
Community Services

Part D: Community services preface (CP)

Indigenous data in the community services preface

The community services preface in the *Report on Government Services 2003* (ROGS) contains the following data items on Indigenous people:

- Average daily population of Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in juvenile corrective institutions (number), 1996-97 to 2000-01;
- Rate of detention per 100 000 Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in juvenile corrective institutions (number), 1996-97 to 2000-01; and
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous detention rates, 2000-01.

Supporting tables

Supporting tables for data within the community services preface of the compendium are contained in the attachment to the compendium. Supporting tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by the abbreviated chapter name (for example, CP.A5 is table 5 in the community services preface attachment to the compendium).

As the data are directly sourced from the *Report on Government Services 2003*, the compendium also notes where the original table, figure or text in the Report can be found. For example, where the compendium refers to ‘ROGS 2003, p. 6.15’ this is page 15 of chapter 6 of the Report and ‘ROGS 2003, 6A.2’ is attachment table 2 of attachment 6 of the Report.

Juvenile justice

It is anticipated that the Report will contain performance reporting on a range of juvenile justice services in future years. The Australian Institute of Health and

Welfare (AIHW) is developing a National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) for juvenile justice. This is being developed on behalf of the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA) and the National Community Services Information Management Group. The NMDS is currently in the pilot test stage and will be completed in 2003. Following the pilot, the AJJA will decide about proceeding to an ongoing national collection.

Initial work has begun on the development of performance indicators. The indicators that are developed will need to be agreed to nationally and fully tested before any decision to report against them. Comparable data sources also need to be developed.

This report, as it relates to juvenile justice, focuses only on detention centre data. Jurisdictions have different definitions of a juvenile, however, which may have an impact on the number and rates reported for people aged 10–17 years.

The 2003 Report includes descriptive data on the number of, and detention rates of, juveniles in correctional facilities. The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has published these data, having obtained the data from juvenile corrections agencies in each jurisdiction (AIC 2002a). The following data relates to juvenile custodial services only and does not describe the operation of community-based services, which supervise the majority of juvenile offenders. Community-based services have an emphasis on diversion and include a range of specific diversionary mechanisms (both cautioning and conferencing), community-based remand options and community-based sentences, either unsupervised or supervised by the juvenile justice departments.

The AIC detention data are available for all years between 1981 and 2001, although only data from 1996-97 to 2000-01 are shown here. The number of juveniles in the tables includes those on remand as well as those sentenced. In some jurisdictions, (for example, WA) juveniles that have been arrested and have not yet appeared before a court are also held in a detention centre.

For its Indigenous population figures, the AIC has used high-level estimates, June 1996 to June 2006 (ABS 1998).

Nationally, the average daily number of people aged 10–17 years detained in juvenile corrective institutions fell from 786 to 611 between 1996-97 and 2000-01 (table CP.1).

Table CP.1 Average daily population of people aged 10–17 years in juvenile corrective institutions (number)^a

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas ^{b, c}	ACT	NT	Aust
1996-97	347	76	126	102	83	20	17	16	786
1997-98	303	74	144	122	57	19	11	21	751
1998-99	285	72	133	125	42	29	9	23	716
1999-2000	251	63	112	116	47	31	11	15	647
2000-01	223	62	87	103	59	43	17	17	611

^a Average based on population of juvenile corrective institutions on the last day of each quarter of the financial year. ^b A review of data provided by Tasmania indicates that discrepancies in the number of young people reported in the data may result in higher numbers reported than the actual numbers in the detention centre. ^c The proclamation of the *Tasmanian Youth Justice Act 1997* in February 2000 extended the upper range of the target group, resulting in an increased number of young people in detention.

Source: AIC (2002a); ROGS 2003, p. F.7.

Data disaggregated by Indigenous status were available from 1993, although only data for selected years are shown here. The daily average number of Indigenous people aged 10–17 years detained in juvenile corrective institutions fluctuated between 1996-97 and 2000-01, from a high of 321 in 1997-98 to a low of 255 in 2000-01 (table CP.2).

Table CP.2 Average daily population of Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in juvenile corrective institutions (number)^{a, b}

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas ^{c, d}	ACT	NT	Aust ^e
1996-97	115	12	72	59	21	5	3	13	299
1997-98	110	12	80	77	16	6	3	18	321
1998-99	96	9	77	80	14	6	2	17	301
1999-2000	91	8	60	77	13	8	2	10	269
2000-01	86	7	53	71	13	9	4	12	255

^a Average based on population of juvenile corrective institutions on the last day of each quarter of the financial year. ^b Jurisdictional comparisons need to be treated with caution, especially for those States and Territories with low Indigenous populations, where small number effects can introduce statistical variations that do not accurately represent trends over time or consistent differences from other jurisdictions. ^c A review of data provided by Tasmania indicates that discrepancies in the number of young people reported in the data may result in higher numbers reported than the actual numbers in the detention centre. ^d The proclamation of the *Tasmanian Youth Justice Act 1997* in February 2000 extended the upper range of the target group, resulting in an increased number of young people in detention. ^e The 2000-01 figure includes one Indigenous male held in detention for other reasons.

Source: AIC (2002a); ROGS 2003, p. F.9

Australia-wide, the rate of detention of people aged 10–17 years in juvenile corrective institutions fell by around one quarter between 1996-97 and 2000-01, although there were substantial differences across jurisdictions (table CP.3).

