

# 'Crossover Kids': Vulnerable Children in the Youth Justice System Report 2

This factsheet presents key data from Report 2 of the Council's project on 'Crossover Kids'. The project studied 5,063 children sentenced in the Children's Court of Victoria in 2016 and 2017, including children who received a diversion order for their offending. Of these 5,063 children, 1,938 (38%) were 'crossover kids': children who were known to the Victorian Child Protection Service before, at the time of or after they offended.

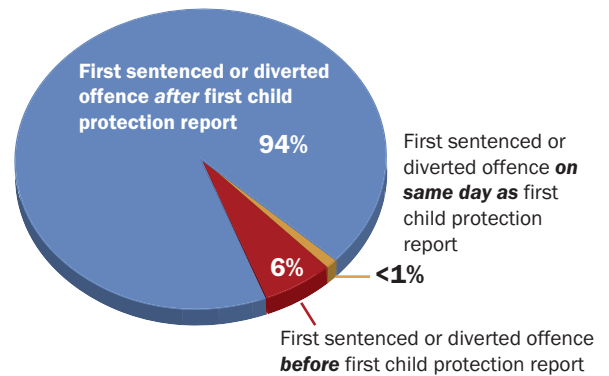
## Crossover kids in Victoria

Of the 1,938 crossover kids, **94%** were known to child protection before their first sentenced offence.

Of the 767 children who experienced out-of-home care:

**98%** were known to child protection before their first offence

**74%** had not offended before being placed in care



## Regional Victoria

Children sentenced in regional areas of Victoria were more likely than children in the Melbourne metropolitan area to be **known to child protection** and to be **aged 10–13 at first sentence**.

Crossover kids who were **sentenced in regional areas** were more likely than crossover kids in the Melbourne metropolitan area to be **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children**. This difference can't be fully explained by the varying populations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in metropolitan and regional areas.



### Regional Victoria

**44%** of sentenced children were known to child protection

**15%** of sentenced children were aged 10–13 at first sentence

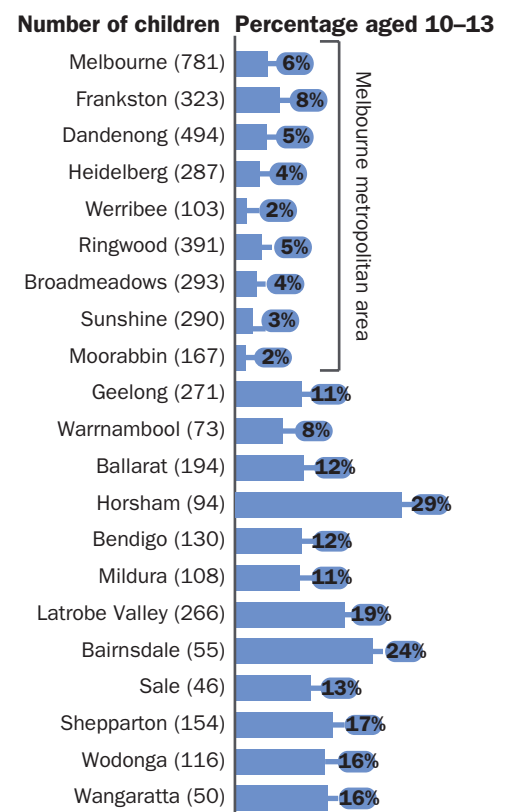
**19%** of crossover kids were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

### Melbourne metropolitan area

**35%** of sentenced children were known to child protection

**5%** of sentenced children were aged 10–13 at first sentence

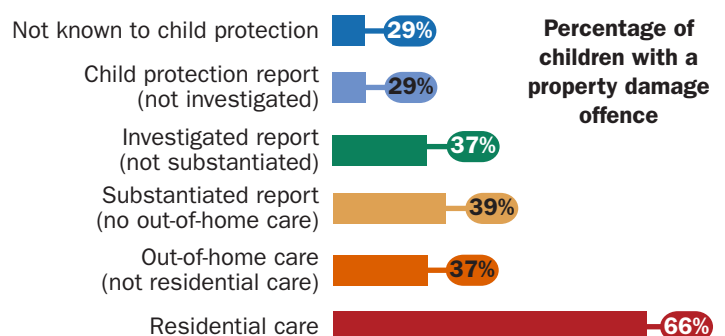
**9%** of crossover kids were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



