

5 Juvenile justice supervision

Chapter 5 looks at the juvenile justice supervision of young people during 2000–01 to 2005–06. The first data presented are the amount and type of supervision, followed by comparisons by sex, age and Indigenous status. As outlined in Section 2.1.2 (*episode collection*), *supervision periods* are the main unit of analysis of contacts with juvenile justice supervision. *Episodes*, which are contained within the *supervision periods*, provide details on the highest level of supervision experienced by a young person at any given time, based on the hierarchy as outlined in Section 2.1.2.

5.1 Supervision periods

Supervision periods represent periods of continuous contact with juvenile justice supervision. A *supervision period* ends when there are two or more consecutive days with no current supervision. A new *supervision period* begins when the young person is next under juvenile justice supervision as a result of having committed or allegedly committed an offence. The data in this section centre on completed *supervision periods*. Some young people may be still in a *supervision period* at the end of the collection year (30 June). These *supervision periods* are considered ‘open’ and are not included in these results.

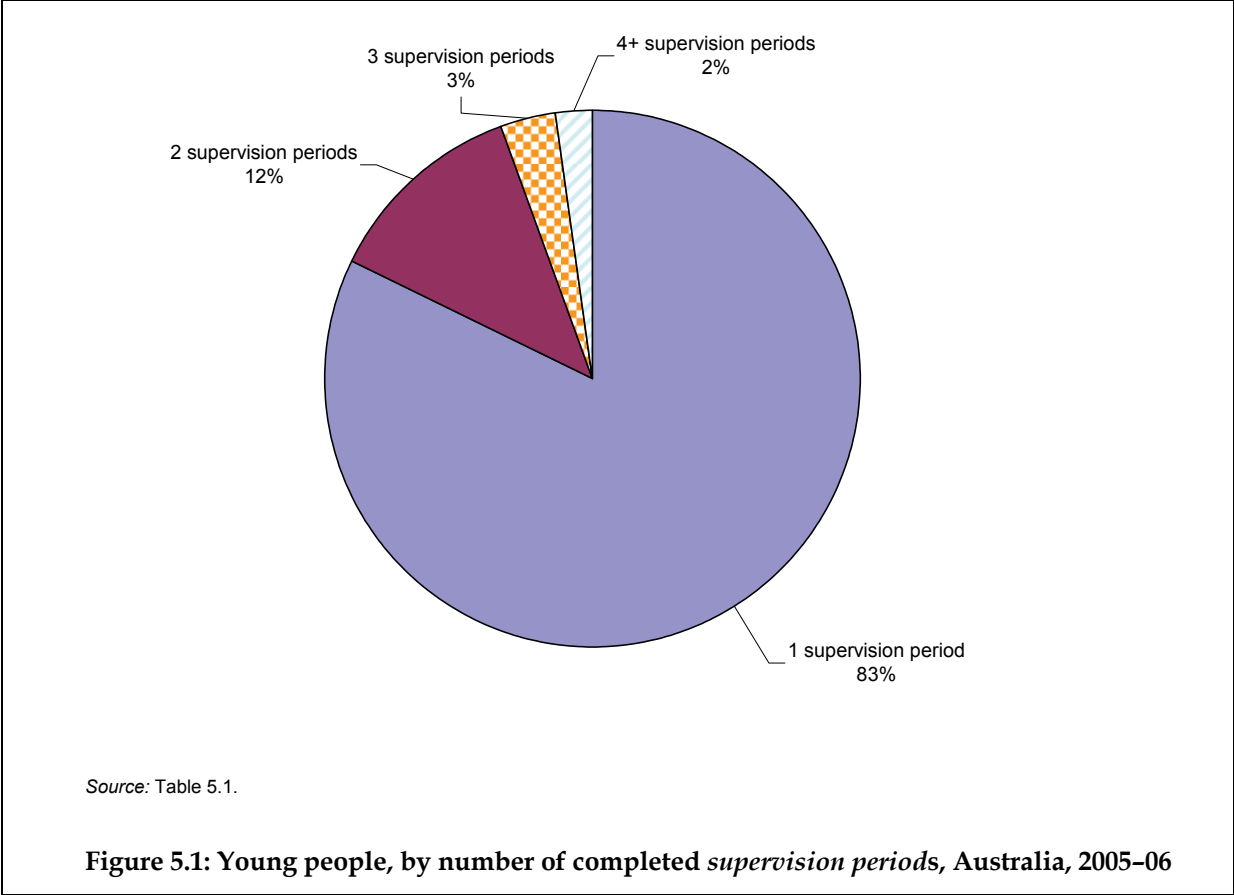
5.1.1 Number of supervision periods completed

Of all young people under juvenile justice supervision in 2005–06, 82% completed only one *supervision period* during the year (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1: Young people, by number of completed supervision periods, states and territories, 2005–06

Number of supervision periods	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of young people)									
1	2,107	1,020	1,322	1,489	717	261	152	154	7,222
2	390	70	63	400	104	9	16	30	1,082
3	130	5	15	97	37	—	5	5	294
4+	77	—	1	86	21	—	2	3	190
Total	2,704	1,095	1,401	2,072	879	270	175	192	8,788
(per cent of young people)									
1	77.9	93.2	94.4	71.9	81.6	96.7	86.9	80.2	82.2
2	14.4	6.4	4.5	19.3	11.8	3.3	9.1	15.6	12.3
3	4.8	0.5	1.1	4.7	4.2	—	2.9	2.6	3.3
4+	2.8	—	0.1	4.2	2.4	—	1.1	1.6	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The totals for Australia indicate that only a small proportion of young people had more than one or two completed *supervision periods* during the year 2005-06 (Figure 5.1).



5.1.2 Length of supervision periods

Duration was calculated for all *supervision periods* that began on or after 1 July 2000 and ended in 2005–06. For example, a *supervision period* that began on 3 May 2003 and ended on 31 July 2005 appears in the category '24 months and over' in the following table.

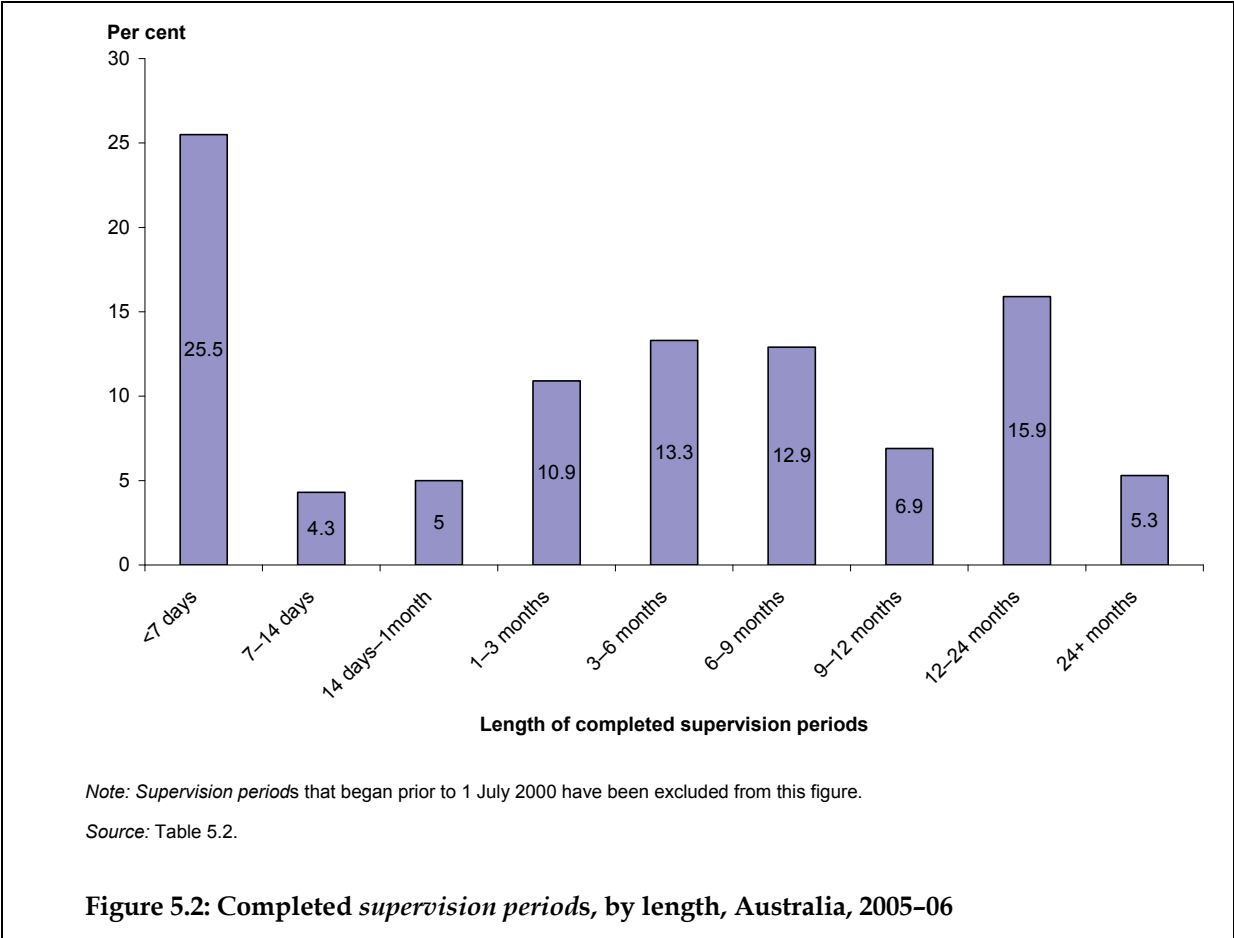
Supervision periods completed during 2005–06 varied in length from fewer than 7 days (26%) to 12 months or more (21%) (Table 5.2). The vast majority of *supervision periods* that lasted for fewer than 7 days contained pre-sentence detention *episodes* (97%, see Table 5.6).

Table 5.2: Completed supervision periods, by length, states and territories, 2005–06

Length of completed supervision periods	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<i>(number of supervision periods)</i>									
Less than 7 days	1,490	39	158	786	304	10	23	48	2,858
7 to less than 14 days	155	14	19	225	41	3	7	13	477
14 days to less than 1 month	141	30	33	231	82	6	18	16	557
1 to less than 3 months	271	155	79	503	151	10	24	31	1,224
3 to less than 6 months	371	179	141	612	111	21	28	26	1,489
6 to less than 9 months	384	261	246	383	91	30	23	20	1,438
9 to less than 12 months	275	133	129	130	64	18	6	17	772
12 to less than 24 months	435	319	468	128	201	104	62	56	1,773
24 months+	121	45	224	8	93	77	16	14	598
Total	3,643	1,175	1,497	3,006	1,138	279	207	241	11,186
<i>(per cent of supervision periods)</i>									
Less than 7 days	40.9	3.3	10.6	26.1	26.7	3.6	11.1	19.9	25.5
7 to less than 14 days	4.3	1.2	1.3	7.5	3.6	1.1	3.4	5.4	4.3
14 days to less than 1 month	3.9	2.6	2.2	7.7	7.2	2.2	8.7	6.6	5.0
1 to less than 3 months	7.4	13.2	5.3	16.7	13.3	3.6	11.6	12.9	10.9
3 to less than 6 months	10.2	15.2	9.4	20.4	9.8	7.5	13.5	10.8	13.3
6 to less than 9 months	10.5	22.2	16.4	12.7	8.0	10.8	11.1	8.3	12.9
9 to less than 12 months	7.5	11.3	8.6	4.3	5.6	6.5	2.9	7.1	6.9
12 to less than 24 months	11.9	27.1	31.3	4.3	17.7	37.3	30.0	23.2	15.9
24 months+	3.3	3.8	15.0	0.3	8.2	27.6	7.7	5.8	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Supervision periods that began before 1 July 2000 have been excluded from this table.

The variation in the average length of *supervision periods* completed during 2005-06 is illustrated in Figure 5.2. Data are presented for each length as the percentage of all *supervision periods*. Peaks can be seen at less than 7 days, 3-9 months and 12-24 months.



The relationship between the number and length of *supervision periods* completed in 2005–06 shows that the more *supervision periods* completed, the shorter they were likely to be (Table 5.3). When young people completed four or more *supervision periods* within a year, over 75% of those *supervision periods* lasted for less than 1 month. The majority of young people (82%) completed one *supervision period* during the year. While almost 30% of these lasted for fewer than 3 months, 30% lasted for 12 months or longer.

There were 2,201 young people who completed a single *supervision period* that lasted 12 months or longer (Table 5.3). Further analysis revealed that 1,235 (56%) of these long *supervision periods* contained *episodes* of sentenced community-based supervision of over 12 months in length. The remainder of these long *supervision periods* comprised several shorter *episodes* of various types. This means that 966 young people (11% of all young people) who completed a *supervision period* in 2005–06 remained in supervision for over 12 months and completed multiple short *episodes* during that time.

Table 5.3: Young people, by number and average length of completed *supervision periods*, Australia, 2005–06

Number	<7 days	7 to <14 days	14 days to <1 month	1 to <3 months	3 to <6 months	6 to <9 months	9 to <12 months	12 to <24 months	24 months+	Total
(number of young people)										
1	1,156	154	207	602	1,043	1,173	686	1,635	566	7,222
2	237	52	82	227	269	129	47	38	1	1,082
3	84	31	42	85	36	12	3	1	—	294
4+	80	32	34	36	8	—	—	—	—	190
Total	1,557	269	365	950	1,356	1,314	736	1,674	567	8,788
(per cent of young people)										
1	16.0	2.1	2.9	8.3	14.4	16.2	9.5	22.6	7.8	100.0
2	21.9	4.8	7.6	21.0	24.9	11.9	4.3	3.5	0.1	100.0
3	28.6	10.5	14.3	28.9	12.2	4.1	1.0	0.3	—	100.0
4+	42.1	16.8	17.9	18.9	4.2	—	—	—	—	100.0

Notes

- Supervision periods that began prior to 1 July 2000 have been excluded from this table.
- Where a young person has completed more than one supervision period during the year, the lengths have been averaged so that each young person is represented in this table once.

5.2 Community supervision and detention

This section examines community-based and detention-based supervision. It is important to remember when reading this section that the NMDS captures information only on young people subject to juvenile justice supervision. Many young people are given unsupervised bail before appearing in court for trial or sentencing, and this is not reflected in the NMDS data. The relatively common occurrence of bail is apparent in the reasons for exit from pre-sentence detention (remand) (see Table 5.9).

Table 5.4 shows the proportion of time within a *supervision period* that is spent in sentenced community and detention-based supervision, regardless of the length of the *supervision period*. In this table, the proportion of time spent by young people in either community-based supervision or detention is expressed as the percentage of the total duration spent under juvenile justice supervision, measured in person days. Person days are calculated simply by summing the total number of days spent by all people in either detention or community supervision (see Section 1.4). Due to jurisdictional differences in legislation, Table 5.4 is restricted to sentenced community-based supervision and sentenced detention *episode* types only.

On average, young people spent most of their time in sentenced supervision in the community rather than in detention. Overall for Australia, 90% of the sentenced time was spent in community-based supervision and only 10% in detention. Victoria (19%) had the highest proportion of days in detention-based supervision.

Table 5.4: Proportion of person days in supervision, by sentenced *episode* type, states and territories, 2005–06

Sentenced <i>episode</i> type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(per cent of person days in sentenced supervision)									
Community	85.0	81.4	96.9	90.1	91.8	84.9	90.5	91.0	89.6
Detention	15.0	18.6	3.1	9.9	8.2	15.1	9.5	9.0	10.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: The denominator for the proportions is the total time in sentenced supervision across the entire jurisdiction, with the numerator being the total time either in sentenced community or in detention across the entire jurisdiction.

At both pre-sentence and sentenced stages, detention-based *episodes* were generally much shorter than community-based *episodes* (Table 5.5). Pre-sentence *episodes* had a median length of 3 days when detention-based (that is, *episodes* of remand), compared with 47 days for community-based (that is, *episodes* of supervised bail). For sentenced *episodes*, community supervision was almost two times longer than detention (median lengths 147 days and 83 days respectively).

It should be remembered that where a young person may have multiple potential *episodes* concurrently, the *episode* that will be counted here is the highest according to the hierarchy (see 'Hierarchy of *episode* types', Section 2.1.2). Therefore, if a young person has both detention and community supervision simultaneously, it is the detention *episode* that will be counted in the collection. This is in keeping with the focus of the NMDS being on the actual experience of supervision.

Table 5.5: Median length of completed *episodes* (in days), by *episode* type, states and territories, 2005–06

<i>Episode</i> type	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Pre-sentence									
Community	40	83	35	67 ^(a)	31	83 ^(a)	38	30 ^(a)	47
Detention	2	16	5	5	2	30	3	3	3
Sentenced									
Community	126	214	163	125	105	365	177	124	147
Detention	59	104	84	63	79	167	184	38	83
Parole or supervised release	69	124	45	85	—	57	—	—	88

(a) The number of observations contributing to this cell is fewer than ten.

Notes

1. The use of the *episode* hierarchy may shorten or hide *episodes* that are lower on the hierarchy.
2. In this table, contiguous detention *episodes* of the same type that are separated by a transfer within detention are considered to be one *episode* and their length summed.
3. *Episodes* that began prior to 1 July 2000 are excluded from this table.

Table 5.6 examines the proportion of time spent in particular types of *episodes* that ended in 2005–06 by the length of the *supervision period*. In this table, proportions are based on the total duration of all *supervision periods* of a particular length.

For example, for the first row of the table, there were approximately 4,000 days (4 x 1,000) served by young people in *supervision periods* of fewer than 7 days in 2005–06. Of this time, about 3,900 days (97%) were served in pre-sentence detention.

Shorter *supervision periods* of fewer than 14 days mostly comprised pre-sentence detention *episodes*. For longer *supervision periods* of between 6 and 24 months, around 70% of the total *supervision period* duration consisted of sentenced community *episodes*.

Overall, 67% of the total duration of *supervision periods* completed in 2005–06 was spent in sentenced community *episodes*.

Table 5.6: Proportion of person days in supervision, by *episode* type and length of completed *supervision period*, Australia, 2005–06 (row per cent)

Length of <i>supervision period</i>	Episode type					Total	Total number of days ('000)
	Pre-sentence community	Pre-sentence detention	Sentenced community	Sentenced detention	Sentenced other ^(a)		
	(per cent of person days)						
Less than 7 days	0.6	97.1	0.8	1.1	0.5	100.0	4
7 to less than 14 days	4.0	88.0	3.6	2.6	1.8	100.0	4
14 days to less than 1 month	13.5	57.7	16.3	5.4	7.1	100.0	11
1 to 3 months	22.2	21.1	32.4	9.0	15.4	100.0	70
3 to 6 months	11.1	5.3	62.1	7.9	13.6	100.0	190
6 to 9 months	5.5	3.1	73.1	6.3	12.1	100.0	298
9 to 12 months	5.7	3.4	68.9	6.8	15.2	100.0	235
12 to less than 24 months	3.8	3.7	72.4	5.7	14.5	100.0	825
24 months+	2.6	6.3	63.5	11.8	15.8	100.0	610
Total	5.1	5.6	67.0	7.8	14.4	100.0	2,247

(a) Other includes immediate release or suspended detention, parole/supervised release, home detention, other sentenced *episode* type.

A young person's *supervision period* may contain several *episode* types, and Table 5.7 examines the relative frequency with which different types of *episodes* occur in *supervision periods*. Each cell in Table 5.7 indicates the number of *supervision periods* containing at least one *episode* of the *episode* type (row) expressed as a percentage of all *supervision periods* completed in that jurisdiction (column).

Where a young person was subject to pre-sentence supervision (which does not include unsupervised bail), the supervision was more likely to be detention-based than community-based (52% of all completed *supervision periods* contained *episodes* of pre-sentence detention, and only 11% contained *episodes* of pre-sentence community supervision).

The opposite was found for sentenced *episodes*. Community-based sentenced *episodes* occurred almost five times as often as detention-based.

Percentages do not add to 100% because each *supervision period* may contain more than one type of *episode*. For example, one *supervision period* may consist of an *episode* of sentenced community supervision, then an *episode* of pre-sentence detention, and another *episode* of sentenced community supervision. This *supervision period* would be represented in the table as containing both sentenced community supervision and pre-sentence detention *episode* types.

Table 5.7: Completed *supervision periods*, by *episode* type, states and territories, 2005–06 (per cent)

<i>Episode type</i>	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Pre-sentence									
Community	10.4	30.8	6.3	0.3	21.8	0.7	56.0	1.2	10.8
Detention	70.5	16.0	37.4	49.6	57.2	21.5	63.8	59.3	51.8
Sentenced									
Community	35.5	54.3	81.0	36.9	45.8	73.8	52.7	54.8	46.7
Detention	11.1	22.6	6.3	5.5	7.2	15.4	10.1	18.7	10.0
Other	10.4	15.3	11.4	22.1	10.6	30.8	0.5	21.2	14.8
Total	3,643	1,175	1,497	3,006	1,138	279	207	241	11,186

Notes

1. Data on unsupervised bail are not collected in the NMDS and hence are not included in the pre-sentence figures.
2. Column percentages will not add to 100% because each *supervision period* may contain more than one type of *episode*.
3. Other includes immediate release or suspended detention, parole/supervised release, home detention, other sentenced *episode* type.

Table 5.8 provides an overview of the frequency of particular combinations of pre-sentence and sentenced *episode* types, which form *supervision periods*. Each *supervision period* is counted once with the total accounting for all of the *supervision periods* ended in 2005–06.

The two most common types of *supervision periods* were those containing only community-based sentenced *episodes* (35%), and those containing only pre-sentence detention *episodes* (33%).

Table 5.8: Completed supervision periods, by sentenced and pre-sentenced episode type, Australia, 2005–06

Pre-sentenced episodes included in supervision periods	Sentenced episodes included in supervision periods					Total
	Community ^(a)	Detention ^(a)	Community and detention ^(a) (number of supervision periods)	Other only ^(b)	No sentenced episodes	
Community only	146	15	6	6	392	565
Detention only	640	325	221	219	3,741	5,146
Community and detention	231	37	57	21	301	647
No pre-sentence episodes	3,860	399	59	510	—	4,828
Total	4,877	776	343	756	4,434	11,186
			(per cent of supervision periods)			
Community only	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.5	5.1
Detention only	5.7	2.9	2.0	2.0	33.4	46.0
Community and detention	2.1	0.3	0.5	0.2	2.7	5.8
No pre-sentence episodes	34.5	3.6	0.5	4.6	—	43.2
Total	43.6	6.9	3.1	6.8	39.6	100.0

(a) With or without other.

(b) Other includes immediate release or suspended detention, parole/supervised release, home detention, other sentenced episode type.

Notes

1. Data on unsupervised bail are not collected in the NMDS and hence are not included in the pre-sentence figures.
2. The use of the episode hierarchy may shorten or hide episodes that are lower on the hierarchy.

Both the number of young people in pre-sentence detention (remand) and the outcome of this detention are of concern for many states and territories in Australia. Policy and legislative differences among jurisdictions on issues such as diversion and supported bail are likely to impact on the use and outcome of pre-sentence detention.

The incidences and outcomes of pre-sentence detention *episodes* are presented by jurisdiction in Table 5.9. Overall, over 60% of all pre-sentence detention *episodes* completed in 2005–06 ended with the young person being released on bail. A further 27% (1,641) of pre-sentence detention *episodes* ended with the young person being sentenced; however, only 9% of all pre-sentence detention *episodes* were ended by ‘sentenced’ with an *episode* of detention immediately following. There is some variation among states and territories in the outcomes of pre-sentence detention *episodes*.

Table 5.9: Pre-sentence detention *episodes*, by reason for exit, states and territories, 2005–06

Reason for exit from pre-sentence detention	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
(number of pre-sentence detention episodes)									
Released on bail	2,866	24	120	210	449	34	131	55	3,889
Matters proven/charges dismissed	47	0	0	11	6	34	0	16	114
Sentenced	580	203	583	22	74	4	97	78	1,641
<i>Next episode type: detention</i>	323	77	90	10	1	4	16	37	558
Other	103	87	142	145	52	8	11	3	551
Total	3,596	314	845	388	581	80	239	152	6,195
(per cent of pre-sentence detention episodes)									
Released on bail	79.7	7.6	14.2	54.1	77.3	42.5	54.8	36.2	62.8
Matters proven/charges dismissed	1.3	—	—	2.8	1.0	42.5	—	10.5	1.8
Sentenced	16.1	64.6	69.0	5.7	12.7	5.0	40.6	51.3	26.5
<i>Next episode type: detention</i>	9.0	24.5	10.7	2.6	0.2	5.0	6.7	24.3	9.0
Other	2.9	27.7	16.8	37.4	9.0	10.0	4.6	2.0	8.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Other includes more serious order begun, escaped/absconded, died and other reasons for exit.
2. This table excludes pre-court *episodes*.
3. Queensland JJ NMDs data records ‘Released on bail’ as a reason for exit only for pre-sentence *episodes* that are followed by a period of conditional bail. For this reason, frequencies for ‘Released on bail’ for Queensland should be considered a significant underestimate of actual exits to periods of bail.

5.3 Sex comparisons

This section compares the *supervision periods* of males and females in terms of the number and length of *supervision periods*, length of *episodes* within the *supervision periods*, *episode* types and exits from pre-sentence detention (remand) *episodes*.

Proportionally, there were no marked differences between males and females in the number of *supervision periods* completed in 2005–06 (Table 5.10). The proportion of young people who completed four or more *supervision periods* during the year was slightly higher for females (3%) than males (2%).

Table 5.10: Young people, by sex and number of completed *supervision periods*, Australia, 2005–06

Number of <i>supervision periods</i>	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
	(number of young people)			
1	5,954	1,266	2	7,222
2	924	158	—	1,082
3	244	50	—	294
4+	145	45	—	190
Total	7,267	1,519	2	8,788
	(per cent of young people)			
1	81.9	83.3	100.0	82.2
2	12.7	10.4	—	12.3
3	3.4	3.3	—	3.3
4+	2.0	3.0	—	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

There was a slight tendency for females to have shorter *supervision periods* than males during 2005–06 (Table 5.11); 36% of *supervision periods* completed by females were less than 14 days in length, compared with 29% for males. The reverse occurs for longer *supervision periods*, with 22% of the *supervision periods* completed by males lasting 12 months or longer, compared with 17% for females.

The results of Tables 5.10 and 5.11 combine to show that females had a higher proportion of short *supervision periods* during 2005–06 than males.

Table 5.11: Completed *supervision periods*, by sex and length of *supervision periods*, Australia, 2005–06

Length of <i>supervision periods</i>	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
(number of <i>supervision periods</i>)				
Less than 7 days	2,236	622	—	2,858
7 to less than 14 days	394	83	—	477
14 days to less than 1 month	462	95	—	557
1 to less than 3 months	1,061	162	1	1,224
3 to less than 6 months	1,242	247	—	1,489
6 to less than 9 months	1,165	273	—	1,438
9 to less than 12 months	636	135	1	772
12 to less than 24 months	1,510	263	—	1,773
24 months+	521	77	—	598
Total	9,227	1,957	2	11,186
(per cent of <i>supervision periods</i>)				
Less than 7 days	24.2	31.8	—	25.5
7 to less than 14 days	4.3	4.2	—	4.3
14 days to less than 1 month	5.0	4.9	—	5.0
1 to less than 3 months	11.5	8.3	50.0	10.9
3 to less than 6 months	13.5	12.6	—	13.3
6 to less than 9 months	12.6	13.9	—	12.9
9 to less than 12 months	6.9	6.9	50.0	6.9
12 to less than 24 months	16.4	13.4	—	15.9
24 months+	5.6	3.9	—	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	..	100.0

Note: Supervision periods that began prior to 1 July 2000 are excluded from this table.

The median length of sentenced episodes was generally longer for females than for males (Table 5.12). Sentenced community-based *episodes* for females were a median of 170 days, compared to 142 days for males during 2005–06. For sentenced detention, the median length for females was 84 days and for males 83 days.

Table 5.12: Median length of *episodes* (days), by sex and *episode* type, Australia, 2005–06

<i>Episode</i> type	Male	Female	Total
Pre-sentence			
Community	49	37	47
Detention	4	2	3
Sentenced			
Community	142	170	147
Detention	83	84	83
Parole or supervised release	89	77	88

Notes

1. In this table, contiguous detention *episodes* of the same type that are separated by a transfer within detention are considered to be one *episode* and their length summed.
2. The use of the *episode* hierarchy may shorten or hide *episodes* that are lower on the hierarchy.

Supervision periods may contain several *episode* types in different sequences. During 2005–06 there were few differences between males and females in the proportion of *supervision periods* containing pre-sentence *episode* types (Table 5.13). The most pronounced difference was for sentenced detention *episodes*, which appeared in 11% of the *supervision periods* of males and 5% for females during 2005–06. For both males and females, around 47% of *supervision periods* in 2005–06 contained *episodes* of sentenced community-based supervision.

Table 5.13: Completed *supervision periods*, by sex and *episode* type, Australia, 2005–06 (per cent)

<i>Episode</i> type	Male	Female	Total
Pre-sentence			
Community	10.9	10.5	10.8
Detention	51.6	52.9	51.8
Sentenced			
Community	46.5	47.4	46.7
Detention	11.2	4.6	10.0
Other	16.2	8.0	14.8
Total number of <i>supervision periods</i>	9,227	1,957	11,186

Notes

1. Data on unsupervised bail are not collected in the NMDS.
2. Percentages will not add to 100% because each *supervision period* may contain more than one type of *episode*.
3. Other includes: immediate release or suspended detention, parole/supervised release, home detention, other sentenced *episode* type.

Females were more often released on bail from pre-sentence detention *episodes* than males. In 2005–06, bail was the reason for exit for 70% of pre-sentence detention *episodes* of females and 62% for males (Table 5.14). Ending a pre-sentence detention *episodes* with being sentenced was less common among females than males (20% and 28%, respectively) and being sentenced to detention following pre-sentence detention was also less common for females than males (4% and 10%, respectively).

Table 5.14: Pre-sentence detention *episodes*, by sex and reason for exit, Australia, 2005–06

Reasons for exit from pre-sentence detention <i>episodes</i>	Male	Female	Total
(number of pre-sentence detention <i>episodes</i>)			
Released on bail	3,233	656	3,889
Matters proven/charges dismissed	86	28	114
Sentenced	1,455	186	1,641
<i>Next episode type: detention</i>	520	38	558
Other	478	73	551
Total	5,252	943	6,195
(per cent of pre-sentence detention <i>episodes</i>)			
Released on bail	61.6	69.6	62.8
Matters proven/charges dismissed	1.6	3.0	1.8
Sentenced	27.7	19.7	26.5
<i>Next episode type: detention</i>	9.9	4.0	9.0
Other	9.1	7.7	8.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Other includes more serious order begun, escaped/absconded, died and other reasons for exit.
2. This table excludes pre-court *episodes*.
3. Queensland JJ NMDS data records 'Released on bail' as a reason for exit only for pre-sentence *episodes* that are followed by a period of conditional bail. For this reason, frequencies for 'Released on bail' may be an underestimate of actual exits to periods of bail.

5.4 Age comparisons

This section compares older and younger people in terms of the number and length of *supervision periods* and the types of supervision they experienced during 2005–06 to examine whether the experiences of people who are younger during juvenile justice supervision may be different from those who are older at that time.

There was a tendency for younger people to have completed more *supervision periods* during 2005–06 than older people in juvenile justice supervision (Table 5.15). Of young people aged 12 years or under, 18% completed at least three *supervision periods* during 2005–06, compared to 3% of those aged 16 years or older. A more complete picture of these differences is found when looking at these results in combination with the results in Table 5.16 regarding the length of completed *supervision periods*.

Table 5.15: Young people, by age and number of completed *supervision periods*, Australia, 2005–06

Number of <i>supervision periods</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
(number of young people)										
1	11	40	93	307	665	1,104	1,657	1,975	1,370	7,222
2	2	10	28	84	134	226	280	260	58	1,082
3	1	5	13	28	59	66	63	56	3	294
4+	3	8	10	20	47	46	37	18	1	190
Total	17	63	144	439	905	1,442	2,037	2,309	1,432	8,788
(per cent of young people)										
1	64.7	63.5	64.6	69.9	73.5	76.6	81.3	85.5	95.7	82.2
2	11.8	15.9	19.4	19.1	14.8	15.7	13.7	11.3	4.1	12.3
3	5.9	7.9	9.0	6.4	6.5	4.6	3.1	2.4	0.2	3.3
4+	17.6	12.7	6.9	4.6	5.2	3.2	1.8	0.8	0.1	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

On average, the younger a person was at the start of juvenile justice supervision, the shorter the *supervision period* completed during 2005–06 (Table 5.16). Just under one-third (31%) of *supervision periods* of young people aged 10–12 years were less than 7 days in length, compared with 28% for 17 year olds and 16% for those aged 18 years or over during 2005–06. There was less difference for longer *supervision periods*: 21% of *supervision periods* completed by young people who were aged 10–12 years upon entry were 12 months or longer, compared with 23% for those aged 18 years or older.

Young people aged 10–12 years were most likely to have completed a higher number of relatively short *supervision periods*, compared with other age groups.

Table 5.16: Completed *supervision periods*, by age and length of *supervision periods*, Australia, 2005–06

Length of <i>supervision periods</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
(number of <i>supervision periods</i>)										
Less than 7 days	20	70	139	259	487	623	585	583	92	2,858
7 to less than 14 days	1	6	26	68	76	105	90	98	7	477
14 days to less than 1 month	2	19	34	62	90	111	121	93	25	557
1 to less than 3 months	5	22	47	121	190	245	252	262	80	1,224
3 to less than 6 months	5	19	53	136	199	303	360	299	115	1,489
6 to less than 9 months	1	25	47	129	210	280	371	294	81	1,438
9 to less than 12 months	4	9	29	78	121	132	199	156	44	772
12 to less than 24 months	5	29	63	202	324	387	411	251	101	1,773
24 months+	4	17	40	90	119	141	101	52	34	598
Total	47	216	478	1,145	1,816	2,327	2,490	2,088	579	11,186
(per cent of <i>supervision periods</i>)										
Less than 7 days	42.6	32.4	29.1	22.6	26.8	26.8	23.5	27.9	15.9	25.5
7 to less than 14 days	2.1	2.8	5.4	5.9	4.2	4.5	3.6	4.7	1.2	4.3
14 days to less than 1 month	4.3	8.8	7.1	5.4	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.5	4.3	5.0
1 to less than 3 months	10.6	10.2	9.8	10.6	10.5	10.5	10.1	12.5	13.8	10.9
3 to less than 6 months	10.6	8.8	11.1	11.9	11.0	13.0	14.5	14.3	19.9	13.3
6 to less than 9 months	2.1	11.6	9.8	11.3	11.6	12.0	14.9	14.1	14.0	12.9
9 to less than 12 months	8.5	4.2	6.1	6.8	6.7	5.7	8.0	7.5	7.6	6.9
12 to less than 24 months	10.6	13.4	13.2	17.6	17.8	16.6	16.5	12.0	17.4	15.9
24 months+	8.5	7.9	8.4	7.9	6.6	6.1	4.1	2.5	5.9	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Age is calculated as at entry to the *supervision period*.
2. *Supervision periods* that began prior to 1 July 2000 have been excluded from this table.

