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Youth Justice Statistics 2010/11

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Introduction

This publication attempts for the first time to capture statistics from across the Youth Justice System (YJS) in England and Wales in one place. Following on from the recommendations in the Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics report¹ this publication shows the user the flows through the YJS for young people aged 10-17. The publication builds on and supersedes previous Youth Justice Statistics publications which focused solely on YJB data.

The data described in this document comes from various sources including the Home Office (HO), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and youth secure estate providers. Details of all the administrative databases, bespoke collections and research findings used for this report can be found in the [Explanatory notes](#). Where data are taken from other publications links can be found within the chapters to the full report. A separate glossary has been published alongside this report to provide users with further information on the terminology, especially the types of disposals given to young people.

The focus for this publication is to draw together a range of statistical data about young people (aged 10-17 years) and the youth justice system in the year 2010/11. The data are compared with the previous financial year (2009/10) as a short term comparator and where data are available, a longer time series is provided.

As this is an annual report the focus is on 2010/11, however much of the data used in this report is drawn from quarterly publications from the MoJ, more up to date information may be available. We wish to draw user's attention to this as we do not wish to create confusion and would like to encourage users to explore other publications for more up to date information. We hope this provides an overall summary of the youth justice system which allows users to find everything in one place. All data referred to in this report are available in the supplementary tables that accompany this report.

The publication starts by looking at the number of [young people coming into the system](#) through arrests, cautions, and penalty notices for disorder or anti-social behaviour orders. It then goes on to look at those who are [entering the system for the first time](#). The publication goes on to describe the [characteristics of young people](#) in the youth justice system in terms of demographics.

The publication also covers the [proven offences](#) committed by young people and the [court disposals](#) they received. There are separate chapters on the [use of remand](#) (both in custody and in the community) for young people;

¹ www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/reports/index.html

details of the profile of [young people in custody](#) and [behaviour management in the youth secure estate and serious incidents in the community](#).

Towards the end of the publication we look at trends in proven [youth re-offending](#), the [criminal histories](#) of young people in the system and the differences between the trends in the [youth and adult system](#) and findings from the [Juvenile Cohort Study](#) and the [perceptions of young people and youth crime](#) in the YJS using data from the British Crime Survey (BCS).

Finally, there are annexes to the publication that cover [key outcome measures](#) relating to youth justice in 2010/11, as well as information on [budget and staffing levels in youth offending teams](#).

We welcome feedback on the new layout of this publication.

Executive Summary

This publication looks at the youth justice system (YJS) in 2010/11 in terms of number of young people in the system, their offences and outcomes and direction of travel over time.

Overview

The YJS in England and Wales works to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people under the age of eighteen. The youth justice system is different to the adult system and is structured to address the needs of young people. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is the executive non-departmental public body (with board members appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice) that oversees the YJS in England and Wales. Alongside this the YJB works to ensure that custody for young people is safe and secure and tries to address the causes of their offending behaviour.

The number of young people in the YJS has continued to reduce in 2010/11. Reductions have been seen in the number entering the system for the first time, as well as reductions in those receiving disposals in and out of court, including those receiving custodial sentences. Since 2007/08 there are 55 per cent fewer young people coming into the system, 30 per cent fewer young people in custody and 29 per cent fewer re-offences by young people. While the rate of re-offending has been broadly stable over the last decade, the frequency of re-offending has reduced by 17 per cent since 2000.

Arrests and out of court disposals

In 2009/10 there were 1,386,030 arrests of which 241,737 were of people aged 10-17. Thus, 10-17 year olds accounted for 17 per cent of all arrests but were 11 per cent of the population of England and Wales of offending age².

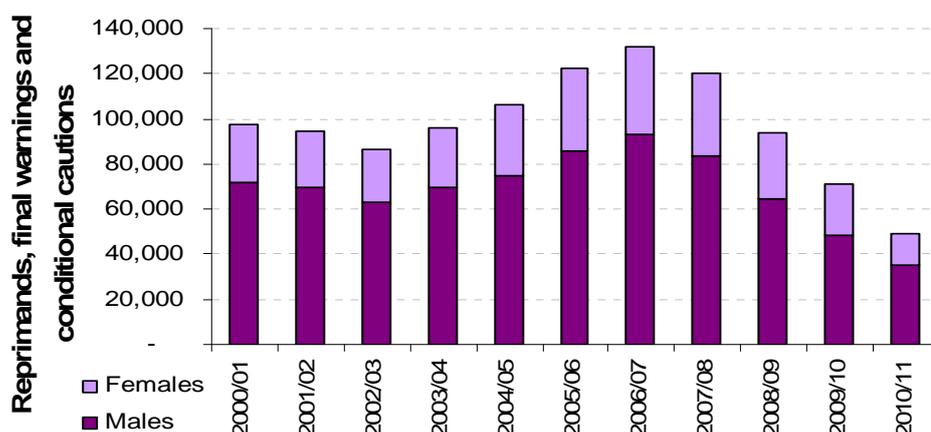
There were also 49,407 reprimands and final warnings (collectively called youth cautions) given to young people in England and Wales in 2010/11. This is a decrease of 30 per cent on the 70,734 given in 2009/10, and a decrease of 62 per cent on the 131,660 given at the peak in 2006/07.

There were 7,507 penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) given to 16-17 year olds in 2010/11 and in 2010 there were 536 Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) given to young people. The number of PNDs given to young people has gone down by 30 per cent since 2009/10, and down 64 per cent since the peak in 2006/07.

² People of offending age are classed as those 10 or older.

Out of court disposals fell in every offence group except robbery and sexual offences, and by 30 per cent overall. This continues the decline since 2007 which coincided with the replacement in April 2008 of a target to increase offences brought to justice, with one placing more emphasis on bringing serious crime to justice. The latter target was subsequently removed in December 2010.

Trends in out of court disposals (reprimands, final warnings and conditional cautions), 2000/01 to 2010/11



Court disposals

In 2010/11 there were 72,011 court disposals given to young people aged 10 to 17 in England and Wales. The total number of disposals given to young people at the courts has fallen 8 per cent from 78,561 in 2009/10 to 72,011 in 2010/11. The number of custodial disposals fell 10 per cent from 4,657 in 2009/10 to 4,177 in 2010/11. This type of disposal has fallen 44 per cent since 2000/01, when 7,498 custodial disposals were given to young people. The custody rate was 5.8% in 2010/11. The custody rate has fluctuated around 6 per cent for the last five years.

Trends in court disposals given to young people, 2009/10 to 2010/11

	2009/10	2010/11	Change from 2009/10 to 2010/11
Number given immediate custody	4,657	4,177	-10%
Number given fines	7,683	6,070	-21%
Number given community sentences	52,772	46,984	-11%
Number given other sentences	13,449	14,780	10%
Number sentenced	78,561	72,011	-8%

Proven offences by young people

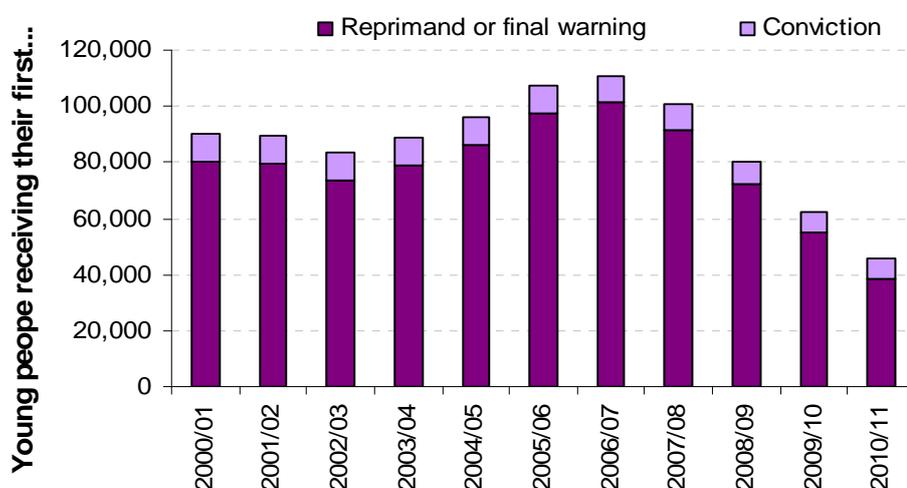
Overall there were 176,511 proven offences by young people in 2010/11, down 11 per cent from 2009/10. In the last year there has been a notable reduction in offences by young people, in particular; motoring offences (24%), breach of a statutory order (19%) and theft offences (18%). Some

offence types saw an increase between 2009/10 and 2010/11; Robbery (up 11%) and burglary (up 2%).

Young people receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction (First-time entrants)

In 2010/11, there were 45,519 first time entrants to the youth justice system. The number of first time entrants has fallen by 50 per cent from 2000/01 to 2010/11. These reductions cannot be explained by one factor alone. As mentioned previously the changes in pre-court disposals coincided with changes to a Government target. Increased funding was also made available to Youth Offending Teams for preventative and diversionary work with young people which may also have had an impact.

Trends in first time entrants, 2000/01 to 2010/11



Young people supervised by Youth Offending Teams

There were 85,300 young people supervised by Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) in 2010/11. This number has reduced 20 per cent from 2009/10. However, the group that is left maybe more challenging to work with, as shown in the higher predicted rate of re-offending.

Young people in custody

The average population of young people in custody in 2010/11 (including 18 year olds held in the youth secure estate) was 2,222. This is a 17 per cent reduction on the 2009/10 figure of 2,670.

Overall the average length of time spent in custody decreased by two days, from 80 days in 2009/10 to 78 days in 2010/11, mainly caused by time spent in custody on remand. For Detention and Training Orders, it increased by two days (from 109 to 111), for remand it decreased by three days (from 44 to 41) and for longer sentences it increased by 25 days (from 349 to 374).

Behaviour management in the youth secure estate

There were 7,191 incidents of restraint used in the youth secure estate in 2010/11, down 9 per cent from 2008/09. Alongside this there were 1,424 incidents of self harm, down 45 per cent from 2008/09, and 3,554 assaults by young people, down 15 per cent since 2008/09. There were 4,462 occasions where single separation was used in Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) or Secure Training Centres (STCs), down 43 per cent since 2008/09.

Serious incidents in the community

In 2010, there were 23 deaths in the community, where young people under supervision died either through murder, suicide or accidental death³. It should be noted that although these people are under supervision by the Youth Offending Teams, the supervision is not 24 hours a day and incidents may happen at home etc. Of the deaths in the community four were murdered in that period. This compares to 23 deaths in the community in 2009.

In 2010, YOTs reported that 167 young people under their supervision attempted suicide⁴. This compares to 113 in 2009. In 2010 there were 21 'other' safeguarding incidents reported, where the young person was the victim of an offence. This compares to 15 in 2009.

Re-offending by young people

The overall re-offending rate for young people was 33.3 per cent in 2009/10, with an average of 2.79 re-offences per re-offender. While the rate of re-offending has been broadly stable over the last decade, the average number of re-offences per re-offender has reduced by 17 per cent since 2000.

While the overall rate of re-offending has remained broadly stable the number of young people in the re-offending cohort has gone down, with particular reductions among those with no previous offences and those receiving pre-court disposals. Because of this, those young people coming into the criminal justice system are, on balance, more challenging to work with. This is reflected in the higher predicted rate of re-offending and the higher average previous number of offences for each young person. After controlling for these differences, the rate of re-offending had fallen by 1.9 percentage points.

³ Accidental deaths includes those who died in road traffic accidents.

⁴ The absence of an agreed definition of what constitutes an 'attempted suicide' or 'near-death' means that decisions about which incidents are reported under this heading are subjective

Risk factors associated with proven re-offending

Previous research has shown that young people coming into contact with the youth justice system present with a range of difficulties (e.g. substance misuse) and multiple needs. Such difficulties could be associated with re-offending and therefore are referred to as 'risk factors'.

Findings from the Juvenile Cohort Study (JCS) indicated that young offenders presented with a range of risk factors (the median was four). As the severity of YJS disposal increased, so did:

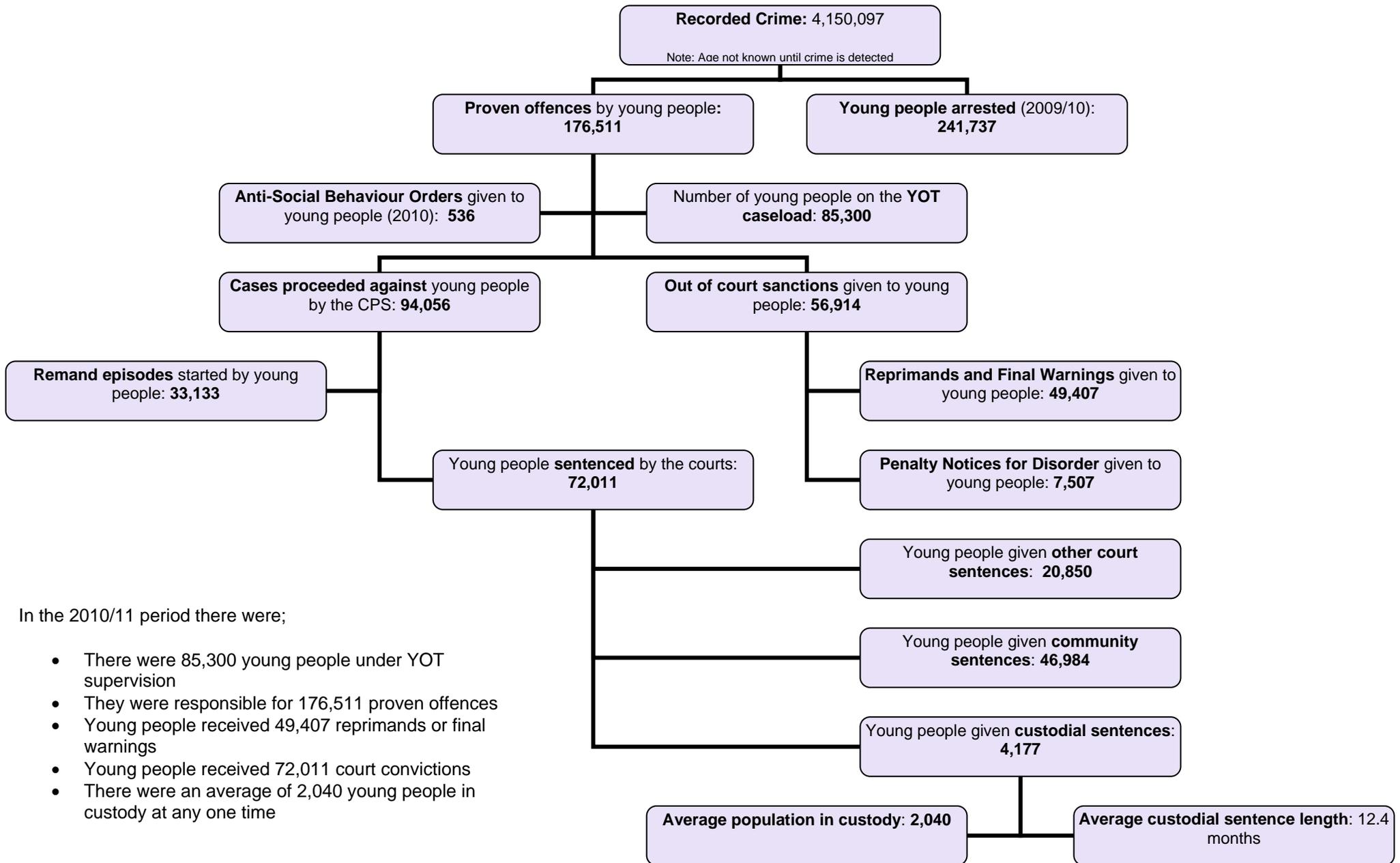
- a) the percentage of young people with each risk factor, for example: a fifth (19%) of 1st tier disposals had a risk in terms of 'living arrangements', compared with 36 per cent of those on community sentences and 45 per cent of those on Detention and Training Orders (DTOs); and
- b) the average number of risk factors they displayed i.e. 1st tier (median=3); community sentences (median=6); DTOs (median=7).

Risk factors were associated with one-year proven re-offending. For example: as the number of factors increased so did the percentage who re-offended (34% of those who had 0-2 risks compared with 81% of those who had 11-12 risks).

Perceptions of youth crime and the Youth Justice System

Public perceptions from the 2010/11 British Crime Survey (BCS) emphasise the perceived importance of rehabilitation, alongside a desire generally for more stringent treatment of offenders by the police and courts.

Findings include that nearly half (45%) of respondents believed rehabilitation should be the main aim of the Youth Justice System (by far the most popular response), and over half of respondents were confident in the way youth crime and ASB was tackled in their local area (59%). That said, two-thirds (64%) thought that young offenders were dealt with too leniently by the police and courts (although there was an increase from the previous year in the proportion that felt treatment was 'about right' - from 26 per cent to 32 per cent).



In the 2010/11 period there were;

- There were 85,300 young people under YOT supervision
- They were responsible for 176,511 proven offences
- Young people received 49,407 reprimands or final warnings
- Young people received 72,011 court convictions
- There were an average of 2,040 young people in custody at any one time

Chapter 1: Gateway to the youth justice system

This chapter provides details of young people who were arrested⁵ and given out of court disposals in 2010/11. These disposals included: Final Warnings, Reprimands (youth equivalent of cautions) and Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs). There is also information on Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) which are a civil sanction given at court and can also be given on conviction for a criminal offence.

The data on out of court disposals has mostly been taken from the MoJ's Court Proceedings Database (CPD). For further information see the Criminal Justice Statistics publication, please note this publication now covers data up to June 2011.

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics.htm

Further information on court disposals can be found in [Chapter 5](#) and definitions can be found in the glossary.

Key findings

- In 2009/10 there were 241,737 young people (aged 10-17) arrested for an offence, accounting for 17 per cent of the total people arrested. However young people (10-17) accounted for only 11 per cent of the offending age population⁶ (i.e. those aged 10 and over), suggesting young people are over-represented in the criminal justice system.
- In 2010/11, there were also 49,407 reprimands and final warnings (collectively youth cautions) given to young people in England and Wales. This is a decrease of 30 per cent on the 70,734 given in 2009/10, and a decrease of 49 per cent on the 97,762 given in 2000/01.
- There were 7,507 Penalty notices for disorder given to 16-17 year olds in 2010/11 and in 2010 there were 536 Anti Social Behaviour Orders given to young people.

⁵ The arrest data comes from the Home Office and is only available up to 2009/10.

⁶ Taken from the ONS mid year estimates for 2010. www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/reference-tables.html?edition=tcM%3A77-231847

Arrests for notifiable offences⁷

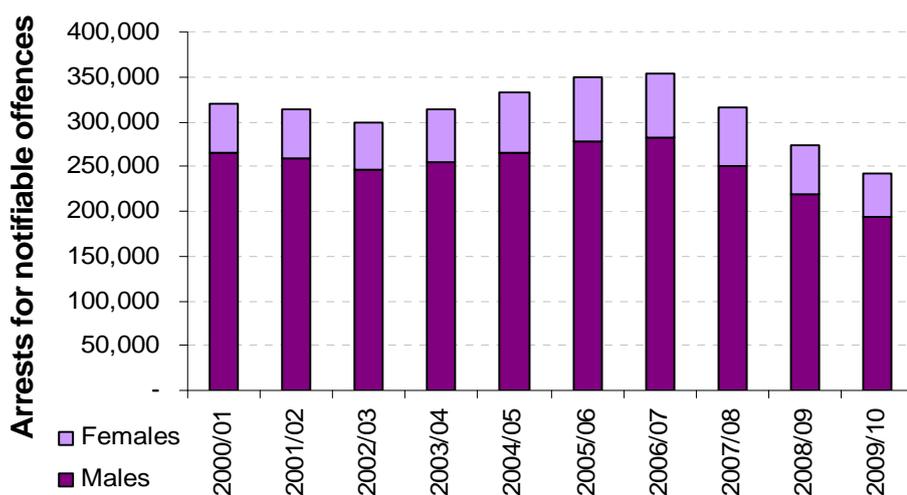
Data on arrests are taken from the Home Office 'Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales 2009/10'. Data for 2010/11 is not yet available and will be published in the spring of 2012.

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/researchstatistics/policersearch/hosb0711/hosb0711?view=Binary

Figures on arrests reported to the Home Office reflect police activity and should not be used to infer total levels of crime committed by young people.

- In 2009/10 there were 241,737 young people (aged 10-17) arrested for an offence. Arrests of young people accounted for 17 per cent of total arrests in 2009/10. However, young people account for only 11 per cent of the offending age population (i.e. those aged 10 and over). Young males accounted for 14 per cent of total arrests and young females three per cent. They account for five per cent each of the overall population respectively.
- Arrests of young people fell by 12 per cent from 2008/09 to 2009/10.
- Between 2000/01 and 2009/10 the number of young people arrested for notifiable offences has fallen by 25 per cent. From 320,600 in 2000/01 to 241,737 in 2009/10.
- Males accounted for 80 per cent of arrests in 2009/10; this proportion has been broadly stable over the last decade.

Chart 1.1: Trends in arrests of young people for notifiable offences by gender, 2000/01 to 2009/10



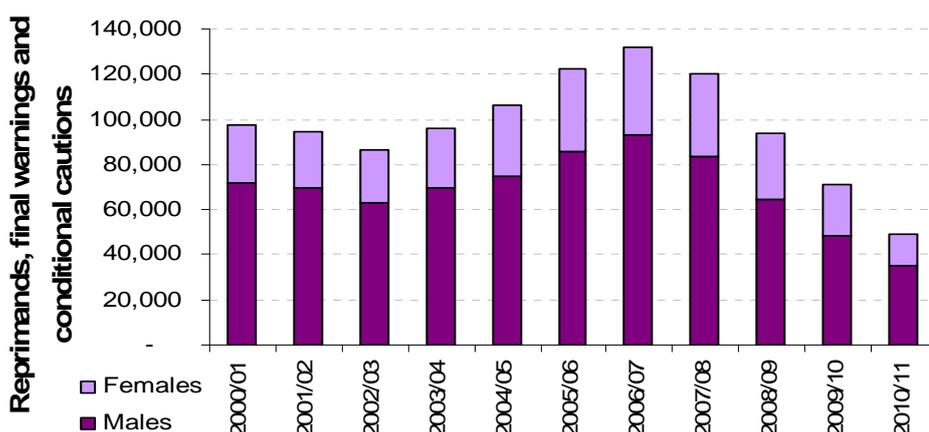
⁷ Notifiable offences are those offences which require the police to record an incident as a crime and report the occurrence to the Home Office.

Final warnings, reprimands and conditional cautions

There were 49,407 final warnings, reprimands and conditional cautions given to young people in 2010/11. This is a decrease of 30 per cent on the 70,734 given in 2009/10, and a decrease of 49 per cent on the 97,762 given in 2000/01.

