

4 Average daily numbers

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

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

4.1 Average daily numbers in community supervision

The average number of young people of each age in community-based supervision each day during 2005–06 is presented in Table 4.1 by jurisdiction. There were 5,185 young people in community-based supervision on an average day during 2005–06, including 4,734 aged 10–17 years. In each state and territory, most young people in community-based supervision were aged 15–17 years. For Australia, almost 70% of young people in community supervision on an average day were in this age group.

Table 4.1: Average daily number of young people in community supervision, by age, states and territories, 2005–06

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
10	0	0	5	1	0	—	0	—	7
11	7	1	11	8	5	8	1	—	40
12	20	11	32	27	12	9	3	2	116
13	66	38	108	66	26	23	5	6	339
14	154	77	208	111	50	27	12	22	662
15	261	144	310	152	77	51	19	36	1,049
16	318	194	429	201	107	62	27	47	1,385
17	339	165	202	182	116	65	28	40	1,136
<i>10–17 subtotal</i>	<i>1,165</i>	<i>630</i>	<i>1,305</i>	<i>748</i>	<i>393</i>	<i>245</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>4,734</i>
18+	99	158	32	20	70	61	8	2	450
Total	1,265	788	1,337	768	464	305	104	155	5,185

Notes

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

In most states and territories, the majority of young people in community-based supervision on an average day during 2005–06 were non-Indigenous (Table 4.2). The exceptions (Western Australia, Northern Territory) were the jurisdictions where a higher proportion of the general population was Indigenous (see Figure 2.2). Overall, 38% of young people on an average day in community supervision identified/were identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The average daily numbers for males and females show similar patterns, although in Queensland there are more Indigenous females than non-Indigenous and there are nearly as many Indigenous females as non-Indigenous females in South Australia.

Table 4.2: Average daily number of young people in community supervision, by sex and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2005–06

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Male									
Indigenous	343	62	505	402	115	37	17	116	1,598
Non-Indigenous	639	558	597	236	250	155	62	24	2,521
Unknown/ not recorded	88	50	1	5	26	49	—	—	218
Total	1,070	669	1,103	643	391	241	78	140	4,337
Female									
Indigenous	79	20	135	96	33	4	3	12	383
Non-Indigenous	92	93	99	24	37	45	22	3	415
Unknown/ not recorded	23	5	—	3	3	14	—	—	48
Total	194	119	234	123	72	64	25	15	847
Total young people									
Indigenous	422	82	640	499	148	42	20	129	1,981
Non-Indigenous	732	651	696	^(a) 261	287	200	84	27	2,937
Unknown/ not recorded	110	55	1	9	28	63	—	—	266
Total	1,265	788	1,337	^(a) 768	464	305	104	155	5,185

(a) Includes contribution of one average day by young person with unknown sex.

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

For the 2005–06 year, the relationships between age, sex and Indigenous status in the average daily number of young people in community-based supervision are presented in Table 4.3. The average daily numbers of males and females show similar patterns with age.

The proportions of young people who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander are higher for younger ages than for older ones, and a greater proportion of females are Indigenous for all age groups compared with males. For young people aged 10 to 13, more than 50% of each age group are Indigenous (see also Table 3.9).

Table 4.3: Average daily number of young people in community supervision, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Australia, 2005–06

Indigenous status	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
Male										
Indigenous	6	24	67	153	244	340	407	286	70	1,598
Non-Indigenous	1	9	33	122	266	473	693	630	295	2,521
Unknown/ not recorded	—	3	1	6	14	36	58	65	34	218
Total	7	36	101	281	524	849	1,158	982	399	4,337
Female										
Indigenous	—	4	12	34	78	82	94	66	15	383
Non-Indigenous	—	1	4	21	57	105	118	75	34	415
Unknown/ not recorded	—	—	—	3	3	13	15	13	3	48
Total	—	5	15	57	138	200	226	154	52	847
Total young people										
Indigenous	6	27	79	187	321	423	500	353	85	1,981
Non-Indigenous	1	10	36	143	324	578	^(a) 811	706	329	2,937
Unknown/ not recorded	—	3	1	9	17	49	73	78	37	266
Total	7	40	116	339	662	1,049	^(a) 1,385	1,136	450	5,185

(a) Includes contribution of one average day by young person with unknown sex.

