



Proven Reoffending Statistics Quarterly Bulletin, October 2016 to December 2016

Main points

This bulletin provides key statistics on Proven Reoffending for adult and juvenile offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, or received a caution in the period **October to December 2016**. The proven reoffending methodology changed in October 2017. For more information about the changes see the [October 2017 publication](#).

The overall proven reoffending rate was 29.4%



The overall proven reoffending rate decreased slightly from the same quarter in the previous year (by 0.2 percentage points) and has decreased by around 2 percentage points compared to 2005. Over time, the rate has fluctuated between 29% and 32%.

Adult offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 28.6%



The adult proven reoffending rate has decreased slightly from the same quarter in 2015 (by 0.1 percentage points) but has decreased by around 1 percentage point compared to 2005. The rate has remained broadly flat over time, fluctuating between 28% and 31%.

Juvenile offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 40.4%



The juvenile reoffending rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points from the same quarter in the previous year and increased by around 2-3 percentage points compared to 2005. However, the number of offenders in the cohort has fallen by over 80% since 2005.

Adults released from custody or court orders had a proven reoffending rate of 38.2



The proven reoffending rate for adult offenders released from custody or court orders was 38.2%, an increase of 0.1 percentage points compared to the same period in 2015 and a decrease of around 3-4 percentage points compared to 2005.

Adults released from custodial sentences of less than 12 months had a proven reoffending rate of 64.5%



Adults who served custodial sentences of less than 12 months had a proven reoffending rate of 64.5%, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points from the same quarter in the previous year.

This bulletin, associated tables and data tools present the proportion of offenders who reoffend (proven reoffending rate) and the number of proven reoffences by offender history, demographics, individual prisons, probation area, local authorities and youth offending teams. For technical details please refer to the accompanying [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#).

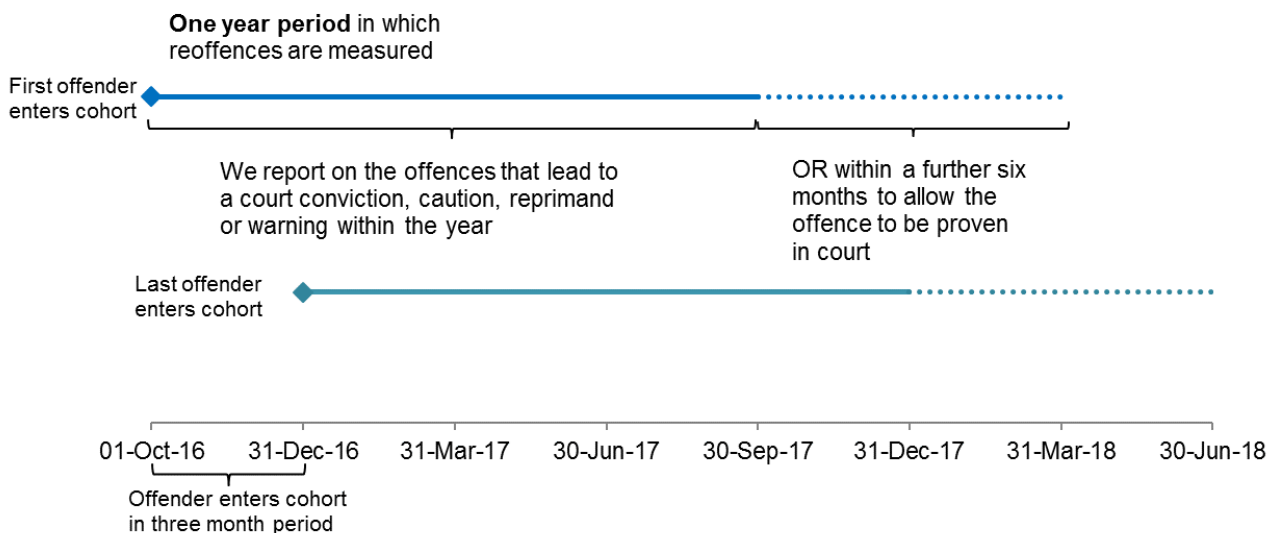
Also published in a separate document are Proven reoffending rates for restricted patients (Annex A) and Serious Further Offences (SFO) (Annex B).

For any feedback related to the content of this publication, please let us know at ESD@justice.gov.uk

How is proven reoffending measured?

An offender enters the cohort if they were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court or received a reprimand or warning in a three month period: October to December 2016. It is important to note that this is not comparable to publications prior to the October 2017 proven reoffending publication, which reported on a 12 month cohort.

