

Young homeless people 2001–02

**New South Wales
supplementary report**

**A report from the SAAP
National Data Collection**

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Young homeless people

2001–02

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Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Canberra

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Preface

This supplementary report to *Young Homeless People in Australia 2001–02* provides data specifically for New South Wales. Both reports provide information on young people aged 12–24 years who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

A productive and cooperative partnership has continued between the SAAP National Data Collection (managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare), SAAP agencies and the SAAP Information Sub-committee. Valuable support and encouragement have been provided by the SAAP Coordination and Development Committee, which is responsible for the national direction of the SAAP program.

This partnership has been built on shared goals and mutual trust. The key has been agencies' willingness to collect and provide data to the National Data Collection Agency, knowing that any personal information provided by clients is protected by the extremely strict confidentiality provisions of the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act 1987*.

This large and complex project has not only a high level of support but also a high level of accuracy. We are confident that we can further improve the quality of the information provided to help policy makers and the community better understand and provide for the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of being so.

Under the Coordination and Development Committee's direction, a SAAP National Research Program has been established to undertake and fund studies on homeless people, often using data from the National Data Collection. Over time, the availability of time-series SAAP data will greatly increase the usefulness of the data. The publication of this report and the release of the 2001–02 data are another step towards this goal.

Richard Madden
Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare

SAAP Coordination and
Development Committee

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Without the efforts of Tim Adair, Neil Angel, Kay Grzadka, Paul Halliday, Fiona Holland, Gloria Jackson, Stirling Lewis, Qasim Shah, Toni Stepniak and Natalie Sugden, who ensured that the data were collected and processed, this report would not have been possible.

Allan Raisin from the New South Wales Department of Community Services provided valuable support and comments throughout the development and drafting of the report. The authors also acknowledge the assistance provided by Ainsley Morrissey in preparing the report for publication.

Finally, the authors acknowledge the vital role played by data providers. This report draws together a large amount of statistical material and could not have been produced without the efforts and cooperation of SAAP service providers and clients, who provided service and client information.

Abbreviations and symbols

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
CAP	Crisis Accommodation Program
DV	Domestic Violence
NDC	National Data Collection
NDCA	National Data Collection Agency
SAAP	Supported Accommodation Assistance Program

Symbols

..	When used in a table, means not applicable
–	When used in a table, means nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

Summary

This report provides an overview of SAAP clients aged 12–24 years and the assistance given to them by the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) in New South Wales in 2001–02.

One of the main findings of this report is that in a significant proportion of cases, clients aged 12–24 years were supported for short periods at one SAAP agency and then moved on to another agency. Before support, young clients were living in SAAP or other emergency housing in 26% of support periods. After support, young clients were living in this accommodation type in 23% of support periods (Figure 3.5). The most common length of support for clients who moved on to this accommodation type after support was 1–3 days (25%) (Table 3.7).

The following is a summary of other findings in the report.

SAAP use by young people

- Young clients aged 12–24 years accounted for 34% of SAAP clients aged over 12 years and 30% of support periods for clients aged over 12 years (Table 2.1).
- Seventeen year-olds used SAAP services more frequently than others in the 12–24 year age range. They constituted the largest number of clients (1,250) and support periods (2,100). They also had the highest median length of support and median length of accommodation (18 days and 10 days, respectively).
- Young clients aged 12–24 years had longer periods of support and accommodation (medians of 8 days and 7 days, respectively) compared to older clients (4 days and 3 days). On a per client basis, young clients had less support periods (1.8) than older clients (2.1). That is, young clients stayed longer in SAAP but returned less frequently within 2001–02.

Circumstances of young clients before and after support

- In a high proportion of support periods (45%), young clients were either self-referred or heard about the SAAP agency from family members or friends (Table 3.1).
- The proportion of support periods for clients aged 16–24 years who were students before support ranged from 41% for 16–17 year-olds to 8% for 20–24 year-olds. There was little change in these proportions after support (Table 3.2).
- The proportion of young clients in the post-secondary studies or employment training increased in all age groups (except 12–13 year-olds) after support .
- Youth Allowance was the main source of income for the majority of young clients both before and after support. By age group, Youth Allowance was the most commonly cited income category for both 16–17 and 18–19 year-olds before and after support (in over 55% of closed support periods in each case) (Table 3.3).
- The percentage of closed support periods where no income was reported decreased after support for all age groups, with the greatest decrease in clients aged 14–17 years.

- Young clients aged 12–24 years were most commonly living with a parent or parents. The proportion of closed support periods with this living situation dropped across all age groups from 23% before support to 20% after support (Figure 3.4).

Accommodation before and after support, length of SAAP support and support plans

- Before support, young clients aged 12–24 years were most commonly living in SAAP or other emergency housing (26%). After support, the most common accommodation type was living rent-free in a house or flat (23%), or SAAP or other emergency housing (23%) (Figure 3.5).
- For clients who moved on to live in SAAP or other emergency housing after SAAP support, the most common length of support was 1–3 days (in 25% of closed support periods for this accommodation type). This was also the case for those who moved on to live in a car, park, tent, street or squat (32%) (Table 3.7).
- The proportion of support periods where the client moved on to live in a car, park, tent, street or squat generally decreased as length of support increased, particularly after 13 weeks, where the proportion of support periods dropped from 16% for 4–13 weeks to 2% for 13–26 weeks.
- Longer support lengths appear to result in more independent housing outcomes for young clients. For clients renting independently in the private market after SAAP support, the most common length of support was 4–13 weeks (26%). This was also the case for those who rented public or community housing after support (23%).
- The number of closed support periods with accommodation with a support plan in place increased as length of support increased. A support plan was in place for 37% of support periods lasting less than one day, compared to 95% for support periods lasting more than 52 weeks. Overall, in 18% of cases a support plan was considered to be inappropriate. The majority of these cases were for support periods lasting less than 2 weeks (Table 3.8).
- Of support periods with accommodation and a support plan, ‘all’ goals were achieved in 22% of cases. ‘Most’ goals were achieved in 23% of support periods with a support plan, and ‘some’ goals achieved in a further 38% (derived from Table 3.8). As length of support increased, so too did the relative likelihood of ‘all’ or ‘most’ support plan goals being achieved.
- Young clients who were boarding in a private home before SAAP support were more likely to have a support plan than those who had come from other accommodation types (75%). Those who had been renting public or community housing before support were least likely to have a support plan (64%) (Figure 3.10).
- There were similar proportions of support periods with accommodation and a support plan for clients who had been accommodated at another SAAP agency or other form of emergency accommodation (67%) and for clients who had been living in a car, tent, park, street or squat (68%), immediately before a SAAP support period with accommodation.
- The proportion of support periods with accommodation and a support plan varied according to the type of accommodation young clients moved on to after SAAP support, from 70% for support periods where the client moved on to a rooming house, hostel, hotel or caravan, to 83% for those moving on to rent in the private market (Figure 3.11).

1 Introduction

This is a supplementary report to the *Young Homeless People in Australia 2001–02* report produced by the National Data Collection Agency (NDCA) at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). This supplementary report focuses on young people in New South Wales assisted by the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) in 2001–02. In order to make full use of this report you should refer to the glossary and appendices of the *Young Homeless People in SAAP 2001–02* report (AIHW 2003). The full national report provides the national context to the data presented in this supplementary report.

This report provides an overview of the pathways into and out of SAAP agencies taken by clients aged 12–24 years. There is a particular focus on the type of accommodation young people were living in before and after support.

SAAP is the major response by the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments to resolve and prevent homelessness. In 2001–02, 394 non-government, community or local government organisations were funded in New South Wales under the Program (AIHW 2002:4). Forty-five per cent of these agencies were specifically funded to assist young people.

Children under 18 assisted by a SAAP agency while their parent or guardian was also being supported or accommodated at the same agency are not included in the analysis. A special report on children accompanying a parent or guardian was released in 2000 (AIHW 2000). Information on accompanying children is also contained in the SAAP NDCA annual reports (see, for example AIHW 2002).

Young SAAP clients are of particular interest, as ‘those who experience marginalisation and homelessness during young adulthood have a greatly diminished chance of finding a stable and productive role in the community in the longer term’ (CACH 2001:57). The fact that 36% of all SAAP clients nationally are under the age of 25 years highlights the prevalence of homelessness amongst young Australians and the need for services to support them.

Relationship or family breakdown and eviction or the ending of previous accommodation were the most common main reasons young people sought assistance from SAAP agencies in New South Wales. Based on length of support, repeat service use and case management plan data, SAAP appears to be increasingly successful in achieving its overall aims for a significant proportion of young people, particularly when the data are compared to that for clients aged 25 years and over (AIHW 2003).

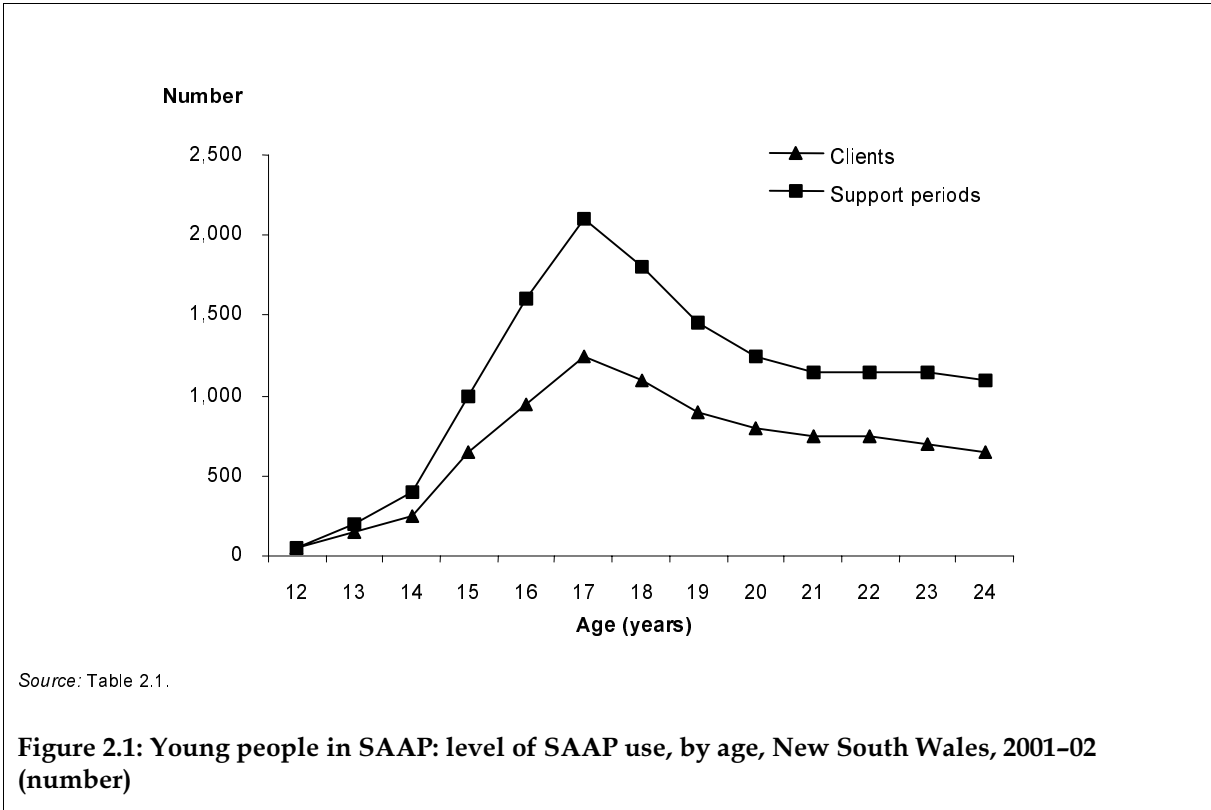
This report contains data that refer to age ranges. Age is derived from Year of Birth, a data item requiring client consent in the National Data Collection. Adjustments have therefore been made to the data to allow estimates for clients who did not give consent for some or all of their support periods to be included in the analyses presented in this report. An estimate of the number of errors and omissions relating to age is in the Appendix.

