

Statistical Release

OSR 21/2011

24 October 2011

Coverage: England

**Theme: Youth
Offending**

Issued by
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Telephone:
Press Office
020 7925 6789
Public Enquiries
020 7340 8083

Statistician
Richard White

Email
richard.white@education.gsi.gov.uk

Internet
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t001042/index.shtml>

10-17 YEAR OLDS BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURTS FOR OFFENCES RELATING TO THE PUBLIC DISORDER BETWEEN 6TH AND 9TH AUGUST 2011: BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS, SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

This release presents information on the background characteristics of young people aged 10-17 who have appeared before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder in August 2011.

The figures are based on matching Ministry of Justice (MoJ) records of those aged 10-17 who had appeared before the courts as at midday 28th September to information from the National Pupil Database (NPD) held by the Department for Education (DfE). The initial analysis of matched cases shows that for individuals brought before the courts:

- 42 per cent of young people were in receipt of Free School Meals (compared to 16 per cent of pupils in maintained secondary schools)
- 66 per cent of young people had some provision for special educational needs (compared to 21 per cent of all pupils in maintained secondary schools)
- Over a third (36 per cent) of young people were identified as having at least one fixed period exclusion from school during 2009/10 (compared to 6 per cent of Year 11 pupils)
- Just over half had achieved the expected level of Key Stage 2 attainment in English and Maths assessments (compared to three quarters of all pupils who completed Key Stage 2 assessments in 2005/06)
- 11 per cent achieved 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE including English and Maths (compared to 53 per cent of all pupils in 2009/10)

There is significant overlap between each of these indicators, and therefore these separate indicators should be viewed as a linked picture of the young people brought before the courts.

Introduction

This release presents information on the background characteristics of young people aged 10-17 who have appeared before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder in August 2011. It examines their demographic characteristics, school attendance and educational attainment records. It also considers how the profile of this group of young people compares with the characteristics of all children in maintained secondary schools.

The public disorder began on 6th August 2011. On 7th and 8th August there were further outbreaks of disorder mainly in London. On 9th August the incidents were mainly outside of London.

The analysis is based on matching MoJ records of those who had appeared before the courts as of midday 28th September 2011 for offences relating to the disorder of 6th to 9th August to information from the National Pupil Database (NPD) held by the Department for Education (DfE).

It should be borne in mind that:

- the group of people brought before the courts is only a subset of all people who took part in the public disorder of 6th to 9th August 2011. It is therefore possible that there are differences between the people brought before the courts to date and all those who took part in the disorder.
- some of the people brought before the courts will have their charges dropped or be acquitted.
- there are new cases being brought before the courts for events relating to the disorder on a daily basis. It is possible that there may be differences in characteristics or age profiles of those brought before the courts later compared to those who have appeared so far.

As of midday 28th September there were 465 10-17 year olds who had appeared before the courts. Of these, NPD records were obtained for 386 individuals aged 10-17 at the start of the 2010/11 academic year (a match rate of 83 per cent). The matched sample is broadly representative of the full cohort of 465 young people appearing before the courts in terms of age, ethnicity and Local Authority of residence. Further information on the matching process can be found at the end of this release.

Background characteristics

This section reports on the background characteristics of young people appearing before the courts as recorded in the most recently available NPD record for each individual where a match between MoJ and DfE records were found. These records indicate that of those aged 10-17 at the start of the academic year 2010/11 (31 August 2010) for whom matched data are available:

