



Ministry of
JUSTICE



Time Intervals Survey of Criminal Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts June 2010

Ministry of Justice
Statistics Bulletin

Published 26th August 2010

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Also available on the Ministry of Justice website at
www.justice.gov.uk/publications/timeintervals.htm

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Introduction

This bulletin presents statistics from the June 2010 Time Intervals Survey on the time taken to process criminal cases in the magistrates' courts in England and Wales.

Background

Virtually all criminal cases in England and Wales start in a magistrates' court. The less serious offences such as motoring offences and handling stolen goods are handled entirely in the magistrates' courts, while more serious offences such as murder or grievous bodily harm are passed on to the Crown Court, either for sentencing after the defendant has been found guilty in a magistrates' court, or for a full trial with a judge and jury. The Crown Court also receives appeals against decisions of the magistrates' courts.

Cases in the magistrates' courts are heard by either two or three lay magistrates (local people who volunteer their services, who may not have formal legal qualifications but will have undertaken a training programme to develop the necessary skills) or by one District Judge (legally qualified, paid, full-time professionals, who are usually based in the larger cities and normally hear the more complex or sensitive cases).

Magistrates' courts also deal with cases relating to other, non-criminal matters. For instance, they also deal with family matters; these cases typically concern the care of children. However, these family cases are not covered by the Time Intervals Survey, which only collects data on the duration of criminal proceedings.

Report structure

The first section of the report includes the **Main Findings** of the survey. More detailed discussion on specific elements within the survey can be found in the **Commentary** section.

Information on the methodology used for the Time Intervals Survey can be found in the next subsection and in the **Explanatory Notes** section. The Explanatory Notes also provide information about statistical revisions, forthcoming changes, and the symbols and conventions used in the bulletin.

Annexes A and B provide information about some of the statistical concepts and terms referred to in this report. **Annex A** discusses the use of both means and medians as measures of the 'average' times taken between stages of proceedings. Since the statistics in this report are derived from a sample of all criminal cases dealt with in magistrates' courts in England and Wales, they are estimates; **Annex B** discusses the survey's error margins and statistical significance, and how these concepts are presented in this report.

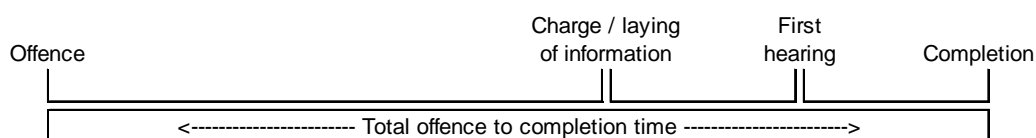
There is also a **Glossary** section which provides brief definitions for the terms used in this report.

If you have any feedback, questions or requests for further information about this statistical bulletin, please direct them to the appropriate contact given in the **Contacts** section of this report.

The Time Intervals Survey

The Time Intervals Survey is run quarterly, in March, June, September and December of each year. It collects data, counted by defendant, on the times taken between stages of proceedings, from the date an offence is committed to the completion of the defendant's case in the magistrates' courts (i.e. either a final decision is reached in the magistrates' court, or the case is passed to the Crown Court for trial or sentence). Figure 1 shows the main stages in the process which are measured by the survey.

Figure 1: Main stages of case progression in the magistrates' courts measured by the Time Intervals Survey



Defendants can have more than one hearing in the magistrates' courts related to their case, and further hearings take place after the first hearing and before the case is completed. The Time Intervals Survey records how many hearings each defendant has in their case (and therefore how many hearings are adjourned during the course of the case, which is one fewer than the number of hearings), but does not record the date of any hearings between the first and the completion of the case.

The "charge / laying of information" stage shown in Figure 1 relates to the point at which either an individual is arrested and formally accused of a crime at a police station (charge) or an individual receives a written summons advising that an action has begun against them, and that they are required either to appear in person at the court, or to respond to the court in writing, regarding the alleged offence (laying of information).

The first hearing stage refers to the first hearing in the magistrates' court. Completion refers to the date proceedings were completed in the magistrates' court.

The statistics are used to monitor how long cases take to progress through the magistrates' court system and how this changes over time, to assist in the development of policy, and to monitor and evaluate previous policies.

Content of quarterly TIS bulletins

The Time Intervals Survey (in March, June, September and December) provides statistics on the following categories of defendants whose cases completed in the magistrates' courts of England and Wales during each quarter's survey periods (see Explanatory Notes for more information on the survey methodology):

- All defendants in completed indictable / triable-either-way cases.
- Youth defendants in completed criminal cases.
- Adult and youth defendants in completed charged cases.

In addition to the above, the March and September surveys also collect statistics on all defendants in completed summary cases. These statistics are combined with the statistics on defendants in indictable / triable-either-way cases to give overall statistics for all defendants in all criminal cases.

The report on the December wave of the survey each year also includes annual statistics, derived from the four sets of quarterly survey results collected during the calendar year.

Other statistics on magistrates' courts published by the Ministry of Justice

As it reports on the results of a sample survey, the Time Intervals Survey statistics do not provide information on the total volume of cases dealt with by magistrates' courts. Quarterly and calendar year statistics on the total number of completed proceedings in magistrates' courts are also published by the Ministry of Justice in the statistical reports "Court Statistics Quarterly" and "Judicial and Court Statistics". These publications also provide statistics about cases dealt with in the family courts (including cases concerning care of children dealt with in magistrates' courts), county courts, Crown Court and other courts of England and Wales.

These statistical bulletins are available from the Ministry of Justice website at, respectively:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/courtstatisticsquarterly.htm

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/judicialandcourtstatistics.htm

Main findings

The June 2010 Time Intervals Survey reports on criminal cases which were completed (meaning that either a final decision is reached in the magistrates' court, or the case is passed to the Crown Court for trial or sentence) in all magistrates' courts across England and Wales during the survey period¹.

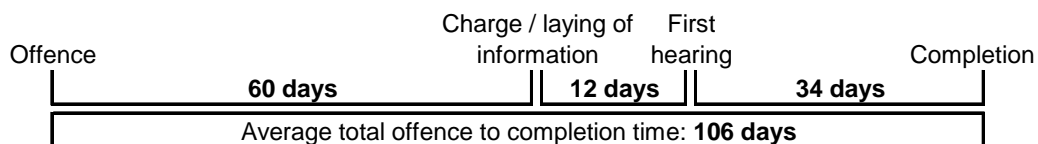
This bulletin provides estimates of the time taken to from offence to completion and the number of hearings, in the magistrates' courts, based on the Time Intervals Survey.

Explanations for some of the main terms used in this section can be found in the Glossary.

All defendants, indictable / triable-either-way cases

- In June 2010, the average time between the date an offence was committed and the date the defendant's case was completed in the magistrates' courts for indictable / triable-either-way cases was 106 days. This has remained relatively unchanged since mid-2008, before which there was a decline in the preceding three years.
- On average 34 days were spent between the first hearing² in a case and its completion in a magistrates' court. The decline in the overall offence-to-completion time after mid-2008 was related to a fall in the time taken from the first hearing to completion. This in turn was due to an increase in the proportion of defendants whose case was completed at the first hearing (i.e. for whom the time between first hearing and completion was 0 days; 42 per cent in June 2010) and a reduction in the average number of adjournments per case.

Figure 2: Average time, indictable / triable-either-way cases, June 2010



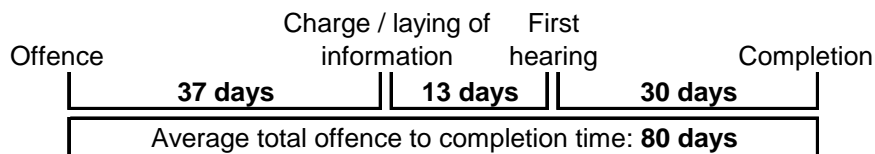
¹ - The survey period includes all cases completing during the week 7 to 13 June 2010 for adult defendants, and during the four-week period 17 May to 13 June 2010 for youth defendants. Please see the Explanatory Notes section for more information on the survey methodology.

² In the data tables 'hearings' are referred to as 'listings'.

Youth defendants, all criminal cases

- In June 2010, the average time from offence to completion was 80 days for youth defendants. This has been relatively unchanged over the last two years, after a steady decrease in the time taken in the previous few years.
- Youth defendants in all criminal cases had 40 per cent of cases which were completed at the first hearing in June 2010; although this has increased from around 30 per cent in 2005.

Figure 3: Average time, youth defendants, all criminal cases, June 2010



Charged cases (excluding cases sent / committed to the Crown Court for trial)

- Charged cases are those where an individual is arrested and formally accused of a crime at a police station.
- The average time between charge and completion for adult defendants was 48 days (6.8 weeks) in June 2010, with an average of 2.19 hearings per defendant.
- The average charge-to-completion time was lower for youth defendants in June 2010, at 42 days (6.0 weeks), with an average 2.41 hearings per defendant.

Commentary

The June 2010 Time Intervals Survey reports on criminal cases which were completed (meaning that either a final decision is reached in the magistrates' court, or the case is passed to the Crown Court for trial or sentence) during the survey period. The June wave includes data on adult defendants in indictable / triable-either-way cases and youth defendants in all criminal cases.

The results presented in this report are given per defendant. Where a case involves more than one defendant, each defendant is counted separately.

The June 2010 results for all defendants are based on a sample of **7,818** defendants in total, comprising:

- **7,818** defendants in indictable / triable-either-way cases;

The results for youth defendants specifically are based on a sample of **5,948** defendants, comprising

- **4,055** youth defendants in indictable / triable-either-way cases; and
- **1,893** youth defendants in summary cases.

Sample sizes are provided in the right-hand column of each detailed table (from page 15 onwards). Since the data are obtained from a survey, it should be noted that the statistics are estimates and not based on data from all defendants in all cases processed by magistrates' courts during a year.

The first subsection collects data on all defendants in indictable / triable-either-way cases. The following subsection presents results for youth defendants in all criminal cases, with the third subsection covering adult and youth defendants in charged cases.

Explanations for some of the main terms used in this section can be found in the Glossary.

All defendants in indictable / triable-either-way cases

Criminal cases dealt with in the magistrates' courts can be split into three categories:

- Indictable / triable-either way cases;
- summary non-motoring offences;
- summary motoring offences.

Indictable cases are those involving the most serious offences, such as murder and rape, and must be heard at a Crown Court. The involvement of the magistrates' court is generally brief: a decision is made on whether to grant bail, and other legal issues, such as reporting restrictions, are considered. The case is then passed to the Crown Court.

Triable-either-way cases involve less serious offences than indictable cases, and include offences such as theft and handling stolen goods. They can be dealt with either in a magistrates' court or before a judge and jury at the Crown Court. Such cases will be dealt with by the Crown Court instead of a magistrates' court if a defendant invokes their right to trial in the Crown Court, or the magistrate decides that a case is sufficiently serious that it should be dealt with in the Crown Court where tougher sentences can be imposed if the defendant is found guilty.

Summary offences are less serious cases, such as motoring offences, minor assaults, and criminal damage where less than £5000 worth of damage is caused. A defendant is not usually entitled to trial by jury, so these cases are dealt with in the magistrates' courts.

Data on summary cases are not collected for all defendants in the June wave of the Time Intervals Survey and consequently, there are also no figures for all defendants in all criminal cases.

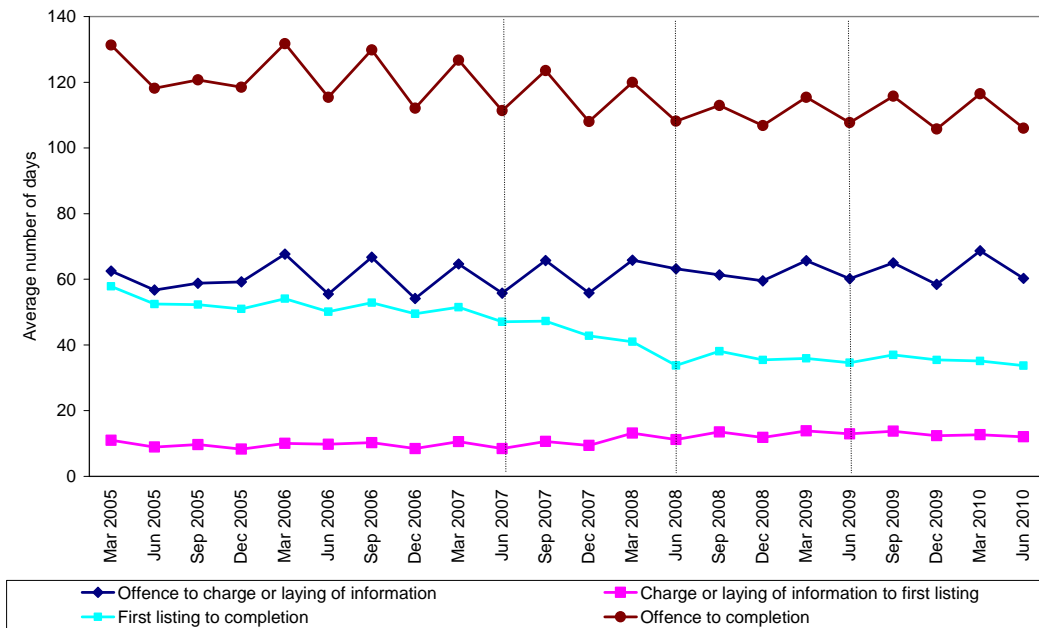
The statistics in this subsection relate to defendants in indictable / triable-either way cases only (i.e. excluding cases involving summary offences).

In June 2010, the estimated average offence-to-completion time in the magistrates' courts was 106 days, remaining at the same level over the past two years, before which there was a decline over the preceding three years.

Of those 106 days, there were, on average (**see table 1a**):

- 60 days between the date of the offence and the date the defendant was charged or summonsed to court;
- 12 days between the date the defendant was charged or summonsed to court and the first hearing of the case in a magistrates' court;
- 34 days between the first hearing of the case and the completion of the case in a magistrates' court.

Figure 4: Average time from offence to completion, defendants in indictable / triable-either-way cases, March 2005-June 2010³

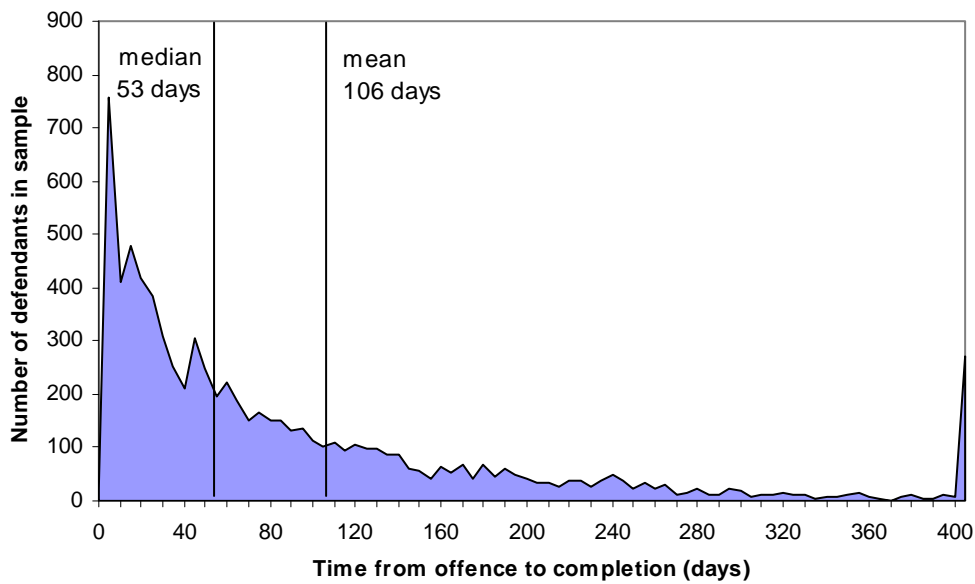


The median offence-to-completion time for indictable / triable-either-way cases was **53 days** in June 2010 (a fall compared with **58 days** in June 2009), which indicates that half of defendants had their case completed within 53 days of committing an offence or less.

The reason the median is so smaller than the mean is because a large proportion of such cases are completed in a shorter timescale than the mean value. Also, the mean is higher due to a small proportion of cases taking a much longer time to progress through the magistrates' court process, as shown in Figure 5.

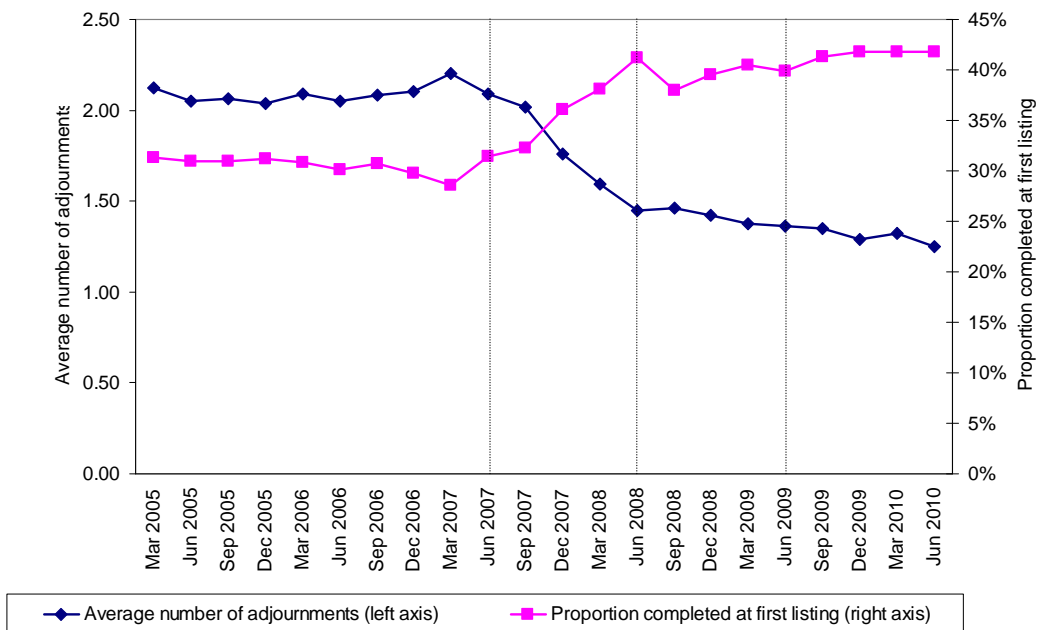
3 - The apparent seasonal variation in the offence to charge / laying of information figures between the Mar/Sep waves and Jun/Dec waves is due to a lower proportion of summonsed indictable / triable-either-way cases in the Jun/ Dec waves. Guidance was issued to court staff collating survey figures which appears to have partially resolved this problem by reducing under-reporting. However this could affect comparisons to previous surveys. The dashed vertical lines in the time series charts in this report denote changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys; see Explanatory Notes for more information.

Figure 5: Distribution of offence-to-completion time, defendants in indictable / triable-either-way cases, June 2010



The decline in overall offence-to-completion time prior to mid-2008 shown in Figure 4 was a result of the fall in the average time for the first hearing-to-completion stage during this period, from which point the level has remained the same. This fall prior to mid-2008 was in turn due to an increase in the proportion of defendants whose case was completed at the first hearing (i.e. for whom the time between first hearing and completion was 0 days) and a reduction in the average number of adjournments per case.

Figure 6: Average number of adjournments and proportion of cases completed at the first hearing, defendants in indictable / triable-either-way cases, March 2005-June 2010



In June 2010, **42 per cent** of defendants in indictable / triable-either-way cases had their case completed at the first hearing, while the average number of adjournments per case was **1.25** in June 2010, a fall compared to **1.36** in June 2009 and a continuing decline since mid-2008 (**see tables 1b and 1c**).

Whether or not a case completed at the first hearing had a marked effect on its overall offence-to-completion duration. Cases which completed at first listing had an average overall duration of 68 days in June 2010, while those cases which had two or more hearings (i.e. had at least one adjournment) had an average duration of more than double this at 134 days.

Youth defendants in all criminal cases

The statistics in this section relate to youth defendants: those who were aged between 10 and 17 on the date an offence was alleged to have been committed (even if they have turned 18 by the time their case is dealt with in the magistrates' courts). The Time Intervals Survey collects data each quarter on youth defendants in all criminal cases.

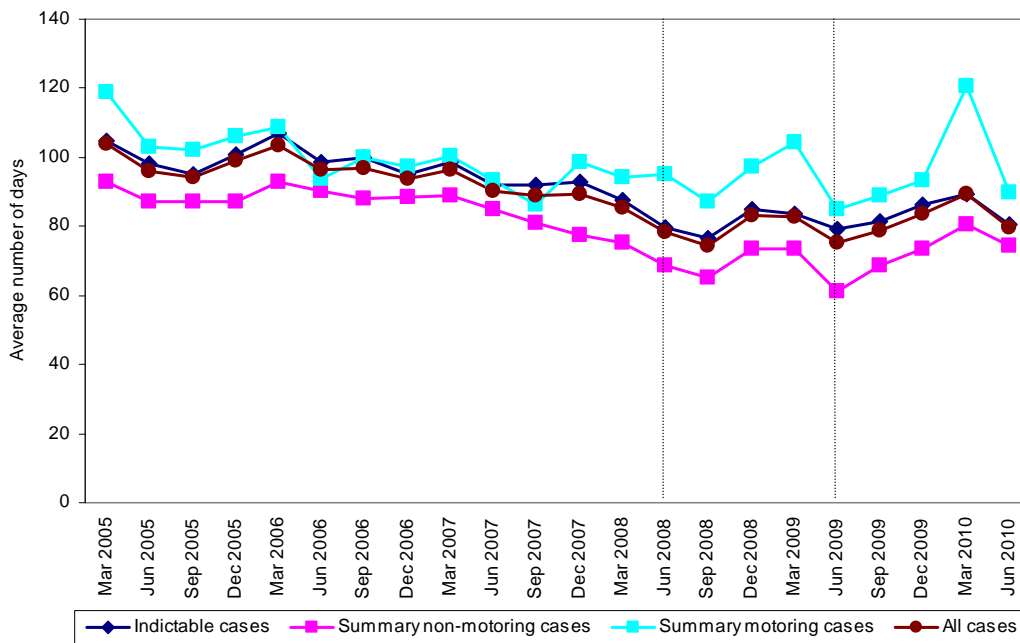
In June 2010, the average time between the date an offence was committed and the date the youth defendant's case was completed in the magistrates' courts was 80 days. This has decreased over the last four years.

The estimated average offence-to-completion times for the three different types of case were as follows (see table 2a):

- 81 days for indictable / triable-either-way cases;
- 75 days for summary non-motoring cases;
- 90 days for summary motoring cases.

