

Questions on notice

The Hon. HELEN WESTWOOD: Are there also significant numbers of the 78 per cent where violence is a consequence of alcohol consumption? Are you able to determine that from the survey that you did, or even from your own experience of young people in detention facilities?

Response:

While the Young People in Custody Health Survey did not correlate offence type with alcohol use it does provide background into the use of alcohol by young offenders including the fact that (69%) were intoxicated at the time of their offence.

Other findings include:

- Lifetime experience with alcohol is close to universal among young people in custody. Not only have 97% of survey participants ever tried alcohol, but 93% have been drunk.
- A higher proportion of Aboriginal young people have tried alcohol (99% vs 95%, $p < 0.03$) and have been drunk (97% vs 89%, $p < 0.01$) than non-Aboriginal young people.
- Some participants report that they were first drunk on alcohol at eight years of age.
- Nearly one-quarter (23%) have been drunk by the age of 12 years; nearly one-half (47%) by the age of 13 years; and more than two-thirds (68%) by the age of 14 years.
- By the time they are 15 years old, 84% of young people reported that they have been drunk.
- Two-thirds (66%) of survey participants reported that they were drunk at least weekly in the year before coming into custody, with over a fifth reporting this daily or almost daily (22%).
- The most popular type of alcohol usually drunk among young people is spirits and liquors (41%), followed by premixed spirits in cans (22%) and regular strength beer (22%).
- Young men were more likely than young women to usually drink beer (24% vs 3%), while young women were more likely than young men to usually drink cask wine (22% vs 3%).
- Non- Aboriginal young people were twice as likely as Aboriginal young people to usually drink beer (30% vs 14%), while Aboriginal young people were more likely to usually drink bottled spirits and liquors (48% vs 34%).
- Most young people (55%) reported drinking 10 or more standard drinks on a typical day.
- In terms of absolute quantity of alcohol consumed, young men drank at higher rates than young women, with 57% reporting drinking 10 or more standard drinks on a typical day, compared to only 40% of young women.
- Aboriginal young people were also more likely than non-Aboriginal young people to report typically drinking 10 or more standard drinks (60% vs 49%).

The Hon. JAN BARHAM: I will probably put on notice some questions around trying to get the figures, unless you have them already, of the breakdown of offenders into different areas that are alcohol-related in terms of whether it is violence, vehicles, accidents, sexual assault, self-harm, all those aspects. Could you provide a breakdown on the impact?

Response:

BOSCAR may be able to provide this information

http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/pages/bocsar_pub_atoc#alcohol_crime

CHAIR: I do not know whether you can answer this question or you can take it on notice but there definitely seems to be some confusion around the law when it comes to the supply of alcohol in the home. I know that another parliamentary inquiry has been looking at the supply of alcohol but for the benefit of the Committee is this something that the Attorney General's Department has been looking at or do you have any information on this issue?

Response:

Juvenile Justice does not have any advice for the Committee around the provision of alcohol in the home however a number of young people in custody reported problems with alcohol in their homes.

- The Young People in Custody Health Survey found the common sources of alcohol for those aged less than 18 years were from friends (47%) and shops (37%), despite the illegalities of selling or supplying alcohol to minors.
- Young men (38%) and non-Aboriginal young people (42%) had the highest proportion of participants accessing their alcohol from shops.
- Around 30% of young women reported that they thought their mothers or their fathers had problems due to alcohol.
- More Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal young people reported that their mothers (18% vs 9%,) or other family members (27% vs 12%,) have had problems due to alcohol.

Juvenile Justice AOD Programs Summary

AOD Program

Education and harm minimization (Stage 1), PROFILE (Stage 2), X Roads (Stage 3)

The treatment process aims to promote pro social reasoning towards making informed and constructive life decisions such as desisting in criminal activity and substance misuse. The treatment pathway is comprised of three stages. The first being focused on education, the second on motivation, and the third on comprehensive skill building and goal attainment, involving both the client and their family.

‘Dthina Yuwali’ (pronounced thi-nah you-wah-lee) is an Aboriginal-specific staged Alcohol and Other Drugs group work program based on the relationship between substance use and pathways to offending. Dthina Yuwali is based on cultural learning and utilises learning circles, cultural representations of concepts to facilitate learning and the use of Elders/respected community members throughout the program. The program utilises a co-facilitation model, requiring an Aboriginal co-facilitator for all stages of delivery. Dthina Yuwali primarily addresses Stages 1 & 2 of the AOD Treatment Pathway.

AOD Residential Rehabilitation Program: Juvenile Justice funds Mission Australia to operate two residentially based drug rehabilitation programs, Juna Buwaa in Coffs Harbour and the Mac River facility in Dubbo for young people who are either clients of Juvenile Justice, or at risk of entering the juvenile justice system as a result of their drug and alcohol misuse.

While The **Intensive Supervision Program (ISP)** is a family focused intervention and not an AOD specific program, it offers a multi-systemic approach for young people with complex clinical, social and educational problems including aggression and violence, substance misuse and offending behaviour.

Service locations

Alcohol and other drug services and programs are offered in all Juvenile Justice community offices and detention centres. There are 35 community offices and 7 Juvenile Justice centres located throughout NSW. In addition to this, there are 2 residential rehabilitation services located in Coffs Harbour and Dubbo.

The most common place that young people aged under 18 years obtained cigarettes was a shop (65%), despite this practice being illegal. A higher proportion of non-Aboriginal young people obtained their cigarettes from a shop than Aboriginal young people (70% vs 60%), though this was not statistically significant.