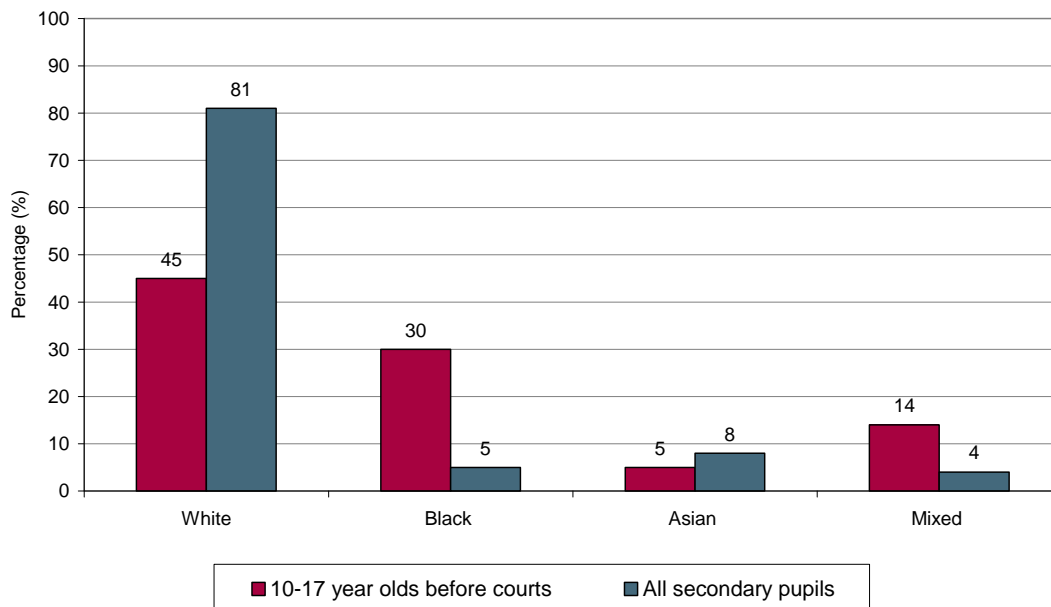
- 88 per cent were male and 12 per cent were female (Table 4.7)
- The majority were aged between 14 and 16 at the start of the academic year 2010/11. It should be borne in mind that by the time the disturbances took place in August 2011 the majority would have been one year older.
- The majority (59 per cent) were from London. Other main areas which accounted for a proportion of young people appearing before the courts were the North West (18 per cent of total appearances), the West Midlands (seven per cent) and the East Midlands (six per cent).

- The ethnic breakdown of the matched sample of 10-17 year olds was: 45 per cent white, 30 per cent black, five per cent Asian and 14 per cent mixed race (Table 4.8a).

The proportion of black and mixed race young people appearing before the courts is high compared with the ethnic composition of all pupils in maintained secondary schools. Conversely, the proportion of Asian young people appearing before the courts is low compared with all pupils in maintained secondary schools.¹

This pattern is consistent whether comparisons are made across England as a whole or separately for the regions, London and the North West, which accounted for the most court appearances. In London, for example, the proportion of black 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts (41 per cent) was twice as high as the proportion of black pupils attending maintained secondary schools in London (21 per cent) (Table 4.8b).

Figure 4.1: Proportion of 10-17 year olds appearing before courts by ethnic group - Comparison with all pupils in maintained secondary schools Jan 2011



¹ Figures for all pupils in maintained secondary schools taken from DfE: Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics, January 2011

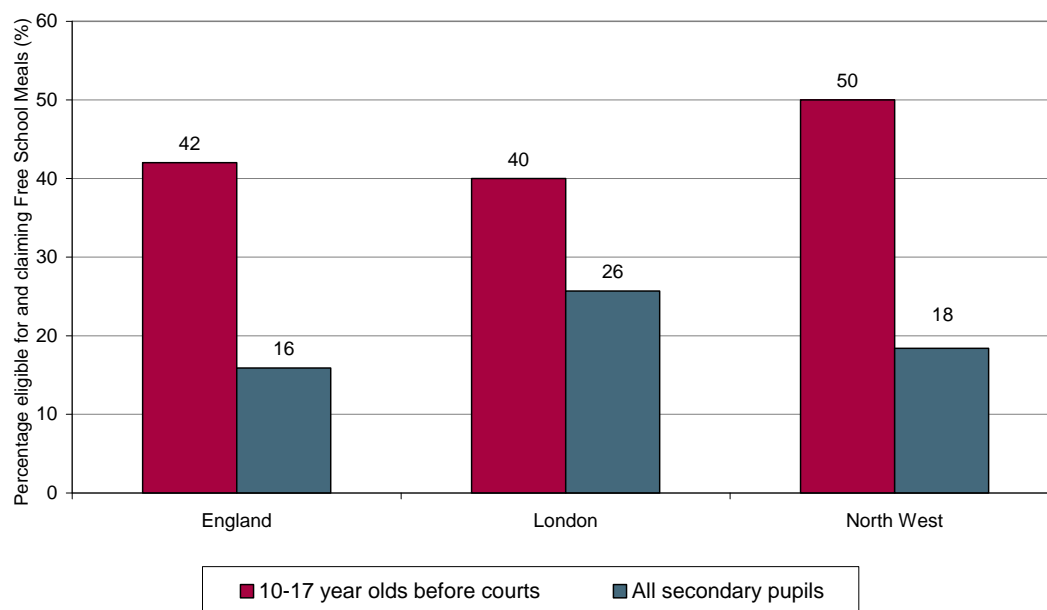
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml>

Indicators of deprivation

Eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM) provides an indicator of whether the individuals appearing before the courts were themselves living in a low income household. 42 per cent of 10-17 year olds for whom matched data were available was eligible for and claiming FSM according to the most recent available record, which compares to 16 per cent of all 11-15 year olds in maintained secondary schools in January 2011² (Table 4.9a).

