



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Institute of Criminology**

# Juveniles' contact with the criminal justice system in the ACT: An overview

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# Executive summary

This report provides an overview of data on juveniles' contact with the criminal justice system in the ACT. In addition, it discusses best practice principles in relation to the measurement of juvenile recidivism, and outlines current practice in the ACT for measuring juvenile recidivism. Finally, it outlines data gaps in relation to juveniles' contact with the criminal justice system in the ACT.

## *Juveniles' contact with the police in the ACT*

- During 2008-09, 2,851 charges were laid against juveniles in the ACT;
- Most (53.3%) charges related to offences against property;
- The most common charges were in relation to offences against justice procedures (13.5% of all charges), shop stealing (13%) and other theft (13%);
- Three-quarters of charges against juveniles were laid against males; similarly, three-quarters of charges were laid against older juveniles (ie those aged 15 to 17 years);
- Twelve percent of charges were laid against Indigenous juveniles. As Indigenous juveniles comprise only three percent of the juvenile population of the ACT, this reflects a substantial over-representation;
- Charges against juveniles most commonly resulted in a police caution (29.7%), followed by arrest (29.0%), summons (20.6%), and transfer to the Children's Court (17.4%). Only small proportions of juveniles were diverted via a restorative justice conference (2.4%), a drug diversion (0.7%) or a Simple Cannabis Offence Notice (SCON) (0.3%).

## *Juveniles' contact with the Children's Court in the ACT*

- 485 defendants were finalised in the ACT Children's Court during 2008-09;
- Approximately three-quarters of defendants were male;
- Most defendants were adjudicated, although nearly one-third had their case withdrawn. Nationally, only 10 percent of Children's Courts defendants had their cases withdrawn during 2008-09;
- Of those adjudicated, most (87.0%) defendants were proven guilty;
- The most common principal offences adjudicated in the ACT Children's Court during 2008-09 were assault (21.7%), unlawful entry with intent (13.7%), other theft (13.7%) and regulatory driving offences (13.4%);
- Almost all (95.7%) of defendants found guilty in the Children's Court were sentenced to a non-custodial order;
- Of those sentenced to a custodial order, all received either a fully suspended sentence or a sentence of custody in the community.

### *Juveniles' contact with correctional agencies in the ACT*

- Most juveniles under supervision in the ACT were under community-based supervision during 2008-09;
- In total, there were 200 juveniles under community-based supervision during this time;
- Most (81%) of those under community-based supervision were male;
- On an average day during 2008-09, there were 77 juveniles under community-based supervision in the ACT;
- Only a small number of juveniles were detained in the ACT during 2008-09. At 30 June 2009, there were nine juveniles (6 males and 3 females) in detention in the ACT;
- The over-representation of Indigenous juveniles has fluctuated substantially in the ACT, due to its small juvenile detention population;
- At 30 June 2009, Indigenous juveniles were 15.6 times as likely to be detained as non-Indigenous juveniles, compared with 22.7 nationally;
- Two-thirds of juvenile detainees (n = 6) were on remand on 30 June 2009. This proportion closely reflects the proportion of juvenile detainees that is remanded rather than sentenced nationally.

### *Juvenile recidivism in the ACT*

- Juvenile recidivism in the ACT is measured as a 'return to service' – that is, the return of a juvenile to a new custodial order (for juveniles currently serving a custodial order) or the return of a juvenile to a new community-based order (for juveniles currently serving a community-based order);
- The ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services reported a rate of zero percent recidivism of sentenced young people in custody and a rate of 33 percent recidivism of young people on community-based orders for the 2008-09 period.

### *Data gaps in relation to juveniles' contact with the criminal justice system in the ACT*

- As is the case in all jurisdictions, a range of data gaps exist in the ACT that could be addressed to provide a richer understanding of juveniles' contact with the criminal justice system.

# Introduction and context

This report to the ACT Human Rights Commission provides an overview of data on juveniles' contact with the criminal justice system in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Specifically, the report covers:

- Juveniles' contact with police in the ACT;
- Juveniles' contact with the ACT Children's Court;
- Juveniles' contact with correctional agencies in the ACT;
- Best practice principles for the measurement of juvenile recidivism;
- The measurement of juvenile recidivism in the ACT; and
- Data gaps in relation to juveniles' contact with the criminal justice system in the ACT.

The purpose of this report is to contribute towards the inquiry into the ACT youth justice system by the Children & Young People Commissioner, and the human rights audit of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre by the Human Rights & Discrimination Commissioner.

## Methodology

The methodology for this report involved:

- Analysing publicly available data on juveniles' contact with the police, courts and correctional agencies in the ACT;
- Analysing data on juveniles' contact with the police in the ACT provided to the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) by ACT Policing for the AIC's *Juveniles' contact with the criminal justice system in Australia* national monitoring data set (permission has been obtained from ACT Policing to use these data for the current report);
- Analysing data from the AIC's *Juveniles in detention in Australia* national monitoring data set;
- Conducting a consultation with staff of the ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS) about the measurement of juvenile recidivism in the ACT; and
- Providing an overview of previous AIC work on best practice principles for the measurement of juvenile recidivism.

## Acknowledgements

The authors would like to acknowledge the following: the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA) for funding initial AIC research on measuring juvenile recidivism, which is summarised in this report; the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) for providing

the AIC with access to the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set for the purpose of the AIC's Juveniles in detention in Australia monitoring program; ACT Policing for providing access to data on juveniles' contact with police in the ACT for the period 2008-2009; and, staff at the ACT Office for Children, Youth and Family Services who were consulted for this report about the measurement of juvenile recidivism in the ACT

# Juveniles' contact with the police in the ACT

For this report, data on juveniles' contact with police in the ACT have been taken from two sources:

- Data provided to the AIC by ACT Policing; and
- *ACT Policing Annual report* (Australian Federal Police [AFP] 2009).

An overview of publicly available data sources on juveniles' contact with the criminal justice system in the ACT is at Table 1.

Table 1. Sources of publicly available data on juveniles' contact with the criminal justice system in the ACT	
<b>Policing</b>	Australian Federal Police <i>ACT Policing annual report</i>
<b>Children's Court</b>	Australian Bureau of Statistics <i>Criminal courts Australia</i> ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety <i>Statistical profile</i>
<b>Corrections</b>	Australian Institute of Criminology <i>Juveniles in detention in Australia</i> annual monitoring report Australian Institute of Health and Welfare <i>Juvenile justice in Australia</i> annual report

## How many juveniles come into contact with the police in the ACT?

According to the AFP (2009), 605 juveniles (that is, young people aged 10 to 17 years) were taken into police custody during 2008-09 (see Table 2). Of these, the majority (91%) were arrested. As Table 2 indicates, approximately four times as many male juveniles were taken into police custody as female juveniles. Approximately four times as many non-Indigenous juveniles as Indigenous juveniles were taken into police custody during this time. Indigenous juveniles were heavily over-represented among juveniles taken into police custody. During 2008-09, 18 percent of juveniles taken into police custody were Indigenous, although Indigenous juveniles comprised only 2.9 percent of the ACT's juvenile population (ABS 2010a).

	Juveniles arrested			Juveniles taken into protective custody for intoxication			Total in custody		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>	80	24	104	11	3	14	91	27	118
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	362	84	446	31	10	41	393	94	487
<b>Total</b>	442	108	550	42	13	55	484	121	605

Source: Adapted from Australian Federal Police (2009)

Also during the 2008-09 period, 57 juveniles were referred by ACT Policing to diversionary programs (AFP 2009).

These figures varied only marginally in 2009-10. During 2009-10, 607 juveniles were taken into custody by police. Ninety-two percent of these were arrested. As Table 3 shows, approximately four times as many male as female juveniles, and over three times as many non-Indigenous as Indigenous juveniles were taken into police custody during 2009-10 (AFP 2010). Seventy-six juveniles were referred to a diversionary program during this time (AFP 2010).

	Juveniles arrested			Juveniles taken into protective custody for intoxication			Total in custody		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Indigenous</b>	100	31	131	7	3	10	107	34	141
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	342	85	427	31	8	39	373	93	466
<b>Total</b>	442	116	558	38	11	49	480	127	607

Source: Adapted from Australian Federal Police (2010)

Data provided to the AIC by ACT Policing are far more detailed than those publicly available. Data provided by ACT Policing indicate that during 2008-09, police laid 2,851 charges against juveniles in the ACT (see Table 4). Of these, 11.6 percent were laid against Indigenous juveniles; the remaining 88.4% were laid against non-Indigenous juveniles. As might be expected, males comprised over three-quarters (76.3%) of all juveniles against whom the charges were laid, and older juveniles (those aged 15 to 17 years) comprised three-quarters of all juveniles against whom charges were laid.

## For which offences do juveniles come into contact with the police in the ACT?

As indicated by Table 4, juveniles were primarily charged with offences against property (53.3%) during the 2008-09 period, followed by other offences (37.1%) and offences against the person (9.6%). Juveniles were most commonly charged with offences against justice procedures (13.5% of all charges), shop stealing (13% of all charges) and other theft (also 13% of all charges). It should be noted that in the ACT, failing to appear on bail is an offence. This may impact on the number of juveniles apprehended by police in relation to offences against justice procedures. As Table 6 below indicates, a high proportion (40.9%) of arrests of juveniles are in relation to offences against justice procedures.

**Table 4. Charges against juveniles in the ACT, 2008-09, by sex, Indigenous status and offence type (number)**

	Males		Females		Total
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	
Conspiracy to murder	0	2	0	0	2
Assault causing GBH	0	6	0	0	6
Assault causing ABH	4	34	0	9	47
Assault (other)	15	119	4	59	197
Sexual offences	0	13	0	0	13
Kidnapping and abduction	0	2	0	0	2
Other offences against the person	0	4	0	2	6
<b>Offences against the person</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>273</b>
Armed robbery	4	8	1	7	20
Other robbery	10	38	0	4	52
Burglary (dwellings)	32	169	1	24	226
Burglary (shops)	0	15	0	4	19
Burglary (other)	2	64	0	5	71
Fraud	0	6	2	3	11
Receiving/handling proceeds of crime	0	7	0	5	12
Unlawful possession	6	34	1	14	55
Motor vehicle theft	28	69	3	10	110
Bicycle theft	0	1	0	2	3
Other theft	30	264	3	73	370
Shop stealing	10	148	15	197	370
Arson	0	6	0	1	7
Other property damage	15	148	6	25	194
<b>Offences against property</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>1,520</b>
Government/security operations	0	8	0	1	9
Justice procedures	67	246	22	51	386
Firearms and weapons	4	45	0	8	57
Other offences against good order	9	159	4	85	257
Possess and use drugs	9	35	0	7	51
Deal and supply drugs	0	4	0	0	4
Other offences nec	21	254	2	17	294
<b>Other offences</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>1,058</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>2,851</b>

Source: ACT Policing [computer file]

## What are the outcomes of juveniles' contact with the police in the ACT?

Charges against juveniles resulted most commonly in a police caution (29.7%), followed by arrest (29.0%), summons (20.6%), and a transfer to the Children's Court (17.4%). Small proportions of juveniles were diverted via a restorative justice conference (2.4%), a drug diversion (0.7%) or a Simple Cannabis Offence Notice (SCON) (0.3%) (see Table 5).

**Table 5. Outcomes of charges against juveniles in the ACT, 2008-09, by sex and Indigenous status (number)**

	Males		Females		Total
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	
<b>Arrest</b>	131	565	31	99	826
<b>Caution</b>	20	479	24	323	846
<b>Court</b>	68	356	5	67	496
<b>Conference</b>	4	47	1	15	67
<b>Drug diversion</b>	2	13	0	5	20
<b>SCON</b>	0	7	0	1	8
<b>Summons</b>	41	441	3	103	588
<b>Total</b>	266	1,908	64	613	2,851

Source: ACT Policing [computer file]

Offence type and offence seriousness are key factors that influences police decision-making about how juveniles are dealt with in the criminal justice system. Tables 6 to 12, which contain data on outcome by offence type for juveniles in the ACT for the 2008-09 financial year, provide some insight into the relationship between offence type and seriousness and the outcomes of juveniles' contact with the police. As indicated by these Tables, the most common offences for which juveniles were **arrested** during 2008-09 were offences against justice procedures (40.9%), other offences not elsewhere classified (11.7%) and assault (other) (6.8%). The most common offences for which juveniles were **cautioned** by police were shop stealing (31.1%), other offences against good order (23.8%) and other theft (12.1%). For juveniles referred by police to the **court**, the most common offences were other theft (25.4%), burglary (dwellings) (22.0%) and shop stealing (7.7%). Juveniles referred by police to a **conference** were most commonly apprehended in relation to other theft (23.9%), other property damage (23.9%) and shop stealing (10.4%). As is to be expected, 100 percent of juveniles diverted via a **drug diversion** or given a **SCON** were apprehended in relation to possess and use drugs offences. The most common offences for which juveniles were given a **summons** by police were other offences not elsewhere classified (26.2%), other theft (13.8%) and assault (other) (11.6%).

**Table 6. Charges against juveniles in the ACT, 2008-09, resulting in arrest (number)**

	Females		Males		Total
	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	
Conspiracy to murder	0	0	0	0	0
Assault causing GBH	0	0	2	0	2
Assault causing ABH	3	0	11	2	16
Assault (other)	12	1	36	7	56
Sexual offences	0	0	4	0	4
Kidnapping and abduction	0	0	2	0	2
Other offences against the person	1	0	2	0	3
<b>Offences against the person</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>83</b>
Armed robbery	7	0	7	4	18
Other robbery	2	0	18	4	24
Burglary (dwellings)	4	1	30	4	39
Burglary (shops)	0	0	4	0	4
Burglary (other)	0	0	10	1	11
Fraud	0	0	1	0	1
Receiving/handling proceeds of crime	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful possession	2	0	6	5	13
Motor vehicle theft	1	2	14	8	25
Bicycle theft	0	0	0	0	0
Other theft	10	2	30	3	45
Shop stealing	0	1	11	0	12
Arson	1	0	3	0	4
Other property damage	6	3	30	7	46
<b>Offences against property</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>242</b>
Government/security operations	0	0	4	0	4
Justice procedures	42	18	218	60	338
Firearms and weapons	3	0	18	2	23
Other offences against good order	4	2	15	4	25
Possess and use drugs	0	0	7	5	12
Deal and supply drugs	0	0	2	0	2
Other offences nec	1	1	80	15	97
<b>Other offences</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>501</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>826</b>

Source: ACT Policing [computer file]

**Table 7. Charges against juveniles in the ACT, 2008-09, resulting in a police caution (number)**

	Females		Males		Total
	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	
Conspiracy to murder	0	0	0	0	0
Assault causing GBH	0	0	0	0	0
Assault causing ABH	2	0	3	0	5
Assault (other)	13	2	23	2	40
Sexual offences	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping and abduction	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the person	0	0	2	0	2
<b>Offences against the person</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>47</b>
Armed robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Other robbery	0	0	2	0	2
Burglary (dwellings)	8	0	15	1	24
Burglary (shops)	3	0	1	0	4
Burglary (other)	0	0	19	0	19
Fraud	3	2	0	0	5
Receiving/handling proceeds of crime	4	0	5	0	9
Unlawful possession	8	0	11	0	19
Motor vehicle theft	5	0	12	1	18
Bicycle theft	2	0	0	0	2
Other theft	33	1	67	1	102
Shop stealing	144	12	101	6	263
Arson	0	0	1	0	1
Other property damage	9	3	42	2	56
<b>Offences against property</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>524</b>
Government/security operations	1	0	1	0	2
Justice procedures	3	2	11	0	16
Firearms and weapons	4	0	22	2	28
Other offences against good order	75	2	122	2	201
Possess and use drugs	1	0	4	1	6
Deal and supply drugs	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences nec	5	0	15	2	22
<b>Other offences</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>846</b>

Source: ACT Policing [computer file]