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



Users should be cautious when making any comparison between cohorts before and after October 2015. This is because there is a change in data source from October 2015 onwards.

In addition, users should be cautious when comparing the 3 monthly cohorts to one another (e.g. October to December 2016 to July to September 2016). Due to the smaller 3 month cohort size the measure is likely to be more variable than the previous 12 month cohort measure of reoffending.

For further details on this, and how proven reoffending is measured, please see the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#) and '[How the measure of proven reoffending has changed and the effect of these changes](#)'.

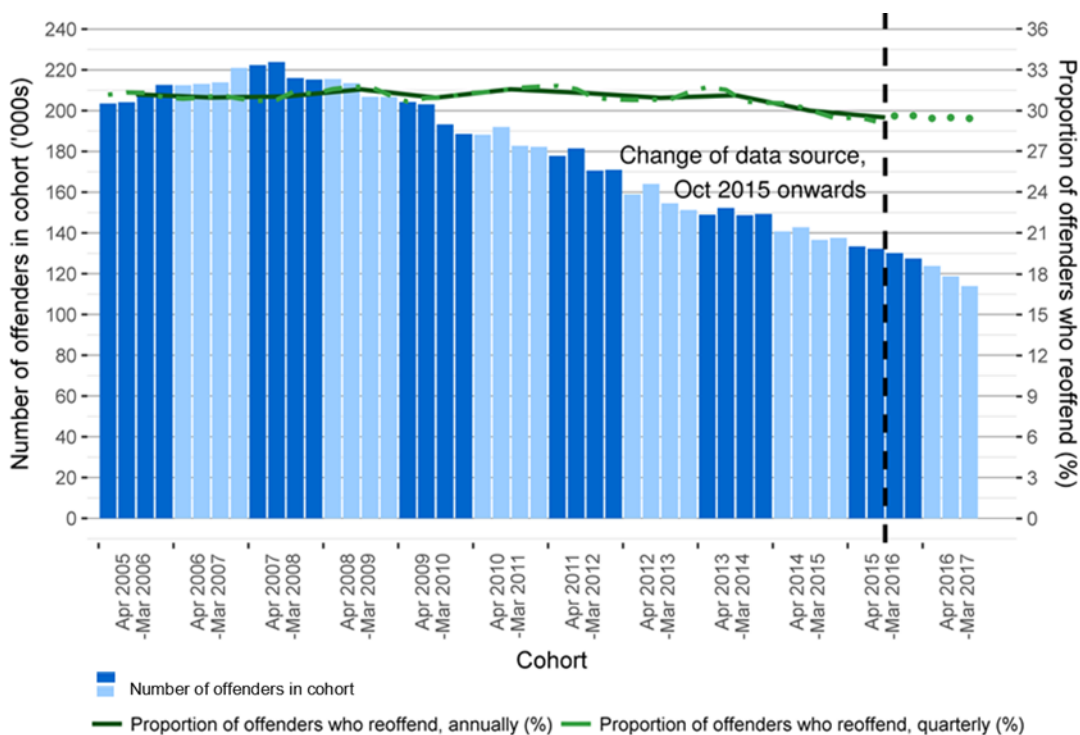
1. Overall – adult and juvenile offenders

29.4% of offenders in the October to December 2016 cohort reoffended within a year

In October to December 2016 around 114,000 adult and juvenile offenders were cautioned¹, received a non-custodial conviction at court or were released from custody. Around 34,000 of these offenders committed a proven reoffence within a year. This gives an overall proven reoffending rate of 29.4%, which is a small decrease (0.2 percentage points) from the same quarter in 2015.

Over time the overall proven reoffending rate has fluctuated between 29% and 32%.

Figure 1: Proportion of adult and juvenile offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence and the number of offenders in each cohort, April 2005 to December 2016 (Source: Table A1)



Around 136,000 proven reoffences were committed over the one year follow-up period, with those that reoffended committing, on average, 4.06 reoffences each. The average number of reoffences per reoffender has gradually increased since 2009 and is the highest since 2005.

In the October to December 2016 cohort, 83% were male and 17% were female, with the proportion of males in the cohort slightly higher than in 2005. Male offenders reoffended at a higher rate of 30.7% compared to female offenders who reoffended at a rate of 23.4%. Compared to the same quarter the previous year there was a small decrease in the male reoffending rate (0.3 percentage points) and the female reoffending rate has remained unchanged. Since 2005 these rates have fluctuated between 31% and 34% for males and 21% to 24% for females.