This indicates that the young people appearing before the courts were disproportionately from poorer households³. This pattern can also be seen in London, where 40 per cent of those appearing before the courts were in receipt of FSM compared to 26 per cent of all London pupils, and the North West (50 per cent and 18 per cent respectively) (Table 4.9b).

Figure 4.2: Proportion of 10-17 year olds appearing before courts eligible for and claiming Free School Meals (FSM) by region. Comparison with all pupils in maintained secondary schools in January 2011



² DfE NPD data includes all children in maintained schools in England. This accounts for the majority of young people up to the end of compulsory school; post 16 young people take a variety of pathways and NPD data are less representative of older age groups. As a result the comparisons in this report tend to be for 11-15 year olds only.

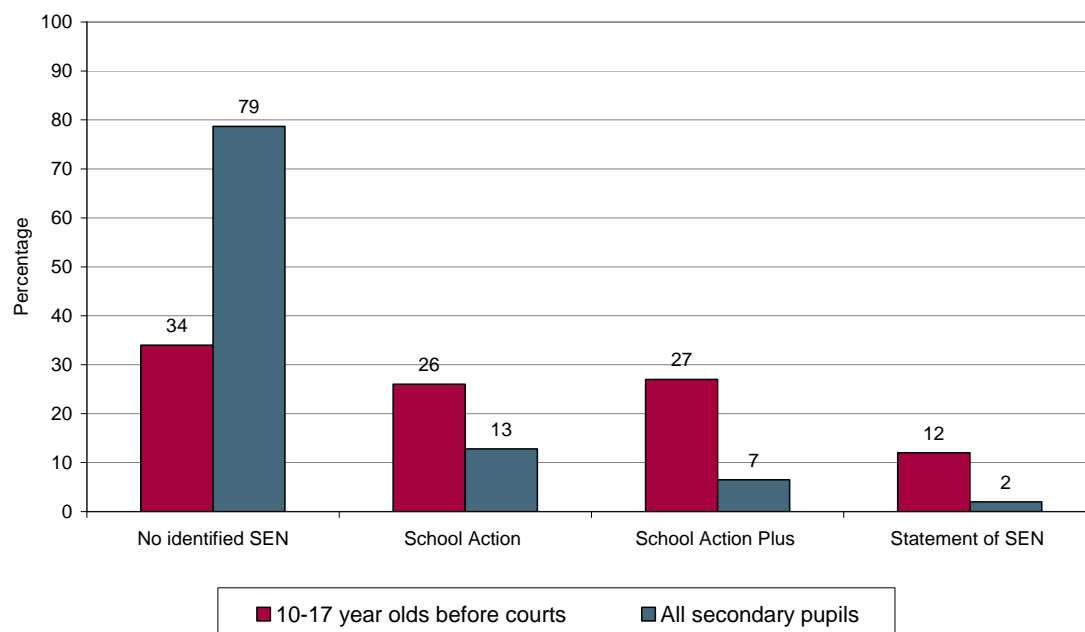
³ This comparison probably slightly underestimates the “socio-economic gap” between those appearing before the courts and the general population given that the proportion of pupils eligible for and claiming FSM declines with age and a significant proportion of those appearing before the courts were aged 16 and above

Young people appearing before the courts came disproportionately from areas with high levels of income deprivation as defined by the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) rankings for 2010. 64 per cent of 10-17 year olds for whom matched data were available lived in one of the 20 per cent most deprived areas whilst only three per cent lived in one of the 20 per cent least deprived areas (Table 4.10a). The differences are more notable in the North West (where 68 per cent of matched 10-17 year olds lived in the most deprived areas, compared to 28 per cent of all secondary school pupils) than in London (where the figures were 64 per cent and 50 per cent respectively) (Tables 4.10b and 4.10c).

Special Educational Needs

A high proportion of 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts had been identified as having special educational needs (SEN). Two-thirds (66 per cent) of 10-17 year olds for whom matched data were available had some form of SEN. This includes 12 per cent with a statement of SEN, a level of provision for those with the most severe needs. In comparison, 21 per cent of all pupils in maintained secondary schools had SEN and two per cent had a statement of SEN⁴ (Table 4.11).

Figure 4.3: Proportion of 10-17 year olds appearing before courts identified with special educational needs. Comparison with all pupils in maintained secondary schools Jan 2011



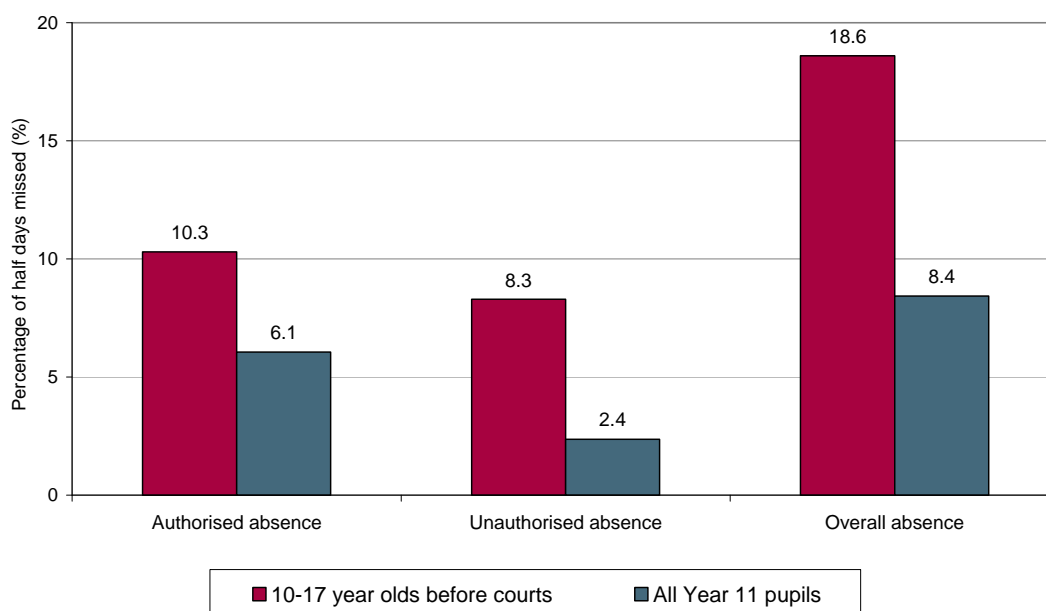
⁴ Figures for all pupils in maintained secondary schools taken from Special Educational Needs in England: January 2011 <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001007/index.shtml>

School attendance

The average overall absence rates⁵ for the 381 10-17 year olds for whom attendance data are available was 19 per cent. The average rate of unauthorised absence was eight per cent. Three in ten (30 per cent) were classed as persistent absentees⁶ (Table 4.12a).

These figures indicate that absence rates among those 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts are considerably higher than average. In particular, the rate of unauthorised absence is around three times higher among those appearing before the courts⁷. The proportion of persistent absentees among those appearing before the courts (30 per cent) is four times higher than the average for Year 11 pupils in 2009/10 (seven per cent)⁸.

Figure 4.4: Absence rates among 10-17 year olds appearing before courts. Comparison with all Year 11 pupils in maintained secondary schools in 2009/10



⁵ The National Pupil Database contains information on pupil absence rates, i.e. the number of half days missed due to absence calculated as a proportion of the total number of possible half day sessions. Separate figures are available for authorised, unauthorised and overall absence rates. Absence rates for individuals appearing before the courts were calculated using data from the most recent school year for which matched data are available (2009/10 in most cases)

⁶ Persistent absentees are defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, around 20 per cent overall absence rates

⁷ There is a high proportion of 15 and 16 year olds appearing before the courts. As absence rates tend to increase with age, we have made comparisons in the chart with the average absence rates among Year 11 pupils in maintained secondary schools in 2009/10 rather than all pupils

⁸ Figures for all Year 11 pupils in maintained secondary schools taken from Pupil Absence in Schools in England, Including Pupil Characteristics: 2009/10 <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000994/index.shtml>

The finding that absence levels among the 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts are above average is perhaps not surprising given the socio-demographic characteristics of this group. Absence rates tend to be higher among pupils eligible for and claiming FSM and those with SEN, both of which groups are over represented amongst the matched sample of 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts.

However, absence rates for those appearing before the courts are relatively high even when compared with average rates of absenteeism among secondary pupils with similar characteristics. For example, 10 per cent of all secondary pupils eligible for FSM were classed as persistent absentees in 2009-10 compared with 38 per cent of those appearing before the courts who were eligible for FSM (Table 4.12b).

School exclusions

There was a high incidence of school exclusions among 10 to 17 year olds appearing before the courts for those whose records were matched to the NPD. Over a third (36 per cent) were identified as having had at least one fixed period exclusion during 2009/10 compared to six per cent of all Year 11 pupils.⁹ Three per cent were identified as having been permanently excluded during the year compared to 0.1 per cent of all Year 11 pupils (Table 4.13).¹⁰

⁹ Comparison based on all those pupils aged 15 as of 31st August 2009. There is a high proportion of 15 and 16 year olds appearing before the courts. As exclusion rates tend to increase with age, we have made comparisons with exclusion rates among 15 year old pupils in maintained secondary schools in 2009/10 rather than all pupils.

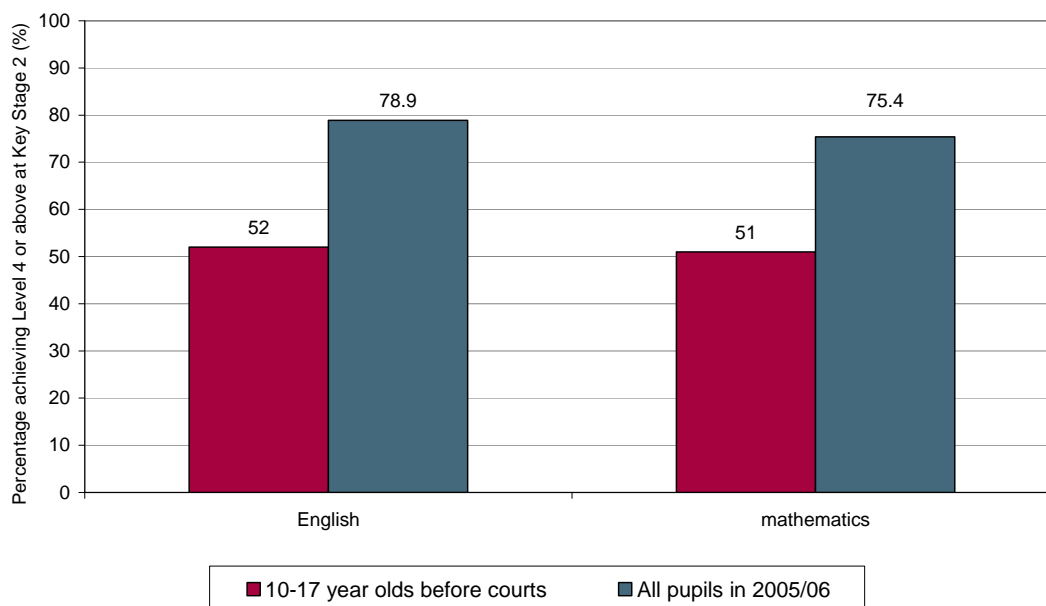
¹⁰ Comparative figures for all pupils derived from Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2009/10. The number of individuals appearing before the courts who were excluded in 2009/10 is expressed as a percentage of all 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts. This includes some people who may not have been in maintained schools in 2009/10 and so is likely to be an underestimate of the proportion of those in maintained schools who were excluded.

Attainment at KS2

Data on attainment at Key Stage 2 (i.e. at the end of primary school) provides a measure of prior attainment for 94 per cent of the matched sample of 10 to 17 year olds appearing before the courts, including those who have not yet reached the end of Key Stage 4. The key measures of performance at Key Stage 2 (KS2) are achieving the expected level (Level 4) in English and Maths assessments. Of the 364 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for whom KS2 attainment data were available, around half achieved the expected level 4 in English and Maths assessments (52 per cent and 51 per cent respectively) (Table 4.14a).

The chart below shows that KS2 attainment among those appearing before the courts was below average. In 2005/06¹¹ 79 per cent of all pupils achieved Level 4 or above in English at the end of KS2 whilst 75 per cent achieved Level 4 or above in Maths¹². The fact that those young people appearing before the courts performed below average at KS2 can at least partly be explained by the high incidence of young people identified with SEN amongst this group: children with SEN are much less likely to reach the expected level at KS2. However, even restricting the comparison to those with no SEN identified, attainment remains lower among those young people appearing before the courts compared with the national average (Table 4.14b).

Figure 4.5: Proportion of 10-17 year olds appearing before courts achieving Level 4 or above in English and Mathematics at National Curriculum Key Stage 2 tests: Comparison with all pupils in 2005/06



¹¹ It is most appropriate to compare the KS2 performance of those 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts against the performance of all pupils completing KS2 in 2005/06, the median year in which the matched sample completed KS2

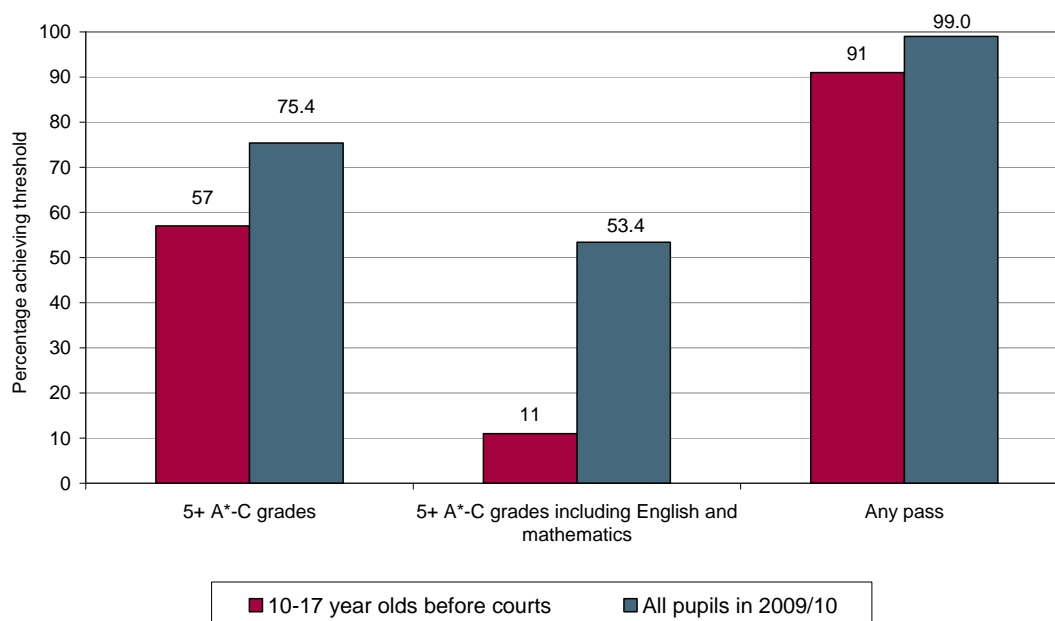
¹² Figures for all pupils taken from Key Stage 2 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2009/10 (provisional)
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000975/index.shtml>

Attainment at KS4

Data on attainment at Key Stage 4 are available for the subset of 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts who had already sat KS4 tests in or before the 2009/10 academic year. Two key measures of performance at KS4 are the achievement of the Level 2 threshold (i.e. 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE and equivalent) and the Level 2 threshold including English and Maths. Of the 150 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for whom KS4 data are available, over half (57 per cent) achieved the first of these thresholds. However, a much smaller proportion (11 per cent) achieved 5 or more A*- C grades including English and Maths. A minority of the group (9 per cent) did not achieve any KS4 qualifications (Table 4.15).

It is most appropriate to compare the KS4 performance of those 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts against the performance of all pupils sitting KS4 exams in 2009/10 (since this is the year in which most of the matched sample sat their GCSE's). The chart shows that those appearing before the courts performed considerably below average, particularly with regard to the proportion achieving 5 or more A* - C grades including English and Maths.¹³

Figure 4.6: KS4 attainment of 10-17 year olds appearing before courts achieving: Comparison with all pupils in 2009/10



Similar to KS2, the fact that attainment levels among the 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts are below average is perhaps not surprising given the socio-demographic characteristics of this group. Attainment levels tend to be lower among pupils eligible for and claiming FSM and those with SEN, both of which groups are over represented amongst the matched sample of 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts. However, due to the small numbers we have not included more analysis of this issue for those appearing before the courts.

¹³ Figures for all pupils taken from GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2009/10 (Revised)
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000985/index.shtml>

Other factors likely to have contributed to the relatively poor performance of those appearing before the courts are their above average absence rates from school and their higher likelihood of having experienced either a fixed term or permanent exclusion (see previous section).

