

Youth justice in Australia 2023–24

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About

Youth justice in Australia 2023–24 looks at the 4,227 young people who were under youth justice supervision on an average day in Australia during 2023–24 because of their involvement or alleged involvement in crime. The report examines the number and rate of young people under community-based supervision (82% of young people under supervision on an average day) and in detention.

The report explores the characteristics of young people under youth justice supervision, with a focus on First Nations young people, who continue to be overrepresented in the youth justice system. Other areas of focus in the report include the length of time spent under supervision, supervision history, trends in supervision and state and territory findings.

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Findings from this report:

- On an average day in 2023–24, 4,227 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision
- Of young people under supervision on an average day, 82% were supervised in the community
- The number of young people under supervision on an average day fell by 18% between 2019–20 and 2023–24
- First Nations young people made up 57% of those aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision on an average day

Summary

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This report looks at young people who were under youth justice supervision in Australia during 2023–24 because of their involvement or alleged involvement in crime. It explores the key aspects of supervision, both in the community and in detention, as well as recent trends. Some data are included from the period during which COVID-19 and related social restrictions were present in Australia, specifically between March 2020 and June 2022.

Updates and changes for 2023–24

Availability of Northern Territory data for 2023–24

The following data were not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24:

- all supervision (average day)
- community-based supervision (average day)
- orders
- completed supervision periods (all supervision and community-based supervision)
- average length of time spent under supervision during the year (all supervision and community-based supervision).

The Australia total for these measures exclude the Northern Territory for both numbers and rates per 10,000.

Impact of increased age of criminal responsibility on rates

In this report, rates are usually calculated for young people aged 10–17. In 2023, the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. This means that 10 and 11-year-olds cannot be held criminally responsible for their conduct in these jurisdictions during 2023–24.

To account for the increased age of criminal responsibility in these jurisdictions, the rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 (instead of 10–17) as 10 and 11-year-olds are absent from both the number (numerator) and population (denominator) used to calculate rates. The rates for Australia in 2023–24 will use the sum of the 12–17 population for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory and the 10–17 population for all other jurisdictions. All rates prior to 2023–24 will use the 10–17 population for all jurisdictions and Australia.

Note that care should be taken when comparing 2023–24 rates with prior years for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory. As the exclusion of 10 and 11-year-olds for these jurisdictions in 2023–24 has reduced the total in-scope population (denominator) by about 25%, rates will appear higher than in prior years.

When reporting rates at the state and territory level, this report presents rates for young people aged 12–17 (for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24, separate to rates for young people aged 10–17 for all other jurisdictions).

About 4,200 young people aged 10 and over were under supervision on an average day

A total of 4,227 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision on an average day in 2023–24 and 9,224 young people were supervised at some time during the year.

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

Among those aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision, the rate of youth justice supervision on an average day in 2023–24 was 12 per 10,000.

Most young people were supervised in the community

Just over 4 in 5 (82%) young people under supervision on an average day were supervised in the community, and 1 in 5 (20%) were in detention. (The number of young people under all supervision will not equal the sum of community-based supervision and detention because young people can be in both types of supervision on the same day).

The majority of young people in detention were unsentenced

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

Young people spent an average of 6 months under supervision

Individual periods of supervision that were completed during 2023–24 lasted for a median of 92 days or about 3 months. (This includes time under supervision before 1 July 2023 if the period started before that date.)

When all time spent under supervision during 2023–24 is considered (including multiple periods and periods that were not yet completed), young people who were supervised during the year spent an average of 182 days (about 6 months) under supervision.

Supervision rates varied among the states and territories

In this report, rates and proportions for small states and territories should be interpreted with caution as they may represent a very small number of young people.

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

In 2023–24, the rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day ranged from 4.1 per 10,000 in Victoria to 21 per 10,000 in Queensland.

In 2023–24, the rate of young people aged 12–17 under supervision on an average day in the Australian Capital Territory was 21 per 10,000. Note that rates in the Australian Capital Territory for 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 following the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Across both community supervision and detention, the average daily number and rate of supervision has fallen over the 5 years to 2023–24

This section uses the Australia total excluding the Northern Territory for all supervision and community-based supervision due to Northern Territory all supervision and community-based supervision (average day) data not being available in 2023–24. This is to maintain a consistent timeseries over the last 5 years.

The Australia total includes the Northern Territory for detention.

All youth justice supervision

Over the 5 years from 2019–20 to 2023–24, the number of young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision on an average day fell by 18% (from 5,158 to 4,227, while the rate of young people aged 10–17 fell by 23% (from 16 to 12 per 10,000).

Community-based supervision

Over the 5 years from 2019–20 to 2023–24, the number of young people aged 10 and over under community-based supervision on an average day fell by 20% (from 4,353 to 3,471), while the rate fell by 26% (from 14 to 10 per 10,000) for those aged 10–17.

Detention

Over the 5 years from 2019–20 to 2023–24, the number of young people aged 10 and over in detention on an average day fell by 3.7% (from 858 to 827), while the rate of young people aged 10–17 declined by 4.5% (from 2.8 to 2.7 per 10,000).

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

The vast majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) young people have never been under supervision with 1.1% of First Nations young people aged 10–17 being under supervision on an average day in 2023–24.

On an average day in 2023–24, there were:

- 2,226 First Nations young people under youth justice supervision
- 1,786 First Nations young people under community-based supervision
- 499 First Nations young people in detention.

First Nations young people are under youth justice supervision at much higher rates than non-Indigenous young people. Between 2019–20 and 2023–24, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day fell from 127 to 113 per 10,000. The rate of non-Indigenous young people under supervision also fell over the period, from 8.5 to 5.6 per 10,000.

The rate of First Nations young people under community-based supervision aged 10–17 declined from 105 per 10,000 in 2019–20 to 88 per 10,000 in 2023–24, while non-Indigenous rates fell, from 7.2 to 4.7 per 10,000.

The rate for First Nations young people aged 10–17 in detention increased from 23 to 27 per 10,000 over the 5-year period, while the non-Indigenous rates declined, from 1.4 to 1.0 per 10,000.

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

Although most young people under supervision on an average day had come from cities and regional areas (87%), those from geographically remote areas had the highest rates of supervision (ABS 2021).

On an average day in 2023–24, young people aged 10–17 who were from *Very remote* areas were 11 times as likely to be under supervision as those from *Major cities*. This largely reflects the higher proportions of First Nations Australians under youth justice supervision living in these areas.

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

Almost 2 in 5 young people (39%) under supervision on an average day in 2023–24 were from the lowest socioeconomic areas, compared with about 1 in 17 young people (6.0%) from the highest socioeconomic areas.

About 1 in 3 young people were new to supervision

Just over 1 in 3 (36%) young people under youth justice supervision in 2023–24 were new to supervision in that year. The rest (64%) had been supervised in a previous year.

First Nations young people (67%) were slightly more likely than non-Indigenous young people (61%) to have been under supervision in a previous year.

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

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

About 3 in 10 (31%, or 1,543) First Nations young people under supervision in 2023–24 were first supervised when aged 10–13 compared with about 1 in 7 (14%, or 584) non-Indigenous young people.

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2021) *Remoteness structure*, ABS, Australian Government.

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Data dashboard

This data dashboard (Figure 1) shows the number of young people under youth justice supervision on an average day and during the year in Australia. It includes data for 2023–24 and each state and territory. Additionally, it presents the proportion of young people under youth justice supervision by Indigenous status, sex, age and over time.

Figure 1: Young people under youth justice supervision, 2023–24

Type of supervision:

All supervision

Community

Detention

Unit of measurement:

- during the year
 on an average day

Select Jurisdiction:

Australia

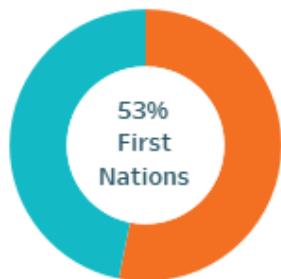
On an average day in **Australia** there are

4,227

young people **under youth justice supervision**

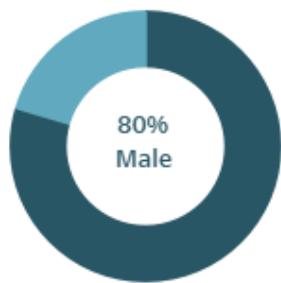
Aged 10+ | 2023-24

by Indigenous status



Queensland	1,598
New South Wales	1,007
Western Australia	599
Victoria	514
South Australia	292
Tasmania	123
Australian Capital Territory	93
Northern Territory	n.a.

by sex



Age group: under youth justice supervision in Australia

162

young people aged 10-13
under youth justice supervision on an
average day

3,102

young people aged 14-17
under youth justice supervision on an
average day

963

young people aged 18 and over
under youth justice supervision on an
average day

Trend by Indigenous status: under youth justice supervision in Australia ...

Select number/rate

Number aged 10 and over

Extended description for the data dashboard (Figure 1)

This data dashboard shows that there were 4,227 young people under youth justice supervision on an average day in Australia in 2023–24. A bar chart shows the number of young people under youth justice supervision on an average day by state and territory with:

- 1,598 in Queensland
- 1,007 in New South Wales
- 599 in Western Australia
- 514 in Victoria
- 292 in South Australia
- 123 in Tasmania
- 93 in the Australian Capital Territory
- n.a. in Northern Territory as this data was unavailable for 2023–24.

Of young people aged 10 and over under youth justice supervision on an average day in Australia:

- 53% were First Nations
- 80% were male.

On an average day in Australia in 2023–24, there were:

- 162 young people aged 10–13 under youth justice supervision
- 3,102 young people aged 14–17 under youth justice supervision
- 963 young people aged 18 and over under youth justice supervision.

Source: AIHW 2025. Youth Justice in Australia 2023–24

Under youth justice supervision in Australia* on an average day, the number of:

- <http://www.aihw.gov.au>
- young people decreased from 5,738 in 2014–15 to 4,557 in 2022–23
 - non-Indigenous young people decreased from 3,071 in 2014–15 to 2,054 in 2022–23
 - First Nations young people decreased from 2,562 in 2014–15 to 2,451 in 2022–23.

*To ensure a consistent timeseries, these trends do not include 2023–24 because Northern Territory average day data was not available this year.

Introduction

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Youth justice system

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

Young people can be charged with a criminal offence if they are aged 10 and over, except in the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory after the minimum age of criminal responsibility was raised from 10 to 12 years old in 2023 in both jurisdictions. Victoria and Tasmania have moved to raise the age of criminal responsibility in the coming years, while the Northern Territory has announced that the age of criminal responsibility will be lowered back to 10 years old (note that this will occur after the 2023–24 period which this report covers). There are separate justice systems for young people and adults. The upper age limit for the youth system is 17 (at the time of the offence) in all states and territories. Those aged 18 and over are dealt with under criminal legislation relating to adults.

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

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

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

In Victoria, some people aged 18–20 may be sentenced to detention in a youth facility under the state's 'dual track' sentencing system.

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

A court may decide to do any of the following:

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

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

Youth justice supervision

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

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

This principle is contained in youth justice legislation in each state and territory, with the exception of Queensland. It is also consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN 1989) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (also known as the Beijing Rules) (UN 1985). The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children should be deprived of liberty only as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period.

In August and December 2024, Queensland made various amendments to the *Youth Justice Act 1992* in relation to, among other things, sentencing principles and maximum penalties. These amendments will be discussed in the 2024–25 annual report.

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

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

Table 1.1: Types of youth justice supervision

Type of supervision	Community-based	Detention
Unsentenced supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervised or conditional bail • Home detention bail 	Remanded in custody (can be police- or court-referred)
Sentenced supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probation or similar • Suspended detention • Parole or supervised release 	Sentenced to detention

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

Sentenced community-based supervision comprises:

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

In Australia, information about young people under youth justice supervision is collected in the [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set \(YJ NMDS\)](#). Tables 1.2a and 1.2b provide a summary of the types of youth justice services that are available in the states and territories, and specifies the availability of data across the jurisdictions.

Table 1.2a: Supervised youth justice services available in the YJ NMDS, by state and territory, 2023–24, unsentenced

Services	Outcomes	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Community-based supervision	Supervised or conditional bail or similar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Detention	Police-referred detention	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓ ^(a)	✓	-
Detention	Remand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 1.2b: Supervised youth justice services available in the YJ NMDS, by state and territory, 2023–24, sentenced

Services	Outcomes	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Community-based supervision	Good behaviour bond	✓	✓ ^(b)	-	✓ ^(b)	✓	✓ ^(b)	✓	-
Community-based supervision	Probation and similar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community-based supervision	Community service	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community-based supervision	Suspended detention ^(c)	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community-based supervision	Home detention	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓
Community-based supervision	Parole or supervised release from detention ^(c)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Detention	Detention	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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

Notes

- a. In Tasmania, legislation does not explicitly preclude police-referred detention, but no orders of this type have been included in the NMDS submission.
- b. This is a youth justice outcome or service that is available in the state or territory but is outside the scope of the YJ NMDS.
- c. Suspended detention and supervised release from detention includes probation and parole.

Key policy directions in 2023–24

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

In 2023–24, some of the most commonly identified policy directions included:

- undertaking early intervention to provide services and programs to at-risk young people and their families
- offering alternatives to detention, including the use of warnings, cautions and conferencing
- delivering better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
- providing an individualised, therapeutic, culturally safe and trauma-informed approach to youth justice service delivery to prevent escalation of anti-social or offending behaviour
- designing and delivering programs to reduce reoffending
- increasing the minimum age of criminal responsibility, or announcing an intention to do so in the coming years
- improving the services and supports provided to young people with disability to achieve equity and inclusion in the youth justice system
- improving infrastructure in detention facilities, as well as building the capacity and capability of the youth justice workforce.

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

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

In August 2023, the Northern Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. In August 2024, the Northern Territory committed to lowering the criminal age of responsibility back to 10.

Due to the implementation of a new information system ahead of the 2022–23 YJ NMDS submission, data for the Northern Territory will not be comparable to [Youth justice in Australia](#) releases prior to 2022–23.

Additionally, new legislation was implemented to the Northern Territory youth justice system on 15 May 2021 – the [Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Act \(YJLA\) 2021](#) (the Act). The intent of the Act was to target repeat youth offenders to reduce youth crime. The Act resulted in some key changes to processes of the youth justice system. This change in legislation may have affected the number and rate of young people in detention in the Northern Territory.

In Australia, the Meeting of Attorneys-General (MAG) reviewed Australia's age of criminal responsibility. MAG noted that the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory have committed to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and states have supported the development of proposals to raise the age, having regard to any carve outs, timing and discussion of implementation requirements (MAG 2023).

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

In April 2023, Victoria made an announcement to raise the criminal age of responsibility to 12 by the end of 2024, and to 14 in 2027. In August 2024, Victoria announced that they would no longer raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14, but remain committed to raising the age to 12.

In June 2022, Tasmania committed to raising the age of criminal detention from 10 to 14 years old. Subsequently, in September 2023, the [Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings report](#) recommended that the Government introduce legislation to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, without exception and work towards increasing the minimum age of detention (including remand) to 16 years by developing alternatives to detention for children aged 14 and 15 years who are found guilty of serious violent offences and who may be a danger to themselves or the community. The Tasmanian Government has accepted this recommendation.

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

References

- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (2020) [Closing the Gap report 2020](#), Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra.
- MAG (Meeting of Attorneys-General) (2023) Council of Attorneys-General communique. Canberra: [Age of Criminal Responsibility Working Group Report 2023](#), accessed 11 November 2023.
- Royal Commission and Board of Inquiry (2017) [Final report - Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory](#), report to the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government, Royal Commission and Board of Inquiry, Darwin.
- UN (United Nations) (1985)  [United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice \('Beijing Rules'\)](#), adopted by General Assembly resolution 40/33 on 29 November 1985, United Nations General Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland.
- UN (1989) [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), adopted by General Assembly resolution 44/25 on 20 November 1989, United Nations General Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland.

About this report

This report presents information about young people in Australia who were under youth justice supervision during 2023–24, both in the community and in detention. It looks at the characteristics of these young people, key aspects of their supervision, and recent trends. It is based on data from the YJ NMDS for all states and territories in Australia.

Numbers in this report include young people of all ages (including those aged 18 and over) unless otherwise specified. Proportions presented in this report are calculated off numbers presented in the report and/or supplementary tables. Population rates are calculated only for young people aged 10–17, as this is the main age group for youth justice supervision in most states and territories. For more information on the impact of COVID-19 and the minimum age of criminal responsibility on population rates see:

- [Appendix A1: data quality](#)
- [Appendix A2: technical information](#).

For information on each state and territory's youth justice systems, see:

- [Appendix B: youth justice remand and detention centres](#)
- [Appendix C: youth justice legislation](#)
- [Appendix D: state and territory youth justice systems, polices and programs 2023–24](#).

All data presented in this report are available in the online supplementary tables – See [Data](#).

Average daily data, broken down by age, will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20. For more information on the calculation of age, see [Appendix A2: technical information](#).

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

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 'first wave' of social restrictions was introduced in Australia in mid-March 2020. These restrictions were progressively eased in most states/territories from May 2020. A 'second wave' of social restrictions was introduced in Victoria from July 2020 and started to progressively ease from September 2020. A 'third wave' of social restrictions was introduced in New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory from June 2021 and started to progressively ease from October 2021. Since then, additional waves of COVID-19 have affected all jurisdictions with small restrictions in place during that time.

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

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

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors including:

- variability of the data
- variations in state-based legislation, policy and practice
- small numbers of young people under supervision.

More research is required to better understand the impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on youth justice supervision across Australia.

References

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

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

Prime Minister of Australia (2020), *Update on coronavirus measures on 18 March 2020*, Canberra: Department of Health, accessed 6 October 2020.

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Numbers and rates of young people under supervision

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National

On an average day in 2023–24, 4,227 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision in Australia (Figure 2.1; Table 2.1a). A total of 9,224 young people were supervised at some time during the year (Table S1b).

On an average day, most young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision were supervised in the community (82%) – the remainder (20%) were in detention (Tables S1a, S34a and S72a). (Proportions may not sum to 100% as some young people are supervised under community-based supervision and detention on the same day.)

Although relatively few young people were in detention on an average day, about half (50%, or 4,578) of all young people who were supervised during 2023–24 had been in detention at some time during the year (Figure 2.1).

A high proportion of young people who were supervised during 2023–24 had also been under community-based supervision at some point during the year (87% or 8,031). The high proportions of young people under community-based supervision and detention during the year reflect the fact that young people often experience both community-based supervision and detention during the year (Figure 2.1).

Additionally, the difference between the number in detention on an average day and the number who had been in detention during the year reflects the fact that most young people typically spend a short time in detention (see [Appendix A2: technical information](#)).

Figure 2.1: Young people under supervision on an average day and during the year, by supervision type, 2023–24 (number and rate)



a. Rates are presented for young people aged 10–17.

Notes

1. The average daily number of all supervision will not equal the sum of community-based supervision and detention because young people can be in both types of supervision on the same day.
2. Young people can be in both community-based supervision and detention during the year so the sum of these types of supervision will not be equal to the total number of young people under youth justice supervision.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day is not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

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

Extended description for Figure 2.1

This diagram/flowchart is split into 2 streams, that is, 'average day' and 'during the year'.

Under the first stream, 'average day', the first box contains the heading 'all supervision' with 4,227 young people (12 per 10,000).

There are 2 boxes flowing from 'all supervision', with the qualifier 'or', as follows:

- Box 1: Community - 3,471 young people (10 per 10,000)
- Box 2: Detention – 827 young people (2.7 per 10,000).

Under the second stream, 'during the year', the first box contains the heading 'all supervision' with 9,224 young people (29 per 10,000).

There are 2 boxes flowing from 'all supervision', with the qualifiers 'and/or', as follows:

- Box 1: Community – 8,031 young people (25 per 10,000)
- Box 2: Detention – 4,578 young people (17 per 10,000).

The rate of young people aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision on an average day was about 12 per 10,000 (Figure 2.1).

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

Table 2.1a: Number of young people under supervision, by supervision type and state and territory, 2023–24

Type of supervision	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT*	NT*	Australia
Community – Average day^(a)	795.1	423.2	1,288.8	516.4	262.6	107.2	77.5*	n.a.*	3,470.6
Detention – Average day^(a)	217.0	93.1	318.3	87.2	32.1	16.3	16.5*	46.2*	826.8
All supervision – Average day^(a)	1,006.7	514.0	1,597.9	599.4	292.4	123.0	93.3*	n.a.*	4,226.7
Community – During the year	1,707	938	2,472	1,276	560	206	155*	717*	8,031
Detention – During the year	1,500	353	1,114	800	317	77	112*	305*	4,578
All supervision – During the year	2,421	974	2,565	1,504	626	226	181*	727*	9,224

Footnotes and notes are provided following Table 2.1b.

Table 2.1b: Rate (per 10,000) of young people under supervision, by supervision type and state and territory, 2023–24

Type of supervision	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT*	NT*	Australia
Community – Average day^(a)	8.8	3.3	15.7	14.6	12.2	14.5	17.1*	n.a.*	10.0
Detention – Average day^(a)	2.1	0.8	5.1	2.9	1.7	2.9	3.9*	21.6*	2.7
All supervision – Average day^(a)	10.9	4.1	20.6	17.4	13.8	17.3	20.8*	n.a.*	12.5
Community – During the year	19.7	8.1	34.1	39.9	27.8	30.9	41.9*	252.8*	25.1
Detention – During the year	17.2	4.2	18.7	26.6	17.3	14.2	34.0*	149.9*	16.5
All supervision – During the year	27.6	8.5	35.9	47.8	31.1	34.6	48.6*	260.2*	29.4

(Footnotes and notes for tables 2.1a and 2.1b)

* Numbers and rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

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

Notes

1. Numbers of young people on an average day represent all young people aged 10 and over under youth justice supervision. This includes some young people aged 18 and over. Rates are age specific and are calculated for young people aged 10–17 as this is the core age group of the youth justice population.
2. For more information about 'average day' and 'during the year' measures, see [Appendix A1: Data quality](#) and [Appendix A2: technical information](#).
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in [Youth justice in Australia releases before 2019–20](#).
4. The number and rate of young people on an average day is not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.

Source: tables S1, S4, S34, S37, S72 and S75.

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States and territories

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

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

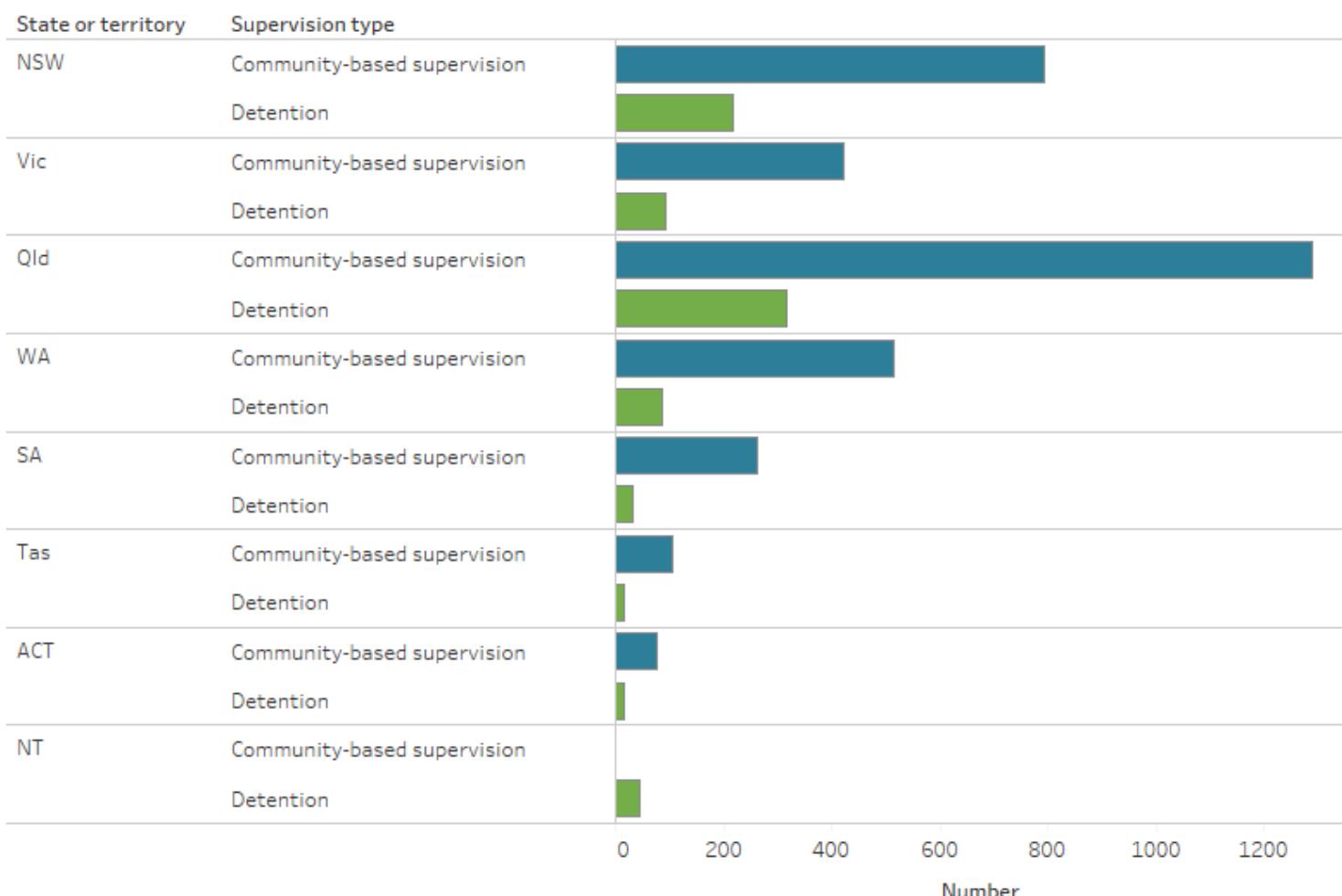
Young people in Queensland made up:

- 38% of all young people under supervision
- 37% of all young people under community-based supervision
- 38% of all young people under detention (Table 2.1a).

Young people in New South Wales made up:

- 24% of all young people under supervision
- 23% of all young people under community-based supervision
- 26% of all young people under detention (Figure 2.2; Table S1a).

Figure 2.2: Young people under supervision on an average day, by supervision type and state and territory, 2023–24 (number)



Notes

1. The number of young people under community-based supervision on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24.
2. Average day numbers for the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility in these jurisdictions.

Source: tables S34a and S72a.

On an average day in 2023–24, rates of young people aged 10–17 under supervision varied among the states and territories (Figure 2.3; Table 2.1b).

Rates of young people:

- under any type of supervision were lowest in Victoria (4.1 per 10,000) and highest Queensland (21 per 10,000)
- under community-based supervision ranged from 3.3 per 10,000 in Victoria to 16 per 10,000 in Queensland
- in detention ranged from 0.8 per 10,000 in Victoria to 5.1 in Queensland.

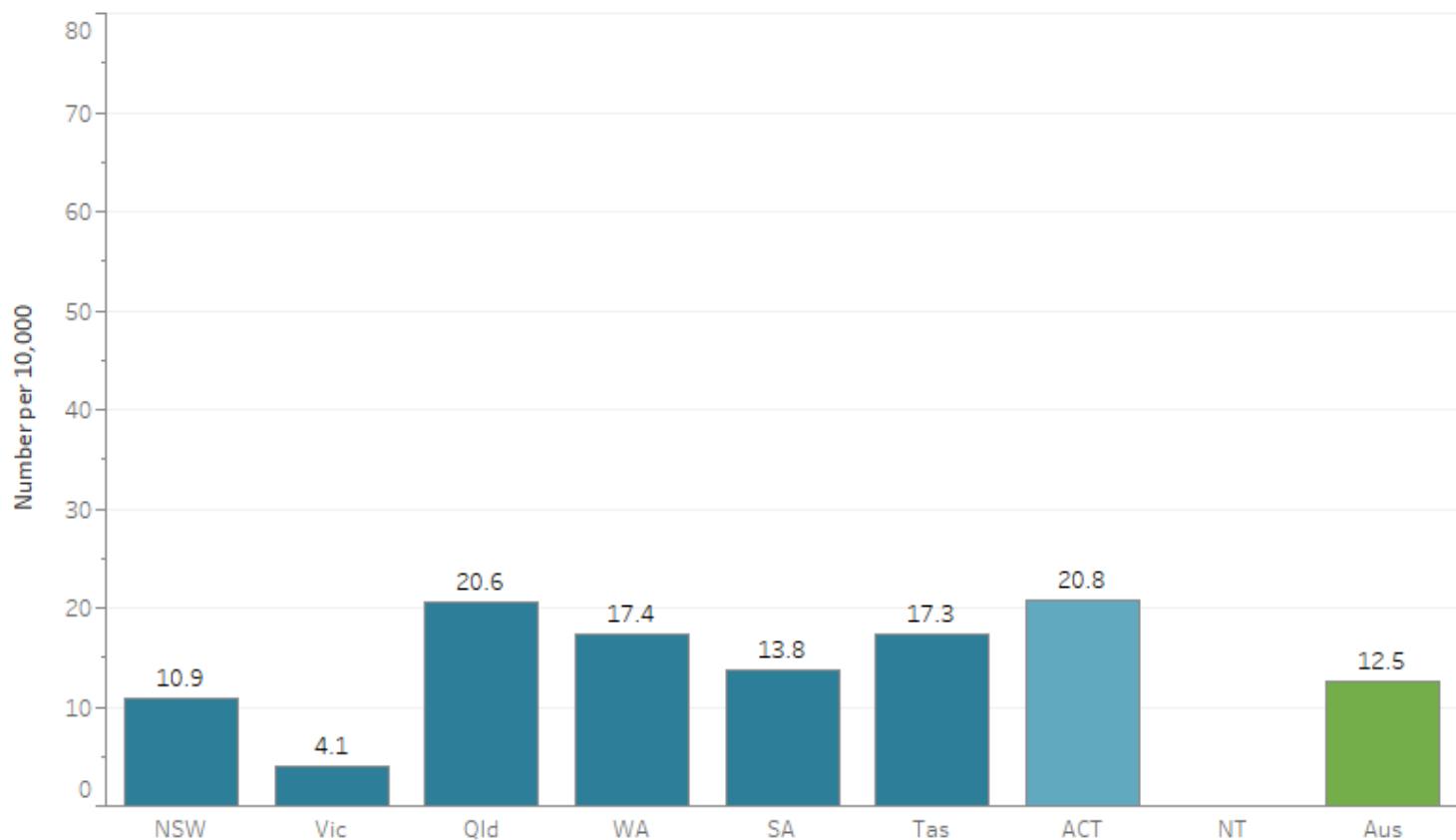
On an average day in 2023–24, rates of young people aged 12–17 under supervision were:

- 21 per 10,000 for young people under any type of supervision in the Australian Capital Territory
- 17 per 10,000 for young people under community-based supervision in the Australian Capital Territory
- 3.9 per 10,000 for young people in detention in the Australian Capital Territory, and 22 per 10,000 for young people in the Northern Territory.

Note that rates in the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory for 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 following the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility and are not directly comparable with rates in previous years.

Figure 2.3: Young people under supervision on an average day, by supervision type and state and territory, 2023–24 (number per 10,000)

Select type of supervision
 All supervision
 Community-based supervision
 Detention



Notes

1. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
2. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
3. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions. Rates for all other jurisdictions are for young people aged 10 to 17.

Source: Table 2.1b.

First Nations young people under supervision

Overview

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) uses 'First Nations people' to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this report.

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

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

These removal policies have long-term consequences, not just for those who were removed but also their descendants, including enduring social, physical and psychological impacts for those directly involved and their families and communities (AIHW 2018, 2019). The overrepresentation of First Nations children in juvenile justice systems reflects this history of trauma and the stressors that have affected their parents, families and communities.

References

AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) (2018) *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations and descendants: numbers, demographic characteristics and selected outcomes*, catalogue number IHW 195, AIHW, Australian Government.

AIHW (2019) *Children living in households with members of the Stolen Generations*, catalogue number IHW 214, AIHW, Australian Government.

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

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

First Nations people under youth justice supervision

The vast majority of First Nations young people have never been under supervision. About 6.6% of young people aged 10–17 in Australia identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. More than half (1,852 or 57%) of the young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day in 2023–24 were First Nations Australians (tables S143 and S3a). This means that 1.1% of First Nations young people were under supervision in 2023–24.

About half (55%) of those aged 10–17 under community-based supervision were First Nations Australians, while just under 2 in 3 (65%) of those aged 10–17 in detention were First Nations Australians (tables S36a and S74a).

Of young First Nations people who were 10 and over, 2,226 were under youth justice supervision in Australia and 4,953 young people were supervised at some time during the year (Figure 3.1).

On an average day, most First Nations young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision were supervised in the community (80%) – the remainder (22%) were in detention (Figure 3.1). (Proportions may not sum to 100% as some young people are supervised under community-based supervision and detention on the same day.)

Although just 499 First Nations young people were in detention on an average day, about half (53%, or 2,638) of all First Nations young people who were supervised during 2023–24 had been in detention at some time during the year (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1: First Nations young people under supervision on an average day and during the year, by supervision type, 2023–24 (number and rate)



a. Rates are presented for young people aged 10–17.

Notes:

1. The average daily number of all supervision will not equal the sum of community-based supervision and detention because young people can be in both types of supervision on the same day.
2. Young people can be in both community-based supervision and detention during the year so the sum of these types of supervision will not be equal to the total number of young people under youth justice supervision.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day is not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

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

Extended description for Figure 3.1

This diagram/flowchart is split into 2 streams, that is, 'average day' and 'during the year' for First Nations young people under youth justice supervision in 2023–24.

Under the first stream, 'average day', the first box contains the heading 'all supervision' with 2,226 First Nations young people under supervision (at a rate of 113 per 10,000).

There are 2 boxes flowing from 'all supervision', with the qualifier 'or', as follows:

- Box 1: Community – 1,786 First Nations young people (88 per 10,000)
- Box 2: Detention – 499 First Nations young people (27 per 10,000).

Under the second stream, 'during the year', the first box contains the heading 'all supervision' with 4,953 First Nations young people under supervision (250 per 10,000).

There are 2 boxes flowing from 'all supervision', with the qualifiers 'and/or', as follows:

- Box 1: Community – 4,382 First Nations young people (217 per 10,000)
- Box 2: Detention – 2,638 First Nations young people (148 per 10,000).

In 2023–24, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day was 113 per 10,000, compared with 5.6 per 10,000 for non-Indigenous young people (Table 3.1c). This means First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 20 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be under supervision on an average day.

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

The rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day ranged from 34 per 10,000 in Victoria to 159 per 10,000 in Queensland. The over-representation of First Nations young people under youth justice supervision as measured by the rate ratio among jurisdictions with data available, ranged from about 4 times as high in Tasmania to about 22 times as high in Queensland (Table 3.1c).

Table 3.1a: Young people aged 10–17* under community-based supervision on an average day, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2023–24 (rate per 10,000)

Community-based supervision	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT*	NT*	Australia
First Nations	62.4	27.2	119.0	124.9	122.1	47.2	120.0*	n.a.*	88.1
Non-Indigenous	4.0	2.8	5.6	6.2	5.9	10.2	13.4*	n.a.*	4.7
All young people	8.8	3.3	15.7	14.6	12.2	14.5	17.1*	n.a.*	10.0
Rate ratio	15.5	9.8	21.3	20.0	20.6	4.6	9.0*	n.a.*	19.0

Footnotes and notes are provided following Table 3.1c.

Table 3.1b: Young people aged 10–17* in detention on an average day, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2023–24 (rate per 10,000)

Detention	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT*	NT*	Australia
First Nations	18.6	7.3	41.1	28.1	17.0	8.3	38.9*	48.4*	26.6
Non-Indigenous	0.8	0.7	1.6	1.0	0.8	2.2	2.7*	1.4*	1.0
All young people	2.1	0.8	5.1	2.9	1.7	2.9	3.9*	21.6*	2.7
Rate ratio	23.3	10.8	26.4	28.5	21.1	3.8	14.5*	34.0*	26.5

Footnotes and notes are provided following Table 3.1c.

Table 3.1c: Young people aged 10–17* under all youth justice supervision on an average day, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2023–24 (rate per 10,000)

All youth justice supervision	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT*	NT*	Australia
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First Nations	80.4	34.2	158.8	151.7	137.6	55.1	156.9*	n.a.*	112.7
Non-Indigenous	4.8	3.4	7.1	7.2	6.7	12.3	15.9*	n.a.*	5.6
All young people	10.9	4.1	20.6	17.4	13.8	17.3	20.8*	n.a.*	12.5
Rate ratio	16.8	10.0	22.4	21.2	20.6	4.5	9.9*	n.a.*	20.1

(Footnotes and notes for tables 3.1a, 3.1b and 3.1c)

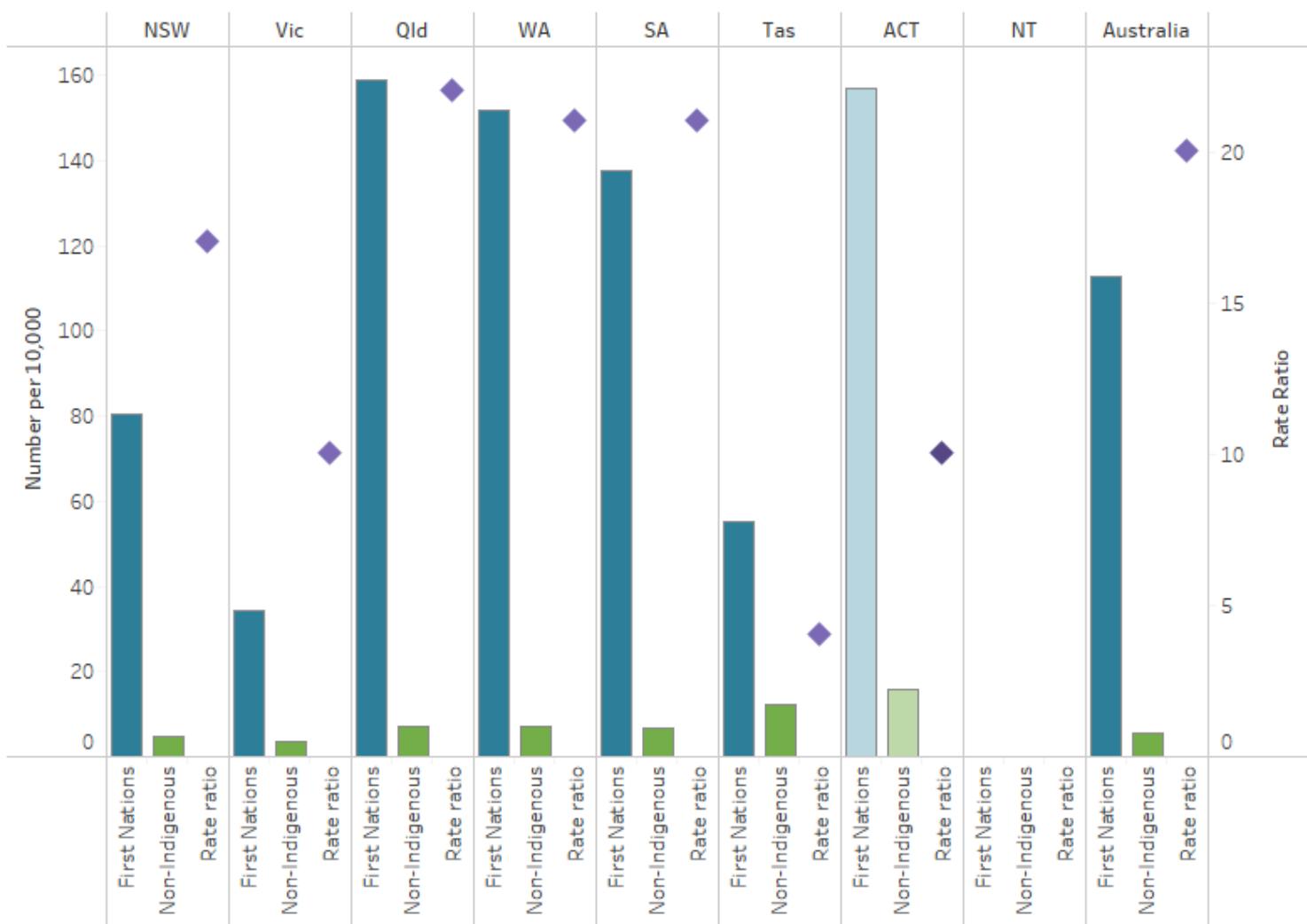
*Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

Notes

1. Rates are not published where there were fewer than 5 young people.
2. First Nations rates for Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution due to First Nations population denominators that are less than 10,000.
3. The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the First Nations rate by the non-Indigenous rate.
4. The rate ratio has been calculated using rates to 3 decimal places.
5. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
6. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.

Source: tables S4a, S37a and S75a.

Figure 3.2: Young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2023–24



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

Notes

1. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia releases before 2019–20*.
2. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for all supervision.
3. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

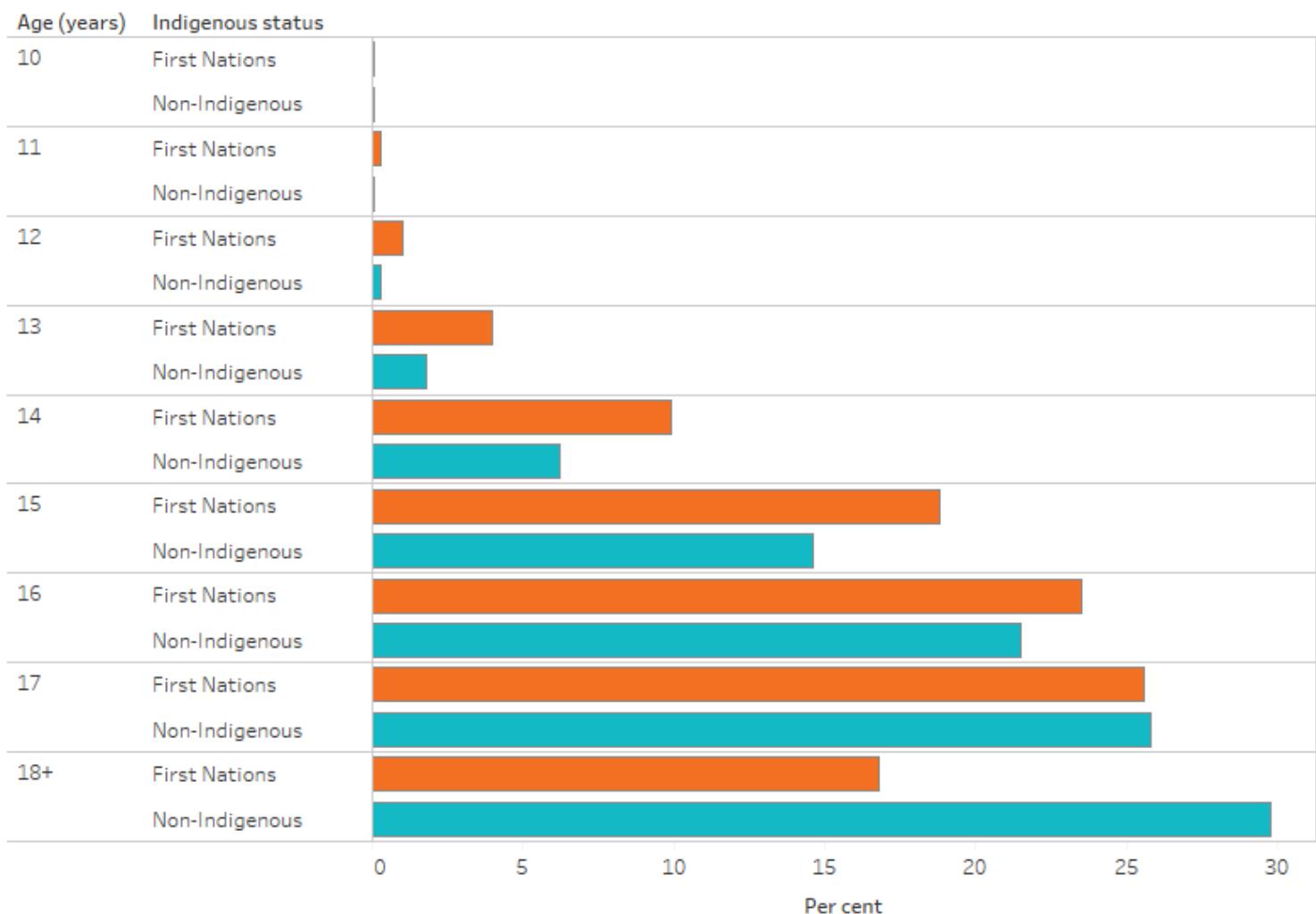
Source: Table 3.1c.

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

On an average day in 2023–24, 5.4% of First Nations young people under supervision were aged 10–13 compared with 2.1% of non-Indigenous young people (Table S7a).

Similar proportions of First Nations and non-Indigenous young people under supervision were male (77% and 82%, respectively) (Table S5a).

Figure 3.3: Young people under supervision on an average day, by age and Indigenous status, 2023–24



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

Notes

1. Numerators are the number of young people of a particular age – denominators are the total number of young people of all ages for First Nations and non-Indigenous people.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for all supervision.

Source: Table S5a.

First Nations young people under community-based supervision

More than half (1,449 or 55%) of the young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day in 2023–24 were First Nations young people (Table S36a). In 2023–24, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 in community-based supervision on an average day was 88 per 10,000, compared with 4.7 per 10,000 for non-Indigenous young people (Table S37a). This means First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 19 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be under community-based supervision on an average day.

First Nations young people in detention

About 2 in 3 (460 or 65%) of the young people aged 10–17 in detention on an average day in 2023–24 were First Nations young people (Table S74a). In 2023–24, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 in detention on an average day was 27 per 10,000, compared with 1.0 per 10,000 for non-Indigenous young people (Table S75a). This means First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 27 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be in detention on an average day. This level of First Nations over-representation (as measured by the rate ratio – see [Appendix A1: Data quality](#) and [Appendix A2: technical information](#) – was higher for those in detention than for those under community-based supervision (about 19 times as likely) ([Table 3.1a](#); [Table 3.1b](#)).

Trends in supervision of First Nations young people

On this page:

- [Introduction](#)
- [Recent trends](#)
- [Longer trends](#)

This section uses the Australia total excluding the Northern Territory for all supervision and community-based supervision due to Northern Territory all supervision and community-based supervision (average day) data not being available in 2023–24. This is to maintain a consistent timeseries.

The Australia total includes the Northern Territory for detention.

Due to the increase in the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, 2023–24 rates are presented for young people aged 12–17. The Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory have been removed from any rates trend commentary, as 2023–24 rates are not comparable to previous years.

Trends for First Nations people in this report are calculated using population estimates and projections based on the 2021 Census. Trends are limited to 2016 onwards, due to a large non-demographic increase in Census counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people between 2016 and 2021. The rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this report are generally lower than, and are not comparable to, those in previous reports.

For further information, see:

- [Understanding change in counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#)
- [Guide to using historical estimates for comparative analysis and reporting](#).

Recent trends

On an average day over the 5-year period between 2019–20 and 2023–24 under youth justice supervision:

- the number of First Nations young people (including those aged 18 and over) declined overall by 5.7% from 2,361 to 2,226 – and the number of non-Indigenous young people aged 10 and over fell by 28% – from 2,733 to 1,960 (Table S11a)
- the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 fell from 127 to 113 per 10,000. In the most recent year, the rate increased from 109 to 113 per 10,000
- the rate of non-Indigenous young people fell from 8.5 to 5.6 per 10,000
- First Nations over-representation increased. In 2019–20, First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 15 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be under supervision, rising to about 20 times as likely in 2023–24 (Table S12a).

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

- the number of First Nations young people aged 10 and over fell by 9.4% – from 1,970 to 1,786 – and the number of non-Indigenous young people aged 10 and over fell by 29% – from 2,321 to 1,646 (Table S44a)
- the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 fell from 105 to 88 per 10,000 and the rate of non-Indigenous young people fell from 7.2 to 4.7 per 10,000
- First Nations over-representation increased. In 2019–20, First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 15 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be under community-based supervision, rising to about 19 times as likely in 2023–24 (Table S45a).

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

- the number of First Nations young people aged 10 and over increased by 16% (from 428 to 499) and the number of non-Indigenous young people fell by 24% (from 428 to 325) (Table S82a)
- the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 increased from 23 to 27 per 10,000 and the non-Indigenous rate declined from 1.4 to 1.0 per 10,000
- First Nations over-representation increased. In 2019–20, First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 16 times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to be in detention, rising to about 27 times as likely in 2023–24 (Table S83a).

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

- the rates of First Nations young people under supervision fell in all states and territories where data was available except for South Australia (Table 9.1c)
- the largest falls in First Nations rates were in Victoria (69 to 34 per 10,000), Western Australia (184 to 152 per 10,000) and Queensland (176 to 159 per 10,000)
- the rates for non-Indigenous young people fell in all states and territories where data was available, except for South Australia. Victoria (7.8 to 3.4 per 10,000) and New South Wales (8.0 to 4.8 per 10,000) had the largest falls over the 5-year period (Table S12a). Note that rates in the Australian Capital Territory for 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 following the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility and are not directly comparable with rates in previous years
- the rates for First Nations young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision fell in most states and territories (except for South Australia) with Victoria (56 to 27 per 10,000) and Queensland (148 to 119 per 10,000) showing the largest declines (Table S45a)
- there was a decline in the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 in detention for some states and territories, with Western Australia (from 39 to 28 per 10,000) and Victoria (from 13 to 7.3 per 10,000) experiencing the largest declines. Queensland (29 to 41 per 10,000) had the largest rises over the 5-year period (see Table 9.1b).

Longer trends

On an average day over the 8-year period between 2016–17 and 2023–24, the rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17:

- under youth justice supervision fell from 150 to 113 per 10,000, while the non-Indigenous rate fell from 9.5 to 5.6 per 100
- under community-based supervision fell from 122 to 88 per 10,000, while the non-Indigenous rate fell from 8.2 to 4.7 per 10,000
- in detention fell from 29 to 27 per 10,000, while the non-Indigenous rate fell from 1.4 to 1.0 per 10,000.

Between 2016–17 and 2023–24, the drop in the rate of young people under supervision on an average day for non-Indigenous young people was proportionally greater than that for First Nations young people. This means that First Nations over-representation increased (from 16 to 20 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Table S12a).

The over-representation of First Nations young people under youth justice supervision (as measured by the rate ratio) on an average day increased overall in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania between 2016–17 and 2023–24 and declined overall in Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia (Table S12a). Results for the smaller states and territories should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of First Nations and non-Indigenous young people under youth justice supervision.

The rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 under supervision fell overall in most states and territories between 2016–17 and 2023–24, except for Tasmania where rates fluctuated over the period. The largest falls were seen in Western Australia (from 251 to 152 per 10,000) and Victoria (from 106 to 34 per 10,000).

Characteristics of young people under supervision

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Age and sex

The majority of young people under supervision on an average day in 2023–24 were male (80%) (Figure 4.1; Table S2a). This proportion was higher among those in detention (90%) than among those supervised in the community (77%) (tables S35a and S73a).

