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www.justice.gov.uk/publications/youth-justice-statistics.htm

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Introduction

These statistics concentrate on the flow of young people through the Youth Justice System (YJS) from the 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012 (hereafter 2011/12). Following on from the recommendations in the *Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics* report¹ this publication guides the user through the flows through the YJS for young people aged 10-17.

The data described in this document comes from various sources including the Home Office (HO), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and youth secure estate providers. The report is produced by the Analysis team in the Youth Justice Board (YJB) under the direction of the Chief Statistician in the MoJ. Contributions and data are taken from the Home Office and other teams in the MoJ and YJB.

Details of all the administrative databases, bespoke collections and research findings used for this report can be found in the [Explanatory notes](#). Where data are taken from other publications, links can be found within the chapters. A separate glossary has been published alongside this report to provide users with further information on the terminology, especially the types of disposals given to young people.

As this is an annual report, the focus is on 2011/12, however much of the data used in this report is drawn from quarterly publications, and in some cases more up to date information may be available. We wish to draw users' attention to this and would like to encourage users to explore other publications for more up to date information. We hope this provides an overall summary of the Youth Justice System which allows users to find everything in one place. All data referred to are available in the supplementary tables that accompany this report.

This publication starts by looking at the number of [young people coming into the system](#) through arrests, cautions, penalty notices for disorder or anti-social behaviour orders. It then goes on to look at those who are [entering the system for the first time](#). The publication continues to describe the [characteristics of young people](#) in the Youth Justice System in terms of their demographics.

The publication also covers the [proven offences](#) committed by young people and the [court disposals](#) they received. There are separate chapters on the [use of remand](#) (both in custody and in the community) for young people; details of the profile of [young people in custody and behaviour management in the youth secure estate](#) and [serious incidents in the community and custody](#).

Towards the end of the publication we look at trends in proven [youth re-offending](#), the [criminal histories](#) of young people in the system and the

¹ www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/reports/index.html

differences between the trends in the [youth and adult system](#). Finally there are findings from the [perceptions of young people and youth crime](#) in the YJS using data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

In addition, there are annexes to the publication that cover [key outcome measures](#) relating to youth justice in 2011/12, as well as information on [budget and staffing levels in youth offending teams](#). There is also a summary of the [impact of sentences on proven re-offending rates for young people](#). There is a brief discussion of [international Youth Justice Systems](#) and details of the [data sources](#) used in this publication.

This 2011/12 report includes the period of the August 2011 disturbances. The latest data from the Ministry of Justice shows that as of midday on the 10th of August 2012, 760 young people (aged 10-17 years) had been before the courts in relation to the disturbances, and a further 87 had not yet completed their final hearing. Of those who had received a final outcome, 233 had received a custodial sentence, a further 395 had received a non-custodial sentence. There were 132 who had their case dismissed or were acquitted. This represents 27 per cent of all people who had been before the courts in relation to the August 2011 disturbances.

For further information please see;

www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/criminal-justice/public-disorder-august-11

Statement of use

The focus for this publication is to draw together a range of statistical data about young people (aged 10-17 years) in the Youth Justice System in 2011/12. The publication is intended to allow users to understand the various stages of the Youth Justice System, and the volume of young people at each stage.

The contents of the report will be of interest to government policy makers and those monitoring policy, the local agencies engaged with the Youth Justice System at both national and local levels, as well as academics, the voluntary and community sector and others who want to understand more about the Youth Justice System.

The data are compared with the previous financial year (2010/11) as a short term comparator, 2008/09 as a medium term comparator and where data are available, a longer time series is provided back to 2001/02.

For further information on the terms used in this report please see the Glossary provided.

If you have any feedback, questions or requests for further information about this statistical bulletin, please direct them to the appropriate contact given at the end of this report.

Executive Summary

The Youth Justice System (YJS) in England and Wales works to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people under the age of 18. The system is different to the adult system and is structured to address the needs of young people. The YJS is far smaller than the adult system (see [Chapter 10](#) for more details). The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is the executive non-departmental public body that oversees the YJS in England and Wales.

The number of young people in the YJS has continued to reduce in 2011/12. Reductions have been seen in the number entering the system for the first time, as well as reductions in those receiving disposals in and out of court, including those receiving custodial sentences. Since 2008/09 there are 54 per cent fewer young people coming into the Youth Justice System, 32 per cent fewer young people (under 18) in custody and 14 per cent fewer re-offences by young people².

Arrests and out of court disposals³

In 2010/11⁴ there were 1,360,451 arrests in England and Wales of which 210,660 were of people aged 10-17. Thus, 10-17 year olds accounted for 15.5 per cent of all arrests but were 10.7 per cent of the population of England and Wales of offending age⁵.

There were 40,757 reprimands, final warnings and conditional cautions given to young people in England and Wales in 2011/12. This is a decrease of 18 per cent on the 49,407 given in 2010/11, and a decrease of 57 per cent on the 94,836 given in 2001/02.

There were also 5,571 Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) given to 16-17 year olds in 2011/12 and in 2011 there were 375 Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) given to young people. In the last year the number of PNDs given to young people has gone down by 26 per cent and the number of ASBOs down 30 per cent.

² Based on the average number of re-offences per offender (frequency rate) between 2008/09 and 2010/11

³ A 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.

⁴ The latest period for which data is available.

⁵ People of offending age are classed as those 10 or older. ONS mid year estimated for 2011

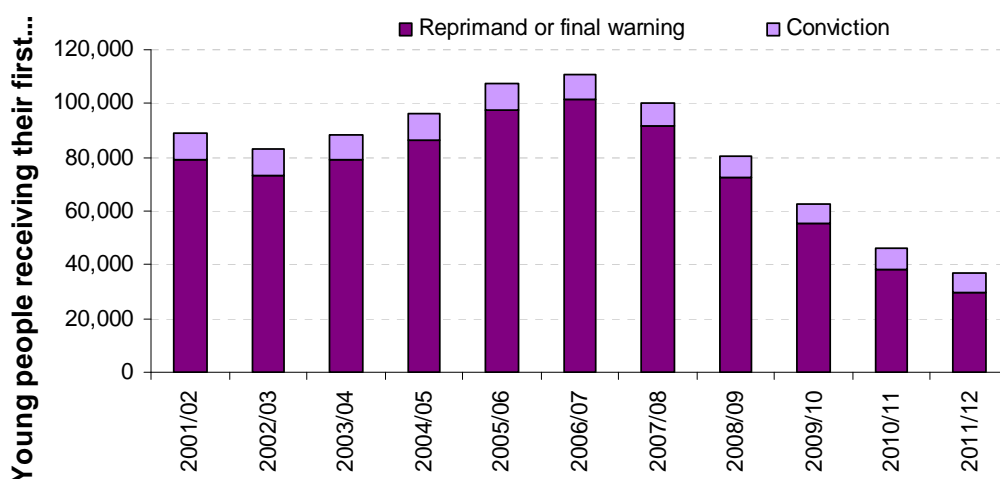
Proven offences by young people

Overall there were 137,335 proven offences by young people in 2011/12, down 22 per cent from 2010/11 and down 47 per cent since 2001/02. In the last year there has been a notable reduction in offences committed by young people, in particular; criminal damage (down 28%), public order (down 27%), theft and handling (down 23%) and violence against the person offences (down 22%).

Young people receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction (first time entrants)

In 2011/12, there were 36,677 first time entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System. The number of first time entrants has fallen by 59 per cent from 2001/02 to 2011/12 and fell 20 per cent in the last year.

Trends in first time entrants, 2001/02 to 2011/12



Young people receiving a substantive outcome⁶

There were 66,430 young people who received a substantive outcome in England and Wales in 2011/12. This number has reduced 22 per cent from 2010/11 and 48 per cent since 2008/09.

Court disposals given to young people

In 2011/12 there were 59,335 court disposals (sentences) given for all offences to young people aged 10-17 in England and Wales. The total number of disposals given to young people at the courts has fallen 18 per cent in the last year. The number of custodial sentences fell six per cent from 4,182 in 2010/11 to 3,925 in 2011/12. This type of disposal has fallen 48 per cent since 2001/02, when 7,485 custodial sentences were given to young

⁶ A substantive outcome is one where young people have to engage with the Youth Offending Team, this typically excluded reprimands and final warnings.

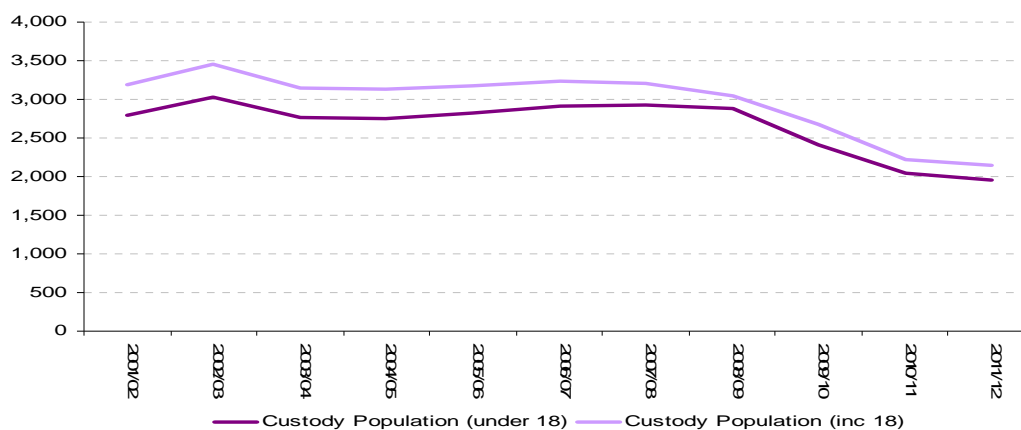
people. The custody rate⁷ was 6.6 per cent in 2011/12. The custody rate has fluctuated between five and eight per cent for the last decade.

Young people in custody (under 18)

The average population of young people in custody in 2011/12 (under 18) was 1,963. The average population in custody (under 18) has reduced four per cent in the last year, and by 32 per cent since 2008/09. The average custody population including 18 year olds held in the youth secure estate was 2,141.

Overall the average length of time spent in custody decreased by one day, to 77 days in 2011/12, mainly caused by reductions in the sentenced population. For Detention and Training Orders (DTOs), it decreased by four days (from 111 to 107), for remand it increased by one day (from 41 to 42) and for longer sentences it decreased by 21 days (from 374 to 353).

Trends in young people in custody, 2001/02 to 2011/12



Behaviour management in the youth secure estate

There were 8,419 incidents of restrictive physical interventions (RPIs) used in the youth secure estate in 2011/12, up six per cent from 2008/09 and up 17 per cent since 2010/11. Alongside this there were 1,725 incidents of self harm, down 34 per cent on 2008/09 but up 21 per cent on 2010/11. There were 3,372 assaults by young people in custody, down 20 per cent on 2008/09 and down five per cent on 2010/11. There were 3,881 occasions where single separation was used in Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) or Secure Training Centres (STCs), down 51 per cent since 2008/09 and down 13 per cent on 2010/11.

Serious incidents in the community

In 2011, there were 20 deaths in the community, where young people under YOT supervision died either through murder, suicide or accidental death⁸. It

⁷ The custody rate is defined as the proportion of custodial sentences out of all sentences given.

⁸ Accidental deaths include those who died in road traffic accidents.

should be noted that although these people are under supervision of the YOT, the supervision is not 24 hours a day and incidents may happen at home etc. Of the deaths in the community two were murdered in that period. In 2011, YOTs reported that 119 young people under their supervision attempted suicide⁹. This compares to 167 in 2010 and 113 in 2009. In 2011 there were 25 other incidents reported, where the young person was the victim of an offence. This compares to 21 in 2010 and 15 in 2009.

Deaths in custody

There were three deaths of young people in 2011/12 and there have been 16 deaths in the youth secure estate since 2000/01. The death of a young person in custody is a tragic and rare event.

Re-offending by young people

The overall re-offending rate for young people was 35.8 per cent in 2010/11, with an average of 2.87 re-offences per re-offender. This is a rise in the rate from 32.8 per cent in 2008/09 and 33.3 per cent in 2009/10. The higher rate of re-offending is against a backdrop of a smaller cohort, down 37 per cent from 139,732 in 2008/09 to 88,357 in 2010/11.

As the overall rate of re-offending has risen in the last few years the number of young people in the re-offending cohort has gone down, with particular reductions among those with no previous offences and those receiving pre-court disposals. Because of this, those young people coming into the criminal justice system are, on balance, more challenging to work with.

Perceptions of youth crime and the Youth Justice System

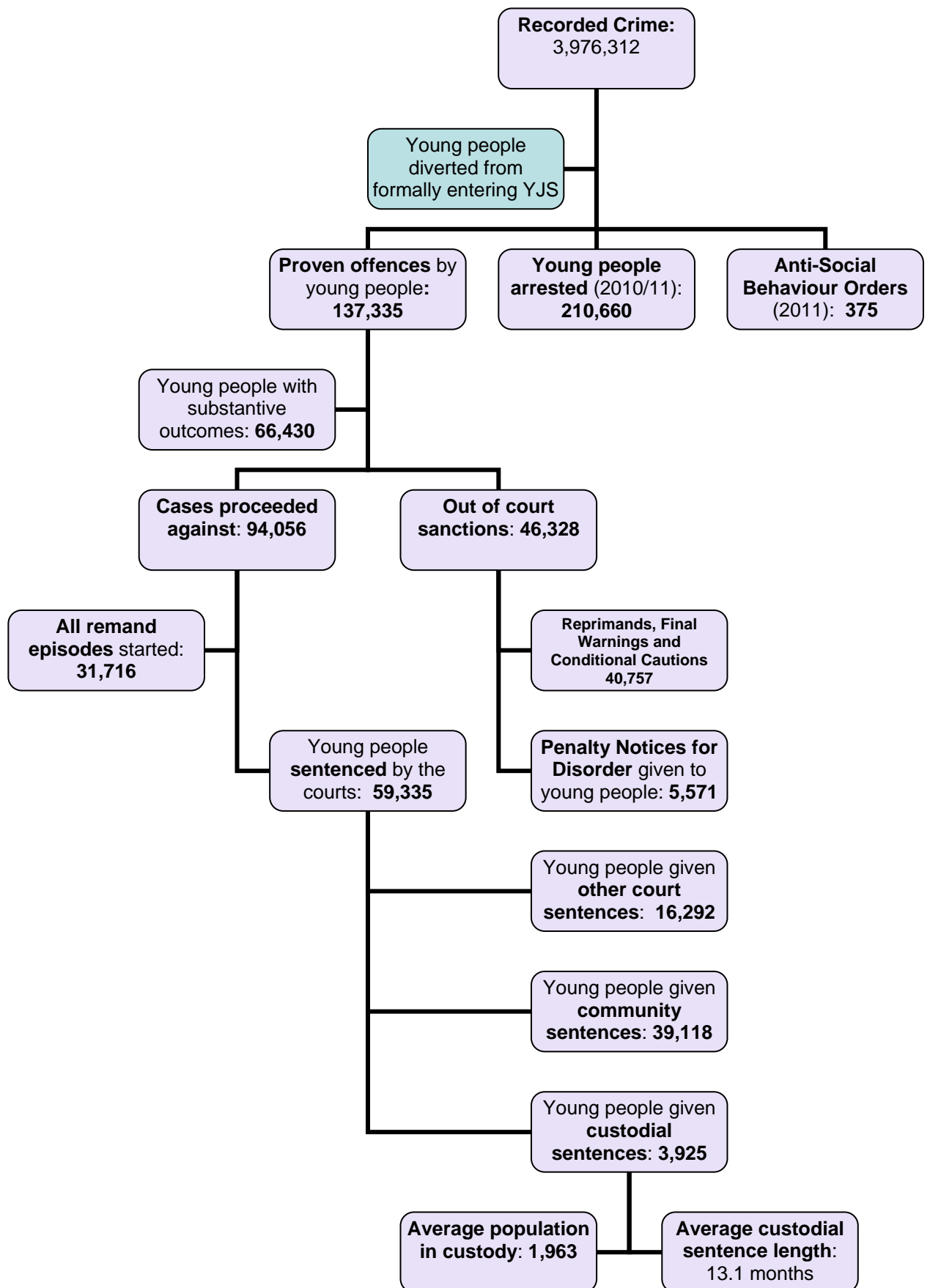
Public perceptions from the 2011/12 Crime Survey for England and Wales¹⁰ emphasise the perceived importance of rehabilitation, alongside a desire generally for more stringent treatment of offenders by the police and courts.

- Nearly half (48%) of the public surveyed felt that 'rehabilitation through help and support' should be the main aim of the Youth Justice System.
- Around two thirds of people (65%) felt that the police and courts dealt with young offenders too leniently. In 2010/11 there was an increase from the previous year in the proportion who felt that the treatment was 'about right' (from 26% to 32%), whilst this year the figure remains fairly stable at 31 per cent.
- Well over half of respondents (57%) were confident that youth crime and anti social behaviour is tackled effectively in their local area.

⁹ The absence of an agreed definition of what constitutes an 'attempted suicide' or 'near-death' means that decisions about which incidents are reported under this heading are subjective

¹⁰ Previously the British Crime Survey

Flows through the Youth Justice System, 2011/12



Notes on flow chart:

1. Age of offenders are not known when crimes are reported to the police.
2. The number of young people diverted from formally entering the Youth Justice System through schemes such as Triage¹¹ are not currently known.
3. Average custodial sentence is for indictable offences only.
4. The remand episodes include young people remanded in the community and on bail.
5. The figures given (with the exception of the YOT caseload) are not unique young people. A young person may commit or be given multiple disposals in a year. This is why the YOT caseload is smaller than the offences or disposals attributed to young people.

¹¹ For more information please see; www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/occ106

Understanding the flows through the Youth Justice System

In 2011/12 there were nearly four million crimes reported to the police in England and Wales. At the time of reporting these crimes, the age of the person responsible is not often known.

The police in England and Wales made nearly 1.4 million arrests in 2010/11 (data for 2011/12 is not yet available¹²), of these 210,660, around 15 per cent, were of young people aged 10-17. Not all young people who come into contact with the police formally enter the Youth Justice System; some will be diverted through schemes such as Triage¹³. The number of young people who are diverted from the system at this stage is unknown. In some cases no further action will be taken against a young person. The case will be dropped or they are found to be not-guilty at court, which is why arrest figures are higher than those of disposals.

In the last few years there have been a number of systems put in place to try and divert young people from formally entering the Youth Justice System, for example by using Triage or restorative justice programmes that look to resolve a young person's behaviour without a formal disposal being given. **This means that the true number of offences committed by young people that come to the attention of the police or other criminal justice agencies may be higher than is shown by these statistics.**

In 2011/12 there were 137,335 proven offences formally attributed to young people. A proven offence is one where a formal outcome, either in or out of court is given. The number of young people in the Youth Justice System and the number of proven offences associated with them differs for two main reasons;

1. A young person may receive a formal outcome for more than one offence at a time (e.g. a young person sentenced for burglary may have a number of burglaries taken into consideration at the time of sentencing).
2. The same young person may be responsible for more than one offence in a given period (e.g. a young person may be cautioned for an offence in April and then receive a referral order for a different offence in September).

¹² Due to be published in Spring 2013

¹³ For more information please see; www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research

There are a number of ways proven offences can be formally resolved either outside or inside the courts;

Out of court disposals

1. A penalty notice for disorder (PND) – a financial penalty for low level offences for 16-17 year olds. In 2011/12 there were 5,571 PNDs given to young people.
2. Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) – these are civil disposals given to young people for low level anti social behaviour. The ASBO is not a formal criminal disposal, but to breach the conditions of an ASBO can result in a criminal outcome, including a custodial sentence. There were 375 ASBOs issued to young people in 2011.
3. Reprimands, final warnings or conditional cautions – these are issued by the police and are the lowest level disposals given to young people who are formally part of the criminal justice system¹⁴. There were 40,757 young people given these disposals in 2011/12.

Court disposals

There are also more formal disposals that involve a conviction at court, in 2011/12 there were 77,656 cases where young people were proceeded against in the magistrate's courts. Of these 59,335 there were given sentences for their offences. Those who were not sentenced may have been found not guilty or had the case against them dropped. Of those that were sentenced;

4. There were 16,292 first tier¹⁵ disposals given to young people, including fines and discharges;
5. A further 39,118 community sentences given to young people, including youth rehabilitation orders. See Glossary for more information;
6. A small number of custodial sentences (3,925) were given to young people, accounting for 6.6 per cent of all sentences given. The average custodial sentence given for indictable offences was 13.1 months. The most common type of custodial sentence given was a Detention and Training Order (DTO), where half the time is typically served in custody and the remainder in the community on licence and under YOT supervision.

¹⁴ PNDs and ASBOs are not counted in the official measure of young people in the criminal justice system, or those who join as first time entrants.

¹⁵ This is an umbrella term used for the following orders made at court: bind overs, discharges, fines and deferred sentences. For more information please see the Glossary.

Chapter 1: Gateway to the Youth Justice System

This chapter provides details of young people who were arrested¹⁶ and given out of court disposals. These disposals included: Final Warnings, Reprimands (youth equivalent of cautions) and Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs). There is also information on Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) which are a civil sanction given at court and can also be given on conviction for a criminal offence.

The data on out of court disposals has mostly been taken from the MoJ's Court Proceedings Database (CPD). For further information see the Criminal Justice Statistics publication. Please note this publication now covers more recent data.

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics.htm

Further information on court disposals can be found in [Chapter 5](#) and definitions can be found in the glossary.

Key findings

- In 2010/11, there were 210,660 arrests of young people (aged 10-17) for an offence, accounting for 15.5 per cent of the total people arrested. However young people (10-17) accounted for only 10.7 per cent of the offending age population¹⁷ (i.e. those aged 10 and over), suggesting young people are over-represented in the criminal justice system.
- In 2011/12, there were also 40,757 reprimands¹⁸, final warnings¹⁹ and conditional cautions given to young people in England and Wales. This is a decrease of 18 per cent on the 49,407 given in 2010/11, and a decrease of 57 per cent on the 94,836 given in 2001/02.
- There were 5,571 Penalty Notices for Disorder given to 16-17 year olds in 2011/12 and in 2011 there were 375 Anti Social Behaviour Orders given to young people. Both were down on the previous year.

¹⁶ The arrest data comes from the Home Office and is only available up to 2010/11.

¹⁷ Taken from the ONS mid-year (census) estimates for 2011.

¹⁸ A Reprimand is an out-of-court disposal for young people. This is the equivalent to an adult simple caution.

¹⁹ A final warning is an out-of-court disposal for young people. It can be used following a reprimand or for a first offence if it is deemed serious enough. Following a warning the young person will be referred to the YOT for assessment and intervention. Further offending following a warning will normally result in prosecution.

Diversion from the Youth Justice System

In recent years a number of schemes have been set up to divert young people from formally entering the Youth Justice System. Following the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) a number of Triage schemes were set up to assess young people as they enter the Youth Justice System, and to ensure that their needs are identified. Triage schemes are based in police stations and a key aim is to divert young people who have committed less serious crimes away from formal sanctions and towards restorative justice interventions and other services. A key worker, usually from the Youth Offending Team, works in partnership with police officers from the custody suite to identify and engage young people who have been arrested. The broad aims of the Triage schemes are as follows:

- To ensure that young people are assessed quickly and their needs identified so that appropriate interventions are put in place to address their offending behaviour.
- To extend and improve collaborative decision-making between the Police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Youth Offending Team. To divert cases of low-level offending away from the formal Youth Justice System, in order to:
 - avoid the unnecessary criminalisation of young people on the fringes of criminal activity;
 - ensure that formal justice processes are focussed on relatively serious offences, and can resolve these cases more quickly and effectively; and
 - increase the use of restorative processes to make young people take responsibility for their actions and to promote confidence in justice among victims, witnesses and the wider community.

While the exact number of young people going through Triage schemes in England and Wales is unknown, an evaluation of the scheme by the Home Office²⁰ found that;

“The majority of young people in contact with Triage schemes were male, white and around 15 years of age. They were most commonly arrested for theft, violence, criminal damage and public disorder; most often these young people had no previous convictions.”

A further evaluation was also under taken by the Department for Health.²¹

²⁰ www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/

²¹ www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/03/youth-justice-liaison-and-diversion-pilot/

Arrests for notifiable offences²²

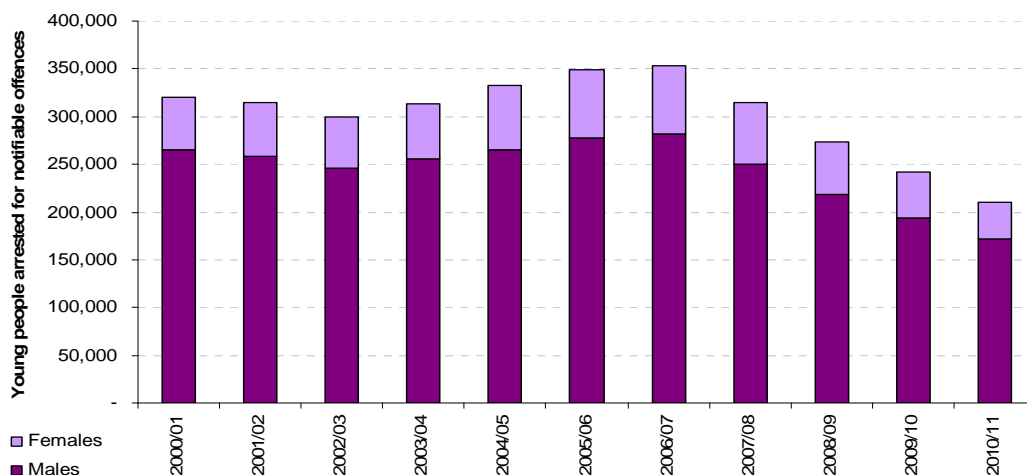
Data on arrests are taken from the Home Office 'Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales 2010/11'. Data for 2011/12 is not yet available and will be published later in 2013.

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/police-powers-procedures-201011/arrests-1011

Figures on arrests reported to the Home Office rely on incidents being reported to and recorded by the police. They can also be affected by police priorities and practices, and therefore should not be used to infer total levels of crime committed by young people.

- In 2010/11 there were 210,660 arrests of young people (aged 10-17) for a notifiable offence. Arrests of young people accounted for 15.5 per cent of total arrests in 2010/11. However, young people accounted for only 10.7 per cent of the offending age population (i.e. those aged 10 and over).
- Young males accounted for 12.6 per cent of total arrests and young females 2.8 per cent. They account for five per cent each of the overall population respectively.
- Arrests of young people fell by 13 per cent from 2009/10 to 2010/11. Between 2000/01 and 2010/11 the number of young people arrested for notifiable offences has fallen by 34 per cent, from 320,600 in 2000/01 to 210,660 in 2010/11.

Chart 1.1: Trends in arrests of young people for notifiable offences by gender, 2000/01 to 2010/11



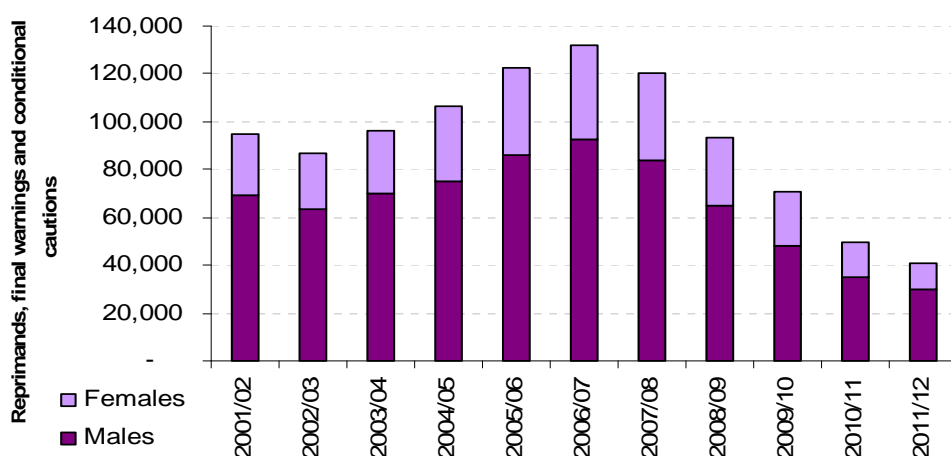
²² Notifiable offences are those offences which require the police to record an incident as a crime and report the occurrence to the Home Office.

Final warnings, reprimands and conditional cautions

There were 40,757 final warnings, reprimands and conditional cautions²³ given to young people in 2011/12. This is a decrease of 18 per cent on the 49,407 given in 2010/11, and a decrease of 57 per cent on the 94,836 given in 2001/02.

- Between 2010/11 and 2011/12 the number of final warnings, reprimands or conditional cautions given to young people fell by 24 per cent for females, and 15 per cent for males. This was an 18 per cent reduction overall.
- Between 2010/11 and 2011/12 there was a seven per cent increase in the number of young people given a final warning, reprimand or conditional caution for robbery. There was also a two per cent increase in young people given out of court disposals for sexual offences, from 414 to 424; however these numbers are small and tend to fluctuate year to year. All other offence types showed a decrease.

Chart 1.2: Trends in reprimands, final warnings and conditional cautions by gender, 2001/02 to 2011/12



The main factor that coincided with the trend for arrests and out of court disposals for young people in recent years is the Offences Brought to Justice target (OBTJ), which created targets for the police around the number of offences reported to them that should be brought to justice, i.e. resolved and an offender given a caution or conviction. This may have affected the behaviour of the police to arrest more young people in order to meet their targets. The peak of arrests and out of court disposals for young people occurred in 2006/07 and the subsequent large falls coincide with the replacement of the target in April 2008, which placed more emphasis on bringing more serious crimes to justice, which is likely to impact more on adults, and in December 2010 it was dropped entirely.

²³ Youth Conditional Cautions (YCC), for young people aged 16 or 17, were introduced from 1st April 2009

Since the target has been dropped the reductions have continued, suggesting other factors may be having an influence. This pattern is seen also seen in the number of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System ([Chapter 2](#)).

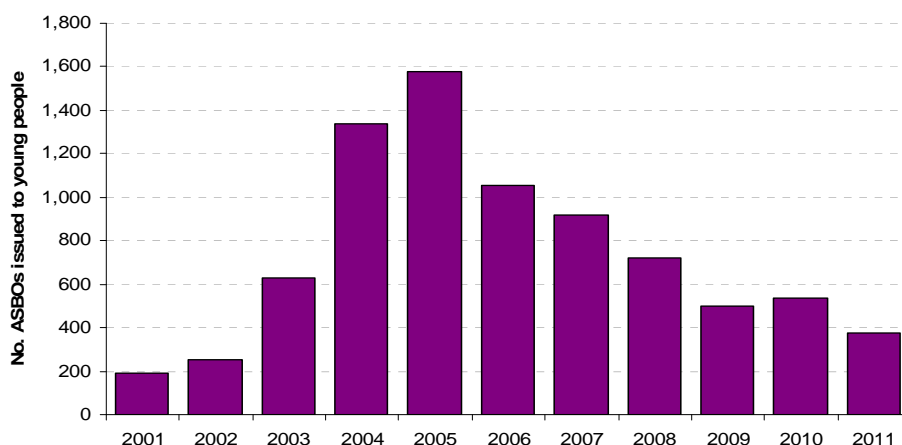
Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are civil orders, designed to prevent someone causing 'harassment, alarm or distress'. They can be issued on application to a court by a relevant body (police, local authority, etc.). They can also be issued following conviction for a relevant criminal offence. Breach of an ASBO is a criminal offence, punishable by up to two years in custody for young people (five years for adults). ASBOs became available from 1 April 1999; however data on the age of ASBOs recipients are only available from 1 June 2000. The latest published data cover the period to the end of 2011. For further information please see;

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/asbo-stats-england-wales-2011/?view=Standard&pubID=1079288

In 2011²⁴, there were 375 ASBOs given to young people aged 10-17 years. This is a decrease of 30 per cent on 2010, when there were 536 ASBOs issued to young people. In 2001 there were only 193 ASBOs issued to young people. Of the 375 ASBOs given to young people in 2011, 41 (19%) were granted an Individual Support Order²⁵ upon application at the Magistrates court.

Chart 1.3: Trends in Anti-Social Behaviour Orders for young people, 2001 to 2011



²⁴ Data is published in calendar years

²⁵ Individual Support Orders (ISOs) are court orders only available for 10-17 year olds which can be attached to ASBOs made on application. ISOs impose positive conditions on the young person to address the underlying causes of the behaviour that led to their ASBO being issued. ISOs are available at magistrates' courts.

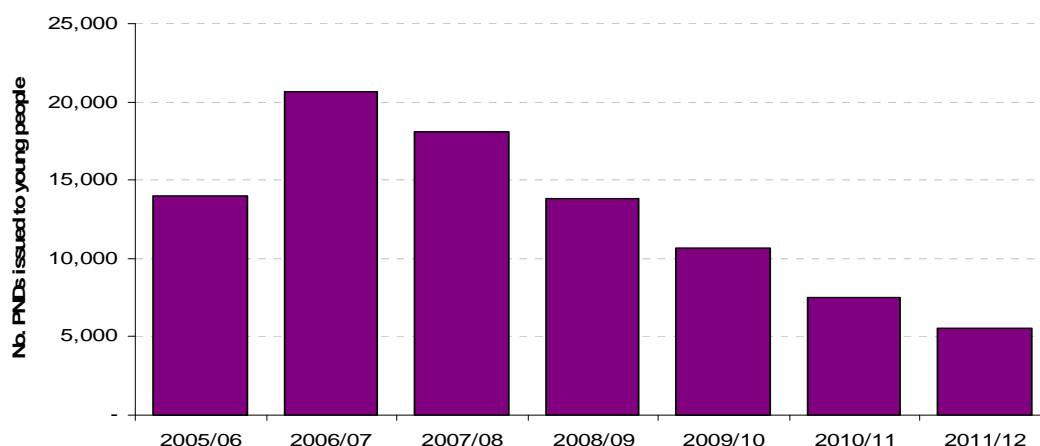
Penalty Notices for Disorder

Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs), more commonly known as ‘on the spot fines’, were introduced under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. The scheme was initially piloted in four police force areas in England and Wales from August 2002. It was rolled out to all 43 police forces in England and Wales by April 2004. Please note PNDs can only be given to young people aged 16 and 17 years old.

There were 5,571 PNDs given to young people aged 16 to 17 in 2011/12. This is a decrease of 26 per cent on the 7,507 given in 2010/11 and a 46 per cent decrease on the 13,977 given in 2005/06. Most (95%) of the PNDs given in 2011/12 were for higher tier offences²⁶, the most common offences were;

- Theft (retail under £200), resulted in 1,779 PNDs (32%);
- Causing harassment, alarm or distress resulted in 1,228 PNDs (23%);
- Drunk and disorderly resulted in 1,175 PNDs (21%).

Chart 1.4: Trends in Penalty Notices for Disorder for young people, 2005/06 to 2011/12



²⁶ Higher tier offences are those that attract an £80 charge, lower tier offences attract a £50 charge. For more information please see the supplementary tables for a list of higher/lower tier offences and the following document for more information:

www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice-stats/criminal-justice-statistics-guide-1111.pdf

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. It is based on data recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) and covers up to 2011/12.

