

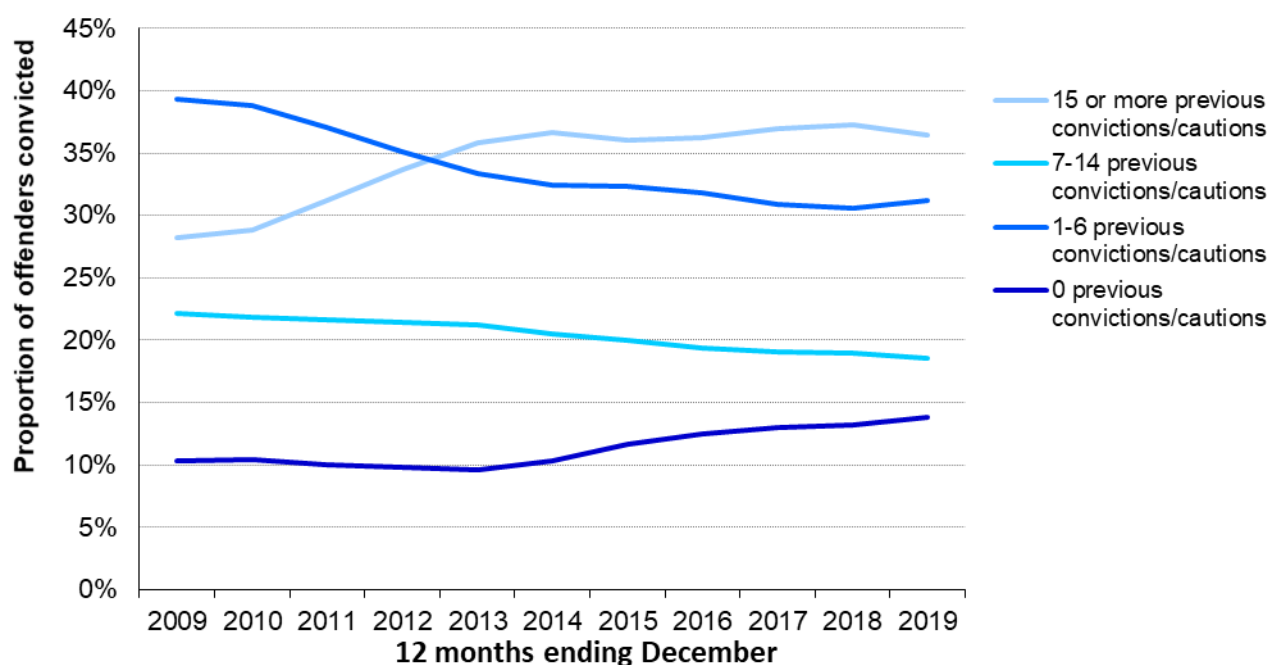
Offending Histories

The proportion of adult offenders convicted for an indictable offence with long criminal careers is nearly 40%

The proportion of all offenders with a long criminal career (more than 15 previous cautions or convictions) has remained fairly stable over the last five years at around 36%.

This chapter was delayed due to the COVID19 pandemic and was published in November 2020. In response to the pandemic MoJ had to change its data gathering, access and release practices, focusing efforts on priority analysis and statistics. Our [statement](#) explains this further.

Figure 6: Offenders convicted for indictable offences by previous criminal history, December 2009 to December 2019 (Source: Table Q6.1)



The proportion of adult offenders convicted for an indictable offence with long criminal careers is now at 39%, compared with 32% in 2009.

The number of first time offenders⁽¹⁾ convicted for an indictable offence has been decreasing for four years, from 31,000 in 2015 to 26,000 in 2019. However, the proportion of the offending population who are first time offenders has increased year on year since 2013. In 2019 14% of the offending population was a first time offender, a 4 percentage point increase since 2013. The proportion of juvenile offenders convicted for an indictable offence who were first time offenders has steadily increased. 35% of juvenile offenders were first time offenders in 2019, an increase of 24 percentage points since 2009.

¹ Offenders with no previous cautions or convictions.