16 Youth justice services

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| Attachment tables are identified in references throughout this Indigenous Compendium by an ‘A’ prefix (for example, in this chapter, table 16A.1). As the data are directly sourced from the 2014 Report, the Compendium also notes where the original table, figure or text in the 2014 Report can be found. For example, where the Compendium refers to ‘2014 Report, p. 16.1’ this is page 1 of chapter 16 of the 2014 Report, and ‘2014 Report, table 16A.1’ is attachment table 1 of attachment 16A of the 2014 Report. A list of attachment tables referred to in the Compendium is provided at the end of this chapter, and the full attachment tables are available from the Review website at www.pc.gov.au/gsp. |
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The Youth justice services chapter (chapter 16) in the *Report on Government Services 2014* (2014 Report) reports on the performance of governments in delivering youth justice services in each Australian State and Territory. Data are reported for Indigenous Australians for a subset of the performance indicators reported in that chapter — those data are compiled and presented here.

This chapter reports on:

* *Community-based youth justice supervision —* community-based youth justice supervision is an alternative to detention, where a sentenced order or unsentenced order (such as conditional bail) are served in the community. Most young people under youth justice supervision are supervised in the community.
* *Detention-based youth justice supervision* *—* detention-based youth justice supervision involves young people serving their sentence in a custodial environment.
* *Group conferencing —* group conferences are decision-making forums that aim to minimise the progression of young people into the youth justice system, and provide restorative justice. Typically, a group conference involves the young offender(s) and victim(s) and their families, police, and a youth justice agency officer, all of whom attempt to agree on a course of action required of the young offender to make amends for his or her offence(s).

**Indigenous data in the Youth justice services chapter**

The Youth justice services chapter in the 2014 Report contains the following data on Indigenous Australians:

• daily average number and rate of Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years in detention

• daily average number and rate of Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years subject to community-based supervision

• average rates of detention and Indigenous rate ratio, young people aged   
10–17 years in juvenile detention, per 100 000 people

• custody nights

• proportion of group conferences resulting in an agreement

• deaths in custody

• young people in detention attending education and training

• escapes from detention and escorted movement

• absconds from unescorted leave

• serious assaults in custody

• assaults in custody

• self-harm and attempted suicide in custody

• completion of community-based orders

• case plans prepared/reviewed within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced order.

**Youth justice services** **— service overview**

Youth justice systems are responsible for attending to young people (predominantly aged 10–17 years) who have committed or allegedly committed an offence while considered by law to be a juvenile. In so doing, youth justice systems aim to promote community safety and reduce youth offending, by assisting young people to address their offending behaviour and take responsibility for the effect their behaviour has on victims and the wider community.

Responsibility for the provision of youth justice services in Australia resides with State and Territory governments. The relevant department in each State and Territory responsible for funding and/or providing youth justice services in 2012‑13 is listed in box 16.1. Each jurisdiction has its own legislation that determines the policies and practices of its youth justice system. While this legislation varies in detail, its intent is similar across jurisdictions.

The Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators (AJJA) is responsible for national coordination of youth justice services and is a sub-group of the Children, Youth and Community Services Policy Research Working Group (CYCSPRWG), which is a standing committee of the Standing Council on Community and Disability Services Advisory Council (SCCDSAC).

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| Box 16.1 Government departments responsible for the delivery of youth justice services | |
| *NSW* | Department of Attorney General and Justice |
| *Vic* | Department of Human Services |
| *Qld* | Department of Justice and Attorney-General |
| *WA* | Department of Corrective Services |
| *SA* | Department for Communities and Social Inclusion |
| *Tas* | Department of Health and Human Services |
| *ACT* | Community Services Directorate |
| *NT* | Department of Justice and Office of Children and Families |
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*Clients of youth justice agencies*

*Numbers and rates of young Indigenous Australians subject to youth justice supervision*

The daily average number of Indigenous Australians aged 10–17 years detained in youth justice detention centres was 442 in 2011‑12, compared with   
366 non‑Indigenous Australians aged 10–17 years (table 16A.9). Nationally, the daily average detention rate for Indigenous Australians aged 10–17 years in 2011‑12 was 425.4 per 100 000 Indigenous Australians aged 10–17 years, compared with 17.1 per 100 000 non-Indigenous young people (table 16A.9).

In 2011, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs released the report *Doing Time — Time for Doing: Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system*, which highlighted that, although   
20 years have passed since the *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report* (Commonwealth of Australia 1991), the incarceration rate of Indigenous Australians, including Indigenous youth, has worsened (Commonwealth of Australia 2011). Indigenous young people are far more likely to come into contact with the criminal justice system and to be incarcerated than non‑Indigenous young people, despite Indigenous people representing approximately 2.5 per cent of the Australian population. The over‑representation of Indigenous Australians aged 10–17 years in detention across jurisdictions in 2011-12 is shown in figure 16.1.

Figure 16.1 Average daily rate of detention of Indigenous and non‑Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years, per 100 000 young people aged 10–17 years, 2011–12**a, b**

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a Data should be interpreted with caution, particularly for jurisdictions with small Indigenous populations. The Indigenous and non-Indigenous rate ratio in table 16A.11 should also be taken into account. b Refer to   
table 16A.9 for detailed footnotes.

*Source*: AIHW 2013, *Youth justice in Australia 2011–12: an overview,* Canberra: AIHW; WA and NT governments (unpublished); table 16A.9; 2014 Report, figure 16.4, p. 16.9.

Indigenous young people are also over-represented in community-based supervision (figure 16.2). The daily average number of Indigenous young people aged   
10–17 years supervised in the community was 2040 in 2011-12, compared with 2814 non-Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years (table 16A.10). Nationally, the daily average rate of Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years subject to community-based supervision in 2011-12 was 1961.7 per 100 000 Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years, compared with 131.4 per 100 000 non-Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years (table 16A.10).

Figure 16.2 Average daily rate of Indigenous and non‑Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years subject to community supervision, per 100 000 young people aged 10–17 years, 2011‑12**a, b**

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a Refer to table 16A.10 for detailed footnotes. b Data should be interpreted with caution, particularly for jurisdictions with small Indigenous populations. The Indigenous and non-Indigenous rate ratio in table 16A.11 should also be taken into account.

*Source*: AIHW 2013, *Youth justice in Australia 2011–12: an overview,* Canberra: AIHW; WA and NT governments (unpublished); table 16A.10; 2014 Report, figure 16.5, p. 16.10.

**Framework of performance indicators for youth justice services**

The Youth justice services performance indicator framework in figure 16.3 identifies the principal youth justice activities included in the 2014 Report. Data for Indigenous Australians are reported for a subset of the performance indicators and are presented here. It is important to interpret these data in the context of the broader performance indicator framework. The framework shows which data are comparable. For data that are not considered directly comparable, the text includes relevant caveats and supporting commentary.

Indicator boxes presented throughout the chapter provide information about the reported indicators. As these are sourced directly from the 2014 Report, they may include references to data not reported for Indigenous people and therefore not included in this Compendium.

The Report’s statistical context chapter contains data that may assist in interpreting the performance indicators presented in this chapter. These data cover a range of demographic and geographic characteristics, including age profile, geographic distribution of the population, income levels, education levels, tenure of dwellings and cultural heritage (including Indigenous and ethnic status) (chapter 2).

Figure 16.3 Youth justice services performance indicator framework

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| Figure 16.3 Youth justice services performance indicator framework  More details can be found within the text surrounding this image. |

*Source*: 2014 Report, figure 16.7, p. 16.14.

**Youth justice services reporting for Indigenous Australians**

*Diversion — group conferencing outcomes*

‘Group conferencing outcomes’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to divert young people from the youth justice system and address their offending needs   
(box 16.2).