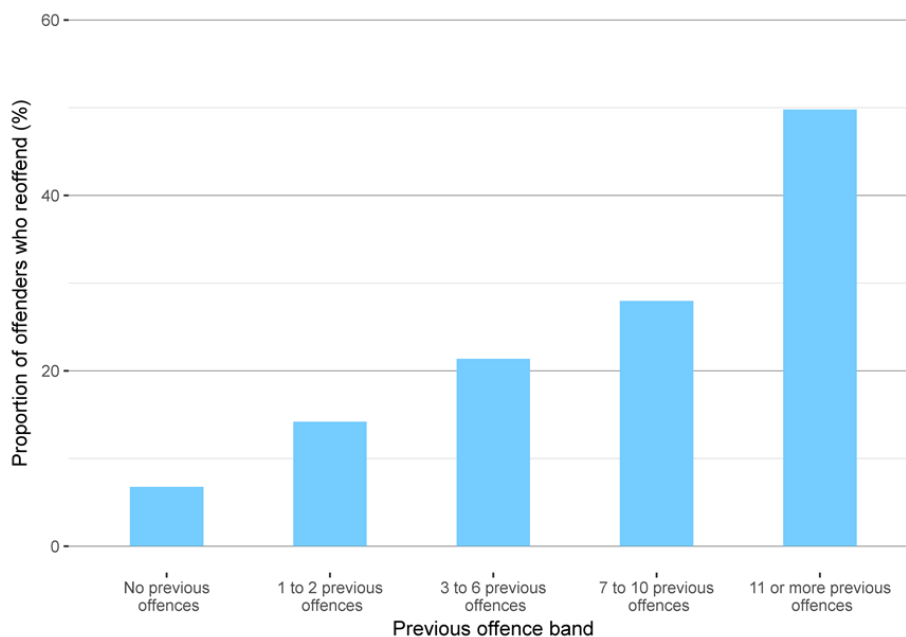
¹ Includes reprimands and warnings for juveniles.

2. Adult offenders

28.6% of adult offenders in the October to December 2016 cohort reoffended within a year

Adult offenders accounted for 93% (around 106,000) of the October to December 2016 cohort and juvenile offenders accounted for 7% (around 8,000)². Around 30,000 of all adult offenders were proven to have committed at least one reoffence within a year, giving a proven reoffending rate of 28.6%. This is a slight decrease (0.1 percentage points) since the same quarter in 2015.

Figure 2: Proportion of adult offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by number of previous offences, October to December 2016 (Source: Table A5a)



The change in data source in October 2015 means users should remain cautious when comparing the latest quarter with results from quarters before October 2015. The adult reoffending rate has remained broadly flat since 2005, fluctuating between 28% and 31%.

Around 123,000 proven reoffences were committed by adults over the one year follow-up period. Those that reoffended in the October to December 2016 cohort committed on average 4.07 reoffences each. This has broadly been increasing since July to September 2009.

Offenders with a larger number of previous offences have a higher rate of proven reoffending than those with fewer previous offences. In the October to December 2016 cohort, the proven reoffending rates for adults ranged from 6.8% for offenders with no previous offences to 49.8% for offenders with 11 or more previous offences (see figure 2 above). Adult offenders with 11 or more previous offences made up 39% of all adult offenders in the cohort, but committed 80% of all adult proven reoffences.

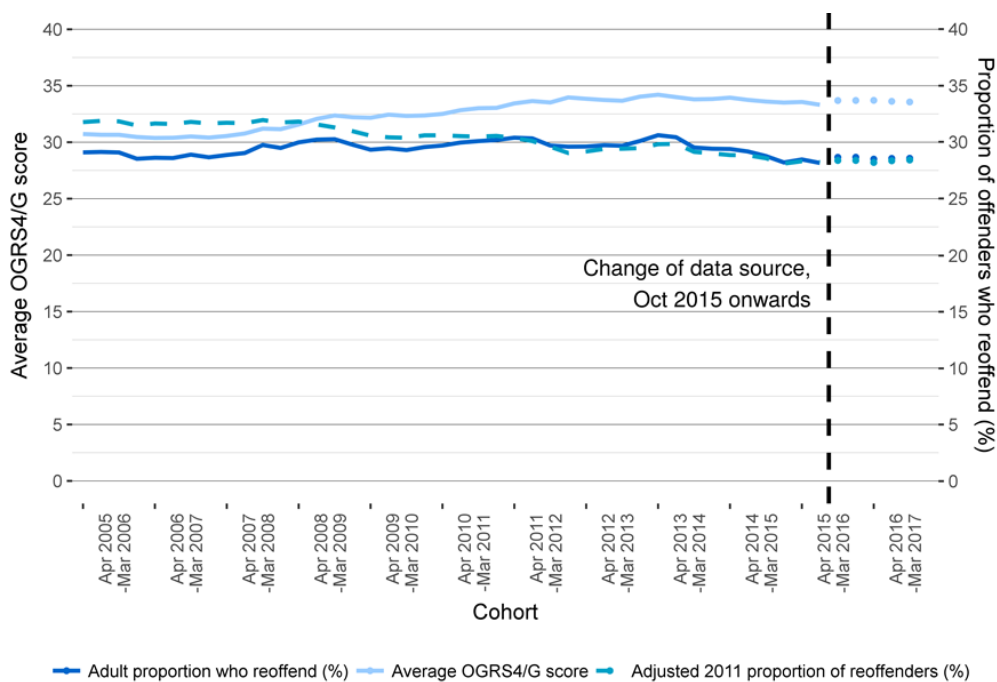
² A certain proportion of offenders who could not be matched to the Police National Computer (PNC) are excluded from the offender cohort. Therefore, this number does not represent all proven offenders. This means that the number of offenders in this bulletin will be different from the numbers published in Offender Management Statistics Quarterly and Criminal Justice Statistics. Please refer to the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#) for further information.

3. Adjusted reoffending rates

When controlling for offender characteristics 28.4% of adult offenders in the October to December 2016 cohort reoffended within a year

Adjusted proven reoffending rates for adults are calculated by ‘the proportion of reoffenders who reoffend’ (proven reoffending rate) for the cohort plus any difference between the average Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS4/G) score in that cohort and the 2011 cohorts. OGRS4 is based on a well-established, peer reviewed methodology for assessing and representing reoffending risk³. The raw rates have been adjusted to the 2011 calendar year, in line with the Payment by Result statistics.

Figure 3: The average OGRS scores (2011 adjusted) and the adjusted proven reoffending rate for adults, April 2005 to December 2016 (Source: Table A1)



Between 2005 and 2011 the average OGRS score increased, but since 2011 it has remained broadly flat. This indicates that between 2005 and 2011 the cohort had an increasing propensity to reoffend, but since 2011 this has since levelled off. As a result, the raw reoffending rate for adults are adjusted upwards between 2005 and 2010 reflecting the cohort having a greater propensity to reoffend.

Following 2011 the raw rates and the adjusted rates have tracked each other more closely. For example, the raw reoffending rate for adults for the October to December 2016 period was 28.6%, but the adjusted rate was 28.4%.

This suggests that while raw reoffending rates have remained broadly flat since 2005 the adjusted rates have shown a decreasing trend to reflect the greater propensity to reoffend of cohorts over this time.

³www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/449357/research-analysis-offender-assessment-system.pdf