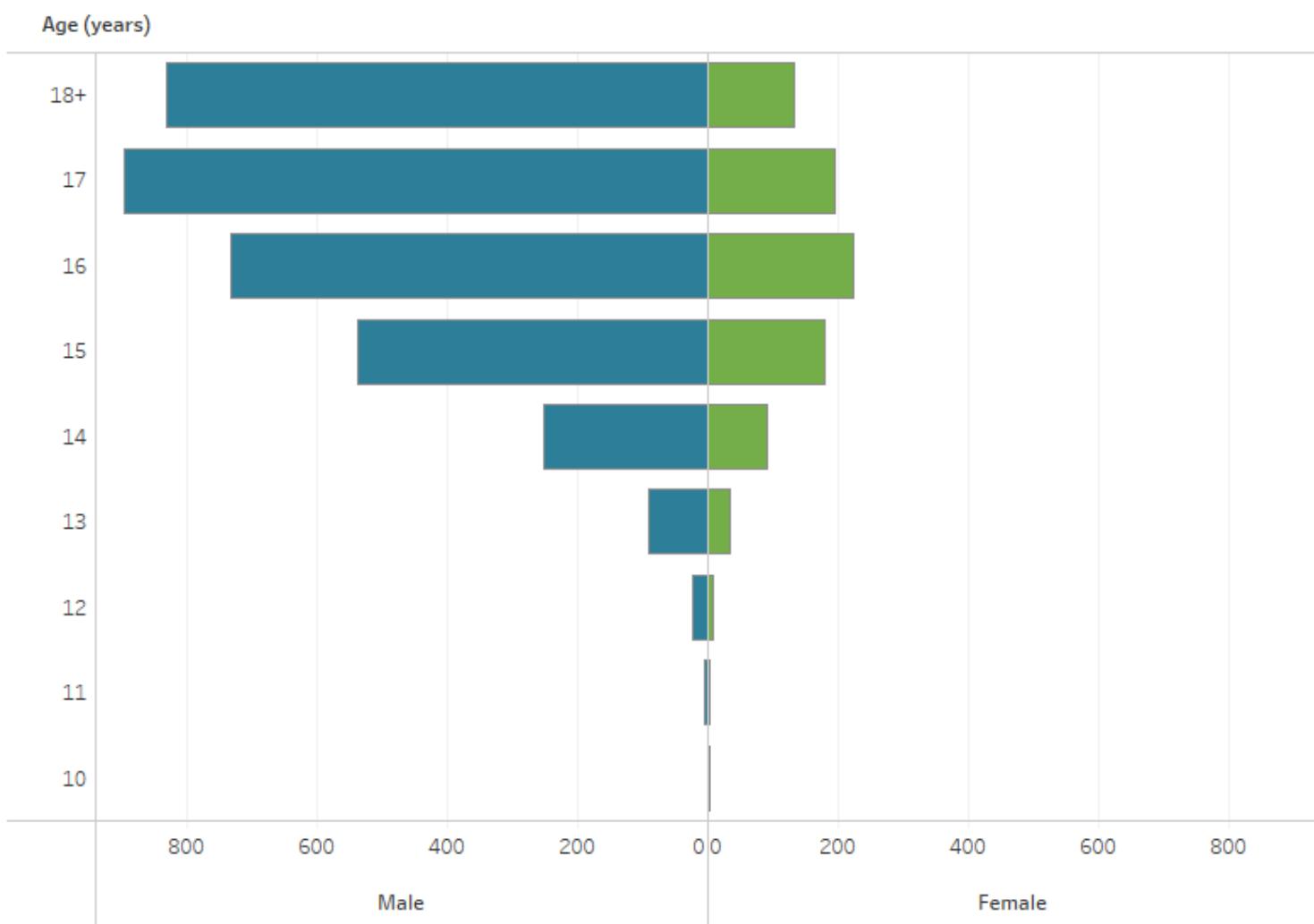
Among young people aged 10–17, males (19 per 10,000) were 3 times as likely as females (5.7 per 10,000) to be under supervision on an average day (Table S4a).

Males under supervision substantially outnumbered females in all states and territories. The proportion of young males under supervision on an average day ranged from 73% of young people under supervision in South Australia to 89% in Victoria (Table S2a).

Almost 3 in 4 (73%) young people under supervision on an average day were aged 14–17 (Figure 4.1; Table S7a). The number of young people under supervision was highest among those aged 17 (1,089 young people) (Figure 4.1). Of young people aged 10–17, the rate of young people under supervision was highest among those aged 17 (34 per 10,000) (Table S6a). About one quarter (23%) of young people under supervision on an average day were aged 18 and over and 3.8% were aged 10–13 (Table S7a).

Similarly, most young people under community-based supervision were aged 14–17 (72%) and 18 and over (24%), while a small proportion were aged 10–13 (3.7%) (Table S40a). This was also the case for young people in detention, although there were higher proportions of young people aged 10–13 (4.9%) and 14–17 (81%), and a lower proportion aged 18 and over (14%) (Table S78a).

Figure 4.1: Young people under supervision on an average day, by age and sex, 2023–24 (number)



Notes

1. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
2. The number of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for all supervision.

Source: Table S5a.

The age profiles of young people under supervision varied among the states and territories. Western Australia had the largest proportion of young people aged 10–13 under supervision on an average day (7.2%), followed by Queensland (5.6%) (Table S7a).

In Victoria, some young people aged 18–20 may be sentenced to detention in a youth facility (known as the ‘dual track’ system), which results in a comparatively older population, on average (48% aged 18 and over and 0.4% aged 10–13) (Table S7a).

A greater proportion of males were in the older age groups (aged 18 and over) than females (Figure 4.1). In 2023–24, 25% of males under supervision were aged 18 and over, compared with 15% of females (Table S5a).

Remoteness area

Defining rural and remote

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Structure (ABS 2021) defines remoteness areas in 5 classes of relative remoteness:

- *Major cities*
- *Inner regional*
- *Outer regional*
- *Remote*
- *Very remote.*

These remoteness areas are centred on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia, which is based on the road distances people have to travel for services (ABS 2021).

On an average day in 2023–24, most young people under supervision were living in *Major cities* (54%), or *Inner regional* or *Outer regional* areas (34%) before entering supervision (based on postcode of last address) (Table S21a).

About 7.7% had lived in *Remote* or *Very remote* areas. A remoteness area could not be determined for 4.9% of young people.

These data contrast with young people aged 10–17 in the general population, where a higher proportion were living in *Major cities* (71%) and lower proportions were living in *Inner regional* or *Outer regional* areas (26%) and in *Remote* or *Very remote* areas (1.8%) (tables S144 and S148).

On an average day in 2023–24, First Nations young people under supervision were more likely than non-Indigenous young people to have lived in *Inner regional* or *Outer regional* areas (45% compared with 21%) and *Remote* or *Very remote* areas (14% compared with 1.0%). First Nations young people under supervision were less likely than non-Indigenous young people to have lived in *Major cities* (37% compared with 72%) (Table S21a).

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

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

On an average day in 2023–24, young people aged 10–17 who were from *Very Remote* areas (97 per 10,000) were about 11 times as likely to be under supervision as those from *Major cities* (9.1 per 10,000) (Figure 4.2).

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

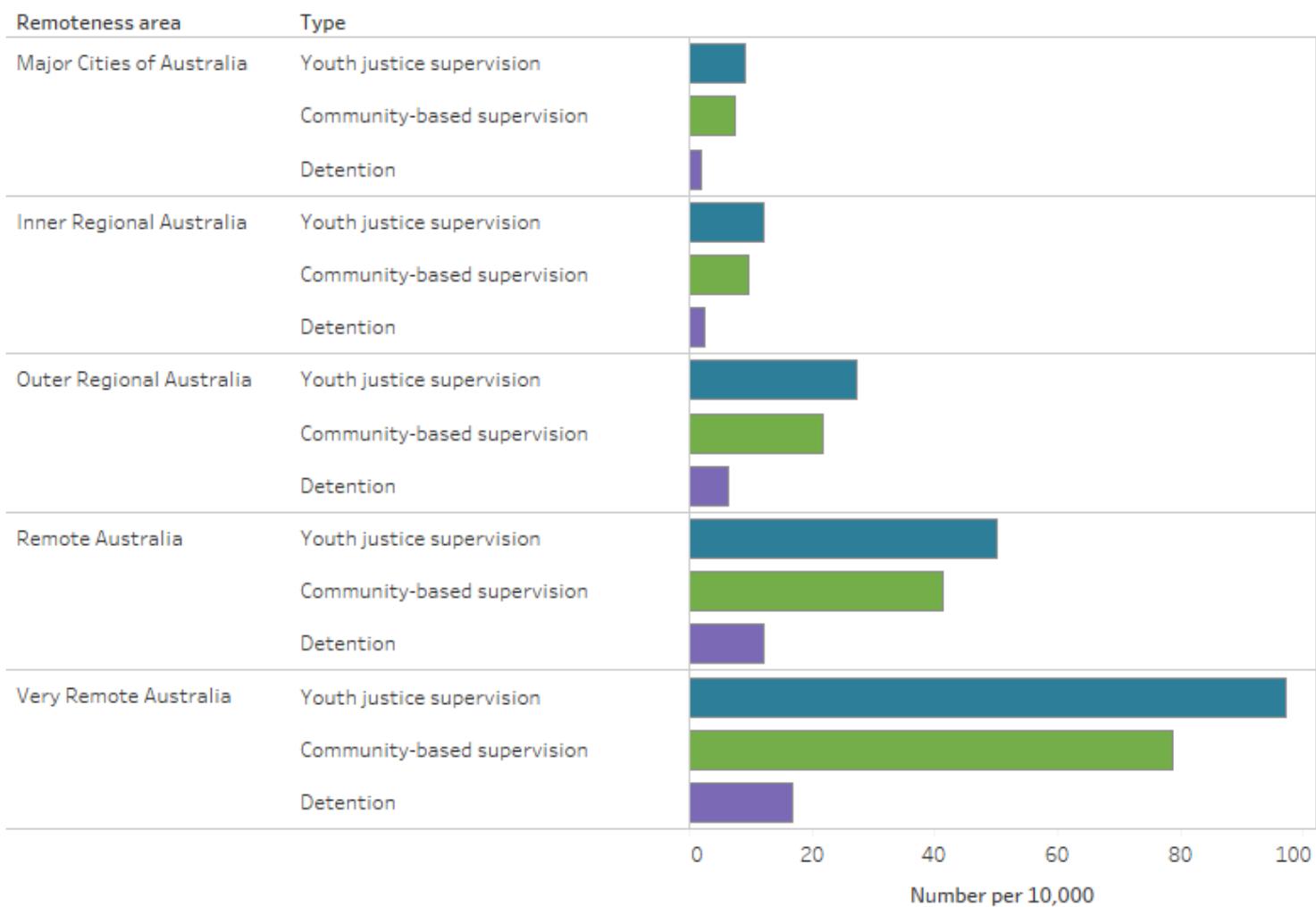
On an average day, young people aged 10–17 from *Remote* areas were about:

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

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

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

Figure 4.2: Young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by remoteness of usual residence and supervision type, Australia, 2023–24



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

Notes

1. Remoteness area could not be determined for 4.9% of young people under youth justice supervision.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

Source: tables S22c, S57c and S97c.

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) (2021) *Remoteness structure*, ABS, Australian Government.

Socioeconomic area

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

A socioeconomic area could be determined for about 96% of young people in the data set – for more information, see the:

- [Glossary](#)
- [Appendix A1: data quality](#)
- [Appendix A2: technical information](#).

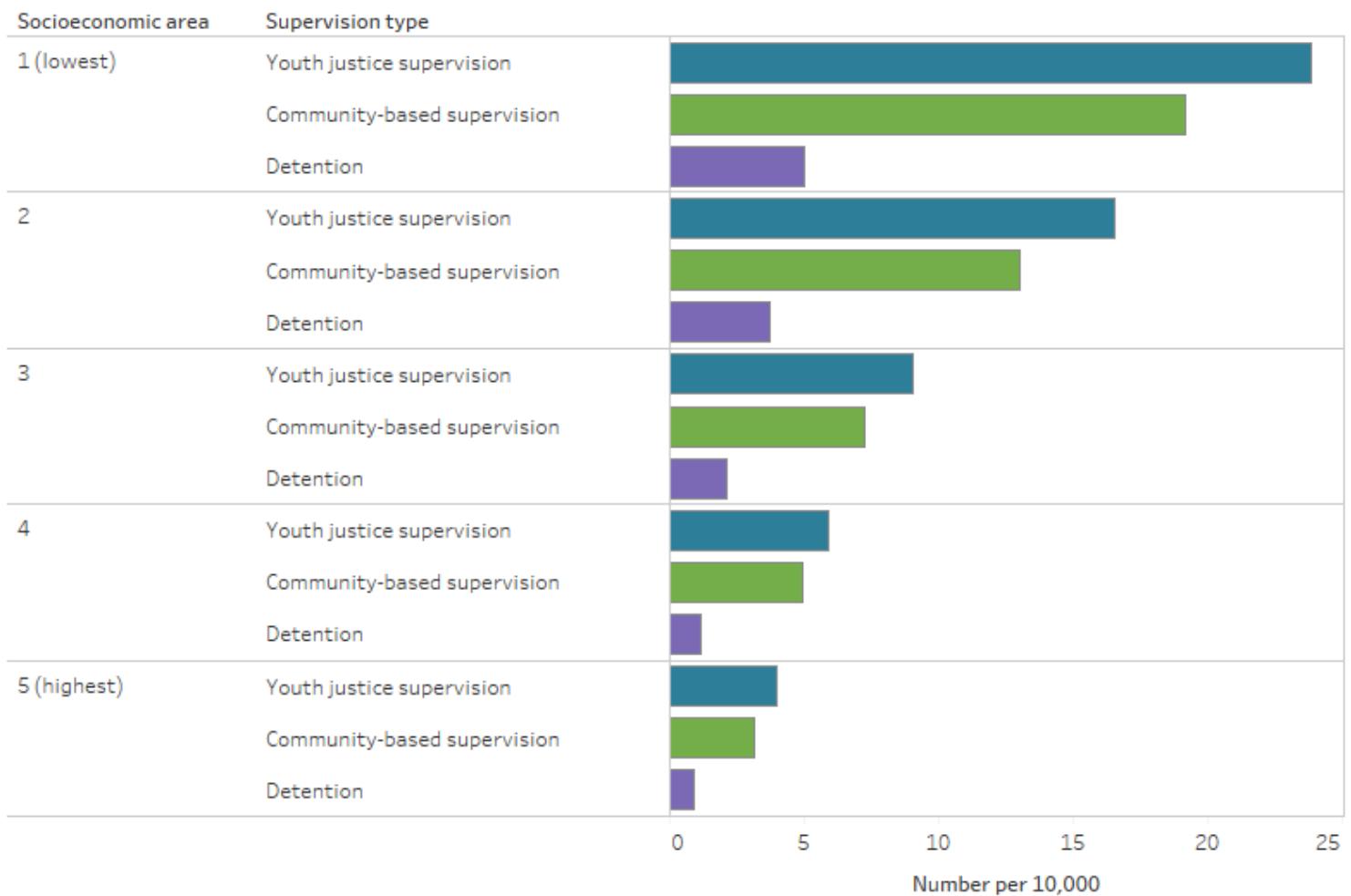
Young people under youth justice supervision in 2023–24 most commonly lived in lower socioeconomic areas before entering supervision. Nearly 2 in 5 young people (39%) under supervision on an average day were from the lowest socioeconomic area (area 1), compared with only 6.0% from the highest socioeconomic areas (area 5) (Table S23a).

On an average day in 2023–24, 24 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 from the lowest socioeconomic areas were under supervision compared with 4.0 per 10,000 from the highest socioeconomic areas (Figure 4.3).

This means that young people from the lowest socioeconomic areas were about 6 times as likely to be under supervision as those from the highest socioeconomic areas. The results were similar across supervision types (community-based supervision and detention).

First Nations young people (44%) were more likely than their non-Indigenous counterparts (33%) to have lived in the lowest socioeconomic areas before entering supervision (Table S23a). This reflects the geographical distribution of the First Nations population in Australia.

Figure 4.3: Young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by socioeconomic area of usual residence and supervision type, Australia, 2023–24



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

Notes

1. Socioeconomic position could not be determined for 4.0% of young people under youth justice supervision.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

Source: tables S24c, S59c and S99c.

Community-based supervision

Availability of Northern Territory data for 2023–24

The number of young people under youth justice supervision on an average day was unavailable for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for community-based supervision. The Australia total for these measures exclude the Northern Territory for both numbers and rates per 10,000. Community-based supervision during the year estimates are unaffected by this and are included in numbers and rates.

Northern Territory data on community-based orders is also unavailable in 2023–24 and is excluded from the Australia total.

On an average day in 2023–24, 82% (3,471) of young people aged 10 and over under supervision were supervised in the community (Table S35a).

Of all young people under community-based supervision on an average day aged 10 and over, about 1 in 5 (22%) were on unsentenced orders and more than 8 in 10 (83%) were on a sentenced order.

A total of 8,031 young people were under community-based supervision at some time during the year (Table S64).

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

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

Unsentenced community-based supervision

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

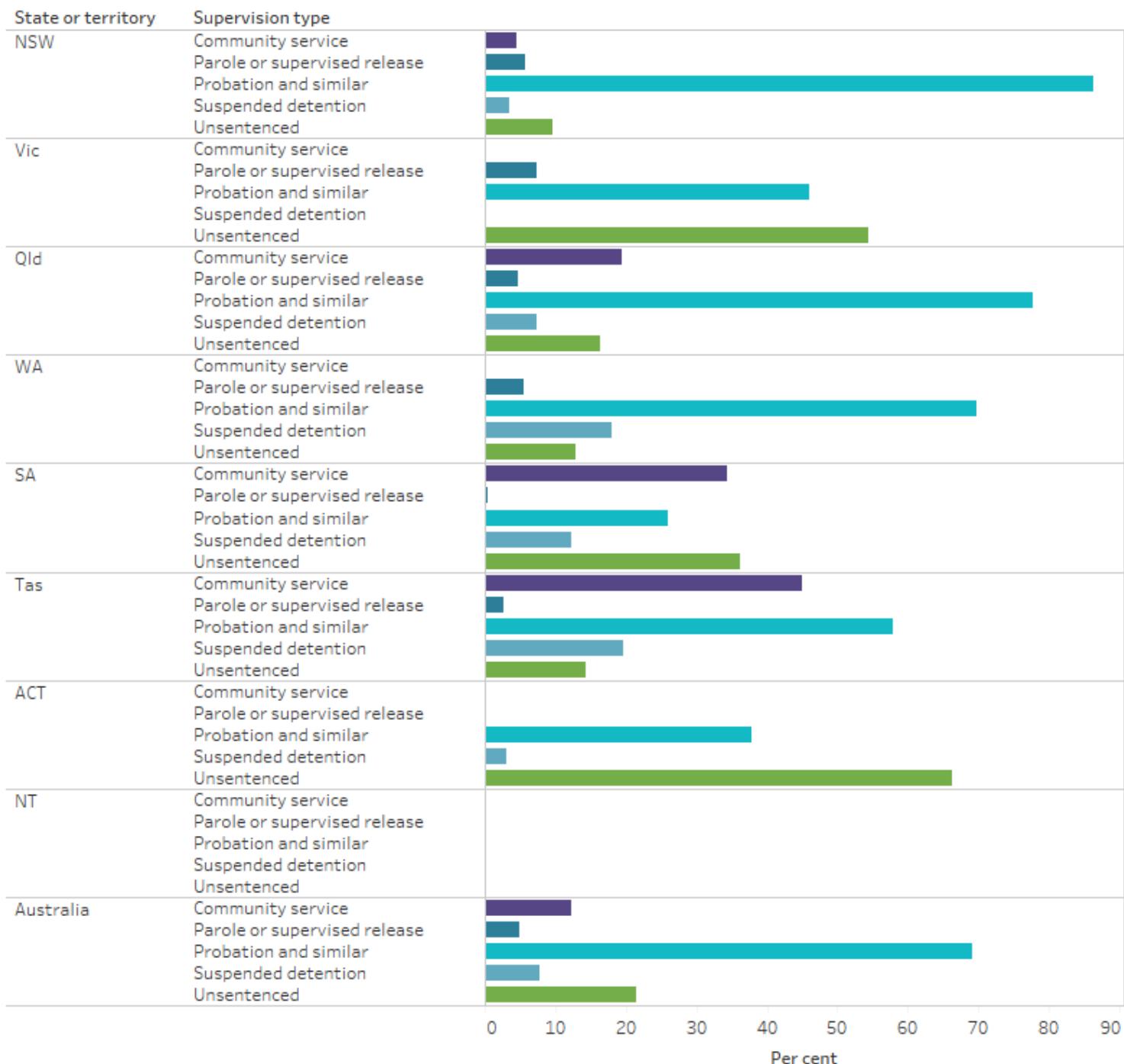
Supervised or conditional bail is where a young person is released into the community while awaiting the outcome of court action and may include conditions such as supervision, a curfew or a monetary bond. Information about unsupervised bail is not available in the [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set \(Y\) NMDS](#).

In 2023–24, 22% of young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day were on unsentenced orders (Table S64a, Figure 5.1).

Almost 1 in 5 (19%) First Nations young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day were on unsentenced orders. This compares with 24% for non-Indigenous young people (Table S64a).

Among the states and territories, the proportion of young people under community-based supervision on an average day who were unsentenced ranged from 9.7% in New South Wales to 66% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table S64a).

Figure 5.1: Young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day, by type of supervision and state and territory, 2023–24



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

Notes

1. Numerators are the number of young people on a particular community-based supervision order on an average day in each state and territory.
Denominators are the total number of young people on all orders in each state and territory.
2. Unsentenced community-based supervision orders include supervised bail (also known as conditional bail), and other orders such as home detention bail.
3. Under the *Young Offenders Act 1994* (WA), Western Australia does not operate with the terms 'probation and similar' or 'suspended detention', so these data should be interpreted with caution. For Western Australia, orders reported under 'probation and similar' consist of intensive youth supervision orders, youth community-based orders and adult community-based orders. Orders reported under 'suspended detention' include intensive youth supervision orders with detention.
4. Components might not sum to the total as young people might have been under supervision for multiple types of orders on the same day.
5. These data exclude young people under other types of orders.
6. The number of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for community-based supervision.

Source: Table S60.

Nationally, about 2 in 5 (41%) young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision during 2023–24 were on unsentenced community-based orders at some point during the year (Table S64b). About 2 in 5 (42%) First Nations young people aged 10 and over were on unsentenced community-based orders at some point during the year. This compares with 40% of non-Indigenous young people. The difference between the proportion on an average day and during the year reflects the relatively short duration of unsentenced orders compared with sentenced orders.

The national rate of young people aged 10–17 under unsentenced community-based supervision on an average day was 2.3 per 10,000. Among the states and territories, rates ranged from 0.8 per 10,000 in New South Wales to 5.0 per 10,000 in South Australia (Figure 5.2).

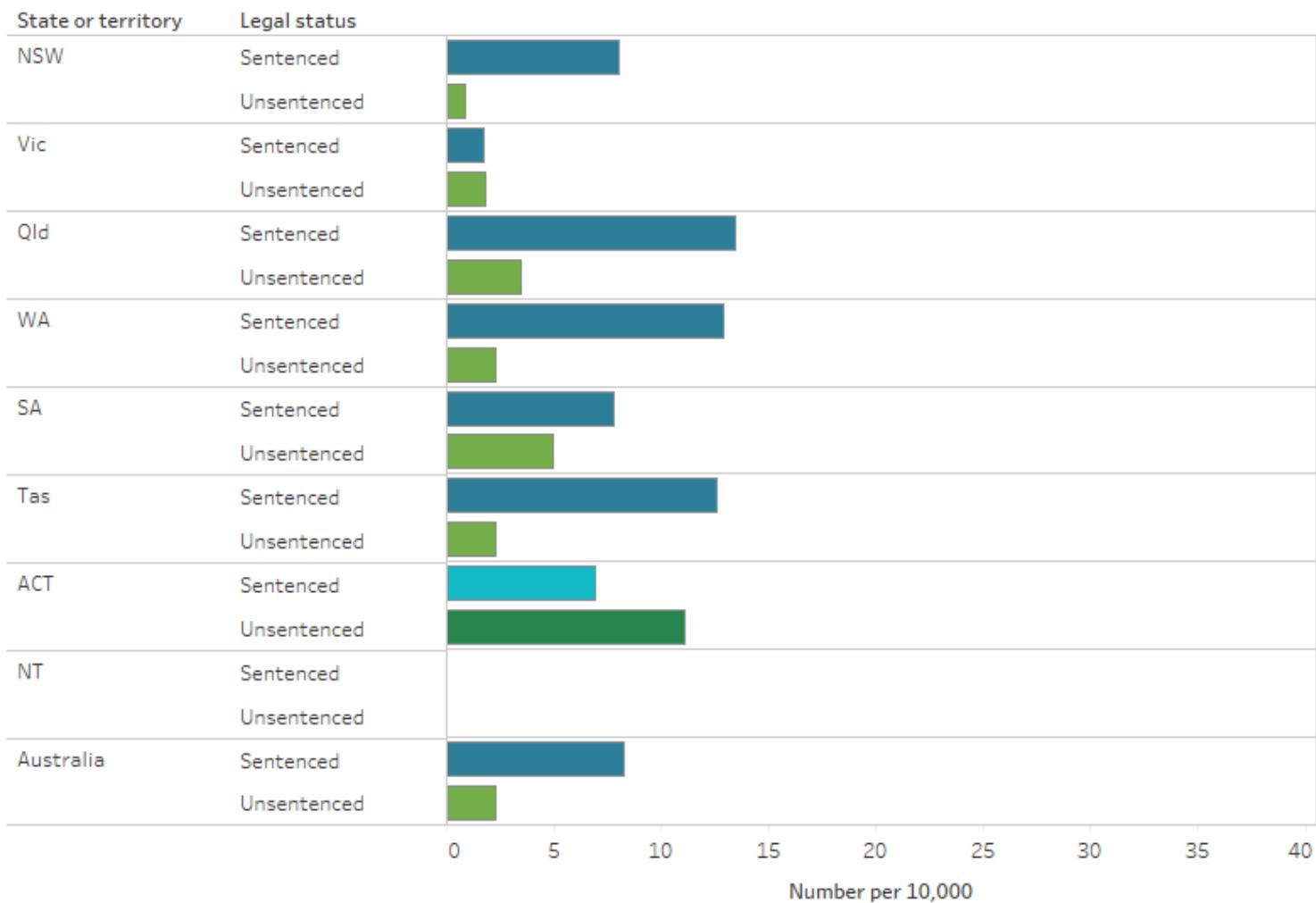
The rate of young people aged 12–17 under unsentenced community-based supervision on an average day in the Australian Capital Territory was 11 per 10,000.

The national rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 in unsentenced community-based supervision on an average day was 19 per 10,000. For the states and territories where data were available, the rate ranged from 6.7 per 10,000 in Tasmania to 60 per 10,000 in South Australia. For non-Indigenous young people, the national rate was 1.2 per 10,000, which ranged from 0.2 per 10,000 in New South Wales to 1.8 per 10,000 in South Australia (Table S66a).

The rate of First Nations young people aged 12–17 in unsentenced community-based supervision in the Australian Capital Territory was 74 per 10,000. For non-Indigenous young people, the rate was 8.8 per 10,000.

Note that rates in the Australian Capital Territory for 2023–24 following the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility are not directly comparable with rates in previous years.

Figure 5.2: Young people under community-based supervision on an average day, by legal status and state and territory, 2023–24



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Notes

1. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia releases before 2019–20*.
2. The number of young people on an average day not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for community-based supervision.
3. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. Rates for all other jurisdictions are for young people aged 10 to 17.

Source: Table S66a.

Community-based supervision orders may end because of any of the following:

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

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

In 2023–24, 69% of unsentenced community-based orders ended because they were successfully completed (Table S68). This ranged from 44% in South Australia to 97% in Victoria.

About two-thirds (67%) of successfully completed unsentenced orders lasted fewer than 3 months, with the proportion ranging from 46% in Queensland to 85% in Western Australia (Table S68).

Sentenced community-based supervision

In 2023–24, more than 8 in 10 (83%) young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day were on a sentenced order (Table S64a).

More than 8 in 10 (85%) First Nations young people aged 10 and over who were under community-based supervision on an average day were serving a sentence. This compared to 80% for non-Indigenous young people (Table S64a).

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

The rate of young people aged 10–17 who were under sentenced community-based supervision on an average day was 8.3 per 10,000. Among the states and territories, the rate was lowest in Victoria (1.8 per 10,000) and highest in Queensland (13 per 10,000) (Figure 5.2).

The rate of First Nations young people aged 10–17 in sentenced community-based supervision on an average day was 74 per 10,000. For the states and territories, this ranged from 14 per 10,000 in Victoria to 110 per 10,000 in Western Australia. For non-Indigenous young people, the national rate was 3.7, ranging from 1.5 per 10,000 in Victoria to 8.9 per 10,000 in Tasmania (Table S66a).

Probation and similar orders

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

On an average day in 2023–24, more than two-thirds (69%) of young people aged 10 and over supervised in the community were serving a probation or similar order (Figure 5.1). This ranged from 26% in South Australia to 86% in New South Wales.

In 2023–24, more than 4 in 5 (81%) probation and similar orders that ended were successfully completed (see Glossary) (Table S69). This proportion was lowest in the New South Wales (77%) and highest in Victoria (95%).

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

One in 10 (10%) probation and similar orders ended due to a breach of conditions (Table S70). This proportion was lowest in South Australia (3.3%) and highest in Western Australia (20%).

Suspended detention

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

On an average day in 2023–24, 7.8% of young people aged 10 and over under community-based supervision were serving a suspended detention order (Figure 5.1). This proportion was highest in Tasmania (20%).

Among the states and territories where data was available and that had suspended detention orders during 2023–24, the proportion that ended because they were successfully completed was highest in South Australia (85%) and lowest in Western Australia (52%) (Table S71). Successfully completed suspended detention orders were not published for the Australian Capital Territory due to small numbers, in order to protect the confidentiality of young people.

Parole or supervised release

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

On an average day in 2023–24, 4.9% of young people under community-based supervision were on parole or supervised release (Figure 5.1). This proportion was highest in Victoria (7.3%).

Detention

On an average day in 2023–24, 20% (827) of young people aged 10 and over who were under youth justice supervision were in detention. Of all young people in detention on an average day aged 10 and over, 4 in 5 were unsentenced (80%) and 1 in 4 young people in detention (25%) were in sentenced detention.

A total of 4,578 young people were in detention at some time during the year (Table S108).

Unsentenced detention

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

Number and rate

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

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

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

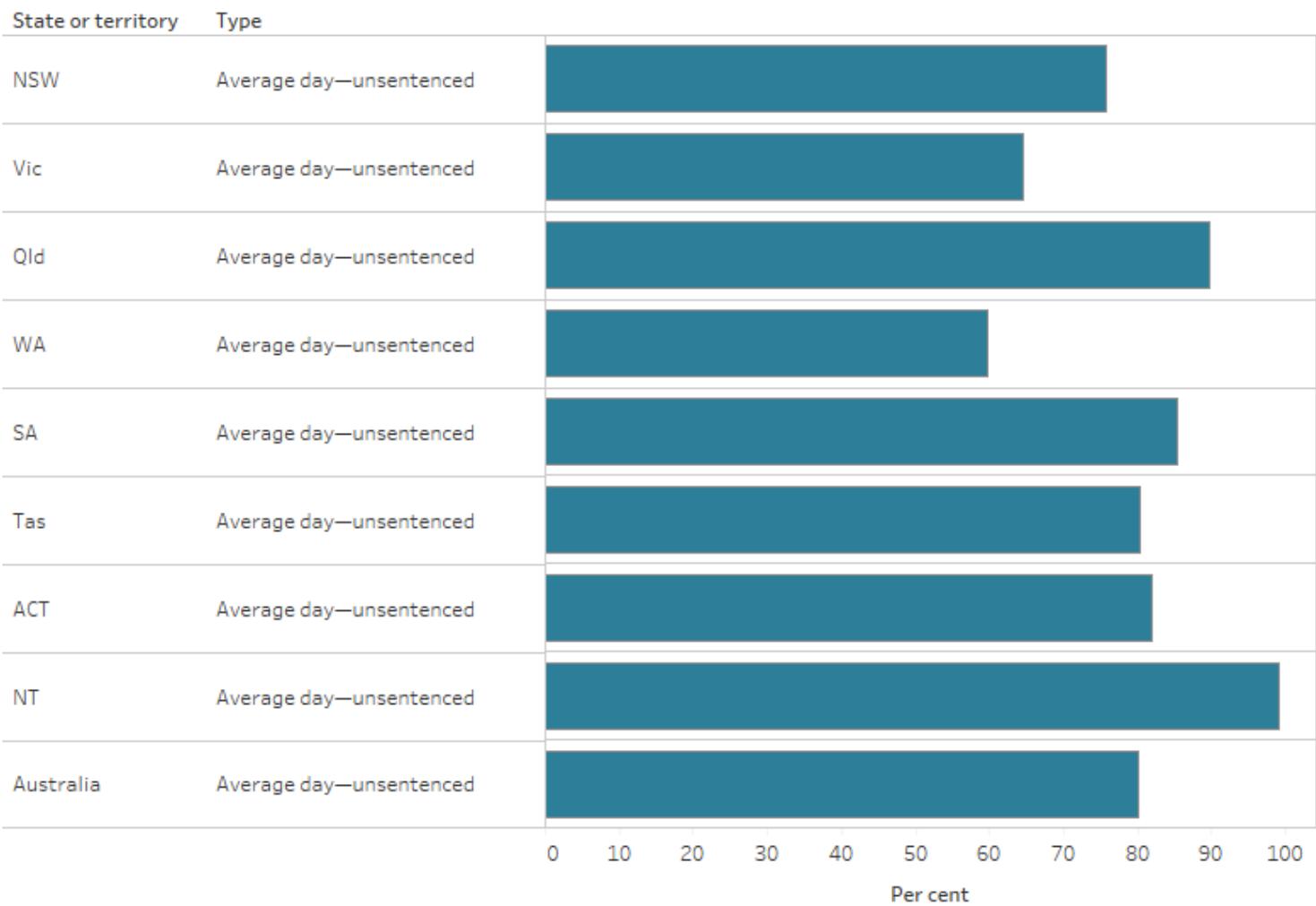
On an average day in 2023–24, of all young people in detention aged 10 and over, 4 in 5 were unsentenced (80%) (Figure 6.1). In all states and territories, a substantial proportion of those in detention on an average day were unsentenced – ranging from 60% in Western Australia to 99% in the Northern Territory.

The proportion in Victoria (65%) is due, in part, to the state's 'dual track' sentencing system, which allows some young people aged 18–20 to be sentenced to detention in a youth facility rather than in an adult prison if the young person is particularly impressionable, immature or likely to be subject to undesirable influences in adult prison. When only young people aged 10–17 are considered, a similar proportion of those in detention in Victoria and nationally on an average day were unsentenced (87% and 84%, respectively) (Table S109a).

More than 9 in 10 (97%) young people who were in detention during 2023–24 had been in unsentenced detention at some time during the year (Figure 6.1). This highlights the typically shorter duration of periods of unsentenced detention compared with sentenced detention.

On an average day in 2023–24, more than 4 in 5 (83%) First Nations young people in detention aged 10 and over were unsentenced. For non-Indigenous young people, this proportion was 3 in 4 (75%). A similar proportion of First Nations and non-Indigenous young people had been in unsentenced detention at some point during the year (98% and 95% respectively).

Figure 6.1: Young people aged 10 and over in unsentenced detention on an average day as a proportion of all young people in detention, by state and territory, 2023–24



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

Notes

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

Source: Table S108a

Nationally, on an average day in 2023–24, most (98%) young people aged 10 and over in unsentenced detention were on remand, awaiting the outcome of their court matters (Table S108a). The remainder were in police-referred pre-court detention awaiting their initial court appearance (see Glossary for definitions), which was available in some jurisdictions (New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory).

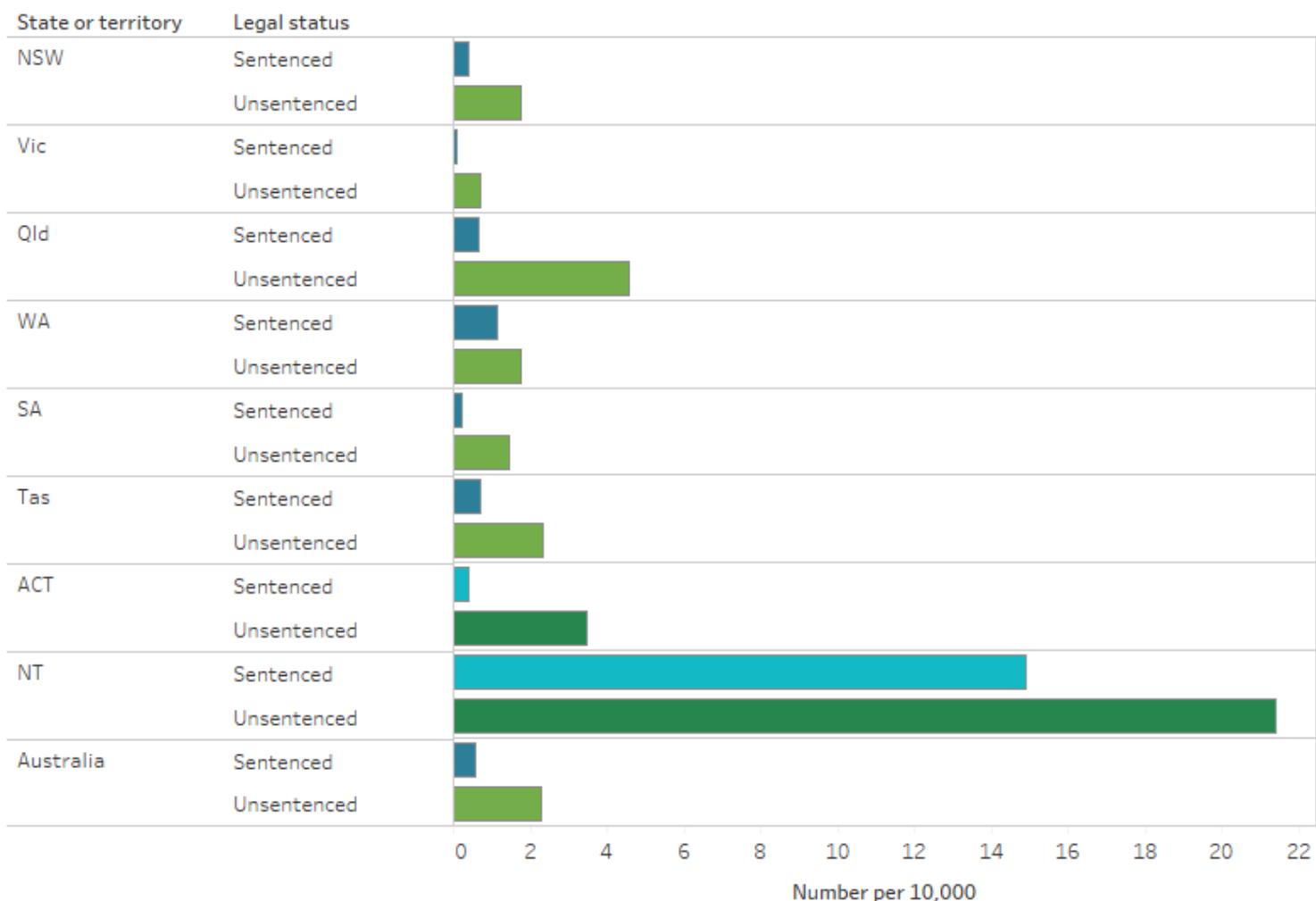
In those states and territories where the data was available, the proportion of young people in police-referred pre-court detention ranged from 14% of those who had been in unsentenced detention during the year in Queensland to 83% of those in the Australian Capital Territory (Table S108b).

About 3 in 5 (63%) young people in unsentenced detention aged 10 and over on an average day identified as being First Nations (Table S108a). This proportion varied substantially among the states and territories, from 17% in Victoria to 93% in the Northern Territory.

The rate of young people aged 10–17 in unsentenced detention on an average day in 2023–24 was 2.3 per 10,000 (Figure 6.2). Among the states and territories, this rate was lowest in Victoria (0.7 per 10,000) and highest in Queensland (4.6 per 10,000).

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

Figure 6.2: Young people aged 10–17 in detention on an average day, by legal status and state and territory, 2023–24 (rate)



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

Notes

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

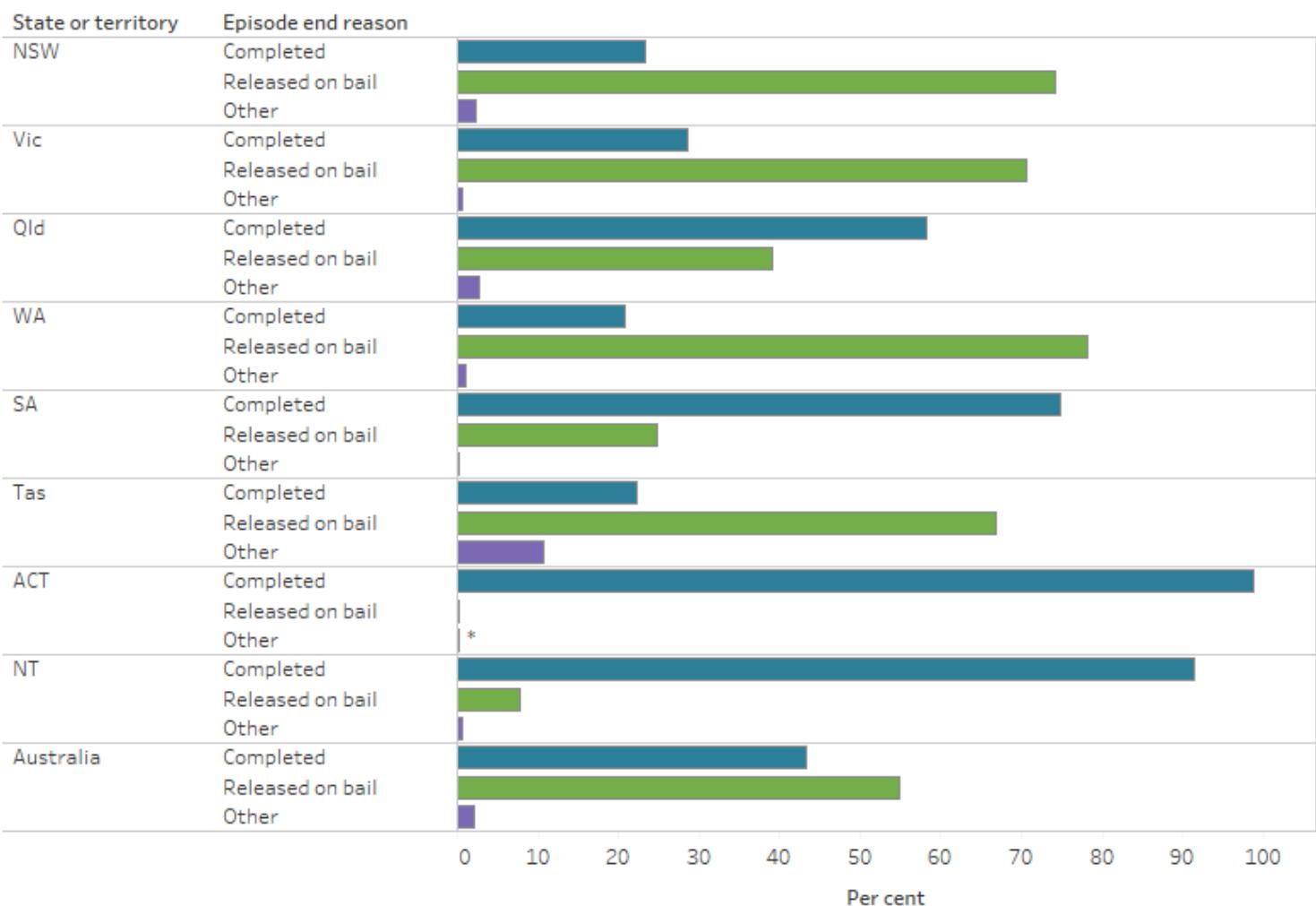
Source: Table S110a

Completion of periods

Of remand periods (unsentenced detention) that ended in 2023–24, just over 1 in 2 (55%) ended because the young person was released on bail (Figure 6.3). This proportion was lower for First Nations young people than non-Indigenous young people (49% and 64%, respectively).

The proportion of remand periods that ended with release on bail was lowest in the Northern Territory (7.8%) and highest in Western Australia (78%) (Table S118).

Figure 6.3: Periods of remand by end reason and state and territory, 2023–24



^a Data have been suppressed.

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

Source: Table S118

Just over 2 in 5 (43%) remand periods ended because they were completed (see Glossary). This was higher for First Nations young people than non-Indigenous young people (49% and 33%, respectively). The remaining periods ended for other reasons, including transfer (which can include transfer to another youth detention centre, the adult system or interstate).

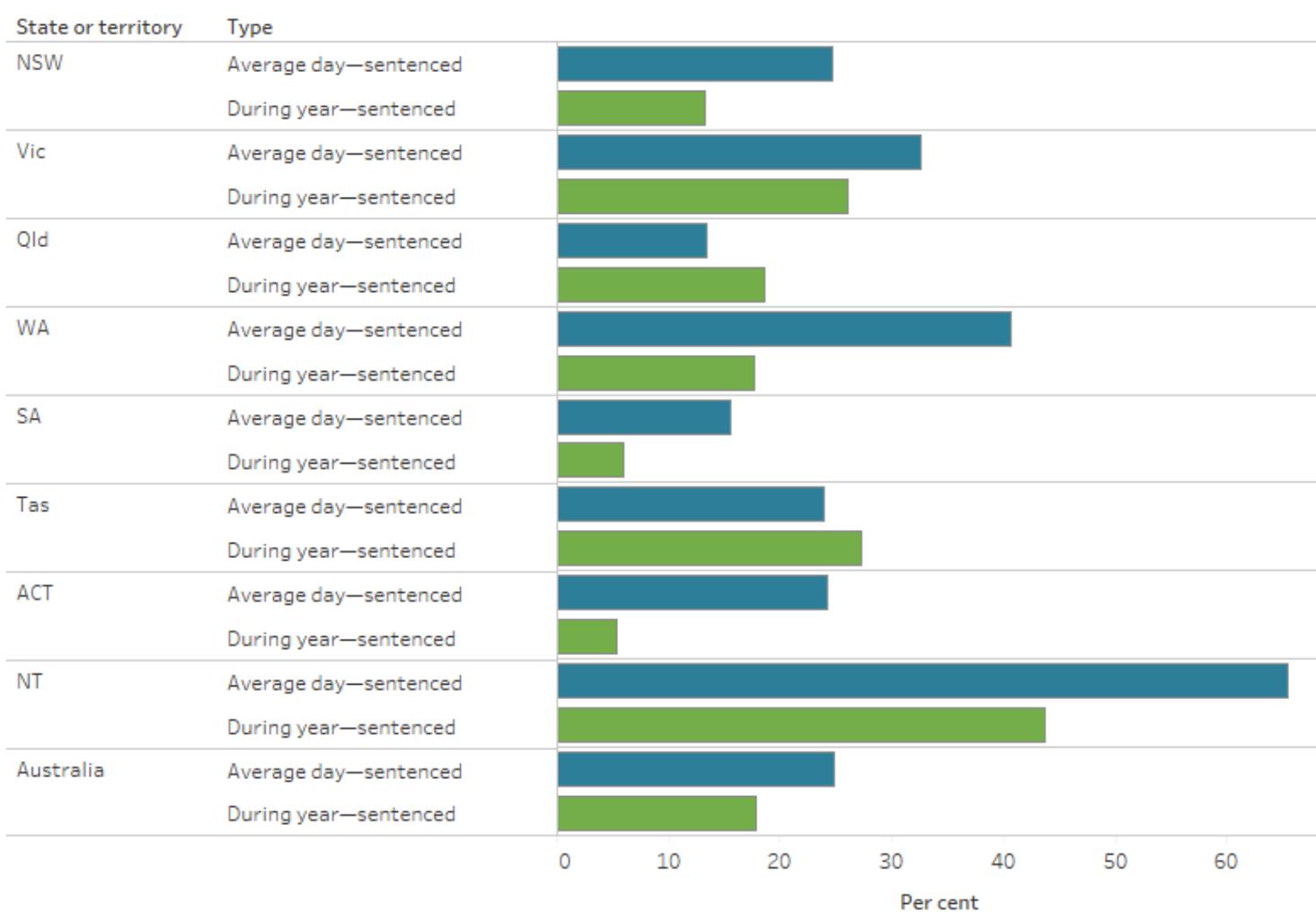
Sentenced detention

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

Number and rate

On an average day in 2023–24, 1 in 4 young people in detention (25%) were in sentenced detention (Figure 6.4). Among the states and territories, this ranged from 13% in Queensland to 65% in the Northern Territory.

Figure 6.4: Young people aged 10 and over in sentenced detention on an average day and during the year as a proportion of all young people in detention, by state and territory, 2023–24



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

Notes

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

Source: Table S108.

Nationally, 3 in 5 (60%) young people in sentenced detention on an average day identified as being First Nations (Table S108a). This proportion varied considerably among the states and territories.

On an average day in 2023–24, the rate of young people aged 10–17 in sentenced detention was 0.6 per 10,000 (Table S110a). Among the states and territories for which rates could be calculated, rates were lowest in Victoria (0.1 per 10,000) and highest in Queensland (4.6 per 10,000).

Completion of periods

One half (50%) of sentenced detention periods that ended in 2023–24 ended because the young person was released on parole (also known as supervised release). This proportion was lower for First Nations young people than non-Indigenous young people (47% and 59%, respectively).