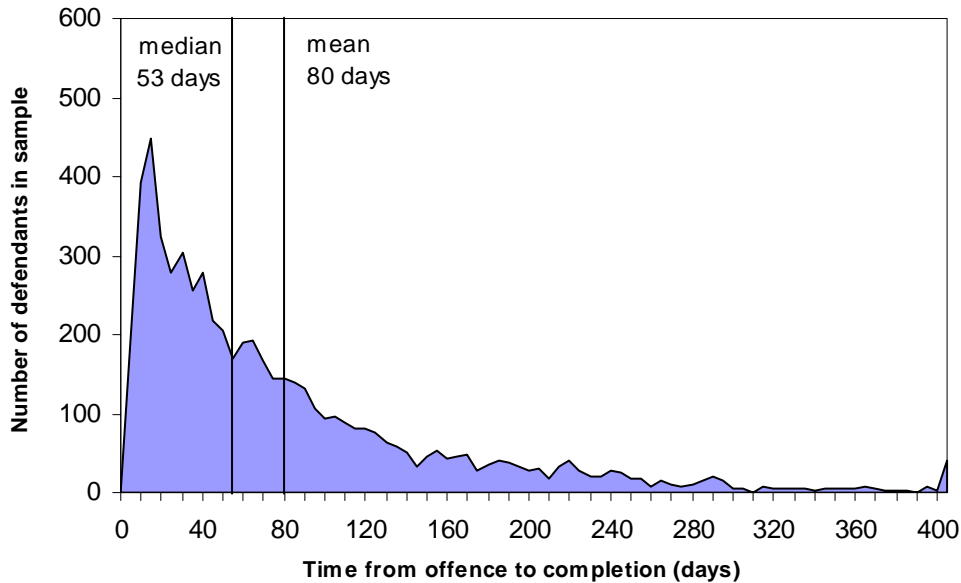
The trend for all indictable cases and all defendants in recent years has mirrored that for youth defendants overall, having decreased over the last four years.

Figure 7: Average time from offence to completion, youth defendants, March 2005-June 2010



The median offence-to-completion time for youth defendants was **53 days** in June 2010 (a rise compared with **49 days** in June 2009). The reason the median is much smaller than the mean is because a large proportion of youth defendants have their cases completed in a shorter timescale than the mean value, while there are a small proportion of cases taking a much longer time to progress through the magistrates' court process, as shown in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Distribution of offence-to-completion time, youth defendants, June 2010



Some **40 per cent** of youth defendants had their case completed at the first hearing in June 2010, and they had 1.38 adjournments on average. For the last four years the proportion of cases completed at the first hearing has been increasing while the average number of adjournments has been decreasing.

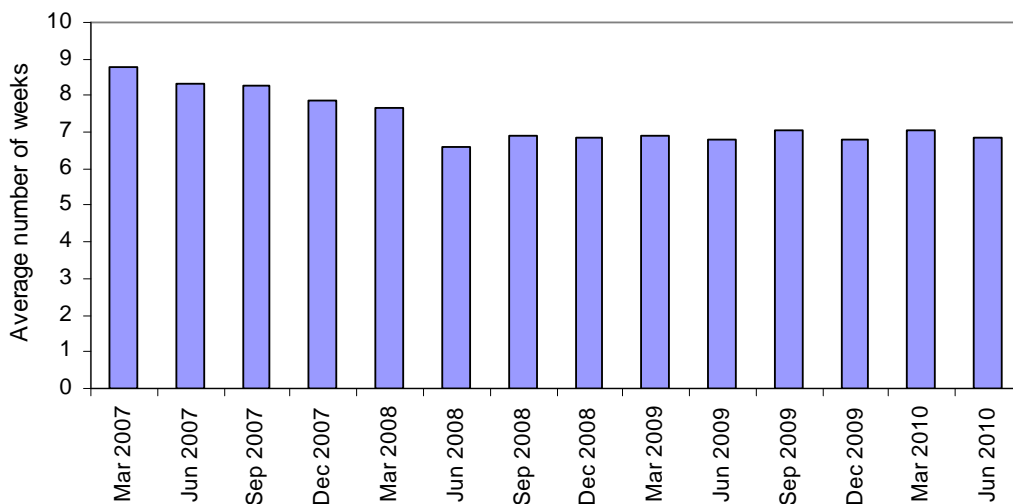
Adult and youth defendants in charged cases

The statistics in this subsection relate to defendants involved in *charged* cases in the magistrates' courts: this subset of cases relates to those where an individual is arrested and formally accused of a crime at a police station. They therefore exclude defendants involved in *summonsed* cases: those where an individual receives a written summons advising that an action has begun against them, and that they are required either to appear in person at the court, or to respond to the court in writing, regarding the alleged offence. However, the statistics exclude those more serious charged cases which were sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial.

Following the introduction of CJSSS (Criminal Justice: Simple, Speedy, Summary) in 2007/2008 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of magistrates' courts, performance measures were established for adult charged cases, excluding those sent or committed to the Crown Court for trial. The ambition was for the average time from charge to completion to be 6 weeks or less and for the average number of hearings for a case to be completed in the magistrates' court to be 2.25 or less. In 2008/09 the CJSSS programme was rolled out for youth charged cases, although no specific targets were set.

For adult defendants, in June 2010 the estimated average time between the date an offence was committed and the date the defendant's case was completed in the magistrates' courts was 48 days (6.8 weeks). As Figure 9 shows, the average time has remained the same over the last couple of years, but is lower than in 2007 (separate statistics for this particular subset of cases only began being collected in 2007). There was an average of 2.19 hearings per defendant.

Figure 9: Average time from offence to completion, adult defendants in charged cases, March 2007-June 2010



For youth defendants, in June 2010 the average time between the date an offence was committed and the date the defendant's case was completed in the magistrates' courts was 42 days (6.0 weeks), and there were an average of 2.41 hearings per defendant. Results for charged cases broken down for each Local Criminal Justice Board area can be found in **tables 3b and 4b**.

Figure 10: Average time from offence to completion, youth defendants in charged cases, March 2007-June 2010

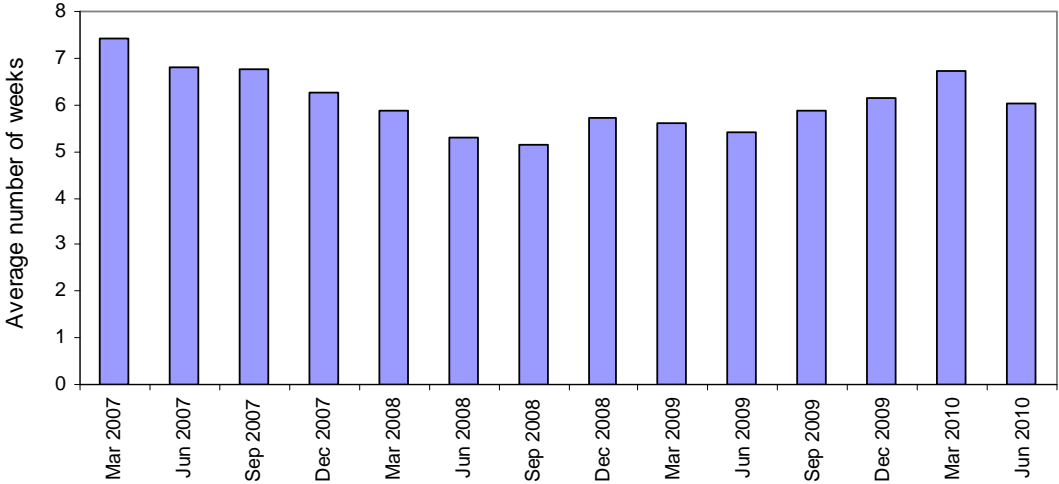


TABLE 1a: All defendants in completed indictable / triable-either-way cases, 2005 to June 2010: Timeliness

England and Wales

	Estimated number of days from:																Sample size (Number of defendants)
	Offence to charge or laying of information				Charge or laying of information to first listing				First listing to completion				Offence to completion				
	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	
2005	59	2	8	(7-9)	10	0	6	(6-6)	54	1	28	(27-28)	122	2	75	(73-76)	28,127
2006	61	2	10	(9-11)	10	0	6	(6-6)	52	1	27	(26-28)	123	2	74	(72-75)	27,730
2007 ⁽³⁾	61	2	11	(10-12)	10	0	7	(7-7)	47	1	22	(22-23)	118	2	69	(68-71)	28,756
2008 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	62	2	9	(8-10)	12	0	9	(9-9)	37	1	14	(14-15)	112	2	61	(59-62)	29,608
2009 ^{(3)(b)}	62	2	7	(7-8)	13	0	10	(10-10)	36	1	14	(13-14)	111	2	61	(60-63)	31,624
2007 March	65	4	10	(8-13)	11	1	6	(6-6)	51	2	27	(25-28)	127	4	75	(72-78)	7,126
2007 June ⁽³⁾	56	4	9	(8-12)	8	0	6	(6-7)	47	2	22	(21-24)	111	4	65	(63-67)	7,178
2007 September	66	4	12	(10-14)	11	0	7	(7-7)	47	2	23	(21-25)	124	4	74	(71-76)	7,600
2007 December	56	3	12	(10-14)	9	0	7	(7-7)	43	2	21	(20-21)	108	4	66	(64-68)	6,852
2008 March	66	4	12	(10-14)	13	1	8	(8-9)	41	2	15	(14-19)	120	4	66	(63-69)	7,487
2008 June ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	63	4	6	(4-7)	11	0	9	(9-9)	34	2	13	(9-14)	108	5	55	(52-57)	7,313
2008 September	61	4	11	(9-13)	14	0	9	(9-9)	38	2	16	(14-20)	113	4	63	(62-65)	7,530
2008 December	60	4	8	(6-10)	12	0	9	(9-9)	35	2	14	(14-17)	107	4	59	(57-62)	7,278
2009 March	66	4	10	(8-12)	14	0	10	(10-10)	36	1	14	(13-15)	115	4	67	(64-70)	8,262
2009 June ⁽³⁾	60	4	6	(5-8)	13	0	10	(10-10)	35	1	14	(14-15)	108	5	58	(56-60)	7,790
2009 September ⁽⁵⁾	65	4	7	(6-9)	14	0	10	(10-10)	37	2	14	(11-14)	116	5	63	(61-66)	7,850
2009 December	58	4	6	(4-8)	12	1	10	(10-10)	35	2	12	(8-14)	106	4	59	(57-61)	7,722
2010 March ⁽⁶⁾	69	4	9	(7-11)	13	1	10	(10-10)	35	1	11	(8-13)	116	5	61	(59-64)	8,213
2010 June	60	4	4	(3-6)	12	0	11	(10-11)	34	2	12	(9-14)	106	5	53	(51-56)	7,818

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

(4) The proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 dipped in comparison to previous surveys. This appears to have stemmed from revised data collection methods, and has been addressed.

(5) September 2009 figures have been amended to include late data from Bridgwater and Taunton courts

(6) March 2010 figures have been amended to include late data from Blandford, Poole and Weymouth courts

TABLE 1b: All defendants in completed indictable / triable-either-way cases, 2005 to June 2010: Adjournments

England and Wales

	Adjournments per defendant				Sample size
	Estimated average number of adjournments		Estimated median number of adjournment		(Number of defendants)
	Mean (number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	Median (number)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (number)	
2005	2.07	0.03	1	(1-1)	28,127
2006	2.08	0.03	1	(1-1)	27,730
2007 ⁽³⁾	2.02	0.03	1	(1-1)	28,756
2008 ⁽³⁾	1.48	0.02	1	(1-1)	29,608
2009 ^{(3)(b)}	1.35	0.02	1	(1-1)	31,624
2007 March	2.20	0.06	2	(1-2)	7,126
2007 June ⁽³⁾	2.09	0.06	1	(1-1)	7,178
2007 September	2.02	0.06	1	(1-1)	7,600
2007 December	1.76	0.05	1	(1-1)	6,852
2008 March	1.59	0.05	1	(1-1)	7,487
2008 June ^{(3), (4)}	1.45	0.05	1	(1-1)	7,313
2008 September	1.46	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,530
2008 December	1.42	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,278
2009 March	1.38	0.04	1	(1-1)	8,262
2009 June ⁽³⁾	1.36	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,790
2009 September ⁽⁵⁾	1.35	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,850
2009 December	1.29	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,722
2010 March ⁽⁶⁾	1.32	0.04	1	(1-1)	8,213
2010 June	1.25	0.04	1	(1-1)	7,818

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.
- (2) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.
- (3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys
- (4) The proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 dipped in comparison to previous surveys. This appears to have stemmed from revised data collection methods, and has been addressed.
- (5) September 2009 figures have been amended to include late data from Bridgwater and Taunton courts
- (6) March 2010 figures have been amended to include late data from Blandford, Poole and Weymouth courts

TABLE 1c: All defendants in completed indictable / triable-either-way cases, 2005 to June 2010: Subgroups completed and not completed at first listing

England and Wales

	Cases Completed at First Listing					Cases not completed at first listing								
	Estimated proportion completed at first listing		Estimated average number of days from:		Sample size	Estimated proportion not completed in one hearing		Estimated average number of days from:				Adjournments per defendant		Sample size
	(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	Offence to completion			(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	First listing to completion		Offence to completion		Estimated average number of adjournments		
			(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)			Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	(Number of defendants)	
2005	31%	1%	65	3	8,749	69%	1%	78	1	149	3	3.00	0.03	19,378
2006	30%	1%	64	3	8,419	70%	1%	74	1	148	3	2.99	0.03	19,311
2007 ⁽²⁾	32%	1%	65	3	9,207	68%	1%	69	1	142	3	2.97	0.03	19,549
2008 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	39%	1%	69	3	11,609	61%	1%	61	1	140	3	2.44	0.03	17,999
2009 ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	41%	1%	68	3	12,924	59%	1%	60	1	141	3	2.28	0.03	18,700
2007 March	29%	1%	71	7	2,033	71%	1%	72	2	149	5	3.08	0.07	5,093
2007 June ⁽²⁾	31%	1%	55	7	2,256	69%	1%	69	2	137	5	3.05	0.07	4,922
2007 September	32%	1%	73	7	2,450	68%	1%	70	2	148	6	2.98	0.07	5,150
2007 December	36%	1%	62	6	2,468	64%	1%	67	3	134	5	2.75	0.06	4,384
2008 March	38%	1%	76	7	2,856	62%	1%	66	3	147	6	2.58	0.07	4,631
2008 June ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	41%	1%	70	7	3,016	59%	1%	57	2	135	6	2.46	0.06	4,297
2008 September	38%	1%	62	6	2,862	62%	1%	61	3	144	6	2.36	0.05	4,668
2008 December	40%	1%	68	7	2,875	60%	1%	59	2	132	5	2.35	0.06	4,403
2009 March	40%	1%	76	7	3,344	60%	1%	60	2	142	5	2.32	0.05	4,918
2009 June ⁽²⁾	40%	1%	63	7	3,109	60%	1%	58	2	137	6	2.27	0.05	4,681
2009 September ⁽⁴⁾	41%	1%	68	6	3,247	59%	1%	63	4	149	7	2.30	0.05	4,603
2009 December	42%	1%	63	6	3,224	58%	1%	60	2	136	6	2.22	0.05	4,498
2010 March ⁽⁵⁾	42%	1%	73	6	3,430	58%	1%	60	2	148	6	2.27	0.05	4,783
2010 June	42%	1%	68	6	3,264	58%	1%	58	3	134	6	2.15	0.05	4,554

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007, June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

(3) The proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 dipped in comparison to previous surveys. This appears to have stemmed from revised data collection methods, and has been addressed.

(4) September 2009 figures have been amended to include late data from Bridgwater and Taunton courts

(5) March 2010 figures have been amended to include late data from Blandford, Poole and Weymouth courts

TABLE 2a: Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2005 to June 2010: Timeliness

England and Wales

	Estimated number of days from:														Sample size (Number of defendants)		
	Offence to charge or laying of information				Charge or laying of information to first listing				First listing to completion				Offence to completion				
	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)		Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)
Indictable Cases																	
2005	43	1	17	(16-18)	9	0	6	(6-6)	48	1	25	(23-27)	100	1	70	(68-71)	21,729
2006	45	1	19	(18-20)	9	0	7	(6-7)	46	1	21	(21-22)	100	1	68	(66-69)	22,637
2007	44	1	19	(18-20)	9	0	7	(7-7)	41	1	21	(21-21)	94	1	64	(62-65)	22,560
2008 ⁽³⁾	42	1	16	(15-17)	9	0	7	(7-7)	31	1	14	(14-14)	82	1	54	(53-56)	19,189
2009 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	40	1	14	(13-15)	11	0	9	(9-9)	31	1	14	(14-14)	83	1	55	(54-57)	17,380
2007 March	45	2	17	(15-19)	9	0	6	(6-6)	45	2	21	(21-23)	99	3	69	(66-72)	5,779
2007 June	42	2	19	(18-20)	9	0	7	(6-7)	41	1	21	(21-21)	92	2	63	(31-35)	5,748
2007 September	42	2	18	(16-19)	9	0	7	(7-7)	41	2	21	(20-21)	92	3	61	(58-63)	5,550
2007 December	47	2	23	(20-24)	9	0	7	(7-7)	37	1	18	(16-21)	93	3	63	(60-65)	5,483
2008 March	45	2	19	(17-21)	9	0	7	(7-7)	34	1	14	(14-16)	88	2	59	(56-61)	5,256
2008 June ⁽³⁾	41	3	13	(11-14)	9	0	7	(7-7)	30	1	14	(14-14)	80	3	50	(48-53)	4,766
2008 September	38	2	16	(13-17)	9	0	7	(7-7)	29	1	14	(14-14)	76	3	52	(50-55)	4,495
2008 December	43	3	17	(15-19)	10	0	8	(8-8)	32	2	14	(14-14)	85	3	56	(54-59)	4,672
2009 March	42	2	15	(13-17)	11	0	8	(8-8)	31	1	14	(14-14)	84	2	57	(54-60)	4,529
2009 June ⁽³⁾	39	3	11	(9-13)	11	0	9	(8-9)	30	1	14	(14-14)	79	3	51	(49-54)	4,343
2009 September ⁽⁴⁾	38	2	13	(11-16)	12	1	9	(9-9)	31	2	14	(12-14)	81	3	56	(54-59)	4,110
2009 December	42	2	17	(15-19)	11	0	10	(9-10)	33	1	14	(14-14)	86	3	59	(56-62)	4,398
2010 March ⁽⁵⁾	41	2	15	(13-17)	12	0	10	(9-10)	36	2	15	(14-19)	89	3	63	(58-66)	4,344
2010 June	38	3	11	(9-13)	12	0	10	(10-11)	30	2	14	(13-14)	81	3	53	(50-55)	4,055
Summary non-motoring cases																	
2005	36	1	9	(7-10)	10	0	7	(7-7)	41	1	21	(21-21)	88	2	62	(60-64)	8,087
2006	36	1	10	(9-12)	11	0	7	(7-7)	43	1	21	(20-21)	90	2	62	(60-65)	8,393
2007	36	2	9	(8-10)	10	0	7	(7-7)	37	1	16	(14-19)	83	2	55	(54-57)	8,890
2008 ⁽³⁾	32	1	6	(4-7)	10	0	8	(8-8)	28	1	10	(7-13)	71	2	44	(42-46)	6,989
2009 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	30	1	4	(3-5)	12	0	10	(10-10)	27	1	7	(7-7)	69	2	45	(42-47)	6,213
2007 March	36	3	10	(7-12)	11	1	8	(7-8)	43	3	21	(18-21)	89	4	62	(58-66)	2,249
2007 June	37	3	11	(9-14)	10	1	7	(7-8)	37	2	20	(15-21)	85	4	57	(54-60)	2,473
2007 September	36	4	7	(5-9)	10	1	7	(7-7)	35	2	14	(14-16)	81	5	51	(46-55)	2,137
2007 December	35	2	7	(5-10)	10	1	7	(7-8)	33	2	14	(14-15)	77	3	52	(48-56)	2,031
2008 March	33	2	6	(4-9)	10	0	8	(7-8)	32	2	13	(7-14)	75	4	46	(42-51)	1,904
2008 June ⁽³⁾	33	3	6	(4-9)	10	1	8	(8-8)	26	2	7	(7-10)	69	4	42	(38-45)	1,685
2008 September	28	2	4	(2-6)	11	1	8	(8-8)	26	2	11	(7-14)	65	3	41	(38-44)	1,664
2008 December	34	2	7	(4-10)	10	1	8	(8-8)	30	2	14	(8-14)	74	4	49	(45-53)	1,736
2009 March	34	3	4	(3-7)	11	1	9	(9-10)	28	2	7	(7-14)	74	4	44	(40-49)	1,580
2009 June ⁽³⁾	26	2	2	(1-5)	11	0	10	(9-10)	24	2	5	(2-7)	61	3	40	(36-43)	1,583
2009 September ⁽⁴⁾	29	3	3	(2-5)	12	1	10	(10-10)	27	2	7	(5-8)	69	2	45	(39-49)	1,495
2009 December	31	2	7	(4-10)	12	1	10	(10-11)	30	2	7	(6-13)	74	4	53	(47-57)	1,555
2010 March ⁽⁵⁾	37	3	8	(6-11)	13	1	11	(11-11)	31	2	7	(7-14)	81	4	50	(46-57)	1,573
2010 June	30	2	3	(2-6)	14	1	11	(11-12)	31	2	14	(10-14)	75	4	48	(44-53)	1,549

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

(4) September 2009 figures have been amended to include late data from Bridgwater and Taunton courts

(5) March 2010 figures have been amended to include late data from Blandford, Poole and Weymouth courts

TABLE 2a (continued): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2005 to June 2010: Timeliness

England and Wales

	Estimated number of days from:														Sample size (Number of defendants)		
	Offence to charge or laying of information				Charge or laying of information to first listing				First listing to completion				Offence to completion				
	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)	Mean (days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)		Median (days)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (days)
Summary motoring cases																	
2005	59	2	48	(46-51)	21	1	19	(18-20)	28	2	6	(3-7)	108	3	96	(93-99)	4,558
2006	55	2	41	(38-44)	21	1	16	(15-18)	25	2	5	(1-7)	100	3	86	(83-91)	3,707
2007	50	2	36	(33-39)	19	1	13	(12-14)	25	2	5	(0-7)	95	3	79	(76-83)	3,092
2008 ⁽³⁾	53	2	37	(33-40)	21	1	14	(14-16)	20	2	0	(0-0)	93	3	77	(74-82)	2,379
2009 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	52	2	37	(34-40)	23	1	19	(18-20)	18	1	0	(0-0)	93	3	77	(73-81)	1,999
2007 March	54	4	41	(34-45)	20	1	14	(12-15)	26	3	7	(0-7)	100	5	83	(76-94)	840
2007 June	46	4	30	(24-35)	17	1	11	(9-12)	30	5	7	(2-14)	93	7	72	(65-83)	768
2007 September	45	4	32	(24-36)	18	1	12	(11-14)	23	3	2	(0-7)	86	5	75	(66-82)	803
2007 December	57	4	44	(38-49)	20	1	17	(14-19)	22	3	0	(0-7)	99	6	85	(78-95)	681
2008 March	53	4	38	(29-47)	21	2	14	(12-18)	21	3	0	(0-2)	94	6	82	(73-94)	629
2008 June ⁽³⁾	54	5	33	(28-39)	20	2	14	(12-16)	21	4	1	(0-6)	95	7	71	(61-77)	608
2008 September	48	4	35	(28-42)	21	2	14	(13-18)	18	3	0	(0-0)	87	6	75	(69-84)	585
2008 December	56	5	41	(33-49)	22	2	16	(14-19)	20	3	0	(0-2)	97	6	84	(77-93)	557
2009 March	60	5	42	(34-51)	25	2	21	(18-22)	19	3	0	(0-0)	104	7	87	(75-105)	535
2009 June ⁽³⁾	46	5	29	(22-37)	20	2	15	(14-17)	19	3	0	(0-0)	85	7	67	(60-77)	448
2009 September ⁽⁴⁾	49	4	35	(29-40)	23	2	20	(18-22)	18	3	0	(0-0)	89	6	72	(66-81)	539
2009 December	54	5	40	(35-48)	23	1	19	(18-21)	17	3	0	(0-0)	93	6	83	(77-90)	477
2010 March ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾	69	15	49	(42-55)	24	2	21	(19-23)	27	5	0	(0-7)	121	16	107	(97-113)	456
2010 June	49	6	28	(23-35)	23	2	19	(16-21)	18	3	0	(0-3)	90	8	69	(61-79)	344
All criminal cases																	
2005	44	1	18	(17-19)	11	0	7	(11-12)	44	1	21	(21-21)	98	1	71	(70-73)	34,374
2006	44	1	19	(18-20)	11	0	7	(11-12)	43	1	21	(21-21)	98	1	68	(67-70)	34,737
2007	43	1	18	(17-18)	10	0	7	(11-12)	39	1	19	(17-20)	91	1	63	(62-64)	34,542
2008 ⁽³⁾	40	1	15	(14-16)	11	0	8	(11-12)	30	1	14	(14-14)	81	1	54	(53-54)	28,557
2009 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	39	1	13	(12-14)	12	0	9	(9-9)	29	1	11	(9-13)	80	1	54	(53-56)	25,592
2007 March	44	1	17	(15-18)	10	0	7	(7-7)	43	1	21	(21-21)	96	2	68	(66-71)	8,868
2007 June	41	1	18	(17-19)	10	0	7	(7-7)	39	1	21	(18-21)	90	2	62	(60-64)	8,989
2007 September	41	2	16	(14-18)	10	0	7	(7-7)	38	1	16	(15-19)	89	2	59	(57-61)	8,490
2007 December	45	1	20	(19-22)	10	0	7	(7-7)	35	1	14	(14-15)	90	2	62	(60-64)	8,195
2008 March	43	1	17	(15-19)	10	0	7	(7-8)	32	1	14	(14-14)	85	2	58	(55-59)	7,789
2008 June ⁽³⁾	40	2	12	(11-14)	11	0	8	(7-8)	28	1	14	(11-14)	78	2	50	(48-52)	7,059
2008 September	37	2	13	(12-16)	11	0	8	(7-8)	27	1	14	(13-14)	75	2	51	(49-53)	6,744
2008 December	42	2	16	(15-18)	11	0	8	(8-8)	30	1	14	(13-14)	83	2	56	(54-59)	6,965
2009 March	42	2	14	(12-16)	12	0	9	(9-9)	29	1	14	(9-14)	83	2	56	(54-59)	6,644
2009 June ⁽³⁾	36	2	9	(8-11)	12	0	9	(9-9)	27	1	9	(7-13)	75	3	49	(48-51)	6,374
2009 September ⁽⁴⁾	37	2	12	(10-14)	13	0	10	(10-10)	29	1	8	(7-13)	79	2	55	(53-57)	6,144
2009 December	40	2	16	(14-18)	12	0	10	(10-10)	31	1	13	(9-14)	84	2	59	(57-61)	6,430
2010 March ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾	42	2	16	(14-17)	13	0	10	(10-11)	34	1	14	(14-14)	89	2	64	(60-66)	6,373
2010 June	37	2	10	(8-12)	13	0	11	(11-11)	30	1	14	(13-14)	80	3	53	(50-55)	5,948

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

(4) September 2009 figures have been amended to include late data from Bridgwater and Taunton courts

(5) This unusually long time of proceeding for offence to charge and offence to completion is due to a few charged summary motoring cases being processed by a few courthouses

(6) March 2010 figures have been amended to include late data from Blandford, Poole and Weymouth courts

TABLE 2b: Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2005 to June 2010: Adjudgments

	Adjudgments per defendant				Sample size (Number of defendants)
	Estimated average number of adjudgments		Estimated median number of adjudgments		
	Mean (number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	Median (number)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (number)	
Indictable cases					
2005	2.32	0.04	2	(2-2)	21,729
2006	2.32	0.03	2	(2-2)	22,637
2007	2.12	0.03	1	(1-1)	22,560
2008 ⁽³⁾	1.58	0.03	1	(1-1)	19,189
2009 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	1.46	0.03	1	(1-1)	17,380
2007 March	2.31	0.07	2	(2-2)	5,779
2007 June	2.17	0.06	1	(1-2)	5,748
2007 September	2.07	0.06	1	(1-1)	5,550
2007 December	1.93	0.06	1	(1-1)	5,483
2008 March	1.71	0.06	1	(1-1)	5,256
2008 June ⁽³⁾	1.55	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,766
2008 September	1.53	0.05	1	(1-1)	4,495
2008 December	1.53	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,672
2009 March	1.44	0.05	1	(1-1)	4,529
2009 June ⁽³⁾	1.48	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,343
2009 September ⁽⁴⁾	1.44	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,110
2009 December	1.49	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,398
2010 March ⁽⁵⁾	1.52	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,344
2010 June	1.43	0.06	1	(1-1)	4,055
Summary non-motoring cases					
2005	2.00	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,087
2006	2.05	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,393
2007	1.90	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,890
2008 ⁽³⁾	1.40	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,989
2009 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	1.22	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,213
2007 March	2.15	0.10	1	(1-2)	2,249
2007 June	1.96	0.09	1	(1-1)	2,473
2007 September	1.80	0.09	1	(1-1)	2,137
2007 December	1.68	0.09	1	(1-1)	2,031
2008 March	1.48	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,904
2008 June ⁽³⁾	1.38	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,685
2008 September	1.31	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,664
2008 December	1.40	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,736
2009 March	1.30	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,580
2009 June ⁽³⁾	1.11	0.08	1	(1-1)	1,583
2009 September ⁽⁴⁾	1.24	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,495
2009 December	1.22	0.08	1	(1-1)	1,555
2010 March ⁽⁵⁾	1.25	0.08	1	(1-1)	1,573
2010 June	1.34	0.09	1	(1-1)	1,549

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

(4) September 2009 figures have been amended to include late data from Bridgwater and Taunton courts

(5) March 2010 figures have been amended to include late data from Blandford, Poole and Weymouth courts

TABLE 2b (continued): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2005 to June 2010: Adjournments

England and Wales

	Adjournments per defendant				Sample size (Number of defendants)
	Estimated average number of adjournments		Estimated median number of adjournments		
	Mean (number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (number)	Median (number)	Confidence interval ⁽²⁾ (number)	
Summary motoring cases					
2005	1.27	0.05	1	(1-1)	4,558
2006	1.21	0.06	1	(1-1)	3,707
2007	1.27	0.07	1	(1-1)	3,092
2008 ⁽³⁾	0.99	0.06	0	(0-1)	2,379
2009 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	0.85	0.06	0	(0-0)	1,999
2007 March	1.38	0.14	1	(0-1)	840
2007 June	1.42	0.13	1	(1-1)	768
2007 September	1.21	0.13	1	(0-1)	803
2007 December	1.06	0.12	0	(0-1)	681
2008 March	0.95	0.11	0	(0-1)	629
2008 June ⁽³⁾	1.08	0.13	1	(0-1)	608
2008 September	0.92	0.12	0	(0-0)	585
2008 December	1.00	0.13	0	(0-1)	557
2009 March	0.95	0.13	0	(0-0)	535
2009 June ⁽³⁾	0.90	0.14	0	(0-0)	448
2009 September ⁽⁴⁾	0.80	0.11	0	(0-0)	539
2009 December	0.77	0.10	0	(0-0)	477
2010 March ⁽⁵⁾	1.06	0.14	0	(0-1)	456
2010 June	0.85	0.14	0	(0-1)	344
All criminal cases					
2005	2.10	0.03	1	(1-1)	34,374
2006	2.13	0.03	1	(1-1)	34,737
2007	1.99	0.03	1	(1-1)	34,542
2008 ⁽³⁾	1.49	0.02	1	(1-1)	28,557
2009 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	1.36	0.02	1	(1-1)	25,592
2007 March	2.18	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,868
2007 June	2.05	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,989
2007 September	1.92	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,490
2007 December	1.79	0.05	1	(1-1)	8,195
2008 March	1.59	0.05	1	(1-1)	7,789
2008 June ⁽³⁾	1.47	0.05	1	(1-1)	7,059
2008 September	1.42	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,744
2008 December	1.46	0.05	1	(1-1)	6,965
2009 March	1.37	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,644
2009 June ⁽³⁾	1.35	0.04	1	(1-1)	6,374
2009 September ⁽⁴⁾	1.34	0.05	1	(1-1)	6,144
2009 December	1.37	0.05	1	(1-1)	6,430
2010 March ⁽⁵⁾	1.42	0.05	1	(1-1)	6,373
2010 June	1.38	0.05	1	(1-1)	5,948

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) The confidence interval is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the confidence interval. More details are available in the notes section.

(3) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

(4) September 2009 figures have been amended to include late data from Bridgwater and Taunton courts

(5) March 2010 figures have been amended to include late data from Blandford, Poole and Weymouth courts

TABLE 2c: Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2005 to June 2010: Subgroups completed and not completed at first listing

England and Wales

	Cases completed at first listing					Cases not completed at first listing								
	Estimated proportion completed at first listing		Estimated average number of days from:		Sample size (Number of defendants)	Estimated proportion not completed in one hearing		Estimated average number of days from:				Adjournments per defendant		Sample size (Number of defendants)
	(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)		(Per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	First listing to completion		Offence to completion		Estimated average number of adjournments	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)	
							(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Days)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- days)	(Number)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number)		
Indictable cases														
2005	28%	1%	44	2	5,999	72%	1%	66	1	121	2	3.20	0.04	15,730
2006	28%	1%	45	2	6,247	72%	1%	64	1	121	2	3.20	0.04	16,390
2007	30%	1%	46	2	6,792	70%	1%	59	1	115	2	3.04	0.04	15,768
2008 ⁽²⁾	37%	1%	44	2	7,092	63%	1%	49	1	105	2	2.51	0.04	12,097
2009 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	39%	1%	46	2	6,805	61%	1%	51	1	106	2	2.41	0.04	10,575
2007 March	27%	1%	48	4	1,567	73%	1%	61	2	118	3	3.16	0.08	4,212
2007 June	30%	1%	42	3	1,715	70%	1%	58	2	113	3	3.10	0.08	4,033
2007 September	30%	1%	43	3	1,692	70%	1%	59	2	114	4	2.98	0.08	3,858
2007 December	33%	1%	50	3	1,818	67%	1%	56	2	114	3	2.88	0.08	3,665
2008 March	36%	1%	46	3	1,875	64%	1%	53	2	111	3	2.66	0.08	3,381
2008 June ⁽²⁾	37%	1%	42	3	1,764	63%	1%	47	2	102	4	2.45	0.07	3,002
2008 September	37%	1%	43	4	1,641	63%	1%	45	2	96	3	2.41	0.07	2,854
2008 December	39%	1%	46	4	1,812	61%	1%	52	2	110	4	2.50	0.07	2,860
2009 March	38%	1%	48	3	1,737	62%	1%	50	2	106	3	2.34	0.07	2,792
2009 June ⁽²⁾	39%	1%	46	6	1,699	61%	1%	49	2	100	4	2.43	0.07	2,644
2009 September ⁽³⁾	41%	2%	46	3	1,669	59%	2%	52	2	105	4	2.42	0.08	2,441
2009 December	39%	1%	44	2	1,700	61%	1%	54	2	113	4	2.44	0.08	2,698
2010 March ⁽⁴⁾	37%	1%	48	3	1,600	63%	1%	57	2	113	4	2.41	0.07	2,744
2010 June	39%	2%	43	3	1,592	61%	2%	50	2	105	5	2.36	0.07	2,463
Summary non-motoring cases														
2005	33%	1%	43	3	2,643	67%	1%	62	2	110	3	2.97	0.06	5,444
2006	32%	1%	40	2	2,702	68%	1%	63	2	114	2	3.02	0.06	5,691
2007	34%	1%	40	2	3,030	66%	1%	56	2	106	3	2.89	0.06	5,860
2008 ⁽²⁾	41%	1%	36	2	2,896	59%	1%	49	2	96	3	2.38	0.06	4,093
2009 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	45%	1%	38	2	2,767	55%	1%	49	2	94	3	2.20	0.06	3,446
2007 March	32%	2%	40	4	717	68%	2%	63	3	112	5	3.15	0.12	1,532
2007 June	33%	2%	43	4	811	67%	2%	56	3	106	6	2.91	0.12	1,662
2007 September	34%	2%	40	6	726	66%	2%	53	3	102	7	2.73	0.11	1,411
2007 December	38%	2%	37	3	776	62%	2%	53	3	103	5	2.71	0.12	1,255
2008 March	40%	2%	38	4	766	60%	2%	53	3	100	5	2.47	0.11	1,138
2008 June ⁽²⁾	43%	2%	34	3	729	57%	2%	45	3	95	6	2.43	0.13	956
2008 September	41%	2%	33	3	685	59%	2%	44	3	88	5	2.23	0.12	979
2008 December	41%	2%	37	3	716	59%	2%	51	3	99	5	2.39	0.11	1,020
2009 March	43%	2%	40	5	674	57%	2%	49	3	99	5	2.27	0.13	906
2009 June ⁽²⁾	47%	2%	35	3	738	53%	2%	45	3	84	5	2.09	0.11	845
2009 September ⁽³⁾	45%	3%	38	4	666	55%	3%	49	4	93	6	2.24	0.12	829
2009 December	44%	3%	40	4	689	56%	3%	54	3	101	5	2.20	0.11	866
2010 March ⁽⁴⁾	45%	2%	45	4	703	55%	2%	56	4	109	6	2.26	0.11	870
2010 June	39%	2%	38	4	609	61%	2%	50	3	98	5	2.21	0.11	940

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

Notes:

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

(3) September 2009 figures have been amended to include late data from Bridgwater and Taunton courts

(4) March 2010 figures have been amended to include late data from Blandford, Poole and Weymouth courts

TABLE 2c (continued): Youth defendants in completed criminal cases, by offence type, 2005 to June 2010: Subgroups completed and not completed at first listing

England and Wales

	Cases completed at first listing					Cases not completed at first listing								
	Estimated proportion completed at first listing		Estimated average number of days from:		Sample size (Number of defendants)	Estimated proportion not completed in one hearing		Estimated average number of days from:				Adjournments per defendant		Sample size (Number of defendants)
	(Per cent)	Margin of error(1) (+/- per cent)	(Days)	Margin of error(1) (+/- days)		(Per cent)	Margin of error(1) (+/- per cent)	First listing to completion		Offence to completion		(Number)	Margin of error(1) (+/- number)	
Summary motoring cases														
2005	47%	1%	86	4	2,131	53%	1%	52	3	128	4	2.38	0.08	2,427
2006	47%	2%	79	3	1,751	53%	2%	47	2	120	4	2.30	0.08	1,956
2007	48%	2%	70	3	1,479	52%	2%	49	3	117	5	2.44	0.09	1,613
2008 ⁽²⁾	52%	2%	77	4	1,232	48%	2%	41	3	112	5	2.05	0.09	1,147
2009 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	57%	2%	71	4	1,130	43%	2%	41	3	122	5	1.97	0.10	869
2007 March	47%	3%	73	6	394	53%	3%	50	5	125	8	2.59	0.19	446
2007 June	45%	4%	65	6	345	55%	4%	55	9	116	11	2.57	0.18	423
2007 September	49%	4%	62	5	393	51%	4%	45	5	109	8	2.36	0.19	410
2007 December	51%	4%	79	7	347	49%	4%	44	5	119	9	2.16	0.17	334
2008 March	52%	4%	73	7	329	48%	4%	44	6	118	10	1.99	0.16	300
2008 June ⁽²⁾	49%	4%	79	9	297	51%	4%	41	7	111	11	2.11	0.19	311
2008 September	55%	4%	69	7	319	45%	4%	39	5	109	10	2.02	0.19	266
2008 December	52%	4%	86	8	287	48%	4%	41	5	109	9	2.06	0.21	270
2009 March	55%	4%	80	7	295	45%	4%	43	5	134	12	2.12	0.21	240
2009 June ⁽²⁾	59%	5%	61	7	263	41%	5%	45	6	119	11	2.17	0.23	185
2009 September ⁽³⁾	57%	4%	67	6	305	43%	4%	41	5	118	9	1.85	0.17	234
2009 December	56%	5%	77	7	267	44%	5%	37	4	114	9	1.74	0.16	210
2010 March ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	51%	5%	86	9	231	49%	5%	55	8	157	31	2.16	0.21	225
2010 June	54%	5%	68	9	185	46%	5%	39	5	115	12	1.84	0.20	159
All criminal cases														
2005	31%	0%	52	1	10,773	69%	0%	64	1	119	1	3.06	0.03	23,601
2006	31%	0%	49	1	10,700	69%	0%	62	1	119	1	3.08	0.03	24,037
2007	33%	0%	47	1	11,301	67%	0%	57	1	113	1	2.96	0.03	23,241
2008 ⁽²⁾	39%	1%	46	1	11,220	61%	1%	49	1	103	1	2.45	0.03	17,337
2009 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	42%	1%	47	1	10,702	58%	1%	50	1	104	1	2.33	0.03	14,890
2007 March	30%	1%	49	3	2,678	70%	1%	61	2	117	3	3.12	0.06	6,190
2007 June	32%	1%	45	2	2,871	68%	1%	57	2	111	3	3.01	0.06	6,118
2007 September	33%	1%	45	2	2,811	67%	1%	57	2	110	3	2.87	0.06	5,679
2007 December	36%	1%	50	2	2,941	64%	1%	54	2	112	3	2.79	0.06	5,254
2008 March	38%	1%	47	2	2,970	62%	1%	52	2	109	3	2.57	0.06	4,819
2008 June ⁽²⁾	40%	1%	44	2	2,790	60%	1%	46	2	101	3	2.42	0.06	4,269
2008 September	39%	1%	43	3	2,645	61%	1%	45	1	95	3	2.34	0.06	4,099
2008 December	40%	1%	48	3	2,815	60%	1%	51	2	107	3	2.44	0.06	4,150
2009 March	41%	1%	50	3	2,706	59%	1%	50	1	106	3	2.31	0.06	3,938
2009 June ⁽²⁾	42%	1%	45	4	2,700	58%	1%	48	2	98	3	2.34	0.06	3,674
2009 September ⁽³⁾	43%	1%	46	2	2,640	57%	1%	51	2	103	3	2.34	0.06	3,504
2009 December	41%	1%	46	2	2,656	59%	1%	53	2	110	3	2.34	0.06	3,774
2010 March ⁽⁵⁾	40%	1%	51	2	2,534	60%	1%	56	2	115	3	2.36	0.06	3,839
2010 June	40%	1%	44	2	2,386	60%	1%	50	2	104	4	2.30	0.06	3,562

Notes:

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys

(3) September 2009 figures have been amended to include late data from Bridgwater and Taunton courts

(4) This unusually long time of proceeding for offence to completion is due to a few charged summary motoring cases being processed by a few courthouses

(5) March 2010 figures have been amended to include late data from Blandford, Poole and Weymouth courts

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

TABLE 3a: Adult defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, March 2007 to June 2010

England and Wales

	Charge to completion				Hearings		Sample size
	Estimated average time from charge to completion (weeks)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- weeks)	Estimated proportion completed within 6 weeks (per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number of hearings)	Number of defendants
2007 March	8.8	0.3	60%	1%	3.02	0.05	8,603
2007 June ⁽²⁾	8.3	0.3	62%	1%	2.93	0.05	8,537
2007 September	8.3	0.3	62%	1%	2.90	0.05	9,096
2007 December	7.9	0.3	64%	1%	2.67	0.05	8,313
2008 March	7.7	0.3	65%	1%	2.51	0.05	8,654
2008 June ⁽²⁾	6.6	0.2	69%	1%	2.32	0.04	8,712
2008 September	6.9	0.3	67%	1%	2.36	0.04	8,642
2008 December	6.8	0.3	66%	1%	2.32	0.04	8,241
2009 March	6.9	0.3	66%	1%	2.31	0.04	9,253
2009 June ⁽²⁾	6.8	0.2	66%	1%	2.28	0.04	9,016
2009 September ⁽³⁾	7.1	0.4	67%	1%	2.26	0.04	8,672
2009 December	6.8	0.3	68%	1%	2.20	0.04	8,382
2010 March ⁽⁴⁾	7.0	0.3	67%	1%	2.27	0.04	8,782
2010 June	6.8	0.3	68%	1%	2.19	0.04	8,684

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result plus or minus the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more
- (2) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2007 and June 2008
- (3) September 2009 figures have been amended to include late data from Bridgwater and Taunton courts
- (4) March 2010 figures have been amended to include late data from Blandford, Poole and Weymouth courts

TABLE 3b: Adult defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, by LCJB, June 2010

England and Wales							
Area name	Charge to completion				Hearings		Sample size Number of defendants
	Estimated average time from charge to completion in weeks	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- weeks)	Estimated proportion completed within 6 weeks (per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number of hearings)	
Avon and Somerset	6.4	1.0	70%	6%	2.04	0.21	233
Bedfordshire	7.5	2.2	67%	11%	2.30	0.38	79
Cambridgeshire	5.9	1.4	72%	9%	1.83	0.24	111
Cheshire	5.5	0.8	63%	8%	1.91	0.21	139
Cleveland	3.7	0.8	81%	7%	2.01	0.20	155
Cumbria	4.9	1.0	69%	9%	1.74	0.20	102
Derbyshire	5.4	1.0	68%	8%	1.99	0.21	131
Devon and Cornwall	6.2	1.2	73%	7%	2.14	0.30	165
Dorset	5.8	1.4	66%	13%	2.20	0.42	59
Durham	5.2	1.2	77%	9%	2.03	0.31	100
Dyfed Powys	7.0	1.6	69%	10%	1.86	0.25	87
Essex	5.2	0.7	74%	5%	1.80	0.16	276
Gloucestershire	7.8	1.9	61%	11%	2.18	0.37	79
Greater Manchester	5.3	0.8	74%	5%	2.05	0.16	371
Gwent	4.7	1.3	79%	12%	1.72	0.29	53
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	12.3	4.2	57%	6%	2.29	0.18	327
Hertfordshire	5.8	1.2	67%	7%	1.95	0.21	171
Humberside	6.6	1.8	73%	8%	2.18	0.30	118
Kent	8.9	2.2	67%	8%	2.12	0.28	153
Lancashire	6.6	0.9	64%	5%	2.34	0.22	365
Leicestershire	14.2	9.4	60%	9%	2.43	0.39	122
Lincolnshire	8.5	2.0	62%	10%	2.28	0.32	99
London	7.4	0.7	66%	3%	2.32	0.09	1377
Merseyside	6.4	0.8	67%	5%	2.20	0.17	372
Norfolk	5.3	1.0	75%	9%	2.07	0.31	97
North Wales	5.4	1.0	71%	8%	2.15	0.29	138
North Yorkshire	5.4	1.3	79%	7%	1.95	0.26	129
Northamptonshire	10.5	2.6	51%	10%	2.79	0.43	97
Northumbria	5.6	0.9	76%	5%	2.22	0.20	357
Nottinghamshire	6.0	1.2	69%	8%	2.45	0.30	159
South Wales	5.3	0.8	71%	6%	2.04	0.18	241
South Yorkshire	4.3	0.7	76%	6%	2.02	0.19	214
Staffordshire	8.8	3.9	58%	9%	2.35	0.29	130
Suffolk	4.6	1.8	79%	10%	2.04	0.48	72
Surrey	8.8	2.2	67%	9%	2.24	0.35	104
Sussex	6.5	3.0	75%	6%	1.88	0.17	190
Thames Valley	9.9	1.5	53%	6%	2.41	0.20	288
Warwickshire	8.0	7.6	76%	12%	1.87	0.37	55
West Mercia	7.7	2.4	63%	8%	2.40	0.40	149
West Midlands	4.5	0.8	74%	4%	2.13	0.13	476
West Yorkshire	7.9	0.9	60%	5%	2.52	0.18	465
Wiltshire	8.2	2.1	59%	11%	2.62	0.53	79
England and Wales	6.8	0.3	68%	1%	2.19	0.04	8,684

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result plus or minus the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

TABLE 4a: Youth defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, March 2007 to June 2010

England and Wales

	Charge to completion				Hearings		Sample size
	Estimated average time from charge to completion in weeks	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- weeks)	Estimated proportion completed within 6 weeks (per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number of hearings)	Number of defendants
2007 March	7.4	0.2	61%	1%	3.25	0.06	7,778
2007 June	6.8	0.2	64%	1%	3.10	0.05	7,855
2007 September	6.8	0.2	65%	1%	2.98	0.05	7,447
2007 December	6.3	0.2	67%	1%	2.85	0.05	7,123
2008 March	5.9	0.2	70%	1%	2.61	0.05	6,783
2008 June ^(2,3)	5.3	0.2	72%	1%	2.49	0.05	6,182
2008 September	5.1	0.2	72%	1%	2.43	0.05	5,918
2008 December	5.7	0.2	69%	1%	2.48	0.05	6,152
2009 March	5.6	0.2	70%	1%	2.38	0.05	5,767
2009 June ⁽²⁾	5.4	0.2	70%	1%	2.36	0.05	5,563
2009 September ⁽⁴⁾	5.9	0.2	68%	1%	2.38	0.05	5,282
2009 December	6.1	0.2	67%	1%	2.40	0.05	5,566
2010 March ⁽⁵⁾	6.7	0.2	65%	1%	2.48	0.05	5,447
2010 June	6.0	0.2	68%	1%	2.41	0.05	5,182

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

- (1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result plus or minus the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.
- (2) See the 'Notes' section for details of changes in survey methodology introduced with the June 2008 and June 2009 surveys.
- (3) The proportion of clerkships submitting youth data for June 2008 dipped in comparison to previous surveys. This appears to have stemmed from revised data collection methods, and has been addressed.
- (4) September 2009 figures have been amended to include late data from Bridgwater and Taunton courts
- (5) March 2010 figures have been amended to include late data from Blandford, Poole and Weymouth courts

TABLE 4b: Youth defendants in completed charged cases, excluding those committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial, by LCJB area, June 2010

England and Wales							
Area name	Charge to completion				Hearings		Sample size Number of defendants
	Estimated average time from charge to completion in weeks	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- weeks)	proportion completed within 6 weeks (per cent)	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- per cent)	Estimated average number of hearings per defendant	Margin of error ⁽¹⁾ (+/- number of hearings)	
Avon and Somerset	6.4	0.9	68%	8%	2.14	0.26	130
Bedfordshire	6.1	1.8	63%	16%	2.46	0.62	41
Cambridgeshire	6.1	2.3	75%	11%	1.99	0.35	71
Cheshire	5.2	1.1	74%	12%	1.55	0.21	62
Cleveland	4.4	1.7	82%	9%	2.13	0.34	78
Cumbria	4.8	1.2	79%	11%	2.10	0.30	63
Derbyshire	5.8	1.1	60%	11%	2.51	0.37	89
Devon and Cornwall	5.1	1.0	74%	8%	2.03	0.30	119
Dorset	6.8	4.4	71%	19%	2.00	0.92	28
Durham	4.8	1.5	78%	11%	2.22	0.46	67
Dyfed Powys	5.2	1.3	80%	13%	1.80	0.32	44
Essex	4.6	1.0	81%	7%	1.75	0.18	146
Gloucestershire	4.2	1.2	78%	16%	1.47	0.23	32
Greater Manchester	5.7	0.7	69%	6%	2.59	0.22	272
Gwent	5.7	1.0	64%	14%	2.38	0.36	53
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	5.6	0.8	67%	6%	2.27	0.20	221
Hertfordshire	6.0	1.3	67%	12%	2.07	0.27	72
Humberside	5.7	1.3	71%	9%	2.55	0.36	110
Kent	6.5	1.2	62%	10%	2.54	0.28	102
Lancashire	4.8	0.6	70%	6%	2.37	0.22	234
Leicestershire	7.9	1.5	49%	13%	2.63	0.46	67
Lincolnshire	5.3	1.3	59%	19%	2.00	0.42	32
London	8.0	0.8	60%	3%	2.78	0.14	832
Merseyside	6.7	0.8	59%	7%	2.63	0.25	213
Norfolk	5.7	2.0	73%	13%	2.24	0.59	49
North Wales	4.6	1.4	77%	16%	1.84	0.52	31
North Yorkshire	5.3	1.1	74%	10%	2.38	0.39	81
Northamptonshire	9.6	2.5	50%	16%	2.88	0.64	42
Northumbria	4.2	0.7	78%	5%	2.33	0.30	238
Nottinghamshire	5.5	1.0	69%	9%	2.63	0.33	116
South Wales	4.6	0.9	78%	7%	2.44	0.34	144
South Yorkshire	4.1	0.8	74%	8%	2.19	0.27	133
Staffordshire	5.7	1.2	72%	9%	2.37	0.36	105
Suffolk	4.7	1.5	77%	14%	2.23	0.49	44
Surrey	5.0	1.5	76%	14%	2.24	0.47	41
Sussex	4.7	0.8	77%	7%	2.07	0.22	168
Thames Valley	8.8	2.2	61%	9%	2.28	0.32	125
Warwickshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
West Mercia	5.1	1.1	80%	9%	2.13	0.29	89
West Midlands	5.8	0.7	61%	6%	2.57	0.21	236
West Yorkshire	6.5	0.7	62%	6%	2.66	0.23	294
Wiltshire	11.2	3.3	32%	14%	3.57	1.10	47
England and Wales	6.0	0.2	68%	1%	2.41	0.05	5,182

Notes:

(Source: Time Intervals Survey)

(1) The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result plus or minus the margin of error. Please see the notes section for more information.

(2) Results for areas that have extremely small sample sizes, i.e. less than 30 defendants, have been excluded from the table.

Annex A – Averages, means and medians

Statistics on the timeliness of cases in the magistrates' court derived from the Time Intervals Survey using two common form of “average”: means and medians. Averages are usually calculated to provide an indication of a “typical” value in a set of data. This annex briefly describes how each type of average is calculated and explains why both means and medians are presented in this bulletin.

Mean

The mean is the statistical term for the “average” most commonly used and understood. It is calculated by taking the sum of all the data values, and then dividing by the number of values. For example, the mean of the set of five time durations of 2, 3, 3, 4 and 12 days is **4.8** days, calculated by $(2+3+3+4+12) \div 5 = 4.8$.

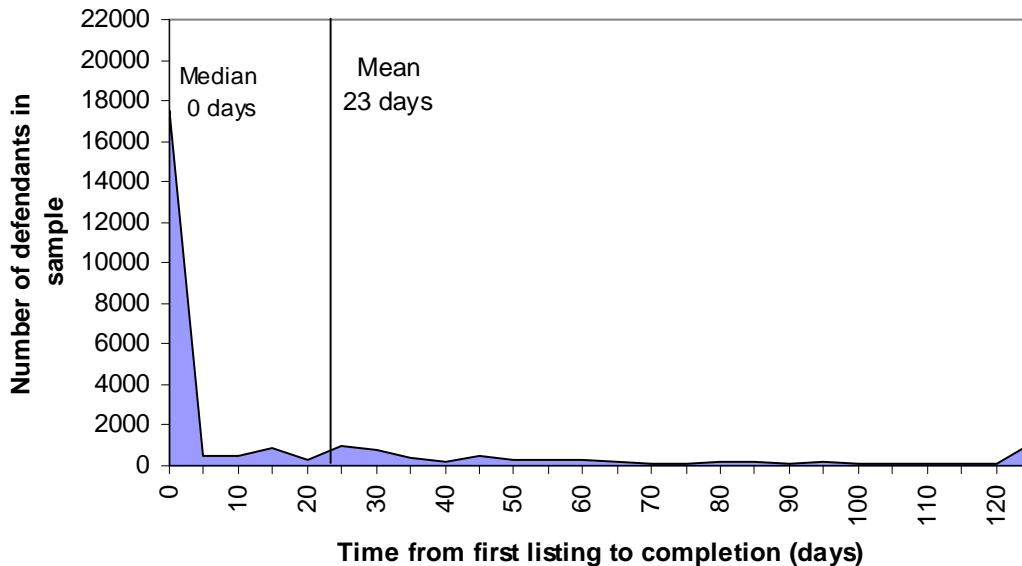
Median

The median of a set of values is that value which lies exactly in the middle when the numbers are put in ascending or descending order. For example, the median of the same set of five values 2, 3, 3, 4 and 12 days is **3** days.

Comparison between means and medians for Time Intervals Survey data

The Time Intervals Survey (TIS) data measures the length of time between an offence being committed and the corresponding case being completed in the magistrates' courts, plus important milestones in between. TIS results typically tend to be what statisticians term “positively skewed”: this means that there tends to be a large number of cases with a relatively small length of time between offence and completion, but a small number of very long-running cases.

Figure A: Time from first listing to completion for a sample of defendants, covering all offence types



The offence-to-completion time for indictable / triable-either-way cases dealt with by the magistrates' courts is one example of a very positively skewed distribution among the TIS data. Figure A shows a representative chart of the time from first listing to completion (this interval will be called the "waiting time" in the remainder of this annex).

As Figure A demonstrates, the majority of cases are completed at the first listing, so their waiting time is 0 days. However, a small proportion of such cases take many months, or even years, to complete after first listing, so have a rather longer waiting time.

The mean waiting time presented in Figure A is 23 days. However, not far short of three-quarters of the cases had a waiting time of less than this, and 61 per cent were completed at the first listing and had a waiting time of 0 days. Therefore it could be argued that the mean value is not a strong indicator of the "typical" of the waiting time for these cases.

The median waiting time presented in Figure A is 0 days. This is because, when all the waiting times shown are listed in ascending or descending order, the middle value in that list is 0 days. The median can therefore present a rather different view of a "typical" waiting time from the mean; and where distributions are as positively skewed as that shown in Figure A it could be argued that the median is a better indicator of a "typical" waiting time than the mean.

Summary: use of both mean and median in this report

Mean waiting times have been presented in editions of this bulletin in the past and are commonly understood, whereas median waiting times are arguably a better indicator of "typical" waiting times in magistrates' court cases in many circumstances. However, both types of average add value by providing users with information about the distribution of waiting times in magistrates' court cases, and therefore both are presented in this bulletin.

Please note that:

- **In the commentary section of this report, the term "average" is used to denote the mean, while medians, where cited, are labelled as such.**
- **Both means and medians are presented in the tables, and are labelled using these respective terms.**

Annex B – Confidence intervals, margins of error and statistical significance

Confidence intervals and margins of error

Two types of “average” are used in this report: means and medians. Annex A provides more information on these.

As explained further in the Explanatory Notes section, the Time Intervals Survey’s methodology is to record information about all defendants involved in criminal proceedings (of the types scheduled to be covered in the quarter – see the Introduction) completed in all magistrates’ courts in England and Wales during each quarter’s survey period. As such, the results such constitute a complete count of all such cases nationwide during the survey period. However, these constitute a sample of the total number of criminal proceedings completed during magistrates’ courts overall.

The Time Intervals Survey sample therefore provides one estimate of the mean and median times taken to process cases, and different samples would produce different average times. The survey results do not provide the ‘true’ mean or median times for all defendants (or all defendants for a particular case type) because it does not record this information for all defendants with cases completing in magistrates’ courts.