## Offences of children who experienced residential care

Children who experienced residential care were about twice as likely as children who were not known to child protection to be sentenced for particular offence types, such as:

- property damage (66% vs 29%)
- bail-related offences (50% vs 22%)
- drug offences (23% vs 11%)
- weapons offences (23% vs 10%)



Of the 628 children sentenced for drug offences, those children who experienced residential care were:

- **more likely** to be sentenced for **drug use** than children not known to child protection (37% vs 28%)
- **less likely** to be sentenced for **drug trafficking** than children not known to child protection (10% vs 17%)

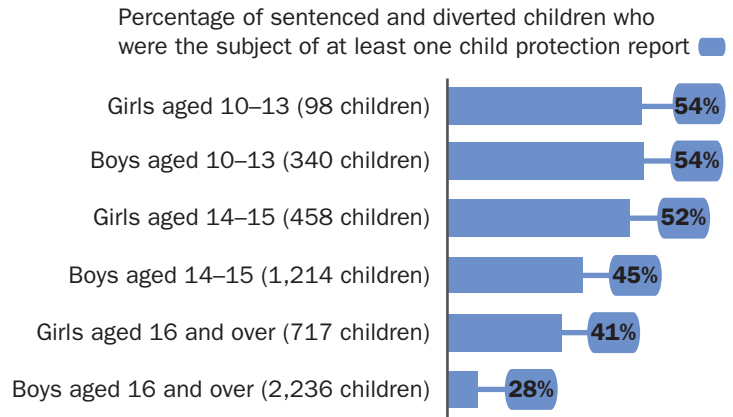


## Children who entered the youth justice system early

Of **all the 5,063 children**, those first sentenced aged 10–13 were more likely than older children to be:

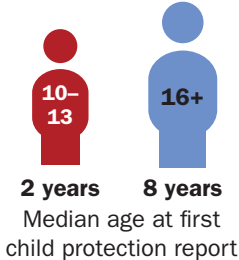
- known to child protection
- sentenced in regional areas

Children first sentenced aged 10–13 comprised **15%** of children first sentenced in regional areas and **5%** first sentenced in the Melbourne metropolitan area.

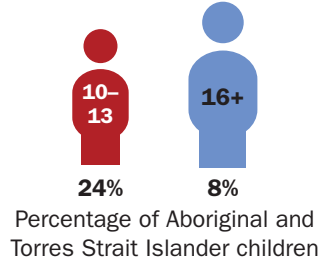


Crossover kids first sentenced aged 10–13 were more likely than older crossover kids to:

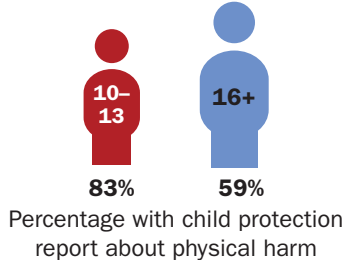
*Be younger at first child protection report*



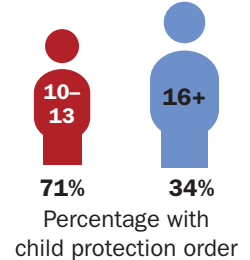
*Be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children*



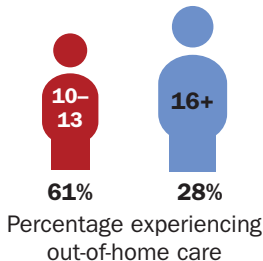
*Be the subject of a child protection report about physical harm*



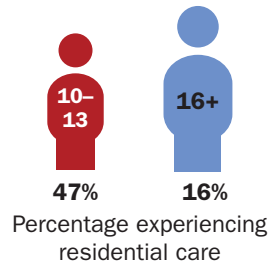
*Be the subject of a child protection order*



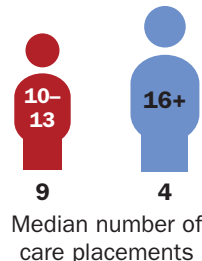
*Experience out-of-home care*



*Experience residential care*



*Have more out-of-home care placements*



*Have more carers*

Children first sentenced aged 10–13 comprised:

- 7%** of children who did not experience out-of-home care
- 15%** of children with 1–9 carers
- 32%** of children with 10 or more carers



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