



Ministry
of Justice

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and Offender Characteristics, 2000–2018

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1. Summary

1.1 Background

This paper provides an alternative analysis on reoffending using Police National Computer (PNC) data than the standard publications which often focus on a one-year follow-up period following release from custody. A longer observation window (2000 to December 2018) allowed the analysis of reoffending risk associated with criminal sentences, controlling for offender characteristics (e.g. age, sex) and criminal circumstance (e.g. custodial sentence or community order length, offence, prior offending history) from a cohort of First Time Entrants (FTEs) in the year 2000. This can determine after how many years the cohort reached the same level of criminal risk as the general population, meaning the length of time before a person's risk of committing a further offence becomes comparable to the general population (roughly 1% or 2%). Doing so could inform Criminal Records reform by providing evidence on risk to be considered when determining how long under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (ROA) before a conviction becomes 'spent' for basic checks, taking into account the need to protect the public and advance opportunity, particularly employment, to people who offended in the past and have been rehabilitated to re-join society.

1.2 Methods

A repeated event random effects model was fit to duration data representing criminal convictions or cautions following completion of a custodial sentence or community order. This was a hazard rate analysis on a cohort of first time entrants to the criminal justice system in the year 2000, with an observation window up to the end of year 2018, using an extract of data from the PNC. The unit of analysis was the duration between completing a sentence given at court, either custody or a community order, until a reoffence or the end of the observation window. This analysis departed from other studies on desistance, as sentence completions are studied rather than offenders, despite offenders being the units of observation. This allowed for repeat events for one individual, i.e., a series of reoffences following entrance to the justice system, and analytically focussed on the sentence itself

rather than the individual offender as an element of exploration. The analysis examined approximately 74,000 custodial sentences completed by around 34,000 individuals and approximately 98,000 community orders completed by around 60,000 individuals over a 19-year timeframe. A more detailed explanation of the analytical methods can be found in Annex A.

The model fit to these data controlled for offender characteristics (including age at sentence, age on entry to the criminal justice system and age at sentence completion), and offence type (both category of offence and an indicator of those offences which are highly serious in that they are listed on Schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act (2003)¹).

Desistance, in this analysis, was analytically defined as the number of years since completing a custodial sentence or a community order without a further criminal conviction or caution, until the risk of any further conviction or caution (as measured by a hazard rate) fell below the overall criminal risk posed by the general population. A reasonable criminal risk for the general population was determined at 2% – meaning that, on average, there would be a 2% chance someone without a criminal conviction will obtain one.

Key findings show the number of offence-free years since custodial sentence and community order completion for the risk posed by offenders to reach the general criminal risk of the general population.

1.3 Key Findings

Table 1 summarises the estimated time to desistance from the analysis of custodial sentences and community orders, controlling for factors such as offender age, offence type, and sentence length. Consistent with earlier research (See e.g., Austin 2013; Drago, Galbiati & Vertova 2009; Tiedt & Sobal 2015), there was an inverse association between reoffending risk and custodial sentence length. That is, there were fewer crime free years before the reconviction risk of the offending population was in line with the general population for those who received longer sentences. This analysis suggests that those serving longer custodial sentence may be disproportionality hindered from opportunities to fully participate in society, such as gaining employment, by needing to disclose their

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/44/schedule/15>

convictions even though their criminal risk becomes low. At the time of writing, those sentenced to over 4 years in custody never have their convictions “spent” on their criminal record. However, the analysis suggests that they may be rehabilitated after around 7 years for adults, and 11 years for children.²

Offenders who completed a custodial sentence of six months or less never reached the general criminal risk within the window of observation (from 2000 to end of 2018), regardless of age at sentence. This is likely due to offenders sentenced to short sentences repeatedly committing low harm offences.

Table 1 Calculated 'Time to Desistance' following a custodial sentence for adults and children

Custodial Sentence Length	Adults aged 18+ when convicted	Aged less than 18 when convicted
6 months or less	Not within the window of observation	Not within the window of observation
Greater than 6 months up to 2½ years	About 14 offence free years	About 14 offence free years
Greater than 2½ years up to and 4 years	About 11 offence free years	About 14 offence free years
More than 4 years	About 7 offence free years	About 11 offence free years

Controlling for the seriousness of the offence (Table 2), the same inverse association was shown, i.e. those sentenced to short custodial sentences did not reach the same level of criminal risk as the general population. Completed sentences following Schedule 15 offences (i.e., highly serious) had a lower reoffending risk than non-Schedule 15 offences (i.e., less serious), regardless of custodial sentence length or age group. This suggests that some offenders may fall into a category of ‘low harm, high volume’ crime, meaning those who commit non-Schedule 15 offences would likely commit these offences more than once, regardless of age group or custodial sentence length.

Adults who had committed offences listed on Schedule 15 and sentenced to over four years in custody reached the offending risk of the general population in the shortest time,

² The term “child” is used for anybody aged under the age of 18 and are defined by the age they were when they were sentenced.

at around four years, whereas children took over seven offence-free years to reach this point when sentenced to the same sentence length. The immediate reoffending risk (after the first year since completing the custodial sentence) was much lower than for offences not listed on Schedule 15, or for other custodial sentence lengths.

Table 2 Calculated 'Time to Desistance' following a custodial sentence for adults and children, for Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences

Custodial Sentence Length	Adults aged 18+ when convicted		Aged less than 18 when convicted	
	Not on Schedule 15	Schedule 15	Not on Schedule 15	Schedule 15
6 months or less	Not within the window of observation	Not within the window of observation	Not within the window of observation	Not within the window of observation
Greater than 6 months up to and including 2½ years	About 14 offence free years	About 12 offence free years	About 17 offence free years ³	About 14 offence free years
Greater than 2½ years up to and including 4 years	About 12 offence free years	About 9 offence free years	About 14 offence free years	About 14 offence free years
More than 4 years	About 6 offence free years	About 4 offence free years	About 9 offence free years	About 7 offence free years

For community orders, regardless of offence type (offences on Schedule 15 or not) or age, it took approximately 15 offence-free years for them to reach the same level of criminal risk as the general public (Table 3). Offenders tended to receive community orders for lower harm offences, such as Summary offences which may become recurring events, or for first offences. Many of those receiving short custodial sentences will have received a prior community order.⁴

³ Though the end of the observation window (Figure 5) shows that it may rise again if further years were added.

⁴ Prior data suggests that nearly 84% of offenders sentenced to short custody had a prior community order (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/813982/mix-disposal-histories-ad-hoc-stats.pdf).

**Table 3 Calculated 'Time to Desistance' following a community order, including
Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences for adults and children**

Community order	Adults aged 18+ when convicted	Aged less than 18 when convicted
Community order	About 15 offence free years	About 15 offence free years
Community order and Schedule 15 offence	About 15 offence free years	About 15 offence free years
Community order and non-Schedule 15 offence	About 15 offence free years	About 15 offence free years

2. Introduction

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (ROA) provides that certain convictions and cautions become “spent”, i.e., the offender is treated as rehabilitated in respect of that offence and is not obliged to disclose it for most purposes. A subsequent legislative order lists several professions, licenses, proceedings, and areas of work for which spent convictions must be disclosed. The Police Act 1977 sets out further circumstances under which spent convictions will be disclosable. The length of rehabilitation periods, after which a conviction would become ‘spent’, is determined by the nature of the sentence, and its length if it is a custodial sentence. To better understand the effectiveness of rehabilitation periods, this analysis was motivated to examine the link between custodial sentence length and reoffending risk on the one hand, and community sentencing and reoffending risk on the other.

At present, rehabilitation periods for those serving custodial sentences are related to the length of custodial sentences. As a rule, community orders become ‘spent’ one year from the last day the order has effect if given to an adult aged 18+. Community orders for children consist of Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YROs) and Referral Orders. YROs become ‘spent’ 6 months after the end date of the sentence (including the licence period). Referral Orders become ‘spent’ after the period of the order (from the date the disposal is administered). These are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Rehabilitation periods following a sentence

Sentence	Aged 18+ When Convicted	Aged Less than 18 When Convicted
Community Order	1 year from the completion of the order	N/A
Youth Rehabilitation Order	N/A	6 months beginning with the last day on which the order has effect
6 months or less in custody	2 years from completion of sentence	18 months from completion of sentence
Greater than 6 months up to and including 2½ years in custody	4 years from completion of sentence	2 years from completion of sentence

Sentence	Aged 18+ When Convicted	Aged Less than 18 When Convicted
Greater than 2½ years up to 4 years in custody	7 years from completion of sentence	3½ years from completion of sentence
More than 4 years in custody	Never spent	Never spent

The analysis in this report provides separate estimates of the duration of criminal risk posed by offenders who had completed a custodial sentence or community order. ‘Criminal risk’ was defined as the likelihood of a further conviction or caution following completion of either a custodial sentence or a community order. As a benchmark, criminal risk was compared to the general population rate of entry into the criminal justice system. There is no generally accepted definition of desistance, many have defined desistance as having happened once the offender permanently stops offending over a sustained period of time (i.e. no further criminal convictions at all), or that desistance is a process and not an event (see e.g., Weitekamp & Kerner 1994). In this study, offenders were considered to have desisted from crime once their risk of reoffending, conditional on not having reoffended yet, was no greater than the general criminal risk of the population.

2.1 Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences

Of special concern are offences which are highly serious in nature. This analysis specifically examined offences which come under Schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003⁵ in comparison to those which do not. Offences listed on Schedule 15 are a wide range of high harm, indictable offences, often violent or sexual in nature or relate to specified terrorism offences. Schedule 15 offences include offences that cover a broad range of severity, and therefore some can also receive short custodial sentences or community orders.

Specified violent and sexual offences listed in Schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 include kidnapping, robbery, aggravated burglary, rape, arson, violent disorder, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, assault occasioning grievous bodily harm, wounding, and racially aggravated offences (amongst others). Offences that do not appear

⁵ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/44/schedule/15>

on Schedule 15, such as theft from shops, may be less harmful individually, but occur at higher volume.

“Low harm” offences that tend to occur at high volume are often disproportionately committed by prolific offenders. Research conducted by the MoJ on prolific offenders consistently shows that theft offences and summary offences (both offence groups not appearing on Schedule 15) were often the most common first offence and last offence committed by prolific offenders.^{6,7} There is some evidence to suggest that individuals tend to reoffend in crime categories where they already have some experience (Bayer et al, 2009). This is true for both adults and children. Prolific offenders (those that often commit low harm offences and receive short custodial sentences) also tend to have chaotic lives. Previous MoJ analysis showed that prolific offenders had a lower educational attainment and higher proportions of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility, than non-prolific offenders. Prisoners assessed when serving short custodial sentences of 6 months or less as at 30 June 2018 reported a higher prevalence of criminogenic needs than those serving longer sentences. For example, 72% of prisoners assessed who were serving short custodial sentences of 6 months or less as at 30 June 2018 had an employment need, compared to 54% of those assessed serving sentences of 4 years or more.⁸

The analysis controls for whether the offence appears on Schedule 15 in order to address the question of whether those committing serious offences pose a risk to the general population for longer upon completing their sentence than other offenders.

⁶ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/681553/prolific-offenders-15-feb-2017.pdf

⁷ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/802131/prolific-offenders-experimental-statistics-may-2019.pdf

⁸ Questions on the Offender Assessment System (OASys) regarding employment include: unemployment, employment history, work-related skills, attitude to employment, reading, writing, numeracy, and employment questions relating to offending behaviour. An ‘employment need’ was flagged for those who had a full layer 3 OASys assessment if two or more questions were marked:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/identified-needs-of-offenders-in-custody-and-the-community-from-oasys>

3. Approach

This analysis used an extract from the Police National Computer (PNC) of a cohort of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system in England and Wales in 2000 and their subsequent offending histories. The cohort was limited to all those first sentenced at court in 2000 as the PNC was created in this year and therefore this provided the longest interval over which to observe offending history.

The analysis of custodial sentences was limited to approximately 71,000 prison releases experienced by this cohort, covering roughly 34,000 individuals over a 19-year period from January 2000 to December 2018. The analysis was limited to those who were at risk of reoffending once the rehabilitation period associated with their sentence commenced. With a custodial sentence, this would be the last day of the license period associated with the sentence. For this reason, all those released from custody who reoffended prior to completion of the sentence as given by the court (30,500) were excluded from the analysis. This cohort had a minimum of one and maximum of 32 custodial spells, with an average of 8.7 custodial spells over the period.

The analysis of community orders was limited to approximately 98,200 sentences covering about 60,000 individuals over the same 19-year period from 2000 to 2018. Like custodial sentencing, rehabilitation periods begin on the last day which the order has effect, and therefore, 45,200 were dropped from analysis as they had reoffended before completion of their sentence. This cohort had a minimum of one and maximum of 15 community spells, with an average of 2.5 community spells over the period.

The analysis calculated the hazard rate of reoffending to judge the risk posed by offenders completing a custodial sentence or community order. The reoffending hazard rate measures the instantaneous chance of reoffending as time passes given that a further offence has not (yet) occurred. The approach departs from the usual reoffending analysis methodology conducted by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), which generates a binary indicator of whether any reoffending occurs over a fixed period of 12 months, plus a count

of offences during this fixed period.⁹ The analysis of hazard rates mirrors some of the established academic literature on desistance (e.g., Kurleychek, Brame & Bushway 2006; Blumstein & Nakamura 2009; Soothill & Francis 2009; Dubourg & Vincent 2011; Kurleychek, Bushway & Brame 2012; Howard 2013; Tiedt & Sabol 2015) in that it provides estimates of the length of time it takes offenders to desist from crime or otherwise pose no greater risk than would be expected in a measure of the general population (such as the whole population for that year, or those with no prior convictions). The analysis departs from the literature in that it treated reoffending as a repeated event, in order to draw conclusions about the length of time to desistance for types of sentences rather than types of offenders. In this analysis, time was measured in whole years.

A model was fitted to reoffending times to show the effect of sentence after controlling for individual characteristics and criminal circumstances¹⁰ on the number of years before the risk of having a further caution or conviction becomes comparable to the general criminal risk of the population. The specific factors controlled included age (at first offence, at the point of sentence and at sentence completion), gender, ethnicity, offence group¹¹ of the offence committed, the year the sentence was considered completed and the count of all proven reoffences committed prior to their most recent caution or conviction. Additionally, the model included a measure of time over which the offender had remained offence free since the completion of the sentence.

All models were analysed in STATA 10.1, and Appendix A contains further description of the analysis undertaken.