This data relates to proven offences only, where a young person is given a formal out of court or court disposal. As such this is not a measure of the amount of crime committed by young people, as only a proportion of crimes are detected and resolved, and the age of offender is not known until the point of arrest. Although the number of FTEs has fallen, the true level of youth crime may be rising or falling. For the latest MoJ publication please see;

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics.htm

An offence is defined as a first offence if it results in the offender receiving their first reprimand, warning, caution or court conviction – i.e. they have no previous criminal history recorded on the PNC. Offences resulting in further reprimands, warnings, cautions or convictions are known as further offences since the offender already has a recorded criminal history. For more information on criminal histories please see [Chapter 10](#).

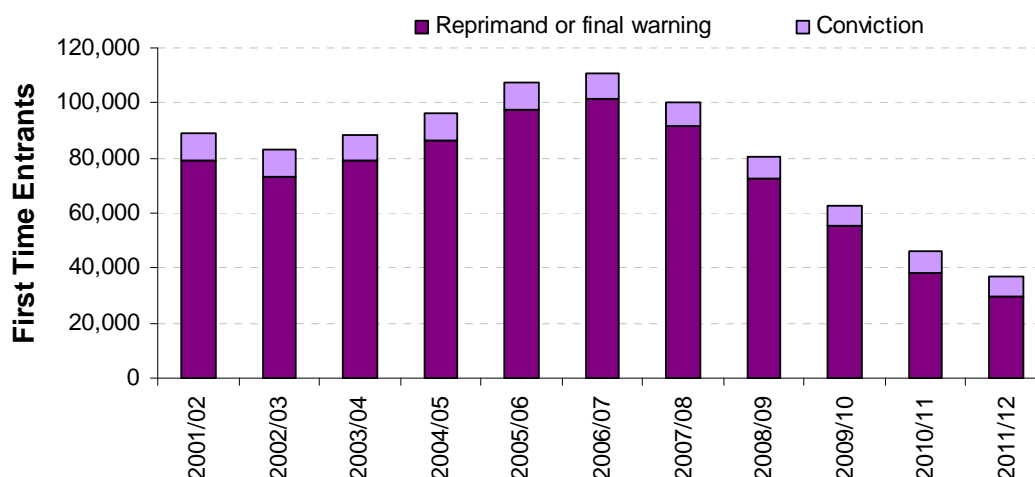
Key findings

- In 2011/12, there were 100,499 young people (aged 10-17 years) recorded on the PNC who had at least one offence that resulted in a reprimand, warning, caution or conviction. Of these 36,677 (36%) were first offences, and the rest were further offences. In 2001/02, there were 182,996 young people with proven offences, with 49 per cent being first offences.
- In the last year the number of first time entrants has fallen by 20 per cent from 45,910 in 2010/11 to 36,677 in 2011/12. The number of first time entrants has fallen by 59 per cent since 2001/02 and 54 per cent since 2008/09.

Trends in First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System

The number of first time entrants has fallen by 59 per cent from 88,984 in 2001/02 to 36,677 in 2011/12. The number of first time entrants has fallen by 67 per cent, since the peak in 2006/07. In the last year the number of first time entrants has fallen by 20 per cent from 45,910 in 2010/11 to 36,677 in 2011/12.

Chart 2.1: Trends in first time entrants, 2001/02 to 2011/12



Trends in First Time Entrants by demographics

In 2011/12, 34 per cent of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System were children (aged 10-14). This group showed the biggest reduction (64%) in first time entrants between 2008/09 and 2011/12. Females accounted for 25 per cent of all first time entrants in 2011/12, compared to 32 per cent in 2008/09. Since 2008/09 the number of young females entering the Youth Justice System has fallen 64 per cent, compared to 50 per cent for young males.

Why have First Time Entrants been falling?

A number of factors have possibly contributed to the trend in FTEs; but it is not possible to attribute direct causality to any of these factors or to quantify the size of the affect from each. One main factor that has coincided with the trend in the FTEs in recent years is the Offences Brought to Justice Target (OBTJ), which created targets for the police around the number of offences reported to them that should be brought to justice, i.e. resolved and an offender given a caution/conviction. The number of FTEs peaked in 2007 and the subsequent large falls in offending coincide with the replacement of the target in April 2008 with one that placed more emphasis on bringing more serious crimes to justice, which is more likely to impact more on adults. In December 2010 it was dropped entirely.

Work by Youth Offending Teams and other partners to divert young people into alternatives, such as restorative justice disposals and Triage schemes could also have contributed to this fall.

Chapter 3: Characteristics of people in the Youth Justice System

This chapter reports on the demographic characteristics of young people with a proven offence and disposal (substantive outcome) on the Youth Offending Team (YOT) caseload in 2011/12. YOTs may also be working with some young people with outcomes carried over from previous years.

It is important to note that these figures relate to the number of individual young people YOTs are working with who received substantive outcomes and not the number of offences or disposals. These data are taken from the YJB's Youth Justice Management Information System (YJMIS), based on data submitted by YOTs. YOTs typically do not work with young people who receive reprimands and final warnings.

To supplement this information data on the number of young people who received a formal sanction (either out of court or a court conviction) is displayed from data taken from the Police National Computer (PNC). These figures are consistently higher than the number of young people on the YOT caseload, but the trend runs in parallel. Some exploratory work conducted by the YJB found that the primary reason for this is that YOTs are not necessarily aware of all the reprimands and final warnings issued by the police.

Details on the YOT caseload broken down by each Youth Offending Team can be found in the local level data that accompanies this publication.

www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/youth-justice/statistics

Key findings

- According to data held on YJMIS, there were 66,430²⁷ young people who received a substantive outcome in 2011/12. This is a reduction of 22 per cent from 85,300 in 2010/11. Overall, 80 per cent were male, and 78 per cent aged over 15 years²⁸. Most (80%) came from a White ethnic background.
- Data from the PNC shows that there were 100,499 young people who had first or further offences in 2011/12. This was a 19 per cent reduction from the 123,437 young people on the PNC in 2010/11.

²⁷ This figure and all the YJMIS data used in chapters 3 and 6 comes from an extract of the live YJMIS system taken in January 2013.

²⁸ YOTs work with a small number of young people who are aged over 17 and finishing their disposal.

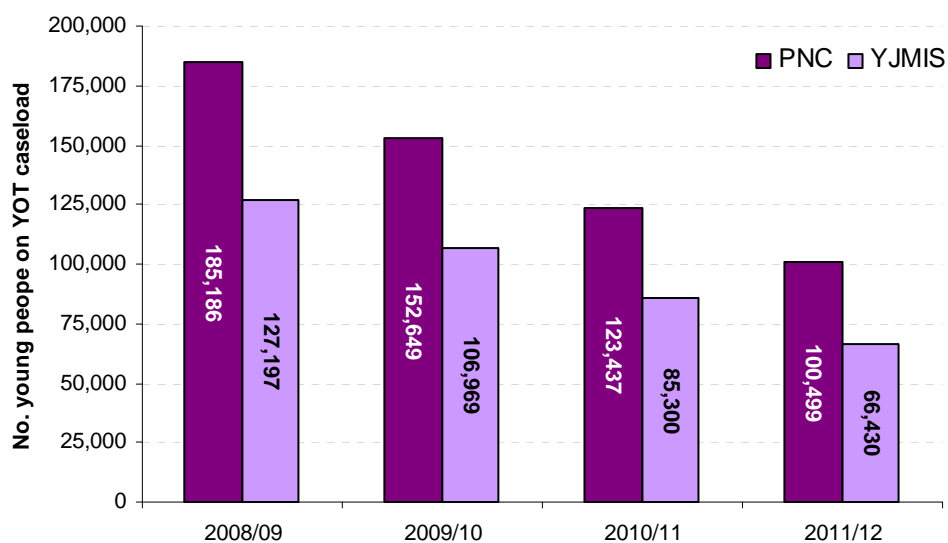
Trends in the number of young people in the YJS, 2008/09 to 2011/12

According to data held on YJMIS, there were 66,430 young people who received a substantive outcome in 2011/12. This is a reduction of 22 per cent since 2010/11 and a reduction of 48 per cent since 2008/09. The trends shown on the PNC and the YJMIS are similar, although the PNC has consistently higher figures. The reductions shown in the PNC data are 19 per cent and 46 per cent respectively. The YOT caseload is typically around 70 per cent of the figures from the PNC.

The reduction in the YOT caseload was largely driven by the fall in First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System, which fell by 54 per cent from 80,329 in 2008/09 to 36,677 in 2011/12 ([Chapter 2](#)).

While the YOT caseload has reduced year-on-year, the level of intensity (e.g. the number of previous offences a young person has) of the cohort may have increased. Evidence suggests this is the case with the proportion of all young people sentenced for indictable offences who had 15 or more previous convictions or cautions which increased steadily from one per cent in 2001/02, to four per cent in 2011/12 ([Chapter 10](#)) and the average number of previous offences per offender has risen from an average of 1.59 previous offences in 2005/06 to 2.41 in 2010/11 ([Chapter 9](#)).

Chart 3.1: Trends in the number of young people in the Youth Justice System: comparing data from YOTs and the PNC.



Demographics of young people in the Youth Justice System, 2011/12

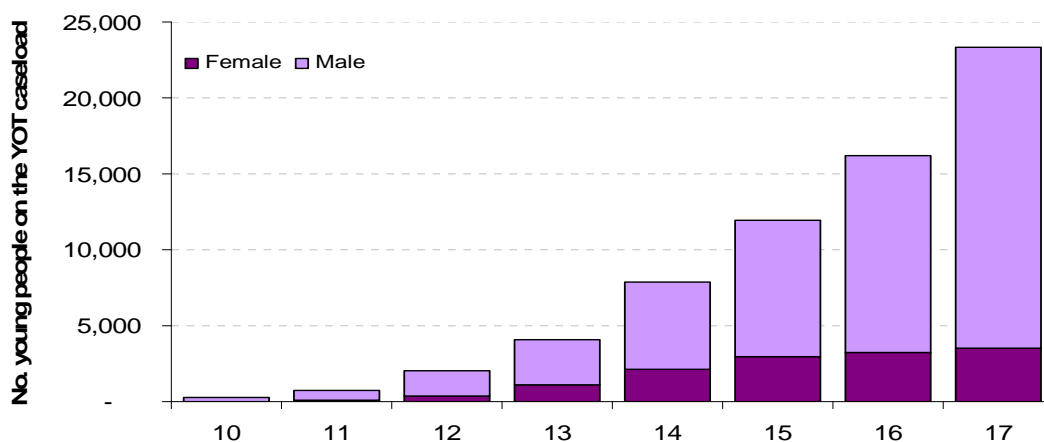
There were 66,430 young people who received a substantive outcome in 2011/12. Males accounted for 80 per cent of the young people in 2011/12.

There were 14,899 children (aged 10-14)²⁹ receiving a substantive outcome in 2011/12, a reduction of 33 per cent from the 22,206 in 2010/11. Children accounted for 22 per cent of the in 2011/12, compared to 26 per cent in 2010/11.

The number of young girls (aged 10-14) receiving a substantive outcome was 3,774 in 2011/12, a reduction of 38 per cent from 2010/11. The number of young boys (aged 10-14) was 11,122 in 2011/12, a reduction of 31 per cent from 2010/11. The reduction in the older age group (those aged 15-17+³⁰) was lower, with a 24 per cent reduction for females and a 17 per cent reduction for males.

Young people from a White ethnic background accounted for 80 per cent of all young people in 2011/12. Those from a Black ethnic background accounted for eight per cent, those from an Asian ethnic background for four per cent, those from a Mixed ethnic background for five per cent, and the Unknown ethnic background for two per cent. The Other ethnic background group made up one per cent. These proportions have been fairly stable since 2006/07.

Chart 3.2: Age and gender of young people on the YOT caseload, 2011/12



²⁹ Age is taken at the point a young person receives a substantive outcome, not the age they were when they committed the offence.

³⁰ YOTs work with a small number of young people who are aged over 17 who are finishing their sentences under YOT supervision.

Table 3.1: Age and ethnicity of young people on the YOT caseload, 2011/12

| | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17+ | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Asian | * | 11 | 47 | 122 | 295 | 559 | 789 | 1,112 | 2,935 |
| Black | 11 | 27 | 96 | 235 | 587 | 970 | 1,346 | 1,967 | 5,239 |
| Mixed | 6 | 29 | 78 | 186 | 352 | 586 | 728 | 1,059 | 3,024 |
| Other | * | * | 9 | 22 | 45 | 73 | 100 | 163 | 412 |
| Unknown | * | 22 | 53 | 121 | 181 | 234 | 369 | 519 | 1,499 |
| White | 222 | 627 | 1,709 | 3,402 | 6,392 | 9,574 | 12,881 | 18,502 | 53,309 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 247 | 720 | 1,992 | 4,088 | 7,852 | 11,996 | 16,213 | 23,322 | 66,430 |
| Share | 0.4% | 1.1% | 3.0% | 6.2% | 11.8% | 18.1% | 24.4% | 35.1% | 100.0% |

* Less than five cases

Chapter 4: Proven offences by young people on the YOT caseload

This chapter covers proven offences by young people in 2011/12³¹. It includes information on the types of offences committed by young people in 2011/12 and over time. The data has been taken from the Youth Justice Management Information System (YJMIS) database, which consists of data from YOTs and focuses on the principle offence of young people³². The offence breakdown differs from the main offence types³³ used by the MoJ.

Key findings

- There were 137,335 proven offences committed by young people on the YOT caseload in 2011/12, down 22 per cent from 2010/11.
- The number of proven offences associated with young people on the YOT caseload has reduced by nearly half (47%) since 2001/02.
- The main offence types for young people in 2011/12 were; violence against the person, including common assault, (21%), theft and handling (19%) and criminal damage (10%).

³¹ Based on data extracted from YJMIS taken in January 2013.

³² A principle offence is the most serious offence when a group of offences are dealt with by the same disposal (in or out of court). This data does not cover offences that are 'taken into consideration'.

³³ These main offence groups differ from those used by the MoJ, for example the offence of common assault is classed as a summary offence by the MoJ, whilst the YJB class it as a violence offence. Burglary includes domestic and non-domestic burglary. Further details on 'other' offences can be found in the supplementary volumes.

Types of proven offences by young people on the YOT caseload in 2011/12

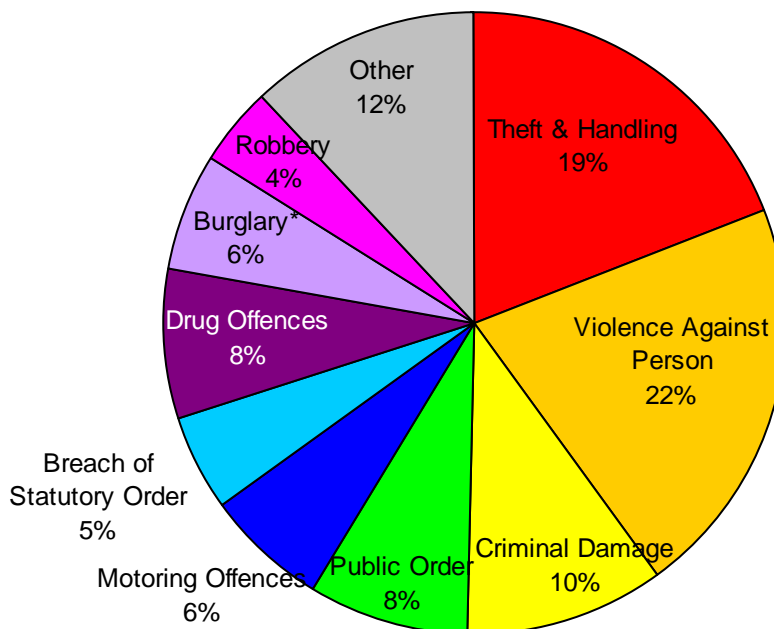
In 2011/12, there were 137,335 proven offences by young people on the YOTs caseload which resulted in a formal disposal (either in or out of court).

The main offence types for young people in 2011/12 were;

- Violence against the person (including common assault) (21%),
- Theft and handling (19%)
- Criminal damage (10%)

There were 1,888 proven sexual offences associated with young people on the YOT caseload, this accounted for less than two percent of all offences.

Chart 4.1: Proven offences by young people, 2011/12



Demography of young people with proven offences, 2011/12

In 2011/12, the majority (77%) of proven offences were committed by young people aged over 15 and over³⁴, with only 23 per cent of proven offences committed by young people aged 10-14 years.

³⁴ YOTs work with a small number of young people who are aged over 17 who are finishing their sentences under YOT supervision.