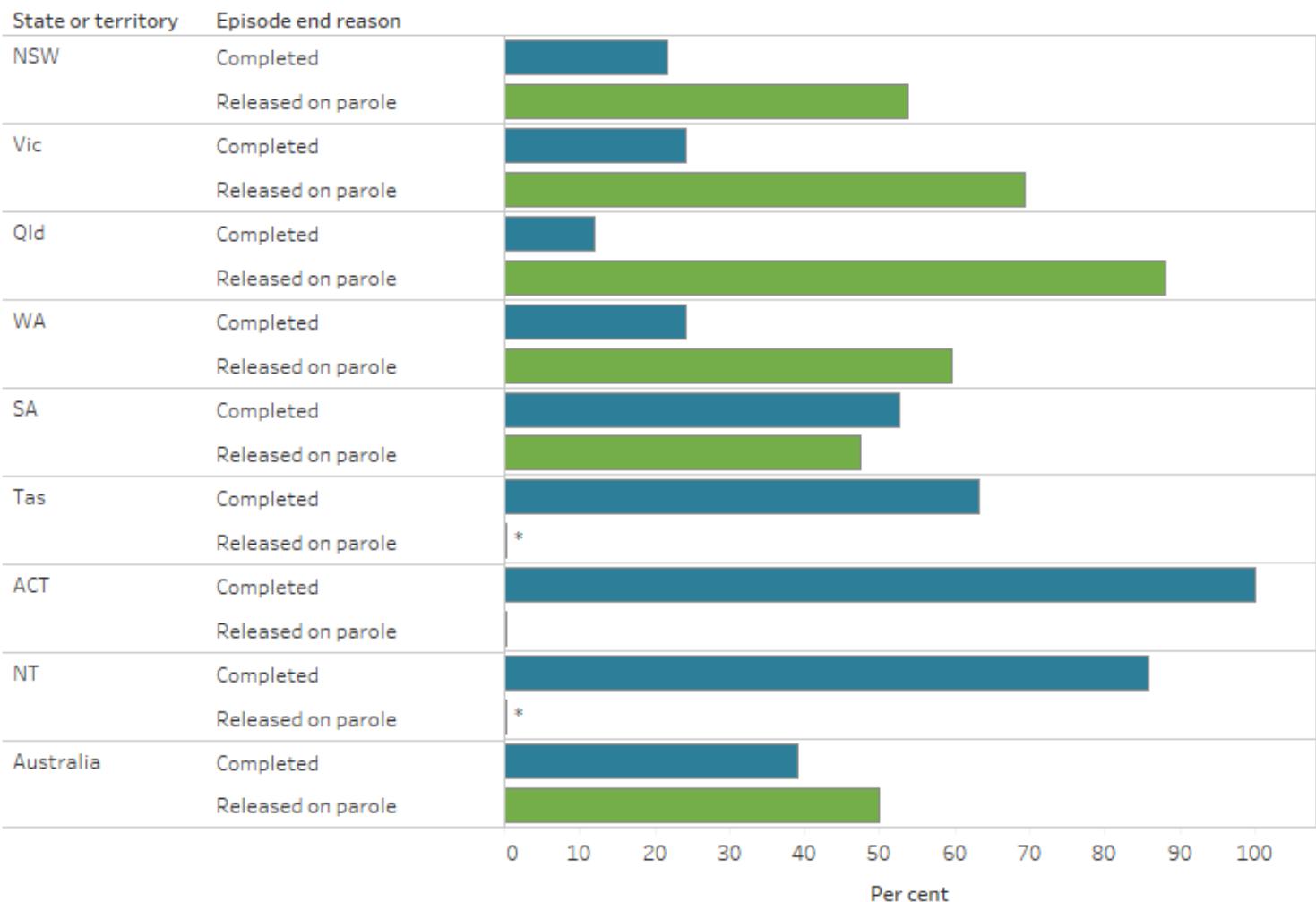
About 2 in 5 (39%) sentenced detention periods ended with the period being completed (see Glossary). This proportion was higher for First Nations young people than non-Indigenous young people (43% and 27%, respectively).

The remaining periods (11%) ended for other reasons, including transfer (which can include transfer to another youth detention centre, the adult system or interstate).

The states and territories varied:

- In New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia more than half (54–88%) of sentenced detention periods ended with the young person being released on parole.
- In South Australia, 47% of sentenced detention periods ended with the young person being released on parole, with the remainder (53%) ended with the period being completed (Figure 6.5).

Figure 6.5: Sentenced detention ending with either sentence completion or release on parole (supervised release), by state and territory, 2023–24



* Data have been suppressed.

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

Notes

1. Numerators are the number of sentenced detention periods that were completed or ended because the young person was released on parole, by state and territory. Denominators are the number of periods of sentenced detention, by state and territory.
2. In some states and territories, a minimum duration of sentenced detention applies before a young person may be considered eligible for supervised release or parole. This affects the results and comparability.

Source: Table S123.

Detention entries and exits

In this report:

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

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

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

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

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

Receptions

In 2023–24, 4,242 young people experienced 8,837 receptions into detention (tables S103a and S103b). Among all young people in detention in 2023–24, 93% were received at some point during the year, with an average of about 2 receptions per young person, reflecting the short durations of detention periods. The rest were received in a previous year (tables S72b and S103b).

Almost half (47%) of young people who were received into detention during the year were received more than once (Table S105). First Nations young people (52%) were more likely than non-Indigenous young people (42%) to have been received into detention more than once.

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

Just over two-thirds of receptions (71%) were for remand, just under one-third (27%) were for police-referred pre-court detention and 1.9% were for sentenced detention.

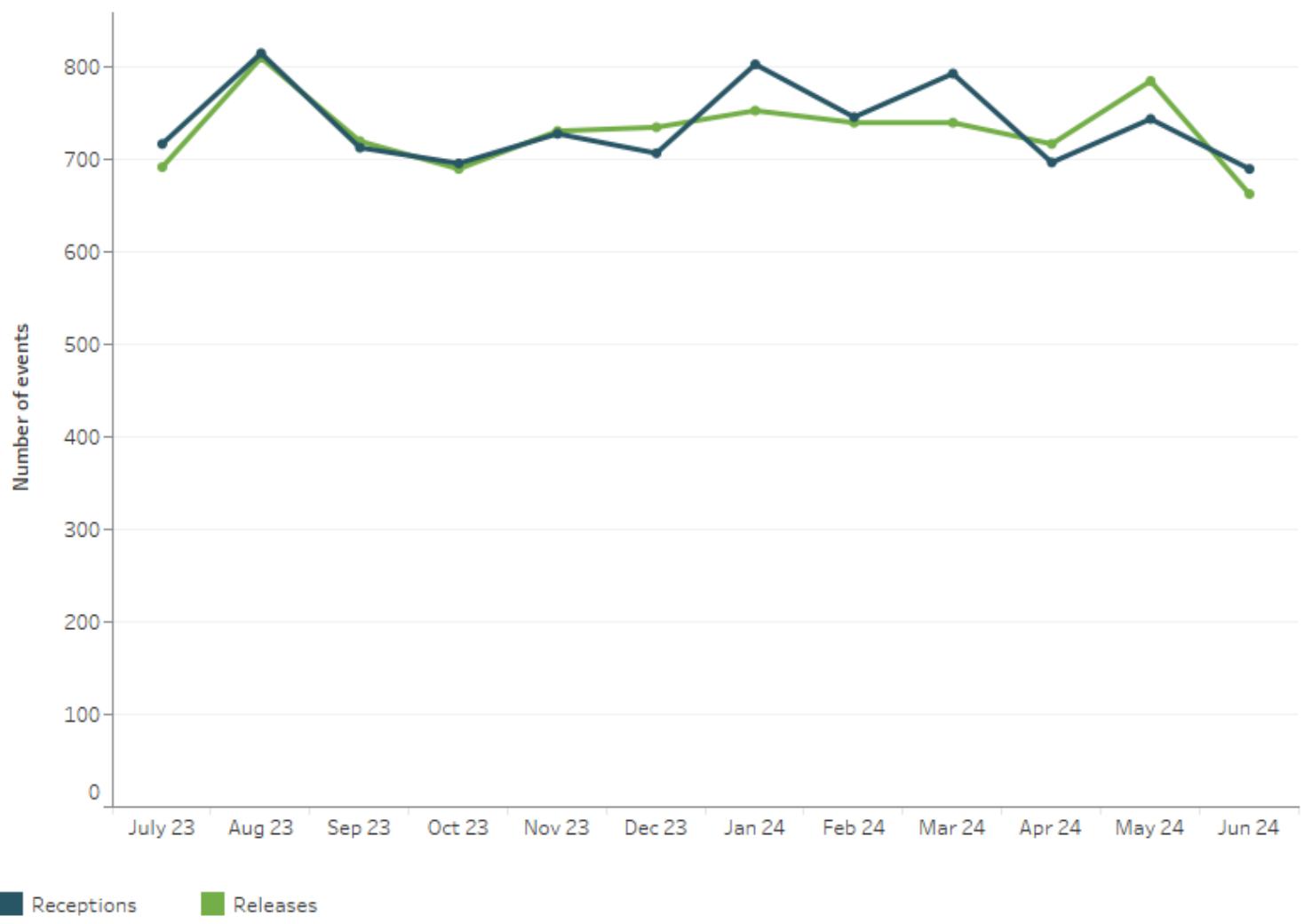
About 1 in 6 (17%) young people in sentenced detention during 2023–24 were received during the year (tables S103b and S108b). This indicates that the rest were either received into sentenced detention in a previous year, or were in unsentenced detention immediately before they began their period of sentenced detention (and their sentenced period started within 2 days of their non-sentenced period ending).

Releases

In 2023–24, 4,364 young people experienced 8,764 releases from detention. The vast majority of young people (95%) who were detained during the year were released at least once, with an average of 2 releases per young person (tables S72b, S104a and S104b). Similar to receptions, 90% of releases were from unsentenced detention. About 3 in 4 releases (73%) were from remand and 17% were from police-referred pre-court detention. The proportion of releases from sentenced detention (8.8%) was higher than the proportion of receptions to sentenced detention (1.9%) (tables S103a and S104a).

In 2023–24, the numbers of receptions and releases were closely aligned each month, despite some fluctuations (Figure 6.6). The highest number of receptions (814) and the highest number for releases (809) occurred in August 2023.

Figure 6.6: Monthly trends in youth detention receptions and releases, Australia, 2023–24



Source: Table S107.

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Time under supervision

Availability of Northern Territory data for 2023-24

Northern Territory data for the following are unavailable in 2023-24 and excluded from the Australia total for these measures:

- orders
- supervision periods (all supervision and community-based supervision)
- time under supervision (all supervision and community-based supervision).

Orders and supervision periods

Supervised orders

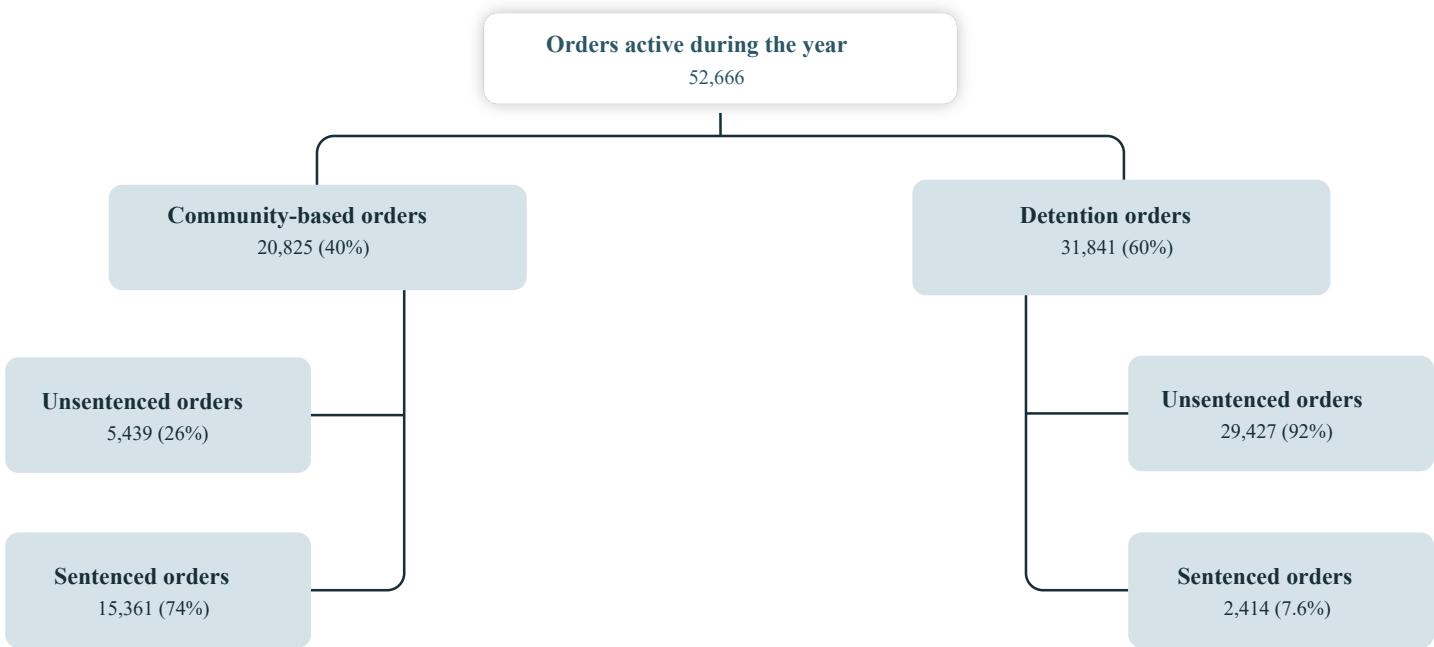
In 2023–24, the 9,224 young people under youth justice supervision were supervised under 52,666 sentenced and unsentenced orders (tables S1b and S25).

Although most (82%) young people were supervised in the community on an average day in 2023–24, detention orders were the most common type of order active in the same year (60%) (Table 2.1a; Figure 7.1).

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

Of all detention orders active during the year, most (92%) were unsentenced, while most community-based orders were sentenced (74%). Orders are active if they start, end or are ongoing during the reference period.

Figure 7.1: Supervised orders, by type of order and legal status, 2023–24



Notes

1. Totals for community-based orders, detention orders and orders active during the year include orders with 'other' legal status.
2. Northern territory orders data is not available for 2023–24.

Source: Table S25

Extended description for Figure 7.1

This diagram/flowchart starts with 1 box, 'orders active during the year', which shows that there are 52,666 total orders. This first box is then splits into 2 streams, that is, 'community-based orders', of which there are 20,825 orders (or 40% of all orders), and 'detention orders', of which there are 31,841 orders (60% of orders).

The 'community-based orders' stream is broken down into 2 boxes for 'unsentenced orders' and 'sentenced orders'. There are 5,439 unsentenced orders (26% of community-based orders) and 15,361 sentenced orders (74% of community-based orders).

The 'detention orders' stream is also broken down into 2 boxes for 'unsentenced orders' and 'sentenced orders'. There are 29,427 unsentenced orders (92% of detention orders) and 2,414 sentenced orders (7.6% of sentenced orders).

In 2023–24:

- the majority of active orders in New South Wales (70%) and the Australian Capital Territory (63%) were detention orders
- South Australia (53%) and the Western Australia (52%) had the largest proportions of active orders that were community-based (Table 25).

About two-thirds (67%) of young people under supervision during 2023–24 had multiple supervision orders during the year, with more than one-third (36%) having both community-based supervision and detention orders (tables S26a, S26b and S26c).

During 2023–24, there were:

- 52,666 active orders for the 9,224 young people under supervision, an average of 5.7 orders per young person
- 20,825 community orders for the 8,031 young people under community-based supervision, an average of 2.6 community orders per young person
- 31,841 detention orders for the 4,578 young people in detention, an average of 7.0 detention orders per young person (tables 2.1 and S25).

Of those under supervision, First Nations young people were more likely to have multiple supervision orders (71%) than their non-Indigenous counterparts (64%) (Table S26c).

Young people under community-based supervision were more likely than those in detention to have had only one order (44% compared with 20%). About 2 in 5 (39%) young people in detention had 6 or more detention orders within the year, and about 1 in 8 (12%) young people under community-based supervision had 6 or more community-based orders (tables S26a and S26b).

Periods of supervision

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

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

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

In 2023–24, the 9,224 young people under supervision received 11,550 periods of supervision (continuous supervision of any type), an average of about 1.3 periods per person (tables 2.1 and S27).

Among the 5,568 young people who completed a period of supervision in 2023–24, most (81%) completed only one period (Table S28).

About 2 in 3 (67%, or 5,343 of 8,031) young people who were under community-based supervision during the year completed at least one period of community-based supervision (tables S34b and S61). Of the young people who completed a period of community-based supervision in 2023–24, about 7 in 10 (72%) young people completed only one period of community-based supervision (Table S61).

More than 9 in 10 (96%, or 4,378 of 4,578) young people who were in detention during the year completed at least one period of detention, and 46% (or 2,019 of 4,578) completed at least 2 periods of detention. Of those young people who completed a period of detention, more than half (54%) completed only one period of detention (Table S100). Of young people in detention, just over 1 in 7 (15%) completed at least one period of sentenced detention and most (94%) completed a period of unsentenced detention (Table 7.1).

Table 7.1: Proportion of young people who completed only one or at least one period of youth justice supervision, by supervision type

Type of supervision	Completed only 1 period ^(a)	Completed at least 1 period ^{(b)(c)}
All supervision	81%	60%
Community	72%	67%
Detention	54%	96%
• Sentenced	74%	15%
• Unsentenced	53%	94%

- a. Denominator is all young people who completed a period of youth justice supervision of that type.
- b. Denominator is all young people in that supervision type
- c. For young people in sentenced and unsentenced detention the denominator is all young people in detention

Note: Completed supervision periods for all supervision and community-based supervision are not available for the Northern Territory in 2023-24.

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

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

First Nations young people (23%) were more likely than non-Indigenous young people (16%) to have completed multiple periods of supervision (Table S28). This was the case for completed periods in both community-based supervision and detention (tables S61 and S100).

Length of supervision periods

Individual periods of supervision completed during 2023–24 lasted for a median length of 92 days, or about 13 weeks (this includes time under supervision before 1 July 2023 if the period started before that date).

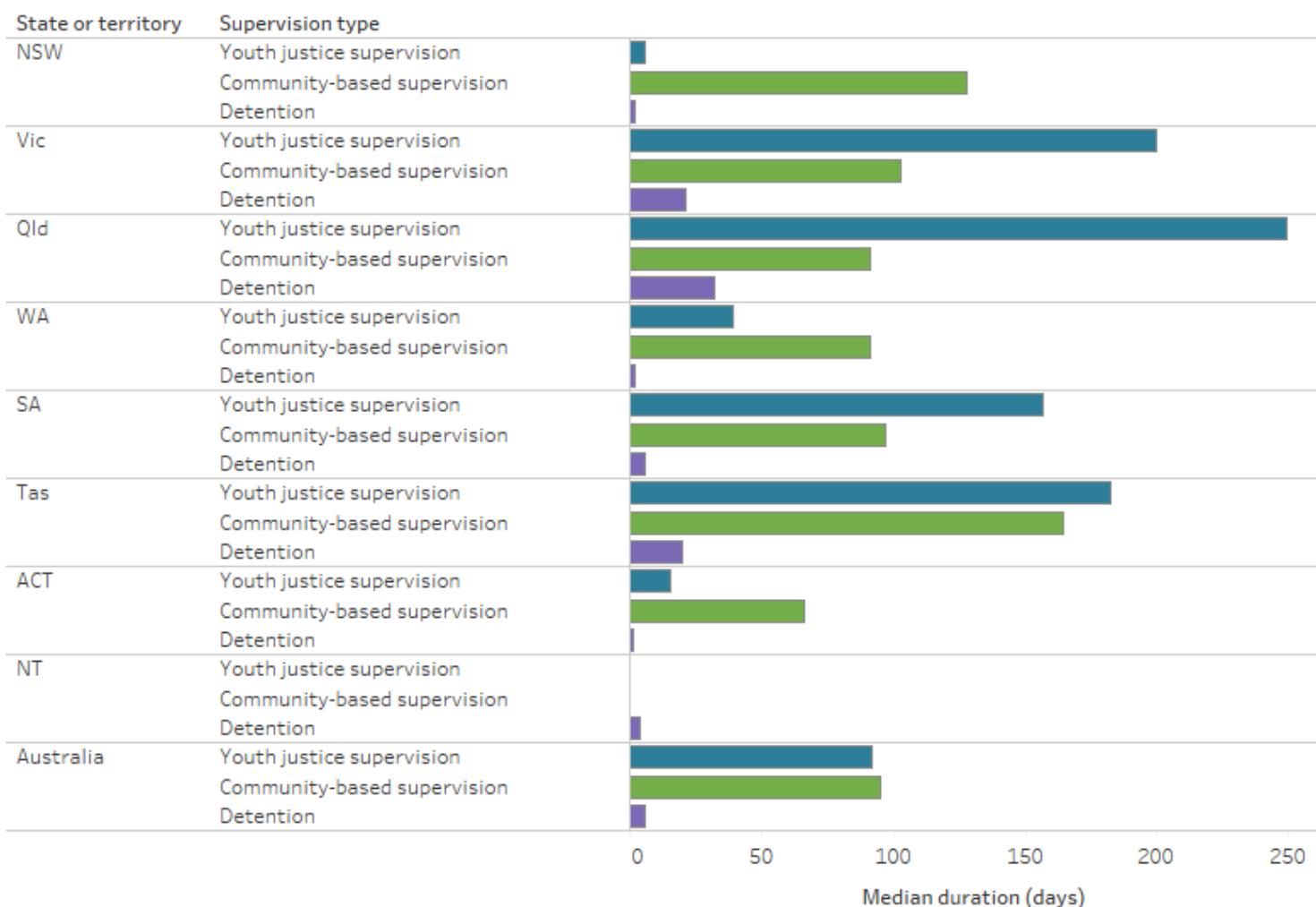
The median duration of completed periods varied substantially between states and territories, ranging from 6 days in New South Wales to 249 days in Queensland (periods include days before 1 July 2023) (Figure 7.2).

Completed periods of community-based supervision were much longer than completed periods of detention, with a median length of 95 days (about 14 weeks) compared with 6 days, respectively (tables S62 and S101).

Again, there were differences among the states and territories. In 2023–24, the median length of completed periods of:

- community-based supervision ranged from 66 days in the Australian Capital Territory to 165 days in Tasmania
- detention ranged from one day in the Australian Capital Territory to 32 days in Queensland (Figure 7.2).

Figure 7.2: Median duration of completed supervision periods, by supervision type and state and territory, 2023–24



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Note: Completed supervision periods were not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.

Source: tables S29, S62 and S101.

The median duration of completed individual periods of unsentenced detention during 2023–24 was 6 days (Table S116). This varied among the states and territories, from 1 day in the Australian Capital Territory to 30 days in Queensland.

For completed periods of sentenced detention, the median duration was much longer, at 42 days (Table S122). This varied among the states and territories, from 11 days in the Northern Territory to 103 days in Victoria.

On average, First Nations young people completed longer periods of unsentenced detention than non-Indigenous young people (median of 7 days compared with 4 days) (Table S116). But First Nations young people completed shorter periods of sentenced detention than their non-Indigenous counterparts (median of 37 days compared with 64 days) (Table S122).

Total time under supervision

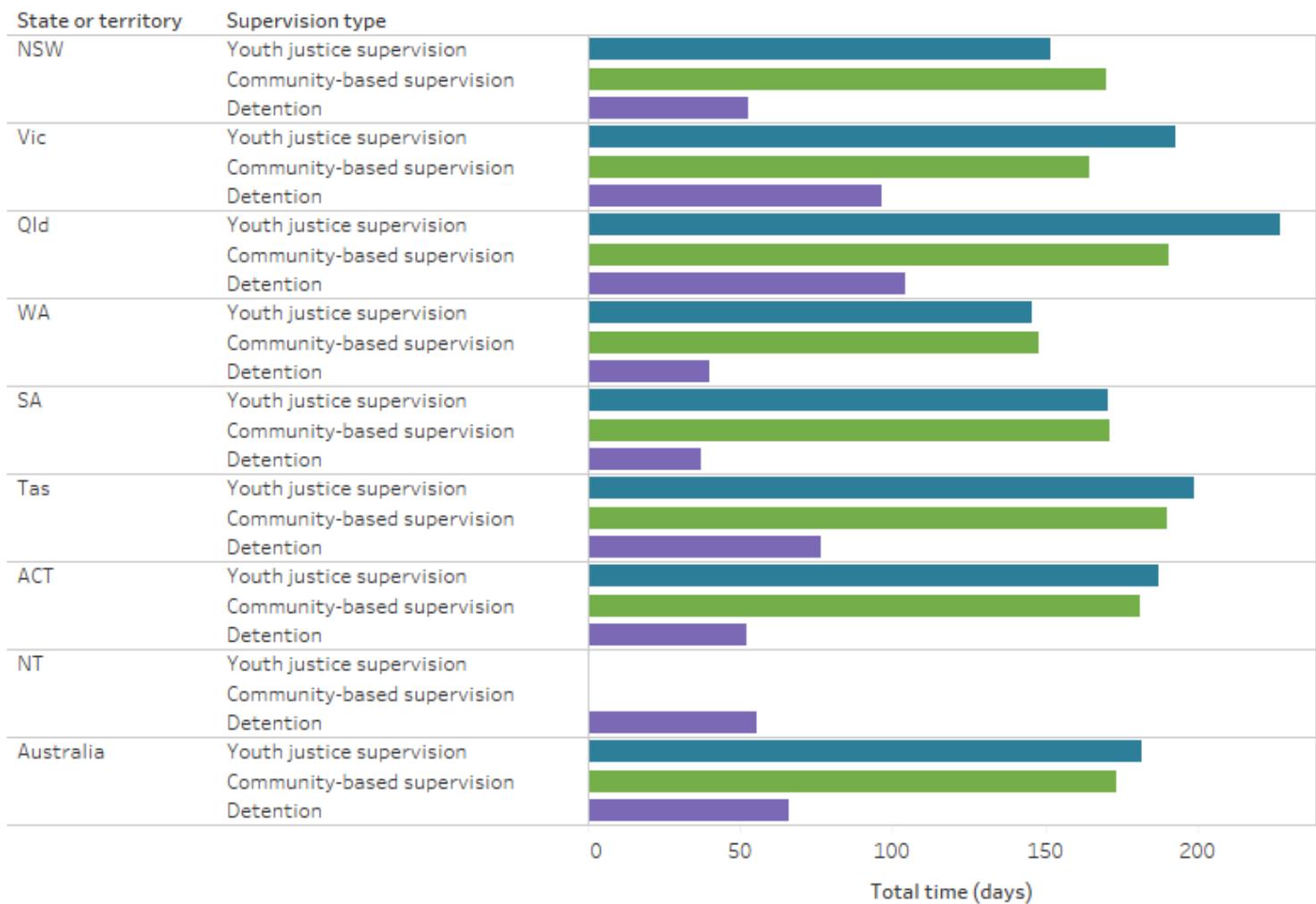
When all the time spent under supervision during 2023–24 is considered (including multiple periods of supervision and periods that were not yet completed as at 30 June 2023), young people who were supervised during the year spent a total of 182 days, or about 6 months (26 weeks), on average, under supervision (Figure 7.3).

This time spent under supervision was lowest in Western Australia (146 days) and highest in Queensland (228 days).

Young people spent more time, on average, under community-based supervision during the year (173 days, or about 25 weeks) than in detention (66 days, or about 9 weeks). This varied among the states and territories. The average total time spent:

- under community-based supervision ranged from 148 days Western Australia to 190 days in Queensland
- in detention ranged from 37 days in South Australia to 104 days in Queensland.

Figure 7.3: Average total time young people spent under supervision during the year, by supervision type and state and territory, 2023–24



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

Note: Average time spent under supervision was not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.

Source: tables S30, S63 and S102.

During the year, young people spent much more time, on average, in sentenced detention (91 days in total, or about 13 weeks) than in unsentenced detention (55 days, or nearly 8 weeks) (tables S117 and S124). This is to be expected, as young people are typically placed in unsentenced detention for relatively short periods while awaiting the outcome of their legal matter or sentencing.

The total amount of time young people spent in unsentenced detention during 2023–24 ranged from 25 days, on average, in Western Australia to 95 days in Queensland (Figure 7.4).

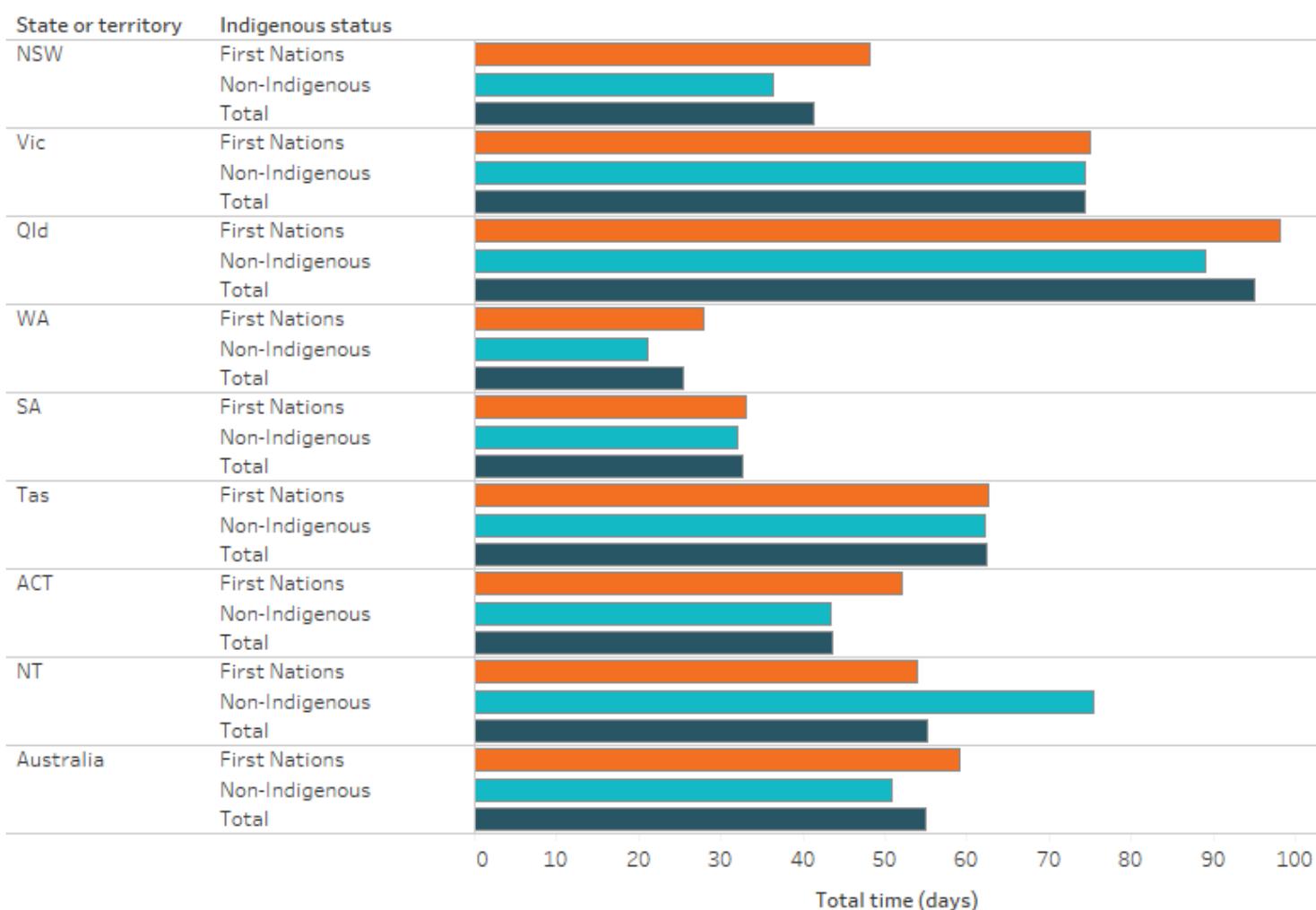
The average total time spent in sentenced detention was lowest in Tasmania (64 days), and highest in Victoria (120 days) (Figure 7.5).

Males (188 days) spent more time, on average, under supervision during the year than females (162 days) (Table S30). Males and females spent similar lengths of time, on average, under community-based supervision (173 and 174 days, respectively), but males (74 days) spent more than twice as long in detention as females (33 days) (tables S63 and S102).

In 2023–24, First Nations young people on average spent:

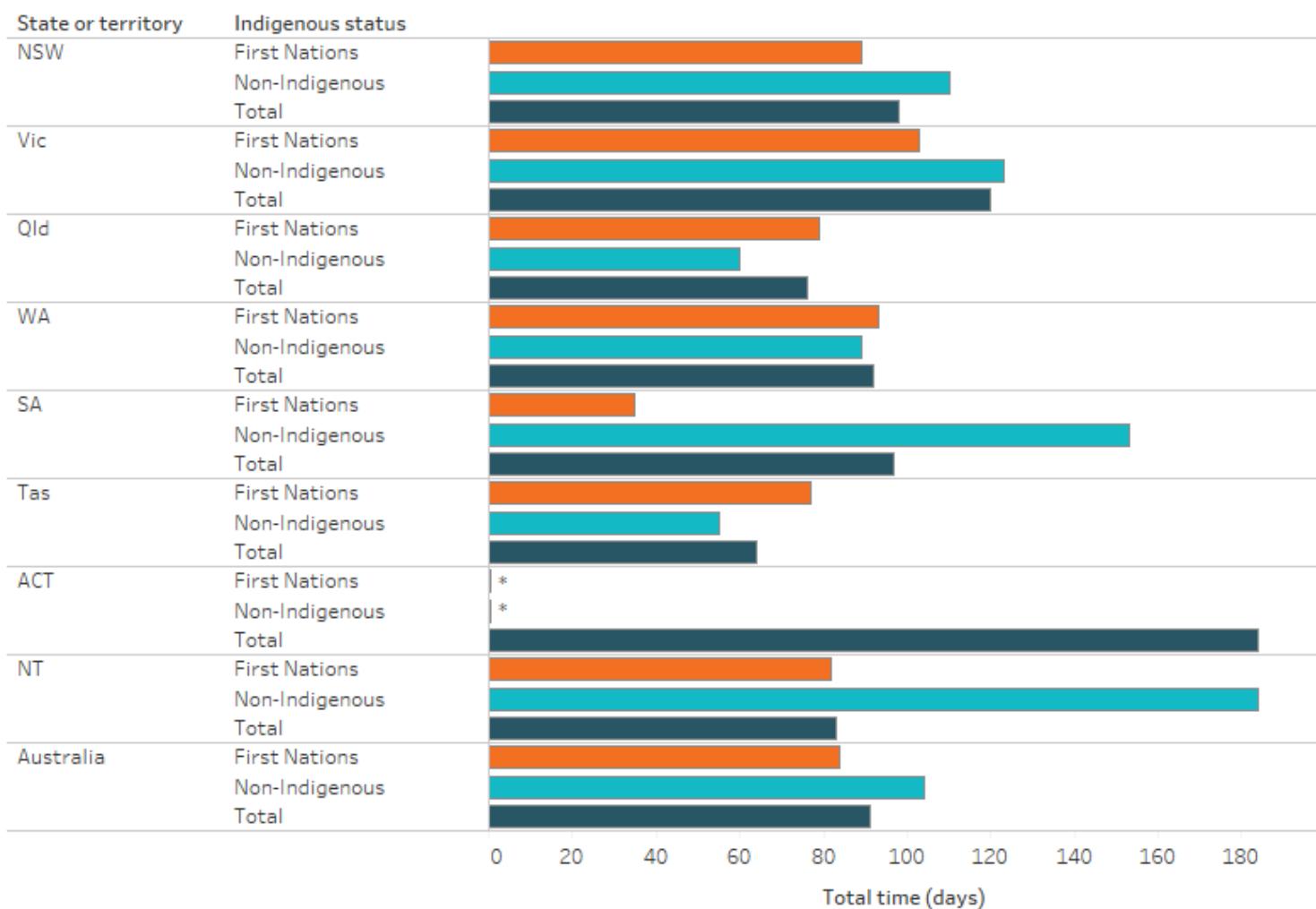
- 190 days under supervision during the year and non-Indigenous young people spent 178 days (Table S30)
- 175 days under community-based supervision during the year and non-Indigenous young people spent 173 days (Table S63)
- 69 days in detention during the year and non-Indigenous young people spent 64 days (Table S102)
- 59 days in unsentenced detention during the year and non-Indigenous young people spent 51 days
- 84 days in sentenced detention during the year and non-Indigenous young people spent 104 days (figures 7.4 and 7.5).

Figure 7.4: Average total time young people spent in unsentenced detention during the year, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2023–24



Source: Table S117.

Figure 7.5: Average total time young people spent in sentenced detention during the year, by Indigenous status and state and territory, 2023–24



* Data have been suppressed.

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

Note: First Nations and non-Indigenous young people in sentenced detention in the ACT in 2023–24 were suppressed to protect the confidentiality of young people.

Source: Table S124

Supervision history

First entry to supervision

First entry to supervision refers to the first time a young person came under youth justice supervision and includes periods of supervision that occurred before the reference period (2023–24).

Entry to supervision

About one-third (36%) of young people under youth justice supervision in 2023–24 were new to supervision in that year. The rest (64%) had been supervised in a previous year (Table S17). First Nations young people (67%) were more likely than non-Indigenous young people (61%) to have been under supervision in a previous year.

Of young people under community-based supervision, 68% had been supervised (under any type of supervision) in a previous year, compared with 58% of those in detention (tables S53 and S91).

Age at first supervision

Among all young people who were supervised during 2023–24 (Table S19):

- almost three-quarters (73%) had first entered youth justice supervision when they were aged 14–17
- about one-quarter (23%) had first entered supervision when they were aged 10–13
- 4.3% had first entered supervision when they were aged 18 and over.

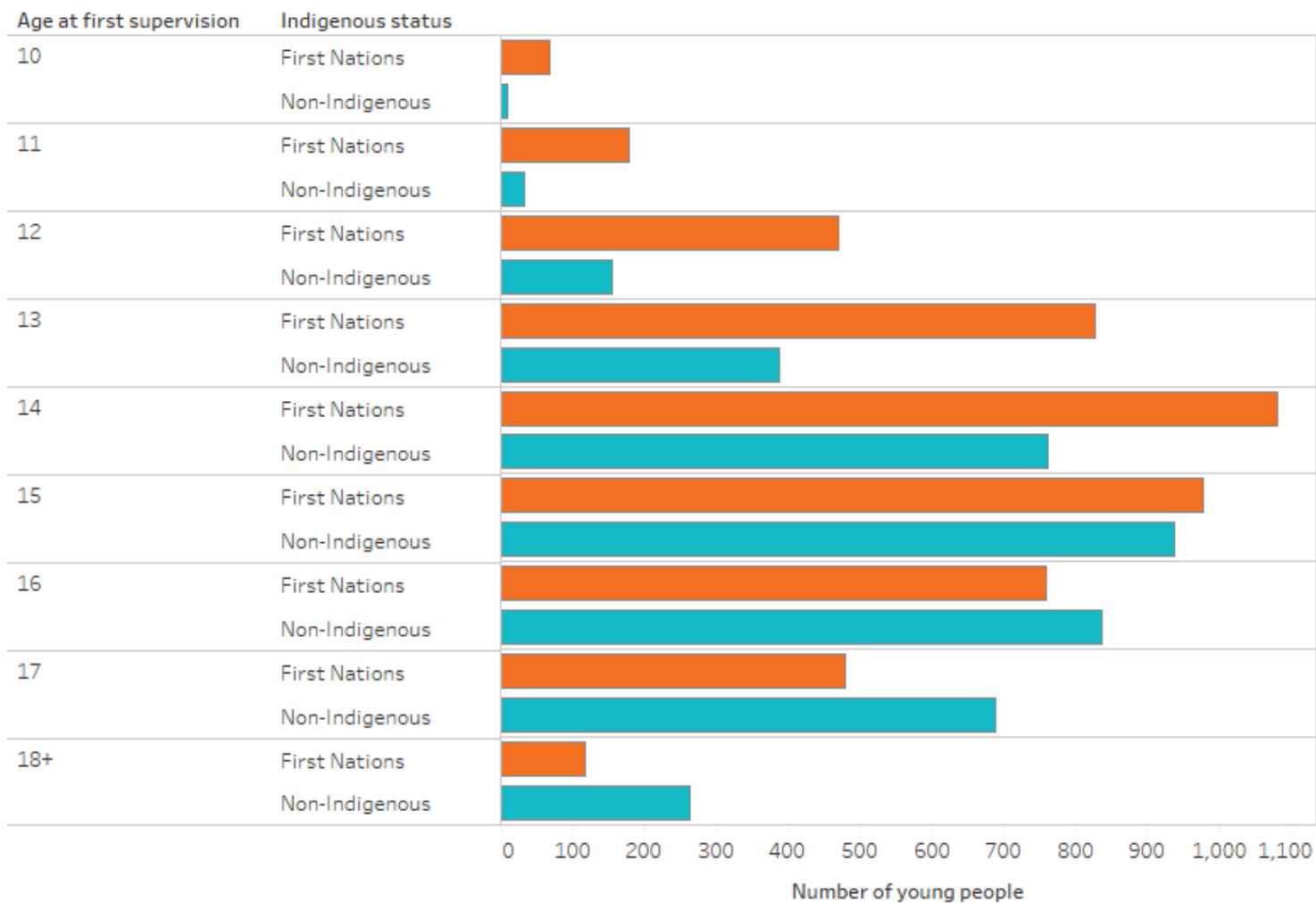
Young people who were supervised in 2023–24 were most likely to be aged 14–17 when they first entered supervision in all states and territories, ranging from 67% in Western Australia and the Northern Territory to 82% in New South Wales (Table S19).

Western Australia had the highest proportion of young people who first entered supervision when aged 10–13 (33%), while Victoria had the highest proportion who first entered supervision when aged 18 and over (19%) (likely a result of Victoria's 'dual track' sentencing system). The 10–13 and 18 and over age groups were not published for the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania due to small numbers, in order to protect the confidentiality of young people.

On average, First Nations young people entered youth justice supervision at a younger age than non-Indigenous young people – about a third (31%) of First Nations young people under supervision in 2023–24 were first supervised when aged 10–13 compared with about 1 in 7 (14%) non-Indigenous young people (Table S19).

The most common age for first entry to youth justice supervision for First Nations young people was 14, compared with 15 for non-Indigenous young people (Figure 8.1).

Figure 8.1: Young people under supervision, by age at first supervision and Indigenous status, Australia, 2023–24



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

Source: Table S18.

First type of supervision

Among all those who were supervised during 2023–24, the most common first types of supervision were remand (a type of unsentenced detention) at 35% and probation and similar (a type of sentenced community-based supervision) at 26% (Figure 8.2).

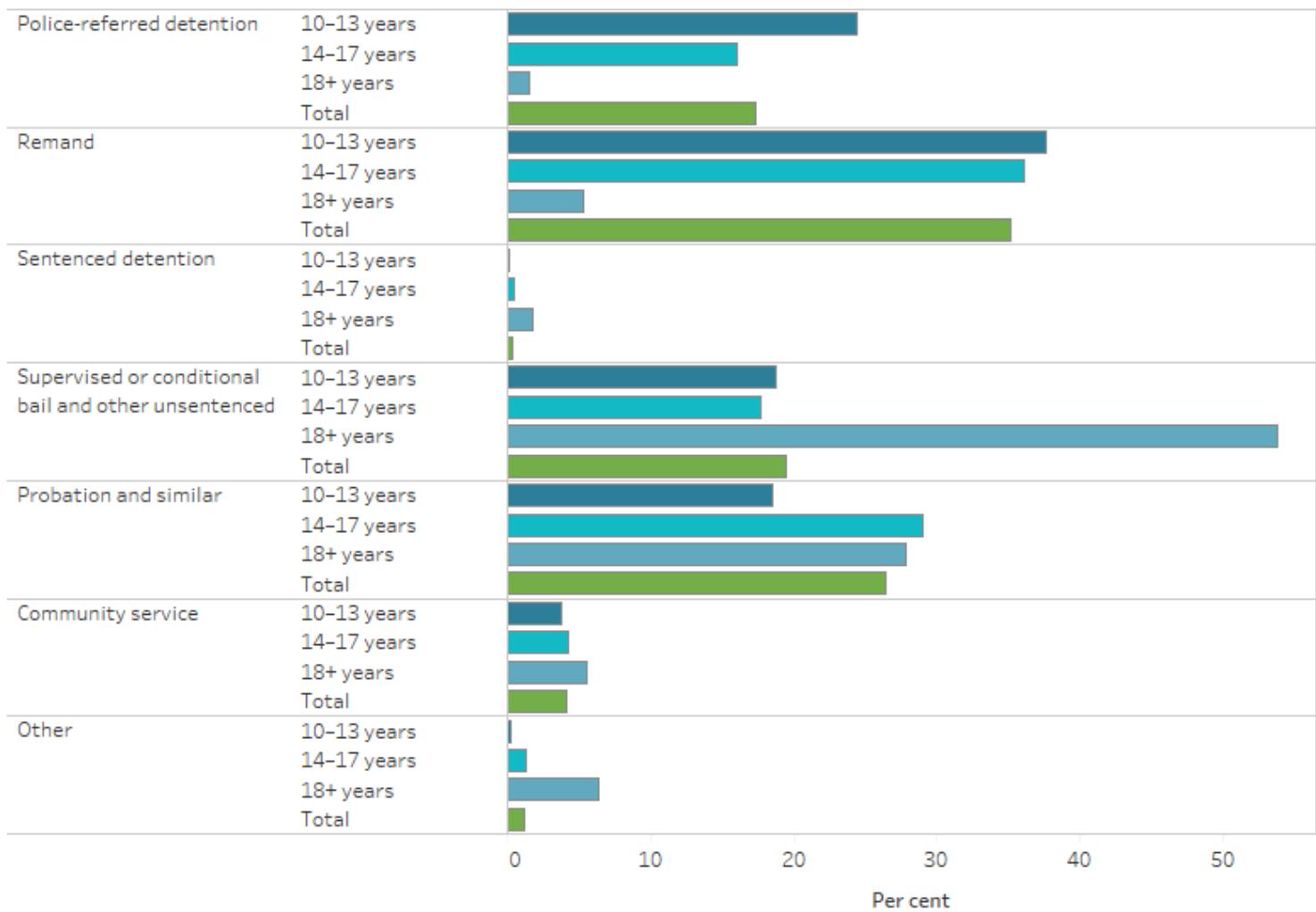
For young people entering supervision for the first time when aged 10–13 the most common types of supervision were remand, police-referred detention, and probation and similar (Figure 8.2).

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

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

Very few young people under youth justice supervision were given sentenced detention as their first type of supervision (0.4% overall, and 1.8% of those aged 18 and over).

Figure 8.2: Young people under supervision, by type of first supervision and age at first supervision, Australia, 2023–24



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Notes

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

Source: tables S19 and S20.

Youth justice supervision history

About 9 in 10 (89%) young people who were supervised during 2023–24 had been under community-based supervision at some time during their supervision history (either during 2023–24 or in a previous year) (Figure 8.3). More than two-thirds (71%) had spent time in detention.

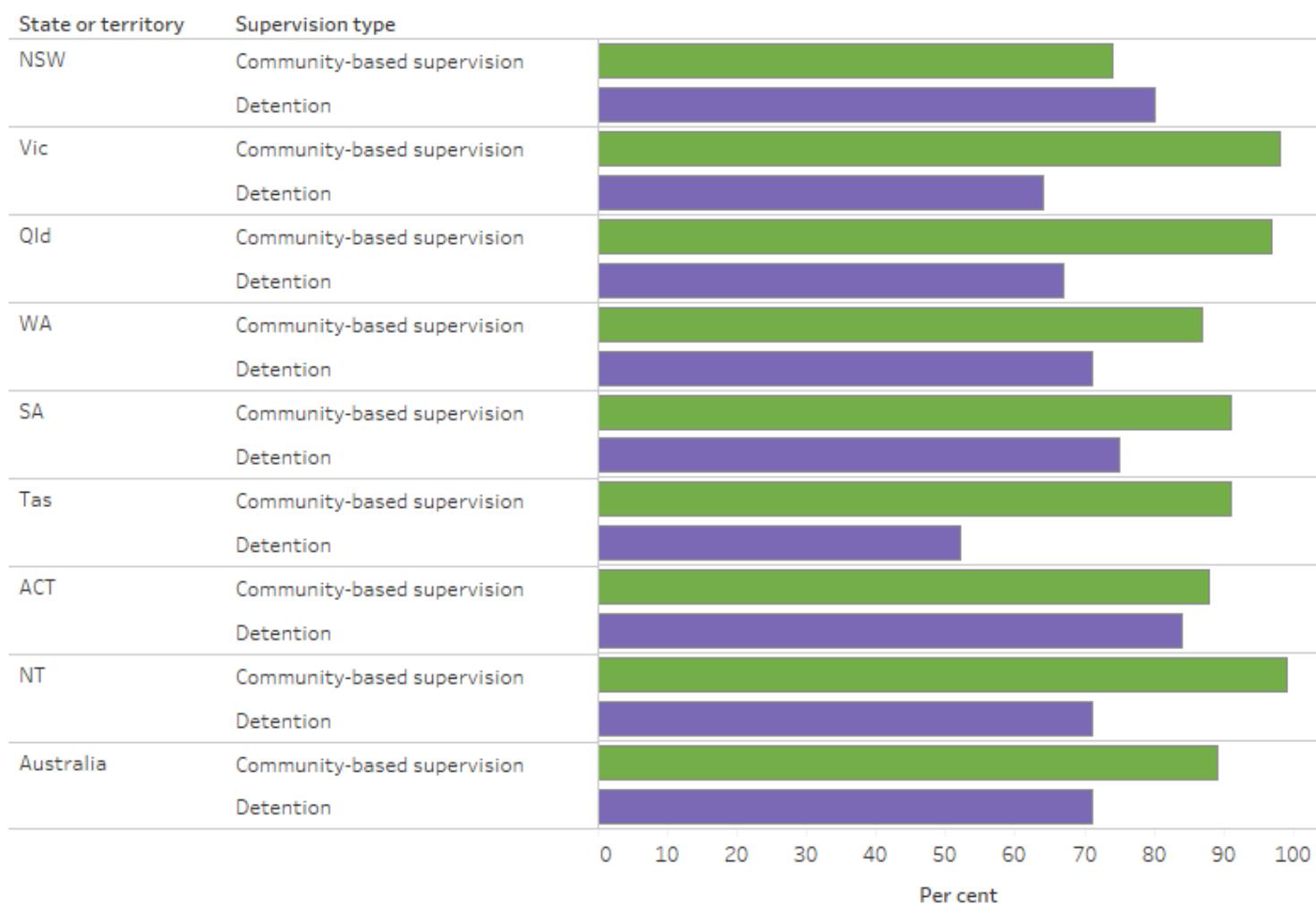
About 3 in 5 (60%) young people under supervision during 2023–24 had been under both community-based supervision and in detention at some time during their supervision history.

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

Among the states and territories, the proportion of young people supervised during 2023–24 who had been:

- under community-based supervision at some point during their supervision history ranged from 74% in New South Wales to 99% in the Northern Territory
- in detention ranged from 52% in Tasmania to 84% in the Australian Capital Territory (Figure 8.3).

Figure 8.3: Young people under supervision during the year, by supervision history, and state and territory, 2023–24



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

Notes

1. Numerators are the number of young people who had a supervision history containing any type of community-based supervision (Table S33c) or detention (Table S33g), by state and territory. Denominators are the number of young people under supervision during the year, by state and territory (Table S2b).
2. Supervision history was not available for all young people under supervision (see [Appendix A1: Data quality](#) and [Appendix A2: technical information](#)).

Source: tables S2b, S33c and S33g.

Similar proportions of males and females under youth justice supervision during 2023–24 had been under community-based supervision at some point during their supervision history (90% and 87%, respectively). Males (73%) were slightly more likely than females (66%) to have previously been in detention (tables S2b, S33c and S33g).

Similar proportions of First Nations and non-Indigenous young people under supervision in 2023–24 had been under community-based supervision at some time during their supervision history (90% and 88%, respectively) (tables S2b and S33c).