**Table 8. Charges against juveniles in the ACT, 2008-09, resulting in a charge before court (number)**

	Females		Males		Total
	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	
Conspiracy to murder	0	0	2	0	2
Assault causing GBH	0	0	3	0	3
Assault causing ABH	1	0	8	1	10
Assault (other)	10	0	15	3	28
Sexual offences	0	0	1	0	1
Kidnapping and abduction	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the person	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Offences against the person</b>	<b><u>12</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>29</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>	<b><u>45</u></b>
Armed robbery	0	1	0	0	1
Other robbery	0	0	12	6	18
Burglary (dwellings)	1	0	89	19	109
Burglary (shops)	0	0	2	0	2
Burglary (other)	3	0	15	0	18
Fraud	0	0	2	0	2
Receiving/handling proceeds of crime	1	0	0	0	1
Unlawful possession	3	0	6	1	10
Motor vehicle theft	2	1	18	7	28
Bicycle theft	0	0	1	0	1
Other theft	5	0	102	19	126
Shop stealing	29	1	6	2	38
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Other property damage	3	0	27	2	32
<b>Offences against property</b>	<b><u>47</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>	<b><u>280</u></b>	<b><u>56</u></b>	<b><u>386</u></b>
Government/security operations	0	0	3	0	3
Justice procedures	5	2	16	4	27
Firearms and weapons	0	0	1	0	1
Other offences against good order	2	0	6	3	11
Possess and use drugs	0	0	1	1	2
Deal and supply drugs	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences nec	1	0	20	0	21
<b>Other offences</b>	<b><u>8</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>	<b><u>47</u></b>	<b><u>8</u></b>	<b><u>65</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>67</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b>	<b><u>356</u></b>	<b><u>68</u></b>	<b><u>496</u></b>

Source: ACT Policing [computer file]

**Table 9. Charges against juveniles in the ACT, 2008-09, resulting in a diversionary conference (number)**

	Females		Males		Total
	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	
Conspiracy to murder	0	0	0	0	0
Assault causing GBH	0	0	0	0	0
Assault causing ABH	0	0	1	0	1
Assault (other)	3	0	2	0	5
Sexual offences	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping and abduction	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the person	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Offences against the person</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
Armed robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Other robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary (dwellings)	0	0	4	0	4
Burglary (shops)	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary (other)	0	0	4	1	5
Fraud	0	0	1	0	1
Receiving/handling proceeds of crime	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful possession	0	0	2	0	2
Motor vehicle theft	0	0	3	1	4
Bicycle theft	0	0	0	0	0
Other theft	7	0	8	1	16
Shop stealing	4	1	2	0	7
Arson	0	0	2	0	2
Other property damage	1	0	14	1	16
<b>Offences against property</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>57</b>
Government/security operations	0	0	0	0	0
Justice procedures	0	0	0	0	0
Firearms and weapons	0	0	1	0	1
Other offences against good order	0	0	3	0	3
Possess and use drugs	0	0	0	0	0
Deal and supply drugs	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences nec	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other offences</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>67</b>

Source: ACT Policing [computer file]

**Table 10. Charges against juveniles in the ACT, 2008-09, resulting in a drug diversion (number)**

	Females		Males		Total
	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	
Conspiracy to murder	0	0	0	0	0
Assault causing GBH	0	0	0	0	0
Assault causing ABH	0	0	0	0	0
Assault (other)	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual offences	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping and abduction	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the person	0	0	0	0	0
<b><u>Offences against the person</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>
Armed robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Other robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary (dwellings)	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary (shops)	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary (other)	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud	0	0	0	0	0
Receiving/handling proceeds of crime	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful possession	0	0	0	0	0
Motor vehicle theft	0	0	0	0	0
Bicycle theft	0	0	0	0	0
Other theft	0	0	0	0	0
Shop stealing	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Other property damage	0	0	0	0	0
<b><u>Offences against property</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>
Government/security operations	0	0	0	0	0
Justice procedures	0	0	0	0	0
Firearms and weapons	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against good order	0	0	0	0	0
Possess and use drugs	5	0	13	2	20
Deal and supply drugs	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences nec	0	0	0	0	0
<b><u>Other offences</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>13</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>	<b><u>20</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>5</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>13</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>	<b><u>20</u></b>

Source: ACT Policing [computer file]

**Table 11. Charges against juveniles in the ACT, 2008-09, resulting in a SCON (number)**

	Females		Males		Total
	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	
Conspiracy to murder	0	0	0	0	0
Assault causing GBH	0	0	0	0	0
Assault causing ABH	0	0	0	0	0
Assault (other)	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual offences	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping and abduction	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the person	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Offences against the person</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Armed robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Other robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary (dwellings)	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary (shops)	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary (other)	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud	0	0	0	0	0
Receiving/handling proceeds of crime	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful possession	0	0	0	0	0
Motor vehicle theft	0	0	0	0	0
Bicycle theft	0	0	0	0	0
Other theft	0	0	0	0	0
Shop stealing	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Other property damage	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Offences against property</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Government/security operations	0	0	0	0	0
Justice procedures	0	0	0	0	0
Firearms and weapons	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against good order	0	0	0	0	0
Possess and use drugs	1	0	7	0	8
Deal and supply drugs	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences nec	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other offences</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

Source: ACT Policing [computer file]

**Table 12. Charges against juveniles in the ACT, 2008-09, resulting in a summons (number)**

	Females		Males		Total
	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	
Conspiracy to murder	0	0	0	0	0
Assault causing GBH	0	0	1	0	1
Assault causing ABH	3	0	11	1	15
Assault (other)	21	1	43	3	68
Sexual offences	0	0	8	0	8
Kidnapping and abduction	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the person	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Offences against the person</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>92</b>
Armed robbery	0	0	1	0	1
Other robbery	2	0	6	0	8
Burglary (dwellings)	11	0	31	8	50
Burglary (shops)	1	0	8	0	9
Burglary (other)	2	0	16	0	18
Fraud	0	0	2	0	2
Receiving/handling proceeds of crime	0	0	2	0	2
Unlawful possession	1	1	9	0	11
Motor vehicle theft	2	0	22	11	35
Bicycle theft	0	0	0	0	0
Other theft	18	0	57	6	81
Shop stealing	20	0	28	2	50
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Other property damage	6	0	35	3	44
<b>Offences against property</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>311</b>
Government/security operations	0	0	0	0	0
Justice procedures	1	0	1	3	5
Firearms and weapons	1	0	3	0	4
Other offences against good order	4	0	13	0	17
Possess and use drugs	0	0	3	0	3
Deal and supply drugs	0	0	2	0	2
Other offences nec	10	1	139	4	154
<b>Other offences</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>588</b>

Source: ACT Policing [computer file]

# Juveniles' contact with the Children's Court in the ACT

There were 485 defendants finalised in the ACT Children's Court during the 2008-09 period (see Table 13). The majority of defendants during 2008-09 were male (74.2%). Over one-quarter (26.6%) of juvenile defendants finalised were aged 17 years (26.6%).

The most common method of finalisation was for the defendant to be adjudicated (ie acquitted or proven guilty) (322 instances). Most of these adjudications found the defendant to be guilty (87.0%). A high proportion of defendants also had their cases withdrawn (153 or 31.5% of cases). This represents a much higher proportion of Children's Courts defendants than is the case nationally (10.3%). Only a small number of defendants were acquitted (42 or 8.7%) (see Table 13).

**Table 13. Defendants finalised in the ACT Children's Court, selected characteristics, 2008-09**

		2008-09	
		ACT	Aust.
<b>Finalised defendants</b>	n	485	42,198
<b>Males</b>	%	74.2	79.6
<b>Females</b>	%	25.8	20.2
<b>Aged 17 years</b>	%	26.6	26.5
<b>Acquitted</b>	n	42	1,636
	%	8.7	3.9
<b>Proven guilty</b>	n	280	32,556
	%	57.7	77.2
<b>Transfer to other courts</b>	n	6	1,463
	%	1.2	3.5
<b>Withdrawn</b>	n	153	4,334
	%	31.5	10.3
<b>Other</b>	n	4	2,209
	%	0.8	5.2

Source: Adapted from ABS (2010b)

## For what offences are juveniles most commonly adjudicated in the ACT Children's Court?

As Table 14 shows, the number of juvenile defendants being adjudicated in 2008-09 was less than that for the two previous financial years in the ACT. The three most common principal offences for which juvenile defendants were adjudicated during the 2008-09 period were acts

intended to cause injury, theft and related offences, and traffic and vehicle regulatory offences (21.7%, 20.2% and 19.3% respectively). Despite some fluctuation in the proportion of adjudications for these offences for the three most recent financial years, they have, for the most part, consistently been the most common. In general, they would also appear to be the most common principal offences across Australia.

**Table 14. Defendants adjudicated in the ACT Children's Court, by principal offence, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09**

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	ACT	Aust.	ACT	Aust.	ACT	Aust.
	n		n		n	
	%		%		%	
<b>Defendants adjudicated</b>	336	34,270	364	31,986	322	34,192
<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>	17.0	13.5	20.1	15.6	21.7	18.4
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons</b>	2.7	5.1	17.6 <sup>a</sup>	6.0	4.0	5.5
<b>Unlawful entry with intent</b>	5.7	11.6	4.9	12.4	13.7	12.3
<b>Theft and related offences</b>	26.2	13.2	19.5	14.0	20.2	20.2
<b>Property damage and environmental pollution</b>	4.5	6.3	6.9	6.5	1.9	7.1
<b>Public order offences</b>	1.8	8.8	0.8	9.3	2.5	9.9
<b>Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences</b>	17.3	9.3	6.6 <sup>a</sup>	11.1	19.3	12.9
<b>Other<sup>b</sup></b>	12.5	16.0	24.0	24.6	16.8	13.7
<b>Total<sup>c</sup></b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Adapted from ABS (2010b)

a: Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons are overstated and traffic and vehicle regulatory offences are understated for 2007-08

b: Includes: homicide and related offences; sexual assault and related offences; abduction, harassment and other offences against the person; fraud, deception, and related offences; illicit drug offences; prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences; offences against government procedures, government security and government operations; and miscellaneous offences

c: Includes defendants for whom offence data are missing or a principal offence could not be determined

More specifically, however, the most common offence adjudicated in the ACT Children's Court during 2008-09 was assault (70 adjudications or 21.7%). A high proportion of adjudications also related to unlawful entry with intent, other theft, and regulatory driving offences (accounting for 13.7%, 13.7% and 13.4% of all adjudications respectively) (see Tables 15 and 16).

**Table 15. Defendants adjudicated in the Children's Court, principal offence by jurisdiction (number)**

	NSW	Vic.	QLD	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>Homicide and related offences</b>	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	6
<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>									
<b>Assault</b>	2,366	1,378	708	412	772	265	136	70	6,107
<b>Stalking</b>	142	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	155
<b>Sexual assault and related offences</b>	103	94	58	29	69	6	10	5	374
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons</b>	218	322	154	423	605	72	60	13	1,867
<b>Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person</b>	72	45	10	9	44	0	0	0	180
<b>Robbery, extortion and related offences</b>	658	207	87	45	164	11	5	6	1,183
<b>Unlawful entry with intent</b>	1,153	597	1,063	263	759	166	145	44	4,190
<b>Theft and related offences</b>									
<b>Theft/illegal use of a motor vehicle<sup>b</sup></b>	338	254	288	49	170	54	38	21	1,212
<b>Other<sup>c</sup></b>	1,097	2,287	1,314	275	501	162	7	44	5,687
<b>Fraud, deception and related offences</b>	84	116	57	5	34	8	3	18	325
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	238	81	153	35	194	40	11	3	755
<b>Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences</b>	59	201	111	91	39	17	17	12	547
<b>Property damage and environmental pollution</b>									
<b>Property damage by fire or explosion</b>	66	72	33	13	48	27	0	0	259
<b>Graffiti</b>	29	17	78	52	40	0	3	0	219
<b>Other<sup>d</sup></b>	591	392	365	136	352	76	21	6	1,939
<b>Public order offences</b>									
<b>Regulated public order offences</b>	23	300	86	30	49	16	0	3	507
<b>Other<sup>e</sup></b>	752	474	984	171	398	72	32	6	2,889
<b>Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences</b>									
<b>Driver licence offences</b>	200	360	425	342	1,239	67	89	19	2,741
<b>Regulatory driving offences</b>	89	152	224	129	602	45	78	43	1,362
<b>Offences against justice procedures, govt security and operations</b>	242	75	283	84	200	69	7	5	965
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	75	235	9	6	17	14	0	4	360
<b>Total<sup>f</sup></b>	8,639	7,698	6,506	2,780	6,359	1,190	699	322	34,193

Source: Adapted from ABS (2010b)

Note: 0 refers to a nil or rounder number (including null cells)

a: Refers to finalised appearances rather than finalised defendants in the Children's Courts, resulting in potentially higher population counts

b: Includes theft of a motor vehicle and illegal use of a motor vehicle

c: Includes theft except motor vehicles (including theft from a person (except force), theft of intellectual property, theft from retail premises, and other non-classified theft excluding motor vehicle), receive or handle proceeds of crime, illegal use of property (except motor vehicles), and theft of motor vehicle parts or contents

d: Includes environmental pollution (including air pollution offences, water pollution offences, noise pollution offences, soil pollution offences, and other non-classified environmental offences, and other non-classified property damage

e: Includes trespass, and riot and affray

f: Includes defendants for whom offence data are missing or a principal offence could not be determined

<b>Table 16. Defendants adjudicated in the Children's Court, principal offence by jurisdiction (percent)</b>									
	<b>NSW<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Vic.</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Tas.</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>Aust.</b>
<b>Homicide and related offences</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	0.0
<b>Assault</b>	27.4	17.9	10.9	14.8	12.1	22.3	19.5	<b>21.7</b>	17.9
<b>Stalking</b>	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	0.5
<b>Sexual assault and related offences</b>	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.5	1.4	<b>1.6</b>	1.1
<b>Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons</b>	2.5	4.2	2.4	15.2	9.5	6.1	8.6	<b>4.0</b>	5.5
<b>Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person</b>	0.8	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	0.5
<b>Robbery, extortion and related offences</b>	7.6	2.7	1.3	1.6	2.6	0.9	0.7	<b>1.9</b>	3.5
<b>Unlawful entry with intent</b>	13.3	7.8	16.3	9.5	11.9	13.9	20.7	<b>13.7</b>	12.3
<b>Theft/illegal use of a motor vehicle</b>	3.9	3.3	4.4	1.8	2.7	4.5	5.4	<b>6.5</b>	3.5
<b>Other</b>	12.7	29.7	20.2	9.9	7.9	13.6	1.0	<b>13.7</b>	16.6
<b>Fraud, deception and related offences</b>	1.0	1.5	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.4	<b>5.6</b>	1.0
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	2.8	1.1	2.4	1.3	3.1	3.4	1.6	<b>0.9</b>	2.2
<b>Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences</b>	0.7	2.6	1.7	3.3	0.6	1.4	2.4	<b>3.7</b>	1.6
<b>Property damage by fire or explosion</b>	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.8	2.3	0.0	<b>0.0</b>	0.8
<b>Graffiti</b>	0.3	0.2	1.2	1.9	0.6	0.0	0.4	<b>0.0</b>	0.6
<b>Other</b>	6.8	5.1	5.6	4.9	5.5	6.4	3.0	<b>1.9</b>	5.7
<b>Public order offences</b>									
<b>Regulated public order offences</b>	0.3	3.9	1.3	1.1	0.8	1.3	0.0	<b>0.9</b>	1.5
<b>Other</b>	8.7	6.2	15.1	6.2	6.3	6.1	4.6	<b>1.9</b>	8.4
<b>Driver licence offences</b>	2.3	4.7	6.5	12.3	19.5	5.6	12.7	<b>5.9</b>	8.0
<b>Regulatory driving offences</b>	1.0	2.0	3.4	4.6	9.5	3.8	11.2	<b>13.4</b>	4.0
<b>Offences against justice procedures, gov't security and operations</b>	2.8	1.0	4.3	3.0	3.1	5.8	1.0	<b>1.6</b>	2.8
<b>Miscellaneous offences</b>	0.9	3.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.2	0.0	<b>1.2</b>	1.1
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	<b>100.0</b>	100.0

Source: Adapted from ABS (2010b)

Note: 0 refers to a nil or rounder number (including null cells)

- a: Refers to finalised appearances rather than finalised defendants in the Children's Courts, resulting in potentially higher population counts
- b: Includes theft of a motor vehicle and illegal use of a motor vehicle
- c: Includes theft except motor vehicles (including theft from a person (except force), theft of intellectual property, theft from retail premises, and other non-classified theft excluding motor vehicle), receive or handle proceeds of crime, illegal use of property (except motor vehicles), and theft of motor vehicle parts or contents
- d: Includes environmental pollution (including air pollution offences, water pollution offences, noise pollution offences, soil pollution offences, and other non-classified environmental offences, and other non-classified property damage
- e: Includes trespass, and riot and affray
- f: Includes defendants for whom offence data are missing or a principal offence could not be determined

## What are the outcomes of adjudications in the ACT Children's Court?

Almost all juvenile defendants in 2008-09 who were found guilty in the ACT Children's Court were placed on a non-custodial order (95.7%) (see Table 17). The most common order was a good behaviour bond (45.7%). This varies from previous periods (2006-07 and 2007-08), during which most non-custodial sentences were community supervision/work orders. It also varies from what is occurring nationally. Across Australia, the proportion of non-custodial sentences is relatively evenly distributed across community supervision/work orders, monetary orders, good behaviour bonds, and other types of non-custodial orders (see Table 17).

