



Final proven reoffending statistics for Community Rehabilitation Companies and the National Probation Service

April to June 2020

Main points

This publication provides the **final** proven reoffending results for the **April to June 2020** offender cohorts managed by Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC) and the National Probation Service (NPS). Although CRC contracts ended and a new unified model¹ for Probation Services was introduced in England and Wales at the end of June 2021, reporting of the reoffending results will continue until the measurement period of proven reoffending for all offender cohorts managed by the CRCs and the NPS has come to an end; this is due to the time lags inherent in the proven reoffending measure.

April to June 2020

Eighteen CRCs achieved significant reductions in the binary rate



Eighteen of the 20 CRCs managing offenders in the **April to June 2020** cohort achieved **statistically significant reductions** in the adjusted **binary rate** (i.e. the proportion of offenders who reoffend) when compared to the 2011 baseline. None of the CRCs saw significant increases in the adjusted binary rate.

Decrease in the overall NPS binary rate



The **overall binary rate** for offenders managed by the **NPS** was **34.2%**, representing a 3.3 percentage point decrease compared to October to December 2015.

Decrease in the overall NPS frequency rate



The **overall frequency rate** for offenders managed by the **NPS** decreased by 1.2% to **3.92** reoffences per reoffender compared to October to December 2015.

¹ Under the new model, all sentence management for low, medium and high-risk offenders is carried out by the Probation Service rather than contracted providers. Furthermore, to note, offender management transitioned earlier from Wales CRC to the unified model area of NPS Wales in December 2019.

Statistician's comment

"This report covers **final** proven reoffending results for the **April to June 2020** offender cohorts managed by CRCs and the NPS. A proven reoffence is measured over a one-year follow-up period and a further six-month waiting period to allow the offence to be proven in court.²

This latest offender cohort represents the first for which the cohort period itself overlaps entirely with the first national lockdown due to the pandemic; this included court closures leading to sharp decreases in the number of cases processed at the criminal court.³

The reoffending follow-up and waiting periods for this cohort also continue to overlap with both the second and third national lockdowns.⁴ While there were no court closures during these two latter lockdowns, police recorded crime data have shown overall reductions in the reporting and recording of many crime types during periods of lockdown.⁵

As a result, the volumes of offenders and reoffenders across both CRCs and the NPS for this latest cohort represent the lowest since October to December 2015.⁶

Of all 20 CRCs⁷ managing offenders in the April to June 2020 cohort, 18 achieved statistically significant reductions in the adjusted binary reoffending rate when compared to the 2011 baseline reoffending rates, whilst none saw any statistically significant increases.

The overall binary reoffending rate for offenders managed by the NPS was 34.2%, representing a 3.3 percentage point decrease compared to October to December 2015. NPS South East and Eastern has the highest frequency rate at 4.54 reoffences per reoffender, while NPS London has the lowest at 3.47 reoffences per reoffender.

Figures for this latest offender cohort period are now showing a more pronounced impact of the pandemic on offender and reoffender volumes. However, during this period of volatility, the proven reoffending rates are likely to continue oscillating in the short-term before potentially more stable trends are observed as we move further away from the periods of lockdowns."

² A full description of the measure of reoffending is provided in the guide to proven reoffending statistics, which is available at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/payment-by-results-statistics-october-2015-to-june-2021

³ Criminal Court statistics can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-court-statistics

⁴ The first national lockdown was implemented on 23 March 2020 and transitioned to phased reopening until August 2020 (including a limited number of jury trials resuming from 18 May 2020). The second national lockdown was implemented on 5 November 2020 and returned to a three-tier restriction system from 2 December 2020. The third national lockdown was implemented on 6 January 2021 and transitioned to phased reopening until June 2021.

⁵ Police recorded crime figures (including monthly trends) can be found at: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

⁶ Excludes NPS Wales due to the early transition of offenders from CRC supervision during the time series.

⁷ Note that in this and future quarterly cohorts, there will be no results for Wales CRC as offender management transferred to NPS Wales in December 2019.

1. Introduction

This publication provides the **final** proven reoffending results for the **April to June 2020** offender cohorts managed by CRCs. Although CRC contracts ended and a new unified model⁸ for Probation Services was introduced in England and Wales at the end of June 2021, reporting of the reoffending results will continue until the measurement period of proven reoffending for all offender cohorts managed by the CRCs and the NPS has come to an end; this is due to the time lags inherent in the proven reoffending measure. The results presented in this bulletin in relation to offenders managed by CRCs will focus on comparison against the baseline period, rather than any impact on financial implication.

Results presented reflect the changes to the CRC contracts,⁹ announced in 2018, which resulted in an adjustment to the binary measure and a change to the frequency baseline¹⁰ against which CRCs are compared.

The one-year proven reoffending measures used to assess CRC performance are:

- the **binary** rate (proportion of offenders who reoffend); and
- the **frequency** rate (the average number of reoffences per reoffender)

The binary rate for each CRC is subject to an adjustment for changes in the case mix of offenders being supervised, using the Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS), version 4/G,¹¹; this was to allow performance to be assessed against the baseline year of 2011.¹² This is referred to as the **OGRS4/G-adjusted binary reoffending rate**.

The publication also includes final results for the NPS. However, please note that final results for the NPS have not changed as a result of the contract variations since they are not compared against a baseline threshold in the same way.

⁸ Under the new model, all sentence management for low, medium and high-risk offenders is carried out by the Probation Service rather than contracted providers. Furthermore, to note, offender management transitioned earlier from Wales CRC to the unified model area of NPS Wales in December 2019.

⁹ Voluntary ex ante transparency (VEAT) notices for all CRCs were published in July and August 2018. Please see example: <https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:335172-2018:TEXT:EN:HTML&src=0>

¹⁰ All CRCs are now compared against a 2015/16 frequency baseline, with the exception of Merseyside CRC, which has retained its 2011 baseline. Refer to the accompanying technical guide for further information, along with a more detailed explanation on how proven reoffending is measured more generally.

¹¹ Further information on the Offender Group Reconviction Scale 4/G can be found in the guide to proven reoffending statistics, which is available at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/payment-by-results-statistics-october-2015-to-june-2021

¹² The 2011 PbR baselines and associated methodology documents are available at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/transforming-rehabilitation

Contract variation

Under contract variations, the following changes were made to the binary and frequency measures, for assessing CRC performance:

1. An additional adjustment to the **OGRS4/G-adjusted binary reoffending rate** to account for a change in the data source in October 2015, as explained in the published technical note.¹³
2. As announced in the 'Strengthening probation, building confidence' consultation document,¹⁴ the baseline year, against which CRC performance on the frequency of reoffending is compared, changed. All CRCs are now compared against a 2015/16 baseline, with the exception of Merseyside CRC, which has retained the 2011 baseline.

Both adjustments were applied retrospectively to all final CRC cohorts in the October 2018 bulletin.¹⁵

To aid the user, and in the interests of transparency, the accompanying tables include the actual binary rates before any adjustments alongside the **OGRS4/G-adjusted binary rates** and **2018 contract-adjusted binary rates**.

From this point forward, the **2018 contract-adjusted binary rate** will be referred to as the **adjusted binary rate**.

For technical detail on how proven reoffending is measured, please refer to the accompanying guide to proven reoffending statistics.¹⁶

¹³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-community-rehabilitation-companies-contracts

¹⁴ <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/hm-prisons-and-probation/strengthening-probation-building-confidence>

¹⁵ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/payment-by-results-statistics-october-2015-to-december-2017

¹⁶ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/payment-by-results-statistics-october-2015-to-june-2021

2. Final results

Final results are based on a **cohort of offenders who were managed by CRCs in the community under Payment by Results (PbR) arrangements, and by the NPS**. All offenders have been subject to the full one-year follow-up period and the additional six-month waiting period as detailed in the guide to proven reoffending statistics.¹⁷

Reporting of proven reoffending rates for offenders who were managed by CRCs is based on comparisons with 2011 baseline reoffending rates. Comparisons of performance between different CRCs and previous cohorts can be made by comparing the adjusted binary rates. Commentary on proven reoffending rates for offenders who were managed by the NPS is based on comparisons against the October to December 2015 offender cohort, i.e. the first cohort for which reoffending rates were measured since the start of Transforming Rehabilitation.¹⁸ Comparisons cannot be made between CRCs and the NPS due to differences in the offenders being managed.

April to June 2020 offender cohorts

Unlike previous cohorts which had been affected to varying degrees by the pandemic, the **April to June 2020** offender cohort is the first for which the cohort period itself overlaps entirely with the first national lockdown due to the pandemic; this included court closures leading to sharp decreases in the number of cases processed at the criminal court.¹⁹

The reoffending follow-up and waiting periods for this cohort also continue to overlap with both the second and third national lockdowns.²⁰ While there were no court closures during these two latter lockdowns, police recorded crime data have shown overall reductions in the reporting and recording of many crime types during periods of lockdown.²¹

As a result of these circumstances, the volumes of offenders and reoffenders across both CRCs and the NPS for this latest cohort represent the lowest since October to December 2015 (excludes NPS Wales due to the early transition of offenders from CRC supervision during the time series).

More specifically, across CRCs, the reduction in the cohort size since January to March 2020 has ranged from **40.2%** for Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland to **62.2%** for Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Similarly, the number of subsequent reoffenders also decreased with the reductions ranging from **30.1%** for Northumbria to **55.3%** for Warwickshire and West Mercia.

¹⁷ A full description of the measure of reoffending is provided in the guide to proven reoffending statistics, which is available at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/payment-by-results-statistics-october-2015-to-june-2021

¹⁸ www.gov.uk/government/collections/transforming-rehabilitation

¹⁹ Criminal Court statistics can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-court-statistics

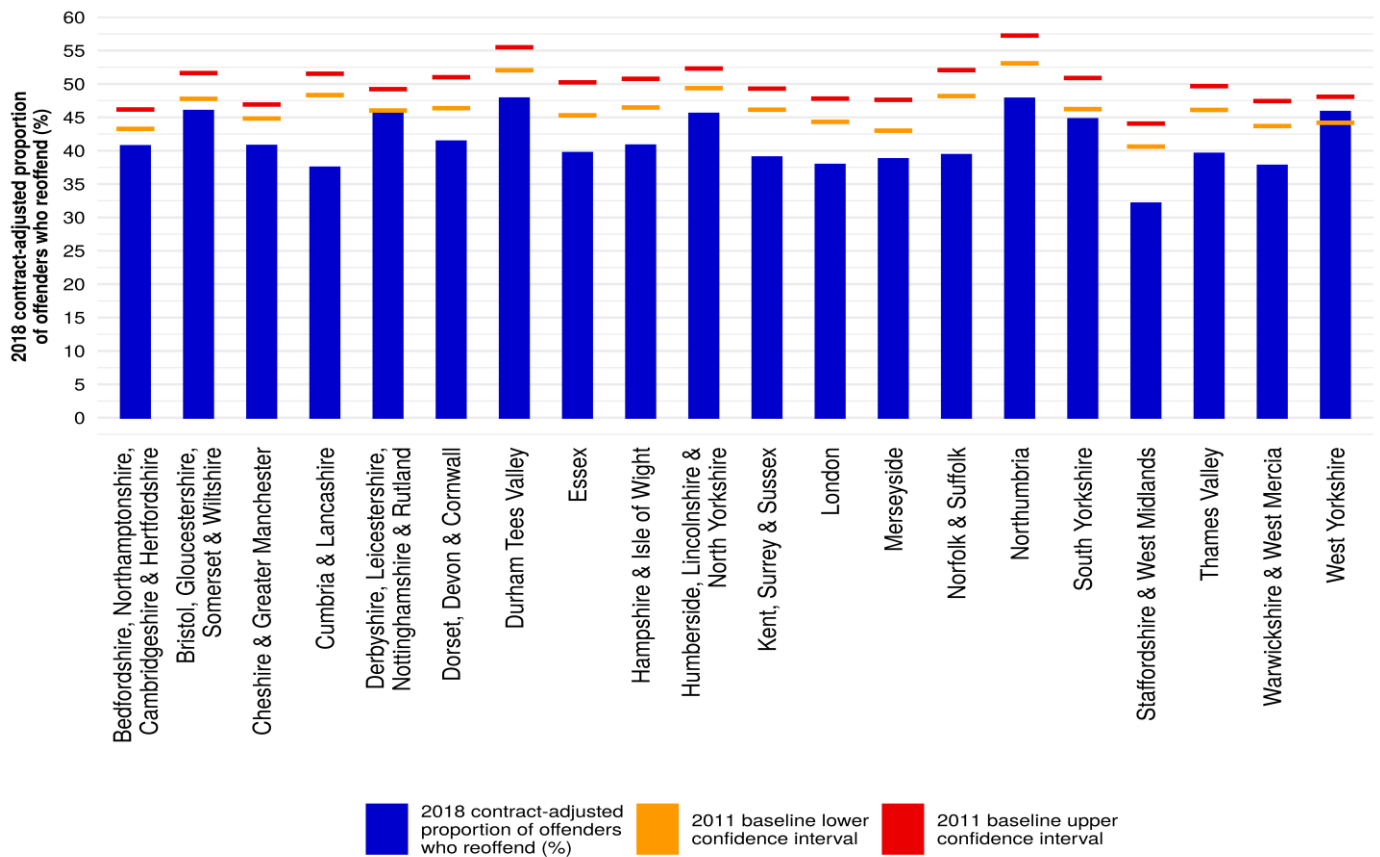
²⁰ The first national lockdown was implemented on 23 March 2020 and transitioned to phased reopening until August 2020 (including a limited number of jury trials resuming from 18 May 2020). The second national lockdown was implemented on 5 November 2020 and returned to a three-tier restriction system from 2 December 2020. The third national lockdown was implemented on 6 January 2021 and transitioned to phased reopening until June 2021.

²¹ Police recorded crime figures (including monthly trends) can be found at: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

Although declines in the volumes of offenders and reoffenders are not as acute, the latest equivalent figures across NPS regions (excludes NPS Wales due to the early transition of offenders from CRC supervision during the time series) also represent the largest quarterly reductions. The decreases in the number of offenders ranged from **13.1%** for NPS Midlands to **29.1%** for NPS North West, whilst the decreases in the number of reoffenders ranged from **13.9%** for NPS London to **29.1%** for NPS North West.

In terms of the adjusted binary rate, **18 of the 20 CRCs²²** achieved statistically significant reductions for the April to June 2020 cohort when compared to the 2011 baseline reoffending rates (Figure 1). **None of the CRCs** saw a statistically significant increase in the adjusted binary rate.

Figure 1: Final adjusted binary rates for the **April to June 2020** offender cohorts, by CRC (Source: Table A1, Final proven reoffending statistics for CRCs and the NPS, April to June 2020, England and Wales)²³



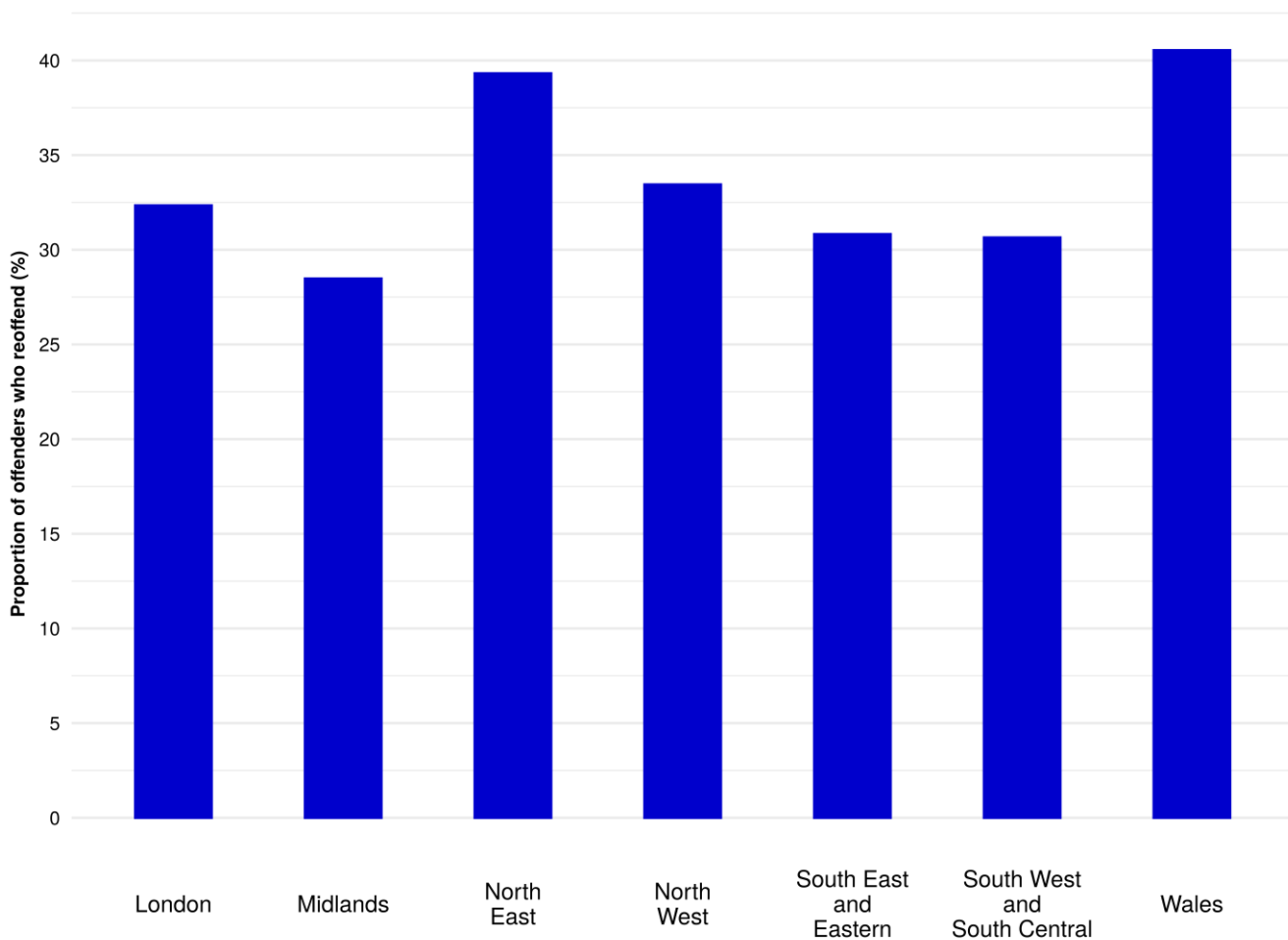
²² Note that in this and future quarterly cohorts, there will be no results for Wales CRC as offender management transferred to NPS Wales in December 2019.

²³ There are no results for Wales CRC as, under the Probation Reform Programme, offender management transferred to NPS Wales in December 2019.

The overall binary reoffending rate for offenders managed by the NPS was **34.2%**, representing a **3.3 percentage point** decrease compared to October to December 2015. Over this period, all NPS regions saw reductions (ranging from 2.3 percentage points for NPS South East and Eastern to 10.5 percentage points for NPS Midlands) in the binary rate, with the exception of NPS North East which saw an increase of **0.6 percentage points**. Furthermore, in the latest cohort, NPS Wales continues to have the highest binary rate at **40.5%**, while NPS Midlands has the lowest at **28.5%** (Figure 2).

The overall frequency rate for the April to June 2020 cohort decreased by **1.2%** to **3.92** reoffences per reoffender compared to October to December 2015. Regionally, NPS Wales and NPS South East and Eastern saw increases of **2.5%** and **11.3%** respectively in the frequency rate over the same period, while the remaining five NPS regions saw decreases ranging from **1.0%** for NPS Midlands to **6.9%** for NPS North East. NPS South East and Eastern has the highest rate at **4.54** reoffences per reoffender. Meanwhile, NPS London has the lowest at **3.47** reoffences per reoffender.

Figure 2: Binary rates for the **April to June 2020** offender cohorts, by NPS region (Source: Table B1, Final proven reoffending statistics for CRCs and the NPS, April to June 2020, England and Wales)²⁴



²⁴ Under the Probation Reform programme, offender management transferred from Wales CRC to the unified model area of NPS Wales in December 2019. As a result, lower risk offenders previously managed by Wales CRC transitioned over to NPS Wales and so figures for the latter are not directly comparable to other NPS divisions.

3. Further information

Final results presented in this publication are based on a one-year proven reoffending rate. Upcoming publications of final results are listed in the following table:

| Cohort | Published in |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| July to September 2020 | July 2022 |
| October to December 2020 | October 2022 |

Accompanying files

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

- A technical document providing detail on how reoffending is measured, information on how the data is collected and processed, and background information on the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms.
- A data quality statement which outlines our policies for producing quality statistical outputs and the information provided to maintain our users' understanding and trust.
- A set of tables providing final proven reoffending data for the CRCs and NPS.
- A data tool providing final proven reoffending data for the CRCs and NPS, by age group and gender.

Future publications

Our statisticians regularly review the content of publications. Development of new and improved statistical outputs is usually dependent on reallocating existing resources. As part of our continual review and prioritisation, we welcome user feedback on existing outputs including content, breadth, frequency and methodology.

Contact

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URL: www.gov.uk/government/collections/payment-by-results-statistics

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