This factsheet contains data from Report 1 in the Council’s project ‘Crossover Kids’: Vulnerable Children in the Youth Justice System. Report 1 looks at children who are known to child protection among sentenced and diverted children in the Victorian Children’s Court.

Children known to child protection are over-represented in the youth justice system

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are significantly over-represented among children known to both the youth justice and the child protection systems

1.6% of Victorian people aged 10–20 on 30 June 2016 were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

13% of sentenced and diverted children who were the subject of a child protection report were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

18% of sentenced and diverted children who were the subject of a child protection order were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

19% of sentenced and diverted children who experienced out-of-home care were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
The younger children are at first sentence, the more likely they are to be known to child protection

Of the 438 children first sentenced or diverted aged 10–13:

1 in 2 were the subject of a report to child protection
1 in 3 were the subject of a child protection order
1 in 3 experienced out-of-home care
1 in 4 experienced residential care

Children who experience out-of-home care are a particularly vulnerable group

Of the 767 children sentenced or diverted in 2016 or 2017 who experienced out-of-home care:

4 in 5 experienced more than 1 placement
1 in 2 experienced 5+ placements

Children who experience residential care are over-represented in the youth justice system

10% of the 4,230 Victorian children aged 10–17 in out-of-home care on 30 June 2017 were in residential care

58% of the 213 sentenced or diverted children in out-of-home care on 30 June 2017 were in residential care

Children sentenced to custody are more likely to be known to child protection

Of the 165 children sentenced to a custodial order in 2016 or 2017:

1 in 2 were the subject of a report to child protection
1 in 4 were the subject of at least one child protection order
1 in 4 experienced out-of-home care
1 in 5 experienced residential care