⁹ Ministry of Justice Proven Reoffending Statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics>. “Reoffending” is defined as all offenders in a given 3-month period (or sum of four 3-month cohorts for a year), who received a caution, final warning, or reprimand (juveniles prior to April 2013), non-custodial conviction or released from custody and had a proven recordable further caution or conviction on the PNC within a one-year follow-up period.

¹⁰ Offender characteristics factors: age at onset in the year 2000, age at completion of sentence, age group (adult or under 18) at the point of sentence, gender and ethnicity. Criminal Circumstances include sentence length, offence group, offence type (Schedule 15 or not, if included), count of offences prior to the current sentence, time since sentence completion and year sentence ended, and the interaction of time since sentence completion and custodial/community order length was also controlled in the models.

¹¹ The offence group classification used here corresponds to the usual classification of offences in published MoJ statistical tools and tables: Violence against the Person; Sexual offences; Robbery; Theft offences; Criminal damage and arson; Drug offences; Possession of weapons; Public order offences; Miscellaneous crimes against society; Fraud offences; Summary non-motoring; Summary motoring and Breach offences.

General Criminal Risk. To judge whether an offender had truly desisted during the time period observed, reoffending risk was compared to the criminal risk of the general population. However, there is no agreed upon, nor straightforward, way to estimate this comparator risk.

One approach is to calculate the likelihood of becoming a proven offender among those who have no history of proven offending. That is, the criminal risk of the general population could be expressed as the proportion of the general population with no prior convictions or cautions who become entrants to the justice system by being cautioned or convicted of a criminal offence:

$$\frac{FTE_y}{P_y - R_y}$$

Where FTE_y represents the first-time entrant population in year y – or the number of individuals cautioned or convicted in year y with no prior cautions or convictions, obtained from PNC data; P_y represents the Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimate in year y ; and R_y represents the size of the reoffending cohort from MoJ proven reoffending statistics covering year y . The quantity $P_y - R_y$, therefore, represents the ‘criminally innocent’ population in year y . Table 5 presents age and gender specific calculations for 2006 and 2013, roughly one third and two thirds of the way through the observation period in this analysis. Criminal risk in the general population is clearly time,¹² age and gender specific. It can be as high as about four in 100 if considering the risk posed by 15–17 year-old males in 2006 to practically no risk if considering females over the age of 50 regardless of year.

¹² Period effects may be due to changes in police activity, prosecution rates, and also in the levels and amounts of crime actually being committed over time.

Table 5 Age and Sex Specific Offending Risk of the General Population in 2006 and 2013

Age Group	2006		2013	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Age 10–14	1.0%	1.8%	0.1%	0.3%
Age 15–17	1.6%	4.3%	0.3%	1.1%
Age 18–20	0.9%	3.4%	0.4%	1.6%
Age 21–24	0.6%	2.1%	0.3%	1.2%
Age 25–29	0.4%	1.4%	0.2%	0.8%
Age 30–34	0.3%	1.0%	0.2%	0.6%
Age 35–39	0.3%	0.9%	0.2%	0.5%
Age 40–44	0.3%	0.7%	0.2%	0.4%
Age 45–49	0.2%	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%
Age 50+	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%

Since the volume of crime has fallen even further in recent years compared to 2013 (see e.g., Ministry of Justice (2019)), 2013 risk levels were used as a benchmark. These range from a high of 1.6% for 18–20 year-old males to much less than 1% for many other groups. There will be some variation in risk for which these calculations do not account, nevertheless. So, in this analysis, when assessing an offender’s risk of reoffending, rates of 2% and 1% were used to judge whether desistance might likely be considered to have occurred. This region is marked in the findings for reference. These values are comparable to what is used in other studies, though there will be some variation between countries in the precise measure used (see Blumstein & Nakamura 2009; Bushway, Nieuwbeerta, & Blokland, 2011; DeWitt et al., 2017; Sothill & Francis, 2009).

3.1 Limitations

Even after controlling for offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, there remains a statistically significant amount of variation between offenders in their reoffending propensities. While the analytical approach endeavoured to control for factors associated with reoffending, it could not control for all factors involved in reoffending. For example, the analysis did not control for treatment or therapeutic programmes undertaken while in custody or the community, nor employment upon release which has been shown elsewhere to be associated with reduced reoffending (Ministry of Justice 2013).

The PNC extract used in this analysis had historical properties. The cohort entered the criminal justice system in the year 2000 at a time when the overall volume of crime was much higher. There may therefore be period effects such that reoffending risk posed by more recent cohorts could be different. At the same time, as shown in Table 5, the general criminal risk of the non-offender population is comparably lower. Thus, the analysis assumes that the pattern of reoffending risk relative to the general population risk remains unchanged despite any historical trend in overall offending.

Some individuals may cease to be at risk for reoffending because they have died or moved out of England and Wales during the window of observation. However, obtaining information to identify the handful of cases affected would be likely to be resource intensive. For this reason, the analysis assumed that all offenders remain at risk for reoffending over the entirety of the observation period from January 2000 until December 2018.

The analysis excluded offenders who reoffended before the completion of their sentence as given by the court. A successful sentence completion was defined in this analysis from the point when the rehabilitation period starts. For a custodial sentence, the rehabilitation period begins on the first day after the number of days to be served that had been issued by the court has elapsed.¹³ For a community order, the rehabilitation period begins on the first day after the number of days the order lasts has elapsed. Offenders serving custodial sentences are released on licence at some point during their sentence.¹⁴ The length of any licence/supervision period clearly varies with the type and length of sentence, for example a 6-month determinate custodial sentence will have a roughly 3-month licence period while a comparable 4-year sentence will have a 2-year licence period. Since those serving longer in custody must remain offence free for a longer period of time in order to be included in the analysis, they may be more resilient to reoffending by the time their sentence completes. Sensitivity analysis may have been appropriate to compare results for factors that did not omit these individuals.

¹³ Most, if not all, offenders serving a custodial sentence will server a portion in custody and a portion on license in the community. Therefore, the rehabilitation period begins after both portions of the sentence are complete.

¹⁴ The periods served in custody and on license depends on the type of custodial sentence given and eligibility for home detention.

It should be noted that this may also explain some variation in the community order analysis as these can vary from several days to three years, suggesting a similar effect for those serving longer sentences.

While the results show the number of offence free years required to desist, the time to desistance is averaged across all offenders. This means that there will always be some offenders who remain at higher risk for reoffending.

4. Results

4.1 Descriptive Statistics: Custodial Sentences

Approximately 77.2% of the 74,000 successful custodial sentence completions resulted in a further offence (Table 6), though this varied by custodial sentence length. Those serving six months or less were highly likely to reoffend as 84.9% of spells following sentences of this length ended in a further conviction. Those serving greater than four years in custody were the least likely to reoffend as 32.2% of spells following custodial sentences of this length ended in a reoffence.

Table 6 Terminating event within the observation window by custodial sentence length

Custodial Sentence Length	No Reoffence	Reoffence	Total
6 months or less	15.1%	84.9%	53,427
Greater than 6 months up to and including 2½ years	36.3%	63.7%	10,737
Greater than 2½ years up to and including 4 years	46.9%	53.1%	6,438
More than 4 years	67.8%	32.2%	2,413
Total	22.8%	77.2%	73,015

Those who had completed a custodial sentence of more than four years tended to be somewhat older on the date of conviction, had a much older age of first custodial sentence and fewer prior offences compared to those who completed shorter sentences in custody (Table 7). Strikingly, those sentenced to less than six months for their most recent custodial sentence had a median number of 11 prior offences compared to a median value of one prior offence for those sentenced to greater than four years in custody. For full descriptive statistics, see Appendix B.

Table 7 Selected descriptive statistics for offenders sentenced to custody by most recent custodial sentence length

		Custodial Sentence Length			
		6 months or less	Greater than 6 months to less than 2 ½ years	Greater than 2½ years to up to and including 4 years	Over 4 years
	N	20,162	7,093	4,849	2,122
Cohort Descriptives	Average age at conviction/caution	28.41	28.88	29.1	30.46
	Average age at first custodial spell	25.53	26.78	26.94	29.36
	Average age at sentence completion	28.41	29.27	31.21	36.42
	Median count of prior offences	11	4	4	1
Sex	Female	12%	10%	9%	11%
	Male	88%	90%	91%	89%
Age Group (most recent spell)	Youth	3%	5%	3%	3%
	Adult	97%	95%	97%	97%
Ethnicity	BAME	19%	22%	25%	40%
	White	82%	78%	75%	60%
Offence Group (Most Recent Spell)	Violence against the Person	8%	24%	20%	21%
	Sexual Offences	1%	6%	9%	13%
	Robbery	0%	6%	14%	13%
	Theft Offences	18%	15%	12%	4%
	Criminal Damage & Arson	1%	1%	2%	2%
	Drugs Offences	5%	14%	26%	41%
	Possession of Weapons	3%	4%	3%	2%
	Public Order	4%	7%	3%	0%
	Misc. Crimes against Society	13%	14%	6%	3%
	Fraud	4%	6%	4%	1%
	Summary Non-Motoring	22%	1%	0%	0%
	Summary Motoring	14%	0%	0%	0%
	Unknown offences	1%	1%	1%	0%
Breach	8%	2%	0%	0%	

The cohort for the most recent custodial spell experienced by those in the analytical sample were predominately male and an adult at the date of conviction. Those sentenced

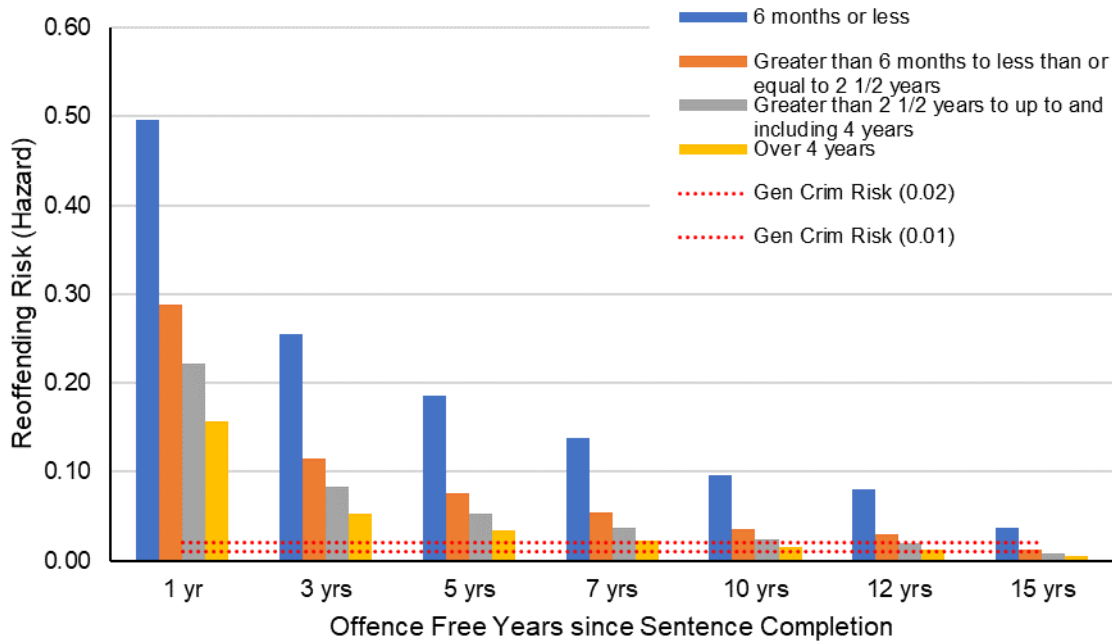
to longer in custody were more likely to be from Black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds. Those sentenced to less than or equal to six months in custody tended to have most recently committed a summary non-motoring offence (22%) or a theft offence (18%). On the other hand, 41% of those sentenced to over four years in custody had committed a drugs offence with nearly half that many having committed a violence against the person offence (21%).

4.2 Reoffending Risk by Custodial Sentence Length

The model to determine reoffending risk of offenders who had completed a custodial sentence controlled for individual level characteristics such as age, gender and ethnicity and criminal circumstances like the offence committed and count of prior offences, by sentence length, to define their likely time to desistance for each. To allow the time to desistance to vary across categories of custodial sentence length, the model also controlled for time and the interaction of time and custodial sentence. Controlling for these factors that could influence the likelihood of reoffending meant that the relationship between custodial sentence length and reoffending risk could be more closely identified. Table 15 in Appendix B contains results from the full model.

The results suggest that the long length of time to desistance shown in Figure 1 was largely driven by those who had completed sentences of less than or equal to six months in custody. For this group, more than 15 offence free years were required before their criminal risk approached the general criminal risk of the population, though the full results suggest that this group never reached the general criminal risk over the entire observation period as this group were much more likely to be repeat offenders than any other group. Consistent with earlier research (see e.g., Austin 2013; Drago, Galbiati & Vertova 2009; Tiedt & Sobal 2015), the analysis here found that reoffending risk was lower following longer periods in custody than shorter custodial periods, and that the risk fell to a similar level of criminal risk as the general population quicker. For example, those who had completed custodial sentences of more than four years in custody tended to reach the criminal risk of the general population after about seven offence free years. Those sentenced to more than 2½ years but up to four years in custody reached this point after about 10 offence free years. Those sentenced to more than six months but less than 2½ years reached the desistance point after about 12 offence free years.

Figure 1 Reoffending risk by custodial sentence length, Offender characteristics and criminal circumstances controlled



The time to desistance varied by the age of the offender at the time of sentencing with shorter time to desistance for children compared to adults. Children, however, tended to remain at higher risk for reoffending over time (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Reoffending risk by custodial sentence length for adult offenders, Offender characteristics and criminal circumstances controlled

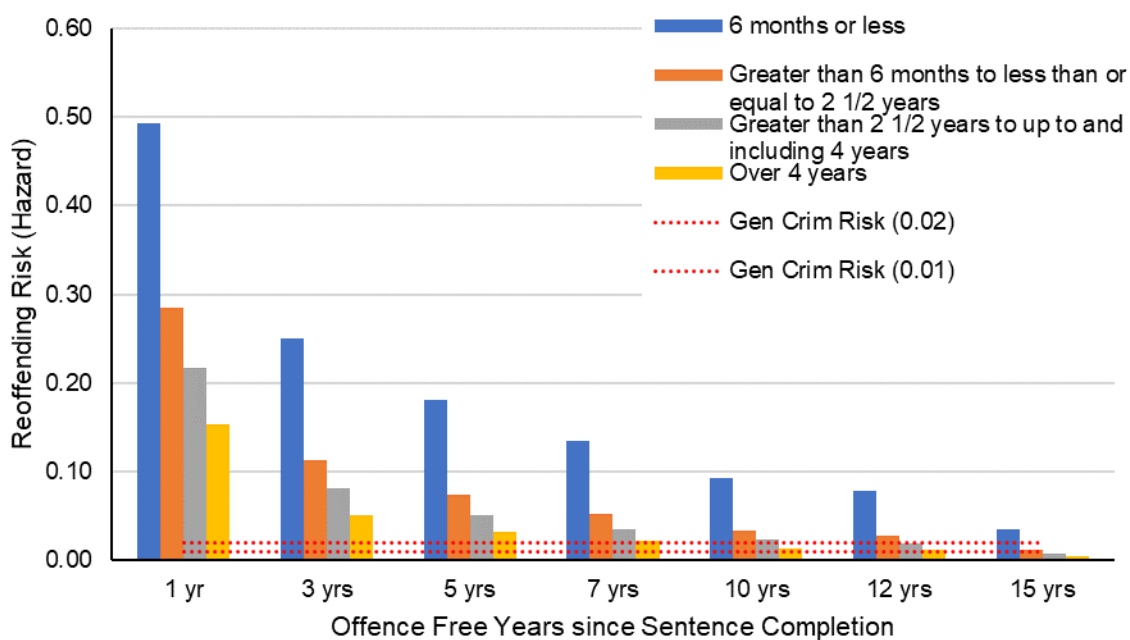
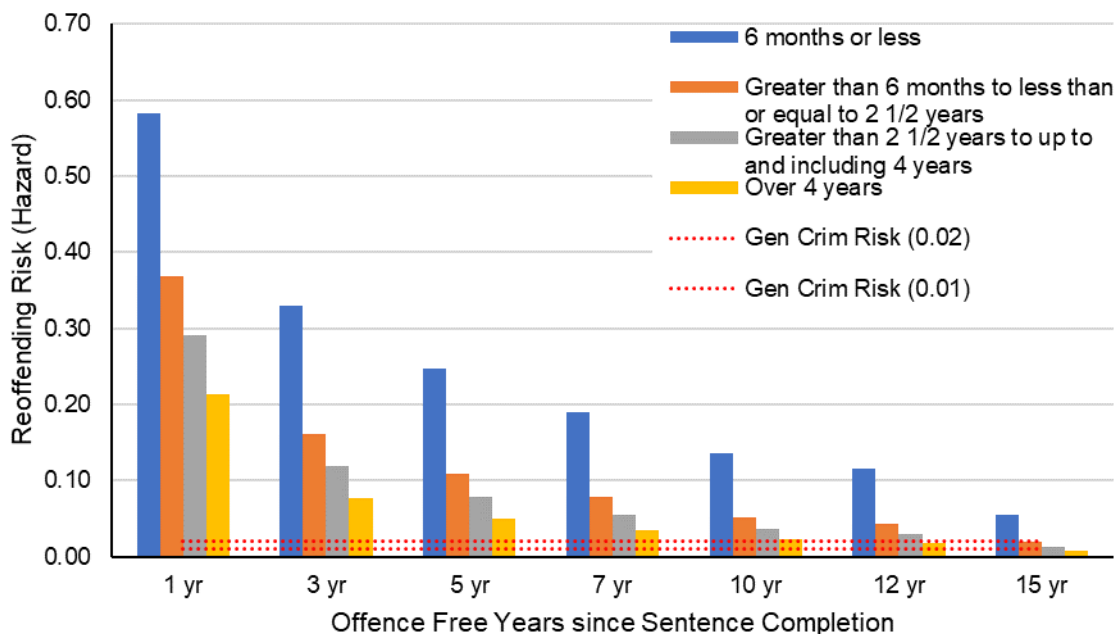


Figure 2 and Figure 3 show the criminal risk posed by adults and children respectively. Results shown in Figure 2 mirror the general results. This is not surprising given that only around 3% of offenders were aged under 18 at the time of sentencing (see Table 13). Adult offenders who had completed a custodial sentence of six months or less did not reach the general criminal risk of the population over the window of observation in this study. However, adults sentenced to 2½ to four years reached this point in about 11 offence free years, while those sentenced to more than six months but less than 2½ years reached this point in roughly 14 offence free years. Adults completing sentences of more than four years approached the general criminal risk of the population after roughly seven offence free years.

Figure 3 shows results for those who were under 18 at the time of sentencing. Children sentenced to six months or less in custody never reached the criminal risk of the general population over the 18-year window of observation. Children sentenced to more than four years custody required about 11 offence free years to reach the general criminal risk of the population. Children sentenced to more than 2½ years up to and including four years reached this point in about 14 offence free years, while children sentenced to more than six months but up to 2½ years also reached the desistance point after about 14 offence free years.

Figure 3 Reoffending risk by custodial sentence length for children, Offender characteristics and criminal circumstances controlled



4.3 Custodial Sentences: Schedule 15 Offences

Schedule 15 offences are a broad range of offences covering a violent or sexual nature, and the severity may be mirrored in the sentence type and length. For example, Schedule 15 offences cover offences such as “Robbery”, an offence that carries a maximum of life, though around 27% of all sentence outcomes given for this offence in 2019 were a community order¹⁵. Those who had completed custodial sentences for non-Schedule 15 offences were more likely to reoffend (81%) compared to Schedule 15 offences (68%) and was highest following a custodial sentence of 6 months or less for offences not listed on Schedule 15 (83%), though those who had completed short custodial sentences for offences that were listed on Schedule 15 were also highly likely to reoffend (80%; Table 8).

Following a completed custodial sentence of over four years, 22% of non-Schedule 15 offences resulted in a further conviction, compared to 45% of Schedule 15 offences. This

¹⁵ Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly: Sentencing Tool. Data up to end of December 2019 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/89552/7/sentencing-tool-2019.xlsx Published May 2020

may be due to offence mix within the non-Schedule 15 cohort given the drop in the proportion that resulted in a further offence for other sentence bands.

Table 8 Reoffending event by Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences

Custodial Sentence Length	Non-Schedule 15			Schedule 15 Offences		
	No Reoffence	Reoffence	Total	No Reoffence	Reoffence	Total
6 months or less	13.7%	86.3%	47,733	20.4%	79.6%	4,537
Greater than 6 months up to and including 2 ½ years	37.9%	62.1%	5,730	31.8%	68.2%	4,576
Greater than 2 ½ years up to and including 4 years	50.4%	49.6%	3,049	41.5%	58.5%	3,141
More than 4 years	78.1%	21.9%	1,171	54.6%	45.4%	1,087
Total	19.3%	80.7%	57,683	32.1%	67.9%	13,341

Those who completed custodial sentences of six months or less for offences listed on Schedule 15 for their most recent spell were generally younger when first convicted or cautioned (Table 9). The cohort sentenced to more than four years for a Schedule 15 offence were also generally younger on the date of conviction and younger on the date of their first caution or conviction than those sentenced for non-Schedule 15 offences. Offenders sentenced to custody for a Schedule 15 offence for their most recent conviction had fewer prior cautions or convictions than offenders sentenced to custody for a non-Schedule 15 offence. For custodial sentences completions of six months or less, those convicted of a Schedule 15 offence had a median of only three prior convictions/cautions versus 13 prior convictions/cautions for non-Schedule 15 offences. Similarly, for custodial sentence completions of four or more years; those who had committed a Schedule 15 offence had a median of zero prior convictions/cautions whereas those convicted of a non-Schedule 15 offence had a median of three prior convictions/cautions. For full descriptive statistics, please see Table 16 in Appendix B.

Table 9 Descriptive Statistics of the most recent conviction for Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences, by custodial sentence length

	Not on Schedule 15					Schedule 15			
		Custodial Sentence Length				Custodial Sentence Length			
		6 months or less	Greater than 6 months to less than or equal to 2 ½ years	Greater than 2 ½ years to up to and including 4 years	Over 4 years	6 months or less	Greater than 6 months to less than or equal to 2 ½ years	Greater than 2 ½ years to up to and including 4 years	Over 4 years
	N	17,097	3,707	2,356	1,088	2,269	3,045	2,285	893
Cohort Descriptives	Average age at conviction	28.48	29.93	29.85	32.10	26.23	27.10	27.90	27.87
	Average age at first custodial sentence	25.33	27.33	27.36	31.16	24.71	25.48	25.96	26.48
	Average age at sentence completion	28.48	30.30	31.96	38.28	26.23	27.51	30.00	33.44
	Median Count of prior convictions/cautions	13	6	5	0	3	4	5	3
Sex	Female	13%	12%	10%	16%	8%	8%	7%	5%
	Male	87%	88%	90%	84%	92%	92%	93%	95%
Age Group (most recent custodial sentence)	Youth	2%	2%	1%	2%	10%	9%	5%	5%
	Adult	98%	98%	99%	99%	90%	91%	95%	95%
Ethnicity	BAME	19%	26%	31%	52%	16%	18%	19%	25%
	White	81%	75%	69%	48%	85%	83%	81%	74.8%
Offence Group (Most Recent conviction)	Violence against the Person	2%	2%	1%	3%	47%	51%	40%	45%
	Sexual Offences	0%	2%	3%	11%	8%	11%	14%	16%
	Robbery	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	13%	28%	29%
	Theft Offences	19%	25%	20%	4%	13%	4%	4%	4%
	Criminal Damage & Arson	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	4%	5%
	Drugs Offences ¹⁶	6%	25%	52%	73%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Possession of Weapons	3%	5%	4%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%
	Public Order	2%	2%	1%	0%	22%	15%	5%	1%
	Misc. Crimes against Society	14%	23%	10%	5%	4%	3%	2%	0%
	Fraud ¹⁷	4%	10%	7%	2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Summary Non-Motoring ¹⁸	25%	2%	1%	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Summary Motoring ¹⁸	15%	1%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Unknown offences	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Breach ¹⁹	10%	3%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

¹⁶ No drugs offences are included in analysis using offences mapped to Schedule 15

¹⁷ No Fraud offences are included in analysis used offences mapped to Schedule 15

¹⁸ Summary offences are not included on Schedule 15 lists

¹⁹ Breach offences are not listed on Schedule 15

As expected, the proportions in custody across all sentence lengths were higher for violence against the person offences under Schedule 15 than other offence groups, and proportions were higher for less violent and sexual offences that were not listed on Schedule 15, such as theft offences. The majority of those in custody for their most recent sentence across all sentence lengths were adults, though around 10% of custodial sentence completions for less than six months for Schedule 15 offences were children.

Over half (52%) of the 1,088 custodial sentence completions over four years for non-Schedule 15 offences were of those with a BAME background, and a higher proportion of this cohort were female (16%).

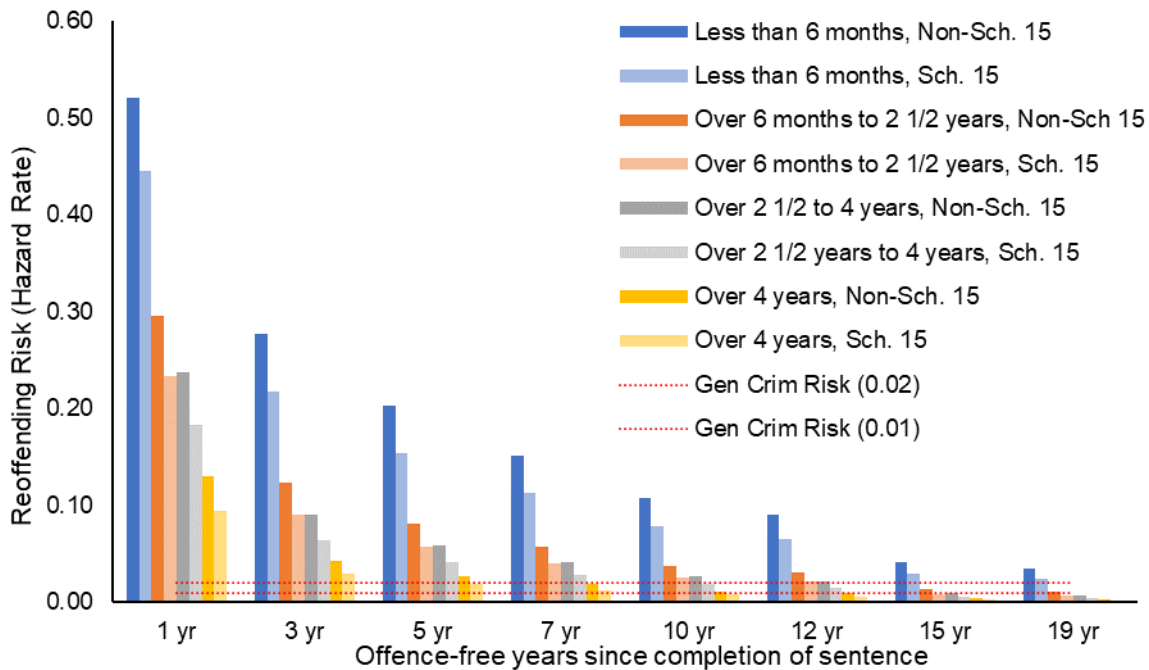
Aged 18+ When Convicted

As seen in previous findings, adults sentenced to six months or less for both Schedule 15 or non-Schedule 15 offences did not reach the same level of criminal risk as the general population within the 19-year observation window.

Adults hit the same level of criminal risk as the general population if sentenced to more than six months to 2½ years in custody after around 12 offence-free years for Schedule 15 offences, and 14 years for non-Schedule 15 offences, and after around nine offence-free years for Schedule 15 offences, and 12 offence-free years for non-Schedule 15 offences when sentenced to over 2½ years to four years.

When sentenced to over four years in prison for Schedule 15 offences, adults became comparable to the criminal risk of the general population after over four offence-free years, the shortest time to desistance, and required around six offence-free years for non-Schedule 15 offences.

