



A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics

Last updated 28 January 2021

Contents

1. <u>Introduction</u>	<u>3</u>
1.1 Contacts.....	<u>3</u>
2. <u>Overview of statistics on the youth justice system</u>	<u>4</u>
2.1 Background.....	<u>4</u>
2.2 Youth Custody Report – Timeframe and publication frequency.....	<u>4</u>
2.3 Youth Justice Statistics – Timeframe and publication frequency.....	<u>4</u>
2.4 Revisions policy.....	<u>5</u>
3. <u>Data Sources, Quality and Reporting</u>	<u>6</u>
3.1 Data collected by the Youth Justice Board.....	<u>6</u>
3.2 Data collected by the Youth Custody Service.....	<u>7</u>
3.3 Data used in Youth Justice Statistics.....	<u>10</u>
4. <u>Methodology</u>	<u>16</u>
4.1 Behaviour Management.....	<u>16</u>
4.2 Cautions for children aged 10 - 17.....	<u>18</u>
4.3 Ethnicity.....	<u>18</u>
4.4 Age	<u>19</u>
4.5 Offence Classifications.....	<u>19</u>
4.6 Proven Reoffending.....	<u>20</u>
4.7 Time spent in the youth estate.....	<u>20</u>
4.8 Statistical Disclosure.....	<u>22</u>
4.9 Symbols and conventions.....	<u>23</u>
5. <u>Links to Other Statistical Resources</u>	<u>24</u>
6. <u>Glossary</u>	<u>26</u>
7. <u>Local Level Tables</u>	<u>35</u>
7.1 Youth Custody Open Data Table.....	<u>35</u>
7.2 Children Tables.....	<u>36</u>
7.3 Offence Tables.....	<u>37</u>
7.4 Outcome Tables.....	<u>38</u>
8. <u>Directory of related websites on the Criminal Justice System</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Annex A: Data Sources</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Annex B: MMPR</u>	<u>45</u>

1. Introduction

This document provides more detail on youth justice statistics presented in:

- the annual Youth Justice Statistics¹ bulletin; and
- the monthly Youth Custody Report² data tables and accompanying open data tables.

This is intended to be used as a guide to data sources, concepts and definitions.

The key areas covered are:

- An overview of the publications, detailing the frequency, timings and the revisions policy.
- Details of the data sources and any associated data quality issues.
- Details of the methods adopted in compiling statistics on the youth justice system, including statistical disclosure, classifications and symbols and conventions.
- Links to other statistical resources.
- A glossary and explanation of the main terms used to describe the youth justice system.
- An explanation of the variables used in the youth custody open data tables.
- A list of relevant internet sites on the Youth Justice System.
- A list of the offence classifications used by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and Youth Custody Service (YCS) for youth justice statistical outputs.

1.1 Contacts

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

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Email: newsdesk@justice.gov.uk

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

Damon Wingfield
Acting Head of Profession for
Statistics
Ministry of Justice
10 South Colonnade
London E14 4PU
Damon.Wingfield@justice.gov.uk

Bryce Millard
Head of Information & Analysis
Youth Justice Board
70 Petty France
London SW1H 9EX
Tel: 07773 597442
Bryce.Millard@yjb.gov.uk

Katherine Tatlock
Head of Information
Youth Custody Service
Southern House
Wellesley Grove
Croydon CR0 1XG
Katherine.Tatlock@justice.gov.uk

- General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gov.uk
- General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk
- For enquiries to the YJB please email: informationandanalysis@yjb.gov.uk
- For enquiries to the YCS please email: YCSInformationTeam@justice.gov.uk

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

2. Overview of statistics on the youth justice system

This section describes the background to:

- The annual Youth Justice Statistics bulletin and accompanying data tables; and
- the monthly Youth Custody Report data tables,

including the timing and frequency of the publications and the revisions policy relating to the statistics published.

2.1 Background

Following on from the recommendations in the 2010 *Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics* report³, the Youth Justice Statistics bulletin guides the user through the flows of children aged 10-17 years through the justice system in England and Wales.

This Guide to Youth Justice Statistics provides more details about the youth justice system statistics.

2.2 Youth Custody Report - Timeframe and publication frequency

The Youth Custody Report data tables are updated monthly. In each publication, the latest month of data published are provisional and are finalised in the following Youth Custody Report. Previously the provisional data was finalised once a year in accordance to the Youth Justice Statistics publication. This change is a result of the YCS Information Development Project's aim to provide more up to date finalised figures.

Prior to April 2019, custody population figures are a monthly snapshot of the custodial population in the secure estate for children, taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end. From April 2019 onwards, these figures are a monthly snapshot of the custodial population, taken on the last day of the month. These figures are produced by the Youth Custody Service, however prior to June 2018 these statistics were produced by the Youth Justice Board.

2.3 Youth Justice Statistics - Timeframe and publication frequency

The Youth Justice Statistics bulletin is an annual report based on financial years where possible (years ending March). Any other time period used is referred to explicitly. However, much of the data used in the report are drawn from quarterly publications and there may be more up to date data available. The purpose of the report is to provide an overall summary of the youth justice system (YJS), allowing users to find everything in one place. All data referenced are available in the Excel supplementary tables that accompany the report, or are readily available on GOV.UK (links are provided). Separate tables and maps covering Youth Offending Team (YOT) level information are also available.

³ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/archive/reports--correspondence/reports/overcoming-barriers-to-trust-in-crime-statistics--england-and-wales.pdf>

2.4 Revisions policy

In accordance with Principle 2 of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is required to publish transparent guidance on its policy for revisions. A copy of this statement can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/218490/statistics-revisions-policy.pdf

The three reasons specified for statistics needing to be revised are changes in sources of administrative systems or methodology, receipt of subsequent information, and errors in statistical systems and processes. Each of these points, and its specific relevance to the youth justice statistics, are addressed below:

1. Changes in sources of administrative systems/methodology

The published statistics on the youth justice system come from a variety of administrative systems. This technical document presents where there have been revisions to data owing to switches in methodology or administrative systems. In addition, affected statistics within the publications will be appropriately footnoted.

2. Receipt of subsequent information

The nature of any administrative system is that data may be received late.

For the Youth Justice Statistics publication, late data are reviewed on an annual basis. Should the review show that any late data has a major impact on the statistics then revisions will be released as part of the subsequent publication.

For the Youth Custody Report data tables, the snapshots are taken at a time to sufficiently allow late data to be submitted. However, data are further cleaned prior to the annual finalised dataset so any late data will lead to revisions in the monthly data on an annual basis.

3. Errors in statistical systems and processes

Occasionally, errors can occur in statistical processes; procedures are constantly reviewed to minimise this risk. Should a significant error be found, the publications on the website will be updated and an erratum slip published documenting the revision.

3. Data Sources, Quality and Reporting

This section outlines the different data sources used to compile the statistics presented in the monthly data tables and the annual bulletin with information on data quality, processing and how they are reported.

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

The Youth Justice Statistics is a 'National Statistics' publication. 'National Statistics' is the national standard for official statistics. The 'National Statistics' Quality Mark indicates that the statistics have been produced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice requires the statistics to be produced, managed and disseminated to high professional standards. The statistics must be well explained and meet users' needs. The 'National Statistics' standard has statutory backing.

The Youth Custody Report statistics are Official Statistics.

The data for the various chapters and tables come from many sources. More information on these data sources can be found in [Annex A](#).

3.1 Data collected by the Youth Justice Board:

Youth Offending Team case-level data

Some of the data in Youth Justice Statistics come from data submitted to the YJB by the 154 Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) in England and Wales and do not come from the police or courts. As such, the data given in Youth Justice Statistics may differ from that presented in other Ministry of Justice publications.

- Prior to April 2009, only summary level data was submitted to the YJB.
- Between April 2009 and March 2015, the data were taken from YJB's Youth Justice Management Information System (YJMIS) which contains both summary level and case level data extracted from each YOT's operational case management system.
- In April 2015, the Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF) replaced YJMIS. This system also contains summary and case level data on children and young people cautioned or sentenced for an offence.
- From May 2018, Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) are no longer required to report to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) any community safeguarding and public protection incidents (CSPPI) that occurred in the community regarding children.

For details on the quality of these YOT data and the difference between YOT and Police National Computer (PNC) data for a specific period, see Annex B (Comparison of YOT caseload with PNC data) in the annual Youth Justice Statistics bulletin.

Changes to Types of Remand Given to Children Methodology

Prior to the Youth Justice Statistics, 2019/20 publication, for the Types of Remand Given to Children data in chapter 6, only remand decisions that resulted in a substantive outcome were counted. From the Youth Justice Statistics, 2019/20 publication onwards, all remand decisions are now counted, regardless of subsequent outcome type. Therefore, the remand figures in the 2019/20 publication should not be compared with those in previous publications.

3.2 Data collected by the Youth Custody Service:

Youth custody population data

The youth custody population data come from administrative systems used to place children in the secure estate:

- Prior to April 2012, youth custody data came from the YJB's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS) database.
- From April 2012, the under 18 custody population was taken from YJB's eAsset database. However, information about those aged 18 and held in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) was supplied by the Prison Service and private YOIs.
- In July 2013, when YJB withdrew female placement in YOIs, data on 18 year old females began to be sourced from eAsset.
- In April 2016, data on 18-year-old males was brought in line with the information on young females, to be sourced from the YJB's eAsset system.
- In September 2017, eAsset was replaced by YJAF as the booking system for children in youth custody and the source of youth custody data.
- In April 2018 the responsibility for collecting these data moved from the YJB to the YCS.

The quality of the information recorded on these administrative databases is generally assumed to be relatively high as they are the operational systems used to place children in custody. A number of key fields are used for which completion is mandatory when booking a child into custody. However, sources are subject to possible errors when entering data as well as changes over time due to being operational databases that are regularly updated.

Different checks on the data help improve and maintain the quality. Ongoing improvements to data entry validation reduce the risk of incorrect recording. Identification of duplicate records improves the reliability of the stored information. Visual checks on single variables as well as different variable groupings are carried out to ensure only permitted combinations result. Data trends are also examined to assist with quality assuring the data. Different data sources are used to ensure the figures are the most appropriate for the particular context.

In the January 2018 publication, the number of children in Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) in 2015/16 was revised due to an error being identified. The change led to the average monthly population for 2015/16 increasing by one child.

Establishments in the youth secure estate in 2019/20:

Sector	Establishment name	Region
Young Offender Institutions	Cookham Wood	South East
	Feltham	London
	Parc	Wales
	Werrington	Midlands
	Wetherby (Main and Keppel Unit)	Yorkshire
Secure Training Centres	Medway (closed Jan 2020)	South East
	Oakhill	South East
	Rainsbrook	Midlands
Secure Children's Homes	Adel Beck	Yorkshire
	Aldine House	Yorkshire
	Aycliffe	North East
	Barton Moss	North West
	Clayfields House	Midlands
	Hillside	Wales
	Lincolnshire	Midlands
	Vinney Green	South West

Behaviour management and Use of Force

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

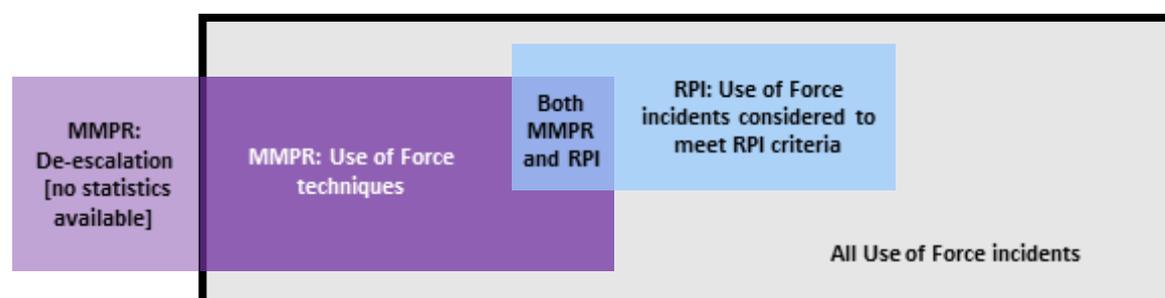


Diagram 1 (not to scale) is a schematic representation of a complex issue: It is illustrative only. Use of force statistics published in the Youth Justice Statistics refer to all use of force techniques highlighted by the bold outline in the diagram.

The behaviour management and use of force data are taken from a combination of monthly data returns and administrative systems. In YOIs, data on assaults and self harm is extracted from the Incident Reporting System (IRS) within the National Offender Management Information System (NOMIS). In the rest of the youth secure estate and for use of force in YOIs, behaviour management data is obtained from monthly data returns to the YCS⁴. To improve quality, the data are subject to a validation exercise with establishments prior to publication.

In the 2018/19 publication the counting rules and data source for assaults within YOIs changed. It was from this date that IRS began to be used for assaults in YOIs. From 2018/19, the YOI figures are based on the counting rules that are used in the MoJ and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) Safety in Custody quarterly bulletin⁵. These same

⁴ Responsibility for collecting these data moved from the YJB to the YCS in 2018.

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics>

counting rules, which are described below, were extended to the whole of the youth secure estate from April 2019. The monthly data collections from the rest of the estate were amended to reflect the same rules as used in YOIs and across HMPPS. The change in counting rules resulted in a break in the time series and figures prior to April 2019 (April 2018 for YOIs) are not comparable to more recent figures.

The primary unit of measurement for assaults now used in Youth Justice Statistics is a count of assault incidents. An assault incident could be an assault by one young person on another, by several young people on one individual, a physical altercation between several young people or any combination of these. An assault incident is counted as one, irrespective of the number of participants. The number of children and young people involved in incidents, either as assailants, fighters, or victims, are also counted to provide information on the scale of the incidents. Incidents where a member of staff was a victim are categorised as staff assaults. It is possible for a single incident to be both a child and young person on child and young person assault incident, and a staff assault.

The new counting rules:-

- Introduced a break in the published time-series from FY 2018/19 for YOIs and from 2019/20 for the rest of the youth secure estate. Figures prior to this period are not comparable as they are based on different counting rules.
- Prevent an aggregation of assault figures for 2018/19 across the entire youth secure estate⁶. Aggregation across the entire youth estate has been re-introduced for 2019/20 figures.
- Introduced a higher published figure for YOI assaults. This is largely because the count of assault incidents now includes incidents where two or more young people were fighting amongst themselves with no clear indication of who was the perpetrator and who was the victim. Previously these incidents were not included in the count of assaults and were not included in the Youth Justice Statistics publications.

Apart from YOI assault incident data stemming from the NOMIS IRS, for which data is validated on a rolling bi-monthly basis, data received from the secure estate through monthly returns is validated through a reconciliation process on an annual basis. Subsequently, these have been checked and revised. Therefore, figures may not match those previously published. For the 2015/16 Youth Justice Statistics, there was an additional historic reconciliation and as a result some data from the year ending March 2011 changed significantly and did not match those previously published.

Data on separation are only published for Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) and Secure Training Centres (STCs). Separation is managed differently in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) and does not reflect separation in a comparable way to the SCHs and STCs. A system for centrally recording separation in YOIs has been introduced but data has not yet been verified as being suitable for publication.

In April 2016, there were some changes to the counting rules for Restrictive Physical Intervention, self harm, and proven assault incidents which required medical treatment. See [Section 4.1](#) in this guide for more details.

⁶ For the 2018/19 publication figures for assaults in Secure Training Centres and Secure Children's Homes were based on different counting rules for individual aggressive acts.

In April 2017, some changes to the counting rules for assaults were made. See [Section 4.1](#) in this guide for more details.

Managing and Minimising Physical Restraint (MMPR) was implemented in YOIs and STCs at different times but is not used in SCHs. See [Annex B](#) for more details.

3.3 Data used in Youth Justice Statistics:

Further details of these data sources can be found in [Annex A](#), or by following the links to other publications and user guides. The [Glossary](#) in this guide provides more details on the terms used.

Chapter 1: Gateway to the Youth Justice System

This chapter provides details of children who were arrested and cautioned.

- The arrest data come from the Home Office. Further information is available in the police powers and procedures publication for England and Wales available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>.
- The data on youth cautions have been taken from PNC data held by MoJ. For further information see the quarterly Criminal Justice Statistics publication: www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly.

Chapter 2: First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System

This chapter provides an overview of the number of First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System (YJS).

- FTE data are based on an extract of data held by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), as recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC). For the latest quarterly MoJ publication see: www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly.

An FTE to the criminal justice system is an offender residing in England and Wales at the time of the offence, who has been recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) by an English or Welsh police force as having received their first sentence or youth caution.

As FTE data relate to proven offences only, where a child is given a formal caution or court disposal by a police force in England and Wales or the British Transport Police⁷, this is not a measure of the amount of crime committed by children. Only a proportion of crimes lead to a formal outcome, and the age of the offender is not known until the point of arrest.

For details on how age is calculated, see [Section 4.4](#).

Chapter 3: Characteristics of children in the Youth Justice System

This chapter reports on the number and demographic characteristics of children who received a youth caution or sentence at court.

⁷ Figures only include children residing in England and Wales at the time of their caution or sentence.

- These data are taken from the YJB's YJAF system and its predecessor YJMIS. These data are available broken down by each YOT in the local level tables accompanying the Youth Justice Statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics>. More details on this data source are in [Section 3.1](#) in this guide.

It is important to note that these figures relate to the number of individual children⁸ who received a youth caution or sentence and not the number of offences or disposals. Additionally, YOTs will also be working with children on bail and remand, community resolutions, other outcomes with YOT intervention, prevention programmes and with some children cautions and sentences from previous years, however these numbers are unknown. Therefore, the figures presented in this chapter are not a count of the total number of children with whom YOTs worked. In addition, YOTs do not work with all children who received youth cautions. The police deal with some children who receive cautions as well as some first-tier outcomes, such as fines or absolute discharges, and therefore will not be referred to a YOT.

For details on how age is calculated, see [Section 4.4](#).

Chapter 4: Proven offences by children

This chapter covers all proven offences committed by children.

- The data have been taken from the YJB's YJAF database and its predecessor YJMIS.

These data include all offences for which a child is given a youth caution or sentence at court and not just the primary offence. The offence breakdown differs from the main offence types⁹ used by the Ministry of Justice.

- For the 2018/19 publication onwards, the number of proven offences by gravity score has been included. An offence's seriousness, or 'gravity score', is scored out of eight, ranging from one (least serious) up to eight (most serious). The offence list reflects that of the Police National Legal Database (PNLD) and is in line with other criminal justice agencies.
- The Knife and Offensive Weapon data have been taken from the MoJ's Police National Computer. For further information see the MoJ's Knife and offensive weapon sentencing statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/knife-possession-sentencing-quarterly>.

These data include all knife possession and threatening with a knife which resulted in a child receiving a caution or court sentence. A technical user guide for these statistics is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-guide-to-knife-possession-sentencing-statistics>.

⁸ While children are only counted once in each YOT regardless of the number of offences committed or cautions or sentences given, there will be some double counting nationally where children and young people who received a caution or sentence in one YOT then transfer to another YOT and receive a caution or sentence in the same period.

⁹ The main offence groups used in this report differ from those used by the MoJ, for example the offence of common assault is classed as a summary offence by the MoJ, while here it is included under Violence Against the Person. Burglary includes domestic and non-domestic burglary. Further details on 'other' offences can be found in the supplementary tables.

For details on how age is calculated, see [Section 4.4](#).

- The experiences of children aged 10 to 15 carrying knives for personal protection data were introduced in the 2017/18 Youth Justice Statistics and have been taken from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), 10-15 module. These data have now moved to a three-yearly collection. Please refer to the 2017/18 Youth Justice Statistics for the latest available figures. Technical information about the CSEW can be found here: <http://www.crimesurvey.co.uk/en/10-15yearOldsSurvey.html>.

Chapter 5: Sentencing of children

This chapter covers the number of proceedings against children, findings of guilt at courts and sentencing occasions for proven offences.

- The data mostly have been taken from the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) Court Proceedings Database (CPD). For more information see: www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly.
- Information on parenting orders comes from the CPD.
- Information about the requirements associated with Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YROs) are taken from the data provided by YOTs to the YJB's YJAF system. Many YROs are recorded without requirement information.

For details on how age is calculated, see [Section 4.4](#).

Chapter 6: Use of remand for children

This chapter covers information on the use of remand for children in the Youth Justice System (YJS).

- Types of remand¹⁰ given to children as reported by YOTs come from the YJB's YJAF system and its predecessor YJMIS.
- Characteristics of the population in custody on remand came from the YJB's eAsset system until March 2018. From March 2018 they have been taken from YJAF. In April 2018 the responsibility for collecting these data moved from the YJB to the YCS.
- Outcomes for children following custodial remand are taken from the Court Proceedings Database.

The average monthly custody population figures are averages (means) of 12 monthly snapshots of the custodial population in the secure estate for children. From April 2019 onwards these figures are taken on the last day of the month. Prior to April 2019 these figures were taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end.

¹⁰ Including conditional and unconditional bail, community remand and remand to youth detention accommodation.

Chapter 7: Children in custody in the youth secure estate

This chapter provides data on the average population of children in custody in the youth secure estate, both remanded and sentenced. See [Annex A](#) in this guide for details of the data sources used.

These data do not include children in police custody. This number represents the average population of children in custody in the secure estate at any point in the year.

The Youth Custody Service¹¹ is only responsible for placing 10-17 year olds in custody. However, to avoid disrupting their regimes, young people aged over 17 remain in the youth secure estate if they have only a short period of their sentence left to serve, or to meet specific needs of the young person. The data presented are for the under 18 population only. Custody populations including 18-year olds are available in the accompanying Excel supplementary tables and the [Youth Custody Report](#).

The average monthly custody population figures are averages (means) of 12 monthly snapshots of the custodial population in the secure estate for children. From April 2019 onwards these figures are taken on the last day of the month. Prior to April 2019 these figures were taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end. The impact this change has had on the custody population figures is estimated to be very small (less than 1% difference for the 2019/20 monthly custody population average).

For the 2017/18 publication onwards 'Distance from home' has been included. This shows the distance from a child's recorded home address to the establishment in which they are placed. The home address is manually inputted by the Placement Support Officer based on information provided by the YOT in the child's documentation. The distance is measured in miles, as the crow flies. Due to the level of quality assurance and data cleaning required to produce these figures, data are only available for the years ending March 2016 onwards. Due to data quality checks the number of children in custody with missing distance from home band data has decreased each year, and so comparisons between years must be undertaken with care.

For details of the methodology used to calculate the time children spend in custody, see [Section 4.7](#) in this guide.

Chapter 8: Behaviour management in the youth secure estate

This chapter covers information on behaviour management in the secure estate for children and young people. "Behaviour management" refers to the processes and policies by which youth secure establishments manage challenging and difficult behaviour amongst children and young people. The data include some 18-year olds who are held in the secure estate for children and young people.

Specifically, this chapter covers:

¹¹ In September 2017, the team responsible for placing children and young people in custody moved from the YJB to form the new Youth Custody Service within Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).

- the use of restrictive physical intervention¹² (RPI) on children and young people, incidents of self harm, assaults, and the use of single separation¹³ involving children and young people in custody in all custodial establishments; and
- the use of force as recorded under the Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR) system. MMPR is a behaviour management and restraint system that has been developed specifically for staff working with children and young people in Secure Training Centres (STCs) and under-18 Young Offender Institutions (YOIs). Not all uses of force count as MMPR; a use of force incident may involve non-MMPR techniques. Similarly, not all uses of MMPR count as use of force; MMPR also includes de-escalation techniques aimed at avoiding the need for use of force and do not appear in the published figures.

The terms ‘use of force’ and ‘restrictive physical intervention’ can be used synonymously within practice. However, within this publication they have distinct definitions and counting rules as to the techniques and levels of physical intervention used. Within the establishments that have implemented the MMPR system, the use of all physical intervention will be measured and counted against the use of force definition and counting rules, whether or not they involve the use of MMPR techniques. Under the RPI definition and counting rules, only those physical interventions which are restrictive are counted. See [Diagram 1](#) for details.

MMPR techniques have been implemented in YOIs and STCs at different times (see [Annex B](#) in this guide). MMPR has not been rolled out in SCHs.

For more details on the methodology used for behaviour management statistics, see [Section 4.1](#) in this guide.

Chapter 9: Proven reoffending by children and young people

This chapter provides key statistics on proven reoffending for children and young people who were released from custody, received a non-custodial sentence at court, or received a caution.

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

- The data used are from the Police National Computer database. A more detailed publication covering adult and youth reoffending is published by the Ministry of Justice and is available here: www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics.

In October 2017, the methodology for calculating proven reoffending changed. See [Section 4.6](#) in this guide for more details.

¹² A Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) is any occasion when force is used with the intention of overpowering or to overpower a child or young person. Overpower is defined as 'restricting movement or mobility'.

¹³ Single separation data is only published for Secure Children’s Homes and Secure Training Centres. See [Section 3.2](#) for more information.

Chapter 10: Criminal histories of children

This chapter presents information on the criminal histories of children in the YJS.

- FTE data are based on an extract of data held by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), as recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC). For the latest quarterly MoJ publication see: www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly.

A child is counted as having a criminal history if their PNC record shows that, at the time of receiving a caution or sentence, they had previously committed one or more proven offences that resulted in a caution or sentence.

A child's criminal history counts the number of occasions on which they previously received a caution or sentence for any offence and has been recorded on the PNC, including some offences committed outside of England and Wales, irrespective of country of residence. This count differs from First Time Entrants (FTEs) because all offenders prosecuted by an English or Welsh police force, irrespective of country of residence, are included, whereas FTEs have to be residing in England and Wales at the time of the offence.

Chapter 11: Comparisons with the adult system

This chapter provides a comparison between children (10-17 years) and adults (18 years and over) in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) in England and Wales. Where available, additional breakdowns for adults are separated into young adults (18-20 years) and adults (21 years and over). This chapter includes comparisons of arrests, First Time Entrants (FTEs), proven knife related offences, sentencing, population in custody and reoffending.

For details on how age is calculated, see [Section 4.4](#).

4. Methodology

This section outlines methodologies used in compiling the statistics, including how they may differ from other publications where relevant. This section also includes details of statistical disclosure, classifications used and symbols and conventions.

4.1 Behaviour Management

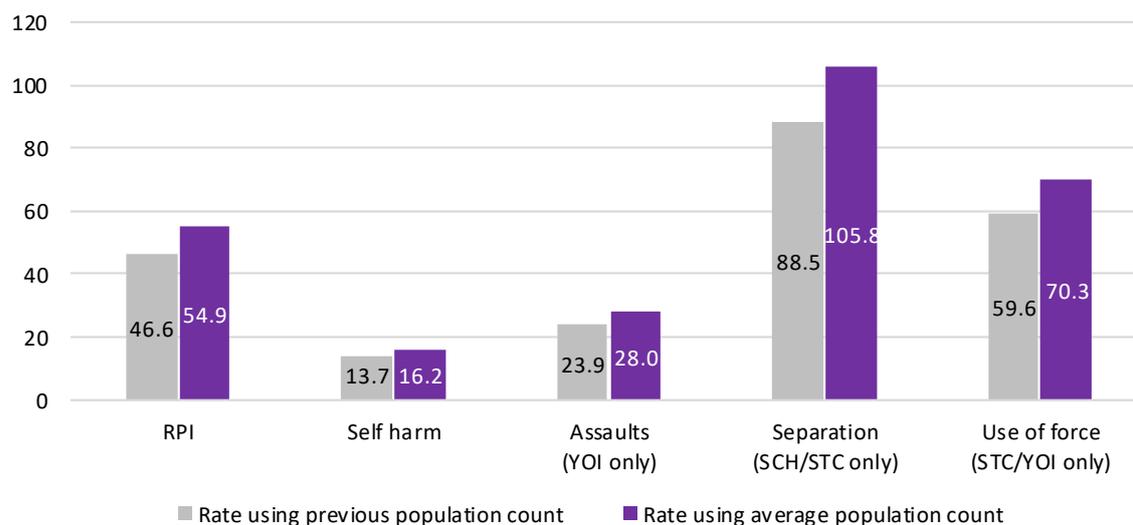
Rates: Rates for assaults, self harm, Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) and single separation incidents are given per 100 children and young people in custody. The measure of population used to derive the rates has changed in the 2019/20 publication compared to previous years. Rates are now calculated from the average daily population within establishments. Previously the rates were derived from the total number of children and young people in custody at any time during the period being reported on. A comparison of the old and revised methods is provided below:

Previous count of population used to derive rates of incidents	Revised count of population used to derive rates of incidents
Population in custody by establishment for the first day of the month plus any new admissions to each establishment during the month. All children in custody were represented and each was given the same weighting, irrespective of the proportion of the month they were in custody. Where a child or young person transferred from one establishment to another during a month they would be counted twice. Annual figures were the average of the 12 monthly totals.	Population is calculated as the average daily number of children and young people in custody over each month. All children in custody are represented in accordance with the proportion of the month they are in custody i.e. a young person released halfway through the month will count towards the population as 0.5. Annual figures are calculated as the average of the 12 monthly averages.

The revised population calculation gives a lower figure than the previously used methodology but provides a population closer to that experienced on a typical day. In order to be able to assess changes over time previous years have been recalculated based on the new methodology. The lower population figure has resulted in an increase in all rates for each behaviour management measures (see Figure 1).

This population methodology differs to data for the adult estate, where the average annual population is based on the average of monthly snapshots of population taken at the end of each month.

Figure 1: The comparison of rates of behaviour management measures using the previous population count and the revised average population count, youth secure estate in England and Wales, year ending March 2019



Assault incidents in Young Offender Institutions

For the 2019/20 publication onwards, all published assault figures are based on Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) counting rules. These rules were adopted for YOIs only from 2018/19 but have now been expanded to the whole of the youth secure estate.

These rules count the number of assault incidents rather than the number of separate assault acts. All incidents believed to have occurred are recorded, including fights.

An assault is defined as:

“Unwanted physical contact between two or more individuals, excluding Use of Force or anything of a purely verbal or threatening nature. The degree of force used is immaterial (e.g. spitting, pushing or striking) and physical contact can be by any part of the body or bodily fluid, or by the use of any weapon or missile. To be considered an assault incident it is not necessary for there to be injury of any kind.”

In counting assault incidents in Youth Justice Statistics:

- Violence between two young people are counted as a single assault incident, even if it is clear that one young person was the perpetrator and the other retaliates with unnecessary force.
- Incidents involving more than two young people, e.g. where five young people use unnecessary force on one other are counted as a single incident of assault.

Detail of participants in assault incidents is captured in the data to provide insight into how large and complex each incident was.

Prior to 2019/20 (2018/19 for YOIs) individual acts of violence were the principle unit of measurement of assaults and information was derived from monthly data returns provided by individual establishments.

Prior to April 2019 (April 2018 for YOIs) assaults were defined as the intentional use of unnecessary force that results in physical contact with the victim. Proven assaults are counted where the young person in custody was the assailant, irrespective of who the victim was.

This differed to the definition used for assaults in the adult estate, which has now been adopted across the youth secure estate, for instance assaults in the adult estate include fights between prisoners whereas the youth estate data did not necessarily include these. Therefore, assault statistics for the youth secure estate could not be directly compared with those for the adult estate.

For the 2019/20 publication, all three youth secure estate sectors have moved to consistent reporting aligned to IRS methodology which will make comparison possible between the sectors, whilst also better aligning to other published data. The change did however introduce a break in the time series and meant that for 2018/19 it was not possible to provide an aggregated count of assaults across the youth secure estate. For this reason, information on assaults prior to April 2019 (April 2018 for YOIs) is not included in the published tables.

A further change to methodology is in the way that protected characteristics data is collected in relation to incidents. Prior to April 2019 (April 2018 for YOIs) information on the protected characteristics of participants in assaults were collected alongside details of the incident, whereas data is now collected at an individual level and then matched to central records to derive protected characteristics. While improving consistency and reducing administrative burden, a small number of incident records have not been able to be matched to central records.

For more details on the safety in custody data for the adult estate, see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics>.

Changes to counting rules for incidents requiring medical treatment: In April 2016, there were some small changes to the counting rules for RPI, self harm and proven assault incidents requiring medical treatment. For proven assaults and self harm these changes affected only minor injuries requiring medical treatment. For RPIs, these changes affected both minor and serious injuries requiring medical treatment. The full impact of these counting rules changes is not known, but it is likely to be small. However, care should be taken when comparing the number of incidents requiring medical treatment figures since 2016/17 with those from 2015/16 or before.

4.2 Cautions for children aged 10 - 17

There have been some changes over time to the out-of-court disposals¹⁴ that can be given to children aged:

- Prior to 8 April 2013, the following out-of-court disposals were available for children aged:

¹⁴ Community resolution is a non-statutory disposal available to the police, rolled out in the year ending March 2009. The Home Office began centrally collecting data from forces on community resolutions from April 2014, and published national figures for the first time in July 2015. Community resolutions data are not available by age so the only out-of-court disposals presented in youth justice statistics are youth cautions.

- Penalty notices for disorder
 - Youth cautions (including youth conditional cautions from 26 January 2010 for 16 and 17 year olds in five pilot areas only)
 - Reprimands and final warnings – a child could receive a reprimand for a first offence or a final warning for further offences. Once a child had received a final warning, any further offences, regardless of severity would result in a charge and a court disposal if found guilty.
- From 8 April 2013, the following out-of-court disposals are available to children:
 - Youth cautions, including youth conditional cautions – a child can be given a youth caution even if they have previously had a court disposal. This allows for more appropriate disposals to be given based on the nature of the offence.

Care should be exercised when making historical comparisons between reprimands/final warnings and youth cautions.

4.3 Ethnicity

Classifications: Two measures of recording ethnicity are utilised throughout youth justice statistics:

1. Officer identified ethnicity - as recorded by a police officer or a member of the administrative or clerical team and is based on visual appearance. The PNC ethnicity categories are then aggregated to 4+1 classifications: White, Black, Asian, Other and 'Unknown'. This is the ethnicity information presented for information from the PNC (data on cautions, First Time Entrants, reoffending and criminal histories).
2. Self-identified ethnicity - defined by the individual. Categories are based on the 18+1 ONS classifications from 2001 and aggregated into the 5+1 classification as follows: White, Black, Asian, Mixed, Other and 'Unknown' or 'not recorded'. This is the ethnicity presented for information from the Home Office (data on arrests), from the YJB (characteristics of children according to YJAF and outcomes following remand) and YCS (children in custody in the secure estate and behaviour management).

The ONS introduced two further categories to the Census in 2011: 'White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller' and 'Arab'; and moved 'Chinese' to the broader Asian category. To allow for comparability within the time series, Chinese are placed alongside the Other ethnicity category, following the 2001 Census.

Percentages: When percentages of certain ethnicity categories are calculated, those children with 'Unknown' ethnicities have been removed. This methodology was introduced for the Youth Justice Statistics 2016/17 to bring it in line with other publications. Therefore, percentages of ethnicities from the 2016/17 publication onwards should not be compared with previous publications.

4.4 Age

The ages of children are calculated for measuring the number of children, the number of proven offences they have committed and the number of cautions and sentences. There are differences in this methodology between the data from MoJ's PNC and the data from YJB's YJAF:

- Cautions: In both YJAF and the PNC, the age of those receiving a caution is calculated at the time the caution was given.

- Court sentences:
 - In PNC the age is calculated at the time the person is sentenced.
 - In YJAF the age is calculated at the time of the first hearing. This is because these young people will still be supported through the trial process by the Youth Offending Team, even if they turn 18 before the sentence is passed.

4.5 Offence Classifications

In July 2013, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) re-designed the classifications used to present police recorded crime statistics, following recommendations from the National Statistician's review of Crime Statistics in England and Wales in June 2011. The changes to classifications were implemented in the ONS statistical bulletin *Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2013*, published in July 2013, alongside a methodological note¹⁵ providing more detail on the changes and their impact on time-series for key measures.

No change has been made to the coverage of offences in the police recorded crime series, and most changes are presentational, with some offences moving between classifications or being separated out of existing groupings.

Information is presented in the Youth Justice Statistics on these offence group breakdowns where possible. Therefore, offence groups and classification may vary between chapters and data sources.

As part of MoJ's additional quality assurance in the source data (Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly 2016 report), a small number of offence codes were reclassified between offence types to better reflect their legal basis. This means that figures sourced from the Courts Proceedings Database provided in Youth Justice Statistics publications from 2016/17 onwards are not comparable to previous publications.

4.6 Proven Reoffending

In October 2017, the methodology for calculating proven reoffending changed. The main changes were:

- **Moving to a three-month cohort.** The cohort now comprises all offenders who are released from custody, received a non-custodial sentence at court, or received a caution within a specified three month period, for all measures of reoffending, including for children and young people. Previously, a 12-month cohort was used. Offenders are still tracked for 12 months.
- **A change from calendar year to financial year, for annual figures¹⁶.** Previously, annual figures were based on calendar years. The annual reoffending figures are now based on a financial year. Annual figures (like those included in Youth Justice Statistics) are now formed by taking an average of the four three-month offender cohorts.
- A change in the **data source** for compiling MoJ's proven reoffending statistics: custodial discharges from YOIs are now taken from the Prison-NOMIS system for

¹⁵ www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/presentational-changes-on-police-recorded-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf

¹⁶ In the *Youth Justice Statistics: 2019/20* publication we have used year ending December 2018 data. The reoffending figures for the year ending March 2019 cohort will be published by MoJ in early 2021. These statistics were delayed due to the late delivery of data. A revised release date for this publication will be announced in due course.

young people, reflecting the availability of this more accurate data source. This change in October 2015 introduces potential variability and therefore users should be cautious when making any comparison between data pre- and post-October 2015.

For more information on this change in methodology and its impact on the figures, see: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/658380/how-the-measure-of-reoffending-has-changed-and-the-effect-of-these-changes.pdf.

This methodology was first used in the Youth Justice Statistics 2016/17 publication.

As the Youth Justice Statistics are an annual publication, the focus in the reoffending chapter of this publication (Chapter 9) is on the annual data based on the aggregate of the four quarterly offender cohorts. For both quarterly and annual aggregated data see the MoJ's [Proven reoffending statistics](#).

4.7 Time spent in the youth estate

Due to a change in data source during 2017, a new methodology was introduced for the length of time spent in youth custody statistics. These statistics were not ready for publishing in *Youth Justice Statistics 2016/17* in January 2018. As such, the 2016/17 statistics were published separately ([Length of time spent in Youth Custody 2016/17](#), 26 April 2018). These statistics have now been brought back into the annual *Youth Justice Statistics* bulletin, from the 2017/18 publication onwards.

This table compares the old methodology used in *Youth Justice Statistics, 2015/16* and previous publications, to the new methodology as first published in *Length of time spent in Youth Custody 2016/17* and going forward:

	Youth Justice Statistics, 2015/16 and earlier publications	Length of time spent in Youth Custody, 2016/17 and going forwards
Count	<p>Only the most serious custodial order for that period in time considered.</p> <p>The number of days in the most serious completed custodial order period.</p> <p>e.g. if a child was admitted on the 1st and their episode ended on 8th the number of days would be 8.</p>	<p>All custodial orders considered.</p> <p>The number of nights in each custodial episode.</p> <p>e.g. if a child was admitted on the 1st and their episode ended on 8th the number of nights would be 7.</p>
Episode	<p>In addition to the points on the right, an episode may end if the custodial order period completes within a financial year. For some children this may not represent the whole time a child spends in the secure estate, as they may have a period of detention which either begins or extends beyond the reference period.</p> <p>An episode starts when the child enters custody or an earlier custodial order period is completed.</p>	<p>An episode ends when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A child is released to the community; – A child is transferred to a mental health unit (whether or not their sentence has been served); – A young person is transferred to the over 18 secure estate; – A young person turns 18. <p>An episode starts when a child enters custody.</p>

Measure	The mean number of days a child spent in custody.	The median number of nights a child spent in custody. The proportion of episodes ending by nights.																								
Custodial order type	The mean number of days a child spent in custody for any completed custodial order period ending in the financial year. Detention and Training Order (DTO) would include any DTO recalls. Example of how a child would be counted under the old methodology: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Start</th> <th>End</th> <th>Custodial order</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>23 Feb 2015</td> <td>23 Mar 2015</td> <td>Remand</td> <td>29 days in 2014/15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23 Mar 2015</td> <td>22 May 2015</td> <td>DTO</td> <td>61 days in 2015/16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22 May 2015</td> <td>21 Apr 2016</td> <td>Section 91</td> <td>336 days in 2016/17</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Start	End	Custodial order	Count	23 Feb 2015	23 Mar 2015	Remand	29 days in 2014/15	23 Mar 2015	22 May 2015	DTO	61 days in 2015/16	22 May 2015	21 Apr 2016	Section 91	336 days in 2016/17	The proportion of episodes ending by nights for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remand only episodes (those episodes where the child had only received remand custodial order/s) - Detention and Training Order (DTO) only episodes (those episodes where the child had only received DTO custodial order/s). This does not include DTO recalls. - Other/Combination episodes (those episodes where the child had received a combination of custodial orders or where the child had received one of the following custodial orders: All Recalls, Section 90, Section 91, Section 226, Section 226b, Section 228 or Breach of Gang Injunction (a civil tool)). Example of how a child would be counted under the new methodology: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Start</th> <th>End</th> <th>Custodial order</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>23 Feb 2015</td> <td>21 Apr 2016</td> <td>Other/Combination (remand+DTO+s91)</td> <td>423 nights in 2016/17</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Start	End	Custodial order	Count	23 Feb 2015	21 Apr 2016	Other/Combination (remand+DTO+s91)	423 nights in 2016/17
Start	End	Custodial order	Count																							
23 Feb 2015	23 Mar 2015	Remand	29 days in 2014/15																							
23 Mar 2015	22 May 2015	DTO	61 days in 2015/16																							
22 May 2015	21 Apr 2016	Section 91	336 days in 2016/17																							
Start	End	Custodial order	Count																							
23 Feb 2015	21 Apr 2016	Other/Combination (remand+DTO+s91)	423 nights in 2016/17																							
Breakdowns	Includes mean days by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ethnicity - custodial order type - age 	Includes median and data on the proportion of episodes ending by nights and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ethnicity - custodial order type - release type - sector type - offence group - YOT region 																								

These data are not comparable to adult figures. Information relating to adults can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>.

