



## Proven Reoffending Statistics Quarterly Bulletin, April 2017 to June 2017

### Main points

This bulletin provides key statistics on Proven Reoffending for adult and juvenile offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, or received a caution in the period **April to June 2017**. The proven reoffending methodology changed in October 2017. For more information about the changes see the [October 2017 publication](#).

<p><b>The overall proven reoffending rate was 29.8%</b></p>		<p>The overall proven reoffending rate increased from the same quarter in the previous year by 0.4 percentage points. Over the time series, the rate has fluctuated between 29% and 32%.</p>
<p><b>Adult offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 29.2%</b></p>		<p>The adult proven reoffending rate has increased from the same quarter in the previous year by 0.7 percentage points. The rate has fluctuated between approximately 28% and 31%.</p>
<p><b>Juvenile offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 38.4%</b></p>		<p>The juvenile reoffending rate decreased by 3.3 percentage points from the same quarter in the previous year. However, the number of offenders in the cohort has fallen by 85% since the same quarter in 2006.</p>
<p><b>Adults released from custody or court orders had a proven reoffending rate of 37.8%</b></p>		<p>The proven reoffending rate for adult offenders released from custody or court orders has increased slightly by 0.2 percentage point since the same quarter last year but has decreased by 2.3 percentage points since the same quarter in 2011.</p>
<p><b>Adults released from custodial sentences of less than 12 months had a proven reoffending rate of 64.4%</b></p>		<p>Adults who served custodial sentences of less than 12 months had a proven reoffending rate of 64.4%, an increase of 0.6 percentage points from the same quarter in the previous year.</p>

This bulletin, associated tables and data tools present the proportion of offenders who reoffend (proven reoffending rate) and the number of proven reoffences by offender history, demographics, individual prisons, probation area, local authorities and youth offending teams. For technical details please refer to the accompanying [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#).

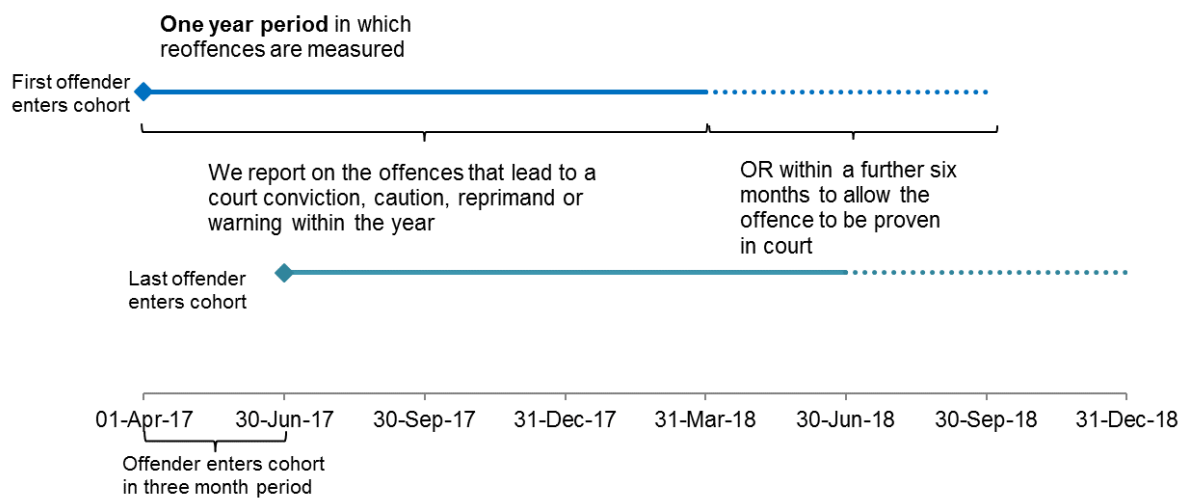
Please note that following further quality assurance, revisions have been made to the figures for the January to March 2017 cohort. Updated figures can be viewed in the accompanying [tables and data tools](#).

For any feedback related to the content of this publication, please let us know at [ESD@justice.gov.uk](mailto:ESD@justice.gov.uk)

## How is proven reoffending measured?

An offender enters the cohort if they were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court or received a reprimand or warning in a three-month period: April to June 2017. It is important to note that this is not comparable to publications prior to the October 2017 proven reoffending publication, which reported on a 12-month cohort.

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



Users should be cautious when making any comparison between cohorts before and after October 2015. This is because there is a change in data source from October 2015 onwards.

In addition, users should be cautious when comparing the 3-monthly cohorts to one another (e.g. April to June 2017 to January to March 2016). This is due to the smaller 3-month cohort size the measure is likely to be more variable than the previous 12-month cohort measure of reoffending.

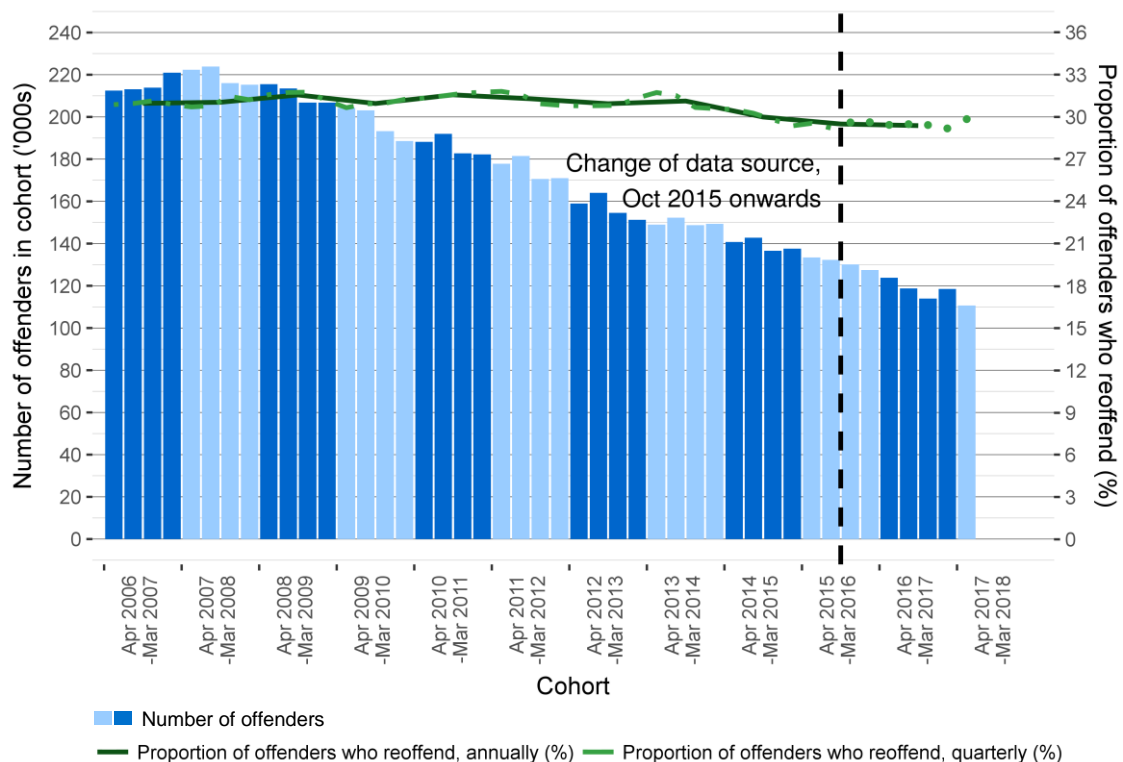
For further details on this, and how proven reoffending is measured, please see the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#) and '[How the measure of proven reoffending has changed and the effect of these changes](#)'.

# 1. Overall – adult and juvenile offenders

## 29.8% of offenders in the April to June 2017 cohort reoffended within a year.

In April to June 2017 just over 110,000 adult and juvenile offenders were cautioned<sup>1</sup>, received a non-custodial conviction at court or were released from custody. This represents a decrease of 11% since the same quarter last year. Around 33,000 of these offenders committed a proven reoffence within a year. This gives an overall proven reoffending rate of 29.8%, which is an increase of 0.4 percentage points from the same quarter in 2016. Over time, the overall proven reoffending rate has fluctuated between 29% and 32%.

**Figure 1: Proportion of adult and juvenile offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence and the number of offenders in each cohort, April 2006 to June 2017 (Source: Table A1)**



Nearly 134,000 proven reoffences were committed over the one-year follow-up period, with those that reoffended committing, on average, 4.05 reoffences each. The average number of reoffences per reoffender has gradually increased from 3.12 in the same quarter in 2009.

In the April to June 2017 cohort, 83% of offenders were male and 17% were female, with the proportion of males in the cohort remaining reasonable stable over time. Male offenders reoffended at a higher rate of 30.9% compared to female offenders who reoffended at a rate of 24.4%. The proven reoffending rate for males has risen 0.2 percentage points since the same quarter in the previous year and female reoffending rate increased by 1.1 percentage points. Since 2005 these rates have fluctuated between 30% and 34% for males and 21% to 24% for females.

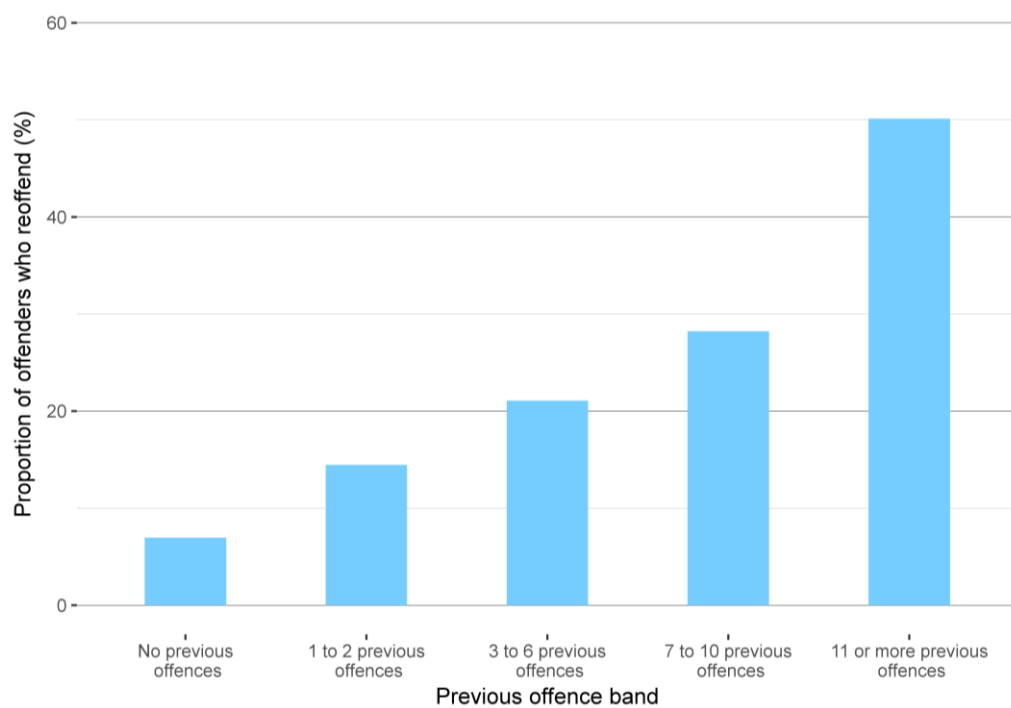
<sup>1</sup> Includes reprimands and warnings for juveniles.

## 2. Adult offenders

### 29.2% of adult offenders in the April to June 2017 cohort reoffended within a year.

Adult offenders accounted for 93% (around 103,000) of the April to June 2017 cohort and juvenile offenders accounted for 7% (around 8,000)<sup>2</sup>. Around 30,000 of all adult offenders were proven to have committed at least one reoffence within a year, giving a proven reoffending rate of 29.2%. This is an increase of 0.7 percentage points since the same quarter in 2016.

**Figure 2: Proportion of adult offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by number of previous offences, April to June 2017 (Source: Table A5a)**



The adult reoffending rate has remained broadly flat since 2006, fluctuating between 28% and 31%. Around 122,000 proven reoffences were committed by adults over the one-year follow-up period. Those that reoffended in the April to June 2017 cohort committed on average 4.05 reoffences. This has broadly been increasing since 2009 and has increased by 28% since April to June 2009.

Offenders with a larger number of previous offences have a higher rate of proven reoffending than those with fewer previous offences. In the April to June 2017 cohort, the proven reoffending rates for adults ranged from 7.0% for offenders with no previous offences to 50.1% for offenders with 11 or more previous offences (see figure 2 above).

Adult offenders with 11 or more previous offences made up 40% of all adult offenders in the cohort and represented 69% of all adult reoffenders, but committed 80% of all adult proven reoffences.

