



Ministry
of Justice



Youth Justice Statistics 2012/13

England and Wales

Youth Justice Board / Ministry of Justice
Executive Summary

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Executive Summary

This publication looks at the English and Welsh Youth Justice System (YJS) in 2012/13 in terms of the number of young people in the system, their offences, outcomes and the trends over time.

Overview

The Youth Justice System (YJS) in England and Wales works to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people under the age of 18 years. The system is different to the adult system and is structured to address the needs of young people. The YJS is far smaller than the adult system (see Chapter 11 for more details). The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is the executive non-departmental public body that oversees the YJS in England and Wales.

The overall number of young people in the YJS continued to reduce in 2012/13. Reductions have been seen in the number entering the system for the first time, as well as reductions in those receiving disposals in and out of court, including those receiving custodial sentences. There has also been a fall in the number of young people in the re-offending cohort and small reductions in re-offending rates for the first time since 2007/08.

Since 2009/10, there have been 55 per cent fewer young people coming into the Youth Justice System and 36 per cent fewer young people (under 18) in custody.

Arrests and out of court disposals¹

Latest available arrests data relate to the 2011/12 financial year. In 2011/12 there were 1,235,028 arrests for notifiable offences in England and Wales, of which 167,995 were of people aged 10-17 years. These 10-17 year olds accounted for 13.6 per cent of all the arrests and 10.8 per cent of the population of England and Wales of offending age².

There were 30,778 reprimands, warnings or conditional cautions given to young people in England and Wales in 2012/13. This is a decrease of 26 per cent on the 41,343 given in 2011/12, and a decrease of 64 per cent on the 86,469 given in 2002/03.

There were also 2,883 Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) given to 16-17 year olds in 2012/13 and in 2012³ there were 273 Anti Social Behaviour

¹ A disposal is an umbrella term referring both to sentences given by the court and to pre-court decisions made by the police. Disposals can be divided into four separate categories of increasing seriousness starting with pre-court disposals then moving into first-tier and community-based penalties through to custodial sentences.

² In England and Wales people of offending age are classed as those aged 10 years or older. The general 10-17 population figures are from the ONS mid year estimates for 2011.

³ In the calendar year

Orders (ASBOs) given to young people. In the last year, the number of PNDs issued to young people has decreased by 46 per cent and the number of ASBOs issued decreased by 27 per cent.

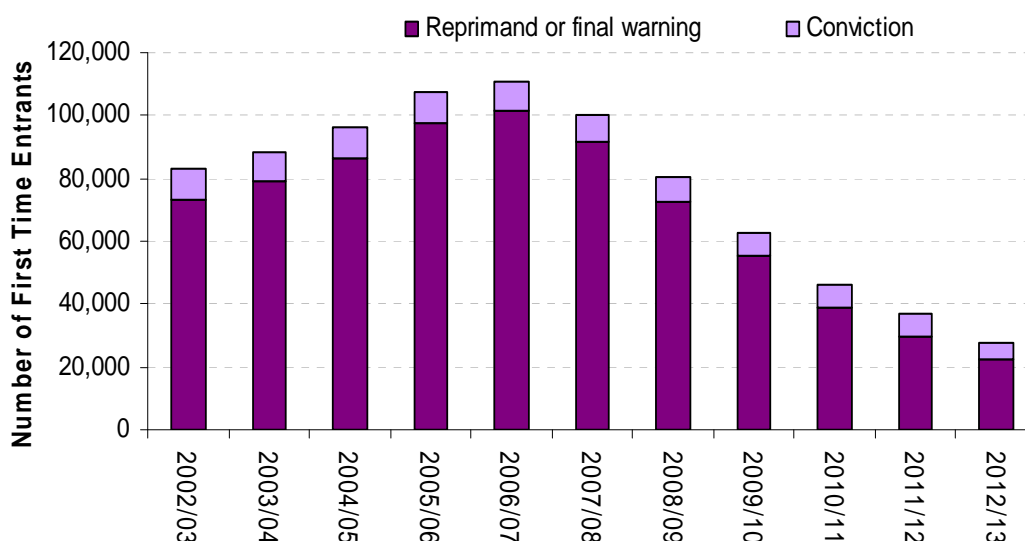
Proven offences by young people

Overall there were 98,837 proven offences by young people in 2012/13, down by 28 per cent from 2011/12 and down by 63 per cent since 2002/03. The largest falls in proven offences between 2009/10 and 2012/13 have been in: breach of a statutory order which fell by 61 per cent, motoring offences by 60 per cent and public order offences by 58 per cent. The smallest reduction has been in robbery offences which reduced by 32 per cent between 2009/10 and 2012/13.

Young people receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction (first time entrants)

In 2012/13, there were 27,854 first time entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System. The number of first time entrants fell by 67 per cent from 2002/03 to 2012/13 and fell by 25 per cent in the last year.

Trends in first time entrants, 2002/03 to 2012/13



The Ministry of Justice has commissioned an analytical project, which aims to further its understanding of the drivers of the falls in youth FTEs. Findings are planned to be available by the end of 2014/15.

Young people receiving a substantive outcome⁴

There were 49,222 young people who received a substantive outcome in England and Wales in 2012/13. This number has reduced by 26 per cent from 2011/12 and by 54 per cent since 2009/10.

Young people sentenced

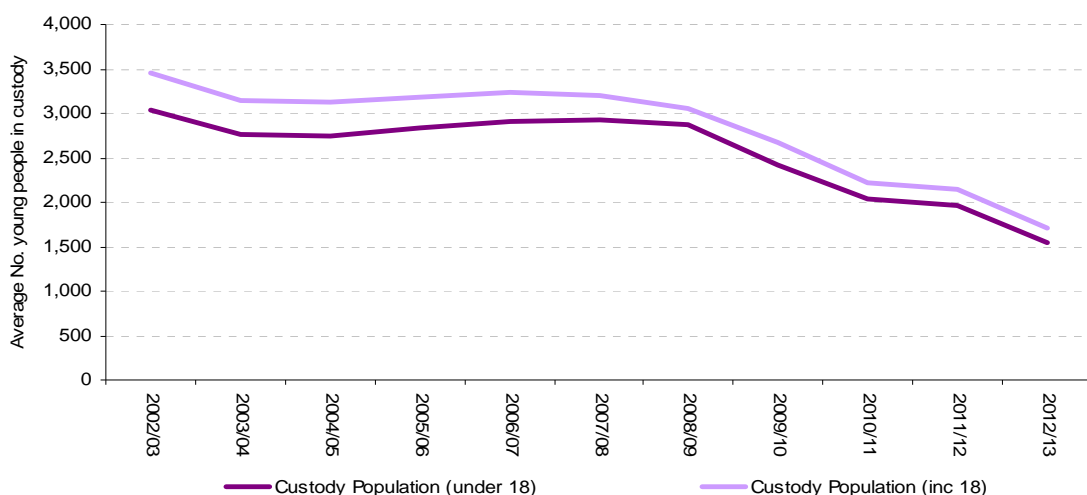
In 2012/13 there were 43,601 young people sentenced in England and Wales. This has fallen by 28 per cent in the last year. The number of young people sentenced for immediate custody fell by 31 per cent from 4,024 in 2011/12 to 2,780 in 2012/13. This number has fallen by 61 per cent since 2002/03, when there were 7,110 young people sentenced for immediate custody.

Young people in custody (under 18)

The average population of young people in custody in 2012/13 (under 18) was 1,544. The average population in custody (under 18) has reduced by 21 per cent in the last year, and by 36 per cent since 2009/10. The average custody population in 2012/13 including 18 year olds held in the youth secure estate was 1,708. This represents a 20 per cent reduction on the average of 2,141 in 2011/12.

