Ministry of Justice

Youth Justice Board
Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid

Key Characteristics of Admissions to Youth Custody

April 2014 to March 2016

England and Wales

Youth Justice Board / Ministry of Justice

Supplementary Analytical Paper

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Also available on the Gov.uk website at

www.gov.uk/government/collections/ad-hoc-justice-statistics

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Executive Summary

This publication provides information on the key characteristics of admissions to the youth secure estate in England and Wales from April 2014 to March 2016. The key characteristics presented in this document provide information on the needs and risks of the young people (rather than their socio-demographics) on entry to custody. This information is derived from the answers to a set of questions asked for operational purposes by Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and submitted to the Youth Justice Board Placement Service to inform placement decisions. The data presented should be considered as an indication of the needs and risks of young people in the secure estate, rather than formal diagnoses or measures. Nevertheless, it provides the most comprehensive quantified picture to date of young people entering custody.

Due to the time frame of available data and changes in data recording and collection, the data has been grouped over the two year time period and trends over the time period are not meaningful and therefore not provided.

There were 5,651 admissions aged 10 to 17 to custody from the community in the two year period. Of these 95% of were male, most (77%) were aged 16-17 years and 63% were from a White ethnic background. Some of the admissions entered custody for the first time while others had had previous periods in custody, some prior to this dataset. The data presented refer to the number of admissions rather than the number of unique young people (of whom there were 4,176) as some young people were admitted to custody more than once in this period.

The different key characteristics have different possible responses. When all possible categories are considered, the proportions sum to 100%. Data are shown for the yes, current or high responses unless otherwise stated indicating the reported presence rather than absence of a particular characteristic.

Overall key characteristics of admissions to custody

In the period April 2014 to March 2016, the YOTs' assessments of admissions entering youth custody from the community showed that:

- 61% of admissions were not engaging in education and 45% had substance misuse concerns;
- Around one third of admissions were assessed as a high risk to others (33%) or were a looked-after child[1] prior to admission to custody (33%);
- There were also concerns relating to suicide or self harm (31%), physical health (30%), mental health (33%) and learning disabilities or difficulties (32%) for around one third of admissions;

[1] Although the assessment is on admission to custody, current looked-after child status may include admissions that were a looked-after child due to their legal basis rather than if they were looked-after in the community. Under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, a child who is remanded to youth detention accommodation is to be treated as a child who is looked-after by the designated authority. This is particularly pertinent to the figures for previous looked-after child status as they may have previously been in custody.

- There were concerns around sexual exploitation for 9% of the cohort, gang involvement for 13% of admissions and 18% were not engaging with carers; and
- A small proportion were parents or parents-to-be (5%), had a current child protection plan prior to custody (5%) or were asylum seekers or immigrants (3%).

Figures have not been adjusted for unknown information (don't know or missing responses) as they can be a relevant response in their own right. Overall unknown information varied between 5% and 18% depending on the characteristic.

Key characteristics of admissions to custody by gender

Most key characteristics were more frequently reported for female than male admissions, though it is important to note that the proportion of unknown information for females varied between 1% and 22% and the female cohort was much smaller than the male cohort.

The two key characteristics with the largest differences for which females were higher than males occurred for sexual exploitation concerns (60% female, 6% male) and suicide or self-harm concerns (63% female, 30% male). The two key characteristics with the largest differences for which males were higher than females occurred for concerns around gang involvement (5% females, 13% males) and learning disability and difficulty concerns (22% females, 32% males).

Key characteristics of admissions to custody by ethnicity

The two key characteristics most frequently reported for White admissions were not engaging in education (65%) and substance misuse concerns (51%). Not engaging in education was also the most frequently reported key characteristic for those from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority backgrounds (54%).

The key characteristics with the largest differences for which White admissions were greater than BAME admissions occurred for suicide or self-harm concerns (40% White and 17% BAME) and substance misuse concerns (51% White and 35% BAME). The key characteristics with the largest differences for which BAME young people was higher than White young people were high risk to others (30% White and 37% BAME) and concerns around gang involvement (5% White and 25% BAME).

Key characteristics of admissions to custody by age group

The two key characteristics most frequently reported for both age groups (those aged 10 to 15 and those aged 16 to 17) were not engaging in education (44% of 10 to 15 year olds, 65% of 16 to 17 year olds) and substance misuse concerns (42% of 10 to 15 year olds, 46% of 16 to 17 year olds).

The YOTs' assessments showed that for characteristics more frequently reported for 10 to 15 year olds than 16 to 17 year olds, the two largest differences were for learning disability or difficulty concerns (40% and 29% respectively) and current child protection plan (12% and 3% respectively). There was a higher proportion of those

aged 16 to 17 than those aged 10 to 15 that were not engaging in education (65% and 44% respectively), not engaging with carers (19% and 14% respectively) and were parents or parents-to-be (6% and 2% respectively). There was little or no difference between the two ages groups for those with mental health concerns, those who were an asylum seeker or immigrant, a looked-after child, those with concerns around gang involvement or those with health concerns.

Key characteristics of admissions to custody by sector

For those entering Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), the three key characteristics most frequently reported were for learning disability or difficulty concerns (47%), suicide or self-harm concerns (46%) and not engaging in education (45%). The two key characteristics most frequently reported for both admissions to Secure Training Centres (STCs) and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) were not engaging in education and substance misuse concerns. There were 53% not engaging in education in STCs and 65% in YOIs. There were 46% with substance misuse concerns in STCs and 45% in YOIs.

SCH admissions typically had higher proportions than admissions to STCs and to YOIs for most key characteristics. However, this pattern was reversed for not engaging in education (45% for SCHs, 53% for STCs and 65% for YOIs), concerns around gang involvement (5% for SCHs, 13% for STCs and 14% for YOIs), not engaging with carers (14% for SCHs, 15% for STCs and 19% for YOIs) and parenthood (2% for SCHs, 4% for STCs and 6% for YOIs).

Individual and multiple key characteristic information

Generally, young people admitted to custody were assessed as having many overlapping risks and needs. Young people may display multiple needs and so may have multiple key characteristics. Only 35% of those admitted to custody had two or fewer key characteristics while 32% of the cohort had five or more key characteristics. The three key characteristics that were most often reported in addition to any of the key characteristics were not engaging in education, substance misuse concerns and mental health concerns.

Introduction

Overview

This publication provides an overview of the key characterisitics of young people placed in the secure estate (custody). The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) has responsibility for the placement of children and young people under the age of 18[2] remanded to youth detention accommodation or sentenced to custody. The information on the key characteristics is derived from the answers to a set of questions asked for operational purposes by Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and submitted to the YJB Placement Service. Due to the rollout of AssetPlus, a new assessment framework, the data around assessments in the future will be different.

Source

The key characteristics of admissions to custody have been derived from Key Placement Factors (KPFs) and give an indication of the average risks and needs of young people on entry to custody (rather than their socio-demographics). KPFs are recorded on the Placement Information Form (PIF), which is completed by the YOT prior to the young person entering custody. They are used by YJB Placement Service, secure establishments and transport providers, to assist with highlighting the risks and needs of young people entering custody. Responses within the PIF do not therefore necessarily represent formal diagnoses or assessments but will be based on the best judgement of the YOT with the information that they have available at the time.

The key characteristics have been grouped into five general themes to assist with interpretation. These are summarised in Table 1. Some of the key characteristics are based on multiple KPF questions asked by the YOT. The details of the specific questions asked by the YOTs (and the guidance they are given to inform their assessments) are listed in the Explanatory notes.

The different key characteristics have different possible responses and are presented in Table 1. When all possible categories are considered, the proportions sum to 100%. Data are presented for the yes, current or high category, unless otherwise stated. In the figures, the proportions for categories yes/current/high, medium/previous (where applicable) and don't know or missing are shown. The no/low category has not been included to simplify presentation of the information.

Information is classed as *missing* if no PIF was received for the young person or the YOT did not answer that specific question. Information is categorised as *don't know* if at the time of completing the PIF, the YOT was not able to confirm whether that specific KPF applied to the young person.

[2] Young people sentenced to a Detention and Training Order may remain within the youth secure estate until release date. This may mean they turn 18 whilst in youth custody. The data refers to under 18 year olds only.

The unknown (don't know or missing) category should not be disregarded and highlights the uncertainty in the data (and the assessment process itself).

Operationally, it shows the information that is not known about a young person when placing them in custody.

Analytically, this category indicates that sometimes reliable information is hard to obtain for some key characteristics and the unknown information could change the yes/no proportions considerably so the proportions stated may be at the lower end of what they might be.

Table 1: List of key characteristics by theme and response categories

Theme	Key characteristic	Response categories
Health	Suicide or self-harm concerns	Yes, Don't know/Missing, No
	Physical health concerns	Yes, Don't know/Missing, No
	Substance misuse concerns	Yes, Don't know/Missing, No
	Mental health concerns	Yes, Don't know/Missing, No
Learning	Not engaging in education	Yes, Don't know/Missing, No
	Learning disability or difficulty concerns	Yes, Don't know/Missing, No
Family background	Parenthood	Yes, Don't know/Missing, No
	Not engaging with carers	Yes, Don't know/Missing, No
	Asylum seeker or immigrant	Yes, Don't know/Missing, No
Protection	Sexual exploitation concerns	Yes, Don't know/Missing, No
	Child protection plan	Current, Previous, Never, Don't know/Missing
	Looked-after child status	Current, Previous, Never, Don't know/Missing
Risks to others	Risk to others (young people/adults)	High, Medium, Low, Don't know/Missing
	Gang concerns	Yes, Don't know/Missing, No

This analysis provides information on the characteristics of young people admitted to the youth secure estate during the period April 2014 to March 2016. Due to the time frame of available data and changes in data recording and collection, the data have been grouped over the two year time period and trends over the time period are not meaningful and therefore not provided.

Cohort

There were 5,651 admissions to custody from the community during the two year period. The same young people will be counted more than once if they were admitted to custody more than once within the time period. Young people who transferred between establishments were not included in the dataset as they were not a new admission to custody from the community.

It should be noted that these figures will differ from those published by the YJB in the monthly Youth Custody Statistics available at

www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-custody-data and the Youth Justice Annual Statistics available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics which refer to a snapshot of the custody population on a particular day each month.

In the period April 2014 to March 2016:

- 95% of admissions entering custody were male;
- Most (77%) of the admissions who entered custody from the community were aged 16-17 years; and
- 63% of the admissions entering custody were from a White ethnic background. Young people from a Black ethnic background accounted for 19% of admissions from the community.

Some of the admissions entered custody for the first time while others had had previous periods in custody, some prior to this dataset. Of the 5,651 admissions to custody over the two year period, there were:

- 4,176 individual young people; and
- 997 individuals that were admitted to custody more than once within the time period of the dataset.

A young person may display multiple needs and so may have multiple key characteristics (Table 2).

