

# The intersection between the Child Protection and Youth Justice systems in South Australia

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Better  
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## Disclaimer

The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of our government partners.

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### Who we are

The *BetterStart* Child Health and Development Research Group comprises inter-disciplinary researchers from epidemiology, public health, criminology, paediatrics, biostatistics, and psychology who are trying to better understand how to ensure infants and children have the best start in life that will enhance their health, development and human capability formation over the life course.

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## Objective

To examine the overlap between the Youth Justice (YJ) and the Child Protection (CP) systems, and profile selected characteristics of children and young people who have YJ and CP system involvement.

## Population

In this report, young people born between 1991 and 1998 were included since they had data for their entire YJ eligibility period, from January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2016. Young people born between 1991 and 1998 also had CP notifications, investigations, substantiations, orders and out-of-home care (OOHC) placement data for their entire CP eligibility period, from January 1, 1991 to December 31, 2016.

## The Key Numbers

### YJ supervision and intersection with the CP system

Of the population of young people born 1991-1998 (n=164,204):

- 28.9% (n=47,377) ever experienced any CP supervision;
- 1.6% (n=2,561) ever experienced both CP and YJ supervision;
- 0.3% (n=497) had contact only with the YJ system.

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who were in the CP system (n=47,377):

- 95% (n=44,816) never experienced contact with the YJ system.

However, of the young people ever supervised by YJ (n=3,058):

- 84% (n=2,561) had contact with the CP system;

### YJ contact and highest level of CP supervision

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who came under YJ supervision (n=3,058):

- Almost 40% (n=1,207) had substantiated maltreatment and/or spent time in OOHC;
- More than 1 in 5 (23.7%) spent time in OOHC.

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who spent time in OOHC on a long-term order (n=1,059):

- 1 in 4 (24.8%) were ever supervised by YJ.

## CP contact and highest type of YJ supervision

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who came under YJ supervision (n=3,058):

- A higher proportion of those who had contact with CP experienced any custodial supervision (unsentenced or sentenced; 65.8%) compared to those who never had CP contact (57.7%);
- A higher proportion of those who had contact with CP experienced sentenced custodial supervision (12.1%) compared to those who never had CP contact (5.3%).

## Order of CP and YJ system contact

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who had both CP and YJ contact (n=2,561):

- The vast majority (96.3%) had contact with CP prior to being under YJ supervision.

## Characteristics of young people under CP and/or YJ supervision

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who had CP and/or YJ system contact (n=47,377):

- 37.7% of those who experienced YJ supervision had their first CP contact before age 5 compared to 27.3% of those who were never under YJ supervision;
- Two thirds of those supervised by YJ (66.6%) had had their first CP contact before age 10 compared with just over half of those never under YJ supervision (55.3%).

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who had both CP and YJ system contact (n=2,561):

- Almost three quarters (73.7%) were male.
- More than a third (35.7%) were identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

## Characteristics at birth (CP and YJ involvement)

Of young people born 1991-1998 who experienced CP and/or YJ system contact and for whom birth and perinatal data were available (71%), there was a clear pattern of characteristics associated with social and economic disadvantage. This disadvantage was evident among those who experienced either CP or YJ contact only compared to those without any CP/YJ system contact, but was more pronounced for those who experienced both CP and YJ contact. For example, among young people who experienced both CP and YJ system contact:

- 43.1% were born to single mothers;
- 50.9% were born into a jobless families;
- 63.4% lived in the most disadvantaged areas;
- 73.8% were born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy;
- 20.8% were born to mothers who had previously given birth to 3 or more children;
- 27.8% were born to mothers who had insufficient antenatal care.

## Young people in out-of-home care (OOHC) and their involvement with the YJ system

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who ever experienced OOHC (n=4,841):

- 85% (n=4,118) never had contact with the YJ system.

However, of the young people ever supervised by YJ (n=3,058):

- 24% (n=723) had spent time in OOHC.

## Youth Justice supervision patterns by OOHC experience

### Type of supervision

Of young people born 1991-1998 under YJ supervision (n=3,058):

- Over 78% of those who ever spent time in OOHC also experienced custodial supervision (unsentenced or sentenced), compared to 56% of young people who never spent time in OOHC;
- 18.4% of those who ever spent time in OOHC experienced sentenced custodial supervision compared to 8.7% of young people who never spent time in OOHC.

### Age at first supervision

Of young people born 1991-1998 under YJ supervision (n=3,058):

- Just over half of both males and females who spent time in OOHC had their first supervision at ages 10-14 compared to around one quarter of young people who never experienced OOHC placement.

## OOHC placement characteristics by YJ supervision experience

### Age at first placement and placement instability

Of young people born 1991-1998 who spent at least three consecutive days in non-respite OOHC (n=3,792):

- The distribution of age at first placement suggests that there is some evidence that young people under YJ supervision are first placed in OOHC at an older age. For example, 19.0% of those placed in OOHC after age 10 never experienced YJ supervision compared to 33.2% of those placed at the same age who did come under YJ supervision.
- Almost 1 in 5 under YJ supervision experienced placement instability (18.8%), two times more than those never under YJ supervision (9.4%).

### Order of OOHC placement and YJ supervision

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who spent time in at least three consecutive days in non-respite OOHC *and* under YJ supervision (n=629):

- The vast majority (87.0%) had contact with CP prior to being under YJ supervision.

### Maltreatment history

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who spent time in OOHC and who had substantiated allegations of maltreatment (n=2,833):

- A higher proportion of those under YJ supervision experienced substantiations for emotional abuse, physical abuse and neglect, but not sexual abuse;
- Multiple types of substantiated maltreatment were more common among those under YJ supervision (50.6%) compared to those never under YJ supervision (32.8%).

### Characteristics at birth (OOHC and YJ involvement)

Compared to young people who experienced CP contact but no OOHC or YJ supervision, a higher proportion of young people who experienced both OOHC and YJ supervision were:

- Born to single mothers (49.2% compared to 25.9%);
- Born into a jobless families (59.9% compared to 23.9%);
- Lived in the most disadvantaged areas (65.3% compared to 48.1%);
- Born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy (85.7% compared to 41.8%);
- Had worse perinatal outcomes for low birth weight (14.6% low birth weight compared to 7.6%) and prematurity (13.3% preterm birth compared to 7.8%);
- Born to mothers who had previously given birth to more children (e.g., ~23% compared to ~12% for 3 or more previous births);
- Born to mothers who had insufficient antenatal care (33.8% compared to 12.3%).