Overall the average length of time spent in custody increased by eight days to 85 days in 2012/13. For Detention and Training Orders (DTOs), it increased by eight days (from 107 to 115), for remands it increased by three days (from 42 to 45) and for longer sentences it decreased by 51 days (from 353 to 302).

Trends in young people in custody, 2002/03 to 2012/13



⁴ A substantive outcome is a pre-court or court disposal.

Behaviour management in the youth secure estate

There were 6,455 incidents of restrictive physical interventions (RPIs) used in the youth secure estate in 2012/13, down by seven per cent from 2009/10⁵ and a reduction of 23 per cent since 2011/12. The number of RPIs per 100 young people increased by 45 per cent compared to 2009/10 and increased two per cent compared to 2011/12.

Alongside this, there were 1,388 incidents of self harm, down by 33 per cent on 2009/10 and a decrease of 20 per cent on 2011/12, though the number of self harm incidents per 100 young people increased by five per cent compared to 2009/10 but increased by seven per cent compared to 2011/12. There were 2,807 assaults by young people in custody, down by 22 per cent on 2009/10 and down by 17 per cent on 2011/12, though the number of assaults per 100 young people increased by 22 per cent compared to 2009/10 and increased by 11 per cent compared to 2011/12.

There were 2,712 occasions where single separation was used in Secure Children's Homes or Secure Training Centres, down by 58 per cent since 2009/10 and down 30 per cent on 2011/12. The number of single separation incidents per 100 young people decreased by 55 per cent compared to 2009/10 and decreased by 22 per cent compared to 2011/12.

Deaths in custody and number of serious incidents

There have been 16 deaths of children in custody since 2000 but no deaths in youth custody during 2012/13.

Complete data on the number of serious incidents in the community is not available for 2012/13, because of a change in the way that information is recorded.

Re-offending by young people

The overall (binary) re-offending rate for young people was 35.5 per cent in 2011/12, with an average of 1.02 re-offences per offender in the cohort (frequency rate) and 2.88 re-offences per re-offender. Re-offending rates have fallen for the first time since 2007/8.

The number of young people in the re-offending cohort has gone down every year since 2007/08, with particular reductions among those with no previous offences and those receiving pre-court disposals. As such, the cohort is comprised of young people whose characteristics mean that they are more likely to re-offend. This is reflected in the higher predicted rate of re-offending (which was 32.1% in 2007/08 and 35.5% in 2011/12) and the higher average

⁵ This is the earliest year for which information is available.

previous number of offences for each young person (which was 1.74 in 2007/08 and 2.51 in 2011/12).

