



# Participation in PCYC Young Offender programs and re-offending

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**Aim:** To examine the effect of the Police and Citizen Youth Clubs (PCYC) Young Offender program on re-offending.

**Method:** Young people who were referred to a PCYC Young Offender program in New South Wales (NSW) between 2010 and 2013 were matched (68% of 2,055,  $n=1,405$ ) to a group of young people who were similar in terms of demographic and offending characteristics and not referred ( $n=1,405$ ). Numerous re-offending outcomes were examined and compared for the PCYC-referred and comparison groups: re-offending within 12 months (as a dichotomous outcome), time to the first re-offence, and the rate of re-offences and offending days within 12 months of program referral (or an equivalent date for the comparison group).

**Results:** Within 12 months of program referral, 64 per cent of those referred to a PCYC Young Offender program had re-offended, with a rate of eight re-offences and five offending days per 1,000 person days of follow-up. Half of those referred had re-offended within 190 days of referral. When compared to a similar group of young people who were not referred to a PCYC Young Offender program, referral was not found to be associated with a reduced rate of re-offending within 12 months, nor with an increase in the number of days to the first re-offence, or a decrease in the rate of re-offences or offending days in the 12 months following referral.

**Conclusion:** While no improvement in the re-offending outcomes of those who were referred to a PCYC Young Offender program was found, it may be that pre-existing, unobserved differences between the groups explain the differences in re-offending.

**Keywords:** offending, program evaluation, youth, PCYC

## INTRODUCTION

Police and Citizen Youth Clubs (PCYC) are located across Australia. In New South Wales (NSW), as at 31 December 2014, there were 59 clubs located in urban, regional or rural areas.<sup>1</sup> The focus of PCYC is on the reduction of crime involving young people and on the promotion of communities across the state. This is achieved, in theory, by providing young people and the wider community with the opportunity to participate in a range of sporting, recreational and arts activities, such as gymnastics and boxing, and performance group and vocal workshops, as well as life skills training and employment programs.

In addition to activities available for young people and the community generally, PCYC, in conjunction with the NSW Police Force, provide the Young Offender program to young people in the community who have a history of offending. As

part of the Young Offender program, young offenders are case managed and have individually tailored programs, with activities and support services provided, depending on the needs of the young person and the club they attend.<sup>2</sup> Case management often involves working with the Department of Juvenile Justice, schools and police in the local area (Local Area Command). Goals are set and issues such as drugs, alcohol and truancy, are focused on with regular debriefs. PCYC programs for Young Offenders are of approximately 12 months duration. However, many young offenders participate for less than 12 months, and some participate for longer than 12 months.

Despite the widespread availability of the PCYC Young Offender program across the state the impact of the program on reducing re-offending has not been evaluated. Furthermore, the relevance of evidence relating to other programs is unknown; it is difficult to identify programs elsewhere that parallel the PCYC Young

Offender program in NSW. However, in general, systematic reviews and meta-analyses examining the effects of young offender treatment programs have found that behavioural and cognitive-behavioural treatments have the largest effect on recidivism (Koehler et al., 2013; Lipsey 2009), while non-behavioural treatments (including mentoring, restorative justice, and intensive probation support) have been found to have a smaller, statistically non-significant effect (Koehler et al., 2013). The extent to which PCYC Young Offender programs are effective may, in part, reflect the degree to which behavioural and non-behavioural strategies are used, which will potentially vary from club to club, and from one young person to another.

Studies examining the effectiveness of after school programs on delinquency may also provide some insight into what could be expected in terms of the effectiveness of the PCYC Young Offender program on recidivism. However, of note, after-school programs, and studies evaluating them, do not tend to specifically target young people with a history of offending. After-school programs provide youth with supervision as well as the opportunity to learn new skills and engage in recreational activities. While the prevention of delinquency may not be the primary focus of many after-school programs, these programs potentially reduce the risk of delinquency by increasing prosocial behaviour (Taheri & Welsh, 2015). Evaluations of whether after school programs impact on delinquency have produced mixed findings (Gottfredson et al., 2004; Gottfredson et al., 2010; Sherman, 1997; Welsh & Hoshi, 2006). Indeed, some studies have found after-school programs to be associated with increased rates of delinquent behaviour, potentially due to the opportunity of youth to socialise more freely with delinquent peers.

Recently a systematic review and meta-analysis of the effect of after school programs on delinquency was conducted by Taheri and Welsh (2015). The 17 studies included in the review (and 12 included in the meta-analysis) involved a range of academic, recreation and skills training/mentoring interventions, including drop-in clubs and youth centres. Some studies focused on children or adolescents considered to be at 'high risk', however juvenile offenders were not the focus of the studies included. While there was some evidence of a small effect of after-school programs on delinquency, the effect was not statistically significant when examined overall, nor when examined by type of intervention, or level of risk.

## THE CURRENT STUDY

The aim of the current study was to estimate the effect of PCYC Young Offender programs on re-offending, by comparing those referred to a PCYC program to a similar group of young people who potentially would have been eligible for, but were not referred to, a PCYC Young Offender program. Secondary analyses were also undertaken to explore whether 'treatment

dosage' impacts re-offending rates. In this analysis, young people who were involved with PCYC for only a few months and those who participated in the program for 9 months or more, are compared with a similar group of young people who were potentially eligible but who were not referred to the program.

In the absence of random assignment to the PCYC Young Offender program, it is possible that those referred could be more or less likely to re-offend even in the absence of program referral and participation, due to differences between the groups. In order to increase the similarities of the PCYC and comparison groups, propensity score matching was used to match the groups on observed characteristics to minimise the differences between the groups.

## METHOD

### SAMPLE

Data relating to PCYC Young Offender program referrals and participation for the period 2009 to 2014 were provided by the Youth Command of the NSW Police Force. Data included name, date of birth, criminal name index (CNI), club identification number, the associated PCYC club/s, and the dates of program referral and/or commencement.<sup>3</sup> Also included were 'exit' dates relating to a young person completing the program, declining participation, or being deemed ineligible (for example, due to moving outside the area of a PCYC club). Information regarding case management, club attendance and participation in activities was not available for analysis.<sup>4</sup>

Using the identifiers provided (name, date of birth, and CNI), those referred to a PCYC Young Offender program were linked to the Re-offending Database (ROD), held by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research. ROD is a collection of data from agencies within the criminal justice system in NSW, including demographic and offending characteristics for all persons who had a finalised court appearance (since 1994), as well as those who received a police caution or completed an outcome plan for a youth justice conference (YJC, since 1998; for further discussion of ROD see Hua & Fitzgerald, 2006).

