

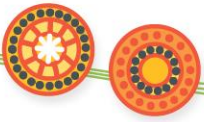


# Youth Justice Census Summary 2018-2023

## Young people in youth justice custody

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	2022	2023
<b>Number of surveys</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>265</b>
Male	84%	86%	89%	91%	87%	90%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	69%	76%	67%	64%	68%	67%
Active Child Protection Order	14%	21%	26%	27%	28%	24%
Living in unstable and/or unsuitable accommodation <sup>i</sup>	27%	27%	44%	41%	39%	31%
Totally disengaged from education, training, or employment <sup>ii</sup>	56%	62%	61%	63%	45%	46%
Is a current or expectant parent <sup>iii</sup>	3%	4%	6%	6%	4%	5%
Parents have been held in Adult Custody <sup>iv</sup>	37%	39%	34%	40%	35%	24%
Experienced or been impacted by domestic and family violence <sup>v</sup>	Not avail.	69%	57%	60%	56%	46%
<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>	<b>85%</b>
Marijuana	73%	75%	70%	76%	70%	70%
Tobacco	59%	57%	55%	57%	53%	37%
Vape <sup>vi</sup> (new)	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	23%
Alcohol	58%	57%	44%	47%	50%	57%
Ice and other methamphetamines	33%	39%	38%	41%	40%	38%
Solvent inhalation	17%	14%	14%	15%	10%	5%
Other substances <sup>vii</sup>	2%	0.4%	9%	4%	5%	7%
<b>Disability (diagnosed or suspected)</b>						
<b>Have at least one of the listed disabilities</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>54%</b>
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	Not avail.	15%	14%	14%	12%	15%
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	19%	24%	28%	31%	21%	31%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	1%	4%	5%	6%	6%	8%
Developmental/Language Disorder	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	19%	21%
Cognitive/Intellectual	27%	25%	18%	24%	26%	29%
Physical	6%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Sensory	1%	4%	1%	3%	2%	1%
<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>	<b>31%</b>
Anxiety	20%	23%	16%	15%	20%	20%
Depression	19%	16%	14%	11%	13%	14%
Post-traumatic stress disorder	23%	16%	17%	14%	13%	12%
Personality disorder	8%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%
Psychosis	6%	5%	4%	2%	3%	2%
Bipolar disorder	1%	0%	2.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%
Eating disorder	1%	0%	0.5%	1%	0.3%	0.4%
Obsessive-Compulsive disorder	0.5%	0.4%	1%	0.4%	0%	0.4%
<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>	<b>14%</b>
Conduct disorder	26%	18%	17%	14%	9%	8%
Opposition defiance	24%	18%	17%	15%	9%	6%
Attachment disorder	28%	23%	17%	13%	12%	8%
<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>	<b>36%</b>



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- <sup>i</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>ii</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>iii</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>iv</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>v</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>vi</sup> A question on the use of vapes was first introduced in the 2023 census.
- <sup>vii</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).