



Youth Justice Statistics 2019/20

England and Wales

Youth Justice Board / Ministry of Justice

Statistics bulletin








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Youth Justice Statistics, England and Wales, April 2019 to March 2020

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

This publication looks at the YJS in England and Wales for the year ending March 2020, although due to data availability some chapters cover the year ending December 2019 and the year ending December 2018. It considers the number of children (those aged 10-17) in the system, the offences they committed, the outcomes they received, their demographics and the trends over time.

Main points

19,000 children were cautioned or sentenced		The number of children who received a caution or sentence has fallen by 82% over the last ten years, with a 12% fall in the last year.
11,100 first time entrants to the YJS		The number of first time entrants has fallen by 84% since the year ending December 2009, with a 12% fall since the year ending December 2018.
4,400 knife and offensive weapon offences were committed by children		There was a 1% decrease in these offences compared with the previous year. Levels are 5% lower than those seen in the year ending March 2010.
The average custodial sentence length has increased		The average custodial sentence length given to children increased by more than seven months over the last ten years, from 11.3 to 18.6 months.
The number of children held in custody has fallen		There was an average of just over 780 children in custody at any one time during the year. This is a fall of 68% compared with ten years ago, with a 9% fall compared with the previous year.
The number of Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPI) and self harm incidents in youth custody have increased		The number of RPIs increased by 19% in the last year, to around 7,500 incidents. The number of self harm incidents has increased by 35%, to around 2,500. For both measures, this is the highest number of incidents in the last five years.
38.5% of children and young people reoffended		The reoffending rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points in the last year, although it remains higher than ten years ago (when it was 37.7%).

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

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

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Things you need to know

This publication draws together a range of statistics about children and young people in the Youth Justice System (YJS) from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 (hereafter the year ending March 2020), where available. For First Time Entrants and Criminal Histories, data is from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. For Reoffending, the cohort is from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.

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

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

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

This is an annual report, with the focus on the year ending March 2020, however much of the data used in this report are drawn from quarterly publications and there may be more up to date data available. The purpose of this report is to provide an overall summary of the YJS, allowing users to find everything in one place. All data referenced are available in the Supplementary Tables that accompany this report. Separate tables and maps covering YOT level information are also available, including in an open and accessible format.

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

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

In previous publications, comparisons have been made against the population using 2011 Census data. In the 2011 Census the proportion in each ethnic group was as follows: 82% White, 9% Asian, 4% Asian, 4% Mixed and 1% Chinese or Other. As this data is now several years old, it may not accurately represent the distribution of ethnic groups in the population, particularly for children when comparing to 2020 Youth Justice figures. As such, analysis which relies on the 2011 Census data has not been included.

The data in this report are compared with the previous year (the year ending March 2019 in most cases), with the year ending March 2010 as a long-term comparator (ten years) in most cases. Where a ten year comparator is not available, the year ending March 2015 has been used (five year comparator). Any other reference period is referred to explicitly.

Statistician's comment

These statistics draw together a range of statistics about children and young people in the Youth Justice System (YJS). The latest time period of data within this report covers up to the year ending March 2020, so will be broadly unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic will be seen in future publications of these statistics and we will consider how we can best cover this over the next 12 months.

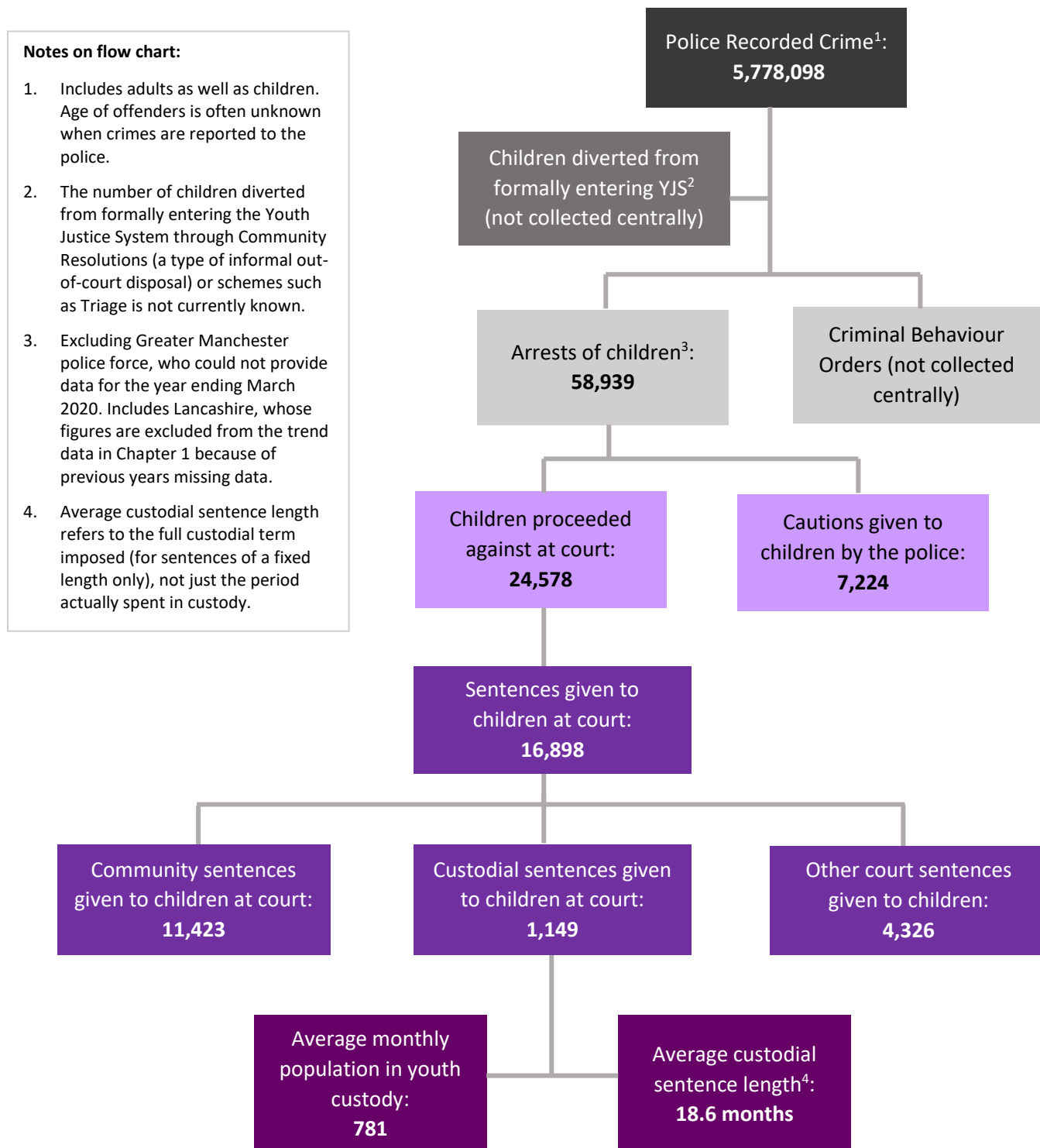
The long-term falls in the number of First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the YJS and the number of children receiving a youth caution or court sentence have continued. While the number of children in youth custody has also fallen over the last ten years, the average custodial sentence length given to children increased by more than seven months over the same period (from 11.3 to 18.6 months). The proportion of children who reoffend remains higher than that for young adults or adults.

Ethnic disproportionality is seen at many stages of the YJS. The proportion of Black children arrested has been steadily increasing over the last ten years. While the number of FTEs from a Black background has decreased compared with ten years ago, the proportion they comprise of all child FTEs has increased, from 9% to 16%. The proportion of Black children given a caution or sentence has doubled over the last ten years and the proportion of Black children on remand in youth custody has increased to over a third.

Despite the custodial population being at a record low, the key behaviour management measures of Restrictive Physical Intervention and self harm are at a five year high, which points towards the more complex needs of those in custody. Evidence of this can be seen in the experimental statistics '[Assessing the needs of sentenced children in the Youth Justice System](#)' published by the Youth Justice Board, which focuses on the high-level concerns, care status, safety and wellbeing, risk of serious harm and desistance factors, including those sentenced to custody to children assessed by Youth Offending Team practitioners for sentenced children.

The Youth Custody Service have announced new experimental statistics, '*Safety in the children and young people secure estate*' bulletin. The 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 29th April 2021 on the [Youth Custody Service website](#).

Flows through the Youth Justice System, year ending March 2020



1. Gateway to the Youth Justice System

In the year ending March 2020:

- Whilst the number of children arrested in the latest year decreased by 74% compared with ten years ago, there was an increase of 1% compared with the previous year; the first rise in arrests over the last ten years (excluding Lancashire and Greater Manchester¹).
- Black children accounted for 17% of arrests, which is 7 percentage points higher than ten years ago.
- Around 7,200 youth cautions were given to children in England and Wales. This is a decrease of 90% compared with the year ending March 2010, with a decrease of 16% in the last year.

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

Source: Annual data collection from police forces (Arrests)
Ministry of Justice extract of the Police National Computer (Youth cautions)

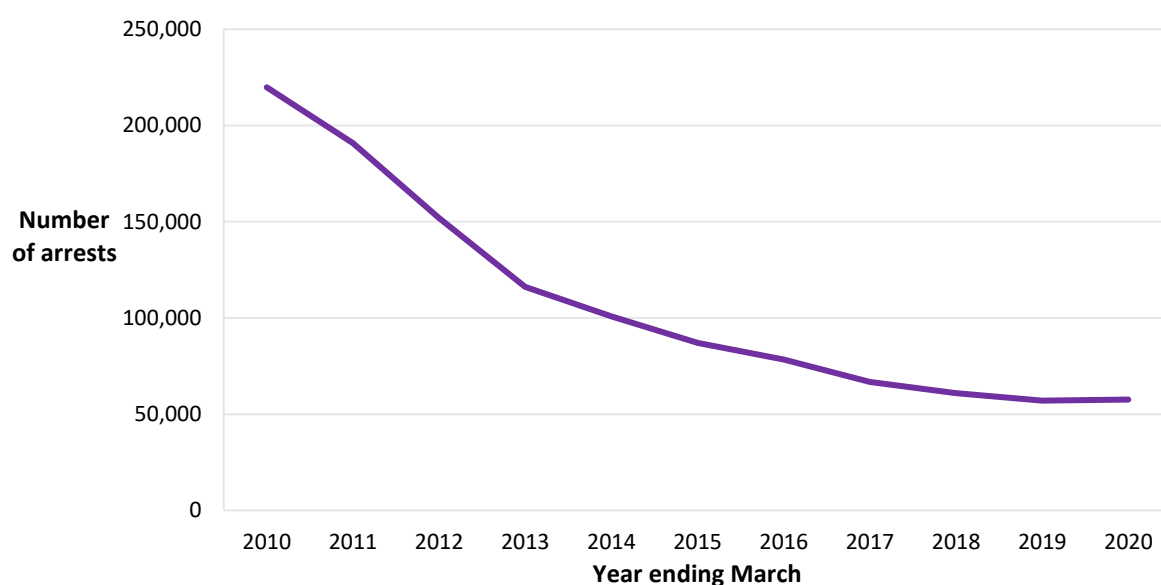
Time period covered: Years ending March 2010 to 2020

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

More information: [Police Powers and Procedures](#), [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#), [Ch 11 – Comparisons with the adult system](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

1.1 Arrests of children for notifiable offences

Figure 1.1: Trends in arrests of children for notifiable offences, England and Wales¹, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Table 1.1

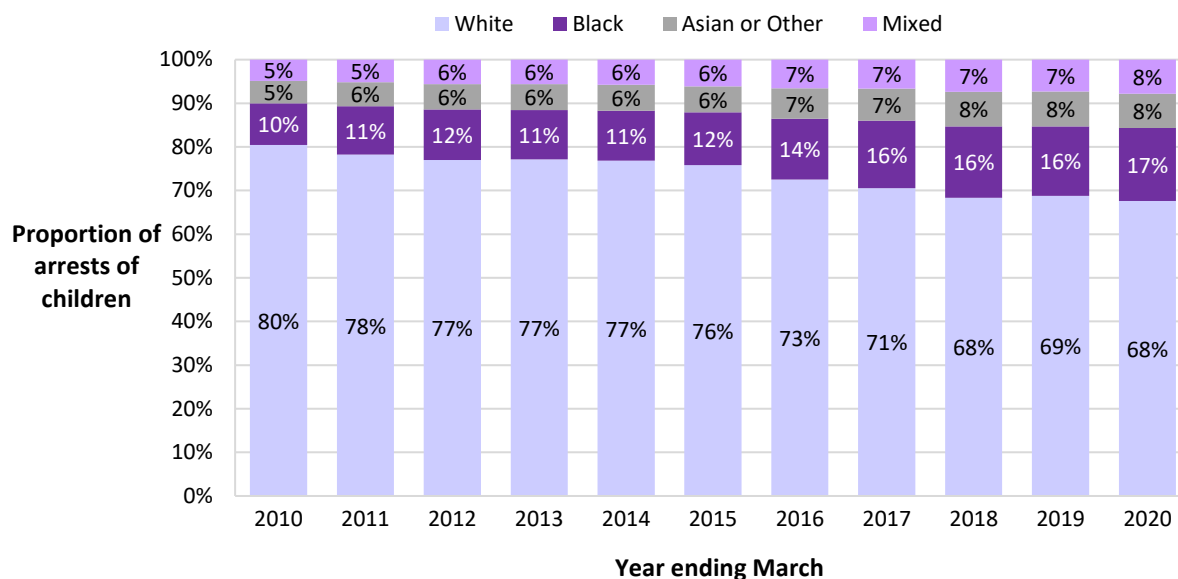
¹ Lancashire could not supply data for the years ending March 2017, 2018 and 2019. Greater Manchester could not supply data for the year ending March 2020. Data have been removed for these forces for all years so valid comparisons can be made. In the years for which data were available, figures show Lancashire's arrest numbers contributed between 2% and 4% of the total and Greater Manchester contributed between 4% and 5%.

In the latest year, there were just over 57,600 arrests of children (aged 10-17) for notifiable offences^{2,3}. This was an increase of 1% compared with the previous year, the first rise in arrests in the last ten years.

Despite the small increase in arrests compared to the previous year, the number of arrests is 74% lower than the year ending March 2010.

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

Figure 1.2: Arrests of children for notifiable offences by ethnicity⁶ as a proportion of total arrests of children, England and Wales³, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Tables 1.1

Compared with the year ending March 2010, the numbers of arrests of children of each ethnicity have all decreased significantly, but at different rates. For example, arrests of White children have fallen by 80% compared to 58% for Black children. This has led to a change in the proportions of arrests by ethnicity.

In the latest year, 68% (around 34,500) of arrests were of White children. This proportion is a decrease from 80% in the year ending March 2010. Arrests of Black children accounted for 17% (around 8,600) in the latest year, 7 percentage points higher than the proportion of ten years ago. Arrests of Mixed (around 4,000) and Asian and Other (just over 4,000) children both made up 8% of the total in the latest year and have also seen changes in proportions over the last ten years, albeit on a smaller scale.

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

³ Lancashire could not supply data for the years ending March 2017, 2018 and 2019. Greater Manchester could not supply data for the year ending March 2020. Data have been removed for these forces for all years so valid comparisons can be made.

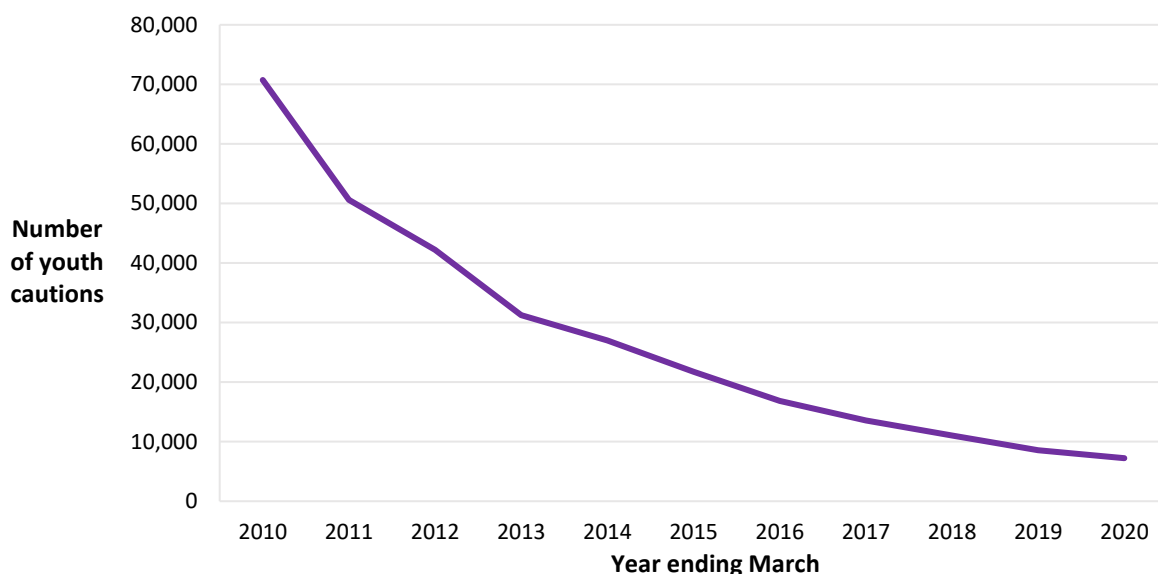
⁴ Ethnicity is self-identified.

⁵ Does not include where ethnicity was unknown. In the year ending March 2020, the ethnicity was unknown for 11% of arrests for children. This proportion is the same as the previous year but higher than previous years (when it varied between 1% and 6%), therefore caution needs to be used when interpreting these figures.

⁶ From the year ending March 2020, the Asian group now includes children who identify as Chinese, therefore the Asian and Other ethnicities have been grouped to allow historical comparisons.

1.3 Youth cautions⁷

Figure 1.3: Trends in youth cautions given to children, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Table 1.8

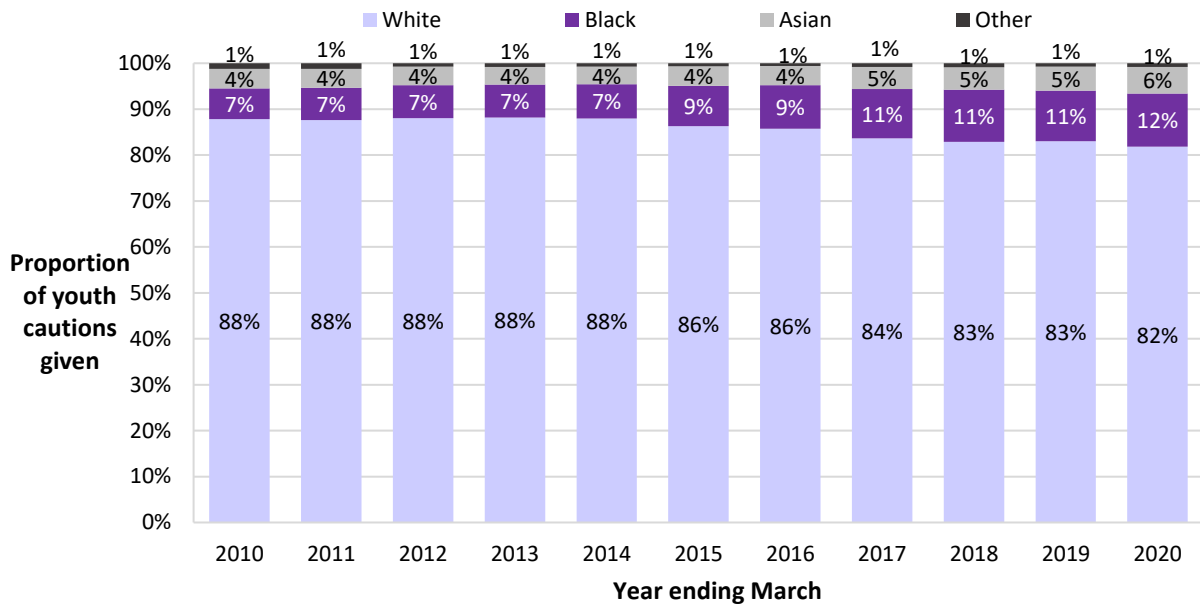
In the year ending March 2020, around 7,200 youth cautions were given to children. This is a decrease of 90% since the year ending March 2010, with a decrease of 16% in the latest year.

Youth cautions increased across a number of offence groups compared to the previous year, with rises seen in Robbery, Possession of Weapons, Violence Against the Person and Public Order offences⁸, while there were decreases in youth cautions given for all other offence types (Supplementary Table 1.12).

⁷ Includes children recorded as receiving a youth caution, and reprimands and warnings which were the available out of court disposals before youth cautions were introduced in 2013.

⁸ In the year ending March 2016, the offence groups used as the reason for giving a youth caution were updated to match the groups used in crime statistics. As a result, data on youth cautions broken down by some offence groups from the year ending March 2016 onwards are not directly comparable with previously published data.

Figure 1.4: Trends in proportions of youth cautions given by ethnicity⁹, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Table 1.10

The proportions of youth cautions issued have decreased for White children and increased for Black children, while remaining broadly stable for Asian and Other children. All ethnic groups have seen decreases in the volume of youth cautions issued over the course of the decade. However, there was a smaller decrease for Black children when compared to other ethnic groups leading to an increase in the proportion of youth cautions Black children made up of the total, from 7% to 12% over the last decade.

⁹ Ethnicity is police officer identified. There is not a Mixed ethnicity group in officer identified ethnicities, so caution should be used if comparing with data using self-identified ethnicities.

2. First time entrants to the Youth Justice System

In the year ending December 2019:

- There were around 11,100 first time entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System (YJS). The number of FTEs has continued to fall, decreasing by 84% since the year ending December 2009, with a 12% fall since the year ending December 2018.
- The proportion of FTEs committing Possession of Weapon offences has increased by 16 percentage points over the last ten years and is now the second most common offence committed by FTEs (after Summary Offences Excluding Motoring) and is the only offence group to see a real term increase in that period.
- While the number of FTEs from a Black background has decreased since the year ending December 2009, the proportion¹⁰ they comprise of all child FTEs has increased, from 9% to 16%.

Description: First time entrants to the Youth Justice System are children aged 10-17 who receive their first youth caution or court sentence recorded on the Police National Computer¹¹

Source: Ministry of Justice extract of the Police National Computer

Time period covered: Years ending December 2009 to 2019¹²

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

More information: [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#) , [Chapter 10 - Criminal histories of children](#), [Ch 11 – Comparisons with the adult system](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

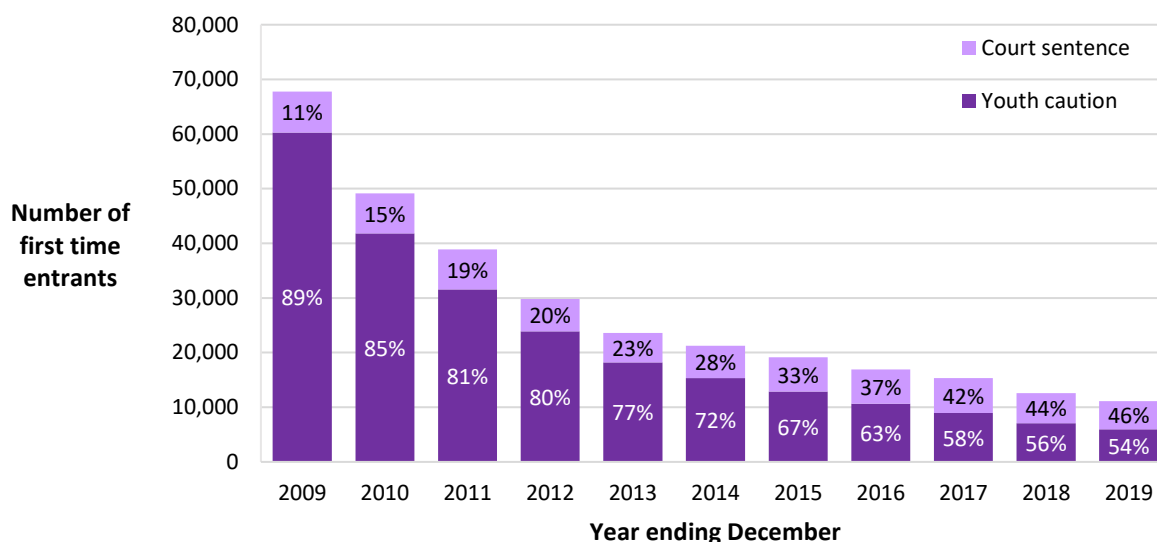
¹⁰ Proportions are based on where ethnicity was known. In the year ending December 2019, the ethnicity was unknown for 14% (around 1,500) of FTEs.

¹¹ First offences only include offences committed in England and Wales, committed by offenders residing in England and Wales and recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) by an English or Welsh police force.

¹² The Criminal History figures for the year ending March 2020 will be published by MoJ in early 2021. These statistics were delayed due to the late delivery of data and limited access to the PNC, to minimise non-essential travel by MoJ analysts during the COVID-19 pandemic. A revised release date will be announced in due course.

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

Figure 2.1: First time entrants to the Youth Justice System, England and Wales, years ending December 2009 to 2019



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Table 2.4

The number of FTEs to the YJS (aged 10-17) has continued to fall. Compared with the year ending December 2009, the number has fallen by 84% (from around 67,800). Since the year ending December 2018, the number fell by 12% (from 12,600) to around 11,100.

Children accounted for 11% of all FTEs to the criminal justice system in the year ending December 2019, compared to 26% in the year ending December 2009 (see [Chapter 11 – Comparisons with the Adult System](#)).

As shown in Figure 2.1, the difference between the number of FTEs to the YJS receiving a caution as opposed to a court sentence is much smaller in recent years than compared with ten years ago. While the majority of FTEs to the YJS received a caution¹³ in each of the last ten years, this proportion has fallen from 89% in the year ending December 2009 (when around 60,300 FTEs received a caution), to 54% (when around 6,000 FTEs received a caution) in the year ending December 2019.

The number of FTEs receiving a court sentence (predominantly community sentences) had been falling year-on-year from the year ending December 2009 to 2014, when it increased, before falling again from 2016. Since the year ending December 2009, the proportion of FTEs receiving a sentence has increased from 11% to 46% (Supplementary Table 2.4).

¹³ Since 8 April 2013 there have been a number of changes in out of court disposals. Reprimands and final warnings were replaced by youth cautions for all 10-17 year olds and youth conditional cautions were made available for all 10-17 year olds. Guidance is published in [Youth Cautions Guidance for Police and Youth Offending Teams](#).

2.2 Characteristics of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System

Figure 2.2: Demographic characteristics¹⁴ of first time entrants compared to the general 10-17 population, England and Wales, year ending December 2019

	Age group		Sex	
	10-14	15-17	Boys	Girls
FTEs	29%	71%	83%	17%
10-17 population ¹⁵	65%	35%	51%	49%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Tables 2.6

Age

The average age of FTEs to the YJS has increased compared with ten years ago¹⁶. It increased from 14.8 years old in the year ending December 2009 to 15.3 in the latest year, though it has remained broadly stable over the last seven years. Over the last ten years, the average age of FTEs receiving a sentence has always been higher than the average age of those receiving a youth caution (Supplementary Table 2.10).

The increasing average age of FTEs is reflected in the changes in the number of FTEs in each age group, as the number in the younger age group (10-14 year olds) has decreased at a higher rate over the last ten years than the number in the older age group (15-17 year olds). In the latest year, 10-14 year old FTEs decreased by 13% whereas FTEs aged 15-17 years old decreased by 11% (Supplementary Table 2.6).

Sex

There have always been more boys than girls who are FTEs to the Youth Justice System. In the year ending December 2019, boys comprised 83% of the total FTEs, whilst making up 51% of the general 10-17-year-old population¹⁴.

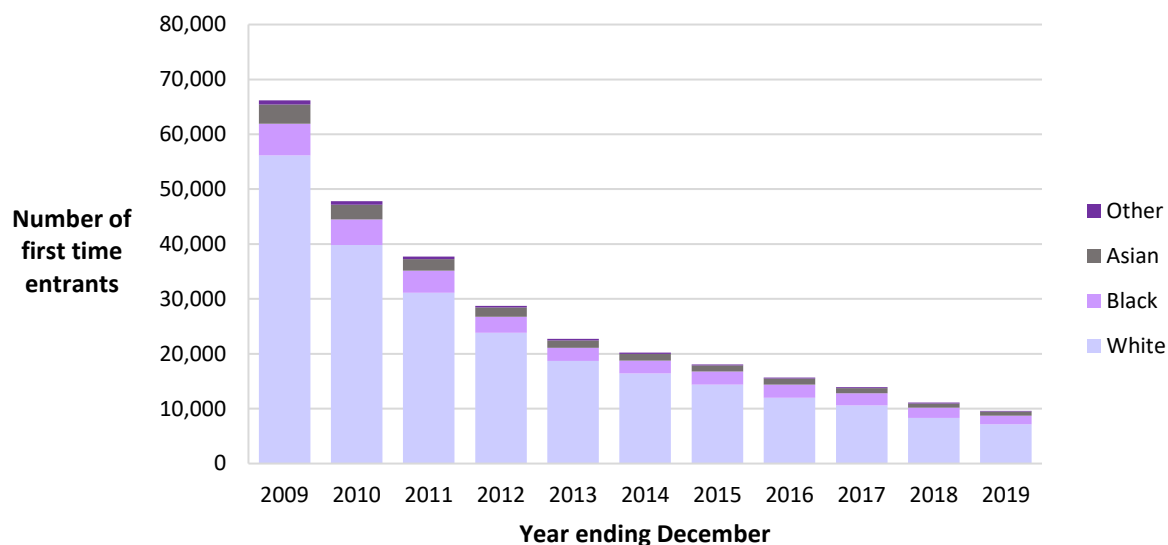
The number of FTEs has fallen for both boys and girls over the last decade, with the larger percentage decrease seen in girls. The number of FTEs who are girls has fallen by 92% (from around 22,400 to around 1,900) over the last ten years. This compares to a decrease of 80% for FTEs who are boys over the same period (from around 45,200 to around 9,100). In the latest year, there was a 19% fall in FTEs who are girls compared to a 10% decrease in boys (Supplementary Table 2.6).

¹⁴ Proportions are based on where sex is known. In the year ending December 2019, sex was unknown for 2% (around 200) of child FTEs.

¹⁵ For age and sex, population is based on Office for National Statistics 2019 mid-year estimates.

¹⁶ Based on the numbers of FTEs by age on date of caution or sentence.

Figure 2.3: The number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System by ethnicity^{17,18}, England and Wales, years ending December 2009 to 2019



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Table 2.7

Ethnicity

As shown in Figure 2.3, the number of 10-17 year old FTEs has been falling for each ethnicity over the last ten years (except for FTEs from a Black ethnic background in which there was a small increase between the years ending December 2014 and 2015). FTEs from a White ethnic background have fallen at the fastest rate, by 87% over the last ten years, resulting in the proportion they comprise of all FTEs reducing from 85% to 75%.

The proportion of FTEs from a Black background has increased over the last ten years, from 9% to 16%. The proportion of FTEs from an Asian background has increased from 5% to 8% over the same period, whereas the proportion of FTEs from an Other ethnic background has remained stable at 1%.

2.3 Types of offences committed by first time entrants to the Youth Justice System¹⁹

In the year ending December 2019, the most common offences committed by 10-17 year old FTEs were Summary Offences Excluding Motoring. This offence type made up just over a quarter (around 2,900) of all offences committed by FTEs and includes lower level offences such as common assault and low-level criminal damage. Possession of Weapon offences were the next most common and made up 19% of all offences committed by FTEs, a proportion which has been increasing over the last ten years. Compared with the year ending December 2009, the proportion of Theft offences fell from 35% to 14%.

The proportion of FTEs committing Possession of Weapon offences has increased by 16 percentage points over the last ten years and is now the second most common offence committed by FTEs (after

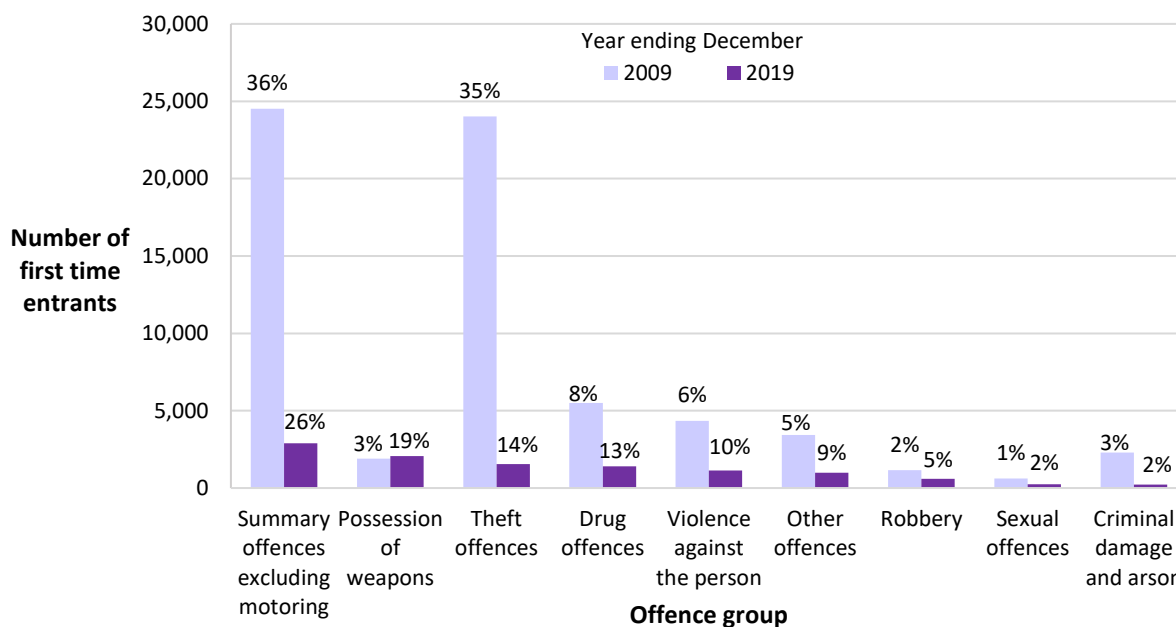
¹⁷ Proportions are based on where ethnicity was known. In the year ending December 2019, the ethnicity was unknown for 14% (around 1,500) of FTEs.

¹⁸ Ethnicity is police officer identified. There is not a 'Mixed' ethnicity group in officer identified ethnicities, so caution should be used if comparing with data using self-identified ethnicities.

¹⁹ Summary offences are usually heard only in magistrates' courts. Indictable offences are the most serious cases, such as murder and rape, which must be heard at the Crown Court. See the Glossary in [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

Summary Offences Excluding Motoring) and is the only offence group to see a real term increase in that period.

Figure 2.4: Number of offences committed by first time entrants to the Youth Justice System by offence group, England and Wales, years ending December 2009 and 2019



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Table 2.2

Supplementary Table 2.2 shows that in the year ending December 2019, with the exception of Possession of Weapons offences, there were fewer offences committed by FTEs to the YJS for all offence groups compared with ten years ago. This group has been increasing over the last five years (to just under 2,100 offences in the latest year). This has led to a change in the proportions of some offence groups.

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

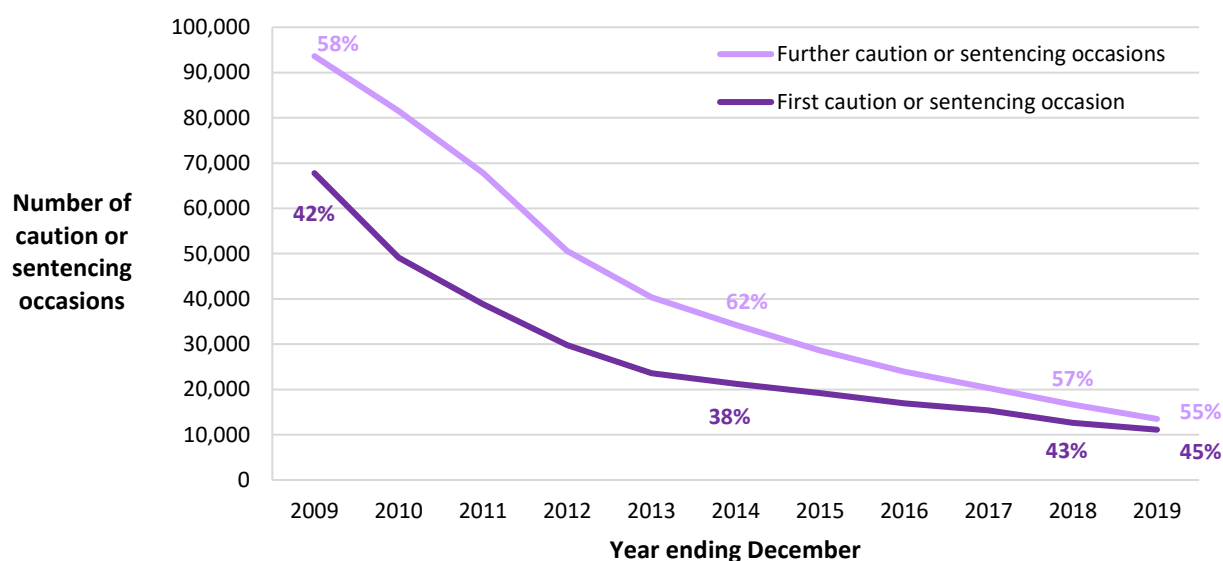
- Possession of Weapons offences, increasing by 16 percentage points, to 19%;
- Drug offences, increasing by 5 percentage points to 13%; and
- Violence Against the Person and Robbery, which both increased by 4 percentage points to 10% and 5% respectively.

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

- Theft offences, decreasing by 21 percentage points to 14%; and
- Summary Offences Excluding Motoring, decreasing 10 percentage points to 26%.

2.4 First and further caution or sentencing occasions of children

Figure 2.5: Number and proportion of first and further caution or sentencing occasions of children, England and Wales, years ending December 2009 to 2019



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Table 2.1

In the year ending December 2019, there were around 24,600 caution or sentencing occasions of children; 45% of these were first caution or sentencing occasions (around 11,100) and 55% were further occasions (around 13,500).

The numbers of first and further caution or sentencing occasions have both decreased over the last ten years. In the year ending December 2009, first caution or sentencing occasions made up 42% of all caution or sentencing occasions of children. These fell to a low of 36% in the year ending December 2011, and have been steadily increasing since, to a high of 45% in the latest year (Supplementary Table 2.1).

3. Demographic characteristics of children in the Youth Justice System

In the year ending March 2020:

- Just over 19,000 children^{20,21} received a caution or sentence, a fall of 82% compared with ten years ago, with a fall of 12% in the latest year.
 - There were 10% more Asian children who received a caution or sentence compared with the previous year (around 1,200), the first increase in the last ten years and the only ethnicity group to see a rise in the latest year.
 - The proportion of Black children cautioned or sentenced has been increasing over the last ten years and is now double what it was in the year ending March 2010 (12% compared to 6%).
-

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

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

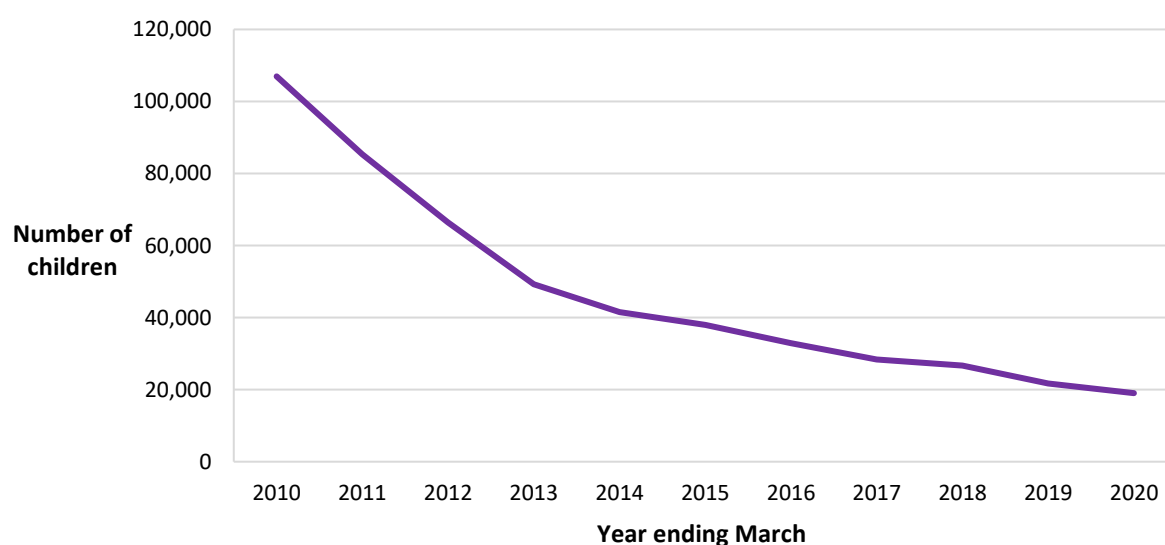
Time period covered: Years ending March 2010 to 2020

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

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

3.1 Number of children who received a caution or sentence

Figure 3.1: Number of children given a caution or sentence, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Table 3.1

²⁰ While children are only counted once in each Youth Offending Team (YOT) regardless of the number of offences committed or cautions or sentences given, there may be some double counting nationally where children who received a caution or sentence in one YOT then transfer to another YOT and receive another caution or sentence in the same period.

²¹ Figures include those who were aged under 18 on the date of first court appearance but aged 18 on date of sentence.

Just over 19,000 children²⁰ received a caution or sentence in the year ending March 2020. There have been year-on-year falls in each of the last ten years, and in the latest year, 82% fewer children received a caution or sentence than in the year ending March 2010.

There was a 12% decrease in the number of children who received a caution or sentence in the most recent year.

3.2 Demographic characteristics of children who received a caution or sentence

Figure 3.2: Demographic characteristics^{22,23} of children receiving a caution or sentence compared to the general 10-17 population, England and Wales, year ending March 2020

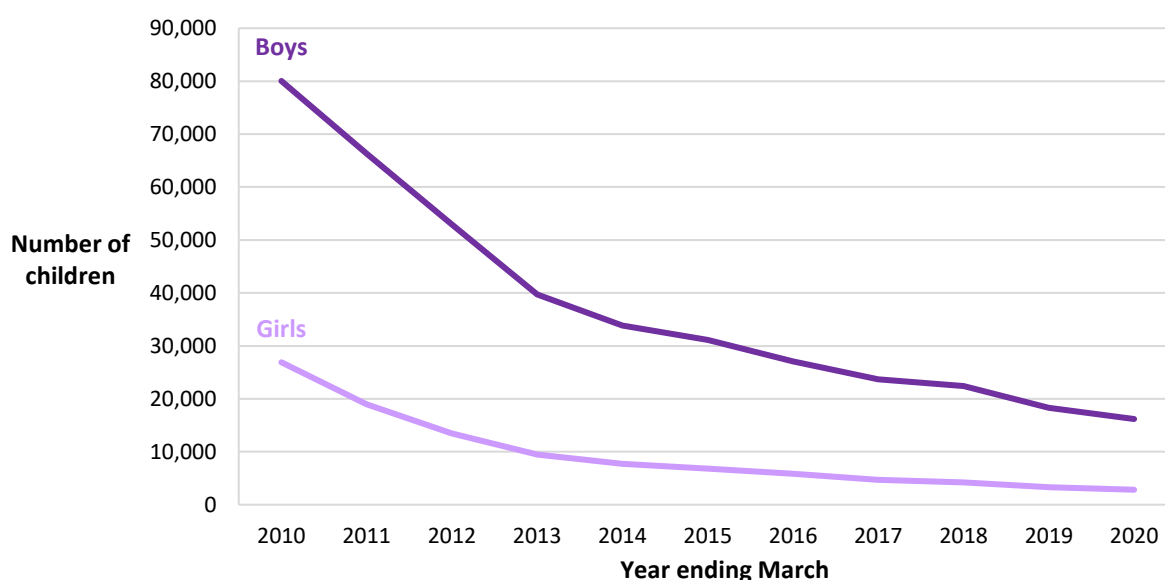
	Age Group ²³		Sex ²²	
	10-14	15-17	Boys	Girls
Children receiving a caution or sentence	22%	78%	85%	15%
10-17 population ²⁴	65%	35%	51%	49%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Tables 3.3 and 3.4

In the year ending March 2020, boys made up 51% of the general 10-17 population in England and Wales but accounted for 85% of the total number of children who received a caution or sentence in the latest year. This proportion has been steadily increasing over the last ten years.

Most children who received a caution or sentence were aged 15-17 (78%), while making up 35% of the general 10-17 population in England and Wales.

Figure 3.3: Number of children receiving a caution or sentence by sex, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Table 3.3

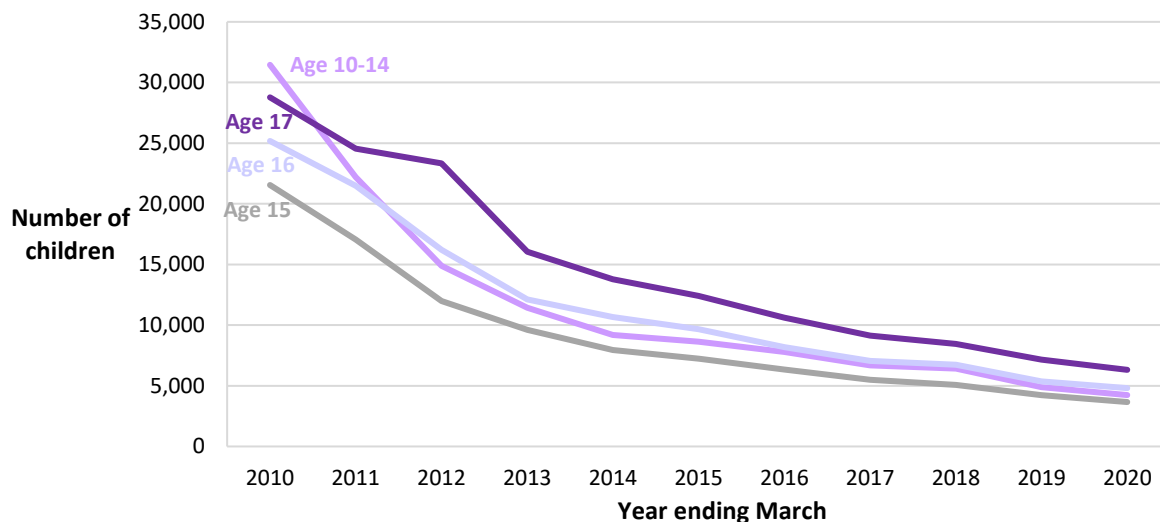
²² Proportions are calculated where sex was known. In the year ending March 2020, sex was unknown for 0.05% of children who received a youth caution or sentence.

²³ 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. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

²⁴ For age and sex, population is based on Office for National Statistics 2019 mid-year estimates.

In the year ending March 2020, there around 2,800 girls and 16,200 boys received a caution or sentence. Compared with the year ending March 2010, the numbers of girls and boys receiving a caution or sentence have fallen by 89% and 80% respectively.

Figure 3.4: Number of children receiving a caution or sentence by age²⁵, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



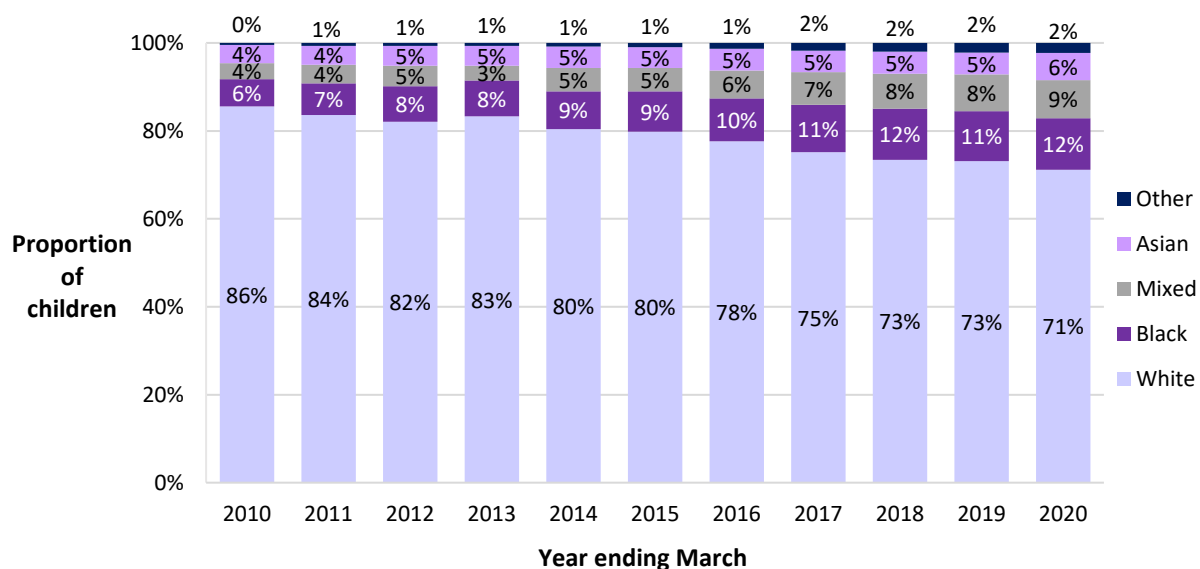
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Table 3.4

Figure 3.4 shows that there have been decreases in the number of cautions and sentences given to children across all ages.

In the latest year, those aged 17 years made up the largest proportion of children receiving a caution or sentence, accounting for a third (33%). The proportion of children who received a caution or sentence by each age has remained broadly stable over the last five years.

²⁵ 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.

Figure 3.5: Proportion of children receiving a caution or sentence by ethnicity^{26,27}, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Table 3.1

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

Figure 3.5 shows that:

- Asian children accounted for 6% of children receiving a caution or sentence in the latest year, the highest proportion for that group in the last ten years. There were 10% more Asian children who received a caution or sentence compared with the previous year, the first increase in the last ten years and the only ethnicity group to see a rise in the latest year.
- The proportion of Black children cautioned or sentenced has been increasing over the last ten years and is now twice what it was in the year ending March 2010 (12% compared to 6%).
- Children from a Mixed ethnic background accounted for 9% of those receiving a caution or sentence in the latest year, more than doubling since the year ending March 2010, when it was 4%.

²⁶ Proportions are calculated on where ethnicity was known. In the year ending March 2020, ethnicity was unknown for 3% of children who received a youth caution or sentence.

²⁷ Ethnicity is self-identified.

4. Proven offences by children

In the year ending March 2020:

- The number of proven offences committed by children has continued to fall and was 75% lower than the year ending March 2010, with a 17% fall in the latest year, to around 49,100 proven offences.
- The number of proven offences committed by children fell for all offence groups compared to the previous year, except Robbery offences, which increased by 2%.
- Whilst the number of Violence Against the Person offences has followed an overall downward trend, this offence group has been steadily increasing as a proportion of all offences over the last ten years, and now accounts for 31% of all proven offences.
- Knife and Offensive Weapon sentencing statistics show that there were just over 4,400 Knife or Offensive Weapon offences resulting in a caution or sentence committed by 10-17 year olds. This is a fall of 5% compared with the year ending March 2010, with a 1% fall in the latest year, though numbers remain higher than five years ago.

Description: All proven offences (indictable and summary) committed by children. A proven offence is one for which a child receives a caution or sentence²⁸. Trends in cautioning and sentencing of children for knife and offensive weapon offences.

Source: Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF) (Proven offences by children)
Police National Computer (Knife and Offensive Weapon sentencing statistics)

Time period covered: Years ending March 2010 to 2020

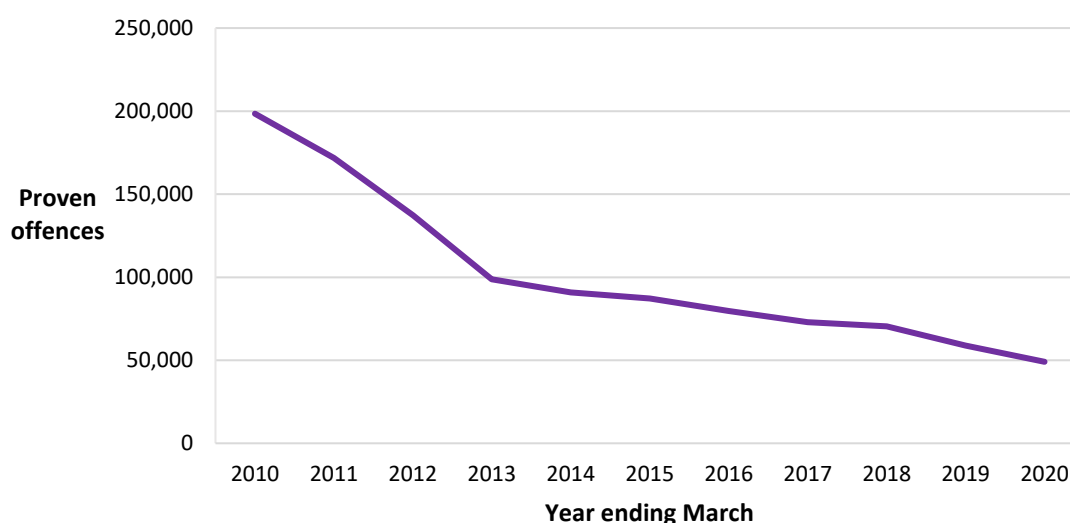
Supplementary Tables: Ch 4 – Proven offences by children

More information: [Knife and offensive weapon sentencing statistics](#) (more up to date data available), [Ch 11 – Comparisons with the adult system](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#), Local level data tables

²⁸ These data include all offences for which a child is given a youth caution or sentence for, and not just the primary offence. The offence breakdown differs from the main offence types used by the MoJ. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

4.1 Trends in proven offences by children

Figure 4.1: Number of proven offences by children, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.1

The number of proven offences committed by children²⁹ has continued to fall. In the year ending March 2020, there were just under 49,100 proven offences committed by children which resulted in a caution or sentence in court. This is a fall of 75% from the year ending March 2010 when there were around 198,400 proven offences.

As Figure 4.1 shows, there were larger falls in the number of proven offences committed by children between the years ending March 2010 and 2013, with more modest decreases since then, however the 17% fall in the latest year is the largest year-on-year fall since the year ending March 2013.

Offence volumes

Supplementary Table 4.1 shows that in the last ten years, the number of proven offences has fallen across all offence groups. Theft and Handling Stolen Goods and Breach of Statutory Order are the two offence groups to see the largest fall over this time (88% and 87% respectively).

While there have been decreases across most offence groups, Robbery offences have increased by 2% to just over 2,500 offences over the last year. This is the third consecutive year Robbery offences have increased.

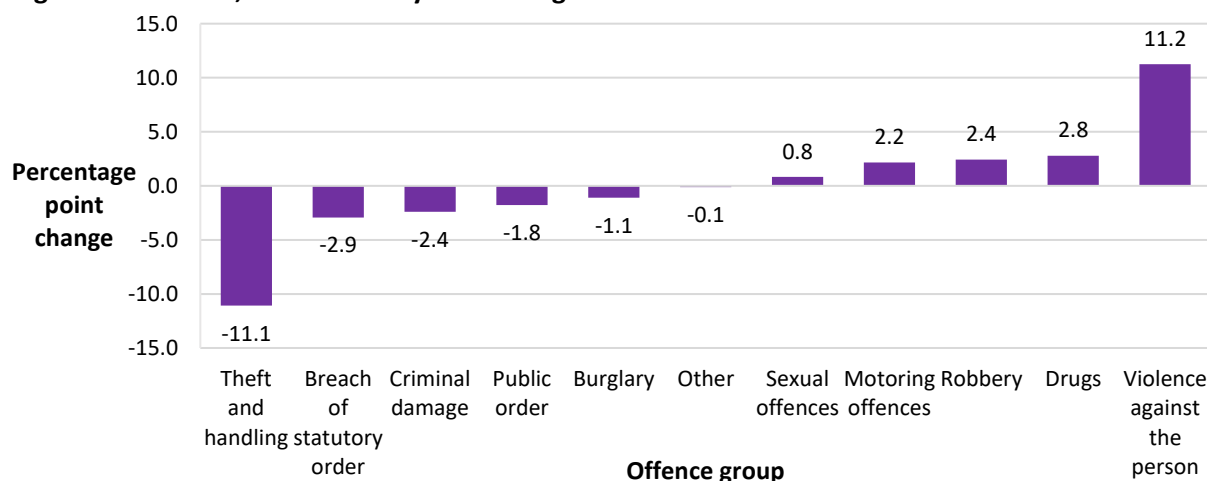
²⁹ Age is calculated at the time of caution or for those sentenced, at the time of the first hearing. This is because these young people may still be supported by the Youth Offending Team, even if they turn 18 before the sentence is passed. This count does not include a small number of offences committed by young people who turn 18 before their first hearing. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

Supplementary Table 4.3 shows that in the year ending March 2020, most proven offences were committed by children who were³⁰:

- Boys (85%),
- Aged 15-17 (77%), and
- White (72%).

Offence volumes as a proportion of total

Figure 4.2: Percentage point change in the proportion of proven offences committed by children, England and Wales, between the years ending March 2010 and 2020^{31,32}



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.1

Whilst the number of proven offences committed by children has fallen for all crime types when compared with ten years ago, the proportions of these offence groups has been changing (Figure 4.2). Violence Against the Person offences have seen the greatest increase in proportion, gradually increasing from 20% in the year ending March 2010 to 31% of proven offences in the latest year.

Theft and Handling Stolen Goods offences have seen the largest proportional decrease in the last ten years, falling by over half from 21% in the year ending March 2010 to 10% in the latest year.

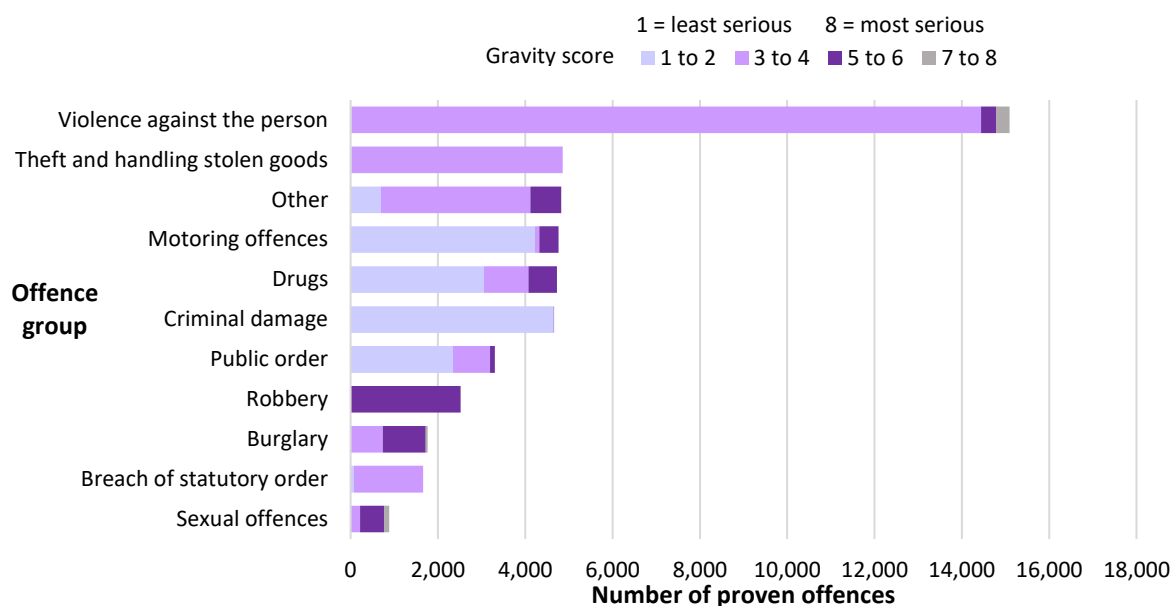
³⁰ Proportions are based on where the demographic characteristics were known. In the year ending March 2020, the ethnicity of the child was not known for 2% of the proven offences, and the sex of the child was not known for 0.03% of the proven offences.

³¹ See Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.2 for the breakdown of the offences which are grouped into 'Other' offences.

³² Based on YJB offence groups, which differ from Ministry of Justice offence groups. For example, Possession of Weapons offences sit within the Violence Against the Person group in the YJB offence groups but are a distinct category in MoJ groupings.

4.2 Types of proven offences by children

Figure 4.3: Proven offences by children, by offence group and gravity score band, England and Wales, year ending March 2020



Supplementary Table: Chapter 4, Table 4.4

Of the around 49,100 proven offences committed by children in the latest year, the main offence type was Violence Against the Person, which accounted for 31% of all proven offences by children in the latest year. Sexual Offences have always made up the smallest proportion of proven offences over the last ten years, accounting for 2% in the latest year.

Robbery was the only offence group to increase in the last year and the proportion this offence group comprised of all proven offences increased by 1 percentage point from the previous year.

4.3 Offence group by gravity score^{33,34}

An offence's seriousness, or 'gravity score' is scored out of eight, ranging from one (less serious) up to eight (most serious).

As Figure 4.3 shows, while the Violence Against the Person offence group made up the largest share of offences, only a small proportion of these offences (4%) within this offence group had a higher gravity score of five to eight³⁵. For offences within Robbery, Burglary and Sexual Offences, the majority had a higher gravity score of five to eight³⁶.

In the latest year, around 140 proven offences committed by children had the highest gravity score of eight, which accounts for 0.3% of all proven offences (Supplementary Table 4.4).

³³ The offence list reflects that of the Police National Legal Database (PNLD) and is in line with other criminal justice agencies.

³⁴ See Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.4 for the breakdown of the offences by gravity score which are grouped into 'Other' offences.

³⁵ Proportions are based on where gravity score was known. In the year ending March 2020, the gravity score was not known for 0.04% of all proven offences.

³⁶ Robbery offences all carry a gravity score of six. Burglary offences carry gravity scores of between three and seven, with Sexual Offences ranging from one to eight, depending on the specific offence.

Figure 4.4: Proportion of proven offences by gravity score band and demographic characteristics³⁷, England and Wales, year ending March 2020

		Gravity score band	
		Less serious: 1 to 4	Most serious: 5 to 8
Age	10-14	90%	10%
	15-17	85%	15%
Ethnicity	Asian	82%	18%
	Black	77%	23%
	Mixed	83%	17%
	Other	83%	17%
	White	88%	12%
Sex	Girls	95%	5%
	Boys	85%	15%

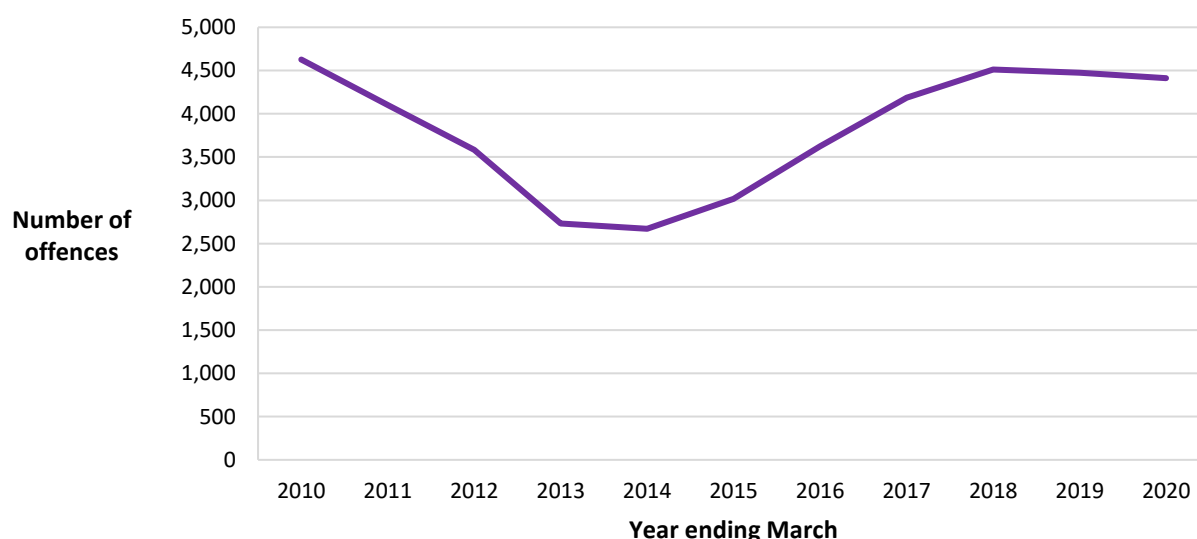
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.5

Figure 4.4 shows that the proportion of proven offences with a gravity score in the higher band (of five to eight), was greater for:

- Those aged 15-17 (15% compared to 10% of offences committed by 10-14 year olds),
- Black children (23%, with other ethnic groups ranging from 12% to 18%), and
- Boys (15%, compared to 5% for girls).

4.4 Knife or offensive weapon offences committed by children³⁸

Figure 4.5: Knife or offensive weapon offences committed by children, resulting in a caution or sentence, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.7

³⁷ Proportions are based on where the demographic characteristics were known. In the year ending March 2020, the ethnicity of the child was not known for 2%, and the sex was not known for 0.03% of the proven offences committed by children.

³⁸ This section covers offences for which children received cautions or sentences for possession of an article with a blade or point, possession of an offensive weapon, or threatening with either type of weapon.

In the year ending March 2020, there were around 4,400 Knife or Offensive Weapon offences committed by children resulting in a caution or sentence, which is 5% lower than ten years ago with a decrease of 1% compared with the previous year. While this is the second consecutive year-on-year decrease, the number of Knife or Offensive Weapon offences remains 46% higher than five years ago.

In the latest year, the majority (97%) of Knife or Offensive Weapon offences committed by children were possession offences and the remaining 3% were threatening with a knife or offensive weapon offences. These proportions have remained broadly stable over the last five years³⁹.

Supplementary Table 4.7 shows that in the year ending March 2020, just under half of disposals given to children (48%) for a Knife or Offensive Weapon offence were a community sentence. This is a decrease of 4 percentage points compared with the previous year, and the lowest proportion in the last ten years. Just over a third of children (34%) received a caution, which is an increase from 29% in the previous year and is a similar proportion to ten years ago (33%). The proportion of children sentenced to immediate custody decreased slightly from 12% to 11% in the last year but remains higher than ten years ago.

³⁹ A ten year comparison is not available. In December 2012 offences involving threatening with a knife or offensive weapon in a public place or in a school premises were introduced and included from this point on.

5. Sentencing of children

In the year ending March 2020:

- There were just under 16,900 occasions where children were sentenced at court, which is 78% lower than ten years ago, with a 13% fall in the latest year.
- Of all sentencing occasions for indictable offences, the proportion⁴⁰ involving White children has decreased from 74% to 62% over the last five years⁴¹. Conversely, the proportion of sentencing occasions involving Black children for indictable offences increased from 14% to 22% over the same period.
- The average custodial sentence length for all offences has increased by over seven months over the last ten years from 11.3 months to 18.6 months.

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

Source: Court Proceedings Database

Time period covered: Years ending March 2015 to 2020 (Sentencing by ethnicity)
Years ending March 2010 to 2020 (All other data)

Supplementary Tables: Ch 5 – Sentencing of children

More information: [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#), [Chapter 10 – Criminal histories of children](#), [Ch 11 – Comparisons with the adult system](#), [Ethnic disproportionality in remand and sentencing in the youth justice system](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

5.1 Children proceeded against

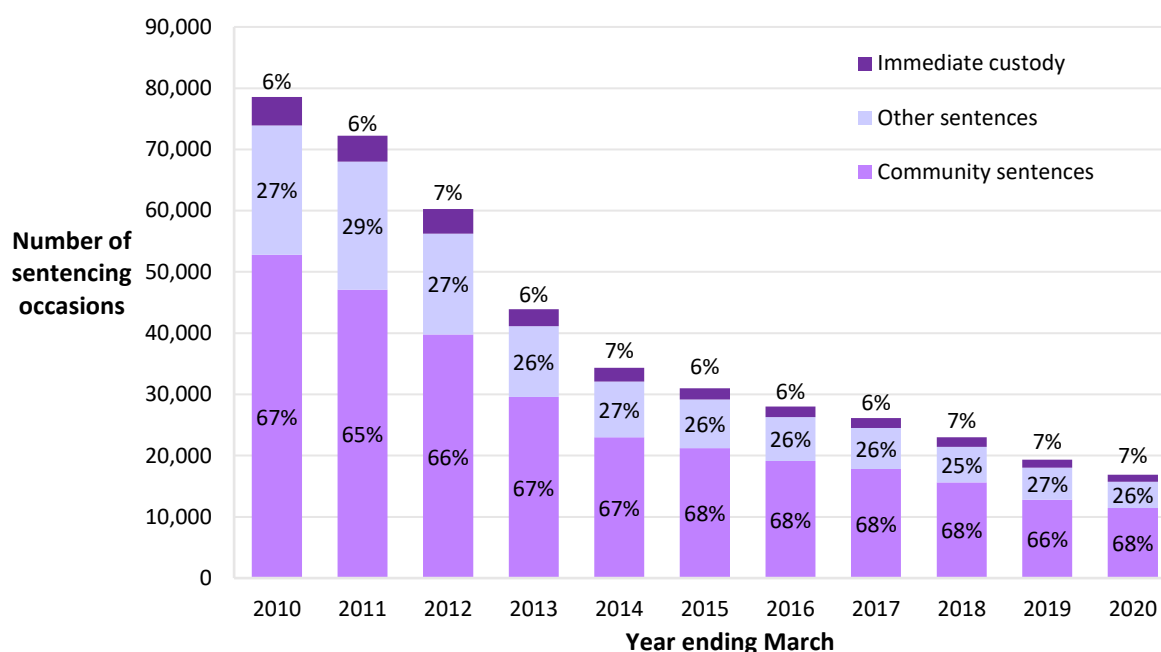
There were around 24,600 children proceeded against at court in the year ending March 2020, a fall of 76% compared to ten years ago, with a fall of 10% in the latest year. Almost two thirds (62%) of these proceedings were for indictable offences, 29% were for Summary Non-Motoring offences and the remaining 9% were for Summary Motoring offences (Supplementary Table 5.1).

⁴⁰ Where ethnicity is known. In the year ending March 2020, ethnicity was unknown in 27% of sentencing occasions.

⁴¹ A ten year comparison is not available.

5.2 Sentencing of children in all courts⁴²

Figure 5.1: Number of sentencing occasions of children sentenced in all courts by sentence type, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Table 5.3

There were just under 16,900 occasions where children were sentenced in all courts in the latest year, which is 78% lower than ten years previously. There have been year-on-year falls in the number of sentencing occasions of children over the last ten years, with a fall of 13% in the most recent year. The percentage decrease over the last ten years has been fairly consistent between different sentence types; between 75% and 80%. As Figure 5.1 shows, although the number of custodial sentences fell by 75% over the last ten years, the proportion of custodial sentences has remained broadly stable, varying between 6% and 7% over this period.

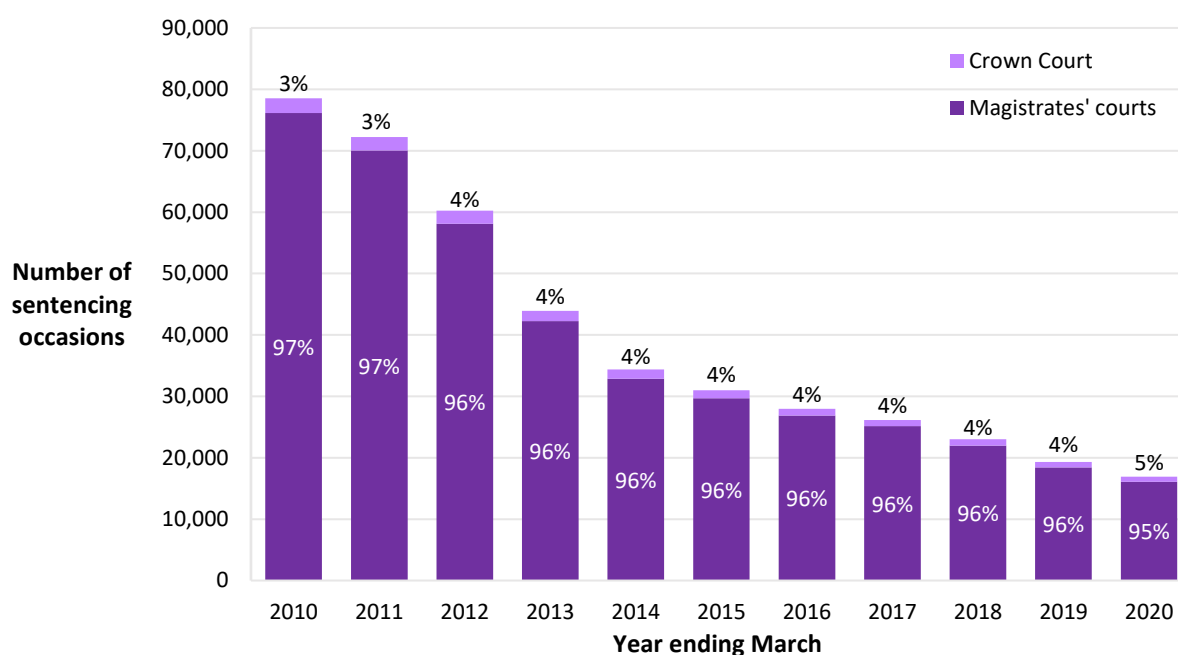
Supplementary Table 5.3 shows that in the year ending March 2020, of the 16,900 sentencing occasions of children for all types of offences in all courts there were:

- Around 1,100 sentences to immediate custody (7% of all sentences), with most (76%) of these being Detention and Training Orders;
- Around 11,400 community sentences (68% of all sentences), of which 68% were Referral Orders (around 7,700), 32% were Youth Rehabilitation Orders (around 3,700) and the remaining 0.4% (around 50) were Reparation Orders.
- Just over 4,300 other types of sentences (26% of all sentences); these include discharges, fines and other less common disposals.

⁴² Children can be counted more than once if they are sentenced for different offences at different points in the year, so this chapter refers to sentencing occasions rather than individual children. Only the most serious sentence issued on each sentencing occasion is counted.

5.3 Sentencing of children by court type⁴³

Figure 5.2: Number and proportion of sentencing occasions of children by court type, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Tables 5.4

Depending on the seriousness of the offence, cases will either be heard in a magistrates' court⁴⁴ from start to finish or will be referred from a magistrates' court to the Crown Court. The Crown Court only hears cases involving more serious offences, so a much smaller number of children are sentenced in this type of court compared with magistrates' courts. In the latest year, just 5% (around 820) of all sentencing occasions of children were at the Crown Court. This proportion has remained broadly stable over the last ten years varying between 3% and 5% (Figure 5.2).

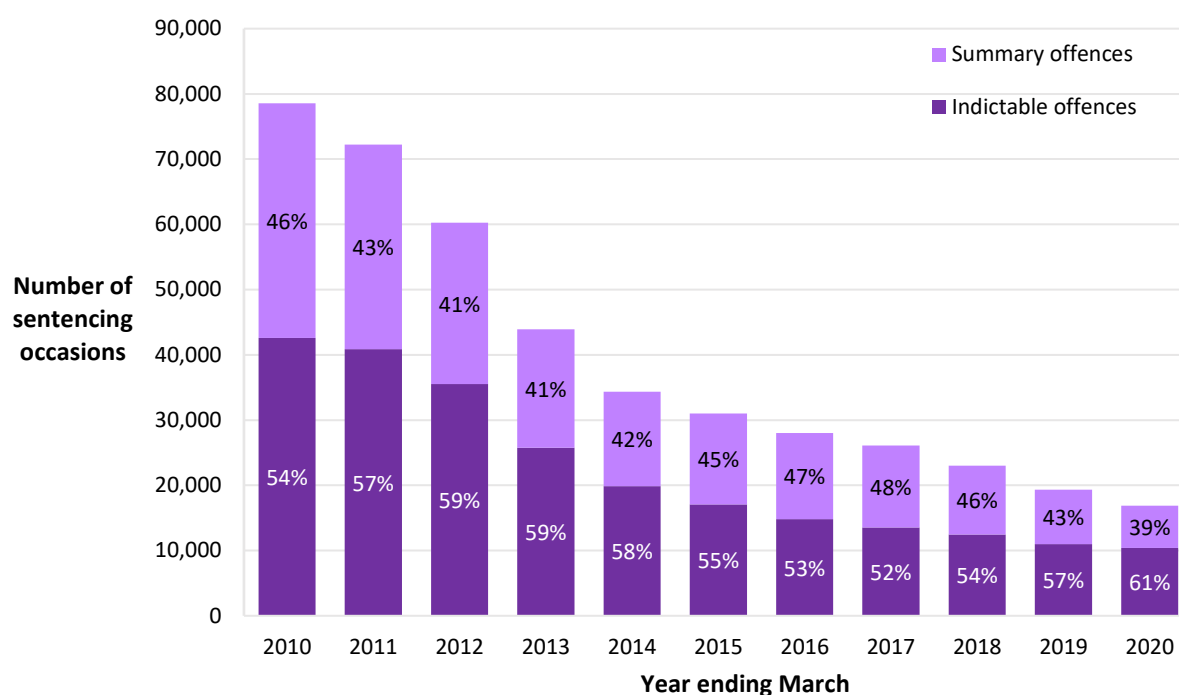
The fact the Crown Court tries the most serious cases is reflected in the types of sentences given. In the year ending March 2020, custodial sentences were given in 50% (around 410) of sentencing occasions of children at the Crown Court. This compares to just 5% (740) of the just under 16,100 sentencing occasions at magistrates' courts.

⁴³ The Crown Court only hears cases for the most serious offences. The majority of indictable offences are triable either way. These can be tried in the magistrates' courts or the Crown Court depending on the circumstances of the case. Summary offences are less serious offences and can only be heard in magistrates' courts.

⁴⁴ Cases for 10-17 year olds start in the youth court, which is a type of magistrates' court.

5.4 Children sentenced at all courts by type of offence^{42,45}

Figure 5.3: Number of sentencing occasions of children sentenced in all courts by type of offence, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



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

Of the around 16,900 occasions in which children were sentenced in the year ending March 2020, 61% were for indictable offences and 39% were for summary offences. This compares to 54% being indictable offences and 46% for summary offences ten years ago. While these proportions have not changed consistently over the last ten years, the proportion of sentencing occasions of children for indictable offences has been increasing over the last three years.

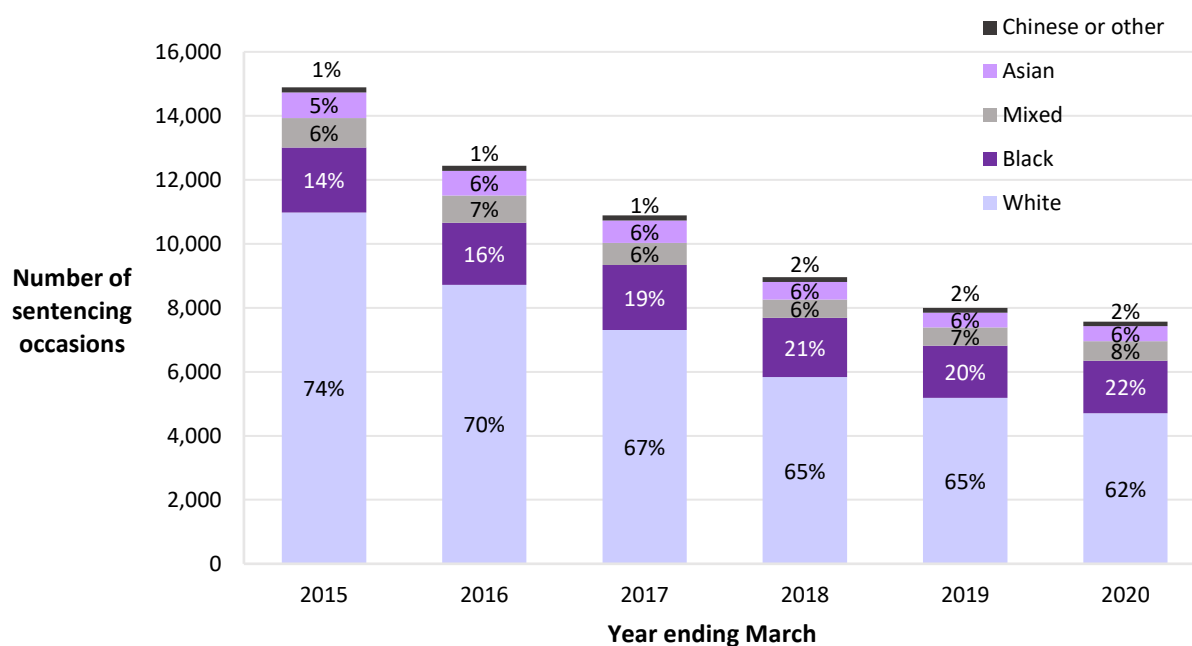
Of the almost 10,400 occasions on which children were sentenced for indictable offences in the latest year, the majority (74%) involved a community sentence, whereas, of the just over 6,500 occasions in which children were sentenced for summary offences, 57% involved a community sentence.

In the year ending March 2020, 10% of the occasions in which children were sentenced for indictable offences involved a sentence to immediate custody, compared with 1% for summary offences (Supplementary Tables 5.4a and 5.4b).

⁴⁵ Criminal offences are divided into three main offence groups; Indictable; Summary Non-motoring; and Summary Motoring. In this chapter, Summary Motoring offences and Summary Non-motoring offences are grouped together. Please refer to the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for further details of these offence groups.

5.5 Children sentenced for indictable offences by ethnicity^{46,47,48}

Figure 5.4: Number of sentencing occasions of children sentenced for indictable offences by ethnicity, England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2020⁴⁹



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Table 5.6c

In the year ending March 2020, the number of occasions on which children were sentenced at court for indictable offences varied by ethnicity⁵⁰. In the latest year there were:

- just over 4,700 sentencing occasions on which White children were sentenced at court for indictable offences;
- around 1,600 sentencing occasions for Black children;
- around 620 sentencing occasions for Mixed children;
- 470 sentencing occasions for Asian children; and
- around 140 sentencing occasion for Chinese or Other children.

While over the last five years, there have been decreases in the number of occasions in which children of each ethnicity group have been sentenced at court for indictable offences, the decrease in sentencing occasions for White children has been at a higher rate than for those in other ethnic groups. This has led to a decrease in the proportion of all occasions in which White children were sentenced for indictable offences from 74% in the year ending March 2015 to 62% in the latest year. Conversely, over the same period the proportion of all occasions in which Black children were

⁴⁶ Data on summary level offences are not included as many children are not required to be present when sentenced so data on ethnicity is limited.

⁴⁷ See [Race and the Criminal Justice System](#) for more information.

⁴⁸ Ethnicity data are self-identified.

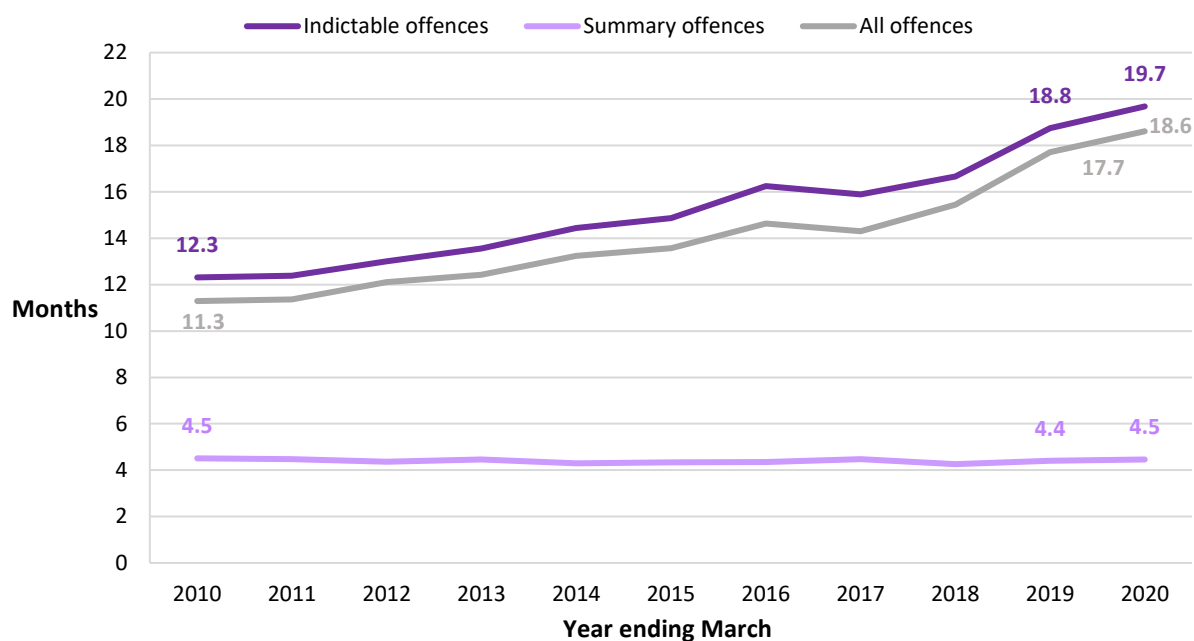
⁴⁹ A ten year comparison is not available.

⁵⁰ Proportions are calculated where ethnicity is known. In the year ending March 2020, ethnicity was unknown for 27% of children sentenced for indictable offences at all courts. This proportion is the same as the previous year but much higher than the year ending March 2015 when there were 13% unknown, therefore caution needs to be used when interpreting these figures.

sentenced for indictable offences increased from 14% to 22%. The proportions for other groups have remained broadly stable.

5.6 Average custodial sentence length (ACSL)^{51,52}

Figure 5.5: Average custodial sentence length in months by type of offence, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



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

For children sentenced to custody, the ACSL varied based on the type of offence the child was sentenced for. In the latest year, the ACSL for all offences was 18.6 months; 19.7 months for indictable offences and 4.5 months for summary offences.

While the ACSL remained broadly stable since the year ending March 2010 for summary offences, it has increased by over seven months for all offences over the same period, from 11.3 to 18.6 months and by just under one month from the previous year's average of 17.7 months.

⁵¹ This is the whole sentence length given in court and not necessarily the amount of time spent in custody.

⁵² Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

6. Use of remand for children

In the year ending March 2020:

- The number of children held on remand in youth custody fell by 1% compared to the previous year, to 240 children⁵³, and accounts for 31% of all children in youth custody. This is the largest proportion in the last ten years.
 - There were over 19,200 remand episodes⁵⁴ of which the majority (82%) were bail remands, with youth detention accommodation remands accounting for 12%, and the remaining 6% being community remands with intervention.
 - Two thirds (66%) of children given a remand to youth detention accommodation did not subsequently receive a custodial sentence⁵⁵. This is the same proportion as the previous year.
-

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

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

Time period covered: Year ending March 2020 (Remand episodes by demographics)^{54,56}
Years ending March 2016 to 2020 (Remand episodes)^{54,56}
Years ending March 2010 to 2020 (Custodial remand population)⁵⁷
Years ending March 2015 to 2020 (Outcomes following custodial remand)⁵⁶

Supplementary Tables: Ch 6 – Use of remand for children

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

⁵³ From April 2019 onwards these figures are a monthly snapshot of the custodial population, taken on the last day of the month. Prior to April 2019 these figures are a monthly snapshot of the custodial population, taken on the nearest Friday to the last day of the month.

⁵⁴ Excluding Kent YOT, Hampshire YOT, Redbridge YOT and Wandsworth YOT. Due to technical issues Wandsworth YOT were unable to submit remand case level data for the years ending March 2017 to 2020 and Kent YOT, Hampshire YOT and Redbridge YOT did not submit remand case level data for the year ending March 2020. Data have been removed for these YOTs for all years so valid comparisons can be made.

⁵⁵ Excluding those children who failed to appear and those who were committed by magistrates for trial or sentence at the Crown Court.

⁵⁶ A ten year comparison is not available. From this publication onwards, the methodology has been changed to count all remand decisions regardless of outcome type. In previous publications, only remand decisions based on those children who went on to receive a substantive outcome were counted. Therefore, the remand figures in this publication should not be compared with those in previous publications. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

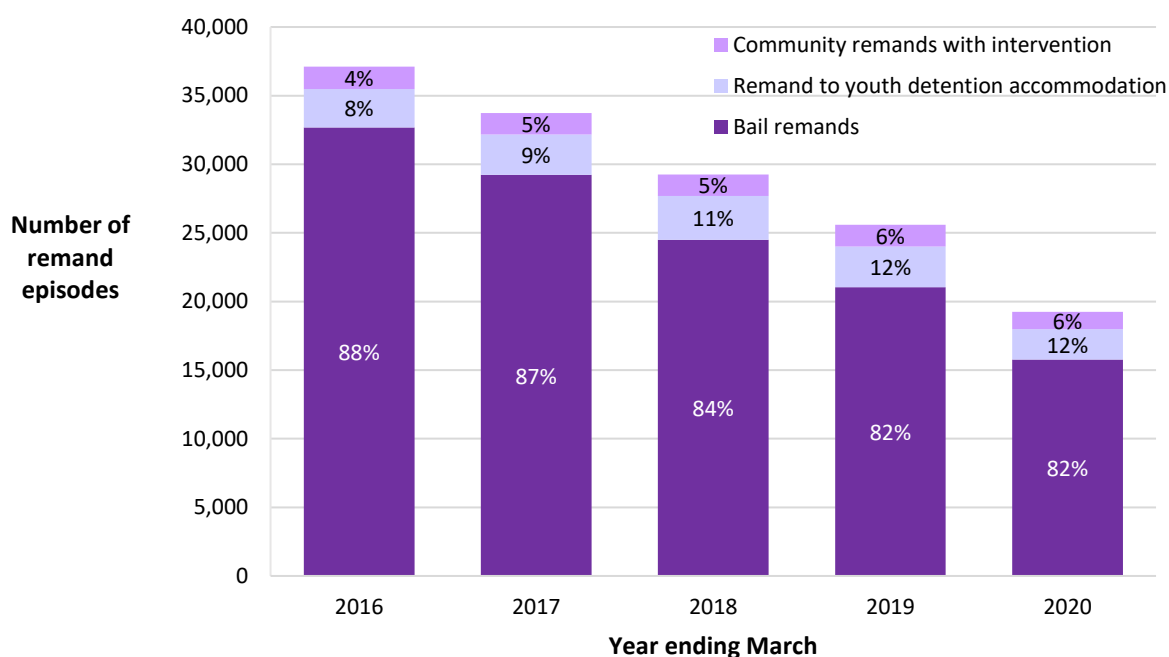
⁵⁷ Further data on children and young people (including 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate) held on custodial remand are available from 2015/16 onwards in [Youth Custody Data](#).

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

The methodology has been changed for this publication; all remand decisions are now counted, regardless of outcome type. In previous publications, only remand decisions based on those children who went on to receive a substantive outcome were counted.

6.1 Types of remand given to children⁵⁴

Figure 6.1: Type of remand given to children, England and Wales, years ending March 2016 to 2020⁵⁶



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 6, Table 6.2

There were just over 19,200 remands given to children in the year ending March 2020, of which:

- the majority (82%) were bail remands;
- 12% were remands to youth detention accommodation; and
- the remaining 6% were community remands with intervention.

The number of remands given to children has been falling since the year ending March 2016, with a fall of 25% in the latest year, which is the largest year-on-year fall since the time series began.

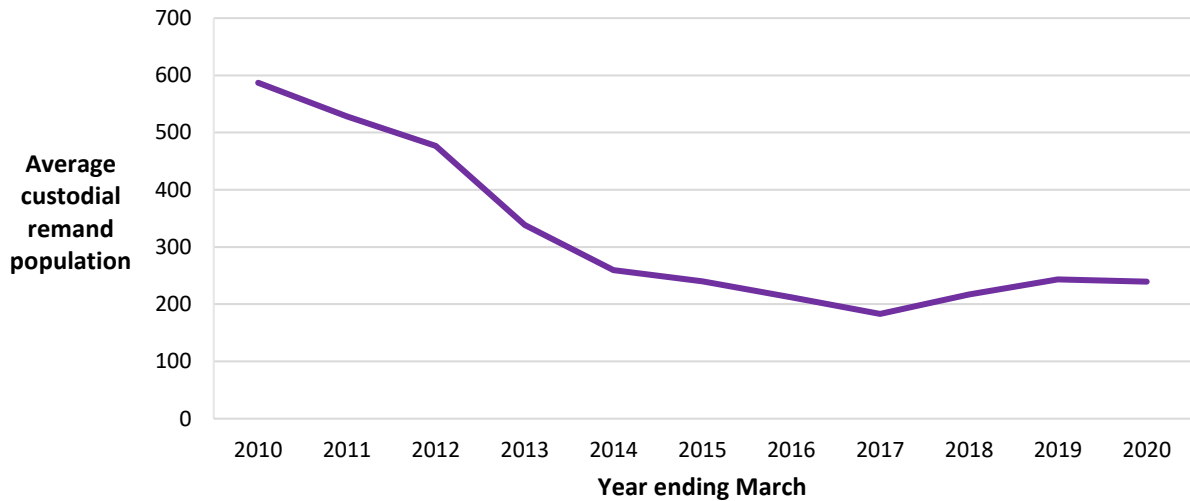
For remands given in the year ending March 2020, the breakdown of demographics (Supplementary Table 6.1) shows:

- Most episodes (88%) involved boys, rising to 95% for remands to youth detention accommodation.
- The majority (86%) involved children aged 15-17, with 40% aged 17 years old.
- Over a third (36%) of all remand episodes involved Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) children (17% were Black children, 11% Mixed children, 6% Asian children and 2% Other

children) and this figure rises to 49% for remands to youth detention accommodation, with 29% of remands to youth detention accommodation given to Black children.

6.2 Average monthly population of children on remand in youth custody

Figure 6.2: Average monthly population of children on remand in youth custody, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 6, Table 6.3

There was an average monthly population of 240 children remanded in youth custody at any one time in the year ending March 2020, which was 1% lower than the previous year and 59% lower than ten years ago.

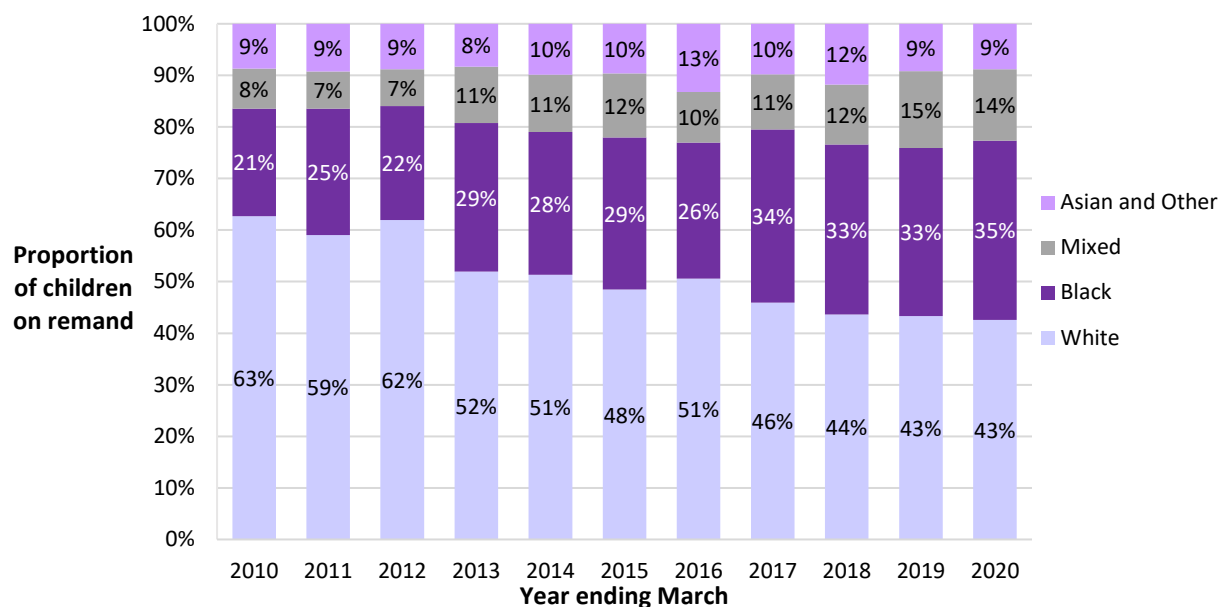
Children remanded in youth custody accounted for 31% of the average custody population in the latest year, an increase from 28% in the previous year. This is the highest proportion seen in the last ten years. Prior to the year ending March 2020, the proportion of the total custody population that children remanded to youth custody comprised had fluctuated between 21% and 28% (Supplementary Table 6.3).

Supplementary Tables 6.3 and 6.4 show that for children remanded in youth custody, over half were:

- In a Young Offender's Institution (73%);
- Male (97%), a proportion which has remained broadly stable over the last ten years); and
- Aged 17 (51%), an increase from 48% in the previous year to the same proportion seen two years ago.

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

Figure 6.3: Proportion of children in youth custody on remand by ethnicity^{58,59}, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020⁶⁰



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 6, Table 6.3

Supplementary Table 6.3 shows that in the latest year, the number of children remanded to youth custody has decreased for each ethnic group, except for children from a Black background.

This is represented in Figure 6.3, which shows that the proportion that Black children comprise increased from 33% to 35% in the last year. This is the highest proportion in the last ten years and compares to 21% ten years ago.

Figure 6.3 also shows that:

- Over the last ten years the proportion of children from a White background remanded in youth custody has seen a general downward trend, falling from 63% to 43%, the lowest level in the last ten years.
- Children from a Mixed ethnic background account for 14% of those remanded in youth custody in the latest year, which is a decrease compared to the previous year (15%) but higher than ten years ago (8%).
- The proportion of children from an Asian or Other background remained at 9%, the same level seen in the previous year. This proportion has fluctuated between 8% and 13% over the last ten years.

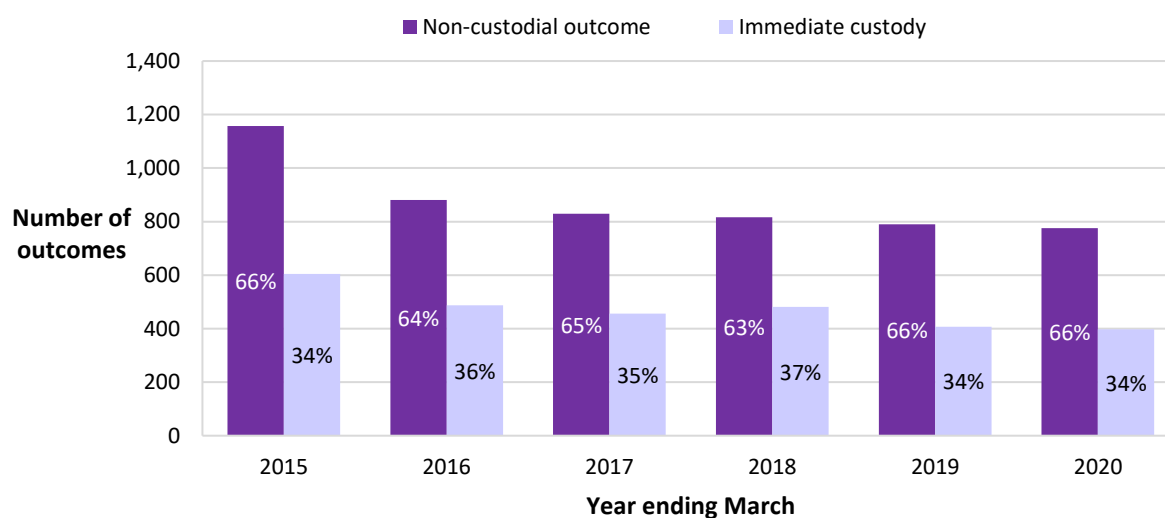
⁵⁸ Proportions are calculated where ethnicity was known. In the year ending March 2020, the ethnicity was unknown for 2% of the monthly average remand population.

⁵⁹ Ethnicity data are self-identified.

⁶⁰ Sum of proportions may not equal 100% due to rounding.

6.3 Outcomes for children following remand to youth detention accommodation

Figure 6.4: Outcomes following remand to youth detention accommodation given to children, England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2020⁶¹



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 6, Table 6.6

In the year ending March 2020, the majority (66%) of outcomes for children remanded to youth detention accommodation at some point during court proceedings did not subsequently result in a custodial sentence⁶². This has remained broadly stable since the year ending March 2015, fluctuating between 63% and 66%.

In the latest year, there were nearly 1,200 outcomes following a remand to youth detention accommodation and 30% of these outcomes resulted in acquittal.

Of the 66% (almost 800) outcomes which did not result in a custodial sentence, over half (55%) resulted in a non-custodial sentence and the remaining 45% resulted in acquittal (a not guilty verdict in court).

The proportion of outcomes for those who were remanded to youth detention accommodation at any point during court proceedings which did not result in a youth detention accommodation sentence varies by court type. In the latest year, 46% of those sentenced at the Crown Court and 82% of those sentenced at magistrates' courts did not go on to receive a custodial sentence (Supplementary Table 6.6).

This proportion also varies by ethnicity (Supplementary Table 6.7). The proportion of outcomes for those remanded to youth detention accommodation who did not go on to get a custodial sentence varies from 70% for Mixed children, 69% for Black children and also for Asian children, to 68% for White children, and to 44% of Chinese and Other children, though this final figure should be considered in light of the small numbers involved (less than 30 children).

⁶¹ A ten year comparison is not available.

⁶² Excluding those children who failed to appear and those who were committed by magistrates for trial or sentence at the Crown Court.

7. Children in youth custody

In the year ending March 2020:

- There was an average of just over 780 children in custody at any one time during the year. This is a fall of 68% compared with ten years ago, with a 9% fall compared with the previous year.
- The number of children in youth custody from a Black background decreased by 10% in the last year, with Black children accounting for 28% of the youth custody population. While the same proportion as the previous year, this is an increase from 15% ten years ago.
- While there has been a slight decrease in the number of children in youth custody for Violence Against the Person offences, the proportion this comprises has continued to increase, to 55%.

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

For the year ending March 2020, figures are a monthly snapshot of the custodial population, taken on the last day of the month. Prior to this, figures are a monthly snapshot of the custodial population, taken on the nearest Friday to the last day of the month.

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

Time period covered: Years ending March 2001 to 2020 (Children in youth custody)
Years ending March 2010 to 2020 (Further information on children in custody)
Years ending March 2012 to 2020 (Children in youth custody by offence group and by both YOT region and demographic characteristics)⁶³
Years ending March 2015 to 2020 (Custodial episodes ending)⁶³
Years ending March 2016 to 2020 (Children in youth custody by distance from home)⁶³

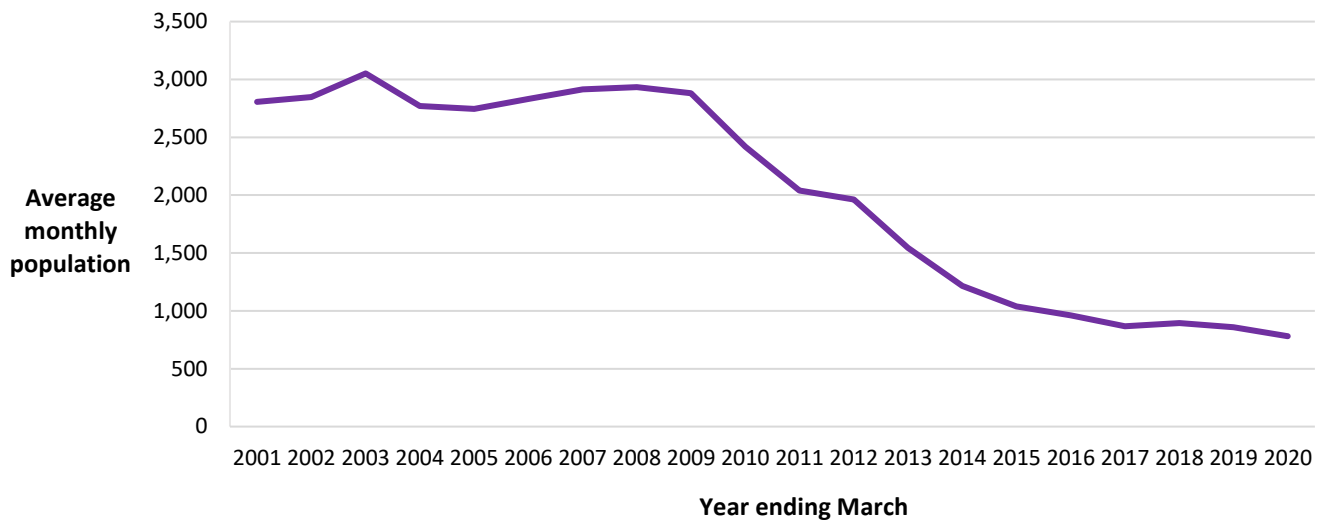
Supplementary Tables: Ch 7 – Children in youth custody

More information: [Youth Custody Data](#) (more up to date data available), [Length of time spent in Youth Custody](#), [Ch11 – Comparisons with the adult system](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

⁶³ A ten year comparison is not available.

7.1 Average monthly youth custody population

Figure 7.1: Average monthly youth custody population, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2001 to 2020



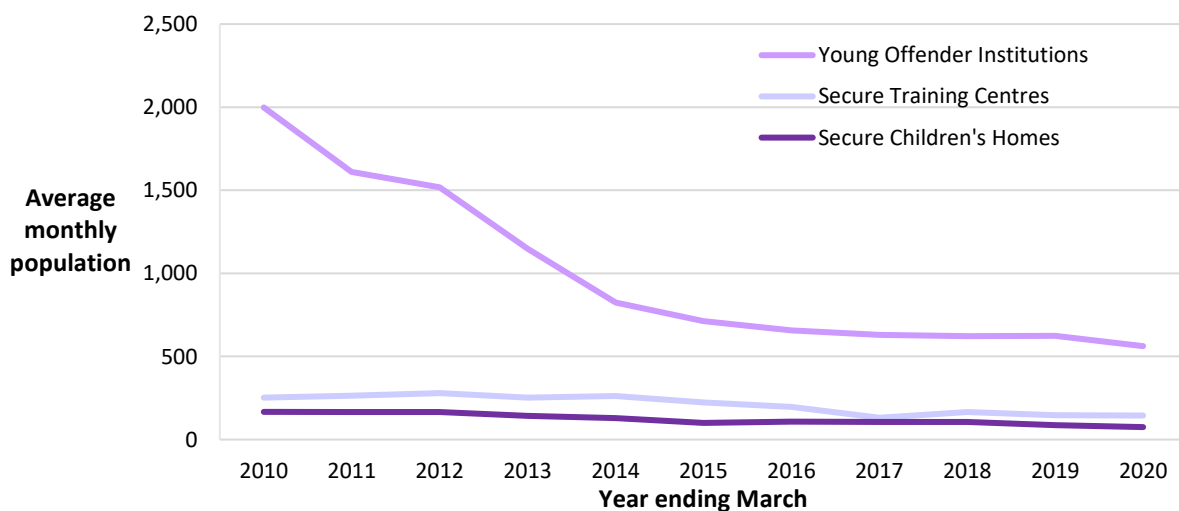
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.2

The average monthly number of children in custody has fallen in the last year. The number of children in custody has fallen year-on-year over the last ten years, except for a slight rise in the year ending March 2018.

In the year ending March 2020, there was an average of just over 780 children in custody at any one time. This is a reduction of 68% from ten years ago, when there was an average of around 2,400 children in custody, with a 9% fall in the latest year.

7.2 Average monthly youth custody population by sector

Figure 7.2: Average monthly youth custody population by sector, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.3

The largest long-term fall in the average monthly youth custody population has been seen in the number of children in Young Offender Institutions (YOI)⁶⁴, falling 72% over the last ten years, with a 10% fall in the last year, having stayed broadly unchanged since the year ending March 2018. As in previous years, in the year ending March 2020 the majority of children in custody were in a YOI (72%).

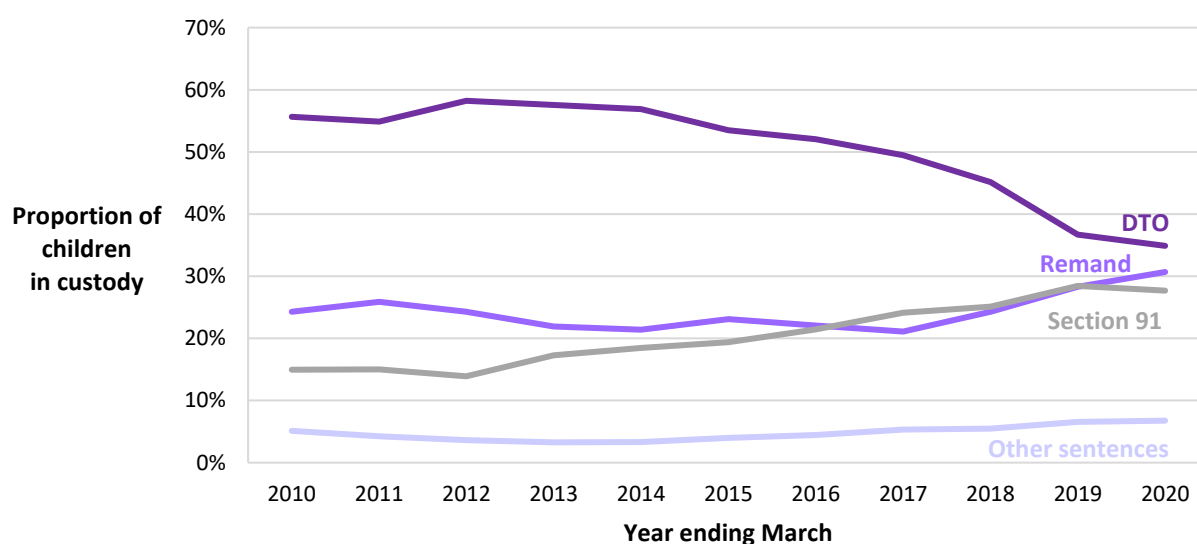
The average monthly population of Secure Children’s Homes (SCH) has also fallen, by 55% over the last ten years, with a 14% fall compared with the previous year, now accounting for 10% of the youth secure estate.

Secure Training Centres (STC) have also seen a fall over the long term, decreasing by 43% over the last ten years, with a smaller 2% decrease compared with the previous year. Of all children in custody, 18% were held in an STC in the latest year.

7.3 Legal basis for detention of children in custody

Information on the legal basis for detention relates to the most serious legal basis for which a child is placed in custody⁶⁵.

Figure 7.3: Average monthly youth custody population by legal basis for detention⁶⁶ as a proportion of the total, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.5

Supplementary Table 7.5 and Figure 7.3 show that whilst the number of children in custody has decreased for all legal basis types over the last ten years, the distributions of the proportions of these legal basis types has been changing:

⁶⁴ Only males between the ages of 15 and 17 can be placed in a YOI in the youth secure estate. Since August 2013, females are not placed in YOIs in the youth secure estate, therefore females up to the age of 18 are held in SCHs and STCs.

⁶⁵ A child may have multiple custodial orders simultaneously; in this section legal basis refers to the most serious custodial order. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

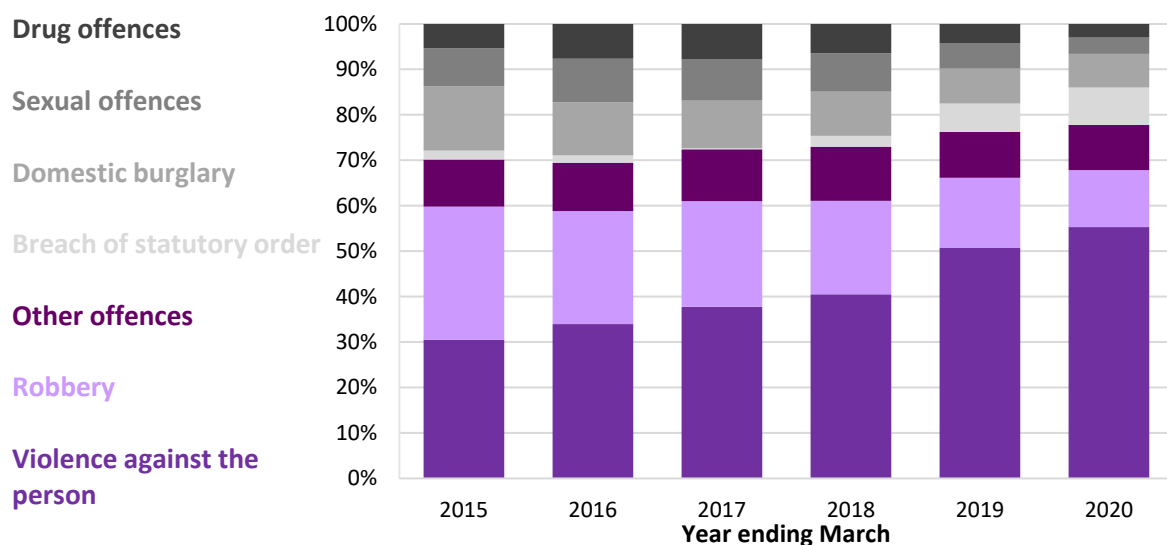
⁶⁶ Other sentences include Section 226, Section 226B, Section 90 and those detained under civil orders. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

- Children serving a Detention and Training Order (DTO)⁶⁷ have consistently made up the largest proportion, but have also seen the largest decrease, from 56% in the year ending March 2010 to 35% in the latest year.
- The proportion of those held on remand fluctuated between 21% to 26% during the years ending March 2010 and March 2017. The proportion has increased steadily from 21% to 31% since then and is now higher than those serving a Section 91 sentence for the first time in the last five years.
- The proportion of those serving a Section 91 sentence⁶⁸ has steadily increased from 15% in the year ending March 2010 to 28% in the latest year.
- The proportion of children on Other sentences^{69,70} continues to make up the smallest share, at 7% in the latest year, although it has increased steadily since the year ending March 2014.

7.4 Offences resulting in children going into custody

Over the last five years⁷¹, there has been a decline in the average number of children held for each offence group, except for Violence Against the Person and Breach of Statutory Order⁷². The number of children in youth custody for Violence Against the Person offences increased by 36% compared with five years ago, although there was a slight decrease (1%) in the last year (Supplementary Table 7.6).

Figure 7.4: Proportion of children in custody by offence group, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.6

⁶⁷ DTOs are determinate custodial sentences which can last from four months to 24 months in length. A child spends the first half of the order in custody and the second half in the community on licence.

⁶⁸ If a child is sentenced for a certain serious offence other than murder for which an adult could receive at least 14 years in custody, they may be sentenced under Section 91 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

⁶⁹ Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

⁷⁰ Other sentences include those serving Detention for Public Protection (section 226), Extended Determinate Sentence (section 226B), Detention at Her Majesty's Pleasure (section 90) and those detained under civil matters. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for full details.

⁷¹ A ten year comparison is not available.

⁷² A change in data recording between administrative systems may account for the increase in Breach of Statutory Orders since the year ending March 2018.

Figure 7.4 shows that the proportion of children in youth custody for Violence Against the Person offences has continued to increase and accounted for over half (55%) of the youth custody population in the latest year. This is an increase compared with both the previous year (51%) and five years ago (31%). The proportion of children in custody for Robbery meanwhile has more than halved, from 29% to 13% over the last five years.

7.5 Demographics of children in custody

Figure 7.5: Demographics of the youth custody population compared to the general 10-17 population⁷³, England and Wales, year ending March 2020

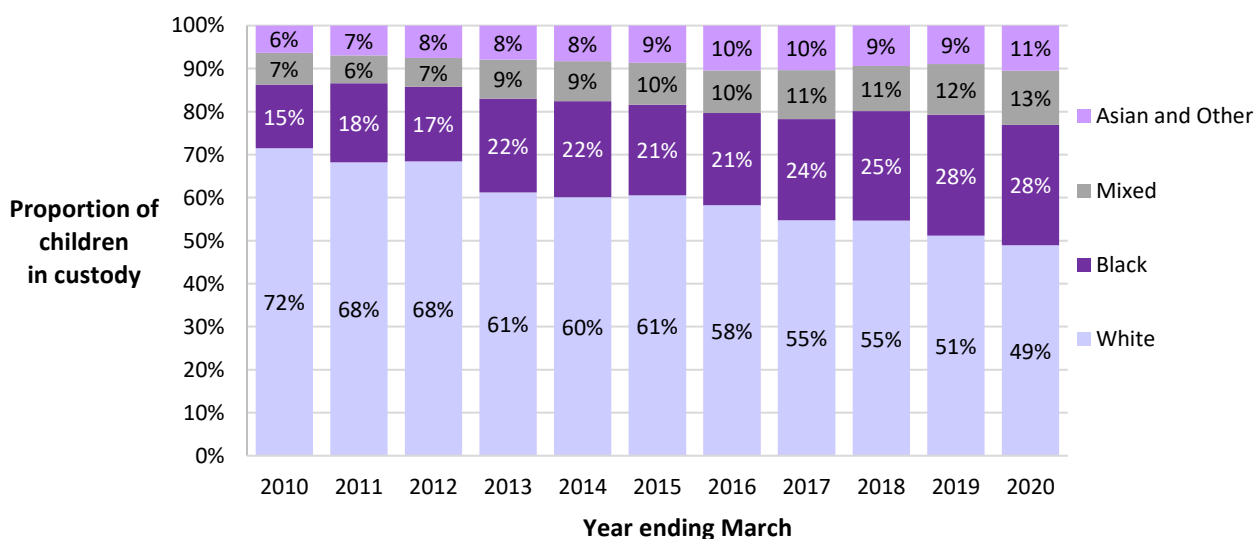
	Age Group		Sex	
	10-14	15-17	Boys	Girls
Youth custody population	4%	96%	96%	4%
10-17 population ⁷³	65%	35%	51%	49%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.9

In the latest year, the majority of children in the youth secure estate were boys (96%), which is broadly similar to the previous year although an increase compared with the year ending March 2010 (94%).

Those aged 17 have made up over half of the youth custody population in each of the last ten years and accounted for 53% in the latest year (Supplementary Table 7.10).

Figure 7.6: Proportion of children in custody by ethnicity, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020^{74,75,76}



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.11

⁷³ For age and sex, population is based on Office for National Statistics 2019 mid-year estimates.

⁷⁴ Proportions are calculated where ethnicity is known. The ethnicity was unknown for 1% of the custodial population in the year ending March 2020.

⁷⁵ Ethnicity data are self-reported.

⁷⁶ See [Exploratory analysis of the youth secure estate by BAME groups](#), [Trends in associations between ethnic background and being sentenced to custody for young offenders in England and Wales](#) and [Exploring racial disparity](#) for more information.

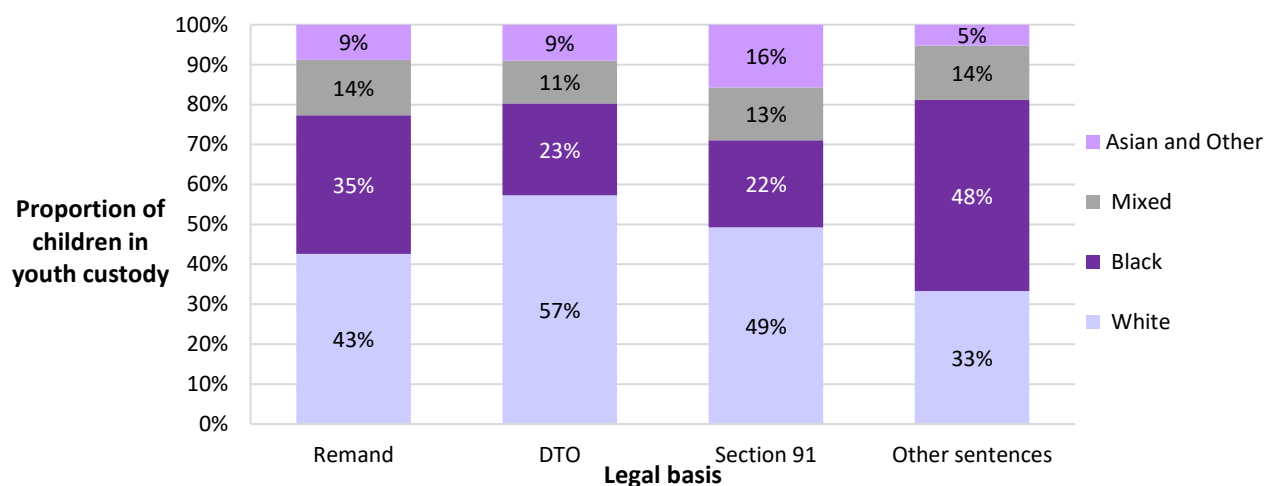
While all ethnic groups have seen a decrease in the average custody population over the last ten years, they have been falling at different rates which has led to a change in the proportion each ethnic group comprises.

Figure 7.6 shows that over the last ten years:

- The proportion of children in youth custody who are White has been falling, from 72% to 49%.
- The proportion of children from a Black ethnic background has increased the most, and now accounts for 28% of the youth custody population.
- Children from Mixed or Asian and Other ethnic backgrounds have also increased in proportion, to 13% and 11% respectively.

Supplementary Table 7.11 shows that in the year ending March 2020, White children made up less than half of the youth custody population (49%) for the first time since the data series began⁷⁷.

Figure 7.7: Proportion of children in custody by ethnicity and legal basis for detention, youth secure estate in England and Wales, year ending March 2020⁷⁸



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.13

Supplementary Table 7.14 shows that the proportions each ethnicity make up by legal basis has been changing over the last ten years:

- The proportion of children on each legal basis who were White has fallen,
- The proportion of children on remand who were Black has seen the greatest increase, increasing from 21% to 35% in the latest year,
- The proportion of children on a DTO who were Black has more than doubled, from 10% to 23%,
- The proportion of children serving a Section 91 sentence who were from an Asian or Other ethnic background has doubled from 8% to 16%, and
- The proportion of children on Other sentences who were Black have doubled from 24% to 48% over the same period⁷⁹.

⁷⁷ More up to date data are published in the [Youth Custody Report](#).

⁷⁸ Proportions are based on where ethnicity is known. The ethnicity was unknown for 1% of the custody population in the year ending March 2020.

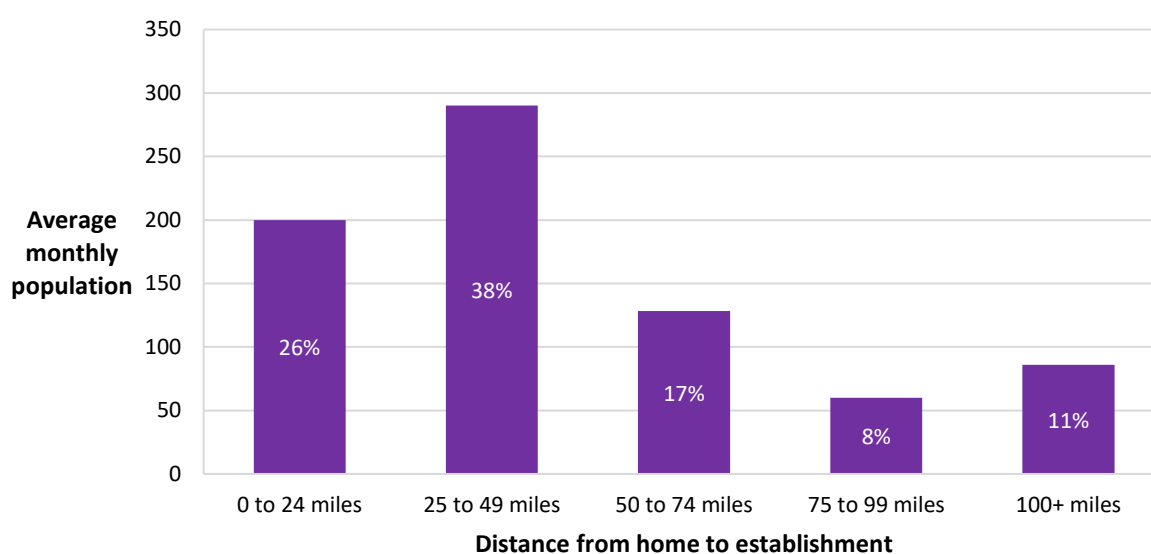
⁷⁹ Other sentences include those serving Detention for Public Protection (section 226), Extended Determinate Sentence (section 226B), Detention at her Majesty's Pleasure (section 90) and those detained under civil matters.

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

Supplementary Table 7.17 shows that in the year ending March 2020, children who were under the supervision of a London YOT made up the largest share of children in youth custody (30%). This has remained broadly stable in recent years but is an increase from 22% ten years ago.

For children in the youth secure estate, the distance between their home address and the secure establishment they are placed in can vary (see Figure 7.8). It is not always possible to place children in an establishment close to their home as placement decisions are determined by a number of factors, including the risks and needs of the individual child and available capacity at establishments⁸⁰.

Figure 7.8: Number and proportion of children in custody by distance from home, youth secure estate in England and Wales, year ending March 2020^{81,82,83,84}



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.7

As Figure 7.8 shows, while 64% of children in custody were in an establishment less than 50 miles from their home address, 11% were placed in an establishment 100 miles or more from their home. These proportions are broadly unchanged compared with the previous year.

⁸⁰ See [The Youth Custody Service Placement Team: Overview of operational procedures](#) for further information on how placement decisions are made.

⁸¹ See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for information on establishments in the youth secure estate and their location.

⁸² Distance is measured in miles and is the direct geographical distance between the child's home to establishment.

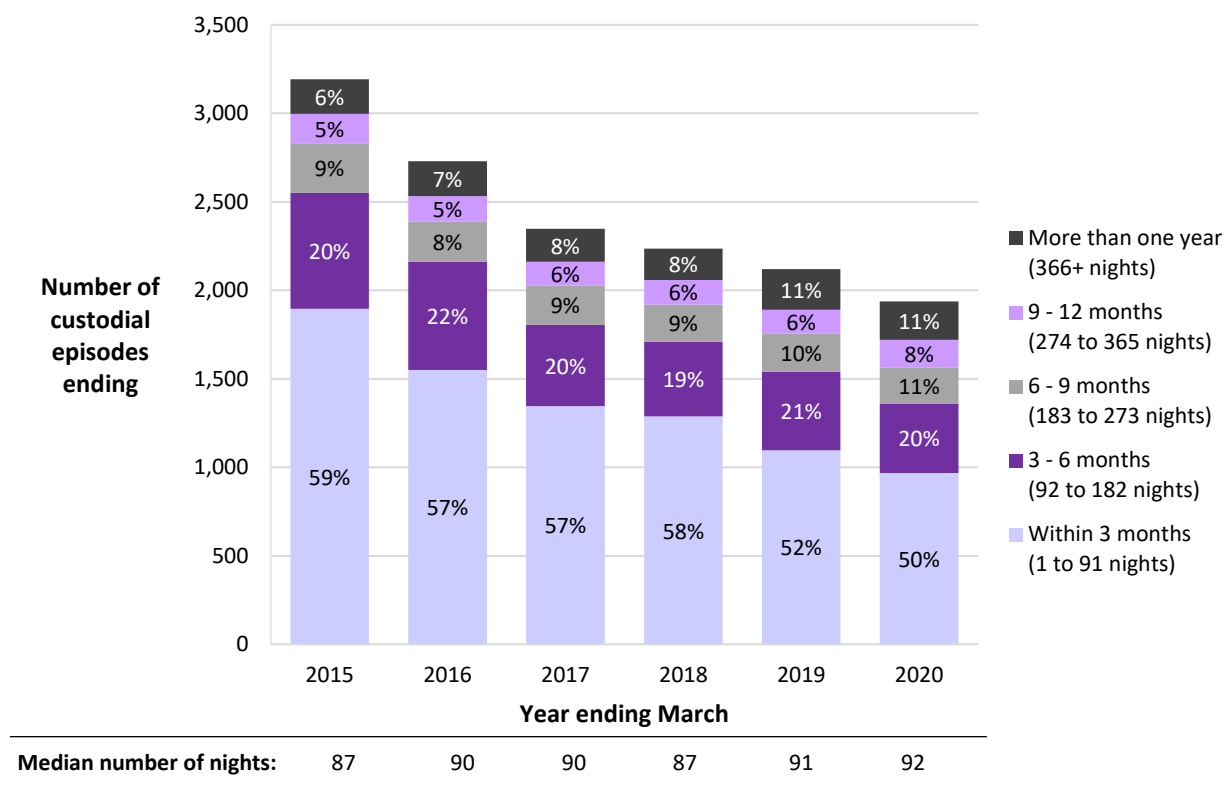
⁸³ Proportions are based on where distance was known. In the year ending March 2020, the distance from home band was unknown for 2% of children in the youth secure estate.

⁸⁴ A ten year comparison is not available.

Length of time spent in youth custody⁸⁵

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

Figure 7.9: Number and proportion⁸⁶ of custodial episodes ending by nights spent in the youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.25

In the year ending March 2020, around 1,900 custodial episodes in the youth secure estate ended. Of all custodial episodes ending, half (50%) ended within three months (1 to 91 nights), which is a smaller proportion compared with both the previous year (52%) and five years ago (59%). Of the just under 970 custodial episodes that ended within three months in the latest year, 17% ended within seven nights. This proportion is an increase compared with the previous year and five years ago (both 15%).

In the latest year, just under 220 custodial episodes lasted more than one year (366 nights or more), which is a slight decrease compared to the previous year, but higher than five years ago. While the proportion of custodial episodes ending that lasted more than one year has remained at 11% in the last year, it has increased from 6% five years ago.

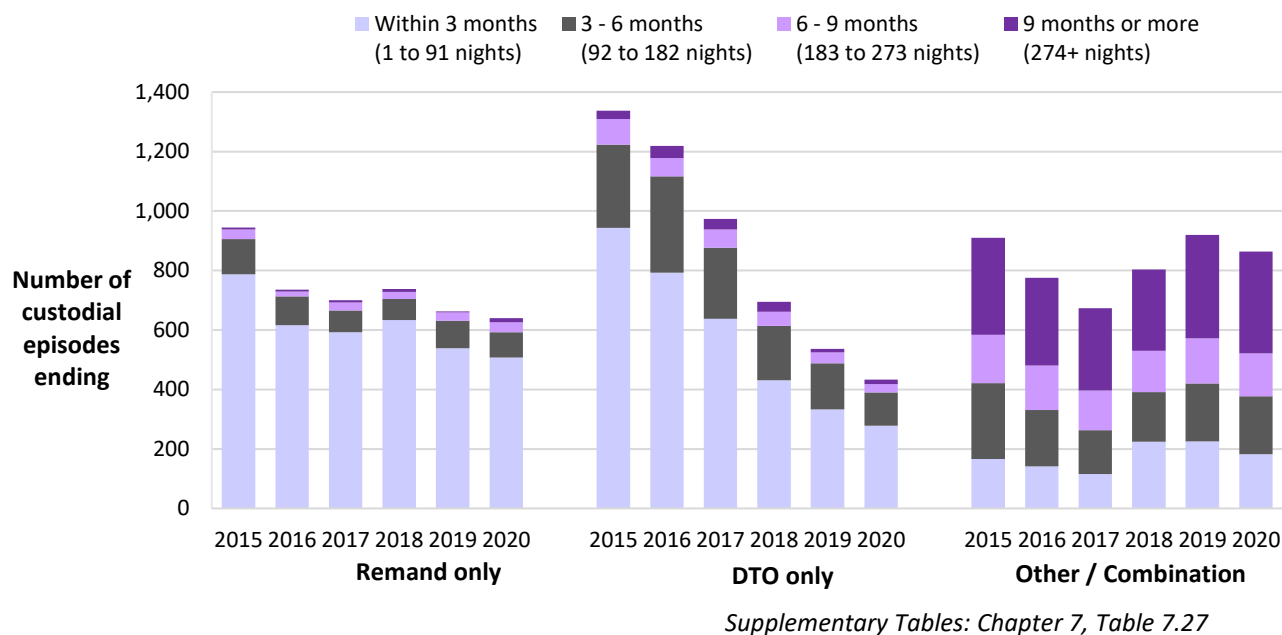
⁸⁵ Data are only available from the year ending March 2015 onwards due to a change of database and methodology. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

⁸⁶ Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

The median number of nights spent in youth custody per custodial episode was 92 nights in the year ending March 2020⁸⁷. This is an increase of one night compared with the previous year, and of five nights compared with five years ago and is the highest median since the time series began.

7.9 Custodial episodes ending by nights spent in the youth secure estate and legal basis for detention

Figure 7.10: Number of custodial episodes ending by nights spent in youth custody and legal basis for detention, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2020



'Remand only' episodes⁸⁸

Overall, children are spending longer on 'Remand only' episodes than in previous years. While most 'Remand only' episodes continued to end within three months, this proportion has decreased for the second successive year to 79% in the latest year.

Of all the 'Remand only' custodial episodes that ended within three months (around 510), just over a quarter (28%, around 140 episodes) ended within seven nights. This is a slight increase from 27% in the previous year but is still lower than the proportion in every other year since the time series began in the year ending March 2015 (Supplementary Table 7.27).

The median number of nights spent on remand in the latest year was 33, which is an increase compared with both the previous year (29) and an increase of over 50% compared with five years ago (21).

⁸⁷ While 50% of custodial episodes ended within 91 nights, the median is 92 nights, due to rounding. In the year ending March 2020, 1,937 custodial episodes ended (half of which is 968.5). The 968th custodial episode lasted 91 nights, and the 969th custodial episode lasted 92 nights.

⁸⁸ 'Remand only' refers to custodial episodes where the child had only received remand custodial order/s and did not go on to receive a custodial sentence immediately after the remand ended.

Detention and Training Order (DTO) only episodes⁸⁹

For those held on a DTO only, most episodes (64%) ended within three months, which is an increase on the previous year, but a decrease compared with the year ending March 2015 (71%).

The median number of nights spent on DTO only episodes was 90 nights, which is unchanged compared with the previous four years.

Other / Combination legal basis episodes⁹⁰

In the latest year, around 860 custodial episodes that ended were Other / Combination legal basis episodes (Supplementary Table 7.27). Just over a fifth (21%) of these episodes ended within three months, however the majority still ended after six months or more (56%).

The median number of nights spent on this type of custodial order was 206 in the latest year, an increase from 200 in the previous year and from 196 in the year ending March 2015. This legal basis includes long-term sentences, which explains the longer number of nights seen per custodial episode than other legal basis types.

7.10 Custodial episodes ending by nights spent in the youth secure estate and ethnicity⁹¹

In the latest year, the number of custodial episodes ending for White children has continued to fall, to just over 1,000 in the latest year. The number of custodial episodes ending had also been falling year-on-year for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)⁹² children, until the latest year when it remained broadly stable at just under 920. Over the last five years, the number of custodial episodes ending for White children has halved, whereas for BAME children, it has fallen by 21%.

Figure 7.11: Proportion of custodial episodes ending by nights spent and ethnic group, youth secure estate in England and Wales, year ending March 2020

	Number of nights					Total
	1 – 91	92 – 182	183 – 273	274 – 365	366+	
BAME	50%	19%	10%	8%	13%	100%
White	50%	22%	11%	8%	9%	100%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.26

As shown in Figure 7.11, half of custodial episodes ended within three months (1 to 91 nights) for both BAME and White children. In the latest year the proportions of custodial episodes ending

⁸⁹ DTO only refers to custodial episodes where the child had only received DTO custodial order/s. This does not include any DTO recalls.

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

⁹¹ Proportions are based on where ethnicity is known. In the year ending March 2020, ethnicity was not known for 1% of all custodial episodes ending.

⁹² Due to small numbers it is not possible to split these data by individual ethnicity.

within the number of night bands are more comparable across the ethnic groups than in the year ending March 2015 (Supplementary Table 7.26).

The proportion of custodial episodes that lasted more than one year (366 nights or more) has been higher for BAME children than White children in every year since the time series began and in the latest year the difference increased from the previous year. In addition, the proportion of BAME children on custodial episodes lasting more than one year has increased year-on-year over the last five years, from 9% in the year ending March 2015 to 13% in the year ending March 2020 (Supplementary Table 7.26).

In the latest year the median number of nights per custodial episodes was the same for White and BAME children (both 92 nights).

7.11 Deaths in youth custody⁹³

In the year ending March 2020, one child died in custody in the youth secure estate, believed to be due to natural causes (the formal [Prisons and Probation Ombudsmen Report](#) will be published in due course).

Between the years ending March 2010 and 2020, there were six deaths in youth custody.

⁹³ From September 2017, data collection on deaths in custody of justice-placed children became the responsibility of the Youth Custody Service.

8. Behaviour management in the youth secure estate

In the year ending March 2020:

- The number of self harm incidents has seen the largest increase of the four behaviour management measures, increasing by 35% in the last year to around 2,500. This has continued the upward trend since the year ending March 2018 and is the highest number of self harm incidents in the last five years.
 - The number of Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPIs) has increased by 19% in the last year to around 7,500 incidents. This continues the increase seen over the last four years.
 - There were just under 3,900 assault incidents in the youth secure estate⁹⁴.
 - There were nearly 7,800 use of force incidents across the three Secure Training Centres and five Young Offender Institutions. This is an average of 82.5 incidents per 100 children and young people per month.
-

Description: Information on behaviour management and use of force in the youth secure estate⁹⁵.

Source: NOMIS Incident Reporting System (IRS) (Assault incidents in Young Offender Institutions)
Bespoke returns submitted to the Youth Custody Service from establishments (All other data)

Time period covered: Years ending March 2015 to 2020 (Behaviour management data, excluding assaults)⁹⁶
Year ending March 2019 to 2020 (Assault incidents in YOIs)⁹⁴
Year ending March 2020 (Assault incidents in SCHs and STCs)⁹⁴
Year ending March 2020 (Use of force data)⁹⁷

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

More information: [Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint: safeguarding processes, governance arrangements and roles and responsibilities](#), [Safety in Custody statistics](#), [Safety in the children and young people secure estate \(due 29 April 2021\)](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

This chapter covers all children and young people in the youth secure estate, which includes some 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate for a short time⁹⁸.

The definition of assault incidents was changed from April 2018 for Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) and from April 2019 for Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) and Secure Training Centres (STCs). The definition is now aligned across all three sectors, making comparisons possible however the change has resulted in a break of the time series. Data on assaults in the youth secure estate prior to

⁹⁴ No trend data available. Due to a change in definition, only data for the years ending March 2019 to 2020 are available for assault incidents in YOIs and for the year ending March 2020 in SCHs and STCs. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information. Data on assaults in the youth secure estate prior to the year ending March 2020 can be found in previous [Youth Justice Statistics](#) publications.

⁹⁵ See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for definitions of each behaviour management measure.

⁹⁶ A ten year comparison is not available.

⁹⁷ Due to the staggered roll-out of MMPP in establishments, the implementation of MMPP went live at different times in the year. Where possible, annual averages from the year ending March 2015 have been included in the Supplementary Tables for individual establishments.

⁹⁸ To avoid disrupting their regimes, young people aged 18 may remain in the youth secure estate if they have only a short period of their sentence left to serve.

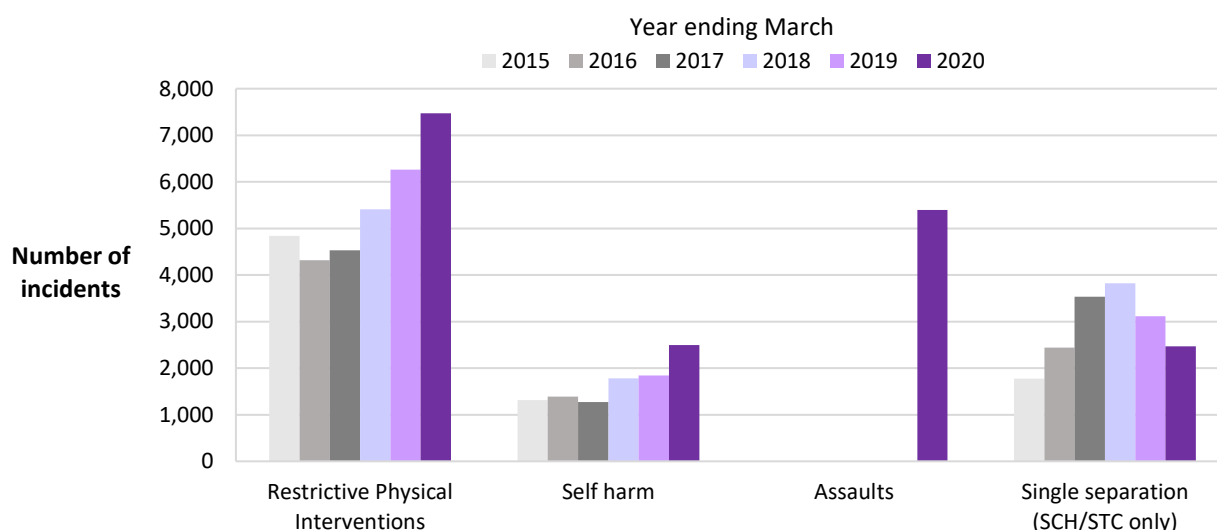
the year ending March 2020 can be found in previous [Youth Justice Statistics](#) publications. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information on the change of methodology.

In this publication, the methodology for calculating the population has changed for all behaviour management measures and use of force to reflect the average daily population, rather than all children and young people in youth custody over the period being reported. The revised calculation gives a lower population figure than the previously used methodology, resulting in an increase in all rates. In order to be able to assess changes over time, previous years have been recalculated in this publication based on the new methodology. Rates based on the previous methodology can be found in previous [Youth Justice Statistics](#) publications. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information on the change of methodology.

When making comparisons between groups based on sex and age, it is important to consider that the relatively small number of girls and those aged 10-14 in the youth secure estate make the rates for these groups volatile.

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

Figure 8.1: Trend in the number of behaviour management incidents, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.2

8.2 Use of Restrictive Physical Interventions in the youth secure estate

A Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) in the youth secure estate is any occasion in which force is used to overpower or with the intention of overpowering a child or young person⁹⁹. RPIs should only be used on children and young people as a last resort, for example to prevent them causing harm to themselves or others.

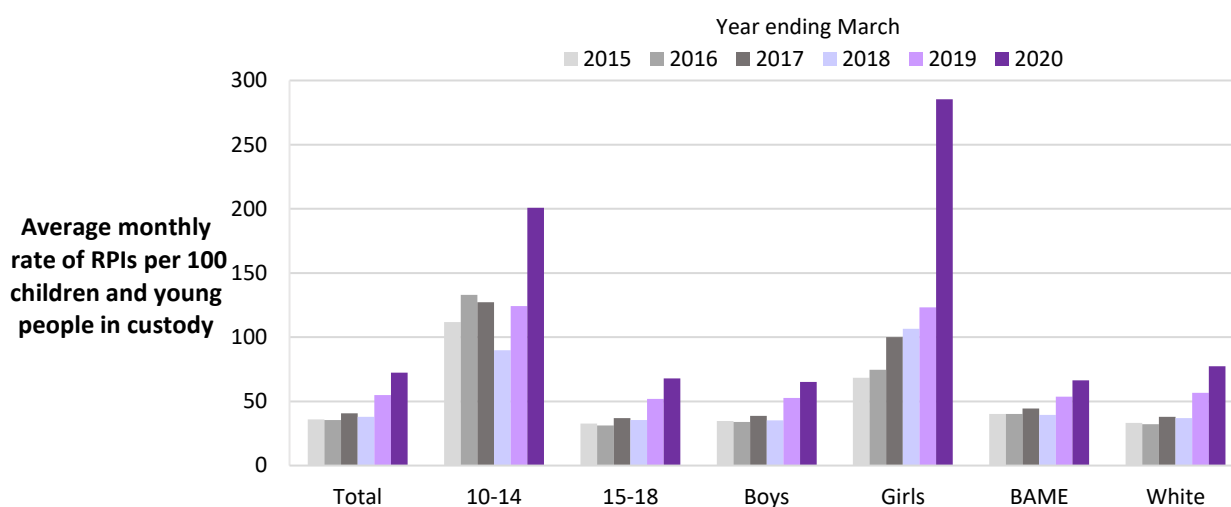
As shown in Figure 8.1, in the year ending March 2020 there were just under 7,500 RPIs, up 19% compared with the previous year. This continues the upward trend seen over the last four years and is the highest number of RPIs in the last five years.

⁹⁹ Overpower is restricting movement or mobility.

As with the number of RPIs, the average monthly rate of RPIs per 100 children and young people in custody has also been increasing. In the latest year, the average monthly rate of RPIs per 100 children and young people in custody was 72.4, an increase from the previous year (54.9) and the highest average monthly rate in the last five years. As shown in Figure 8.2, increases in the rate of RPIs were largest for girls, and those aged 10-14 years old.

The average number of RPI incidents per month per child or young person involved has also gradually increased over the last five years, from 1.5 in the year ending March 2015 to 2.0 in the latest year (Supplementary Table 8.3).

Figure 8.2: Average monthly rate of RPIs per 100 children and young people in custody by demographic characteristics^{100,101,102}, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.6

Figure 8.2 shows that in the year ending March 2020 the average monthly rate of RPIs per 100 children and young people in custody was higher for:

- Those aged 10-14 (an average monthly rate of 200.9 per 100 children compared to 67.8 for children and young people aged 15-18) as has been the trend since the time series began;
- Girls, which has over doubled in the last year (at 285.3 compared to 65.1 for boys); and
- White children and young people (at 77.5 compared to 66.5 for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) children and young people). This is the second consecutive year that the rate has been higher for White children and young people than BAME children and young people and the difference in rate is greater than in previous years.

¹⁰⁰ Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

¹⁰¹ Ethnicity data are self-reported.

¹⁰² When making comparisons between groups based on sex and age, it is important to consider that the relatively small number of girls and those aged 10-14 in the youth secure estate make the rates for those groups volatile.

Figure 8.3: The number of injuries requiring medical treatment to children and young people by severity of injury resulting from an RPI, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2020^{103,104}

Severity of RPI injury requiring medical treatment	Year ending March					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Minor injury requiring medical treatment on site	105	84	92	76	54	79
Serious injury requiring hospital treatment	4	3	8	2	7	3
Total injuries requiring medical treatment	109	87	100	78	61	82
Proportion of RPIs that resulted in an injury requiring medical treatment	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.8

In the year ending March 2020, 1% of all RPIs resulted in injuries which required medical treatment. This proportion is unchanged from the previous year and has remained broadly stable over the last five years (Supplementary Table 8.7).