In conclusion, the young people appearing before the courts were more likely than average to come from poorer households; live in poorer areas; have some provision for SEN; be absent or excluded from school; and achieve lower attainment at both Key Stage 2 and 4.

Tables

The following tables are available in a separate excel file:

Table 4.7 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 by gender, age, and region

Table 4.8a 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools, by ethnic group

Table 4.8b 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: by ethnic group and region

Table 4.9a 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: by eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM)

Table 4.9b 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: by eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM) and region

Table 4.10a 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: by Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) decile

Table 4.10b 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: by Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) decile in London

Table 4.10c 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: by Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) decile in North West

Table 4.11 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: by provision of special educational needs (SEN)

Table 4.12a 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: pupil absence and persistent absence

Table 4.12b 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: pupil absence and persistent absence

Table 4.13 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: fixed term and permanent exclusions

Table 4.14a 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: attainment at National Curriculum Key Stage 2 tests

Table 4.14b 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: characteristics of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English/mathematics at National Curriculum Key Stage 2 tests

Table 4.15 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th August and 9th August 2011 and all pupils in maintained secondary schools: attainment at Key Stage 4

Technical notes on data matching

The figures in this release are based on matching Ministry of Justice records of those who had appeared before the courts as of midday 28th September 2011 to information from the National Pupil Database (NPD) held by the Department for Education.

The National Pupil Database (NPD) is a longitudinal database linking pupil characteristics to school and college learning aims and attainment information for all children in maintained schools in England.

Data sharing - legal and ethical issues:

As with any data sharing, full consideration was given to the relevant legal and ethical issues before a decision was taken for the data sharing projects to proceed. All data sharing projects, such as these, which involve any sharing of personal and sensitive personal data within the meaning of the Data Protection Act 1998 need to be lawful, fair, justified and proportionate in order to comply with that Act and Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. We are satisfied that these two projects and the terms on which they are conducted meet these stringent standards.

Extreme care is taken by MoJ and DfE to protect the personal data and ensure individuals are not identified through the data sharing process. To this end a Memorandum of Understanding and Privacy Impact Assessment were agreed. The Memorandum sets out in detail the terms on which each project is to proceed, including the safeguards to be put in place by MoJ and DfE regarding the use and storage of data for the purposes of the project. In particular, access to the data MoJ sent to DfE for matching was extremely restricted and the shared data is anonymised at the earliest opportunity. MoJ did not receive any such data back from DfE, only summary aggregated analysis which is presented in this publication.

There is a second stage to the data share (as covered by the Memorandum) where, once all cases have progressed through the courts the analysis will be repeated for convicted cases only. Any changes to the findings when the analysis is based on convicted cases only (expected to be March 2012 at earliest) will be shared and discussed with MoJ. DfE and MoJ will check the impact, if any, these changes have on policy development and will ensure that any revised findings are published accordingly.

Data matching process:

The Ministry of Justice records contained surnames, forenames, dates of birth, gender and postcode. All of these variables are also included in the NPD. Data matching was achieved using a combination of exact matching on all supplied variables, matching using a reduced number of variables and 'fuzzy' matching of names and postcodes.

There were 465 10-17 year olds who had appeared before the courts as of midday 28th September 2011 and matching was achieved on 388 (83 per cent) of these.

The NPD includes a number of different datasets. Data matching was attempted against the School Census, the Pupil Referral Unit Census and the Alternative Provision Census followed by Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 attainment data. Matching to the School Census involved searching through the latest (2010/11) School Census for a successful match then through previous School Census datasets where no match was found in the most recent dataset.

Data matching results:

There were two young people who were successfully matched to the NPD, but were aged older than 17 years at the start of the 2010/11 academic year. These were excluded from the analysis included in the chapter. Hence, successful matching to those confirmed as 10-17 year olds at the start of the 2010/11 academic year was achieved on 386 (83 per cent) of the 465 records supplied.

All of the 386 matched 10-17 year olds had a valid School Census record and the large majority (83 per cent) of these were from the 2010/11 or the 2009/10 School Census (see Table 1). We have used 2010/11 as a comparative year for all pupils for the characteristics variables derived from the School Census.

