



Youth Justice Statistics 2017/18

England and Wales

Youth Justice Board / Ministry of Justice

Statistics bulletin

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Youth Justice Statistics, England and Wales, April 2017 to March 2018

This publication looks at the Youth Justice System (YJS) in England and Wales for the year ending March 2018 in terms of the number of children (those aged 10-17) in the system, the offences they committed, the outcomes they received, their demographics and the trends over time.

The YJS in England and Wales works to prevent offending and reoffending by children. The YJS is different to the adult system and is structured to address the needs of children.

Main points

26,700 children and young people were cautioned or sentenced



The number of children and young people who received a caution or sentence has fallen by 82% over the last ten years, with a 6% fall in the last year. The fall in the most recent year is the smallest year-on-year fall in the last decade.

14,400 first time entrants to the YJS



The number of first time entrants has fallen by 86% since the year ending March 2008, with a 14% fall since the year ending March 2017.

4,500 knife and offensive weapon offences were committed by children



There have been year-on-year increases in these offences since the year ending March 2014, with a 7% increase in the latest year. However, levels are still lower than those seen in the year ending March 2009.

The average custodial sentence length for indictable offences has increased



The average custodial sentence length for indictable offences given to children has increased by five months over the last ten years, from 11.4 to 16.7 months.

The number of children held in custody on remand has increased



The number of children held in youth custody on remand has increased by 19% in the last year and made up nearly a quarter (24%) of all children in youth custody.

The number of behaviour management incidents in custody have increased for all measures in the last year



The number of self harm incidents has seen the greatest increase compared to other behaviour management measures in the latest year, increasing by 40% to nearly 1,800 incidents.

40.9% of children and young people reoffended



The reoffending rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points in the last year, though the reoffending rate is higher than ten years ago (when it was 38.1%).

For technical details see the accompanying [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

We would welcome any feedback to informationandanalysis@yjb.gov.uk

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Things you need to know

This publication draws together a range of statistics about children and young people in the YJS from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 (hereafter the year ending March 2018). Following on from the recommendations in the [Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics](#) report, this publication guides the user through the flows of children aged 10-17 years in the justice system in England and Wales.

The contents of the report will be of interest to government policy makers and those monitoring policy, the agencies engaged with the YJS at both national and local levels, as well as academics, the voluntary and community sector and others who want to understand more about the YJS.

The data described in this publication come from various sources including the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Youth Custody Service (YCS), Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and youth secure estate providers. The Information and Analysis Team in the Youth Justice Board (YJB) produce this report, under the direction of the Chief Statistician in the MoJ.

Details of all the administrative databases and bespoke collections used for this report can be found in the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) which provides users with further information on the data sources, data quality and terminology, especially the types of disposals given to children and young people. Where data are taken from other publications, links can be found within the chapters.

This is an annual report, with the focus on the year ending March 2018, however much of the data used in this report are drawn from quarterly publications and there may be more up to date data available. The purpose of this report is to provide an overall summary of the YJS, allowing users to find everything in one place. All data referenced are available in the Supplementary Tables that accompany this report. Separate tables covering YOT level information are also available, including in an open and accessible format.

Within this publication, when the words 'child' or 'children' are used, they are to describe those aged 10-17. When the terms 'child or young person' or 'children and young people' are used, it means that 18 year olds may be included in the data. For example, in reoffending, someone who entered the cohort aged 17 who reoffended aged 18 will be included in the figures.

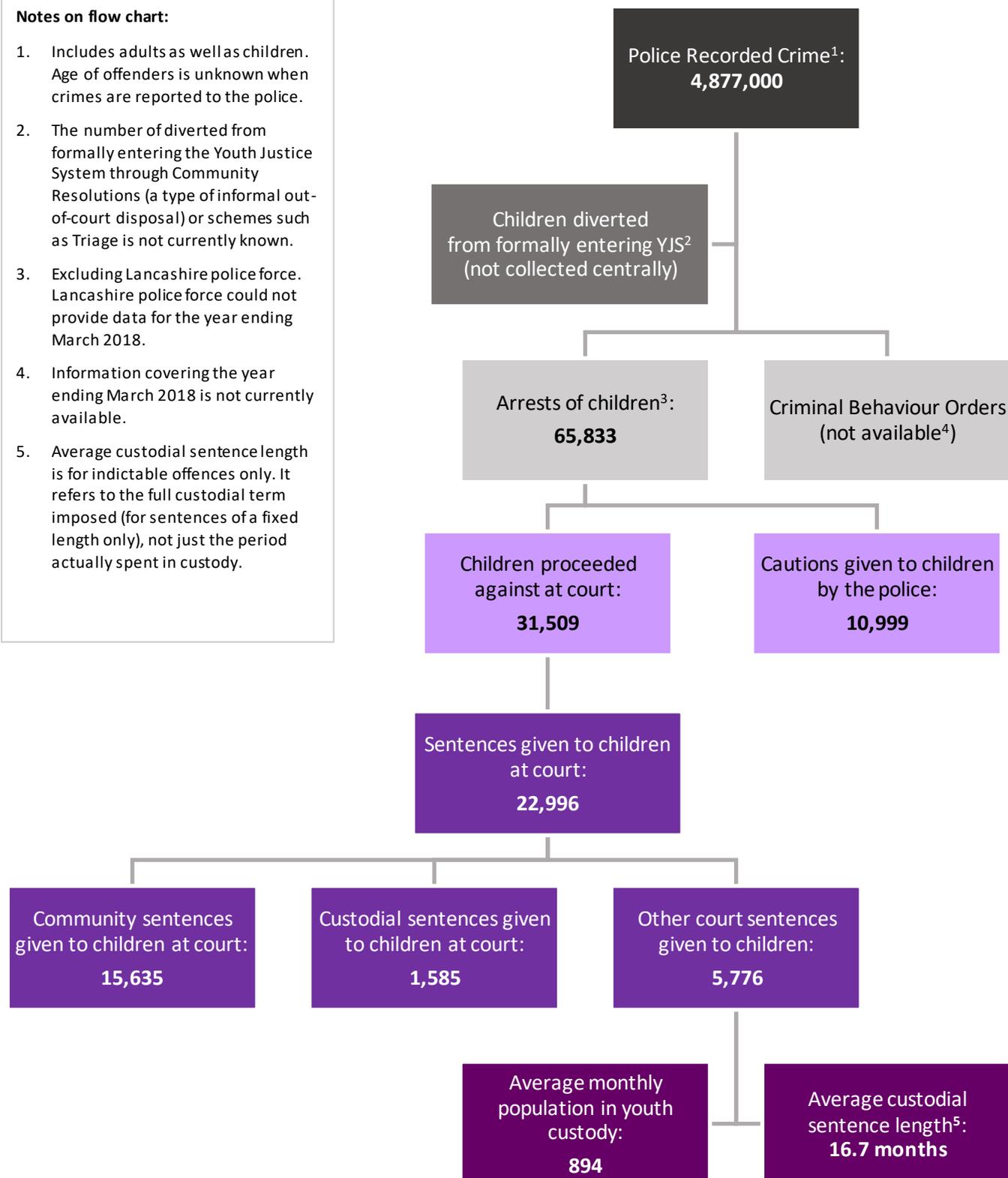
Rounding conventions have been adopted in this publication to aid interpretation and comparisons. Figures greater than 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 100 and those smaller than 1,000 to the nearest 10. Rates have been reported to one decimal place. Percentages have been calculated from unrounded figures and then rounded to the nearest whole percentage. Unrounded figures have been presented in the Supplementary Tables.

The data in this report are compared with the previous year (the year ending March 2017 in most cases), with the year ending March 2008 as a long-term comparator (ten years) and where a ten year comparator is not available, the year ending March 2013 has been used (five year comparator). Any other reference period is referenced explicitly.

Flows through the Youth Justice System, year ending March 2018

Notes on flow chart:

1. Includes adults as well as children. Age of offenders is unknown when crimes are reported to the police.
2. The number of diverted from formally entering the Youth Justice System through Community Resolutions (a type of informal out-of-court disposal) or schemes such as Triage is not currently known.
3. Excluding Lancashire police force. Lancashire police force could not provide data for the year ending March 2018.
4. Information covering the year ending March 2018 is not currently available.
5. Average custodial sentence length is for indictable offences only. It refers to the full custodial term imposed (for sentences of a fixed length only), not just the period actually spent in custody.



1. Gateway to the Youth Justice System

In the year ending March 2018:

- There were over 65,800 arrests of children (aged 10-17) by the police in England and Wales (excluding Lancashire¹). This has decreased by 78% over the last ten years, with a decrease of 8% in the last year.
- Black children were four times more likely than White children to be arrested.
- Around 11,000 youth cautions were given to children in England and Wales. This is a decrease of 91% compared with ten years ago, with a decrease of 19% in the last year.

Description: The Gateway to the Youth Justice System looks at the number of arrests and youth cautions given to children aged 10-17.

Source: Annual data collection from police forces, Home Office (Arrests)
Police National Computer, Ministry of Justice (Youth cautions)

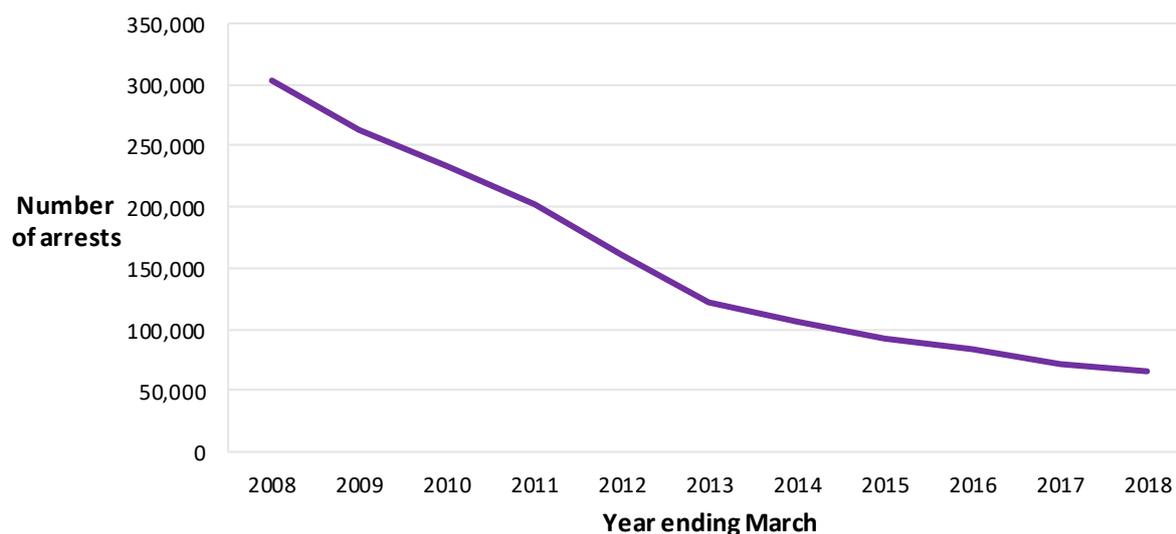
Time period covered: Years ending March 2008 to 2018

Supplementary Tables: Ch 1 – Gateway to the Youth Justice System

More information: [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#) (more up to date data available), [Police Powers and Procedures](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

1.1 Arrests of children for notifiable offences

Figure 1.1: Trends in arrests of children for notifiable offences, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Table 1.1

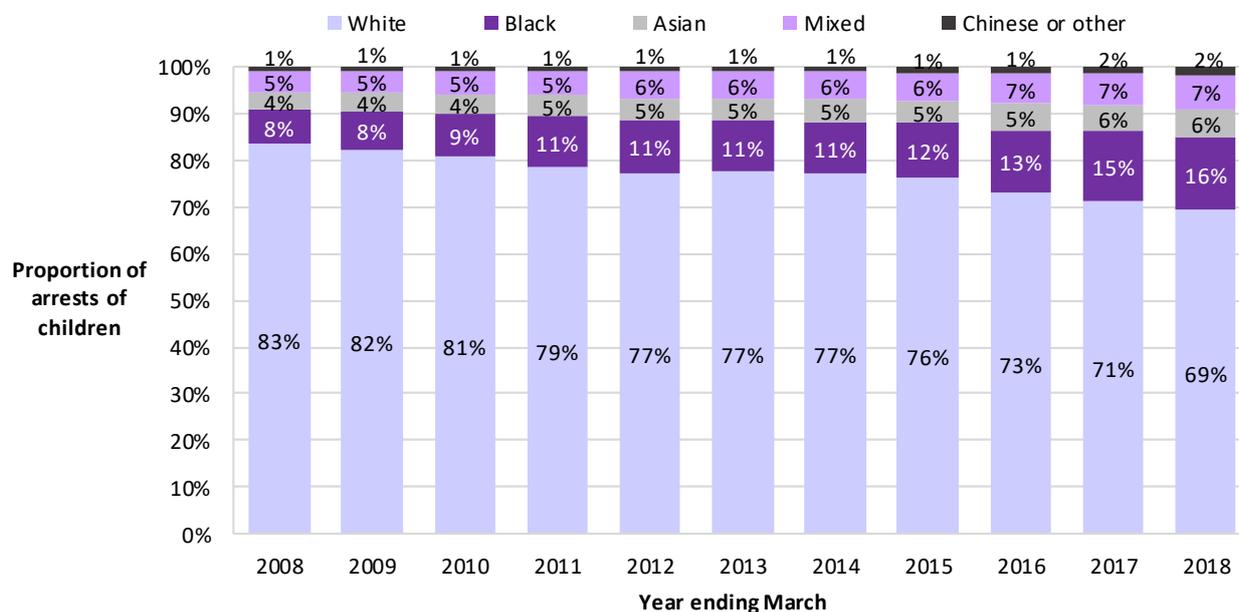
¹ Lancashire could not supply data for the years ending March 2017 and March 2018. Data have been removed for this force for all years so valid comparisons can be made. In the years for which data were available, figures show Lancashire's arrest numbers contributed between 2% and 4% of the total.

In the latest year, there were over 65,800 arrests of children (aged 10-17) for notifiable offences^{2,3}. In the last year, the number of arrests of children has fallen by 8%.

This continues the long term downward trend, with the number of arrests falling by 78% since the year ending March 2008. Over this time there have been year-on-year falls of between 8% and 24% (Supplementary Table 1.1).

1.2 Arrests of children by ethnicity^{4,5}

Figure 1.2: Arrests of children for notifiable offences by ethnicity as a proportion of total arrests of children, England and Wales³, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Tables 1.1

Compared to ten years ago, the numbers of arrests of children of each ethnicity have all decreased significantly, but at different rates. For example, arrests of White children have fallen by 82% compared with 56% for Black children. This has led to a change in the proportions of arrests by ethnicity.

In the latest year, 69% of arrests were of White children. This proportion is a decrease from 83% ten years previously. Arrests of Black children accounted for 16% in the latest year, double the proportion of ten years ago. Arrests of Asian and Mixed children made up 6% and 7% of the total respectively in the latest year and have also seen changes in proportions over the last ten years, albeit on a smaller scale.

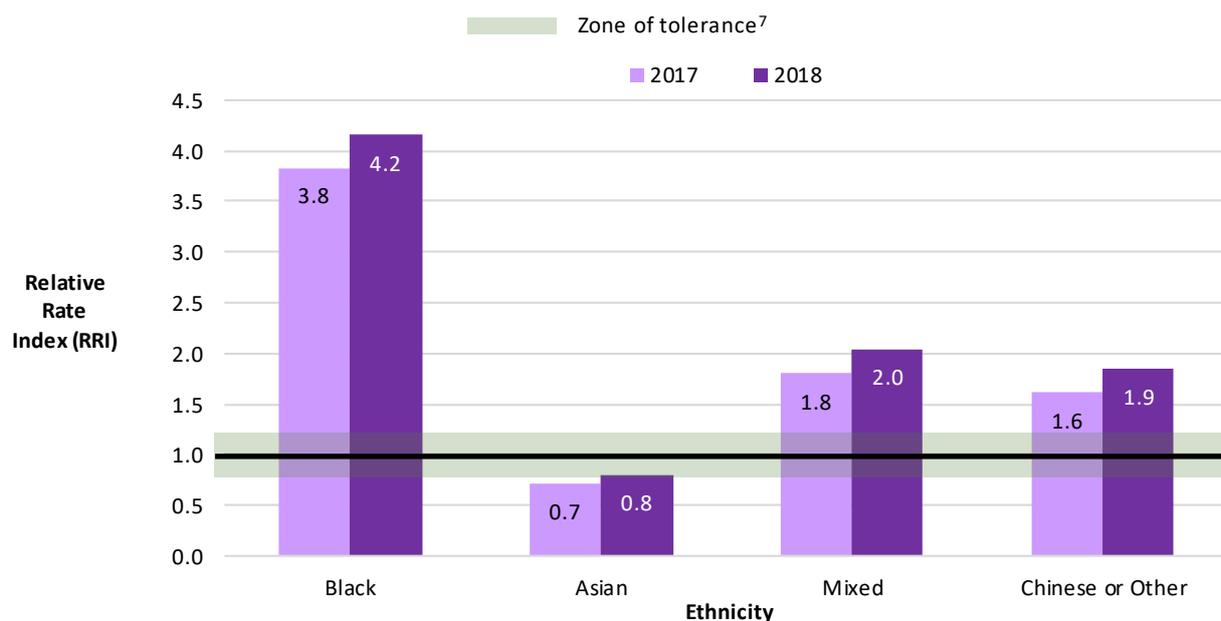
² Notifiable offences are those offences which require the police to record an incident as a crime and report the occurrence to the Home Office.

³ Lancashire could not supply data for the years ending March 2017 and March 2018. Data have been removed for this force for all years so valid comparisons can be made.

⁴ Ethnicity data are self-identified.

⁵ Does not include where ethnicity was unknown. In the year ending March 2018, the ethnicity was unknown for 6% of arrests for children.

Figure 1.3: Relative Rate Index (RRI) of arrests of children, England and Wales³, year ending March 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Table 1.8

The Relative Rate Index (RRI) is used as a measure of the relative difference in rates of the occurrence of an event or incident type, between different ethnicities.

In this instance, the base rate is the rate of arrests of White children per 10,000 of the general 10-17 White population⁶. The black line shown on Figure 1.3 represents an RRI of 1, which would be the RRI if other ethnicities had arrest rates equal to those of White children. The shaded green box represents the zone of tolerance⁷. Only where the RRI is outside this zone do we consider the difference in arrest rates between White children and those of another ethnicity to be statistically different.

Looking at the rate of arrests for other ethnicities compared to the rate for White children, the RRI for Black children shows that they are over four times as likely as White children to be arrested, and increased from 3.8 to 4.2 in the last year. Children from Mixed and Chinese or Other ethnicities were around twice as likely to be arrested than White children, while Asian children had a similar chance to their White counterparts of being arrested. The RRI for each of these ethnicities increased over the last year.

Figure 1.3 shows that there is some ethnic disproportionality in arrests, which is often the first interaction a child will have with the justice system. This disproportionality is carried through the YJS and could be a driver of disproportionality seen at later stages of the system⁸.

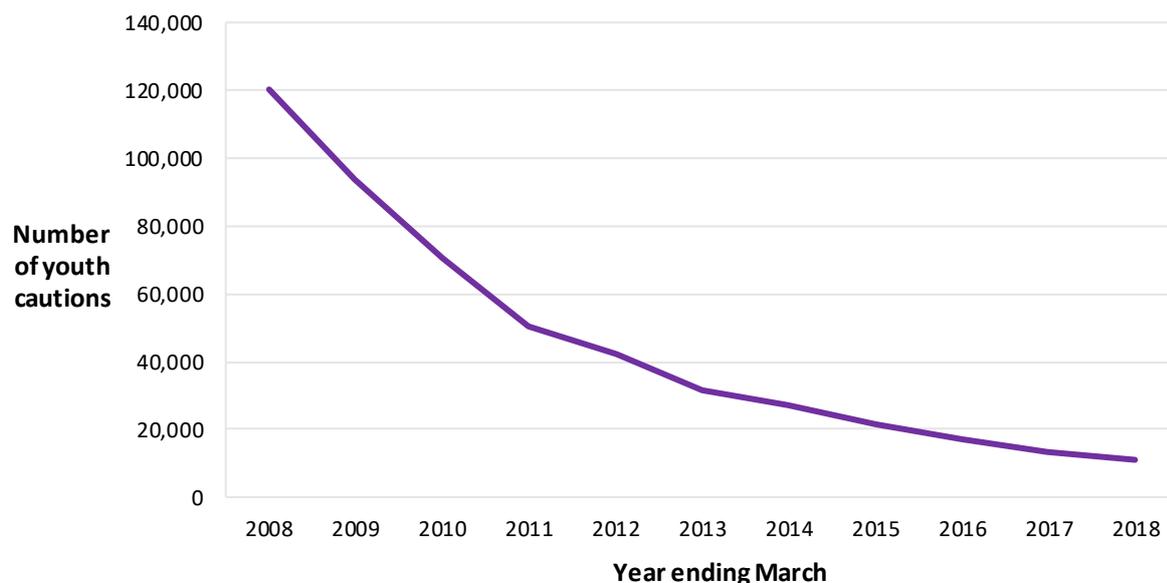
⁶ Based on 2011 census population, the latest figures available.

⁷ To assess whether the RRI represents a statistically significant disparity in arrest rate between ethnicities, a z-test has been used where the proportions are assessed at the 95% confidence level.

⁸ See the latest [Race and the Criminal Justice System](#) statistics.

1.3 Youth cautions⁹

Figure 1.4: Trends in youth cautions given to children, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Table 1.8

In the year ending March 2018, around 11,000 youth cautions¹⁰ were given to children. This is a decrease of 91% since the year ending March 2008, with a decrease of 19% in the latest year.

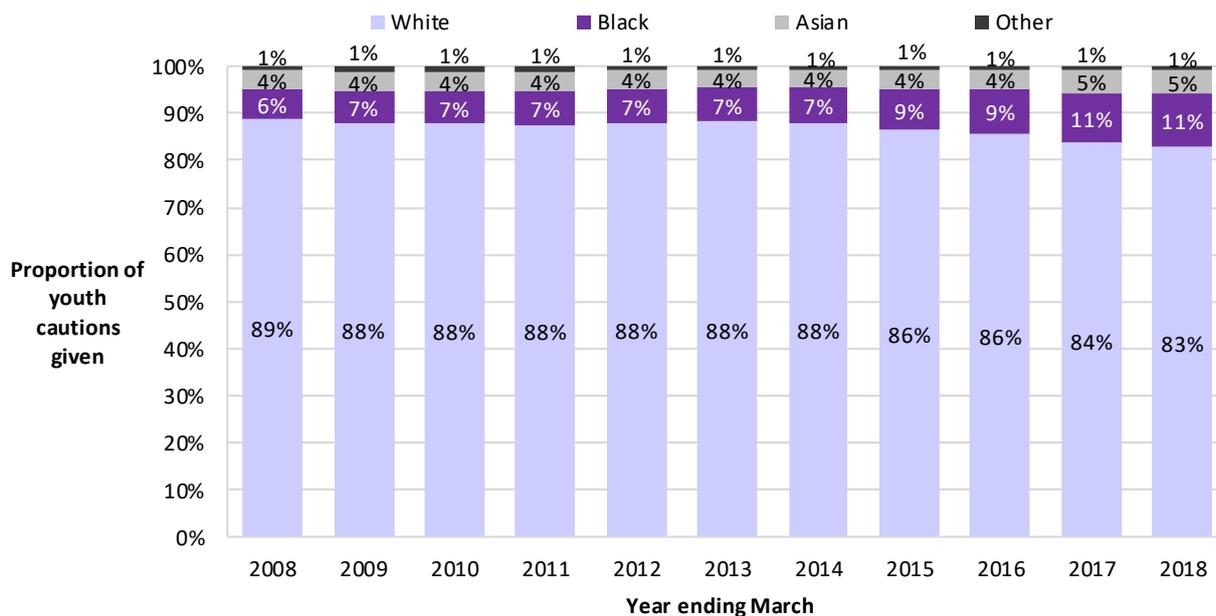
With the exception of possession of weapons offences (which increased for the fourth consecutive year) and robbery, there were year-on-year decreases in the use of youth cautions across all other offence types¹¹. This included a 40% fall in youth cautions for sexual offences and a 31% fall for public order offences (Supplementary Table 1.12).

⁹ Includes children recorded as receiving a youth caution, and reprimands and warnings which were the available out of court disposals before youth cautions were introduced in 2013.

¹⁰ For all offences except summary motoring offences.

¹¹ In the year ending March 2016, the offence groups used as the reason for giving a youth caution were updated to match the groups used in crime statistics. As a result, data on youth cautions broken down by some offence groups from the year ending March 2016 onwards are not directly comparable with previously published data.

Figure 1.5: Trends in proportions of youth cautions given by ethnicity¹², England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Table 1.10

The proportions of youth cautions given have changed for White and Black children over the last ten years, while remaining broadly stable for Asian and Other children. Like arrests, all ethnicity groups have seen decreases in the actual number of youth cautions issued over the course of the decade. However, the reduction was lower for Black children which has led to an increase in the proportion of cautions Black children receive, from 6% to 11% over the last decade.

¹² Ethnicity is police officer identified. There is not a 'Mixed' ethnicity group in officer identified ethnicities, so caution should be used if comparing with data using self-identified ethnicities.

2. First time entrants to the Youth Justice System

In the year ending March 2018:

- There were around 14,400 first time entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System (YJS). The number of FTEs has continued to fall, falling by 86% since the year ending March 2008, with a 14% fall since the year ending March 2017.
- The proportion of FTEs receiving a court conviction for their first offence has continued to increase, from 9% to 43% since the year ending March 2008.
- While the number of FTEs from a Black background has decreased since the year ending March 2008, the proportion¹³ they comprise of all youth FTEs has doubled, from 8% to 16%.

Description: First time entrants to the Youth Justice System are children aged 10-17 who receive their first youth caution or court conviction recorded on the Police National Computer¹⁴.

Source: Ministry of Justice extract of Police National Computer

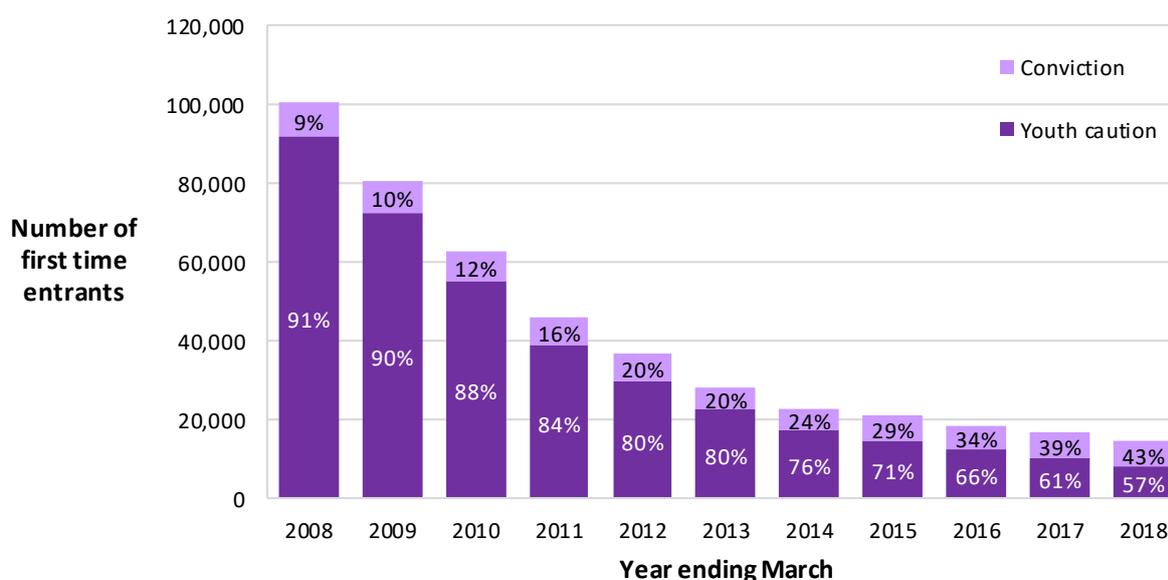
Time period covered: Years ending March 2008 to 2018

Supplementary Tables: Ch 2 – First time entrants to the Youth Justice System

More information: [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#) (more up to date data available), [Chapter 10- Criminal histories of children](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

2.1 Trends in the number and proportion of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System

Figure 2.1: First time entrants to the Youth Justice System, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Table 2.4

¹³ Proportions are based on where ethnicity was known. In the year ending March 2018, the ethnicity was unknown for 13% (around 1,800) of FTEs.

¹⁴ First offences only include offences committed in England and Wales, committed by offenders residing in England and Wales and recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) by an English or Welsh police force.

The number of FTEs to the YJS (aged 10-17) has been falling¹⁵. Compared with the year ending March 2008, the number has fallen by 86% (from just under 100,500). Since the year ending March 2017, the number fell by 14% to around 14,400.

Children accounted for 12% of all FTEs in the year ending March 2018, compared to 31% ten years ago (see [Chapter 11 – Comparisons with the Adult System](#)).

As shown in Figure 2.1, the majority of FTEs to the YJS received a caution¹⁶ in each of the last ten years. However, this proportion has fallen from 91% in the year ending March 2008 (when around 91,600 FTEs received a caution), to 57% (around 8,200 FTEs received a caution) in the year ending March 2018.

The number of FTEs receiving a court conviction (predominantly community sentences) had been falling year-on-year from the year ending March 2008 to 2014, when it increased, before falling in the most recent year. Since the year ending March 2008, the proportion of FTEs receiving a conviction has increased from 9% to 43% (Supplementary Table 2.4).

2.2 Characteristics of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System

Figure 2.2: Demographic characteristics¹⁷ of first time entrants compared to the general 10-17 population, England and Wales, year ending March 2018

	Age group		Gender	
	10-14	15-17	Male	Female
FTEs	31%	69%	81%	19%
10-17 population ¹⁸	63%	37%	51%	49%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Tables 2.6

Age

The average age of FTEs aged 10-17 to the YJS has been increasing over the last ten years¹⁹. It increased from 14.6 years old ten years ago to 15.2 in latest year, though it has remained broadly stable over the last five years. Over the last ten years, the average age of FTEs receiving a conviction has always been higher than the average age of those receiving a youth caution (Supplementary Table 2.10).

The increasing average age of FTEs is reflected in the changes in the number of FTEs in each age group, as the number in the younger age group (10-14 year olds) has decreased at a higher rate over the last ten years than the number in the older age group (15-17 year olds). In the latest year, both age groups decreased by 14% (Supplementary Tables 2.6 and 2.10).

Gender

There have always been more male FTEs than female FTEs to the Youth Justice System. In the year ending March 2018, 81% of FTEs were male whilst making up 51% of the 10-17 year old population¹⁷.

¹⁵ See [Analysis of trends in first time entrants to the youth justice system](#) for more information.

¹⁶ Since 8 April 2013 there have been a number of changes in out of court disposals. Reprimands and final warnings were replaced by youth cautions for all 10-17 year olds and youth conditional cautions were made available for all 10-17 year olds. Guidance is published in [Youth Cautions Guidance for Police and Youth Offending Teams](#).

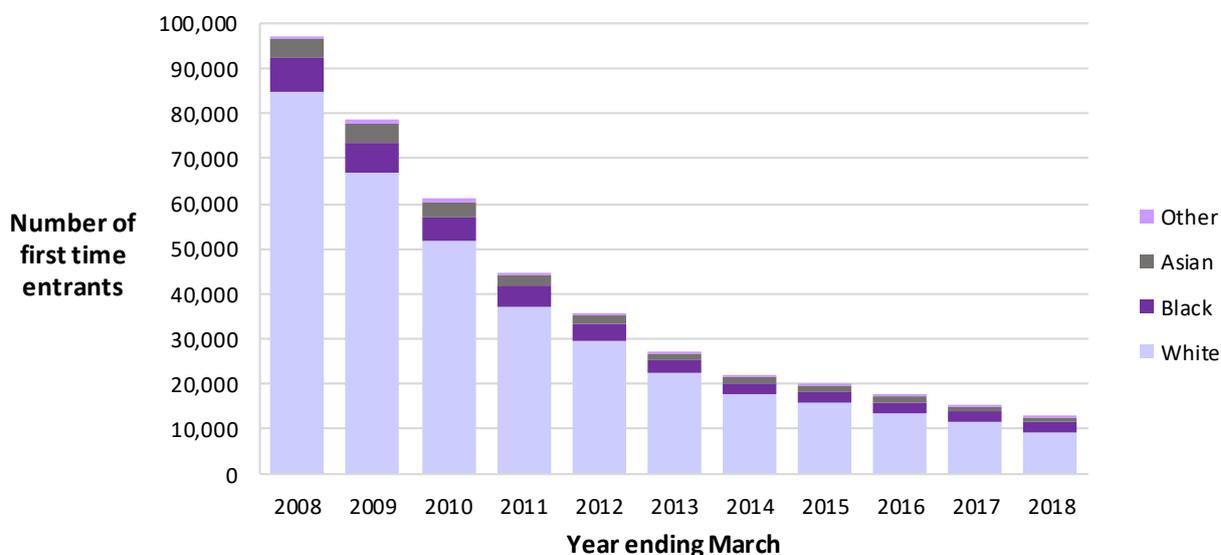
¹⁷ Proportions are based on where gender is known. In the year ending March 2018, gender was unknown for 1% of youth FTEs.

¹⁸ For age and gender, population is based on 2017 mid-year estimates.

¹⁹ Based on the numbers of FTEs by age on date of caution or conviction.

The number of FTEs has fallen for both males and females over the last decade, with the larger percentage decrease seen in females. The number of female FTEs has fallen by 92% (from over 32,100 to around 2,600) over the last ten years. This compares to a decrease of 83% for male FTEs over the same period (from just over 68,000 to around 11,500). In the latest year, there was a 19% fall in female FTEs compared to a 13% decrease in male FTEs (Supplementary Table 2.6).

Figure 2.3: The number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System by ethnicity^{20,21}, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Table 2.7

Ethnicity

As shown in Figure 2.3, the number of 10-17 year old FTEs has been falling for each ethnicity (except for FTEs from an Other ethnic background which increased from the year ending March 2016 to 2017 before falling again in the most recent year). FTEs from a White ethnic background have fallen at the fastest rate, by 89% over the last ten years, resulting in the proportion they comprise of all FTEs reducing from 87% to 75%.

While the numbers of FTEs from all other ethnic backgrounds have also been falling, this has happened at a slower rate than for FTEs from a White background, which has caused the proportions to change. The proportion of FTEs from a Black background has doubled over the last ten years, from 8% to 16%. The proportion of FTEs from an Asian background has increased from 4% to 7% over the same period, whereas FTEs from an Other ethnic background has remained stable, at 1%.

2.3 Types of offences committed by first time entrants to the Youth Justice System

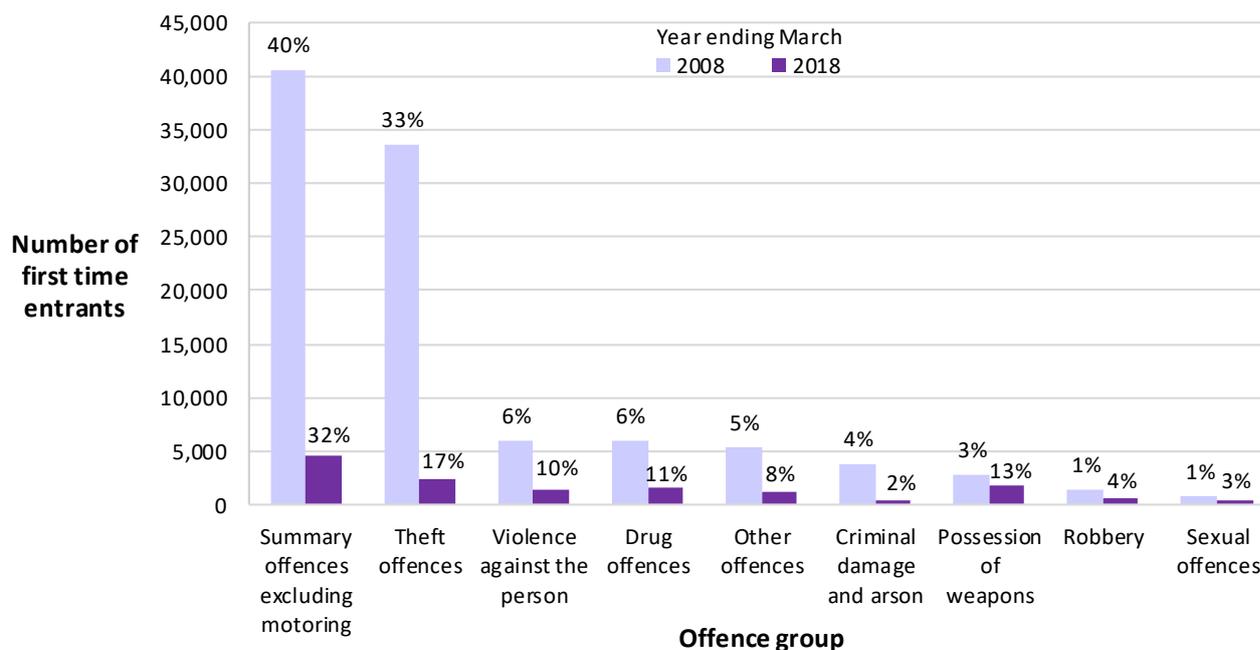
In the year ending March 2018, the most common offences committed by 10-17 year old FTEs were summary offences excluding motoring. This offence type made up nearly one third (4,600) of all offences committed by FTEs and includes lower level offences such as common assault and low level criminal damage. Theft offences were the next most common and made up 17% of all offences

²⁰ Based on where ethnicity was known. In the year ending March 2018, the ethnicity was unknown for 13% (around 1,800) of FTEs to the youth justice system.

²¹ Ethnicity is police officer identified. There is not a 'Mixed' ethnicity group in officer identified ethnicities, so caution should be used if comparing with data using self-identified ethnicities.

committed by FTEs, though this offence group has also seen the largest percentage point decrease, down from 33% in the year ending March 2008.

Figure 2.4: Number of offences committed by first time entrants by offence group²², England and Wales, years ending March 2008 and 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Table 2.2

Supplementary Table 2.3 shows there were fewer offences committed by FTEs to the YJS for all offence groups compared with ten years ago. However, in the latest year, FTEs committing robbery increased by 15% (to around 500 offences) and possession of weapons offences have been increasing over the last five years (to around 1,900 offences in the latest year). This has led to a change in the proportions of some offence groups.

The offence groups that have seen the largest percentage point increases compared with ten years ago are:

- Possession of weapons offences, increasing by 10 percentage points, to 13%;
- Drug offences, increasing by 5 percentage points, to 11%; and
- Violence against the person offences, increasing by 4 percentage points to 10%.

While robbery and sexual offences have also seen proportional increases over the last ten years (both up 2 percentage points), they still comprise a very small proportion of all FTE offences.

The offence groups that have seen the largest percentage point decreases compared with ten years ago are:

- Theft offences, decreasing by 16 percentage points to 17%; and
- Summary offences excluding motoring, decreasing 8 percentage points to 32%.

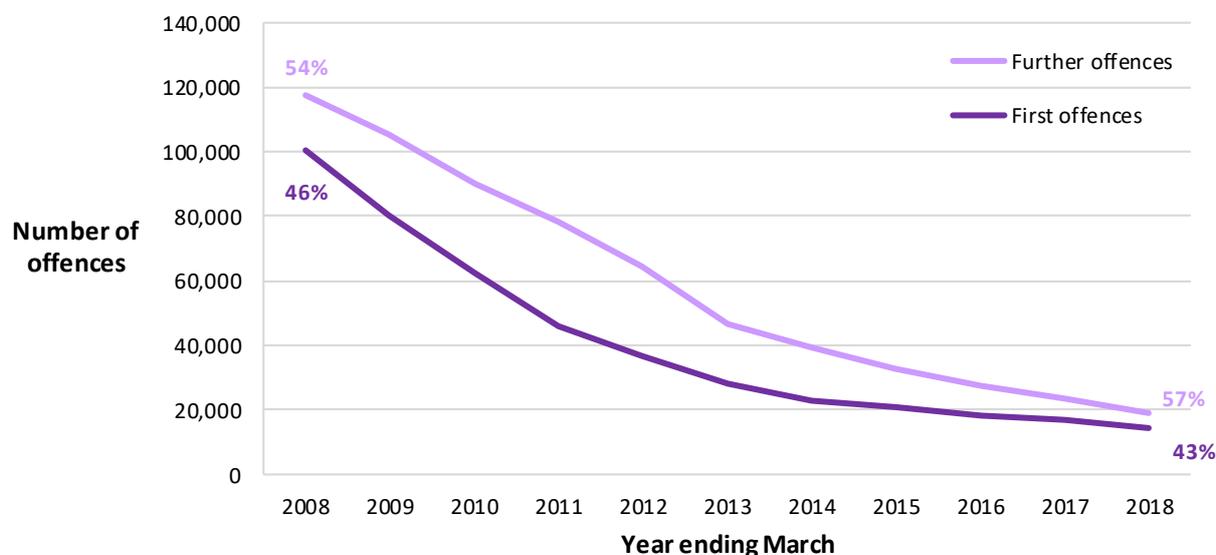
Offences committed by FTEs vary by gender. While there are far fewer female FTEs, a larger proportion commit summary offences excluding motoring, theft offences and violence against the person offences compared to male FTEs. Conversely, a greater proportion of male FTEs commit

²² 'Other' offences include public order, miscellaneous crimes against society, fraud offences, summary motoring offences and unknown offences.

possession of weapons, drug offences or robbery compared to female FTEs (Supplementary Table 2.2).

2.4 First offences and further offences committed by children

Figure 2.5: Number and proportion of first and further offences²³ committed by children, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Table 2.1

In the year ending March 2018, there were around 33,400 primary offences²⁴ committed by children; 43% of these were first offences (around 14,400) and 57% were further offences (just over 19,000).

The numbers of first and further offences have both decreased over the last ten years. In the year ending March 2008, first offences made up 46% of all offences committed by children. These fell to a low of 36% in the year ending March 2012, and have been steadily increasing since, to 43% in the latest year (Supplementary Table 2.1).

²³ First and further offences only include offences committed in England and Wales, committed by offenders residing in England and Wales and recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) by an English or Welsh police force.

²⁴ This is a count of primary offences only. Primary offence refers to the most serious offence per caution or sentencing occasion.

3. Demographic characteristics of children and young people in the Youth Justice System

In the year ending March 2018:

- Around 26,700 children and young people^{25,26} received a caution or sentence, a fall of 82% compared with ten years ago, with a fall of 6% in the latest year.
 - The 6% fall in the number of children and young people who received a caution or sentence in the most recent year is the smallest year-on-year decrease in the last decade.
 - The proportion of Black children and young people given a caution or sentence has increased to 12% in the latest year, and is now three times that of the general 10-17 population²⁷.
-

Description: The number and demographic characteristics of children and young people given a caution or sentence.

Source: Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF) based on YOT case management system caseload data

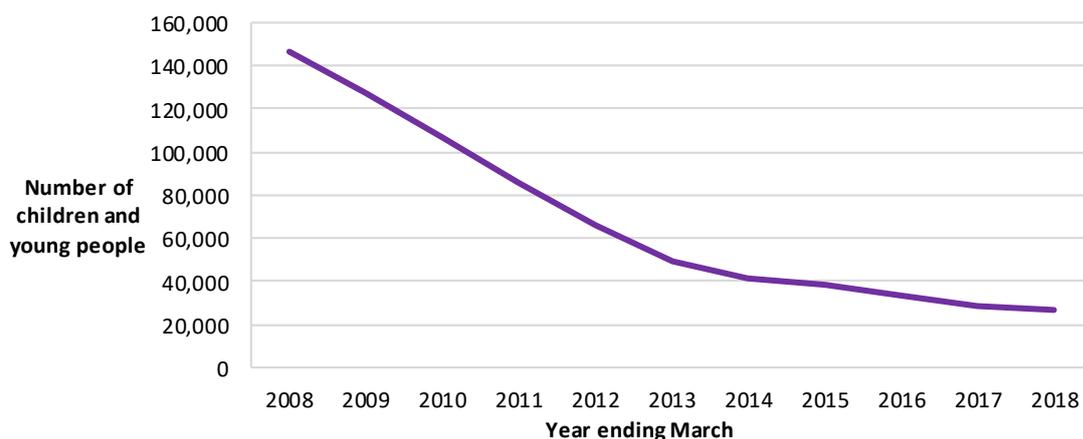
Time period covered: Years ending March 2008 to 2018 (Number of children and young people receiving a caution or sentence)
Years ending March 2013 to 2018 (Characteristics of children and young people)

Supplementary Tables: Ch 3 – Demographic characteristics of children and young people in the Youth Justice System

More information: [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#), Local level data tables

3.1 Number of children and young people who received a caution or sentence

Figure 3.1: Number of children and young people given a caution or sentence, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Table 3.8

²⁵ While children and young people are only counted once in each Youth Offending Team (YOT) regardless of the number of offences committed or cautions or sentences given, there will be some double counting nationally where children or young people who received a caution or sentence in one YOT then transfer to another YOT and receive another caution or sentence in the same period.

²⁶ Figures include those who were aged under 18 on the date of first court appearance but aged 18 on date of sentence.

²⁷ For ethnicity, population is based on the 2011 census. The ethnic breakdown of the population will likely have changed from 2011, so these figures should be treated as an estimate.

Around 26,700 children and young people²⁵ received a caution or sentence in the year ending March 2018. There have been year-on-year falls in each of the last ten years, and in the latest year, 82% fewer children and young people received a caution or sentence than the year ending March 2008.

The 6% fall in the number of children and young people who received a caution or sentence in the most recent year is the smallest year-on-year decrease in the last decade.

3.2 Demographic characteristics of children and young people who received a caution or sentence

Figure 3.2: Demographic characteristics^{28,29} of children and young people receiving a caution or sentence compared to the general 10-17 population, England and Wales, year ending March 2018

	Age Group ²⁹		Gender	
	10-14	15-17+	Male	Female
Children and young people receiving a caution or sentence	24%	76%	84%	16%
10-17 population ³⁰	62%	38%	51%	49%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Tables 3.2 and 3.3

Males made up 51% of the general 10-17 population in England and Wales, but accounted for 84% of the total number of children and young people who received a caution or sentence. This proportion has been steadily increasing.

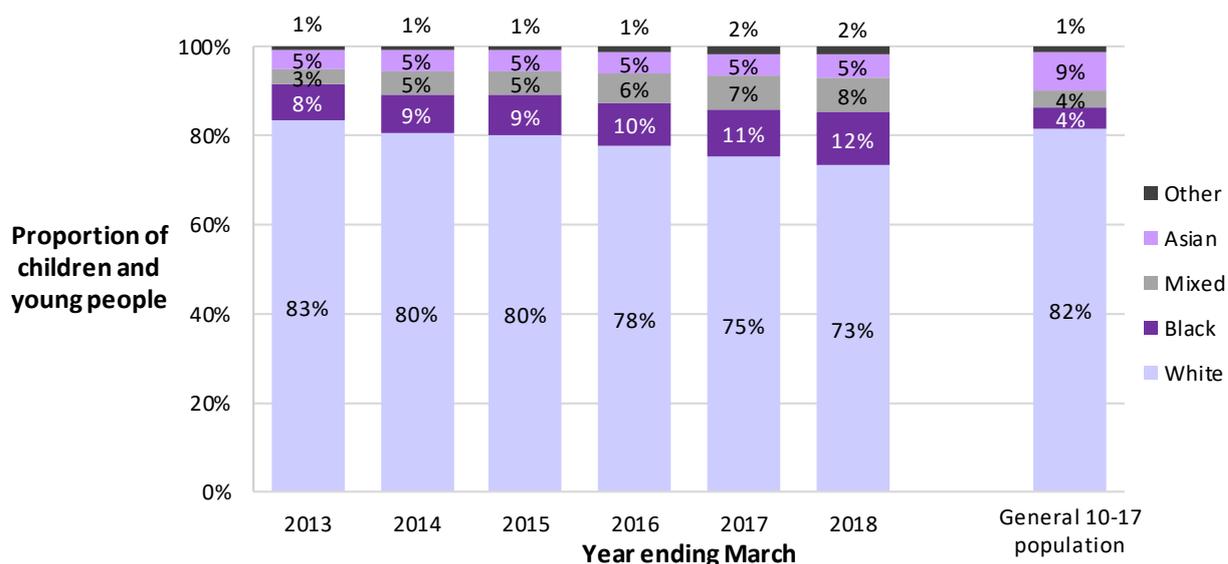
Most children and young people who received a caution or sentence were aged 15-17 (76%), with 17 year olds accounting for the largest share (32%).

²⁸ Proportions are calculated where gender was known. In the year ending March 2018, gender was unknown for less than 1% of children and young people who received a youth caution or sentence.

²⁹ Age is calculated at the time of caution or for those sentenced at the time of the first hearing. This is because these young people may still be supported by the Youth Offending Team, even if they turn 18 before the sentence is passed.

³⁰ For age and gender, population is based on Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2017 mid-year estimates.

Figure 3.3: Number and proportion of children and young people receiving a caution or sentence by ethnicity^{31,32,33}, England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Table 3.1

Supplementary Table 3.1 shows that the number of children and young people given cautions or sentences has varied by ethnicity over the last five years. This has led to changes in the proportions each ethnic group make up of all cautions and sentences.

Figure 3.3 shows that:

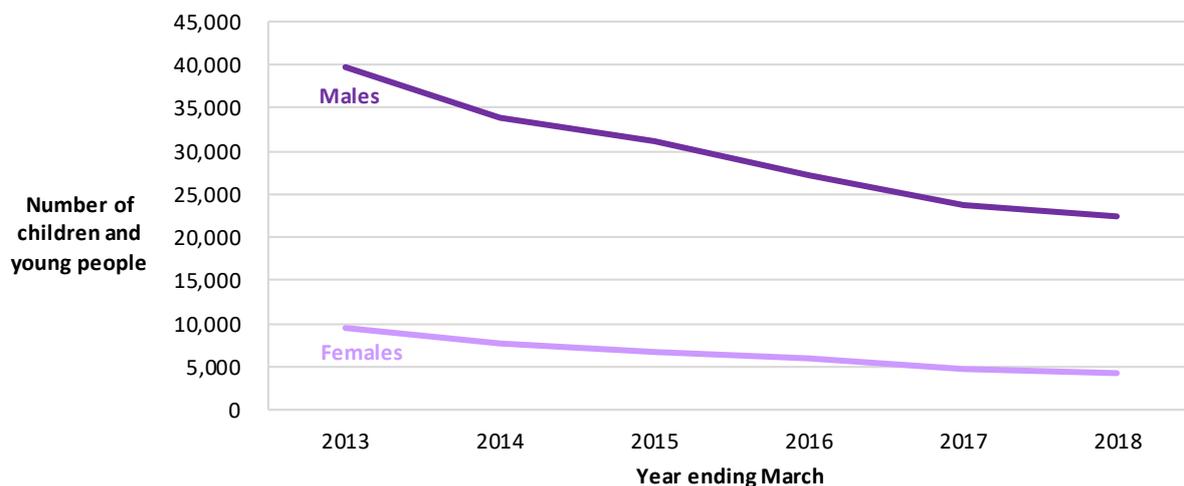
- The proportion of cautions or sentences given to Black children and young people has been increasing, and is now three times that of the general 10-17 population.
- Children and young people from a Mixed ethnic background are also overrepresented, accounting for 8% of those receiving a caution or sentence compared to 4% of the general 10-17 population.

³¹ Proportions are calculated on where ethnicity was known. In the year ending March 2018, ethnicity was unknown for 4% of children and young people who received a youth caution or sentence.

³² For ethnicity, population is based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2011 census. The ethnic breakdown of the population will likely have changed from 2011, so these figures should be treated as an estimate.

³³ Ethnicity data are self-identified.

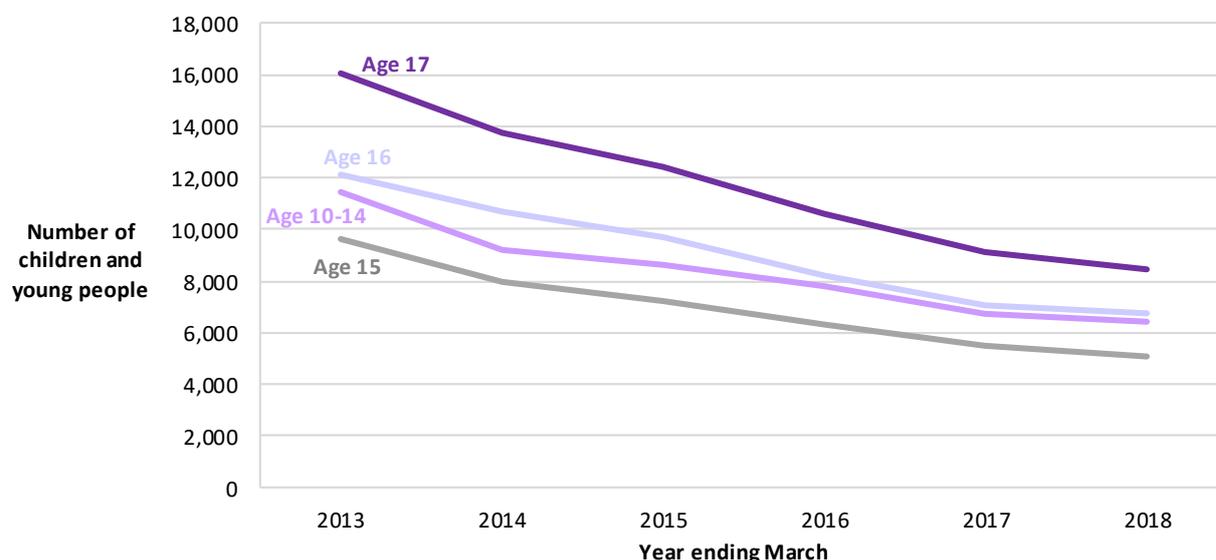
Figure 3.4: Number of children and young people receiving a caution or sentence by gender, England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Table 3.2

In the year ending March 2018, there were around 4,200 young females and around 22,400 young males who received a caution or sentence. Compared with the year ending March 2013, the numbers of females and males receiving a caution or sentence have fallen by 55% and 44% respectively.

Figure 3.5: Number of children and young people receiving a caution or sentence by age³⁴, England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Table 3.3

Figure 3.5 shows that there have been decreases in the number of cautions and sentences given to children and young people of all ages.

In the latest year, those aged 17 years³⁴ made up the largest share of children and young people receiving a caution or sentence, accounting for 32%. The proportion of children and young people who received a caution or sentence by each age has remained broadly stable over the last five years.

³⁴ Age is calculated at the time of caution or for those sentenced at the time of the first hearing. This is because these young people may still be supported by the Youth Offending Team, even if they turn 18 before the sentence is passed.

4. Proven offences by children

In the year ending March 2018:

- The number of proven offences committed by children has continued to fall and is down 75% from ten years ago with a 4% fall in the latest year, to over 70,300 proven offences.
- The number of proven offences committed by children fell for all offence groups compared to the previous year, except robbery, which increased by 15%, public order, which saw its first increase in ten years, and drugs, which had also previously seen long-term falls.
- Whilst the number of violence against the person offences has fluctuated in recent years, they have been steadily increasing as a proportion of all offences over the last ten years, and now account for 29% of all proven offences.
- The knife and offensive weapon sentencing statistics show that there were just under 4,500 knife or offensive weapon offences resulting in a caution or conviction committed by 10-17 year olds. This is the highest number of offences dealt with in the last five years, but is still lower than levels seen in the years ending March 2009 and 2010.

Description: All proven offences (indictable and summary) committed by children. A proven offence is one for which a child or young person receives a caution or sentence³⁵.

Source: Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF) (Proven offences by children)
Police National Computer (Knife and offensive weapon sentencing statistics)
Crime Survey for England and Wales, 10-15 year old module (Children carrying knives)

Time period covered: Years ending March 2008 to 2018³⁶ (Proven offences by children)
Years ending March 2009 to 2018³⁷ (Knife and offensive weapon sentencing statistics)
Years ending March 2010 to 2018 (Crime Survey for England and Wales, 10 to 15 year olds module)

Supplementary Tables: Ch 4 – Proven offences by children

More information: [Knife and offensive weapon sentencing statistics](#) (more up to date data available), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#), Local level data tables

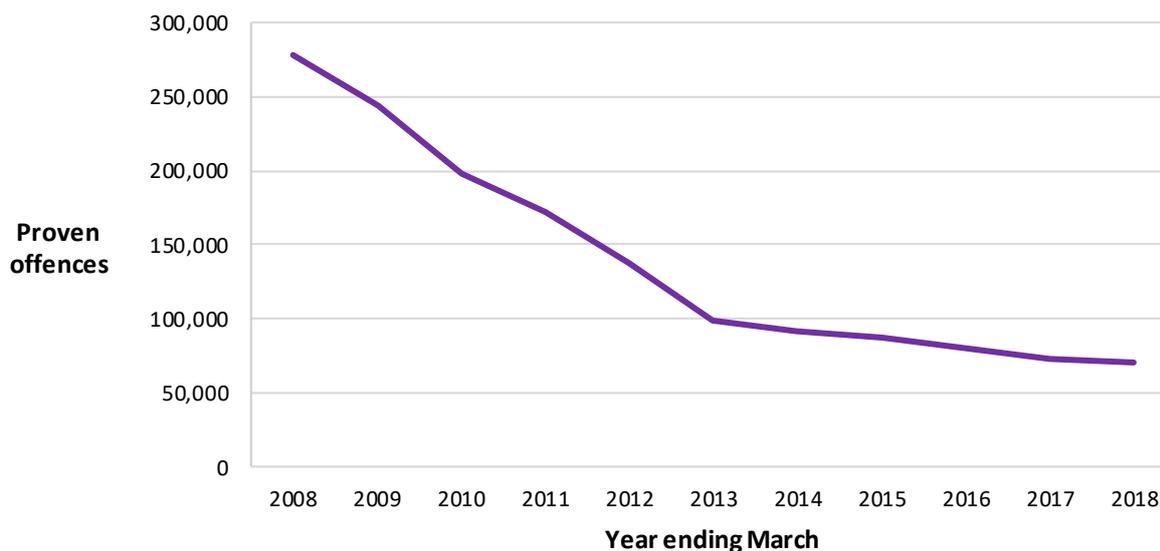
³⁵ These data include all offences for which a child is given a youth caution or sentence for, and not just the primary offence. The offence breakdown differs from the main offence types used by the MoJ. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

³⁶ Based on data extracted from YJAF in December 2018.

³⁷ A ten year comparison is not available.

4.1 Trends in proven offences by children

Figure 4.1: Number of proven offences by children, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.1

The number of proven offences committed by children³⁸ has continued to fall. In the year ending March 2018, there were over 70,300 proven offences committed by children which resulted in a caution or sentence in court. This is a fall of 75% from ten years ago when there were just under 278,000 proven offences. The 4% fall in the latest year is the smallest year-on-year fall over the last ten years.

As Figure 4.1 shows, there were larger falls in the number of proven offences committed by children between the years ending March 2008 and March 2013, with more modest decreases since then.

