



Youth Justice census summary

Young people in YJ custody

The below census profiles are on 218 young people in 2020 (216 in 2018, 236 in 2019) who were in custody in a youth detention centre (YDC), or a watchhouse (on remand or sentenced) on 15 June 2018, 28 June 2019 and 30 June 2020*. It excludes those young people who were in adult prison. The below information was provided by case workers.

	2018	2019	2020*
Demographics			
Male	84%	86%	89%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	69%	76%	67%
Have a current child protection order	14%	21%	26%
Living in unstable and/or unsuitable accommodation	27%	27%	44%
Totally disengaged from education, training and employment	56%	62%	61%
Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (diagnosed or suspected)	Not avail.	15%	14%
Is a current or expecting parent	3%	4%	6%
Parents have been held in adult custody	37%	39%	34%
Experienced or has been impacted by domestic and family violence	Not avail.	69%	57%
Known to use a substance			
Used at least one of the below substances	86%	86%	84%
Marijuana	73%	75%	70%
Tobacco	59%	57%	55%
Alcohol	58%	57%	44%
Ice and other methamphetamines	33%	39%	38%
Solvent inhalation	17%	14%	14%
Other substances	2%	0.4%	9%
Disability (diagnosed or suspected)			
Have at least one of the listed disabilities	29%	26%	19%
Cognitive/intellectual	27%	25%	18%
Physical	6%	1%	1%
Sensory	1%	4%	1%
Mental health and behavioural disorders (diagnosed or suspected)			
Have at least one of the listed mental health disorders	42%	36%	28%
Anxiety	20%	23%	16%
Depression	19%	16%	14%
Post-traumatic stress disorder	23%	16%	17%
Personality disorder	8%	3%	4%
Psychosis	6%	5%	4%
Bipolar disorder	1%	0%	2%
Eating disorder	1%	0%	0.5%
Obsessive-compulsive disorder	0.5%	0.4%	0.9%
Have at least one of the listed behavioural disorders	48%	42%	41%
Attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	19%	24%	28%
Conduct disorder	26%	18%	17%
Opposition defiance	24%	18%	17%
Autism spectrum disorder	1%	4%	5%
Attachment disorder	28%	23%	17%
Have at least one of the listed mental health and/or behavioural disorders	61%	54%	50%

*The YJ Census for 2020 was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic.