



Examples of available data and issues to consider

Departmental data can be extracted from a number of information systems, generally those used for the management of civil and criminal cases in courts and tribunals, as well as the management of people in custody or on community corrections. Information from other databases may also be available for research on request.

The following list is not exhaustive, and simply provides an indication of the types of data that are often requested for research.

RAAC can advise whether any particular data requirements can be met, and if any other information relevant to the research is available.

Civil Court Data

Type of data	Issues to Consider
Unit to be counted	<p>The workload of the civil division of courts is measured in cases.</p> <p>A civil case is generally a dispute between two parties, an applicant and a respondent.</p> <p>Cases can be counted either at the time of lodgement (when the application is submitted to the court) or at the time of finalisation (when the case has been dealt with and is no longer the workload of the court).</p>
Aggregate versus unit record data	<p>While civil data is generally provided as summarised data for use in research, de-identified unit record data may be considered.</p>
Time periods	<p>The date range required should be specified, and whether the data should be reported yearly (calendar/financial), quarterly or monthly</p> <p>Note that court data is available from 1 January 2000</p>

Variable	Issues to Consider
Court Jurisdiction	<p>Civil cases are dealt with in various courts depending nature of the application and the age of the applicant and/or respondent. (Children's Court; Magistrates Court; District Court; Supreme Court; State Administrative Tribunal and Family Court).</p>
Case Type	<p>Civil cases are categorised by matter and remedy/list (Children's Court; Magistrates Court; District Court; Supreme Court; State Administrative Tribunal) or by application and orders sought (Family Court).</p> <p>These differ between courts depending on the type of matter and/or the \$ amount involved. Refer to websites for each of the courts for the scope of their civil jurisdictions.</p>
Location	<p>Court location</p> <p>This can be aggregated by geographical region</p>

	Note: a case may be lodged in one courthouse but be finalised at another courthouse
Applicant and Respondent Demographics	Due to the nature of information capture for applicants and respondents, and the wide range of applications lodged with the courts, applicant and respondent information can be limited. Depending on the type of case, applicants/respondents are often organisations, or multiple parties/people.
Outcome	When a case is finalised by the court, the resulting outcome is recorded. Examples of outcomes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dismissed • Discontinued • Application granted • Orders made • Judgment.

Criminal Court Data

Type of data	Issues to consider
Unit to be counted	<p>The workload of the criminal division of courts is generally measured in cases and charges, not people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A case is defined as one defendant with one or more charges lodged in a court on a single day • A charge is a single allegation of an offence <p>Both cases and charges can be counted either at the time of lodgement (when the defendant first appears at court) or at the time of finalisation (when the defendant has been dealt with by the court and the case/charge is no longer the workload of the court).</p> <p>How the data is counted may ultimately be determined by the information requested.</p>
Aggregate versus unit record data	While the preference is to provide summarised data for use in research, de-identified unit record data can also be provided depending on the type of study.
Time periods	<p>The date range required should be specified, and whether the data should be reported yearly (calendar/financial), quarterly or monthly</p> <p>Note: court data is available from 1 January 2000.</p>

Data Items	Issues to consider
Court Jurisdiction	Criminal cases are dealt with in various courts depending on the age of the defendant and the nature of the offence. (Children's Court; Magistrates Court; District Court; Supreme Court)
Defendant Demographics	<p>Date of birth (DOB)</p> <p>If age is required, this would be a calculation between DOB and date of interest, which would need to be specified</p> <p>Gender</p> <p>Male, Female, Unknown</p> <p>Indigenous status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is sourced from information provided by Police • Based on the ABS 'Standard Indigenous Question' • A person is counted as Indigenous if they have ever identified themselves as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both, when being charged with an offence by Police.
Location	<p>Court location</p> <p>This can be aggregated by geographical region</p> <p>Note: a case may be lodged in one courthouse but be finalised at another courthouse</p> <p>Offence location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information is supplied by the prosecuting agency and is not checked for accuracy or completeness • Can be expressed as postcode or suburb
Offence Type	<p>Offence types are based on the legislation section and subsection that defines the crime/offence. For example <i>Criminal Code 1913</i> section 279.</p> <p>Offence types can be categorised according to the Australian New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC). There are 3 levels of detail available using the ANZSOC. See the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication number 1234.0 for further information.</p> <p>All charges are linked to a single offence type. Cases are generally represented by the offence type linked to the most serious charge in the case.</p>
Outcome	<p>When a case/charge is finalised by the court, the resulting outcome is recorded. Examples of outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dismissed • Withdrawn by prosecution • Convicted • Deceased

Sentence	For cases/charges resulting in a conviction, the sentence handed down is recorded. Examples of sentences include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imprisonment • Fine • Community based order • No further penalty
Sentence Quantum	The court imposed duration of imprisonment/orders, as well as the \$ value of fines imposed is recorded.

Prisoner and Detainee Data

Type of data	Issues to consider
Snapshot or Flow Data	Snapshot data is data counted at a point in time. Flow data is a measure of data over a given period. To consider if data requested should relate to persons in custody in time or flow of prisoners/detainees over a given period, depending on the type of study.
Time periods	The date or date range required should be specified, and whether the data should be reported yearly (calendar/financial), quarterly or monthly
Unit to be counted	Custodial receptions and releases data are generally measured in the total number of receptions or releases, but number of distinct persons received or released over a given period can also be provided. How the data is counted may ultimately be determined by the information requested.
Aggregate versus unit record data	While the preference is to provide summarised data for use in research, de-identified unit record data can also be provided depending on the type study.

Data Items	Issues to consider
Offenders Demographics	<p>Date of birth (DOB)</p> <p>If age is required, this would be a calculation between DOB and date of interest (eg Reception date, discharge date, when sentenced) which would need to be specified</p> <p>Gender</p> <p>Male, Female</p> <p>Indigenous status</p> <p>A person is reported as Indigenous if they have responded that they identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both</p>

	Other demographic data variables are self-declared and not further checked by prison staff for accuracy or completeness.
Location	<p>Custody/ detention location (reception/ discharge)</p> <p>This can be aggregated by geographical region.</p> <p>Note: that a person may be received in one facility and discharged at another.</p> <p>Last known address of offenders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is supplied by the offenders at reception or can be missing, and is not checked for accuracy or completeness This can be aggregated by geographical region and can also be expressed as postcode or suburb. <p>Address to which the offender is officially discharged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is supplied by the offender prior to discharge. Unless the release itself has conditions connected with the discharge to address, this data might not be accurate or complete. This can be aggregated by geographical region and can also be expressed as postcode or suburb.
Offence Type	<p>Offence types are based on the legislation section and subsection that defines the crime/offence. For example <i>Criminal Code 1913</i> section 279. All charges are linked to a single offence type. Cases are generally represented by the offence type linked to the most serious charge in the case.</p> <p>Most Serious Offence (MSO) of a person is a way of selecting a single offence to represent each person and is generally used as a broad answer to the question of “<i>Why is this person in custody?</i>”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSO is generally reported in relation to sentenced prisoners/ detainees, but also possible to report for un-sentenced cohort. Could also be snapshot-based or flow-based. <p>Offence types are categorised according to the Australian New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC). There are 3 levels of detail available using the ANZSOC. See the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication number 1234.0 for further information.</p>
Sentence Type	Sentenced prisoners are those persons who have received a term of imprisonment from a court. Examples of sentence type include: Default of Fine, Finite, Governor’s Pleasure, Life, Parole
Release Type	The type of release include: Freedom, Bail, Escape, Parole Release type has its limitation but has been found to be quite reliable.
Rate of Return – Recidivism	<p>To consider if rate of return requested is for Prison to Corrections (either return to sentenced custody or community), or Prison to Prison.</p> <p>The Department measures adult recidivism prison to prison as COAG standard definition of returns to corrections or sentenced custody within</p>

