

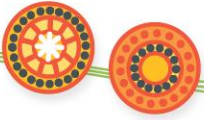


# Youth Justice Census Summary 2018-2023

## Young people under youth justice supervision

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

Census year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Number of surveys</b>	<b>1,788</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>1,578</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>1,610</b>
Male	78%	75%	78%	78%	78%	76%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	58%	59%	58%	57%	59%	61%
Active Child Protection Order	13%	14%	15%	18%	19%	17%
Living in unstable and/or unsuitable accommodation <sup>i</sup>	19%	21%	29%	30%	30%	30%
Totally disengaged from education, training, or employment <sup>ii</sup>	52%	53%	55%	52%	45%	48%
Is a current or expectant parent <sup>iii</sup>	5%	7%	10%	8%	7%	8%
Parents have been held in Adult Custody <sup>iv</sup>	31%	33%	30%	31%	27%	25%
Experienced or been impacted by domestic and family violence <sup>v</sup>	Not avail.	63%	60%	51%	53%	53%
<b>Known to use a Substance</b>						
<b>Used at least one of the below substances</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>81%</b>
Marijuana	59%	61%	63%	64%	62%	65%
Tobacco	57%	55%	53%	52%	47%	37%
Vape <sup>vi</sup> (new)	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	35%
Alcohol	52%	53%	48%	44%	48%	48%
Ice and other methamphetamines	17%	20%	21%	19%	20%	19%
Solvent inhalation	9%	9%	8%	9%	6%	3%
Other substances <sup>vii</sup>	2%	2%	6%	4%	5%	5%
<b>Disability (diagnosed or suspected)</b>						
<b>Have at least one of the listed disabilities</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>44%</b>
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	Not avail.	7%	8%	8%	8%	10%
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	18%	20%	20%	22%	15%	29%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	4%	5%	6%	6%	5%	9%
Developmental/Language Disorder	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	Not avail.	11%	12%
Cognitive/Intellectual	15%	15%	11%	15%	17%	20%
Physical	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Sensory	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	2%
<b>Mental Health &amp; Behavioural Disorders (diagnosed or suspected)</b>						
<b>Have at least one of the listed Mental Health disorders</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>39%</b>
Anxiety	25%	30%	23%	20%	19%	28%
Depression	22%	21%	18%	16%	15%	23%
Post-traumatic stress disorder	17%	16%	13%	12%	11%	17%
Personality disorder	6%	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%
Psychosis	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%
Bipolar disorder	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Eating disorder	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Obsessive-Compulsive disorder	1%	1%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	1%
<b>Have at least one of the listed Behavioural disorders</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>16%</b>
Conduct disorder	19%	13%	9%	9%	6%	6%
Opposition defiance	17%	14%	9%	9%	8%	9%
Attachment disorder	22%	20%	12%	10%	8%	10%
<b>Have at least one Mental Health &amp;/or Behavioural disorders</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>44%</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).