Ministry of Justice

A User Guide to Statistics on Women and the Criminal Justice System, 2025

Last updated November 2026

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Accredited Official Statistics Publication: Women and the Criminal Justice System (WCJS), 2025

This publication compiles statistics from data sources across the Criminal Justice System (CJS), to provide a combined perspective on the typical experiences of females who come into contact with it. It considers how these experiences have changed over time and how they contrast to the typical experiences of males. This publication is published on a biennial basis and the next publication is scheduled for release in 2028.

The MoJ production team owns the data covering the following areas, disaggregated by *Chapters* in the report:

- *Police activity* – Out of court resolutions (PNDs and cautions)
- *Defendants* – prosecutions, convictions, remand decisions and sentencing outcomes
- *Offence analysis* – all analysis conducted
- *Offender characteristics* – breakdowns of the aforementioned, by ethnicity, sex and age.

All other data included in the WCJS publication is collated from a range of data sources, please see the technical guide to find details of respective data owners.

The most recent data available during the compilation of this report has been included (usually the 2025 calendar year or 2025/26 financial year), referred to as the 'latest year', though it is important to note that more recent data may have since been published. Please see the accompanying technical guide for links to the latest publications from each data source, where data may have been revised or updated since this release.

Products published as part of the WCJS publication

The statistical bulletin
The bulletin compiles statistics across the CJS to draw out and expand upon key findings; these findings are supplemented by graphs where appropriate. The bulletin contains links to relevant statistics already in the public domain that may not have been extracted within the main text.

Overview tables
Supplementary Excel (in an Open .ods format) tables accompany the chapters, providing additional data where the figures have not previously been published (or not published in that form). Where figures have been published, links are provided as part of the text and tables.

Technical Guide
A technical document titled A Technical Guide to Statistics on Women and the Criminal Justice System is available alongside this report, which provides users with information on the concepts and terminology used within the report, as well as information about data sources, data quality and references. This includes information on how sex is recorded across data sources.

Dashboard
There may be data presented in the other WCJS products which is absent in the dashboard; data has only been included where data owners were able to provide data in the appropriate format within the timescale. The amount of information on a topic presented in the dashboard reflects the amount it is commented on throughout the bulletin. This is a first prototype and the production team welcome feedback on the dashboard's value and usability. The dashboard is not necessarily a permanent addition to the report and therefore we ask you to get in touch if you find it beneficial and wish for its production to be continued.

Users should consult relevant data owners with regards to feedback on specific topics within the dashboard. Please see the technical guide for details on data sources.

Data not included in the report

Despite our aim to meet as many needs of our users as possible, some data is not able to be included to the publication. This includes data that is not recorded centrally, not sufficiently reliable, and therefore inaccessible to the production team. Examples of these instances are detailed below:

- Offender characteristics such as religion, faith, nationality and mental health are not reliably recorded across data systems related to the criminal justice system
- Some measure such as charges, recorded by Home Office, do not include records of sex

This may also include data otherwise already published in the public domain. Under these circumstances, duplication of work is avoided in order to minimise time spent on presenting already-accessible information. Examples of related publications are detailed below:

- Safety in Custody statistics
- Offender management statistics, including:
    - Discipline in Prison Establishments (Adjudications),
    - Restricted Patients,
    - Home Detention Curfew (Releases),
    - Release on Temporary License,
    - Licence Recalls.
- Death of offenders in the community statistics
- Community performance statistics (including accommodation and employment statistics)
- HMPPS Offender Equalities Annual Report, including:
    - Mother and Baby units,
    - Sexual Orientation in the Prison Population,
    - Accredited Programmes,
    - Incentives and
    - Transgender prisoners
- Electronic monitoring statistics
- Domestic abuse and the criminal justice system,
- CPS Quarterly Data Summaries [1]
- Nature of Violent Crime in England and Wales.
- Substance Misuse Treatment Programmes
- Offender Learning

The production team welcome feedback on the format of this publication and the supporting products provided alongside it. We are considering how these products can best work together to meet users' needs, including the balance between reporting and exploration of the data. We welcome feedback on which products users find most useful and how they could be developed for future editions.

Accredited official statistics status

Accredited Official Statistics are called National Statistics in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. These Accredited Official Statistics were independently reviewed by the Office for

[1] In 2019/20, the CPS moved from annual reporting, in the Violence Against Women and Girls annual report, to quarterly data. Data mentioned can be found on the page linked.

Statistics Regulation (OSR) in January 2011 and May 2020[2]. They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics and should be labelled as Accredited Official Statistics.

Our statistical practice is regulated by the OSR, which sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to. 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 or via the OSR website.

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

For feedback or questions related to the content of this publication, please contact us at CJS_Statistics@justice.gov.uk

[2] https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/criminal-justice-system/