2 SAAP use by young people

The data in this report relates to young clients, that is, people aged 12–24 years who were assisted independently of a parent or guardian. In 2001–02 in New South Wales, 34% of the estimated 26,200 clients aged 12 years and over provided with SAAP support and/or accommodation were aged 12–24 years (Table 2.1). Of the total 47,650 support periods provided, clients aged 12–24 years accounted for 14,400, or 30% of all support periods for clients aged 12 years and over. The number of support periods exceeded the number of clients as each client can receive support or supported accommodation on more than one occasion. As there were only around 25 clients aged under 12 years in 2001–02 who were assisted independently of a parent or guardian, these clients are not included in this report.

Level of SAAP use by young clients by age

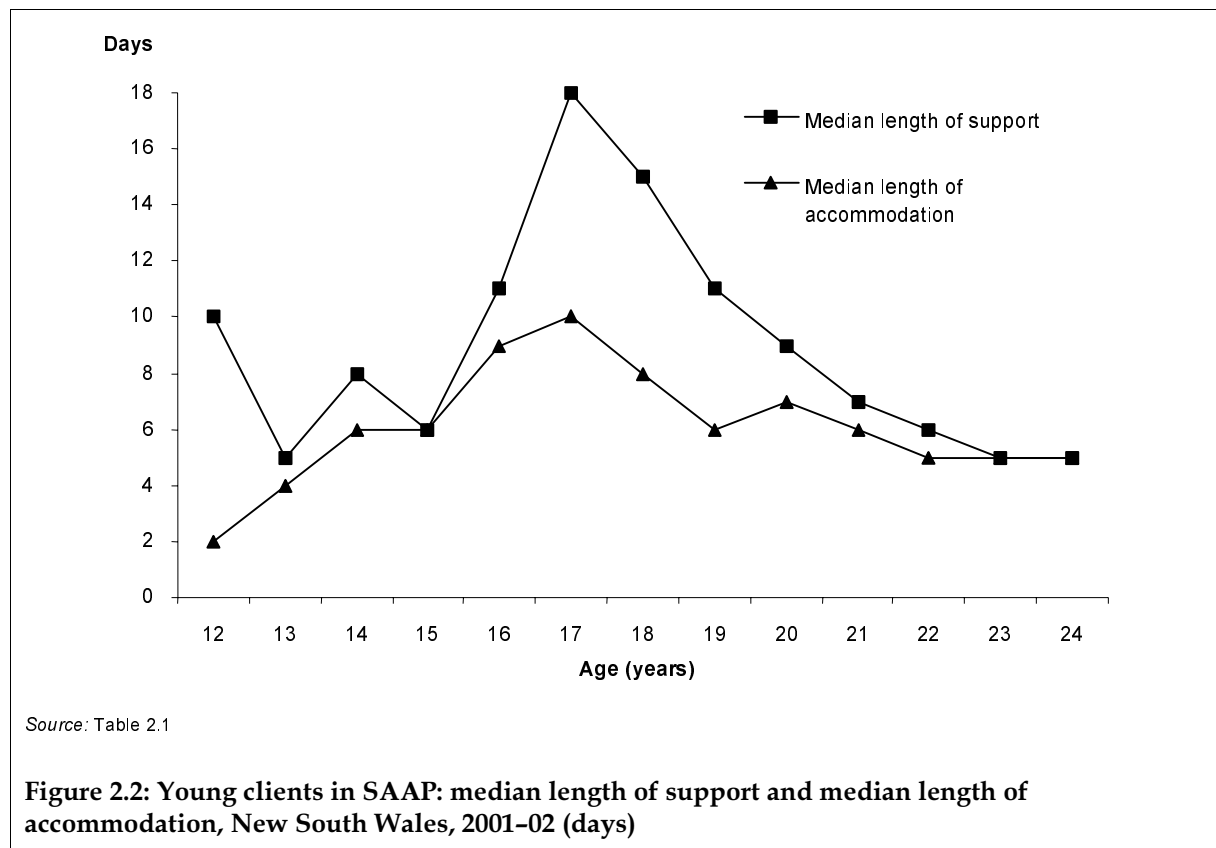
Figure 2.1 shows that SAAP use varied significantly by age, ranging from a low level in the youngest ages until peaking at age 17. From age 18, usage declined gradually. This may reflect the different developmental stages of young people. For example, 12 year-olds may lack sufficient independence to approach SAAP agencies, or have little knowledge of available options if their living situation is inadequate or unsafe. Seventeen year-olds, on the other hand, may have varying capacity to achieve independence and therefore turn to SAAP services more frequently than people of other ages. Use of SAAP services by children aged 12–17 years is higher than these figures indicate, as there were more than 900 children who accompanied a parent or guardian to a SAAP agency in 2001–02 (AIHW 2002: 34).



- Seventeen year-olds used SAAP services more frequently than others in the 12–24 year age range. They constituted the largest number of clients (1,250) and the most support periods (2,100) (Figure 2.1).

Duration of accommodation and support

A client can be provided with accommodation and/or support services during their support period. Accommodation periods can be equal to or less than the duration of a support period. The median, or middle value in a range, is used to give an indication of the length of support and accommodation for each year of age. This is because medians are less affected than means by a small number of large values.



- Seventeen year-olds had the highest median length of support and median length of accommodation (18 days and 10 days, respectively)(Figure 2.2).
- In general, there was a greater difference between the median length of support and median length of accommodation for clients aged 12 years and 17–19 years. This suggests that these clients were more likely to use support services only or support services outside their accommodation periods than other young clients.
- Young clients aged 12–24 had longer periods of support and accommodation (medians of 8 day and 7 days, respectively) than older clients (4 days for support and 3 days for accommodation). On a per client basis, young clients had less support periods (1.8) than older clients (2.1). (Table 2.1). That is, young clients stayed longer in SAAP but returned less frequently during 2001–02.

2.1 Table

Table 2.1: SAAP clients aged 12–24 years: summary table, New South Wales, 2001–02

Age	Clients	Mean no. support periods per client	Support periods	Closed support periods	Median length of support (days)	Closed support periods with accommodation	Median length of accommodation (days)
12	50	1.20	50	50	10	50	2
13	150	1.60	200	100	5	100	4
14	250	1.60	400	300	8	300	6
15	650	1.80	1,000	650	6	650	6
16	950	1.82	1,600	1,000	11	1,000	9
17	1,250	1.72	2,100	1,150	18	1,150	10
18	1,100	1.74	1,800	900	15	900	8
19	900	1.68	1,450	700	11	700	6
20	800	1.70	1,250	650	9	650	7
21	750	1.78	1,150	650	7	650	6
22	750	1.75	1,150	650	6	650	5
23	700	1.82	1,150	700	5	700	5
24	650	1.99	1,100	750	5	750	5
Total for clients aged 24 years and under	8,950	1.76	14,400	12,500	8	8,250	7
Total for clients aged 25 years and over	17,250	2.13	33,250	30,700	4	25,300	3

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 100 closed support periods for clients aged 12–24 years (length of support).
2. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 150 closed support periods for clients aged 25 years and over (length of support).
3. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 200 closed support periods with accommodation for clients aged 12–24 years (length of accommodation).
4. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 300 closed support periods with accommodation for clients aged 25 years and over (length of accommodation).
5. See the Appendix for an estimation of the number of age exclusions for 12–24 year-olds and 25 years and over.
6. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

3 Circumstances of young clients before and after support

As a way of examining the pathways young people take into SAAP and the outcomes for young clients following SAAP support, this chapter discusses the circumstances of young clients before and after they sought assistance.

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Act 1994 describes SAAP's overall aim as being 'to provide transitional supported accommodation and related support services, in order to help people who are homeless to achieve the maximum possible degree of self-reliance and independence'. The Act further states:

Within this aim the goals are:

- a) to resolve crisis;
- b) to re-establish family links where appropriate; and
- c) to re-establish a capacity to live independently of SAAP.

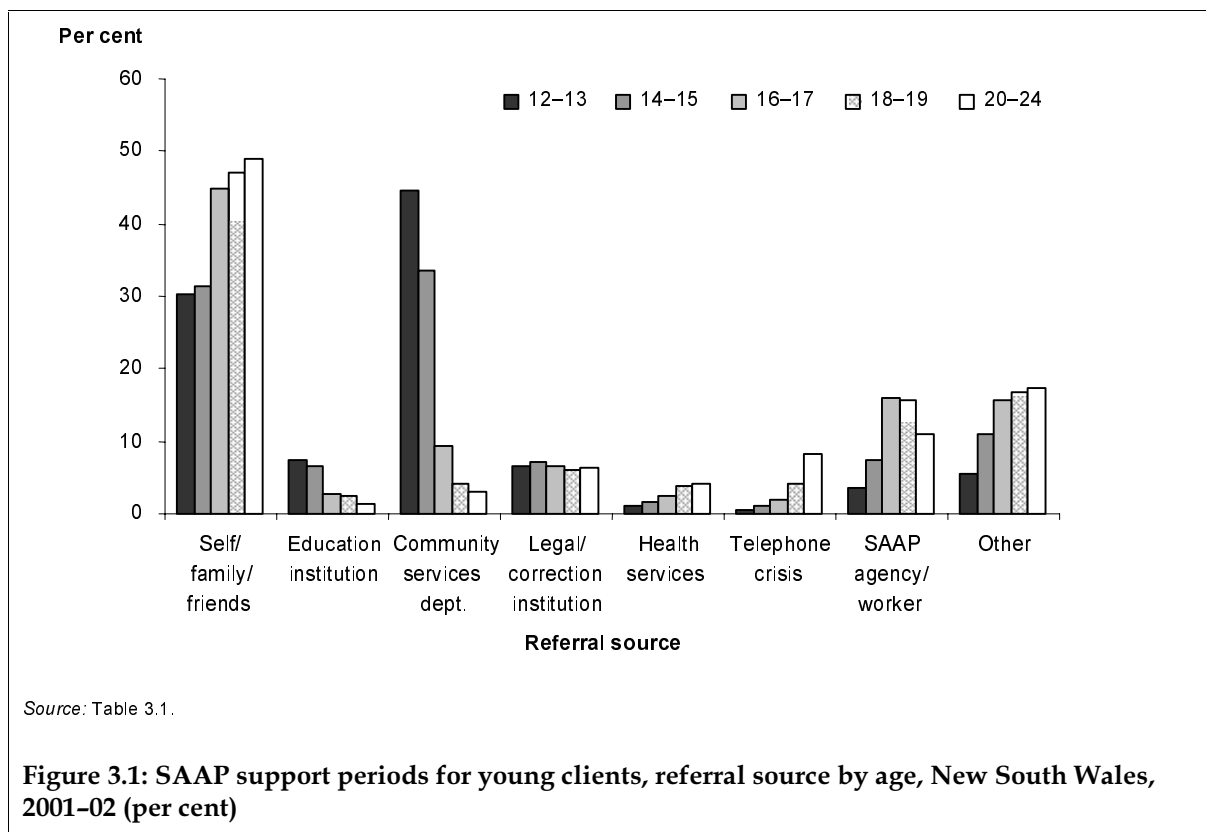
There is a significant amount of data missing in relation to client circumstances, particularly after support has ended, and this should be taken into account when assessing the outcomes presented here. In addition, outcomes for young clients do not depend on the intervention of SAAP agencies alone – a complex interplay of policies and programs relating to housing, income security and community services, as well as individuals' personal circumstances, will influence outcomes for SAAP clients.