<p>Adult - Prison to Corrections/ Prison to Prison</p> <p>Youth – Detention to Detention</p>	<p>2 years of exit. Counts total releases, including multiple exits, and returns by distinct persons in the reporting period - Includes returns to prison on account of cancellation of early release order only, Excludes exits from and returns to fine default only prison sentences, Excludes returns to prison on account of suspension of early release order only, Excludes returns to community correction Work and Development Orders and Bail Orders.</p> <p>The Department measures youth recidivism differently to adult recidivism. The youth recidivism is defined as the proportion of young people who return to sentenced detention within two years of exit from sentenced detention (measures the release from detention 2 years prior). The measure includes young people who re-enter detention because of a new sentence and those who return to detention because their supervised release order is cancelled. A detainee is only counted once, even if they leave and re-enter detention multiple times within the year.</p>
--	--

Community Corrections Data

Type of data	Issues to consider
Snapshot or Flow Data	<p>Snapshot data is data counted at a point in time. Flow data is a measure of data over a given period.</p> <p>To consider if data requested should relate to persons being managed in the community in a time or flow of persons being managed in the community over a given period, depending on the type of study.</p>
Time periods	The date or date range required should be specified, and whether the data should be reported yearly (calendar/financial), quarterly or monthly
Unit to be counted	<p>To consider if data is counted as number of orders managed in the community or as number of persons managed in the community (ie. an offender may be sentenced with multiple orders).</p> <p>Distinct counts might also differ depending on the breakdown of order type.</p> <p>How the data is counted may ultimately be determined by the information requested.</p>
Aggregate versus unit record data	While the preference is to provide summarised data for use in research, de-identified unit record data can also be provided depending on the type study.

Data Items	Issues to consider
Offenders Demographics	<p>Date of birth (DOB)</p> <p>If age is required, this would be a calculation between DOB and date of interest (eg Order commencement date, order completion date) which would need to be specified</p> <p>Gender</p> <p>Male, Female, Unknown</p> <p>Indigenous status</p> <p>A person is reported as Indigenous if they have self-identified as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both</p> <p>In some cases, Gender or Indigenous Status may be missing. The community data is more susceptible to this than custodial data.</p> <p>Other demographic data variables could be self-declared and not checked for accuracy or completeness.</p>
Location	<p>Community corrections location (Adult Community Corrections or Youth Justice Services branches)</p> <p>This can be aggregated by geographical region</p>

	<p>Last known address of offenders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information is supplied by the offender themselves at reception or can be missing, and is not checked for accuracy or completeness • This can be aggregated by geographical region and can also be expressed as postcode or suburb
Orders Type	<p>Order made by the court requiring offender to comply. This includes all adults and young people who are issued by a Court of Law, or other authority, to undertake one or more of the following orders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective and Conditional Bail Orders • Court Orders • Early Release Orders • Post Sentence Order (adults only) • Work and Development Orders (adults only) • Juvenile Justice Referral (diversionary services for young people only).
Offence Type	<p>Most Serious Offence (MSO) of a person is a way of selecting a single offence to represent each person and is generally used as a broad answer to the question of <i>“Why is this person being managed in the community?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSO for community is generally done on a per-order basis – i.e. all offences related to a particular order are included in the list of candidate offences. It can also be extended to the MSO for an individual client, where the person has multiple orders at the same time or multiple orders in a given period. • Could also be snapshot-based or flow-based. <p>Offence types are categorised according to the Australian New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC). There are three levels of detail available using the ANZSOC. See the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication number 1234.0 for further information.</p>
Order Termination Type	<p>Specific order completion/termination data is also categorised into generic completion/termination types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful (when the order is successfully completed – where the order expiry date or termination date is reached and breach is neither pending nor finalised) • Unsuccessful (when the order is cancelled, breached or expired) • Neither (other reasons where it is neither successful nor unsuccessful – eg where final outcome is still pending, death of offender)