Table 2: The number and proportions of admissions with multiple key characteristics, (total number of admissions 5,651)

Number of key characteristics	Proportion	Number
0	7%	420
1	11%	611
2	17%	961
3	17%	955
4	16%	903
5	14%	788
6	9%	515
7+	9%	498

Only 35% of those admitted to custody had two or fewer key characteristics while 32% of the cohort had five or more key characteristics. The proportion of those having five or more key characteristics varied across the sector with Secure Children's Homes, SCHs (43%) having the greatest proportion (Secure Training Centres, STCs 37% and Young Offender Institutions, YOIs 28%).

7% of the cohort had no values of yes/ high/current for any of the key characteristics. These values were different combinations of medium/low/previous, no/never or don't know/missing. This included 2% of data for which all key characteristics were unknown (don't know or missing).

Part 1: Key characteristics of admissions to custody

Part 1 provides details of the key characteristics of admissions to custody. Breakdowns are given for gender, ethnicity, age on admission and sector.

Data are presented for the yes, current or high category, unless otherwise stated. In the figures, the proportions for categories yes/current/high, medium/previous (where applicable) and don't know or missing are shown. The no/low category has not been included to simplify presentation of the information. Values for all the categories are presented in the accompanying tables.

Key characteristics of admissions to custody - overall

In the period April 2014 to March 2016, the YOTs' assessments of admissions entering custody showed that:

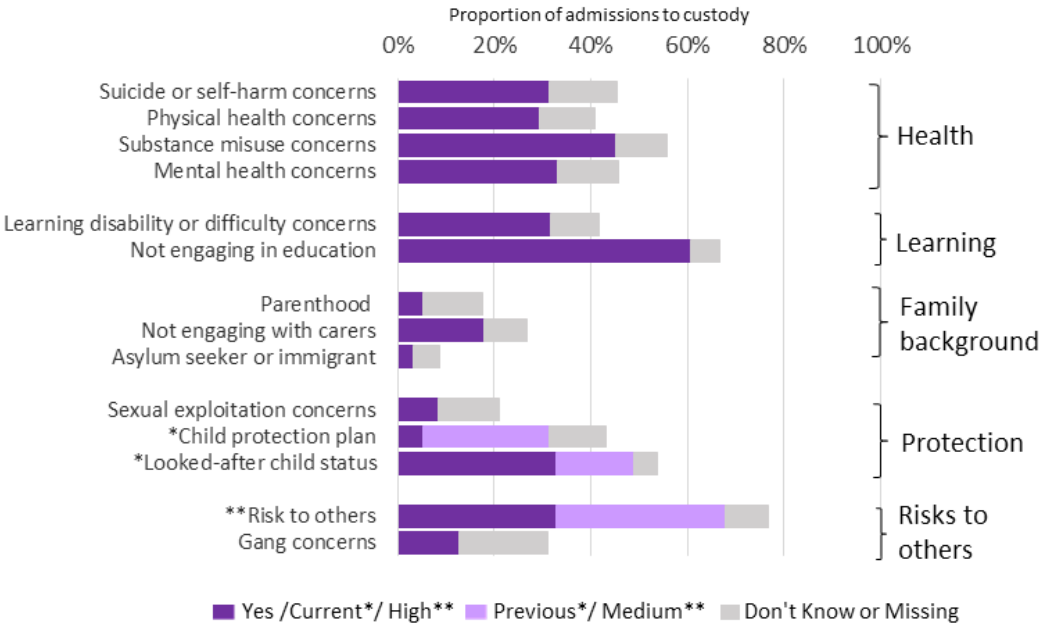
- 61% of admissions were not engaging in education and 45% had substance misuse concerns;
- Around one third of admissions were assessed as a high risk to others (33%) or were a looked-after child[3] prior to admission to custody (33%);
- There were concerns relating to suicide or self-harm (31%), physical health (30%), mental health (33%), learning disabilities or difficulties (32%) for around one third of admissions;
- There were concerns around sexual exploitation for 9% of the cohort, gang involvement for 13% of admissions and 18% were assessed as not engaging with carers; and
- A small proportion were recorded as being asylum seekers or immigrants (3%), parents or parents-to-be (5%) or having a current child protection plan prior to entering custody (5%).

It is important to note that overall unknown information varied between 5% and 18%.

The following figure shows the proportions of all admissions to custody for each key characteristic. When all categories are considered for each key characteristic, the proportions sum to 100% i.e. all admissions to custody.

[3] Although the assessment is on admission to custody, current looked-after child status may include admissions that were a looked-after child due to their legal basis rather than if they were looked-after in the community. Under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, a child who is remanded to youth detention accommodation is to be treated as a child who is looked-after by the designated authority. This is particularly pertinent to the figures for previous looked-after child status as they may have previously been in custody.

Figure 1.1: The distribution of key characteristics for all admissions to custody



Key characteristics of admissions to custody by gender

When examining the characteristics of young people in custody, the proportions of admissions with these characteristics varies by gender.

In the period April 2014 to March 2016, females made up 5% of admissions to custody. For female admissions, the three key characteristics which were most frequently reported were suicide or self-harm concerns (63%), sexual exploitation concerns (60%) and not engaging in education (57%).

Not engaging in education was also among the three key characteristics with the largest proportions for male admissions (61%, the highest proportion for male admissions), but the other key characteristics with high proportions were substance misuse concerns (45%) and risk to others (33%).

Most key characteristics were higher for female than male admissions, though it is important to note that the proportion of unknown information for females varied between 1% and 22% and the female cohort was much smaller than the male cohort.

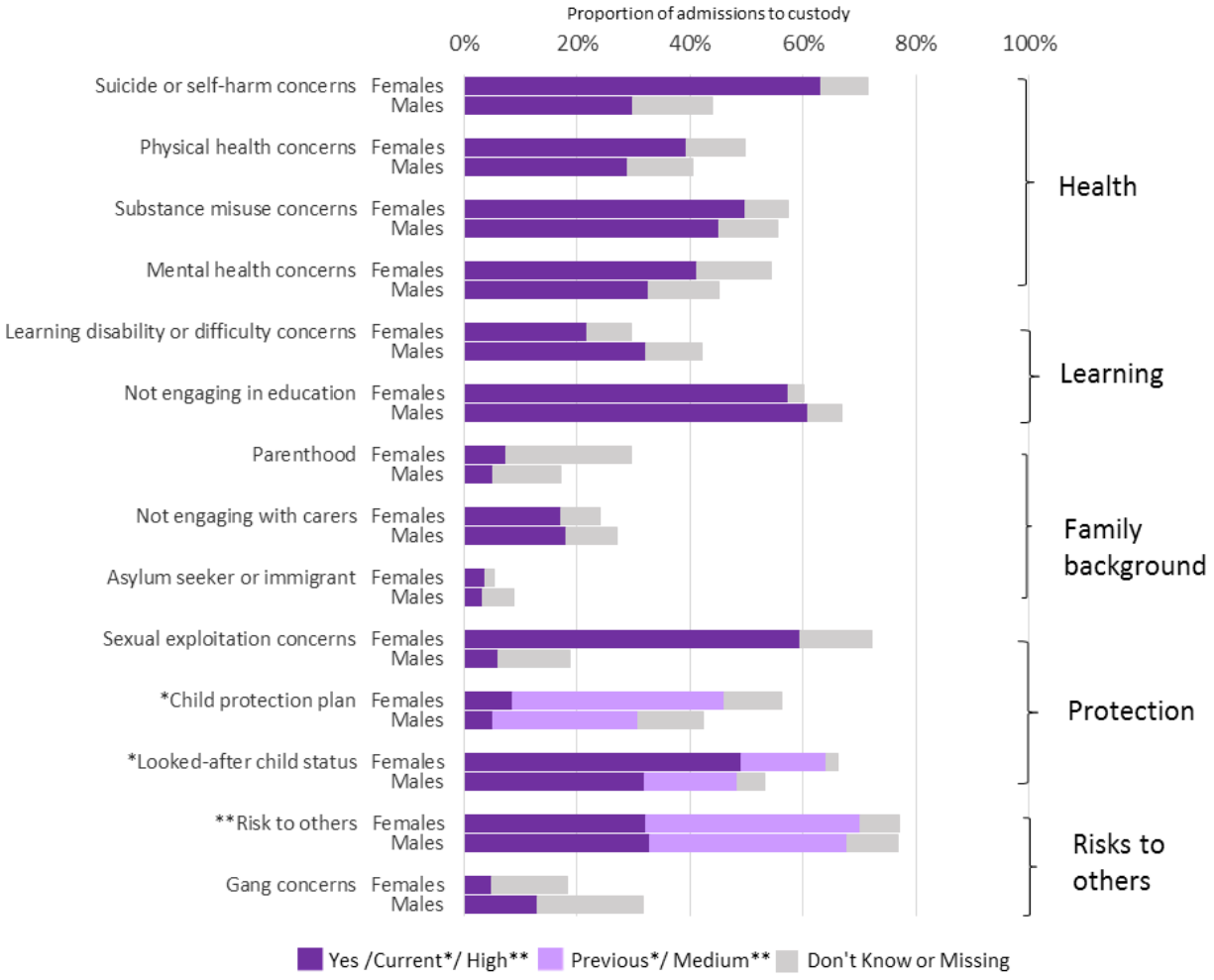
The two largest differences for which females were higher than males occurred for:

- Sexual exploitation concerns (60% female, 6% male); and
- Suicide or self-harm concerns (63% female, 30% male).

The two largest differences for which males were higher than females occurred for:

- Concerns around gang involvement (5% females, 13% males); and
- Learning disability and difficulty concerns (22% females, 32% males).

Figure 1.2: The distribution of key characteristics by gender for all admissions to custody.



