



Ministry  
of Justice

# **National Offender Management Service Annual Offender Equalities Report**

**2016/17**

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics Bulletin

Published 30 November 2017

# Contents

Introduction .....	3
Summary .....	5
1. Prison Population .....	10
2. Transgender Prisoners .....	13
3. Mother and Baby Units .....	15
4. Deaths in Prison.....	17
5. Self-harm .....	21
6. Assaults .....	23
7. Absconds.....	27
8. Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL).....	28
9. Temporary Release Failures.....	29
10. Adjudications .....	30
11. Incentives and Earned Privileges.....	34
12. Offenders Subject to Community Orders and Suspended Sentence Orders.....	37
13. Deaths in the Community .....	39
14. Order and Licence Completions .....	43
15. Home Detention Curfew.....	45
16. Electronic Monitoring .....	46
17. Reoffending .....	48
Contacts .....	51

## Introduction

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) was created as an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice in April 2008 with the goal of helping prison and probation services work together to manage offenders through their sentences. On 1 April 2017, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) replaced the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). However, as this publication covers the reporting period up to 31 March 2017, i.e. prior to the introduction of HMPPS, it therefore considers in detail, statistics for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

This is the 2016/17 issue of the annual National Offender Management Service Offender Equalities statistics publication. The equality objectives are stated, along with progress and achievements, in the NOMS Annual Report and Accounts 2016/17:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/noms-annual-report-and-accounts-2016-2017](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/noms-annual-report-and-accounts-2016-2017)

[The National Offender Management Service \(NOMS\) Annual Staff Equalities Report 2016/17](#) will be published a separate report on 30 November 2017. This publication includes data for all civil servants employed by NOMS.

The report, [Women and the criminal justice system statistics 2015](#) provides an account of how women are represented in the criminal justice system and was published on 24 November 2016.

The report, [Race and the criminal justice system statistics 2016](#) gives statistical information on the representation of black and minority ethnic groups as suspects, offenders and victims within the criminal justice system and on employees within criminal justice agencies. This will be published on 30 November 2017.

A large amount of information on offender equalities is already published within other statistical publications. The contents relate to the tables within the publications listed below:

The Offender Management Statistics Quarterly ([www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly)) and the Safety in Custody Statistics Bulletin ([www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics)) including offender equalities tables for calendar year 2016.

A set of Supplementary tables are included alongside this publication, organised by topic area. A guide that includes a glossary of terms and definitions and details of data sources, also accompanies this report.

In previous years, a number of other tables were also published within the Annual Offender Equalities Report. The data for these areas (including information on disability, accredited programmes, complaints and the number of segregation days) are not yet considered to be of sufficient quality to allow them to be published and will resume once they are.

The Equality Act 2010 lists nine Protected Characteristics:

Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Disability, Sexual Orientation, Religion or Belief, Gender Reassignment, Marriage/Civil Partnership, and Pregnancy/Maternity.

This report focuses on those protected characteristics where data are collected, and are of sufficient quality for statistics to be meaningful. In general, this report is limited to analysis on gender, age, ethnicity and religious belief for these reasons. Where data are available for other protected characteristics at sufficient quality and with sufficient coverage to be meaningful, they are also presented and considered.

The report presents some analysis by individual characteristic and is meant to serve as a guide for further research. In many cases, more than one factor (e.g. age and another protected characteristic, criminal history, socio-economic) may have an effect on an outcome.

# Summary

## Gender

- Males accounted for the vast majority of the prison population. At 31 March 2017, 95% (81,535) of the prison population was male.
- The number of female prisoners has fallen for many years and at 31 March 2017 was 6% lower than at the same point in 2012.
- At 31 December 2016, there were 18,454 female offenders under community and suspended sentence orders, representing 15% of offenders in the community. This has remained at a similar level for the last five years.
- In 2016, 332 males and 22 females died whilst in custody. The rate of female deaths in custody more than doubled since 2015.
- There were 748 deaths of offenders in the community in the 2016/17 financial year. Of these, 649 deaths were male and 99 deaths were female.
- Females represented 4.5% of prisoners, but 10% of individuals who self-harmed in the 12-month period to December 2016. The rate of self-harm individuals per 1,000 prisoners was substantially higher for females (299 per 1,000 female prisoners) than for males (121 per 1,000 male prisoners). For males, both the number of individuals and the rate of self-harm increased each year from 2012.
- Male prisoners who self-harmed in the 12 months to December 2016, carried out on average 3.30 self-harm incidents in 2016, slightly up from 3.01 incidents in the previous year. Female prisoners who self-harmed did so on average 6.65 times in 2016, up from 6.37 incidents in 2015.
- Females had lower rates of assailants, fighters and victims involved in assault incidents per 1,000 prisoners than males.
- In 2016/17, male prisoners accounted for 100% of absconds (86). Since 2011/12, the number of absconds by male prisoners has reduced by 50%.
- Female prisoners were twice as likely as males to have at least one instance of ROTL in 2016 (16% of females compared with 8% of males). Female prisoners released on temporary licence had on average 48.6 instances of ROTL, compared with 47.2 instances of Release on Temporary Licence on average for male prisoners.
- The rates of temporary release failures for male prisoners also fell from 80.5 failures per 100,000 releases in 2011 to 73.4 failures per 100,000 releases in 2016. hat had been released on temporary licence during 2016.
- The rate of proven adjudications per 100 prisoners was higher for women (152) than for men (130) in 2016. Rates for both men and women have seen an increase since 2011, but the rise has been more marked for women, increasing by 38%.

- Male prisoners accounted for 76% of all Home Detention Curfew recalls in 2016 and 87% of HDC releases.
- At 31 March 2017, there were 11,168 monitored subjects who had Bail, Court Sentence or Post-Release orders. Of these 87% were male and 13% were female.
- The average number of reoffences per reoffender was higher for females than for males (3.93 as compared with 3.81).

## Age

- There has been a change in the age profile of prisoners. Between 2012 and 2017, there was a decrease in the number of young prisoners (those aged 15 to 24<sup>1</sup>) of 34% and an increase in the number of older prisoners (those aged 50 and over) of 40%.
- The proportion of offenders under community or suspended sentence orders aged 18-24 fell from 33% (41,323) in 2011 to 26% (32,295) in 2016. Over the same time period, there were corresponding increases in the proportion of offenders aged 30 or more. In particular, the proportion aged 50 or over rose from 7% (8,500) in 2011 to 10% (12,461) in 2016.
- Those aged 60 and over had the highest rate of successful orders and licence completions (94%).
- In total, 96 applications<sup>2</sup> were made for a place in Mother and Baby Units; and 42 applications (44%) were made by women both in the 22 to 29 and in the 30 to 39 age categories. Eight (8%) applications were submitted by women aged 40 to 49 years, and the fewest from those aged 18 to 21 years of age (4 applications, 4% of all applications made).
- In 2016, 36% or 128 deaths in custody were of prisoners aged 60 or over. This age group saw a large increase from 21.71 deaths per 1,000 prisoners in 2015 to 28.48 in 2016 after a period of relative stability in this rate since 2011.
- In 2016, 88% of self-inflicted deaths were amongst those aged 25-59.
- The age group with the highest number of deaths in the community was those aged 36-49, with 291 deaths.
- The age group with the highest rate of self-harm incidents per 1,000 prisoners in 2016 was those aged 18-20 with 962 incidents per 1,000 prisoners. Overall, across the time-series, the rate of self-harm incidents per 1,000 prisoners decreases as age increases.

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<sup>1</sup> Excludes the number of young people aged 10-17 in Secure Children's Homes

<sup>2</sup> Includes applications for women who have been released from custody or withdrawn their application, so accepted and refused cases do not sum to the total.

- The number of assailants per 1,000 prisoners falls as age increases. It was highest for the 15-17 age group with a rate of 2,313 per 1,000 prisoners. This age group also has the highest rate of prisoner fighters and prisoner victims.
- In 2016, most of the total and proven adjudications occurred in the 30-39 age group (reflecting the greater proportions in the prison population).
- The rate of proven adjudications per 100 prisoners was the highest in the 15-17 age group (951 per 100 prisoners) and then at age 18-20 (328 per 100 prisoners)
- Those aged 60 and over had the lowest rate of proven adjudications per 100 prisoners.
- The predominant type of offence committed by 15-17 year olds is violence, accounting for 42% of all proven adjudications in this age group. The proportion of proven adjudications for violence reduces with age, and accounts for 8% across all offences for those aged 60 or more.
- Younger prisoners are on average considerably more likely to be on basic IEP status than other ages, whilst the proportion on enhanced IEP status tends to increase with age. For example 55% of those aged 50-59 had an enhanced IEP status and just 1% of that age-group had a basic status.
- In 2016/17, 26% of subjects receiving Electronic Monitoring<sup>3</sup> were aged 30-39.
- In January to December 2014, those aged 10-14 had the highest reoffending rate (39.5%), followed by those aged 15-17 (37.5%). The proportion of offenders who reoffend generally decreases as age increases.
- The vast majority of offenders in the October 2015 to December 2015 cohort were adults (93%, 120,687). However, juveniles<sup>4</sup> were more likely to reoffend, 41.8% of offenders aged 10-17 reoffended compared with 28.7% of the adult cohort.

## Ethnicity

- At 31 March 2017, White prisoners made up almost three quarters (62,522 or 74%<sup>5</sup>) of all prisoners. Prisoners who declared their ethnicity as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) represented 22,432 (or 26%) of all prisoners.
- At 31 March 2017, the largest BAME grouping of prisoners was Black or Black British with 10,668 (13%) prisoners. Asian or Asian British made up 8% (6,945) of the prison population. The smallest grouping was Chinese or other ethnic group with 1,095 prisoners (1%).

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<sup>3</sup> Bail, Court sentence or post release orders only

<sup>4</sup> Juveniles are defined as those aged 10 to 17 years old.

<sup>5</sup> Percentages are calculated based on where ethnicity is known (not known cases excluded).

- In 2016<sup>6</sup>, 18% of offenders subject to community or suspended sentence orders came from a BAME<sup>7</sup> background. The proportion of BAME offenders has remained fairly stable since 2012.
- Offenders of Chinese or other ethnic group, Asian and Asian British, Black and Black British had slightly higher percentages of successful completions (85%, 85% and 83% respectively) than White or mixed ethnicity offenders (80% and 79%).
- The number of deaths per 1,000 White prisoners increased from 3.54 in 2015 to 5.00 in 2016. The rate of deaths per 1,000 prisoners for those of Black ethnicity doubled from 0.95 in 2015 to 1.91 in 2016.
- In 2016, White prisoners had the highest rate of apparent self-inflicted deaths per 1,000 prisoners (1.60 per 1,000 prisoner respectively).
- Offenders in the community who were classified as White had the highest number of deaths, accounting for 684. The second largest was Black or Black British with 23 deaths.
- For proven adjudications recorded as violent offences in 2016, 60% were for prisoners from the White ethnic group and 23% were prisoners with a Black ethnic background.
- Black and Mixed ethnicity prisoners have the highest proportion of prisoners on basic IEP status, 7% and 8% respectively, at 31 March 2017. This was higher than White<sup>8</sup> prisoners (5%) at the same point in time.
- In the period October to December 2015, reoffending rates were highest for those classified as Black, followed by White (33.9% and 30.7% respectively).

## **Sexual Orientation**

- Of those who declared their sexual orientation, 97% of prisoners identified themselves as Heterosexual with 71,901 prisoners, while 2.6% (1,954) identified as Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual or Other (LGB).

## **Religion or Belief**

- Christianity was the largest religious affiliation for those who recorded a religion, with 41,230 prisoners identifying themselves as Christian (48% of the prison population). This proportion has reduced from around 52% in 2007.

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<sup>6</sup> Excluding missing or not stated cases

<sup>7</sup> Black, Asian, and minority ethnic

<sup>8</sup> The ethnicity "White" includes white gypsy, white Irish and white Other

- The proportion of prisoners identifying as Muslim grew steadily between 2002 and 2017. In 2002, Muslims made up 7.7% of the prison population, as at March 2017 this figure was 15.3%.
- Muslim prisoners have the highest proportion of prisoners on basic IEP status, 8%, at 31 March 2017. This was higher than Christian prisoners at 5%, at the same point in time.

## **Gender Reassignment**

- 47 of the 124 public and private prisons (38%) in England and Wales said that they had 1 or more transgender prisoners<sup>9</sup>.
- There were 125 prisoners currently living in, or presenting in, a gender different to their sex assigned at birth and who have had a local transgender case board.

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<sup>9</sup> Prisoners who are currently living in, or are presenting in a gender different to their sex assigned at birth and who have had a case conference (as defined by PSI 17/2016), as known to individual prisons.

# 1. Prison Population

Prison population figures are published in the [Offender Management Statistics quarterly](#), and in Supplementary Tables 1.1 to 1.5 of this report. The report, the '[Story of the Prison Population 1993 to 2016](#)' provides an in-depth look at what happened to the prison population between 1993 and 2016 and the major factors contributing to the changes.

At 31 March 2017, the prison population was 85,513. Males accounted for 95% (81,535) of the prison population and females accounted for 5% (3,978).

The prison population increased markedly during the period 2002 to 2012 rising from 71,218 prisoners to its peak of 87,531. Since 2012, the population has fallen slightly and remains fairly steady. As males make up the vast majority of the number of people in prison, trends are driven by that group.

The number of female prisoners has fallen for many years and at 31 March 2017 was 6% lower than at the same point in 2012, whilst the number of male prisoners fell by 2% during the same period.

Figure 1.1 shows a comparison of the age distribution of prisoners between 31 March of 2012 and 2017. Figures are published in narrower age bands for the younger age groups, so caution should be taken when comparing the different age groups. This age distribution of prisoners differs from the general population of England and Wales, in that prisoners are generally younger.

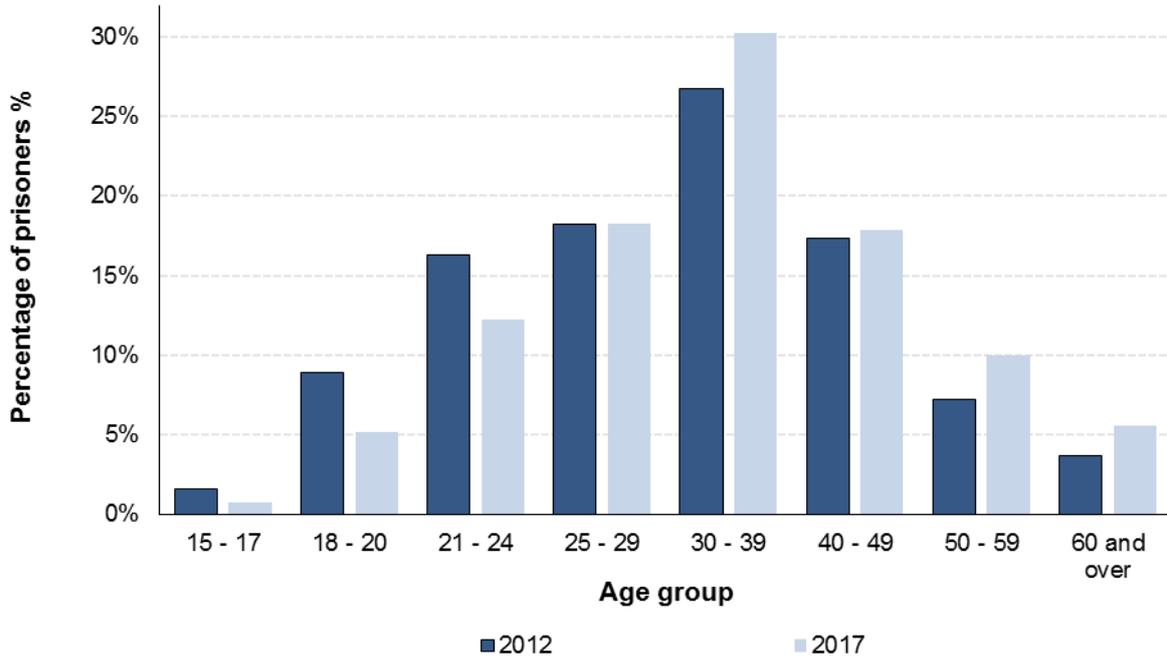
By age, there was a peak in the number of prisoners in the 30-39 age group with 25,866 or 30% of prisoners as at 31 March 2017.