- Between 2009/10 and 2010/11 the number of final warnings, reprimands or conditional cautions given to young people fell by 38 per cent for females, and 27 per cent for males.
- Between 2009/10 and 2010/11 there was a 42 per cent increase in the number of young people given a final warning, reprimand or conditional caution for robbery. There was also a one per cent increase in young people given out of court disposals for sexual offences, from 409 to 414 disposals; however these numbers are small and tend to fluctuate year to year. All other offence types showed a decrease.

Chart 1.2: Trends in reprimands, final warnings and conditional cautions by gender, 2000/01 to 2010/11



The main factor that has affected the trend for arrests and out of court disposals for young people in recent years is the Offences Bought to Justice target (OBTJ), which created targets for the police around the number of offences reported to them that should be bought to justice, i.e. resolved and an offender given a caution or conviction. The peak of arrests and out of court disposals for young people occurred in 2006/07 and the subsequent large falls coincide with the replacement of the target in April 2008, which placed more emphasis on bringing more serious crimes to justice, and in December 2010 it was dropped entirely.

This pattern is also seen in the number of First Time Entrants to the youth justice system ([Chapter 2](#)).

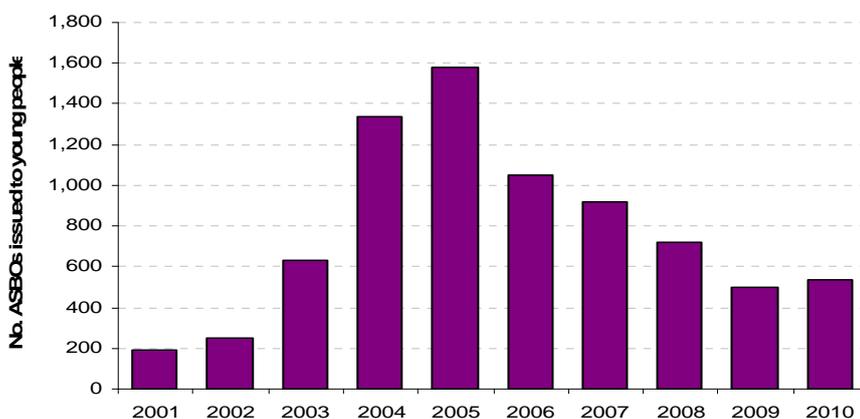
Anti Social Behaviour Orders

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are civil orders, designed to prevent someone causing 'harassment, alarm or distress'. They can be issued on application to a court by a relevant body (police, local authority, etc.) since 2nd December 2002, they can also be issued following conviction for a relevant criminal offence. Breach of an ASBO is a criminal offence, punishable by up to two years in custody (five years for adults). ASBOs became available from 1 April 1999; however data on the age of ASBOs recipients are only available from 1 June 2000. The latest published data cover the period to the end of 2010. For further information please see; www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/asbo-stats-england-wales-2010/?view=StandardandpubID=951081

In 2010, there were 536 ASBOs given to young people aged 10-17 years. This is an increase of seven per cent on 2009, when there were 501 ASBOs issued to young people. In 2001 there were only 193 ASBOs issued to young people. Of the 536 ASBOs given to young people in 2010 there were 40 (14%) that came with an Individual Support Order⁸.

Since June 2000 there have been 7,785 ASBOs issued to young people. Of these 5,264 (68%) have had a proven breach at court that resulted in action that was dealt with. From these 1,384 (25%) have resulted in a custodial sentence for breach of conditions. The average custodial sentence length given was 6.3 months.

Chart 1.3: Trends in anti-social behaviour orders for young people, 2001 to 2010



⁸ Individual Support Orders are court orders only available for 10-17 year olds which can be attached to ASBOs made on application. ISOs impose positive conditions on the young person to address the underlying causes of the behaviour that led to their ASBO being issued. ISOs are available at magistrates' courts.

Penalty Notices for Disorder

Penalty notices for disorder (PNDs), more commonly known as 'on the spot fines', were introduced under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (sections 1-11). The scheme was initially piloted in four police force areas in England and Wales from August 2002. It was rolled out to all 43 police forces in England and Wales by April 2004. Please note PNDs can only be given to young people aged 16 years and over. However, seven police forces across England and Wales are piloting a PND scheme for juveniles under the age of 16.

There were 7,507 PNDs given to young people in 2010/11. This is a decrease of 30 per cent on the 10,705 given in 2009/10 and a 46 per cent decrease on the 13,977 given in 2005/06. Most (95%) of the PNDs given in 2010/11 were for higher tier offences⁹, the most common offences were;

- Theft (retail under £200), resulted in 2,420 PNDs (32% of all PNDs).
- Causing harassment, alarm or distress resulted in 1,935 PNDs (26%).
- Drunk and disorderly resulted in 1,600 PNDs (21%).

⁹ Higher tier offences are those that attract an £80 charge, lower tier offences attract a £50 charge. For more information please see the supplementary tables for a list of higher/lower tier offences and the following document for more information:

www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice-stats/criminal-justice-statistics-guide-1111.pdf

Chapter 2: First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System

This chapter provides an overview of the number of first time entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system. It is based on data recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) and covers up to 2010/11.

This data relates to proven offences only, where a young person is given a formal out of court or court disposal. As such this is not a measure of the amount of crime committed by young people, as only a proportion of crimes are detected and resolved, and the age of offender is not known until the point of arrest. Although the number of FTEs has fallen the true level of youth crime may be rising or falling. For the latest MoJ publication please see;

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics.htm

An offence is defined as a first offence if it results in the offender receiving their first reprimand, warning, caution or conviction – i.e. they have no previous criminal history recorded on the PNC. Offences resulting in further reprimands, warnings, cautions or convictions are known as further offences since the offender already has a recorded criminal history. For a comparison with adults in the criminal justice system please see [Chapter 11](#).

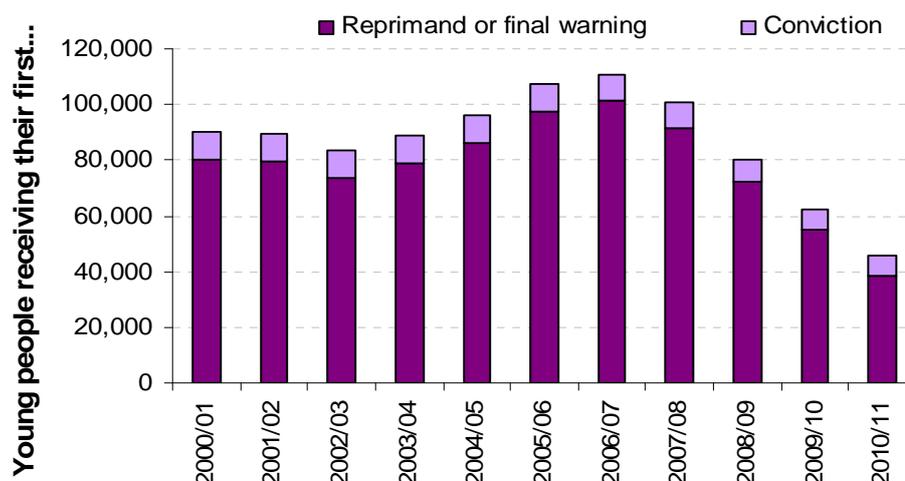
Key findings

- In 2010/11, there were 123,437 young people (aged 10-17 years) who had at least one offence that resulted in a reprimand, warning, caution or conviction. Of these 45,519 (37%) were first offences, and the rest were further offences.
- In 2000/01, 182,275 young people had proven offences, with 50 per cent being first offences.
- The number of young people in the youth justice system peaked in 2006/07 at 227,503, and has since fallen sharply due to falls in the number of reprimands and final warnings issued by the police.

Trends in First Time Entrants to the youth justice system

The number of first time entrants has fallen by 50 per cent from 90,180 in 2000/01 to 45,519 in 2010/11. The number of first time entrants has fallen by 59 per cent, since the peak of 110,815 in 2006/07. In the last year the number of first time entrants has fallen by 27 per cent from 62,504 in 2009/10 to 45,519 in 2010/11.

Chart 2.1: Trends in first time entrants, 2000/01 to 2010/11



Trends in First Time Entrants by demographics

In 2010/11, 36 per cent of first time entrants to the youth justice system were children (aged 10-14). This group (10-14) showed the biggest reduction (63%) in first time entrants between 2007/08 and 2010/11. Females accounted for 28 per cent of all first time entrants in 2010/11, compared to 32 per cent in 2007/08. Since 2007/08 the number of young females entering the youth justice system has fallen 60 per cent, compared to 52 per cent for young males.

Why have first time entrants been falling?

A number of factors have contributed to the trend in FTEs; but it is not possible to attribute direct causality to any of these factors or to quantify the size of the affect from each. The main factor that has affected the trend in the FTEs in recent years is the Offences Bought to Justice Target (OBTJ), which created targets for the police around the number of offences reported to them that should be bought to justice, i.e. resolved and an offender given a caution/conviction. The number of FTEs peaked in 2007 and the subsequent large falls in offending coincide with the replacement of the target in April 2008 with one that placed more emphasis on bringing more serious crimes to justice. In December 2010 it was dropped entirely.

It is also possible that work by youth offending services and other partners to divert young people into alternatives, such as restorative justice disposals and Triage schemes has contributed to this fall.

Chapter 3: Characteristics of Young People in the Youth Justice System

This chapter reports on the demographic characteristics of young people with a proven offence and disposal (substantive outcome) on the Youth Offending Team (YOT) caseload in 2010/11. YOTs may also be working with some young people with outcomes carried over from the previous year (2009/10).

It is important to note that these figures relate to the number of individual young people and not the number of offences or disposals. This data are taken from the Youth Justice Management Information System (YJMIS), which consists of data from the YOTs. To supplement this information data on the number of young people who received a formal sanction (either out of court or a court conviction) is displayed from data taken from the Police National Computer (PNC). These figures are consistently higher than the number of young people on the YOT caseload. The primary reason for this is that YOTs are not necessarily aware of all the reprimands and final warnings issued by the police.

Key findings

- According to the data held on YJMIS, there were 85,300¹⁰ young people under the supervision of YOTs in 2010/11. This is a reduction of 20 per cent from 106,969 in 2009/10. Overall, 78 per cent were male, and 74 per cent aged 15-17 years. Most (82%) came from a White ethnic background.
- Data from the PNC shows that there were 123,437 young people who had first or further offences in 2010/11. This was a 19 per cent reduction from the 152,649 young people on the PNC in 2009/10.

¹⁰ This figure, and all the YJMIS data used in chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6 comes from a snapshot of the live YJMIS system taken in January 2012. This contains data from the YOT case management system, which like any large administrative database is subject to possible recording errors.

The YJMIS has suffered from technical issues in 2010/11 which has led to quality concerns with the data. The technical changes to fix this was supposed to be in place at the end of 2011, however due to delays with the roll out there is a possibility that some of the data are not coming through to the YJMIS correctly, and that this data may change when the technical changes are complete.

Because of this we are publishing national level data for 2010/11 but no local level breakdowns. The local level breakdowns (along with any necessary revisions to the YJMIS data) will be published in the spring of 2012.

Demographics of young people in the youth justice system

There were 85,300 young people under the supervision of Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) in 2010/11. Males accounted for 78 per cent of the young people YOTs reported working with in 2010/11.

There were 22,206 children (aged 10-14) supervised by the YOTs in 2010/11, a reduction of 29 per cent from the 31,458 in 2009/10. Children accounted for 26 per cent of the YOT caseload in 2010/11, compared to 29 per cent in 2009/10.

The number of young girls (aged 10-14) supervised by YOTs was 6,121 in 2010/11, a reduction of 39 per cent from 2009/10. The number of young boys (aged 10-14) supervised by YOTs was 16,076 in 2010/11, a reduction of 25 per cent from 2009/10. The reduction in the older age group (those aged 15-17) was lower, with a 24 per cent reduction for females and a 14 per cent reduction for males.

Young people from a White ethnic background accounted for 82 per cent of all young people on the YOT caseload. Those from a Black ethnic background accounted for seven per cent, those from an Asian ethnic background four per cent, those from a Mixed ethnic background for four per cent, and the Unknown ethnic background two per cent. The Other ethnic background group made up one per cent. These proportions are fairly stable since 2006/07. See [Annex B](#) for how this compares to the general population.

Chart 3.1: Age and gender of young people on the YOT caseload, 2010/11

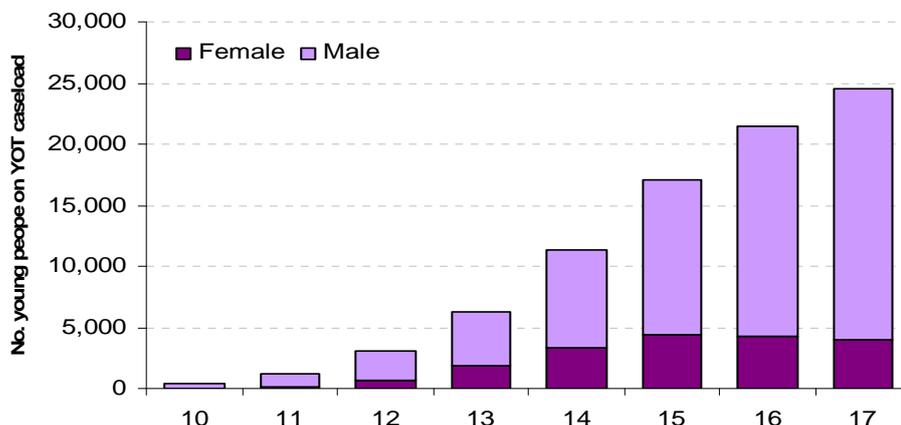
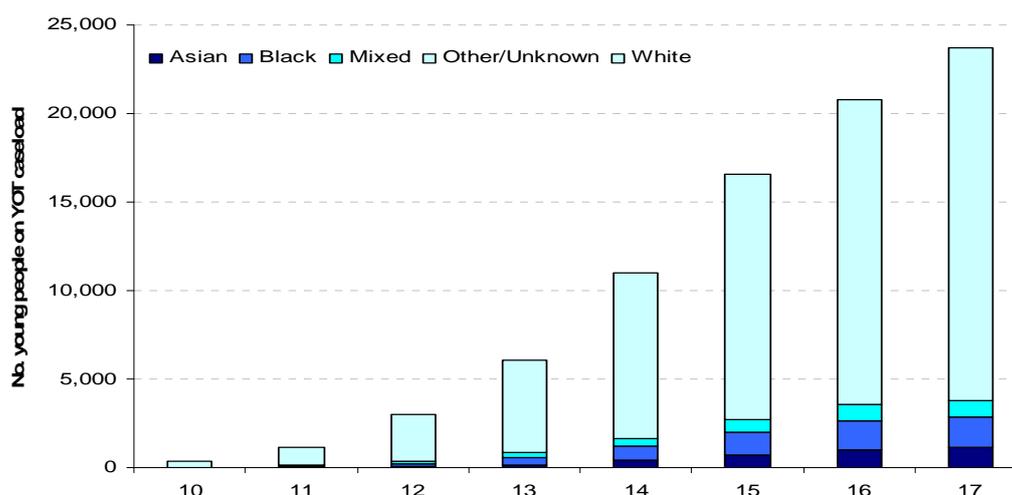


Chart 3.2: Age and ethnicity of young people on the YOT caseload, 2010/11



Trends in number of young people on the YOT caseload, 2006/07 to 2010/11

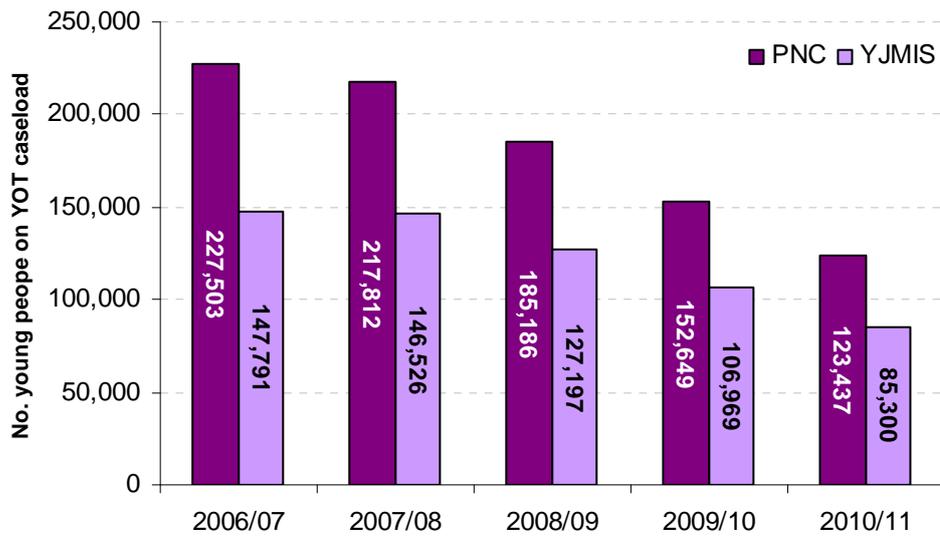
The number of young people YOTs reported working with in 2010/11 was 85,300. This is a 42 per cent reduction from 147,791 young people in 2006/07 and a 20 per cent reduction from 106,969 young people in 2009/10. The reduction was largely driven by the fall in first time entrants to the youth justice system, which fell by 59 per cent from 110,815 in 2006/07 to 45,519 in 2010/11 ([Chapter 2](#))

While the YOT caseload has reduced year-on-year, the level of intensity of the cohort may have increased. Evidence suggests this is the case with the proportion of all young people sentenced for indictable offences who had 15 or more previous convictions or cautions which increased steadily from one per cent in 2000/01, to four per cent in 2010/11 ([Chapter 10](#)) and the average number of previous offences per offender has risen from an average of 1.59 previous offences in 2005/06 to 2.16 in 2009/10 ([Chapter 9](#)).

Trends in the number of young people on the PNC, 2006/07 to 2010/11

The number of young people with a first offence or further offences resulting in a reprimand, warning or conviction recorded on the PNC in 2010/11 was 123,437. This is a reduction of 19 per cent since 2009/10 and a reduction of 46 per cent since 2006/07. The trends shown on the PNC and the YJMIS are similar, although the PNC has consistently higher figures. The YOT caseload is consistently around 70 per cent of the figures from the PNC.

Chart 3.3: Trends in the number of young people in the Youth Justice system: comparing data from YJMIS and the PNC



Chapter 4: Proven offences by young people on the YOT caseload

This chapter covers proven offences by young people in 2010/11. It includes information on the types of offences committed by young people in 2010/11 and over time. The data has been taken from the Youth Justice Management Information System (YJMIS) database, which consists of data from YOTs and covers the principle offence¹¹. The offence breakdown differs from the main offence types¹² used by MoJ.

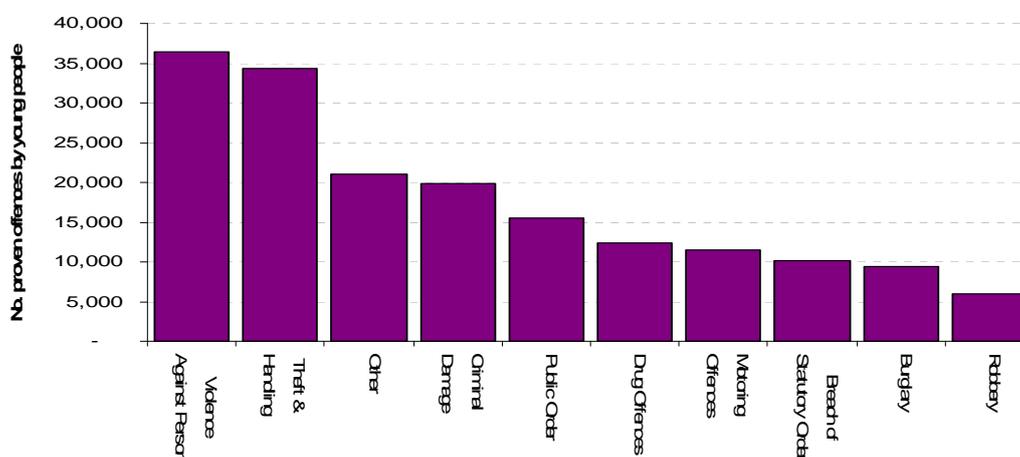
Key findings

- There were 176,511 proven offences committed by young people on the YOT caseload in 2010/11, down 11 per cent from 2009/10.
- The main offence types for young people in 2010/11 were; violence against the person (including common assault) (21%), theft and handling (19%) and criminal damage (11%).

Proven offences by young people on YOT caseload in 2010/11

In 2010/11, there were 176,511 proven offences by young people on the YOTs caseloads which resulted in a formal disposal (either in or out of court). The distribution of offences is shown below.

Chart 4.1: Proven offences by young people, 2010/11



¹¹ A principle offence is the most serious offence when a group of offences are dealt with by the same disposal (in or out of court). This data does not cover offences that are 'taken into consideration'.

¹² These main offence groups differ from those used by the MoJ, for example the offence of common assault is classed as a summary offence by the MoJ, whilst the YJB class it as a violence offence. Burglary includes domestic and non-domestic burglary. Further details on 'other' offences can be found in the supplementary volumes.

Young people on the YOT caseload in 2010/11 by age, gender and ethnicity

For the YOT caseload in 2010/11, the majority (77%) of proven offences were committed by young people aged 15-17 years, with only 23 per cent of proven offences committed by young people aged 10-14 years.

- There were 63,094 young people on the YOT caseload aged 15-17, and a further 22,206 aged 10-14 ([Chapter 3](#)).
- There were 18,941 females, accounting for 22 per cent of the total on the YOT caseload.
- Young people from a White ethnic background accounted for 82 per cent of the total YOT caseload.

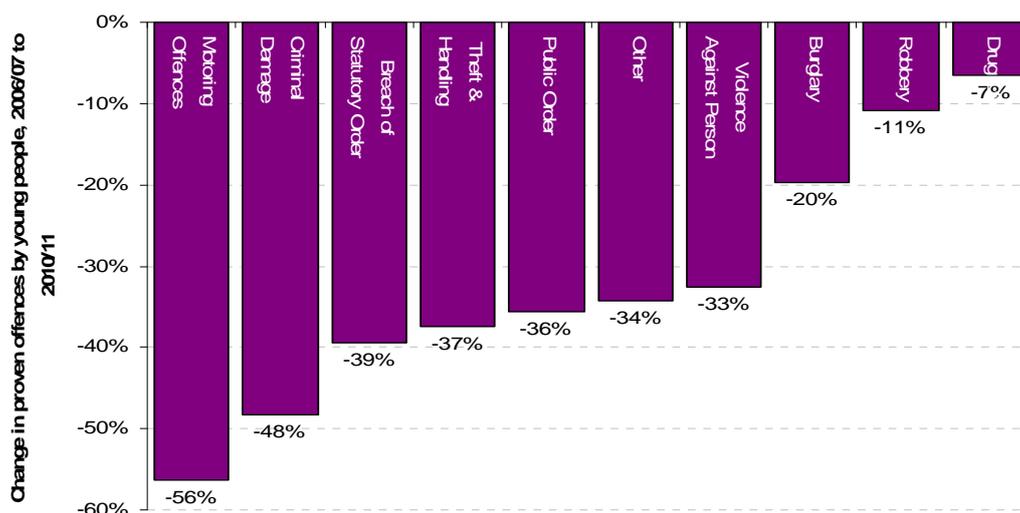
Proven offences by young people over time, 2007/08 to 2010/11

The number of proven offences by young people has fallen 37 per cent between 2007/08 and 2010/11. The number of proven offences fell 11 per cent in the last year, from 198,449 proven offences in 2009/10.

