
STRATEGY, INSIGHTS AND PERFORMANCE

Fast Track

Reoffending Analysis

December 2025

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Contents

Summary of key findings	1
Background and methodology	4
Background	5
Methodology	5
Base cohort	6
Data linking between sources	7
In-sample vs out-of-sample comparison	8
Caveats with the analysis	8
Findings	9
Reoffending by Fast Track participants	10
What are the 12-month reoffending outcomes for those referred to Fast Track? ..	14
Characteristics of those who reoffended	16
Appendices	18
Appendix A: Characteristics of analytical sample compared to those excluded from the analysis	19
Appendix B: Additional information about the Fast Track programme	22
Appendix C: Estimated impact of excluding 130 people from the analysis	24

List of Figures

Figure 1: Cumulative percentage of Fast Track participants who reoffended over the 12 months following their first referral.....	10
Figure 2: Average frequency of offences by Fast Track participants in each six-month period before and after their first referral	11
Figure 3: Average total seriousness of offences by Fast Track participants in each six-month period before and after their first referral	12
Figure 4: Age of individuals first referred to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024, by whether they were included in the reoffending analysis sample.....	19
Figure 5: Gender of individuals first referred to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024, by whether they were included in the reoffending analysis sample.....	20
Figure 6: Ethnicity of individuals first referred to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024, by whether they were included in the reoffending analysis sample.....	20
Figure 7: Police district of referral for individuals first referred to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024, by whether they were included in the reoffending analysis sample	21

List of Tables

Table 1: Whether Fast Track participants committed an offence of each type, and number of offences recorded by police, 12 months before and after first referral	13
Table 2: Reoffending outcomes for Fast Track participants in the 12 months after first referral, by age group	14
Table 3: Reoffending outcomes for Fast Track participants in the 12 months after first referral, by gender	15
Table 4: Reoffending outcomes for Fast Track participants in the 12 months after first referral, by ethnicity	16
Table 5: Establishment date and location for each Fast Track initiative	21
Table 6: Estimated reoffending outcomes for Fast Track participants in the 12 months after first referral including the 130 people excluded from the analysis cohort	24

Summary of key findings

Reoffending outcomes were examined for 342 children and young people who were first referred to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024. Police proceedings data to 30 June 2025 was used to assess reoffending in the 12-months after each referral.

Of the 342 individuals included in this analysis, the majority were children aged 13 or younger (77%), male (75%), Māori (77%)¹, and were referred from the Counties Manukau or Waitematā police districts (65%).

42% did not reoffend within 12 months of referral to Fast Track²

Forty-two percent of participants did not reoffend during the 12-month period post-referral, with the remaining 58% reoffending. While this indicates room for improvement, it also reflects a substantial reduction in offending for a notable portion of the cohort.

Six in every ten of the Fast Track participants reduced the frequency and/or seriousness of their offending

Between 58% and 60% of participants reduced the frequency and/or seriousness of their offending in the 12 months after referral to Fast Track compared to the 12 months before. This includes the 42% who did not reoffend as well as an additional 16% to 18% who did reoffend, but less frequently and/or seriously than before.

Females had significantly better reoffending outcomes than males

Females referred to Fast Track consistently showed more positive outcomes than males across the reoffending measures. Over half of the female participants (53%) did not reoffend in the 12 months following referral, compared to just 38% of males.

The small differences seen between children and young people were not statistically significant

While young people aged 14–17 years when first referred to Fast Track showed marginally better reoffending outcomes than children aged 13 or under, the differences were not statistically significant. Any differences may be due to different referral criteria for children and young people.

Ethnic differences seen were not statistically significant

Fast Track participants of European/Other ethnicity appeared to have more positive reoffending outcomes across all measures than Māori and Pacific participants, but when tested, these differences were not statistically different.

Persistent offenders may require additional support as a minority of participants committed most of the reoffending

The 37% of individuals who increased the frequency of their reoffending within 12 months were responsible for 89% of all offences by the Fast Track cohort in the 12 months after they were referred. This finding indicates that while Fast Track reduces

¹ Includes 70% who were Māori and an additional 7% who were both Māori and Pacific peoples.

² See the caveats section later for information on the estimated effect of 130 Fast Track participants being excluded from the analysis because of incomplete data.

the number of individuals offending, additional support may be needed to address high-frequency offending among persistent participants.

Characteristics associated with reoffending

Fast Track participants who reoffended within 12 months of referral were more likely to be male, have a more serious prior offending history, and to have received more formal justice responses (e.g., court action or family group conferences) in the proceeding closest to referral.

Individuals who increased their offending frequency after referral tended to have a higher prior seriousness of offending, have more prior care and protection Reports of Concern, and were more concentrated in certain police districts such as Auckland City and Canterbury.

Increases in the seriousness of offending were less clearly associated with observable characteristics, though being male, and having higher prior offence counts and more prior Reports of Concern were notable indicators.

Caveats with the analysis

A total of 130 (28%) of all 472 first referrals to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024 were excluded from the analysis as complete offending histories did not appear to be available for them. This has the potential to inflate the reoffending rate found.

We estimated the effect of removing these people from the study sample by using various conservative assumptions to estimate reoffending outcomes had the 130 been included in the analysis (see Appendix C).

Under these assumptions, the share of Fast Track participants who reoffended could be an estimated 7pp (percentage points) lower at 51%, and the proportion who did not reoffend could be 7pp higher at 49%. The estimated effect on the proportions who reduced the frequency and/or seriousness of their offending was smaller (3-4pp increase). Therefore, excluding the 130 people from the analysis does not change the reoffending outcomes hugely, even under the most conservative assumptions.

The feasibility of including the 130 people in future analyses with accurate offending data will be investigated as part of an impact evaluation of Fast Track in 2026.

The re-referral rate to Fast Track does not reflect actual reoffending

This analysis has shown that the re-referral rate to Fast Track, which has been reported in the past, is not indicative of the reoffending rate. A lower re-referral rate is not surprising given police can decide not to re-refer children and young people who reoffend to Fast Track. Reoffending outcomes more directly reflect actual offending patterns.

Background and methodology

Background

Fast Track began as a pilot in December 2022 and was expanded to nine locations by December 2024. It provides a rapid response pathway for children and young people who come to the attention of Police and meet specific criteria.

Fast Track brings together government and non-government agencies to share information, review cases and visit whānau within 24 hours of the alleged offending. It is a whānau-centric, holistic response to addressing the wellbeing and immediate needs of children and young people (and their whānau) who have come to Police attention, and where Police have concerns about their offending escalating.

