



Ministry  
of Justice

# **National Offender Management Service Offender Equalities Annual Report**

**2015/16**

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics Bulletin

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# Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Release Schedule .....	4
<b>Summary</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Commentary</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>1. Prison Population</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>2. Transgender Prisoners</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>3. Deaths in Prison</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>4. Self-harm</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>5. Assaults</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>6. Absconds</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>7. Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL)</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>8. Temporary Release Failures</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>9. Adjudications</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>10. Incentives and Earned Privileges</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>11. Offenders in the Community</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>12. Deaths in the Community</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>13. Order and Licence Completions</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>14. Home Detention Curfew</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>15. Electronic Monitoring</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<b>16. Reoffending</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>Users and uses of these Statistics</b> .....	<b>44</b>
<b>Other Information</b> .....	<b>45</b>
<b>Contact points</b> .....	<b>46</b>

## Introduction

This is the 2015/16 issue of the annual National Offender Management Service Offender Equalities statistics publication. The equality objectives are stated, along with progress and achievements, in the NOMS Annual Report and Accounts 2015/16:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/noms-annual-report-and-accounts-2015-2016](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/noms-annual-report-and-accounts-2015-2016)

NOMS staff equalities statistics for 2015/16 will be published a separate report and is due for publication on 24 November 2016. This publication includes data for all civil servants employed by NOMS.

The report, [Women and the criminal justice system statistics 2015](#) provides an account of how women are represented in the criminal justice system and will also be published on 24 November 2016.

A large amount of information on offender equalities is already published within other statistical publications. The contents relate to the tables within the publications listed below:

The Offender Management Statistics Quarterly

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly) and the Safety in Custody Statistics Bulletin [www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics) including offender equalities tables for calendar year 2015.

A set of Supplementary tables are included alongside this publication, organised by topic area. A Glossary of terms and definitions and a Technical Guide also accompany this report.

In previous years, a number of other tables were also published within the Annual Offender Equalities Report. The data for these areas (including information on disability, accredited programmes, complaints and the number of segregation days) are not yet considered to be of sufficient quality to allow them to be published and will resume once they are.

The Equality Act 2010 lists nine Protected Characteristics:

Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Disability, Sexual Orientation, Religion or Belief, Gender Reassignment, Marriage/Civil Partnership, and Pregnancy/Maternity.

This report focuses on those protected characteristics where data are collected, and are of sufficient quality for statistics to be meaningful. In general, this report is limited to analysis on gender, age, ethnicity and religious belief for these reasons. Where data are available for other protected characteristics at sufficient quality and with sufficient coverage to be meaningful, they are also presented and considered.

The report presents some analysis by individual characteristic and is meant to serve as a guide for further research. In many cases, more than one factor (e.g. age and another protected characteristic, criminal history, socio-economic) may have an effect on an outcome.

## **Release Schedule**

This publication is produced on an annual basis to reflect the most appropriate frequency given the nature of the data included within the tables. This bulletin was published on 24 November 2016 for the financial year 2015/16. The NOMS Offender Equalities Report 2016/17 is due to be published on 30 November 2017.

# Summary

## Gender

- Males account for the vast majority of the prison population. At 31 March 2016, 95.5% (81,615) of the prison population was male.
- Males represented 85.2% of supervised offenders on Community orders and Suspended sentence orders at December 2015.
- The number of female prisoners has fallen for many years and in 2016 was 12.9% lower than in 2002.
- At 31 December, 2015, there were 16,696 female offenders or 14.8% in the community<sup>1</sup>. This has remained at a similar level for the last five years.
- In 2015, 249 males died whilst in custody, while 8 females died whilst in custody. Comparing 2007 with 2015, the rates of deaths per 1,000 prisoners have increased for both males and females.
- There were 725 deaths of offenders in the community<sup>2</sup> in the 2015/16 financial year. Of these, 636 deaths were male while 89 deaths were female.
- Females represented 4.5% of prisoners, but 12.2% of individuals who self-harmed in the 12 months to December 2015. The rate of self-harm individuals per 1,000 prisoners is substantially higher for females (297 per 1,000 female prisoners) than for males (102 per 1,000 male prisoners). For males, both the number of individuals and the rate of self-harm has increased each year from 2010.
- In 2015/16, the vast majority of absconds were by male prisoners (96.2% of all absconds) reflecting the fact that males make up the bulk of the prison population.
- Female prisoners were nearly twice as likely as males to have at least one instance of Release on Temporary Licence in 2015 (15.8% of females compared with 7.5% of males).
- The rate of proven adjudications per 100 prisoners was higher for women (148) than for men (118) in 2015. Rates for both men and women have seen an increase since 2011, but the rise has been more marked for women, increasing by 34.2% from 111 in 2011 to 148 in 2015.

## Age

- There has been a change in the age profile of prisoners. Between 2011 and 2016, the number of young prisoners (aged 15 to 24) went down by 30.9%. Over the same time period, there has been a 42.9% increase in the number of prisoners aged 50 or more.

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<sup>1</sup> On Community orders and Suspended sentence orders.

<sup>2</sup> Deaths in the community include those serving Community Orders, Suspended sentence orders and on post-release supervision after completion of a custodial sentence.

- The proportion of offenders in the community<sup>3</sup> aged 18-24 has fallen from 34.0% (46,003) in 2010 to 26.6% (30,066) in 2015. There have been corresponding increases in the proportion of offenders aged 30 or over. In particular, the proportion aged 50 or over has gone up from 6.2% (8,414) in 2010 to 9.1% (10,272) in 2015.
- Those aged 60 and over had the highest rate of successful orders and licence completions (94.4%).
- In 2015, 35.0% or 90 deaths in custody were of prisoners aged 60 or over, a rate of 21.7 per 1,000 prisoners. This rate has been fairly constant from 2007 to 2015, reflecting the ageing prison population.
- Prisoners aged 40-49 had the highest rate of self-inflicted deaths with 1.6 deaths per 1,000 prisoners in that age group.
- The rate of proven adjudications per 100 prisoners was also the highest in the 15-17 age group (1,074 per 100 prisoners) and then at age 18-20 (312 per 100 prisoners). The rate of proven adjudications for 15-17 year olds has doubled over the last 4 years.
- Those aged 60 and over had the lowest rate of proven adjudications per 100 prisoners.
- When examining the type of offence related to a proven adjudication, the predominant type of offence by 15-17 year olds is violence, accounting for 38.6% of all offences in this age group.
- At 31 March 2016, younger prisoners (aged 15-24) are on average considerably more likely to be on basic Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) status than other ages.
- In 2015/16, 3,040 or 25.3% of subjects receiving Electronic Monitoring were aged 30-39.
- In January to December 2014, those aged 10-14 had the highest reoffending rate (39.5%), followed by those aged 15-17 (37.5%). The proportion of offenders who reoffend generally decreases as age increases.

## **Ethnicity**

- Prisoners who declared their ethnicity as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic Group (BAME) are over represented in the prison population. At 31 March 2016, they made up 25.8% of all prisoners, but 12.5% of the population aged over 15 were BAME (according to the 2011 Census).
- The largest BAME grouping was Black/African/Caribbean/Black British with 10,459 (12.3%) prisoners. This is substantially higher than the 3.0% of those identifying as Black or Black British who were aged 15 or over in the 2011 Census population.

- Offenders of Asian and Asian British, Black and Black British and Chinese or other ethnic groups had slightly higher percentages of successful order and licence completions (85.2%, 83.1% and 82.6% respectively) than White or mixed ethnicity offenders (77.7% and 77.9% respectively).
- In 2015, the Mixed ethnic group had the greatest rate of assailants per 1,000 prisoners was the Mixed ethnic group with 335.5 assailants per 1,000 Mixed ethnic prisoners. This ethnic group also had the greatest number of victims per 1,000 prisoners.
- In 2015, the rate of proven adjudications per 100 prisoners was highest for Mixed ethnic groups (181 per 100 prisoners) and for Black British ethnic groups (136 per 100 prisoners).
- Black and Mixed ethnicity prisoners have the highest proportion of prisoners on basic IEP status, 7.6% and 7.2% respectively, at 31 March 2016.
- When examined by ethnicity<sup>4</sup>, the rate of re-offending is higher for those classified as Black than for any other ethnic group and is 29.1%.

### **Sexual Orientation**

- Of the 84.6% of prisoners who declared their sexual orientation<sup>5</sup>, 2.6% (1,866) identified themselves as Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual or Other as at 31 March 2016.

### **Religion or Belief**

- The proportion of Muslim prisoners has grown steadily between 2002 and 2016. In 2002, Muslims made up 7.7% of the prison population, as at 31 March 2016 this figure was 14.7%. This compares with 4.2% of those aged 15 or over declaring their religious belief as Muslim in the 2011 Census.
- Muslim prisoners have the highest proportion of prisoners on basic IEP status, 7.2%, at 31 March 2016.

### **Gender Reassignment**

- 33 of the 123 public and private prisons (27%) in England and Wales said that they had 1 or more transgender prisoners<sup>6</sup>.
- There were 70 prisoners currently living in, or presenting in, a gender different to their sex assigned at birth and who have had a case conference (as defined by PSI 07/2011).

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<sup>4</sup> The ethnicity of a person is as defined by the Police on the Police National Computer (PNC) and is based on appearance. It does not correspond with the self-reported ethnicity. The categories on PNC are limited and restricted to White, Black, Asian, Other or not recorded.

<sup>5</sup> Self-reported prisoner sexual orientation is likely to be under-reported

<sup>6</sup> Prisoners who are currently living in, or are presenting in a gender different to their sex assigned at birth and who have had a case conference (as defined by PSI 07/2011), as known to individual prisons.

# Commentary

## 1. Prison Population

Prison population figures are published in the Offender Management Statistics quarterly. These are available at the following link ([www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly)) and also in Supplementary Tables 1.1 to 1.5. The report, the '[Story of the Prison Population 1993 to 2016](#)' provides an in-depth look at what happened to the prison population between 1993 and 2016 and the major factors contributing to the changes.

At 31 March 2016, the prison population was 85,441. Males accounted for 95.5% (81, 615) of the prison population and females accounted for 4.5% (3,826).

The prison population increased markedly during the period 2002 to 2012 rising from 71,218 prisoners to its peak of 87,531. Since 2012, the population has fallen slightly and remains fairly steady. As males make up the vast majority of the number of people in prison, trends are driven by that group.

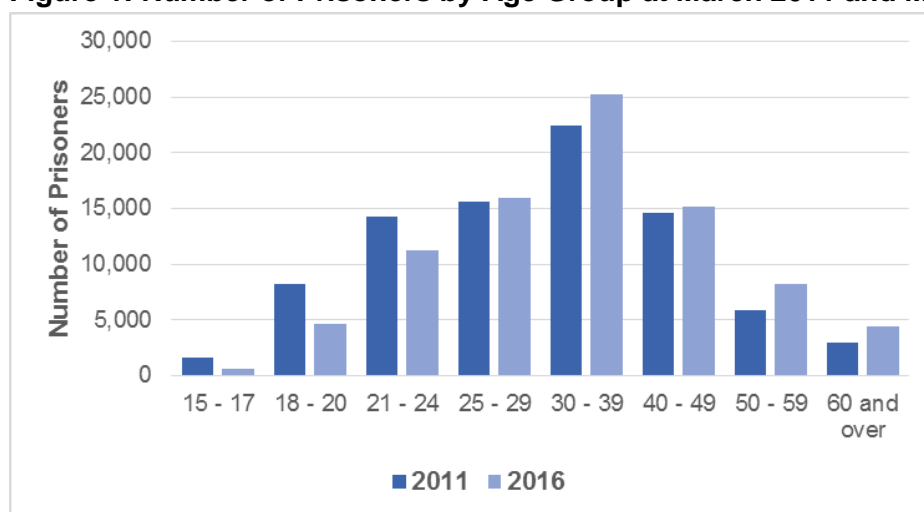
The number of female prisoners has fallen for many years and in 2016 was 12.9% lower than in 2002 (whilst the number of male prisoners is 22.1% higher).

Figure 1 shows a comparison of the age distribution of prisoners as at 31 March of 2011 and 2016. Figures are published in narrower age bands for the younger age groups, so caution should be taken when comparing the different age groups.

By age, there was a peak in the number of prisoners in the 30-39 age group with 25,224 or 29.5% of prisoners as at 31 March 2016.

Between 2011 and 2016, there has been a decrease in the number of young prisoners (those aged 15 to 24<sup>7</sup>) of 30.9% and an increase in the number of older prisoners (those aged 50 and over) of 42.9%. This age distribution of prisoners differs from the general population of England and Wales, in that prisoners are generally younger.

**Figure 1: Number of Prisoners by Age Group at March 2011 and March 2016**



<sup>7</sup> Excludes the number of young people aged 10-17 in Secure Children'



Ethnicity, religious belief<sup>8</sup> and sexual orientation are prisoner characteristics that are self-declared by prisoner.

At 31 March 2016, White prisoners made up almost three quarters (63,045 or 74.2%) of all prisoners. Prisoners who declared their ethnicity as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) represented 21,879 (or 25.8%) of all prisoners. The remaining 517 had a not stated or unknown ethnicity. The proportion of BAME prisoners has been fairly level since 2004, but is more than double the 12.5% present in the population<sup>9</sup> recorded in the 2011 England and Wales Census.<sup>10</sup>

The largest BAME grouping was Black or Black British with 10,459 (12.3% prisoners). This is substantially higher than the 3.0% of those aged 15 or over in the 2011 Census population. Asian or Asian British made up 8.1% (6,844) of the prison population. The smallest grouping was other ethnic group with 1,012 prisoners (1.2%).

Since March 2015, the ethnic group with the largest increase in prison population has been Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups with a 2.4% increase in prisoners, while the group with the largest decrease has been Black or Black British with a 1.2% decrease in prisoners<sup>11</sup>.

Christianity was the largest religious affiliation, with 41,940 prisoners identifying themselves as Christian (49.1% of the prison population). This proportion has remained fairly steady over the last 10 years. The second largest group was those with No Religion with 26,349 prisoners (30.9% of the prison population).

The proportion of Muslim prisoners has grown steadily between 2002 and 2016. In 2002, Muslims made up 7.7% of the prison population, as at March 2016 this figure was 14.7%. This compares with 4.2% of those aged 15 or over declaring their religious belief as Muslim in the 2011 Census.

Self-reported prisoner sexual orientation is likely to be under-reported<sup>12</sup>. This is partially reflected in a declaration rate of 91.3%. Of the 84.6% of prisoners who declared their sexual orientation the majority identified themselves as Heterosexual with 70,292 prisoners, 97.4% of the prison population while 2.6% (1,866) identified as Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual or Other (LGBT). Of those prisoners who identified as LGBT, Gay/Lesbian were the largest group accounting for 923 offenders (1.3%) of the prison population at March 2016 and 861 (1.2%) identified as Bisexual. Sexual orientation was not collected in the 2011 Census, and for this reason comparisons have not be made to the general population.

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<sup>8</sup> The 2011 Census classifications have been used to group together ethnicity and religious belief 15 years and over

<sup>10</sup> Census 2011 population figures, broken down by ethnicity, can be found via the following link: [www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/DC2101EW](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/DC2101EW)

<sup>11</sup> This excludes prisoners whose ethnicity is Not Known or Not Stated.

<sup>12</sup> The data on sexual orientation is drawn from internal Management Information and therefore differs to the other population totals.

## 2. Transgender Prisoners

For the purposes of this report, transgender prisoners are defined as those individuals currently living in, or are presenting in, a gender different to their sex assigned at birth and who have had a case conference (as defined by [PSI 07/2011 - Care and Management of Transsexual Prisoners](#)), as known to individual prisons.

It is thought to exclude information on the number of prisoners who have already transitioned and have a full Gender Recognition Certificate. Statistics on the number of all applications to the Gender Recognition Panel are published in Tribunals and gender recognition statistics quarterly at [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunal-and-gender-recognition-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2015](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunal-and-gender-recognition-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2015).

There will be some transgender prisoners who have not had a case conference, some who have a Gender Recognition Certificate and some who are not known to prison staff. Thus, the figures presented here give an estimate of the number of transgender prisoners and may over or under estimate the true number.

Details of the number of transgender prisoners were provided by Equalities Representatives in public and private prisons in England and Wales, between 24 March and 22 April 2016.

According to the data collection exercise conducted in March/April 2016:

- 33 of the 123 public and private prisons (27%) in England and Wales said that they had 1 or more transgender prisoners<sup>13</sup>.
- There were 70 prisoners currently living in, or presenting in, a gender different to their sex assigned at birth and who have had a case conference (as defined by PSI 07/2011). Of these, 52 reported their gender<sup>14</sup> as male, 14 reported their gender as female and 4 did not state their gender.
- 8 of the 70 prisoners reported their ethnic group as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Group; 61 as White and 1 was not stated.
- Based on this exercise, there were 0.8 transgender prisoners reported per 1,000 prisoners in custody.

**Table 1: Number of establishments reported with transgender prisoners**

Number of transgender prisoners in an establishment	Number of establishments
1	19
2-4	10
5 or more	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>

<sup>13</sup> Prisoners who are currently living in, or are presenting in a gender different to their sex assigned at birth and who have had a case conference (as defined by PSI 07/2011), as known to individual prisons.

<sup>14</sup> The gender is self-reported on reception to prison and based on information recorded on central administrative databases. It is not possible to determine if this is the legal gender or whether or not the gender has changed.

**Table 2: Protected characteristics reported of transgender prisoners<sup>15</sup>**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>All reported transgender prisoners</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	14	20%
Male	52	74%
Not stated	4	6%
<b>Age</b>		
20-29	16	23%
30-39	22	31%
40-49	14	20%
50-59	14	20%
60+	3	4%
Not stated	1	1%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
BAME	8	11%
White	61	87%
Not stated	1	1%

Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

<sup>15</sup> BAME- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Group

### 3. Deaths in Prison

Figures on deaths in prison are published in the Safety in Custody Quarterly publication. ([www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics)) and in Tables 2.1 to 2.9 of the Supplementary Tables.

A death in prison custody is defined as '*any death of a person in prison custody arising from an incident in or, on rare occasions, immediately prior to prison custody*'. All deaths in prison custody are subject to a police investigation and a coroner's inquest. Once the inquest has been concluded, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's office publish a detailed 'Fatal Incident Report'<sup>16</sup> on the death. Until this time, for administrative and statistical purposes, NOMS classify deaths by *apparent* cause of death.

There were 257 deaths in prison custody in the 2015 calendar year, (an increase of 14 on the number in the previous year), 3.0 per 1,000 prisoners (up from 2.9 in the previous 12 month period). Of the 257 deaths in custody during 2015:

- 146 were from natural causes (rate of 1.7 per 1,000 prisoners);
- 89 apparent deaths were self-inflicted (1.0 per 1,000);
- 8 apparent homicides and
- 14 were from other causes<sup>17,18</sup>

In 2015, 249 males died whilst in custody, while 8 females died whilst in custody.

Figure 2 shows that the between 2011 and 2015, the rates of death per 1,000 prisoners increased for both males and females.

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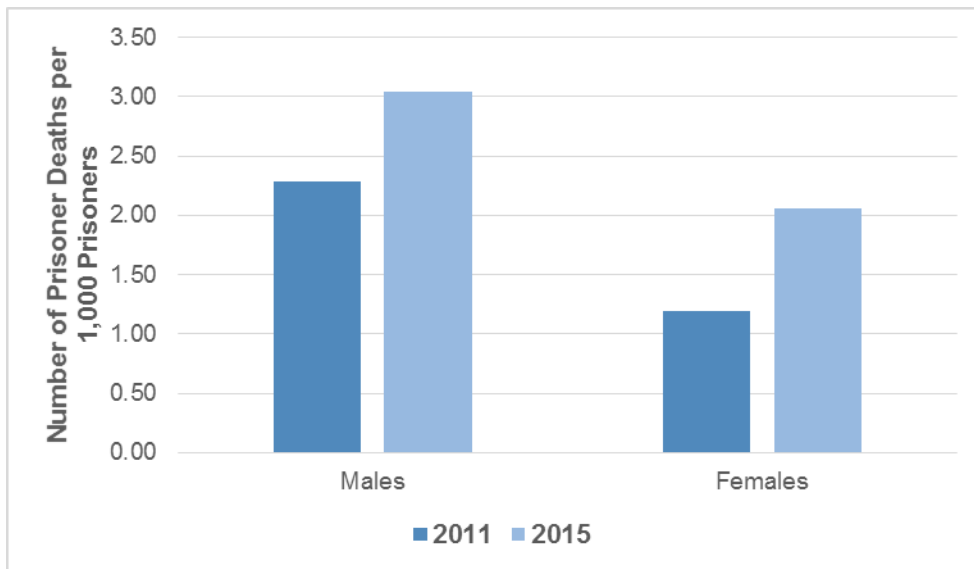
<sup>16</sup> Prisons and Probation Ombudsman: Fatal Incident Reports [www.ppo.gov.uk/document/fii-report/](http://www.ppo.gov.uk/document/fii-report/)

<sup>17</sup> 'Other' is an aggregated category consisting of two existing categories - 'other/non-natural' and 'awaiting further information (previously referred to as unclassified)'. The statistical reason for this is that the aggregated category is more suitable for determining trends.

<sup>18</sup> These figures are accessible here:

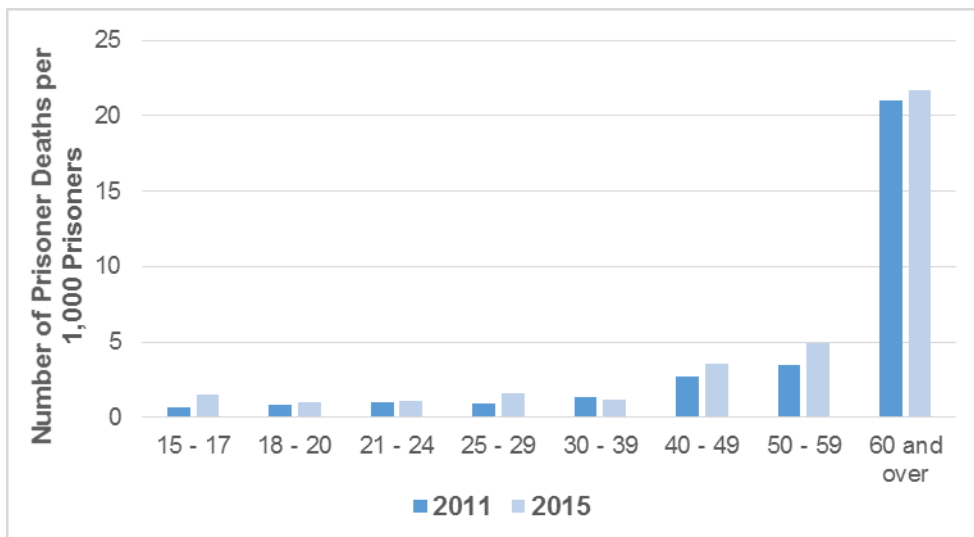
[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/562902/safety-in-custody-deaths-dec-15-final.xls](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/562902/safety-in-custody-deaths-dec-15-final.xls)

**Figure 2: Rate of Prisoner Deaths per 1,000 prisoners by Gender in 2007 and 2015**



In 2015, 35.0% or 90 deaths in custody were of prisoners aged 60 or over. This is a rate of 21.7 per 1,000 prisoners. Although this age group has seen the highest increase in the absolute number of deaths from 36 in 2007 to 90 in 2015, the rate of deaths per 1,000 prisoners has been fairly constant, reflecting the ageing prison population.

**Figure 3: Rate of Prisoner Deaths per 1,000 prisoners by Age Group in 2011 and 2015**

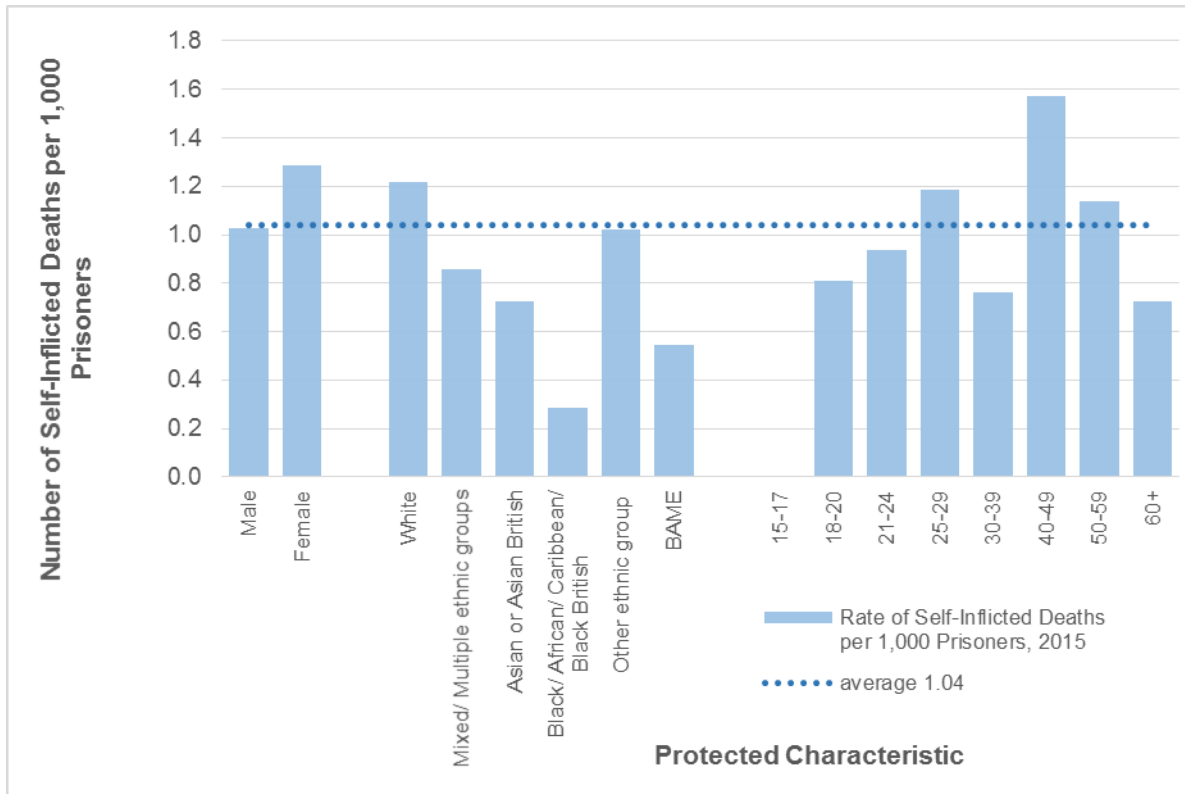


Of the 89 apparent self-inflicted deaths, 84 were males while 5 were female. The rate of self-inflicted deaths was higher for female prisoners (1.3 per 1,000 female prisoners) than for male prisoners (1.0 per 1,000 male prisoners).

The age group with the highest rate of self-inflicted deaths was 40-49 with 1.6 deaths per 1,000 prisoners in that age group.

In 2015, White prisoners had the highest absolute number and highest rate of apparent self-inflicted deaths per 1,000 prisoners (77 and 1.2 respectively). Prisoners who identified as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) had 12 self-inflicted deaths, a rate of 0.5 per 1,000 prisoners.

**Figure 4: Number of Self-Inflicted Deaths per 1,000 Prisoners, 2015**



## 4. Self-harm

Figures on self-harm are published in the Safety in Custody Statistics Bulletin. [www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics). They are also given in Tables 3.1 to 3.7 of the Supplementary Tables.

