-compliance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

Number and rate

On an average day in 2022-23, 1 in 4 young people in detention (25%) were in sentenced detention (Figure 5.4). Among the states and territories, this ranged from 12% in Queensland to 47% in the Northern Territory.

Figure 5.4: Young people aged 10 and over in sentenced detention on an average day and during the year as a proportion of all young people in detention, by State or territory, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows that the highest proportion of all young people in detention on an average day that were sentenced occurred in the Northern Territory (47%) and Queensland (12%) had the lowest proportion.



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Notes

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

Source: Table S108.

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

On an average day in 2022-23, the rate of young people aged 10-17 in sentenced detention was 0.5 per 10,000 (Table S110a). Among the states and territories for which rates could be calculated, rates were lowest in Victoria (0.1 per 10,000) and highest in the Northern Territory (9.1 per 10,000).

Completion of periods

Nearly two-thirds (58%) of sentenced detention periods that ended in 2022-23 ended because the young person was released on parole (also known as supervised release). This was similar for First Nations young people and for non-Indigenous young people (60% and 58%, respectively).

Just over 1 in 5 (28%) sentenced detention periods ended with the period being completed (see [Glossary](#)). This was similar for First Nations young people and for non-Indigenous young people (27% and 29%, respectively).

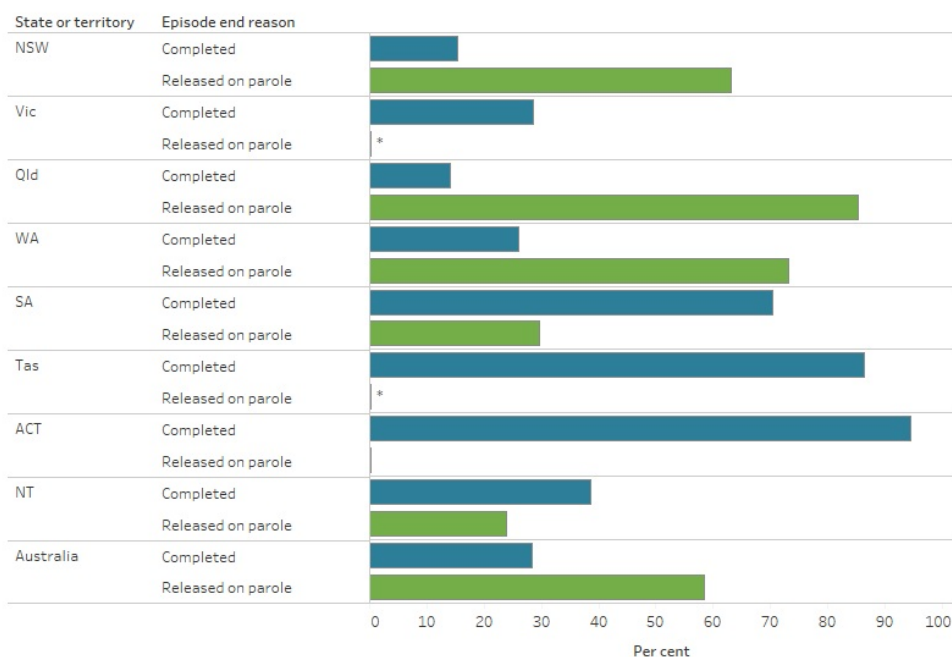
The remaining periods (13%) ended for other reasons, including transfer (which can include transfer to another youth detention centre, the adult system or interstate).

The states and territories varied:

- In New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia, more than half (63-85%) of sentenced detention periods ended with the young person being released on parole.
- In South Australia, 30% of sentenced detention periods ended with the young person being released on parole, with the majority (70%) ending with the period being completed (Figure 5.5).

Figure 5.5: Sentenced detention ending with either sentence completion or release on parole (supervised release), by State or territory, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows that Queensland (85%) had the highest proportion of sentenced detention periods ending due to release on parole. The Australian Capital Territory (94%) had the highest proportion of young people ending their sentenced detention due to completion of sentence.



* Data have been suppressed.

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Notes

1. Numerators are the number of sentenced detention periods that were completed or ended because the young person was released on parole, by state and territory.
2. Denominators are the number of periods of sentenced detention, by state and territory. In some states and territories, a minimum duration of sentenced detention applies before a young person may be considered eligible for supervised release or parole. This affects the results and comparability.
3. These data should be interpreted with caution due to potential issues with recording and updating of custodial order details in Tasmania.
4. Periods of sentenced detention may be slightly understated for Tasmania for 2022-23.

Source: Table S123.

Detention entries and exits

In this report:

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

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

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

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

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

Receptions

In 2022-23, 4,265 young people experienced 8,965 receptions into detention (tables S103a and S103b). Among all young people in detention in 2022-23, 93% were received at some point during the year, with an average of about 2 receptions per young person, reflecting the short durations of detention periods. The rest were received in a previous year (tables S72b and S103b).

Almost half (48%) of young people who were received into detention during the year were received more than once (Table S105). First Nations young people (54%) were more likely than non-Indigenous young people (42%) to have been received into detention more than once.

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

Two-thirds of receptions (70%) were for remand, just under one-third (28%) were for police-referred pre-court detention and 1.6% were for sentenced detention.

Nearly 1 in 5 (17%) young people in sentenced detention during 2022-23 were received during the year (tables S103b and S108b). This indicates that the rest were either received into sentenced detention in a previous year, or were in unsentenced detention immediately before they began their period of sentenced detention (and their sentenced period started within 2 days of their non-sentenced period ending).

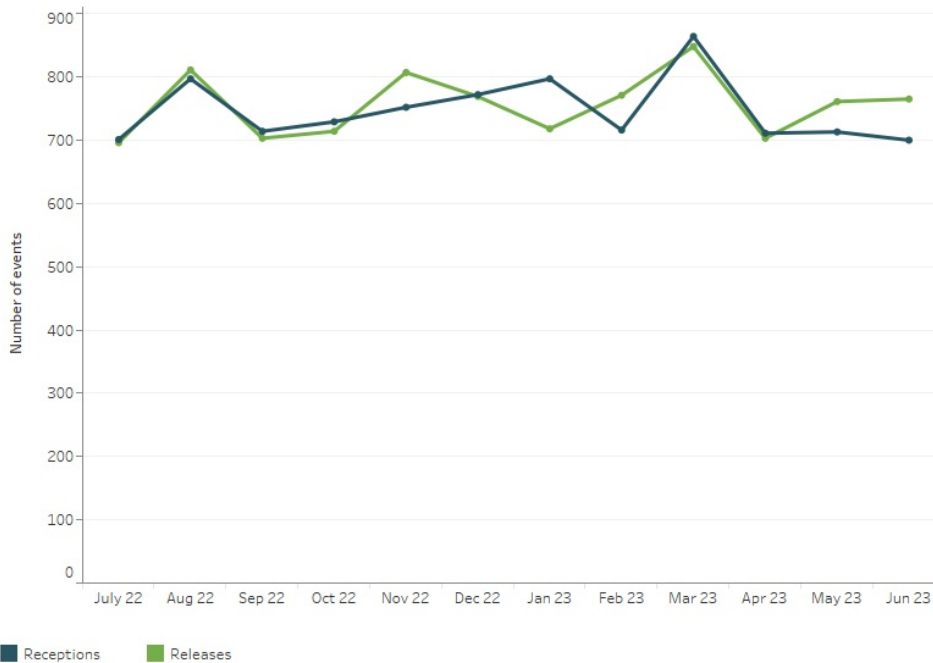
Releases

In 2022-23, 4,417 young people experienced 9,066 releases from detention. The vast majority of young people (96%) who were detained during the year were released at least once, with an average of 2 releases per young person (tables S72b, S104a and S104b). Similar to receptions, 92% of releases were from unsentenced detention. About 3 in 4 releases (74%) were from remand and 18% were from police-referred pre-court detention. The proportion of releases from sentenced detention (8.1%) was higher than the proportion of receptions to sentenced detention (1.6%) (tables S103a and S104a).

In 2022-23, the numbers of receptions and releases were closely aligned each month, despite some fluctuations (Figure 5.6). The highest number of receptions (864) and the highest number for releases (848) occurred in March 2023.

Figure 5.6: Monthly trends in youth detention receptions and releases, Australia, 2022-23

This line graph shows the monthly number of detention receptions and releases throughout the course of the year. For receptions, the monthly number fluctuated between 700 and 864 with a peak in March 2023 and a low in June 2023. Releases ranged from 696 to 848 with a high point in March 2023 and a low point in July 2022.



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Source: Table S107.

Time under supervision

Orders and supervision periods

Supervised orders

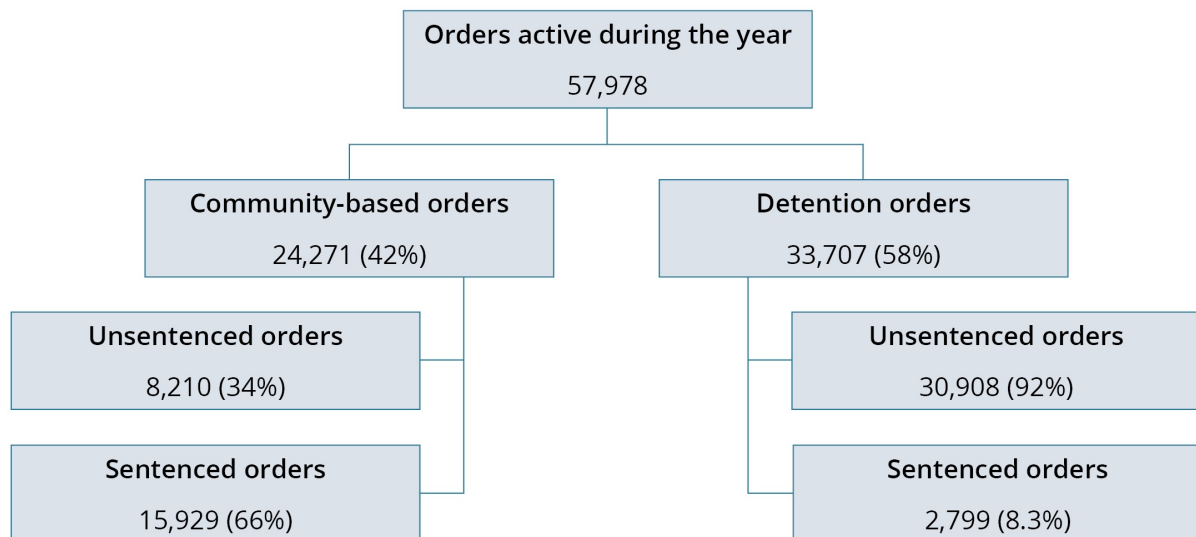
In 2022-23, the 9,157 young people under youth justice supervision were supervised under 57,978 sentenced and unsentenced orders (tables S1b and S25).

Although most (82%) young people were supervised in the community on an average day in 2022-23, detention orders were the most common type of order active in the same year (58%) (Figure 6.1; Table 2.1).

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

Of all detention orders active during the year, most (92%) were unsentenced, while most community-based orders were sentenced (66%). Orders are active if they start, end or are ongoing during the reference period.

Figure 6.1: Supervised orders, by type of order and legal status, 2022-23



Note: Totals for community-based orders, detention orders and orders active during the year include orders with 'other' legal status.

Source: Table S25.

In 2022-23:

- the majority of active orders in New South Wales (67%) and Queensland (57%) were detention orders
- South Australia (54%) and the Australian Capital Territory (52%) had the largest proportions of active orders that were community-based (Table 25).

About two-thirds (68%) of young people under supervision during 2022-23 had multiple supervision orders during the year, with more than one-third (37%) having both community-based supervision and detention orders (tables S26a, S26b and S26c).

During 2022-23, there were:

- 57,978 active orders for the 9,157 young people under supervision, an average of 6.3 orders per young person
- 24,271 community orders for the 7,934 young people under community-based supervision, an average of 3.1 community orders per young person
- 33,707 detention orders for the 4,605 young people in detention, an average of 7.3 detention orders per young person (tables 2.1 and S25).

Of those under supervision, First nations young people were more likely to have multiple supervision orders (74%) than their non-Indigenous counterparts (63%) (Table S26c).

Young people under community-based supervision were more likely than those in detention to have had only 1 order (42% compared with 20%). About 2 in 5 (39%) young people in detention had 6 or more detention orders within the year, and 1 in 7 (14%) young people under community-based supervision had 6 or more community-based orders (tables S26a and S26b).

Periods of supervision

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

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

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

In 2022-23, the 9,157 young people under supervision received 12,421 periods of supervision (continuous supervision of any type), an average of about 1.4 periods per person (tables 2.1 and S27).

Among the 5,795 young people who completed a period of supervision in 2022-23, most (81%) completed only one period (Table S28).

About 7 in 10 (71%, or 5,663 of 7,934) young people who were under community-based supervision during the year completed at least one period of community-based supervision (tables S34b and S61). Of the young people who completed a period of community-based supervision in 2022-23, about 7 in 10 (71%) young people completed only one period of community-based supervision (Table S61).

More than 9 in 10 (96%, or 4,420 of 4,605) young people who were in detention during the year completed at least one period of detention, and 45% (or 2,092 of 4,605) completed at least 2 periods of detention. Of those young people who completed a period of detention, more than half (53%) completed only one period of detention (Table S100). Of young people in detention, about 1 in 7 (14%) completed at least one period of sentenced detention and most (94%) completed a period of unsentenced detention (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1: Proportion of young people who completed only one or at least one period of youth justice supervision, by supervision type

Type of supervision	Completed only one period (%) ^(a)	Completed at least one period (%) ^{(b)(c)}
All supervision	81	63
Community	71	71
Detention	53	96
- Sentenced	76	14
- Unsentenced	52	94

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

b. Denominator is all young people in that supervision type.

c. For young people in sentenced and unsentenced detention, the denominator is all young people in detention.

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

Young people who completed a period of unsentenced detention during the year completed 2.1 periods of unsentenced detention on average. Those who completed a period of sentenced detention, completed 1.4 periods of sentenced detention on average (tables S116 and S122).

First Nations young people (23%) were more likely than non-Indigenous young people (15%) to have completed multiple periods of supervision (Table S28). This was the case for completed periods in both community-based supervision and detention (tables S61 and S100).

Length of supervision periods

Individual periods of supervision completed during 2022-23 lasted for a median length of 90 days, or about 13 weeks (this includes time under supervision before 1 July 2022 if the period started before that date).

The median duration of completed periods varied substantially between states and territories, ranging from 6 days in New South Wales to 225 days in Queensland (periods include days before 1 July 2022) (Figure 6.2).

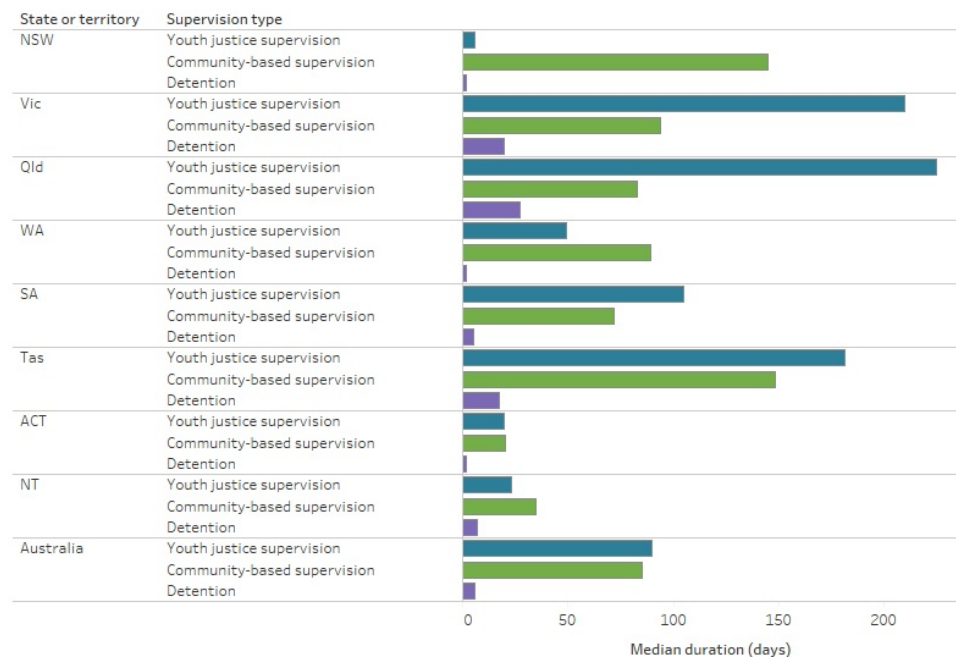
Completed periods of community-based supervision were much longer than completed periods of detention, with a median length of 85 days (about 12 weeks) compared with 6 days, respectively (tables S62 and S101).

Again, there were differences among the states and territories. In 2022-23, the median length of completed periods of:

- community-based supervision ranged from 20 days in the Australian Capital Territory to 148 days in Tasmania
- detention ranged from 2 days in New South Wales, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory to 27 days in Queensland (Figure 6.2).

Figure 6.2: Median duration of completed supervision periods, by supervision type and State or territory, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows the median duration of completed supervision periods by supervision type (all supervision; community; detention). The national median for all supervision was 90 days, which ranged from 6 days in New South Wales to 225 days in Queensland.



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

Sources: tables S29, S62 and S101.

The median duration of completed individual periods of unsentenced detention during 2022-23 was 5 days (Table S116). This varied among the states and territories, from 2 days in the Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia and New South Wales to 26 days in Queensland.

For completed periods of sentenced detention, the median duration was much longer, at 57 days (Table S122). This varied among the states and territories, from 20 days in Tasmania to 142 days in the Australian Capital Territory.

On average, First Nations young people completed longer periods of unsentenced detention than non-Indigenous young people (median of 7 days compared with 4 days) (Table S116). But First Nations young people completed shorter periods of sentenced detention than their non-Indigenous counterparts (median of 49 days compared with 76 days) (Table S122).

Total time under supervision

When all the time spent under supervision during 2022-23 is considered (including multiple periods of supervision and periods that were not yet completed as at 30 June 2022), young people who were supervised during the year spent a total of 181 days, or about 6 months (26 weeks), on average, under supervision (Figure 6.3).

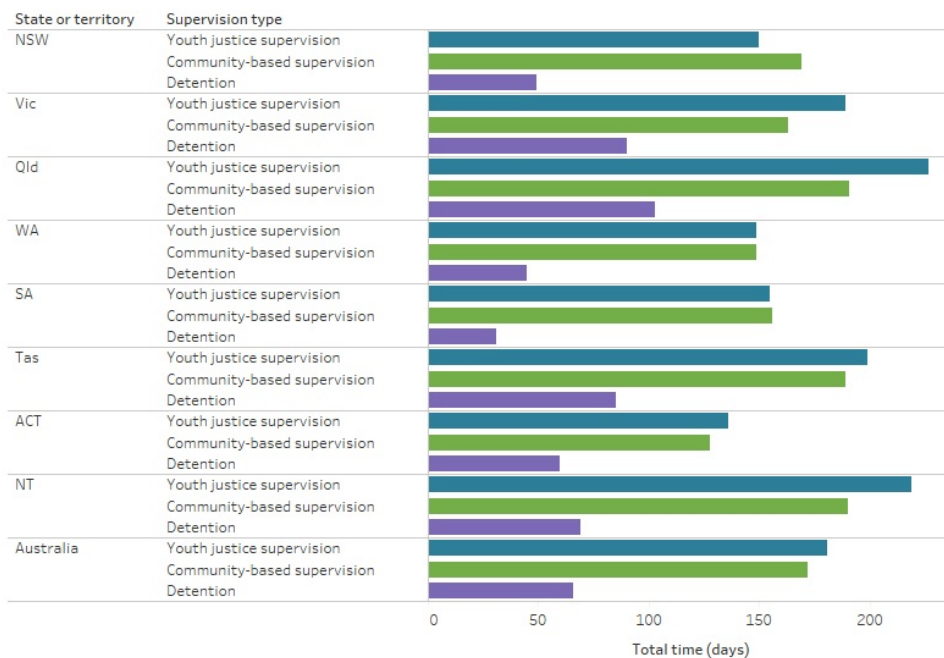
This time spent under supervision was lowest in the Australian Capital Territory (136 days) and highest in Queensland (227 days).

Young people spent more time, on average, under community-based supervision during the year (172 days, or about 25 weeks) than in detention (66 days, or about 9 weeks). This varied among the states and territories. The average total time spent:

- under community-based supervision ranged from 128 days in the Australian Capital Territory to 191 days in Queensland
- in detention ranged from 31 days in South Australia to 103 days in Queensland.

Figure 6.3: Average total time young people spent under supervision during the year, by supervision type and State or territory, 2022-23

This vertical bar chart shows the average total time under supervision during the year by supervision type (all supervision; community; detention). Across all states and territories, young people spent more time under community-based supervision than in detention (172 days and 66 days nationally).



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

Sources: tables S30, S63 and S102.

During the year, young people spent much more time, on average, in sentenced detention (101 days in total, or about 14 weeks) than in unsentenced detention (55 days, or nearly 8 weeks) (tables S117 and S124). This is to be expected, as young people are typically placed in unsentenced detention for relatively short periods while awaiting the outcome of their legal matter or sentencing.

The total amount of time young people spent in unsentenced detention during 2022-23 ranged from 28 days, on average, in South Australia to 96 days in Queensland (Figure 6.4).

The average total time spent in sentenced detention was lowest in South Australia (63 days), and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (153 days) (Figure 6.5).

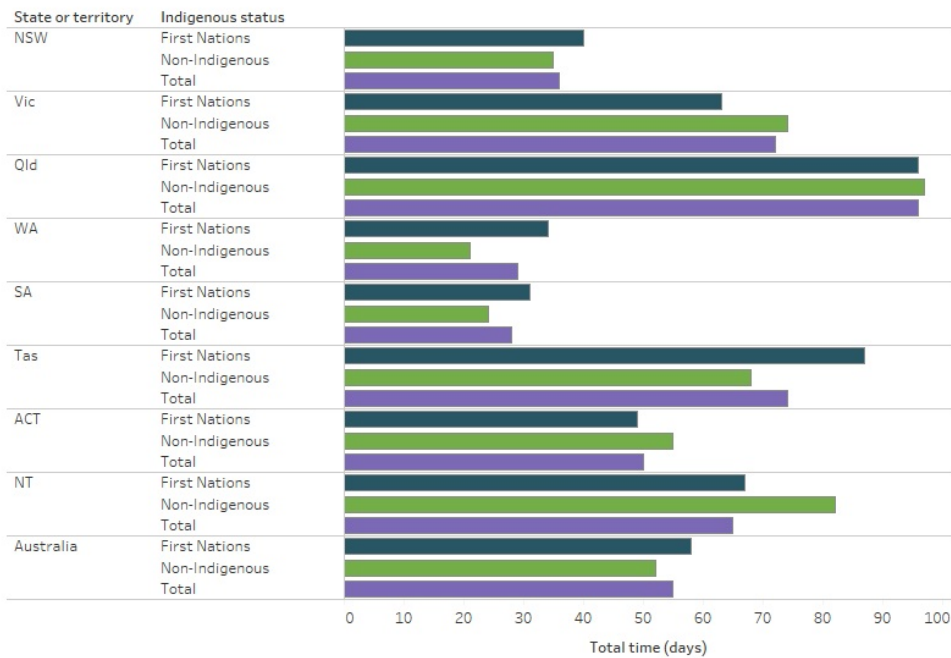
Males (187 days) spent more time, on average, under supervision during the year than females (161 days) (Table S30). Males and females spent similar lengths of time, on average, under community-based supervision (173 and 169 days, respectively), but males (73 days) spent more than twice as long in detention as females (35 days) (tables S63 and S102).

In 2022-23, First Nations young people on average spent:

- 191 days under supervision during the year and non-Indigenous young people spent 175 days (Table S30)
- 176 days under community-based supervision during the year and non-Indigenous young people spent 169 days (Table S63)
- 69 days in detention during the year and non-Indigenous young people spent 64 days (Table S102)
- 58 days in unsentenced detention during the year and non-Indigenous young people spent 52 days
- 97 days in sentenced detention during the year and non-Indigenous young people spent 107 days (figures 6.4 and 6.5).

Figure 6.4: Average total time young people spent in unsentenced detention during the year, by Indigenous status and State or territory, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows the average total time (days) spent in unsentenced detention during the year by Indigenous status. In all states and territories, except Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, First Nations young people spent more total time (days) in unsentenced detention than non-Indigenous young people.

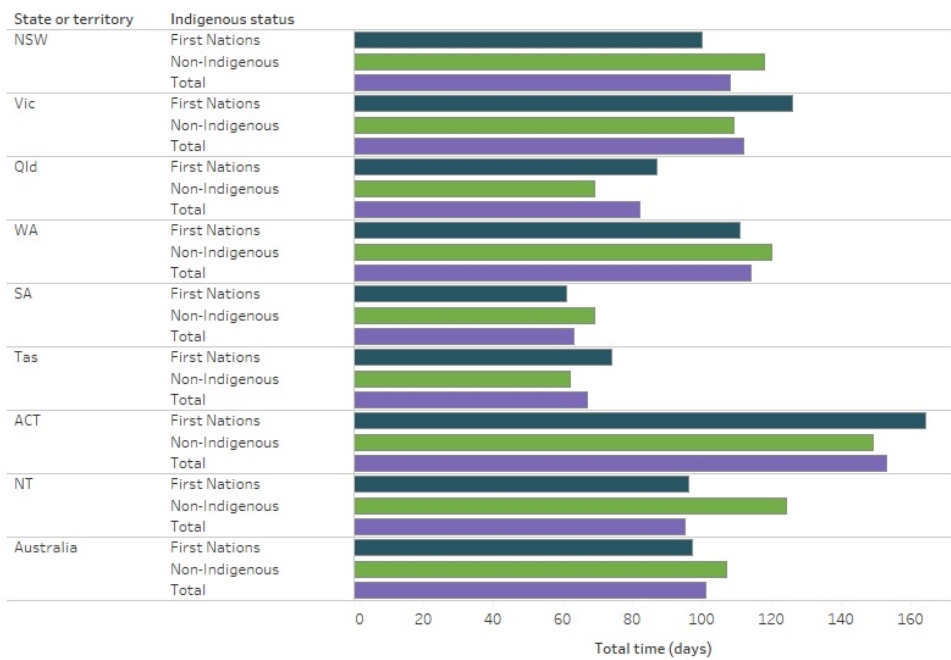


<https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Source: Table S117.

Figure 6.5: Average total time young people spent in sentenced detention during the year, by Indigenous status and State or territory, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows the average total time (days) spent in sentenced detention during the year by Indigenous status. In Victoria, Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, First Nations young people spent more total time (days) in sentenced detention than non-Indigenous young people.



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

Source: Table S124

Supervision history

First entry to supervision

First entry to supervision refers to the first time a young person came under youth justice supervision and includes periods of supervision that occurred before the reference period (2022-23).

Entry to supervision

About one-third (38%) of young people under youth justice supervision in 2022-23 were new to supervision in that year. The rest (62%) had been supervised in a previous year (Table S17). First Nations young people (66%) were more likely than non-Indigenous young people (61%) to have been under supervision in a previous year.

Of young people under community-based supervision, 67% had been supervised (under any type of supervision) in a previous year, compared with 56% of those in detention (tables S53 and S91).

Age at first supervision

Among all young people who were supervised during 2022-23 (Table S19):

- almost three-quarters (71%) had first entered youth justice supervision when they were aged 14-17
- about one-quarter (24%) had first entered supervision when they were aged 10-13
- 4.8% had first entered supervision when they were aged 18 and over.

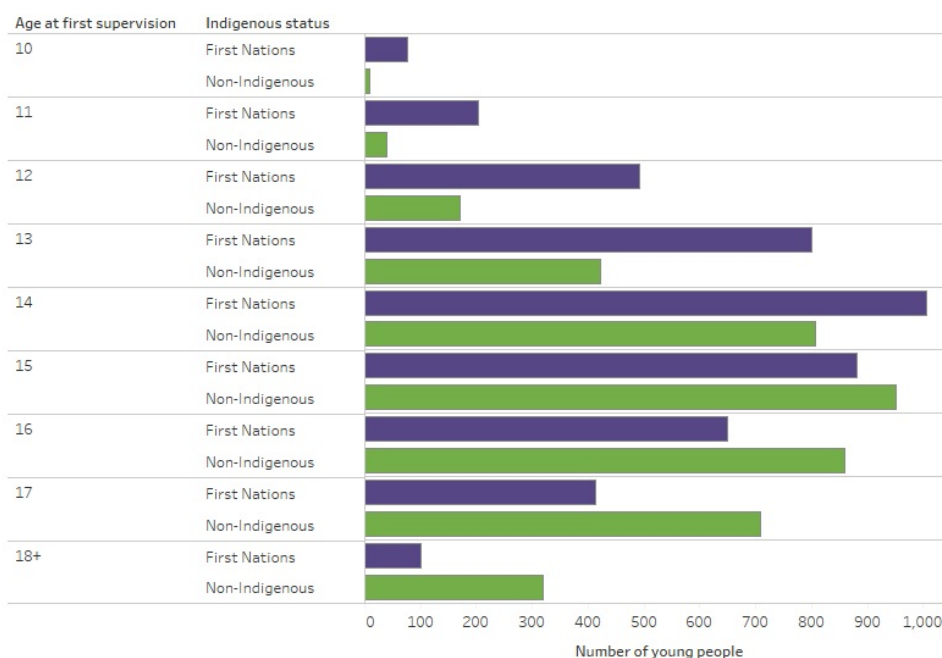
Young people who were supervised in 2022-23 were most likely to be aged 14-17 when they first entered supervision in all states and territories, ranging from 64% in Western Australia to 81% in New South Wales (Table S19).

Western Australia had the highest proportion of young people who first entered supervision when aged 10-13 (36%), while Victoria had the highest proportion who first entered supervision when aged 18 and over (23%) (likely a result of Victoria's 'dual track' sentencing system). The 10-13 years and 18 years and over age groups were not published for the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania due to small numbers, in order to protect the confidentiality of young people.

On average, First Nations young people entered youth justice supervision at a younger age than non-Indigenous young people - more than a third (34%) of First Nations young people under supervision in 2022-23 were first supervised when aged 10-13 compared with about 1 in 7 (15%) non-Indigenous young people (Table S19).

The most common age for first entry to youth justice supervision for First Nations young people was 14, compared with 15 for non-Indigenous young people (Figure 7.1).

Figure 7.1: Young people under supervision, by age at first supervision and Indigenous status, Australia, 2022-23



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

Source: Table S18.

First type of supervision

Among all those who were supervised during 2022-23, the most common first types of supervision were remand (a type of unsentenced detention) at 35%, and probation and similar (a type of sentenced community-based supervision) at 28% (Figure 7.2).

For young people entering supervision for the first time when aged 10-13, the most common types of supervision were probation and similar, police-referred detention and remand (Figure 7.2).

