



Remoteness, socioeconomic position and youth justice supervision: 2014–15

This fact sheet provides information about the remoteness area and socioeconomic position of young people under supervision during 2014–15, based on their last known address. (Western Australia and the Northern Territory are not included in this fact sheet as data for these jurisdictions were not available; see Box 1).

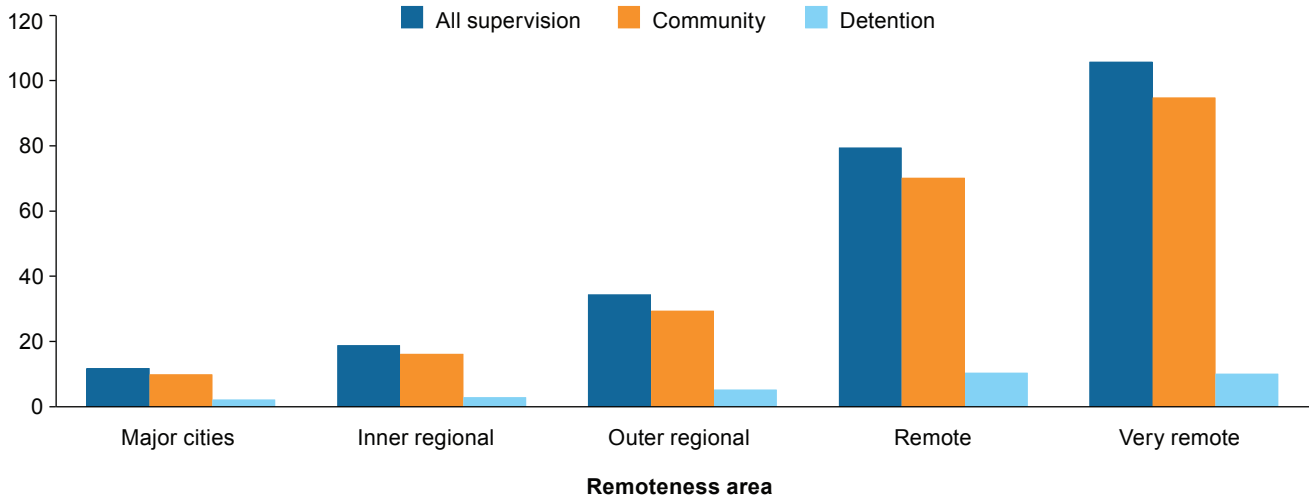
Remoteness area

Almost 2 in 5 (39%) young people under supervision on an average day in 2014–15 had lived in *Major cities* before entering supervision (based on the postcode of their last known address) (Table S21a). A further one-third of young people (34%) had lived in an *Inner regional* or *Outer regional* area, while only 5% had lived in *Remote* or *Very remote* areas. A remoteness area could not be determined for the remaining 21% of young people. This distribution of the youth justice population contrasts with the distribution of young people (aged 10–17) in the general population where 68% lived in *Major cities*, 21% lived in *Inner regional* areas and less than 2% lived in *Remote* or *Very remote* areas.

In 2014–15, Indigenous young people under supervision on an average day were more likely than non-Indigenous young people to have lived in *Outer regional* areas (26% compared with 7% of non-Indigenous people) and *Remote* or *Very remote* areas (12% compared with less than 1%) (Table S21a). Similar patterns were evident for community-based supervision and detention, and largely reflect the distribution of the Australian population.

Young people aged 10–17 living in geographically remote areas were the most likely to be under supervision (Figure 1). On an average day, 79 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 from *Remote* areas and 106 per 10,000 from *Very remote* areas were under youth justice supervision, compared with 12 per 10,000 from *Major cities* (Table S22c). This means that young people aged 10–17 from *Remote* areas were almost 7 times as likely to be under supervision as those from *Major cities*, while those from *Very remote* areas were 9 times as likely (Figure 1).

Number per 10,000



Notes:

1. Western Australia and the Northern Territory did not supply standard data for inclusion in the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set for 2014–15; therefore, data for these jurisdictions are not included in this figure.
2. Remoteness area could not be determined for 21% of young people under youth justice supervision.

Sources: Tables S22c, S59c and S99c.

Figure 1: Young people aged 10–17 under supervision on an average day, by remoteness of usual residence and supervision type, Australia (excluding Western Australia and the Northern Territory), 2014–15

These differences were evident among young people in both community-based supervision and detention. Young people aged 10–17 under community-based supervision were 7 times as likely to be from *Remote* areas as from *Major cities* on an average day, and 10 times as likely to be from *Very remote* areas (Table S59c). In detention, young people were just over 5 times as likely to be from *Remote* and *Very remote* areas as from *Major cities* on an average day (Table S99c).