Self-harm in prison custody is defined as, “any act where a prisoner deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent or severity of any injury.”

In 2015, there were 32,313 reported incidents of self-harm, an increase of 25.0% when compared with 2014. There were 377 incidents per 1,000 prisoners over the year, up by 24.4% on the previous year.

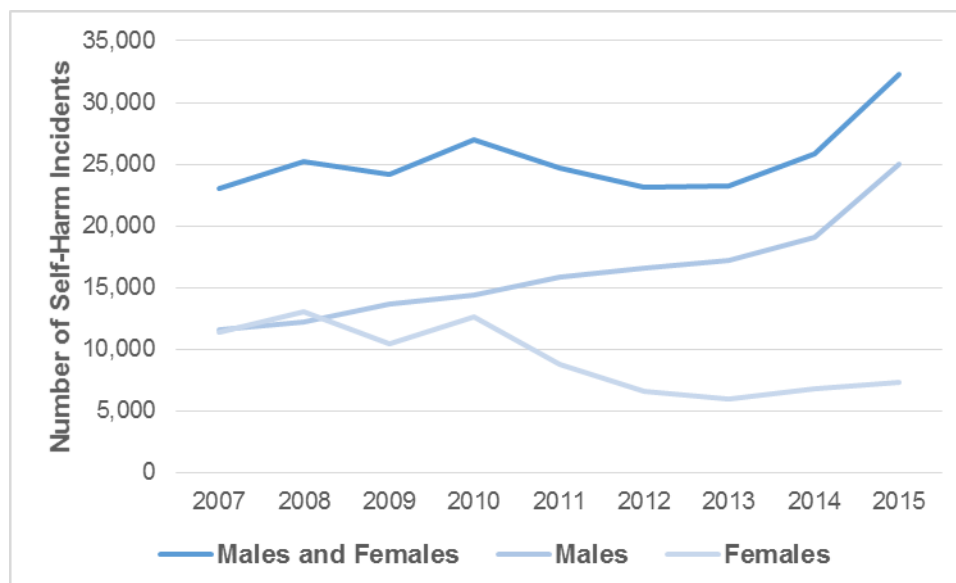
9,458 prisoners were reported to have self-harmed in 2015. Both the number of prisoners who had self-harmed and the rate per 1,000 prisoners went up by 21% between 2014 and 2015.

In 2015, male prisoners accounted for 87.8% of all prisoners who had self-harmed. This is lower than the 95.5% of the prison population that is male.

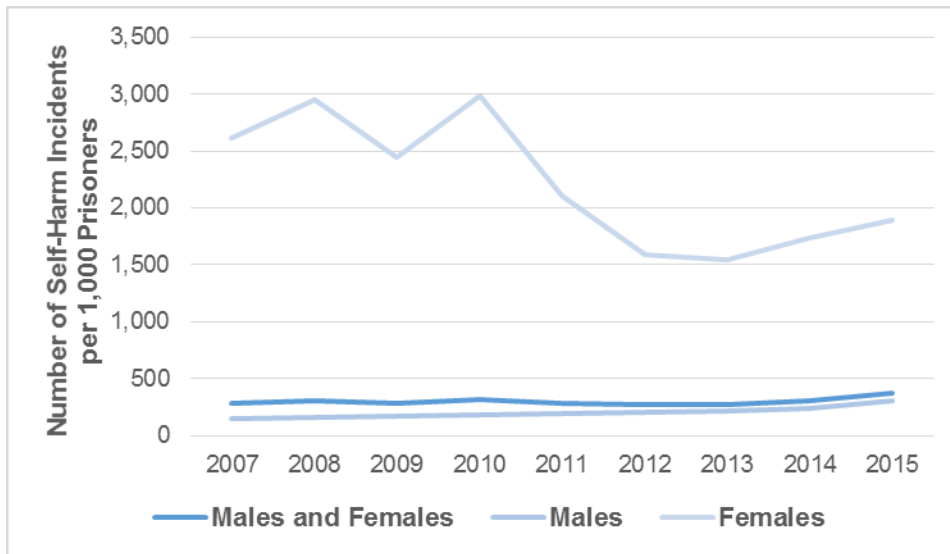
Females represented 4.5% of prisoners, but 12.2% of individuals who self-harmed in the 12 month period to December 2015. The rate of self-harm individuals per 1,000 prisoners is substantially higher for females (297 per 1,000 female prisoners) than for males (102 per 1,000 male prisoners). For males, both the number of individuals and the rate of self-harm has increased each year from 2010.

Figure 5 shows that Self-harm incidents have increased in general and for males compared to 2007, while the number of self-harm incidents have fallen for women. Figure 6 shows that the rate of self-harm incidents per 1,000 prisoners for females fell between 2010 and 2013 and there has been a recent steady increase.

**Figure 5: Number of Self-Harm Incidents by Gender from 2007 to 2015**



**Figure 6: Number of Self-Harm Incidents per 1,000 prisoners by Gender from 2007 to 2015**



Of those male prisoners who self-harmed, they carried out, on average, 3.0 self-harm incidents in 2015, slightly up from 2.9 incidents in the previous year. Female prisoners who self-harmed were responsible for 6.4 self-harm incidents on average, up from 6.1 incidents in 2014. Data is not available for any other protected characteristics.



## 5. Assaults

Figures on assaults in custody are published in the Safety in Custody Statistics Bulletin and also in Supplementary Tables 4.1 and 4.2.

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics)

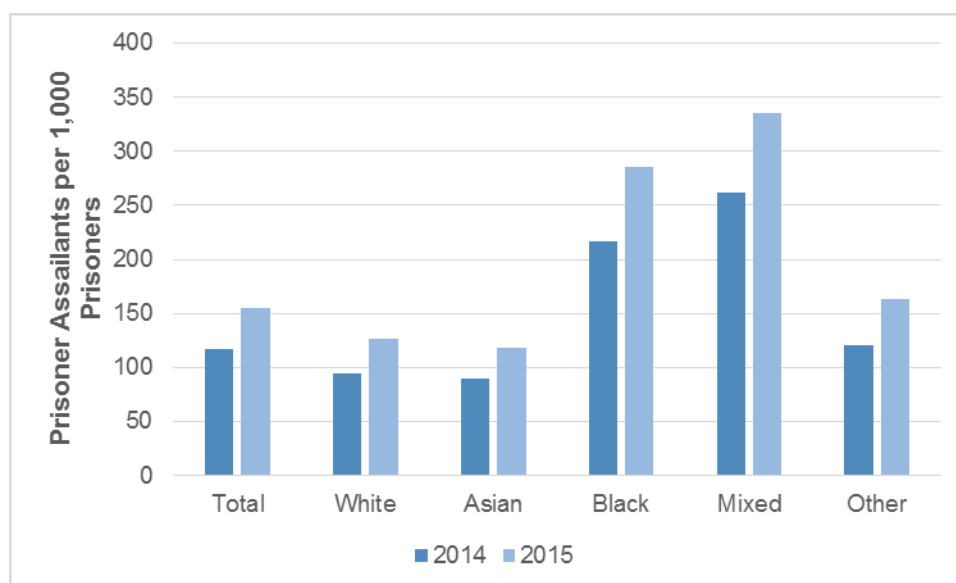
Assaults in prison custody cover a wide range of violent incidents including fights between prisoners. NOMS does not use the Home Office counting rule definitions of Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), affray etc. and figures cannot be compared directly.

The below data provides information on the ethnicity of assailants, fighters and victims involved in prison assaults. This comprises of prisoners involved in each individual assault incident, meaning that individual prisoners can be included in the data more than once. As there may be more than one assailant and/or fighter and/or victim per assault, as well as the fact that in instances where assaults involve a fight, there are always at least two, the data provides a very general overview of the topic.

This also means that rate per 1,000 prisoners should be considered with some caution, as prisoners can be counted more than once in the data. In addition, an informative analysis of ethnicity in relation to assaults may want to consider whether an assault incident or a fight involved people of the same or different ethnicities. However data to facilitate such analysis is not readily available. Ethnicity breakdowns of assaults data therefore present only a straight-forward breakdown of the ethnicity of assailants, fighters and victims.

In the calendar year 2015, there was a rate of 154.6 assailants per 1,000 prisoners, an increase of 32.7% from 2014. Figure 7 shows this increase by ethnicity from 2014 to 2015.

**Figure 7: Prisoner Assailants per 1,000 Prisoners as at 2014 and at 2015**

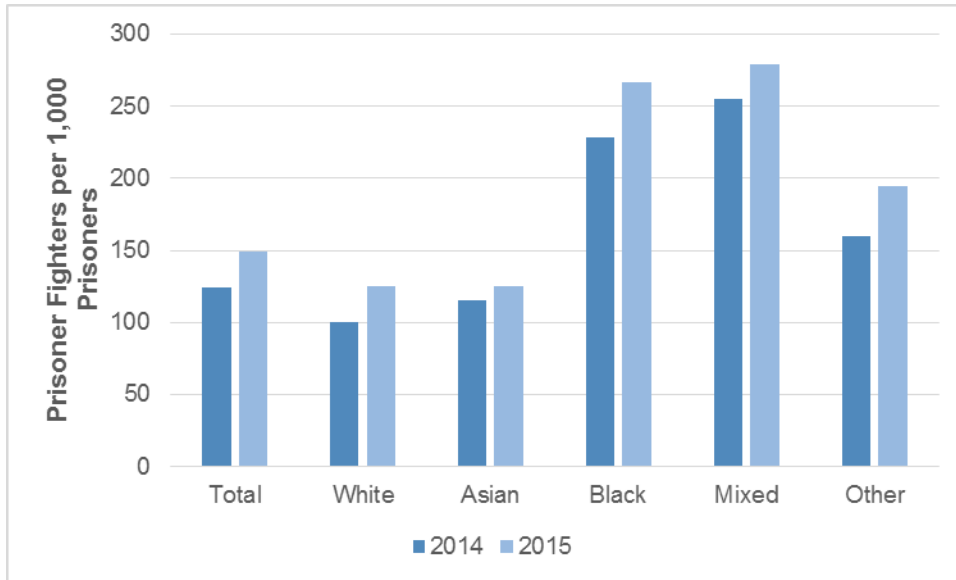


The ethnic group with the greatest rate of assailants per 1,000 prisoners was the mixed ethnic group with 335.5 assailants per 1,000 mixed ethnic prisoners. Assailants from the Black ethnic group was the next highest at 285.3 per 1,000 prisoners. Prisoners from the

White, Asian and Other ethnic backgrounds had significantly lower rates. Asians had the lowest rate with 117.9 assailants per 1,000 Asian prisoners.

In 2015 there were 149.4 fighters per 1,000 prisoners, an increase of 20% from 2014. Figure 8 shows this increase from 2014 to 2015.

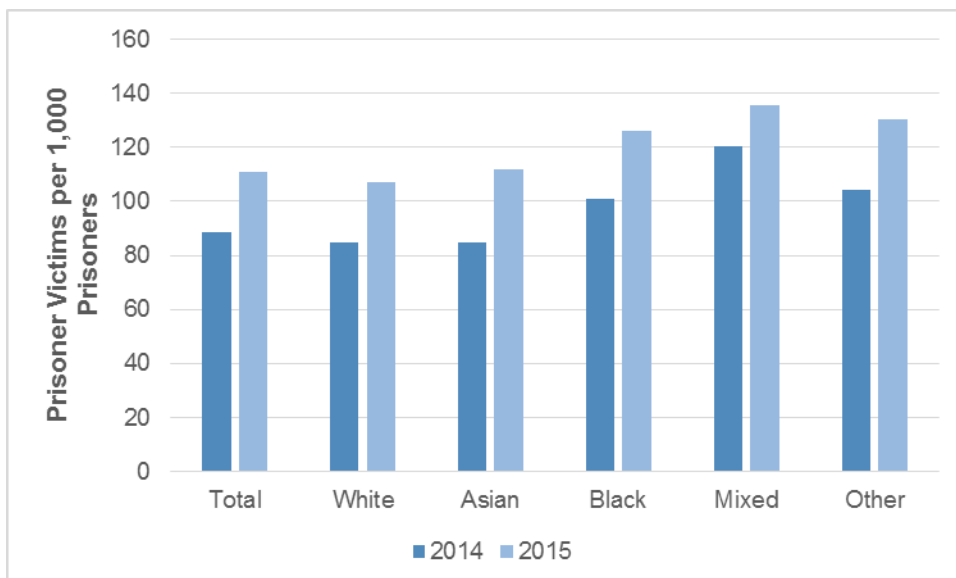
**Figure 8: Prisoner Fighters by ethnicity per 1,000 Prisoners as at 2014 and at 2015**



The ethnic group with the greatest number of fighters per 1,000 prisoners was mixed ethnic background with 279.3 fighters per 1,000 mixed ethnic prisoners. Fighters from the Black ethnic group had the second highest number of fighters, with 266.4 fighters per 1,000 Black prisoners. Prisoners from Other ethnic background had a moderately lower rate, but this was still more than White and Asian groups with significantly lower rates. Indeed, Asians had the lowest rate of 124.9 fighters per 1,000 Asian prisoners.

In 2015 there were 111.1 victims per 1,000 prisoners, an increase of 25.5% from 2014. Figure 9 shows this increase from 2014 to 2015.

**Figure 9: Prisoner Victims per 1,000 Prisoners as at 2014 and at 2015**



The ethnic group with the greatest number of victims per 1,000 prisoners was Mixed with 135.4 victims per 1,000 Mixed ethnic prisoners. Every other ethnic group had a relatively similar rate. White victims had the lowest rate with 107.0 victims per 1,000 White prisoners. The rates by ethnicity for victims tend to be more evenly spread than for assailants or fighters.