Table 1: School Census records of the 386 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts that were successfully matched to the National Pupil Database

School Census	Number	Percentage
Total	386	100
2010/11	197	51
2009/10	125	32
2008/09	35	9
2007/08	15	4
2006/07	4	1
2005/06	6	2
2004/05	1	0
2003/04	0	0
2002/03	2	1
2001/02	1	0

The large majority (86 per cent) of the matched 10-17 year olds also had absence records from the latest available (2009/10) academic year and we have therefore used 2009/10 as a comparative year for all pupils. There were only five young people where a match was not possible. There were 18 young people with more recent absence data than the School Census in which they were originally found.

Around 28 per cent of the matched 10-17 year olds did not have an exclusions record (i.e. they were not excluded from any school during the period covered by exclusions data).

Table 2 shows that 94 per cent of the matched 10-17 year olds also had Key Stage 2 (KS2) records, with the large majority taking their KS2 tests in either 2004/05 or 2005/06. We have used 2005/06 as a comparative year for all pupils in the chapter as this is the median year of all those that had records.

Table 2: Key Stage 2 records of the 386 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts that were successfully matched to the National Pupil Database

KS2 year	Number	Percentage
Total	386	100
2010/11	2	1
2009/10	5	1
2008/09	11	3
2007/08	36	9
2006/07	58	15
2005/06	106	27
2004/05	135	35
2003/04	11	3
No match	22	6

Table 3 shows that 39 per cent of the matched 10-17 year olds also had Key Stage 4 (KS4) records, with the large majority taking their GCSEs in 2009/10. We have used 2009/10 as a comparative year for all pupils in the chapter.

Table 3: Key Stage 4 records of the 386 10-17 year olds appearing before the courts that were successfully matched to the National Pupil Database

KS4 year	Number	Percentage
Total	386	100
2009/10	138	36
2008/09	12	3
No match	236	61

Glossary

Authorised absence: Absence with permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes instances of absences for which a satisfactory explanation has been provided (for example, illness). Unauthorised absence: absence without permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences. Arriving late for school, after the register has closed, is recorded as unauthorised absence. Persistent absentees: defined as having 64 or more sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, around 20 per cent overall absence rate.

Fixed period exclusion: Refers to a pupil who is excluded from a school but remains on the register of that school because they are expected to return when the exclusion period is completed. Permanent exclusion: refers to a pupil who is excluded and their name removed from the school register. Such a pupil would then be educated at another school or via some other form of provision.

Free School Meals (FSM): A meal that is provided to a child or young person during a school break that is paid for out of Government funding. For a child to qualify for FSM, their parent or carer must be receiving particular eligible benefits as stated by Government.

Key Stage 2 (KS2): Key Stage 2 refers to the stage of the National Curriculum for pupils aged between 7 and 11 years (year groups 4 to 6). Pupils at KS2 generally sit their KS2 tests aged 11.

Key Stage 4 (KS4): Key Stage 4 refers to the stage of the National Curriculum for pupils aged between 14 and 16 years (year groups 7 to 9). Pupils at KS4 generally sit their KS4 exams (GCSEs and equivalents) aged 16.

Maintained school: A Government-funded school which provides education free of charge to pupils in either mainstream or special settings. Maintained schools are generally community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided schools or voluntary controlled schools. Academies are not maintained schools although they are largely publicly funded and generally operate under similar rules to maintained schools under separate funding agreements with central Government.

National Pupil Database (NPD): The NPD is a longitudinal database that holds the test and examination results at each Key Stage for all pupils at maintained and independent schools in England who partake in the tests/exams. It also includes pupil and school characteristics for maintained schools only.

Provision for special educational needs: Educational provision which is additional to that made generally for pupils of the same age in schools maintained by the local authority (other than special schools).

School Action: When a class or subject teacher identifies that a pupil has special educational needs and gives help that is extra to or different from that provided as part of the school's usual differentiated curriculum.

School Action Plus: When the teacher and the SENCO are given advice or support from outside specialists (the specialist teacher, an educational psychologist, a speech and language therapist or other health professionals). Extra or different help to that provided through School Action can then be put in place.

Special Educational Needs (SEN): Pupils have special educational needs if they have learning difficulties that need special educational provision. They have learning difficulties if they find it much harder to learn than most pupils of the same age or they have disabilities that make it much more difficult for them in school.

Statement of special educational needs: A document that sets out a child's needs and all the extra help they should receive.

Enquiries

Enquiries (non-media) about information contained in this document should be addressed to Richard White, Analysis and Research Division, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT email richard.white@education.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 020 7340 8083.

Media enquiries about information contained in this document should be addressed to the Department's Press Office at Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT or telephone 020 7925 6789.