Three-quarters of First Nations young people (75%) under supervision during 2023–24 had a supervision history containing any type of detention. About two-thirds (68%) of non-Indigenous young people had a supervision history containing any type of detention (tables S2b and S33g).

Trends in supervision

Due to the increase in the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, 2023–24 rates are presented for young people aged 12–17. The Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory have been removed from any rates trend commentary, as 2023–24 rates are not comparable to previous years.

Recent trends

On this page:

- [National](#)
- [States and territories](#)
- [Age and sex](#)
- [Time under supervision](#)
- [References](#)

National

Due to Northern Territory all supervision and community-based supervision data (average day) not being available in 2023–24, the Australia total excluding the Northern Territory has been used for trends in national numbers and rates for all supervision and community-based supervision. The Australia total excluding the Northern Territory has also been used for the average length of time under supervision.

For detention (average day) and during the year measures, Northern Territory data is available in 2023–24 and the Australia total includes the Northern Territory.

The number of young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision (including those aged 18 and over) on an average day fell overall between 2019–20 and 2023–24 (Table S11a).

Overall, over the 5 years from 2019–20 to 2023–24, the number of young people under supervision on an average day fell by 18% (from 5,158 to 4,227) (Table S11a). The total number of individual young people who were supervised was lower over the 5 years in all states and territories except South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory where the number rose.

Overall, the national rate of young people aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision on an average day fell from 16 to 12 per 10,000 young people over the 5-year period to 2023–24 (Figure 9.1).

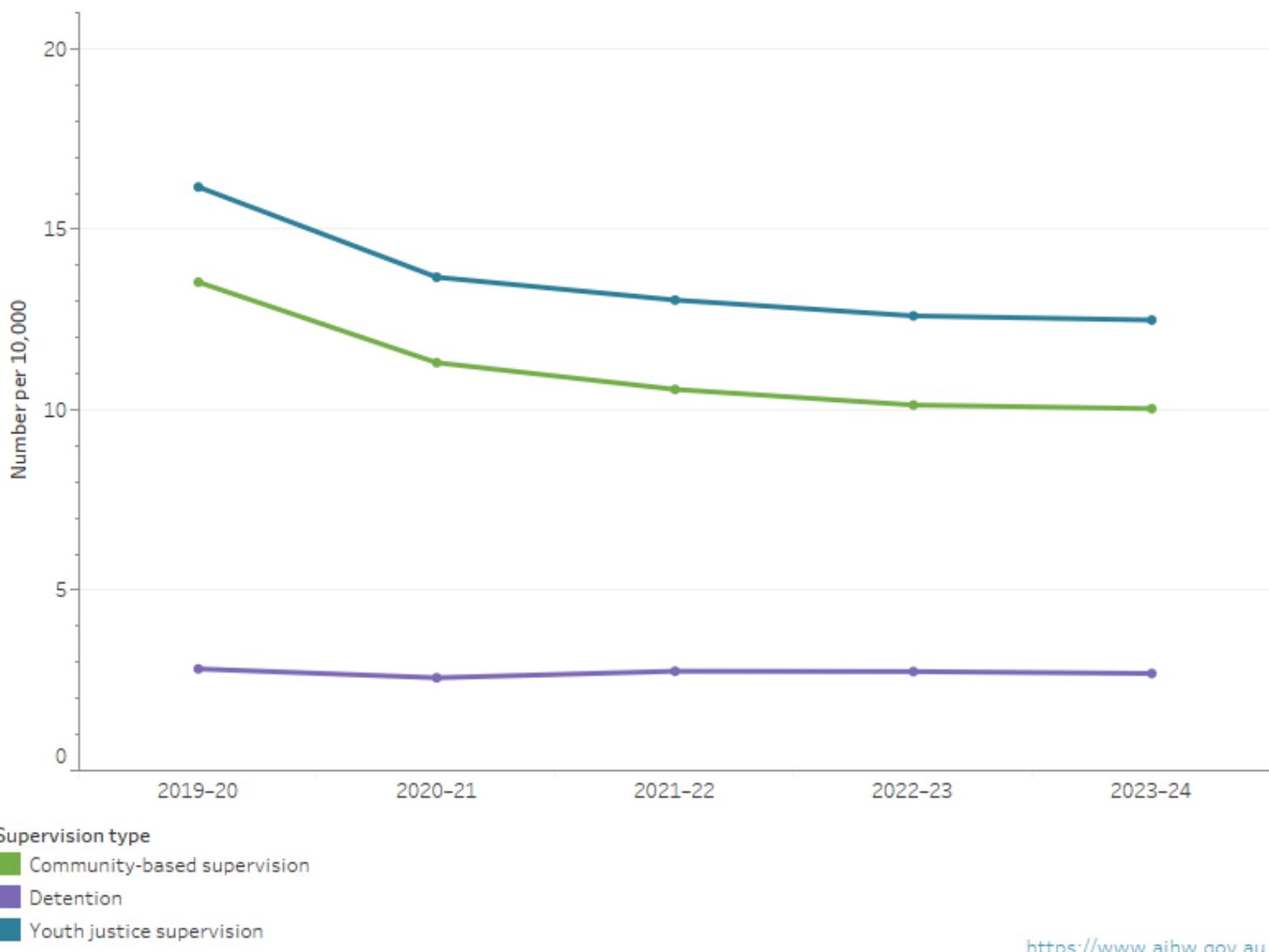
Compared to the previous year, the number of young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision fell by 0.6% (from 4,250 to 4,227) and the rate of young people aged 10–17 decreased marginally from 13 to 12 per 10,000.

Between 2019–20 and 2023–24, the total number of young people aged 10 and over who were under supervision during the year fell by 10% (from 10,250 to 9,224) (Table S11b). The average total time young people spent under supervision during the year declined over the 5-year period, from 190 days in 2019–20 to 182 days in 2023–24 (Table S30).

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

Between 2018–19 and 2022–23, the number of young people aged 10–17 who had their matters finalised in court fell by 11%, with an increase of 6.8% in the most recent year (ABS 2024a).

Figure 9.1: Trends in young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, 2019–20 to 2023–24



Notes

1. Trend data might differ from those previously published due to data revisions.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019-20.
3. The number and rate of young people in the Northern Territory is not available for 2023-24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023-24 are for young people aged 12-17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

Source: tables S15a, S48a and S86a.

Between 2019-20 and 2023-24, the number of young people aged 10 and over under community-based supervision on an average day fell by 20% (from 4,353 to 3,471) (Table S44a). The rate dropped from 14 to 10 per 10,000 for those aged 10-17 (Figure 9.1). In the most recent year, the number under community-based supervision fell by 0.7% (from 3,496 to 3,471) and the rate remained stable at 10 per 10,000.

Between 2019-20 and 2023-24, the number of young people aged 10 and over in detention on an average day fell by 3.7% (from 858 to 827) (Table S82a). The rate declined from 2.8 to 2.7 per 10,000 for those aged 10-17 between 2019-20 and 2023-24 (Figure 9.1). In the most recent year, the number of young people decreased marginally (from 835 to 827) and the rate remained stable at 2.7 per 10,000.

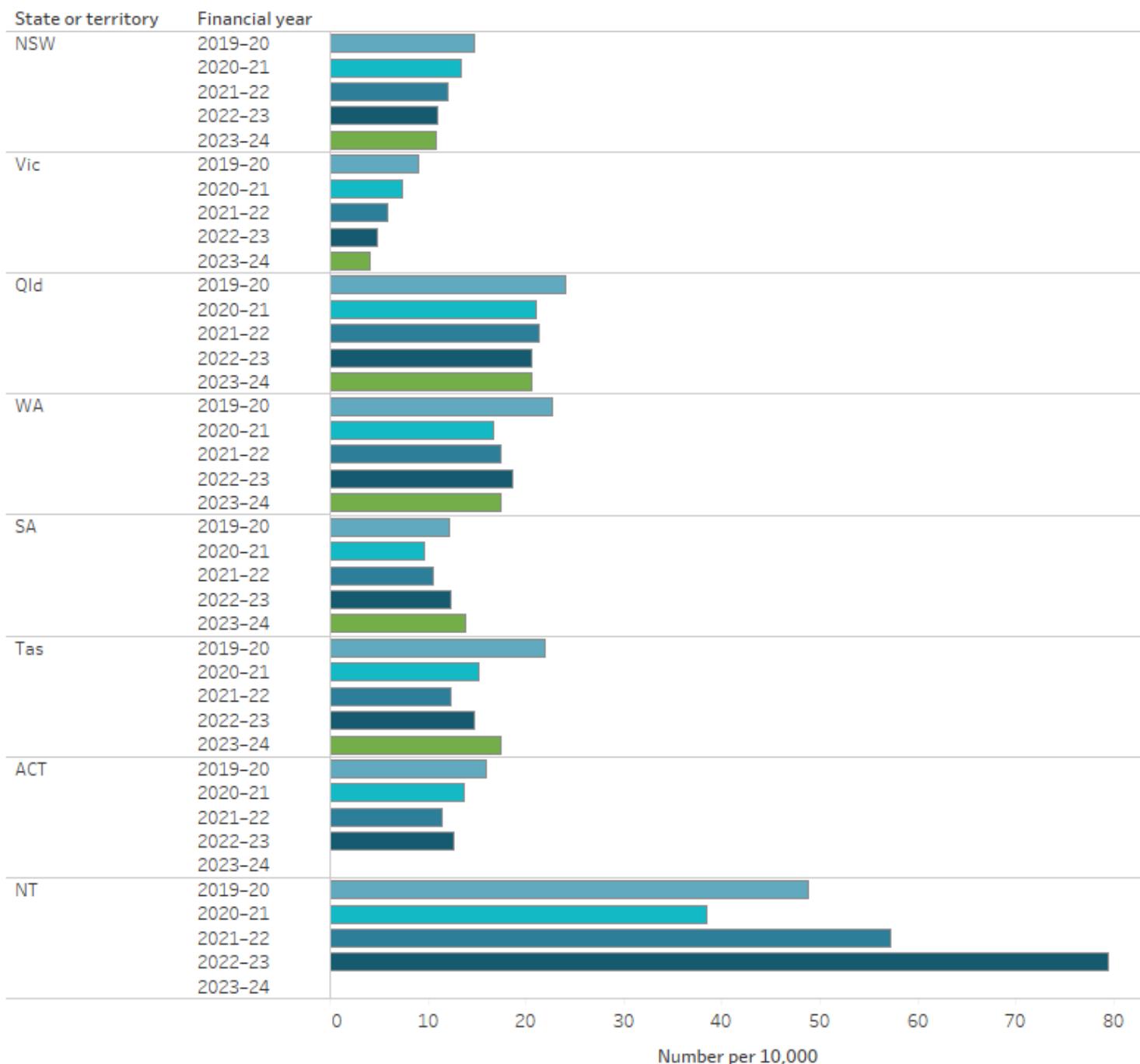
States and territories

Between 2019-20 and 2023-24, the rate of young people aged 10-17 under supervision on an average day fell overall in most states and territories, except for South Australia. The largest fall was in Western Australia (from 23 to 17 per 10,000) (Figure 9.2).

The rates of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day decreased overall in most states and territories, except for South Australia. The largest fall was in Queensland (from 21 to 16 per 10,000) (Table S48a).

The rates of young people aged 10–17 in detention over the 5-year period varied across the states and territories, with the largest declines in Victoria (1.9 to 0.8 per 10,000) and Western Australia (from 3.9 to 2.9 per 10,000). The largest increases in the rates of young people aged 10–17 in detention were in the Northern Territory (from 9.2 to 22 per 10,000) and Queensland (from 3.6 to 5.1 per 10,000) (Table S86a). Note that the rate in the Northern Territory for 2023–24 is for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility and is not directly comparable with previous years.

Figure 9.2: Trends in young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by state and territory, 2019–20 to 2023–24



Notes

1. Trend data might differ from those previously published due to data revisions.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
3. In Queensland, legislation to increase the age limit in the youth justice system from 16 to 17 was enacted in February 2018. This change resulted in an increase in the number and rate of young people aged 17 under youth justice supervision from 2017–18 onwards.
4. The number and rate of young people in the Northern Territory is not available for 2023–24 for all supervision.
5. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2023–24 have been removed, as they are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 and are not comparable to previous years.

Source: Table S15a.

Table 9.1a: Overall change in young people under community-based supervision on an average day, by supervision type and Indigenous status, and state and territory, 2019–20 to 2023–24 (rate)

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
First Nations	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓
Non-Indigenous	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓
Total	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓

Footnotes and notes are provided following Table 9.1c.

Table 9.1b: Overall change in young people in detention on an average day, by supervision type and Indigenous status, and state and territory, 2019–20 to 2023–24 (rate)

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
First Nations	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓
Non-Indigenous	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓
Total	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓

Footnotes and notes are provided following Table 9.1c.

Table 9.1c: Overall change in young people under all youth justice supervision on an average day, by supervision type and Indigenous status, and state and territory, 2019–20 to 2023–24 (rate)

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
First Nations	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓
Non-Indigenous	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓
Total	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	n.a.	n.a.	↓

(Footnotes and notes for tables 9.1a, 9.1b and 9.1c)

Notes

1. Arrows indicate an overall change between 2019–20 and 2023–24. Unchanged arrows (↔) indicate a change of +/-0.4 over the 5-year period. Trends might have fluctuated between these years, particularly for smaller jurisdictions.
2. Data might differ from those previously published due to data revisions.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
4. The number and rate of young people in the Northern Territory is not available for 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
5. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

Source: tables S12a, S15a, S45a, S48a, S83a and S86a.

Age and sex

Over the 5 years to 2023–24, the rates of young males and females under supervision fell. For males aged 10–17 on an average day, the rate fell from 24 to 19 per 10,000; for females, it fell overall from 7.4 to 5.7 per 10,000 (Table S15a). On an average day each year, males aged 10–17 were 3–4 times as likely as females aged 10–17 to be under supervision.

The rate of males aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day fell over the 5-year period from 20 to 15 per 10,000, while the rate of young females fell from 6.8 to 5.2 per 10,000 (Table S48a). For detention, the rate of males aged 10–17 on an average day fell from 4.9 to 4.7 per 10,000, while the rate of females remained at 0.6 per 10,000 (Table S86a).

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

The fall in rates of young males under supervision on an average day occurred for all ages, with the largest fall being for those aged 17 (from 76 to 54 per 10,000 over the 5-year period) (Table S9a).

Among young females, rates fell overall for most ages, with the largest fall being for those aged 17 (from 18 to 13 per 10,000) (Table S9a).

Time under supervision

Over the 5 years from 2019–20 to 2023–24, the average amount of time young people spent under youth justice supervision during the year declined from 190 days in 2019–20 to 182 days in 2023–24 (Table S30).

A similar trend was seen for young people under community-based supervision, with a decline from 182 days in 2019–20 to 173 days in 2023–24 (Table S63).

The average amount of time spent in detention fluctuated over the years, but overall remained the same at 66 days (Table S102).

The average amount of time young people spent under youth justice supervision varied among the states and territories, with the largest overall rise in South Australia (from 164 to 171 days). The largest overall fall was in Tasmania (from 220 to 199 days) (Table S30).

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

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Longer trends

On this page:

- [National](#)
- [States and territories](#)

National

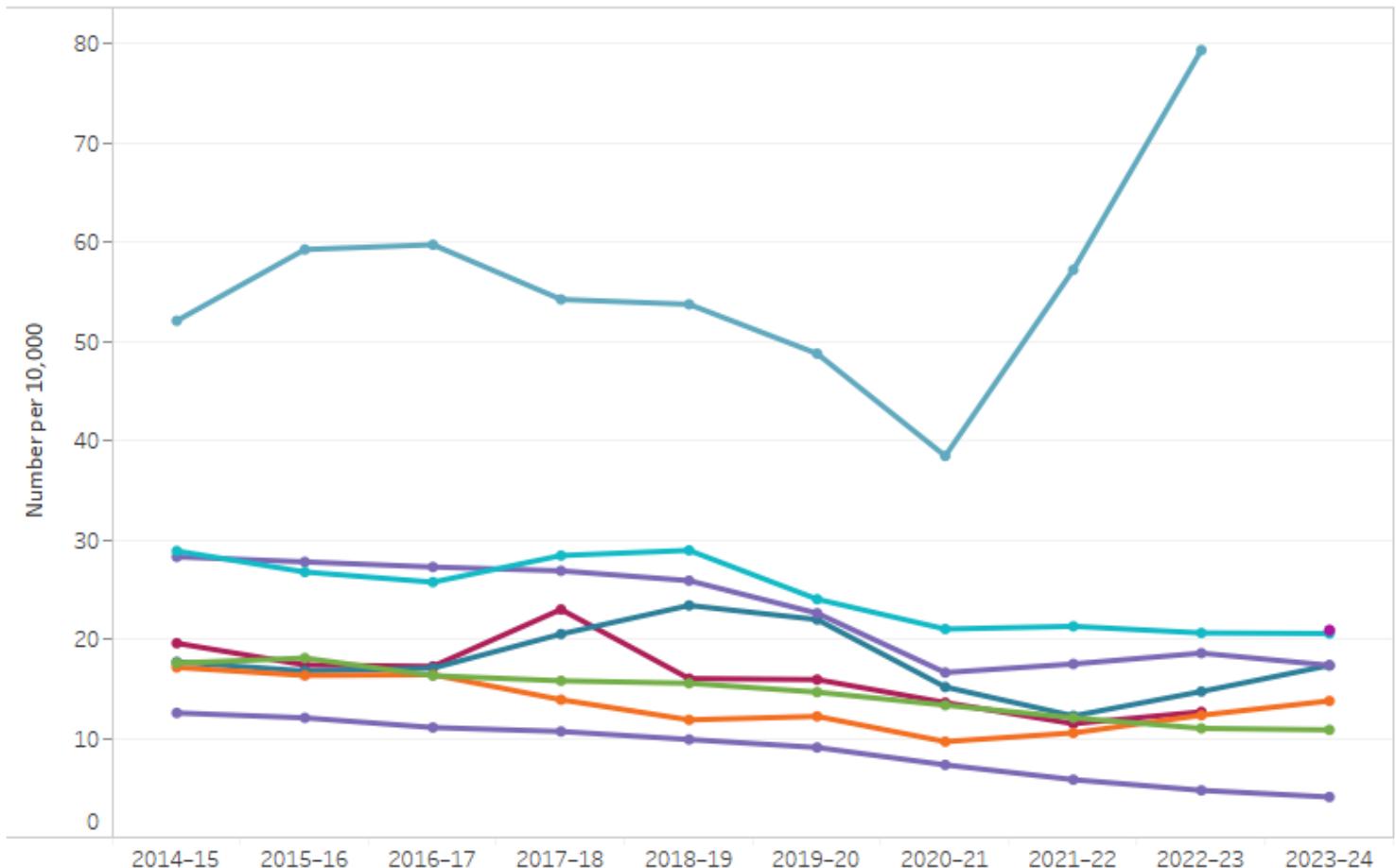
Nationally, the rate of young people aged 10–17 under youth justice supervision on an average day fell over the 10 years to 2023–24, from 20 per 10,000 in 2014–15 to 12 per 10,000 in 2023–24 (Figure 9.3).

Similarly, the rate of young people under supervision during each year (rather than on an average day) fell steadily from 43 per 10,000 in 2014–15 to 29 per 10,000 in 2023–24 (Table S15b).

This trend is largely associated with changes in the rate of community-based supervision, as 82% of all young people under supervision on an average day were supervised in the community (Table 2.1a). The rate of community-based supervision for young people aged 10–17 on an average day decreased over the years from 17 per 10,000 in 2014–15, to 10 per 10,000 in 2023–24 (Figure 9.3).

The rate of young people in detention was slightly lower in 2023–24 compared with 2014–15 (2.7 per 10,000 compared with 3.1 per 10,000).

Figure 9.3: Trends in young people under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, 2014–15 to 2023–24



Notes

1. Trend data might differ from those previously published due to data revisions.
2. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia* releases before 2019–20.
3. The number and rate of young people in the Northern Territory is not available for 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions. The rates for all other jurisdictions are for young people aged 10 to 17.

Source: tables S15a, S48a and S86a

States and territories

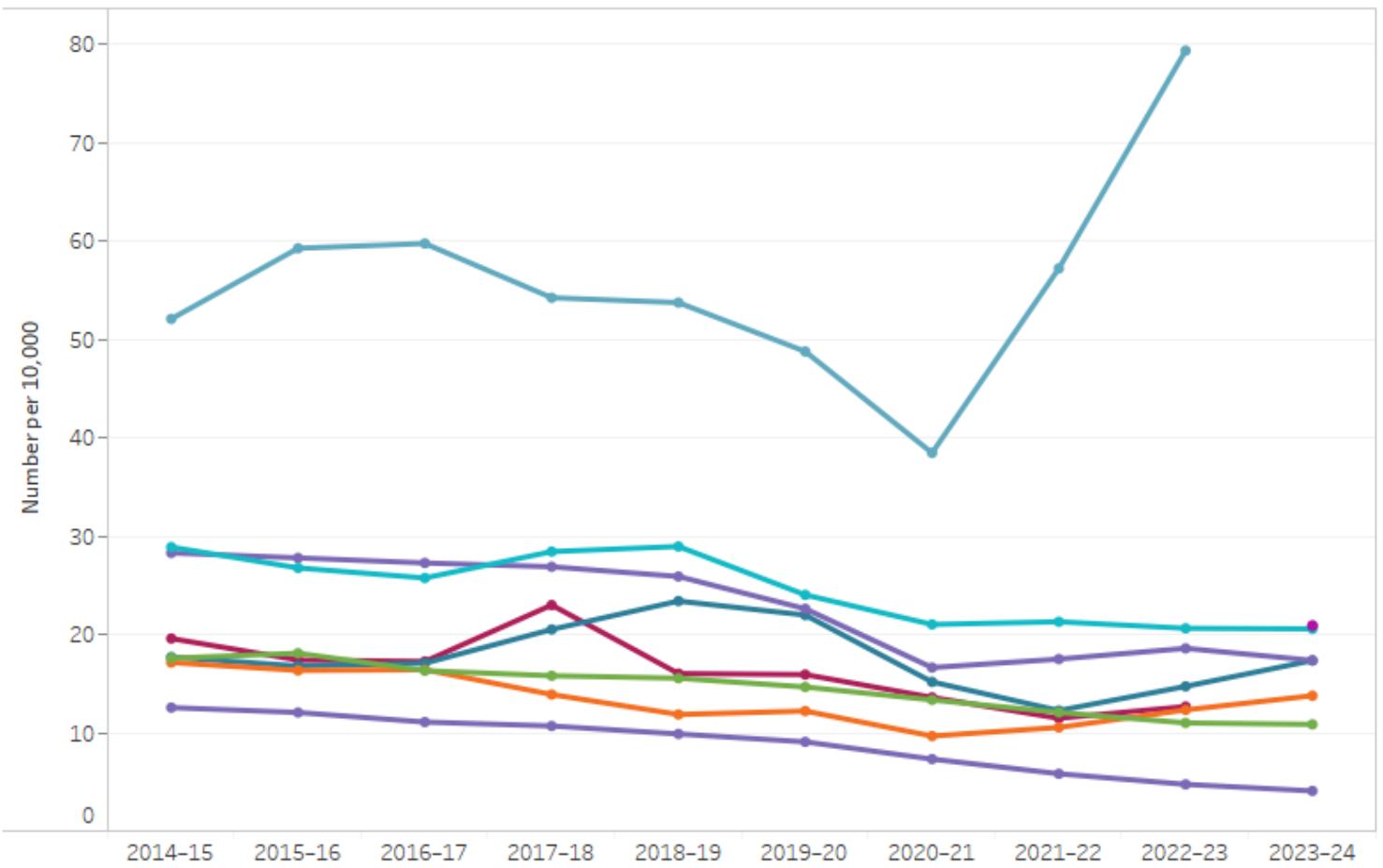
On an average day from 2014–15 to 2023–24, Victoria had the lowest rate of supervision each year, at fewer than 13 per 10,000 young people throughout the period (Figure 9.4).

The rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day declined over the 10 years in all states and territories.

In the Northern Territory, the rate of supervision was 52 per 10,000 in 2014–15 before falling to its lowest point (38 per 10,000) in 2020–21 then increasing substantially in 2022–23 (79 per 10,000) (note that Northern Territory average day data was not available in 2023–24). In Tasmania, the rate fluctuated with a low in 2021–22 (12 per 10,000) and a high in 2018–19 (23 per 10,000). Rates in Queensland fluctuated over the 10-year period and were lowest in 2023–24 (21 per 10,000). Prior to the increase in the minimum age of criminal responsibility in 2023–24, rates in the Australian Capital Territory fell almost consistently from 2014–15 to 2022–23 (with the exception of 2017–18).

The rate of supervision declined in each of the last 10 years in Victoria, New South Wales (with the exception of 2015–16), and Western Australia (with the exception of 2021–22 and 2022–23). Rates in South Australia fluctuated over the 10-year period and were lowest in 2020–21 (9.7 per 10,000) (Figure 9.4).

Figure 9.4: Trends in young people under supervision on an average day, by state and territory, 2014–15 to 2023–24



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Notes

1. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable with data in *Youth justice in Australia releases before 2019–20*.
2. In Queensland, legislation to increase the age limit in the youth justice system from 16 to 17 was enacted in February 2018. This change resulted in an increase in the number and rate of young people aged 17 under youth justice supervision from 2017–18 onwards.
3. The number and rate of young people in the Northern Territory is not available for 2023–24 for all supervision and community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions. The rates for all other jurisdictions are for young people aged 10 to 17.

Source: Table S15a.

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

Over the 10-year period, there was an overall decline between 2014–15 and 2023–24 in the rate of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day in all states and territories where data was available. There were some minor fluctuations in some states and territories, where rates:

- rose in Queensland in 2017–18 and 2018–19, before declining from 2019–20 onwards
- rose in Tasmania in 2017–18 and 2018–19, before falling again to a low in 2021–22, with a rise since 2022–23
- fell in South Australia in most years up to 2020–21, before rising since 2021–22 (Table S48a).

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

Between 2014–15 and 2023–24, detention rates for young people aged 10–17 fell overall in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia – they rose in Queensland and Tasmania (Table S86a).

Youth justice in context

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Youth and adult justice systems in Australia

Contact with police

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

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

In 2022–23, police proceeded against 182 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (the primary group in the youth justice system) and 141 per 10,000 among those aged 18 and over (ABS 2024c).

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

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

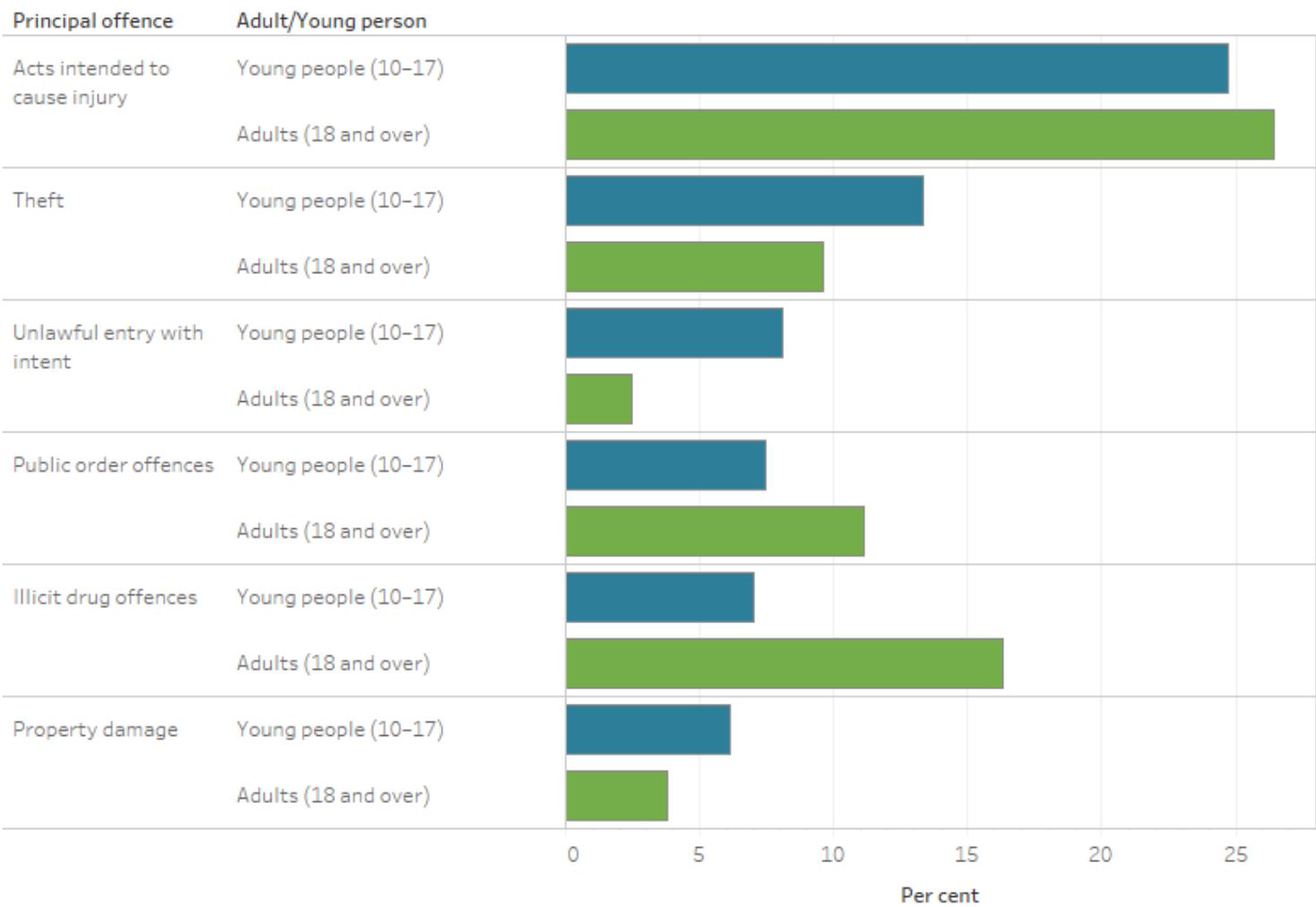
- acts intended to cause injury (25%)
- theft (13%)
- unlawful entry with intent (8.1%) (Figure 10.1).

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

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

The adult category includes a much broader age group than the young people category and this might influence the results. (ABS 2024c).

Figure 10.1: Young people and adults proceeded against by police, by selected principal offence, 2022–23



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

Source: ABS 2024c.

Community-based supervision, detention and prison

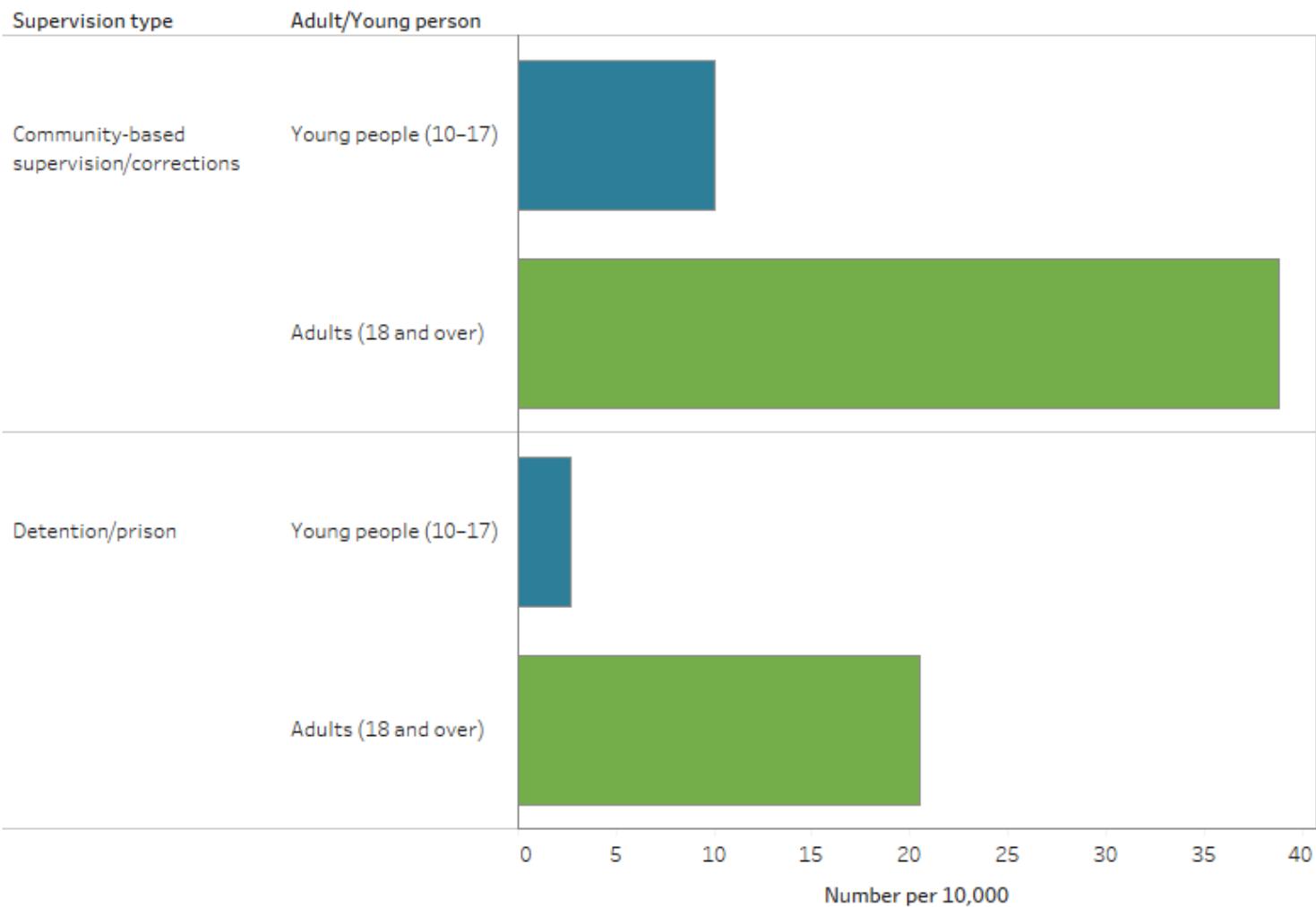
Although young people were more likely than adults to be proceeded against by police, adults were more likely to be placed under formal supervision.

On an average day in 2023–24, 39 per 10,000 adults aged 18 and over were in adult community-based corrections (Figure 10.2).

This compares with 10 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 under community-based youth justice supervision on an average day in 2023–24.

At the same time, 20 per 10,000 adults were in prison compared with 2.7 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 in youth justice detention (Figure 10.2).

Figure 10.2: Young people aged 10–17 and adults under supervision on an average day, by type of supervision, 2023–24



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

Notes

1. Data on young people under supervision are for 2023-24.
2. Available ABS data on adults under supervision are the average of monthly snapshots taken on the first day of the month from July 2023 to June 2024.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day is not available for the Northern Territory in 2023-24 for community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory young people in 2023-24 are for young people aged 12-17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

Sources: ABS 2024; tables S37a and S75a.

Young people aged 10-17 under youth justice supervision were more likely to identify as First Nations people than adults under supervision. More than half (55%) of young people aged 10-17 supervised in the community and 1 in 4 (25%) adults in community corrections were First Nations people (Figure 10.3).

Similarly, on an average day in 2023-24, almost two-thirds (65%) of young people aged 10-17 in detention were First Nations people compared with about one-third (34%) of adults in full-time prison.

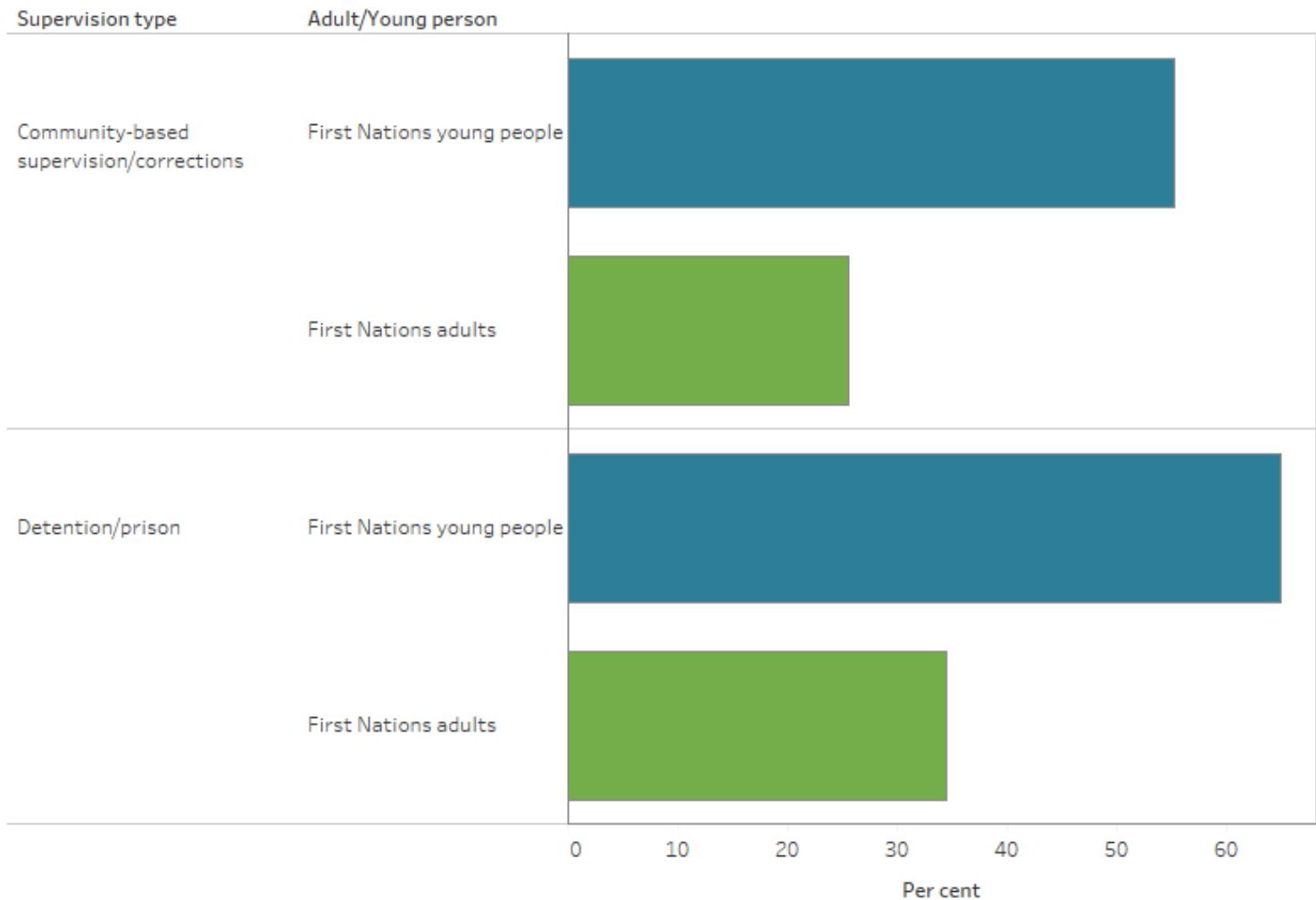
As a result, the level of First Nations over-representation was higher among the youth detention population on an average day in 2023-24 than among adults in full-time prison on an average day in the 2023 calendar year (Figure 10.3). Available ABS data for First Nations and non-Indigenous adults are crude rates, by calendar year.

First nations young people aged 10-17 (27 per 10,000) were about 27 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be in detention (1.0 per 10,000). First nations adults (273 per 10,000) were about 20 times as likely as non-Indigenous adults to be in full-time prison (14 per 10,000) (ABS 2024b; Table S75a).

On an average day, the proportions of young people aged 10–17 and of adults under justice supervision who were male were similar:

- about 90% of young people in detention and 92% of adults in prison were male
- 77% of young people and 80% of adults supervised in the community were male (ABS 2024; tables S36a and S74a).

Figure 10.3: First nations young people under youth justice supervision and adults under adult criminal justice supervision on an average day, by type of supervision, 2023–24



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

Notes

1. Data on young people under supervision are for 2023–24.
2. Available ABS data on adults under supervision are the average of monthly snapshots taken on the first day of the month from July 2023 to June 2024.
3. The number and rate of young people on an average day is not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 for community-based supervision.
4. Rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory young people in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 due to the increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 in those jurisdictions.

Sources: ABS 2024; tables S36 and S74.

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

On an average day in 2023–24, 84% of young people aged 10–17 in detention were unsentenced compared with 39% of adults in prison (ABS 2024; Table S109a).

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Australian and international approaches to youth justice

International agreements, standards and guidelines

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

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

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

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

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

Age for treatment as a young person

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

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

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

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

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

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

Since then, the Northern Territory became the first Australian jurisdiction to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in November 2022, from 10 to 12 years. The change was implemented in August 2023. The Australian Capital Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility in November 2023, also from 10 to 12 years.

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

In Australia, along with New Zealand, England and Wales, young people are deemed to have criminal responsibility if they are aged 10 or over (Table 10.1).

But there are some allowances for children in younger age brackets. For example, young people in New Zealand aged 10 or 11 can only be prosecuted for murder and manslaughter (Child Rights International Network 2020).

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

2020).

In other countries, minimum ages of criminal responsibility include:

- 11 in Japan
- 12 in Canada
- 13 in Greece
- 14 in Germany, Italy and Spain
- 15 in Scandinavian countries (Table 10.1).

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

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

Table 10.1: Minimum age of criminal responsibility, by selected countries

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

a. In Australia, 2 territories have raised the age of criminal responsibility. The Northern Territory raised the age to 12 in August of 2023 and the Australian Capital Territory raised the age to 12 in November 2023 and will raise the age to 14 in mid-2025. Both of these changes came into effect in the 2023–24 reporting year.

Source: Child Rights International Network 2023.

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

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

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

Principles, services and outcomes

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

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

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

In August 2024, Queensland introduced legislation to reward and clarify youth justice principle 18 (detention as a last resort) in the *Youth Justice Act 1992*. The principle now reads:

A child should be detained in custody, where necessary, including to ensure community safety, where other non-custodial measures of prevention and intervention would not be sufficient, and for no longer than necessary to meet the purpose of detention.

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

- complete diversion from the system (such as an informal warning by police)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On an average day in 2022–23, the rate of young people in youth detention in Australia (2.7 per 10,000 young people) was higher than in England and Wales (0.8 per 10,000) and Canada (2.5 per 10,000) but lower than the United States of America (6.3 per 10,000) (Table 10.2, see footnotes for the differences in measurement).

Rates of young people in detention are similar to previous reporting periods for Australia (2.7 per 10,000), England and Wales (0.8), the United States (9.4) and Canada (2.4).

Table 10.2: Young people aged 10–17 in detention on an average day, by selected countries, 2023–24

Number/rate	Australia ^(a)	England and Wales	Canada ^(b)	United States of America
Number	709	441 ^(c)	499	20,955 ^(d)
Number per 10,000	2.7	0.8	2.5	6.3

a. Data for 2023–24.

b. Data for young people aged 12–17 in detention on an average day during 2022–23.

c. Average monthly population of young people aged 10–17 in custody for the year ending March 2023.

d. Number in youth detention in 2021.

Sources: Office for National Statistics 2024; Puzzanchera et al. 2021; Puzzanchera et al. 2023; Statistics Canada 2024; Youth Justice Board for England and Wales 2024; YJ NMDS: tables S74a and S75a.

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State and territory overviews

These state and territory overviews are part of the Youth justice in Australia 2023–24 release. Together, these provide comprehensive information about young people under youth justice supervision in Australia due to their involvement, or alleged involvement, in crime.

Overviews

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

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2023–24, in New South Wales:

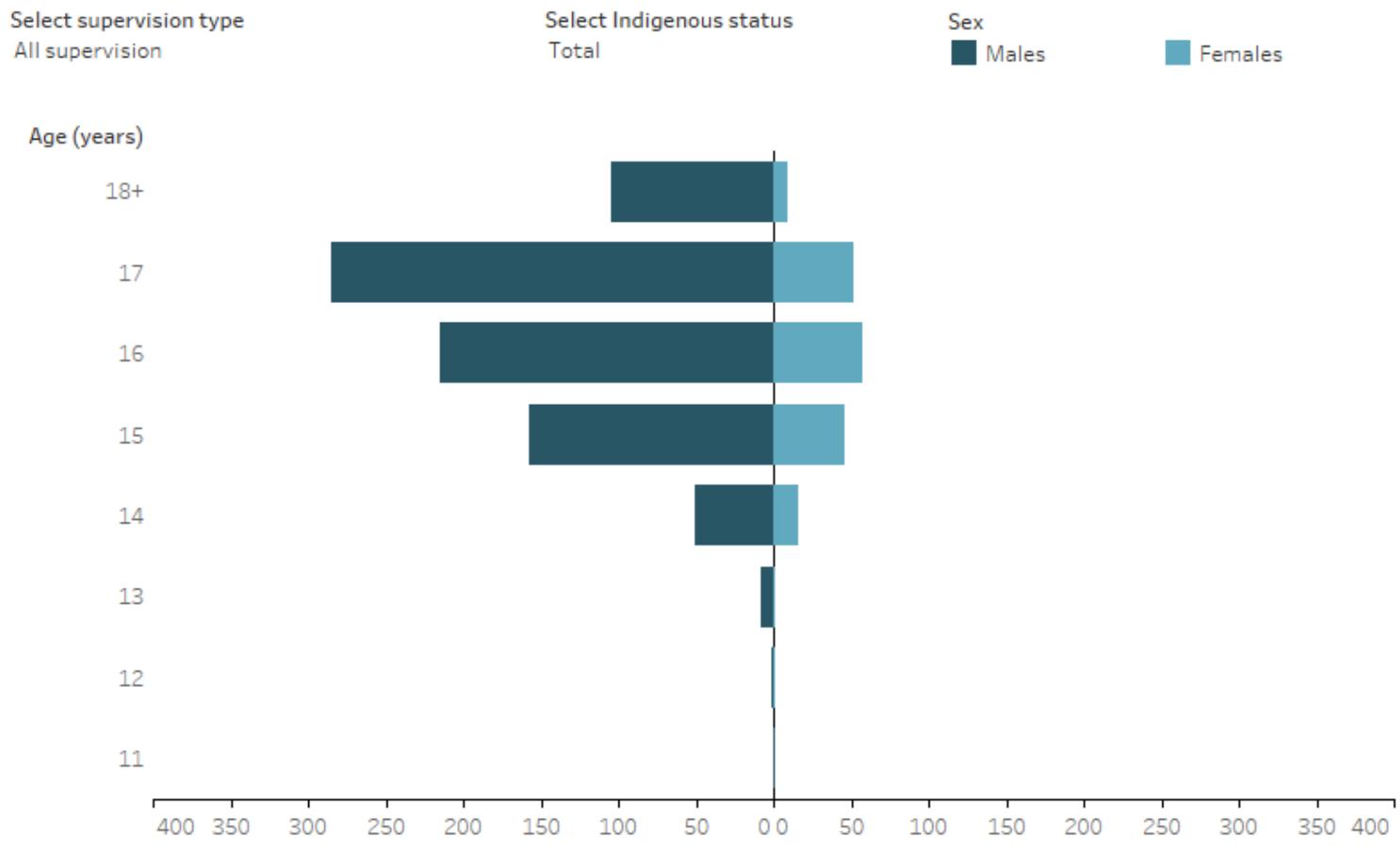
- 1,007 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S126a)
- about 4 in 5 (79%) were supervised in the community (Table S126b), and the rest (22%) in detention (Table S126c) (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 11 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S127a)
- 8.8 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (Table S127b), and 2.1 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S127c).

Age and sex

On an average day in 2023–24, in New South Wales:

- 89% of those under supervision were aged 10–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 82% of those under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 17, and females aged 16 (Table S126a; Figure 11.1).

Figure 11.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, New South Wales, 2023–24



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

Notes

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

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2023–24

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2023–24, in New South Wales:

- First Nations young people made up 7.5% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 56% (or 498) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S126a and S143)
- a similar proportion of First Nations young people aged 10–17 to non- Indigenous young people were under community-based supervision (54% or 387) but a higher proportion were in detention (65% or 115) (tables S126b and S126c)
- First Nations young people aged 10–17 were 17 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under youth justice supervision (80 per 10,000 compared with 4.8 per 10,000) (Table S127a)
- First Nations over-representation was 16 times the non-Indigenous rate in community-based supervision but was higher in detention (23 times the non-Indigenous rate) (tables S127b and S127c).

Time under supervision

In 2023–24, in New South Wales:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 6 days (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 152 days (nearly 22 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2023–24, in New South Wales:

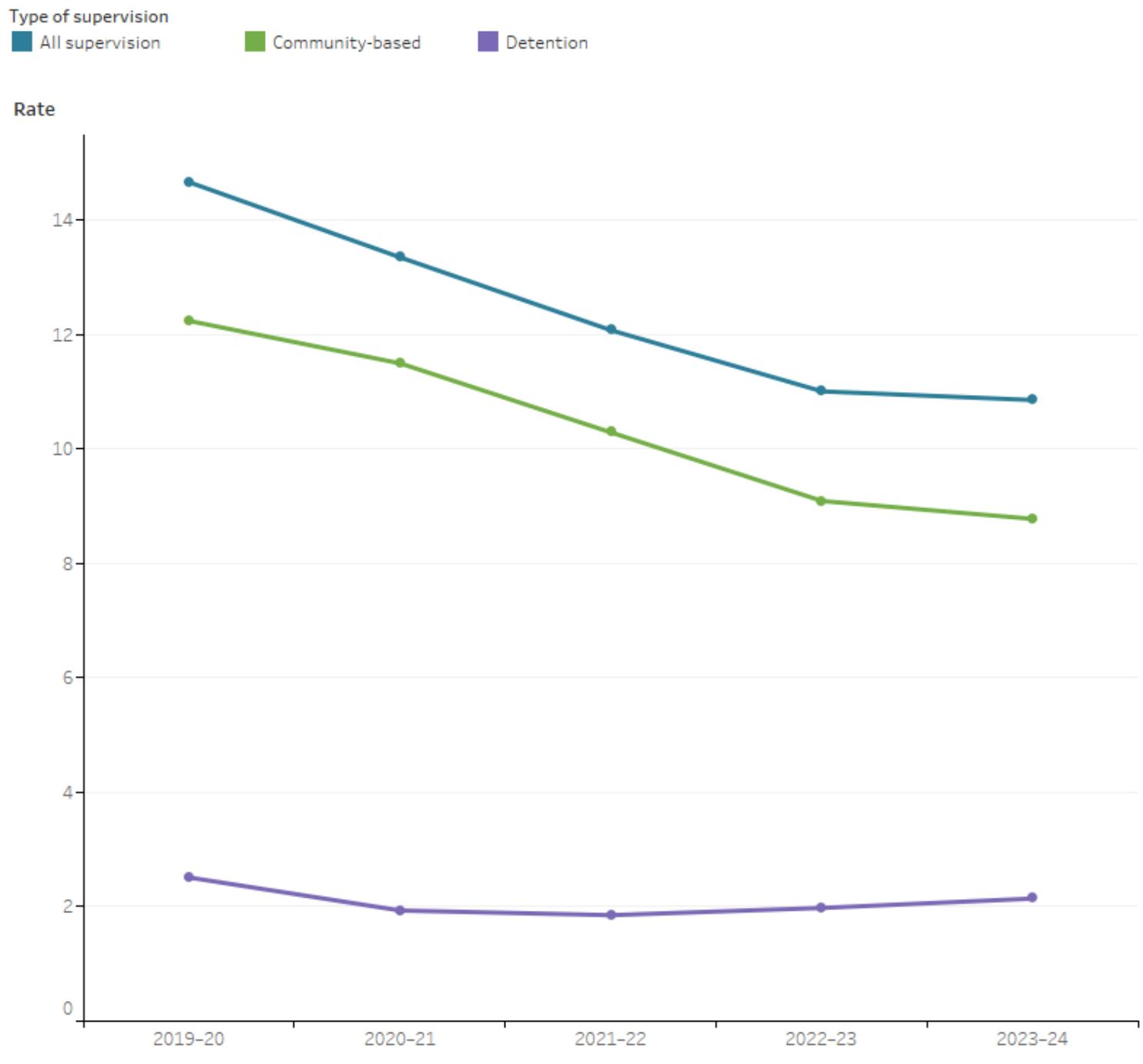
- about 3 in 4 (76%) young people in detention were unsentenced – that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 25% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

Trends to 2023–24

Over the 5 years to 2023–24, on an average day, in New South Wales:

- the number of young people under supervision fell by 23% (from 1,301 in 2019–20 to 1,007 in 2023–24) (Table S126a), while the rate fell from 15 to 11 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Figure 11.2; Table S15a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell by 24% (Table S126b), while the rate fell from 12 to 8.8 per 10,000 (Figure 11.2; Table S48a)
- in detention, the number fell by 15% (Table S126c), while the rate fell from 2.5 to 2.1 per 10,000 (Figure 11.2; Table S86a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision fell from 89 to 80 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Figure 11.2: Rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, New South Wales, 2019–20 to 2023–24



Notes

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

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS) 2023–24

More information

This overview is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2023–24* release, which includes [a report](#) and [supplementary data tables](#).