Prior to the 2016/17 statistics and change in data source, there were differences in methodology used for calculating time spent in the youth estate:

1. 18 year olds:

- In publications prior to 2015/16, the time spent in the youth secure estate was calculated as the time in days for a custodial episode when the young person was aged 17 or younger at the end of their custodial episode. This excluded custodial episodes for young people who turned 18 before they left custody.
- In the 2015/16 Youth Justice Statistics, children's custodial episodes up until the young person's 18th birthday were included. A young person may remain in the youth secure estate for a short time following their 18th birthday until they are released or transition to the young adult or adult estate. As children serving longer term sentences are more likely to reach their 18th birthday in custody, due to the length of their sentence, this new approach results in averages that are higher than previously published.

2. Data Source:

- Prior to 2012/13, the youth custody data used for calculating legal basis periods were taken from the YJB's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS) database.
- From 2012/13, the youth custody data used for calculating legal basis periods were taken from the YJB's eAsset system.
- From 2016/17, the youth custody data used for calculating legal basis periods were taken from the YJB's Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF) system.

In the 2015/16 Youth Justice Statistics bulletin, a new measure was introduced: the average time a young person spent in custody in a single custodial episode (regardless of any changes in legal basis).

4.8 Statistical Disclosure

Suppression is used within youth justice statistics publications where it is necessary in order to avoid the disclosure of a young person's identity or personal information about a young person.

Where appropriate, the numbers 1 to 4 have been suppressed and replaced with an asterisk (*) to minimise the risk of disclosure. To make sure that the suppressed number cannot be derived by subtraction, additional suppression of numbers 5 or higher may be necessary. Where additional suppression has been applied it is noted throughout.

Some data are not suppressed. This applies to data which is already in the public domain, through other publications, without suppression having been applied.

4.9 Symbols and conventions

The units of measurement in youth justice statistics are offenders, offences and disposals; these are given as full numbers where available. The percentages are rounded to the nearest number or one decimal place.

The following symbols have been used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

0	Nil
..	Not available or not applicable (this is stated in the individual tables)
*	Value suppressed to maintain confidentiality
(P)	Provisional data
(R)	Revised data
(E)	Estimated data

5. Links to Other Statistical Resources

Arrest statistics:

Data on arrests for notifiable offences are included within this annual Home Office statistical release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>.

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic disproportionality in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales:

This MoJ report examines ethnic group representation in the Criminal Justice System from charging through proven reoffending:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-disproportionality-in-the-criminal-justice-system-in-england-and-wales>.

Crime Outcome Statistics:

This Home Office bulletin presents statistics on outcomes assigned by the police to recorded crimes:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics>.

Crime Statistics:

This Office for National Statistics bulletin presents key statistics on crime in England and Wales taken from two different sources: the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW, previously known as the British Crime Survey), and police recorded crime:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice>.

The publication also includes statistics on the victimisation and experiences of crime from children aged 10-15.

Criminal Court Statistics:

This quarterly MoJ bulletin presents National Statistics on activities in magistrates' courts and Crown Courts in England and Wales:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-court-statistics>.

The figures give a summary overview of the volume of cases dealt with by these courts over time, with statistics also broken down for the main types of case involved. Also published are detailed breakdowns of the headline court caseload and timeliness statistics, broken down by court or Local Justice Area.

Criminal Justice Statistics:

This quarterly MoJ bulletin presents key statistics on activity in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) for England and Wales: www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly.

The data provides users with information about proven offending and its outcomes in England and Wales. It contains statistics for adults and children on offences, out of court disposals, court disposals and offending histories (including First Time Entrants and previous disposals).

Ethnic disproportionality in remand and sentencing in the youth justice system:

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) commissioned analysis of case management and assessment data to measure and explain the disproportionality in remand and sentencing outcomes (including out-of-court disposals) for ethnic minority children compared to White children in

England and Wales: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethnic-disproportionality-in-remand-and-sentencing-in-the-youth-justice-system>

The research aims to understand the extent of ethnic disproportionality in outcomes and to assess how far this observed disproportionality can be explained by the demographic characteristics of children, offence-related factors or practitioner assessments of children.

Examining the Educational Background of Young Knife Possession Offenders :

This joint Department for Education and MoJ report examines the educational background of children who had committed knife possession offences in England and Wales:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/716039/examining-the-educational-background-of-young-knife-possession-offenders.pdf.

Knife and Offensive Weapon Sentencing:

This series of publications contain key statistics describing trends in cautioning and sentencing for offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon in England and Wales: www.gov.uk/government/collections/knife-possession-sentencing-quarterly.

Race and the Criminal Justice System:

This biennial MoJ publication compiles statistics from data sources across the CJS, to provide a combined perspective on the typical experiences of different ethnic groups in England and Wales: www.gov.uk/government/collections/race-and-the-criminal-justice-system.

It reports statistical information on the representation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups as suspects, offenders and victims within the CJS and on employees within criminal justice agencies.

Alongside the 2016 bulletin, the MoJ published an additional ad-hoc paper on the trends in associations between ethnic background and being sentenced to custody for children in England and Wales:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669095/Race_and_the_CJS-youth-amended-01122017.pdf.

Reoffending of children and young people:

This MoJ report provides key statistics on proven reoffending in England and Wales:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics.

It gives proven reoffending figures for offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial sentence at court or received a caution.

Safety in the children and young people secure estate:

This Youth Custody Service publication will capture quarterly statistics on assault and self-harm incidents, and deaths for children and young people in the secure estate. The first publication will be available from 29 April 2021 at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/youth-custody-service>

Understanding and Improving Reoffending Performance:

This report is a summary of learning from the Youth Justice Board's (YJB) four year Reducing Reoffending Programme with implications for practice: <https://yjresourcehub.uk/yjb-effective-practice/youth-justice-kits/item/470-learning-from-yjb-reducing-reoffending-programme.html>.

It includes how the work has developed, how the cohort is changing and a range of insights and examples on reducing reoffending at a local level and a consideration of the impact of the work and ways it needs to be taken forwards in the future.

Understanding the educational background of young offenders:

This joint Department for Education and MoJ report examines the educational background of children who had offended in England and Wales:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/understanding-the-educational-background-of-young-offenders-full-report>.

Women and the Criminal Justice System:

This biennial MoJ publication compiles statistics from data sources across the Criminal Justice System (CJS), to provide a combined perspective on the typical experiences of women who come into contact with it: www.gov.uk/government/collections/women-and-the-criminal-justice-system.

It considers how these experiences have changed over time and how they contrast to the typical experiences of men.

6. Glossary

This section provides definitions of terms used throughout statistics on the youth justice system, in alphabetical order.

Absolute discharge: When the court decides someone is guilty, but decides not to punish them further at this time, they will be sentenced to a 'discharge'. Discharges are given for minor offences. An 'absolute discharge' means that no more action will be taken.

Activity requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to engage in activities specified in their order.

Assaults: Unwanted physical contact between two or more individuals, excluding Use of Force or anything of a purely verbal or threatening nature. The degree of force used is immaterial (e.g. spitting, pushing or striking) and physical contact can be by any part of the body or bodily fluid, or by the use of any weapon or missile. To be considered an assault incident it is not necessary for there to be injury of any kind.

Attendance Centre requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to attend the attendance centre specified in their order for the number of hours specified.

Average custodial sentence length: Average length of determinate (fixed length) custodial sentences given in months. This excludes indeterminate sentences (life or Imprisonment for Public Protection sentences) as the length of these sentences is not recorded.

Beds available: The number of beds available within the secure estate to place children who are remanded or sentenced to custody. This figure takes into account rooms out of use due to damage/refurbishment for Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), Secure Training Centres (STCs) and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) and also any spot purchases for SCHs.

Behaviour management: Behaviour management captures the processes and policies by which establishments manage challenging and difficult behaviour amongst children and young people in the secure estate.

Breaches: A breach is when a child fails to comply with the conditions of their disposal:

1. Breach of statutory order or of conditional discharge is an offence of failing without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirements of an existing statutory order or the conditions of a discharge. The offence is only counted where the failure is proved to the satisfaction of the court and the original order is revoked and/or an additional order or other disposal is imposed.
2. Breach of bail refers to the offence of absconding by person released on bail (Bail Act 1976, S6), but excludes liability to arrest for absconding or breaking conditions of bail (Bail Act S7), for which children cannot be sentenced but only remanded in custody or given more restrictive bail conditions.

Caution: A caution is an out of court disposal for adults. Children can be given Youth Cautions which replaced Reprimands and Final Warnings on 8 April 2013. Returns on cautions are submitted to the Ministry of Justice electronically each month.

Charge or laying of information: This relates to when the defendant is first charged at a police station (specifically, where an individual is arrested and formally accused of a crime) or when the information is laid (specifically, where an individual receives a written summons advising that an action has begun against them, and that they are required either to appear in person, or to respond in writing, to the court regarding the alleged offence).

Children: In the context of youth justice statistical publications, the term 'children' refers to anyone between the ages of 10 and 17, unless stated otherwise. In publications prior to 2017/18, children were referred to as "children and young people". In some places, the term "children and young people" is used where those aged over 17 may still be included (e.g. behaviour management data and reoffending statistics).

Community resolution: This is a method of dealing with an offender for a lower-level crime, in a way which is proportionate. Resolutions can be offered when the offender admits an offence and, in most cases, where the victim has agreed that they do not want more formal action taken. Community resolutions can include the offender being given advice about their behaviour, apologising or sending a letter of apology to the victim, or making some form of reparation such as repairing or paying for any damage done.

Community sentence: When a court imposes a community sentence, the child doesn't go to custody. But the court says there are specific things the young person can, can't or must do while serving their sentence. The magistrate or judge will decide which combination of these 'requirements' will most effectively punish the young person for their crime, while also reducing the risk of them offending again. A child given a community sentence will be given a Youth Rehabilitation Order (see separate entry) in which one or more requirements can be imposed such as Curfew or Supervision.

Completion: When a defendant's case is completed and a final decision is reached in either the magistrates' courts or the Crown Court.

Conditional bail: Conditions may be added to a bail decision in order to ensure attendance at court, prevent the child offending while on bail, address a concern that the child might interfere with witnesses or obstruct the course of justice, safeguard the child's welfare, ensure availability for reports or to ensure they attend an appointment. The conditions might include not contacting a particular person or entering a particular area. The child may additionally be electronically tagged if it is felt necessary.

Conditional discharge: When the court decides someone is guilty, but decides not to punish them further at this time, they will be sentenced to a 'discharge'. Discharges are given for minor offences. A 'conditional discharge' means that the child will not be punished unless they commit another offence within a set period of time (no longer than three years).

Conviction: When a court finds a child guilty of a crime and gives them a formal sanction.

