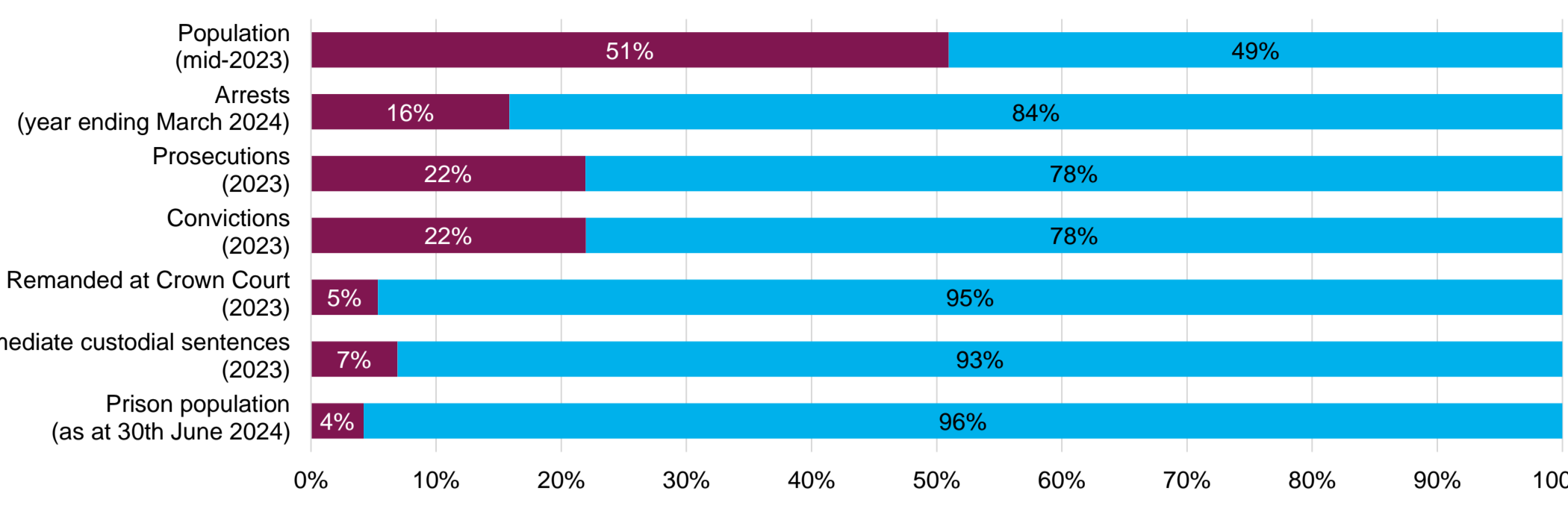


# Statistics on Women and the Criminal Justice System, 2023



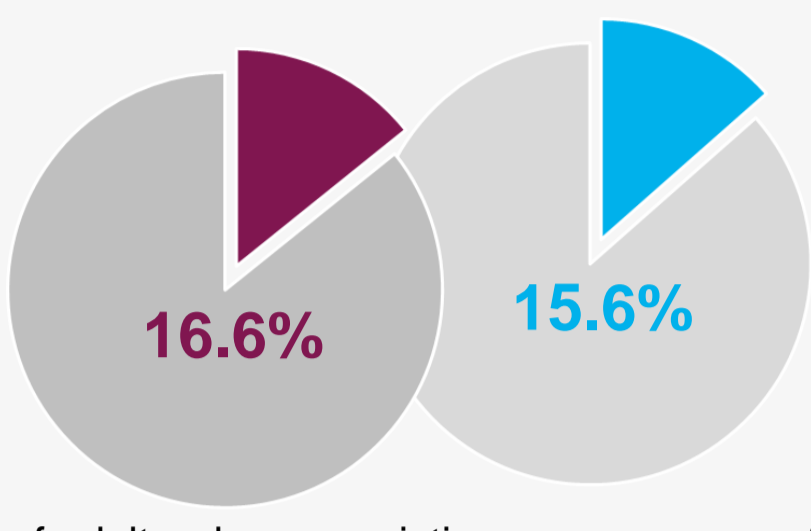
## England and Wales

### Overview



### Victims of crime

A significantly higher proportion of **females** were a **victim of headline crime** in 2023/24.