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

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Victoria

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2023–24, in Victoria:

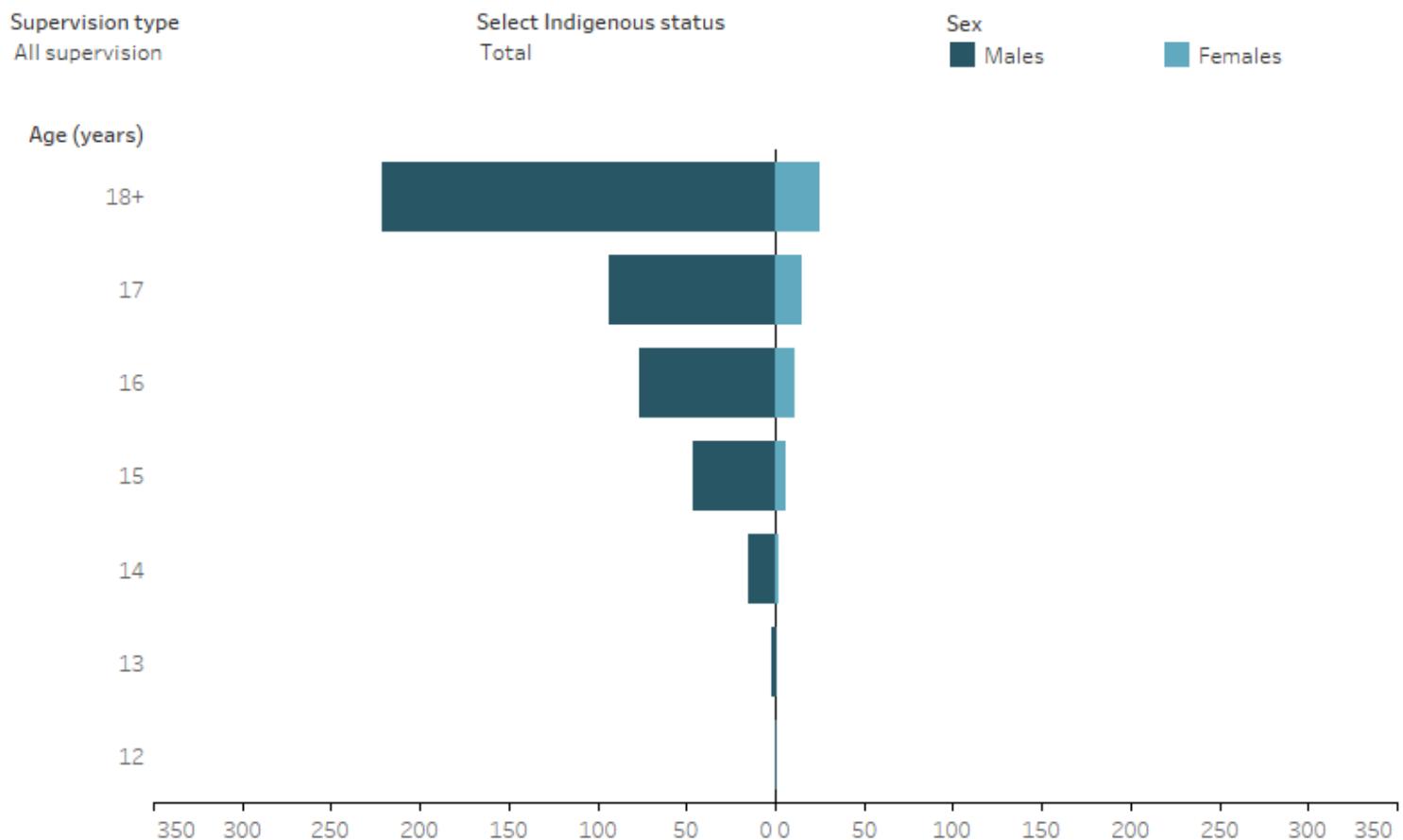
- 514 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S128a)
- more than 4 in 5 (82%) were supervised in the community (Table S128b), and the rest (18%) were in detention (Table S128c)
- the rate of supervision was 4.1 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S129a)
- 3.3 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (Table S129b), and 0.8 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S129c).

Age and sex

On an average day in 2023–24, in Victoria:

- 52% of those under supervision were aged 10–17, and the rest were 18 and over (in Victoria, some young people aged 18–20 may be sentenced to detention in a youth facility rather than adult prison under the 'dual track' system).
- 89% of those under supervision were male
- males and females under supervision were most likely to be aged 18 or over (Figure 12.1; Table S128a).

Figure 12.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Victoria, 2023–24



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

Notes

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

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2023–24

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2023–24, in Victoria:

- First Nations young people made up 2.1% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 18% (or 47) of those of the same age under youth justice supervision (tables S128a and S143)
- a similar proportion of First Nations young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (17% or 38) and in detention (19% or 10) (tables S128b and S128c)
- First Nations young people aged 10–17 were 10 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (34 per 10,000 compared with 3.4 per 10,000) (Table S129a)
- First Nations over-representation was similar in community-based supervision (9.8 times the non-Indigenous rate) and in detention (11 times the non-Indigenous rate) (tables S129b and S129c).

Time under supervision

In 2023–24, in Victoria:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 200 days (about 29 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 193 days (28 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2023–24, in Victoria:

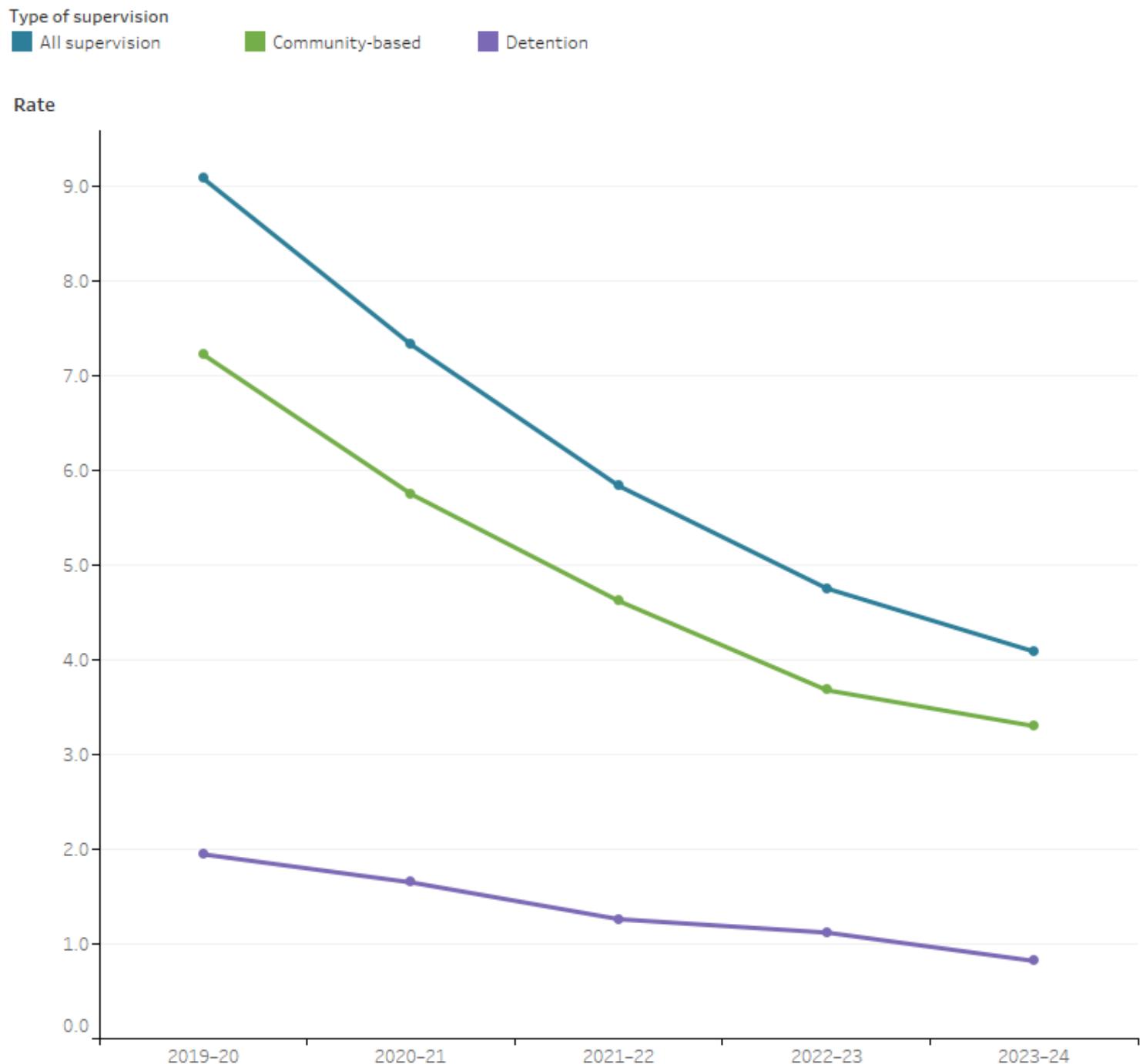
- about 2 in 3 (65%) young people in detention were unsentenced – that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 33% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

Trends to 2023–24

Over the 5 years to 2023–24, on an average day, in Victoria:

- the number of all young people under supervision fell by 45% (from 927 in 2019–20 to 514 in 2023–24) (Table S128a), while the rate fell from 9.1 to 4.1 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Figure 12.2; Table S15a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell by 43% (Table S128b), while the rate fell from 7.2 to 3.3 per 10,000 (Figure 12.2; Table S48a)
- in detention, the number fell from 185 in 2019–20 to 93 in 2023–24 (Table S128c), while the rate fell from 1.9 to 0.8 per 10,000 (Figure 12.2; Table S86a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision fell from 69 to 34 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Figure 12.2: Rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Victoria, 2019–20 to 2023–24



Notes

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

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS) 2023–24

More information

This overview is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2023–24* release, which includes [a report](#) and [supplementary data tables](#).

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

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Queensland

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2023–24, in Queensland:

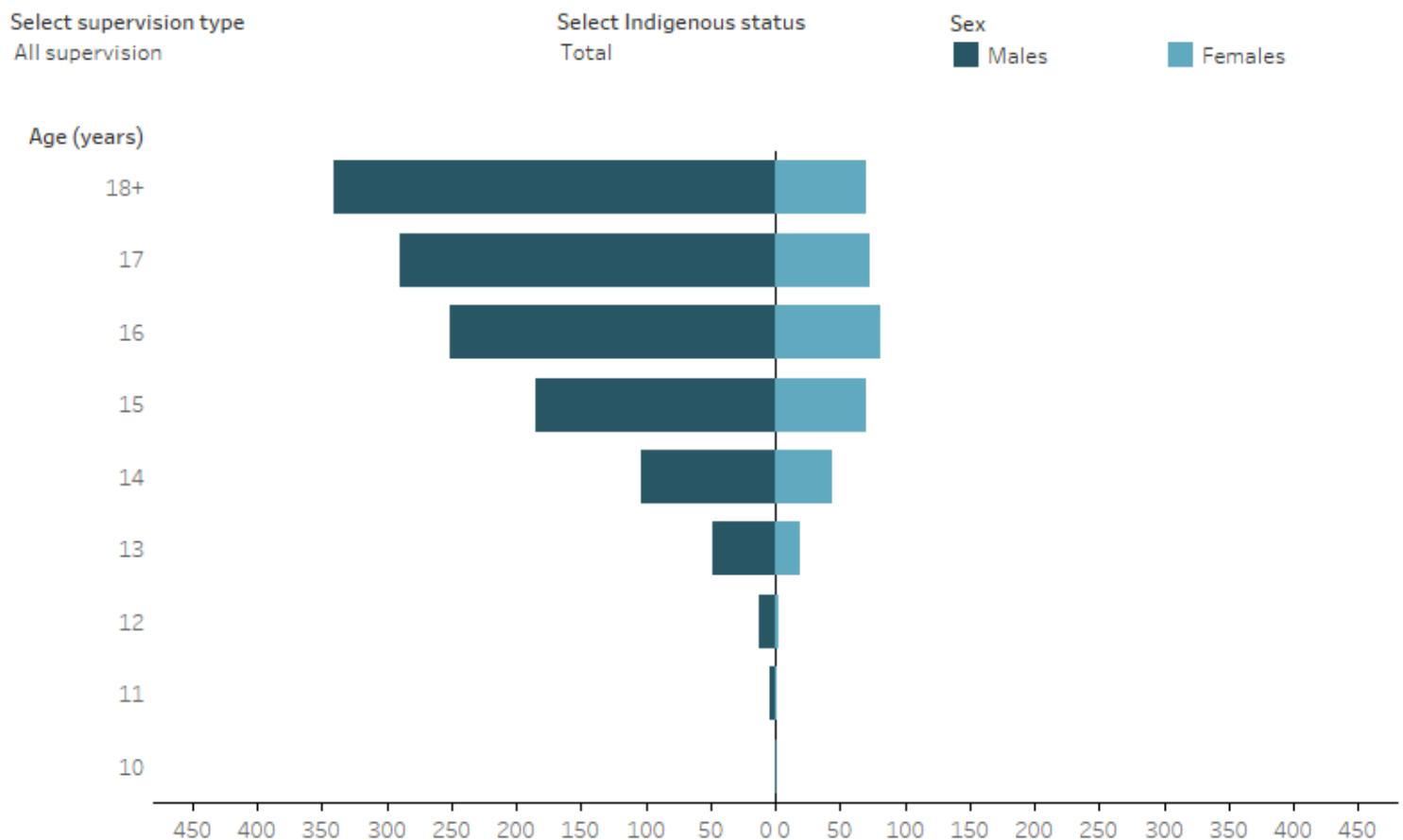
- 1,598 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S130a)
- about 4 in 5 (81%) were supervised in the community (Table S130b), and 20% in detention (Table S130c) (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 21 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S131a)
- 16 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (Table S131b), and 5.1 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S131c).

Age and sex

On an average day in 2023–24, in Queensland:

- 74% of those under supervision were aged 10–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- nearly 4 in 5 (77%) of young people under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 18 and over, and females aged 16 (Figure 13.1; Table S130a).

Figure 13.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Queensland, 2023–24



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

Notes

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

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ MNDS) 2023–24

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2023–24, in Queensland:

- First Nations young people made up 8.8% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 68% (or 810) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S130a and S143)
- 67% (or 607) of First Nations young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision and 72% (or 210) were under detention (tables S130b and S130c)
- First Nations young people aged 10–17 were 22 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under youth justice supervision (159 per 10,000 compared with 7.1 per 10,000) (Table S131a)
- First Nations over-representation was 21 times the non-Indigenous rate in community-based supervision and higher in detention (26 times the non-Indigenous rate) (tables S131b and S131c).

Time under supervision

In 2023–24, in Queensland:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 249 days (about 36 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 228 days (about 33 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2023–24, in Queensland:

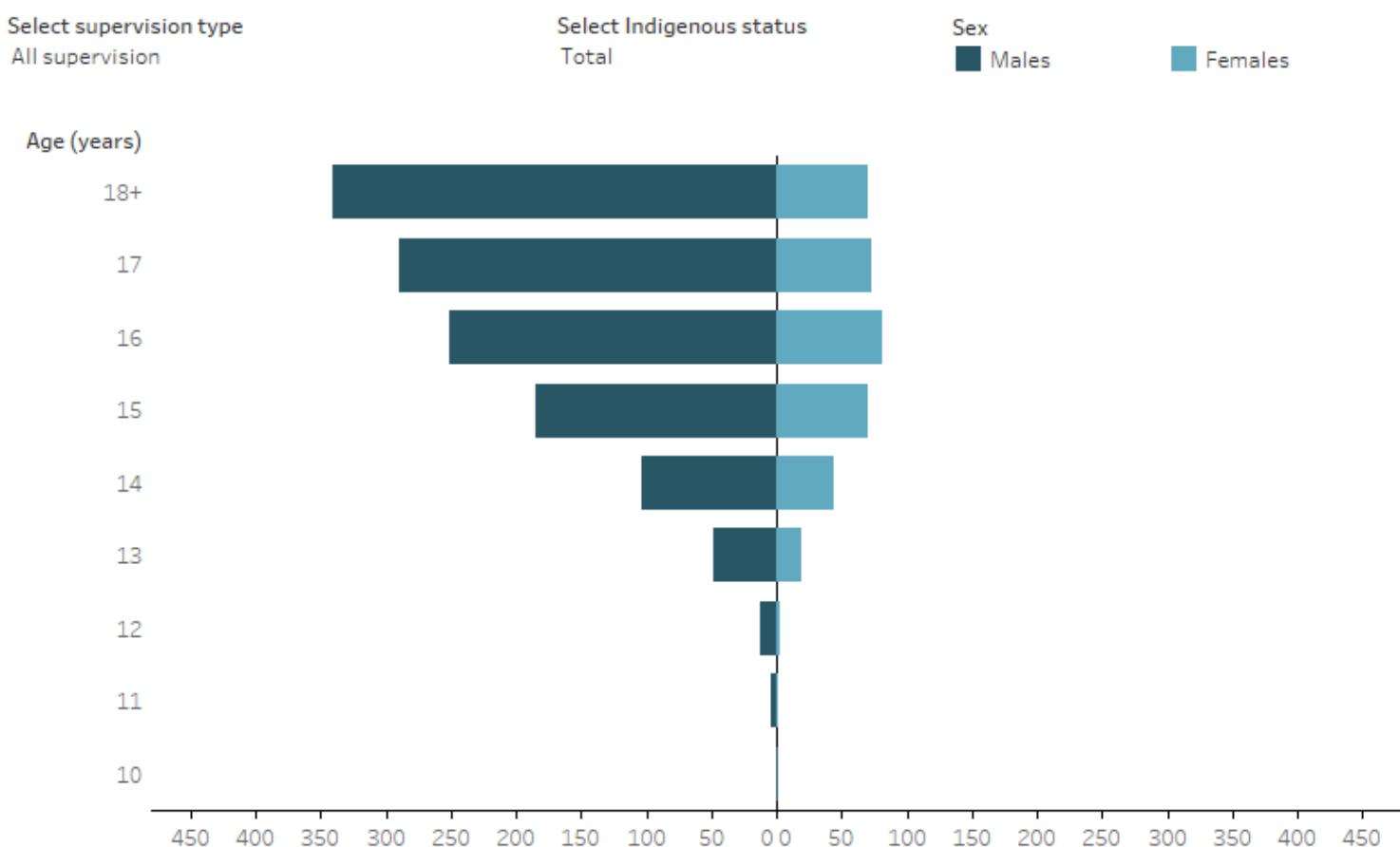
- 9 in 10 (90%) young people in detention were unsentenced – that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 13% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

Trends to 2023–24

Over the 5 years to 2023–24, on an average day, in Queensland:

- the number of young people under supervision fell by 10% (from 1,773 in 2019–20 to 1,598 in 2023–24) (Table S130a), while the rate fell from 24 to 21 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Figure 13.2; Table S15a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell by 18% (Table S130b), while the rate fell from 21 to 16 per 10,000 (Figure 13.2; Table S48a)
- in detention, the number rose by 50% (Table S130c), while the rate rose from 3.6 to 5.1 per 10,000 (Figure 13.2; Table S86a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision fell from 176 to 159 per 10,000 (Figure 13.2; Table S12a).

Figure 13.2: Rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Queensland, 2019–20 to 2023–24



Notes:

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

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set \(YJ NMDS\) 2023–24](#)

More information

This overview is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2023–24* release, which includes [a report](#) and [supplementary data tables](#).

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

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Western Australia

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2023–24, in Western Australia:

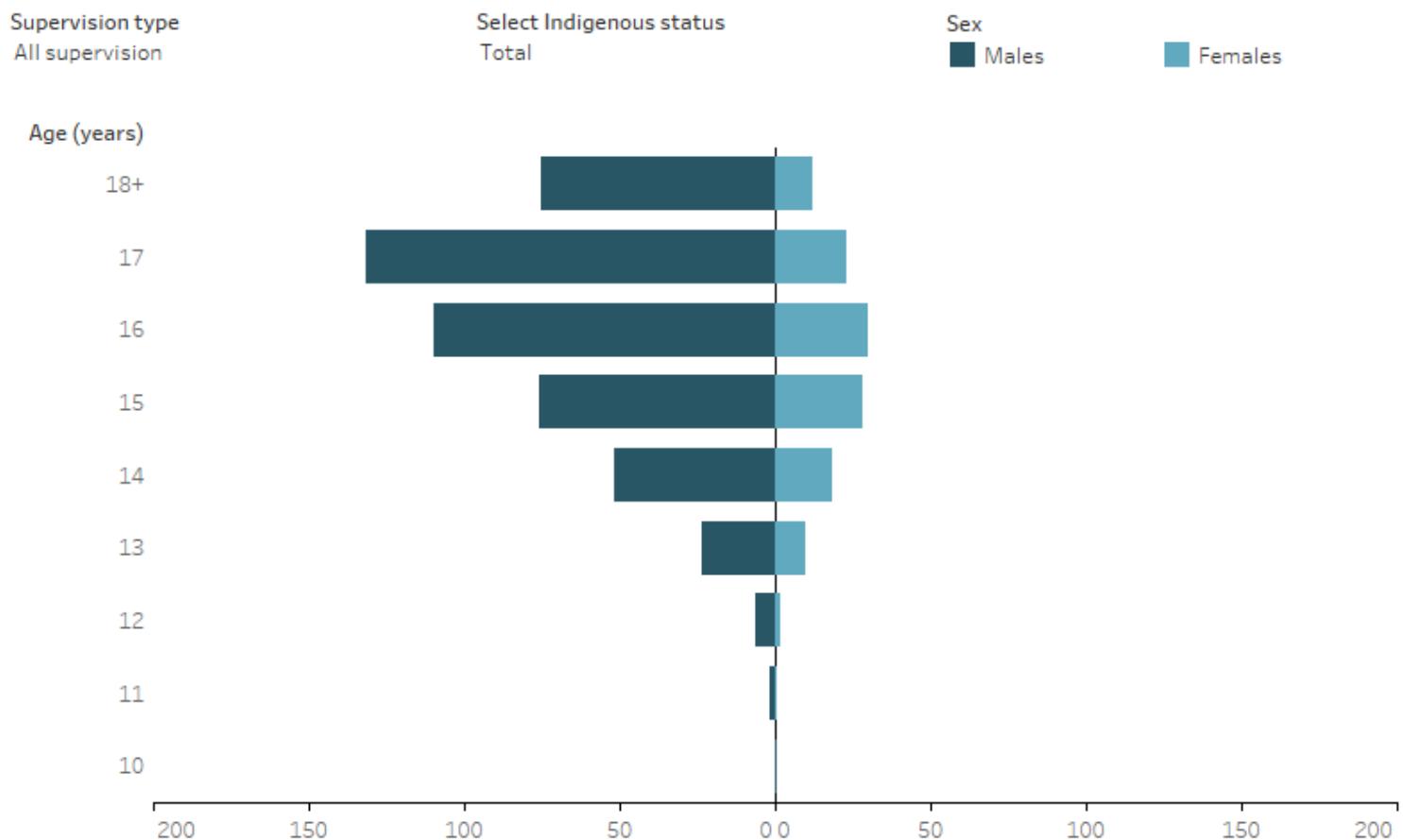
- 599 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S132a)
- 4 in 5 (86%) were supervised in the community (Table S132b), and 15% in detention (Table S132c) (proportions may not sum to 100% as some young people were under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 17 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S133a)
- 15 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (Table S133b), and 2.9 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S133c).

Age and sex

On an average day in 2023–24, in Western Australia:

- 85% of those under supervision were aged 10–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 79% of those under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 17, and females aged 16 (Figure 14.1; Table S132a).

Figure 14.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Western Australia, 2023–24



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

Notes

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

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS) 2023–24

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2023–24, in Western Australia:

- First Nations young people made up 7.0% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 62% (or 316) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S132a and S143)
- a slightly lower proportion of First Nations young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (60% or 260) and a higher proportion in detention (68% or 58) (tables S132b and S132c)
- First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 21 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under youth justice supervision (152 per 10,000 compared with 7.2 per 10,000) (Table S133a)
- First Nations over-representation was 20 times the non-Indigenous rate in community-based supervision and higher in detention (29 times the non-Indigenous rate) (tables S133b and S133c).

Time under supervision

In 2023–24, in Western Australia:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 39 days (nearly 6 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 146 days (about 21 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2023–24, in Western Australia:

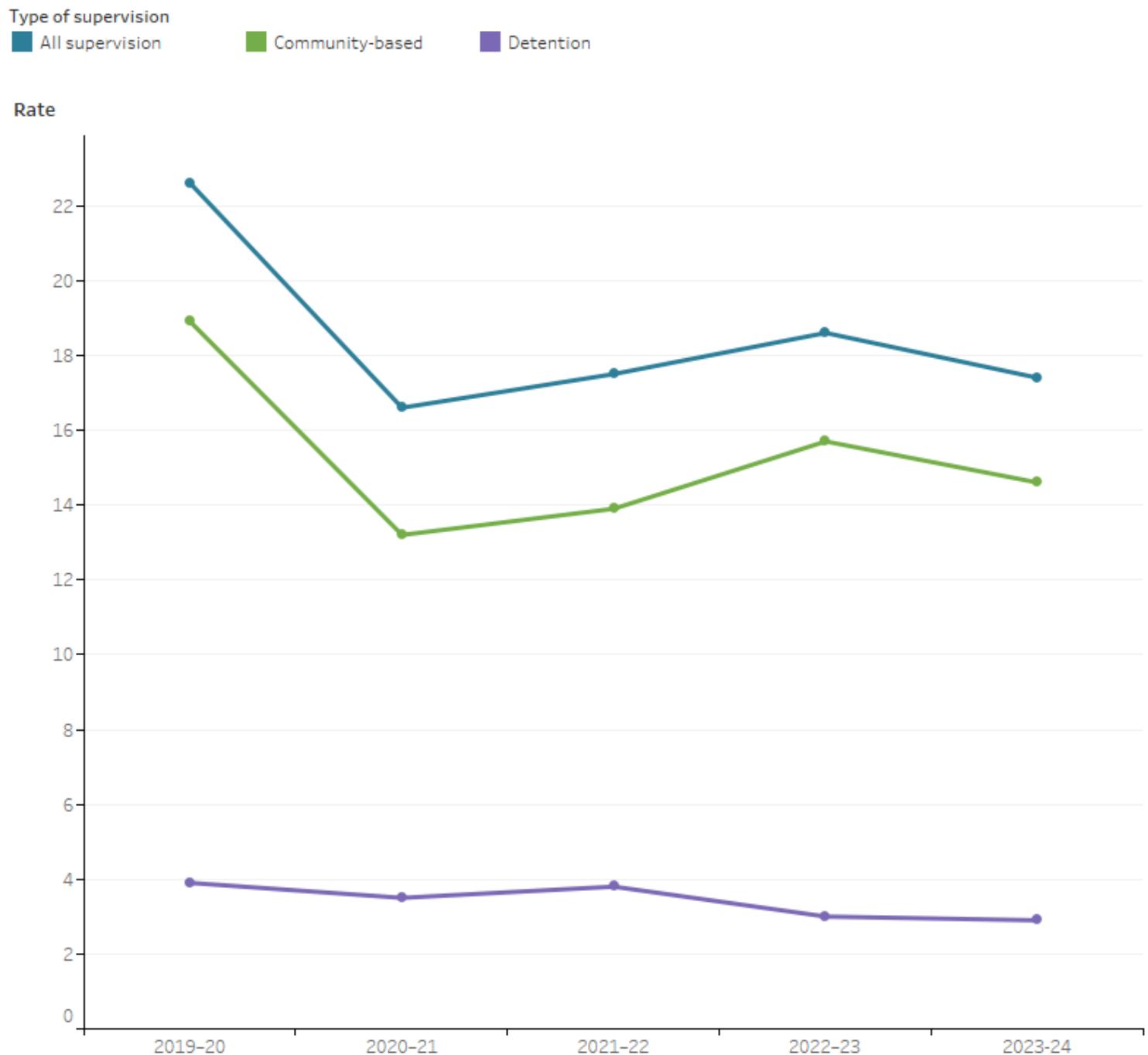
- 3 in 5 (60%) young people in detention were unsentenced – that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- about 2 in 5 (41%) young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

Trends to 2023–24

Over the 5 years to 2023–24, on an average day, in Western Australia:

- the number of young people under supervision fell by 12% (from 684 in 2019–20 to 599 in 2023–24) (Table S132a), while the rate fell from 23 to 17 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Figure 14.2; Table S15a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell by 11% (Table S132b), while the rate fell from 19 to 15 per 10,000 (Figure 14.2; Table S48a)
- in detention, the number fell from 112 to 87 (Table S132c), and the rate fell from 3.9 to 2.9 per 10,000 (Figure 14.2; Table S83a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision fell from 184 to 152 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Figure 14.2: Rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Western Australia, 2019–20 to 2023–24



Notes:

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

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS) 2023–24

More information

This overview is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2023–24* release, which includes [a report](#) and [supplementary data tables](#).

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

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South Australia

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2023–24, in South Australia:

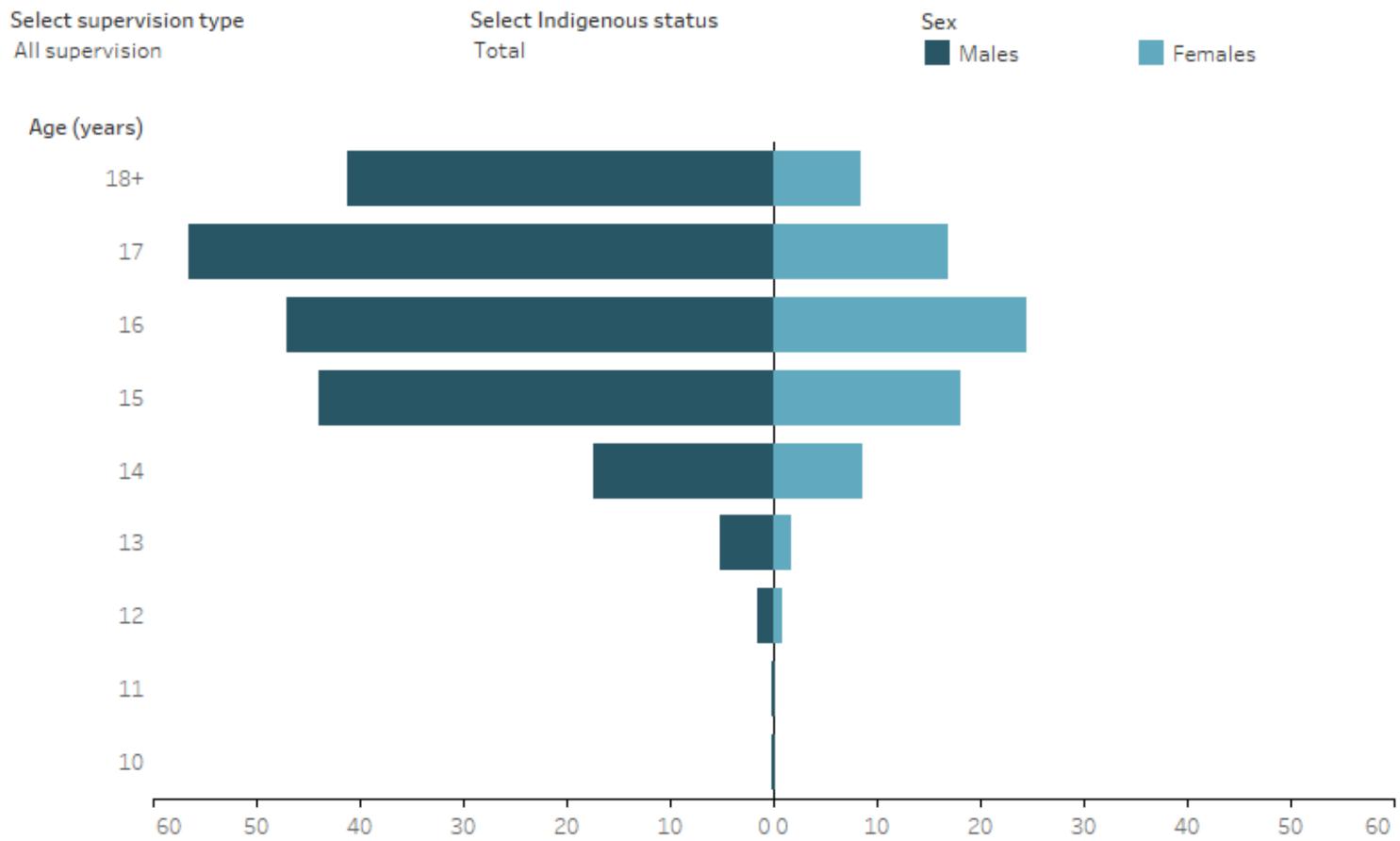
- 292 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S134a)
- most (90%) were supervised in the community (Table S134b), and 11% in detention (Table S134c) (proportions might not sum to 100% because some young people were under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 14 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S135a)
- 12 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (Table S135b), and 1.7 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S135c).

Age and sex

On an average day in 2023–24, in South Australia:

- 83% of those under supervision were aged 10–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- about 3 in 4 (73%) of those under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 17, and females aged 16 (Figure 15.1; Table S134a).

Figure 15.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, South Australia, 2023–24



Notes

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

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJNMDs) 2023–24

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2023–24, in South Australia:

- First Nations young people made up 5.4% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 54% (or 131) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S134a and S143)
- the same proportion of First Nations young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (54% or 116) and a similar proportion in detention (55% or 16) (tables S134b and S134c)
- First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 21 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (138 per 10,000 compared with 6.7 per 10,000) (Table S135a)
- First Nations over-representation was similar in community-based supervision and detention (about 21 times the non-Indigenous rate) (tables S135b and S135c).

Time under supervision

In 2023–24, in South Australia:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 157 days (about 22 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 171 days (24 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2023–24, in South Australia:

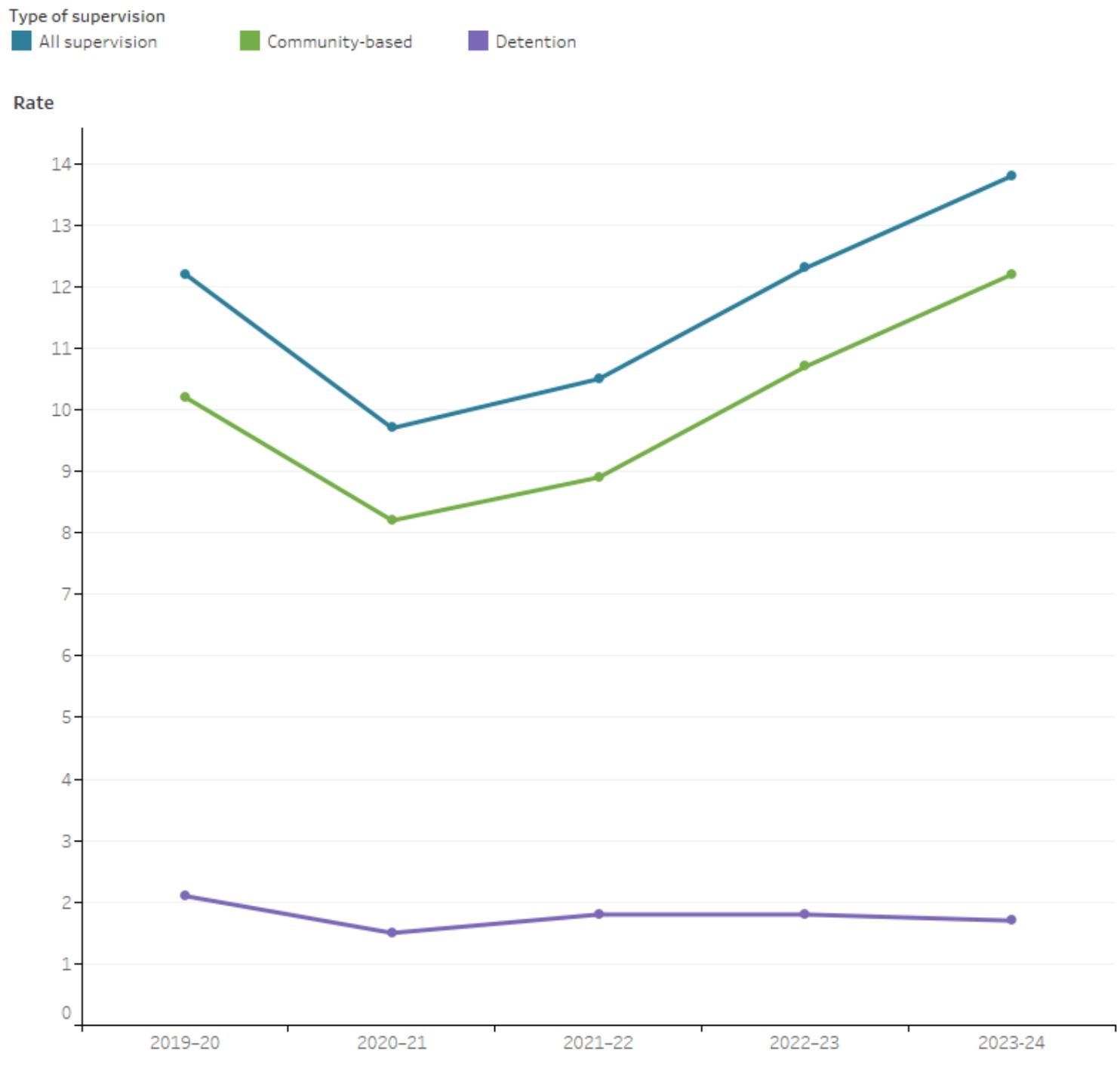
- 85% of young people in detention were unsentenced – that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 16% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

Trends to 2023–24

Over the 5 years to 2023–24, on an average day, in South Australia:

- the number of young people under supervision rose overall by 15% (from 255 in 2019–20 to 292 in 2023–24) (Table S134a), while the rate rose from 12 to 14 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Figure 15.2; Table S15a)
- in community-based supervision, the number rose overall by 20% (Table S134b), while the rate rose from 10 to 12 per 10,000 (Figure 15.2; Table S48a)
- in detention, the number fell from 38 in 2019–20 to 32 in 2023–24 (Table S134c), while the rate fell from 2.1 to 1.7 per 10,000 (Figure 15.2; Table S83a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision rose from 115 to 138 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Figure 15.2: Rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, South Australia, 2019–20 to 2023–24



Notes:

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

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ MNDS) 2023–24

More information

This overview is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2023–24* release, which includes [a report](#) and [supplementary data tables](#).

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

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

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Tasmania

On this page:

- [Introduction](#)
- [Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data](#)
- [Number and rate](#)
- [Age and sex](#)
- [First Nations young people](#)
- [Time under supervision](#)
- [Sentenced and unsentenced detention](#)
- [Trends to 2023–24](#)
- [More information](#)

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2023–24, in Tasmania:

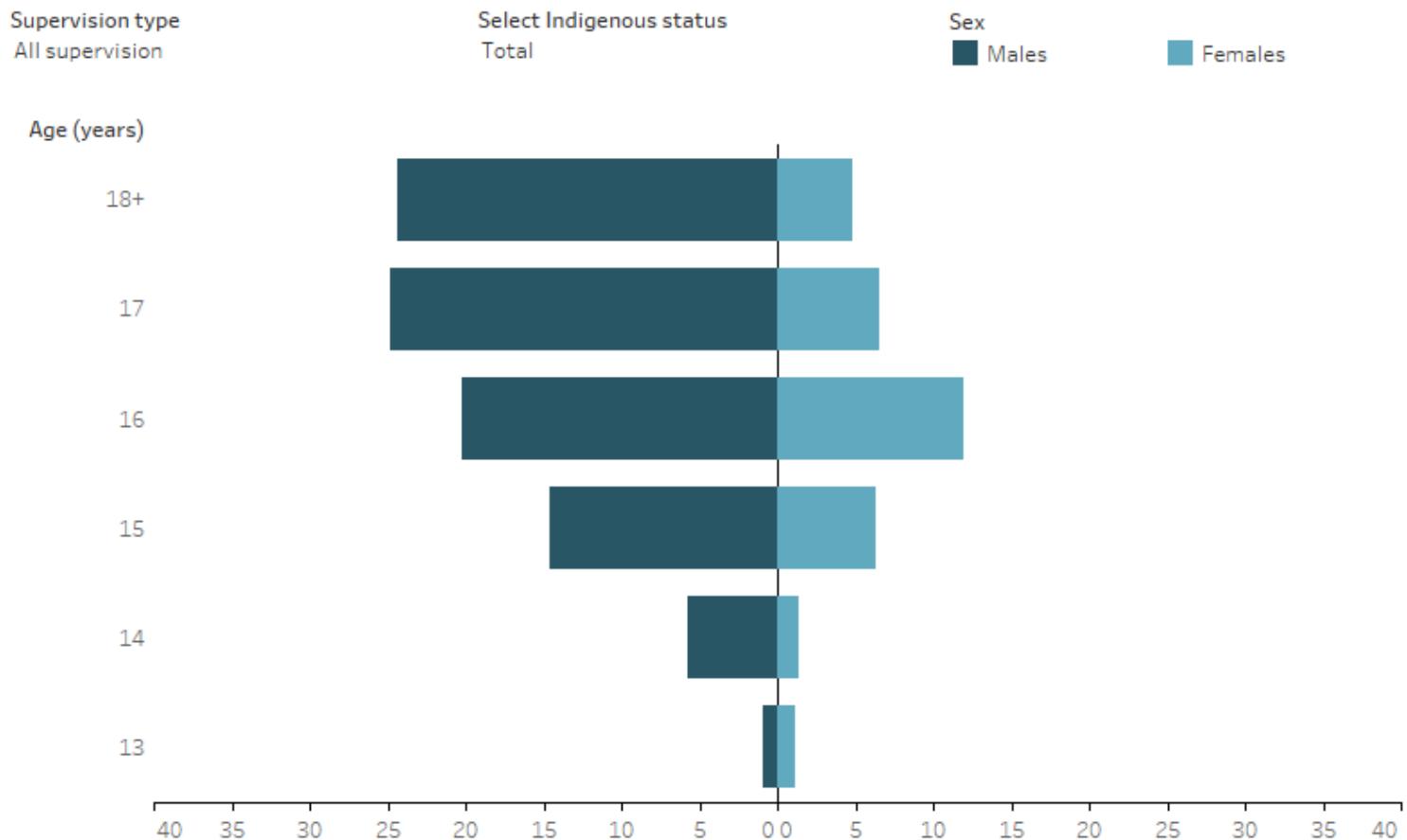
- 123 young people aged 10 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S136a)
- almost 9 in 10 (87%) were supervised in the community (Table S136b), and the rest (13%) in detention (Table S136c)
- the rate of supervision was 17 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S137a)
- 15 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (Table S137b), and 2.9 per 10,000 were in detention (Table S137c).

Age and sex

On an average day in 2023–24, in Tasmania:

- 76% of those under supervision were aged 10–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 74% of those under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 17, while females were most likely to be aged 16 (Figure 16.1; Table S136a).

Figure 16.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Tasmania, 2023–24



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

Notes

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

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set 2023–24

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2023–24, in Tasmania:

- First Nations young people made up 11% of those aged 10–17 in the general population, but 36% (or 34) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S136a and S143)
- a similar proportion of First Nations young people aged 10–17 were under community-based supervision (37% or 29) and detention (33% or 5.1) (tables S136b and S136c)
- First Nations young people aged 10–17 were about 4 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (55 per 10,000 compared with 12 per 10,000) (Table S137a)
- First Nations over-representation was similar in community-based supervision (about 5 times the non-Indigenous rate) and detention (about 4 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Table S137b).

Time under supervision

In 2023–24, in Tasmania:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 183 days (about 26 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 199 days (about 28 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2023–24, in Tasmania:

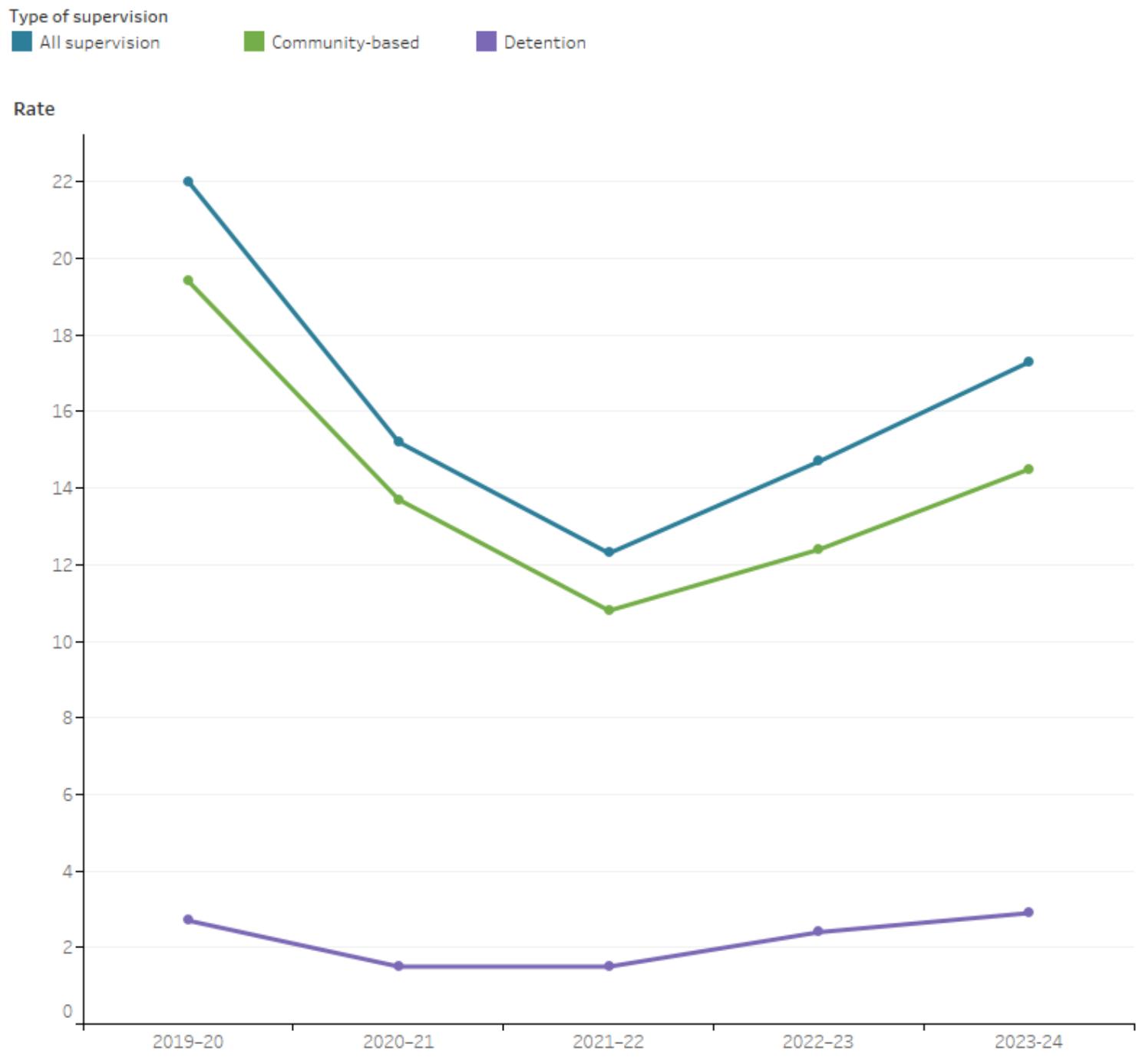
- 80% of young people in detention were unsentenced – that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- about 1 in 4 (24%) young people in detention were serving a sentence (proportions might not sum to 100% because some young people were in sentenced and unsentenced detention on the same day) (Table S108a).

Trends to 2023–24

Over the 5 years to 2023–24, on an average day in Tasmania:

- the number of young people under supervision fell overall by 16% from 146 in 2019–20 to 123 in 2023–24 (Table S136a), while the rate fell from 22 to 17 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Table S15a)
- in community-based supervision, the number fell overall by 18% (Table S136b), while the rate fell from 19 to 15 per 10,000 (Figure 16.2; Table S48a)
- in detention, the number rose slightly from 15 in 2019–20 to 16 in 2023–24 (Table S136c), while the rate rose from 2.7 to 2.9 per 10,000 (Figure 16.2; Table S86a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision fell from 67 to 55 per 10,000 (Figure 16.2; Table S12a).

Figure 16.2: Rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Tasmania, 2019–20 to 2023–24



Notes

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

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS) 2023–24

More information

This overview is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2023–24* release, which includes [a report](#) and [supplementary data tables](#).

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

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

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Australian Capital Territory

On this page:

- [Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2023–24](#)
- [Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data](#)
- [Number and rate](#)
- [Age and sex](#)
- [First Nations young people](#)
- [Time under supervision](#)
- [Sentenced and unsentenced detention](#)
- [Trends to 2023–24](#)
- [Trends to 2022–23](#)
- [More information](#)

Rates for the Australian Capital Territory in 2023–24

Due to the Australian Capital Territory increasing the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years old in 2023, the rates for 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 (instead of 10–17).

Rates are higher in 2023–24 because the in-scope population (denominator) is now about 25% smaller than in prior years. As a result, rates are not directly comparable with prior years.