## 6. Absconds

Figures on the total number of Absconds – excluding data on protected characteristics - are published in the NOMS Annual Digest ([www.gov.uk/government/collections/prison-and-probation-trusts-performance-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/prison-and-probation-trusts-performance-statistics)) and in Supplementary Tables 5.1 and 5.2.

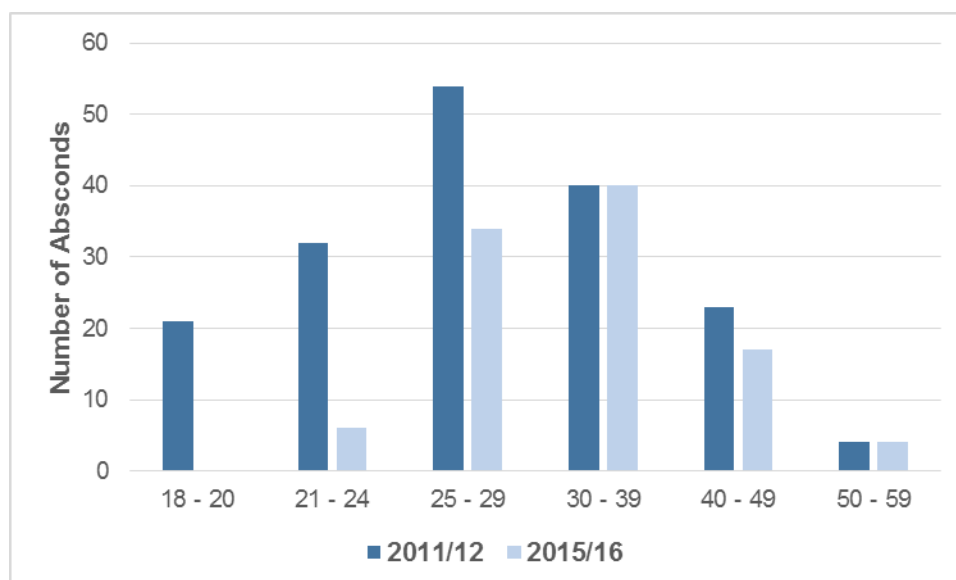
An abscond is defined as when a prisoner, “*gains liberty without the need to overcome physical security restraints, or evade direct staff supervision.*” Absconds only occur in prisons with open conditions.

In the financial year 2015/16, there were 105 absconds, a decrease of 42.0% from 2014/15, continuing the general downward trend since 2003/04.

The vast majority of absconds are by male prisoners – they accounted for 96.2% of absconds in 2015/16. This is approximately the same proportion of the general prison population which is male. Since 2011/12, the number of absconds by male prisoners has reduced by 40.9%. Absconds by females are small in number and it is not meaningful to make such comparisons.

In 2015/16 the age group with the most absconds was 30-39 with 40 absconds. The age group with the least absconds were those aged under 21 (but they are less likely to be held in open conditions). Absconds at every age group has fallen compared to 2014/15. Figure 9 shows how the number of absconds have all decreased or stayed the same among age groups since 2011/12. The largest decrease was seen for the age group 21-24 with a 24 abscond reduction (81.3%).

**Figure 10: Number of Absconds by Age Group in 2011/12 and in 2015/16**



## 7. Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL)

Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) figures are published in the Offender Management Statistics publication. The published figures are split by gender but no other protected characteristic and are available in Supplementary Table 6.1 and in [www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly).

In 2015, 7.9% of the prison population had at least one instance of ROTL, with on average 49.3 releases per annum. This has decreased from 10.3% of the prison population and an average of 51.4 releases per annum from 2014. The reduction coincides with a change in ROTL policy in May 2014, resulting in prisoners eligible for ROTL having lower risk of failure.

Although female prisoners were nearly twice as likely as males to have at least one instance of ROTL in 2015 (15.8% of females compared with 7.5% of males), those male prisoners released on temporary licence had on average 49.8 instances of ROTL, compared to 44.3 instances of ROTL on average for female prisoners that had been released on temporary licence during 2015.

The percentage of prisoners receiving ROTL has fallen over the 10 years from 2005 to 2015 for both males and females (from 12.7% in 2005 to 7.5% in 2015 for males and from 24.2% in 2005 to 15.8% in 2015 for females). Over the same period, the average number of instances per individual has increased for both males and females (from 40.4 to 49.3 per male individual on average and from 35.5 to 44.3 per female individual on average).

## 8. Temporary Release Failures

Figures on the total number of temporary release failures are published in the NOMS Annual Digest and also in Supplementary tables 7.1 to 7.3. ([www.gov.uk/government/collections/prison-and-probation-trusts-performance-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/prison-and-probation-trusts-performance-statistics))

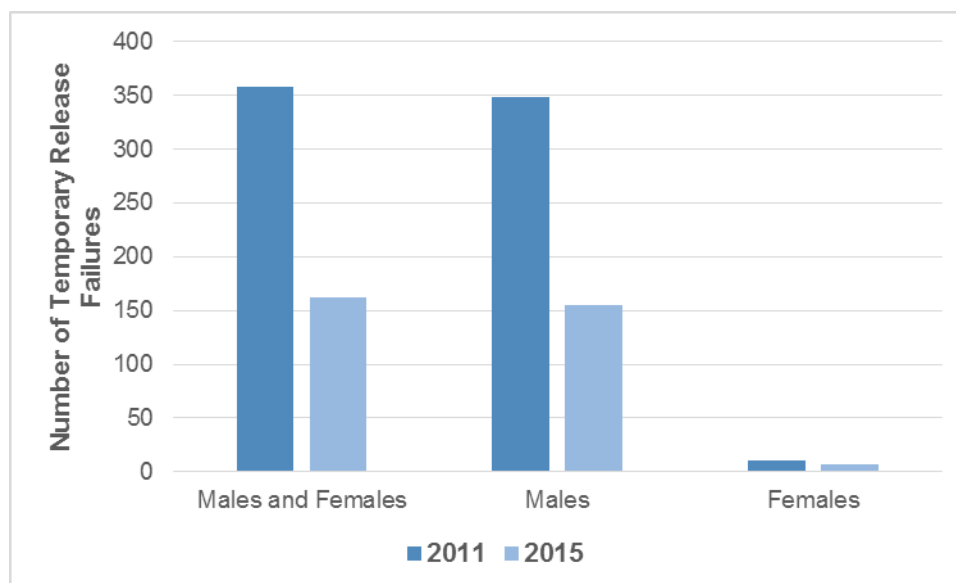
A temporary release failure after a release on temporary licence (ROTL) occurs when a prisoner fails to adhere to any condition written into the licence that permits their temporary release. Such conditions include the date and time by which the prisoner is required to return to the prison and may also place restrictions on where the prisoner may go and whom they may visit during the period of release, etc.

In the calendar year 2015, there were 162 temporary release failures, a decrease of 31.9% from 2014. This is the lowest number of temporary release failures in the time series since 2002. The reduction coincides with a change in ROTL policy in May 2014, resulting in prisoners eligible for ROTL having lower risk of failure.

Of the 162 temporary release failures in 2015, the vast majority related to males (96%)

Figure 11 shows that temporary release failures have decreased overall since 2011, with the largest absolute decreases occurring among male offenders. The rates of temporary release failures for male prisoners also fell from 83.1 failures per 100,000 releases in 2005 to 50.6 failures per 100,000 releases in 2015. Figures for female temporary release failures are too low to calculate rates (there were only 7 instances of temporary release failure for females in 2015).

**Figure 11: Number of Temporary Release Failures by Gender, 2011, 2015**



## 9. Adjudications

Figures on adjudications and punishments resulting from adjudications are published in the Offender Management Statistics publication on a quarterly basis and in Supplementary Tables 8.1 to 8.6. ([www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly))

An adjudication is a formal disciplinary process within the prison estate and applies when a prisoner is suspected of committing an offence. Once an offence has been committed, an adjudication hearing must be opened for a decision to be made before a Governor or an Independent Adjudicator (depending on the seriousness of the offence). As in criminal courts, the standard of proof that must be met before a prisoner can be found guilty is “beyond reasonable doubt”. If the charge against the prisoner is proved, the adjudicator should consider the appropriate punishment(s) taking into account the seriousness of the offence, the local punishment guidelines and any mitigation the prisoner may offer. This process will result in recording the outcome of the adjudication as *proven*.

In the calendar year 2015, there was a total of 148,023 adjudications, of which 102,531 (69.3%) were proven. The numbers of total adjudications and proven adjudications have increased in the last two years. Between 2014 and 2015, total adjudications went up by 16.1% and proven adjudications rose by 14.6%.

In 2015 there were, on average, 120 proven adjudications per 100 prisoners.

There were 19,604 dismissed adjudications during 2015, an average of 23 per 100 prisoners over the year.

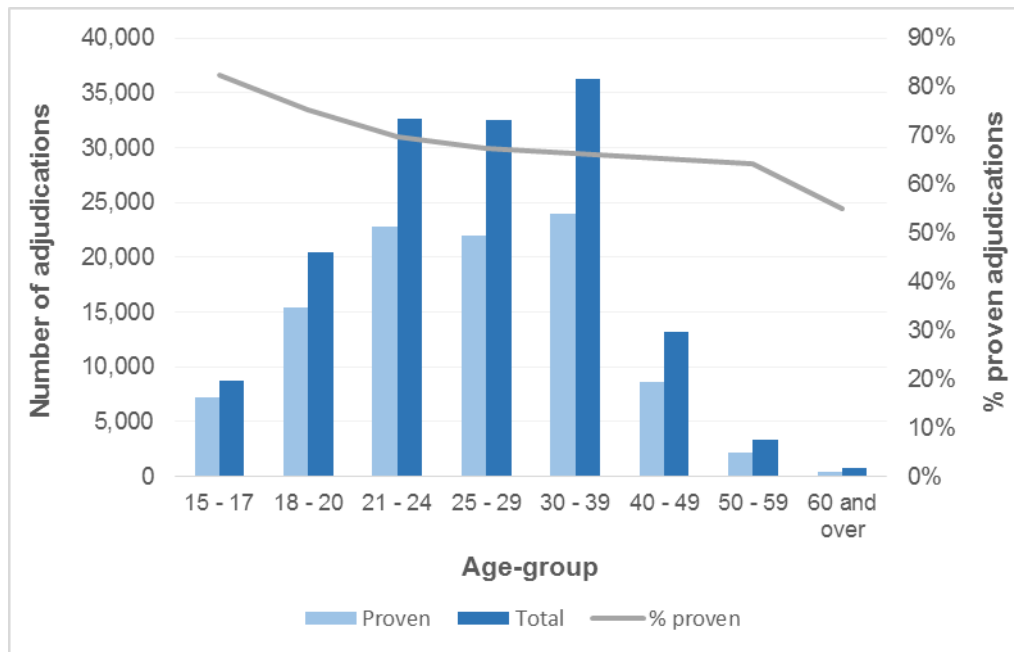
In 2015, males accounted for 94.6% of total adjudications (140,030) and 94.4% of proven adjudications (96,789). However, in 2015, the proportion of adjudications that were proven was higher in females (71.8%) than in males (69.1%) and has increased in the last two years.

The rate of proven adjudications per 100 prisoners was higher for women (148) than for men (118) in 2015. Rates for both men and women have seen an increase since 2011, but the rise has been more marked for women, increasing from 34.2% from 111 in 2011 to 148 in 2015.

In 2015, the percentage of total adjudications that were dismissed or not proceeded with, was higher for males (27.6%) than for females (20.9%).

In 2015, most of the total and proven adjudications occurred in the 30-39 age-group (reflecting the greater proportions in the prison population). In 2015, there were 36,220 total adjudications in this age-group, of which, 23,994 or 66.2% were proven.

**Figure 12: Total and proven adjudications by age-group, 2015**



In 2015, the proportion of proven adjudications was highest in in the 15-17 age group (82.3%). This proportion was 75.2% for those aged 18-20 and 55.1% for those aged 60 or more.

The rate of proven adjudications per 100 prisoners was also highest in the 15-17 age group (1,074 per 100 prisoners) and then at age 18-20 (312 per 100 prisoners). Those aged 60 and over had the lowest rate proven adjudications per 100 prisoners.

The rate of proven adjudications for 15-17 year olds has doubled over the last 4 years. However, the younger age groups make up a small proportion of the overall prison population.

The rate of dismissed adjudications per 100 prisoners shows a similar trend to proven adjudications with the highest rates at the younger ages and lower rates at the older ages (the rate for 15-17 year olds was 96 and 5 for those aged 60 or more). The dismissed adjudication rate has increased for all age-groups over that last 4 years, but more markedly for the 15-17 age group.

In 2015, the number of both total and proven adjudications was highest for those who had declared their ethnicity as White (accounting for 73.5% of all proven and 72.6% of total adjudications).

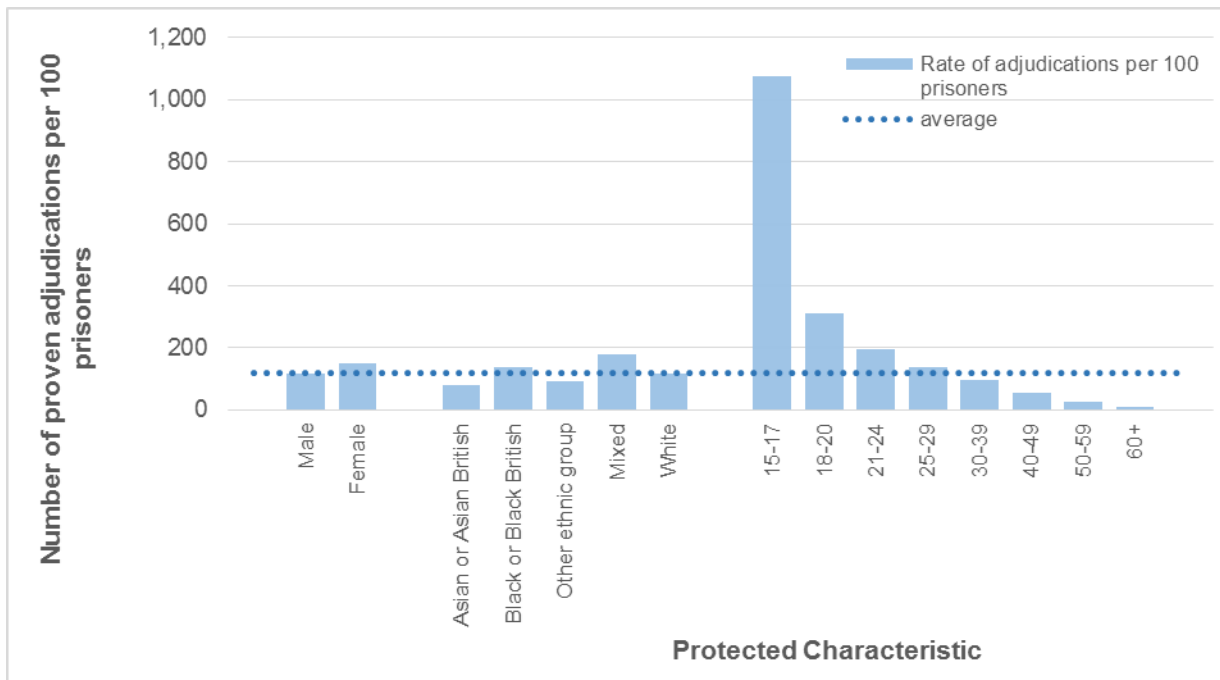
The proportion of adjudications that were proven was highest amongst those who were from other ethnic groups (70.7%) or who were White (70.1%).

In 2015, the rate of proven adjudications per 100 prisoners was highest for Mixed ethnic groups (181 per 100 prisoners) and for Black British ethnic groups (136 per 100 prisoners). Those from White ethnic groups had a rate of 119 proven adjudications per 100 prisoners.



This rate for Black and Mixed race prisoners has been consistently higher than for White prisoners and this difference in rates has widened since 2011. The lowest rate of proven adjudications was for Asian and Asian British prisoners at 80 per 100 prisoners.

**Figure 13: Number of proven adjudications per 100 prisoners by protected characteristic, 2015**



Information is recorded on the type of offence associated with the outcome of the adjudication. In 2015, 38.0% of proven adjudications were for disobedience/disrespect offences with 24.1% for unauthorised transactions and 13.9% for violence offences, 9.8% for wilful damage and 14.2% for other offences.

When proven adjudications were examined by protected characteristic:

- The predominant type of offence by 15-17 year olds is violence, accounting for 38.6% of all offences in this age group. The proportion of offences that are violence reduces with age (violence accounts for 10.4% of all offences by those aged 60 or more).
- The proportion of offences that are unauthorised transactions increases with age up until age 30-39, where it accounts for 30.4% of proven adjudications.
- Black prisoners had a higher proportion of offences that were violent than other ethnic groups. In 2015, 22.3% of offences by Black prisoners were violence related, as compared with 11.6% of White prisoners.
- The proportion of offences of disobedience increases with age from 28.6% for 15-17 year olds to 46.7% of proven adjudications for those aged 60 or over.

There were 182,830 punishments<sup>19</sup> issued to those who had proven adjudications. The profile of the punishments had few differences across gender and ethnic groups.

In 2015, the punishments related to 102,531 proven adjudications (or offences), an average of 1.78 punishments per offence. The number of punishments has varied since 2010 with an increase since 2013.

The average number of punishments per offence is higher amongst females than for males (1.86 as compared with 1.78). The average is highest for 15-17 year olds (1.88) and decreases with age.

The type of punishment is a local decision but depends partly upon the type of offence committed. For example, in 2015, 46% of violence offences and the same percentage of disobedience/disrespect offences had a punishment of forfeiture of privileges.

The punishments of forfeiture of privileges and stoppage of earnings tend to decrease with age, following a similar pattern to that for all proven offences.

- The punishment of forfeiture of privileges decreases with age. 58.1% of those aged 15 – 17 had this type of punishment as compared with 46.1% of those aged 18-20 and 40.4% of those aged 60 or more.
- Stoppage of earnings is more common amongst 15-17 year olds and those aged 50 or more.

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<sup>19</sup> Punishments included forfeiture of privileges, confinement, additional days, stoppage or reduction of earnings, cautions or other punishments

## 10. Incentives and Earned Privileges

Figures on Prisoner Incentive and Earned Privileges (IEP) status can be found in Supplementary Table 9.1

The Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme was introduced in 1995 with the expectation that prisoners would earn additional privileges through demonstrating responsible behaviour and participation in work or other constructive activity. On 30 April 2013, Ministers announced the outcome of a review of the IEP national policy framework and made it clear that, in order to earn privileges, prisoners will now have to work towards their own rehabilitation, behave well and help others.

Part of the revisions to the national policy framework, which came into effect on 1 November 2013, saw the introduction of the new Entry level which sits between Basic and Standard level, as such only figures since 31 March 2014 are presented<sup>20</sup>.

In line with the national policy, local incentive schemes operate on four levels: Basic, Entry, Standard and Enhanced. IEP arrangements must be fair, consistent and not subject to unfair discrimination. They support the requirements of the establishment and meet the needs of the population where practicable. Basic level provides access to the safe, legal and decent requirement of a normally running regime.

As at 31 March 2016, 5.3% of prisoners had basic IEP status; 52.1% had standard status; 35.7% had enhanced status and 7.0% had entry status.

The proportion of prisoners with a basic IEP status has risen over the last 2 years, from 3.3% at 31 March 2014 to 5.3% at 31 March 2016<sup>21</sup>, whereas the proportion of prisoners on enhanced IEP status has fallen in the same period, from 38.0% to 35.7%.

The proportion of male prisoners with a basic IEP status has risen over the last 2 years, from 3.3% at 31 March 2014 to 5.4% at 31 March 2016. The proportion of female prisoners on basic IEP status has also slightly risen in the same period, from 3.4% to 3.8%.

Younger prisoners are on average considerably more likely to be on basic IEP status (see Figure 14) than other ages, and the difference in the proportion of prisoners on Basic IEP status for younger versus older age groups has grown over the last 2 years. At the 31 March 2014 the difference in proportions between the youngest and older age groups was 12.5 percentage points, whereas at the 31 March 2016 the difference had widened to 18.4 percentage points.

Black and Mixed ethnicity prisoners have the highest proportion of prisoners on basic IEP status, 7.6% and 7.2% respectively, at 31 March 2016. This was considerably higher than white<sup>22</sup> prisoners at 4.9% at the same point in time.

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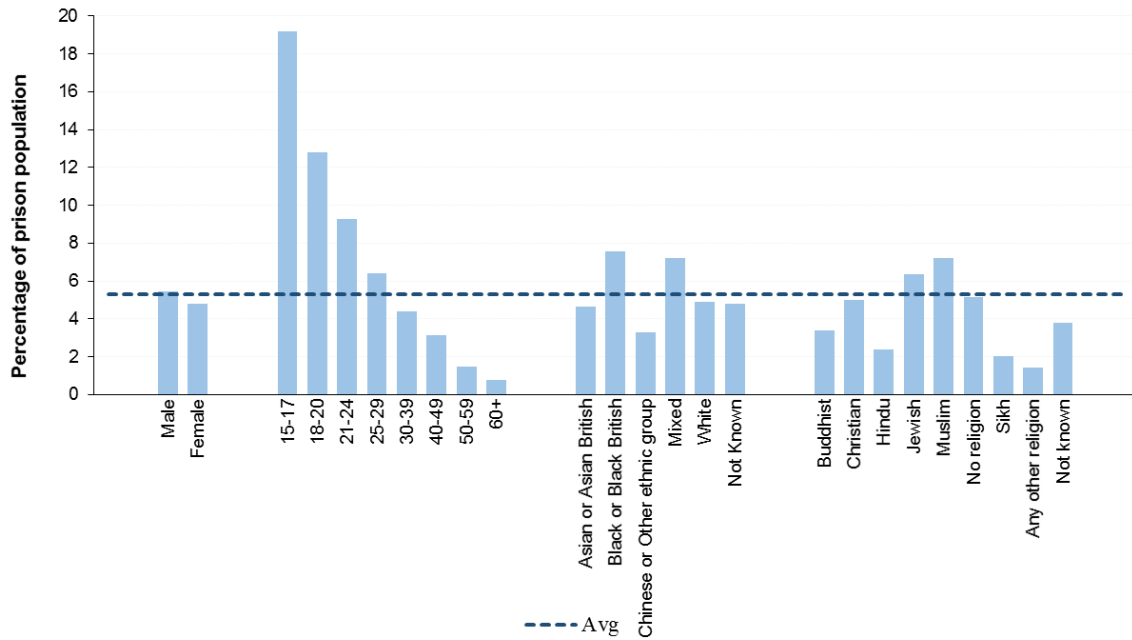
<sup>20</sup> The reference dates in this publication are different from those present in the NOMS Annual Digest 2015/16, as that report uses the average of 12 monthly snapshots, whereas this publication uses a single yearly snapshot.

<sup>21</sup> Population and IEP status is taken as a snapshot at 31 March. The protected characteristics of the person is matched with the most recent record in the 6 month period 1 January and 31 March of the year in question.

<sup>22</sup> The ethnicity "White" includes white gypsy, white Irish and white Other

When religious belief is examined, Muslim prisoners have the highest proportion of prisoners on basic IEP status, 7.2%, at 31 March 2016. This was considerably higher than Christian prisoners at 5.0%, at the same point in time.

**Figure 14: Percentage of prisoners with Basic IEP status split by protected characteristic, 31 March 2016**



## 11. Offenders in the Community

Details of the sources of population figures for offenders in the community are given in Supplementary Tables 10.1 to 10.3.

Since 1 June 2014, probation trusts have been replaced by the National Probation Service (NPS), which manages the most high-risk offenders across seven divisions; and 21 new Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs), who manage medium and low-risk offenders.

Those supervised under other court orders or post release from custody are not included in the analysis by protected characteristics in this section as details are not available on a comparable basis or by protected characteristic. Some details are given in the [Offender Management Quarterly Statistics](#) report.

As at 31 December 2015, there were 112,850 offenders aged 18 or more supervised in the community under community orders or suspended sentence orders. The number of offenders under these orders showed a downward trend between 2008 and 2014. There was an increase of 2.3% between 2014 and 2015 in orders. This was as a result of a rise in offenders with suspended sentence orders.

At 31 December, 2015, there were 16,696 female offenders or 14.8% of these offenders in the community. This has remained at similar levels for the last five years.

**Figure 15: Age distribution of offenders under community orders and suspended sentences orders as at 31 December, 2010 and 2015**

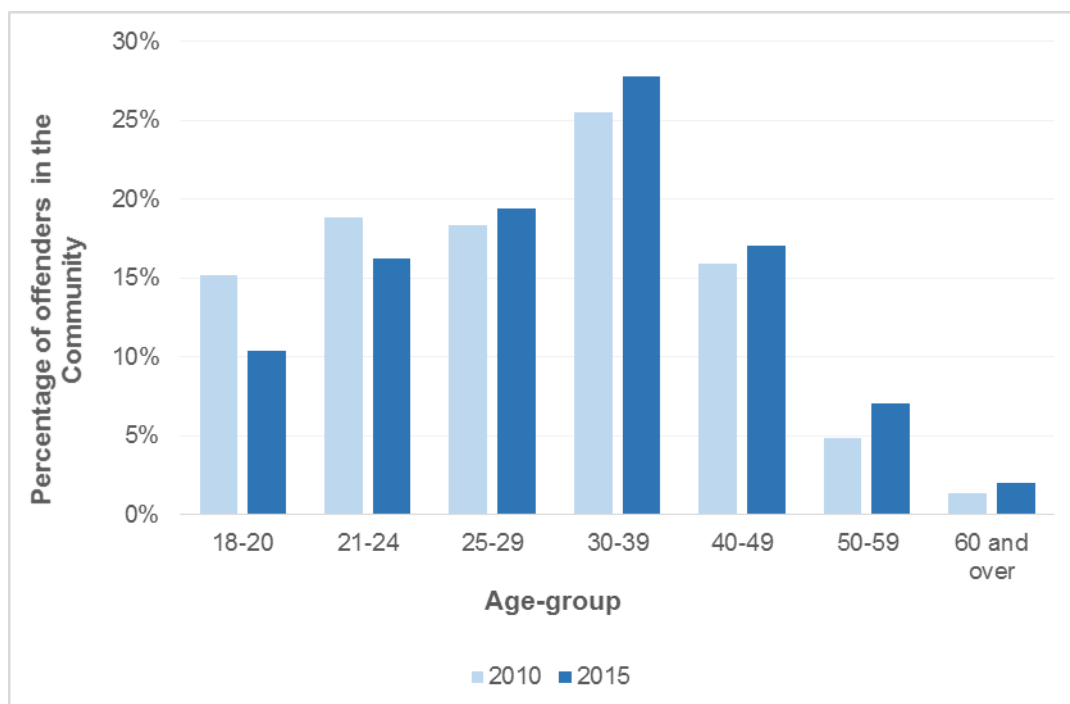


Figure 15 shows a comparison of the age distribution of offenders as at 2010<sup>23</sup> and 2015. In 2010, there was a greater proportion of those aged 18-24 in the community population and fewer in the older age bands than in 2015.

The proportion of offenders in the community aged 18-24 has fallen from 34.0% (46,003) in 2010 to 26.6% (30,066) in 2015. There have been corresponding increases in the proportion of offenders aged 30 or over. In particular, the proportion aged 50 or over has gone up from 6.2% (8,414) in 2010 to 9.1% (10,272) in 2015.

Excluding missing or not stated cases, in 2015, the proportion of offenders in the community from a BAME<sup>24</sup> background was 16.1%, which is higher than the proportion of BAME individuals in the wider population of England and Wales aged 18 or over (12.4%)<sup>25</sup>. Of these, Black or Black British comprise 6.4% of offenders in the community, with Asian or Asian British the next largest group, representing 5.1%, those of mixed ethnicity represented 3.3% and Chinese or other ethnic groups representing 1.4%. The proportion of BAME offenders has slightly increased from 15.4% in 2012 to 16.1% in 2015.

The proportion of male offenders in the community from a BAME background is higher than for females – 16.8% as compared with 12.2%.

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<sup>23</sup> Note that figures are published in age bands which are narrower for the younger age groups.

<sup>24</sup> Black, Asian, Mixed or other ethnic group.

<sup>25</sup> 2011 census <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census/key-statistics-for-local-authorities-in-england-and-wales/rft-table-ks201ew.xls>

## 12. Deaths in the Community

Figures on deaths in the community are published in the Deaths of Offender in the Community publication. ([www.gov.uk/government/statistics/deaths-of-offenders-in-the-community-annual-statistics-bulletin-2015-to-2016](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/deaths-of-offenders-in-the-community-annual-statistics-bulletin-2015-to-2016)) and in Supplementary Tables 11.1 to 11.3.

Deaths of offenders in the community is defined as any death of an offender that occurred while under probation supervision during the time they were:

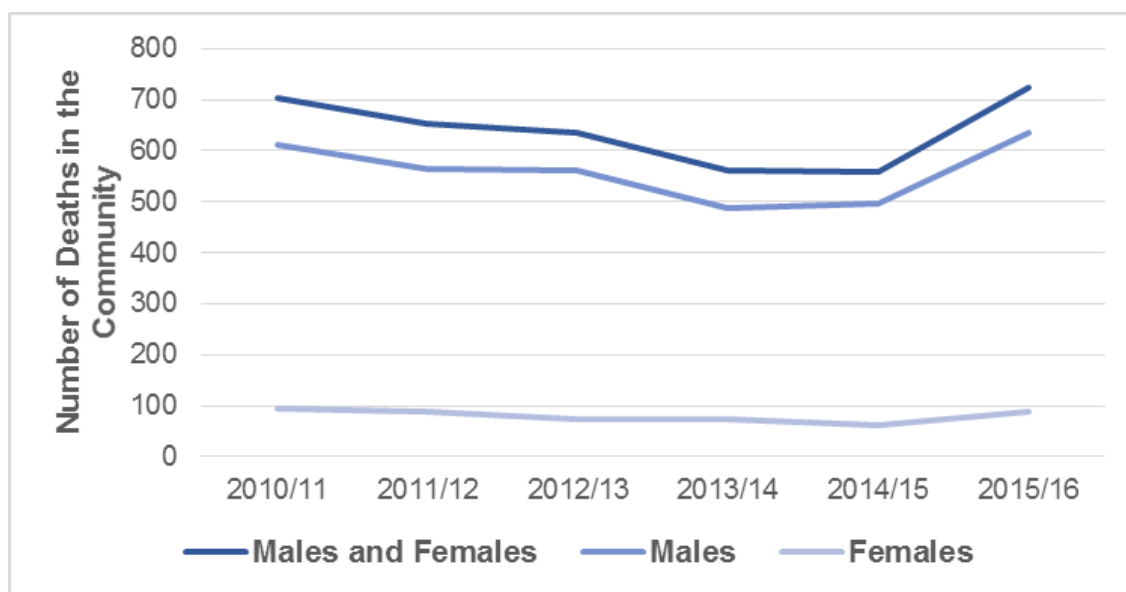
- serving their court order sentences in the community (including community orders, suspended sentence orders)
- on post-release supervision after completion of a custodial sentence.

Unlike Section 11 on the number of Offenders in the community, this section includes those on post release supervision.

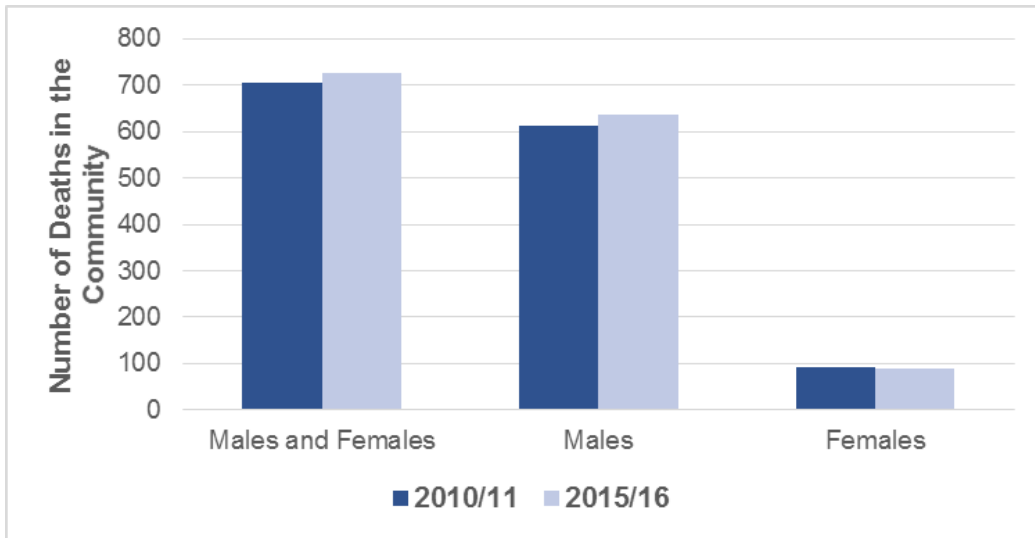
Deaths of offenders supervised by the probation services prior to release from prison custody (pre-release supervision) are not included in this section. These are deaths in custody and are included in Section 3 of this report.

There were 725 deaths of offenders in the community in the 2015/16 financial year. Of these, 636 deaths were male while 89 deaths were female. Offender deaths increased by 30.2% from 557 in the 2014/15 financial year. For male deaths this increase was 28.5% from 495, while for females it was 43.5% from 62. Figure 16 and Figure 17 show this recent increase in deaths in the Community.

**Figure 16: Number of Deaths in the Community by Gender from 2010/11 to 2015/16**

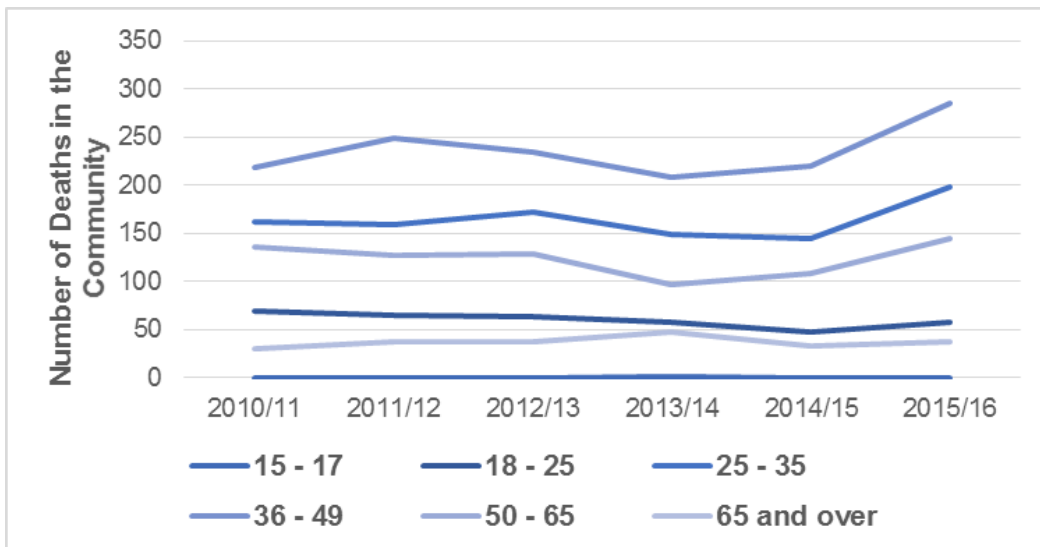


**Figure 17: Number of Deaths by Gender in 2010/11 and in 2015/16**



The age group with the highest number of deaths was 36-49 with 286 deaths. The lowest was the age group 15-17 with 0. The age group with the largest increase in absolute deaths was the 36-49 bracket with a 66 death increase from 2014/15 to 286 in 2015/16. Figure 18 shows how the age distribution of deaths have changed since 2010/11.

**Figure 18: Number of Deaths in the Community by Age from 2010/11 to 2015/16.**

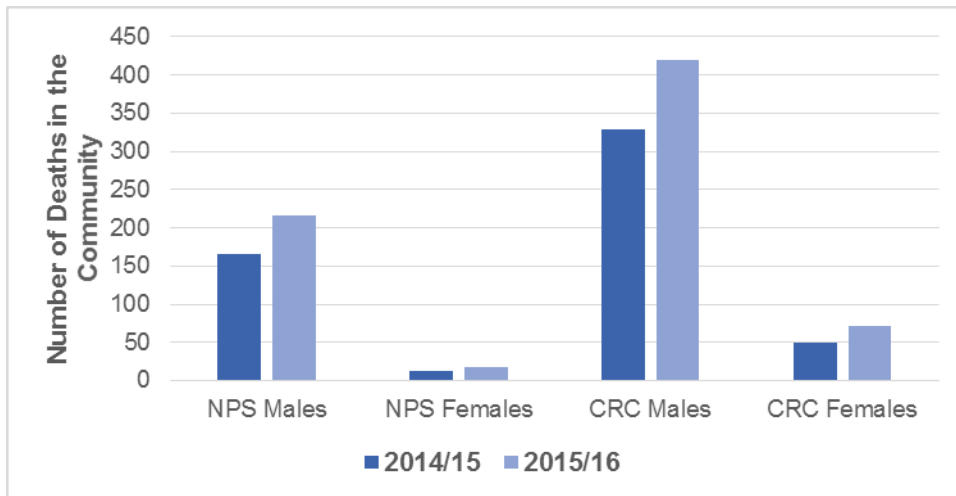


Offenders in the community who were classified as White had the highest number of deaths, accounting for 670. The second largest was Black or Black British with 19 deaths. The ethnic group with the largest increase in absolute deaths was White with a 30.4% increase, from 156 deaths in 2014/15 to 670 in 2015/16. This compared to an increase of 21.1% for all BAME groups over the same period, rising from 38 to 46 deaths.

Of those deaths that occurred while under probation supervision in the 2015/16, there were 233 in the NPS and 492 in the CRCs. This represents a 32.1% and a 67.8% share of deaths respectively. Figure 19 shows this data broken down by gender.



**Figure 19: Number of Deaths by Probation Service and Gender in 2014/15 and in 2015/16**

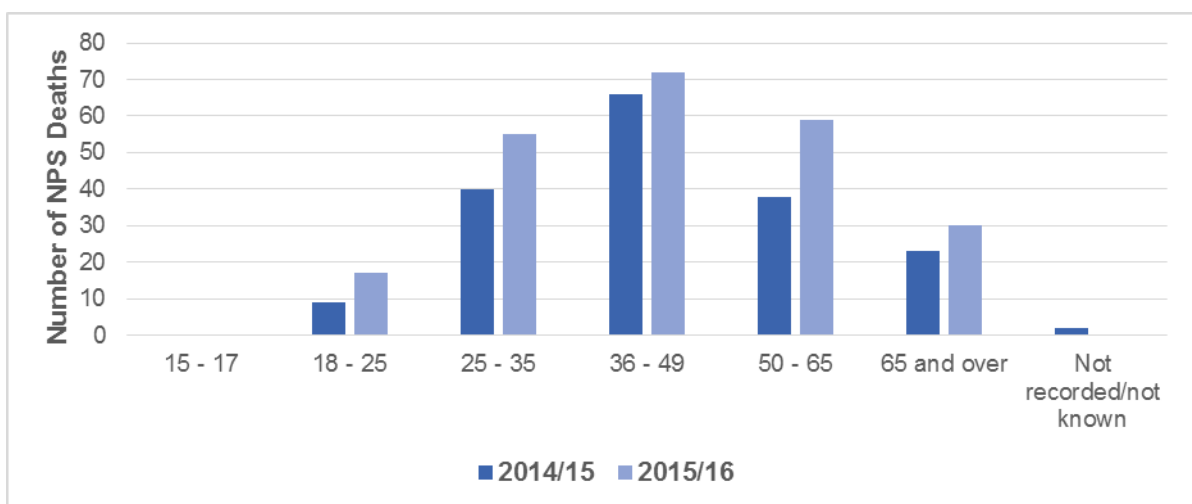


In the NPS there were 216 male deaths and 17 female deaths. The age group with the highest number of deaths was 36-49 with 72. White offenders accounted for the highest number, with 216 deaths.

