

# Youth Justice supervision 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 describe young people's (aged 10-17 years) involvement with the Youth Justice (YJ) system in South Australia.

## 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.

## The Key Numbers

### Number of young people in the YJ system

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

- 1.9% (n=3,058) ever experienced any YJ supervision.

### Cumulative incidence of YJ supervision

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

- There has been a year-on-year decrease in the number of young people under YJ supervision in SA. For example, for young people born in 1991, 2.0% were under YJ supervision by age 18. For young people born in 1998, this decreased to 1.3% of young people under YJ supervision by age 18.

### Age at first YJ supervision

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

- Almost two thirds had their first YJ supervision between the ages of 15 and 17.
- The age distribution of first YJ supervision across the birth years suggests some evidence of earlier entry into YJ in more recent birth cohorts.

### Highest level of YJ supervision

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

- Almost two thirds (n=1,886; 62%) spent time in secure custody at least once (sentenced or unsentenced) but only 11% were ever sentenced to detention;
- Although the majority were male (76.4%), some differences were found according to the type of supervision experienced. For example, the gender gap was smallest for unsentenced custodial supervision. Of those who experienced unsentenced custodial supervision, 71.6% were male and 28.4% were female. In comparison, of those who ever experienced sentenced custodial supervision, 88.4% were male and 11.6% were female;

- The distribution of age at first supervision is younger for sentenced custodial supervision compared to community-based only supervision. The proportion who had their first supervision at age 16 years or older was larger for community-based supervision (68.4%) compared to custodial supervision (21.1%).

### Type of first YJ supervision

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

- Very few (0.5%) experienced sentenced custodial supervision as their first type of YJ supervision, whereas half (50.1%) experienced unsentenced custodial supervision as their first type;
- Across all types of supervision, the majority were males (76.4%), but the gender gap was smallest for those who experienced unsentenced custodial supervision as their first type;
- The age distribution was younger for those who experienced unsentenced custodial supervision as their first type of supervision, compared to those who were first supervised in the community (sentenced or unsentenced).

### Number of supervision orders and admissions into custody

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

- The median number of supervision orders for males was 3 compared to 2 for females;
- The median number of admissions among those entered custody at least once (n=1,886) was 2 for both males and females;
- Those who were younger in age at their first supervision had a median of 11 supervision orders compared to 2 for those who were older at first supervision; and
- A higher proportion of those who were younger at the time of their first supervision experienced custodial supervision at least once (89.7%) compared to those who were older at the time of their first supervision (57.0%).

### Characteristics at birth

Of young people born 1991-1998 who experienced YJ supervision and for whom birth and perinatal data were available (n=2,244; 73.4%), there was a clear pattern of characteristics associated with social and economic disadvantage. For example, compared to young people who did not experience YJ supervision, a higher proportion of young people who experienced YJ supervision were:

- Born to single mothers (40.6% compared to 13.5%);
- Born into a jobless families (46.6% compared to 11.7%);
- Lived in the most disadvantaged areas (61.4% compared to 35.5%);
- Born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy (70.7% compared to 25.2%);

- Born to mothers who had previously given birth to more children (e.g., 20.0% compared to 8.5% for 3 or more previous births); and
- Born to mothers who had insufficient antenatal care (25.2% compared to 8.4%).

## Our interpretation of the main findings

1. Only about 2% of young people born 1991 to 1998 were ever under YJ supervision;
2. There has been a year-on-year decrease in the number of young people under YJ supervision in SA;
3. There is evidence of earlier contact with YJ for more recent birth cohorts;
4. Almost two thirds of young people under YJ supervision were supervised in custody for some period of time (sentenced or unsentenced custodial supervision);
5. Over three-quarters of young people under YJ supervision were male, but there was evidence that females were more likely to experience unsentenced custodial supervision over community-based supervision;
6. There is evidence that those who were younger in age at first supervision experience unsentenced custodial supervision over community-based supervision;
7. Those who had their first supervision at a younger age had a higher number of supervision orders, were more likely to enter custody, and had a higher number of admissions into custody, compared to young people who were older at the time of their first supervision.
8. There were clear social and economic patterns of disadvantage evident for young people under YJ supervision at birth.