Notes

1. Age is calculated as at date of first community supervision in 2005–06.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

4.2 Average daily numbers in detention

The figures presented in this section may differ in several ways from other published figures on the number of young people in detention.² Firstly, these tables include young people of all ages, and are not restricted to young people aged 10–17 years. Secondly, they are averages calculated from an entire year of unit record data, rather than a snapshot taken on one particular day. Thirdly, supervisions that begin and end on the same day are counted as one day, which may differ from jurisdictional practice. Finally, these data include some young people held in police watch-houses rather than only those held in a juvenile detention facility.

The average daily number of young people in detention during 2005–06 is presented in Table 4.4 by age for each state and territory. There were 816 young people in detention on an average day during 2005–06, including 688 aged 10–17 years. In all states and territories, the majority (64% for Australia) were aged between 15 and 17 years.

During 2005–06 there were, on average, 20 young people (2% of the total average daily population in detention) aged 10–12 in detention each day in Australia. The proportion of young people aged 10–12 varied between states and territories, from 0% for Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory to 5% for the Northern Territory.

Young people aged 18 and over accounted for 16% of the average daily detention population in Australia, although this proportion also varied between states and territories. Victoria accounted for nearly 60% of young people aged 18 and over, and this age group represented 51% of the state’s average daily population, reflecting Victoria’s special sentencing option for people aged 18–20 and diversionary policies (see Sections 1.2 and 1.3).

Table 4.4: Average daily number of young people in detention, by age, states and territories, 2005–06

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
10	0	—	0	0	0	—	0	—	1
11	2	—	1	1	0	0	0	—	4
12	5	0	3	3	2	2	0	1	15
13	14	2	11	8	6	2	2	1	46
14	37	4	27	17	8	5	4	2	103
15	46	9	33	18	6	9	4	6	131
16	73	24	48	32	12	10	4	4	206
17	86	32	7	21	15	10	5	6	182
<i>10–17 subtotal</i>	<i>263</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>688</i>
18+	48	74	0	0	2	4	0	—	127
Total	309	145	130	101	51	42	18	19	816

Notes

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

² The Australian Institute of Criminology publishes statistics on detention as part of the *Juveniles in detention in Australia* monitoring project.

During 2005–06, there was an average of 365 Indigenous young people and 436 non-Indigenous young people in detention each day in Australia (Table 4.5). As was the case for community-based supervision, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland had higher proportions of Indigenous young people both in the general population and in detention (see Figure 2.2).

Table 4.5: Average daily number of young people in detention, by sex and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2005–06

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Male									
Indigenous	134	18	70	62	18	10	6	18	336
Non-Indigenous	149	112	49	29	28	27	10	1	405
Unknown/ not recorded	6	4	—	—	0	3	—	—	13
Total	290	133	120	91	45	39	16	19	753
Female									
Indigenous	8	4	6	8	1	1	1	0	30
Non-Indigenous	10	8	5	2	4	1	1	0	31
Unknown/ not recorded	1	1	—	—	0	0	—	—	2
Total	20	12	11	10	5	3	3	0	63
Total young people									
Indigenous	143	22	76	70	19	11	8	18	365
Non-Indigenous	160	119	54	31	32	28	11	1	436
Unknown/ not recorded	7	4	—	—	0	3	—	—	15
Total	309	145	130	101	51	42	18	19	816

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

For the 2005–06 year, the relationships between age, sex and Indigenous status in the average daily number of young people in detention are presented in Table 4.6. As with average daily numbers for community supervision, the proportion of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people in detention decreased with age. For young people aged 10 to 15, over 50% of the average daily population in detention for these age groups were Indigenous. For young people aged 18 and over, the proportion decreased to 17%.