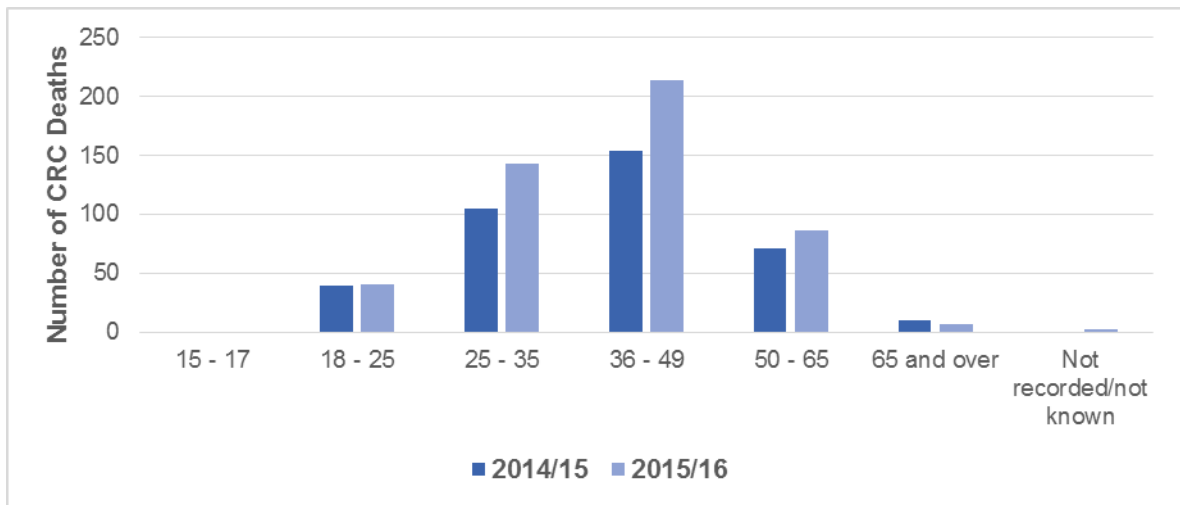
In the CRCs there were 420 male deaths and 72 female deaths. The age group with the highest number of deaths was also 36-49 with 214. The ethnic group with the highest number of deaths was White offenders with 454 deaths. These findings are broadly representative of the underlying population.

Deaths in nearly every age bracket have between 2014/15 and 2015/16 in both the NPS and CRCs. The exceptions was for the 65 and over age group in CRCs, which dropped slightly from 10 to 7.

**Figure 20: Number of NPS Deaths by Age in 2014/15, 2015/16**



**Figure 21: Number of CRC Deaths by Age in 2014/15, 2015/16**



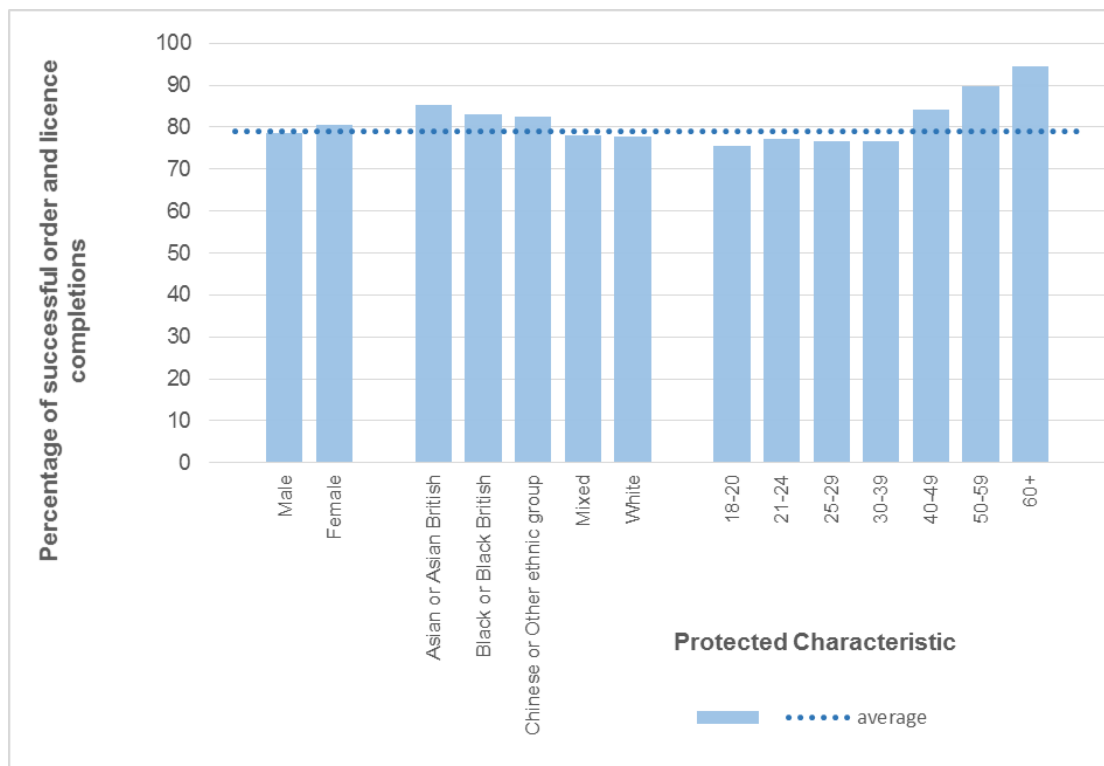
### 13. Order and Licence Completions

The National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies are responsible for supervising offenders in the community under two main types of supervision: orders and licences. Orders are non-custodial sentences of the court. Licences are statutory periods of supervision that offenders serve in the community upon release from custodial sentences of 12 months and over.

Successful completions of orders and licences are those which are recorded on the case management system as having expired normally (i.e. without being revoked for failure to comply or for a further offence) or which have been terminated early by the court for good progress. Drug rehabilitation requirements are included in the calculation.

Figures on the proportion of Court Orders and Licences that were community based and successfully completed can be found in Table 12.1 of the Supplementary Tables.

**Figure 22: Percentage of Successful Order and Licence Completions by protected characteristic, 2015/16**



In 2015/16 there were 140,989 total terminations of orders and licences<sup>26</sup>. Of these, 111,318 or 79.0% were successful. This proportion increased since 2013/14 when 77.2% of terminations were successfully completed and 78.4% in 2014/15.

<sup>26</sup> Excluding neutral terminations (e.g. order or licence terminations due to death).

In 2015/16 female offenders had a slightly higher proportion of successful terminations (80.5%) than males (78.7%).

Offenders of Asian and Asian British, Black and Black British and Chinese or other ethnic groups had slightly higher percentages of successful completions (85.2%, 83.1% and 82.6% respectively) than White or mixed ethnicity offenders (77.7% and 77.9% respectively).

Those aged 18-39 had proportions of successful terminations that ranged from 75.5% to 77.1%. The proportion of successful completions rose thereafter with every subsequently older age group, with those aged 60 and over having 94.4% of terminations being successful.

## 14. Home Detention Curfew

Figures for home detention curfews (HDCs) and the population eligible for HDCs are published in the Offender Management Statistics publication. Published figures for population eligible for HDCs are split by gender but no other protected characteristic.

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly).

They are also in Supplementary Tables 13.1 and 13.2.

The HDC scheme was introduced following the passage of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The purpose of HDC is to manage more effectively the transition of offenders from custody back into the community. Prisoners who are not subject to a statutory exclusion may be released on licence after serving a required period, determined by their sentence length. Prisoners will normally be released on HDC unless there are grounds to indicate the prisoner is unlikely to complete successfully the period on HDC. Once released on HDC licence, the prisoner is electronically tagged and compliance with his or her licence conditions monitored. Eligibility for HDC covers prisoners serving sentences of between 3 months and 4 years, who are not in certain excluded groups.

In 2015, there were 8,319 prisoners released on HDC, a fall of 3.4% on the number of releases in 2014, and continuing a downward trend since 2012. To be considered for release under HDC an offender must be serving a sentence of between 3 months and less than 4 years.

The percentage of prisoners released on HDC (of those eligible) has fallen since 2002 and was 19.1% in 2015. In 2015, this percentage was higher for female than male prisoners – 31.2% as compared with 17.9%.

The percentage of male prisoners released on HDC has fallen from 36.0% in 2002 to 17.9% in 2015. Female prisoners have seen a similar fall from 49.2% to 31.2% over the same time period.

The number of HDC recalls have seen a similar decrease to the number of prisoners released on HDC. In 2014, the latest year for which information is available, there were 842 recalls, a fall of 5.9% on the number in 2013. 71.4% of recalls were due to a breach of curfew conditions. Despite the overall downward trend, between 2014 and 2015, there was a 17.2% increase in the number of HDC recalls for breach of non-curfew conditions.

Male prisoners accounted for 84.1% of all recalls in 2014 and similar to the proportion of males on all HDC releases (85.8%).

## 15. Electronic Monitoring

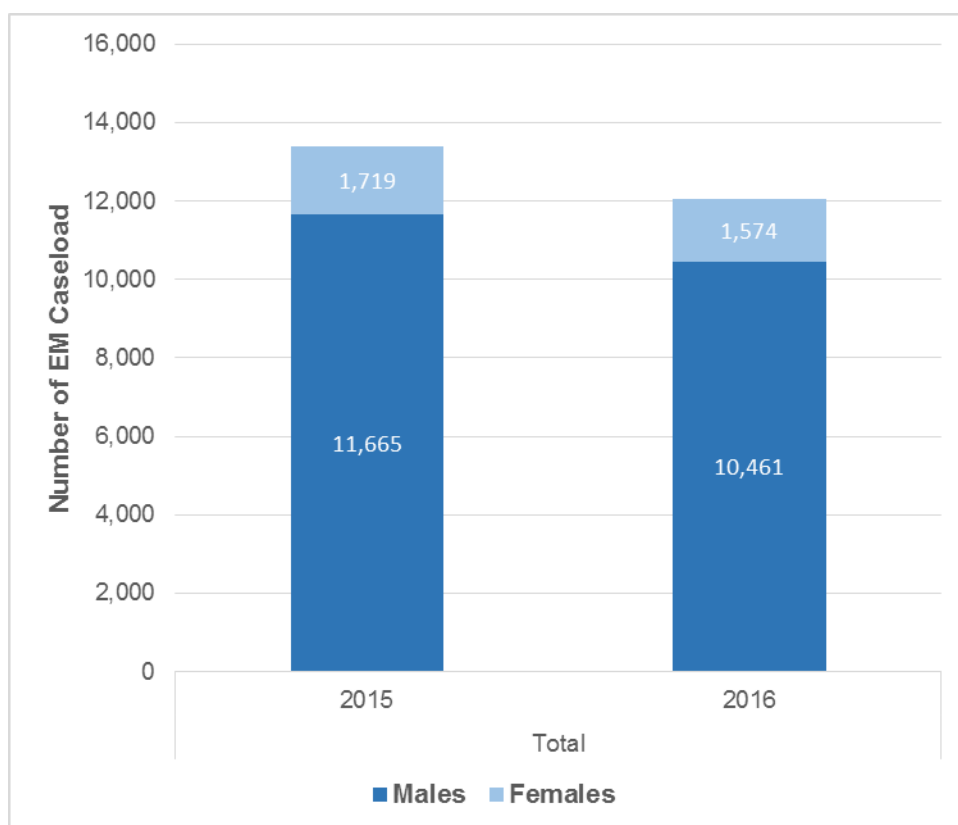
Figures on Electronic monitoring (EM) are published in the NOMS Annual Digest. Please note that data is only published in the 2015/16 Digest.

([www.gov.uk/government/collections/prison-and-probation-trusts-performance-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/prison-and-probation-trusts-performance-statistics)) and also in Supplementary Tables 14.1 to 14.7.

EM refers to an order given to non-custodial offenders who have to wear an electronic monitoring tag as a requirement of that order. The vast majority of tags are issued as part of Bail, Court Sentence and Post Release orders.

As at March 2016, there were 12,035 monitored subjects (86.9%) (predominantly male) wearing EM tags, a decrease of 10.1% from March 2015. These only include offenders serving Bail, Court Sentence and Post-Release orders. Figure 23 shows that the EM caseload for both men and women have decreased since March 2014.

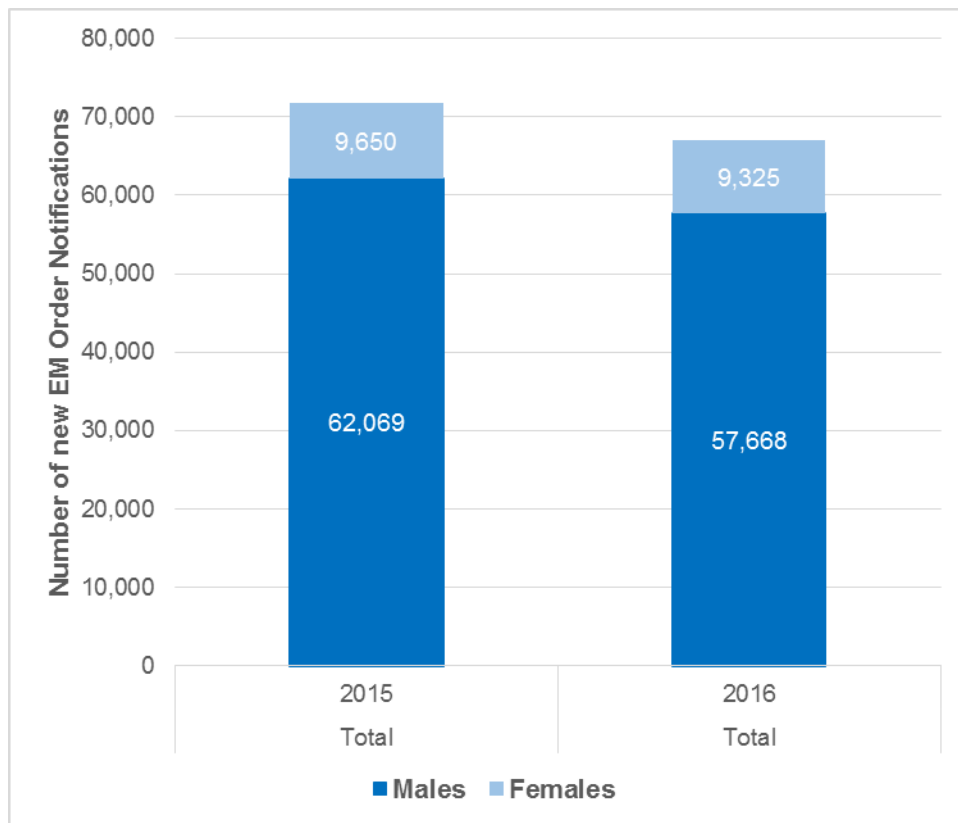
**Figure 23: Number of Electronic Monitoring Caseload by Gender as at 31 March, 2014 and 2015**



3,040 or 25.3% of monitored subjects were aged 30-39.

