



Proven reoffending statistics quarterly bulletin, July 2017 to September 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 **July to September 2017**. The proven reoffending methodology changed in October 2017. For more information about the changes see the [October 2017 publication](#).

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| The overall proven reoffending rate was 29.3% for the July to September 2017 offender cohort | | This represents a decrease of 0.2 percentage points from the same quarter in 2016. Over time, the overall proven reoffending rate has fluctuated between 29.2% and 31.8%. |
| Adult offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 28.7% | | This is an increase of 0.1 percentage points since the same quarter in 2016, with the rate fluctuating between approximately 28.2% and 30.6% over time. |
| Juvenile offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 38.1% | | The juvenile reoffending rate decreased by 3.6 percentage points from the same quarter in the previous year and over the years, has fluctuated between 36.3% and 43.6%. However, for context, the number of offenders in the cohort has fallen by 86% since the same quarter in 2006. |
| Adults released from custody or starting court orders had a proven reoffending rate of 37.2% | | This represents a 0.6 percentage point decrease since the same quarter last year and a 3.2 percentage point decrease since the same quarter in 2011. |
| Adults released from custodial sentences of less than 12 months had a proven reoffending rate of 62.2% | | This is a decrease of 2.7 percentage points from the same quarter in the previous year. Those released from sentences of less than or equal to 6 months had a proven reoffending rate of 64.8%, which is also a decrease of 2.7 percentage points since the same quarter in the previous year. |

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](#).

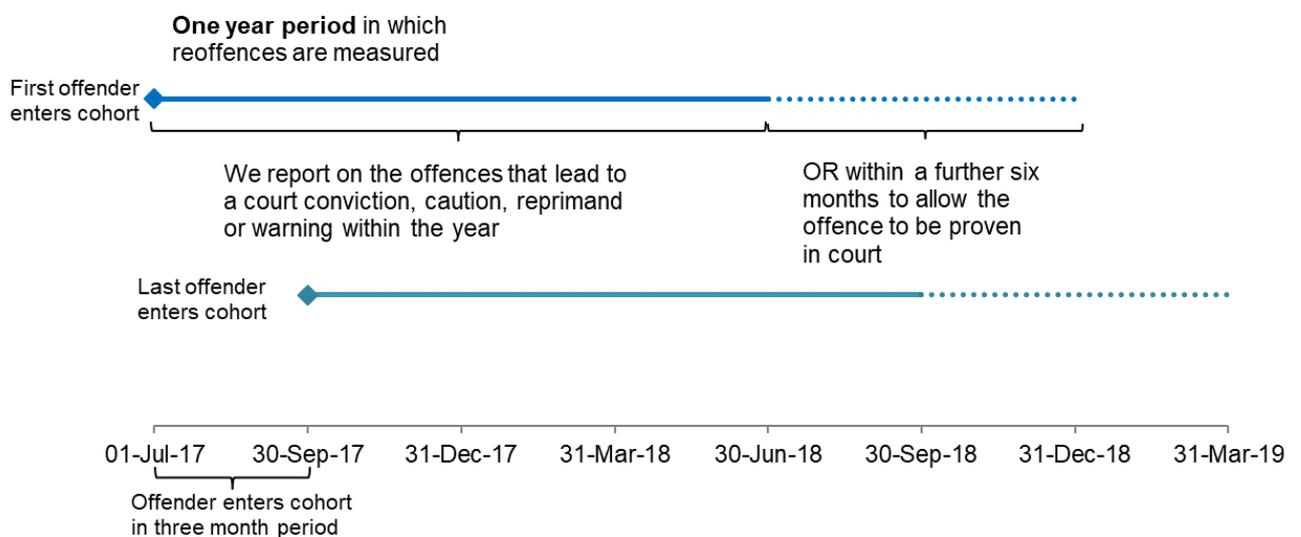
Please note that following further quality assurance, revisions have been made to the figures for the January to March 2017 cohort. Updated figures can be viewed in the accompanying [tables and data tools](#).

For any feedback related to the content of this publication, please let us know at ESD@justice.gov.uk

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: July to September 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. July to September 2017 to April to June 2017). 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](#)'.