The proportion of proven offences committed by females was 19 per cent in 2010/11; this proportion has been around 20 per cent for the last few years.

The largest falls in proven offences between 2007/08 and 2010/11 have been in; motoring offences (56% reduction), criminal damage (48%) and breach of a statutory order (39%)

Chart 4.2: Reduction in proven offences by young people between 2007/08 to 2010/11



Chapter 5: Court disposals for young people

This chapter covers court disposals given to young people for proven offences in 2010/11. The data has mostly been taken from the MoJ's Court Proceedings Database (CPD). For more information please see;

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics.htm

This chapter also covers information on parenting orders taken from MoJ data and detailed information about the Youth Rehabilitation Orders taken from YJMIS.

Key findings

- In 2010/11 there were 72,011 court disposals given to young people aged 10 to 17 in England and Wales. The total number of disposals given to young people at the courts has fallen eight per cent from 78,561 in 2009/10 to 72,011 in 2010/11.
- The number of custodial disposals fell 10 per cent from 4,657 in 2009/10 to 4,177 in 2010/11. This type of disposal has fallen 44 per cent since 2000/01, when 7,498 custodial disposals were given to young people. The custody rate was 5.8% in 2010/11. The custody rate has fluctuated around six per cent for the last five years.

Court disposals given to young people in 2010/11

There were 71,514 young people found guilty of an offence in court in 2010/11, resulting in 72,011 sentences (disposals) given. These included;

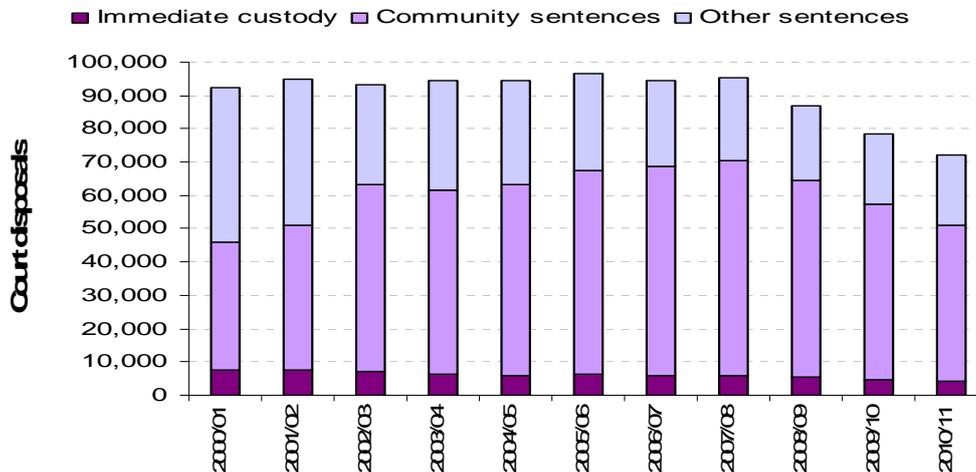
- 4,177 custodial sentences, most (89%) of these were Detention and Training Orders (DTOs).
- 46,984 community sentences.
- 20,850 first-tier sentences (these include discharges, fines and otherwise dealt with disposals. See glossary for more detail).

Court disposals given to young people over time, 2000/01 to 2010/11

- The total number of disposals given to young people at the courts has fallen 8 per cent from 78,561 in 2009/10 to 72,011 in 2010/11.
- Since 2000/01 the total number of disposals given to young people at the courts has fallen 22 per cent, from 92,351 to 72,011 in 2010/11.
- The number of custodial disposals fell 10 per cent from 4,657 in 2009/10 to 4,177 in 2010/11. This type of disposal has fallen 44 per cent since 2000/01, when 7,498 custodial disposals were given to young people.

- The number of community disposals fell 11 per cent from 52,772 in 2009/10 to 46,984 in 2010/11. This type of disposal has risen 22 per cent since 2000/01, when 38,516 community disposals were given to young people.

Chart 5.1: Trends in disposals given to young people at court, 2000/01 to 2010/11



Court disposals given for indictable offences¹³ over time, 2000/01 to 2010/11

There were 40,722 court disposals given to young people for indictable offences in 2010/11, a reduction of 18 per cent since 2000/01. Males accounted for 86 per cent of all court disposals for indictable offences; this proportion has been broadly stable over the last decade.

Youth Rehabilitation Orders

This section covers details of the types of Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YRO) recorded by YOTs for 2010/11 taken from the YJMIS¹⁴. These data are a further breakdown of the YROs recorded on the CPD and because the

¹³ There are three types of offences; triable only on indictment, triable-either-way and summary offences.

Triable only on indictment: These offences are the most serious breaches of the criminal law and must be tried at the Crown Court before a judge and jury. These 'indictable-only' offences include murder, manslaughter, rape and robbery.

Triable-either-way: These offences may be tried either at the Crown Court or at a magistrates' court. These offences include criminal damage where the value is £5,000 or greater, theft, burglary and drink driving. Triable only on indictment and triable either way are frequently amalgamated to form indictable offences.

Summary offences: These offences are usually heard only by a magistrates' court. This group is dominated by motoring offences, for some of which fixed penalties can be issued, but also includes such offences as common assault and criminal damage up to £5,000.

¹⁴ The YJMIS data has suffered from some technical problems for the 2010/11 data, please see comments in Chapter 3 for more details.

data are taken from two different systems the YJMIS data are used to give detail on the types and numbers of requirements.

The YRO is a generic community sentence for young people. It was designed to simplify sentencing, while improving the flexibility of interventions to address individual needs and risks. There are 18 different requirements¹⁵ that can be attached to a YRO, so it is possible for one young person to have multiple requirements. For further details of the requirements please see the glossary.

The data for 2010/11 is the first full year of YRO data, and as such cannot be compared directly with the 2009/10 data, which only covers the period from the 30th November to 31st March, as the YRO only came into effect in November 2009.

In 2010/11 there were 18,024 YROs given to young people by the courts according to data from the MoJ. Using the data on YROs taken from the YJMIS system for 2010/11 the types of requirements attached to a YRO can be shown. There were 23,622 requirements recorded for young people in 2010/11.

- The most commonly used single requirement type was Supervision. It was used in 40 per cent of the YRO requirements.
- Other common requirements included; curfew orders (15% of requirements), electronic monitoring (9%), unpaid work (7%) and attendance centre orders (5%).
- Over a third (36%) of young people had only one requirement as part of their YRO, only two per cent had five or more requirements.

Parenting Orders, 2008/09 to 2010/11

A court may impose an order on a parent: when a young person aged 10–17 years is convicted of an offence; is subject to an Anti-Social Behaviour Order; where a Child Safety Order is made; or where a parent has been convicted of failing to make sure that the child attends school. These data come from the Court Proceedings Database held by MoJ.

In 2010/11 there were 935 parenting orders given by the courts. The number of parenting orders fell 14 per cent last year, from 1,085 in 2009/10 to 935 in 2010/11. Since 2007/08 the number of parenting orders has fallen 21 per cent (from 1,180 in 2007/08).

¹⁵ To enhance data presentation, requirement types that have been used less than 100 times are grouped under the heading 'All other'.

Chapter 6: Use of remand for young people

This chapter covers information on the use of remand for young people in the youth justice system. Data for this chapter is gathered from a number of sources and covers;

1. Types of remand given to young people as reported by YOTs¹⁶
2. Characteristics of the population in custody on remand
3. Outcomes for young people following custodial remand

Key findings

- There were 33,133 court sentencing occasions where remand decisions were made for young people in 2010/11, down two per cent on 2009/10. This is in line with the overall reduction in court disposals which reduced by eight per cent over this period. Remand decisions that involved young people being bailed or remanded to local authority accommodation accounted for 89 per cent of all remand decisions, only 11 per cent involved young people being remanded to custody (3,485 young people).
- The average population in custody on remand in 2010/11 was 528 young people, accounting for 26 per cent of the average custodial population, compared to 21 per cent in 2007/08. While the overall number of young people in custody has fallen 30 per cent between 2007/08 and 2010/11, the number on remand has only fallen 13 per cent.
- For those young people remanded to custody in 2010/11, 27 per cent were acquitted of the offence for which they were remanded, and 39 per cent were given a custodial sentence. The rest were given other court convictions.

Types of remand given to young people, 2010/11

When the court makes the decision to remand a young person they have a number of options, including custodial remands, community remands (with or without an intervention), remand to local authority accommodation or a range of bail options. See the glossary for more details on remand types.

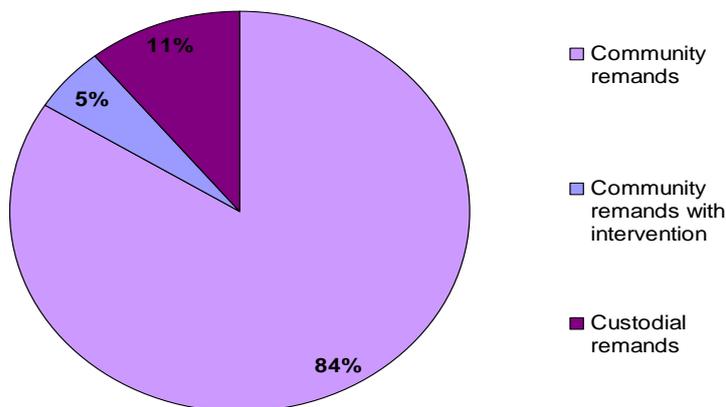
In 2010/11 there were 33,133 court sentencing occasions where young people were given remand as part of the court process. This is a reduction of 2 per cent from the 33,890 sentencing occasions in 2009/10. Of the 33,133 occasions where young people were given a type of remand;

¹⁶ The YJMIS data has suffered from some technical problems for the 2010/11 data, please see comments in Chapter 3 for more details.

- 3,485 were custodial remand episodes, up two per cent from 2009/10.
- 1,726 were community remand episodes (with an intervention), up 14 per cent from 2009/10.
- 27,922 were bail remand episodes (conditional and unconditional), down four per cent since 2009/10.

Remand decisions that involved young people being bailed or remanded to local authority accommodation accounted for 89 per cent of all remand decisions, 11 per cent involved young people being remanded to custody.

Chart 6.1: Type of remand decisions for young people, 2010/11



Characteristics of the population in custody on remand, 2010/11

These data come from the YJB's SACHS database which consists of data from the youth secure estate. For more information on the general youth population in custody see [Chapter 7](#).

There was an average of 528 young people in custody on remand at any one time in 2010/11. There was an average of 83 young people on Court Ordered Secure Remand (16%), and 445 (84%) remanded to custody. The average number of young people on remand has fallen from 604 in 2007/08, to 528 in 2010/11.

Young people held on remand accounted for 26 per cent of the total custody population in 2010/11, compared to 21 per cent in 2007/08. While the overall number of young people in custody has fallen 30 per cent between 2007/08 and 2010/11, the number on remand has only fallen 13 per cent.

Most (70%) young people in custody on remand were there for serious offences; 29 per cent for violent offences, 26 per cent for robbery offences and 15 per cent for burglary offences. However, seven per cent of young people remanded to custody were in for breach of bail, conditional discharge or a statutory order.

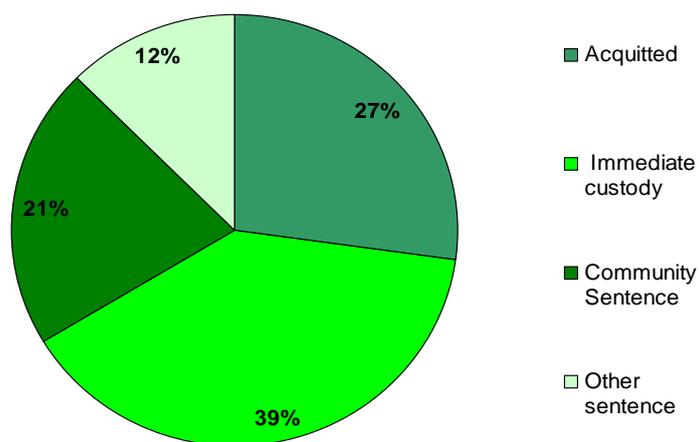
The average time spent on remand was around 41 days in 2010/11; this figure has been stable over the last few years ([Chapter 7](#)).

Outcomes for young people following custodial remand, 2010/11

Not all young people placed on custodial remand were subsequently given a custodial sentence. Data from the MoJ's Court Proceedings Database shows the outcomes for young people remanded into custody.

For those young people given custodial remand in 2010/11, only 39 per cent went on to be given a custodial sentence. This means 61 per cent were not given a custodial sentence. Of these, 27 per cent were acquitted, 21 per cent were given community sentences. The rest were given other court convictions.

Chart 6.2: Outcomes following custodial remand, 2010/11



Chapter 7: Young people in custody

This chapter provides data on the population of young people in the secure estate for young people during 2010/11. The custody data are from the YJB's SACHS database, which consists of data from the youth secure estate. For provisional data after April 2011 please see the Youth Custody Statistics;

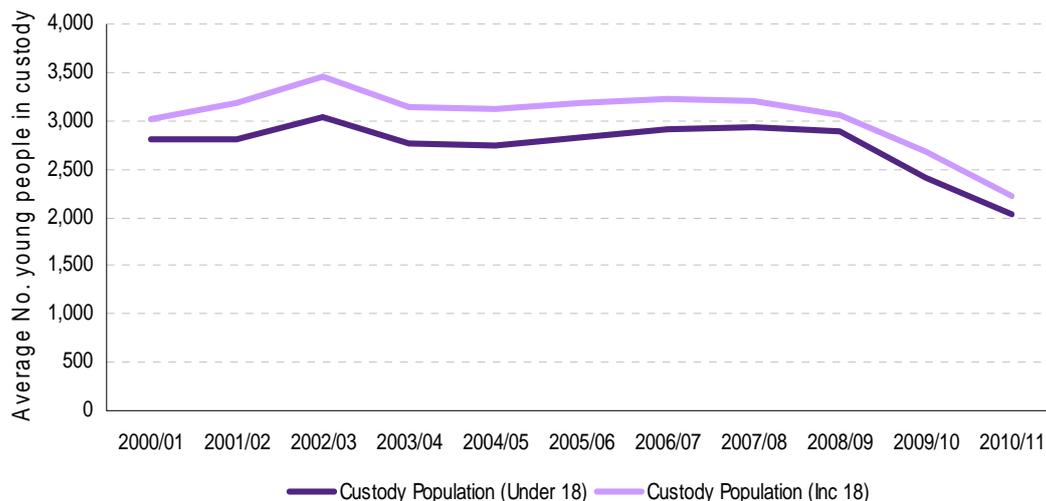
www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/youth-justice/custody-data.htm

Please note that although the YJB is only responsible for placing 10-17 year olds, some 18 year olds remain in the youth secure estate if they only have a short period of their sentence left to serve, to avoid disrupting their regimes. Unless stated otherwise the data presented here is for the under 18 population only.

Key findings

- The average population in custody (under 18) in 2010/11 was 2,040, down 16 per cent from an average of 2,418 in 2009/10.
- The average population in custody (under 18) has fallen 27 per cent from 2,807 in 2000/01.
- The average population in 2010/11 (including 18 year olds held in the youth secure estate) was 2,222. This is a 17 per cent reduction on the 2009/10 figure of 2,670.

Chart 7.1: Average custody population from 2000/01 to 2010/11

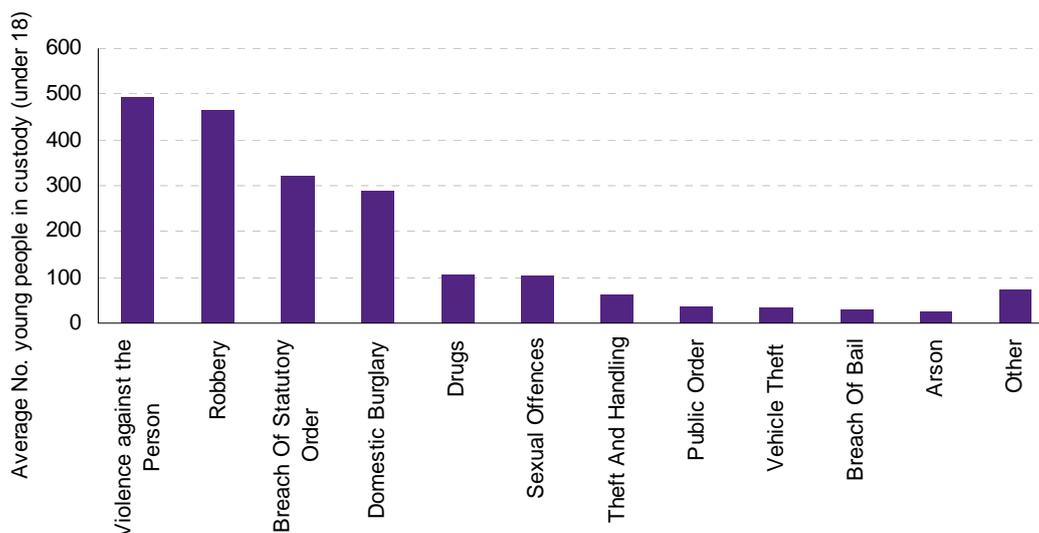


The peak in the population seen in 2002/03 may be partly due to the Street Crime initiative, which impacted on street crime and disposals for young people. For further information see

Over half (55%) of young people (under 18) in custody were serving a Detention and Training Order (DTO), around 26 per cent were held on remand. The remaining 19 per cent were serving long-term sentences (see glossary for more details).

Offences of violence against the person, robbery, domestic burglary and breach of a statutory order accounted for around 77% of the offences for young people in custody in 2010/11.

Chart 7.2: Custody population (under 18) by primary offence group, 2010/11 average



Demographics of young people in custody, 2010/11

- In 2010/11 around 95 per cent of the young people (under 18) held in the secure estate were male. This proportion has been broadly stable over the last decade.
- In 2010/11 around 95 per cent of the young people (under 18) held in the secure estate were aged 15-17 years. This proportion has been broadly stable over the last decade.
- In 2010/11 64 per cent of the young people held in custody were from a White ethnic background. This compares to 86 per cent of young people from a White ethnic background in the general 10-17 population¹⁷.

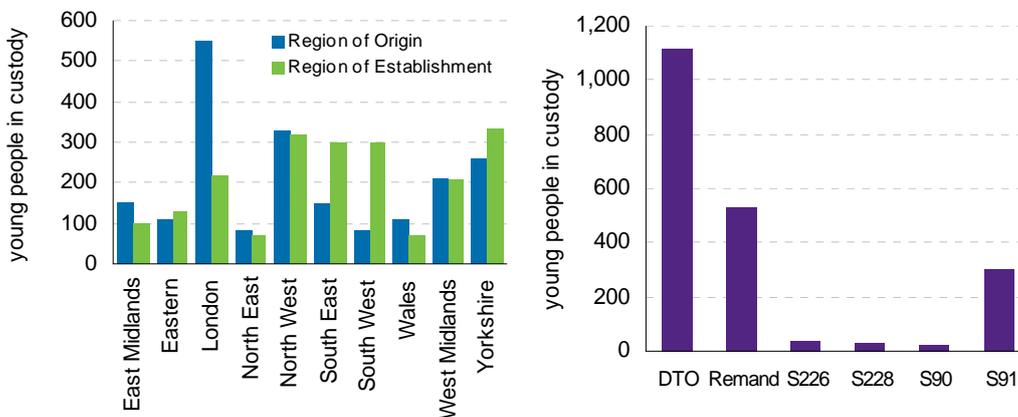
¹⁷ The 10-17 population is based on the mid-year estimate for 2009. This is the latest data available with an ethnicity breakdown.

- In 2010/11 young people from a Black ethnic background accounted for 17 per cent of young people in custody compared to three per cent of the general 10-17 population.
- In 2010/11, 22% of young people from a White ethnic background in custody were held on remand, compared to 34% of young people from a Black ethnic background.

Location and legal basis for young people (under 18) held in custody

- In 2010/11 79 per cent of young people (under 18) held in custody were in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs), thirteen per cent were in Secure Training Centres (STCs) and the remaining eight per cent in Secure Children’s Homes (SCHs). See glossary for more information.
- Young people are not always placed in establishments close to their homes; this is due to the geographic nature of establishments, and mainly affects young people from London¹⁸. In 2010/11, 27 per cent of young people in custody were from London, but London establishments were only available for 11 per cent of the population.
- Over half (55%) of young people (under 18) in custody were serving a Detention and Training Order¹⁹ (DTO), 26 per cent were held on remand. The remaining 19 per cent were serving long-term sentences.

Chart 7.3: Custody population (under 18) by a. region of origin and establishment; b. legal basis for detention



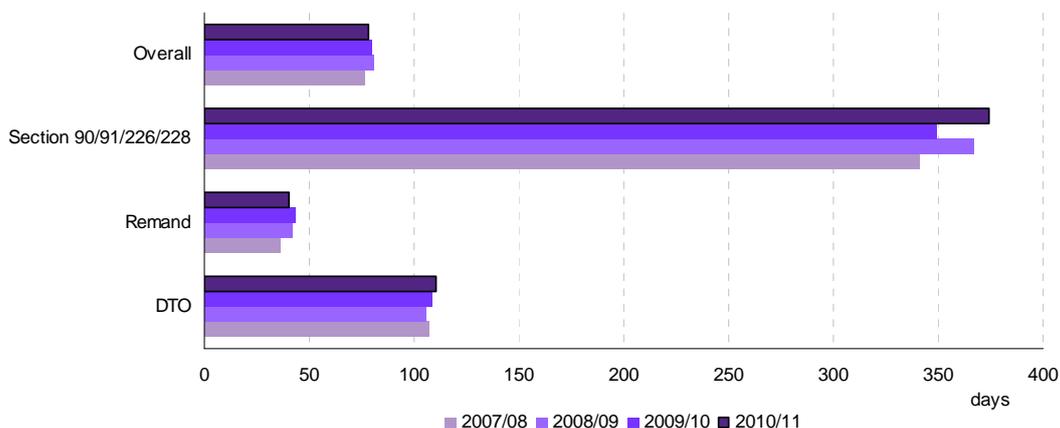
¹⁸ Feltham is the only London establishment, and holds young people aged 15-17 sentenced or remanded to custody.

¹⁹ Detention and Training Orders (DTOs) are determinate custodial sentences which can last from four months to 24 months in length. A young person spends the first half of the order in custody and the second half released on licence. Should they offend while on licence, they may be recalled back to custody.

Sentence length for young people (under 18) in custody

Overall the average length of time spent in custody decreased by two days, from 80 days in 2009/10 to 78 days in 2010/11. For DTOs, it increased by two days (from 109 to 111), for remand it decreased by three days (from 44 to 41) and for longer sentences it increased by 25 days (from 349 to 374).