## Our interpretation of the main findings

### CP and YJ overlap

1. Less than 2% of the population born 1991 to 1998 were ever under YJ supervision and had CP contact; however, 84% of young people under YJ supervision had contact with CP;
2. Young people from every level of the CP system (from notification through to guardianship orders and placement in OOHC) were over-represented in the YJ system;
3. Young people who had CP contact were more likely to experience custodial supervision (unsentenced or sentenced) and were over two times more likely to experience sentenced custodial supervision compared to those with no CP contact;
4. Almost all of the young people known to both CP and YJ are known to CP first;
5. There were clear social and economic patterns of disadvantage evident for young people who had contact with either CP or YJ, but this disadvantage was most pronounced for those known to both CP and YJ;

### OOHC and YJ intersection

6. Almost 25% of young people under YJ supervision had spent time in OOHC;
7. Young people who spent time in OOHC were more likely to experience custodial supervision (unsentenced and sentenced) and were two times more likely to experience sentenced custodial supervision compared to those who had not been in OOHC;
8. Both males and females who spent time in OOHC were more likely to come under YJ supervision at a younger age (10-14 years) compared to those without OOHC histories;
9. Among young people in OOHC, there was evidence that those who entered the YJ system were older at the time of their first OOHC placement;
10. Placement instability was twice as likely for those under YJ supervision compared to those who never came under YJ supervision;
11. Almost 9 out of 10 young people experienced their first OOHC placement prior to their first YJ supervision;
12. Multiple types of maltreatment were more common among young people in OOHC and under YJ supervision compared to those who never experienced YJ contact;
13. Social and economic patterns of disadvantage were more pronounced among young people who had both OOHC and YJ supervision experiences compared to those who had CP contact but never entered the OOHC or YJ systems.

### Knowledge and Data Gaps

- Currently, we hold data on all orders resulting in YJ supervision, as well as all admissions into Kurlana Tapa (Adelaide Youth Training Centre) and previous YJ-run custodial facilities. We do not, however, have information on the types of offences (alleged or proven) that led to YJ supervision. This information is essential for better understanding patterns of offending behaviour over a young person's life and to identify any key differences in these behaviours among young people who have had contact with CP. These differences may point to opportunities for preventing the crossover of young people between the CP and YJ systems.

## About this report

This report examines the intersection between young people's involvement with the Youth Justice (YJ) and Child Protection (CP) systems in South Australia (SA).

### Data sources

Data come from the Better Evidence Better Outcomes Linked Data platform (BEBOLD) using information from:

- SA Department of Human Services (Youth Justice);
- SA Department for Child Protection;
- Birth Registrations; and
- Perinatal Statistics Collection (SA Health).

The aim of the reports that we deliver to government is to provide an evidence base from which decisions can be made that will lead to improved outcomes for families and children experiencing different forms of disadvantage. However, as these reports primarily focus on data analysis, this can appear to depersonalise the real-life experiences that underlie these data. We would like to acknowledge the data in these reports represent serious experiences that can have a lifelong impact on children and families.

Using data in this way is only one way to tell important stories, however, we hope that this work contributes to ensuring South Australia is able to make more informed decisions about how best to support children and families.



## 1 – Youth Justice and Child Protection overlap: the 1991-1998 cohort view

In SA, the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 10 years, since younger children are presumed not morally or intellectually developed enough to be held legally accountable for their actions. The period of eligibility for YJ supervision in SA is from age 10 to 17 years. Due to delay in sentencing, some individuals who were 10-17 years at the time of their alleged offence can be 18 years or older when they enter the YJ system. That is, it is possible for young people aged over 18 years to be under YJ supervision following court determination of an offence(s) prior to age 18. For this reason, people aged 18 years and over were considered eligible for YJ supervision and included in these analyses.

To investigate different aspects of YJ supervision, such as the age at first contact, it is necessary to follow the young people during their entire period of eligibility (from age 10 to at least age 17). In the YJ data, the last year with complete information on supervision orders and admissions into secure custody was 2016. Therefore, young people born from 1 January 1991 through to 31 December 1998 were included in our analyses because there were data available for their entire YJ eligibility period, from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2016.

All young people under the age of 18 years are eligible for CP contact.

Figure 1 shows the calendar years and ages for which YJ and CP data are available for young people born from 1991 to 1998 according to birth years (rows) and calendar years (columns).

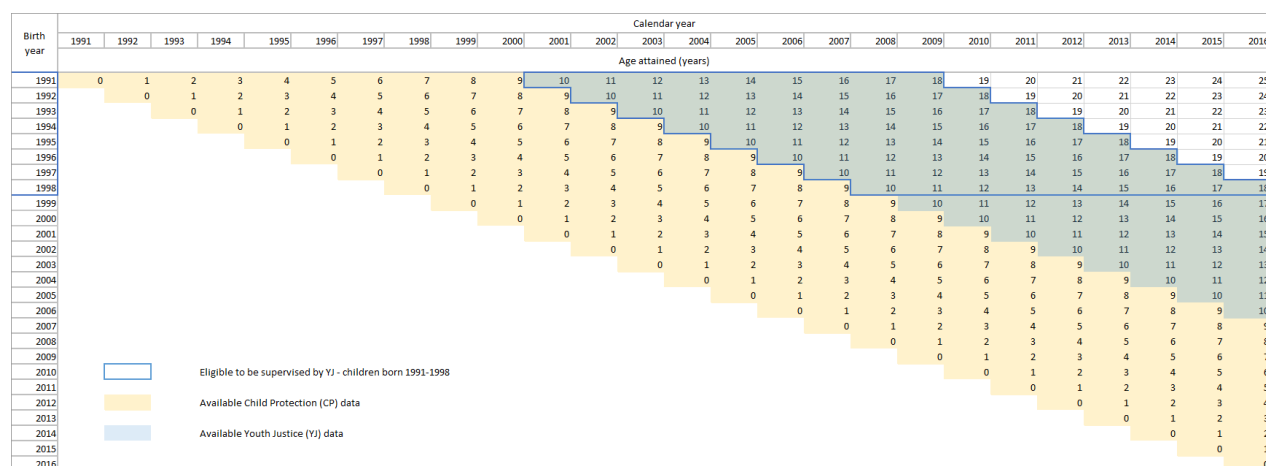


Figure 1: Available YJ and CP data by calendar year and year of birth ("cohort view")

## Proportion of the eligible population with CP contact and/or under YJ supervision

*In this section, we describe the proportion of the SA population eligible for CP and/or YJ system contact before 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2016 who had contact with these systems.*

Figure 2 shows the proportion of young people from the eligible population who had contact with the YJ and/or CP system. The eligible population was calculated based on the estimated resident population (ERP) in SA of young people born 1991-1998 at 30 June 2009 (N=164,204).