## 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.
- We are currently in the process of adding Department for Correctional Services data to the BEBOLD platform. This will enable a life course view of youth and adult offending behaviour, and will help us understand which factors promote persistence and desistance in offending.
- We have also sought approval to add Courts Administration Authority data to the BEBOLD platform. This will enable a more complete picture of criminal justice system contact in SA.

## About this report

This report examines young people's involvement with the Youth Justice (YJ) system in South Australia (SA).

### Data sources

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

- SA Department of Human Services (Youth Justice);
- 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.

## Young people under Youth Justice supervision

*This section provides a whole-of-population view of Youth Justice (YJ) supervision in South Australia (SA) between 1st of January 2001 and 31st of December 2016.*

### Eligibility for Youth Justice (YJ) supervision

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 over 18 years old 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. Young people born in 2002, for example, could be a maximum of 14 years old in 2016, so data are not available for their entire eligibility period. Figure 1 shows the calendar years and ages for which YJ data are available for young people born from 1991 to 1998. Please note that, at the time of data extraction, there were no complete data available for young people born 1999 onwards.

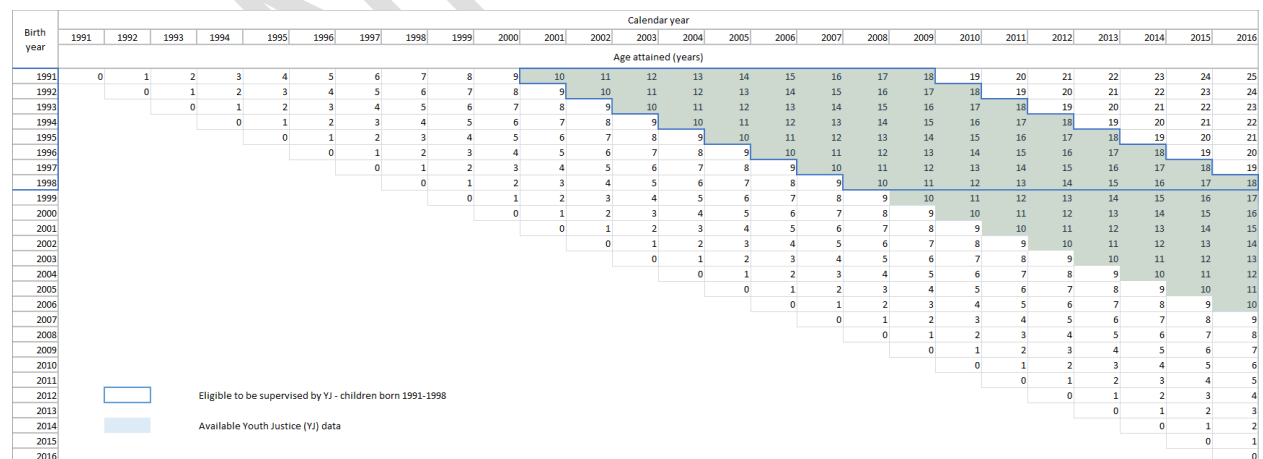


Figure 1: Available YJ data by calendar year and year of birth ("cohort view").

This figure shows the calendar years and ages for which YJ data are available for young people according to birth year (rows) and calendar years (columns).

#### Key Message:

The following analysis includes children born from 1 January 1991 to 31 December 1998 as we can see their contact with the YJ system from ages 10 to 18 years, from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2016.