Between 2012 and 2017, there was a decrease in the number of young prisoners (those aged 15 to 24<sup>10</sup>) of 34% and an increase in the number of older prisoners (those aged 50 and over) of 40%.

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<sup>10</sup> Excludes the number of young people aged 10-17 in Secure Children's Homes

**Figure 1.1: Percentage of Prisoners by Age Group, March 2012 and March 2017**



Ethnicity, religious belief<sup>11</sup> and sexual orientation are prisoner characteristics that are self-declared by the prisoner.

At 31 March 2017, White prisoners made up almost three quarters (62,522 or 74%<sup>12</sup>) of all prisoners. Prisoners who declared their ethnicity as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) represented 22,432 (or 26%) of all prisoners. The remaining 559 prisoners had a not stated or unknown ethnicity. The proportion of BAME prisoners has been fairly level since 2004.

According to the 2011 England and Wales Census.<sup>13</sup>, 12.5% of the general population<sup>14</sup> were from BAME ethnic groups.

At 31 March 2017, the largest BAME grouping of prisoners was Black or Black British with 10,668 (13%) prisoners. Asian or Asian British made up 8% (6,945) of the prison population. The smallest grouping was Chinese or other ethnic group with 1,095 prisoners (1%).

In the 2011 Census there were 3% of people aged 15 or over who were Black or Black British and 7% who were Asian or Asian British. Care should be taken when comparing with the population of the 2011 Census as there have been changes in population (particularly migration) since that point.

Between March 2016 and March 2017, the prison population for each ethnic group increased, except for the White ethnic group, whose prison population decreased by 1%.

<sup>11</sup> The 2011 Census classifications have been used to group together ethnicity and religious belief

<sup>12</sup> Percentages are calculated based on where ethnicity is known (not known cases excluded).

<sup>13</sup> Census 2011 population figures, broken down by ethnicity, can be found via the following link:

[www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/DC2101EW](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/DC2101EW)

<sup>14</sup> 15 years and over

The ethnic group with the largest increase in prison population was Chinese or other ethnic groups with an 8% increase in prisoners from 1,012 to 1,095 prisoners.

Christianity was the largest religious affiliation for those who recorded a religion, with 41,230 prisoners identifying themselves as Christian (48% of the prison population). This proportion has reduced from around 52% in 2007. The second largest group was those with No Religion with 26,307 prisoners (31% of the prison population).

The proportion of prisoners identifying as Muslim grew steadily between 2002 and 2017. In 2002, Muslims made up 7.7% of the prison population, as at March 2017 this figure was 15.3%. 4.3% of those aged 15 or more declared their religious belief as Muslim in the 2011 Census.

Self-reported prisoner sexual orientation is likely to be under-reported<sup>15</sup>. This is partially reflected in a declaration rate of 91.6% (as opposed to 100%). Of those who declared their sexual orientation, 97% of prisoners identified themselves as Heterosexual with 71,901 prisoners, while 2.6% (1,954) identified as Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual or Other (LGB). Of those prisoners who identified as LGB, Gay/Lesbian were the largest group accounting for 972 offenders (1.3%) of the prison population at March 2017 and 900 (1.2%) identified as Bisexual. Sexual orientation was not collected in the 2011 Census.

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<sup>15</sup> The data on sexual orientation is drawn from internal Management Information and therefore differs to the other population totals. An average of the population is taken each quarter.

## 2. Transgender Prisoners

For the purposes of this report, transgender prisoners are defined as those individuals known within prison to be currently living in, or are presenting in, a gender different to their sex assigned at birth and who have had a case conference (as defined by PSI 17/2016 The Care and Management of Transgender Offenders<sup>16</sup>).

The number of prisoners who have already transitioned and have a full Gender Recognition Certificate are thought to be excluded. Statistics on the number of all applications to the Gender Recognition Panel are published in Tribunals and gender recognition statistics quarterly at [www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics).

The figures give an estimate of the number of transgender prisoners and are likely to underestimate the true number. There may be some transgender prisoners who have not declared that they are transgender or had a local transgender case board, and some who have a Gender Recognition Certificate

Details of the number of transgender prisoners were provided by Equalities Representatives in public and private prisons in England and Wales, between 30 March 2017 and 28 April 2017. New guidance on the care and management of transgender offenders was issued prior to the collection of data in March/April 2017. This may have led to an increase in the number of transgender prisoners recorded when compared with results from the March/April 2016 data collection.

According to the data collection exercise conducted in March/April 2017:

- 47 of the 124 public and private prisons (38%) in England and Wales said that they had 1 or more transgender prisoners<sup>17</sup>.
- There were 125 prisoners currently living in, or presenting in, a gender different to their sex assigned at birth and who have had a local transgender case board.
- Of these, 99 reported their gender<sup>18</sup> as male, 23 reported their gender as female and 3 did not state their gender.
- 12 of the 125 prisoners reported their ethnic group as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Group and 113 as White.
- Based on this exercise, there were 1.5 transgender prisoners reported per 1,000 prisoners in custody.

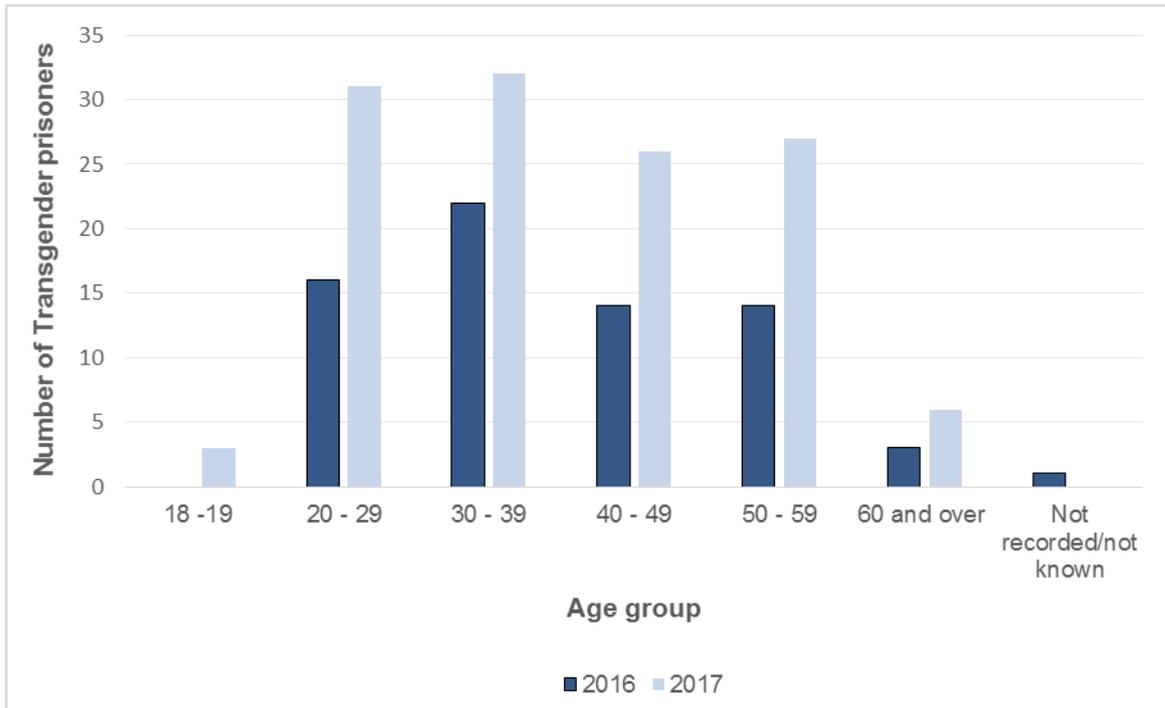
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<sup>16</sup> This replaced PSI 07/2011 – Care and Management of Transsexual Prisoners in January 2017. Information about the review which led to new guidance is available at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-and-management-of-transgender-offenders](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-and-management-of-transgender-offenders).

<sup>17</sup> Prisoners who are currently living in, or are presenting in a gender different to their sex assigned at birth and who have had a case conference (as defined by PSI 17/2016), as known to individual prisons.

<sup>18</sup> The gender is self-reported on reception to the prison and based on information recorded on central administrative databases. It is not possible to determine if this is the legal gender or whether the gender has changed.

**Figure 2.1: Number of Transgender Prisoners by age-group, March/April 2016 and March/April 2017**



### 3. Mother and Baby Units

A Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) is a designated living accommodation within a women's prison which enables mothers, where appropriate, to have their children with them. Women who are pregnant or who have children under the age of 18 months can apply for a place in an MBU. Details of the process are given in the Guide with more detailed statistics in Supplementary Table 3.1.

There are currently five MBUs in operation<sup>19</sup> across the women's prison estate in England and Wales which provide an overall total capacity of 52 places for mothers. However, there are a total of 57 places for babies to allow for twins.

Multiple applications can be submitted by each woman over the duration of the financial year period, therefore applications volumes will usually be higher than counts for individual mothers.<sup>1</sup> Application volumes differ from those published in the [Annual National Offender Management Digest, 2016/17](#). This is because protected characteristic data was linked to approval/refusal data from a different source, which did not result in a direct match in all instances.

In 2016/17, 96 applications<sup>20,21,22</sup> were received for admission into an MBU. Of these, 67 applications (70%) were approved and twelve (13%) were refused<sup>23</sup>. There were 17 applications from women who were released from custody or who withdrew their application.

Figure 3.1 shows the distribution of approvals and refusals by age and religion or belief in the 2016/17 financial year:

- In total, 96 applications<sup>24</sup> were made for a place in MBUs; and 42 applications (44%) were made by women both in the 22 to 29 and in the 30 to 39 age categories. Eight (8%) applications were submitted by women aged 40 to 49 years, and the fewest from those aged 18 to 21 years of age (4 applications, 4% of all applications made).
- Applicants from the 40 to 49 years old age group had the highest proportion of approvals, with 88% of applications approved; followed by the 22 to 29 and 30 to 39 years age groups with 71% and 67% applications approved respectively. 75% of applications made by women aged 18 to 21 years were accepted.

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<sup>19</sup> There are usually 6 MBUs in England and Wales but the MBU at Eastwood Park has been temporarily closed since May 2016. It is hoped works to refurbish the unit will begin at the end of July and should be ready to re-open at the end of this year. With Eastwood Park temporarily closed capacity sits at 52/57, the usual operating capacity is 64/70.

<sup>20</sup> Data are for applications. Multiple applications can be submitted by each woman over the duration of the financial year period, therefore applications volumes will usually be higher than counts for individual mothers.

<sup>21</sup> An application approval does not always mean a woman and her baby/babies will be received into an MBU, as alternative arrangements could be made for care after the application is submitted.

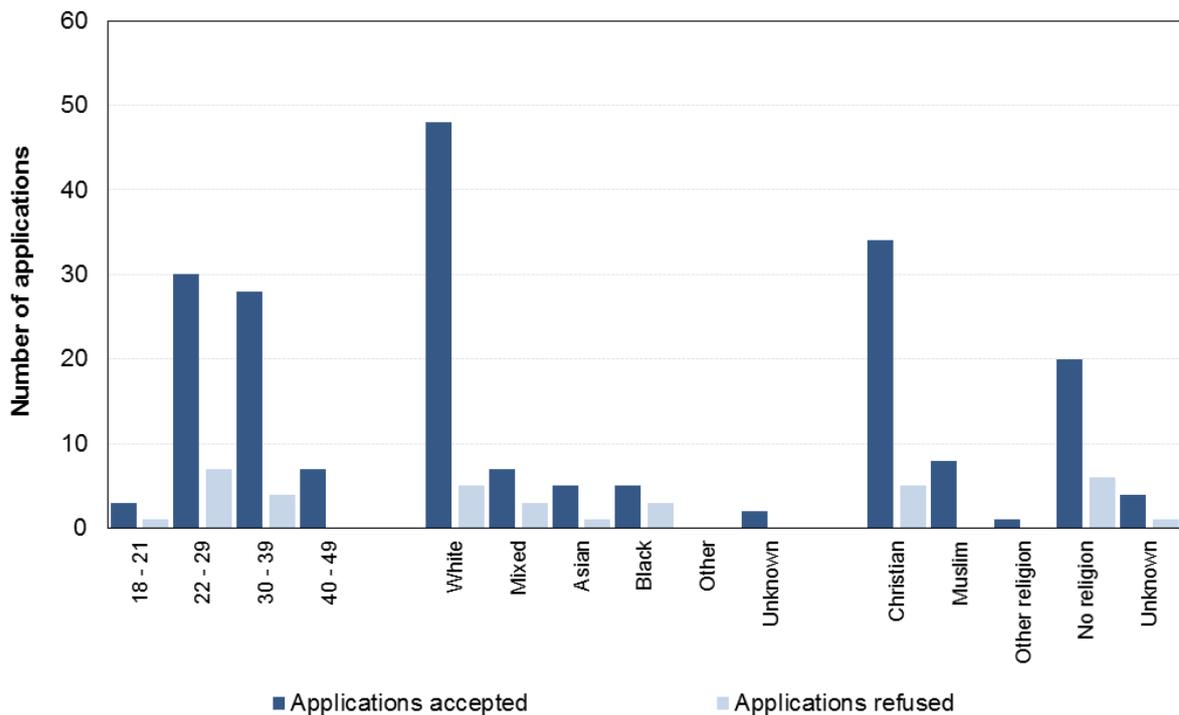
<sup>22</sup> Application volumes differ from those published in the Annual National Offender Management Digest, 2016/17, available at this link: [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-national-offender-management-service-digest-2016-to-2017](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-national-offender-management-service-digest-2016-to-2017). This is because protected characteristic data was linked to approval/refusal data from a different source, which did not result in a direct match in all instances.

<sup>23</sup> Please note that due to data quality issues, we are unable to provide reliable volumes for certain protected characteristics; namely sexual orientation and marital status.

<sup>24</sup> Includes applications for women who have been released from custody or withdrawn their application, so accepted and refused cases do not sum to the total.

- The proportion of applications refused decreased through each age category, with younger women recording higher levels of refusals. 25% of applications made by women aged 18 to 21 years were refused, and women aged 22 to 29 years had 17% of applications refused. Refusals were issued to 10% of women aged 30 to 39 years and no applications were refused for those aged 40 to 49 years.
- The largest number of applications were made by women from the White ethnic group, 66 of the 96 applications made (69%). This group accounted for 72% (48) of applications approved across all ethnic groups.
- The proportion of applications that were approved varied by ethnic group. 73% of applications were approved for women in the White ethnic group. Approval rates for women from the Asian, Black and Mixed ethnic groups were 83%, 63% and 58% respectively.
- Just over half (51%, 34) of applications approved were from women who identified as having a Christian<sup>25</sup> religion; while 20 (30%) applications approved were from women who identified as having no religion and eight women approved (12%) stated their religion as Muslim.
- Half (50%, 6) of applications refused were from women who identified as having no religion. A further 42% (5) of applications refused were from women who had a Christian religion.

**Figure 3.1: Number of approvals and refusals to a Mother and Baby Unit in England and Wales by age, ethnicity and religion or belief, 2016/17**



<sup>25</sup> Christian religions include Anglican, Free Church, Roman Catholic and other Christian denominations unspecified.

## 4. Deaths in Prison

Figures on deaths in prison are published in the Safety in Custody Quarterly publication. ([www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics)) and in Tables 4.1 to 4.9 of the Supplementary Tables in this report.