Key characteristics of admissions to custody by ethnicity

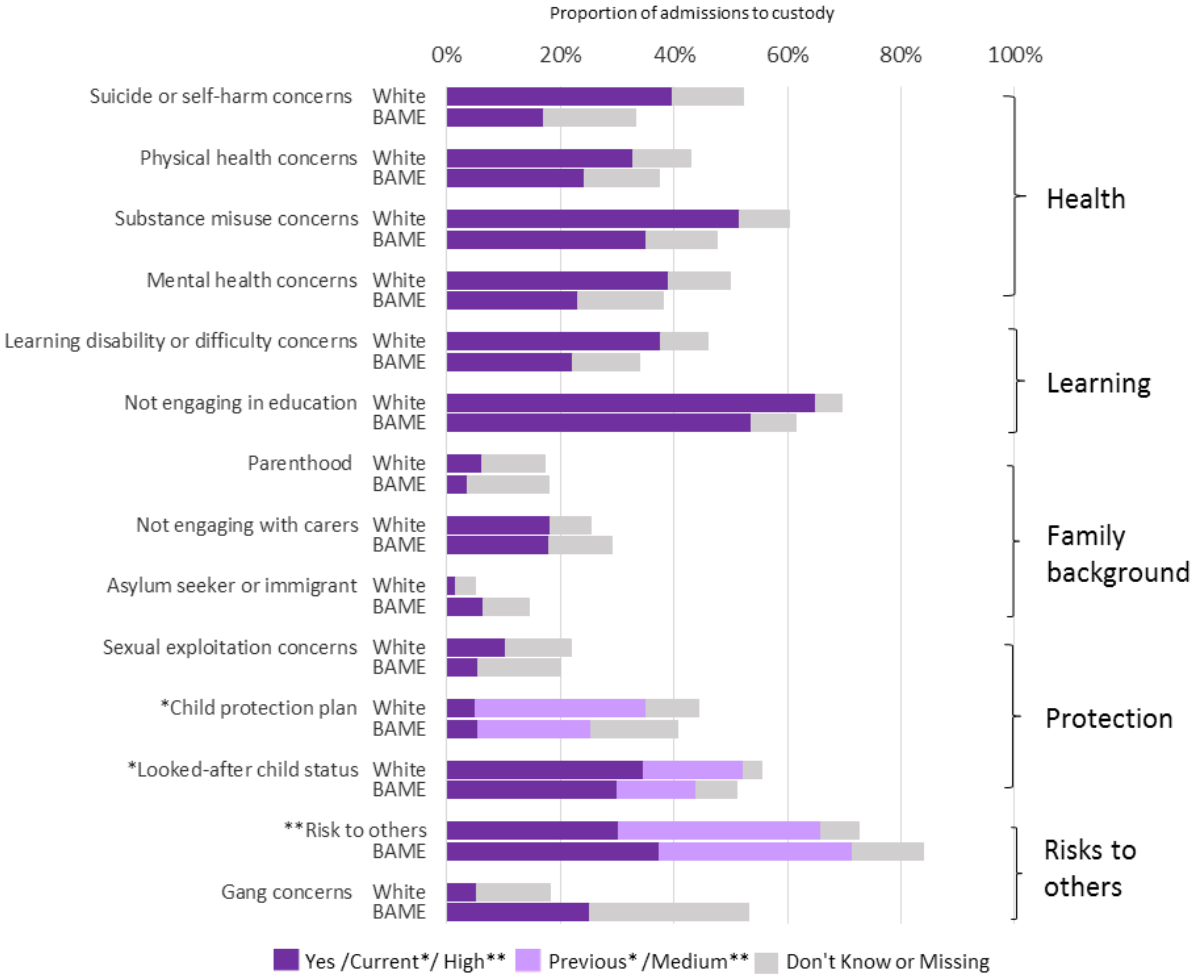
The two key characteristics most frequently reported for White young people were not engaging in education (65%) and substance misuse concerns (51%). Not engaging in education was also the most frequently reported key characteristic for those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups (54%).

The YOTs' assessments of admissions entering custody showed that by ethnicity:

- The three largest differences in key characteristics reported more frequently for White young people than those from a BAME background were for: suicide or self-harm concerns (40% White and 17% BAME), substance misuse concerns (51% White and 35% BAME) and mental health concerns (39% White and 23% BAME); and
- The three largest differences in key characteristics more common among BAME young people than White were: asylum seekers and immigrants (1% White and 6% BAME), high risk to others (30% White and 37% BAME) and concerns around gang involvement (5% White and 25% BAME). For Black young people there were concerns around gang involvement for 34%.

The proportion of unknown information varied from between 4% and 33% across the different ethnicities. Concerns around gang involvement was unknown for 28% of BAME admissions.

Figure 1.3: The distribution of key characteristics by ethnicity



Key characteristics of admissions to custody by age on admission

Age has been grouped into those aged 10 to 15 and those aged 16 to 17. In the period April 2014 to March 2016, those admissions aged 10 to 15[4] made up 23% of the cohort.

The two key characteristics with the largest proportions of admissions to custody for those aged 10 to 15 and those aged 16 to 17 were:

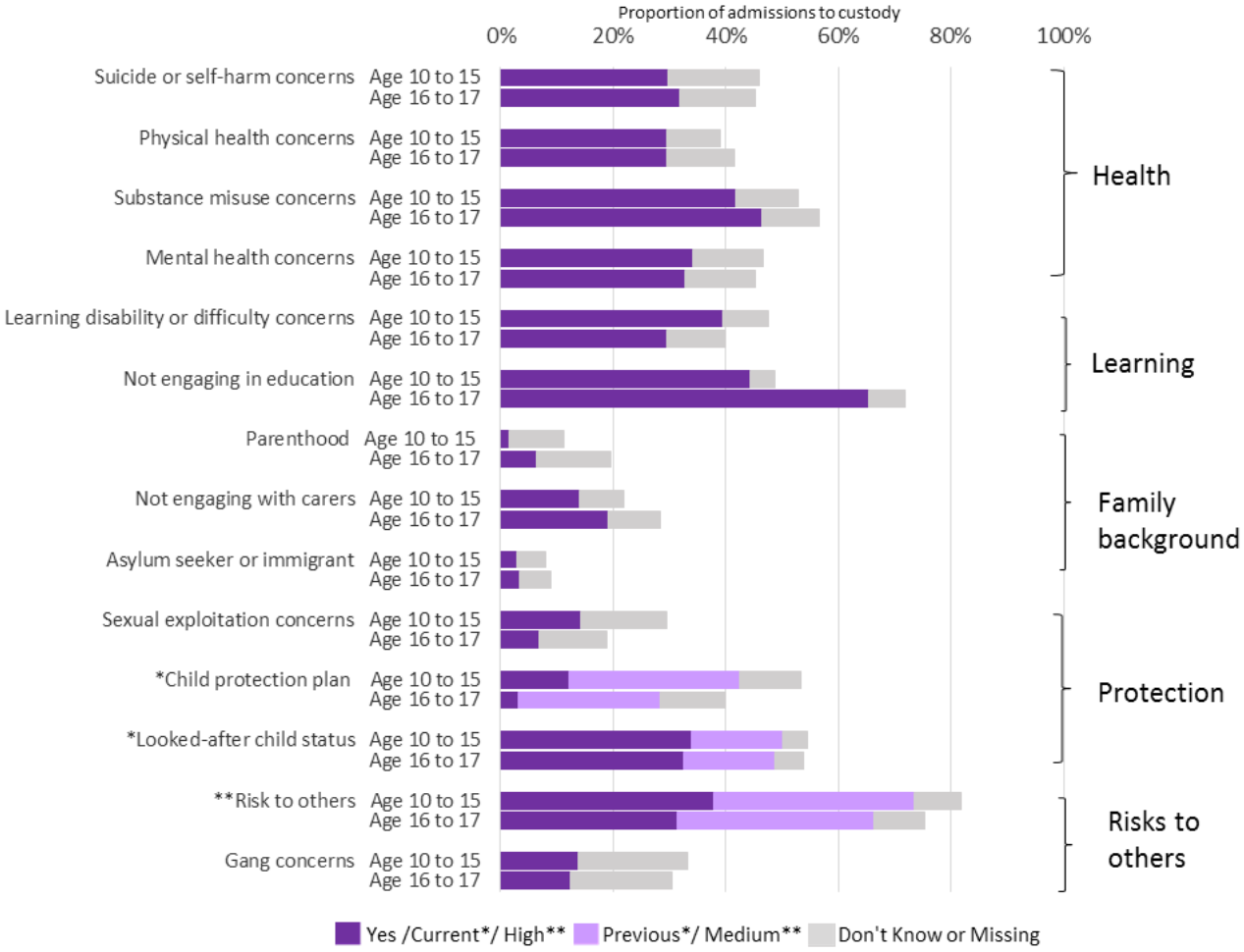
- Not engaging in education (44% of 10 to 15 year olds, 65% of 16 to 17 year olds); and
- Substance misuse concerns (42% of 10 to 15 year olds, 46% of 16 to 17 year olds).

The YOTs' assessments of admissions entering custody showed that by age:

- The three largest differences in key characteristics more common among those aged 10 to 15 than those aged 16 to 17 were for: learning disability or difficulty concerns (40% and 29% respectively), current child protection plan (12% and 3% respectively) and sexual exploitation concerns (14% and 7% respectively);
- There was a higher proportion of older children (those aged 16 to 17) than younger children (those aged 10 to 15) that were not engaging in education (65% and 44% respectively), not engaging with carers (19% and 14% respectively) and were parents or parents-to-be (6% and 2% respectively); and
- There was little or no difference between the two age groups for: mental health concerns, asylum seeker or immigrant, looked-after child, concerns around gang involvement or health concerns. The proportion of unknown information varied between 4% and 19% with gang concerns being the highest.

[4] Age has been grouped so that the key characteristics can be broken down and minimise the risk of disclosure.

Figure 1.4: The distribution of key characteristics by age on admission to custody



Key characteristics of admissions to custody by secure sector

When comparing the different sectors of the secure estate, it should be noted that each type of establishment deals with a different cohort of young people so differences may be expected. The YJB Placement Service consider a range of factors relating to an individual including age, gender, risks and needs in when choosing a suitable establishment[5].

In the period April 2014 to March 2016, 11% of admissions from the community were to SCHs and 22% to STCs. For those in SCHs, the three key characteristics most commonly reported were learning disability or difficulty concerns (47%), suicide or self-harm concerns (46%) and not engaging in education (45%). The latter two also had the largest proportions reported for admissions to both STCs and YOIs:

- Not engaging in education (53% for STCs, 65% for YOIs); and
- Substance misuse concerns (46% for STCs and 45% for YOIs).

SCH admissions typically had higher proportions reported than admissions to STCs and YOIs for most key characteristics. For example for sexual exploitation concerns, the proportions were 25% for SCHs, 16% for STCs and 4% for YOIs.