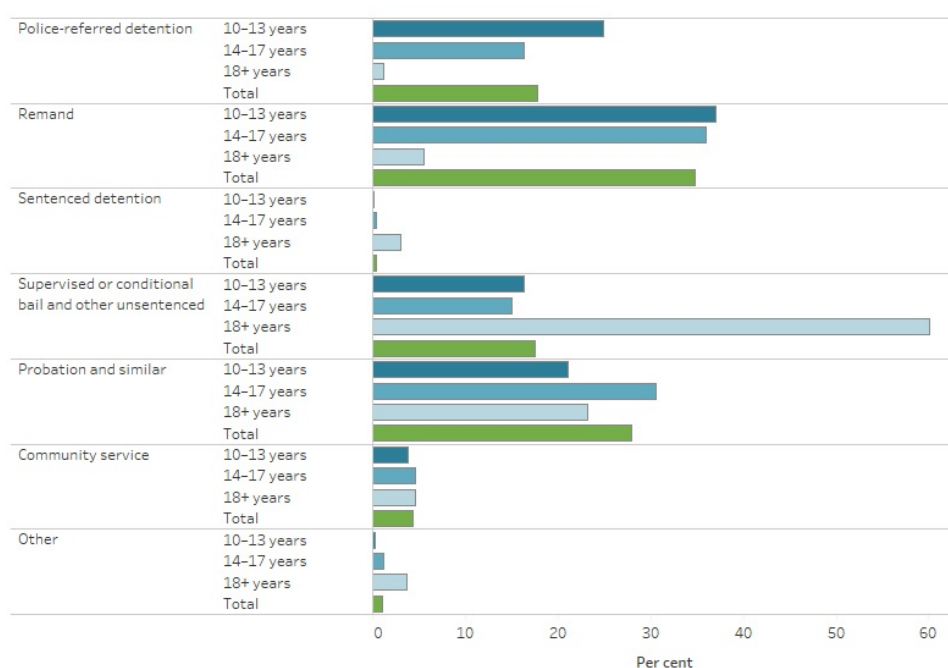
For those entering supervision for the first time aged 14-17, the most common type of first supervision was probation and remand.

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

Very few young people under youth justice supervision were given sentenced detention as their first type of supervision (less than 0.4% overall, and 3.0% of those aged 18 and over).

Figure 7.2: Young people under supervision, by type of first supervision and age at first supervision, Australia, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows the first type of supervision that young people received by age at first supervision. Young people aged 14-17 at first supervision were the most likely to have received probation and remand as their first supervision type.



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Notes

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

Sources: tables S19 and S20.

Youth justice supervision history

About 9 in 10 (89%) young people who were supervised during 2022-23 had been under community-based supervision at some time during their supervision history (either during 2022-23 or in a previous year) (Figure 7.3). More than two-thirds (71%) had spent time in detention.

About 3 in 5 (60%) young people under supervision during 2022-23 had been under both community-based supervision and in detention at some time during their supervision history.

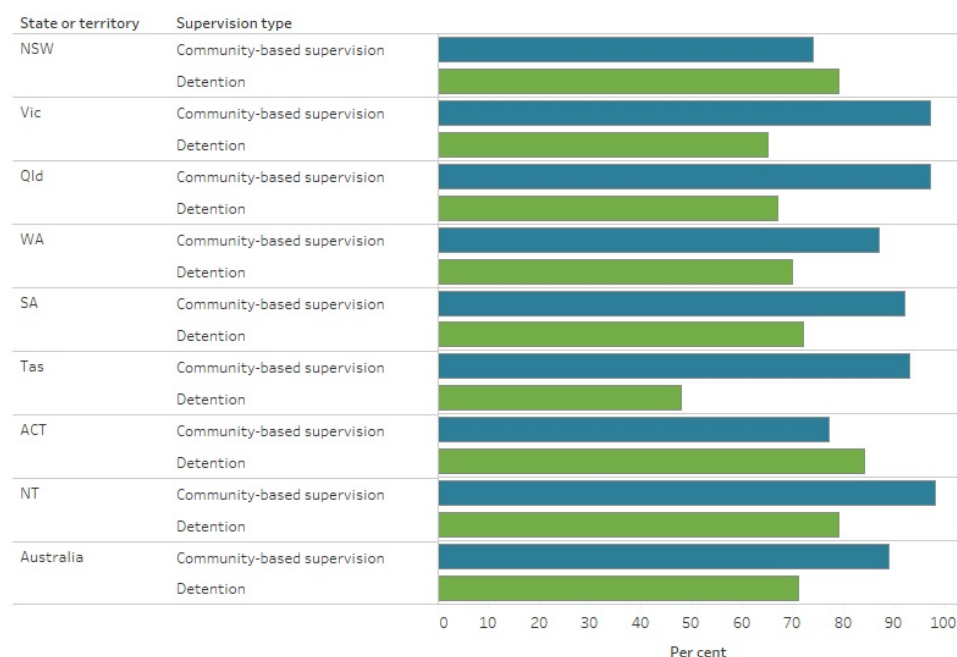
About 3 in 10 (29%) had been under community-based supervision only, and 11% had been only in detention (tables S2b, S33k and S33o).

Among the states and territories, the proportion of young people supervised during 2022-23 who had been:

- under community-based supervision at some point during their supervision history ranged from 74% in New South Wales to 98% in the Northern Territory
- in detention ranged from 48% in Tasmania to 84% in the Australian Capital Territory (Figure 7.3).

Figure 7.3: Young people under supervision during the year, by supervision history and State or territory, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart shows the proportion of young people who had a history of supervision prior to their most recent period of supervision. In all states and territories, except for the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales, a prior history of community-based supervision was more common than detention.



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Notes

1. Numerators are the number of young people who had a supervision history containing any type of community-based supervision (Table S33c) or detention (Table S33g), by state and territory. Denominators are the number of young people under supervision during the year, by state and territory (Table S2b).
2. Supervision history was not available for all young people under supervision (see Appendix A).

Sources: tables S2b, S33c and S33g.

Similar proportions of males and females under youth justice supervision during 2022-23 had been under community-based supervision at some point during their supervision history (89% and 88%, respectively). Males (72%) were slightly more likely than females (67%) to have previously been in detention (tables S2b, S33c and S33g).

Similar proportions of First Nations and non-Indigenous young people under supervision in 2022-23 had been under community-based supervision at some time during their supervision history (90% and 89%, respectively) (tables S2b and S33c).

Just over 3 in 4 First Nations young people (76%) under supervision during 2022-23 had a supervision history containing any type of detention. About two-thirds (68%) of non-Indigenous young people had a supervision history containing any type of detention (tables S2b and S33g).

Trends in supervision

Recent trends

National

The number of young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision (including those aged 18 and over) on an average day fell overall between 2018-19 and 2022-23 (Table S11a).

Overall, over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23, the number of young people under supervision fell by 20% (from 5,693 to 4,542) (Table S11a). The total number of individual young people who were supervised was fell over the 5 years in most states and territories except South Australia and the Northern Territory where the number rose.

Overall, the national rate of young people aged 10-17 under youth justice supervision on an average day fell from 18 to 13 per 10,000 young people over the 5-year period to 2022-23 (Figure 8.1).

Compared with the previous year, the number of young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision fell by 1.4% (from 4,608 to 4,542) and the rate of young people aged 10-17 remained stable at 13 per 10,000.

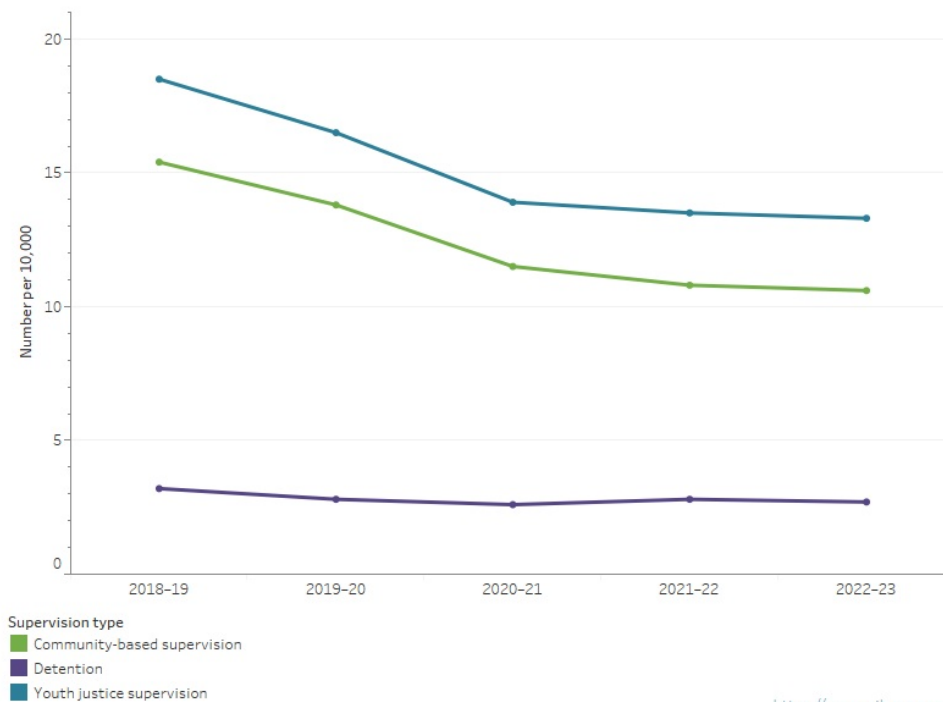
Between 2018-19 and 2022-23, the total number of young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision during the year fell by 16% (from 10,841 to 9,157) (Table S11b). The average total time young people spent under supervision during the year declined over the 5-year period, from 192 days in 2018-19 to 181 days in 2022-23 (Table S30).

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

Between 2018-19 and 2022-23, the number of young people aged 10-17 who had their matters finalised in court fell by 11%, with an increase of 8.7% from a low in 2020-21 (ABS 2024).

Figure 8.1: Trends in young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, 2018-19 to 2022-23

This line graph shows that the rate of community-based supervision was higher than detention over the 5-year period to 2022-23. Overall, all supervision, community-based supervision and detention rates fell from 2018-19 to 2022-23.



Notes

1. Trend data might differ from data previously published due to data revisions.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If the age of a young person changes during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019-20.

Sources: tables S12a, S45a and S83a

Between 2018-19 and 2022-23, the number of young people aged 10 and over under community-based supervision on an average day fell by 22% (from 4,770 to 3,743) (Table S44a). The rate dropped from 15 to 11 per 10,000 for those aged 10-17 (Figure 8.1). In the most recent year, the number under community-based supervision fell by 1.7% (from 3,809 to 3,743) and the rate remained stable at 11 per 10,000.

Between 2018-19 and 2022-23, the number of young people aged 10 and over in detention on an average day fell by 13% (from 952 to 828) (Table S82a). The rate declined from 3.2 to 2.7 per 10,000 for those aged 10-17 between 2018-19 and 2022-23 (Figure 8.1). In the most recent year, the number of young people remained stable (from 827 to 828) as did the rate (from 2.8 to 2.7 per 10,000).

States and territories

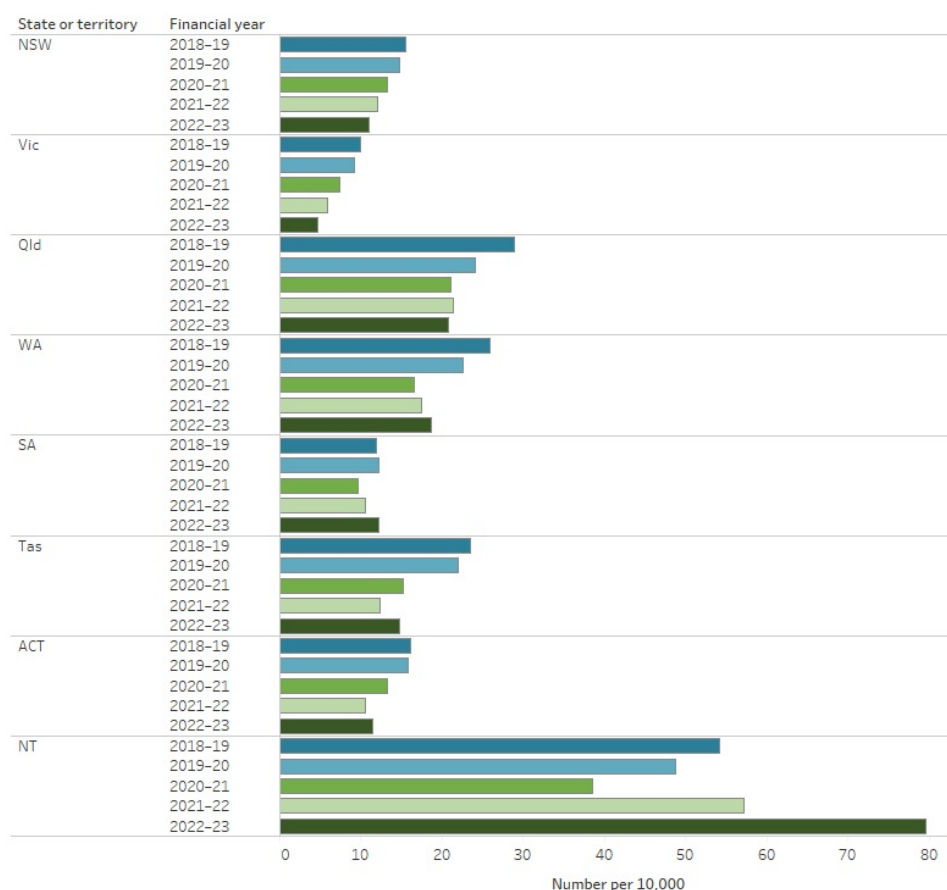
Between 2018-19 and 2022-23, the rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day fell overall in most states and territories, except for South Australia and the Northern Territory. The largest fall was in Tasmania (from 23 to 15 per 10,000) (Figure 8.2).

The rates of young people aged 10-17 under community-based supervision on an average day fell overall in most states and territories, again except for South Australia and the Northern Territory. The largest fall was in Tasmania (from 21 to 12 per 10,000) (Table S45a).

The rates of young people aged 10-17 in detention fell or remained steady over the 5-year period from 2018-19 to 2022-23 in most states and territories, with a drop in Western Australia (from 4.8 to 3.0 per 10,000). The rates of young people aged 10-17 in detention increased in the Australian Capital Territory (from 2.0 to 3.4 per 10,000) and the Northern Territory (from 14 to 19 per 10,000) (Table S83a).

Figure 8.2: Trends in young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by State or territory, 2018-19 to 2022-23

This vertical bar chart shows that the rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day has declined overall over the 5 year period to 2022-23 in most states and territories except for South Australia and the Northern Territory.



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Notes

1. Trend data might differ from data previously published due to data revisions.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If the age of a young person changes during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019-20.
3. In Queensland, legislation to increase the age limit in the youth justice system from 16 to 17 was enacted in February 2018. This change resulted in an increase in the number and rate of young people aged 17 under youth justice supervision from 2017-18 onwards.

Source: Table S12a.

Table 8.1: Overall change in young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type and Indigenous status, and

Table 6.11 Overall change in young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type and Indigenous status, and state and territory, 2018-19 to 2022-23 (rate)

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Community									
First Nations	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓
Non-Indigenous	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↔	↓
Total	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓
Detention									
First Nations	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓
Non-Indigenous	↓	↓	↔	↔	↓	↑	↑	↑	↔
Total	↓	↓	↔	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓
All supervision									
First Nations	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓
Non-Indigenous	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔	↓	↓	↑	↓
Total	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔	↓	↓	↑	↓

Notes

1. Arrows indicate an overall change between 2018-19 and 2022-23. Trends might have fluctuated between these years, particularly for smaller jurisdictions.
2. Data might differ from data previously published due to data revisions.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If the age of a young person changes during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019-20.

Sources: tables S12a, S45a and S83a.

Age and sex

Over the 5 years to 2022-23, the rates of young males and females under supervision fell. For males aged 10-17 on an average day, the rate fell from 28 to 20 per 10,000; for females, it fell overall from 8.1 to 5.6 per 10,000 (Table S15a). On an average day each year, males aged 10-17 were 3-4 times as likely as females aged 10-17 to be under supervision.

The rate of young males aged 10-17 under community-based supervision on an average day also fell over the same 5-year period, from 23 to 16 per 10,000, while the rate of young females fell from 7.4 to 5.1 per 10,000 (Table S48a). For detention, the rate of males aged 10-17 on an average day fell from 5.5 to 4.7 per 10,000, while the rate of females was down slightly overall from 0.7 to 0.6 per 10,000 (Table S86a).

On an average day each year, young males aged 10-17 were about 3 times as likely as young females aged 10-17 to be under community-based supervision, and 7-8 times as likely to be in detention (tables S48a and S86a).

The fall in rates of young males under supervision on an average day occurred for most ages, with the largest fall being for those aged 16 (from 67 to 47 per 10,000 over the 5-year period) (Table S9a).