A death in prison custody is defined as *'any death of a person in prison custody arising from an incident in or, on rare occasions, immediately prior to prison custody. This includes deaths of prisoners while released on temporary licence (ROTL) for medical reasons but excludes deaths of any prisoners released on other types of temporary licence'*. All deaths in prison custody are subject to a police investigation and a coroner's inquest. Once the inquest has been concluded, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's office publish a detailed 'Fatal Incident Report'<sup>26</sup> on the death. Until this time, for administrative and statistical purposes, HMPPS classifies deaths by *apparent* cause of death.

There were 354 deaths in prison custody in the 2016 calendar year (an increase of 97 on the number in the previous year). A rate of 4.15 deaths in prison custody per 1,000 prisoners (up from 3.00 in the previous 12 month period). Of the 354 deaths in custody during 2016:

- 196 were from natural causes (rate of 2.30 per 1,000 prisoners);
- 119 deaths were apparently self-inflicted (1.39 per 1,000);
- 3 apparent homicides and
- 36 were from other causes<sup>27,28</sup>

In 2016, 332 males and 22 females died whilst in custody. The rate of female deaths in custody had more than doubled since 2015.

Figure 4.1 shows that between 2011 and 2016, the rates of death per 1,000 prisoners increased for both males and females.

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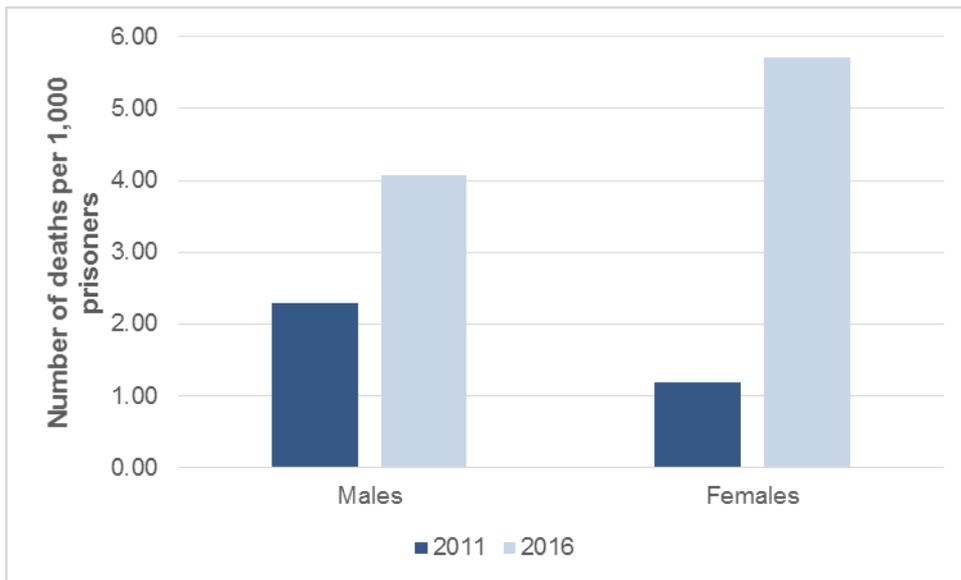
<sup>26</sup> Prisons and Probation Ombudsman: Fatal Incident Reports [www.ppo.gov.uk/document/fii-report/](http://www.ppo.gov.uk/document/fii-report/)

<sup>27</sup> 'Other' is an aggregated category consisting of two existing categories - 'other/non-natural' and 'awaiting further information' (previously referred to as unclassified). The statistical reason for this is that the aggregated category is more suitable for determining trends.

<sup>28</sup> These figures are accessible here:

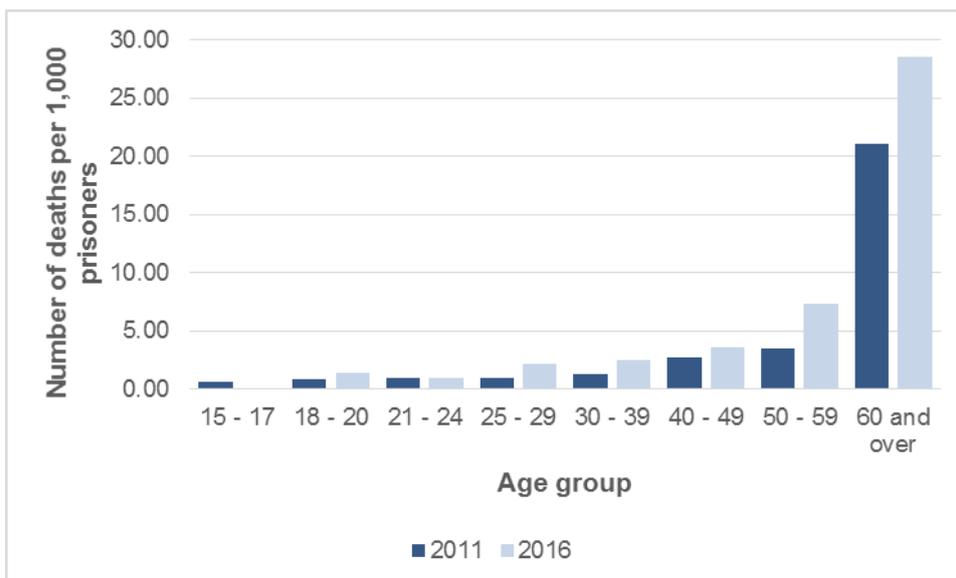
[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/654501/safety-in-custody-deaths-dec-16.xls](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/654501/safety-in-custody-deaths-dec-16.xls)

**Figure 4.1: Rate of prisoner deaths per 1,000 prisoners by gender in 2011 and 2016**



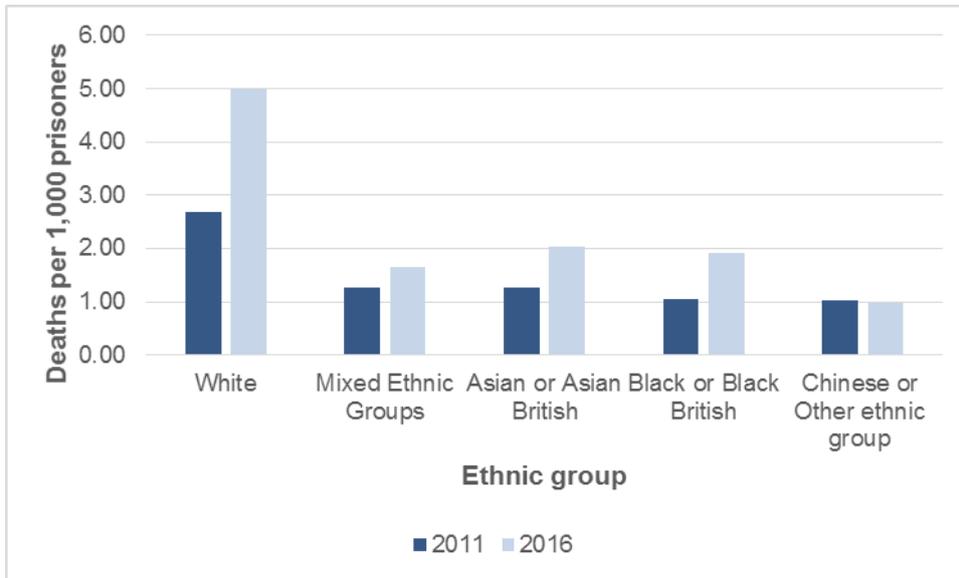
In 2016, 36% or 128 deaths in custody were of prisoners aged 60 or over. This age group saw a large increase from 21.71 deaths per 1,000 prisoners in 2015 to 28.48 in 2016 after a period of relative stability in this rate since 2011. The rate of deaths per 1,000 prisoners increased for all age groups in 2016 compared to 2015 except for the 21-24 age category which saw a 17% fall over this period.

**Figure 4.2: Rate of prisoner deaths per 1,000 prisoners by age group in 2011 and 2016**



In 2016, 88% or 313 deaths in prison custody were of White prisoners. The number of deaths per 1,000 White prisoners increased from 3.54 in 2015 to 5.00 in 2016. The rate of deaths per 1,000 prisoners for those of Black ethnicity doubled from 0.95 in 2015 to 1.91 in 2016. Figure 4.3 shows the change in rate in deaths by ethnicity between 2011 and 2016.

**Figure 4.3: Rate of prisoner deaths per 1,000 prisoners by ethnicity in 2011 and 2016**

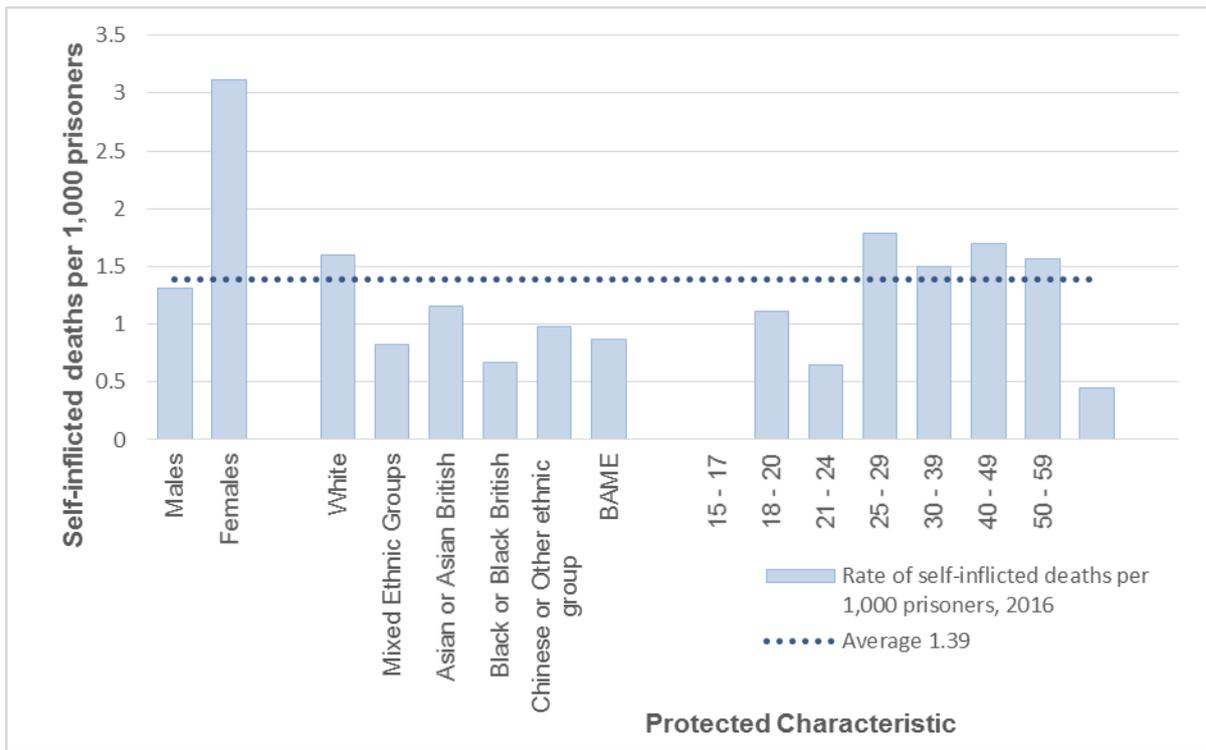


Of the 119 apparent self-inflicted deaths, 107 were males while 12 were females. The rate of self-inflicted deaths was higher for female prisoners (3.11 per 1,000 female prisoners) than for male prisoners (1.31 per 1,000 male prisoners) and more than doubled from 1.29 self-inflicted deaths per 1,000 female prisoners in 2015.

In 2016, 88% of self-inflicted deaths were amongst those aged 25-59, with each of the four constituent age groups having a rate of self-inflicted deaths of over 1.5 per 1,000 prisoners.

In 2016, White prisoners had the highest rate of apparent self-inflicted deaths per 1,000 prisoners (1.60 per 1,000 prisoner respectively). Prisoners who identified as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic had 19 self-inflicted deaths, a rate of 0.86 per 1,000 prisoners.

**Figure 4.4: Rate of Self-inflicted deaths per 1,000 prisoners, 2016**



## 5. Self-harm

Figures on self-harm are published in the Safety in Custody Statistics Bulletin. ([www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics)). They are also given in Tables 5.1 to 5.7 of the Supplementary Tables in this report.

Self-harm in prison custody is defined as, “any act where a prisoner deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent or severity of any injury.”

In 2016, there were 40,161 reported incidents of self-harm, an increase of 24% when compared with 2015. There were 471 incidents per 1,000 prisoners over the year, up by 25% on the previous year.

Self-harm trends differ by gender. In 2016, males had a rate of 399 incidents per 1,000 prisoners compared to 1,987 per 1,000 prisoners in the female estate. Figure 5.1 shows that incidents have increased for both males and females compared with 2013.

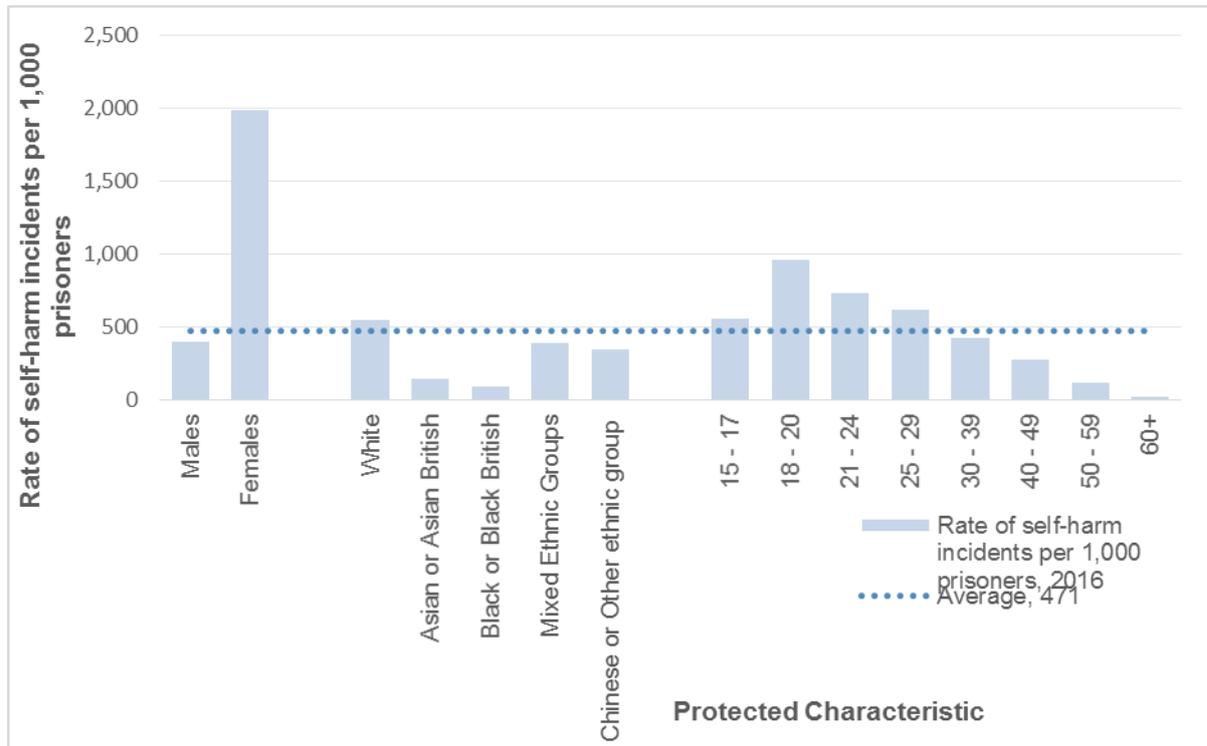
**Figure 5.1: Number of self-harm incidents per 1,000 prisoners by gender from 2007 to 2016**



The age group with the highest rate of self-harm incidents per 1,000 prisoners in 2016 was those aged 18-20 with 962 incidents per 1,000 prisoners. Overall, across the time-series, the rate of self-harm incidents per 1,000 prisoners decreases as age increases.

In 2016, White prisoners had the highest number of self-harm incidents per 1,000 prisoners (551). The number and rate of self-harm incidents increased in 2016 for all ethnic groups compared with 2015.

**Figure 5.2: Number of self-harm incidents per 1,000 prisoners, 2016**



In 2016, 11,008 prisoners were reported to have self-harmed, an increase of 16% compared to 2015. The rate of individuals self-harming per 1,000 prisoners increased over this time period by 16.8% from 110 in 2015 to 129 in 2016.

In 2016, male prisoners accounted for 90% of all prisoners who had self-harmed. This is lower than the proportion of the prison population that was male. However, the proportion of male self-harmers generally increased across the time-series from 78% in 2007.

Females represented 4.5% of prisoners, but 10% of individuals who self-harmed in the 12-month period to December 2016. The rate of self-harm individuals per 1,000 prisoners was substantially higher for females (299 per 1,000 female prisoners) than for males (121 per 1,000 male prisoners). For males, both the number of individuals and the rate of self-harm increased each year from 2012.

Male prisoners who self-harmed in the 12 months to December 2016, carried out on average 3.30 self-harm incidents in 2016, slightly up from 3.01 incidents in the previous year. Female prisoners who self-harmed did so on average 6.65 times in 2016, up from 6.37 incidents in 2015.

## 6. Assaults

Figures on assaults in custody are published in the [Safety in Custody Statistics](#) Bulletin and also in Supplementary Tables 6.1 and 6.2 of this report.

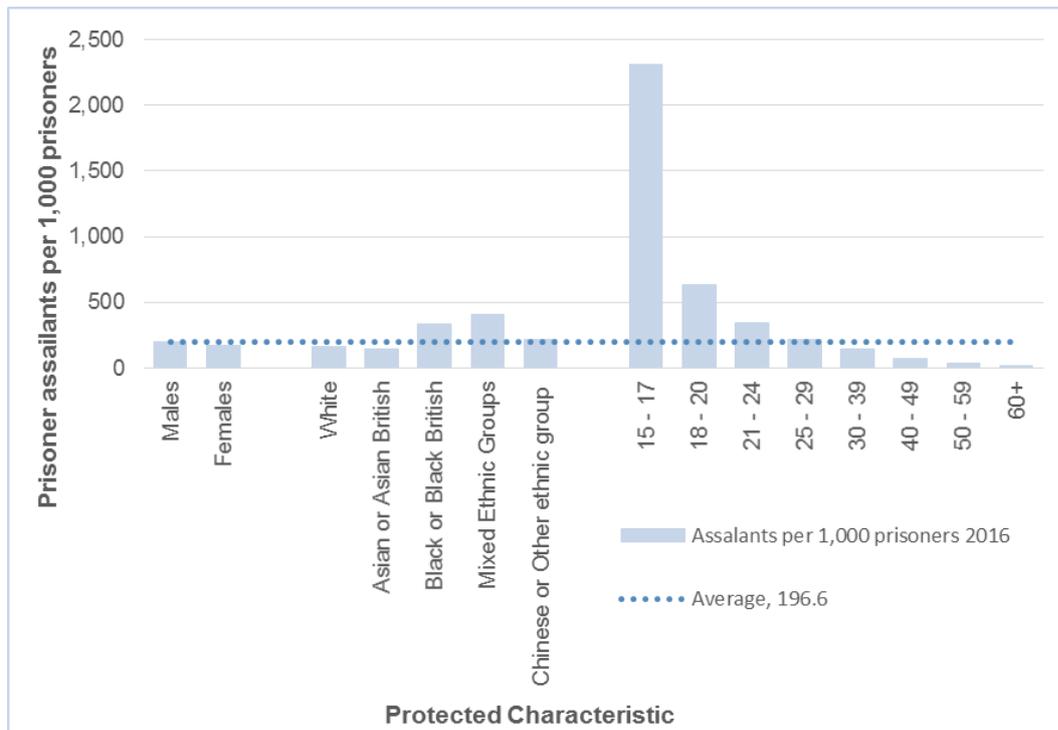
Assaults in prison custody cover a wide range of violent incidents including fights between prisoners. HMPPS does not use the Home Office counting rule definitions of Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), affray etc. and figures cannot be compared directly.

The data provide information on the ethnicity of assailants, fighters and victims involved in prison assaults. Each prisoner involved in each individual assault incident is counted separately, meaning that individual prisoners can be included in the data more than once. As there may be more than one assailant and/or victim per assault, and there are always at least two prisoners involved in a fight, the number of prisoner involvements is more than the number of incidents.

This also means that the rate per 1,000 prisoners should be considered with some caution, as prisoners can be counted more than once in the data. In addition, an informative analysis of ethnicity in relation to assaults may want to consider whether an assault incident or a fight involved people of the same or different ethnicities. However data to facilitate such analysis is not readily available.

In the calendar year 2016, there were 197 assailants per 1,000 prisoners, an increase of 27% from 2015. Figure 6.1 shows the number of assailants per 1,000 prisoners in 2016 by gender, ethnicity and age.

**Figure 6.1: Prisoner assailants per 1,000 prisoners, 2016**



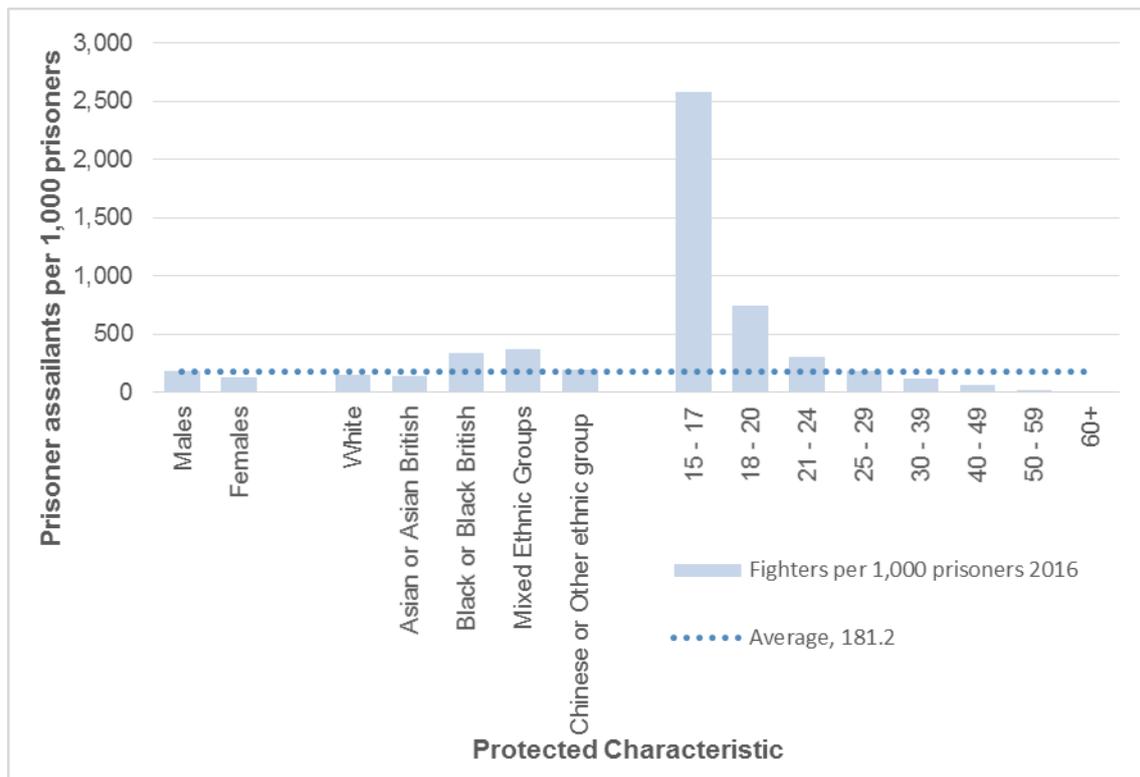
Females have a lower rate of prisoner assailants per 1,000 female prisoners (173) than males (198), but both have increased by 27% since 2015.

The Mixed ethnic group reported as having the greatest rate of assailants per 1,000 prisoners, with 405 assailants per 1,000 prisoners. Those in the Asian ethnic group had the lowest rate with 150 assailants per 1,000 prisoners.

The number of assailants per 1,000 prisoners falls as age increases. The age group with the highest rate of assailants per 1,000 prisoners was the 15-17 group, at a rate of 2,313. This is substantially higher than the age group with the second highest rate of assailants per 1,000 prisoners, which in 2016 was the 18-20 age group, with a rate of 633 assailants. In terms of absolute number of assailants, the 18-20 age group has the largest number, followed by those aged 21-24 and 15-17.

In 2016, there were 181 fighters per 1,000 prisoners, an increase of 21% from 2015. Figure 6.2 shows the number of fighters per 1,000 prisoners in 2016 by gender, ethnicity and age. “Fighters” refers to assault incidents in which there is no clear aggressor or victim.

**Figure 6.2: Prisoner fighters per 1,000 prisoners, 2016**



Females have a lower rate of prisoner fighters per 1,000 prisoners (132) than males (184) but the rate of fighters per 1,000 female prisoners has increased at a faster rate of 24% compared to that for males which increased by 21% since 2015.

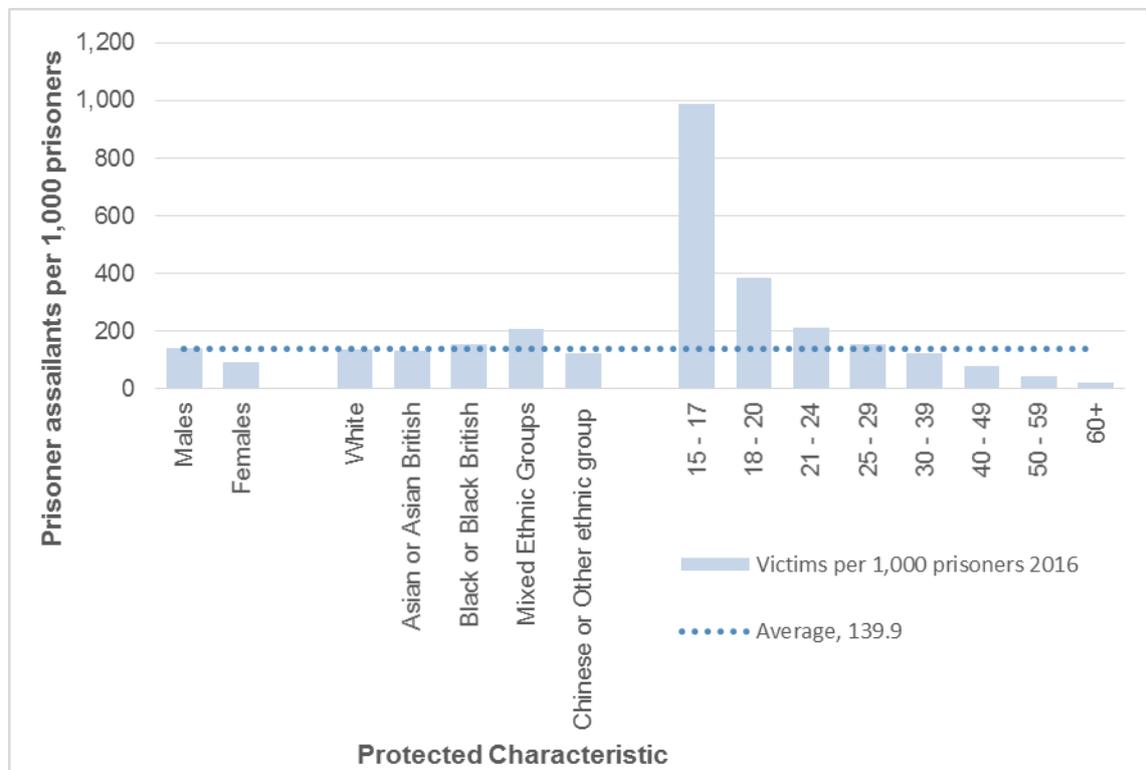
The Mixed ethnic group reported the greatest number of fighters per 1,000 prisoners, with 376 fighters per 1,000 prisoners. Fighters from the Black ethnic group had the second highest number of fighters, with 334 fighters per 1,000 prisoners. Asian and White

prisoners had the lowest rates of fighters per 1,000 prisoners, with 146 and 149 respectively.

The number of fighters per 1,000 prisoners falls consistently as age increases. The age group with the greatest number of fighters per 1,000 prisoners was those aged 15-17 with 2,582. This is substantially higher than any other age group. The group with the second highest rate was those aged 18-20, with 751 fighters per 1,000 prisoners. However, the 18-20 and 21-24 age groups have the greatest absolute numbers of fighters with 3,389 and 3,343 respectively. The age group with the lowest absolute number and rate per 1,000 prisoners of fighters is those aged 60 and over, with 26 fighters in 2016 at a rate of 5.8 per 1,000 prisoners.

In 2016, there were 140 victims per 1,000 prisoners, an increase of 26% from 2015. Figure 6.3 shows the number of victims per 1,000 prisoners in 2016 by gender, ethnicity and age.

**Figure 6.3: Prisoner victims per 1,000 prisoners, 2016**



Females had a lower rate of prisoner victims per 1,000 prisoners (92) than males (142) and the rate of victims per 1,000 male prisoners increased at a faster rate of 26% compared with that for females, which has increased by 19% since 2015.

The Mixed ethnic group with the greatest reported number of victims per 1,000 prisoners with 209 victims per 1,000 prisoners. The White, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British and Chinese or Other ethnic groups recorded similar rates. White victims had the lowest rate with 136 victims per 1,000 prisoners. The rates by ethnicity for victims tend to be more evenly spread than for assailants or fighters.

The number of victims per 1,000 prisoners decreases with age as with assailants and fighters. However, for younger age groups the rate of victims per 1,000 prisoners was

considerably lower than the rates of assailants or fighters, whereas for those aged over 40 the rate of victims is higher.

## 7. Absconds

Figures on the total number of Absconds, excluding data on protected characteristics, are published in the [NOMS Annual Digest](#) and in Supplementary Tables 7.1 and 7.2 of this report.

An abscond is defined as when a prisoner, “gains liberty without the need to overcome physical security restraints, or evade direct staff supervision.” Absconds only occur in prisons with open conditions.

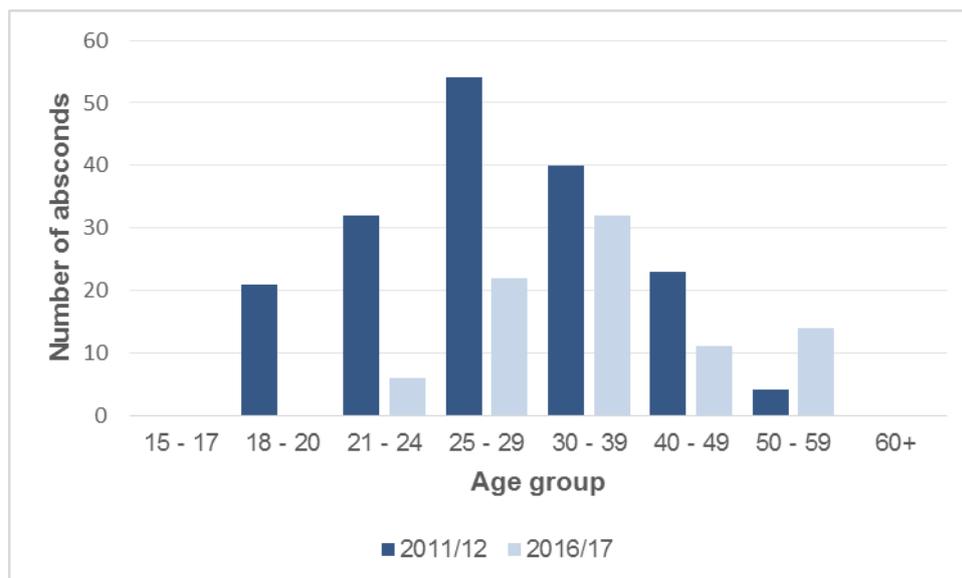
In the financial year 2016/17, there were 86 absconds, a decrease of 18% from 2015/16, continuing the general downward trend since 2003/04.

In 2016/17, male prisoners accounted for 100% of absconds. Since 2011/12, the number of absconds by male prisoners has reduced by 50%. Absconds by females are small in number and it is not meaningful to make such comparisons.

In 2016/17 the age group with the most absconds was 30-39 year olds with 32 absconds. The volume of absconds fell in every age group except for those aged 50-59 compared with 2015/16 volumes. The number of absconds of prisoners aged 50-59 more than trebled since 2015/16, although in absolute terms, the number of absconds is still low in this category.

Figure 7.1 shows that when 2016/17 absconds by age group are compared with those in 2011/12, the largest decrease was seen for the 25-29 age group with a 32 abscond reduction (59%), while the only increase in this time period was amongst the 50-59 age group

**Figure 7.1: Number of Absconds by Age Group in 2011/12 and in 2016/17**



## 8. Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL)

Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) figures are published in the [Offender Management Statistics Quarterly](#) publication. The published figures are split by gender but no other protected characteristic and are available in Supplementary Table 8.1<sup>29</sup> of this report.

Examples of temporary licence include resettlement day release, resettlement night release and licences are issued for each instance.

In 2016, 8.3% of the prison population had at least one instance of ROTL, with those with at least one incidence of ROTL having on average 47.3 releases per annum. This has increased from 7.8% of the prison population in 2015. The average number of release incidences per individual remained at a broadly similar level in 2016 to 2015.

Female prisoners were twice as likely as males to have at least one instance of ROTL in 2016 (16% of females compared with 8% of males). Female prisoners released on temporary licence had on average 48.6 instances of ROTL, compared with 47.2 instances of ROTL on average for male prisoners that had been released on temporary licence during 2016.

The percentage of prisoners receiving ROTL has fallen over the past 10 years for both males and females (from 11% in 2006 to 8% in 2016 for males and from 25% in 2006 to 16% in 2016 for females). Over the same period, the average number of instances of ROTL per individual has increased for both males and females (from 41.8 to 47.2 per male individual on average and from 44.4 to 48.6 per female individual on average).

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<sup>29</sup> Historical figures have been revised following a reconciliation exercise of temporary release failure data. Previous figures were based on data from different sources extracted at different times. While figures at the time of publication reflected the data extracted, further incidents and details may have been added since. Previous data from the various sources have been amalgamated and cleansed to form the main source of temporary release failure data.

## 9. Temporary Release Failures

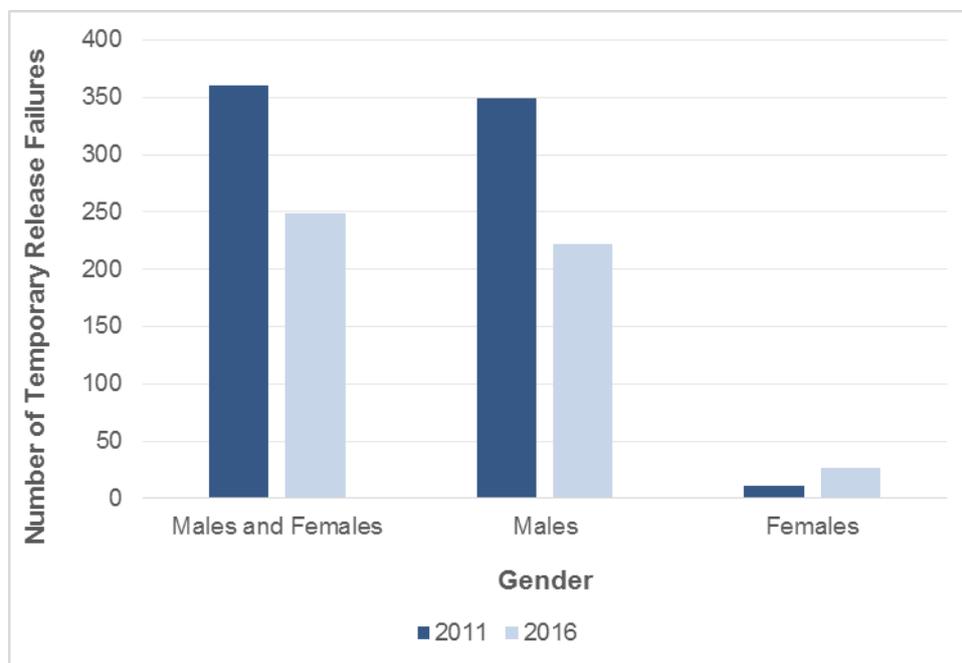
Figures on the total number of temporary release failures are published in the [NOMS Annual Digest](#) and in Supplementary Tables 9.1 to 9.3 of this report.

A temporary release failure after a release on temporary licence (ROTL) occurs when a prisoner fails to adhere to any condition written into the licence that permits their temporary release. Such conditions include the date and time by which the prisoner is required to return to the prison and may also place restrictions on where the prisoner may go and whom they may visit during the period of release, etc.

In the calendar year 2016, there were 249 temporary release failures, an increase of 54% from 2015. Of these, the vast majority related to males (89%).

Figure 9.1 shows that temporary release failures have decreased overall since 2011 with the total for males falling by 36% in this time period to 222 in 2016. The rates of temporary release failures for male prisoners also fell from 80.5 failures per 100,000 releases in 2011 to 73.4 failures per 100,000 releases in 2016. However, the number of female temporary release failures increased in 2016 to 27 compared to 7 in 2015 and 11 in 2011. Figures for female temporary release failures are too low to calculate meaningful rates.

**Figure 9.1: Number of Temporary Release Failures by Gender, 2011 and 2016**



## 10. Adjudications

Figures on adjudications and punishments resulting from adjudications are published in the [Offender Management Statistics](#) publication on a quarterly basis and in Supplementary Tables 10.1 to 10.6 of this report.

An adjudication is a formal disciplinary process within the prison estate and applies when a prisoner is suspected of committing an offence. Once an offence has been committed, an adjudication hearing must be opened for a decision to be made before a Governor or an Independent Adjudicator (depending on the seriousness of the offence). As in criminal courts, the standard of proof that must be met before a prisoner can be found guilty is “beyond reasonable doubt”. If the charge against the prisoner is proved, the adjudicator should consider the appropriate punishment(s) taking into account the seriousness of the offence, the local punishment guidelines and any mitigation the prisoner may offer. This process will result in recording the outcome of the adjudication as *proven*.

In the calendar year 2016, there was a total of 171,518 adjudications, of which 111,332 (65%) were proven. The total number of adjudications and of proven adjudications have increased in the last four years. Between 2015 and 2016, total adjudications went up by 16% and proven adjudications rose by 9%.

In 2016 there were, on average, 131 proven adjudications per 100 prisoners.

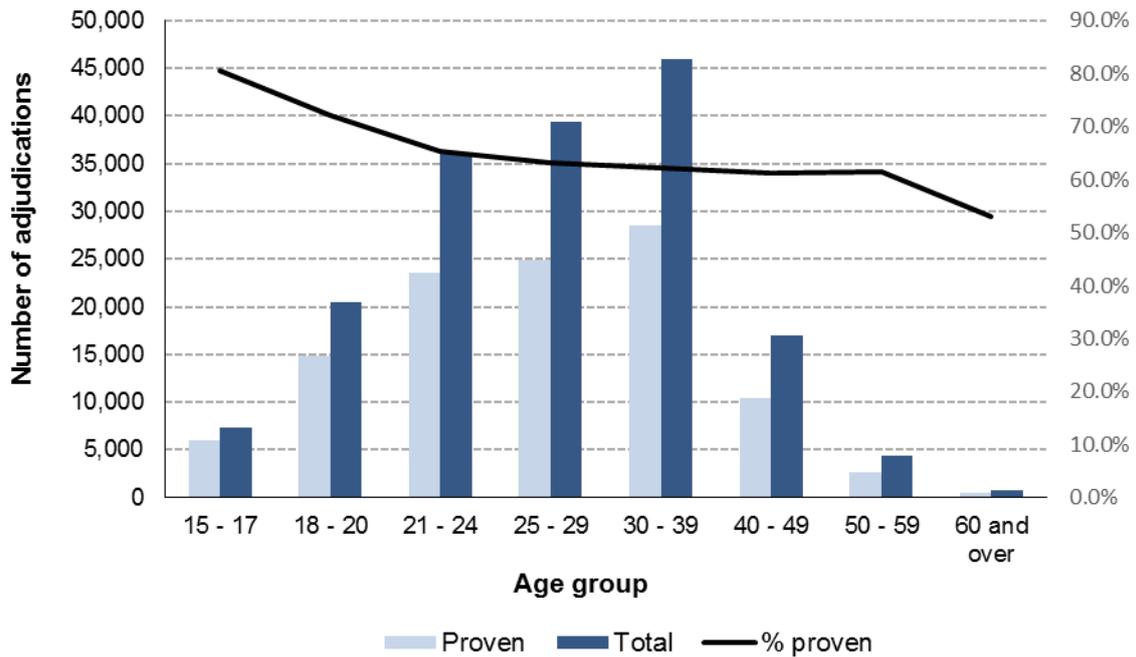
There were 22,812 dismissed adjudications during 2016, an average of 27 per 100 prisoners over the year.

In 2016, males accounted for 95% of adjudications (163,240) and 95% of proven adjudications (105,481). Adjudications were more likely to be proven for females, 71% were proven from females compared with 65% for males.

In 2016, the percentage of total adjudications that were dismissed or not proceeded with was higher for males (31%) than for females (20%).

In 2016, most of the total and proven adjudications occurred in the 30-39 age group (reflecting the greater proportions in the prison population). In 2016, there were 45,945 total adjudications in this age group, of which 28,559 or 62% were proven.

**Figure 10.1: Total and proven adjudications by age group, 2016, England and Wales**



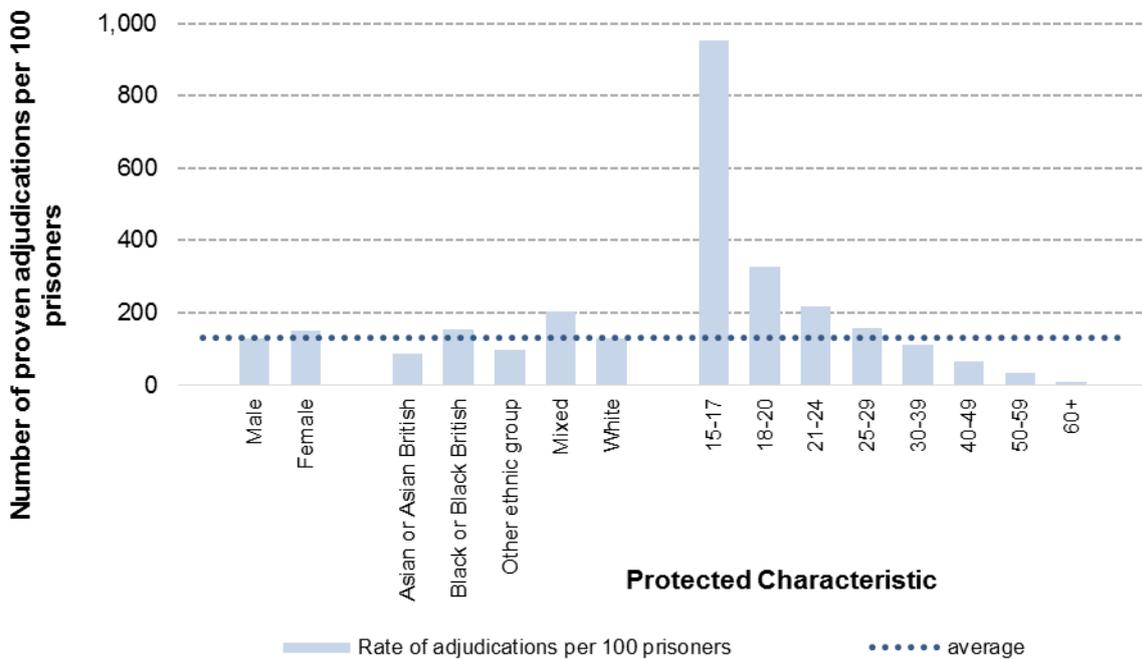
In 2016, the proportion of proven adjudications was highest in the 15-17 age group (81%). This proportion was 72% for those aged 18-20 and 53% for those aged 60 or more.

The rate of proven adjudications for 15-17 year olds doubled between 2011 and 2015; but in 2016 decreased by 12% (951 per 100 prisoners). However, the younger age groups make up a small proportion of the overall prison population.

In 2016, the number of adjudications and proven adjudications were highest for those who had declared their ethnicity as White (accounting for 72% of all proven and 71% of total adjudications).

The proportion of adjudications that were proven was highest amongst those who were from other ethnic groups (67%) or who were White (66%) when compared to the number of adjudications overall.

**Figure 10.2: Number of proven adjudications per 100 prisoners by protected characteristic, 2016**



Information is recorded on the type of offence associated with the outcome of the adjudication. In 2016, 36% of proven adjudications were for disobedience/disrespect offences with 24% for unauthorised transactions and 14% for violence offences, 11% for wilful damage and 15% for other offences.

When proven adjudications were examined by protected characteristic:

- The predominant type of offence committed by 15-17 year olds is violence, accounting for 42% of all proven adjudications in this age group. The proportion of proven adjudications for violence reduces with age, and accounts for 8% across all offences for those aged 60 or more.
- The proportion of proven adjudications that are unauthorised transactions offences increases with age up until age 40-49, where it accounts for 29% of proven adjudications.
- For proven adjudications recorded as violent offences in 2016, 60% were for prisoners from the White ethnic group and 23% were prisoners with a Black ethnic background. Prisoners who were of Mixed, Asian or Other ethnic backgrounds accounted for 10%, 7% and 1% respectively of proven adjudications for all violent offences.
- The proportion of proven adjudications for disobedience offences increases with age; with 27% for 15-17 year olds to 55% of proven adjudications for those aged 60 or over.

There were 191,853 punishments<sup>30</sup> issued to those who had proven adjudications in 2016. The profile of the punishments had few differences across gender and ethnic groups.

In 2016, the punishments related to 111,332 proven adjudications (or offences), an average of 1.72 punishments per offence. The number of punishments has varied since 2011 with an increase since 2013.

The average number of punishments per offence is slightly higher amongst females than for males (1.75 as compared with 1.72). The average is highest for 15-17 year olds (1.90) and decreases with age.

The type of punishment is a local decision but depends partly upon the type of offence committed. For example, in 2016, 45% of violence offences and 45% of disobedience/disrespect offences had a punishment of forfeiture of privileges.

The punishments of forfeiture of privileges and stoppage of earnings tend to decrease with age, following a similar pattern to that for all proven offences.

- The punishment of forfeiture of privileges decreases with age. 60% of those aged 15 – 17 had this type of punishment in 2016, as compared with 44% of those aged 18-20 and 39% of those aged 60 or more.
- Stoppage of earnings is more common amongst 15-17 year olds and those aged 50 or more.

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<sup>30</sup> Punishments included forfeiture of privileges, confinement, additional days, stoppage or reduction of earnings, cautions or other punishments.

## 11. Incentives and Earned Privileges

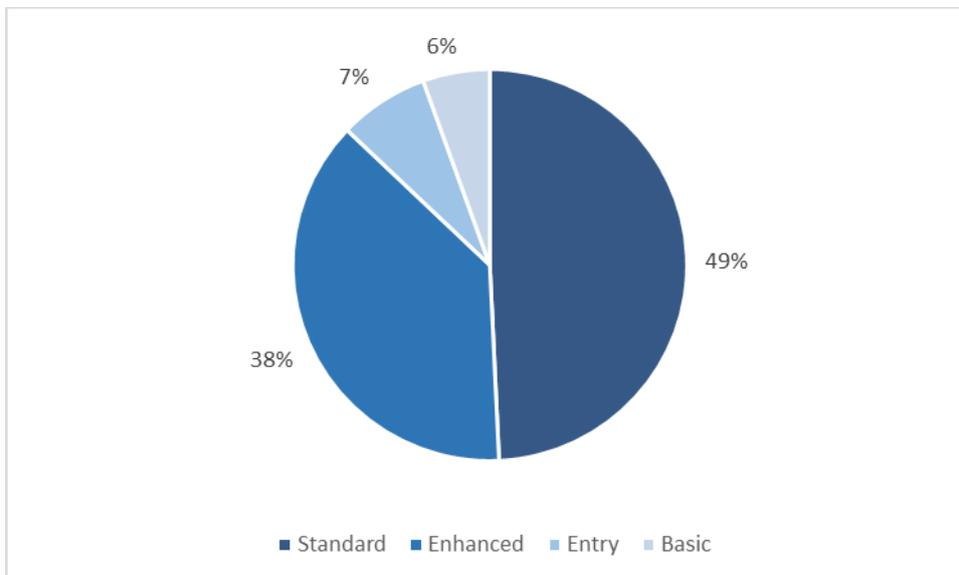
Figures on Prisoner Incentive and Earned Privileges (IEP) status can be found in Supplementary Table 11.1 of this report.

The Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme was introduced in 1995 with the expectation that prisoners would earn additional privileges through demonstrating responsible behaviour and participation in work or other constructive activity. On 30 April 2013, Ministers announced the outcome of a review of the IEP national policy framework and made it clear that prisoners will now have to work towards their own rehabilitation, behave well and help others in order to earn privileges.

In line with the national policy, local incentive schemes operate on four levels: Basic, Entry, Standard and Enhanced. IEP arrangements must be fair, consistent and not subject to unfair discrimination. They support the requirements of the establishment and meet the needs of the population where practicable. Basic level provides access to the safe, legal and decent requirement of a normally running regime.

As at 31 March 2017, 6% of prisoners had basic IEP status; 7% had entry status, 49% had standard status; and 38% had enhanced status (see Figure 11.1)

**Figure 11.1 Proportion of prisoners by IEP status, 31 March 2017**



The proportion of prisoners with a basic IEP status has risen since 2014, from 3% at 31 March 2014 to 6% at 31 March 2017<sup>31</sup>. The proportion of prisoners on enhanced IEP status has increased from 36% to 38% between 2016 and 2017. The proportion with

<sup>31</sup> Population and IEP status is taken as a snapshot at 31 March. The protected characteristics of the person is matched with the most recent record in the period 1 January and 31 March of the year in question.

standard IEP status has had a corresponding fall from 52% to 49%. There proportion of those with entry status has remained around the same between 2016 and 2017.

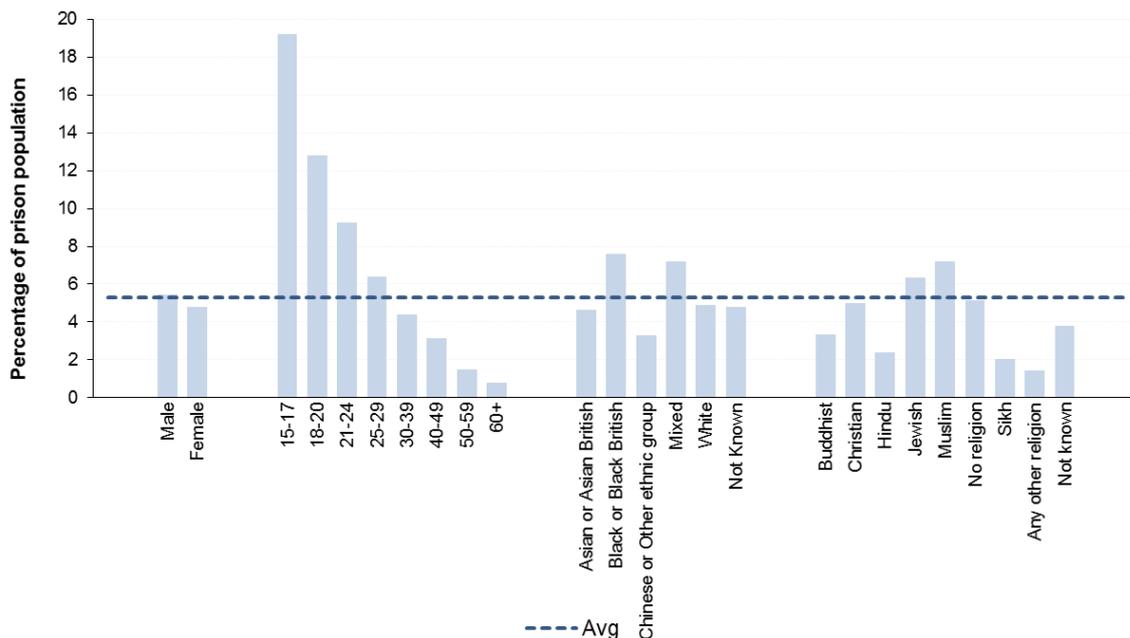
The proportion of male prisoners with a basic IEP status has risen from 3% at 31 March 2014 to 6% at 31 March 2017. The proportion of female prisoners on basic IEP status has also slightly risen in the same period, from 3% to 4%. The proportion of males with an enhanced IEP status has risen over the last year from 36% to 38%, whilst the proportion for females has remained the same.

Younger prisoners are on average considerably more likely to be on basic IEP status (see Figure 11.2) than other ages, whilst the proportion on enhanced IEP status tends to increase with age. For example 55% of those aged 50-59 had an enhanced IEP status and just 1% of that age-group had a basic status.

Black and Mixed ethnicity prisoners have the highest proportion of prisoners on basic IEP status, 7% and 8% respectively, at 31 March 2017. This was higher than White<sup>32</sup> prisoners (5%) at the same point in time.

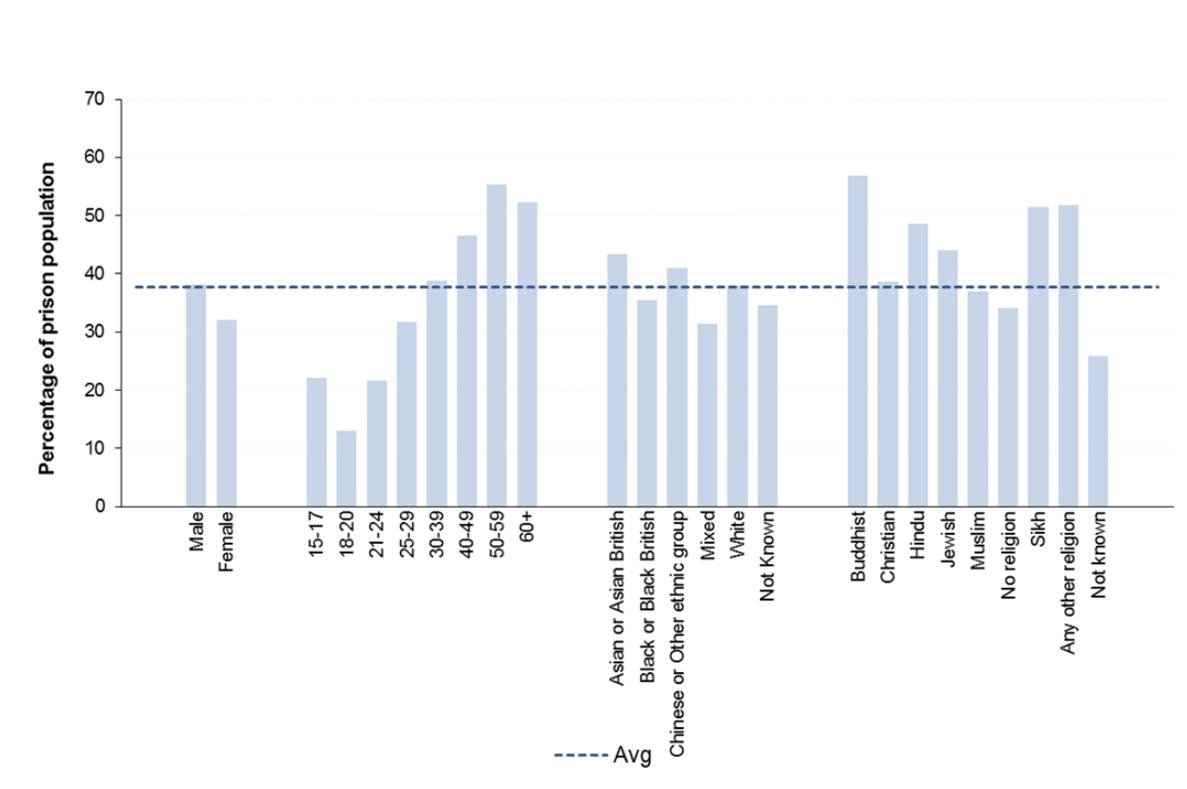
When religious belief is examined, Muslim prisoners have the highest proportion of prisoners on basic IEP status, 8%, at 31 March 2017. This was higher than Christian prisoners at 5%, at the same point in time.

**Figure 11.2: Percentage of prisoners with Basic IEP status split by protected characteristic, 31 March 2017**



<sup>32</sup> The ethnicity “White” includes white gypsy, white Irish and white Other

**Figure 11.3: Percentage of prisoners with Enhanced IEP status split by protected characteristic, 31 March 2017**



## 12. Offenders Subject to Community Orders and Suspended Sentence Orders

Details of the sources of figures for offenders subject to community orders and suspended sentence orders are given in Supplementary Tables 12.1 to 12.3 of this report.

Since 1 June 2014, probation trusts have been replaced by the National Probation Service (NPS), which manages the most high-risk offenders across seven divisions; and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs), who manage medium and low-risk offenders.

Those supervised under other court orders or post release from custody are not included in the analysis by protected characteristics in this section as details are not available on a comparable basis or by protected characteristic. Some details are given in the [Offender Management Quarterly Statistics](#) report.

As at 31 December 2016, there were 126,235 offenders aged 18 or more supervised in the community under community orders or suspended sentence orders. Although the number of offenders under these orders showed a downward trend between 2008 and 2014, there was an increase of 12% between 2015 and 2016 in orders. This was as a result of a 17% rise in offenders with suspended sentence orders and a 9% rise in offenders completing court orders.

At 31 December 2016, there were 18,454 female offenders, representing 15% of offenders in the community. This has remained at a similar level for the last five years.

**Figure 12.1: Age distribution of offenders under community orders (CO) and suspended sentences orders (SSO) as at 31 December, 2011 and 2016**

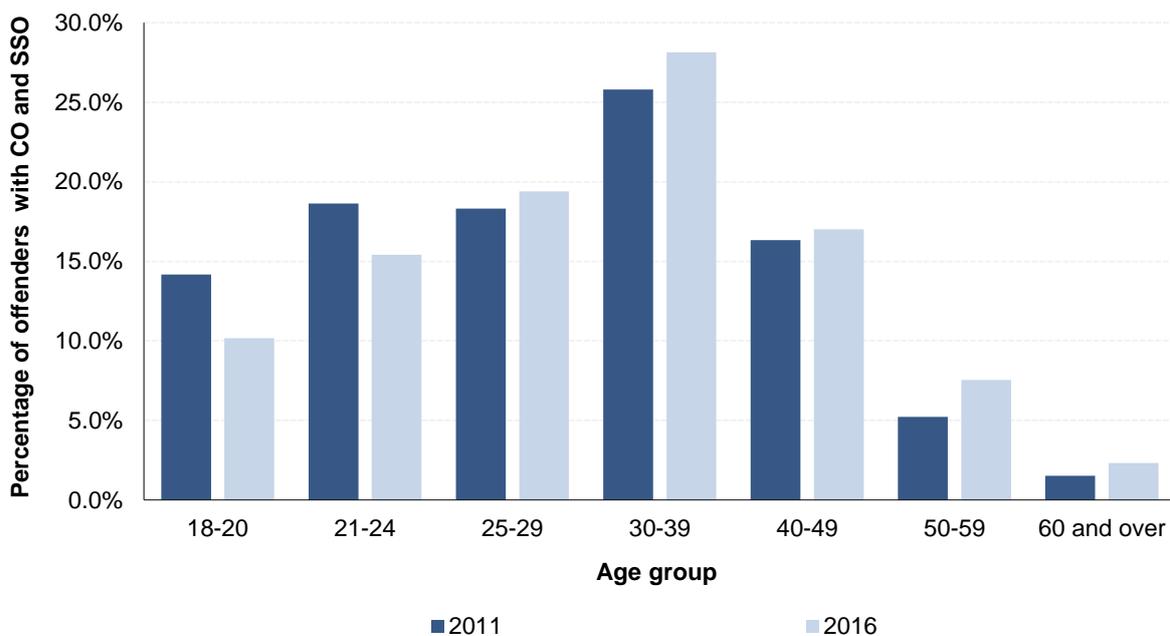


Figure 12.1 shows a comparison of the age distribution of offenders as at 2011<sup>33</sup> and 2016. In 2016, there was a lower proportion of those aged 18-24 under community orders or suspended sentence orders than in 2011.

The proportion of offenders under community or suspended sentence orders aged 18-24 fell from 33% (41,323) in 2011 to 26% (32,295) in 2016. Over the same time period, there were corresponding increases in the proportion of offenders aged 30 or more. In particular, the proportion aged 50 or over rose from 7% (8,500) in 2011 to 10% (12,461) in 2016.

In 2016<sup>34</sup>, 18% of offenders in the community came from a BAME<sup>35</sup> background. The proportion of BAME offenders has remained fairly stable since 2012, when 17% were BAME. Black or Black British comprised 6.8% of offenders in the community; with Asian or Asian British, Mixed and Chinese or other ethnic groups representing 6.0% 3.5% and 1.4% respectively.

In the wider population of England and Wales aged 18 or over, 12%<sup>36</sup> were individuals with a BAME background.

The proportion of male offenders in the community from a BAME background is higher than for females – 18% as compared with 14%.

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<sup>33</sup> Note that figures are published in age bands which are narrower for the younger age groups.

<sup>34</sup> Excluding missing or not stated cases

<sup>35</sup> Black, Asian, and minority ethnic

<sup>36</sup> 2011 census <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census/key-statistics-for-local-authorities-in-england-and-wales/rft-table-ks201ew.xls>

## 13. Deaths in the Community

Figures on deaths in the community are published in the Deaths of Offenders in the Community publication. [Deaths of offenders in the community](#) and in Supplementary Tables 13.1 to 13.3 of this report.