Offence volumes

Supplementary Table 4.1 shows that in the last ten years, the number of proven offences has fallen across all offence groups. Breach of statutory order and theft and handling stolen goods are the two offence groups to see the largest fall over this time (87% and 85% respectively).

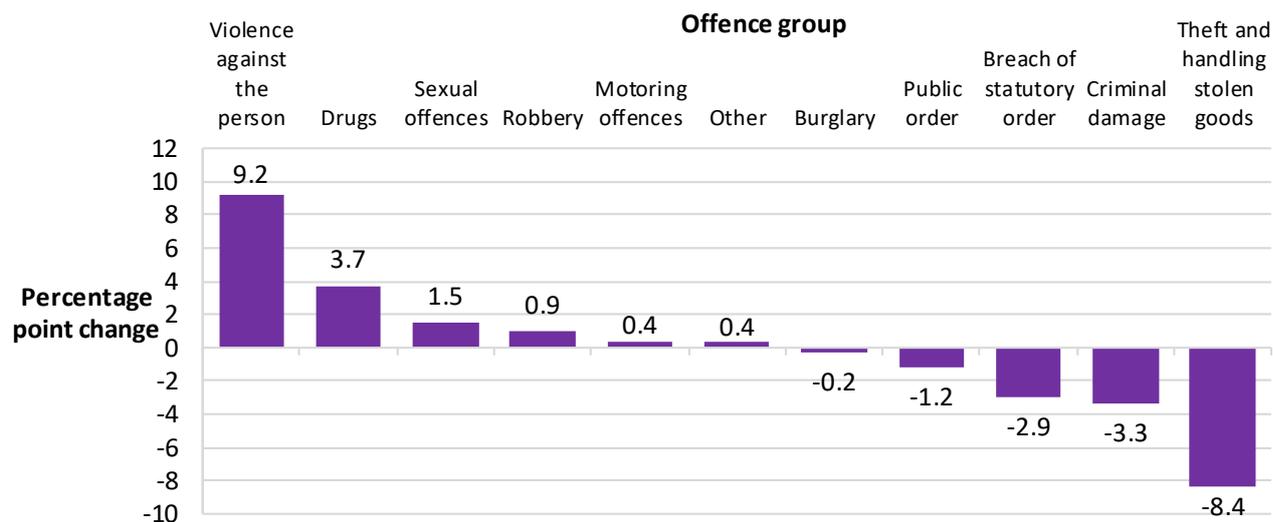
In the latest year, the number of proven offences decreased across all offence groups, except for:

- Robbery, which increased by 15% to around 2,400 offences, after having decreased in each of the previous three years;
- Public order offences, which had previously seen falls in each of the last ten years, but has now increased by 9% to around 5,200 offences; and
- Drugs offences, which increased by 2% to just under 6,000 offences after having previously seen long-term falls.

³⁸ Age is calculated at the time of caution or for those sentenced at the time of the first hearing. This is because these young people may still be supported by the Youth Offending Team, even if they turn 18 before the sentence is passed. This count does not include a small number of offences committed by young people who turn 18 before their first hearing.

Offence volumes as a proportion of total

Figure 4.2: Percentage point change in the proportion of proven offences committed by children, England and Wales, between the years ending March 2008 and 2018^{39,40}



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.1

Whilst the number of proven offences committed by children has fallen for all crime types when compared with ten years ago, the proportions of these offence groups has also changed (Figure 4.2). Violence against the person offences have seen the greatest increase in proportion, gradually increasing from 19% in the year ending March 2008 to 29% of proven offences in the latest year.

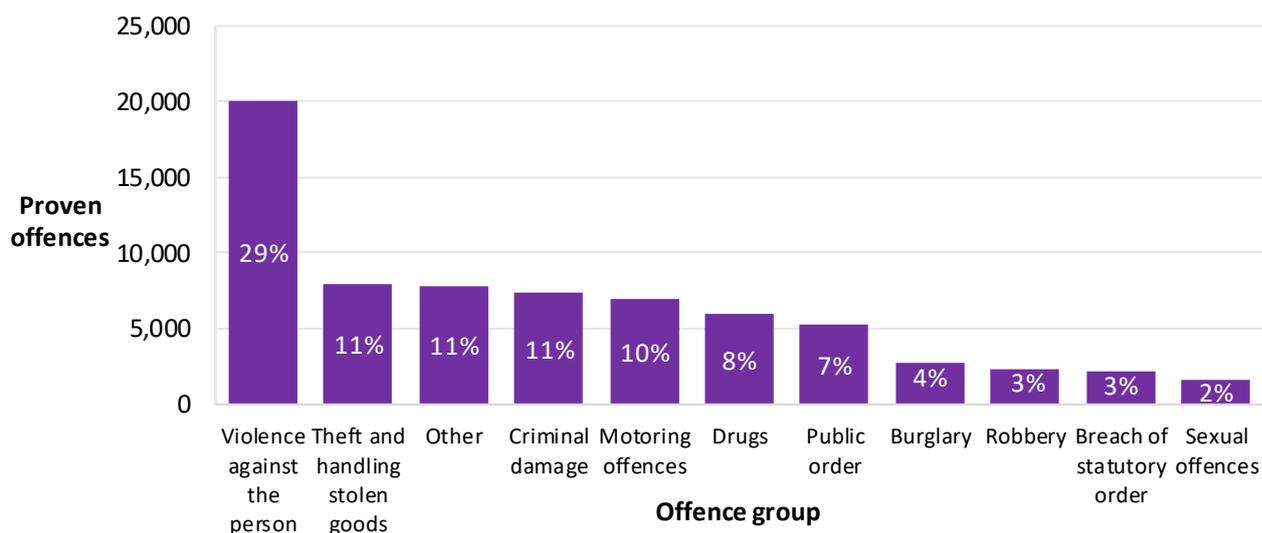
Theft and handling stolen goods offences have seen the largest proportional decrease in the last ten years, nearly halving from 20% in the year ending March 2008 to 11% in the latest year.

³⁹ See Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.2 for the breakdown of the offences which are grouped into 'Other' offences.

⁴⁰ Based on YJB offence groups, which differ from Ministry of Justice offence groups. For example, Possession of Weapons offences sit within the Violence Against the Person group in the YJB offence groups, but are a distinct category in MoJ groupings.

4.2 Types of proven offences by children

Figure 4.3: Proven offences by children, England and Wales, year ending March 2018



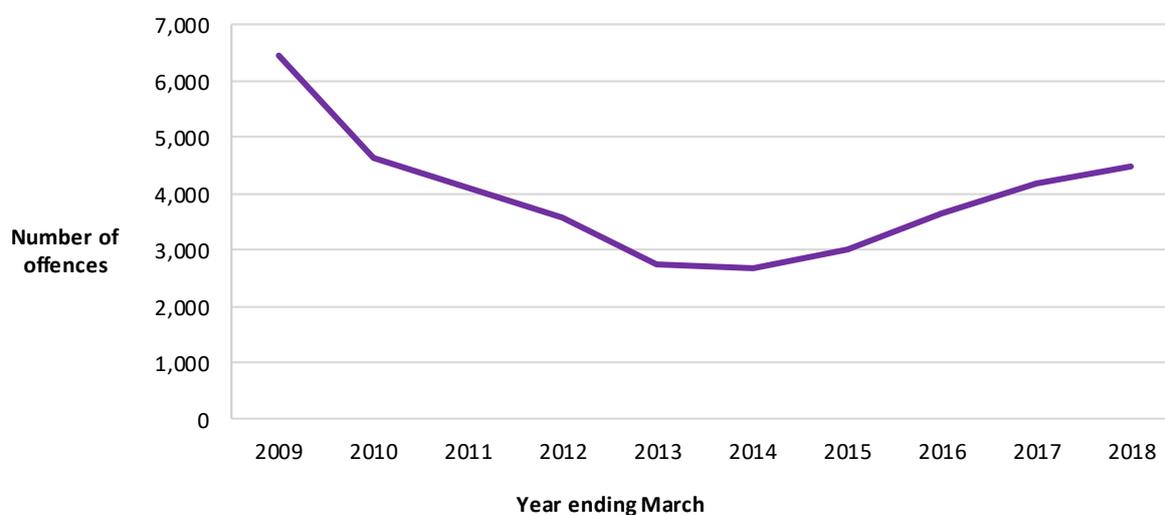
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.1

Of the over 70,300 proven offences committed by children in the latest year, the main offence types were:

- Violence against the person (29%);
- Theft and handling stolen goods (11%);
- Other offences (11%, of which just over a third were vehicle theft/unauthorised taking⁴¹); and
- Criminal damage (11%).

4.3 Knife or offensive weapon offences committed by children

Figure 4.4. Knife or offensive weapon offences committed by children, resulting in a caution or conviction, England and Wales, years ending March 2009 to 2018⁴²



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.3

⁴¹ Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.2

⁴² A ten year comparison is not available.

In the year ending March 2018, there were just under 4,500 knife or offensive weapon offences committed by children resulting in a caution or conviction. While this is an increase of 64% compared with five years ago, and there have been year-on-year increases since the year ending March 2014 (with an increase of 7% in the most recent year), the number of these offences remains lower than in the years ending March 2009 and 2010.

Supplementary Table 4.3 shows that the majority (51%) of children received a community sentence following a knife or offensive weapon offence in the year ending March 2018. While the number of community sentences received by children for these offences has increased over the last five years, the proportion has remained broadly stable.

The number of custodial sentences given to children for a knife or offensive weapon offence has been increasing. In the year ending March 2018, nearly 600 knife and offensive weapon offences resulted in immediate custody, which is nearly double the volume in the year ending March 2013, and now accounts for 13% of disposals received by children for these offence types.

4.4 Children carrying knives

In the year ending March 2018, 0.5% of 10-15 year olds surveyed⁴³ reported that they had carried a knife for their own personal protection in the past 12 months. Whilst the longer-term trend shows slight falls, the latest year is broadly similar to the previous year and the year ending March 2013 (Supplementary Table 4.4).

⁴³ In the year ending March 2018, 3,008 10-15 year olds responded as part of the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

5. Sentencing of children

In the year ending March 2018:

- There were just under 23,000 occasions where children were sentenced in all courts, which is 76% lower than ten years ago, with a 12% fall in the latest year.
- The proportion of all occasions where White children were sentenced for indictable offences has decreased from 74% to 65% over the last five years⁴⁴. Conversely the proportion of all occasions where Black children were sentenced for indictable offences increased from 13% to 21% over the same period.
- The average custodial sentence length for indictable offences has increased by five months over the last ten years from 11.4 months to 16.7 months.

Description: Children (aged 10-17) proceeded against and sentenced after being found guilty of proven offences by court type and type of offence.

Source: Court Proceedings Database

Time period covered: Years ending March 2013 to 2018 (Sentencing by ethnicity)
Years ending March 2008 to 2018 (All other data)

Supplementary Tables: Ch 5 – Sentencing of children

More information: [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#) (more up to date data available), [Chapter 10– Criminal histories of children](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

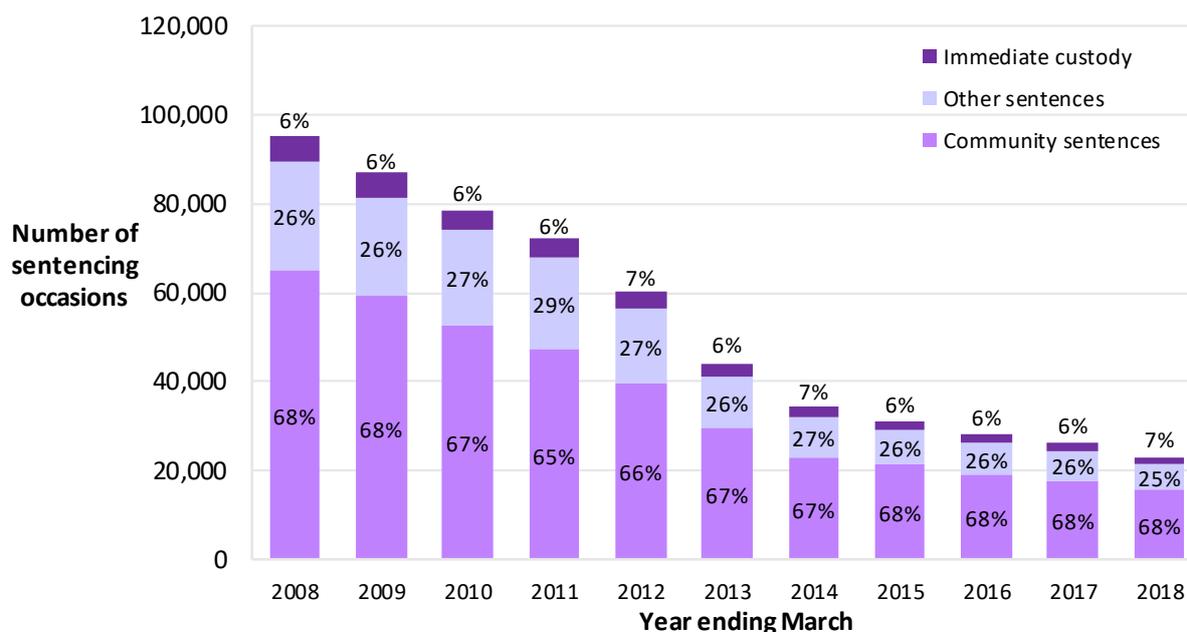
5.1 Children proceeded against at magistrates' courts

All cases are initially proceeded against in a magistrates' court before a decision about where the case should be heard, depending on the seriousness of the offence. There were around 31,500 children proceeded against at magistrates' courts in the year ending March 2018, a fall of 74% compared to ten years ago, with a fall of 12% in the latest year. Over half (55%) of these proceedings were for indictable offences, 36% were for summary non-motoring offences and the remaining 9% were for summary motoring offences (Supplementary Table 5.1).

⁴⁴ A ten year comparison is not available.

5.2 Sentencing of children in all courts⁴⁵

Figure 5.1: Number of sentencing occasions for children sentenced in all courts by sentence type, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Table 5.3

There were just under 23,000 occasions where children were sentenced in all courts in the latest year, which is 76% lower than ten years previously. There have been year-on-year falls in the number of sentencing occasions of children over the last ten years, with a fall of 12% in the most recent year. Over the last ten years the largest falls were in the number of community sentences given to children, which fell by 76%. This is unsurprising given they make up the majority (68%) of sentences given, and the percentage falls for the other sentence types were broadly the same. Therefore, the proportions by sentence type have remained broadly stable. As Figure 5.1 shows, although the number of custodial sentences fell by 73% over the last ten years, the proportion of custodial sentences has remained at 6% or 7% (with the latest year being the highest).

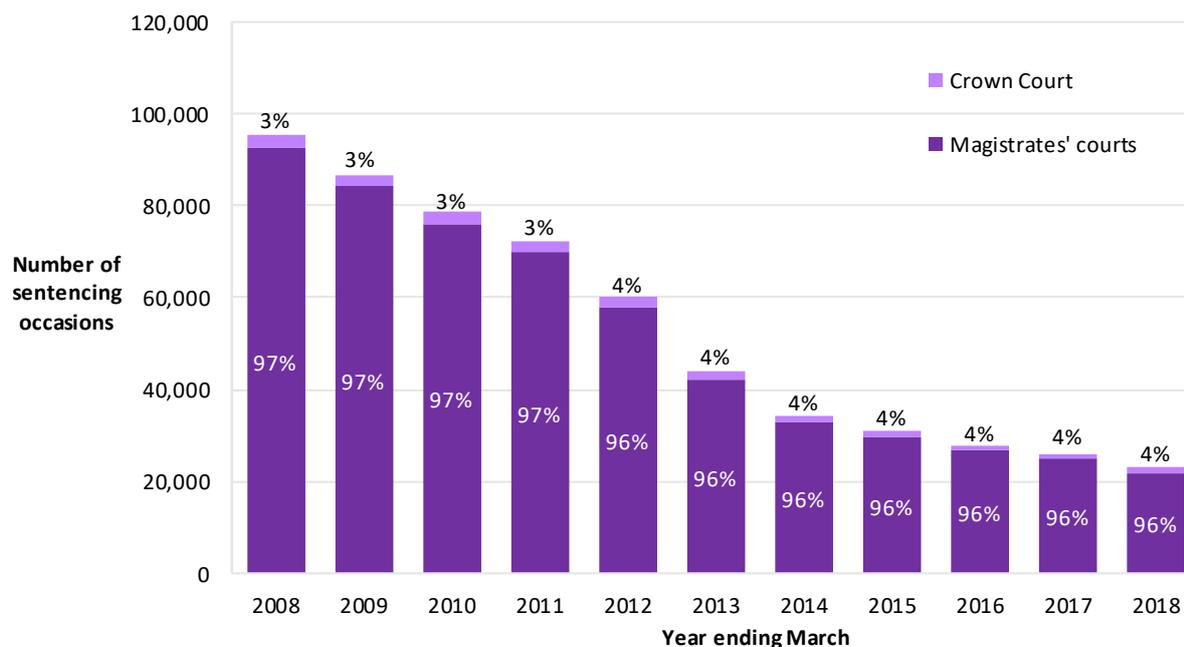
Supplementary Table 5.3 shows that in the year ending March 2018, of the 23,000 sentencing occasions of children for all types of offences in all courts there were:

- Just under 1,600 were sentences to immediate custody (7% of all sentences), with most (80%) of these being Detention and Training Orders;
- Around 15,600 were community sentences (68% of all sentences), of which 64% were Referral Orders (around 10,000), 35% were Youth Rehabilitation Orders (around 5,500) and the remaining 0.5% (under 80) were Reparation Orders.
- Just under 5,800 were for other types of sentences (25% of all sentences); these include discharges, fines and other less common disposals).

⁴⁵ Children can be counted more than once if they are sentenced for different offences at different points in the year, so this chapter refers to sentencing occasions rather than individual children. Only the most serious sentence issued on each sentencing occasion is counted.

5.3 Children sentenced by court type^{45,46}

Figure 5.2: Number and proportion of sentencing occasions of children by court type, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Tables 5.4

Depending on the seriousness of the offence, cases will either be heard in a magistrates' court⁴⁷ from start to finish or will be referred from a magistrates' court to the Crown Court. The Crown Court only hears cases involving more serious offences, so a much smaller number of children are sentenced in this type of court compared with magistrates' courts. In the latest year just 4% of the 23,000 sentencing occasions of children were at the Crown Court. This proportion has remained broadly stable over the last ten years varying between 3% and 4% (Figure 5.2).

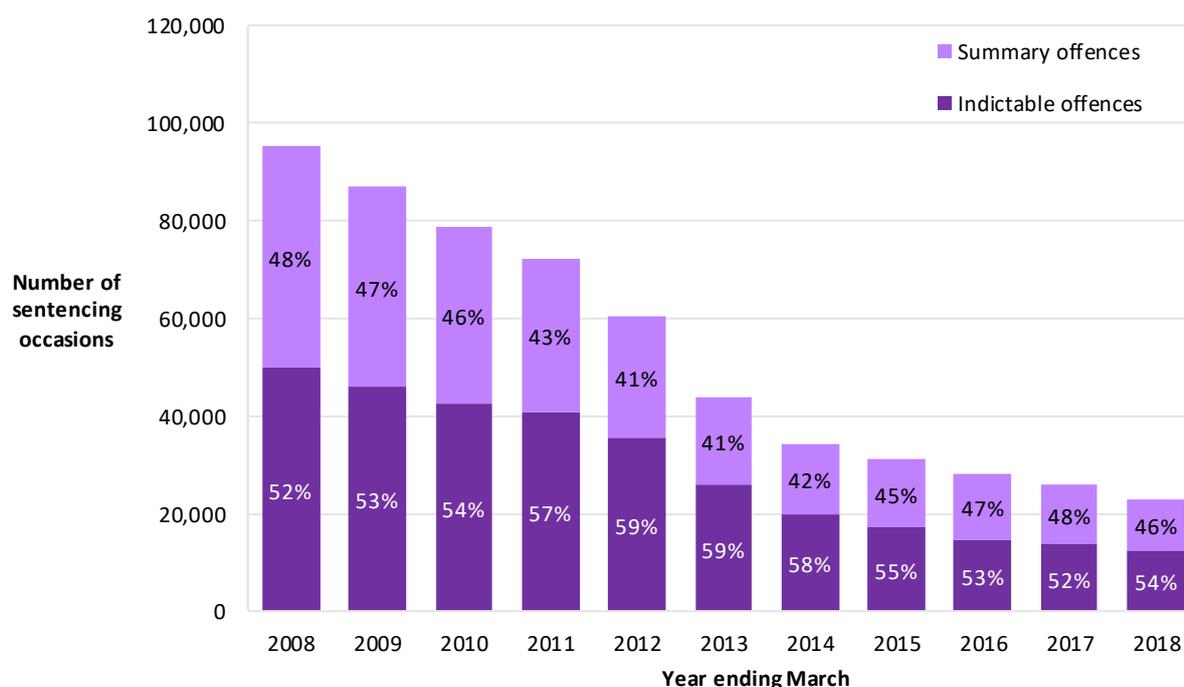
The Crown Court tries the most serious cases and this is reflected in the types of sentences given. In the year ending March 2018, custodial sentences were given in 49% of the just over 1,000 sentencing occasions of children at the Crown Court. This compares to just 5% of the almost 22,000 sentencing occasions at magistrates' courts.

⁴⁶ The Crown Court only hears cases for the most serious offences. The majority of indictable offences are triable either way. These can be tried in the magistrates' courts or the Crown Court depending on the circumstances of the case. Summary offences are less serious offences and can only be heard in magistrates' courts.

⁴⁷ Cases for 10-17 year olds start in the youth court, which is a type of magistrates' court.

5.4 Children sentenced at all courts by type of offence^{45,48}

Figure 5.3: Number of sentencing occasions of children sentenced in all courts by type of offence, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Tables 5.4a and 5.4b

Of the 23,000 occasions in which children were sentenced in the year ending March 2018, over half (54%) were for indictable offences and 46% were for summary offences. This is similar to ten years ago, when 52% were for indictable offences. However, this proportion rose from the year ending March 2008 to a peak of 59% in the year ending March 2012, before falling again.

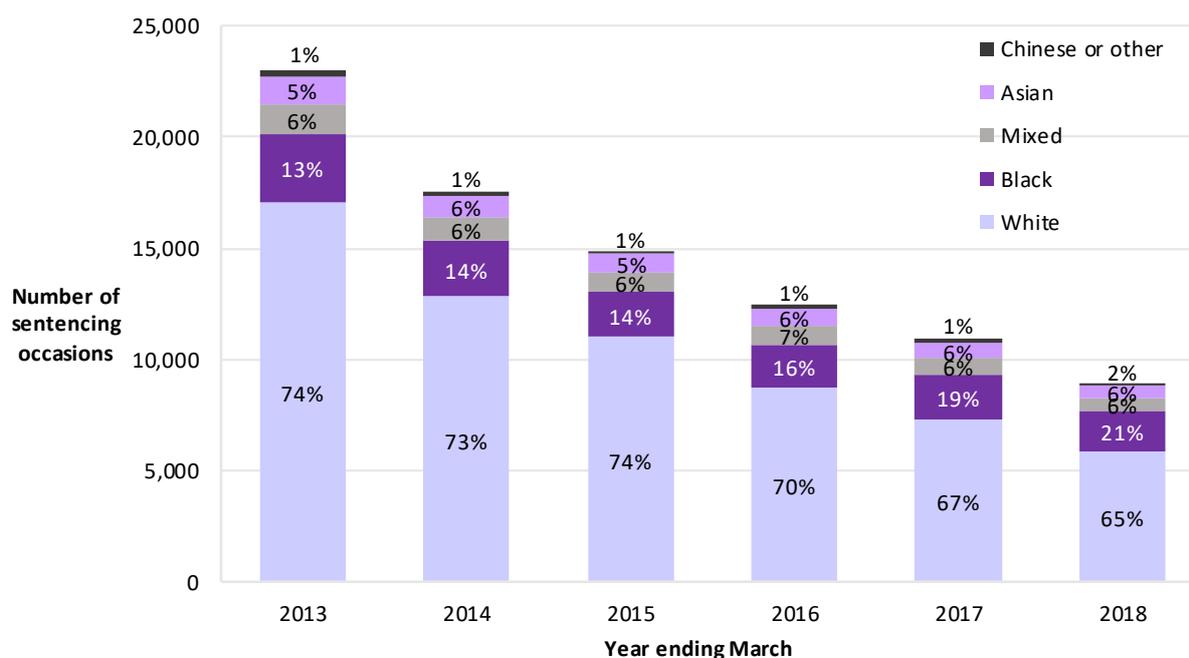
There were around 12,500 occasions in which children were sentenced for indictable offences in the latest year, of which the majority (73%) involved a community sentence. This compares to 62% of the 10,500 occasions in which children were sentenced for summary offences.

In the year ending March 2018, 11% of the occasions in which children were sentenced for indictable offences involved a sentence to immediate custody, compared with 1% for summary offences (Supplementary Tables 5.4a and 5.4b).

⁴⁸ Criminal offences are divided into three main offence groups; Indictable; Summary non-motoring; and Summary motoring. In this chapter, summary motoring offences and summary non-motoring offences are grouped together. Please refer to the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for further details of these offence groups.

5.5 Children sentenced for indictable offences by ethnicity^{49,50,51}

Figure 5.4: Number of sentencing occasions of children sentenced for indictable offences in all courts by ethnicity, England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018⁵²



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Table 5.6

In the year ending March 2018, there were around 5,800 occasions in which White children were sentenced at court for indictable offences⁵³. This compares with sentencing occasions involving around 1,900 Black, 550 Asian, 570 Mixed and 150 Chinese or Other children.

While there have been year-on-year decreases in the number of occasions in which children of each ethnicity group have been sentenced at court for indictable offences, the decrease in sentencing occasions for White children has been at a higher rate than for those in other ethnic groups. This has led to a change in the proportion of all occasions in which White children were sentenced for indictable offences from almost three-quarters in the year ending March 2013 to just under two-thirds in the latest year. Conversely, over the same period the proportion of all occasions in which Black children were sentenced for indictable offences increased from 13% to 21%. The proportions for other groups have remained broadly stable.

⁴⁹ Data on summary level offences are not included as many children are not required to be present when sentenced so data on ethnicity is limited.

⁵⁰ See [Race and the Criminal Justice System](#) for more information.

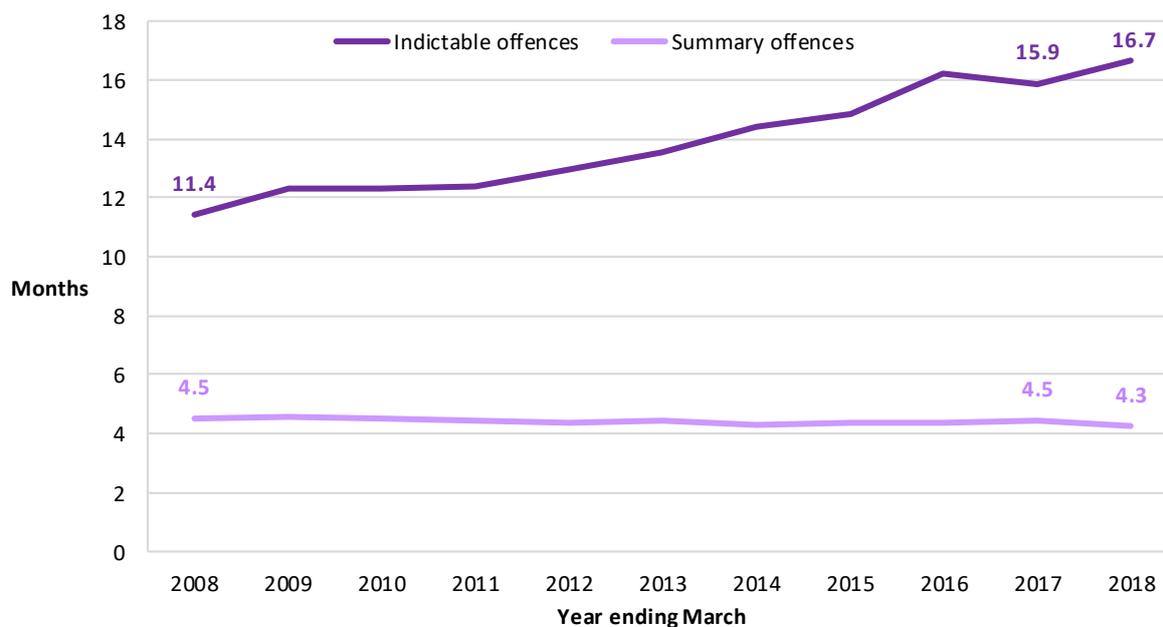
⁵¹ Ethnicity data are self-identified.

⁵² A ten year comparison is not available.

⁵³ Proportions are calculated where ethnicity is known. In the year ending March 2018, ethnicity was unknown for 28% of children sentenced for indictable offences at all courts. This proportion is high compared with the previous year when 20% were unknown and five years ago when there were 11% unknown, therefore caution needs to be used when interpreting these results.

5.6 Average custodial sentence length^{54,55}

Figure 5.5: Average custodial sentence length in months by type of offence, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Tables 5.4a and 5.4b

For children sentenced to custody, the average custodial sentence length varied significantly based on the type of offence the child was sentenced for. In the latest year, the average custodial sentence length for those sentenced for indictable offences was 16.7 months compared to 4.3 months for those sentenced for summary offences.

While the average custodial sentence length remained broadly stable over the last ten years for those sentenced for summary offences, it has increased by over five months for indictable offences over the same period, from 11.4 to 16.7 months.

⁵⁴ This is the whole sentence length given in court and not necessarily the amount of time spent in custody.

⁵⁵ Excludes life and indeterminate sentences. Where fewer than five examples are available the calculation is suppressed.

6. Use of remand for children

In the year ending March 2018:

- There were just under 12,700 remand episodes⁵⁶; of which the majority (72%) were bail remands, with custodial remands accounting for 19% and the remaining 9% being community remands with intervention.
 - The average monthly custodial population on remand has seen its first year-on-year increase in the last ten years, increasing by 19% to a monthly average of nearly 220 children on remand⁵⁷.
 - Children in custody on remand comprise nearly a quarter (24%) of the average monthly custody population.
 - The majority (63%) of children given a custodial remand did not subsequently receive a custodial outcome⁵⁸.
-

Description: Use of remand for children aged 10-17 in the Youth Justice System, characteristics of the custodial remand population and the outcomes for children following custodial remand.

Source: Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF) (Remand episodes)
Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS), eAsset and the Youth Justice Application Framework (Custodial remand population)
Court Proceedings Database (Outcomes following a custodial remand)

Time period covered: Years ending March 2013 to March 2018 (Remand episodes)⁵⁹
Years ending March 2008 to March 2018 (Custodial remand population)⁶⁰
Years ending March 2013 to March 2018 (Outcomes following custodial remand)

Supplementary Tables: Ch 6 – Use of remand for children

More information: [Youth Custody Data](#) (more up to date provisional data available), [Race and the Criminal Justice System, Chapter 7 – Children in youth custody](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

When a court makes the decision to remand a child they have a range of bail options, community remands with intervention (including remand to local authority accommodation), and custodial remands for more serious offences.

⁵⁶ Southwark YOT and Wandsworth YOT did not submit remand data in the year ending March 2018 due to technical issues.

⁵⁷ The average custodial remand population figures are averages of 12 monthly snapshots of the custodial population in the secure estate for children, taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end.

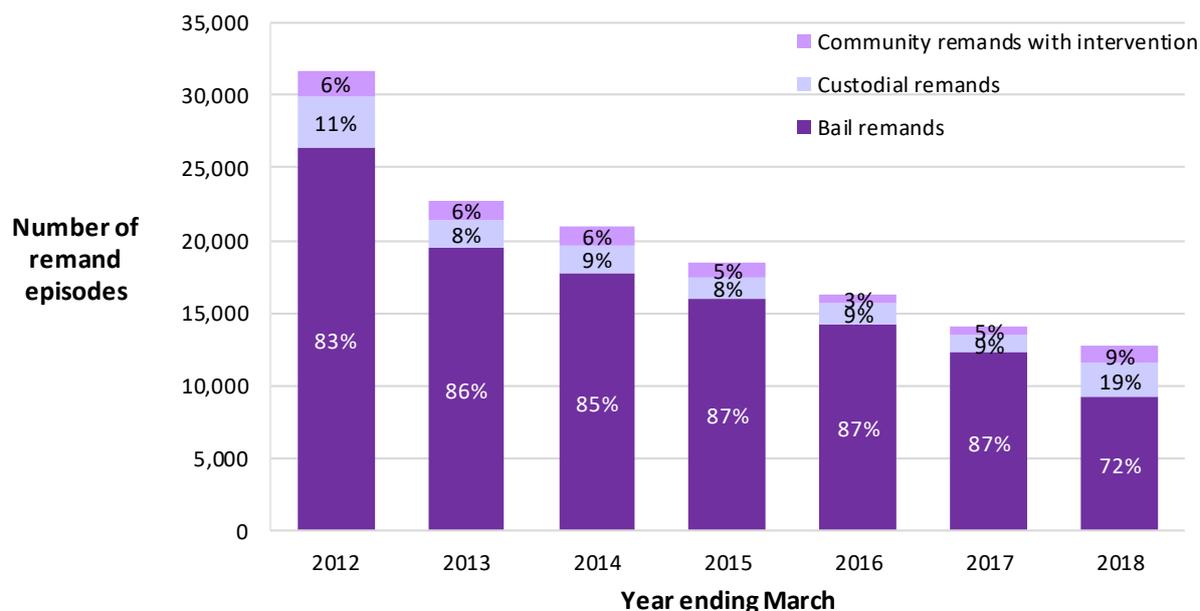
⁵⁸ Excluding those children who failed to appear and those who were committed by magistrates for trial or sentence at the Crown Court.

⁵⁹ A ten year comparison is not available. Data for the year ending March 2012 onwards are available in the Supplementary Tables.

⁶⁰ Further data on children held on custodial remand are available from 2005/06 onwards in [Youth Custody Data](#).

6.1 Types of remand given to children

Figure 6.1: Type of remand decisions given to children, England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018⁵⁹



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 6, Table 6.1

There were just under 12,700 remand episodes in the year ending March 2018, of which:

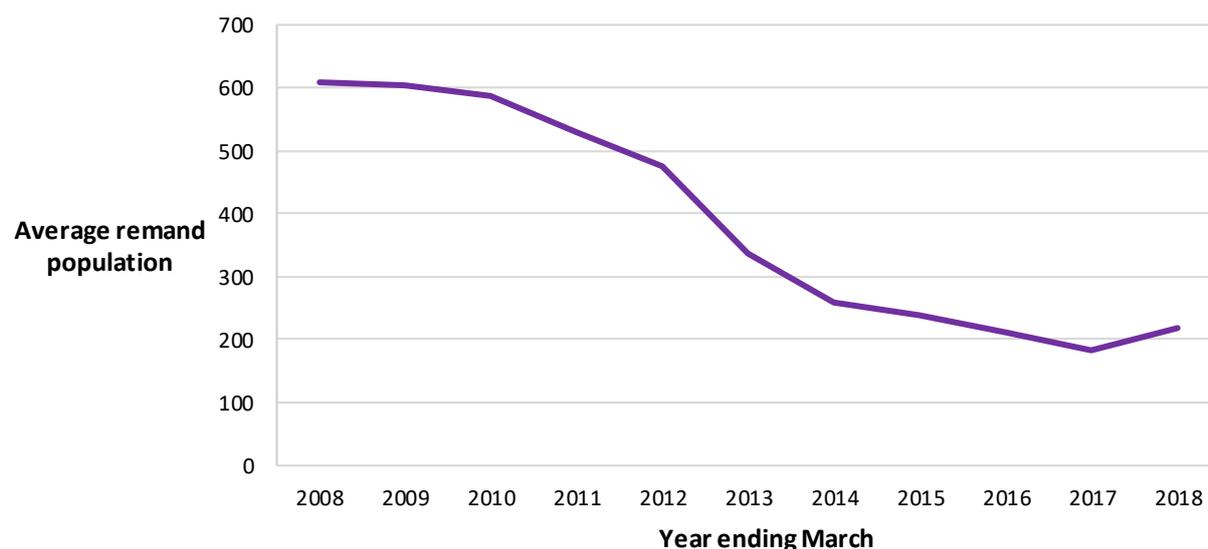
- the majority (72%) were bail remands,
- 19% were custodial remands; and
- the remaining 9% were community remands with intervention.

While the number of remand episodes continued to fall, decreasing 44% when compared with the year ending March 2013, with a fall of 10% in the latest year, some remand types have increased in the latest year:

- Custodial remands have seen a large increase, up 91% in the last year and now make up nearly a fifth of all remand episodes;
- Community remands with intervention have also seen a large increase, up by 80% in the last year, and now account for 9% of all remand episodes; however
- Bail remands were the only remand type to see a decrease in the latest year, falling 25%.

6.2 Average monthly population of children in custody on remand

Figure 6.2: Average monthly custodial remand population, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 6, Table 6.2

There was an average monthly population of just under 220 children in custody on remand at any one time in the year ending March 2018. Whilst the monthly average number in custody on remand is 64% lower now than ten years ago, there has been a 19% increase in the latest year, the first increase in the last decade.

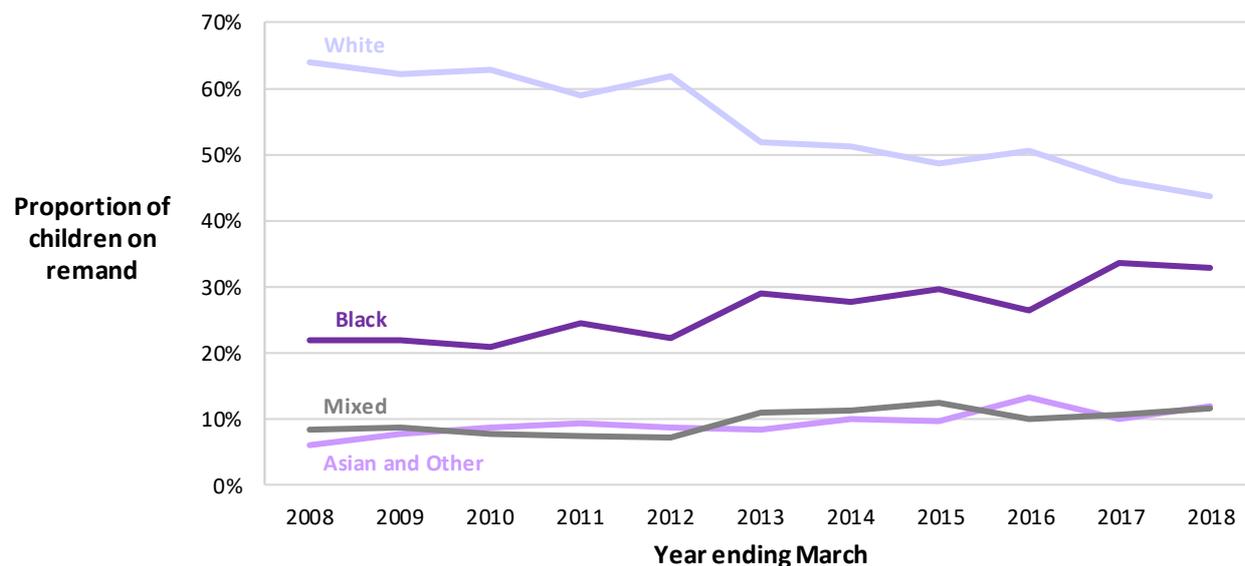
Children held in custody on remand accounted for nearly a quarter (24%) of the average custody population in the latest year, an increase from 21% in the previous year. In the last ten years, the proportion of the total youth custody population that children held on remand comprises has fluctuated between 21% and 26% (Supplementary Table 6.2).

Supplementary Tables 6.2 and 6.3 show that most children remanded in youth custody were:

- In a Young Offender Institution (71%);
- Male (97%), which has remained broadly stable over the last ten years; and
- Aged 17 (51%).

See [Chapter 7](#) for information on the length of time children spent in youth custody on remand.

Figure 6.3: Proportion of children in custody on remand by ethnicity^{61,62}, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 6, Table 6.2

Supplementary Table 6.2 shows that while all ethnic groups have seen a decrease in the average monthly custody population held on remand over the last ten years, each ethnicity has seen an increase in the latest year. There have also been changes in the proportions each ethnic group comprises.

Figure 6.3 shows that over the last ten years:

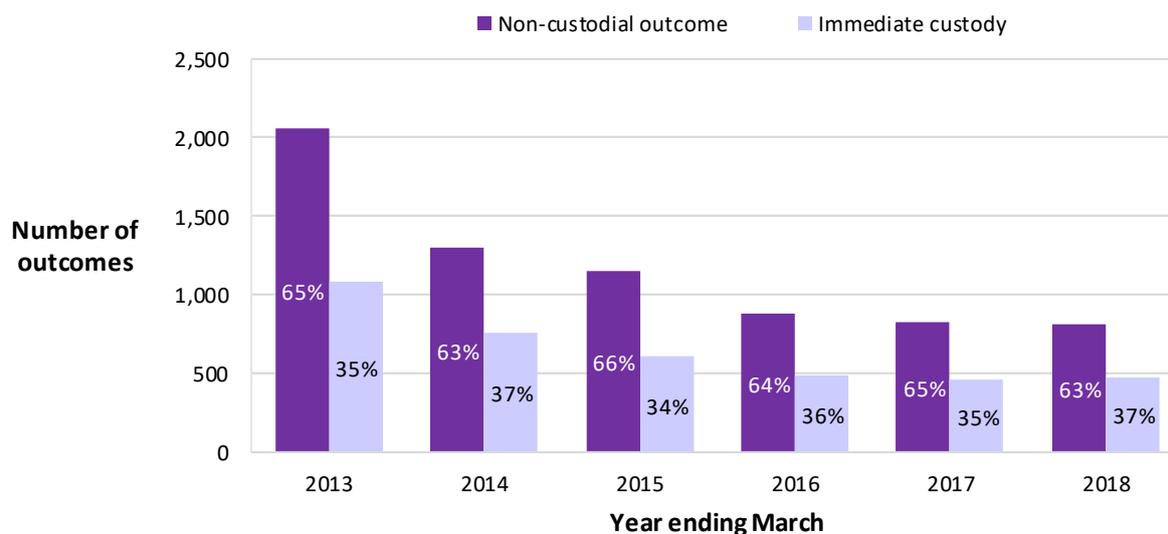
- The proportion of children from a White background held on remand has seen a general downward trend, falling from 64% to 44%.
- Conversely the proportion of children from a Black ethnic background has fluctuated each year but has followed a general upward trend. Children from a Black ethnic background now make up one third (33%) of the custodial remand population, down 1 percentage point from the previous year.
- Children from Asian and Other and Mixed ethnic backgrounds have seen smaller changes in their proportions, but these have also increased compared with ten years ago, both accounting for 12% in the latest year.

⁶¹ Proportions are calculated where ethnicity was known. In the year ending March 2018, the ethnicity was unknown for 1% of the monthly average remand population.

⁶² Ethnicity data are self-identified.

6.3 Outcomes for children following custodial remand

Figure 6.4: Outcomes following custodial remands given to children, England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018⁶³



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 6, Table 6.5

In the year ending March 2018, the majority (63%) of children remanded in custody at some point during court proceedings were not subsequently given a custodial sentence⁶⁴. This has remained broadly stable over the last five years, fluctuating between 63% and 66%.

Of the nearly 1,300 outcomes following a custodial remand, almost 350 (or 27%) were acquittals.

Of the 63% who did not receive a custodial outcome, over half (58%) received a non-custodial sentence and the remaining 42% were acquitted.

The proportion of those who were on custodial remand at some point during court proceedings who do not go on to get a custodial sentence varies by court type. Supplementary Table 6.5 shows that this ranged from 39% for those sentenced at the Crown Court to 78% at magistrates' courts.

This also varies by ethnicity. Supplementary Table 6.6 shows that the proportion of those on custodial remand who do not go on to get a custodial sentence varies from 57% for both Black and Asian children, 64% for White children, to 74% for Chinese and Other children.

⁶³ A ten year comparison is not available.

⁶⁴ Excluding those children who failed to appear and those who were committed by magistrates for trial or sentence at the Crown Court.

7. Children in youth custody

In the year ending March 2018:

- There was an average of just under 900 children in custody at any one time during the year. While the long-term trend shows large falls of 70% over the last ten years, there has been a slight increase of 3% in the latest year⁶⁵. This is the first year-on-year increase in the average monthly population since the year ending March 2008.
- The number of children held on remand has increased by 19% in the last year, and now makes up nearly a quarter (24%) of all children in youth custody.
- The proportion of children in youth custody from a Black background has been increasing, and now account for a quarter of the youth custody population⁶⁶.
- The majority (58%) of custodial episodes ended within three months (1 to 91 nights), a proportion which has remained broadly stable since the year ending March 2015. The median number of nights spent in youth custody per custodial episode was 87 nights which is a decrease from 90 nights in the previous year.

Description: Children (aged 10-17) in youth custody in England and Wales. To avoid disrupting their regimes, young people aged 18 may remain in the youth secure estate if they have only a short period of their sentence left to serve. Data on the total youth custody population including 18 year olds are available in the Supplementary Tables.

The average monthly custody population figures presented in the first part of this chapter are the average of 12 monthly snapshots of the custodial population in the secure estate for children, taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end.

Source: Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS), eAsset and the Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF)

Time period covered: Years ending March 2001 to 2018 (Children in youth custody)
Years ending March 2008 to 2008 (Further information on children in custody)
Years ending March 2015 to 2018 (Length of time spent in youth custody)

Supplementary Tables: Ch 7 – Children in youth custody

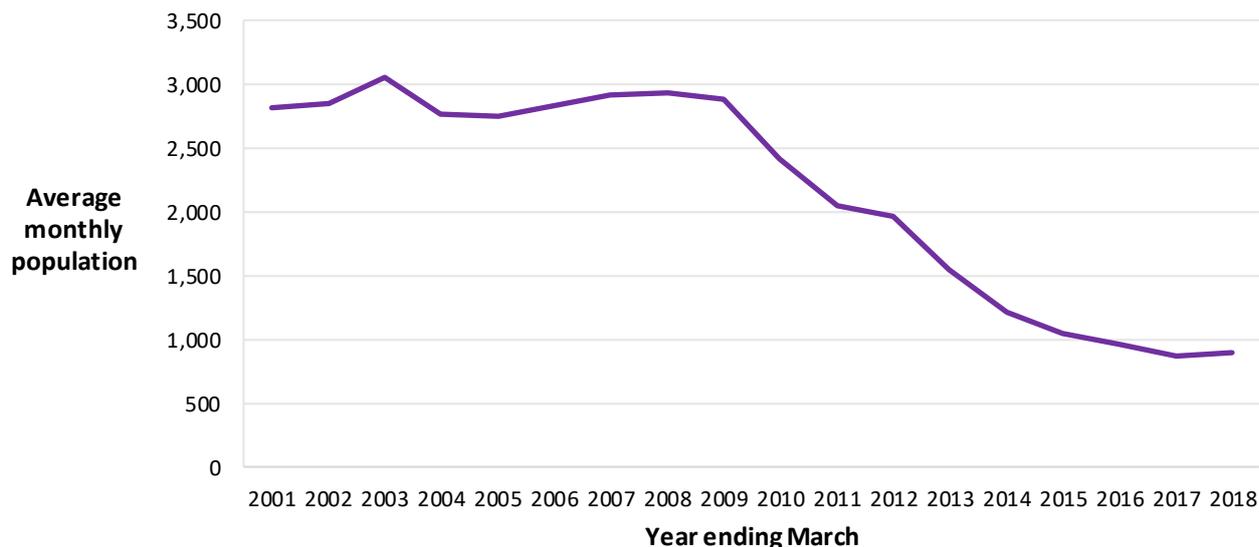
More information: [Youth Custody Data](#) (more up to date provisional data available), [Length of time spent in Youth Custody](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

⁶⁵ More up to date provisional data are published in the monthly [Youth Custody Data](#).

⁶⁶ Proportions are based on where ethnicity is known. In the year ending March 2018, the ethnicity was unknown for 1% of the youth custody population.

7.1 Average monthly youth custody population

Figure 7.1: Average monthly youth custody population, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2001 to 2018



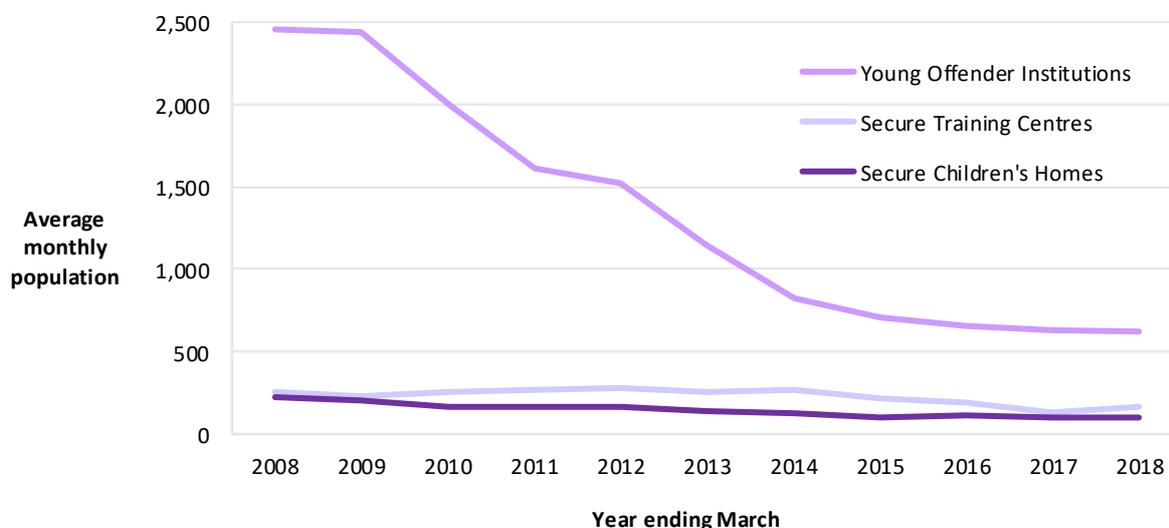
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.2

After falling for a number of years, the average monthly number of children in custody has risen slightly in the year ending March 2018. This is the first year-on-year increase seen since the year ending March 2008.

In the year ending March 2018, there was an average of just under 900 children in custody at any one time. This is a reduction of 70% from ten years ago, when there was an average of around 2,900 children in custody, however there has been an increase of 3% in the latest year.

7.2 Average monthly youth custody population by sector

Figure 7.2: Average monthly youth custody population by sector, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.3

The largest fall in the average monthly youth custody population has been seen in the number of children placed in Young Offender Institutions (YOI)⁶⁷, falling 75%. The average YOI population has remained broadly stable compared with the previous year and the majority (70%) of children in custody were placed in this sector.

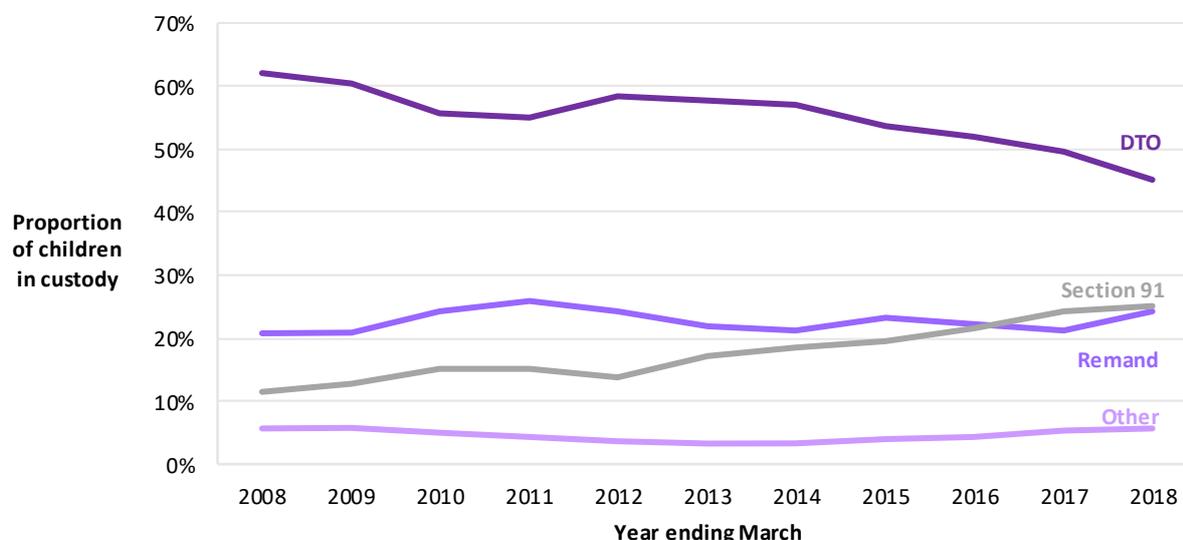
The average monthly population of Secure Children’s Homes (SCH) has also fallen over the last ten years, by 53% and has remained broadly stable compared with the previous year, accounting for 19% of the youth secure estate.

The population held in Secure Training Centres (STC) has also fallen over the long-term, decreasing by 34% over the last ten years. However, this was the only sector to see an increase in the last year (of 26%). Just under one fifth (19%) of all children in youth custody were held in a STC.

7.3 Legal basis for detention of children in custody

Information on the legal basis for detention relates to the most serious legal basis for which a child is placed in custody⁶⁸.

Figure 7.3: Average monthly youth custody population by legal basis for detention⁶⁹ as a proportion of the total, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.5

⁶⁷ Only males between the ages of 15 and 17 can be placed in a YOI in the youth secure estate. Since August 2013, females are not placed in YOIs in the youth secure estate, therefore females up to the age of 18 are held in SCHs and STCs.

⁶⁸ A child may have multiple custodial orders simultaneously; in this section legal basis refers to the most serious custodial order. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

⁶⁹ Other sentences include Section 226, Section 226B, Section 90 and those detained under civil matters. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

Figure 7.3 shows that less than half (45%) of the children in custody in the latest year were serving a Detention and Training Order (DTO)⁷⁰. A further 25% were serving a Section 91⁷¹ sentence and another 24% were on remand. The remaining 5% were serving other sentences^{72,73}.

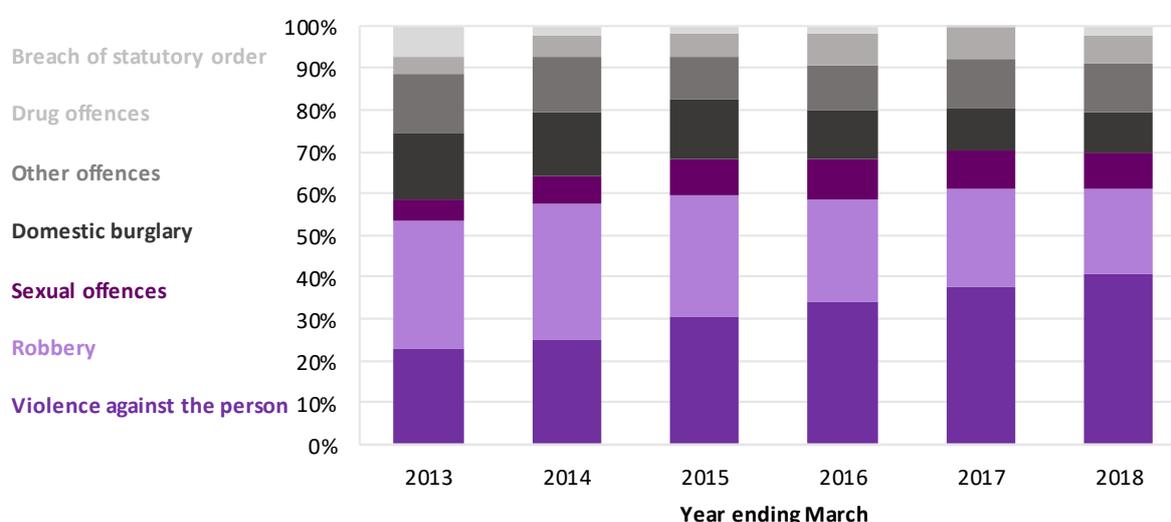
Whilst the number of children in custody has decreased for all legal basis types over the last ten years, the distributions of the proportions of these sentences has been changing:

- The proportion of children serving a DTO has remained the highest share, but has decreased from 62% to 45%.
- The proportion of those serving a Section 91 sentence has steadily increased from 11% to 25%.
- The proportion of those held on remand has increased slightly compared with ten years ago, from 21% to 24%. This proportion has fluctuated year-on-year, with the latest year showing the greatest increase compared with other legal basis types (up 3 percentage points).
- The proportion of children on Other sentences fell slightly, from 6% to 5%.

7.4 Offences resulting in children going into custody

Over the last five years⁷⁴, there has been a decline in the average number of children held for each offence group, except for violence against the person. This offence group increased by 2% compared with five years ago, with an 11% increase in the last year (Supplementary Table 7.6).

Figure 7.4: Proportion of children in custody by offence group, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.6

More serious offences include violence against the person, robbery and sexual offences. Whilst overall the proportion of children in custody for these more serious offences has increased from 59%

⁷⁰ DTOs are determinate custodial sentences which can last from four months to 24 months in length. A child spends the first half of the order in custody and the second half in the community on licence.

⁷¹ If a child is convicted of a certain serious offence other than murder for which an adult could receive at least 14 years in custody, they may be sentenced under Section 91 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

⁷² Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

⁷³ Other sentences include those serving Detention for Public Protection (section 226), Extended Determinate Sentence (section 226B), Detention at Her Majesty's Pleasure (section 90) and those detained under civil matters. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for full details.

⁷⁴ A ten year comparison is not available.

to 70% over the last five years, this is due to the increase in violence against the person offences, which now account for 41% of the youth custody population.

The proportion of children in custody for robbery meanwhile has decreased, from 31% to 21%. The proportion of those in custody for sexual offences has remained broadly stable over the last five years, fluctuating between 5% and 10%.

The proportion of children in custody for drug offences has increased slightly over the last five years, from 4% to 6%. All other crime types have reduced their share.