The PCYC group included in the study consisted of young offenders who were first referred to a PCYC Young Offender program between 2010 and 2013,<sup>5</sup> regardless of levels of participation or completion.<sup>6</sup> As outlined in Figure 1, some young people referred to a PCYC Young Offender program were excluded from the study, including those who could not be identified in ROD, and those with no record of a finalised contact with the criminal justice system (i.e., a caution, YJC or finalised court appearance) prior to program referral. To be included in the study, those referred had to have had a matter initiated (e.g., charges laid) or finalised within 180 days prior to being referred (the closest date was used to identify the index record), had to

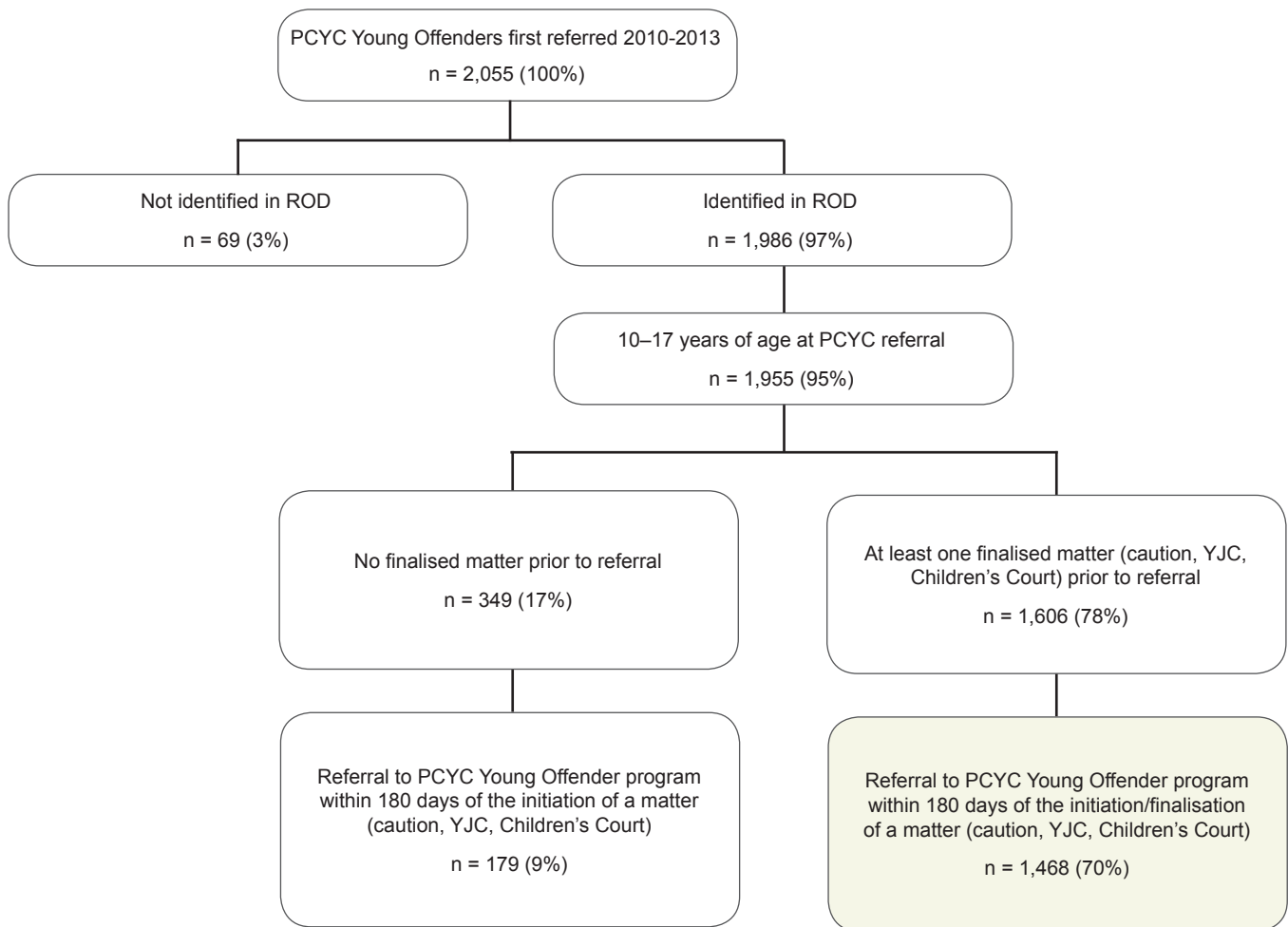
be aged between 10 and 17 years of age at the time of referral, and reside in NSW. Prior to applying inclusion/exclusion criteria there were 2,055 referred young people in the PCYC Young Offender group, with 1,468 (70%) remaining after applying the inclusion criteria (prior to matching).

Table 1 presents data on the level of program involvement of the 1,468 young people in the cohort who were referred to a PCYC Young Offender program. Almost all who were referred to a program between 2010 and 2013 commenced (96%), rather than declining or being rejected (i.e., deemed ineligible), and the date of commencement was usually close to the date of referral (median 6 days). Three-quarters of those who were referred commenced and completed the program, with the median time from commencement to program completion being 220 days. Eleven per cent of those who were referred declined to participate or were rejected after commencing the program, with a median time of 80 days from commencement to exiting

the program. Three-quarters of those referred commenced the program once; 21 per cent commenced the program two or more times. Across years there were similar levels of commencement and completion, and similar times from referral to commencement and commencement to exiting the program. Those who were first referred in earlier years were more likely to have commenced the program more than once during the period of observation than those who were first referred in later years.

The comparison group were drawn from a pool of matters finalised by caution, YJC or Children’s Court between 2009 and 2013 (n=88,195), corresponding to young people who resided in NSW and were 10 to 17 years of age at the time the matter was initiated and/or finalised.<sup>7</sup> Matters relating to young people who were known to have been involved in a Young Offender program between 2009 and 2014 were not considered for inclusion in the comparison group.<sup>8</sup> After applying these criteria, a pool of 70,033 records (79%) remained (before matching).

Figure 1. PCYC Young Offender sample prior to matching, 2010-2013



Note. PCYC - Police and Citizen Youth Clubs; YJC - Youth Justice Conference.

Table 1. Involvement in PCYC Young Offender program, 2010-2013

	Year of referral									
	2010-2013		2010		2011		2012		2013	
Referred, n (%)	1,468	(100.0)	310	(100.0)	394	(100.0)	382	(100.0)	382	(100.0)
Rejected/declined (without commencing), n (%)	50	(3.4)	12	(3.9)	10	(2.5)	16	(4.2)	12	(3.1)
Commenced, n (%)	1,404	(95.6)	293	(94.5)	383	(97.2)	363	(95.0)	365	(95.5)
Rejected/declined after commencement	168	(11.4)	35	(11.3)	47	(11.9)	48	(12.6)	38	(9.9)
Non-current/finalised after commencement	1,081	(73.6)	230	(74.2)	294	(74.6)	286	(74.9)	271	(70.9)
Other	156	(10.6)	29	(9.4)	42	(10.7)	29	(7.6)	56	(14.7)
Days from referral to commencement, <sup>a</sup> median (Q1-Q3)	6	(1-16)	6	(1-17)	6	(1-14)	8	(2-19)	6	(2-14)
Days from commencement to rejected/declined, <sup>b</sup> median (Q1-Q3)	80	(42-127)	81	(34-108)	70	(27-112)	90	(44-118)	98	(53-145)
Days from commencement to non-current/finalised, <sup>c</sup> median (Q1-Q3)	220	(127-364)	197	(125-363)	201	(101-350)	252	(133-379)	239	(140-358)
Number of commencement dates, n (%)										
1	1,098	(74.8)	223	(71.9)	285	(72.3)	283	(74.1)	307	(80.4)
2	240	(16.3)	57	(18.4)	70	(17.8)	59	(15.4)	54	(14.1)
3+	66	(4.5)	13	(4.2)	28	(7.1)	21	(5.5)	4	(1.0)

Note. PCYC - Police and Citizen Youth Clubs; Q1 - the lower quartile (25th percentile), the point between the lowest 25% of values and the highest 75% of values; Q3 - the upper quartile (75th percentile), the point between the lowest 75% of values and the highest 25% of values.

<sup>a</sup> For those (n=1,385) with both referral and commencement dates. In 16 cases, the number of days between referral and commencement was greater than 180.

<sup>b</sup> For those (n=168) with both commencement and rejected/declined dates. In 30 cases, the number of days between commencement and rejected/declined was less than 30.

