Youth Justice Census Summary – Youth Justice Supervision

Young people under Youth Justice supervision (2018 to 2024)

The state-wide census contains information on young people who on the census date were under active supervision in the community (supervised order and/or conditional bail program), 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) or in adult prison (while also subject to an active youth justice order). It also includes young people who participated in a restorative justice process in the month preceding the census, and young people who were enrolled in the T2S program while also under another active order. This summary excludes young people who were enrolled in T2S only. Information is provided by case managers/ workers, restorative justice convenors and T2S program staff.

Census year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of surveys	1,788	1,846	1,578	1,640	1,605	1,610	1,577
Male	78%	75%	78%	78%	78%	76%	76%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	58%	59%	58%	57%	59%	61%	63%
Living in unstable and/or unsuitable accommodation ⁱ	19%	21%	29%	30%	30%	30%	24%
Totally disengaged from education, training, or employment ⁱⁱ	52%	53%	55%	52%	45%	48%	50%
Is a current or expectant parent ⁱⁱⁱ	5%	7%	10%	8%	7%	8%	8%
Parents have been held in Adult Custodyiv	31%	33%	30%	31%	27%	25%	30%
Experienced or been impacted by domestic and family violence ^v	Not avail.	63%	60%	51%	53%	53%	59%
Known to use a Substance							
Used at least one of the below substances	80%	80%	80%	78%	78%	81%	82%
Marijuana	59%	61%	63%	64%	62%	65%	69%
Tobacco	57%	55%	53%	52%	47%	37%	41%
Vape	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	35%	41%
Alcohol	52%	53%	48%	44%	48%	48%	52%
Ice and other methamphetamines	17%	20%	21%	19%	20%	19%	22%
Solvent inhalation	9%	9%	8%	9%	6%	3%	4%
Prescription Medication	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	4%	3%
Other substances ^{vi}	1%	2%	4%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Disability (diagnosed or suspected)							
Have at least one of the listed disabilities	29%	33%	31%	34%	27%	44%	55%
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	Not avail.	7%	8%	8%	8%	10%	13%
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	18%	20%	20%	22%	15%	29%	41%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	4%	5%	6%	6%	5%	9%	13%
Developmental/Language Disorder	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	11%	12%	12%
Cognitive/Intellectual	15%	15%	11%	15%	17%	20%	24%
Physical	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Sensory (visual or auditory)	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Mental Health & Behavioural Disorders (diagnosed or suspec	ted)						
Have at least one of the listed Mental Health disorders	41%	42%	32%	29%	27%	39%	43%
Anxiety	25%	30%	23%	20%	19%	28%	31%
Depression	22%	21%	18%	16%	15%	23%	24%
Post-traumatic stress disorder	17%	16%	13%	12%	11%	17%	20%
Personality disorder	6%	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%	5%
Psychosis	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%
Bipolar disorder	1%	1%	1%	0.7%	0.9%	2%	2%
Eating disorder	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%	1%
Obsessive-Compulsive disorder	0.8%	0.9%	0.4%	0.6%	0.3%	0.8%	2%
Have at least one of the listed Behavioural disorders	35%	29%	19%	18%	14%	16%	19%
Conduct disorder	19%	13%	9%	9%	6%	6%	8%
Opposition defiance	17%	14%	9%	9%	8%	9%	13%
Attachment disorder	22%	20%	12%	10%	8%	10%	9%
Have at least one Mental Health &/or Behavioural disorders	54%	51%	40%	36%	33%	44%	49%



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).