



Australian Capital Territory: overview of youth justice supervision in 2011–12



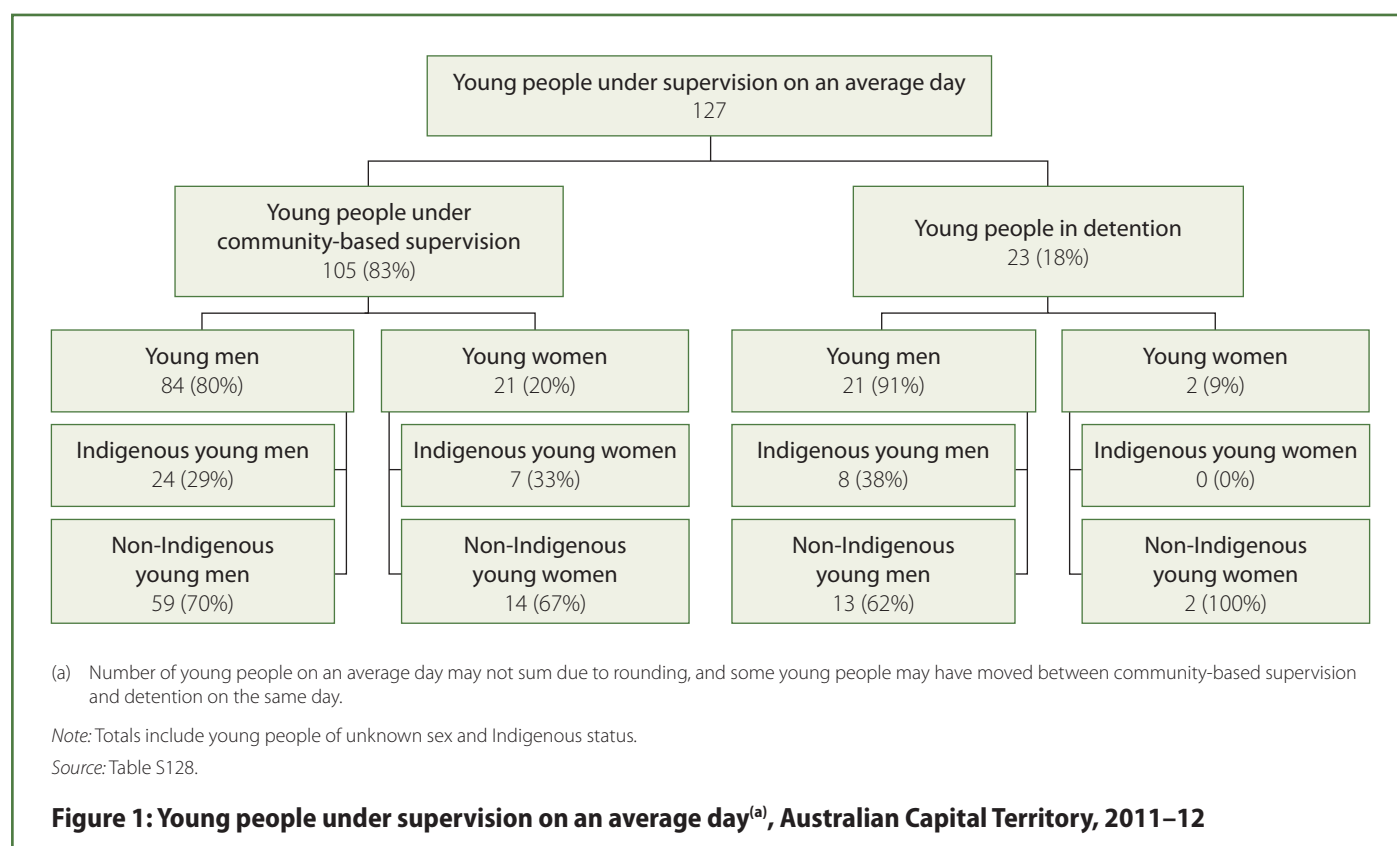
This fact sheet focuses on youth justice supervision in the Australian Capital Territory during 2011–12.