As shown in Figure 8.3, there were 82 RPIs that resulted in an injury requiring medical treatment, of which:

- Most (96%) were minor injuries requiring medical treatment on site; and
- 4% (three incidents) were serious injuries requiring hospital treatment.

The number of injuries requiring medical treatment resulting from an RPI has increased by 34% in the last year, to 82. This is the first year-on-year increase since the year ending March 2017 (Supplementary Table 8.7).

8.3 Self harm in the youth secure estate

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

The number of self harm incidents has increased by 35% in the latest year, to just under 2,500 incidents and is the highest number of incidents seen over the previous five years (Figure 8.1).

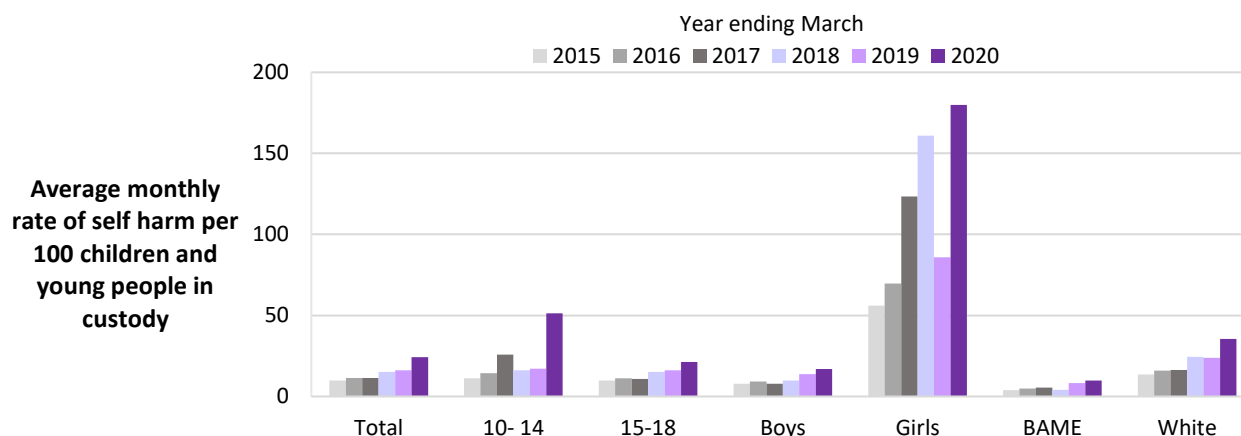
The average monthly rate of self harm incidents per 100 children and young people in custody has been increasing over the last five years. In the latest year, there was an average of 24.2 self harm incidents per 100 children and young people in custody per month, up from 16.2 in the previous year and more than twice the rate of five years ago (9.8).

The average monthly rate of self harm incidents per child and young person involved is also the highest it has been in the last five years, at 2.8, compared with 2.0 in the previous year and 1.9 five years ago (Supplementary Table 8.3).

¹⁰³ From the year ending March 2017 onwards there were some small changes to the counting rules for RPI incidents requiring medical treatment. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

¹⁰⁴ If a child or young person received more than one injury in the same incident, only the most serious injury in each incident is counted.

Figure 8.4: Average monthly rate of self harm incidents per 100 children and young people in custody by demographic characteristics^{105,106,107}, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.11

Looking at the demographic characteristics of the children and young people involved in self harm incidents (Figure 8.4), in the year ending March 2020 the average monthly rate of self harm per 100 children and young people in custody was higher for:

- Girls (at 179.9, compared to 17.0 for boys), and continues the upward trend seen until the previous year when there was a decrease;
- Those aged 10-14 (at 51.3 compared to 21.4 for 15-18 year olds). While this continues the trend of the younger age group having higher rates of self harm, the difference in the rates for each age group is greater now than in previous years;
- White children and young people (at 35.5 compared to 9.9 for BAME children and young people), who have consistently had higher rates over the last five years.

Figure 8.5: The number of injuries requiring medical treatment to children and young people by severity of injury as a result of self harm, youth secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2020^{108,109}

Severity of self harm injury requiring medical treatment	Year ending March					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Minor injury requiring medical treatment on site	146	178	319	501	621	558
Serious injury requiring hospital treatment	22	15	19	34	39	69
Total injuries requiring medical treatment	168	193	338	535	660	627
Proportion of self harm incidents that resulted in an injury requiring medical treatment	13%	14%	27%	30%	36%	25%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.13

¹⁰⁵ Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

¹⁰⁶ Ethnicity data are self-reported.

¹⁰⁷ When making comparisons between groups based on sex and age, it is important to consider that the relatively small number of girls and those aged 10-14 in the youth secure estate make the rates for those groups volatile.

¹⁰⁸ From the year ending March 2017 onwards there were some small changes to the counting rules for self harm incidents requiring medical treatment. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

¹⁰⁹ If a child or young person received more than one injury in the same incident, only the most serious injury in each incident is counted.

In the year ending March 2020, a quarter (25%) of self harm incidents resulted in injuries which required medical treatment (Supplementary Table 8.12). This proportion is a fall compared with the previous year (36%) but higher than five years ago (13%).

As shown in Figure 8.5, in the year ending March 2020 there were just under 630 incidents of self harm that resulted in an injury requiring medical treatment, of which:

- 89% were minor injuries requiring medical treatment on site; and
- 11% requiring hospital treatment.

The number of injuries requiring medical treatment to children and young people following a self harm incident fell by 5% in the last year, having been increasing over the last four years. The decrease was seen in Secure Training Centres and Young Offender Institutions, but the number of injuries requiring medical treatment as the result of self harm in Secure Children's Homes increased (Supplementary Table 8.12). This sector has also seen the largest increase in self harm incidents in the last year.

8.4 Assault incidents in the youth secure estate

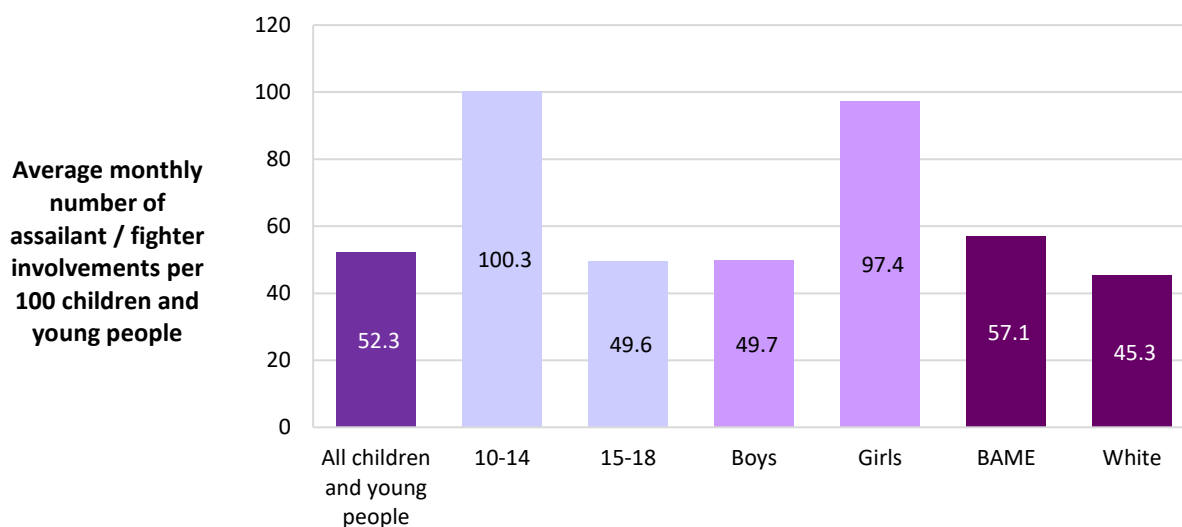
The way that assault incidents are reported to the Youth Custody Service changed for the year ending March 2019 for Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) and for the year ending March 2020 for Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) and Secure Training Centres (STCs). Data prior to this can be found in previous publications but are not directly comparable to data published in this publication. For more information see the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#).

An assault incident is defined as 'unwanted physical contact between two or more individuals, excluding Use of Force or anything of a purely verbal or threatening nature.'

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.

In the year ending March 2020 there were around 3,900 assault incidents, with just under 5,400 children and young people involved as assailants or fighters. In the latest year, each child or young person involved as an assailant or fighter within a month, were involved in an average of 1.6 incidents (as assailants or fighters). The number of assailant or fighter involvements per 100 children and young people in custody per month was 52.3.

Figure 8.6: Average monthly number of assailant or fighter involvements per 100 children and young people in custody¹¹⁰, youth secure estate in England and Wales, year ending March 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.15

Figure 8.6 shows that for demographic characteristics¹¹¹ of the children and young people involved as assailants or fighters, in the year ending March 2020 the average monthly rates per 100 children and young people was higher for:

- Those aged 10-14 (at 100.3, compared to 49.6 for those aged 15-18 years old);
- Girls (at 97.4, compared to 49.7 for boys);
- BAME children and young people (at 57.1, compared to 45.3 for White children and young people).

Assault incidents are categorised as child on child, child on staff or child on other¹¹² and a single incident can be recorded under more than one of these categories. The sum of the three categories therefore may not always equal the total number of incidents.

Supplementary Table 8.17 shows that in the year ending March 2020, most assault incidents involved child on child assaults, although this differed by sector. Most assault incidents in YOIs involved child on child assaults, whereas the majority of assault incidents in SCHs and STCs were child on staff assaults.

¹¹⁰ Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

¹¹¹ Ethnicity data are self-reported.

¹¹² For example, where a welfare placement or visitor was involved. See the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

Figure 8.7: The severity of injuries to children and young people resulting from assault incidents, youth secure estate in England and Wales, year ending March 2020^{113,114,115,116}

Severity of assault injury	Year ending March 2020
Minor injury	589
Serious injury	74
Total assault incidents resulting in injury	641
Proportion of assault incidents that resulted in an injury to a child or young person	12%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.19

In the year ending March 2020, 12% of assault incidents resulted in an injury to a child or young person. Most of these injuries were minor injuries (just under 590), with 74 serious injuries.

8.5 Separation in SCHs and STCs¹¹⁷

Separation is any instance where a child or young person is contained within any locked room or enclosure with visible barriers, away from the group and from staff (other than where staff act as the ‘visible barriers’) for the purposes of control and cannot leave the room or enclosure whenever they want to do so. ‘Purposes of control’ includes preventing harm to others, harm to self, or damage to property. The data in this section refer only to Secure Children’s Homes (SCHs) and Secure Training Centres (STCs).

There were around 2,500 separation incidents in SCHs and STCs in the year ending March 2020. This is a 21% decrease compared with the previous year. As Figure 8.1 shows, this is the second consecutive decrease after separation incidents had been increasing since the year ending March 2016.

The average monthly rate of separation incidents per 100 children and young people follows a similar trend to the number of incidents (Section 8.1) and had been increasing from the year ending March 2016 before seeing falls in the last two years (Figure 8.8). In the latest year, the average monthly rate was 93.2 per 100 children and young people. While this is a decrease compared to the previous year (105.8), it remains much higher than the rate five years ago (43.9).

The average monthly rate of separation incidents per child and young person involved fell in the latest year to 2.6. Over the last five years, this has fluctuated between 2.2 and 3.6 (Supplementary Table 8.20).

¹¹³ No trend data available.

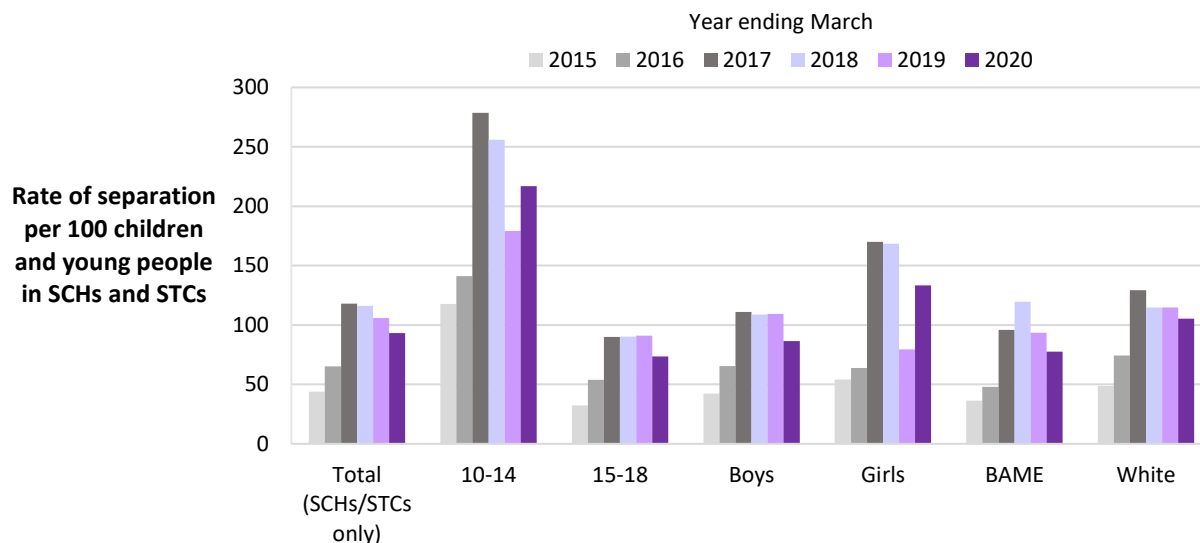
¹¹⁴ These data include all injuries requiring medical treatment and may therefore include the perpetrators as well as victims.

¹¹⁵ Grazes, scratches or abrasions, minor bruises, superficial cuts and swellings are categorised as minor injuries. Bites, black eyes, broken noses, broken teeth, crushing, cuts requiring sutures, extensive/multiple bruising, fractures, scalds or burns, stabbing, temporary/permanent blindness are categorised as serious injuries.

¹¹⁶ This is a count of the number of assault incidents which resulted in an injury, regardless of incident type. Where an incident results in both a minor and serious injury to a child or young person they are included on each count, and so the sum of incidents by injury type is higher than the total count of incidents.

¹¹⁷ Data are only published for SCHs and STCs. Comparable data are not held for public YOIs.

Figure 8.8: The average monthly rate of separation incidents per 100 children and young people in custody by demographic characteristics^{118,119,120}, SCHs and STCs only, England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.22

Figure 8.8 shows that in the year ending March 2020 average monthly rates were higher for:

- Those aged 10-14 (who had a much higher rate of 216.8 compared to 73.7 for those aged 15-18), and the rate for the older age group has fallen for the first time in the last five years;
- White children and young people (105.3 compared to 77.5 for those from a BAME background), with the rate for both ethnic groups falling in the last year; and
- Girls, for who the rate has seen an increase in the latest year (133.4 compared to 86.6 for boys).

8.6 Use of force incidents in STCs and YOIs

Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR) is a behaviour management and restraint system that has been developed specifically for staff working with children and young people in STCs and under-18 YOIs. MMPR puts considerable emphasis on using appropriate de-escalation and deceleration techniques (non-physical interventions) to ensure that force is only ever used as a last resort, when no other intervention is possible or appropriate. Within MMPR, any physical intervention is counted as a Use of Force, unlike the RPI system which only counts those physical interventions deemed restrictive¹²¹.

¹¹⁸ Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

¹¹⁹ When making comparisons between groups based on sex and age, it is important to consider that the relatively small number of females and those aged 10-14 in the youth secure estate make the rates for those groups volatile.

¹²⁰ Ethnicity data are self-reported.

¹²¹ Owing to the different definitions of Use of force, MMPR and RPI, a particular use of force may be classed as MMPR, RPI, both MMPR and RPI, or neither (see Diagram 1).

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

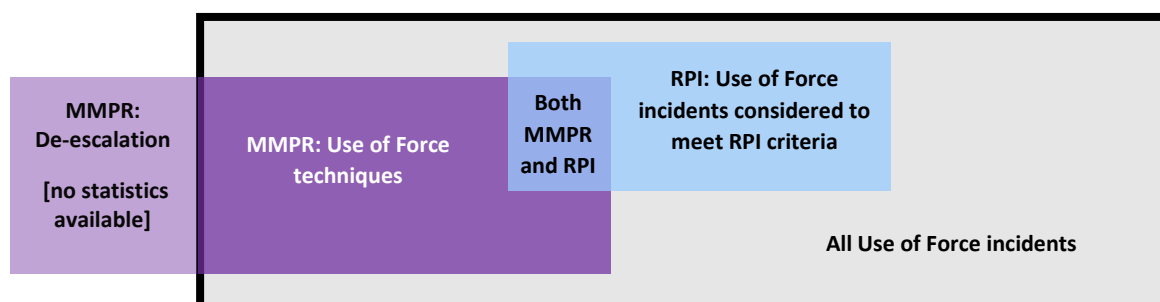


Diagram 1 (not drawn to scale) is a schematic representation of a complex issue: it is illustrative only. For more details, see the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#). Sections 8.6 to 8.9 of this chapter refer to all use of force techniques highlighted by the bold outline in the diagram.

The YJB started collecting MMRP data from March 2013 and by the end of March 2018 MMRP techniques had been implemented in all three STCs and all five under-18 YOIs^{122,123,124}.

8.7 Characteristics of use of force incidents in STCs and YOIs

In the year ending March 2020, there were nearly 7,800 use of force¹²⁵ incidents in STCs and YOIs, which is an average of just under 650 incidents per month. In the latest year, the average monthly rate of use of force incidents per 100 children and young people was 82.5 (Supplementary Table 8.23).

In the year ending March 2020, MMRP techniques were used in 73% of all use of force incidents, an average of around 480 MMRP incidents per month. The remaining 27% of use of force incidents did not involve any MMRP techniques (Supplementary Table 8.27).

Supplementary table 8.27 shows that in the year ending March 2020, the highest level technique¹²⁶ recorded in each MMRP incident was:

- Pain inducing¹²⁷ for 2% of all MMRP incidents;
- High level used for 49% of all MMRP incidents;
- Medium level for 32% of all MMRP incidents; and
- Low level for 17% of all MMRP incidents.

¹²² See Annex B in the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for details of the establishments using MMRP and the dates when they started using it.

¹²³ Due to the staggered roll-out of MMRP in establishments, the implementation of MMRP went live at different times in the year. Where possible, annual averages from the year ending March 2014 have been included in the Supplementary Tables for individual establishments. Comparisons with years before the year ending March 2019 should be avoided as the different start dates in establishments mean that figures in each year cover different establishments with separate regimes.

¹²⁴ Medway STC was closed at the end of January 2020.

¹²⁵ All uses of MMRP or RPI count as a use of force. It is possible that a use of force is neither MMRP or RPI, however all uses of MMRP and RPI are classed as use of force.

¹²⁶ More than one technique may be used in a single incident and each technique may be used more than once in a single incident. This section only counts the highest level technique used in an incident, whereas Supplementary Table 8.28 provides a breakdown of all techniques used.

¹²⁷ The use of pain inducing techniques for the under-18 secure estate must be restricted to circumstances where it is necessary to protect a child, young person, or others from an immediate risk of serious physical harm.

Supplementary Table 8.24 shows that the most common reason given for use of force being applied was “preventing harm to a third party” (90% of use of force incidents)¹²⁸. The second most common was “preventing harm to self” at 38%.

Just over half (51%) of use of force incidents in STCs and YOIs lasted for two minutes or less. A further 36% lasted between three and five minutes. The remaining 13% of incidents lasted for six minutes or more. Handcuffs were used in 15% of incidents (just under 1,200) (Supplementary Table 8.24).

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

Figure 8.9: Average monthly rate of use of force incidents per 100 children and young people in custody by demographics^{129,130}, STCs and YOIs only, England and Wales, year ending March 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.25

In the year ending March 2020, the average monthly rate of use of force per 100 children and young people in custody was higher for:

- Those aged 10-14 years (at 202.0 compared to 81.1 for 15-18 year olds);
- Girls (at 226.0 compared to 79.2 for boys); and
- White children and young people (83.1 compared to 80.7 for BAME children and young people).

¹²⁸ There may be more than one reason for use of force in a single incident. The sum of reasons for use of force will therefore usually be greater than the total number of use of force incidents. Proportions are based on the number of use of force incidents and will therefore be greater than 100%.

¹²⁹ Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

¹³⁰ Use of force data are based on self-reported ethnicity.

8.9 Use of force incidents involving injuries requiring medical treatment¹³¹

In the year ending March 2020, there were 45 occasions in which children and young people required medical treatment for an injury following the use of force (1% of all incidents). Of these, 43 injuries were minor injuries requiring medical treatment on site and two were serious injuries requiring hospital treatment (Supplementary Table 8.26).

Establishments are also required to record a number of warning signs and symptoms which are not in themselves injuries but may be indicative of an underlying medical condition, which in turn may be related to the use of force¹³². These are included in the use of force data return¹³³. Warning signs were observed on just over 250 occasions¹³⁴ during the year ending March 2020 (Supplementary Table 8.26).

¹³¹ If a child or young person received more than one injury in the same incident, only the most serious injury in each incident is counted.

¹³² These include: Lost or reduced consciousness, abruptly/unexpectedly stopped struggling or suddenly calmed down, blueness of lips/fingernails/ear lobes (cyanosis), tiny pin point red dots seen on the skin (upper chest, neck, face, eye lids), complaints of and/or difficulty breathing, complaints of feeling sick and vomiting.

¹³³ Detailed reports on each such occasion are sent directly to the MMRP National Team within Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) as part of the Serious Injuries and Warning Signs (SIWS) process.

¹³⁴ More than one medical warning sign may be observed during a single incident: At least one warning sign was observed during 250 use of force incidents, making up 3% of the total incidents recorded.

9. Proven reoffending by children and young people

For the year ending December 2018 aggregated cohort¹³⁵:

- The long-term falls in the number of children in the cohort, children who reoffended and reoffences have continued. The number of children in the annually aggregated cohort has fallen by 86% over the last ten years, the number of children and young people who reoffended has fallen by 86% and the number of reoffences being committed has dropped by 81%.
- There were around 24,500 children^{136,137} in the annual aggregated cohort and 38.5% of these children and young people reoffended within 12 months. While this is a decrease of 0.2 percentage points compared with the previous year, the reoffending rate is still higher than the year ending December 2008 (when it was 37.7%).
- The children and young people who did reoffend committed just over 37,300 reoffences giving an average of 3.95 reoffences per reoffender (frequency rate). While this is a 2% decrease compared with the previous year, it remains higher than ten years ago (3.06).

Description: Proven reoffending by children entering the cohort between January 2018 and December 2018. The focus in this chapter is on the annual data based on the aggregate of the four quarterly offender cohorts¹³⁸.

Children enter the reoffending cohort if they receive a caution, a non-custodial sentence at court or were released from custody during the cohort period¹³⁷. A proven reoffence is any offence committed in a one year follow-up period that leads to a caution or court sentence, either within the one year follow-up or within a further six months to allow the offence to be proven in court. Users should be cautious though when making any comparisons between cohorts before and after the October 2015 offender cohort period. This is because there was a change in data source from October 2015 onwards.

Source: Ministry of Justice extract of the Police National Computer (Proven reoffending by children)
YJAF (Children released from Secure Children's Homes and Secure Training Centres)
Prison-NOMIS (Children released from Young Offender Institutions)

Period covered: Aggregated cohorts for the years ending December 2008 to 2018¹³⁹

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

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

¹³⁵ Children who received a caution, a non-custodial sentence at court, or who were released from custody during that year.

¹³⁶ The annual figure is based on the aggregate of four quarterly offender cohorts. Please note, it is possible for a child to appear in the annual cohort more than once.

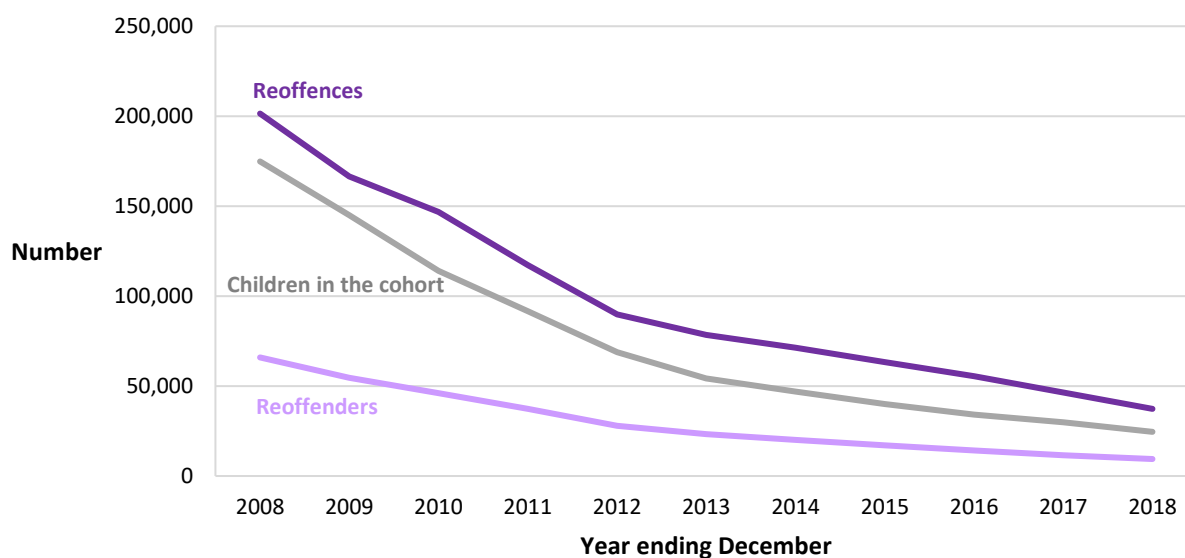
¹³⁷ Someone who entered the cohort aged 17 and reoffended aged 18 will be included in the figures.

¹³⁸ In October 2017 a new methodology was adopted by the MoJ to construct the proven reoffending measure. Please see [How the measure of proven reoffending has changed and the effect of these changes](#) for more information.

¹³⁹ 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.

9.1 Children in the cohort, children and young people who reoffend and reoffences^{140,141}

Figure 9.1: Number of children in the cohort, children and young people who reoffend and reoffences, England and Wales, for those entering the cohort in the years ending December 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.1

As shown in Figure 9.1, the long-term falls in the number of children in the cohort, those who reoffend and the number of reoffences they committed have continued.

The number of children in the annually aggregated cohort¹⁴² has fallen by 86% over the last ten years. The number of children and young people reoffending has fallen by 86% and the number of reoffences being committed has dropped by 81%.

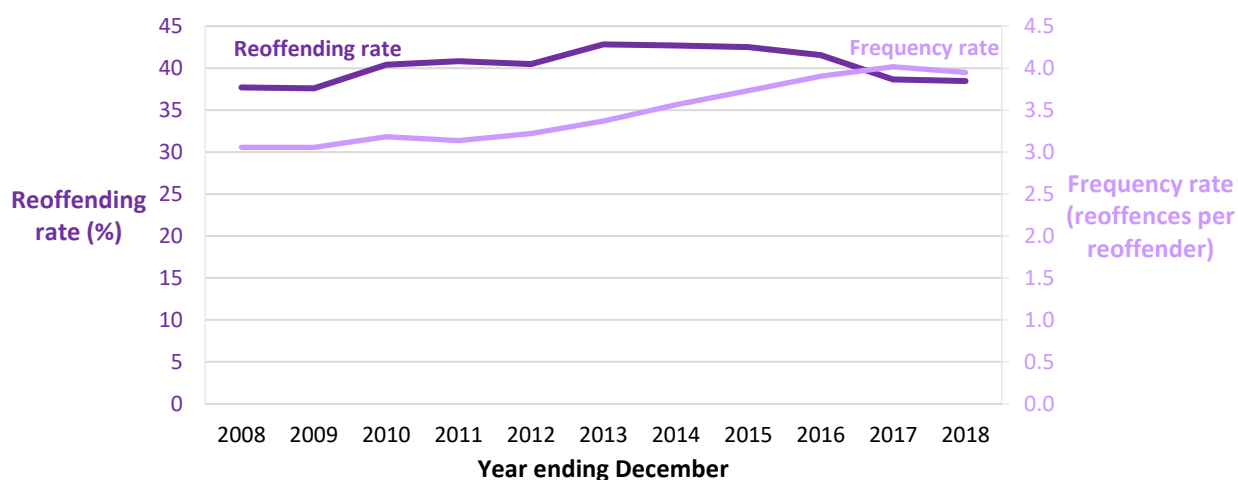
¹⁴⁰ Data on children released from Young Offender Institutions are taken from a different source (PNOMIS) from October 2017 onwards.

¹⁴¹ This publication is based on the new methodology adopted in October 2017, including for trends over time, and as such should not be compared with those in publications before 2016/17.

¹⁴² The annual figure is based on the aggregate of four quarterly offender cohorts. Please note, it is possible for a child to appear in the annual cohort more than once.

9.2 Reoffending rate and frequency rate

Figure 9.2: Reoffending rate and frequency rate for children and young people, England and Wales, for children entering the cohort in the years ending December 2008 to 2018



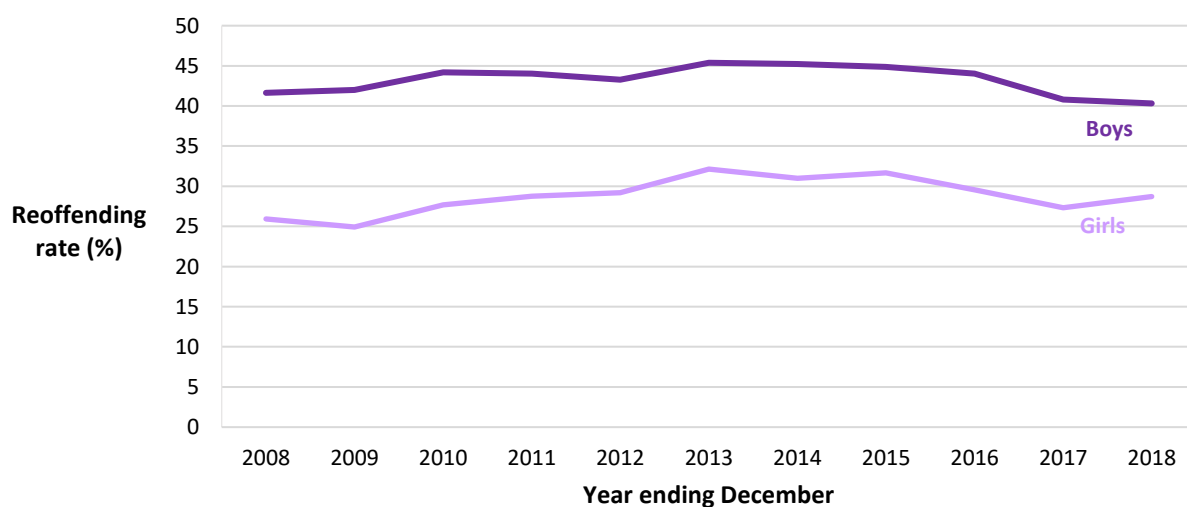
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.1

For the year ending December 2018 cohort, the reoffending rate for children and young people (the percentage of those in the cohort who reoffended), was 38.5%. As shown in Figure 9.2, while the reoffending rate remains slightly higher than it was ten years ago (37.7%), the rate has been decreasing since the year ending December 2013, with a smaller fall of 0.2 percentage points in the last year.

In the latest year, children and young people who reoffended committed an average of 3.95 reoffences each (frequency rate). The frequency rate had been steadily increasing every year since the year ending December 2012 until the latest year, when it fell by 2%, although it remains higher than ten years ago (3.06).

9.3 Reoffending by demographic characteristics of children

Figure 9.3: Reoffending rate for children and young people by sex, England and Wales, for those entering the cohort in the years ending December 2008 to 2018



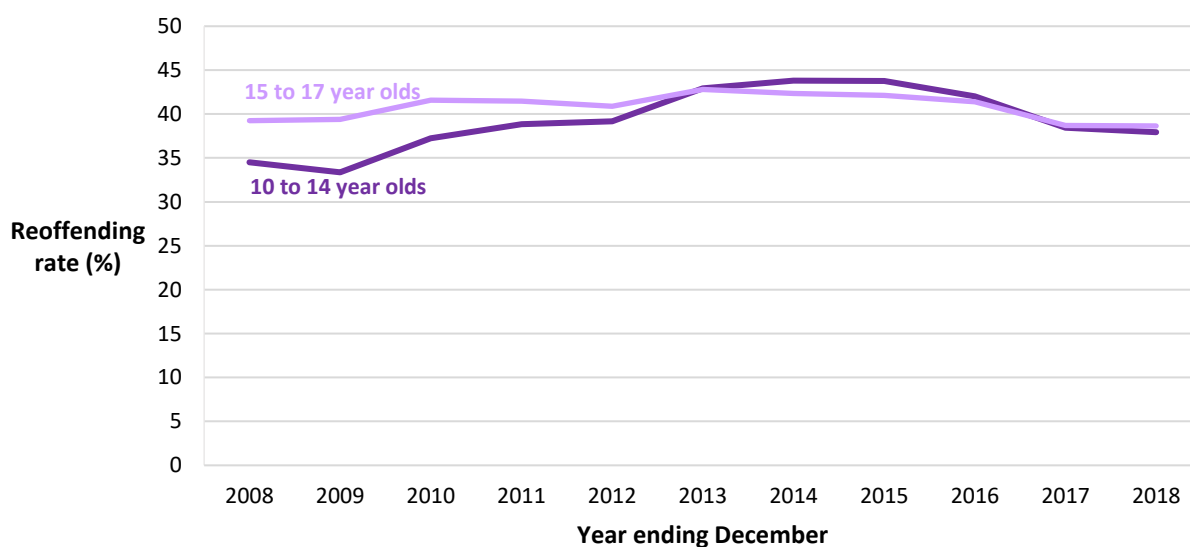
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.2

Boys have always made up the majority of the cohort, and the proportion they account for has been increasing over the last ten years, from 75% to 84% in the year ending December 2018 (Supplementary Table 9.2).

As shown in Figure 9.3, the reoffending rate for boys has been higher than for girls in each of the last ten years. In the latest year, the reoffending rate for boys was 40.3%, compared to 28.7% for girls. The reoffending rates for both sexes had followed a similar trend and had been decreasing each year since the year ending December 2015, until the latest year, when the reoffending rate for girls increased by 1.4 percentage points, whereas for boys it continued to fall (falling by 0.5 percentage points).

Supplementary Table 9.2 shows that the average number of reoffences per reoffender (frequency rate) fell for both sexes in the last year, the frequency rate continues to be higher for boys than girls (3.98 and 3.70 respectively).

Figure 9.4: Reoffending rate by age group¹⁴³, England and Wales, for children entering the cohort in the years ending December 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.3

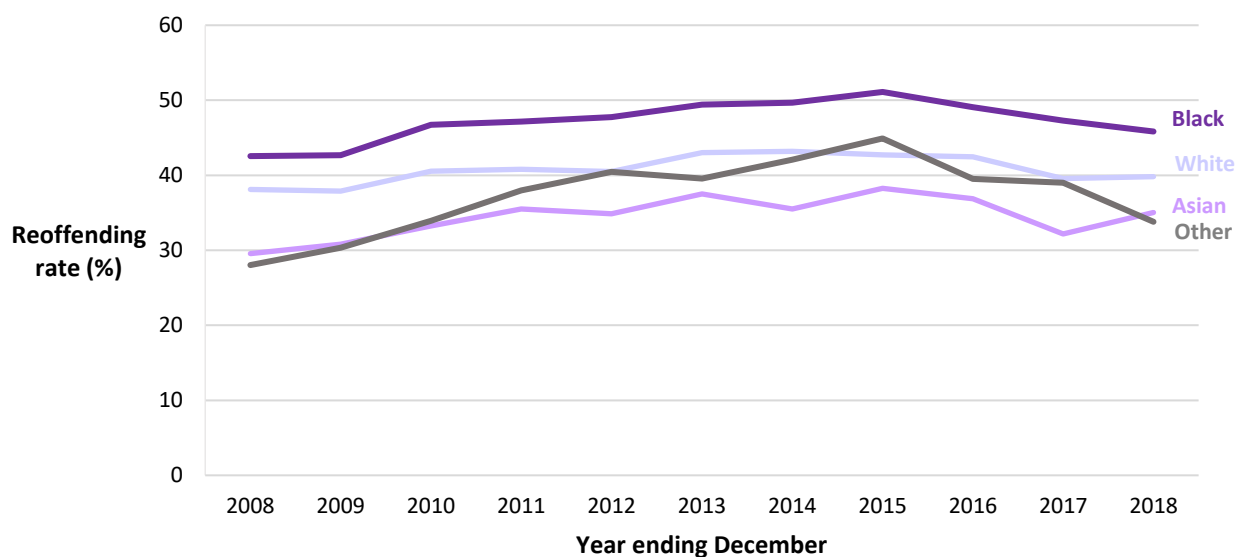
The majority of children who entered the aggregated cohort were aged 15-17, with the proportion increasing from 67% in the year ending December 2008 to 77% in the year ending December 2018 (Supplementary Table 9.3).

Historically, the reoffending rate for 15-17 year olds was higher than that for the younger age group (10-14 year olds). Then from the year ending December 2013, the difference between the two age groups was smaller, and the rate for the younger age group (10-14 year olds) subsequently overtook 15-17 year olds and remained higher for four years. However, the reoffending rate for the older age group has been slightly higher for the last two years. In the year ending December 2018, the reoffending rate for 15-17 year olds was 38.6%, compared to 37.9% for 10-14 year olds.

Supplementary Table 9.3 shows that since the year ending December 2011, 10-14 year olds who reoffended committed more reoffences on average than those aged 15-17 (4.23 and 3.87 respectively in the latest year), as has been the trend since the year ending March 2012 aggregated cohort.

¹⁴³ Someone who entered the cohort aged 17 and reoffended aged 18 will be included in the figures.

Figure 9.5: Reoffending rate for children and young people by ethnicity^{144,145}, England and Wales, for children entering the cohort in the years ending December 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.4

As shown in Figure 9.5, following broad increases since the year ending December 2008, there have been decreases in the reoffending rate across all ethnicities in more recent years, though in the latest year there was an increase for both White children and Asian children compared to the previous year.

The reoffending rate has consistently been highest for Black children over the last ten years. In the latest year, 45.8% of Black children reoffended, which is an increase of 3.3 percentage points compared with ten years ago, but a fall of 1.5 percentage points in the last year.

White children make up the majority of the offending cohort (76%). This ethnic group had the second highest reoffending rate in the year ending December 2018, at 39.8% and also saw an increase of 0.3 percentage points in the last year. In the latest year, children from White and Other ethnic backgrounds who went on to reoffend committed the highest number of reoffences on average (both 4.11) compared to children of Black and Asian ethnicities (Supplementary Table 9.4).

In the last year, the reoffending rate for children from an Asian background was 35.0%, an increase of 2.9 percentage points compared to the previous year. Prior to this, children from an Asian background had the lowest reoffending rate compared to other ethnic groups since the year ending December 2010.

Those from an Other ethnic background have made up a very small proportion of the offending cohort in each of the last ten years (1% or less). Having previously seen much lower reoffending rates, this ethnic group has seen the greatest increase since the year ending December 2008, increasing 5.8 percentage points to 33.8%, although it is also the ethnic group to see the greatest fall in the latest year (falling 5.2 percentage points). However, caution should be taken when using these figures due to the small cohort size.

¹⁴⁴ Ethnicity is police officer identified. There is not a 'Mixed' ethnicity group in officer identified ethnicities, so caution should be used if comparing with data using self-identified ethnicities.

¹⁴⁵ This figure is based on children for whom ethnicity is known. In the aggregated cohort for the year ending December 2018, ethnicity was unknown for 6% of children and young people who entered the cohort.

9.4 Reoffending by criminal history

As might be expected, the rate of reoffending increases with the number of previous offences committed. For the year ending December 2018 aggregated cohort, those with no previous offences had a reoffending rate of 20.8%, compared to 71.6% for those who had committed 11 or more previous offences (Supplementary Table 9.6).

Those who had committed no previous offences made up 43% of all children in the aggregated cohort but committed only 17% of all proven reoffences. Those with 11 or more previous offences made up only 12% of all children in the aggregated cohort but committed 32% of all proven reoffences.

The average number of previous offences per offender had been increasing between the years ending December 2008 and 2011, when the rate of increase slowed before levelling off. From the year ending December 2016, it started to increase again. In the latest year, there was an increase of 11%, to 4.13, which is the highest number of previous offences per offender in the last ten years (Supplementary Table 9.1).

9.5 Reoffending by index offence

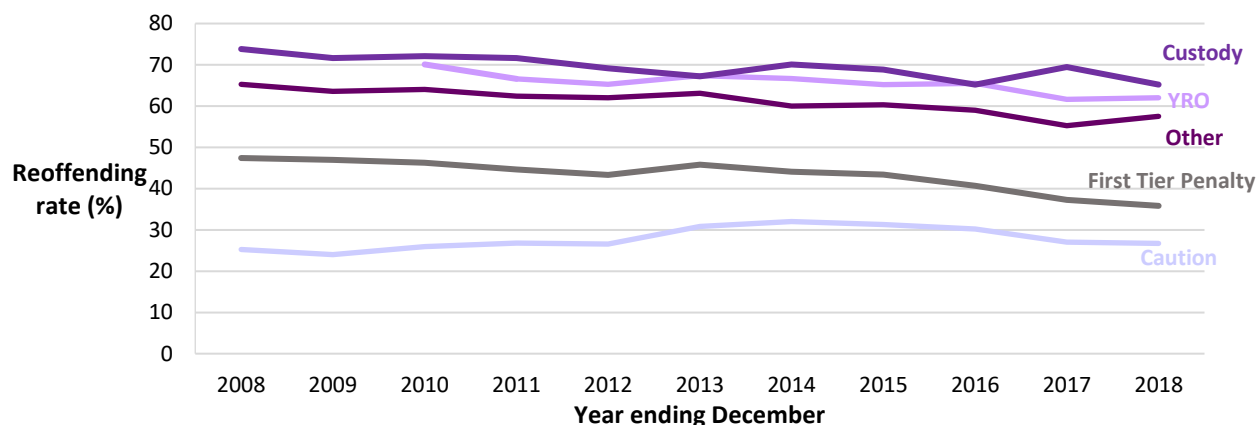
The offence that leads to an offender being included in the offender cohort is called the index offence. Supplementary Table 9.5 shows that for the year ending December 2018 cohort:

- Children who committed a Summary Non-Motoring offence as their index offence made up the largest proportion of all index offences committed by children, accounting for 32% of the cohort. Theft was the second largest index offence, at 18%. Their associated reoffending rates were 39.8% and 44.9%, respectively.
- Children with an index offence of Public Order had the highest reoffending rate, at 50.4%, as has been the trend since the year ending December 2014. This is followed by those who committed Fraud offences¹⁴⁶ (45.5%) and Theft offences (44.9%). In the latest year, Public Order index offences had the highest frequency rate in the latest year, at 4.93.
- Children who committed a Sexual Offence accounted for just 1% of the cohort and had the lowest reoffending rate (13.0%); this has been a fairly consistent trend over the last ten years.

¹⁴⁶ Children who committed a fraud offence as their index offence accounted for 2% of the cohort in the year ending December 2018.

9.6 Reoffending by index disposal

Figure 9.6: Reoffending rate for children by index disposal^{147,148}, England and Wales, for those entering the cohort in the years ending December 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.7

The index disposal is the caution or type of sentence the offender received for their index offence¹⁴⁹.

In the year ending December 2018 aggregated cohort, children who received a caution had the lowest reoffending rate (26.7%) of all index disposal types.

As shown in Figure 9.6, the reoffending rate remains highest for those released from custody (except for the years ending December 2013 and 2016 aggregated cohorts, when the rate was slightly higher for those who received a Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO)). For children released from custody in the year ending December 2018, 65.2% reoffended. However, this is the index disposal type to see the largest fall in reoffending rate in the last year, falling by 4.3 percentage points, which is the largest year-on-year decrease in the last ten years.

Supplementary Table 9.7 shows that the frequency rate for those given a custodial sentence has been the highest of all index disposals in each of the last five years¹⁵⁰. In the latest year, those given a custodial sentence for their index offence committed an average of 5.21 reoffences each.

For those whose index disposal was a custodial sentence, those who were given sentences of more than six months to less than 12 months had the highest reoffending rate (75.6%) in the latest year (Supplementary Table 9.8). This has varied over the last three years, with the reoffending rate for those given sentences of less than six months fluctuating with the reoffending rate for those given sentences of between six and 12 months. However, caution should be taken when using these figures due to the small cohort size.

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

¹⁴⁷ Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YROs) came into force on 20 November 2009.

¹⁴⁸ Not including Youth Community Sentences. Youth Community Sentences were replaced by the Youth Rehabilitation Order, but they continue to exist for offenders that committed an offence before the 30 November 2009. Data on this index disposal are available in Supplementary Table 9.7.

¹⁴⁹ The first proven offence within each disposal is treated as the start point for measuring proven reoffending. Therefore, some children and young people will appear in more than one disposal category.

¹⁵⁰ Of main index disposal categories. See Supplementary Table 9.7 for the full breakdown of index disposal types.

10. Criminal histories of children

In the year ending December 2019:

- Children cautioned or sentenced had an average of 1.9 previous cautions or sentences. This was a decrease from 2.1 from both ten years ago and the previous year.
- Just over half (52%) of children cautioned or sentenced had a criminal history, a decrease from 57% compared with the year ending December 2009 and from 54% compared to the previous year.
- Of the children cautioned or sentenced who had a criminal history of 15 or more previous cautions or sentences, 32% were sentenced to immediate custody compared to just 2% for those with no previous criminal history.

Description: Number of previous cautions and sentences of children aged 10-17.

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

Source: Ministry of Justice extract of the Police National Computer

Time period covered: Years ending December 2009 to 2019¹⁵¹

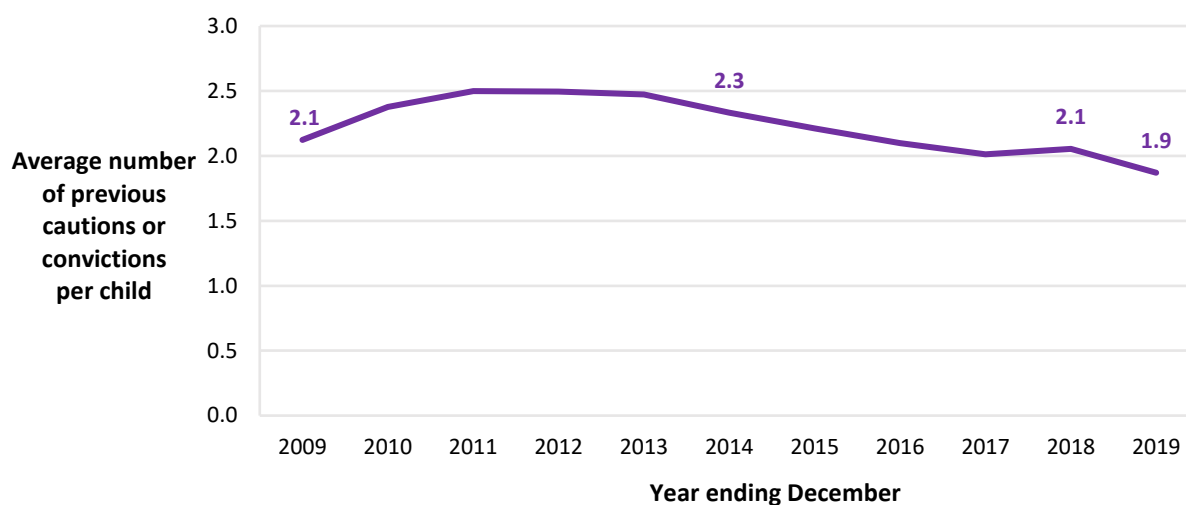
Supplementary Tables: Ch 10 – Criminal histories of children

More information: [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#), [Chapter 2 - First time Entrants to the Youth Justice System](#), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

¹⁵¹ The Criminal History figures for the year ending March 2020 will be published by MoJ in early 2021. These statistics were delayed due to the late delivery of data and limited access to the PNC, to minimise non-essential travel by MoJ analysts during the COVID-19 pandemic. A revised release date will be announced in due course.

10.1 Criminal histories of children in the Youth Justice System

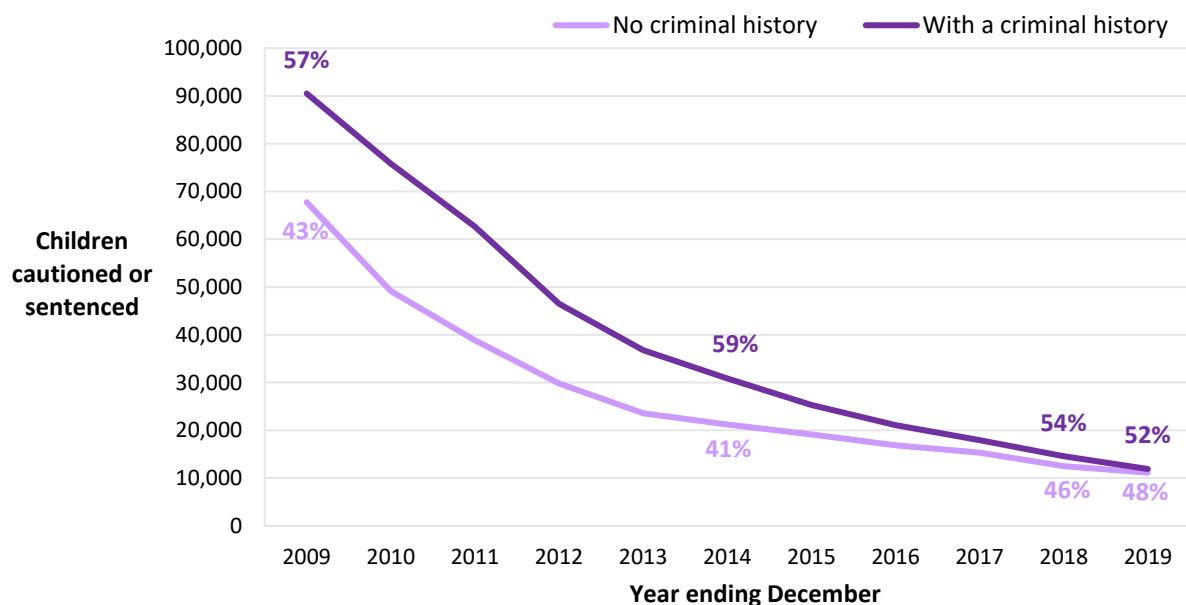
Figure 10.1: Average number of previous cautions or sentences of children cautioned or sentenced for any offence, England and Wales, years ending December 2009 to 2019



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.1

The overall trend in the average number of previous cautions or sentences increased from 2.1 per child in the year ending December 2009 to a peak of 2.5 in the year ending December 2011. Levels then remained fairly stable until the steady decline seen since the year ending December 2014, to 1.9 in the latest year, the lowest in the last ten years.

Figure 10.2: Number and proportion of children cautioned or sentenced with no criminal history compared with those with a criminal history, England and Wales, years ending December 2009 to 2019



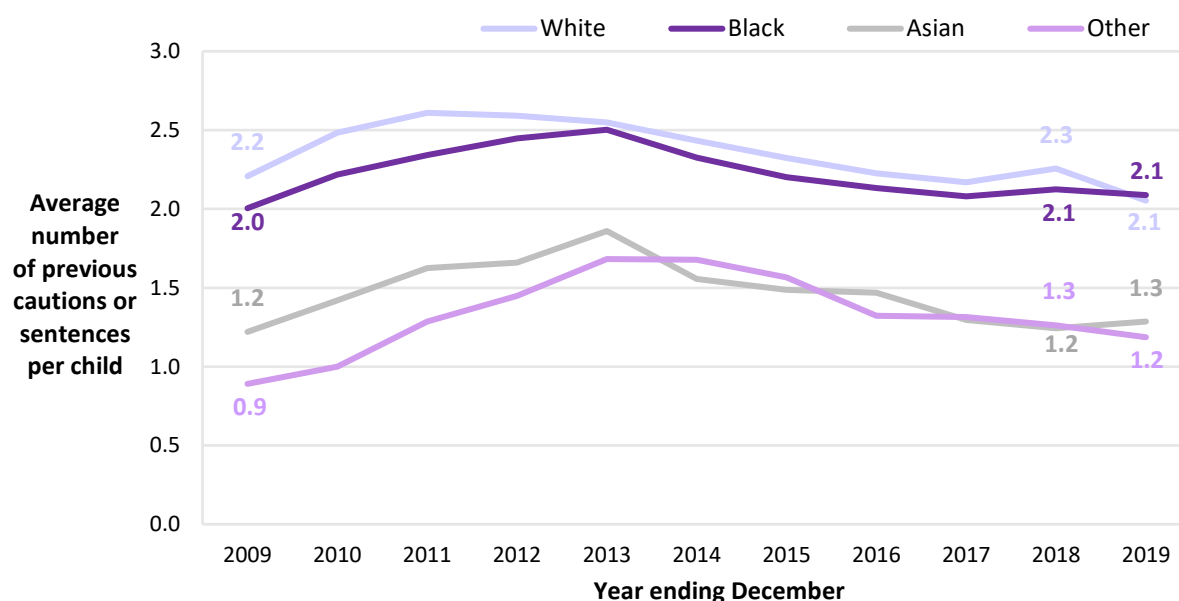
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.2

The number of children cautioned or sentenced with a criminal history was around 11,900 in the year ending December 2019. This has decreased by 87% since the year ending December 2009 when the figure was just over 90,500.

The proportion of children cautioned or sentenced with a criminal history has been higher than the proportion with no criminal history in each of the last ten years, however the difference is much smaller in the latest year. In the year ending December 2009, the proportion with a criminal history was 57%. This proportion gradually increased over the next three years to a peak of 62% in the year ending December 2011 before gradual year-on-year decreases brought it back down to 52% in the year ending December 2019.

10.2 Criminal histories of children by ethnicity

Figure 10.3: Average number of previous cautions or sentences of children cautioned or sentenced for any offence by ethnicity^{152,153}, England and Wales, years ending December 2009 to 2019



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.1

Figure 10.3 shows that the average number of previous cautions or sentences for children varied by ethnicity. In the year ending December 2019, for the first time in the last ten years, Black children had a greater average number of previous cautions or sentences than other ethnicities with 2.1. This is slightly higher than the average number of previous cautions or sentences for White children, who had previously had the highest number in each of the previous ten years.

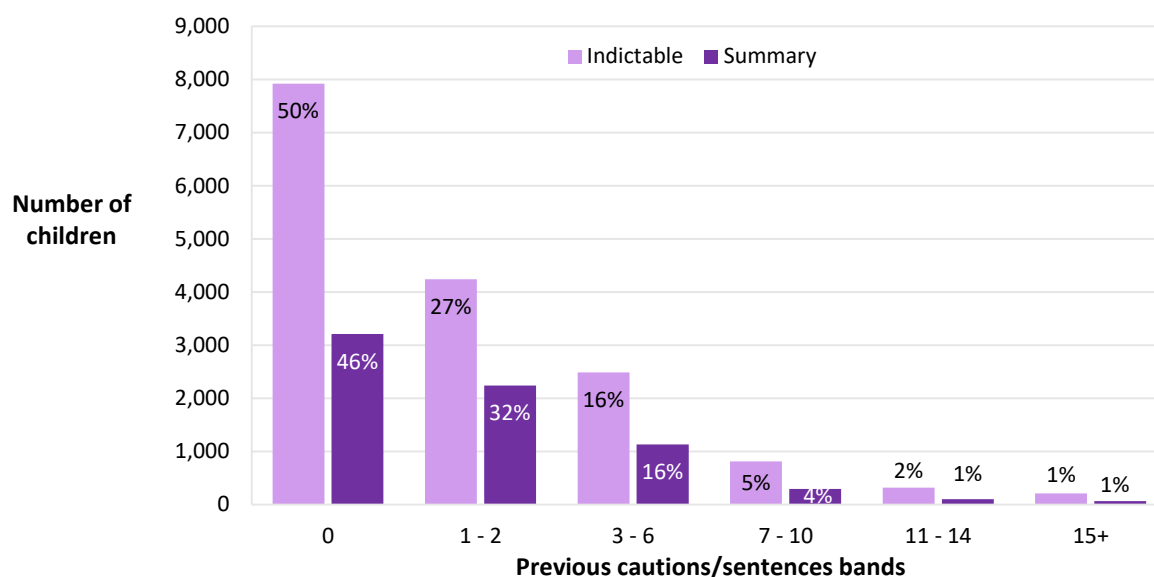
With the exception of the latest year, Black children had a similar but marginally lower number of previous cautions or sentences as White children over the last ten years, while those from an Asian or Other background had lower levels of previous cautions or sentences, with 1.3 and 1.2 respectively in the year ending December 2019.

¹⁵² Figures are based on where ethnicity is known. In the year ending December 2019, the ethnicity was unknown for 7% of children cautioned or sentenced.

¹⁵³ Based on officer identified ethnicity as opposed to self-identified ethnicity. There is not a 'Mixed' ethnicity group in officer identified ethnicities, so caution should be used if comparing with data using self-identified ethnicities.

10.3 Criminal histories of children – indictable and summary offences¹⁵⁴

Figure 10.4: Number and proportion of children cautioned or sentenced for summary and indictable offences by number of previous cautions and sentences, England and Wales, year ending December 2019



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.3

Supplementary Table 10.3 shows that while there were under half as many summary offences as indictable offences (around 7,100 summary offences compared to almost 16,000 indictable offences), the offending histories are quite similar despite indictable offences being more serious, with 54% of children cautioned or sentenced for summary offences having a previous caution or sentence compared to 50% for indictable offences.

Figure 10.5: Proportion¹⁵⁵ of children cautioned or sentenced with no criminal history compared to those with 15+ previous cautions or sentences by type of disposal, England and Wales, year ending December 2019

Disposal type	Number of cautions and sentences	Caution	Absolute discharge	Conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Immediate custody	Other
No criminal history	11,136	54%	0%	3%	1%	38%	2%	2%
15+ cautions/sentences	280	1%	4%	19%	4%	32%	32%	9%

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.3

For children cautioned or sentenced with a criminal history of 15 or more previous cautions or sentences, the majority were sentenced to either immediate custody or to a community sentence (both 32%). For those with no previous cautions or sentences, the majority received either a caution (54%) or a community sentence (38%).

¹⁵⁴ Criminal offences are divided into three main offence groups; Indictable; Summary Non-Motoring; and Summary Motoring. In this chapter, Summary Motoring offences and summary Non-Motoring offences are grouped together. Please refer to the [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for further details of these offence groups.

¹⁵⁵ Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

11. Comparisons with the adult system

In the year ending December 2019:

- There were around 104,400 first time entrants (FTEs) to the Criminal Justice System, of which 11% were children (aged 10-17). There have been year-on-year decreases for both child and adult (18+) FTEs over the last ten years, with the number of child FTEs decreasing by 84% in this time, compared to a 52% decrease for adults.