Table 4.6: Average daily number of young people in detention, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Australia, 2005–06

Indigenous status	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Australia
Male										
Indigenous	0	3	11	28	56	67	92	57	21	336
Non-Indigenous	0	1	2	12	34	52	97	113	93	405
Unknown/ not recorded	—	0	0	0	1	1	4	3	5	13
Total	0	4	14	41	91	120	192	173	119	753
Female										
Indigenous	0	0	1	3	7	6	7	4	1	30
Non-Indigenous	—	0	0	3	5	5	7	5	6	31
Unknown/ not recorded	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total	0	0	1	5	12	12	14	9	8	63
Total young people										
Indigenous	1	3	12	31	63	74	99	61	22	365
Non-Indigenous	0	1	3	15	40	56	104	118	99	436
Unknown/ not recorded	—	0	0	0	1	1	4	3	6	15
Total	1	4	15	46	103	131	206	182	127	816

Notes

1. Age is calculated as at date of first detention supervision in 2005–06.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

4.3 Average daily numbers in juvenile justice supervision

The average daily number of young people in supervision is calculated by adding the average daily number on community-based supervision with the average daily number in detention supervision. Table 4.7 shows that while there was a steady decline of 5% in the average number of young people in juvenile justice supervision each day for the three years 2002–03 to 2004–05, there was a slight increase in 2005–06 from the previous year of 2%.

This pattern is reflected in both the average daily numbers for community and detention supervision, although the percentage change is greater for the average daily numbers in detention. In the three years 2002–03 to 2004–05, average daily numbers in community supervision decreased by 4% but increased by 2% in 2005–06 compared to 2004–05. For detention, average daily numbers decreased by 8% in the three years 2002–03 to 2004–05 but increased by 4% in 2005–06 compared to 2004–05. While average daily numbers in detention increased from 2004–05 to 2005–06 in all states and territories except Western Australia and South Australia, only three jurisdictions (New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia) had an increase in average daily community numbers over the same period.

Table 4.7 shows that on an average day in 2005–06, there were over 6 times as many young people in community-based supervision as in detention (for the total number of supervision days, see Appendix D).

Table 4.7: Average daily number of young people in supervision, by type of supervision, states and territories, 2002–03 to 2005–06