## Types of YJ supervision

Supervision under YJ can be categorised into two areas:

1. Community supervision; and
2. Custodial supervision.

Furthermore, young people under supervision in both community and custodial settings can be unsentenced (i.e., their alleged offending matter/s have not been finalised by the courts or they are awaiting sentencing) or sentenced (i.e., their alleged offending matter/s have been finalised by the courts who have delivered their sentences). Therefore, we consider there to be four distinct types of YJ supervision:

1. Community supervision – unsentenced;
2. Community supervision – sentenced;
3. Custodial supervision – unsentenced; and
4. Custodial supervision – sentenced.

A definition of each type of YJ supervision is included in Box 1.

### Box 1. Definition of different types of Youth Justice supervision

**Community supervision – unsentenced** refers to supervision of young people who are on community-based orders for alleged offences. This means that the young person has been charged with an alleged offence and are awaiting the outcome of their legal matter (i.e., whether the offence/s are proven or not) or they are awaiting sentencing for a finalised matter. Orders include supervised bail, bail with electronic monitoring, and home detention bail.

**Community supervision – sentenced** refers to the supervision of young people on community-based orders for finalised offences as determined by the courts. This means that the outcome of the alleged offending has been found proven, agreed to, or convicted by the courts. Orders include obligations, community service, conditional release, suspended detention, and blended detention.

**Custodial supervision – unsentenced** refers to young people who are detained in custody due to alleged offences. This means that the outcome of the alleged offence/s (i.e., whether it is proven or not) has not yet been determined by the courts or they are awaiting sentencing. Types of unsentenced custodial supervision include police custody (i.e., police have refused bail) and remand (i.e., the courts have refused bail).

**Custodial supervision – sentenced** refers to young people who are detained in custody for finalised offences as determined by the courts. This means that the outcome of the alleged offending has been found proven, agreed to, or convicted by the courts. Orders include detention and blended detention.

In the YJ data, there were 34 distinct types of mandates. These mandates were grouped according to the four types of YJ supervision (Table 1).

Table 1: Mandate types according to YJ supervision.

Type of YJ supervision	Mandate type
<b>Community-based (unsentenced)</b>	Bond, Bail, Bail (Unsupervised), Bail – Curfew Electronic Monitoring, Home Detention Bail, Variation of Bail Agreement, Variation of Bail Agreement with Electronic Monitoring
<b>Community-based (sentenced)</b>	Blended Home Detention Order, Home Detention Sentence, Blended Suspended Sentence Obligation, Community Service – Family Conference, Community Service Arrangement, Community Service Order, Conditional License, Conditional Release, Conditional Release with Electronic Monitoring, Fines Payment Community Service Arrangement, Fines Payment Community Service Order, Obligation, Section 269 Category 2, Suspended Sentence Obligation, Variation of Community Service Orders, Variation of Home Detention Order, Variation of Obligation, Blended Order
<b>Custodial supervision (unsentenced)</b>	Bench Warrant, Fines Warrant, Police Custody, Police Custody Authority, Remand, Review Board Warrant, Blended Order
<b>Custodial supervision (sentenced)</b>	Detention, Blended Detention, Imprisonment (Sentenced as Adult)

## Number of young people under different types of YJ supervision

*In this section, we present the number of young people that were supervised by the YJ system between 1st of January 2001 and 31st of December 2016 (N=3,058). We also describe the proportions of young people who ever experienced different types of YJ supervision (e.g. any form of community-based supervision compared to no community-based supervision).*

Table 2 shows the proportion of the 3,058 young people who experienced the different types of YJ supervision. For example, out of 3,058 young people who were ever under YJ supervision between 1st of January 2001 and 31st of December 2016, 2,528 young people experienced any form of community-based supervision (sentenced or unsentenced), while 530 young people never experienced community-based supervision.