However, this pattern was reversed for:

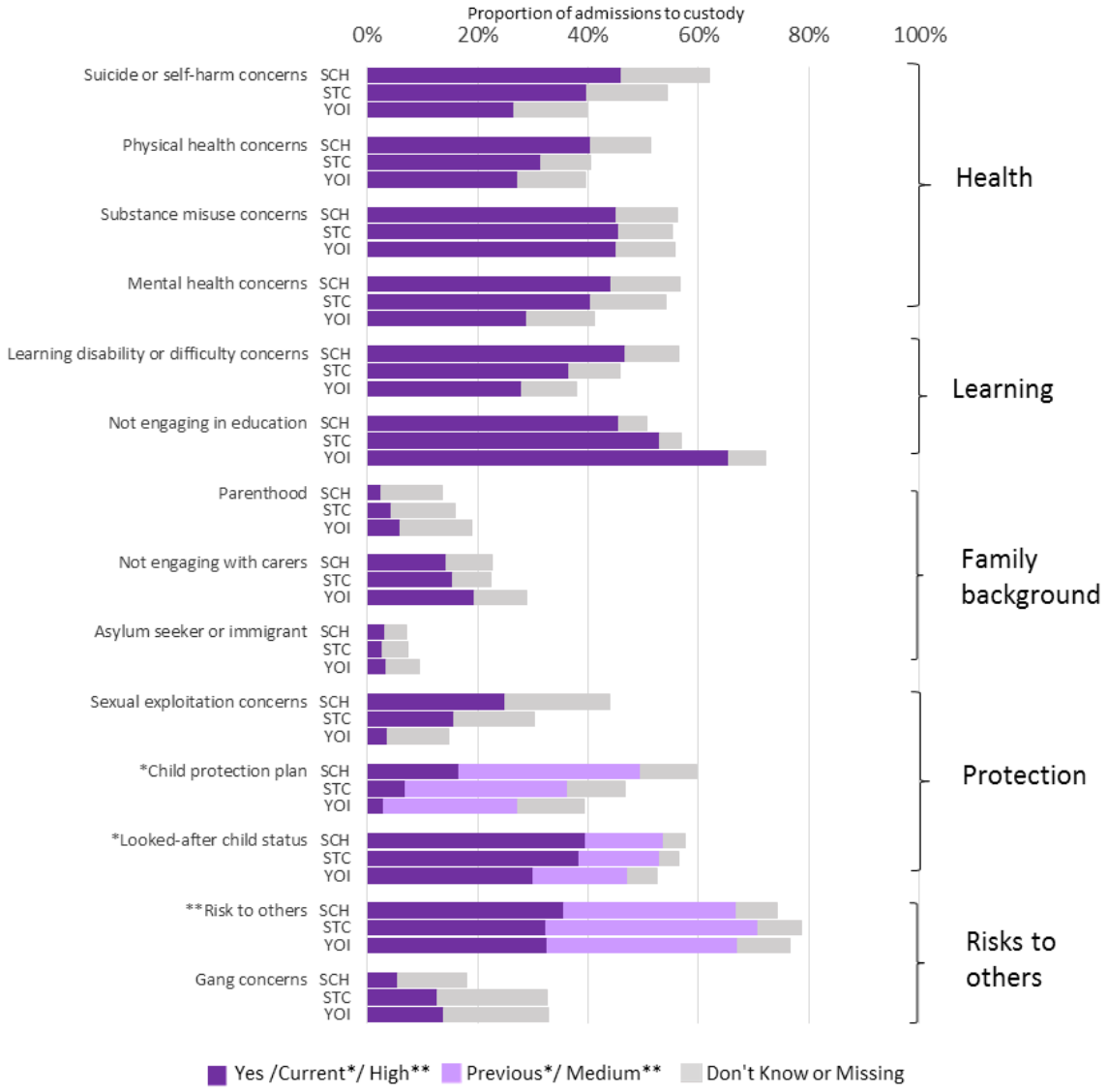
- Not engaging in education (45% for SCHs, 53% for STCs and 65% for YOIs);
- Concerns around gang involvement (5% for SCHs, 13% for STCs and 14% for YOIs);
- Not engaging with carers (14% for SCHs, 15% for STCs and 19% for YOIs); and
- Parenthood (2% for SCHs, 4% for STCs and 6% for YOIs).

The proportions with assessed substance misuse concerns varied little across the sectors (at around 45%) as did asylum seekers or immigrants (at around 3%).

The proportion of unknown information varied from between 4% and 20% with the unknown values being greatest in STCs and YOIs for gang concerns (20% and 19% respectively) and in SCHs for sexual exploitation concerns (19%).

[5] Young people placed into SCHs are likely to have been placed there due to their age, distance from home or because their KPFs indicate they require a higher level of staffing ratio. For similar reasons, young people will be placed into a STC, but these will typically be considered for older or slightly more mature young people or those who have had previous experience in custody. Young people will typically be placed into a YOI if their KPFs indicate they do not require a higher staffing ratio or because it will assist them in preparing for transition to the young adult estate. Females and those under the age of 15 years cannot be placed into a YOI so will always be placed into a SCH or STC.

Figure 1.5: The distribution of key characteristics by secure sector



Part 2: Individual key characteristic information

Part 2 presents information grouped by key characteristic and for the most part, it is the same information that is shown in Part 1.

Generally, young people admitted to custody were assessed as having many overlapping risks and needs. As young people may display multiple needs and so may have multiple key characteristics, for each reference key characteristic, the five key characteristics most commonly co-occurring are also reported.

Data are presented for the yes, current or high category, unless otherwise stated. In the figures, the proportions for categories yes/current/high, medium/previous (where applicable) and don't know or missing are shown. The no/low category has not been included to simplify presentation of the information. Values for all the categories are presented in the accompanying tables.

Regional key characteristic information is commented on where there is a large difference. Breakdowns for all regions are provided in the tables.

Health – Suicide or self-harm concerns

YOTs had suicide or self-harm concerns for 31% of admissions to custody. Information was not known for 14% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender showed:

- Of females, 63% had suicide or self-harm concerns; and
- Of males, 30% had a sucide or self-harm concern.

Breakdowns by ethnicity showed:

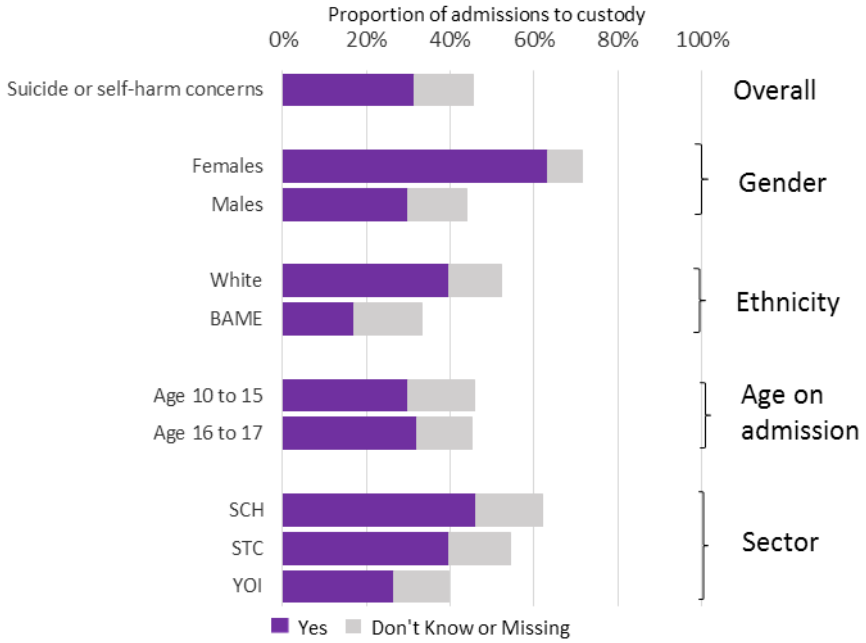
- Of White admissions, 40% had suicide or self-harm concerns; and
- Of BAME admissions, 17% had suicide or self-harm concerns.

Breakdowns by age group showed little difference (10 to 15, 30% and 16 to 17, 32%).
Breakdowns by sector showed:

- Of SCH admissions, 46% had suicide or self-harm concerns;
- Of STC admissions, 40% had suicide or self-harm concerns; and
- Of YOI admissions, 26% had suicide or self-harm concerns.

Regional breakdowns showed that a lower proportion of young people attached to London YOTs had suicide or self-harm concerns (17%) than other regions (29% to 42%).

Figure 2.1: Breakdowns for suicide or self-harm concerns



Of those for whom the YOT had suicide or self-harm concerns:

- 65% were not engaging in education;
- 61% had substance misuse concerns;
- 53% had mental health concerns;
- 42% had learning disability or difficulty concerns; and
- 42% were a looked-after child prior to custody.

Health – Physical health concerns

YOTs had physical health concerns for 30% of admissions to custody. Information was not known for 11% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender showed:

- Of females, 39% had physical health concerns; and
- Of males, 29% had physical health concerns.

Breakdowns by ethnicity showed:

- Of White admissions, 33% had physical health concerns; and
- Of BAME admissions, 24% had physical health concerns.

Breakdowns by age group showed little difference (10 to 15, 29% and 16 to 17, 30%).
Breakdowns by sector showed:

- Of SCH admissions, 41% had physical health concerns;
- Of STC admissions, 31% had physical health concerns; and
- Of YOI admissions, 27% had physical health concerns.

Figure 2.2: Breakdowns for physical health concerns

Of those who the YOT had physical health concerns for:

- 62% were not engaging in education;
- 57% had mental health concerns;
- 53% had substance misuse concerns;
- 46% had learning disability or difficulty concerns; and
- 44% had suicide or self-harm concerns.

Health – Substance misuse concerns

YOTs had substance misuse concerns for 45% of admissions to custody. Information was not known for 10% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender showed:

- Of females, 50% had substance misuse concerns; and
- Of males, 45% had substance misuse concerns.

Breakdowns by ethnicity showed:

- Of White admissions, 51% had substance misuse concerns; and
- Of BAME admissions, 35% had substance misuse concerns.

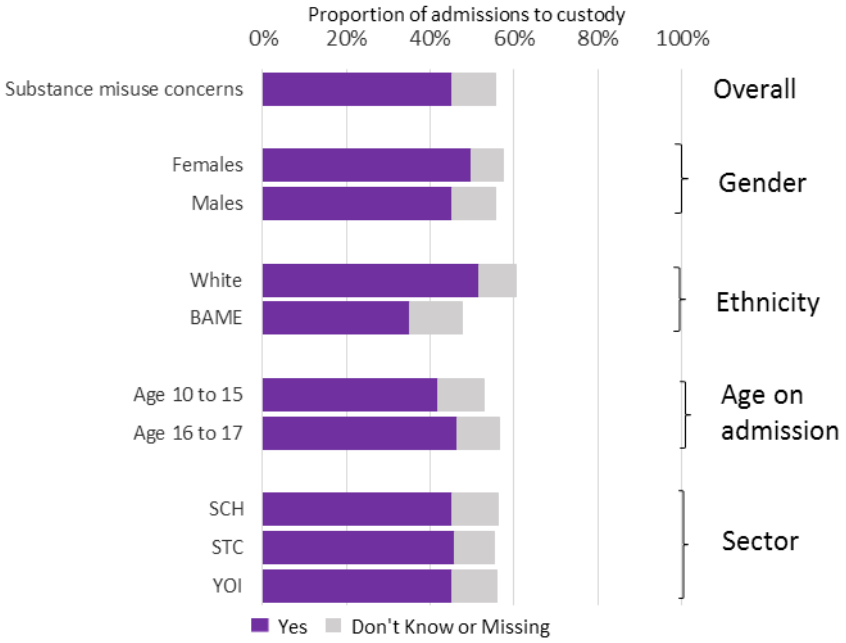
Breakdowns by age group showed:

- Of admissions aged 10 to 15, 42% had substance misuse concerns; and
- Of admissions aged 16 to 17, 46% had substance misuse concerns.

Breakdowns by sector showed little difference (SCHs 45%, STCs 46% and YOIs 45%).

Regional breakdowns showed that a lower proportion of young people attached to London YOTs had substance misuse concerns (36%) than other regions (43% to 56%).

Figure 2.3: Breakdowns for substance misuse concerns



Of those for whom the YOT had substance misuse concerns:

- 70% were not engaging in education;
- 43% had mental health concerns;
- 42% had suicide or self-harm concerns;
- 41% were a looked-after child prior to custody; and
- 37% had learning disability or difficulty concerns.