Sources of referral for young clients

The source of referral shows the formal way a young client was referred to a SAAP agency or how the young client found out about a SAAP agency. It provides information about the links between individuals, SAAP and other parts of the welfare, corrective services and health systems.

- In a high proportion of support periods (45%), young clients were either self-referred or heard about the SAAP agency from family members or friends. For specific age groups, this referral source ranged from 30% of support periods for 12–13 year-olds to 49% for 20–24 year-olds (Table 3.1).
- Young female clients aged 12–13 were more likely to be referred to SAAP from an educational institution (12%) than their male counterparts (3%).
- 16–17 year-old male clients were more likely to be referred by a legal or correction institution (10%) than female clients in this age group (4%).

Figure 3.1 shows the different referral sources by age group.

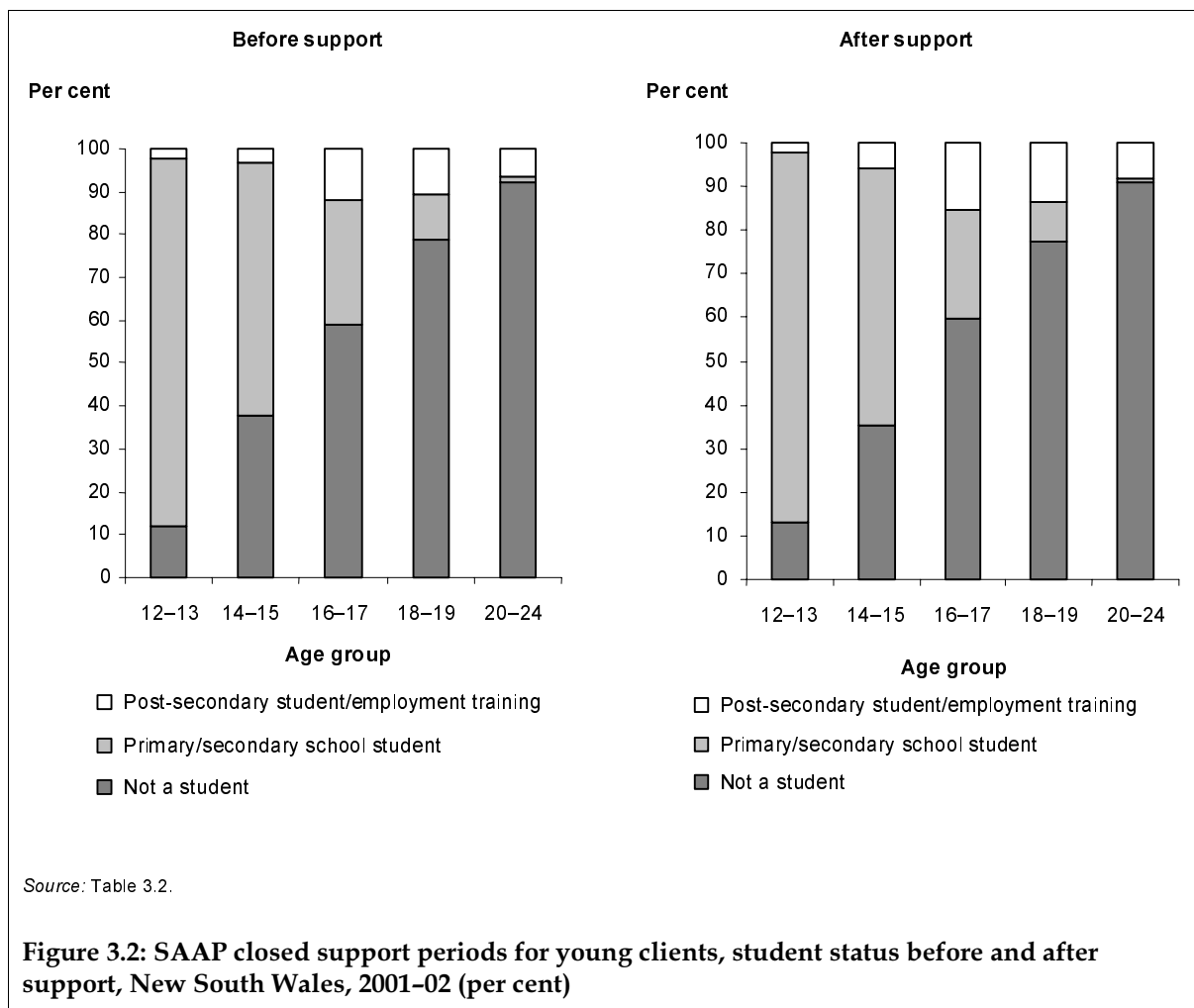


Student status of young clients immediately before and after support

Student status measures whether a young client was involved in any full-time or part-time study immediately before and after a support period. Comparing the client's situation before and after using SAAP services may show how SAAP agencies assist clients in participating in education and training. Data in the remainder of this chapter relate to closed support periods (that is, support periods that had ended by 30 June 2002).

Figure 3.2 shows a comparison of student status before and after support periods. Overall, there was little change in student status across age groups.

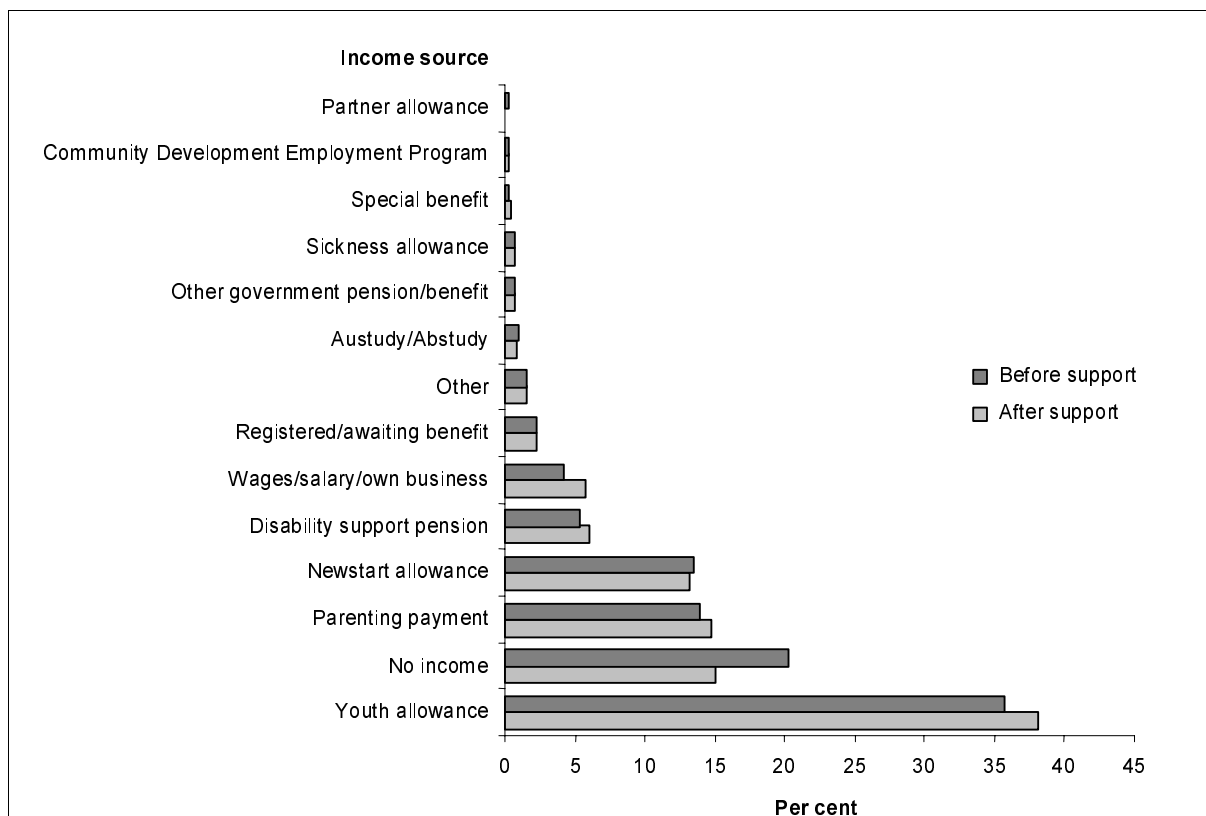
- The majority of clients aged between 12 and 15 years were primary or secondary students before and after support.
- The proportion of support periods for clients aged between 16 and 24 years who were students ranged from 41% for 16-17 year-olds to 8% for 20-24 year-olds. There was little change in these proportions after support (Table 3.2).
- The proportion of young clients in post-secondary studies or employment training increased in all age groups after support.



Main source of income for young clients immediately before and after support

Main income source measures the young client's source of regular income or, if they have more than one source of income, the largest part of their total income, immediately before and after support. Given the difficulties that young people aged under 18 years have finding regular paid work or obtaining benefits, it is not surprising that it is only in age groups from 16 years that significant percentages of young clients report having some source of income.

Figure 3.3 shows that overall, Youth Allowance was the main source of income for the majority of young clients both before and after support. By age group, Youth Allowance was the most commonly cited income category for both 16-17 and 18-19 year-olds before and after support (in over 55% of closed support periods in each case) (Table 3.3).



Source: Derived from Table 3.3.

