



National Offender
Management Service

Supporting Evidence

Better Outcomes for Young Adult Men

Evidence Based Commissioning Principles

August 2015

Breakdown of data on young adults in i) custody, ii) the community and managed by the National Probation Service and iii) the community and managed by Community Rehabilitation Companies¹

Custody

On 31st December 2013 there were around 4,381 young adult men serving sentences in custody.

Sentence type and length

Figure 1 shows that the majority (51%) of these 18-20 year olds were serving determinate sentences of between 1 and 4 years. Over a quarter (27%) was serving determinate sentences of over 4 years, while 4% was serving an indeterminate sentence.

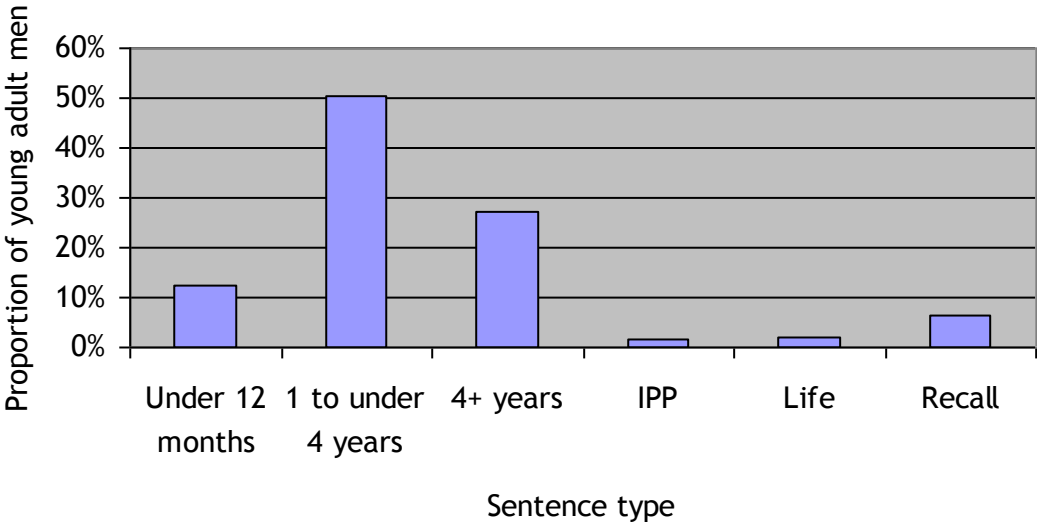


Figure 1. Proportion of male prisoners aged 18-20, by sentence type

Table 2 shows that most commonly, young adult men were serving custodial sentences for an index offence of violence. The second most common index offence of 18-20 year old males in prison was robbery and acquisitive offences, which each accounted for over a fifth of the caseload of young adult men in custody. Together, those serving sentences for violence, robbery or acquisitive offences accounted for 79% of the young adult men in prison. Table 2 also indicates that robbery was a much more common offence among young adult prisoners, with over twice the proportion of this group serving a prison sentence for a robbery offence, compared with adults aged 20 or over.

Index offence	% of young adult men in prison	% of men aged 21 + in prison
Violence	35%	36%
Robbery	22%	10%
Acquisitive	22%	20%
Drugs	12%	14%
Sexual	5%	16%
Motoring	2%	2%
Other	2%	3%

Table 2. Index offence type of young adult men serving sentences in custody

¹ Due to problems with the data on ethnicity, no breakdown by race or ethnic group is provided.

One way of determining where resources should be directed, is to split the caseload in 'segments', based on their index offence and their risk of reoffending. Figure 3 shows that the single largest segment of young adult men in custody was the highest risk acquisitive offenders, who accounted for 18% of the prison caseload.

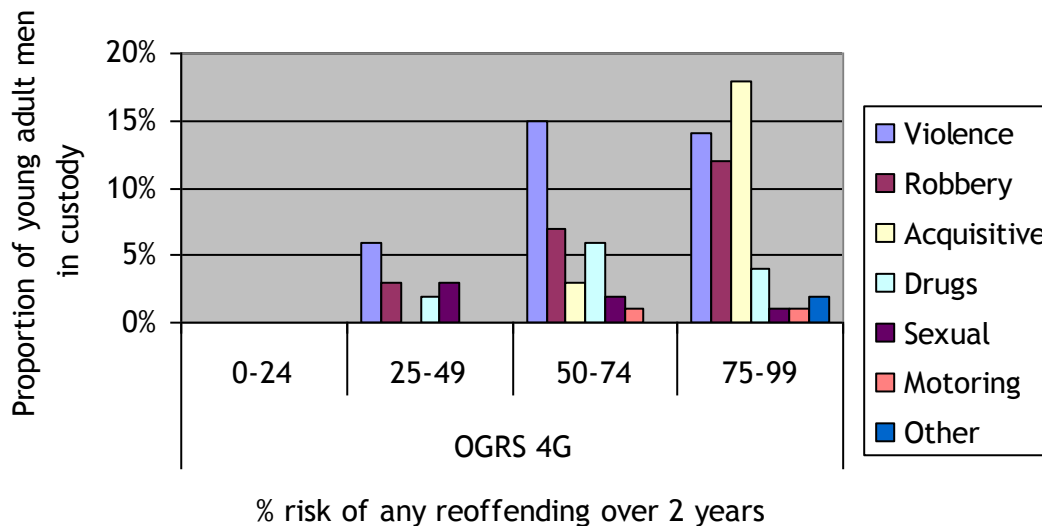


Figure 3. Proportion of young adult prisoners by two-year risk of any reoffending, and offence type

Young adult men at high risk of reoffending and serving sentences for violent offences made up the next biggest segments, those in the highest risk bands making up 29% of the 18-20 year old men in prison. Age is a risk factor for any and for violent reoffending, and young age elevates risk using the Offender Group Reconviction Scale 4G and 4V, which is why so few men in this age group are in the lowest risk group.

Looking at risk and sentence length, figure 4 shows us that 43% of the custodial population of young adult men are in the two highest risk bands of reoffending, and are serving determinate sentences of between one and four years.

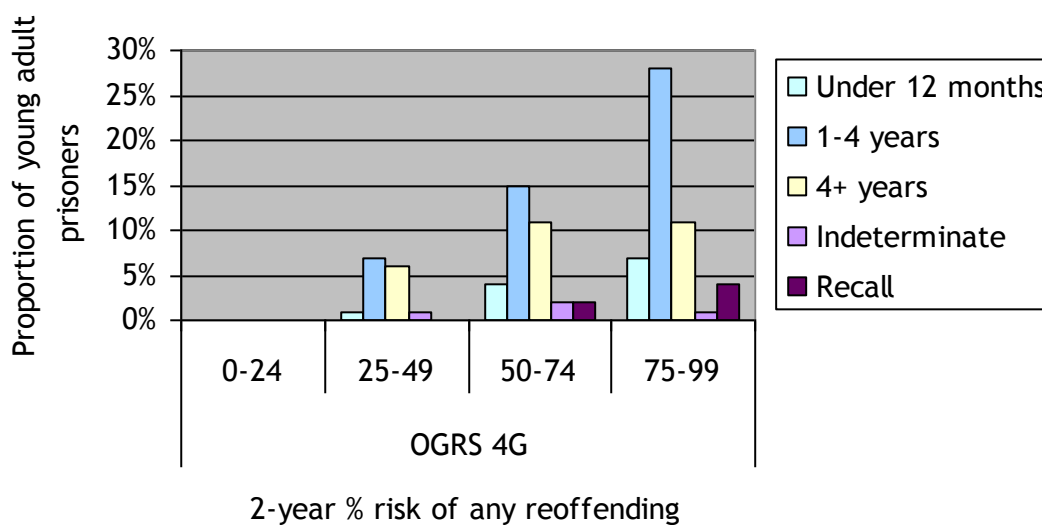


Figure 4. Proportion of young adult prisoners by two-year risk of any reoffending, and sentence type

The next largest segments are made up of 18-20 year old men who are in the two highest risk bands, which means they have at least a 50% chance of being sanctioned for a new

offence within two years of release, serving determinate sentences of 4 years or more. These two segments account for 22% of the young adult men serving custodial sentences.

Risk of harm and criminogenic needs

Data on the risk of harm and criminogenic needs of young adults is only available for those who received a full assessment using the Offender Assessment System (OASys). The following information on the needs of young adults in custody is based on the 61% of those for whom a full OASys assessment was available.

Only 10% of the young adult men serving custodial sentences was considered low risk of serious harm, and just one percent was considered of the highest risk of serious harm. The vast majority (89%) was classed as medium (49%) or high (40%) risk of serious harm.

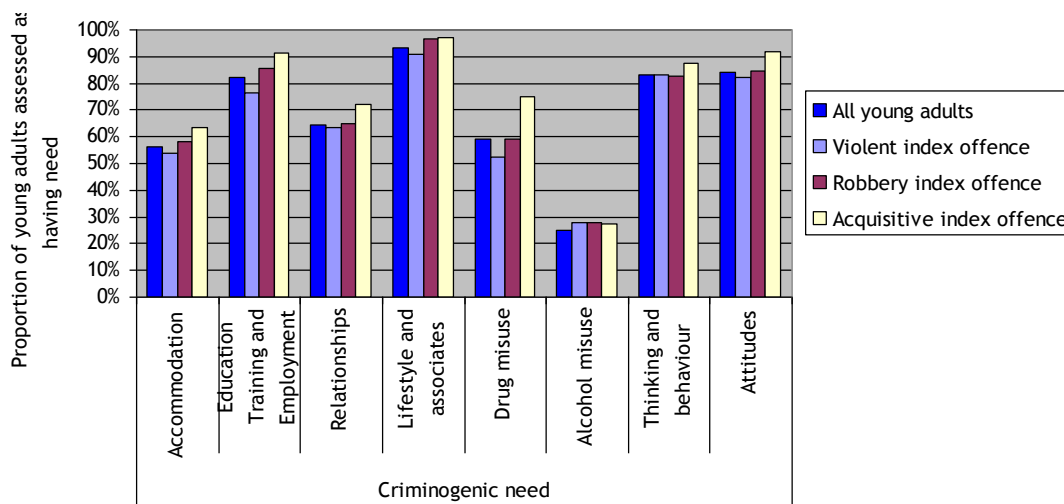


Figure 5. Proportion of young adults in custody, by offence type, assessed as having each criminogenic need.

Figure 5 indicates that regardless of offence type, the most common need assessed as relevant to young adult men in custody was 'lifestyle and associates'. This was considered an issue for over 90% of the young men serving prison sentences. Figure 5 also indicates that the highest rates of prevalence of each of the needs was found among those young adults with an index offence of acquisitive offending. This group were more likely than young adults in general, and than young adults serving sentences for violence or robbery, to have a problem with drug misuse. Around three quarters of the acquisitive offenders were assessed as having a problem with drugs. Looking at this issue more closely (see Table 6), a greater proportion of young adults who committed acquisitive crimes reported various markers of problematic drug use, than did those in the other groups. This difference was particularly pronounced with regard to Class A drug use; one in five young adults with acquisitive offences reported having use Class A drugs, compared with one in ten of those with a violent index offence. Those young adults with a violent index offence were the least likely to report markers of problems with drugs. However, drugs were still considered to be linked to the offending of 63% of the young adults who offended violently, suggesting that drug misuse is a relevant issue for the majority of those in the three biggest offence-type segments of the prison young adult population.

	Use of any drugs	Class A drug use	Use of Cannabis	Ever injected drugs	Drugs major activity	Drugs linked to offending
All	50%	13%	46%	3%	49%	69%
Violent index offence	43%	10%	40%	2%	41%	63%
Robbery index offence	50%	11%	46%	4%	50%	67%
Acquisitive index offence	65%	20%	59%	5%	64%	78%

Table 6. Proportion of young adult men in custody, assessed using OASys as having different markers of problematic drug use.

The prevalence of needs was largely similar among those young adults with an index offence for violence, and those with an index offence related to robbery. The needs of all OASys-assessed young adult men in order of most to least prevalent were:

- Lifestyle and associates (93%)
- Attitudes (84%), Thinking and behaviour (83%), and Education (82%)
- Relationships (65%)
- Drug misuse (59%)
- Accommodation (56%)
- Alcohol misuse (25%)

Looking more closely at alcohol misuse, table 6 indicates that around a third of those young adults in the most common offence groups had a chronic alcohol problem, according to OASys, while over 40% had an issue with binge drinking.

	Chronic alcohol use	Binge drinking	Violence linked to alcohol
All	30%	40%	20%
Violent index offence	33%	43%	24%
Robbery index offence	32%	44%	24%
Acquisitive index offence	35%	44%	17%

Table 6. Proportion of young adults in the custodial caseload, with different markers of problems with alcohol

Young adult men serving indeterminate sentences

According to a snapshot of those young adult men serving a sentence in custody on 31st December 2013, 158 (4%) were serving an indeterminate sentence. Of those, 58% was serving a life sentence, while the other 42% was serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection.

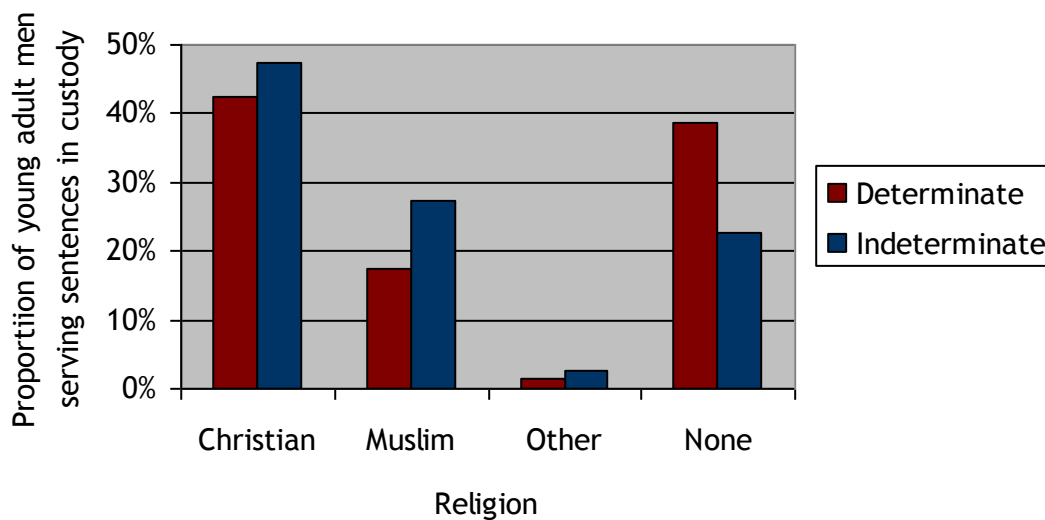


Figure 7. Religion of determinate and indeterminate sentenced young adult men in custody

Figure 7 indicates that most commonly those serving indeterminate sentences classed themselves as Christian, while a greater proportion of indeterminate-sentenced than determinate-sentenced young adults were Muslim. Those with indeterminate sentences were less likely than those with determinate sentences to indicate that they had no religious affiliation.

Sentence type

Eighty percent of the young adults serving an indeterminate sentence were in for a violent offence, 9% for a sexual offence, and 8% for robbery. The remaining 3% was made up of those convicted for acquisitive, motoring or 'other' offences.

Risk of reoffending, risk of harm and criminogenic need

Three quarters of those serving indeterminate sentences were in the groups considered at highest risk of any proven reoffending (having an OGRS 4G score of 50 or more). The remaining 25% were classed as having a 25-49% chance of committing another proven reoffence within two years of release.

In relation to risk of violent reoffending, just over three quarters were considered to have at least a 30% risk of committing a proven violent reoffence over 2 years, with 27% being considered to have at between a 60-99% chance of committing such an offence during this time.

Seventy-two percent of those young adults serving indeterminate sentences in custody on 31st December 2013 had a full OASys assessment, and therefore had risk of serious harm and needs data. Of those young adults, the vast majority (84%) was considered a high risk of serious harm, while 5% were considered to be of the very highest risk of serious harm.

