

STRATEGY, INSIGHTS, AND PERFORMANCE

Target 3: Serious and Persistent Youth Offending

Understanding the Regional
Perspective

May 2025

Oranga Tamariki Insights Team Purpose Statement

The Oranga Tamariki Insights team exists to lead the delivery of actionable, targeted insights across the system. These insights inform strategic direction, support operational decisions, and practice, and highlight opportunities and risks.

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Introduction

Background

A key target for the New Zealand Government is to achieve a fifteen percent reduction (using June 2023 baseline of 1,081) in the number of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour¹ by 2029. As of March 2025, there has been an 11.7% decrease.

Purpose

The purpose of this project was to gather insights from Youth Justice Teams via interviews to gather frontline views on the factors influencing current trends in children and young people with serious and persistent offending. These insights are an invaluable piece of the puzzle in the pursuit of understanding and improving approaches to successfully engage with this cohort and ultimately reduce reoffending.

The team also engaged with the Rangatahi Prevention Team at New Zealand Police National Headquarters and consulted with analysts from the Ministry of Justice to develop fuller insights.

Structure of report

This report is laid out in five sections:

- Section A General feedback on Target Three
- Section B Factors appearing to have a positive impact on reducing numbers of serious and persistent offenders
- Section C Challenges in reducing the number of child and young people serious and persistent offenders
- Section D Trends noted by Youth Justice Teams, New Zealand Police, and the Ministry of Justice
- Section E Police focus on youth offending

Appendices have been included on methodology (Appendix 1), interview participants and question set (Appendix 2), regional and site data (Appendix 3), and interview themes and notes (Appendix 4)

¹ Defined by having committed three or more distinct offences within the last twelve months, where at least one offence has a maximum penalty of greater or equal to seven years imprisonment.

Key Findings

1. Good practice is happening across the Youth Justice space as Kaimahi are more than ever committed to reducing youth offending and putting good support around rangatahi
2. Fast Track, Intensive Case Management Teams (ICMT) and Military Style Academy (MSA) seem to be having a positive impact, with further evaluation and/or analysis of the programmes due out later this year
3. Amongst the current cohort of serious and persistent youth offenders is a group who is “aging out”
4. Resilience has been shown within communities, who have demonstrated innovation and collaboration using advanced security techniques and measures, as well as partnering with various community groups, which has had a drastic impact on Ram Raids
5. Police are using targeted and innovative practices in their approach to Target Three
6. There remains several challenges and limitations regarding the reduction of serious and persistent youth offending that need a unified and coordinated approach to address them

Recommendations

These recommendations are made on regional insights gathered in this project and presents an opportunity to be considered alongside further evaluative work underway in relation to this target.

1. **Co-ordinated System Framework** – That social agencies, government and NGOs, have a joined-up approach to reducing offending. This includes investment into initiatives and prioritisation of resources to support children and young people.
2. **Expansion of evidenced based programmes** – Anecdotal feedback is that programmes including Fast Track and Intensive Case Management Teams are having a positive impact. Considering formal evaluations, it is recommended that these programmes are expanded to reach more communities across New Zealand.
3. **Prevention** – There is an opportunity to also focus on emerging younger cohorts, to prevent future escalation through the Youth Justice system.

Section A – General feedback on Target Three

Implementation of Target Three

Youth Justice teams reflected that it has always been a priority to reduce youth offending and serious persistent offending, including addressing underlying needs to help young people make lasting positive change. Business as usual was described as the mantra post the announcement. It came through strongly from regional engagements that Target Three was not a primary driving focus for teams.

Teams reflected on the fact that despite the target, this did not come with a suite of options or resources to support a framework, nor did it create a mandated well socialised approach by the number of ministries critical to success. It was felt that there may be better gains and reductions in levels of reoffending with a resourced and locally led strategy.