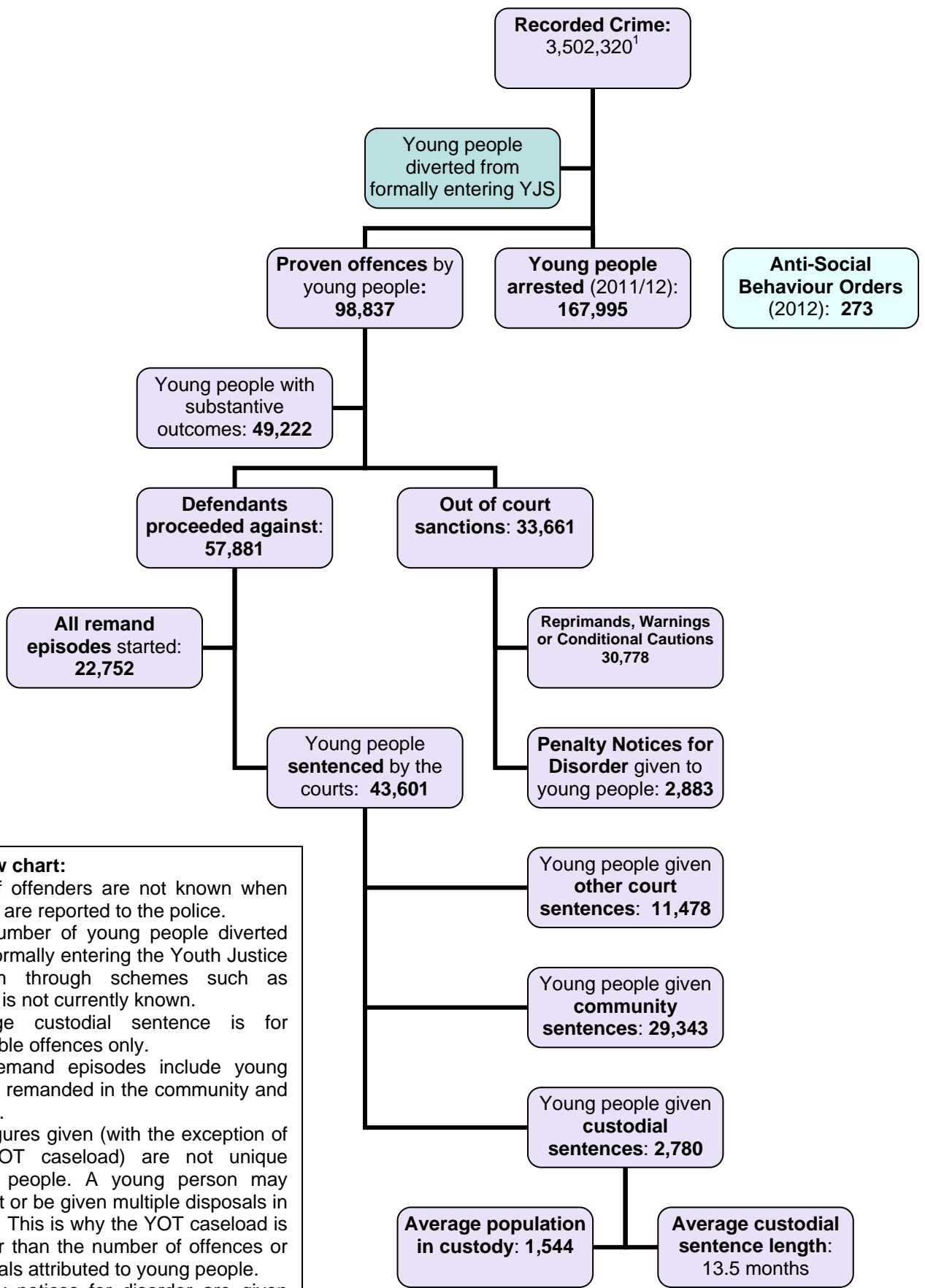
Criminal history of young people

The proportion of young people who committed offences that resulted in a reprimand, warning or conviction that were previously known to the Youth Justice System has decreased over time. In 2002/03, 77 per cent of the young people receiving a disposal were not previously known to the Youth Justice System. By 2012/13 this proportion had fallen to 73 per cent.

In 2012/13 five per cent of young people sentenced for an indictable offence had 15 or more previous offences. This figure has risen from two per cent in 2002/03 and has steadily increased year on year.

There has also been a reduction in first time entrants to the Youth Justice System over this period so young people in the Youth Justice System are more likely to have previous offences.

Flows through the Youth Justice System, 2012/13



Notes on flow chart:

1. Age of offenders are not known when crimes are reported to the police.
2. The number of young people diverted from formally entering the Youth Justice System through schemes such as Triage is not currently known.
3. Average custodial sentence is for indictable offences only.
4. The remand episodes include young people remanded in the community and on bail.
5. The figures given (with the exception of the YOT caseload) are not unique young people. A young person may commit or be given multiple disposals in a year. This is why the YOT caseload is smaller than the number of offences or disposals attributed to young people.
6. Penalty notices for disorder are given for 16-17 year olds only.