



Long-term trends in youth justice supervision: 2012–13

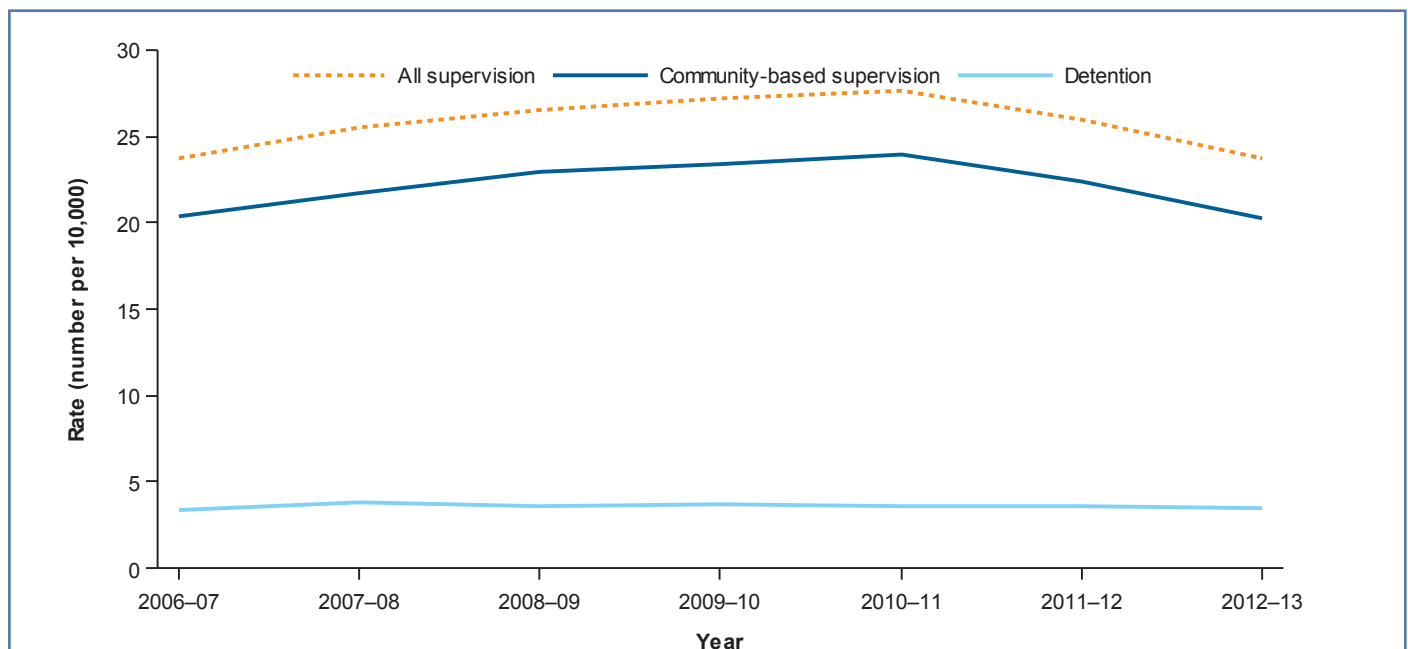
This fact sheet summarises the long-term trends in rates of young people under supervision. It includes 7-year national trends and up to 13-year trends for individual states and territories.

National trends

Nationally, between 2006–07 and 2012–13 the rate of young people under supervision aged 10–17 remained relatively stable overall at about 24 young people per 10,000 on an average day, and about 49 during the year (Figure 1). During this time, the rate of young people under supervision fluctuated—on an average day peaking in 2010–11 at 27.6 per 10,000, before declining to 23.8 in 2012–13.

This trend appears to have been largely associated with changes in the rate of community-based supervision, where 85% of all young people under supervision are supervised in the community on an average day. The rate of community-based supervision followed a similar pattern to the all supervision rates—that is, remaining stable overall—but since 2010–11 the rate declined from a peak of 24.0 to 20.3 per 10,000.

The rate of young people aged 10–17 in detention remained relatively stable overall at 3.4 per 10,000, despite fluctuating slightly from year to year.



Note: Includes estimates for Western Australia and the Northern Territory for 2008–09 to 2012–13.

Sources: Tables S12, S47 and S86 <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129546738&tab=3>>.

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 2012–13 (rate)

The level of Indigenous over-representation (as measured by the rate ratio) was relatively stable over the 7-year period. Indigenous young people aged 10–17 were about 15–17 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision on an average day each year (Table S12). Overall, rates of supervision rose for Indigenous young people (from 221.8 to 225.0 per 10,000), and fell for non-Indigenous young people in the most recent year (from 13.5 to 13.0 per 10,000) despite fluctuations from year to year.