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, there were 127 young people, or 33 per 10,000 aged 10–17 in the population, under supervision in the Australian Capital Territory (Figure 1 and Table S4). Eighty-three per cent were supervised in the community and the remainder was in detention.

The Australian Capital Territory had the highest rate of young people in detention on an average day of all the states and territories for which data are available, at 5.8 young people aged 10–17 per 10,000 (Table S72). The rate of community-based supervision was 27 per 10,000 (Table S39). This means that, on an average day, young people aged 10–17 were 4.6 times as likely to be under community-based supervision as in detention.

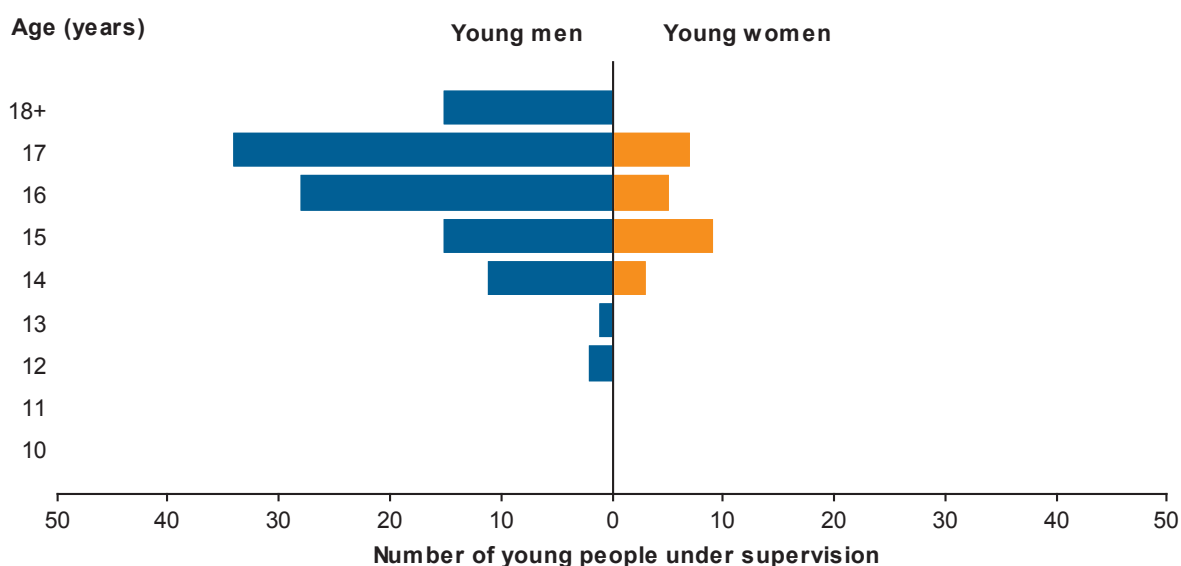


Age and sex

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>>.

The majority of young people (89%) under supervision on an average day was aged 10–17, and the remainder was aged 18 and over (Figure 2 and Table S128). Proportions were similar for both community-based supervision and detention (Table S128). There were few young people under supervision in the younger age groups (only 2% aged 10–13). Rates of supervision increased with age, from 32 per 10,000 at age 14, to 86 per 10,000 at age 17 (rates for young people aged 10–13 were not available due to small numbers) (Table S129).

Most (82%) young people under supervision on an average day in the Australian Capital Territory were male (Figure 2). This proportion was greater in detention (91%) than under community-based supervision (80%) (Figure 1). Females under supervision tended to be slightly younger than males—on an average day, 52% of females were aged 10–15, compared with only 28% of males (Table S128).



Source: Table S128.

Figure 2: Young people under supervision on an average day by age and sex, Australian Capital Territory, 2011–12

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

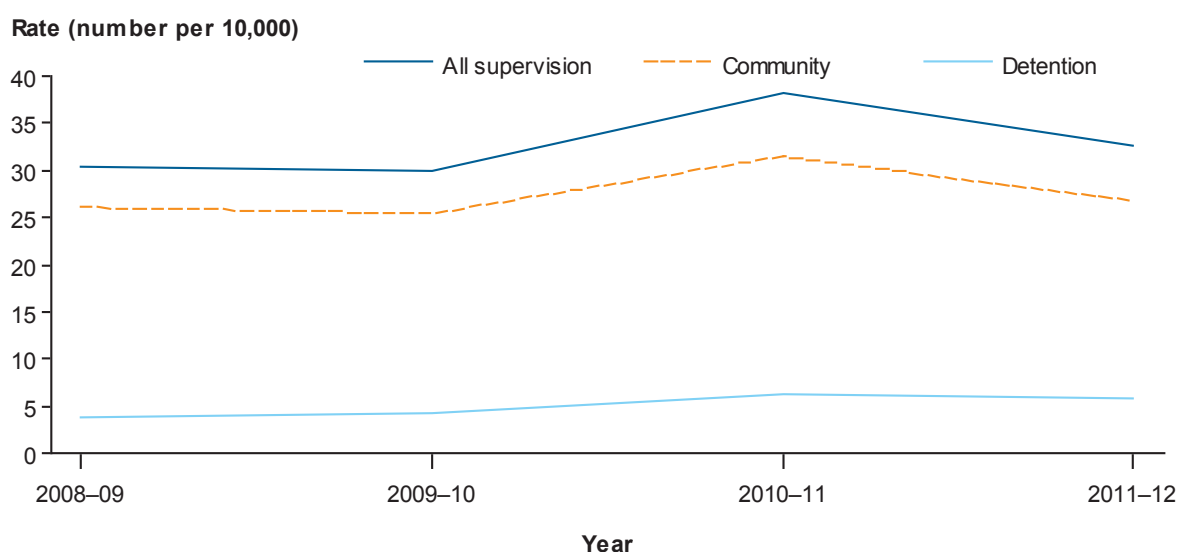
Just under one-third (32%) of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day in the Australian Capital Territory were Indigenous (Table S128), despite constituting only 2% of those aged 10–17 in the Australian Capital Territory (ABS 2009, 2012). The Australian Capital Territory had the highest rates of Indigenous young people in both community-based supervision (325 per 10,000) and detention (91 per 10,000) among all the states and territories for which data are available (tables S39 and S72).

On an average day in 2011–12, an Indigenous young person aged 10–17 in the Australian Capital Territory was 17 times as likely as a non-Indigenous young person to be under community-based supervision and almost 25 times as likely to be in detention (Table S129).

Recent trends: 2008–09 to 2011–12

Between 2010–11 and 2011–12, the rate of young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day in the Australian Capital Territory decreased from 38 to 33 per 10,000 (Figure 3). This followed an increase in the rate between 2008–09 and 2010–11, from 30 to 38 per 10,000.

The rate of young people under community-based supervision on an average day decreased from 31 per 10,000 in 2010–11 to 27 per 10,000 in 2011–12, after an earlier increase between 2008–09 and 2010–11 (from 26 to 31 per 10,000) (Figure 3). The rate of young people in detention increased from 4 per 10,000 in 2008–09 to about 6 per 10,000 in 2010–11 and 2011–12.



Sources: Tables S12, S47 and S80.

Figure 3: Young people aged 10–17 years under supervision on an average day by supervision type, Australian Capital Territory, 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.

There were more young people in unsentenced than sentenced detention in the Australian Capital Territory on an average day in 2011–12 (15 and 8 young people, respectively) (Table S103). This was the case in most months of the year (Table S102). On an average day in 2011–12, there were more non-Indigenous than Indigenous young people in detention (15 compared with 8) (Table S103).

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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