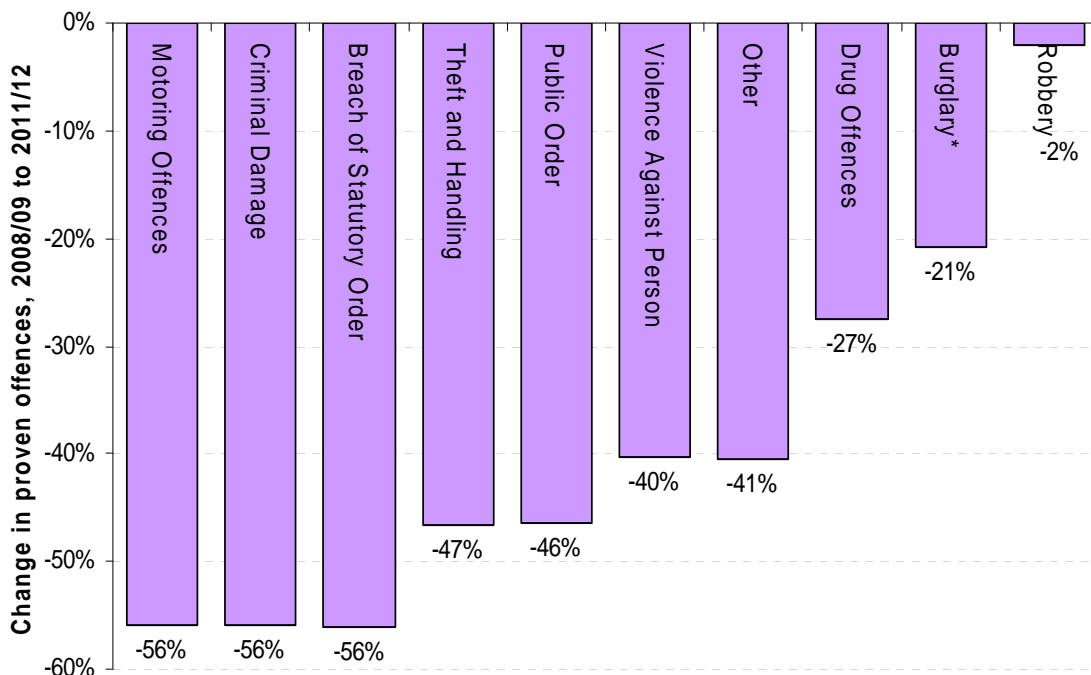
- There were 105,730 proven offences committed by young people aged 15 and over, and a further 31,605 committed by those aged 10-14.
- Males accounted for 82 per cent of proven offences by young people in 2011/12. This proportion has risen slightly from 79 per cent in 2008/09. The proportion of proven offences committed by females was 18 per cent in 2011/12; this proportion has fluctuated between 16 and 22 per cent for the last decade.
- Young people from a White ethnic background accounted for 80 per cent of the proven offences by young people. This proportion has shown a slight but steady decrease over time from 84 per cent in 2008/09 to 80 per cent 2011/12.

Proven offences by young people over time, 2001/02 to 2011/12

The number of proven offences by young people has fallen 47 per cent between 2001/02 and 2011/12. The number of proven offences fell 22 per cent in the last year, from 176,511 proven offences in 2010/11 to 137,335 in 2011/12.

The largest falls in proven offences between 2008/09 and 2011/12 have been in less serious offences; motoring offences, criminal damage and breach of a statutory order all reduced by 56 per cent. The smallest reduction has been in robbery offences which reduced by two per cent between 2008/09 and 2011/12

Chart 4.2: Reduction in proven offences by young people between 2008/09 to 2011/12



Chapter 5: Court disposals for young people

This chapter covers court disposals given to young people for proven offences in 2011/12. The data has mostly been taken from the MoJ's Court Proceedings Database (CPD). For more information please see;

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics.htm

This chapter also covers information on parenting orders and information about the requirements associated with Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YROs). See the glossary for more details.

Key findings

- In 2011/12 there were 59,335 court disposals (sentences) given to young people aged 10 to 17 in England and Wales. The total number of disposals given to young people at the courts has fallen 18 per cent from 72,029 in 2010/11 to 59,335 in 2011/12.
- The number of custodial disposals fell six per cent from 4,182 in 2010/11 to 3,925 in 2011/12. This type of disposal has fallen 48 per cent since 2001/02, when 7,485 custodial disposals were given to young people.
- The custody rate was 6.6 per cent in 2011/12, the highest it has been since 2003/04. This may reflect the fact that as less young people come before the courts those that are sentenced have more criminal history ([Chapter 10](#)) and therefore receive longer sentences. The disturbances in August 2011³⁵ may have also contributed to this.

Court disposals given to young people in 2011/12

There were 58,839 young people³⁶ found guilty of an offence in court in 2011/12, resulting in 59,335 sentences (disposals) given. These included;

- 3,925 custodial sentences, most (89%) of these were Detention and Training Orders (DTOs).
- 39,118 community sentences, including 17,395 YROs.

³⁵ For further information please see;

www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/criminal-justice/public-disorder-august-11

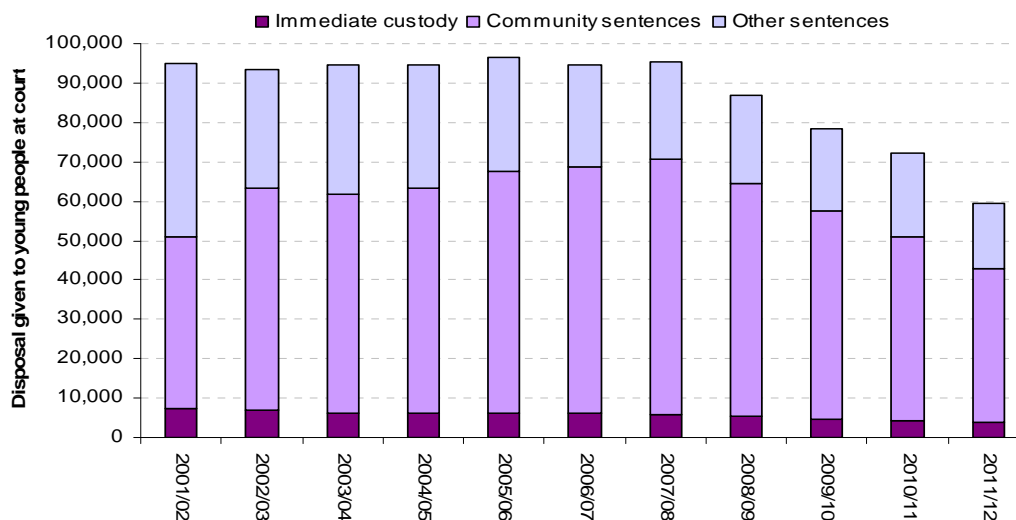
³⁶ These are not unique young people, a young person may appear before a court more than once in a period.

- 16,292 first-tier sentences (these include discharges, fines and otherwise dealt with disposals. See the separately published glossary for more detail).

Court disposals given to young people over time, 2001/02 to 2011/12

- The total number of disposals given to young people at the courts has fallen 18 per cent from 72,029 in 2010/11 to 59,335 in 2011/12.
- Since 2001/02 the total number of disposals given to young people at the courts has fallen 37 per cent, from 94,870 in 2001/02 to 59,335 in 2011/12.
- The number of custodial disposals fell six per cent from 4,182 in 2010/11 to 3,925 in 2011/12. This type of disposal has fallen 48 per cent since 2001/02, when 7,485 custodial disposals were given to young people.
- The number of community disposals fell 17 per cent from 46,961 in 2010/11 to 39,118 in 2011/12. This type of disposal has fallen 10 per cent since 2001/02, when 43,622 community disposals were given to young people.
- Within the community sentences the number of YROs only fell by three percent between 2010/11 and 2011/12, from 18,001 to 17,395.

Chart 5.1: Trends in disposals given to young people at court, 2001/02 to 2011/12



Court disposals given for indictable offences³⁷ over time, 2001/02 to 2011/12

There were 59,335 young people given court disposals for all offences in 2011/12, of these 34,993 (59%) were for indictable offences. The 34,993 given court disposals for indictable offences in 2011/12 represented a reduction of 29 per cent since 2001/02 and a 14 per cent reduction since 2011/11. Males accounted for 88³⁸ per cent of all sentences for indictable offences; this proportion has fluctuated between 85 and 88 per cent in the last decade.

Youth Rehabilitation Orders

This section covers details of the requirements associated with Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YRO) recorded by YOTs for 2011/12 taken from the YJMIS³⁹. These data are a further breakdown of the types and number of requirements taken from YJMIS.

The YRO is a generic community sentence for young people. It was designed to simplify sentencing, while improving the flexibility of interventions available to address individual needs and risks. There are 18 different requirements⁴⁰ that can be attached to a YRO, so it is possible for one young person to have multiple requirements. For further details of the type of requirements please see the glossary.

The data for 2011/12 is the second full year of YRO data, and as such can only be compared directly with the 2010/11 data. The period for 2009/10 only covers the period from the 30th November to 31st March, as the YRO only came into effect in November 2009.

³⁷ There are three types of offences; triable only on indictment, triable-either-way and summary offences.

Triable only on indictment (indictable offences): 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.

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.

³⁸ Based on where gender is known.

³⁹ The YJMIS data has suffered from some technical problems for the 2011/12 data, please see comments in Chapter 3 for more details. We are using YJMIS data as this provides details on the types of requirements given as part of the YRO.

⁴⁰ To enhance data presentation, requirement types that have been used less than 100 times are grouped under the heading 'All other'. Please see the Glossary for more details.

In 2011/12 there were 17,395 YROs given to young people by the courts according to data from the MoJ. This is a three per cent reduction on the number given in 2010/11. Using the data on YROs taken from the YJMIS system for 2011/12 the types of requirements attached to a YRO can be shown. There were 32,511 requirements recorded for young people in 2011/12, relating to 13,995 young people.

- The most commonly used single requirement type was a supervision requirement. It was used in 37 per cent of the YRO requirements.
- Other common requirements included; curfew orders (15% of requirements), electronic monitoring (11%), unpaid work (7%) and attendance centre orders (4%).
- Less than a third (29%) of young people had only one requirement as part of their YRO, nearly a third (32%) had two requirements. There were only four per cent (541 young people) with five or more requirements.

Parenting Orders

A court may impose an order on a parent when a young person aged 10–17 years is convicted of an offence; is subject to an Anti-Social Behaviour Order; where a Child Safety Order is made; or where a parent has been convicted of failing to make sure that the child attends school. These data come from the Court Proceedings Database held by MoJ.

In 2011/12 there were 620 parenting orders given by the courts. The number of parenting orders fell 34 per cent, from 935 in 2010/11 to 620 in 2011/12. Since 2008/09 the number of parenting orders has fallen 51 per cent (from 1,261 to 620).

Chapter 6: Use of remand for young people

This chapter covers information on the use of remand for young people in the Youth Justice System. Data for this chapter is gathered from a number of sources and covers;

1. Types of remand⁴¹ given to young people as reported by YOTs⁴² from YJMIS
2. Characteristics of the population in custody on remand from the YJB's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS)
3. Outcomes for young people following custodial remand from the Court Proceedings Database

Key findings

- There were 31,716 remand episodes given by the courts for young people in 2011/12, down four per cent on 2010/11. Remand decisions that involved young people being bailed (conditional or unconditional bail) accounted for 83 per cent of all remand decisions.
- There were a further six per cent of remand episodes where a young person was remanded in the community, including remand to local authority accommodation.
- Only 11 per cent involved young people being remanded to custody (3,621 remand episodes).
- The average population in custody on remand in 2011/12 was 477 young people, accounting for 24 per cent of the average custodial population, compared to 22 per cent in 2008/09.
- While the overall number of young people in custody has fallen 32 per cent between 2008/09 and 2011/12, the number on remand has only fallen 24 per cent.
- For those young people remanded to custody in 2011/12, 60 per cent were not given a custodial outcome following their remand. Of these, 26 per cent were acquitted and 34 per cent were given other court convictions.

⁴¹ Including conditional and unconditional bail, community remand and remand to custody.

⁴² The YJMIS data has suffered from some technical problems for the 2011/12 data, please see comments in Chapter 3 for more details.

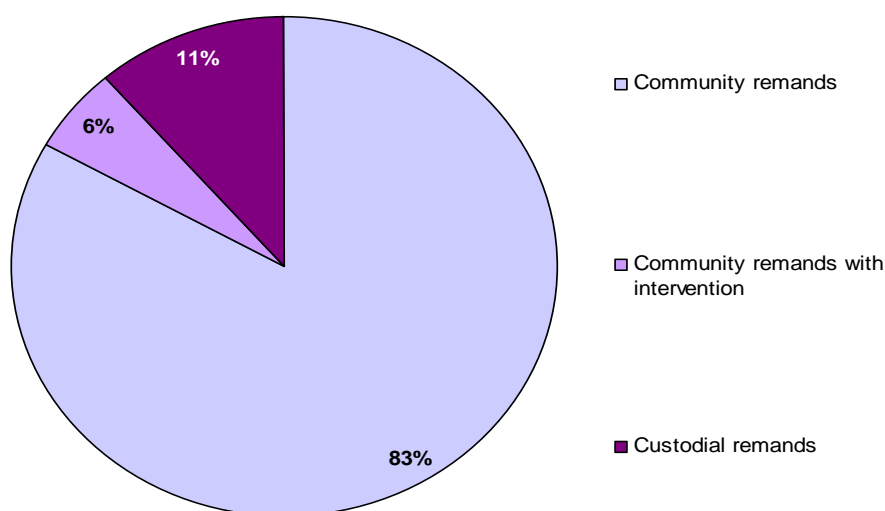
Types of remand given to young people, 2011/12

When the court makes the decision to remand a young person they have a number of options, including custodial remands, community remands including remand to local authority accommodation or a range of bail options. See the glossary for more details on remand types.

In 2011/12 there were 31,716 court sentencing occasions where young people were given a type of remand as part of the court process. This could be bail, remand in the community or in custody. This is a reduction of four per cent from 33,133 sentencing occasions in 2010/11. Of the 31,716 occasions in 2011/12 where young people were given a type of remand;

- 3,621 were custodial remand episodes, up four per cent from 2010/11.
- 1,769 were community remand episodes (with an intervention), up two per cent from 2010/11.
- 26,326 were bail remand episodes (conditional and unconditional), down six per cent since 2010/11.

Chart 6.1: Type of remand decisions for young people, 2011/12



Characteristics of the population in custody on remand, 2011/12

These data come from the YJB's SACHS database which consists of data from the youth secure estate. For more information on the general youth population in custody see [Chapter 7](#).

There was an average of 477 young people in custody on remand at any one time in 2011/12. The majority (81%) were remanded to custody in a Young Offenders Institution (YOI). The average number of young people on remand has fallen 24 per cent from 605 in 2008/09, to 477 in 2011/12.

Young people held on remand accounted for 24 per cent of the total custody population in 2011/12, compared to 22 per cent in 2008/09. While the overall number of young people in custody has fallen 32 per cent between 2008/09 and 2011/12, the number on remand has only fallen 21 per cent.

Most young people in custody on remand were there for serious offences, including; 29 per cent for robbery, 26 per cent for violence offences against the person and 15 per cent for burglary offences. However, eight per cent of young people remanded to custody were in for breach of bail, conditional discharge or a statutory order.

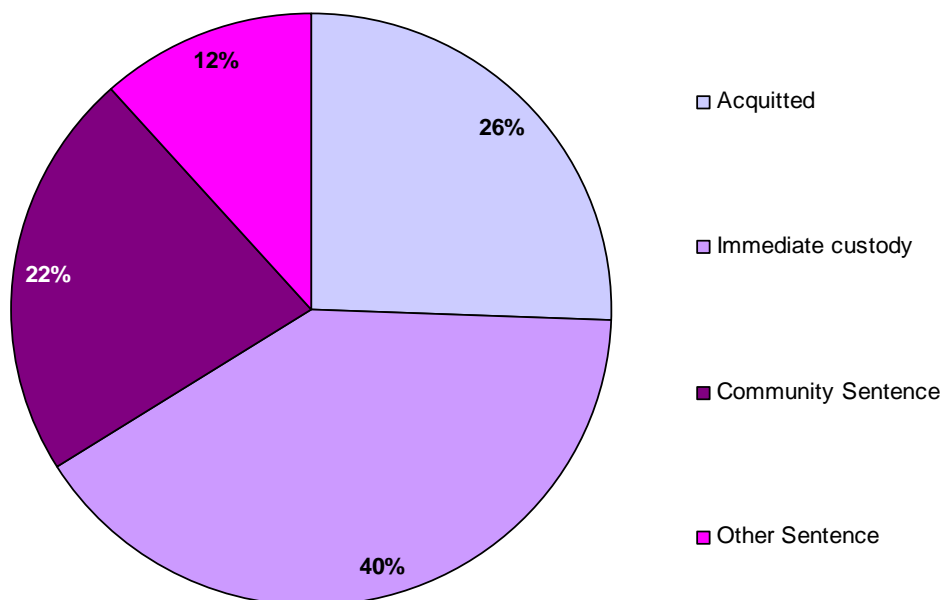
The average time spent on remand was 42 days in 2011/12; this figure has been stable over the last few years ([Chapter 7](#)).

Outcomes for young people following custodial remand, 2011/12

Not all young people placed in custodial remand were subsequently given a custodial sentence. Data from the MoJ's Court Proceedings Database shows the outcomes for young people remanded into custody.

For those young people given custodial remand in 2011/12, 60 per cent were not given a custodial outcome following their remand. Of these, 26 per cent were acquitted and 34 per cent were given other court convictions (22% community sentences and 12% other sentences).

Chart 6.2: Outcomes following custodial remand, 2011/12



Chapter 7: Young people in custody

This chapter provides data on the population of young people in the youth secure estate during 2011/12. The custody data are from the YJB's SACHS database, which consists of data from the youth secure estate (Young Offenders Institutions, Secure Children's Homes and Secure Training Centres). For provisional data after April 2012 please see the Youth Custody Statistics;

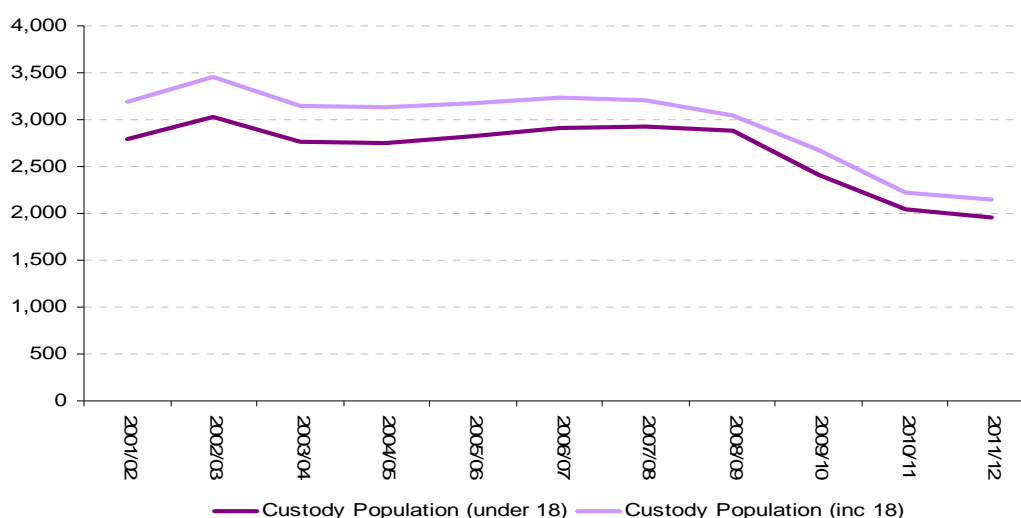
www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/youth-justice/custody-data.htm

Please note that although the YJB is only responsible for placing 10-17 year olds, young people aged over 17 remain in the youth secure estate if they only have a short period of their sentence left to serve, to avoid disrupting their regimes. Unless stated otherwise the data presented here are for the under 18 population only.

Key findings

- The average population in custody (under 18) in 2011/12 was 1,963 down four per cent from an average of 2,040 in 2010/11. This is the first time the average population has fallen below 2,000 in the last decade.
- The average population in custody (under 18) has fallen 30 per cent from 2,801 in 2001/02.
- The average population in 2011/12 (including 18 year olds held in the youth secure estate) was 2,141. This is a four per cent reduction on the 2010/11 figure of 2,222.

Chart 7.1: Average custody population from 2001/02 to 2011/12



Why has the number of young people in custody been falling?

The number of young people in custody has fallen every year since 2008/09. There are a number of factors that may have contributed to this.

1. The number of young people in the Youth Justice System overall has fallen since 2006/07, see [Chapter 2](#) for more details.
2. The Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YRO), introduced in November 2009, offered more flexibility around the interventions given to young people as part of a community sentence. This may have resulted in young people being diverted from custody, see [Chapter 5](#) for more details.

The peak in the population seen in 2002/03 may be partly due to the Street Crime initiative, which impacted on street crime and disposals for young people. For further information see

webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110220105210/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/robbery1.html

Legal basis for detention for young people in custody, 2011/12

Over half (58%) of the average population of young people (under 18) in custody in 2011/12 were serving a Detention and Training Order (DTO). A further 24 per cent were held on remand. The remaining 18 per cent were serving long-term sentences (see glossary for more details).

Offences resulting in young people going into custody, 2011/12

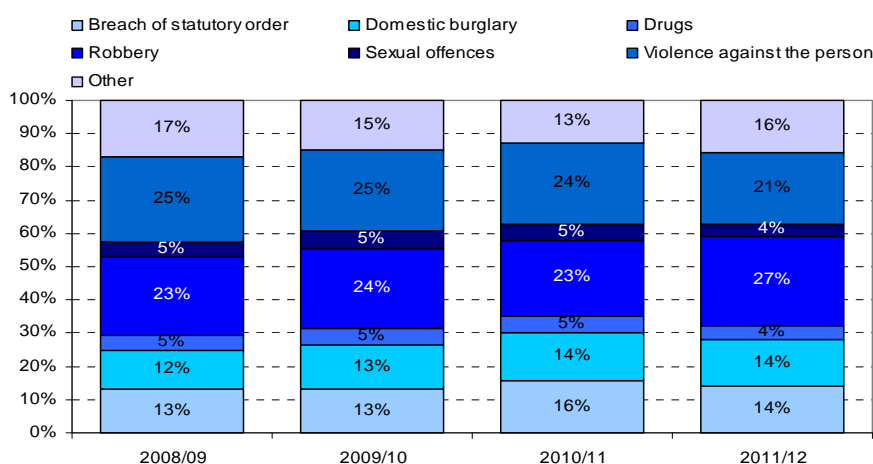
Most young people held in custody in 2011/12 were there for serious offences, including;

- 27 per cent for robbery offences
- 21 per cent for violence against the person offences
- 16 per cent for burglary (domestic and non-domestic) offences

A further 16 per cent were in custody for breach offences.

The proportion of young people in custody for Robbery has risen from 23 per cent of the population to 27 per cent of the population between 2008/09 and 2011/12. Over the same time period the proportion of young people in custody for offences of violence against the person has reduced from 25 per cent of the average population to 21 per cent.

Chart 7.2: Custody population (under 18) by primary offence group, 2008/09 to 2011/12 average proportions



Demographics of young people in custody, 2011/12

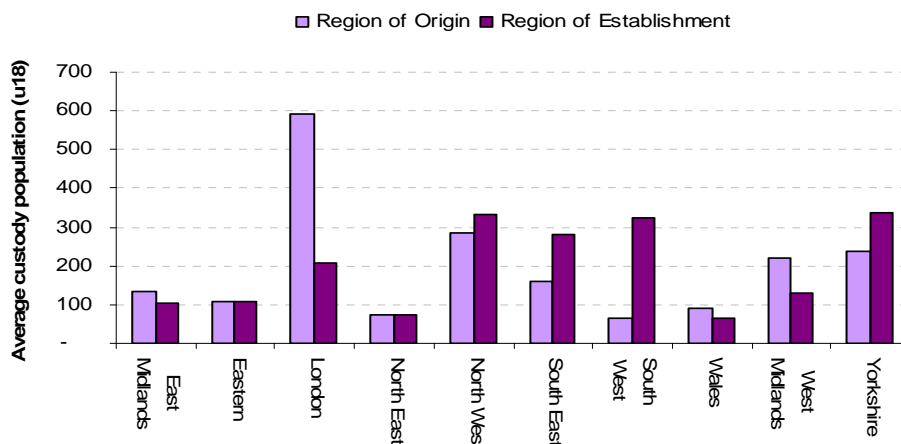
- In 2011/12 around 94 per cent of the young people (under 18) held in the secure estate were male. Most (96%) of the young people (under 18) held in the secure estate were aged 15-17 years.
- In 2011/12 around 62 per cent of the young people held in custody were from a White ethnic background. Young people from a Black ethnic background accounted for 16 per cent of young people in custody. This compares to 80 per cent and eight per cent respectively on the overall YOT caseload ([Chapter 3](#)).
- In 2011/12, 21 per cent of young people from a White ethnic background in custody were held on remand, compared to 30 per cent of young people from a Black ethnic background and 27 per cent from an Asian background.

Location for young people (under 18) held in custody, 2011/12

- In 2011/12, most (77%) young people (under 18) held in custody were in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs), 14 per cent were in Secure Training Centres (STCs) and the remaining eight per cent in Secure Children's Homes (SCHs). See glossary for more information.
- Young people are not always placed in establishments close to their homes; this is due to the geographic nature of establishments, and mainly affects young people from London⁴³. In 2011/12, 30 per cent of young people in custody were from London, but the only London establishment was only available to accommodate 11 per cent of the total population.

⁴³ Feltham is the only London establishment, and holds young people aged 15-17 sentenced or remanded to custody.

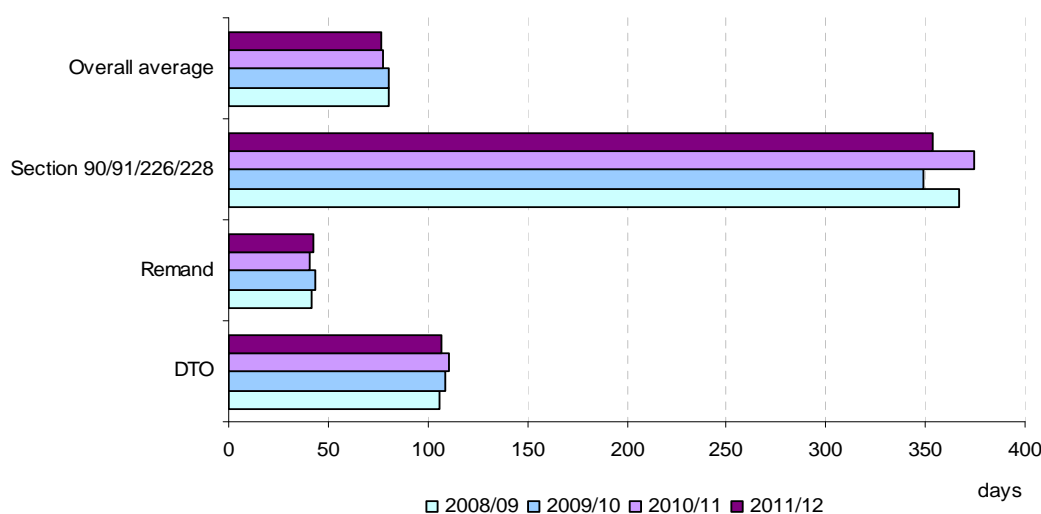
Chart 7.3: Custody population (under 18) by region of origin



Time in custody for young people (under 18) in custody

Overall the average length of time spent in custody decreased by one day, from 78 days in 2010/11 to 77 days in 2011/12. For DTOs, it decreased by four days (from 111 to 107), for remand it increased by one day (from 41 to 42) and for longer sentences it decreased by 21 days (from 374 to 353).

Chart 7.4: Average time in days spent in the secure estate for children and young people by legal basis of detention from 2008/09 to 2011/12



Operating the secure estate effectively

In order for the system to operate effectively, efficiently and at an acceptable level of risk, the YJB commissions places on the basis that the estate should operate at a 93 per cent occupancy rate. In 2011/12, there was an average occupancy rate of 89 per cent (i.e. there were an average of 2,141 of the 2,421 available beds occupied at any one time). It is important to obtain a significant degree of assurance that any planned reductions in commissioned beds are sustainable over the medium to long term. Consequently there will always be a time-lag in decommissioning activity following decreases in

demand. This approach has ensured that decommissioning activity has never been followed by the need for any subsequent re-commissioning and disruption to the overall estate has been minimised. The secure estate for young people is particularly complex and the overall population figures comprise a number of sub populations that need further in depth analysis and impact assessment before decommissioning takes place.

Chapter 8a: Behaviour management in the secure estate

This chapter covers information on behaviour management in the youth secure estate. The data covers the financial years 2008/09 to 2011/12. From 2008/09 to 2011/12 the overall population in custody has fallen ([Chapter 7](#)), which means it is important to look at the change in the rate i.e. the number of incidents per 100 young people in the population as well as the raw numbers.

Key findings

- There were 8,419 incidents of restrictive physical intervention (RPIs) used in the youth secure estate in 2011/12, up six per cent from 2008/09 and 17 per cent from 2010/11.
- There were 1,725 incidents of self harm, down 34 per cent from 2008/09, but up 21 per cent on 2010/11.
- There were 3,372 assaults by young people in custody, down 20 per cent since 2008/09 and down 5 per cent since 2010/11.
- There were 3,881 occasions where single separation was used in Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) or Secure Training Centres (STCs), down 51 per cent since 2008/09 and 13 per cent since 2010/11.

Behaviour management in the youth secure estate, 2008/09 to 2011/12

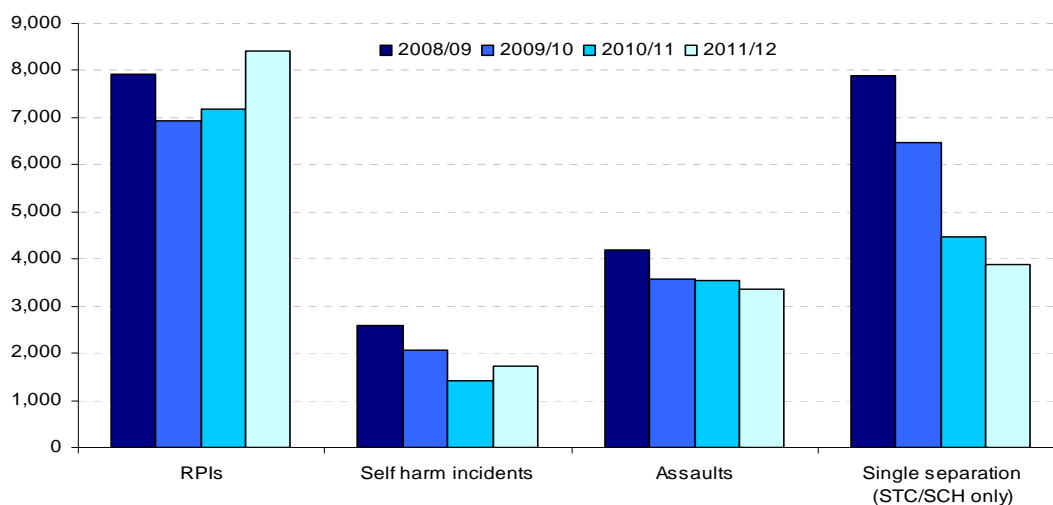
"Behaviour management" refers to the processes and policies by which youth secure establishments promote positive behaviour and manage challenging and difficult behaviour amongst young people. This section covers the use of restrictive physical interventions (RPI) on young people, incidents of self harm, assaults and the use of single separation involving young people in custody. The data covers 2008/09 to 2011/12. Due to the way the data were collected prior to April 2008 it is not possible to compare current data with data prior to this date⁴⁴. The data here includes some 18 year olds who are kept in the youth secure estate. The data provided gives totals and some demographic breakdowns⁴⁵.

RPIs are only used on young people as a last resort, for example to prevent them causing harm to themselves or others. For each type of incident, the total number of actual incidents in the year, the monthly average and the total number of young people involved are presented. We cannot provide a

⁴⁵ Please note total figures for age, gender and ethnicity may not add up to the same total figures due to recording issues with the monthly returns from establishments. Also, assaults involving multiple perpetrators are recorded separately in the breakdowns.

distribution of incidents per young people (i.e. how many people were only involved in any one incident) due to the way the data are collected.

Chart 8a.1: Trend in the number of behaviour management incidents, 2008/09 to 2011/12



Use of Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI), 2011/12

There were 8,419 incidents of RPI used in the youth secure estate in 2011/12, up six per cent from 2008/09 and up 17 per cent since 2010/11. There was an average of 702 restraints per month in 2011/12, involving an average of 474 young people. The number of RPIs per 100 young people in custody in the year was higher for the younger age group (10-14) and females than their counterparts.

In 2011/12 there were 254 restraints involving injury to young people, nearly all (93%) of these were minor injuries

Chart 8a.2a: Average number of RPIs for young people in custody, 2008/09 to 2011/12

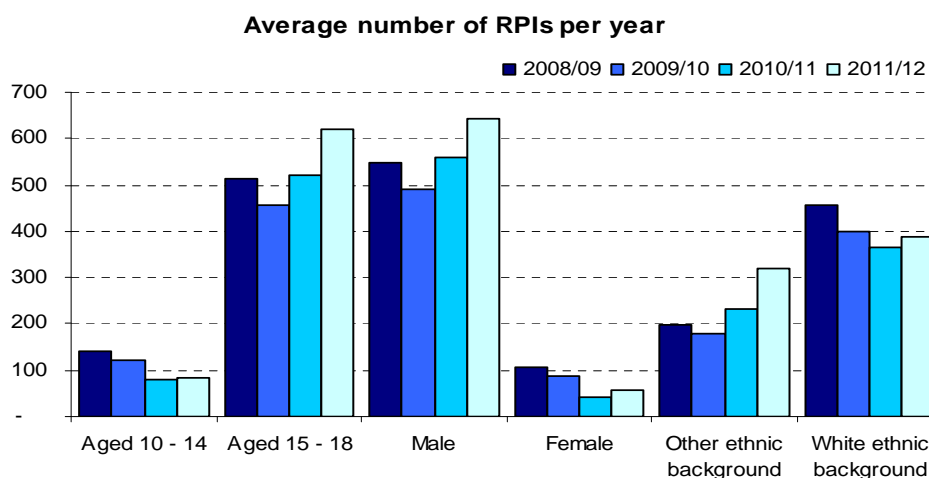
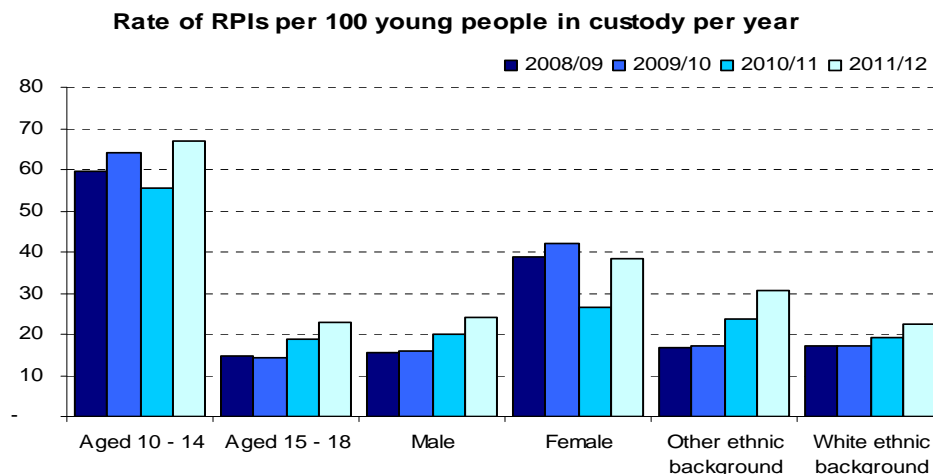


Chart 8a.2b: Rate of RPIs per 100 young people in custody, 2008/09 to 2011/12



Self harm by young people in custody, 2011/12

Self harm in custody is defined as any act by which a young person deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent or severity of the injury. There were 1,725 incidents of self harm in 2011/12, down 34 per cent since 2008/09 but an increase of 21 per cent since 2010/11. There was an average of 144 incidents of self harm per month in 2011/12, involving an average of 87 young people. The rate of self harm incidents per 100 young people in custody was higher for females than their male counterparts.