7.5 Demographics of children in custody

Figure 7.5: Demographics of the youth custody population compared to the general 10-17 population⁷⁵, England and Wales, year ending March 2018

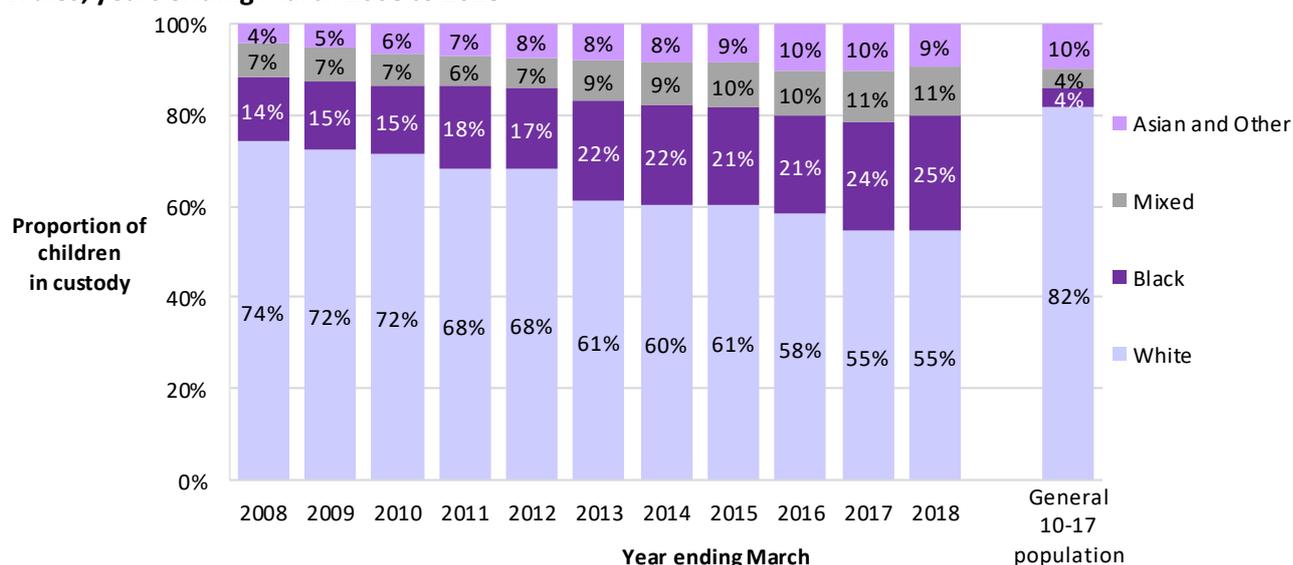
	Age Group		Gender	
	10-14	15-17	Male	Female
Youth custody population	5%	95%	96%	4%
10-17 population	63%	37%	51%	49%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.8

In the latest year, the majority of children in the youth secure estate were male (96%), which is broadly similar to the previous year and ten years ago.

Those aged 17 have made up at least half of the youth custody population in each of the last ten years, and accounted for 53% in the latest year (Supplementary Table 7.9).

Figure 7.6: Proportion of children in custody by ethnicity, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018^{76,77,78,79}



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.10

⁷⁵ For age and gender, population is based on 2017 mid-year estimates.

⁷⁶ Proportions are calculated where ethnicity is known. The ethnicity was unknown for 1% of the custodial population in the year ending March 2018.

⁷⁷ Ethnicity data are self-reported.

⁷⁸ For ethnicity, population is based on the 2011 census. The ethnic breakdown of the population will likely have changed from 2011, so these figures should be treated as an estimate.

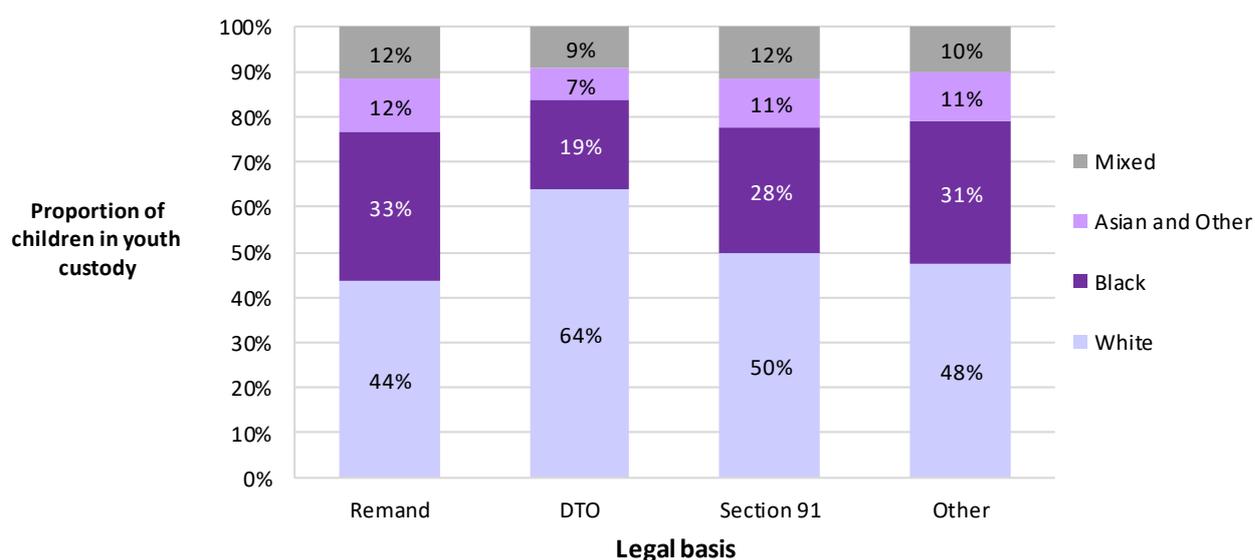
⁷⁹ See [Exploratory analysis of the youth secure estate by BAME groups](#) and [Trends in a associations between ethnic background and beings sentenced to custody for young offenders in England and Wales](#) for more information.

While all ethnic groups have seen a decrease in the average custody population over the last ten years, they have been falling at different rates which has led to a change in the proportion each ethnic group comprises.

Figure 7.6 shows that over the last ten years:

- The proportion of White children in youth custody has been falling, from 74% to 55%.
- The proportion of children from a Black ethnic background has increased the most, and now accounts for a quarter of the youth custody population.
- Children from Mixed or Asian and Other ethnic backgrounds have also increased in proportion, to 11% and 9% respectively.

Figure 7.7: Proportion of children in custody by ethnicity and legal basis for detention, youth secure estate in England and Wales, year ending March 2018⁸⁰



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.12

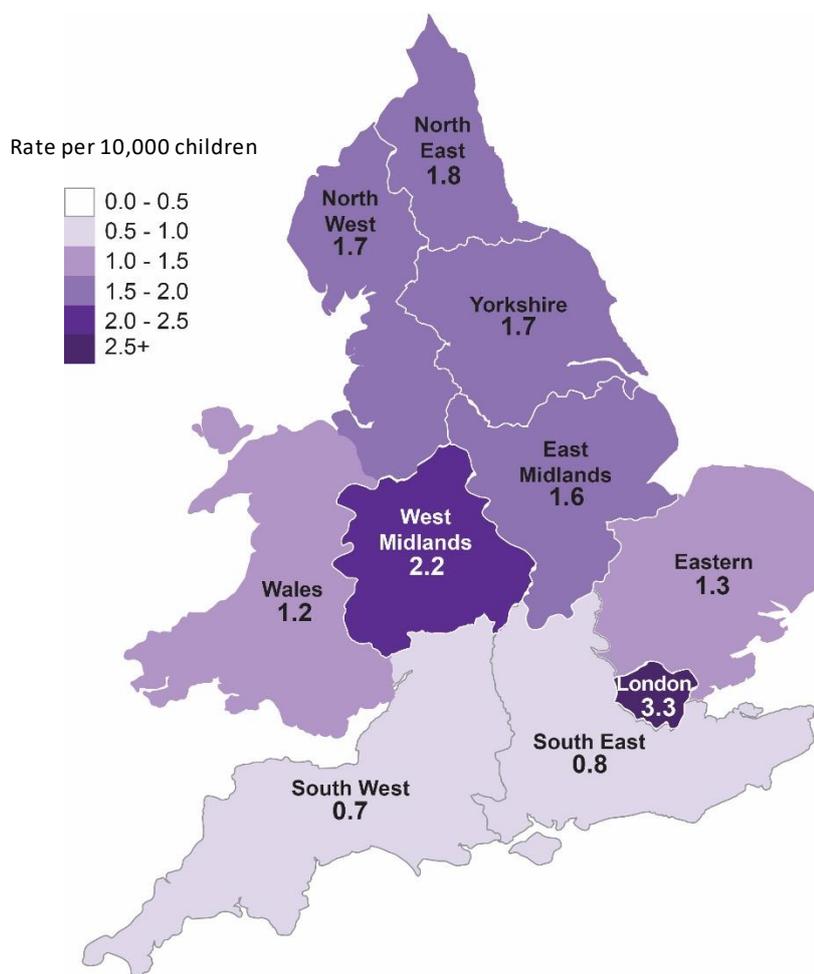
Supplementary Table 7.13 shows that the proportions each ethnicity make up by legal basis has been changing over the last ten years:

- The proportion of White children held on each legal basis has fallen.
- Black children have seen the greatest proportion increases in each legal basis. This is most noticeable for those held on remand, where Black children now account for a third (up from 22% ten years ago), and Other legal basis, where the proportion has more than doubled from 15% to 31% over the same period.

⁸⁰ Proportions are based on where ethnicity is known. The ethnicity was unknown for 1% of the population in the year ending March 2018.

7.6 Region of home YOT and distance from home for children in custody

Figure 7.8: Rate of children in custody per 10,000 of the general 10-17 population⁸¹, by region of Youth Offending Team (YOT)⁸², England and Wales, year ending March 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.16

Figure 7.8 shows that in the year ending March 2018, London YOTs had the highest rate of children in youth custody at 3.3 per 10,000 of the general 10-17 population. YOT regions in the Midlands and the north of England had higher rates than the South East and South West of England. While children whose home YOT is in the North East make up just 5% of the average custody population, the rate of children in custody from this region is one of the highest, at 1.8 per 10,000 of the general 10-17 population (Supplementary Table 7.16).

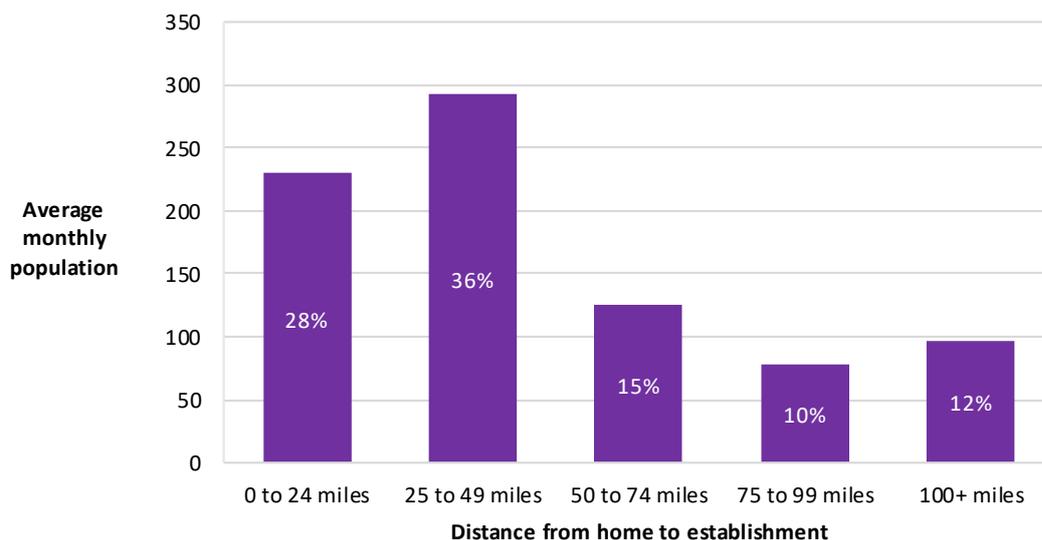
For children in the secure estate, the distance between their home address and the secure establishment they are placed in can vary (see Figure 7.9). It is not always possible to place children in an establishment close to their home as placement decisions are determined by a number of factors, including the risks and needs of the individual child and available capacity at establishments⁸³.

⁸¹ The population is based on the ONS 2017 mid-year estimates.

⁸² This does not include any children whose home YOT was unknown. In the year ending March 2018 the home YOT was unknown for less than 0.1% of the average monthly custody population.

⁸³ See [The Youth Custody Service Placement Team: Overview of operational procedures](#) for further information on how placement decisions are made.

Figure 7.9: Number and proportion of children in custody by distance from home, England and Wales, year ending March 2018^{84,85,86,87,88}



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.7

As Figure 7.9 shows, while the majority (63%) of children in custody were in an establishment less than 50 miles from their home address, 12% were placed in an establishment 100 miles or more from their home.

⁸⁴ See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for information on establishments in the youth secure estate and their location.

⁸⁵ Distance is measured in miles, and is the direct geographical distance between the child's home to establishment.

⁸⁶ Proportions are based on where distance was known. In the year ending March 2018, the distance from home band was unknown for 8% of children in the youth secure estate.

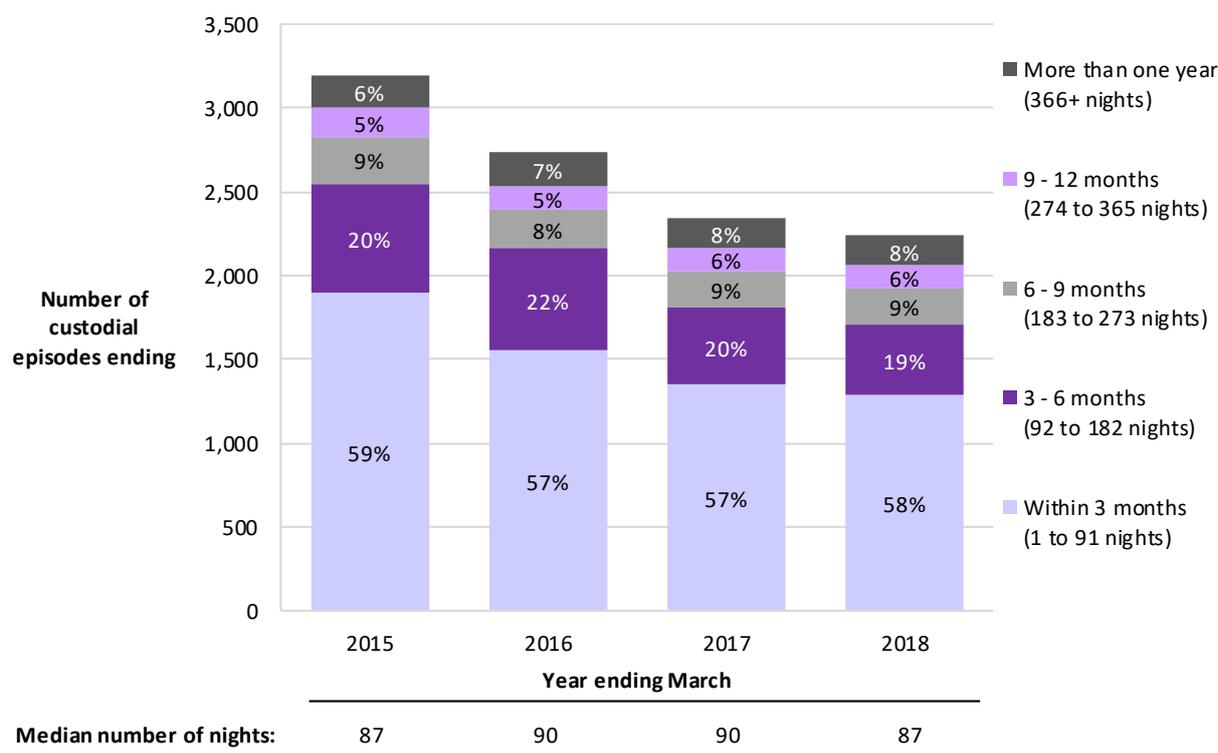
⁸⁷ Data are only available for the year ending March 2018.

⁸⁸ Proportions may not sum due to rounding.

Length of time spent in youth custody^{89,90}

7.8 Custodial episodes ending by nights spent in the youth secure estate

Figure 7.10: Number and proportion⁹¹ of custodial episodes ending by nights spent in the youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.24a

In the year ending March 2018, just over 2,200 custodial episodes ended. The majority (58%) ended within three months (1 to 91 nights). While the number of custodial episodes ending within three months has been decreasing each year, the proportion has remained broadly similar since the year ending March 2015. In the latest year, just under 180 custodial episodes lasted more than one year (366 nights or more). This has fallen slightly compared with the previous year, however its proportion has remained the same (8%).

The median number of nights spent in youth custody per custodial episode was 87 nights in the latest year. This is a decrease of three nights compared with the previous year and is now the same as the year ending March 2015.

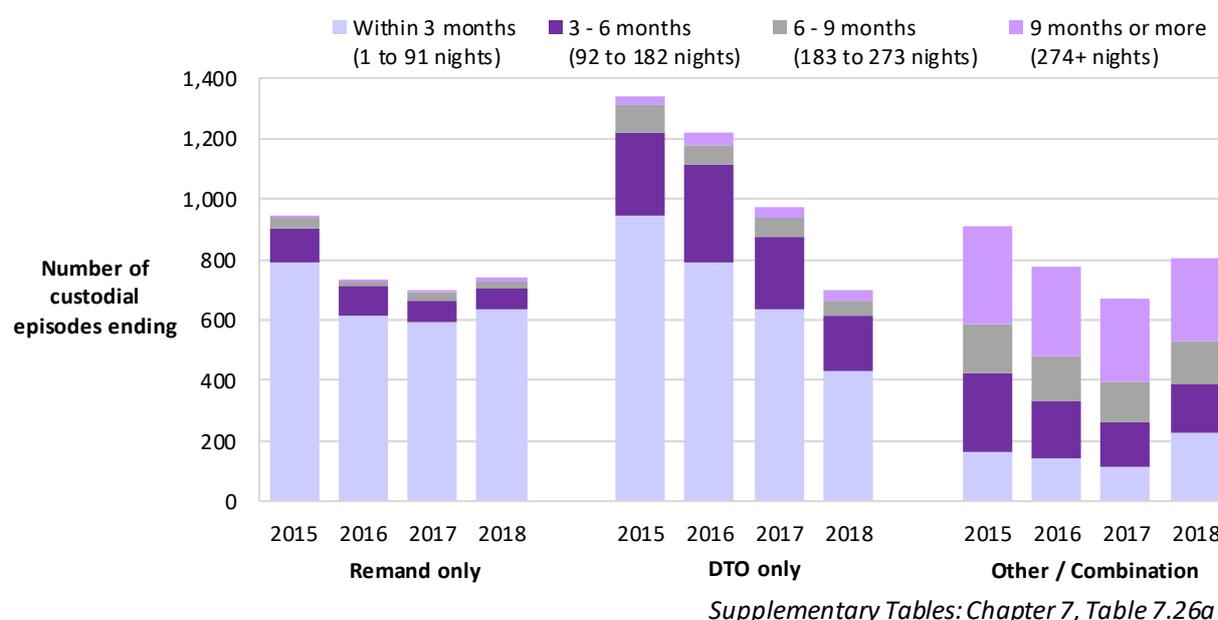
⁸⁹ See [Length of time spent in youth custody](#) for the previous one-off publication, published in April 2018.

⁹⁰ Data are only available from the year ending March 2015 onwards due to a change in database and methodology. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

⁹¹ Proportions may not sum due to rounding.

7.9 Custodial episodes ending by nights spent in the youth secure estate and custodial order type

Figure 7.11: Number of custodial episodes ending by nights spent in youth custody and custodial order type, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2018



In the latest year, the proportion of custodial episodes ending by each custodial order type was more evenly distributed in the latest year than it had been in previous years (Supplementary Table 7.21).

For those held on Remand only⁹², the majority of episodes (86%) ended within three months. This proportion has increased by 1 percentage point in each of the last three years. Of all the Remand only custodial episodes that ended within three months, just over a third (34%, just over 210 episodes) ended within seven nights. This is an increase from 31% in the previous year and is now the same proportion as in the year ending March 2015.

For those held on a Detention and Training Order (DTO) only⁹³, most episodes (62%) ended within three months, however this proportion has fallen compared with both the previous year and the year ending March 2015.

For those held on an Other / Combination⁹⁴ legal basis, more of these episodes are ending within three months than previous years, however the majority still end after six months or more (51%). This legal basis includes long term sentences, which explains the longer number of nights seen per custodial episode.

⁹² Remand only refers to custodial episodes where the child had only received remand custodial order/s.

⁹³ DTO only refers to custodial episodes where the child had only received DTO custodial order/s. This does not include any DTO recalls.

⁹⁴ Other / Combination refers to custodial episodes where the child had received a combination of orders (for example remand and DTO) and/or where the child had received one of the following custodial orders; All Recalls, Section 90, Section 91, Section 226, Section 226b, Section 228 or a Breach of Gang Injunction (a civil tool).

7.10 Custodial episodes ending by nights spent in the youth secure estate and ethnicity⁹⁵

In the latest year, the number of custodial episodes ending has fallen for both White and Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)⁹⁶ children, to around 1,300 and 930 respectively.

Figure 7.12: Proportion of custodial episodes ending by nights spent and ethnicity, youth secure estate in England and Wales, year ending March 2018

	Number of nights					Total
	1 – 91	92 – 182	183 – 273	274 – 365	366+	
BAME	57%	17%	9%	6%	11%	100%
White	57%	20%	10%	7%	6%	100%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.25a

As shown in Figure 7.12, the majority of custodial episodes ended within three months (1 to 91 nights) for both BAME and White children. In previous years, the proportion of custodial episodes ending within three months had been consistently slightly higher for White children than BAME children, however the proportions are now equal (Supplementary Table 7.25a).

The proportion of custodial episodes that lasted more than one year (366 nights or more) has been higher for BAME children than White children in each of the last four years. In the latest year, 11% of custodial episodes lasted at least one year for BAME children, compared to 6% for White children.

Supplementary Table 7.25a shows that for the first time since the time series began, White children had a higher median number of nights per custodial episode (88) than BAME children (85). In previous years the median number had been broadly similar, except for the year ending March 2015, when the median number of nights for those from a BAME background was 90, compared with 83 for those from a White background.

⁹⁵ Proportions calculated where ethnicity is known. In the year ending March 2018, ethnicity was unknown for 1% of all custodial episodes ending.

⁹⁶ Due to small numbers it is not possible to split these data by individual ethnicity.

8. Behaviour management in the youth secure estate

In the year ending March 2018:

- There has been an increase across all behaviour management measures in the youth secure estate compared with the previous year.
 - The number of self harm incidents has seen the largest increase of the measures, increasing by 40% in the last year to just under 1,800 incidents. This is the highest number of self harm incidents seen in the last five years. There was an increase of nearly 200 injuries that required medical treatment because of self harm (to 535).
 - The number of proven assaults has increased by 29% in the last year to just over 3,500 incidents, which is the highest number of proven assaults seen in the last five years.
 - There were around 5,400 Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPIs), up by 20% compared with the previous year, which is the largest year-on-year increase seen over the last five years.
 - There were nearly 6,600 use of force incidents across the eight Secure Training Centres and Young Offender Institutions. This is an average of 52.4 incidents per 100 children and young people per month.
 - Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR) techniques were applied in just under 4,200 incidents (64% of all use of force incidents).
-

Description: Information on behaviour management and use of force in the youth secure estate⁹⁷.

Source: Bespoke returns submitted to the Youth Justice Board from establishments

Time period covered: Years ending March 2013 to March 2018 (Behaviour management data)⁹⁸
Year ending March 2018 (Use of force data)⁹⁹

Supplementary Tables: Ch 8 – Behaviour management in the youth secure estate

More information: [Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint: safeguarding processes, governance arrangements and roles and responsibilities](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

This chapter covers all children and young people in the youth secure estate, which includes some 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate for a short time¹⁰⁰.

Due to the way the data are collected it is not possible to link incidents to individual children or young people, therefore, a distribution of incidents per child and young person (in other words how many people were involved in any one incident) cannot be provided.

The custodial population used in this chapter is based on the number of children and young people in custody on the 1st of each month plus any new admissions during the month¹⁰¹.

⁹⁷ See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for definitions of each behaviour management measure.

⁹⁸ A ten year comparison is not available. Data from the year ending March 2012 onwards are available in the accompanying Supplementary Tables.

⁹⁹ Due to the staggered roll-out of MMPR in establishments, no trend data are yet available due to establishments implementing MMPR at different times in the year. Where possible, annual averages from the year ending March 2016 have been included in the Supplementary Tables for individual establishments.

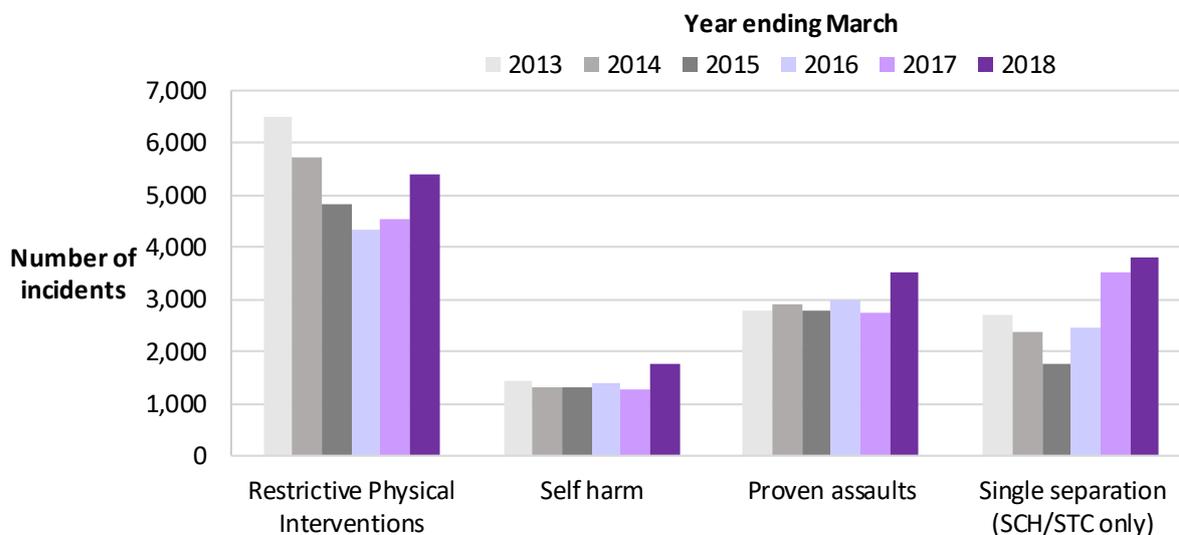
¹⁰⁰ To avoid disrupting their regimes, young people aged 18 may remain in the youth secure estate if they have only a short period of their sentence left to serve.

¹⁰¹ This methodology is different to the adult estate and therefore comparisons in rates should not be made.

The small number of females and those aged 10-14 in the youth secure estate should be considered when comparing trends and rates over time, and making comparisons between groups.

8.1 Trends in the number of behaviour management incidents in the youth secure estate

Figure 8.1: Trend in the number of behaviour management incidents, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.2

Figure 8.1 shows that in the year ending March 2018 incidents across all behaviour management measures increased in the youth secure estate compared with the previous year.

Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPIs)

In the year ending March 2018, there were around 5,400 RPIs, up 20% compared with the previous year, which is the largest year-on-year increase seen over the last five years. While the number of RPIs in the latest year is still lower than five years ago, the number of these incidents has been increasing over the last couple of years.

Self harm

The number of self harm incidents has seen the greatest increase compared to other behaviour management measures in the latest year, increasing by 40% to nearly 1,800 incidents which is the highest number of incidents seen in the last five years.

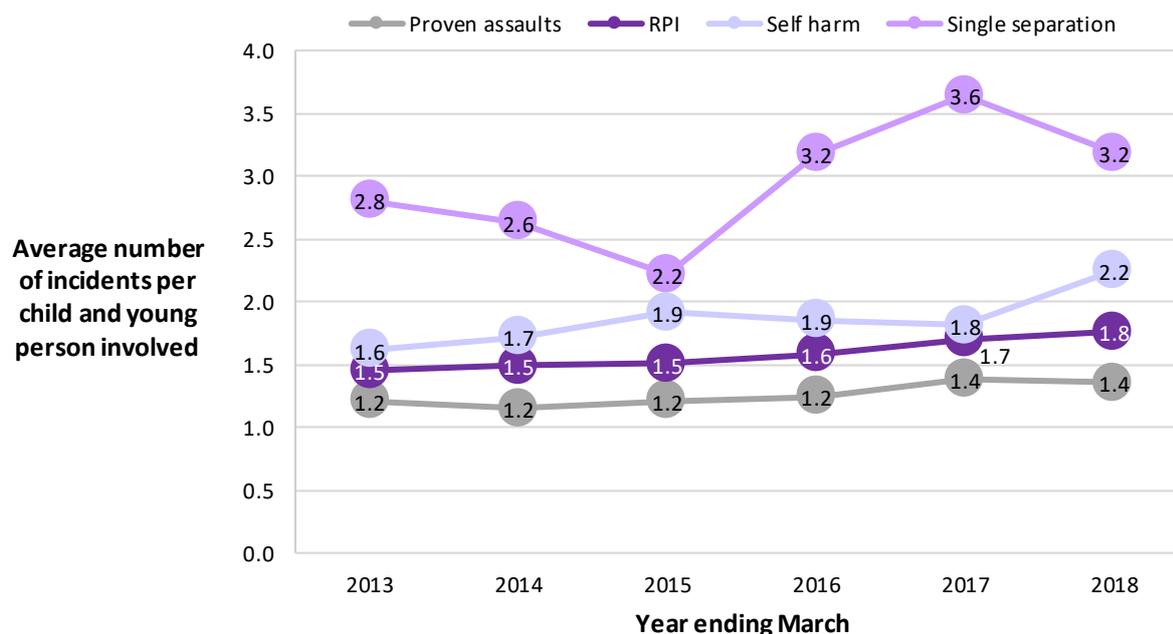
Proven assaults

There were around 3,500 proven assaults by children and young people in the year ending March 2018. This number has fluctuated each year and the latest year was the largest year-on-year increase in the last five years.

Single separation

There were around 3,800 single separation incidents in Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) and Secure Training Centres (STCs) in the year ending March 2018. This continues the upward trend in the number of single separation incidents since the year ending March 2016 and is now the highest number of incidents in the last five years.

Figure 8.2: Average number of incidents per child and young person involved, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.3

Figure 8.2 shows there have been changes in the average number of incidents per child and young person involved in each behaviour management measure per month. Over the last five years:

- The average number of single separation incidents per child and young person has fluctuated year-on-year, with the most recent year showing a fall.
- The average number of self harm incidents per child and young person involved increased in the latest year after being largely stable for the previous three years.
- The average number of RPI incidents per child and young person has continued to gradually increase.
- The average number of proven assaults per child and young person involved has been broadly flat, although it is now slightly higher than in the last couple of years.

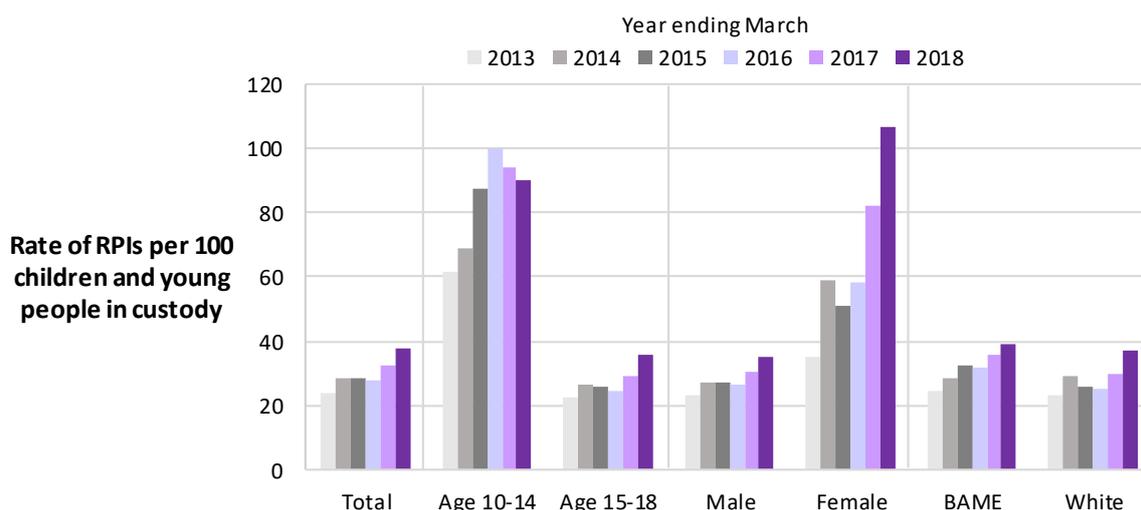
8.2 Use of Restrictive Physical Intervention in the youth secure estate

A Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) is any occasion in which force is used to overpower or with the intention of overpowering a child or young person¹⁰². RPIs should only be used on children and young people as a last resort, for example to prevent them causing harm to themselves or others.

As seen in Section 8.1 the number of RPIs has been increasing over the last two years, and the rate of RPIs per 100 children and young people in custody has followed the same trend. In the latest year, the rate of RPIs per 100 children and young people in custody was 37.9, an increase from the previous year (32.1) and is the highest rate in the last five years.

¹⁰² Overpower is restricting movement or mobility.

Figure 8.3: Rate of RPIs per 100 children and young people in custody by demographic characteristics^{103,104,105}, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.6

Figure 8.3 shows that in the year ending March 2018 the rate of RPIs per 100 children and young people in custody was higher for:

- Those aged 10-14 (at 90.0 compared to 35.5 for those aged 15-18);
- Females (at 106.6 compared to 35.3 for males); and
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) children and young people (at 39.4 compared to 37.0 for White children and young people). The rate for BAME children and young people has been following a general upward trend, whereas the rate for White children and young people had been fluctuating year-on-year before a larger increase in the latest year.

Figure 8.4: The number of injuries requiring medical treatment to children or young people by severity of injury resulting from an RPI, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018¹⁰⁶

Severity of RPI injury requiring medical treatment	Year ending March					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 ¹⁰⁶	201 ¹⁰⁶
Minor injury requiring medical treatment on site	150	131	105	84	92	76
Serious injury requiring hospital treatment	10	3	4	3	8	2
Total injuries requiring medical treatment	160	134	109	87	100	78

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.8

In the year ending March 2018, 1% of all RPIs resulted in injuries which required medical treatment. This proportion is a small decrease on the 2% seen in each of the previous five years (Supplementary Table 8.7).

¹⁰³ Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

¹⁰⁴ RPI data from bespoke returns are based on self-reported ethnicity.

¹⁰⁵ The small population of females and those aged 10-14 in the youth secure estate should be considered when comparing trends and rates over time, and making comparisons between groups.

¹⁰⁶ From the year ending March 2017 onwards there were some small changes to the counting rules for RPI incidents requiring medical treatment. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

As shown in Figure 8.4, there were 78 RPIs that resulted in an injury requiring medical treatment, of which:

- The vast majority (97%) were minor injuries requiring medical treatment on site; and
- 3% (two incidents) were serious injuries requiring hospital treatment.

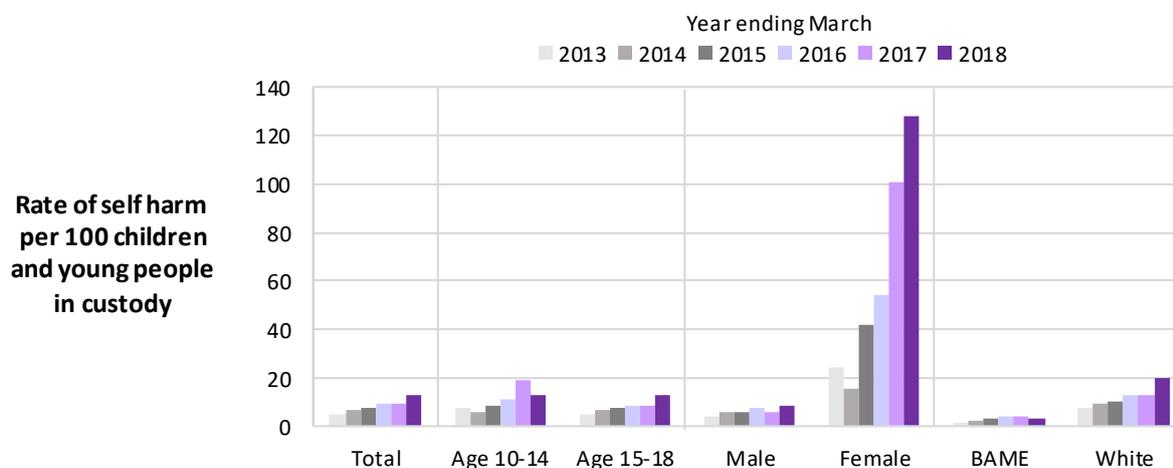
The number of injuries requiring medical treatment due to an RPI had been steadily decreasing to the year ending March 2016, when it fell to 87 injuries. The number then saw its first year-on-year increase in the year ending March 2017 but has fallen again in the latest year, by 22% to 78 injuries requiring medical treatment (Supplementary Table 8.7).

8.3 Self harm in the youth secure estate

Self harm in custody is any act by which a child or young person deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent or severity of any injury.

While Section 8.1 shows the number of self harm incidents have seen a marked increase only in the latest year, the rate of self harm incidents per 100 children and young people in custody has been increasing over the last five years. In the latest year, there were 12.5 self harm incidents per 100 children and young people in custody, up from 9.0 in the previous year and over double the rate five years ago (5.2).

Figure 8.5: Rate of self harm incidents per 100 children and young people in custody by demographic characteristics^{107,108,109}, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.11

Looking at the demographic characteristics of the children and young people involved in self harm incidents (Figure 8.5), in the year ending March 2018 the rate of self harm per 100 children and young people in custody was higher for:

- Females, who had a much higher rate than males (at 128.2, compared to 8.1 for males);
- Those aged 10-14 (at 13.2, compared to 12.4 for 15- 18 year olds);
- White children and young people (at 19.8, compared to 3.4 for BAME children and young people), who have consistently had a higher rate over the last five years.

¹⁰⁷ Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

¹⁰⁸ Self harm data from bespoke returns are based on self-reported ethnicity.

¹⁰⁹ The small population of females and those aged 10-14 in the youth secure estate should be considered when comparing trends and rates over time, and making comparisons between groups.

Figure 8.6: The number of injuries requiring medical treatment to children and young people by severity of injury as a result of self harm, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018¹¹⁰

Severity of self harm injury requiring medical treatment	Year ending March					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 ¹¹⁰	2018 ¹¹⁰
Minor injury requiring medical treatment on site	247	168	146	178	319	501
Serious injury requiring hospital treatment	9	13	22	15	19	34
Total injuries requiring medical treatment	256	181	168	193	338	535

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.13

In the year ending March 2018, just under a third (30%) of self harm incidents resulted in injuries which required medical treatment (Supplementary Table 8.12). This is the highest proportion there has been in the last five years.

As shown in Figure 8.6, in the year ending March 2018 there were 535 incidents of self harm that resulted in an injury requiring medical treatment, of which:

- 94% were minor injuries requiring medical treatment on site; and
- 6% required hospital treatment.

There has been a large increase (58%) in the number of injuries requiring medical treatment to children and young people following a self harm incident compared with the previous year. Secure Training Centres have seen the largest increase during this time, increasing by over four times from 29 to 160 injuries requiring medical treatment (Supplementary Table 8.12). This sector has also seen a noticeable increase in the number and rate of self harm incidents (Supplementary Table 8.9).

8.4 Proven assaults in the youth secure estate¹¹¹

Proven assaults are the intentional use of unnecessary force by a child or young person that results in physical contact with the victim.

The victim of an assault can be either another child or young person¹¹², a staff member or a visitor.

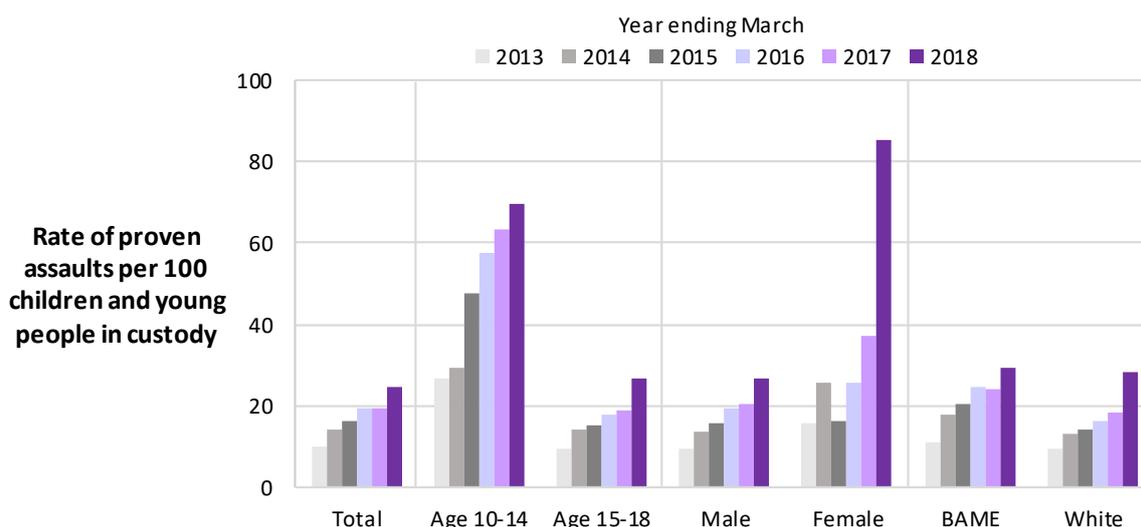
While the number of proven assaults has been fluctuating (Section 8.1), the rate per 100 children and young people has shown year-on-year increases over the last five years. In the year ending March 2018, there were 24.7 proven assaults per 100 children and young people in custody. This is a large increase compared with both the previous year (19.5), and the year ending March 2013 (10.2).

¹¹⁰ From the year ending March 2017 onwards there were some small changes to the counting rules for self harm incidents requiring medical treatment. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

¹¹¹ In April 2017 the counting rules for assaults were updated to try to improve accuracy and better align the data between the different sectors in the youth secure estate. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

¹¹² For the year ending March 2018 onwards this includes where the victim was a Welfare placement in a SCH. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

Figure 8.7: Rate of proven assaults per 100 children and young people in custody by demographic characteristics^{113,114,115,116}, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.16

Looking at the demographic characteristics of the children and young people committing proven assaults (Figure 8.7), in the year ending March 2018 the rates per 100 children and young people were higher for:

- Those aged 10-14 (at 69.5, compared to 26.7 for those aged 15 – 18 years old);
- Females (at 85.1, compared to 26.5 for males); and
- BAME children and young people (at 29.5, compared to 28.1 for White children and young people), although the rate for White children and young people has seen a large increase in the latest year, and the difference in rate between the two ethnic groups is now much smaller than in previous years.

Supplementary Table 8.17 shows that in the year ending March 2018:

- All sectors saw an increase in the number of victims.
- Most victims of a proven assault were another child or young person (57%). The remaining 43% of victims were a staff member or a visitor.
- These proportions are the same as the previous year, but they have changed compared with five years ago when a higher proportion of victims were another child or young person (72%), and a smaller proportion were a staff member or visitor (28%).

¹¹³ Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

¹¹⁴ Assaults data from bespoke returns are based on self-reported ethnicity.

¹¹⁵ Demographics are based on the perpetrators of the assaults.

¹¹⁶ The small population of females and those aged 10-14 in the youth secure estate should be considered when comparing trends and rates over time, and making comparisons between groups.

Figure 8.8: The number of injuries requiring medical treatment to children and young people by severity of injury resulting from a proven assault by a child or young person, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018^{117,118}

Severity of proven assault injury requiring medical treatment	Year ending March					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 ¹¹⁸	2018 ¹¹⁸
Minor injury requiring medical treatment on site	223	167	175	154	197	239
Serious injury requiring hospital treatment	46	28	31	27	30	21
Total injuries requiring medical treatment	269	195	206	181	227	260

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.19

In the year ending March 2018, 7% of all proven assaults by children and young people resulted in injuries which required medical treatment. This proportion has fluctuated between 6% and 10% since the year ending March 2013 (Supplementary Table 8.18).

As shown in Figure 8.8, there were 260 injuries requiring medical treatment because of a proven assault by children and young people, of which:

- 92% were minor injuries requiring medical treatment on site; and
- 8% were serious injuries requiring hospital treatment.

The number of injuries requiring medical treatment has increased by 15% in the last year, driven by increases in minor injuries requiring medical treatment on site.

8.5 Single separation in SCHs and STCs¹¹⁹

Single separation refers to the confining of a child or young person in an area as a means of control, without the child or young person's permission or agreement. A member of staff is not present and the door is locked to prevent exit. The data in this section refer only to Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) and Secure Training Centres (STCs).

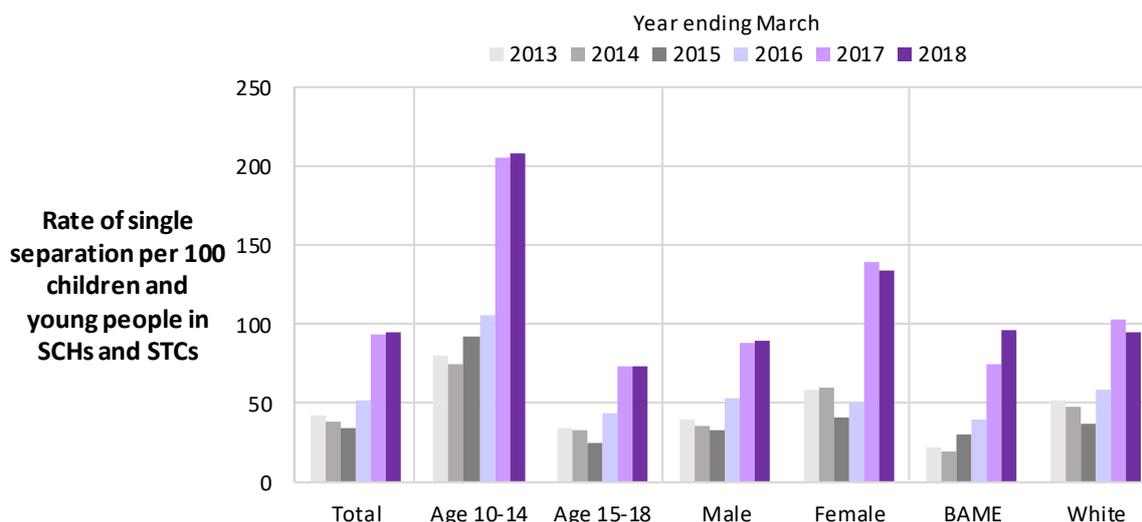
The rate of single separation incidents per 100 children and young people follows a similar trend to the number of incidents (Section 8.1), and has been increasing from the year ending March 2016 having previously seen falls. In the latest year, the rate was 94.9 per 100 children and young people. While this is only a small increase from the previous year (93.9), it is over double the rate in the year ending March 2013 (42.7).

¹¹⁷ These data include all injuries requiring medical treatment and may therefore include the perpetrators as well as victims.

¹¹⁸ From the year ending March 2017 onwards there were some small changes to the counting rules for assault incidents requiring medical treatment. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

¹¹⁹ Data are only published for SCHs and STCs. Comparable data are not held for public YOIs.

Figure 8.9: Rate of single separation incidents per 100 children and young people in custody by demographic characteristics^{120,121,122}, SCHs and STCs in England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.22

Figure 8.9 shows that in the year ending March 2018 rates were higher for:

- Those aged 10-14 (who had a much higher rate of 207.7 compared to 73.7 for those aged 15-18);
- BAME children and young people, for the first time in the last five years (95.9 compared to 94.7 for those from a White background), with both ethnic groups seeing large increases in the last couple of years; and
- Females (134.2 compared to 89.1 for males).

8.6 Use of force incidents in STCs and YOIs

Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR) is a behaviour management and restraint system that has been developed specifically for staff working with children or young people in STCs and under-18 YOIs. MMPR puts considerable emphasis on using appropriate de-escalation and deceleration techniques (non-physical interventions) to ensure that force is only ever used as a last resort, when no other intervention is possible or appropriate. Within MMPR, any physical intervention is counted as a ‘use of force’, unlike the RPI system which only counts those physical interventions deemed restrictive¹²³.

¹²⁰ Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

¹²¹ The small population of females and those aged 10-14 in the youth secure estate should be considered when comparing trends and rates over time, and making comparisons between groups.

¹²² Single separation data from bespoke returns are based on self-reported ethnicity.

¹²³ Owing to the different definitions of Use of force, MMPR and RPI a particular use of force may be classed as MMPR, RPI, both MMPR and RPI, or neither (see Diagram 1).

Diagram 1: Relationship between Use of Force, MMRP and RPI



Diagram 1 (not drawn to scale) is a schematic representation of a complex issue: it is illustrative only. For more details, see the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#). Sections 8.6 to 8.9 of this chapter refer to all use of force techniques highlighted by the bold outline in the diagram.

The YJB started collecting MMRP data from March 2013 and by the end of March 2018 MMRP techniques had been implemented in all three STCs and all five under-18 YOIs¹²⁴. This section covers the whole of the year ending March 2018 for seven of the eight secure establishments, and a nine month period for Parc YOI^{125,126}. It is therefore important to note that the number of months on which annual averages are based varies according to the month that each establishment started using MMRP.

Comparisons with previous years should be avoided as the different start dates in establishments mean that figures in each year cover different establishments with separate regimes. For instance, figures for the year ending March 2015, cover all three STCs then open but only two YOIs (Hindley and Wetherby). By March 2018 data cover the same three STCs but also all five under 18 YOIs then open.

8.7 Characteristics of use of force incidents in STCs and YOIs

There were nearly 6,600 use of force¹²⁷ incidents in STCs and YOIs in the year ending March 2018. This is an average of just under 550 incidents per month, and a rate of 52.4 incidents per 100 children and young people in STCs and YOIs per month (Supplementary Table 8.23).

In the year ending March 2018, MMRP techniques were involved in 64% of all use of force incidents, an average of nearly 350 MMRP incidents per month (Supplementary Table 8.27). The remaining 36% of use of force incidents did not involve any MMRP techniques.

In the year ending March 2018, the highest level technique^{128,129} recorded in each MMRP incident was:

- High level used for 47% of all MMRP incidents,
- Medium level for 27% of all MMRP incidents,

¹²⁴ See Annex B in the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for details of the establishments using MMRP and the dates when they started using it.

¹²⁵ Owing to the staggered roll-out of MMRP no comparisons can be drawn from trend data due to establishments going live with MMRP at different points since 2013.

¹²⁶ July 2017 to March 2018.

¹²⁷ All uses of MMRP or RPI must be counted as a use of force: It is not possible for either a use of MMRP or an RPI to be not classed as a use of force, although it is possible for a use of force to be neither MMRP or RPI.

¹²⁸ More than one technique may be used in a single incident and each technique may be used more than once in a single incident. This section only counts the highest level technique used in an incident, whereas Supplementary Table 8.28 provides a breakdown of all techniques used.

¹²⁹ See Supplementary Table 8.27 for data on the highest level technique used in MMRP incidents.

- Low level for 21% of all MMPR incidents, and
- Pain inducing¹³⁰ for 4% of all MMPR incidents¹³¹.

Supplementary Table 8.24 shows that the most common reason given for use of force being applied was “preventing harm to a third party” (89% of use of force incidents)¹³². Just over a quarter of incidents had preventing the child or young person harming themselves given as a reason for the use of force.

The majority (60%) of use of force incidents in STCs and YOIs lasted for two minutes or less. A further 29% lasted between three and five minutes. The remaining 11% of incidents lasted for six minutes or more. Handcuffs were used in 14% of incidents (just under 900) (Supplementary Table 8.24).

8.8 Use of force incidents involving injuries requiring medical treatment

There were 61 occasions on which children and young people required medical treatment for an injury following the use of force (1% of all incidents). Of these, 57 injuries were minor injuries requiring medical treatment on site and four were serious injuries requiring hospital treatment.

Establishments are also required to record a number of warning signs and symptoms which are not in themselves injuries but may be indicative of an underlying medical condition, which in turn may be related to the use of force¹³³. These are included in the use of force data return¹³⁴. Warning signs were observed on just over 200 occasions¹³⁵ during the year ending March 2018 (Supplementary Table 8.26).

8.9 Demographic characteristics of children and young people involved in use of force incidents

Care should be taken when making comparisons involving females or those aged 10-14 years old as these groups make up a very small proportion of the youth custodial population, and as such a small number of incidents can have a large effect on rates.

¹³⁰ The use of pain inducing techniques for the under -18 secure estate must be restricted to circumstances where it is necessary to protect a child, young person, or others from an immediate risk of serious physical harm.

¹³¹ Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

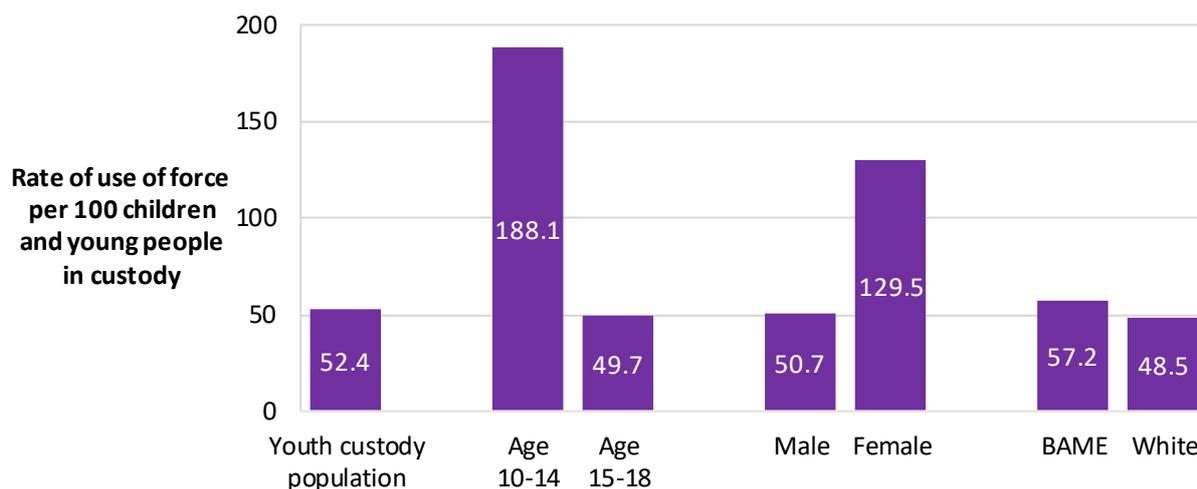
¹³² There may be more than one reason for restraint in a single incident.

¹³³ These include: Lost or reduced consciousness, abruptly/unexpectedly stopped struggling or suddenly calmed down, blueness of lips/fingernails/ear lobes (cyanosis), tiny pin point red dots seen on the skin (upper chest, neck, face, eye lids), difficulty breathing, complaints of feeling sick, vomiting, and complaints of difficulty breathing.

¹³⁴ Detailed reports on each such occasion are sent to directly to the MMPR National Team within Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) as part of the Serious Injuries and Warning Signs (SIWS) process.

¹³⁵ More than one medical warning sign may be observed during a single incident: At least one warning sign was observed during 180 use of force incidents, making up 3% of the total incidents recorded.

Figure 8.10: Rate of use of force incidents per 100 children and young people in custody by demographics^{136,137}, STCs and YOIs in England and Wales, year ending March 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.25

In the year ending March 2018, the rate of use of force per 100 children and young people in custody was higher for:

- Those aged 10-14 years (at 188.1 compared to 49.7 for 15-18 year olds);
- Females (at 129.5 compared to 50.7 for males); and
- BAME children and young people (57.2 compared to 48.5 for White children and young people).

¹³⁶ Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

¹³⁷ Use of force data are based on self-reported ethnicity.

9. Proven reoffending by children and young people

For the year ending March 2017 aggregated cohort ¹³⁸:

- The annual aggregated cohort was made up of around 33,400 children and young people^{139,140} of which 40.9% reoffended within 12 months. Whilst there was a decrease of 1.3 percentage points in the last year, the reoffending rate is still higher than ten years ago (when it was 38.1%).
- The long term falls in the number of offenders, reoffenders and reoffences has continued. The number of offenders in the annually aggregated cohort has fallen by 84% over the last ten years, the number of reoffenders has fallen by 83% and the number of reoffences being committed has dropped by 79%.
- Children and young people who reoffended committed around 53,600 reoffences giving an average of 3.92 reoffences per reoffender (frequency rate). This is the highest frequency rate seen in the last ten years.

Description: Proven reoffending by children and young people entering the cohort between April 2016 and March 2017. The focus in this chapter is on the annual data based on the aggregate of the four quarterly offender cohorts¹⁴¹.

Children and young people enter the reoffending cohort if they receive a caution, a non-custodial conviction at court or were released from custody during the cohort period¹⁴⁰. A proven reoffence is any offence committed in a one year follow-up period that leads to a court conviction or caution, either within the one year follow-up or within a further six month waiting period to allow the offence to be proven in court.

Source: Ministry of Justice extract of Police National Computer

Period covered: Aggregated cohorts for the years ending March 2007 to 2017

Supplementary Tables: Ch 9 – Proven reoffending by children and young people

More information: [Ch 11 – Comparisons with the adult system](#), [Proven reoffending statistics](#), [How the measure of proven reoffending has changed and the effect of these changes](#), [Response to consultation on changes to proven reoffending statistics](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

¹³⁸ Children and young people who received a caution, a non-custodial conviction at court, or who were released from custody.

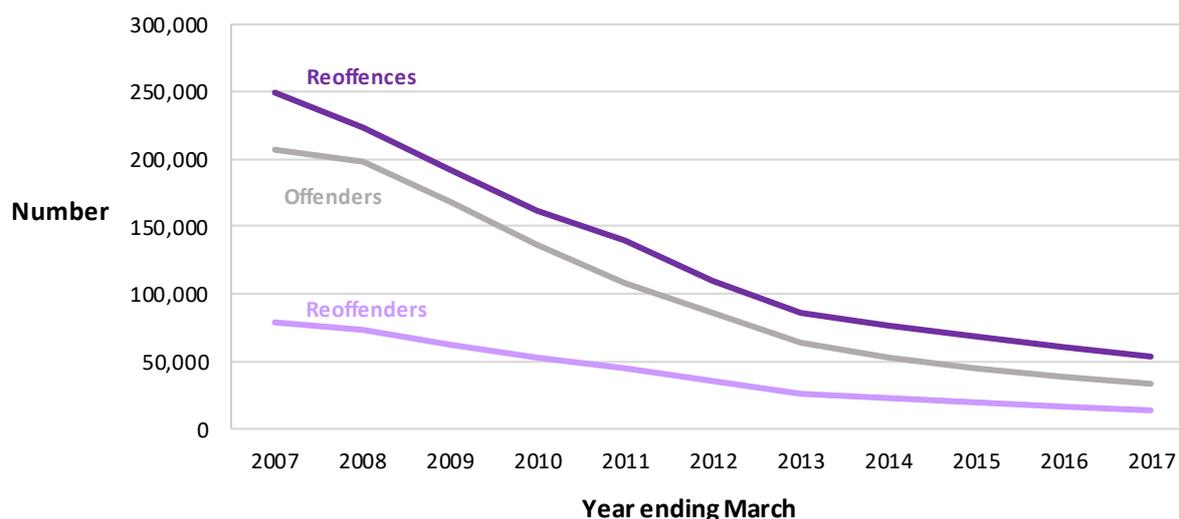
¹³⁹ The annual figure is based on the aggregate of four quarterly offender cohorts. It is therefore possible for a child or young person to appear more than once.

¹⁴⁰ Someone who entered the cohort aged 17 who reoffended aged 18 will be included in the figures.

¹⁴¹ In October 2017 a new methodology was adopted by the MoJ for the proven reoffending statistics. Please see [How the measure of proven reoffending has changed and the effect of these changes](#) for more information.

9.1 Offenders, reoffenders and reoffences^{142,143,144}

Figure 9.1: Number of offenders, reoffenders and reoffences, children and young people, England and Wales, for those entering the cohort in the years ending March 2007 to 2017



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.1

As shown in Figure 9.1, for children and young people, the long term falls in the number of offenders, reoffenders and the number of reoffences they committed have continued.

