



Ministry
of Justice

Technical Guide

National Offender Management Service Offender Equalities Annual Report

2015/16

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Technical Guide for the NOMS Offender Equalities Annual Report

About the Data

Data published in this report, and sourced from other statistical publications, were drawn from both administrative IT systems and manual data collection returns. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the level of detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale reporting system.

There were several areas where data are unavailable for some protected characteristics. Data coverage for sexual orientation and religion and belief continue to be very limited in many areas, and thus cannot be published. Disability data for offenders also continues to be limited. Efforts are being made to improve the coverage of these data.

It is important to note that the data presented highlight areas where there were differences in the results between groups and where practitioners and others may wish to undertake more in-depth analysis to understand further the reasons for such differences. This should not be equated with discrimination, as there are many reasons why apparent disparities may exist.

Data Sources

Data on offenders have been drawn from a range of different sources. Data on prison population, probation population, adjudications, self-harm, deaths, accredited programmes, release on temporary licences (ROTL), home detention curfew (HDC) and incentives and earned privileges (IEP) are published by the Ministry of Justice. This data are drawn from administrative systems and the data quality is generally assessed to be good.

Data on order or licence completions are drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. Data quality, is assessed to be good where published. Where data does not meet quality standards or where it has not been possible to identify demographic information on offenders the data are excluded from the release (e.g. accredited programmes).

Transgender Prisoners

Equalities Representatives in 123 public and private prisons in England and Wales, were asked to provide information in a data collection exercise on the number of 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).

Equalities representatives provided information on a snapshot day, which was between 24 March and 22 April 2016.

Population, Percentages and Rates

Prison population statistics as at a point in time (31 March¹) have been used for sections analysing prison population, and prisoner IEP status, as this reflects current reporting practice in NOMS statistical publications and is the basis on which the statistics on prisoner IEP status are collected.

Percentages and rates are provided to enable comparisons for each of the protected characteristics.

Percentages are used to represent the proportion (e.g. Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic) within a particular population and to represent the proportion of a specific outcome (e.g. HDC releases out of all calculated to be eligible) for a group (e.g. male prisoners). Rates are used to represent the number of events compared to the base population for each group.

Prison population statistics based on the average population over a calendar year have been used when calculating rates for adjudications, self-harm, deaths, release on temporary licence, home detention curfews² (HDCs). These rates have been calculated based on the number of incidents that occurred in a calendar year compared to the average population over the same time period.

When calculating rates and percentages, any unreported data in a protected characteristic group (e.g. ethnicity, religious beliefs) have been excluded from the analysis to avoid anomalies.

Unknown IEP status have also been removed from percentages in different status group to remove anomalies.

Use of technical terms and abbreviations

Where terms are abbreviated, the full term is used in the first instance, and thereafter abbreviations are used.

Technical terms have been avoided as much as possible, except where this acts as a useful means to avoid repetition, explanations have been provided in the glossary above.

Ethnic Group classification

To enable meaningful time series comparisons and to avoid disclosing confidential or personal information about offenders, this report continues to present data using the 5 + 1 ethnic groupings (Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British, Chinese or Other ethnic group, Mixed ethnic group, White, Not Stated) classification that has traditionally been presented in the NOMS Equalities Annual report. Data collected are based on the 18 + 1 classification used in the 2011 Census. A small number of cases will still be based on the old

¹ Apart from for years 2005 – 2011 where this data was not available for all protected characteristics being analysed, and data was used as at 30 June.

² The definition of population used for calculating HDC rates was prison population eligible for HDC releases

16 + 1 2001 census classifications, however, these align to the same 5 + 1 classifications meaning there is no impact on comparability.

For reoffending data, the ethnic groups is based on information reported on the Police National Computer. The information is based on appearance rather than being self-reported.

Use of 2011 Census Data

Information on the proportion of Ethnicity and Religion among the general population was sourced using data from the 2011 Census. Where otherwise stated, the proportion of ethnicity and religion in the prison population were compared against the total number of respondents aged 15 or over to the 2011 Census in England and Wales.

The 2011 Census classifies the usual resident population of England and Wales as at census day, 27 March 2011, by ethnic group, by sex and by age.

Sex is the classification of a person as either male or female.

Age is derived from the date of birth question and is a person's age at their last birthday, at 27 March 2011. Dates of birth that imply an age over 115 are treated as invalid and the person's age is imputed. Infants less than one year old are classified as 0 years of age.

Ethnic group classifies people according to their own perceived ethnic group and cultural background.