Table 5.8.10 Where tobacco obtained (if under 18 years)

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Shop	80	65.6	15	60.0	46	59.7	49	70.0	95	64.6
Friends	22	18.0	5	20.0	16	20.8	11	15.7	27	18.4
Family	19	15.6	4	16.0	14	18.2	9	12.9	23	15.6
Other	1	0.8	1	4.0	1	1.3	1	1.4	2	1.4
Total	122	100.0	25	100.0	77	100.0	70	100.0	147	100.0

In a national survey, 12% of young people aged 12-17 years lived in households where adults smoked inside (AIHW, 2007). Most YPICHs participants (78%) reported that one or other of their parents smoked cigarettes and this is particularly common among the Aboriginal young people compared with non-Aboriginal young people (90% vs 67%; $p < 0.001$). A similar proportion of parents of participants smoked in 2003. Just under half (49%) of young men and 41% of young women think custodial staff should be allowed to smoke in the Juvenile Justice Centres.

Table 5.8.11 Either parent smoke cigarettes

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Yes	210	77.5	32	82.0	135	90.0	107	66.9	242	78.1
No	61	22.5	7	18.0	15	10.0	53	33.1	68	21.9
Total	271	100.0	39	100.0	150	100.0	160	100.0	310	100.0

In summary, ever having smoked is an almost normal behaviour among young people in custody, with 94% having ever smoked cigarettes (the same rate as in the 2003 YPICHs). The rate is even higher among Aboriginal young people and is much higher than in NSW school students (25%) (DOH, 2008a). More than half of the young people in custody had started to smoke by the age of 12 years. More than one in five first smoked cigarettes at 10 years or younger, with this rate being higher among young women and Aboriginal young people. Most participants reported smoking every day or almost every day (nearly half had 20 or more cigarettes per day) in the year prior to custody. Heavy smoking is particularly prevalent among the young women. Most participants reported that one or other of their parents smoke cigarettes and this is particularly common among the Aboriginal young people. Despite cigarette selling

to minors being illegal, the most common place that those under 18 obtained cigarettes was a shop.

The implications of this are enormous for long-term health outcomes in these young people. Smoking behaviour is clearly heavily entrenched. However, reports by some participants that they have tried to quit smoking or would like some help to quit, indicate that well targeted smoking cessation programmes may meet with modest success.

The high rates of heavy daily smoking suggest that when young people enter Juvenile Justice Centres (where they are not allowed to smoke) there is a good chance that they will experience nicotine withdrawal. It is therefore important that nicotine replacement therapy is available to them to alleviate the symptoms of withdrawal (Peters & Morgan, 2002).

5.9 Alcohol

It is well known that young people often experiment with alcohol and other drugs (White et al., 2009); for most teenagers substance use remains a recreational activity that does not interfere with other aspects of their life (AIHW, 2008a). In Australian culture, alcohol often accompanies socialising and celebration. However, binge drinking in Australia is a growing problem among young people and can lead to alcohol dependence in adulthood (Bonomo et al., 2004). The *Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol* state that for children and young people under 18 years of age, abstinence from alcohol is the safest option. This guideline is based on evidence showing that the risks of accidents, injuries, violence and self-harm are high among young drinkers. Drinkers under 15 years of age are much more likely to experience risky or antisocial behaviour connected with their drinking and for this age group not drinking alcohol is especially important. Earlier initiation of drinking is related to more frequent and higher quantity alcohol use in adolescence, and these patterns are in turn related to the development of alcohol-related harms in adolescence and adulthood (NHMRC, 2009).

The 2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) collects information on alcohol use and reports on risk of alcohol-related harm in the long and short-term. Risk of harm in the long-term is defined as weekly drinking of 29 or more standard drinks for males and 15 or more standard drinks for females. Risk of harm in the short-term is defined as drinking seven or more standard drinks on any one day for males or five or more standard drinks on any one day for females. Young people aged 14 to 19 years had lower levels of risk in the long-term (7% of young men, 12% of young women) compared to their risk of alcohol-related harm in the short term (37% of young men, 41% of young women) (AIHW, 2008c). Risky drinking was slightly higher among Aboriginal Australians aged 14 years and

over in both the short-term (27% vs 20%) and long-term (13% vs 10%) compared to non-Aboriginal people (AIHW, 2008d).

In the 2008 NSW School Students Health Behaviours Survey, 77% of students aged 12 to 17 years had ever drunk alcohol, a decrease from 1987 (90%) (DOH, 2008a). When looking at frequency of alcohol consumption, over half (56%) had consumed alcohol in the past year, a third (33%) had consumed alcohol in the past four weeks and a fifth (20%) had consumed alcohol in the past week. Among students who consumed alcohol in the past week, 12% consumed 16 or more drinks over the week and over half (56%) were supervised by an adult while drinking (DOH, 2008a). The most common alcohol drinks consumed included: pre-mixed spirits (44%), spirits (40%) and ordinary beer (28%). Just over one in ten (11%) students had ever attempted to buy alcohol (DOH, 2008a).

In the NSW Population Health Survey from 2002 to 2005, it was found that 54% of Aboriginal men and 38% of Aboriginal women aged 16 years or older were risky drinkers (as defined by the NHMRC guidelines), compared to a general population figure of 37% for men and 27% for women (DOH, 2010a). Aboriginal people also had a higher proportion of alcohol attributable hospitalisations in 2006/07, at a rate of 1,958 per 100,000 compared to 637 per 100,000 for non-Aboriginal people (DOH, 2010a).