The median length of *episodes* was related to age for *episodes* completed during 2005–06. After ages 13 and 14 years, there is a pattern of increasing median *episode* lengths with increasing age (Table 5.17). For young people aged less than 13 years, while there is variation among this age group in the median length of *episodes*, they were generally shorter than those of young people aged 16 years or older.

Table 5.17: Median length of *episodes* (days), by age and *episode* type, Australia, 2005–06

<i>Episode</i> type	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
Pre-sentence										
Community	^(a) 27	22	34	44	29	43	49	54	83	47
Detention	1	2	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Sentenced										
Community	^(a) 92	111	118	128	117	143	160	159	173	147
Detention	—	^(a) 45	53	51	79	53	76	87	106	83
Parole or supervised release	—	—	21	48	49	69	62	80	144	88

(a) The number of observations contributing to this cell is fewer than ten.

Notes

1. In this table, contiguous detention *episodes* of the same type that are separated by a transfer within detention are considered to be one *episode* and their length summed.
2. The use of the *episode* hierarchy may shorten or hide *episodes* that are lower on the hierarchy.
3. Age is calculated as at entry to the *episode*.

Table 5.18 shows the percentage of *supervision periods* that contain various types of *episodes*. In this table, a *supervision period* will be represented more than once if it contains more than one type of *episode*. Some patterns were apparent in the proportion of *supervision periods* containing detention *episodes* experienced by young people of different ages (Table 5.18). The *supervision periods* of 10–14 year olds more often included *episodes* of pre-sentence and sentenced detention than those of young people aged 15–17 years. Sentenced detention was most often seen for those aged 18 years or over, with 17% of *supervision periods* for young people in this age group containing sentenced detention *episodes*.

For community-based supervision, a more complicated pattern is seen. Pre-sentence community *episodes* were more likely for young people aged 10-11 years and those aged 18 years and over than for young people of other ages. However, sentenced community was more likely for those aged 13 to 16, compared with other ages. Percentages will not add to 100% because each *supervision period* may contain more than one type of *episode*.

Table 5.18: Completed *supervision periods*, by age and *episode* type, Australia, 2005–06 (per cent)

Episode type	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
Pre-sentence										
Community	14.9	13.9	10.7	11.8	10.6	11.1	8.7	9.6	20.6	10.8
Detention	78.7	68.1	68.6	60.7	58.3	51.5	47.9	48.5	21.4	51.8
Sentenced										
Community	38.3	42.6	41.6	48.8	48.1	48.0	50.5	42.8	36.4	46.7
Detention	12.8	14.4	16.5	15.3	11.3	8.1	8.1	6.5	16.9	10.0
Other	8.5	14.4	16.9	17.9	13.6	12.9	14.2	14.4	22.6	14.8
Number of <i>supervision periods</i>	47	216	478	1,145	1,816	2,327	2,490	2,088	579	11,186

Notes

1. Data on unsupervised bail are not collected in the NMDS.
2. Percentages will not add to 100% because each *supervision period* may contain more than one type of *episode*.
3. Other includes immediate release or suspended detention, parole or supervised released, home detention, other sentenced *episode* type.
4. Age is calculated as at entry to the *supervision period*.

The frequency of reasons for exit from pre-sentence detention varied somewhat with age. For those aged over 11, there was no clear relationship between age and being sentenced following pre-sentence detention, but the likelihood of having detention as the next *episode* after being sentenced increased with age. For those aged 15 and older, 27% of the pre-sentence *episodes* ended in the young person being sentenced and 11% ended with an *episode* of detention following (Table 5.19). However, for those aged 13 or younger, while 23% of the pre-sentence *episodes* ended with the young person being sentenced, only 4% of them ended with the young person being sentenced and having a next *episode* type of detention. Bail was the most common reason for exit from a pre-sentenced *episode* for all age groups, with those aged 10–12 being most likely to be released on bail, compared with other age groups.

Table 5.19: Pre-sentence detention *episodes*, by age and reason for exit, Australia, 2005–06

Reason for exit from pre-sentence detention	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
(number of pre-sentence detention <i>episodes</i>)										
Released on bail	15	75	129	289	604	811	842	944	180	3,889
Matters proven/charges dismissed	0	1	4	7	15	22	20	32	13	114
Sentenced	2	13	41	122	280	345	442	315	81	1,641
<i>Next episode type: detention</i>	0	1	8	22	66	112	152	149	48	558
Other	0	6	10	52	79	115	134	121	34	551
Total	17	95	184	470	978	1,293	1,438	1,412	308	6,195
(per cent of pre-sentence detention <i>episodes</i>)										
Released on bail	88.2	78.9	70.1	61.5	61.8	62.7	58.6	66.9	58.4	62.8
Matters proven/charges dismissed	—	1.1	2.2	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.4	2.3	4.2	1.8
Sentenced	11.8	13.7	22.3	26.0	28.6	26.7	30.7	22.3	26.3	26.5
<i>Next episode type: detention</i>	—	1.1	4.3	4.7	6.7	8.7	10.6	10.6	15.6	9.0
Other	—	6.3	5.4	11.1	8.1	8.9	9.3	8.6	11.0	8.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Other includes more serious order begun, escaped/absconded, died and other reasons for exit.
2. This table excludes pre-court *episodes*.
3. Age is calculated as at entry to the *episode*.
4. Queensland JJ NMDS data records 'Released on bail' as a reason for exit only for pre-sentence *episodes* that are followed by a period of conditional (supervised) bail. For this reason, frequencies for 'Released on bail' may be an underestimate of actual exits to periods of bail.

5.5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

In this section, comparisons are made between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and non-Indigenous young people regarding the number and length of *supervision periods* and the types of supervision.

In 2005–06, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people had a higher proportion of two or more *supervision periods* during the year than non-Indigenous young people (Table 5.20). Around 23% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people completed two or more *supervision periods* during the year, compared with around 15% of non-Indigenous young people.

Table 5.20: Young people, by Indigenous status and number of completed *supervision periods*, Australia, 2005–06

Number of <i>supervision periods</i>	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/ not recorded	Total
	(number of young people)			
1	2,647	4,196	379	7,222
2	557	506	19	1,082
3	149	142	3	294
4+	97	92	1	190
Total	3,450	4,936	402	8,788
	(per cent of young people)			
1	76.7	85.0	94.3	82.2
2	16.1	10.3	4.7	12.3
3	4.3	2.9	0.7	3.3
4+	2.8	1.9	0.2	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

On average, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people completed shorter *supervision periods* during 2005–06 than non-Indigenous young people (Table 5.21). Almost two-thirds (64%) of *supervision periods* completed by Indigenous young people during 2005–06 were less than 6 months long, compared with 56% of those completed by non-Indigenous young people.

Non-Indigenous young people completed relatively more *supervision periods* lasting 12 months or longer than Indigenous young people (24% and 18%, respectively). This may be due to Indigenous young people having generally shorter *episodes* of supervision (see Table 5.22) or to the types of *episodes* contained in their *supervision periods* (see Table 5.23).

Table 5.21: Completed *supervision periods*, by Indigenous status and length of *supervision periods*, Australia, 2005–06

Length of <i>supervision periods</i>	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/ not recorded	Total
(number of <i>supervision periods</i>)				
Less than 7 days	1,181	1,610	67	2,858
7 to less than 14 days	235	233	9	477
14 days to less than 1 month	290	248	19	557
1 to less than 3 months	604	575	45	1,224
3 to less than 6 months	674	739	76	1,489
6 to less than 9 months	553	799	86	1,438
9 to less than 12 months	300	442	30	772
12 to less than 24 months	599	1,107	67	1,773
24+ months	240	326	32	598
Total	4,676	6,079	431	11,186
(per cent of <i>supervision periods</i>)				
Less than 7 days	25.3	26.5	15.5	25.5
7 to less than 14 days	5.0	3.8	2.1	4.3
14 days to less than 1 month	6.2	4.1	4.4	5.0
1 to less than 3 months	12.9	9.5	10.4	10.9
3 to less than 6 months	14.4	12.2	17.6	13.3
6 to less than 9 months	11.8	13.1	20.0	12.9
9 to less than 12 months	6.4	7.3	7.0	6.9
12 to less than 24 months	12.8	18.2	15.5	15.9
24+ months	5.1	5.4	7.4	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Supervision periods that began prior to 1 July 2000 are excluded from this table.

Consistent with the finding that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people tended to complete shorter *supervision periods*, the median length of *episodes* of most types of juvenile justice supervision was also shorter than those of non-Indigenous young people (Table 5.22). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people had shorter median *episode* lengths in community-based pre-sentence supervision and in all types of sentenced supervision. Pre-sentence detention *episodes* were the only type in which Indigenous young people had a greater median length than non-Indigenous young people— 5 and 2 days respectively.

Table 5.22: Median length of *episodes* (days), by Indigenous status and *episode* type, Australia, 2005–06

<i>Episode type</i>	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/ not recorded	Total
Pre-sentence				
Community	35	54	51	47
Detention	5	2	1	3
Sentenced				
Community	124	169	182	147
Detention	67	96	71	83
Parole or supervised release	70	98	^(a) 84	88

(a) The number of observations contributing to this cell is fewer than ten.

Notes

1. In this table, contiguous detention *episodes* of the same type that are separated by a transfer within detention are considered to be one *episode* and their length summed.
2. *Episodes* that began prior to 1 July 2000 are excluded from this table.
3. The use of the *episode* hierarchy may shorten or hide *episodes* that are lower on the hierarchy.

Table 5.23 presents *supervision periods* completed by Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people by examining the proportion of *supervision periods* containing different *episode* types. As *supervision periods* may contain more than one type of *episode*, percentages will not add to 100%.

In 2005–06 a smaller proportion of the *supervision periods* of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people contained *episodes* of community-based supervision, and a larger proportion contained *episodes* of detention, than comparable *supervision periods* of non-Indigenous young people (Table 5.23). This pattern was found for both pre-sentence and sentenced *episodes*.

Fifty-six per cent of *supervision periods* experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people contained *episodes* of pre-sentence detention (remand), compared with 50% for non-Indigenous young people. While pre-sentence community supervision was relatively uncommon for all young people (11%), almost twice as many *supervision periods* of non-Indigenous young people contained such *episodes* compared with those of Indigenous young people.

Supervision periods of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were slightly more likely than those of non-Indigenous young people to contain *episodes* of sentenced detention (11% and 9%, respectively) but less likely to contain *episodes* of sentenced community supervision (44% and 48%, respectively).

Table 5.23: Completed *supervision periods*, by Indigenous status and *episode* type, Australia, 2005–06 (per cent)

<i>Episode type</i>	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/ not recorded	Total
Pre-sentence				
Community	7.5	13.3	12.3	10.8
Detention	56.4	50.1	25.5	51.8
Sentenced				
Community	43.5	48.0	62.9	46.7
Detention	11.4	9.4	4.2	10.0
Other ^(a)	18.8	12.0	10.2	14.8

(a) Other includes: immediate release or suspended detention, parole/supervised release, home detention, other sentenced *episode* type.