Criminal history: A child is counted as having a criminal history if their Police National Computer (PNC) record shows that, at the time of receiving a caution or sentence, they had previously committed one or more offences that had resulted in one of these sanctions. Because the PNC data excludes a range of summary offences the figures presented focus on the criminal histories of children cautioned or sentenced for indictable offences.

Curfew requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to remain in a specified place for the period specified in the order. The order can also specify different periods of curfew on different days.

Custodial sentence: A child may be sentenced to custody when an offence is so serious that it is the only suitable punishment. A custodial sentence will also be given when the court believes the public must be protected from the child. In the case of children, their time in custody will be served in establishments separated from the adult and 18-21 population.

Detention and Training Order (DTO): Detention and Training Orders are determinate custodial sentences which can last from four months to 24 months in length. A child spends the first half of the order in custody and the second half in the community on licence. Should they breach the licence conditions or reoffend during the licence period, they may be returned/recalled back to custody by the court.

Disposal: Disposal is an umbrella term referring both to sentences given by the court and pre-court decisions made by the police. Disposals may be divided into four separate categories of increasing seriousness starting with pre-court disposals then moving into first-tier and community-based penalties through to custodial sentences.

Drug treatment requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to submit to treatment during a specified time with the view to reduce or eliminate their dependency on, or propensity to misuse, drugs.

Drug testing requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to provide samples as instructed by their responsible officer.

Education requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires a child of compulsory school age to comply with approved education arrangements.

Electronic Monitoring requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to comply with arrangements for the electronic monitoring of the curfew period set by the court.

Exclusion requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Prohibits the child from entering a place specified in the order for a specific period. The specified period must not be longer than three months.

First listing: The first hearing of the case in a magistrates' court, whether or not the defendant is present.

First-tier penalty: This is an umbrella term used for the following orders made at court: bind over, discharges, fines and deferred sentences.

First Time Entrants (FTEs): First Time Entrants to the criminal justice system are classified as children (aged 10-17), resident in England and Wales, who received their first reprimand, warning, caution or sentence in England and Wales, based on data recorded by the police on the PNC.

Gang Injunction: (Policing and Crime Act 2009 / Crime and Security Act 2010 – Gang Injunctions with civil breach detention orders). An injunction to prevent gang-related

violence is a civil tool that allows the police or a local authority to apply to a county court (or the High Court) for an injunction against an individual to prevent gang-related violence. Breach of an injunction of this type is dealt with by a civil contempt of court and is not a criminal offence. The court is given two specific powers in Schedule 5A to the Policing and Crime Act 2009, namely power to impose a Supervision Order or a Detention Order. A detention order may last for not more than three months (beginning on the day when the order is made).

Gravity score: An offence's seriousness, or 'gravity score' is scored out of eight, ranging from one (least serious) up to eight (most serious). The offence list reflects that of the Police National Legal Database (PNLD) and is in line with other criminal justice agencies.

Incident reporting System (IRS): A system first introduced in the late 1980s to record a range of incidents in prisons including escapes, absconds, fire, drugs, damage to property, assaults etc.

Index offence: The index offence is the proven offence that leads to an offender being included in the reoffending cohort. An offence is only counted as an index offence if it is recordable, committed in England and Wales, prosecuted by the police and not a breach offence.

Indictable cases: The most serious cases, such as murder and rape, which must be heard at the Crown Court. The involvement of the magistrates' court in these cases is brief, and usually consists of a decision on whether to grant bail, and considers other legal issues, such as reporting restrictions. The case is then passed to the Crown Court.

Intensive fostering requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to live with specially trained and supported foster carers for a period of up to twelve months.

Intensive Supervision and Surveillance: Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) can be attached to a Youth Rehabilitation Order (which would have the Curfew, Electronic Monitoring and Supervision requirements attached as a minimum) and has been set as a high intensity alternative to custody. ISS combines a set period of electronic tagging with a comprehensive and sustained focus on tackling the factors that contribute to the child's offending behaviour. ISS is aimed at children on the custody threshold and has to be considered as an option before a custodial sentence is given. ISS may also be attached to conditional bail or as a condition of licence on custodial sentences.

Intoxicating Substance Treatment requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to agree to intoxicating substance treatment for the period specified in the order. The aim of this requirement is to reduce or eliminate the child's dependency on, or misuse of, intoxicating substances where this has been identified as a problem.

Incident reporting System (IRS): A system first introduced in the late 1980s to record a range of incidents and events taking place in prisons and YOIs e.g. assaults.

Legal basis for detention: Legal basis refers to the legal basis for the child's detention, the (custodial) order given to them by the courts. A child may have multiple custodial orders simultaneously, legal basis refers to the custodial order which takes precedence.

Local Authority Residence requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to reside in accommodation provided by or on behalf of the local authority.

Mental health requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to submit to treatment by or under the direction of a registered medical practitioner/ chartered psychologist for the period of time specified.

Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR): A system of behaviour management, using certain specified techniques, developed for use in Secure Training Centres and under-18 Young Offender Institutions. MMPR puts considerable emphasis on using appropriate de-escalation and deceleration techniques (non-physical interventions) to ensure that restraint is only ever used as a last resort, when no other intervention is possible or appropriate.

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

Occupancy rate: This is based on the beds available data. Where occupancy rates were over 100 percent in earlier years, spot purchases were made in SCHs and extra provisions via contingency places in YOIs were used to accommodate all children and young people within the secure estate.

Otherwise dealt with: Includes a number of orders, for example hospital orders, confiscation orders and compensation orders.

Parenting Orders: Parenting Orders are made against parents and aim to prevent offending and anti-social behaviour by reinforcing parental responsibility. A court may impose an order on a parent when their child aged 10-17 years is convicted of an offence; or is subject to an Anti-Social Behaviour Order; or where a Child Safety Order is made; or where a parent has been convicted of failing to make sure that the child attends school.

Primary offence: Where more than one offence is considered in a court case or cautioning occasion, the offence that would/did attract the most severe sentencing outcome is deemed to be the primary offence. Other offences also dealt with in that case would be ignored for data recording purposes. If two offences in the same case attract the same sentence the offence with the statutory maximum sentence is deemed the 'primary offence'.

Programme requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to engage in systematic number of activities (a programme) at a specified place on a specified number of days.

Prohibited activity requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to **not** participate in specified activities on the day or days specified or during a set period of time.

Proven offence: A proven offence is defined as an offence which results in a child receiving a caution or sentence.

Recordable offence: Recordable offences are those that the police are required to record on the Police National Computer. They include all offences for which a custodial sentence can

be given plus a range of other offences defined as recordable in legislation. They exclude a range of less serious summary offences, for example television licence evasion, driving without insurance, speeding and vehicle tax offences.

Referral Order: The order requires the child to attend a youth offender panel consisting of a YOT representative and two lay members. The panel agrees a contract with child lasting between three and 12 months. The contract will include reparation and a number of interventions felt suitable for that child (for example, a substance misuse assessment, anger management etc.). If completed successfully, the Referral Order is considered a 'spent' conviction and need not be declared.

Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation: Where a court orders a Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation prior to a trial or sentencing hearing, the Youth Custody Service (YCS) Placements Team¹⁷ will place the child in Youth Detention Accommodation according to their needs. There is therefore no need for the court to specify in the warrant the precise home, centre or institution but the court must specify the designated local authority so that the YCS may consult it on the placement decision.

Reparation Order: Reparation Orders require a child to undertake reparation either directly for the victim or for the community at large (for example, cleaning up graffiti or undertaking community work).

Residence requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to reside with an individual specified in the order or in a place specified in the order. Available for 16 and 17 year olds only.

Restrictive Physical Intervention: A Restrictive Physical Intervention is defined as: "Any occasion when force is used with the intention of overpowering or to overpower a young person". Overpower is defined as "restricting movement or mobility".

Safeguarding: All organisations whose work impacts on children have a responsibility to ensure that the actions they undertake protect the safety and welfare and promote the well-being of those children, the staff who work with them and members of the public. The Youth Justice Board works to protect the safety of children, the community and staff as well as encourage education and equality in our workings.

Section 226: (detention for life and detention for public protection) of the Criminal Justice Act (2003). This is a sentence of 'detention for public protection' imposed if the court decides that on the basis of the risk presented by the child an extended sentence would be inadequate to protect the public. This sentence was abolished and replaced by the new extended sentence 226B on 3 December 2012.

Section 226B: (Extended sentence for certain violent or sexual offences) (Sections 123-5 LASPOA 2012 (amending sections 226 & 228 Criminal Justice Act 2003) & schedule 20 LASPOA 2012): Children can be sentenced to an extended custodial sentence if they are sentenced on or after 3 December 2012 of a specified offence as listed in schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the court believes that they are dangerous. The earliest

¹⁷ From September 2017 onwards, the Placements Team were part of the Youth Custody Service where previously they were part of the Youth Justice Board: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/youth-custody-service-placement-team>.

possible release date is the two thirds point of the custodial period. Release will be on licence to the end of the extension licence period. Should they breach the licence conditions they are liable to be recalled to custody by the Secretary of State.

Section 90: Children convicted of murder will be given a mandatory life sentence under this section under Section 90 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. The court sets a minimum term which must be served in custody, starting at 12 years.

Section 91: If a child is convicted of a certain “serious” offence other than murder for which an adult could receive at least 14 years in custody, they may be sentenced under Section 91 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. The length of the sentence can be anywhere up to the adult maximum for the same offence, which for certain offences may be life. The child spends half of the sentence in custody and the second half on licence in the community. Should they breach the licence conditions, they are liable to be recalled to custody by the Secretary of State.

Secure Children’s Home (SCH): An accommodation type within the youth secure estate. Secure Children’s Homes (SCHs) in England are run by Local Authorities in conjunction with the Department for Education in England. There is one Secure Children’s Home in Wales run by Neath Port Talbot local authority in conjunction with the Welsh Government. SCHs are utilised for the placement of the youngest, most ‘at risk’ children within the estate and those with the most complex / holistic needs. Secure Children’s Homes have high staff to children ratios allowing focus on the emotional, physical and mental health needs of the they accommodate. SCHs generally accommodate remanded or sentenced children but can also accommodate children placed by Local Authorities on welfare matters. When referring to SCHs within statistics on the youth justice system, only those children held on remand to youth detention accommodation or those sentenced to custody are counted.

Secure Training Centre (STC): An accommodation type within the youth secure estate. There are three purpose-built Secure Training Centres (STCs) in England offering secure provision to sentenced or remanded children aged 12 to 17. STCs are available to place those children who are a little older and perhaps more independent and more motivated to attend school, or have risk factors which would make a placement in a YOI inappropriate. They provide a secure environment where children can be educated and rehabilitated. They are run by private operators¹⁸ under contracts which set out detailed operational requirements. Broadly speaking, staffing levels are three members of custody staff to children and young people living in a group of eight, and two members of custody staff to children and young people living in a group of six.