A small proportion of defendants found guilty in the ACT Children's Court received a custodial order in the ACT during 2008-09, compared with nationally (3.9% and 9.3% respectively). The most common type of custodial order in the ACT (custody in the community) was the least common for the nation as a whole.

**Table 17. Defendants proven guilty in the ACT Children's Court, by principal sentence, 2006-07 to 2008-09**

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	ACT	Aust.	ACT	Aust.	ACT	Aust.
<b>Defendants proven guilty</b>	325	32,811	326	30,735	280	32,556
<b>Custodial orders</b>						
<b>Custody in a correctional institution</b>	3.7	5.1	5.5	5.7	0.0	5.6
<b>Custody in the community</b>	6.8	1.2	4.6	1.3	2.5	1.7
<b>Fully suspended sentence</b>	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.6	1.4	2.0
<b>Non-custodial orders</b>						
<b>Community supervision/work orders</b>	36.9	22.1	37.1	24.2	20.0	25.8
<b>Monetary orders</b>	11.1	35.9	13.2	29.1	16.8	22.8
<b>Good behaviour bond</b>	21.8	18.6	31.6	20.0	45.7	21.6
<b>Other<sup>a</sup></b>	19.7	15.5	8.0	18.0	13.2	19.9
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.00	100.00	100.0	100.0

Source: Adapted from ABS (2010b)

Note: 0 refers to a nil or rounder number (including null cells)

a: Includes license disqualifications/suspensions/ amendments, forfeiture of property orders and nominal penalties

During the most recent period for which data are available (the quarter ending September 2008), there were 216 pleas in the ACT Children's Court (see Table 18). The most common plea was a plea of guilty; about half (74) of these convictions were recorded and about half (76) were not recorded. Around one-quarter of pleas were pleas of not guilty, with conviction not being recorded (50 instances). Overall, as Table 18 shows, the majority of pleas related to other assault (28 instances, or 13.0%). Other common offences were offences against justice

procedures and the government, other theft, property damage and environmental offences, and traffic offences (11.1%, 9.7%, 9.3%, and 8.8% respectively).

**Table 18. Charge-plea indications in the ACT Children's Court, by charge, September 2008 quarter (number)**

	Plea of Guilty, Conviction Recorded	Plea of Guilty, Conviction not Recorded	Plea of Not Guilty, Conviction Recorded	Plea of Not Guilty, Conviction not Recorded	Plea of Not Guilty, Acquittal	Not indicated (ex parte etc)	Total
Homicide and related offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acts intended to cause injury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assault (grievous bodily harm)	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Assault (actual bodily harm)	4	3	1	3	0	0	11
Other assault	6	8	0	13	0	1	28
Sexual assault & related offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual assault	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sexual offences	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Other sexual offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Abduction & related offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/abduction	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Robbery, extortion and related offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armed robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Burglary and related offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stealing	9	3	0	1	0	0	13
Break and enter	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Deception & related offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud and forgery	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Unlawful possession	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Theft	0	3	1	3	0	0	7
Stealing from the person	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other theft	7	7	0	5	0	2	21
Property damage & environmental offences	4	11	2	3	0	0	20
Other property damage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offences against justice procedures and the government	8	6	1	9	0	0	24
Corruption	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Breach other probation	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Resist/hinder police	3	3	0	4	0	0	10
Conspiracy	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

<b>Weapons &amp; explosives offences</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Firearms</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Possess/use weapons</b>	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Public order offences</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Trespass and vagrancy</b>	1	1	0	2	0	0	4
<b>Offences against good order</b>	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Illicit drug offences</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Drugs</b>	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Possess/use cannabis</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Dangerous/negligent acts endangering the person</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Drink driving</b>	0	6	0	1	0	0	7
<b>Dangerous driving</b>	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Negligent driving</b>	1	1	1	1	0	0	4
<b>Road traffic and motor vehicle registry offences</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Drive while cancelled</b>	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
<b>Drive without a licence</b>	7	2	0	0	0	0	9
<b>Other licence offenders</b>	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
<b>Traffic offences</b>	8	7	2	2	0	0	19
<b>Registration offences</b>	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Offence against government - education</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Dangerous drugs</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Other offences</b>	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	74	76	13	50	0	3	216

Source: ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety (2009)

## How long do adjudications take to be completed in the ACT Children's Court?

Of the 186 cases completed in the ACT Children's Court during the September 2008 quarter, over one-third were completed in under four weeks (70 cases, or 37.6%) (see Table 19). More than half of all cases were completed within 12 weeks of the case first being listed (107 cases, or 57.5%).

**Table 19. Weeks between first listing and completion in the Children's Jurisdiction of the ACT Magistrates Court, for the September 2008 quarter**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Proportion (%)</b>
<b>Under 4</b>	70	37.6
<b>4 to under 8</b>	16	8.6
<b>8 to under 12</b>	21	11.3
<b>12 to under 16</b>	15	8.1
<b>16 to under 20</b>	13	7.0
<b>20 to under 24</b>	8	4.3
<b>24 to under 28</b>	9	4.8
<b>28 to under 32</b>	5	2.7
<b>32 to under 36</b>	7	3.8
<b>36 to under 40</b>	3	1.6
<b>40 to under 44</b>	5	2.7
<b>44 to under 48</b>	3	1.6
<b>48 to under 52</b>	2	1.1
<b>52 weeks or more</b>	9	4.8
<b>Total</b>	186	100.0

Source: Adapted from ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety (2009)

# Juveniles' contact with correctional agencies in the ACT

## Juveniles under community-based supervision in the ACT

There were 200 juveniles under community-based supervision during 2008-09 (see Table 20). Most of these were males (162, compared with 38 females). There were also more non-Indigenous than Indigenous juveniles (165 and 35 respectively) (see Table 20).

**Table 20. Juveniles under community-based supervision in the ACT and Australia, by sex and Indigenous status, 2008-09**

	ACT	Aust excl WA and NT <sup>(a)</sup>	ACT	Aust excl WA and NT
	Number of young people—during the year		Proportion (%) of young people—during the year	
			<b>Males</b>	
<b>Indigenous</b>	30	2,207	18.5	30.7
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	132	4,641	81.5	64.5
<b>Total</b>	162	7,195	100.0	100.0
			<b>Female</b>	
<b>Indigenous</b>	5	602	13.2	38.9
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	33	861	86.8	55.7
<b>Total</b>	38	1,547	100.0	100.0
			<b>All young people</b>	
<b>Indigenous</b>	35	2,809	17.5	32.1
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	165	5,505	82.5	62.9
<b>Total<sup>(b)</sup></b>	200	8,746	100.0	100.0

Source: Adapted from AIHW (2011)

a: Western Australia and Northern Territory did not supply data for this report for the 2008-09 period

b: Totals include juveniles of unknown sex and/or Indigenous status

The greatest proportion of juveniles was aged 14-17 years when they were first placed on a community-based supervision order (76.1%, or 178 juveniles) (see Table 21). Very few were aged 18 years or older (1.7%, or 4 juveniles).

**Table 21. Young people under community-based supervision by age<sup>(a)</sup> at first supervision, ACT and Australia, 2008–09 (number and percent)**

	ACT	Aust excl WA & NT <sup>(b)</sup>
		<b>Number</b>
<b>10–13</b>	52	2,298
<b>14–17</b>	178	7,756
<b>18+</b>	4	778
<b>Total</b>	234	10,835
		<b>Proportion (%)</b>
<b>10–13</b>	22.2	21.2
<b>14–17</b>	76.1	71.6
<b>18+</b>	1.7	7.2
<b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>	100.0	100.0

Source: Adapted from AIHW (2011)

a: Age calculated as at date of start of first supervision period

b: Western Australia and Northern Territory did not supply data for this report for the 2008-09 period.

c: Totals includes young people with unknown date of first supervision

As Table 22 indicates, there were more sentenced than unsentenced juveniles under community-based supervision in the ACT on an average day during 2008-09 (70 compared with 49). This is evident for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous juveniles. This has remained relatively stable since 2005-06 (see Table 22).

**Table 22. Young people under community-based supervision on an average day<sup>(a)</sup> by Indigenous status and legal status, ACT and Australia, 2005-06 to 2008-09 (number)**

	ACT	Aust excl WA & NT <sup>(b)</sup>	ACT	Aust excl WA & NT	ACT	Aust excl WA & NT
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		All young people <sup>(c)</sup>	
	<b>Unsentenced</b>					
<b>2005–06</b>	8	153	28	270	36	438
<b>2006–07</b>	8	161	30	340	38	518
<b>2007–08</b>	8	159	27	377	37	541
<b>2008–09</b>	10	147	38	434	49	594
<b>Total</b>	34	620	123	1,421	160	2,091
	<b>Sentenced</b>					
<b>2005–06</b>	13	1,320	58	2,456	71	3,953
<b>2006–07</b>	16	1,384	67	2,640	83	4,170
<b>2007–08</b>	17	1,532	64	2,868	82	4,569
<b>2008–09</b>	14	1,511	56	3,085	70	4,812
<b>Total</b>	60	5,747	245	11,049	306	17,504
	<b>Total</b>					
<b>2005–06</b>	17	1,410	72	2,683	88	4,280
<b>2006–07</b>	18	1,486	81	2,928	99	4,577
<b>2007–08</b>	21	1,629	73	3,182	96	4,985
<b>2008–09</b>	21	1,611	88	3,445	109	5,283
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	77	6,136	314	12,238	392	19,125

Source: Adapted from AIHW (2011)

a: Number of young people on an average day may not sum to total due to rounding

b: Western Australia and Northern Territory did not supply data for this report for the 2008-09 period

c: 'All young people' includes young people with an order type of 'other'

d: Totals includes young people unknown Indigenous status

## Juveniles under custodial supervision in the ACT

### *The AIC's Juveniles in detention monitoring program*

The AIC reports annually on juveniles in detention in Australia, with data covering the 1981 to 2009 period (see Richards & Lyneham 2010). Statistics are derived from the AIC's *Juveniles in detention monitoring program* dataset. Data are sourced from the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Data Set (JJNMDS) which the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) administers and maintains. The data cover the number of young people detained in a juvenile correctional facility on the last day of each quarter of the year; that is, 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December. A census count is taken in each juvenile correctional facility on each of these dates; data therefore reflect only the number of young people in juvenile detention in each jurisdiction at that time. These data are not necessarily representative of the daily average of juvenile detainees in each state or territory or across Australia as a whole, since daily averages may vary substantially.

In jurisdictions with small populations, such as the ACT, small changes in the number of juveniles in detention may produce large fluctuations in proportions and rates. For example, an increase of two juveniles in detention on an existing population of four juveniles would be reported as an increase of 50 percent. This should be considered when interpreting the data presented below.

The quarterly data on juveniles in detention presented below provide aggregate information on the number of young people detained in juvenile correctional facilities according to six variables:

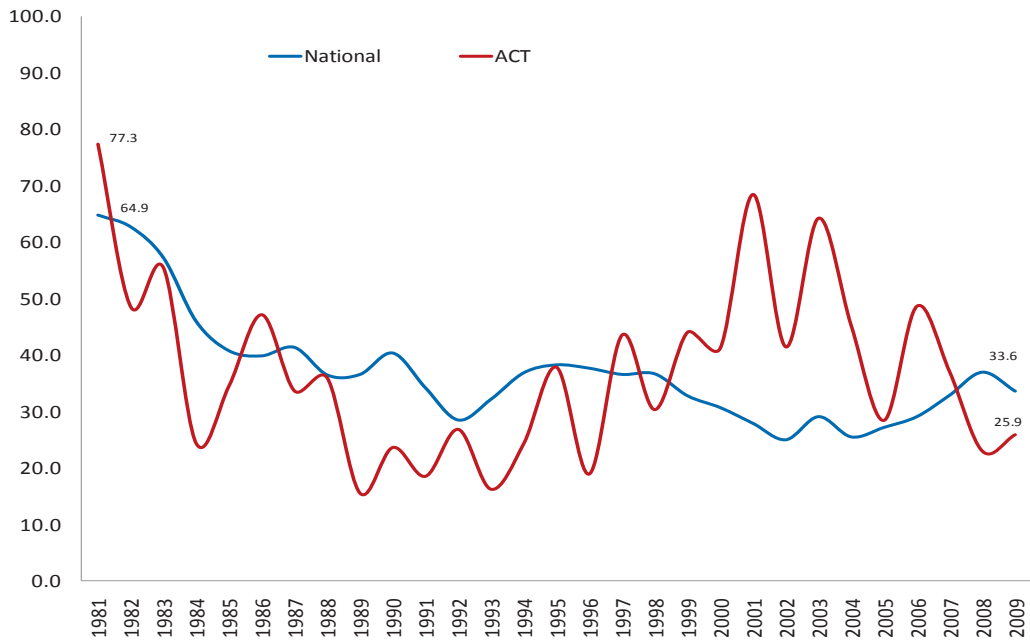
- sex;
- age;
- Indigenous status;
- legal status (remanded or sentenced);
- jurisdiction; and
- quarterly census date.

The data reflect the total number of juveniles in detention and the number of Indigenous juveniles in detention. The number of non-Indigenous juveniles in detention is assumed to be the difference between the two. In some cases, however, the Indigenous status of juveniles is unknown. These young people are classified as non-Indigenous, which means that the proportion of Indigenous juveniles in detention is likely to be underestimated.

### *Number and rate of juveniles in detention, by sex*

Figure 1 shows the trend in rates per 100,000 juveniles in detention since 1981 for the ACT and Australia as a whole. Numbers and rates per 100,000 juveniles in detention have declined substantially since 1981. As Figure 1 shows, rates have varied considerably in the ACT, which is to be expected in a small jurisdiction. In the ACT, rates have decreased from 77.3 per 100,000 in 1981 to 25.9 per 100,000 in 2009.

**Figure 1. Rates of juvenile detention per 100,000 10-17 year olds at 30 June 1981-2009, ACT and Australia**



Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

Tables 23, 24 and 25 show the number and rate per 100,000 male juveniles in detention, female juveniles in detention and total juveniles in detention respectively. On 30 June 2009, there were nine juveniles in detention in the ACT (6 males and 3 females). Rates per 100,000 juveniles in detention have fluctuated considerably since 1981.

