



Youth Justice Indicators Counting Rules and Limitations April 2023



Introduction

The following document provides the counting rules and limitations for each Youth Justice Indicator (YJI) shown in the accompanying report *Youth Justice Indicators Summary Report April 2023*, and EXCEL workbook *Youth Justice Indicators April 2023.xlsx*.

YJI 1.1. Offending rates per 10,000 population for children aged 10 to 13 and young people aged 14 to 16 (14 to 17 from 1 July 2019)

Counting Rules

Includes all 10 to 16-year-olds proceeded against for offending from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2022, and all 17-year-olds proceeded against for offending from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022, regardless of the outcome.

Relevant age is age at the time of the alleged offence.

Each child and young person is counted only once in each 12-month period based on the highest seriousness score for all offences within the period.

Where an individual is proceeded against for more than one offence at the same time, and the offences occurred either side of a birthday, age is at the time of the earlier offence.

Where an individual is proceeded against on two separate occasions, once for an offence committed at age 13, and once for an offence committed at age 14, within the same 12-month period, the individual will only be counted in the offending rate for children measure.

Estimated total ethnic and Māori resident populations are extracted from the Statistics New Zealand website (www.stats.govt.nz/infoshare) for children and young people respectively as at 31 December each year and are based on the 2018 Census.

Populations for Pacific Peoples and European/Other ethnic groups, and by Police District, were estimated by the Ministry of Justice using a combination of estimated total ethnic and Māori resident populations, 2018 Census-based TA resident populations by ethnicity, and multiple response ethnicity population projections.

Limitations

Numbers and rates from 2015/16 to 2018/19 should be interpreted with caution. In June 2016 and June 2018 some police districts undertook exercises to ensure records were up to date ahead of the fiscal year end. These updates primarily affected non-court actions against youth. In late 2018 a change was made to how youth offending is recorded in police systems.

The numbers of individuals with unknown ethnicity for a particular time period has increased over time. This means that the number of individuals for those with unknown ethnicity will be overcounted in the most recent years. This has necessitated ethnicity being imputed where missing to avoid potentially misleading under-reporting of offending rates/percentages for each ethnic group. Redistributing unknown ethnicity in the same proportions as known

ethnicities means the adjusted rates/percentages will be closer to the true rates/percentages than the unadjusted rates/percentages.

Changes in numbers/rates for Pacific Peoples should be viewed with caution due to relatively small numbers and changes in the recording of ethnicity over time.

YJI 1.2. The proportion of children aged 10 to 13 and young people aged 14 to 16 (14 to 17 from 1 July 2019) who offend whose offending was serious enough to lead to an FGC or court action

Counting Rules

Includes all 10 to 16-year-olds proceeded against from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2022, and all 17-year-olds proceeded against from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022, for one or more of the following initial proceeding codes:

Value	Description	Value	Description
190	Court action not elsewhere classified	197	Family Court Orders
191	Prosecution	198	Court Action not elsewhere classified
192	Prosecution Youth Court and Application for Declaration	231	FGC Youth Justice
193	FGC – Court ordered	232	FGC – s247(b) Police referred
194	FGC – s247(d) Youth Court referred	233	FGC – 14 (1)(e) Child offending
196	Family Court – s 14(1)(e) ¹		

Relevant age is age at the time of the alleged offence.

Each child and young person is counted only once in each 12-month period based on the highest seriousness score for all offences within the period.

Where an individual is proceeded against for more than one offence at the same time, and there are offences that occurred either side of a birthday, the relevant age is the age at the time of the earlier offence.

Limitations

Because the total number of 10 to 13-year-olds not receiving an alternative action or a caution/warning is small, fluctuations in the measure for 10 to 13-year-olds may not be indicative of any trend or change within the system. The effect of a small total number of

¹ From 1 July 2019, an application for a declaration that a child or young person is in need of care or protection has been replaced by an application for a care and protection order.

data points will be exacerbated in the disaggregated data and may limit the extent to which some subgroup analyses can be presented.

Numbers and rates from 2015/16 to 2018/19 should be interpreted with caution. In June 2016 and June 2018 some police districts undertook exercises to ensure records were up to date ahead of the fiscal year end. These updates primarily affected non-court actions against youth. In late 2018 a change was made to how youth offending is recorded in police systems.