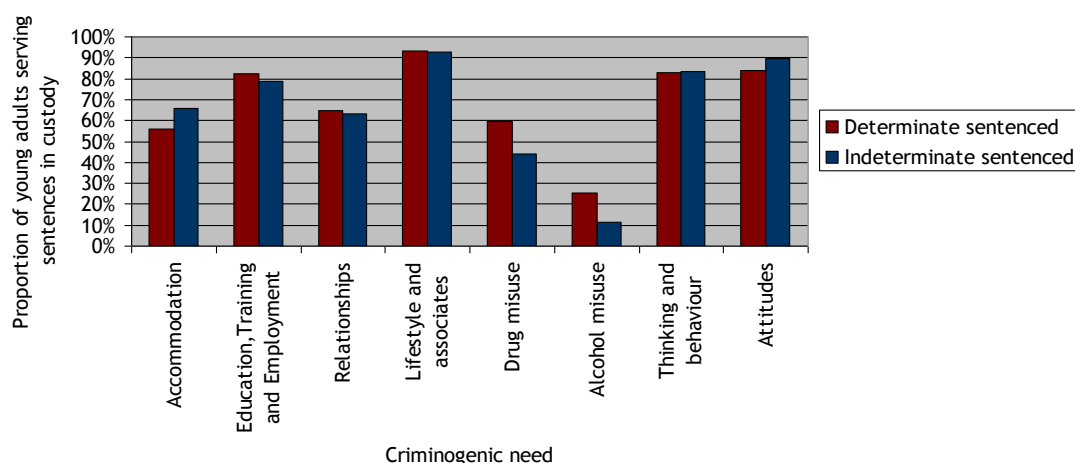


Figure 8. Proportion of young adults in custody, by sentence type, assessed as having each criminogenic need.

Figure 8 indicates that the pattern of prevalence of needs is the same for those young adult men serving indeterminate sentences as it is for those serving determinate sentences. Lifestyle and associates was the most prevalent need for both groups, and alcohol misuse was the least prevalent. However, figure 8 also shows that problems with accommodation and procriminal attitudes were more common among indeterminate-sentenced young men, while drug misuse and alcohol misuse were less common in this group, than among those serving determinate sentences.

Looking at drug and alcohol problems in more detail, table 9 shows that while drugs were more commonly assessed as being linked to the offending of those young adult men serving indeterminate sentences, than they were for those serving determinate sentences, reported use of any drugs, and in particular Class A drugs and Cannabis, was far less frequent among the former.

	Determinate sentenced	Indeterminate sentenced
Any drug use	51%	18%
Any use of Class As	13%	4%
Any use of Cannabis	47%	18%
Ever injected drugs	3%	1%
Drugs a major activity	49%	39%
Drugs linked to offending	69%	71%
Chronic alcohol misuse	31%	15%
Binge drinking	41%	17%
Violence linked to alcohol	20%	10%

Table 9. Proportion of young adult men with determinate or indeterminate sentences assessed as having markers of problems with drugs or alcohol, according to OASys

Violence was less likely to be linked to the violence of those with indeterminate than those with determinate sentences, and problems with both binge drinking and chronic alcohol misuse were less prevalent among the young adult men with indeterminate sentences.

Foreign nationals

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According to a snapshot of those young adult men serving a sentence in custody on 31st December 2013, 340 (8%) were foreign nationals.

Table 10 shows that most commonly foreign national young adult men reported being Christian (46%).

	Foreign national prisoners	UK/EU national prisoners
Christian	46%	42%
Muslim	38%	16%
Other	5%	1%
No religion	11%	40%

Table 10. Proportion of young adult male prisoners of different religions, according to nationality

Table 10 also indicates that a much smaller proportion of foreign national young adults report being of no religion, while a much greater proportion indicated that they are Muslim, than did UK/EU national young adults.

Sentence type

Figure 11 indicates that the majority of male foreign national young adults were serving prison sentences for an index offence of violence (28%) or robbery (28%).

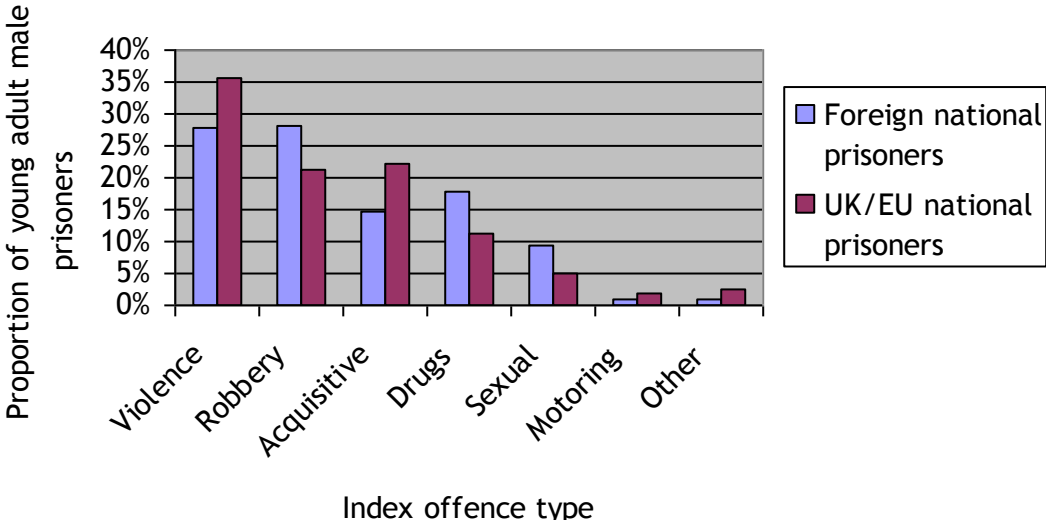


Figure 11. Proportion of young adult foreign national and UK/EU national prisoners serving sentences for different offences

This graph also shows that foreign national young adults were more frequently serving sentences for robbery, drugs and sexual offences, than were the UK/EU nationals. A smaller proportion of the foreign nationals than of the UK/EU nationals was serving a sentence for violence, acquisitive offending, motoring or ‘other’ offences.