There were 47,874 young people born in 1991-1998 had contact with CP and/or involvement with the YJ system by age 18 (31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.)

Population eligible for CP contact and/or YJ supervision  
N=164,204

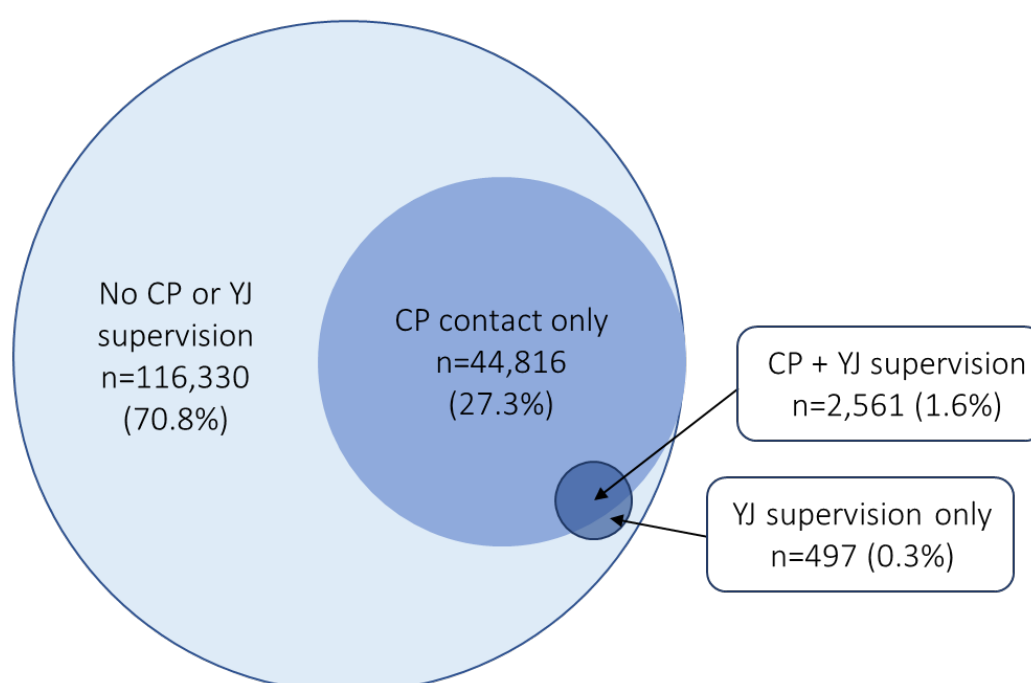


Figure 2: CP and YJ contact for young people born in 1991-1998.

### Key Message:

Of the eligible population of young people born 1991-1998 in SA (n=164,204):

- 28.9% (27.3+1.6%) had contact with the CP system before age 18 (n=47,377);
- 1.6% (n=2,561) had contact with both CP and YJ systems;
- 0.3% (n=497) had contact only with the YJ system.

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who had contact with the CP system (n=47,377):

- 95% (n=44,816) were never under YJ supervision.

## Proportion of young people under YJ supervision who had CP contact

Of the 3,058 young people under YJ supervision, 83.7% (n=2,561) had contact with the CP system (Figure 3).

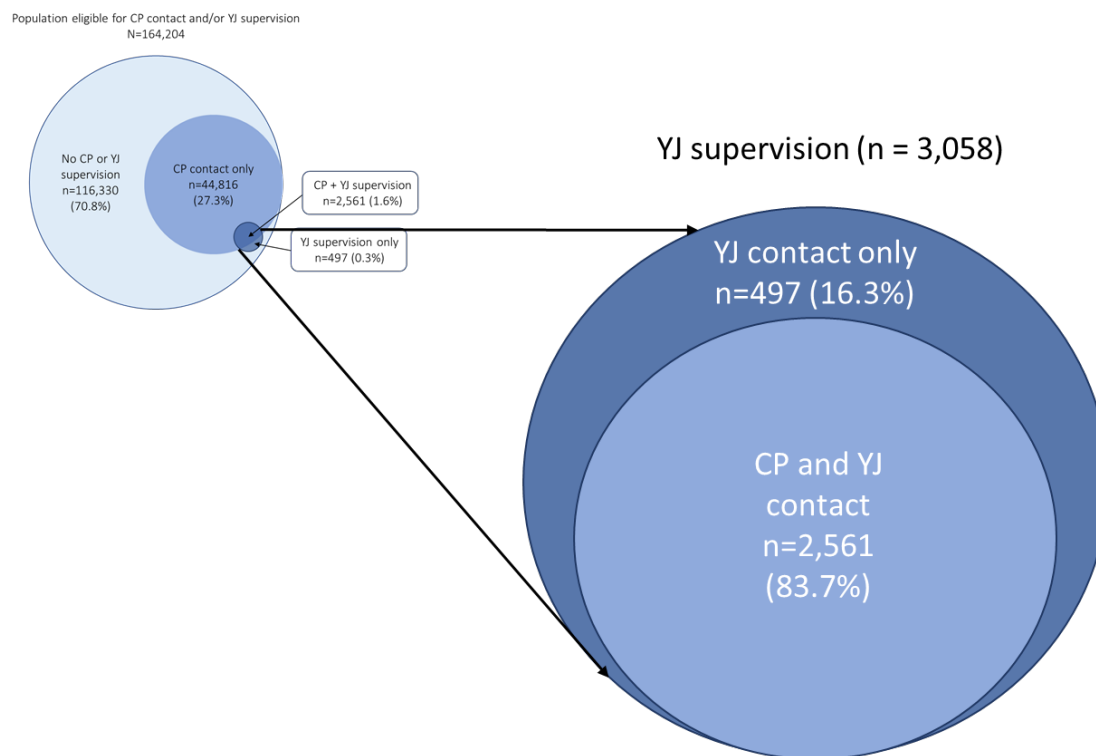


Figure 3. CP contact among young people under YJ supervision born 1991-1998.

### Key Message:

Of the young people born 1991-1998 supervised by YJ (n=3,058):

- The majority (83.7%) had contact with CP; and
- 16.3% never had contact with CP.