In the financial year 2015/16 there were 66,993 new EM order notifications, a decrease of 6.6% from March 2014/15. These only include offenders serving Bail, Court Sentence, Post-Release and Immigration Enforcement orders. Figure 25 shows that new EM order notifications for both men and women have decreased slightly from 2014/15.

**Figure 24: Number of new Electronic Monitoring Order Notifications by Gender in 2014 and 2015/16**



## 16. Reoffending

Published figures on proven reoffending are published in [www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics) and are available in Tables 15.1 and 15.4 of the Supplementary Tables.

A proven reoffence is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period that leads to a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow-up. There is a further 6 month waiting period to allow the offence to be proven in court.

The information presented here refers to those people that committed an offence in the period January to December 2014. In 2014, 487,575 adult and young people committed an offence. Of these 124,665 reoffended within a year, giving a reoffending rate of 25.6%. 399,165 proven reoffences were committed over the one year follow-up period, with those that reoffended committing, on average, 3.20 reoffences each.

Although the vast majority of proven offenders and reoffenders were adults (92.3%), the proportion of offenders who reoffend was higher for young people aged 10-17 (37.9%) than for adults (24.5%). While the reoffending rate for 10-17s has seen an increase of 4.3 percentage points since 2004, the cohort size has fallen by around 75%. The rate for adults has remained fairly steady.

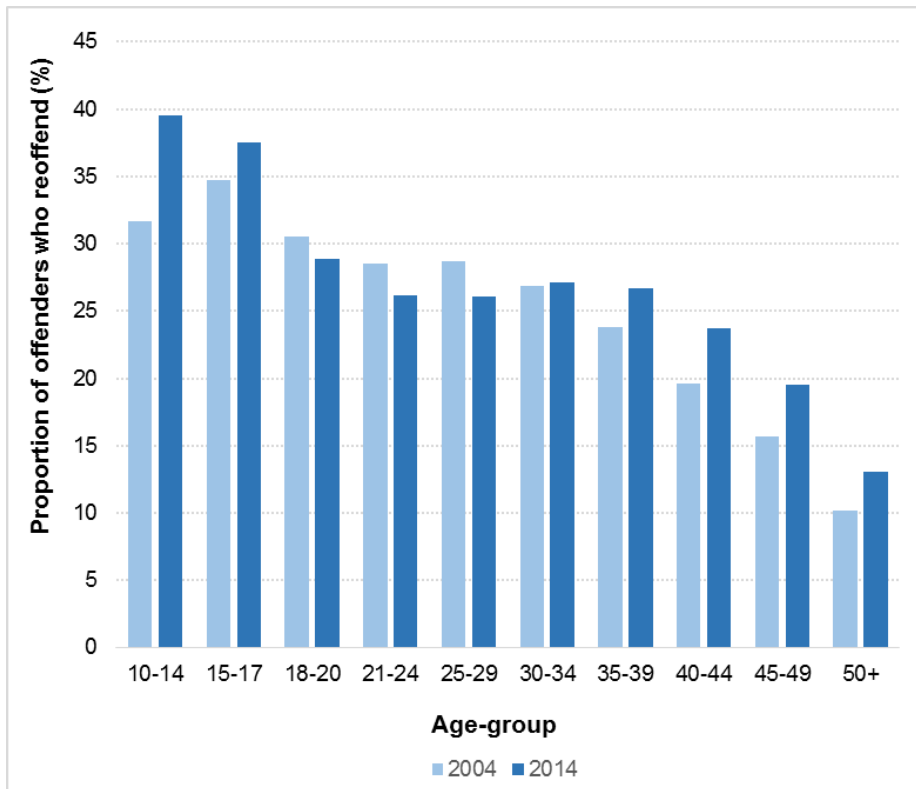
In 2014, 81.5% of offenders in the cohort were male and 18.5% were female. The reoffending rate was higher for males (27.1%) than for females (18.7%). Both rates have decreased since 2004. The average number of reoffences per reoffender was similar for males and for females.

When examined by age, those aged 10-14 had the highest reoffending rate (39.5%), followed by those aged 15-17 (37.5%). The proportion of offenders who reoffend generally decreases as age increases. Since 2004, the age distribution of reoffending has changed. Compared with 2004, the proven reoffending rate has increased for 10 to 17 year olds and for those aged 30 and over, but has fallen for offenders aged 18 to 29.

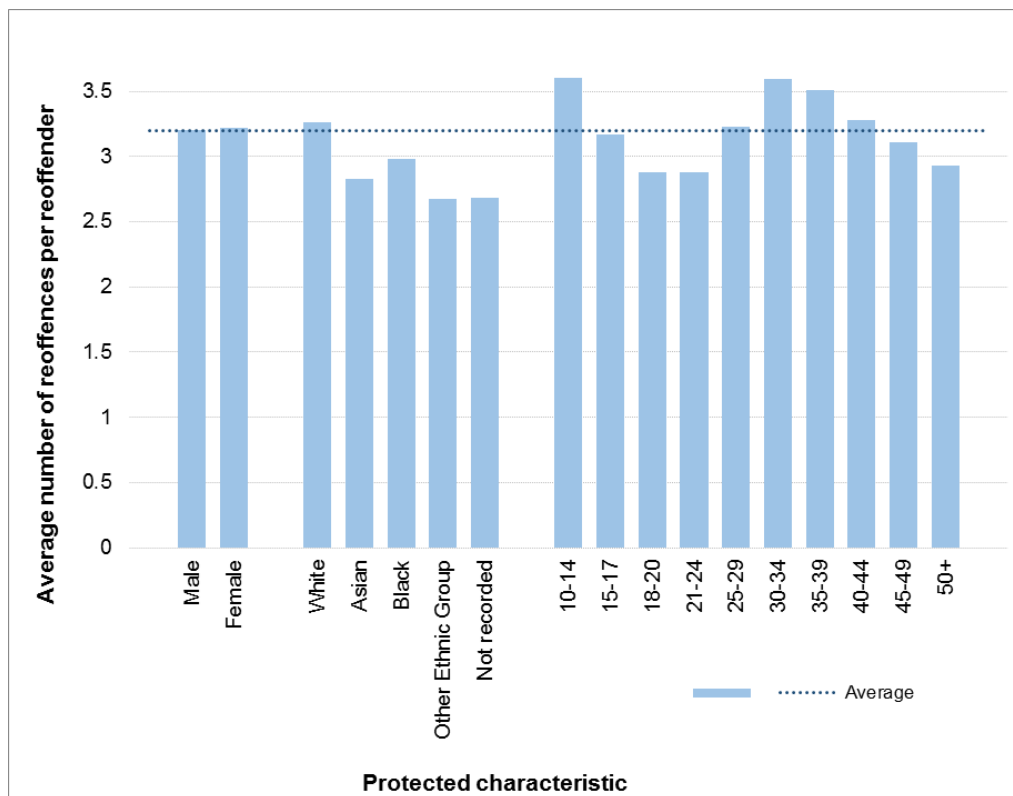
The average number of reoffences per reoffender varies with age. It is highest for 10-14 years olds and those aged 30-39 (as shown in Figure 25).



**Figure 25: Proportion of offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence by age, 2004 and 2014**



**Figure 26: Average number of reoffences per reoffender in England and Wales, by protected characteristic, 2014**



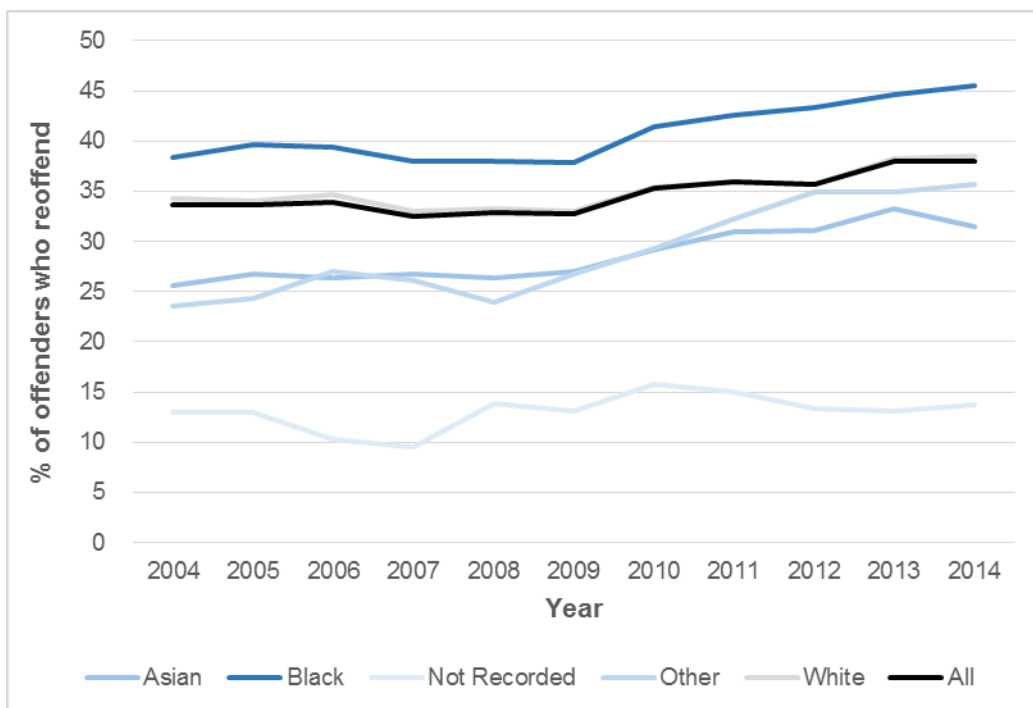
When examined by ethnicity<sup>27</sup>, the rate of re-offending is higher for those classified as Black than for any other ethnic group. Those recorded as Black had a reoffending rate of 29.1% as compared with 26.6% for those recorded as White, 20.4% for Asian and 18.2% for Other Ethnic group. Rates for all groups have fallen in recent years. Re-offending rates are higher for young people than for adults and this is reflected in the rates by ethnicity.

In 2014, the proportion of offenders aged 10-17 that reoffended varied by ethnic group, as follows:

- 45.5% for those recorded as Black;
- 38.5% for those recorded as White;
- 35.7% for those recorded as Other ethnic group;
- 31.5% for those recorded as Asian.

Unlike adults, the re-offending rates for young people have generally increased for all ethnic groups and in particular those recorded as Black (up from 38.3% in 2004 to 45.5% in 2014).

**Figure 28: Proportion of offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence by ethnicity for those aged 10-17, 2004 to 2014**



<sup>27</sup> The ethnicity of a person is as defined by the Police on the Police National Computer (PNC) and is based on appearance. It does not correspond with the self-reported ethnicity. The categories on PNC are limited and restricted to White, Black, Asian, Other or not recorded.

Reoffending rates vary by the type of sentence the offender received for their index offence<sup>28</sup>. For both adults and young people, the largest rates are for those who have been in custody.

Between January and December 2014, 56,495 adult offenders were released from custody and 25,701 of these (45.5%) were proven to have committed a reoffence within a year. The rate has decreased by 3.1 percentage points since 2004, and has decreased slightly by 0.3 percentage points since the same period 12 months ago.

Between January and December 2014, 1,087 offenders aged 10-17 were released from custody and 752 of these (69.2%) were proven to have committed a reoffence within a year. This represents a fall of 6.3 percentage points since 2004, but an increase of 2.7 percentage points compared to the previous 12 months.

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<sup>28</sup> The proven offence that leads to an offender being included in the cohort. This is defined as custody, court order, or other disposal resulting from a conviction at court, such as a fine or discharge, or caution.

## Users and uses of these Statistics

These statistics have many intended uses by a diverse range of users, and are designed to meet as many of the needs of these users as possible in the most useful and meaningful format.

<b>Intended use of statistics:</b>	<b>Summary of main statistical needs:</b>
MoJ ministers	Ministers may use these statistics to observe that obligations under the Equality Act 2010 are being met and due regard is being paid to equality considerations of offenders.
MPs and House of Lords	These statistics may be used to answer parliamentary questions on equality relating to offenders.
Policy teams	These statistics are used to inform policy development, to monitor impact of changes over time and to model future changes and their impact on the system. This publication addresses the primary questions internal users ask on a regular basis, provides input into Equality Impact Assessments during the policy making process, and forms the basis for ensuring due regard is paid to offender equalities.
Academia, students and businesses	Used as a source of statistics for research purposes and to support lectures, presentations and conferences
Journalists	As a compendium of quality assured data and explanatory comment on equality relating to offenders, to enable an accurate and coherent story to be told.
Voluntary sector	Offender equality data are used in their own briefing and research papers and to inform policy work and responses to consultations.
General public	Data are used to respond to ad-hoc requests and requests made under the Freedom of Information Act, to provide greater transparency of offender equalities related issues in NOMS.

## Other Information

In previous years, though not in 2014, the Annual Equalities Report has included data on the following areas:

- Complaints
- Re-Categorisation
- Segregation
- Use of Force
- Accredited Programmes

Due to changes in the management information systems used for recording offender equalities data, data of sufficient quality are not available for 2014/15 or 2015/16 for these sections. It is anticipated that analysis and publication of these data will resume once they are of sufficient quality. The most recent data can be found in the Annual Equalities Report 2011/12:

[www.webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130128112038/http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/noms/equality](http://www.webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130128112038/http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/noms/equality)

## Symbols and conventions

..	Not available
0	Nil or less than half the final digit shown
-	Not applicable or unreliable (less than 30 observations – use when calculating rates/percentages).
(p)	Provisional data
(r)	Revised data

## Contact points

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

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

Kate Shaw  
Performance and Analysis Group  
NOMS Agency  
Clive House  
70 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9EX

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to:  
[statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from:  
[statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system](http://statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system)

Ministry of Justice publishes data relating to offender management in England and Wales.  
Equivalent statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland can be found at:

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice)

[www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm](http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm)

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