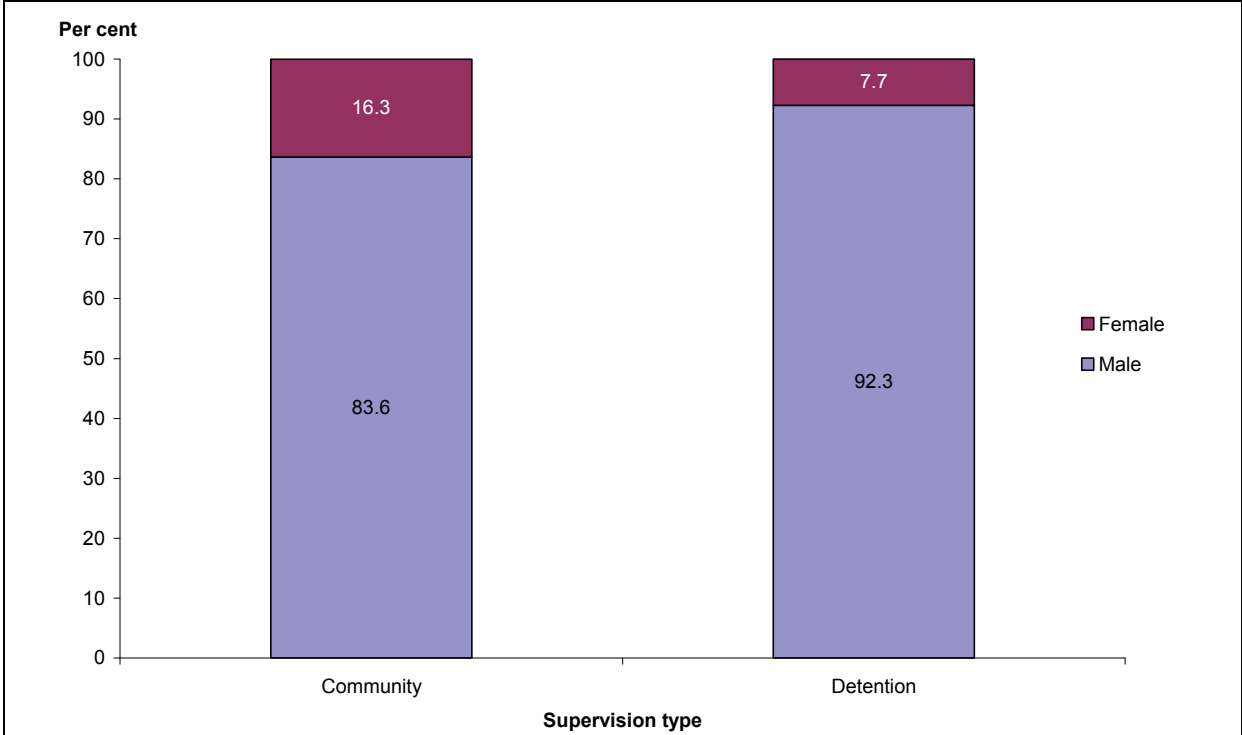
Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia (excl ACT)
(average daily number in community)									
2002–03	1,328	749	1,428	639	662	312	n.a.	95	(5,212)
2003–04	1,286	735	1,411	646	625	315	164	136	5,318 (5,154)
2004–05	1,240	710	1,394	636	549	308	148	160	5,145 (4,997)
2005–06	1,265	788	1,337	768	464	305	104	155	5,185 (5,081)
(average daily number in detention)									
2002–03	304	157	136	93	68	52	n.a.	26	(836)
2003–04	315	140	121	119	63	42	21	17	838 (817)
2004–05	288	138	105	113	68	39	17	19	785 (768)
2005–06	309	145	130	101	51	42	18	19	816 (798)
(average daily number in supervision)									
2002–03	1,632	906	1,563	732	730	363	n.a.	121	(6,049)
2003–04	1,601	876	1,532	765	689	356	185	152	6,156 (5,971)
2004–05	1,528	847	1,499	749	616	347	165	179	5,930 (5,766)
2005–06	1,574	933	1,467	868	514	347	122	175	6,001 (5,879)

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Of the 11,150 young people in community-based supervision during 2005-06 (see Table 3.1), 47% (5,185) were under supervision on an average day. However, of the 5,137 young people in detention in 2005-06, only 16% (816) were in detention on an average day. This difference reflects the fact that periods of detention are on average shorter than periods of community supervision.

The following series of graphs depict the proportions of young people in community-based and detention supervision on an average day. Differences are highlighted by sex, Indigenous status, among states and territories, and over time.

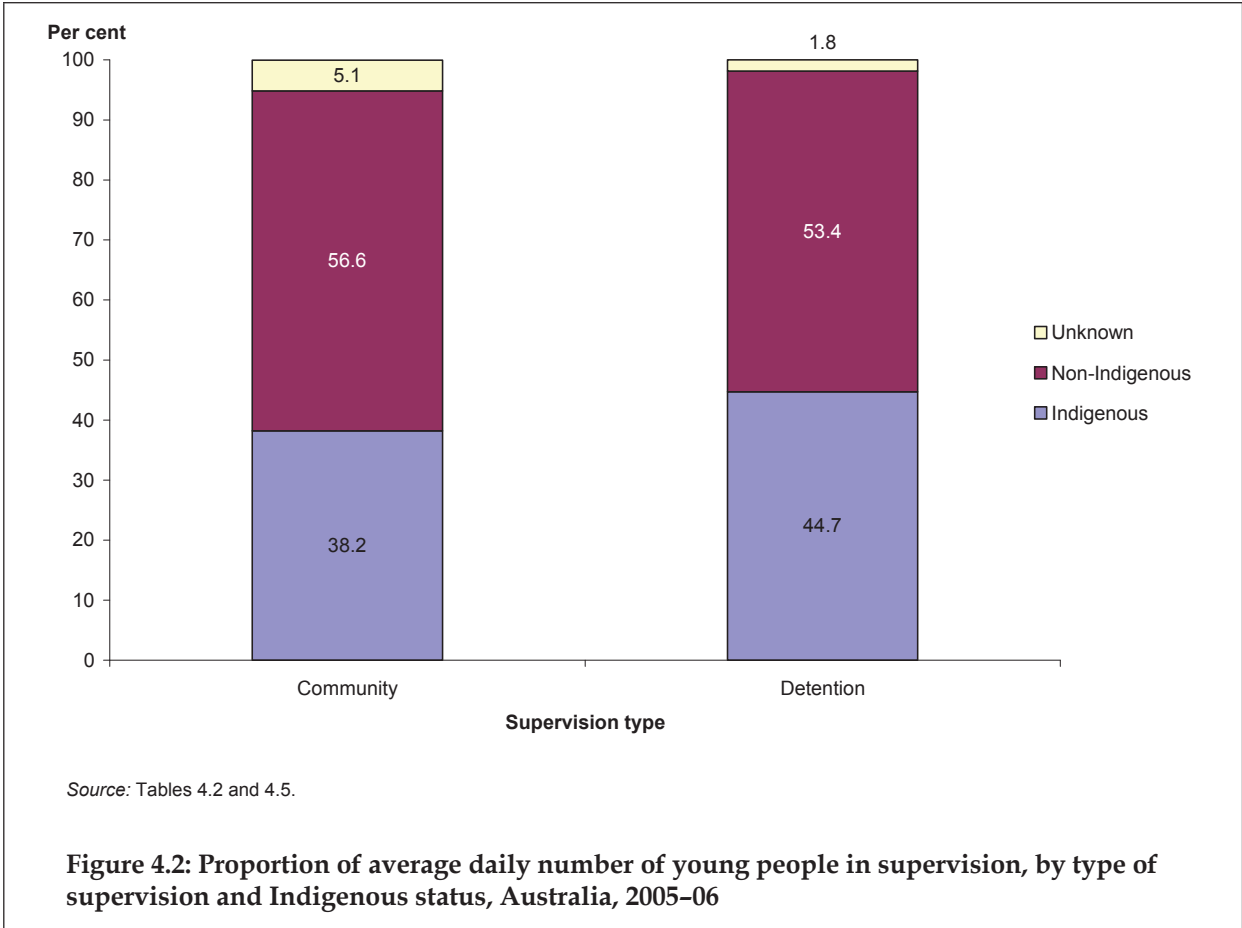
On an average day in 2005-06, more males and females were supervised in the community than in detention (Tables 4.2 and 4.5); 16% of young people in community-based supervision were female, compared with 8% of those in detention (Figure 4.1).



