



Long-term trends in youth justice supervision: 2011–12

This fact sheet summarises the long-term trends in rates of young people under supervision. It includes 6-year national trends and up to 12-year trends for individual states and territories.

National trends

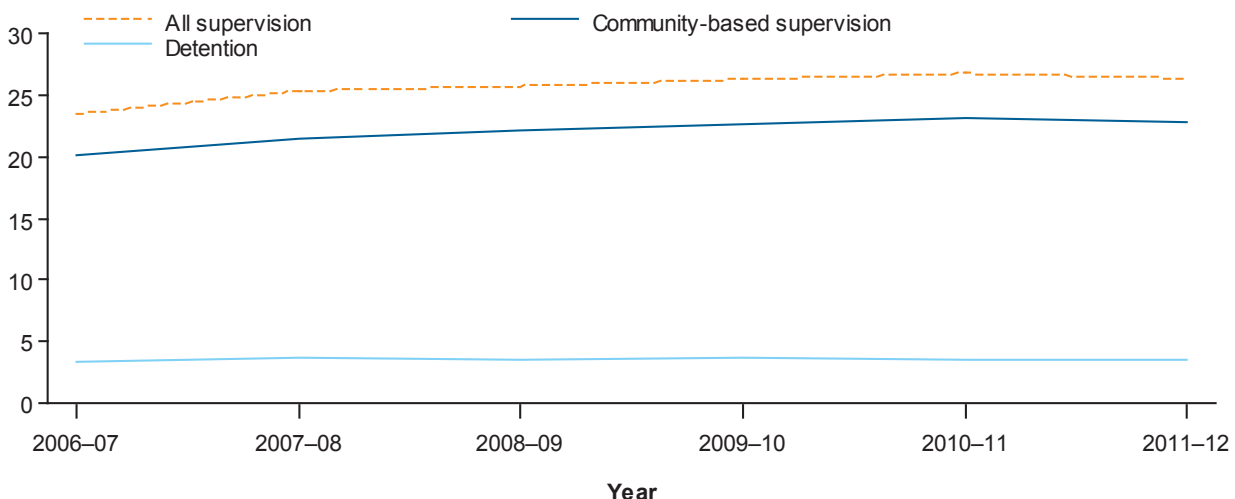
Over the 6 years from 2006–07 to 2011–12, rates of young people aged 10–17 under supervision increased from 23 to 26 young people per 10,000 in the population on an average day, and from 49 to 52 per 10,000 during the year (Figure 1 and Table S12).

Over this period, the rate of young people under community-based supervision on an average day increased from 20 to 23 per 10,000. The rate in detention fluctuated slightly from year to year, with a small overall increase from 3.3 to 3.6 per 10,000.

The level of Indigenous over-representation (as measured by the rate ratio) was relatively stable over the 6-year period. Indigenous young people aged 10–17 were about 15–16 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision on an average day each year (Table S12). Rates of supervision increased for both Indigenous (from 221 to 236 per 10,000) and non-Indigenous young people (from 14 to 15 per 10,000).

The rate ratio of males to females under supervision decreased over the 6 years. In 2006–07, males were 5 times as likely as females to be under youth justice supervision on an average day; however, by 2011–12, this had fallen to about 4 times as likely (Table S15). This was due to a relatively larger increase in the rate of females under supervision (from 8 to 10 per 10,000) than males (from 38 to 42 per 10,000).

Rate (number per 10,000)



Note: Includes estimates for Western Australia and the Northern Territory for 2008–09 to 2011–12.

Sources: Tables S12, S47 and S80.

Figure 1: Young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day by supervision type, Australia (including estimates for WA and NT), 2006–07 to 2011–12 (rate)

State and territory trends

Trend data are available for the 12 years from 2000–01 to 2011–12 for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. Data are also available for the Australian Capital Territory from 2003–04 (9 years) and for Tasmania from 2006–07 (6 years). Data for Western Australia and the Northern Territory are only available from 2000–01 to 2007–08 (see Box 1).