## Highest level of CP contact

*In this section, we describe the proportion of eligible SA population who were supervised by the YJ system between 1st January 2001 and 31st December 2016 according to their “highest level” of CP contact.*

In this report, the following CP-related terms have been used to differentiate types of involvement with the CP system [1]:

- **Notification** - A report made to the CP agency by persons or other bodies making allegations of child abuse and/or neglect, child maltreatment or harm to a child.
- **Screened in** - A term used to indicate whether the situation described by the caller (notifier) is of sufficient concern to warrant intervention by the CP agency. Those that meet the threshold are screened in; those that do not are screened out.
- **Investigation** – Process whereby the CP agency obtains more detailed information about a child who is the subject of a notification. CP agency staff make an assessment about the harm or degree of harm to the child and their protective needs.
- **Substantiation** – Notifications which were investigated and the investigation was finalised and where it was concluded that there was reasonable cause to believe that the child had been, was being, or was likely to be, abused, neglected or otherwise harmed.
- **Out-of-home care (OOHC)** – Overnight care for children aged under 18 for which there is ongoing case management and financial payment (including where a financial payment has been offered by has been declined by the carer).
- **Care and protection orders** – Legal orders or arrangements that give child protection departments some responsibility for a child’s welfare. In SA, this can include orders made placing a child under guardianship of the Minister (GOM). A short-term GOM order lasts up to 12 months (GOM12), and a long-term GOM order lasts until the child reaches the age of 18 (GOM18). It can also include short-term or “interim” orders and various other orders, including voluntary custody orders.

Source: Adapted from the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission Glossary -

<https://www.agd.sa.gov.au/projects-and-consultations/projects-archive/child-protection-systems-royal-commission> and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Child Protection Glossary - <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/health-welfare-services/child-protection/glossary>

The “highest level” of CP contact was defined as the most serious type of CP involvement a young person had ever experienced. The types of CP involvement were ordered from lowest to highest level of involvement, ranging from:

1. None;
2. Notified;
3. Screened in;
4. Investigated;
5. Substantiated;
6. OOHC/Other order;
7. OOHC/GOM12;
8. OOHC/GOM18.

Therefore, Notified was considered the “lowest type” of CP involvement, while “OOHC/GOM18” was considered the “highest type” of CP involvement. These 7 groups were treated as mutually exclusive. That is, if a young person had experienced both notification and a guardianship order, he/she would be included only in the guardianship order group, indicating that receiving a guardianship order was the “highest” level of CP involvement this young person ever experienced.

Table 1 compares the highest level of CP involvement between young people born 1991-1998 by YJ supervision. This table does not take into account which contact came first, whether it was the contact with YJ or CP systems.

Table 1: Highest ever level of CP contact for young people born 1991-1998 according to YJ supervision – Column %.

Highest ever level of CP contact	Ever in YJ system?				Total	
	No		Yes			
	n	Col%	n	Col%	n	Col%
None	116,330	72.2	497	16.3	116,827	71.1
Notified	13,462	8.3	347	11.3	13,809	8.4
Screened in	14,911	9.3	582	19.0	15,493	9.4
Investigated	6,978	4.3	425	13.9	7,403	4.5
Substantiated	5,347	3.3	484	15.8	5,831	3.6
OOHC/Other order	3,042	1.9	396	13.0	3,438	2.1
OOHC/GOM12	280	0.2	64	2.1	344	0.2
OOHC/GOM18	796	0.5	263	8.6	1,059	0.7
Total	161,146	100.0	3,058	100.0	164,204	100.0

#### Key Message:

Young people at every level of the CP system were over-represented in the YJ system. For example, of the young people born 1991-1998 who were under YJ supervision (n=3,058):

- 11.3% of young people supervised by YJ had been notified, compared to 8.3% of those who were not supervised by YJ;
- 15.8% of young people supervised by YJ had at least one substantiation, compared to 3.3% who were not supervised by YJ; and,
- 8.6% of young people supervised by YJ had been placed in OOHC on a long-term GOM18 order, compared to 0.5% who were not supervised by YJ.

Table 2 presents the same numbers as Table 1 but with row percentages and shows whether young people born 1991-1998 who experienced different levels of CP contact ever experienced YJ supervision.

Table 2: Highest ever level of CP contact for young people born 1991-1998 according to YJ supervision – Row %.

Highest ever level of CP contact	Ever in YJ system?				Total	
	No		Yes			
	n	Row%	n	Row%	n	Row%
None	116,330	99.6	497	0.4	116,827	100.0
Notified	13,462	97.5	347	2.5	13,809	100.0
Screened in	14,911	96.2	582	3.8	15,493	100.0
Investigated	6,978	94.3	425	5.7	7,403	100.0
Substantiated	5,347	91.7	484	8.3	5,831	100.0
OOHC/Other order	3,042	88.5	396	11.5	3,438	100.0
OOHC/GOM12	280	81.4	64	18.6	344	100.0
OOHC/GOM18	796	75.2	263	24.8	1,059	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>161,146</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>3,058</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>164,204</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### Key Message:

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who had contact with the CP system:

- Almost one-fifth (18.6%) of those who spent time in OOHC under a GOM12 order also spent time under YJ supervision;
- One-quarter (24.8%) of those who spent time in OOHC under a GOM18 order also spent time under YJ supervision.

This information does not take into account which contact came first.

## Highest level of YJ supervision

*In this section, we present the proportions of young people supervised by the YJ system between 1st January 2001 and 31st December 2016 according to their “highest level” of YJ supervision and their contact with the CP system.*

The “highest level” of YJ supervision was defined as the most serious type of YJ supervision a young person experienced. The types of YJ supervision were ordered from lowest to highest level of supervision:

- (1) community-based supervision (unsentenced and/or sentenced);
- (2) unsentenced custodial supervision;
- (3) sentenced custodial supervision.

Community-based supervision was considered the “lowest level” of YJ supervision and sentenced custodial supervision was considered the “highest level” of YJ supervision. These 3 groups were treated as mutually exclusive. Therefore, if a young person experienced both community-based supervision and sentenced custodial supervision, he/she would be included only in the higher level of sentenced custodial supervision group. We acknowledge that the “highest level” does not always reflect the most serious reason the child or young person was involved with the YJ system.

For young people born 1991-1998 who were ever under YJ supervision (N=3,058), Table 3 compares the highest level of YJ supervision between young people who were ever in the CP system and those who were not.

**Table 3: Highest ever level of YJ supervision for young people born 1991-1998 according to CP supervision – Column %.**

Highest ever level of YJ supervision	Ever in contact with CP?				Total	
	No		Yes			
	n	Col%	n	Col%	n	Col%
Community-based supervision only	287	57.7	875	34.2	1,162	38.0
Unsentenced custodial supervision	184	37.0	1,375	53.7	1,559	51.0
Sentenced custodial supervision	26	5.3	311	12.1	337	11.0
Total	497	100.0	2,561	100.0	3,058	100.0

### Key Message:

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who were under YJ supervision (n=3,058):

- 57.7% of those who did not have CP contact (n=287) were only ever under community-based supervision;
- 65.8% (53.7+12.1%) of those who had CP contact (n=1,686) experienced custodial supervision (sentenced or unsentenced).

Table 4 presents the same numbers as Table 3 but with row percentages and shows whether young people born 1991-1998 (according to the highest level YJ supervision) also had CP involvement. For example, 92.3% of young people who experienced sentenced custodial supervision also had contact with the CP system (n=311), compared to 75.3% of young people who only experienced community-based supervision (n=875).

Table 4: Highest ever level of YJ supervision for young people born 1991-1998 according to CP supervision – Row %.

Highest ever level of YJ supervision	Ever in contact with CP?				Total	
	No		Yes			
	n	Row%	n	Row%	n	Row%
Community-based supervision only	287	24.7	875	75.3	1,162	100.0
Unsentenced custodial supervision	184	11.8	1,375	88.2	1,559	100.0
Sentenced custodial supervision	26	7.7	311	92.3	337	100.0
Total	497	16.3	2,561	83.7	3,058	100.0

**Key Message:**

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who were under YJ supervision (n=3,058):

- Three-quarters (75.3%) of those who experienced community-based supervision had contact with CP;
- 88.2% of those who experienced unsentenced custodial supervision had contact with CP; and
- 92.3% of those who experienced sentenced custodial supervision had contact with CP.



## Order of system contact

*In this section, we describe the proportions of young people who had CP contact before their first YJ supervision and vice versa.*

For young people with both CP and YJ involvement (n=2,561), Table 5 shows that the majority of young people experienced contact with the CP system prior to their first YJ supervision (96.3%).

Table 5: Order of first CP and first YJ involvement for young people born 1991-1998.

Order of first CP/YJ involvement	Number of young people	%
First CP contact <u>prior</u> to first YJ supervision	2,465	96.3
First CP contact <u>after</u> first YJ supervision	<100	<4.0
Concurrent first CP/YJ contact	<5	#
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,561</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Key Message:

The vast majority (96.3%) of young people with both CP and YJ system involvement were known to CP prior to being under YJ supervision. This should be interpreted in the context of age eligibility – young people can come into contact with CP before age 10, while young people can only have YJ supervision from age 10 onwards.

## Comparison of characteristics of young people with CP contact according to YJ supervision

The analysis presented in this section includes young people who came into contact with the CP system (n=47,377) from birth to age 18 (data available from 1st January 1991 and 31st December 2016).

Table 6 compares the demographic characteristics of these 47,377 according to whether or not they experienced YJ supervision. The young person's identification of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander was based on an algorithm by Gialamas et al. [2] that examined ever identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in BEBOLD datasets.

Table 6: Demographic characteristics of young people born 1991-1998 who were ever in CP system by YJ involvement – Column %.

	Ever in YJ system?				Total	
	No		Yes			
	n	Col%	n	Col%	n	Col%
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	20,742	46.4	1,888	73.7	22,630	47.9
Female	23,956	53.6	672	26.3	24,628	52.1
<b>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander</b>						
Yes	4,881	10.9	915	35.7	5,796	12.2
No	39,935	89.1	1,646	64.3	41,581	87.8
<b>Age at first CP contact</b>						
<1	2,777	6.2	277	10.8	3,054	6.4
1-4	9,469	21.1	690	26.9	10,159	21.4
5-9	12,557	28.0	739	28.9	13,296	28.1
10-14	12,800	28.6	594	23.2	13,394	28.3
15-17	<7,300	<17.0	261	10.2	<7,600	<16.0
18	<5	#	0	0.0	<5	#
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,816</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,561</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>47,377</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note. For the young person's sex, the categories of "Not Stated/Inadequately described" and "Other" were omitted due to the small number of cases.

### Key Message:

Of the young people born 1991-1998 with CP and/or YJ involvement (n=47,377):

- Males (73.7%) and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people (35.7%) are over-represented among those who experienced both CP and YJ contact;
- The distribution of age at first CP contact suggests that young people known to both the CP and YJ systems are younger when they are first notified to CP compared to those who never came under YJ supervision. For example, 37.7% of those who experienced YJ supervision had their first CP contact before age 5 compared to 27.3% of those who were never under YJ supervision;

## Socio-demographic characteristics at birth

Table 7 compares the characteristics measured at birth for children born between 1991 and 1998 according to CP and YJ supervision, between 2001 and 2016. Only young people for whom South Australian birth and perinatal records were available are included (N=155,785).

Table 7: Socio-demographic characteristics of young people born 1991-1998 according to YJ and CP supervision

	Ever under CP or YJ supervision?							
	No CP/YJ		CP only		YJ only		CP + YJ	
	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %
<b>Maternal age</b>								
<19	3,720	3.1	4,234	13.1	36	11.1	417	21.7
20-24	19,322	15.9	9,445	29.2	94	29.0	660	34.4
25-29	43,578	36.0	9,569	29.6	106	32.7	500	26.0
30-34	38,375	31.7	6,189	19.2	65	20.1	244	12.7
35-39	13,939	11.5	2,438	7.5	<20	<6.0	84	4.4
40+	2,137	1.8	465	1.4	<5	#	15	0.8
<b>Mother's Marital Status</b>								
Partner	109,286	90.3	22,413	71.5	241	74.4	1,092	56.9
No partner	11,766	9.7	8,921	28.5	83	25.6	828	43.1
<b>Mother in labour force</b>								
Yes	76,644	63.9	13,437	42.1	136	42.4	433	22.9
No	43,211	36.1	18,474	57.9	185	57.6	1,454	77.1
<b>Father in labour force</b>								
Yes	98,815	90.0	7,088	26.2	221	77.5	729	50.3
No	10,973	10.0	19,948	73.8	64	22.5	721	49.7
<b>Jobless family</b>								
Yes	9,057	7.8	8,022	26.4	70	22.6	896	50.9
No	107,038	92.2	22,360	73.6	240	77.4	865	49.1
<b>Lived in the most disadvantaged SEIFA quintile</b>								
Yes	38,312	31.8	15,894	49.1	161	49.7	1,224	63.4
No	82,069	68.2	16,444	50.9	163	50.3	706	36.6

### Key Message:

Compared to young people who experienced CP or YJ supervision only, a higher proportion of young people who experienced CP and YJ supervision were:

- Born to mothers without a partner at birth (43.1%);
- Born into a jobless families (50.9%);
- Lived in the most disadvantaged area at birth (63.4%).

