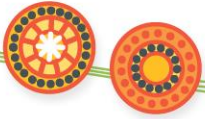


Young people in youth justice custody (2018 to 2024)

This summary contains information on young people who were in custody in a youth detention centre (in pre-court custody, post-court remand, or sentenced) or watchhouse (post-court remand or sentenced only). The below information is provided by case managers/workers.

Census year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of surveys	216	236	218	281	301	265	289
Male	84%	86%	89%	91%	87%	90%	88%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	69%	76%	67%	64%	68%	67%	75%
Living in unstable and/or unsuitable accommodation ⁱ	27%	27%	44%	41%	39%	31%	33%
Totally disengaged from education, training, or employment ⁱⁱ	56%	62%	61%	63%	45%	46%	55%
Is a current or expectant parent ⁱⁱⁱ	3%	4%	6%	6%	4%	5%	6%
Parents have been held in Adult Custody ^{iv}	37%	39%	34%	40%	35%	24%	38%
Experienced or been impacted by domestic and family violence ^v	Not avail.	69%	57%	60%	56%	46%	70%
Known to use a Substance							
Used at least one of the below substances	86%	86%	84%	84%	83%	85%	87%
Marijuana	73%	75%	70%	76%	70%	70%	77%
Tobacco	59%	57%	55%	57%	53%	37%	44%
Vape	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	23%	45%
Alcohol	58%	57%	44%	47%	50%	57%	49%
Ice and other methamphetamines	33%	39%	38%	41%	40%	38%	36%
Solvent inhalation	17%	14%	14%	15%	10%	5%	5%
Prescription Medication	0.9%	0%	2%	1%	4%	5%	5%
Other substances ^{vi}	1%	0.4%	7%	2%	2%	2%	3%
Disability (diagnosed or suspected)							
Have at least one of the listed disabilities	37%	44%	43%	47%	37%	54%	71%
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	Not avail.	15%	14%	14%	12%	15%	25%
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	19%	24%	28%	31%	21%	31%	53%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	1%	4%	5%	6%	6%	8%	15%
Developmental/Language Disorder	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	19%	21%	21%
Cognitive/Intellectual	27%	25%	18%	24%	26%	29%	38%
Physical	6%	1%	0.9%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Sensory (visual or auditory)	1%	4%	1%	3%	2%	1%	3%
Mental Health & Behavioural Disorders (diagnosed or suspected)							
Have at least one of the listed Mental Health disorders	42%	36%	28%	24%	27%	31%	47%
Anxiety	20%	23%	16%	15%	20%	20%	33%
Depression	19%	16%	14%	11%	13%	14%	24%
Post-traumatic stress disorder	23%	16%	17%	14%	13%	12%	25%
Personality disorder	8%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	5%
Psychosis	6%	5%	4%	2%	3%	2%	3%
Bipolar disorder	0.9%	0%	2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	1%
Eating disorder	0.9%	0%	0.5%	1%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Obsessive-Compulsive disorder	0.5%	0.4%	0.9%	0.4%	0%	0.4%	2%
Have at least one of the listed Behavioural disorders	43%	33%	30%	25%	19%	14%	30%
Conduct disorder	26%	18%	17%	14%	9%	8%	15%
Opposition defiance	24%	18%	17%	15%	9%	6%	21%
Attachment disorder	28%	23%	17%	13%	12%	8%	15%
Have at least one Mental Health &/or Behavioural disorders	58%	48%	42%	37%	35%	36%	54%



Data are based on manual survey responses and reflect case worker knowledge of young people's circumstances at the time of entry.

An increase in reported numbers could be attributed to an enhanced awareness and comprehension of the subject among respondents, rather than an actual increase in occurrences.

If data is listed as "Not avail." the relevant topic was not surveyed during the corresponding year.

ⁱ Unstable and/or unsuitable accommodation is based on a combination of the ABS definition of homelessness (i.e., sleeping rough, youth shelter/couch surfing/frequently moving, or boarding house/caravan park) and youth justice staff perceptions of the suitability of a young person's accommodation (i.e., accommodation did not provide security, stability, privacy and safety) in the month prior to census (if in the community) or in the month prior to a young person's entry into custody (for young people who were in custody as at census).

ⁱⁱ Totally disengaged from education, training and employment is defined as not enrolled in school or in other educational programs (e.g., TAFE, registered training organisation, VET program, university), not participating in vocational training (e.g., apprenticeship/traineeship), is not in any paid/unpaid employment, and/or is not actively job seeking.

ⁱⁱⁱ Current or expectant parent is defined as a biological parent (even if not actively parenting), an expectant mother or father, or a young person who is responsible for a child in a parent-like role or is making decisions about a child's upbringing.

^{iv} Parent in adult custody is defined as a young person's father or mother who was ever in adult custody on remand or sentence.

^v Experienced and/or impacted by domestic and family violence (DFV) is defined as a young person being a witness to DFV (e.g., is the child of a parent who is a victim of DFV), and/or the young person is themselves a victim of DFV, and/or the young person uses violence in a DFV setting.

^{vi} Other substances may include other depressant drugs (opioids, benzodiazepines, GHB), other stimulant drugs (MDMA, cocaine) and/or other hallucinogens (cannabis, LSD/Acid).