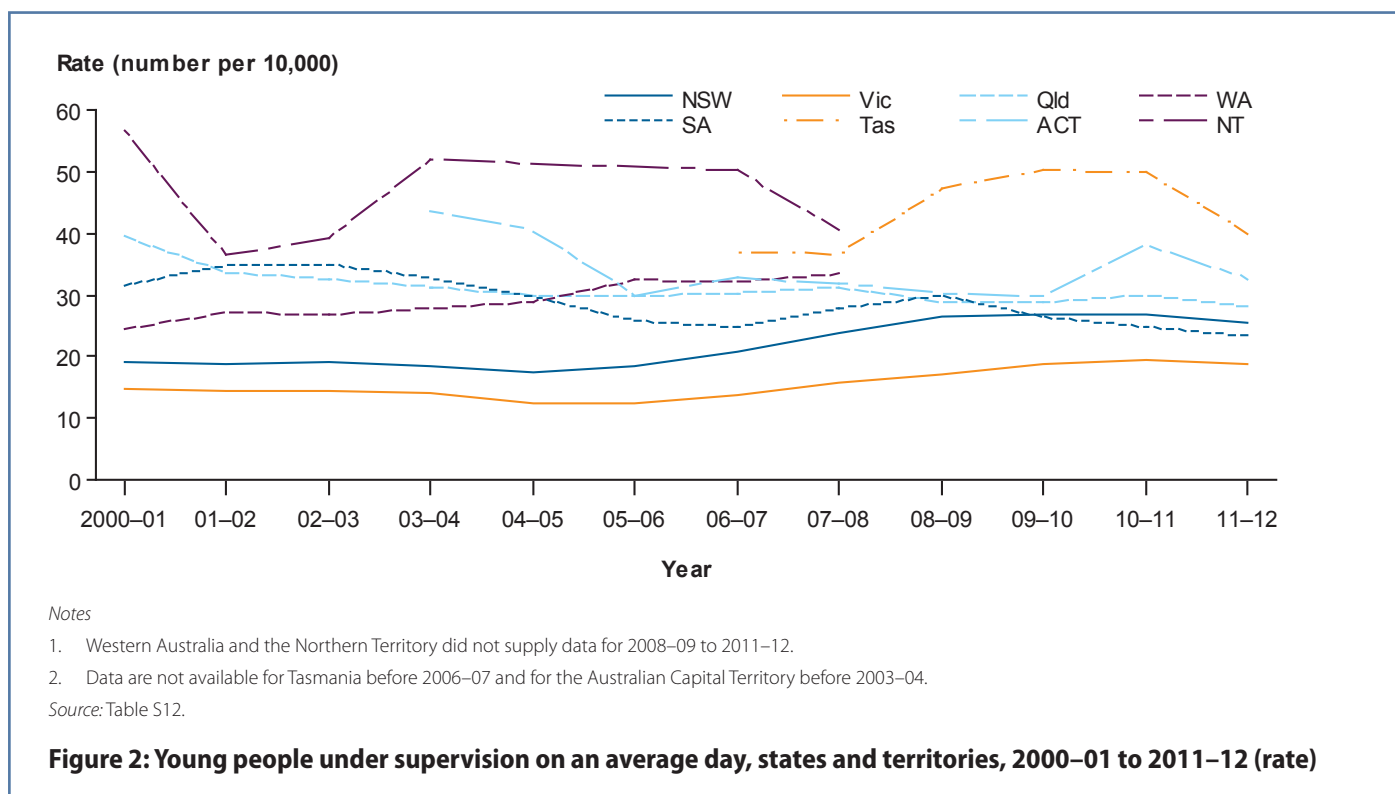
Variations in trends among states and territories can reflect differences in youth justice legislation, policy and practice. It should also be noted that the different reporting periods available may contribute to differences in trends among the states and territories.

The rates of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day increased over the 12 years in

New South Wales (from 19 to 26 per 10,000) and Victoria (from 15 to 19 per 10,000) (Figure 2). Despite fluctuations from year to year, there were overall decreases in Queensland (from 39 to 28 per 10,000) and South Australia (from 32 to 23 per 10,000).

The rate of young people under supervision fluctuated in Tasmania. In 2006–07, there were 37 young people aged 10–17 under supervision per 10,000, which rose to 50 per 10,000 in 2009–10 before dropping to 40 per 10,000 in 2011–12.

There were also fluctuations in the Australian Capital Territory between 2003–04 and 2011–12, with an overall decrease from 44 to 33 young people aged 10–17 under supervision per 10,000.



Trends in the rates of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day followed similar patterns to all supervision in most states and territories (Table S47).

In detention, the rates of young people under supervision increased overall in the 12 years to 2011–12 in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, and decreased in South Australia (Table S80). There was a decrease in Tasmania

over the 6 years, and an increase in the Australian Capital Territory over the 9 years.

The level of Indigenous over-representation in supervision fluctuated over time in all states and territories. The Indigenous rate ratio on an average day increased overall in all states and territories except New South Wales and Tasmania (Table S12) over the periods for which data were available.

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 2008–09 to 2011–12. National data for these years in this fact sheet are estimates, based on non-standard data for Western Australia and standard 2007–08 data for the Northern Territory, and are rounded to the nearest 5 young people. Western Australia and the Northern Territory are not included in state and territory comparisons for these years, as data are not sufficiently comparable.

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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This publication is part of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Youth justice fact sheet series. A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Institute's website www.aihw.gov.au.

ISBN 978-1-74249-456-2

ISSN 2202-1841

Suggested citation

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2013. Youth justice fact sheet no. 03. Long-term trends in youth justice supervision: 2011–12. Cat. no. JUV 14. Canberra: AIHW.

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Published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

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