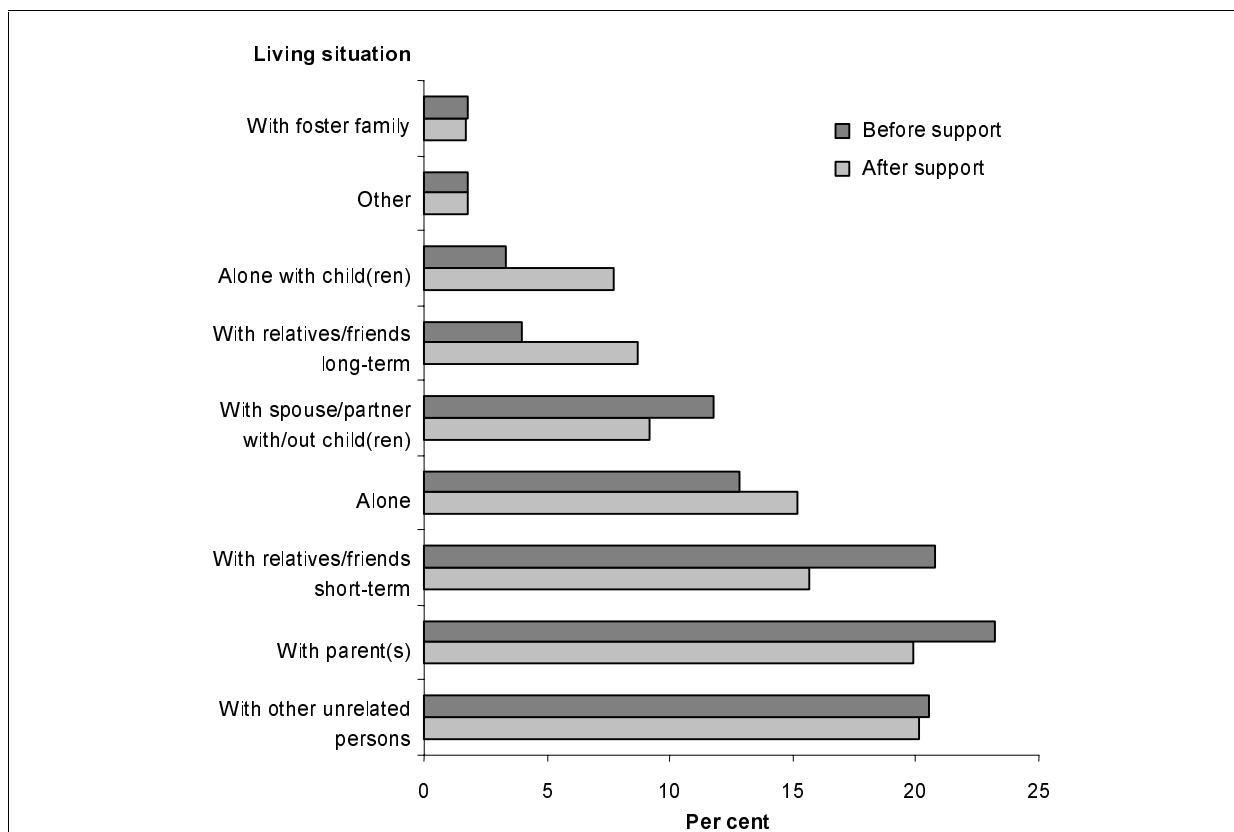
Figure 3.3: SAAP closed support periods for young clients, income source before and after support, New South Wales, 2001-02 (per cent)

- Newstart Allowance was the most commonly reported income source for 20-24 year-olds before and after support (both 30%).
- Parenting payment was the second highest reported income source in clients aged 18-19 years and 20-24 years.
- The percentage of closed support periods where no income was reported decreased after support for all age groups, with the greatest decrease in the age groups between 14 and 17 years.

Living situation of young clients immediately before and after support

Living situation measures the people with whom the young client was living immediately before and after a support period. By comparing the young client’s situation before and after receiving SAAP assistance, information may be gained about the ongoing resolution of conflicts in the young client’s living situation – an important outcome indicator.

Figure 3.4 shows that young clients aged 12-24 years were most commonly living with a parent or parents before support. The proportion of closed support periods with this living situation dropped across all age groups from 23% before support to 20% after support. Twenty per cent of young clients were also living with other unrelated persons after support.



Source: Derived from Table 3.4.

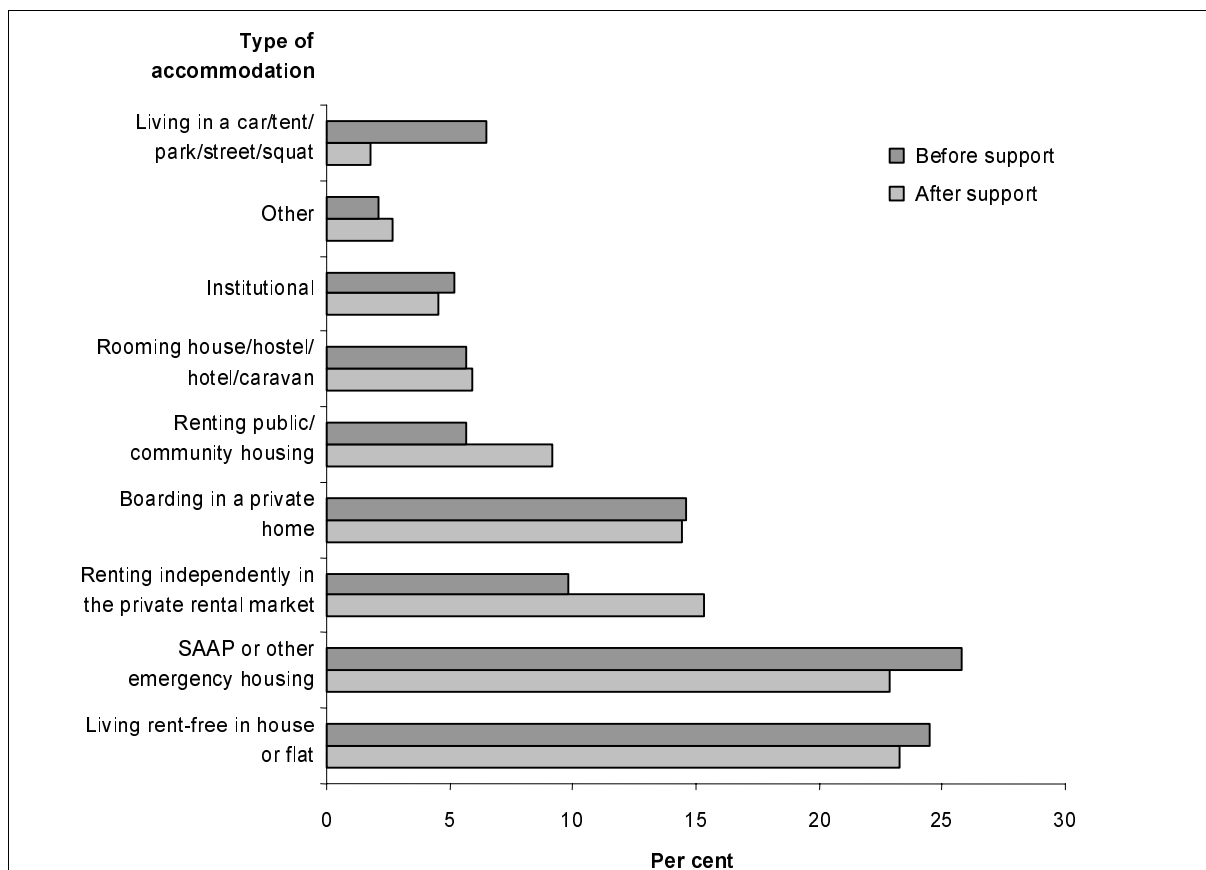
Figure 3.4: SAAP closed support periods for young clients, living situation immediately before and after support, New South Wales, 2001–02 (per cent)

- The proportion of closed support periods where clients were living short-term with relatives or friends decreased from 21% before support to 16% after support. Only clients aged 12–13 years showed an increase (10% before support to 14% after support). The proportion of closed support periods for all young clients living long-term with relatives or friends increased from 4% before support to 9% after support.
- The proportion of closed support periods for clients aged 20–24 years living with their spouse or partner decreased from 21% before support to 14% after support. The proportion of support periods for these clients who were living alone with their children increased from 7% before support to 17% after support.

Type of accommodation immediately before and after support

The type of housing or accommodation measures the physical structure in which the young client lived immediately before and after a support period. Young clients access to secure accommodation and housing can be an important outcome indicator as it demonstrates SAAP’s overall aims as described on page 5.

Figure 3.5 shows that before support, young people aged 12–24 years were most commonly living in SAAP or other emergency housing (26%). After support, young clients were more likely to be living rent-free in a house or flat, or in SAAP or other emergency housing (both 23%).



Source: Derived from Table 3.5.

Figure 3.5: SAAP closed support periods for young clients, type of accommodation immediately before and after support, New South Wales, 2001-02 (per cent)

- The most common accommodation type for 12-17 year-olds both before and after support was living rent-free in a house or flat, followed by SAAP or other emergency housing (Table 3.5).
- For 16-24 year-olds, the proportion of closed support periods where clients were renting in the private market or renting public or community housing increased after support. This supports data in Table 3.3, which shows a decrease in the number of support periods where the client had no income.
- In all age groups, the proportion of clients living in a car, tent, park, street or squat before support period dropped after receiving support.

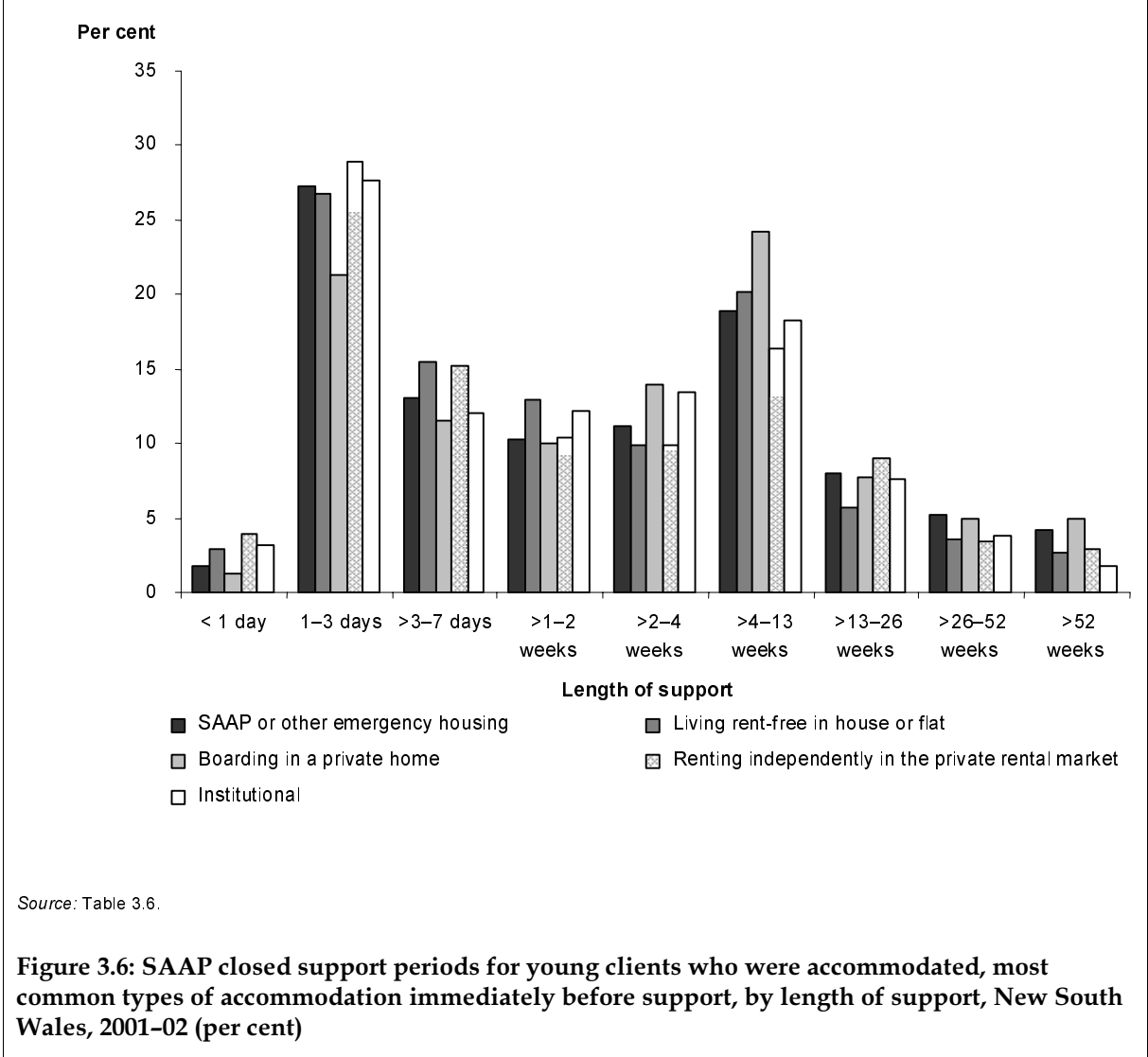
Length of SAAP support and type of accommodation before and after support