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| Box 16.2 Group conferencing outcomes |
| ‘Group conferencing outcomes’ is defined as the number of young people who receive group conferencing and who as a result reach an agreement, as a proportion of all young people who receive group conferencing.  Typically, a group conference involves the young offender and victim (or victims) and their families, police and a youth justice agency officer, all of whom attempt to agree on a course of action required of the young offender to make amends for his or her offence. Group conferences are decision-making forums that aim to minimise the progression of young people into the youth justice system, and provide restorative justice.  Data for this indicator should be interpreted with caution as the provision of group conferencing differs across jurisdictions in relation to: (a) its place in the court process (for example, whether young people are referred by police before court processes begin, or by the court as an alternative to sentencing), (b) the consequences for young people if they do not comply with the outcome plans of a conference, and (c) eligibility.  A high or increasing rate for this indicator is desirable.  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) within jurisdictions over time but are not comparable across jurisdictions * incomplete for the current reporting period. All required 2012‑13 data were not available for Victoria and WA. Victoria could not disaggregate these data by Indigenous status, and no data were available for WA.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2014. |
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Nationally, in 2012-13, 95.0 per cent of all concluded group conferences resulted in an agreement, with proportions varying across jurisdictions (figure 16.4).

Figure 16.4 Proportion of young people who receive group conferencing and reach an agreement, by Indigenous status, 2012-13**a, b, c, d**

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a Victoria cannot disaggregate group conferences by Indigenous status. b Data were not available for WA. c Queensland and Victoria count the number of group conferences resulting in an agreement, as a proportion of all concluded group conferences, as distinct from young people who receive group conferencing and reach an agreement. d Refer to table 16A.13 for detailed footnotes.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.13; 2014 Report, figure 16.8, p. 16.17.

*Rehabilitation — education and training attendance*

‘Education and training attendance’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide program interventions in education and training to rehabilitate young offenders and increase their chances of successfully re-integrating into the community (box 16.3).

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| Box 16.3 **Education and training attendance** |
| ‘Education and training attendance’ is defined by two measures:   * the number of young people of compulsory school age in detention attending an education course, as a percentage of all young people of compulsory school age in detention * the number of young people not of compulsory school age in detention attending an education or training course, as a percentage of all young people not of compulsory school age in detention.   Compulsory school age refers to specific State and Territory governments’ requirements for a young person to participate in school, which are based primarily on age (see 2014 Report, chapter 4 School education for further information). Education or training course refers to school education or an accredited education or training course under the Australian Qualifications Framework.  A high or increasing percentage of young people attending education and training is desirable.  Exclusions include young people not under youth justice supervision (for example, in police custody) and young people whose situation might exclude their participation in education programs (including young people who are: on temporary leave such as work release, medically unable to participate, in isolation, and on remand or sentenced for fewer than 7 days).  Data reported for these measures are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * complete for the current reporting period. All required 2012-13 data are available for all jurisdictions.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2014. |
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Nationally, 97.2 per cent of young people of compulsory school age in detention were attending an education course in 2012-13, while 98.1 per cent of young people in detention notof compulsory school age were attending an accredited education or training course (figure 16.5). Proportions varied across jurisdictions.

Figure 16.5 Proportion of young people in detention attending an accredited education or training course, by Indigenous status 2012-13**a**

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| **(a) Proportion of young people of compulsory school age in detention attending an accredited education or training course**  **(b) Proportion of young people not of compulsory school age in detention attending an accredited education or training course** |

a The low rates for WA for 2012-13 can be attributed to the combination of a number of factors such as building projects, the amalgamation of Rangeview Remand Centre and Banksia Hill Detention Centre, shortage of custodial staff, a serious disruption at Banksia Hill Detention Centre during January 2013 resulting in the transfer of most detainees to Hakea Juvenile Security. Consequently, young people did not have the same education hours and opportunities as in past years. The situation has considerably improved with the return of young people to Banksia Hill Detention Centre and the employment of more youth custodial officers. Therefore, WA expects to see an improvement in the rates for 2013-14. b Refer to table 16A.15 for detailed footnotes.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.15; 2014 Report, figure 16.9, p. 16.23.

*Safe and secure environment — escapes*

‘Escapes’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure that youth justice agencies provide a safe and secure environment for young people in custody, and the community (box 16.4).