Notes

1. Data on unsupervised bail are not collected in the NMDS.
2. Column percentages will not add to 100% because each supervision period may contain more than one *episode* type.

Differences were found between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous young people for reasons for exiting pre-sentence detention *episodes* in both the proportion released on bail and the proportion having an immediate detention *episode* after being sentenced (Table 5.24).

In 2005–06, the proportion of pre-sentence detention *episodes* of Indigenous young people ending with release on bail was less than the proportion for non-Indigenous young people (56% and 68%, respectively). A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people had a detention *episode* immediately following a pre-sentence detention *episode* ending with ‘sentenced’ than non-Indigenous young people (11% and 8%, respectively).

Table 5.24: Pre-sentence detention *episodes*, by Indigenous status and reason for exit, Australia, 2005–06

Reason for exit from pre-sentence detention	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown/not recorded	Total
(number of pre-sentence detention <i>episodes</i>)				
Released on bail	1,533	2,246	110	3,889
Matters proven/charges dismissed	48	60	6	114
Sentenced	884	738	19	1,641
<i>Next episode type: sentenced detention</i>	307	246	5	558
Other	289	251	11	551
Total	2,754	3,295	146	6,195
(per cent of pre-sentence detention <i>episodes</i>)				
Released on bail	55.7	68.2	75.3	62.8
Matters proven/charges dismissed	1.7	1.8	4.1	1.8
Sentenced	32.1	22.4	13.0	26.5
<i>Next episode type: sentenced detention</i>	11.1	7.5	3.4	9.0
Other	10.5	7.6	7.5	8.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Other includes more serious order begun, escaped/absconded, died and other reasons for exit.
2. This table excludes pre-court *episodes*.
3. Queensland JJ NMDS data records ‘Released on bail’ as a reason for exit only for pre-sentence *episodes* that are followed by a period of conditional (supervised) bail. For this reason, frequencies for ‘Released on bail’ may be an underestimate of actual exits to periods of bail.

5.6 Reasons for exit from *episodes*

The relationship among the various types of juvenile justice supervision, as represented by *episode* types, and the reasons why those *episodes* ended provides information about the flow of young people through supervision. This section looks at different types of supervision such as community-based and detention-based, and various possible outcomes including conditions of sentence met, breach and more serious order begun. When reading Table 5.25, it should be remembered that the NMDS can count only one *episode* occurring at any one time. Therefore where more than one *episode* is current, the most serious type according to the *episode* hierarchy is counted. This may hide the outcomes of some *episode* types, as indicated by the use of reason for exit 'more serious order begun'.

Just over 60% of sentenced community supervision *episodes* ended with 'conditions of sentence met'. Sentenced detention *episodes* were likely to end with either 'conditions of sentence met' (36%) or 'released on parole/supervised release' (41%). The *episode* type with the highest record of 'breached' was parole or supervised release (23%).

The proportion of community-based *episodes* (pre-sentence community, sentenced community, immediate release or suspended detention, parole or supervised release) ending with a reason for exit of 'more serious order begun' varied from 20% for parole or supervised release to 33% for pre-sentence community. Further analysis revealed that almost three-quarters (70%) of *episodes* following this reason for exit were pre-sentence detention.

Table 5.25: Completed *episodes*, by *episode* type and reason for exit, Australia, 2005–06 (per cent)

Reason for exit	Pre-sentence community	Pre-sentence detention	Sentenced community	Sentenced detention	Immediate release or suspended detention	Parole or supervised release	Other
Released on bail	0.2	61.4	0.0	1.1	—	—	20.6
Sentenced	10.9	22.6	—	1.6	—	—	—
Transferred	—	1.0	0.1	7.2	0.4	—	—
Breached	12.6	—	8.9	—	20.3	22.9	2.2
More serious order begun	32.5	0.0	25.4	—	21.3	19.9	2.2
Conditions of sentence met	—	0.1	61.0	35.5	54.4	55.2	7.6
Released on parole/supervised release	—	0.2	—	40.8	—	—	—
Matters proven/charges dismissed	0.2	1.6	—	—	0.1	—	—
Other	43.6	13.1	4.5	13.7	3.4	2.0	67.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Transferred does not include transfers from one detention centre to another within a jurisdiction in the same *supervision period*.
2. Some reasons for exit may be due to the result of an appeal.
3. Queensland JJ NMDS data records 'Released on bail' as a reason for exit only for pre-sentence *episodes* that are followed by a period of conditional (supervised) bail. For this reason, frequencies for 'Released on bail' may be an underestimate of actual exits to periods of bail.

5.7 Age at first supervision and number of supervision periods

Many young people who experience juvenile justice supervision appear once and do not return to juvenile justice supervision. However, some young people return multiple times. One of the factors associated with returning to juvenile justice supervision is the age of the young person when he/she first experiences supervision.

In this section, the relationship between age at the first juvenile justice supervision and subsequent number and type of *supervision periods* in later years is examined in several ways. The first two tables examine the supervision history of young people who have completed all possible juvenile justice supervision; that is, due to their ages, they are unlikely to experience any future contact with the juvenile justice system. The final set of tables uses a population consisting of young people who, due to their ages, were eligible to have juvenile justice supervision for the years 2001–02 to 2005–06.

In the first table (Table 5.26), the number of completed *supervision periods* is presented for young people who first began juvenile justice supervision in 2000–01, which is the first year of data in the NMDS. The population of this table is restricted to young people who were aged between 12 and 17 at the start of the year of their first supervision so that the table will contain their complete juvenile supervision history, as those who were 12 in 2000–01 will have turned 17 in 2005–06 (the most recent year of data) and therefore it is unlikely they will experience any further juvenile justice supervision in future years, as they will be aged 18 and over. This enables us to examine the relationship between age at first supervision and the number of completed *supervision periods* for young people who began supervision in a common year.

Table 5.27 uses a different population to examine the same relationship. In this table, the number of completed *supervision periods* is presented for young people who were 17 at the start of 2005–06, meaning they turned 18 during 2005–06 and therefore will be unlikely to experience juvenile justice supervision in future years. However, the population of this table experienced their first supervision not only at different ages but also in different years, allowing us to examine whether a relationship between age at first supervision and the number of completed *supervision periods* exists regardless of the year in which supervision began.

In the remaining tables (Tables 5.28, 5.29, 5.30 and 5.31), the relationship between age at first supervision and subsequent contact with the juvenile justice supervision system is explored using the histories of young people who experienced their first supervision during 2001–02 and who were aged between 10 and 14 years at that time. This group is chosen because young people in this age group in 2001–02 are within the age range for having further contact with the juvenile justice system over the five years (2001–02 to 2005–06), while young people aged 15 or older in 2001–02 would be over 18 by 2005–06. As seen in Section 3.3, young people are much less likely to be in juvenile justice supervision when aged 18 or over because of the legislative definition of juveniles. For this population, the number of *supervision periods* completed as of 30 June 2006 (Tables 5.28 and 5.29) and the number of young people entering or leaving juvenile justice supervision over time (Tables 5.30, 5.31, 5.32) are presented by age at first supervision.

Table 5.26 presents the number of *supervision periods* for young people who experienced their first juvenile justice supervision in 2000–01 and who were aged between 12 and 17 at the start of 2000–01. Young people in this age range will all be aged at least 17 at the start of 2005–06. As they will be aged 18 or over in 2006–07 and will be unlikely to experience any further juvenile justice supervision once they are 18, the period 2000–01 to 2005–06 is likely to contain the complete juvenile justice supervision history for this group of young people.

Table 5.26 shows that of this group of young people, the majority (60%) completed only one *supervision period*, while 12% completed four or more *supervision periods*. However, the younger you were at initial supervision, the more likely you were to complete more *supervision periods*: 41% of those aged 12 completed at least four supervision periods during the years to 2005–06, compared with less than 10% of those who were aged at least 15 years.

Table 5.26: Young people with first supervision in 2000–01, by number of completed supervision periods and age at first supervision, Australia, 2000–01 to 2005–06

Age at and year of first supervision		Number of completed supervision periods				Total
		1	2	3	4+	
(number of young people)						
12	2000–01	51	46	31	90	218
13	2000–01	175	109	77	146	507
14	2000–01	396	181	118	135	830
15	2000–01	670	254	125	94	1,143
16	2000–01	867	175	71	41	1,154
17	2000–01	515	75	14	8	612
Total		2,674	840	436	514	4,464
(per cent of young people)						
12	2000–01	23.4	21.1	14.2	41.3	100.0
13	2000–01	34.5	21.5	15.2	28.8	100.0
14	2000–01	47.7	21.8	14.2	16.3	100.0
15	2000–01	58.6	22.2	10.9	8.2	100.0
16	2000–01	75.1	15.2	6.2	3.6	100.0
17	2000–01	84.2	12.3	2.3	1.3	100.0
Total		59.9	18.8	9.8	11.5	100.0

Notes

1. Australian Capital Territory excluded as data for 2000–01 were unavailable.
2. Age is calculated as at the first of July of the relevant financial year.

The number of *supervision periods* completed by young people who turned 18 during the most recent year of data, 2005–06, is examined retrospectively in Table 5.27. As these young people turned 18 during 2005–06, they are unlikely to have juvenile justice supervision in future years and may be considered to have completed all possible *supervision periods*.

The number of completed *supervision periods* for these young people is compared based on the year of their initial supervision. The supervision relevant to this table may have occurred at any time during the available NMDS data. These young people will not necessarily be in supervision during 2005–06, and indeed most were not. For example, there were 1,147 young people who turned 18 in 2005–06 and began their first ever juvenile justice supervision during 2003–04. Of these 1,147 young people, 661 completed only one *supervision period* and 113 completed at least four *supervision periods* during their time in the juvenile justice system.

Of the young people who turned 18 in 2005–06 and had their first *supervision period* during or after 2000–01, 58% completed only one *supervision period* while 12% completed at least four. However, as in Table 5.26, the younger a person was at their first supervision, the more *supervision periods* they are likely to have completed. Of the 218 young people who began supervision in 2000–01 and turned 18 in 2005–06, 41% completed four or more *supervision periods*, compared with only 1% of those who had their first supervision in 2005–06, when aged 17 years.

Table 5.27: Young people who turned 18 years old in 2005–06, by number of completed supervision periods, and age at first supervision, Australia, 2000–01 to 2005–06

Age at and year of first supervision	Number of completed supervision periods				Total
	1	2	3	4+	
(number of young people)					
12 2000–01	51	46	31	90	218
13 2001–02	163	112	91	162	528
14 2002–03	390	221	137	170	918
15 2003–04	661	262	111	113	1,147
16 2004–05	802	210	68	32	1,112
17 2005–06	610	82	10	8	710
Total	2,677	933	448	575	4,633
(per cent of young people)					
12 2000–01	23.4	21.1	14.2	41.3	100.0
13 2001–02	30.9	21.2	17.2	30.7	100.0
14 2002–03	42.5	24.1	14.9	18.5	100.0
15 2003–04	57.6	22.8	9.7	9.9	100.0
16 2004–05	72.1	18.9	6.1	2.9	100.0
17 2005–06	85.9	11.5	1.4	1.1	100.0
Total	57.8	20.1	9.7	12.4	100.0

Notes

1. Australian Capital Territory excluded as data for 2000–01 to 2002–03 were unavailable.
2. Age is calculated as at the first of July of the relevant financial year.

Table 5.28 shows the total number of *supervision periods* per young person during 2001–02 to 2005–06 for young people aged 10–14 years at first contact in 2001–02. These young people were within the age range for juvenile justice supervision for the entire period 2001–02 to 2005–06.