This section analyses the length of time clients were supported by SAAP and compares it to the type of accommodation young clients occupied both before and after SAAP support. Data in the remainder of the report refer to SAAP closed support periods where the client was accommodated. As already noted, caution should be used when interpreting the data presented here due to missing information, particularly for 'after' support data.

Table 3.6 shows that the majority of closed support periods with accommodation for young clients lasted 1-3 days (27%). A further 20% lasted 4-13 weeks. Only 3% of support periods

lasted less than one day, and another 3% lasted more than one year. Figure 3.6 shows the most common types of accommodation young clients occupied before they were supported by a SAAP agency by their length of support. Other accommodation types are shown in Table 3.6.

Figure 3.6 generally indicates that the type of accommodation a young client occupied before support appears to have little influence on the length of time a client is supported by SAAP.

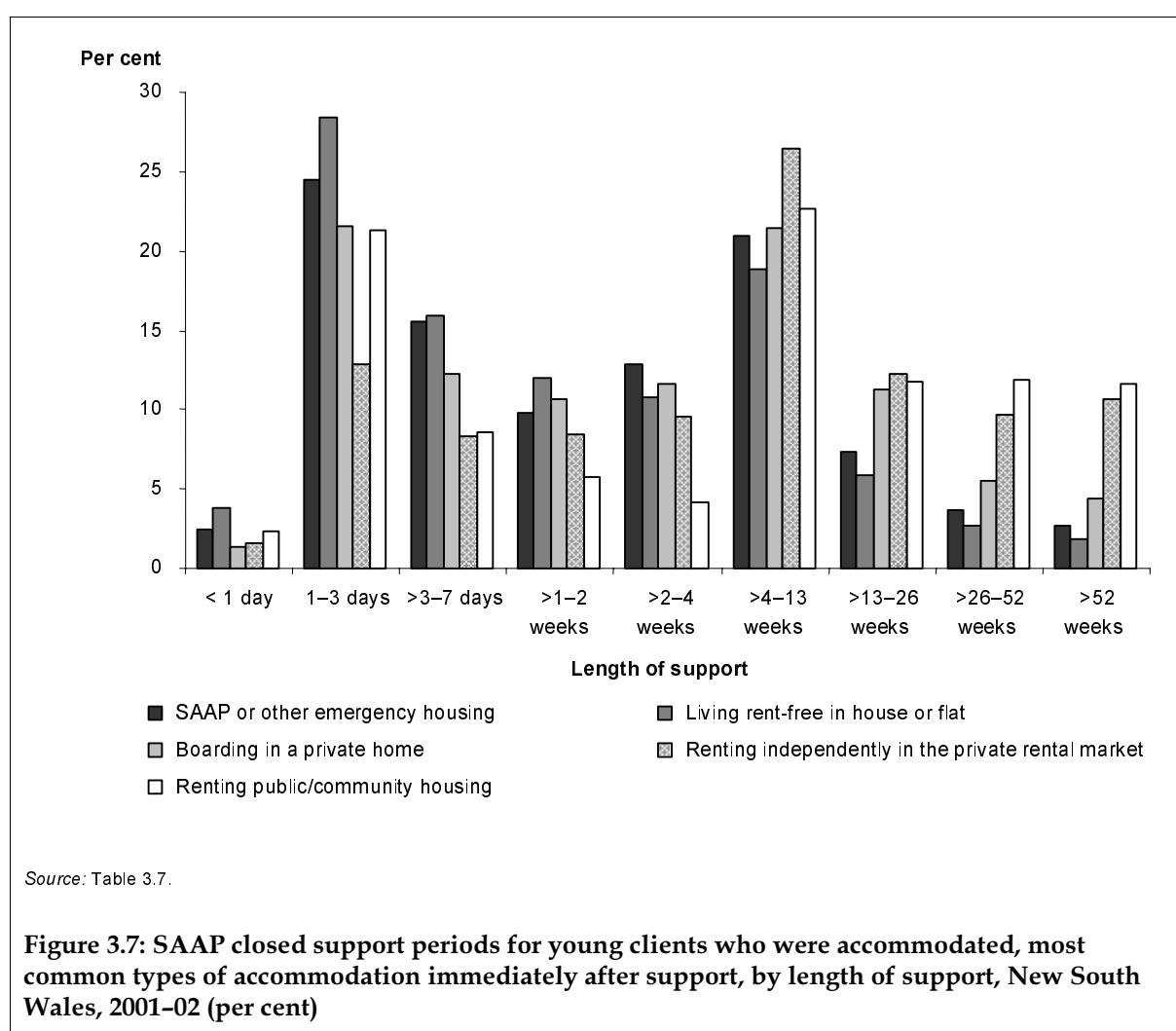


- For all young clients, except those who had been living in a rooming house, hostel, hotel or caravan, or boarding in a private home, the most common support length was 1-3 days (Table 3.6).
- For clients who were living in a rooming house, hostel, hotel or caravan and those boarding in a private home, the most common length of support was 4-13 weeks. This support length was the second most common overall.
- There was a fairly even distribution for all accommodation types before support for clients supported for between 3 days and 4 weeks.

- For clients supported for 13–26 weeks, the proportion of closed support periods for each accommodation type before support ranged from 5% for public or community housing and living in a car, tent, park, street or squat, to 9% for renting independently in the private market.

Figure 3.7 shows the type of accommodation young clients most commonly occupied after a closed support period with accommodation by length of support. Other accommodation types are shown in Table 3.7. Longer support lengths appear to result in more independent housing outcomes for young clients, such as renting independently in the private market, or renting public or community housing.

For support periods lasting less than 2 weeks, there were high proportions of support periods for young clients who moved on to live rent-free in a house or flat. This may indicate that clients are able to reconcile with their families and return to the family home after a relatively short period of SAAP support.



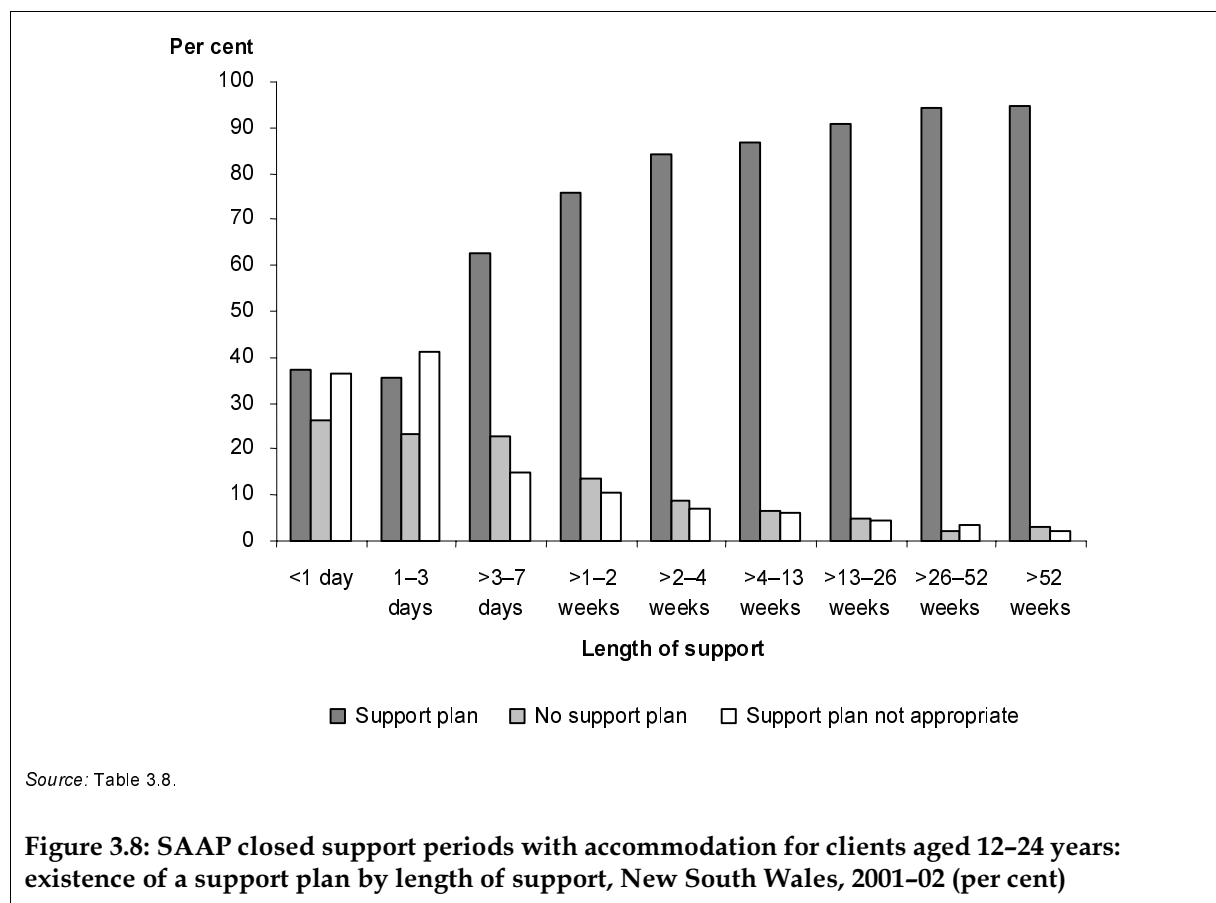
- For clients who moved on to live in SAAP or other emergency housing after SAAP support, the most common length of support was 1–3 days (in 25% of support periods for this accommodation type after support). This was also the case for those who moved on

to live in a car, park, tent, street or squat (32%), rent-free in a house or flat (28%), in an institutional setting (27%) or to board in a private home (22%) (Table 3.7).

- The proportion of support periods where the client moved on to live in a car, park, tent, street or squat generally decreased as length of accommodation increased, particularly after 13 weeks, where the proportion of support periods dropped from 16% for 4–13 weeks to 2% for 13–26 weeks.
- For clients renting independently in the private market after SAAP support, the most common length of support was 4–13 weeks (26%). Clients who moved on to a rooming house, hostel, hotel or caravan also stayed in SAAP accommodation for this length of time in 26% of cases, and those renting public or community housing after support in 23% of cases. There were also a relatively high proportion of support periods in this category for clients who moved on to another SAAP agency or other type of emergency housing (21%).

Length of accommodation and support plans

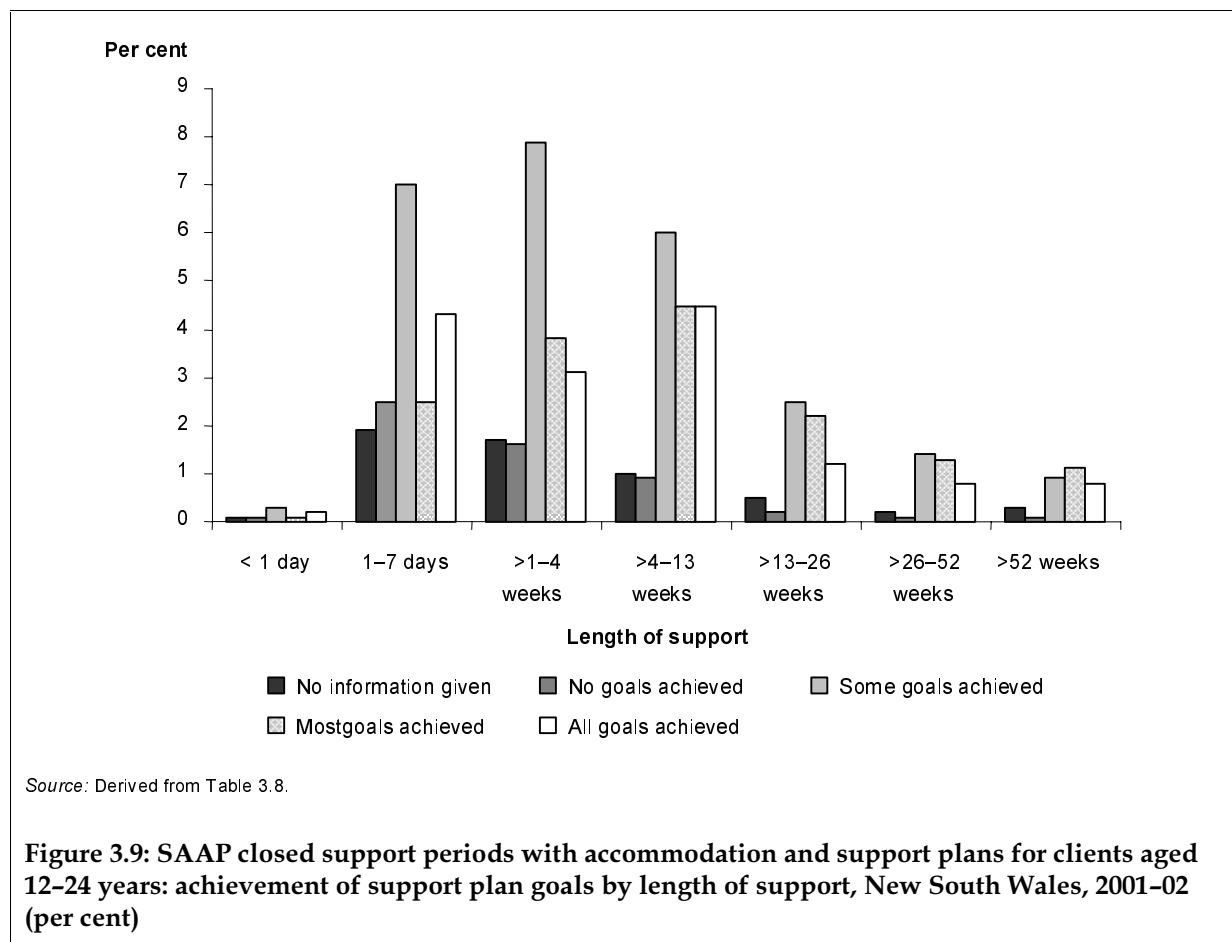
In 2001–02, 68% of young clients in New South Wales who were accommodated in SAAP agreed to a support plan or case management plan by the end of their support period (Table 3.8). A support plan is a personal plan or support agreement that usually has a statement of the client’s problem or need, some goals for the client and strategies to achieve those goals. It is usually developed between the client and agency as a result of an assessment process. Figure 3.8 shows the distribution of closed support periods with accommodation by whether a support plan existed.



- The number of closed support periods with accommodation with a support plan in place increased as length of support increased. A support plan was in place for 37% of support periods lasting less than one day, compared to 95% for support periods lasting more than 52 weeks.
- Overall, in 18% of cases a support plan was considered to be inappropriate. The majority of these cases were for support periods lasting less than 2 weeks.

Support plans and goal achievement

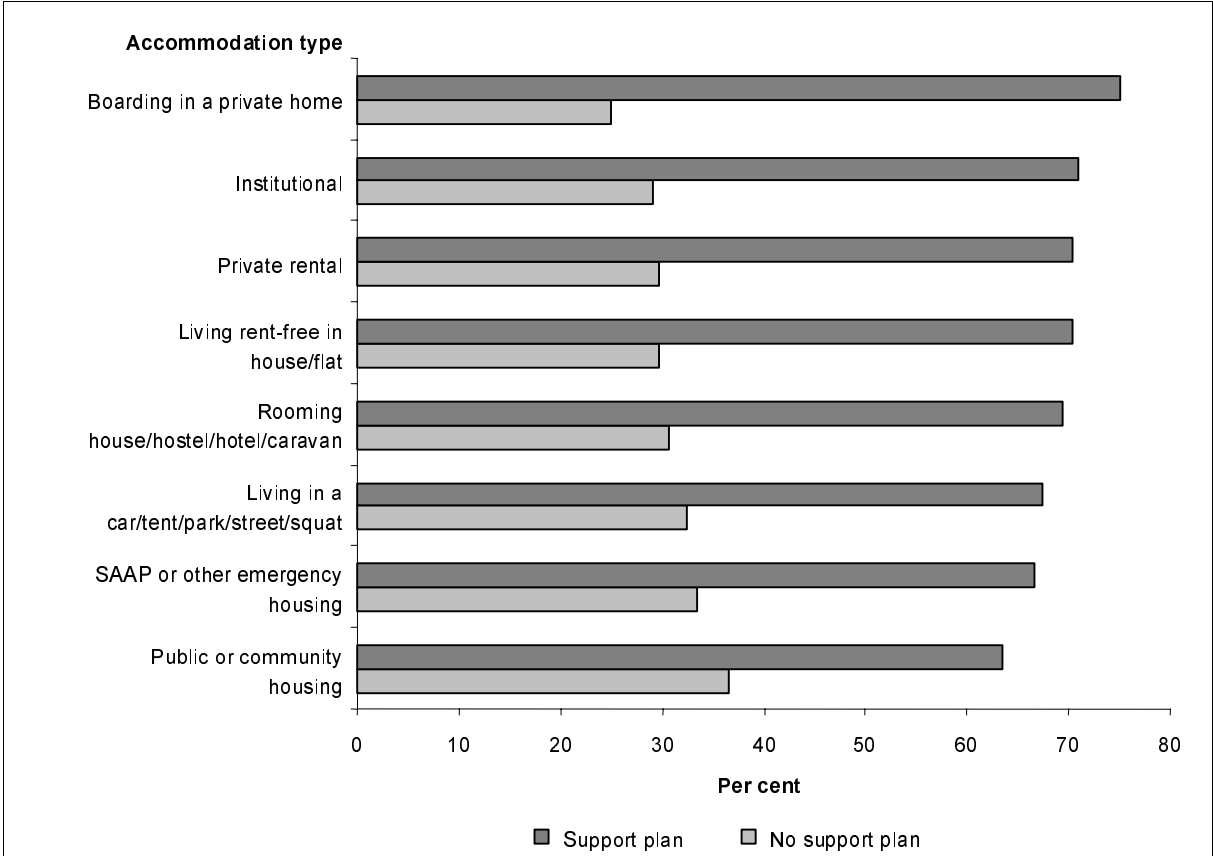
Figure 3.9 shows the extent to which support plan goals were achieved by length of support.



- Of closed support periods with a support plan, 'all' goals were achieved in 22% of cases. 'Most' goals were achieved in 23% of support periods with a support plan, and 'some' goals achieved in a further 38% (derived from Table 3.8).
- As length of support increased, so too did the relative likelihood of 'all' or 'most' support plan goals being achieved.
- Clients supported for between 1 day and 13 weeks had high levels of achieving 'some' of the goals of their support plan by the end of their support period.

Support plans and accommodation type before and after SAAP support

Figure 3.10 shows the type of accommodation occupied by young clients before support by whether a support plan had been implemented. SAAP agencies generally develop support plans for clients regardless of their accommodation type before support.