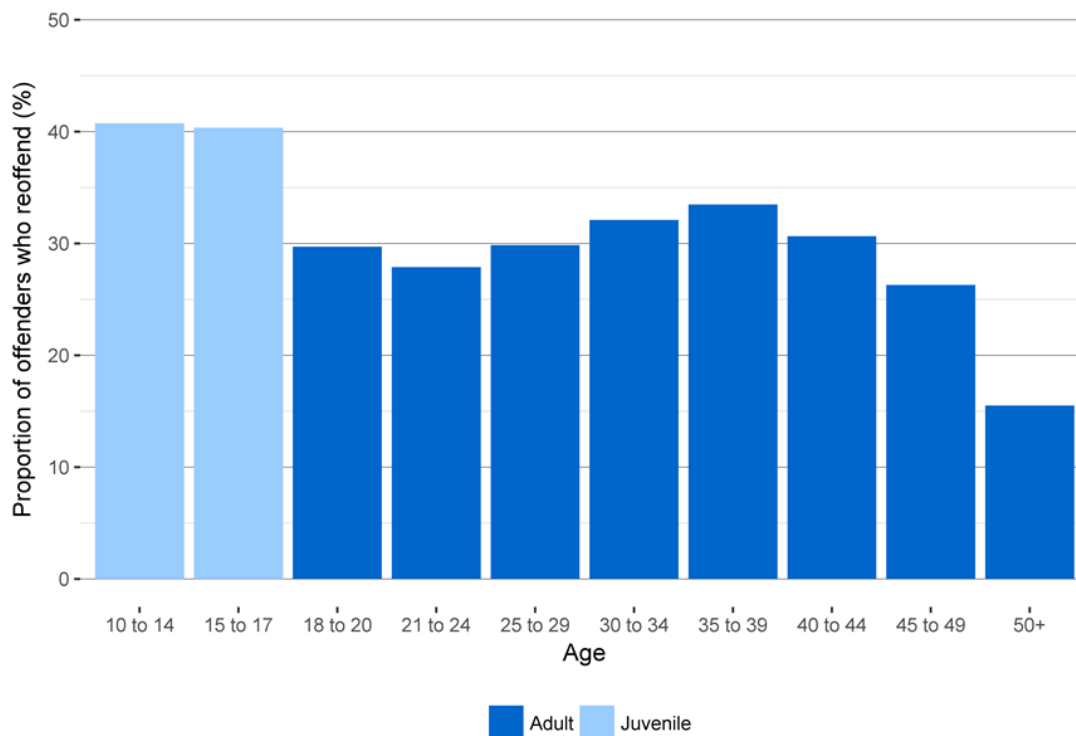
4. Juvenile offenders⁴

40.4% of juvenile offenders in the October to December 2016 cohort reoffended within one year

Around 8,000 juvenile offenders were cautioned, convicted or released from custody in the October to December 2016 cohort and around 3,000 of them committed a reoffence. This gives a proven reoffending rate of 40.4%, a decrease of 1.3 percentage points since the same quarter in 2015. The new reoffending measure is likely to be more variable from quarter to quarter due to the smaller size of the cohorts.

Since 2005, the reoffending rate has increased by around 2-3 percentage points, but the size of the cohort has fallen by over 80% across the same period.

Figure 4: Proportion of adult and juvenile offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by age, October to December 2016 (Source: Table A3)



Around 13,000 proven reoffences were committed by juveniles over the one year follow-up period. Those that reoffended committed on average 3.98 reoffences each. Juvenile offenders with 11 or more previous offences had a higher reoffending rate than those with no previous offences (74.8% compared to 22.9%, respectively).

Offenders aged 10 to 14 had the highest reoffending rate of any age group, with a reoffending rate of 40.7% (see figure 4 above). However, the number of offenders in this age group has fallen by almost 90% since 2005. The reoffending rate for the 10 to 14 age group overtook offenders aged 15 to 17 this quarter, which are now second highest (40.3%). Figure 4 also shows that the proven reoffending rate for juveniles is higher than adults and the rate generally falls with increasing age.

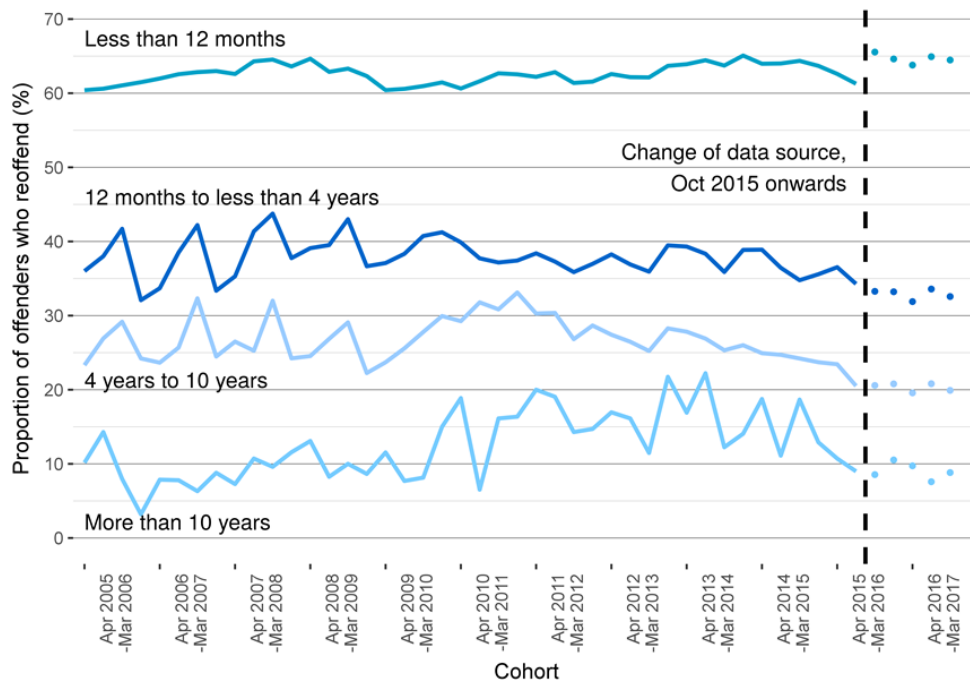
⁴ Juveniles are defined as those aged 10 to 17 years old.