Socioeconomic position

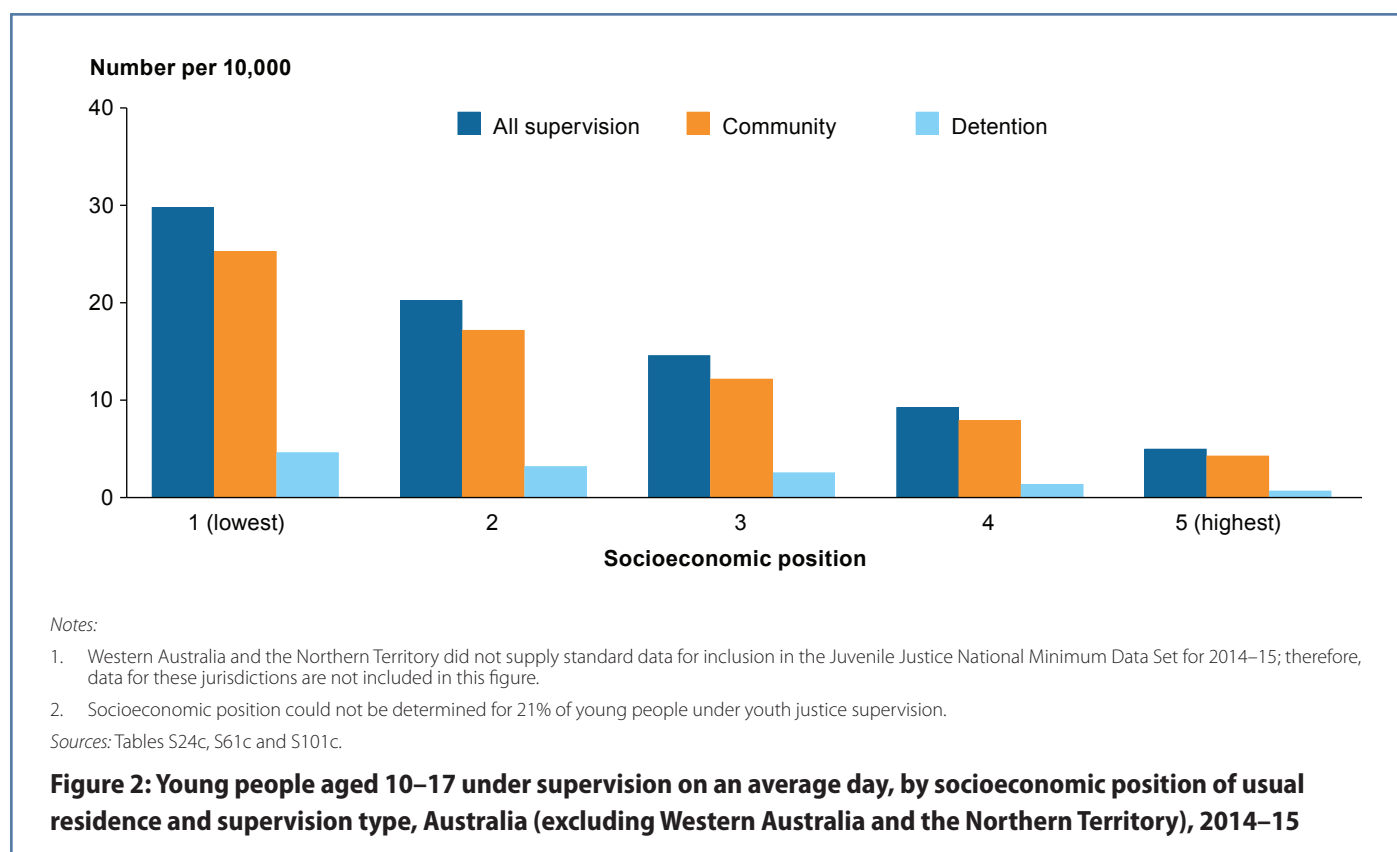
Socioeconomic position has been determined by allocating the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas to the population, based on the postcode of the last known home address. The population-based quintile method is relative, and involves assigning 20% of the general population to each category. The resulting quintile score for each postcode is then assigned to each record in the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set. An area of socioeconomic position could not be determined for 21% of young people in this data set.

Young people under youth justice supervision in 2014–15 most commonly lived in areas of relatively low socioeconomic position before entering supervision. Almost one-third (32%) of young people under supervision on an average day were from the lowest socioeconomic areas, compared with 4% from the highest socioeconomic areas (based on the postcode of their last known address) (Table S23a).

Indigenous young people under supervision on an average day were more likely than non-Indigenous young people to have come from the lowest socioeconomic areas (41% compared with 27%) and less likely to have come from the highest socioeconomic areas (2% compared with 6%). These differences were evident for both community-based supervision and detention (tables S23a, S60a and S100a).

On an average day in 2014–15, there were 30 per 10,000 young people aged 10–17 under supervision from the lowest socioeconomic areas, compared with 5 per 10,000 from the highest socioeconomic areas (Figure 2). This means that young people from the lowest socioeconomic areas were about 6 times as likely to be under supervision as those from the highest socioeconomic areas. This was similar for both community-based supervision and detention.

This general pattern occurred in all states and territories for which data were available, although the rate ratios varied. For example, young people from areas of lowest socioeconomic position were 6 times as likely as those from areas of highest socioeconomic position to be under supervision in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, and 10 times as likely in Queensland (Table S24c).



Box 1: Youth justice supervision fact sheets

This is one of a series of fact sheets on youth justice supervision in 2014–15 published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). These fact sheets can be downloaded free of charge from the AIHW website at <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/youth-justice/fact-sheets>>.

The fact sheets form part of the *Youth justice in Australia 2014–15* 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 2014–15 but non-standard data from these two jurisdictions are included where possible.

The supplementary data tables (those with a prefix of 'S') referred to in this fact sheet accompany the bulletin *Youth justice in Australia 2014–15* and can be downloaded from <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129554714&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 in this fact sheet about young people under youth justice supervision is based on data from the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set. This data set contains information about all young people supervised by state and territory youth justice agencies in Australia, both in the community and in 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 indicates 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.
3. Population rates allow for the comparison of different groups while taking into account differences in population sizes. Rates are restricted to those aged 10–17 due to differences between states and territories; they exclude young people where necessary data items are unavailable and are not calculated where there are fewer than 5 people (due to a lack of statistical reliability).
4. Rate ratios are used to compare Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates and to provide a measure of the level of Indigenous over-representation. Rate ratios should be interpreted with caution where there are small denominators, rare events and rates that converge while declining (or diverge while increasing).

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> and in the Technical notes of *Youth justice in Australia 2014–15*.

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