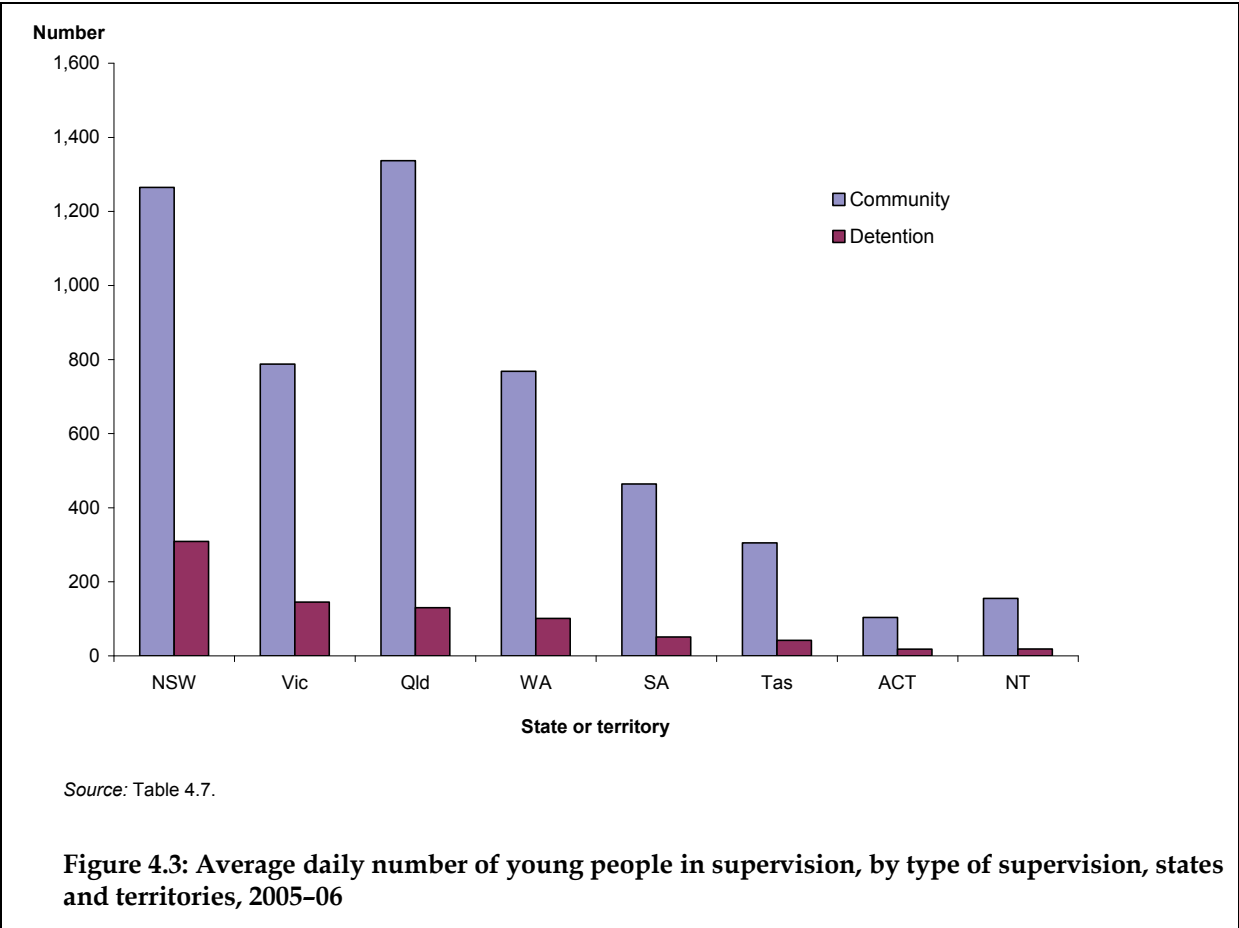
Source: Tables 4.2 and 4.5.