The numbers of individuals with unknown ethnicity for a particular time period has increased over time. This means that the number of individuals for those with unknown ethnicity will be overcounted in the most recent years. This has necessitated ethnicity being imputed where missing to avoid potentially misleading under-reporting of percentages for each ethnic group. Redistributing unknown ethnicity in the same proportions as known ethnicities means the adjusted percentages will be closer to the true percentages than the unadjusted percentages.

Changes in numbers/rates for Pacific Peoples should be viewed with caution due to relatively small numbers and changes in the recording of ethnicity over time.

YJI 1.3. Offending rates per 10,000 population for young people aged 14 to 16 (14 to 17 from 1 July 2019) relative to young adults aged 18 to 19 years

Counting Rules

Includes all 14 to 16-year-olds proceeded against for offending from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2022, and all 17-year-olds proceeded against for offending from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022, regardless of the outcome, as young people. Includes all 18- to 19-year-olds proceeded against for offending from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2022, regardless of the outcome, as young adults.

Relevant age is age at the time of the alleged offence.

Each young person and 18 to 19-year-old is counted only once in each 12-month period based on the highest seriousness score for all offences within the period.

Where an individual is proceeded against for more than one offence at the same time, and the offences occurred either side of a birthday, age is the age at the time of the earlier offence.

Estimated total ethnic and Māori resident populations are extracted from the Statistics New Zealand website (www.stats.govt.nz/infoshare) for children and young people respectively as at 31 December each year and are based on the 2018 Census.

Populations for Pacific Peoples and European/Other ethnic groups, and by Police District, were estimated by the Ministry of Justice using a combination of estimated total ethnic and Māori resident populations, 2018 Census-based TA resident populations by ethnicity, and multiple response ethnicity population projections.

Limitations

Numbers and rates from 2015/16 to 2018/19 should be interpreted with caution. In June 2016 and June 2018 some police districts undertook exercises to ensure records were up to date ahead of the fiscal year end. These updates primarily affected non-court actions against youth. In late 2018 a change was made to how youth offending is recorded in police systems.

The numbers of individuals with unknown ethnicity for a particular time period has changed over time. This means that the number of individuals for those with unknown ethnicity will be overcounted in the most recent years. This has necessitated ethnicity being imputed where missing to avoid potentially misleading under-reporting of offending rates/percentages for each ethnic group. Redistributing unknown ethnicity in the same proportions as known ethnicities means the adjusted rates/percentages will be closer to the true rates/percentages than the unadjusted rates/percentages.

Changes in numbers/rates for Pacific Peoples should be viewed with caution due to relatively small numbers and changes in the recording of ethnicity over time.

YJI 1.4. Total number of proceedings per 10,000 population for children aged 10 to 13 and young people aged 14 to 16 (14 to 17 from 1 July 2019)

Counting Rules

Includes all 10 to 16-year-olds proceeded against for offending from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2022, and all 17-year-olds proceeded against for offending from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022, regardless of the outcome.

Relevant age is age at the time of the alleged offence.

For the numerators, each time a child or young person has a proceeding against them is counted as a proceeding.

Where an individual is proceeded against for more than one offence at the same time, and the offences occurred either side of a birthday, age is the age at the time of the earlier offence.

Where an individual is proceeded against on two separate occasions, once for an offence committed at age 13, and once for an offence committed at age 14, within the same 12-month period, the individual will be counted in both the offending rate measures for children and young people.

Estimated total ethnic and Māori resident populations are extracted from the Statistics New Zealand website (www.stats.govt.nz/infoshare) for children and young people respectively as at 31 December each year and are based on the 2018 Census.

Populations for Pacific Peoples and European/Other ethnic groups, and by Police District, were estimated by the Ministry of Justice using a combination of estimated total ethnic and Māori resident populations, 2018 Census-based TA resident populations by ethnicity, and multiple response ethnicity population projections.

Limitations

Small numbers of high-rate offenders will skew the measure.

Numbers and rates from 2015/16 to 2018/19 should be interpreted with caution. In June 2016 and June 2018 some police districts undertook exercises to ensure records were up to date ahead of the fiscal year end. These updates primarily affected non-court actions against youth. In late 2018 a change was made to how youth offending is recorded in police systems.

The numbers of individuals with unknown ethnicity for a particular time period has increased over time. This means that the number of individuals for those with unknown ethnicity will be overcounted in the most recent years. This has necessitated ethnicity being imputed where missing to avoid potentially misleading under-reporting of offending rates/percentages for each ethnic group. Redistributing unknown ethnicity in the same proportions as known ethnicities means the adjusted rates/percentages will be closer to the true rates/percentages than the unadjusted rates/percentages.

Changes in numbers/rates for Pacific Peoples should be viewed with caution due to relatively small numbers and changes in the recording of ethnicity over time.

YJI 1.5 The proportion of children aged 10 to 13 and young people aged 14 to 16 (14 to 17 from 1 July 2019) who had no proceedings in the two years prior

Counting Rules

Includes all 10 to 16-year-olds proceeded against for offending from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2022, and all 17-year-olds proceeded against for offending from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022, regardless of the outcome.

Relevant age is age at the time of the alleged offence.

For the numerator, counts only children and young people proceeded against by the Police with no proceedings in the previous two years.

For the denominator, a child or young person is counted only once in each 12-month period based on the highest seriousness score for all offences within the period.

Where an individual is proceeded against for more than one offence at the same time, and the offences occurred either side of a birthday, age is the age at the time of the earlier offence.

Where an individual is proceeded against on two separate occasions, once for an offence committed at age 13, and once for an offence committed at age 14, within the same 12-month period, the individual will only be counted in the offending rate measure for children.

Limitations

As the proceedings data only commenced on 1 July 2009, it is not currently possible to provide accurate information on the base measure for this YJI - the percentage of first-time offenders – over a sufficient time period. As interim measures, this report contains the

proportions of children and young people proceeded against with no previous proceedings in the two years prior.

Numbers and rates from 2015/16 to 2018/19 should be interpreted with caution. In June 2016 and June 2018 some police districts undertook exercises to ensure records were up to date ahead of the fiscal year end. These updates primarily affected non-court actions against youth. In late 2018 a change was made to how youth offending is recorded in police systems.

The numbers of individuals with unknown ethnicity for a particular time period has increased over time. This means that the number of individuals for those with unknown ethnicity will be overcounted in the most recent years. This has necessitated ethnicity being imputed where missing to avoid potentially misleading under-reporting of percentages for each ethnic group. Redistributing unknown ethnicity in the same proportions as known ethnicities means the adjusted percentages will be closer to the true percentages than the unadjusted percentages.

Changes in numbers/rates for Pacific Peoples should be viewed with caution due to relatively small numbers and changes in the recording of ethnicity over time.

YJI 1.6. The proportion of children aged 10 to 13 and young people aged 14 to 17 (14 to 18 from 1 July 2019) referred for a FGC who have previously been the subject of a report of concern to Oranga Tamariki relating to their care and protection

Counting Rules

Section 2(2) of the Children, Young Persons, and their Families Act 1989 states that jurisdiction for proceeding against a child or young person is based on that person's age when they allegedly offended. Individuals who offend when aged 14 to 16 years (inclusive) and all 17-year-olds who offend from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022, are referred to as 'young people'. Some of these young people turn 17 years or older, and 18 or older for 17-year-olds who offend from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022, by the time they are proceeded against (such as with a youth justice FGC), but they are still covered by Section 2(2).

Youth justice FGCs include: child offender FGCs, intention-to-charge FGCs, and court-ordered FGCs.

Relevant age is at the time of the child or young person's FGC as offence date is not always recorded in Oranga Tamariki data.

Includes all 10 to 13-year-olds referred for an FGC from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2022 as children. Includes all 14 to 17-year-olds referred for an FGC from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2022, and all 18-year-olds referred for an FGC from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022 as young people.

Each child and young person is counted only once in each 12-month period based on the date of their first youth justice FGC.

Where an individual has two youth justice FGCs within the same 12-month period, the first at age 13, and the second at age 14, the individual will only be counted in the measure for children.

Section 15 reports of concern are over people's entire childhoods until the FGC, rather than just the same 12-month period as the FGCs.

Limitations

Only a minority of reports of concern proceed to an investigation or a Child or Family Assessment, and then result in substantiated findings of abuse or neglect. Not all reports of concern to Oranga Tamariki relate to possible abuse or neglect. Some are due to other concerns such as the child showing suicidal tendencies or exhibiting behavioural difficulties that the parents or caregivers are struggling to deal with. Caution should be taken in interpreting all children who have had a report of concern as having had "negative childhood experiences".

Levels of reporting child abuse or neglect can be affected by many things. For example, the extent of publicity around campaigns such as "It's Not OK" (i.e. increased publicity can lead to increased reporting). Actions taken through the Children's Action Plan may increase the reporting of concerns to Oranga Tamariki about care and protection for children and young people, by raising awareness of child abuse. In the short term, this means that the proportion of children and young people referred for a youth justice FGC who have previously been the subject of a report of concern to Oranga Tamariki due to concerns about their care and protection may increase.

However, research undertaken by Oranga Tamariki shows that being involved in care and protection does not mean a child or young person will become involved with the youth justice system.² In fact, the vast majority of those with care and protection statutory involvement are never involved in the youth justice system.

The total number of 10 to 13-year-olds receiving a youth justice FGC is relatively small, while those who have previously been the subject of a report of concern to Oranga Tamariki in relation to their care and protection will be smaller. Therefore, fluctuations in these measures may not be indicative of any trend or change within the system. The effect of a small total number of data points will be exacerbated in the disaggregated data and may limit the extent to which some subgroup analyses can be presented.

Offence type is not always collected for FGCs, so no breakdowns are presented for this measure according to offence type or seriousness.

Changes in numbers/rates for Pacific Peoples should be viewed with caution due to relatively small numbers and changes in the recording of ethnicity over time.

² <https://orangatamariki.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/About us/Research/Data analytics and insights/Youth justice insights separating misconceptions from facts.pdf>

YJI 2.1. The proportion of young people aged 14 to 16 (14 to 17 from 1 July 2019) proceeded against who appear in the Youth Court

Counting Rules

The numerator includes all 14 to 16-year-olds at the time of the alleged offence from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2022, and all 17-year-olds at the time of the alleged offence, from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022, and whose first court appearance was in a Youth Court. Where a young person has appeared in a District Court or a High Court and there is no YJNMDS record showing an appearance in Youth Court, the first District Court or High Court appearance should be counted as if it were a Youth Court appearance. If the first District Court appearance has the same charge reference as the first High Court appearance, only the first District Court appearance is counted.

The denominator includes all 14 to 16-year-olds proceeded against for offending from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2022, and all 17-year-olds proceeded against for offending from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022, regardless of the outcome.

Each young person is counted only once in each 12-month period.

Relevant age is age at the time of the alleged offence.

Where an individual is proceeded against for more than one offence at the same time, and the offences occurred either side of a birthday, age is the age at the time of the earlier offence.

First court appearances are based on the day of first appearance in the Youth Court for one charge or a group of charges.

Limitations

This indicator is not produced for children aged 10 to 13 years as prosecution is rare for them.

Numbers and rates from 2015/16 to 2018/19 should be interpreted with caution. In June 2016 and June 2018 some police districts undertook exercises to ensure records were up to date ahead of the fiscal year end. These updates primarily affected non-court actions against youth. In late 2018 a change was made to how youth offending is recorded in police systems.

The numbers of individuals with unknown ethnicity for a particular time period has increased over time, particularly the numbers of young people proceeded against for offending (denominator). This means that the number of individuals for those with unknown ethnicity will be overcounted in the most recent years. This has necessitated ethnicity being imputed where missing to avoid potentially misleading under-reporting of percentages for each ethnic group. Redistributing unknown ethnicity in the same proportions as known ethnicities means the adjusted percentages will be closer to the true percentages than the unadjusted percentages.

Changes in numbers/rates for Pacific Peoples should be viewed with caution due to relatively small numbers and changes in the recording of ethnicity over time.

YJI 2.2. The population-adjusted rate of young people aged 14 to 16 (14 to 17 from 1 July 2019) who appear in the Youth Court

Counting Rules

Includes all 14 to 16-year-olds at the time of the alleged offence from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2022, and all 17-year-olds at the time of the alleged offence, from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022, and whose first court appearance was in a Youth Court. Where a young person has appeared in a District Court or a High Court and there is no YJNMDS record showing an appearance in Youth Court, the first District Court or High Court appearance should be counted as if it were a Youth Court appearance. If the first District Court appearance has the same charge reference as the first High Court appearance, only the first District Court appearance is counted.

Relevant age is age at the time of the alleged offence.

First court appearances are based on day of first appearance in the Youth Court for one charge or a group of charges.

