Official Statistics

Guide to Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate

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1. Introduction

Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate statistics cover sexual and self-harm incidents and deaths across the Children and Young People Secure Estate in England and Wales. This document provides more detail on these statistics and is intended to provide a guide to concepts, definitions and interpretation of results.

The key areas covered are:

- An overview of Children and Young People Secure Estate statistics detailing the frequency and trends in recent years
- Links to other related publications
- Detailed notes on the data, including revisions and disclosure actions
- Details of the data sources and any recorded data quality issues as well as an overview of the production process of the statistics
- A glossary of the main terms used within the publication

2. Related Publications

Information and statistics relevant to the Children and Young People Secure Estate are covered in two other related statistical publications.

Safety in Custody Quarterly bulletin, self-harm and assaults in HM Prison Service establishments in England and Wales. Young Offender Institutions are predominately for 18 to 21 year olds but also include a small number of young people aged 15 to 17 in Young Offender Institutions. The latest Safety in Custody quarterly bulletin can be found here.

Safety in Custody bulletin and earlier editions at National Archives

Youth Justice Statistics This publication provides an overview of the Youth Justice System in England and Wales, including information on those who are in custody as well as custodial sentences and includes information on incidents in Children and Young People Secure Estate. Youth Justice Statistics

Youth Custody Service Monthly Data This monthly report provides information on the youth custody disposition and operational capacity in England and Wales. Youth Custody Report

3. Overview of Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate Statistics

This section describes the background to the statistics and the timing and frequency of publication.

3.1 Background to the Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate Statistics

The Youth Custody Service (YCS) was established in September 2017 as a distinct and dedicated service, with a clear mandate to deliver safe, secure and effective custody, responsible for the children and young people secure estate. YCS aims to accommodate all children and young people aged 17 years and under in custody across the secure estate. The secure estate for children and young people is made up of accommodation in one of the Young Offender Institutions (YOIs), Secure Training Centres (STCs) and Secure Children's Homes (SCHs). Within this accommodation, YCS aims to provide a safe environment and develop their sentences within the Children and Young People Secure Estate in readiness for a successful and short period before transitioning to the adult estate.

Incidents of assault, self-harm and deaths of children and young people in custody in England and Wales have been published in two statistical releases for several years.

Information on Deaths in Custody has been published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in the Deaths in Custody bulletin, including the Prisons and Youth Custody bulletin, but is not representative of the whole Children and Young People Secure Estate as Secure Children's Homes Reporting Centres and Secure Children's Homes are excluded.

Incidents information is also published in the annual Youth Justice Statistics, published by the MoJ, but this is a subset of incidents occurring in the Secure Training Centre and Children and Young People Secure Estate in England and Wales.

Incidents are reported differently across the two publications: Safety in Custody' and 'Youth Justice Statistics'. This reflects the different focus of the two publications, Safety in Custody focuses on the Prison Service and is dedicated to provide a holistic view of safety incidents across the Children and Young People Secure Estate, whilst Youth Justice Statistics focuses on the Youth Justice System and provides a wider view of the Youth Justice System.

The first Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate Bulletin was published in April 2021 covering the period to 31 December 2020.

3.2 Frequency and Timeliness of Publishing

This bulletin of present statistics is expected to be published quarterly in January, April, July and October, covering the twelve months ending 30th September, 31st December, 31st March and 30th June respectively. Therefore there will be an unaudited 9m figure in February and April.

Information is presented until the 'day' release when the finalised data for the financial year will be presented.

4. Statistical Notes

These statistics are designated as Experimental Statistics. This is because they are a development from Safety in Custody Statistics with the statistics mirroring the methodology used in Safety in Custody Statistics, but with a focus on the Children and Young People Secure Estate. This publication will undergo assessment and may be subject to further development based on user feedback.

Safety in Custody has been designated as National Statistics by the Statistics Engagement Group (SEG) and is compliant with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate Bulletin does not currently meet the National Statistics consistent with the Code of Practice whereas specifically in that:

- meet identified user needs;
- serve explained and accessible purposes;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

It is the intention to seek feedback from users of the statistics and groups with an interest in the statistics to ensure that the statistics are meeting the needs of information presented to stakeholders and public. This feedback will inform how we will aim to remove the experimental statistics designation.

4.1 Revisions

In accordance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, the Ministry of Justice is required to publish a revisions policy for its statistical outputs. The revisions policy for these statistics is found here: Code of Practice for Statistics.

The three reasons specified for statistics needing to be revised are changes in sources of administrative systems or methodology changes, receipt of previously unknown information and errors in statistical systems and processes. Each of these points, and its specific impact on the Children and Young People Secure Estate Statistics, are further explained below.

1. Changes in source of administrative systems/methodology changes

The administrative source used to provide information on assaults and self-harm – the Incident Reporting System (IRS) within the National Offender Management Information System (NOMIS) – has remained largely stable over the period covered by Safety in Custody (SiC).

Information within the bulletin for establishments that do not use IRS to demand their data collection relates specifically to Young Offender Institutions. These establishments have been using the same methodology for collecting and reporting on the information for assaults and this is reflected in the tables where sequences are not presented across the period of the break.

The change in data collection system for self-harm did not change the definition and methodology for self-harm. The change in IRS did not change the definition but the system changed the accuracy and completeness of the data provided. Reporting changes is not considered significant in terms of the counts of incidents but may lead to a slight increase in the number of incidents recorded and reported. The Youth Justice Board therefore is used to interpreting changes in the number of groups and hospital attendance before and after April 2019.

Information on deaths is sourced from records held within YCS. Due to the small number of cases it is anticipated that the counts will change due to any changes in coding of cause of death, or the date of death (when young people will be placed in hospital).

2. Receipt of previously unknown information

Assaults and Self-harm

Information on assaults and self-harm, both from the central administrative system and from those establishments not currently using the central system, are updated on a daily basis. They are reviewed quarterly and amendments are reflected in the bulletin and the finalised data recorded in the year. Amendments are made to the data after the bulletin has been published, but these are not significant in terms of the number of incidents identified. After the financial year, figures will only be amended if there have a major impact on the statistics. In which case revisions will be clearly identified.

Deaths

Figures for deaths during previous years may change due to late notifications and coroners' inquests. Information on deaths is reviewed and updated for the previous three years after the death. This changes tend to be small and do not affect trends.

3. Errors in statistical systems and processes

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

4.2 Disclosure

The disclosure policy used in the bulletin is designed to assess the risk of disclosure of sensitive information about identifiable individuals and the consequent harm that could result from such a breach. It has been developed against the law and statistics codes that have been a precedent.

Sensitive information includes protected characteristics such as race, disability, sexuality or religion of individuals, or incidents that could cause distress to the individual or their family if they were disclosed.

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) recommends that accounts accommodated at some establishments means that the risk of identification of individuals is greater than for reporting of assaults in custody. As a count of two or fewer incidents associated with a particular establishment, or a count of two or fewer incidents associated with a particular number could be deduced by subtraction from a total, another data item will be dropped or range of values (e.g. 1&2 or 1-5) other than being given precisely. Similar suppression will be carried out for tables containing counts split by protected characteristics.

Where rates of incidents are calculated, these will not be displayed where the base population is too low or rates based on such small populations can be extremely volatile and misleading due to the influence of a single or small number of individuals.

4.3 Figure 1 - Symbols Used

Not available	
..	Not to be found (all the final digit zero)
*	Suppressed (number of 2 or fewer)
^	Not applicable (rate not calculated for 0 children/population)
p	Provisional data
r	Revised data

5. Data Sources and Quality

This section collates the data sources used to compile the Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate Bulletin and contains assessments of their quality. The main sources the statistics are compiled from are:

- HMPPS Deaths in Prison Custody Database (for deaths)
- HMPPS Incident Reporting System (for assaults and self-harm in YOIs)
- Secure Training Centre and Secure Children's Home Reporting Systems (for assaults and self-harm in SCFs and SCHs)
- Youth Justice Applications Framework (for perpetrators)
- Statutory Management Monthly Returns (for assaults and self-harm before April 2019)

5.1 Data sources and extraction:

Assaults and Self-harm

Development

The data sources used within YCS to deliver information on assaults and self-harm were developed in April 2019 to provide a more robust and consistent data set. This was based on a principle set of mandatory fields collected in place across the Children and Young People Secure Estate and implementing more coherent processes to reflect the Youth Justice Board (YJB) recommendations and the requirements of the Youth Justice Board and Ministry of Justice.

Prior to April 2019 the YCS and previously the Youth Justice Board (YJB) reported on assaults and self-harm in Young Offender Institutions using a mixture of establishments using Statutory Management Reports. YOIs, STCs and SCHs reported aggregate numbers of incidents on these returns along with the protected characteristics of the children and young people involved and an narrative description of the incidents.

At the same time, information on incidents in YOIs was reported in the HMPPS Safety in Custody publication using information from the HMPPS Incident Reporting System (IRS). This is an administrative system which records detailed information on incidents involving children and young people in YOIs. Information from the IRS is also used in the National Offender Management Information System (NOMIS).

In the case of assaults, the reporting methodology differed between the two systems and publications, leading to a potentially confusion picture of assaults in the Children and Young People Secure Estate.

The YCS decided in 2019 to retend the counting rules used on IRS and to develop new reporting requirements mirroring IRS for use in all parts of the Children and Young People Secure Estate that did not have access to IRS (YOIs Establishments and SCHs). This arrangement came into operation in April 2019.

Break in Time Series of Assaults

The way that assaults incidents are counted in the Children and Young People Secure Estate changed in April 2019 to provide a more robust and consistent data set. This has resulted in a break in the time series and comparisons of assault numbers before and after April 2019 should not be made. This break in the time series affects all assault categories and subcategories. The two systems are described in Figure 2.

Figure 2 - Changes in Assault Incident Counting Rules

Pre April 2019 – YOIs, STCs and SCHs	Post – YOIs and Pre April 2019 YOIs
All assault incidents recorded on a Statutory Management Report and where the incident involves children held with young people in a YOI, STC or SCH	All assault incidents recorded on IRS and where the incident involves children of the same or different age groups
Only one assault – by the perpetrator	Multiple assaults – by the perpetrator

IRS counting rules were adapted to increase consistency with the rest of HMPPS and to extend the overall count of incidents being influenced by local interpretations of rules and biases. Investigations also revealed different interpretations of what constitutes a fight and what constitutes an assault. Guidance was developed and then published in "Youth Justice Statistics" and therefore a number of assaults were being going unreported. For these reasons and once the IRS counting rules were already in place in YOIs, the YJB decided to extend the IRS counting rules to STCs and SCHs. This change was made in "Youth Justice Annual Statistics – 2018/19" and in the Children and Young People Secure Estate adopting the new counting rules from April 2019.

As well as the change in counting rules, a new definition of assault was introduced in April 2019 to be used across the Children and Young People Secure Estate. The definition and categorisation of assaults in the Youth Justice Board (YJB) Annual Statistics and categorisations set out in the Glossary within this guide.

Current Systems

In establishments using the HMPPS Incident Reporting System (IRS), which for the purposes of this bulletin are Young Offender Institutions, the number of incidents of assault and self-harm recorded in IRS. Monthly extracts are produced from the system and are used to populate the Safety in Custody publication. Information from which the statistics are derived. The extract used is the same as that used to populate the Youth Justice Board (YJB) Annual Statistics. Information on the perpetrators of assaults and victims of assaults (YOI Children and HMPPS Children and HMPPS Young Adult) incidents relating to the parts of these establishments within the Children and Young People Secure Estate are also extracted from the Youth Justice Applications Framework (YJAF) and included within the bulletin.

In the parts of the Children and Young People Secure Estate that do not use IRS, i.e. STCs and SCHs, information on assault and self-harm incidents are recorded on Excel using bespoke templates on a monthly basis. The templates mirror the information on IRS and include additional information on the victim and perpetrator.

Information from both IRS and the bespoke templates is extracted on a few months basis and is reviewed by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The extract of the monthly returns are also originally submitted. Information from the bespoke templates is also uploaded to the Youth Justice Applications Framework (YJAF) and is reviewed by the YJB and MoJ.

Assault and self-harm incidents that occur when a child or young person is in the custody of an escort contractor. For example when being transported between court and an establishment or between establishments, are not included in the Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate Bulletin. These incidents are recorded on records that are recorded on IRS are included in the "Safety in Custody" bulletin. Information on escorts is also published in the Ministry of Justice Quarterly.

Incidents that occur when a child or young person is released on temporary licence are not included in the "Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate Bulletin".

Deaths

Deaths in custody across the Children and Young People Secure Estate are compiled from data held in the HMPPS Deaths in Prison Custody Database. The database contains information on all deaths in custody across the prison estate. It does not cover the entirety of the Children and Young People Secure Estate which are not prisons but Secure Children's Homes and Secure Training Centres. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) publishes the Children and Young People Secure Estate deaths in custody data added to the database from records held within YCS and YJB. The database draws on data from a number of sources:

- Historical archives (Death registers)
- Coroners
- Prisoner records
- HMPPS strategic IT systems including:
  - HMPPS Incident Reporting System (IRS);
  - NOMIS (which replaced the Local Inmate Database System (LIDS);
  - Offender Management Information System (OMIS database and
  - Inmate Information System (IIS);
- Prison and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) fatal incident investigations
- Coroners
- HCA Head of Safety

Initial data is based on reports from establishments where deaths occurred and is appended with further details from strategic IT systems. Once available, PPO fatal incident investigations and Coroner's Inquest findings are used to cross check data and to fill in gaps and confirm classification where deaths are initially recorded as natural causes or other.

Population

Case-level information on all children and young people in custody is held on the Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF). The information is submitted from Youth Offending Teams and secure estates and includes information on the child, including information on the children and young people, their protected characteristics, details of their offences and sentence, and provides a record of movements in, out and between establishments.

The information on establishment movements is used to calculate the average population and the number of children in custody. The YJAF also records information on known data by protected characteristics and can be averaged over time to calculate or plot. It's the daily average population that is used in Bulletin to calculate the rate at which incidents occur.

5.2 Data quality

As well as local verification exercises a number of processes are completed to check and correct the model extract. These check for:

1. Duplicate incidents
2. Incidents recorded on young people recorded as having more than one risk or an incident (and individual) who can be attributed to more than one establishment
3. Incidents which match to the wrong individual in the population data
4. Incidents which do not match to any population record and so the date of the incident
5. Incidents that match to multiple individuals in the population due to duplicate records in the population
6. For IRS records, each incident is reviewed centrally to ensure that the variables recorded with the incident is consistent with its classification e.g. that injuries are correctly assigned and prisoners are attributed to the incident correctly.

Once highlighted these errors are corrected either using substantial processes or by the local establishment. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) review the number of assault or unreported incidents by establishment to identify any potential issues with the data. Any significant issues in the incident record or the population data collected are flagged on the dashboard.

All incidents are recorded from the point of absolute behaviour (when the incident). It is not therefore possible to determine the objective of an act of self-harm by any degree of certainty. Not all self-harm is recorded as a self-harm incident. Staff may, for fear of its failure, that could actually attempt a self-harm incident. It is also not always possible to attribute intent to an assault incident and to decide rates such as assaults per 100 children and young people in custody. Assaults, including serious assaults, may equally be motivated by a fight/an rather than disputes between people who instigated the incident. The definitions used for incidents and participants used in this bulletin are set out in the Glossary.

It is accepted that there is a degree of interpretation required in recording all incidents, particularly those of self-harm. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) collect two confirmations to minimise separate account incidents in a single event. Staff are encouraged to report all incidents of self-harm and assault and these should not be devaluated by staff before they reach the threshold where they are recorded as an incident. Staff are encouraged to report incidents of self-harm and assault and there is a hierarchy to support efficient reporting without inflating the number of incidents. Not all parts of the central count of incidents.

In the secure estate, as in the community, it is not possible to count self-harm incidents with absolute accuracy. These who self-harm often do so covertly. In the general population, self-harm is a well-known phenomenon. In custody, the vulnerable are more likely to be detected and intervened with than those who are not detected. Within the Children and Young People Secure Estate, where staffing levels are high, it is more likely that self-harm will be detected and intervened with although so far as there it is possible that a small number of incidents will not be.