**Table 23. Males aged 10 to 17 in juvenile detention at 30 June 1981-2009 (number and rate per 100,000 relevant population)**

	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>1981</b>	521	253	89	145	71	26	1	<b>13</b>	1,119
<b>1982</b>	551	232	94	138	67	17	8	<b>13</b>	1,120
<b>1983</b>	518	224	103	88	55	25	14	<b>16</b>	1,043
<b>1984</b>	378	209	85	69	37	20	15	<b>6</b>	819
<b>1984</b>	248	218	114	96	40	16	23	<b>10</b>	765
<b>1986</b>	257	204	78	93	38	20	26	<b>17</b>	733
<b>1987</b>	357	156	83	79	40	18	24	<b>11</b>	768
<b>1988</b>	249	164	89	76	42	14	37	<b>12</b>	683
<b>1989</b>	249	136	73	124	30	14	39	<b>6</b>	671
<b>1990</b>	325	127	100	114	36	9	27	<b>9</b>	747
<b>1991</b>	311	65	70	111	43	17	30	<b>6</b>	653
<b>1992</b>	250	47	71	84	50	5	25	<b>9</b>	541
<b>1993</b>	292	49	83	97	56	9	20	<b>5</b>	610
<b>1994</b>	352	61	90	119	56	9	13	<b>8</b>	708
<b>1995</b>	374	72	127	95	37	10	15	<b>13</b>	743
<b>1996</b>	319	68	128	94	71	23	13	<b>6</b>	722
<b>1997</b>	331	64	89	100	71	20 <sup>(b)</sup>	21	<b>14</b>	710 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>1998</b>	321	62	116	123	46	18	25	<b>10</b>	721
<b>1999</b>	252	57	127	112	29	30	12	<b>12</b>	631
<b>2000</b>	251	43	93	103	49	34	15	<b>14</b>	602
<b>2001</b>	210	59	78	81	49	36	6	<b>22</b>	541
<b>2002</b>	187	53	82	71	40	25	21	<b>12</b>	491
<b>2003</b>	206	71	90	95	61	17	23	<b>20</b>	583
<b>2004</b>	185	57	87	102	47	18	10	<b>15</b>	521
<b>2005</b>	206(23)	52	92	91	52	32	17	<b>8</b>	550
<b>2006</b>	244(20)	31	125	98	39	27	24	<b>13</b>	601
<b>2007</b>	256(22)	47	136	123	54	14	32	<b>11</b>	677
<b>2008</b>	343(28)	73	110	142	46	25	22	<b>7</b>	768
<b>2009</b>	317(22)	62	105	126	42	18	27	<b>6</b>	703
	<b>Rate per 100,000 relevant population</b>								
<b>1981</b>	145.9	88.6	51.8	149.8	75.4	81.9	10.8	<b>75.8</b>	105.2
<b>1982</b>	152.8	80.8	52.8	139.0	71.4	53.9	79.1	<b>72.6</b>	103.9
<b>1983</b>	142.6	77.6	56.5	87.5	58.8	79.6	130.7	<b>87.0</b>	95.8
<b>1984</b>	103.5	72.1	45.9	68.3	39.9	63.2	134.6	<b>31.8</b>	74.7
<b>1984</b>	67.6	75.5	60.9	94.7	43.4	50.8	199.5	<b>52.1</b>	69.6
<b>1986</b>	70.0	71.2	41.3	91.2	41.8	63.8	222.2	<b>87.4</b>	66.8
<b>1987</b>	97.5	55.5	44.1	77.3	44.9	58.7	203.4	<b>56.0</b>	70.5
<b>1988</b>	68.4	59.3	47.3	73.8	48.2	46.6	316.2	<b>60.5</b>	63.2
<b>1989</b>	69.8	50.3	38.7	120.8	35.3	47.5	337.8	<b>30.4</b>	63.0
<b>1990</b>	92.9	47.9	53.1	111.8	43.3	30.7	237.5	<b>46.3</b>	71.2
<b>1991</b>	89.6	24.9	37.0	108.5	52.3	58.2	265.4	<b>31.1</b>	62.7
<b>1992</b>	72.4	18.2	37.4	81.5	61.1	17.2	218.2	<b>47.4</b>	52.1
<b>1993</b>	84.7	19.1	43.1	93.3	68.8	30.9	172.5	<b>26.4</b>	58.7
<b>1994</b>	101.7	23.9	45.9	113.3	68.6	31.1	111.3	<b>42.2</b>	67.9
<b>1995</b>	107.2	28.2	63.7	89.2	45.3	34.4	127.9	<b>68.7</b>	70.7

1996	90.3	26.6	63.0	87.1	86.3	78.8	108.5	31.8	67.9
1997	93.3	25.1	43.5	91.5	86.2	69.1	171.3	74.7	64.2
1998	89.9	24.2	56.2	110.9	55.7	63.0	200.8	53.9	67.2
1999	70.1	22.1	60.9	99.8	34.9	105.5	95.4	64.8	58.3
2000	69.0	16.4	44.0	90.7	58.7	120.1	118.1	75.4	53.3
2001	56.9	22.2	36.3	70.5	58.6	127.6	46.4	118.2	48.8
2002	50.3	19.8	37.5	61.6	48.0	89.1	160.9	65.1	44.0
2003	55.1	26.3	40.3	81.8	73.2	60.7	177.9	109.3	51.8
2004	49.5	21	38.3	87.5	56.5	63.7	76.6	82.8	46.0
2005	55.0	19	39.8	77.9	62.4	113	128.1	44.4	48.3
2006	65.0	11.3	53.1	83.2	46.6	95.5	179.6	72.5	52.4
2007	68.0	16.8	56.4	101.6	64.0	50.0	261.2	61.4	58.2
2008	91.2	26.0	45.0	116.0	54.6	89.0	166.0	39.4	65.8
2009	84.4	22.0	42.5	101.4	50.0	64.3	194.2	34.0	60.0

Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

a: Number in parentheses is number of males in detention at 30 June 2008 at Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre in New South Wales. Totals for New South Wales and Australia and rates are inclusive of this number

b: One male aged 16 years who was detained in a juvenile detention facility without being sentenced or remanded has been included

**Table 24. Females aged 10 to 17 years in juvenile detention at 30 June 1981-2009 (number and rate per 100,000 relevant population)**

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
1981	90	81	22	14	5	8	0	13	233
1982	95	67	13	13	4	6	3	4	205
1983	83	58	11	8	5	8	1	4	178
1984	48	72	20	12	3	7	2	3	167
1984	30	51	11	14	2	1	0	3	112
1986	33	56	17	5	4	2	4	1	122
1987	37	44	13	5	1	4	7	2	113
1988	23	34	10	5	3	7	3	2	87
1989	30	31	8	9	0	3	7	0	88
1990	29	24	9	11	1	1	3	0	78
1991	15	5	6	5	3	0	6	1	41
1992	12	5	3	9	3	0	3	1	36
1993	20	2	2	7	5	1	3	1	41
1994	18	3	5	12	2	1	0	1	42
1995	20	2	9	7	2	0	2	1	43
1996	21	2	8	12	12	3	0	1	59
1997	26	7	11	11	6	3	0	2	66
1998	15	5	10	13	4	1	0	1	49
1999	25	3	10	13	5	1	2	4	63
2000	23	9	9	12	10	3	0	1	67
2001	22	7	7	16	7	1	0	3	63
2002	16	4	15	8	7	1	0	3	54
2003	16	5	11	10	10	2	0	3	57
2004	13	5	4	16	4	0	0	1	43
2005	11	11	6	15	7	3	0	2	55
2006	12	7	12	9	2	3	1	4	50
2007	23	2	16	16	6	2	2	2	69

<b>2008</b>	25	5	16	15	7	1	1	<b>1</b>	71
<b>2009</b>	24	6	13	9	8	0	2	<b>3</b>	65
<b>Rate per 100,000 relevant population</b>									
<b>1981</b>	26.4	29.5	13.3	15.2	5.6	25.9	0.0	<b>78.9</b>	22.9
<b>1982</b>	27.6	24.2	7.6	13.8	4.5	19.6	31.4	<b>23.3</b>	19.8
<b>1983</b>	23.9	20.9	6.3	8.4	5.6	26.1	9.9	<b>22.6</b>	17.1
<b>1984</b>	13.7	25.9	11.3	12.5	3.4	22.9	19.2	<b>16.6</b>	15.9
<b>1984</b>	8.6	18.4	6.1	14.6	2.3	3.3	0.0	<b>16.2</b>	10.7
<b>1986</b>	9.4	20.5	9.5	5.2	4.7	6.6	36.4	<b>5.3</b>	11.7
<b>1987</b>	10.6	16.4	7.2	5.2	1.2	13.6	63.4	<b>10.5</b>	10.9
<b>1988</b>	6.6	12.9	5.6	5.2	3.7	24.2	27.7	<b>10.4</b>	8.5
<b>1989</b>	8.8	12.1	4.5	9.3	0.0	10.6	66.6	<b>0.0</b>	8.7
<b>1990</b>	8.7	9.6	5.0	11.4	1.3	3.6	28.9	<b>0.0</b>	7.8
<b>1991</b>	4.6	2.0	3.4	5.2	3.9	0.0	57.9	<b>5.4</b>	4.2
<b>1992</b>	3.7	2.0	1.7	9.3	3.9	0.0	28.4	<b>5.5</b>	3.7
<b>1993</b>	6.1	0.8	1.1	7.2	6.5	3.6	27.8	<b>5.5</b>	4.2
<b>1994</b>	5.5	1.2	2.7	12.2	2.6	3.6	0.0	<b>5.5</b>	4.2
<b>1995</b>	6.0	0.8	4.8	7.0	2.6	0.0	18.2	<b>5.5</b>	4.3
<b>1996</b>	6.2	0.8	4.2	11.7	15.3	10.7	0.0	<b>5.5</b>	5.8
<b>1997</b>	7.7	2.9	5.7	10.6	7.6	10.8	0.0	<b>11.1</b>	6.5
<b>1998</b>	4.4	2.0	5.1	12.4	5.1	3.6	0.0	<b>5.6</b>	4.8
<b>1999</b>	7.3	1.2	5.0	12.2	6.3	3.6	16.9	<b>22.4</b>	6.1
<b>2000</b>	6.6	3.6	4.5	11.1	12.6	11.1	0.0	<b>5.6</b>	6.4
<b>2001</b>	6.3	2.7	3.4	14.6	8.8	3.7	0.0	<b>16.7</b>	6.0
<b>2002</b>	4.5	1.6	7.2	7.3	8.8	3.7	0.0	<b>16.8</b>	5.1
<b>2003</b>	4.5	1.9	5.2	9.1	12.6	7.4	0.0	<b>17.1</b>	5.3
<b>2004</b>	3.7	1.9	1.9	14.4	5.1	0.0	0.0	<b>5.8</b>	4.0
<b>2005</b>	3.1	4.2	2.7	13.5	8.9	11.2	0.0	<b>11.6</b>	5.1
<b>2006</b>	3.4	2.7	5.4	8.0	2.5	11.2	8.2	<b>23.5</b>	4.6
<b>2007</b>	6.4	0.8	7.0	14.2	7.5	7.5	15.6	<b>11.6</b>	6.3
<b>2008</b>	7.0	1.9	6.9	13.2	8.7	3.8	7.8	<b>5.9</b>	6.4
<b>2009</b>	6.7	2.3	5.5	7.8	10.0	0.0	15.6	<b>17.5</b>	5.8

Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

**Table 25. Persons aged 10 to 17 years in juvenile detention at 30 June 1981-2009 (number and rate per 100,000 relevant population)**

	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>1981</b>	611	334	111	159	76	34	1	<b>26</b>	1,352
<b>1982</b>	646	299	107	151	71	23	11	<b>17</b>	1,325
<b>1983</b>	601	282	114	96	60	33	15	<b>20</b>	1,221
<b>1984</b>	426	281	105	81	40	27	17	<b>9</b>	986
<b>1984</b>	278	269	125	110	42	17	23	<b>13</b>	877
<b>1986</b>	290	260	95	98	42	22	30	<b>18</b>	855
<b>1987</b>	394	200	96	84	41	22	31	<b>13</b>	881
<b>1988</b>	272	198	99	81	45	21	40	<b>14</b>	770
<b>1989</b>	279	167	81	133	30	17	46	<b>6</b>	759
<b>1990</b>	354	151	109	125	37	10	30	<b>9</b>	825
<b>1991</b>	326	70	76	116	46	17	36	<b>7</b>	694

1992	262	52	74	93	53	5	28	10	577
1993	312	51	85	104	61	9	23	6	651
1994	370	64	95	131	58	10	13	9	750
1995	394	74	136	102	39	10	17	14	786
1996	340	70	136	106	83	26	13	7	781
1997	357	71	100	111	77	23 <sup>(b)</sup>	21	16	776 <sup>(b)</sup>
1998	336	67	126	136	50	19	25	11	770
1999	277	60	137	125	34	31	14	16	694
2000	274	52	102	115	59	37	15	15	669
2001	232	66	85	97	56	37	6	25	604
2002	203	57	97	79	47	26	21	15	545
2003	222	76	101	105	71	19	23	23	640
2004	198	62	91	118	51	18	10	16	564
2005	217(23)	63	98	106	59	35	17	10	605
2006	256(20)	38	137	107	41	30	25	17	651
2007	279(22)	49	152	139	60	16	38	13	746
2008	368(28)	78	126	157	54 <sup>(c)</sup>	26	24	8	841
2009	341(22)	68	118	135	50	18	29	9	768
<b>Rate per 100,000 relevant population</b>									
1981	87.6	59.6	32.9	84.3	41.3	54.3	5.5	77.3	64.9
1982	91.6	53.0	30.7	78.1	38.8	37.0	55.9	48.5	62.8
1983	84.6	49.8	31.9	49.0	32.9	53.2	72.1	55.4	57.3
1984	59.6	49.5	29.0	41.2	22.1	43.4	78.9	24.3	46.0
1984	38.8	47.6	34.1	55.7	23.4	27.4	103.3	34.5	40.8
1986	40.4	46.4	25.8	49.3	23.8	35.7	132.2	47.1	39.9
1987	55.1	36.4	26.1	42.2	23.7	36.6	135.7	33.6	41.4
1988	38.2	36.6	26.9	40.5	26.6	35.6	177.5	35.9	36.5
1989	40.0	31.7	22.0	66.6	18.2	29.4	208.6	15.5	36.6
1990	51.8	29.3	29.7	63.0	22.9	17.5	138.0	23.6	40.4
1991	48.2	13.7	20.7	58.3	28.7	29.9	166.2	18.5	34.2
1992	38.9	10.3	20.1	46.5	33.3	8.8	127.1	26.8	28.5
1993	46.4	10.2	22.7	51.6	38.5	15.8	102.7	16.2	32.2
1994	54.8	12.9	24.9	64.3	36.4	17.6	57.5	24.3	36.9
1995	57.8	14.9	35.1	49.3	24.4	17.5	74.8	37.8	38.3
1996	49.3	14.0	34.4	50.4	51.6	45.4	56.1	18.9	37.7
1997	51.5	14.2	25.1	52.2	47.8	24.1	88.2	43.5	36.6
1998	48.2	13.3	31.3	63.0	31.0	33.8	103.0	30.3	36.7
1999	39.4	11.8	33.7	57.1	20.9	55.5	57.3	44.0	32.8
2000	38.5	10.1	24.7	51.9	36.2	40.5	49.5	41.2	30.7
2001	32.2	12.7	20.3	43.3	34.4	67.0	24.0	68.4	27.9
2002	28.0	10.9	22.7	35.1	28.9	47.3	83.8	41.4	25.0
2003	30.5	14.4	23.2	46.3	43.7	34.6	92.1	64.2	29.1
2004	27.2	11.7	20.6	51.9	31.5	32.7	39.8	45.1	25.5
2005	29.7	11.8	21.7	46.5	36.4	63.5	66.8	28.4	27.2
2006	35.0	7.1	29.9	46.6	25.2	54.6	97.5	48.6	29.1
2007	38.0	9.0	32.3	59.4	36.5	29.1	143.0	37.0	32.9
2008	50.1	14.3	26.4	66.4	32.9	47.6	90.0	22.9	37.0
2009	46.5	12.4	24.5	56.2	30.5	33.1	108.4	25.9	33.6

Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

a: Number in parentheses is number of males in detention at 30 June 2008 at Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre in New South Wales. Totals for New South Wales and Australia and rates are inclusive of this number

b: One male aged 16 years who was detained in a juvenile detention facility without being sentenced or remanded has been included.

c: Includes one Indigenous juvenile aged 16 years of age whose gender was unknown.

Table 26 shows the proportion of all juveniles in detention that is comprised of females. In the ACT, this proportion has varied from 0.0 percent in 1989 and 1990 to 50 percent in 1981. At 30 June 2009, 8.5 percent of juveniles in detention nationally were female, compared with 33.3 percent in the ACT. This variance is to be expected in a small jurisdiction.

**Table 26. Females aged 10 to 17 years in juvenile detention at 30 June 1981-2009 (percentage of total detainees)**

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
1981	14.7	24.3	19.8	8.8	6.6	23.5	0.0	50.0	17.2
1982	14.7	22.4	12.1	8.6	5.6	26.1	27.3	23.5	15.5
1983	13.8	20.6	9.6	8.3	8.3	24.2	6.7	20.0	14.6
1984	11.3	25.6	19	14.8	7.5	25.9	11.8	33.3	16.9
1984	10.8	19.0	8.8	12.7	4.8	5.9	0.0	23.1	12.8
1986	11.4	21.5	17.9	5.1	9.5	9.1	13.3	5.6	14.3
1987	9.4	22.0	13.5	6.0	2.4	18.2	22.6	15.4	12.8
1988	8.5	17.2	10.1	6.2	6.7	33.3	7.5	14.3	11.3
1989	10.8	18.6	9.9	6.8	0.0	17.6	15.2	0.0	11.6
1990	8.2	15.9	8.3	8.8	2.7	10	10	0.0	9.5
1991	4.6	7.1	7.9	4.3	6.5	0.0	16.7	14.3	5.9
1992	4.6	9.6	4.1	9.7	5.7	0.0	10.7	10.0	6.2
1993	6.4	3.9	2.4	6.7	8.2	11.1	13	16.7	6.3
1994	4.9	4.7	5.3	9.2	3.4	10.0	0.0	11.1	5.6
1995	5.1	2.7	6.6	6.9	5.1	0.0	11.8	7.1	5.5
1996	6.2	2.9	5.9	11.3	14.5	11.5	0.0	14.3	7.6
1997	7.3	9.9	11	9.9	7.8	13.0	0.0	12.5	8.5
1998	4.5	7.5	7.9	9.6	8.0	5.3	0.0	9.1	6.4
1999	9.0	5.0	7.3	10.4	14.7	3.2	14.3	25.0	9.1
2000	8.4	17.3	8.8	10.4	16.9	8.1	0.0	6.7	10.0
2001	9.5	10.6	8.2	16.5	12.5	2.7	0.0	12.0	10.4
2002	7.9	7.0	15.5	10.1	14.9	3.8	0.0	20.0	9.9
2003	7.2	6.6	10.9	9.5	14.1	10.5	0.0	13.0	8.9
2004	6.6	8.1	4.4	13.6	7.8	0.0	0.0	6.3	7.6
2005	5.1	17.5	6.1	14.2	11.9	8.6	0.0	20.0	9.1
2006	4.7	18.4	8.8	8.4	4.9	10.0	4.0	23.5	7.7
2007	8.2	4.1	10.5	11.5	10.0	12.5	5.3	15.4	9.2
2008	6.8	6.4	12.7	9.6	13.0	3.8	4.2	12.5	8.4
2009	7.0	8.8	11.0	6.7	16.0	0.0	6.9	33.3	8.5

Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

## Age of juveniles in detention

Most juveniles in detention in Australia, and in the ACT, are aged 15 to 17 years; only a small proportion are aged 10 to 14 years (see Tables 27 and 28).

Table 27. Persons aged 10 to 14 years in juvenile detention at 30 June 1994-2009 (number)									
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>Indigenous</b>									
1994	27	0	6	18	0	0	1	0	52
1995	22	3	14	10	0	0	4	0	53
1996	20	0	13	7	0	3	1	0	44
1997	25	2	11	13	4	na	2	0	57 <sup>(a)</sup>
1998	14	1	19	22	2	na	5	0	63 <sup>(a)</sup>
1999	15	1	10	14	0	na	4	2	46 <sup>(a)</sup>
2000	19	0	15	15	3	na	6	0	58 <sup>(a)</sup>
2001	21	1	11	23	1	na	0	1	58 <sup>(a)</sup>
2002	13	1	12	13	3	na	0	0	42 <sup>(a)</sup>
2003	19	1	6	14	6	1	0	0	47
2004	20	0	10	8	4	1	0	1	44
2005	28	0	18	17	4	2	3	0	72
2006	21	0	22	15	4	2	3	1	68
2007	23	2	32	26	4	2	4	3	96
2008	37	2	28	29	2	1	2	1	102
2009	27	1	14	16	6	0	6	2	72
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>									
1994	30	6	2	8	7	2	1	1	57
1995	37	5	9	3	4	4	0	0	62
1996	25	7	30	2	12	6	1	0	83
1997	31	7	9	5	11	na	1	3	67 <sup>(a)</sup>
1998	29	10	4	6	4	na	4	3	60 <sup>(a)</sup>
1999	22	2	8	3	3	na	0	4	42 <sup>(a)</sup>
2000	12	3	4	4	8	na	0	3	34 <sup>(a)</sup>
2001	15	4	5	2	6	na	0	4	36 <sup>(a)</sup>
2002	11	5	6	0	3	na	1	3	29 <sup>(a)</sup>
2003	14	2	3	2	6	5	0	6	38
2004	5	5	8	3	3	1	0	1	26
2005	7	2	5	3	10	4	0	0	31
2006	13	2	14	3	6	3	0	1	42
2007	15	5	7	4	10	1	0	1	43
2008	13	10	8	1	6	5	0	0	43
2009	19	7	9	4	4	3	0	3	49
<b>Total</b>									
1994	57	6	8	26	7	2	2	1	109
1995	59	8	23	13	4	4	4	0	115
1996	45	7	43	9	12	9	2	0	127
1997	56	9	20	18	15	7	3	3	131 <sup>(b)</sup>
1998	43	11	23	28	6	3	9	3	126 <sup>(b)</sup>

1999	37	3	18	17	3	8	4	6	96 <sup>(b)</sup>
2000	31	3	19	19	11	4	6	3	96 <sup>(b)</sup>
2001	36	5	16	25	7	6	0	5	100 <sup>(b)</sup>
2002	24	6	18	13	6	6	1	3	77 <sup>(b)</sup>
2003	33	3	9	16	12	6	0	6	85
2004	25	5	18	11	7	2	0	2	70
2005	35	2	23	20	14	6	3	0	103
2006	34	2	36	18	10	5	3	2	110
2007	38	7	39	30	14	3	4	4	139
2008	50	12	36	30	8	6	2	1	145
2009	46	8	23	20	10	3	6	5	121

Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

a: Between 1997 and 2002, Tasmania was unable to provide data disaggregated by Indigenous status. Australian totals therefore exclude Tasmania

b: Totals include Tasmania

na = not available

**Table 28. Persons aged 15 to 17 years in juvenile detention at 30 June 1994-2009 (number)**

	NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>Indigenous</b>									
1994	88	5	44	58	16	1	7	0	219
1995	79	8	62	44	6	1	6	1	207
1996	82	4	70	54	18	3	8	1	240
1997	107	6	44	57	13	na	18	3	248 <sup>(b)</sup>
1998	89	10	57	65	16	na	16	3	256 <sup>(b)</sup>
1999	78	9	66	72	10	na	6	0	241 <sup>(b)</sup>
2000	90	4	45	60	12	na	5	2	218 <sup>(b)</sup>
2001	77	8	45	55	7	na	6	5	203 <sup>(b)</sup>
2002	71	6	46	43	17	na	15	3	201 <sup>(b)</sup>
2003	77	9	56	64	26	4	16	3	255
2004	90	12	45	83	17	3	8	4	262
2005	84(13)	20	36	62	22	6	12	3	245
2006	109(11)	5	49	58	9	6	21	5	262
2007	130(10)	8	65	77	26	4	29	1	340
2008	154(16)	10	53	89	19	8	21	4	358
2009	137(6)	7	62	88	15	3	20	1	333
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>									
1994	225	53	43	47	35	7	4	8	422
1995	256	58	51	45	29	5	7	13	464
1996	213	59	23	43	53	14	3	6	414
1997	194	56	36	36	49	na	0	10	381 <sup>(b)</sup>
1998	204	46	46	43	28	na	0	5	372 <sup>(b)</sup>
1999	162	48	53	36	21	na	4	10	334 <sup>(b)</sup>
2000	153	45	38	36	36	na	4	10	322 <sup>(b)</sup>
2001	119	53	24	17	42	na	0	15	270 <sup>(b)</sup>
2002	108	45	33	23	24	na	5	9	247 <sup>(b)</sup>
2003	112	64	36	25	33	9	7	14	300
2004	83	45	28	24	27	13	2	10	232

2005	98(10)	41	39	24	23	23	2	7	257
2006	113(9)	31	52	31	22	19	1	10	279
2007	111((12)	34	48	32	20	9	5	8	267
2008	164(9)	56	37	38	27	12	1	3	305
2009	146(11)	53	32	27	25	12	3	3	301
					<b>Total</b>				
1994	313	58	87	105	51	8	11	8	641
1995	335	66	113	89	35	6	13	14	671
1996	295	63	93	97	71	17	11	7	654
1997	301	62	80	93	62	16	18	13	645 <sup>(c)</sup>
1998	293	56	103	108	44	16	16	8	644 <sup>(c)</sup>
1999	240	57	119	108	31	23	10	10	598 <sup>(c)</sup>
2000	243	49	83	96	48	33	9	12	573 <sup>(c)</sup>
2001	196	61	69	72	49	31	6	20	504 <sup>(c)</sup>
2002	179	51	79	66	41	20	20	12	468 <sup>(c)</sup>
2003	189	73	92	89	59	13	23	17	555
2004	173	57	73	107	44	16	10	14	494
2005	182(23)	61	75	86	45	29	14	10	502
2006	222(20)	36	101	89	31	25	22	15	319
2007	241(22)	42	113	109	46	13	34	9	607
2008	318(28)	66	90	127	46	20	22	7	696
2009	288(22)	60	94	115	4	15	23	4	639

a: Number in parentheses is number of males in detention at 30 June 2008 at Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre in New South Wales.  
Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

Totals for New South Wales and Australia and rates are inclusive of this number

b: Between 1997 and 2002, Tasmania was unable to provide data disaggregated by Indigenous status. Australian totals therefore exclude Tasmania

c: Totals include Tasmania

na = not available

### Number and rate of juveniles in detention, by Indigenous status

Tables 29 and 30 show the number and rate per 100,000 respectively of Indigenous juveniles in detention. In the ACT, while only a small number of Indigenous juveniles are detained, rates per 100,000 have fluctuated substantially. Again, this is to be expected in a small jurisdiction.

**Table 29. Indigenous persons aged 10 to 17 years in juvenile detention, 1994-2009 (number)**

		NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
1994	31-Mar	90	5	49	76	25	3	9	0	257
	30-Jun	115	5	50	76	16	1	8	0	271
	30-Sep	96	5	59	60	15	3	10	0	248
	31-Dec	83	7	69	56	14	7	13	0	249
1995	31-Mar	115	10	84	69	9	3	17	2	309
	30-Jun	101	11	76	54	6	1	10	1	260
	30-Sep	105	9	61	58	24	3	13	1	274
	31-Dec	92	11	64	56	17	2	8	4	254
1996	31-Mar	91	5	84	64	18	4	7	3	276
	30-Jun	102	4	83	61	18	6	9	1	284
	30-Sep	109	10	77	56	18	na	6	4	280 <sup>(b)</sup>
	31-Dec	92	12	78	43	19	na	11	1	256 <sup>(b)</sup>

<b>1997</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	127	18	76	67	26	na	15	<b>3</b>	332 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	132	8	55	70	17	na	20	<b>3</b>	305 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	125	12	65	88	19	na	17	<b>0</b>	326 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	103	14	92	62	10	na	15	<b>3</b>	299 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>1998</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	109	9	87	70	16	na	20	<b>5</b>	316 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	103	11	76	87	18	na	21	<b>3</b>	319 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	97	6	78	84	15	na	23	<b>2</b>	305 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	101	9	70	63	17	na	13	<b>1</b>	274 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>1999</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	93	10	85	86	15	na	22	<b>2</b>	313 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	93	10	76	86	10	na	10	<b>2</b>	287 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	83	9	54	68	17	na	10	<b>3</b>	244 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	77	11	54	80	10	na	12	<b>2</b>	246 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>2000</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	95	9	71	86	9	na	6	<b>2</b>	278 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	109	4	60	75	15	na	11	<b>2</b>	276 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	81	7	53	69	15	na	10	<b>2</b>	237 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	77	6	43	63	17	na	20	<b>6</b>	232 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>2001</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	86	6	60	75	12	na	13	<b>2</b>	254 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	98	9	56	78	8	na	6	<b>6</b>	261 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	105	11	46	78	14	na	6	<b>6</b>	266 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	89	4	46	78	20	na	14	<b>5</b>	256 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>2002</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	89	7	63	71	23	na	14	<b>4</b>	271 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	84	7	58	56	20	na	15	<b>3</b>	243 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	88	12	51	68	24	na	20	<b>7</b>	270 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	93	5	45	75	29	na	21	<b>0</b>	268 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>2003</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	114	13	58	100	26	7	19	<b>4</b>	341
	<b>30-Jun</b>	96	10	62	78	32	5	16	<b>3</b>	302
	<b>30-Sep</b>	89	13	51	92	17	2	17	<b>5</b>	286
	<b>31-Dec</b>	90	13	49	88	12	11	12	<b>2</b>	277
<b>2004</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	104	18	62	97	21	7	9	<b>4</b>	322
	<b>30-Jun</b>	110	12	55	91	21	4	8	<b>5</b>	306
	<b>30-Sep</b>	117	12	48	79	22	5	14	<b>9</b>	306
	<b>31-Dec</b>	101	8	54	80	29	9	27	<b>4</b>	312
<b>2005</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	114(2)	6	56	109	34	6	20	<b>7</b>	352
	<b>30-Jun</b>	112(13)	20	54	79	26	8	15	<b>3</b>	317
	<b>30-Sep</b>	132(15)	15	54	77	15	7	8	<b>1</b>	309
	<b>31-Dec</b>	115(13)	9	70	92	17	4	15	<b>7</b>	329
<b>2006</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	131(13)	16	95	86	12	4	18	<b>7</b>	369
	<b>30-Jun</b>	130(11)	5	71	73	13	8	24	<b>6</b>	330
	<b>30-Sep</b>	154(11)	9	59	80	13	8	24	<b>4</b>	351
	<b>31-Dec</b>	138(10)	12	86	89	16	6	19	<b>6</b>	372
<b>2007</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	143(7)	8	128	116	24	5	24	<b>5</b>	453
	<b>30-Jun</b>	153(10)	10	97	103	30	6	33	<b>4</b>	436
	<b>30-Sep</b>	171(8)	15	82	102	24	12	25	<b>7</b>	438
	<b>31-Dec</b>	164(9)	12	87	124	25	11	18	<b>9</b>	450
<b>2008</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	207(11)	13	103	133	28	11	24	<b>11</b>	530
	<b>30-Jun</b>	191(9)	12	81	118	21	9	23	<b>5</b>	460
	<b>30-Sep</b>	186(7)	12	75	94	19	13	17	<b>7</b>	425
	<b>31-Dec</b>	175(11)	8	74	84	18	10	23	<b>7</b>	399

<b>2009</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	172(10)	11	81	101	22	14	24	<b>4</b>	429
	<b>30-Jun</b>	164(6)	8	76	104	21	3	26	<b>3</b>	405

Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

a: Number in parentheses is number of males in detention at 30 June 2008 at Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre in New South Wales. Totals for New South Wales and Australia and rates are inclusive of this number

b: Between 1997 and 2002, Tasmania was unable to provide data disaggregated by Indigenous status. Australian totals therefore exclude Tasmania

na = not available

**Table 30. Indigenous persons aged 10 to 17 years in juvenile detention, 1994-2009 (rate)**

		NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>1994</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	491.7	140.2	273.3	798.3	692.2	105.2	98.8	<b>0.0</b>	392.5
	<b>30-Jun</b>	628.3	140.2	278.9	798.3	443	35.1	87.8	<b>0.0</b>	413.9
	<b>30-Sep</b>	524.5	140.2	329.1	630.2	415.3	105.2	109.8	<b>0.0</b>	378.8
	<b>31-Dec</b>	453.5	196.2	384.9	588.2	387.6	245.5	142.7	<b>0.0</b>	380.3
<b>1995</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	613.3	275.6	460.2	710.8	244.5	101.8	185.5	<b>367.5</b>	463.2
	<b>30-Jun</b>	538.6	303.1	416.3	556.3	163.0	33.9	109.1	<b>183.8</b>	389.7
	<b>30-Sep</b>	560.0	248.0	334.2	597.15	651.9	101.8	141.8	<b>183.8</b>	410.7
	<b>31-Dec</b>	490.6	303.1	350.6	576.9	461.7	67.8	87.3	<b>735.0</b>	380.8
<b>1996</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	459.9	132.6	439.1	629.2	467.9	123.5	74.9	<b>537.6</b>	394.9
	<b>30-Jun</b>	515.5	106.1	433.9	599.7	467.9	185.2	96.3	<b>179.2</b>	406.4
	<b>30-Sep</b>	550.8	265.2	402.5	550.6	467.9	na	64.2	<b>716.8</b>	420.1 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	464.9	318.2	407.8	422.8	493.9	na	117.17	<b>179.2</b>	384.1 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>1997</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	588.3	455.6	375.2	621.3	626.4	na	157.1	<b>467.3</b>	467.9 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	611.5	202.5	271.5	649.2	409.5	na	209.5	<b>467.3</b>	429.9 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	579.1	303.7	320.9	816.1	457.7	na	178	<b>0.0</b>	459.5 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	477.1	354.3	454.2	575.0	240.9	na	157.1	<b>467.3</b>	421.4 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>1998</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	464.7	214.4	404.5	610.5	362.0	na	205.8	<b>701.3</b>	418.5 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	439.1	262.0	353.4	758.8	407.2	na	216.1	<b>420.8</b>	422.5 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	413.6	142.9	362.7	732.6	339.4	na	236.7	<b>280.5</b>	403.9 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	430.6	214.4	325.5	549.5	384.6	na	133.8	<b>140.3</b>	362.9 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>1999</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	365.6	255.0	369.6	714.3	320.9	na	222.4	<b>261.8</b>	389.9 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	365.6	255.0	330.5	714.3	213.9	na	101.1	<b>261.8</b>	357.5 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	326.2	202.5	234.8	564.8	363.6	na	101.1	<b>392.7</b>	303.9 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	302.7	247.5	234.8	664.5	213.9	na	121.3	<b>261.8</b>	306.4 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>2000</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	347.0	192.2	289.2	676.9	182.7	na	59.3	<b>241.0</b>	326.3 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	398.1	85.4	244.4	590.3	304.5	na	108.8	<b>241.0</b>	323.9 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	295.8	149.5	215.9	543.1	304.5	na	98.9	<b>241.0</b>	278.1 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	281.2	128.2	175.2	495.9	345.1	na	197.8	<b>722.9</b>	272.3 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>2001</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	337.8	116.7	257.4	599.2	248.3	na	129.2	<b>283.7</b>	309.5 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	384.9	175.0	240.2	623.2	165.6	na	59.6	<b>851.1</b>	318.1 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	412.4	213.9	197.3	623.2	289.7	na	59.6	<b>851.1</b>	324.2 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	349.6	77.8	197.3	623.2	413.9	na	139.2	<b>709.2</b>	312.0 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>2002</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	331.0	125.8	254.9	545.6	454.2	na	135.5	<b>535.5</b>	313.8 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	312.4	125.8	234.7	430.3	394.9	na	145.2	<b>401.6</b>	281.4 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	327.2	215.6	206.4	522.6	473.9	na	193.6	<b>937.1</b>	312.7 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	345.8	89.8	182.1	576.3	572.7	na	203.3	<b>0.0</b>	310.4 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>2003</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	402.8	219.8	222.1	741.6	495.6	186.5	181.1	<b>512.8</b>	362.3
	<b>30-Jun</b>	339.2	169.1	237.4	578.4	610.0	133.2	152.5	<b>384.6</b>	320.9

	<b>30-Sep</b>	314.5	219.8	195.3	682.2	324.1	53.2	162.0	<b>541.0</b>	303.9
	<b>31-Dec</b>	318.0	219.8	187.6	652.6	228.7	293.0	114.4	<b>256.4</b>	294.3
<b>2004</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	352.2	290.5	226.5	697.8	390.0	183.5	83.6	<b>495.7</b>	329.2
	<b>30-Jun</b>	372.5	193.7	200.9	654.6	390.0	74.3	74.3	<b>619.6</b>	312.9
	<b>30-Sep</b>	396.2	193.7	175.4	568.3	408.6	130.1	130.1	<b>1115.2</b>	312.9
	<b>31-Dec</b>	342.0	129.1	197.3	575.5	538.6	250.8	250.8	<b>495.7</b>	319
<b>2005</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	371.1	91.1	195.1	766.2	615.4	182.1	182.1	<b>823.5</b>	346.8
	<b>30-Jun</b>	364.6	303.8	188.1	555.3	470.6	136.6	136.6	<b>352.9</b>	312.3
	<b>30-Sep</b>	429.7	227.8	188.1	541.3	271.5	72.9	72.9	<b>117.6</b>	304.5
	<b>31-Dec</b>	374.4	136.7	243.9	646.7	307.7	136.6	136.6	<b>823.5</b>	324.2
<b>2006</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	411.3	234.3	317.1	592.5	213.6	161.1	161	<b>774.3</b>	352.4
	<b>30-Jun</b>	408.1	73.2	237.0	503.0	231.4	214.7	214.7	<b>663.7</b>	315.1
	<b>30-Sep</b>	483.5	131.8	196.7	551.2	231.4	214.7	214.7	<b>442.5</b>	335.1
	<b>31-Dec</b>	433.2	175.8	287.1	613.2	284.8	170.0	170.0	<b>663.7</b>	335.1
<b>2007</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	436.4	113.6	413.6	791.4	422.3	194.3	212.0	<b>520.8</b>	422.2
	<b>30-Jun</b>	467.0	142.0	313.5	702.7	528.0	256.1	291.5	<b>416.7</b>	406.3
	<b>30-Sep</b>	507.6	208.1	259.0	686.3	415.8	161.4	220.9	<b>687.6</b>	400.3
	<b>31-Dec</b>	486.9	166.5	274.8	834.3	433.1	147.9	159.1	<b>884.1</b>	411.2
<b>2008</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	614.5	180.3	325.3	753.6	485.1	147.9	212.1	<b>1080.6</b>	484.3
	<b>30-Jun</b>	567.0	166.5	255.8	794.0	363.8	121.0	203.3	<b>491.2</b>	420.4
	<b>30-Sep</b>	542.8	163.3	232.3	639.4	327.4	337.5	150.9	<b>649.4</b>	383.1
	<b>31-Dec</b>	510.7	108.8	229.3	559.5	310.2	259.6	204.2	<b>649.4</b>	359.6
<b>2009</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	501.9	149.7	250.9	672.7	379.1	363.4	213.1	<b>371.1</b>	386.7
	<b>30-Jun</b>	478.6	108.8	235.4	692.7	361.9	77.9	230.8	<b>278.3</b>	365.0

Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

a: Rates are calculated including males in detention at 30 June 2008 at Karijong Juvenile Correctional Centre in New South Wales

b: Between 30 September 1996 and 31 December 2002, Australian rates have been calculated using detainee totals excluding Tasmania and population estimates excluding Tasmania

na = not available

Tables 31 and 32 show the number and rate per 100,000 respectively of non-Indigenous juveniles. Compared with rates per 100,000 Indigenous juveniles, rates of non-Indigenous juveniles in detention have remained stable. At 30 June 2009, there were 17.8 non-Indigenous juveniles in detention per 100,000 in the ACT, compared with 16.1 per 100,000 nationally.

**Table 31. Non-Indigenous persons aged 10 to 17 in juvenile detention, 1994-2009 (number)**

		NSW <sup>(a)</sup>	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>1994</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	250	63	56	55	73	8	8	<b>12</b>	525
	<b>30-Jun</b>	255	59	45	55	42	9	5	<b>9</b>	479
	<b>30-Sep</b>	231	58	50	58	40	7	5	<b>15</b>	464
	<b>31-Dec</b>	244	44	53	41	36	14	5	<b>25</b>	462
<b>1995</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	278	65	60	35	40	14	7	<b>10</b>	509
	<b>30-Jun</b>	293	63	60	48	33	9	7	<b>13</b>	526
	<b>30-Sep</b>	276	62	55	39	41	8	6	<b>10</b>	497
	<b>31-Dec</b>	261	57	61	38	43	15	6	<b>10</b>	491
<b>1996</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	239	53	57	43	49	21	9	<b>7</b>	478
	<b>30-Jun</b>	238	66	53	45	65	20	4	<b>6</b>	497
	<b>30-Sep</b>	230	65	60	57	63	na	2	<b>14</b>	491 <sup>(b)</sup>

1997	31-Dec	227	61	51	30	55	na	4	14	442 <sup>(b)</sup>
	31-Mar	246	66	60	44	74	na	4	16	510 <sup>(b)</sup>
	30-Jun	225	63	45	41	60	na	1	13	448 <sup>(b)</sup>
1998	30-Sep	177	66	60	45	62	na	6	13	429 <sup>(b)</sup>
	31-Dec	160	62	65	35	37	na	0	4	363 <sup>(b)</sup>
	31-Mar	201	66	72	50	35	na	0	9	433 <sup>(b)</sup>
1999	30-Jun	233	56	50	49	32	na	4	8	432 <sup>(b)</sup>
	30-Sep	206	77	56	46	31	na	7	7	430 <sup>(b)</sup>
	31-Dec	174	68	48	47	21	na	7	6	371 <sup>(b)</sup>
2000	31-Mar	190	57	58	49	33	na	4	2	393 <sup>(b)</sup>
	30-Jun	184	50	61	39	24	na	4	14	376 <sup>(b)</sup>
	30-Sep	167	74	69	42	37	na	6	5	400 <sup>(b)</sup>
2001	31-Dec	151	52	43	34	26	na	6	7	319 <sup>(b)</sup>
	31-Mar	158	46	53	40	31	na	5	10	343 <sup>(b)</sup>
	30-Jun	165	48	42	40	44	na	4	13	356 <sup>(b)</sup>
2002	30-Sep	149	54	34	46	40	na	6	14	343 <sup>(b)</sup>
	31-Dec	144	49	34	34	47	na	6	9	323 <sup>(b)</sup>
	31-Mar	121	59	39	28	50	na	7	10	314 <sup>(b)</sup>
2003	30-Jun	134	57	29	19	48	na	0	19	306 <sup>(b)</sup>
	30-Sep	149	55	35	35	37	na	2	15	328 <sup>(b)</sup>
	31-Dec	112	54	31	52	45	na	3	17	314 <sup>(b)</sup>
2004	31-Mar	119	61	36	37	36	na	3	7	299 <sup>(b)</sup>
	30-Jun	119	50	39	23	27	na	6	12	276 <sup>(b)</sup>
	30-Sep	130	47	44	23	34	na	4	8	290 <sup>(b)</sup>
2005	31-Dec	117	46	44	26	35	na	4	10	282 <sup>(b)</sup>
	31-Mar	116	56	41	28	42	23	3	14	323
	30-Jun	126	66	39	27	39	14	7	20	338
2006	30-Sep	134	50	45	29	31	24	2	17	332
	31-Dec	114	45	30	33	31	19	3	13	288
	31-Mar	107	45	35	29	35	24	0	14	289
2007	30-Jun	88	50	36	27	30	14	2	11	258
	30-Sep	99	47	29	19	32	28	3	6	263
	31-Dec	110	28	33	20	31	27	2	9	260
2008	31-Mar	114(22)	46	38	26	24	20	3	13	284
	30-Jun	105(10)	43	44	27	33	27	2	7	288
	30-Sep	110(9)	43	37	26	23	24	1	6	270
2009	31-Dec	100(8)	46	50	31	24	15	1	5	272
	31-Mar	131(14)	43	64	41	24	22	1	8	334
	30-Jun	126(9)	33	66	34	28	22	1	11	321
2010	30-Sep	126(11)	44	45	38	25	17	0	11	306
	31-Dec	121(9)	34	44	29	22	13	3	13	279
	31-Mar	145(12)	36	38	35	25	12	3	5	299
2011	30-Jun	126(12)	39	55	36	30	10	5	9	184
	30-Sep	134(10)	42	56	33	24	12	1	9	311
	31-Dec	148(9)	35	61	30	29	11	2	4	320
2012	31-Mar	160(13)	57	58	37	36	13	3	5	369
	30-Jun	177(16)	66	45	39	33	17	1	3	381
	30-Sep	175(18)	50	36	34	22	10	1	5	333

	<b>31-Dec</b>	167(14)	52	37	30	30	14	3	<b>6</b>	339
<b>2009</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	187(11)	59	39	34	26	20	4	<b>6</b>	375
	<b>30-Jun</b>	165(11)	60	41	31	29	15	3	<b>6</b>	350

Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

a: Number in parentheses is number of males in detention at 30 June 2008 at Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre in New South Wales  
Totals for New South Wales and Australia and rates are inclusive of this number

b: Between 1997 and 2002, Tasmania was unable to provide data disaggregated by Indigenous status. Australian totals therefore exclude Tasmania

na = not available

**Table 32. Non-Indigenous persons aged 10 to 17 years in juvenile detention, 1994-2009 (rate)**

		NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>1994</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	38.0	12.8	15.4	28.3	46.9	14.8	59.2	<b>32.8</b>	26.7
	<b>30-Jun</b>	38.8	12.0	12.4	28.3	27.0	16.7	37.0	<b>24.6</b>	24.3
	<b>30-Sep</b>	35.1	11.8	13.8	29.9	25.7	13.0	37.0	<b>41.1</b>	23.6
	<b>31-Dec</b>	37.1	8.9	14.6	21.1	23.1	25.9	37.0	<b>68.4</b>	23.5
<b>1995</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	42.0	13.2	16.2	17.8	25.7	25.8	51.6	<b>27.4</b>	25.7
	<b>30-Jun</b>	44.2	12.7	16.2	24.4	21.2	16.6	51.6	<b>35.6</b>	26.5
	<b>30-Sep</b>	41.7	12.5	14.9	19.8	26.3	14.8	44.2	<b>27.4</b>	25.1
	<b>31-Dec</b>	39.4	11.5	16.5	19.3	27.6	27.7	44.2	<b>27.4</b>	24.7
<b>1996</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	35.7	10.7	15.2	21.5	31.2	38.9	65.2	<b>19.2</b>	23.9
	<b>30-Jun</b>	35.5	13.3	14.1	22.5	41.4	37.0	29.0	<b>16.5</b>	24.8
	<b>30-Sep</b>	34.4	13.1	16	28.5	40.2	na	14.5	<b>38.4</b>	25.2 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	33.9	12.3	13.6	15.0	35.1	na	29.0	<b>38.4</b>	22.7 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>1997</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	36.7	13.3	15.9	21.8	47.2	na	28.0	<b>44.3</b>	26.1 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	33.5	12.7	11.9	20.3	38.3	na	7.0	<b>36.0</b>	22.9 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	26.4	13.3	15.9	22.3	39.5	na	42.1	<b>36.0</b>	21.9 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	23.8	12.5	17.2	17.3	23.6	na	0.0	<b>11.1</b>	18.6 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>1998</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	29.8	13.2	18.9	24.5	22.3	na	0.0	<b>25.3</b>	22.0 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	34.6	11.2	13.1	24.0	20.4	na	27.5	<b>22.5</b>	22.0 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	30.6	15.4	14.7	22.5	19.7	na	48.1	<b>19.7</b>	21.9 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	25.8	13.6	12.6	23.0	13.4	na	48.1	<b>16.9</b>	18.9 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>1999</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	28.0	11.3	15.1	23.7	20.9	na	27.5	<b>5.6</b>	19.9 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	27.2	10.0	15.9	18.9	15.2	na	27.5	<b>39.3</b>	19.0 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	24.7	14.7	18.0	20.3	23.5	na	41.3	<b>14.0</b>	20.2 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	22.3	10.3	11.2	16.4	16.5	na	41.3	<b>19.6</b>	16.1 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>2000</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	23.1	9.0	13.7	19.1	19.6	na	24.7	<b>28.1</b>	17.2 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	24.1	9.4	10.8	19.1	27.9	na	19.8	<b>36.5</b>	17.8 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	21.8	10.6	8.8	22.0	25.3	na	29.7	<b>39.3</b>	17.2 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	21.1	9.6	8.8	16.3	29.8	na	29.7	<b>25.3</b>	16.2 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>2001</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	17.4	11.4	9.9	13.2	31.6	na	46.9	<b>27.9</b>	15.5 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	19.3	11.1	7.3	9.0	30.4	na	0.0	<b>53.0</b>	15.1 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	21.4	10.7	8.9	16.5	23.4	na	13.4	<b>41.9</b>	16.2 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	16.1	10.5	7.8	24.6	28.5	na	20.1	<b>47.4</b>	15.5 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>2002</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	17.0	11.8	8.9	17.4	22.9	na	20.4	<b>19.7</b>	14.7 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Jun</b>	17.0	9.6	9.7	10.8	17.2	na	40.8	<b>33.8</b>	13.5 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>30-Sep</b>	18.6	9.1	10.9	10.8	21.6	na	27.2	<b>22.5</b>	14.2 <sup>(b)</sup>
	<b>31-Dec</b>	16.7	8.9	10.9	12.3	22.2	na	27.2	<b>28.2</b>	13.8 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>2003</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	16.6	10.7	10.0	13.1	26.7	45.0	20.7	<b>39.9</b>	15.4