Figure 4: Reoffending risk for adults sentenced to custody, by custodial sentence length and Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences



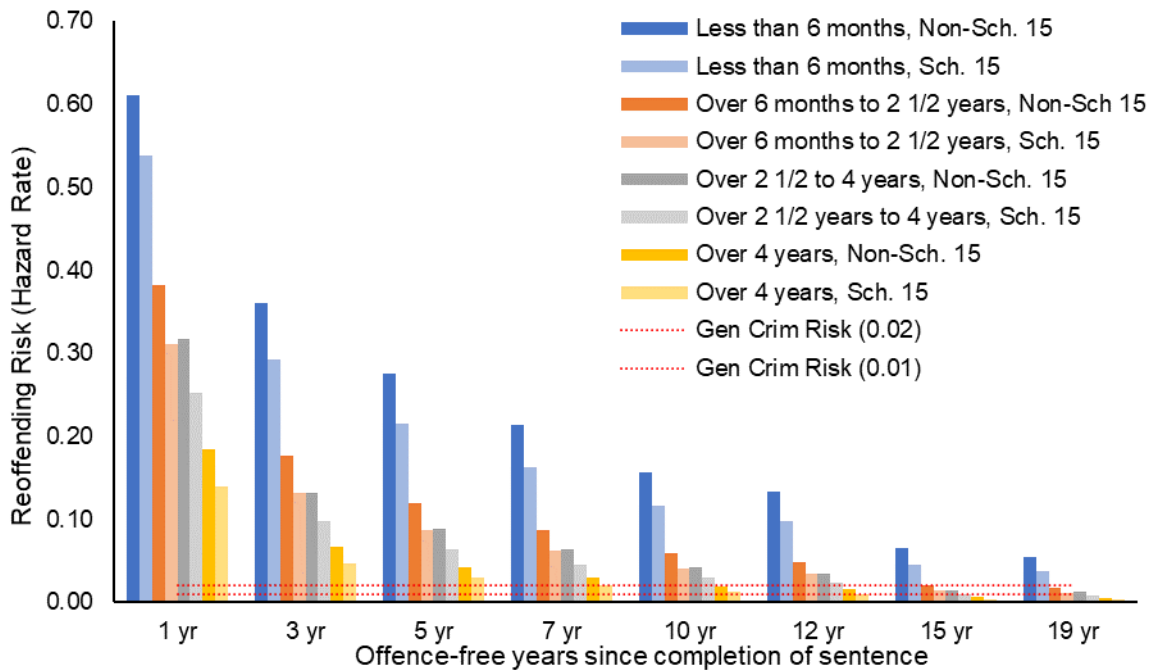
Aged less than 18 when convicted

Children sentenced to six months or less for non-Schedule 15 offences had the highest overall reoffending risk and, like older offenders, never reached the same level of criminal risk as the general population within the observation window.

It took approximately 17 offence-free years for children to reach the same level of criminal risk as the general public following a sentence of over six months to 2½ years in prison for non-Schedule 15 offences, and around 14 years for Schedule 15 offences, though there may be somewhat higher risk apparent in later years.

For children sentenced to over 2½ to four years in custody, it takes around 13 to 14 offence-free years to desistance for both Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences. Children sentenced to over four years in custody for non-Schedule 15 offences reached the same level of criminal risk as the general population after over nine offence-free years, and seven years for Schedule 15 offences.

Figure 5 Reoffending risk for children sentenced to custody, by custodial sentence length and Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences



4.4 Descriptive Statistics: Community orders

For the roughly 98,000 community orders examined in this analysis, approximately 76.6% of successful order completions resulted in a further offence.

The cohort who had received a community order were, on average, 24 years old on the date of their first sentence, 25.5 years old upon sentence completion, and 25 years old on the date of their most recent offence.²⁰

For the most recent offence, over half (54%) received a community order of 30 days or less, and over a quarter (25%) received a community order of over six months to a year. The majority were adults (80%), White (86%), and Male (81%). Almost a quarter community orders in the analysis were given for summary non-motoring offences (24%), and 16% for theft offences.

²⁰ These descriptive statistics combine both child and adult offending.

Table 10 Selected descriptive statistics for community orders

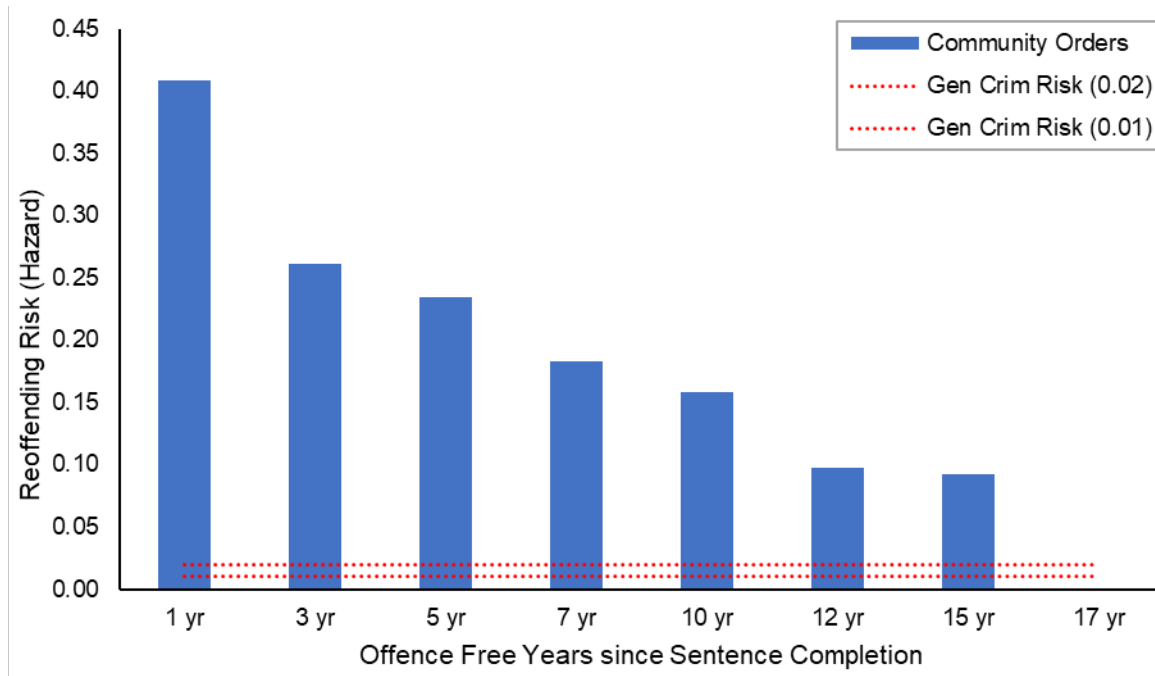
Community orders		
	N	59,851
Cohort Descriptives	Average age at conviction	25.38
	Average age at first community sentence	23.70
	Average age at order completion	25.51
	Median count of prior offences	3
Community order Length (Most Recent Spell)	Less than or equal to 30 days	54%
	Over 30 days, to less than or equal to 90 days	11%
	Over 90 days to less than or equal to 6 months	2%
	Over 6 months to less than or equal to 12 months	25%
	Over 12 months to less than or equal to 3 years	8%
Sex	Male	81%
	Female	19%
Age Group (most recent spell)	Adult	80%
	Youth	20%
Ethnicity	White	86%
	BAME	14%
Offence Group (Most Recent Spell)	Violence Against the Person	8%
	Sexual Offences	1%
	Robbery	1%
	Theft Offences	16%
	Criminal Damage	2%
	Drug Offences	5%
	Possession of Weapons	2%
	Public Order	3%
	Miscellaneous Crimes against Society	6%
	Fraud	4%
	Summary Non-Motoring	24%
	Summary Motoring	15%
	Breach	13%

The full model (Figure 6) took into consideration individual characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity, offence mix and criminal history, as well as the interaction between the community order length and time. Once these factors were controlled, the likelihood of reoffending became comparable to the general population after over 15 offence-free years following completion of the order.

4.5 Reoffending Risk for Community orders

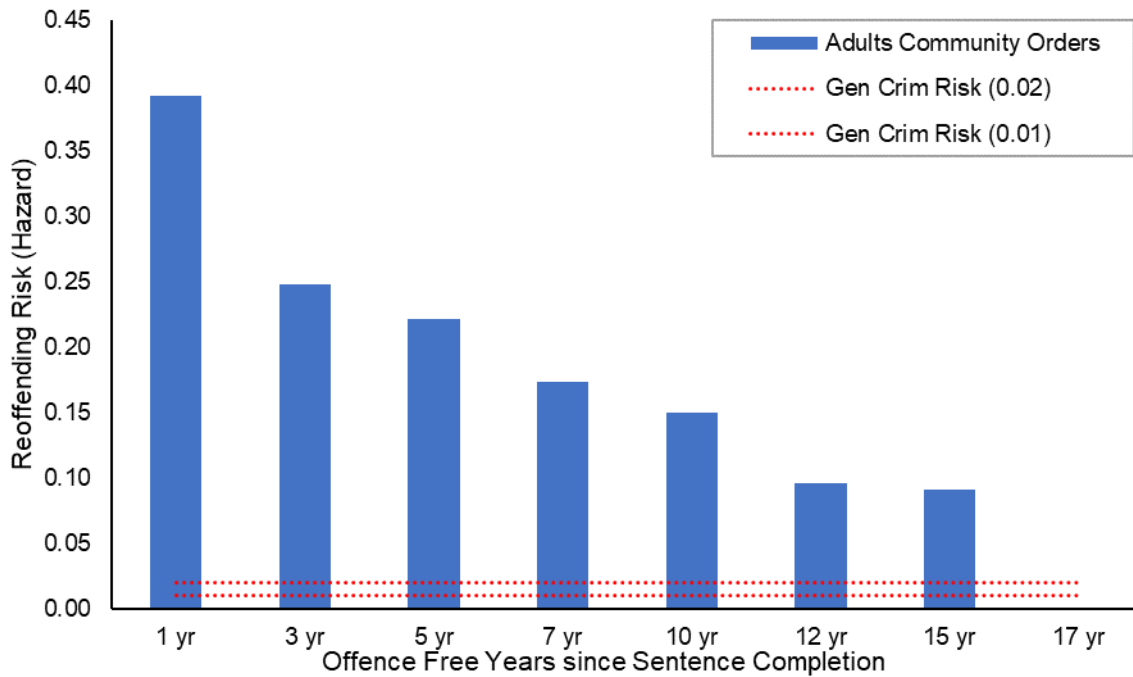
The full model on reoffending risk for community orders, controlling for offender characteristics and criminal circumstances showed that the cohort reached the same level of criminal risk as the general population after around 15 offence-free years, after which the observation window closed. The criminal risk beyond 15 offence-free years was very close to zero.

Figure 6 Reoffending risk by offender characteristics and criminal circumstances controlled for those who received a community order



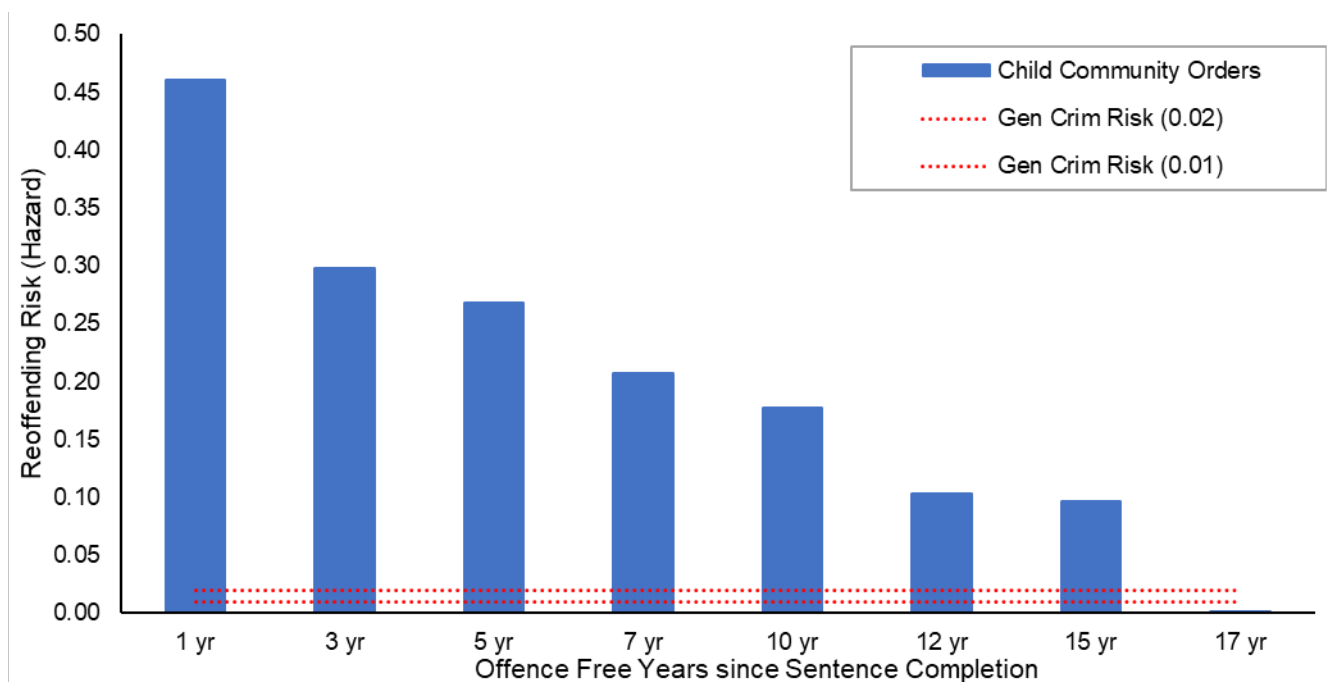
Regardless of age, the reoffending risk for those sentenced as either an adult (Figure 7) and as a child (Figure 8) became comparable with the criminal risk of the general population at the same time (over 15 offence-free years). Strikingly, very few offenders who completed a community order and remained offence free beyond this point reoffended.

Figure 7 Reoffending Risk Adult Offenders on Community orders, Offender Characteristics and Criminal Circumstances Controlled



Reoffending risk was greater for those sentenced to a community order as a child in the earlier years, mirroring the trend for adults. Here, too, the risk of a reoffence beyond 15 offence free years was effectively zero.

Figure 8 Reoffending Risk Children on Community orders, Offender Characteristics and Criminal Circumstances Controlled



4.6 Community orders: Schedule 15 Offences

Of the 98,000 community orders resulting in a reoffence, 88% were for a non-Schedule 15 offence and 12% were for a Schedule 15 offence. 78% of sentences that were not for a Schedule 15 offence resulted in a further offence, compared to 70% of those for Schedule 15 offences.

A community order was less likely to be given for a Schedule 15 offence than for a non-Schedule 15 offence in the most recent community order. Those that had committed a Schedule 15 offence for their most recent sentence were slightly younger on the date of conviction and started their offending careers at a younger age compared to those who committed a non-Schedule 15 offence. Like those receiving a custodial sentence, offenders who have committed a Schedule 15 offence tended to have committed fewer prior offences compared to those sentenced for a non-Schedule 15 offence.