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2023–24, in the Australian Capital Territory:

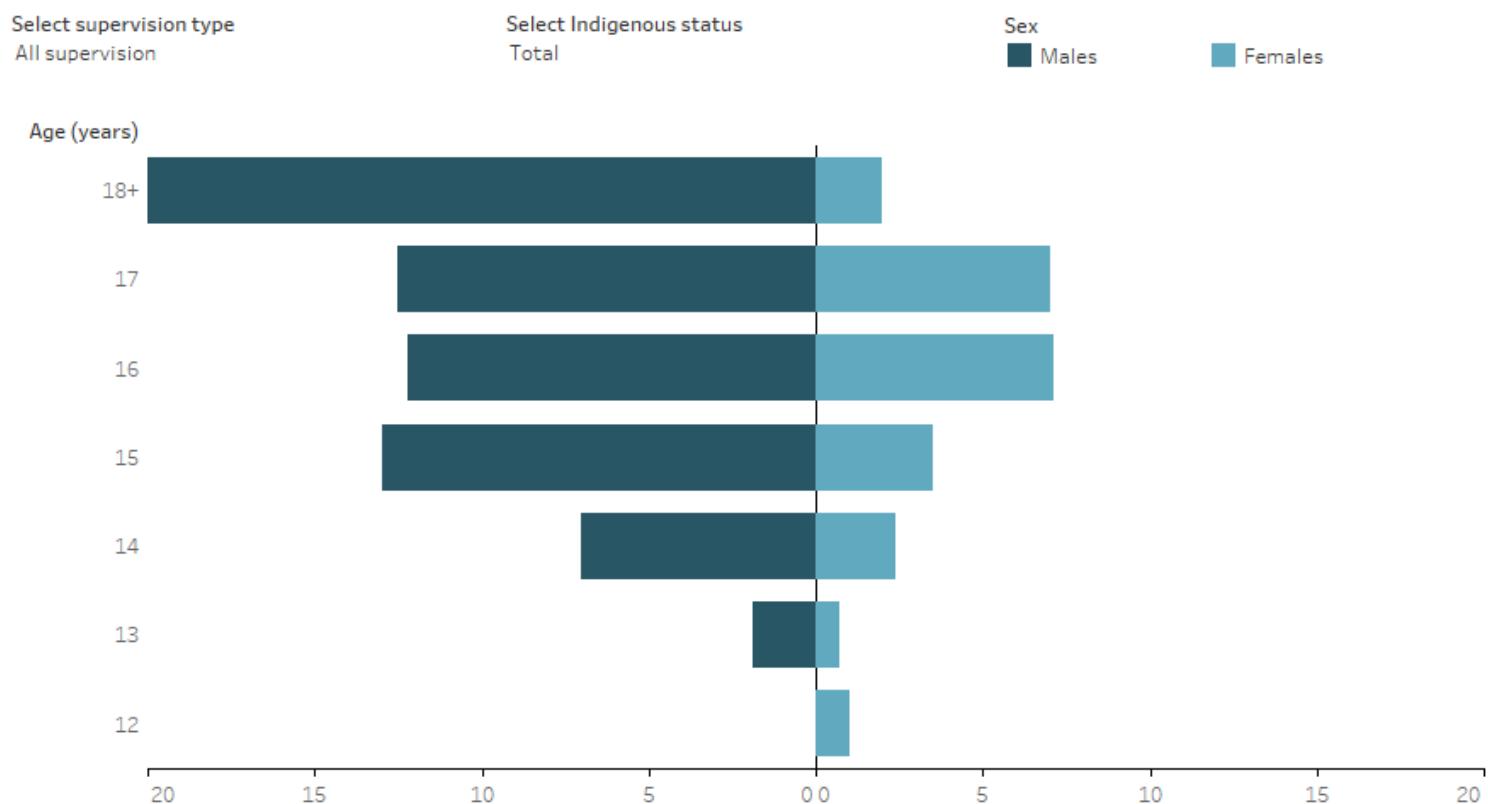
- 93 young people aged 12 and over were under youth justice supervision (Table S138a)
- 83% were supervised in the community (Table S138b), and 18% in detention (Table S138c) (proportions might not sum to 100%, as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day)
- the rate of supervision was 21 per 10,000 young people aged 12–17 (Table S139a)
- 17 per 10,000 young people aged 12–17 were under community-based supervision, and 3.9 per 10,000 were in detention (tables S139b and S139c).

Age and sex

On an average day in 2023–24, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- 73% of those under supervision were aged 12–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 3 in 4 (75%) of those under supervision were male
- males under supervision were most likely to be aged 18 or over and females were most likely to be aged 16 (Figure 17.1; Table S138a).

Figure 17.1: Number of young people under supervision (any type) on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Australian Capital Territory 2023–24



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

Notes

1. Age categories are not presented where they represent averages that are equal to or rounded to 0.0.
2. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
3. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
4. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to *Youth justice in Australia* releases prior to 2019-20.
5. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
6. In November 2023, the Australian Capital Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. The population for the Australian Capital Territory in 2023-24 are young people aged 12-17.

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS) 2023-24

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2023-24, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- First Nations young people made up 3.3% of those aged 12-17 in the general population, but 25% (or 17) of those of the same age under supervision (tables S138a and S150)
- a slightly lower proportion of First Nations young people aged 12-17 were under community-based supervision (23% or 13) and a slightly higher proportion in detention (33% or 4.2) (Tables S138b and S138c)
- First Nations young people aged 12-17 were about 10 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision (157 per 10,000 compared with 16 per 10,000) (Table S139a)
- First Nations over-representation was lower in community-based supervision (about 9 times the non-Indigenous rate) (Table S139b). First Nations over-representation in detention was higher at 14 times the non-Indigenous rate (Table S139c).

Time under supervision

In 2023–24, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- completed periods of supervision lasted a median length of 16 days (about 2 weeks) (Table S29)
- when all time spent under supervision during the year is considered, young people spent an average of 187 days (about 27 weeks) under supervision (Table S30).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2023–24, in the Australian Capital Territory:

- about 4 in 5 (82%) young people in detention were unsentenced – that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 24% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (the number of unsentenced and sentenced young people on an average day may not sum to total number of young people in detention as young people may have been in both detention types on the same day) (Table S108a).

Trends to 2023–24

Over the 5 years to 2023–24, on an average day in the Australian Capital Territory:

- the number of young people under supervision rose from 71 in 2019–20 to 93 in 2023–24 (Table S138a)
- in community-based supervision, the number rose from 56 in 2019–20 to 78 in 2023–24 (Table S138b)
- in detention, the number rose from 16 to 17 (Table S138c).

Trends to 2022–23

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

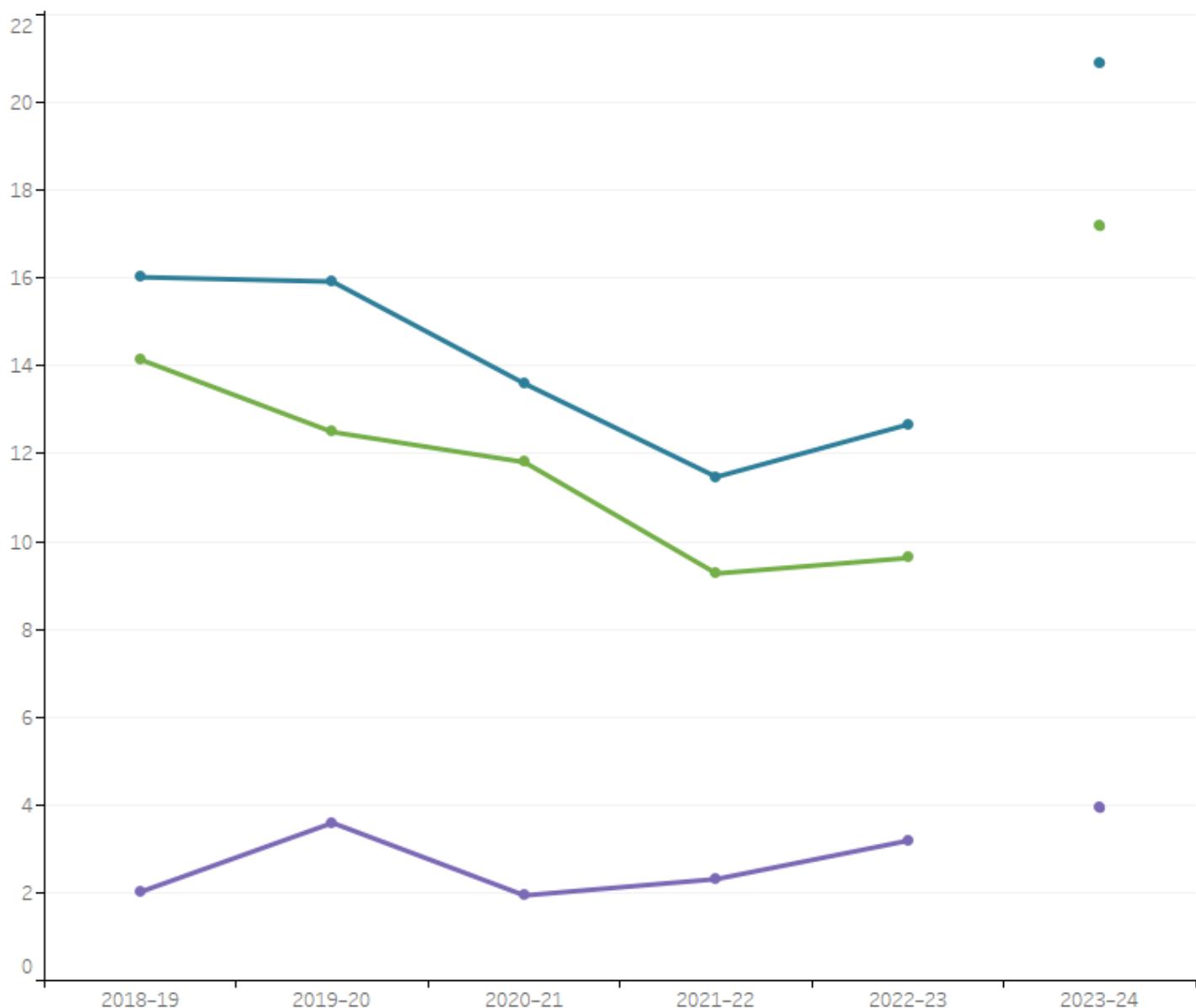
- the number of young people under supervision fell from 79 in 2018–19 to 72 in 2022–23 (Table S138a), while the rate fell from 16 to 13 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Figure 17.2; Table S15a)
- the number of young people under community-based supervision fell from 69 in 2018–19 to 56 in 2022–23 (Table S138b), while the rate fell from 14 to 9.6 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Figure 17.2; Table S48a)
- the number of young people in detention the number rose from 10 in 2018–19 to 18 in 2022–23 (Table S138c), while the rate rose from 2.0 to 3.2 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 (Figure 17.2; Table S86a)
- the rate for First Nations young people under supervision fell from 101 to 75 per 10,000 (Table S12a).

Figure 17.2: Rate of young people under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Australian Capital Territory, 2018–19 to 2023–24

Type of supervision

All supervision Community-based Detention

Rate



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

Notes

1. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
2. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to *Youth justice in Australia* releases prior to 2019–20.
4. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
5. Rates are number of young people per 10,000 relevant population.
6. In November 2023, the Australian Capital Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. The population for the Australian Capital Territory in 2023–24 are young people aged 12–17.
7. Rates for 2023–24 are a break in time series and are not comparable to previous years.

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set \(YJ NMDS\) 2023–24](#)

More information

This overview is part of the *Youth justice in Australia* 2023–24 release, which includes [a report](#) and [supplementary data tables](#).

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

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

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Northern Territory

On this page:

- Availability of Northern Territory data in 2023–24
- Rates for the Northern Territory in 2023–24
- Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data
- Number and rate
- Age and sex
- First Nations young people
- Sentenced and unsentenced detention
- Trends to 2023–24
- Trends to 2022–23
- More information

Availability of Northern Territory data in 2023–24

The following Northern Territory data were unavailable in 2023–24 and are excluded from this overview:

- all supervision (average day)
- community-based supervision (average day)
- time under supervision.

Rates for the Northern Territory in 2023–24

Due to the Northern Territory increasing the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years old in 2023, the rates for 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 (instead of 10–17).

Rates are likely to be higher in 2023–24 because the in-scope population (denominator) is now about 25% smaller than in prior years. As a result, rates are not directly comparable with prior years.

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

Impact of COVID-19 on youth justice data

This report includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia. However, the direct impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on the number of young people under youth justice supervision is difficult to determine due to a range of factors and more research is required.

Number and rate

On an average day in 2023–24, in the Northern Territory:

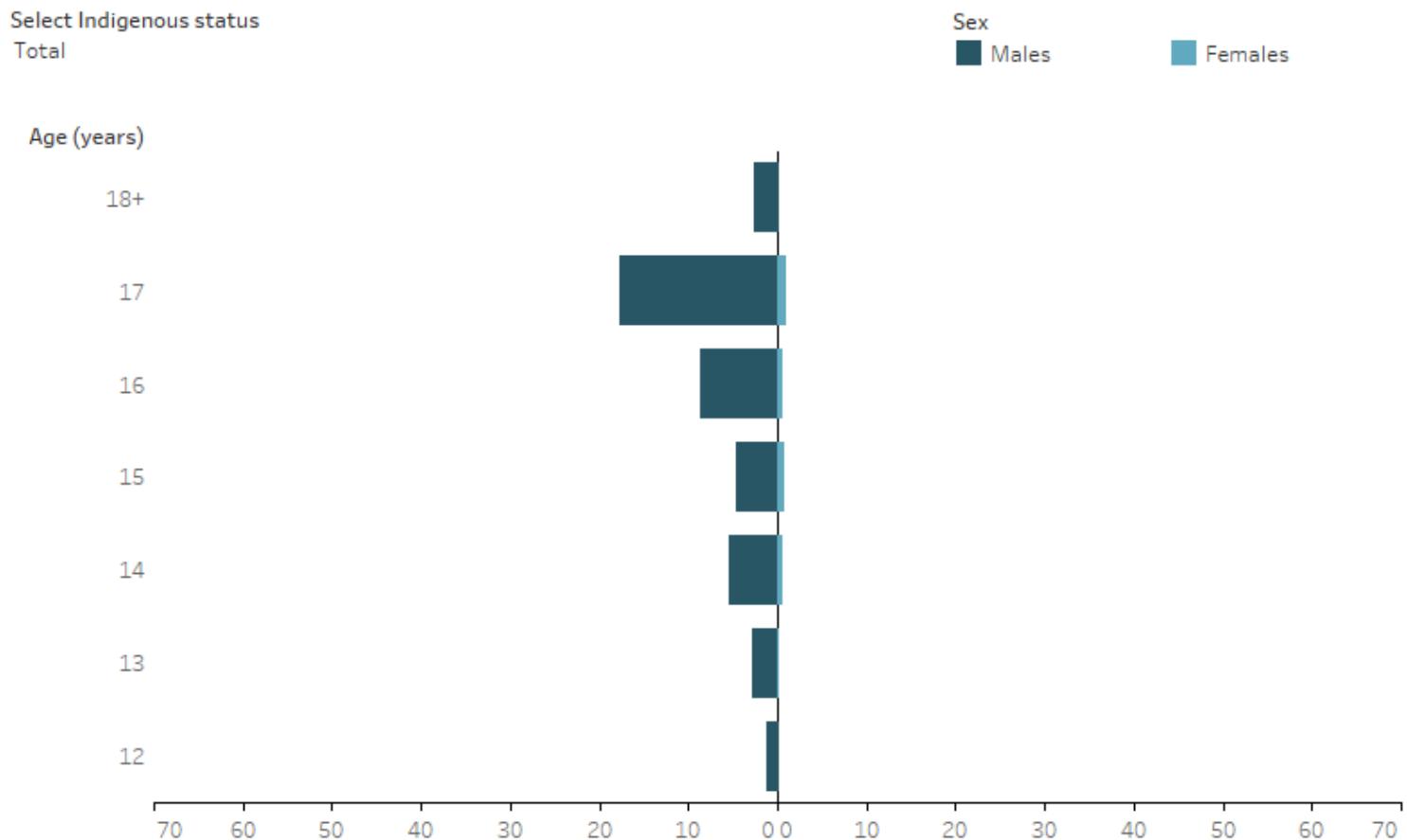
- 46 young people aged 12 and over were in detention (Table S140c)
- 22 per 10,000 young people aged 12–17 were in detention (Table S141c).

Age and sex

On an average day in 2023–24, in the Northern Territory:

- 95% of those in detention were aged 12–17, and the rest were 18 and over
- 94% of those in detention were male
- males and females in detention were most likely to be aged 17 (Figure 18.1; Table S140c).

Figure 18.1: Number of young people in detention on an average day, by age, sex and Indigenous status, Northern Territory, 2023–24



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

Notes

1. Age categories are not presented where they represent averages that are equal to or rounded to 0.0.
2. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to *Youth justice in Australia* releases prior to 2019–20.
4. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
5. In August 2023, the Northern Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.
6. The population for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 are young people aged 12–17.

Source: Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS) 2023–24

First Nations young people

On an average day in 2023–24, in the Northern Territory First Nations young people made up 43% of those aged 12–17 in the general population, but 95% (or 42) of those of the same age in detention (tables S140c and S150).

Sentenced and unsentenced detention

On an average day in 2023–24, in the Northern Territory:

- nearly all (99%) young people in detention were unsentenced – that is, they were awaiting the outcome of their court matter, or had been found guilty and were awaiting sentencing
- 65% of young people in detention were serving a sentence (Table S108a).

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

Trends to 2023–24

Over the 5 years to 2023–24, on an average day in the Northern Territory:

- the number of young people aged 12–17 who were in detention rose from 24 in 2019–20 to 46 in 2023–24 (Table S140c)
- note that the rates in 2023–24 are not directly comparable with the rates in previous years due to the increase in the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the Northern Territory to 12 years old (from 10) in 2023–24.

Trends to 2022–23

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

- the number of young people aged 10–17 rose from 36 in 2018–19 to 54 in 2022–23 (Table S140c), while the rate increased from 14 to 20 per 10,000 (Figure 18.2; Table S83a)
- the rate for First Nations young people in detention rose from 29 to 42 per 10,000.

Figure 18.2: Rate of young people under supervision on an average day, by supervision type, Northern Territory, 2018–19 to 2023–24

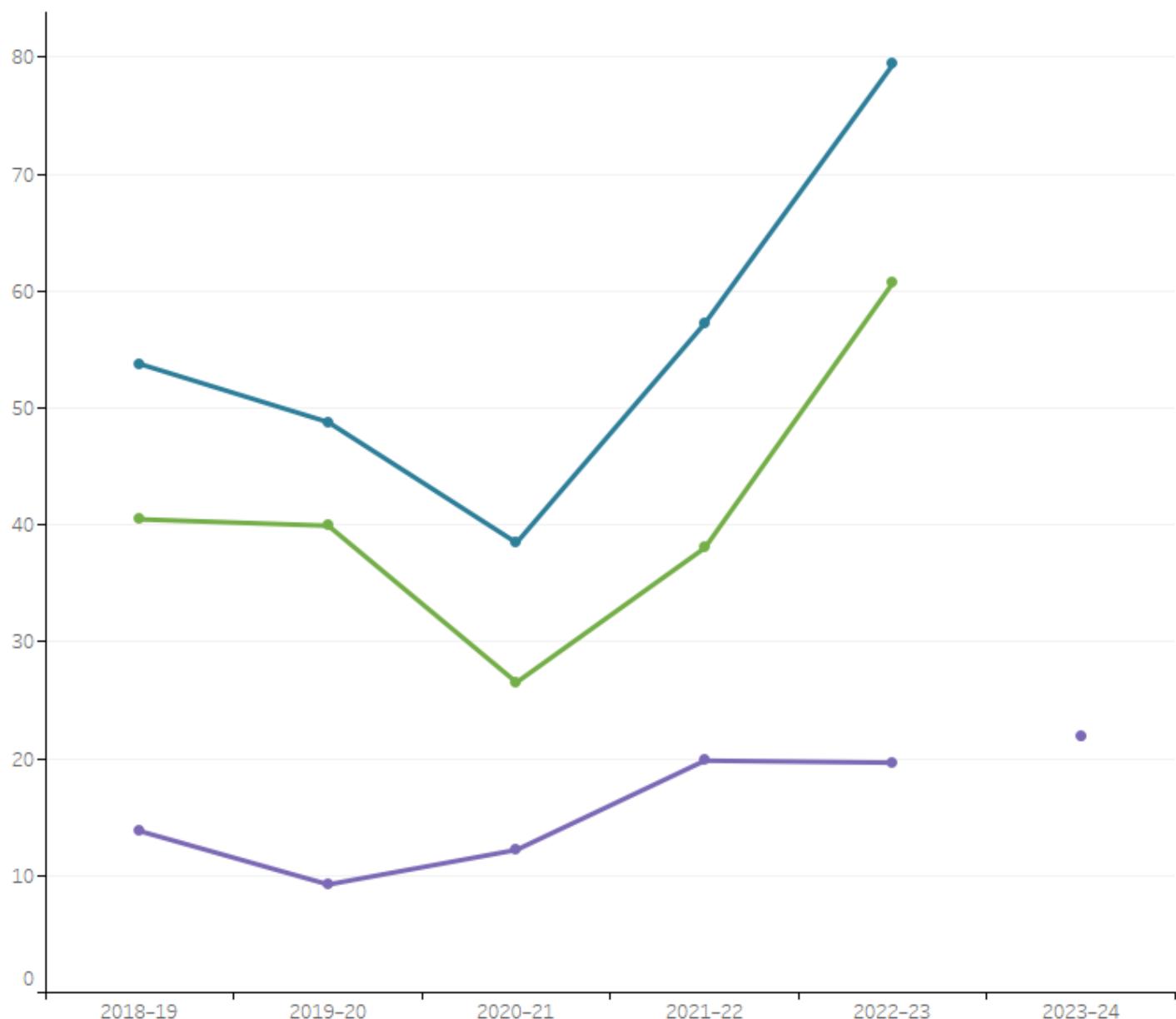
Type of supervision

All supervision

Community-based

Detention

Rate



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

Notes

1. Total includes young people of unknown age, sex and Indigenous status.
2. Number of young people under community-based supervision and in detention may not sum to total number under supervision as young people may be under community-based supervision and in detention on the same day and may be in different age groups.
3. Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to *Youth justice in Australia* releases prior to 2019–20.
4. The equivalent 'during the year' table or unique counts of young people is not published due to small numbers, confidentiality, and/or reliability concerns.
5. Rates are number of young people per 10,000 relevant population.
6. In August 2023, the Northern Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. The population for the Northern Territory in 2023–24 are young people aged 12–17.
7. Rates for 2023–24 are a break in time series and are not comparable to previous years.
8. Rate of young people under all supervision and community-based supervision were not available for 2023–24.

Source: [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set \(YJ NMDS\) 2023–24](#)

More information

This overview is part of the *Youth justice in Australia* 2023–24 release, which includes [a report](#) and [supplementary data tables](#).

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

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

Technical notes

See [Appendix A2: technical information](#)

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Abbreviations

Table TN 1: Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
MAG	Meeting of Attorneys-General
YJ NMDS	Youth Justice National Minimum Dataset

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Glossary

active order

An order is active if it starts, ends or is ongoing during the reference period.

age

In Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set (YJ NMDS) youth justice reporting, age is calculated as at the start of the first relevant period of supervision, unless it began before the financial year in question, in which case age is calculated as at the start of the financial year.

average day

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

breach

A breach occurs when a young person reoffends or fails to comply with the conditions of a community-based order.

community-based supervision

A legal arrangement that requires a young person to be supervised by a youth justice agency within the community. Community-based supervision may be unsentenced or sentenced. Unsentenced community-based legal orders include supervised or conditional bail and home detention bail.

Sentenced community-based orders include probation and similar orders, suspended detention, and parole or supervised release.

detention

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

detention sentence

A sentence that requires the young person to be detained in a youth justice facility.

dual track system

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

during the year

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

First nations

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

legal status

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

parole or supervised release

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

police-referred detention

Unsentenced detention that occurs before the young person's initial court appearance.

probation and similar

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

rate

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

rate ratio

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

reception

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

release on bail

Following a period of remand, a court may order a young person to be released into the community pending the court outcome. Bail may be either unsupervised or supervised.

remand

The act of placing in custody a young person who is accused of an offence to await trial or the continuation of the trial.

remoteness

YJ NMDS reporting uses the ABS's Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) remoteness structure to analyse the remoteness of a young person's usual town or suburb of residence. This structure enables areas that share common characteristics of remoteness to be classified into broad geographical regions of Australia. These areas are *Major cities, Inner regional, Outer regional, Remote* and *Very remote*.

socioeconomic position

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

successfully completed community-based order

A community order where a young person has completed the hours and/or conditions on their community order without it being revoked or overturned.

successfully completed detention order

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

supervised or conditional bail

The act of allowing a young person who is accused of an offence to await trial, or the continuation of a trial, in the community under the supervision of a youth justice agency.

suspended detention

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

unsentenced supervision

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

young person

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

youth justice agency

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

youth justice detention centre

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

youth justice system

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

Appendices

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Appendix A1: data quality

On this page:

- [Introduction](#)
- [Data quality and coverage](#)

The [Youth Justice National Minimum Data Set \(YJ NMDS\)](#) contains information on all children and young people in Australia who were supervised by youth justice agencies in the community and in detention.

Data are extracted from the administrative systems of the state and territory departments responsible for youth justice in Australia.

The YJ NMDS 2023–24 includes data from March 2020 to June 2022, which coincides with the presence of COVID-19 in Australia and related social restrictions. The full impact of COVID-19 on youth justice supervision may be difficult to determine due to variability of the data and small numbers of young people under supervision on an average day. More research is required in order to better understand the impact of COVID-19 and related social restrictions on youth justice supervision across Australia.

Data quality and coverage

Overall, the levels of missing data in the YJ NMDS are low. 5.3% of all young people in the YJ NMDS since 2000–01 have an unknown Indigenous status, and similar proportions of records in each of the order (5%) and detention (4%) files have unknown or missing information for the postcode, suburb and state of the young person's last known address. For all other variables in the YJ NMDS, the proportion of missing data is 1% or less.

Not all participating states and territories were able to provide YJ NMDS data in the current format for all years of the YJ NMDS (2000–01 to 2023–24).

States and territories

New South Wales

For New South Wales, data provided from 2019–20 onwards will differ from previous years after a review of order end reason classifications. Order end reasons affected include both:

- '1 – Completed' reported as 'successful completions'
- '88 – Other'.

Order type data submitted from 2018–19 onwards will differ from previous years after a review of the mapping of local to national order type classifications. Order types affected include both:

- '31–Community-based *with* and *without* additional mandated requirements' reported as 'probation and similar'
- '37–Other community sentence' reported as 'other'.

In New South Wales (NSW), responsibility for the Kariong Juvenile Justice Centre was transferred from the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice to the NSW Department of Corrective Services on 10 November 2004, and it was renamed the Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre.

As the YJ NMDS includes only young people who are supervised by youth justice agencies in Australia, information about young people in custody in the Kariong Centre after 10 November 2004 is not included. In 2012–13 there were 28 young people in the Kariong Centre on an average day, and therefore they formed only a small proportion (around 8%) of young people in detention in New South Wales.

Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre was closed in early 2015. During April and May 2015, 23 young people were transferred out of the Kariong Centre to another youth detention centre under the supervision of Juvenile Justice NSW. All young people under the age of 18 who were transferred out of the Kariong Centre, and who entered the supervision of Juvenile Justice NSW, entered the YJ NMDS data collection on the date they were transferred.

Victoria

For Victoria, data provided from 2018–19 onwards will differ from previous years after a review of order end reason classifications. Order end reasons affected include both:

- '1 – Completed' reported as 'successful completions'
- '88 – Other'.

Queensland

In Queensland, legislation to increase the youth justice age limit to 17 was passed in 2016, and enacted on 12 February 2018. Before then, the age limit in Queensland was 16, and young people aged 17 and older were treated as adults.

From February 2018, young people aged 17 have been transferred from the adult justice system into the youth justice system, which has, in part, led to an initial rise in the number of young people held in youth justice supervision in Queensland and nationally.

Western Australia

The 2023–24 reporting period is the eighth year to include YJ NMDS data from Western Australia since 2007–08.

For the 2015–16 and 2016–17 submissions the Western Australia data supply included only the sentenced detention period, where a young person was both sentenced and unsentenced at the same time. As a result, there may have been an undercount of young people on unsentenced detention orders in those YJ NMDS submissions.

From 2017–18 onwards, Western Australia was able to capture more accurate legal status changes, so unsentenced detention periods will appear to have increased. Western Australia also began backdating sentenced orders in the 2017–18 submission which led to variations in the number of sentenced orders captured within a reporting period.

South Australia

South Australian order type data reported from 2018–19 will vary from that reported in previous years due to a review of the mapping of local to national order type classifications. This affected most community order types to a small degree.

Australian Capital Territory

In 2021, the Australian Capital Territory implemented a new youth justice information system which improved data quality and availability. Police-referred pre-court detention and remand (court-referred detention) are now included as separate records from the 2020–21 YJ NMDS submission onwards.

A review of the mapping of local to national order type classifications resulted in changes to 2018–19 YJ NMDS data for the Australian Capital Territory. Suspended detention orders are now being reported where previously they were combined with probation or similar orders.

Northern Territory

The 2023–24 reporting period is the seventh year to include YJ NMDS data for the Northern Territory. Data before 2012–13 are not available in YJ NMDS format.

Due to the implementation of a new information system ahead of the 2022–23 YJ NMDS submission, data for the Northern Territory will not be comparable to *Youth justice in Australia* releases prior to 2022–23.

The following data were not available for the Northern Territory in 2023–24:

- all supervision (average day)
- community-based supervision (average day)
- orders
- completed supervision periods (all supervision and community-based supervision)
- average length of time spent under supervision during the year (all supervision and community-based supervision).

For Northern Territory YJ NMDS data, periods of sentenced detention have been backdated to take into account periods of unsentenced detention already served. As a result, there may be an over-count of young people in sentenced detention and a high proportion of young people reported as being in sentenced and unsentenced detention at the same time. The Northern Territory hopes to remedy this in future to align more closely to other jurisdictions.

Indigenous status

About 5.3% of all young people in the YJ NMDS since 2000–01 have an unknown Indigenous status. In 2023–24, 2.2% of all young people under supervision during the year had an unknown Indigenous status.

Among the states and territories, this ranged from less than 2.0% in Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia to 6.1% in the Australian Capital Territory. Western Australia had no unknown Indigenous status.

Appendix A2: technical information

On this page:

- [Age](#)
- [Age range for treatment as a young person](#)
- [Average and median](#)
- [Community-based supervision](#)
- [Duration](#)
- [First supervision and supervision history](#)
- [Number under supervision](#)
- [Population rates](#)
- [Rate ratios](#)
- [Receptions](#)
- [Releases](#)
- [Remand periods followed by a period of sentenced supervision](#)

- [Remoteness](#)
- [Socioeconomic position](#)
- [Supervision periods](#)
- [Supervision types](#)
- [Other orders not elsewhere classified](#)
- [Probation and similar](#)
- [Supervised or conditional bail and other unsentenced](#)
- [Unsentenced detention](#)
- [Trends](#)

Age

Numbers of young people under supervision include young people of all ages (as well as those aged 18 and over), unless otherwise specified. Rates refer to young people aged 10–17 only, in order to enable meaningful comparisons (see [Population rates](#)).

Age on an average day is calculated based on the age a young person is each day that they are under supervision. If a young person changes age during a period of supervision, then the average daily number under supervision will reflect this. Average daily data broken down by age will not be comparable to [Youth justice in Australia](#) releases prior to 2019–20, as age was previously calculated using a different methodology.

For example, the days that the young person was aged 17 will be counted in the daily average for 17-year-olds, and the days that they were aged 18 will be counted in the daily average for 18-year-olds. This allows for precise measurement of the age of young people under supervision on an average day.

For 'during the year' presentations of data (or unique counts of young people) age is calculated as at the start of the first relevant period of supervision unless that period of supervision began before the financial year, in which case age is calculated as at the start of the financial year. As a result, a young person's age can vary across tables, as age is calculated in respect to the type of supervision being analysed.

For example, a young person enters supervised bail aged 17 on 1 August and leaves on 30 August. They turn 18 on 15 September, enter sentenced detention on 1 December and are released on 1 January on parole, which ends on 30 January. They have no other periods of community-based supervision during the financial year.

- In the supervised bail analysis, they will appear as a 17-year-old.
- In the sentenced detention analysis, they will appear as an 18-year-old.
- In the parole analysis, they will appear as an 18-year-old.

This means that for a particular age group, the total number of young people under supervision may not be the sum of the number of young people under particular types of supervision for 'during the year' tables.

Age range for treatment as a young person

Across Australia, young people may be charged with a criminal offence if they are aged 10 or over. The upper age limit for treatment as a young person is 17 (at the time an offence was allegedly committed) in all states and territories. In Queensland, the age limit was previously 16 but changed to 17 years from 12 February 2018. Young people aged 18 and older at the time an offence was allegedly committed are dealt with under the criminal legislation

relating to adults.

However, it is possible for young people aged 18 and over to be under youth justice supervision. This can be because of one of the following:

- the offence was committed when the young person was aged 17 or younger
- the continuation of supervision once they turn 18
- their vulnerability or immaturity.

In addition, in Victoria, some young people aged 18–20 may be sentenced to detention in a youth facility (known as the 'dual track' system).

Average and median

Two measures of central tendency are reported using data from the YJ NMDS:

- Average (mean) – the average, or mean, is calculated by summing all of the values and dividing by the number of observations. In YJ NMDS data, averages are used in the reporting of 'average day' numbers (see [Average day](#)) and the total amount of time spent under supervision during the year.
- Median – this is the middle value of a set of observations, when arranged in order of value. Medians are often reported where data are not normally distributed or include extreme values that would distort the average. In YJ NMDS data, median is used to report the duration of completed periods of supervision, due to the skewed distribution of the data. The duration of completed periods of supervision ranges from one day to more than 10 years.

Community-based supervision

The YJ NMDS contains information on the start and end of supervised orders that youth justice agencies administer, as well as on the start and end of detention periods.

As the start and end dates in the YJ NMDS do not include time stamps, a young person is counted as being under community-based supervision for any day that is covered by a community-based supervised order and is not covered by a detention period.

In some circumstances, the young person is considered to have moved between community-based supervision and detention on the same day and is counted as having both types of supervision:

- When a detention period starts on a particular day (and the previous detention period ended before that day) and a community-based supervision order starts on or before that day and ends on or after that day, the young person is counted as having both community-based supervision and detention on that day.
- When a detention period ends on a particular day (and the next detention period starts after that day) and a community-based supervision order starts on or before that day and ends on or after that day, the young person is counted as having both community-based supervision and detention on that day.
- When a detention period ends on a particular day and another detention period starts on the same day and a community-based supervision order starts on or before that day and ends on or after that day, the young person is counted as having only detention on that day.
- Where any detention periods either end before a particular day or start after that particular day and a community-based supervision order starts on or before that day and ends on or after that day, the young person is counted as having only community-based supervision on that day. See also [Supervision periods](#).

Duration

Duration is calculated in whole days. For example:

- if a young person entered supervision on 1 January and left on 5 January, this is counted as 5 days under supervision,
- if a young person entered and left supervision on the same day, this is counted as one day under supervision.

First supervision and supervision history

The YJ NMDS contains the date on which the youth justice agency first supervised or case managed each young person under supervision. This date is used in analyses of age at first supervision.

In contrast to the age at first supervision, analyses of the first type of supervision and supervision history are restricted to those young people for whom information on this first supervision is available in the YJ NMDS.

For all states and territories except Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, information on the first type of supervision is available for all young people whose first supervision was on or after 1 July 2000. For Tasmania, this is 1 January 2006 (as complete data on detention are available only from this date). For the Australian Capital Territory, this is 1 July 2008 (as data for 2003–04 to 2007–08 are available only in YJ NMDS 2007 format). For the Northern Territory, this is 1 July 2012.

The first supervision type is determined for each young person with available data by selecting the records with the earliest start date. Because it is possible for young people to be under more than one type of supervision at the same time, young people may have multiple first supervision types.

A young person's supervision history is composed of all available information in the YJ NMDS, up to and including the current reporting year. Only young people with information from their first supervision are included in this analysis.

Number under supervision

Reports based on the YJ NMDS contain information on both:

- the number of young people under supervision on an average day
- the number of young people under supervision during the year.

The 'average day' measure reflects the number of young people under supervision on a typical day during the year, and gives an indication of the average number of young people supported by the supervision system at any one time. It is a summary measure that reflects both the number of young people supervised, and the amount of time they spent under supervision. This measure is the main focus of most YJ NMDS data.

In contrast, the 'during the year' measure is a count of the number of unique individuals who were supervised at any time during the year.

Comparing the 'average day' and 'during the year' measures provides information on the average amount of time spent under supervision during the year.

For example, there could be 100 young people under community-based supervision at some time during the year, but only 50 on an average day.

This tells us that the average length of time those young people were supervised during the year was 6 months ($50/100 \times 12$ months). By contrast, if 100 people are in detention during the year and 25 on an average day, the average length of time those young people spent in detention is 3 months ($25/100 \times 12$ months).

In 2023–24, only 20% of young people under supervision were in detention on an average day, but 50% experienced detention at some time during the year. This difference reflects the fact that young people spent substantially less time in detention, overall, than under community-based supervision.

Both the 'average day' and 'during the year' counts are provided in most supplementary tables, where appropriate.

Average day

The number of young people under supervision on an average day is calculated by summing the number of days each young person spends under supervision during the year and dividing this total by the number of days in the financial year.

For the number on an average day, components may not sum to the total because young people can experience different types of supervision on the same day.

During the year

The number of young people under supervision during the year is calculated by counting each distinct young person under supervision during the financial year. Each young person is counted only once, even if they entered and exited supervision multiple times during the year.

For the number during the year, components may not sum to the total because:

- young people can experience different types of supervision during the year
- age is calculated specific to the type of supervision being analysed.

For example, if there were 100 young people under supervision in a particular year and each of these 100 young people had been detained and under community-based supervision at different times during the year, the relevant totals would show that there were 100 young people in detention, 100 young people under community-based supervision and a total of 100 young people under supervision.

Population rates

Population rates allow for the comparison of different groups while taking into account differences in population sizes. Because there are differences between the states and territories in the extent to which youth justice agencies can supervise young people aged 18 and over, rates compared in this report are restricted to young people aged 10–17.

Box 1: The impact of changes to the minimum age of criminal responsibility on rates in 2023–24

In this report, rates are usually calculated for young people aged 10–17. In 2023, the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12. This means that 10- and 11-year-olds cannot be held criminally responsible for their conduct in these jurisdictions during 2023–24.

To account for the increased age of criminal responsibility in these jurisdictions, the rates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory in 2023–24 are for young people aged 12–17 (instead of 10–17) as 10- and 11-year-olds are absent from both the number (numerator) and population (denominator) used to calculate rates. The rates for Australia in 2023–24 will use the sum of the 12–17 population for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory and the 10–17 population for all other jurisdictions. All rates prior to 2023–24 will use the 10–17 population for all jurisdictions and Australia.

Note that care should be taken when comparing 2023–24 rates with prior years for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory. As the exclusion of 10- and 11-year-olds for these jurisdictions in 2023–24 has reduced the total in-scope population (denominator) by about 25%, rates will appear higher than in prior years.

The calculation of rates excludes young people for whom data on particular variables are not available and are not calculated where there are fewer than 5 young people, due to a lack of reliability.

Rates are expressed as the number per 10,000 of young people in the population.

The number of young people on an average day is rounded to one decimal place. The rate for an average day is calculated using the number on an average day before rounding.

Box 2: Updates and changes to populations used in 2023–24

2021 Census counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Trends for First Nations people in this report are calculated using population estimates and projections based on the 2021 Census. Trends are limited to 2016 onwards, due to a large non-demographic increase in Census counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people between 2016 and 2021. The rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this report are generally lower than, and are not comparable to, those in previous reports.

For further information, see the following information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS):

- [Understanding change in counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#)
- [Guide to using historical estimates for comparative analysis and reporting](#).

2023–24 changes – population table S142

Due to the unavailability of the usual ABS data in the 2021 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experimental projections of Indigenous populations to 2021 (Series B), the populations in table S142 were derived using the 2021 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experimental projections of Indigenous populations by Remoteness Areas of Australia.

Remoteness areas are not available by state and territory, which meant that 10- and 11-year-olds in the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory could not be removed due to the increased age of criminal responsibility of 12 years old in 2023–24. This has led to slightly inconsistent populations between Table S142 and other population tables.

This also meant that an additional table excluding the Northern Territory population could not be produced for rates tables where the Northern Territory is absent from the numerator in 2023–24. This means that rates derived from the populations in Table S124 will be slightly lower due to the slightly higher populations.

2023–24 changes – population tables S143 and S146

For population tables S143 and S146, the AIHW estimated the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory populations for the required age groups, as these are not published by the ABS. This is a result of these jurisdictions increasing the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 12 years old in 2023–24. The statistical estimation process produces minor discrepancies with ABS published totals. These discrepancies have negligible effects on rate calculations.

Box 3: Population rates and COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Australian Government closure of the international border from 20 March 2020, caused significant disruptions to the usual Australian population trends. This report uses Australian Estimated Resident Population (ERP) estimates that reflect these disruptions.

In the year July 2020 to June 2021, the overall population growth was much smaller than the years prior and in particular, there was a relatively large decline in the population of Victoria. ABS reporting indicates these were primarily due to net-negative international migration ([National, state and territory population, June 2021](#)).

Be aware that this change in the usual population trends may complicate your interpretation of statistics calculated from these ERPs. For example, rates and proportions may be greater than in previous years due to decreases in the denominator (population size) of some sub-populations.

Rate ratios

Rate ratios are used to compare First Nations and non-Indigenous rates and to provide a measure of the level of First Nations over-representation. They should be interpreted with caution where there are small denominators, rare events, or rates that converge while declining (or diverge while increasing).

Rate ratios are calculated using the rates rounded to 3 decimal places. Rates are presented in the supplementary tables to one decimal place.

Rate ratios are not calculated where one or both of the rates have fewer than 5 young people in the numerator.

Receptions

A reception occurs when a detention period starts and the young person either:

- was not in detention immediately before the start of the current detention period
- did not escape from detention or abscond from leave in the immediately preceding detention period.

The start of a detention period is considered a reception only when the detention period starts at least 2 full days after the end of the previous detention period. This accounts for young people being transported to court and returning to detention on remand or sentenced detention following a court hearing, as well as for young people transferred between detention centres.

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

Releases

A release from detention occurs where a detention period ends and the young person was not detained immediately following the end of the current detention period.

A release does not include instances where the young person escaped from detention or absconded from leave.

The end of a detention period is considered a release only when the detention periods ends at least 2 full days before the start of the next detention period. This accounts for young people being transported to court and returning to detention on remand or sentenced detention following a court hearing, as well as for young people transferred between detention centres.

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

Remand periods followed by a period of sentenced supervision

All periods of sentenced supervision that start within one day of the end of a remand period are included except where there is a further remand period that starts on the same day as the period of sentenced supervision. Remand periods are also only included in the analysis where they end with detention end reason '1 – Complete'. For example, remand periods that ended because a young person was released into bail to await their sentencing are not included.

Remoteness

YJ NMDS reporting uses the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\) Remoteness Areas Structure](#) that the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has developed to analyse the remoteness of the usual residence of the town or suburb of young people under supervision.

This structure allows areas that share common characteristics of remoteness to be classified into broad geographical regions of Australia. These areas are *Major cities, Inner regional, Outer regional, Remote and Very remote*.

The remoteness of the young person's usual residence was determined using the most recent postcode of their last known address. Young people with invalid, missing or unknown postcodes of last known home address were excluded from the analysis.

The number of young people under supervision in each remoteness area was estimated based on each young person's most recent postcode.

Some postcode areas were split between 2 or more remoteness areas. Where this was the case, the data were weighted according to the proportion of the population of the postcode area in each remoteness area.

Some young people may appear in remoteness areas for which there is no population within that state or territory. This is due to young people whose last known home address is in a different state or territory to the one in which they are under supervision.

Socioeconomic position

YJ NMDS reporting uses the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) that the ABS has developed to analyse the socioeconomic position of the usual residence of young people under supervision. The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage is used.

The socioeconomic position of the area of the young person's usual residence was determined by allocating the relevant SEIFA population-based (2016) quintile score to the most recent postcode of the last known home address. Young people with invalid, missing or unknown postcodes of last known home address were excluded from the analysis.

The number of young people under supervision in each area was estimated based on each young person's most recent postcode. Some postcode areas were split between 2 or more areas with different SEIFA scores. Where this was the case, the data were weighted according to the proportion of the population of the postcode area in each SEIFA area.

The SEIFA represents the average of all people living in the area, and not the socioeconomic position of a particular individual living in the area. As a result, socioeconomic analyses in YJ NMDS reporting indicate the level of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage in the area of usual residence of the young person, not the level of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage of each individual young person or their family.

Some young people may appear in socioeconomic areas for which there is no population within that state or territory. This is due to young people whose last known home address is in a different state or territory to the one in which they are under supervision.

Supervision periods

A supervision period is the period of time a young person spent under continuous youth justice supervision. It should be noted that:

- periods of youth justice supervision may be comprised of both periods under community-based supervision and periods in detention
- periods spent either under community-based supervision or in detention may consist of multiple or concurrent orders and episode types.

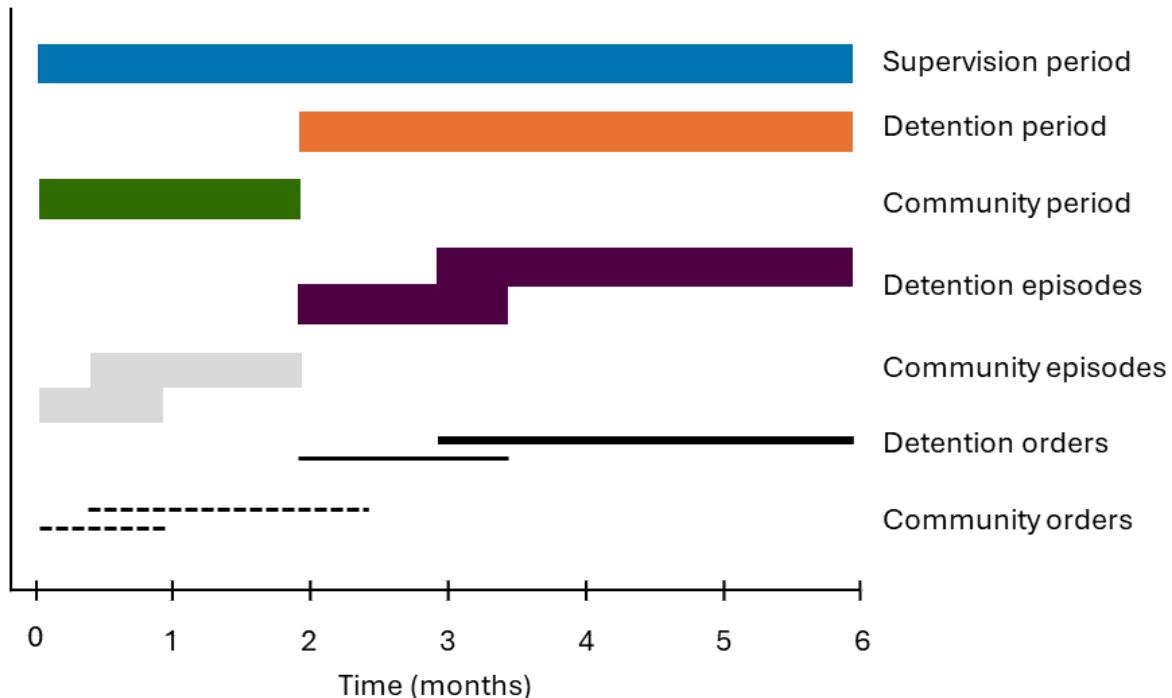
Young people may not serve the full duration of orders for several reasons, including:

- community orders and periods spent under community-based supervision may be interrupted by time spent in detention
- the full duration of a sentenced detention order may not be served where the young person is released on parole or supervised release.

An example of the relationship between periods, episodes and orders is shown in Figure A1.1. In this example, a young person spent 6 continuous months under supervision, with the first 2 months under community-based supervision and the remaining 4 months in detention. The young person experienced 2 different types of community supervision in the first 2 months (for example, probation and bail). The young person then experienced 2 different types of detention (for example, remand and sentenced detention).

Figure A1.1: Example of the relationship between orders, episodes and periods in YJ NMDS data

Elements of supervision



Extended description for Figure A1.1

The figure provides an example of the relationship between orders, episodes and periods of youth justice supervision. In this example, a young person:

- spent 6 continuous months under supervision, with the first 2 months under community-based supervision and the remaining 4 months in detention
- experienced 2 different types of community supervision in the first 2 months (for example, probation and bail). The young person then experienced 2 different types of detention (for example, remand and sentenced detention)
- was on 2 separate community orders that overlap with the community period in the first 2 months. The second community order extended into the third month of supervision, overlapping with the commencement of the first detention order. The young person was then on 2 separate detention orders that overlapped with the detention episodes in the last 4 months.

Supervision types

The YJ NMDS contains information on the type of supervision using the national classification of supervised legal arrangements and orders.

Table A1.1: National classification of supervised legal arrangements and orders

Legal status	Supervision type	Order type	Includes
Unsentenced	Detention	Police-referred detention	
		Remand (court-referred)	
	Community	Supervised bail	Conditional bail, Griffith remand
		Home detention bail	
		Other court-referred arrangements	Deferral of sentence
	Police-referred other		
Sentenced	Detention	Sentenced detention	Control order, revocation of parole, youth residential order
		Probation or similar with or without additional mandated requirements	Good behaviour order with supervision, good behaviour bond, intensive supervision order, youth attendance order, youth supervision order
	Community	Home detention	
		Suspended detention	Suspended sentence, conditional release order
		Parole	Supervised release order, fixed release order
		Community service orders	Community service order, community work order, graffiti removal order
	Other community sentence		
Other	Not elsewhere classified		Mental health order

In YJ NMDS reporting, several of these order types are routinely combined and are reported as both:

- other orders not elsewhere classified, probation and similar orders, supervised or conditional bail and other unsentenced community-based orders
- unsentenced detention.

Other orders not elsewhere classified

Orders not elsewhere classified are classified as 'other' in tables where data are broken down by legal status.

Probation and similar

'Probation and similar' is composed of order types with and without additional mandated requirements.

Supervised or conditional bail and other unsentenced

This category includes young people on supervised or conditional bail, home detention bail and other unsentenced community-based supervised orders. Young people who are supervised under more than one of these types of orders on the same day or during the same year are counted only once for this category.

Unsentenced detention

This category includes young people in police-referred detention and on court-referred remand. Young people who are detained for both these types of detention on the same day or during the same year are counted only once for this category.

