

3 Characteristics of young people

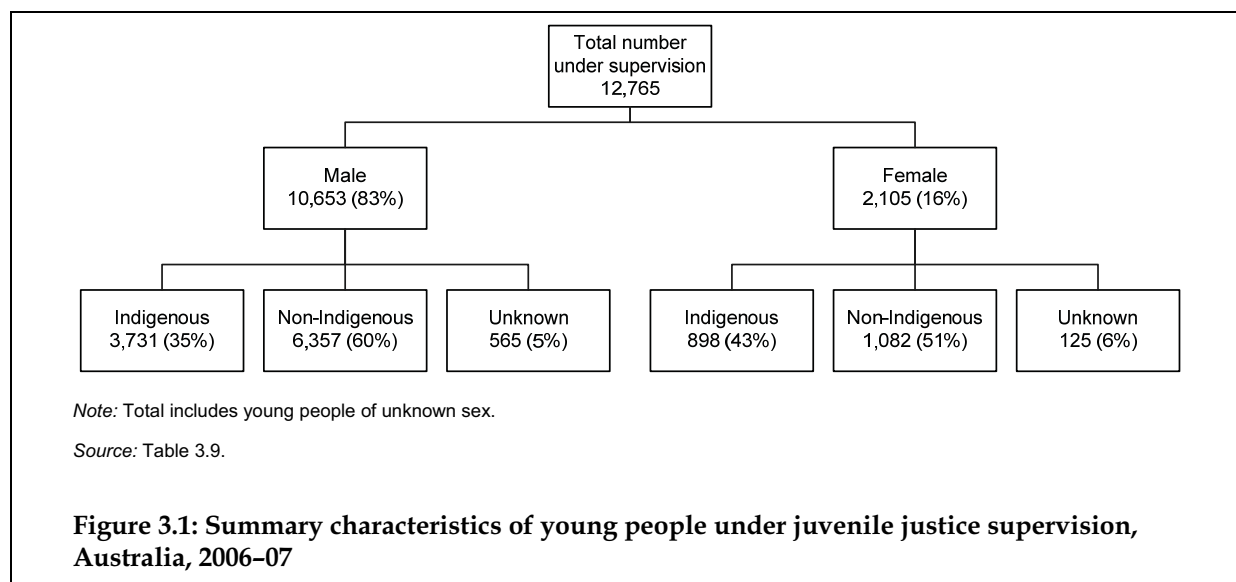
This chapter presents information about young people in Australia who were under juvenile justice supervision at some time during 2006–07. The numbers and rates of young people under supervision and the age at which they first had supervision, as well as broad demographic information such as age, sex and Indigenous status, are included.

3.1 Summary

In 2006–07, there were 12,765 young people under juvenile justice supervision at some time during the year, which is a slight increase on the number of young people under supervision in the previous 4 years. Most of these young people had community-based supervision, while around 30% had both community-based supervision and detention. Over 80% (10,675) were aged 10–17 years, with the remainder being older.

The majority of young people under juvenile justice supervision in 2006–07 were male, and around two-thirds of young people under supervision were aged at least 16 years. Less than 8% were aged under 14, and 16% were aged 18 or older, although this varied considerably by state and territory.

While most young people under supervision in Australia were non-Indigenous (around one-third were Indigenous), in several states and territories there were more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under supervision than non-Indigenous young people. Overall, proportionally more females were Indigenous than males. Nationally, the proportion of Indigenous young people under supervision has increased over the past 7 years.



For young people aged 10–17 years, nearly 5 out of every 1,000 young people in Australia had juvenile justice supervision in 2006–07. About 2 per 1,000 young people were in detention and nearly 4 per 1,000 young people had community-based supervision. While the

rate of young people in community-based supervision has fallen over the 7 years from 2000–01, the rate of young people in detention has risen. Males aged 10–17 years were 5 times more likely to be under supervision than females of this age, while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 10–17 years were nearly 14 times more likely to be under supervision than non-Indigenous young people.

Most young people who had juvenile justice supervision in 2006–07 were aged between 14 and 16 years at the start of their first juvenile justice supervision. However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people first entered supervision at a younger age than non-Indigenous young people did.

3.2 Number of young people under supervision

Each year, between 12,000 and 13,000 young people experience some form of juvenile justice supervision (Table 3.1). For most, this supervision is in the community rather than in detention and some may experience both (so the numbers for community and detention will not sum to the ‘all young people’ figure).

In 2006–07, 12,765 young people experienced juvenile justice supervision in Australia (Table 3.1). Of these, 10,697 (84%) had community-based supervision, and 5,487 (43%) had detention-based supervision, which means that 3,419 (27%) experienced both community-based supervision and detention at some time during the year.

Over the 4-year period 2003–04 to 2006–07, the number of young people under juvenile justice supervision each year decreased slightly to 2004–05 before increasing in 2005–06 and 2006–07. This increase mainly occurred in detention, while numbers in community-based supervision remained relatively constant. Over the 4 years, the number of young people who had detention each year increased by 6% while the number who had community-based supervision decreased by 3%.

Not all states and territories experienced an increase in the number of young people who had supervision over the 4 years. In South Australia, numbers in both community-based supervision and detention decreased, and in Queensland there was a decrease in the number of young people in detention and little change in the number in community-based supervision. In New South Wales, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, the number of young people who had detention increased while the number who were supervised in the community decreased, but in Victoria and Western Australia numbers increased in both community-based supervision and detention. In Victoria, the upper limit of the age jurisdiction of the Children’s Court increased from 16 to 17 years from 1 July 2005. The inclusion of 17 year olds in the Victorian numbers for 2005–06 onwards may account for the increase in these figures compared with 2004–05.

Table 3.1: Young people under juvenile justice supervision by type of supervision, states and territories, 2003–04 to 2006–07

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
Community									
2003–04	2,840	1,766	2,552	1,507	1,205	530	325	278	11,003
2004–05	2,748	1,610	2,555	1,576	1,127	504	279	310	10,709
2005–06	2,834	1,809	2,536	1,752	1,046	522	238	289	11,026
2006–07	2,392	2,126	2,567	1,654	973	501	237	247	10,697
Detention									
2003–04	1,902	500	961	884	589	101	131	122	5,190
2004–05	1,946	444	642	855	549	98	117	122	4,773
2005–06	2,147	535	709	857	488	130	130	140	5,136
2006–07	2,317	585	762	930	498	121	143	131	5,487
All young people									
2003–04	3,542	1,895	2,835	1,829	1,392	556	337	318	12,704
2004–05	3,475	1,736	2,653	1,875	1,286	534	290	340	12,189
2005–06	3,705	1,961	2,664	2,035	1,218	550	256	327	12,716
2006–07	3,561	2,298	2,670	2,019	1,135	520	258	304	12,765

Notes

1. This table includes young people who have had at least 1 day of juvenile justice supervision during the collection year. The numbers for community and detention will not sum to the 'all young people' figure, as some young people will have experienced both community and detention supervision during the collection year.
2. Victoria has special sentencing options for 18–20 year olds (see Section 1.2 The juvenile justice process in Australia).
3. Tasmania has incomplete data resulting in higher reported numbers in detention (see Section 2.3.3 Data quality and coverage).

Over the 7 years of data contained in the Juvenile Justice NMDS, the number of young people under supervision, both community and detention, decreased from 2000-01 to 2004-05, but has since increased (Figure 3.2). However, while the number of young people in detention showed the same trend, the number of young people in community-based supervision remained relatively constant except for a decrease from 2005-06 to 2006-07.

