



# A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics

Last updated 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018

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# 1. Introduction

This document provides more detail on youth justice statistics presented in:

- the annual Youth Justice Statistics<sup>1</sup> bulletin; and
- the monthly Youth Custody Report<sup>2</sup> data tables and accompanying open data tables.

This is intended to be used as a guide to data sources, concepts and definitions.

The key areas covered are:

- An overview of the publications, detailing the frequency, timings and the revisions policy.
- Details of the data sources and any associated data quality issues.
- Details of the methods adopted in compiling statistics on the youth justice system, including statistical disclosure, classifications and symbols and conventions.
- Links to other statistical resources.
- A glossary and explanation of the main terms used to describe the youth justice system.
- An explanation of the variables used in the youth custody open data tables.
- A list of relevant internet sites on the Youth Justice System.
- A list of the offence classifications used by the Youth Justice Board for youth justice statistical outputs.

## 1.1 Contacts

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

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Email: [newsdesk@justice.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@justice.gov.uk)

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

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- General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: [statistics.enquiries@justice.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gov.uk)
- General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from: [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/)
- For enquires to the YJB please email: [informationandanalysis@yjb.gov.uk](mailto:informationandanalysis@yjb.gov.uk)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

## 2. Overview of statistics on the youth justice system

This section describes the background to:

- The annual Youth Justice Statistics bulletin and accompanying data tables; and
- the monthly Youth Custody Report data tables,

including the timing and frequency of the publications and the revisions policy relating to the statistics published.

### 2.1 Background

Following on from the recommendations in the *Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics* report<sup>3</sup>, the Youth Justice Statistics bulletin guides the user through the flows of children and young people aged 10-17 years through the justice system in England and Wales.

This Guide to Youth Justice Statistics provides more details about the youth justice system and the statistics.

### 2.2 Youth Custody Report - Timeframe and publication frequency

The Youth Custody Report data tables are updated monthly with provisional data. Custody population figures are a monthly snapshot of the custodial population in the secure estate for children and young people, taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end.

Finalised figures are published annually in the Youth Justice Statistics bulletin. Ahead of each annual publication, additional data cleaning is applied to create a finalised dataset, which can result in updates to previous months' provisional data (and smaller updates to previous years where late data becomes available). Earlier years reflect published data where available; however some data may not exactly match the published data due to extraction from the live database being done at different times.

### 2.3 Youth Justice Statistics - Timeframe and publication frequency

The Youth Justice Statistics bulletin is an annual report based on financial years (years ending March). However, much of the data used in the report are drawn from quarterly publications and there may be more up to date data available. The purpose of the report is to provide an overall summary of the youth justice system (YJS), allowing users to find everything in one place. All data referred to are available in the Excel supplementary tables that accompany the report, or are readily available on gov.uk (links are provided). Separate tables covering Youth Offending Team (YOT) level information are also available.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/archive/reports---correspondence/reports/overcoming-barriers-to-trust-in-crime-statistics--england-and-wales.pdf>

## 2.4 Revisions policy

In accordance with Principle 2 of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is required to publish transparent guidance on its policy for revisions. A copy of this statement can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/218490/statistics-revisions-policy.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/218490/statistics-revisions-policy.pdf)

The three reasons specified for statistics needing to be revised are changes in sources of administrative systems or methodology, receipt of subsequent information, and errors in statistical systems and processes. Each of these points, and its specific relevance to the youth justice statistics, are addressed below:

### 1. Changes in sources of administrative systems/methodology

The published statistics on the youth justice system come from a variety of administrative systems. This technical document presents where there have been revisions to data accountable to switches in methodology or administrative systems. In addition, statistics affected within the publications will be appropriately footnoted.

### 2. Receipt of subsequent information

The nature of any administrative system is that data may be received late.

For the Youth Justice Statistics publication, late data are reviewed on an annual basis. Should the review show that any late data has major impact on the statistics then revisions will be released as part of the subsequent publication.

For the Youth Custody Report data tables, the snapshots are taken at a time to sufficiently allow late data to be submitted. However, data are further cleaned prior to the annual finalised dataset so any late data will lead revisions to the monthly data on an annual basis.

### 3. Errors in statistical systems and processes

Occasionally errors can occur in statistical processes; procedures are constantly reviewed to minimise this risk. Should a significant error be found, the publications on the website will be updated and an errata slip published documenting the revision.

### 3. Data Sources, Quality and Reporting

This section outlines the different data sources used to compile the statistics presented in the monthly data tables and the annual bulletin with information on data quality, processing and how they are reported.

Most of the figures in the youth justice statistical publications have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time. Steps are taken to improve the completeness and accuracy of this information each year.

The Youth Justice Statistics is a 'National Statistics' publication. 'National Statistics' is the national standard for official statistics. The 'National Statistics' Quality Mark indicates that the statistics have been produced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice requires the statistics to be produced, managed and disseminated to high professional standards. The statistics must be well explained and meet users' needs. The 'National Statistics' standard has statutory backing.

The Youth Custody Report statistics are not 'National Statistics' until finalised figures are published annually in Youth Justice Statistics.

The data for the various chapters and tables come from many sources. More information on these data sources can be found in [Annex A](#).

#### 3.1 Data collected by the Youth Justice Board:

##### *Youth custody data*

These youth custody data come from administrative systems used to place children and young people in the secure estate:

- Prior to April 2012, youth custody data came from the YJB's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS) database.
- From April 2012, the under 18 custody population was taken from YJB's eAsset database. However, information about children and young people aged 18 and held in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) was supplied by the Prison Service and private YOIs.
- In July 2013, when YJB withdrew female placement in YOIs, data on 18 year old females began to be sourced from eAsset.
- In April 2016, data on 18 year old males was brought in line with the information on young females, to be sourced from the YJB's eAsset system.
- In September 2017, eAsset was replaced by the Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF) as the booking system for children and young people in youth custody and the source of youth custody data.

The quality of the information recorded on these administrative databases is generally assumed to be relatively high as they are the operational systems used to place children and young people in custody. A number of key fields are used for which completion is mandatory when booking a young person into custody. However, sources are subject to possible errors when entering data as well as changes over time due to being operational databases that are regularly updated.

Different checks on the data help improve and maintain the quality. Ongoing improvements to data entry validation reduce the risk of incorrect recording. Identification of duplicate records improves the reliability of the stored information. Visual checks on single variables as well as different variable groupings are carried out to ensure only permitted combinations result. Data trends are also examined to assist with quality assuring the data. Different data sources are used to ensure the figures are the most appropriate for the particular context.

In January 2018, the number of children and young people in Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) in 2015/16 was revised due to an error being identified. The change led to the average monthly population for 2015/16 increasing by one young person.

**Youth Offending Team case-level data**

Some of the data in Youth Justice Statistics come from data submitted to the YJB by Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and do not come from the police or courts. As such, the data given in Youth Justice Statistics may differ from that presented in other Ministry of Justice publications.

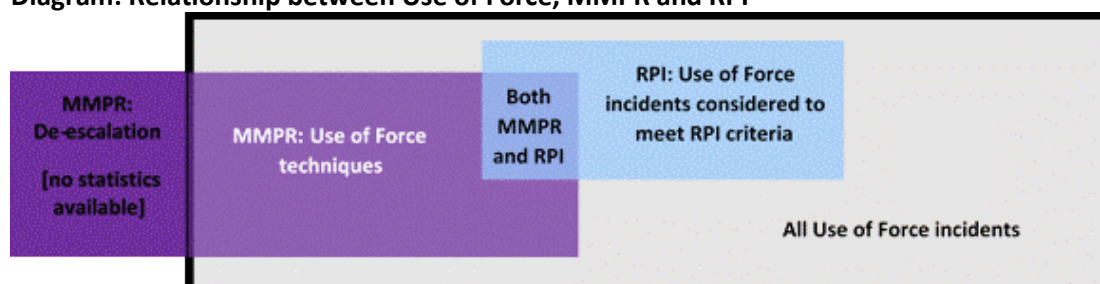
- Prior to April 2009, only summary level data was submitted to the YJB.
- Between April 2009 and March 2015, the data were taken from YJB’s Youth Justice Management Information System (YJMIS) which contains both summary level and case level data extracted from each YOT’s operational case management system.
- In April 2015, YJAF replaced YJMIS. YJAF holds case level data supplied by all YOTs in England and Wales. This system also contains summary and case level data on children and young people cautioned or convicted for an offence.