Initially, Fast Track targeted children aged 10 to 13 exhibiting serious or persistent offending. Under the Government Target 3 Delivery Plan, it was extended in some regions to include young people aged 14 to 17 who may not have offended or may be at a lower level of offending, but whose circumstances are of concern (see Appendix A, Table 5 for a list of locations and establishment dates).

The approach aims to prevent escalation into or through the youth justice system by identifying what is prompting the child or young person to offend, and why, and then working to address underlying needs/issues. The multi-agency team share updates and triage what the most important needs are. Further information on Fast Track is available in Appendix B.

A formative and process evaluation published in August 2024 found that this cross-agency model enables more integrated responses³. Sharing knowledge across agencies, marae, iwi, Kaupapa Māori, and community providers helps reduce duplication of initiatives, services, and strategies. However, some participants noted challenges due to unclear workload expectations within agencies.

As of the week ending 4 July 2025, Fast Track had received 1,121 referrals involving 564 children aged 10 to 13 years. Of the 564 children, 32% had been referred more than once. For young people aged 14 to 17 years, there were 394 referrals involving 309 individuals. Of those 309 young people, 18% were referred more than once.

Re-referral rates are not a reliable measure of reoffending as frontline police can decide not to re-refer children and young people who reoffend to Fast Track. Reoffending rates more directly reflect offending behaviour by youth.

This analysis provides a more reliable reoffending baseline measure for the work being progressed to deliver joined-up approaches for children and young people.

Methodology

This analysis uses proceedings data from Police to examine changes in the frequency, seriousness and types of offences in the 12 months following referral to Fast Track. The reoffending outcomes reported do not represent the impact of Fast

³ <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/About-us/Research/Latest-research/Fast-track/Fast-Track-formative-and-process-evaluation.pdf>

Track. An impact evaluation is planned in 2026 to be able to robustly attribute the difference Fast Track is making to reducing reoffending.

Base cohort

The base cohort in this study comprised all children and young people who were first referred to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024.⁴ This cohort was chosen so 12-month reoffending outcomes could be examined using the offending data that was available up to 30 June 2025.

Data for Fast Track participants was linked to Police *Recorded Crime Offender Statistics* (RCOS) data⁵ to examine reoffending outcomes following each person's first referral to Fast Track.

RCOS data includes all formal proceedings initiated by Police against alleged offenders, where the initial proceeding decision was made from 1 July 2009. Proceedings data includes non-court actions (i.e., diversionary responses such as formal warnings, Alternative Action, and family group conferences) as well as prosecutions in court. RCOS data may not include offences where a child or young person was proceeded against through a care and prevention intervention rather than a youth justice intervention.

A proceeding can involve a single offence, or multiple offences that are being dealt with together. In some cases where there are multiple offences associated with a proceeding, some or all of them may stem from the same occurrence (offending event), but they may involve different victims.

This analysis included all offences recorded in the proceedings data for each person, with the offence/occurrence date being used to group offences into either the 12 months before referral to Fast Track or the 12 months after referral, and other offences outside these periods were excluded.

The following aspects of reoffending were examined:

- Reoffending rate: A person reoffended if they had one or more offences recorded in the 12 months after referral. Conversely, they did not reoffend if they had zero offences recorded in the 12 months after referral
- Change in the frequency of offending: For each person, the total number of offences in the 12 months after referral was compared to the total number of offences in the 12 months before referral
- Change in the total seriousness of offending: For each person, the sum of the seriousness scores⁶ for all offences in the 12 months after referral was compared to the sum of seriousness scores in the 12 months before referral

⁴ Police can refer children or young people to Fast Track via an online application, which Oranga Tamariki can then access and add information to. This is where the base cohort was sourced from.

⁵ The data is sourced from the National Intelligence Application (NIA) managed by Police

⁶ The seriousness of each offence was assessed using the Justice Sector Seriousness Scale.

- Change in the seriousness of most serious offence: For each person, the maximum seriousness score of any offence in the 12 months after referral was compared to the maximum seriousness score in the 12 months before referral.

Data linking between sources

Fast Track data includes the Police Person ID for most children and young people referred, and this can be linked to the same unique identifier in the RCOS data. Where Person IDs were not available in the Fast Track data, other identifiers were used to manually link the data sources. A Police Person ID could not be found for only one person.

Of the total 472 individuals first referred to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024, 399 (85%) linked to identities in the RCOS dataset with offences recorded. However, 73 (15%) had no offences recorded before or after referral to Fast Track, and a further 57 (12%) had some RCOS offences recorded, but none in the 12 months prior to their referral⁷. We decided to exclude these 130 people from the analysis because offending histories not being complete means we cannot accurately assess the change in the frequency and seriousness of their offending in the 12 months after referral compared to the 12 months prior to referral.

In some cases, especially in the expanded version of Fast Track for young people, having no prior offences could occur if they were referred because they were at risk of offending, but hadn't offended, and may not have offended afterwards, so there are no offences recorded in NIA and the RCOS data.

Alternatively, some people could be associated with offences recorded in NIA prior to referral to Fast Track, but none where they have the role of 'Offender'.⁸ While this could signal an issue with the recording of offence roles in some cases, it could also signal that police dealt with the offending through a care and protection intervention rather than a youth justice intervention.

It was not possible for us to identify in the Police data which of the two scenarios above was the case. However, Police checked a sample of around 50 people who did not have any prior offences in the RCOS data, and in almost every case the person had at least one offence recorded in NIA before referral to Fast Track, but the role was not recorded as "Offender". This implies that most of the people we excluded from the analysis were not referred as non-offenders at risk of offending.

The base cohort for this analysis was therefore 342 young people who were first referred to Fast Track between 1 January 2023 and 30 June 2024. This is 72% of the total 472 individuals referred in this period.

Of the participants included in this analysis, the majority were children aged 13 years or younger (77%), male (75%), Māori (77%)⁹, and were referred from the Counties

⁷ The Fast Track data shows the average duration between apprehending alleged offenders and referring them to Fast Track is eight days. Therefore, no offences being recorded in the prior 12 months may imply we do not have complete offending histories available.

⁸ People can be linked to offences with different 'roles' such as Suspect, Offender, Victim, or Witness etc., and the RCOS data only includes offences for people linked with an Offender role.

⁹ Includes 70% who were Māori and an additional 7% who were both Māori and Pacific peoples.