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| Box 16.4 **Escapes** |
| ‘Escapes’ is defined by two measures:   * the number of escapes from a youth justice detention centre, as a proportion of all young people in custody * the number of escapes during periods of escorted movement, as a proportion of all periods of escorted movement.   An escape from a youth justice detention centre is defined as a breach of a secure perimeter or defined boundary of a youth justice detention centre by a young person under the supervision of the centre.  A period of escorted movement is defined as a period of time during which a young person is in the custody of the youth justice agency while outside a detention centre. The period of escorted movement ends when the young person is returned to the detention centre, or is no longer in the legal or physical custody of the youth justice agency. An escape from an escorted movement is defined as the failure of a young person to remain in the custody of a supervising youth justice worker or approved service provider during a period of escorted movement. An escape is counted each time a young person escapes. For example, if a young person escapes three times in a counting period, three escapes are recorded. If three young people escape at the same time, three escapes are recorded.  A zero or decreasing escape rate is desirable.  Data reported for these measures are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * incomplete for the current reporting period. Data for WA were not available for the measure ‘escapes during periods of escorted movement’.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2014. |
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Nationally, there were 4 escapes from youth justice detention in 2012-13, which was equivalent to 0.1 escapes per 10 000 custody nights in 2012-13 (table 16.1). The number of escapes from detention varied across jurisdictions.

Table 16.1 Number and rate of escapes from youth justice detention centres, by Indigenous status, 2012-13**a, b**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT | Aust |
| **Number of escapes** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | – | – | – | 2.0 | – | – | – | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| Non-Indigenous | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Unknown | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Total | – | – | – | 2.0 | – | – | – | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | – | – | – | 0.4 | – | – | – | 1.2 | 0.2 |
| Non-Indigenous | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Unknown | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Total | – | – | – | 0.3 | – | – | – | 1.1 | 0.1 |

a Refer to table 16A.16 for detailed footnotes. – Nil or rounded to zero.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.16; 2014 Report, table 16.1, p. 15.26.

Nationally, there were no escapes from escorted movements in 2012-13, although data were not available for WA (table 16A.16).

*Safe and secure environment — assaults in custody*

‘Assaults in custody’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide a custodial environment that is safe and secure in order to rehabilitate young offenders and reintegrate them into their community (box 16.5).

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| Box 16.5 Assaults in custody |
| ‘Assaults in custody’ is defined by two measures:   * the rate of detainees and staff (by Indigenous status) who are seriously assaulted (that is, sustain an injury that requires overnight hospitalisation and any act of sexual assault) due to an act perpetrated by one or more detainees, as a proportion of the number of detainees in custody * the rate of detainees and staff (by Indigenous status) who are assaulted (that is, sustain an injury, but do not require hospitalisation) due to an act perpetrated by one or more detainees, as a proportion of the number of detainees in custody. |
| (Continued on next page) |
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| Box 16.5 (Continued) |
| Injuries resulting from a range of actions are captured as part of reporting for this indicator. Types of injuries include bruises, cuts or lacerations, open wounds, fractured or broken bones or teeth, burns or scalds, poisoning, dislocations and sprains, and concussions. Types of actions that constitute assaults include intentional acts of direct infliction of force and violence (for example, fist fights) and intentional acts of indirect and non‑confrontational force or violence (for example, administering illicit drugs or poison, spiking food or drink, and setting traps).  A zero or low, or decreasing assaults in custody rate is desirable.  Data reported for these measures are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) within some jurisdictions over time but are not comparable across jurisdictions or over time for other jurisdictions (see caveats in attachment tables for specific jurisdictions) * incomplete for the current reporting period. All required data were not available for the following jurisdictions: no data were available for WA and data for assaults were not available for Victoria.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2014. |
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Nationally, 5 detainees were reported as injured in custody due to a serious assault in 2012-13 (table 16.2). Nationally, 4 staff were reported as injured due to a serious assault in 2012-13 (table 16.3). The proportions of young people and staff injured in custody due to a serious assault varied across jurisdictions.