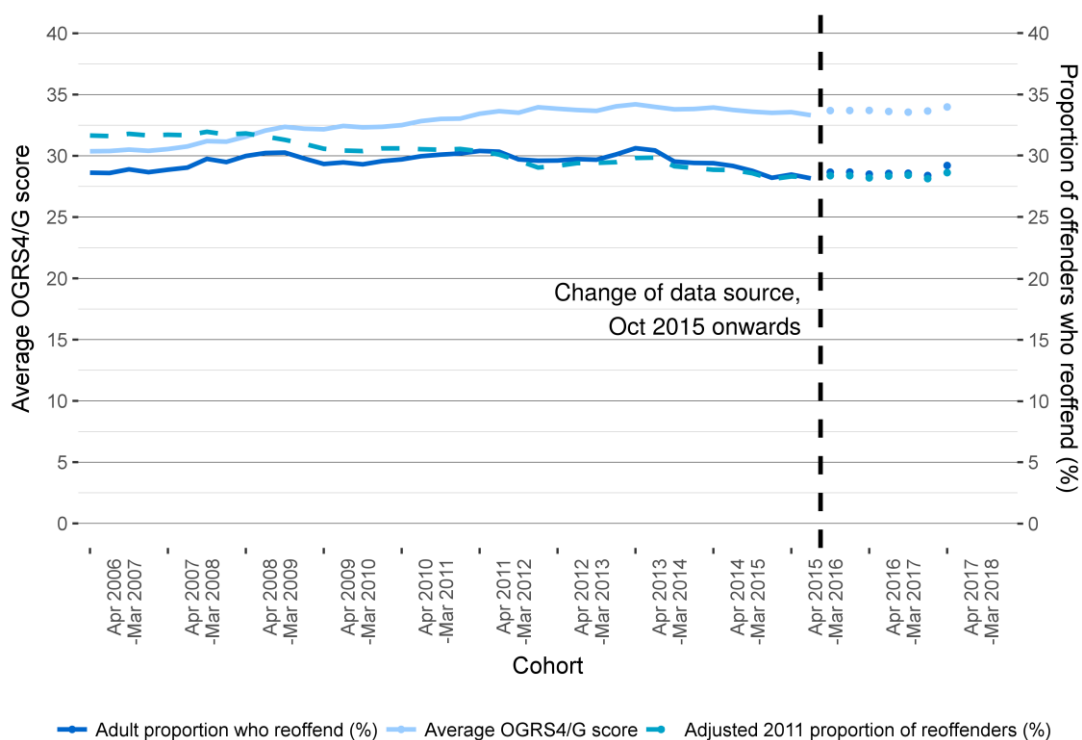
<sup>2</sup> A certain proportion of offenders who could not be matched to the Police National Computer (PNC) are excluded from the offender cohort. Therefore, this number does not represent all proven offenders. This means that the number of offenders in this bulletin will be different from the numbers published in Offender Management Statistics Quarterly and Criminal Justice Statistics. Please refer to the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#) for further information.

### 3. Adjusted reoffending rates

**When controlling for offender characteristics 28.6% of adult offenders in the cohort reoffended within a year.**

Adjusted proven reoffending rates for adults are calculated by ‘the proportion of offenders who reoffend’ (proven reoffending rate) for the cohort plus any difference between the average Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS4/G) score in that cohort and the 2011 cohorts. OGRS4 is based on a well-established, peer reviewed methodology for assessing and representing reoffending risk<sup>3</sup>. The raw rates have been adjusted against the 2011 calendar year, in line with the Payment by Result statistics.

**Figure 3: The average OGRS scores (2011 adjusted) and the adjusted proven reoffending rate for adults, April 2006 to June 2017 (Source: Table A1)**



Between 2006 and 2011 the average OGRS score increased, but since 2011 it has remained relatively flat. This indicates that between 2006 and 2011 the cohort had an increasing propensity to reoffend, but since 2011 this has levelled off. As a result, the raw reoffending rates for adults are adjusted upwards between 2006 and 2011 reflecting the lower propensity to reoffend when compared to later cohorts.

Following 2011 the raw rates and the adjusted rates have tracked each other more closely. For example, the raw reoffending rate for adults for the April to June 2017 period was 29.2% while the adjusted rate was 28.6%.

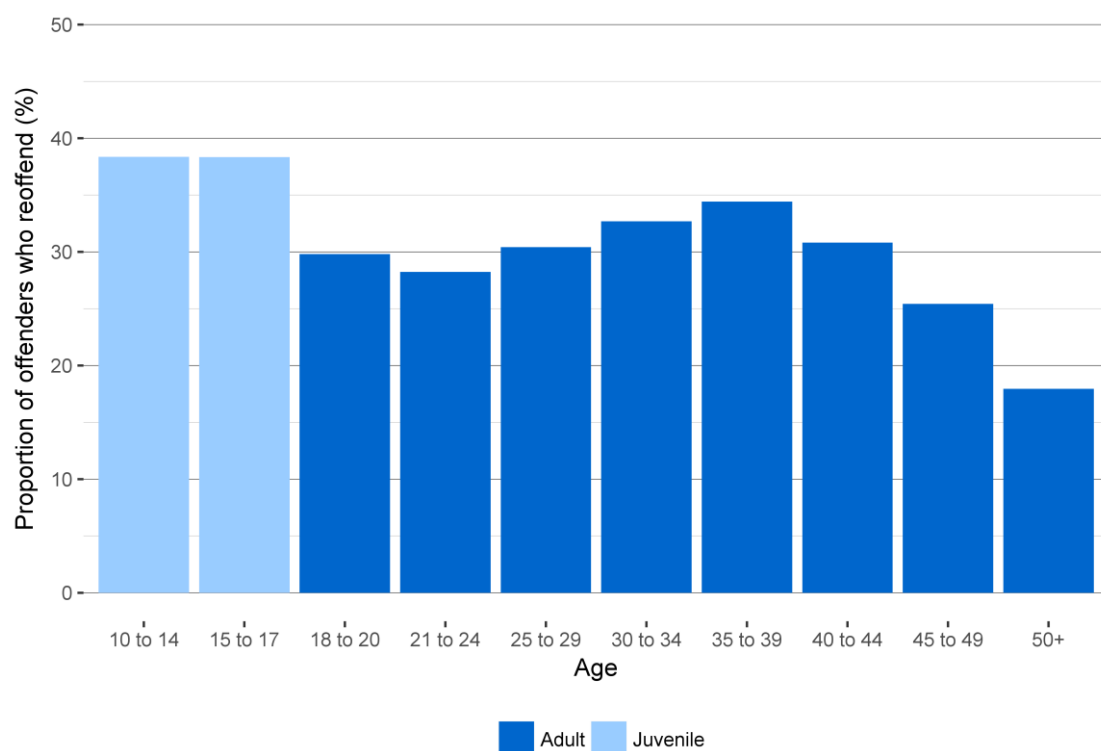
<sup>3</sup>[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/449357/research-analysis-offender-assessment-system.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/449357/research-analysis-offender-assessment-system.pdf)

## 4. Juvenile offenders<sup>4</sup>

**38.4% of juvenile offenders in the April to June 2017 cohort reoffended within one year.**

Around 8,000 juvenile offenders were cautioned, convicted or released from custody in the April to June 2017 cohort and around 3,000 of them committed a reoffence. This gives a proven reoffending rate of 38.4%, a decrease of 3.3 percentage points since the same quarter in 2016. The new reoffending measure, however, is likely to be more variable from quarter to quarter due to the smaller size of the cohorts. The size of the cohort has fallen by 85% since 2006.

**Figure 4: Proportion of adult and juvenile offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by age, April to June 2017 (Source: Table A3)**



Around 12,000 proven reoffences were committed by juveniles over the one-year follow-up period. Those that reoffended committed on average 4.13 reoffences each. As with the adult cohort, Juvenile offenders with 11 or more previous offences had a higher reoffending rate than those with no previous offences, 72.8% compared to 20.8%, respectively.

In recent cohorts, 10 to 14-year-old offenders have overtaken 15 to 17-year-old offenders as the group with the highest reoffending rate. This quarter 10 to 14-year-old offenders remain the group with the highest reoffending rate of any age group, closely followed by the 15 to 17-year-old offenders, with reoffending rates of 38.4% and 38.3% respectively (see figure 4 above). However, the number of offenders in the 10 to 14 age group has fallen by almost 90% since 2006. Figure 4 shows that the proven reoffending rate for juveniles is higher than adults and the rate starts to fall with increasing age after the 35-39 group.

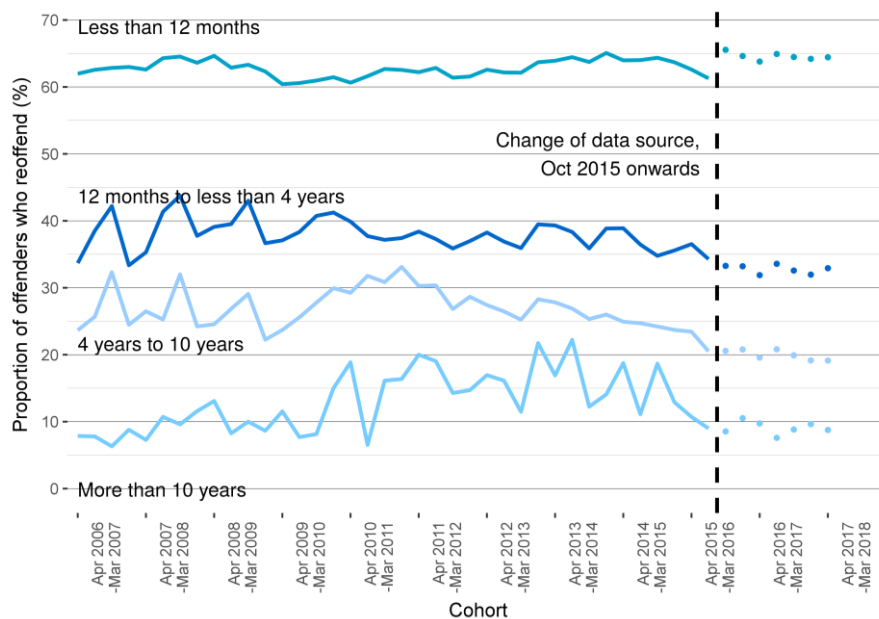
<sup>4</sup> Juveniles are defined as those aged 10 to 17 years old.

## 5. Adult disposal

**Adults released from custody or starting court orders had a proven reoffending rate of 37.8%.**

A different methodology is used for proven reoffending statistics by disposal type. The first proven offence within each disposal is treated as the start point for measuring proven reoffending. Therefore, some offenders will appear in more than one disposal category. For Proven Reoffending Statistics a disposal is defined as a caution, court order, custody, or other disposal resulting from a conviction at court, such as a fine or discharge.

**Figure 5: Proportion of adult offenders released from custody who commit a proven reoffence, by custodial sentence length, April 2006 to June 2017 (Source: Table C2a)**



For adult offenders starting a court order (Community sentence or Suspended Sentence Order) the proven reoffending rate was 33.5%. The rate for this group has declined since 2011 by 2.7 percentage points when compared to the same quarter. When adjusted for offender mix, however, the decrease is smaller at 0.1 percentage points.

The proven reoffending rate for adult offenders released from custody was 48.3%, an increase of 0.3 percentage points compared to the same quarter the previous year. The proven reoffending rate for adults released from sentences of less than 12 months was 64.4%, an increase of 0.6 percentage points from the same quarter in 2016.

The rate for those released from short sentences (less than 12 months) has been consistently higher compared to those released from longer sentences (see figure 5 above). Adults who served sentences of 12 months or more reoffended at a rate of 28.9%, substantially lower than the above mentioned 64.4% reoffending rate for those released from sentences of less than 12 months. Users should exercise caution when comparing the effectiveness of sentence and should consult the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#)<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Proven reoffending rates by disposal should not be compared to assess the effectiveness of sentences, as there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics and the type of sentence given. For further information see [Annex D of the October 2016 publication](#) (page 41) and the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#).