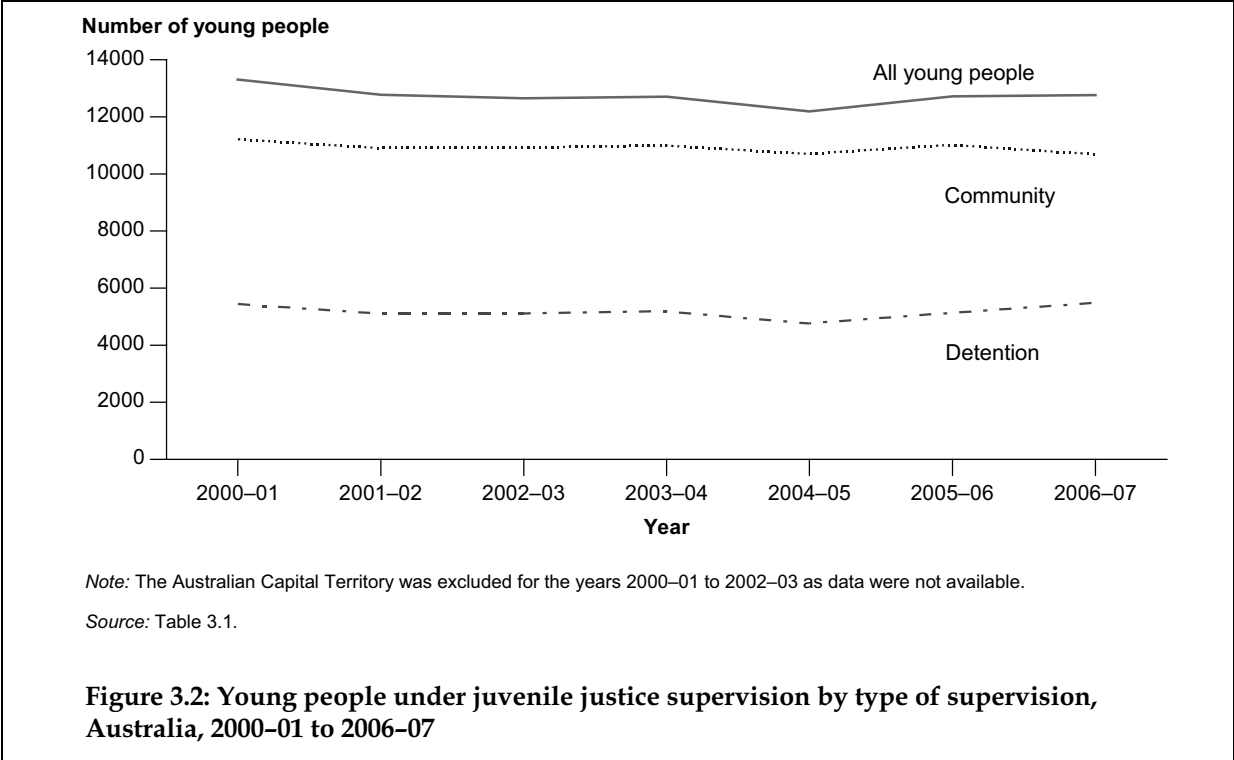
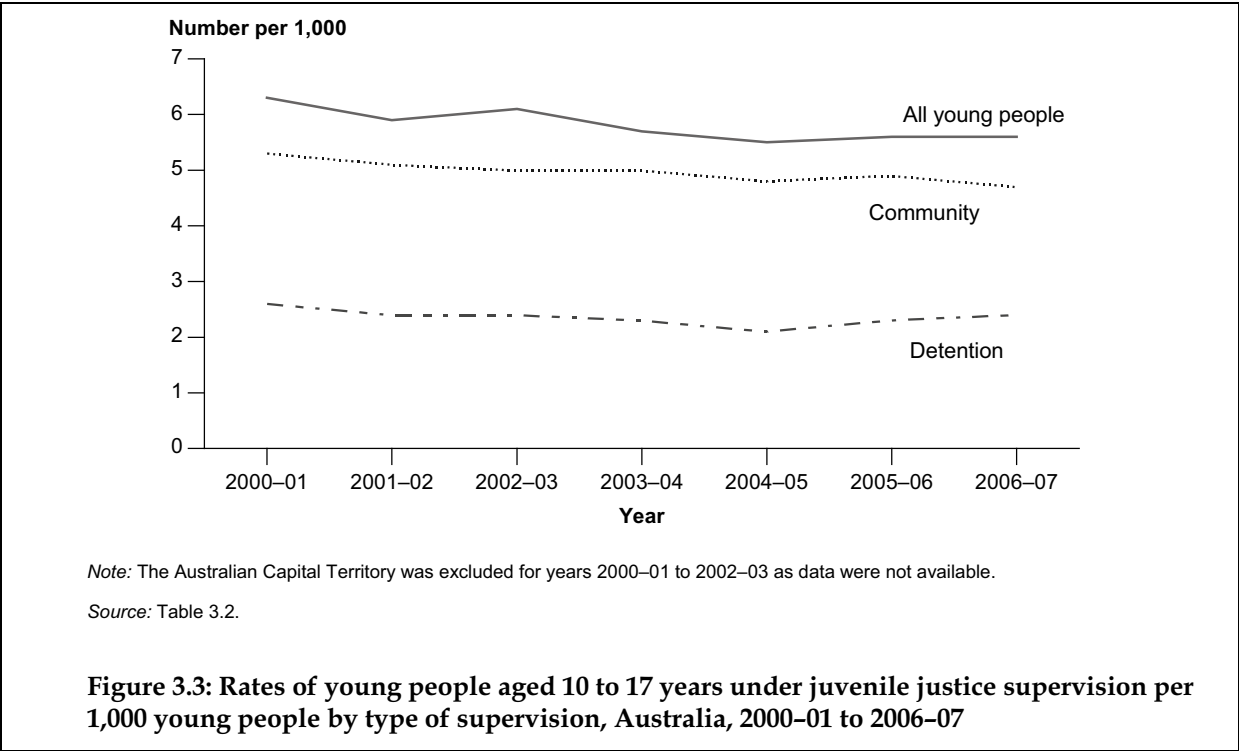


Table 3.2 presents the rates per 1,000 population for 10–17 year olds. Due to the differences among jurisdictions regarding the status of 18 year olds in the juvenile justice system (see Section 1.2), all population rates in this chapter have been calculated for the 10–17 age group. The figures for community and detention represent the number of young people who were subject to that type of juvenile justice supervision at any time during the collection year. Note that these whole-year figures are different from average daily numbers as presented in Chapter 4 and to 1-day snapshot figures that capture only those young people who are under supervision on that particular day.¹

In 2006–07, nearly 5 young people out of every 1,000 aged 10–17 years in Australia experienced some sort of supervision during the year (Table 3.2). Around 4 young people per 1,000 had community-based supervision and about 2 per 1,000 were in detention at some time during the year.

The rates of young people under supervision vary considerably between the states and territories, ranging from around 3 per 1,000 in Victoria to 10 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory. The rate of young people in community-based supervision varied from nearly 3 per 1,000 in Victoria to about 8 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory, while rates of young people in detention ranged from under 1 per 1,000 in Victoria to nearly 5 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory.

While the rate of young people under supervision and the rate of young people in community-based supervision has decreased over the 7 years from 2000–01 to 2006–07, the rate of young people in detention decreased slightly from 2000–01 to 2004–05 but has since increased (Figure 3.3).