There is a clear pattern of characteristics associated with social and economic disadvantage for young people in contact with either CP or YJ, but this disadvantage is more pronounced for those known to both systems.

## Perinatal characteristics at birth

Table 8 compares the characteristics measured at birth for children born between 1991 and 1998 according to CP and YJ supervision, from birth to age 18. Only young people for whom South Australian birth and perinatal records were available are included (N=155,785).

Table 8: Perinatal characteristics of young people born 1991-1998 according to YJ and CP supervision

	Ever under CP or YJ supervision?							
	No CP/YJ		CP only		YJ only		CP + YJ	
	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %
<b>Mother smoking in pregnancy*</b>								
Yes	2,582	19.1	1,933	43.5	<5	#	124	73.8
No	10,952	80.9	2,507	56.5	9	<70.0	44	26.2
<b>Low birth weight (&lt;2500 grams)</b>								
Yes	7,848	6.5	2,617	8.1	11	3.4	188	9.8
No	113,220	93.5	29,723	91.9	313	96.6	1,732	90.2
<b>Preterm birth</b>								
Yes	8,937	7.4	2,661	8.2	13	4.0	182	9.5
No	112,127	92.6	29,669	91.8	311	96.0	1,738	90.5
<b>Mother number of previous births</b>								
None	49,166	40.6	12,740	39.4	96	29.6	602	31.4
1	43,594	36.0	10,088	31.2	125	38.6	538	28.0
2	19,366	16.0	5,443	16.8	55	17.0	380	19.8
3	6,170	5.1	2,413	7.5	25	7.7	210	10.9
4	1,758	1.5	972	3.0	12	3.7	97	5.1
5 or more	1,017	0.8	684	2.1	11	3.4	93	4.8
<b>Insufficient antenatal care</b>								
Yes (<7 visits)	7,687	7.0	4,020	13.7	31	10.3	476	27.8
No (7+ visits) or more	101,509	93.0	25,308	86.3	271	89.7	1,235	72.2

\* Information on smoking in pregnancy was only collected from 1998 onwards, therefore this variable only includes data on mothers of young people born in 1998 only.

### Key Message:

Compared to young people who experienced CP or YJ supervision only, a higher proportion of young people who experienced CP and YJ supervision were:

- Born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy (73.8%);
- Born to mothers who had previously given birth to more children (e.g., about 21% for 3 or more previous births);
- Born to mothers who had insufficient antenatal care (27.8%).

## 2 – Young people in OOHC and their involvement with the YJ system

*In this section, we describe the overlap of young people placed in OOHC and who experienced YJ supervision born from 1991 to 1998.*

Figure 4 shows the overlap between young people who had at least one placement in OOHC from birth to age 18 (n=4,841) and those who were under YJ supervision between age 10 and 18.

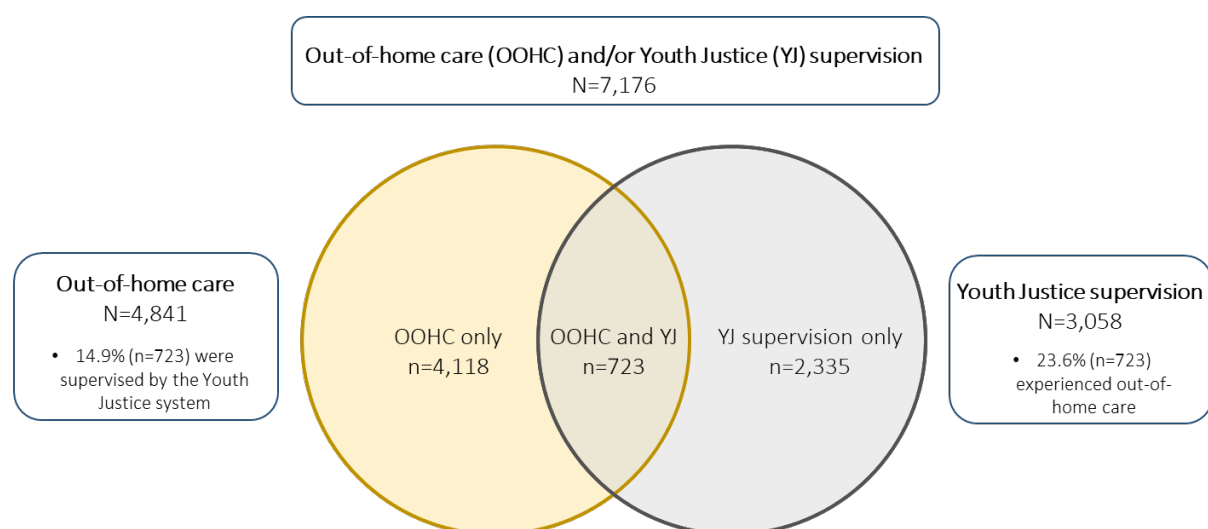


Figure 4: Young people placed in OOHC and/or supervised by YJ between 1st January 2001 and 31st December 2016.

### Key Message:

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who spent time in OOHC (n=4,481):

- More than 1 in 7 were ever supervised by YJ (14.9%);

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who ever experienced YJ supervision (n=3,058):

- Almost one-quarter (23.6%) had spent time in OOHC.

## YJ supervision patterns by OOHC experience

*The intersection between the OOHC and YJ systems can be examined from different perspectives. In this section, we considered all young people born 1991-1998 who were supervised by YJ (N=3,058) and examined differences in supervision patterns according to whether or not the young people had also experienced OOHC placement.*

Table 9 shows the numbers and percentages of young people who spent time in OOHC and their highest level of YJ supervision.

Table 9: Highest level of YJ supervision for young people born 1991-1998 by ever in OOHC.

Highest level of YJ supervision	Ever spent time in OOHC?				Total	
	No		Yes			
	n	Col%	n	Col%	N	Col%
Community-based supervision	1,017	43.6	155	21.4	1,172	38.3
Unsentenced custodial supervision	1,114	47.7	435	60.2	1,549	50.7
Sentenced custodial supervision	204	8.7	133	18.4	337	11.0
Total	2,335	100.0	723	100.0	3,058	100.0

### Key Message:

Of the young people born 1991-1998 who were under YJ supervision (n=3,058):

- Over 78% (60.2+18.4%) of young people who spent time in OOHC experienced unsentenced or sentenced custodial supervision, compared to 56% (47.7+8.7%) of young people who never spent time in OOHC;
- 18.4% of those who had been in OOHC experienced sentenced custodial supervision, compared to 8.7% of those who had not be in OOHC.

