



New South Wales: overview of youth justice supervision in 2011–12



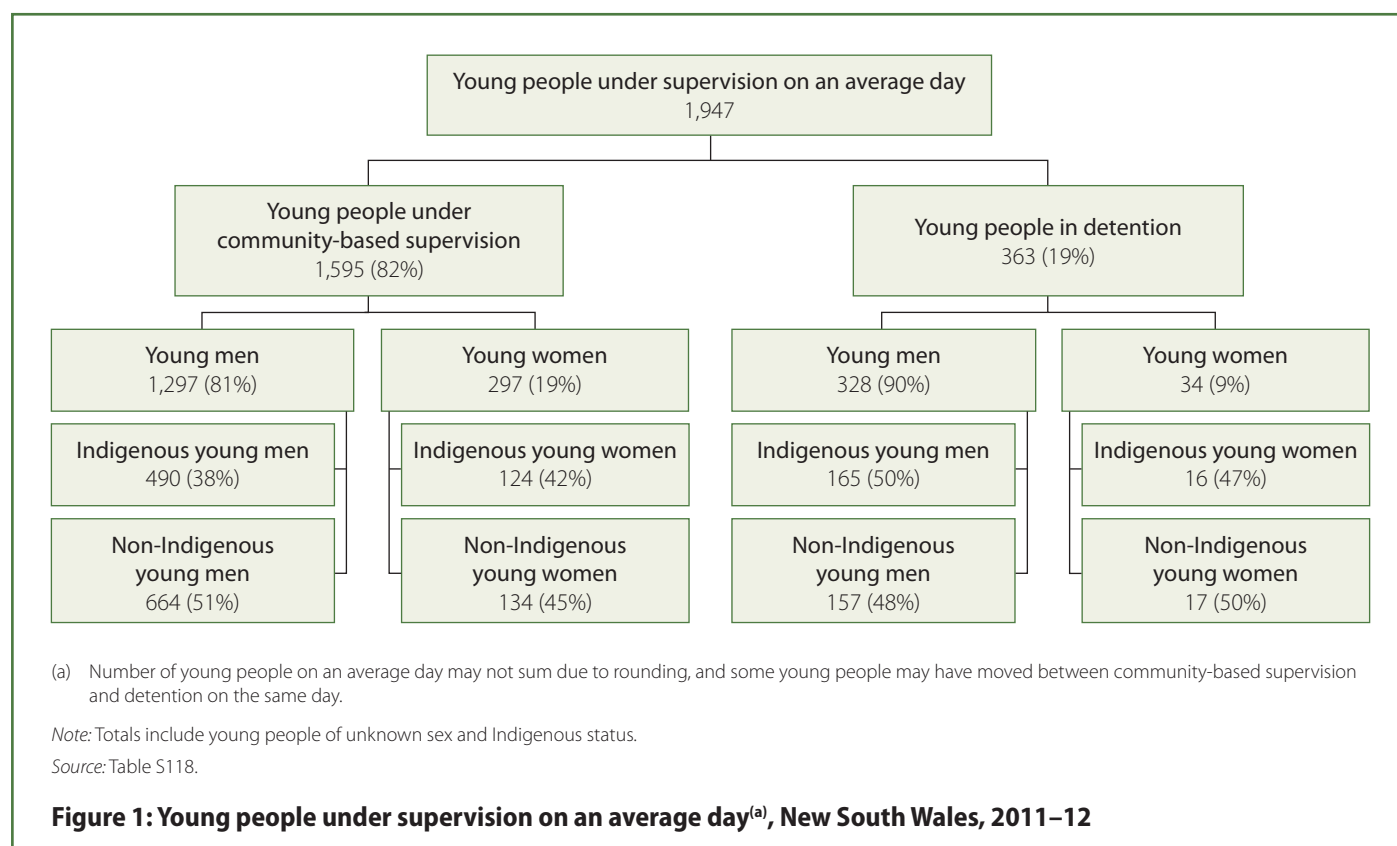
This fact sheet focuses on youth justice supervision in New South Wales during 2011–12.

Differences in youth justice supervision between the states and territories may reflect variations in legislation, policy and practice. Detailed information about the youth justice systems, policies and programs in each state and territory during 2011–12 is available from <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/youth-justice/states-territories>>.

