



## Proven Reoffending Statistics Quarterly Bulletin, October to December 2023

Published 30 October 2025

This publication provides the proven reoffending statistics for the October to December 2023 offender cohort, alongside historical data from 2012 onwards. Although this cohort does not overlap with any Covid-related lockdowns or other operational restrictions, it is still affected by the continued recovery of the courts system, particularly around continued delays in the processing of court cases.

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**The overall proven reoffending rate was 28.3% for the October to December 2023 offender cohort.**



This represents an increase of 2.0 percentage points from the same quarter in 2022 and an increase of 0.4 percentage points over last quarter.

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**Adult offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 28.2%.**



This is an increase of 2.0 percentage points since the same quarter in 2022 and an increase of 0.4 percentage points over last quarter.

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**Child offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 32.3%.**



The child reoffending rate increased by 0.9 percentage points from the same quarter in 2022 and increased by 0.5 percentage points over last quarter.

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**Adults released from custody or starting court orders had a proven reoffending rate of 36.1%.**



This is an increase of 2.2 percentage points since the same quarter in 2022 and broadly the same as the last quarter.

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**Adults released from custodial sentences of less than 12 months had a proven reoffending rate of 61.2%.**



This is an increase of 4.6 percentage points since the same quarter in 2022. Adults released from sentences of less than or equal to 6 months had a proven reoffending rate of 64.7%, which is an increase of 5.1 percentage points since the same quarter in 2022.

As of the October 2025 publication, the language used across all Proven Reoffending Statistics publications to refer to offenders under the age of 18 has been updated for consistency with current practices in Ministry of Justice policy. Previous terminology referred to juveniles, or juvenile offenders. This terminology has now been updated to child, or child offenders.

This bulletin, associated tables, and data tools present the proportion of offenders who reoffend (proven reoffending rate) and the number of proven reoffences by offender history, demographics, police force area, probation area, local authority, and youth offending teams. For technical details and a glossary of terms, please refer to the accompanying [guide to proven reoffending](#).

For any feedback related to the content of this publication, please let us know at  
[reoffendingstatistics@justice.gov.uk](mailto:reoffendingstatistics@justice.gov.uk)

## Statistician's Comment

Figures presented in this statistical release show proven reoffending statistics for the October to December 2023 offender cohort. Proven reoffences are measured over a one-year follow-up period and a further six-month waiting period to allow for offences to be proven in court.

The overall proven reoffending rate was 28.3% for the October to December 2023 offender cohort, which represents an increase of 2.0 percentage points from the same quarter in 2022 and an increase of 0.4 percentage points over last quarter. In this quarter, reoffending rates for adult offenders increased by 2.0 percentage points and for child offenders increased by 0.9 percentage points, when compared with the same quarter in the previous year.

This cohort does not overlap with any Covid-related lockdowns or other operational restrictions. However, this cohort is still affected by the continued recovery of the courts system post the pandemic and Criminal Bar Association strike.

There were large decreases in the reoffending rate for the pandemic affected cohorts between October to December 2018 and October to December 2020. This pandemic-related decline then began slowly increasing, before stabilising in the three quarters to March 2023. However, over the last three quarters, the reoffending rate has begun to increase again. This means that the overall rate of reoffending for October to December 2023 (28.3%) is only 0.4 percentage points below the rate of reoffending prior to the pandemic (around 28.7% on average for the cohorts preceding the pandemic).

Furthermore, the average number of reoffences per reoffender (frequency rate) for this cohort is again the highest within the time series at 4.84.

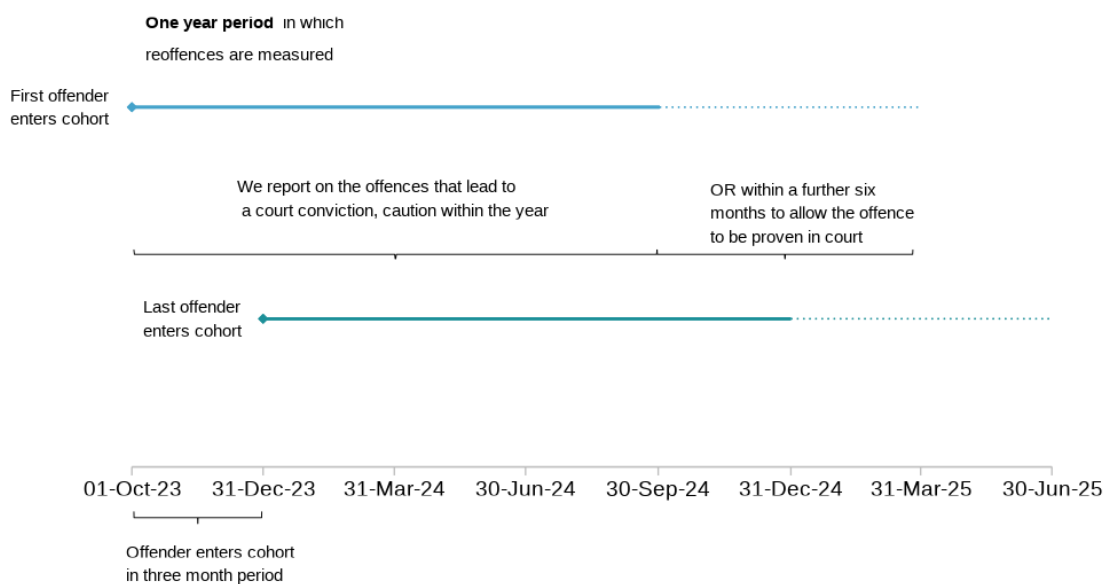
While the court system continues to recover, statistics are likely to continue to fluctuate. Delays in the processing of cases means that some reoffence convictions may fall outside the one-year follow-up period and six-month waiting period. Cases falling outside this period will not be counted in the proven reoffending statistics. Conversely, any increase in court throughput might increase the reoffending rate, as more cases fall within the one-year follow-up and six-month waiting period.

## How is proven reoffending measured?

An offender is included in this publication cohort if they were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, or received a reprimand, warning, or caution in the three-month period spanning October to December 2023.

A proven reoffence is defined as any offence committed in a one-year follow-up period that leads to a court conviction, caution, reprimand, or warning in the one-year follow-up or within a further six-month waiting period to allow the offence to be proven in court. This is shown in the diagram below in relation to the latest offender cohort.

**Figure 1: Timeline of the measurement period of proven reoffending for the October to December 2023 cohort (Source: Guide to Proven Reoffending Statistics)**



Users should be cautious when making any comparison between cohorts before and cohorts after October 2015, due to a change in data source from October 2015 onwards. Additionally, it is important to note that the reoffending rates presented in this publication are not comparable to publications prior to October 2017, as these were reported on a 12-month cohort. Users of these statistics should also be aware that comparisons between 3-monthly cohorts are likely to be more volatile as cohort populations are smaller than the previous 12-month ones.

For further details on this and how proven reoffending is measured please see the guide to proven reoffending statistics and [‘How the measure of proven reoffending has changed and the effect of these changes’](#).

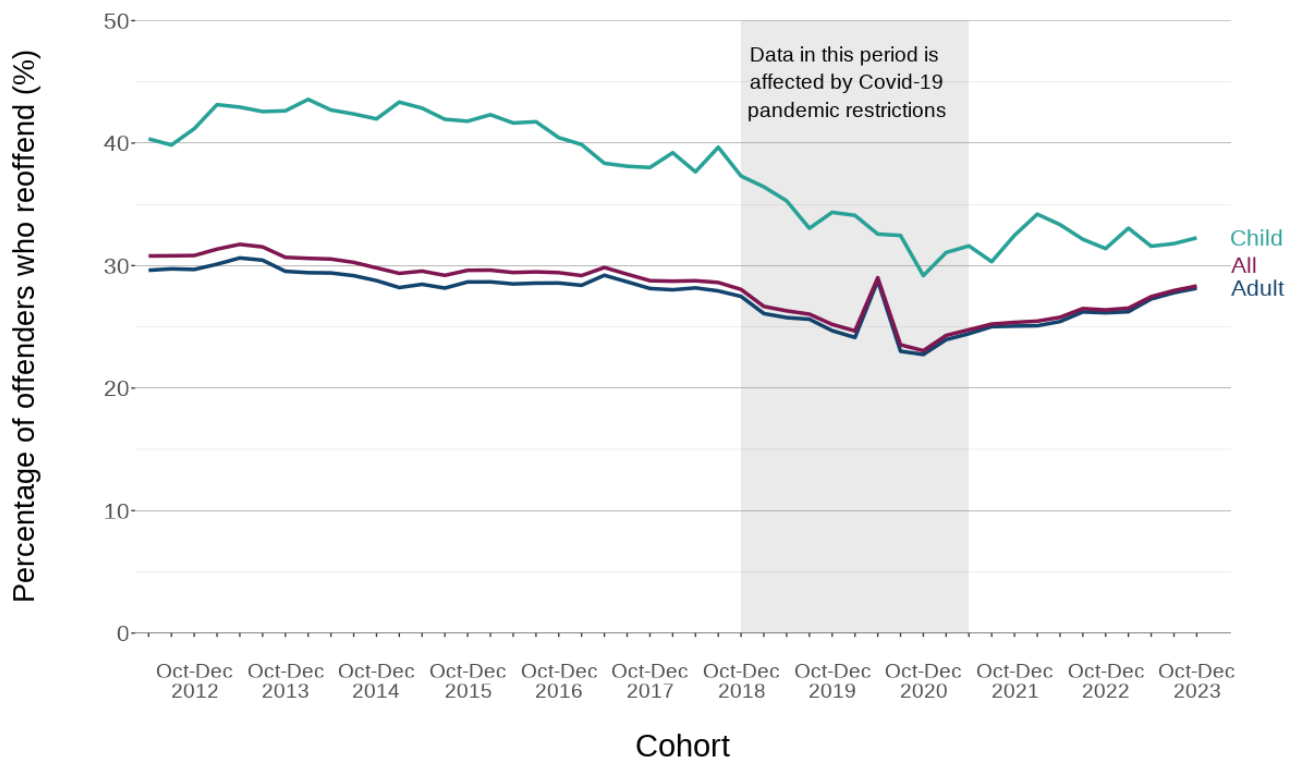
## 1. Overall – Adult and Child Offenders

The overall proven reoffending rate was 28.3% for the October to December 2023 offender cohort, with around 23,000 of the 82,000 offenders committing a proven reoffence.

### Rates of proven reoffending

The overall proven reoffending rate for this quarter was 28.3%, representing an increase of 2.0 percentage points from the same quarter in 2022. Over time, the overall proven reoffending rate has fluctuated between 23.1% and 31.7% (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Percentage of adult and child offenders<sup>1</sup> in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by quarter, April to June 2012 - October to December 2023 (Source: Table A1)**



Adult offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 28.2%. This is an increase of 2.0 percentage points since the same quarter in the previous year, and an increase of 0.4 percentage points over the last quarter. The rate of reoffending for adults has fluctuated between 22.7% and 30.6% over the time series. However, up until the quarters affected by the pandemic, the adult reoffending rate had experienced a slight decline over time. The pandemic resulted in some volatility and marked declines for the cohorts between October to December 2018, and October to December 2020. This pandemic-related decline has begun to reverse as the impact of lockdowns and operational restrictions decreased and court throughput has increased.

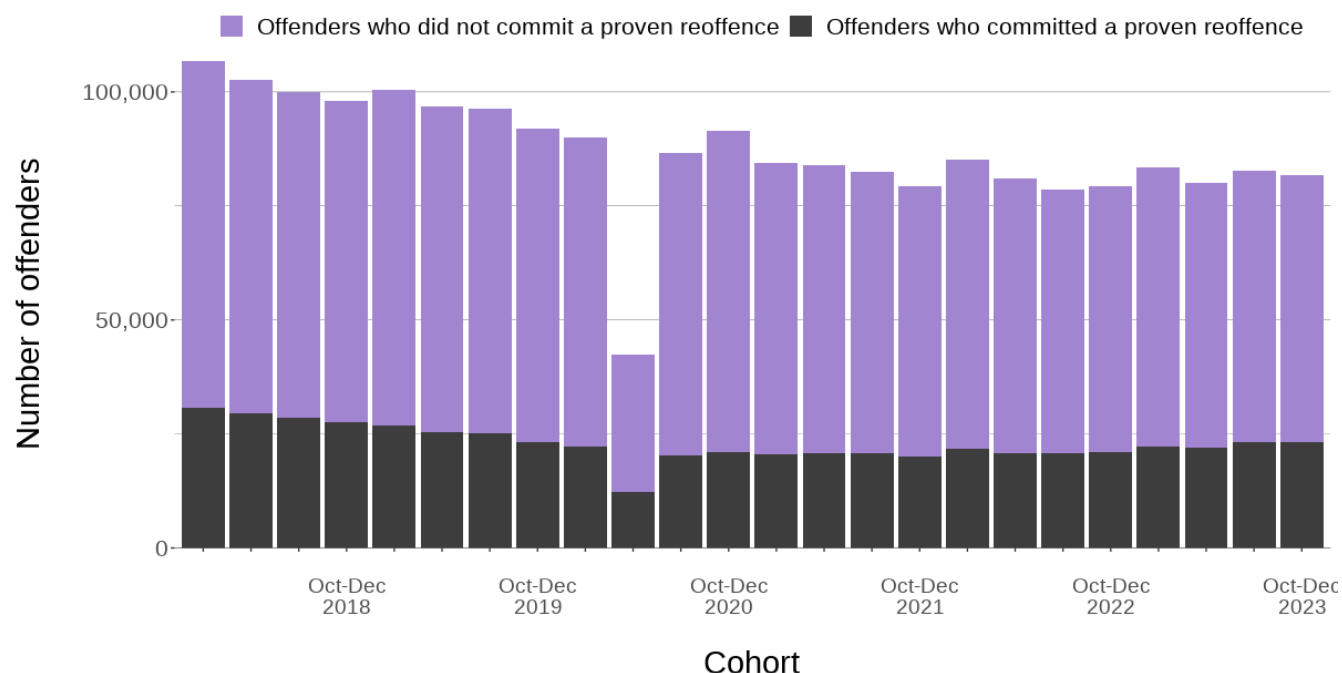
<sup>1</sup> Children are defined as those aged 10 to 17 years old.

Child offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 32.3%. The child reoffending rate increased by 0.9 percentage points from the same quarter in the previous year and increased by 0.5 percentage points over the last quarter. The rate of reoffending has fluctuated between 29.2% and 43.6% over the timeseries but has been in general decline since 2016.

## Cohort size

Approximately 82,000 offenders were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, or received a reprimand, warning, or caution in the October to December 2023 cohort. Around 23,000 of those committed a proven reoffence within the one-year follow up period (Figure 3). In total, reoffenders committed over 112,000 proven reoffences across the follow-up period.

**Figure 3: Number of offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by quarter, January to March 2018 - October to December 2023 (Source: Table A1)**



We continue to observe a general long-term decline in the volume of offenders in the cohort and in the volume of subsequent proven reoffenders. The size of the offender cohort has decreased by 47.1% since the same quarter in 2012, and the number of reoffenders has decreased by 51.4% across the same time period. However, we are currently seeing an increase in the cohort size and subsequently, the number of reoffenders across the past quarters as court throughput increases. The size of the offender cohort has increased by 3.1% since the same quarter in 2022, and the number of reoffenders has increased by 10.7% across the same period. However, the size of the cohort and number of reoffenders still remain below levels of cohorts that were not affected by the pandemic, for example, cohorts prior to October to December 2018.

The decline in the child cohort size is particularly pronounced. The number of child offenders in the cohort has decreased by 76.6% since the same quarter in 2012, although has increased by 1.8% since the same quarter in 2022. The decline since 2012 is likely a reflection of continued efforts to divert children away from the criminal justice system where appropriate. The relatively small cohort sizes also mean that child reoffending rates may be more prone to volatility than the adult cohorts, and so caution should be taken when making comparisons with these rates.

Within the combined overall cohort, reoffenders committed an average of 4.84 reoffences each (also known as the frequency rate), making it the highest within the time series. The overall frequency rate has increased by 18.3% since the same quarter in 2022; additionally, the total number of reoffences has increased by 30.9% since the same quarter in 2022. Adult reoffenders committed on average 4.86 reoffences each, whilst child reoffenders committed on average 4.47 reoffences each.

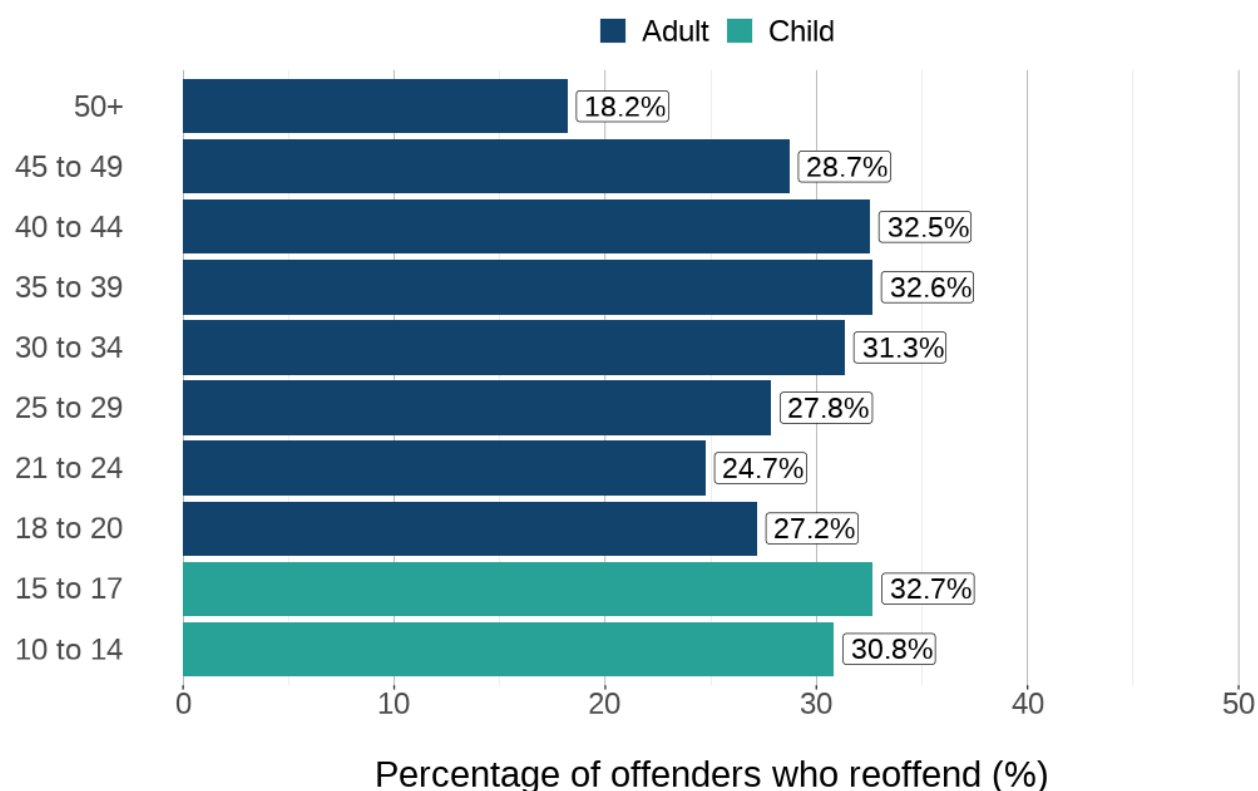
## 2. Overall – Offender Demographics

The age group with the highest reoffending rate was 15 to 17-year-olds (32.7%). Men reoffended at a higher rate (29.2%) than women (23.9%).

### Age

The age group with the highest reoffending rate was 15 to 17-year-olds, at 32.7% (Figure 4). This was followed by the 35 to 39-year-old offenders, with a reoffending rate of 32.6%. For adults, the proven reoffending rate starts to fall with increasing age after the 35 to 39-year-old group.

**Figure 4: Percentage of adult and child offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by age, October to December 2023 (Source: Table A3)**



### Sex

Of the overall offender cohort, 84% were male and 16% were female. The gender split has remained reasonably stable over time.

Male offenders reoffended at a higher rate of 29.2% compared to female offenders who reoffended at a rate of 23.9%. Since 2012, these rates have fluctuated between 23.9% and 33.3% for males and 18.3% to 24.4% for females.

## Geography

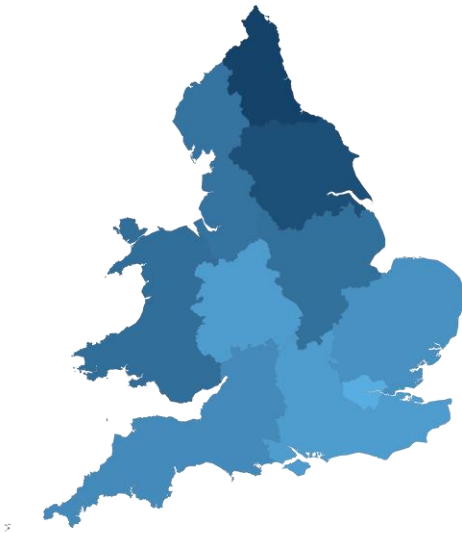
The overall reoffending rate increased in all regions for this cohort. The geographical region with the lowest increase in the overall rate of reoffending compared to the same period last year was Wales, with a 0.4 percentage point increase. The geographical region with the greatest increase was the North East, with a 3.4 percentage point increase.

Note that the geographical regions shown are distinct from the Probation Service areas. The rates shown are also for all offenders, not just those managed by the Probation Service.

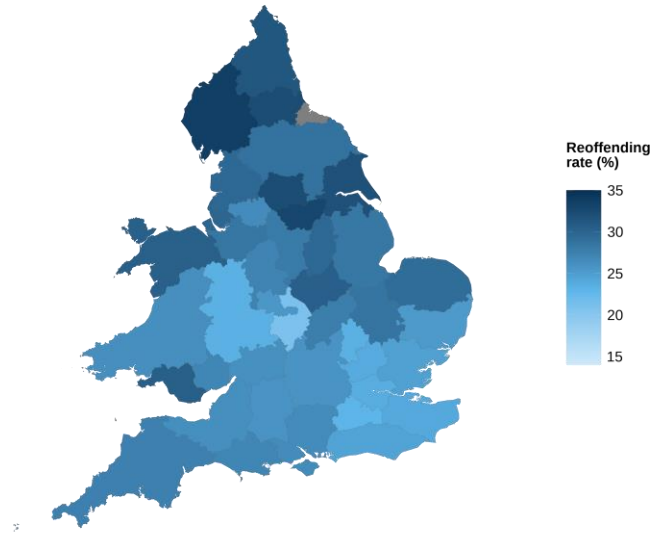
The Police Force Area (PFA) with the greatest decrease in the overall rate of reoffending compared to the same period in the previous year was Greater Manchester, with a 2.5 percentage point decrease. The PFA with the greatest increase was Staffordshire, with a 4.8 percentage point increase.

**Figure 5: Percentage of adult and child offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by Region and Police Force Area (PFA), January 2022 to December 2023 (Source: Geographic Data Tool)**

### Regions



### Police Force Areas



Note that reoffending rates by geographical region are rolling yearly averages, rather than quarterly values, to prevent unintended disclosure from small cohort sizes. An offender's geographical location is based on their postcode on the date they received their disposal.<sup>2</sup> Care should be taken when making direct comparison of regions, since the presented rates do not control for offender demographics.

## Ethnicity

The highest reoffending rate was observed for White offenders, 30.2%, which is a 2.1 percentage point increase compared to the same quarter in the previous year. This was followed by Black

<sup>2</sup> If a postcode cannot be found for an offender on the date they received their disposal, then an offender's geographical location is based on the processing police station's postcode.

offenders (26.8%, 0.7 percentage point increase), Other offenders (21.8%, 7.7 percentage point increase), and offenders in the Asian category (21.4%, 0.5 percentage point increase).

### 3. Reoffending by Disposal Type

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**Adults released from custody or starting a court order<sup>3</sup> had a proven reoffending rate of 36.1%,** representing an increase of 2.2 percentage points since the same quarter in the previous year.

**Child offenders given reprimands, warnings, or youth cautions or who were released from custody had differing proven reoffending rates,** at 21.9% and 66.1% respectively.

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#### **Adult offenders**

The proven reoffending rate for adult offenders starting a court order<sup>4</sup> was 34.0%, an increase of 1.5 percentage points when compared to the same quarter in 2022, and an increase of 0.1 percentage points when compared to the previous quarter.

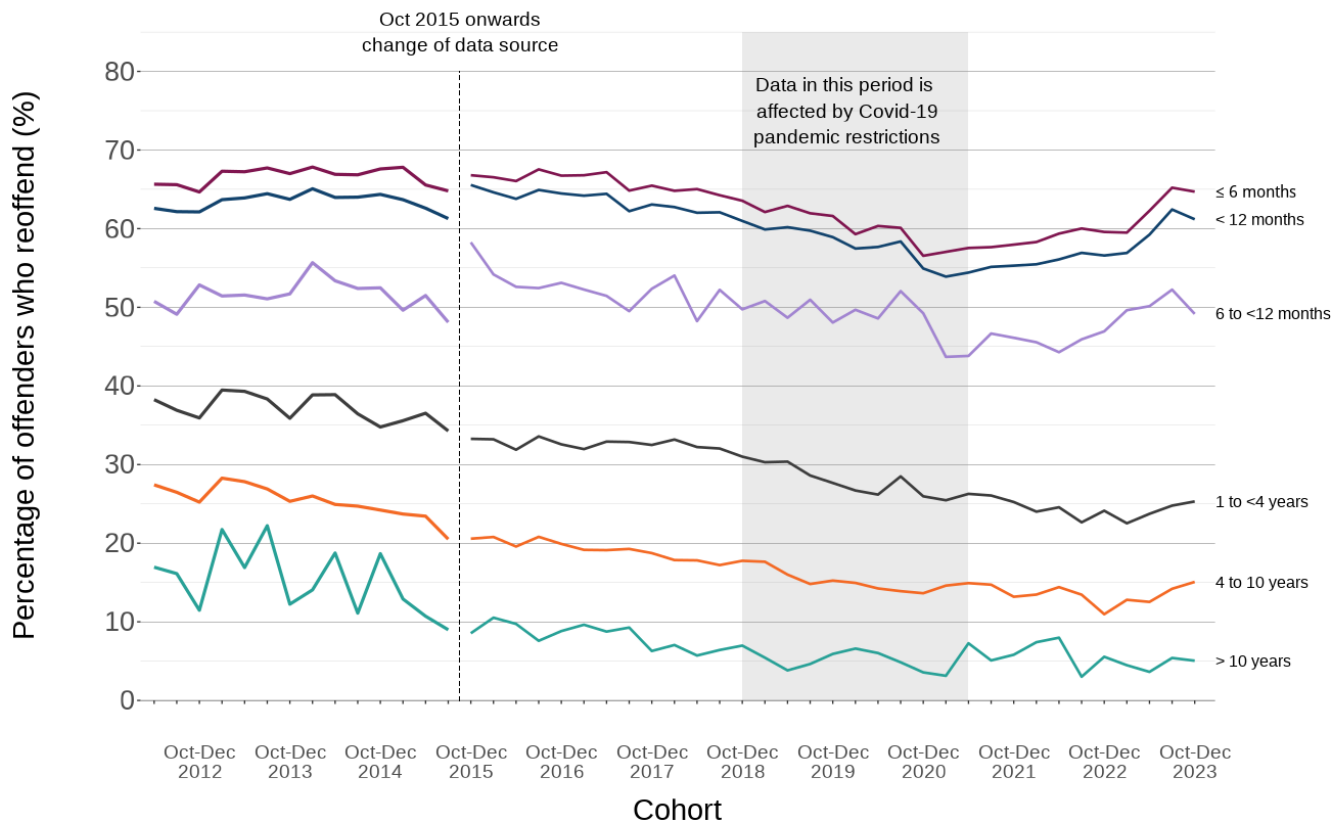
The proven reoffending rate for adult offenders released from custody was 41.1%, an increase of 3.5 percentage points compared to the same quarter in the previous year and a 0.2 percentage point decrease when compared to the previous quarter. The proven reoffending rate varied by custodial sentence lengths (Figure 6).

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<sup>3</sup> For proven reoffending statistics, a disposal is defined as a caution, court order, custody, or other disposal resulting from a conviction at court, such as a fine or discharge. A different methodology is used for proven reoffending statistics by disposal type. The first proven offence within each disposal is treated as the start point for measuring proven reoffending. Therefore, some offenders will appear in more than one disposal category.

<sup>4</sup> Community order or suspended sentence order.

**Figure 6: Percentage of adult offenders released from custody who commit a proven reoffence by custodial sentence length, by quarter, April to June 2012 - October to December 2023**  
(Source: Table C2a)



Adults released from custodial sentences of less than 12 months had a proven reoffending rate of 61.2%, whilst those with sentences of 12 months or more reoffended at a substantially lower rate, at 22.0%. This is an increase of 4.6 percentage points and an increase of 1.9 percentage points respectively from the same quarter in 2022.

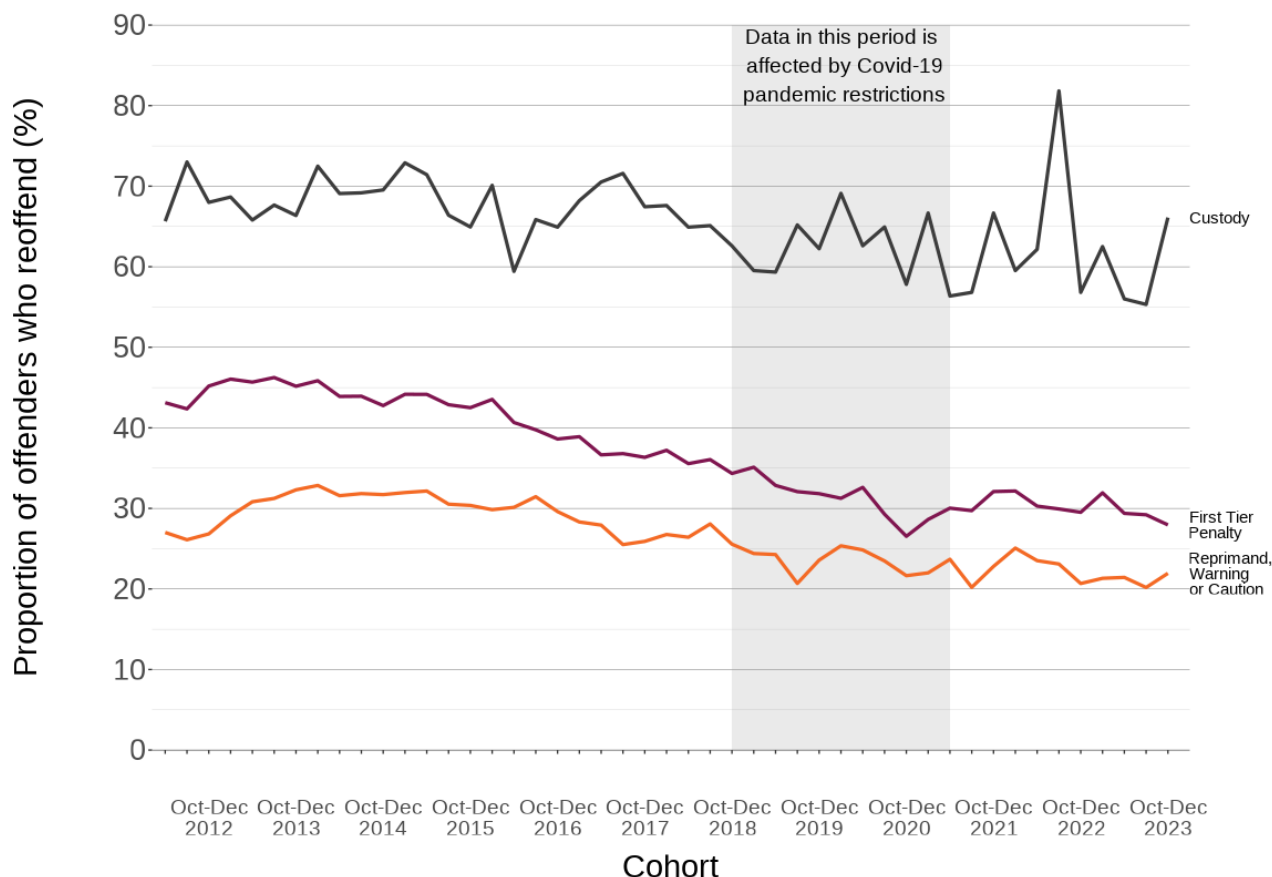
Users should exercise caution when comparing the effectiveness of different sentences because the presented rates do not control for differences in offender characteristics receiving those sentences - for further information please consult research from 2019 on the [impact of short custodial sentences, community orders and suspended sentence orders on reoffending](#) as well as the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#).<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Proven reoffending rates by disposal should not be compared to assess the effectiveness of sentences, as there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics and the type of sentence given. For further information see [Annex D of the October 2016 publication](#) (page 41) and the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#).

## Child offenders

Child offenders given reprimands, warnings, or youth cautions<sup>6</sup> had a proven reoffending rate of 21.9%, an increase of 1.3 percentage points since the same quarter in 2022. Those given a first-tier penalty had a proven reoffending rate of 28.0%, a decrease of 1.6 percentage points since the same quarter in 2022. Those released from custody had a proven reoffending rate of 66.1%, which has increased by 9.3 percentage points since the same quarter in 2022<sup>7</sup>.

**Figure 7: Percentage of child offenders released from custody or given a reprimand, warning or caution who commit a proven reoffence, by quarter, April to June 2012 - October to December 2023 (Source: Table C1b)**



For the October to December 2023 cohort, 59 child offenders were released from custody and 39 (66.1%) were proven to have committed a reoffence within a year.

The small numbers in this cohort make percentage figures volatile. We are continuing to investigate the fluctuations within these statistics. Further, there has been a decrease of 87.9% in the number of child offenders released from custody since the April to June 2012 cohort. This is likely a reflection of

<sup>6</sup> Reprimands and warnings for youths were abolished under the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 with effect from 8 April 2013 and replaced with youth cautions. Youth cautions are a formal out-of-court disposal that can be used as an alternative to prosecution for child offenders in certain circumstances. A youth caution may be given for any offence where the young offender admits an offence and there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction, but it is not in the public interest to prosecute.

<sup>7</sup> The child proven reoffending data by disposal uses the same methodology as that adopted for adult reoffending by disposal (see section 3 for more details).

continued efforts to divert children away from custody where appropriate. This may result in a more challenging cohort who is potentially more likely to reoffend.

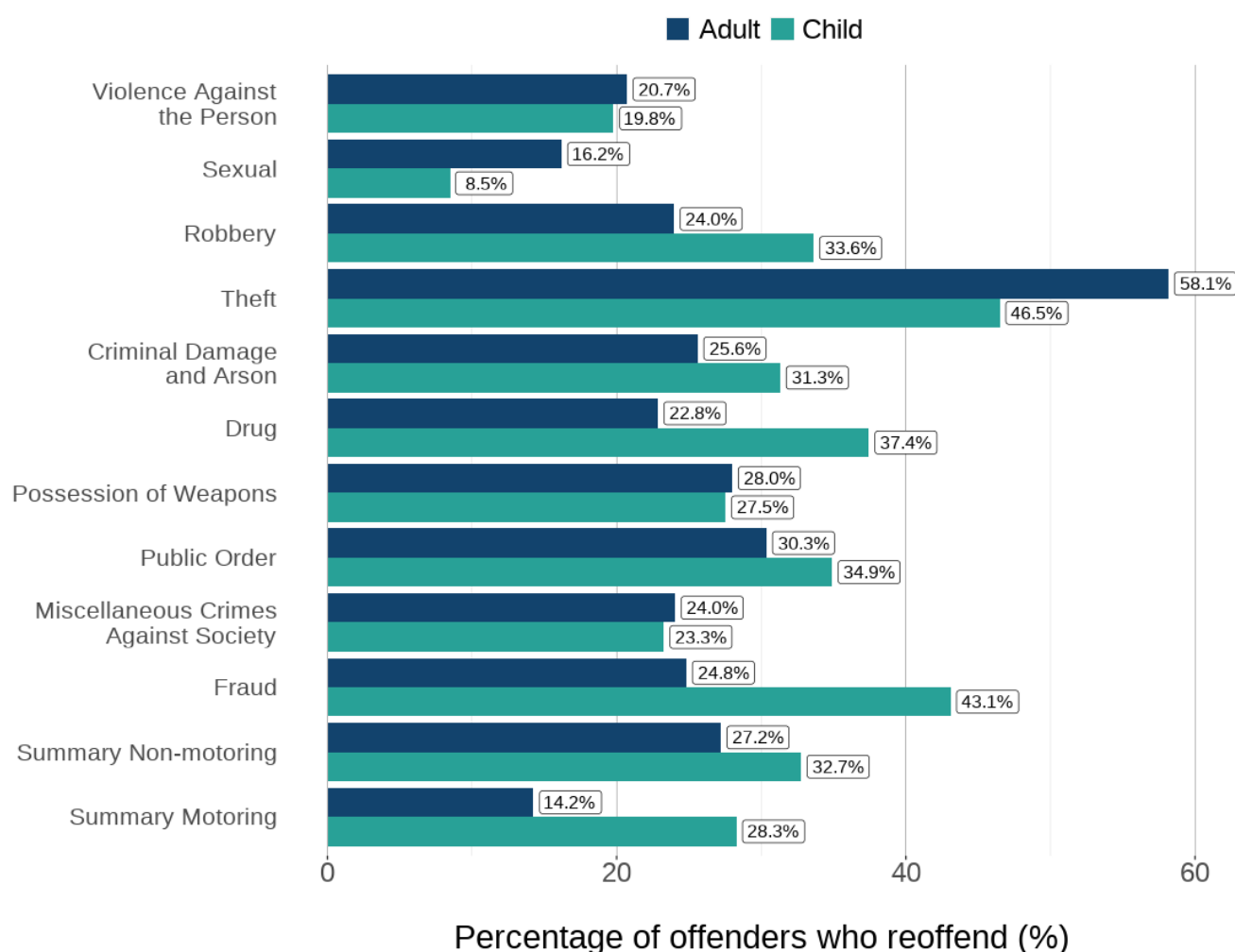
## 4. Reoffending by Index Offence Type

For the October to December 2023 adult cohort, the index offence<sup>8</sup> category associated with the highest reoffending rate was theft (58.1%).

This is an increase of 4.3 percentage points, from 53.9%, in the same quarter in 2022.

For adult offenders, the highest reoffending rate of 58.1% was for those with an index offence of theft. For child offenders, the highest reoffending rate of 46.5% was also for those with an index offence of theft (Figure 8).

**Figure 8: Percentage of adult and child offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by index offence, October to December 2023 (Source: Table A4a/b)**



For adult offenders, the second highest reoffending rate was for those with a public order index offence (30.3%). The lowest rate of reoffending (14.2%) was observed among adults with a summary motoring offence as their index offence. The violence against the person index offence category saw

<sup>8</sup> An index offence refers to the offence that leads to an offender being included in the offender cohort.

the largest percentage point decrease in the reoffending rate since the same quarter in 2022, with a 2.4 percentage point difference. Adults with an index offence of theft saw the largest increase of 4.3 percentage points over the same period.

For child offenders, the second highest reoffending rate was for those with an index offence of fraud at 43.1%. Child offenders who had committed a sexual index offence had the lowest rate of reoffending (8.5%). Children who committed an index offence of fraud saw the largest percentage point decrease in the reoffending rate since the same quarter in 2022, a 7.8 percentage point difference. Public Order index offences represented the largest percentage point increase over the same period (an 11.3 percentage point difference).

Users should exercise caution when comparing the rates of child reoffending by index offence type, as these figures are derived from relatively small cohorts and may exhibit greater variability across groups.

Due to a slight database inconsistency, and to avoid misrepresentation since this category is a mix of offence types, the “other” offence category has been removed from the analysis and charts.

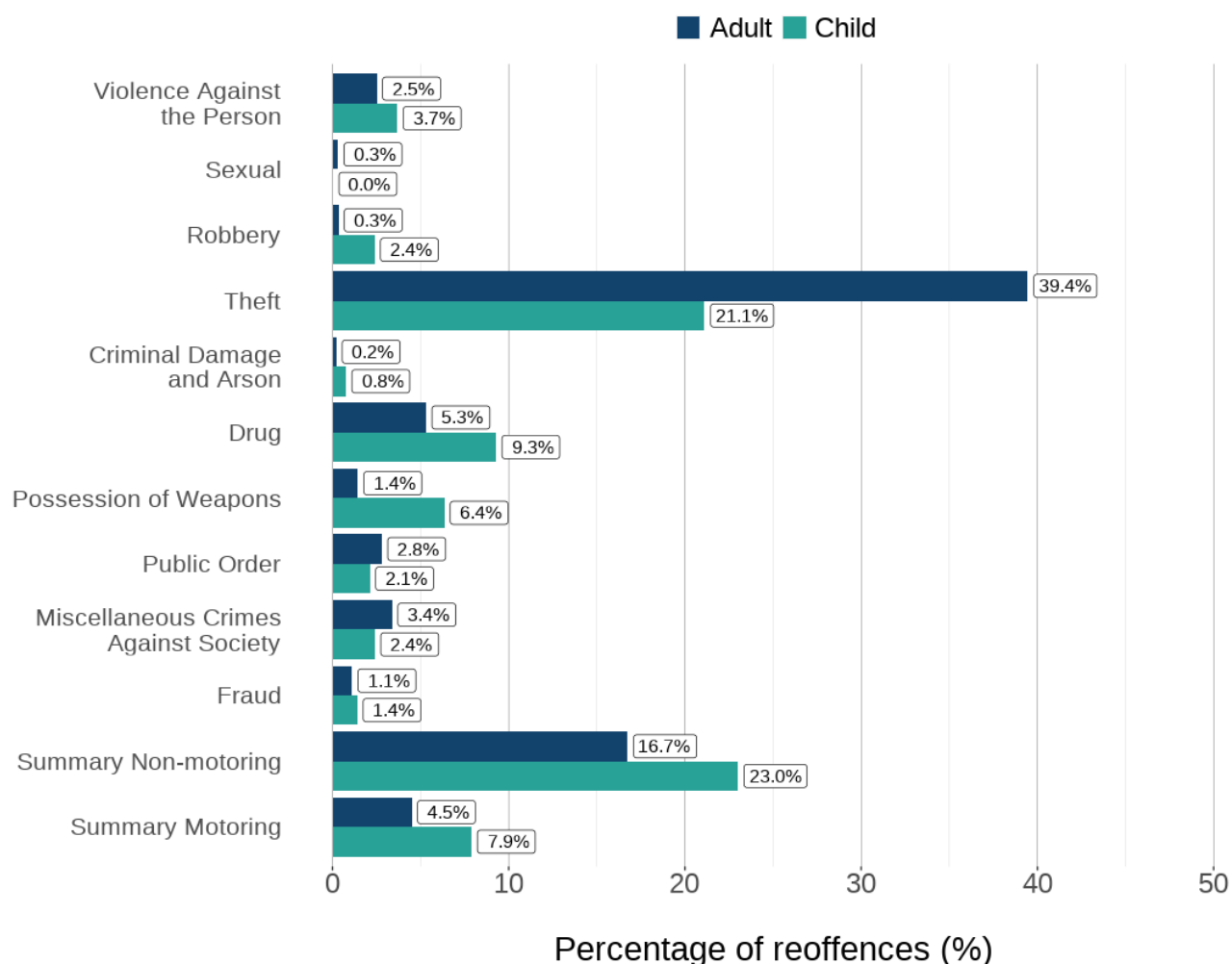
## 5. Reoffending by Proven Reoffence Type

For the October to December 2023 adult cohort, 39.4% of proven reoffences were theft, making up the highest proportion of reoffences.

This represents an increase of 5.7 percentage points compared to the same period in 2022.

For the adult offender cohort, the highest proportion of proven reoffences (39.4%) were for theft (Figure 9). For the child offender cohort, summary non-motoring offences made up the largest proportion of reoffences (23.0%).

**Figure 9: Percentage of proven reoffences for adult and child offenders committed in the one-year follow-up period in England and Wales, by reoffence type, October to December 2023 (Source: Table B3)**



As in section 4, the “other” offence category has been removed from analysis and charts.

For the adult offender cohort, the second highest proportion of proven reoffences were for summary non-motoring offences (16.7%). The share of each reoffence category has remained broadly stable over time.

For the child offender cohort, theft offences make up the second largest proportion of reoffences (21.1%), followed by drug offences (9.3%). There has been some variation over time in the share of each reoffence category, however, summary non-motoring has consistently had the highest proportion of total child reoffences, while sexual offences have consistently had the lowest proportion of total child reoffences.

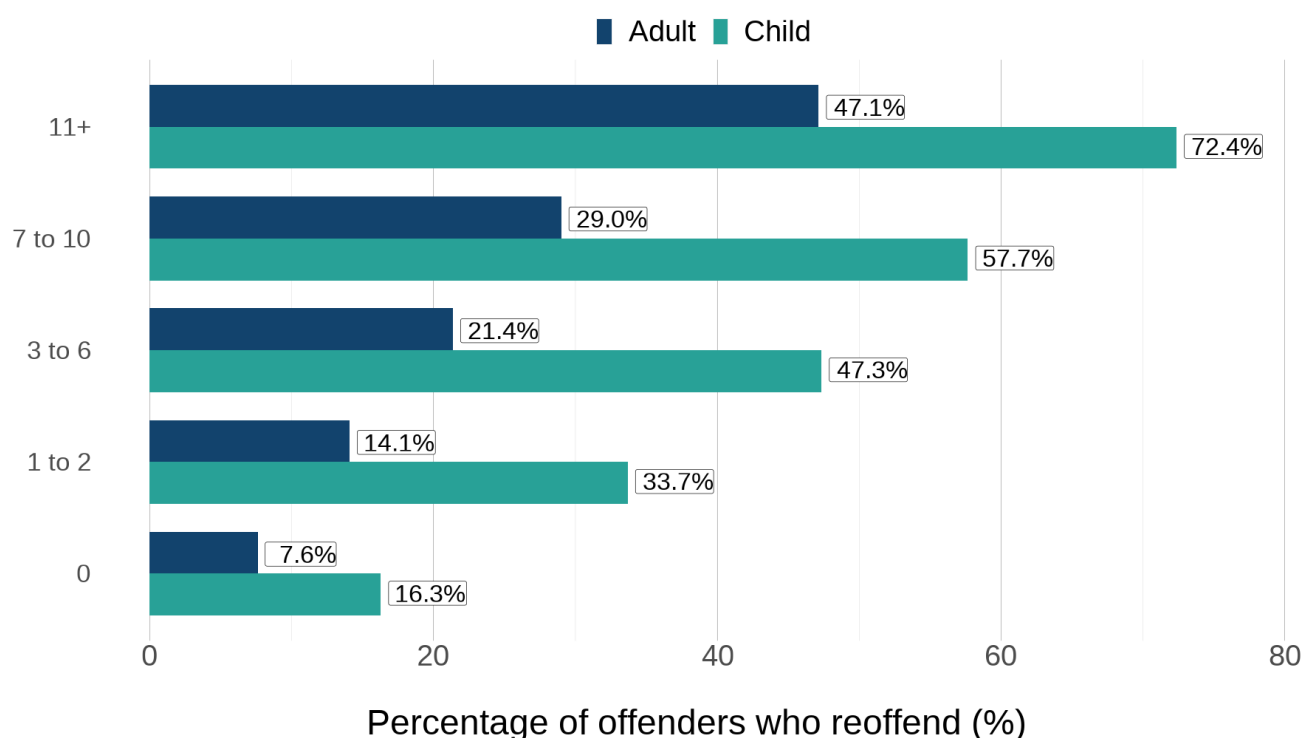
For adult and child offender cohorts combined, 29.9% of all reoffences took place within three months after release from custody or after receiving a non-custodial conviction at court, a reprimand, warning, or a caution. This percentage increases to 55.6% within six months and steadily increases at an average rate of 7.4% per month beyond that point up to 12 months.

## 6. Reoffending by Number of Previous Offences

Offenders with 11 or more previous offences<sup>9</sup> had the highest rate of reoffending (47.1% for adults and 72.4% for children).

For both adult and child offenders, the rate of proven reoffending increases with the number of previous offences committed, as shown in Figure 10.

**Figure 10: Percentage of adult and child offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by number of previous offences, October to December 2023 (Source: Table A5a/b)**



In the October to December 2023 cohort, the proven reoffending rate for adults ranged from 7.6% for offenders with no previous offences to 47.1% for offenders with 11 or more previous offences. Those with 11 or more previous offences made up 39.7% of all adult offenders in the cohort, represented 66.4% of all adult reoffenders and committed 80.0% of all adult proven reoffences.

The proven reoffending rate for children ranged from 16.3% for offenders with no previous offences to 72.4% for offenders with 11 or more previous offences.

<sup>9</sup> Previous offences are those committed prior to an offender's index offence.

## 7. Reoffending by Accommodation Status on Release from Custody

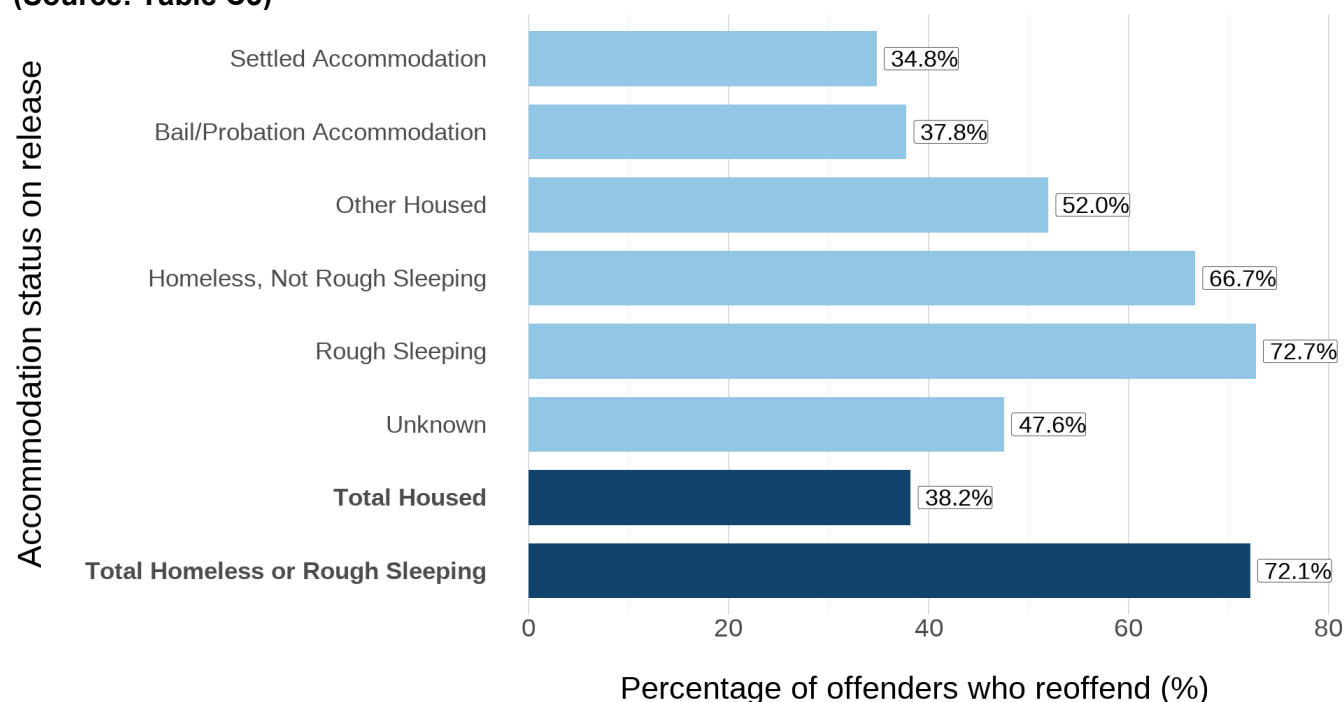
**Adult offenders with an accommodation status on release from custody of rough sleeping had the highest rate of reoffending (72.7%).**

Adult offenders with an accommodation status on release from custody of rough sleeping had the highest reoffending rate, at 72.7%. This was followed by homeless, not rough sleeping with a reoffending rate of 66.7%.

The proven reoffending rate for those who were homeless or rough sleeping on release from custody, at 72.1%, was over double the proven reoffending rate for those who were in settled accommodation on release from custody, at 34.8%.

Since the same period in the previous year, the proven reoffending rate for those who were in settled accommodation upon release has increased by 2.0 percentage points; for those who were homeless or rough sleeping upon release, it has increased by 5.3 percentage points.

**Figure 11: Percentage of adult offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by accommodation status on release from custody, October to December 2023**  
(Source: Table C3)



In Figure 11, “Total Housed” includes adult offenders with an accommodation status on release from custody of the following categories: settled accommodation, bail/probation accommodation, or other housed. “Total Homeless or Rough Sleeping” includes adult offenders with an accommodation status on release from custody of the following categories: homeless, not rough sleeping, as well as those who were rough sleeping.

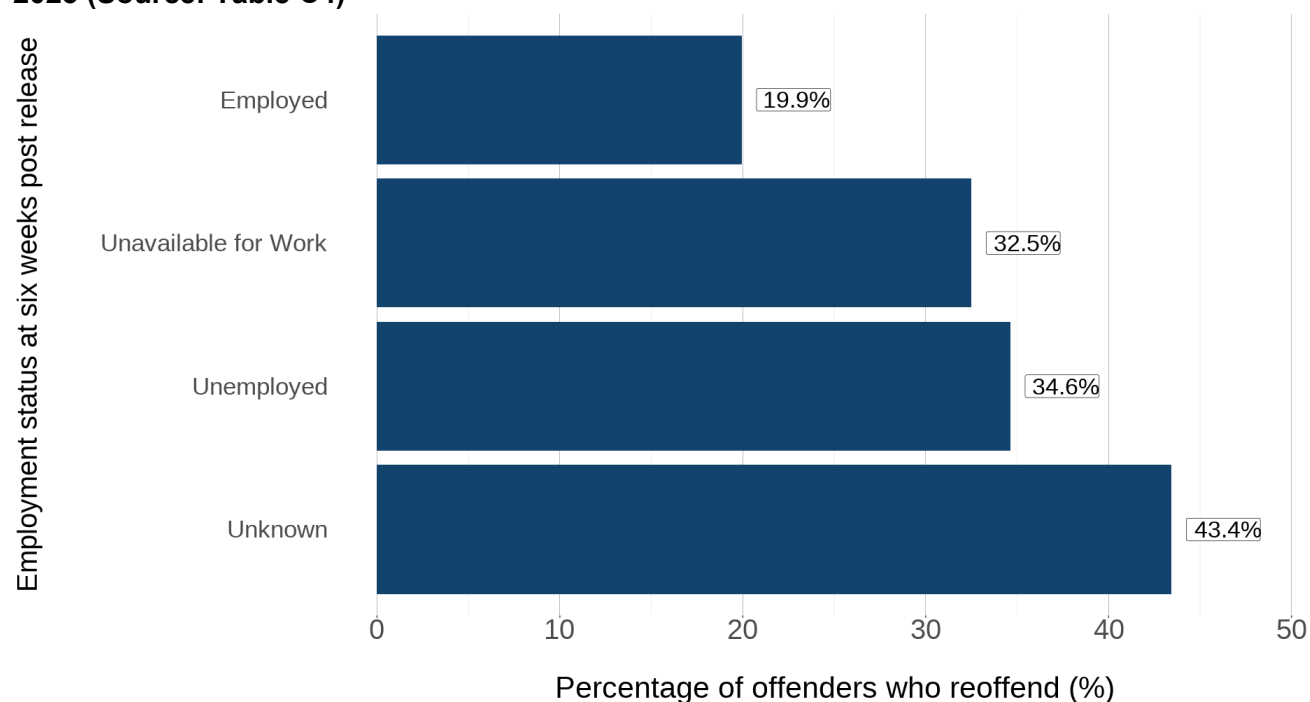
## 8. Reoffending by Employment Status at Six Weeks Post Release from Custody

Adult offenders, with an unknown employment status at six weeks post release from custody had the highest rate of reoffending (43.4%), followed by unemployed, with a reoffending rate of 34.6%.

The proven reoffending rate for those who were unemployed at six weeks post release was 34.6%, which is around double the proven reoffending rate for those who were employed at six weeks post release (19.9%). This is a difference of 14.7 percentage points.

Since the same period in the previous year, the proven reoffending rate for those who were unemployed at six weeks post release has decreased by 0.7 percentage points; for those who were employed at six weeks post release, it has increased by 3.1 percentage points.

**Figure 12: Percentage of adult offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by employment status at six weeks post release from custody, October to December 2023 (Source: Table C4)**



## Further information

### Accompanying files

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

- A set of [overview tables](#), covering each section of this bulletin.
- [Data tools](#) providing proven reoffending data for England and Wales, split by various categories (covering Apr 2012 to Dec 2023).
- A [technical guide](#) to proven reoffending statistics providing information on how proven reoffending is measured and the data sources used.
- A [data quality statement](#) which outlines our policies for producing quality statistical outputs and the information provided to maintain our users' understanding and trust.

### Accredited Official Statistics status

National Statistics are [accredited official statistics](#) that meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value as set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics and should be labelled 'Accredited Official Statistics'. You are welcome to [contact us](#) directly with any comments about how we meet these standards. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing [regulation@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:regulation@statistics.gov.uk) or via the [OSR website](#).

It is the Ministry of Justice's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected for National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with OSR promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

### Future publications

Our statisticians regularly review the content of publications. Development of new and improved statistical outputs is usually dependent on reallocating existing resources. Should you have any feedback related to these statistics, please contact us at [reoffendingstatistics@justice.gov.uk](mailto:reoffendingstatistics@justice.gov.uk)

## Contact

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

Tel: 020 3334 3536

URL: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/media-enquiries](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/media-enquiries)

Other enquiries and feedback on these statistics should be directed to the Data and Analysis directorate of the Ministry of Justice:

Liz Whiting, Head of Reducing Reoffending and Probation Statistics

Ministry of Justice, 10th Floor, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

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**Next update: 29 January 2026**

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