Assigning the correct child (provided: victim, fighter etc.) to individuals involved in an incident is important to ensure that the correct child is recorded as being in an incident, or involved in an incident and investigations have shown that this doesn't happen too been and where it is not otherwise clear which rule to assign. Doing this would reduce the count of incidents and rates.

The IRS contains details of the children and young people in custody but not the staff involved in incidents. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) are trying to establish the impact of staff on the assault and self-harm measure and it is therefore not possible to report on the number of staff involved but rather the number of assaults involving children where number of staff are recorded.

The IRS records injuries relating to assaults in terms of the most serious injury resulting from an assault. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) are trying to establish whether injuries are being underreported. This means that it is not possible to report on the number of assaults resulting in minor injuries, serious injuries, minor, child and young person or staff injuries separately. Further, the prevalence of abscondings means this is unsatisfactory.

In addition to incidents, the bulletin also reports the number of unique individuals involved in incidents. This is a more robust measure than the number of incidents, a consistent method of identifying the individuals over time and between establishments. Records are checked to ensure that as far as possible an individual is not counted more than once. However, it is not possible to match records before April 2019 (YOI-YJB Annual Statistics) where counts of individuals are not available on a monthly basis.

Data relating to deaths in custody are closely scrutinised and are considered to be of high quality. However, it is possible for classifications by change over time as new information emerges, in particular following inquests, which can occur after several years.

5.3 Overview of data accuracy

A full review of quality is beyond the scope of this guide.

The relatively small size of the Children and Young People Secure Estate and the protected characteristics of the children and young people in custody, the data processes in place by Ones IRS Data Team for YOIs and the auditing processes in place, mean that most issues with YOI data can be controlled. The relatively small population in the Children and Young People Secure Estate and the need to safeguard the children and young people accommodated creates most incidents to be captured accurately.

The data presented in this report are considered sufficiently for analysing trends and determining trends in the level of incidents across the Children and Young People Secure Estate. However, the small population in the Children and Young People Secure Estate means there will continue to be a small number of issues and are numbers should not be relied upon to be precise.

6. Differences from Safety in Custody

The Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate Bulletin was conceived to be a development from the Safety in Custody Statistics. The aim was to provide information contained in the bulletin in a largely consistent with that contained in Safety in Custody with some changes to ensure a more suitable presentation of youth settings. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) are trying to establish the impact of staff on the assault and self-harm measure.

There are a few differences in the presentation of data between Safety in Custody and Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate Bulletin, which are listed below:

- The population reported and used to calculate rates is derived from YJAF rather than NOMIS as in the case for Safety in Custody. The rationale for this is that the average of the Children and Young People Secure Estate whereas NOMIS is only for YOIs. The population in the Children and Young People Secure Estate is a more low-level (with system level) population in the same way.
- The daily average population is used in the Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate Bulletin to calculate rates rather than the end of month population in Safety in Custody. The average is used as it better reflects the day-to-day experiences of children and young people in custody and reports every child or young person who was in custody at any point in the month. The end of month population rates in custody, especially where small population levels are concerned, can be misleading and fairly expensive.
- The Youth Justice Board (YJB) in the Children and Young People Secure Estate Bulletin uses an average of the children and young people (CYP) per month. Where reference to 'children' in the bulletin refers to the children and young people in custody. The average is used as it better reflects the day-to-day experiences of children and young people in custody and reports every child or young person who was in custody at any point in the month. The end of month population rates in custody, especially where small population levels are concerned, can be misleading and fairly expensive.
- The Youth Justice Board (YJB) in the Children and Young People Secure Estate Bulletin uses an average of the children and young people (CYP) per month. Where reference to 'children' in the bulletin refers to the children and young people in custody. The average is used as it better reflects the day-to-day experiences of children and young people in custody and reports every child or young person who was in custody at any point in the month. The end of month population rates in custody, especially where small population levels are concerned, can be misleading and fairly expensive.
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7. Users and Uses of These Statistics

Through accounts, self-harm and assaults in custody are important and financial terms

is high and especially so for children and young people in custody. This bulletin, together with 'Safety in Custody' adds to the body of learning in this area and supports work to prevent such tragedies in future.

The statistics included in this publication are expected to be used extensively and meet a broad spectrum of user needs as shown below.

