

TARGET 3:

15% fewer children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour by 2029

Youth offending has been on the rise

21% increase

In serious and persistent offending between June 2022 and June 2023 (target baseline).

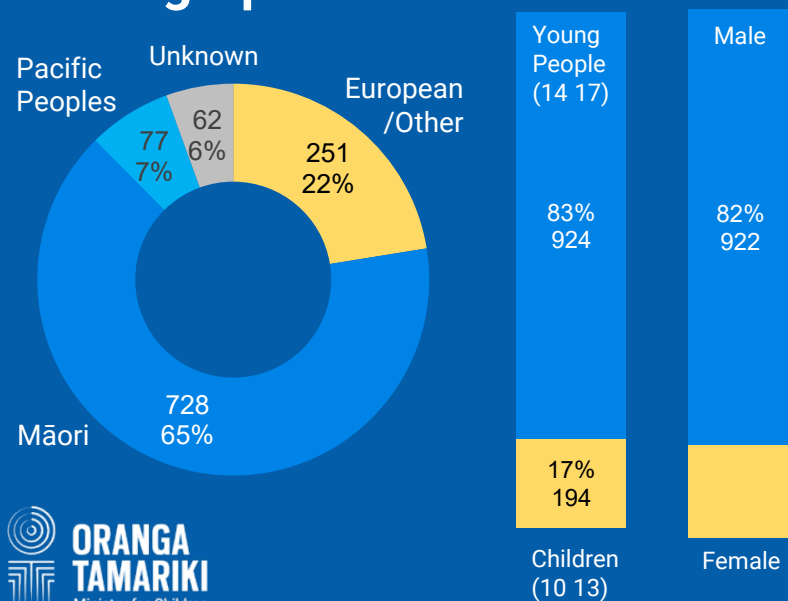
3% increase

In serious and persistent offending between June 2023 (target baseline) and April 2024.

67%

Of the **most serious** offences leading to a Police proceeding over the past 12 months were burglary, unlawful entry or robbery related. But the most common offence overall was related to the **illegal use of a motor vehicle** (35% of all proceedings)