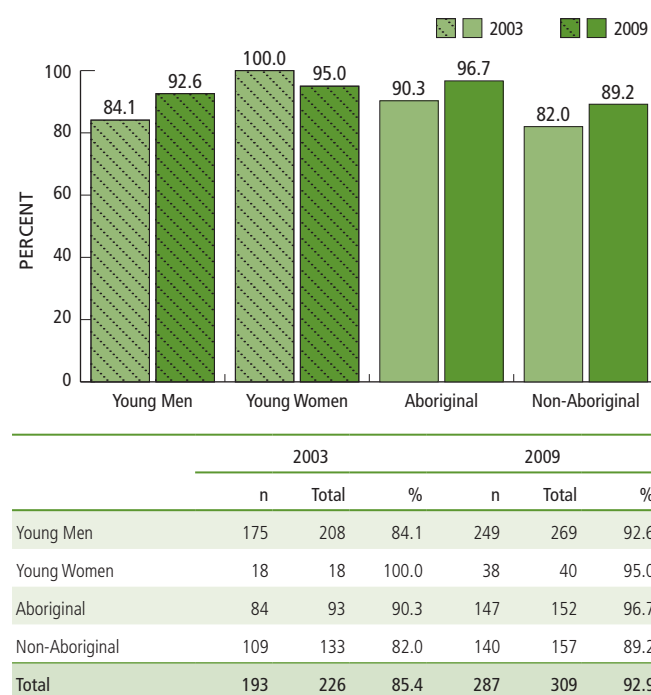
Lifetime experience with alcohol is close to universal among young people in custody. Not only have 97% of survey participants ever tried alcohol, but 93% have been drunk. A higher proportion of Aboriginal young people have tried alcohol (99% vs 95%, $p<0.03$) and have been drunk (97% vs 89%, $p<0.01$) than non-Aboriginal young people.

Table 5.9.1 Experience with alcohol

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
(Multiple response)	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Tried alcohol	270	97.5	38	95.0	153	99.4	155	95.1	308	97.2
Had full drink of alcohol	262	94.6	38	95.0	151	98.7	149	96.1	300	94.6
Been drunk	249	92.6	38	95.0	147	96.7	140	89.2	287	92.9

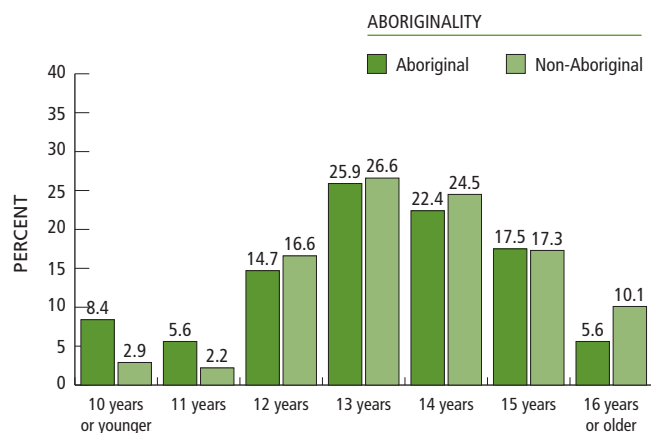
The rate of being drunk among young people in custody has increased from 85% in 2003 to 93% in 2009. This increase was mostly due to more young men having ever been drunk.

Table/Fig 5.9.2 Ever been drunk



Getting drunk is a rite of passage for most young people in Australia. Some participants report that they were first drunk on alcohol at eight years of age. Nearly one-quarter (23%) have been drunk by the age of 12 years; nearly one-half (47%) by the age of 13 years; and more than two-thirds (68%) by the age of 14 years. By the time they are 15 years old, 84% of young people reported that they have been drunk.

Table/Fig 5.9.3 Age first drunk



	Young Men				Young Women				Aboriginal				Non-Aboriginal				Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
10 years or younger	15	6.1	1	2.7	12	8.4	4	2.9	16	5.7								
11 years	10	4.1	1	2.7	8	5.6	3	2.2	11	3.9								
12 years	32	13.1	12	32.4	21	14.7	23	16.6	44	15.6								
13 years	61	24.9	13	35.1	37	25.9	37	26.6	74	26.2								
14 years	60	24.5	6	16.2	32	22.4	34	24.5	66	23.4								
15 years	46	18.8	3	8.1	25	17.5	24	17.3	49	17.4								
16 years or older	21	8.6	1	2.7	8	5.6	14	10.1	22	7.8								
Total	245	100.0	37	100.0	143	100.0	139	100.0	282	100.0								

