



Ministry  
of Justice

# **Results from the 10 Prisons Project Ad Hoc Statistics**

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# 1. Rationale

This publication provides an assessment of the 10 Prison project.

The project was announced in August 2018<sup>1</sup> with the aim of reducing violence in 10 of our challenging prisons by reducing the supply of drugs, raising standards of decency, and increasing leadership capability.

The prisons chosen were: Hull, Humber, Leeds, Lindholme, Moorland, Wealstun, Nottingham, Ranby, Isis and Wormwood Scrubs.

## 2. Background, Methodology and Coverage

Within in this report, we focus on the level and rate of assault within the 10 prisons and nationally, comparing the three months from **June to August 2018** when the project first began to **April to June 2019**, when we have the latest reliable data.

These are interim results as this data is regularly refreshed to include historical incidents and updates to existing incidents. We estimate that there is change of between -2% and 2% at a prison level and up to 1% at a national level.

Quarterly data has been used as it is less volatile than monthly data, providing a truer reflection of what is happening within these prisons.

Assaults statistics are routinely published within the quarterly National Statistics [Safety in Custody](#) series. Further information on how assaults are measured can be found within the guidance document.

Underreporting of assault incidents was reported in July 2018 as an [annex](#) to the Safety in Custody publication. At that point, we estimated that nationally the level of underreporting was around 10%. Due to the focus on these specific prisons we have included the findings for the latest audit on the level of underreporting of assault incidents in each prison. This includes the date of the audit.

The report also covers the Random Mandatory Drug testing results from 10 prisons combined and nationally. National and prison level data has already been published with the [HMPPS Digest](#).

HMPPS has a comprehensive range of measures to reduce the supply of drugs into prisons including the Random Mandatory Drug Testing (RMDT) programme, which seeks to measure the level of drug misuse in prisons, deter drug misuse amongst prisoners, and identify prisoners who may need referring to substance misuse services. RMDT is undertaken by testing a random sample of 5% of prisoners in prisons with 400 or more prisoners and 10% of prisoners in prisons with less than 400 prisoners every month and to monitor and deter drug-misuse. More information on the roll out of RMDT, the list of drugs tested for in the 12 months ending in March 2019 and the methodology is given in the Digest.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-announces-10-prisons-project-to-develop-new-model-of-excellence](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-announces-10-prisons-project-to-develop-new-model-of-excellence)

### 3. Key Findings

- The rate of assaults per 1,000 prisoners in ten prisons dropped by 16%, from 42.9 in June/August 2018 to 36.1 in April/June 2019
- The percentage of positive results from random mandatory drug tests (RDMT) dropped between August 2018 and March 2019.