Number and rate under supervision

On an average day in 2011–12, about 4 in 5 (82%) of the 1,947 young people under youth justice supervision in New South Wales were under community-based supervision and about 1 in 5 (19%) were in detention (young people may have moved between community-based supervision and detention on the same day) (Figure 1).

A young person aged 10–17 in New South Wales was 5 times as likely to be under community-based supervision as in detention on an average day (rates of 21 and 4.2 per 10,000 population, respectively) (Table S119).



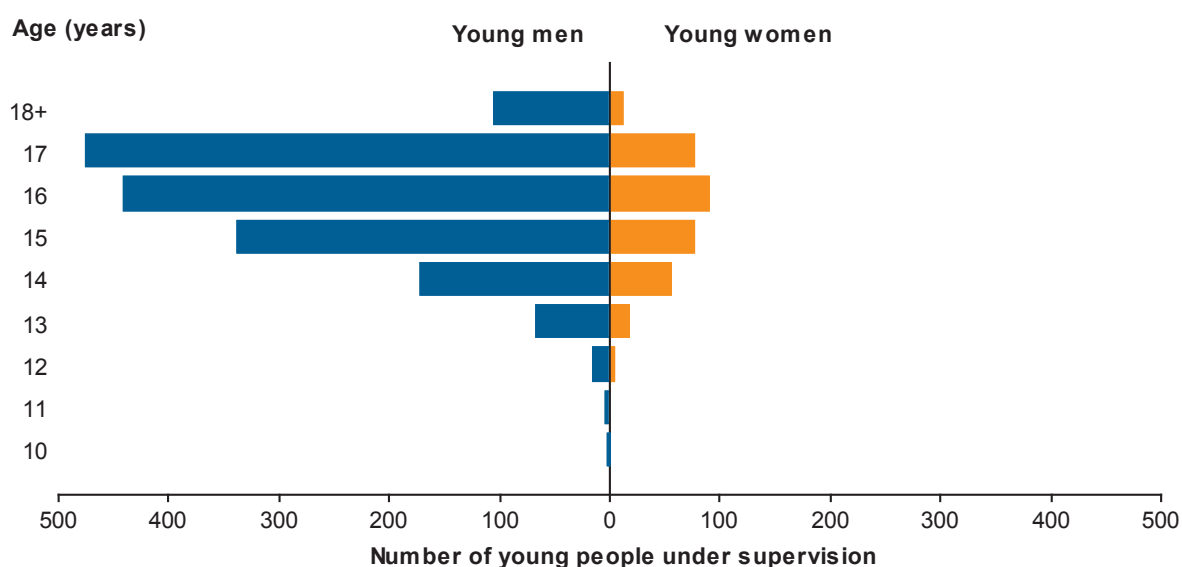
Age and sex

In most cases, the upper age limit in the youth justice system is 17 years at the time of the offence; however, some young people aged 18 and over are under youth justice supervision. Reasons for this may include their age at the time of the offence, or their vulnerability or immaturity. More information on the age limits for youth justice supervision is available from <http://www.aihw.gov.au/youth-justice>.

Most (94%) young people under supervision in New South Wales on an average day in 2011–12 were aged 10–17 (Figure 2). The proportion aged 10–17 was higher under community-based supervision (96%) than in detention (82%) (Table S118).

More than 4 in 5 (83%) young people under supervision on an average day in New South Wales were male (Table S118). The proportion of young people that was male was greater in detention (90%) than under community-based supervision (81%) (Figure 1).

Males under supervision tended to be slightly older than females; for example, about 36% of males were aged 17 and older, compared with 26% of females (Figure 2).



Source: Table S118.

Figure 2: Young people under supervision on an average day by age and sex, New South Wales, 2011–12