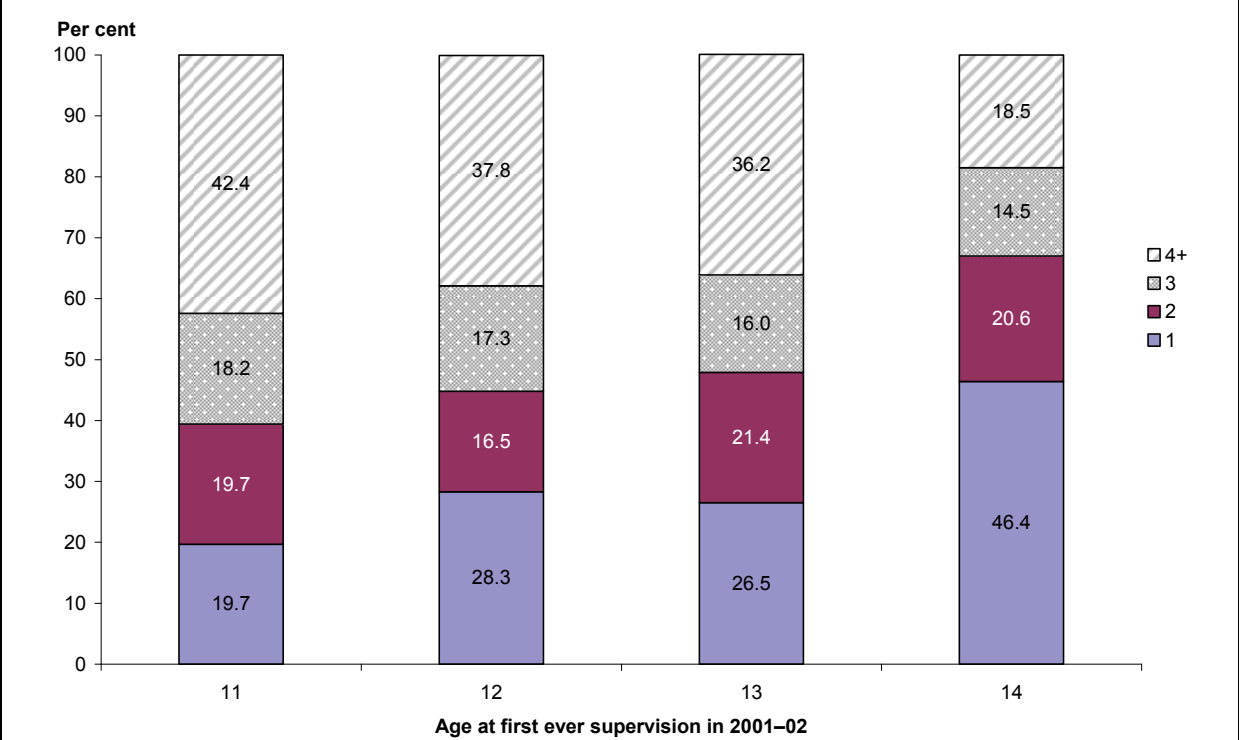
From age 12, young people experienced fewer *supervision periods* as the age of first contact increased: 24% of the young people aged 10–12 years old at first contact experienced only one *supervision period* during the five years compared with 46% of those who were aged 14 years at first contact. Conversely, 41% of 10–12 years olds at first contact experienced at least four *supervision periods* during the five years, compared to 19% of those aged 14 years at first contact.

Table 5.28: Young people with first supervision in 2001–02, by age at first supervision and number of completed *supervision periods*, Australia, 2001–02 to 2005–06

Number of <i>supervision periods</i>	Age at first supervision in 2001–02					Total
	10	11	12	13	14	
	(number of young people)					
1	1	13	36	93	319	462
2	4	13	21	75	142	255
3	1	12	22	56	100	191
4+	9	28	48	127	127	339
Total	15	66	127	351	688	1,247
	(per cent of young people)					
1	6.7	19.7	28.3	26.5	46.4	37.0
2	26.7	19.7	16.5	21.4	20.6	20.4
3	6.7	18.2	17.3	16.0	14.5	15.3
4+	60.0	42.4	37.8	36.2	18.5	27.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Australian Capital Territory excluded as data for 2000–01 were unavailable.

In general, beginning juvenile justice supervision for the first time at a younger age was associated with completing a higher number of *supervision periods* in the five years to 2005–06 (Figure 5.3). Almost two-fifths (38%) of those young people who were aged 12 when they had their first supervision went on to complete at least four *supervision periods*, compared with less than one-fifth (19%) of those who were aged 14 years when they began.



Source: Table 5.28.

Figure 5.3: Young people with first supervision in 2001–02, by age at first supervision and number of completed *supervision periods*, Australia, 2001–02 to 2005–06

Table 5.29 shows the same information as the previous table but by Indigenous status. The relationship found in the previous table between the age at first supervision and the overall number of *supervision periods* completed is stronger for Indigenous than non-Indigenous young people. For non-Indigenous young people, 33% of those aged 10–12 in 2001–02 had at least four supervision periods, compared to 48% of Indigenous 10–12 year olds.

Table 5.29: Young people with first supervision in 2001–02, by age at first supervision, number of completed *supervision periods* and Indigenous status, Australia, 2001–02 to 2005–06

Number of <i>supervision periods</i>	Age at first supervision in 2001–02					Total
	10	11	12	13	14	
(number of young people)						
Indigenous						
1	—	6	11	30	78	125
2	3	8	11	34	49	105
3	1	9	17	27	39	93
4+	6	21	33	79	65	204
Total	10	44	72	170	231	527
Non-Indigenous						
1	1	7	21	57	198	284
2	1	5	9	40	91	146
3	—	3	4	28	59	94
4+	3	7	15	48	61	134
Total	5	22	49	173	409	658
(per cent of young people)						
Indigenous						
1	—	13.6	15.3	17.6	33.8	23.7
2	30.0	18.2	15.3	20.0	21.2	19.9
3	10.0	20.5	23.6	15.9	16.9	17.6
4+	60.0	47.7	45.8	46.5	28.1	38.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Non-Indigenous						
1	20.0	31.8	42.9	32.9	48.4	43.2
2	20.0	22.7	18.4	23.1	22.2	22.2
3	—	13.6	8.2	16.2	14.4	14.3
4+	60.0	31.8	30.6	27.7	14.9	20.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Caution should be taken in interpreting these results, as those aged 14 years in 2001–02 will be 18 years old in 2005–06, and many jurisdictions do not encompass 18 year olds in their juvenile justice legislation (see AIHW 2006 Appendix B).
2. Australian Capital Territory excluded as data for 2000–01 were unavailable.
3. 62 young people whose Indigenous status was unknown or not recorded were excluded.

Tables 5.30 and 5.31 represent two ways of examining the subsequent supervision experience of the group of young people (aged 10–14 years) who had their first ever juvenile justice supervision during 2001–02.

Table 5.30 shows the number of young people who completed their most recent *supervision period* in each of the five years. For example, of the 66 young people aged 11 in 2001–02, 13 have not completed any more *supervision periods* since that year, 7 entered their most recent *supervision period* in 2003–04 and 31 in 2005–06.

The younger people were when they entered their first *supervision period*, the more likely they were to re-enter juvenile justice supervision during subsequent years; of the 688 young people who had their first supervision in 2001–02 and were aged 14, 46% had their first and most recent *supervision period* during that year, compared to 20% of those aged 11 years. Thirty-five per cent of those who began supervision aged 10–12 years were under juvenile justice supervision four years later in 2005–06, compared with 8% of those aged 14 in 2001–02.

Table 5.30: Young people with first supervision in 2001–02, by year of entry to most recent *supervision period* and age at first supervision, Australia, 2001–02 to 2005–06

Age at and year of first supervision		Year of entry to most recent <i>supervision period</i>					Total
		2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	
(number of young people)							
10	2001–02	1	2	2	4	6	15
11	2001–02	13	5	7	10	31	66
12	2001–02	36	11	20	24	36	127
13	2001–02	93	49	48	66	95	351
14	2001–02	319	98	104	111	56	688
(per cent of young people)							
10	2001–02	6.7	13.3	13.3	26.7	40.0	100.0
11	2001–02	19.7	7.6	10.6	15.2	47.0	100.0
12	2001–02	28.3	8.7	15.7	18.9	28.3	100.0
13	2001–02	26.5	14.0	13.7	18.8	27.1	100.0
14	2001–02	46.4	14.2	15.1	16.1	8.1	100.0

Notes

1. This table may not represent the young person's last ever *supervision period* — data are subject to change as data for future years become available. For example, the proportion of those aged 10 years in 2001–02 and who entered their last recorded *supervision period* that year (6.7%) would decrease if at least one of these young people had a *supervision period* in 2006–07.
2. Note that young people aged 18 years and over may be supervised by the adult corrections system, and that data are not available in this report.
3. Australian Capital Territory excluded as data for 2000–01 were unavailable.

Table 5.31 again follows young people who began supervision for the first time ever during 2001–02. It shows the number of young people who began a new *supervision period* during each year from 2000–01 to 2005–06. For example, of the 66 young people aged 11 who had their first ever *supervision period* in 2001–02, 31 also began a *supervision period* in 2002–03, 29 in 2003–04, and so on. The number does not necessarily decrease from year to year as a person may have, for example, no *supervision period* in 2002–03, but begin one in 2003–04.

To provide additional information regarding the experience of young people aged 18 and over in the juvenile justice system, this table and the next include young people who were aged between 15 and 17 years at their first supervision in 2001–02. These young people will have turned 18 sometime during 2002–03 to 2005–06 and in this and subsequent years will be less likely to experience juvenile justice supervision compared with young people aged under 18. In the table, the data relating to young people aged 18 and over are italicised. A significantly diminished return is expected in these cells as young people of this age are less likely to be in juvenile justice supervision than young people who are under 18.

There was a generally decreasing proportion of young people returning to juvenile justice supervision each successive year. As seen in the previous table, the younger a young person was upon entry to initial juvenile justice supervision, the more likely he/she was to be in the NMDS in subsequent years (Table 5.31).

Table 5.31: Young people with first supervision in 2001–02, by year of entry to new supervision periods and age at first supervision, Australia, 2001–02 to 2005–06

Age at and year of first supervision		Year of entry to new supervision periods				
		2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
(number of young people)						
10	2001–02	15	9	8	7	6
11	2001–02	66	31	29	29	31
12	2001–02	127	59	54	43	36
13	2001–02	351	160	133	122	95
14	2001–02	688	232	184	141	56
15	2001–02	1,025	284	203	75	22
16	2001–02	1,259	243	88	10	4
17	2001–02	988	93	27	8	—
(per cent of young people)						
10	2001–02	100.0	60.0	53.3	46.7	40.0
11	2001–02	100.0	47.0	43.9	43.9	47.0
12	2001–02	100.0	46.5	42.5	33.9	28.3
13	2001–02	100.0	45.6	37.9	34.8	27.4
14	2001–02	100.0	33.7	26.7	20.5	8.1
15	2001–02	100.0	27.7	19.8	7.3	2.1
16	2001–02	100.0	19.3	7.0	0.8	0.3
17	2001–02	100.0	9.4	2.7	0.8	—

Notes

1. This table shows young people who had their first ever juvenile justice supervision in 2001–02 and who began a new *supervision period* at some point in subsequent years. Young people are entering and leaving supervision on a regular basis so it should not be assumed those under supervision in a particular year are the same young people who were under juvenile justice supervision during the previous year.
2. Some young people may be in supervision during subsequent years but not appear in the figures because they are continuing one long *supervision period* rather than beginning a new one. For the relationship between age and length of *supervision period*, see Table 5.16.
3. Italics indicate young people aged 18 years and over. Note that young people aged 18 years and over may be supervised by the adult corrections system, and such data are not available in this report.
4. Australian Capital Territory excluded as data for 2001–02 were unavailable.