Self harm: Self harm in the youth secure estate is defined as “any act by which a child or young person deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent, or severity of the injury”.

Seriousness score: See gravity score.

Single separation: Single separation refers to the “confining of a child or young person in custody in their bedroom, to another room or area as a means of control and without the

¹⁸ Medway STC moved from being run by a private operator to being run by the National Offender Management Service, now Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service, in July 2016:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/her-majestys-prison-and-probation-service>.

young person's permission or agreement, without a member of staff being present and with the door locked in order to prevent exit".

Summary offences: These offences are usually heard only by a magistrates' court. This group is dominated by motoring offences, for some of which fixed penalties can be issued, but also includes such offences as common assault and criminal damage up to £5,000.

Supervision requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires a child to meet with the responsible officer or other nominated person as agreed.

Triable only on indictment: These offences are the most serious breaches of the criminal law and must be tried at the Crown Court before a judge and jury. These 'indictable-only' offences include murder, manslaughter, rape and robbery.

Triable-either-way: These offences may be tried either at the Crown Court or at a magistrates' court. These offences include criminal damage where the value is £5,000 or greater, theft, burglary and drink driving. Triable only on indictment and triable either way offences are frequently amalgamated to form indictable offences.

Triage: Triage is an informal process that means a child will not be prosecuted, given a community resolution or youth caution. The child can be asked to go to Youth Offending Team appointments. The Police can deal informally with children who offend for the first time and have committed a less serious offence. Triage is recorded on the police national computer (PNC) as no further action (NFA).

Unpaid work requirement: A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the child to undertake unpaid work for the specified number of hours.

Use of force: Refers to any instance where any level of force is used to manoeuvre or restrain a child or young person, including any action that guides a child or young person away from a harmful situation or intentionally blocks his or her path without necessarily overpowering the individual.

Youth Cautions: Youth Cautions are a formal out-of-court disposal that can be used as an alternative to prosecution for children (aged 10 to 17) in certain circumstances. A Youth Caution may be given for any offence where the child admits an offence, there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction but it is not in the public interest to prosecute.

Youth Conditional Cautions: A Youth Conditional Caution allows an authorised person (usually a police officer) or a relevant prosecutor (usually a member of the Crown Prosecution Service) to decide to give a caution to a child who has admitted guilt, with one or more conditions attached. When a child is given a conditional caution for an offence, criminal proceedings for that offence are halted while the young person is given an opportunity to comply with the conditions. The prosecution is not normally commenced when the offender complies with the conditions.

Youth Custody Service (YCS): The Youth Custody Service was created in September 2017 and is part of Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. Prior to that its functions were carried out by the YJB. When a child aged 10-17 is remanded or sentenced to custody, the YCS

decides where to place them. You can find out more about this process in the Placing young people in custody: Guide for youth justice practitioners¹⁹.

Youth Justice Board (YJB): The YJB is a non-departmental public body responsible for overseeing the youth justice system in England and Wales. The YJB is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Ministry of Justice.

Young Offender Institution (YOI): An accommodation type within the youth secure estate. Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) can accommodate young people aged from 15 to 21. However, the Youth Custody Service (YCS) is only responsible for commissioning YOIs which hold young males aged from 15 to 17. A small number of young people aged 18 will remain in an under 18s YOI before either being released or transitioning to the young adult or adult estate. YOIs tend to be larger than SCHs and STCs with lower ratios of staff to young people. Consequently, Young people who are more resilient and older may be placed in a YOI. Also, young people who predominantly externalise their risk may be placed within a YOI.

Youth Offending Teams (YOTs): Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) are multi-agency teams comprised of representatives from police, probation, education, health and social services, and specialist workers, such as accommodation officers. In the year ending March 2020, there were 154 YOTs across England and Wales. Organised geographically and independent of the police and courts, they advocate for children involved with the criminal justice system both in custody and in the community, run prevention programs aimed at keeping children from criminal activity and provide advice and guidance for children and their families in court.

Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO): The Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) was introduced at the end of November 2009. The YRO provides judges and magistrates with a choice of 17 rigorous community options from which they can create a sentence specifically designed to deal with the circumstances of the children before them. The requirements available for a YRO are: Supervision; Curfew; Activity; Unpaid Work; Attendance Centre; Electronic Monitoring; Programme; Education; Exclusion; Drug Treatment; Prohibited Activity; Intoxicating Substance Treatment; Residence; Drug Testing; Mental Health Treatment; Intensive Fostering; and Local Authority Residence.

Youth secure estate: There are three strands of the youth secure estate. These are; Secure Children's Homes (SCH), Secure Training Centres (STC) and Young Offender Institutions (YOI).

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/placing-young-people-in-custody-guide-for-youth-justice-practitioners>.

7. Local Level Tables

This section explains the variables used in the Local Level Tables and the Local Level Open Data. As with any large scale administrative recording system, figures are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

7.1 Youth Custody Open Data Table

These youth custody open data tables accompany the monthly Youth Custody Report²⁰.

Variable	Description	Categories
Financial_Year_Month	The month and financial year the custody data covers. Custody figures are based on a snapshot ²¹ .	YYYY/YY_MM_mmm e.g. 2017/18_01_Apr = April 2017
Calendar_Year_Month	The month and calendar year the custody data covers. Custody figures are based on a snapshot ¹⁷ .	YYYY_MM_mmm e.g. 2017_04_Apr = April 2017
Age_Group	Age of children in custody in years. Children aged 10-14 have been aggregated into one age group.	10-14 15 16 17 18
Age_Group_Ordered	Age of children in custody in years, with ordered groupings to aid pivot tables. Children aged 10-14 have been aggregated into one age group.	1) 10-14 2) 15 3) 16 4) 17 5) 18
Ethnicity_Group	Ethnic group of children in custody. Asian, Black, Mixed and Other have been aggregated into BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic). Ethnicity as defined by the child. There are some children where the ethnicity has not been provided and therefore is Unknown.	BAME White Unknown
Gender	Gender of children in custody.	Female Male
Accommodation_Type	This is the type of establishment the children are placed in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure Children's Home (SCH) Secure Training Centre (STC) Young Offender Institution (YOI): males aged 15-17 only. 	SCH STC YOI
Number_Children	The number of children and young people in custody.	
Provisional_Finalised	This says whether the data are provisional or finalised. Previous months data goes through additional quality assurance prior to this month publication. This is then revised in the Youth Custody Report.	Provisional Finalised

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

²¹ Prior to April 2019, this was based on a snapshot of the custodial population is taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end. From April 2019, this was based on a snapshot of the last day of the calendar month.

7.2 Children Tables

These children Local Level Tables and Local Level Open Data are based on data from Youth Offending Teams on the number of children cautioned and sentenced and accompany the annual Youth Justice Statistics²².

Variable	Description	Categories
Financial_Year	The financial year the data covers.	YYYY-YY, from 2013-14
YOT	Name of supervising Youth Offending Team (YOT) at caution or sentence.	
Region	Name of the YJB region the YOTs supervising the children at the time of caution or sentence are in.	
PCC	Name of the Police and Crime Commissioner area the YOT supervising the children at the time of caution or sentence are in.	
England_Wales	Location of the YOT supervising the children at the time of caution or sentence.	England Wales
Ethnicity_Group	Ethnic group of the children at caution or sentence. Ethnicity is self-identified. There are some children where the ethnicity has not been provided and therefore is unknown.	Asian Black Mixed Other White Unknown
Age_Group	Age of the children at caution or age at first court hearing for children who are sentenced. Children aged 10 to 14 have been aggregated into one age group and children aged 15 to 17 into another age group.	10 to 14 15 to 17
Sex	The sex of the child who receives a caution or sentence. There are some children where the sex has not been provided and therefore is unknown.	Girls Boys Unknown
Number_Children	Age is calculated at the time of caution or for those sentenced at the time of the first hearing. This is because these young people may still be supported by the Youth Offending Team, even if they turn 18 before the sentence is passed. This count does not include children who committed an offence who then turn 18 before their first hearing. Data on the totals for the number of children cautioned or sentenced by YOT for the year ending March 2016 do not match the data in the Youth Justice Statistics or the Supplementary Tables from this period. This is due to a late data submission from one YOT and therefore only has a minimal impact.	

²² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics#annual-statistics>

7.3 Offence Tables

These offence Local Level Tables and Local Level Open Data tables are based on data from Youth Offending Teams on the proven offences committed by children and accompany the annual Youth Justice Statistics²³.

Variable	Description	Categories
Financial_Year	The financial year the data covers.	YYYY-YY, from 2013-14
YOT	Name of supervising Youth Offending Team (YOT) at caution or sentence.	
Region	Name of the YJB region the YOT supervising the children at the time of caution or sentence are in.	
PCC	Name of the Police and Crime Commissioner area the YOT supervising the children at the time of caution or sentence are in.	
England_Wales	Location of the YOT supervising the children at the time of caution or sentence.	England Wales
Gravity_Score_Grouped	An offence's seriousness, or 'gravity score' is scored out of eight, ranging from one (less serious) up to eight (most serious). Gravity scores have been grouped in this tool; 1-4 (less serious) and 5-8 (most serious). Offence group by gravity score are only available from 2016-17 onwards.	1-4 5-8 Unknown Not available
Offence_Group	Type of proven offence committed by children. A proven offence is one which a child receives a youth caution or sentence.	
Number_Proven_Offences	Age is calculated at the time of caution or for those sentenced at the time of the first hearing. This is because these young people may still be supported by the Youth Offending Team, even if they turn 18 before the sentence is passed. This count does not include a small number of offences committed by young people who turn 18 before their first hearing. Data on the total number of offences by YOT from the year ending March 2016 does not match the data in the Youth Justice Statistics or the supplementary tables from this period. This is due a late submission from one YOT and therefore only has a minimal impact. Not a count of children, one child may commit multiple offences.	

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics#annual-statistics>

7.4 Outcome Tables

These outcome Local Level Tables and Local Level Open Data are based on data from Youth Offending Teams on the cautions and sentences given to children and accompany the annual Youth Justice Statistics²⁴.

