

# Youth recidivism data collection stage 2: progress report 2

April 2014

## Background

The purpose of this project is to continue development of a data collection to measure youth recidivism. The first stage was completed in 2013 and involved testing and refining the principles and data specifications developed by Richards (2010) (see AIHW 2013). This second stage will focus on developing methods to measure the severity of youth recidivism. Outcomes will include a method of classifying the severity of youth offences and developing key measures of severity.

## Progress

### **Analyse available offence data and develop classification of offence severity in consultation with reference group**

Work on this activity has commenced and it is on track for completion by the end of April 2014.

Currently, only 3 states (New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland) provide offence data for the JJ NMDS. The results of the information request from late 2013 showed that offence data are not available for the remaining states and territories. Representatives of these states and territories confirmed at the April 2014 JJ RIG meeting that full data would not be available for at least another year.

At the April 2014 RIG meeting, the AIHW proposed 2 analyses:

1. measure seriousness of reoffending using available JJ NMDS offence data
2. measure the severity of the orders relating to reoffending using available JJ NMDS order data.

Measuring the change in the severity of orders would allow for all states and territories participating in the JJ NMDS to be included. It would also complement the information gained from the analysis of offence data. Preliminary analysis of the change in order severity was presented to the JJ RIG at its April 2014 meeting and members agreed that the AIHW should continue to develop this measure for further discussion.

## Milestones

Activity/milestone	Expected completion	Status	Completion date
Establish reference group and confirm scope	October 2013	Completed	September 2013
Review existing classification systems	December 2013	Completed	February 2013
Analyse existing offence data and develop classification of offence severity in consultation with reference group	April 2014	In progress	
<i>Develop recommendations in consultation with reference group</i>	<i>July 2014</i>		
<i>Final report to project control group, AJJA and SCCDSAC</i>	<i>October 2014</i>		

## References

AIHW 2013. Using the Juvenile Justice NMDS to measure juvenile recidivism. Juvenile justice series. Canberra: AIHW.

Richards K 2011. Technical and background paper: measuring juvenile recidivism in Australia. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology.