

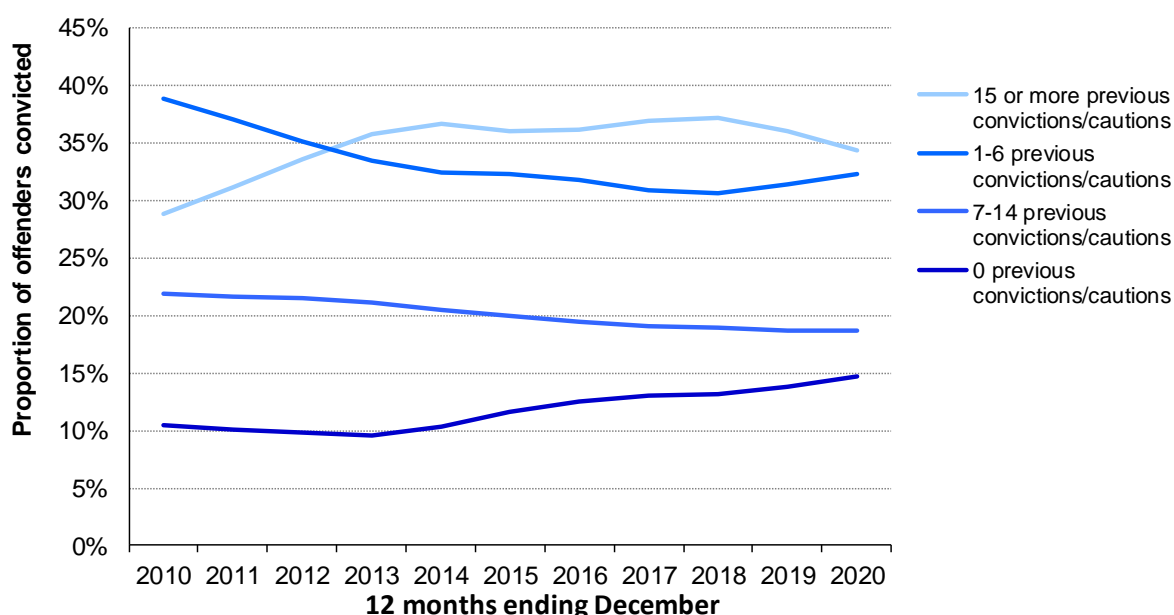
Offending Histories

The proportion of adult offenders convicted for an indictable offence with long criminal careers is 36% down from 38% in 2019

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

This chapter was delayed due to the COVID19 pandemic and was published in August 2021. 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 2010 to December 2020 (Source: Table Q6.1)



The proportion of adult offenders convicted for an indictable offence with long criminal careers is now at 36%, compared with 32% in 2010.

The number of first-time offenders ⁽¹⁾ convicted for an indictable offence has been decreasing for four years, from 30,000 in 2015 to 23,000 in 2020. However, the proportion of the offending population who are first time offenders has increased year on year since 2014. In 2020 15% of the offending population was a first-time offender, a 5-percentage point increase since 2014. The proportion of juvenile offenders convicted for an indictable offence who were first time offenders has steadily increased. 39% of juvenile offenders were first time offenders in 2020, an increase of 27 percentage points since 2010.

¹ Offenders with no previous cautions or convictions.