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

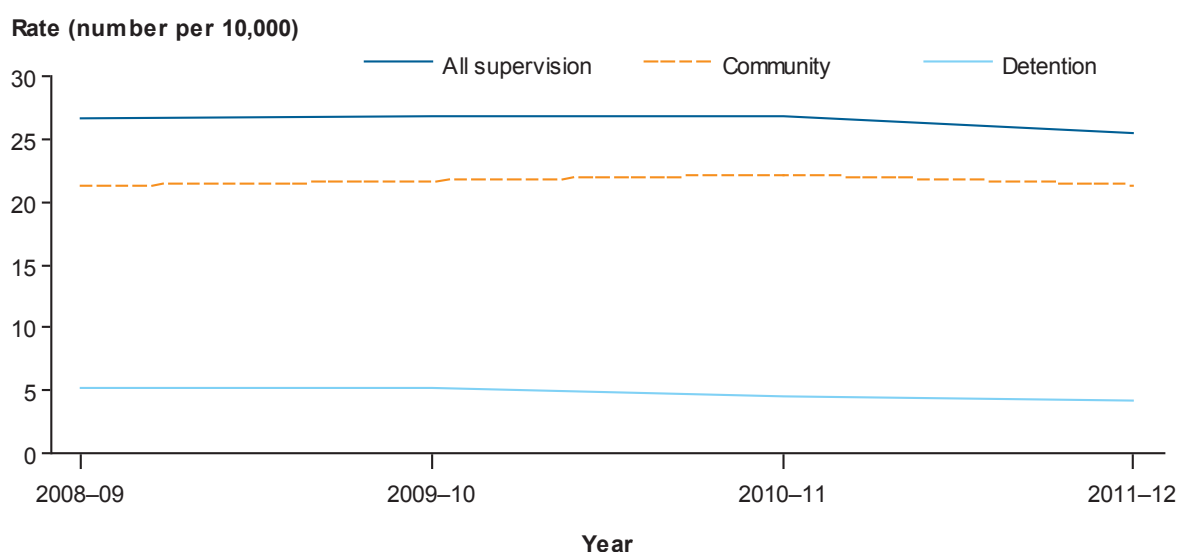
Although Indigenous young people constitute only 4% of young people aged 10–17 in New South Wales (ABS 2009, 2012), they comprised 40% of those aged 10–17 under supervision in New South Wales on an average day in 2011–12 (Table S118).

Indigenous over-representation was higher in detention than under community-based supervision. In 2011–12, about 2 in 5 (38%) young people under community-based supervision in New South Wales on an average day were Indigenous, compared with 1 in 2 (50%) in detention. Indigenous young people aged 10–17 were 17 times as likely to be under community-based supervision as non-Indigenous young people on an average day, and almost 24 times as likely to be in detention (Table S119).

Recent trends: 2008–09 to 2011–12

The number of young people (of all ages) and the rate of those aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day in New South Wales decreased slightly between 2008–09 and 2011–12, from 2,039 to 1,947 and 27 to 26 per 10,000, respectively (Figure 3 and Table S11). There was little change in the rate of young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision on an average day over the 4-year period (about 21 per 10,000 each year), but a decrease in detention (from 5.3 to 4.2 per 10,000).

Over this time, the level of Indigenous over-representation (as shown by the rate ratio) increased from 16 to 18 times the non-Indigenous rate, due to a decrease in the non-Indigenous rate and an increase in the Indigenous rate (Table S12). This trend was driven by the increased rate under community-based supervision (from 14 to 17 times) (Table S47); the level of Indigenous over-representation in detention remained relatively stable (about 24 times for each year) (Table S80).



Sources: Tables S12, S47 and S80.

Figure 3: Young people aged 10–17 years under supervision on an average day by supervision type, New South Wales, 2008–09 to 2011–12 (rate)

Trends in sentenced and unsentenced detention

Young people may be in detention when they 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 pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. They may also be sentenced to a period of detention if proven guilty in a court.

For most months (9 out of 12) during 2011–12, there were more young people in unsentenced detention than sentenced detention in New South Wales on an average day (Table S102). Numbers of young people in unsentenced and sentenced detention were similar for most of the first half of the financial year (around 173–189 each between September and December). In the second half of the financial year, numbers in unsentenced detention were higher (195–208) than sentenced detention (148–158) each month between January and May, before converging in June.

Over the 4-year period to 2011–12, there were decreases in both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous unsentenced populations and the Indigenous sentenced population (Table S103). There was an overall decrease in the non-Indigenous sentenced population.

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2009. Indigenous population projections by age and sex at 30 June 2009: unpublished projections for the Indigenous population based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing data (Series B). Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2012. Population by age and sex at 31 December 2011: unpublished estimates. Canberra: ABS.

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). These fact sheets can be downloaded for free from the AIHW website at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/youth-justice/>.

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 used 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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