A death of an offender in the community is defined as any death of an offender that occurred while under probation supervision during the time they were:

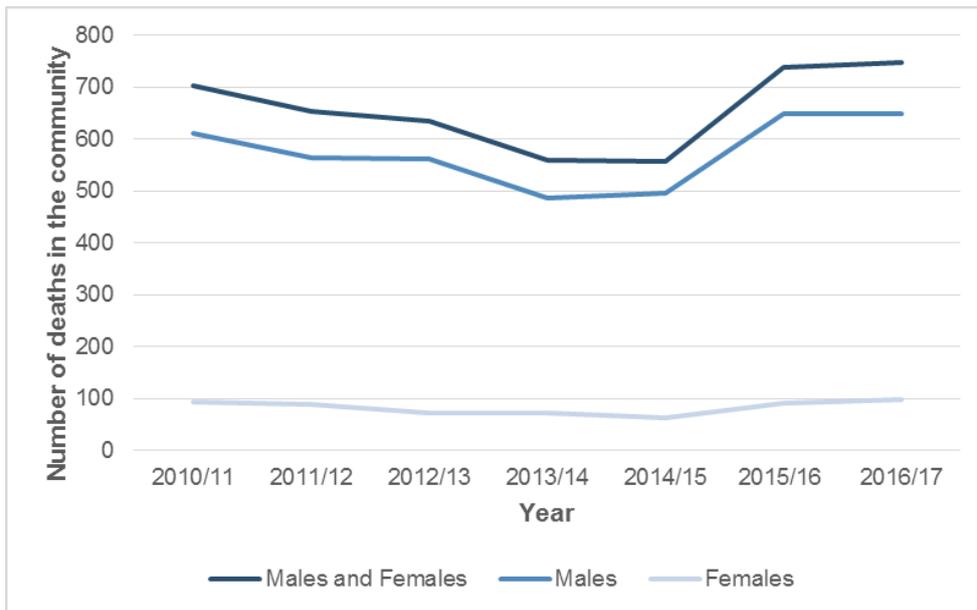
- serving their court order sentence in the community (including community orders, suspended sentence orders) or
- on post-release supervision after completion of a custodial sentence.

Deaths of offenders supervised by the probation services prior to release from prison custody (pre-release supervision) are not included in this section. These are deaths in custody and are included in Chapter 4 of this report.

For the 2016/17 data collection, Humberside, Lincolnshire & North Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC) and Norfolk & Suffolk CRC did not submit returns. These two CRCs recorded 37 deaths in 2015/16 and 38 deaths in 2014/15. Where applicable, adjusted figures are used for earlier years to provide a like-for-like comparison with 2016/17, by removing deaths from these two CRCs from earlier years' totals.

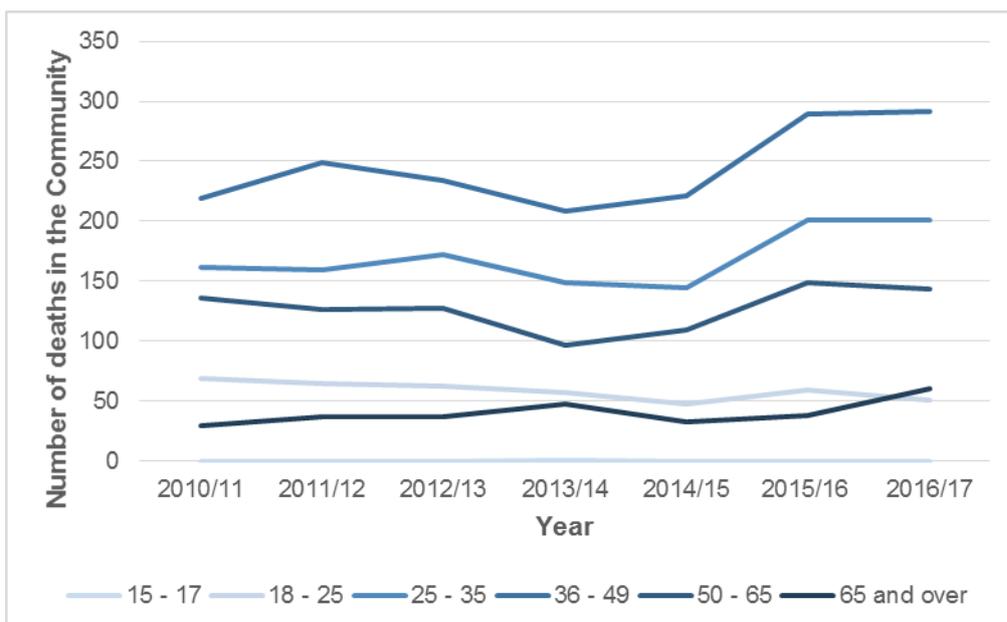
There were 748 deaths of offenders in the community in the 2016/17 financial year. Of these, 649 deaths were male and 99 deaths were female. Offender deaths increased by 7% from 701 in the 2015/16 financial year when adjusted for the missing returns from two CRCs. For male deaths this increase was 5% from 616, while for females it was 16% from 85 when compared to adjusted figures for 2015/16. Figure 13.1 shows the unadjusted figures, so 2016/17 will not be directly comparable with previous years.

**Figure 13.1: Number of deaths in the community by gender, 2010/11 to 2016/17 (unadjusted)**



The age group with the highest number of deaths was 36-49 year-olds, with 291 deaths. The lowest number was in the 15-17 age group, with no deaths. The age group with the largest increase in absolute deaths was the over-65 bracket with a 23 death increase from 2015/16 when adjusted. In 2016/17, the only age group where the number of deaths fell was amongst those aged 18-24 from 57 in 2015/16 (when adjusted) to 51 in 2016/17. Figure 13.2 shows how the age distribution of deaths changed since 2010/11.

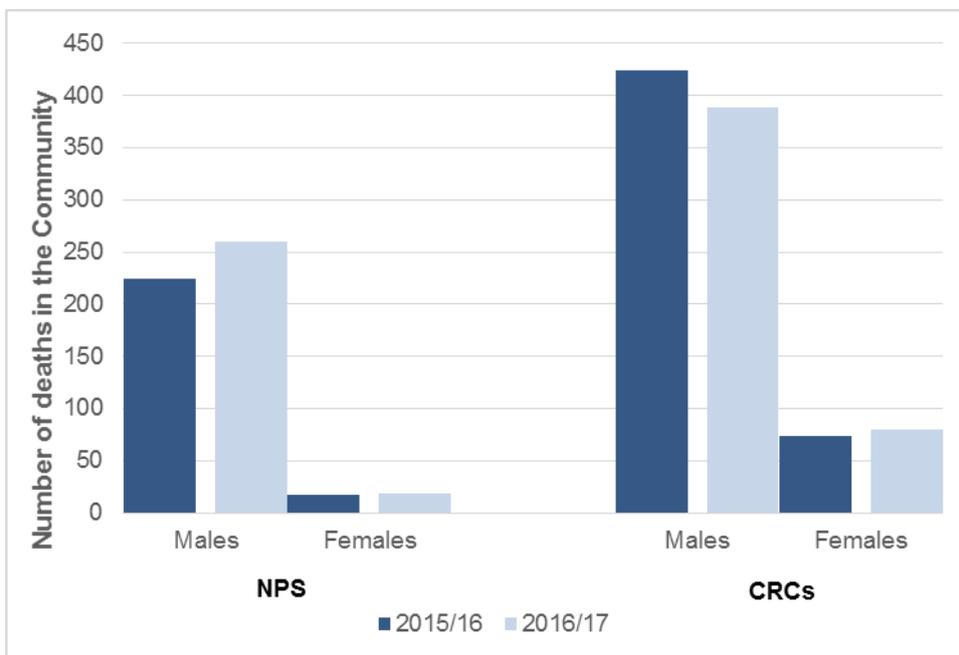
**Figure 13.2: Number of deaths in the community by age, 2010/11 to 2016/17.**



Offenders in the community who were classified as White had the highest number of deaths, accounting for 684. The second largest was Black or Black British with 23 deaths. There was a 5% increase in the number of deaths for the White group, with the number of deaths rising from 649 deaths in 2015/16 to 684 in 2016/17. This compares to an increase of 32% for all BAME groups over the same period, with the number of deaths rising from 44 to 58 deaths when the 2015/16 figures are adjusted for missing CRCs.

Of those deaths that occurred while under probation supervision in 2016/17, there were 279 in the National Probation Service (NPS) and 469 in the CRCs. This represents a 37% and a 63% share of deaths respectively. Figure 12.3 shows this data broken down by gender.

**Figure 13.3: Number of Deaths by Gender in 2015/16 and 2016/17 by NPS and CRCs**

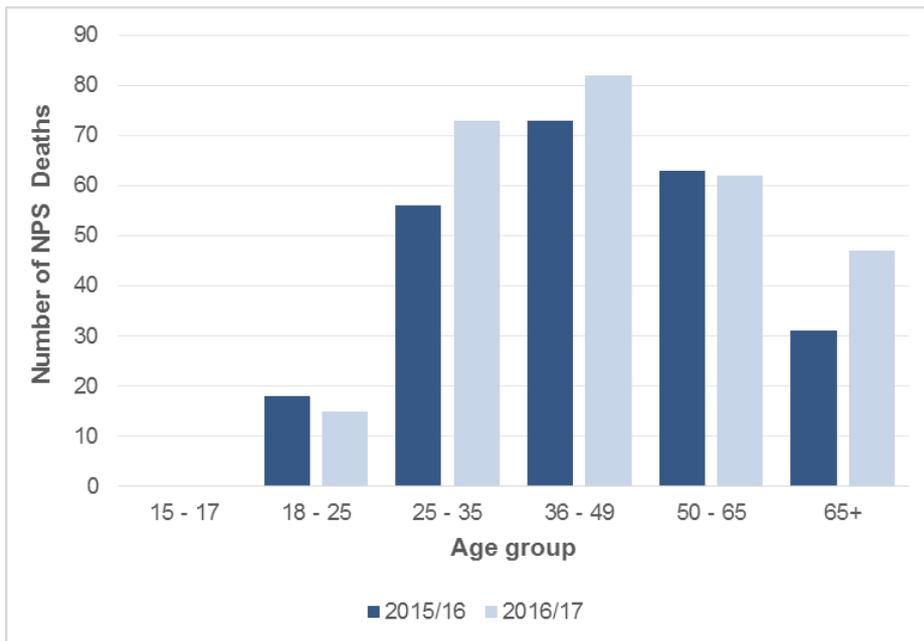


In the NPS there were 260 male deaths and 19 female deaths. The age group with the highest number of deaths was 36-49 with 82 deaths. White offenders accounted for the highest number of deaths, with 248.

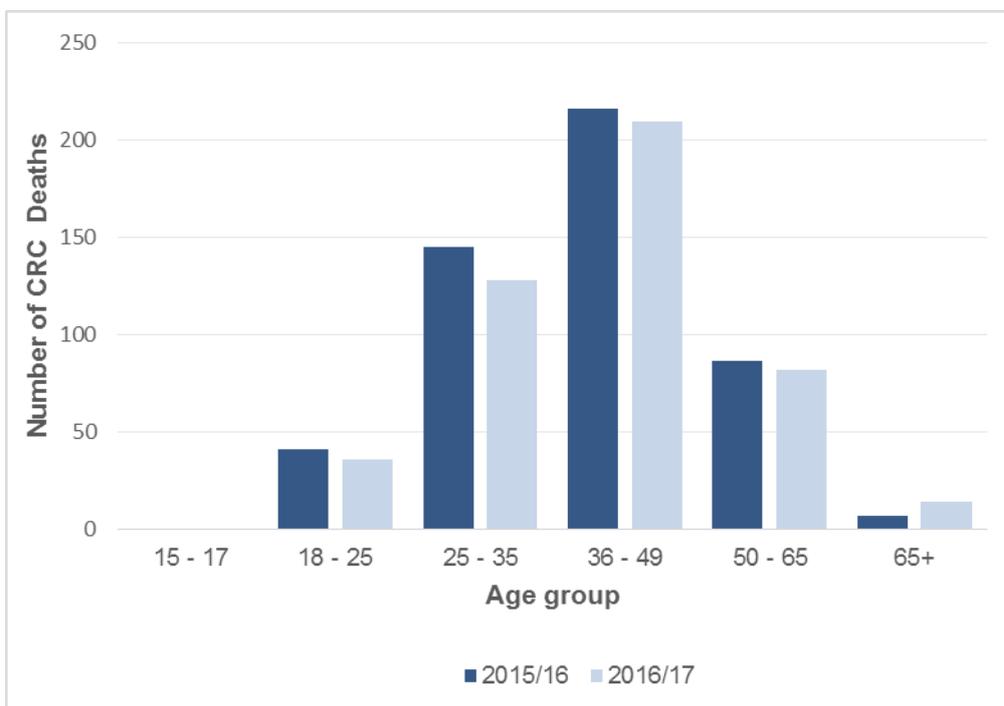
In the CRCs there were 389 male deaths and 80 female deaths. The age group with the highest number of deaths was also the 36-49 bracket, with 209. The ethnic group with the highest number of deaths was White offenders with 436 deaths.

Figures 13.4 and 13.5 show the age breakdown of NPS and CRCs in 2015/16 and 2016/17.

**Figure 13.4: Number of NPS deaths by age in 2015/16 and 2016/17**



**Figure 13.5: Number of CRC deaths by age in 2015/16 and 2016/17**



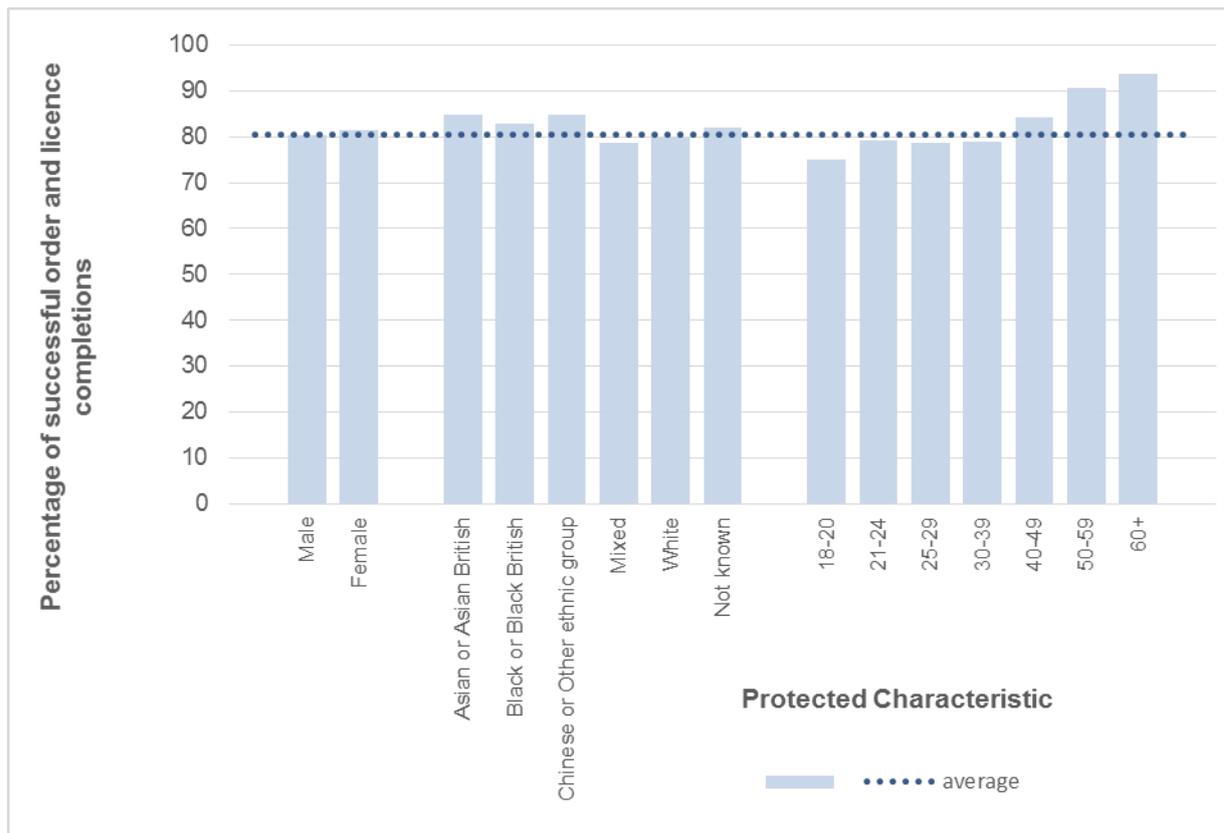
## 14. Order and Licence Completions

The National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies are responsible for supervising offenders in the community under two main types of supervision: orders and licences. Orders are non-custodial sentences of the court. Licences are statutory periods of supervision that offenders serve in the community upon release from custodial sentences of 12 months and over.