Chart 8a.3a: Average number of self harm incidents for young people in custody, 2008/09 to 2011/12

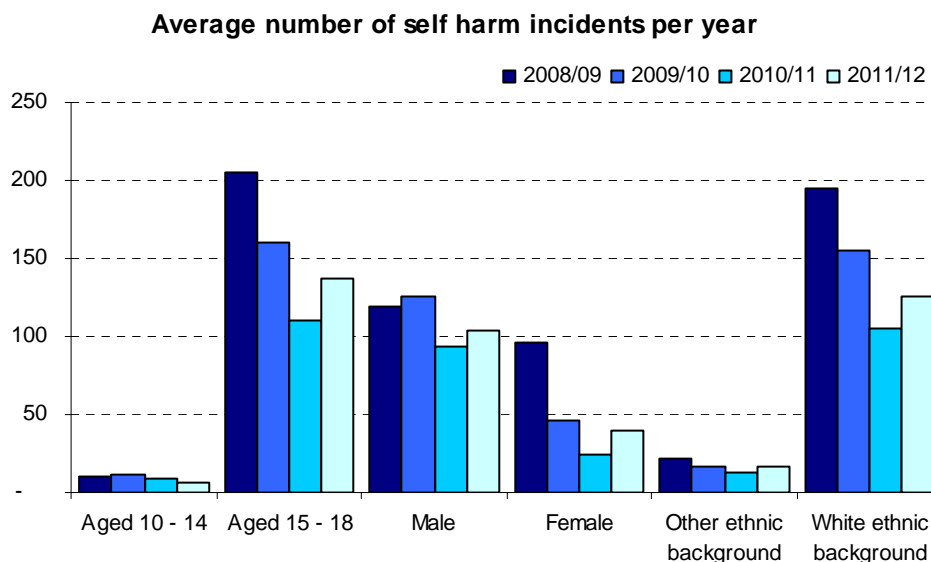
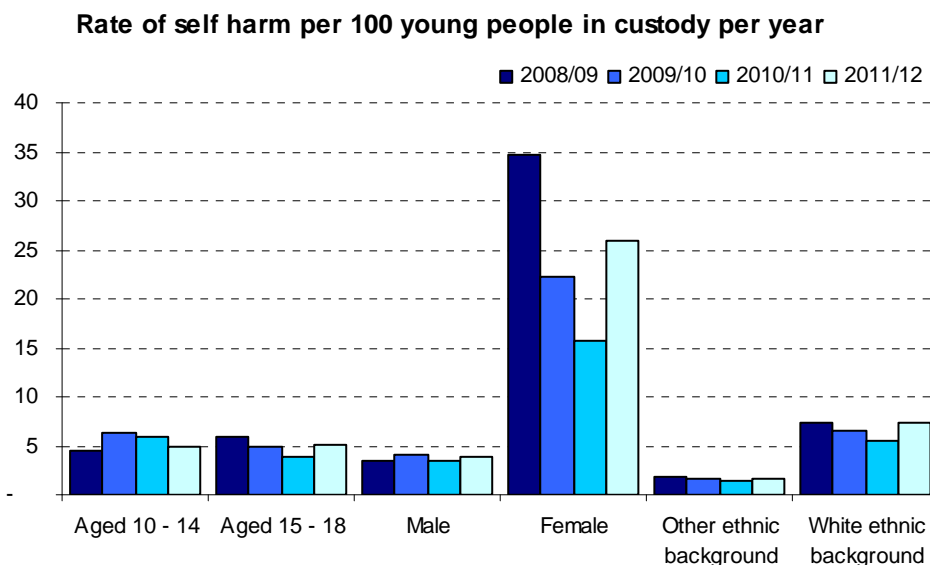


Chart 8a.3b: Rate of self harm per 100 young people in custody, 2008/09 to 2011/12



Assaults involving young people in custody, 2011/12

Assaults are defined as “the intentional use of unnecessary force that results in physical contact with the victim”. Physical contact can be by any part of the assailant’s body or bodily fluid or the use or display of any weapon or missile. It is not necessary for the victim to suffer injury of any kind. Assaults of a sexual nature are included.

There were 3,372 assaults involving young people in custody in 2011/12, down 20 per cent since 2008/09 and five per cent since 2010/11. There was an average of 281 assaults per month in 2011/12 involving an average of 224 young people. The number of assaults per 100 young people in custody was higher for the younger group (10-14), females and those from the Black or other minority ethnic background than their counterparts.

Chart 8a.4a: Number of assaults involving young people in custody, 2008/09 to 2011/12

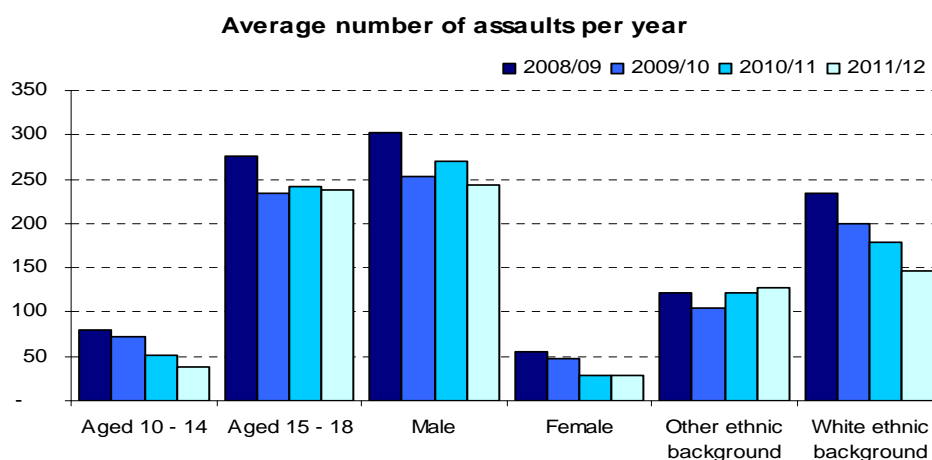
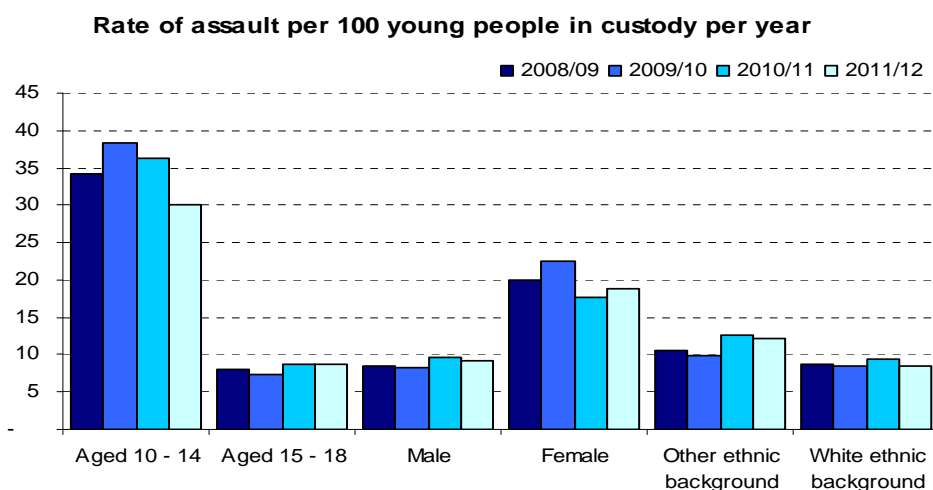


Chart 8a.4b: Rate of assault per 100 young people in custody, 2008/09 to 2011/12



Single separation in STCs and SCHs, 2011/12

Single separation refers to the confining of a young person in his/her 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. The data are only collected for Secure Training Centres and Secure Children's Homes and private YOIs.

There were 3,881 occasions where single separation was used in 2011/12, down 51 per cent from 2008/09 and 13 per cent since 2010/11. In 2011/12 there was an average of 323 incidents of single separation per month used in Secure Children's Homes and Secure Training Centres. This compares to an average of 656 incidents of single separation used per month in 2008/09. The proportion of young people who are placed in single separation while in custody differs by age, with higher rates for the younger group (10-14) and females. There is little difference in single separation by gender.

Chapter 8b: Serious incidents involving young people

This chapter covers information on serious incidents in the community and deaths in the youth secure estate. The serious incidents in the community data cover the calendar years 2009 to 2011, data for 2012 is not yet available. The data covers young people in the community either under licence or receiving an intervention managed by YOTs. This data is presented in calendar years due to the way the data is collected. Data has only been collected in a consistent format since 2009. For more information on the terms used please see the glossary.

Key findings

- In 2011, there were 20 deaths in the community, where young people under supervision died either through murder, suicide or accidental death⁴⁶. Two were murdered in that period. This compares to 23 deaths in the community in 2010 and 2009.
- In 2011, YOTs reported that 119 young people under their supervision attempted suicide⁴⁷. This compares to 167 in 2010 and 113 in 2009.
- There have been 16 deaths in the youth secure estate since 2000/01, there were three deaths of young people in 2011/12.

Serious incidents in the community affecting young people, 2009 to 2011

This section covers serious incidents in the community affecting young people between 2009 and 2011. The data collection only formally began in 2009. Serious incidents in the community are reported to the YJB by YOTs throughout the year and the live database is continually updated as we receive new information.

In June 2012, the YJB began piloting a revised process by which YOTs notify us of safeguarding and public protection incidents. The following paragraphs describe the system in place during the period covered by this report but users should note that some elements of the process have now changed and that this may impact on reporting in future years.

A 'serious incident' affecting young people is reported on the grounds of safeguarding or public protection. Incidents are defined as, whilst under YOT supervision (or within 20 days of supervision ending) a young person:

⁴⁶ Accidental deaths include those who died in road traffic accidents.

⁴⁷ The absence of an agreed definition of what constitutes an 'attempted suicide' or 'near-death' means that decisions about which incidents are reported under this heading are subjective

Safeguarding;

- a) Dies accidentally or from suicide or attempts suicide;
- b) Is a victim of any of the following offences: murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, torture, kidnapping, false imprisonment; or firearms offences⁴⁸.

Public Protection;

- c) Charged with committing any of the following offences: murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, torture, kidnapping, false imprisonment; or firearms offences.

Incidents meeting these criteria, or others at YOT discretion, are notified to the relevant local YJB team within 24 hours. YOTs then have 20 working days to submit a local management report to the YJB. The purpose of the local management report is to identify areas for improvement and lessons learnt.

The YJB can only report on the incidents they are made aware of.

Trends in community serious incidents

The number of serious incidents in the community reported to the YJB for 2011 was 290. This is a decrease on the 314 incidents in 2010 but higher than the 261 reported in 2009.

Safeguarding incidents

In relation to 2011 there were 20 deaths in the community reported to the YJB as of the 1st December 2012 where a young person under licence or YOT supervision died either through murder, suicide or accidental death⁴⁹. Two were murdered in that period. This compares with 23 deaths in 2009 and 2013.

Data for 2011 shows YOTs have reported 119 incidents where a young person under their supervision attempted suicide⁵⁰. This figure was 167 in 2010 and 113 in 2009.

The data for 2011 also shows that there were 25 'other' safeguarding incidents reported, where the young person was the victim of a serious

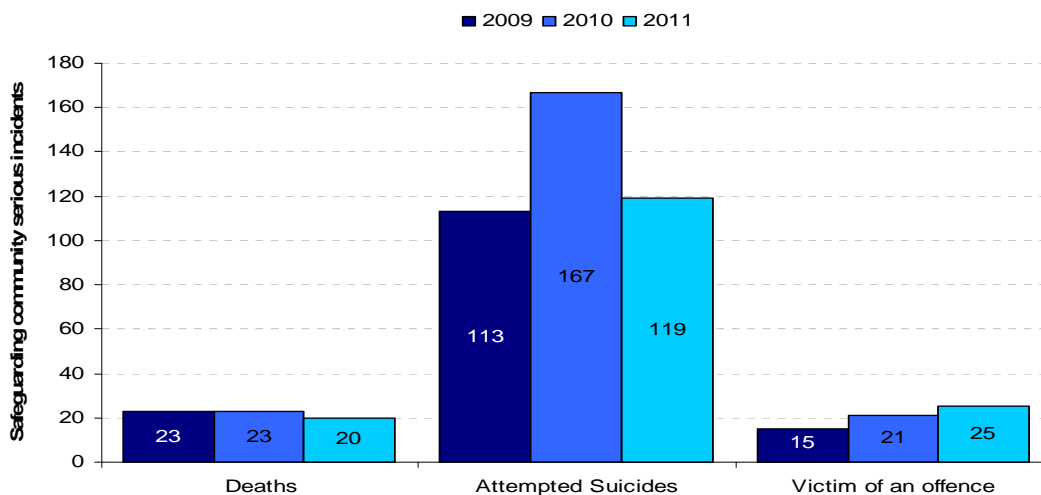
⁴⁸ Offences involving firearms are: possession of firearm with intent to endanger life (section 16 of the Firearms Act 1968; use of firearm to resist arrest (section 17(1) of the Firearms Act 1968; possession of firearm at time of committing or being arrested for offence specified in Schedule 1 to that Act (section 17(2) of the Firearms Act 1968); carrying a firearm with criminal intent (section 18 of the Firearms Act 1968); and robbery or assault with intent to rob where a firearm/imitation firearm is used (section 8(1) of the Theft Act 1968).

⁴⁹ Accidental deaths include those who died in road traffic accidents.

⁵⁰ The absence of an agreed definition of what constitutes an 'attempted suicide' or 'near-death' means that decisions about which incidents are reported under this heading are subjective

offence. The majority of these reports related to young people who had been victims of rape. In 2010, 21 'other' safeguarding incidents were reported to the YJB and 19 reported in 2009.

Chart 8b.5: Trends in safeguarding community serious incidents, 2009 to 2011

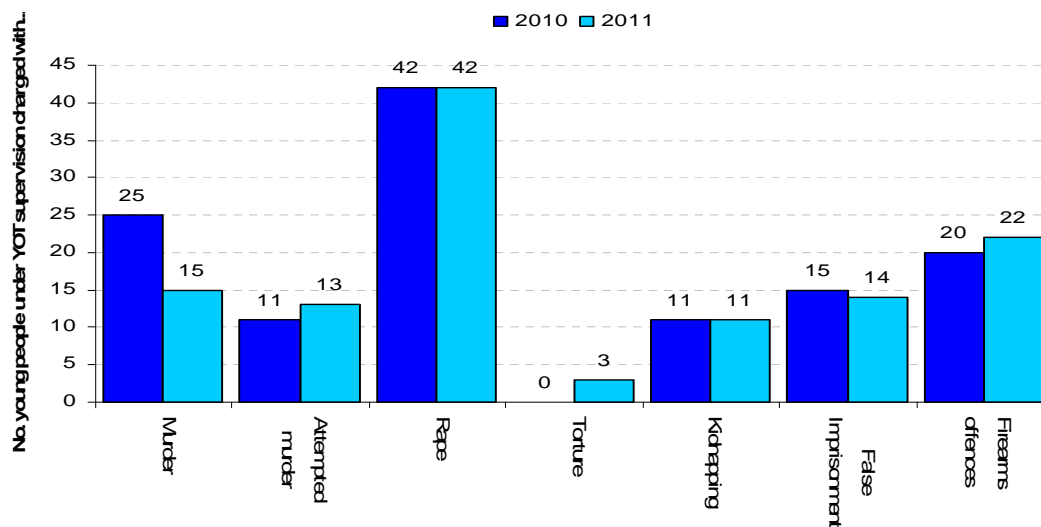


Public protection incidents

In 2011 there were 125 public protection incidents reported to the YJB where a young person under licence or YOT supervision was charged with a serious offence. Being charged with an offence does not mean they will plead or be found guilty of these offences.

The 125 public protection incidents in 2011 included 15 cases where a young person (whilst under YOT supervision) was charged with murder. There were a further 13 cases in 2011 where a young person was charged with attempted murder, and 42 cases where they were charged with rape.

Chart 8b.6: Public protection community serious incidents, 2010 to 2011



Deaths of young people in the youth secure estate

Since 2000/01 there have been 16 deaths in the youth secure estate, of these three deaths occurred in 2011/12. Before this there had not been a death in custody since 2007. The death of a young person in custody is a tragic and rare event. In 2011/12 the three deaths represented a rate of 0.14 deaths per every 100 young people in custody⁵¹.

The YJB seeks to learn from the investigations and inquiries which follow, and will continue to improve the secure estate as a result.

⁵¹ This is based on the average population in custody.

Chapter 9: Proven re-offending by young people, 2010/11 cohort

This section provides key statistics on proven re-offending in England and Wales. It gives proven re-offending figures for young people who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, or received a caution, reprimand or warning between 1st April 2010 and 31st March 2011. Proven re-offending is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow up. Following this one year period, a further six months is allowed for cases to progress through the courts.

This chapter focuses on re-offending by young people in 2010/11, compared with 2008/09 as a short term comparator and 2000 as a long term comparator⁵². A more detailed publication covering adult and youth re-offending is available here;

www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/reoffending/proven-re-offending

For information on the effectiveness of different types of youth disposals on re-offending rates please see [Annex D](#).

Key findings

- In the 12 months ending March 2011 there were 88,357 young people who were given a reprimand or final warning, convicted at court (excluding immediate custodial sentences) or released from custody.
- Of the 88,357 young people in the cohort, 31,635 committed a proven re-offence within a year. This gives a one-year re-offending rate of 35.8 per cent.
- The young people who re-offended committed an average of 2.87 offences each - 90,934 offences in total. Just under a quarter (23 per cent) of these offences were committed by young people with no previous offences, and 20 per cent were by young people with eleven or more previous offences.
- The rate of re-offending by young people has risen from 33.7 per cent in 2000 to 35.8 per cent in 2010/11, a 2.1 percentage point increase. The average number of re-offences per offender (frequency rate) fell eight per cent between 2000 and 2010/11.

As the overall rate of re-offending has risen in the last few years, the number of young people in the re-offending cohort has gone down, with particular reductions among those with no previous offences and those receiving pre-court disposals. Because of this, those young people coming

⁵² Data are not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on Court Orders

into the criminal justice system are, on balance, more challenging to work with. This is reflected in the higher predicted rate of re-offending and the higher average previous number of offences for each young person.

Chart 9.1: Binary rate (proportion who re-offend) for young people; 2000, 2005/06 to 2010/11

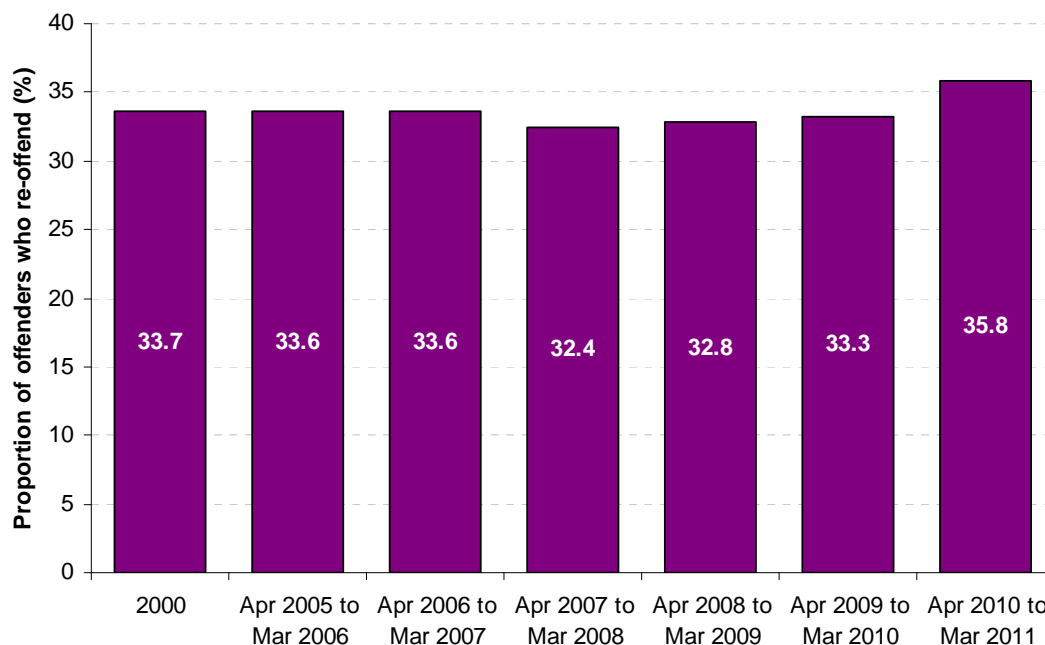
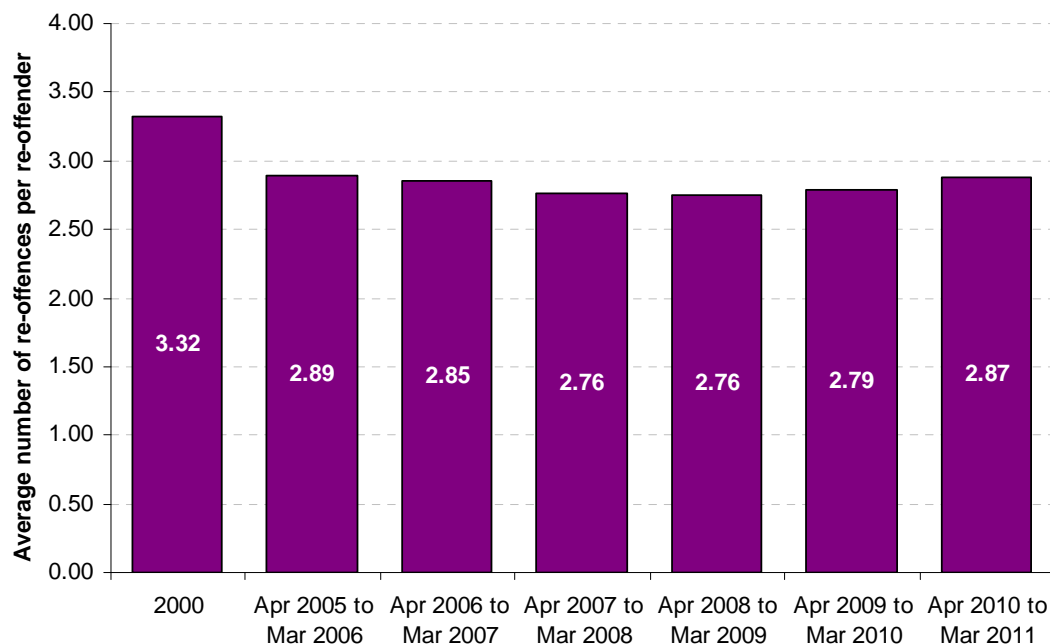


Chart 9.2: Average number of re-offences per re-offender for young people; 2000, 2005/06 and 2010/11



Changes to the re-offending cohort over time

In 2000 there were 139,326 young people that formed the re-offending cohort, in 2010/11 the size of the re-offending cohort had fallen 37 per cent to 88,357. Alongside this the average number of previous offences per offender in the cohort has risen from 1.59 in 2005/06 to 2.41 in 2010/11, a 51 per cent increase. This suggests that youth offending teams are working with a smaller, but generally more prolific cohort.

Re-offending by demography, 2010/11

The re-offending rates for young people show some differences by demography in 2010/11. The re-offending rate for young people aged 15-17 was 36.7 per cent in 2010/11, higher than the rate for 10-14 year olds which was 33.5 per cent.

- The average number of re-offences per re-offender was also higher for 15-17 year olds, with an average of 2.89 re-offences, compared to 2.82 for those aged 10-14 years.
- The re-offending rate for young males was 39.2 per cent in 2010/11, higher than the re-offending rate for females which was 24.7 per cent.
- Where ethnicity was recorded⁵³ young people from a Black ethnic background had the highest re-offending rate of 42.5 per cent. Those from an Asian background had the lowest rate of 30.2 per cent. Those from a White ethnic background had a re-offending rate of 35.8 per cent.

Re-offending by offence, disposal and criminal history, 2010/11

There are also differences when looking at re-offending by young people in terms of their index offence (the offence for which they entered the cohort) and their criminal history.

- As expected, the rate of re-offending increases with the number of previous offences. Those with no previous offences had a re-offending rate of 22.2 per cent, compared to those with 11 or more previous offences who had a re-offending rate of 77.2 per cent.
- Those young people who received a reprimand or final warning for their index disposal had a proven re-offending rate of 25.7 per cent, those that received their first-tier disposals had a re-offending rate of 44.7 per cent, those given YROs had a re-offending rate of 67.7 per cent. Those released from custody had a re-offending rate of 72.6 per cent.
- Re-offending rates differ based on the index offence of the young person, with those entering the cohort for offences of fraud and forgery offences having a re-offending rate of 26.7 per cent, compared to those

⁵³ Ethnicity on the PNC is based on police perception

with domestic burglary offences which have a 50.9 per cent re-offending rate.

- Within the YOIs the re-offending rate ranged from 68.1 per cent at Stoke Heath and Werrington to 82.7 per cent in Huntercombe⁵⁴. However, the characteristics of the young people within each establishment may differ, so direct comparisons should be treated with caution.

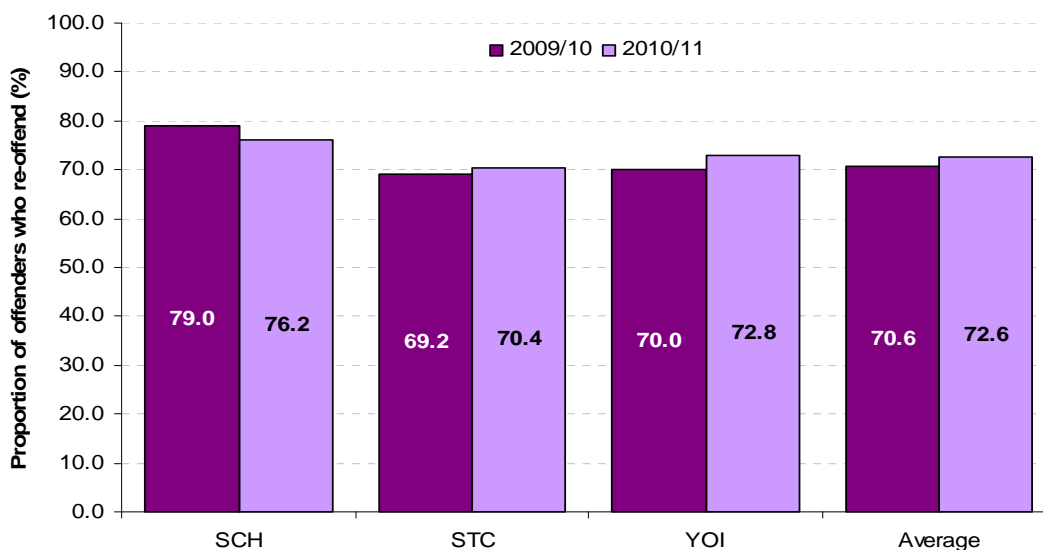
Re-offending by secure establishments (STCs/SCHs),

Re-offending rates are highest for young people who leave the youth secure estate. However, because of the characteristics of young people who leave the different establishments, and the different roles of each establishment, their re-offending rates cannot be directly compared.

Data for the Secure Training Centres in 2010/11 showed a range in the rate of re-offending from 62.2 per cent in Rainsbrook to 78.5 in Medway.

Data for the Secure Children's Homes in 2010/11 showed a range in the rate of re-offending from 73.37 per cent in Aycliffe to 90.3 in East Moor. Data is not available for every SCH as cohorts with less than 30 young people are removed as they make data unreliable for interpretation.

Chart 9.3: Re-offending by secure establishments, 2009/10 and 2010/11



⁵⁴ Huntercombe was taken out of use in April 2010 and young people were all released by July 2010.

Chapter 10: Criminal Histories of Young People

This chapter presents information on the criminal histories of young people in the Youth Justice System. 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 reprimand, warning, caution or conviction, they had previously committed one or more offences that had resulted in one of these sanctions. This PNC data excludes a range of summary offences so the figures presented here focus on the criminal histories of young people cautioned (reprimands or final warnings for young people) or sentenced for indictable offences only. This chapter covers information up to 2011/12. For the latest MoJ publication please see;

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics.htm

Key findings

- In 2011/12 most (71%) young people who received a reprimand or final warning for an indictable offence had no previous offences.
- In 2011/12, 38 per cent of those young people sentenced at court for indictable offences were first time entrants to the Youth Justice System.
- The proportion of young people sentenced to custody who were first time entrants was eight per cent in 2011/12. This proportion has fluctuated between five and eight per cent since 2001/02.

Criminal history of young people in the Youth Justice System

The proportion of young people who committed offences that resulted in a reprimand, warning or conviction that were previously known to the Youth Justice System has reduced over time. In 2001/02, half (49%) of the young people receiving a disposal were not previously known to the Youth Justice System. By 2011/12 this proportion had fallen to 36 per cent.

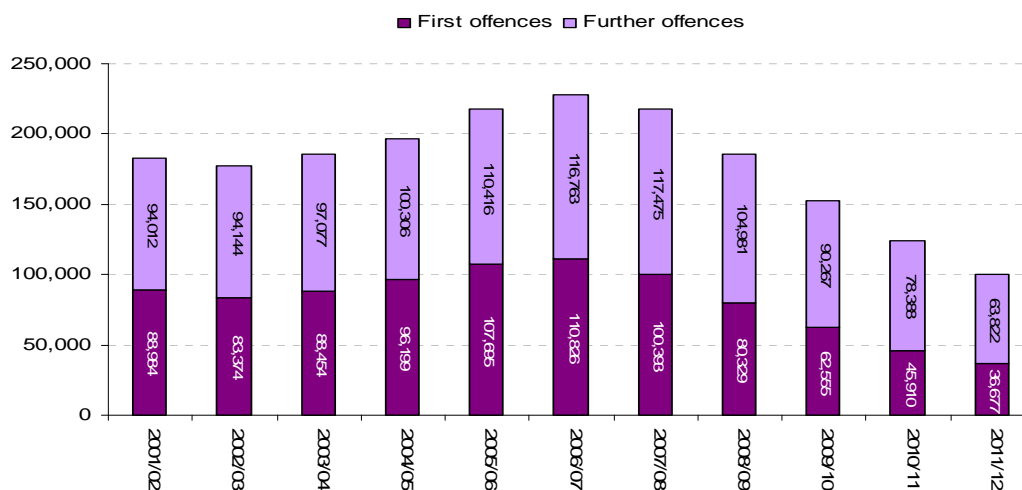
In 2011/12 just over four per cent of young people sentenced for an indictable offence had 15 or more previous offences. This figure has risen from just over one per cent in 2001/02, to four per cent in 2008/09 to over four per cent in 2011/12.

This suggests the young people being sentenced before the courts are more prolific in their criminal history. This may be impacted by the reduction in first time entrants to the Youth Justice System over this period; meaning young people in the Youth Justice System are more likely to have previous offences.

The proportion of young people sentenced to custody who were first time entrants to the Youth Justice System was eight per cent in 2011/12. This proportion has fluctuated between five and eight per cent in the last decade.

These trends may be partly due to fewer young people entering the Youth Justice System, shown by the drop in FTEs ([Chapter 2](#)). This means that YOTs are dealing with fewer young people ([Chapter 3](#)), but they are more serious in terms of their previous offending ([Chapter 9](#)).

Chart 10.1: Young people with first and further offences, 2001/02 to 2011/12



Criminal histories of young people cautioned for indictable offences

In 2011/12 most (71%) young people who received a reprimand or final warning for an indictable offence had no previous offences. Less than two per cent of young people given a reprimand or final warning in 2011/12 had three or more previous cautions or convictions. This is to be expected as reprimands and final warnings are supposed to be only given for first or second offences.

Criminal histories of young people sentenced for indictable offences

The criminal history profile of sentenced young people is changing over time. In 2001/02 only one per cent of the young people sentenced for indictable offences had 15 or more previous convictions or cautions; this has steadily risen to four per cent in 2011/12. So a greater proportion of young people being sentenced for indictable offences had committed 15 or more proven offences previously.

Chart 10.2: All sentenced disposals of young people by criminal history (number of previous cautions or convictions), 2011/12

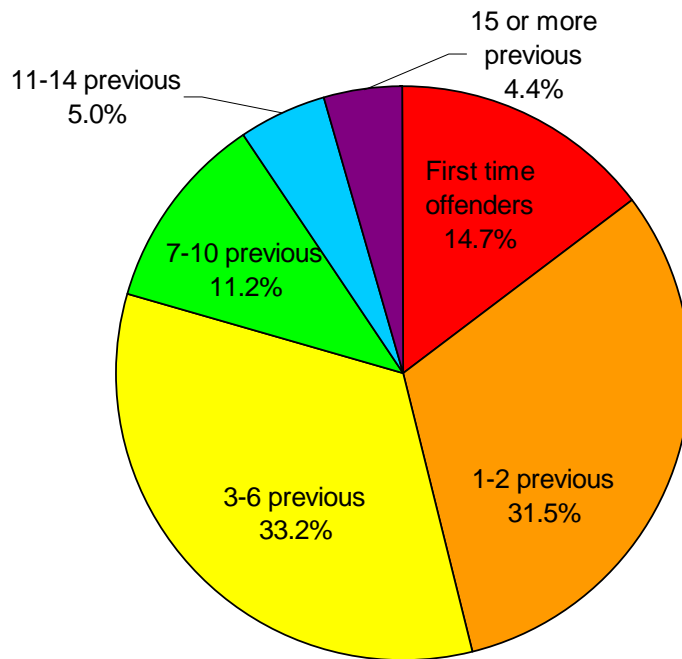
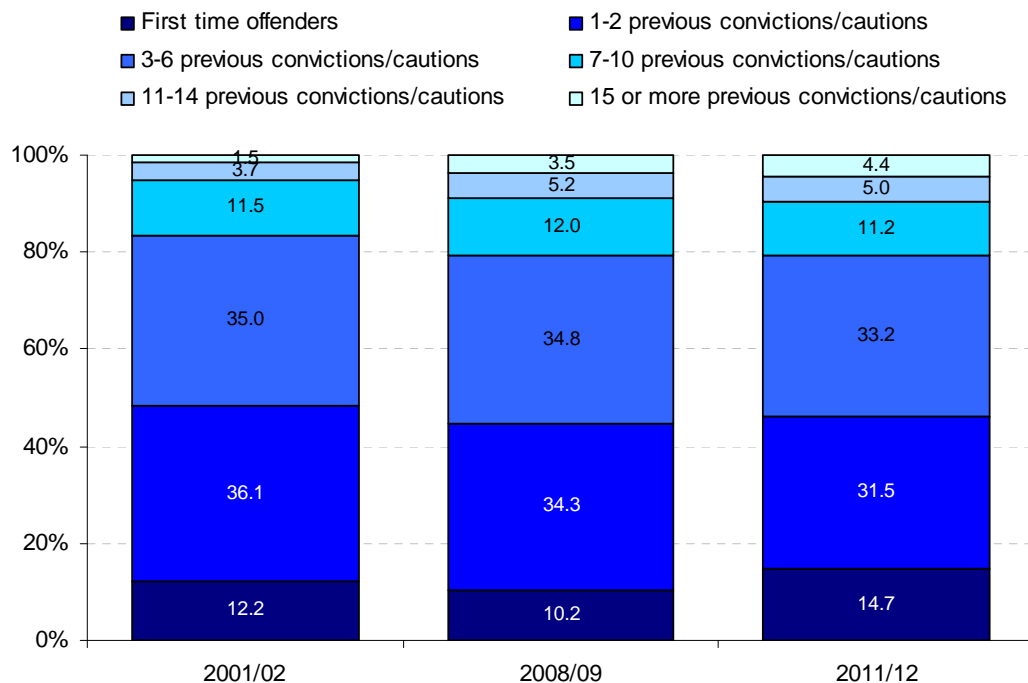


Chart 10.3: All sentenced disposals of young people by criminal history, 2001/02, 2008/09 and 2011/12



Chapter 11: Comparisons to the adult system

This chapter provides a comparison with young people (10-17 years), young adults (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, offences and disposals, criminal history, population in custody and re-offending.