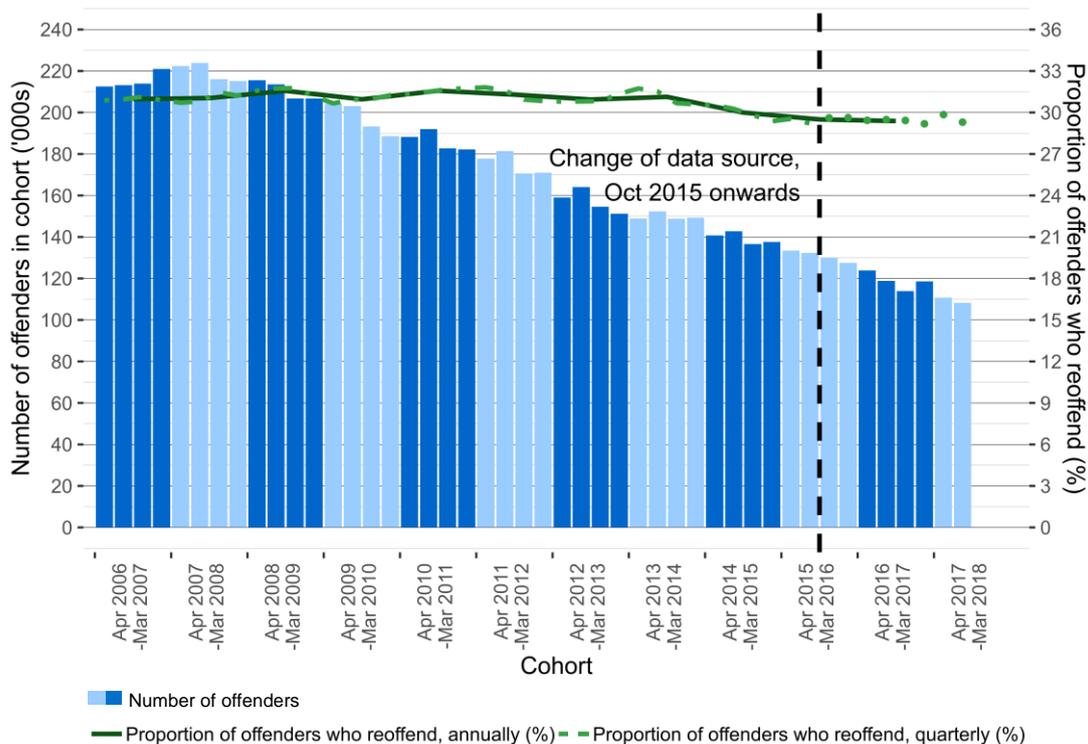
1. Overall – adult and juvenile offenders

The overall proven reoffending rate was 29.3% for the July to September 2017 offender cohort

This represents a decrease of 0.2 percentage points from the same quarter in 2016. Over time, the overall proven reoffending rate has fluctuated between 29.2% and 31.8%.

The overall proven reoffending rate, based on just over 108,000 adult and juvenile offenders (made up of 93% adults and 7% juveniles)¹ in the July to September cohort was 29.3%, a 0.2 percentage point decrease from the same quarter in 2016. Almost 32,000 of these offenders then committed just under 129,000 proven reoffences over a one-year follow-up period, equivalent to an average of 4.06 reoffences each. The average number of reoffences per reoffender has gradually increased from 3.13 in the same quarter in 2009.

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 September 2017 (Source: Table A1)



Of this offender cohort, 83% were male and 17% were female, with the gender split remaining reasonably stable over time. Male offenders reoffended at a higher rate of 30.4% compared to female offenders who reoffended at a rate of 23.8%. Since 2006, these rates have fluctuated between 30.3% and 33.9% for males and 21.5% to 24.4% for females.

¹ 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.