Among the cohort who received a community order for a Schedule 15 offence, more were under the age of 18 than those receiving a community order for a non-Schedule 15 offence.

Table 11 Selected descriptive statistics of the most recent sentence for Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences

		Not Schedule 15 Offences	Schedule 15 Offences
Cohort Descriptives	N	51,479	8,372
	Average age at conviction	26	24
	Average age at first community sentence	24	23
	Average age at order completion	26	24
	Median count of prior offences	3	1
Community Order Length (Most Recent Spell)	Less than or equal to 30 days	55%	49%
	Over 30 days, to less than or equal to 90 days	12%	8%
	Over 90 days to less than or equal to 6 months	2%	1%
	Over 6 months to less than or equal to 12 months	25%	26%
	Over 12 months to less than or equal to 3 years	6%	16%
Sex	Male	81%	84%
	Female	19%	16%
Age Group (most recent sentence)	Adult	81%	71%
	Youth	19%	29%
Ethnicity	White	85%	87%
	BAME	15%	13%
Offence Group (Most Recent Spell)	Violence Against the Person	1%	51%
	Sexual Offences	0%	6%
	Robbery	1%	1%
	Theft Offences	16%	12%
	Criminal Damage	1%	3%
	Drug Offences ²¹	6%	N/A
	Possession of Weapons	3%	1%
	Public Order	1%	21%
	Miscellaneous Crimes against Society	6%	2%
	Fraud ²²	5%	N/A
	Summary Non-Motoring ²³	28%	N/A
	Summary Motoring ²³	18%	N/A
Breach ²⁴	0%	N/A	

²¹ No drugs offences are included in analysis using offences mapped to Schedule 15

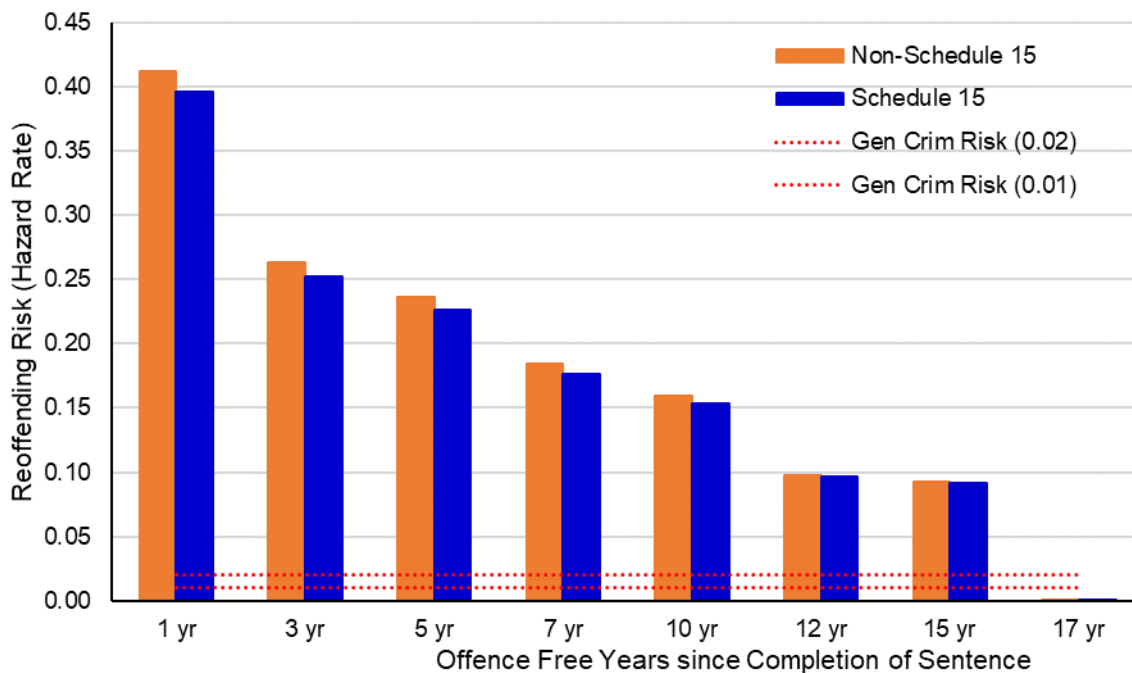
²² No Fraud offences are included in analysis used offences mapped to Schedule 15

²³ Summary offences are not included on Schedule 15 lists

²⁴ Breach offences are not listed on Schedule 15

Figure 9 shows the reoffending risk of those sentenced to a community order for a Schedule 15 offence compared to a non-Schedule 15 offence. These results are from a model that controlled for individual characteristics (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity), community order length, and criminal circumstances (offence type, count of prior offences) that could influence the likelihood of reoffending. These results suggest that the length of time to desistance is broadly similar for community orders given for both Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences. Both cohorts reached the same level of criminal risk to the general population after around 15 offence-free years. Regardless of seriousness, reoffending beyond this point among those who remained offence free was highly unlikely.

Figure 9 Reoffending risk by offender characteristics and criminal circumstances controlled, for those who received a community order, by Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences



Both Figures 10 (those sentenced as adults) and 11 (those sentenced as children) show that regardless of age group or offence type (Schedule 15 or not), desistance from offending occurred after approximately over 15 years. The likelihood of a reoffence beyond this point was very close to zero.

Figure 10 Reoffending risk for adults sentenced to community orders, by Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences

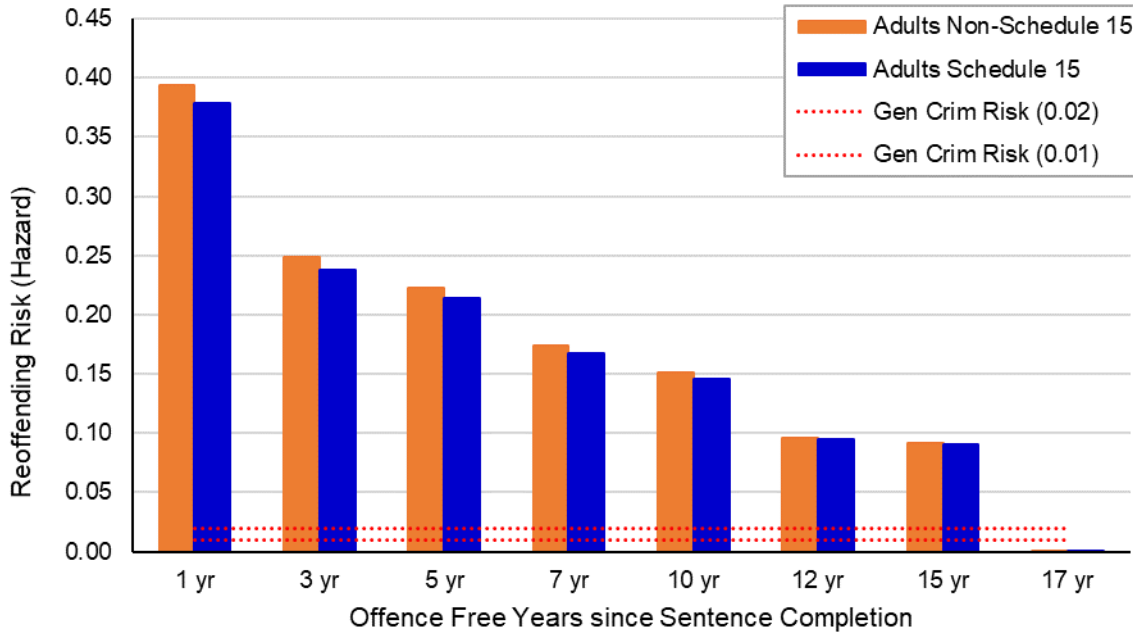
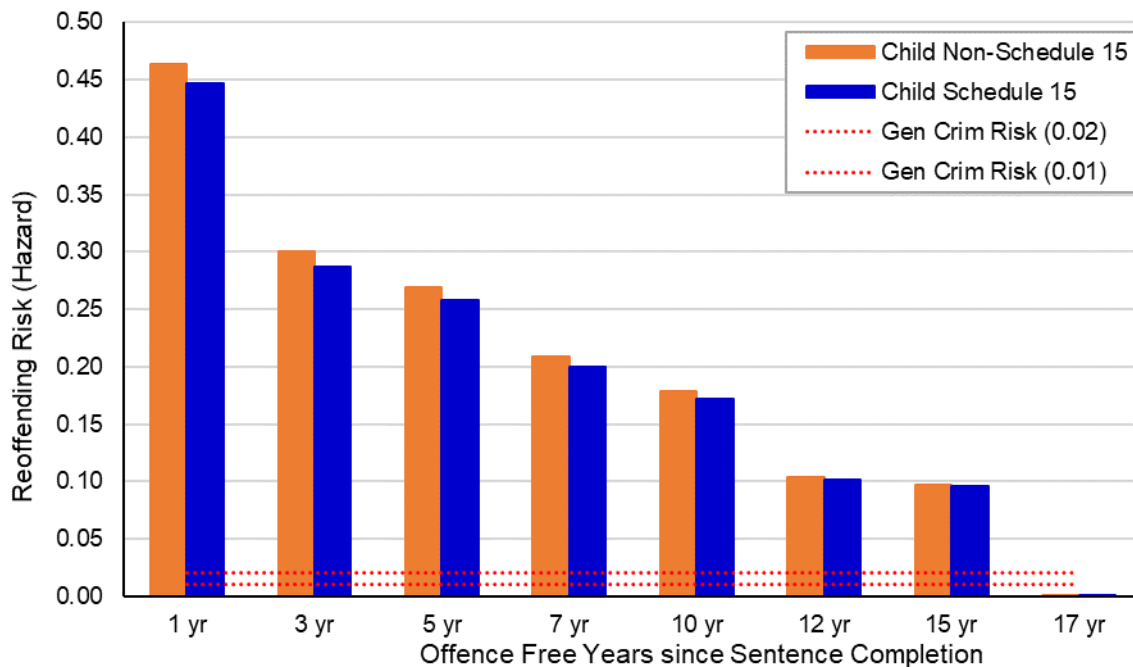


Figure 11 Reoffending risk for children sentenced to community orders, by Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences



5. Conclusion

The analysis in this report focuses on how many years it is after completion of a custodial sentence or community order before the reoffending risk becomes comparable to the criminal risk of the general population. The analysis was of sentence completions, though individual level observable characteristics, sentence or order length, and criminal circumstances were controlled. Reoffending risk declined with each offence free year for all groups regardless of custodial sentence length, with comparable findings for those receiving community orders.

Results show that the risk of reoffending was greatest within the first year following completion of a custodial sentence or community order, however there was a rapid decline in the probability of reoffending in subsequent years. Reoffending risk was highest following short custodial sentences of less than six months, possibly because those incarcerated for short periods are committing the types of crimes which are 'low harm, high volume'. Desistance occurred more quickly following four years in custody than shorter periods in custody. Those who were adults when sentenced to greater than four years reached the criminal risk of the general population after about seven offence free years after completing their sentence. When those sentenced to a similar length in custody were children, they reached the criminal risk of the general population after about 11 offence free years upon completing their sentence.

Completed sentences given for Schedule 15 offences had a lower reoffending risk and had a shorter time to desistance than sentences given for non-Schedule 15 offences, for all sentence types and lengths. Results suggested that despite controlling for age at sentence (adults or children), or offence type (Schedule 15 offence or offences not on Schedule 15), reoffending risk following a custodial sentence of six months or less did not become comparable to the general population during the observation window. Reoffending risk was consistently highest for those who had completed a short custodial sentence for both adults and children, regardless of offence type. However, children sentenced to six months or less for non-Schedule 15 offences had the highest overall reoffending risk.

Regardless of offence (whether they are on Schedule 15 or not) or age at sentence, it took over 15 offence-free years for the offending risk following a community order to reach the same level of criminal risk as the general population.

5.1 Implications

The current ROA policy defines rehabilitation period, or how long before a criminal record becomes “spent”, according to the disposal received, and not offence committed.²⁵ While adults who had committed a serious violent or sexual offence as listed on Schedule 15 and completed a to a long custodial sentence of over 4 years had the shortest time to desistance, it is important to ensure the public are protected from any further offences, particularly serious. However, adults that had committed “less harm” offences that are not listed on Schedule 15 may benefit from their convictions being spent after a defined rehabilitation period.

²⁵ Though, admittedly, the disposal received should reflect the characteristics and seriousness of the offence that has been committed.

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Appendix A

A Note on Discrete Time Transition Analysis

Discrete Time Transition Analysis, with repeated events, includes analytical techniques to measure the rate of events happening over time. In this analysis, the event of interest is a further offence, of any type, following completion of a custodial or community order. It has the presentational advantage of showing the risk of reoffending as time passes beyond the routine follow-up periods ordinarily analysed in reoffending statistical publications. It also has the statistical advantage of making more efficient use of the available data than traditional reoffending analysis, by ensuring that data on all offenders are included for as long as they can be legitimately observed to be at risk of reoffending, rather than including only those who can be followed up for a fixed period.

A central concept in the approach is the hazard rate. In the present analysis, the hazard is an expression of the probability that an offender will reoffend during a period of time given that they have not yet already offended by the start of that period of time. Put another way, the offender is 'at risk' for committing a further offence resulting in a conviction or caution over a period of time and the hazard represents the likelihood that they will commit a further offence during that period of time given that they have not yet done so. The hazard is a rate because the probability of such reoffending is considered per unit of time, however time may be measured. In this analysis, time is measured in discrete years and the hazard is calculated to represent the probability of reoffending per year.

Individuals were observed over the 19 years from January 2000 to December 2018. Therefore, the maximum number of offence free years an offender may have had since completion of their sentence was about 18 years. The analysis considers whether the observation window closes and no reoffending has happened. This is done by retaining such individuals and assuming that no reoffending before completion of the observation window is non-informative, *vis.* that real reoffending times are independent of when the observation window closes. This means that individuals are not selected-out of the analysis by virtue of not reoffending.

Reoffending could be a recurrent event in the lives of anyone who has entered the criminal justice system. Recurrent events pose a set of methodological issues requiring an analytical approach that is suitable for the type of data which the possibility of recurrent events can generate. A routine logistic regression which controls for time 'at risk' is not appropriate because it requires the assumption that each observation in the data is independent from all other observations. With repeated events, an individual could contribute several different time periods where they are 'at risk' of reoffending, hence independence is violated. Moreover, there may be unobservable individual level factors which are consistent across episodes and which will affect the hazard for all episodes within an individual. Failure to account for these unobservable factors will lead to correlations between episodes from the same individual. A random-effects logistic regression addresses these issues by estimating an individual level random effect in addition to other factors likely to account for reoffending. The random effect is allowed to vary between individuals but remains constant within any given individual across all of their reoffending history.