However, it is possible to calculate the margin of error associated with the sample and use it to estimate the likely range within which the ‘true’ mean time falls. This range is called a 95% confidence interval; it is the range defined by the sample mean +/- the margin of error. This means that if a sample of the same size were to be repeatedly drawn, in 95 out of 100 samples the 95% confidence intervals would contain the ‘true’ mean. The size of the margin of error (and therefore the corresponding width of the confidence interval) is dependant on the sample size: the larger the sample size, the narrower the confidence interval, and hence the more precise the mean time derived from the Time Intervals Survey can be considered to be. It is similarly possible to calculate a 95% confidence interval for the median times, although these ranges are in general not exactly symmetrical either side of the median value.

Margins of error for means and confidence intervals for medians are shown in the statistical tables in this report.

Statistical significance

The previous section described that because the magistrates’ courts timeliness data are derived from a sample of cases, there is a margin of error associated with each figure. One consequence of this is that the difference between two figures (whether between two different statistics for the latest quarter, or between the same statistics measured in different quarters) is also subject to a margin of error.

The difference between two Time Intervals Survey figures is “statistically significant” – meaning that we are reasonably confident that the difference is genuine – if it is sufficiently large that it is unlikely to have occurred by chance due to not all magistrates’ court defendants being sampled. A t-test is used to determine statistically significant difference between two means, while to determine whether or not two median values are significantly different the Mann-Whitney test is used. Statistically significant differences between two proportions is tested for using Fisher’s exact test. For all of these the 95% significance level is used in this report.

In the commentary section, all the differences between two specific figures which are highlighted are statistically significant.

Glossary

Adjournment: When a hearing is suspended, meaning that a case will be further considered by the court at a later hearing. The number of adjournments in a case is therefore one fewer than the number of hearings taking place.

Charge or laying of information: In the Time Intervals Survey, this relates to the date the defendant is first charged at a police station (for charged cases: those where an individual is arrested and formally accused of a crime at a police station) or the date information is laid (for summonsed cases: those where an individual receives a written summons advising that an action has been begun against him/her, and that s/he is required either to appear in person, or to respond in writing, to the court regarding the alleged offence).

Completed charged cases: In the Time Intervals Survey results, these statistics relate to the subset of cases which are charged cases (see Charge or laying of information) but excludes those which are passed to the Crown Court for trial.

Completion: The date a defendant's case is completed in the magistrates' courts: either when a final decision is reached or the case is passed to the Crown Court. The Time Intervals Survey only reports on completed cases.

Confidence interval: See Annex B.

Criminal proceedings: The majority of cases dealt with in the magistrates' courts are criminal proceedings: i.e. those that relate to criminal matters. Magistrates' courts also deal with cases relating to other matters. For instance, magistrates' courts also deal with family matters; these cases typically concern the care of children, and include cases brought by local authorities to protect a child or cases relating to disputes over the arrangements by which children live with or have contact with divorced or separated parents. The statistics presented in this report cover only criminal proceedings.

District judge: A district judge is a legally qualified, paid, full-time professional. They are usually based in the larger cities and hear the more complex or sensitive cases. There are approximately 130 district judges and 170 deputy district judges in England and Wales.

First listing: The date of the first hearing of the case in a magistrates' court, whether or not the defendant is present. For cases which are completed at the first listing, the time between first listing and completion is therefore zero. Further hearings refer to any other occasion when the case was considered by the court. For the purposes of Time Intervals Survey, the terms 'hearing' and 'listing' are synonymous.

Hearing: See First Listing.

Indictable-only offences: These are the most serious offences, such as murder and rape, and must be heard at a Crown Court. The involvement of the magistrates' court is generally brief: a decision is made on whether to grant bail, and other legal issues, such as reporting restrictions, are considered. The case is then passed to the Crown Court.

Indictable / triable-either-way offences: See Indictable-only offences and Triable-either-way offences.

Lay magistrate (also known as Justices of the Peace): Lay magistrates are local people who volunteer their services. They do not require formal legal qualifications, but will have undertaken a training programme, including court and prison visits, to develop the necessary skills. They are given legal and procedural advice by qualified clerks. There are approximately 30,000 magistrates throughout England and Wales.

LCJB area: The tables showing statistics for completed charged cases include a breakdown by LCJB area. These are areas covered by each of the 42 Local Criminal Justice Boards in England and Wales. At a local level, the work of Criminal Justice System agencies is co-ordinated by the LCJBs.

Magistrates' court: There are roughly 330 magistrates' courts across England and Wales. Virtually all criminal court cases start here. Less serious offences are handled entirely in magistrates' courts, with the vast majority cases being dealt with in this way. The more serious offences are passed on to the Crown Court. In the magistrates' courts, cases are heard either by two or three lay magistrates or by one district judge.

Margin of error: See Annex B.

Mean: See Annex A.

Median: See Annex A.

Offence: In the Time Intervals Survey, this relates to the date the alleged offence was committed.

Proceedings type: In the Time Intervals Survey there are five types of proceedings:

- *Guilty plea*: a case where the defendant pleads guilty.
- *Not guilty plea*: a case where the defendant pleads not guilty
- *No plea recorded (tried in absence)*: a case where the defendant is not present, and a summary trial takes place.
- *Sent for trial / committed for trial*: a case which is passed to the Crown Court for trial.
- *Other proceedings types*: includes cases that are withdrawn or where the charge is discontinued.

Summary offences: These are less serious cases, such as motoring offences, minor assaults, and criminal damage where less than £5000 worth of damage is caused. The defendant is not usually entitled to trial by jury, so these cases are dealt with in the magistrates' courts.

In the Time Intervals Survey results, summary offences are subdivided into two categories: summary motoring cases and summary non-motoring cases.

TIS: The Time Intervals Survey, the source of the magistrates' courts timeliness data presented in this bulletin.

Triable-either-way offences: These are more serious than summary offences but less serious than indictable-only offences. These cases can be dealt with either by magistrates or before a judge and jury at the Crown Court. Such offences include dangerous driving and theft and handling stolen goods. Such cases will be dealt with by the Crown Court instead of a magistrates' court if a defendant invokes his/her right to trial in the Crown Court, or the magistrates decide that a case is sufficiently serious that it should be dealt with in the Crown Court where tougher sentences can be imposed if the defendant is found guilty.

Youth defendant: A defendant aged 10 to 17 on the date when an offence was alleged to have been committed.

Explanatory notes

1. This is a National Statistics publication produced by the Ministry of Justice. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
2. **Revisions:** Once published Time Intervals Survey data are not usually subject to revision. Revisions may occur if data are received late from a court, or if an error is identified. Data for September 2009 were received late from Taunton and Bridgwater magistrates' courts. The September 2009 figures presented in this bulletin have been revised to include the late-received data.

Survey methodology

3. The Time Intervals Survey is run quarterly, in March, June, September and December of each year. Data are collected from courts over a defined survey period each time. For the March 2010 survey presented in this bulletin, adult defendant data were collected during the week from 1 to 7 March 2010. Youth defendant data were collected over the four-week period from 8 February to 7 March 2010. A longer collection period is used for youth defendants to ensure that a sufficiently large sample of defendants is obtained to be able to draw meaningful conclusions.
4. Information on all indictable / triable-either-way cases completing in all magistrates' courts in England and Wales is collected over a one-week period every quarter. Information on all completed summary cases is additionally collected in the March and September surveys. Information on youth defendants in completed criminal cases (i.e. in both indictable / triable-either-way and summary cases) is collected over a four week period every quarter.
5. Time Intervals Survey data are collected for all cases of the relevant type(s) which complete in all magistrates' courts in England and Wales during the survey period. This includes those cases passed to the Crown Court, those dismissed or discharged by the magistrates' courts, as well as those in which a sentence was passed in the magistrates' courts. The date of completion for those cases passed to the Crown Court is defined as the date that this event occurred.
6. The Time Intervals Survey statistics are counted by defendant, rather than by case. Where a case involves more than one defendant, each defendant is counted separately. For each defendant sampled in the Time Intervals Survey, key details about the type and outcome of the case are recorded together with the dates of certain stages during the proceedings.

7. Due to seasonal variation in the data collected at different times of the year, this bulletin only makes comparisons with data from the same sample period in previous years and comment on long-term trends.

Data collection, data quality and completeness

8. Data is sent by each magistrates' court in England and Wales to the Business Information Division of HM Courts Service via the agency's performance database (called One Performance Truth (OPT)). Validation checks are carried out at the point quarterly survey data are entered onto the system by court staff, and any returns found to be in error are returned for correction. In addition, any survey records that appear implausible are referred back to the court for confirmation. Since the introduction of OPT in June 2007 data quality has improved due to data validation at point of input.
9. The survey data excludes cases where the defendant was charged, or information was laid against them, over ten years after the offence occurred. This affects very few defendants.
10. Recording procedures have undergone changes over the years, which have led to small discontinuities in the data series. These are signified by vertical lines in the charts. They are as follows:

June 2007: Surveys from June 2007 onwards have collected data on adult defendants via OPT. One benefit of OPT is that it introduces data validation at the point of input.

June 2008: From June 2008, it was also possible to collect youth data from the four-week sample via OPT (although the pre-existing method remained available).

June 2009: Since June 2009, all youth data from the four-week sample has been collected via OPT.
11. Figures for the mean time between constituent stages of the magistrates' court process measured by the Time Intervals Survey may not sum exactly to the figures for the mean duration between offence and completion, due to rounding. The median offence-to-completion time will not, in general, equal the sum of the median times for the constituent stages, irrespective of rounding.
12. In 2006/2007, inconsistency in timings for offence to charge between the March/ September and June/December surveys was observed. This was due to a lower proportion of adult summons indictable / triable-either-way cases in the June/ December surveys. Since these cases tend to have longer average times from offence to charge, any change in the proportion of them in the sample can affect the results. New guidance was issued to address any under-reporting, and this appears to have partially resolved the inconsistency. However, comparisons to previous surveys may be affected by this issue.

13. Some courts and clerkships have occasionally been unable to participate in the collection of data due to local circumstances. Clerkship refers to a grouping of one or more courts. Table E.1 below gives the estimated completeness of the data, in terms of the proportion of clerkships or courthouses supplying data (NB: it does not refer to the proportion of all cases completed during each survey period). For this reason, and due to short term and seasonal variation, the figures for the number of defendants indicated by the Time Intervals Survey data are unlikely to provide a reliable indicator of the changes in magistrates' courts caseload over time.

Table E.1: Proportion of clerkships / courthouses making returns and sample sizes, June 2005 to June 2010

Survey week	Youth data: proportion of clerkships/ courthouses making returns (%) ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	Adult data: proportion of clerkships/ courthouses making returns (%) ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	Number of defendants (sample size) ⁽¹⁾ Indictable/ triable-either-way cases
June 2005	96.7%	96.7%	6,840
June 2006	98.8%	98.8%	6,835
June 2007	98.0%	98.2%	7,178
June 2008	89.2%	100%	7,290
June 2009	100%	100%	7,790
June 2010	100%	100%	7,818

Notes:

(1) Sample sizes are from the one-week sample only. Table 4a shows youth defendant sample sizes in the four-week survey.

(2) From June 2007 all adult defendant data has been collected through the OPT data collection system. One consequence of this is that, from then, adult data has been returned at courthouse rather than clerkship level.

(3) Prior to June 2008, all youth data was collected at clerkship level. From June 2008, an additional option of collecting youth data via OPT became available, resulting in collections being made at both courthouse and clerkship level. Since June 2009 all youth data has been collected via OPT at courthouse level.

(4) Nil returns are included in the figures for proportion of courthouses making returns.

Symbols and conventions

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

- = Not applicable, or where sample sizes are too small to provide reliable information
- 0 = Nil

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