<sup>c</sup> For those (n=1,081) with both commencement and end dates. In 264 cases, the number of days between commencement and end dates was greater than 365 (i.e., 1 year); in 34 cases the number of days between commencement and end dates was greater than 500.

## PROPENSITY SCORE MATCHING

A comparison group with similar characteristics to the PCYC-referred sample was identified by matching directly on sex, Indigenous status and age group and using propensity score matching to match on a range of demographic and prior offending characteristics<sup>9</sup> (described below) related to the probability of being referred to the PCYC Young Offender program and/or the likelihood of re-offending. Propensity scores were derived from logistic regression models, with a PCYC-referred individual matched to a record from the comparison group that had the closest propensity score, provided the score was within 0.01 units.

## EXPLANATORY VARIABLES

Demographic and prior offending characteristics were extracted from ROD for the PCYC-referred and comparison group samples. In relation to the variables listed for matching purposes, 'index' refers to the initiation or finalisation of the matter (whichever applies). Re-offending is then measured from the date of referral to the PCYC Young Offender Program, or a proxy referral date for the comparison group. As the referral to a PCYC Young Offender program may have occurred up to 180 days after the initiation or finalisation of a matter, and the re-offending outcomes related to re-offences following referral, a proxy

referral date was created for those in the comparison group.

This was done by taking the date of initiation or finalisation of the comparison group record and adding the number of days between initiation or finalisation and referral for the matched PCYC-referred record. That is, for each matched pair the number of days between initiation or finalisation of a matter and referral (or proxy referral) was the same.

## Demographic characteristics

- sex
- Indigenous status: whether the young person identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, or both, at any finalised matter
- age at index contact
- age at first known contact (i.e., caution, YJC, court)
- remoteness of area of residence at the index contact (major city, inner regional, outer regional, remote, very remote; Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS, 2011a)
- Socio-Economic Indexes for Area (SEIFA) index of disadvantage of area of residence at the index contact, based on quartiles from most disadvantaged to least disadvantaged (ABS, 2011b)

### Prior offending characteristics (ever and in the 12 months prior to the index)

- number of finalised contacts (cautions, YJCs and court appearances), in total and by each type of contact
- number and type of offences (classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification, ABS, 2011c):
  - ◆ violent offences (i.e., acts intended to cause injury, sexual assault, offences against the person, robbery)
  - ◆ property and fraud offences (i.e., break and enter, theft and related, fraud and related)
  - ◆ drug offences
  - ◆ property damage offences
  - ◆ public order offences
  - ◆ traffic/driving offences (including dangerous or negligent operation of a vehicle)
  - ◆ offences against justice procedures.
- whether any offences were domestic violence offences (classified according to law part codes identifying domestic violent offences under the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007*)
- number of proven offences (in total)
- whether the young offender had received a:
  - ◆ juvenile control order or imprisonment
  - ◆ suspended control order
  - ◆ bond
  - ◆ community service order
  - ◆ caution through a court finalisation
  - ◆ penalty with supervision
- whether the young person had been in custody (for longer than one day).

### RE-OFFENDING OUTCOMES & STATISTICAL ANALYSES

A re-offence was defined as an offence that was committed after the referral (or proxy referral) date and prior to 1 January 2015, finalised by caution, YJC or court<sup>10</sup> (as a proven outcome) up until 30 June 2015. Breaches of custodial and community based orders were not included as re-offences because offence date is not reliably recorded for these offences types and can also be affected by policing practice.

Re-offending outcomes that were examined included:

- Re-offending within 12 months of referral (or equivalent): presented as the percentage of PCYC-referred and

comparison group individuals who re-offended within 12 months, with differences between groups examined using logistic regression and described as an Odds Ratio;

- Time to the first re-offence: presented as the median number of days (and free days) from referral to the first re-offence for PCYC-referred and comparison groups, with differences between groups examined using Cox regression and described as a Hazard Ratio;
- Rate of re-offences within 12 months of referral: presented as the number of re-offences committed per 1,000 person days (and per 1,000 person free days), with differences between PCYC-referred and comparison groups examined using negative binomial regression and described as an Incidence Rate Ratio;
- Rate of re-offending days within 12 months of referral: presented as the number of days on which one or more re-offences were committed, per 1,000 person days (and per 1,000 person free days), with differences between PCYC-referred and comparison groups examined using negative binomial regression and described as an Incidence Rate Ratio.

'Free days' were calculated by taking into account the number of days spent in juvenile or adult detention prior to re-offending or the end of the follow-up period (for the outcome of time to first re-offence), or during the 12 months following referral (for rates of re-offences and re-offending days in the 12 months following referral).

### Treatment dosage

Given that there is substantial variation in the length of time young people participated in the PCYC Young Offender program, additional analyses were undertaken to examine re-offending outcomes for two subgroups of PCYC referrals: (1) young people who commenced a PCYC Young Offender program but completed only a few months on the program (up to 90 days between program commencement and exit) and (2) young people who commenced a PCYC Young offender program but completed 9 months or more on the program (at least 270 days between program commencement and exit).

## RESULTS

Of the 1,468 young people referred to a PCYC Young Offender program and considered eligible for inclusion in the study (as per Figure 1), 1,405 (96%) were matched to a comparison group record. The demographic and offending characteristics of the matched PCYC-referred and comparison groups at the time of referral (or proxy referral) are presented in Table A1 (also included are the characteristics of the 1,986 PCYC-referred young people who were identified in ROD). Over 80 per cent of



those referred to a PCYC Young Offender program were male, almost 50 per cent were Indigenous, the average age of those referred was 14.7 years and over 60 per cent resided in a major city. Those included in the matched PCYC-referred group had an average of almost three finalised contacts prior to referral; almost one third had only one finalised contact; almost 90 per cent had a caution finalised prior to referral; 44 per cent had at least one finalised court appearance; two-thirds had a prior proven property offence; over 40 per cent had a prior proven violent offence; over 40 per cent had a prior proven property damage offence; and over one-third had a prior proven public order offence. In terms of penalties, those in the matched PCYC-referred group had most commonly received a bond (21%) or a caution in court (20%) prior to referral. Following matching the PCYC-referred and comparison groups were similar in terms of demographic and offending characteristics at the time of referral.

**RE-OFFENDING OUTCOMES**

Presented in Table 2 are the re-offending outcomes for the matched PCYC-referred and comparison groups. Within 12 months of referral to a PCYC program, 64 per cent of those referred had re-offended, in contrast to 57 per cent of those in the comparison group. The median number of days to first re-offence was 197 days for the PCYC-referred group and 266 days for the comparison group, with similar estimates for the number of free days to the first re-offence (192 and 254 days for the PCYC-referred and comparison groups respectively). In the 12 months following referral, re-offences were committed at a rate of 8.5 per 1,000 person days in the PCYC-referred group and 7.9 per 1,000 person days in the comparison group (corresponding to 9.2 and 8.7 per 1,000 person free days respectively). In terms of offending days in the 12 months following referral, the PCYC-referred group had 5.3 offending days per 1,000 person

days while the comparison group had 4.8 offending days per 1,000 person days (5.8 and 5.3 per 1,000 person free days respectively).

Table 3 shows the re-offending outcomes compared and presented as effect estimates, with and without adjustment for the effect of other explanatory variables. The odds of re-offending within 12 months were higher for the PCYC-referred group than the comparison group; and the time to first re-offence was shorter than the comparison group. In terms of the rate of re-offences and offending days within 12 months following referral, findings were less conclusive. Prior to adjustment for other characteristics, the differences between the PCYC-referred and comparison groups were not (statistically) significantly different, however after adjusting for other characteristics, the PCYC-referred group was found to have more re-offences and re-offending days in the 12 months following referral. Differences between groups were not significant when the number of free days (days not in custody) were taken into account.