1 Reports published by the Australian Institute of Criminology from the Juveniles in Detention in Australia monitoring project provide 1-day snapshot figures taken quarterly.

Over the 4-year period, the number of young people under supervision in Australia decreased slightly from 4.9 per 1,000 young people in 2003–04 to 4.7 per 1,000 in 2006–07, although there was no change in the rates of young people under supervision in New South Wales and Victoria, and the rate in Western Australia increased.

Consistent with the decrease in the overall rate of young people under supervision in Australia, the community-based supervision rate decreased over the 4-year period (from 4.3 per 1,000 to 3.9 per 1,000) but the detention rate increased slightly (from 2.1 per 1,000 to 2.2 per 1,000). Rates of detention increased over the 4-year period in all states and territories except in Queensland and South Australia, where they decreased.

Legislative differences among the states and territories mean that there are varying numbers of young people over the age of 17 who have been excluded from Table 3.2. In Victoria, for example, legislation specifically allows for young people aged up to 21 to be detained in juvenile justice facilities rather than adult correctional facilities. In contrast, in Queensland only young people aged 10–16 are recognised as juveniles under the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*.

Table 3.2: Rates of young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision per 1,000 young people by type of supervision, states and territories, 2003–04 to 2006–07

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
Community									
Number of young people									
2003–04	2,440	1,454	2,312	1,417	948	322	269	244	9,406
2004–05	2,339	1,301	2,319	1,480	878	315	240	264	9,136
2005–06	2,453	1,335	2,324	1,632	810	352	199	250	9,355
2006–07	2,041	1,462	2,339	1,528	797	346	199	199	8,911
Number per 1,000									
2003–04	3.4	2.7	5.2	6.2	5.8	5.9	7.5	9.6	4.3
2004–05	3.2	2.4	5.1	6.5	5.4	5.7	6.7	10.1	4.1
2005–06	3.3	2.5	5.0	7.0	4.9	6.4	5.6	9.5	4.2
2006–07	2.8	2.7	5.0	6.5	4.8	6.3	5.7	7.5	3.9
Detention									
Number of young people									
2003–04	1,699	285	946	871	525	76	127	122	4,651
2004–05	1,724	238	622	843	495	86	114	122	4,244
2005–06	1,920	280	702	853	441	113	127	140	4,576
2006–07	2,104	311	754	924	444	111	133	131	4,912
Number per 1,000									
2003–04	2.3	0.5	2.1	3.8	3.2	1.4	3.5	4.8	2.1
2004–05	2.4	0.4	1.4	3.7	3.0	1.6	3.2	4.7	1.9
2005–06	2.6	0.5	1.5	3.7	2.7	2.1	3.6	5.3	2.0
2006–07	2.9	0.6	1.6	3.9	2.7	2.0	3.8	4.9	2.2
All young people									
Number of young people									
2003–04	3,000	1,501	2,584	1,732	1,093	336	279	284	10,809
2004–05	2,905	1,346	2,408	1,775	1,001	341	250	294	10,320
2005–06	3,148	1,380	2,449	1,914	951	372	216	288	10,718
2006–07	3,044	1,541	2,438	1,892	925	362	217	256	10,675
Number per 1,000									
2003–04	4.1	2.8	5.8	7.6	6.7	6.1	7.8	11.2	4.9
2004–05	4.0	2.5	5.3	7.7	6.1	6.2	7.0	11.3	4.6
2005–06	4.3	2.5	5.3	8.3	5.8	6.7	6.1	10.9	4.8
2006–07	4.1	2.8	5.2	8.1	5.6	6.6	6.2	9.6	4.7

Notes

1. Age was calculated as at date of entry to first period of supervision during the relevant financial year.
2. Tasmania has incomplete data resulting in higher reported numbers in detention (see Section 2.3.3 Data quality and coverage).

3.3 Number of males and females under supervision

As is the case in the adult criminal justice system, most young people under juvenile justice supervision during 2006–07 were male (Table 3.3). Nationally, 84% of young people under supervision were male. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of males among the states and territories (92%) while the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest proportion (77%).

Table 3.3: Young people under juvenile justice supervision by sex, states and territories, 2006–07

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
Number of young people									
Male	3,049	1,977	2,173	1,610	947	420	198	279	10,653
Female	512	321	497	402	188	100	60	25	2,105
Total	3,561	2,298	2,670	2,019	1,135	520	258	304	12,765
Per cent of young people									
Male	85.6	86.0	81.4	79.7	83.4	80.8	76.7	91.8	83.5
Female	14.4	14.0	18.6	19.9	16.6	19.2	23.3	8.2	16.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Total includes young people of unknown sex.

Nationally in 2006–07, 8 out of every 1,000 males aged 10–17 years were under juvenile justice supervision at some time during the year, compared with 1.6 per 1,000 females (Table 3.4). Among the states and territories, the rate of males under supervision varied from about 5 per 1,000 in Victoria to nearly 19 per 1,000 in the Northern Territory, while the female rate ranged from almost 1 per 1,000 in Victoria to around 3 per 1,000 in Western Australia. In most states and territories, males were between 3 and 6 times more likely to be under supervision than females, although in Western Australia, they were 15 times more likely to be under supervision.

Table 3.4: Rates of young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision per 1,000 young people by sex, states and territories, 2006–07

Sex	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
Number of young people									
Male	2,593	1,293	1,961	1,495	762	289	167	239	8,799
Female	451	248	477	391	163	73	50	17	1,870
Total	3,044	1,541	2,438	1,892	925	362	217	256	10,675
Rate per 1,000 young people									
Male	7.2	4.9	8.6	13.2	9.5	10.8	9.7	18.7	8.0
Female	1.2	0.9	2.0	3.2	1.9	2.6	2.8	1.2	1.6
Total	4.1	2.8	5.2	8.1	5.6	6.6	6.2	9.6	4.7

Notes

1. Total includes young people of unknown sex.
2. Age was calculated as at date of entry to first period of supervision during 2006–07.

3.4 Age of young people under supervision

Most young people who had juvenile justice supervision during 2006–07 were in older age groups; around two-thirds (65%) were aged 16 years or older (Table 3.5). Less than 8% of young people were aged 13 years or younger. The distribution was relatively consistent among states and territories for young people aged 10–17 years.

Across states and territories, the proportion of young people under juvenile justice supervision who were aged 18 years or older varied between 6% in Western Australia and 33% in Victoria. There are several distinct reasons for this. Firstly, most jurisdictions continue to supervise some young people who begin their sentence when they are under 18 until after they turn 18. The reasons for this include the appropriateness of continued and consistent supervision and the level of maturity of some young people. Secondly, the legislative requirements of a number of jurisdictions require the age at the time of the offence to determine whether the juvenile courts have jurisdiction. Delays between the date of the alleged offence and the court proceedings may also contribute to the numbers under juvenile justice supervision who are over the age of 18. Finally, Victoria has legislative provision that allows adult courts to sentence young people who are between the ages of 18 and 20 years to periods of detention in juvenile justice facilities. This allows the adult courts to take into account the maturity of the young person and the relative benefit of adult or juvenile supervision.

