



Youth justice orders and supervision periods: 2011–12

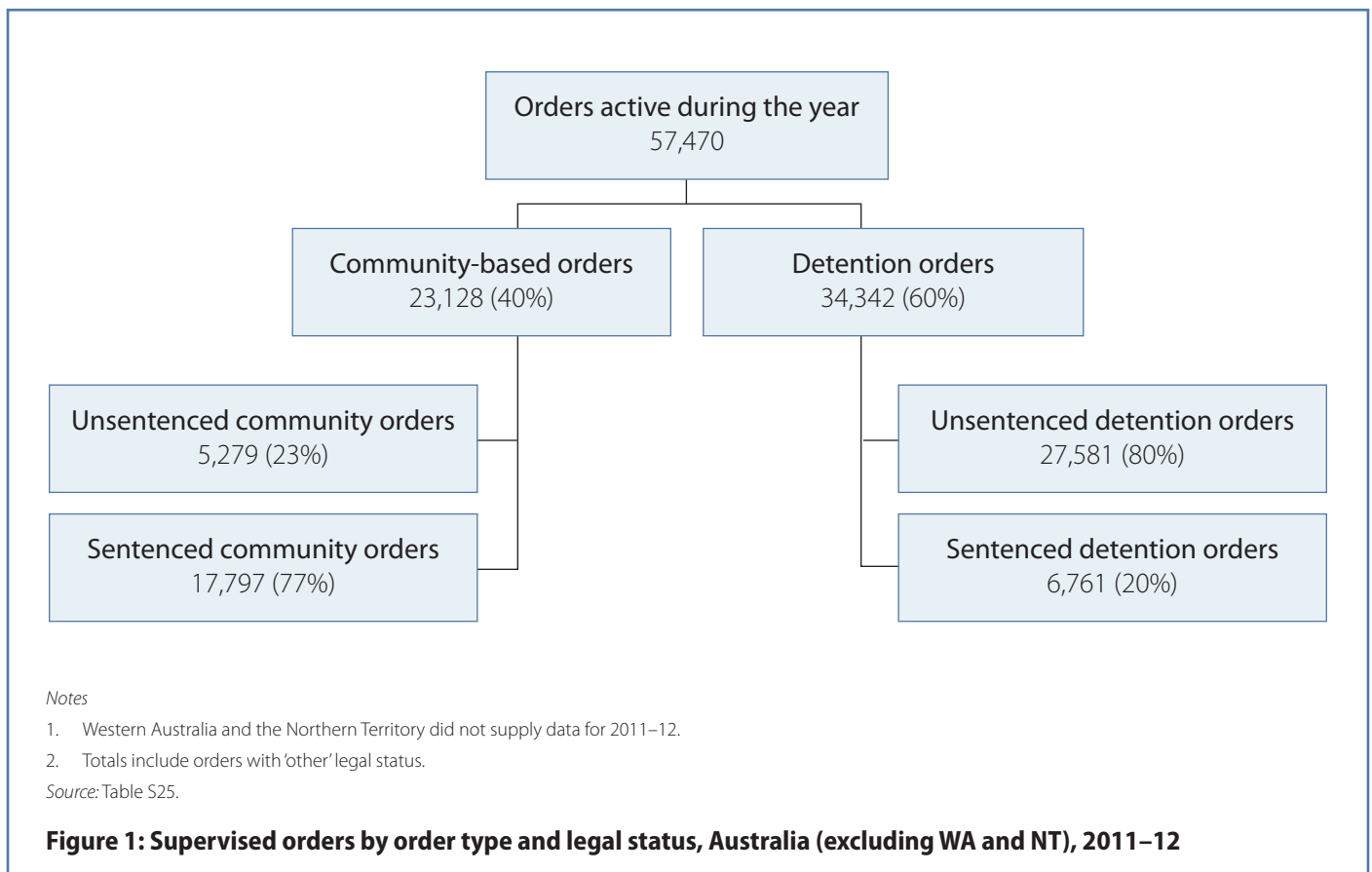
This fact sheet summarises information on the number of supervised orders administered by state and territory youth justice agencies, and the periods of supervision experienced by young people in 2011–12. To some extent, differences between states and territories in the numbers and types of legal orders reflect differences in legislation and legal and administrative practices.

Supervised orders

In 2011–12, the 11,370 young people under youth justice supervision were supervised under a total of 57,470

orders, which equates to about 5 orders per person, on average (excluding Western Australia and the Northern Territory; see Box 1) (tables S1 and S25).

Although most (87%) young people were supervised in the community on an average day in 2011–12, the majority (60%) of the orders active during the year were detention orders (Figure 1, tables S1 and S36). Most of the active detention orders were unsentenced (80%), while most of the community-based orders were sentenced (77%) (Figure 1).



In all states and territories except South Australia and New South Wales, the majority of active orders were community-based orders (57–67%). In South Australia and New South Wales, the majority of orders were detention orders (61% and 72% respectively) (Table S25).

Most (62%) young people who were supervised under at least one order in 2011–12 had multiple orders (Table S26). Indigenous young people were more likely than non-Indigenous young people to have had multiple orders during the year (70% compared with 60%).

Young people under community-based supervision had fewer orders during the year, on average, than those in detention (2.3 orders per person, on average, compared with 7.6; overall average 5.1 orders) (tables S1, S25, S36 and S69). They were more likely than those in detention to have had only one order during the year (50% compared with 18%). About 39% of young people who had at least one detention order had six or more, compared with 7% of those under community-based supervision.

Periods of supervision

Young people may be on any number and type of orders at any one time, but they may not serve the full duration of these orders for several reasons. Firstly, community-based orders may be interrupted by time spent in detention. Secondly, the full duration of a sentenced detention order may not be served where the young

person is released on parole or supervised release. The actual time spent under continuous supervision is referred to as a supervision period.

The 11,370 young people under supervision in 2011–12 experienced 14,598 periods of supervision, which equates to about 1.3 periods per person, on average (tables S1 and S27).

Most (85%) young people who completed a period of supervision during the year completed only one period (Table S28). Of all those under supervision in 2011–12, about 63% completed at least one period of community-based supervision, and 38% completed a period of detention (tables S1, S61 and S95).

Young people in unsentenced detention during the year completed more periods, on average, than those in sentenced detention (2.0 compared with 1.0) (tables S101, S107 and S114). Young people in unsentenced detention who had completed at least one period were more likely to have completed multiple periods than those in sentenced detention (46% compared with 18%) (tables S106 and S113).

Indigenous young people were more likely than non-Indigenous young people to have completed multiple periods of supervision (20% compared with 13%) (Table S28). This was the case in both community-based supervision (28% compared with 18%) and detention (49% compared with 39%) (tables S60 and S94).

Box 1: Youth justice supervision fact sheets

This is one of a series of fact sheets on youth justice supervision in 2011–12 published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The fact sheets can be downloaded for free from the AIHW website at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/youth-justice/>.

Western Australia and the Northern Territory did not supply standard data for 2011–12 and are not included in this fact sheet.

The supplementary data tables (those with a prefix of S) referred to in this fact sheet accompany the bulletin *Youth justice in Australia 2011–12: an overview*, and can be downloaded from <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail?id=60129543149&tab=3>.

Technical and data quality information, including definitions of key terms in this fact sheet, is available from <http://www.aihw.gov.au/youth-justice/data-quality/>.

For more information about young people under youth justice supervision, see <http://www.aihw.gov.au/youth-justice/>.

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