Complexity of Cohort

As far as the group of serious and persistent offending children and young people is complex, so too are the factors that interplay with each other when endeavouring to measure change. Youth justice teams spoke of a myriad of both protective and risk factors, at micro to macro levels, which influence this cohort within their regions. There is no single point in the system that can be attributed to either increasing or decreasing the number of serious and persistent offenders.

In acknowledging the complexity of this cohort, there were themes that came out of the interviews that are seen as impacting on this group in either a positive or negative way. This is outlined in the following sections.

Section B: Factors appearing to have a positive impact

Youth Justice sites highlighted a number of factors that appear to have had a positive impact on reducing serious and persistent offending including:

- Business as usual (BAU) focus on reducing offending
- Local initiatives
- Fast Track
- Intensive Case Management Teams
- Hard line on youth offending
- Military Style Academy

Business as usual (BAU) focus on reducing offending

Every Youth Justice Team interviewed commented that reducing youth offending and supporting young people in making sustainable positive choices has always been the perpetual focus. Teams continue to reflect on learnings and improving ways to meet the needs of young people and reduce reoffending. This commitment by practitioners is critical to developing an environment in which young people can thrive.

Local Initiatives

There were examples shared of multi-agency locally developed initiatives to either work with serious persistent offenders or to prevent escalation into the group. Hamilton YJ and MSD worked together with a local service provider that developed a regular Mixed Martial Arts training programme utilising funding from the Proceeds of Crime fund. Through this programme, rangatahi can learn and demonstrate discipline, respect and tuakana-teina support amongst each other, as well as having a positive outlet for their aggression.

Another example provided was the Whiti Ki Te Ora Programme, a collaboration between Waitakere YJ and Hoani Waititi Marae. The programme:

“It supports rangatahi to complete their obligations to Te Kōti Rangatahi at the marae, under the korowai of kaupapa Māori. The twelve-week programme supports rangatahi and whānau to learn new pūkenga (skills) to add to their kete using the Whare Tapa Whā and the Marae model of practice.

Guided by strong tikanga Māori values, the programme provides rangatahi a process to authentically engage in karakia, waiata, mau rākau, kapa haka, pepeha and whakapapa to heal from intergenerational traumas that have led them down a pathway of offending.”²

Fast Track

Fast Track, since its inception in 2021 / 2022 in South and West Auckland, has had a range of success in activating “a community-led response to serious or persistent offending by children aged 10 to 13”³

It is yet to be fully rolled out the country, and for some smaller communities it has been challenging getting buy-in and traction from other agencies and the wider community, due to a number of factors such as limited resourcing, time and staff. This sentiment was highlighted to an extent in the Key Findings of the initial evaluation of Fast Track:

Key learnings about setting up an efficient cross-agency way of working relate to the service design and implementation, leadership and communication, management and administration.

These include:

- *Supporting and adequately resourcing local adaptations of the Kotahi te Whakaaro model*
- *Acknowledging the importance of community kaupapa and identity*
- *Shared leadership, mutual respect and trust in the team*
- *Marae, iwi, community and Kaupapa Māori provider representatives and/or leadership*
- *Involving the ‘right’ people with the ‘right’ mindset*
- *Providing adequate governance backbone and back-office support*
- *Having systems for cross-agency data sharing and monitoring”⁴*

Intensive Case Management Teams (ICMT)

ICMT, or Intensive Case Management Teams, was one of the initiatives that was developed by Oranga Tamariki as part of their responsibility in leading Government Target Three. To note, ICMT has not been fully rolled out around the country yet, but

² [Whiti ki te Ora | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children](#)

³ [Government expands Fast Track youth offending programme | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children](#)

⁴ [Fast-Track – Formative and process evaluation | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children](#)

it is already having some measures of success amongst some of the sites that were interviewed.

Rotorua site spoke of how invaluable it was to have an Intensive Case Management Team of three social workers who only had caseloads of six, which meant they were able to offer more targeted and intensive support for rangatahi. In Christchurch and other locations, it has been seen as a welcome initiative that demonstrates the willingness of Oranga Leadership to dedicate specific resources to address the issue of serious and persistent youth offending.