Among young females, rates fell overall for most ages, with the largest fall being for those aged 16 (from 21 to 12 per 10,000) (Table S9a).

First Nations young people

On an average day over the 5-year period between 2018-19 and 2022-23 under youth justice supervision, the:

- number of First Nations young people (including those aged 18 and over) declined overall by 11% from 2,734 to 2,423 - and the number of non-Indigenous young people aged 10 and over fell by 29% - from 2,894 to 2,047 (Table S11a)
- rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 fell from 161 to 132 per 10,000. In the most recent year, the rate rose from 124 to 132 per 10,000
- rate of non-Indigenous young people fell slightly from 9.3 to 5.8 per 10,000
- level of First Nations over-representation rose. In 2018-19, First Nations young people aged 10-17 were 17 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be under supervision, rising to about 23 times as likely in 2022-23 (Table S12a).

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

- number of First Nations young people aged 10 and over fell by 12% - from 2,231 to 1,958 - and the number of non-Indigenous young people aged 10 and over fell by 31% - from 2,477 to 1,716 (Table S44a)

- rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 fell from 130 to 103 per 10,000 and the rate of non-Indigenous young people fell from 8.0 to 4.8 per 10,000
- level of First Nations over-representation increased. In 2018-19, the rate ratio was 16 and increased to 22 in 2022-23 (Table S45a).

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

- number of First Nations young people aged 10 and over declined by 7.0% (from 519 to 483) and the number of non-Indigenous young people fell by 20% (from 429 to 342) (Table S82a)
- rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 declined from 32 to 30 per 10,000 and the non-Indigenous rate declined from 1.4 to 1.1 per 10,000
- First Nations rate ratio for those in detention rose overall from 23 to 28 per 10,000 (Table S83a).

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

- the rates of First Nations young people under supervision fell in all states and territories except for the Northern Territory (Table 8.1)
- the largest falls in First Nations rates were in Victoria (102 to 41 per 10,000), Queensland (229 to 178 per 10,000) and Western Australia (240 to 189 per 10,000)
- the rates for non-Indigenous young people fell slightly in most states and territories, except for South Australia and the Northern Territory. Tasmania (16 to 11 per 10,000) and Victoria (8.3 to 4.1 per 10,000) had the largest falls over the 5-year period (Table S12a)
- the rates for First Nations young people aged 10-17 under community-based supervision fell in most states and territories (except for South Australia and the Northern Territory), with the Australian Capital Territory showing the largest decline (114 to 49 per 10,000) (Table S45a)
- the rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 in detention for most states and territories fell, with South Australia (from 28 to 19 per 10,000) and Western Australia (from 55 to 35 per 10,000) experiencing the largest declines. Rates increased in Queensland (41 to 46 per 10,000), the Australian Capital Territory (15 to 35 per 10,000) and the Northern Territory (31 to 43 per 10,000) (see Table 8.1).

Time under supervision

Over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23, the average amount of time young people spent under youth justice supervision during the year declined from 192 days in 2018-19 to 181 days in 2022-23 (Table S30).

A similar trend was seen for young people under community-based supervision, with a decline from 178 days in 2018-19 to 172 days in 2022-23 (Table S63).

The average amount of time spent in detention declined overall, from 71 to 66 days (Table S102).

The average amount of time young people spent under youth justice supervision varied among the states and territories, with the largest overall rise in the Northern Territory (from 195 to 219). The largest overall fall was in New South Wales (from 177 to 150 days) (Table S30).

Longer trends

National

Nationally, the rate of young people aged 10-17 under youth justice supervision on an average day fell over the 10 years to 2022-23, from 22 per 10,000 in 2013-14 to 13 per 10,000 in 2022-23 (Figure 8.3).

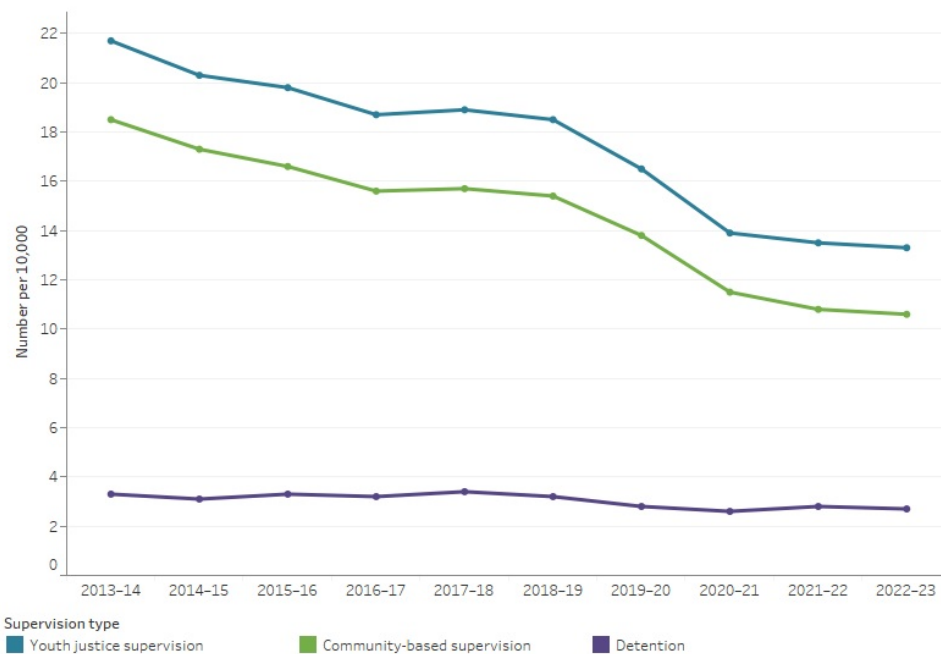
Similarly, the rate of young people under supervision during each year (rather than on an average day) fell steadily from 47 per 10,000 in 2013-14 to 29 per 10,000 in 2022-23 (Table S12b).

This trend is largely associated with changes in the rate of community-based supervision, as 82% of all young people under supervision on an average day were supervised in the community (Table 2.1). The rate of community-based supervision peaked at 19 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 on an average day in 2013-14, before falling to 11 per 10,000 in 2022-23 (Figure 8.3).

The rate of young people in detention was slightly lower in 2022-23 than in 2013-14 (2.7 per 10,000 compared with 3.3 per 10,000).

Figure 8.3: Trends in young people under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, 2013-14 to 2022-23

The line graph of the 10-year period shows that all supervision and community-based supervision rates peaked in 2013-14, before falling to a low in 2022-23. The rate of young people in detention was slightly lower in 2022-23 compared with 2013-14 (2.7 per 10,000 compared with 3.3 per 10,000).



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Sources: tables S12a, S45a and S83a.

Between 2013-14 and 2022-23, the drop in the rate of young people under supervision on an average day was proportionally greater for non-Indigenous young people than for First Nations young people. This means that the level of First Nations over-representation rose (from 16 to 23 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Table S12a).

The rate ratio of males to females under supervision remained relatively stable over the 10-year period. In 2013-14, young males aged 10-17 were 3.9 times as likely as young females to be under youth justice supervision on an average day. The rate ratio was 3.6 in 2022-23 (Table S15a).

Rates of both males and females under supervision were highest in 2013-14 (34 and 8.7 per 10,000, respectively). For males, rates dropped steadily to 20 per 10,000 in 2022-23. Female rates fluctuated, with an overall decline from 8.7 in 2013-14 to 5.6 in 2022-23 (Table S15a).

States and territories

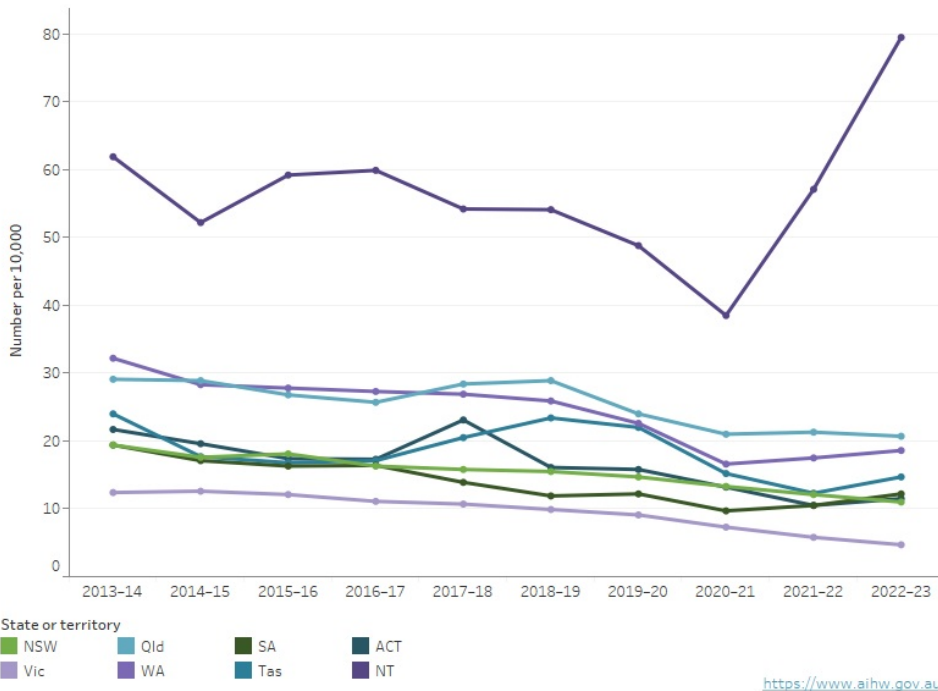
On an average day from 2013-14 to 2022-23, Victoria had the lowest rate of supervision each year, at fewer than 13 per 10,000 young people throughout the period (Figure 8.4).

The rate of young people under supervision on an average day declined gradually over the 10 years in most states and territories, with some showing an increase in the most recent year (2021-22 to 2022-23).

In the Northern Territory, the rate of supervision was 62 per 10,000 in 2013-14 before falling to its lowest point in 2020-21 then increasing substantially in 2022-23. In Tasmania, the rate fluctuated with a low in 2021-22 and a high in 2013-14. Rates in Queensland fluctuated over the 10-year period and were lowest in 2022-23. In the Australian Capital Territory, except for 2017-18, rates fell almost consistently from 2013-14 to 2021-22 with a slight rise in 2022-23.

Figure 8.4: Trends in young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by State or territory, 2013-14 to 2022-23

This line graph shows the rates of supervision types over the previous ten years by jurisdiction. Over the previous ten years, the rate of young people under supervision on an average day declined gradually over the 10 years in most states and territories, with some showing an increase.



Notes

1. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If the age of a young person changes during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019-20.
2. In Queensland, legislation to increase the age limit in the youth justice system from 16 to 17 was enacted in February 2018. This change resulted in an increase in the number and rate of young people aged 17 under youth justice supervision from 2017-18 onwards.

Source: Table S12a.

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

Over the 10-year period from 2013-14 to 2022-23, the rate of young people aged 10-17 under community-based supervision on an average day declined overall in all states and territories except the Northern Territory, which fluctuated with an increase in 2022-23. There were some minor fluctuations in some states and territories, where rates:

- rose in Queensland in 2017-18 and 2018-19, before declining again from 2019-20 onwards
- rose in Tasmania in 2017-18 and 2018-19, before falling again to a low in 2021-22 with a slight rise in 2022-23
- rose in the Australian Capital Territory in 2017-18, before continuing to decline to a low in 2021-22 with a slight rise in 2022-23 (Table S45a).

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

Between 2013-14 and 2022-23, detention rates fell overall in New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia; they rose slightly in Queensland, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (Table S86a).

The level of First Nations over-representation under youth justice supervision (as measured by the rate ratio) on an average day increased overall in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory over the decade to 2022-23, and declined slightly in Victoria, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory (Table S12a). Results for the smaller states and territories should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of First Nations and non-Indigenous young people under youth justice supervision.

The rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 under supervision fell overall in most states and territories over the 10-year period from 2013-14 to 2022-23, except for Tasmania and the Northern Territory where rates fluctuated over the period. The largest fall was seen in Western Australia where the rate of First Nations young people under supervision fell from 332 to 189 per 10,000.

Reference

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2024) *Criminal courts, Australia 2022-23*, ABS, Australian Government.

Youth justice in context

Youth and adult justice systems in Australia

Contact with police

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

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

In 2022-23, police proceeded against 185 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (the primary group in the youth justice system) and 146 per 10,000 among those aged 18 and over (ABS 2024a).

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

In 2022-23, the most common principal offences among young people aged 10-17 were:

- acts intended to cause injury (25%)
- theft (13%)
- unlawful entry with intent (8.1%) (Figure 9.1).

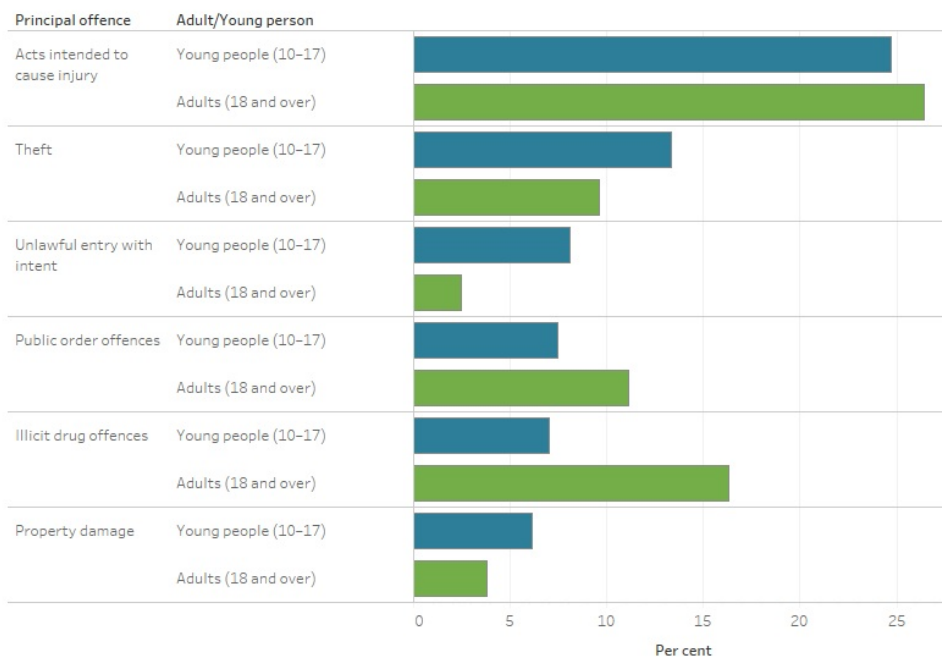
The most common principal offences among adults aged 18 and over were:

- acts intended to cause injury (26%)
- illicit drug offences (16%)
- public order offences (11%)

The adult category includes a much broader age group than the young people category and this might influence the results.

Figure 9.1: Young people and adults proceeded against by police, by selected principal offence, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart compares the principal offence committed, or alleged to have committed, by young people and adults. Acts intended to cause injury and theft were the most common principal offences for young people. For adults, acts intended to cause injury and illicit drug offences were the most common.



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Source: ABS 2024a.