Chart 7.4: Average time in days spent in the secure estate for children and young people by legal basis of detention from 2007/08 to 2010/11



Operating the secure estate effectively

In order for the system to operate effectively, efficiently and at an acceptable level of risk, the YJB commissions places on the basis that the estate should operate at a 93 per cent occupancy rate. In 2010/11, there was an average occupancy rate of 83 per cent (i.e. there were an average of 2,222 of the 2,489 available beds occupied at any one time). It is important to obtain a significant degree of assurance that any planned reductions in commissioned beds are sustainable over the medium to long term. Consequently there will always be a time-lag in decommissioning activity following decreases in demand. This approach has ensured that decommissioning activity has never been followed by the need for any subsequent re-commissioning and disruption to the overall estate has been minimised. The secure estate for young people is particularly complex and the overall population figures comprise a number of sub populations that need further in depth analysis and impact assessment before decommissioning takes place.

Chapter 8: Behaviour management in the youth secure estate and serious incidents in the community by young people under licence

This chapter covers information on behaviour management in the youth secure estate and serious incidents in the community. Please note the behaviour management data covers the financial years 2008/09 to 2010/11. The behaviour management data for 2009/10 has been revised following a reconciliation exercise done in 2011. From 2008/09 to 2010/11 there was a reduction in the number of incidents of restraint, self harm, assault and single separation. However as the overall population in custody has fallen over this period ([Chapter 7](#)), the change in the rate i.e. the number of incidents per 100 young people in the population and proportion of young people involved in an incident is presented.

The serious incidents in the community data cover the calendar years 2009 to 2010. There is also provisional data for 2011. The data covers young people in the community either under licence or receiving an intervention managed by YOTs. For more information on the terms used please see the glossary.

Key findings

- There were 7,191 incidents of restraint used in the youth secure estate in 2010/11, down nine per cent from 2008/09.
- There were 1,424 incidents of self harm, down 45 per cent from 2008/09.
- There were 3,554 assaults by young people, down 15 per cent since 2008/09.
- There were 4,462 occasions where single separation was used in Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) or Secure Training Centres (STCs), down 43 per cent since 2008/09.
- In 2011, there were 20 deaths in the community, where young people under supervision died either through murder, suicide or accidental death²⁰. This compares to 23 deaths in the community in 2009 and 2010.

²⁰ Accidental deaths includes those who died in road traffic accidents.

- In 2011, YOTs reported that 141 young people under their supervision attempted suicide²¹. This compares to 167 in 2010 and 113 in 2009.
- Provisional data for 2011 shows that there were 120 public protection incidents in 2011 included 14 cases where a young person (whilst under YOT supervision) was charged with murder. There were a further 14 cases in 2011 where a young person was charged with attempted murder, and 42 cases where they were charged with rape.

Behaviour management in the youth secure estate, 2008/09 to 2010/11

“Behaviour management” refers to the processes and policies by which youth secure establishments promote positive behaviour and manage challenging and difficult behaviour amongst young people. This section covers the use of restrictive physical intervention (RPI) on young people, incidents of self harm, assaults and the use of single separation involving young people in custody. The data covers 2008/09 to 2010/11. Due to the way the data was collected prior to April 2008 it is not possible to compare current data with data prior to this date²². The data here includes some 18 year olds who are kept in the youth secure estate. The data provided gives totals and some demographic breakdown²³.

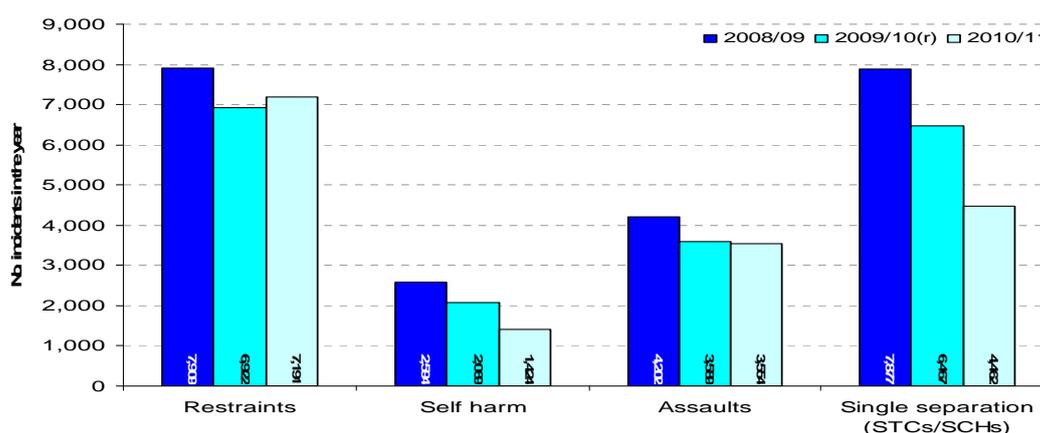
Restraints are only used on young people as a last resort, for example to prevent them causing harm to themselves or others. For each type of incident, the total number of actual incidents in the year, the monthly average and the total number of young people involved are presented. We cannot provide a distribution of incidents per young people (i.e. how many people were only involved in one incident) due to the way the data are collected.

²¹ The absence of an agreed definition of what constitutes an ‘attempted suicide’ or ‘near-death’ means that decisions about which incidents are reported under this heading are subjective

²² Please be aware that the data for 2009/10 has been revised following a reconciliation exercise done in 2011. This was done after the YJB were made aware of differences between their published figures and those held and used by certain establishments.

²³ Please note total figures for age, gender and ethnicity may not add up to the same total figures due to recording issues with the monthly returns from establishments. Also, assaults involving multiple perpetrators are recorded separately in the breakdowns. These small differences will not make any significant difference to the overall rates.

Chart 8.1: Trend in the number of behaviour management incidents, 2008/09 to 2010/11

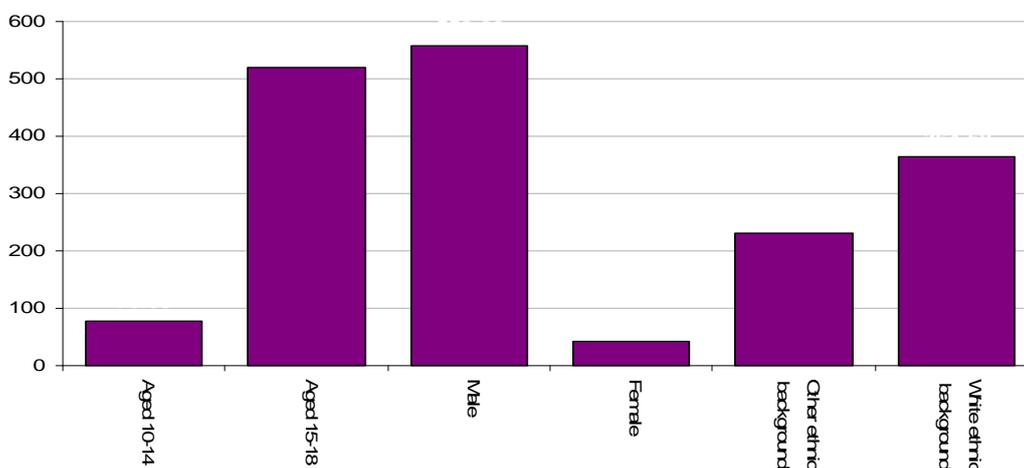


Use of Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI)

There were 7,191 incidents of restraint used in the youth secure estate in 2010/11, down nine per cent from 2008/09 and up four per cent since 2009/10. There was an average of 599 restraints per month in 2010/11, involving an average of 416 young people. The number of restraints per 100 young people in custody in the year were higher for the younger age group (10-14) and females than their counterparts.

In 2010/11 there were 259 injuries to young people as a result of restraint being used, nearly all (95%) of these were minor injuries.

Chart 8.2: Average number of restraints per month by demographic group, 2010/11

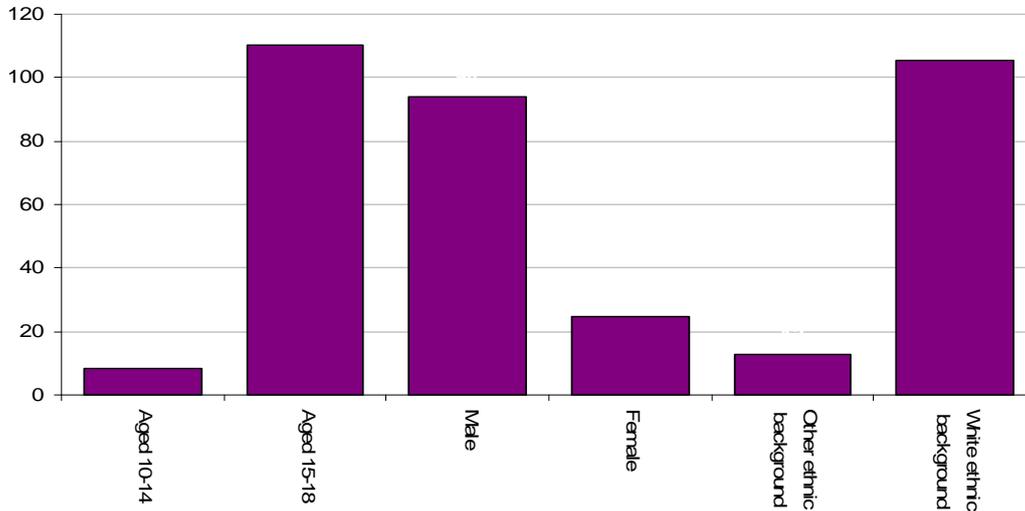


Self harm

Self harm in custody is defined as any act by which a young person deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent or severity of the injury. There were 1,424 incidents of self harm in 2010/11, down 45 per cent since 2008/09. There was an average of 119 incidents of self harm per month in 2010/11, involving an average of 79 young people. The number of incidents of self harm per 100 young people in custody were higher for females than their counterparts.

There were no deaths in the youth secure estate in 2010/11. There have been no deaths in the youth secure estate since 2007.

Chart 8.3: Average number of self harm incidents per month by demographic group, 2010/11

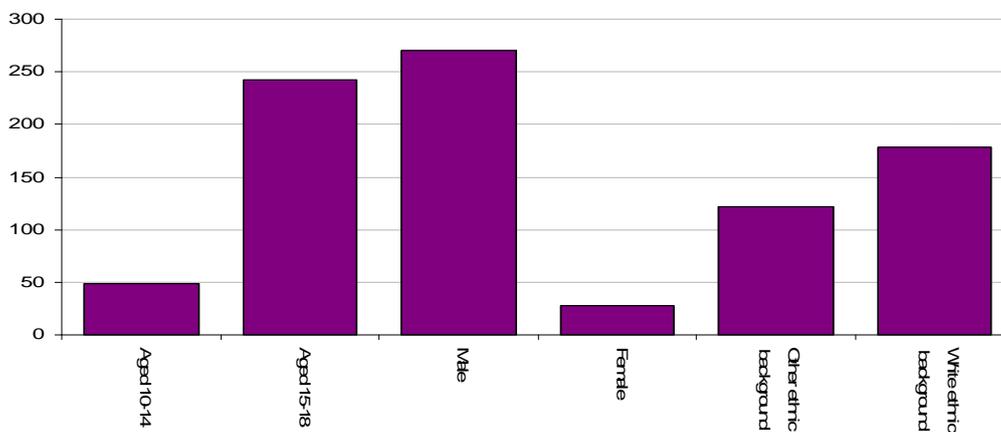


Assault

Assaults are defined as “the intentional use of unnecessary force that results in physical contact with the victim”. Physical contact can be by any part of the assailant’s body or bodily fluid or the use or display of any weapon or missile. It is not necessary for the victim to suffer injury of any kind. Assaults of a sexual nature are included.

There were 3,554 assaults involving young people in custody in 2010/11, down 15 per cent since 2008/09. There was an average of 296 assaults per month in 2010/11 involving an average of 236 young people. The number of assaults per 100 young people in custody was higher for the younger group (10-14), females and those from the Black or minority ethnic background than their counterparts.

Chart 8.4: Average number of assaults per month by demographic group, 2010/11



Single Separation – STCs and SCHs only

Single separation refers to the confining of a young person in his/her bedroom, to another room or area as a means of control and without the young person's permission or agreement, without a member of staff being present and with the door locked in order to prevent exit. The data are only collected for secure training centres and secure children's homes.

There were 4,462 occasions where single separation was used in 2010/11, down 43 per cent from 2008/09. In 2010/11 there was an average of 372 incidents of single separation per month used in secure children's homes and secure training centres. This compares to an average of 539 incidents of single separation used in 2009/10. The proportion of young people who are placed in single separation while in custody differs by gender, with four per cent of males involved in 2010/11, compared to 15 per cent for females. There is little difference in single separation by ethnicity.

Serious incidents in the community affecting young people, 2009 to 2011

This section covers serious incidents in the community affecting young people for 2009 and 2011²⁴. The data for 2010 are updated figures to those previously released as part of YJB guidance to practitioners on serious incidents in the community. The data collection only formally began in 2009. Serious incidents in the community are reported to the YJB by YOTs throughout the year and the live database is continually updated as we receive new information. Because of the way the data is collected centrally we can only display data in calendar years.

A 'serious incident' affecting young people is reported on the grounds of safeguarding or public protection. Incidents are defined as, whilst under YOT supervision (or within 20 days of supervision ending) a young person:

- a) Safeguarding: Dies accidentally or from suicide or attempts suicide;
- b) Safeguarding: Is a victim of any of the following offences: murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, torture, kidnapping, false imprisonment; or firearms offences²⁵.

²⁴ The data for 2010 are updated figures to those previously released as part of YJB guidance to practitioners on serious incidents in the community. Data for 2011 is correct as of the 13th of January 2012. Not all the breakdowns for this data are currently available.

²⁵ Offences involving firearms are: possession of firearm with intent to endanger life (section 16 of the Firearms Act 1968; use of firearm to resist arrest (section 17(1) of the Firearms Act 1968; possession of firearm at time of committing or being arrested for offence specified in Schedule 1 to that Act (section 17(2) of the Firearms Act 1968); carrying a firearm with criminal intent (section 18 of the Firearms Act 1968); and robbery or assault with intent to rob where a firearm/imitation firearm is used (section 8(1) of the Theft Act 1968).

- c) Public protection: A young person is charged with committing any of the following offences: murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, torture, kidnapping, false imprisonment; or firearms offences²⁶.

Incidents meeting safeguarding criteria, or others at YOT discretion, are notified to the relevant YJB regional or Wales team within 24 hours. YOTs then have 20 working days to submit a local management report to the YJB. The purpose of the local management report is to identify areas for improvement and lessons learnt. The YJB can only report on the incidents that are brought to their attention.

Trends in safeguarding community serious incidents

Provisional data for 2011 shows there were 161 serious safeguarding incidents in the community. The number of serious safeguarding incidents in the community reported to the YJB for 2010 as of the 13th of January 2012 was 190. This is an increase on the 163 incidents in 2009. The increase from 2009 to 2010 may reflect better recording practices rather than an increase in incidents.

In 2011 there were 20 deaths in the community reported to the YJB as of the 13th of January 2012 where a young person under licence or YOT supervision died either through murder, suicide or accidental death²⁷. Four were murdered in that period. This compares with 23 deaths in 2009 and 2010.

Data for 2010 shows YOTs have reported 141 incidents where a young person under their supervision attempted suicide²⁸. This figure was 167 in 2010 and 113 in 2009.

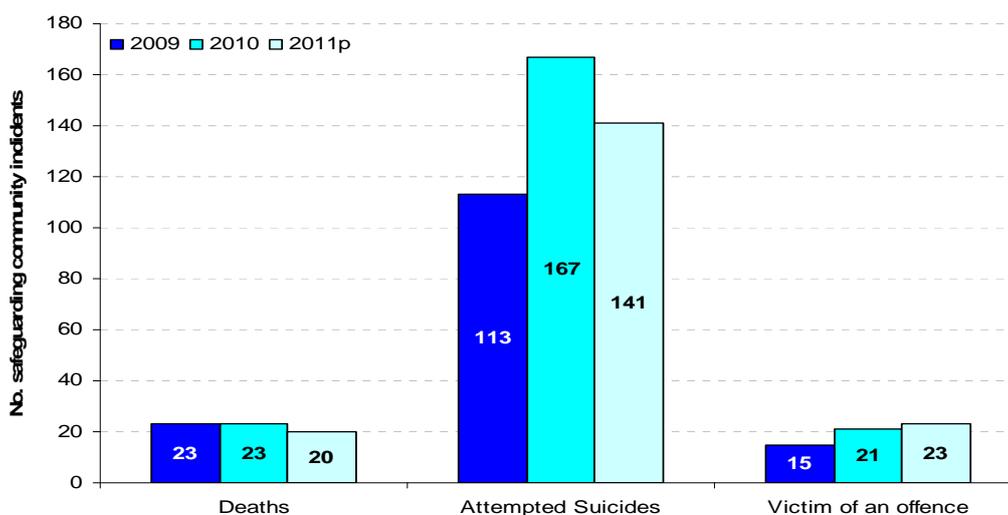
The data for 2011 also shows that there were 23 other safeguarding incidents reported, where the young person was the victim of an offence. In 2010 there were 21 other safeguarding incidents. This included eight cases where a young person was a victim of murder, attempted murder or manslaughter, and 11 incidents where they were a victim of rape. The other safeguarding incidents in this category totalled 15 in 2009.

²⁶ Offences involving firearms are: possession of firearm with intent to endanger life (section 16 of the Firearms Act 1968; use of firearm to resist arrest (section 17(1) of the Firearms Act 1968; possession of firearm at time of committing or being arrested for offence specified in Schedule 1 to that Act (section 17(2) of the Firearms Act 1968); carrying a firearm with criminal intent (section 18 of the Firearms Act 1968); and robbery or assault with intent to rob where a firearm/imitation firearm is used (section 8(1) of the Theft Act 1968).

²⁷ Accidental deaths includes those who died in road traffic accidents.

²⁸ The absence of an agreed definition of what constitutes an 'attempted suicide' or 'near-death' means that decisions about which incidents are reported under this heading are subjective

Chart 8.5: Trends in safeguarding community serious incidents, 2009 to 2011p

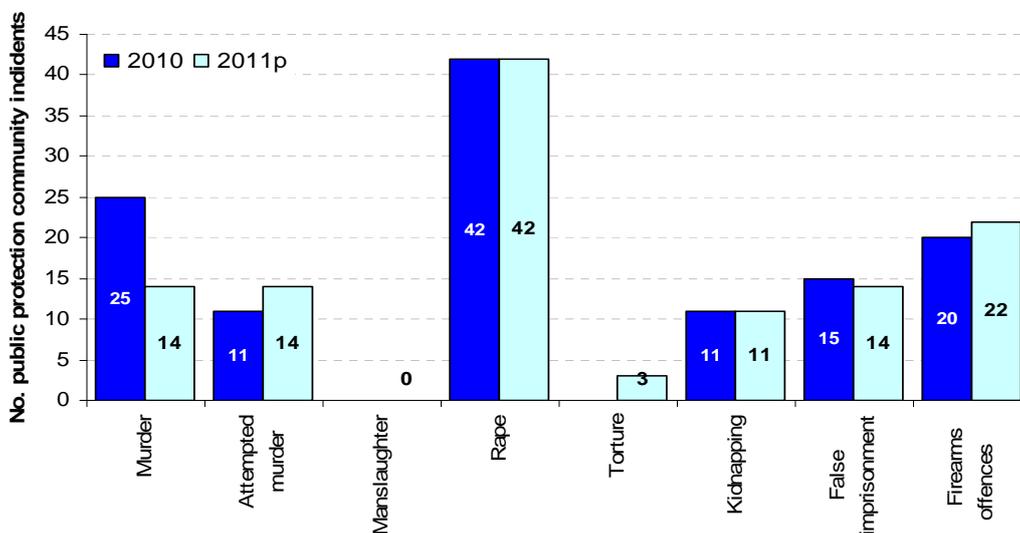


Trends in public protection community serious incidents

There were 124 publication protection incidents reported to the YJB in 2010 and 98 in 2009. Provisional data for 2011 shows there were 120 public protection community serious incidents reported by YOTs to the YJB, where a young person was charged with a serious offence, this does not mean they have been found guilty. These data are correct as of the 13th of January 2012.

The 120 public protection incidents in 2011 included 14 cases where a young person (whilst under YOT supervision) was charged with murder. There were a further 14 cases in 2011 where a young person was charged with attempted murder, and 42 cases where they were charged with rape.

Chart 8.6: Trends in public protection community serious incidents, 2010 and 2011p



Chapter 9: Proven re-offending by young people, 2009/10 cohort

This section provides key statistics on proven re-offending in England and Wales. It gives proven re-offending figures for young people who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, or received a caution, reprimand or warning between April 2009 and March 2010. Proven re-offending is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow up. Following this one year period, a further six months is allowed for cases to progress through the courts.

This chapter focuses on re-offending by young people in 2009/10, compared with 2008/09 as a short term comparator and 2000 as a long term comparator²⁹. A more detailed publication covering adult and youth re-offending is available here;

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/reoffending/proven-reoffending-quarterly.htm

Key findings

- In the year ending March 2010 there were just under 113,584 young people who were given a reprimand or final warning, convicted at court (excluding immediate custodial sentences) or released from custody.
- Just over 37,786 of these young people committed a proven re-offence within a year. This gives a one-year re-offending rate of 33.3 per cent.
- The young people who re-offended committed an average of 2.79 offences each - around 105,270 offences in total. Around a quarter (23%) of these offences were committed by young people with no previous offences, and 18 per cent were by young people with 25 or more previous offences.
- The rate of re-offending for young people has fallen from 33.7 per cent in 2000 to 33.3 per cent in 2009/10, a 0.4 percentage point reduction. The average number of re-offences per offender (frequency rate) fell 17 per cent between 2000 and 2009/10.

While the overall rate of re-offending has remained broadly stable the number of young people in the re-offending cohort has gone down, with particular reductions among those with no previous offences and those receiving pre-court disposals. Because of this, those young people coming into the criminal justice system are, on balance, more challenging to work

²⁹ Data are not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on Court Orders

with. This is reflected in the higher predicted rate of re-offending and the higher average previous number of offences for each young person.