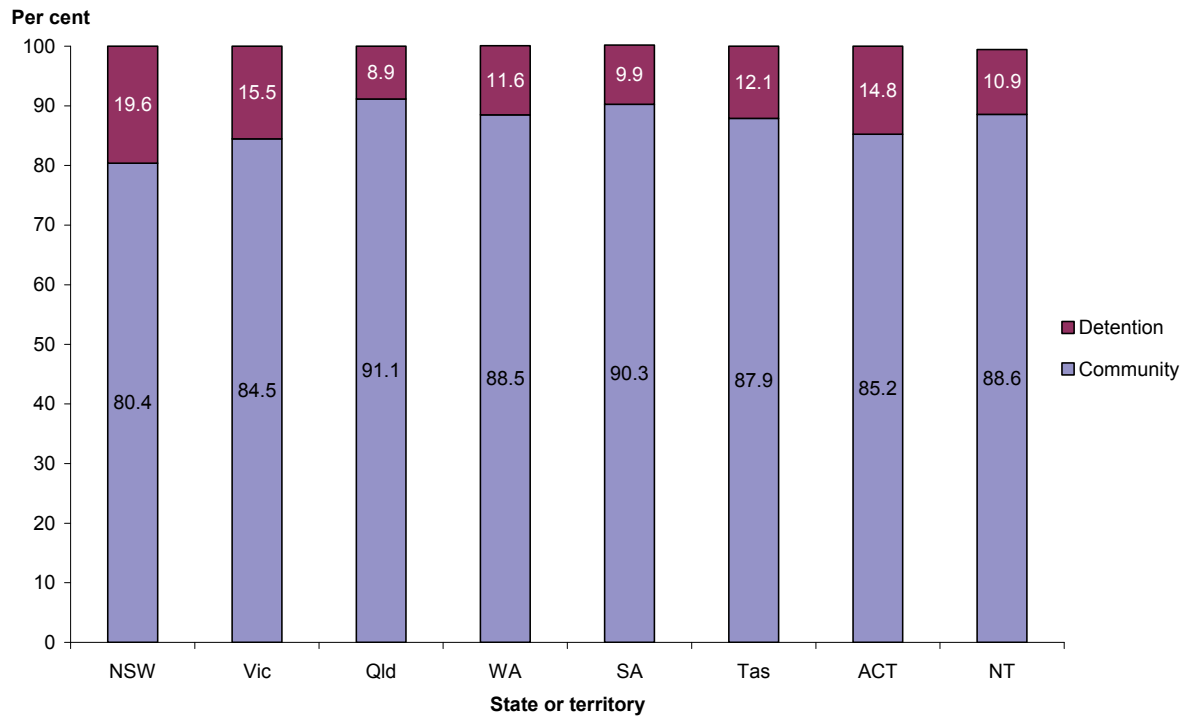
Figure 4.1: Proportion of average daily number of young people in supervision, by type of supervision and sex, Australia, 2005-06

Again, more Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people were in community-based supervision than detention on an average day in 2005–06 (Tables 4.2 and 4.5). However, of the young people in detention, a greater proportion were Indigenous (45%), compared with those in community-based supervision (38% Indigenous; Figure 4.2).



The number and proportion of young people in community-based and detention supervision on an average day during 2005-06 varied among jurisdictions (Figures 4.3 and 4.4). Queensland had the highest number of young people on community-based supervision and New South Wales had the greatest proportion of young people in detention.