It is too early to say whether ICMT is having a direct impact on Government Target Three, but the initial signs are looking positive.

Hard line on youth offending

Some sites commented that within their regions police and the judiciary are taking a harder line on youth and child offenders. Sites spoke of young people and children being processed through the courts where either stricter bail conditions are being implemented or remanded in custody. Youth Justice sites thought that this may be impacting on decreases to serious and persistent offending, particularly when high end offenders are in residences either on remand or on a residential court order.

The Target Three – Performance Drivers – April 2025, Ministry of Justice report highlighted the following:

Number and average duration of custodial remand episodes, by calendar year		
Calendar Year	Number	Average duration (days)
2018	813	46
2019	890	43
2020	740	42
2021	792	44
2022	998	43
2023	1033	51
2024	948	50

Source: Research data produced by the Social Impact and Research Team, Oranga Tamariki.

The report states “The number of young people on remand has decreased, while average remand duration is longer than 2023”⁵

Military Style Academy (MSA)

The Military Style Academy (MSA) was another initiative that was developed because of Oranga Tamariki’s responsibilities to Government Target Three. Whilst there has been scepticism around the programme, there have been some initial

⁵ [Slide 9, Target 3 – Performance Drivers – April 2025, Ministry of Justice](#)

positives from the first group of young people that participated. One Youth Justice team stated that one of their young people had benefitted from the programme, “We had one of our kids in it and it definitely helped him”.

Like the ICMT, it is too early to be able to say if the MSA is having an impact on Government Target Three. A more detailed evaluation of MSA and analysis of ICMT is due later this year that will hopefully give some insight into whether it is a sustainable solution in dealing with Serious and Persistent Youth Offending and having an impact on the earlier than anticipated decrease in Government Target Three.

Section C: Challenges in reducing the number of serious and persistent youth offenders

Throughout the interviews, the following challenges and limitations were identified as hindering progress in achieving Government Target Three.

- Lack of a coordinated approach
- Limited interventions and supports, and resource constraints
- Systemic issues
- Cultural and social dynamics (social media)
- Escalation in seriousness and violence in younger cohort

Lack of a coordinated approach

Some sites spoke of a lack of consistent, joined-up approaches across agencies. According to sites, agencies do not seem well-aligned, and the implementation and socialisation of initiatives has been inconsistent. Some sites also commented that governance tables are not strong due to a lack of dedicated personnel and resources.

The Police Rangatahi Prevention Team shared that they have been somewhat constrained at times by lack of inter-agency coordination. According to the team, on occasion police efforts to collaborate with Oranga Tamariki on high-priority cohorts has been inconsistent.

Limited interventions and supports, and resource constraints

Some sites shared that within their regions police had a number of vacancies. Whangārei site, for instance, mentioned that there are currently forty vacancies in their region, meaning fewer police to make arrests, process offenders, make referrals and generally deal with crime. This was highlighted in a column by Chris Cahill, President of the NZ Police Association, in which he stated:

“NZ Police has 256 vacancies, which is putting real pressure on some districts such as the Far North and Tairāwhiti. This 256 is more than a year’s worth of the extra numbers that the Government has committed to add to Police by November 2025.”⁶

Two years ago, Whangārei YJ were holding 8-10 Intention-to-Charge Family Group Conferences (ITC FGCs) every week, now they are only holding 2-3 ITC FGCs. For reference, since the introduction of Government Target Three, numbers of Serious and Persistent Youth Offenders in Whangārei have reduced by nearly 44%. This evidence suggests that further investigation is warranted to look into their reduction in serious and persistent youth offending and perhaps other sites around the country and whether it is a true reflection of what is happening.

The Police Rangatahi Prevention Team also mentioned that due to resource constraints, police are not investigating low-level crimes as much, which limits early intervention opportunities, especially with younger child offenders. A recent Radio NZ article confirmed this:

“the police directive to staff says they will no longer be investigating allegations of shoplifting below \$500, petrol drive-offs below \$150, and online frauds below \$1000 regardless of lines of inquiry as part of a new nation-wide directive... We only have so much resource, so we have to prioritise the work that comes in through the door and that is a challenge. Each district has to make a choice”⁷

Programmes and therapeutic approaches

Most sites spoke of a lack of programmes and therapeutic approaches to support youth offenders. Some sites spoke of a crisis in being able to get psychological and other health assessments completed that are essential in providing a foundation from which interventions can be developed. The timeliness and accessibility to these assessments can impact on quality and tailor-made interventions needed to address offending behaviours. This is supported by a report that was released in June 2024 following a comprehensive review on Gateway Assessments:

“We need to review our health assessment programme. There are a lack of nurses or health assessors that are trained specifically to do youth justice health assessments in the various regions. We have also got some work that needs to be done in our education assessment process with MOE. MOE is a specialist in education. They basically take the lead in that process, and whether or not we are able to have psychologists that can do those education assessments in the region,

⁶ NZPA: President's Column: Police recruiting down for the count

⁷ Police shoplifting changes: 'We have to prioritise and that's a challenge' | RNZ News

they are really struggling to have skilled people to be able to refer to. There are some regions that do not have any health nurses or education assistance. So a lot of kids from what we know about are actually missing out on those key assessments. – Senior Advisor Youth Justice”⁸

As a result of the lack of programmes and therapeutic supports, YJ Social Workers are having to spend more time on identifying and developing bespoke interventions. This has been exacerbated further by contracting changes in the sector and, in general, a less resourced NGO sector.

Some sites are really struggling to find meaningful programmes and supports for not only youth offenders, but their whānau too, with limited parenting programmes and supports.

Although most sites had positive comments regarding the Military Style Academy, there was uncertainty over its sustainability due to the resources required to conduct the intensive supports of the programme.

Systemic issues

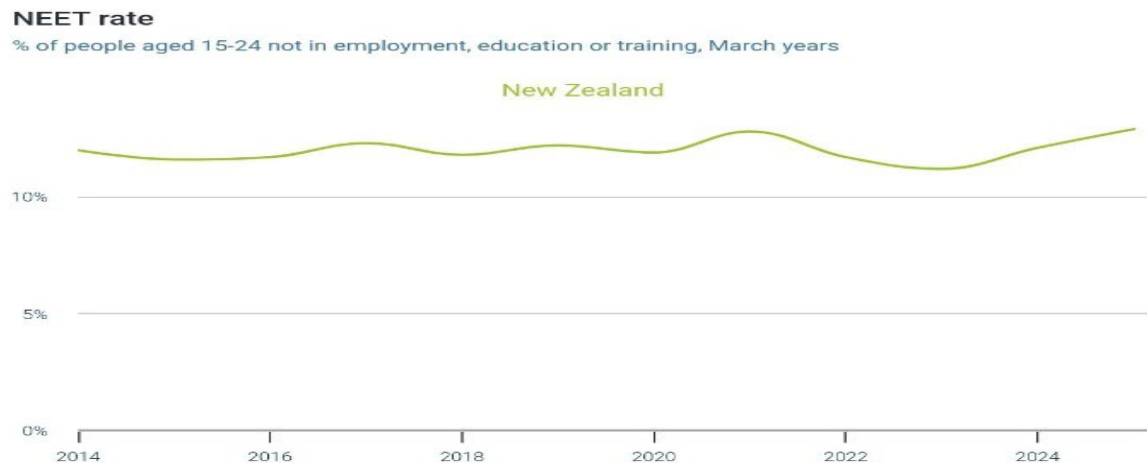
All of those who were interviewed agreed that there are massive systemic issues that have led to youth offending that are not being addressed adequately. Sites commented that, sadly, most rangatahi they deal with have Care and Protection connections and/or history through either themselves or their whānau. Offending has, and is often linked to, deeper regional issues such as homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, poverty, physical and mental abuse, gang influence, unemployment and non-engagement in education. One site noted that young people are being brought up in homes filled with violence and the cost of living having a massive impact on them. These young people were being affected by multi-generational trauma that keeps compounding.

Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET)

Sites alluded to a correlation between serious and persistent youth offending and their lack of engagement in employment or meaningful education. Examples of links to this can be seen in recent NEET and MSD figures.

⁸ p.36, [Gateway Assessment Review Findings | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children](#)

Between 2014 and 2025, figures have remained steady to slightly increasing regarding young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). As of March 2025, NEET figures were sitting at 12.9%, which is the highest it has been over the last 10-11 years.⁹



According to The Ministry of Social Development in June 2022, 54,900 young people aged between 16-24 years old were receiving a main unemployment benefit.¹⁰ And after this year's Budget "Nearly 9000 young people will no longer be eligible for the unemployment benefit when the Government brings in stricter rules in 2027"¹¹

Alternative Education

Getting youth offenders involved in education or some form of training is particularly challenging and in some locations at a crisis point. One YJ site reported that a local Alternative Education Institution within their region has seen a 700% increase in violence against staff with 154 incidents over the past year. In this instance, to support this institution and the staff, Oranga Tamariki are funding teacher aide hours. This highlights a deeper systemic concern as to why this funding is coming from Oranga Tamariki.

Homelessness

Another symptom of deeper systemic issues is the prevalence of youth homelessness across the country. It is commonly stated amongst the many groups that support homeless young people that the problem is increasing and that not enough research is being done to investigate the numbers and why. In October 2024, Manaaki Rangatahi, an Auckland-based youth homeless collective implored

⁹ [Regional Economic Profile | New Zealand | NEET](#)

¹⁰ [insights-reporting-series-young-people.pdf](#)

¹¹ [Budget 2025: Nearly 9000 teens no longer eligible for unemployment benefit under new 'parent test' - NZ Herald](#)

the government that “more research must be done to tackle the issue of youth homelessness in Aotearoa”¹²

A report into youth homelessness released in July 2022 “found policy provisions addressing youth homelessness are ineffective and highlighted the complete absence of clear pathways helping guide and support young people into safe and secure housing.”¹³ This sentiment is still expressed today by many groups working in the sector.

Homelessness, unemployment, and lack of meaningful engagement in education are just a few of the number of systemic issues that affect young people and form part of the contributing factors to Serious and Persistent Youth Offending.

Cultural and social dynamics

All who were interviewed commented on the complexities surrounding various cultural and social dynamics that have influenced serious and persistent youth offending. What was noted was that young people are being impacted and influenced by older offenders and wider gang culture, especially with the offer of notoriety and financial or other types of gain.

Social Media

The advent and wide use of social media has become influential with young people using it to glorify violence and criminal activity. They are also using it to coordinate criminal activities and to recruit new, and often younger and vulnerable, members. Sadly, it is being used to encourage competition amongst youth, in regard to offending.

An article in The Star News in Canterbury emphasised a survey that was conducted, demonstrating a “Link between social media and crime”¹⁴. According to the survey within the article, it highlighted that more than 50% of the young people who were interviewed aged between 10 – 15 years are being exposed to videos of criminal activity over social media platforms.

The possibility of notoriety being promoted through the use of social media is elevating “Leaderboard” culture amongst youth offenders that encourages more frequent and violent offending to gain greater status and more recruits.

¹² [Youth homelessness group calls on government to prioritise young people | RNZ News](#)

¹³ [Kaupapa Māori Researchers shed light on severity of youth homelessness | Media Releases | Unitec](#)

¹⁴ [Link between social media and crime revealed in youth survey | Star News](#)