5. Adult disposal⁵

Adults released from custody or starting court orders had a proven reoffending rate of 38.2%

A different methodology is used for proven reoffending statistics by disposal type. The first proven offence within each disposal is taken as the start point for measuring proven reoffending. Therefore, some offenders will appear in more than one disposal category. For Proven Reoffending Statistics a disposal is defined as a caution, court order, custody, or other disposal resulting from a conviction at court, such as a fine or discharge.

Figure 5: Proportion of adult offenders released from custody who commit a proven reoffence, by custodial sentence length, April 2005 to December 2016 (Source: Table C2a)



For adult offenders starting a court order (Community sentence or Suspended Sentence Order) the proven reoffending rate was 34.1%. The rate for this group has declined since 2005 by around 3-4 percentage points.

The proven reoffending rate for adult offenders released from custody was 48.3%, a decrease of 0.9 percentage points compared to the same quarter the previous year. The proven reoffending rate for adults released from sentences of less than 12 months was 64.5%, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points from the same quarter in 2015. The impact of changing data source in October 2015 is particularly noticeable among offenders serving short sentences and might be connected to the introduction of statutory supervision for this group. Investigation is ongoing, as more data becomes available.

⁵ Proven reoffending rates by disposal should not be compared to assess the effectiveness of sentences, as there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics and the type of sentence given. For further information see [Annex D of the October 2016 publication](#) (page 41) and the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#).

The rate for those released from short sentences (less than 12 months) has been consistently higher compared to those released from longer sentences (see figure 5 above). Adults who served sentences of 12 months or more reoffended at a rate of 29.1% (compared to 64.5% for those released from less than 12 month sentences). The proven reoffending rate trend for adults released from custodial sentences of 12 months or more has been decreasing since 2010.