#### Assaults: June/August 2018 to April/June 2019

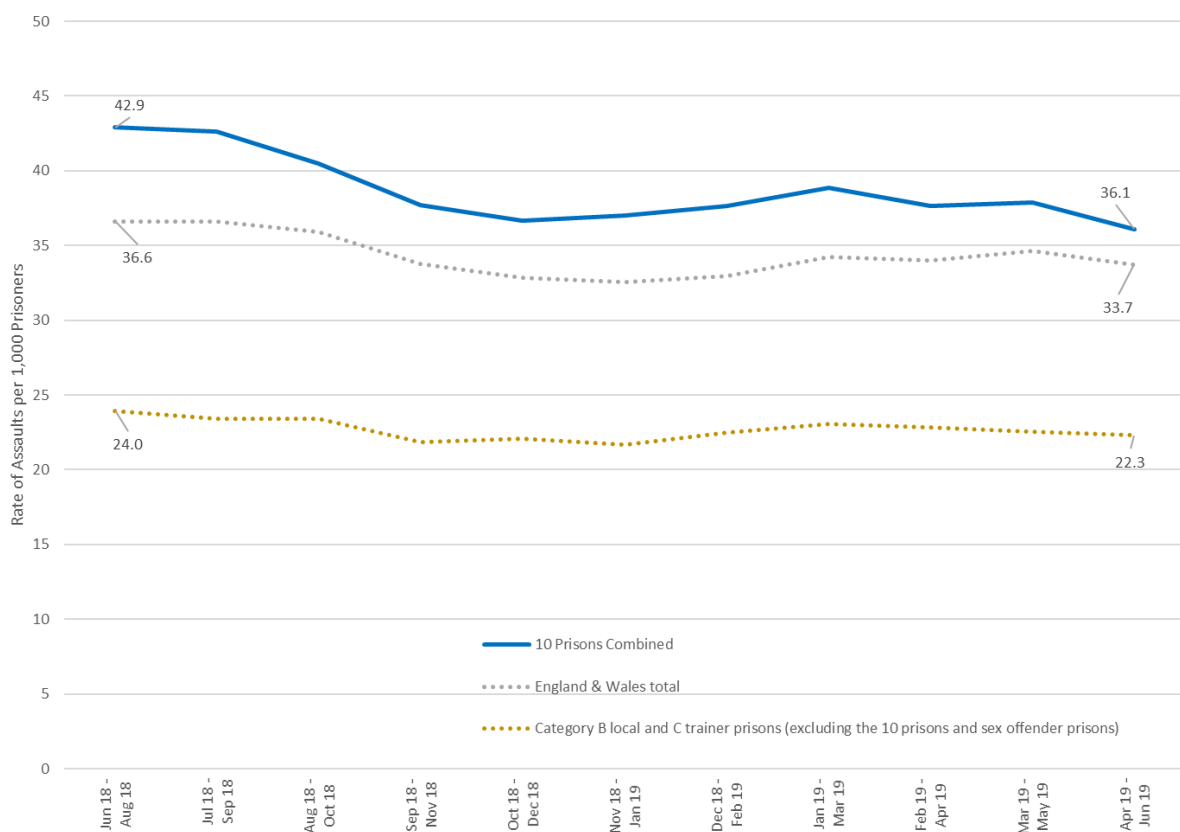
The number of assaults in the ten prisons dropped by 17%, from an average of 399 in June/August 2018 to 331 in April/June 2019.

Nationally, the number of assaults decreased by 8% across the same time period.

The rate of assaults per 1,000 prisoners in the ten prisons dropped by 16%, from 42.9 in June/August 2018 to 36.1 in April/June 2019.

Nationally, the rate of assaults per 1,000 prisoners decreased by 8% across the same time period.

**Figure 1: Monthly 3-month rolling rate of total assaults for 10 prisons, 3 months ending August 2018 to 3 months ending June 2019**



**Auditing of assaults in prisons:** These figures have been drawn from the HMPPS Incident Reporting System. As with all large-scale recording and administrative systems there will be some inaccuracy. [Previous audits of prison data quality](#) have shown there was around 10% under-recording across prisons in 2017/18 with a confidence interval of between 8.5% and 11.5%. Audits are carried out throughout the year at different times in different prisons. Since the number of incidents are relatively small the omission of one or two incidents can result in large percentage variations although it should also be noted that some audits report 100% accuracy. Initial estimates suggest that the accuracy of recording of incidents has improved or remained at 100% in 7 of the 10 prisons since their previous audits, with the most noticeable improvement in Nottingham (Table 1d).

### Random Mandatory Drug Testing

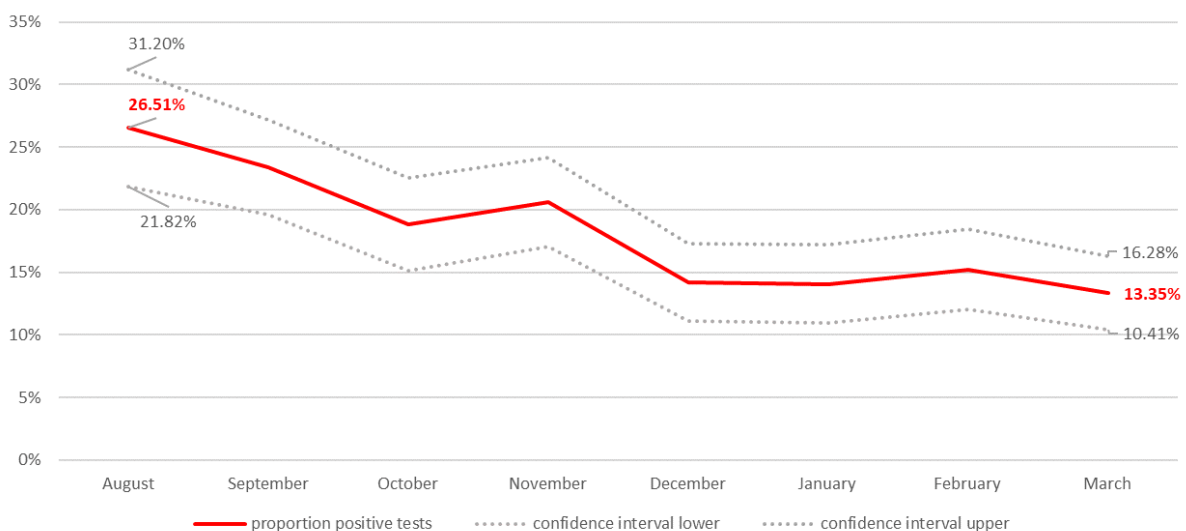
Data is provided up to March 2019 due to the time delays in analysing the samples.