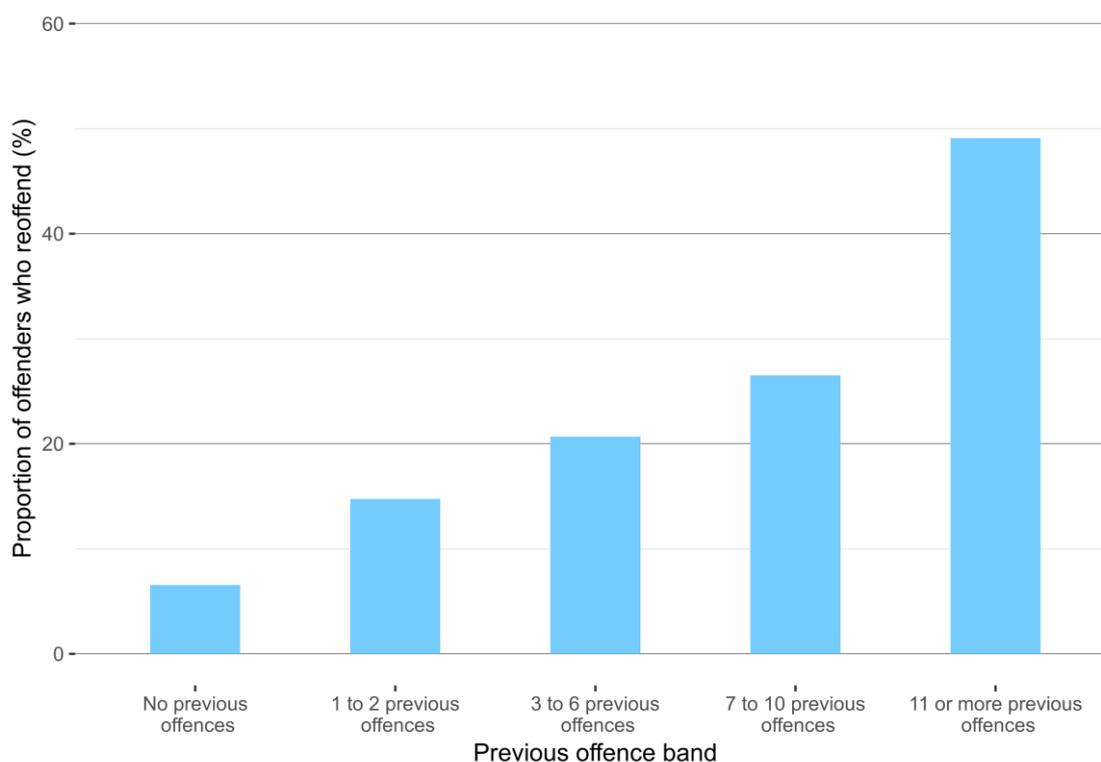
2. Adult offenders

Adult offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 28.7%

This is an increase of 0.1 percentage points since the same quarter in 2016, with the rate fluctuating between approximately 28.2% and 30.6% over time.

The adult reoffending rate for the July to September 2017 cohort was 28.7% and the rate has remained broadly flat since 2006. Almost 118,000 proven reoffences were committed over the one-year follow-up period by around 29,000 of adults. Those that reoffended committed on average 4.06 reoffences; this represents a 2% increase compared to the same quarter in 2016 and an increase of 29% since July to September 2009.

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



Offenders with a larger number of previous offences have a higher rate of proven reoffending than those with fewer previous offences. In the July to September 2017 cohort, the proven reoffending rates for adults ranged from 6.6% for offenders with no previous offences to 49.1% for offenders with 11 or more previous offences (Figure 2).

Adult offenders with 11 or more previous offences made up 41% of all adult offenders in the cohort, represented 69% of all adult reoffenders and committed 80% of all adult proven reoffences.

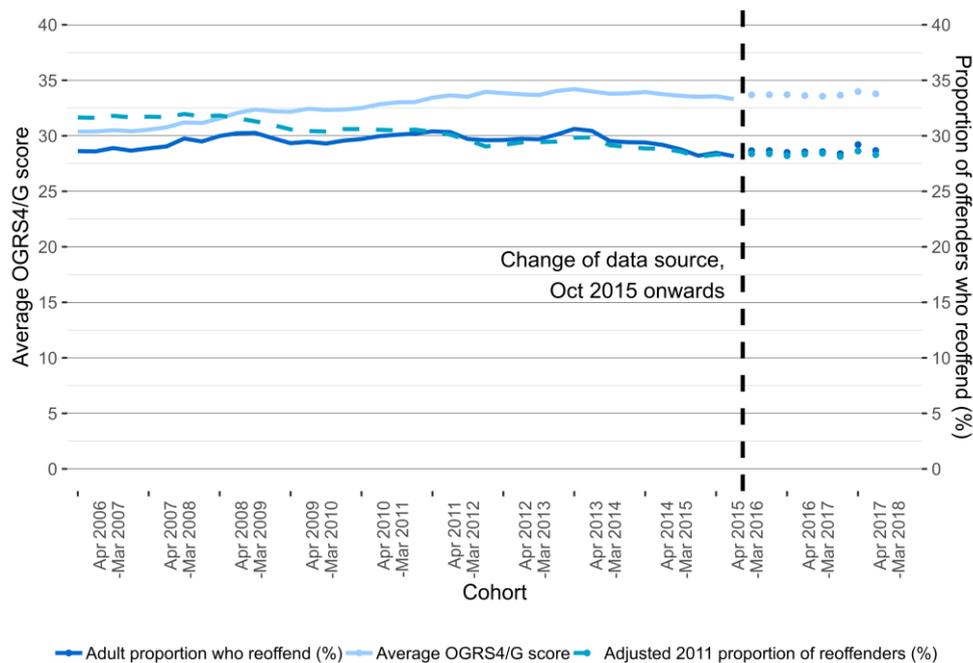
3. Adjusted reoffending rates

When controlling for offender characteristics, 28.3% of adult offenders in the cohort reoffended within a year.

This represents a decrease of 0.1 percentage points compared to the same quarter in 2016.

The raw proven reoffending rates have been adjusted against the 2011 calendar year, in line with the Payment by Results (PbR) statistics.² These adjusted 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.³

Figure 3: The proportion of offenders who reoffend, the average OGRS scores and the adjusted proven reoffending rate for adults, April 2006 to September 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 July to September 2017 period was 28.7% while the adjusted rate was 28.3%.

² Refer to [Payment by results statistics](#) for proven reoffending statistics for adult offenders being managed by Community Rehabilitation Companies, under PbR arrangements, and by the National Probation Service.

³ OGRS4 is based on a well-established, peer reviewed methodology for assessing and representing reoffending risk. Refer to [A compendium of research and analysis on the Offender Assessment System \(OASys\)](#) for details.

4. Juvenile offenders⁴

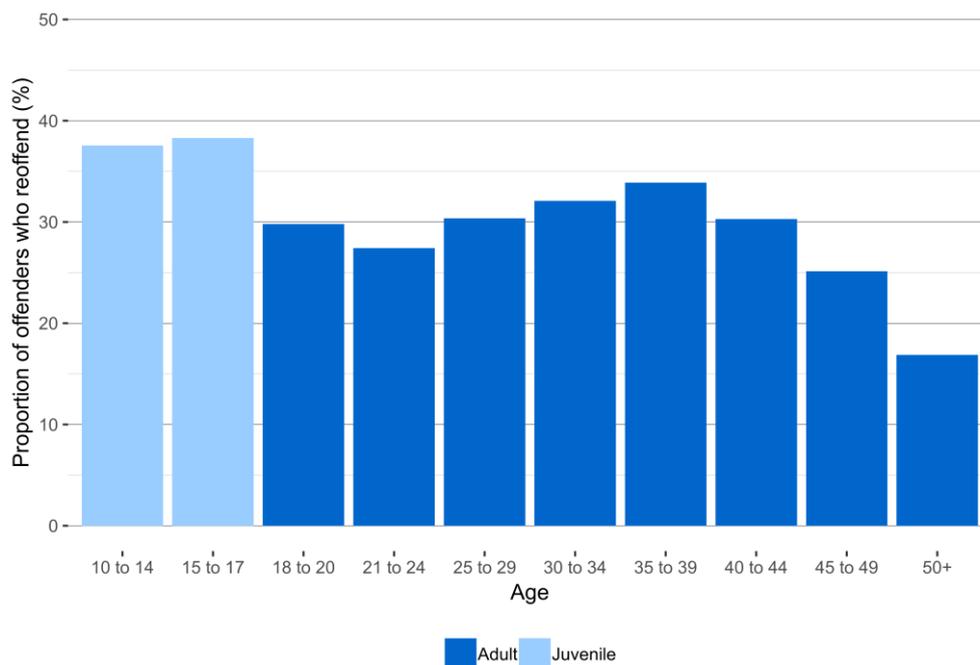
Juvenile offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 38.1%

The juvenile reoffending rate decreased by 3.6 percentage points from the same quarter in the previous year and, over the years, has fluctuated between 36.3% and 43.6%.⁵ However, for context, the number of offenders in the cohort has fallen by 86% since the same quarter in 2006.

The juvenile reoffending rate was 38.1%, a 3.6 percentage point decrease from the same quarter in the previous year. Of the approximately 7,000 juvenile offenders in the July to September 2017 cohort, just under 3,000 of them committed a reoffence within a one-year follow-up period (equivalent to around 11,000 proven reoffences). However, the number of offenders in the cohort has fallen by 86% since the same quarter in 2006 and has fluctuated between 36.3% and 43.6% over the years.