Community-based supervision, detention and prison

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

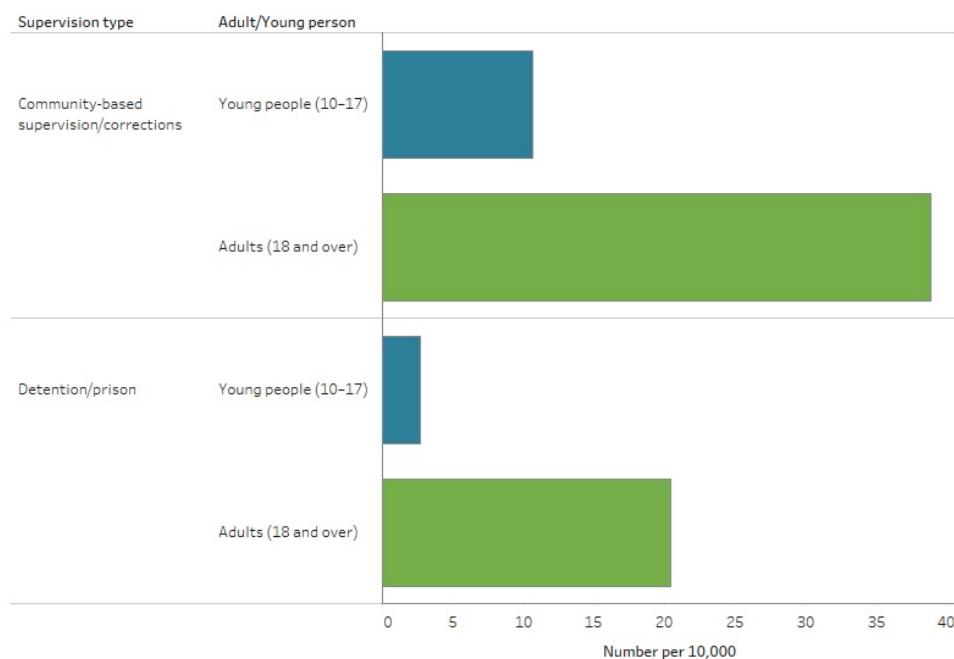
On an average day in 2022-23, 39 per 10,000 adults aged 18 and over were in adult community-based corrections (Figure 9.2).

This compares with 11 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 under community-based youth justice supervision on an average day in 2022-23.

At the same time, 20 per 10,000 adults were in prison compared with 2.7 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 in youth justice detention (Figure 9.2).

Figure 9.2: Young people aged 10-17 and adults under supervision on an average day, by type of supervision, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart compares the rate of young people aged 10-17 and adults by supervision type. The rate of adults is considerably higher than young people in both community-based supervision/corrections and detention/prison.



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

Note: Data on young people under supervision are for 2022-23; available ABS data on adults under supervision are the average of monthly snapshots taken on the first day of the month from July 2022 to June 2023.

Sources: ABS 2023; tables S37a and S75a.

Young people aged 10-17 under youth justice supervision were more likely to identify as First Nations people than adults under supervision. More than half (55%) of young people aged 10-17 supervised in the community and almost 1 in 4 (24%) adults in community corrections were First Nations people (Figure 9.3).

Similarly, on an average day in 2022-23, almost two-thirds (63%) of young people aged 10-17 in detention were First Nations people compared with one-third (33%) of adults in full-time prison.

As a result, the level of First Nations over-representation was higher among the youth detention population on an average day in 2022-23 than among adults in full-time prison on an average day in the 2023 calendar year (Figure 9.3). Available ABS data for First Nations and non-Indigenous adults are crude rates, by calendar year.

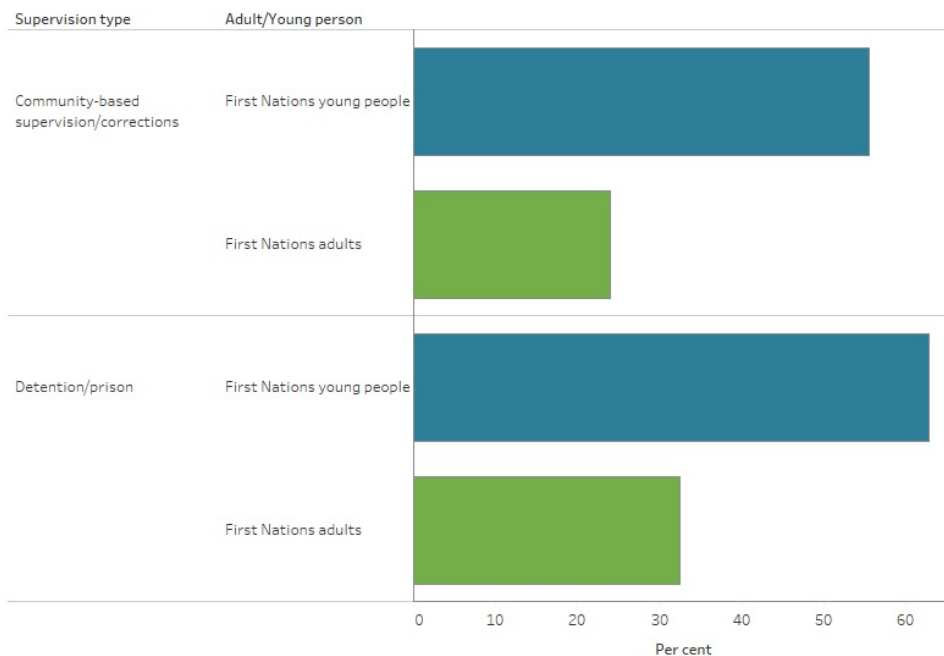
First nations young people aged 10-17 (30 per 10,000) were about 27 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be in detention (1.1 per 10,000). First nations adults (244 per 10,000) were about 18 times as likely as non-Indigenous adults to be in full-time prison (14 per 10,000) (ABS 2024b; Table S75a).

On an average day, among those under justice supervision, the proportion of young people aged 10-17 who were male was similar to the proportion of adults who were male:

- About 89% of young people in detention and 93% of adults in prison were male
- 77% of young people and 81% of adults supervised in the community were male (ABS 2023; tables S36a and S74a).

Figure 9.3: First nations young people under youth justice supervision and adults under adult criminal justice supervision on an average day, by type of supervision, 2022-23

This horizontal bar chart compares the proportion of young people and the proportion of adults, in community-based supervision/corrections and detention/prison who were First Nations. The figure shows that a higher proportion of young people under both types of supervision were First Nations, compared to adults.



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

Note: Data on young people under supervision are for 2022-23; available ABS data on adults under supervision are the average of monthly snapshots taken on the first day of the month from July 2022 to June 2023.

Sources: ABS 2023; tables S36 and S74.

Young people in detention were more than twice as likely as adults in prison to be unsentenced (that is, to be awaiting the outcome of their court matter or sentencing).

On an average day in 2022-23, 85% of young people aged 10-17 in detention were unsentenced compared with 38% of adults in prison (ABS 2023; Table S109a).

Australian and international approaches to youth justice

International agreements, standards and guidelines

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

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

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

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

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

Age for treatment as a young person

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

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

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

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

In Australia, the Meeting of Attorneys-General (MAG) reviewed Australia’s age of criminal responsibility. The MAG noted that the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and the Northern Territory have committed to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and states have supported the development of proposals to raise the age, having regard to any carve outs, timing and discussion of implementation requirements (MAG 2023). This followed on from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory (Royal Commission and Board of Inquiry 2017) which recommended that Australia:

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

Since then, the Northern Territory became the first Australian jurisdiction to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility, in November 2022, from 10 to 12 years. The change was implemented in August 2023 (which is after the reporting period of this report).

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

In Australia, along with New Zealand, England and Wales, young people are deemed to have criminal responsibility if they are aged 10 or over (Table 9.1).

But there are some allowances for children in younger age brackets. For example, young people in New Zealand aged 10 or 11 can only be prosecuted for murder and manslaughter (Child Rights International Network 2024).

In Australia, young people aged between 10 and 14 are given the presumption of *doli incapax*, meaning that they cannot be held criminally responsible unless it can be proved beyond reasonable doubt that the young person knew that their conduct was wrong. In England and Wales, young people aged under 12 cannot be prosecuted for an offence, though the offence may be included on a child’s criminal record (Child Rights International Network 2024).

In other countries, minimum ages of criminal responsibility include 11 in Japan; 12 in Canada; 13 in Greece; 14 in Germany, Italy and Spain; and 15 in Scandinavian countries (Table 9.1).

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

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

Table 9.1: Minimum age of criminal responsibility, by selected countries

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

(a) In Australia, 2 territories have raised the age of criminal responsibility: the Northern Territory raised it to 12 in August 2023; the Australian Capital Territory raised it to 12 in November 2023 and will raise it to 14 in mid-2025. Neither of these changes affect the 2022-23 reporting year.

Source: Child Rights International Network 2024.

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

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

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

Principles, services and outcomes

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

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

The principle of detention as a last resort can be found in youth justice legislation in each state and territory in Australia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On an average day in 2022-23, the rate of young people in youth detention in Australia (2.7 per 10,000 young people) was higher than in England and Wales (0.9 per 10,000) and Canada (2.4 per 10,000), but lower than in the United States of America (6.3 per 10,000) (Table 9.2, see footnotes for the differences in measurement).

Rates of young people in detention are similar to or lower than those for the previous reporting periods for Australia (2.7 per 10,000), England and Wales (0.8), the United States (9.4) and Canada (2.5).

Table 9.2: Young people aged 10-17 in detention on an average day, by selected countries, 2022-23

Number/rate	Australia ^(a)	England and Wales	Canada ^(b)	United States of America
Number	707	441 ^(c)	459	20,955 ^(d)
Number per 10,000	2.7	0.8	2.4	6.3

(a) Data for 2022-23.

(b) Data for young people aged 12-17 in detention on an average day during 2021-22.

(c) Average monthly population of young people in custody April 2022 and March 2023 (remand and sentenced).

(d) Number in youth detention in 2021.

Sources: Office for National Statistics 2022; Puzanchera et al. 2023; Sickmund et al. 2022; Statistics Canada 2024; Youth Custody Service 2024; YJ NMDS: tables S74a and S75a.

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State and territory fact sheets

These fact sheets are part of the Youth justice in Australia 2022-23 release. Together, these provide comprehensive information about young people under youth justice supervision in Australia due to their involvement, or alleged involvement, in crime.

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

State and territory fact sheets

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2023, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2022-23, in New South Wales:

- 1,001 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S126a)
- around 4 in 5 (81%) were supervised in the community (Table S126b), and the rest (20%) in detention (Table S126c) (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 11 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S127a)
- 9.1 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (Table S127b), and 2.0 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S127c).

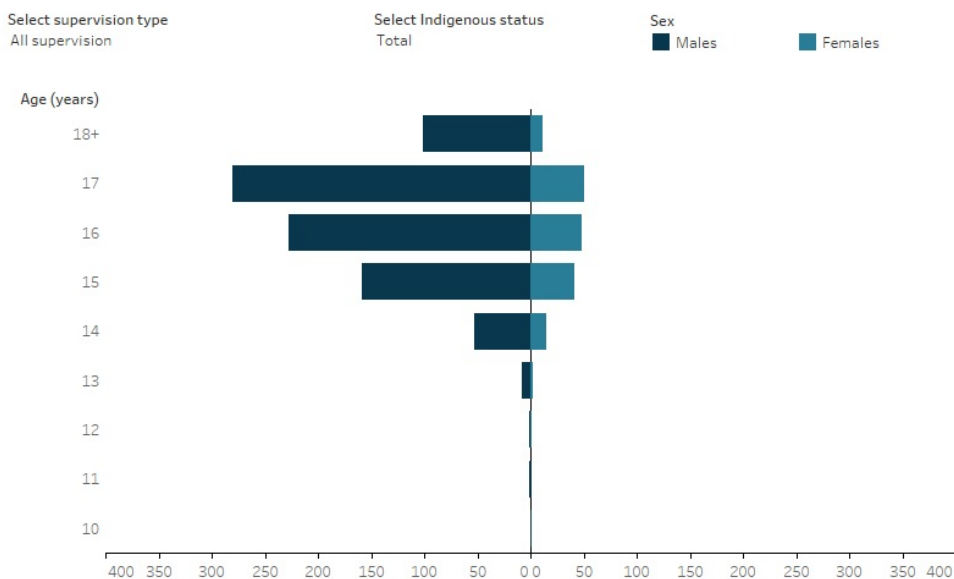
Age and sex

On an average day in 2022-23, in New South Wales:

- 89% of those under supervision were aged 10-17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 83% of those under supervision were male
- males and females under supervision were most likely to be aged 17 (Table S126a).

Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, New South Wales, 2022-23

This population pyramid shows the age, sex and Indigenous status under supervision, community-based supervision and detention for New South Wales. It shows that there were more males under all types of supervision than females. The age distribution of males and females was broadly similar. The largest number of males and females were aged 17. Very few males and females under supervision were aged 13 and under.



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Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2022-23, in New South Wales:

- First Nations young people made up 6.2% of those aged 10-17 in the general population, but 52% (or 463) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S126a and S143)
- a slightly lower proportion of First Nations young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (50% or 368) and a higher proportion were in detention (61% or 98) (tables S126b and S126c)
- First Nations young people aged 10-17 were 18 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (92 per 10,000 compared with 5.1 per 10,000) (Table S127a)
- First Nations over-representation was similar in community-based supervision (17 times the non-Indigenous rate) however was higher in detention (24 times the non-Indigenous rate) (tables S127b and S127c).

Time under supervision

In 2022-23, in New South Wales:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 6 days (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 150 days (nearly 21 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2022-23, in New South Wales:

- almost 3 in 4 (71%) young people in detention were unsentenced—that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 29% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (Table S108a).

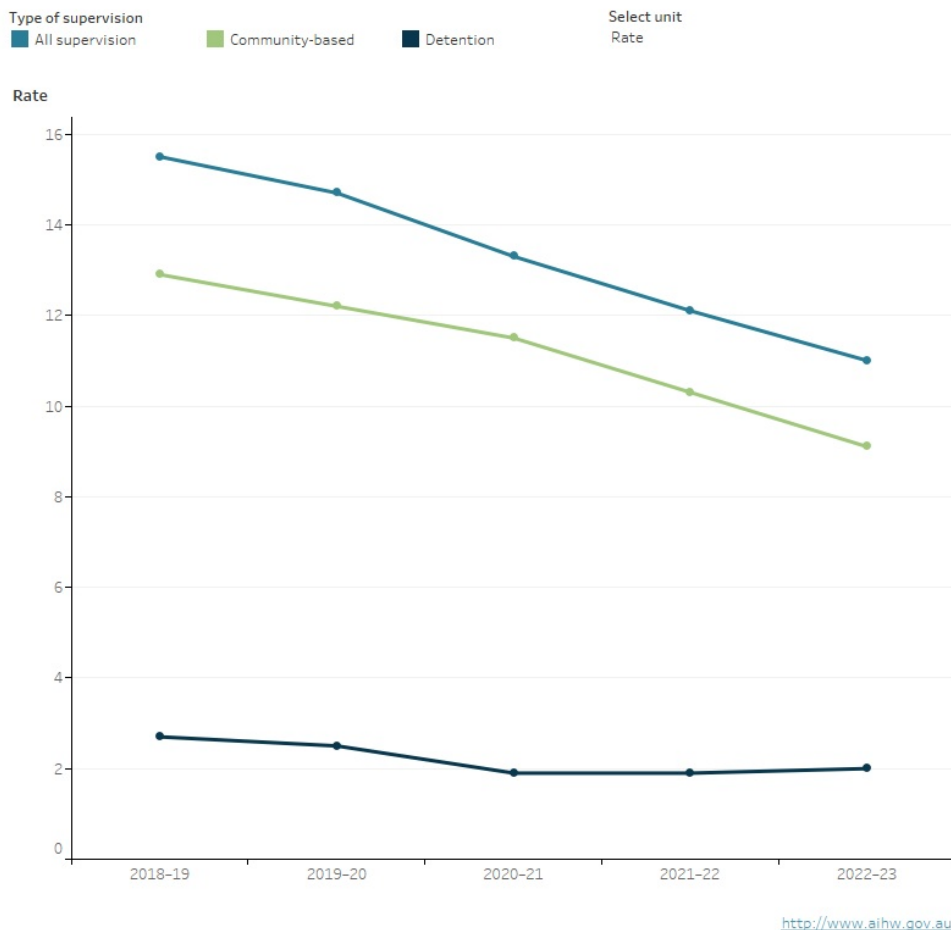
Trends to 2022-23

Over the 5 years to 2022-23, on an average day, in New South Wales:

- the number of young people under supervision fell by 27% (from 1,368 in 2018-19 to 1,001 in 2022-23) (Table S126a), while the rate fell from 16 to 11 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S12a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell by 27% (Table S126b), while the rate fell from 13 to 9.1 per 10,000 (Table S45a)
- in detention, the number fell by 26% (Table S126c), while the rate fell from 2.7 to 2.0 per 10,000 (Table 83a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision fell, overall, from 112 to 92 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, New South Wales, 2018-19 to 2022-23

This line graph shows the number and rate of young people under supervision, community-based supervision and detention over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 for New South Wales. It shows an overall decline in the rate of young people in under supervision, community-based supervision and detention.



Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2022-23* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and supplementary data tables.

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

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

State and territory fact sheets

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2023, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2022-23, in Victoria:

- 596 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S128a)
- more than 4 in 5 (82%) were supervised in the community (Table S128b), and the rest (18%) were in detention (Table S128c)
- the rate of supervision was 4.7 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S129a)
- 3.7 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (Table S129b), and 1.1 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S129c).

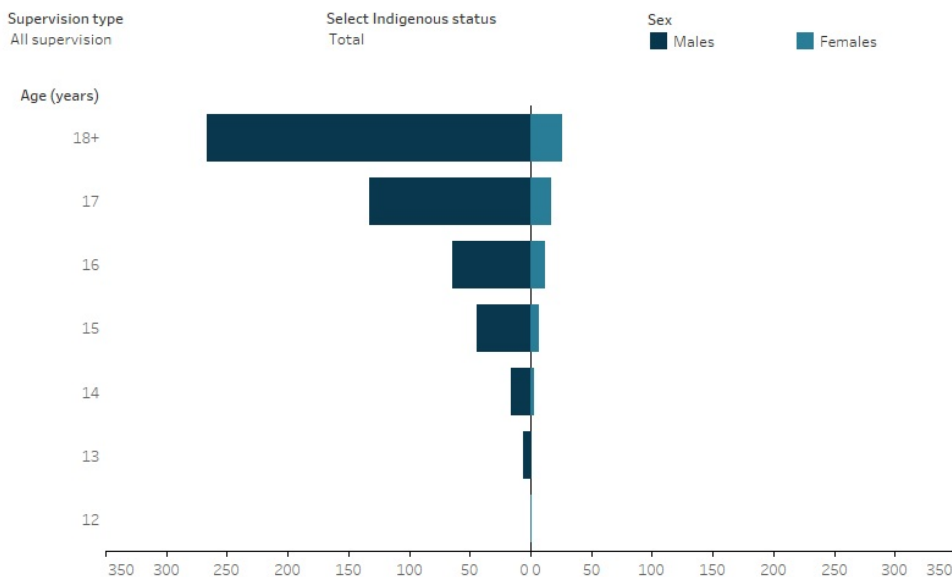
Age and sex

On an average day in 2022-23, in Victoria:

- 51% of those under supervision were aged 10-17, and the rest were 18 and over (in Victoria, some young people aged 18-20 may be sentenced to detention in a youth facility rather than adult prison under the 'dual track' system).
- 89% of those under supervision were male
- males and females under supervision were most likely to be aged 18 or over (Table S128a).

Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Victoria, 2022-23

This population pyramid shows the age, sex and Indigenous status under supervision, community-based supervision and detention for Victoria. It shows that there were more males under all types of supervision than females. The largest number of males and females were aged 18 and over. Very few males and females under supervision were aged 13 and under.



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Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2022-23, in Victoria:

- First Nations young people made up 1.7% of those aged 10-17 in the general population, but 14% (or 44) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S128a and S143)
- a similar proportion of First Nations young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (15% or 35) and in detention (13% or 9.6) (tables S128b and S128c)
- First Nations young people aged 10-17 were nearly 10 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (41 per 10,000 compared with 4.1 per 10,000) (Table S129a)
- First Nations over-representation was similar in community-based supervision (10 times the non-Indigenous rate) and in detention (almost 9 times the non-Indigenous rate) (tables S129b and S129c).

Time under supervision

In 2022-23, in Victoria:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 210 days (about 30 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 189 days (27 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2022-23, in Victoria:

- more than 2 in 3 (68%) young people in detention were unsentenced—that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 30% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

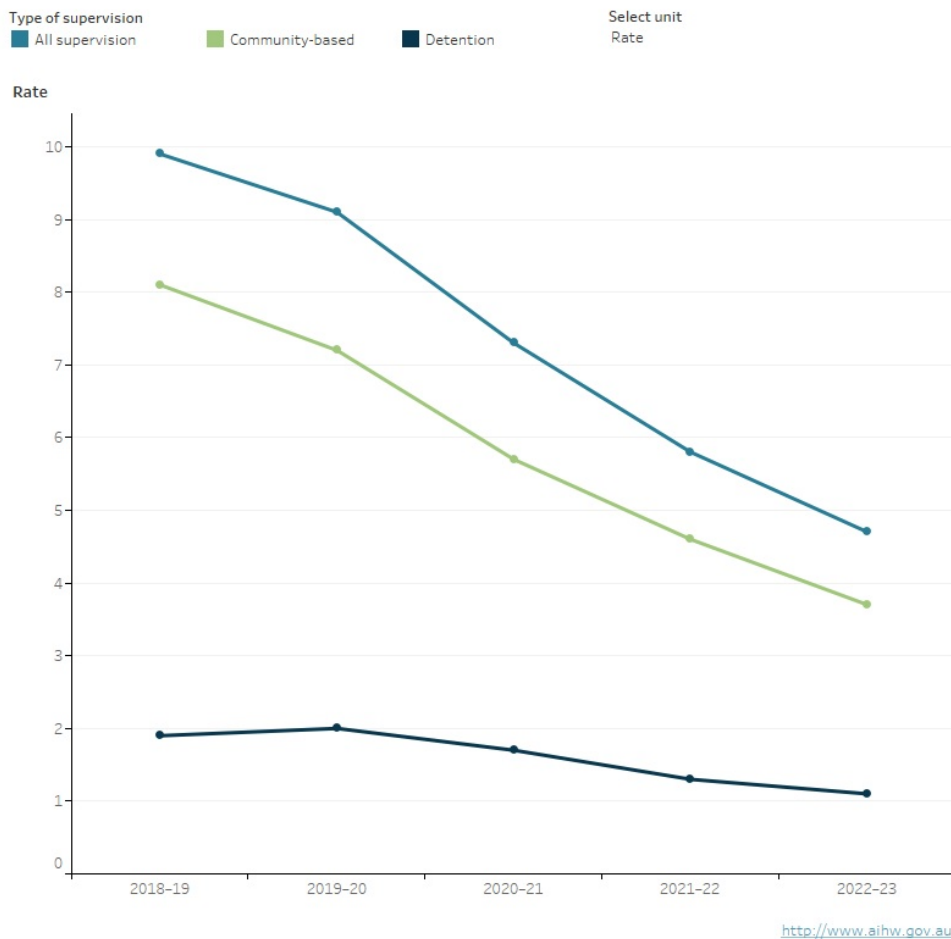
Trends to 2022-23

Over the 5 years to 2022-23, on an average day, in Victoria:

- the number of all young people under supervision fell by 38% (from 954 in 2018-19 to 596 in 2022-23) (Table S128a), while the rate fell from 9.9 to 4.7 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S12a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell by 36% (Table S128b), while the rate fell from 8.1 to 3.7 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S45a)
- in detention, the number fell by 43% (Table S128c), while the rate fell from 1.9 to 1.1 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S83a)
- the rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 under supervision fell from 102 to 41 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Victoria, 2018-19 to 2022-23

This line graph shows the number and rate of young people under supervision, community-based supervision and detention over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 for Victoria. It shows an overall decline in the rate under supervision, community-based supervision and detention.



Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2022-23* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets and supplementary data tables.

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

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

State and territory fact sheets

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2023, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2022-23, in Queensland:

- 1,595 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S130a)
- about 4 in 5 (81%) were supervised in the community (Table S130b), and 19% in detention (Table S130c)
- the rate of supervision was 21 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S131a)
- 16 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (Table S131b), and 5.0 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S131c).

Age and sex

On an average day in 2022-23, in Queensland:

- 73% of those under supervision were aged 10-17, and the rest were 18 and over
- nearly 4 in 5 (78%) of young people under supervision were male
- males and females under supervision were most likely to be aged 18 (Table S130a).

Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Queensland, 2022-23

This population pyramid shows the age, sex and Indigenous status under supervision, community-based supervision and detention for Queensland. It shows that there were more males under all types of supervision than females. The age distribution of males and females was broadly similar. The largest number of males and females were aged 18 or older. Very few males and females under supervision were aged 13 and under.



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Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2022-23, in Queensland:

- First Nations young people made up 7.7% of those aged 10-17 in the general population, but 66% (or 777) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S130a and S143)
- 65% (or 583) of First Nations young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision and 71% (or 201) were under detention (tables S130b and S130c)
- First Nations young people aged 10-17 were 24 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (178 per 10,000 compared with 7.4 per 10,000) (Table S131a)
- First Nations over-representation was lower in community-based supervision (23 times the non-Indigenous rate) and higher in detention (29 times the non-Indigenous rate) (tables S131b and S131c).

Time under supervision

In 2022-23, in Queensland:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 225 days (about 32 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 227 days (nearly 32 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2022-23, in Queensland:

- 9 in 10 (91%) young people in detention were unsentenced—that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 12% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

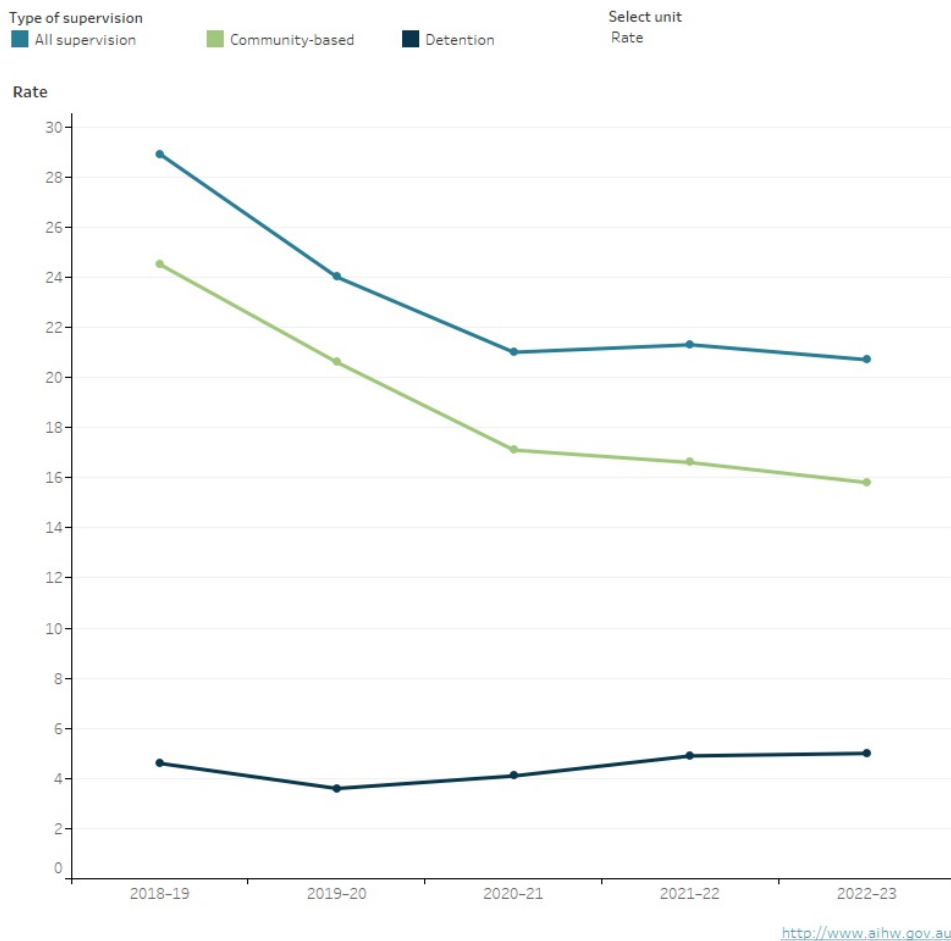
Trends to 2022-23

Over the 5 years to 2022-23, on an average day, in Queensland:

- the number of young people under supervision fell overall, from 1,931 in 2018-19 to 1,595 in 2022-23 (Table S130a)
- the rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision fell overall from 29 to 21 per 10,000 (Table S12a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell by 23% (Table S130b), while the rate of those aged 10-17 fell from 25 to 16 (Table S45a)
- in detention, the number rose by 22% (Table S130c), and the rate fluctuated between 3.6 and 5.0 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S83a)
- the rate of First Nations young people aged 10-17 under supervision decreased from 229 to 178 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Queensland, 2018-19 to 2022-23

This line graph shows the number and rate of young people under supervision, community-based supervision and detention over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 for Queensland. It shows an overall decline in the rate under supervision and community-based supervision. The rate increased from 2019-20 for detention.



Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2022-23* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and supplementary data tables.

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

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

State and territory fact sheets

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2023, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2022-23, in Western Australia:

- 622 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S132a)
- more than 4 in 5 (85%) were supervised in the community (Table S132b), and 16% in detention (Table S132c) (proportions may not sum to 100% as some young people were under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 19 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S133a)
- 16 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (Table S133b), and 3.0 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S133c).

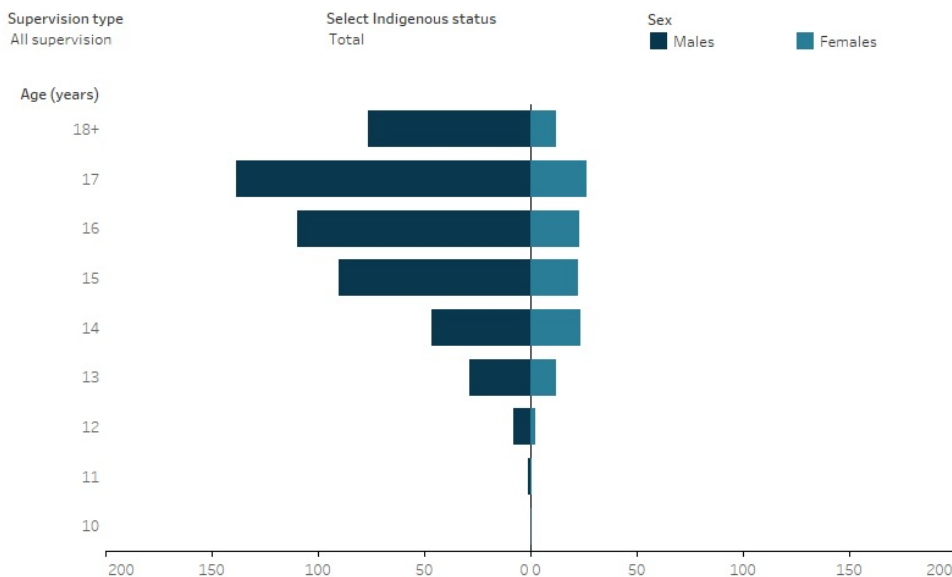
Age and sex

On an average day in 2022-23, in Western Australia:

- 86% of those under supervision were aged 10-17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 80% of those under supervision were male
- males and females under supervision were most likely to be aged 17 (Table S132a).

Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Western Australia, 2022-23

This population pyramid shows the age, sex and Indigenous status under supervision, community-based supervision and detention for Western Australia. The age distribution of males and females was broadly similar. The largest number of males and females under supervision were aged 17. Very few males and females under supervision were aged 13 and under.



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

Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2022-23, in Western Australia:

- First Nations young people made up 6.3% of those aged 10-17 in the general population, but 65% (or 344) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S132a and S143)
- a slightly lower proportion of First Nations young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (63% or 285) and a higher proportion in detention (73% or 63) (tables S132b and S132c)
- First Nations young people aged 10-17 were about 27 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (189 per 10,000 compared with 7.0 per 10,000) (Table S133a)
- First Nations over-representation was lower in community-based supervision (25 times the non-Indigenous rate) compared with detention 40 times the non-Indigenous rate) (tables S133b and S133c).

Time under supervision

In 2022-23, in Western Australia:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 50 days (about 7 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 149 days (21 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2022-23, in Western Australia:

- more than 3 in 5 (62%) young people in detention were unsentenced—that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 38% of the young people in detention were serving a sentence (Table S108a).

Trends to 2022-23

Over the 5 years to 2022-23, on an average day, in Western Australia:

- the number of young people under supervision fell by 19% (from 772 in 2018-19 to 622 in 2022-23) (Table S132a), while the rate fell from 26 to 19 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S12a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell by 17% (Table S132b), while the rate fell from 21 to 16 per 10,000 (Table S45a)
- in detention, the number fell by 29% (Table S132c), and the rate fell from 4.8 to 3.0 per 10,000 (Table S83a)
- the rate for young First Nations people under supervision fell from 240 to 189 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Western Australia, 2018-19 to 2022-23

This line graph shows the number and rate of young people under supervision, community-based supervision and detention over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 for Western Australia. It shows an overall decline in the rate under supervision and community-based supervision with and increase from 2020-21 onwards. The rate for detention declined overall.



Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2022-23* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and supplementary data tables.

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

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

State and territory fact sheets

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2023, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2022-23, in South Australia:

- 255 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S134a)
- most (90%) were supervised in the community (Table S134b), and 11% in detention (Table S134c) (proportions might not sum to 100% because some young people were under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 12 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S135a)
- 11 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (Table S135b), and 1.5 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S135c).

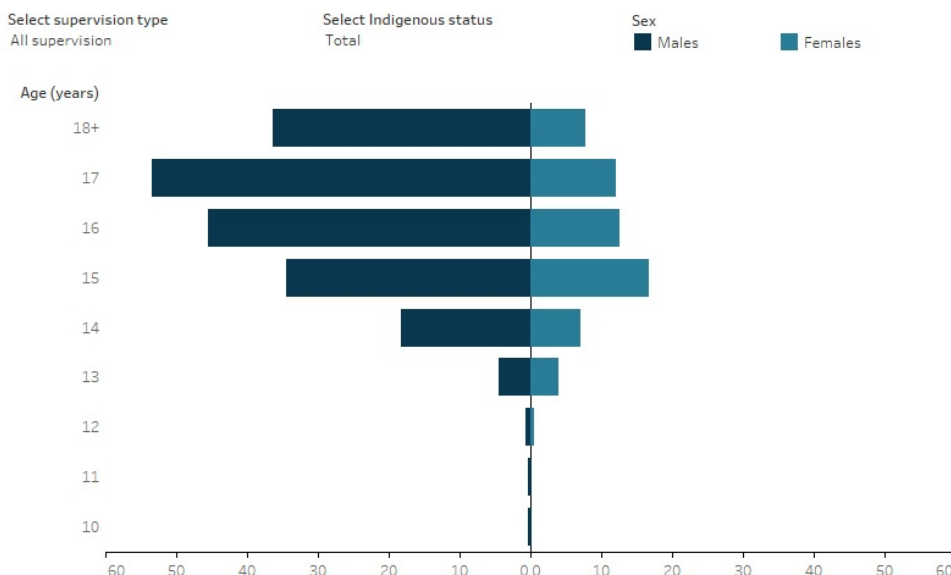
Age and sex

On an average day in 2022-23, in South Australia:

- 83% of those under supervision were aged 10-17, and the rest were 18 and over
- about 3 in 4 (76%) of those under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 17, and females aged 15 (Table S134a).

Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, South Australia, 2022-23

This population pyramid shows the age, sex and Indigenous status under supervision, community-based supervision and detention for South Australia. The largest number of males under supervision were aged 17, whereas the largest number of females were 15. Very few males and females under supervision were aged 13 and under.



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

Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2022-23, in South Australia:

- First Nations young people made up 4.7% of those aged 10-17 in the general population, but 48% (or 101) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S134a and S143)
- a similar proportion of First Nations young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (46% or 87) and a higher proportion in detention (61% or 15) (tables S134b and S134c)
- First Nations young people aged 10-17 were 19 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (124 per 10,000 compared with 6.5 per 10,000) (Table S135a)
- First Nations over-representation was similar in community-based supervision (18 times the non-Indigenous rate) and higher in detention (31 times the non-Indigenous rate) (tables S135b and S135c).

Time under supervision

In 2022-23, in South Australia:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 105 days (about 15 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 155 days (22 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2022-23, in South Australia:

- Almost 9 in 10 (88%) young people in detention were unsentenced—that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 14% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

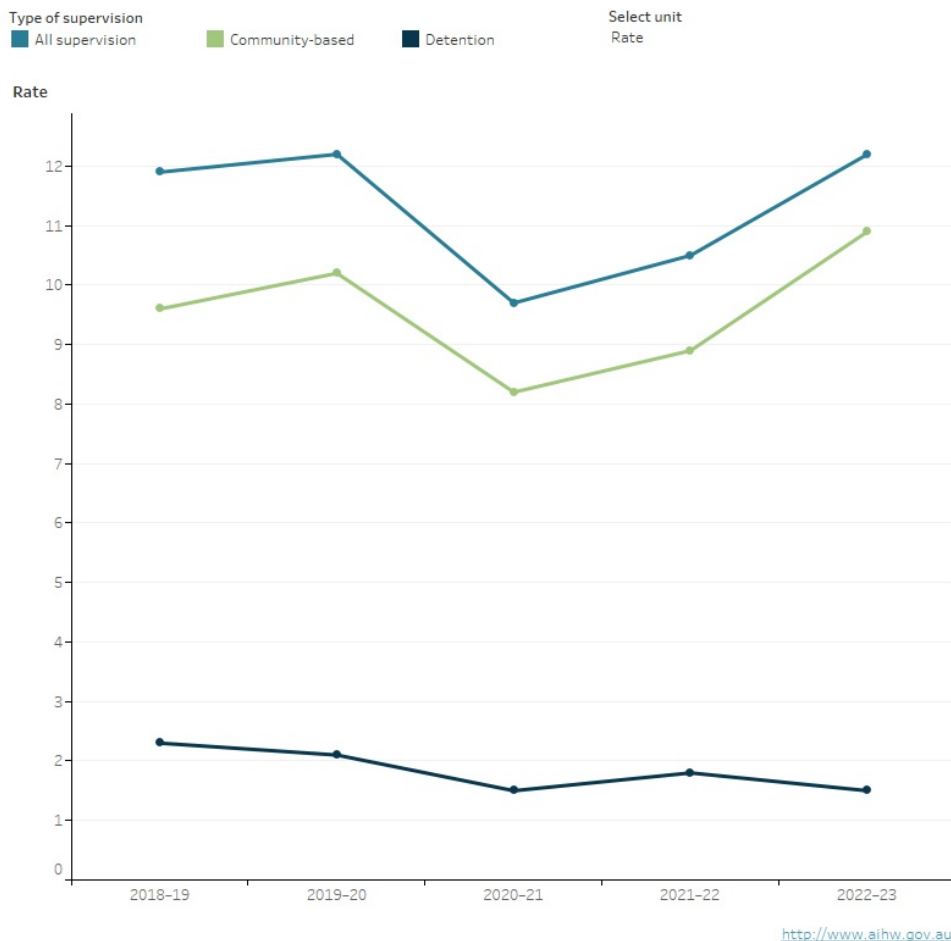
Trends to 2022-23

Over the 5 years to 2022-23, on an average day, in South Australia:

- the number of young people under supervision rose overall by 6% (from 240 in 2018-19 to 255 in 2022-23) (Table S134a), while the rate remained stable at 12 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S12a)
- in community-based supervision, the number rose by 15% (Table S134b), while the rate rose from 10 to 11 per 10,000 (Table S45a)
- in detention, the number fell 34% (Table S134c), while the rate fell from 2.3 to 1.5 per 10,000 (Table S83a)
- the rate of First Nations young people under supervision fell slightly overall (127 to 124 per 10,000) (Table S12a).

Rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, South Australia, 2018-19 to 2022-23

This line graph shows the number and rate of young people under supervision, community-based supervision and detention over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 for South Australia. It shows some fluctuations over the 5 year period, with the rate under supervision, and community-based supervision increasing from 2020-21 onwards, while the rate for detention declined overall.



Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2022-23* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and supplementary data tables.

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

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

State and territory fact sheets

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2023, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2022-23, in Tasmania:

- 109 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S136a)
- almost 9 in 10 (88%) were supervised in the community (Table S136b), and the rest (13%) in detention (Table S136c) (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 15 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S137a)
- 12 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (Table S137b), and 2.4 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S137c).

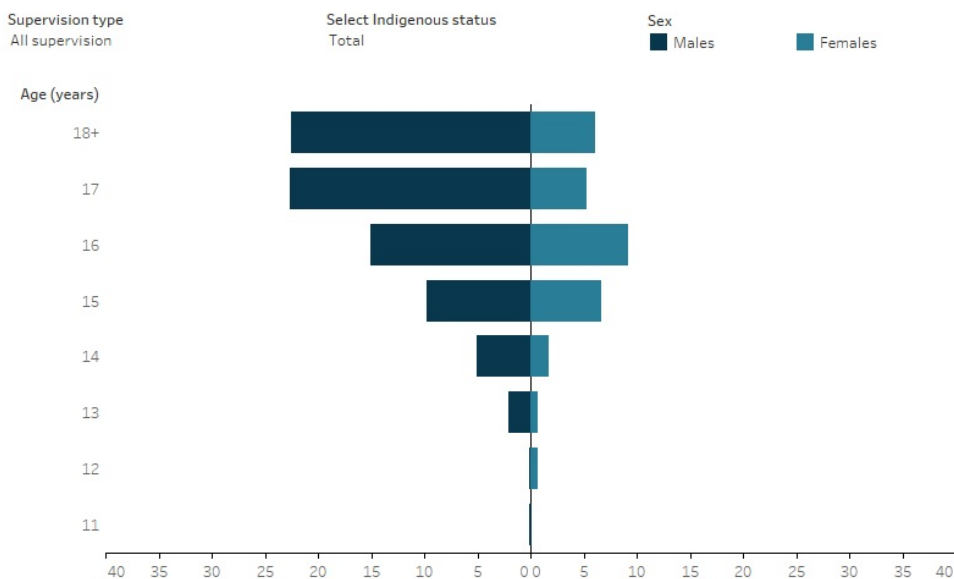
Age and sex

On an average day in 2022-23, in Tasmania:

- 73% of those under supervision were aged 10-17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 71% of those under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 17, while females were most likely to be aged 16 (Table S136a).

Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Tasmania, 2022-23

This population pyramid shows the age, sex and Indigenous status under supervision, community-based supervision and detention for Tasmania. The age distribution of males and females was broadly similar, however males under supervision were slightly older on average than females. The largest number of males under supervision were aged 17, while for females they were aged 16. Very few males and females under supervision were aged 13 and under.



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Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2022-23, in Tasmania:

- First Nations young people made up 10% of those aged 10-17 in the general population, but 31% (or 24) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S136a and S143)
- a similar proportion of First Nations young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (31% or 21) and detention (30% or 3.9) (tables S136b and S136c)
- First Nations young people aged 10-17 were about 4 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (46 per 10,000 compared with 11 per 10,000) (Table S137a)
- First Nations over-representation was similar in community-based supervision and detention (about 4 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Table S137b).

Time under supervision

In 2022-23, in Tasmania:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 181 days (about 26 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 199 days (about 28 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2022-23, in Tasmania:

- 86% of young people in detention were unsentenced—that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- about 1 in 4 (24%) young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100% because some young people were in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

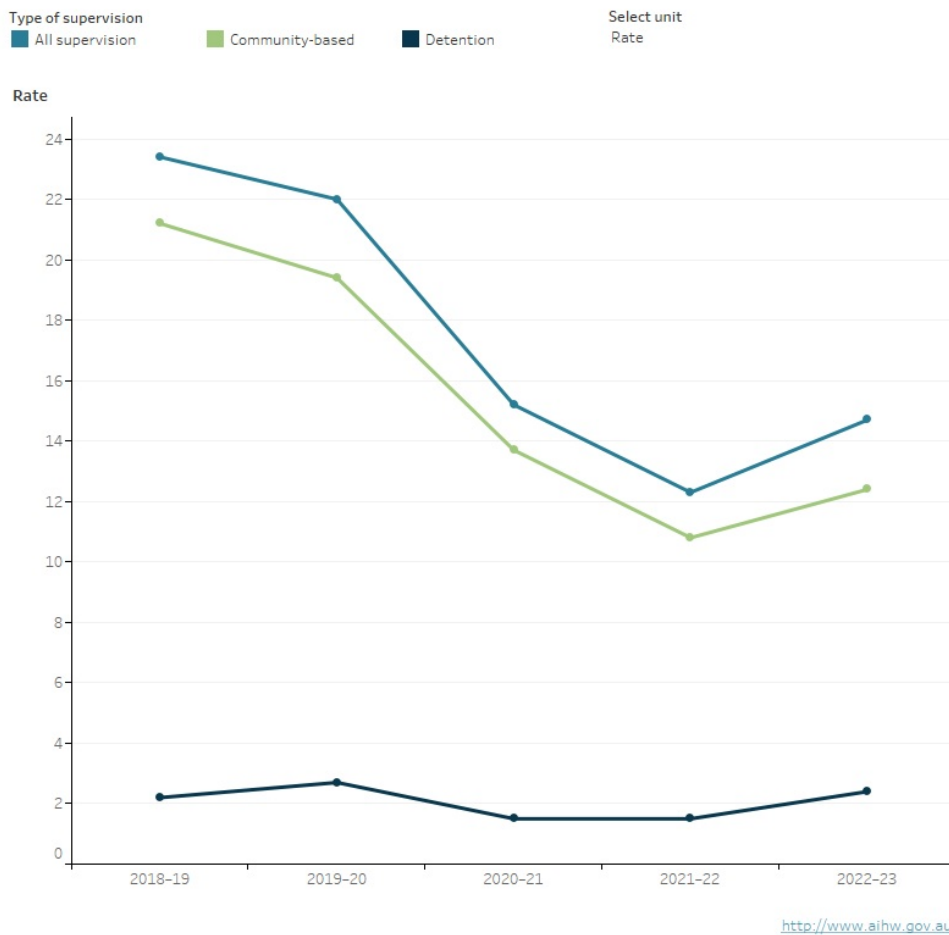
Trends to 2022-23

Over the 5 years to 2022-23, on an average day in Tasmania:

- the number of young people under supervision fell overall from 155 to 109 (Table S136a). The rate decreased overall from 23 to 15 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S12a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell overall from 144 to 95 (Table S136b). The rate decreased from 21 to 12 per 10,000 (Table S45a)
- in detention, the number fluctuated between 9.1 and 16 (Table S136c), as did the rate (between 1.5 to 2.7 per 10,000 (Table S83a).

Rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Tasmania, 2018-19 to 2022-23

This line graph shows the number and rate of young people under supervision, community-based supervision and detention over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 for Tasmania. It shows a decline in the rate under supervision and community-based supervision, with a slight increase in the most recent year, while the rate for detention fluctuated with a high in 2019-20.



Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2022-23* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and supplementary data tables.

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

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

State and territory fact sheets

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2023, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2022-23, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- 58 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S138a)
- 69% were supervised in the community (Table S138b), and 32% in detention (Table S138c) (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 11 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S139a)
- 8.2 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision, and 3.4 per 10,000 were in detention (tables S139b and S139c).