### **The percentage of positive results from random drug tests dropped between August 2018 and March 2019 (Figure 7.1, Table 7.1)**

In March 2019, 13.4% of RMDTs were positive; a decrease of 50% or 13.2 percentage points since August 2018 (Figure 2). The number of prisoners sampled is relatively small and so month-on-month fluctuations should be interpreted with caution. A 95% confidence interval has been introduced to demonstrate the difference in precision of the sample estimates. To be 100% confident, you would need to test every prisoner in the ten prisons during that month. Based on the RMDT tests administered in March 2019, we are 95% confident that the level of drug misuse in the ten prisons during that month is between 10.4% and 16.3%. The green dotted line demonstrates the threshold value at which an improvement in levels of drug misuse in prisons since August 2018 can be denoted with confidence. The range in March 2019 is below this threshold value, signalling a drop in the level of drug misuse in the ten prisons since August 2018.

Tables 2a to 2e show the rate of positive tests by prison, as a proportion of tests successfully administered.

**Figure 2: Percentage of positive results from random drug tests, the 12 months ending March 2019 to the 12 months ending March 2019**



## ***Statement of Compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics***

The Code of Practice for Statistics is built around 3 main concepts, or pillars:

- Trustworthiness – is about having confidence in the people and organisations that publish statistics
- Quality – is about using data and methods that produce statistics
- Value – is about publishing statistics that support society's needs

The following explains how MoJ have applied the pillars of the Code in a proportionate way.

### ***Trustworthiness***

The figures presented in this ad hoc statistical publication were created following interest from MoJ ministers and inform the evidence base underpinning departmental thinking around the development of policy. They are being published now in order to give equal access to all those with an interest in them.

MoJ analysts work to a professional competency framework and Civil Service core values of integrity, honesty, objectivity, and impartiality. The analysis in this release has been scrutinised and received sign-off by the expert lead analyst.

We protect the security of our data in order to maintain the privacy of the citizen, fulfil relevant legal obligations and uphold our obligation that no statistics will be produced that are likely to identify an individual, while at the same time taking account of our obligation to obtain maximum value from the data we hold for statistical purposes. All analysts are given security training and the majority of data accessed by analysts is obfuscated and access is business case controlled based to the minimum data required.

### ***Quality***

The data which underpins this information is taken directly and solely from departmental systems, which are relied upon by MoJ for effective offender management. Quality assurance has taken place in line with the standards usually applied to MoJ ad hoc releases, with an internal check that the results shown are robust, and a true representation of the needs of offenders who receive custody and community disposals.

### ***Value***

Releasing this information serves the increased public interest in the needs of offenders being managed in the justice system. The figures also help reduce the administrative burden of answering Parliamentary Questions, Freedom of Information requests and other forms of ad hoc enquiry.

## Further information

### Contact

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Email: [newsdesk@justice.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@justice.gov.uk)

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

Lucy Cuppleditch  
Prison and Probation Analytical Services  
Ministry of Justice  
7th Floor  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ  
Email: [statistics.enquiries@justice.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gov.uk)

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to:  
[statistics.enquiries@justice.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gov.uk)

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from:  
[statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system](http://statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system)

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