Table 16.2 Number and rate of young people injured as a result of a serious assault, by Indigenous status, 2012-13**a, b**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT |
| **Number of young people injured as a result of a serious assault** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | – | na | 1.0 | na | – | – | – | – |
| Non-Indigenous | – | 4.0 | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | – | 4.0 | 1.0 | na | – | – | – | – |
| **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | – | na | 0.3 | na | – | – | – | – |
| Non-Indigenous | – | 0.7 | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Unknown | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | – | 0.7 | 0.2 | na | – | – | – | – |

a Data were not available for WA. b Refer to table 16A.18 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available.   
– Nil or rounded to zero.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.18; 2014 Report, table 16.2, p. 15.29.

Table 16.3 Number and rate of staff injured as a result of a serious assault, by Indigenous status, 2012-13**a, b**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT |
| **Number of staff injured as a result of a serious assault** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Non-Indigenous | – | – | 1.0 | na | – | – | – | – |
| Unknown | – | 3.0 | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | – | 3.0 | 1.0 | na | – | – | – | – |
| **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | – | – | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Non-Indigenous | – | – | 0.5 | na | – | – | – | – |
| Unknown | – | na | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | – | 0.5 | 0.2 | na | – | – | – | – |

a Data were not available for WA. b Refer to table 16A.18 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available.   
– Nil or rounded to zero.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.18; 2014 Report, table 16.3, p. 15.29.

Nationally, 83 detainees were reported as injured in custody due to an assault in 2012-13 (table 16.4). Proportions varied across jurisdictions.

Table 16.4 Number and rate of detainees injured as a result of an assault, by Indigenous status, 2012-13**a, b, c**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT |
| **Number of detainees injured as a result of an assault** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | 8.0 | na | 10.0 | na | 7.0 | – | – | 6.0 |
| Non-Indigenous | 4.0 | na | 8.0 | na | 26.0 | 12.0 | 2.0 | – |
| Unknown | – | na | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | 12.0 | na | 18.0 | na | 33.0 | 12.0 | 2.0 | 6.0 |
| **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | 1.3 | na | 2.6 | na | 7.4 | – | – | 3.5 |
| Non-Indigenous | 0.7 | na | 4.1 | na | 21.6 | 18.6 | 4.1 | – |
| Unknown | – | na | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | 1.0 | na | 3.1 | na | 15.1 | 17.8 | 3.1 | 3.3 |

a Data reported for this indicator are not comparable and need to be interpreted with caution. Methods of data collection vary across jurisdictions (for example, manual case file review compared to the collation of electronic incident reports) and jurisdictions’ ability to report on this measure is dependent on relevant incidents having first been documented. b Data were not available for Victoria and WA. c Refer to   
table 16A.19 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available. – Nil or rounded to zero.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.19; 2014 Report, table 16.4, p. 15.30.

Nationally, 76 staff were reported as injured due to an assault while supervising detainees in 2012-13 (table 16.5). Proportions varied across jurisdictions.

Table 16.5 Number and rate of staff injured as a result of an assault, by Indigenous status, 2012-13**a, b, c, d**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT |
| **Number of staff injured as a result of an assault** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | na | na | 6.0 | na | 1.0 | – | – | – |
| Non-Indigenous | na | na | 16.0 | na | 18.0 | – | – | 3.0 |
| Unknown | 21.0 | na | – | na | 1.0 | 10.0 | – | – |
| Total | 21.0 | na | 22.0 | na | 20.0 | 10.0 | – | 3.0 |
| **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | na | na | 1.5 | na | 1.1 | – | – | – |
| Non-Indigenous | na | na | 8.2 | na | 15.0 | – | – | 30.9 |
| Unknown | 122.3 | na | – | na | 24.8 | na | – | – |
| Total | 1.8 | na | 3.8 | na | 9.1 | 14.8 | – | 1.7 |

a Data reported for this indicator are not comparable and need to be interpreted with caution. Methods of data collection vary across jurisdictions (for example, manual case file review compared to the collation of electronic incident reports) and jurisdictions’ ability to report on this measure is dependent on relevant incidents having first been documented. b Data report the Indigenous status of staff who were reported as injured due to an assault. c Data were not available for Victoria and WA. d Refer to table 16A.19 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available. – Nil or rounded to zero.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.19; 2014 Report, table 16.5, p. 15.30.