Table 2: Number of young people born 1991-1998 who ever experienced YJ supervision by type of supervision

Ever YJ supervision by type	n	Col %
<b>Community-based supervision</b>		
Any community-based supervision	2,528	82.7
No community-based supervision	530	17.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,058</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Type of community-based supervision</b>		
Unsentenced community-based supervision	297	11.7
Sentenced community-based supervision	1,437	56.8
Sentenced & unsentenced community-based supervision	794	31.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,528</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Custodial supervision</b>		
Any custodial supervision	1,886	61.7
No custodial supervision	1,172	38.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,058</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Type of custodial supervision</b>		
Unsentenced custodial supervision	1,549	82.1
Sentenced custodial supervision	21	1.1
Sentenced & unsentenced custodial supervision	316	16.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Key Message:

Of all young people born 1991 to 1998 under YJ supervision:

- The majority experienced community-based supervision at least once (82.7%);
- Almost two thirds experienced custodial supervision at least once (61.7%);
- The largest proportion who experienced custodial supervision were only ever unsentenced (82.1%).

## Proportion of the eligible population under YJ supervision

*In this section, we describe the proportion of the SA population eligible for YJ supervision between 1st of January 2001 and 31st of December 2016 that was supervised by the YJ system. We also present the proportions of supervised young people according to their “highest level” of YJ supervision.*

### Eligible population for YJ supervision

The population eligible for YJ supervision between 1st of January 2001 and 31st of December 2016 was calculated based on the Australia Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimated resident population (ERP) of young people born 1991-1998 living in SA on 30th June 2009.

### Proportion of young South Australian’s ever under YJ supervision

In total, 164,204 young people were eligible for YJ supervision and 1.9% of the eligible population (n=3,058) were under YJ supervision at some point between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2001 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

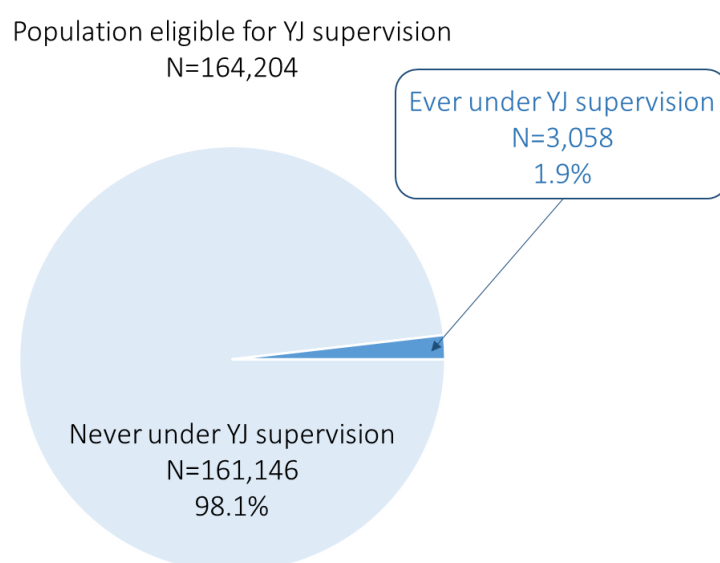


Figure 2: Young people born 1991-1998 who came under YJ supervision between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2016

#### Key Message:

- Only about 2% of all young people in SA born between 1991-1998 were ever under YJ supervision.

## Cumulative age-specific incidence of YJ supervision

The graph below shows the cumulative incidence of YJ contact by age and year of birth. Each line represents those children born in a particular year, ranging from young people born in 1991 to those born in 1998. The lines show a decreasing trend in the proportion of young people under YJ supervision for each birth cohort.

### Key Message:

There has been a year-on-year decrease in the number of young people under YJ supervision in SA. For example, for young people born in 1991, 2.0% were under YJ supervision by age 18. For young people born in 1998, this decreased to 1.3% of young people under YJ supervision by age 18.