The number of offenders in the annually aggregated cohort¹⁴⁵ has fallen by 84% over the last ten years. The number of reoffenders has fallen by 83% and the number of reoffences being committed has dropped by 79%.

¹⁴² Data on children and young people released from YOIs are taken from a different source (PNOMIS) from October 2017 onwards.

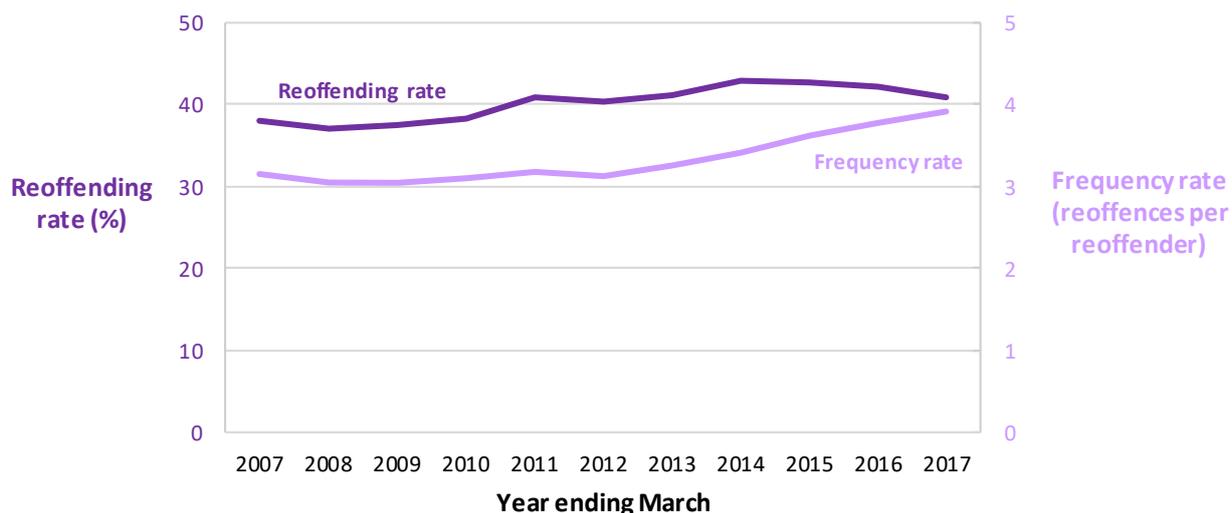
¹⁴³ This publication is based on the new methodology adopted in October 2017, including for trends over time, and as such should not be compared with those in publications before 2016/17.

¹⁴⁴ See [Proven reoffending statistics](#) for more detailed analysis on adult and youth reoffending for the January 2017 to March 2017 quarterly cohort.

¹⁴⁵ The annual figure is based on the aggregate of four quarterly offender cohorts. It is therefore possible for a child or young person to appear more than once.

9.2 Reoffending rate and frequency rate

Figure 9.2: Reoffending rate and frequency rate for children and young people, England and Wales, for those entering the cohort in the years ending March 2007 to 2017



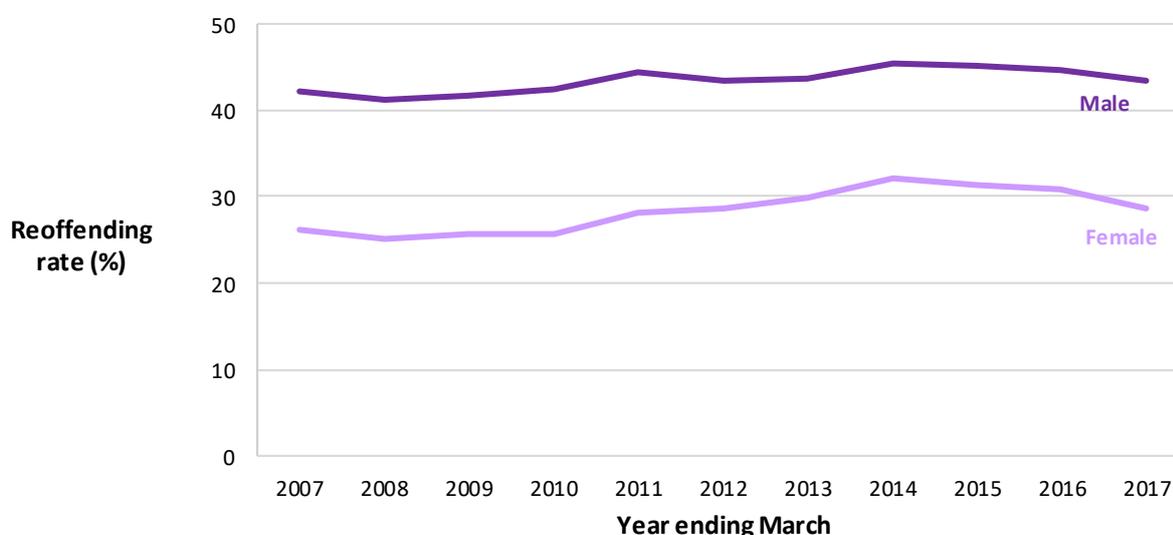
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.1

For the year ending March 2017 cohort, the reoffending rate for children and young people (the percentage of offenders who reoffended), was 40.9%. As shown in Figure 9.2, while the reoffending rate in the year ending March 2017 remains higher than it was ten years ago, it has been decreasing since the year ending March 2014. The decrease in the last year (-1.3 percentage points) is the greatest year-on-year fall seen over the last ten years.

In the latest year, children and young people who reoffended committed an average of 3.92 reoffences each (frequency rate). This has been steadily increasing every year since the year ending March 2012, and is now the highest frequency rate in the last ten years.

9.3 Reoffending by demographic characteristics of children and young people

Figure 9.3: Reoffending rate for children and young people by gender, England and Wales, for those entering the cohort in the years ending March 2007 to 2017



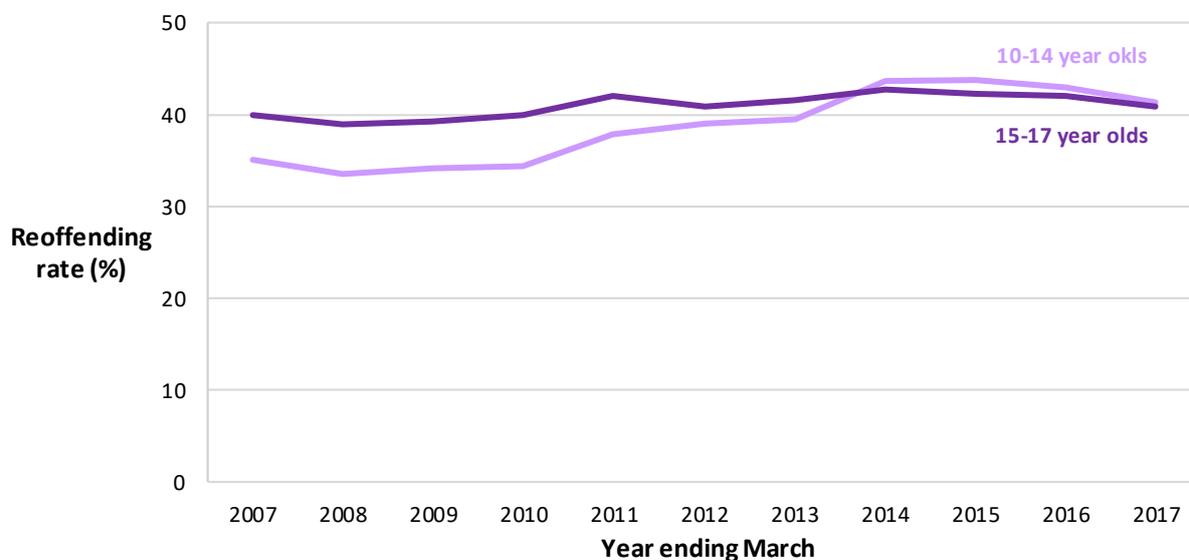
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.2

Males have always made up the majority of the cohort, and the proportion they account for has been increasing over the last ten years, from 74% to 83% in the year ending March 2017 (Supplementary Table 9.2).

Over the last ten years, the reoffending rate for males has been higher than for females. In the latest year, the reoffending rate for males was 43.4%, compared to 28.7% for females. Both genders have followed a similar trend; an increase compared with ten years ago, but falls in the most recent years.

Supplementary Table 9.2 shows that males who reoffended commit more reoffences on average than females (3.96 and 3.59 respectively in the latest year).

Figure 9.4: Reoffending rate by age group¹⁴⁶, England and Wales, for those entering the cohort in the years ending March 2007 to 2017



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.3

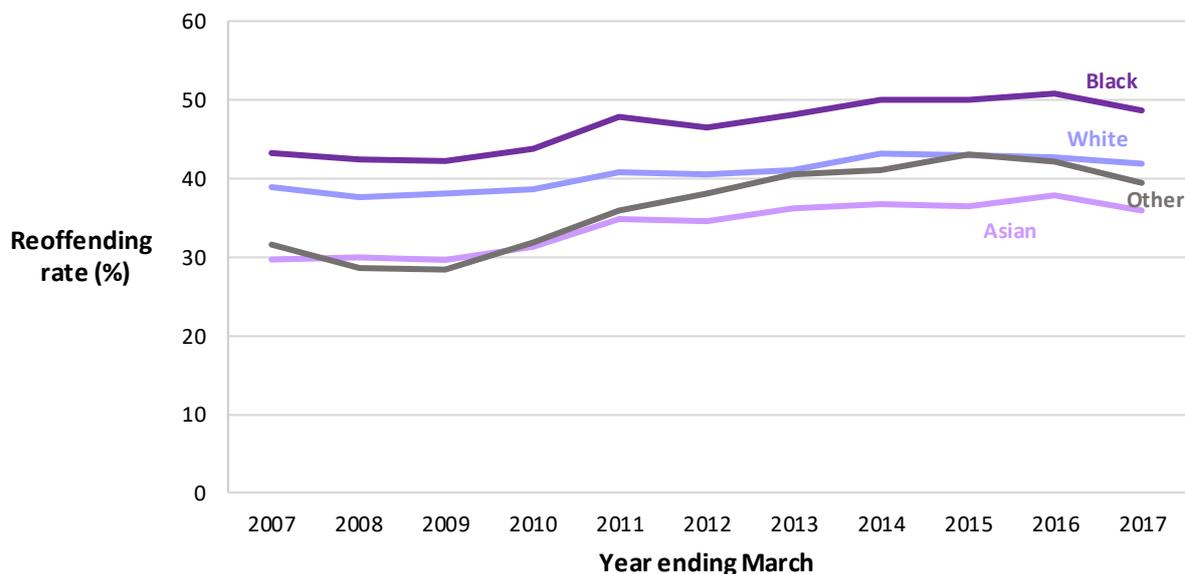
The majority of children and young people in the aggregated cohort were aged 15-17, with the proportion increasing from 64% in the year ending March 2007 to 76% in the year ending March 2017 (Supplementary Table 9.3)¹⁴⁶.

Historically, the reoffending rate for 15-17 year olds had been higher than that for the younger age group (10-14 year olds). However, since the year ending March 2014, the rate for 10-14 year olds has sat just above that for 15-17 year olds. In the latest year, while the reoffending rate remains higher for the younger age group, the difference is much smaller, with 41.3% of 10-14 year olds reoffending compared with 40.8% of 15-17 year olds.

Supplementary Table 9.3 shows that 10-14 year olds who reoffend commit more reoffences on average than those aged 15-17 (4.24 and 3.81 respectively in the latest year).

¹⁴⁶ Someone who entered the cohort aged 17 who reoffended aged 18 will be included in the figures.

Figure 9.5: Reoffending rate for children and young people by ethnicity^{147,148}, England and Wales, for those entering the cohort in the years ending March 2007 to 2017



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.4

As shown in Figure 9.5, all ethnicities have seen an increase in their reoffending rate compared with ten years ago but have all seen falls in the most recent year(s).

The reoffending rate has consistently been highest for Black children and young people over the last ten years. In the latest year, 48.6% of Black children and young people reoffended, which is an increase of 5.4 percentage points compared with ten years ago, but a fall of 2.2 percentage points in the last year.

White children and young people make up the majority of the offending cohort (78%)¹⁴⁷. This ethnic group had the second highest reoffending rate in the latest year, at 41.9%. In the latest year, children and young people from a White ethnic background who reoffended committed the highest number of reoffences on average (4.02) than any other ethnic group (Supplementary Table 9.4).

Those from an Other ethnic background make up a very small proportion of the offending cohort (1%). Having previously seen much lower reoffending rates, this ethnic group has seen the greatest increase over the last ten years, increasing 7.9 percentage points to 39.5%.

Children and young people from an Asian background have had the lowest reoffending rate compared to other ethnic groups since the year ending March 2010. In the latest year, 35.9% of the cohort reoffended.

9.4 Reoffending by criminal history

As could be expected, the rate of reoffending increases with the number of previous offences. Those with no previous offences had a reoffending rate of 23.3%, compared with 74.5% for those with 11 or more previous offences (Supplementary Table 9.6).

Those with no previous offences made up 43% of all children and young people in the aggregated cohort but committed only 18% of all proven reoffences. Those with 11 or more previous offences

¹⁴⁷ Figure is based on where ethnicity is known. In the aggregated cohort for the year ending March 2017, the ethnicity was unknown for 5% of children and young people who received a caution or court conviction.

¹⁴⁸ Ethnicity is police officer identified. There is not a 'Mixed' ethnicity group in officer identified ethnicities, so caution should be used if comparing with data using self-identified ethnicities.

made up only 10% of all children and young people in the aggregated cohort but committed 28% of all proven reoffences.

The average number of previous offences per offender has remained broadly stable since the year ending March 2013. However, it has seen a slight increase of 3% in the last year, to 3.68, which is the highest number of previous offences per offender in the last ten years (Supplementary Table 9.1).

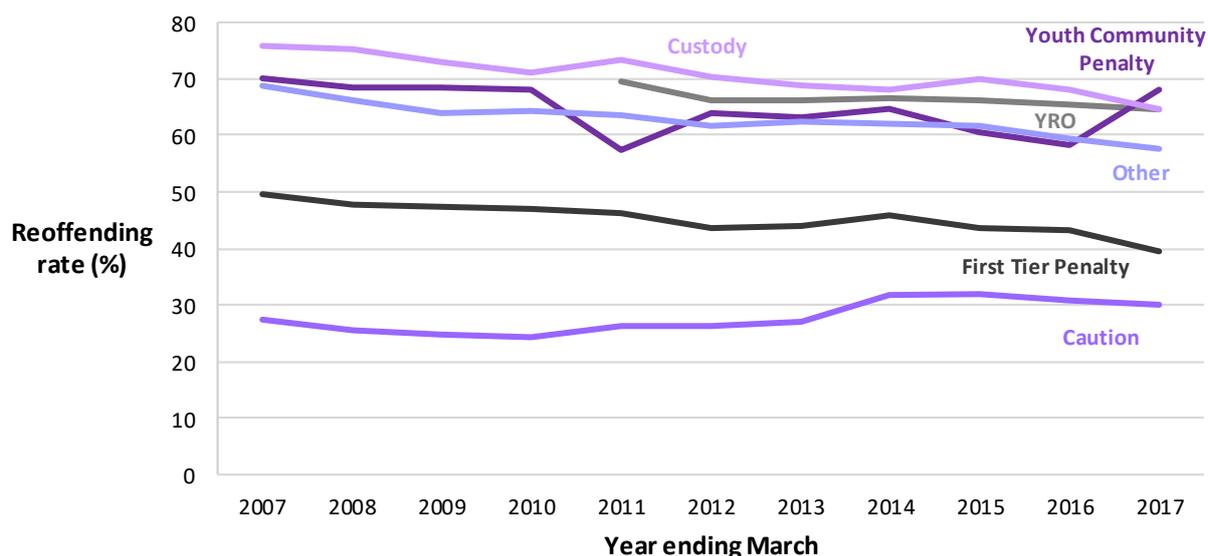
9.5 Reoffending by index offence

The offence that leads to an offender being included in the offender cohort is called the index offence. Supplementary Table 9.5 shows that for the year ending March 2017 cohort:

- Summary non-motoring offences made up the largest proportion of all index offences committed by children and young people, accounting for 37% of the cohort. Theft was the second largest, at 20%. Their associated reoffending rates were 42.5% and 46.3%, respectively.
- Children and young people with an index offence of miscellaneous crimes against society had the highest reoffending rate, at 46.8%, closely followed by public order and theft (both 46.3%). Public order offences also had the highest frequency rate in the latest year, at 4.90.
- Sexual offences had the largest fall in reoffending rate over the last ten years (by 9.7 percentage points), to 13.2%, which is the lowest of all offence groups. However, sexual offences accounted for just 2% of all index offences.
- Over the same period, the largest rise in reoffending rate (by 10.7 percentage points) was for theft.

9.6 Reoffending by index disposal

Figure 9.6: Reoffending rate for children and young people by index disposal¹⁴⁹, England and Wales, for those entering the cohort in the years ending March 2007 to 2017



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.7

The index disposal is the caution or type of sentence the offender received for their index offence.

While children and young people given a caution made up the largest proportion (39%) of all index disposals in the year ending March 2017, they had the lowest reoffending rate (29.9%).

¹⁴⁹ Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YROs) came into force on 20 November 2009.

As shown in Figure 9.6, the reoffending rate has previously been highest for those released from custody. However, in the latest year those who received a youth community penalty had a higher reoffending rate, having seen a 10 percentage point increase to 68.2%. While this is now the highest reoffending rate by index disposal, caution should be taken in interpreting these data as less than 100 children and young people (less than 1% of the overall cohort) make up this cohort.

Supplementary Table 9.7 shows that the frequency rate for those given a custodial sentence has been the highest of all index disposals in each of the last ten years (except for the year ending March 2013). In the latest year, those given a custodial sentence for their index offence committed on average 5.16 reoffences each.

As in previous years, of those whose index disposal was a custodial sentence, those who were given sentences of less than six months had the highest reoffending rate (71.5%) in the latest year (Supplementary Table 9.8).

Proven reoffending rates by index disposal should not be compared to assess the effectiveness of sentences, as there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics, the offence committed, and the type of sentence given¹⁵⁰.

¹⁵⁰ See [Guide to proven reoffending statistics](#) for further detail.

10. Criminal histories of children

In the year ending March 2018:

- Children cautioned or convicted had an average of 2.0 previous cautions or convictions. This is an increase from 1.8 ten years ago and a slight decrease from 2.1 in the previous year.
- Over half (54%) of children cautioned or convicted had a criminal history, the same rate compared with ten years ago but a slight decrease from 55% in the previous year.
- Of the children cautioned or convicted who had a criminal history of 15 or more previous cautions or convictions, 36% were sentenced to immediate custody compared to just 1% for those with no previous criminal history.

Description: Number of previous cautions and convictions given to children (aged 10-17).

A child's criminal history counts the number of occasions on which they previously received a caution or conviction for any offence and has been recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC), including some offences committed outside of England and Wales, irrespective of country of residence. This count differs from First Time Entrants (FTEs) because only offenders prosecuted by an English or Welsh police force and who are resident in England and Wales are included in the FTE statistics. Criminal histories also differ from proven reoffending statistics which only looks at subsequent proven offending within 12 months.

Source: Police National Computer

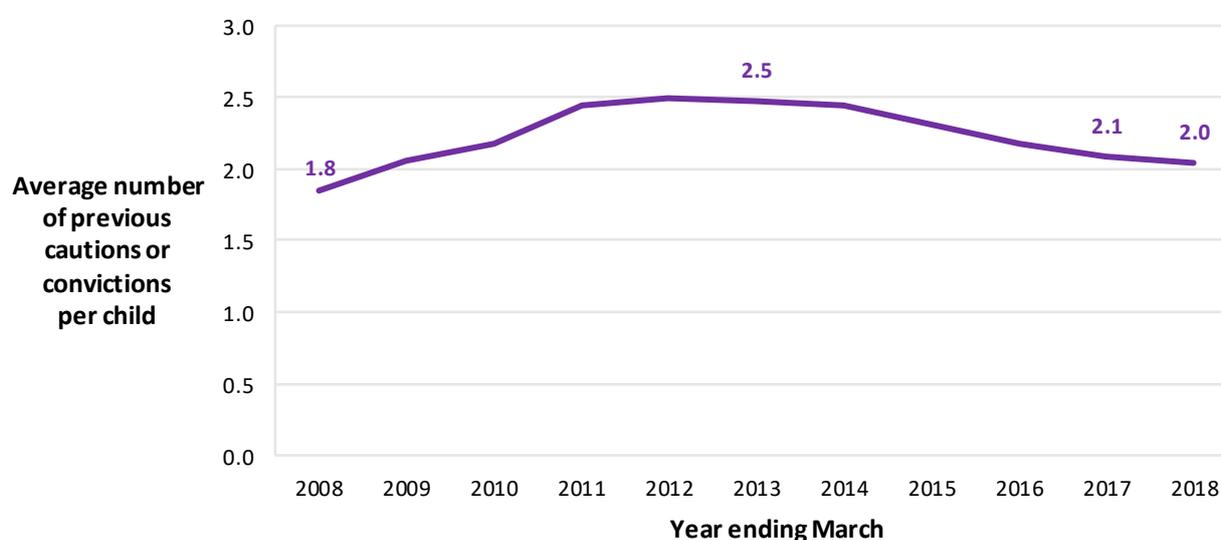
Time period covered: Years ending March 2008 to 2018

Supplementary Tables: Ch 10 – Criminal histories of children

More information: [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#) (more up to date data available), [Chapter 2 - First time entrants to the Youth Justice System](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

10.1 Criminal histories of children in the Youth Justice System

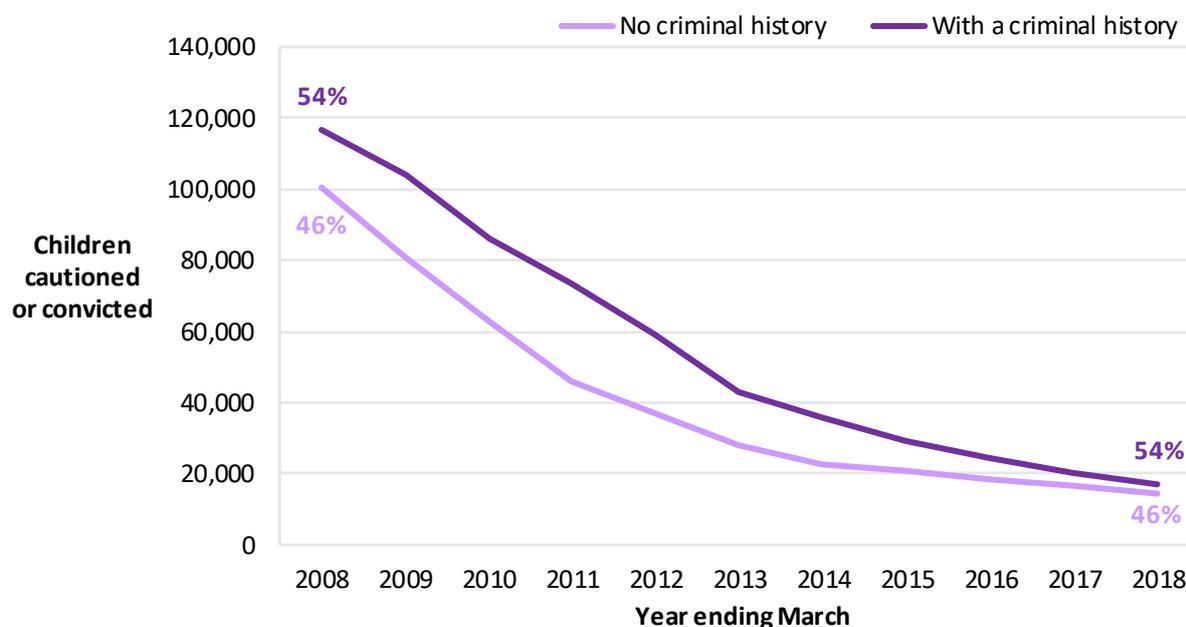
Figure 10.1: Average number of previous cautions and convictions of children cautioned or convicted for any offence, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.1

The overall trend in the average number of previous cautions and convictions rose from 1.8 per child in the year ending March 2008 to a peak of 2.5 in the year ending March 2012. Levels then remained fairly stable until the steady decline seen since the year ending March 2015 to 2.0 in the latest year.

Figure 10.2 Number and proportion of children cautioned or convicted with no criminal history compared with those with a criminal history, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



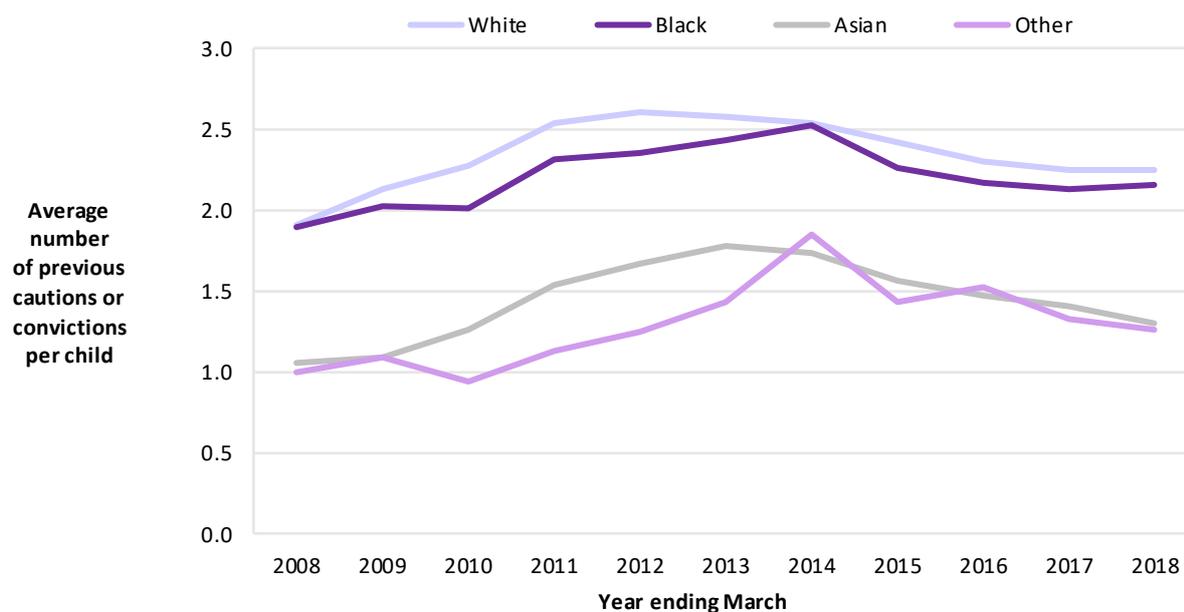
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.2

The number of children cautioned or convicted with a criminal history was around 17,000 in the year ending March 2018. This has decreased by 85% since the year ending March 2008 when the figure was 116,700.

The proportion of children cautioned or convicted with a criminal history has been higher than the proportion with no criminal history over the last ten years. In the year ending March 2008, the proportions were a lot closer with 54% having a criminal history. This proportion gradually increased over the next five years to a peak of 62% in the year ending March 2012 before gradual year-on-year decreases brought this proportion back down to 54% in the year ending March 2018.

10.2 Criminal histories of children by ethnicity

Figure 10.3: Average number of previous cautions and convictions of children cautioned or convicted for any offence by ethnicity^{151,152}, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.1

Figure 10.3 shows that the average number of previous cautions and convictions for children varied by ethnicity. White children had a greater average number of previous cautions and convictions than other ethnicities in each of the last ten years, except for the years ending March 2008, 2014 and 2018 when it was equal to that for Black children.

White children cautioned or convicted in the year ending March 2018 had an average of 2.2 previous cautions or convictions. There was an increase from 1.9 in the year ending March 2008, but remained the same as the previous year.

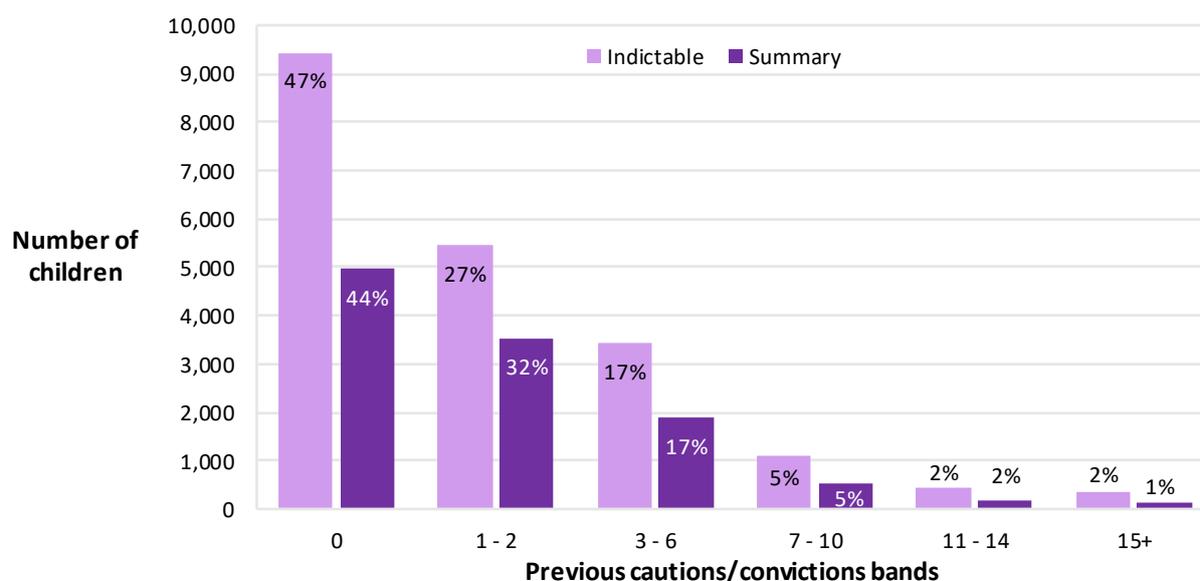
Over the last ten years, Black children had a similar but marginally lower number of previous cautions or convictions as White children, while those from an Asian or Other background had much lower levels of previous cautions or convictions, both with 1.3 in the year ending March 2018.