Chart 9.1: Binary rate (proportion who re-offend) for young people, 2000, 2008/09 and 2009/10

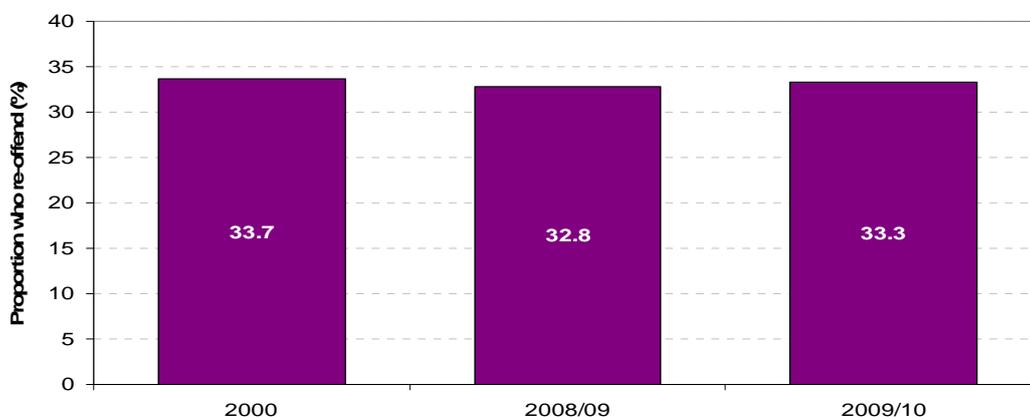
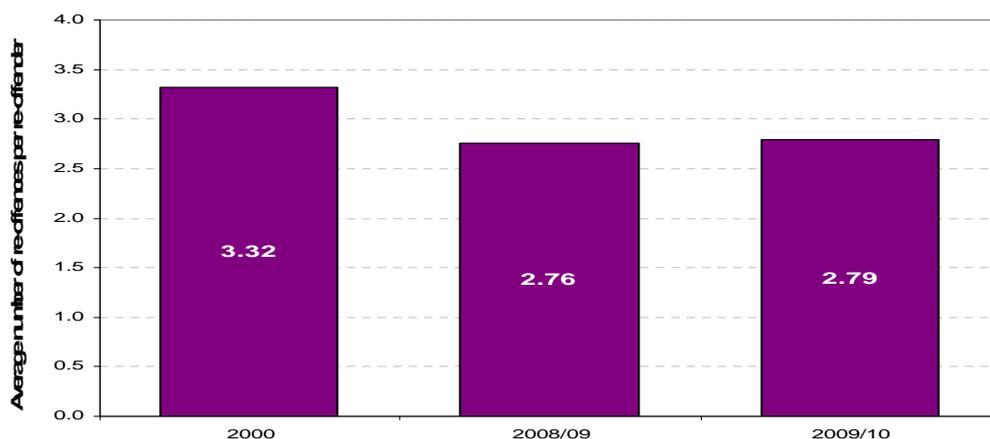


Chart 9.2: Average number of re-offences per re-offender for young people, 2000, 2008/09 and 2009/10



Changes to the re-offending cohort over time

In 2000 there were 139,326 young people that formed the re-offending cohort, in 2009/10 the size of the re-offending cohort had fallen 18 per cent to 113,584. Alongside this the average number of previous offences per offender in the cohort has risen from 1.59 to 2.16, a 36 per cent increase.

Re-offending by demography, 2009/10

The re-offending rates for young people show some differences by demography in 2009/10. The re-offending rate for young people aged 15-17 was 34.7 per cent in 2009/10, higher than the rate for 10-14 year olds which was 30.0 per cent.

- The average number of re-offences per re-offender was also higher for 15-17 year olds, with an average of 2.81 re-offences, compared to 2.71 for those aged 10-14 years.
- The re-offending rate for young males was 37.3 per cent in 2009/10, higher than the re-offending rate for females which was 22.2 per cent.
- Where ethnicity was recorded³⁰ young people from a Black ethnic background had the highest re-offending rate of 38.7 per cent. Those from an Asian background had the lowest rate of 27.7 per cent. Those from a White ethnic background had a re-offending rate of 33.5 per cent.

Re-offending by offence, disposal and criminal history

There are also differences when looking at re-offending by young people in terms of their index offence (the offence for which they entered the cohort) and their criminal history.

- As expected, the rate of re-offending increases with the number of previous offences. Those with no previous offences had a reoffending rate of 19.9 per cent, compared to those with 25 or more previous offences who had a re-offending rate of 77.5 per cent.
- Those young people who received a reprimand or final warning for their index disposal had a proven re-offending rate of 23.5 per cent, those that received their first-tier disposals had a re-offending rate of 45.1 per cent, those given community sentences had a re-offending rate of 65.9 per cent. Those released from custody had a re-offending rate of 69.7 per cent.
- Re-offending rates differ based on the index offence of the young person, with those entering the cohort for offences of theft having a re-offending rate of 26.6 per cent, compared to those with domestic burglary offences which have a 50.0 per cent re-offending rate.
- Within the YOIs the re-offending rate ranged from 59.3 per cent at Brinsford³¹ to 82.4 per cent in Parc.

Re-offending by secure establishments (STCs/SCHs), 2009 cohort

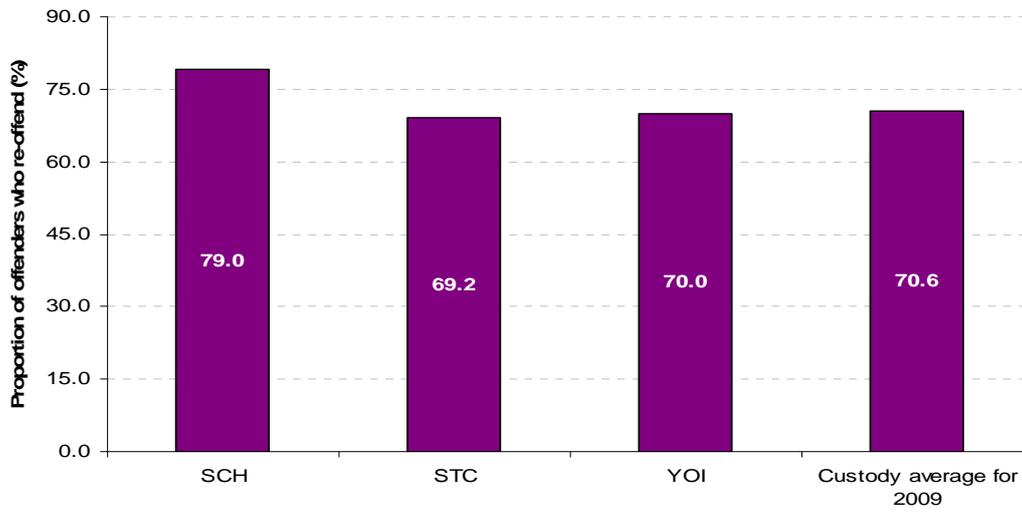
Re-offending rates are highest for young people who leave the youth secure estate. However, because of the characteristics of young people who leave the different establishments, and the different roles of each establishment, their re-offending rates cannot be directly compared. Data for the STCs/SCHs are for the 2009 cohort as this analysis is only done on an

³⁰ Ethnicity on the PNC is based on police perception

³¹ This establishment was closed in April 2010

annual basis. In 2009 the re-offending rate was 69.2 per cent for Secure Training Centres and 79.0 per cent for Secure Children's Homes.

Chart 9.3: Re-offending by secure establishments, 2009



Chapter 10: Criminal Histories of Young People in the Youth Justice System

This chapter presents information on the criminal histories of young people in the YJS. A young person is counted as having a criminal history if their Police National Computer (PNC) record shows that, at the time of receiving a reprimand, warning, caution or conviction, they had previously committed one or more offences that had resulted in one of these sanctions. This PNC data excludes a range of summary offences so the figures presented here focus on the criminal histories of young people cautioned or sentenced for indictable offences only. This chapter covers information up to 2010/11. For the latest MoJ publication please see;

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics.htm

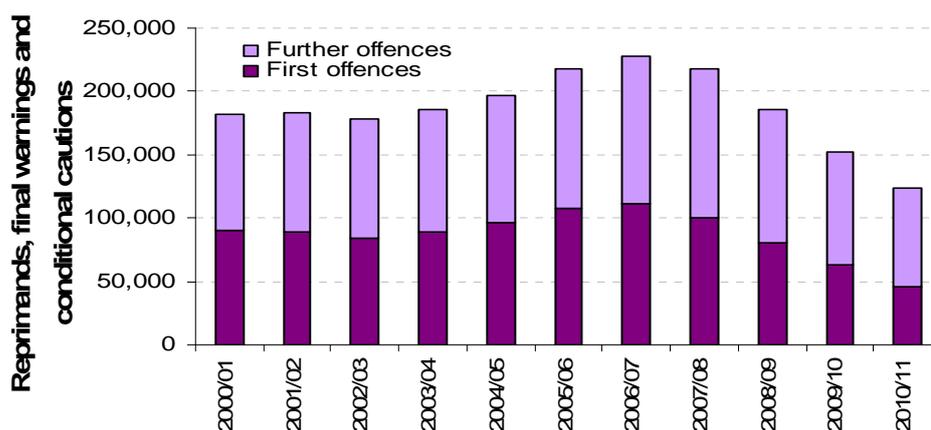
Key findings

- In 2010/11, 12 per cent of those young people sentenced at court for indictable offences were first time entrants to the youth justice system.
- The proportion of young people sentenced to custody who were first time entrants was seven per cent in 2010/11. This proportion has fluctuated between five and seven per cent since 2000/01.
- In 2010/11 most (71%) young people who received a reprimand or warning for an indictable offence had no previous offences.

Criminal history of young people in the youth justice system

The proportion of young people who committed offences that resulted in a reprimand, warning or conviction that were previously known to the youth justice system has reduced over time. In 2000/01, half (49%) of the young people receiving a disposal were not previously known to the youth justice system. By 2010/11 this proportion had fallen to 37 per cent.

Chart 10.1: Proportion of young people with first and further offences, 2000/01 to 2010/11



Criminal histories of young people cautioned for indictable offences

In 2010/11 most (71%) young people who received a reprimand or warning for an indictable offence had no previous offences. The equivalent figure in 2000/01 was 77 per cent. Most of those with previous offences had received a reprimand or warning only.

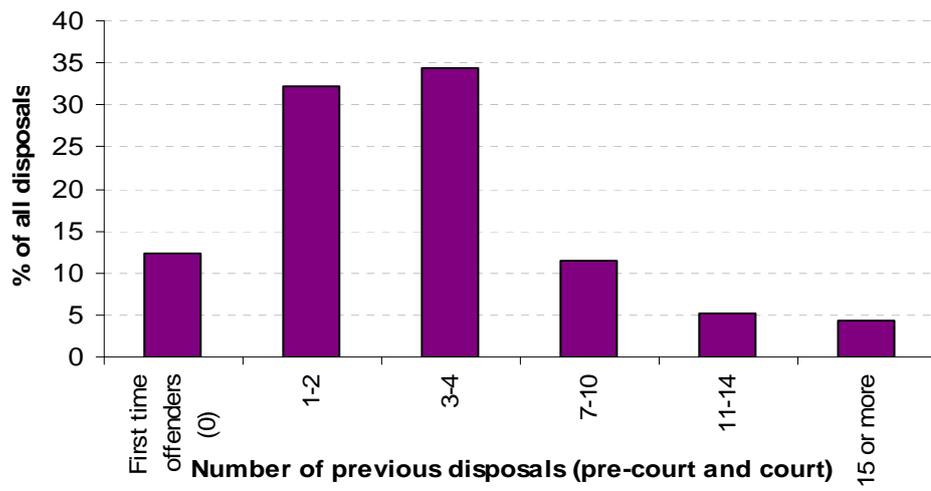
Only two per cent of young people given a reprimand or final warning in 2010/11 had a previous court conviction. This is to be expected as reprimands and final warnings are supposed to be only given for first or second offences.

Criminal histories of young people sentenced for indictable offences

The criminal history profile of sentenced young people is changing over time. In 2000/01 only one per cent of the young people sentenced for indictable offences had 15 or more previous convictions or cautions; this has steadily risen to four per cent in 2010/11. So a greater proportion of young people being sentenced for indictable offences had committed 15 or more offences previously. The proportion of young people sentenced to custody who were first time entrants to the youth justice system was seven per cent in 2010/11. This proportion has fluctuated between five and seven per cent since 2000/01.

These trends may be partly due to fewer young people entering the youth justice system, shown by the drop in FTEs ([Chapter 2](#)). This means that YOTs are dealing with fewer young people ([Chapter 5](#)), but they are more serious in terms of their previous offending ([Chapter 9](#)). This may be a result of youth justice legal process, which meant that police and courts only had the option of one type of disposal at each level i.e. once a young person had received a reprimand they had to receive a final warning for their next offence, regardless of the severity of that offence.

Chart 10.2: All sentenced disposals of young people by criminal history, 2010/11



Chapter 11: Comparisons to the adult system

This chapter provides a comparison with young people (10-17 years), young adults (18-20 years) and adults (21 years and over) in the criminal justice system (CJS). This chapter includes comparisons of; first time entrants, offences and disposals, criminal history, population in custody and re-offending.

Key findings

- Young people (aged 10-17) accounted for 21 per cent of first time entrants to the criminal justice system in 2010/11. Adults (18 and over) accounted for 79 per cent.
- Young people sentenced for indictable offences accounted for 12 per cent of the total court sentences in 2010/11.
- Young people in custody under sentence accounted for 2 percent of the total sentenced prison population in 2010/2011.
- In 2009/10 the proportion of people who re-offend was highest for young people aged 10-17, with a re-offending rate of 33.3 per cent. Young adults (18-20) had a re-offending rate of 31.0 per cent, while adults (21 and over) had a rate of 23.7 per cent.

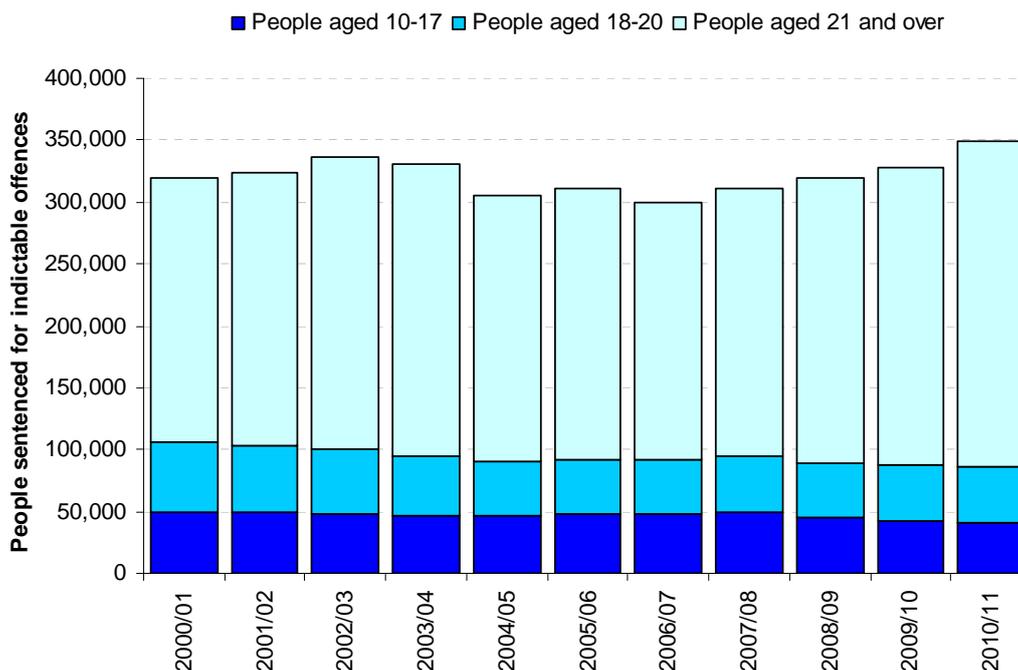
First Time Entrants to the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales, 2010/11

- Young people (10-17) accounted for 21 per cent of first time entrants to the criminal justice system in 2010/11. Adults (18 and over) accounted for 79 per cent.
- In 2000/01, young people accounted for 33 per cent of first time entrants to the criminal justice system. This proportion was broadly stable until 2007/08 when it started to fall to its present level.

Offences and disposals in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales, 2010/11

- Young people (10-17) sentenced for indictable offences accounted for 12 per cent of the total people sentenced in 2010/11 with 40,722 court sentences, compared to 13 per cent for young adults and 75 per cent for adults.

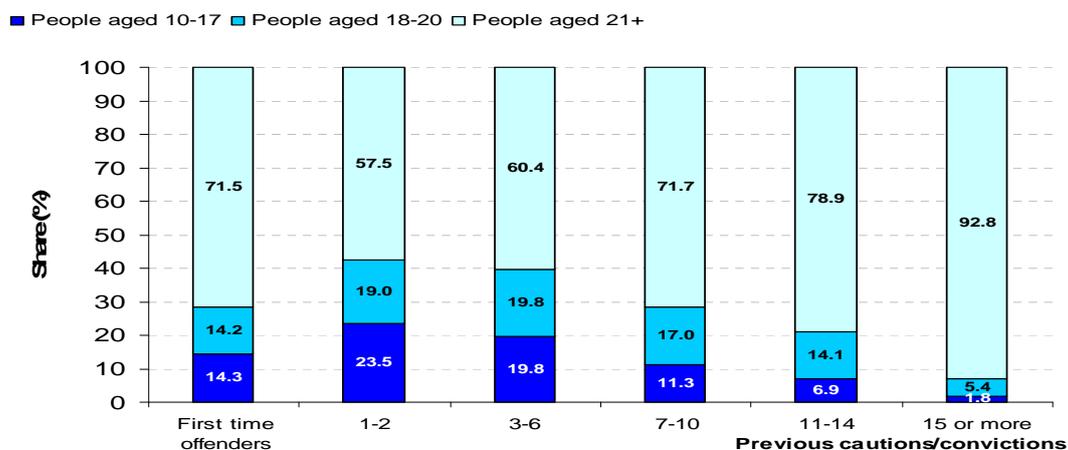
Chart 11.1: People sentenced for indictable offences by age, 2000/01 to 2010/11



Criminal history for people in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales, 2010/11

- Young people (10-17) accounted for 21 per cent of all first time entrants in 2010/11, but only 1.8 per cent of those people had 15 or more previous cautions or convictions.
- Young people have the higher share in the 1-2 previous cautions or convictions group, with 23.5 per cent of all people in this group being under 18.

Chart 11.2: Criminal history by age, 2010/11



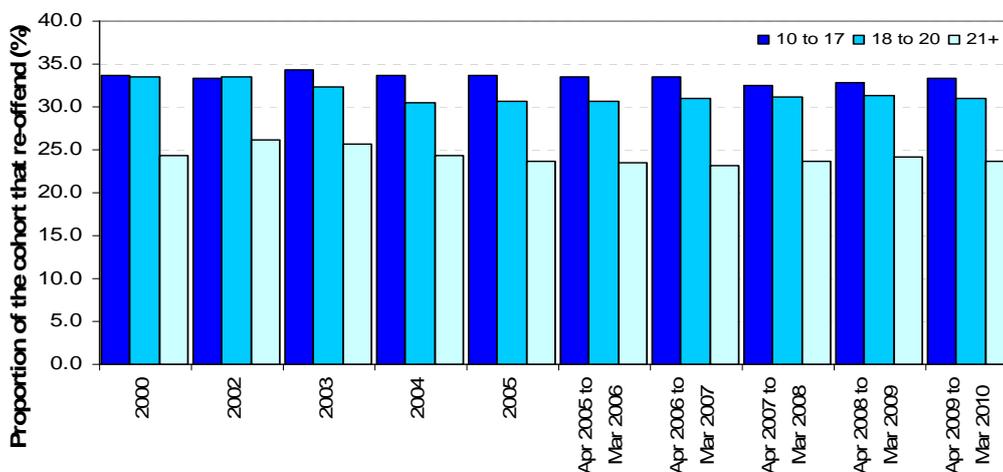
Population in custody under sentence, 2000/01 to 2010/11

- Young people (10-17) in custody under sentence accounted for less than two per cent of the total sentenced prison population in 2010/11. This proportion has fallen from four per cent in 2000/01.
- The population in custody in the youth estate was 2,003 at the end of March 2011, compared to 8,159 young adults (18-20) and 75,664 adults (21 and over) in prison.

Re-offending in England and Wales, 2000 to 2005³² and 2005/06 to 2009/10

- In 2009/10 the proportion of people who re-offended was highest for young people aged 10-17, with a re-offending rate of 33.3 per cent. Young adults (18-20) had a re-offending rate of 31.0 per cent, while adults (21+) had a rate of 23.7 per cent.
- The average number of re-offences per re-offender was highest for adults (21+) with an average of 2.82 re-offences per re-offender. The figures were 2.79 for young people (10-17) and 2.70 for young adults (18-20).

Chart 11.3: Proportion of people who re-offend, 2000 to 2005 and 2005/06 to 2009/10



³² Data is not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on Court Orders

Chapter 12: Characteristics and risk factors associated with proven re-offending: Findings from the Juvenile Cohort Study

The chapter looks at the risk factors and associated one-year proven re-offending³³ levels of a group of young people in 30 Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) between 1 February 2008 and 31 January 2009 using data from the Juvenile Cohort Study (JCS). The sample used for this analysis (n=5,453) was broadly representative of young people coming into contact with YOTs in terms of age group, sex, ethnicity and disposal category³⁴. Further information on the JCS can be found in [Annex A](#).

Any differences between groups referred to in the text are statistically significant at the 0.05 level (this means that there is only a 5 per cent chance that differences reported are not true differences).

Research³⁵ has shown that young people coming into contact with the youth justice system present with a range of difficulties (e.g. substance misuse) and multiple needs. Such difficulties could be associated with re-offending and therefore are referred to in this chapter as 'risk factors'. Given the high re-offending levels for young people ([Chapter 9](#)) the work of YOTs focuses on working with these young offenders to identify and address such risk factors along with their needs in order to reduce re-offending.

Key findings

- Young people who came into contact with YOTs presented with a range of risk factors. The median number of risks being four.
- As the severity of youth justice system (YJS) disposal increased, so did a) the percentage of young people with each risk factor, and b) the average number of risk factors they displayed.
- Risk factors (as assessed using the Asset risk assessment tool) were associated with one-year proven re-offending. Specifically a) as risk score band increased³⁶, so did the percentage of young people who re-offended; b) as the number of Asset risk factors increased, so did the percentage of young people who re-offended; c) a higher percentage of those who had a moderate/substantial risk, re-offended, compared with those who had no risk.

³³ Proven re-offending data was extracted from the Police National Computer (PNC).

³⁴ See Technical note for more information on attrition/sample selection and representativeness.

³⁵ E.g. Baker, Jones, Roberts and Merrington, 2003; Case and Haines, 2009.

³⁶ Scaled Approach bandings (which are used by YOTs to focus attention and resources on those at highest risk of re-offending): Standard (Asset score of 0-14); Enhanced (15-32); Intensive (33-64).

Overview of chapter

The following are covered in this chapter: total Asset score; types of risk factors (12 Asset dynamic sections); number of Asset risk factors; items underlying the 12 Asset dynamic sections; indicators of vulnerability; risk of serious harm.

An overview of the extent and range of difficulties experienced by young people is presented. In addition, these risk factors are presented alongside accompanying actual one-year proven re-offending figures. When referring to the Asset dynamic section scores, a risk factor is considered to be moderately/substantially associated with re-offending if a score of two or more out of four is given³⁷.