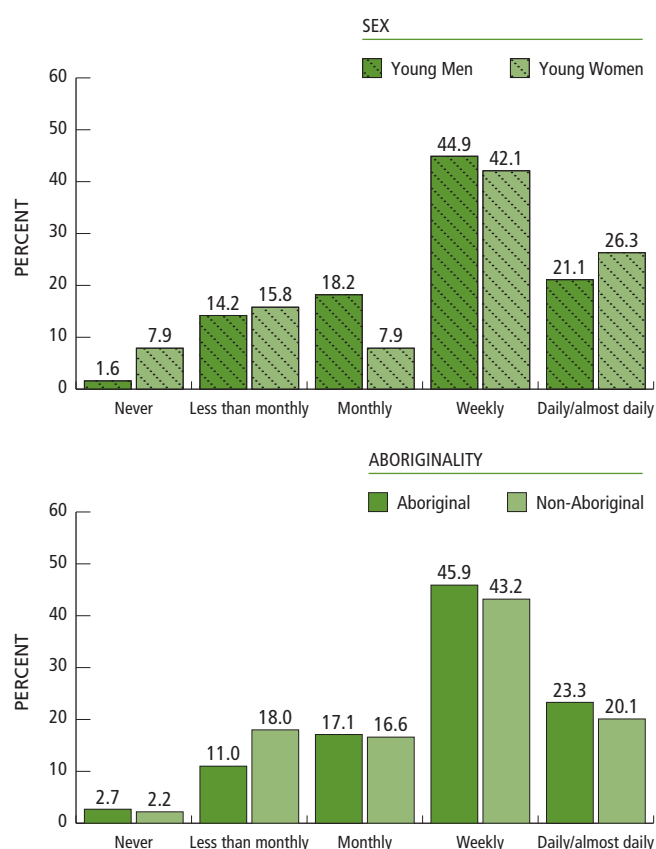
Among young people in custody, the mean age of first being drunk on alcohol is 13.4 years, with Aboriginal young people reporting significantly younger age at which they were first drunk than non-Aboriginal young people (13.2 years vs 13.6 years, $p < 0.03$). By comparison, the average age of Australians first alcohol use reported in the 2007 NDSHS was 17.0 years (AIHW, 2008c).

Table/Fig 5.9.4 Mean age first drunk

	2003			2009		
	n	Mean (\pm sd)	Range	n	Mean (\pm sd)	Range
Young Men	172	13.6 (\pm 2.3)	6-19	245	13.5 (\pm 1.6)	8-17
Young Women	18	14.2 (\pm 1.3)	12-17	37	12.9 (\pm 1.2)	10-16
Aboriginal	84	13.4 (\pm 2.1)	6-16	143	13.2 (\pm 1.7)	8-16
Non-Aboriginal	106	13.8 (\pm 2.3)	6-19	139	13.6 (\pm 1.4)	10-17
Total	190	13.6 (\pm2.3)	6-19	282	13.4 (\pm1.6)	8-17

Two-thirds (66%) of survey participants reported that they were drunk at least weekly in the year before coming into custody, with over a fifth reporting this daily or almost daily (22%). There were no differences by gender or Aboriginality for frequency of being drunk prior to custody.

Table/Fig 5.9.5 Frequency of being drunk in year prior to custody



	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Never	4	1.6	3	7.9	4	2.7	3	2.2	7	2.5
Less than monthly	35	14.2	6	15.8	16	11.0	25	18.0	41	14.4
Monthly	45	18.2	3	7.9	25	17.1	23	16.6	48	16.8
Weekly	111	44.9	16	42.1	67	45.9	60	43.2	127	44.6
Daily/almost daily	52	21.1	10	26.3	34	23.3	28	20.1	62	21.8
Total	247	100.0	38	100.0	146	100.0	139	100.0	285	100.0

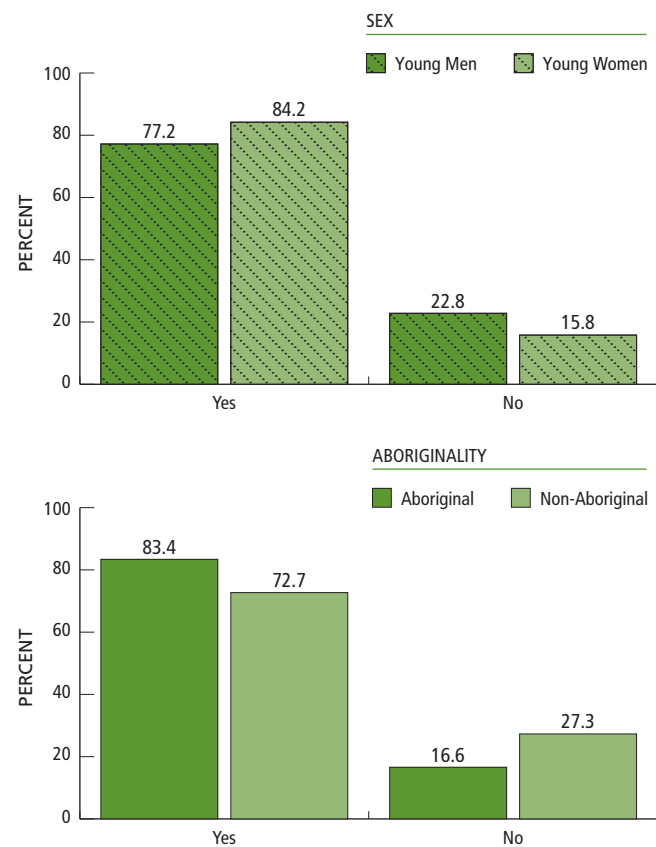
The most popular type of alcohol usually drunk among young people is spirits and liquors (41%), followed by premixed spirits in cans (22%) and regular strength beer (22%). Young men were more likely than young women to usually drink beer (24% vs 3%), while young women were more likely than young men to usually drink cask wine (22% vs 3%). Non-Aboriginal young people were twice as likely as Aboriginal young people to usually drink beer (30% vs 14%), while Aboriginal young people were more likely to usually drink bottled spirits and liquors (48% vs 34%).