**Treatment dosage**

In order to further explore the differences in re-offending between the PCYC and comparison groups, additional analyses were undertaken focusing on those who commenced the program and had up to 90 days or at least 270 days from commencement to exiting the program.<sup>11</sup> Using propensity score matching, comparison groups with similar profiles of young people were identified for each subgroup. The characteristics of the matched groups are included in Table A2.

Presented in Table 4 are the re-offending outcomes for the PCYC subgroups and matched comparison groups. In both PCYC subgroups, re-offending, rates of re-offences and re-offending days within 12 months from referral were higher than in

**Table 2. Re-offending outcomes for matched PCYC-referred and comparison groups**

	PCYC-referred (N=1,405)	Comparison (N=1,405)
Re-offence within 12 months of referral		
Per cent (95% CI)	63.8 (61.2, 66.3)	57.0 (54.4, 59.6)
Time to first re-offence		
Number of days, 50th percentile (25th, 75th)	197 (54, 591)	266 (85, 980)
Number of free days, 50th percentile (25th, 75th)	192 (52, 528)	254 (79, 833)
Re-offences within 12 months of referral		
Rate per 1,000 person days (95% CI)	8.5 (8.2, 8.7)	7.9 (7.7, 8.2)
Rate per 1,000 person free days (95% CI)	9.2 (8.9, 9.5)	8.7 (8.5, 9.0)
Offending days within 12 months of referral		
Rate per 1,000 person days (95% CI)	5.3 (5.1, 5.5)	4.8 (4.6, 5.0)
Rate per 1,000 person free days (95% CI)	5.8 (5.6, 6.0)	5.3 (5.1, 5.5)

Note. CI - Confidence Interval.

**Table 3. Differences in re-offending outcomes for matched PCYC-referred and comparison groups**

	PCYC-referred vs. Comparison Group	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted
Re-offence within 12 months of referral		
Odds Ratio (95% CI)	1.33 (1.14, 1.55)	1.39 (1.18, 1.63)
Time to first re-offence		
Hazard Ratio (95% CI), days	1.27 (1.16, 1.38)	1.27 (1.17, 1.39)
Hazard Ratio (95% CI), free days	1.26 (1.16, 1.38)	1.26 (1.16, 1.37)
Re-offences within 12 months of referral		
Incidence Rate Ratio (95% CI), person days	1.07 (0.95, 1.20)	1.14 (1.02, 1.28)
Incidence Rate Ratio (95% CI), person free days	0.98 (0.86, 1.11)	1.10 (0.98, 1.24)
Re-offending days within 12 months of referral		
Incidence Rate Ratio (95% CI), person days	1.11 (1.00, 1.22)	1.12 (1.02, 1.24)
Incidence Rate Ratio (95% CI), person free days	1.05 (0.94, 1.17)	1.08 (0.98, 1.20)

*Note.* 'Adjusted' estimates were derived from models that included gender, Indigenous status, whether the young person resided in a major city, and whether the young person was less than 13 years at the time of their first contact. Adjusted models of re-offending days included the number of offending days in the 12 months prior to referral. All other models included whether the young person had a finalised court appearance or caution in the 12 months prior to referral, and the number of proven offences committed in the 12 months prior to referral (finalised at any time). CI - Confidence Interval.

**Table 4. Re-offending outcomes for PCYC subgroups, up to 90 days and at least 270 days from program commencement to exit, and matched comparison groups**

	<= 90 days		>= 270 days	
	PCYC (N=434)	Comparison (N=434)	PCYC (N=402)	Comparison (N=402)
Re-offence within 12 months of referral				
Per cent (95% CI)	65.2 (60.6, 69.6)	56.5 (51.7, 61.1)	62.2 (57.3, 66.8)	59.5 (54.6, 64.2)
Time to first re-offence				
Number of days, 50th percentile (25th, 75th)	183 (41, 615)	241 (75, 892)	213 (72, 638)	232 (90, 1,026)
Number of free days, 50th percentile (25th, 75th)	172 (38, 615)	245 (68, 892)	213 (72, 638)	232 (84, 1,026)
Re-offences within 12 months of referral				
Rate per 1,000 person days (95% CI)	9.1 (8.6, 9.5)	7.0 (6.5, 7.4)	7.9 (7.5, 8.4)	6.9 (6.5, 7.3)
Rate per 1,000 person free days (95% CI)	9.8 (9.3, 10.3)	7.5 (7.1, 7.9)	8.1 (7.7, 8.6)	7.2 (6.8, 7.7)
Offending days within 12 months of referral				
Rate per 1,000 person days (95% CI)	5.7 (5.4, 6.1)	4.4 (4.1, 4.7)	5.0 (4.7, 5.4)	4.5 (4.2, 4.9)
Rate per 1,000 person free days (95% CI)	6.2 (5.8, 6.6)	4.8 (4.4, 5.1)	5.2 (4.8, 5.5)	4.8 (4.4, 5.1)

*Note.* CI - Confidence Interval.

the matched comparison groups, and the time to first re-offence was shorter. Focusing firstly on the PCYC subgroup with up to 90 days from program commencement to exit, 65 per cent re-offended within 12 months (vs. 57% in the comparison group), they committed nine offences per 1,000 person days (vs. seven offences per 1,000 person days in the comparison group), and had six offending days per 1,000 person days (vs. four offending days per 1,000 person days in the comparison group). The median time to first re-offence was 183 days from referral (vs. 241 days in the comparison group).<sup>12</sup> In the PCYC subgroup

with at least 270 days from program commencement to exit, re-offending outcomes tended to be more similar to those in the comparison group. Sixty-two per cent of those in the PCYC group re-offended within 12 months (vs. 60% in the comparison group), they committed eight offences per 1,000 person days (vs. seven offences per 1,000 person days in the comparison group), and had five offending days per 1,000 person days (vs. 4.5 offending days per 1,000 person days in the comparison group). The median time to first re-offence was 213 days from referral (vs. 232 days in the comparison group).

**Table 5. Differences in re-offending outcomes for PCYC subgroups, up to 90 days and at least 270 days from program commencement to exit, and matched comparison groups**

	<= 90 days		>= 270 days	
	PCYC vs. Comparison Group		PCYC vs. Comparison Group	
	Unadjusted	Adjusted	Unadjusted	Adjusted
Re-offence within 12 months of referral				
Odds Ratio (95% CI)	1.45 (1.10, 1.90)	1.49 (1.11, 1.98)	1.12 (0.84, 1.49)	1.12 (0.83, 1.51)
Time to first re-offence				
Hazard Ratio (95% CI), days	1.26 (1.08, 1.46)	1.28 (1.10, 1.49)	1.14 (0.97, 1.33)	1.10 (0.93, 1.29)
Hazard Ratio (95% CI), free days	1.22 (1.06, 1.39)	1.27 (1.09, 1.48)	1.14 (0.97, 1.33)	1.09 (0.93, 1.28)
Re-offences within 12 months of referral				
Incidence Rate Ratio (95% CI), person days	1.30 (1.06, 1.60)	1.44 (1.18, 1.76)	1.15 (0.93, 1.41)	1.23 (1.01, 1.50)
Incidence Rate Ratio (95% CI), person free days	1.32 (1.03, 1.68)	1.58 (1.26, 1.99)	1.02 (0.81, 1.27)	1.16 (0.94, 1.42)
Re-offending days within 12 months of referral				
Incidence Rate Ratio (95% CI), person days	1.30 (1.08, 1.56)	1.36 (1.15, 1.62)	1.11 (0.92, 1.34)	1.13 (0.95, 1.35)
Incidence Rate Ratio (95% CI), person free days	1.32 (1.07, 1.64)	1.43 (1.17, 1.74)	1.02 (0.83, 1.25)	1.07 (0.89, 1.29)

*Note.* "Adjusted" estimates were derived from models that included gender, Indigenous status, whether the young person resided in a major city, and whether the young person was less than 13 years at the time of their first contact. Adjusted models of re-offending days included the number of offending days in the 12 months prior to referral. All other models included whether the young person had a finalised court appearance or caution in the 12 months prior to referral, and the number of proven offences committed in the 12 months prior to referral (finalised at any time). CI - Confidence Interval.

