

Target Quarterly Report

Target 3 – Reduced child and youth offending

Fifteen per cent reduction in the total number of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour. **Definition:** Serious and persistent offending behaviour is when three or more distinct offending events have occurred within 12 months for an individual, where at least one of the offences committed has a maximum penalty greater than or equal to 7 years imprisonment.

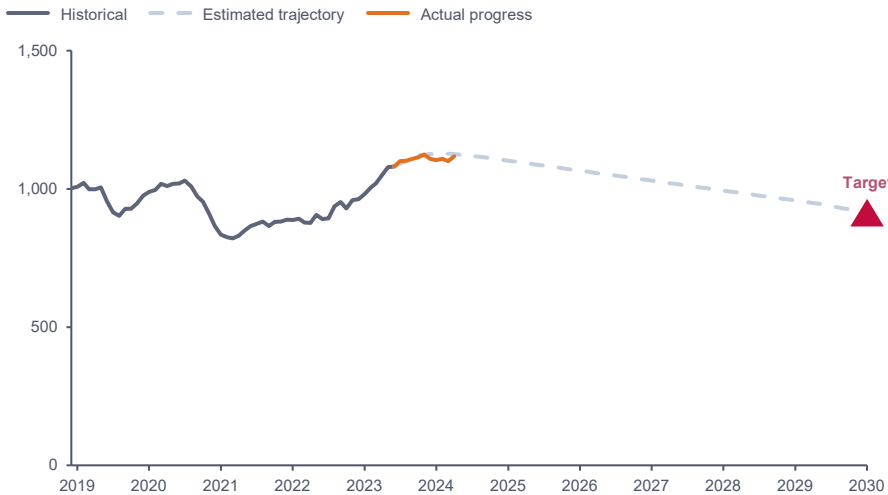
Quarter ending
30 June 2024

Current Target Performance

Status	Target (December 2029)	Current performance (April 2024)	Change vs (January 2024)
■	15% reduction (900)	1,118	+14

Trajectory towards target

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



What are the key issues and risks?

To achieve this target, the **capabilities and resourcing** required by supporting agencies will be stretched. However, agencies are working together to find resource efficiencies and identify where existing work can be leveraged to support this target.

There is a risk that a lack of **alignment** across targets may result in trade-offs being made that negatively impact children and young people, particularly those in care. Oranga Tamariki are working with other agencies to ensure that children and young people are a central priority.

There are further opportunities to utilise **social investment** to achieve this target and to connect delivery across the social sector targets, however it may take time for the impact of these initiatives to take effect.

There are limited mechanisms existing to support and achieve the locally-led, **regionally-enabled approach** for Focus Area 3 of this target. While a DCE-led National Delivery Group has been established to provide support and direction, it will take time for changes to be made, and felt, at a regional level.

Action and Insights

What is driving changes in performance vs. January 2024?

The trajectory for this target has been increasing steeply since early-2021. The introduction of 17-year-olds into the youth justice system from July 2019 onwards led to significant volume increases across the system. It was expected that this trend would continue, but slowly. The relative increase of 14 between the previous and current quarters is within what was expected. There is cautious optimism that this trend may be peaking, and that as progress continues to be made across the planned actions, the trajectory will start to shift downwards.

What is the progress of key initiatives that support target delivery?

Focus Area 1 is about strengthening the system settings to respond to serious and persistent child and youth offending. Progress so far:

- **Young Serious Offender declaration (YSO).** Cabinet are considering policy decisions on the proposed legislation. A Bill is expected to be passed and enacted in 2025.
- **Military-style Academy.** A pilot with 10 young people started operating on 29 July 2024.
- **Responses to children** aged 10-13 with offending behaviour. Advice on options to address offending by this age group is being drafted and will be provided to Ministers in August 2024.

Focus Area 2 is about improving operational responses and youth justice processes to better target those who are offending. Progress so far:

- Oranga Tamariki are working with Police to progress plans to establish three **intensive response teams** in the regions of Auckland and Canterbury, and across Waikato and Bay of Plenty. These are expected to be operational by the end of September 2024.
- A new youth justice **risk assessment tool** is being developed for use by these specialist teams. A trial of this tool is expected to begin between October and December 2024.
- **Fast Track.** The existing nine Fast Track sites working with 10–13-year-olds will continue to be invested in as they are showing positive results. Work is underway with Police to extend Fast Track to work with 14-17-year-olds. Two sites already work with 14-17-year-olds. A further six sites should be working with 14-17-year-olds by December 2024.
- Better **Youth Justice processes.** Work is underway to assess what improvements can be made to improve: a) the timeliness of convening and holding family group conferences, b) the Remand Options Investigation Tool, and c) utilisation of 14-day remand reviews. An update on this work will be provided by the end of the 2024.

Focus Area 3 is about preventing offending and re-offending through a locally-led, regionally-enabled approach focused on the four priority regions. Progress so far:

- A DCE-led **National Delivery Group** has been established to provide support, direction and ensure integrated responses. The first meeting took place on 27 June 2024.
- **Regional Action Plans** will be developed for each region, focused on community-based cross-agency responses with intensive case management for the child or young person and their family.
- The redesign of the **Gateway Assessment** for children and young people who enter the care and protection system should support more responsive health and education services. Advice on next steps, including how this can be implemented, is due in September 2024.

What decisions and actions are required from Ministers?

Decisions are expected from Cabinet on the proposed **YSO legislation**. Once options are presented to Ministers in August on responses to **children with offending behaviour**, decisions will be required

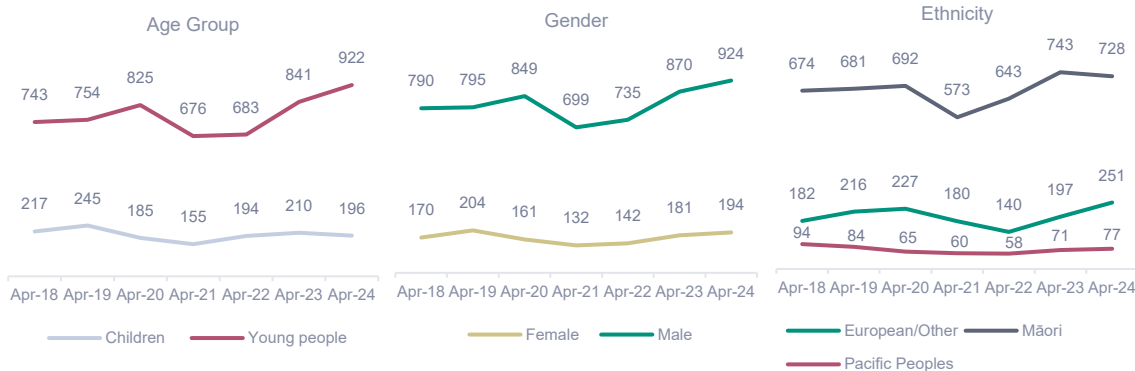
Target 3 - Supporting Indicators

The cohort that this target focusses on are most likely to be aged 14-17, Māori and male. The Police Districts with the largest volumes of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour are Bay of Plenty, Counties Manukau, Canterbury, and Waikato. It is possible that we are starting to see the recent upward trajectory of this indicator slowing or peaking. However, it is clear that different regions or Police Districts are experiencing this differently.

Quarter ending
30 June 2024

Target Breakdown

Demographic Breakdown



Young people (aged 14-17) make up over 80% of this cohort. Increases are driven by young people as the numbers for children are relatively stable. *Source: Police data.*

Males make up over 80% of this cohort. Recent increases have largely been driven by males. *Source: Police data.*

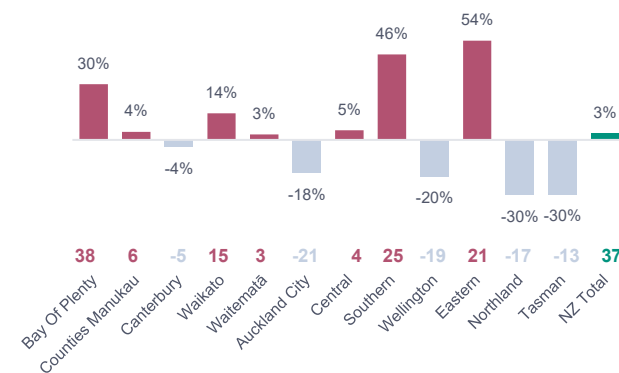
This cohort is mostly Māori (65%). The number of European/Other has been increasing for 2 years, while the number of Māori decreased this year. *Source: Police data.*

Geographic Breakdown

Total number of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour, in 12 months to April 2024, by Police District



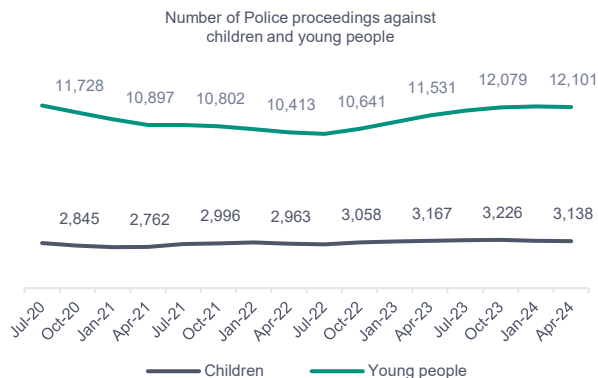
% change since June 2023 (baseline) of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour, by Police District
(Change in number since June 23 shown below the graph)



Bay of Plenty, Counties Manukau, Canterbury and Waikato are the four districts with the largest numbers of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour. Auckland (combining Auckland City, Counties Manukau and Waitematā) has a total of 342. Comparing the % change since June 2023 (baseline) to April 2024, we can see that Eastern, Southern and Bay of Plenty have seen the largest % increases, with Northland, Tasman, Wellington and Auckland City seeing the largest % decreases. *Source: Police data.*

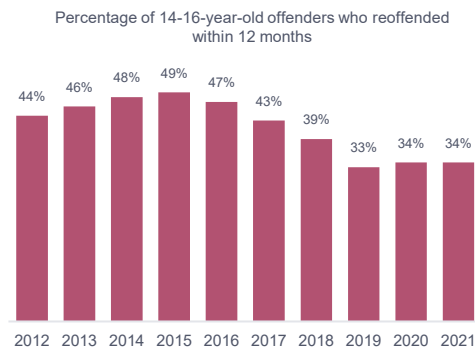
Supporting Indicators

Police Proceedings



The number of Police proceedings relating to children has remained relatively steady around 3,000 per 12-month period. There are significantly more proceedings against young people, these have been increasing since July 2022 but may be plateauing now. *Source: Police data.*

Reoffending



This data suggests that reoffending has been stable since 2019, however there is a time-lag. *Data from the Youth Justice Indicators report. These figures relate to young people dealt with in the Youth Court proven in any court to have reoffended within 12 months.*