Table 5.9.6 Type of alcohol usually consumed

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Cask wine	9	3.4	8	21.6	9	6.0	8	5.4	17	5.7
Regular strength beer	64	24.4	1	2.7	21	14.0	44	29.5	65	21.7
Mid strength beer	2	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.3	2	0.7
Premixed spirits in can	59	22.5	8	21.6	37	24.7	30	20.1	67	22.4
Bottled spirits/liquors	107	40.8	16	43.2	72	48.0	51	34.2	123	41.1
Premixed bottles	18	6.9	2	5.4	8	5.3	12	8.1	20	6.7
Fortified wine, port, sherry	0	0.0	2	5.4	2	1.3	0	0.0	2	0.7
Other	3	1.2	0	0.0	1	0.7	2	1.3	3	1.0
Total	262	100.0	37	100.0	150	100.0	149	100.0	299	100.0

The YPICHS used the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) to identify participants with hazardous and harmful patterns of alcohol consumption. The AUDIT was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a method of screening for excessive drinking (Saunders et al., 1993). An AUDIT score of eight or more reflects hazardous or harmful alcohol consumption, which was found in 78% of the young people in custody. It should be noted that the cut-off of eight or more has been validated for adults and a lower cut-off may be more appropriate for young people (Knight et al, 2006). Drinking at hazardous or harmful levels was significantly higher among Aboriginal young people compared to non-Aboriginal young people (83% vs 73%, $p < 0.03$).

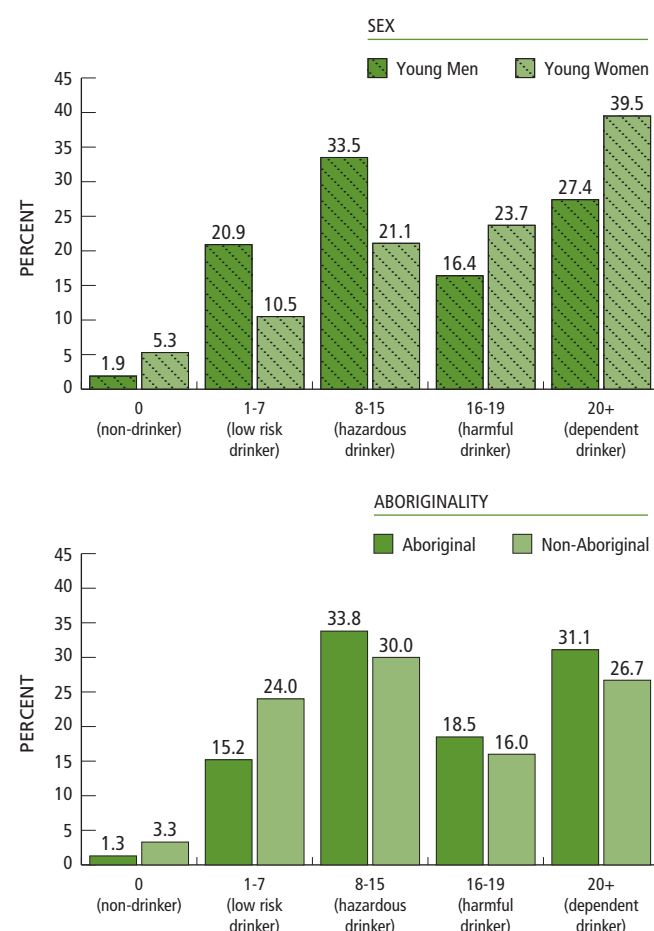
Table/Fig 5.9.7 Hazardous/harmful alcohol consumption (AUDIT score 8+) in year prior to custody



	Young Men				Young Women				Aboriginal				Non-Aboriginal				Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Yes	203	77.2	32	84.2	126	83.4	109	72.7	235	78.1								
No	60	22.8	6	15.8	25	16.6	41	27.3	66	21.9								
Total	263	100.0	38	100.0	151	100.0	150	100.0	301	100.0								

An AUDIT score of 16 or more reflects harmful drinking, which was found in just under half (46%) of 2009 YPICHS participants. An AUDIT score of 20 or more is said to reflect dependent drinking (Babor et al., 2001), which was found in just under one-third (29%) of young people. Young women were more likely than young men to have alcohol use patterns indicative of dependent drinking (40% vs 27%) but this was not significant.

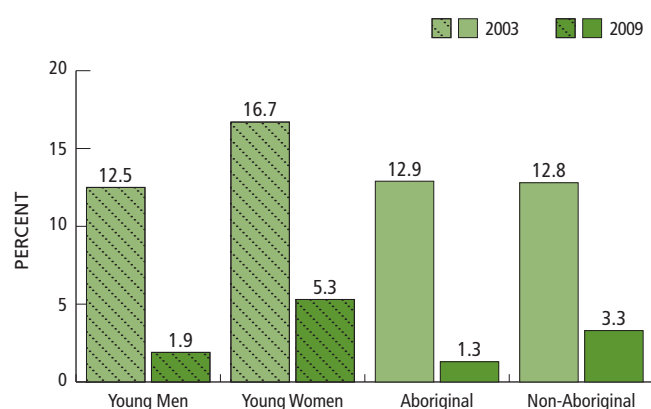
Table/Fig 5.9.8 Risky drinking in year prior to custody (AUDIT score categories)



	Young Men				Young Women				Aboriginal				Non-Aboriginal				Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
0 (non-drinker)	5	1.9	2	5.3	2	1.3	5	3.3	7	2.3								
1-7 (low risk drinker)	55	20.9	4	10.5	23	15.2	36	24.0	59	19.6								
8-15 (hazardous drinker)	88	33.5	8	21.1	51	33.8	45	30.0	96	31.9								
16-19 (harmful drinker)	42	16.4	9	23.7	28	18.5	24	16.0	52	17.3								
20+ (dependent drinker)	72	27.4	15	39.5	47	31.1	40	26.7	87	28.9								
Total	263	100.0	38	100.0	151	100.0	150	100.0	301	100.0								

The 2005 National Survey on the use of Alcohol by Australian Secondary School Students found that 67% of secondary school students (aged 12 to 17) had consumed alcohol in the past year, including 89% of 17 year-olds (White et al., 2009). While not consuming alcohol is uncommon among young Australians generally, it is even more uncommon among the in-custody population. Not consuming alcohol in the year prior to custody was only found in seven participants (2%), and this has decreased since 2003 (13%).