Effect estimates, comparing the re-offending outcomes of the PCYC subgroups and matched comparison groups are presented in Table 5. For those in the PCYC subgroup with up to 90 days from program commencement to exit, the odds of re-offending within 12 months of referral were higher than the matched comparison group, the time to first re-offence was shorter, and rates of re-offences and offending days in the 12 months following referral were higher. These differences between groups were found with and without adjustment for other characteristics. In contrast, differences in re-offending outcomes between the PCYC subgroup with at least 270 days from program commencement to exit and the matched comparison group were not found to be significantly different, with the exception of the rate of re-offences within 12 months of referral, after adjusting for other characteristics.

## DISCUSSION

The aim of the current study was to estimate the effect of PCYC Young Offender programs on re-offending, with those referred to a PCYC program compared to a similar group of young people who were not referred to a PCYC Young Offender program. Re-offending outcomes for those referred to a PCYC Young Offender program were not found to be better than re-offending outcomes for those not referred. Further, a greater proportion of those referred to a PCYC program re-offended within 12 months, and the time to first re-offence following referral was shorter (i.e., re-offending was faster) for the PCYC-referred group.

While there is the possibility of deviancy training and increased exposure to delinquent peers among youths participating in PCYC programs, as has been found, for example, in studies of some group-based after-school programs (Braga, 2016; Gottfredson et al., 2010), it is also possible that the findings in this study can be attributed to selection bias that could not be accounted for. Police coming into contact with young offenders are likely to have knowledge of a range of factors not recorded in administrative data. For example, family history (including criminal history), drug involvement, and school attendance may be factors considered when referring a young person to a PCYC Young Offender program, as well as factors associated with whether or not a young person is considered more likely to re-offend. This information could not, however, be accounted for in the current study when matching those referred to a PCYC program with a comparison group of young offenders as it is not included in the available data sources. While the comparison group used in the current study was seemingly equivalent to those referred to PCYC Young Offender programs in terms of demographic and prior offending characteristics, it is possible that important differences between the groups remained. The differences in re-offending outcomes observed may therefore have been due to pre-existing group differences in other factors associated with re-offending.

Results for those who were on the Young Offender program for a short time (up to 90 days) and for those who were on the program for a longer period of time (at least 270 days from



program commencement to exit) provide some support for the argument that unobservable, pre-existing differences may explain the differences in re-offending outcomes between the PCYC-referred and comparison groups. That re-offending outcomes were worse for the PCYC-referred group who only spent a short time on the program, compared to a matched comparison group, suggests that the data used for matching may not have been adequate – had the groups been better matched such differences in re-offending outcomes would not have been expected. In contrast, the re-offending outcomes for those on the program for a longer period of time did not differ significantly from the matched comparison group.

The current study does not justify far-reaching conclusions in terms of the effectiveness of PCYC Young Offender programs. Further research employing more refined techniques to deal with selection effects (e.g. randomised controlled trials, use of instrumental variable studies) related to program commencement and completion is needed. As PCYC Young offender programs are likely to be heterogeneous in terms of content and delivery, future evaluations would also be enhanced by knowing more about the specific activities and components of the programs that are delivered across the various sites in NSW. Identification of factors that differentiate programs/clubs that produce the greatest impact from those that are less effective would be beneficial. Indeed, it would be advantageous to know the extent that programs/clubs use behavioural and cognitive behavioural techniques or involve the young person's family and whether those that focus on these factors have significant reductions in re-offending. The extent to which particular groups of young offenders (e.g., medium risk vs. high risk, males vs. females) are more amenable to treatment or treatment dosage (e.g., extent of case management, club attendance, participation in activities, and number of times referred to PCYC) is important and should also be considered. Such research would enable those who administer PCYC programs to implement strategies which aim to improve how effective their club/program is at reducing re-offending. To enable such analyses to be undertaken, however, program managers and practitioners need to work closely with researchers at the outset of the evaluation to ensure that all relevant information is recorded in a manner that lends itself to analysis.

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## NOTES

1. Almost all NSW Police Force Local Area Commands (LACS; 68/76) are associated with a PCYC club; some LACs are associated with more than one club, and some clubs with more than one LAC.
2. Levels of activity/engagement with young offenders may vary across clubs.
3. The same young person may have been referred multiple times to the same club, as well as to different clubs.
4. This information is available in case notes but is not available in a format that permits inclusion in the analyses (i.e., it is included in free text, but not coded).
5. Due to an upgrade to the database in 2009 it was not possible to accurately distinguish program participants commencing in 2009 from those who had commenced a program prior to 2009. For this reason, those with referral and/or program commencement dates in 2009 were not included in the analyses.
6. All young offenders who were referred were included so as to avoid biasing the results toward the treated group because those who participated and/or completed the program were potentially also more motivated and less likely to re-offend.
7. Due to the widespread availability of PCYC Young Offender programs across the State, as well as the potential for a young person to attend a PCYC in a neighbouring area in the absence of there being a club in their own area, it was not possible to limit the comparison group to offenders from areas where PCYC Young Offender programs were not available.
8. Those involved in a PCYC Young Offender program potentially could have been included in the comparison group at an earlier time point. However, for simplicity, and due to there being a large comparison pool in any case, they were excluded.
9. Prior offending characteristics were derived in relation to both the date of initiation and finalisation of a matter. Thus, if a PCYC referral for an individual followed the finalisation (rather than initiation) of a matter, prior offending characteristics at the time of finalisation were used in matching; alternatively, prior offending characteristics at the time the matter was initiated were used.
10. In any jurisdiction – that is, in a Children's, Local, District or Supreme Court.
11. To be included in these analyses, the time from referral to commencement had to be less than 30 days.
12. Outcomes based on free days were similar to those that did not account for time spent in custody.