Health – Mental health concerns

YOTs had mental health concerns for 33% of admissions to custody. Information was not known for 13% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender showed:

- Of females, 41% had mental health concerns; and
- Of males, 33% had mental health concerns.

Breakdowns by ethnicity showed:

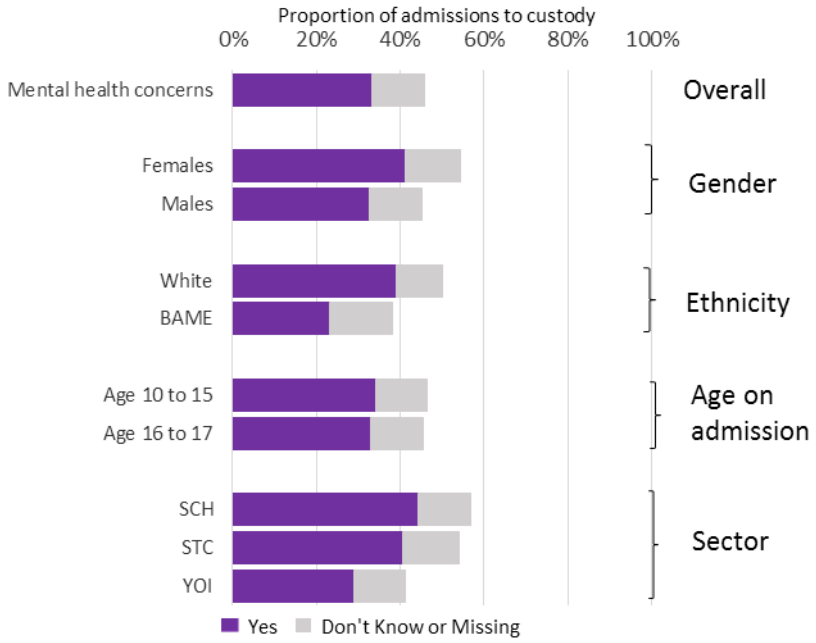
- Of White admissions, 39% had mental health concerns; and
- Of BAME admissions, 23% had mental health concerns.

Breakdowns by age group showed little difference (10 to 15, 34% and 16 to 17, 33%).

Breakdowns by sector showed:

- Of SCH admissions, 44% had mental health concerns;
- Of STC admissions, 41% had mental health concerns; and
- Of YOI admissions, 29% had mental health concerns.

Figure 2.4: Breakdowns for mental health concerns



Of those for whom the YOT had mental health concerns:

- 65% were not engaging in education;
- 59% had substance misuse concerns;
- 54% had learning disability or difficulty concerns;
- 51% had physical health concerns; and
- 50% had suicide or self-harm concerns.

Learning – Learning disability or difficulty concerns

YOTs had learning disability or difficulty concerns for 32% of admissions to custody. Information was not known for 10% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender showed:

- Of females, 22% had learning disability or difficulty concerns; and
- Of males, 32% had learning disability or difficulty concerns.

Breakdowns by ethnicity showed:

- Of White admissions, 38% had learning disability or difficulty concerns; and
- Of BAME admissions, 22% had learning disability or difficulty concerns.

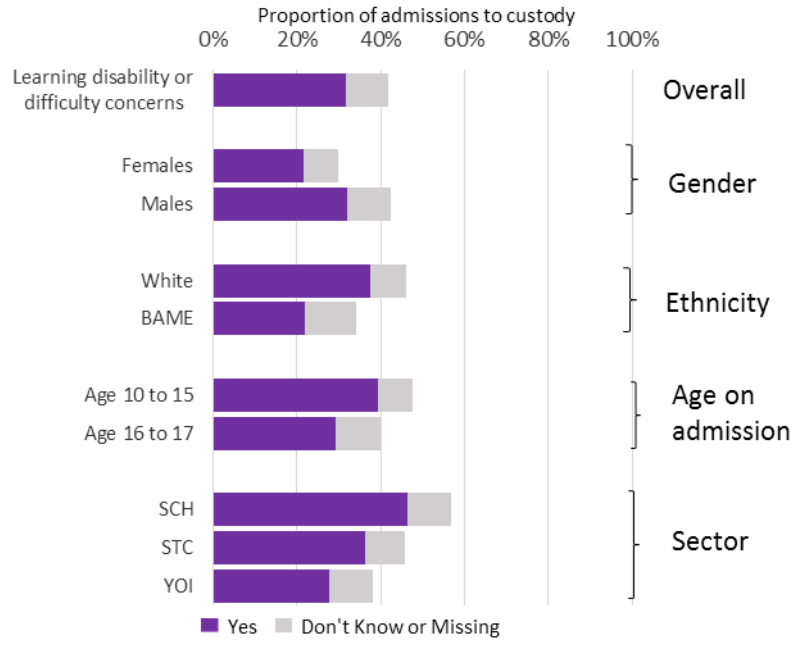
Breakdowns by age group showed:

- Of admissions aged 10 to 15, 40% had learning disability or difficulty concerns; and
- Of admissions aged 16 to 17, 29% had learning disability or difficulty concerns.

Breakdowns by sector showed:

- Of SCH admissions, 47% had learning disability or difficulty concerns;
- Of STC admissions, 37% had learning disability or difficulty concerns; and
- Of YOI admissions, 28% had learning disability or difficulty concerns.

Figure 2.5: Breakdowns for learning disability or difficulty concerns



Of those for whom the YOT had learning disability or difficulty concerns:

- 65% were not engaging in education;
- 56% had mental health concerns;
- 53% had substance misuse concerns;
- 43% had physical health concerns; and
- 42% were a looked-after child prior to entering custody.

Learning – Not engaging in education

YOTs' assessments of admissions to custody showed that 61% were not engaging in education. Information was not known for 6% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender showed:

- Of females, 57% were not engaging in education; and
- Of males, 61% were not engaging in education.

Breakdowns by ethnicity showed:

- Of White admissions, 65% were not engaging in education; and
- Of BAME admissions, 54% were not engaging in education.

Breakdowns by age group showed:

- Of admissions aged 10 to 15, 44% were not engaging in education; and
- Of admissions aged 16 to 17, 65% were not engaging in education.

Breakdowns by sector showed:

- Of SCH admissions, 45% were not engaging in education;
- Of STC admissions, 53% were not engaging in education; and
- Of YOI admissions, 65% were not engaging in education.

Figure 2.6: Breakdowns for not engaging in education

Of those admissions who were not engaging in education prior to admission to custody:

- 52% had substance misuse concerns;
- 37% were a looked-after child prior to entering custody;
- 36% had mental health concerns;
- 34% had suicide or self-harm concerns; and
- 34% had learning disability or difficulty concerns.

Family background - Parenthood

YOTs' assessments of admissions to custody showed that 5% were parents or parents-to-be. Information was not known for 12% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender showed:

- Of females, 7% were mothers or mothers-to-be (22% of data were unknown); and
- Of males, 5% were fathers or fathers-to-be (12% of data were unknown).

Breakdowns by ethnicity showed

- Of White admissions, 6% were parents or parents-to-be; and
- Of BAME admissions, 4% were parents or parents-to-be.

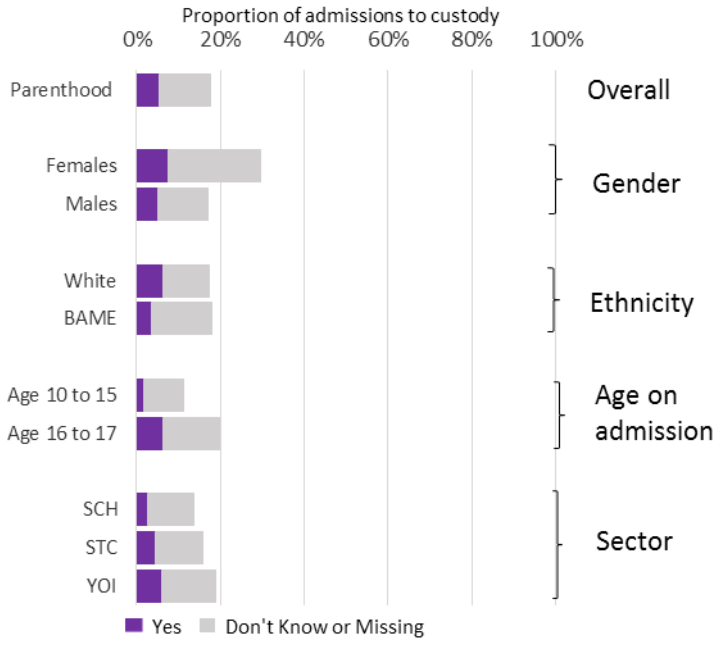
Breakdowns by age group showed:

- Of admissions aged 10 to 15, 2% were parents or parents-to-be; and
- Of admissions aged 16 to 17, 6% were parents or parents-to-be.

Breakdowns by sector showed:

- Of SCH admissions, 2% were parents or parents-to-be;
- Of STC admissions, 4% were parents or parents-to-be; and
- Of YOI admissions, 6% were parents or parents-to-be.

Figure 2.7: Breakdowns for parenthood



Of those admissions who were parents or parents-to-be:

- 75% were not engaging in education;
- 50% had substance misuse concerns;
- 43% had suicide or self-harm concerns;
- 39% had mental health concerns; and
- 38% were assessed as a high risk to others.

Family background - Not engaging with carers

YOTs' assessments of admissions to custody showed that 18% were not engaging with carers. Information was not known for 9% of admissions.

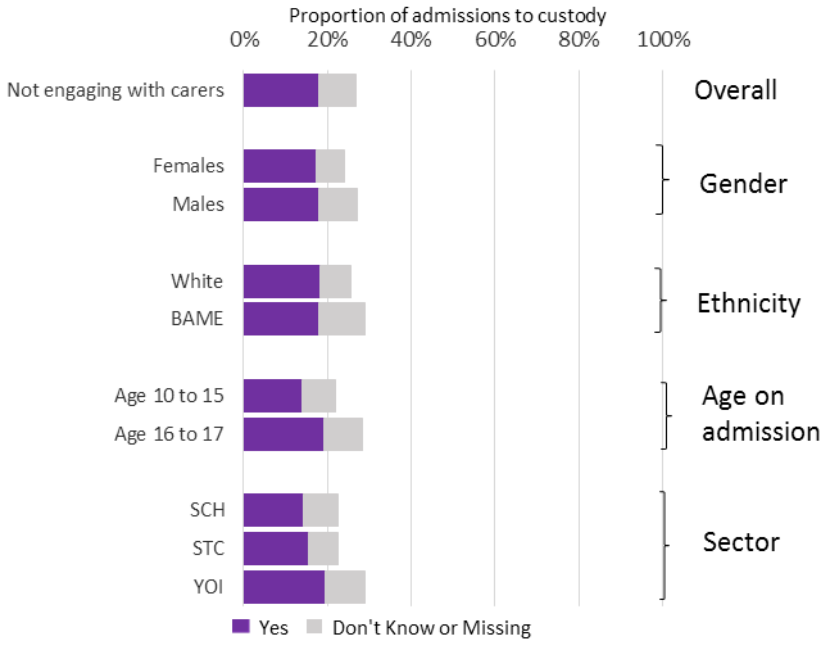
Breakdowns by gender showed little difference (males, 18% and females, 17%).
Breakdowns by ethnicity showed no difference (both White and BAME 18%).
Breakdowns by age group showed:

- Of admissions aged 10 to 15, 14% were not engaging with carers; and
- Of admissions aged 16 to 17, 19% were not engaging with carers.