Table/Fig 5.9.9 No alcohol consumption in the year prior to custody



	2003			2009		
	n	Total	%	n	Total	%
Young Men	26	208	12.5	5	263	1.9
Young Women	3	18	16.7	2	38	5.3
Aboriginal	12	93	12.9	2	151	1.3
Non-Aboriginal	17	133	12.8	5	150	3.3
Total	29	226	12.8	7	301	2.3

The first question on the AUDIT asks about frequency of drinking in the year prior to custody. While never drinking was uncommon, young people were spread evenly across the other four AUDIT categories for this question, with 23% drinking alcohol four or more times per week. Young women had the highest proportion of participants that drank four or more times per week (34%) compared to 21% of young men.

Table 5.9.10 Frequency of drinking in year prior to custody

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Never	5	1.9	2	5.3	2	1.3	5	3.3	7	2.3
Monthly or less	61	23.2	7	18.4	33	21.9	35	23.3	68	22.6
2-4 times a month	66	25.1	5	13.2	30	19.9	41	27.3	71	23.6
2-3 times a week	76	28.9	11	29.0	51	33.8	36	24.0	87	28.9
4+ times a week	55	20.9	13	34.2	35	23.2	33	22.0	68	22.6
Total	263	100.0	38	100.0	151	100.0	150	100.0	301	100.0

While there was an even spread for the frequency question on the AUDIT, this was not the case for the quantity of alcohol regularly consumed. Most young people (55%) reported drinking 10 or more standard drinks on a typical day. In terms of absolute quantity of alcohol consumed, young men drank at higher rates than young women, with 57% reporting drinking 10 or more standard drinks on a typical day, compared to only 40% of young women. Aboriginal young people were also more likely than non-Aboriginal young people to report typically drinking 10 or more standard drinks (60% vs 49%), but neither of these findings were statistically significant.

Table 5.9.11 Number of drinks on a typical day in year prior to custody

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
0 (non-drinker)	5	1.9	2	5.3	2	1.3	5	3.3	7	2.3
1-2	15	5.7	1	2.6	5	3.3	11	7.3	16	5.3
3-4	17	6.5	3	7.9	8	5.3	12	8.0	20	6.6
5-6	40	15.2	9	23.7	23	15.2	26	17.3	49	16.3
7-9	36	13.7	8	21.1	22	14.6	22	14.7	44	14.6
10+	150	57.0	15	39.5	91	60.3	74	49.3	165	54.8
Total	263	100.0	38	100.0	151	100.0	150	100.0	301	100.0

The single AUDIT question shown to be most strongly associated with alcohol-related harm is that which asks about six or more standard drinks on one or more occasion (Reinert & Allen, 2007). Three out of every five (60%) young people reported having six or more drinks at least weekly in the year prior to custody, with one in five (20%) doing so daily or almost daily.

Table 5.9.12 Frequency of consuming six or more drinks in year prior to custody

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Non-drinker	5	1.9	2	5.3	2	1.3	5	3.3	7	2.3
Never	23	8.7	4	10.5	10	6.6	17	11.3	27	8.9
Less than monthly	35	13.3	2	5.3	19	12.6	18	11.9	37	12.3
Monthly	45	17.0	4	10.5	24	15.9	25	16.6	49	16.2
Weekly	103	39.0	19	50.0	62	41.1	60	39.7	122	40.4
Daily/almost daily	53	20.1	7	18.4	34	22.5	26	17.2	60	19.9
Total	264	100.0	38	100.0	151	100.0	151	100.0	302	100.0

The next AUDIT question reflects the salience of drinking over other important life activities and is a measure of alcohol dependence (Babor et al., 2001). More than half (58%) of young people reported that in the year prior to custody, they never failed to do what was expected of them because of their drinking, indicating that salience is relatively low. However, there were still nearly one in five (19%) who reported that they failed to do what was expected of them on at least a weekly basis as a result of their drinking, a finding highest in young women (26%).

Table 5.9.13 How often failed to do what was expected because of drinking in year prior to custody

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Non-drinker	5	1.9	2	5.3	2	1.3	5	3.3	7	2.3
Never	154	58.3	15	39.5	86	57.0	83	55.0	169	56.0
Less than monthly	31	11.7	6	15.8	13	8.6	24	15.9	37	12.3
Monthly	26	9.8	5	13.2	16	10.6	15	9.9	31	10.3
Weekly	34	12.9	9	23.7	23	15.2	20	13.2	43	14.2
Daily/almost daily	14	5.3	1	2.6	11	7.3	4	2.6	15	5.0
Total	264	100.0	38	100.0	151	100.0	151	100.0	302	100.0

Impaired control over drinking is another measure of alcohol dependence (Babor et al., 2001). Nearly two-thirds (62%) of young people reported that they were *never* unable to stop drinking once they had started, indicating that, although they tend to consume high quantities of alcohol, they feel they can freely chose whether they drink heavily or not. In contrast, nearly one-quarter (24%) of young people were unable to stop drinking on at least a weekly basis. This was a bigger problem among the Aboriginal compared with the non-Aboriginal young people (31% vs 17%, $p<0.02$). This suggests that there is a group of young people who are starting to lose control over their drinking.