*Safe and secure environment — self-harm and attempted suicide in custody*

‘Self-harm and attempted suicide in custody’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to provide a custodial environment that is safe and secure in order to rehabilitate young offenders and reintegrate them into their community (box 16.6).

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| Box 16.6 Self-harm and attempted suicide in custody |
| ‘Self-harm and attempted suicide in custody’ is defined by four measures:   * the number of incidents of self-harm or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation * the number of incidents of self-harm or attempted suicide in custody not requiring hospitalisation * the number of detainees who self-harmed or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation * the number of detainees who self-harmed or attempted suicide in custody not requiring hospitalisation. |
| (Continued on next page) |
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| Box 16.6 (Continued) |
| An incident of self-harm or attempted suicide is counted each time a young person self‑harms or attempts suicide. For example, if one young person self-harms or attempts suicide three times in a counting period, three incidents are recorded. Therefore, the number of incidents of self-harm or attempted suicide and the number of detainees who self-harm or attempt suicide will differ when one detainee has self‑harmed on two or more occasions, as each occasion will be counted as a separate incident.  Types of self-inflicted incidents that constitute self-harm include poisoning by drugs, alcohol, gases and vapours, hanging, strangulation, suffocation, drowning or submersion in water, burning, cutting, jumping from a high place, jumping or lying in front of a moving object, and electrocution.  A zero or low, or decreasing self-harm and attempted suicide in custody rate is desirable.  Data reported for these measures are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) within some jurisdictions over time but are not comparable across jurisdictions or over time for other jurisdictions (see caveats in attachment tables for specific jurisdictions) * incomplete for the current reporting period. Data were not available for WA.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2014. |
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Nationally, seven detainees in eight separate incidents were reported as having self‑harmed or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation in 2012-13. Proportions varied across jurisdictions (tables 16.6 and 16.7).

Table 16.6 Number and rate of detainees who self-harmed or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation, by Indigenous status, 2012-13**a, b**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT |
| **Number of detainees who self‑harmed or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | 5.0 | – | – | na | – | – | – | 1.0 |
| Non-Indigenous | 1.0 | – | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Unknown | na | – | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | 6.0 | – | – | na | – | – | – | 1.0 |
| **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | 0.8 | – | – | na | – | – | – | 0.6 |
| Non-Indigenous | 0.2 | – | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Unknown | na | – | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | 0.5 | – | – | na | – | – | – | 0.6 |

a Data were not available for WA. b Refer to table 16A.20 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available.   
– Nil or rounded to zero.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.20; 2014 Report, table 16.6, p. 15.32.

Table 16.7 Number and rate of incidents of self-harm or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation, by Indigenous status, 2012-13**a, b**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT |
| **Number of incidents of self‑harm or attempted suicide in custody requiring hospitalisation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | 6.0 | – | – | na | – | – | – | 1.0 |
| Non-Indigenous | 1.0 | – | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Unknown | na | – | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | 7.0 | – | – | na | – | – | – | 1.0 |
| **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | 1.0 | – | – | na | – | – | – | 0.6 |
| Non-Indigenous | 0.2 | – | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Unknown | na | – | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | 0.6 | – | – | na | – | – | – | 0.6 |

a Data were not available for WA. b Refer to table 16A.20 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available.   
– Nil or rounded to zero.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.20; 2014 Report, table 16.7, p. 15.32.

Nationally, 99 detainees were reported as having self-harmed or attempted suicide in 127 separate incidents during 2012-13, which did not require hospitalisation (tables 16.8 and 16.9). Proportions varied across jurisdictions.