Just under half (48%) of the male young adult foreign nationals was serving a sentence of 1- 4 years, while a further third was serving a determinate sentence of four years or more. Fourteen percent was serving a sentence of under 12 months, 3% was on recall and 2% was serving an indeterminate sentence.

Risk of reoffending, risk of harm and criminogenic needs

Figure 12 shows that young adult foreign national men were less frequently classed as being in the highest risk bands for either any or violent proven reoffending, using OGRS 4G and 4V respectively, than were UK/EU nationals.

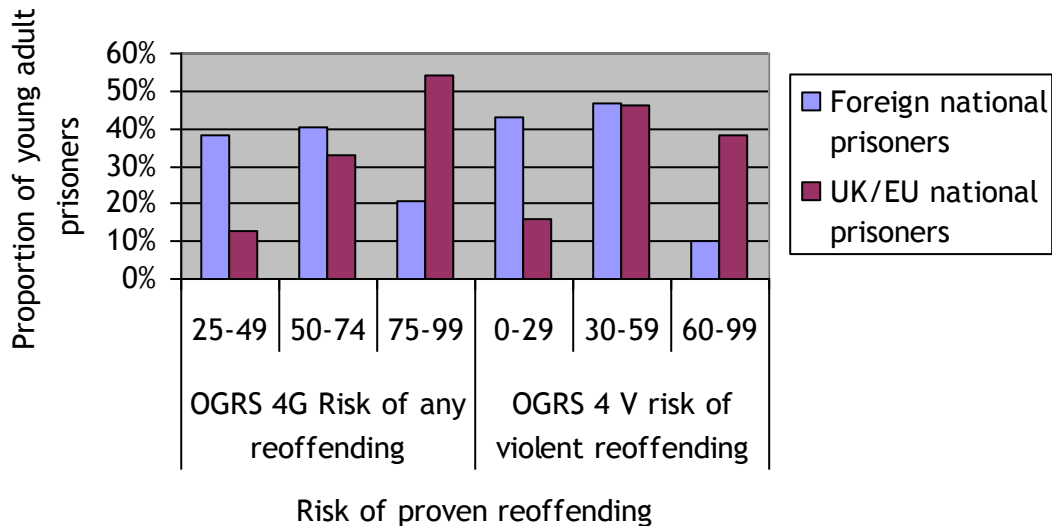


Figure 12. Risk of any proven reoffending and proven violent reoffending of foreign national and UK/EU national young adult male prisoners

However, these risk assessments rely on information about previous convictions, which may be missing for some foreign national prisoners, whose previous proven offending may have taken place in their country of origin, and therefore will not appear on UK criminal records databases.

In relation to risk of harm, table 13 shows that a greater proportion of foreign national young adults than of UK/EU national young adult men, were classed as low risk of serious risk of harm. However, similar proportions of foreign and UK/EU nationals were classed as high or very high risk of serious harm. Both risk of harm and criminogenic needs information was available only for those with a full OASys assessment, which was 50% of the foreign national young adults, and 62% of the UK/EU nationals in this group.

	Foreign national prisoners	UK/EU national prisoners
Low	15%	10%
Medium	44%	49%
High	39%	40%
Very high	1%	1%

Table 13. Proportion of foreign and UK/EU national young adult men with different ratings of risk of serious harm.

Figure 14 shows that each criminogenic need as assessed using OASys was less prevalent among the foreign national young adult men, than among the UK/EU nationals. In particular, relationships, drug misuse and alcohol misuse were a lot less common among the foreign national young adults.

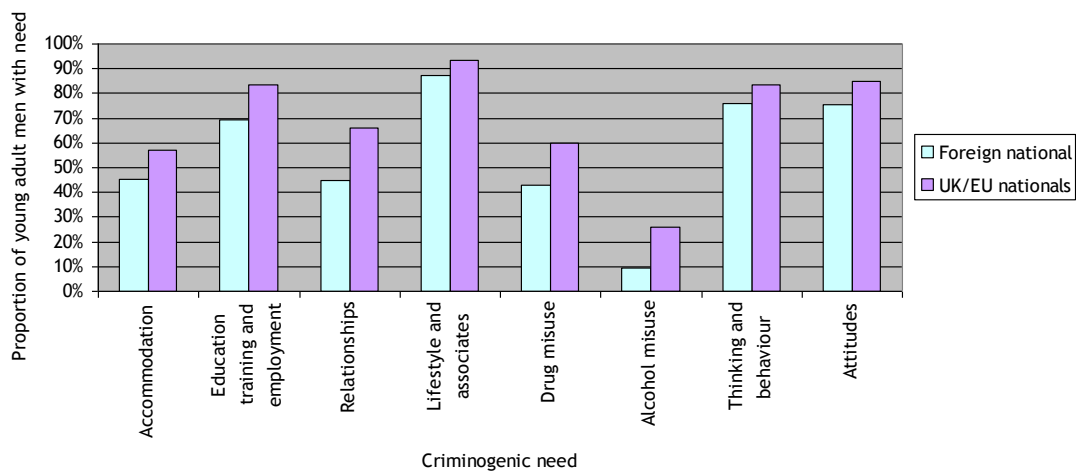


Figure 14. Prevalence of criminogenic needs among young adult male foreign nationals and UK/EU nationals.