Table 5.9.14 How often unable to stop drinking once started in year prior to custody

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Non-drinker	5	1.9	2	5.3	2	1.3	5	3.3	7	2.3
Never	164	62.1	17	44.7	79	52.3	102	67.5	181	59.9
Less than monthly	20	7.5	5	13.2	17	11.3	8	5.3	25	8.3
Monthly	14	5.3	3	8.0	7	4.6	10	6.6	17	5.6
Weekly	40	15.2	8	21.1	30	19.9	18	11.9	48	15.9
Daily/almost daily	21	8.0	3	8.0	16	10.6	8	5.3	24	7.9
Total	264	100.0	38	100.0	151	100.0	151	100.0	302	100.0

The most severely alcohol dependent patients report morning drinking to relieve symptoms of withdrawal. Most (84%) young people reported that they *never* needed a drink first thing in the morning. A higher proportion of Aboriginal young people (11%) and young women (11%) reported needing a drink after a heavy drinking session on at least a weekly basis than among non-Aboriginal young people or young men, though this difference was not statistically significant.

Table 5.9.15 How often needing a drink first thing in the morning after a heavy drinking session in the year prior to custody

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Non-drinker	5	1.9	2	5.3	2	1.3	5	3.3	7	2.3
Never	220	83.3	27	71.1	125	82.8	122	80.8	247	81.8
Less than monthly	11	4.2	3	7.9	5	3.3	9	6.0	14	4.6
Monthly	5	1.9	2	5.3	2	1.3	5	3.3	7	2.3
Weekly	10	3.8	1	2.6	6	4.0	5	3.3	11	3.6
Daily/almost daily	13	4.9	3	7.9	11	7.3	5	3.3	16	5.3
Total	264	100.0	38	100.0	151	100.0	151	100.0	302	100.0

Binge drinking can result in “blackouts” where the young person does not remember what happened to them. Nearly one-third (32%) of young people reported that they had been unable to remember what happened the night before, because of drinking, on at least a monthly basis in the year prior to custody. This was more common among the young women (47% vs 30%, $p<0.03$).

Table 5.9.16 How often unable to remember what happened the night before because of drinking in the year prior to custody

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Non-drinker	5	1.9	2	5.3	2	1.3	5	3.3	7	2.3
Never	121	45.8	14	36.8	63	41.7	72	47.7	135	44.7
Less than monthly	59	22.3	4	10.5	38	25.2	25	16.6	63	20.9
Monthly	41	15.5	5	13.2	22	14.6	24	15.9	46	15.2
Weekly	32	12.1	11	28.9	24	15.9	19	12.6	43	14.2
Daily/almost daily	6	2.3	2	5.3	2	1.3	6	4.0	8	2.6
Total	264	100.0	38	100.0	151	100.0	151	100.0	302	100.0

Nearly one in five (18%) young people reported feeling guilty or remorseful after drinking on at least a monthly basis in the year prior to custody. Feeling guilty or remorseful at least monthly was twice as common in young women (32%) as in young men (16%).

Table 5.9.17 How often feel guilty or remorseful after drinking in the year prior to custody

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Non-drinker	5	1.9	2	5.3	2	1.3	5	3.3	7	2.3
Never	191	72.3	23	60.5	112	74.2	102	67.5	214	70.9
Less than monthly	25	9.5	1	2.6	8	5.3	18	11.9	26	8.6
Monthly	16	6.1	4	10.5	12	7.9	8	5.3	20	6.6
Weekly	22	8.3	5	13.2	14	9.3	13	8.6	27	8.9
Daily/almost daily	5	1.9	3	7.9	3	2.0	5	3.3	8	2.6
Total	264	100.0	38	100.0	151	100.0	151	100.0	302	100.0

Alcohol-related injury is common in this population.

Approximately half (50%) of young people reported that they or someone else had been injured as a result of their drinking, with the majority (32%) of these happening in the last year. There was little variation by gender or Aboriginality for alcohol-related injury for 2009 YPICHs participants.

Table 5.9.18 Ever injure self or someone else as a result of your drinking

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Non-drinker	5	1.9	2	5.1	2	1.3	5	3.3	7	2.3
No	131	49.6	15	38.5	81	53.3	65	43.0	146	48.2
Yes, but not in last year	42	15.9	10	25.6	21	13.8	31	20.5	52	17.2
Yes, during last year	86	32.5	12	30.8	48	31.6	50	33.1	98	32.3
Total	264	100.0	39	100.0	152	100.0	151	100.0	303	100.0

It is not uncommon for others to express concern about young people's drinking. More than half of the young women (56%) reported that a relative, friend or doctor had been concerned about their drinking in the past year and suggested that they cut down, compared to 29% of young men ($p<0.001$).

