



## Young people in youth justice custody (2018 to 2022)

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

Census year	2018	2019	2020	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022
Number of surveys	216	236	218	281	301
<b>Profile</b>					
Male	84%	86%	89%	91%	87%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	69%	76%	67%	64%	68%
Active Child Protection Order	14%	21%	26%	27%	28%
Living in unstable and/or unsuitable accommodation <sup>b</sup>	27%	27%	44%	41%	39%
Totally disengaged from education, training, or employment <sup>c</sup>	56%	62%	61%	63%	45%
Is a current or expectant parent <sup>d</sup>	3%	4%	6%	6%	4%
Parents have been held in Adult Custody <sup>e</sup>	37%	39%	34%	40%	35%
Experienced or been impacted by domestic and family violence <sup>f</sup>	Not avail.	69%	57%	60%	56%
<b>Known to use a Substance</b>					
<b>Used at least one of the below substances</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>83%</b>
Marijuana	73%	75%	70%	76%	70%
Tobacco	59%	57%	55%	57%	53%
Alcohol	58%	57%	44%	47%	50%
Ice and other methamphetamines	33%	39%	38%	41%	40%
Solvent inhalation	17%	14%	14%	15%	10%
Other substances <sup>g</sup>	2%	0.4%	9%	4%	5%
<b>Disability (diagnosed or suspected)</b>					
<b>Have at least one of the listed disabilities <sup>h</sup></b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>37%</b>
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	Not avail.	15%	14%	14%	12%
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	19%	24%	28%	31%	21%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	1%	4%	5%	6%	6%
Developmental/Language Disorder (new)	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	19%
Cognitive/Intellectual	27%	25%	18%	24%	26%
Physical	6%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Sensory	1%	4%	1%	3%	2%
<b>Mental Health &amp; Behavioural Disorders (diagnosed or suspected)</b>					
<b>Have at least one of the listed Mental Health disorders</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>27%</b>
Anxiety	20%	23%	16%	15%	20%
Depression	19%	16%	14%	11%	13%
Post-traumatic stress disorder	23%	16%	17%	14%	13%
Personality disorder	8%	3%	4%	4%	3%
Psychosis	6%	5%	4%	2%	3%
Bipolar disorder	0.9%	0%	2.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Eating disorder	0.9%	0%	0.5%	1.1%	0.3%
Obsessive-Compulsive disorder	0.5%	0.4%	0.9%	0.4%	0.0%
<b>Have at least one of the listed Behavioural disorders</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>19%</b>
Conduct disorder	26%	18%	17%	14%	9%
Opposition defiance	24%	18%	17%	15%	9%
Attachment disorder	28%	23%	17%	13%	12%
<b>Have at least one Mental Health &amp;/or Behavioural disorders</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>35%</b>



<sup>a</sup> As part of ongoing data quality improvement, a duplicate survey was removed from the 2021 census data and re-calculation on the 2021 accommodation measure was also performed. This resulted in a slight percentage change to the accommodation measure that was presented previously for the 2021 census.

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

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

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

<sup>e</sup> Parent in adult custody is defined as a young person's father or mother who was ever in adult custody on remand or sentence.

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

<sup>g</sup> Other substances may include prescription medicines, other depressant drugs (opioids, benzodiazepines, GHB), other stimulant drugs (MDMA, cocaine) and/or other hallucinogens (cannabis, LSD/Acid).

<sup>h</sup> Changes have been made to the disability and behavioural disorder sections in the 2022 census in order to better align with the way the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) classify disability/behavioural disorders. In addition, a new disability type, Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) was added in 2022. DLD is best described as a neurological condition. The following changes were made: FASD is now included under the Disability section (previously it was a stand-alone question which did not contribute to overall disability status). Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorder are now included under the Disability section (these were previously under the Behavioural Disorders section). As a result of these changes, the overall percentage of young people with at least one disability, at least one behavioural disorder and at least one mental health and/or behavioural disorder will differ to what has been published in previous census releases. To identify changes over time, trend data (based on 2022 classifications) is provided.