Considerable effort has gone into improving the quality of the case level data received from YOTs over the last few years. Revised data recording guidance and updates to the technology have led to more complete and accurate datasets.

For details on the quality of these YOT data and the difference between YOT and Police National Computer (PNC) data for a specific period, see Annex C (Comparison of YOT caseload with PNC data) in the annual Youth Justice Statistics bulletin.

**Behaviour management and Use of Force**

**Diagram: Relationship between Use of Force, MMRP and RPI**



This diagram (not drawn to scale) is a schematic representation of a complex issue: It is illustrative only. Use of force statistics published in the Youth Justice Statistics refer to all use of force techniques highlighted by the bold outline in the diagram.

The behaviour management and use of force (Managing and Minimising Physical Restraint; MMRP) data are taken from monthly data returns from the secure estate to the YJB. In some

cases the total figures for age, sex and ethnicity may not add up to the same figures due to recording issues. These small variations are negligible and will not make any difference to the overall rates. To improve the quality, the data are subject to a validation exercise with establishments prior to publication.

Data received from the secure estate through monthly returns is validated through a reconciliation process on an annual basis. Subsequently these have been checked and revised. Therefore, figures may not match those previously published. For the 2015/16 Youth Justice Statistics, there was an additional historic reconciliation and as a result some data from the year ending March 2011 changed significantly and did not match those previously published.

In April 2016 there were some changes to the counting rules for Restrictive Physical Intervention, self harm and proven assault incidents which required medical treatment. See [Section 4.1](#) in this guide for more details.

MMPR was implemented in YOIs and STCs at different times but is not used in SCHs. See [Annex B](#) for more details.

### **3.2 Data used in Youth Justice Statistics:**

Further details of these data sources can be found in [Annex A](#), or by following the links to other publications and user guides. [Section 6](#) in this guide provides more details on the terms used.

#### ***Chapter 1: Gateway to the Youth Justice System***

This chapter provides details of children and young people who were arrested and cautioned.

- The arrest data come from the Home Office. Further information is available in the police powers and procedures publication for England and Wales available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>.
- The data on youth cautions have been taken from the PNC data held by MoJ. For further information see the quarterly Criminal Justice Statistics publication: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly).

#### ***Chapter 2: First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System***

This chapter provides an overview of the number of First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System (YJS).

- FTE data are based on an extract of data held by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), as recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC). For the latest quarterly MoJ publication see: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly).



As FTE data relate to proven offences only, where a young person is given a formal caution or court disposal by a police force in England and Wales or the British Transport Police<sup>4</sup>, this is not a measure of the amount of crime committed by children or young people. Only a proportion of crimes lead to a formal outcome, and the age of the offender is not known until the point of arrest.

### ***Chapter 3: Characteristics of children and young people in the Youth Justice System***

This chapter reports on the number and demographic characteristics of children and young people who received a youth caution or court conviction.

- These data are taken from the YJB's YJAF system. These data are available broken down by each YOT in the local level tables accompanying the Youth Justice Statistics: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics>. More details on this data source are in [Section 3.1](#) in this guide.

It is important to note that these figures relate to the number of individual children and young people who received a youth caution or court conviction and not the number of offences or disposals. Additionally, YOTs will also be working with children and young people on prevention programmes and with some children and young people on cautions and sentences from previous years, however these numbers are unknown. Therefore the figures presented in this chapter are not a count of the total number of children and young people that YOTs worked with. In addition, YOTs do not work with all children and young people who received youth cautions. Some children and young people who receive cautions as well as some first tier outcomes, such as fines and absolute discharges, will be dealt with by the police and will not be referred to a YOT.

### ***Chapter 4: Proven offences by children and young people***

This chapter covers proven offences committed by children and young people.

- The data have been taken from the YJB's YJAF database.

These data include all offences for which a young person is given a youth caution or court conviction and not just the primary offence. The offence breakdown differs from the main offence types<sup>5</sup> used by the Ministry of Justice.

### ***Chapter 5: Children and young people sentenced***

This chapter covers children and young people proceeded against, found guilty at courts and sentenced for proven offences.

- The data has mostly been taken from the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) Court Proceedings Database (CPD). For more information see: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly).

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<sup>4</sup> Figures only include children or young people residing in England and Wales at the time of their caution or conviction.

<sup>5</sup> The main offence groups used in this report differ from those used by the MoJ, for example the offence of common assault is classed as a summary offence by the MoJ, while here it is included under violence against the person. Burglary includes domestic and non-domestic burglary. Further details on 'other' offences can be found in the supplementary tables.

- Information on parenting orders comes from the CPD.
- Information about the requirements associated with Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YROs) are taken from the data provided by YOTs to YJB's YJAF system. There are a significant number of YROs where no requirement has been recorded against the order. The YJB will be working with YOTs to reduce this in the future.

### ***Chapter 6: Use of remand for children and young people***

This chapter covers information on the use of remand for children and young people in the Youth Justice System (YJS).

- Types of remand<sup>6</sup> given to children and young people as reported by YOTs come from the YJB's YJAF system.
- Characteristics of the population in custody on custodial remand come from the YJB's eAsset system. They will be taken from YJAF for data from the year ending March 18.
- Outcomes for children and young people following custodial remand are taken from the Court Proceedings Database.

The average monthly custody population figures are averages (means) of 12 monthly snapshots of the custodial population in the secure estate for children and young people, taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end.

### ***Chapter 7: Children and young people in custody in the youth secure estate***

This chapter provides data on the average population of children and young people in custody in the youth secure estate, both remanded and sentenced. See [Section 3.1](#) in this guide for details of the data sources used.

These data do not include children and young people in police custody. This number represents the average population of children and young people in custody in the secure estate at any point in the year.

The Youth Justice Board<sup>7</sup> was only responsible for placing 10-17 year olds in custody. However, to avoid disrupting their regimes, children and young people aged over 17 remain in the youth secure estate if they have only a short period of their sentence left to serve, or to meet specific needs of the young person. The data presented are for the under 18 population only. Custody populations including 18 year olds is available in the accompanying Excel supplementary tables.

The average monthly custody population figures are averages (means) of 12 monthly snapshots of the custodial population in the secure estate for children and young people,

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<sup>6</sup> Including conditional and unconditional bail, community remand and remand to custody.

<sup>7</sup> In September 2017, the team responsible for placing children and young people in custody moved from the YJB to form the new Youth Custody Service within Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).

taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end.

For details of the methodology used to calculate the time children and young people spend in custody, see [Section 4.6](#) in this guide.

### ***Chapter 8: Behaviour management in the secure estate***

This chapter covers information on behaviour management in the secure estate for children and young people. “Behaviour management” refers to the processes and policies by which youth secure establishments manage challenging and difficult behaviour amongst children and young people. The data include some 18 year olds who are held in the secure estate for children and young people.

Specifically, this chapter covers:

- the use of restrictive physical intervention (RPI) on children and young people, incidents of self harm, proven assaults and the use of single separation<sup>8</sup> involving children and young people in custody in all custodial establishments; and
- the use of force as recorded under the Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR) system. MMPR is a behaviour management and restraint system that has been developed specifically for staff working with children and young people in Secure Training Centres (STCs) and under-18 Young Offender Institutions (YOIs). Not all uses of MMPR are uses of force; MMPR also includes de-escalation techniques aimed at avoiding the need for use of force.

The terms use of force and restrictive physical intervention can be used synonymously within practice. However, within this publication they have distinct definitions and counting rules as to the techniques and levels of physical intervention used. Within the establishments that have implemented the MMPR system, the use of all physical intervention will be measured and counted against the use of force definition and counting rules, whether or not they involve the use of MMPR techniques. Under the RPI definition and counting rules, only those physical interventions which are restrictive are counted.

MMPR techniques have been implemented in YOIs and STCs at different times (see [Annex B](#) in this guide). MMPR has not currently been rolled out in SCHs.

For more details on the methodology used for behaviour management statistics, see [Section 4.1](#) in this guide.

### ***Chapter 9: Proven reoffending by children and young people***

This chapter provides key statistics on proven reoffending for children and young people who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, or received a caution.

A proven reoffence is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period that leads to a court conviction or caution either within the one year follow-up or within a further six month waiting period to allow the offence to be proven in court.

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<sup>8</sup> Single separation data is only published for Secure Children’s Homes and Secure Training Centres.

- The data used are from the Police National Computer database. A more detailed publication covering adult and youth reoffending is published by the Ministry of Justice and is available here: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics)

In October 2017, the methodology for calculating proven reoffending changed. See [Section 4.5](#) in this guide for more details.

### ***Chapter 10: Criminal histories of children and young people***

This chapter presents information on the criminal histories of children and young people in the Youth Justice System (YJS).

- FTE data are based on an extract of data held by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), as recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC). For the latest quarterly MoJ publication see: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly).

A young person is counted as having a criminal history if their PNC record shows that, at the time of receiving a caution or conviction, they had previously committed one or more proven offences that resulted in a caution or conviction.

A young person's criminal history counts the number of occasions on which they previously received a caution or conviction for any offence and has been recorded on the PNC, including some offences committed outside of England and Wales, irrespective of country of residence. This count differs from First Time Entrants (FTEs) because only offenders prosecuted by an English or Welsh police force and who are resident in England and Wales are included.

### ***Chapter 11: Comparisons with the adult system***

This chapter provides a comparison between children and young people (10-17 years), young adults where available (18-20 years) and adults (21 years and over) in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) in England and Wales. This chapter includes comparisons of First Time Entrants (FTEs), offences and disposals, knife possession, sentencing, population in custody and reoffending.

## 4. Methodology

This section outlines methodologies used in compiling the statistics, including how they may differ from other publications where relevant. This section also includes details of statistical disclosure, classifications used and symbols and conventions.

### 4.1 Behaviour Management

Rates: Rates for proven assaults, self harm, Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) and single separation incidents are given per 100 children and young people in custody. These are calculated using populations based on:

- Monthly: snapshot taken for the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month plus any new admissions during the month. This is designed to represent all the children and young people who could possibly have been involved in a behaviour management incident during the month.
- Annual: the monthly population figures are summed for the 12 months and divided by 12 to give an average monthly population over the year.

This differs to data for the adult estate, which is based on the population taken from a snapshot only. Therefore, these behaviour management rates for the youth secure estate should not be directly compared with those for the adult estate.

Proven assaults: For the youth secure estate, proven assaults are defined as the intentional use of unnecessary force that results in physical contact with the victim. Proven assaults are counted where the young person in custody is the assailant, irrespective of who the victim is.

This differs to the definition used for assaults in the adult estate, for instance assaults in the adult estate include fights between prisoners whereas the youth estate data do not necessarily include these. Therefore, proven assault statistics for the youth secure estate should not be directly compared with those for the adult estate.

For more details on the safety in custody data for the adult estate, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/safety-in-custody-statistics>.

Changes to counting rules for incidents requiring medical treatment: In April 2016 there were some small changes to the counting rules for RPI, self harm and proven assault incidents requiring medical treatment. For proven assaults and self harm these changes affect only minor injuries requiring medical treatment. For RPIs, these changes affect both minor and serious injuries requiring medical treatment. The full impact of these counting rules changes is not known, but it is likely to be small. However care should be taken when comparing the number of incidents requiring medical treatment figures since 2016/17 with those from 2015/16 or before.

## 4.2 Cautions for children and young people

There have been some changes over time as to the out-of-court disposals<sup>9</sup> that can be given to children and young people:

- Prior to 8 April 2013, the following out-of-court disposals were available to children and young people:
  - Penalty notices for disorder
  - Youth cautions (including youth conditional cautions from 26 January 2010 for 16 and 17 year olds in five pilot areas only)
  - Reprimands and final warnings – a young person could receive a reprimand for a first offence or a final warning for further offences. Once a young person had received a final warning, any further offences, regardless of severity would result in a charge and if found guilty a court disposal.
  
- From 8 April 2013, the following out-of-court disposals are available to children and young people:
  - Youth cautions, including youth conditional cautions – a young person can be given a youth caution even if they have previously had a court disposal. This allows for more appropriate disposals to be given based on the nature of the offence.

Care should be exercised when making historical comparisons between reprimands/final warnings and youth cautions.

## 4.3 Ethnicity

Classifications: Two measures of recording ethnicity are utilised throughout youth justice statistics:

1. Officer identified ethnicity - as recorded by a police officer or a member of the administrative or clerical team and is based on visual appearance. It is based on a 4+1 classification as follows: White, Black, Asian, Other and 'Unknown' or 'not recorded'. This is the ethnicity information presented for information from the PNC (data on cautions, First Time Entrants, reoffending and criminal histories).
2. Self-identified ethnicity - defined by the individual. Categories are based on the ONS classifications from 2001. Self-identified ethnicity is based on a 5+1 classification as follows: White, Black, Asian, Mixed, Other and 'Unknown' or 'not recorded'. This is the ethnicity presented for information from the Home Office (data on arrests), from the YJB (characteristics of children and young people according to YJAF, outcomes following remand, children and young people in custody in the secure estate and behaviour management).

The ONS introduced two further categories to the Census in 2011: 'White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller' and 'Arab'; and moved 'Chinese' to the broader Asian category. To allow for comparability within the time series, Chinese are placed in Other, following the 2001 Census.

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<sup>9</sup> Community resolution is a non-statutory disposal available to the police, rolled out in the year ending March 2009. The Home Office began centrally collecting data from forces on community resolutions from April 2014, and published national figures for the first time in July 2015. Community resolutions data are not available by age so the only out-of-court disposals presented in youth justice statistics are youth cautions.

Percentages: When percentages of certain ethnicity categories are calculated, those children and young people with ‘Unknown’ ethnicities have been removed. This methodology was introduced for the Youth Justice Statistics 2016/17 to bring it in line with other publications. Therefore, percentages of ethnicities in the 2016/17 publication should not be compared with previous publications.

#### 4.4. Offence Classifications

In July 2013, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) re-designed the classifications used to present police recorded crime statistics, following recommendations from the National Statistician’s review of Crime Statistics in England and Wales in June 2011. The changes to classifications were implemented in the ONS statistical bulletin *Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2013*, published in July 2013, alongside a methodological note<sup>10</sup> providing more detail on the changes and their impact on time-series for key measures.

No change has been made to the coverage of offences in the police recorded crime series, and most changes are presentational, with some offences moving between classifications or being separated out of existing groupings.

Information is presented in youth justice statistics on the new offence group breakdowns where possible. Therefore, offence groups and classification may vary between chapters and data sources.

As part of MoJ’s additional quality assurance in the source data (Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly 2016 report), a small number of offence codes were reclassified between offence types to better reflect their legal basis. This means that figures sourced from the Courts Proceedings Database provided in the 2016/17 Youth Justice Statistics publication are not comparable to previous publications.

#### 4.5 Proven Reoffending

In October 2017, the methodology for calculating proven reoffending changed. The main changes were:

- **Moving to a three-month cohort.** The cohort now comprises all offenders who are released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, or received a caution within a specified three month period, for all measures of reoffending, including for children and young people. Previously, a 12-month cohort was used. Offenders are still tracked for 12 months.
- **A change from calendar year to financial year, for annual figures.** Previously, annual figures were based on a calendar years. The annual reoffending figures are now based on a financial year. Annual figures (like those included in Youth Justice Statistics) are now formed by taking a weighted average of the four three-month offender cohorts.
- A change in the **data source** for compiling MoJ’s proven reoffending statistics: custodial discharges from YOIs are now taken from the Prison-NOMIS system for young people, reflecting the availability of this more accurate data source. This

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<sup>10</sup> [www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/presentational-changes-on-police-recorded-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/presentational-changes-on-police-recorded-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf)

change in October 2015 introduces potential variability and therefore users should be cautious when making any comparison between data pre and post October 2015.

For more information on this change in methodology and its impact on the figures, see: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/658380/how-the-measure-of-reoffending-has-changed-and-the-effect-of-these-changes.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/658380/how-the-measure-of-reoffending-has-changed-and-the-effect-of-these-changes.pdf).

This methodology was used for the Youth Justice Statistics 2016/17 publication.

#### **4.6 Time spent in the youth estate**

There have been two main changes to the methodology used for calculating time spent in the youth estate:

1. 18 year olds:
  - In publications prior to 2015/16, the time spent in the youth secure estate was calculated as the time in days for a custodial episode when the young person was 17 or under at the end of their custodial episode. This excluded custodial episodes for children and young people who turned 18 before they left custody.
  - From the 2015/16 Youth Justice Statistics, children and young people's custodial episodes up until the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday have been included. A young person may remain in the youth secure estate for a short time following their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday until they are released or transition to the young adult or adult estate. As children and young people serving longer term sentences are more likely to reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in custody, due to the length of their sentence, this new approach results in averages that are higher than previously published.
2. Data Source:
  - Prior to 2012/13, the youth custody data used for calculating legal basis periods were taken from the YJB's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS) database.
  - From 2012/13, the youth custody data used for calculating legal basis periods were taken from the YJB's eAsset system.
  - From 2016/17, the youth custody data used for calculating legal basis periods will be taken from the YJB's Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF) system.

Given this change in data source during 2017, the length of time spent in youth custody statistics were not ready for publishing in Youth Justice Statistics 2016/17 in January 2018. As such, these statistics will be published separately in Spring 2018<sup>11</sup>. The intention is to bring these statistics back into the Youth Justice Statistics publication from 2017/18.

In the 2015/16 Youth Justice Statistics bulletin, a new measure was introduced: the average time a young person spent in custody in a single custodial episode (regardless of any changes in legal basis).

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<sup>11</sup> See the Ministry of Justice release calendar for an exact publication date when it is available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements?utf8=%E2%9C%93&organisations%5B%5D=ministry-of-justice>.



## 4.7 Statistical Disclosure

Suppression is used within youth justice statistics publications where it is necessary in order to avoid the disclosure of a young person's identity or personal information about a young person.

Where appropriate, figures 1-4 have been suppressed and replaced with an asterisk (\*) to minimise the risk of disclosure. To make sure that the suppressed number cannot be derived by subtraction, additional suppression of figures of 5 or more may be necessary. Where additional suppression has been applied it is noted throughout.

Some data are not suppressed. This applies to data which is already in the public domain, through other publications, without suppression having been applied.

## 4.8 Symbols and conventions

The units of measurement in youth justice statistics are offenders, offences and disposals; these are given as full numbers where available. The percentages are rounded to the nearest number or one decimal place.

The following symbols have been used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

0	Nil
..	Not available or not applicable (this is stated in the individual tables)
-	Negligible, less than half the final digit shown
*	Value suppressed to maintain confidentiality
(p)	Provisional data
(r)	Revised data
(e)	Estimated data

## 5. Links to Other Statistical Resources

### **Anti-Social Behaviour Order statistics:**

The latest annual Home Office and MoJ bulletin (published in September 2014) presents the number of anti-social behaviour orders issued in the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2013 and breached in the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2013:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/anti-social-behaviour-order-statistics-england-and-wales-2013>.

### **Arrest statistics:**

Data on arrests for notifiable offences are included within this annual Home Office statistical release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>.

### **Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic disproportionality in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales:**

This MoJ report examines ethnic group representation in the Criminal Justice System from charging through proven reoffending:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-disproportionality-in-the-criminal-justice-system-in-england-and-wales>.

### **Crime Outcome Statistics:**

This Home Office bulletin presents statistics on outcomes assigned by the police to recorded crimes:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics>

### **Crime Statistics:**

This Office for National Statistics bulletin presents key statistics on crime in England and Wales taken from two different sources: the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW, previously known as the British Crime Survey), and police recorded crime:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice>.

The publication also includes statistics on the victimisation and experiences of crime from children and young people aged 10-15.

### **Criminal Court Statistics:**

This quarterly MoJ bulletin presents National Statistics on activities in magistrates' courts and Crown Courts in England and Wales:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-court-statistics>.

The figures give a summary overview of the volume of cases dealt with by these courts over time, with statistics also broken down for the main types of case involved. Also published are detailed breakdowns of the headline court caseload and timeliness statistics, broken down by court or Local Justice Area.

### **Criminal Justice Statistics:**

This quarterly MoJ bulletin presents key statistics on activity in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) for England and Wales: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly).

The data provides users with information about proven offending and its outcomes in England and Wales. It contains statistics for adults and children and young people on

offences, out of court disposals, court disposals and offending histories (including First Time Entrants and previous disposals).

**Knife Possession Sentencing:**

This quarterly MoJ report contains key statistics describing trends in cautioning and sentencing, probation supervision and the prison population for offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon in England and Wales:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/knife-possession-sentencing-quarterly](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/knife-possession-sentencing-quarterly).

**Race and the Criminal Justice System:**

This biennial MoJ publication compiles statistics from data sources across the CJS, to provide a combined perspective on the typical experiences of different ethnic groups in England and Wales: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/race-and-the-criminal-justice-system](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/race-and-the-criminal-justice-system).

It reports statistical information on the representation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups as suspects, offenders and victims within the CJS and on employees within criminal justice agencies.

**Reoffending of children and young people:**

This MoJ report provides key statistics on proven reoffending in England and Wales:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics).

It gives proven reoffending figures for offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court or received a caution.

**Understanding and Improving Reoffending Performance:**

This report is a summary of learning from the Youth Justice Board's (YJB) four year Reducing Reoffending Programme with implications for practice: <https://yjresourcehub.uk/yjb-effective-practice/youth-justice-kits/item/470-learning-from-yjb-reducing-reoffending-programme.html>.

It includes how the work has developed, how the cohort is changing and a range of insights and examples on reducing reoffending at a local level and a consideration of the impact of the work and ways it needs to be taken forwards in the future.

**Women and the Criminal Justice System:**

This MoJ publication compiles statistics from data sources across the Criminal Justice System (CJS), to provide a combined perspective on the typical experiences of women who come into contact with it: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/women-and-the-criminal-justice-system](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/women-and-the-criminal-justice-system).

It considers how these experiences have changed over time and how they contrast to the typical experiences of men.

## 6. Glossary

This section provides definitions of terms used throughout statistics on the youth justice system, in alphabetical order.

**Absolute discharge:** When the court decides someone is guilty, but decides not to punish them further at this time, they will be sentenced to a 'discharge'. Discharges are given for minor offences. An 'absolute discharge' means that no more action will be taken.

**Activity requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to engage in activities specified in their order.

**Attendance Centre requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to attend the attendance centre specified in their order for the number of hours specified.

**Average custodial sentence length:** Average length of determinate (fixed length) custodial sentences given in months. This excludes indeterminate sentences (life or Imprisonment for Public Protection sentences) as the length of these sentences is not recorded.

**Beds available:** The number of beds available within the secure estate to place children and young people who are remanded or sentenced to custody. This figure takes into account rooms out of use due to damage/refurbishment for Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), Secure Training Centres (STCs) and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) and also any spot purchases for SCHs.

**Behaviour management:** Behaviour management captures the processes and policies by which establishments manage challenging and difficult behaviour amongst children and young people in the secure estate.

**Breaches:** A breach is when a young person fails to comply with the conditions of their disposal:

1. Breach of statutory order or of conditional discharge is an offence of failing without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirements of an existing statutory order or the conditions of a discharge. The offence is only counted where the failure is proved to the satisfaction of the court and the original order is revoked and/or an additional order or other disposal is imposed.
2. Breach of bail refers to the offence of absconding by person released on bail (Bail Act 1976, S6), but excludes liability to arrest for absconding or breaking conditions of bail (Bail Act S7), for which children and young people cannot be sentenced but only remanded in custody or given more restrictive bail conditions.

**Caution:** A caution is an out of court disposal for adults. Children and young people can be given Youth Cautions which replaced Reprimands and Final Warnings on 8 April 2013. Returns on cautions are submitted to the Ministry of Justice electronically each month.

**Charge or laying of information:** This relates to when the defendant is first charged at a police station (specifically, where an individual is arrested and formally accused of a crime) or when the information is laid (specifically, where an individual receives a written summons advising that an action has begun against them, and that they are required either to appear in person, or to respond in writing, to the court regarding the alleged offence).

**Children:** In the context of youth justice statistical publications, children refers to anyone between the ages of 10-17, unless stated otherwise. Children are often referred to “children and young people” in youth justice statistical publications, although this is used interchangeably with and “young people” or “children”.

**Community resolution:** This is a method of dealing with an offender for a lower-level crime, in a way which is proportionate. Resolutions can be offered when the offender admits an offence and, in most cases, where the victim has agreed that they do not want more formal action taken. Community resolutions can include the offender being given advice about their behaviour, apologising or sending a letter of apology to the victim, or making some form of reparation such as repairing or paying for any damage done.

**Community sentence:** When a court imposes a community sentence, the young person doesn't go to custody. But the court says there are specific things the young person can, can't or must do while serving their sentence. The magistrate or judge will decide which combination of these 'requirements' will most effectively punish the young person for their crime, while also reducing the risk of them offending again. A young person given a community sentence will be given a Youth Rehabilitation Order (see separate entry) in which one or more requirements can be imposed such as Curfew or Supervision.

**Completion:** When a defendant's case is completed and a final decision is reached in either the magistrates' courts or the Crown Court.

**Conditional bail:** Conditions may be added to a bail decision in order to ensure attendance at court, prevent the young person offending while on bail, address a concern that the young person might interfere with witnesses or obstruct the course of justice, safeguard the young person's welfare, ensure availability for reports or to ensure they attend an appointment. The conditions might include not contacting a particular person or entering a particular area. The young person may additionally be electronically tagged if it is felt necessary.

**Conditional discharge:** When the court decides someone is guilty, but decides not to punish them further at this time, they will be sentenced to a 'discharge'. Discharges are given for minor offences. A 'conditional discharge' means that the young person won't be punished unless they commit another offence within a set period of time (no longer than three years).

**Conviction:** When a court finds a young person guilty of a crime and gives them a formal sanction.

**Criminal history:** A young person is counted as having a criminal history if their Police National Computer (PNC) record shows that, at the time of receiving a caution or conviction, they had previously committed one or more offences that had resulted in one of these sanctions. Because the PNC data excludes a range of summary offences the figures presented focus on the criminal histories of young people cautioned or sentenced for indictable offences.

**Curfew requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to remain in a specified place for the period specified in the order. The order can also specify different periods of curfew on different days.

**Custodial sentence:** A young person may be sentenced to custody when an offence is so serious that it is the only suitable punishment. A custodial sentence will also be given when the court believes the public must be protected from the young person. There are two different types of custodial sentence available for children and young people: determinate sentences (those having a fixed term) and indeterminate sentences (which have only a minimum term and include life sentences). In the case of children and young people, their time in custody will be served in establishments separated from the adult and 18-21 population.

**Detention and Training Order (DTOs):** Detention and Training Orders are determinate custodial sentences which can last from four months to 24 months in length. A young person spends the first half of the order in custody and the second half in the community on licence. Should they breach the licence conditions or reoffend during the licence period, they may be returned/recalled back to custody by the court.

**Disposal:** Disposal is an umbrella term referring both to sentences given by the court and pre-court decisions made by the police. Disposals may be divided into four separate categories of increasing seriousness starting with pre-court disposals then moving into first-tier and community-based penalties through to custodial sentences.

**Drug treatment requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to submit to treatment during a specified time with the view to reduce or eliminate their dependency on, or propensity to misuse, drugs.

**Drug testing requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to provide samples as instructed by their responsible officer.

**Education requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires a young person of compulsory school age to comply with approved education arrangements.

**Electronic Monitoring requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to comply with arrangements for the electronic monitoring of the curfew period set by the court.

**Exclusion requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Prohibits the young person from entering a place specified in the order for a specific period. The specified period must not be longer than three months.

**First listing:** The first hearing of the case in a magistrates' court, whether or not the defendant is present.

**First-tier penalty:** This is an umbrella term used for the following orders made at court: bind over, discharges, fines and deferred sentences.

**First Time Entrants (FTEs):** First Time Entrants to the criminal justice system are classified as children and young people (aged under 18 at the time of offence), resident in England and Wales, who received their first reprimand, warning, caution or conviction in England and Wales, based on data recorded by the police on the PNC.

**Gang Injunction:** (Policing and Crime Act 2009 / Crime and Security Act 2010 – Gang Injunctions with civil breach detention orders). An injunction to prevent gang-related

violence is a civil tool that allows the police or a local authority to apply to a county court (or the High Court) for an injunction against an individual to prevent gang-related violence. Breach of an injunction of this type is dealt with by a civil contempt of court and is not a criminal offence. The court is given two specific powers in Schedule 5A to the Policing and Crime Act 2009: a Supervision Order and a Detention Order. A detention order may last for not more than three months (beginning on the day when the order is made).

**Index offence:** The index offence is the proven offence that leads to an offender being included in the reoffending cohort. An offence is only counted as an index offence if it is recordable, committed in England and Wales, prosecuted by the police and not a breach offence.

**Indictable cases:** The most serious cases, such as murder and rape, which must be heard at the Crown Court. The involvement of the magistrates' court in these cases is brief, and usually consists of a decision on whether to grant bail, and considers other legal issues, such as reporting restrictions. The case is then passed to the Crown Court.

**Intensive fostering requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to live with specially trained and supported foster carers for a period of up to twelve months.

**Intensive Supervision and Surveillance:** Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) can be attached to a Youth Rehabilitation Order (which would have the Curfew, Electronic Monitoring and Supervision requirements attached as a minimum) and has been set as a high intensity alternative to custody. ISS combines a set period of electronic tagging with a comprehensive and sustained focus on tackling the factors that contribute to the young person's offending behaviour. ISS is aimed at children and young people on the custody threshold and has to be considered as an option before a custodial sentence is given. ISS may also be attached to conditional bail or as a condition of licence on custodial sentences.

**Intoxicating Substance Treatment requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to agree to intoxicating substance treatment for the period specified in the order. The aim of this requirement is to reduce or eliminate the young person's dependency on, or misuse of, intoxicating substances where this has been identified as a problem.

**Legal basis for detention:** Legal basis refers to the legal basis for the young person's detention, the (custodial) order given to them by the courts. A young person may have multiple custodial orders simultaneously, legal basis refers to the custodial order which takes precedence.

**Local Authority Residence requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to reside in accommodation provided by or on behalf of the local authority.

**Mental health requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to submit to treatment by or under the direction of a registered medical practitioner/ chartered psychologist for the period of time specified.

**Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR):** A new system of behaviour management, using certain specified techniques, developed for use in Secure Training

Centres and under-18 Young Offender Institutions. MMPR puts considerable emphasis on using appropriate de-escalation and deceleration techniques (non-physical interventions) to ensure that restraint is only ever used as a last resort, when no other intervention is possible or appropriate.

**Notifiable offences:** Notifiable offences are those offences which require the police to record an incident as a crime and report the occurrence to the Home Office.

**Occupancy rate:** This is based on the beds available data. Where occupancy rates were over 100 per cent in earlier years, spot purchases were made in SCHs and extra provisions via contingency places in YOIs were used to accommodate all children and young people within the secure estate.

**Otherwise dealt with:** Includes a number of orders, for example hospital orders, confiscation orders and compensation orders.