Table CP.3 Average annual rate of detention per 100 000 people aged 10–17 years in juvenile corrective institutions (number)^a

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas ^{b, c}	ACT	NT	Aust
1996-97	50.2	15.1	31.6	48.1	51.6	34.5	46.1	66.9	37.8
1997-98	43.5	14.7	35.9	56.4	35.5	33.4	30.9	86.6	35.8
1998-99	40.6	14.2	32.7	57.3	25.7	51.4	25.0	92.8	33.9
1999-2000	35.7	12.4	27.3	52.7	29.2	55.9	30.9	61.2	30.8
2000-01	31.5	12.0	21.0	46.4	36.6	78.0	47.9	68.4	28.6

^a Detention rates based on average population of juvenile corrective institutions on the last day of each quarter of the financial year. ^b A review of data provided by Tasmania indicates that discrepancies in the number of young people reported in the data may result in higher numbers reported than the actual numbers in the detention centre. ^c The proclamation of the Tasmanian *Youth Justice Act 1997* in February 2000 extended the upper range of the target group, resulting in an increased number of young people in detention.

Source: AIC (2002a); ROGS 2003, p. F.8.

Nationally, the detention rate for Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in 2000-01 was 276.2 per 100 000 (table CP.4). This compares with a detention rate of 17.4 per 100 000 for the non-Indigenous population aged 10–17 years (figure CP.1).

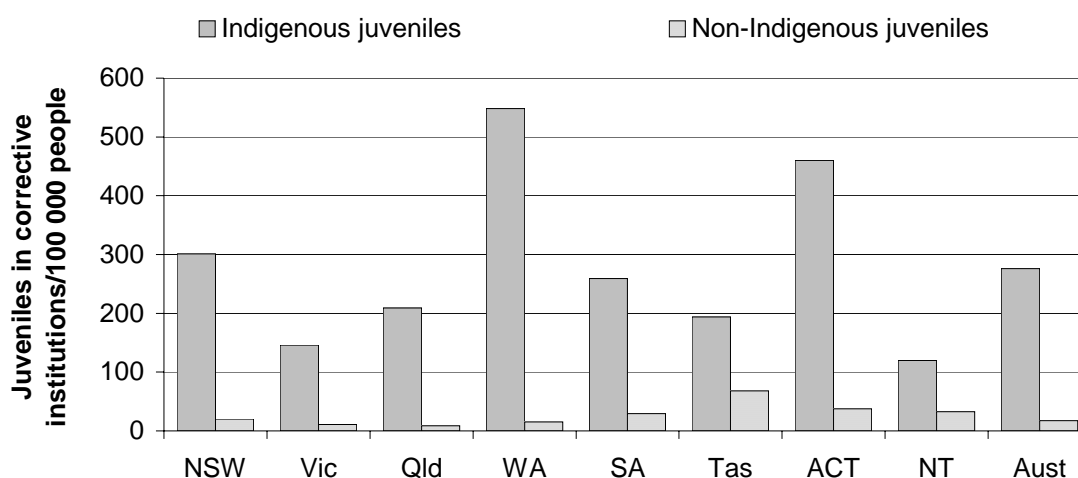
Table CP.4 Rate of detention per 100 000 Indigenous people aged 10–17 years in juvenile corrective institutions (number)^{a, b}

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas ^{c, d}	ACT	NT	Aust ^e
1996-97	553.9	310.4	364.3	561.0	518.9	156.3	457.7	134.5	413.7
1997-98	490.0	283.6	383.3	690.1	367.0	166.1	397.4	189.3	418.1
1998-99	393.9	201.8	347.1	677.6	314.7	157.2	236.1	173.5	368.1
1999-2000	343.5	181.9	251.8	624.1	266.2	182.6	284.1	97.6	309.1
2000-01	300.8	146.0	209.0	548.4	259.0	194.1	460.3	119.6	276.2

^a Average based on population of juvenile corrective institutions on the last day of each quarter of the financial year. ^b Jurisdictional comparisons need to be treated with caution, especially for those States and Territories with low Indigenous populations, where small number effects can introduce statistical variations that do not accurately represent trends over time or consistent differences from other jurisdictions. ^c A review of data provided by Tasmania indicates that discrepancies in the number of young people reported in the data may result in higher numbers reported than the actual numbers in the detention centre. ^d The proclamation of the *Tasmanian Youth Justice Act 1997* in February 2000 extended the upper range of the target group, resulting in an increased number of young people in detention. ^e The 2000-01 figure includes one Indigenous male held in detention for other reasons.

Source: AIC (2002a); ROGS 2003, p. F.9.

Figure CP.1 Indigenous and non-Indigenous detention rates, 2000-01^{a, b, c, d}



^a Jurisdictional comparisons need to be treated with caution, especially for those States and Territories with low Indigenous populations, where small number effects can introduce statistical variations that do not accurately represent trends over time or consistent differences from other jurisdictions. ^b Detention rate is based on the average population of juvenile corrective institutions on the last day of each quarter of the financial year. ^c A review of data provided by Tasmania indicates that discrepancies in the number of young people reported in the data may result in higher numbers reported than the actual numbers in the detention centre. ^d The proclamation of the *Tasmanian Youth Justice Act 1997* in February 2000 extended the upper range of the target group, resulting in an increased number of young people in detention.

Source: AIC (2002a); ROGS 2003, p. F.10.