Trends

Where the number of young people under supervision on an average day is relatively small, the amount of random variation from year to year is more noticeable. This may affect the appearance of trends, which should therefore be interpreted with caution, particularly where they relate to small numbers. In recognition of this, percentage changes are not calculated where they relate to groups of fewer than 100 people.

Youth justice in Australia reports aim to highlight the overall or net change over a defined period (that is, comparing the start and end of the period), while taking into account the trend within the period. Where possible, changes in the interim years are explored in the text. Full details are available in the supplementary tables.

Trend data may differ from data in previously published reports due to data revisions.

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Appendix B: youth justice remand and detention centres

Youth justice remand and detention centres that were operational during 2023–24.

New South Wales

- Acmena Youth Justice Centre (Grafton)
- Cobham Youth Justice Centre (St Marys)
- Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre (Kariong)
- Orana Youth Justice Centre (Dubbo)
- Reiby Youth Justice Centre (Airds)
- Riverina Youth Justice Centre (Wagga Wagga)

Victoria

Operational until closure on 31 December 2023:

- The Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct consisting of:
 - Malmsbury Secure Youth Justice Centre
 - Malmsbury Senior Youth Justice Centre.

Operational for all of 2023–2024:

- The Parkville Youth Justice Precinct consisting of:
 - Parkville Youth Justice Centre
 - Parkville Youth Residential Centre
 - Parkville Youth Justice Remand Centre.

Operational from August 2023 onwards:

- The Cherry Creek Youth Justice Precinct consisting of:
 - Cherry Creek Youth Justice Centre
 - Cherry Creek Youth Justice Remand Centre.

Queensland

- Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (Wacol)
- Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (Townsville)
- West Moreton Youth Detention Centre (Wacol)

Western Australia

- Banksia Hill Detention Centre
- Unit 18 Casuarina Prison Young Offenders Detention Centre

South Australia

Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre

Tasmania

Ashley Youth Detention Centre

Australian Capital Territory

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre

Northern Territory

- Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre
- Holtze Youth Detention Centre

Appendix C: youth justice legislation

New South Wales

- *Bail Act 2013*
- *Children (Community Service Orders) Act 1987*
- *Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987*
- *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987*
- *Children (Interstate Transfer of Offenders) Act 1988*
- *Young Offenders Act 1997*

Victoria

- *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*
- *Youth Justice Act 2024* (provisions to commence in stages throughout 2024-2026)
- *Bail Act 1977*
- *Crimes Act 1958*
- *Crimes (Mental Impairment and Unfitness to be Tried) Act 1997*
- *Criminal Procedure Act 2009*
- *Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012*
- *Sentencing Act 1991*
- *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*
- *Terrorism (Community Protection) Act 2003*
- *Children, Youth and Families Regulations 2017*

Queensland

- *Childrens Court Act 1992*
- *Young Offenders (Interstate Transfer) Act 1987*
- *Youth Justice Act 1992*
- *Youth Justice Regulation 2016*

Western Australia

- *Young Offenders Act 1994*
- *Young Offenders Regulations 1995*
- *Bail Act 1982*
- *Children's Court of Western Australia Act 1988*
- *Court Security and Custodial Services Act 1999*
- *Inspector of Custodial Services Act 2003*
- *Sentence Administration Act 2003*
- *Children and Community Services Act 2004*
- *Sentencing Act 1995*
- *Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913*
- *High Risk Serious Offenders Act 2020*
- *Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004*

South Australia

- *Bail Act 1985*
- *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*
- *Sentencing Act 2017*
- *Young Offenders Act 1993*
- *Young Offenders Regulations 2023*
- *Youth Court Act 1993*
- *Youth Justice Administration Act 2016*
- *Youth Justice Administration Regulations 2016*
- *Controlled Substances Act 1984*
- *Controlled Substances (Youth Treatment Orders) Regulations 2021*

Tasmania

- *Bail Act 1994*
- *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*
- *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2016*
- *Corrections Act 1997*
- *Custodial Inspector Act 2016*
- *Police Offences Act 1935*
- *Sentencing Act 1997*
- *Youth Justice Act 1997*

Australian Capital Territory

- *Bail Act 1992*
- *Children and Young People Act 2008*
- *Crimes Act 1900*
- *Crimes (Restorative Justice) Act 2004*
- *Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act 2005*
- *Crimes (Sentencing) Act 2005*
- *Criminal Code 2002*

Northern Territory

- *Bail Act 1982*
- *Bail Regulations 1983*
- *Criminal Code Act 1983*
- *Parole Act 1971*
- *Sentencing Act 1995*
- *Sentencing Regulations 1996*
- *Youth Justice Act 2005*
- *Youth Justice Regulations 2006*

Appendix D: state and territory youth justice systems, policies and programs 2023–24

On this page:

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

Information on this page is provided by state and territory government departments responsible for youth justice supervision. It is also available in a PDF version:

 [Appendix D: State and territory youth justice systems, policies and programs 2023–24 \(PDF 460kB\)](#)

New South Wales

Policy directions

Key policy directions in Youth Justice^[1] New South Wales (NSW) include:

- through the creation of the Department of Communities and Justice, working more collaboratively to support shared clients in child protection, out of home care and youth justice, to improve their individual circumstances and life trajectory
- diverting young people under the *Young Offenders Act 1997*, through the use of warnings, cautions (administered by the New South Wales Police Force) and the Youth Justice Conferencing scheme (administered by Youth Justice NSW)
- intervening early in a young person's criminal trajectory with evidence-based programs such as the Youth on Track program and collaborating in whole-of-government initiatives including the Short-Term Remand Project
- providing bail support and accommodation through the Bail Accommodation Support Service, to reduce the number of young people on remand unnecessarily due to a lack of availability of suitable accommodation
- a deep commitment to delivering better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, their families and communities by embedding Culture into Practice through Aboriginal Practice Officers and the Aboriginal Practice Mandate. Aboriginal Practice Officers use their knowledge and lived experience around culture to intervene with Aboriginal Youth Justice clients around offending behaviour
- provision of culturally appropriate services for young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, guided by a range of multicultural initiatives
- identifying and supporting young people experiencing and/or using violence in the home to ensure they receive the specialist support that they need by implementing the *Youth Justice Domestic and Family Violence Strategy 2019–2022*
- provision of multi-agency approaches to managing young people with complex needs
- working in a way that protects young people from abuse, keeping them safe when they are in the care of Youth Justice, and empowering them to realise their full potential in line with the Child Safe Standards produced by the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*
- strengthening pre- and post-release supports with individualised exit-planning for all young people leaving custody, and partnerships with non-government service providers to deliver programs designed to connect young people with supports in the community
- improving the services and supports provided to young people with disability through the *Youth Justice Disability Action Plan 2021–2024*.

Youth Justice NSW is focused on targets to contribute to NSW Government implementation plan under the National Agreement for Closing the Gap, specifically to deliver reductions in the numbers of Aboriginal young people in custody.

Agencies

Youth Justice NSW

The Department of Communities and Justice^[2] is responsible for providing youth justice services in New South Wales. These services are provided by the agency Youth Justice NSW.

Youth Justice NSW is responsible for:

- supervising young people sentenced to community-based or custodial orders
- supporting young people to meet the conditions of bail
- supervising young people who are on conditional bail or remanded in custody
- preparing reports for the courts to consider in determining sentences
- managing the Youth on Track early intervention program
- administering Youth Justice Conferencing
- supporting young people who may have fines to register under the Work and Development Order scheme
- delivering interventions designed to reduce reoffending
- Specialised practice-based assessments and interventions for youth offenders that are at risk of or engaged in extremism including terrorism offences
- funding non-government service partners to deliver complementary services to facilitate young people's reintegration into community.

Youth Justice NSW operates 34 community offices and 6 youth justice centres.

Youth Justice NSW shares responsibility for addressing the offending behaviour of young people with a number of other NSW agencies including the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (JHFMHN) – the Department of Education – and other Department of Communities and Justice entities.

Police

Youth Justice works closely with police. Police may choose to use alternatives to court proceedings, such as warnings, cautions or referral to Youth Justice Conferences, as set out in the *Young Offenders Act 1997*, or may commence court proceedings under the *Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987*. Police may also refer young people to the Youth on Track early intervention scheme.

Police also provide specialist support to young people through the Youth Crime Prevention Command, in collaboration with Police and Community Youth Clubs, and engage young people through a variety of recreational and social programs.

Courts

Court proceedings against young people who are alleged to have committed an offence and are not eligible to be diverted under the *Young Offenders Act 1997* are governed principally by the *Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987*.

Possible outcomes for young people appearing before the court include:

- diversion, dismissal or withdrawal of case: including under Section 32 of the *Mental-Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990* which gives the court the power to divert a defendant who is suffering from a mental health condition into the care and treatment of mental health professionals rather than dealing with them through the criminal justice system
- unsupervised options
 - cautions
 - fines
 - good behaviour bonds
- supervised community-based orders
 - good behaviour bond
 - probation
 - community service orders
- custodial orders
- youth justice conference.

Within 7 Children's Court locations, young people also have access to the Children's Court Assistance Scheme where trained youth workers provide support to young people and their families while in court including referrals to support services following court.

Elements, programs and services

Diversion

The *Young Offenders Act 1997* provides for warnings, cautions and Youth Justice Conferencing in New South Wales. Youth Justice Conferencing is a restorative justice process that facilitates a meeting between the young person, the victim and other support people. Not all young people are eligible for a Youth Justice Conference. Some categories of offence, such as sexual assault, serious drug offences, breaches of apprehended violence orders, traffic offences and offences causing death, can be dealt with only by a court.

Early intervention

Youth Justice NSW contracts non-government service providers to deliver the Youth on Track early intervention scheme in 7 sites across New South Wales. The scheme is designed to coordinate services for 10–17-year-olds who are at risk of long-term involvement with the justice system, and their families, to address the underlying causes of their offending. Young people can be referred to the scheme by NSW Police, school staff, solicitors, and other community and health services without requiring a court order. Youth Justice NSW can also refer eligible young people to this scheme.

Supported accommodation and bail programs

Youth Justice NSW provides bail support and remand interventions to help young people meet their bail conditions and avoid unnecessary placement in custodial remand.

Community-based staff work with young people, court officials and other service providers to ensure that, where appropriate, young people are able to remain in the community while being supervised for compliance with bail conditions.

The Bail Accommodation Support Service (BASS) provides an after-hours service for police who are considering granting conditional bail to a young person in their custody. The service also receives referrals from courts, Youth Justice centres and community offices. It aims to assist in the granting of conditional bail to divert young people from unnecessary short-term remand. The BASS also works to improve pathways into the broader Youth Specialist Homelessness Service system.

A multi-agency Short-Term Remand Project Steering Committee (with senior executive representatives from NSW Police, the Children's Court of NSW, the Department of Communities and Justice, NSW Education, Legal Aid NSW, The Advocate for Children and Young people, and Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT) aims to identify the drivers of short-term remand and then develop and implement a suite of reforms, to address this issue.

With a focus on young people on remand, A Place to Go aims to provide support to young people at risk of not meeting their bail by provide case coordination, court liaison staff, cross agency panels, and dedicated short-term transitional accommodation for these young people in the pilot site in Sydney.

Case management and Practice Framework

Casework interventions aim to:

- assess a young person's risks, needs, responsivity issues, strengths and protective factors – using the Youth Level of Service Case Management Inventory – Australian Adaptation (YLS/CMI-AA)
- plan a specific, comprehensive, individualised case plan to address a young person's criminogenic needs, in collaboration with the young person
- deliver treatments, referral to necessary services and put support systems in place to assist young people to reduce re-offending and build their capacity to attain positive life outcomes
- review and monitor the young person's progress and advocate on their behalf
- be evidence-based, using key theories and skills underpinned by 'What Works'
- be trauma-informed and use a strengths-based approach
- be informed by Aboriginal 8 ways learning techniques and processes
- use core effective practice skills, including role clarification, pro-social modelling, collaborative problem solving, and balanced relationships
- use motivational interviewing
- use cognitive behaviour techniques to target underlying pro-criminal attitudes and beliefs.

The Practice Framework outlines the key theories and fundamental skills which underpin the practice and function of all Youth Justice NSW staff in reducing the reoffending behaviour of young people. The Framework provides evidence-based guidance across the spectrum of engagement, assessment, case planning and intervention programs.

Offence-specific and therapeutic interventions

Youth Justice NSW delivers a range of programs and services within community and custodial environments in accordance with the individual needs of young people, their level of risk, and their ability to respond to program content. Offence-focused interventions incorporate a range of techniques designed to change negative patterns of behaviour and reduce recidivism rates. Some examples of programs offered include:

- the Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART) program, a structured intervention designed specifically for caseworkers to engage and work with young people who require moderate to high intervention to reduce their risk of re-offending
- counselling and therapeutic interventions with a Youth Justice psychologist, particularly when there is complex trauma, more entrenched or violent offending requiring specialised assessment and therapeutic intervention
- X-Roads (pronounced 'crossroads'), an interactive cognitive-behavioural intervention designed for young people who have significant substance misuse issues.

Working with young people with a disability

Youth Justice has a broad range of strategies to identify and support the vulnerabilities of young people with disability, particularly for those within the youth detention environment including:

- Youth Justice psychologists based within the custodial and community settings, who undertake comprehensive psychological assessment and reports, and deliver trauma-focussed and culturally responsive therapeutic services for young people who offend.
- Building workforce capacity through training and specific resources to guide staff in their work with young people with a disability, including supporting referrals to the NDIS
- Improved data collection methods that more accurately records disability information for young people in contact with Youth Justice NSW
- Disability Champions across all NSW community offices and Youth Justice centres who can promote information and resources to colleagues in their work to support young people with disabilities

- Improving interagency collaborative response by regular consultation, systems for information sharing and reviews for cross service system improvements

Guiding this area of work in Youth Justice, the Youth Justice Disability Action Plan 2021–2024 was developed following extensive consultation with staff, young people and stakeholders to improve the services and supports Youth Justice provides young people with a disability.

Support for high-risk and high-needs detainees

In 2020, Youth Justice implemented a new Operating Model including the following key features:

- two High Risk Units, one located in Cobham and the other at Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre, aimed to de-escalate high-risk behaviours of young people through focused intervention to reintegrate them back to the mainstream units
- an Enhanced Support Unit located in Frank Baxter Youth Justice Centre to provide therapeutic support, including a Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist and Clinical Manager, to young people with high risk and high needs
- a High-Risk Young Offender Review Panel (HRYORP) to provide oversight on the management of young people displaying high-risk behaviours across Youth Justice Centres. The panel governs entry and exit decision for the High-Risk Units and the Enhanced Support Unit.

Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

Youth Justice is focused on strategies to address the significant over-representation of Aboriginal young people in our system. Aboriginal-led decision making is key in the design and implementation of programs for Aboriginal young people. Specific programs have been developed and are delivered to Aboriginal young people in Youth Justice Centres and Community offices including:

- Dthina Yuwali, a group work program for Aboriginal young people with substance-related offending.
- My Journey My Life, developed in 2000 in partnership with Gilgai Aboriginal Centre, is an intergenerational violence prevention program aimed at reducing the incidence of violence against others. A specific version of this program for young women has been developed, Yinnar.
- Ngudjoong Billa Reintegration and Transition Program is an intensive reintegration and transition support program for Aboriginal young people who are leaving custody or community supervision to build resilience and wellbeing and reduce the risk of reoffending, with a key focus on building cultural identity by strengthening connections to country and family.
- Youth Justice implements the Small Grants Aboriginal Engagement and Innovative Activities Program (AEIA). The AEIA program was developed to provide new avenues for Aboriginal employees to embed Aboriginal cultural practices into their day-to-day work with Youth Justice clients. A key aim of the AEIA Small Grants Program is to drive innovation in practice and responding to Aboriginal young people's needs by creating opportunities for Aboriginal culturally appropriate engagement.

Work and Development Orders

The Work and Development Order (WDO) scheme is jointly delivered by the Department of Communities and Justice, Revenue NSW and Legal Aid NSW. The voluntary scheme allowing young people to satisfy debt due to outstanding fines through unpaid work, approved courses or treatment. Youth Justice NSW is an approved sponsor for WDO and is one of the largest participating organisations in the scheme.

Pre- and post-release programs

Youth Justice NSW provides pre- and post-release casework in collaboration with other agencies, particularly the Department of Education, NSW Health, and other partners within the Department of Communities and Justice.

The Waratah pre-release unit at the Reiby Youth Justice Centre prepares young people in detention for their release back into the community.

Youth Justice NSW also funds non-government organisations to provide a range of services to young people. These include the delivery of:

- education and health services within Youth Justice Centres
- rural residential adolescent alcohol and other drug rehabilitation
- post-release support and accommodation programs
- health and mental health support
- mentoring programs
- cultural support
- spiritual and religious support
- legal services.

Program evaluation

Core programs and interventions are evaluated either internally by the Research and Information Unit, or by external organisations. Pre- and post-program assessments are used for offending-focused programs. Youth Justice NSW has also engaged the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research to conduct a randomised controlled trial to measure Youth on Track's impact on reoffending compared to a brief intervention.

Victoria

Within the Department of Justice and Community Safety, Youth Justice is responsible for the statutory supervision of children and young people who come into contact with the Victorian justice system. These children and young people are either supervised in the community, or within Youth Justice custodial facilities. Youth Justice also operates the Children's Court Youth Diversion Service.

Youth Justice works with children, young people and their families to address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour and helps them to achieve positive change in their lives. Youth Justice also funds community service organisations to deliver supports with a strong focus on diversion, early intervention and an evidence-based rehabilitative approach to reduce the risk of further offending and enhance community safety.

Most young people sentenced to Youth Justice supervision are aged 10–17^[3]. However, 18–20-year-old offenders can be sentenced to Youth Justice custodial supervision through Victoria's dual track system if the court believes the young person has reasonable prospects for rehabilitation, or the young person is particularly impressionable, immature, or likely to be subjected to undesirable influences in an adult prison.

Policy directions

Youth Justice's approach is guided by a number of key frameworks and policies. These include the following documents:

Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020–2030

The *Youth Justice Strategic Plan* reflects Victoria's 10-year vision for how we will deliver a leading youth justice system in Victoria. It is the roadmap for our ongoing commitment to reforming the Youth Justice system, anchored by the landmark Armytage and Oglollo Youth Justice Review and Strategy.

The *Strategic Plan's* vision is for Victoria to have a leading youth justice system that reduces offending by children and young people and improves community safety and works with others to provide genuine opportunities for children and young people to turn their lives around.

This vision is supported by 4 key reform directions for youth justice in Victoria:

1. Improving diversion and supporting early intervention and crime prevention.
2. Reducing reoffending and promoting community safety by supporting children and young people to turn their lives around.
3. Strengthening partnerships with children and young people, families and all services and professionals who support their rehabilitation and positive development.
4. Investing in a skilled, safe and stable Youth Justice.

Wirkara Kulpa (Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy)

Wirkara Kulpa is Victoria's Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy.

Wirkara Kulpa is about making sure Aboriginal children and young people live culturally rich lives with family and community away from the justice system. Every single Aboriginal child and young person has an abundance of strength and knowledge that deserves to be heard and supported.

Improving the youth justice system and services so they always build on children and young peoples' strengths and listens to their voices, lies at the heart of this document.

Wirkara Kulpa is accompanied by a set of guiding principles that has informed its development and will help to achieve its vision – that Aboriginal children and young people are not in the youth justice system.

These principles are underpinned by, and informed by, self-determination and guide all of *Wirkara Kulpa's* actions. These principles are centred around:

- amplifying children and young people's voice and participation
- Aboriginal cultural values and connection
- valuing the strengths of Aboriginal children and young people
- supporting child and family centred approaches
- embedding trauma informed healing approaches
- promoting and protecting children and young people's rights.

Agencies

Youth Justice, Department of Justice and Community Services

Youth Justice is responsible for Victoria's youth justice system.

Youth Justice incorporates custodial and community services. Victoria's custodial precincts are the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct and the Cherry Creek Youth Justice Precinct. Community Youth Justice has teams based across metropolitan and regional Victoria.

All young people on a youth justice order are case-managed and supervised by a youth justice worker to address their offending, develop their motivation, and support them to lead pro-social lives.

Typically, this involves the youth justice worker:

- meeting regularly with the young person
- supervising compliance with court-ordered conditions
- assessing the young person's risk and needs
- planning and facilitating access to targeted interventions such as offending behaviour programs
- collaborating with key statutory and non-statutory agencies to coordinate access to services such as education and housing.

The Youth Justice Community Support Service (YJCSS) provides case work support to complement the statutory case management undertaken by community youth justice teams. The program is managed by Youth Justice and delivered by community sector organisations. The YJCSS model recognises that young people have a range of complex needs that require an individualised response. The program aims to enhance rehabilitation, increase economic participation and improve social connectedness. YJCSS also provides transitional housing support for young people residing in transitional properties across Victoria.

Police

Victoria Police is responsible for investigating crime in Victoria. In Victoria, police may caution young people and may refer them to appropriate support services.

One such service is the Youth Support Service (YSS), which aims to intervene early and divert young people away from the youth justice system by addressing the underlying causes of their offending behaviour. It is managed by Youth Justice and delivered by community sector organisations. The YSS works with young people aged between 10 and 17, following contact with Victoria Police.

Courts/Youth Parole Board

The Criminal Division of the Children's Court of Victoria has jurisdiction to hear and determine most charges against young people aged between 10 and 17 at the time they allegedly committed an offence. If a young person has turned 19 by the time their court case commences in the Children's Court, the case is transferred to the appropriate adult court.

The sentencing principles in the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* distinguish the developmental needs of children and adolescents as separate from the needs of adults. The Children's Court has a hierarchy of sentencing options for young people convicted of criminal offences that recognise the distinct developmental needs of young people. These include unsupervised orders such as non-accountable undertakings, accountable undertakings, good behaviour bonds and fines as well as supervised orders including community-based supervision orders and custodial orders.

The *Youth Justice Act 2024* will update and expand the sentencing and general principles that apply to young people in the youth justice system.

Victoria's unique dual track system allows adult courts (for example, the Magistrates' Court and County Court) to sentence young offenders aged between 18 and 20 to serve custodial sentences in youth detention instead of adult prison. For a young offender to qualify for youth detention under the dual track system, the court must believe that he or she has reasonable prospects of rehabilitation, or that he or she is particularly impressionable, immature, or likely to be subjected to undesirable influences in an adult prison.

Each young person ordered by a court to be detained in a custodial centre is subject to the jurisdiction of the Youth Parole Board, which is empowered to grant parole to young people subject to its jurisdiction. The Board aims to balance the rehabilitative needs of the young person with the safety of the community through supervision and support provided by the community youth justice officers.

Elements, programs and services

Youth Justice seeks to enhance community safety through diverting young people from entering or progressing further into the criminal justice system, providing rehabilitation services to young people at high risk of offending, and delivering pre-release, transition and post release support programs to reduce their risk of reoffending. To complement its legislated obligations and to realise its service objectives, Youth Justice engages with a range of stakeholders. These include other government departments and agencies, community sector organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

Diversion

The Children's Court Youth Diversion Service assists young people early in their contact with the Children's Court to address the underlying causes of their offending and prevent further progression into the criminal justice system. Legislation directs that successful completion of a diversion plan will see the court discharge the matter and the child avoid a disclosable criminal record for those offences.

In addition, YSS supports the diversion of young people away from the criminal justice system, as discussed above.

Youth Justice Bail Service

The Youth Justice (YJ) Bail Service operates in the Children's and Adult jurisdictions in Victoria with one of the core functions to provide bail assessments and advice to the court and monitor young people on YJ bail while they await a court outcome.

YJ bail assessments consider the unique circumstances of the young person, service referrals to address the young person's needs and assist with supporting bail compliance, the nature of the offending and community safety.

Young people can be placed on intensive bail, supervised bail or bail of their own undertaking with no YJ involvement, based on the level of supervision required to mitigate the risk. The YJ bail service includes supervision appointments and referrals to appropriate support services, as determined by a tailored bail plan. YJ provides regular progress reports to the Court for young people on supervised and intensive bail.

The Youth Justice Bail After-hours Service (YJBAS) commenced on 30 April 2023. YJBAS is a state-wide, after-hours bail assessment service for young people, delivered by Youth Justice. It provides advice after-hours to bail decision makers including both Bail Justices and the Weekend Online Remand Court. YJBAS is improving engagement with young people, working more closely with other after-hours services, and enhancing handover processes to the Youth Justice custodial and community teams to better support young people.

Bail justices are volunteers, some of whom are not legally trained, who can make decisions about bail and remand after, or sometimes during, business hours. Victoria is the only jurisdiction in Australia to feature bail justices as part of its bail system.

In May 2017, Victoria also established a Fast Track Remand Court to actively case manage the criminal proceedings of children who are held on remand. The aim of the Fast Track Remand Court is to resolve cases more quickly and to provide earlier access to education and rehabilitation programs.

The Weekend Online Remand Children's Court (WORC) commenced on 3 September 2022 and hears online bail and remand applications from across the State over the weekend and public holidays, increasing access to justice for young people. This initiative has expanded access to justice for young people being considered for remand, as matters can now be brought before the Court over the weekend.

Group conferencing

A legislated pre-sentence Youth Justice Group Conferencing program exists across Victoria. The program is available to the Children's Court where a young person has been found guilty of an offence and the court is considering sentencing the young person to youth justice supervision. The conference, facilitated by a convener, must be attended by the young person, their legal representative and the police. Also in attendance may be the young person's family/carer and the victim or their representative. The aim of the conference is to increase the young person's understanding of the impact of their offending and reduce the likelihood of their reoffending. The outcome of the conference must be taken into consideration by the court when sentencing the young person.

In 2022, Children's Court Youth Diversion conferences were introduced to increase access to restorative justice processes for young people at the diversion stage.

Offence-specific and therapeutic programs

Youth Offending Programs consist of 4 different types of intervention, primarily delivered by clinicians. These include:

- offence-specific criminogenic programs to directly address criminogenic needs and reduce the risk of reoffending. Programs include the Adolescent Violence Intervention Program (AVIP-2), including the High Intensity Addendum and the Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality (MAPPS). Other criminogenic programs offered include On Track, a motor vehicle-related offending program, Pathways to Change, an alcohol and other drugs offending program and Well Families, a family violence program
- offence-related programs which focus on challenging antisocial attitudes that support offending and manage the risk of reoffending, such as alcohol and other drug (AOD) harm reduction, relapse prevention and psychoeducational programs, risky behaviours programs, problem-solving programs and behavioural change programs
- psychosocial programs, which focus on improving personal skills and enhancing self-awareness, such as anger management, communication skills, understanding alcohol and other drugs, emotional regulation and healthy relationships
- by exception, structured individual criminogenic interventions, which provide criminogenic supports for children and young people to prepare them for group treatment or when group treatment is not clinically recommended.

Aboriginal Youth Justice Program

Aboriginal-specific programs have been developed to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in youth justice and provide culturally safe and responsive services. They are delivered primarily by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

The programs are funded by the department under the auspices of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement phase 4, Burra Loptja Dunduludja, and Wirkara Kulpa, in line with its guiding principles of self-determination.

The Aboriginal Youth Justice Program facilitates culturally safe supports for Aboriginal young people at risk of, or subject to, youth justice involvement. A range of interventions are utilised including connecting to culture through individual and group programs, cultural planning, advocacy, case work and cultural consultation for non-Aboriginal service providers.

Education

Parkville College is a specialist Victorian Government school, operating in both youth justice custodial centres, which provides education to students under youth justice custodial supervision.

In addition to the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), Parkville College also offers alternatives such as:

- the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning, for senior secondary students to obtain literacy and numeracy skills, practical work experience and a qualification recognised by TAFE institutes and employers
- Vocational Education and Training units for young people undertaking the VCE or those no longer of compulsory school age (17 years or over).

Health and mental health services

Primary health and mental health services provided to young people in custodial centres include general practitioner services, general and mental health nursing, mental health assessment and treatment, pharmacy, pharmacotherapy treatment, AOD assessment and treatment, pathology, radiology, dental, audiology, optometry, podiatry, physiotherapy, and health promotion activities.

In addition to primary health services, the Custodial Forensic Youth Mental Health Service, a specialist mental health service, is available to young people in custodial centres. This service comprises a multidisciplinary team that provides specialist mental health services for young people in custody, delivering clinical mental health assessment, treatment and support services.

The Community Forensic Youth Mental Health Service provides mental health services to support community mental health services to respond to young people who are exhibiting problem behaviours associated with emerging mental illness and who are at risk of offending. The Community Forensic Youth Mental Health Service provides early intervention support for community mental health services in the North West and Southern Metropolitan areas of Victoria, and secondary consultations to mental health services in other areas of Victoria.

Queensland

The youth justice system in Queensland applies to young people aged 10 to 17 years where there is:

- an ability to divert young people from the court system
- reduce exposure to adult criminals
- the provision of education and rehabilitation through access to mandated specialised programs
- more intensive staff support and supervision in custody.

Youth justice in Queensland is underpinned by the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (Qld) (YJ Act) charter of youth justice principles.

Policy directions

2024 State Election

On 26 October a state election was held in Queensland. As a result there has been a change of government. The information contained in this update was prepared prior to the election and reflects the 2023–24 financial year. The new government has committed to making changes to the *Youth Justice Act 1992*. Any changes to the legislation and any other changes will be reported next year. From 1 November 2024 the Department of Youth Justice became the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support.

Strategic direction for youth justice

A *Safer Queensland, Queensland Youth Justice Strategy 2024–2028* (the Strategy) was released on 28 June 2024. The Strategy:

- focuses on prevention, early intervention and detention
- supports community safety
- includes updated service delivery and targeted intervention
- delivers programs to tackle youth offending
- is underpinned by a multi-agency approach to deliver a comprehensive response to the factors that drive youth offending.

Supported by over \$446 million in the 2023–24 budget, plus a \$1.28 billion investment as part of the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland and Putting Queensland Kids First*, the Strategy is agile and adopts new evidence-based approaches in response to a rapidly changing environment. The Strategy built on the success of the previous youth justice strategy and action plan and was guided by inquiries into youth justice reforms undertaken by the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee and the Queensland Audit Office. The Strategy was co-designed through engagement with stakeholders across the non-government sector, First Nations communities and victim advocacy groups.

Youth justice work is also guided by the *Our Way – A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017–2037* (Our Way).

In August 2023, time-limited amendments were made to the YJ Act to manage youth detention centre capacity in Queensland until new infrastructure is operational late 2026. The amendments establish a framework for decision-making about the timing of transfers from watchhouses to youth detention centres, ensuring appropriate prioritisation.

Agencies

Youth justice agency

The Department of Youth Justice (Youth Justice) is responsible for providing youth justice services in Queensland.^[4]

Youth Justice provides legislated, tertiary, offence focused interventions and case management for young people subject to a supervised community based or detention-based order by the court. The Department also has a key role in ensuring assessed needs of children and young people are responded to through the provision of related government, non-government and community interventions and supports. For the small cohort of young people who commit serious, repeat offences, the youth justice system delivers intensive responses and high levels of supervision to hold them to account while working intensively with them to turn their lives around through the provision of evidence-based programs and multi-agency supports to address factors that have contributed to their offending.

Police

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) is responsible for investigating crime and charging young people with offences. The QPS is the first point of contact for young people entering the criminal justice system. Under the YJ Act, police can divert young people from the courts by taking no action, administering a caution, referring to a restorative justice conference, or diverting to a diversionary graffiti removal program, or drug diversion program. QPS partners with government agencies, non-government organisations, and community groups to link young people with support services and provide pathways to reduce youth offending.

Courts

Young people aged between 10 and 17 at the time they allegedly commit an offence and who are not diverted by police are dealt with by the Childrens Court (constituted by a magistrate or, for matters proceeding on indictment, a judge) or the Supreme Court (for the most serious offences), under the provisions of the YJ Act and the *Childrens Court Act 1992* (Qld).

The YJ Act includes a bail framework, sentencing principles, and a charter of youth justice principles which underpin the operation of the whole Act.

Depending on each case the possible outcomes for young people found guilty of an offence include:

- dismissal and caution
- dismissal and referral to a restorative justice process
- referral to a drug assessment and education session
- court diversion referral to a restorative justice process
- reprimand
- good behaviour order
- fine
- probation order
- community service order
- restorative justice order
- graffiti removal order
- intensive supervision order (for children under 13)
- conditional release order (where a detention order is suspended on the condition that the young person participate in an intensive program)
- detention order.

Elements, programs and services

Youth Justice Framework for Practice

The Department has developed a *Youth Justice Framework for Practice: Our Way of Working* (the Framework) to help guide its programs and services. The Framework outlines the required values, principles, knowledge and skills to support quality work with young people, families, partners and communities, and to achieve positive outcomes that drive reduced offending and reoffending. The Framework helps staff, stakeholders and those in contact with the youth justice system understand how they contribute to achieving significant outcomes across the youth justice system through consistent and collaborative practice.

Diversion

The YJ Act provides QPS with the ability to divert a child who commits an offence from the courts and criminal justice system by administering a caution to the child. If the offence committed is a minor drug offence, the QPS may offer the young person an opportunity to attend a drug diversion assessment program. This consists of an education program arranged by Queensland Health.

Where a young person admits to committing a graffiti offence, a QPS officer may refer them to a graffiti removal program instead of bringing the matter before a court. Graffiti removal programs, arranged by Youth Justice, hold young offenders accountable by requiring them to perform unpaid work to remove graffiti.

QPS also have access to protected admissions and police cautioning, which ensure young offenders who admit responsibility for certain offences can be provided with diversionary options such as a caution or referral to restorative justice conferencing.

Restorative justice

A young person may be referred to a restorative justice process by QPS or the court. If victims consent to participate in the process, conferences are facilitated between affected parties (that is, victims, young person, families, community representatives, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and QPS) to discuss what happened, the effects of the crime and how the harm caused can be repaired. A facilitated conference allows participants to talk about what happened and the effects of the offence, with the aim to develop an agreement about how the young person can make reparation.

Alternative Diversion Process (ADPs) were introduced in 2016 as an alternative restorative justice process to allow young people to remain diverted in circumstances where it was not possible to progress a restorative justice conference (for example, when a victim is not willing to participate in a conference). ADPs address the causal factors of a young person's offending and provide an opportunity for young people to take responsibility for their actions.

Restorative justice conferencing has had a positive impact on reducing reoffending. Conferences have also resulted in positive outcomes for victims and communities, including enabling victims' greater involvement and to receive an apology.

Early intervention

Prevention and early intervention are shared community and government responsibilities. A range of government agencies and community stakeholders are working together to prevent youth crime in ways that suit their local communities:

- Project Booyah is a QPS youth mentoring program that uses adventure-based learning, leadership skills, decision-making/problem-solving exercises, resilience training and family-inclusive principles to help young people aged 14–17 years make better life choices. Framing the Future provides post-program mentoring and support to Project Booyah graduates.
- Queensland Youth Partnerships Initiative aims to reduce youth offending, anti-social and problematic behaviour by providing a structured and/or engagement activity response that engages with young people who congregate in or near shopping centre precincts that are determined to be locations of high demand.
- Early Action Groups are a joint initiative with the QPS and other key government agencies to provide a co-located early intervention and intensive coordination of tailored services and support to young people aged 8-16 years, who are at risk of falling into a cycle of crime – and their families.
- Youth Co-responder Teams (YCRT) are highly visible, dedicated teams of police and Youth Justice professionals working together in specially marked cars, engaging with young people at risk of offending or on bail. The teams link young people and their families and carers to local supports and services to get the help they need with issues such as health, education and housing. The majority of YCRT operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Bail and support programs

Conditional Bail Programs support at-risk young people assisting them to remain in the community while their matters are before the courts as a condition of their bail. Programs address educational and vocational needs, mental health issues, family intervention and accommodation. Programs give the court confidence that children will receive individualised and intensive supervision while they are on bail.

Queensland is currently trialling the use of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for young people aged 15 or older. Electronic monitoring devices (EMDs), which are GPS enabled, may be fitted to suitable young people as a component of bail conditions.

The provisions are designed to protect community safety and are only imposed on repeat youth offenders charged with 'prescribed indictable offences', who would benefit from more intensive bail conditions. Compliance support and supervision is provided to young people fitted with the devices by youth co-responder teams and intensive bail support services.

Non-government agencies are funded to deliver support services to young people to improve their compliance with bail, in high demand locations, including:

- Bail Support Services deliver practical, individualised support aimed at supporting compliance with bail conditions as well as addressing the risks that may lead to decisions to remand children in custody. This occurs through a mix of case management and outreach activities and flexible brokerage to assist young people to connect/reconnect to housing, education, health, family and culture
- the Intensive Bail Initiative, provides intensive support to high-risk young people to meet their bail conditions. The program is a highly collaborative response involving family members of the young person and multiple service provider agencies, the courts and police.

Case management

Young people under the statutory supervision of youth justice service centres and youth detention centres are actively case managed to ensure risk factors linked to a young person's offending behaviour are addressed at an intensity that reflects the criminogenic needs and risk level of the young person. Case management service responses are informed by a comprehensive risk/needs assessment and a case planning process which engages the young person, their family, other government departments and community stakeholders. Young people are monitored, and case plans are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that service responses remain relevant to their level of risk and needs.

A collaborative case coordination system, known as Multi-Agency Collaborative Panels, has been established across the state to deliver coordinated service responses, involving government and non-government agencies, to high-risk young people with complex needs, and their families. This includes young people engaged in serious repeat offending. Core member agencies including youth justice, police, child safety, health, education, housing and non-government stakeholders work together to address challenges and barriers to stop young people offending and keep the community safe.

Where a young person is offending, they may be referred to a Young Offender Support Service which provide culturally safe, client centred, evidence-based services, including intensive family support aligned with the young person's assessed needs. Young Offender Support Services are delivered by non-government organisations funded by Youth Justice. These services integrate with the local community service system and use traditional cultural methods such as connection to country and cultural activities. The program assists young people to develop skills and to obtain stable accommodation, strong relationships, health, decision-making, interpersonal skills, and goal setting.

Intensive Case Management (ICM) delivered by Youth Justice provides additional support for young people aged 10-17 years who are assessed as having a high or very high risk of reoffending, and their families, to help break the cycle of crime. It aims to reduce the frequency and severity of offending by addressing risk and encouraging pro-social decision making and behaviour by the young person and their family. This program provides intensive intervention to address multiple factors that impact chronic juvenile offending including substance abuse and aims to enhance family and kinship connections and promote engagement in education and training.

Offence-specific and therapeutic programs

A number of core change-oriented programs and services designed to address young people's criminogenic needs and reduce reoffending are delivered by Youth Justice as part of a young person's case plan. Some examples of programs young people have access to through case management include:

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART®) is an evidence based, change-oriented group program designed to influence positive thinking and moral value development for young people with violent or aggressive behaviours. ART® aims to build prosocial skills, enhance positive communication, develop strategies to reduce aggression and regulate emotions and build capacity for young people to consider consequences of their behaviour.
- Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART) is an evidence-based, change-orientated program designed to support young people to reflect on their offending behaviour and develop skills to reduce further offending.
- Emotional Regulation and Impulse Control (ERIC) is an evidence-informed change-oriented program designed to encourage healthy social and emotional development by teaching young people skills to better identify, describe, and manage impulsivity, and make better decisions leading to better behaviours. Emotional regulation and impulse control are associated with good mental health and well-being.
- Re-thinking Our Attitudes to Driving (ROAD) is an evidence-informed, change-oriented group program designed to reduce motor vehicle (MV) related offending. Young people are supported to explore thoughts, feelings and behaviours about their MV offending and the impact on victims themselves their families and the community. ROAD develops the young person's awareness of the consequences of unsafe MV behaviours and builds on concepts of victim empathy, understanding emotions and the connections between thoughts and actions. ROAD is delivered together with CHART to address MV offending.
- Youth Justice also provides 2 specific responses, delivered by non-government organisations for young people who have committed sexual offences:
 - Bravehearts Foundation is a specialist counselling service which provides therapeutic intervention for adolescents who have committed sexual offences, their families, and persons harmed and their families and/or significant others where appropriate, who have been referred to restorative justice conferencing processes in the south-east corner of the state. The organisation also provides a telehealth service outside of the south-east corner.
 - Griffith Youth Forensic Service (GYFS) provides evidence-based specialist psychological assessments and treatment services to young people who have sexually offended, their families and communities, including young people held in youth detention centres.

Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

- The First Nations Council (FNC) and the Cultural Capability Team provide cultural advice to the executive leadership of the Department to ensure policies, programs and services are culturally responsive and meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Members of the FNC represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives from Youth Justice. In addition, a cultural practice manager has been appointed as part of each of the 6 regional leadership teams to support First Nations staff, assist ongoing cultural capability, and enable culturally responsive practice and service delivery for First Nations young people and their families.
- The Youth Justice First Nations Action Groups (FNAG) and First Nations Action Board (FNAB) have been embedded within the central office, regions and youth detention centres. They ensure all youth justice policies, programs and processes appropriately address the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in contact with the youth justice system. In recognition of individual communities requiring individual and localised responses, members from each region are represented on the Board.
- Youth Detention Cultural Units and cultural staff provide essential frontline support to ensure service delivery respects and promotes young people's cultural identity. These staff work directly with young people, detention and community-based staff and other stakeholders including families, communities and Elders to promote and provide:
 - regular opportunities for young people to participate in culturally specific programs
 - community-led cultural healing-based initiatives and services that support cultural wellbeing
 - holistic culturally specific therapeutic, intervention and cultural programs
 - localised cultural awareness training for all staff members and key stakeholders to ensure that professional conduct and services are culturally appropriate
 - culturally competent case management and transition processes (this can include kinship mapping, engaging Elders and community members, restorative practices etc)
 - regular opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and/or respected persons to participate in advisory groups to provide cultural leadership, mentoring and advice on policies, procedures and processes.
- Young Black & Proud (YBP) is an evidence-informed, change-oriented group cultural program delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in partnership with identified community leaders such as Elders and traditional owners. YBP supports Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people to develop and strengthen positive cultural knowledge, awareness and identity through structured activities and passing on cultural knowledge. YBP supports First Nations young men to build readiness to engage in other programs and services.
- Black Chicks Talking (BCT) is an evidence-informed, change-oriented cultural group program designed to reduce reoffending, delivered in partnership with First Nations community leaders such as Elders and traditional owners for First Nations young women. The program aims to support cultural connections to community and identify and explore identity, behaviour, experiences, and cultural histories through storytelling, yarning, and adventure activities.
- Murri Watch Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation provides cultural support to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people detained in watchhouses across Queensland to help meet their welfare and emotional support needs and keep them connected with their family.
- Family-Led Decision Making encourages young people to avoid offending and reoffending through the facilitation of a process which involves the participation of family and community members. During the process, young people are dealt with in a culturally appropriate manner that acknowledges their needs and gives them the opportunity to accept responsibility for their actions and develop responsible, pro-social behaviours.

- On Country programs provide culture-based rehabilitation for young First Nations peoples under the supervision of senior First Nations leaders. This unique community-led program aims to reduce ongoing offending, using cultural immersion and experiences to address the motivation and pre-contemplative behaviour of young people who commit crime under the one-on-one mentorship of First Nations adult mentors, Elders and traditional owners. The program focuses on high-risk Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people and is tailored to their individual needs, with a focus on healing and transferring cultural knowledge to prevent motivation to reoffend.
- Cultural mentoring, where Youth Justice works closely with members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to provide a cultural mentoring service model as an alternative intervention to QPS charging and/or remanding young people in custody.

Services that address developmental and support needs

- Transition to Success (T2S) is an evidence-based, vocational training and behaviour change program delivered by Youth Justice to prevent young people who are involved in the youth justice system from reoffending. The program is delivered in partnership with local community organisations to flexibly tailor the service to its community. The program is delivered in a community setting to young people aged 15 and above with a high or very high risk of reoffending. T2S helps young people address risk factors to re-engage with education, training, and employment and gives young people the opportunity to:
 - learn and achieve nationally recognised certificate qualifications
 - set goals for their future
 - participate in challenge-based activities
 - identify and access a number of alternative pathways that divert them from the justice system and keep them out of custody
 - build the social, cognitive, and behavioural skills they need to attain and maintain further education and employment.
- The Education Justice Initiative is delivered by Department of Education Court Liaison Officers who support young people who appear before the Childrens Court to re-engage in education and training. The initiative provides specialised referral and advocacy services to ensure young people receive support to connect with education or training pathways.
- Navigate Your Health (NYH) – Coordinates the provision of health and development assessments and connects young people with relevant health and support services. This initiative connects young people (subject to relevant youth justice supervision) with a Nurse Navigator to engage primary health care providers, coordinate their health care and meet identified health needs. Nurse Navigators engage community providers, public health, Aboriginal medical services, private and non-government organisation service providers.

Place-based initiatives

Several place-based initiatives have been implemented across Queensland to assist young people in areas that experience higher rates of youth crime:

- The Townsville Street University is focused on the reconnection of young people within their community and the cultivation of social inclusion. The aim of the service is to provide a safe space for young people to engage in vocational and education workshops, drug and alcohol treatment services, life skills training and mentoring with pathways to further education.
- JTYouGotThis Program is a 10-week program for young people who are at risk of or have early involvement in the youth justice system.
- Community Youth Response and Diversion is a place-based, multi-faceted approach made up of some or all of the following components (depending on location) – diversion services with after-hours support, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural mentoring, bridging to education programs, and intensive case management.
- Youth Transitional Hub in Mount Isa provides culturally appropriate and after-hours support to young people and their families that aims to keep young people out of custody. Young Offender Support Services within the Hub deliver intensive support and case management to young people and their families to reduce offending behaviour.
- Bringing together the Community Partnership Innovation Grants and the Community Based Crime Action Committee grants under one overarching program banner, the Youth Crime Prevention Grants support communities to deliver local programs to young people across the youth justice continuum, from prevention, early intervention and positive engagement activities to intensive change-oriented responses for higher risk young people and serious repeat offenders.
- The Big Bounce initiative provides a combination of diversionary programs to youths at risk of offending and rehabilitation programs to youths exiting detention. Programs are currently run in the West Moreton and Brisbane Youth Detention Centres as well as delivering basketball clinics in the community.
- The Youth Justice Alcohol and Drug Treatment Service is funded to help reduce the impact of drugs and alcohol as a factor contributing to offending. The service delivers a physically and psychologically safe place for young offenders whilst addressing criminogenic factors. The service delivers a 10-bed residential facility, in South-East Queensland, providing 3 months residential treatment followed by over 3 years follow up treatment.
- The Cairns Safer Streets initiative, is a whole-of-government approach to intervening early, diverting at risk young people from the justice system and connecting families and young people to social, recreational, training and employment opportunities.

Youth detention centres

Youth detention centres (YDC) continue to focus on the safety, wellbeing, and rehabilitation of young people. In Queensland, Brisbane YDC, West Moreton YDC and Cleveland YDC provide secure accommodation for remanded and sentenced young people to protect the safety of the community and address offending behaviour. In 2023, the Queensland Government announced it would build 2 new therapeutic YDCs – one at Woodford in South-East Queensland and one in the Cairns region, plus a youth remand facility at Wacol as an interim option to manage capacity until the new detention centres become operational.

By partnering with agencies such as Health and Education, YDCs address the underlying drivers of offending behaviour through targeted, individualised and goal-orientated case management activities – provision of therapeutic and cultural support – and utilisation of innovative programs and services which assist young people with achieving rehabilitation goals and reintegrating into the community. YDC staff work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to provide on-site services and support to young people.

Department of Education led Youth Education and Training Centres operate as educational units akin to mainstream schools and provide on-site education and training programs and services for young people 48 weeks per year (an additional 8 weeks to the community-based school year).

Queensland Health operates a 24/7 health centre, staffed by registered nurses. Mental health services are also available onsite during business hours, with on-call arrangements in place for any urgent or high-risk matters. Education and health staff work closely with their community-based counterparts and the onsite multi-disciplinary teams to achieve rehabilitation goals and support a young person's transition from detention to community.

All young people admitted to a YDC are assessed by a range of multi-disciplinary staff members to promote safety and wellbeing while in custody:

- primary and mental health assessments are completed by Queensland Health registered nurses and mental health professionals. These assessments identify any immediate health concerns and ongoing support needs
- case management, therapeutic, safety and risk assessments including identification of any suicide or non-suicidal self-harm (NSSI) risk are conducted by departmental multi-disciplinary teams that include caseworkers, psychologists and speech and language pathologists
- psychologists and speech and language pathologists use a range of evidence-based and culturally safe assessments to identify and diagnose neurodevelopmental disorders. Outcomes of these assessments are included in young people's service response plans to support consistent and responsivity-driven services that match their abilities
- educational assessments, including numeracy, literacy and comprehension testing and identification of learning difficulties are completed by Department of Education teaching staff.

These assessments inform tailored interventions, custodial management plans and integrated case planning with community youth justice stakeholders to promote service continuity upon a young person's release.

In accordance with their assessed needs, young people in detention are involved in a variety of programs including evidence-based offence-focussed, therapeutic, educational, vocational, behavioural, life skills, cultural, and recreational programs. These programs are regularly reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of those presently in custody.

Positive behaviour support models in youth detention centres are designed to incentivise well-adjusted social behaviour, are underpinned by trauma informed practice and aim to be culturally safe for all participants. Restorative practices assist young people to resolve conflict, repair harm and take accountability for their actions.

Pre-release and post-release support

Continuity of service delivery for young people who have been held in custody is fundamental. YDCs and community-based service centres work together to ensure services and programs are ongoing for young people transitioning from detention back to the community.

Transition planning is incorporated into a young person's existing service response plan and commences upon a young person's admission to youth detention. This process involves an integrated response between caseworkers, cultural supports, transition officers, education facilitators, mental health practitioners and the young person's family/ care providers. YDCs keep young people connected with their community by ensuring access for all community services and supports and promoting routine engagement with young people while they are in custody.

Information sharing facilitated through memorandums of understanding across other government agencies such as Queensland Health, Education, Child Safety, Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Queensland Police Service, enable a coordinated multi-agency response to reduce a young person's offending behaviour. Non-government agencies are also involved in supporting a young person's transition to the community.

Young people identified as high-risk of reoffending are provided the Intensive Support Program on their release from detention that offers an additional period of intensive youth justice supervision on weekends and at night within the critical first 72 hours after release from youth detention. 72-hour release plans ensure better planning, information sharing and structured engagement for young people assessed as high-risk as they exit custody.

Young people who continue to be subject to a supervised youth justice order after their release from custody continue to be case managed by community-based youth justice services through their individualised service response plan and are re-connected with community-based education and/or training or suitable employment. Young people continue engagement in change orientated programs they had been undertaking in detention, as well as support to access necessary offence focused changed oriented interventions that match their assessed criminogenic needs to prevent reoffending.

Western Australia

Policy directions

Key policy directions in youth justice in Western Australia include:

- providing mandated services in accordance with the *Young Offenders Act 1994*

- the Strategic Framework 2022–2027 identifies 4 strategic priorities and outlines how the Department of Justice, Corrective Services (the Department) will work with the mission of a fair, just, and safe community for all Western Australians
- programs help to achieve a reduction in reoffending, with a particular focus on programs designed for Aboriginal young people
- reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal young people in the justice system, with a particular focus on collaborative partnerships and innovative service delivery in regional areas.

Agencies

Youth Justice Agencies

Department of Justice, Corrective Services, Young People (YP) Directorate is informed by the principles and functions outlined in the *Young Offenders Act 1994 (YOA)* and the Department's Strategic Framework 2022–2027.