Escalation in seriousness and violence in younger cohort

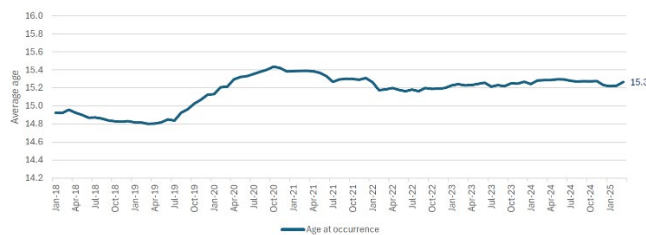
Most who were interviewed noted an alarming trend requiring close monitoring, an increase in offending being committed by younger child offenders (10 to 13 year olds). If nothing is done now, it will become a bigger problem later down the track. What is most disturbing to most is the seriousness of crimes being committed by this cohort. In previous years, this cohort was committing petty, smaller crimes, but sites are increasingly seeing this cohort escalating in their offending to more violent and serious crimes straight away and not going through a gradual process.

Section D – Trends noted by Youth Justice Teams, New Zealand Police, and the Ministry of Justice

Maturation of the cohort

A number of sites spoke of a cohort within this group that was “aging out” and were no longer covered under the conditions of youth court and subsequently Government Target Three. Sentiments were mixed regarding this “aging out” cohort. Some sites mentioned that some of this cohort were growing up and no longer committing crimes and seeing them as the “cool thing to do,” while others mentioned that some of this cohort were getting more aggressive and transitioning to adult court. Some sites also mentioned that this “aging out” cohort are spending longer periods in remand and therefore not committing crimes and / or influencing younger cohorts.

The average age of youth has remained similar to baseline



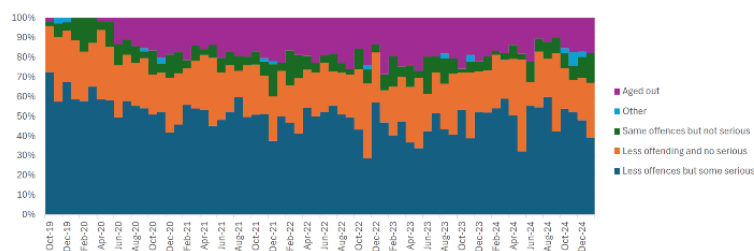
- There was an increase in age following the inclusion of 17-year-olds in the Youth Court in July 2019. This has since stabilised.

According to a recent Ministry of Justice report, the average age of Serious and Persistent Youth Offenders has remained fairly steady since the introduction of Government Target Three in June 2023, sitting at around 15.3 as of March 2025¹⁵.

¹⁵ Slide12, Target 3 – Performance Drivers – April 2025, Ministry of Justice

Within the same report it was noted that “Young people who have “Aged out” the youth justice system has fluctuated over time”¹⁶.

Fewer offences are driving the SPYO cohort to permanently exit the justice system



- The most common reason why SPYO exit the cohort (47%) is that the prevalence is not enough to be classified as persistent but there is some serious offending. The next largest (31%) reason is that there is less persistent and no serious offences.
- Since baseline, those who are exiting due to no serious offences has increased from 32% to 37%.
- Young people who have “Aged out” the youth justice system has fluctuated over time.



This “aging out” factor may be one of many that is contributing to the earlier than expected decrease in Government Target Three, but it is difficult to ascertain specifically at this point.

Downturn in Ram Raids

All interviewees commented that since the introduction of Government Target Three, there has been a massive downturn in ram raids by serious and persistent youth offenders to the point of almost being non-existent. This is due to several factors including widespread media coverage, political motivations, stronger measures utilised by police and resilience within communities.

To prevent or strongly deter offenders, many businesses have become security savvy and installed measures such as bollards, stronger security systems, use of fog cannons, and removal of temptations from shop windows at night. Many businesses have also collaborated with local police and community groups. All of these measures have contributed to the downturn in Ram Raids over the last few years.

Rising Violence in Offending

All interviewees noted an escalation in seriousness and violence of crimes being committed by young people and even children. In the past, young people would start with minor offences and graduate to more serious crimes. The worrying trend that is being seen by sites is young offenders, including children, starting with serious crimes and skipping the typical escalation.

¹⁶ Slide 15, Target 3 – Performance Drivers – April 2025, Ministry of Justice

Aggravated robberies are increasing and becoming more common, even among first-time offenders. Use of weapons and group violence, causing grievous bodily harm, is on the rise. Offending against strangers is increasing, alongside continued offending against individuals by the perpetrators.

In some regions there has been an escalation of violent crimes by girls. This was confirmed in conversations with the Police Rangatahi Prevention Team who said that the crimes girls were committing were “Nasty and vindictive.”

The team went on to say that there has been some nasty, horrible offending going on, including violence related to weapons such as knives and imitation firearms. According to sites, there has been an increase in severity and aggression of offences among those within the “aging out” cohort who are graduating to the adult justice system.

As mentioned previously, social media is compounding the trends of crimes being committed by young people.

Section E – New Zealand Police focus on youth offending

Proactive Monitoring and Early Intervention

Over the last few years Police have been developing new reporting and tracking systems to identify and intervene with youth offenders who have 2–3 offences. The aim is to prevent escalation into the “serious and persistent” category. As a wider team they are focussed on preventing youth from “getting in the bucket,” so that rangatahi do not become entrenched in the justice system, by utilising this new reporting and tracking system as well as other targeted methodologies.

Focussed Police Operations

There are examples around the country in which extra police units have been deployed in high-need areas such as the Hawke’s Bay, to address spikes in youth offending. These units focus on group behaviours and early intervention with known cohorts.

Intelligence-Led Policing

Police are employing new intelligence measures to help identify and respond to first-time offenders. This includes practices such as monitoring of social media trends and group dynamics to understand and disrupt coordinated offending.

Support for Transition Planning

Police are engaging more with young people leaving residences, with the aim to improve bail conditions and support plans to hopefully prevent reoffending. Some of the YJ Sites mentioned that supportive bail is a great service, but not sustainable with the current resources.

Police acknowledge that to truly address youth offending there is a need for a whole-of-whānau solution.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Methodology

The Insights Team utilised data from The Target Three_DataPack_March2025 that had been prepared by the Social Impact and Research Team, to identify stakeholders and teams to engage with via interview.

Times were set with each stakeholder and during the interviews, notes were taken. These notes were reviewed within the team before sending them back to each stakeholder to review and confirm.

Analysis was then completed by the Insights Team of these notes, identifying themes. From these themes this report was drawn up, including research from other sources to corroborate findings.

Appendix 2 – Interview participants and question set

Leaders and/or teams interviewed	Question Set
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton City YJ • Waitakere City YJ • Rotorua YJ • Christchurch West YJ • Whangārei YJ • Rangatahi Prevention Team, New Zealand Police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was your site's initial reaction to Government Target Three being introduced? Has it been a big focus for kaimahi, and if so, how? • Do you think that Oranga Tamariki and other agencies have changed their approach to serious and persistent youth offending in response to Target Three, and if so, how? • Looking at the data for your area, does this match your perception of how serious and persistent offending has changed? If not, how do you think it has changed? • Are there known groups of serious and persistent offenders who may have influenced trends in your area (e.g., aged out of the YJ system in the last year)? • How has youth crime generally looked over the last few years at this site, and how has this changed after the June 2023 introduction of Target Three? • Are there any particular trends you have observed in relation to rangatahi, victims, types of crime? • Looking at future system changes, future cohorts of children ageing into the YJ space and young people ageing out, what sort of trends do you think we can expect to see with serious and persistent offending numbers over the next five years? • Is there anything else you want to tell us in relation to this topic?