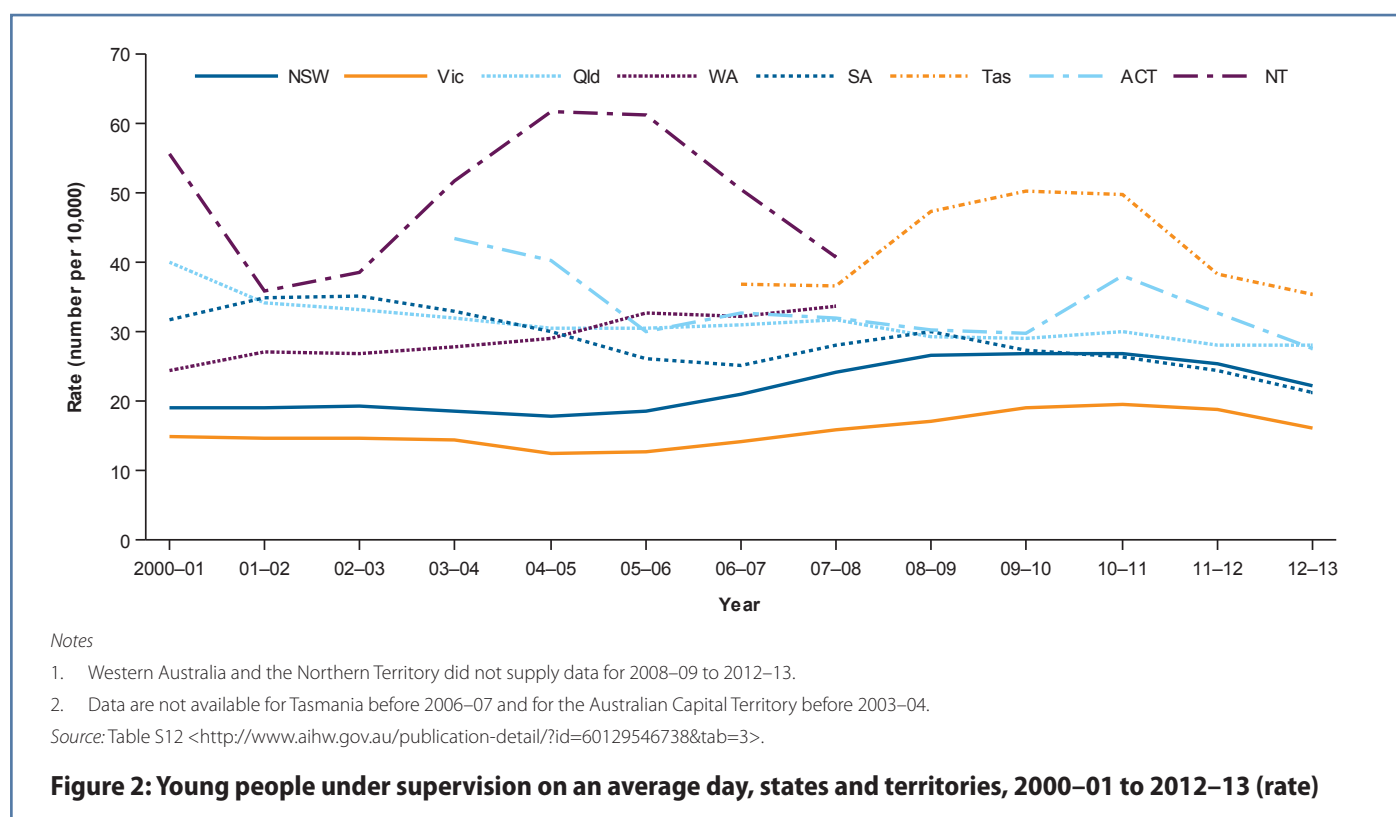
The rate ratio of males to females under supervision fell over the 7-year period. In 2006–07, males were 5 times as likely as females to be under youth justice supervision on an average day; however, by 2012–13, this had fallen to about 4 times as likely (Table S15). This was due to an increase in the rate of females under supervision (from 7.7 to 8.8 per 10,000), and an overall decrease in the rate of males (from 38.9 to 37.9 per 10,000).

State and territory trends

Trend data are available for the 13 years from 2000–01 to 2012–13 for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. Data are also available for the Australian Capital Territory from 2003–04 (10 years) and for Tasmania from 2006–07 (7 years). Data for Western Australia and the Northern Territory are available only 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. Detailed information on the key elements of the youth justice systems, policies and programs in each state and territory can be found at <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/youth-justice/states-territories/>>. 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 rose over the 13 years in New South Wales (from 19.2 to 22.2 per 10,000) and Victoria (from 15.0 to 16.1). Despite these overall increases, since 2010–11 there has been a decline in the rate of young people under supervision in New South Wales and Victoria (Figure 2).



The rates fell over the 13 years in Queensland (from 40.0 to 28.0 per 10,000) and South Australia (from 31.8 to 21.2), though they fluctuated from year to year in both states.

The rate of young people under supervision also fluctuated in Tasmania. In 2006–07, there were 37.0 young people aged 10–17 under supervision per 10,000, which rose to 50.2 in 2009–10, before dropping to 35.3 in 2012–13.

There were also fluctuations in the Australian Capital Territory between 2003–04 and 2012–13, with an overall decrease from 43.4 to 27.7 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 under supervision.

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. This is due to the large proportion (85% overall) of all young people under supervision being supervised in the community on an average day (tables S12 and S47).

In detention, the rates of young people under supervision rose overall in the 13 years to 2012–13 in New South Wales and Queensland, and fell in South Australia and Victoria (Table S86). There was an overall decrease in Tasmania over the 6-year period, as well as in the Australian Capital Territory over the 9 years to 2012–13.

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

Box 1: Youth justice supervision fact sheets

This is one of a series of fact sheets on youth justice supervision in 2012–13 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 fact sheet is part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2012–13* release, which also includes a bulletin, supplementary tables and web pages released in multiple stages throughout the year. See <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/youth-justice/>.

Western Australia and the Northern Territory did not supply standard data for 2012–13 and are not included in the data presented 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 2012–13*, and can be downloaded from <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129546738&tab=3>.

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

Box 2: Technical notes

1. Information about young people under youth justice supervision in this fact sheet is based on data from the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (JJ NMDS). This data collection contains information about all young people who were supervised by state and territory youth justice agencies in Australia, both in the community and detention.
2. This fact sheet uses an average day measure to illustrate the number of young people under supervision. 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.

Further 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/>.

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