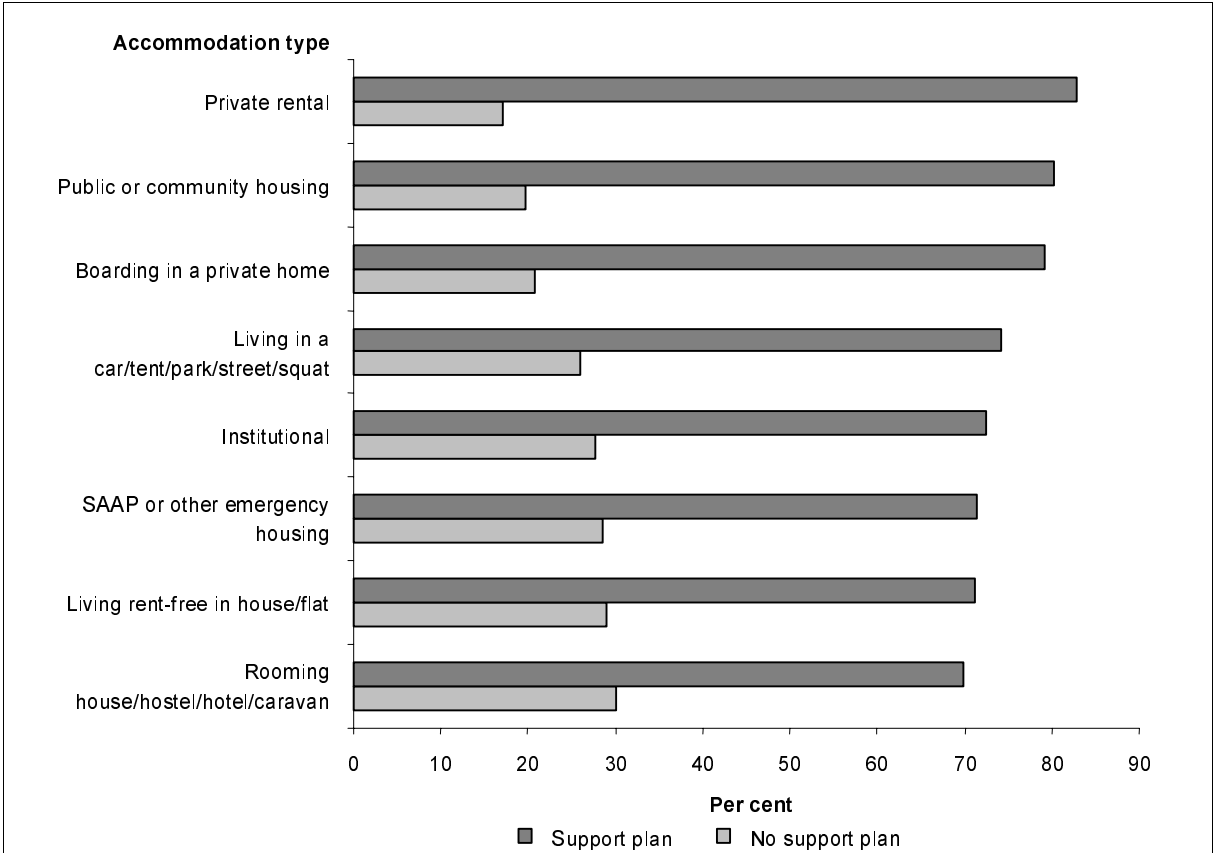
Source: Table 3.9.

Figure 3.10: SAAP closed support periods with accommodation for clients aged 12–24 years: type of accommodation immediately before a support period by existence of support plan, New South Wales, 2001–02

- Young clients who were boarding in a private home before being supported by SAAP (75%) were more likely to have a support plan than those who had come from public or community housing (64%) (Figure 3.10).
- There were similar proportions of closed support periods with accommodation and support plans for clients who had been accommodated at another SAAP agency or other form of emergency accommodation (67%) and for clients who had been living in a car, tent, park, street or squat (68%), immediately before a SAAP support period.

Figure 3.11 shows the proportion of closed support periods with accommodation and the existence of support plans by the type of accommodation young clients moved on to after SAAP support.

The existence of a support plan varied by accommodation type after support from 70% for support periods where the client moved on to a rooming house, hostel, hotel or caravan, to 83% for those moving on to rent in the private market.



Source: Table 3.9.

Figure 3.11: SAAP closed support periods in which clients aged 12–24 years were accommodated: type of accommodation immediately after a support period by existence of support plan, New South Wales, 2001–02

- Clients who moved on to private rental housing had a support plan during SAAP support in 83% of closed support periods, and those who rented public or community housing after SAAP support had a support plan in 80% of cases.
- The proportion of support periods with a support plan in which young clients moved on after SAAP support to live in a car, park, tent, street or squat was relatively high (74%).

3.1 Tables

Table 3.1: SAAP support periods for clients aged 12–24 years: referral source, by gender and age, New South Wales, 2001–02 (per cent)

Age	Self/ family/ friends	Education institution	Community services dept.	Legal/ correction institution	Health services	Telephone crisis	SAAP agency/ worker	Other	Total	
									%	Number
Male										
12–13	31.6	2.7	44.5	8.9	—	1.1	4.9	6.5	100.0	100
14–15	27.0	7.3	37.6	6.7	0.8	1.6	8.1	10.9	100.0	500
16–17	43.8	2.8	10.2	10.0	1.6	1.2	14.6	15.8	100.0	1,400
18–19	45.9	1.7	2.9	7.2	3.4	2.7	17.3	18.9	100.0	1,250
20–24	54.4	0.4	1.4	3.8	3.7	5.7	10.9	19.8	100.0	1,950
Total (%)	46.4	2.1	8.4	6.7	2.7	3.3	13.0	17.4	100.0	..
Total (number)	2,400	100	450	350	150	150	700	900	..	5,200
Female										
12–13	29.1	11.9	45.0	4.6	2.4	—	2.1	4.8	100.0	100
14–15	34.5	6.2	30.8	7.4	2.1	0.9	6.8	11.2	100.0	750
16–17	45.9	2.6	8.9	4.0	3.2	2.3	17.2	15.9	100.0	1,850
18–19	47.9	2.9	5.3	5.2	4.3	5.1	14.5	14.8	100.0	1,500
20–24	44.8	1.9	4.0	8.0	4.4	10.1	11.3	15.5	100.0	2,650
Total (%)	44.4	3.0	9.2	6.2	3.8	5.7	13.0	14.8	100.0	..
Total (number)	3,050	200	650	400	250	400	900	1,000	..	6,850
All 12–24										
12–13	30.3	7.5	44.7	6.7	1.2	0.5	3.5	5.6	100.0	200
14–15	31.5	6.6	33.5	7.1	1.6	1.2	7.3	11.1	100.0	1,250
16–17	45.0	2.7	9.4	6.6	2.5	1.8	16.1	15.8	100.0	3,250
18–19	47.0	2.4	4.2	6.1	3.9	4.0	15.8	16.7	100.0	2,750
20–24	48.9	1.3	2.9	6.2	4.1	8.2	11.1	17.4	100.0	4,600
Total (%)	45.3	2.6	8.9	6.4	3.3	4.6	13.0	15.9	100.0	..
Total (number)	5,450	300	1,050	750	400	550	1,550	1,900	..	12,050

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 400 referral source and gender.
2. Table excludes high-volume records because not all items were included on the high-volume form.
3. See the Appendix for an estimation of the number of age exclusions for 12–24 year-olds.
4. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 3.2: SAAP closed support periods for clients aged 12–24 years: student status immediately before and after a support period, New South Wales, 2001–02 (per cent)

Student status	Before support					After support				
	12–13	14–15	16–17	18–19	20–24	12–13	14–15	16–17	18–19	20–24
Not a student	12.2	37.7	59.2	78.8	92.2	12.9	35.3	59.8	77.5	90.9
Primary/secondary school student	85.6	59.2	28.9	10.6	1.2	84.7	58.6	24.7	8.7	0.8
Post-secondary student/employment training	2.2	3.1	12.0	10.6	6.6	2.4	6.1	15.5	13.7	8.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Total (number with valid data)</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>2,650</i>	<i>2,150</i>	<i>3,800</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>2,300</i>	<i>1,800</i>	<i>3,200</i>
Number with missing data	50	100	350	250	550	50	200	650	600	1,100
Total (number)	250	1,200	2,950	2,400	4,350	200	1,200	2,950	2,400	4,350

Notes

1. Table excludes high-volume records because not all items were included on the high-volume form.
2. See the Appendix for an estimation of the number of age exclusions for 12–24 year-olds.
3. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 3.3: SAAP closed support periods for clients aged 12–24 years: income source immediately before and after a support period, New South Wales, 2001–02 (per cent)

Income source	Before support					After support				
	12–13	14–15	16–17	18–19	20–24	12–13	14–15	16–17	18–19	20–24
No income	87.8	76.7	25.0	8.7	4.0	85.0	65.4	14.4	4.5	2.3
No income, registered/awaiting pension/benefit	—	2.1	3.9	2.6	1.3	—	4.3	3.4	2.4	1.1
Newstart Allowance	—	0.3	1.7	6.0	30.4	—	0.4	2.0	6.7	29.6
Youth Allowance	2.1	12.2	55.4	56.9	18.3	4.3	19.6	63.7	56.2	17.0
Community Development Employment Program	—	—	0.2	0.1	0.5	—	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.5
Austudy/Abstudy	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.4	1.0	1.0	0.6
Disability Support Pension	0.6	0.2	2.6	4.8	9.3	0.7	0.5	3.2	5.2	10.4
Parenting payment (sole parent pension)	0.8	0.5	3.1	11.3	27.4	0.8	0.5	3.7	13.1	28.9
Special Benefit	—	—	0.2	0.3	0.4	—	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6
Sickness Allowance	—	—	0.2	0.5	1.4	—	—	0.3	0.8	1.2
Partner Allowance	—	—	—	0.1	0.6	—	—	0.1	—	0.6
Other government pension/benefit	1.5	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.6	1.6	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.6
Wages/salary/own business	0.8	2.4	4.6	5.6	3.8	0.8	3.2	6.1	7.8	5.5
Other	5.8	3.5	1.4	1.2	1.3	6.2	3.5	1.1	1.2	1.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Total (number with valid data)</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>2,650</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>3,850</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>2,400</i>	<i>1,850</i>	<i>3,300</i>
Number with missing data	<25	100	300	200	450	50	200	550	550	1,000
Total (number)	200	1,200	2,950	2,400	4,300	200	1,200	2,950	2,400	4,300

Notes

1. Table excludes high-volume records because not all items were included on the high-volume form.
2. See the Appendix for an estimation of the number of age exclusions for 12–24 year-olds.
3. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 3.4: SAAP closed support periods for clients aged 12–24 years: living situation immediately before and after a support period, by age, New South Wales, 2001–02 (per cent)

Living situation	Before support					After support				
	12–13	14–15	16–17	18–19	20–24	12–13	14–15	16–17	18–19	20–24
With parent(s)	53.5	45.7	30.4	19.7	12.3	48.5	40.7	25.6	16.4	8.9
With foster family	12.6	6.7	2.2	0.7	0.2	13.5	7.6	1.5	0.3	0.1
With relatives/friends short-term	9.6	15.6	24.2	21.7	19.9	14.1	13.2	16.8	14.4	16.5
With relatives/friends long-term	8.5	2.9	3.8	4.6	3.8	7.5	8.2	10.0	11.0	6.6
With spouse/partner with/without children	—	0.6	4.7	11.9	20.5	—	0.6	5.6	11.0	14.4
Alone with child(ren)	0.8	0.1	0.6	2.6	6.6	0.9	0.3	1.0	5.6	16.9
Alone	2.7	3.4	7.8	14.8	18.2	0.7	4.1	10.4	19.9	20.5
With other unrelated persons	11.0	22.6	23.8	22.2	17.1	13.2	22.4	26.8	20.0	14.7
Other	1.3	2.4	2.4	1.9	1.3	1.6	2.9	2.3	1.4	1.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Total (number with valid data)</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>2,650</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>3,800</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>2,150</i>	<i>1,600</i>	<i>2,700</i>
Number with missing data	<25	100	300	250	500	50	350	850	800	1650
Total (number)	200	1,200	2,950	2,400	4,350	200	1,200	2,950	2,400	4,350

Notes

1. Table excludes high-volume records because not all items were included on the high-volume form.
2. See the Appendix for an estimation of the number of age exclusions for 12–24 year-olds.
3. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 3.5: SAAP closed support periods for clients aged 12–24 years: type of accommodation immediately before and after a support period, by age, New South Wales, 2001–02 (per cent)