The needs of the foreign national young adults, in order of prevalence, were:

- Lifestyle and associates (87%)
- Thinking and behaviour (76%) and Attitudes (75%)
- Education, training and employment (69%)
- Accommodation (45%), relationships (45%) and drug misuse (43%)
- Alcohol misuse (9%)

Looking more closely at drug misuse, only 4% of the foreign national young adult men with full OASys reported ever having used Class A drugs, compared with 13% of UK/EU nationals. There was less of a difference in the proportions of young adults of different nationalities who reported using Cannabis, with 38% of foreign nationals, and 46% of UK/EU nationals indicating that they had ever used this drug.

Community – National probation service (NPS)

On 31 December 2013 there were **1,913** young adult men serving sentences in the community, who would have been managed by the National Probation Service (NPS).

Sentence type and length

Of those young adult men who would have been managed by the NPS, 53% was on licence after being released from prison, while 47% was serving a court order.

Index offence	% of young adult men managed by NPS	% men aged 21+ managed by NPS
Violence	44%	50%
Robbery	20%	12%
Acquisitive	13%	5%
Sexual	13%	27%
Drugs	4%	2%
Other	4%	3%
Motoring	2%	2%

Table 15. Index offence type of young adult men serving sentences or on licence in the community, and managed by the NPS.

Table 15 indicates that, as in the custodial caseload of young adult men, the most common index offences were violence, robbery and acquisitive offences. Together young adults with one of these index offences made up 77% of the NPS caseload. Robbery, and acquisitive offences were much more common among the young adult men on the NPS caseload, than among those on this caseload who were aged 21 or above, while sexual offences were less common among young adults.

One way of determining where resources should be directed, is to split the caseload in 'segments', based on their index offence and their risk of reoffending. Figure 16 shows that the largest segments of young adult men in the community and managed by the NPS was the highest risk violent offenders, who accounted for 31% of the NPS caseload. A further 10% of the caseload was made up of young adult men with violent offences, who were considered moderate risk of any reoffending. The next largest segments were robbery offenders in the highest risk bands, who make up 14% of the caseload, followed by the 13% of acquisitive offenders in these bands.

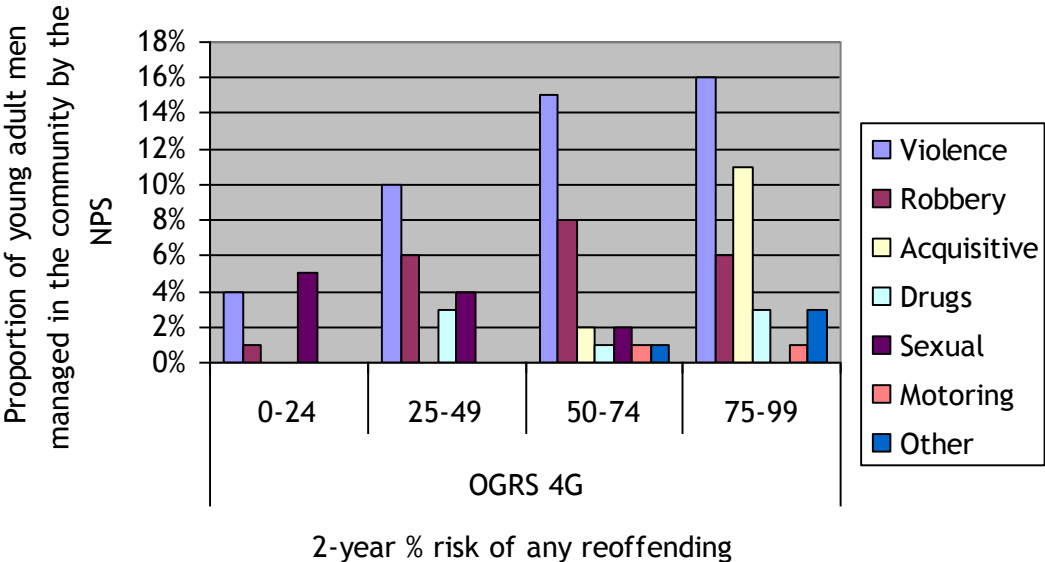


Figure 16. Proportion of young adult men managed by the NPS in the community, by two-year risk of any reoffending, and offence type

Risk of harm and criminogenic needs

Data on the risk of harm and criminogenic needs of young adults is only available for those who received a full assessment using the Offender Assessment System (OASys). The following information on the needs of young adults managed in the community by the NPS is based on the 72% of those for whom a full OASys assessment was available.

Only 4% of the young adult men on the NPS community caseload was considered low risk of serious harm, and just one percent was considered of the highest risk of serious harm. The vast majority (95%) was classed as medium (60%) or high (35%) risk of serious harm.



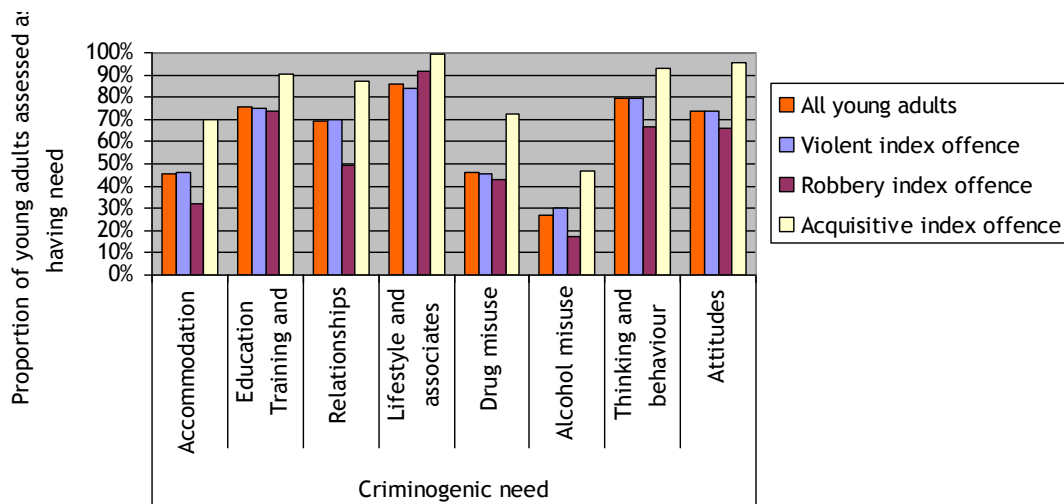


Figure 17. Proportion of young adult men managed by the NPS in the community, by offence type, assessed as having each criminogenic need.

While young men serving sentences or on licence in the community for acquisitive offences made up only a reasonably small proportion of those on the NPS caseload, they were the group with the highest level of criminogenic need, across all need areas. In particular, drug misuse, alcohol misuse and problems with accommodation were much more prevalent among those with an index offence for acquisitive crimes, than they were among the general NPS young adult male caseload.

A smaller proportion of those serving a sentence or on licence for a robbery offence had problems in each of the need areas than the general NPS caseload of young adult men, with the exception of 'lifestyle and associates'. This need was particularly prevalent among this group; nine out of every ten of the young adults with an index offence for robbery were assessed as having a need in this area.

The most common index offence of young adult men managed by the NPS was violence, and the prevalence of needs among those in this group, in order of most to least prevalent was as follows:

- Lifestyle and associates (84%)
- Thinking and behaviour (79%)
- Education (75%) and Attitudes (74%)
- Relationships (70%)
- Drug misuse (46%) and Accommodation (46%)
- Alcohol misuse (30%)

This follows the pattern of prevalence of needs seen among all young adults on the NPS community caseload.

The need 'drug misuse' covers a variety of issues. Class A drug misuse was relatively rare among the violent offenders in the community NPS caseload, with only 9% being assessed using OASys as having ever used this type of drug. However, drugs were assessed as having a link to the offending of 56% of the young adult men with a violent offence. Fourteen percent of acquisitive offenders managed in the community by the NPS, reported ever having used Class A drugs, a smaller proportion than of the young adults serving custodial sentences for acquisitive offending.

Looking more closely at problems with alcohol misuse, which are linked to violent offending, table 18 indicates that half of those young adults with an index offence of violence were assessed as 'binge drinkers'.

	Chronic alcohol use	Binge drinking	Violence linked to alcohol
All	34%	45%	23%
Violent index offence	39%	50%	27%
Robbery index offence	19%	31%	15%
Acquisitive index offence	56%	62%	34%

Table 18. Proportion of young adults on the community NPS caseload, with different markers of problems with alcohol

Acquisitive offenders had the highest rate of problems with alcohol.

Community – Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs)

On 31st December 2013 there were **9,149** young adult men serving sentences in the community, who would have been managed by Community Rehabilitation (CRCs).

Sentence type and length

Of those young adult men who would have been managed by CRCs, 16% was on licence after being released from prison, while 84% was serving a court order.

Index offence	% of young adult men managed by CRCs	% of men aged 21+ managed by CRCs
Violence	41%	36%
Acquisitive	31%	28%
Drugs	15%	19%
Other	6%	7%
Motoring	5%	10%
Robbery	3%	0%
Sexual	0%	0%

Table 19. Index offence type of young adult men serving sentences or on licence in the community, and managed by CRCs.

A greater proportion of the CRC community caseload than of the NPS community, or custodial caseload, had an index drugs offence. However, as in the other two settings, the majority of young adult men on the CRC caseload would have been violent or acquisitive offenders (72%).

One way of determining where resources should be directed, is to split the caseload in 'segments', based on their index offence and their risk of reoffending. Figure 20 shows that the largest segments of young adult men in the community and managed by the CRCs was those violent offenders of moderate or higher risk of any reoffending, who accounted for 33% of the CRC caseload. A further 25% of the caseload was made up of young adult men with acquisitive index offences, who are in the two highest risk of reoffending bands. Those drugs offenders with at least 25% risk of committing another proven reoffence within two years made up the next largest group on the CRC caseload (13%).

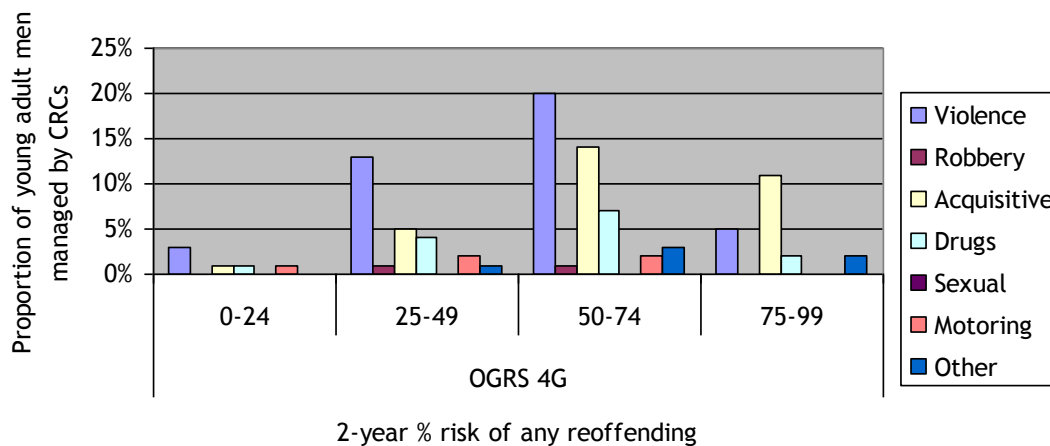


Figure 20. Proportion of young adult men managed by CRCs in the community, by two-year risk of any reoffending, and offence type

Risk of harm and criminogenic needs

Only 41% of those in the caseload who would have been managed by the CRCs, had a full OASys assessment. The following information is based this subgroup of the CRC caseload.