For example:

- a 17-year-old appears three times in Youth Court during a 12-month period for a set of three charges committed when they were 16. This is counted as one appearance.
- a 15-year-old appears in Youth Court twice in a single month for two different charges. This is counted as two appearances.
- a 15-year-old appears in Youth Court during the latest 12-month period for a charge first heard by the Youth Court during the previous 12-month period. This is counted in the previous 12-month period, and not in the latest 12-month period.

Estimated total ethnic and Māori resident populations are extracted from the Statistics New Zealand website (www.stats.govt.nz/infoshare) for children and young people respectively as at 31 December each year and are based on the 2018 Census.

Populations for Pacific Peoples and European/Other ethnic groups, and by Police District, were estimated by the Ministry of Justice using a combination of estimated total ethnic and Māori resident populations, 2018 Census-based TA resident populations by ethnicity, and multiple response ethnicity population projections.

Limitations

This indicator is not produced for children aged 10 to 13 years as prosecution is rare for them.

Changes in numbers/rates for Pacific Peoples should be viewed with caution due to relatively small numbers and changes in the recording of ethnicity over time.

YJI 3.1. The proportion of 16 year olds who appeared in the Youth Court, and were proven to have reoffended in an adult court within 24 and 36 months

Counting Rules

The numerator for the 24-month measure includes those individuals aged 16 who were proved in the Youth Court to have offended in a 12-month period, and who were proved in an adult court to have reoffended for a new offence committed at ages 17 to 19, within 24 months of the outcome date of the first Youth Court proved case. Breaches of custodial and community-based orders (ANZSOC codes 1511-1529) are not included as reoffending.

The numerator for the 36-month measure includes those individuals aged 16 who were proved in the Youth Court to have offended in a 12-month period, and who were proved in an adult court to have reoffended for a new offence committed at ages 17 to 20, within 36 months of the outcome date of the first Youth Court proved case. Breaches of custodial and community-based orders (ANZSOC codes 1511-1529) are not included as reoffending.

Only the most serious first new offence for each individual is counted. A range of information is used to determine which charge is a person's most serious. This includes information such as charge outcome, sentence/order type, sentence length/amount, remands in custody and bail and maximum offence penalties.

The denominator for the 24-month measure includes the number of 16-year-olds who were proved in the Youth Court to have offended within a given 12-month period. This counts only their first proved case during each 12-month period.

The denominator for the 36-month measure includes the number of 16-year-olds who were proved in the Youth Court to have offended within a given 12-month period. This counts only their first proved case during each 12-month period.

Only imprisonable offences are included in both the numerators and denominators.

Relevant age is age at the time of offence.

There needs to be some allowance for crimes to be detected and processed (that is, proved in court) after the follow-up duration of interest. Otherwise, measures may be non-comparable because of changes in speed of processing of young people by Police and Courts. The rule used here is:

- to include all offences which are proven in court within 30 months of the outcome date of the first Youth Court proved case for calculating 24-month reoffending rates
- to include all offences which are proven in court within 42 months of the outcome date of the first Youth Court proved case for calculating 36-month reoffending rates.

This means that 2019 is the latest year for which reoffending over 24 months is able to be measured while 2018 is the latest year for which reoffending within 36 months can be measured.

For example:

- A young person is proved in the Youth Court on 1 June 2012 to have offended for an offence committed at age 16, and commits an offence on 1 May 2014 at age 18, which was proved on 12 November 2014 in an adult court. This will be counted in both the numerators and denominators for the 24- and 36-month reoffending rates for 2012.
- A young person is proved in the Youth Court on 1 June 2012 to have offended for an offence committed at age 16, and commits an offence on 1 May 2014 at age 18, which was proved on 1 March 2015 in an adult court. This will be counted in both the numerator and denominator for the 36-month reoffending rates for 2012, but only for the denominator for the 24-month reoffending rates for 2012, as it was not proved until over 30 months past the first Youth Court case.
- A young person is proved in the Youth Court on 1 June 2012 to have offended for an offence committed at age 16, and commits another offence on 1 January 2013 at age 16, which was proved on 19 March 2013 in the Youth Court. They subsequently did not appear in court until aged 20. This will be counted in only the denominators for the 24 and 36-month reoffending rates for 2012 as the offender was still a youth when committing the latter offence.
- A young person is proved in the Youth Court on 1 December 2018 to have offended for an offence committed at age 16 and is charged with an offence they allegedly committed on 1 September 2019 as a 17-year-old in an adult court. However, the offence was not proved in a court, so this will be counted in only the denominator for the 24-month reoffending rate for 2018.

Limitations

This measure focuses on the youth justice system's success with young people who offend that are the most at risk of criminal behaviour as young adults, and so looks only at those young people who offend and appear in the Youth Court. This excludes a high proportion of young people who offend who are not prosecuted at age 16, as well as those who appear in the adult court solely for a non-imprisonable traffic charge.

Because this measure focuses on 17 to 20-year-olds who previously appeared in the Youth Court as 16-year-olds, it will miss offenders who appeared in the Youth Court at age 15 or under but did not appear as a 16-year-old. It will also miss young people who offend who were proved to have offended in the Youth Court at age 16 but did not begin reoffending until age 20 for the 24-month measure, and age 21 for the 36-month measure. As noted above, it will also miss 16-year-olds whose resolution did not involve prosecution, and who offended as 17-year-olds.

The measure will be reporting on decisions made by the youth justice system between 30 and 54 months earlier. It will not, therefore, provide real time information on the effect of changes in the system.

Changes in numbers/rates for Pacific Peoples should be viewed with caution due to relatively small numbers and changes in the recording of ethnicity over time.

YJI 3.2. The proportion of 14 to 16-year-olds (14 to 17 from 1 July 2019) who appeared in the Youth Court, and were proven to have reoffended in any court within 12 and 24 months

Counting Rules

The numerator for the 12-month measure includes those individuals aged 14 to 16 (14 to 17 from 1 July 2019) who were proved in the Youth Court to have offended in a 12-month period, and who were proved in any court to have reoffended for a new offence committed within 12 months of the outcome date of the first Youth Court proved case. Breaches of custodial and community-based orders (ANZSOC codes 1511-1529) are not included as reoffending.

The numerator for the 24-month measure includes those individuals aged 14 to 16 who were proved in the Youth Court to have offended in a 12-month period, and who were proved in any court to have reoffended for a new offence committed within 24 months of the outcome date of the first Youth Court proved case. Breaches of custodial and community-based orders (ANZSOC codes 1511-1529) are not included as reoffending.

Only the most serious first new offence for each individual is counted. A range of information is used to determine which charge is a person's most serious. This includes information such as charge outcome, sentence/order type, sentence length/amount, remands in custody and bail and maximum offence penalties.

The denominators for both measures include the number of 14 to 16-year-olds who were proved in the Youth Court to have offended within a given 12-month period. This counts only their first proved case during each 12-month period.

Only imprisonable offences are included in both the numerators and denominators.

Relevant age is age at the time of offence.

There needs to be some allowance for crimes to be detected and processed (that is, proved in court) after the follow-up duration of interest. Otherwise measures may be non-comparable because of changes in speed of processing of young people by Police and Courts. The rule used here is:

- to include all offences which are proven in court within 18 months of the outcome date of the first Youth Court proved case for calculating 12-month reoffending rates
- to include all offences which are proven in court within 30 months of the outcome date of the first Youth Court proved case for calculating 24-month reoffending rates.

This means that 2020 is the latest year for which reoffending over 12 months can be measured while 2019 is the latest year for which reoffending within 24 months can be measured.

For example:

- A young person is proved in the Youth Court on 1 June 2012 to have offended for an offence committed at age 16, and commits an offence on 1 May 2013, which was proved on 12 November 2013 in an adult court. This will be counted in both the numerators and denominators for the 12- and 24-month reoffending rates for 2012.

- A young person is proved in the Youth Court on 1 June 2012 to have offended for an offence committed at age 14, and commits an offence on 1 May 2013, which was proved on 1 March 2014 in the Youth Court. This will be counted in both the numerator and denominator for the 24-month reoffending rates for 2012, but only for the denominator for the 12-month reoffending rates for 2012, as it was not proved until over 18 months past the first Youth Court case.
- A young person is proved in the Youth Court on 1 June 2012 to have offended for an offence committed at age 16 and is charged with an offence they allegedly committed on 1 May 2013. However, the offence was not proved in a court, so this will be counted in only the denominators for the 12- and 24-month reoffending rates for 2012.

Limitations

This measure is focused on the youth justice system's success with dealing with the most serious and/or persistent young people who offend, that is, those who were proved to have offended in the Youth Court. This group of youth is most at risk of reappearing in the Youth Court and/or entering the adult court system. Therefore, the measures exclude a high proportion of young people who offend who are never prosecuted and those who appear in the adult court for solely a non-imprisonable traffic charge.

The measure reports on decisions made by the youth justice system between 18 and 42 months earlier. It will not, therefore, provide real time information on the effect of changes in the system.

Changes in numbers/rates for Pacific Peoples should be viewed with caution due to relatively small numbers and changes in the recording of ethnicity over time.

YJI 3.3. The proportion of children aged 10 to 13 and young people aged 14 to 16 (14 to 17 from 1 July 2019) proceeded against receiving alternative actions/warnings, and who had no proceedings in the 2 years prior, who reoffended within 12 and 24 months

Counting Rules

The numerator for the 12-month measure includes those children aged 10 to 13 and young people aged 14 to 16 (14 to 17 from 1 July 2019)

- whose initial proceeding was either a warning, caution, or alternative action in a 12-month period.
- who had no proceedings in the previous two years.
- who were proceeded against for a new offence committed within 12 months of the proceeding date for the initial proceeding.

The numerator for the 24-month measure includes those children aged 10 to 13 and young people aged 14 to 16 (14 to 16 from 1 July 2019)

- whose initial proceeding was either a warning, caution, or alternative action in a 12-month period.
- who had no proceedings in the previous 2 years.

- who were proceeded against for a new offence committed within 24 months of the proceeding date for the initial proceeding.

Only the most serious new offence for each child or young person is counted, with seriousness determined by the most serious method of proceeding. If a child or young person has 2 or more proceedings of the same type, then seriousness is determined by the offence with the highest Justice Sector Seriousness Score.

The denominators for both measures include those children and young people whose initial proceeding was either a warning or alternative action in a 12-month period, and who had no proceedings in the previous 2 years.

This means that 2020/21 is the latest year for which reoffending over 12 months is able to be measured while 2019/20 is the latest year for which reoffending within 24 months can be measured. And for both the 12- and 24-month measures, 2011/12 is the first year for which reoffending can be measured.

Relevant age is age at the time of offence.

Limitations

As the proceedings data only commenced on 1 July 2009, it is not currently possible to provide accurate information on the base measure for this YJI - the percentage of first-time offenders – over a sufficiently long time period. As an interim measure, the report contains the proportions of children and young people proceeded against with no previous proceedings in the 2 years prior, who were dealt with through either a warning or alternative action, and who reoffend within 12/24 months.

The numbers of individuals with unknown ethnicity for a particular time period has changed over time. This means that the number of individuals for those with unknown ethnicity will be overcounted in the most recent years. This has necessitated ethnicity being imputed where missing to avoid potentially misleading under-reporting of percentages for each ethnic group. Redistributing unknown ethnicity in the same proportions as known ethnicities means the adjusted percentages will be closer to the true percentages than the unadjusted percentages.

Changes in numbers/rates for Pacific Peoples should be viewed with caution due to relatively small numbers and changes in the recording of ethnicity over time.

YJI 4.1. The proportion of children and young people aged 12 to 17 (12 to 18 from 1 July 2019) appearing in the Youth Court who are remanded into the custody of the Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki (formerly MSD)

Counting Rules

For the numerator, each child or young person is counted only once in each 12-month period based on the date of their first remand into the custody of the Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki. Some of these young people will have turned 17 years or older by the time they

appear in court or are remanded into custody (18 years or older from 1 July 2019). Age is at the time the child/young person was first remanded into custody in each 12-month period.

For the denominator, each child or young person is counted only once in each 12-month period based on the date of their first appearance in a Youth Court. Where a child or young person has appeared in a District Court or a High Court and there is no YJNMDS record showing an appearance in Youth Court, the first District Court or High Court appearance should be counted as if it were a Youth Court appearance. If the first District Court appearance has the same charge reference as the first High Court appearance, only the first District Court appearance is counted. Age is at the time the child/young person first appeared in court in each 12-month period.

Limitations

The indicator takes no account of the overall time spent on remand and the total number of remand episodes during each 12-month period. For example, the indicator may show that the proportion of children and young people appearing in the Youth Court who are remanded decreased from one 12-month period to the next. However, if the average time spent on remand and the average number of remand episodes per person both increased over this period, this indicator will not provide this information.