Predicted probabilities derived from the models provide an estimate of the hazard rate of reoffending. They depend on the value of the individual's random effect, which is unknown. The predicted probabilities shown in the figures were obtained through simulation to assign each individual an effect randomly which then enters the calculation of their predicted reoffending probability, holding all other factors at their observed values apart from time since sentence completion and custodial sentence length at their observed values. Predicted probabilities calculated in this way have a population-averaged, or marginal, interpretation.

Appendix B

Detailed Results

Table 12 Full Descriptive Statistics for Custodial Sentences

Custodial Sentence Length	Descriptive Statistic	Court Conviction Age	Age at First Custody	Age at Sentence Completion	Count of Prior Offences
Less than or equal to 6 months	N	20,162	20,162	20,162	20,162
	Mean	28.41	25.53	28.41	18.60
	Standard Deviation	8.79	9.12	8.79	23.70
	Min value	10	10	10	0
	Median value	27	23	27	11
	Max value	83	83	83	289
Greater than 6 months & less than or equal to 2 years, 6 months	N	7,093	7,093	7,093	7,093
	Mean	28.88	26.78	29.27	11.19
	Standard Deviation	10.22	10.59	10.26	16.86
	Min value	11	11	11	0
	Median value	27	23	27	4
	Max value	83	83	83	200
Greater than 2 years, 6 months & less than or equal to 4 years	N	4,849	4,849	4,849	4,849
	Mean	29.10	26.94	31.21	10.74
	Standard Deviation	10.39	10.89	10.37	15.54
	Min value	13	12	15	0
	Median value	26	23	28	4
	Max value	88	88	90	176
Greater than 4 years	N	2,122	2,122	2,122	2,122
	Mean	30.46	29.36	36.42	5.65
	Standard Deviation	11.05	11.53	11.71	10.79
	Min value	13	12	17	0
	Median value	27	26	33	1
	Max value	79	79	84	139

Table 13 Descriptive characteristics of those sentenced to custody, custodial sentence lengths, and most recent custodial sentence

	Less than or equal to 6 months		Greater than 6 months & less than or equal to 2 years & 6 months		Greater than 2 years 6 months & less than or equal to 4 years		Greater than 4 years	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Female	12.4%	20,100	9.9%	7,070	8.9%	4,842	11.1%	2,117
Male	87.6%		90.1%		91.1%		88.9%	
Youth	3.1%	20,162	5.0%	7,093	2.7%	4,849	3.1%	2,122
Adult	96.9%		95.0%		97.3%		96.9%	
BAME	18.5%	19,371	21.9%	6,755	25.1%	4,642	39.9%	1,982
White	81.5%		78.1%		74.9%		60.1%	
Violence against the Person	7.5%	20,162	23.7%	7,093	19.7%	4,849	21.2%	2,122
Sexual Offences	1.0%		5.7%		9.0%		12.7%	
Robbery	0.4%		5.6%		13.8%		13.1%	
Theft Offences	17.6%		15.3%		12.0%		4.0%	
Criminal Damage & Arson	0.9%		0.9%		2.1%		1.9%	
Drugs Offences	5.4%		13.7%		26.3%		40.5%	
Possession of Weapons	2.5%		3.6%		3.1%		1.9%	
Public Order	4.1%		7.3%		2.8%		0.4%	
Misc. Crimes against Society	12.7%		14.0%		6.0%		2.6%	
Fraud	3.6%		5.7%		3.7%		1.0%	
Summary Non-Motoring	21.8%		1.3%		0.3%		0.2%	
Summary Motoring	13.5%		0.3%		0.2%		0.0%	
Unknown offences	1.0%		1.1%		0.8%		0.4%	
Breach	8.1%		1.8%		0.2%		0.0%	

Four discrete-time transition models were estimated and the model which best fitted the data was selected to calculate the hazard rate of reoffending. Model fit was assessed using the Bayes Information Criteria (BIC) which rescales the estimated log-likelihood of

the model for the number of parameters included in the model. The fit statistics shown in Table 14 suggest the best fitting was model (3) which controlled for offence free time since sentence completion, custodial sentence length, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, as well as the interaction of time and custodial sentence length. Results in Figure 2 and Figure 3 were derived from the coefficients in model (3).

Table 14 Model Fit Statistics: Custodial Sentences

Model	Obs (Pooled Person Years)	Model Log-Likelihood	Degrees of Freedom	Bayes Information Criteria (BIC)
(1) Time only	269,590	-10,0601.5	20	20,1454.7
(2) Time, custodial sentence length, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances	269,590	-88,113.81	60	17,6977.9
(3) Time, custodial sentence length, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, and the interaction of time with custodial sentence length	269,590	-87,667.28	109	17,6697.6
(4) Time, custodial sentence length, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, the interaction of time with custodial sentence length and the interaction of time and offender age group	269,590	-87,654.21	127	17,6896.5

Table 14 contains the odds ratios from model (3), the preferred model. The odds of committing a further offence resulting in conviction or caution declined as time since completion of sentence passed, all things considered. Relative to completed custodial sentences of six months or less, the odds of committing a further offence were lower for successive sentence lengths.

Table 15 shows that females who had completed a custodial sentence were about 9% less likely to reoffend compared to males. Those who were children at the time of being sentenced were about 62% more likely to commit a further offence compared to those who

were adults when sentenced. There was a negative effect of age at first offence such that each year onset of offending is delayed reduced the risk of reoffending by about 11%. On the other hand, there was a slight positive relationship between age of sentence completion and reoffending, with about a 6% increase in reoffending risk for each year older when the sentence was completed. Relative to White ethnic groups, those from BAME backgrounds were about 9% less likely to reoffend, other characteristics being considered. Prior offending only slightly predicted reoffending, with a 2% increase in the risk of a further offence for each prior conviction or caution.

Regarding offence, reoffending risk was often higher for many offence groups compared to violence against the person. For example, those who had committed robbery offences were about 34% more likely to reoffend and those who had committed theft offences were about 65% more likely to reoffend compared to all those who had committed violence against the person offences. Drug offences (9% less likely) and fraud (18% less likely) were notable exceptions. Historical period was captured by the calendar year the custodial sentence ended. Interestingly, reoffending risk peaked in 2003 for this cohort and declined in more recent years.

Table 15 Odds Ratios from the Preferred Model 3: Custodial Sentences²⁶

Coefficient		Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
Time since Sentence Completion	First year (omitted)			
	2nd year	0.39	0.01	***
	3rd year	0.26	0.01	***
	4th year	0.19	0.01	***
	5th year	0.15	0.01	***
	6th year	0.12	0.01	***
	7th year	0.10	0.01	***
	8th year	0.08	0.01	***
	9th year	0.08	0.01	***
	10th year	0.06	0.01	***
	11th year	0.06	0.01	***
	12th year	0.05	0.01	***
	13th year	0.04	0.01	***

²⁶ Shown are odds ratios, note that the standard errors have been transformed to mirror the scale of the odds ratios whereas Z-scores are calculated on the raw figures

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and Offender Characteristics, 2000–2018

Coefficient		Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
	14th year	0.04	0.01	***
	15th year	0.02	0.00	***
	16th year	0.03	0.01	***
	17th year	0.03	0.01	***
	18th year	0.01	0.00	***
	19th year	0.02	0.01	***
Custodial Sentence Length	le 6m (omitted)			
	gt 6m & le 2y-6m	0.31	0.01	***
	gt 2y-6m & le 4y	0.20	0.01	***
	gt 4y	0.12	0.01	***
Interaction of Time since Sentence Completion and Custodial Sentence Length	Le 6m & First Year (omitted)			
	gt 6m & 2nd Year	1.86	0.08	***
	gt 2y-6m & 2nd Year	1.93	0.11	***
	gt 4y & 2nd Year	2.13	0.25	***
	gt 6m & 3rd Year	2.14	0.12	***
	gt 2y-6m & 3rd Year	2.46	0.17	***
	gt 4y & 3rd Year	3.15	0.40	***
	gt 6m & 4th Year	2.21	0.15	***
	gt 2y-6m & 4th Year	2.62	0.21	***
	gt 4y & 4th Year	3.47	0.51	***
	gt 6m & 5th Year	2.73	0.21	***
	gt 2y-6m & 5th Year	2.70	0.26	***
	gt 4y & 5th Year	3.31	0.56	***
	gt 6m & 6th Year	2.61	0.24	***
	gt 2y-6m & 6th Year	2.61	0.29	***
	gt 4y & 6th Year	3.24	0.62	***
	gt 6m & 7th Year	2.13	0.24	***
	gt 2y-6m & 7th Year	2.76	0.35	***
	gt 4y & 7th Year	3.51	0.75	***
	gt 6m & 8th Year	2.53	0.31	***
	gt 2y-6m & 8th Year	2.82	0.41	***
	gt 4y & 8th Year	3.63	0.88	***
	gt 6m & 9th Year	2.34	0.32	***
	gt 2y-6m & 9th Year	2.99	0.46	***
	gt 4y & 9th Year	2.70	0.79	***
	gt 6m & 10th Year	2.01	0.35	***
	gt 2y-6m & 10th Year	3.15	0.58	***

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and Offender Characteristics, 2000–2018

Coefficient		Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
	gt 4y & 10th Year	4.62	1.30	***
	gt 6m & 11th Year	2.62	0.47	***
	gt 2y-6m & 11th Year	2.37	0.54	***
	gt 4y & 11th Year	5.25	1.58	***
	gt 6m & 12th Year	2.78	0.54	***
	gt 2y-6m & 12th Year	2.97	0.71	***
	gt 4y & 12th Year	2.45	1.15	*
	gt 6m & 13th Year	2.66	0.60	***
	gt 2y-6m & 13th Year	3.23	0.85	***
	gt 4y & 13th Year	2.84	1.49	**
	gt 6m & 14th Year	2.26	0.59	***
	gt 2y-6m & 14th Year	4.19	1.11	***
	gt 4y & 14th Year	2.23	1.63	
	gt 6m & 15th Year	2.59	1.00	**
	gt 2y-6m & 15th Year	4.88	1.89	***
	gt 4y & 15th Year	5.74	5.94	*
	gt 6m & 16th Year	1.67	0.64	
	gt 2y-6m & 16th Year	2.28	1.03	*
	gt 4y & 16th Year	1.42	0.66	
	gt 6m & 17th Year	0.00	0.00	
	gt 2y-6m & 17th Year	4.66	3.57	**
	gt 6m & 18th Year	0.00	0.01	
	gt 2y-6m & 18th Year	0.00	0.00	
Male (omitted)				
Female		0.91	0.02	***
Adult (omitted)				
Youth		1.62	0.05	***
White (omitted)				
BAME		0.91	0.02	***
Age at First Offence		0.89	0.01	***
Age when Completed Sentence		1.06	0.01	***
Offence Group	Violence against the Person (omitted)			
	Sexual Offences	1.04	0.06	
	Robbery	1.34	0.05	***
	Theft Offences	1.65	0.05	***
	Criminal Damage & Arson	1.05	0.07	

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and Offender Characteristics, 2000–2018

Coefficient		Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
	Drug Offences	0.91	0.03	***
	Weapons Offences	1.05	0.05	
	Public Order Offences	1.12	0.04	***
	Misc. Crimes against Society	1.08	0.03	**
	Fraud	0.82	0.04	***
	Summary (Non-motoring)	1.18	0.03	***
	Summary (Motoring)	1.08	0.04	**
	Unknown Offences	1.46	0.14	***
	Breach Offences	1.11	0.04	***
Year Sentence Ended	2000 (omitted)			
	2001	1.42	0.06	***
	2002	2.16	0.10	***
	2003	2.25	0.12	***
	2004	2.19	0.14	***
	2005	1.91	0.14	***
	2006	1.81	0.15	***
	2007	1.51	0.14	***
	2008	1.35	0.14	***
	2009	1.08	0.12	
	2010	0.96	0.12	
	2011	0.91	0.13	
	2012	0.74	0.11	**
	2013	0.65	0.10	***
	2014	0.56	0.10	***
	2015	0.48	0.09	***
	2016	0.38	0.08	***
	2017	0.32	0.07	***
	2018	0.12	0.03	***
Count of Prior Offences		1.02	0.00	***
Individual Random Effect*		0.11		
Random Effect Standard Deviation		0.65		

Table 16: Descriptive statistics for the most recent spell in custody for Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences, by custodial sentence length

	Descriptive Statistic	Non-Schedule 15				Schedule 15 Offences			
		Court Conviction Age	Age at First Sentence	Age at Sentence Completion	Count of Prior Offences	Court Conviction Age	Age at First Sentence	Age at Sentence Completion	Count of Prior Offences
Less than or equal to 6 months custody	N	17,097	17,097	17,097	17,097	2,269	2,269	2,269	2,269
	Mean	28.48	25.33	28.48	20.37	26.23	24.71	26.23	10.28
	Standard Deviation	8.36	8.73	8.36	24.33	9.78	9.73	9.78	18.08
	Min value	10	10	10	0	12	12	12	0
	Median value	27	23	27	13	23	21	23	3
	Max value	82	82	82	289	83	83	83	191
Greater than 6 months to less than or equal to 2 years and 6 months custody	N	3,707	3,707	3,707	3,707	3,045	3,045	3,045	3,045
	Mean	29.93	27.33	30.30	12.99	27.10	25.48	27.51	9.87
	Standard Deviation	9.52	10.13	9.55	18.04	10.54	10.72	10.59	15.46
	Min value	11	11	11	0	13	12	13	0
	Median value	28	24	28	6	24	22	25	4
	Max value	73	73	73	170	83	83	83	200
Greater than 2 years and 6 months to less than or equal to 4 years custody	N	2,356	2,356	2,356	2,356	2,285	2,285	2,285	2,285
	Mean	29.85	27.36	31.96	11.41	27.90	25.96	30.00	10.88
	Standard Deviation	9.55	10.26	9.55	16.34	10.80	11.13	10.75	15.08
	Min value	14	12	16	0	13	12	15	0
	Median value	28	24	30	5	25	22	27	5
	Max value	80	78	82	176	88	88	90	111
Greater than 4 years custody	N	1,088	1,088	1,088	1,088	893	893	893	893
	Mean	32.10	31.16	38.28	4.20	27.87	26.48	33.44	8.08
	Standard Deviation	10.51	10.93	11.22	9.89	11.04	11.50	11.42	11.81
	Min value	13	13	17	0	14	12	18	0
	Median value	30	29	36	0	25	22	30	3
	Max value	76	76	84	139	79	79	83	92

**Table 17 Descriptive statistics of the cohort most recent spell in custody, by
Schedule 15 and non-Schedule 15 offences and custodial sentence length**

		Non-Schedule 15				Schedule 15			
		Less than or Equal to 6 months	Greater than 6 months & less than or equal to 2 years & 6 months	Greater than 2 years 6 months & less than or equal to 4 years	Greater than 4 years	Less than or Equal to 6 months	Greater than 6 months & less than or equal to 2 years & 6 months	Greater than 2 years 6 months & less than or equal to 4 years	Greater than 4 years
Gender	Female	12.8%	11.8%	10.2%	16.2%	8.3%	7.6%	7.2%	5.2%
	Male	87.2%	88.2%	89.8%	83.8%	91.7%	92.4%	92.8%	94.8%
Age Group	Youth	2.1%	2.2%	0.7%	1.5%	10.4%	8.7%	4.7%	5.2%
	Adult	97.9%	97.8%	99.3%	98.5%	89.6%	91.3%	95.3%	94.8%
Ethnicity	BAME	18.9%	25.5%	30.9%	52.0%	15.5%	17.5%	19.2%	25.2%
	White	81.1%	74.5%	69.1%	48.0%	84.5%	82.5%	80.8%	74.8%
Offence Group	Violence against the Person	2.2%	1.9%	1.0%	2.7%	47.2%	51.2%	39.6%	44.9%
	Sexual Offences	0.1%	1.6%	3.4%	11.0%	7.8%	10.8%	14.2%	15.5%
	Robbery	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%	12.8%	28.2%	28.6%
	Theft Offences	18.5%	24.7%	19.7%	4.0%	13.3%	4.3%	4.1%	4.3%
	Criminal Damage & Arson	0.8%	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	1.5%	1.6%	4.3%	4.5%
	Drugs Offences ²⁷	6.0%	24.7%	51.6%	72.9%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Possession of Weapons	2.8%	5.1%	3.5%	2.4%	1.0%	1.9%	2.8%	1.5%
	Public Order	1.7%	1.5%	0.8%	0.1%	22.0%	14.9%	5.1%	0.9%
	Misc. Crimes against Society	13.7%	23.0%	10.3%	4.5%	4.1%	2.5%	1.7%	0.0%
	Fraud ²⁸	3.8%	10.0%	7.3%	1.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Summary Non-Motoring ²⁹	24.8%	2.1%	0.6%	0.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Summary Motoring ²⁹	15.2%	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Unknown offences	0.8%	1.2%	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Breach ³⁰	9.5%	3.4%	0.4%	0.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

²⁷ No drugs offences are included in analysis using offences mapped to Schedule 15

²⁸ No Fraud offences are included in analysis used offences mapped to Schedule 15

²⁹ Summary offences are not included on Schedule 15 lists

³⁰ No breach offences are included in Schedule 15

Table 18 Model fit statistics: Custodial sentences and Schedule 15 offences

Model	Obs	Model Log-Likelihood	Degrees of Freedom	Bayes Information Criteria (BIC)
(1) Time only	269590	-97523.13	20	195296.4
(2) Time and Schedule Offences	269590	-97080.69	21	194424
(3) Time and custodial sentence length	269590	-94565.76	23	189419.1
(4) Time, custodial sentence length and Schedule Offences	269590	-94565.67	24	189431.4
(5) Time, custodial sentence length and Schedule Offences and the interaction of custodial sentence length and Schedule Offences	269590	-94409.27	27	189156.2
(6) Time, custodial sentence length, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, Schedule Offences, offence group, year sentence ended, number of prior offences	269590	-88082.96	61	176928.7
(7) Time, custodial sentence length and the interaction of custodial sentence length and time, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, Schedule Offences, offence group, year sentence ended, number of prior offences	269590	-87637.97	110	176651.5
(8) Time, custodial sentence length and the interaction of custodial sentence length and time, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, Schedule Offences and the interaction of custodial sentence length and schedule offences, offence group, year sentence ended, number of prior offences	269590	-87578.88	113	176570.8
(9) Time, custodial sentence length and the interaction of custodial sentence length and time, age group, and the interaction of age group on time, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, Schedule Offences, offence group, year sentence ended, number of prior offences	269590	-87625.1	128	176850.8
(10) Time, custodial sentence length and the interaction of custodial sentence length and time, age group, and the interaction of age group on time, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, Schedule Offences and the interaction of custodial sentence length and schedule offences, offence group, year sentence ended, number of prior offences	269590	-87565.72	131	176769.5

Results for reoffending risk by custodial sentences and schedule 15 offences were derived from the coefficients in model (8).

Table 19 contains the odds ratios from the preferred model (8) and shows that those that committed a Schedule 15 offence were about 33% less likely to reoffend than those who committed an offence not on the Schedule 15 list.

Table 19 Odds ratios for custodial sentences with Schedule 15 offences included, from the preferred model (8)³¹

Coefficient		Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
Time since Sentence Completion	First year (omitted)			
	2nd year	0.39	0.01	***
	3rd year	0.26	0.01	***
	4th year	0.19	0.01	***
	5th year	0.15	0.01	***
	6th year	0.12	0.01	***
	7th year	0.10	0.01	***
	8th year	0.08	0.01	***
	9th year	0.08	0.01	***
	10th year	0.06	0.01	***
	11th year	0.06	0.01	***
	12th year	0.05	0.01	***
	13th year	0.04	0.01	***
	14th year	0.04	0.01	***
	15th year	0.02	0.00	***
	16th year	0.03	0.01	***
	17th year	0.03	0.01	***
	18th year	0.01	0.00	***
	19th year	0.02	0.01	***
Custodial Sentence Length	le 6m (omitted)			
	gt 6m & le 2y-6m	0.29	0.01	***
	gt 2y-6m & le 4y	0.20	0.01	***
	gt 4y	0.08	0.01	***
Interaction of Time since Sentence Completion and Custodial Sentence Length	Le 6m & First Year (omitted)			
	gt 6m & 2nd Year	1.85	0.08	***
	gt 2y-6m & 2nd Year	1.92	0.11	***
	gt 4y & 2nd Year	2.14	0.26	***
	gt 6m & 3rd Year	2.13	0.12	***
	gt 2y-6m & 3rd Year	2.45	0.17	***
	gt 4y & 3rd Year	3.18	0.41	***
	gt 6m & 4th Year	2.19	0.15	***

³¹ Shown are odds ratios, note that the standard errors have been transformed to mirror the scale of the odds ratios whereas Z-scores are calculated on the raw figures

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and
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Coefficient	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
gt 2y-6m & 4th Year	2.60	0.21	***
gt 4y & 4th Year	3.54	0.52	***
gt 6m & 5th Year	2.70	0.21	***
gt 2y-6m & 5th Year	2.69	0.25	***
gt 4y & 5th Year	3.42	0.58	***
gt 6m & 6th Year	2.59	0.24	***
gt 2y-6m & 6th Year	2.59	0.29	***
gt 4y & 6th Year	3.35	0.65	***
gt 6m & 7th Year	2.11	0.24	***
gt 2y-6m & 7th Year	2.74	0.35	***
gt 4y & 7th Year	3.67	0.79	***
gt 6m & 8th Year	2.50	0.31	***
gt 2y-6m & 8th Year	2.79	0.41	***
gt 4y & 8th Year	3.82	0.92	***
gt 6m & 9th Year	2.31	0.31	***
gt 2y-6m & 9th Year	2.97	0.46	***
gt 4y & 9th Year	2.86	0.84	***
gt 6m & 10th Year	1.98	0.34	***
gt 2y-6m & 10th Year	3.12	0.57	***
gt 4y & 10th Year	4.95	1.39	***
gt 6m & 11th Year	2.59	0.46	***
gt 2y-6m & 11th Year	2.34	0.54	***
gt 4y & 11th Year	5.68	1.71	***
gt 6m & 12th Year	2.74	0.53	***
gt 2y-6m & 12th Year	2.93	0.70	***
gt 4y & 12th Year	2.66	1.25	**
gt 6m & 13th Year	2.61	0.59	***
gt 2y-6m & 13th Year	3.19	0.84	***
gt 4y & 13th Year	3.11	1.64	**
gt 6m & 14th Year	2.22	0.58	***
gt 2y-6m & 14th Year	4.13	1.10	***
gt 4y & 14th Year	2.45	1.79	
gt 6m & 15th Year	2.54	0.98	**
gt 2y-6m & 15th Year	4.80	1.86	***
gt 4y & 15th Year	6.15	6.37	*
gt 6m & 16th Year	1.64	0.63	
gt 2y-6m & 16th Year	2.25	1.02	*
gt 4y & 16th Year	1.39	0.64	
gt 6m & 17th Year	0.00	0.00	
gt 2y-6m & 17th Year	4.58	3.51	**
gt 6m & 18th Year	0.00	0.01	
gt 2y-6m & 18th Year	0.00	0.00	
Male (omitted)			
Female	0.91	0.02	***

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and
Offender Characteristics, 2000–2018

Coefficient		Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
Adult (omitted)				
Youth		1.65	0.05	***
White (omitted)				
BAME		0.91	0.02	***
Age at First Offence		0.89	0.01	***
Age Completed Sentence		1.06	0.01	***
Schedule 15 offence		0.67	0.02	***
Interaction between Schedule Offence and Custodial Sentence Length	Schedule 15 Offence and le 6m (omitted)			
	Schedule 15 Offence and gt6m_le2y6m	1.42	0.06	***
	Schedule 15 Offence and gt2y6m_le4y	1.31	0.07	***
	Schedule 15 Offence and gt 4y	2.33	0.22	***
Offence Group	Violence against the Person (omitted)			
	Sexual Offences	1.03	0.06	
	Robbery	1.27	0.05	***
	Theft Offences	1.43	0.05	***
	Criminal Damage & Arson	0.94	0.07	
	Drug Offences	0.80	0.03	***
	Weapons Offences	0.90	0.05	**
	Public Order Offences	1.12	0.04	***
	Misc. Crimes against Society	0.91	0.04	**
	Fraud	0.69	0.04	***
	Summary (Non-motoring)	0.98	0.04	
	Summary (Motoring)	0.88	0.04	***
	Unknown Offences	1.25	0.13	**
Breach Offences	0.92	0.04	*	
Year Sentence Ended	2000 (omitted)			
	2001	1.41	0.06	***
	2002	2.15	0.10	***
	2003	2.25	0.12	***
	2004	2.21	0.14	***
	2005	1.93	0.14	***
	2006	1.84	0.15	***
	2007	1.54	0.14	***
	2008	1.38	0.14	***
	2009	1.11	0.13	
	2010	1.00	0.13	
	2011	0.95	0.13	
	2012	0.78	0.12	*
	2013	0.68	0.11	**
	2014	0.59	0.10	***

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and
Offender Characteristics, 2000–2018

Coefficient		Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
	2015	0.52	0.10	***
	2016	0.41	0.08	***
	2017	0.34	0.07	***
	2018	0.13	0.03	***
Count of Prior Offences		1.02	0.00	***
Individual Random Effect*		0.11		
Random Effect Standard Deviation		0.64		

Table 20: Descriptive statistics for the most recent community sentence

Descriptive Statistic	Court Conviction Age	Age at First Sentence	Age at Sentence Completion	Count of Prior Offences
N	59,851	59,851	59,851	59,851
Mean	25.38	23.70	25.51	6.86
Standard Deviation	9.59	9.94	9.66	11.28
Min value	10	10	10	0
Median value	23	20	23	3
Max value	84	84	86	256

Table 21 Model fit statistics: Community sentences

Model	Obs	Model Log-Likelihood	Degrees of Freedom	Bayes Information Criteria (BIC)
(1) Time only	514713	-158830.6	20	317924.3
(2) Time and community order length	514713	-156915.4	24	314146.4
(3) Time, community order length, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, Offence Group, year sentence ended, number prior offences	514713	-147478.6	61	295759.4
(4) Time, community order length, the interaction of time with community order length, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, Offence Group, year sentence ended and number of prior offences	514713	-146781.9	126	295220.8
(5) Time, sex, community order length, age group, interaction of age group and time, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, offence group, year sentence ended and number of prior offences	514713	-147349.8	79	295738.6
(6) Time, sex, interaction of time and community order length, community order length, age group, interaction of age group and time, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, offence group, year sentence ended and number of prior offences	514713	-146675.4	144	295244.7

Results for reoffending risk by community orders were derived from the coefficients in model (4).

Table 22 contains the odds ratios from the preferred model (4) and shows that children who had received a community order were 51% more likely to commit a further offence resulting in a conviction or caution compared to adults, BAME were 10% more likely than White, and females were 37% less likely than males to reoffend.