Variable	Description	Categories
Financial_Year	The financial year the data covers.	YYYY-YY, from 2013-14
YOT	Name of supervising Youth Offending Team (YOT) at caution or sentence.	
Region	Name of the YJB region the YOT supervising the children at the time of caution or sentence are in.	
PCC	Name of the Police and Crime Commissioner area the YOT supervising the children at the time of caution or sentence are in.	
England_Wales	Location of the YOT supervising the children at the time of caution or sentence.	England Wales
Caution_or_sentence_type	Type of youth caution or sentence given to children. Since 8th April 2013 there have been a number of changes in out of court disposals. The previously known reprimand and warning disposal categories for children have been replaced with a new out of court disposal: The Youth Caution for children. The guidance is published at the link: Youth Cautions Guidance for Police and Youth Offending Teams .	
Caution_or_sentence_tier	Tier of youth caution or court sentence given to children aggregated into outcome group.	Other Pre court First Tier Community Custody
Number_Caution_or_Sentence	The number youth cautions or court sentences given to children. Not a count of children as one child may receive multiple sentences. Age is calculated at the time of caution or for those sentenced at the time of the first hearing. This is because these young people may still be supported by the Youth Offending Team, even if they turn 18 before the sentence is passed. This count does not include a small number of offences committed by young people who turn 18 before their first hearing. Data on the totals for the number of cautions or sentences by YOT from the year ending March 2016 do not match the data in the Youth Justice Statistics or the Supplementary Tables from this period. This is due to a late data submission from one YOT and therefore only has a minimal impact.	

²⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics#annual-statistics>

8. Directory of related websites on the Criminal Justice System

The following list of websites contains information in the form of publications and/or statistics relating to the criminal justice system that may be of interest.

Youth Justice Board

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/youth-justice-board-for-england-and-wales>

This site provides information on the Youth Justice Board, including statistics on the youth justice system: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics>.

The **Youth Justice Resource Hub** provides further guidance, training resources, research reports and effective practice for the youth justice community: <https://yjresourcehub.uk/>.

Ministry of Justice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice>

This site provides information on the organisations within the justice system, reports and data, and guidance:

- Details of Ministry of Justice statistical publications, which can be viewed on-line, can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/statistics>. For historic publications, see the links to 'earlier volumes in the series' (on National Archives website) on individual publication pages.
- Information on the bodies within the justice system, such as HM Prison Service, the Youth Justice Board and HM Courts & Tribunals Service can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations#ministry-of-justice>

The Crown Prosecution Service <http://www.cps.gov.uk> Gives information on the department and provides particulars in relation to legal guidance, victims and witnesses, in addition to details of publications.

The Attorney General's Office <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/attorney-generals-office>

Provides information on the role of the department including new releases; updates; reports; reviews and links to other law officers' departments and organisations.

The Welsh Government, <http://www.wales.gov.uk> Gives information on all aspects of the Welsh Government together with details of publications and statistics.

Criminal Justice System Northern Ireland, <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/> Provides access to the main statutory agencies and organisations that make up the CJS in Northern Ireland together with details of publications.

UK National Statistics Publication Hub, <http://www.statistics.gov.uk> This is the UK's home of official statistics, reflecting the UK's economy, population and society at national and local level. There are links to the Office for National Statistics and the UK Statistics Authority.

The Sentencing Council, <https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/> The Sentencing Council is an independent, non-departmental public body of the Ministry of Justice which replaced the Sentencing Guidelines Council and the Sentencing Advisory Panel. The site contains information on: sentencing guidelines; general information on sentencing; and research and analysis undertaken by the Sentencing Council.

HM Prison & Probation Service, <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics>, HMPPS is the agency responsible for prisons and probation. Quarterly Safety in custody statistics cover deaths, self-harm and assaults in prison custody and HMPPS Immigration Removal Centres in England and Wales. The bulletin is released by the Ministry of Justice and produced in accordance with arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

Annex A

Table A: Data sources used for each chapter of the report and the quality of the data

Name	Owner	Description	Quality Status	Use in YJ Stats year ending March 2019
Police National Computer (PNC)	MoJ	The Police National Computer (PNC) is the police's administrative IT system used by all police forces in England and Wales and managed by the Home Office. The PNC largely covers recordable offences – these are all indictable and triable-either-way offences plus many of the more serious summary offences. Information regarding the proven re-offending behaviour of offenders and criminal histories of offenders has been compiled using the Ministry of Justice's extract from the Police National Computer (PNC). The quality of the information recorded on the PNC is generally assumed to be relatively high as it is an operational system on which the police depend, but analysis can reveal errors that are typical when handling administrative datasets of this scale.	National Statistics	Chapters 1, 2, 9, 10 and 11
Courts	MoJ	Statistics on prosecutions, convictions and sentencing are either derived from the LIBRA case management system, which holds the magistrates' courts records, or the Crown Court's CREST system which holds the trial and sentencing data. The data include offences where there has been no police involvement, such as those prosecutions instigated by government departments, private organisations and individuals. From July 1995, all Crown Court data on trials and sentences has been received directly from the Court Service's CREST computer system and from November 2008 all magistrates' courts data has been provided by the LIBRA case management system. All data are subject to a variety of validation checks prior to publication.	National Statistics	Chapters 5, 6 and 11
Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF)	YJB	This system contains case level data on children cautioned or sentenced of an offence, submitted to the YJB from YOTs' operational case management systems. Prior to year ending March 2010 only summary level data was submitted to the YJB by YOTs. Data are submitted on a quarterly basis.	Admin System	Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Annex B, Annex C, Annex E and used for the local level data
eAsset / SACHS	YJB	Data for year ending March 2013 to the year ending March 2016 for under 18 year olds for Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), Secure Training Centres (STCs), and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) comes from the YJB's eAsset database. Data for 18 year old females in SCHs and STCs also comes from eAsset and data for 18 year old males in YOIs comes from NOMS. Data are based on monthly snapshots of the youth secure	Admin System	Chapter 6 and 7

		estate, taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end. Data prior to year ending March 2013 come from the YJB's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS) database.		
Behaviour management	YCS	<p>The Behaviour Management data are taken from monthly summary level data returns from establishments to the YCS and extracts from the Incident Reporting System (IRS). Prior to 2018 these data were collected by the YJB.</p> <p>In 2019 the manual collection systems were reviewed and updated by the Youth Custody Service. The change resulted in a break of time series for assaults data. Other behaviour management definitions were not amended but reporting practices could have changed slightly by the change in collection method.</p> <p>Information on protected characteristics is now obtained by linking individual children and young people involved in incidents to their records in YJAF.</p>	Admin System and data collection templates	Chapter 8
Use of force under the Managing and Minimising Physical Restraint (MMPR) system	YCS	<p>MMPR is a behaviour management and restraint system that has been developed specifically for staff working with children and young people in STCs and under-18 YOIs. All secure establishments currently report restraint incidents against the definition of RPI and this will continue. However, under MMPR, establishments are also required to report more detailed case level data to the YCS on all uses of force, irrespective of whether they meet the RPI definition or not. This includes the use of MMPR techniques and any use of force that is not an MMPR technique. Prior to 2018 these data were collected by the YJB.</p>	Admin system	Chapter 8
Arrests	Home Office	<p>The arrests figures relate to arrests for notifiable offences only, which form the basis of recorded crime statistics. The data presented are drawn from returns from the 43 local police forces in England and Wales, and cover trends in arrest rates in England and Wales, as well as breakdowns by offence group, gender and self-defined ethnicity. Figures on arrests reported to the Home Office reflect police activity and should not be used to infer levels of crime committed by offenders, or their specific characteristics.</p>	National Statistics	Chapter 1
Mid-year estimates	ONS	<p>Mid-2019 population estimates are available at national level by single year of age and sex and sub nationally (local authority/health area) by five-year age group and sex. These include additional selected age groups and broad components of population change. The population estimates reflect the local</p>	National Statistics	Chapter 1 and 2

		authority administrative boundaries that were in place on 30 June of the reference year of the tables.		
Crime Survey for England and Wales	ONS	<p>The Crime Survey for England and Wales is a nationally representative survey of individuals aged 16 years and over living in private households in England and Wales. In 2009, the Crime Survey for England and Wales was extended to children aged 10-15 (those aged 16 and 17 are included in the main survey). The primary objective of extending the survey was to provide estimates of the levels of crime experienced by children and their risk of victimisation.</p> <p>Children are often involved in low-level incidents which may involve an offence in law but may not be viewed by participants, or others, as serious enough to amount to a crime. Two methods for classifying incidents recorded in the survey have been used – ‘preferred’ and ‘broad’. The ‘Preferred measure’ takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the ‘Broad measure’ counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between young people. The analysis provided here uses the ‘preferred’ measure.</p> <p>For the children’s survey, property offences are restricted to personal level crimes only. Any household theft or criminal damage to the house/vehicle is recorded when the adult respondents from the household complete the survey themselves. Three offences from the children’s data – theft from or outside the dwelling, bicycle theft, and criminal damage to personal property – are all designated as household offences for the adults’ survey. In the children’s data, these are included if the property stolen or damaged belonged solely to the child respondent.</p>	National Statistics	Annex A
Adults in custody	MoJ	Key statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under the National Probation Service’s or Community Rehabilitation Companies’ supervision. It covers flows into these services (receptions into prison or probation starts) and flows out (discharges from prison or probation terminations) as well as the caseload of both services at specific points in time.	National Statistics	Chapter 11
Average number of days from offence to completion	MoJ	The criminal court timeliness measure is an estimated average of the time criminal cases spend in the CJS, across both magistrates’ and Crown tiers of criminal court. These statistics are sourced from the administrative data systems used in the	National Statistics	Annex D Tables

		magistrates' courts and Crown Court, and are produced by linking records (the Libra Management Information Timeliness Analysis Report and CREST linked court data, HMCTS). Records are linked based on a combination of variables including given name, middle name, family name, date of birth, sex, postcode, a committal date, and two identifiers: the Arrest/Summons Number (ASN) and Pre-Trials Issue Unique Reference Number (PTIURN).		
Police Recorded Crime	Home Office	Police recorded crime is the number of crimes reported to and recorded by the police. For types of crime that are well-reported and accurately recorded, police data can provide a valuable measure of trends. These data also provide an insight into the demands being made on the police and are useful in assessing how caseload has changed both in volume and nature over time. However, police recorded crime statistics do not always provide a reliable measure of levels or trends for many types of crime. This is because not all crimes are reported to the police. For example, victims may be reluctant to report a crime because it seems too trivial, or not worth reporting. In contrast, other crimes, such as thefts, may be more likely to be reported if they require a crime reference number to be issued by the police, to support an insurance claim. Furthermore, police recorded figures can be affected by changes in recording practices. Some types of crime are less affected by changes in recording practices. In these cases, police figures can be a useful supplement to the CSEW by providing a measure that better covers the more harmful, less frequently-occurring offences that the survey does not cover well.	Official Statistics	Flows through the Youth Justice System
Incident Reporting System	HMPPS	The Incident Reporting System (IRS), was first introduced in the late 1980s to record a range of incidents that took place in the custodial estate. Information on incidents including assaults and self-harm are taken from IRS. Extracts and subsequent updates are taken from the live incident system and validated on a bi-monthly basis. IRS is used to produce internal reports and official statistics including those appearing in this release and then the quarterly HMPPS Safety in Custody Bulletin.	National Statistics	Chapter 8