Those that reoffended committed on average 4.03 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, 74.6% and 20.1% respectively.

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



This quarter, 15 to 17-year-old offenders have the highest reoffending rate, closely followed by the 10 to 14-year-old offenders, with reoffending rates of 38.3% and 37.6% respectively (Figure 4). The proven reoffending rate for juveniles is higher than adults and the rate starts to fall with increasing age after the 35 to 39-year-old group.

⁴ Juveniles are defined as those aged 10 to 17 years old.

⁵ The new reoffending measure, however, is likely to be more variable from quarter to quarter due to the smaller size of the cohorts.

5. Adult reoffending by disposal⁶

Adults released from custody or starting court orders had a proven reoffending rate of 37.2%

This represents a 0.6 percentage point decrease since the same quarter last year and a 3.2 percentage point decrease since the same quarter in 2011.

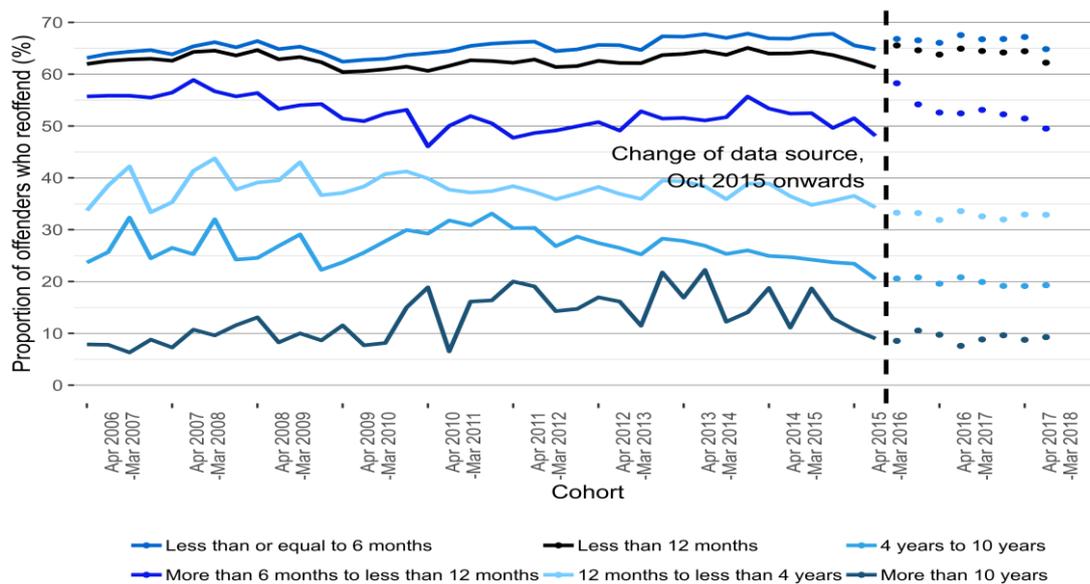
Adults released from custodial sentences of less than 12 months had a proven reoffending rate of 62.2%

This is a decrease of 2.7 percentage points from the same quarter in the previous year. Those released from sentences of less than or equal to 6 months had a proven reoffending rate of 64.8%, which is also a decrease of 2.7 percentage points since the same quarter in the previous year.

Adults released from custody or starting court orders had a proven reoffending rate of 37.2%, a decrease of 0.6 percentage points compared to the same quarter in 2016 and a decrease of 3.2 percentage points since the same quarter in 2011.

The proven reoffending rate for adult offenders starting a court order⁷ specifically was 32.9%, a 4.0 percentage point decrease when compared to the same quarter in 2011. When adjusted for offender mix (i.e. when controlling for offender characteristics), the decrease observed in 2011 is smaller at 0.6 percentage points.

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



⁶ 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. 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.

⁷ Community order or suspended sentence order.

The proven reoffending rate for adult offenders released from custody was 47.6%, a 1.4 percentage point decrease compared to the same quarter the previous year. However, adults who served sentences of 12 months or more reoffended at a substantially lower rate at 29.1% compared to those who served a sentence of less than 12 months at a rate of 62.2%. Those released from sentences of less than or equal to 6 months had a proven reoffending rate of 64.8%, a decrease of 2.7 percentage points since the same quarter in the previous year. Users should exercise caution when comparing the effectiveness of different sentences because the presented rates do not control for known differences in offender characteristics receiving those sentences - for further information please consult recent research on the [impact of short custodial sentences, community orders and suspended sentence orders on reoffending](#) as well as the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#).⁸

⁸ 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](#).