Manukau or Waitematā police districts (65%). More detailed characteristics of the Fast Track participants are included in Appendix A.

In-sample vs out-of-sample comparison

The Fast Track data includes a range of observable characteristics for participants (see Appendix A). To assess whether the analytical sample systematically differed from those who were excluded, Pearson tests were used to compare the means of each observable characteristic separately. This test evaluates whether differences in group averages (e.g., 25% of the analytical sample are female vs. 26% of the excluded group) reflect actual differences or are simply due to random variation. The results of these tests are available upon request.

The results showed that, compared to those who were excluded, individuals in the analytical sample were *more* likely to be:

- older (aged 13–17)
- referred from the Auckland City, Counties Manukau, Waitematā, or Bay of Plenty Police Districts.
- Conversely, they were *less* likely to be:
- aged 11 or younger
- referred from the Northland or Waikato Police Districts.

Caveats with the analysis

Excluding 130 people from the analysis cohort may have inflated the reoffending outcomes shown in the report if they were mostly newer offenders who did not reoffend. Whether this was the case could not be assessed at source by the authors as the offending data comes from the Police NIA computer system.

However, we estimated the effect of removing these people from the study sample by using various conservative assumptions to estimate reoffending outcomes had the 130 been included in the analysis. See Appendix C for further details.

Using the conservative scenario, had the 130 people been included in the analysis:

- the reoffending rate could be lower by an estimated 7pp
- the proportion who did not reoffend could be an estimated 7pp higher
- the proportions who reduced the frequency or seriousness of their offending could be an estimated 3pp to 4pp higher.

Therefore, excluding the 130 people from the analysis does not change the reoffending outcomes hugely, even under the most conservative assumptions.

The feasibility of including the 130 people in future analyses with accurate offending data will be investigated as part of an impact evaluation of Fast Track in 2026.

Findings

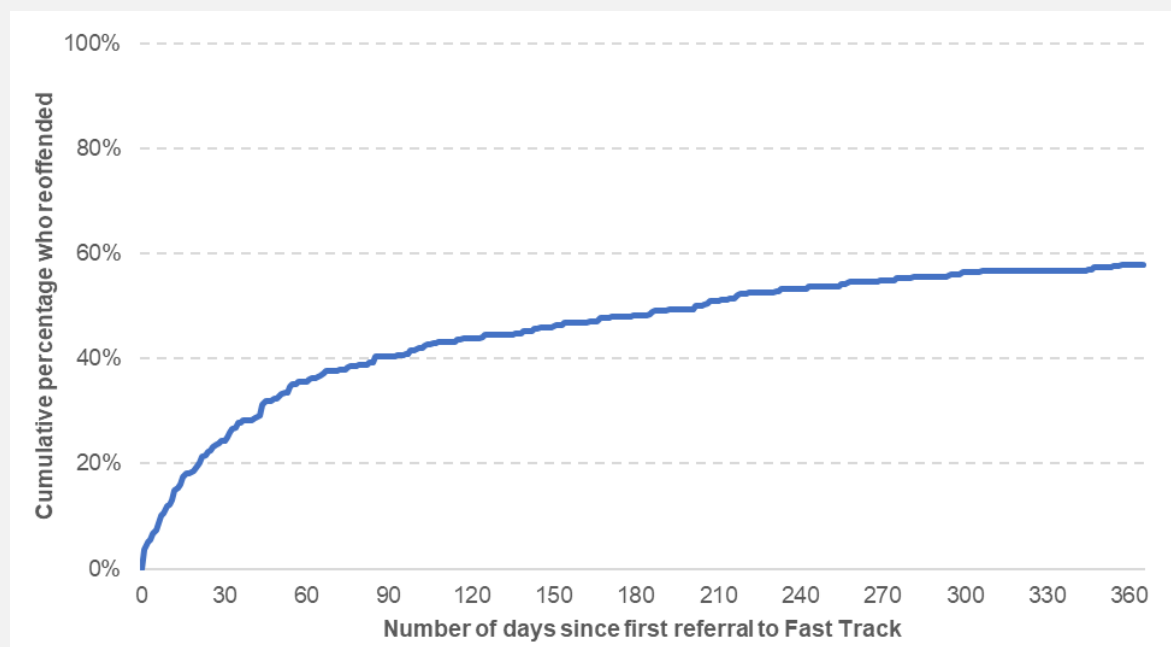
Reoffending by Fast Track participants

This section focuses on 12-month reoffending outcomes for 342 children and young people who were referred to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024, ensuring at least 12 months of reoffending data.

42% of the Fast Track participants did not reoffend within 12 months of first referral

Forty percent of the 342 children and young people came to the attention of Police for a new offence within three months of referral to Fast Track (Figure 1). Within six months, nearly half (48%) of Fast Track participants had reoffended, and within 12 months, 58% had reoffended. Forty-two percent of Fast Track participants did not reoffend within 12 months.

Figure 1: Cumulative percentage of Fast Track participants who reoffended over the 12 months following their first referral



These findings suggest that while a significant proportion of participants reoffended within a year, a substantial minority did not, indicating the potential for positive impact through early intervention.¹⁰

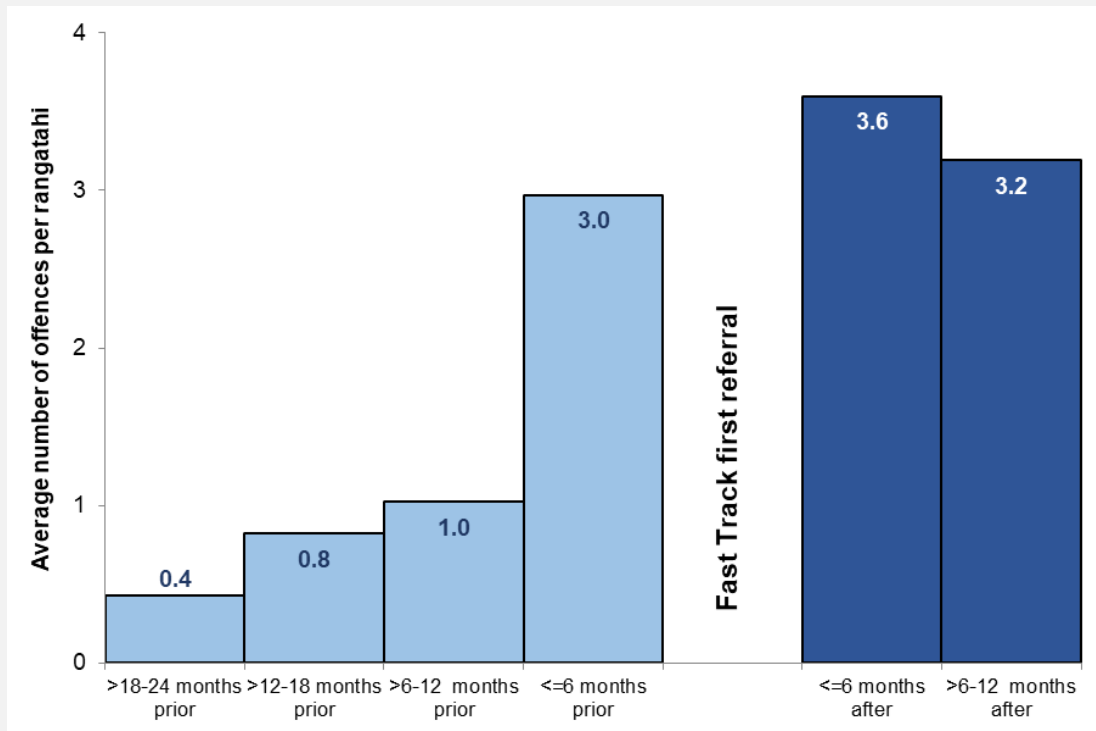
There was an escalation in offending for Fast Track participants prior to the first referral and the higher level of offending was sustained afterwards

On average, Fast Track participants had not offended very much prior to the six months before referral to Fast Track. There was an escalation in the average frequency of offending in the six months leading up to the first referral to Fast Track (Figure 2).

¹⁰ These are pre- and post-intervention outcomes, not part of a formal impact evaluation. As such, we cannot attribute any observed changes directly to Fast Track.

Over the 12 months after referral to Fast Track, the average number of offences committed by each child or young person was 6.8, which was higher than the 4.0 offences on average in the 12 months prior. In contrast, the median number of offences in the 12 months before and after referral dropped from 2 to 1, implying that outliers (some individuals with high numbers of reoffences) are influencing the average (mean) values. This is discussed more below.

Figure 2: Average frequency of offences by Fast Track participants in each six-month period before and after their first referral



A minority of Fast-Track participants (37%) were responsible for most (89%) of all offences by participants in the 12 months after referral

The 342 Fast Track participants were responsible for a total of 1,367 offences in the 12 months before referral, with this number increasing to 2,335 offences in the 12 months after referral.

As will be seen later in the report, 198 (58%) of the 342 Fast Track participants reduced the frequency of their offending¹¹ – together committing 223 offences in the 12 months after referral (10% of all reoffending by the cohort). A further 18 (5%) of the participants had the same frequency of offending before and after referral (30 offences or 1% of all reoffending).

This means the remaining 126 (37%) of the participants who increased the frequency of their offending, together were responsible for 2,082 (89%) of all 2,335 offences by the cohort in the 12 months after referral.

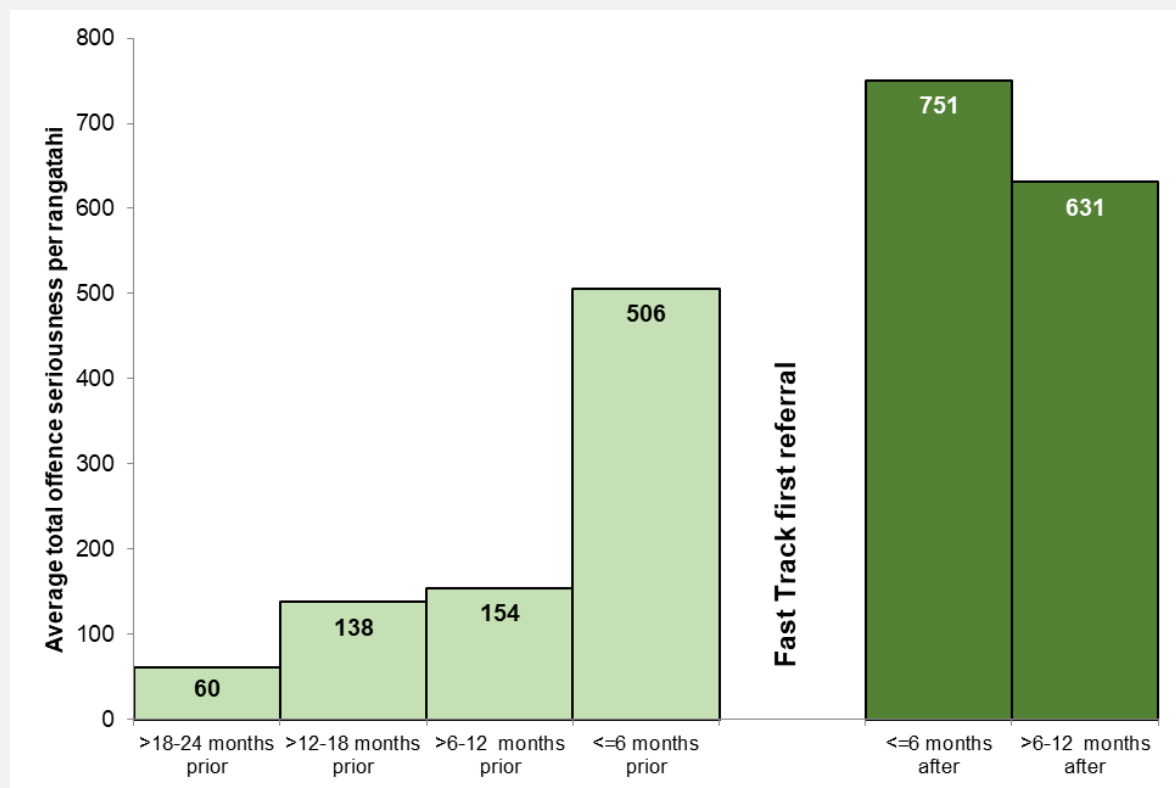
¹¹ Including those who did not reoffend.

These findings may indicate that while Fast Track reduces the number of individuals offending, additional support may be needed to address high-frequency offending among persistent young offenders.

The average total seriousness of offending was much higher in the 12 months following first referral to Fast Track

On average, there was an escalation in the total seriousness of offending by Fast Track participants in the six months prior to the first referral and the higher seriousness of offending was sustained afterwards (Figure 3). The average total seriousness of the offences committed by individuals over the 12 months following referral (1,382) was more than double that in the 12 months before referral (660).

Figure 3: Average total seriousness of offences by Fast Track participants in each six-month period before and after their first referral



For the majority of offence types, the percentage of participants who reoffended decreased or remained static, but often, the total number of reoffences increased

Table 1 shows that for the majority of offence types, the number and proportion of Fast Track participants who reoffended either decreased or remained unchanged in the 12 months after referral compared to the 12 months prior. However, for most offence types, the total number of reoffences in the 12 months after referral was higher than in the 12 months prior.

Table 1: Whether Fast Track participants committed an offence of each type¹², and number of offences recorded by police, 12 months before and after first referral

Offence type	Number and percent who did not offend	Number and percent who offended	Total offences
Illegal use of a motor vehicle			
12 months prior	126 (37%)	216 (63%)	581
12 months after	188 (55%)	154 (45%)	1,064
Burglary			
12 months prior	245 (72%)	97 (28%)	191
12 months after	257 (75%)	85 (25%)	310
Other theft			
12 months prior	237 (69%)	105 (31%)	172
12 months after	260 (76%)	82 (24%)	263
Traffic/vehicle			
12 months prior	314 (92%)	28 (8%)	39
12 months after	308 (90%)	34 (10%)	74
Property damage			
12 months prior	294 (86%)	48 (14%)	64
12 months after	313 (92%)	29 (8%)	38
Assaults/homicide			
12 months prior	293 (86%)	49 (14%)	67
12 months after	280 (82%)	62 (18%)	95
Robbery-related			
12 months prior	308 (90%)	34 (10%)	53
12 months after	276 (81%)	66 (19%)	161
Harm or endanger persons			
12 months prior	320 (94%)	22 (6%)	28
12 months after	320 (94%)	22 (6%)	27
Against justice/government			
12 months prior	307 (90%)	35 (10%)	54
12 months after	281 (82%)	61 (18%)	143
Public order, health & safety			
12 months prior	279 (82%)	63 (18%)	74
12 months after	279 (82%)	63 (18%)	112
Weapons-related			
12 months prior	311 (91%)	31 (9%)	38
12 months after	317 (93%)	25 (7%)	33
All other offences			
12 months prior	336 (98%)	6 (2%)	6
12 months after	329 (96%)	13 (4%)	15

¹² The justice sector started using an updated version of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC 2023) from 31 July 2025. This has some different offence groupings to the previous version.

The most common category of offending for Fast Track participants was illegal use of a motor vehicle¹³ accounting for 43% of offences in the 12 months before and 46% of offences in the 12 months after the first referral to Fast Track. While the number of individuals who offended in this category fell from 216 to 154, the number of offences increased from 581 prior to referral to 1,064 after referral.

A similar pattern was observed for the burglary and other theft categories, with fewer offenders committing more offences in the 12 months following referral to Fast Track.

There was a small reduction in both the number of individuals and number of offences relating to property damage and weapons-related offending.

For some offence categories there was an increase in both the number of offenders and the number of offences committed including traffic/vehicle offences, assault/homicide, robbery-related offences, and offences against justice/government.

The number and percentage of individuals who committed a harm or endanger persons offence or a public order, health or safety offence remained static.

What are the 12-month reoffending outcomes for those referred to Fast Track?

Six in every ten of the Fast Track participants reduced the frequency and/or seriousness of their offending

Table 2 outlines reoffending outcomes for children and young people referred to Fast Track. In the 12 months following their first referral, 42% of the 342 total participants did not reoffend. Notably, six in every ten participants showed a reduction in either the frequency and/or seriousness of their offending in the 12 months after referral compared to the 12 months before. These results suggest that Fast Track may be contributing to meaningful behavioural changes among a majority of participants.

Table 2: Reoffending outcomes for Fast Track participants in the 12 months after first referral, by age group

Outcome ¹⁴	Children (n=263)	Young people (n=79)	Total (n=342)
Did not reoffend	41%	44%	42%
Reduced frequency of offending	57%	61%	58%
Reduced total seriousness of offending	59%	61%	59%
Reduced seriousness of most serious offence	59%	61%	60%

¹³ Unlawfully taking or getting into a motor vehicle, or attempted unlawful taking.

¹⁴ Reduced frequency or seriousness of offending includes those who did not reoffend. For example, 58% of rangatahi reduced the frequency of their offending — comprising the 42% who reduced their frequency from some non-zero number down to zero, and the remaining 16% who reoffended, but less often than before.

The small differences seen in reoffending outcomes between children and young people were not statistically significant

While young people aged 14–17 years when first referred to Fast Track showed marginally better results than children aged 13 or under, the differences were not statistically significant (Table 2). Any differences observed in reoffending outcomes by age group may be due to different referral criteria for children and young people. Children can be referred to Fast Track when police consider their behaviour or welfare is of concern because of their serious and/or persistent offending. Young people can be referred who may not have offended or may be at a lower level of offending, but whose circumstances are still of concern.

Females had significantly better reoffending outcomes than males

There was a large gender difference in reoffending outcomes for Fast Track participants (Table 3). Females (53%) were much more likely to not reoffend than males (38%). As a result, females also reduced the frequency and/or seriousness of their offending to a greater extent than males referred to Fast Track.

Table 3: Reoffending outcomes for Fast Track participants in the 12 months after first referral, by gender

Outcome	Male (n=255)	Female (n=86)
Did not reoffend	38%	53%
Reduced frequency of offending	56%	63%
Reduced total seriousness of offending	56%	70%
Reduced seriousness of most serious offence	56%	71%

Ethnic differences seen were not statistically significant

Table 4 below compares reoffending outcomes by ethnic group. Fast Track participants of European/Other ethnicity appeared to have more positive outcomes across all measures than Māori and Pacific participants. However, when tested, these differences were not statistically different (noting the relatively small sample sizes for groups other than Māori).

Table 4: Reoffending outcomes for Fast Track participants in the 12 months after first referral, by ethnicity¹⁵

Outcome	Māori (n=241)	Pacific (n=34)	Māori & Pacific peoples (n=23)	European/ Other (n=42)
Did not reoffend	40%	41%	48%	50%
Reduced frequency of offending	57%	59%	52%	64%
Reduced total seriousness of offending	60%	53%	52%	64%
Reduced seriousness of most serious offence	60%	59%	48%	64%

Characteristics of those who reoffended

The Fast Track data includes a range of observable characteristics for participants (e.g., gender, age, ethnicity, and offending profile).

Pearson tests were used to identify observable characteristics associated with different patterns of reoffending. The results of these tests are available upon request.

Reoffending in the 12 months following referral

Participants who reoffended within 12 months of referral were:

- more likely to be male
- more likely to have received court action or a youth justice family group conference (FGC) in the proceeding closest to referral.

They also:

- had a much higher average number of offences in the 12 months prior to referral (5.6 vs. 1.9 for those who did not reoffend)
- recorded a total seriousness score over three times higher (937 vs. 303)
- were more likely to have had one or more care and protection Reports of Concern (RoCs) by the referral date (93% vs. 82%)
- were more concentrated in the Auckland City, Canterbury, and Wellington Police Districts, and less so in the Counties Manukau Police District.

No statistically significant differences in the reoffending rate were found according to age at referral, ethnicity, or referral year.

¹⁵ The ethnicity of two of the participants was not recorded, so they were not included in this table.

Increased offending frequency after referral

Participants who increased their offending frequency in the year following referral:

- were more likely to have received court action or a youth justice FGC in the proceeding closest to referral
- had a higher total seriousness of offending in the 12 months prior to referral (868 vs. 554)
- were more likely to have had one or more RoCs by referral (95% vs. 84%)
- were more likely to be proceeded against in the Auckland City and Canterbury Police Districts, and less so in the Bay of Plenty, Counties Manukau, or Waitemātā Police Districts.

No statistically significant differences in offending frequency were found according to age at referral, gender, ethnicity, prior offending frequency, or referral year.

Increased offending seriousness after referral

When comparing those who increased the seriousness of their offending to those who didn't, fewer observable characteristics showed statistically significant differences.

Those who increased their offending seriousness were more likely to:

- be male
- have a higher average number of offences in the 12 months prior to referral (5.0 vs. 3.5)
- have had one or more prior RoCs by referral to Fast Track (95% vs. 84%).

No significant differences in offending seriousness were found according to age at referral, ethnicity, highest method of proceeding closest to referral, prior total seriousness score, referral year, or police district.

The re-referral rate to Fast Track does not reflect actual reoffending

As of the week ending 4 July 2025, 32% of the 564 distinct children and 18% of the 390 distinct young people had been referred to Fast Track more than once. This analysis has shown that the re-referral rate to Fast Track is not indicative of reoffending patterns.

A lower re-referral rate is not surprising given it is a discretionary decision for police whether they re-refer children and young people each time they reoffend, and reoffending outcomes more directly reflect actual offending patterns. Differences in the re-referral and reoffending rates are unlikely to be due to differences between the analytical sample and the broader population of Fast Track participants (discussed in the Methodology section).

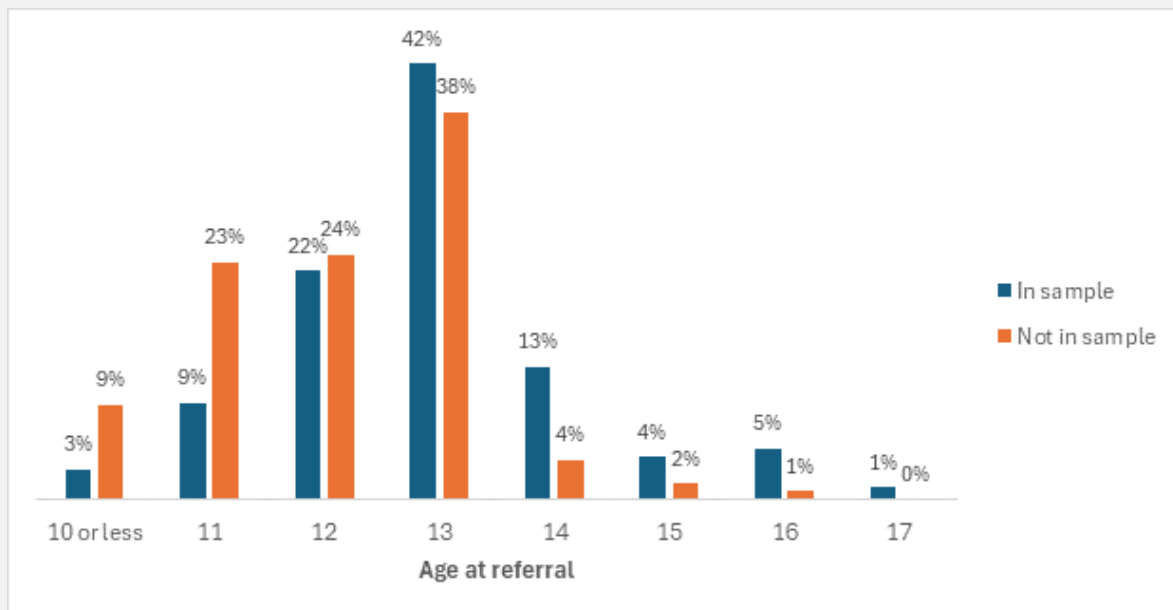
Appendices

Appendix A: Characteristics of analytical sample compared to those excluded from the analysis

Age

The majority (77%) of participants in the Fast Track sample were children aged 13 years or younger when first referred to Fast Track, with the remaining 23% being young people aged 14 to 17 (Figure 4 below). Children aged 13 years accounted for 42% of all first-time referrals, while 12-year-olds accounted for a further 22%.

Figure 4: Age of individuals first referred to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024, by whether they were included in the reoffending analysis sample



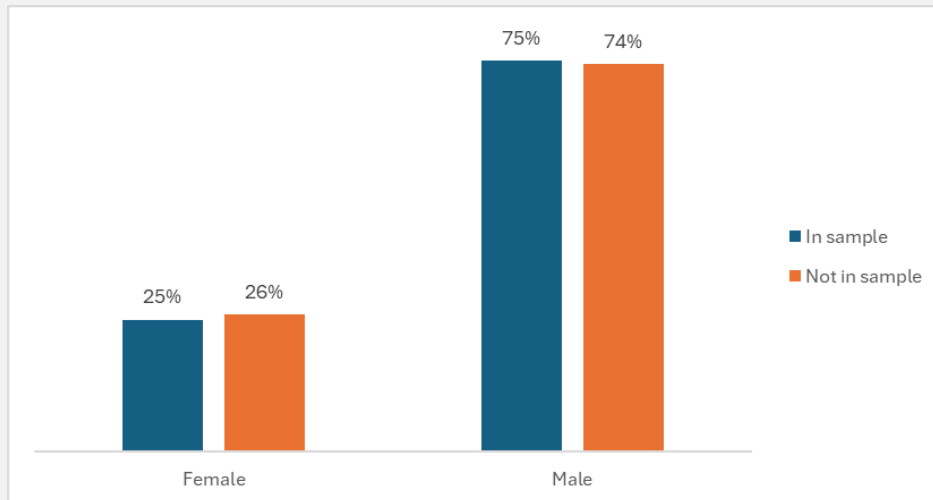
A total of 130 first referrals to Fast Track had to be excluded from the analysis as complete offending data was not available for them. Figure 4 shows that those included in the sample were slightly older than those excluded from the analysis.

Gender

As Figure 5 shows, three-quarters (75%) of the analysis sample were male and 25% were female. This difference reflects that males generally offend more often than females.¹⁶

¹⁶ In 2023/24, males made up 71% and females made up 29% of all distinct children and young people proceeded against by police ([Youth Justice Indicators | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#)).

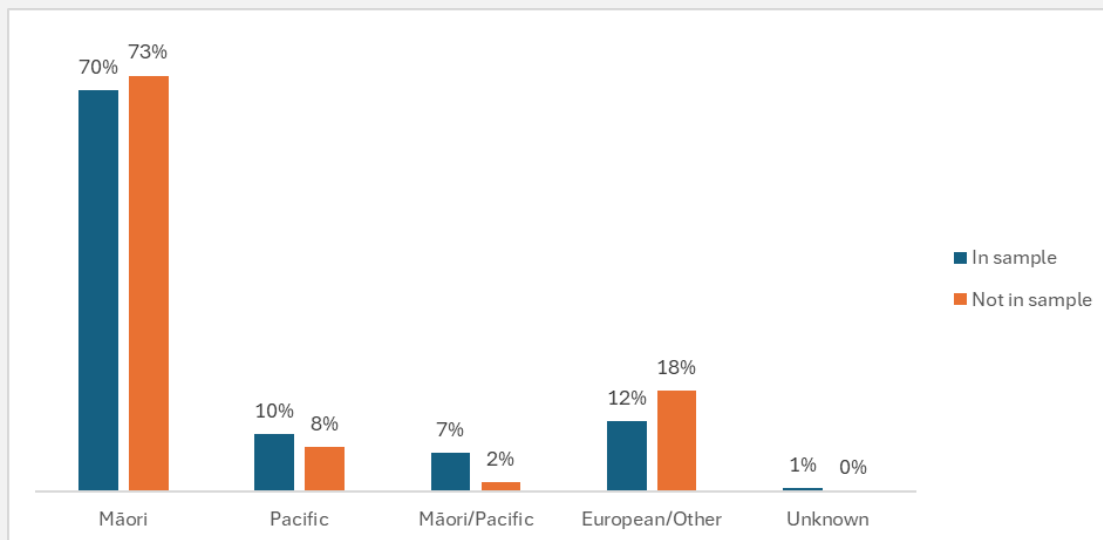
Figure 5: Gender of individuals first referred to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024, by whether they were included in the reoffending analysis sample



Ethnicity

Seventy percent of children and young people in the sample were Māori, 10% were Pacific peoples, 7% identified as both Māori and Pacific peoples, and 12% were of European/Other ethnicity¹⁷ (Figure 6). Those excluded from the sample were slightly more likely to be Māori or European/Other than those included in the sample.

Figure 6: Ethnicity of individuals first referred to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024, by whether they were included in the reoffending analysis sample



Police district

As Figure 7 below shows, referrals to Fast Track from Counties Manukau (49%) and Waitematā Police Districts (17%) accounted for nearly two-thirds (65%) of those in the analytical sample. This is not surprising as these two sites have been operating

¹⁷ The computer system used to record data about Fast Track participants only captures primary ethnicity except for Māori/Pacific.

for much longer than the more recently established sites (see Table 5 below). There are some regional variations for those excluded from the analytical group particularly for Northland and Waikato, where participants were less likely to be included in the analytical sample. Conversely, those from Waitematā were over three times more likely to be included in the analytical sample.

Figure 7: Police district of referral for individuals first referred to Fast Track up to 30 June 2024, by whether they were included in the reoffending analysis sample

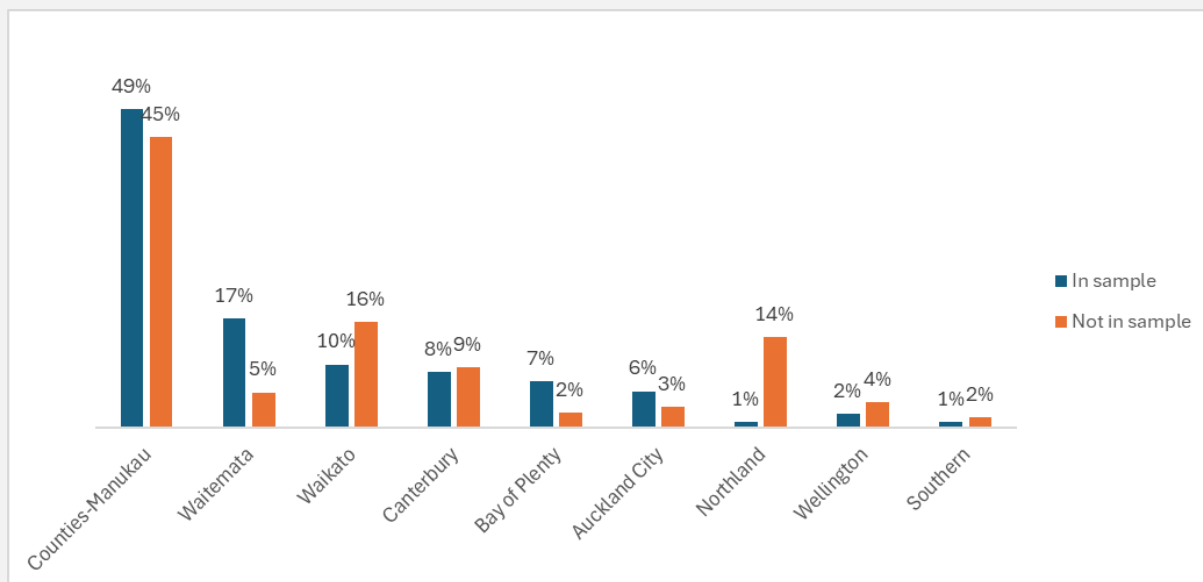


Table 5 below shows the name of each of the Fast Track initiatives operating in various police districts and the dates they were established.