**Parenting Orders:** Parenting Orders are made against parents and aim to prevent offending and anti-social behaviour by reinforcing parental responsibility. A court may impose an order on a parent when their son or daughter aged 10–17 years is convicted of an offence; or is subject to an Anti-Social Behaviour Order; or where a Child Safety Order is made; or where a parent has been convicted of failing to make sure that the young person attends school.

**Primary offence:** Where more than one offence is considered in a court case or cautioning occasion, the offence that would/did attract the most severe sentencing outcome is deemed to be the primary offence. Other offences also dealt with in that case would be ignored for data recording purposes. If two offences in the same case attract the same sentence the offence with the statutory maximum sentence is deemed the 'primary offence'.

**Programme requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to engage in systematic number of activities (a programme) at a specified place on a specified number of days.

**Prohibited activity requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to **not** participate in specified activities on the day or days specified or during a set period of time.

**Proven assault in the youth secure estate:** Proven assault is defined as "The intentional use of unnecessary force that results in physical contact with the victim". The degree of force used is immaterial (e.g. touching, spitting, pushing or striking) and physical contact can be by any part of the assailant's body or bodily fluid or by the use or display of any weapon or missile. It is not necessary for the victim to suffer injury of any kind. Proven assaults of a sexual nature are included.

**Proven offence:** A proven offence is defined as an offence which results in the young person receiving a caution or conviction.

**Recordable offence:** Recordable offences are those that the police are required to record on the Police National Computer. They include all offences for which a custodial sentence can be given plus a range of other offences defined as recordable in legislation. They exclude a range of less serious summary offences, for example television licence evasion, driving without insurance, speeding and vehicle tax offences.



**Referral Order:** The order requires the young person to attend a youth offender panel consisting of a YOT representative and two lay members. The panel agrees a contract with the young person lasting between three and 12 months. The contract will include reparation and a number of interventions felt suitable for that young person (for example, a substance misuse assessment, anger management etc.). If completed successfully, the Referral Order is considered a 'spent' conviction and need not be declared.

**Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation:** Where a court orders a Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation prior to a trial or sentencing hearing, the Youth Custody Service (YCS) Placements Team<sup>12</sup> will place the child in Youth Detention Accommodation according to the needs of the young person. There is therefore no need for the court to specify in the warrant the precise home, centre or institution but the court must specify the designated local authority so that the YCS may consult it on the placement decision.

**Reparation Order:** Reparation Orders require a young person to undertake reparation either directly for the victim or for the community at large (for example, cleaning up graffiti or undertaking community work).

**Residence requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to reside with an individual specified in the order or in a place specified in the order. Available for 16 and 17 year olds only.

**Restorative justice:** Provides opportunities for those directly affected by an offence (i.e. victim, young person and members of the community) to communicate and agree how to deal with the offence and its consequences. Restorative justice approaches are most often used in Referral Orders. A Referral Order's primary aim is to prevent children and young people reoffending and provide a restorative justice approach within a community context.

**Restrictive Physical Intervention:** A Restrictive Physical Intervention is defined as: "Any occasion when force is used with the intention of overpowering or to overpower a young person". Overpower is defined as "restricting movement or mobility".

**Safeguarding:** All organisations whose work impacts on children have a responsibility to ensure that the actions they undertake protect the safety and welfare and promote the well-being of those children, the staff who work with them and members of the public. The Youth Justice Board works to protect the safety of children, the community and staff as well as encourage education and equality in our workings.

**Section 226:** (detention for life and detention for public protection) of the Criminal Justice Act (2003). This is a sentence of 'detention for public protection' imposed if the court decides that on the basis of the risk presented by the young person an extended sentence would be inadequate to protect the public. This sentence was abolished and replaced by the new extended sentence 226B on 3 December 2012.

**Section 226B:** (Extended sentence for certain violent or sexual offences) (Sections 123-5 LASPOA 2012 (amending sections 226 & 228 Criminal Justice Act 2003) & schedule 20 LASPOA 2012): Children and young people can be sentenced to an extended custodial

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<sup>12</sup> Until September 2017, the Placements Team was part of the Youth Justice Board. YCS: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/youth-custody-service-placement-team>.

sentence if they are convicted on or after 3 December 2012 of a specified offence as listed in schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the court believes that they are dangerous. The earliest possible release date is the two thirds point of the custodial period. Release will be on licence to the end of the extension licence period. Should they breach the licence conditions they are liable to be recalled to custody by the Secretary of State.

**Section 90:** Children and young people from 10 – 17 years convicted of murder will be given a mandatory life sentence under this section under Section 90 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. The court sets a minimum term which must be served in custody, starting at 12 years.

**Section 91:** If a young person is convicted of a certain “serious” offence other than murder for which an adult could receive at least 14 years in custody, they may be sentenced under Section 91 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. The length of the sentence can be anywhere up to the adult maximum for the same offence, which for certain offences may be life. The young person spends half of the sentence in custody and the second half on licence in the community. Should they breach the licence conditions they are liable to be recalled to custody by the Secretary of State.

**Secure Children’s Home (SCH):** An accommodation type within the youth secure estate. Secure Children’s Homes (SCHs) in England are run by Local Authorities in conjunction with the Department for Education in England. There is one Secure Children’s Home in Wales run by Neath Port Talbot local authority in conjunction with the Welsh Government. SCHs are utilised for the placement of the youngest, most ‘at risk’ children and young people within the estate and those with the most complex / holistic needs. Secure Children’s Homes have high staff to young person ratios allowing focus on the emotional, physical and mental health needs of the children and young people they accommodate. SCHs generally accommodate remanded or sentenced children and young people but can also accommodate children and young people placed by Local Authorities on welfare matters. When referring to SCHs within statistics on the youth justice system, only those children and young people held on remand to youth detention accommodation or those sentenced to custody are counted.

**Secure Training Centre (STC):** An accommodation type within the youth secure estate. There are three purpose built Secure Training Centres (STCs) in England offering secure provision to sentenced or remanded children and young people aged 12-17. STCs are available to place those children and young people who are a little older and perhaps more independent and more motivated to attend school, or have risk factors which would make a placement in a YOI inappropriate. They provide a secure environment where children and young people can be educated and rehabilitated. They are run by private operators<sup>13</sup> under contracts which set out detailed operational requirements. Broadly speaking, staffing levels are three members of custody staff to children and young people living in a group of eight, and two members of custody staff to children and young people living in a group of six.

**Self harm:** Self harm is defined as “any act by which a young person deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent, or severity of the injury”.

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<sup>13</sup> Medway STC moved from being run by a private operator to being run by the National Offender Management Service, now Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service, in July 2016: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/her-majestys-prison-and-probation-service>.

**Single separation:** Single separation refers to the “confining of a young person in custody in their bedroom, to another room or area as a means of control and without the young person’s permission or agreement, without a member of staff being present and with the door locked in order to prevent exit”.

**Summary offences:** These offences are usually heard only by a magistrates’ court. This group is dominated by motoring offences, for some of which fixed penalties can be issued, but also includes such offences as common assault and criminal damage up to £5,000.

**Supervision requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to meet with the responsible officer or other nominated person as agreed.

**Triable only on indictment:** These offences are the most serious breaches of the criminal law and must be tried at the Crown Court before a judge and jury. These ‘indictable-only’ offences include murder, manslaughter, rape and robbery.

**Triable-either-way:** These offences may be tried either at the Crown Court or at a magistrates’ court. These offences include criminal damage where the value is £5,000 or greater, theft, burglary and drink driving. Triable only on indictment and triable either way are frequently amalgamated to form indictable offences.

**Triage:** Triage is an informal process that means a young person will not be prosecuted, given a community resolution or youth caution. The young person can be asked to go to Youth Offending Team appointments. Children and young people who offend for the first time and have committed a less serious offence can be dealt with informally by the police. Triage is recorded on the police national computer (PNC) as no further action (NFA).

**Unpaid work requirement:** A requirement of a Youth Rehabilitation Order. Requires the young person to undertake unpaid work for the specified number of hours.

**Use of force:** Within youth justice statistics publications, in relation to Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR), any physical intervention is counted as a ‘use of force’. Use of force is recorded under the MMPR system. This is different to the Restrictive Physical Intervention system which only counts those physical interventions deemed restrictive.

**Youth Cautions:** Youth Cautions are a formal out-of-court disposal that can be used as an alternative to prosecution for children and young people (aged 10 to 17) in certain circumstances. A Youth Caution may be given for any offence where the young person admits an offence, there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction but it is not in the public interest to prosecute.

**Youth Conditional Cautions:** A Youth Conditional Caution allows an authorised person (usually a police officer) or a relevant prosecutor (usually a member of the Crown Prosecution Service) to decide to give a caution to a young person who has admitted guilt, with one or more conditions attached. When a young person is given a conditional caution for an offence, criminal proceedings for that offence are halted while the young person is given an opportunity to comply with the conditions. Where the conditions are complied with, the prosecution is not normally commenced.

**Youth Custody Service (YCS):** The Youth Custody Service was created in September 2017 and is part of Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service. Prior to that its functions were carried

out by the YJB. When a young person under 18 is remanded or sentenced to custody, the YCS decides where to place them. You can find out more about this process in the Placing young people in custody: Guide for youth justice practitioners<sup>14</sup>.

**Youth Justice Board (YJB):** YJB are a non-departmental public body responsible for overseeing the youth justice system in England and Wales. YJB is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Ministry of Justice.

**Young Offender Institution (YOI):** An accommodation type within the youth secure estate. Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) can accommodate young people aged from 15-21. However, the Youth Custody Service (YCS) is only responsible for commissioning YOIs which hold young males aged from 15-17. A small number of young people aged 18 will remain in an under 18s YOI before either being released or transitioning to the young adult or adult estate. YOIs tend to be larger than SCHs and STCs with lower ratios of staff to young people. Consequently, Young people who are more resilient and older may be placed in a YOI. Also, young people who predominantly externalise their risk may be placed within a YOI.

**Youth Offending Teams (YOTs):** Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) are multi-agency teams made up of representatives from police, probation, education, health and social services, and specialist workers, such as accommodation officers. In the year ending March 2017, there were 152 YOTs across England and Wales. Organised geographically and independent of the police and courts, they advocate for children and young people involved with the criminal justice system both in custody and in the community, run prevention programs aimed at keeping children and young people from criminal activity and also provide advice and guidance for children and young people and their families in court.

**Young person:** In the context of youth justice statistical publications, a young person refers to anyone between the ages of 10-17, unless stated otherwise. Young people are often referred to “children and young people” in youth justice statistical publications, although this is used interchangeably with and “young people” or “children”.

**Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO):** The Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) was introduced at the end of November 2009. The YRO provides judges and magistrates with a choice of 17 rigorous community options from which they can create a sentence specifically designed to deal with the circumstances of the children and young people before them. The requirements available for a YRO are: Supervision; Curfew; Activity; Unpaid Work; Attendance Centre; Electronic Monitoring; Programme; Education; Exclusion; Drug Treatment; Prohibited Activity; Intoxicating Substance Treatment; Residence; Drug Testing; Mental Health Treatment; Intensive Fostering; and Local Authority Residence.

**Youth secure estate:** There are three strands of the youth secure estate. These are; Secure Children’s Homes (SCH), Secure Training Centres (STC) and Young Offender Institutions (YOI).

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/placing-young-people-in-custody-guide-for-youth-justice-practitioners>.

## 7. Open Data Tables

This section explains the variables used in the open data tables. As with any large scale administrative recording system, figures are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

### 7.1 Youth Custody Open Data Table

These youth custody open data tables accompany the monthly Youth Custody Report<sup>15</sup>.

Variable	Description	Categories
Financial_Year_Month	The month and financial year the custody data covers. Custody figures are based on a snapshot <sup>1</sup> .	YYYY/YY_MM_mmm e.g. 2017/18_01_Apr = April 2017
Calendar_Year_Month	The month and calendar year the custody data covers. Custody figures are based on a snapshot <sup>1</sup> .	YYYY_MM_mmm e.g. 2017_04_Apr = April 2017
Age_Group	Age of young people in custody in years. Young people aged 10-14 have been aggregated into one age group. 18 year olds are not included.	10-14 15 16 17
Age_Group_Ordered	Age of young people in custody in years, with ordered groupings to aid pivot tables. Young people aged 10-14 have been aggregated into one age group. 18 year olds are not included.	1) 10-14 2) 15 3) 16 4) 17
Ethnicity_Group	Ethnic group of young people in custody. Asian, Black, Mixed and Other have been aggregated into BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic). Ethnicity as defined by the young person. There are some young people where the ethnicity has not been provided and therefore is Unknown.	BAME White Unknown
Gender	Gender of young people in custody.	Female Male
Accommodation_Type	This is the type of establishment the young person is placed in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure Children's Home (SCH)</li> <li>Secure Training Centre (STC)</li> <li>Young Offender Institution (YOI): males aged 15-17 only</li> </ul>	SCH STC YOI
Number_Children_and_Young_People	The number of young people in custody	
Provisional_Finalised	This says whether the data are provisional or finalised. Financial year data go through additional quality assurance once a year for publishing in the annual Youth Justice Statistics in January. They are then revised in the Youth Custody Report.	Provisional Finalised

<sup>1</sup> A snapshot of the custodial population is taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end.

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

## 7.2 Young Person Open Data Table

These young person open data tables are based on data from Youth Offending Teams on the number of children and young people sentenced and accompany the annual Youth Justice Statistics<sup>16</sup>.

Variable	Description	Categories
Financial_Year	The financial year the data covers.	YYYY/YY
YOT	Name of supervising Youth Offending Team (YOT) at sentence.	
Age_Group	Age of young people at sentence, in years. Young people aged 10-14 have been aggregated into one age group and young people aged 15-17 into another age group. 18 year olds are not included.	10-14 15-17
Ethnicity_Group	Ethnic group of young people at sentence. Asian, Black, Mixed and Other have been aggregated into BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic). Ethnicity as defined by the young person. There are some young people where the ethnicity has not been provided and therefore is Not Known.	BAME White Not Known
Gender	Gender of young person at sentence. There are some young people where the gender has not been provided and therefore is Not Known.	Female Male Not Known
Number_Children_and_Young_People	The number of young people cautioned or sentenced.	

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics#annual-statistics>

### 7.3 Offence Open Data Table

These offence open data tables are based on data from Youth Offending Teams on the proven offences committed by children and young people and accompany the annual Youth Justice Statistics<sup>17</sup>.

Variable	Description	Categories
Financial_Year	The financial year the data covers.	YYYY/YY
YOT	Name of supervising Youth Offending Team (YOT) at sentence.	
Proven_Offence_Type	Type of proven offence committed by young person, a proven offence is one which a young person receives a youth caution or court sentence. Offence groups Arson, Breach of Bail, Breach of Conditional Discharge, Death or Injury by Dangerous Driving, Fraud and Forgery, Racially Aggravated, Vehicle theft / Unauthorised taking and Not Known have been aggregated into Other.	
Number_Proven_Offences	The number of proven offences committed by young people. Not a count of young people, one young person may commit multiple offences.	

### 7.4 Outcome Open Data Table

These outcome open data tables are based on data from Youth Offending Teams on the cautions and sentences given to children and young people and accompany the annual Youth Justice Statistics<sup>18</sup>.

Variable	Description	Categories
Financial_Year	The financial year the data covers.	YYYY/YY
YOT	Name of supervising Youth Offending Team (YOT) at sentence.	
Caution_or_sentence_type	Type of youth caution or court sentence given to young person.	
Number_Caution_or_Sentence	The number youth cautions or court sentences given to young people. Not a count of young people, one young person may receive multiple sentences.	

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics#annual-statistics>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics#annual-statistics>

## 8. Directory of related internet websites on the Criminal Justice System

The following list of web sites contains information in the form of publications and/or statistics relating to the criminal justice system that may be of interest.

### Youth Justice Board

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/youth-justice-board-for-england-and-wales>

This site provides information on the Youth Justice Board, including statistics on the youth justice system: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics>.