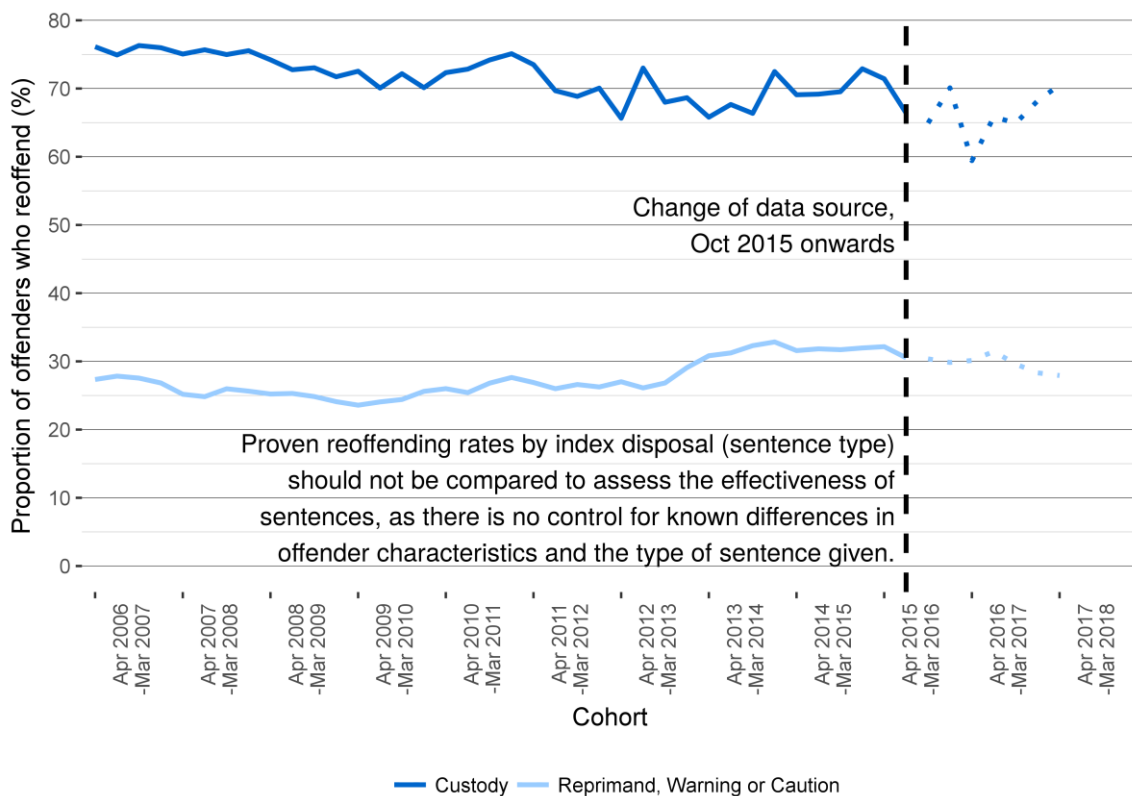
## 6. Juvenile disposal<sup>6</sup>

### Juvenile offenders given youth cautions had a proven reoffending rate of 27.9%.

The reoffending rate for juvenile offenders given youth cautions has decreased by 2.2 percentage points since the same quarter last year. Reprimands and warnings for youths were abolished under the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 with effect from 8 April 2013 and replaced with youth cautions.

Youth cautions are a formal out-of-court disposal that can be used as an alternative to prosecution for juvenile offenders in certain circumstances. A youth caution may be given for any offence where the young offender admits an offence and there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction, but it is not in the public interest to prosecute.

**Figure 6: Proportion of juvenile offenders released from custody or given a reprimand, warning or caution who commit a proven reoffence, April 2006 to June 2017 (Source: Table C1b)**



Between April and June 2017, 173 juvenile offenders were released from custody and 122 (70.5%) were proven to have committed a reoffence within a year. The rate has increased by 11.1 percentage points since the same quarter in 2016. There is, however, likely to be more variation with the new reoffending measure, from one quarter to another due to the reduced size of the cohort.

<sup>6</sup> Proven reoffending data for juvenile disposals uses the same methodology as adult disposals (see section 5 for more details).