The relationship in Table 5.31 between age of initial juvenile justice supervision and returns to supervision has been fairly consistent over the period 2002–03 to 2005–06 (Table 5.32).

Table 5.32: Young people with first supervision in 2002–03 to 2004–05, by year of entry to new supervision periods and age at first supervision, Australia, 2002–03 to 2005–06 (per cent)

Age at and year of first supervision		Year of entry to new supervision periods			
		2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
(per cent of young people)					
10	2002–03	100.0	43.8	43.8	43.8
11	2002–03	100.0	35.8	49.1	45.3
12	2002–03	100.0	44.1	39.3	34.5
13	2002–03	100.0	42.8	40.2	37.4
14	2002–03	100.0	35.0	26.4	24.7
15	2002–03	100.0	28.5	17.5	6.7
16	2002–03	100.0	18.9	6.8	2.0
17	2002–03	100.0	8.9	2.0	0.6
10	2003–04	—	100.0	40.0	46.7
11	2003–04	—	100.0	44.0	45.3
12	2003–04	—	100.0	46.7	42.6
13	2003–04	—	100.0	40.2	33.3
14	2003–04	—	100.0	32.7	29.4
15	2003–04	—	100.0	27.3	21.1
16	2003–04	—	100.0	19.7	8.6
17	2003–04	—	100.0	9.9	2.4
10	2004–05	—	—	100.0	50.0
11	2004–05	—	—	100.0	36.5
12	2004–05	—	—	100.0	51.0
13	2004–05	—	—	100.0	40.1
14	2004–05	—	—	100.0	30.7
15	2004–05	—	—	100.0	26.9
16	2004–05	—	—	100.0	20.3
17	2004–05	—	—	100.0	10.4

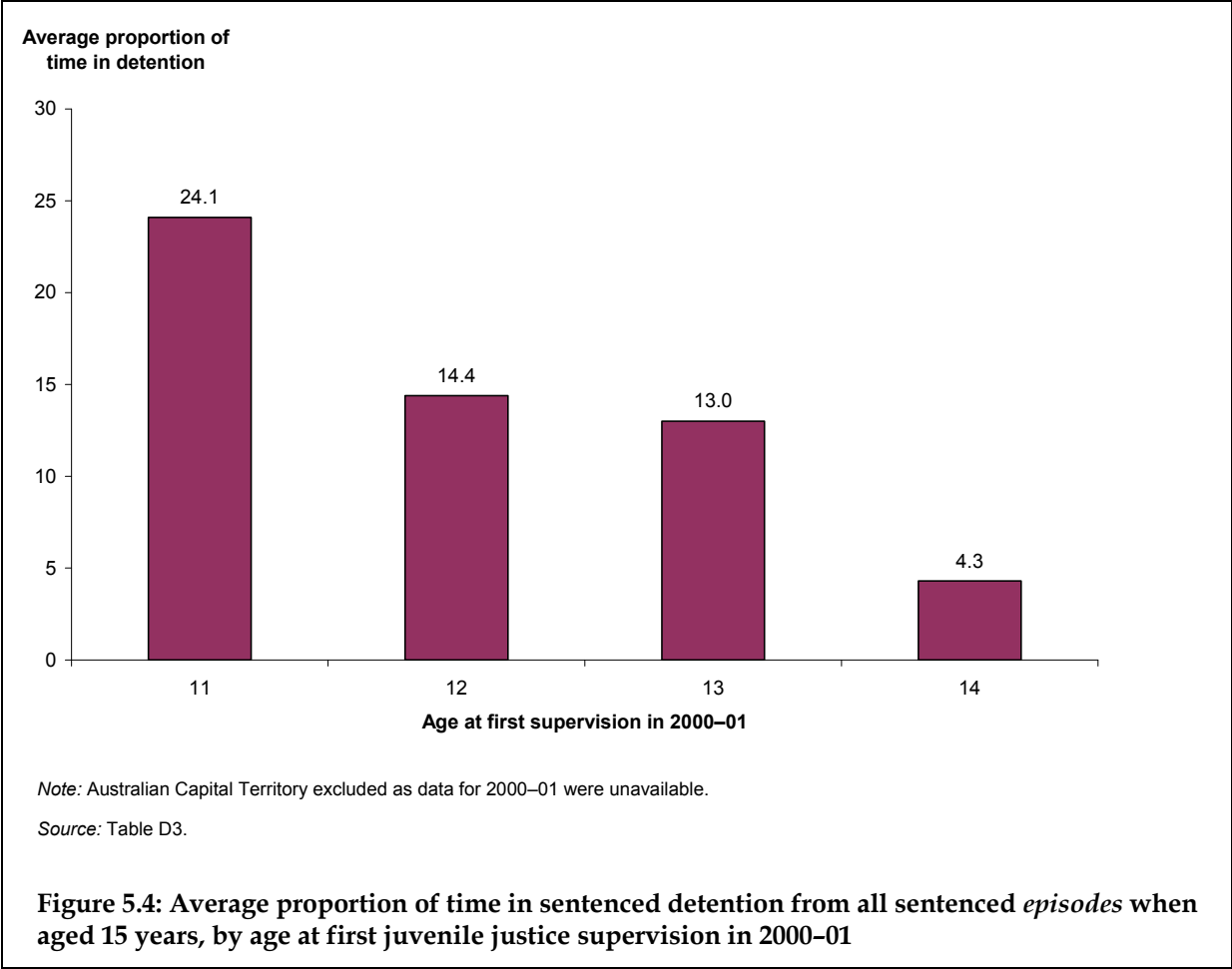
Notes

1. This table shows young people who had their first ever juvenile justice supervision in a particular year and who began a new *supervision period* at some point in subsequent years. Young people are entering and leaving supervision on a regular basis so it should not be assumed those under supervision in a particular year are the same young people who were under supervision during the previous year.
2. Some young people may be in supervision during subsequent years but not appear in the figures because they are continuing one long *supervision period* rather than beginning a new one. For the relationship between age and length of *supervision period*, see Table 5.16.
3. Italics indicate young people aged 18 years and over. Note that young people aged 18 years and over may be supervised by the adult corrections system, and such data are not available in this report.
4. Australian Capital Territory excluded as data for 2002–03 were unavailable.

5.8 Age at first supervision and types of sentences

The previous section showed that the earlier a young person begins juvenile justice supervision, the more likely they are to return to supervision in subsequent years. This section examines that subsequent supervision. Is there a relationship between the age at first supervision and the type of sentenced supervision later experienced? Figure 5.4 examines whether or not having begun juvenile justice supervision at an early age distinguishes one 15 year old from another in terms of the type of sentenced supervision they experienced while they were 15. The age 15 is chosen because the youngest people in the NMDS (those who began supervision aged 10 years old during the first year of data in 2000-01) were aged 15 years during 2005-06, which is the latest year of data.

Figure 5.4 depicts the proportion of sentenced time that was spent in detention as opposed to in community-based supervision. Those who had first supervision at a younger age tended to spend a higher proportion of time in sentenced detention when they were 15 than those who had first supervision at an older age. Figure 5.4 shows that those who were aged 11 years at first supervision in 2000-01 spent, on average, 24% of their supervised time in sentenced detention when they were aged 15 (during 2004-05). In comparison, those who were aged 14 years at first supervision in 2000-01 spent, on average, only 4% of their supervised time in sentenced detention when aged 15 (during 2001-02).



5.9 Age at first supervision and detention at first supervision

This section examines the relationship between age at first supervision, the presence or absence of detention in the first supervision, and the number of *supervision periods* subsequently completed during 2000–01 to 2005–06.

Table 5.33 looks at all young people in the NMDS who have experienced juvenile justice supervision at some time during 2000–01 to 2005–06. It shows that overall 44% of young people experienced pre-sentence and/or sentenced detention in their first *supervision period*. For those aged 12 to 17, the proportion of young people experiencing detention during their first *supervision period* decreased as the age at first contact increased, from 57% to 38%. In all age groups except those aged 18 and over, detention in a first *supervision period* was most often pre-sentence detention. Sentenced detention *episodes* in a first *supervision period* were unusual, except for those aged 18 years or over.

Table 5.33: Young people, by age at first supervision and presence or absence of detention episodes in the first supervision period, Australia, 2000–01 to 2005–06

	Age at first supervision									Total
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	
(number of young people)										
First supervision period contained detention	54	204	481	1,160	2,050	2,751	3,178	2,278	826	12,982
<i>Pre-sentence detention</i>	54	197	470	1,146	2,026	2,684	3,100	2,165	318	12,160
<i>Sentenced detention</i>	1	17	40	97	127	201	216	219	535	1,453
First supervision period did not contain detention	43	172	367	1,095	2,188	3,414	4,460	3,742	1,141	16,622
Total	97	376	848	2,255	4,238	6,165	7,638	6,020	1,967	29,604
(per cent of young people)										
First supervision period contained detention	55.7	54.3	56.7	51.4	48.4	44.6	41.6	37.8	42.0	43.9
<i>Pre-sentence detention</i>	55.7	52.4	55.4	50.8	47.8	43.5	40.6	36.0	16.2	41.1
<i>Sentenced detention</i>	1.0	4.5	4.7	4.3	3.0	3.3	2.8	3.6	27.2	4.9
First supervision period did not contain detention	44.3	45.7	43.3	48.6	51.6	55.4	58.4	62.2	58.0	56.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Australian Capital Territory excluded as data for 2000–01 to 2002–03 were unavailable
2. This table excludes four young people whose age at first supervision is unknown
3. The first *supervision period* for some young people contained both pre-sentence detention and sentenced detention

The following two tables examine the relationship between experiencing detention in the first *supervision period* and the number of completed *supervision periods*. The population for these tables is restricted to young people who had their first supervision in 2001–02 and were aged 10 to 14 years at the start of this supervision. These young people are still within the age for juvenile justice supervision during the most recent year, 2005–06.

Table 5.34, which presents the relationship between the number of completed *supervision periods* and the presence or absence of detention in the first supervision by the age at first supervision, shows that the association between early detention and a higher overall number of *supervision periods* is more evident the younger the age at first contact with juvenile justice supervision. Over two-thirds (68%) of young people who experienced early detention when aged 12 or under at the time completed at least three *supervision periods*. This compares to 46% for those who were aged 14 at their first *supervision period* and were detained during this *supervision period*.

Table 5.35 also examines the relationship between experiencing detention in the first *supervision period* and the number of completed *supervision periods* for the young person, but presents the information by states and territories. In Australia overall, 40% of young people who experienced early detention had four or more *supervision periods*, compared to 16% for young people who did not have early detention. This pattern was consistent across the jurisdictions.