The **Youth Justice Resource Hub** provides further guidance, training resources, research reports and effective practice for the youth justice community: <https://yjresourcehub.uk/>.

### Ministry of Justice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice>

This site provides information on the organisations within the justice system, reports and data, and guidance:

- Details of Ministry of Justice statistical publications, which can be viewed on-line, can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/statistics>. For historic publications, see the links to 'earlier volumes in the series' (on National Archives website) on individual publication pages.
- Information on the bodies within the justice system, such as HM Prison Service, the Youth Justice Board and HM Courts & Tribunals Service can be found at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/index.htm>

**The Crown Prosecution Service** <http://www.cps.gov.uk> Gives information on the department and provides particulars in relation to legal guidance, victims and witnesses, in addition to details of publications.

**The Attorney General's Office** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/attorney-generals-office>

Provides information on the role of the department including new releases; updates; reports; reviews and links to other law officers' departments and organisations.

**The Welsh Government**, <http://www.wales.gov.uk> Gives information on all aspects of the Welsh Government together with details of publications and statistics.

**The Scottish Government**, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk> Gives information on all aspects of the Scottish Executive together with details of publications and statistics.

**Criminal Justice System Northern Ireland**, <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/> Provides access to the main statutory agencies and organisations that make up the CJS in Northern Ireland together with details of publications.



**UK National Statistics Publication Hub**, <http://www.statistics.gov.uk> This is the UK's home of official statistics, reflecting Britain's economy, population and society at national and local level. There are links to the Office for National Statistics and the UK Statistics Authority.

**The Sentencing Council**, <https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/> The Sentencing Council is an independent, non-departmental public body of the Ministry of Justice which replaced the Sentencing Guidelines Council and the Sentencing Advisory Panel. The site contains information on: sentencing guidelines; general information on sentencing; and research and analysis undertaken by the Sentencing Council.

## Annex A

**Table A: Data sources used for each chapter of the report and the quality of the data**

Name	Owner	Description	Quality Status	Use in YJ Stats year ending March 2016
Police National Computer (PNC)	MoJ	The Police National Computer (PNC) is the police's administrative IT system used by all police forces in England and Wales and managed by the Home Office. The PNC largely covers recordable offences – these are all indictable and triable-either-way offences plus many of the more serious summary offences. Information regarding the proven re-offending behaviour of offenders and criminal histories of offenders has been compiled using the Ministry of Justice's extract from the Police National Computer (PNC). The quality of the information recorded on the PNC is generally assumed to be relatively high as it is an operational system on which the police depend, but analysis can reveal errors that are typical when handling administrative datasets of this scale.	National Statistics	Chapters 1, 2, 9, 10 and 11
Courts	MoJ	Statistics on prosecutions, convictions and sentencing are either derived from the LIBRA case management system, which holds the magistrates' courts records, or the Crown Court's CREST system which holds the trial and sentencing data. The data includes offences where there has been no police involvement, such as those prosecutions instigated by government departments, private organisations and individuals. From July 1995, all Crown Court data on trials and sentences has been received directly from the Court Service's CREST computer system and from November 2008 all magistrates' courts data has been provided by the LIBRA case management system. All data is subject to a variety of validation checks prior to publication.	National Statistics	Chapters 5, 6 and 11
Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF)	YJB	This system contains case level data on children and young people cautioned or convicted of an offence, submitted to the YJB from YOTs' operational case management systems. Prior to year ending March 2010 only summary level data was submitted to the YJB by YOTs. Data is submitted on a quarterly basis.	Admin System	Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and used for the local level data
eAsset / SACHS	YJB	Data for year ending March 2013 to the year ending March 2016 for under 18 year olds for Secure Children's Homes (SCHs), Secure Training Centres (STCs), and Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) comes from the YJB's eAsset database. Data for 18 year old females in SCHs and STCs also comes from eAsset and data for 18 year old males in YOIs comes from NOMS. Data is based on monthly snapshots of the youth secure	Admin System	Chapter 6 and 7

		estate, taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end. Data prior to year ending March 2013 comes from the YJB's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS) database.		
Behaviour management	YJB	The Behaviour Management data are taken from monthly summary level data returns from establishments to the YJB. In some cases the total figures for age, gender and ethnicity may not add up to the same figures due to recording issues. These small variations will not make any difference to the overall rates.	Admin System	Chapter 8
Deaths in custody and number of safeguarding and public protection incidents	YJB	Data on deaths in custody (YOIs, STCs and SCHs) and public protection incidents are based on information reported to the YJB.	Admin System	Annex A
Use of force under the Managing and Minimising Physical Restraint (MMPR) system	YJB	MMPR is a behaviour management and restraint system that has been developed specifically for staff working with children and young people in STCs and under-18 YOIs. All secure establishments currently report restraint incidents against the definition of RPI and this will continue. However, under MMPR, establishments are also required to report more detailed case level data on all uses of force, irrespective of whether they meet the RPI definition or not. This includes the use of MMPR techniques and any use of force that is not an MMPR technique.	Admin system	Chapter 8
Arrests	Home Office	The arrests figures relate to arrests for notifiable offences only, which form the basis of recorded crime statistics. The data presented are drawn from returns from the 43 local police forces in England and Wales, and cover trends in arrest rates in England and Wales, as well as breakdowns by offence group, gender and self-defined ethnicity. Figures on arrests reported to the Home Office reflect police activity and should not be used to infer levels of crime committed by offenders, or their specific characteristics.	National Statistics	Chapter 1
Mid-year estimates	ONS	Mid-2016 population estimates are available at national level by single year of age and sex and sub nationally (local authority/health area) by five-year age group and sex. These include additional selected age groups and broad components of population change. The population estimates reflect the local authority administrative boundaries that were in place on 30 June of the reference year of the tables.	National Statistics	Chapter 1 and 2
Crime Survey for England and Wales	ONS	The Crime Survey for England and Wales is a nationally representative survey of individuals aged 16 years and over living in private households in England and Wales. In 2009, the Crime Survey for England and	National Statistics	Annex B

		<p>Wales was extended to children and young people aged 10-15 (those aged 16 and 17 are included in the main survey). The primary objective of extending the survey was to provide estimates of the levels of crime experienced by children and young people and their risk of victimisation. Children are often involved in low-level incidents which may involve an offence in law but may not be viewed by participants, or others, as serious enough to amount to a crime. Two methods for classifying incidents recorded in the survey have been used – ‘preferred’ and ‘broad’. The ‘Preferred measure’ takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incidence (such as level of injury, value of item stolen or damaged, relationship with the perpetrator) while the ‘Broad measure’ counts all incidents which would be legally defined as crimes and therefore may include low-level incidents between young people. The analysis provided here uses the ‘preferred’ measure.</p> <p>For the children’s survey, property offences are restricted to personal level crimes only. Any household theft or criminal damage to the house/vehicle is recorded when the adult respondents from the household complete the survey themselves. Three offences from the children’s data – theft from or outside the dwelling, bicycle theft, and criminal damage to personal property – are all designated as household offences for the adults’ survey. In the children’s data, these are included if the property stolen or damaged belonged solely to the child respondent.</p>		
Adults in custody	MoJ	Key statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under the National Probation Service’s or Community Rehabilitation Companies’ supervision. It covers flows into these services (receptions into prison or probation starts) and flows out (discharges from prison or probation terminations) as well as the caseload of both services at specific points in time.	National Statistics	Chapter 11
Average number of days from offence to completion	MoJ	The criminal court timeliness measure is an estimated average of the time criminal cases spend in the CJS, across both magistrates’ and Crown tiers of criminal court. These statistics are sourced from the administrative data systems used in the magistrates’ courts and Crown Court, and are produced by linking records (the Libra Management Information Timeliness Analysis Report and CREST linked court data, HMCTS). Records are linked based on a combination of variables including given name, middle name, family name, date of birth, sex, postcode, a committal date, and	National Statistics	Annex E Tables

		two identifiers: the Arrest/Summons Number (ASN) and Pre-Trials Issue Unique Reference Number (PTIURN).		
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