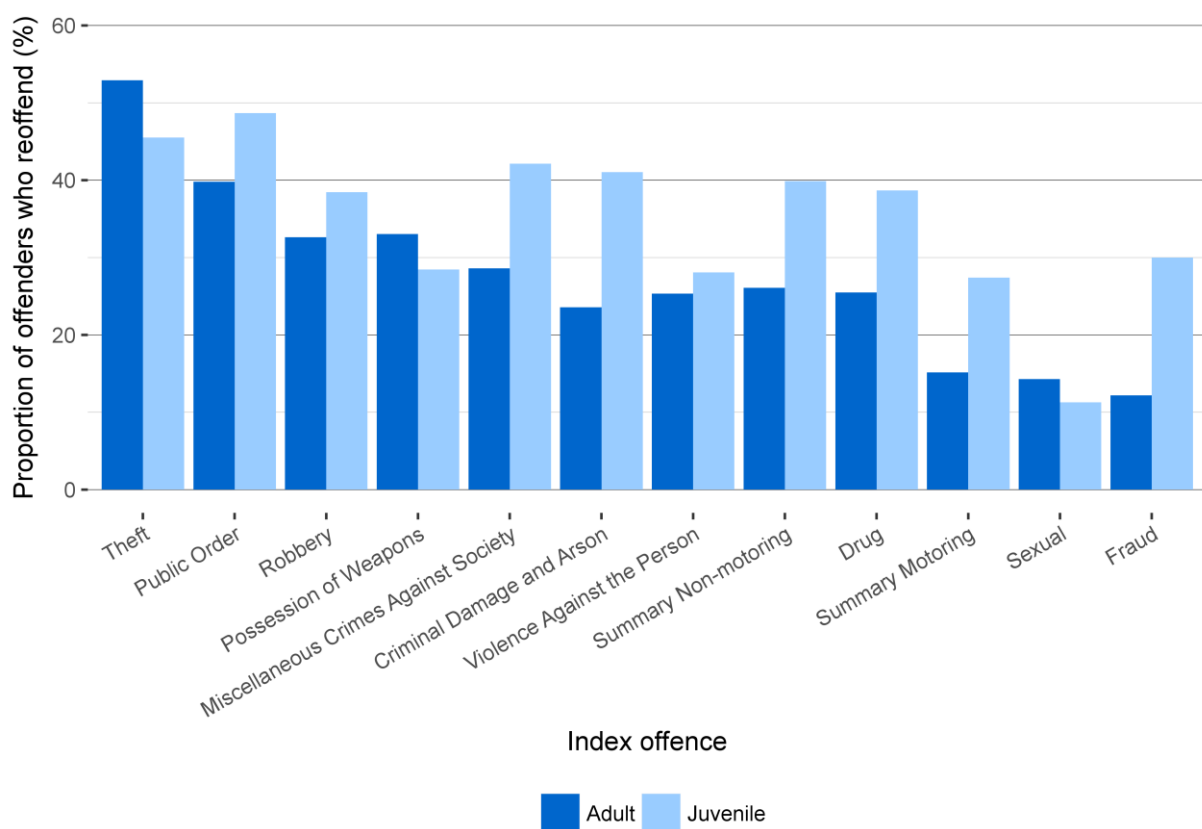


## 7. Index offences

In the April to June 2017 adult cohort, the index offence category with the highest reoffending rate was 'Theft' at 52.9%.

The offence that leads to an offender being included in the offender cohort is called the index offence. In the April to June 2017 adult cohort, offenders with an index offence of 'Theft' had the highest proven reoffending rate of 52.9%. The second highest reoffending rate for adult offenders was those with an index offence of 'Public Order' (39.8%).

**Figure 7: Proportion of adult and juvenile offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by index offence (except 'Other'), April to June 2017 (Source: Table A4a/b)**



The lowest rate of reoffending in the adult cohort had an index offence of 'Fraud' with a rate of 12.2%. Excluding 'Other,' 'Fraud' and 'Criminal damage and arson' index offence categories saw the largest percentage decreases in reoffending rate since 2006. Those with an index offence of 'Violence against the person' and 'Public order' saw the biggest increases in this period.

In the juvenile cohort, those with an index offence of 'Public order' had the highest proven reoffending rate at 48.7%, followed by those with an index offence of 'Theft' at 45.5%. Those with the lowest rate, excluding 'Other,' were offenders who had committed a 'Sexual' index offence. Their reoffending rate was 11.3%. Those who committed 'Sexual' index offences also saw the largest percentage decreases in reoffending rate since 2006. 'Theft' index offence represented the biggest percentage increase over the same period.

## Further information

### Accompanying files

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

- A [technical guide](#) to proven reoffending statistics providing information on how proven reoffending is measured, and the data sources used.
- A set of [overview tables](#), covering each section of this bulletin.
- A set of [data tools](#) provide proven reoffending data by demographics, offender history, individual prisons (available from April 2005 - September 2015) and probation area and geography. These are formed by taking a weighted average of the four preceding 3-month offender cohorts.

### National Statistics status

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is the Ministry of Justice's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected for National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

### Contact

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Email: [newsdesk@justice.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@justice.gov.uk)

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to the Justice Statistics Analytical Services division of the Ministry of Justice:

Nick Mavron, Head of Prison, Probation, Reoffending and PbR Statistics

Ministry of Justice, 7th Floor, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

Email: [ESD@justice.gov.uk](mailto:ESD@justice.gov.uk)

**Next update: July 2019**

**URL:** [www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics)

© Crown copyright

Produced by the Ministry of Justice

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