	<b>30-Jun</b>	18.0	12.6	9.5	12.7	24.8	27.4	48.4	<b>57.1</b>	16.1
	<b>30-Sep</b>	19.2	9.6	11	13.6	19.7	47	13.9	<b>48.5</b>	15.8
	<b>31-Dec</b>	16.3	8.6	7.3	15.5	19.7	37.2	20.8	<b>37.1</b>	13.7
<b>2004</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	15.3	8.6	8.4	13.6	22.4	46.8	0.0	<b>40.4</b>	13.7
	<b>30-Jun</b>	12.6	9.5	8.7	12.6	19.2	27.3	13.9	<b>31.7</b>	12.2
	<b>30-Sep</b>	14.2	9.0	7.0	8.9	20.5	54.7	21.0	<b>17.3</b>	12.5
	<b>31-Dec</b>	15.8	5.4	7.9	9.4	19.8	52.7	14.0	<b>26.0</b>	12.3
<b>2005</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	16.3 <sup>(a)</sup>	8.7	9.0	12.2	15.3	39.0	20.7	<b>37.9</b>	13.4
	<b>30-Jun</b>	15.1 <sup>(a)</sup>	8.1	10.4	12.6	21.1	52.7	13.8	<b>20.4</b>	13.6
	<b>30-Sep</b>	15.7 <sup>(a)</sup>	8.2	8.7	12.2	14.7	46.9	6.9	<b>17.5</b>	12.7
	<b>31-Dec</b>	14.3 <sup>(a)</sup>	8.7	11.8	14.5	15.3	29.3	6.9	<b>14.6</b>	12.8
<b>2006</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	18.7 <sup>(a)</sup>	8.1	14.9	19.0	15.3	43.0	6.9	<b>23.5</b>	15.7
	<b>30-Jun</b>	18.0 <sup>(a)</sup>	6.2	15.4	15.8	17.8	43.0	6.9	<b>32.3</b>	15.1
	<b>30-Sep</b>	18.0 <sup>(a)</sup>	8.2	10.2	17.3	15.7	33.2	0.0	<b>32.2</b>	14.3
	<b>31-Dec</b>	17.3 <sup>(a)</sup>	6.3	10.0	13.2	13.8	25.4	19.7	<b>38.1</b>	13.0
<b>2007</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	20.7 <sup>(a)</sup>	6.7	8.6	16.0	15.7	23.5	19.7	<b>14.6</b>	13.8
	<b>30-Jun</b>	18.0 <sup>(a)</sup>	7.2	12.5	16.4	18.9	19.6	32.8	<b>26.3</b>	14.4
	<b>30-Sep</b>	19.1 <sup>(a)</sup>	7.8	12.6	14.9	15.1	25.4	6.5	<b>26.6</b>	14.4
	<b>31-Dec</b>	21.1 <sup>(a)</sup>	6.5	13.7	13.5	18.3	23.3	13.0	<b>11.8</b>	14.8
<b>2008</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	22.8 <sup>(a)</sup>	10.6	13.0	16.7	22.7	27.5	19.6	<b>14.8</b>	17.0
	<b>30-Jun</b>	25.3 <sup>(a)</sup>	12.2	10.1	17.6	20.8	36.0	6.5	<b>8.9</b>	17.6
	<b>30-Sep</b>	25.0	9.2	8.0	15.1	13.9	19.8	6.5	<b>14.8</b>	15.3
	<b>31-Dec</b>	23.9	9.6	8.2	13.3	19.0	27.7	19.4	<b>17.8</b>	15.6
<b>2009</b>	<b>31-Mar</b>	26.8	10.9	8.7	15.1	16.4	39.5	25.8	<b>17.8</b>	17.3
	<b>30-Jun</b>	23.6	11.1	9.1	13.8	18.3	29.7	19.4	<b>17.8</b>	16.1

Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

a: Rates are calculated including males in detention at 30 June 2008 at Kariong Juvenile Correctional Centre in New South Wales

b: Between 30 September 1996 and 31 December 2002, Australian rates have been calculated using detainee totals excluding Tasmania and population estimates excluding Tasmania

na = not available

### *Indigenous over-representation*

Over-representation ratios reflect the rate of Indigenous juveniles in detention relative to the rate of non-Indigenous juveniles in detention. They are calculated by dividing the Indigenous rate of incarceration by the non-Indigenous rate. A high over-representation rate ratio may be due to a high number of Indigenous juveniles in detention relative to non-Indigenous juveniles, or a low number of non-Indigenous juveniles in detention relative to Indigenous juveniles.

Table 33 presents the over-representation rate ratios of juveniles in detention by jurisdiction as at 30 June from 1994 to 2009. Figure 2 illustrates the trend in rate ratios for the ACT.

It should be noted that rates of juvenile detention and the resulting over-representation ratios can be highly variable in jurisdictions with:

- small populations of Indigenous people;
- small juvenile detention populations; and/or
- small numbers of Indigenous people in juvenile detention.

These issues are particularly important to consider in relation to the ACT, because all of these characteristics are present.

At 30 June 2009, Indigenous juveniles were over-represented in detention in all jurisdictions (see Table 33) although the rate of over-representation varied considerably. In the ACT, Indigenous juveniles were 15.6 as times as likely to be detained as non-Indigenous juveniles, compared with 22.7 nationally.

**Table 33. Over-representation of Indigenous persons aged 10 to 17 years in juvenile detention at 30 June 1994-2009 (rate ratios)**

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>1994</b>	16.2	11.7	22.5	28.2	16.4	2.1	2.4	<b>0.0</b>	17.0
<b>1995</b>	12.2	23.8	25.7	22.8	7.7	2.0	2.1	<b>5.2</b>	14.7
<b>1996</b>	14.5	8.0	30.8	26.7	11.3	5.0	3.3	<b>10.9</b>	16.4
<b>1997</b>	18.2	15.9	22.8	32.0	10.7	na	29.9	<b>13</b>	18.8 <sup>(c)</sup>
<b>1998</b>	12.7	23.4	27.0	31.6	20.0	na	7.9	<b>18.7</b>	19.2 <sup>(c)</sup>
<b>1999</b>	13.4	22.5	20.8	37.8	14.1	na	3.7	<b>6.7</b>	18.8 <sup>(c)</sup>
<b>2000</b>	16.5	9.1	22.6	30.9	10.9	na	5.5	<b>6.6</b>	18.2 <sup>(c)</sup>
<b>2001</b>	19.9	15.8	32.9	69.2	5.4	na	- <sup>(b)</sup>	<b>16.1</b>	21.1 <sup>(c)</sup>
<b>2002</b>	18.4	13.1	24.2	39.8	23.0	na	3.6	<b>11.9</b>	20.8 <sup>(c)</sup>
<b>2003</b>	18.8	13.3	25.0	45.5	24.6	4.9	3.2	<b>6.7</b>	19.9
<b>2004</b>	29.6	20.4	23.1	51.9	20.3	3.8	5.3	<b>19.5</b>	25.6
<b>2005</b>	24.1 <sup>(a)</sup>	37.4	18.1	44.1	22.3	3.9	9.9	<b>17.3</b>	23.0
<b>2006</b>	22.7 <sup>(a)</sup>	11.8	15.4	31.9	13.0	4.8	31.0	<b>20.6</b>	20.9
<b>2007</b>	25.9 <sup>(a)</sup>	19.7	25.1	42.8	27.9	7.9	8.9	<b>15.8</b>	28.2
<b>2008</b>	22.4 <sup>(a)</sup>	13.6	25.3	45.1	17.5	3.4	31.3	<b>55.2</b>	23.9
<b>2009</b>	20.3 <sup>(a)</sup>	9.8	25.8	50.2	19.8	2.6	11.9	<b>15.6</b>	22.7

Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

a: Includes Kariiong Juvenile Correctional Centre in New South Wales

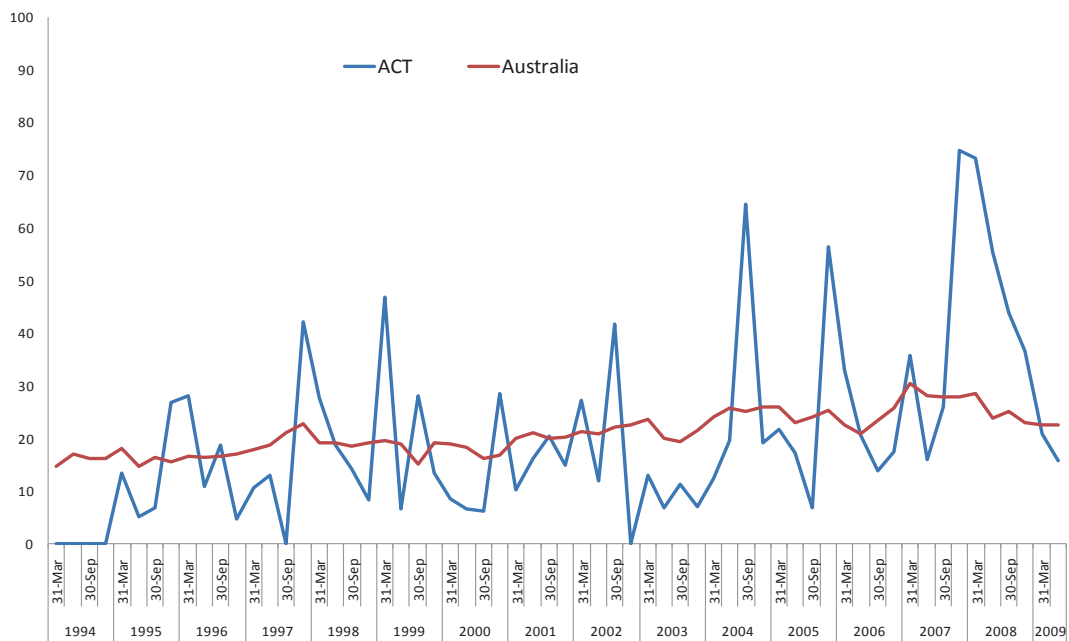
b: Non-Indigenous rate was zero so over-representation ratio could not be calculated

c: Excludes Tasmania

na = not available

As can be seen in Figure 2, the over-representation rate ratio in the ACT has fluctuated more so than is the case nationally, largely due to the factors listed above.

**Figure 2. Indigenous over-representation in juvenile detention in the ACT, 1994-2009 (rate ratios)**



Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981-2009 [computer file]

### *Remanded and sentenced juveniles in detention*

At 30 June 2009, two-thirds of juvenile detainees in the ACT (n = 6) were on remand rather than sentenced. As Table 34 shows, five of the six male juvenile detainees and one of the three female juvenile detainees were on remand. This closely reflects the national proportion of juveniles that is remanded rather than sentenced.

Nationally, more than half (53%) of remand periods served by juveniles during 2008-09 ended in the juvenile being granted bail; about one-fifth (21%) of remand periods were followed by a period of sentenced detention for the juvenile (AIHW 2011).

The issue of the increased use of remand for juveniles has recently been highlighted as a key priority for future research in the juvenile justice area (see Richards 2011c; Richards & Lyneham 2010).

**Table 34. Persons aged 10 to 17 years remanded or sentenced by jurisdiction, 2008-09 (number)**

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	WA	SA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>Males</b>									
<b>Remanded</b>									
<b>30 Sept</b>	220	31	60	52	19	15	6	7	410
<b>31 Dec</b>	198	34	68	49	22	13	12	7	403
<b>31 Mar</b>	181	36	90	61	27	16	11	7	429
<b>30 June</b>	179	28	76	51	26	9	13	5	387
<b>Sentenced</b>									
<b>30 Sept</b>	129	26	42	60	17	7	9	3	293
<b>31 Dec</b>	130	23	34	53	16	9	9	2	276
<b>31 Mar</b>	160	27	27	63	17	11	10	1	316
<b>30 June</b>	138	34	41	75	16	9	14	1	328
<b>Females</b>									
<b>Remanded</b>									
<b>30 Sept</b>	19	1	6	10	5	1	3	2	47
<b>31 Dec</b>	22	1	8	10	8	0	3	3	55
<b>31 Mar</b>	19	4	9	8	3	6	4	1	54
<b>30 June</b>	13	2	12	7	5	0	1	1	41
<b>Sentenced</b>									
<b>30 Sept</b>	6	4	3	8	0	1	0	0	22
<b>31 Dec</b>	7	2	4	2	2	2	2	1	22
<b>31 Mar</b>	13	3	3	3	1	1	3	1	28
<b>30 June</b>	11	4	2	2	3	0	1	2	25
<b>Total</b>									
<b>Remanded</b>									
<b>30 Sept</b>	239	32	66	62	24	16	9	9	457
<b>31 Dec</b>	220	35	76	59	30	13	15	10	458
<b>31 Mar</b>	200	40	99	69	30	22	15	8	483
<b>30 June</b>	192	30	88	58	31	9	14	6	428
<b>Sentenced</b>									
<b>30 Sept</b>	135	30	45	68	17	8	9	3	315
<b>31 Dec</b>	137	25	38	55	18	11	11	3	298
<b>31 Mar</b>	173	30	30	66	18	12	13	2	344
<b>30 June</b>	149	38	43	77	19	9	15	3	353
<b>Total detained on 30 June</b>	341	68	131	135	50	18	29	9	781
<b>% remanded at 30 June</b>	56.3	44.1	67.2	43.0	62.0	50.0	48.3	66.7	54.8

Source: AIC Juveniles in Detention Monitoring Program 1981–2009 [computer file]

# Measuring juvenile recidivism in the ACT

## What is recidivism?

The term 'recidivism' originates from the Latin 'recidere', which means to 'fall back'; the term is often used interchangeably with 'repeat offending' or 'reoffending' (Payne 2007). Maltz (cited in Ellermann, Sullo & Tien 1992: 485) defines recidivism as 'the reversion of an individual to criminal behavior after he or she has been convicted of a prior offense, sentenced, and (presumably) corrected'.

Recidivism is widely acknowledged to be a key indicator of the effectiveness of juvenile justice interventions - 'recidivism, or rather the absence thereof, is readily embraced as a valid and efficient outcome indicator' (Wartna 2009: 175; see also Cunneen & Luke 2007).

The reduction or eradication of juvenile recidivism is therefore a key goal of departments responsible for juvenile justice services in Australia (Cunneen & Luke 2007). In addition, measures of recidivism are often used to determine the 'success' or 'failure' of individual programs within the juvenile justice arena.

## Why is measuring recidivism problematic?

It has been widely acknowledged, however, that recidivism is a limited and problematic outcome measure for a variety of reasons, including that:

- Measures of recidivism rely on the accuracy of officially recorded administrative data. The use of recidivism as a measure of a department's success relies on the accurate recording of official data (Friendship, Beech & Browne 2002);
- Official data also substantially underestimate the true extent of recidivism, as only a small proportion of incidents are reported to the police and/or result in charges being laid (Friendship, Beech & Browne 2002; Murphey, Musser & Maton 1998; Victorian Department of Human Services 2001);
- It is impossible to measure recidivism directly. Instead, proxies (such as re-arrests or reconvictions) are used. Each of these proxy measures distorts the true picture of recidivism in some way (Cunneen & Luke 2007; Hedderman 2009);
- Measures and studies of recidivism usually do not involve the use of a control group (Cunneen & Luke 2007);
- Where less rigorous methodological approaches are used to determine levels of recidivism, changes in rates of recidivism may be due to factors unrelated to the intervention being measured;

- Variations in the length of time over which recidivism is measured can result in highly varied levels of recidivism being identified—the longer an individual is observed, the more likely it is that recidivism will be identified (Tresidder, Payne & Homel 2009);
- Levels of recidivism may reflect shifts in criminal justice policy or procedure, rather than actual levels of offending; and
- Counts of recidivism are something of a blunt instrument—the commission of a new offence does not provide information about the reasons a juvenile has reoffended, or an insight into what might have prevented the act of recidivism (Anderegg 2006).

Therefore, as Tresidder, Payne and Homel (2009) argue, a decrease in recorded recidivism might indicate a genuine reduction in offending. Alternatively, it might indicate, among other things, that:

- offenders committed more covert and less detectable offences, so that while their actual offending continued (or even increased), their apprehensions, prosecutions, convictions and/or sentences decreased;
- offenders were subject to alternative processing strategies that influenced the way in which their offending was dealt with and/or recorded by criminal justice personnel; and/or
- criminal justice processing delays were more substantial than in previous years, affecting the proportion of offenders who were officially counted in recidivism estimates.

Measuring *juvenile* recidivism can pose unique challenges, as juveniles have a different offending profile from adults, with offending peaking during late adolescence (see Richards 2011a).

In summary, therefore, data on juvenile recidivism can be limited and/or problematic, and it is important to recognise their limitations. As a small number of recidivist offenders are responsible for a large amount of crime, however, recidivism remains an important outcome indicator for juvenile justice agencies. As Cunneen and Luke (2007: 199) argue, 'measuring re-offending is important and it needs to be done as effectively as possible. However...it should not stand as a substitute for all other outcome measures' (see also Thomas 2006).

## Best practice in measuring juvenile recidivism

With the support of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA), the AIC recently undertook a research project that focused on best practice in measuring juvenile recidivism in Australia (see Richards 2011b). The study sought to explore a range of areas, including:

- how and to what extent juvenile justice services influence levels of recidivism;
- the limitations of recidivism as a measure of performance (particularly in relation to juveniles);
- the factors that may limit the extent of comparability when measuring juvenile recidivism across Australia's jurisdictions;
- additional or alternative outcome measures that could better assess the effectiveness of juvenile justice services; and

- principles for measuring juvenile recidivism on a comparable basis across Australia's jurisdictions.

To interrogate these research areas, a focused international literature review and a series of consultations with senior juvenile justice staff in each jurisdiction were undertaken.

## Best practice principles for measuring juvenile recidivism in Australia

A number of 'best practice' principles on measuring juvenile recidivism emerged from this research (see Richards 2011b), including that:

1. individual juveniles (rather than offences, convictions, or sentences) should be the primary counting unit;
2. juvenile recidivism should be measured prospectively rather than retrospectively;
3. juveniles should be tracked into the adult justice system (ie to assess whether juveniles recidivate after they have attained majority status);
4. minor offences should be excluded from measures of juvenile recidivism;
5. technical breaches of supervised orders should be excluded from measures of juvenile recidivism;
6. restorations of suspended sentences should be excluded from measures of juvenile recidivism;
7. data from specialty courts (eg youth drug and alcohol courts) should be included in measures of juvenile recidivism;
8. pseudo-recidivism should be excluded from measures of juvenile recidivism;
9. the offence date (rather than the conviction or sentencing date) should be used in measures of juvenile recidivism;
10. offences committed while a juvenile is serving a community-based order (but not a detention-based order) should be counted as recidivism; and
11. the frequency and/or severity of offending should be considered in measures of juvenile recidivism.

It is important to note that these principles represent an ideal. They comprise a best practice framework that jurisdictions across Australia are currently unlikely to be able to adhere to in practice. Jurisdictions may, however, adopt these principles to the extent possible and/or strive to become aligned with them in the future. Like all other jurisdictions, the ACT does not currently measure juvenile recidivism in accordance with these principles, but has endorsed the principles as best practice.

The purpose of the following sections, therefore, is not to compare the ACT's current practice unfavourably with the 'best practice' framework, but to provide an insight into how juvenile recidivism is currently measured in the ACT and how current methods could potentially be improved in the future.

## Measuring juvenile recidivism in the ACT

A consultation with senior staff from the ACT Office for Children, Youth and Family Services (OCYFS) was undertaken by the AIC on 20 May 2011. The purpose of this consultation was to obtain information on the measurement of juvenile recidivism in the ACT. Specifically, the consultation considered how juvenile recidivism is currently measured; what the data are used for and who the main users of the data are; and the limitations and challenges of current methods of measuring juvenile recidivism in the ACT.

The OCYFS currently reports on juvenile recidivism to the ACT Department of Treasury for the ACT's annual budget papers. The strategic indicator against which the OCYFS reports is 'Provision of services that address the needs of young people involved with Youth Justice Services' (ACT Department of Treasury 2011). As described in detail below, juvenile recidivism is measured retrospectively as a return to custodial supervision (for juveniles on custodial orders) or return to community-based supervision (for juveniles on community-based orders) over a two-year period. Only sentenced juveniles are counted as recidivists (ie those on remand are not counted). That is, the OCYFS measures recidivism by calculating the proportion of all juveniles currently in custody (on sentence) that had served part or all of a different episode of custody<sup>1</sup> following sentence within the previous two years or during the current year, and the proportion of all juveniles currently serving a community-based order that had been subject to a different community-based order within the previous year or during the current year.

The OCYFS also reports on juvenile recidivism in the ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services' annual report. The strategic indicator against which juvenile recidivism is reported is again the 'Provision of services that address the needs of young people involved with Youth Justice Services' (ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services [DHCS] 2010). Table 35 shows both the actual percentage of juvenile recidivists, calculated as described above, and the target with which this is compared.

**Table 35. Juvenile recidivism in the ACT, 2008-09 to 2009-10, targets and actual figures (percent)**

	Original target 2008-09	Actual result 2008-09	Original target 2009-10	Actual result 2009-10
Recidivism of sentenced young people in custody	45	0	45	27
Recidivism of young people on community-based orders	38	33	37	37

Source: Adapted from ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (2010; 2009)

As noted above, juvenile recidivism in the ACT is measured as a 'return to service' – that is, the return of a juvenile to a new custodial order (for juveniles currently serving a custodial order) or the return of a juvenile to a new community-based order (for juveniles currently serving a community-based order). Recidivism is not counted across these order types; that is, if a juvenile currently serving a custodial order previously served a community order (or vice versa), this would not be counted as recidivism.

<sup>1</sup> Where more than one period of imprisonment is imposed at one or more sentencing occasions, and these are served cumulatively and/or concurrently with an existing sentence, this is counted as one episode of custodial sentence, and excluded from the definition of recidivism. Where more than one supervised community-based sentence is imposed during a single sentencing proceeding, this is also counted once only and not included as recidivism. If a new supervised community-based sentence is imposed while a juvenile is already subject to such an order, however, this is counted as a new sentence and would be counted as recidivism.

As this definition implies, juvenile recidivism is counted *retrospectively* – calculating recidivism requires staff to determine whether a juvenile had been subject to an order within the previous two years. This figure is reported as a percentage of all juveniles who were subject to an order in the current year.

Juveniles are not currently tracked into the adult criminal justice system for the purposes of measuring recidivism. If a young person (aged 18-21 years) is in the custody of, or on supervision by, OCYFS for an offence committed while they were aged under 18 years, however, they would be considered a juvenile and counted as a juvenile recidivist (if they had served an order of the same type within the previous two years). Although tracking juveniles into the adult criminal justice system for the purposes of measuring recidivism is conceivable in the ACT, it is likely to be impractical and resource-intensive.

As Table 36 indicates, the ACT's current approach to measuring juvenile recidivism meets many of the 'best practice' principles outlined in Richards (2011b). Others, however, are not currently feasible.

The aim of the above discussion and Tables 35 and 36 is to provide an insight into how juvenile recidivism is measured in the ACT, and how the figures on juvenile recidivism reported in the ACT budget papers and DHCS' annual reports is calculated.

It should be noted that the principles outlined above provide an ideal framework for the measurement of juvenile recidivism, and that for a variety of reasons some of these principles will be difficult for jurisdictions, including the ACT, to meet in practice.

**Table 36. Whether ACT meets best practice principles for measuring juvenile recidivism**

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Whether met in the ACT</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Individual juveniles (rather than offences, convictions, or sentences) should be the primary counting unit</b>	Yes	The counting unit used to measure juvenile recidivism is 'juveniles'
<b>Juvenile recidivism should be measured prospectively rather than retrospectively</b>	No	Juvenile recidivism is currently measured retrospectively (ie what proportion of juveniles currently serving an order has previously served an order?) rather than prospectively (ie what proportion of juveniles currently serving an order returns to serve another order?)
<b>Juveniles should be tracked into the adult justice system (ie to assess whether juveniles recidivate after they have attained majority status)</b>	No	Juveniles are not currently tracked into the adult criminal justice system for the purposes of measuring recidivism. If a young person (aged 18-21 years) is sentenced by the Children's Court to the supervision of the OCYFS, however, they would be considered a juvenile and counted as a juvenile recidivist (if they had served an order of the same type within the previous two years)
<b>Minor offences should be excluded from measures of juvenile recidivism</b>	Yes	As only those juveniles who serve community-based or custodial orders are counted as recidivists, minor offences such as traffic and fare evasion offences are automatically excluded from measures of juvenile recidivism
<b>Technical breaches of supervised orders should be excluded from measures of juvenile recidivism</b>	No	In the ACT, failure to appear on bail is considered an offence
<b>Restorations of suspended sentences should be excluded from measures of juvenile recidivism</b>	No	A revocation of a suspended sentence would be counted as recidivism for juveniles serving a custodial order who had previously served a custodial order
<b>Data from specialty courts (eg youth drug and alcohol courts) should be included in measures of juvenile recidivism</b>	Yes	In 2010 Circle Sentencing in the ACT was expanded to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young offenders. Sentences from this court are included in measures of juvenile recidivism
<b>Pseudo-recidivism should be excluded from measures of juvenile recidivism</b>	No	The ACT currently is unable to exclude pseudo-recidivism from measures of juvenile recidivism
<b>The offence date (rather than the conviction or sentencing date) should be used in measures of juvenile recidivism</b>	No	The ACT does not capture data on offence date or use these data in calculations of juvenile recidivism
<b>Offences committed while a juvenile is serving a community-based order (but not a detention-based order) should be counted as recidivism</b>	Yes	The ACT includes offences committed while a juvenile is serving a community-based order as recidivism, but excludes offences committed while a juvenile is serving a custody-based order (where any new sentence is served concurrently or cumulatively with the existing custody-based order)
<b>The frequency and/or severity of offending should be considered in measures of juvenile recidivism</b>	No	This would pose substantial practical issues for the ACT

# Data gaps in relation to juveniles' contact with the criminal justice system in the ACT

There are a number of areas in relation to juveniles' contact with the criminal justice system in the ACT for which data collection could be improved. This section outlines the key areas in relation to juveniles' contact with the police, the Children's Court, corrections, and recidivism. Many of the data gaps in the ACT are also issues in other jurisdictions; these are outlined in more detail in Richards (2009).

In addition to the data gaps described below, a key limitation of data on juvenile justice matters in the ACT (as in other jurisdictions) is that data are not linked across the domains of policing, courts and corrections. It is therefore not possible to gain an insight into the trajectories of individual juveniles through the criminal justice system. In addition, it is difficult to get a sense of the flow of juveniles into and out of the criminal justice system and across these domains.

## *Police data*

In the ACT, like most jurisdictions, data are not published on both alleged juvenile offenders and *distinct* alleged juvenile offenders. Data on both of these variables would provide an insight into the proportion of alleged offenders who commit one offence and/or offences on one occasion only, compared with those who commit multiple offences and/or offences on multiple occasions. It has been well-documented that a small 'core' of juvenile offenders is responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime (Livingstone et al. 2008). Data on *distinct* alleged juvenile offenders would indicate the proportion of juvenile crime that is committed by chronic repeat offenders. Furthermore, disaggregating these data may show variations in offending patterns by age, sex, Indigenous status and/or other demographic characteristics (see Richards 2009).

While police data on alleged juvenile offenders in the ACT captures a range of key characteristics including juveniles' sex, age and Indigenous status, other characteristics, such as country of birth and ethnic background, are not reported. This is the case in most jurisdictions; only Victoria Police publishes such data.

Police in the ACT categorise alleged juvenile offenders as either Indigenous or non-Indigenous. As is the case in other jurisdictions, however, it is unknown how police determine Indigenous status. Future research might explore how police determine Indigenous status in jurisdictions in which this is not based on appearance. It is important to recognise that data relating to the Indigenous status of juveniles may not adequately capture the extent of Indigenous juveniles'

contact with the criminal justice system. Hunter and Ayyar's (2009: 16) research into the quality of data on Indigenous status in administrative data collections argues that

Indigenous involvement in the criminal justice system will be severely underestimated if no attempt is made to establish or estimate the true identity of the large number of people with unknown ATSI [Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander] status within the criminal justice system.

Qualitative research could also provide an important and complementary insight into juveniles' contact with police in the ACT. For example, police decisions on the processing of juveniles who are diverted from the formal criminal justice system could be explored in more detail. There has been little published on how police make decisions about whether a particular juvenile should be warned, cautioned or referred to a restorative justice conference; qualitative research could provide an insight into this important area.

### *Children's Court data*

Data on juveniles' contact with the ACT Children's Court are not disaggregated by Indigenous status (as is the case in other jurisdictions). It is therefore unclear what proportion of juveniles adjudicated in the Children's Court is Indigenous. In addition, the lack of court data on juveniles' Indigenous status has resulted in limited knowledge on the following issues:

- the offence types for which Indigenous juveniles are adjudicated in court, in comparison with non-Indigenous juveniles;
- sentencing outcomes for Indigenous juveniles compared with non-Indigenous juveniles;
- the age at which Indigenous juveniles first appear before the children's courts, in comparison with non-Indigenous juveniles;
- rates of acquittal and conviction by Indigenous status; and
- the combined influence of age, sex, Indigenous status and offence type on juveniles' court outcomes (Richards 2009).

More detailed analysis of the Indigenous status of juveniles appearing in the children's courts is important given the over-representation of Indigenous juveniles in detention. A closer examination of court data would provide an insight into the stage of the criminal justice system at which the over-representation of Indigenous juveniles becomes entrenched.

A high proportion of adjudications in the ACT Children's Court are withdrawn, in comparison with the national average. As highlighted in this report, nearly one-third of adjudications in the ACT Children's Court are withdrawn, in comparison with the national figure of 10 percent. Further consideration could be given to why this is the case, and any implications of this apparent anomaly.

The ACT is unique in publishing data on how juveniles plead in the Children's Court. The impacts of juveniles' pleading behaviours on sentencing outcomes is an important area that could be explored in more detail.

### *Corrections data*

Like all jurisdictions except the Northern Territory, data on juvenile corrections in the ACT lacks a focus on offence type (see Richards 2009). That is, the offence types for which juveniles are placed under either community- or detention-based supervision are largely unknown. These data, disaggregated by demographic characteristics such as age, sex and Indigenous status, would provide a more detailed picture of juvenile corrections in the ACT. It is important to note, however, that the very small numbers of juveniles in detention in Australia as a whole, and in the ACT in particular, is likely to make the collection of such data difficult, due to the need to maintain juveniles' privacy.

Considering the relationship between offence type and sentencing outcomes is particularly important in relation to understanding rates of over-representation of Indigenous juveniles under community-based and custodial supervision.

### *Recidivism data*

As this report has highlighted, current methods for measuring and reporting on juvenile recidivism in the ACT have a number of limitations, as is the case in all jurisdictions in Australia.

Perhaps the key limitation of the approach taken in the ACT, however, is the current lack of capacity to measure juvenile recidivism across community-based and custodial orders. That is, the current approach only captures juveniles serving a custodial sentence who have previously served a custodial sentence, and juveniles currently serving a community-based sentence who have previously served a community-based sentence. It has been well-documented, however, that juveniles often move between community-based and custodial orders. A key factor in improving data collection on juvenile recidivism in the ACT would therefore be to address this limitation.

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