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## APPENDIX

*Table A1. Demographic and offending characteristics of PCYC-referred group prior to applying study selection criteria and matching, and PCYC-referred and comparison groups after matching*

	PCYC-referred in 2010-2013		Matched groups			
	n	%	PCYC-referred		Comparison	
			n	%	n	%
Total	1,986	100.0	1,405	100.0	1,405	100.0
<b>Demographic characteristics</b>						
<b>Year of referral</b>						
2009	0	-	0	-	72	5.1
2010	418	21.0	304	21.6	243	17.3
2011	521	26.2	372	26.5	356	25.3
2012	502	25.3	363	25.8	369	26.3
2013	545	27.4	366	26.0	339	24.1
2014	0	-	0	-	26	1.9
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	1,593	80.2	1,139	81.1	1,139	81.1
Female	393	19.8	266	18.9	266	18.9
<b>Indigenous status</b>						
Indigenous	940	47.3	651	46.3	651	46.3
Non-Indigenous	1,038	52.3	751	53.5	745	53.0
Unknown	8	0.4	3	0.2	9	0.6
<b>Age at referral (years)</b>						
10	17	0.9	3	0.2	9	0.6
11	44	2.2	18	1.3	26	1.9
12	122	6.1	80	5.7	55	3.9
13	251	12.6	166	11.8	176	12.5
14	450	22.7	321	22.8	327	23.3
15	512	25.8	388	27.6	374	26.6
16	386	19.4	296	21.1	306	21.8
17	171	8.6	133	9.5	121	8.6
18	18	0.9	0	-	11	0.8
other	15	0.8	0	-	0	-
Average (std dev)	14.7 (2.1)		14.7 (1.4)		14.7 (1.4)	
<b>Age at first formal contact (prior to referral)</b>						
10 - 13	789	48.1	661	47.0	631	44.9
14 - 15	692	42.2	620	44.1	619	44.1
16 - 17	149	9.1	124	8.8	155	11.0
other	9	0.5	0	-	0	-
Not applicable (no prior)	347					
Average (std dev)	13.5 (2.0)		13.5 (1.5)		13.6 (1.6)	
<b>Remoteness of area of residence at the index contact <sup>a</sup></b>						
Major city			859	61.1	837	59.6
Inner regional			463	33.0	467	33.2
Outer regional			59	4.2	57	4.1
Remote			3	0.2	13	0.9
Very remote			3	0.2	2	0.1
Unknown			18	1.3	29	2.1

<sup>a</sup> Due to over a quarter of these referral (n=518) not having an index contact, data on remoteness of area of residence and SEIFA quartile of disadvantage are not provided for the PCYC referred group prior to applying study selection criteria.

**Table A1. Demographic and offending characteristics of PCYC-referred group prior to applying study selection criteria and matching, and PCYC-referred and comparison groups after matching (continued)**

	PCYC-referred in 2010-2013		Matched groups			
	n	%	PCYC-referred		Comparison	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>SEIFA quartile of disadvantage of area of residence at the index contact <sup>a</sup></b>						
Q1 - Most disadvantaged			386	27.5	380	27.0
Q2			454	32.3	460	32.7
Q3			367	26.1	346	24.6
Q4 - Least disadvantaged			180	12.8	190	13.5
Unknown			18	1.3	29	2.1
<b>Offending characteristics prior to referral</b>						
<b>Number of finalised contacts (cautions, YJCs, court appearances)</b>						
0	347	17.5	0	-	0	-
1	515	25.9	434	30.9	369	26.3
2	406	20.4	352	25.1	387	27.5
3	279	14.0	244	17.4	253	18.0
4	183	9.2	160	11.4	146	10.4
5+	256	12.9	215	15.3	250	17.8
Average (std dev)	2.3 (2.2)		2.8 (2.0)		2.9 (2.1)	
<b>Number of cautions</b>						
0	544	27.4	168	12.0	150	10.7
1	660	33.2	562	40.0	575	40.9
2	507	25.5	442	31.5	432	30.7
3+	275	13.8	233	16.6	248	17.7
<b>Number of finalised YJCs</b>						
0	1540	77.5	1010	71.9	1009	71.8
1+	446	22.5	395	28.1	396	28.2
<b>Number of finalised court appearances</b>						
0	1271	64.0	788	56.1	759	54.0
1	376	18.9	328	23.3	317	22.6
2	169	8.5	153	10.9	171	12.2
3+	170	8.6	136	9.7	158	11.2
<b>Number of offences proven by offence type</b>						
Violent						
1	416	20.9	363	25.8	387	27.5
2+	127	6.4	116	8.3	118	8.4
Property						
1	602	30.3	540	38.4	543	38.6
2+	280	14.1	260	18.5	311	22.1
Drugs (1+)						
1	116	5.8	109	7.8	107	7.6
Property damage						
1	460	23.2	412	29.3	395	28.1
2+	114	5.7	108	7.7	145	10.3
Public order						
1	378	19.0	334	23.8	316	22.5
2+	76	3.8	72	5.1	88	6.3
Traffic/driving (1+)						
1	134	6.7	110	7.8	130	9.3
Offences against justice procedures (1+)						
1	282	14.2	233	16.6	243	17.3
Domestic violence (1+)						
1	218	11.0	197	14.0	195	13.9

<sup>a</sup> Due to over a quarter of these referral (n=518) not having an index contact, data on remoteness of area of residence and SEIFA quartile of disadvantage are not provided for the PCYC referred group prior to applying study selection criteria.

*Table A1. Demographic and offending characteristics of PCYC-referred group prior to applying study selection criteria and matching, and PCYC-referred and comparison groups after matching (continued)*

	PCYC-referred in 2010-2013		Matched groups			
	n	%	PCYC-referred		Comparison	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Number of proven offences (finalised prior to referral)</b>						
0	372	18.7	22	1.6	20	1.4
1	334	16.8	276	19.6	263	18.7
2	288	14.5	247	17.6	260	18.5
3	245	12.3	212	15.1	186	13.2
4	155	7.8	137	9.8	151	10.7
5	136	6.8	116	8.3	97	6.9
6	95	4.8	83	5.9	89	6.3
7	64	3.2	54	3.8	85	6.0
8	64	3.2	58	4.1	36	2.6
9	43	2.2	40	2.8	28	2.0
10+	190	9.6	160	11.4	190	13.5
Average (std dev)	4.0 (5.6)		4.8 (5.0)		5.3 (6.3)	
<b>Penalties received</b>						
Juvenile control order/Imprisonment	56	2.8	39	2.8	57	4.1
Suspended control order	40	2.0	28	2.0	27	1.9
Bond	421	21.2	358	25.5	401	28.5
Probation	313	15.8	201	14.3	219	15.6
Community service order	55	2.8	49	3.5	49	3.5
Caution (court)	313	15.8	272	19.4	273	19.4
Penalty with supervision	395	19.9	332	23.6	346	24.6
<b>Custodial episode &gt;1 day (including remand)</b>	268	13.5	213	15.2	220	15.7
<b>Offending characteristics in 12 months prior to referral</b>						
<b>Number of finalised contacts (cautions, YJCs, court appearances)</b>						
0	478	24.1	63	4.5	34	2.4
1	684	34.4	585	41.6	548	39.0
2	443	22.3	408	29.0	416	29.6
3	234	11.8	212	15.1	228	16.2
4	85	4.3	77	5.5	88	6.3
5+	62	3.1	60	4.3	91	6.5
Average (std dev)	1.5 (1.3)		1.9 (1.2)		2.1 (1.3)	
<b>Number of cautions</b>						
0	939	47.3	457	32.5	417	29.7
1	695	35.0	621	44.2	650	46.3
2	290	14.6	271	19.3	263	18.7
3+	62	3.1	56	4.0	75	5.3
<b>Number of finalised YJCs</b>						
0	1599	80.5	1053	74.9	1052	74.9
1+	387	19.5	352	25.1	353	25.1



*Table A1. Demographic and offending characteristics of PCYC-referred group prior to applying study selection criteria and matching, and PCYC-referred and comparison groups after matching (continued)*