Key findings are reported within the text and data can be found in the supplementary tables to support this, including a full breakdown by a) age category (10-14 and 15-17); b) sex; c) ethnicity (whites and Black and Minority Ethnic 'BME'); d) disposal category³⁸ (1st tier; community sentences; Detention and Training Orders - DTOs). In order to contextualise the findings, comparisons are made to other research/statistics, where available and appropriate.

Asset

Asset is a structured risk assessment tool used for young people, aged 10 to 17 years, who come into contact with YOTs³⁹. Asset scores influence the level and type of supervision and interventions young people receive. The Asset 'Core Profile' should be completed for all sentenced young people and includes 12 sections covering factors which may be related to offending⁴⁰. These factors are known as 'dynamic' in recognition of the fact that they can change over time. YOT workers make a judgement about the impact of each of the 12 dynamic sections on the likelihood of re-offending. Sections are given a rating on a 0-4 scale⁴¹. Four 'static' factors⁴² are also

³⁷ This is also consistent with the approach taken in the NAO (2010) report.

³⁸ For the purposes of this report, 1st tier disposals include: Referral Orders and Reparation Orders. Community sentences include: Action Plan Orders; Attendance Centre Orders; Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Orders; Community Punishment Orders; Community Rehabilitation Orders; Curfew Orders; Supervisions Orders.

³⁹ Recent research assessed the predictive validity of Asset for non-custodial sentences, showing it to be a good predictor of proven re-offending within one-year (see Wilson and Hinks 2011 www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research-and-analysis/moj/assessing-predictive-validity.htm).

⁴⁰ The 12 sections cover the following areas: living arrangements; family and personal relationships; education, training and employment; neighbourhood; lifestyle; substance use; physical health; emotional and mental health; perception of self and others; thinking and behaviour; attitudes to offending; motivation to change.

⁴¹ 0) not associated at all; 1) slight, occasional or limited indirect association; 2) moderate but definite association; 3) quite strong association; 4) very strong association

⁴² Static factors: offence type, age at first reprimand/caution/warning, age at first conviction, and number of previous convictions.

rated and added to the dynamic scores in order to give an overall score out of 64.

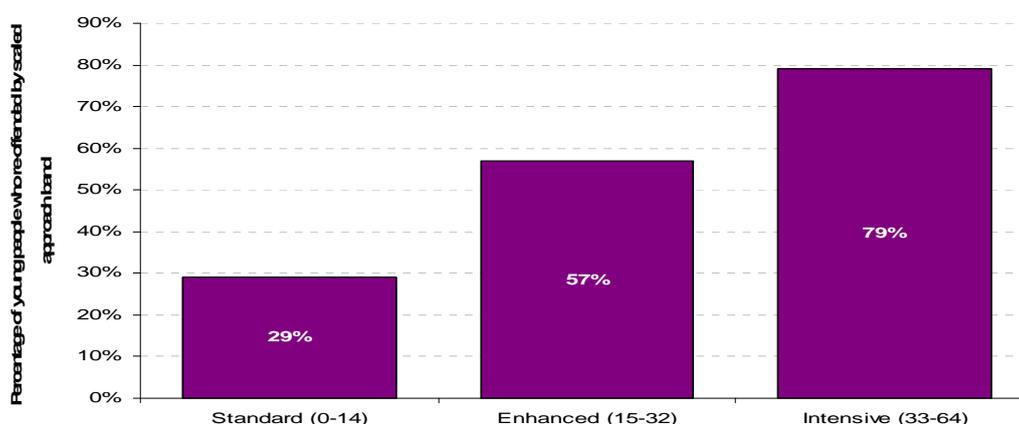
Total Asset score

Asset scores were grouped into the three Scaled Approach bandings⁴³. Around a third (34%) of the sample were in the standard category; about half (54%) were in the enhanced category and 12 per cent were in the intensive category. This pattern was consistent across age groups, sex, ethnicity and disposal.

How overall assessed risk (total Asset score) related to proven re-offending

As the Asset score band increased, so did the percentage of people who re-offended i.e. 29 per cent of those in the standard category; 57 per cent of those in the enhanced category and 79 per cent of those in the intensive category re-offended. This supported the results found by Wilson and Hinks (2011) and this picture was consistent across age groups, sex, ethnicity and disposal. This suggests that the Scaled Approach may correctly target those people who are most likely to re-offend.

Chart 12.1: Percentage of young people who re-offended by Scaled Approach Band



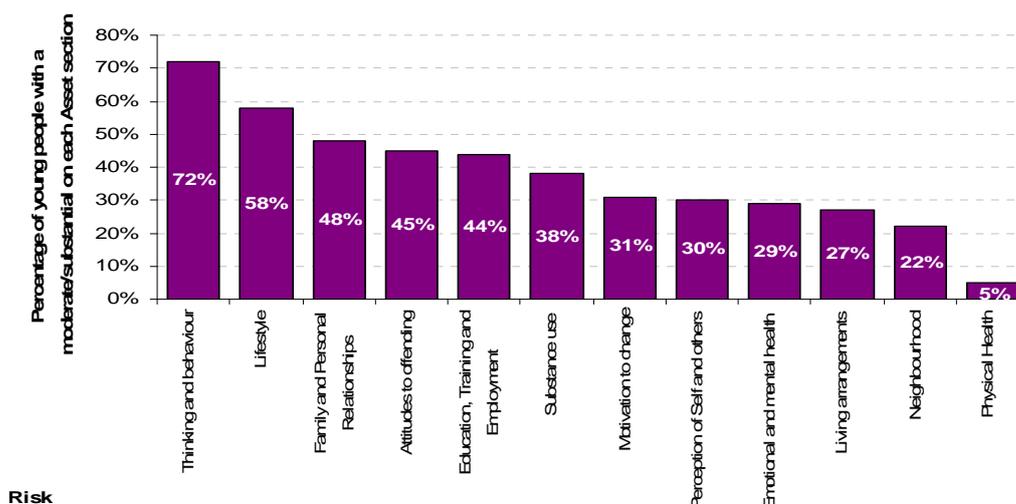
⁴³ The Scaled Approach Framework (YJB, 2010a) was implemented in November 2009 and saw the introduction of the static risk factors to the total scoring system. It aimed to focus the attention and resources of the YOT on those who are at highest risk of re-offending. Young people are grouped into three levels of interventions: standard (Asset score of 0-14), enhanced (score of 15-32), and intensive (33-64). The Scaled Approach does not apply to those receiving Final Warnings because Final Warning cases will be early on in their offending careers so it would not be appropriate to complete the static questions on criminal history which are required under the Scaled Approach.

As the JCS data collection period ended before the introduction of the Scaled Approach, offending history information, required for the Asset static factors, was extracted from the PNC and the scores calculated retrospectively. It is important to note that this 'simulated' Scaled Approach may not necessarily reflect the way this static information would have been recorded on Asset.

Types of risk factor (12 Asset dynamic sections)

The percentage of people with risk factors moderately/substantially associated with re-offending differed across different sections⁴⁴. Seventy-two per cent of young people had a moderate/substantial risk factor in terms of 'thinking and behaviour' compared with only five per cent of young people who had 'physical health' risk. Although the actual figures differ, the general pattern was consistent with earlier published data (e.g. YJB, 2009; Baker et al 2003).

Chart 12.2: Percentage of young people with a moderate/substantial risk (Asset score 2-4) on each Asset section

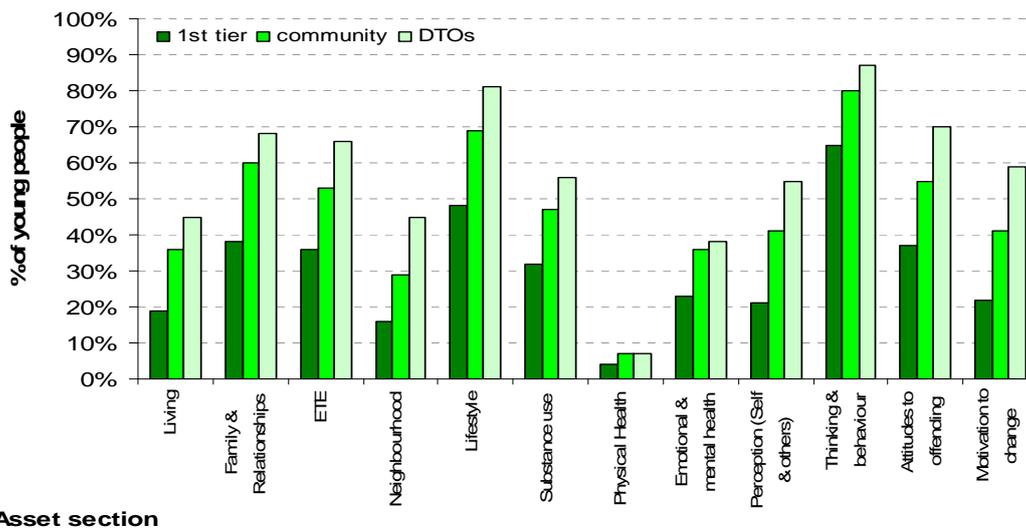


The pattern was also generally consistent across age groups; sex and ethnicity. However, there were a few exceptions. Substance use was more prevalent among 15-17 year olds compared with 10-14 year olds (42% compared with 21%). 'Emotional and mental health' problems were more prevalent among females than males (41% compared with 26%). This difference between males and females is generally consistent with the adult literature (e.g. Debidin, 2009; MoJ, 2010).

When considering disposal, as severity of disposal increased, so did the percentage of young people scoring moderately/substantially on each risk factor. For example, a fifth (19%) of 1st tier disposals had a moderate or substantial risk in terms of 'living arrangements', compared with 36 per cent of those on community sentences and 45 per cent of those on DTOs. The pattern was consistent with those reported by the NAO (2010).

⁴⁴ For the purposes of this report, a risk factor was considered to be moderately/substantially related to re-offending if a score of 2 to 4 was given for an Asset section.

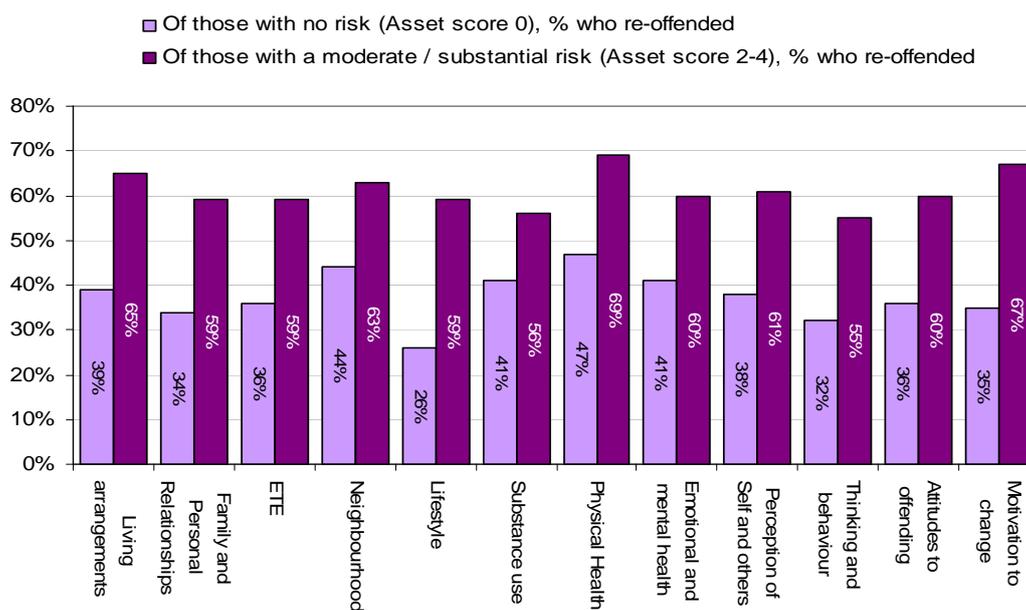
Chart 12.3: Percentage of young people with a moderate/substantial risk (Asset section score 2-4) by disposal category



How type of risk factor related to proven re-offending

Across all the 12 sections, a higher percentage of those who had a moderate/substantial risk, re-offended, compared with those who had no risk. Wilson and Hinks (2011), when looking at non-custodial sentences, found that out of the 12 Asset dynamic factors, ‘lifestyle’, ‘substance use’ and ‘motivation to change’ were highly statistically significant predictors of proven one-year re-offending. ‘Living arrangements’, ‘family and personal relationships’, and ‘education, training and employment’ were also statistically significant.

Chart 12.4: Percentage of young people who re-offended by whether they were assessed as having no risk or moderate/substantial risk on each Asset section



Number of Asset risk factors

It is important to also look beyond the overall and section scores. For example two people may both present with an overall Asset score of 12: one person may score one on each of the 12 sections, whereas the other person may score four on three of the sections and zero on the remaining nine. How YOTs work with these two people may be very different despite their overall score being the same. Hence another way to consider the extent of 'risk' young people present is to explore the number of moderate/substantial risk factors they are assessed as having.

Nine per cent did not score two or more on any of the 12 sections. One per cent were assessed as having a moderate/substantial risk in all 12 sections. The mean and median number of risks factors was 4, the mode was 3⁴⁵.

Socio-demographic and disposal comparisons

- The average number of moderate/substantial risks was slightly higher for 10-14 year olds (mean and median=5, mode=6) compared with 15-17 year olds (mean and median= 4, mode=1).
- Similarly, the average number of moderate/substantial risks was slightly higher for females (mean and median=5, mode=2) compared with males (mean and median=4, mode=1).
- As the severity of disposal increased, so did the average number of moderate/substantial risks i.e. 1st tier (mean=4, median=3); community sentences (mean=6, median=6); DTOs (mean=7, median=7).

How the number of Asset risk factors related to proven re-offending

As the number of moderate/substantial risk factors increased, so did the percentage who re-offended. For example, 34 per cent of those who had 0-2 risks re-offended, compared with 81 per cent of those who had 11-12 risks. This pattern was generally consistent across age groups, sex, ethnicity and disposal category.

Individual risk items underlying the 12 Asset dynamic sections

Each of the 12 Asset dynamic sections are made up of several individual items/questions, which when answered should help the YOT worker assess the extent to which the factor e.g. 'living arrangements', is associated with re-offending. These items could be answered as 'yes'; 'no' or 'don't know'. Thirty four Asset items⁴⁶ were available for analysis.

⁴⁵ Mean = the arithmetic average (i.e. calculated by adding up all the numbers and dividing by the number of values). Median= the middle number, when the numbers are in order of magnitude; Mode=the most frequently occurring number.

⁴⁶ It is important to note that the JCS did not collect all Asset items/questions. Also, those which had more than 10% missing data were excluded from analysis.

There was variation in the percentage of people displaying each risk item. For example, 59 per cent of young people displayed 'aggression towards others (e.g. verbal, physical)', whereas five per cent had a 'formal diagnosis of mental illness'. The percentage of young people with each risk item was slightly different compared with those identified by previous research (e.g. Baker et al., 2003)⁴⁷, however the pattern was generally consistent.

In order to aid interpretation, individual underlying risk items were categorised into three main themes based on their content:

- 1) **Family and lifestyle** (covering the sections 'living arrangements', 'family and personal relationships', 'neighbourhood' and 'lifestyle');
- 2) **Health** (covering the sections 'substance use', 'physical health' and 'emotional and mental health');
- 3) **Thinking and attitudes** (covering the sections 'perception of self and others', 'thinking and behaviour', 'attitudes to offending' and 'motivation to change').

There were differences in the percentage of people with each risk item, by disposal category: Across most items, the percentage of people assessed as having a risk increased as severity of disposal increased e.g. 31 per cent of those on 1st tier disposals had a 'lack of remorse', compared with 40 per cent of those on community disposals and 47 per cent of those on DTOs.

The percentage of young people with each risk item was generally consistent across age groups, sex, and ethnicity. However, there were some exceptions, which are listed below. In particular there were differences between the age groups in terms of **thinking and attitudes**. The differences between males and females were mainly in terms of **family and lifestyle** and **health**.

Family and lifestyle

- Overall 23 per cent had 'experienced abuse (i.e. physical, sexual, emotional, neglect)'. The figure for DTOs was 32 per cent. This was similar to the figure reported among adult prisoners for abuse experienced as a child (MoJ, 2010) and compares with about 16 per cent of the general population of children (Cawson, 2002). More females had experienced abuse compared with males (35% compared with 20%). This pattern was consistent with the results reported by Baker et al (2003).

⁴⁷ Baker et al (2003) utilised 3,395 Asset assessments completed between June and September 2000 from 39 YOTs, to describe the characteristics and needs of young people coming into contact with YOTs. Differences may be attributable to the sample selection and the fact that Baker et al may have included the same people more than once. In the JCS sample, only one Asset per young person was selected.

- Thirty per cent had experienced ‘significant’⁴⁸ bereavement’. This compared with 4% of the general population of children who had experienced death of parent(s) and/or siblings (Green et al, 2005).
- Seventeen per cent of males had ‘absconded’⁴⁹ compared with 36 per cent of females.

Health

- Twelve per cent had deliberately self harmed. This compared with six per cent of adult prisoners who had self harmed in the year before custody (MoJ, 2010). Nine per cent of males had self harmed compared with 29 per cent of females. The pattern replicated the results found by Baker et al (2003) and those reported in [Chapter 8](#) of this publication. The pattern was also consistent with the adult offender literature e.g. Stewart (2008).
- Seven per cent had ‘previously attempted suicide’. This compared with nine per cent of adult prisoners who had attempted suicide in the year before custody (MoJ, 2010). In England as a whole, approximately five per cent of adults said that they had attempted suicide at some point in their life with 0.7 per cent saying that they had attempted suicide over the past year (McManus, Meltzer, Brugha, Bebbington & Jenkins, 2009). Five per cent of males compared with 15 per cent of females had previously attempted suicide. This difference between males and females also replicated the results found by Baker et al (2003) and was consistent with adult prisoners e.g. the Social Exclusion Unit (2002) and Stewart (2008).
- Twenty five per cent had ‘any contact with, or referrals to, mental health services’. This compared with 17 per cent of adult prisoners who had been treated for a mental health problem in the year before custody (MoJ, 2010).

Thinking and attitudes

- On a number of items, a higher percentage of 10-14 year olds compared with 15-17 year olds were identified as having risks.
- Over half (56%) of males were assessed as showing ‘aggression towards others’ compared with 72 per cent of females (both verbal and physical aggression was included in this item).

⁴⁸ This question is about the impact of loss on the young person rather than the event itself. A ‘yes’ response could be triggered by any incidence of bereavement or loss which constitutes to have a significant impact on his/her everyday life functioning, regardless of when the event actually occurred. A ‘no’ response could be given in cases where s/he has experienced loss, but the impact on his/her current life and situation is small.” (Asset Core Profile guidance)

⁴⁹ Absconding or staying away (e.g. ever reported as missing person).

How the individual underlying risk items related to proven re-offending

Across the majority of risk items, those with a risk⁵⁰, had higher proven re-offending levels compared with those who did not have a risk. For example, 62 per cent of those who 'associated with pro-criminal peers' re-offended, compared with only 38 per cent of those who did not. This pattern was generally consistent across age groups, sex, ethnicity and disposal category.

Indicators of vulnerability

Part of the Core Asset focuses on particular indicators of vulnerability i.e. the possibility of the young person being harmed either physically or emotionally. The purpose of this is to highlight cases which may need further exploration. Those young people presenting with a medium-very high vulnerability rating should have a vulnerability management plan completed for them (see Asset manual).

A notable minority of young people showed indications that they were vulnerable: to the behaviour of other people (20%)⁵¹; to other events or circumstances (22%)⁵²; to their own behaviour (29%)⁵³.

These figures were generally consistent across age groups and ethnicity. However, there were differences by sex and disposal category.

- A higher percentage of females displayed indicators of vulnerability than males. For example, 31 per cent of females compared with 18 per cent of males were likely to be vulnerable to the behaviour of other people.
- As the severity of disposal increased, so did the percentage of young people who showed evidence of vulnerability. For example, 23 per cent of those on 1st tier disposals; 36 per cent on community sentences and 44 per cent of DTOs were considered vulnerable to their own behaviour.

⁵⁰ The individual underlying risk items were rated as 'yes', 'no' or 'don't know'.

⁵¹ Q) Is there evidence that s/he is likely to be vulnerable as a result of the behaviour of other people (e.g. bullying, abuse, neglect, intimidation, exploitation)?

⁵² Q) Is there evidence that s/he is likely to be vulnerable as a result of other events or circumstances (e.g. separation, anniversary of loss, change of care arrangements)?

⁵³ Q) Is there evidence that s/he is likely to be vulnerable as a result of his/her own behaviour (e.g. risk taking, ignorance, drugs, acting out, inappropriate response to stress)?

How the indicators of vulnerability related to proven re-offending

Those displaying indicators of vulnerability had higher re-offending levels compared with those who were not considered 'vulnerable'. For example, 63 per cent of those likely to be vulnerable to their own behaviour re-offended, compared with 44 per cent of those not considered vulnerable to their own behaviour. This pattern was generally consistent across age groups, sex, ethnicity and disposal category.

Risk of Serious Harm (ROSH)

The Core Asset form includes 'indicators of serious harm to others', which should be completed for all sentenced cases. The Asset manual defines serious harm as 'death or injury (either physical or psychological) which is life threatening and/or traumatic and from which recovery is expected to be difficult, incomplete or impossible' (p26). Where any of the indicators of serious harm are met, a full risk of serious harm assessment should be completed. Twelve per cent (658) of young people in the sample had a risk of serious harm assessment⁵⁴.

Of those with ROSH assessments, 26 per cent were considered to be low risk of serious harm; 59 per cent medium risk and 15 per cent high or very high risk⁵⁵.

Of those with ROSH assessments, 41 per cent were under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) supervision⁵⁶. The majority of these were under level 1 supervision⁵⁷.

The type of person considered to be 'at risk' from the young people varied). For example, no young people with ROSH assessments were considered as being at risk to siblings, whereas 54 per cent were assessed as posing a risk to their peers and 45 per cent to the public.

In terms of those presenting a risk to their peers, there were some subgroup differences. Sixty-three per cent of females compared with 52 per cent of males; 66 per cent of BME young people compared with 50 per cent of young people from a white ethnic background presented as a risk to their peers.

⁵⁴ Compared with the wider JCS sample, those with ROSH assessments were on more punitive disposals i.e. within the wider JCS sample, 58 per cent were on 1st tier disposals; 37 per cent were on community disposals and 6 per cent were on DTOs. The corresponding figures for those with ROSH assessments were 36 per cent, 49 per cent and 15 per cent respectively.

⁵⁵ HM Inspectorate of Probation (March 2011) undertook a Core Case Inspection of 79 YOTs between April 2009 and October 2010 and found that 9% of cases were high or very high risk. The JCS and HMIP samples differed slightly; HMIP only looked at those who had been under YOT supervision for six to nine months.

⁵⁶ 'MAPPA are a set of statutory arrangements to assess and manage the risk posed by certain sexual and violent offenders' (P1, MOJ, 2011).

⁵⁷ Level 1 refers to the most basic level of supervision arrangements available under MAPPA.