Table 16.8 Number and rate of detainees who self-harmed or attempted suicide in custody not requiring hospitalisation, by Indigenous status, 2012-13**a, b, c**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT |
| **Number of detainees who self‑harmed or attempted suicide in custody not requiring hospitalisation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | 23.0 | na | 5.0 | na | 6.0 | 2.0 | – | 19.0 |
| Non-Indigenous | 12.0 | na | 6.0 | na | 10.0 | 6.0 | 3.0 | 2.0 |
| Unknown | – | 5.0 | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | 35.0 | 5.0 | 11.0 | na | 16.0 | 8.0 | 3.0 | 21.0 |
| **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | 3.8 | na | 1.3 | na | 6.3 | 64.1 | – | 11.2 |
| Non-Indigenous | 2.1 | na | 3.1 | na | 8.3 | 9.3 | 6.1 | 20.6 |
| Unknown | – | na | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | 3.0 | 0.8 | 1.9 | na | 7.3 | 11.9 | 4.6 | 11.7 |

a Data were not available for WA. b Data reported for this indicator are not comparable and need to be interpreted with caution. Methods of data collection vary across jurisdictions (for example, manual case file review, the collation of electronic incident reports) and jurisdictions’ ability to report on this measure is dependent on relevant incidents having first been documented. c Refer to table 16A.20 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available. – Nil or rounded to zero.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.20; 2014 Report, table 16.8, p. 15.33.

Table 16.9 Number and rate of incidents of self-harm or attempted suicide in custody not requiring hospitalisation, by Indigenous status, 2012-13**a, b, c**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Vic | Qld | WA | SA | Tas | ACT | NT |
| **Number of incidents of self‑harm or attempted suicide in custody not requiring hospitalisation** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | 23.0 | na | 5.0 | na | 8.0 | 2.0 | – | 29.0 |
| Non-Indigenous | 12.0 | na | 13.0 | na | 18.0 | 6.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Unknown | – | 5.0 | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | 35.0 | 5.0 | 18.0 | na | 26.0 | 8.0 | 3.0 | 32.0 |
| **Rate per 10 000 custody nights** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indigenous | 3.8 | na | 1.3 | na | 8.5 | 64.1 | – | 17.1 |
| Non-Indigenous | 2.1 | na | 6.7 | na | 15.0 | 9.3 | 6.1 | 30.9 |
| Unknown | – | na | – | na | – | – | – | – |
| Total | 3.0 | 0.8 | 3.1 | na | 11.9 | 11.9 | 4.6 | 17.9 |

a Data reported for this indicator are not comparable and need to be interpreted with caution. Methods of data collection vary across jurisdictions (for example, manual case file review compared to the collation of electronic incident reports) and jurisdictions’ ability to report on this measure is dependent on relevant incidents having first been documented. b Data were not available for WA. c Refer to table 16A.20 for detailed footnotes. **na** Not available. – Nil or rounded to zero.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.20; 2014 Report, table 16.9, p. 15.33.

*Statutory responsibilities — case plans prepared*

‘Case plans prepared’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to ensure that youth justice agencies support young people to minimise the likelihood of re‑offending by addressing their offending-related needs (box 16.7).

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| --- |
| Box 16.7 **Case plans prepared** |
| ‘Case plans prepared’ is defined as the number of eligible young people who had a documented case plan prepared or reviewed within 6 weeks of commencing:   * a sentenced detention order, as a proportion of all young people commencing a sentenced detention order * a sentenced community-based order, as a proportion of all young people commencing a sentenced community-based order.   An eligible young person is one who is serving a sentenced order that requires case management.  A high or increasing rate of case plans prepared is desirable.  Data reported for these measures are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * incomplete for the current reporting period. All required data were not available for the following jurisdictions: SA and Tasmania. In addition, WA could not disaggregate community‑based case plans by Indigenous status.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2014. |
|  |
|  |

Nationally, 82.8 per cent of case plans were prepared within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced community-based order in 2012-13 (figure 16.6(a)). Nationally, 97.8 per cent of case plans were prepared within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced detention order in 2012-13 (figure 16.6(b)). Proportions varied across jurisdictions.