	PCYC-referred in 2010-2013		Matched groups			
			PCYC-referred		Comparison	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Number of finalised court appearances</b>						
0	1333	67.1	827	58.9	783	55.7
1	409	20.6	355	25.3	356	25.3
2	167	8.4	153	10.9	163	11.6
3+	77	3.9	70	5.0	103	7.3
<b>Type/s of offences proven (finalised within 12 months of referral)</b>						
Violent						
1	416	20.9	363	25.8	387	27.5
2+	127	6.4	116	8.3	118	8.4
Property						
1	602	30.3	540	38.4	543	38.6
2+	280	14.1	260	18.5	311	22.1
Drugs (1+)						
Property damage	116	5.8	109	7.8	107	7.6
1	460	23.2	412	29.3	395	28.1
2+	114	5.7	108	7.7	145	10.3
Public order						
1	378	19.0	334	23.8	316	22.5
2+	76	3.8	72	5.1	88	6.3
Traffic/driving (1+)						
Offences against justice procedures (1+)	102	5.1	85	6.0	106	7.5
Domestic violence (1+)	136	6.8	205	14.6	230	16.4
	185	9.3	170	12.1	180	12.8
<b>Penalties received</b>						
Juvenile control order/Imprisonment	42	2.1	35	2.5	52	3.7
Suspended control order	25	1.3	21	1.5	22	1.6
Bond	485	24.4	310	22.1	366	26.0
Probation	199	10.0	176	12.5	200	14.2
Community service order	48	2.4	37	2.6	44	3.1
Caution (court)	228	11.5	207	14.7	228	16.2
Penalty with supervision	348	17.5	302	21.5	325	23.1

Note. PCYC - Police and Citizen Youth Clubs; YJC - Youth Justice Conference; SEIFA - Socio-Economic Indexes for Area.

**Table A2. Demographic and offending characteristics of PCYC subgroups with up to 90 days and at least 270 days from program commencement to exit, and matched comparison groups**

	<= 90 days				>= 270 days			
	PCYC		Comparison		PCYC		Comparison	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Total	434	100.0	434	100.0	402	100.0	402	100.0
<b>Demographic characteristics</b>								
<b>Year of referral</b>								
2009	0	-	39	9.0	0	-	19	4.7
2010	100	23.0	67	15.4	73	18.2	52	12.9
2011	132	30.4	115	26.5	102	25.4	115	28.6
2012	92	21.2	102	23.5	117	29.1	119	29.6
2013	110	25.3	96	22.1	110	27.4	90	22.4
2014	0	-	15	3.5	0	-	7	1.7
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	356	82.0	358	82.5	320	79.6	315	78.4
Female	78	18.0	76	17.5	82	20.4	87	21.6
<b>Indigenous status</b>								
Indigenous	202	46.5	203	46.8	183	45.5	182	45.3
Non-Indigenous	230	53.0	230	53.0	219	54.5	216	53.7
Unknown	2	0.5	1	0.2	0	0.0	4	1.0
<b>Age at referral (years)</b>								
10	0	-	1	0.2	3	0.7	0	-
11	5	1.2	9	2.1	3	0.7	12	3.0
12	22	5.1	18	4.1	32	8.0	16	4.0
13	60	13.8	54	12.4	41	10.2	51	12.7
14	95	21.9	99	22.8	104	25.9	103	25.6
15	118	27.2	119	27.4	111	27.6	108	26.9
16	91	21.0	102	23.5	80	19.9	91	22.6
17	43	9.9	30	6.9	28	7.0	19	4.7
18	0	-	2	0.5	0	-	2	0.5
Average (std dev)	14.7 (1.4)		14.7 (1.4)		14.6 (1.4)		14.6 (1.4)	
<b>Age at first formal contact (prior to referral)</b>								
10 - 13	210	48.4	218	50.2	187	46.5	179	44.5
14 - 15	190	43.8	181	41.7	179	44.5	191	47.5
16 - 17	34	7.8	35	8.1	36	9.0	32	8.0
Average (std dev)	13.6 (1.4)		13.4 (1.8)		13.5 (1.5)		13.5 (1.5)	
<b>Remoteness of area of residence at the index contact</b>								
Major city	260	59.9	247	56.9	259	64.4	273	67.9
Inner regional	151	34.8	150	34.6	127	31.6	110	27.4
Outer regional	17	3.9	21	4.8	10	2.5	12	3.0
Remote	1	0.2	5	1.2	0	0.0	1	0.2
Very remote	0	-	1	0.2	1	0.2	0	-
Unknown	5	1.2	10	2.3	5	1.2	6	1.5

**Table A2. Demographic and offending characteristics of PCYC subgroups with up to 90 days and at least 270 days from program commencement to exit, and matched comparison groups (continued)**

	<= 90 days				≥ 270 days			
	PCYC		Comparison		PCYC		Comparison	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>SEIFA quartile of disadvantage of area of residence at the index contact</b>								
Q1 - Most disadvantaged	125	28.8	127	29.3	125	31.1	116	28.9
Q2	134	30.9	140	32.3	130	32.3	143	35.6
Q3	108	24.9	105	24.2	100	24.9	97	24.1
Q4 - Least disadvantaged	62	14.3	52	12.0	42	10.4	40	10.0
Unknown	5	1.2	10	2.3	5	1.2	6	1.5
<b>Offending characteristics prior to referral</b>								
<b>Number of finalised contacts (cautions, YJCs, court appearances)</b>								
1	133	30.6	120	27.6	132	32.8	115	28.6
2	99	22.8	92	21.2	116	28.9	104	25.9
3	77	17.7	77	17.7	56	13.9	71	17.7
4	51	11.8	51	11.8	49	12.2	37	9.2
5+	74	17.1	94	21.7	49	12.2	75	18.7
Average (std dev)	2.9 (2.2)		3.2 (2.5)		2.6 (1.9)		2.9 (2.2)	
<b>Number of cautions</b>								
0	44	10.1	45	10.4	52	12.9	52	12.9
1	176	40.6	166	38.2	165	41.0	149	37.1
2	140	32.3	139	32.0	122	30.3	139	34.6
3+	74	17.1	84	19.4	63	15.7	62	15.4
<b>Number of finalised YJCs</b>								
0	326	75.1	333	76.7	289	71.9	295	73.4
1+	108	24.9	101	23.3	113	28.1	107	26.6
<b>Number of finalised court appearances</b>								
0	231	53.2	217	50.0	246	61.2	219	54.5
1	110	25.3	82	18.9	81	20.1	84	20.9
2	42	9.7	59	13.6	43	10.7	50	12.4
3+	51	11.8	76	17.5	32	8.0	49	12.2
<b>Number of offences proven by offence type</b>								
<b>Violent</b>								
1	122	28.1	132	30.4	117	29.1	112	27.9
2+	67	15.4	68	15.7	52	12.9	65	16.2
<b>Property</b>								
1	152	35.0	141	32.5	158	39.3	160	39.8
2+	138	31.8	151	34.8	115	28.6	123	30.6
Drugs (1+)	45	10.4	48	11.1	29	7.2	26	6.5
<b>Property damage</b>								
1	132	30.4	140	32.3	128	31.8	135	33.6
2+	76	17.5	73	16.8	50	12.4	69	17.2
<b>Public order</b>								
1	115	26.5	119	27.4	115	28.6	113	28.1
2+	44	10.1	67	15.4	32	8.0	42	10.4
Traffic/driving (1+)	31	7.1	37	8.5	33	8.2	24	6.0
Offences against justice procedures (1+)	82	18.9	99	22.8	60	14.9	64	15.9
Domestic violence (1+)	65	15.0	76	17.5	49	12.2	57	14.2

**Table A2. Demographic and offending characteristics of PCYC subgroups with up to 90 days and at least 270 days from program commencement to exit, and matched comparison groups (continued)**