Of those in the community CRC caseload with full OASys assessments, Around a quarter were considered low risk of serious harm, and three quarters were considered moderate risk of serious harm.

Figure 21 indicates that for all young adults managed by the CRCs, and for young adults with an index offence of any of the three main offence types in that setting, 'lifestyle and associates' was the most prevalent need.

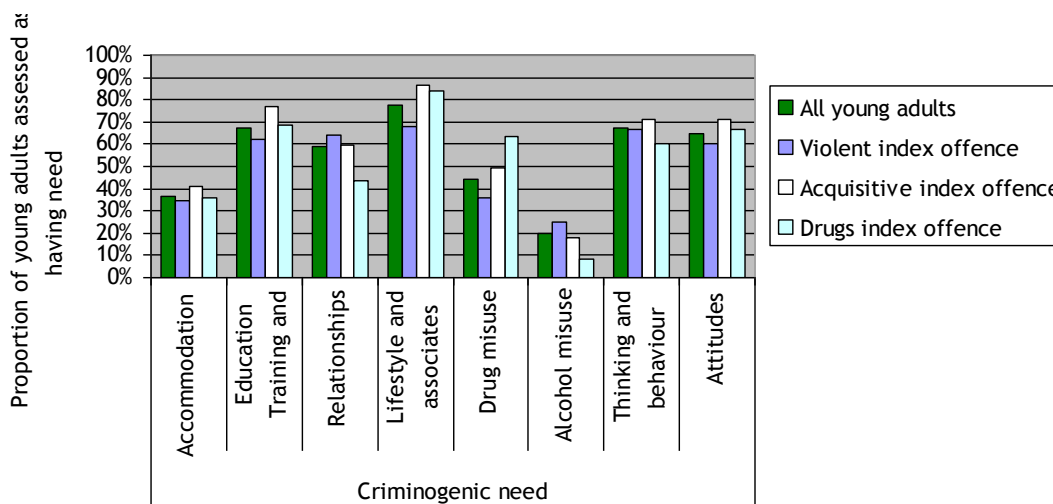


Figure 21. Proportion of young adult men managed by the CRCs in the community, by offence type, assessed as having each criminogenic need.

This was considered a need for 77% of the young adults managed by the CRCs. Education, training and employment was the next most prevalent need for those with a drugs or acquisitive offence, closely followed by thinking and behaviour, which was the second most prevalent need for young adult men with an index violent offence, managed by the CRCs. Problematic attitudes was an issue that was prevalent among all types of offenders

managed by the CRCs. As one would expect, drug misuse was a more prevalent issue for those young adults being managed by CRCs as a result of drugs offences. Alcohol misuse was considered much less of an issue for those in this group, however, with only 8% of drugs offenders assessed as having a problem in this area, compared to a quarter of those young adults with a violent index offence.

	Use of any drugs	Class A drug use	Use of Cannabis	Ever injected drugs	Drugs major activity	Drugs linked to offending
All	51%	7%	48%	3%	32%	55%
Violent index offence	45%	6%	42%	2%	23%	43%
Acquisitive index offence	55%	9%	51%	3%	38%	62%
Drugs index offence	65%	9%	62%	3%	54%	81%

Table 22. Proportion of young adult men managed by CRCs in the community, assessed using OASys as having different markers of problematic drug use.

Table 22 indicates that around half of those with needs data being managed in the community by CRCs had ever used any illegal drugs. Use of class A drugs or Cannabis was more prevalent among those with acquisitive or drugs offences, than among those young adult men with a violent index offence. Just under one in ten acquisitive or drugs offenders had ever used Class A drugs.

In contrast, table 23 shows that chronic alcohol problems and binge drinking were more prevalent among those young men with a violent index offence, being managed by the CRCs, than they were of all young men being managed by CRCs in this settings, or than they were of young men with acquisitive or drugs offences.

	Chronic alcohol use	Binge drinking	Violence linked to alcohol
All	27%	39%	17%
Violent index offence	34%	49%	24%
Acquisitive index offence	24%	36%	11%
Drugs index offence	13%	21%	5%

Table 23. Proportion of young adults on the community CRC caseload, with different markers of problems with alcohol

Comparing young men with acquisitive offences who were managed in the community (table 18), shows that chronic alcohol use was over twice as prevalent among those on the NPS community caseload (of whom it was an issue for 56%), as it was for those on the CRC community caseload (of whom it was an issue for 24%). Similarly, binge drinking was an issue for a smaller proportion of those on the CRC caseload than on the NPS caseload. However, as the CRC caseload was much larger than the NPS caseload, there was actually a greater number of young men with an acquisitive index offence with problems with chronic alcohol ($n = 682$) use or binge drinking ($n = 893$) in the latter, than there were in the NPS caseload ($n = 140$ and $n = 155$, respectively²).

² These figures are an underestimate of the actual number of young adult men with problems with alcohol, as they are based on the 41% of the CRC caseload, and 72% of the NPS caseload with full OASys assessments.