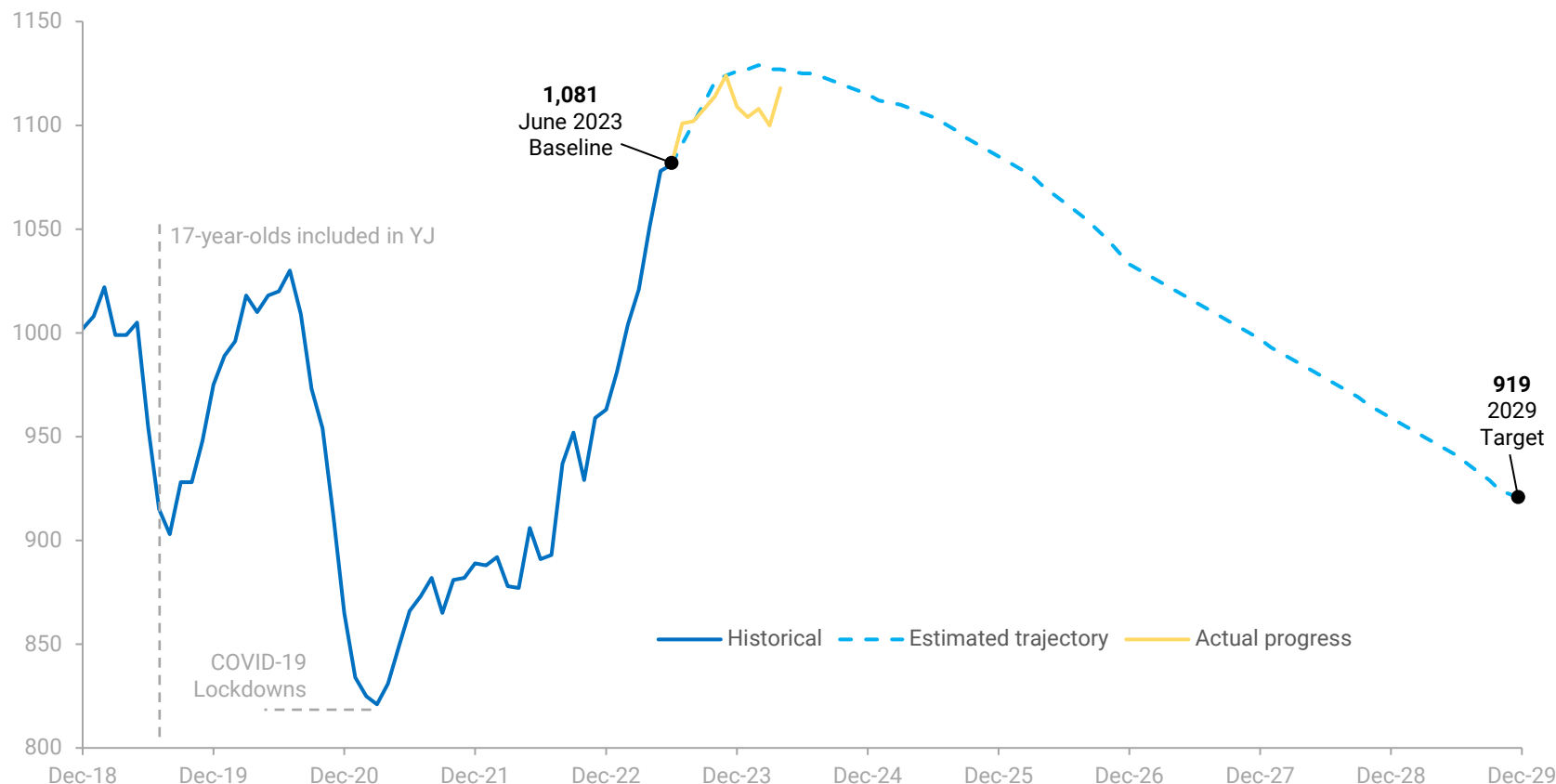
Demographics



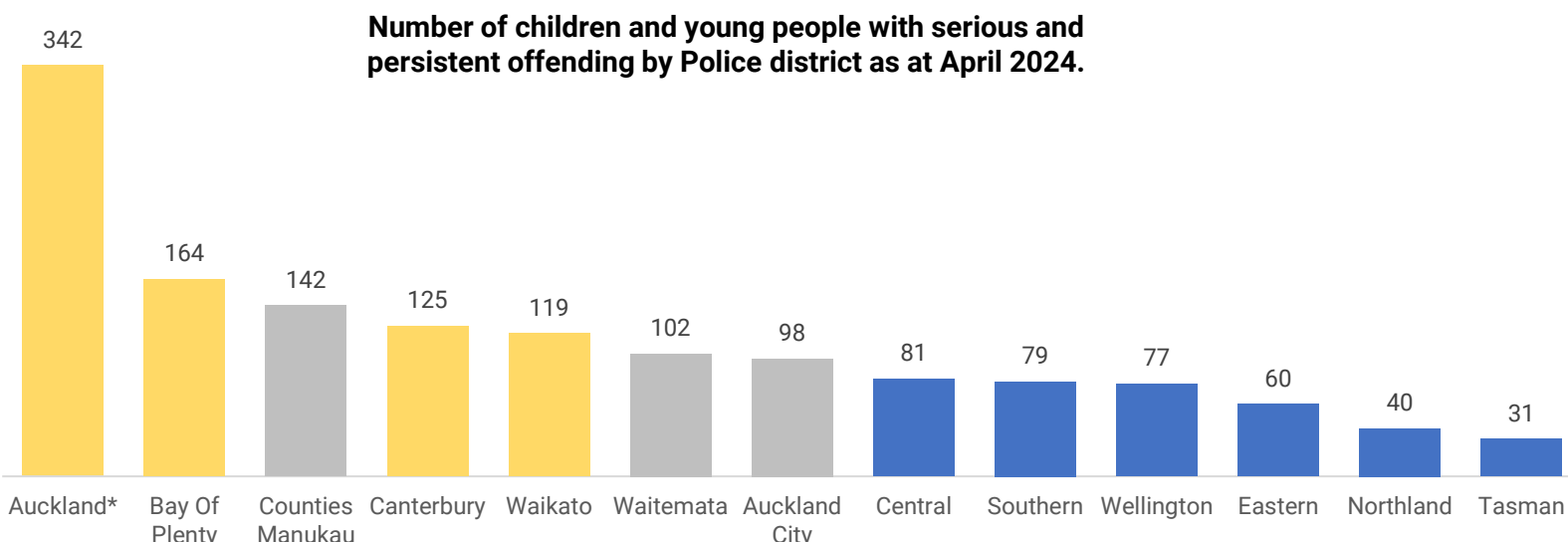
Government Target 3: Reduced child and youth offending

Youth offending is on the rise. We have set a target to reduce serious and persistent youth offending, and the harm caused in our communities. To achieve this, we need to hold children and young people who offend to account while also supporting them to address the issues contributing to their offending. We will also seek to prevent offending by targeting the wider family and children under the age of nine who are at risk of developing serious and persistent offending behaviour.

Total number of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour:



Auckland*, Bay of Plenty, Canterbury and Waikato are the areas experiencing the largest volumes of this cohort. Each area faces unique challenges.



*includes Auckland City, Counties Manukau, and Waitemata

Coordinated cross-agency action is needed at national and regional levels to address the compounding factors contributing to youth offending. Solutions lie in supports for families, whānau and communities