Figure 16.6 Proportion of case plans prepared within 6 weeks of commencing sentenced detention orders and sentenced community-based orders, by Indigenous status, 2012-13**a, b, c, d**

|  |
| --- |
| (a) Proportion of case plans prepared within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced  community-based order  (b) Proportion of case plans prepared within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced  detention order |

a For community-based case plans, WA could not disaggregate the numerator by Indigenous status. Therefore, a proportion is only calculated for the total number of case plans prepared in WA. b Data were not available for SA and Tasmania. c In the NT, case plans for young people on community-based orders are prepared within 8 weeks of order commencement. Community-based data for the NT have been manually collated and data integrity cannot be assured. d Refer to table 16A.22 for detailed footnotes.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.22; 2014 Report, figure 16.10, p. 16.35.

*Statutory responsibilities — completion of community-based orders*

‘Completion of community-based orders’ is an indicator of governments’ objective to rehabilitate young offenders (box 16.8).

|  |
| --- |
| Box 16.8 Completion of community-based orders |
| ‘Completion of community-based orders’ is defined as the proportion of sentenced community-based supervision orders successfully completed. An order is counted as successfully completed where the earliest order expiry date or the order termination date is reached and breach is neither pending nor finalised.  A high or increasing proportion of orders successfully completed is desirable. However, where offenders are non-compliant and pose a risk, breach action (an unsuccessful completion) may be warranted. As a result, a completion rate less than 100 per cent may not necessarily indicate poor performance, and may reflect appropriate supervision of young people on community-based supervision orders.  Data reported for this indicator are:   * comparable (subject to caveats) across jurisdictions and over time * incomplete for the current reporting period. All required data were not available for the ACT.   Data quality information for this indicator is at www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2014. |
|  |
|  |

Nationally, 80.0 per cent of community-based orders were successfully completed in 2012-13. The proportion of community-based orders successfully completed varied across jurisdictions (figure 16.7).

Figure 16.7 Proportion of community-based orders successfully completed, by Indigenous status, 2012-13**a, b**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

a Data were not available for the ACT due to information system limitations. b Refer to table 16A.21 for detailed footnotes.

*Source*: State and Territory governments (unpublished); table 16A.21; 2014 Report, figure 16.11, p. 16.37.

### Definitions of key terms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sentenced community-based supervision** | Includes probation, recognisance and community service orders which are supervised or case managed by the youth justice department. May be supervision with or without additional mandated requirements, requiring some form of obligation or additional element that a young person is required to meet. This obligation could be community work such as a community service order, a developmental activity or program attendance. The youth justice department may or may not directly supervise any additional mandated requirements, but remains responsible for the overall case management of a young person. |
| **Youth justice conference / group conference** | A youth justice conference, or group conference, is a facilitated meeting resulting in a formal agreement to repair the harm caused by the offence. Participants can include the victim(s), offender(s), a youth justice agency officer, police and other key stakeholders. Referrals may be initiated by the police or the courts. |

**List of attachment tables**

Attachment tables for data within this chapter are contained in the attachment to the Compendium. These tables are identified in references throughout this chapter by a ‘16A’ prefix (for example, table 16A.3 is table 3 in the Youth justice services attachment). Attachment tables are on the Review website (www.pc.gov.au/gsp).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table 16A.9** | Daily average number and rate of Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years in detention |
| **Table 16A.10** | Daily average number and rate of Indigenous young people aged 10–17 years subject to community-based supervision |
| **Table 16A.11** | Average rates of detention and Indigenous rate ratio, young people aged 10-17 years in juvenile detention, per 100 000 people |
| **Table 16A.12** | Custody nights, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.13** | Proportion of group conferences resulting in an agreement, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.14** | Deaths in custody, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.15** | Young people in detention attending education and training, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.16** | Escapes from detention and escorted movement, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.17** | Absconds from unescorted leave, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.18** | Serious assaults in custody, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.19** | Assaults in custody, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.20** | Self-harm and attempted suicide in custody, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.21** | Completion of community-based orders, by Indigenous status |
| **Table 16A.22** | Case plans prepared/reviewed within 6 weeks of commencing a sentenced order, by Indigenous status |

**References**

Commonwealth of Australia 1991, *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report,* Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

—— 2011*, Doing Time — Time for Doing: Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.