Table 3.5: Young people under juvenile justice supervision by age, states and territories, 2006–07

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
Number of young people									
10	3	1	9	8	4	1	—	—	26
11	21	—	26	18	13	3	2	—	83
12	65	23	63	65	15	10	6	4	251
13	139	60	143	141	59	21	15	10	588
14	380	176	364	260	116	45	22	26	1,389
15	618	275	581	380	187	57	38	44	2,180
16	814	442	783	479	231	94	61	74	2,978
17	1,004	564	469	541	300	131	73	98	3,180
18+	517	757	232	127	210	158	41	48	2,090
Total	3,561	2,298	2,670	2,019	1,135	520	258	304	12,765
Per cent of young people									
10	0.1	—	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	—	—	0.2
11	0.6	—	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.8	—	0.7
12	1.8	1.0	2.4	3.2	1.3	1.9	2.3	1.3	2.0
13	3.9	2.6	5.4	7.0	5.2	4.0	5.8	3.3	4.6
14	10.7	7.7	13.6	12.9	10.2	8.7	8.5	8.6	10.9
15	17.4	12.0	21.8	18.8	16.5	11.0	14.7	14.5	17.1
16	22.9	19.2	29.3	23.7	20.4	18.1	23.6	24.3	23.3
17	28.2	24.5	17.6	26.8	26.4	25.2	28.3	32.2	24.9
18+	14.5	32.9	8.7	6.3	18.5	30.4	15.9	15.8	16.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Age was calculated as at date of entry to first period of supervision during 2006–07.

3.5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under supervision

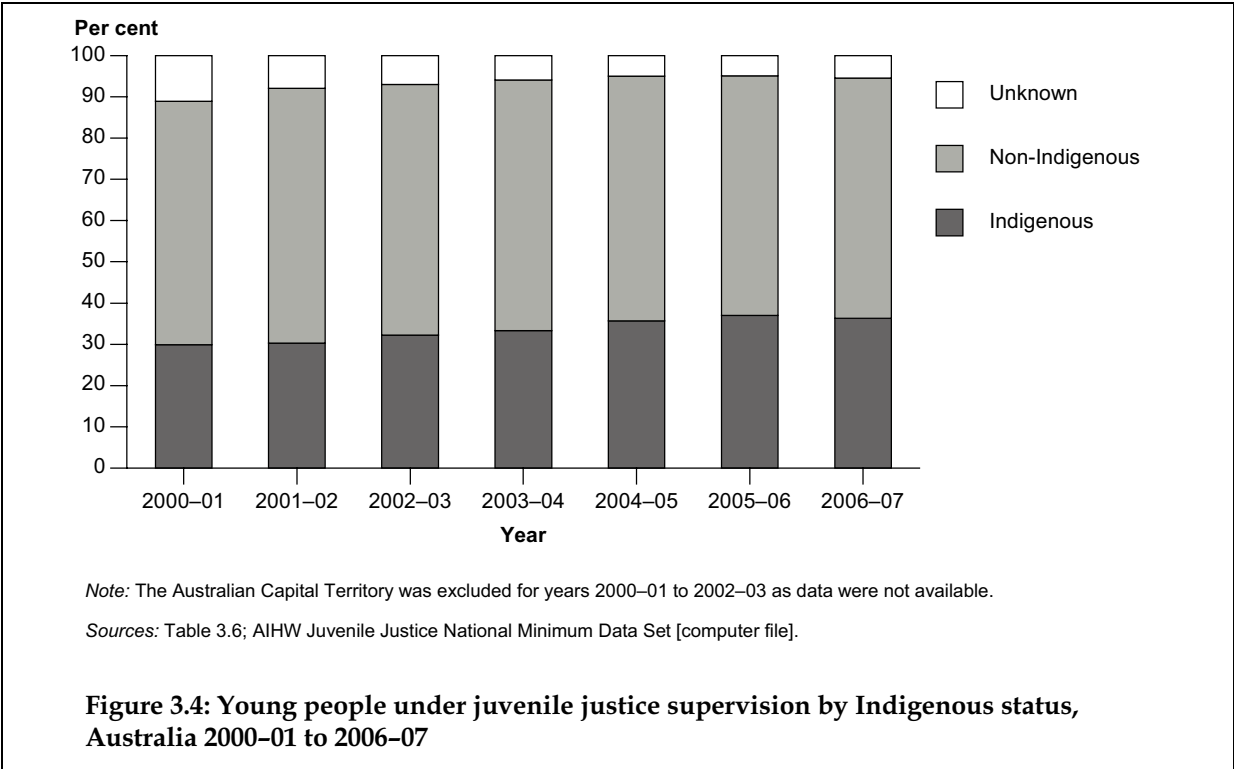
While the majority of young people under juvenile justice supervision are non-Indigenous, a large proportion is of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. Of those under supervision in 2006–07, over one-third of young people (36%) are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (Table 3.6). However, there is considerable variation among states and territories in the proportion of young people who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory all had high proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under supervision (between 47% in Queensland and 86% in the Northern Territory). These states and territories are the ones with higher proportions of the total population who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (see Figure 2.2). In contrast, in Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the proportion of young people under supervision who were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders was less than 20%.

Table 3.6: Young people under juvenile justice supervision by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2006–07

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
Number of young people									
Indigenous	1,163	242	1,244	1,240	337	98	50	261	4,635
Non-Indigenous	2,129	1,775	1,425	761	730	370	208	42	7,440
Unknown	269	281	1	18	68	52	—	1	690
Total	3,561	2,298	2,670	2,019	1,135	520	258	304	12,765
Per cent of young people									
Indigenous	32.7	10.5	46.6	61.4	29.7	18.8	19.4	85.9	36.3
Non-Indigenous	59.8	77.2	53.4	37.7	64.3	71.2	80.6	13.8	58.3
Unknown	7.6	12.2	0.0	0.9	6.0	10.0	—	0.3	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under juvenile justice supervision increased from 30% in 2000–01 to 36% in 2006–07 (Figure 3.4). The increase in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people may be due to an actual increase in the proportion of young people under juvenile justice supervision who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, or it may be due to increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification among this group as well as improvements in data quality, especially as the proportion of young people whose Indigenous status is unknown has decreased from 11% to 5% over the 7-year period.

The over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in juvenile detention has been apparent for a number of years (AIC 2007). These results show that this over-representation occurs for community-based supervision as well as detention.



The rates of juvenile justice supervision for all young people aged 10–17 years show high levels of over-representation of Indigenous youth, relative to their population distribution, throughout the states and territories during 2006–07 (Table 3.7). Nationally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were under juvenile justice supervision at a rate of nearly 40 young people per 1,000, compared with around 3 per 1,000 for non-Indigenous young people. While rates for non-Indigenous young people were similar across all states and territories, there was considerable variation in the rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. Western Australia had the highest Indigenous rate, with around 80 per 1,000 Indigenous young people under supervision, followed by South Australia with 50 per 1,000 and the Australian Capital Territory with 42 per 1,000. The Northern Territory, Tasmania and Victoria had the lowest rates, which ranged from 20 to 26 per 1,000.