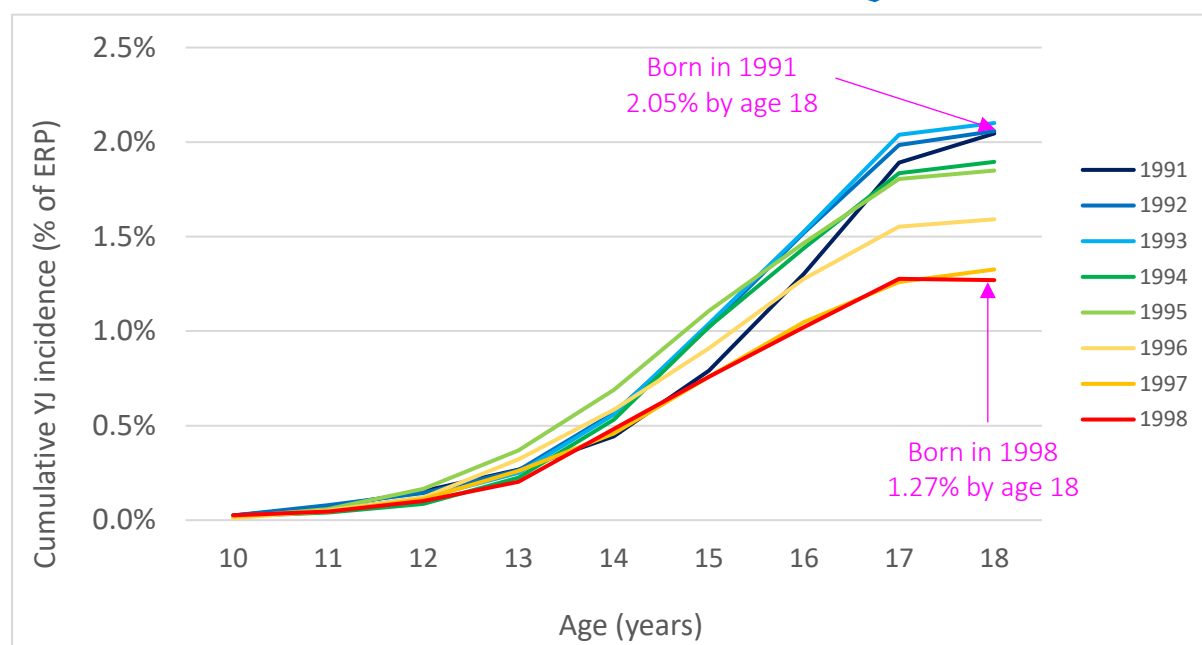


Figure 3: Age-specific cumulative incidence rates of YJ supervision by age and year of birth

## Age at first YJ supervision

In this section, we describe the numbers and proportions of young people who had their first contact with YJ between 1st of January 2001 and 31st of December 2016 according to their age and year of birth.

The number of young people who had their first contact with YJ between 1st of January 2001 and 31st of December 2016 is presented in Table 3 according to their age and birth year (N=3,058).

Table 3: Age (years) at first YJ supervision by year of birth.

Age at first YJ supervision	1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
10	5	1.1	5	1.1	<5	#	<5	#	<5	#	<5	#	<5	#	5	1.9	32	1.0
11	9	2.0	11	2.4	<10	<2.0	<5	#	9	2.2	8	2.3	5	1.8	<5	#	57	1.8
12	17	3.8	13	2.9	13	2.9	9	2.2	22	5.5	14	4.1	13	4.6	11	4.1	112	3.7
13	23	5.2	25	5.5	27	5.9	28	6.9	41	10.2	41	12.0	30	10.6	20	7.5	235	7.7
14	36	8.1	63	13.9	63	13.8	62	15.3	64	15.9	54	15.7	40	14.1	56	21.0	438	14.3
15	72	16.1	95	21.0	100	22.0	101	24.9	83	20.6	67	19.5	61	21.6	56	21.0	635	20.8
16	108	24.2	107	23.6	104	22.8	88	21.7	86	21.3	78	22.7	61	21.6	55	20.6	687	22.5
17	129	28.8	104	23.0	113	24.8	87	21.4	77	19.1	61	17.8	47	16.6	56	21.0	674	22.1
18	42	9.4	23	5.1	19	4.2	19	4.7	17	4.2	16	4.7	20	7.1	<5	#	160	5.2
19+	6	1.3	7	1.5	6	1.3	<5	#	<5	#	<5	#	<5	#	0	0.0	28	0.9
Total	447	100.0	453	100.0	456	100.0	406	100.0	403	100.0	343	100.0	283	100.0	267	100.0	3,058	100.0

### Key Message:

Approximately two thirds of young people first come into contact with YJ between the ages of 15 and 17.