Table 5: Establishment date and location for each Fast Track initiative

Police district	Fast Track local name	Date established
Counties Manukau	South Auckland – Kotahi te Whakaaro	May-21
Waitematā	Multidisciplinary Cross Agency Team (MDCAT) West Auckland	Dec-22
Auckland City	Auckland Central –Te Kāhui Whitiōra	May-23
Canterbury	Christchurch – Ōtautahi Interagency	May-23
Waikato	Hamilton Fast-Track – Kaapua Te Kaakaho	May-23
Bay of Plenty	Bay of Plenty	Oct-23
Northland	Northland	Nov-23
Southern	Southern – Fast Track Dunedin	Mar-24
Wellington	Wellington –Te Pōtiki o te Waharoa	Mar-24

Note: Kotahi te Whakaaro was established in 2021 as a pilot and did not become part of 'Fast Track' until December 2022.

Appendix B: Additional information about the Fast Track programme

Recording offending

A key principle of the youth justice system is to divert children and young people away from *criminal proceedings (prosecution)*, where possible, using diversionary processes. These diversionary processes include warnings, Alternative Action, and youth justice FGCs, and as these are ‘formal’ responses to offending allowed for in the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, they are recorded in the Police NIA computer system and therefore should appear in the RCOS data.

In keeping with this underlying principle, the Fast Track programme aims to prevent further escalation into or through the youth justice system. This may extend to recording practices in some instances. For example, Police may have created a record for a child with their role for the offence being ‘suspect’ rather than ‘offender’, and this means they would not appear in the RCOS data. We understand that, in some instances, this is because Fast Track is being used as an alternative to formal diversionary actions. Where such records are missing from the RCOS data we cannot accurately include these cases in a formal reoffending analysis as we do not know how many offences there were or how serious they were.

Recording information about Fast Track

Police can refer young people to Fast Track via an online application, which Oranga Tamariki can then access and add information to. Oranga Tamariki does not record referrals to Fast Track, or subsequent work with the whānau by the Fast Track table, in our CYRAS case management system. The cross-agency table record their work with whānau within the Family Safety System (FSS) which can be accessed by all agencies or using an alternative (non-agency) recording system.

How the Fast Track table operates

Fast Track is a whānau-centric, holistic response to addressing the wellbeing requirements and the immediate needs of children and young people (and their whānau) who have come to the attention of Police, and where Police are concerned about the offending escalating. Fast Track provides a cross-agency collaborative, whānau focused, and flexible response.

Fast Track brings together government and non-government agencies to share information, review cases and visit whānau within 24 hours of the alleged offending. It is designed to prevent escalation into or through the youth justice system. It identifies what is prompting the child or young person to offend, and why, and then works to address underlying needs/issues. The multi-agency team share updates and triage what the most important needs are. This makes it easier to identify what is going on for these families together, rather than working in silos.

A unified strategy is forged that is guided by whānau and child input, supporting urgent needs, psychosocial pressures, and future aspirations. The multi-agency team then ensure a comprehensive response is available to the entire whānau.

Collaborative engagement with non-government partners is pivotal in reaching previously hesitant whānau, diverging from unsuccessful past methods. The programme is guided by equity principles and has drawn on innovative community-led responses to accentuate systemic solutions.

A focus on underlying issues

The Fast Track tables complete assessments focusing on the underlying issues, and immediate needs of the whole whānau to support whānau resilience and prevent escalation through the youth justice system.

The plans usually include re-engagement with education, whānau and community, can include facilitating stable housing, assessing support needs for all members of the household, and often include innovative ideas which go the extra mile beyond standard service provision.

The data shows that many of the children and young people who have engaged in offending behaviours are experiencing complex difficulties in their lives, including violence in the home and disengagement from education. Changing the environment they are living in could disrupt anti-social behaviours.

Agencies meet the same day to identify those with the best relationship with the child or young person and their whānau. This is often a community youth worker who visits the home to understand needs and plan an appropriate, whānau led response. Other agencies, such as health, education or social services, are linked in to provide a 'wrap around' service for the child or young person and the whānau, with supports as required. The youth worker builds on the relationship with the whānau with the support of all agencies behind them.

The programme has seen positive signs of success in preventing children and young people from escalating through the youth justice system. This success highlights the strong focus Oranga Tamariki continues to have on the prevention of offending and reoffending through child-centred and co-ordinated partnerships with other government agencies, iwi and the community.

Appendix C: Estimated impact of excluding 130 people from the analysis

Excluding 130 people from the analysis cohort may have inflated the reoffending outcomes shown in the report if they were mostly newer offenders who did not reoffend. Whether this was the case could not be assessed at source by the authors as the offending data comes from the Police NIA computer system.

However, we estimated the effect of removing these 130 children and young people from the study sample by using the assumptions listed below to create estimates of reoffending outcomes if they had been included in the analysis. The assumptions used to calculate a *conservative* estimate were:

- all 73 people who had no RCOS data available did not reoffend
- for the 57 people with RCOS data, but with no offences recorded in the 12 months before referral, use the available data which showed 40 reoffended within 12 months, and the other 17 did not reoffend
- all 130 people had only one prior offence before being referred to Fast Track, of the type recorded in the Fast Track data (e.g., burglary or robbery). A more specific offence was imputed in each case based on the most common offences in the RCOS data within each offence type for other participants.

Table 6: Estimated reoffending outcomes for Fast Track participants in the 12 months after first referral including the 130 people excluded from the analysis cohort

Outcome	Analysis cohort (n=342)	Full cohort (n=472)
Reoffended	58%	51%
Did not reoffend	42%	49%
Reduced frequency of offending	58%	61%
Reduced total seriousness of offending	59%	63%
Reduced seriousness of most serious offence	60%	63%

Using the conservative scenario, had the 130 people been included in the analysis ('Full cohort' in Table 6):

- the reoffending rate is lower by an estimated 7pp (51% rather than 58%)
- consequently, the proportion who did not reoffend is an estimated 7pp higher (49% rather than 42%)
- the proportions who reduced the frequency or seriousness of their offending are an estimated 3pp to 4pp higher (61-63% rather than 58-60%).

The RCOS data showed us that at least 31% (40) of the 130 people excluded had reoffended. Merging this data with the offending data for the analysis cohort of 342 people does not change the reoffending outcomes hugely, even under conservative assumptions.