Table 3.7: Rates of young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision per 1,000 young people by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2006–07

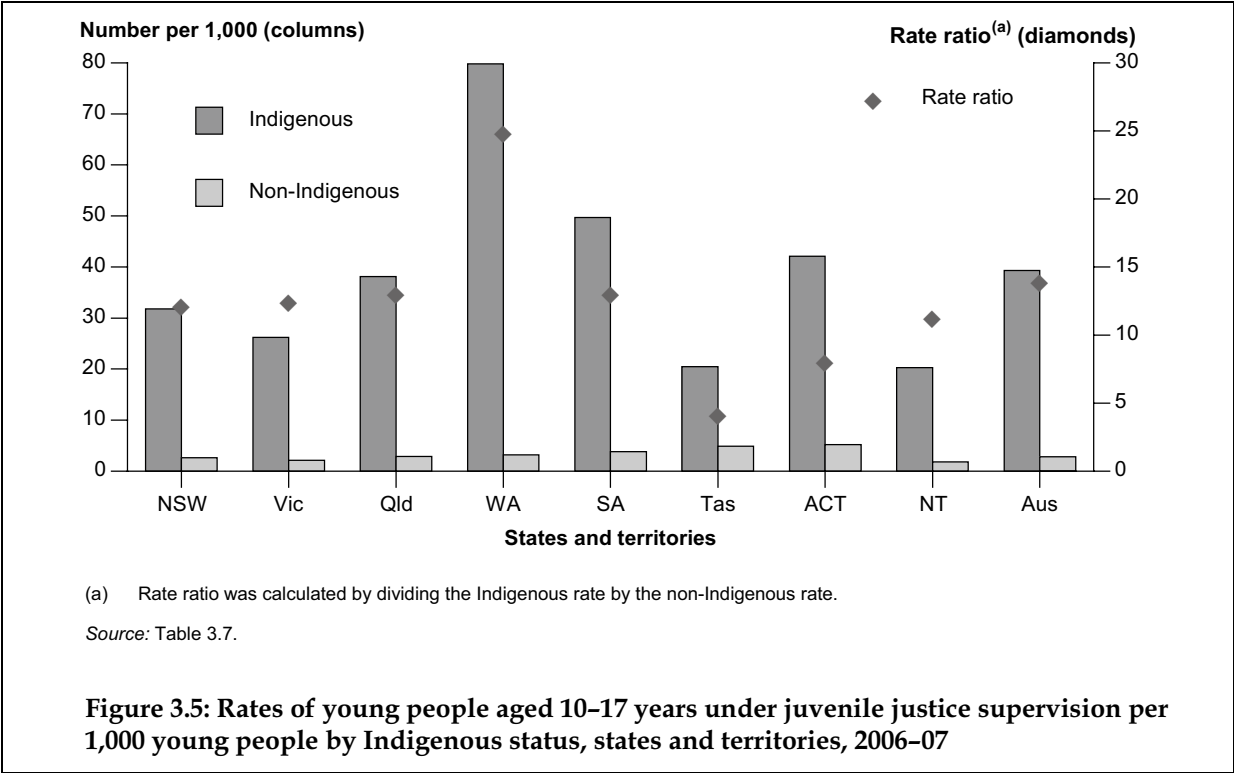
Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
Number of young people									
Indigenous	1,027	182	1,162	1,165	279	79	41	228	4,163
Non-Indigenous	1,792	1,152	1,275	709	596	251	176	27	5,978
Unknown	225	207	1	18	50	32	—	1	534
Total	3,044	1,541	2,438	1,892	925	362	217	256	10,675
Rate per 1,000									
Indigenous	31.8	26.2	38.1	79.8	49.7	20.5	42.1	20.3	39.3
Non-Indigenous	2.6	2.1	2.9	3.2	3.8	4.9	5.2	1.8	2.8
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4.1	2.8	5.2	8.1	5.6	6.6	6.2	9.6	4.7

Notes

1. Calculation of rates excludes Unknown.
2. Age was calculated as at date of entry to first period of supervision during 2006–07.

The considerable variation in Indigenous rates among states and territories combined with the lack of variation in non-Indigenous rates means that the rate ratio also varies considerably. In Figure 3.5, columns represent the rate of supervision per 1,000 young people while the diamond shows the rate ratio (the Indigenous rate divided by the non-Indigenous rate), which is the propensity for Indigenous young people to be under juvenile justice supervision compared with non-Indigenous young people.

In Western Australia, which has the largest rate ratio, an Indigenous young person is 25 times more likely to be under supervision than a non-Indigenous young person, while in Tasmania, which has the smallest rate ratio, an Indigenous young person is 4 times more likely to be under supervision. In the remaining states and territories, the rate ratio varied from 8 to 13.



Nationally, there has been little change in the rates of supervision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Indigenous Australians over the most recent 4-year period (Table 3.8). However, both Western Australia and Tasmania have had large increases in the rate of Indigenous Australians under supervision. In Western Australia, the rate of Indigenous young people increased from 70 per 1,000 in 2003–04 to 80 per 1,000 in 2006–07, while the rate for Tasmania increased from 11 to 21 per 1,000 over the same period. In contrast, the Indigenous rate decreased in South Australia from 62 to 50 per 1,000 and in the Australian Capital Territory from 53 to 42 per 1,000 young people. Although most states and territories have experienced changes in the non-Indigenous rate of supervision over the same period, they are not of the same magnitude as the changes in the Indigenous rates.

Table 3.8: Rates of young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision per 1,000 young people by Indigenous status, states and territories, 2003–04 to 2006–07

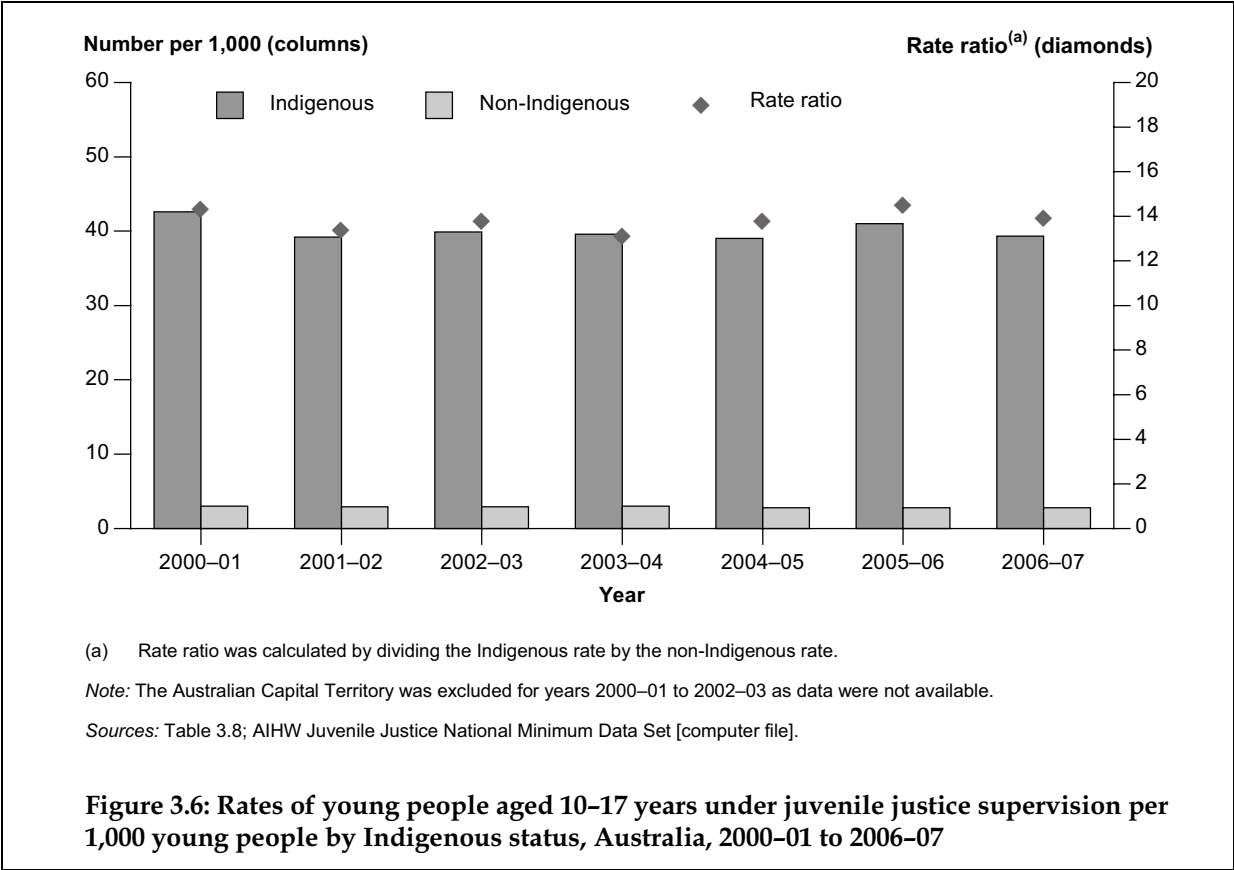
Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
2003–04									
Indigenous	34.2	24.9	39.7	70.1	61.9	11.2	53.2	21.2	39.6
Non-Indigenous	2.6	2.5	3.6	2.9	4.4	3.8	6.7	3.8	3.0
Total	4.1	2.8	5.8	7.6	6.7	6.1	7.8	11.2	4.9
2004–05									
Indigenous	32.4	22.7	38.1	73.7	57.8	14.3	55.8	22.8	39.0
Non-Indigenous	2.5	2.2	3.1	3.0	4.0	4.1	5.8	3.0	2.8
Total	4.0	2.5	5.3	7.7	6.1	6.2	7.0	11.3	4.6
2005–06									
Indigenous	34.9	24.7	40.0	80.1	52.3	19.6	44.2	21.8	41.0
Non-Indigenous	2.6	2.1	2.9	3.3	3.9	4.8	5.1	3.0	2.8
Total	4.3	2.5	5.3	8.3	5.8	6.7	6.1	10.9	4.8
2006–07									
Indigenous	31.8	26.2	38.1	79.8	49.7	20.5	42.1	20.3	39.3
Non-Indigenous	2.6	2.1	2.9	3.2	3.8	4.9	5.2	1.8	2.8
Total	4.1	2.8	5.2	8.1	5.6	6.6	6.2	9.6	4.7