Table 10 shows the numbers and percentages of young people aged 10 to 18 years who were supervised by YJ and spent time in OOHC according to their sex and age at first YJ supervision. For example, of all males aged 10 to 18 years supervised by the YJ system who spent time in OOHC (n=508), 50.4% experienced their first YJ supervision between 10 and 14 years of age.

Table 10: Age at first YJ supervision for young people aged 10 to 18 years who spent time in OOHC.

Age at 1 <sup>st</sup> supervision	Ever spent time in OOHC?								Total	
	No				Yes					
	Male		Female		Male		Female		n	Col%
	n	Col%	n	Col%	n	Col%	n	Col%		
10-14	386	21.1	123	24.6	256	50.4	110	51.2	875	28.7
15-17	1,288	70.4	355	71.5	243	47.8	<110	<50.0	<2,000	<70.0
18+	155	8.5	21	4.2	9	1.8	<5	#	<190	<7.0
Total	1,829	100.0	499	100.0	508	100.0	215	100.0	3,051	100.0

#### Key Message:

Just over half of both males and females who spent time in OOHC had their first supervision at ages 10-14 compared to less than one quarter of young people who never experienced OOHC placement.

This is consistent with findings [2] that young people in OOHC are on average younger when they first enter the YJ system compared to young people not in OOHC.

## OOHC placement characteristics by YJ supervision experience

*In this section, we considered all young people born 1991-1998 who were spent time in OOHC (N=3,058) and examined differences in supervision patterns according to whether or not the young people had also experienced OOHC placement.*

*We restricted the sample to young people born 1991-1998 who spent at least 3 consecutive days in non-respite OOHC during their OOHC placement (n=3,792). Respite from birth families aimed at supporting the relationships between carers and young people is not considered to represent the same prior exposure to abuse or neglect as a non-respite OOHC placement.*

### Age at first OOHC placement

Table 11 shows the age at first OOHC placement according to whether or not the young people had ever experienced YJ supervision.

Table 11: Age at first placement by ever under YJ supervision – Column %.

	Ever under YJ supervision?				Total	
	No		Yes			
	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %
Age at first placement						
0-2	1,271	40.2	176	28.0	1,447	38.2
3-5	665	21.0	98	15.6	763	20.1
6-10	625	19.8	146	23.2	771	20.3
11-12	165	5.2	69	11.0	234	6.2
12+	437	13.8	140	22.2	577	15.2
Total	3,163	100.0	629	100.0	3,792	100.0

#### Key Message:

Of young people born 1991-1998 who spent at least three consecutive days in non-respite OOHC (n=3,792):

- The distribution of age at first placement suggests that there is some evidence that young people under YJ supervision are first placed in OOHC at an older age;
- 19.0% of those placed in OOHC after age 10 never experienced YJ supervision compared to 33.2% of those placed at the same age who did come under YJ supervision.

This does not take into whether OOHC placement came before or after YJ supervision.



### Order of system contact

For young people with both YJ involvement who spent time in OOHC (for at least 3 consecutive days in non-respite OOHC; n=629), Table 12 shows that the majority of young people experienced an OOHC placement prior to their first YJ supervision (87.0%).

Table 12: Order of first OOHC placement and first YJ involvement for young people born 1991-1998.

Order of first OOHC placement/YJ involvement	Number of young people	%
First OOHC placement <u>prior</u> to first YJ supervision	547	87.0
First OOHC placement <u>after</u> first YJ supervision	82	13.0
Concurrent first OOHC placement/YJ supervision	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### Key Message:

The vast majority (87.0%) of young people with YJ system who were in OOHC had their first OOHC placement prior to being under YJ supervision.

## Placement instability

The indicator of placement instability was created by combining definitions used in ROGS [4] and Webster, Barth [5]. ROGS (SCRGSP [4]) defined stability and permanency of placement as *“the proportion of young people who had one or two placements during a period of continuous out-of-home care, by length of care (less than 12 months, and 12 months or more)”*. This definition was modified following a recommendation by Webster, Barth [5] to allow for a greater number of placement moves in the first year (e.g. from emergency to short-term to long-term care) while a suitable long-term placement is found.

Only young people who spent at least 3 consecutive days in non-respite OOHC during their OOHC placement (n=3,792) were included in this analysis. Placement instability was defined as greater than 3 placements in the first 12 months if total length of care was less than 18 months and greater than 2 additional placements in the additional years after the first 12 months of care if total length of care was greater than 18 months.

In our definition, we chose a length of care threshold of 18 months such that a young person with 4 placements in the first 12 months and 2 further placements in the following 6 months (i.e. a total of 6 placements in 18 months of care) was not considered to have experienced placement stability, as he/she would have been if only the first 12 months were considered. Although this threshold aims to account for an increased number of placements during the first year before a long-term placement is found, it does not exhaust the possibilities of placement instability due to the different lengths of time in care and different ages at first care entry.

Table 13 shows the aggregate measure of instability, the number of placements in the first 12 months and the number of additional placements after the first 12 months. This analysis does not take into account the temporal order between placement instability and YJ supervision. We cannot conclude from this if placement instability is a result of YJ custody or a precursor to YJ supervision.

Table 13: Descriptive statistics related to number of placements, by ever under YJ supervision – Column %.

	Ever under YJ supervision?				Total	
	No		Yes			
	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %
<b>Number of OOHC placements in first year</b>						
1-3	2,744	86.8	479	76.2	3,223	85.0
4-6	371	11.7	116	18.4	487	12.8
7-10	<50	<2.0	<40	<5.0	75	2.0
>10	<5	#	<5	#	7	0.2
<b>Number of new OOHC placements after first year</b>						
0	2,367	74.8	312	49.6	2,679	70.6
≤ 2	195	6.2	36	5.7	231	6.1
3-6	328	10.4	125	19.9	453	12.0
7-10	150	4.7	59	9.4	209	5.5
> 10	123	3.9	97	15.4	220	5.8
<b>Placements instability</b>						
No	2,865	90.6	511	81.2	3,376	89.0
Yes	298	9.4	118	18.8	416	11.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,163</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,792</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### Key Message:

Out of 629 young people aged 10 to 18 years who were under YJ supervision and had OOHC placements, almost 1 in 5 experienced placement instability (18.8%). This is two times the proportion of young people who were never under YJ supervision and experienced placement instability (9.4%).

## Maltreatment history

Table 14 shows types of substantiated maltreatment experienced by young people in OOHC according to YJ involvement. The analysis was restricted to young people born 1991-1998 who spent time in OOHC and who experienced maltreatment that was substantiated by child protection (n=2,833). Multiple-type maltreatment includes all young people in OOHC who had substantiations for two or more types of maltreatment. For example, if a young person had substantiations for emotional *and* sexual abuse, this young person would be considered to have experienced multiple types of substantiated maltreatment.

Table 14: Substantiated maltreatment for young people born 1991-1998 in OOHC according to YJ supervision

	Ever under YJ supervision?				Total	
	No		Yes			
	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %
<b>Ever substantiated for emotional abuse</b>						
Yes	816	35.9	238	42.6	1,054	37.2
No	1,458	64.1	321	57.4	1,779	62.8
<b>Ever substantiated for neglect</b>						
Yes	1,387	61.0	407	72.8	1,794	63.3
No	887	39.0	152	27.2	1,039	36.7
<b>Ever substantiated for physical abuse</b>						
Yes	675	29.7	223	39.9	898	31.7
No	1,599	70.3	336	60.1	1,935	68.3
<b>Ever substantiated for sexual abuse</b>						
Yes	266	11.7	60	10.7	326	11.5
No	2,008	88.3	499	89.3	2,507	88.5
<b>Multiple-type maltreatments</b>						
Multiple-type maltreatment	746	32.8	283	50.6	1,029	36.3
Single-type maltreatment	1,528	67.2	276	49.4	1,804	63.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Key Message:

Of young people born 1991-1998 who had been placed in OOHC:

- A higher proportion of those under YJ supervision experienced substantiations for emotional abuse, physical abuse and neglect, but not sexual abuse, compared to those never under YJ supervision;
- Multiple types of substantiated maltreatment was more common among those under YJ supervision (50.6%) compared to those never under YJ supervision (32.8%).

## Socio-demographic characteristics at birth

Table 15 compares the characteristics measured at birth for children born between 1991 and 1998 according to placement in OOHC and/or YJ supervision. The columns represent groups who experienced both OOHC+YJ, only OOHC, only YJ, and a group that included young people who had CP contact but who were never placed in OOHC or under YJ supervision. Only young people for whom South Australian birth and perinatal records were available are included (N=155,785).

Table 15: Socio-demographic characteristics of young people born 1991-1998 according to CP supervision, OOHC and YJ supervision

	Ever under OOHC or YJ supervision?							
	CP no OOHC/YJ		YJ only		OOHC only		OOHC + YJ	
	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %
<b>Maternal age</b>								
<19	3,669	12.4	317	18.7	565	20.4	136	24.8
20-24	8,485	28.7	555	32.7	960	34.7	199	36.4
25-29	8,901	30.1	476	28.0	668	24.1	130	23.8
30-34	5,792	19.6	248	14.6	397	14.3	61	11.2
35-39	2,289	7.7	86	5.1	149	5.4	<20	<5.0
40+	435	1.5	15	0.9	30	1.1	<5	#
<b>Mother's Marital Status</b>								
Partner	21,913	74.1	1,055	62.2	1500	54.2	278	50.8
No partner	7,652	25.9	642	37.8	1,269	45.8	269	49.2
<b>Mother in labour force</b>								
Yes	12,883	44.1	481	28.8	554	20.4	88	16.3
No	16,310	55.9	1,188	71.2	2,161	79.6	451	83.7
<b>Father in labour force</b>								
Yes	18,957	75.7	786	58.5	991	49.6	164	41.9
No	6,080	24.3	558	41.5	1,008	50.4	227	58.1
<b>Jobless family</b>								
Yes	6,645	23.9	666	42.4	1,377	54.1	300	59.9
No	21,193	76.1	904	57.6	1,167	45.9	201	40.1
<b>Lived in the most disadvantaged SEIFA quintile</b>								
Yes	14,206	48.1	1,023	60.2	1,688	60.8	362	65.3
No	15,356	51.9	677	39.8	1,088	39.2	192	34.7

### Key Message:

Compared to young people who experienced CP contact but no OOHC or YJ supervision, a higher proportion of young people who experienced OOHC and YJ supervision were:

- Born to mothers without a partner at birth (49.2% compared to 25.9%);
- Born into a jobless families (59.9% compared to 23.9%);
- Lived in the most disadvantaged area at birth (65.3% compared to 48.1%).

Compared to young people who experienced only OOHC or only YJ, those who experienced OOHC and YJ appeared to be slightly more disadvantaged at birth.

## Perinatal characteristics at birth

Table 16 compares the characteristics measured at birth for children born between 1991 and 1998 according to OOHC and/or YJ supervision. Only young people for whom South Australian birth and perinatal records were available are included (N=155,785).

Table 16: Perinatal characteristics of young people born 1991-1998 according to CP supervision, OOHC and YJ supervision

	Ever under OOHC or YJ supervision?							
	CP no OOHC/YJ		YJ only		OOHC only		OOHC + YJ	
	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %
<b>Mother smoking in pregnancy</b>								
Yes	1,728	41.8	92	66.2	205	67.2	36	85.7
No	2,407	58.2	47	33.8	100	32.8	6	14.3
<b>Low birth weight (&lt;2500 grams)</b>								
Yes	2,253	7.6	119	7.0	364	13.1	80	14.6
No	27,318	92.4	1,578	93.0	2,405	86.9	467	85.4
<b>Preterm birth</b>								
Yes	2,297	7.8	122	7.2	364	13.2	73	13.3
No	27,266	92.2	1,575	92.8	2,403	86.8	474	86.7
<b>Mother number of previous births</b>								
None	11,869	40.1	545	32.1	871	31.5	153	28.0
1	9,279	31.4	524	30.9	809	29.2	139	25.4
2	4,912	16.6	308	18.1	531	19.2	127	23.2
3	2,129	7.2	167	9.8	284	10.3	68	12.4
4	834	2.8	79	4.7	138	5.0	30	5.5
5 or more	548	1.9	74	4.4	136	4.9	30	5.5
<b>Insufficient antenatal care</b>								
Yes (<7 visits)	3,309	12.3	346	22.5	711	28.9	161	33.8
No (7+ visits) or more	23,560	87.7	1,191	77.5	1,748	71.1	315	66.2

### Key Message:

Compared to young people who experienced CP contact but no OOHC or YJ supervision, a higher proportion of young people who experienced OOHC and YJ supervision were:

- Born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy (85.7% compared to 41.8%);
- Had worse perinatal outcomes for low birth weight (14.6% low birth weight compared to 7.6%) and prematurity (13.3% preterm birth compared to 7.8%);
- Born to mothers who had previously given birth to more children (e.g., about 24% compared to 12% for 3 or more previous births); and
- Born to mothers who had insufficient antenatal care (33.8% compared to 12.3%).

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