Chapter 13: Perceptions of youth crime and the Youth Justice System

The British Crime Survey (BCS⁵⁸) includes measures of public confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) including perceptions of, and confidence in, the Youth Justice System (YJS). This chapter reports findings from the 2010/11 BCS on perceptions, of those aged 16 and over, on what the main aim of the Youth Justice System should be; whether the police and courts deal with young people fairly; perceptions of sentencing young offenders; and public confidence in youth crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) being tackled effectively at a local level.

Any differences between groups referred to in the text are statistically significant at the 0.05 level (this means that there is only a 5% chance that differences reported are not true differences). Also, all don't know/refused responses have been removed from the analysis.

Key findings

This chapter presents some insight into public perceptions of youth crime and the youth justice system, with findings emphasising the perceived importance of rehabilitation, alongside a desire generally for more stringent treatment of offenders by the police and courts.

- Nearly half (45%) of respondents felt that 'rehabilitation through help and support' should be the main aim of the youth justice system.
- Over half of respondents (59%) were confident that youth crime and ASB is tackled effectively in their local area.
- Around two thirds of people (64%) felt that the police and courts dealt with young offenders too leniently. However, in 2010/11 there was an increase from the previous year in the proportion who felt that the treatment was 'about right' (from 26% to 32%).
- Over half (56%) felt that a caution or a warning should be the action taken against a first time offender guilty of minor theft – and 51% felt that a community order should be the action taken for a repeat offender guilty of the same offence.
- Over half (58%) of people felt that a 15 year old and a 21 year old should be given the same sentence if found guilty of the same crime.

⁵⁸ The BCS is a nationally-representative face-to-face victimisation survey in which people resident in private households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of a range of crimes. The BCS also includes questions that allow us to look at the perceptions of older teenagers and adults with regard to the Youth Justice System (YJS). The main 2010/11 BCS publication can be found at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1011/?view=Standard&pubID=908823

- Findings suggest a large proportion of people overestimated the number of young offenders sent to custody for either theft and handling or stealing a car.
- When respondents were also asked what they considered to be the most important thing that could be done to improve their confidence in the CJS. The most common response was 'tougher sentences (23%) and the fifth most popular response was 'tackling youth crime' (8%)

Perceptions of the aim of the Youth Justice System (YJS)

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998⁵⁹ established the prevention of offending by children and young people as the principal aim of the youth justice system, and placed a statutory duty on all those working in the youth justice system to have regard to that aim.

BCS respondents were asked what they thought should be the main aim of the YJS. For this question, respondents were split into two separate representative samples in order to assess the possible effects of a different order of response options in the question. For Sample A, 'to punish' was the last option listed and for Sample B it was the first (see Chart 13.1 for the full list of options). The findings show little variation in responses across the two samples with the exceptions of the 'punishment' and 'making an example' responses (perhaps reflecting this differing ordering of response options).

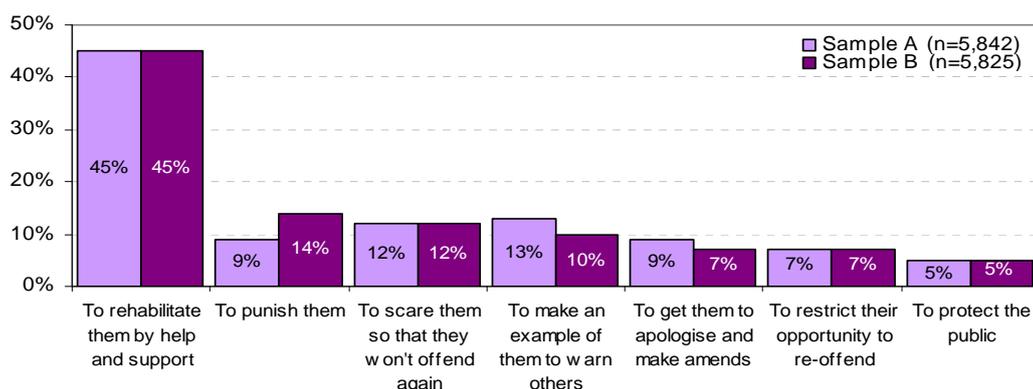
Forty-five per cent of respondents stated that rehabilitation through help and support, to try to change young people's behaviour (e.g. drug treatment, skills training etc) should be the main aim of the YJS in both samples. This was the most popular response by far.

There were some statistically significant differences⁶⁰ between socio-demographic groups for the rehabilitation and punishment responses, which could possibly be due to the different ordering of the responses in the two samples.

⁵⁹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/contents

⁶⁰ Any differences between groups referred to in the text are statistically significant at the 0.05 level (this means that there is only a 5% chance that differences reported are not true differences). Also, all don't know/refused responses have been removed from the analysis.

Chart 13.1: Respondents views on what the main aims of the youth justice system should be, 2010/11



Perceptions of how the police and courts deal with young offenders

Overall, around two thirds of people (64%) felt that the way in which the police and courts dealt with young offenders was too lenient (either 'much too lenient' or 'a little too lenient') – around a third said they were 'much too lenient' (32%). The responses for this question remained similar between 2006/07 and 2009/10⁶¹. However, in 2010/11 there was a statistically significant increase from the previous year in the proportion who felt that the treatment was 'about right' (from 26% to 32%).

- A higher proportion (66%) of adults aged 21 and over, felt that the police and courts dealt with young people too leniently, compared with those in the younger age groups⁶² (46% of the 18-20 year old group, and 41% of the 16-17 year old group).
- Victims of crime were slightly more likely to feel that young people were dealt with too leniently, compared with those who had not been victims of crime (68% compared with 63%).
- Those living in a household with an income of under £15,000 per year were more likely to feel that young people were dealt with too leniently, compared with those with a household income of £50,000 or more (66% versus 57%).
- A larger proportion (69%) of those who read popular newspapers (such as The Sun or The Daily Star) felt that young people were dealt with too leniently, when compared with those who read broadsheet newspapers (such as The Guardian or The Daily Telegraph) (53%). This difference was driven by the larger proportion stating treatment

⁶¹ Comparisons between years are included where time series are available and where questions are directly comparable.

⁶² Respondents were split into three age groups: 16-17 year olds, 18-20 year olds, and those 21 and older. This was in order to draw particular attention to the perceptions of younger people surveyed, who are treated differently by the CJS (e.g. held separately within custodial institutions)

was 'much too lenient' (22 per cent of broadsheet newspaper readers, compared with 37 per cent of popular newspaper readers).

- There were no statistically significant differences between the perceptions of those from White backgrounds and those from BME backgrounds.

Perceptions of sentencing for young offenders

Sentencing of first time offenders

Respondents were asked to think about what action might be taken against a 15 year old who owns up to a minor offence, such as the theft of clothing worth £30 from a small independent shop. In the first instance, they were told that this young person had never been in trouble with the police before, and in a second follow-up question, they were told that the young person had been in trouble with the police before, for a similar minor offence⁶³

When asked about a first time offender, over half of respondents (56%) felt that a caution or warning was the appropriate action to be taken for a minor theft. Around a quarter (23%) felt a community sentence should be given, and two per cent felt that the young person should be sent to custody.

- A slightly lower proportion of those who had been victims of crime in the past 12 months (53%) felt that a caution or warning was appropriate compared with those who had not been victims (57%).
- A slightly higher proportion of broadsheet newspaper readers (59%) felt that a caution or warning was appropriate, compared with those who read popular newspapers (55%).
- A higher proportion of adults aged 21 or over opted for the community sentence in this scenario (23%) when compared with those in the 18-20 age group (16%).
- There were no statistically significant differences between the responses of those from White backgrounds and those from BME backgrounds, when considering a first time offender.

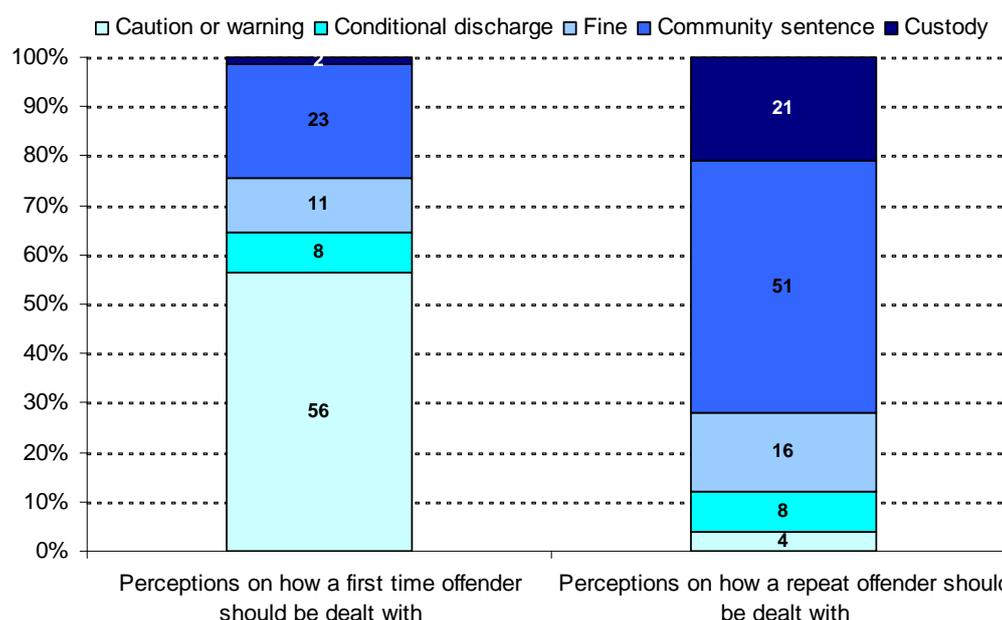
⁶³ As noted in Chapter 10, in 2010/11 most young people (71%) who received a reprimand or warning for an indictable offence had no previous offences. Only two per cent of young people given a reprimand or final warning had a previous court conviction. The majority received a reprimand or warning for drug offences and theft and handling stolen goods offences. However these figures are not directly comparable to responses from this question. In practice, reprimands and final warnings are only supposed to be given for first or second offences. According to the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, when sentencing an offender a court must follow any relevant sentencing guidelines (<http://sentencingcouncil.judiciary.gov.uk/index.htm>) unless it is contrary to the interests of justice to do so.

Sentencing of repeat offenders

When asked the same question about a young person who had been in trouble with the police before, a much larger proportion felt that that a community sentence (51%) or custody (21%) was the appropriate action to be taken. Only four per cent thought a caution or warning appropriate.

- When considering an offender who had been in trouble with the police before, just over half of those from a White background (52%) opted for a community sentence, compared with 37 per cent of those from BME backgrounds. Twenty per cent of those from White backgrounds felt that custody was the appropriate sentence, compared with 30% of those from BME backgrounds
- Nearly a quarter of those who read popular newspapers (23%) preferred custody for a repeat offender, compared with 14 per cent of those who read broadsheet newspapers
- A quarter (25%) of those who lived in London chose custody for a repeat offender, compared with around a fifth (21%) of those who lived outside of London.

Chart 13.2: Perceptions of sentencing for young people, 2010/11



Sentencing for juveniles compared to adults

When asked to think about two people, one aged 15 and one aged 21, who had been found guilty of exactly the same crime, over half of respondents (58%) felt that both should get the same sentence. Forty per cent felt that the 21 year old should get the tougher sentence, and two per cent felt that the 15 year old should.

A larger proportion of men (45%) compared with women (36%) felt that the system should be tougher on the 21 year old, while a larger proportion of

women felt that they should be sentenced equally (62% compared with 53%). A larger proportion of young adults (those aged 18-20) also felt that they should be sentenced equally (71%) compared with those aged 21 and over (57%).

Custodial sentencing for different offences

Respondents were asked about their perceptions of sentencing for different offences. Firstly, they were asked to state how many (out of 100) young people found guilty of stealing cars they thought were given a custodial sentence. Eight per cent of respondents thought that more than half of young people found guilty were sentenced to custody. Just over 40 per cent thought that 10 per cent or less went to custody, including nine per cent who thought that none would go to custody for this offence. These figures were similar for the 2009/10 BCS.

In 2010, court statistics showed that the proportion of young people who plead guilty and were sentenced to custody for 'theft and unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle' was six per cent⁶⁴. Whilst not directly comparable to the question⁶⁵, this implies that around four-fifths (78%) overestimated the number of young people sent to custody for this offence.

Secondly, respondents were asked how many (out of 100) young people found guilty of theft and handling were given custodial sentences. Seven per cent of respondents thought that more than half of young people were. Around two fifths (44%) thought that 10 per cent or less went to custody, including nine per cent who thought that none would have gone to custody for this offence. One per cent thought that all of the young people found guilty would have gone to custody. Again, these figures were similar in the 2009/10 BCS.

In 2010, court statistics showed that the proportion of young people who plead guilty and were sentenced to custody for 'theft and handling' was four per cent in 2010⁶⁶. Whilst not directly comparable to the question⁶⁷ this implies, as with the previous question, that the vast majority, over four fifths (86%) overestimated the number of young people sent to custody for this offence.

The BCS responses therefore showed a disparity between perceptions of sentencing and actual sentencing practice, in that sentencing practice was overestimated with regard to these particular offences.

⁶⁴ Criminal Justice Statistics, England and Wales 2010, Supplementary Table 5.5

⁶⁵ The question refers specifically to cars, not motor vehicles, and those who were tried and found guilty, as opposed to plead guilty. There is also a slight disparity between the time periods covered.

⁶⁶ Criminal Justice Statistics, England and Wales 2010, Supplementary Table 5.5

⁶⁷ The question refers specifically to those who were tried and found guilty, as opposed to plead guilty. There is also a slight disparity between the time periods covered.

Confidence that local youth crime or Anti-Social behaviour (ASB) is tackled effectively

In 2010/11 respondents were asked “How confident are you that crime or anti-social behaviour committed by young people aged 10-17 is tackled effectively in your local area?”

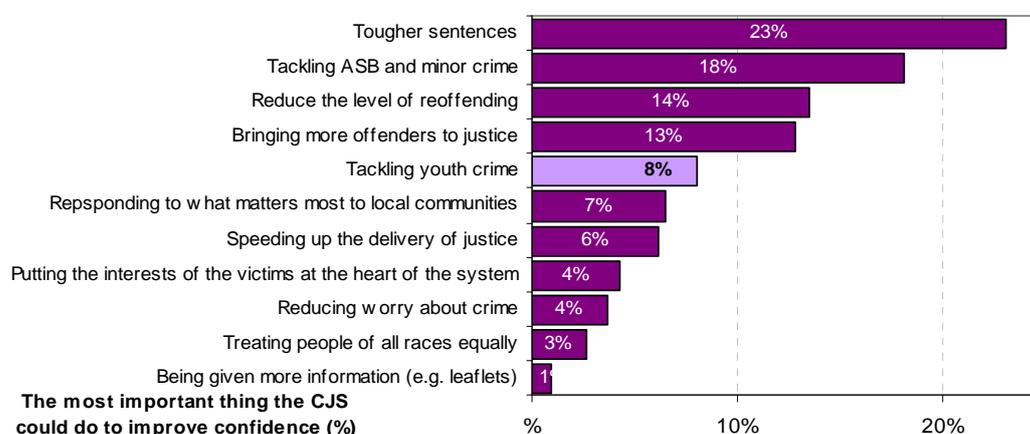
Seven per cent spontaneously responded that crime or anti-social behaviour committed by young people was not a problem in their local area. This was the same figure as in 2009/10. When these people were removed from the sample, over half (59%) of the remaining respondents felt very or fairly confident that youth crime and ASB was tackled effectively in their local area (58% in the previous year), and of these, four per cent reported that they were ‘very’ confident.

- A larger proportion of women felt confident that crime or anti-social behaviour committed by young people was tackled effectively, compared with men (62% versus 57%). There were no statistically significant differences in confidence, in the responses between those with varying household incomes, or those from White backgrounds compared with those from BME backgrounds.
- Of those who had been victims of crime in the 12 months prior to the survey, a smaller proportion (47%) felt confident that crime by young people was tackled effectively, compared with 63% of those who had not been a victim in the last year.

Would tackling youth crime improve confidence in the Criminal Justice system?

Respondents were also asked what they considered to be the most important thing that could be done to improve their confidence in the CJS. Out of eleven possible responses, the most common was ‘tougher sentences’ (23%) and the fifth most popular response was ‘tackling youth crime’ (8%).

Chart 13.3: The most important thing the CJS could do to improve confidence, 2010/11 BCS



- A slightly higher proportion of women reported that tackling youth crime was the most important thing in improving their confidence; 9% compared with 7% of men.
- Of those from BME backgrounds, a higher proportion felt that tackling youth crime was the most important thing in improving their confidence in the CJS; 13%, compared with 7% of those from White backgrounds.
- Of those living in London, a higher proportion gave 'tackling youth crime' as a response, compared with those who did not live in London (12% versus 7%).

Links to other resources

Statistics References

Arrest statistics

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb0711/?view=Standard&pubID=884517

This annual bulletin present data on arrests for notifiable offences; stops and searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE); breath tests and police action in relation to motoring offences

Anti-Social Behaviour statistics

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/asbo-stats-england-wales-2010/?view=Standard&pubID=951081

This annual bulletin presents the number of anti-social behaviour orders issued and breached in the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2010.

Crime in England and Wales

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1011/

This annual bulletin presents key statistics on crime in England and Wales taken from the recorded crime figures and the British Crime Survey. The publication also includes experimental statistics on which asked children aged 10 to 15 about their experience of crime.

Criminal Statistics

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics.htm

This quarterly bulletin presents key statistics on activity in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) for England and Wales. The data provides users with information about proven offending and its outcomes in England and Wales. It contains statistics for adults and young people on; offences, out of court disposals, court disposals and offending histories (including first time entrants and previous disposals).

Re-offending of juveniles

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/reoffending/proven-reoffending-quarterly.htm

This report provides key statistics on proven re-offending in England and Wales. It gives proven re-offending figures for offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, reprimand, warning or tested positive for opiates or cocaine between January and December 2009

Young people in custody

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/youth-justice/custody-data.htm This monthly report covers information on the population in custody within the youth secure estate. The data provides users with the breakdown of the population in custody each month as well as trend data from 2005/06 onwards.

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- Youth Justice Board (2010b) *Youth Justice Annual Workload data 2008/2009: England and Wales: Youth Justice Board/Ministry of Justice Statistics bulletin*.

Explanatory notes

Data sources and quality

All figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

1. Data from the Ministry of Justice.

Much of the data in this report has been taken from previously published statistical bulletins published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and other government departments. In these cases links to original publication are provided. Please see these publications for comments on the quality of this data.

For more information about the databases used and definitions used in the Criminal Justice System please see:

www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice-stats/guide-to-cj-stats.pdf

2. Data from the Youth Justice Board

Some of the data in this publication come from youth offending teams (YOTs) and do not come from the police or courts. As such the data given in this publication may differ from that presented in other Ministry of Justice publications. The 2010/11 data have been taken from the Youth Justice Management Information System (YJMIS) system. This system contains summary and case level data on young people on the YOT caseload. Previously only summary level data was submitted to the YJB.

All of the YJMIS data used in chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6 comes from a snapshot of the live YJMIS system taken in January 2012. This contains data from the YOT case management system, which like any large administrative database is subject to possible recording errors.

The rollout of YJMIS data quality improvement measures were schedule for completion in December 2011. Unfortunately due to reasons beyond our control, the rollout has taken longer than anticipated and to date we have only managed to make the required system updates to 85% of all YOTs. Since not all YOTs have received the necessary improvement measures, at this stage, we cannot be 100% confident that the YJMIS YOT case level data are as accurate as needed. Because of this we expect that the data will change once all YOTs have received the required update.

Because of this we are publishing national level data for 2010/11 but no local level breakdowns. The local level breakdowns (along with any

necessary revisions to the YJMIS data) will be published in the spring of 2012.

Data on young people in the secure estate comes from the YJB's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS) database.

The Behaviour Management data are taken from monthly data returns from establishments to the YJB. In some cases the total figures for age, gender and ethnicity may not add up to the same figures due to recording issues. These small variations will not make any difference to the overall rates. Further work is planned to improve the quality of this data in 2011/12.

Data on serious incidents in the community have come from individual returns submitted by YOTs though out the year. These are collected centrally by the YJB.

3. Data from the Home Office

The BCS is a nationally-representative survey of individuals aged 16 years and over living in private households in England and Wales. The BCS includes questions that allow us to look at the perceptions of older teenagers and adults with regard to the Youth Justice System (YJS). The main 2010/11 BCS publication can be found at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1011/?view=Standard&pubID=908823

Home Office User Guide:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/user-guide-crime-statistics/>

Un-weighted base: All BCS percentages and rates presented in the tables are based on data weighted to compensate for differential non response. Tables show the un-weighted base which represents the number of people/households interviewed in the specified group.

Percentages: Row or column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Most BCS tables present cell percentages where the figures refer to the percentage of people/households who have the attribute being discussed and the complementary percentage, to add to 100%, is not shown.

A percentage may be quoted in the text for a single category that is identifiable in the tables only by summing two or more component percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single category and therefore may differ by one percentage point from the sum of the percentages derived from the tables.

'No answers' (missing values): All BCS analysis excludes don't know/refusals unless otherwise specified.

Symbols and conventions

The units of measurement in this publication are offenders, offences and disposals; these are given as full numbers where available. The percentages are rounded to the nearest number.

The following symbols have been used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

- = Nil / Zero
- .. = Not available

Revisions policy

Data are received from YOTs and the secure estate on a rolling basis which may lead to slight changes to published figures. Revisions are only made when there is a significant change or when an error was identified in the original data.

For the revisions policy for data from other sources see their respective publications.

Contact points for further information

Previous editions of this publication are available for download at;

www.yjb.gov.uk/Publications/Scripts/prodList.asp?idCategory=69&menu=item&eP

Spreadsheet files of the tables contained in this document are also available for download with this publication.

Annex A: Juvenile Cohort Study (JCS) technical annex

The JCS was a joint initiative by the MoJ and the YJB. The study aimed to profile a cohort of young people coming into contact with YOTs in terms of their risks, needs, offence histories and protective factors. It also explored what interventions they had received and how well they matched to offenders' needs.

The JCS comprised records of 13,975 young people, which were drawn from the case management systems of 30 participating YOTs in England and Wales. All the young people were subject to YOT supervision during 1 February 2008 to 31 January 2009, between the ages of 10 and 17 years old, normally resident in the YOT area, and had received a sentence which made them eligible for inclusion in the cohort.⁶⁸ The cohort was then matched against the PNC to extract offending history and proven re-offending data.

The JCS was one of three major cohort studies managed by the MoJ which aim to get a better understanding of different parts of the criminal justice system. The Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction (SPCR) cohort survey collected data on adult prisoners at the start of, during and after serving a prison sentence of up to four years (Stewart, 2008; MoJ, 2010). The Offender Management Community Cohort Study (OMCCS) focused on offenders who were under supervision by Probation Services while serving a community sentence. A baseline report from OMCCS is expected for publication later in 2012. This is likely to provide data on characteristics and needs.