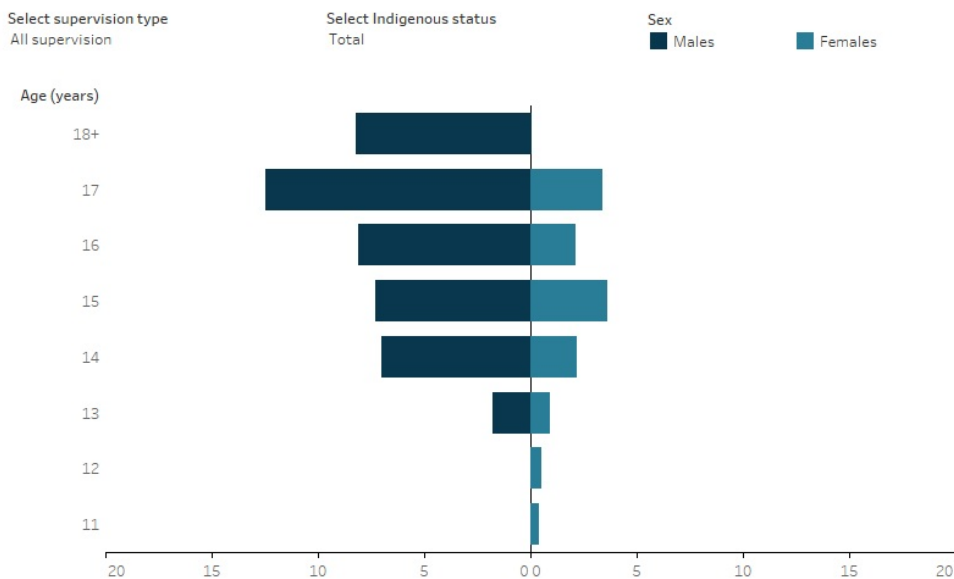
Age and sex

On an average day in 2022-23, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- 86% of those under supervision were aged 10-17, and the rest were 18 and over
- almost 4 in 5 (78%) of those under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 17 and females were most likely to be aged 15 (Table S138a).

Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory 2022-23

This population pyramid shows the age, sex and Indigenous status under supervision, community-based supervision and detention for the Australian Capital Territory. The age distribution of males and females was different as males under supervision were older on average than females. The largest number of males under supervision were aged 17, while for females they were aged 15. Very few males and females under supervision were aged 13 and under.



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

Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2022-23, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- First Nations young people made up 2.9% of those aged 10-17 in the general population, but 21% (or 11) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S138a and S143)
- a slightly lower proportion of First Nations young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (18% or 6.3) and a slightly higher proportion in detention (30% or 4.4) (tables S138b and S138c)
- First Nations young people aged 10-17 were 9 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (84 per 10,000 compared with 9.1 per 10,000) (Table S139a).
- First Nations over-representation was slightly lower in community-based supervision (about 7 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Table S139b). First Nations over-representation in detention was higher at 14 times the non-Indigenous rate (Table S139c).

Time under supervision

In 2022-23, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 20 days (almost 3 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 136 days (about 19 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2022-23, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- 15 young people in detention were unsentenced—that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 8.4 young people in detention were serving a sentence (the number of unsentenced and sentenced young people on an average day may not sum to total number of young people in detention as young people may have been in both detention types on the same day) (Table S108a).

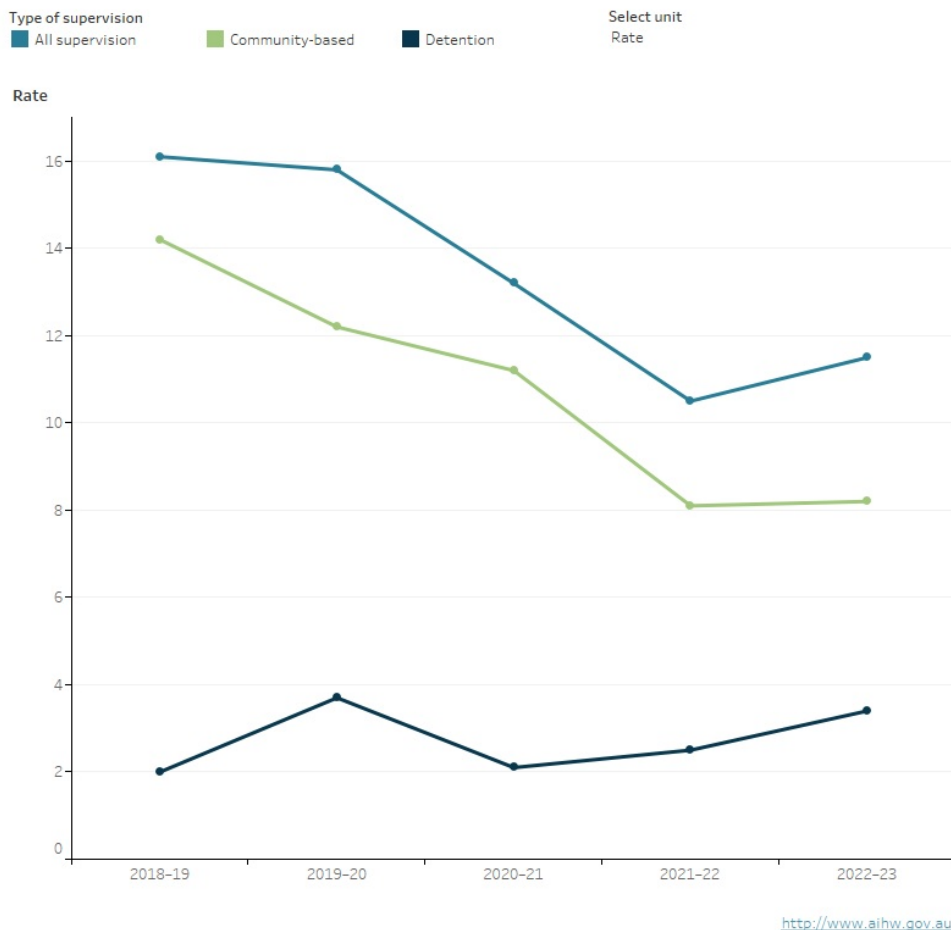
Trends to 2022-23

Over the 5 years to 2022-23, on an average day in the Australian Capital Territory:

- the number of young people under supervision fell from 78 in 2018-19 to 58 in 2022-23 (Table S138a). The rate fell from 16 to 11 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S12a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell overall by 42% (Table S138b), while the rate fell overall from 14 to 8.2 per 10,000 (Table S45a)
- in detention, the number fluctuated, but rose overall from 10 to 19 young people (Table S138c), while the rate rose from 2.0 to 3.4 per 10,000 (Table S83a).

Rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Australian Capital Territory, 2018-19 to 2022-23

This line graph shows the number and rate of young people under supervision, community-based supervision and detention over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 for the Australian Capital Territory. It shows a decline in the rate under supervision and community-based supervision, with a slight increase in the most recent year, while the rate for detention was fluctuated over the 5-year period, increasing from 2020-21 onwards.



Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

More information

This fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2022-23* release, which includes a report, state and territory fact sheets, and supplementary data tables.

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

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

State and territory fact sheets

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2023, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2022-23, in the Northern Territory:

- 306 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision; most were Indigenous (282) (Table S140a)
- more than 4 in 5 (84%) were supervised in the community (Table S140b), and the rest (17%) in detention (Table S140c) (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 79 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S141a)
- 61 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (Table S141b), and 19 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S141c).

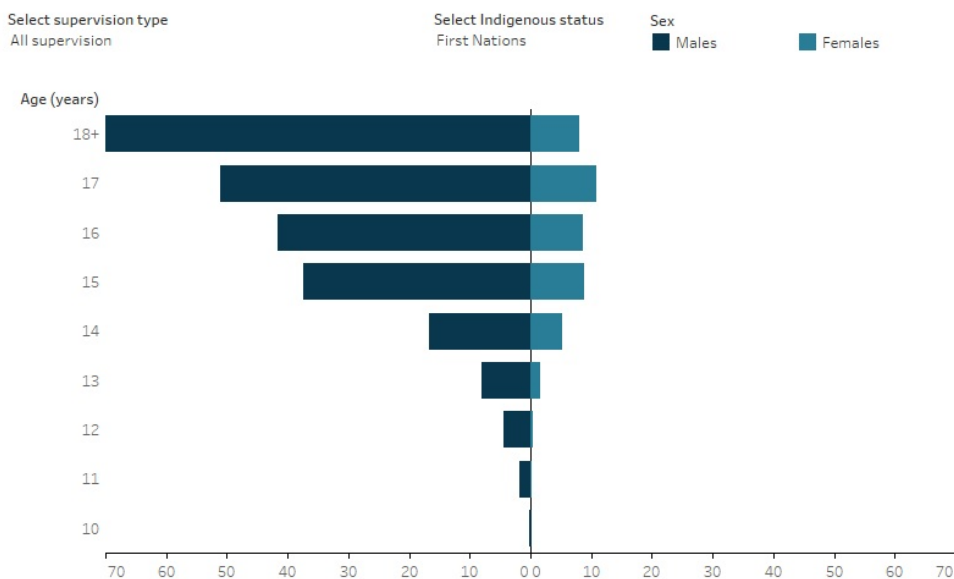
Age and sex

On an average day in 2022-23, in the Northern Territory:

- 69% of those under supervision were aged 10-17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 85% of those under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 18 and females aged 17 (Table S140a).

Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Northern Territory, 2022-23

This population pyramid shows the age, sex and Indigenous status under supervision, community-based supervision and detention for the Northern Territory. The age distribution of males and females was broadly similar, however males under supervision were slightly older on average than females. The largest number of males under supervision were aged 18 years and older and the largest number females were aged 17. Very few males and females under supervision were aged 13 and under.



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

Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2022-23](#)

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2022-23, in the Northern Territory:

- First Nations young people made up 42% of those aged 10-17 in the general population, but 93% (or 197) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S140a and S143)
- similar proportions of First Nations young people aged 10-17 were under community-based supervision (92% or 151) and detention (94% or 49) (tables S140b and S140c).

Time under supervision

In 2022-23, in the Northern Territory:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 23 days (about 3 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 219 days (31 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2022-23, in the Northern Territory:

- more than 9 in 10 (93%) young people in detention were unsentenced—that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 47% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (Table S108a).

The proportion of unsentenced and sentenced young people on an average day does not sum to 100% as periods of sentenced detention in the Northern Territory have been backdated to take into account periods of unsentenced detention already served.

Trends to 2022-23

Over the 5 years to 2022-23, on an average day in the Northern Territory:

- the number of young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision rose from 195 in 2018-19 to 306 in 2022-23 (Table S140a), while the rate rose overall from 54 to 79 per 10,000 young people aged 10-17 (Table S12a)
- in community-based supervision, the number of young people aged 10 and over rose by 60% (Table S140b), while the rate rose from 41 to 61 per 10,000 (Table S45a)
- in detention, the number rose by 45% (Table S140c), while the rate increased from 14 to 19 per 10,000 (Table S83a).

Rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Northern Territory, 2018-19 to 2022-23

This line graph shows the number and rate of young people under supervision, community-based supervision and detention over the 5 years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 for the Northern Territory. It shows a downward trend in the rate under supervision and community-based supervision to 2020-21 before a large increase from 2021-22 onwards. The rate for detention increased overall.



Notes:

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

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More information

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Appendices



Glossary

active order: An order that starts, ends or is ongoing during the reference period.

age: In YJ NMDS youth justice reporting, a young person's age at the start of the first relevant period of supervision, unless it began before the financial year in question, in which case it is age at the start of the financial year.

average day: A measure of the number of young people under supervision from the YJ NMDS. It is calculated by summing the number of days each young person spends under supervision during the financial year and dividing this by the total number of days in the year. This summary measure reflects the number of young people under supervision on any given day during the year and indicates the average number of young people supported by the supervision system at any time. It reflects both the number of young people supervised and the amount of time they spent under supervision.

breach: A situation where a young person re-offends or fails to comply with the conditions of a community-based order.

community-based supervision: A legal arrangement that requires a young person to be supervised by a **youth justice agency** within the community. Community-based supervision may be unsentenced or sentenced.

- Unsentenced community-based legal orders include **supervised or conditional bail** and home **detention** bail.
- Sentenced community-based orders include **probation and similar orders**, **suspended detention**, and **parole or supervised release**.

detention: A legal arrangement that requires a young person to be detained in a youth justice facility. This comprises both sentenced and unsentenced detention.

detention sentence: A sentence that requires the young person to be detained in a **youth justice detention centre**.

dual track system: The system in Victoria where young people aged 18-20 can be sentenced to a youth **detention** centre rather than to an adult prison if the young person is particularly impressionable, immature or likely to be subject to undesirable influences in an adult prison.

during the year: A measure of the number of young people under supervision from the YJ NMDS. This measure is a count of the number of individuals who were supervised at any time during the financial year. It is calculated by counting each young person once only, even if they entered and exited supervision multiple times.

First nations: A person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island descent who identifies and is identified as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

legal status: A term that defines whether a young person is subject to unsentenced or sentenced orders. Young people may also have a legal status of 'other' (neither sentenced nor unsentenced).

parole or supervised release: A sentenced **community-based supervision** order that is issued or enacted following a period of sentenced **detention**. Release on parole or supervised release is possible in some situations when a young person has served a specified proportion of their detention sentence. A **breach** of the parole or supervised release order usually results in the young person's returning to detention to serve the rest of the sentence.

police-referred detention: Unsentenced **detention** that occurs before the young person's initial court appearance.

probation and similar orders: A sentenced **community-based supervision** order that may be issued with additional mandated requirements, such as community work or program attendance. The **youth justice agency** may or may not directly supervise any additional mandated requirements, but remains responsible for the overall supervision and case management of the young person. Includes probation and community service orders that a youth justice agency supervises or case manages.

rate: One number (the numerator) divided by another number (the denominator). The numerator is commonly the number of events in a specified time. The denominator is the population 'at risk' of the event. In YJ NMDS reporting, rates are multiplied by 10,000 to create whole numbers.

rate ratio: A means of comparing rates by dividing one rate by another. Rate ratios may be used to compare First nations and non-Indigenous rates, and to provide a measure of First nations over-representation.

reception: The entering of a **detention** centre to begin an unsentenced or sentenced detention order. Neither a transfer to a new detention facility nor a change in **legal status** constitutes a reception, but if a young person is released from detention and then re-enters at a later date, this is counted as a new reception.

Reference period: The relevant financial year.

release on bail: Following a period of **remand**, a court may order a young person to be released into the community pending the court outcome. Bail may be either unsupervised or supervised (see **supervised or conditional bail**).

remand: Placing a young person accused of an offence in detention to await trial or the continuation of the trial.

remoteness: A term defining the remoteness of a person's usual town or suburb of residence, based on the ABS's Australian Statistics Geography Standard remoteness structure. This structure enables areas that share common characteristics of remoteness to be classified into broad geographical regions of Australia: *Major cities, Inner regional, Outer regional, Remote* and *Very remote*. YJ NMDS reporting uses this structure in analysing young people's remoteness.

socioeconomic position: A measure of how well off a person, group or area is. YJ NMDS reporting uses the ABS's Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas to analyse the socioeconomic position of the usual residence of a young person under supervision. It comprises 4 indexes that each focus on a different aspect of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage. The YJ NMDS uses the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage. People living in the 20% of areas with the greatest overall level of disadvantage are described as living in the lowest socioeconomic areas (area 1). The 20% of people at the other end of the scale - those living in areas with the least overall level of disadvantage - are described as living in the highest socioeconomic areas (area 5).

successfully completed community-based order: A community-based order where a young person has completed the hours and/or conditions of their community-based order without its being revoked or overturned.

successfully completed detention order: A detention order where a young person has completed the hours and/or conditions of their detention order without its being revoked, overturned or ending due to an escape.

supervised or conditional bail: Allowing a young person accused of an offence to await trial, or the continuation of a trial, in the community under the supervision of a **youth justice agency**.

suspended detention: A sentence that usually involves a period of intensive supervision in the community, with the possibility of **detention** if the young person **breaches** the conditions of community supervision. It consists of immediate release orders, **suspended detention** orders, and intensive supervision of young people with detention orders.

unsentenced supervision: Youth justice supervision (community-based or **detention**) that occurs when a young person has not been sentenced. This might occur when the young person has been charged with an offence and is awaiting the outcome of the legal matter, or when they have been found guilty in court and are awaiting sentencing.

young person: A person whom a **youth justice agency** supervises as a result of their having committed, or allegedly committed, an offence.

youth justice agency: The state or territory government agency or department responsible for youth justice supervision.

youth justice detention centre: A place administered and operated by a **youth justice agency** where young people are detained while under the supervision of the relevant youth justice agency.

youth justice system: The set of processes and practices for managing children and young people who have committed, or allegedly committed, an offence.



Notes

Abbreviations

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

MAG Meeting of Attorneys-General

YJ NMDS Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set

Data quality statement

[Youth Justice NMDS 2022-23: Data Quality Statement](#)





Data



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