User	Summary of main statistical needs
MOJ Ministers	Use the statistics to monitor the safety and wellbeing of the population of under 18s in custody and to assess policy impacts
MPs and House of Lords	Statistics are frequently used to answer parliamentary questions
Monitoring and Accountability	E.g. Justice Select Committee use Safety statistics as a primary data source for monitoring and public accountability
Policy teams	Statistics are used to inform policy development, to monitor impact of changes over time and to model future changes and their impact on the system
Agencies responsible for offender management	Current and historical robust administrative data are used to support performance management information at national and local levels to complement their understanding of the current picture and trends over time
Academia, students and businesses	Used as a source of statistics for research purposes and to support lectures, presentations and conferences
Journalists	Used as a compendium of robust data on safety in custody so that an accurate and coherent story can be told on the safety of the prison environment
Voluntary sector	Data are used to monitor trends of the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in custody, to reuse the data in their own briefing and research papers and to inform policy work and responses to consultations
General public	Data are used to respond to ad-hoc requests and requests made under the Freedom of Information Act. Bulletin used by interested members of the public to become better informed on the issues of safety in youth custody

8. Glossary

Assailant: An individual who commits an assault as defined in this guide on other individual(s) and who is not subjected to unnecessary force themselves within the same incident. Assailants will always result in one or more victims if those assaulted do not, or are unable to retaliate with unnecessary force.

Assaults: Unwanted physical contact between two or more individuals, excluding Use of Force or anything of a purely verbal or threatening nature.

The degree of force used is immaterial (e.g. spitting, pushing or striking) and physical contact can be by any part of the body or bodily fluid, or by the use of any weapon or missile. To be considered an assault incident it is not necessary for there to be injury of any kind.

Assault Incident: An incident including at least one interaction which meets the definition of assault. It may not always be clear where the boundary of one incident ends and another starts. How incidents that occur closely together in time or area are counted is a matter of judgement for staff at the scene.

Average Population: The average number of children and young people accommodated within the Children and Young People Secure Estate at the end of each day including those temporarily absent from the establishment but still under the care of the establishment. Children on welfare placements in SCHs are not included in the population count.

Child and young person: In the context of this bulletin children and young people refer to people between the ages of 10 and 17 held in custody and those aged over 17 who remain within the Children and Young People Secure Estate to complete their sentence. Children on 'welfare' placements within SCHs are not included in counts of children and young people for the purposes of this bulletin.

Coroner: An independent judicial office-holder, appointed by and paid by the relevant local authority. A coroner must be either an experienced lawyer, doctor or both. Coroners inquire into violent and unnatural deaths, sudden deaths of unknown cause, and deaths that have occurred in prison and certain other categories specified in the Coroners Act 1988.

Death in custody: Any death of a child and young person in custody arising from an incident occurring during (or, on rare occasions, immediately prior to) custody. It would include deaths of children and young people who were temporarily released from custody for medical reasons but not who were on any other type of temporary release.

Fighter: An individual who commits an assault as defined in this guide on another individual and is then also subjected to unnecessary force themselves within the same incident.

Where two or more young people are 'exchanging blows', they would typically both be recorded as fighters irrespective of who struck first.

Fights (prior to Apr 19): The Behaviour Management returns in use prior to April 2019 recorded fights separately from assaults. A fight was recorded where the perpetrator of an incident could not be established.

Homicide: Any death of a person at the hands of another. This includes murder and manslaughter.

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS): The agency responsible for prisons and probation and including the Youth Custody Service. Up to 1 April 2017, this agency was known as the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

Incident reporting System (IRS): A system introduced in the late 1980s to record a range of incidents in prisons and YOIs including escapes, absconds, fire, drugs, damage to property, assaults etc.

Injury: An incident is reported as resulting in an injury if any participant sustains an injury that requires any kind of treatment, whether on site or in hospital. Minor injuries requiring no treatment are not included.

Inquest: A fact-finding inquiry to establish who has died, how, when and where the death occurred.

Ministry of Justice (MoJ): The Ministry with responsibility for HMPPS.

Minor Injury (Assaults data prior to Apr 19): The Behaviour Management returns in use prior to April 2019 defined minor injuries as those that required treatment but on-site only.