The YOA and the *Young Offender Regulations 1995* provides for the administration of youth justice in Western Australia. The YOA sets out the provisions for dealing with young persons who have, or are alleged to have, committed offences and to ensure that the legal rights of young people involved with the criminal justice system are observed.

Youth Justice (YJ) is responsible for the safety, security and rehabilitation of young people both in community and in custody. The core objective is to reduce reoffending among young people through:

- programs and services to divert young people away from the criminal justice system
- programs and services for young people on orders in the community
- programs and services in custody.

YJ work holistically with young people and their families to improve outcomes for young people in contact with the justice system.

YJ will always:

- prioritise the safety of the young person and the community
- consider what is in the best interests of the young person and their family
- deliver services to young people that recognise vulnerability, developmental levels, gender, and cultural and religious beliefs and practices
- be informed by evidenced-based practice
- deliver a comprehensive model of practice that is informed by:
 - the needs of each young person and is age, gender, culturally and linguistically appropriate
 - recognition and understanding that many young people in the justice system have experienced multiple traumas and that rehabilitation and care will need to address the trauma's causes and symptoms
 - the identification of protective and risk factors
 - communicate clearly and in a timely manner with all key stakeholders
 - partner with other agencies and organisations to address complex issues contributing to youth offending in the planning and delivery of services
 - engage with Aboriginal people to seek, promote and support culturally competent and Aboriginal designed and led initiatives that reduce reoffending.

Police

Young people who come into contact with the justice system do so through contact with the police. The police have the option of issuing a caution, referring the matter to the Juvenile Justice Team (JJT), or referring the matter to court.

Courts

The Children's Court of Western Australia deals with offences alleged to have been committed by young people aged 10 to under the age of 18.

The court may impose one of the following penalties:

- no punishment and no conditions
- no punishment but with conditions
- fines, costs, restitution and compensation
- responsible adult bond
- good behaviour bond
- referral to a juvenile justice team
- Youth Community Based Order
- Intensive Youth Supervision Order (with or without detention)
- Adult Community Based Order or Adult Intensive Supervision Order
- custodial sentence (imprisonment or detention).

Young people in the Perth metropolitan area whose offending behaviour is linked to drug use can apply to participate in the Children's Drug Court.

Elements, programs and services

Diversion

Juvenile Justice Teams

Juvenile Justice Teams (JJT) provide alternative ways of dealing with minor offending behaviour by diverting young people away from the criminal justice system. Over the past 12-18 months WA has focussed on updating all policies and procedures relating to the JJT. The central focus has been to place a greater emphasis on restorative justice/working appropriately with victims of crime, whilst also ensuring that JJT's are completed in an efficient and effective manner.

JJT referrals are generated by police or the Children's Court. The JJT process offers the opportunity for victims and responsible adults to be involved in the development of an action plan that encourages the young person to take responsibility for their actions and address their offending behaviour. If the young person successfully completes the action plan, they do not receive a criminal record.

Metropolitan Youth Bail Services (MYBS)

Metropolitan Youth Bail Services aims to divert young people from and minimise their time spent in custody in instances where they have been granted bail but no responsible adult is willing or able to enter into a bail undertaking. The primary remit of the service is to ensure young people attend court appearances.

Metropolitan Youth Bail Services staff have a duty of care to ensure that young people being bailed have access to a safe and supportive living environment. MYBS Prevention and Diversion Officers provide case management support and monitor community and family placements to provide the Court with updates on compliance. They also assist young people to access supported and/or independent accommodation options in the event family placements are not available or suitable.

Bail accommodation services are also provided in the East and West Kimberley, Pilbara (South Hedland), Mid-West Gascoyne (Geraldton), and Goldfields (Kalgoorlie).

Case management

The YJ in the community deliver pre-release, transition, and post-release interventions, programs support, and services to assist young people in developing skills to manage their lives without further offending.

YJ case management is the day-to-day management of young people subject to community-based orders. It provides the framework for the planning and coordination of activities and services directed towards the young person with the objective of meeting statutory and policy requirements. Case management provides the structure in which interventions are provided to the young person. YJ develops and maintains productive and collaborative relationships with stakeholders and works to support across-agency approaches to address the complex issues and needs of young people.

YJ use the risk/needs assessments tools:

- Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory 2.0
- Youth Level Services/Case Management Inventory: 5-Item Screener Tool
- Level of Services/Risk Needs and Responsivity.

Risk/needs assessment tools identify the young person's criminogenic needs and are used to inform the level and types of interventions to ensure that the court report plan and case planning activities are focused in the appropriate areas of need.

Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART) is the principal casework intervention used by YJ.

CHART is a structured casework intervention program and provides a way of working with young people subject to Supervised Release Orders, community-based orders with supervision, detention sentences and long-term remand. CHART provides a consistent practical tool to address the young person's criminogenic needs.

Youth Justice Programs

YJ provides a range of services to young people subject to statutory conditions in the community and in custody across Western Australia. These programs seek to address health, rehabilitative, recreational, cultural and educational needs and are delivered by either Departmental staff or externally contracted service providers.

The current externally contracted services include:

- mentoring and case management support services in each major region across the state for young people subject to community-based supervision orders or early release orders
- vocational based engagement day program for young people in the metropolitan region subject to community-based supervision order or early release orders
- Youth Bail Services (24/7 supervised accommodation in a facility) in each major region across the state (with the exception of the Great Southern Region)
- transitional accommodation services (24/7 supervised accommodation in a facility) in the metropolitan region for young people being released from custody with no suitable accommodation

- specialist Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) counselling in the metropolitan region for young people in custody and/or subject to community-based supervision orders or early release orders
- psycho-social programs and support services to young people in custody.

YJ also fund the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (ALSWA) to deliver a metropolitan-based Youth Engagement Program (YEP) to engage Aboriginal young people appearing in the Perth Children's Court to support them through bail and court processes. YEP provides case management, court support and mentoring to young people, as well as referrals to a range of culturally appropriate external services and supports with a focus on diverting young people at the earliest opportunity.

Supported accommodation and bail programs

The Youth Bail Services (YBS) provides temporary and short-term accommodation placements for young people remanded on bail where no responsible adult or appropriate placement can be located. Bail services require 24-hour, 7 days a week supervision and include the provision of day programs and transport to appointments for young people and opportunities to increase their pro-social behaviours prior to their next court appearance. YBS diverts regional and remote Aboriginal young people from custody and enables them to remain on country and in contact with their family and community.

The Youth Transitional Accommodation Program (YTAP) is an accommodation service for young people between 13 years and 17 years and 9 months providing 24-hour, 7 days a week supervision and includes the provision of day program and transport to appointments for young people. This service is designed to provide young people opportunities to gain independent or long term supported accommodation upon release from custody on an early release order or community-based supervision order.

Pre- and post-release support

All educational and vocational programs that a young person engages in while in custody are aimed to be compatible with the young person's abilities and areas of interest. A young person can be referred to a variety of personal development and treatment programs such as:

- drug and alcohol intervention
- emotional management programs
- personal development programs:
 - cultural
 - employability and life skills courses
 - recreational activities
- individual psychological counselling
- sex offender treatment (individual counselling with centre psychologist).

Youth Justice Officers provide support to young people exiting detention on Supervised Release Orders. As part of their release plan young people are referred to a range of services including the YJ programs service providers to assist with their rehabilitation in the community.

Psychological services

Youth Justice Psychological Services is a team responsible for providing psychological services to young people managed by YJ in both community and custody.

Youth Justice Psychological Services are responsible for offence-specific counselling, risk assessments, and pre-sentence psychological reports to the courts. The business unit co-ordinates specialist assessments and interventions to young people and provides support in accordance with their identified needs and release plans.

Services are offered to custodial and community-based centres in the following areas:

- forensic and clinical psychology
- child development
- behavioural management
- counselling to address criminogenic needs
- risk issues and managing vulnerable young people.

Regional services for young people

Youth Justice is located in 6 regional areas across the state and provide:

- the management of young people on bail, juvenile justice teams, community-based orders or supervised release orders
- emergency short-stay accommodation for young people who have been remanded on bail where no responsible adult or appropriate placement can be located.

South Australia

Policy directions

Key policy directions for the Department of Human Services (DHS) Youth Justice include:

- Enhancing and further embedding an individualised, therapeutic and trauma-informed approach to Youth Justice service delivery, underpinned by an evidence-based practice framework.
- Permanent consolidation of youth custodial services onto a single campus with updated facilities through finalisation of the capital works program at the Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre (Kurlana Tapa). This has delivered:
 - a new 12-bed accommodation unit with counselling and sensory rooms to better support young people with complex needs such as autism and intellectual disability
 - a new eight-bed pre-court custody unit to ensure that young people who are not granted police bail are accommodated separately to those on remand or sentenced mandates
 - a new education building with 2 classrooms for music and STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) which adds to already existing education buildings on site
 - an extended visiting space, which connects the existing community and medical centres, for family and professional visits.
- Strengthening programs, services and partnerships to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people in line with commitments under the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- Partnership with researchers from the University of Adelaide to review and strengthen our community case management model, with a particular focus on the capacity to integrate a more culturally safe and trauma-informed approach to assessment and case planning to meet the individual needs of children and young people.
- Building the capacity and capability of the youth justice workforce, including by equipping staff with the skills to undertake complex service delivery to drive quality outcomes.
- Designing and delivering programs/services to ensure that children and young people with high-risk offending, complex and/or specialist needs receive a tailored response.
- Building partnerships with government and non-government services and community to connect children and young people with supports, programs and services to improve outcomes and contribute to community safety.
- Fostering sector and community partnerships to achieve effective and positive outcomes for children and young people.

Agencies

Youth Justice agency

In South Australia, Youth Justice within the Department of Human Services (DHS) has oversight of supervised orders determined by courts under the *Bail Act 1995* and *Young Offenders Act 1993*. DHS Youth Justice is responsible for providing statutory youth justice services, both custodial and community-based, in accordance with the *Youth Justice Administration Act 2016*.

Within the legislative framework, DHS Youth Justice strives for contemporary practice standards in youth justice administration, to improve rehabilitation outcomes for young people and reduce re-offending, while contributing to community safety and upholding victims' rights.

DHS also works with key partner agencies and community partners to connect children, young people and their families with supports, programs and services to achieve positive outcomes.

Police

In South Australia, the police are the first point of contact for young people entering the youth justice system. The police may issue cautions (either informal or formal) to a child or young person who has admitted to an offence. They may also divert young people who admit an offence to a Family Conference, which is provided by the Courts Administration Authority.

Courts

In South Australia, children and young people who are alleged to have committed an offence and who are not diverted to a Family Conference are primarily dealt with by the Youth Court under the provisions of the *Young Offenders Act 1993*. The Youth Court is established under the *Youth Court Act 1993* and presided over by a District Court judge who is designated by proclamation as the Judge of the Youth Court. The Court sits in metropolitan and suburban Adelaide as well as regional locations.

A young person may also have their matters referred to a higher court subject to the seriousness of the offence (for trial as an adult) or if there is a pattern of serious repeat offending.

Elements, programs and services

Diversion

In South Australia, 2 tiers of pre-court diversion apply where it is the first offence or relatively low-level offending, and the young person admits to the alleged offending.

Informal and formal cautions by police constitute the first tier of diversion. Young people who commit offences that are considered too serious for an informal or formal caution may be directed to attend a Family Conference. To be eligible for a Family Conference, the young person must admit to carrying out the offence. If the charge is denied, the matter is referred to the Youth Court.

The Youth Court has discretion to refer matters back to be dealt with by formal police caution or family conference where appropriate.

Bail

The *Bail Act 1985* provides for a presumption of bail. A child or young person who has been arrested can apply for and be granted bail on the condition that they will appear in court at a specified date, place and time. Bail can be granted by the South Australia Police on arrest or, if police bail is refused, an application can be made to the Youth Court. Children and young people who are denied police bail are entitled to a telephone review by a Magistrate where the Youth Court is not readily available (for example on weekends or in remote areas).

DHS Youth Justice is responsible for supporting children and young people on supervised bail to comply with their bail conditions.

Community Service Orders

DHS Youth Justice has a role in overseeing the performance of community service stemming from a Family Conference outcome, an agreement with the Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit or imposed as part of sentencing.

In the metropolitan Adelaide and inner regional areas, SYC delivers the Community Service Order Program, in partnership with DHS. The Program supports young people to meet their community service requirements while developing important skills for studying, working and living independently. DHS Youth Justice delivers the Community Service Order Program outside the metropolitan and inner regional areas.

Case management

Case management is provided to all children and young people under DHS Youth Justice supervision, including for those on both sentenced and unsentenced mandates. DHS Youth Justice takes a flexible and individualised approach to case management, focusing on engagement, dynamic worker-young person relationships, goal setting and goal achievement. Case management promotes desistence from offending and places emphasis on a rehabilitative approach.

South Australia uses a continuum of care approach in the application of case management for those exiting custody into the community, with a particular focus on re-integration and reconnecting to the community. Case conferencing with relevant stakeholders, including young people and their families, is an integral component of our case management approach and supports effective collaboration between DHS Youth Justice and partner agencies.

DHS Youth Justice utilises an evidence-based effective practice model as part of case management, which prioritises a set of practice skills and approaches in all interactions with children, young people and their families. This includes a focus on the client-young person relationship, role clarification and balancing competing priorities of supervision and support, pro-social modelling and other techniques such as cognitive behavioural strategies and working with families.

Offence-focused and related programs

DHS Youth Justice, together with its sector partners, delivers or facilitates delivery of a range of offence-focused and other related programs to support rehabilitation and drive positive outcomes for children and young people. These include therapeutic interventions, life skill development and social integration that builds engagement back to community.

For example, CHART (Changing Habits and Reaching Targets), is a structured, individualised intervention program used as part of case management. It adopts a skills-oriented, cognitive behavioural focus to challenge offending behaviour for young people who require a moderate to high level of intervention to reduce their risk of reoffending. The focus for delivery is to use participatory learning methods and to be responsive to client needs, motivations and learning styles.

A range of programs are offered to children and young people at Kurlana Tapa covering different life domains and areas of need, including to:

- support engagement by children and young people in culture and community
- practically engage young people about alcohol and other drug misuse
- build self esteem
- support young people to build independent living skills and other post-release life skills
- support sexual health and wellbeing
- build understanding of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression
- support the development of emotion management tools such as self-regulation, mediation and resilience
- develop young people's peer relationship skills including teamwork
- support engagement in physical and recreational activity.

DHS Youth Justice works collaboratively with partner agencies to provide culturally appropriate programs to Aboriginal children and young people in Kurlana Tapa, including:

- Respect Sista Girls 2 (RSG2), delivered by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, which supports young women to reclaim their identity, recognise cultural values and build relationships based on their Aboriginal belief systems.
- Yarning Circles, which create a safe space for Aboriginal young people to speak about culture, and men's and women's business with significant Aboriginal role models.
- Cultural Catch-Ups, facilitated by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, which is an informal program designed to meet the cultural needs of the young people attending. Session content includes activities such as the design and creation of boomerangs, learning to play the didgeridoo, exploring the environment, food, traditions and storylines of the young people.

All programs at Kurlana Tapa are reviewed to ensure they are informed by evidence or assessed as suitable for the population.

Education

The Department for Education operates the Youth Education Centre (YEC) on-site at Kurlana Tapa. YEC is a fully accredited secondary school and SACE institution, engaging children and young people in individualised education and training opportunities. Each student at the YEC has an education and training plan, tailored to meet their assessed education and training goals.

Youth Justice Therapeutic Services

DHS Youth Justice Therapeutic Services (YJTS) brings together a range of specialist multi-disciplinary teams that provide individualised and responsive therapeutic support to children and young people across both custodial and community settings. YJTS comprises:

- Youth Justice Assessment and Intervention Service (YJAIS), a multi-disciplinary team consisting of psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists. The team provides consultation, assessment and individual intervention services for young people and staff. This includes:
 - Criminogenic psychological assessments to assist case planning and case management – assessments cover background history, patterns of offending, and include analysis of risk and recommendations for interventions to reduce the likelihood of further offending by a young person
 - Communication and social skills
 - Functional life skills
 - Addressing interpersonal violence
 - Reports for the Youth Court
 - Provision of training to other areas of Youth Justice.
- KIND (Kinship, Improving Relationships, No violence, Developing skills) Program, a 9-module tailored intervention for young people who engage in adolescent family violence or dating violence. Delivered by specialist family violence therapists and involving the young person's families/partner where appropriate, the program focuses on improving relationships, safety and interpersonal skills.
- Enhanced Support Team (EST), which aims to support the therapeutic needs of children and young people at Kurlana Tapa. EST operates within a positive behaviour support framework, developing individualised behaviour support plans for children and young people to enable operational staff to better understand and respond to their needs in a manner which reduces the severity and frequency of behaviours of concern. In addition, EST also provide training to operational staff in trauma-informed and disability-aware therapeutic approaches. Staff within EST also work directly with children and young people to assist them in developing strategies, such as emotion regulation, distress tolerance and prosocial communication.

Programs for Aboriginal children and young people

DHS acknowledges the important role culture plays in the positive growth and development of Aboriginal children and young people within their family and wider cultural community. Aboriginal children and young people and their families are provided with access to a range of cultural support services, including specialist Aboriginal programs delivered at Kurlana Tapa that focus on problem solving and the positive aspects of their cultural identity.

Aboriginal children and young people at Kurlana Tapa are supported by a Senior Aboriginal Cultural Advisor and 2 Aboriginal Cultural Support Workers who work with children, young people and their families and communities to meet their individual cultural needs. A Senior Aboriginal Cultural Advisor also supports Community Youth Justice Case Managers in providing culturally informed services and support, as well as direct engagement with Aboriginal children and young people in the community.

The Circles of Trust engagement tool assists Case Managers to gather information about Aboriginal clients, their family, cultural group and community supports. The information gathered through this tool promotes an understanding of the young person's kinship and family structure. It can assist to identify strengths and issues within this structure, the young person's connection to culture and community, and the impact of any grief and loss.

Child Diversion Program

The Child Diversion Program (CDP) provides short-term, culturally safe supported accommodation, and community-based support for Aboriginal children between the ages of 10–14 years as an alternative to custody. The CDP model uses an evidence-informed approach, focusing on Aboriginal methodologies and culturally centred approaches to engagement. These include Aboriginal Family-Led Decision Making, Relationship Based Practice, Kinship and Family Mapping.

Metropolitan Aboriginal Youth and Family Services

Metropolitan Aboriginal Youth and Family Services (MAYFS) is a dedicated Aboriginal service within DHS with a focus on diverting young people away from the justice system and towards improved life outcomes. MAYFS' restorative and family inclusive service has a strong focus on strengthening Aboriginal young people's connection to family, community and culture. As part of this, MAYFS works closely with other agencies, including DHS Youth Justice, South Australia Police, Courts, schools and non-government and community service organisations to facilitate access to a range of services and programs. MAYFS offers a range of supports including family-inclusive case management, social participation and cultural connection through a suite of cultural programs, connections to education, training, skills development and employment, support with legal matters and referral to other services.

Tasmania

Policy directions

The key policy directions in youth justice in Tasmania include:

- On 9 September 2021 the Premier announced the closure of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) to be replaced by smaller purpose-built facility in the south as part of the broader youth justice reform.
- In December 2021 the *Reforming Tasmania's Youth Justice System: Discussion Paper* was released, providing the foundation for the consultation process to inform the development of the ten-year Blueprint outlining the strategic direction for Youth Justice in Tasmania.
- In November 2022 the final version of the Youth Justice Blueprint 2022-32 was released. The Blueprint outlines the strategic direction for Tasmania's youth justice system for the next 10 years with the aim of improving and supporting the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and their families whilst addressing the underlying drivers of offending behaviours, reducing offending and improving community safety.
- The Blueprint was developed based on analysis of current data about youth offending, research on contemporary and evidence-based practice nationally and internationally, discussions with children and young people in the youth justice system and extensive consultation and collaboration with the Tasmanian community and government agencies.
- To deliver a contemporary, evidence informed and connected youth justice system for Tasmania, 5 key strategies have been identified for focus over the next ten years. The 5 strategies are:
 - Prioritise prevention and early intervention to reduce engagement with the youth justice system.
 - Ensure diversion from the justice system is early and lasting.
 - Establish a therapeutically based criminal justice response for children and young people.
 - Integrate and connect whole-of-government and community service systems.
 - Provide an appropriately trained and supported therapeutic workforce.
- The Blueprint recognises that Aboriginal communities are best placed to ensure there are appropriate responses to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in the youth justice system in Tasmania. This will be achieved by partnering with these communities to provide culturally appropriate supports and services for their children and young people at risk of offending or reoffending.
- Implementing the Blueprint over a ten-year timeframe will be a dynamic process that continues to evolve as we make progress and evaluate our responses. It will therefore be supported by a series of Action Plans implemented through a whole of government, whole of community approach. Focus areas and priority actions may change over time to reflect the views of children and young people, new priorities, and reflections on existing work.
- The Youth Justice Facilities Model was released alongside the Blueprint in November 2022 and an updated Youth Justice Reform Taskforce Action Plan 2024–2025 released in October 2024. The Action Plan outlines the priorities to allow the Tasmanian Government's commitment to closing Ashley Youth Detention Centre and replacing it with a fit for purpose detention facility in the South of the state to occur.
- The Commission of Inquiry into the *Tasmanian Government's responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings* recommendations report was publicly released in September 2023. The Tasmanian Government has accepted all the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and are guiding and informing youth justice reform. Current actions also includes ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the children and young people at Ashley Youth Detention Centre until its intended closure.
- As part of this reform, the Government has also announced the intention to raise the minimum age of detention from 10 to 14 years.

Agencies

Services for Youth Justice

The Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) is responsible for providing the following youth justice services:

- coordinating diversionary community conferencing
- providing statutory community-based supervision of young people on court orders
- providing support for court processes
- providing safe and secure custodial services and pre- and post-release support
- providing integrated case management of young people on legal orders
- managing the community service order program.

Police

Tasmania Police (within the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management) are the first point of contact for young people entering the criminal justice system, and are responsible for:

- Dealing with reported youth crime and deciding whether to divert or to prosecute matters in the courts.
- Providing diversionary pre-court and informal and formal cautioning services.
- Referring a young person to Community Youth Justice for a non-court-based community conference.

Courts

In Tasmania, young people alleged to have committed an offence who are not diverted are dealt with by the Magistrates Court (Youth Justice Division) through a magistrate, under the provisions of the *Youth Justice Act 1997*. The Supreme Court may hear offences prescribed under the Act.

The Magistrates Court uses specialist lists to improve timeliness to finalisation, consistency in court decisions, coordination of youth justice services to the court and collaboration between relevant agencies. These lists have a nominated magistrate which provides continuity.

Elements, programs and services

Early Intervention

The Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line provides the single front door for young people experiencing vulnerabilities and can assist with targeted and coordinated support.

Diversion

The *Youth Justice Act 1997* provides a comprehensive framework for restorative justice, including the restoration or reparation of harm done in the community. Under the Act, diversion from the criminal justice system is the principal outcome sought for all young people. Detention is considered a sentencing option of last resort.

There are 2 primary levels of non-court-based diversion in Tasmania:

- Police have the power to informally or formally caution young people who have admitted to committing an offence.
- If the matter is considered more serious, police may request Community Youth Justice to conduct a community conference, which is convened by an independent facilitator.

A formal caution or a community conference can bring young people face to face with their victims to decide how best to rectify the harm caused by their offending.

Case management

Case management in Community Youth Justice identifies:

- The requirements of the court order and strategies to fulfil these.
- The services and strategies required to address needs as determined by the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory risk assessment tools and general assessment process, including other professional assessments as required.
- The relevant people and services to help identify strategies and goals.
- The level of agreement among those involved, including the young person and Community and/or Custodial Youth Justice, on the goals and strategies to achieve these goals, and the associated level of commitment.
- The process of assessing and monitoring progress, and the point at which involvement with the young person will diminish.

The case management approach in place at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) takes account of the needs of the individual young person and any court-ordered obligations, as well as community expectations. A comprehensive assessment process undertaken upon admission informs this approach and continues throughout the period of detention.

Offence-specific and therapeutic programs

Targeted Youth Support Service

The Targeted Youth Support Service is a state-wide community-based program funded by the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) to provide intensive case management and therapeutic interventions for young people aged 10–17. The target group are young people with substantial or multiple-risk issues who, without intensive support, would be at risk of notification to the Child Safety Service or entry into, or escalation within, the youth justice system.

Changing Habits and Reaching Targets

Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART) is an offending behaviour program that addresses the offending needs of high-risk young people on supervised orders. The program uses active, participatory learning methods and employs a skills-oriented, cognitive-behavioural approach to casework with young offenders.

Multisystemic Therapy

In partnership with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Life without Barriers provides Multisystemic Therapy (MST) to support children and young people whose severe antisocial behaviour puts them at risk of disengagement from school and entry into the youth justice system. MST provides this support by helping children and young people to build skills to function responsibly and successfully in their natural environments long term. Some of the ways MST supports young people by:

- addressing the core causes of the young person's behaviour
- viewing the young person as a network of systems, including family, peers, school, and neighbourhood
- building the strength of the systems surrounding the young person
- empowering caregivers to be long-term change agents.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – assessments for youth at risk

Patches provides a multi-disciplinary assessment for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in a non-judgemental manner, with a focus on building on people's strengths and working toward their goals. For those requiring therapy and support, Patches provides ongoing allied health and psychology services for common issues experienced by individuals with FASD, such as anxiety, attention and sleep difficulties, social communication difficulties and behavioural dysregulation. Patches provides FASD assessment services for youth at risk of involvement in the youth justice system so that they can receive the supports they need to achieve better life outcomes.

National Disability Insurance Scheme Justice Liaison Officers

Justice Liaison Officers (JLOs) support people with disabilities while they are in custody and when transitioning back into the community. JLOs can:

- Work with mainstream justice services to help a person to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- Proactively respond to enquiries and resolve any barriers between the NDIS and mainstream services.
- Provide support and help a young person during the NDIS access process and help others understand the process.
- Provide education and promote a best practice approach.

Further, JLOs can also provide support across the NDIS pathway, including access, developing a NDIS plan, using your funded supports and making any changes.

Youth Justice Education Liaison Officers

Through Community Youth Justice, Education Liaison Officers provide support from an education perspective for young people engaging with Tasmania Police and/or with the Youth Justice system. They support young people through leading, establishing, and maintaining effective communication between students, families, courts, magistrates, schools, Learning Services and other agencies (for example, NDIS, Centrelink) as required to effectively reengage young people in a suitably appropriate education provision. Through case management, Education Liaison Officers provide advice, support, recommendations, and options and assist in the development and implementation of programs that support the engagement and re-engagement of at-risk students in education.

Step up

Step up is a statewide program provided by Colony 47. Colony 47 works with adolescents aged 11 to 17 who are using violent behaviour in the home, towards family members or intimate partners. The program is a one-on-one case management, outreach model that works with both the young person and their family or intimate partner. Young people learn and practice nonviolent, respectful ways of communicating and resolving conflict with those they have been abusive towards, while parents learn a model of respectful parenting that balances leadership and positive support, promoting non-violence in the family.

Police and Community Youth Club

Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC) is a not-for-profit, community organisation that provides a range of sporting and recreational activities for young people after school and during the school holidays. PCYC staff aim to create positive connections with young people and the community with the aim to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. PCYC is statewide and runs several mobile activity centre trailers travelling to all parts of Tasmanian providing recreational activities to regional and remote areas.

Juvenile Fire Lighting Intervention Program

The Juvenile Fire Lighting Intervention Program (JFLIP) is a state-wide behaviour change program designed for children aged 4–14 who engage in unsafe fire-setting. It is a family-based program delivered in the home by trained JFLIP fire-fighters. JFLIP practitioners also participate in community conferences and formal cautions for young people who have committed fire-related offences.

Health services at Ashley Youth Detention Centre

Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) offers an onsite health centre in conjunction with Correctional Primary Health Services and Forensic Mental Health Services. It functions 7 days a week, 12 hours a day with an on-call service extending this to 24-hour coverage. Health services provided include general practitioner, general and mental health nursing, mental health assessment and treatment, pharmacy, pharmacotherapy treatment, alcohol or other drug use and dental. The centre also facilitates access to community-based health and assessment services.

Rehabilitative programs at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre

Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) has a comprehensive Practice Framework based on evidence and best practice therapeutic strategies. All young people at the AYDC participate in a range of rehabilitative programs aligned with this framework. The programs offered and techniques applied take place within a case management context, are evidence-based and focus on offender rehabilitation. The program framework is designed to provide cognitive-based therapeutic programs for persistent and serious offenders and address specific criminogenic and social needs. Basic interventions that address issues that may affect community integration, such as employment, education, accommodation and leisure, are also included.

Transition from Ashley Youth Detention Centre

This program, delivered by 54 reasons (Save the Children), works with young people aged 12–18 who are in detention and/or remand in AYDC, assisting them to reintegrate into the community. Youth workers support young people both in AYDC and when they transition back into the community to support young people by increasing support networks and providing one-on-one sustainable skill building. 54 reasons will also work with the young person to identify and meet their recreational, educational and vocational and/or employment goals and aspirations.

Supporting Young People on Bail

54 reasons work in partnership with Community Youth Justice, the Magistrates Court, Early Intervention Units, Tasmania Police and other community agencies to support children and young people aged 12–18 who have been placed on bail. Youth workers work with young people to identify their recreational, educational and vocational/ employment goals and aspirations. These goals form the young person's Bail Support Plan. Support is provided to the young person during their bail period to help them meet their goals.

Education

DECYP operates a school on site at the AYDC for young people of compulsory and non-compulsory school age. The educational focus for detainees reflects the curriculum used in schools and training facilities in the community.

Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

Youth Justice has a number of partnerships with Indigenous organisations, including:

- Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (TAC), which has supervised a number of young people on community service orders and involved them in health and wellbeing programs, as well as tasks such as land care.
- The Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation delivers the Youth Prevention and Diversion Program which provides case management, mentoring and referrals to other service providers for Indigenous Youth (aged 12 to 24) at risk of offending or entering the criminal justice system. The program also offers reintegration services for young people returning to the community from AYDC and support services to bridge the gap to education and employment services.

Representation from an Aboriginal organisation is often involved in the Care Team process and Community Conferencing for a young person who identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Other programs and services

Tasmania's Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) acts as an advocate for all young people detained at AYDC. As advocate for young people at AYDC, the commissioner is concerned with the overall physical and emotional wellbeing of each young person. In fulfilling this role, the commissioner listens to and gives voice to concerns and grievances, educates young people on their rights, and facilitates resolution of issues and access to support services as appropriate. From March 2022, the CCYP has had a dedicated full time Advocate for Young People in Detention working 2 days onsite at AYDC.

AYDC is also subject to the oversight of the Custodial Inspector. The purpose of the Custodial Inspector is to provide independent, proactive, preventative and systemic oversight of custodial centres. In particular, the Custodial Inspector provides external scrutiny through an independent statutory office and the publication of reports and recommendations. The focus of the Inspector is on systemic issues relating to the management, control and security of the state's prisons and youth detention centre and the care and welfare of prisoners and detainees.

Australian Capital Territory

Policy directions

The ACT's youth justice system operates within a trauma-informed and therapeutic practice approach, based on an understanding of the neurological, biological, psychological and social effects of trauma on a young person. This approach seeks to prevent escalation of anti-social or offending behaviour and is respectful of young people's histories, experience, needs, culture and aspirations.

A number of ACT Government strategies support the policy direction of the youth justice system, including:

- Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility. On 22 November 2023, the *Justice (Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility) Legislation Amendment Act 2023* (the Act) was passed in a historic reform. This Act reflects the Territory's dedication to enhancing the lives of children, young people, and families by raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) to 14 years in 2 stages, from 10 to 12 years in 2023 and from 12 to 14 years on 1 July 2025. This reform creates an imperative to improve the therapeutic service system for those involved in, or at risk of, harmful behaviour and their families, as an alternative to involvement in the youth justice system.
- The Act established the Therapeutic Support Panel for Children and Young People (Panel), a multi-disciplinary team of experts chaired by an independent statutory office holder to facilitate individualised services that address the therapeutic needs of children and young people who engage in harmful behaviour. A key role of the Chair and Panel is to identify areas for systemic reform and development of the broader service system so it is better able to support children and young people and their families. The Chair of the Panel reports systemic issues directly to the Minister for Children, Youth and Family Services.
- The Territory is continuing to monitor the impact of raising the MACR on the service system to identify supports needed to further enhance the therapeutic service system for children, young people and families.
- *Next Steps for our Kids 2022–2030: ACT Strategy to Strengthen Families and Keep Children and Young People Safe* (Next Steps) was launched in June 2022. Next Steps sets out an ambitious 8-year reform strategy that builds on the positive outcomes of *A Step Up for Our Kids: One step can make a lifetime of difference (Out of Home Care strategy 2015–2020)* and addresses the ongoing challenges of the child and youth protection system. Next Steps includes an integration of earlier family support, prevention services, child protection, out of home care and youth justice and seeks to strengthen families who interact with these systems.
- The *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019–2028*, including an Action Plan to achieve the outcome of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families and communities thriving in a safe environment and having equitable access to justice and culturally safe restorative justice, prevention and diversion programs.
- The *Disability Justice Strategy 2019–2029*, which aims to achieve equity and inclusion for people with disability in the justice system.
- The response to the *Healthy Centre Review of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre 2020*, which provides recommendations to ensure custodial services are safe, ensure young people are respected and have dignity, facilitate purposeful activity and lead rehabilitation and preparation for release. A second Healthy Centre Review of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre commenced in late 2023.

Building on these strategies, the ACT has commenced planning for a new youth justice strategy, which will have a focus on through care and embedding therapeutic approaches across the system.

Agencies

Youth justice agency

The Community Services Directorate is responsible for providing youth justice services in the ACT. These services include the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Bimberi) – youth justice case management – and the After-Hours Crisis Service.

During the reporting year, Services related to youth justice and child protection are integrated and are collectively known as Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS). CYPS is responsible for the assessment, supervision and support of children and young people subject to bail or justice orders, either in the community or in custody. CYPS also provides pre-sentence reports on young people to the courts and is the lead service supporting young people accessing the After-Hours Crisis Service.

In response to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility and legislative reform in the ACT child protection system, a major reform of youth justice and child protection services commenced in 2023. This reform will include the separation of youth justice and child protection services and the formation of a new Youth Justice and Adolescent Services branch from July 2024.

Police

ACT Policing is the first point of contact for young people entering the criminal justice system in the ACT. Police officers have discretionary powers to divert young people who have committed minor offences using a warning and diversionary system. If a decision is made to prosecute, ACT Policing may issue a summons for the young person, over the age of 12 years to attend court or detain them until the next sitting of the Childrens Court.

ACT Policing, along with the ACT Childrens Court, is a primary referral source linking young people to a restorative justice response. The Restorative Justice Unit within the Justice and Community Safety Directorate is responsible for managing all restorative justice conferences.

Courts

The ACT Childrens Court deals with young people who are alleged to have committed an offence while aged 12 to 17 years, and who are not diverted from the criminal justice system. Young people convicted of indictable offences in the Childrens Court may be committed to the Supreme Court for sentencing. Young people who are convicted by the Supreme Court may be remitted to the Childrens Court for sentencing.

The Warrumbul Children's Circle Sentencing Court is an alternative model of sentencing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people attending the ACT Children's Court. It is a type of restorative practice that aims to provide culturally relevant and effective sentencing options for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

ACT legislation enables a young person's criminal matters to be dismissed if a Court considers the young person is in need of care and protection. The Court may take this action on its own accord or following receipt of a report prepared by CYPS.

Elements, programs and services

Diversion

Diversionary programs provide a targeted response for young offenders, many of whom are first-time offenders and may be at risk of becoming persistent offenders. These programs divert young people from entering or continuing in the youth justice system in the ACT:

- The After-Hours Crisis Service aims to keep young people out of custody by providing community-based options as an alternative to being remanded in Bimberi and assists young people on justice orders to comply with the conditions of their orders.
- The Restorative Justice Unit (RJU) provides a safe process for people harmed by crime and those responsible to discuss what happened, who has been impacted and how, as well as what can be done to try to address the harm caused. The RJU is committed to providing a culturally safe and trauma-informed space to support and guide that communication. An Indigenous Guidance Partner and Indigenous Convenor are available to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients through the restorative justice process.
- Youth Alcohol and Drug Diversion Programs aim to divert young people away from the youth justice system, referring them to assessment and education programs:
 - The Youth Alcohol Diversion Program provides intervention and education to young people who engage in underage drinking.
 - The Illicit Drug Diversion Program provides intervention and education to people who engage in drug taking.
 - These programs, delivered through a partnership between ACT Policing and Canberra Health Services, also collect data on young people and their use of alcohol and other drugs, with a view to reducing harm, binge drinking and associated social and health problems in the community.

Functional Family Therapy – Youth Justice

In early 2021, a pilot program was established to strengthen family supports and community connections to decrease young people's involvement in criminal activity and reduce their risk of engagement with the youth justice system. The pilot ended in July 2022 and an independent evaluation of the pilot was undertaken to understand the impacts, outcomes and processes of the program. ACT Government committed \$3.076 million over 4 years from 2023–24 to deliver a FFT-YJ program as part of a suite of reforms to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Yarrabi Bamirr

Yarrabi Bamirr (meaning 'walk tall' in the Ngunnawal language) was officially launched as a trial in mid-2017 at Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services under the name 'Justice Reinvestment Program'. This approach targets families with children and uses a family-centric model of service support with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, to improve life outcomes and reduce or prevent contact with the criminal justice

system. In 2020, the program ceased being a trial, was expanded, and continues to be delivered by Winnunga Nimmityjah and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations in the ACT.

Yarrabi Bamirr is designed to address complex needs using a comprehensive approach that is co-designed with the client and their family. A range of agencies work collaboratively to support the issues clients are experiencing. This involves intensive support that gradually builds the clients' own capacity to navigate issues and self-manage their affairs.

Offence-specific and therapeutic programs

A range of programs and interventions are delivered within the community and custodial environments to address the needs of young people. These include programs that focus on alcohol and other drug issues, relationship issues and educational needs. The Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART) program, a cognitively based intervention designed to help young people to change their thinking and decision-making processes, is delivered in the community and Bimberi.

Young people at Bimberi are provided with tailored case plans that recognise the importance of recovery from trauma, consider a disability assessment and strengthen life skills. A full-time Principal Practitioner is employed at Bimberi to strengthen trauma-informed therapeutic treatment and case management support for young people with complex and challenging presentations. A range of partnerships also operate to assist young people through:

- a focus on education
- employment skills programs
- post-release support
- disability support
- health and mental health support.

Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

CYPS has a dedicated cultural services team, which assists case managers to provide culturally appropriate support and supervision to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

Bimberi employs a designated Family Engagement Officer, who supports engagement between young people and families, and works with case managers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community service providers to ensure young people transitioning from custody are supported within their community.

The Murrumbidgee School at Bimberi also has 2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Transition Officers, who facilitates the transition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people into appropriate training, education or employment options.

Canberra Health Services' Aboriginal Liaison Officers attend Bimberi each week to provide wellbeing support and Aboriginal Health Assessments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community service providers run various programs at Bimberi, including counselling, family support and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

Supported accommodation and bail programs

The After-Hours Crisis Service aims to keep young people out of custody by providing community-based options as an alternative to being remanded in Bimberi and assisting young people on justice orders to comply with the conditions of their orders. Staff work with young people, court officials and other service providers to ensure that, where appropriate, young people are able to remain in the community while being supervised for compliance with bail conditions.

The Narrabundah House Indigenous Supported Residential Facility provides crisis, short- to medium-term accommodation options and intensive case management, primarily for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young men aged 14–18 who are on community-based justice orders. The facility provides supported accommodation and culturally based residential programs focused on community participation and integration.

Safer Youth Response Service Pilot

Starting in December 2023, the ACT Government has funded the Safer Youth Response Service (SYRS) pilot program, a new front-line initiative designed to support the recently enacted MACR legislation and government priorities of improved therapeutic supports and services to children, young people and families. The pilot works with children and young people through a direct referral pathway from ACT Policing to on-call youth workers and overnight crisis accommodation for young people unable to return home if required.

Oversight mechanisms

The ACT youth justice system operates within a human rights framework, governed by the *Human Rights Act 2004* (ACT), and is committed to delivering transparent and accountable services. Existing oversight mechanisms and agencies include:

- an Official Visitor for Children and Young People and an Official Visitor who identifies as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person supports young people in detention or in out of home care to raise concerns and complaints
- the ACT Human Rights Commission and Public Advocate provides external oversight of Bimberi and the broader youth justice system. CYPS works with these agencies to promote continuous practice improvement

- a Charter of Rights for Young People in Bimberi Youth Justice Centre to strengthen the protection of young people in Bimberi
- the Inspector of Correctional Services, established under the *Inspector of Correctional Services Act 2017* to oversee and examine the operations of the adult and youth detention systems in the ACT
- the Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people established under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner Act 2022*, to advocate for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, to identify and examine issues that affect the human rights and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people – and make recommendations to government and non-government agencies on legislation, policies, practices and services that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people
- the ACT's National Preventative Mechanism (NPM), consisting of the ACT Ombudsman, the ACT Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Inspector of Correctional Services has been appointed as part of the ACT's human rights obligations under the *Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (OPCAT).

Northern Territory

Policy directions

The Department of Corrections (DoC) is responsible with leading youth justice policy and strategic direction in the Northern Territory (NT). Following recent Machinery of Government (MoG) changes, formal youth justice policy governance framework within DoC is still under development but will be focussed on the Government's 3 pillars of reducing crime, rebuilding economy and restoring lifestyle.

DoC is now in the process of redesigning a comprehensive youth justice policy. This will involve the Government's key priorities and ensuring alignment with both the department's overall objectives and the new government's commitments. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) will support DoC in its efforts to reduce youth crime and provide alternative pathways to help break the cycle of reoffending.

Agencies

Department of Corrections and Department of Children and Families

Department of Children and Families (DCF) brings together a range of advocacy and frontline service delivery functions to support the delivery of youth justice services that provide alternative (non-statutory) pathways to break the cycle of reoffending.

In addition, DCF's Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Teams are based across the Territory and focus on building strong relationships and identifying gaps across services that support young people and their families to navigate the youth justice system.

Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Officers within these teams act in the best interests of young people, focusing on early intervention and prevention, taking a proactive outreach to reduce antisocial and offending behaviours.

Department of Corrections (DoC) is responsible for the supervision of youth in detention within the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre and the Hotlze Youth Detention Centre based in Darwin.

The *Northern Territory Youth Detention Centres Model of Care* informs how youth detention centres will work to rehabilitate young offenders and keep the community safe.

This document is the result of a more than 18-month consultation process with youth and their families, health and education providers, youth detention staff, advocates, police and sector experts.

The document sets out the steps the DoC will take to improve the way care is provided for young people in detention. These changes will be from the moment a young person enters detention to well after they have returned to the community.

DoC is also responsible for the supervision of a youth on a Court order with Community Youth Justice Officers (CYJO) based across the Northern Territory. CYJOs lead case management, working with young people and their families, and internal and external Government and non-Government service providers, so the youth fulfills statutory obligations and responsibilities.

Police

Youth offenders in the Northern Territory who are dealt with by Northern Territory Police may be referred to the NT Police Youth Pre-Court Diversion Scheme (YDS) under either section 39 or 64 of the *Youth Justice Act 2005*. Depending on the nature of the offending, a young person may also be released on bail, or remanded in custody.

Courts

If the court finds a charge proven against a young person, the decision may be made to:

- dismiss the charge or discharge the young person without penalty
- adjourn the matter for up to 6 months and, if the young person does not commit a further offence during that period, discharge them without penalty
- adjourn the matter to a specified date within 12 months of the finding of guilt, and grant bail to the young person for the purposes of assessing prospects for rehabilitation, allowing the youth to demonstrate they have rehabilitated or for any other purpose the court considers appropriate
- order the young person to participate in a specified program that has been approved by the Minister

- order that the young person be released, subject to conditions including to observe any specified conditions, be of good behaviour for a specified period or appear before the court if called to do so
- impose a fine
- make a community work order
- order that the young person serve a term of detention or imprisonment that is suspended
- order that the young person serve a term of detention or imprisonment
- make any other order that another court could make if the young person were an adult.

Elements, programs and services

Youth pre-court diversion

The YDS operated by Northern Territory (NT) Police operates within a Restorative Justice framework and includes verbal and written warnings, Drug Diversion and Youth Justice Conferencing (with either family or victim–offender). Conference outcomes can include referral to formal programs to assist with the issues behind offending. These can include alcohol and other drugs or anger management counselling, and conditions such as an apology to the victim, community work and engagement with school.

NT Police provide ongoing training on the YDS and restorative justice conference facilitation to both police and non-government service providers who work with youth offenders.

Case management

All YDS clients who are formally diverted are case managed through the diversion process. Non-government services, funded under the Youth Diversion Grants Program managed by the DoC services, provide specific case management services in urban and remote areas. In remote communities they also work under a community development model with young people at risk and those undergoing reintegration from detention.

Offence-specific and therapeutic programs

NT Police work closely with all community-based services so that young people may access programs relevant to their needs. Programs used by the YDS can include substance abuse, anger management, training and education, and community work.

Drug Diversion is also offered for first-time low-level offending. This is generally referral for education-based services.

Community Youth Justice Officers

Community Youth Justice Officers (CYJOs) play a crucial role in the Northern Territory's Youth Justice System, dedicated to supporting and rehabilitating young people in contact with the justice system. They work with young offenders, families, community organisations, and various stakeholders to deliver programs and services that promote positive behavioural changes, accountability, and reintegration into the community.

CYJOs serve as a bridge between the youth justice system and the communities, fulfilling several essential functions:

Case management and assessment

- CYJOs conduct comprehensive assessments of young offenders, considering various factors such as background, risk of re-offending, family circumstances, and specific needs. Based on these assessments, they develop individualised case plans to guide each young person's rehabilitation journey.
- Case management responsibilities include setting goals with the young person, regularly reviewing progress, and adapting case plans based on evolving needs and circumstances.

Community engagement and liaison

- CYJOs work closely with community organisations, family members, educational institutions, and healthcare providers to ensure a holistic approach to youth rehabilitation. Their role is to strengthen community ties, provide resources, and involve local services in the youth's support network.
- They often act as advocates for young people, helping to build pathways to education, employment, and other prosocial opportunities within the community.

Court support and reporting

- CYJOs prepare and present reports for the Youth Justice Court, including bail assessments, supervision assessments and pre-sentence reports and recommendations on conditions that should be placed on these orders. They provide insights to the Court into the young person's progress, challenges, and suitability for specific programs.
- They may attend court proceedings to support young people and their families, explain legal processes, and clarify available options to both the young person and the court.

Monitoring and compliance

- Part of the CYJO's role is to monitor compliance with court orders, diversion programs, community work orders and conditions such as curfews, attendance at education or employment, and participation in programs. They conduct regular check-ins to ensure the young person meets their obligations.
- CYJO's are responsible for electronic monitoring when a young person is subject to an electronic monitoring device (EMD). Assisting a young person to comply and reporting breaches to the Court or Northern Territory Police.

- Non-compliance is managed through interventions designed to support young people in fulfilling their commitments while addressing underlying issues that may be contributing to challenges in adherence. Non-compliance of bail conditions are reported directly to the Northern Territory Police and Conditional breaches are lodged with the respective court.

Key programs and support mechanisms

The Northern Territory's Youth Justice System includes a variety of programs and supports managed or facilitated by CYJOs, aiming to reduce reoffending and address factors contributing to youth offending.

Diversion programs

- Diversion programs are a central component of the youth justice strategy, aiming to divert young people away from formal court processes and into constructive activities. These programs may include education, skills development, community service, cultural programs, and restorative justice practices.
- CYJOs collaborate with local community services to tailor programs that align with the young person's cultural and individual needs, fostering accountability and promoting positive social behaviour.

Restorative Justice and Victim Engagement

- Restorative justice programs emphasise accountability, empathy, and making amends. CYJOs support victim-offender mediation sessions where appropriate, allowing young people to understand the impact of their actions and engage in meaningful reparations.
- These programs help build empathy, understanding, and personal responsibility while offering victims a voice in the justice process.

Rehabilitation and Skills Development Programs

- Rehabilitation initiatives aim to address the underlying issues that contribute to youth offending, such as substance abuse, trauma, mental health challenges, and lack of education or employment opportunities.
- CYJOs link young people to relevant services, including counselling, education and skills development opportunities, and mentoring, to help them develop essential life skills and increase their chances of positive reintegration into society.

Family and Cultural Support

- Recognising the importance of family and culture, CYJOs actively involve family members and community members in the young person's rehabilitation. They work with Aboriginal Cultural Advisors to ensure culturally sensitive approaches in all aspects of the youth justice process.
- By integrating cultural programs and family involvement, CYJOs promote healing, identity formation, and community reintegration for Indigenous youth.

Ongoing Risk Assessment and Crisis Intervention

- CYJOs perform continuous risk assessments, particularly for young people who may pose risks to themselves or others. They coordinate with mental health services, educational authorities, and family members to provide immediate intervention when necessary.
- In cases of acute crisis, CYJOs ensure that young people have access to crisis support services, including emergency housing, mental health care, and substance abuse support.

Challenges and collaboration with stakeholders

The role of a CYJO is multifaceted and requires significant coordination across multiple sectors. Challenges include managing high caseloads, addressing complex mental health and behavioural issues, and working within diverse cultural contexts. To navigate these challenges effectively, CYJOs collaborate with:

- **Supreme Court, Youth Justice Court and Northern Territory** for alignment on legal obligations and compliance
- **Social Services and Health Providers** for comprehensive health and well-being support
- **Educational and Employment Services** to build pathways for positive reintegration
- **Community Organisations** to ensure culturally sensitive programming and community support.

Community Youth Justice Officers play a vital role in the Northern Territory's youth justice framework, focusing on the rehabilitation, support, and reintegration of young people. Through assessment, case management, community engagement, and close monitoring, CYJOs address the root causes of youth offending, promote personal growth, and work to prevent recidivism. By fostering strong community partnerships, utilising restorative justice approaches, and advocating for youth, CYJOs support a youth justice system that aims to positively reshape lives and strengthen communities across the Northern Territory.

[1] On 1 July 2019 Juvenile Justice NSW became Youth Justice NSW under machinery of government changes following the March 2019 state election

[2] Under the same machinery of government changes, following the state election in March 2019, the Department of Justice and the Department of Family and Community Services were merged to form the Department of Communities and Justice

[3] The *Youth Justice Act 2024* raises the age of criminal responsibility in Victoria to 12 years old, starting from mid-2025.

[4] The Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training (DYJESBT) was responsible for providing youth justice services in Queensland. As a result of the Machinery of Government change that occurred in December 2023 the Department of Youth Justice was established.

Notes

Data quality statement

Youth Justice NMDS 2023-24; Quality Statement

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Data

Data tables: Characteristics of young people under supervision

Data

Tables S1 to S33

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Data tables: Characteristics of young people under community-based supervision

Data

Tables S34 to S71

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Data tables: Characteristics of young people in detention

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Data tables: State and territory summary

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Data tables: Population numbers

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