Focus Area 1: Strengthen system settings	Action 2: Military-style Academy (15-17-year-olds) Reach: < 100 Effectiveness: low Impact: immediate Cost: \$\$\$\$	Number of Academy graduates Re-offending rate
	Action 3: Response to children with offending behaviour (10–13-year-olds) Reach: < 100 Effectiveness: medium Impact: medium term Cost: \$ – B25 bid	
Focus Area 2: Improve operational performance	Action 1: Immediate operational response in priority regions Reach: < 100 Effectiveness: low - medium Impact: immediate Cost: \$	Re-offending rate
	Action 2: Fast Track (10–13-year-olds) Reach: < 1,000 Effectiveness: medium - high Impact: immediate Cost: \$	24-hour / 48-hour Response Rate Re-offending rate
	Action 3: Fast Track (14–17-year-olds) Reach: < 1,000 Effectiveness: medium Impact: immediate Cost: \$\$	
	Action:4: Increased youth justice residence capacity Reach: < 100 Effectiveness: medium Impact: immediate Cost: \$	Numbers in police cells for 24-hour +
	Action 5: Better youth justice processes Reach: < 100 Effectiveness: medium Impact: medium term Cost: \$	Family Group Conference timeliness Re-offending rate after orders
Focus Area 3: Prevent offending	Action 1: Regional Action Plans in priority regions Reach: < 10,000 Effectiveness: high Impact: long term Cost: \$\$\$	School enrolment / attendance rate Reports of concern
	Action 2: Gateway redesign and more responsive health and education services Reach: < 10,000 Effectiveness: high Impact: long term Cost: \$\$\$ - B25 bid	Family Group Conference timeliness Offending rate of family members Gateway redesign measures

Risks and Mitigations

Lack of structural change or new investment
Lack of an enabling environment at the national level could make change slow, uneven and blocked by deep interagency siloes, complex contracting arrangements and information-sharing, regulatory and other structural barriers. Agencies’ ability to support structural change or new investment may be limited due to reduction in policy capabilities and Budget 2024 cost savings.

Public sector workforce implications
Due to the depth and breadth public sector change, especially in Oranga Tamariki, delays and disruption to delivery are likely. Accessing workforces under pressure such as national

level coordination and policy and legislative capabilities, and primary health, mental health and addictions and social work may be challenging.

Trade-offs and opportunity cost
Government agencies may further de-prioritise children and young people involved with Oranga Tamariki because they are not reflected in other Government Targets. The other Targets compete rather than support Target 3 and drive attention away from the small Target 3 population and those most in need and hardest to reach, including children in care, at a time when the Royal Commission will bring a focus on children in care.

Mitigations
Resourcing and funding settings will be monitored across agencies and escalated to Ministers if these risks are expected to impact deliverables and timeframes. Each agency will need to work through what the trade-offs in other areas will be. A clear approach to regionally-enabled locally led delivery can be developed as part planning for the Targets as a whole.

Deputy Chief Executive-Led National Delivery Group

Oranga Tamariki, Police, Ministry of Social Development, Education, Health Agencies, Te Puna Aonui

National Delivery Plan

Quarterly reports and evidence dashboards will monitor performance and development of regional action plans

AGREED FOCUS ON THE FOUR PRIORITY REGIONS

AUCKLAND

Cohort size, demographics and most serious offences committed

84% are male
79% are 14-17 years old
62% are Māori
16% are Pacific Peoples

342

136 - Robbery-related
 91 - Burglary and unlawful entry
 67 - Illegal use of motor vehicle
 13 - Injury causing acts / homicide

Data: year to April 2024

BAY OF PLENTY

Cohort size, demographics and most serious offences committed

82% are male
80% are 14-17 years old
79% are Māori
12% are European/other

164

80 - Burglary and unlawful entry
 34 - Illegal use of motor vehicle
 28 - Robbery-related
 7 - Harassment and abduction

CANTERBURY

Cohort size, demographics and most serious offences committed

80% are male
86% are 14-17 years old
45% are Māori
48% are European/other

125

57 - Burglary and unlawful entry
 35 - Robbery-related
 17 - Illegal use of motor vehicle
 4 - Harassment and abduction

WAIKATO

Cohort size, demographics and most serious offences committed

88% are male
87% are 14-17 years old
84% are Māori
11% are European/other

119

53 - Robbery-related
 33 - Burglary and unlawful entry
 14 - Illegal use of motor vehicle
 10 - Injury causing acts / homicide

Regionally enabled, multi-agency approach

A **DCE-led national delivery group** will provide coordination of the oversight of the delivery plan, with a particular focus on developing regional action plans, ensuring cross-agency representation and integrated services at the regional and local level, with existing spend evaluated for effectiveness and investment calibrated to the requirements. Regional action plans will be shaped by local leadership and informed by local data and insights.

A **regionally-enabled, locally led approach** can enable fast and more effective interventions in these regions to reach those who are at risk of offending or re-offending. Four regions in New Zealand have most of the children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour - Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Waikato and Canterbury. Existing regional structures will be utilised to develop regional action plans and support cross-agency regional delivery.

These plans will include the immediate operational response, Fast Track, Gateway redesign and other actions in the delivery plan at the regional level, as well as a **stocktake of relevant local interventions in these four regions**, to address risk factors associated with offending behaviour such as school enrolment and attendance, and ensure access to ongoing wrap around health support, including mental health and addictions services.

The action plans will drive prevention, with a particular focus on intervention points - children aged 6-9 years, female young offenders, mothers and children under five, and clarification of the operational signals required to target them, including statutory care and protection involvement. This will require harmonisation with family harm regional and local mechanisms and can leverage off the Resilience to Organised Crime work programme and other place-based initiatives.