Selecting a sample for analysis

Core Assets which were completed closest in time to the index disposal, were identified. For consistency with the approach taken by Wilson and Hinks (2011), a cut off of 30 days before and after the index disposal was taken. Only one Asset assessment per offender was included. The attrition of cases during the sample selection and matching process is shown below.

⁶⁸ Eligible disposals included Final Warnings, Referral Orders, Reparation Orders, Action Plan Orders (APOs), Attendance Centre Orders (ACOs), Community Punishment Orders (CPOs), Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Orders (CPROs), Community Rehabilitation Orders (CROs), Curfew Orders, Supervision Orders, and Detention and Training Orders (DTOs).

Table A.1: Sample selection, matching and attrition

Stage	Number of young people
Total JCS cohort	13,975
Those who <i>should</i> have a 'CORE' Asset (i.e. just sentenced cases and excludes Final Warnings)	8,331
Those who had a 'valid' CORE Asset i.e. with all 12 section scores completed within 30 days of disposal	6,180
Those who had a 'valid' CORE Asset i.e. with all 12 section scores completed within 30 days AND matched against the PNC	5,453
Those who had a 'valid' CORE Asset i.e. with all 12 section scores completed within 30 days AND matched against the PNC specifically in terms of sex (important for any breakdowns by sex)	5,434
Those who had a 'valid' CORE Asset i.e. with all 12 section scores completed within 30 days AND matched against the PNC specifically in terms of date of birth (important for any breakdowns by age)	5,181
Number of respondents per underlying Asset item	4,890-5,284
Number of young people with valid Asset 'Risk of Serious Harm' (ROSH) assessments i.e. responded 'yes' to any of the indicators of serious harm in the CORE Asset profile, and considered at risk to at least one category of person AND had a 'valid' CORE Asset AND matched against the PNC.	658
Number of young people with valid Asset 'Risk of Serious Harm' (ROSH) assessments i.e. responded 'yes' to any of the indicators of serious harm in the CORE Asset profile, and considered at risk to at least one category of person AND had a 'valid' CORE Asset AND matched against the PNC specifically in terms of sex (important for breakdowns by sex).	655
Number of young people with valid Asset 'Risk of Serious Harm' (ROSH) assessments i.e. responded 'yes' to any of the indicators of serious harm in the CORE Asset profile, and considered at risk to at least one category of person AND had a 'valid' CORE Asset AND matched against the PNC specifically in terms of date of birth (important for breakdowns by age).	633

Representativeness

The JCS sample comprising young people who had a 'valid' Core Asset AND matched against the PNC (n= 5,453) was compared to the national profile of disposals as reported in the 2008/2009 Youth Justice Annual Workload statistics (YJB, 2010b). The sample was found to be *broadly* representative of the young people being supervised by YOTs in terms of age group, sex, ethnicity and disposal category.

Table A.2: Percentage of young people by sex, age group, ethnicity and disposal category

	Sex (% male)	Age (% aged 10-14 years)	Ethnicity (% white)	Disposal (% DTOs)
JCS sample used in this report n=5,453 (n=5,181 when considering age; n=5,434 when considering sex)	83%	20%	84%	6%
YJB Workload Statistics 2008/09 (total caseload)	78%	30%	84%	4%
YJB Workload Statistics 2008/09 (only 'sentenced' JCS disposals included)	83%	23%	82%	8%
JCS total sample n=13,975	80%	26%	86%	4%

Annex B: Performance Outcomes in the Youth Justice System, 2010/11

This annex covers information on the performance outcomes for the Youth Justice System (YJS). During 2010/11 the YJS had seven Indicators, five National Indicators (NIs), these were; First time entrants to the YJS, Re-offending for young people, Use of custody, Ethnicity, Young people in Education Training and Employment. For Wales there were Welsh Justice indicators around young people in suitable accommodation, levels of education training and employments and substance misuse.

The NIs came to an end in March 2011. The Government's response to the Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle'⁶⁹ signals a move towards a national risk based monitoring programme centred on three key youth justice outcomes (first time entrants, re-offending and use of custody). The three Welsh Justice indicators (young people in suitable accommodation, levels of education training and employments and substance misuse) will remain.

England and Wales indicators, 2010/11

First Time Entrants: First time entrants (FTEs) to the criminal justice system are classified as young people aged 10-17 years, resident in England and Wales, who received their first reprimand, warning, caution or conviction, based on data recorded by the police on the PNC ([Chapter 2](#))

- There were 45,519 first time entrants to the youth justice system in England and Wales in 2010/11.
- The number of FTEs has fallen 59 per cent from the peak of 110,815 in 2006/07. The number of FTEs fell 27 per cent between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Re-offending of young people: A re-offence is defined as any new offence committed within the one-year follow up period of being released from custody or given a caution/conviction, which is proved with another caution/conviction ([Chapter 9](#)).

- Results from the 2009/10 cohort show that the rate of re-offending for young people was 33.3 per cent. Down 0.4 percentage points since 2000.
- The average number of re-offences per re-offender was 2.79 in 2009, down from 3.32 re-offences in 2000.

Use of custody: The use of custody was measured by the custody rate, i.e. the number of young people sentenced to custody as a proportion of all

⁶⁹ www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-040311.htm

young people sentenced. For information on young people in custody see [Chapter 7](#).

- Data from the MoJ shows that the overall custody rate was 5.8 per cent in 2010/11, compared to 5.9 per cent in 2009/10. Local level custody data by YOT will be published later in 2012.
- The custody rate has been broadly stable for the last few years at around six per cent. This is against a background of a reduction in the number of young people coming before the courts, and those receiving custody.

Education, Training and Employment: In England this covers the proportion of young people in the YJS who were classed as being in full-time education, training or employment (ETE) at the end of their disposal. Full-time ETE is classed as 25 hours per week for school aged children, and 16 hours per week for those above school age. In Wales the measure looks at the change in the average number of hours of ETE per week young people complete at the start to the end of their disposal.

- In England the proportion of young people in ETE was 72.8 per cent in 2010/11, compared to 73.3 per cent in 2009/10 and 67.9 per cent in 2006/07.
- In Wales during 2010/11, young people had an average of 15 hours of ETE per week at the beginning of their disposals and an average of 17 at the end of their disposals. This represented an 11 per cent increase in the average number of hours they completed.

Chart B.1: Proportion of young people with proven offences in suitable ETE, England, 2006/07 to 2010/11

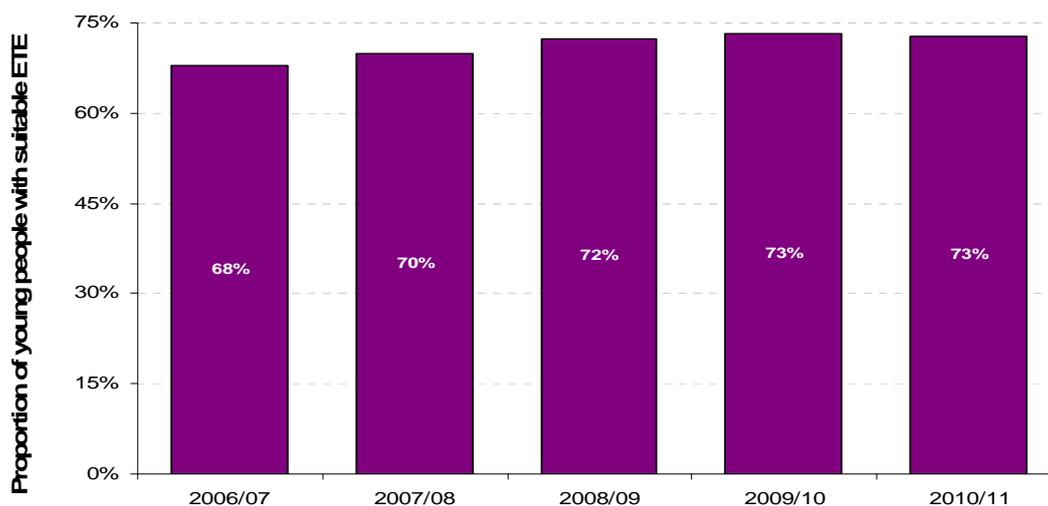
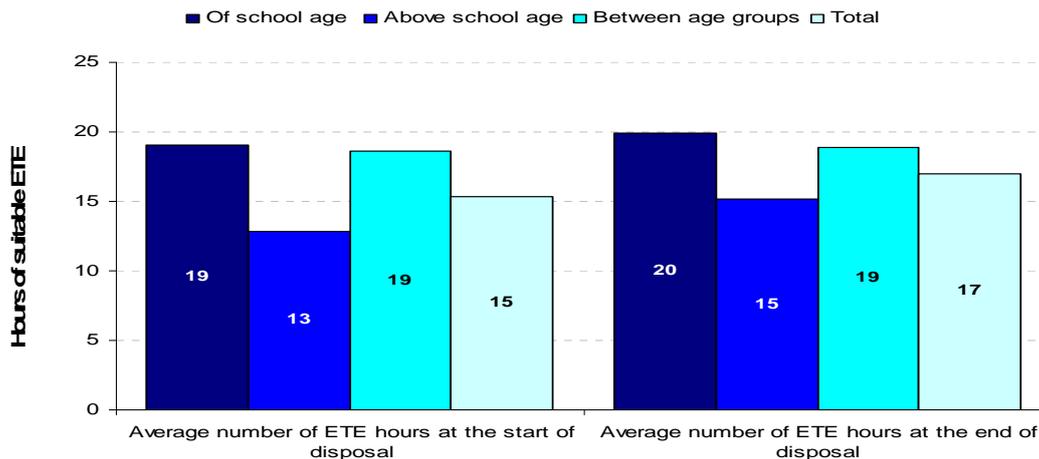


Chart B.2: Number of hours of suitable ETE per week, Wales 2010/11

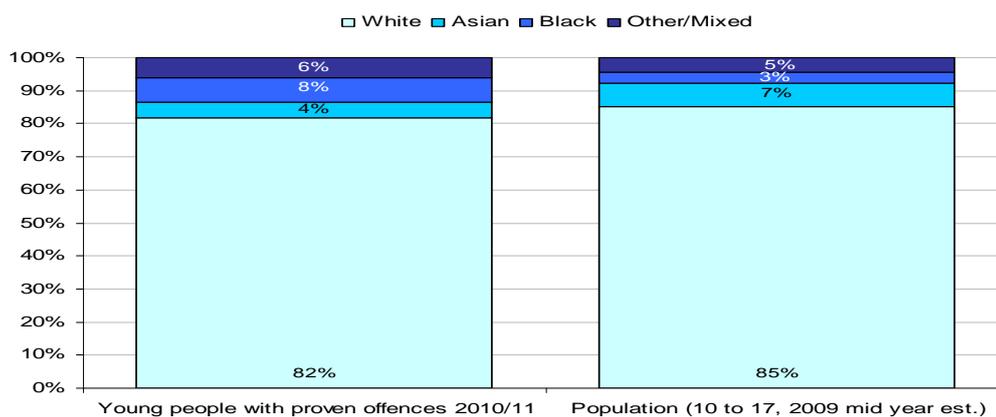


England only indicator

Ethnicity: This indicator aims to identify differences in ethnic representation within the YJS by comparing the ethnic composition of young people in the YJS to the national population figures taken from the Office of National Statistics⁷⁰.

- In England young people from a Black ethnic background accounted for three per cent of the 10-17 year old general population in 2009, but eight per cent of the 10-17 year old offending population in 2010/11.
- Young people from an Asian ethnic background accounted for four per cent of the 10-17 proven offending population and for seven per cent of the 10-17 year old general population in 2009

Chart B.4: Ethnicity in the youth justice system in England, 2010/11



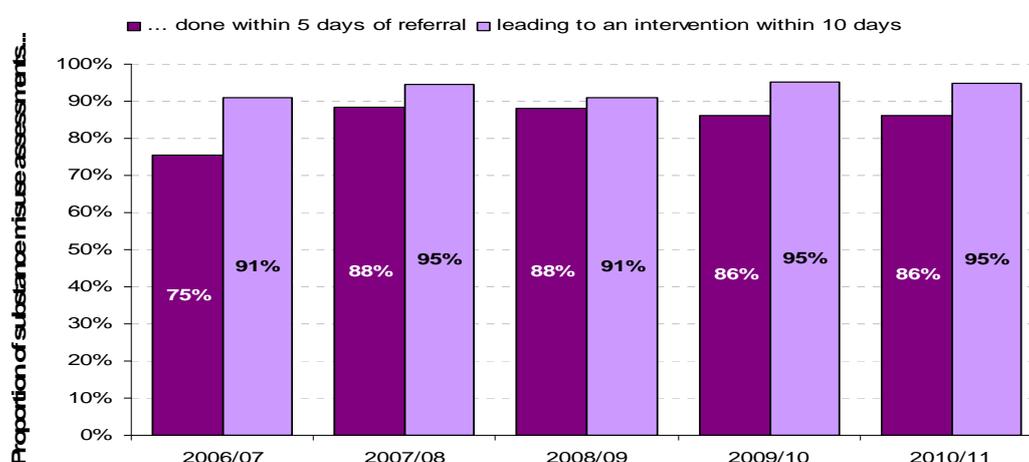
⁷⁰ Please note the latest mid-year population estimates available with an ethnicity breakdown is for 2009 so comparisons should be treated with some caution.

Wales only indicators

Substance misuse: Covers the timeliness of assessments for young people with potential substance misuse needs in Wales. Initial assessments should be done within five working days of referral, and interventions should be started within ten working days of their assessment.

- In 2010/11, 86 per cent of assessments were conducted within five working days of referral, the same as 2009/10.
- The proportion of young people with substance misuse needs that started interventions within 10 working days of their assessment was 95 per cent in 2010/11, the same as in 2009/10.

Chart B.5: Substance misuse assessment for young people in Wales, 2006/07 to 2010/11



Accommodation: This indicator measures the change in the number of young people who were in suitable accommodation at the end of their order, compared to the number at the start.

The number of young people who were in suitable accommodation at the start of their order in 2010/11 was 2,399 (93% of the total); at the end, there were 2,418 young people in suitable accommodation (93%). This is a 0.7 percentage point increase. This is an increase on the 0.5 percentage point change seen in 2009/10.

The number of young people who were in suitable accommodation at the start of their custodial sentence was 157 (70% of the total) while 198 (88%) had suitable accommodation to go to on release from custody, this is an 18.3 percentage point increase. This is also an improvement upon last year, when there was a 15.3 percentage point change.

New youth justice impact indicators from 2011/12 onwards

Following commitments by the Coalition Government to reduce the burden on local areas and for less performance monitoring from central government there will be only two Impact Indicators (re-offending and first-time entrants)

and one transparency indicator (use of custody) from April 2011 onwards. Instead of the five National Indicators Wales will retain its three Welsh Justice specific Indicators (young people in suitable accommodation, levels of education training and employments and substance misuse).

Annex C: Resources in Youth Offending Teams

Youth offending teams (YOTs) work with young people aged up to 17 years who are in the youth justice system or who are on programmes that serve to prevent young people offending for the first time or behaving anti-socially. YOTs are multi-agency teams made up of representatives from police, probation, education, health and social services, and specialist workers, such as accommodation officers and substance misuse workers.

YOTs are mostly coterminous with local authorities in England and Wales; however there are some exceptions where a single YOT covers two or more local authorities. During 2010/11, there were 157 YOTs; 139 in England and 18 in Wales.

In 2010/11, the total budget provided to YOTs by statutory partners was £273 million. The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) contributed a further £145 million, although some of this came from other central government departments. The YJB's contribution represents around a third of the YOTs' total partnership funding. This included;

- £45 million to support effective practice and improve performance⁷¹. This is known as the Core Grant.
- £8.7 million paid to YOTs in Young People's Substance Misuse (YPSM) services grants (from Department of Health).
- £34 million for Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programmes (ISSP) – an alternative to custody
- £31 million for targeted youth crime prevention programmes
- £21 million mainly for an Integrated Resettlement Support programme linked to substance misuse support, for Connexions community education and for infrastructure grants
- £2.7 million for Prevention of Violent Extremism programmes (from the Home Office)

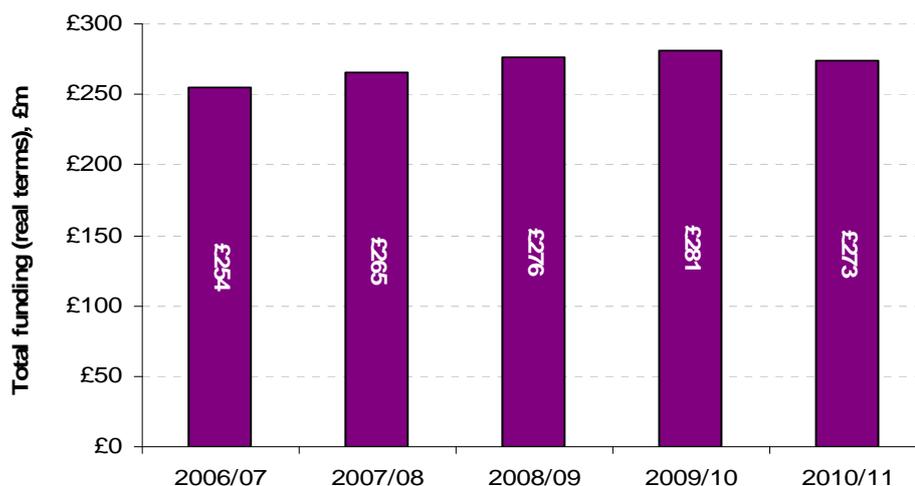
From 2011/12 the YOT grant from the YJB was one single grant with no ring fenced amounts for certain strands of work.

YOT funding over time

In nominal terms total YOT funding has increased year on year from 2006/07 to 2010/11.

⁷¹ Please note that contributions from social and education services are now recorded under the category Local Authority

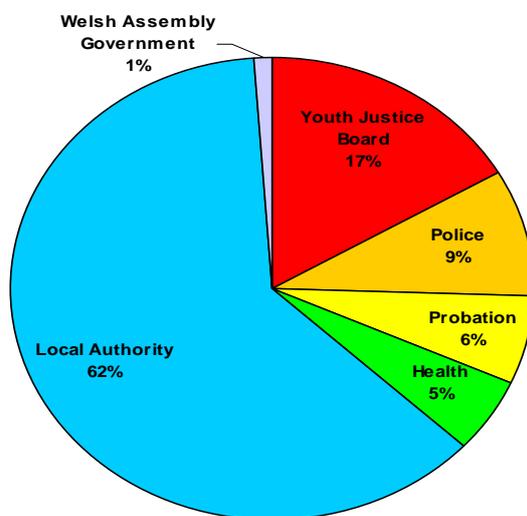
Chart C.1: Total YOT funding over time in real terms, 2006/07 to 2010/11



Partnership of funding of YOTs

Throughout England and Wales, Local Authority services contributed the most to YOT funding, providing around 62 per cent of the overall total. The YJB provides around 17 per cent; police nine per cent and probation and health six per cent and five per cent.

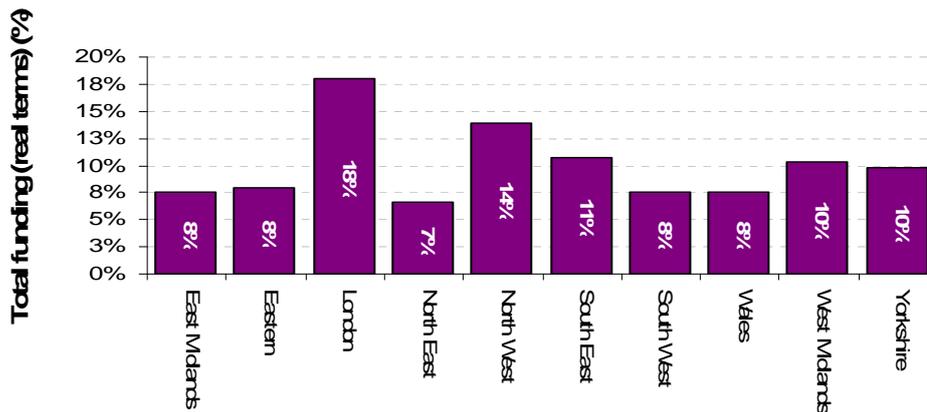
Chart C.2: Partnership funding of YOTs, 2010/11



Regional partnership of funding of YOTs

There are differences across the regions in the amount of funding received. In 2010/11 London received 18 per cent of the total funding to the youth justice system, compared to the North East which received seven per cent of the funding.

Chart C.2: Total YOT funding by region, 2010/11



YOT workforce

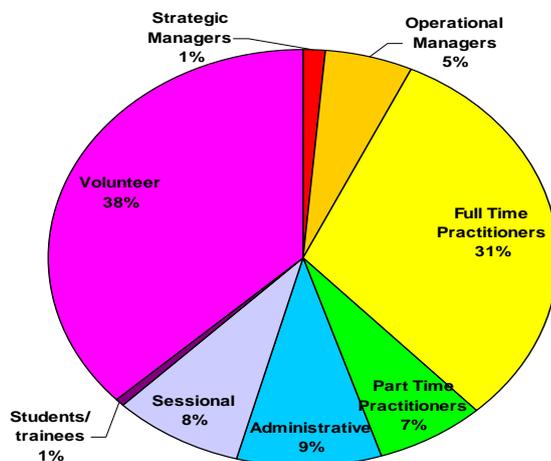
On 30th July 2010, a total of 18,869 people were recorded as working for YOTs in some capacity, with 315 listed vacancies among them. These figures include volunteers, part-time and temporary staff and so are not measures of the full-time equivalent workforce.

YOTs vary in size from less than 20 members of staff to over 500. This section presents information on the total number of staff across all YOTs, broken down by contract status, gender and ethnicity.

In 2010/11, there were 7,192 practitioners (18% working part-time), 1,025 operational managers and 263 strategic managers. The YOTs were supported by 1,569 sessional workers and 6,953 volunteers. Over two-thirds (68%) of the staff were female and 80% classed themselves as being from a White ethnic background.

Overall the level of staffing in the YOTs has reduced by four per cent between 2009/10 and 2010/11. The largest reductions have been in students/trainees (down 26%) and volunteers (down 7%).

Chart C.3: YOT workforce, 2010/11



Annex D: Levels of crime experienced by children and their risk of victimisation

In 2009/10 the British Crime Survey (BCS) was extended to children aged 10 to 15. A total of 3,849 valid interviews were conducted with 10 to 15 year olds during the 2010/11 BCS. The primary objective of extending the survey to children aged 10-15 was to provide estimates of the levels of crime experienced by children and their risk of victimisation. Key findings on levels of victimisation are available in the main BCS publication:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1011/

Further analysis of children's experience of crime including variation in risk of victimisation among different groups, and the nature of crimes experienced by 10 to 15 year olds will be published by the Home Office by the end of March 2012.

In addition to questions about experience of crime, the survey extension also gathers information on a number of crime-related topics such as experience and attitudes towards the police, personal safety, being in public spaces and access to leisure facilities. As the questions asked of 10 to 15s were quite different, there is no comparison made here with perceptions about the Youth Justice System.

These experimental statistics are published at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb0811/

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