The age distribution across the birth years suggests that there is some evidence for earlier entry into YJ in more recent birth cohorts. For example, if you look at the row for age 14 you will notice that 8.1% of young people born in 1991 had their first supervision at age 14. If you then look across at the 1998 birth cohort, the proportion of young people who had their first supervision at age 14 is more than double (21%).

### “Highest level” of YJ supervision

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.

Figure 4 shows the proportion of young people who experienced YJ supervision between 1st of January 2001 and 31st of December 2016 and their “highest level” of YJ supervision.

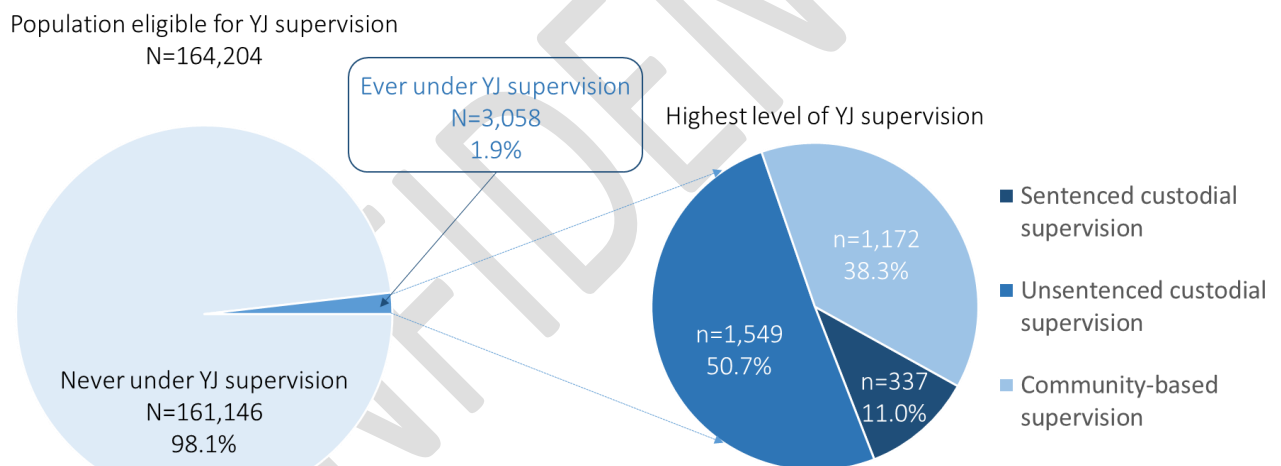


Figure 4: Young people born 1991-1998 who came under YJ supervision between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2016 and their “highest” level of YJ supervision

#### Key Message:

Of the 3,058 young people ever under YJ supervision:

- 61.7% (n=1,886) were supervised in custody for some period of time (sentenced or unsentenced custodial supervision);
- 11.0% (n=337) were ever sentenced to custodial supervision; and
- 38.3% (n=1,172) were only ever under community-based supervision.

## Demographic characteristics of young people under YJ supervision

Table 4 shows the sex and age at first YJ supervision according to their highest level of supervision.