Table 5.9.19 Relative, friend or doctor ever been concerned about your drinking and suggested you cut down

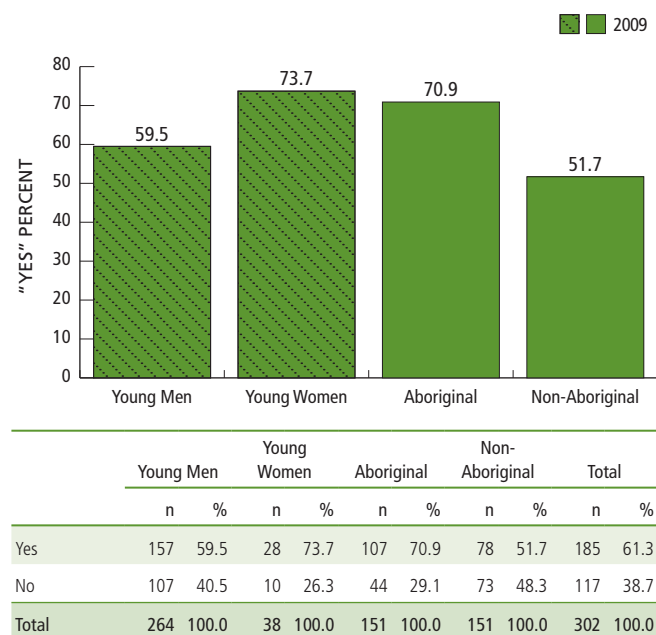
	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Non-drinker	5	1.9	2	5.1	2	1.3	5	3.3	7	2.3
No	157	59.5	11	28.2	78	51.3	90	59.6	168	55.4
Yes, but not in last year	25	9.5	4	10.3	16	10.5	13	8.6	29	9.6
Yes, during last year	77	29.2	22	56.4	56	36.8	43	28.5	99	32.7
Total	264	100.0	39	100.0	152	100.0	151	100.0	303	100.0

Taken together, the young people's responses to the ten AUDIT questions give reasons for concern regarding their alcohol consumption. The responses indicate that *quantity* of drinking is a greater concern than frequency of drinking and the nature of the drinking patterns are more often consistent with *harmful* drinking than with alcohol dependence. On the other hand, alcohol dependence is neither an all-or-none, nor a static, phenomenon. There is a risk that alcohol dependence is emerging in this group of young people.

Most (61%) young people self-reported that their alcohol use caused them problems with school, friends, health, police and/or parents. These alcohol-related problems were especially

high for Aboriginal young people compared to non-Aboriginal young people (71% vs 52%, $p<0.001$).

Table/Fig 5.9.20 Alcohol use caused any problems in the past year (with school, friends, health, police, parents)



The most common sources of alcohol for those aged less than 18 years were from friends (47%) and shops (37%), despite the illegalities of selling or supplying alcohol to minors. Young men (38%) and non-Aboriginal young people (42%) had the highest proportion of participants accessing their alcohol from shops.

Table 5.9.21 Source of alcohol (if under 18 years)

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Shop	96	37.9	11	29.7	48	32.0	59	42.1	107	36.9
Parents	11	4.4	0	0.0	7	4.7	4	2.9	11	3.8
Friends	113	44.7	22	59.5	73	48.7	62	44.3	135	46.6
Siblings/other family members	17	6.7	2	5.4	12	8.0	7	5.0	19	6.6
Other	16	6.3	2	5.4	10	6.7	8	5.7	18	6.2
Total	253	100.0	37	100.0	150	100.0	140	100.0	290	100.0

Some of the young people reported that they thought those around them had problems due to alcohol. More young women reported that they thought their mothers (30% vs 17%, $p<0.001$) or their fathers (30% vs 17%, $p<0.04$) had problems due to alcohol than reported in young men. More Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal young people reported that

their mothers (18% vs 9%, $p<0.02$) or other family members (27% vs 12%, $p<0.001$) have had problems due to alcohol.

Table 5.9.22 Problems due to use of alcohol among friends and family

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
(Multiple response)	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Mother	31	11.2	12	30.0	28	18.2	15	9.2	43	13.6
Father	46	16.6	12	30.0	31	20.1	27	16.6	58	18.3
Husband/wife/partner	2	0.7	1	2.5	2	1.3	1	0.6	3	0.9
Other family members	50	18.1	12	30.0	42	27.3	20	12.3	62	19.6
Close friends	55	19.9	8	20.0	35	22.7	28	17.2	63	19.9
Other	9	3.3	1	2.5	6	3.9	4	2.5	10	3.2

According to a national survey, 28% of young people aged 14-19 years had been the victim of alcohol-related verbal abuse in the past 12 months, and a further 7% had been the victim of alcohol-related physical abuse in the past 12 months (AIHW, 2008e)

Some of the young people reported that others affected by alcohol have verbally (24%) or physically (18%) abused them and/or put fear into them (8%). Being put in fear was more common among the Aboriginal young people than non-Aboriginal young people (12% vs 5%, $p<0.03$).

Table 5.9.23 Abuse experienced by anyone affected by alcohol in the past year

	Young Men		Young Women		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Total	
(Multiple response)	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Verbally abuse you	62	22.4	13	32.5	40	26.0	35	21.5	75	23.7
Physically abuse you	47	17.0	9	22.5	31	20.1	25	15.3	56	17.7
Put you in fear	21	7.6	5	12.5	18	11.7	8	4.9	26	8.2

5.10 Illicit drugs

The 2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey estimated that approximately 38% of Australians over 14 years of age (including 24% of young people aged 14 to 19 years) had ever used an illicit drug (AIHW, 2008c). A further 13% had used an illicit drug in the 12 months prior to the survey, which was slightly higher (17%) among young people aged 14 to 19 years. Cannabis was the most prevalent drug used, with 34% of Australians aged 14 years and over reporting having ever used it, including 20% among young people aged 14 to 19 years (AIHW, 2008c). The prevalence of ever using any other illicit drugs was very low among young people aged 14 to 19 years and included: amphetamines (2.1%), ecstasy (6.0%), cocaine (2.0%) and heroin (0.3%) (AIHW, 2008c). Any use of illicit drugs was significantly higher in Aboriginal Australians aged 14 years