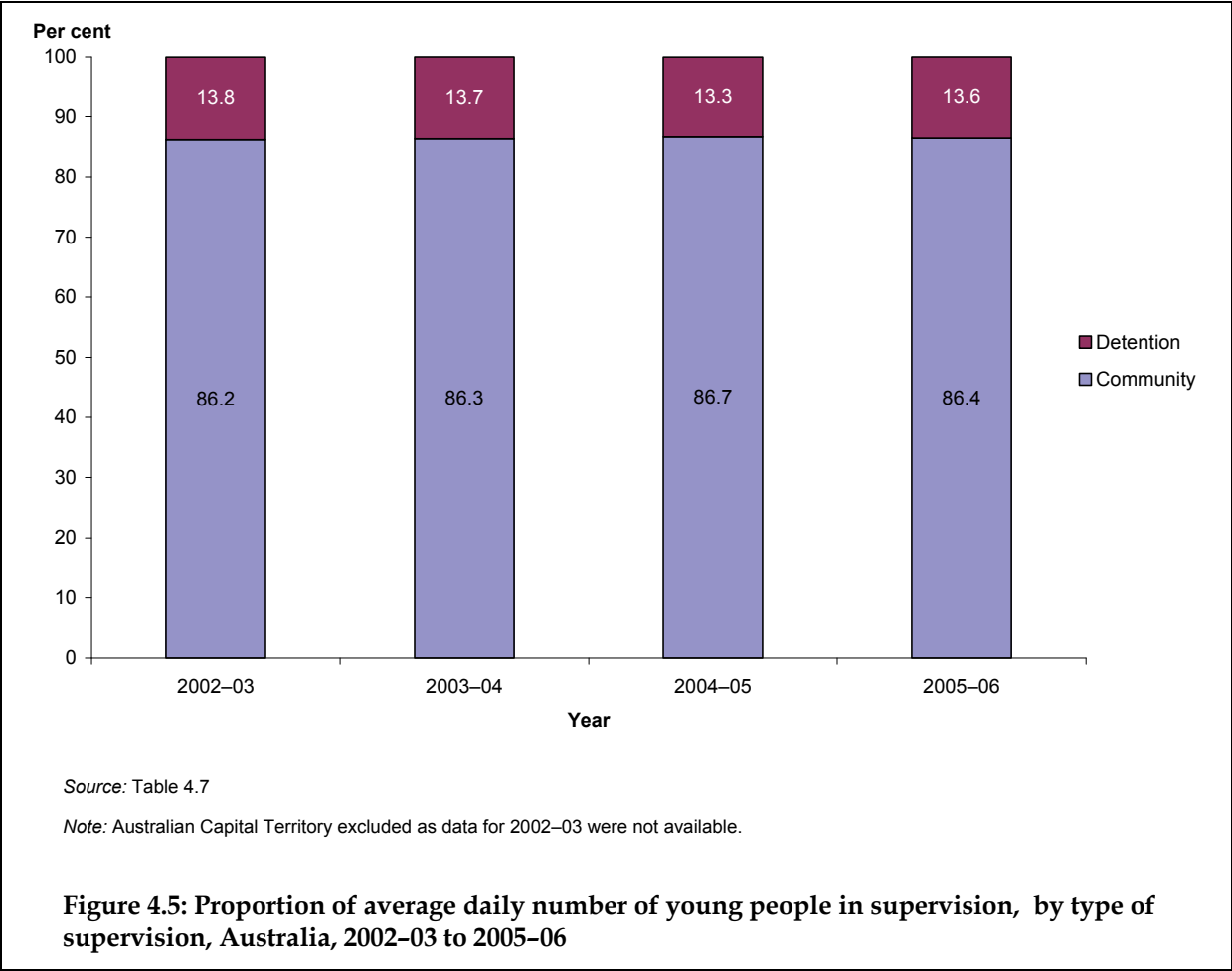




Source: Table 4.7.

Figure 4.4: Proportion of average daily number of young people in supervision, by type of supervision, states and territories, 2005-06

During the period 2002-03 to 2005-06, there was no change in the proportion of young people in community-based and detention supervision during an average day each year for Australia overall (Figure 4.5).



4.4 Summary

During 2005–06 there were on average 6,001 young people in juvenile justice supervision each day. Of these, 86% (5,185) were in community-based supervision, and 14% (816) were in detention, either on pre-sentence or sentenced detention.

Indigenous young people represented 38% of young people in community-based supervision and 45% of those in detention on an average day in 2005–06.

There was a slight increase of 2% in 2005–06 on the previous year in the average daily number of young people in juvenile justice supervision in Australia, although for the previous three years there was a steady decline of 5%. Community-based supervision increased by 2% in the past year, with a larger increase of 4% in detention. The increase in the average daily number of young people in detention occurred in most states and territories. The increase in average daily numbers (2%) is less than the increase in the yearly number of young people (4%, see Table 3.1), reflecting the rise in the number of young people in detention, as periods of detention tend to be shorter than periods of community supervision.