Table 5.34: Young people with first supervision in 2001–02, by age at first supervision, presence or absence of detention during first supervision period and number of completed supervision periods, Australia, 2001–02 to 2005–06

First supervision period contained JJ detention?	Age at first supervision												Total	
	10		11		12		13		14		15		Yes	No
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Number of supervision periods	(number of young people)													
1	1	—	4	9	7	29	33	60	106	213	151	311		
2	4	—	7	6	12	9	27	48	55	87	105	150		
3	1	—	5	7	13	9	24	32	49	51	92	99		
4+	6	3	20	8	29	19	87	40	87	40	229	110		
Total	12	3	36	30	61	66	171	180	297	391	577	670		
	(per cent of young people)													
1	8.3	—	11.1	30.0	11.5	43.9	19.3	33.3	35.7	54.5	26.2	46.4		
2	33.3	—	19.4	20.0	19.7	13.6	15.8	26.7	18.5	22.3	18.2	22.4		
3	8.3	—	13.9	23.3	21.3	13.6	14.0	17.8	16.5	13.0	15.9	14.8		
4+	50.0	100.0	55.6	26.7	47.5	28.8	50.9	22.2	29.3	10.2	39.7	16.4		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

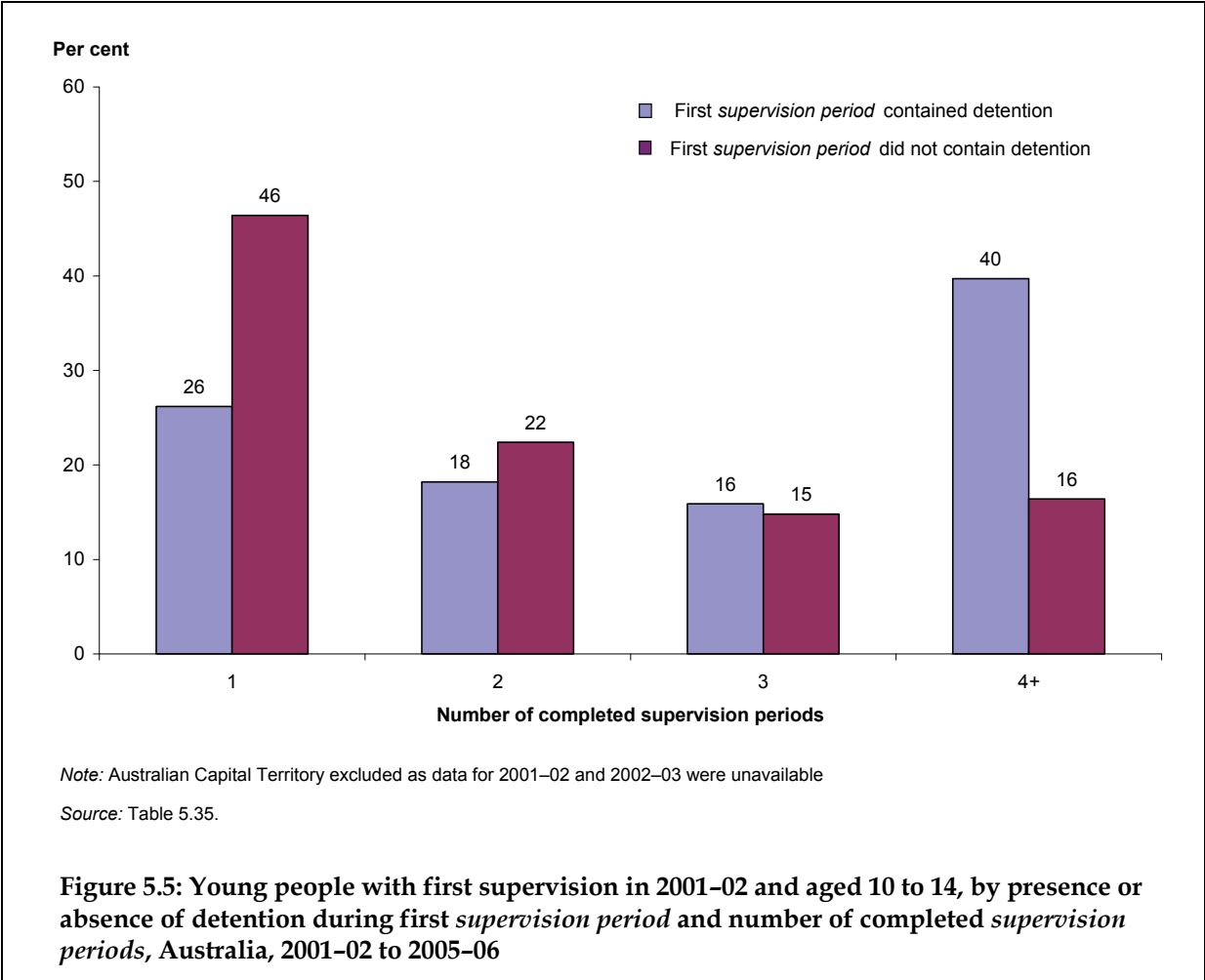
Note: Australian Capital Territory excluded as data for 2001–02 and 2002–03 were unavailable.

Table 5.35: Young people with first supervision in 2001–02, by age at first supervision, presence or absence of detention during first supervision period and number of completed supervision periods, states and territories, 2001–02 to 2005–06

First supervision period contained JJ detention?	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		NT		Australia	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Number of supervision periods	(number of young people)															
1	44	57	4	62	44	98	27	39	28	36	4	18	—	1	151	311
2	23	17	4	37	39	61	9	22	23	9	3	3	4	1	105	150
3	32	14	11	24	24	34	7	18	17	8	—	1	1	—	92	99
4+	101	16	17	20	31	13	47	51	32	7	—	1	1	2	229	110
Total	200	104	36	143	138	206	90	130	100	60	7	23	6	4	577	670
	(per cent of young people)															
1	22.0	54.8	11.1	43.4	31.9	47.6	30.0	30.0	28.0	60.0	57.1	78.3	—	25.0	26.2	46.4
2	11.5	16.3	11.1	25.9	28.3	29.6	10.0	16.9	23.0	15.0	42.9	13.0	66.7	25.0	18.2	22.4
3	16.0	13.5	30.6	16.8	17.4	16.5	7.8	13.8	17.0	13.3	—	4.3	16.7	—	15.9	14.8
4+	50.5	15.4	47.2	14.0	22.5	6.3	52.2	39.2	32.0	11.7	—	4.3	16.7	50.0	39.7	16.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Australian Capital Territory excluded as data for 2001–02 and 2002–03 were unavailable.

Young people who experienced detention in their first ever juvenile justice supervision were more likely to return to subsequent supervision than those who did not experience detention initially. Overall, 46% of those who did not have detention in their first *supervision period* in 2001–02 while aged 10 to 14 years had only one *supervision period*, compared to 26% of those who did have detention in their first *supervision period* in 2001–02 while aged 10 to 14 years (Figure 5.5).



5.10 Summary

Supervision periods

Over 80% of young people completed one period of continuous juvenile justice supervision during 2005–06. A further 12% completed two *supervision periods*, leaving around 6% returning to the system frequently enough to complete three or more *supervision periods* within a year. Some young people may have also had a *supervision period* that was not completed by 30 June 2006.

The length of *supervision periods* completed during 2005–06 varied greatly from less than 7 days (26%) to 12 months or longer (21%). These represent very different types of experiences, with very short *supervision periods* likely to contain *episodes* of pre-sentence detention (remand). *Supervision periods* of medium length were more likely to contain *episodes* of sentenced detention, whereas *supervision periods* of longer length were more likely to contain *episodes* of community-based supervision.

For about 30% of those young people completing one *supervision period* during 2005–06, that *supervision period* lasted for 12 months or more. About half of these young people were likely to have one long sentenced community-based *episode*. However, for about 11% of all young people, that one long *supervision period* contained multiple discrete *episodes* rather than one long *episode*.

Community supervision and detention

The majority of juvenile justice supervision was community-based rather than detention-based. Detention usually occurred less frequently and was shorter in length than community supervision. The median length of sentenced community-based supervision *episodes* was 147 days, compared with 83 days for *episodes* of sentenced detention. For pre-sentence *episodes*, the median length of detention was 3 days. Overall, over two-thirds of the total durations of *supervision periods* finished in 2005–06 were spent in sentenced community *episodes*.

The two most common *supervision periods* were those containing community-based sentenced *episodes* with no pre-sentence *episodes* (35%), and those with pre-sentence detention *episodes* and no sentenced *episodes* (33%).

Sex comparisons

The relationship between the sex of the young person and the experience of juvenile justice supervision is complex. The proportion completing a high number of short *supervision periods* within a year was higher for females than males during 2005–06. There was a small difference seen in the proportion of males (2%) and females (3%) completing four or more *supervision periods* during the year. *Supervision periods* were likely to be shorter for females (36% were less than 14 days) than males (29% were less than 14 days).

The *supervision periods* experienced by females were less likely than those of males to contain sentenced detention *episodes* (5% and 11% respectively during 2005–06). When sentenced detention *episodes* did occur though, there was no difference in their median length for males

and females. *Episodes* of sentenced community-based supervision of females during 2005–06 were, on average, 28 days longer than those of males.

Release on bail as an exit from a pre-sentenced detention *episode* was more common among females than males.

Age comparisons

The experience of juvenile justice supervision varies considerably with the age of the young person. These differences are apparent in the number and length of *supervision periods*, as well as in the likelihood of experiencing community and detention *episode* types, and the length of that community or detention-based supervision.

The youngest people completed fewer and shorter *supervision periods*, while those aged 11–14 years old were the most likely to have completed a high number of short *supervision periods*. Young people aged 15 years or older completed fewer but longer *supervision periods*.

Supervision periods experienced by 10–14 year olds were more likely to have included *episodes* of pre-sentence and sentenced detention than those of young people aged 15–17 years. Sentenced detention was most likely to be included in *supervision periods* of those aged 18 years or over.

The likelihood of pre-sentence *episodes* ending with being sentenced and an immediately following *episode* of detention generally increased with age.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

Chapter 3 showed that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were over-represented within juvenile justice supervision and also experienced differences in supervision compared with non-Indigenous young people. Indigenous young people under juvenile justice supervision also tended to be younger than non-Indigenous young people, and also younger when they experienced their first ever juvenile justice supervision. Indigenous young people under juvenile justice supervision included a greater proportion of females, compared with non-Indigenous young people.

Chapter 5 shows that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were more likely to complete a high number of short *supervision periods* in a year. During 2005–06, 64% of *supervision periods* completed by Indigenous young people were less than six months long, compared with 56% for non-Indigenous young people.

Around 23% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under juvenile justice supervision completed two or more *supervision periods* in 2005–06, compared with around 15% of non-Indigenous young people.

Supervision periods experienced by Indigenous young people were more likely to contain *episodes* of detention and less likely to contain *episodes* of community-based supervision than those of non-Indigenous young people.

The proportion of Indigenous young people to exit *episodes* of pre-sentence by being released on bail was less than the proportion for non-Indigenous young people in 2005–06.

Reasons for exit from *episodes*

Just over 60% of sentenced community-based *episodes* ended with 'conditions of sentence met'. For pre-sentence detention *episodes* (remand), over 60% ended with the young person being released on bail. Sentenced detention was often followed by parole or supervised release (41%).

Age at first supervision

For young people aged 10–14 years during their first ever supervision, the younger people were when they entered that supervision, the more likely they were to re-enter juvenile justice supervision during subsequent years. Around 35% of young people who were aged 10–12 years during 2001–02 were also in supervision in 2005–06, compared to 8% for those who started aged 14 years.

Almost 40% of young people who began their first supervision when aged 12 years in 2000–01 had completed at least four *supervision periods* by the time they turned 18 years old. This compares with 1% for those whose initial supervision did not occur until they were aged 17 years.

The experience of juvenile justice supervision at an early age was also related to the likelihood of experiencing detention later on. For young people aged 15 years in pre-sentence detention (remand), the likelihood of sentenced detention following pre-sentence detention varied with the age of the young person at their initial contact with juvenile justice supervision. For young people who were 11 years old at their first contact, the sentenced *episode* following a remand was detention 42% of the time when they were aged 15 years. This compares to 14% for those who were aged 15 years at first contact.

Age at first detention

Overall, 44% of young people experienced detention during their first ever juvenile justice supervision. This was usually pre-sentence detention, although of young people aged 18 years or over, 27% experienced sentenced detention in their initial juvenile justice supervisions.

Young people who had an early experience of detention were more likely to be in juvenile justice supervision in subsequent years. For 10–14 year olds who began supervision during 2001–02, 40% of those who had detention in their first supervision period had at least four completed *supervision periods*, compared with 16% of young people who did not have detention during their initial juvenile justice supervision.