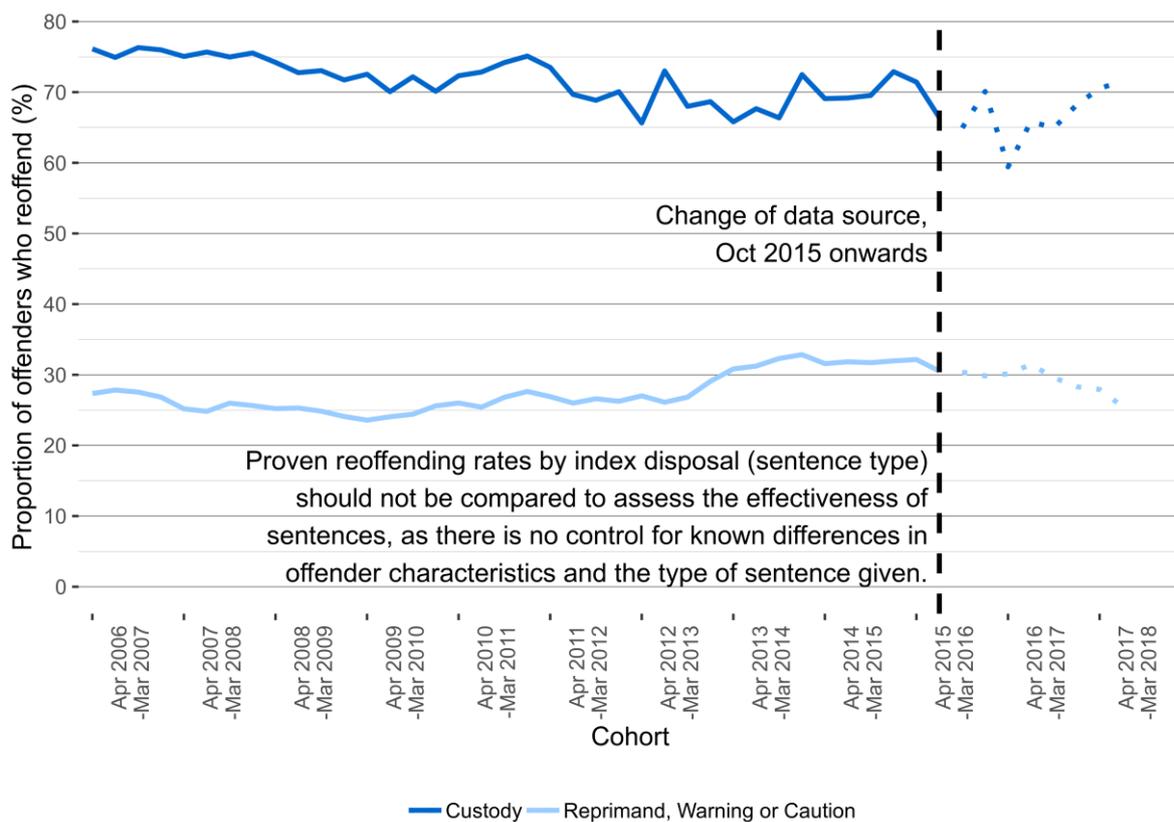
6. Juvenile reoffending by disposal⁹

Juvenile offenders given youth cautions had a proven reoffending rate of 25.5%

The reoffending rate for juvenile offenders given youth cautions has decreased by 5.9 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 September 2017 (Source: Table C1b)



Between July and September 2017, 183 juvenile offenders were released from custody and 131 (71.6%) were proven to have committed a reoffence within a year. The rate has increased by 5.7 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.