Breakdowns by sector showed:

- Of SCH admissions, 14% were not engaging with carers;
- Of STC admissions, 15% were not engaging with carers; and
- Of YOI admissions, 19% were not engaging with carers.

Figure 2.8: Breakdowns for not engaging with carers



Of those admissions who were not engaging with carers:

- 76% were not engaging in education;
- 54% had substance misue concerns;
- 49% were a current looked-after child prior to entering custody;
- 36% had suicide or self-harm concerns; and
- 35% had mental health concerns.

Family background - Asylum seekers or immigrants

YOTs' assessments of admissions to custody showed that 3% were asylum seekers or immigrants. Information was not known for 5% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender showed little difference (males, 3% and females, 4%).
Breakdowns by ethnicity showed:

- Of White admissions, 1% were asylum seekers or immigrants; and
- Of BAME admissions, 6% were asylum seekers or immigrants.

Breakdowns by age group showed no difference (both 10 to 15 and 16 to 17, 3%).
Breakdowns by sector showed no difference (all around 3%).

Figure 2.9: Breakdowns for asylum seekers or immigrants

Of those admissions who had been assessed by the YOT as asylum seekers or immigrants:

- 54% were not engaging in education;
- 37% were a looked-after child prior to entering custody;
- 32% had substance misuse concerns;
- 31% were assessed as a 'high' risk to others; and
- 27% were not engaging with carers.

Protection - Sexual exploitation concerns

YOTs had sexual exploitation concerns for 9% of admissions to custody. Information was not known for 13% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender showed:

- Of females, 60% had sexual exploitation concerns; and
- Of males, 6% had sexual exloitation concerns.

Breakdowns by ethnicity showed:

- Of White admissions, 10% had sexual exploitation concerns; and
- Of BAME admissions, 6% had sexual exploitation concerns.

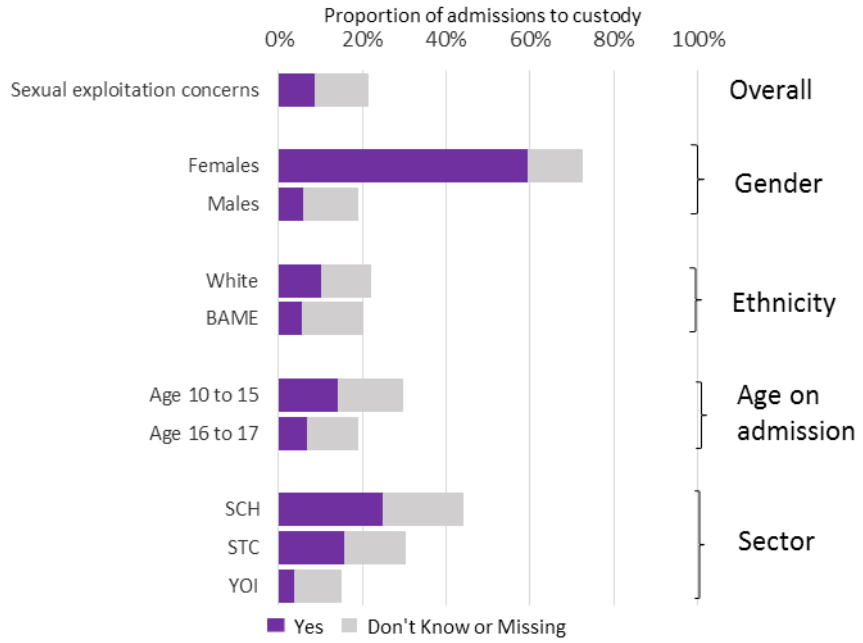
Breakdowns by age group showed:

- Of admissions aged 10 to 15, 14% had sexual exploitation concerns; and
- Of admissions aged 16 to 17, 7% had sexual exploitation concerns.

Breakdowns by sector showed:

- Of SCH admissions, 25% had sexual exploitation concerns;
- Of STC admissions, 15% had sexual exploitation concerns; and
- Of YOI admissions, 4% had sexual exploitation concerns.

Figure 2.10: Breakdowns for sexual exploitation concerns



Of those for whom the YOT had sexual exploitation concerns:

- 65% were not engaging in education;
- 62% had substance misuse concerns;
- 61% had suicide or self-harm concerns;
- 58% were a looked-after child prior to entering custody; and
- 51% had mental health concerns.

Protection - Child protection plan

YOTs' assessments of admissions showed that 5% had a current child protection plan prior to entering custody. Information was not known for 12% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender showed:

- Of females, 9% had a current child protection plan; and
- Of males, 5% had a current child protection plan.

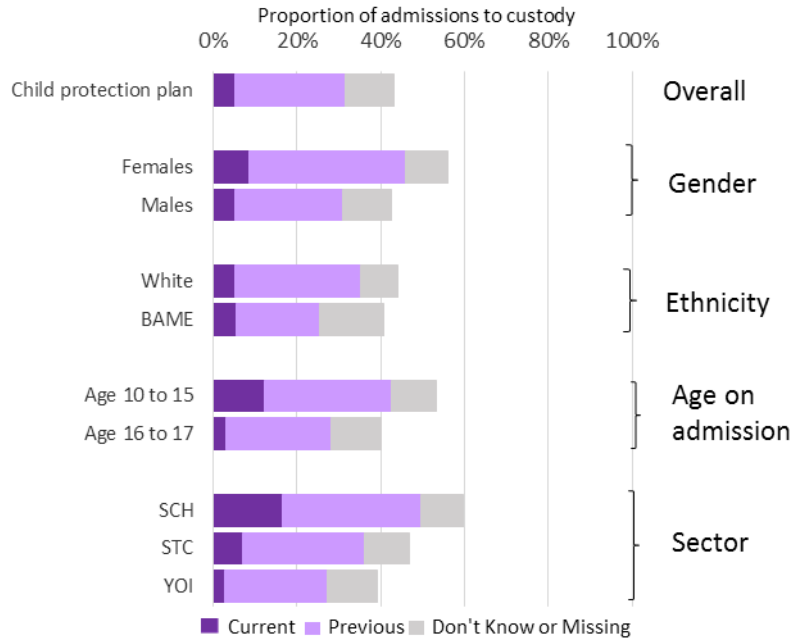
Breakdowns by ethnicity showed no difference (both White and BAME, 5%):
Breakdowns by age group showed:

- Of admissions aged 10 to 15, 12% had a current child protection plan; and
- Of admissions aged 16 to 17, 3% had a current child protection plan

Breakdowns by sector showed:

- Of SCH admissions, 17% had a current child protection plan;
- Of STC admissions, 7% had a current child protection plan; and
- Of YOI admissions, 3% had a current child protection plan.

Figure 2.11: Breakdowns for child protection plan



Of those who had a current child protection plan prior to entering custody:

- 54% were not engaging in education;
- 53% had substance misuse concerns;
- 47% were a looked-after child prior to entering custody;
- 40% were a high risk to others; and
- 39% had learning disability or difficulty.

Protection – Looked-after child status

The YOTs' assessments of admissions to custody showed that 33% were a looked after child prior to entering custody. Although this dataset reflects information on admission, current looked-after child status may include some admissions that were a looked-after child due to their legal basis rather than if they were looked after in the community[6]. Information was not known for 5% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender on entering custody showed:

- Of females, 49% were a looked-after child; and
- Of males, 32% were a looked-after child.

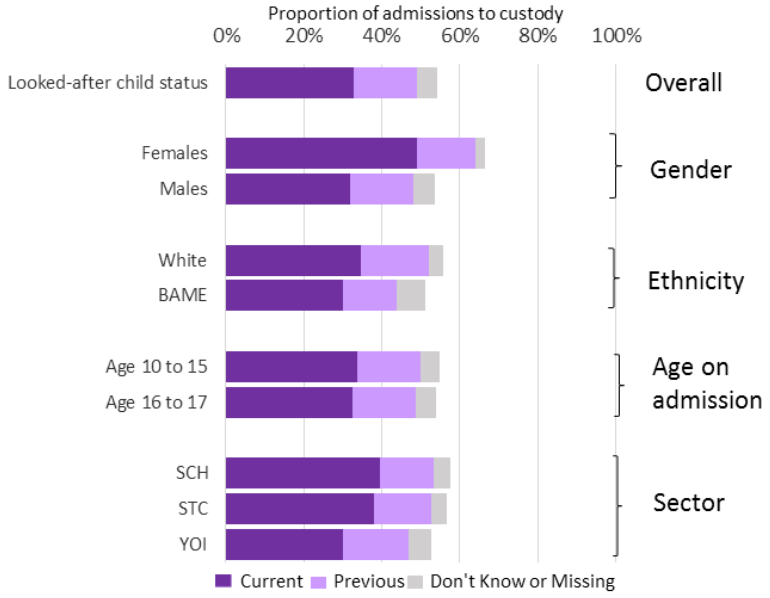
Breakdowns by ethnicity on entering custody showed:

- Of White admissions, 35% were a looked-after child; and
- Of BAME admissions, 30% were a looked-after child.

Breakdowns by age group showed little difference (10 to 15, 34% and 16 to 17, 33%).
Breakdowns by sector showed:

- Of SCH admissions, 40% were a looked-after child;
- Of STC admissions, 38% were a looked-after child; and
- Of YOI admissions, 30% were a looked-after child.

Figure 2.12: Breakdowns for looked-after child status



Of those admissions who have been assessed by the YOT as a current looked-after child prior to entering custody:

- 68% were not engaging in education;
- 56% had substance misuse concerns;

[6] Under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, a child who is remanded to youth detention accommodation is to be treated as a child who is looked after by the designated authority. This is particularly pertinent to the figures for previous looked-after child status as they may have previously been in custody.

- 43% had mental health concerns;
- 41% were assessed as a high risk to others; and
- 41% had suicide or self-harm concerns.

Risks to others - Risk to others (young people/adults)

YOTs' assessments of admissions to custody showed that 33% were a 'high' risk to others. Information was not known for 9% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender showed little difference (males, 33% and females, 32%).
Breakdowns by ethnicity showed:

- Of White admissions, 30% were assessed as a high risk to others; and
- Of BAME admissions, 37% were assessed as a high risk to others.