Table 4: Demographic characteristics of young people born 1991-1998 under YJ supervision between 2001-2016 by highest type of supervision

	Community-based supervision only		Unsentenced custodial supervision		Sentenced custodial supervision		Total	
	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	932	79.8	1,107	71.6	298	88.4	2,337	76.4
Female	236	20.2	439	28.4	39	11.6	714	23.4
<b>Age at first YJ supervision</b>								
10-11	5	0.4	41	2.6	43	12.8	89	2.9
12-13	40	3.4	218	14.1	89	26.4	347	11.3
14-15	326	27.8	616	39.8	134	39.7	1,076	35.2
16-17	668	57.0	626	40.4	63	18.7	1,357	44.4
18+	133	11.4	48	3.1	8	2.4	189	6.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,058</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 (n<10).

### Key Message:

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

- 76.4% were males;
- The gender gap was smallest for unsentenced custodial supervision - 71.6% were male and 28.4% were female compared to those who experienced sentenced custodial supervision, 88.4% were male and 11.6% were female.
- Almost 70% (57.1+11.4%) of young people who only experienced community-based supervision has their first YJ supervision aged 16 years or older compared to only 21% (18.7+2.4%) of young people who had sentenced custodial supervision.

## Type of first YJ supervision

Table 5 displays sex and age at first YJ supervision for young people born 1991-1998 who were under YJ supervision between the 1st of January 2001 and 31st of December 2016 according to their type of first supervision. Overall, very few young people (n=14; 0.5%) experienced sentenced custodial supervision as their first type of YJ supervision. Just over half of young people (n=1,533; 50.1%) had experienced unsentenced custodial supervision as their first type of YJ supervision.

Table 5: Demographic characteristics of young people born 1991-1998 under YJ supervision between 2001-2016 by type of first supervision

	Community-based supervision		Unsentenced custodial supervision		Sentenced custodial supervision		Total	
	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	1,222	81.1	1,102	72.1	<20	#	2,338	76.4
Female	285	18.9	427	27.9	<5	<5.0	712	23.3
<b>Age at first YJ supervision</b>								
<14	138	9.1	298	19.4	<5	<5.0	436	14.3
14+	1,373	90.9	1,235	80.6	<20	#	2,622	85.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>&lt;20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,058</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 (n<10).

### Key Message:

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

- 76.4% were males;
- The gender gap was smallest for the group who experienced unsentenced custodial supervision as their first type. That is, of those who experienced unsentenced custodial supervision as their first type of YJ supervision, 72.1% were male and 27.9% were female. In comparison, of those who experienced any community-based supervision as their first type, 81.1% were male and 18.9% were female;
- The age distribution for unsentenced custodial supervision is younger than the age distribution for community-based only supervision. For example, almost 20% of those who had unsentenced custodial supervision were aged less than 14 years, compared to 9.1% who had their first supervision in the community.

## Number of supervision orders and admissions into custody

Young people born 1991 to 1998 had a median number of 2 supervision orders from age 10 to 18 years.

- Males had a median number of 3 supervision orders, and
- Females had a median number of 2 supervision orders.

Of those who entered custody at least once (n=1,886), the median number of admissions into custody was 2 from age 10 to 18 years.

- Both males and females had a median number of 2 admissions.

Young people who had their first YJ supervision at age 13 years or younger had on average a higher number of supervision orders (Median=11) compared to young people who had their first YJ supervision at 14 years old or older (Median=2).

A higher proportion of young people who had their first YJ supervision at age 13 years or young also experienced custodial supervision at least once (89.7%), compared to those who had their first YJ supervision at 14 years or older (57.0%). These young people had on average a higher number of admissions into custody (Median=6) compared to young people who had their first supervision at 14 years or older (Median=2).

### Key Message:

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

- Those who had their first supervision at age 13 years or younger had a higher number of supervision orders, were more likely to enter custody, and had a higher number of admissions into custody, compared to young people who had their first supervision at age 14 years or older.

## Socio-demographic characteristics at birth

Table 6 compares the socio-demographic characteristics at birth for children born between 1991 and 1998 by whether they had ever experienced YJ supervision between 2001 and 2016. Characteristics at birth are only for those young people born or who had their birth registered in South Australia (N=155,785), of which 2,244 young people (1.4%) had contact with YJ.