In the year ending March 2020:

- Of all Knife and Offensive Weapon offences committed in the year ending March 2020, 21% were committed by children. The number of offences involving a knife or offensive weapon committed by children fell by 1% in the last year, and by 3% for adults (18+).

For the 30th June 2020 snapshot:

- The overall custodial population was at its lowest level in the last ten years¹⁵⁶. Children accounted for 1% of the overall custody population.

For the year ending December 2018 reoffending cohort:

- Children and young people¹⁵⁷ had the highest reoffending rate of the age groups at 38.5%, compared to 27.5% for young adults (aged 18-20) and 28.0% for adults (aged 21 and over).

Description: A comparison between children aged 10-17, young adults aged 18-20 (where available) and adults (aged 21+) in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales. Where different age groups have been used, these have been specified. Any comparisons between the age groups should be treated with caution, due to differences in the youth and adult justice systems.

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

Time period covered: Years ending March 2010 to 2020 (Arrests, people sentenced, and offences involving a knife or offensive weapon)
Years ending December 2009 to 2019 (First time entrants)¹⁵⁸
Years ending December 2008 to 2018 (Reoffending)¹⁵⁸
30th June snapshot between 2010 and 2020 (Custody population)

Supplementary Tables: Ch 11 – Comparisons with the adult system

¹⁵⁶ This time period covers the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is apparent in the fall in the prison population in the latest year. Much of this recent fall can be attributed to a drop in cases being dealt with by the courts.

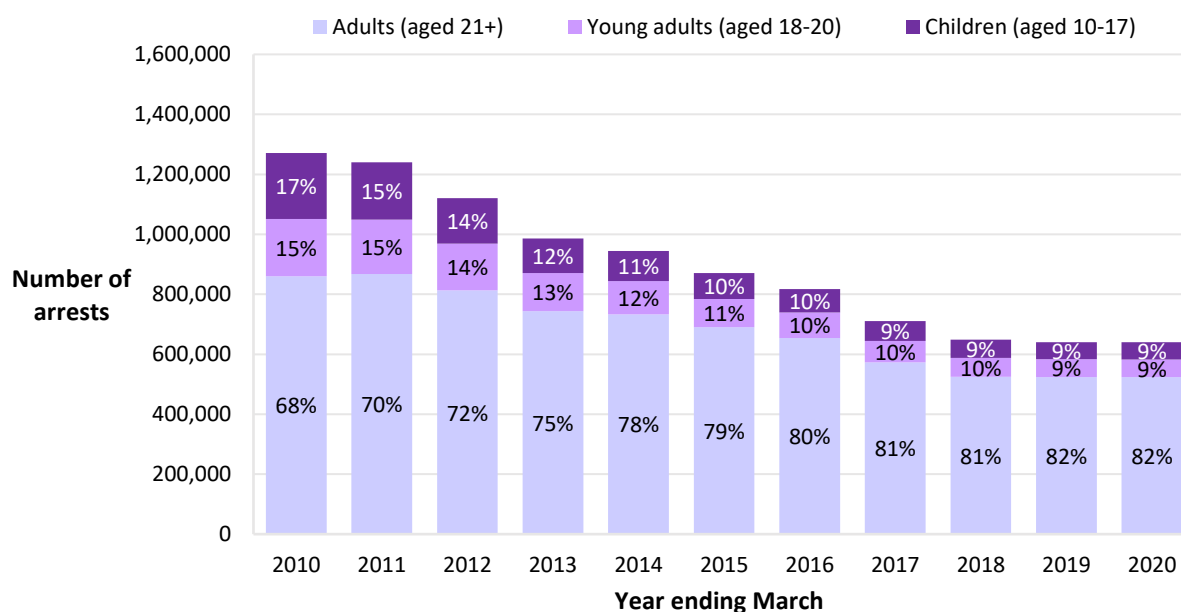
¹⁵⁷ Someone who entered the cohort aged 17 who reoffended aged 18 will be included in the figures.

¹⁵⁸ The Criminal History figures for the year ending March 2020 and the Proven Reoffending figures for the year ending March 2019 will be published by MoJ in early 2021. These statistics were delayed due to the late delivery of data and limited access to the PNC, to minimise non-essential travel by MoJ analysts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Revised release dates will be announced in due course.

More information: [Police powers and procedures](#), [Proven reoffending statistics](#), [Offender Management Statistics](#) (more up to date data available), [Prison Population Statistics](#), (more up to date data available), [Criminal Justice Statistics](#), [Knife and offensive weapon sentencing statistics](#) (more up to date data available), [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#)

11.1 Arrests by age group

Figure 11.1: Number and proportion of arrests by age group, England and Wales¹⁵⁹, years ending March 2010 to 2020¹⁶⁰



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.1

There were around 640,000 arrests across all age groups in the year ending March 2020 for the Police Forces included³, which is a 50% decrease compared with over 1.27 million arrests in the year ending March 2010 and is broadly similar to the number of arrests in the previous year (just under 640,900).

The overall number of arrests has generally been decreasing over the last ten years for all age groups, though in the latest year both children (10-17 year olds) and adults (aged 21+) have seen very small increases in arrests (1% or less). The number of arrests of young adults (aged 18-20) has continued to decrease, falling 2% in the last year.

As the volumes of arrests have decreased at different rates across the three age groups, the proportions have changed over the course of the decade. Children accounted for 9% of overall arrests in the year ending March 2020, compared to 17% ten years previously. In the same period, the proportion of young adults arrested has seen the smallest change in share, decreasing from 15% to 9%, while the proportion of adults arrested has increased from 68% to 82%. The proportions have

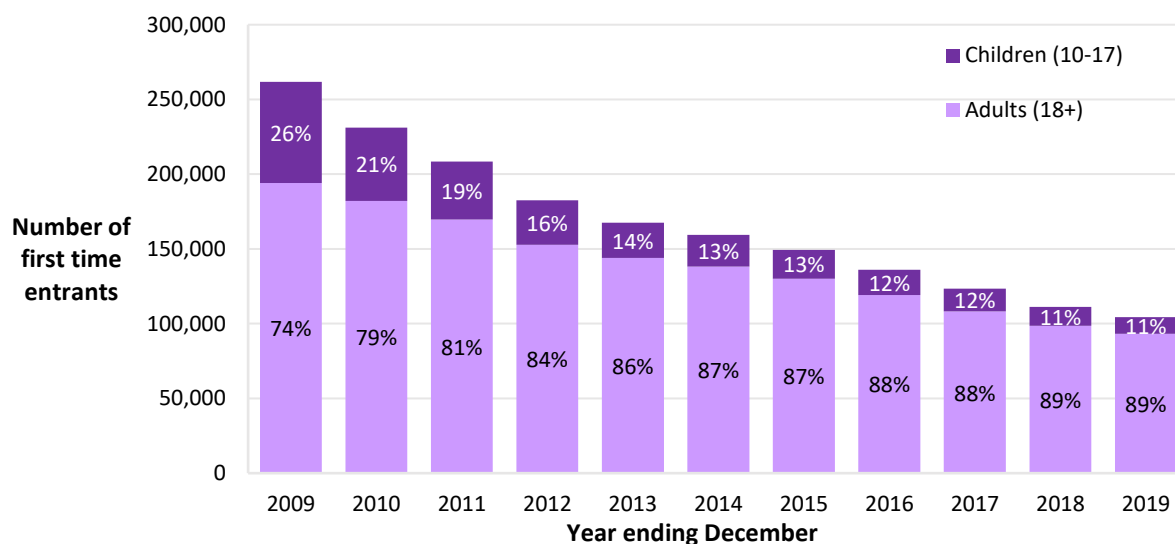
¹⁵⁹ Lancashire Police could not supply data for the years ending March 2017 to 2020 (for reference, in the year ending March 2016 Lancashire represented 4% of all arrests of 10-17 year olds). Greater Manchester Police could not supply data for the year ending March 2020 (in the year ending March 2019 Greater Manchester Police represented 5% of all arrests of 10-17 year olds). Data have been removed for these forces for all years so valid comparisons can be made.

¹⁶⁰ Proportions may not sum due to rounding.

remained fairly stable over the last four years, with children accounting for 9% of all arrests in each of those years.

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

Figure 11.2: Number and proportion of first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System by age group, England and Wales, years ending December 2009 to 2019

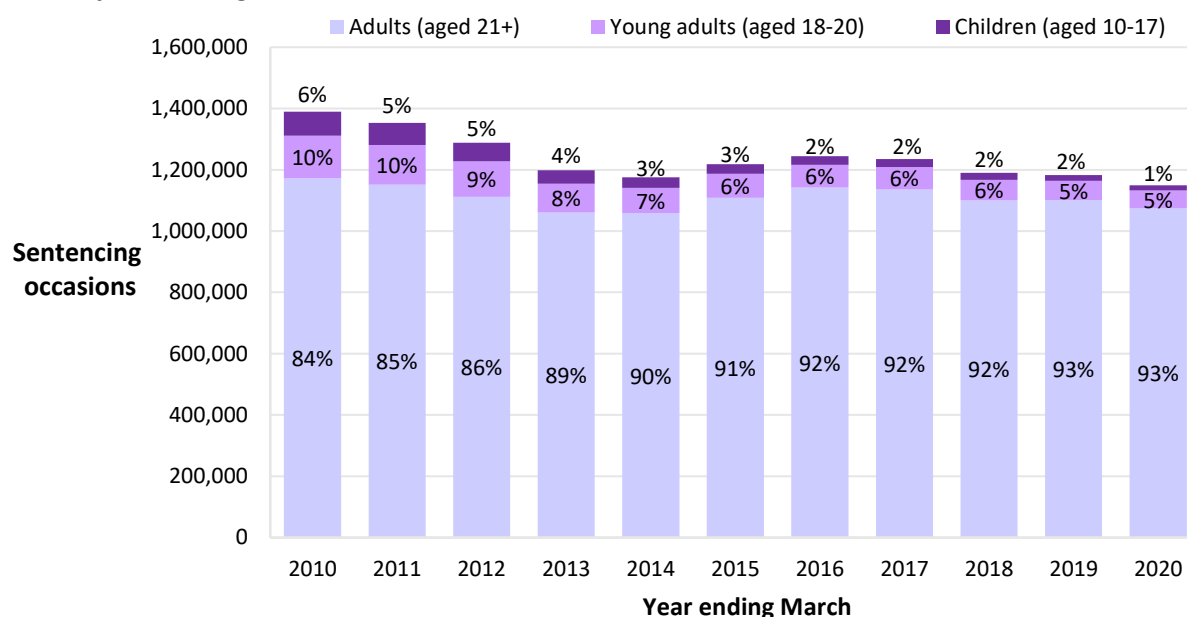


Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.2

In the year ending December 2019, there were around 104,400 first time entrants (FTEs) to the Criminal Justice System, of which 11% were children (aged 10-17). There have been year-on-year decreases for both child and adult (18+) FTEs over the last ten years, with the number of child FTEs decreasing by 84% in this time, compared to a 52% decrease for adults. This has led to a change in the composition of the overall number of FTEs, with those aged 10-17 accounting for a smaller proportion of the total in the latest year at 11%, compared to 26% in the year ending December 2009.

11.3 People sentenced at court by age group

Figure 11.3: Number and proportion of sentencing occasions of people by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.4

In the year ending March 2020, there were around 1.15 million court sentencing occasions. Of these, just under 16,900 (1%) were for children.

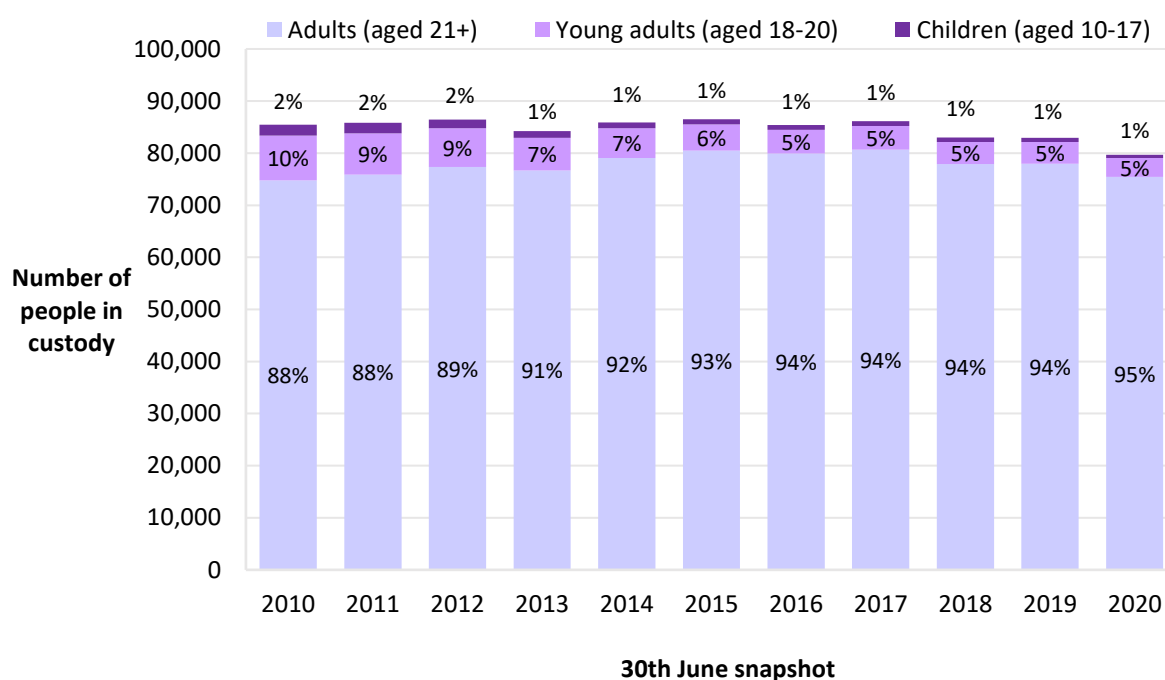
While the overall number of sentencing occasions has reduced by 17% from around 1.4 million in the year ending March 2010, the three age groups have fallen at different rates:

- The number of occasions when children (aged 10-17) were sentenced reduced by 78%;
- The number of occasions when young adults (aged 18-20) were sentenced reduced by 58%; and
- The number of occasions when adults (aged 21+) were sentenced reduced by 8% in the same period.

Of the total sentencing occasions in the year ending March 2020, 74% involved fines given to adults (aged 21+) (Supplementary Table 11.4).

11.4 Custody population by age group^{161,162}

Figure 11.4: Number and proportion of people in custody by age group, England and Wales, 30th June 2010 to 2020



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.8

On the 30th June 2020 there were around 79,700 people in custody. Children accounted for 1% (around 600) of the custodial population while young adults (aged 18-20) accounted for 5% (around 3,600) and adults (aged 21+) accounted for 95% (around 75,500)¹⁶³.

These proportions have remained relatively stable over the last five years. The overall custodial population and the custodial population for both children and young adults are at their lowest levels seen at any time in the last ten years, whilst the adult population is broadly similar to levels seen in 2010.

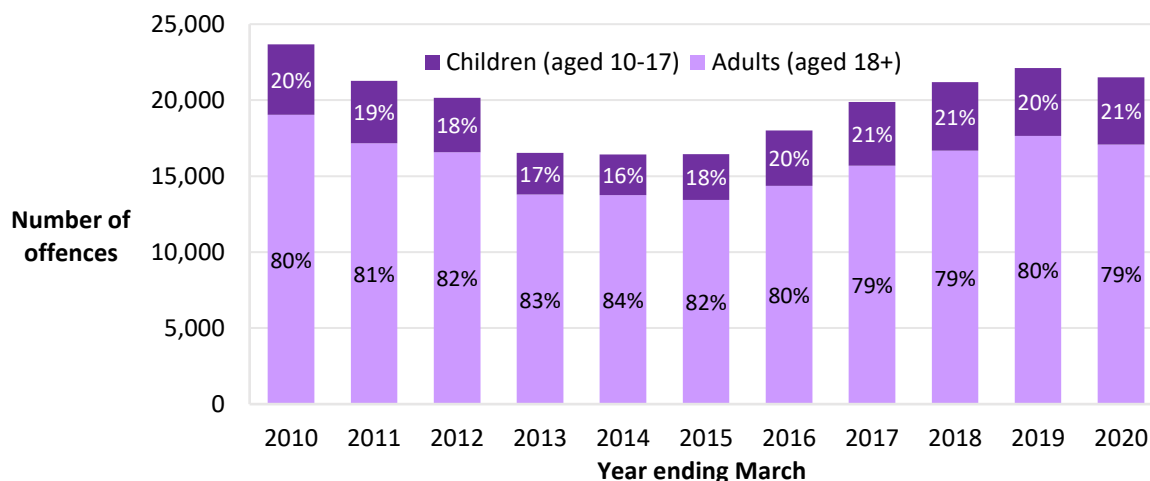
¹⁶¹ In this section, the snapshot date for the custodial population across all age groups is 30th June. This differs to Chapter 7 of this publication, where for the year ending March 2020, figures are a monthly snapshot of the custodial population, taken on the last day of the month. Prior to this, figures are a monthly snapshot of the custodial population, taken on the nearest Friday to the last day of the month.

¹⁶² This time period covers the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is apparent in the fall in the prison population in the latest year. Much of this recent fall can be attributed to a drop in cases being dealt with by the courts.

¹⁶³ Proportions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

11.5 Knife and Offensive Weapon offences resulting in a caution or sentence by age group

Figure 11.5: Number and proportion of Knife and Offensive Weapon offences resulting in a caution or sentence, by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



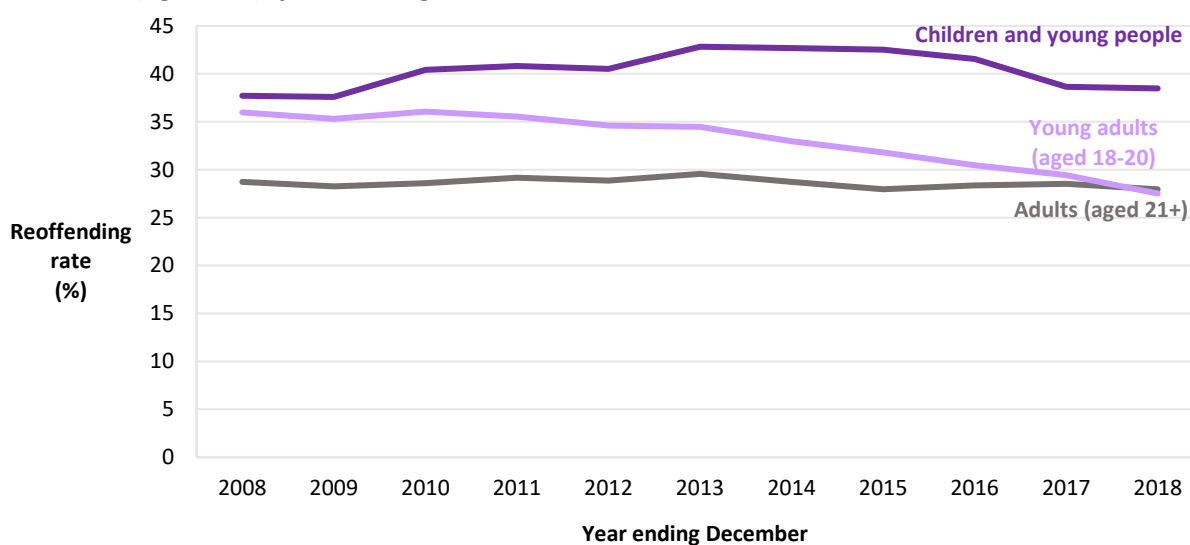
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.12

As shown in Figure 11.5, the overall number of Knife and Offensive Weapon offences resulting in a caution or sentence had been increasing since the year ending March 2015, until the latest year when it fell by 3%. In the latest year, children were involved in around 4,400 offences of this type, a fall of 1% from the previous year. Adults received around 17,100 cautions or sentences for these type of offences, a decrease of 3% from the previous year.

In the latest year, children committed 21% of these offences, a similar proportion to both the previous year and ten years ago.

11.6 Reoffending

Figure 11.6: Annual reoffending rates for children and young people, young adults (aged 18-20) and adults (aged 21+), years ending December 2008 to 2018



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.7

For the aggregated cohort in the year ending December 2018, children and young people had the highest reoffending rate of the age groups, at 38.5% compared to 27.5% for young adults (aged 18-20) and 28.0% for adults (aged 21+).

Figure 11.6 shows that the reoffending rates of children and young people and young adults have been diverging over the last ten years. For the year ending December 2008 cohorts there was a difference of 1.7 percentage points between the reoffending rate for the two groups, compared to 11 percentage points for the year ending December 2018 cohorts.

The reoffending rate for young adults has followed a general downward trend over the last ten years and is now the lowest reoffending rate of the three age groups, falling below the rate for adults for the first time in the ten year period. The reoffending rate for children and young people had been generally increasing from the years ending December 2009 to 2015, when it began to fall, with year-on-year decreases since the year ending December 2016.

The adult reoffending rate has remained broadly stable since the year ending December 2008, from year to year varying by no more than 0.9 percentage points in the ten year period.

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

As shown in the Office for National Statistics [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) (CSEW), there were an estimated 5.7 million instances of crime against households and resident adults (counted here as those aged 16 and over) in England and Wales for the year ending March 2020¹⁶⁴. The CSEW, as reported here was largely unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the time period covered¹⁶⁵.

Crime covered by the CSEW increased steadily from the 1981 survey, before peaking in 1995. Since 1995 there have been long-term falls in crime estimates with some year-to-year fluctuations. The level of crime has been broadly stable in recent years, however, the latest figures are a significant decrease on the previous year.

Figure A.1: Offences experienced by children aged 10-15, Crime Survey for England and Wales, years ending March 2015 to 2020^{166,167,168}

Measure	Year ending March					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Estimated number of incidents (thousands)	804	1,007	795	757	841	600
Estimated percentage who were victims of one incident or more	12%	13%	11%	10%	11%	7%
Estimated percentage who were a victim of a violent offence	5%	6%	6%	4%	5%	3%
Estimated percentage who were a victim of a theft offence	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%	3%
Number of children aged 10-15 surveyed	2,374	2,804	3,062	3,008	2,850	2,398

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, ONS

Figure A.1 shows that an estimated 7% of 10-15 year olds were victims of crime in the year ending March 2020¹⁶⁹.

Of the estimated 600,000 crimes experienced by 10-15 year olds in the year ending March 2020, Table A9a in the appendix tables for the CSEW shows that:

- 50% were categorised as violent offences.
 - Of these offences, 42% were categorised as wounding, 47% were violence with minor injury and 11% were violence without injury.

¹⁶⁴ Excluding statistics on fraud and computer misuse.

¹⁶⁵ The expected impact of COVID-19 on crime from April 2020 and planned changes to the Crime Survey will affect subsequent publications. As a result, it will not be possible to determine whether changes in levels of crime observed this year would have continued in their current direction.

¹⁶⁶ Two methods for classifying incidents recorded in the survey have been used – ‘preferred’ and ‘broad’. The analysis provided here uses the ‘preferred’ measure. See Annex A in [Guide to Youth Justice Statistics](#) for more information.

¹⁶⁷ Given the small sample size for the 10-15 year old element of the CSEW, estimates can fluctuate over time and as a result, trends can be difficult to interpret.

¹⁶⁸ Following a methodological change to the handling of repeat victimisation in the CSEW, these data are not comparable with data published before April 2019. For more information see [Improving victimisation estimates derived from the Crime Survey for England and Wales](#).

¹⁶⁹ The CSEW does not cover homicides. There were 68 police recorded homicides for victims under 16 in the year ending March 2019. Homicide in England and Wales: year ending March 2020 has yet to be published.

- 33% were Theft offences¹⁷⁰;
- 11% were Criminal Damage to personal property;
- 6% were Robbery offences.

Overall incidents of crime experienced by 10-15 year olds in the year ending March 2020 have almost halved (49%) since March 2010, with statistically significant falls in overall violence and theft, despite some year-to-year fluctuations¹⁷¹. Compared to the previous year, overall crime decreased statistically significantly by 29% in the year ending March 2020. There were statistically significant decreases in incidents of bicycle theft and violence without injury, following peaks the previous year, as well as in incidents of assault with minor injury. Incidents of wounding saw a non-significant increase on the previous year.

The proportion of children who experienced victimisation varied by demographic and household characteristics¹⁷²:

- Amongst 10-15 year olds, 13 and 14 year olds had the highest rates of victimisation (9% and 7% respectively).
- 9% of boys compared to 4% of girls experienced victimisation.
- 7% of White children experienced victimisation compared to 6% of Mixed ethnicity children, 5% of children of Other ethnicity, 4% of Black children and 3% of Asian children¹⁷³.
- 12% of children with a long-standing illness or disability experienced victimisation compared to 6% of those with no long-standing illness or disability.
- The proportion of children who experienced victimisation was higher¹⁷⁴ amongst those who lived in single adult households, for those who lived in rented social housing, and for those who lived in rural areas.

¹⁷⁰ For the children's survey, property offences are restricted to personal level crimes only. See the [User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#) for more information.

¹⁷¹ Statistically significant change in the incidents of crime over time is indicated by an asterisk in Table A9a of the [Crime in England and Wales: Appendix Tables](#).

¹⁷² For a further breakdown, see Table D5 and D6 of the [Crime in England and Wales: Annual Trend and Demographic Tables](#).

¹⁷³ These ethnic disparities may differ for homicide compared to victimisation captured by the CSEW. [Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System 2018](#) reported that between 2015/16 to 2017/18 "Black children appear to be disproportionately at risk of homicide compared to children from other ethnicities".

¹⁷⁴ The statistical significance of these differences has not been tested so they should be interpreted with caution.

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

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

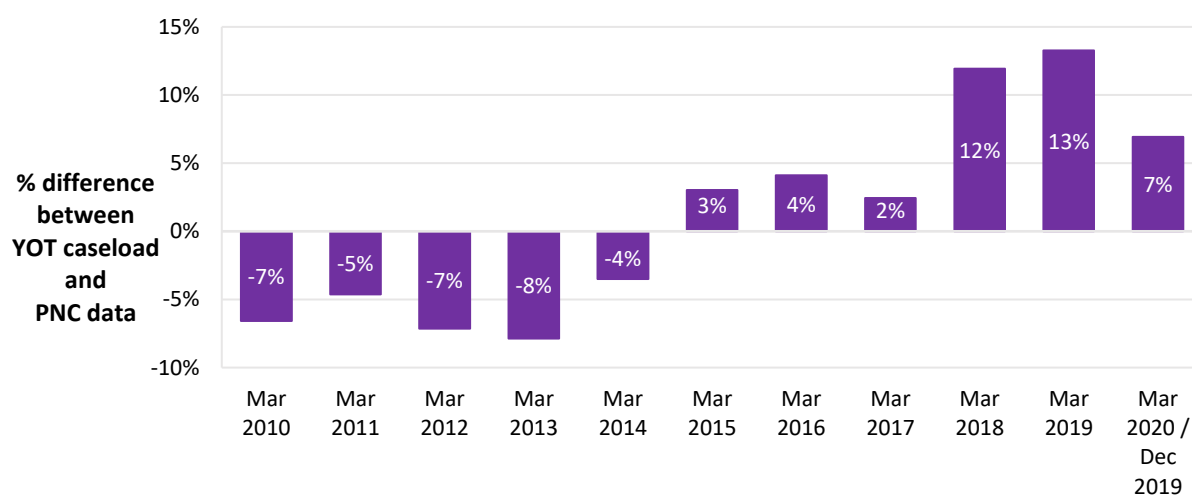
Data from the PNC in this year is based on January to December 2019. The Criminal History figures for the year ending March 2020 will be published by MoJ in early 2021. These statistics were delayed due to the late delivery of data and limited access to the PNC, to minimise non-essential travel by MoJ analysts during the COVID-19 pandemic. A revised release date will be announced in due course.

Figure B.1: Comparison of YOT caseload with PNC data, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to December 2019 (PNC data) and March 2020 (YOT caseload data)

	Year ending										
	Mar 2010	Mar 2011	Mar 2012	Mar 2013	Mar 2014	Mar 2015	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	Mar 2020/ Dec 2019
YOT caseload	106,969	85,300	66,430	49,222	41,569	37,946	32,949	28,352	26,681	22,038	19,026
PNC	114,505	89,429	71,546	53,424	43,079	36,831	31,645	27,678	23,839	19,455	17,792

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

Figure B.2: Percentage difference between YOT caseload and PNC data, England and Wales, years ending March 2010 to 2020



The YOT caseload for the year ending March 2020 was 7% higher than the PNC data in the year ending December 2019.

In the year ending March 2020, for the sixth consecutive year, the number of children receiving a caution or sentenced as recorded by YOTs was higher than that recorded on the PNC (for the year ending December 2019). In the year ending March 2020, there were around 1,200 more children on the YOT caseload than on the PNC (for the year ending December 2019). Reasons why the YOT caseload may be higher than the PNC include:

- 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 who received a caution or sentence in one YOT then transfer to another YOT and receive another caution or sentence in the same period.
- The YOT data includes some offences that are not on the PNC including certain motoring offences and other offences prosecuted by other agencies.

Further information

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

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

Accompanying files

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

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

A set of additional annexes.

An Infographic.

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

A set of open explorable data.

A set of maps showing local level data.

National Statistics status

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



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

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

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General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from:

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk

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