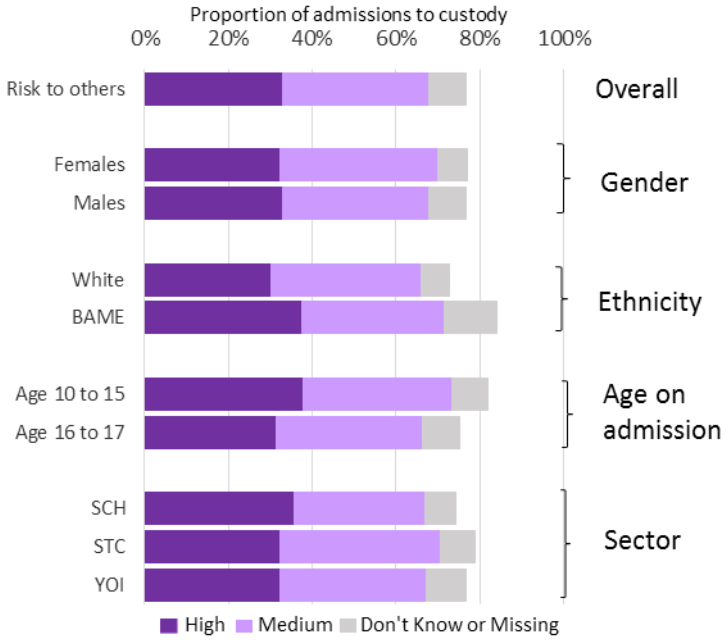
Breakdowns by age group showed:

- Of admissions aged 10 to 15, 38% were assessed as a high risk to others; and
- Of admissions aged 16 to 17, 31% were assessed as a high risk to others.

Breakdowns by sector showed:

- Of SCH admissions, 36% were assessed as a high risk to others;
- Of STC admissions, 32% were assessed as a high risk to others; and
- Of YOI admissions, 32% were assessed as a high risk to others.

Figure 2.13: Breakdowns for risk to others



Of those admissions who have been assessed by the YOT as a high risk to others:

- 61% were engaging in education;
- 50% had substance misuse concerns;
- 42% had mental health concerns;
- 41% were a current looked-after child prior to entering custody; and
- 39% had suicide or self-harm concerns.

Risks to others - Gang concerns

YOTs had concerns around gang involvement for 13% of admissions to custody. Information was not known for 18% of admissions.

Breakdowns by gender showed:

- Of females, 5% had concerns around gang involvement; and
- Of males, 13% had concerns around gang involvement.

Breakdowns by ethnicity showed:

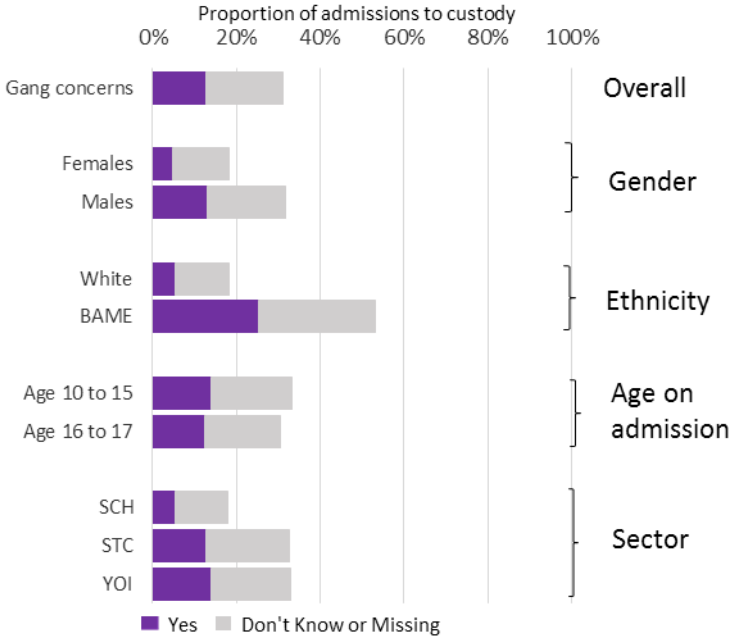
- Of White admissions, 5% had concerns around gang involvement; and
- Of BAME admissions, 25% had concerns around gang involvement.

Breakdowns by age group showed little difference (10 to 15, 14% and 16 to 17, 12%).
Breakdowns by sector showed:

- Of SCH admissions, 5% had concerns around gang involvement;
- Of STC admissions, 13% had concerns around gang involvement; and
- Of YOI admissions, 14% had concerns around gang involvement.

Regional breakdowns showed the proportion was higher for young people attached to London YOTs (31%) than other regions (2% to 11%).

Figure 2.14: Breakdowns for concerns around gang involvement



Of those admissions that the YOT had gang concerns for:

- 67% were not engaging in education;
- 54% were assessed as a high risk to others;
- 43% had substance misuse concerns;
- 31% were a current looked-after child prior to entering custody; and
- 27% had physical health concerns.

Explanatory notes

When a YOT assesses a young person as being at risk of entering custody, a Placement Information Form (PIF) is completed. The form is designed using Key Placement Factors (KPF) to focus on an admission to a secure estate establishment in order to provide the YJB Placement Service up to date information on a young person. This is to ensure that the most appropriate placement decision is made and to provide the receiving establishment with the same information in advance to assist with induction, safeguarding and first night care. The PIF forms are uploaded to the YJB's eAsset database from which the data are extracted.

Fourteen different key characteristics are presented in this analysis. The key characteristics can be grouped into the general categories of health, learning, family background, protection and risks to others.

- Health covers four key characteristics: suicide or self-harm concerns, physical health concerns, substance misuse concerns and mental health concerns.
- Learning covers two key characteristics: learning disability or difficulty concerns and not engaging in education.
- Family background covers three key characteristics: parenthood, not engaging with carers and asylum seekers and immigrants.
- Protection covers three key characteristics: sexual exploitation concerns, child protection plan and looked-after child status.
- Risks to others covers two key characteristics: risk to others and concerns around gang involvement.

The data has been grouped over the whole timeframe to provide more robust and meaningful outputs. It is not appropriate to use the data to look at trends due to changes in the data recording and collection method over this period. These figures have been drawn from an administrative IT system (eAsset), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Methodology

Some of these key characteristics are based on multiple KPF questions asked by the YOT. Summary details are given below. For full details of the questions asked, please see the PIF guidance:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/placement-information-form-pif-and-guidance.

Note the PIF is currently being phased out and a new assessment framework, AssetPlus is being introduced. Due to the rollout of AssetPlus, this will be a one-off publication. For further details see:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/AssetPlus-assessment-and-planning-in-the-youth-justice-system/AssetPlus-assessment-and-planning-in-the-youth-justice-system.

1. Health - Suicide or self-harm concerns

Information for this key characteristic was collected via three different questions on the PIF:

- Threats of suicide or self-harm
- Previous history of self-harm
- At risk of suicide or life-threatening self-harm

The possible responses for these three questions were ‘yes’, ‘no’ and ‘don’t know’.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for these questions:

- **Threats of suicide or self-harm -** Many young people when facing custody will make threats to harm themselves. All establishments in the secure estate are equipped to manage young people who are thinking about harming themselves. It is important that we receive full information about the nature of the threats so that an establishment can prepare for the young person’s arrival appropriately. Please let us know whether you think the threats are a reaction to custody or part of a more long-term problem.
- **Previous history of self-harm -** Tell us about any previous instances of self-harm. Please include dates and the nature of the self-harm including previous suicide attempts.
- **At risk of suicide or life-threatening self-harm -** Please let us know if you assess that the risk of self-harm is so serious that you are fearful that the young person will take their own life. Please give details of the reasons for your assessment. This could include previous suicide or life-threatening self-harm attempts, triggers for this behaviour and the impact this behaviour could have on placement choice.

For the suicide or self-harm concerns key characteristic, the answers were ‘yes’, ‘no’ and ‘don’t know/missing’:

- Yes – if a ‘yes’ was recorded for one or more of the three questions;
- No – if a ‘no’ was recorded for all three questions;
- Don’t know/missing – if there was either a ‘don’t know’ or ‘missing’ recorded for one or more of the three questions but there was not a single ‘yes’ recorded for any of the three questions.

2. Health - Physical health concerns

Information for this key characteristic was collected via three different questions on the PIF:

- Serious medical or health complaint;
- Non-serious medical or health complaint;
- Taking any medication?

The possible responses for these three questions were ‘yes’, ‘no’ and ‘don’t know’.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for these questions:

- **Serious medical or health complaint.** A medical condition so serious that ongoing medical treatment and or hospital admissions will be required, for the foreseeable future. Please give any details that could affect the safety or placement of the young person e.g. brittle bone disease, leukaemia. This section should include any allergy that could cause an anaphylactic reaction.
- **Non-serious medical or health complaint**. The young person, at present, is suffering from a medical condition that requires treatment or the young person has an ongoing medical condition that is self-managed/self-medicated e.g. asthma or diabetes. Let us know what medication the young person needs.
- **Taking any medication?** Let us know what medication the young person is currently taking.

For the physical health concerns key characteristic, the answers were 'yes', 'no' and 'don't know/missing':

- Yes – if a 'yes' was recorded for one or more of the three questions;
- No – if a 'no' was recorded for all three questions;
- Don't know/missing – if there was either a 'don't know' or 'missing' recorded for one or more of the three questions but there was not a single 'yes' recorded for any of the three questions.

3. Health - Substance misuse concerns

Information for this key characteristic was collected via two different questions on the PIF:

- Substance misuse which is cause for concern;
- Detox for drug addiction (e.g. heroin).

Note: The Detox for drug addiction KPF only relates to young people who require physical detox. This relates to heroin and/or alcohol only.

The possible responses for these two questions were 'yes', 'no' and 'don't know'.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for these questions:

- **Substance misuse which is cause for concern.** Please tell us if the young person takes substances (including alcohol) to a degree that it is a cause for concern. Perhaps the young person's general health is affected, you are concerned that the young person may be becoming psychologically addicted, or the substance misuse is directly or indirectly linked to their offending behaviour. Tell us why you are concerned.
- **Detox for drug addiction (e.g. heroin).** Some young people who are addicted to heroin and or alcohol will have to go through a Detox programme. This is the process by which toxic substances are removed from the body. Physical Detox is only required for those young people who are <u>physically addicted</u> to alcohol and/or heroin. A medical assessment will be made by the establishment as to whether a Detox programme is necessary, though advice from the YOT as to whether Detox is likely to be required is essential as it may influence placement choice. If you are unsure, please consult medical advice

and/or a substance misuse worker and contact the YJB Placement Service to discuss.

For the substance misuse concerns key characteristic, the answers were ‘yes’, ‘no and ‘don’t know/missing’:

- Yes – if a ‘yes’ was recorded for one or both of the questions;
- No – if a ‘no’ was recorded for both questions;
- Don’t know/missing – if there was either a ‘don’t know’ or ‘missing’ recorded for one or both of the two questions but there was not a single ‘yes’ recorded for any of the questions.

4. Health - Mental health concerns

Information for this key characteristic is collected via two different questions on the PIF:

- Acute mental health or psychological condition;
- Non-acute mental health or psychological condition.