Type of accommodation	Before support					After support				
	12–13	14–15	16–17	18–19	20–24	12–13	14–15	16–17	18–19	20–24
SAAP or other emergency housing	29.8	32.0	29.8	25.3	21.4	24.2	26.1	26.4	21.1	20.1
Living rent-free in a house or flat	60.6	49.6	32.6	20.1	12.4	65.4	51.4	29.9	15.2	11.2
Renting independently in the private rental market	0.8	1.4	4.7	10.8	15.6	1.9	2.3	9.3	20.5	22.0
Renting public/community housing	2.5	0.8	1.8	5.9	9.8	1.9	1.6	5.0	10.9	14.5
Rooming house/hostel/hotel/caravan	—	1.7	4.0	6.6	7.8	0.8	2.3	4.1	7.3	8.1
Boarding in a private home	2.0	3.8	14.1	17.6	17.0	—	6.2	16.9	16.6	14.5
Living in a car/tent/park/street/squat	2.2	3.5	5.3	6.6	8.5	0.8	1.7	1.2	1.7	2.4
Institutional	1.4	3.5	5.1	5.5	5.8	2.5	3.8	4.7	3.9	5.1
Other	0.7	3.7	2.6	1.6	1.5	2.5	4.5	2.5	2.8	2.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>27.1</i>	<i>22.0</i>	<i>38.2</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>11.9</i>	<i>28.5</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>35.7</i>
<i>Total (number with valid data)</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>2,700</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>3,800</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>2,100</i>	<i>1,600</i>	<i>2,650</i>
Number with missing data	50	150	300	250	550	50	350	900	800	1,700
Total (number)	200	1,200	2,950	2,400	4,300	200	1,200	2,950	2,400	4,350

Notes

1. Table excludes high-volume records because not all items were included on the high-volume form.
2. See the Appendix for an estimation of the number of age exclusions for 12–24 year-olds.
3. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 3.6: SAAP closed support periods with accommodation for clients aged 12–24 years: type of accommodation immediately before a support period, by length of support, New South Wales, 2001–02 (per cent)

Type of accommodation	Length of support									Total	
	<1 day	1–3 days	>3–7 days	>1–2 weeks	>2–4 weeks	>4–13 weeks	>13–26 weeks	>26–52 weeks	>52 weeks	%	Number
SAAP or other emergency housing	1.8	27.3	13.0	10.3	11.2	18.9	8.0	5.2	4.2	100.0	2,000
Living rent-free in a house or flat	2.9	26.7	15.5	12.9	9.9	20.2	5.7	3.5	2.7	100.0	1,550
Renting independently in the private rental market	3.9	28.9	15.2	10.4	9.9	16.3	9.0	3.4	2.9	100.0	550
Renting public/community housing	4.8	34.5	12.3	12.3	12.6	14.6	4.7	2.8	1.4	100.0	250
Rooming house/hostel/hotel/caravan	3.2	18.7	15.3	15.0	14.1	23.6	5.2	2.6	2.3	100.0	350
Boarding in a private home	1.3	21.3	11.5	10.0	14.0	24.2	7.7	5.0	5.0	100.0	850
Living in a car/tent/park/street/squat	3.3	31.0	17.5	12.1	11.4	17.6	4.7	2.4	—	100.0	400
Institutional	3.2	27.7	12.0	12.2	13.5	18.3	7.6	3.8	1.8	100.0	450
Other	1.9	34.3	12.7	8.4	11.0	13.0	9.4	4.7	4.6	100.0	150
Total (per cent)	2.6	26.8	13.9	11.4	11.5	19.5	7.0	4.1	3.2	100.0	..
Total (number)	150	1,750	900	750	750	1,300	450	250	200	..	6,550

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 500 closed support periods (type of accommodation and length of support).
2. Table excludes high-volume records because not all items were included on the high-volume form.
3. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 3.7: SAAP closed support periods with accommodation for clients aged 12–24 years: type of accommodation immediately after a support period, by length of support, New South Wales, 2001–02 (per cent)

Type of accommodation	Length of support									Total	
	<1 day	1–3 days	>3–7 days	>1–2 weeks	>2–4 weeks	>4–13 weeks	>13–26 weeks	>26–52 weeks	>52 weeks	%	Number
SAAP or other emergency housing	2.4	24.5	15.6	9.8	12.9	21.0	7.3	3.7	2.7	100.0	1,350
Living rent-free in a house or flat	3.8	28.4	15.9	12.0	10.8	18.8	5.9	2.7	1.8	100.0	1,100
Renting independently in the private rental market	1.6	12.9	8.3	8.4	9.6	26.4	12.3	9.7	10.7	100.0	500
Renting public/community housing	2.3	21.3	8.6	5.7	4.2	22.7	11.7	11.9	11.6	100.0	300
Rooming house/hostel/hotel/caravan	2.6	23.8	11.5	8.9	10.3	26.1	6.7	7.1	2.9	100.0	200
Boarding in a private home	1.4	21.5	12.3	10.6	11.6	21.4	11.3	5.5	4.4	100.0	650
Living in a car/tent/park/street/squat	—	31.5	24.8	12.6	13.3	16.1	1.7	—	—	100.0	100
Institutional	2.5	26.9	13.1	14.0	19.2	16.7	3.8	2.8	0.9	100.0	250
Other	1.0	27.7	17.3	9.2	8.6	19.0	8.6	6.6	1.9	100.0	150
Total (per cent)	2.4	23.8	13.8	10.2	11.4	21.1	8.1	5.1	4.1	100.0	..
Total (number)	100	1,100	650	450	500	950	350	250	200	..	4,600

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 2,450 closed support periods (type of accommodation and length of support).
2. Table excludes high-volume records because not all items were included on the high-volume form.
3. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 3.8: SAAP closed support periods with accommodation for clients aged 12–24 years: extent to which support plan goals were achieved by length of support, New South Wales, 2001–02 (per cent)

Existence of support plan	Length of support									Total	
	<1 day	1–3 days	>3–7 days	>1–2 weeks	>2–4 weeks	>4–13 weeks	>13–26 weeks	>26–52 weeks	>52 weeks	%	Number
<i>Support plan</i>	37.1	35.5	62.6	75.7	84.3	87.0	90.9	94.3	94.8	67.8	4,450
All goals achieved	0.2	2.9	1.4	1.5	1.6	4.5	1.2	0.8	0.8	14.9	1,000
Most goals achieved	0.1	1.1	1.4	1.7	2.1	4.5	2.2	1.3	1.1	15.5	1,000
Some goals achieved	0.3	3.2	3.9	3.5	4.4	6.0	2.5	1.4	0.9	26.1	1,700
No goals achieved	0.1	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	5.6	350
No information given	0.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.3	5.7	350
<i>No support plan</i>	26.3	23.2	22.6	13.8	8.8	6.7	4.9	2.0	2.9	14.4	950
<i>Support plan not appropriate</i>	36.6	41.3	14.8	10.5	6.9	6.2	4.2	3.7	2.3	17.8	1,150
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..
Total (per cent)	2.5	26.8	13.9	11.2	11.4	19.6	7.2	4.0	3.4	100.0	..
Total (number)	150	1,750	900	750	750	1,300	450	250	200	..	6,550

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 500 closed support periods (support plan and length of support information).
2. Table excludes high-volume records because not all items were included on the high-volume form.
3. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Table 3.9: SAAP closed support periods with accommodation for clients aged 12–24 years: type of accommodation immediately before and after a support period by existence of support plan (per cent)

Type of accommodation	Before support				After support			
	Support plan	No support plan	Total		Support plan	No support plan	Total	
			%	Number			%	Number
SAAP or other emergency housing	66.6	33.4	100.0	1,900	71.5	28.5	100.0	1,300
Living rent-free in house/flat	70.4	29.6	100.0	1,500	71.1	28.9	100.0	1,050
Private rental	70.4	29.6	100.0	550	82.9	17.1	100.0	500
Public or community housing	63.5	36.5	100.0	250	80.3	19.7	100.0	300
Rooming house/hostel/hotel/caravan	69.4	30.6	100.0	300	69.9	30.1	100.0	200
Boarding in a private home	75.1	24.9	100.0	800	79.2	20.8	100.0	650
Living in a car/tent/park/street/squat	67.5	32.5	100.0	150	74.1	25.9	100.0	50
Institutional	71.0	29.0	100.0	400	72.4	27.6	100.0	250
Other	61.0	39.0	100.0	400	72.3	27.7	100.0	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>68.9</i>	<i>31.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>74.4</i>	<i>25.6</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
<i>Total (number with valid data)</i>	<i>4,300</i>	<i>1,950</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>6,250</i>	<i>3,300</i>	<i>1,150</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>4,450</i>
Number with missing data	..	..	..	850	..	..	..	2,650
Total (number)	..	..	..	7,050	..	..	..	7,050

Notes

1. Table excludes high-volume records because not all items were included on the high-volume form.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

Appendix: Errors and omissions relating to age

The tables contained in this report do not include the errors and omissions relating to age. This is due to the fact that the report deals with specific age ranges. To calculate the age, year of birth is required and if the value in this field contains an error or is missing, then the record is excluded from the calculations. For more information, see the counting rules in Appendix 1 of *Young Homeless People in Australia 2001–02* (AIHW 2003).

To estimate the errors and omissions for age it is necessary to calculate the number of errors and omissions for age in the total data set and then determine the proportion of these that relates to the age ranges used in the report. To do this, the percentage of clients or support periods in the age bracket is applied to the total age errors and omissions of either clients or support periods, whichever is appropriate. For example, if 40% of SAAP clients are in the 12–24 year age bracket, then the estimated errors and omissions for age relating to 12–24 year-olds is 40% of the total age errors and omissions for clients.

The errors and omissions below are in addition to the errors and omissions already presented in the footnotes to the tables.

Table A1: Estimated errors and omissions for age, New South Wales, 2001–02

Type	Age range	Total number	Errors and omissions
Clients	12–24	8,950	40
	25+	17,250	80
	Total	26,200	120
Support periods	12–24	14,400	40
	25+	33,250	100
	Total	47,600	140
Closed support periods	12–24	12,500	40
	25+	30,700	90
	Total	43,200	120
Closed support periods with accommodation	12–24	8,250	<25
	25+	25,300	70
	Total	33,550	100

Notes

1. Total numbers are rounded to 50. Errors and omissions are rounded to 10.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

References

AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2000. SAAP National Data Collection accompanying children report 1998 Australia. AIHW cat. no. HOU 39. Canberra: AIHW (SAAP NDCA report).

AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2002. Homeless people in SAAP: SAAP National Data Collection annual report 2001–02 New South Wales supplementary tables. AIHW cat. no. HOU 73. Canberra: AIHW (SAAP NDCA report. Series 7).

AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2003. Young homeless people in Australia 2001–02. AIHW cat. no. HOU 87. Canberra: AIHW (SAAP NDCA report).

CACH (Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness) 2001. Working towards a national homelessness strategy. Canberra: FaCS.