Table 22 Odds ratios from the preferred model (4): Community sentences³²

Coefficient		Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
Time since Sentence Completion	First year (omitted)			
	2nd year	0.50	0.05	***
	3rd year	0.36	0.04	***
	4th year	0.26	0.04	***
	5th year	0.28	0.04	***
	6th year	0.25	0.04	***
	7th year	0.16	0.04	***
	8th year	0.09	0.03	***
	9th year	0.13	0.04	***
	10th year	0.11	0.03	***
	11th year	0.01	0.01	***
	12th year	0.02	0.01	***
	13th year	0.03	0.02	***
	14th year	0.01	0.01	***
	15th year	0.01	0.02	***
	16th year	0.00	0.00	
	17th year	0.00	0.00	
	18th year	0.00	0.00	
	19th year	0.00	0.00	
Community order Length	le_30d	1.94	0.11	***
	gt30_le90d	1.40	0.08	***
	gt6m_le12m	0.76	0.04	***
	gt12m_le3y	0.42	0.03	***
Interaction of Time since Sentence Completion and Community Order Length	Le 30d & First Year (omitted)			
	le30d & 2nd Year	0.61	0.06	***
	gt30_le90d & 2nd Year	0.84	0.09	*
	gt6m_le12m & 2nd Year	1.26	0.13	**
	gt12m_le3y & 2nd Year	1.53	0.18	***
	le30d & 3rd Year	0.60	0.07	***
	gt30_le90d & 3rd Year	0.87	0.11	
	gt6m_le12m & 3rd Year	1.25	0.16	*
	gt12m_le3y & 3rd Year	2.11	0.29	***
le30d & 4th Year	0.66	0.10	***	

³² Shown are odds ratios, note that the standard errors have been transformed to mirror the scale of the odds ratios whereas Z-scores are calculated on the raw figures

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and
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Coefficient	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
gt30_le90d & 4th Year	0.85	0.13	
gt6m_le12m & 4th Year	1.48	0.22	***
gt12m_le3y & 4th Year	2.17	0.36	***
le30d & 5th Year	0.50	0.08	***
gt30_le90d & 5th Year	0.68	0.11	**
gt6m_le12m & 5th Year	1.09	0.17	
gt12m_le3y & 5th Year	1.77	0.31	***
le30d & 6th Year	0.46	0.08	***
gt30_le90d & 6th Year	0.65	0.12	**
gt6m_le12m & 6th Year	1.12	0.20	
gt12m_le3y & 6th Year	1.67	0.33	**
le30d & 7th Year	0.68	0.15	*
gt30_le90d & 7th Year	0.75	0.18	
gt6m_le12m & 7th Year	1.39	0.32	
gt12m_le3y & 7th Year	1.99	0.49	***
le30d & 8th Year	0.90	0.27	
gt30_le90d & 8th Year	1.17	0.36	
gt6m_le12m & 8th Year	1.97	0.59	**
gt12m_le3y & 8th Year	3.57	1.13	***
le30d & 9th Year	0.59	0.17	*
gt30_le90d & 9th Year	0.71	0.21	
gt6m_le12m & 9th Year	1.37	0.39	
gt12m_le3y & 9th Year	1.78	0.55	*
le30d & 10th Year	0.60	0.19	
gt30_le90d & 10th Year	0.74	0.25	
gt6m_le12m & 10th Year	1.07	0.34	
gt12m_le3y & 10th Year	1.63	0.56	
le30d & 11th Year	5.78	5.84	*
gt30_le90d & 11th Year	6.18	6.30	*
gt6m_le12m & 11th Year	9.37	9.50	**
gt12m_le3y & 11th Year	22.56	23.00	***
le30d & 12th Year	2.23	1.61	
gt30_le90d & 12th Year	2.22	1.65	
gt6m_le12m & 12th Year	4.86	3.53	**
gt12m_le3y & 12th Year	6.50	4.84	**
le30d & 13th Year	1.26	0.75	
gt30_le90d & 13th Year	1.36	0.84	

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and Offender Characteristics, 2000–2018

Coefficient		Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
	gt6m_le12m & 13th Year	2.17	1.32	
	gt12m_le3y & 13th Year	3.62	2.28	**
	le30d & 14th Year	3.40	3.45	
	gt30_le90d & 14th Year	2.12	2.21	
	gt6m_le12m & 14th Year	5.77	5.89	*
	gt12m_le3y & 14th Year	10.17	10.55	**
	le30d & 15th Year	1.77	1.79	
	gt30_le90d & 15th Year	2.33	2.41	
	gt6m_le12m & 15th Year	4.43	4.52	
	gt12m_le3y & 15th Year	7.93	8.23	**
	le30d & 16th Year	--	--	
	gt30_le90d & 16th Year	--	--	
	gt6m_le12m & 16th Year	--	--	
	gt12m_le3y & 16th Year	--	--	
	le30d & 17th Year	--	--	
	gt30_le90d & 17th Year	--	--	
	gt6m_le12m & 17th Year	--	--	
	gt12m_le3y & 17th Year	--	--	
	le30d & 18th Year	--	--	
	gt30_le90d & 18th Year	--	--	
	gt6m_le12m & 18th Year	--	--	
	gt12m_le3y & 18th Year	--	--	
	le30d & 19th Year	--	--	
	gt30_le90d & 19th Year	--	--	
	gt6m_le12m & 19th Year	--	--	
	gt12m_le3y & 19th Year (omitted)			
Male (omitted)				
Female		0.63	0.01	***
Adult (omitted)				
Youth		1.51	0.03	***
White (omitted)				
BAME		1.10	0.02	***
Age of First Offence		0.92	0.01	***
Age Completed Sentence		1.03	0.01	***
Offence Group	Violence against the Person (omitted)			
	Sexual Offences	0.00	0.00	***

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and
Offender Characteristics, 2000–2018

Coefficient	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
Robbery	0.71	0.05	***
Theft Offences	1.21	0.07	***
Criminal Damage & Arson	1.35	0.03	***
Drug Offences	1.29	0.06	***
Weapons Offences	1.13	0.04	***
Public Order Offences	1.22	0.05	***
Misc. Crimes against Society	1.01	0.04	
Fraud	1.37	0.04	***
Summary (Non-motoring)	1.02	0.04	
Summary (Motoring)	1.28	0.03	***
Unknown Offences	1.18	0.03	***
Breach Offences	1.66	0.29	***
Year Sentence Ended			
2000 (omitted)			
2001	1.59	0.04	***
2002	1.66	0.05	***
2003	1.59	0.06	***
2004	1.54	0.07	***
2005	1.42	0.08	***
2006	1.28	0.08	***
2007	1.17	0.09	**
2008	1.06	0.09	
2009	0.94	0.09	
2010	0.76	0.08	***
2011	0.69	0.08	***
2012	0.60	0.08	***
2013	0.58	0.08	***
2014	0.46	0.07	***
2015	0.41	0.07	***
2016	0.33	0.06	***
2017	0.31	0.06	***
2018	0.14	0.03	***
Count of Prior Offences	1.05	0.00	***
Individual Random Effect*	0.11		
Random Effect Standard Deviation	0.64		

Table 23 Descriptive statistics for community sentences and Schedule 15 offences

Descriptive Statistic	Non-Schedule 15				Schedule 15 Offences			
	Court Conviction Age	Age at First Sentence	Age at Sentence Completion	Count of Prior Offences	Court Conviction Age	Age at First Sentence	Age at Sentence Completion	Count of Prior Offences
N	51,479	51,479	51,479	51,479	8,372	8,372	8,372	8,372
Mean	25.67	23.84	25.76	7.48	23.61	22.84	23.92	3.00
Standard Deviation	9.57	9.98	9.62	11.76	9.51	9.65	9.74	6.54
Min value	16	15	16	0	10	10	10	0
Median value	23	21	23	3	21	20	21	1
Max value	83	83	86	256	84	84	86	124

Table 24 Model fit statistics: Community sentences and Schedule 15 offences

Model	Obs	Model Log-Likelihood	Degrees of Freedom	Bayes Information Criteria (BIC)
(1) Time only	514713	-158830.6	20	317924.3
(2) Time and community order length	514713	-156915.4	24	314146.4
(3) Time, community order length, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, Offence Group, year sentence ended, number prior offences	514713	-147473.7	62	295762.7
(4) Time, community order length, the interaction of time with community order length, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, Offence Group, year sentence ended and number of prior offences	514713	-146776.6	127	295223.5
(5) Time, sex, community order length, age group, interaction of age group and time, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, offence group, year sentence ended and number of prior offences	514713	-147344.7	80	295741.5
(6) Time, sex, interaction of time and community order length, community order length, age group, interaction of age group and time, offender characteristics and criminal circumstances, offence group, year sentence ended and number of prior offences	514713	-146670	145	295246.9

Similar to the model for community orders, the preferred model (4) had the lowest BIC (Table 24). Those that had committed a Schedule 15 offence and sentenced to a community order were about 9% less likely to reoffend than those who committed an offence not on Schedule 15 list.

Table 25 Odds ratios from the preferred model (4): Community sentences with Schedule 15 offences included³³

Coefficient		Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
Time since Sentence Completion	First year (omitted)			
	2nd year	0.50	0.05	***
	3rd year	0.35	0.04	***
	4th year	0.26	0.04	***
	5th year	0.28	0.04	***
	6th year	0.25	0.04	***
	7th year	0.16	0.04	***
	8th year	0.09	0.03	***
	9th year	0.13	0.04	***
	10th year	0.11	0.03	***
	11th year	0.01	0.01	***
	12th year	0.02	0.01	***
	13th year	0.03	0.02	***
	14th year	0.01	0.01	***
	15th year	0.01	0.01	***
	16th year	0.00	0.00	
	17th year	0.00	0.00	
	18th year	0.00	0.00	
	19th year	0.00	0.00	
Community order Length	le_30d	1.94	0.11	***
	gt30_le90d	1.39	0.08	***
	gt6m_le12m	0.76	0.04	***
	gt12m_le3y	0.42	0.03	***
Interaction of Time since Sentence Completion and Community Order Length	Le 30d & First Year (omitted)			
	le30d & 2nd Year	0.61	0.06	***
	gt30_le90d & 2nd Year	0.84	0.09	*
	gt6m_le12m & 2nd Year	1.26	0.13	**
	gt12m_le3y & 2nd Year	1.53	0.18	***
	le30d & 3rd Year	0.60	0.07	***
	gt30_le90d & 3rd Year	0.87	0.11	
	gt6m_le12m & 3rd Year	1.25	0.16	*
	gt12m_le3y & 3rd Year	2.11	0.29	***
le30d & 4th Year	0.66	0.10	***	

³³ Shown are odds ratios, note that the standard errors have been transformed to mirror the scale of the odds ratios whereas Z-scores are calculated on the raw figures

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and
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Coefficient	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
gt30_le90d & 4th Year	0.85	0.13	
gt6m_le12m & 4th Year	1.49	0.22	***
gt12m_le3y & 4th Year	2.18	0.36	***
le30d & 5th Year	0.50	0.08	***
gt30_le90d & 5th Year	0.69	0.11	**
gt6m_le12m & 5th Year	1.09	0.17	
gt12m_le3y & 5th Year	1.78	0.31	***
le30d & 6th Year	0.46	0.08	***
gt30_le90d & 6th Year	0.65	0.12	**
gt6m_le12m & 6th Year	1.12	0.20	
gt12m_le3y & 6th Year	1.67	0.33	**
le30d & 7th Year	0.68	0.15	*
gt30_le90d & 7th Year	0.75	0.18	
gt6m_le12m & 7th Year	1.39	0.32	
gt12m_le3y & 7th Year	2.00	0.49	***
le30d & 8th Year	0.90	0.27	
gt30_le90d & 8th Year	1.17	0.37	
gt6m_le12m & 8th Year	1.97	0.60	**
gt12m_le3y & 8th Year	3.58	1.13	***
le30d & 9th Year	0.59	0.17	*
gt30_le90d & 9th Year	0.71	0.21	
gt6m_le12m & 9th Year	1.37	0.39	
gt12m_le3y & 9th Year	1.79	0.55	*
le30d & 10th Year	0.60	0.19	
gt30_le90d & 10th Year	0.74	0.25	
gt6m_le12m & 10th Year	1.07	0.34	
gt12m_le3y & 10th Year	1.63	0.56	
le30d & 11th Year	5.79	5.85	*
gt30_le90d & 11th Year	6.19	6.32	*
gt6m_le12m & 11th Year	9.39	9.52	**
gt12m_le3y & 11th Year	22.62	23.06	***
le30d & 12th Year	2.23	1.62	
gt30_le90d & 12th Year	2.23	1.65	
gt6m_le12m & 12th Year	4.87	3.54	**
gt12m_le3y & 12th Year	6.52	4.85	**
le30d & 13th Year	1.26	0.76	
gt30_le90d & 13th Year	1.37	0.85	
gt6m_le12m & 13th Year	2.18	1.32	
gt12m_le3y & 13th Year	3.63	2.29	**
le30d & 14th Year	3.41	3.46	
gt30_le90d & 14th Year	2.12	2.21	
gt6m_le12m & 14th Year	5.79	5.91	*
gt12m_le3y & 14th Year	10.21	10.58	**
le30d & 15th Year	1.78	1.80	

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and
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Coefficient		Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
	gt30_le90d & 15th Year	2.34	2.41	
	gt6m_le12m & 15th Year	4.45	4.53	
	gt12m_le3y & 15th Year	7.97	8.27	**
	le30d & 16th Year	--	--	
	gt30_le90d & 16th Year	--	--	
	gt6m_le12m & 16th Year	--	--	
	gt12m_le3y & 16th Year	--	--	
	le30d & 17th Year	--	--	
	gt30_le90d & 17th Year	--	--	
	gt6m_le12m & 17th Year	--	--	
	gt12m_le3y & 17th Year	--	--	
	le30d & 18th Year	--	--	
	gt30_le90d & 18th Year	--	--	
	gt6m_le12m & 18th Year	--	--	
	gt12m_le3y & 18th Year	--	--	
	le30d & 19th Year	--	--	
	gt30_le90d & 19th Year	--	--	
	gt6m_le12m & 19th Year	--	--	
	gt12m_le3y & 19th Year (omitted)			
Male (omitted)				
Female		0.63	0.01	***
Adult (omitted)				
Youth		1.51	0.03	***
White (omitted)				
BAME		1.09	0.02	***
Age of First Offence		0.92	0.01	***
Age Completed Sentence		1.03	0.01	***
Schedule 15 Offence		0.91	0.03	***
Offence Group	Violence against the Person (omitted)			
	Sexual Offences	0.70	0.05	***
	Robbery	1.21	0.07	***
	Theft Offences	1.24	0.04	***
	Criminal Damage & Arson	1.20	0.06	***
	Drug Offences	1.03	0.04	
	Weapons Offences	1.11	0.05	**
	Public Order Offences	1.00	0.04	
	Misc. Crimes against Society	1.26	0.05	***
	Fraud	0.93	0.04	
	Summary (Non-motoring)	1.17	0.04	***
	Summary (Motoring)	1.07	0.04	*
	Unknown Offences	1.52	0.27	**
Breach Offences	1.54	0.06	***	

Reoffending Following Custodial Sentences or Community Orders, by Offence Seriousness and
Offender Characteristics, 2000–2018

Coefficient		Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Significance
Year Sentence Ended	2000 (omitted)			
	2001	1.59	0.04	***
	2002	1.65	0.05	***
	2003	1.58	0.06	***
	2004	1.54	0.07	***
	2005	1.42	0.08	***
	2006	1.28	0.08	***
	2007	1.17	0.09	**
	2008	1.06	0.09	
	2009	0.94	0.09	
	2010	0.75	0.08	***
	2011	0.69	0.08	***
	2012	0.60	0.08	***
	2013	0.58	0.08	***
	2014	0.46	0.07	***
	2015	0.41	0.07	***
	2016	0.33	0.06	***
	2017	0.31	0.06	***
	2018	0.14	0.03	***
Count of Prior Offences		1.05	0.00	***
Individual Random Effect*		0.11		
Random Effect Standard Deviation		0.64		