Changes in numbers/rates for Pacific Peoples should be viewed with caution due to relatively small numbers and changes in the recording of ethnicity over time.

Ethnicity

For individuals in the Youth Justice National Minimum Dataset with multiple ethnicities, a single prioritised ethnicity has been assigned, prioritised in the order:

- Māori
- Pacific Peoples
- Asian
- MELAA (Middle Eastern, Latin American, or African)
- Other
- European
- Unknown.

Individuals with a prioritised ethnicity of Asian, MELAA, European or Other have been classified into the European/Other ethnic group.

Seriousness Scores

This report groups offences by seriousness scores to support comparative analysis. The Justice Sector Seriousness Scores contains seriousness scores for all offences. The scores represent the seriousness of an offence based on the actual sentences that are imposed for that offence. The report uses scores which were updated by the Ministry of Justice in August 2022.

Table 1: Seriousness bands and scores

Seriousness band	Seriousness score
Low	0 - 23
Low-Medium	>23 - 43
Medium	>43 – 201
Medium–High	>201 – 355
High	More than 355

Table 2: Examples of offences and their seriousness scores

Offence	Seriousness Score	Seriousness Band
Murders (Manually)	11,790	High
Males Rapes Female Over 16	3,877	High
Wounds Intent To Gbh Great Bodily Harm (Manually)	1,672	High
Aggravated Robbery (Firearm)	1,530	High
Burgles (Other Property) Est Val Over \$5000 By Day	457	High
Burgles (Other Property) Est Val \$500 To \$5000 By Night	354	Med-High
Burgles (Other Property) Est Val Under \$500 By Day	285	Med-High
Sell/Give/Supply/Administer/Deal Cannabis Plant	251	Med-High
Assaults With Intent To Injure (Manually)	199	Medium
Unlawful Takes Motor Vehicles (Motor Cars/Trucks Etc)	198	Medium
Unlawful Converts Motor Vehicles (Motor Cars/Trucks	137	Medium
Theft (Over \$1,000)	127	Medium
Unlawful Interferes Motor Vehicles (Motor Cars/Trucks Etc)	86	Medium
Shoplifts (Est Val Under \$500)	27	Low-Med
Theft (Under \$500)	25	Low-Med
Wilful Trespass	19	Low
Common Assault (Manually)	18	Low
Unlicensed Driver Failed To Comply With Prohibition	2.2	Low
Careless Driving	0.98	Low

Table 3: Most common offences by young people within each ANZSOC offence division

ANZSOC Offence Division	Shortened name	Most common offences for young people in court
Homicide and related offences	Homicides	Murder; Manslaughter; Drove dangerously causing death
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	Causing injury	All minor, serious and grievous assaults (with common assault being the most frequent)
Sexual assault and related offences	Sexual offences	Indecent assault; unlawful sexual connection; doing an indecent act; rape
Dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons	Dangerous acts	Dangerous, careless or reckless driving; sustained loss of traction
Abduction, harassment and other offences against the person	Abductions, threats	Behave or speak threateningly; threaten to kill or do grievous bodily harm
Robbery, extortion and related offences	Robbery, extortion	Aggravated robbery; robbery; assault with intent to rob; demands to steal
Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter	Unlawful entry, burglary	Burglary
Theft and related offences	Theft	All types of theft (with shoplifting being the most frequent); unlawfully takes or gets into a motor vehicle; receiving stolen property
Fraud, deception and related offences	Deceptions	Take, obtain or use a document or credit card for pecuniary advantage; obtain by deception
Illicit drug offences	Illicit drugs	Possess cannabis or drug-related utensils; using cannabis
Prohibited and regulated weapons and explosives offences	Weapon offences	Possess offensive weapon or knife
Property damage and environmental pollution	Property damage	Wilful damage including graffiti-related offences; unlawfully interfere with motor vehicles; intentional damage; arson
Public order offences	Public disorder	Wilful trespass; disorderly behaviour; unlawfully in an enclosed yard, area or building; fighting in a public place; possessing instruments for car conversion; possessing instruments for graffiti
Traffic and vehicle regulatory offences	Road traffic	Driving with excess alcohol; driving while disqualified
Offences against government procedures, government security and government operations	Against justice	Escaping lawful custody; resisting police; breach of bail; obstructing police; failing to furnish name and address
Miscellaneous offences	Miscellaneous	Used a telephone for a fictitious purpose, plus various other offences not included in the categories above