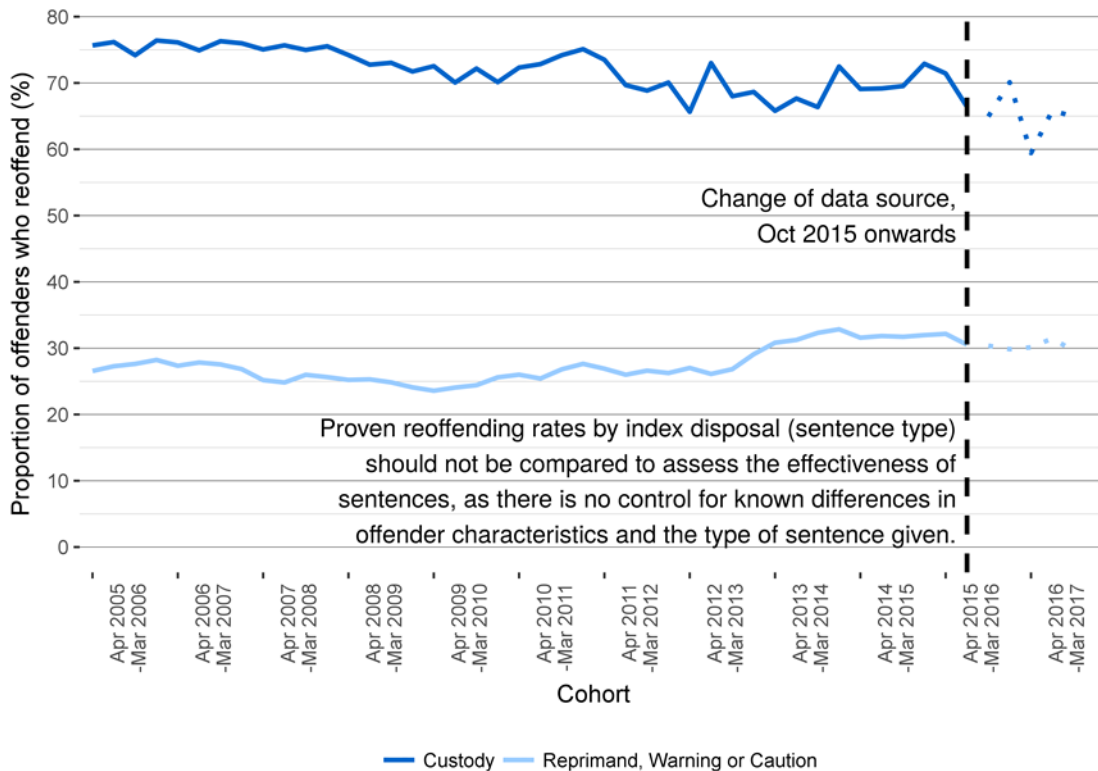
6. Juvenile disposal⁶

Juvenile offenders given youth cautions had a proven reoffending rate of 29.6%

This has remained broadly flat since 2013, but has increased by around 2-3 percentage points compared to 2005. Reprimands and warnings for youths were abolished under the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 with effect from 8 April 2013 and replaced with youth cautions.

Youth cautions are a formal out-of-court disposal that can be used as an alternative to prosecution for juvenile offenders in certain circumstances. A youth caution may be given for any offence where the young offender admits an offence and there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction, but it is not in the public interest to prosecute.

Figure 6: Proportion of juvenile offenders released from custody or given a reprimand, warning or caution who commit a proven reoffence, April 2005 to December 2016 (Source: Table C1b)



Between October and December 2016, 171 juvenile offenders were released from custody and 111 (64.9%) were proven to have committed a reoffence within a year. This represents a fall of approximately 9-11 percentage points since 2005 and remains unchanged compared to the same quarter in 2015. However, there is likely to be more variation with the new reoffending measure, from one quarter to another due to the reduced size of the cohort.

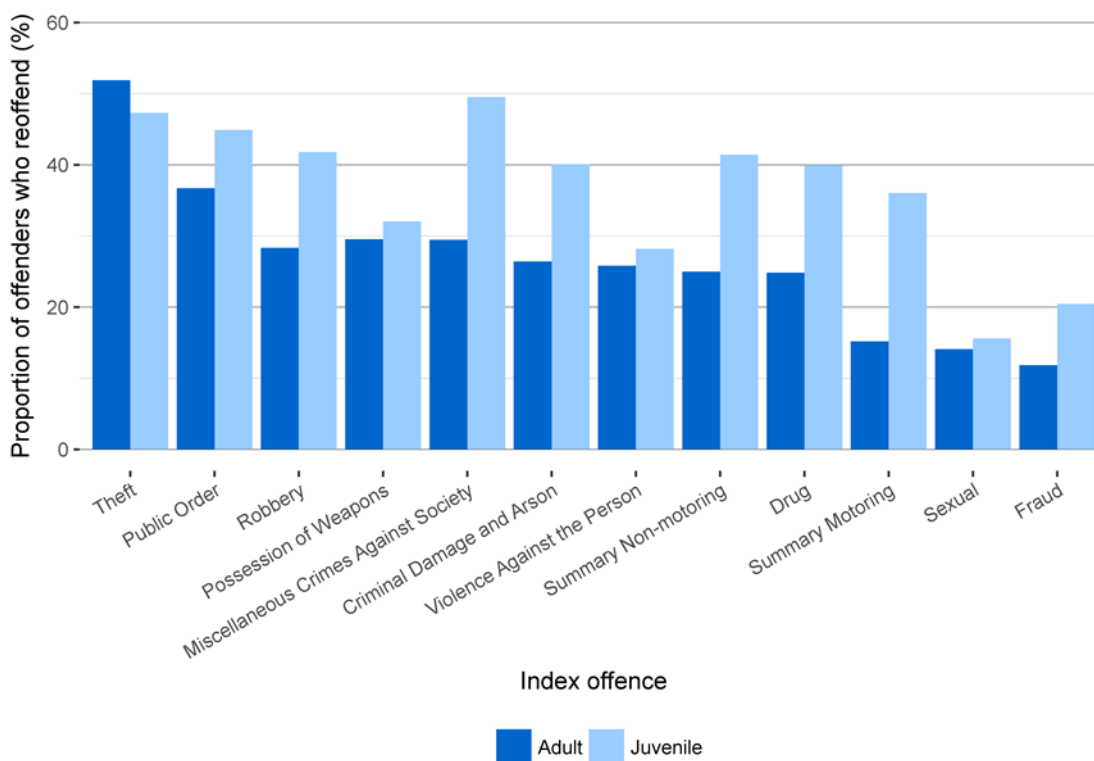
⁶ Proven reoffending data for juvenile disposals uses the same methodology as adult disposals (see section 5 for more details).