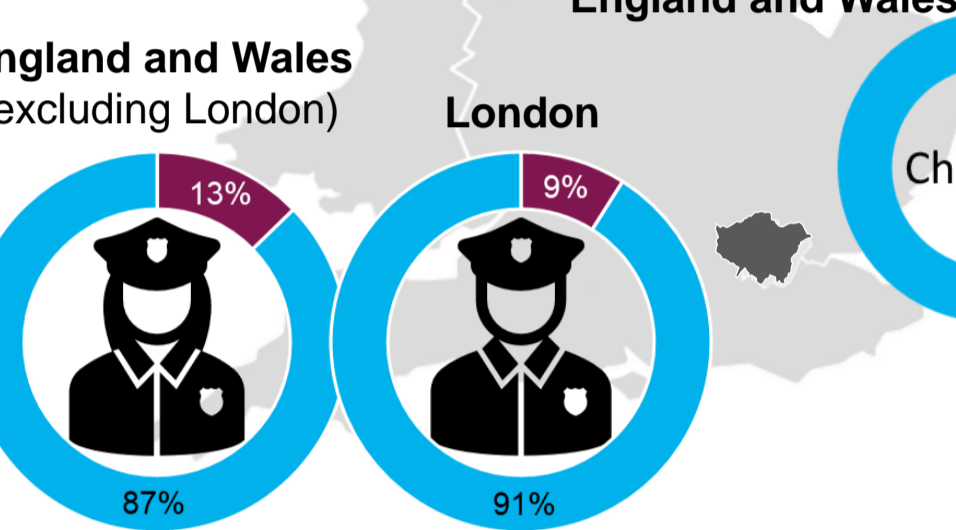
The majority of **female** homicides took place in or around a **house/dwelling**. **Male** homicides took place most often in public places.



### Stop and searches

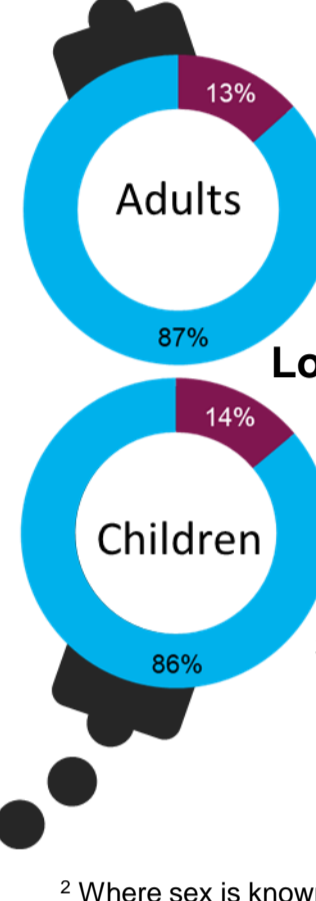
26% of all **stop and searches**<sup>1</sup> were conducted in **London**.

In the latest year, **suspicion of drugs** was the most common reason for the stop and searched for both females and males.



### Arrests<sup>2</sup>

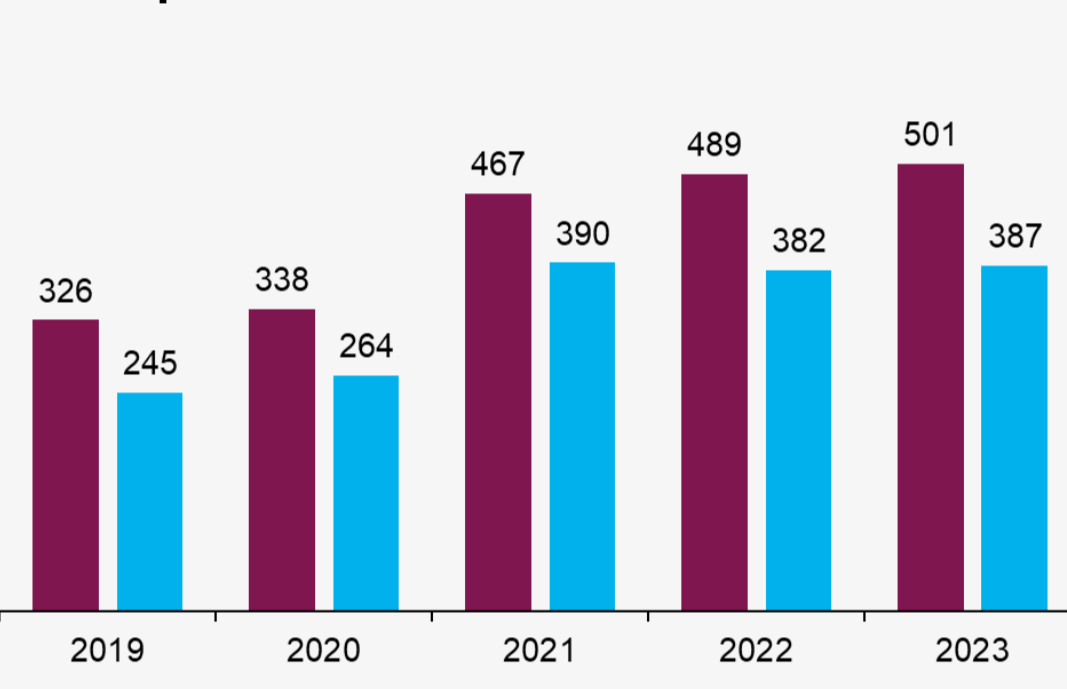
**Females** accounted for 16% of arrests, which has remained stable over the last 3 years.



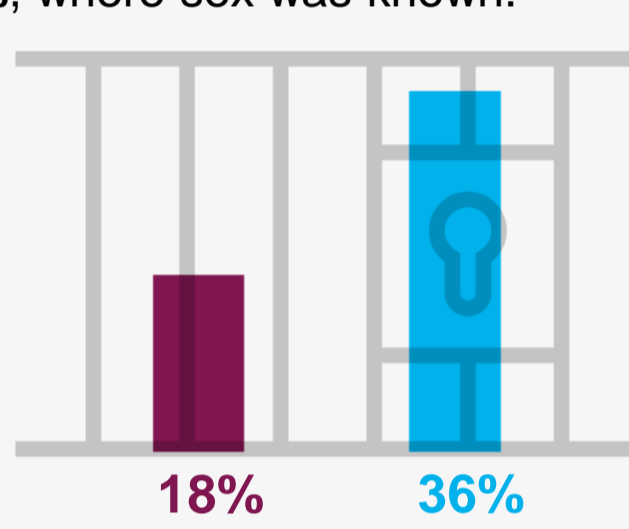
The number of arrests has seen a decline for both **male** and **female** children over the last 5 years.

### At the criminal courts

**Females** have consistently higher **median** number of days taken from **offence to completion** since 2019.

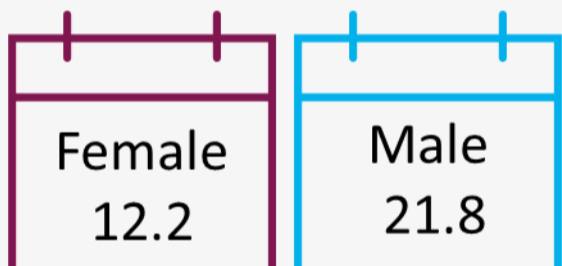


Over the past 5 years, the **overall custody rates** for indictable offences remained stable at between **33%** and **34%**, where sex was known.



Relative Rate Index (RRI) analysis shows that **females** were **28% less likely** to be sentenced to immediate custody for indictable offences compared to males in 2023.

Average custodial sentence length (ASCL) in months in 2023.

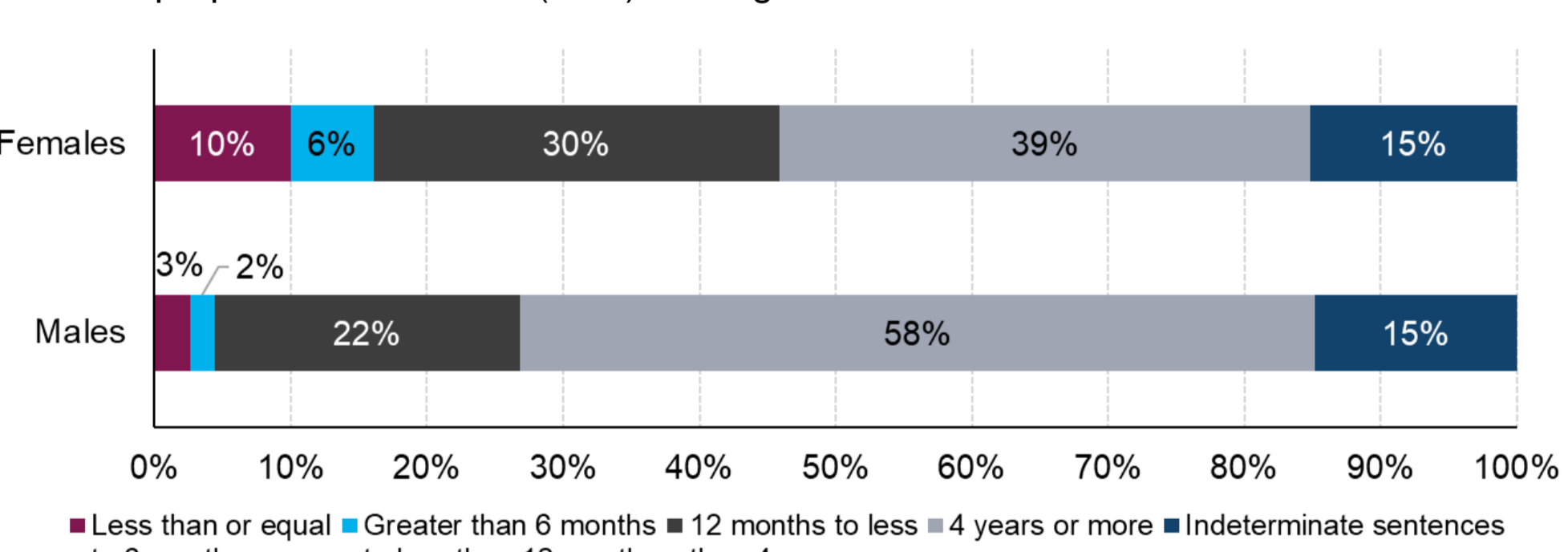


The **ASCL** for indictable offences increased from **21.2 months** in 2019 to **23.5 months** in 2023.

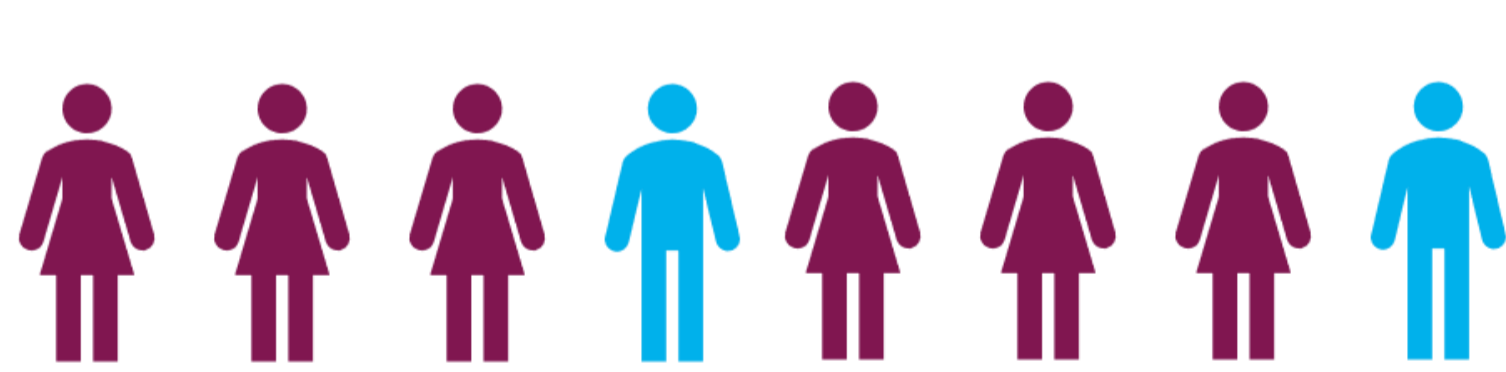
Historically, **female** defendants have lower **ASCL** for indictable offences than **males**.

### Offender management

As at 30 June 2024, the sentence length profile of males and females differs, with a **higher** proportion of **females** (16%) serving sentences of **less than 12 months**<sup>3</sup>.



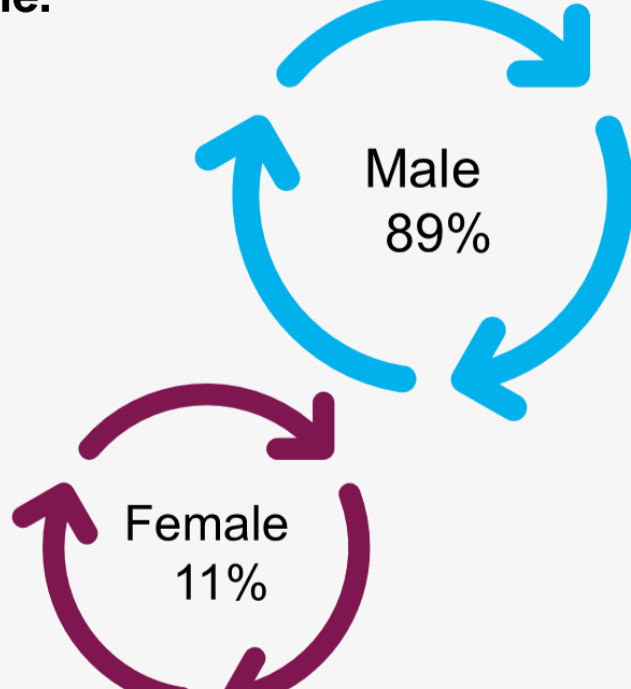
Historically, **females** have a **higher** proportion of prisoners who self-harm and a **higher** number of instances of self-harm per 1,000 prisoners.



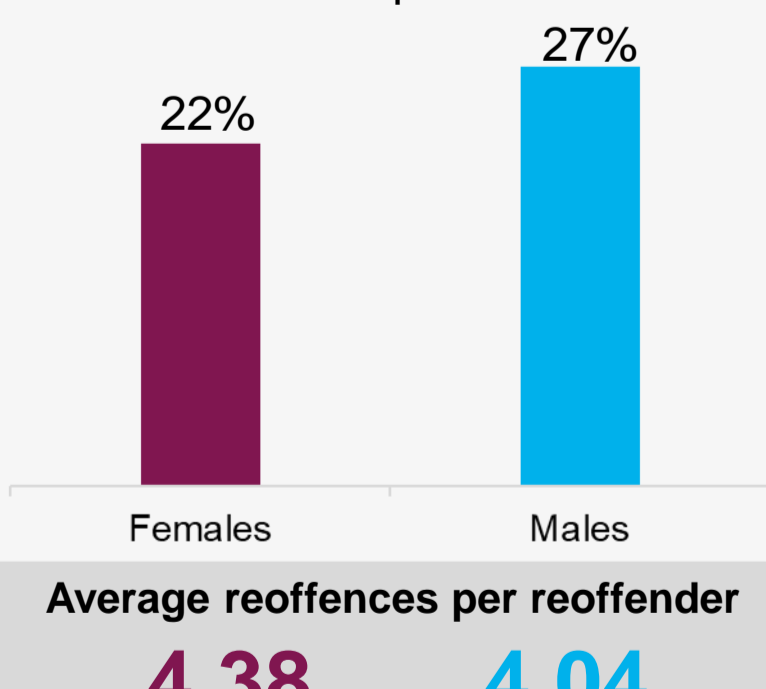
The number of instances of self-harm per individual was over **three times** as high for **females**, compared to males.

### Offender characteristics

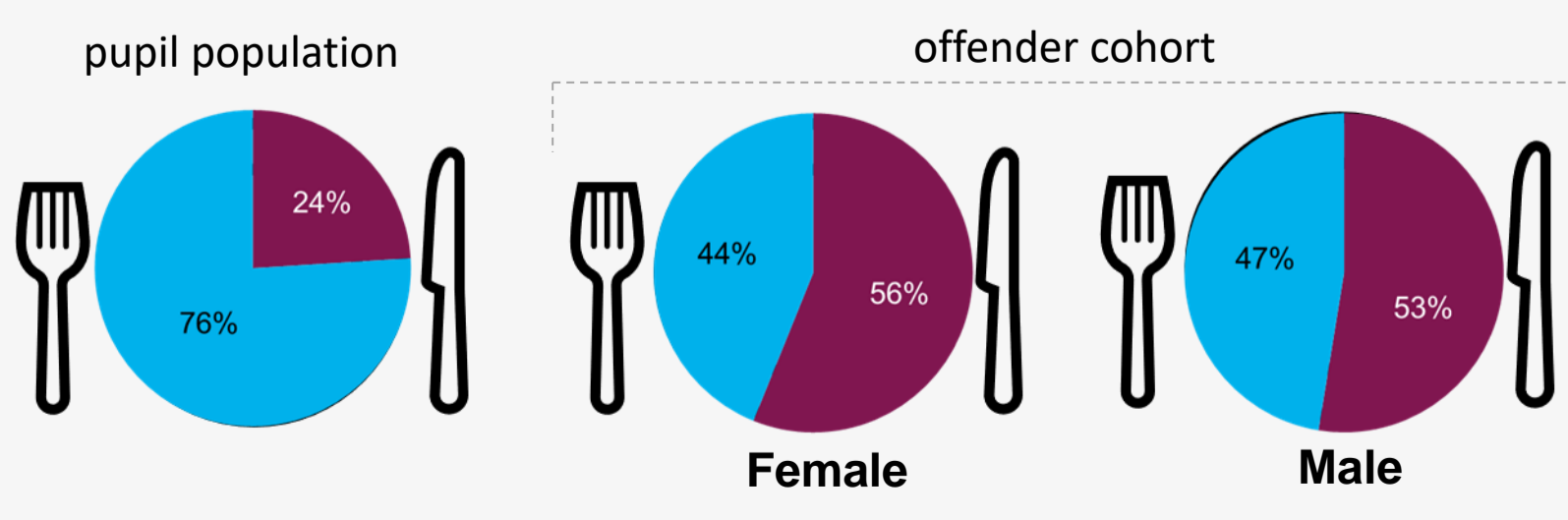
Of offenders with a **long history** of reoffending, only a **small** proportion were **female**.



**Males** had higher **reoffending rate**. In contrast, **females** had a higher average number of **reoffences** per reoffender.



Over half of the **offender cohort** were eligible for **Free School Meals (FSM)**, which was **higher** than in the overall **pupil population**.



Findings from a recent data sharing exercise between the MoJ and the Department for Education (DfE) are presented here, with analysis on a matched cohort of those who were in Year 6 in either 2008/09 or 2009/10 and who were aged ten at the start of those academic years. Please see commentary for more details.

### Practitioners

Over the last 5 years, there have been **increases** in **female** representation across almost all CJS organisations and in the proportion of senior staff.