¹⁵¹ Figures are based on where ethnicity is known. In the year ending March 2018, the ethnicity was unknown for 4% of children cautioned or convicted.

¹⁵² Based on officer identified ethnicity as opposed to self-identified ethnicity. There is not a 'Mixed' ethnicity group in officer identified ethnicities, so caution should be used if comparing with data using self-identified ethnicities.

10.3 Criminal histories of children – indictable and summary offences

Figure 10.4: Number and proportion of children cautioned or convicted for summary and indictable offences by number of previous cautions and convictions, England and Wales, year ending March 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.3

Supplementary Table 10.3 shows that the number of children receiving a caution or conviction for summary offences in the year ending March 2018 was around 11,200. This was 45% fewer than the nearly 20,200 children receiving a caution or conviction for indictable offences. Though the numbers are very different, the offending histories are quite similar despite indictable offences being more serious, with 56% of children cautioned or convicted for summary offences having a previous caution or conviction compared to 53% for indictable offences.

Figure 10.5: Proportion¹⁵³ of children cautioned or convicted with no criminal history compared to those with 15+ previous cautions or convictions by type of disposal, England and Wales, year ending March 2018

Disposal type	Number of cautions and convictions	Caution	Absolute discharge	Conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Immediate custody	Other
No criminal history	14,395	57%	0%	3%	1%	34%	1%	2%
15+ cautions/convictions	492	1%	2%	17%	3%	30%	36%	10%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.3

For children cautioned or convicted with a criminal history of 15 or more previous cautions or convictions, the majority were sentenced to either immediate custody (36%) or to a community sentence (30%). For those with no previous cautions or convictions the majority received either a caution (57%) or a community sentence (34%).

¹⁵³ Proportions may not sum due to rounding.

11. Comparisons with the adult system

In the year ending March 2018:

- Over the last ten years, the number of 10-17 year old first time entrants has fallen by 86%, compared to a 53% decrease in adult FTEs.
- The overall custodial population is at its lowest level in the last ten years. Children accounted for 1% of the overall custody population.
- The overall number of offences involving a knife or offensive weapon has increased in each of the last four years, and the proportion of these offences committed by a child has increased in each of the last four years.
- For the year ending March 2017 cohort, children and young people¹⁵⁴ had the highest reoffending rate of the age groups, at 40.9% compared to 30.2% for young adults (aged 18-20) and 28.3% for adults (aged 21+).

Description: A comparison between children aged 10-17, young adults aged 18-20 (where available) and adults (aged 21+) in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales. Where different age groups have been used, these have been specified.

Source: Police Powers and Procedures statistics (Arrests)
Police National Computer (First time entrants, Reoffending, Offences involving a knife or offensive weapon)
Court Proceedings Database (People sentenced)
P-NOMIS, eAsset and YJAF (Custody population)

Time period covered: Years ending March 2008 to 2018 (Arrests, First time entrants and people sentenced)
Years ending March 2007 to 2017 (Reoffending)
30th June snapshot between 2008 and 2018 (Custody population)
Years ending March 2013 to 2018 (Offences involving a knife or offensive weapon)¹⁵⁵

Supplementary Tables: Ch 11 – Comparisons with the adult system

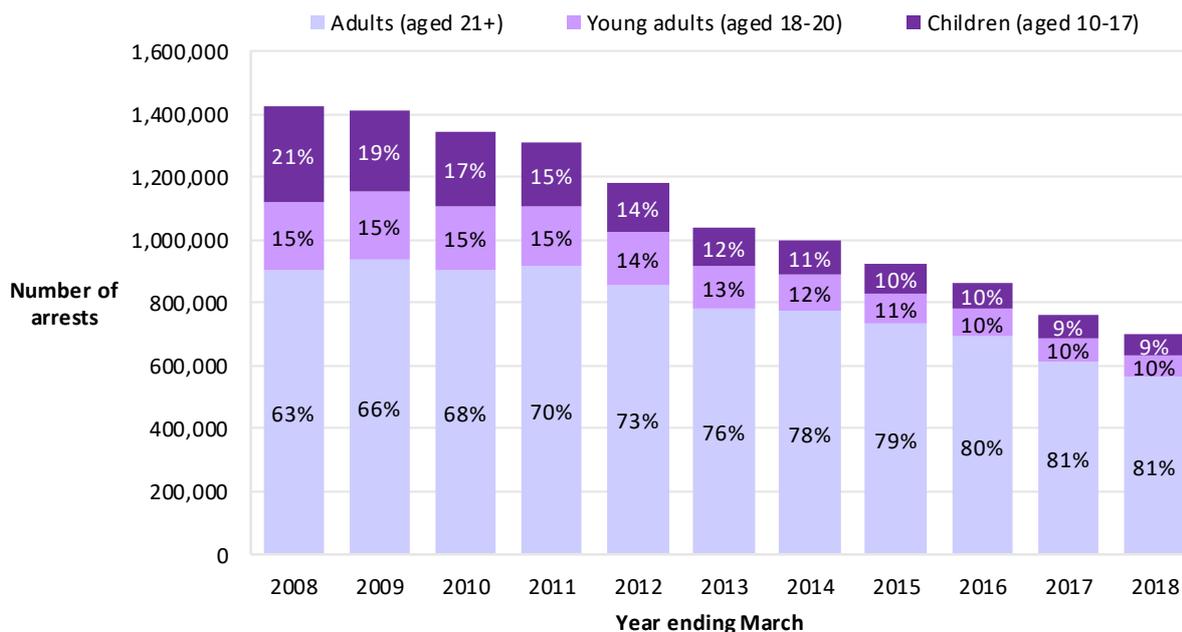
More information: [Police powers and procedures](#), [Proven reoffending statistics](#), [Offender Management Statistics \(Custody\)](#) (more up to date data available), [Criminal Justice Statistics](#) (more up to date data available), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

¹⁵⁴ Someone who entered the cohort aged 17 who reoffended aged 18 will be included in the figures.

¹⁵⁵ A ten year comparison is not available. Data from the year ending March 2009 onwards are available in the Supplementary Tables.

11.1 Arrests by age group

Figure 11.1: Number and proportion of arrests by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018^{156,157}



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.1

There were around 698,500 arrests in the year ending March 2018, which is a 51% decrease compared with over 1.4 million arrests in the year ending March 2008.

The overall number of arrests has decreased in each of the last ten years and this has been seen for children as well as young adults. Whilst the number of arrests of adults is now 37% lower than ten years ago, the number increased in both the years ending March 2009 and 2011.

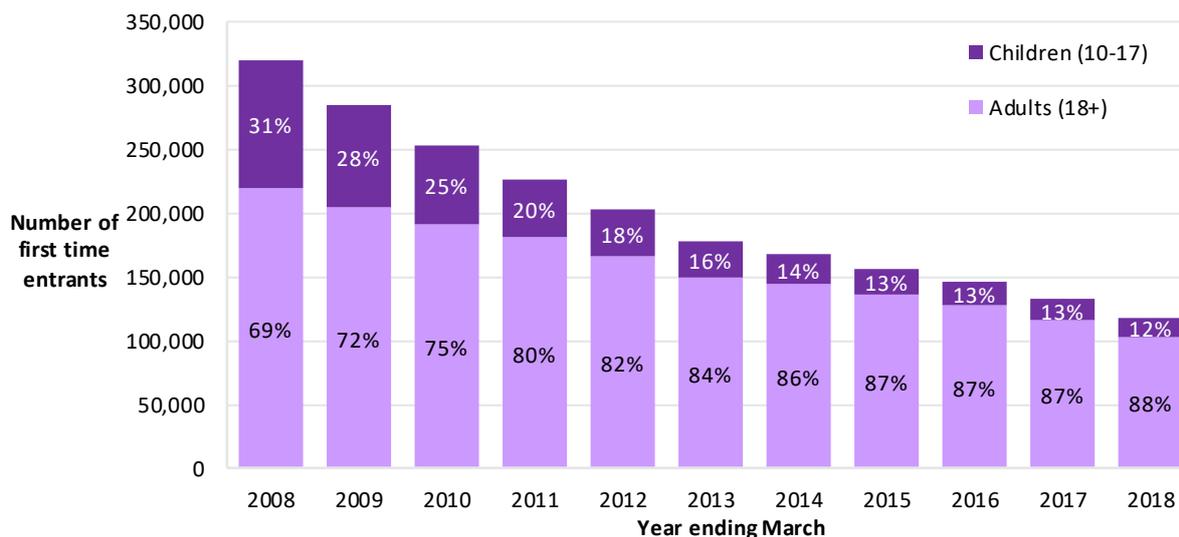
As the volumes of arrests have decreased at different rates across the three age groups, the proportions have changed significantly over the course of the decade. Children accounted for 9% of overall arrests in the year ending March 2018, compared to 21% ten years previously. In the same period, the proportion of young adults arrested has seen the smallest change in share, decreasing from 15% to 10%, while the proportion of adults arrested has increased from 63% to 81%.

¹⁵⁶ Lancashire Police could not supply data for the years ending March 2017 and 2018. Data have been removed for this force for all years so valid comparisons can be made.

¹⁵⁷ Proportions may not sum due to rounding.

11.2 First time entrants to the Criminal Justice System by age group

Figure 11.2: Number and proportion of first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018

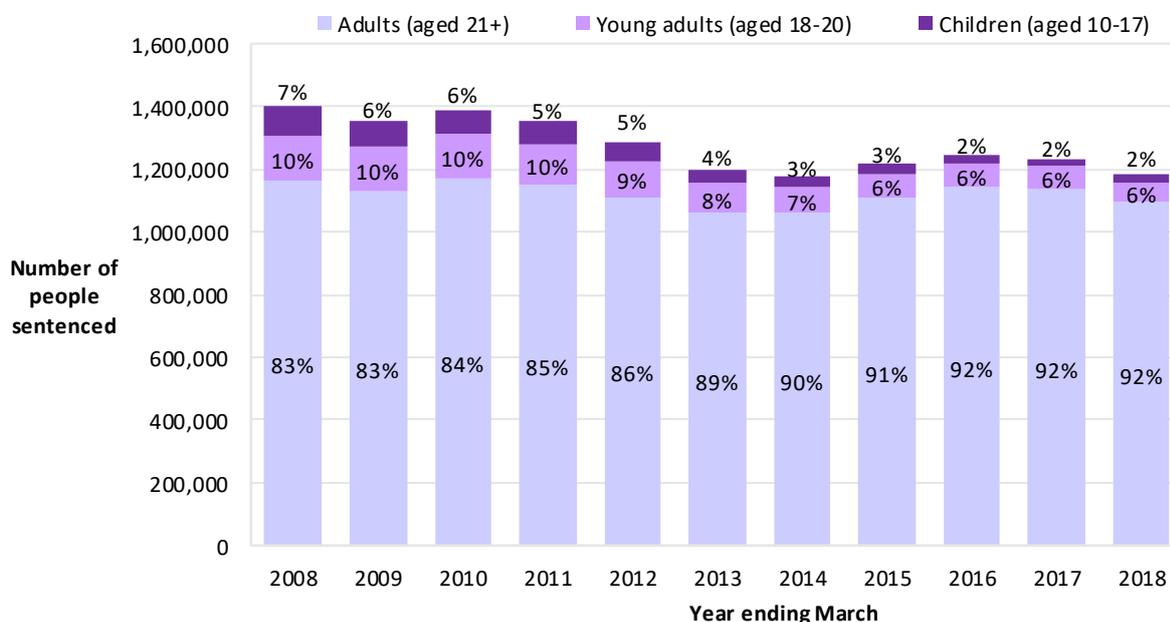


Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.2

In the year ending March 2018, there were around 117,700 first time entrants (FTEs) to the Criminal Justice System, of which 12% were children (aged 10-17). There have been year-on-year decreases for both children and adult (18+) FTEs over the last ten years, however the number of FTEs aged 10-17 has been decreasing at a much faster rate than adults. There was an 86% decrease in the number of FTEs aged 10-17 compared to a 53% decrease for adults. This has led to a change in proportions, with FTEs aged 10-17 accounting for a smaller proportion of all FTEs in the latest year (12%), compared to 31% ten years ago.

11.3 People sentenced at court by age group

Figure 11.3: Number and proportion of sentencing occasions of people by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.4

In the year ending March 2018, there were around 1.2 million court sentencing occasions. Of these just 23,000 (2%) were for children.

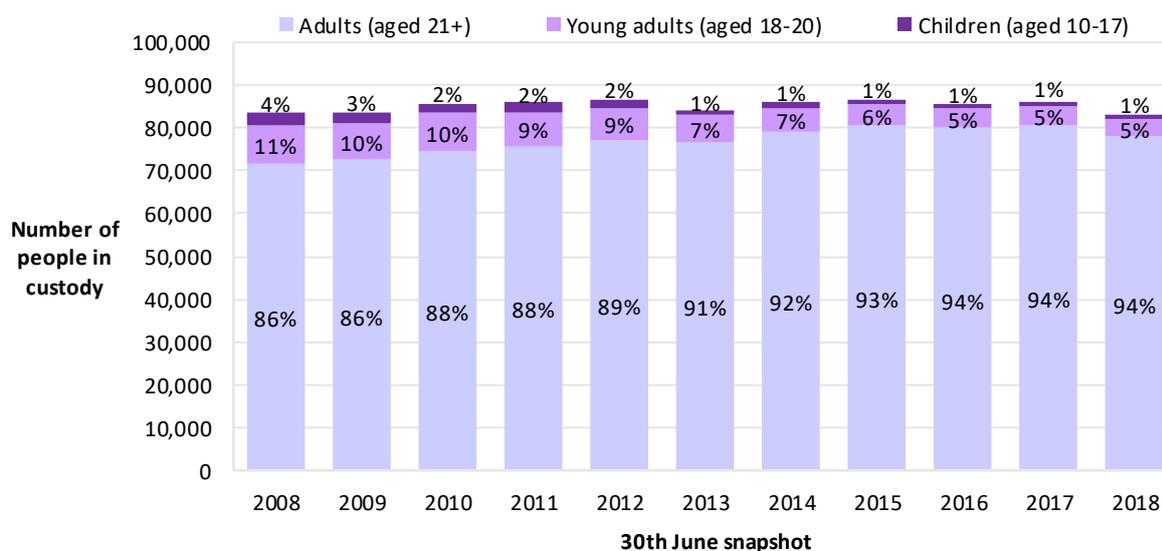
While the overall number of sentencing occasions has reduced by 16% from 1.4 million in the year ending March 2008, the three age groups have fallen at different rates:

- The number of occasions when children (aged 10-17) were sentenced reduced by 76%;
- The number of occasions when young adults (aged 18-20) were sentenced reduced by 52%; and
- The number of occasions when adults (aged 21+) were sentenced reduced by 6% in the same period.

Of the total sentencing occasions in the year ending March 2018, 71% involved fines given to adults (aged 21+) (Supplementary Table 11.4).

11.4 Custody population by age group¹⁵⁸

Figure 11.4: Number and proportion of people in custody by age group, England and Wales, 30th June 2008 to 2018



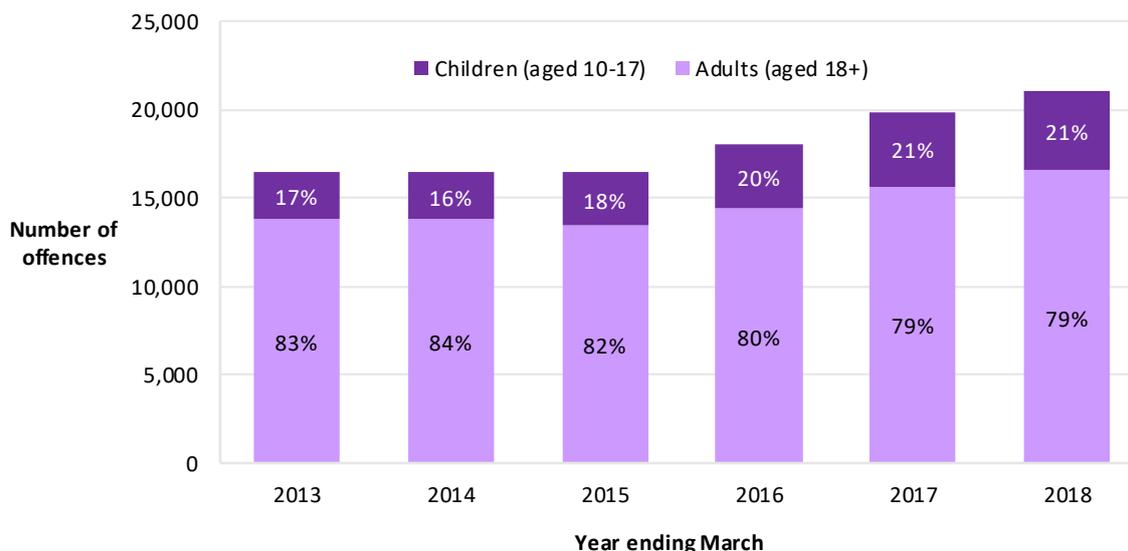
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.8

There were around 83,000 people in custody on 30th June 2018. Children accounted for 1% (just under 900) of the custodial population while young adults (aged 18-20) accounted for 5% (around 4,200) and adults (aged 21+) accounted for 94% (just under 77,900). These proportions have remained relatively stable over the last five years. The overall custodial population and the custodial population for both children and young adults are at their lowest levels seen in the last ten years.

¹⁵⁸ In this section the snapshot date for the custodial population across all age groups is 30th June. This differs to Chapter 7 of this publication, where the snapshot of the youth secure estate is taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end.

11.5 Knife and offensive weapon offences resulting in a caution or conviction by age group

Figure 11.5: Number and proportion of knife or offensive weapon offences resulting in a caution or conviction, by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018¹⁵⁹

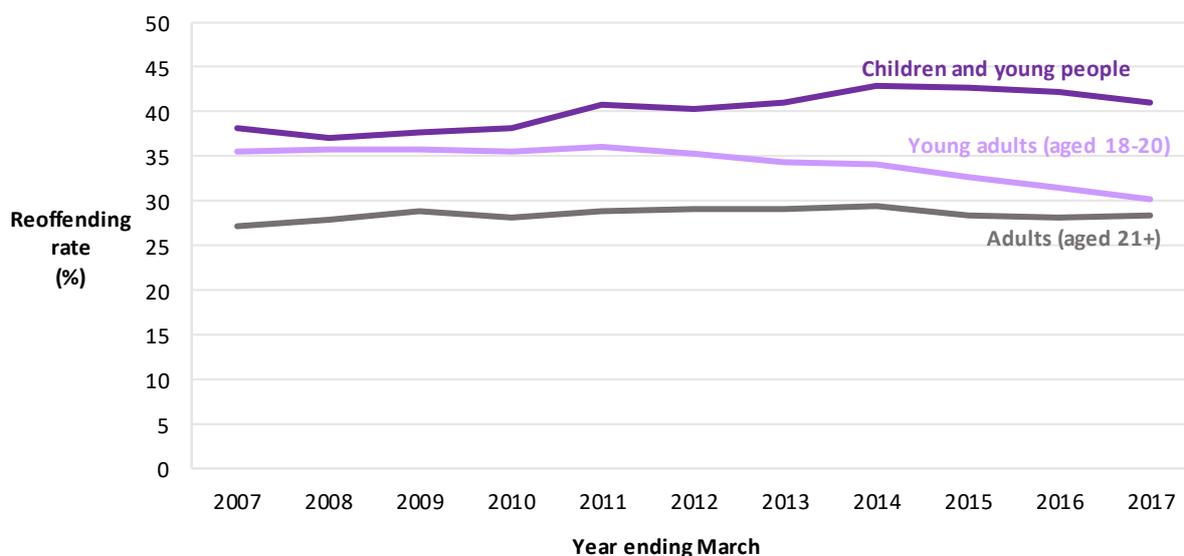


Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.12

As shown in Figure 11.5, the number of knife and offensive weapons offences resulting in a caution or conviction has been increasing over the last four years. In the latest year, children were involved in 4,500 (or 21%) of the just over 21,000 offences of this type. The proportion involving children has increased slightly in each of the last four years.

11.6 Reoffending

Figure 11.6: Annual reoffending rates for children and young people¹⁵⁴, young adults (aged 18-20) and adults (aged 21+), years ending March 2007 to 2017



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.7

¹⁵⁹ A ten year comparison is not available. Data from the year ending March 2009 onwards are available in the Supplementary Tables.

For the year ending March 2017 cohort, children and young people had the highest reoffending rate of the age groups, at 40.9% compared to 30.2% for young adults (aged 18 – 20) and 28.3% for adults (aged 21+).

Figure 11.6 shows the gap in the reoffending rate between children and young people and young adults has been widening. In the year ending March 2007 children and young people had a reoffending rate of 38.1% compared to 35.6% for young adults. While the reoffending rate decreased year-on-year for young adults from the year ending March 2012, it increased year-on-year for children and young people for two consecutive years before some minor decreases in the following three years. The adult reoffending rate has remained broadly stable over the last ten years varying by no more than 2.2 percentage points in the period.

Annex A: Deaths in youth custody and community safeguarding and public protection incidents

A1 Deaths in youth custody¹⁶⁰

In the year ending March 2018, there were no deaths of children in custody in the youth secure estate.

Between the years ending March 2008 and 2018, there were five deaths in youth custody.

A2 Community safeguarding and public protection incidents

Prior to May 2018, Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) were required to report to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) any community safeguarding and public protection incident (CSPPi) that occurred in the community regarding children. From 8 May 2018, the YJB no longer requires local authorities to notify it of new CSPPis.

When the reporting of CSPPis was mandatory, reporting these incidents to the YJB was required when a child was charged with offences of murder/manslaughter, rape or they were subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements and a serious further offence was committed. Safeguarding reporting was required in the event of the death of a child, attempted suicide or if they were the victim of rape¹⁶¹.

Figure A1: The number of CSPPis reported to the YJB, years ending March 2015 to 2018¹⁶²

	Year ending March			
	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of CSPPis reported to the YJB	213	197	163	221

In the year ending March 2018, 221 community safeguarding and public protection incidents were reported to the YJB. This comprised of 139 community safeguarding incidents and 82 public protection incidents.

As shown in Figure A1, the number of CSPPis reported to the YJB had been decreasing between the years ending March 2015 and 2017, however in the latest year there has been a 36% increase in the number of incidents.

¹⁶⁰ From September 2017, data collection on deaths in custody of justice-placed children became the responsibility of the Youth Custody Service.

¹⁶¹ Full details can be found in the [guidance for reporting serious incidents](#).

¹⁶² Data collection began in the year ending March 2015.

Annex B: Levels of crime experienced by children aged 10-15

As shown in the Office for National Statistics [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) (CSEW), there were an estimated six million instances of crime against households and resident adults (counted here as those aged 16 and over) in England and Wales for the year ending March 2018¹⁶³.

Crime covered by the CSEW increased steadily from the 1981 survey, before peaking in 1995. The CSEW then showed marked falls until the survey year ending March 2005. Following this there were fluctuations from year to year but the underlying trend has continued downwards.

Figure B1: Offences experienced by children aged 10-15, Crime Survey for England and Wales, years ending March 2013 to 2018^{164,165}

Measure	Year ending March					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Estimated number of incidents (thousands)	817	797	718	844	697	645
Estimated percentage who were victims of one incident or more	12%	12%	12%	13%	11%	10%
Estimated percentage who were a victim of a violent offence	5%	6%	5%	6%	6%	4%
Estimated percentage who were a victim of a theft offence	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%
Number of children aged 10-15 surveyed	2,879	2,933	2,374	2,804	3,062	3,008

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, ONS

Figure B1 shows that an estimated 10% of 10-15 year olds were victims of crime in the year ending March 2018¹⁶⁶.

Of the estimated 645,000 crimes experienced by 10-15 year olds in the year ending March 2018, Table A9a in the appendix tables for the CSEW shows that:

- 49% were categorised as violent offences; (of which the majority were violence with injury);
- 38% were theft offences¹⁶⁷;
- 8% were criminal damage to personal property;
- 6% were robbery offences.

¹⁶³ Excluding statistics on fraud and computer misuse.

¹⁶⁴ Two methods for classifying incidents recorded in the survey have been used – ‘preferred’ and ‘broad’. The analysis provided here uses the ‘preferred’ measure. See Annex A in [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

¹⁶⁵ Given the small sample size for the 10-15 year old element of the CSEW, estimates can fluctuate over time and as a result, trends can be difficult to interpret.

¹⁶⁶ Statistically significant change in the proportion of victims over time is indicated by an asterisk in Table A11a of the [Crime in England and Wales: Appendix Tables](#).

¹⁶⁷ For the children and young people’s survey, property offences are restricted to personal level crimes only. See the [User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#) for more information.

Police Recorded Crime¹⁶⁸

New experimental statistics¹⁶⁹ for the year ending March 2018 showed the police flagged just over 55,000 recorded crimes as involving child sexual abuse of which just over 15,000 were also flagged as involving child sexual exploitation. The data quality for these figures is variable across police forces, but is expected to improve over time.

¹⁶⁸ Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics.

¹⁶⁹ See [Crime in England and Wales: Other related tables](#) for further information including the definitions of child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation.

Annex C: Comparison of Youth Offending Team caseloads with Police National Computer data

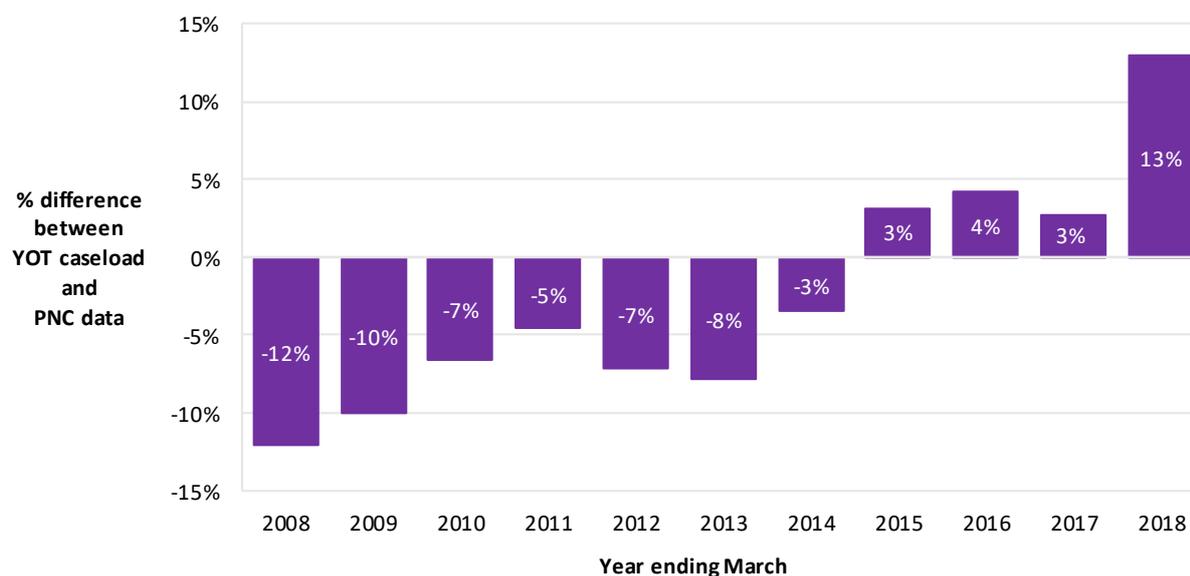
The number of individual children and young people who received a caution or conviction can be sourced from the Youth Offending Team (YOT) caseload data (sourced from the Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF)) and also from the Police National Computer (PNC). This Annex looks at the differences between the two sets of data.

Figure C1: Comparison of YOT caseload with PNC data, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018

	Year ending March										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
YOT caseload	146,526	127,197	106,969	85,300	66,430	49,222	41,569	37,946	32,949	28,352	26,681
PNC	166,645	141,253	114,484	89,411	71,526	53,406	43,062	36,823	31,619	27,603	23,618

Historically there has been a difference in the numbers of individual children and young people cautioned or convicted taken from the PNC and the YOT caseload, with the PNC figure being higher than that of the YOT caseload. This was thought to be because the police don't always pass on the details of youth cautions that don't require formal intervention to YOTs.

Figure C2: Percentage difference between YOT caseload and PNC data, England and Wales, years ending March 2008 to 2018



The YOT caseload was 13% higher than the PNC data in the year ending March 2018. This is the biggest difference between the two set of figures in the last decade. Prior to this, the difference between the figures had been generally been reducing with the exception of the years ending March 2012, March 2013 and March 2016. In the year ending March 2018, for the fourth consecutive year, the number of young people receiving a caution or conviction as recorded by YOTs was higher than that recorded on the PNC. In the year ending March 2018, there were around 3,100 more individuals on the YOT caseload than on the PNC.

Further information

Most of the figures in this report have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time. Steps are taken to improve the completeness and accuracy of this information each year.

Other figures have been taken from official published statistics, which may be National Statistics. Further details on the sources of information are given in the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#).

Accompanying files

As well as this bulletin, the following products are published as part of this release:

A [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) providing further information on the data included in this publication and how these data are collected and processed. This includes a glossary of the terms used in this bulletin.

A set of additional annexes.

An Infographic, covering the main points.

A set of Supplementary Tables, covering each section of this bulletin.

A set of open explorable data.

A set of maps showing local level data.



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