

# The Rest

## Relationship Statistics

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### YOUNG PEOPLE AND RESILIENCE

- There are approximately 3 million young people aged 6-16 in Australia comprising about 15% of the population.
- There were 76,000 more males than females in the 6-16 age group in 2003.
- Approximately 4% of those aged 0-16 are indigenous.
- Just under 40% of young people aged 6-16 live in regional, rural and remote areas.
- Based on family type, approximately 71.8% of children aged 0-17 live with an intact parent couple, 19.5% live with one parent, 4.8% with a blended couple, and 3.4% with a step-couple.
- As the child grows older there is an increasing tendency for mothers to engage in employment. 60% of couple mothers and 40% of lone mothers with a child aged five are in part-time or full-time employment. This figure rises to 70% and 60% respectively when the child reaches 14.
- 14% of those aged 12-17 were suffering from a mental health problem in 1998 according to the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare.
- Researchers have identified a number of risk factors that can adversely impact upon the well-being of children and young people. These include poor social skills, difficult temperament, family violence, harsh or inconsistent punishment, school failure, deviant peer group, neighbourhood violence and crime, discrimination, and family break-up.
- There are also protective factors that promote resilience in young people and hence help to reduce the likelihood that these risk factors will lead to undesirable outcomes in young people. Protective factors may include attachment to family, optimism, coping skills, secure and stable family, recognition of achievement, community networking, and community or ethnic/cultural pride.
- Analysis of data from the Australian Temperament Project being conducted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies and the Victorian Department of Justice showed that 100 out of 286 children identified as being high risk in terms of anti-social behaviour at the age of 11-12 were no longer classed as being at risk by the age of 17. This group was defined by researchers as being more resilient.

#### SOURCES:

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