The possible responses for these two questions were ‘yes’, ‘no’ and ‘don’t know’.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for these questions:

- **Acute mental health or psychological condition.** A mental health or psychological condition that is so acute that mental health treatment/intervention is likely to always be required. Treatment/intervention under the Mental Health Act 1983 has been previously sought or considered in the past. Tell us of any previous / current intervention with mental health services.
- **Non-acute mental health or psychological condition.** A mental health or psychological condition that the young person is currently receiving treatment/intervention for or that it is suspected that the young person needs to receive treatment/intervention.

For the mental health concerns key characteristic, the answers are ‘yes’, ‘no’ and ‘don’t know/missing’:

- Yes – if a ‘yes’ was recorded for one or both of the questions;
- No – if a ‘no’ was recorded for both questions;
- Don’t know/missing – if there was either a ‘don’t know’ or ‘missing’ recorded for one or both of the two questions but there was not a single ‘yes’ recorded for any of the questions.

5. Learning - Learning disability or difficulty concerns

Information for this key characteristic was collected via one question on the PIF. The possible responses for this question was ‘yes’, ‘no’ and ‘don’t know’.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for this question:

- Please let us know if the young person has a learning difficulty or disability. If the young person has been formally diagnosed, tell us. If the young person has not been formally diagnosed, but you suspect that the young person has difficulty with learning or understanding, tell us why you have concerns. In particular, let us know if you think that the young person's learning difficulties could mean they will struggle to cope in custody. Communication issues – it is very useful to know if the young person has any speech or language difficulties, or any other difficulties with communication. Please let us know what these difficulties are and whether the young person is receiving any specialist intervention. If the young person sees a speech and language therapist, please give their contact details.

For the learning disability or difficulty concerns key characteristic, the answers were 'yes', 'no' and 'don't know/missing'.

6. Learning - Not engaging in education

Information for this key characteristic was collected via one question on the PIF for engaging in education. The possible responses for this question were 'yes', 'no' and 'don't know'.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for this question:

- Please give details – **whether or not** the young person is engaging in education or training. If the young person is engaging – what are they doing? Do they attend school or college? Do they work? If so, where? Are they taking any exams? If the young person is not engaging, how long has this been the case? Why are they not engaging? Where was the last school they attended? Can the young person read and write?

For the not engaging in education key characteristic, the yes and no categories have been reversed from the original question. The answers were 'yes', 'no' and 'don't know/missing'.

7. Family - Parenthood

Information for this key characteristic was collected via two different questions:

- The young woman is pregnant or a mother;
- The young man is a father or father-to-be.

The possible responses for these two questions were 'yes', 'no', 'not applicable' and 'don't know'.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for these questions:

- **The young woman is pregnant or a mother.** The YJB commissions a dedicated Mother and Baby Unit at Rainsbrook STC in Rugby. The unit can hold up to three young women with their babies (usually up to 18 months old) and also can provide preparation for expectant mums, in a specialist environment. The unit has dedicated nursing staff and provides parenthood

and life skills training. If you are working with a young woman who is pregnant or has a young child, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can advise you about bed availability. Any placement for a young woman who is due to give birth in custody or is to be placed with her baby must be agreed by social services. If the young woman is pregnant, please state the estimated due date. Has she been receiving any antenatal care? Have Social Services undertaken a pre-birth conference? If the young person is already a mother, please give details of child/children and whether she has contact with the child/children.

- **The young man is a father or father-to-be.** If a young man is a father, please tell us how much contact he has with the child. Some of our establishments offer group work with young fathers / fathers to be. Please give us a call to discuss the placement and include as much detail as you can. We will try to place nearer to home, if this will assist with contact.

For the parenthood key characteristic, the answers for females was 'yes', 'no' and 'don't know/missing' and for males was 'yes', no' and 'don't know/missing'. If 'not applicable' was recorded in the answers, this has been grouped under 'no'.

8. Family - Asylum seeker or immigrant

Information for this key characteristic was collected via one question. The possible responses for this question were 'yes', 'no' and 'don't know'.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for this question:

- Is the young person an asylum seeker or immigrant? Unaccompanied asylum seeker (an asylum seeker is someone who has fled from her or his country and is seeking refugee status in another country. This is under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the status of Refugees)

For the asylum seeker or immigrant key characteristic, the answers were 'yes', 'no' and 'don't know/missing'.

9. Family - Not engaging with carers

Information for this key characteristic was collected via one question on the PIF for engaging with carers. The possible responses for this question were 'yes', 'no' and 'don't know'.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for this question:

- Please give details whether or not the young person's parents / carers are actively engaged. If they are not, is there any contact? Why are they are not involved? How might a placement away from home impact on the young person's relationship with their family?

For the not engaging with carers key characteristic, the yes and no categories have been reversed from the original question. The answers were ‘yes’, ‘no’ and ‘don’t know/missing’.

10. Protection - Sexual exploitation concerns

Information for this key characteristic was collected via one question on the PIF. The possible responses for this question were ‘yes’, ‘no’ and ‘don’t know’.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for this question:

- If a young person is suspected to be at risk of sexual exploitation, then it may impact on the placement choice. We are mindful that we need to take into consideration the current population of establishments in this circumstance to keep the young person safe. Please give us details of what has happened and share any concerns you have, so that we can let the receiving establishment know.

For the sexual exploitation concerns key characteristic, the answers were ‘yes’, ‘no’ and ‘don’t know/missing’.

11. Protection - Child protection plan

Information for this key characteristic was collected via one question on the PIF. The possible responses for this question were ‘current’, ‘previous’, ‘never’ and ‘don’t know’.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for this question:

- In Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006 the Government announced that the maintenance of a separate child protection register would be phased out by 1 April 2008. The functionality of the register will be replaced by the Integrated Children’s System (ICS) and, more specifically, through the existence of a child protection plan. Please tell us whether the young person is currently or was previously subject to a Child Protection Plan (previously the Child Protection Register).

For the child protection plan key characteristic, the answers were ‘current’, ‘previous’, ‘never’ and ‘don’t know/missing’.

12. Protection - Looked-after child status.

Information for this key characteristic was collected via one question on the PIF. The possible responses for this question were ‘current’, ‘previous’, ‘never’ and ‘don’t know’.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for this question:

- Is the young person looked-after by the Local Authority? Please tell us if the young person is currently looked-after or has previously been looked-after by

the Local Authority. If the answer to this is unknown, then a social services check should be completed at the earliest opportunity. What is the looked-after status? If applicable please select, from the following list, the category under which the young person is or was looked-after by the Local Authority: Accommodated by Voluntary Agreement with Parents, Subject to Care Order, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker (an Asylum seeker is someone who has fled from her or his country and is seeking refugee status in another country. This is under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the status of Refugees).

For the looked-after child status key characteristic, the answers were 'current', 'previous', 'never' and 'don't know/missing'.

Although this dataset reflects information at the point of admission, looked-after child status may include some admissions that were a looked-after child due to their legal basis of remand rather than if they were a looked-after child in the community. This is particularly pertinent to the data for 'previous' looked-after child status.

13. Risks to others - Risk to others (young people/adults)

Information for this key characteristic is collected via two different questions on the PIF:

- Threat to other young people;
- Threat to adults.

The possible responses for these two questions were 'high', 'medium', 'low' and 'don't know'.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for these questions:

This section is intended to gather information on any threat the young person may pose to others. This can include acts of violence, 'gut feelings', threats made, or strange and bizarre behaviour.

In this section, please consider whether the threat posed to others is high, medium, or low. It is critical that you evidence why you have given this rating and that you bear in mind what threat the young person might pose in custody rather than in the community. These ratings may not be the same as those given in the ROSH for this reason. If a young person has posed a threat to other young people in the community, it may not necessarily mean that the young person is likely to pose the same threat to other young people within a secure environment. On the other hand, you may feel that the young person's threat to others could increase in the secure estate. Evidence of behaviour in previous secure placements is particularly important here.

- **Threat to other young people.** Please bear in mind the ages of the young people within the secure estate. For example, if a young person has offences against very young children, it may be that the threat to peer-aged children within the secure estate is minimal. If a young person has been in local authority care and has a history of violence against other young people in this setting, please tell us.

  Broadly speaking:

High – there is a strong probability of the young person posing a risk of harm to other young people within the secure estate.
Evidence for this might include that the young person has previously been in custody and assaulted other young people. You should tell us if this affects your placement recommendation.
Medium – there is some evidence that the young person will pose a threat to other young people within the secure estate. Perhaps the young person has a history of violent offending or fighting in the community.
Low – there is little evidence that the young person will pose a threat to other young people within the secure estate. Perhaps there is no history of violent offending against other young people.

- **Threat to adults.** Again, please bear in mind who might be at risk within the secure estate. Tell us whether any harmful behaviour, on which you are basing this assessment, took place in the community or within the secure estate. Who does the young person pose a threat to? If the young person has a history of assaults on staff within the custodial estate, then you should consider a rating of 'high'. Equally, if the young person has a history of violence against care staff or workers in a position of authority, then you should take this into account. If the victims of violence from the young person are specific (for example) the young person's parents, you may want to consider whether he or she would pose a threat to other adults within a secure setting, or whether this threat is minimal. Again, you should tell us if you feel that this assessment affects your placement recommendation.

For the Risk to Others key characteristic, the answers were high, medium, low and don't know/missing:

- High – if a 'high' was recorded for one or both of the questions;
- Medium - if a 'medium' was recorded for both questions or a 'medium' and 'low' combination;
- Low – if a 'low' was recorded for both questions;
- Don't know/missing – if there was either a 'don't know' or 'missing' recorded for one or both of the two questions but there was not a single 'high' recorded for any of the questions.

14. Risks to others - Gang concerns

Information for this key characteristic was collected via one question on the PIF. The possible responses for this question were 'yes', 'no' and 'don't know'.

The following guidance was provided to YOTs for this question:

- The term 'gang' has come to be associated specifically with street gangs, which organise for the purpose of carrying out illegal activity which may vary from inciting conflict with other gangs to dealing drugs. The YJB Placement Service is unable to separate all gang members from rival gang members, and for security reasons does not seek necessarily to do so. It is, however, important that the YJB Placement Service is made aware of any specific issues between particular gang members, where there is a much heightened degree of risk. Please let us know the name of the gang / gangs with which the young person is associated and if there are any particular rival gangs of

whom we should be aware. Even if this does not result in an alteration of placement, this information is crucial to the receiving establishment in order that risk can be properly managed.

For the gang concerns key characteristic, the answers were ‘yes’, ‘no’ and ‘don’t know/missing’.

Links to other resources

Youth custody data

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data

Monthly statistics on the population in custody of children and young people within Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), Secure Training Centres (STCs) and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs).

Youth Justice Statistics

www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics

The general statistics areas covered include:

- arrests;
- youth cautions;
- first time entrants to the criminal justice system;
- offences;
- court remands;
- disposals;
- custody;
- reoffending;
- comparisons to the adult system;
- key performance indicators; and
- resources.

The Youth Justice Statistics concentrate on the flow of young people (aged 10-17) through the Youth Justice System in England and Wales.

Contacts

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:
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General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/

For enquires direct to the YJB please email: analysis@yjb.gsi.gov.uk

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

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Alternative formats are available on request from esd@justice.gsi.gov.uk