Table 6: Socio-demographic characteristics at birth for young people born 1991-1998 according to YJ supervision

	Ever in the YJ system?				Total	
	No		Yes			
	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %
<b>Maternal age</b>						
<19	7,968	5.2	453	20.2	8,421	5.4
20-24	28,800	18.8	754	33.6	29,554	19.0
25-29	53,193	34.6	606	27.0	53,799	34.5
30-34	44,590	29.0	309	13.8	44,899	28.8
35-39	16,390	10.7	103	4.6	16,493	10.6
40+	2,600	1.7	19	0.8	2,619	1.7
<b>Mother's Marital Status at birth</b>						
Partner	132,805	86.5	1,333	59.4	134,138	86.1
No partner	20,711	13.5	911	40.6	21,622	13.9
<b>Mother in labour force</b>						
Yes	90,147	59.4	569	25.8	90,716	58.9
No	61,741	40.6	1,639	74.2	63,380	41.1
<b>Father in labour force</b>						
Yes	118,844	86.8	950	54.8	119,794	86.4
No	18,085	13.2	785	45.2	18,870	13.6
<b>Jobless family</b>						
Yes	17,102	11.7	966	46.6	18,068	12.2
No	129,493	88.3	1,105	53.4	130,598	87.8
<b>Lived in the most disadvantaged SEIFA quintile</b>						
Yes	54,209	35.5	1,385	61.4	55,594	35.9
No	98,482	64.5	869	38.6	99,351	64.1

### Key Message:

Compared to young people who did not experience YJ supervision, a higher proportion of young people who experienced YJ supervision were:

- Born to mothers without a partner at birth (40.6% compared to 13.5%);
- Born into a jobless families (46.6% compared to 11.7%);
- Lived in the most disadvantaged area at birth (61.4% compared to 35.5%).

## Characteristics at birth

Table 7 compares the characteristics at birth for children born between 1991 and 1998 by ever experienced YJ supervision between 2001 and 2016. Characteristics at birth are only for those young people born or have birth registered in South Australian (N=155,785) of which 2,244 young people (1.4%) had contact with YJ.

Table 7: Perinatal characteristics of young people born 1991-1998 according to YJ supervision

	Ever in the YJ system?				Total	
	No		Yes			
	n	Col %	n	Col %	n	Col %
<b>Mother smoking in pregnancy*</b>						
Yes	4,541	25.2	128	70.7	4,669	25.6
No	13,496	74.8	53	29.3	13,549	74.4
<b>Low birth weight (&lt;2500 grams)</b>						
Yes	10,472	6.8	199	8.9	10,671	6.8
No	143,066	93.2	2,045	91.1	145,111	93.1
<b>Preterm birth</b>						
Yes	11,601	7.6	195	8.7	11,796	7.6
No	141,923	92.4	2,049	91.3	143,972	92.4
<b>Mother number of previous births</b>						
None	61,957	40.3	698	31.1	62,655	40.2
1	53,725	35.0	663	29.5	54,388	34.9
2	24,833	16.2	435	19.4	25,268	16.2
3	8,589	5.6	235	10.5	8,824	5.7
4	2,734	1.8	109	4.9	2,843	1.8
5 or more	1,703	1.1	104	4.6	1,807	1.2
<b>Insufficient antenatal care</b>						
Yes (<7 visits)	11,713	8.4	507	25.2	12,220	8.7
No (7+ visits or more)	126,914	91.6	1,506	74.8	128,420	91.3

\* 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 did not experience YJ supervision, a higher proportion of young people who experienced YJ supervision were:

- Born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy (70.7% compared to 25.2%);
- Born to mothers who had previously given birth to more children (e.g., about 20.0% compared to 8.5% for 3 or more previous births); and
- Born to mothers who had insufficient antenatal care (25.2% compared to 8.4%).