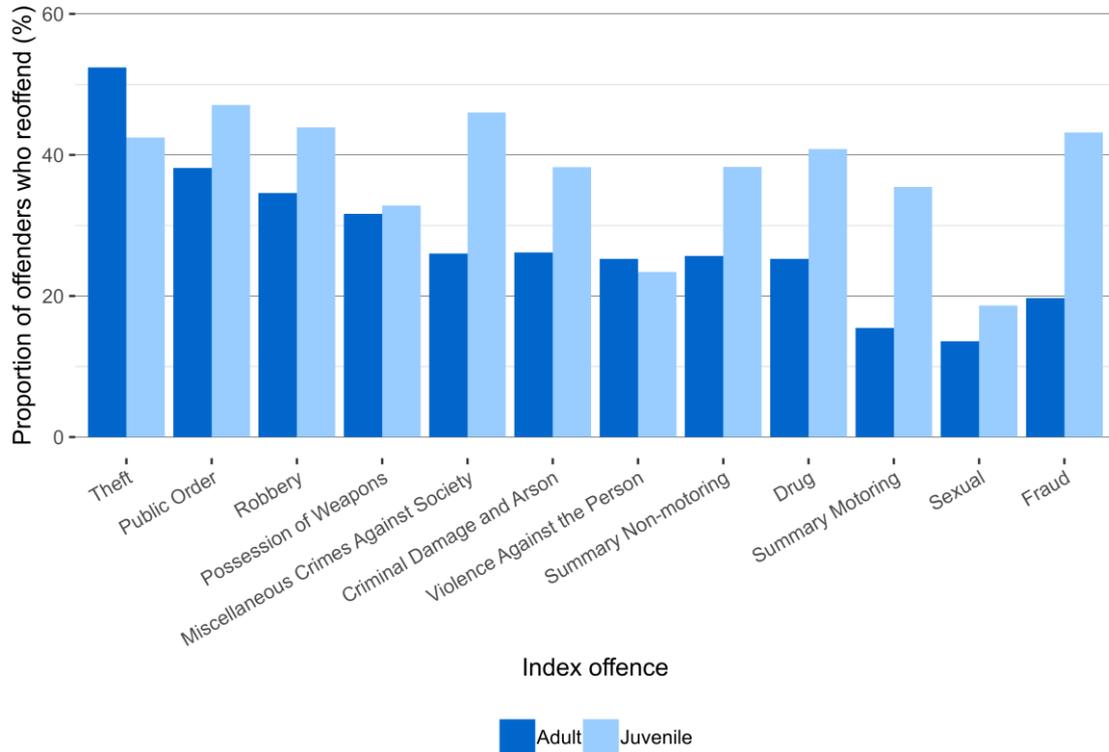
⁹ The juvenile proven reoffending data by disposal uses the same methodology as that adopted for adult reoffending by disposal (see section 5 for more details).

7. Index offences¹⁰

For the July to September 2017 adult cohort, the index offence category associated with the highest reoffending rate was theft at 52.4%

The second highest reoffending rate of 38.1% amongst adult offenders was those with an index offence of public order (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Proportion of adult and juvenile offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by index offence (except the 'other' offence category), July to September 2017 (Source: Table A4a/b)



The proportion of reoffences committed depending on index offence has remained broadly stable over time. The lowest rate of reoffending in the adult cohort was observed amongst those with a sexual offence as their index offence, with a rate of 13.6%. Excluding the 'other' offence category, the miscellaneous crimes against society index offence category saw the largest percentage point decrease in reoffending rate since the same quarter in 2006, a 10.1 percentage point difference. Those with an index offence of theft saw the biggest increase in this period, a 6.5 percentage point difference.

In the juvenile cohort, those with an index offence of public order had the highest proven reoffending rate at 47.1%, followed by those with an index offence of miscellaneous crimes against society at 46.0%. Those with the lowest rate, excluding the 'other' offence category, were offenders who had committed a sexual index offence. Their reoffending rate was 18.6%. Those who committed violence against the person index offences saw the largest percentage point decrease in reoffending rate since the same quarter in 2006 (a 9.2 percentage point difference) whilst fraud index offences represented the biggest percentage point increase over the same period (a 16.1 percentage point difference).

¹⁰ An index offence refers to the offence that leads to an offender being included in the offender cohort.

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 [data tool](#) providing proven reoffending data (covering October 2006 - September 2017) by various breakdowns including offence group and geography.

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.

Future publications

Our statisticians regularly review the content of publications. Development of new and improved statistical outputs is usually dependent on reallocating existing resources. As part of our continual review and prioritisation, we welcome user feedback on existing outputs including content, breadth, frequency and methodology. Please send any comments you have on this publication including suggestions for further developments or reductions in content.

Contact

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

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Email: newsdesk@justice.gov.uk

Other enquiries and feedback on 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

Next update: 31 October 2019

URL: 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