Notes

1. The Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania has reported that the Indigenous data for Tasmania for 2003–04 to 2005–06 may not be reliable due to limitations in the reporting capabilities of the information system.
2. Calculation of rates excludes Unknown.
3. Age was calculated as at date of entry to first period of supervision during the relevant year.

Source: Table D1.

Both the rate of Indigenous young people under juvenile justice supervision and the rate of non-Indigenous young people decreased over the 7 years from 2000–01, but the rate ratio (that is, the propensity for Indigenous young people to be under juvenile justice supervision compared with non-Indigenous young people) increased slightly over the 7-year period (Figure 3.6). In 2000–01, Indigenous young people were 13 times more likely to be under supervision than non-Indigenous young people, while in 2006–07 they were 14 times more likely to be under supervision.



3.6 Relationships between sex, age and Indigenous status

In 2006–07, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people under juvenile justice supervision were, on average, slightly younger than non-Indigenous young people under supervision (Table 3.9). Of those aged 10–17 years, the median age of Indigenous young people was 15 years compared with 16 years for non-Indigenous young people. The proportion that was Indigenous in each age group steadily decreased from 10 years (73%) to 18 years old (23%).

Proportionally more females were aged 14 to 17 years than males (81% compared with 75% respectively), while fewer were aged 18 years or older (11%, compared with 17% for males).

Table 3.9: Young people under juvenile justice supervision by age, sex and Indigenous status, Australia, 2006–07

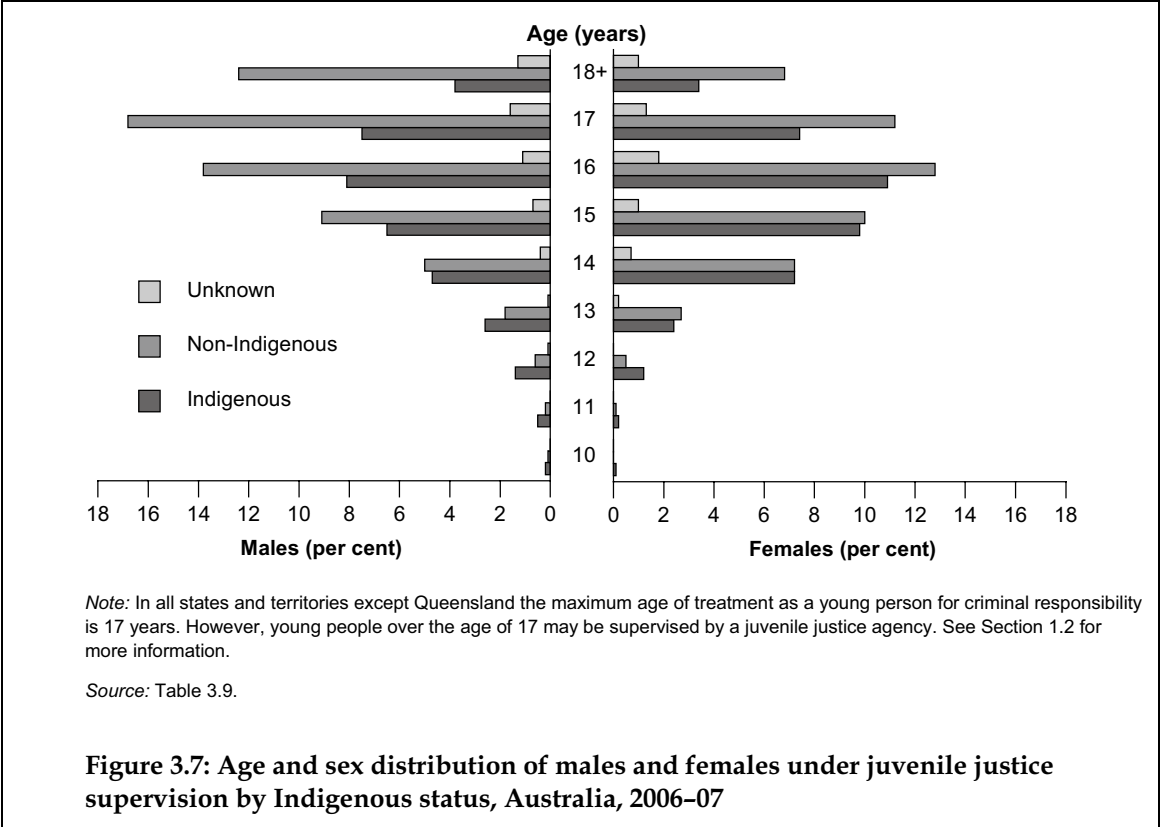
Sex	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
Number of young people										
Male										
Indigenous	16	55	146	272	496	694	858	794	400	3,731
Non-Indigenous	7	18	60	190	534	968	1,469	1,793	1,318	6,357
Unknown	—	3	7	14	39	78	114	174	136	565
Total	23	76	213	476	1,069	1,740	2,441	2,761	1,854	10,653
Female										
Indigenous	3	5	26	50	152	206	229	156	71	898
Non-Indigenous	—	2	11	57	152	211	269	236	144	1,082
Unknown	—	—	—	4	14	22	38	27	20	125
Total	3	7	37	111	318	439	536	419	235	2,105
All young people										
Indigenous	19	60	173	323	649	901	1,088	950	472	4,635
Non-Indigenous	7	20	71	247	687	1,179	1,738	2,029	1,462	7,440
Unknown	—	3	7	18	53	100	152	201	156	690
Total	26	83	251	588	1,389	2,180	2,978	3,180	2,090	12,765
Per cent of young people										
Male										
Indigenous	69.6	72.4	68.5	57.1	46.4	39.9	35.1	28.8	21.6	35.0
Non-Indigenous	30.4	23.7	28.2	39.9	50.0	55.6	60.2	64.9	71.1	59.7
Unknown	—	3.9	3.3	2.9	3.6	4.5	4.7	6.3	7.3	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female										
Indigenous	100.0	71.4	70.3	45.0	47.8	46.9	42.7	37.2	30.2	42.7
Non-Indigenous	—	28.6	29.7	51.4	47.8	48.1	50.2	56.3	61.3	51.4
Unknown	—	—	—	3.6	4.4	5.0	7.1	6.4	8.5	5.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All young people										
Indigenous	73.1	72.3	68.9	54.9	46.7	41.3	36.5	29.9	22.6	36.3
Non-Indigenous	26.9	24.1	28.3	42.0	49.5	54.1	58.4	63.8	70.0	58.3
Unknown	—	3.6	2.8	3.1	3.8	4.6	5.1	6.3	7.5	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Age (in years) was calculated as at entry to first *supervision period* in 2006–07. If the *supervision period* began before 2006–07, age was calculated as at 1 July 2006.
2. Total includes young people of unknown sex.

Related table: State and territory appendixes 2006–07, Table 1.

The population of females who experienced juvenile justice supervision in 2006–07 had a slightly younger age structure than the equivalent male population (Figure 3.7). This was true for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous females. While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people formed a smaller proportion of the population at older ages for both males and females, at younger age groups there were proportionally more Indigenous young people, especially females.



Proportionally more females were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders than males (43% compared with 35%), and this occurred in all states and territories except Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (Table 3.10). For females, the proportion that was Indigenous ranged from 9% in Tasmania to 84% in the Northern Territory. Among males, the proportion ranged from 10% in Victoria to 86% in the Northern Territory.

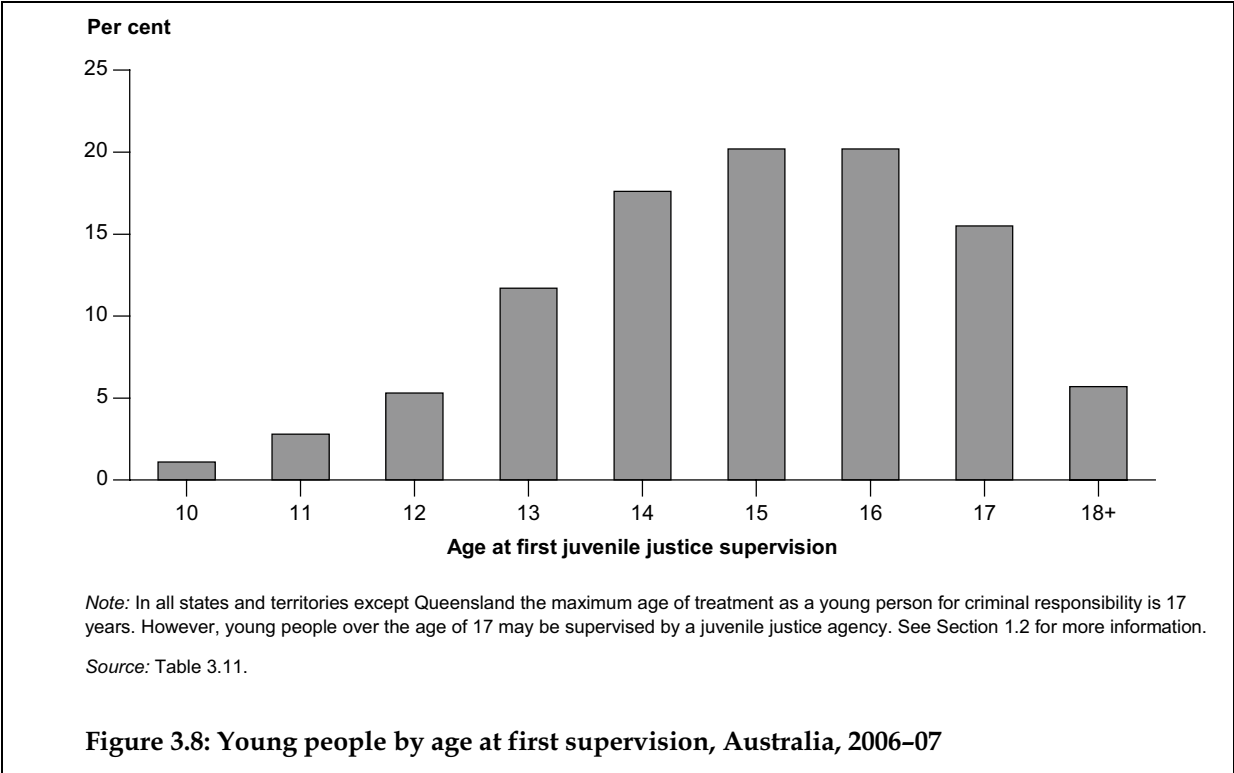
Table 3.10: Young people under juvenile justice supervision by sex and Indigenous status, states and territories, 2006–07

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
Number of young people									
Male									
Indigenous	982	198	965	958	260	89	39	240	3,731
Non-Indigenous	1,852	1,540	1,208	636	628	296	159	38	6,357
Unknown	215	239	—	16	59	35	—	1	565
Total	3,049	1,977	2,173	1,610	947	420	198	279	10,653
Female									
Indigenous	181	44	279	276	77	9	11	21	898
Non-Indigenous	277	235	217	124	102	74	49	4	1,082
Unknown	54	42	1	2	9	17	—	—	125
Total	512	321	497	402	188	100	60	25	2,105
All young people									
Indigenous	1,163	242	1,244	1,240	337	98	50	261	4,635
Non-Indigenous	2,129	1,775	1,425	761	730	370	208	42	7,440
Unknown	269	281	1	18	68	52	—	1	690
Total	3,561	2,298	2,670	2,019	1,135	520	258	304	12,765
Per cent of young people									
Male									
Indigenous	32.2	10.0	44.4	59.5	27.5	21.2	19.7	86.0	35.0
Non-Indigenous	60.7	77.9	55.6	39.5	66.3	70.5	80.3	13.6	59.7
Unknown	7.1	12.1	—	1.0	6.2	8.3	—	0.4	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female									
Indigenous	35.4	13.7	56.1	68.7	41.0	9.0	18.3	84.0	42.7
Non-Indigenous	54.1	73.2	43.7	30.8	54.3	74.0	81.7	16.0	51.4
Unknown	10.5	13.1	0.2	0.5	4.8	17.0	—	—	5.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All young people									
Indigenous	32.7	10.5	46.6	61.4	29.7	18.8	19.4	85.9	36.3
Non-Indigenous	59.8	77.2	53.4	37.7	64.3	71.2	80.6	13.8	58.3
Unknown	7.6	12.2	0.0	0.9	6.0	10.0	—	0.3	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Total includes young people of unknown sex.

3.7 Age at first juvenile justice supervision

Of the young people who had juvenile justice supervision in 2006–07, three-fifths (58%) were 14–16 years at the start of their first juvenile justice supervision, which may have occurred in any year up to and including 2006–07 (Figure 3.8). Less than 5% were aged 10 or 11 years at the start of their first supervision.