Natural cause death: Any death of a person as a result of a naturally occurring disease process.

National Offender Management Information System (NOMIS): The HMPPS prisoner record system used in both public and private sector YOIs.

Other death: Any death of a person whose death cannot easily be classified as natural causes, selfinflicted or homicide. The 'other' category includes two sub categories 'other/non-natural deaths' and deaths 'awaiting further information'.

Other/non-natural death: This category includes accidents arising from external causes, accidental overdose/ poisoning and deaths where taking a drug contributed to a death but not in fatal amounts. It also includes a small proportion of deaths which even after all investigations have been concluded the cause remains unknown. The category is one of two sub categories of 'other' deaths.

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

Secure Training Centre (STC): An accommodation type within the Children and Young People Secure Estate offering secure provision to sentenced or remanded children aged 12 to 17. STCs are available to place those children 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 can be educated and rehabilitated.

Self-harm: Any act by which a child or young person deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent, or severity of injury.

Serious assault: An assault is classified as serious if:

- it is a sexual assault;
- it results in detention in outside hospital as an in-patient;
- it requires medical treatment for concussion or internal injuries;
- the injury is a fracture, scald or burn, stabbing, crushing, extensive or multiple bruising, black eye, broken nose, lost or broken tooth, cuts requiring suturing, bites or temporary or permanent blindness.

Serious Injury (Assaults data prior to Apr 19): The Behaviour Management returns in use prior to April 2019 defined minor injuries as those that required hospital treatment.

Self-inflicted death: Any death of a person who has apparently taken his or her own life irrespective of intent. It includes a wider range of deaths than just suicides.

Staff Assault: Any assault incident where a member of staff is subject to an assault by a child and young person as defined in this guide. An assault incident may be both a child on child assault and a staff assault if more than one category of victim is reported.

Victim: An individual who is subjected to an assault as defined in this guide and who does not, or is not able to retaliate in a way that would itself be classified as an assault within the same incident. Within an assault incident an assailant or fighter cannot also be recorded as a victim under these definitions of terms.

Welfare Placement: A child placed in a secure children's home by the local authority on a welfare matter. Incidents involving welfare children are not included within this bulletin other than when an assault incident also involves a child and young person remanded to custody by the courts or sentenced to custody (a 'justice' placement). In these cases, although the incident is reported the 'welfare' child is not reported as a participant, irrespective of whether they were an assailant, victim or fighter.

Youth Custody Service (YCS): Established in September 2017 as a distinct arm of her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). YCS has operational responsibility for the children and young people's secure estate, which accommodates all children and young people aged 17 years and under in custody across England and Wales. As at January 2021 children and young people in custody are accommodated in one of five Young Offender Institutions (YOIs), two Secure Training Centres (STCs) and eight Secure Children's Homes (SCHs). Within this accommodation are a number of 18-year-olds who are either completing their sentences within the Children and Young People Secure Estate or remaining in the estate for a short period before transitioning to the adult estate.

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

Young Offender Institution (YOI): An accommodation type within the Children and Young People Secure Estate that can accommodate young people aged from 15 to 21. However, the Youth Custody Service (YCS) is only responsible for commissioning YOIs which hold young males aged from 15 to 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.

9. Contact points

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

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

Katherine Tatlock

Youth Custody Service
HM Prison and Probation Service
Southern House
Wellesley Grove
Croydon
CR0 1XG

Email: statistics.enquiries@justice.gov.uk

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from https://www.statistics.gov.uk

Ministry of Justice publishes data relating to offender management in England and Wales. Equivalent statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland can be found at:

https://www.gov.scot/collections/crime-and-justice-statistics

https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/topics/doj-statistics-and-research

Alternative formats are available on request from statistics.enquiries@justice.gov.uk

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1. The YCS is also responsible for the management of Feltham B, which accommodates young adults aged 18 to 21 on the same site as Feltham A, which accommodates 15 to 17 year olds. Incidents in Feltham B is not included within this bulletin ↩
2. Medway STC was managed directly by HMPPS and was also using IRS at this time ↩
3. Medway STC closed at the end of January 2020 ↩

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