	<= 90 days				>= 270 days			
	PCYC		Comparison		PCYC		Comparison	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Number of proven offences (finalised prior to referral)</b>								
0	4	0.9	4	0.9	6	1.5	7	1.7
1	81	18.7	80	18.4	86	21.4	75	18.7
2	75	17.3	65	15.0	76	18.9	75	18.7
3	65	15.0	59	13.6	69	17.2	60	14.9
4	38	8.8	42	9.7	40	10.0	48	11.9
5	30	6.9	36	8.3	26	6.5	31	7.7
6	29	6.7	19	4.4	22	5.5	15	3.7
7	16	3.7	21	4.8	16	4.0	18	4.5
8	22	5.1	12	2.8	9	2.2	15	3.7
9	15	3.5	12	2.8	7	1.7	10	2.5
10+	59	13.6	84	19.4	45	11.2	48	11.9
Average (std dev)	5.1 (5.3)		6.1 (6.8)		4.5 (4.9)		5.4 (7.7)	
<b>Penalties received</b>								
Juvenile control order/Imprisonment	20	4.6	27	6.2	12	3.0	15	3.7
Suspended control order	14	3.2	15	3.5	9	2.2	7	1.7
Bond	130	30.0	145	33.4	84	20.9	97	24.1
Probation	62	14.3	71	16.4	65	16.2	73	18.2
Community service order	22	5.1	18	4.1	12	3.5	14	3.5
Caution (court)	86	19.8	98	22.6	64	15.9	77	19.2
Penalty with supervision	116	26.7	125	28.8	88	21.9	93	23.1
Custodial episode >1 day (including remand)	84	19.4	91	21.0	44	10.9	57	14.2
<b>Offending characteristics in 12 months prior to referral</b>								
<b>Number of finalised contacts (cautions, YJCs, court appearances)</b>								
0	14	3.2	12	2.8	15	3.7	18	4.5
1	183	42.2	177	40.8	175	43.5	151	37.6
2	116	26.7	100	23.0	123	30.6	105	26.1
3	67	15.4	79	18.2	60	14.9	77	19.2
4	29	6.7	34	7.8	21	5.2	23	5.7
5+	25	5.8	32	7.4	8	2.0	28	7.0
Average (std dev)	2.0 (1.3)		2.2 (1.5)		1.8 (1.1)		2.1 (1.5)	
<b>Number of cautions</b>								
0	134	30.9	146	33.6	125	31.1	117	29.1
1	195	44.9	202	46.5	182	45.3	181	45.0
2	84	19.4	67	15.4	78	19.4	86	21.4
3+	21	4.8	19	4.4	17	4.2	18	4.5
<b>Number of finalised YJCs</b>								
0	342	78.8	342	78.8	300	74.6	305	75.9
1+	92	21.2	92	21.2	102	25.4	97	24.1

**Table A2. Demographic and offending characteristics of PCYC subgroups with up to 90 days and at least 270 days from program commencement to exit, and matched comparison groups (continued)**

	<= 90 days				>= 270 days			
	PCYC		Comparison		PCYC		Comparison	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Number of finalised court appearances</b>								
0	235	54.1	219	50.5	257	63.9	226	56.2
1	123	28.3	99	22.8	89	22.1	96	23.9
2	49	11.3	65	15.0	39	9.7	48	11.9
3+	27	6.2	51	11.8	17	4.2	32	8.0
<b>Type/s of offences proven (finalised within 12 months of referral)</b>								
Violent								
1	114	26.3	124	28.6	107	26.6	103	25.6
2+	44	10.1	37	8.5	28	7.0	42	10.4
Property								
1	167	38.5	157	36.2	170	42.3	168	41.8
2+	87	20.0	97	22.4	70	17.4	80	19.9
Drugs (1+)	34	7.8	39	9.0	21	5.2	22	5.5
Property damage								
1	125	28.8	116	26.7	117	29.1	119	29.6
2+	35	8.1	42	9.7	23	5.7	43	10.7
Public order								
1	101	23.3	108	24.9	102	25.4	111	27.6
2+	30	6.9	39	9.0	18	4.5	23	5.7
Traffic/driving (1+)	24	5.5	28	6.5	23	5.7	22	5.5
Offences against justice procedures (1+)	69	15.9	86	19.8	54	13.4	62	15.4
Domestic violence (1+)	59	13.6	62	14.3	46	11.4	48	11.9
<b>Penalties received</b>								
Juvenile control order/Imprisonment	18	4.1	23	5.3	10	2.5	14	3.5
Suspended control order	11	2.5	12	2.8	5	1.2	7	1.7
Bond	115	26.5	131	30.2	75	18.7	83	20.6
Probation	57	13.1	62	14.3	56	13.9	63	15.7
Community service order	21	4.8	15	3.5	11	2.7	13	3.2
Caution (court)	69	15.9	84	19.4	46	11.4	67	16.7
Penalty with supervision	111	25.6	120	27.6	81	20.1	86	21.4

Note. PCYC - Police and Citizen Youth Clubs; YJC - Youth Justice Conference; SEIFA - Socio-Economic Indexes for Area.



**Table A3. Number of young offenders (2010-2013) and referrals to PCYC Young Offender Programs (2009-2014), by number of formal contacts**

	Year of finalisation of caution/YJC/Children's Court matter				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010-2013
Number of young persons (10-17 years of age) with a formal contact (caution, YJC, Children's Court appearance)	11,691	10,730	9,126	8,146	34,271 <sup>a</sup>
Number (%) of young persons with a formal contact referred as a PCYC Young Offender 2009-2014	1,404 (10.7%)	1,517 (12.4%)	1,481 (14.0%)	1,418 (14.8%)	2,909 (8.5%)
Number of young persons (10-17 years of age) with first formal contact (caution, YJC, Children's Court appearance)	8,277	7,463	6,270	5,695	27,705
Number (%) of young persons with first formal contact referred as a PCYC Young Offender 2009-2014	473 (5.7%)	470 (6.3%)	419 (6.7%)	388 (6.8%)	1,750 (6.2%)
<i>Prior to first formal contact</i>	60 (0.9%)	65 (0.9%)	87 (1.4%)	92 (1.6%)	304 (1.1%)
<i>After first formal contact</i>	413 (5.4%)	405 (5.4%)	332 (5.3%)	296 (5.2%)	1,446 (5.2%)
Number of young persons (10-17 years of age) with second formal contact (caution, YJC, Children's Court appearance)	3,154	3,026	2,526	2,329	11,035
Number (%) of young persons with second formal contact referred as a PCYC Young Offender 2009-2014	410 (13.0%)	443 (14.6%)	395 (15.6%)	384 (16.5%)	1,632 (14.8%)
<i>Prior to second formal contact</i>	140 (4.4%)	139 (4.6%)	153 (6.1%)	177 (7.6%)	609 (5.5%)
<i>After second formal contact</i>	270 (8.6%)	304 (10.0%)	242 (9.6%)	207 (8.9%)	1,023 (9.3%)
Number of young persons (10-17 years of age) with third formal contact (caution, YJC, Children's Court appearance)	1,803	1,786	1,582	1,418	6,589
Number (%) of young persons with a third formal contact, referred as a PCYC Young Offender 2009-2014	328 (18.2%)	405 (22.7%)	345 (21.8%)	386 (27.2%)	1,464 (22.2%)
<i>Prior to third formal contact</i>	179 (9.9%)	215 (12.0%)	196 (12.4%)	230 (16.2%)	820 (12.4%)
<i>After third formal contact</i>	149 (8.3%)	190 (10.6%)	149 (9.4%)	156 (11.0%)	644 (9.8%)

Note. PCYC - Police and Citizen Youth Clubs; YJC - Youth Justice Conference. Timing of PCYC referral (prior vs. after) is based on first known referral to PCYC Young Offender program.

<sup>a</sup> This is the total number of young persons during the 4-year period. As the same individual may have had multiple contacts over the years 2010 to 2013, this is not the sum of the columns 2010 to 2013.

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