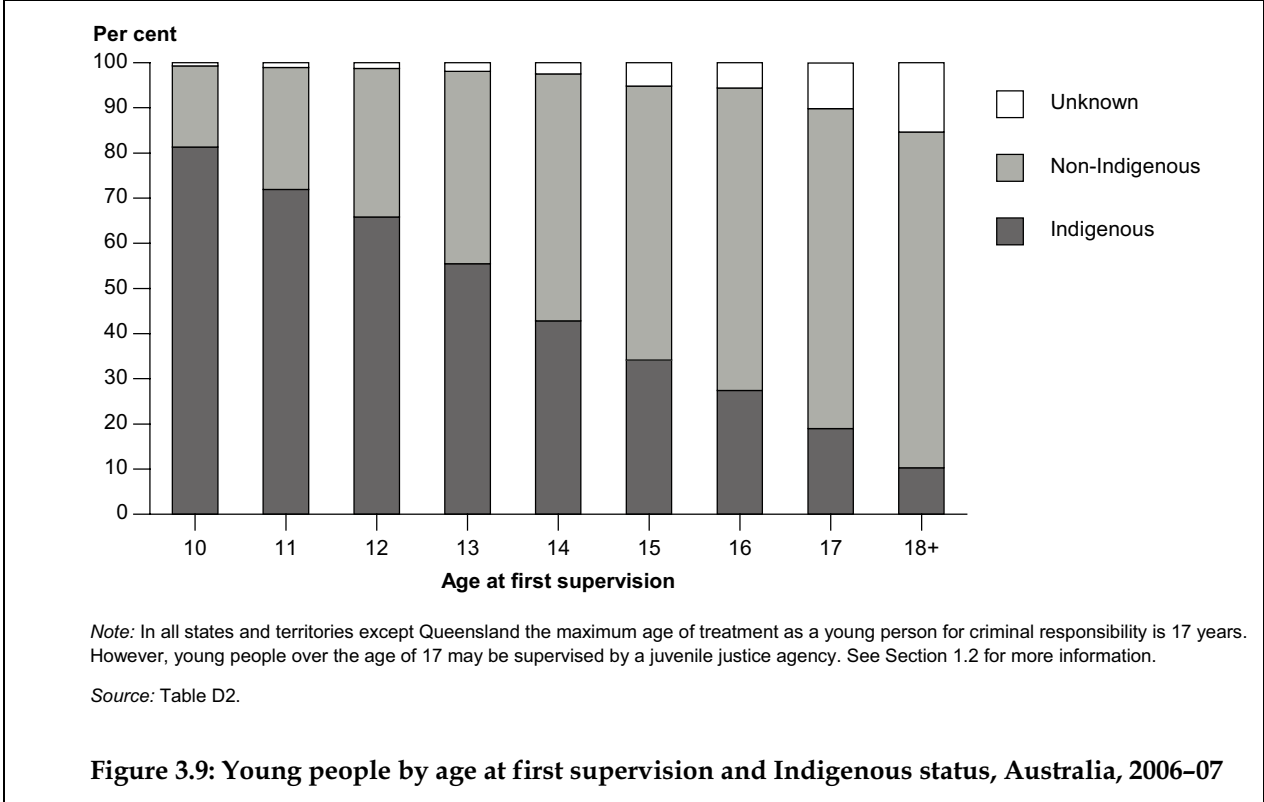


There was some variation between states and territories in the age at first supervision (Table 3.11). The proportion of young people aged 17 and over at the time of their first supervision was lowest in Queensland, where only 8% of young people were aged 17 or older. This is probably due to the legislation in Queensland that recognises 17 year olds as adults rather than juveniles. In the remaining states and territories, the proportion ranged from 14% in Western Australia to 38% in Victoria. In Victoria, 19% of young people began their supervision when they were aged 18 years or older, which is the highest proportion of all the states and territories. Legislation in Victoria allows for some young people aged up to 21 to be supervised in the juvenile justice system (see Section 1.2).

Table 3.11: Young people by age at first supervision, states and territories, 2006–07 (per cent)

Age	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aus
10	0.6	0.2	1.3	2.7	1.9	0.6	0.4	—	1.1
11	2.5	0.7	3.5	3.9	4.8	3.3	2.3	1.6	2.8
12	4.8	2.8	6.2	7.8	5.4	5.2	5.4	3.6	5.3
13	10.4	6.6	15.6	14.8	12.0	10.0	11.2	11.5	11.7
14	18.2	13.9	20.1	18.5	17.0	13.3	17.4	19.1	17.6
15	20.9	17.7	22.8	19.7	18.3	17.7	18.2	24.0	20.2
16	20.4	20.2	22.4	18.6	19.3	17.9	21.3	17.1	20.2
17	18.4	18.9	7.3	13.6	16.8	19.4	20.9	22.7	15.5
18 or older	3.8	19.0	0.8	0.4	4.4	12.7	2.7	0.3	5.7
Total (per cent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (number)	3,561	2,298	2,670	2,019	1,135	520	258	304	12,765

Of those under juvenile justice supervision in 2006–07 whose first supervision began at a young age, a greater proportion was Indigenous than non-Indigenous. In contrast, a greater proportion of those who entered supervision at an older age were non-Indigenous (Figure 3.9).



There were also differences in age at first supervision between males and females for young people who were under juvenile justice supervision in 2006–07. Females were more likely than males to have begun juvenile justice supervision when aged around 13–16 years and were less likely than males to have begun juvenile justice supervision for the first time when aged 10 or 11 years (Table 3.12).

Table 3.12: Young people by age at first supervision and sex, Australia, 2006–07

Sex	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total
Number of young people										
Male	125	326	574	1,212	1,764	2,096	2,173	1,729	654	10,653
Female	14	33	97	278	476	480	407	246	74	2,105
Unknown	—	—	1	1	2	2	1	—	—	7
Total	139	359	672	1,491	2,242	2,578	2,581	1,975	728	12,765
Per cent of young people										
Male	89.9	90.8	85.4	81.3	78.7	81.3	84.2	87.5	89.8	83.5
Female	10.1	9.2	14.4	18.6	21.2	18.6	15.8	12.5	10.2	16.5
Unknown	—	—	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	—	—	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes

1. Age (in years) was calculated as at entry to first *supervision period* in 2006–07. If the *supervision period* began before 2006–07, age was calculated as at 1 July 2006.
2. Total includes young people of unknown sex.

Related table: State and territory appendixes 2006–07, Table 2.

The age at which young people began their first juvenile justice supervision has remained relatively constant over the 4 years from 2003–04 (Table 3.13). The majority of young people (66–68%) who entered supervision for the first time each year were aged 15–17 years. In each year, only 3–5% of young people who began juvenile justice supervision were aged 10–12 years.

Table 3.13: Young people by age at and year of first supervision, Australia, 2000–01 to 2006–07 (per cent)

Year of first supervision	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	Total (per cent)	Number
2003–04	0.3	1.4	3.4	8.4	14.3	20.7	25.8	20.0	5.6	100.0	4,775
2004–05	0.2	1.3	3.1	7.9	14.0	21.0	25.2	20.5	6.8	100.0	4,537
2005–06	0.5	1.4	2.3	7.6	13.8	19.7	24.5	22.2	8.0	100.0	5,031
2006–07	0.3	1.1	3.0	6.6	14.4	19.8	24.0	22.3	8.5	100.0	4,936

Notes

1. This table excludes young people with unknown age.
2. This table excludes the Australian Capital Territory as data were not available for 2000–01 to 2002–03.