7. Index offences

In the October to December 2016 cohort, adult offenders with an index offence of 'Theft' had the highest reoffending rate at 51.9%

The offence that leads to an offender being included in the offender cohort is called the index offence. In the October to December 2016 adult cohort, offenders with an index offence of 'Theft' had the highest proven reoffending rate of 51.9%. The second highest reoffending rate for adult offenders was those with an index offence of 'Public Order' (36.7%).

Figure 7: Proportion of adult and juvenile offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by index offence (except 'Other'), October to December 2016 (Source: Table A4a/b)



With the exception of index offences recorded as 'Other', those with the lowest rate of reoffending in the adult cohort had an index offence of 'Fraud' (11.9%). The 'Robbery' and 'Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society' index offence categories saw the largest decreases since 2005. Those with an index offence of 'Violence against the person' and 'Theft' saw the biggest increases since 2005.

In the juvenile cohort, those with an index offence of 'Miscellaneous crimes against society' had the highest proven reoffending rate at 49.5%, followed by those with an index offence of 'Theft' at 47.3%. Those with the lowest rate had a 'Sexual' index offence (with the exception of the 'Other' index offence category) and reoffended at a rate of 15.6%.

8. Reoffending of indeterminate sentenced offenders

For the annual 2013/14⁷ reoffending cohort - the one year reoffending rate for offenders released from indeterminate sentences was 10.5% and the two year reoffending rate was 11.7%.

In response to the Lammy Review recommendation 23, a more detailed analysis of indeterminate sentenced prisoners is provided. This covers both one and two year reoffending rates and reoffending by ethnicity.

On 11th October 2018, the Ministry of Justice published a report detailing progress one year on after publication of the Lammy Review on the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the Criminal Justice System⁸. Improving the collection and use of data and increasing transparency are major themes that appear throughout the Review. This publication aims to address 'Recommendation 23' in the review:

"The MoJ and the Parole Board should report on the proportion of prisoners released by offence and ethnicity. This data should also cover the proportion of each ethnicity who also go on to reoffend."

For the first time the MoJ is publishing further breakdowns of the reoffending rates of indeterminate sentenced (IS) offenders released by the parole board. This includes 1) one and two year reoffending rates by ethnicity and 2) an index offence by reoffence breakdown – to give an indication of reoffence seriousness.

The analysis shows that reoffending by ethnicity for IS offenders is consistent with the overall cohort - with black offenders having a similar, or slightly higher reoffending rate than white offenders each cohort. The Asian and Other ethnicity groups are too small to report on. The number of violence against the person or sexual reoffences committed are a very low proportion of the reoffences committed by IS offenders⁹. The number of offenders in this group is small, particularly when broken down by ethnicity.

Owing to the small numbers involved, in future we will only publish breakdowns by ethnicity for IS offenders in the Race and the CJS publication, our main vehicle for presenting ethnicity statistics across the criminal justice system, which also includes data on parole board hearing outcomes. The next update will be in November 2019.

⁷ It has only been possible to calculate a 2 year reoffending rate on the 2013/14 cohort – in order to allow a long enough follow up period.

⁸ assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747335/tackling-racial-disparity-criminal-justice-system-2018-update-web.pdf

⁹ Violence against the person and sexual offences accounted for 7% of reoffences in 2013/14 in one year, and 6% in two years. In 2015/16 they accounted for 3% of all reoffences in a one-year period.

Further information

Accompanying files

As well as this bulletin, the following products are published as part of this release:

- A [technical guide](#) to proven reoffending statistics providing information on how proven reoffending is measured, and the data sources used.
- A set of [overview tables](#), covering each section of this bulletin.
- A [data tool](#) which provides proven reoffending data by geography which is formed by taking a weighted average of the four preceding 3 month offender cohorts on a quarterly basis.

The data tools containing proven reoffending data by demographics, offender history, individual prisons and probation area are now available annually (the next update will be in January 2019). Ethnicity breakdowns have been added for all geographical areas in the geographical data tool for the first time this quarter. If you have any feedback on these changes please email ESD@justice.gov.uk.

National Statistics status

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is the Ministry of Justice's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected for National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Contact

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