Successful completions of orders and licences are those which are recorded on the case management system as having expired normally (i.e. without being revoked for failure to comply or for a further offence) or which have been terminated early by the court for good progress. Drug rehabilitation requirements are included in the calculation.

Figures on the proportion of Court Orders and Licences that were community based and successfully completed can be found in Table 14.1 of the Supplementary Tables in this report.

**Figure 14.1: Percentage of Successful Order and Licence Completions by protected characteristic, 2016/17**



In 2016/17 there were 144,851 total terminations of orders and licences<sup>37</sup>, an increase of 3% on the number in 2015/16. Of the total terminations in 2016/17, 116,504 (80%) were successful. This proportion has been steadily increasing since 2013/14.

In 2016/17 female and male offenders had similar proportions of successful terminations: 81% for females; 80% for male.

Offenders of Chinese or other ethnic group, Asian and Asian British, Black and Black British had slightly higher percentages of successful completions (85%, 85% and 83% respectively) than White or mixed ethnicity offenders (80% and 79%).

Those aged 18-39 had proportions of successful terminations ranging from 75% to 79%. The proportion of successful completions rose thereafter with every subsequently older age group, with those aged 60 and over having 94% of successful terminations.

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<sup>37</sup> Excluding neutral terminations (e.g. order or licence terminations due to death).

## 15. Home Detention Curfew

Figures for Home Detention Curfews (HDCs) and the population eligible for HDCs are published in the [Offender Management Statistics Quarterly](#) publication within the Prison Releases excel document at the link below. Published figures for population eligible for HDCs are split by gender.

They are also in the Supplementary Tables 15.1 to 15.3 of this report.

The HDC scheme was introduced following the passage of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The purpose of HDC is to manage more effectively the transition of offenders from custody back into the community. Prisoners who are not subject to a statutory exclusion may be released on licence after serving a required period, determined by their sentence length. Prisoners will normally be released on HDC unless there are grounds to indicate the prisoner is unlikely to complete successfully the period on HDC. Once released on HDC licence, the prisoner is electronically tagged and compliance with his or her licence conditions monitored. Eligibility for HDC covers prisoners serving sentences of between 3 months and 4 years, who are not in certain excluded groups.

In the calendar year 2016, there were 9,041 releases of prisoners on HDC, an increase of 5% on the number of releases in 2015. To be considered for release under HDC an offender must be serving a sentence of between 3 months and less than 4 years.

The percentage of prisoners released on HDC (of those eligible) was 21% in 2016 as compared with 25% in 2015. In 2016, this percentage was higher for female than for male prisoners – 32% as compared with 20%.

The number of HDC recalls (where a licence revoke was issued) was 471 in 2016, a fall of 7% when compared with the previous year. Despite the overall downward trend, between 2015 and 2016, the number of HDC recalls for inability to monitor increased slightly from 88 to 98 between 2015 and 2016.

Male prisoners accounted for 76% of all recalls in 2016 and 87% of HDC releases.

## 16. Electronic Monitoring

Electronic monitoring was introduced in 1999 to support the police, courts, prisons and wider justice system in England and Wales.

It is a way of remotely monitoring and recording information on an individual's whereabouts or movements, using an electronic tag which is normally fitted to a subject's ankle. The tag transmits this information, via a base unit installed in a subject's residence, to a monitoring centre where it is processed and recorded in case management systems. Staff in the monitoring centre review this information to see whether an individual is complying with the conditions of their curfew or other electronically monitored requirement. Where a subject is not complying, the electronic monitoring provider either acts on this information themselves or provides it to the relevant authority to take the necessary enforcement action.

Electronic monitoring may be used:

- as a condition of court bail;
- as a requirement of a court sentence, including community orders and suspended sentences;
- as a licence condition following release from custody, including Home Detention Curfew;
- as a condition of immigration bail, managed by the Home Office; and
- to intensively monitor a small number of subjects on specialist orders including Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC), and Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures (TPIMs). Some of these more specialised orders are monitored with a Global Positioning System (GPS) tag rather than a radio frequency (RF) tag.

Since early 2014, EMS Capita has supplied the electronic monitoring service under contract to the Ministry of Justice. Prior to this, from 2005 to 2014, electronic monitoring services were supplied in two regional contracts by G4S and Serco.

Figures on Electronic monitoring (EM) for new orders and the number of monitored subjects are published in the [NOMS Annual Digest 2016/17](#) and in Supplementary Tables 16.1 to 16.3 of this report.

At 31 March 2017, there were a total of 11,493 actively monitored<sup>38</sup> subjects, a fall of 9% compared to the same point in the previous year. Information on age and gender is presented for the court order types of Bail, Court Sentence and Post-Release orders in this report. At 31 March 2017, there were 11,168 monitored subjects who had Bail, Court Sentence or Post-Release orders. Of these:

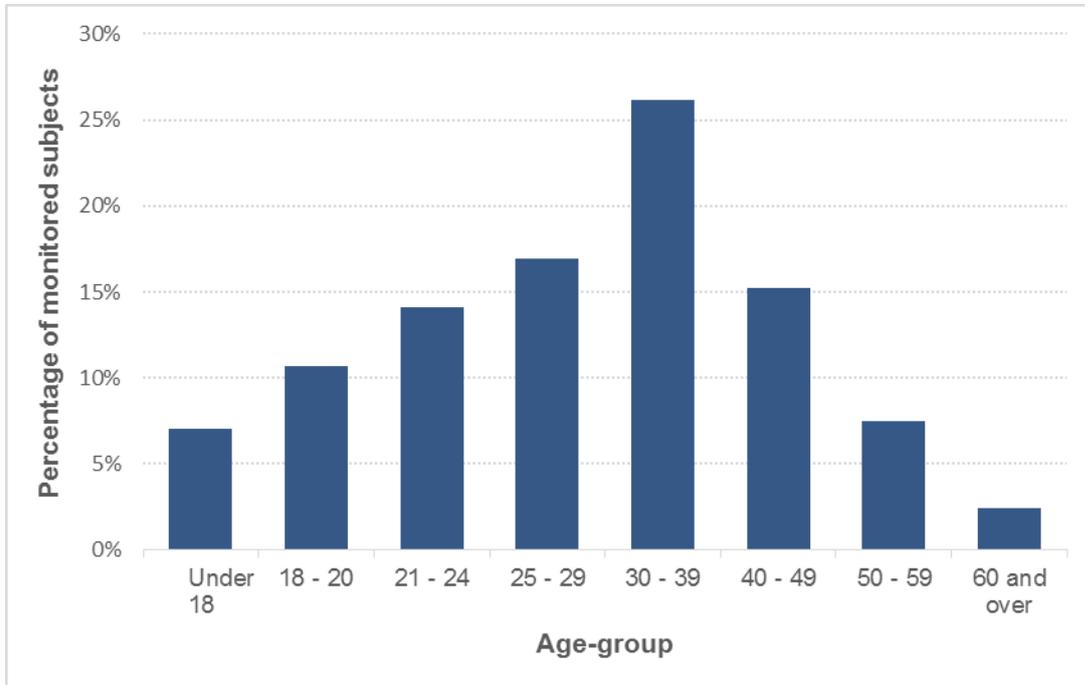
- 87% were male and 13% were female;
- More than a quarter (26%) were aged 30-39.

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<sup>38</sup> Monitored subjects are unique individuals with a live EM order, an electronic tag fitted and a Home Monitoring Unit installed.

The age distribution of these monitored subjects, on 31 March 2017, is given in Figure 16.1.

**Figure 16.1 Percentage of electronically monitored subjects for Bail, Court Sentence and Post-release orders by age-group, at 31 March 2017<sup>39</sup>**



There are some differences in the age and gender profiles, when the type of order is considered. For example, at 31 March 2017, 92% of subjects with a bail order are male as compared with 84% of those with a court sentence.

<sup>39</sup> Excludes those subjects with a special order or TPIMS

## 17. Reoffending

Figures on proven reoffending are published in [the Proven Reoffending Statistics Quarterly report](#) and are available in Tables 17.1 to 17.2 of the Supplementary Tables of this report.

The commentary in this chapter is based on figures produced using a new methodology for measuring proven reoffending. Further information on the methodology is published in "[How the measure of proven reoffending has changed and the effect of these changes](#)"

A proven reoffence is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period that leads to a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow-up or within a further six month waiting period to allow the offence to be proven in court.

The information presented in this chapter refers to those offenders who committed an offence in the period between October 2015 and December 2015; the first quarter for which data are available using the new methodology and data source. The proven reoffending data for October 2015 to December 2015 should not be directly compared with data from previous publications, due to the change in methodology and data source.

Between October 2015 and December 2015, 130,092 adults and young people were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court or were cautioned. Of these, 38,524 reoffended giving a reoffending rate of 29.6%. There were 147,518 proven reoffences; with an average of 3.83 offences per reoffender.

83% of the October 2015 to December 2015 cohort were male, and 17% were female. Females were less likely to reoffend, 23.4% of females committed a proven reoffence compared with 30.9% of males.

The vast majority of offenders in the October 2015 to December 2015 cohort were adults (93%, 120,687). However, juveniles<sup>40</sup> were more likely to reoffend, 41.8% of offenders aged 10-17 reoffended compared with 28.7% of the adult cohort.

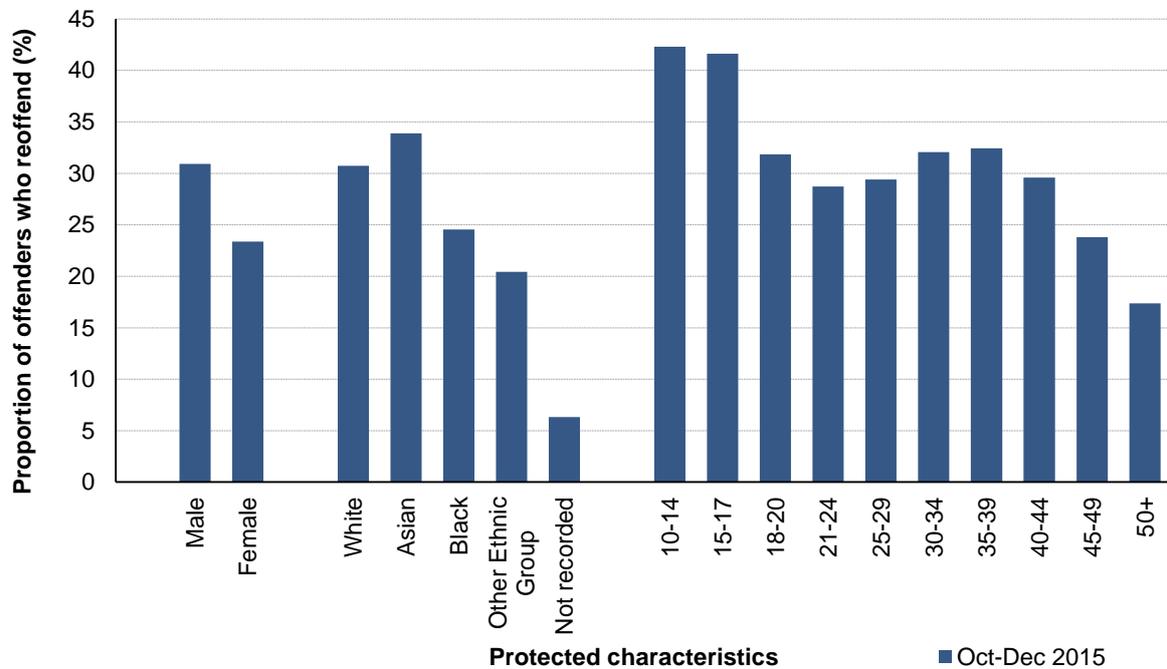
Ethnicity<sup>41</sup> has been taken from the Police National Computer and does not correspond with self-reported ethnicity. Where ethnicity information was recorded, offenders classified as white comprised 83% of the October 2015 to December 2015 cohort, followed by those classified as Black and Asian at 10% and 6% respectively, and 1% for the Other ethnic group. Reoffending rates were highest for those classified as Black, followed by White (33.9% and 30.7% respectively).

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<sup>40</sup> Juveniles are defined as those aged 10 to 17 years old.

<sup>41</sup> The ethnicity of a person as recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC), is officer-reported and does not correspond with self-reported ethnicity. The categories on the PNC are restricted to White, Asian, Other or not recorded.

**Figure 17.1: Proportion of offenders who committed a proven reoffence by protected characteristic, October 2015 to December 2015, England and Wales**

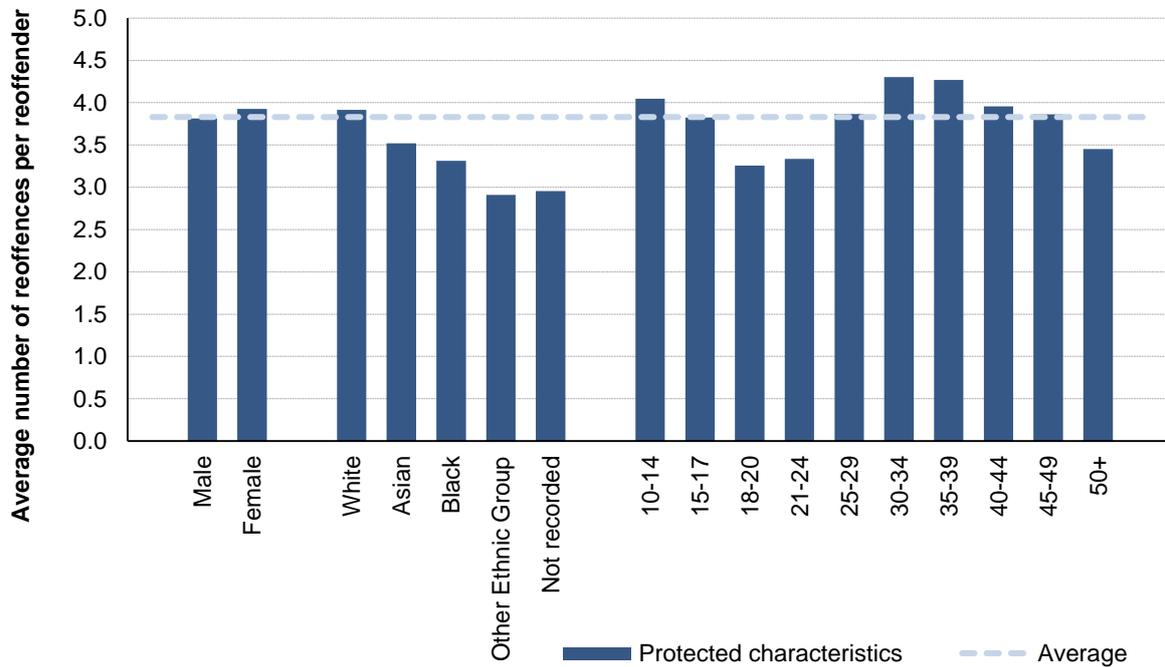


Offenders in the 30 to 34 and 35 to 39 age groups that reoffended had the highest average number of reoffences per reoffender, 4.3 and 4.27 respectively.

The average number of reoffences per reoffender for females was higher than for males (3.93 compared with 3.81 reoffences).

Those categorised as White had the highest number of reoffences per reoffender, 3.92 across the ethnic groups.

**Figure 17.2: Average number of reoffences per reoffender, by protected characteristic, October 2015 to December 2015, England and Wales**



Reoffending statistics are influenced by different outcomes experienced by ethnic groups throughout the criminal justice system. For example, those categorised as black are disproportionately arrested and prosecuted relative to the population size which in turn would impact reoffending rates.

## Contacts

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General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from:  
[statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system](http://statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system)

Ministry of Justice publishes data relating to offender management in England and Wales.  
Equivalent statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland can be found at:

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice)

[www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm](http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm)

Alternative formats are available on request from [statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

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