Appendix 3 – Regional and site data

Hamilton:

Baseline June 2023		March 2025	
104		82	
Burglary & Unlawful entry	18	Burglary & Unlawful entry	5
Robbery-related	17	Robbery-related	10
Illegal use of a motor vehicle	3	Illegal use of a motor vehicle	4
Injury causing acts/homicide	0	Injury causing acts/homicide	0
All other offences	3	All other offences	4

Waitakere:

Baseline June 2023		March 2025	
101		51	
Burglary & Unlawful entry	14	Burglary & Unlawful entry	3
Robbery-related	28	Robbery-related	13
Illegal use of a motor vehicle	3	Illegal use of a motor vehicle	5
Injury causing acts/homicide	3	Injury causing acts/homicide	2
All other offences	53	All other offences	28

Rotorua:

Baseline June 2023		March 2025	
29		46	
Burglary & Unlawful entry	11	Burglary & Unlawful entry	18
Robbery-related	10	Robbery-related	14
Illegal use of a motor vehicle	4	Illegal use of a motor vehicle	9
Injury causing acts/homicide	2	Injury causing acts/homicide	0
All other offences	2	All other offences	5

Hawkes Bay:

Baseline June 2023		March 2025	
27		52	
Burglary & Unlawful entry	16	Burglary & Unlawful entry	25
Robbery-related	3	Robbery-related	11
Illegal use of a motor vehicle	4	Illegal use of a motor vehicle	10
Injury causing acts/homicide	1	Injury causing acts/homicide	2
All other offences	3	All other offences	4

NB: Hawkes Bay has been included as the Manager Youth Justice Rotorua is currently also managing Hawkes Bay. As a result, some Hawkes Bay content was mentioned during the Rotorua interview.

Christchurch West:

Baseline June 2023		March 2025	
102		104	
Burglary & Unlawful entry	30	Burglary & Unlawful entry	37
Robbery-related	25	Robbery-related	23
Illegal use of a motor vehicle	39	Illegal use of a motor vehicle	24
Injury causing acts/homicide	0	Injury causing acts/homicide	6
All other offences	8	All other offences	14

Whangārei:

Baseline June 2023		March 2025	
41		23	
Burglary & Unlawful entry	18	Burglary & Unlawful entry	5
Robbery-related	17	Robbery-related	10
Illegal use of a motor vehicle	3	Illegal use of a motor vehicle	4
Injury causing acts/homicide	0	Injury causing acts/homicide	0
All other offences	3	All other offences	4

Appendix 4 – Interview themes and notes

Site	Environmental factors influencing results	Trends, Challenges and Limitations
Hamilton City YJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases punitive response Availability of programmes and therapeutic approaches Gangs Engagement in education or meaningful employment Programmes and approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ram raids down and aggravated robberies up Increased planning in offending Use of P Stolen vehicles Social media
Waitakere City YJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes and approaches Punitive approach Availability of programmes and therapeutic approaches Engagement in education or meaningful employment Relationships and sharing information Increased monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in ram raids and robberies/aggravated robberies Increase in violence Emerging cohort of 10 to 13 year olds Complexities of current cohort Influence of social media Disengagement with education
Rotorua YJ (with some Hawkes Bay YJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Fast Track Initiatives Dedicated Social Work Teams Community and Multi-Agency Collaboration happening but more required Policing initiatives Monitoring and intelligence gathering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of consistency and coordination Limited interventions and supports Systemic Issues Cultural and social dynamics

Christchurch West YJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business-as-Usual (BAU) Approach • Use of Family Group Conferences (FGCs) • Supportive Bail Services • Integrated Court models • Introduction of ICM (Intensive Case Management) Teams • Strong professional relationships • Skilled and passionate workforce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of coordinated strategy • Punitive policing and court practices • Resource and capacity constraints • Rising trends in offending • Systemic issues
Whangārei YJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative Profiling of High-Risk Youth • Implementation of Fast Track • Reduction in Youth Court and FGC Activity • Conscious Practice Shifts • Victim-Inclusive Practices • Exploration of new programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No strong initial drive from Oranga Tamariki • Systemic and structural barriers • Emerging offending trends
Rangatahi Prevention Team, NZ Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive Monitoring and Early Intervention • Targeted Police Operations • Increased awareness and prioritisation • Intelligence-led Policing • Whānau-centred approach • Support for transition planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-agency coordination issues • Resource constraints • Systemic and social challenges • Post-COVID Trends