Key findings

- Young people (aged 10-17) accounted for 18 per cent of first time entrants to the criminal justice system in 2011/12. Adults (18 and over) accounted for 82 per cent.
- Young people sentenced for indictable offences accounted for 11 per cent of the total court sentences in 2011/12. Young adults (18-20) accounted for 12 per cent and the remaining 77 per cent were adults (aged 21 and over).
- Young people in custody under sentence accounted for only two per cent of the total custody population in 2011/12.
- In 2010/11 the proportion of people who re-offend was highest for young people aged 10-17, with a re-offending rate of 35.8 per cent. Young adults (18-20) had a re-offending rate of 31.5 per cent, while adults (21 and over) had a rate of 24.2 per cent.

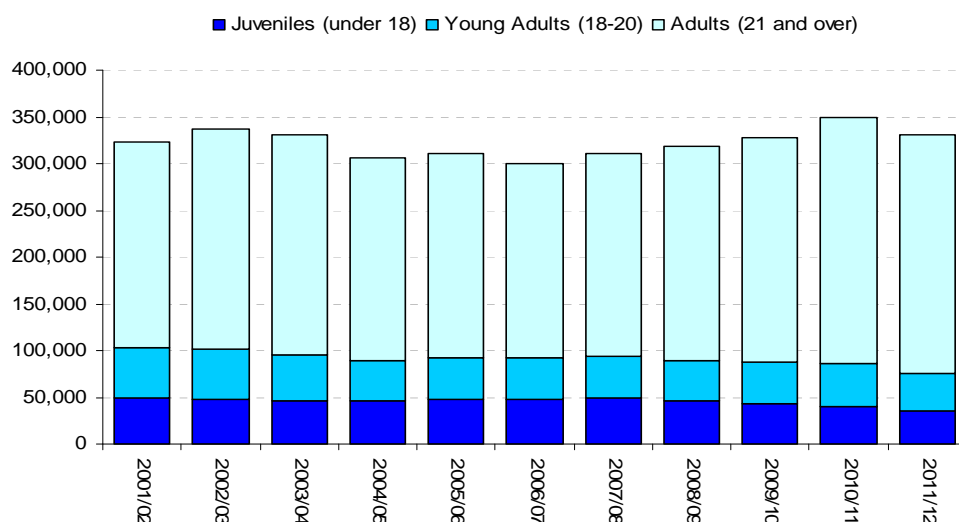
First Time Entrants to the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales, 2011/12

- Young people (10-17) accounted for 18 per cent of first time entrants to the criminal justice system in 2011/12. Adults (18 and over) accounted for 82 per cent.
- In 2001/02, young people accounted for 33 per cent of first time entrants to the criminal justice system. This proportion was broadly stable until 2007/08 when it started to fall to its present level.

Offences and disposals in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales, 2011/12

- Young people (10-17) sentenced for all offences accounted for only five per cent of the total people sentenced in 2011/12.
- Young people (10-17) sentenced for indictable offences accounted for 11 per cent of the total people sentenced in 2011/12 with 34,993 court sentences, compared to 12 per cent for young adults (18-20) and 77 per cent for adults (21+).

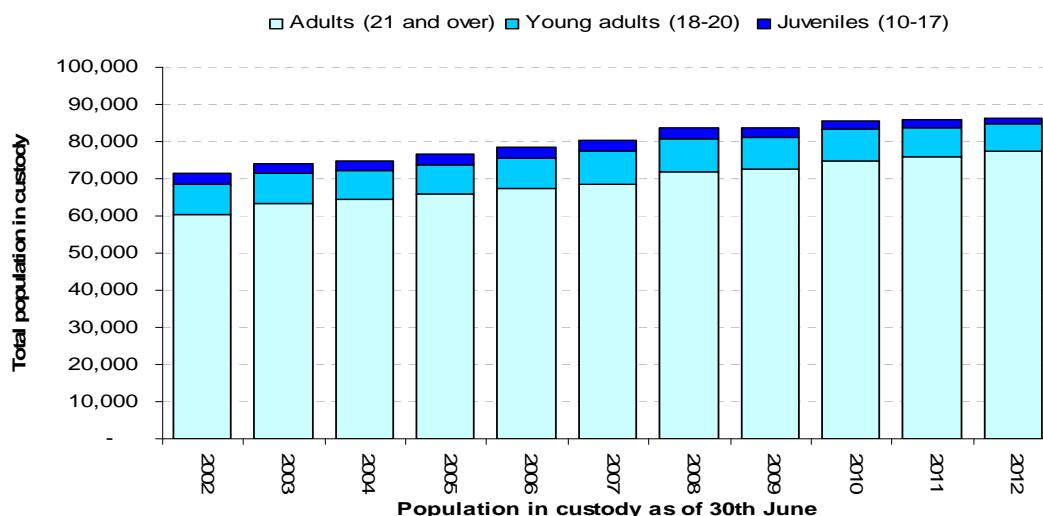
Chart 11.1: People sentenced for indictable offences by age, 2001/02 to 2011/12



Population in custody under sentence, 2001/02 to 2011/12

- Young people (10-17) in custody accounted for two per cent of the total sentenced prison population in 2011/12. This proportion has fallen from over four per cent in 2001/02.
- The population in custody in the youth estate (under 18) was 1,678 at the end of June 2012, compared to 7,443 young adults (18-20) and 77,323 adults (21 and over) in prison.
- In the last year, the total population in custody rose by one per cent, this was driven by a two per cent rise in the adult (21 and over) population. The young adults (18-20) reduced by six per cent in this period and young people (10-17) reduced by 17 per cent.

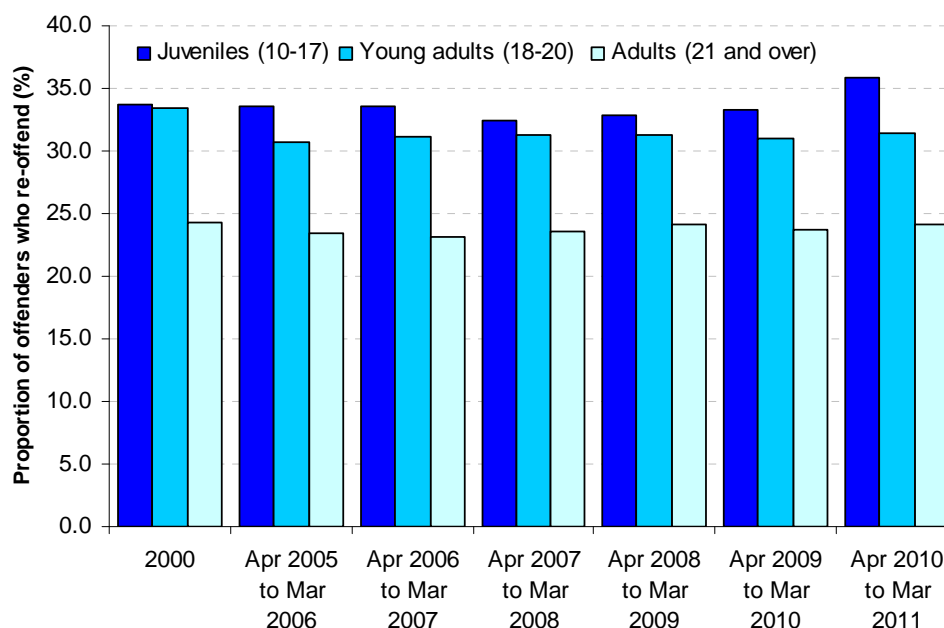
Chart 11.2: Population in custody by age on 30th June 2002 to 2012



Re-offending in England and Wales, 2000 and 2005/06 to 2010/11

- In 2010/11 the proportion of people who re-offended was highest for young people aged 10-17, with a re-offending rate of 35.8 per cent. Young adults (18-20) had a re-offending rate of 31.5 per cent, while adults (21+) had a rate of 24.2 per cent.
- The average number of re-offences per re-offender was highest for adults (21+) with an average of 2.92 re-offences per re-offender. The figures were 2.87 for young people (10-17) and 2.72 for young adults (18-20).

Chart 11.3: Proportion of people who re-offend, 2000 and 2005/06 to 2010/11



Chapter 12: Perceptions of the Youth Justice System

This chapter reports results from the 2011/12 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)⁵⁵, which includes measures of public confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS). Findings are presented on the perceptions of those aged 16 and over, on what they perceive is the main purpose of the Youth Justice System (YJS); whether the police and courts deal with young people fairly; and, public confidence in youth crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) being tackled effectively at a local level.

Reported differences between demographic groups and between survey years referred to in the text are statistically significant at the 0.05 level (this means that there is only a 5% chance that differences reported are not true differences). Also, all don't know/refused responses have been removed from the analysis⁵⁶.

Key findings

Presented here are some insights into public perceptions of youth crime and the Youth Justice System. Findings, as in previous years, emphasise the public's perceived importance of rehabilitation, alongside a desire generally for more stringent treatment of young offenders by the police and courts.

In 2011/12:

- Nearly half (48%) of the public felt that 'rehabilitation through help and support' should be the main aim of the Youth Justice System.
- Around two thirds of the public (65%) felt that the police and courts dealt with young offenders too leniently. In 2010/11 there was an increase from the previous year in the proportion who felt that the treatment was 'about right' (from 26% to 32%), whilst this year the figure remains fairly stable at 31%.
- Over half of the public (57%) were confident that youth crime and ASB is tackled effectively in their local area, though this figure has fallen from 59% in 2010/11.

⁵⁵ The British Crime Survey (BCS) was renamed the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) when the Office of National Statistics (ONS) took over responsibility for it in April 2012. The CSEW is a large scale nationally-representative face-to-face victimisation survey in which people, aged 16 and over, who are resident private households in England and Wales, are asked about their experiences of a range of crimes. The latest CSEW publications and further information about the methodology can be found on the ONS website at:

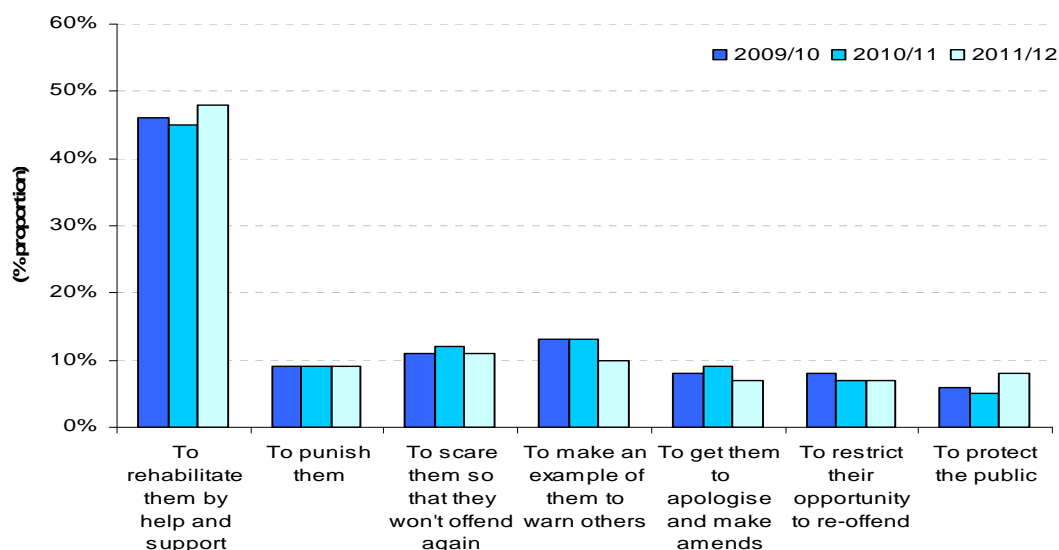
www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales

⁵⁶ CSEW data were weighted to reflect the England and Wales population. Sample sizes are included in excel tables, which have been published alongside this report and also in footnotes to charts.

Perceptions of the aim of the Youth Justice System (YJS)

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 established the prevention of offending by children and young people as the principal aim of the Youth Justice System, and placed a statutory duty on all those working in the Youth Justice System to have regard to that aim. The public were asked what they thought should be the main aim of the YJS. In 2011/12, as in previous years, rehabilitation (e.g. drug treatment, skills training, etc) was by far the most popular response (48%)

Chart 12.1: Views on what should be the main aim of the Youth Justice System, 2009/10 to 2011/12*



*Source: CSEW. Base sample sizes: 2009/10 = 5,491; 2010/11 = 5,842; 2011/12 = 5,756.

- A higher proportion of women (51%) felt that rehabilitation should be the main aim of the YJS, compared with men (45%).
- A smaller proportion (35%) of those aged 75 years and older said that rehabilitation should be the main aim of the YJS, when compared with younger age groups (the figures were around half for the other age groups).
- When income bands were considered, a higher proportion of those in the higher income range felt that rehabilitation was the main aim of the YJS, compared with those in the lower income bands. Over half of those (57%) with higher levels of education (57%) said that rehabilitation was the main aim of the YJS compared with around a third (37%) of those who had no qualifications or those with qualifications below A-level (41%).
- Also more of those who were employed chose rehabilitation as their response (51%), compared with those who were 'economically inactive', such as students and housewives (42%). Likewise, a higher

proportion of the economically inactive group responded that punishment was the main aim of the YJS.

- Among newspaper readers, a much larger proportion (63%) of those who said they read broadsheet newspapers (such as The Guardian or The Daily Telegraph) said that rehabilitation was the main aim of the YJS. This compares with 43 per cent of those who read 'popular' newspapers (such as The Sun, The Daily Mail or The Daily Star). Likewise, a higher proportion of those who read 'popular' newspapers responded that punishment was the main aim of the YJS.

Perceptions of how the police and courts deal with young offenders

In 2011/12 around two thirds of the public (65%) felt that the way in which the police and courts dealt with young offenders was too lenient (either 'much too lenient' or 'a little too lenient'). Around a third (33%) said the way in which they were dealt with was 'much too lenient'. The responses for this question have remained very similar since 2006/07.

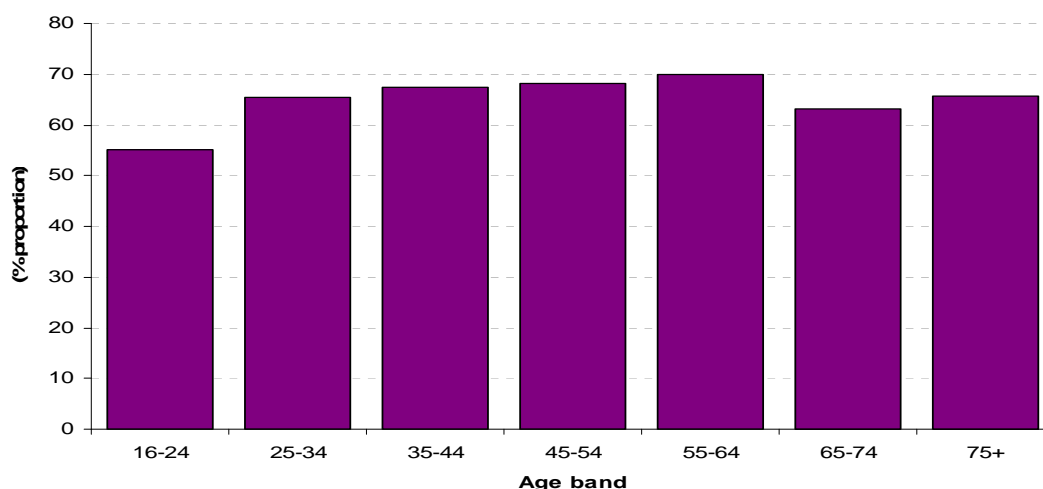
- A higher proportion of males than females felt that the police and courts dealt with young offenders too leniently (67% compared with 63%).
- A higher proportion of adults aged 21 and over (66%), felt that the police and courts dealt with young people too leniently, compared with those in the younger age groups⁵⁷ (52% of those aged 18-20 years, and 47% of those aged 16-17 years) (see Chart 12.2).
- Those with mid-range incomes (£30,000 - £49,999) were more likely to feel that young offenders were dealt with too leniently, compared with lower (below £30,000) and higher (£50,000 plus) incomes.
- A larger proportion (69%) of those who read 'popular' newspapers felt that young offenders were dealt with too leniently, when compared with those who read broadsheet newspapers (56%).
- A higher proportion (67%) of employed people responded that the police and courts were too lenient with young offenders, compared with those who were unemployed (58%).

In 2011/12, almost a third (31%) of the public felt that the way young offenders were dealt with was 'about right'; similar to the previous year. Of those who had been a victim of crime, over a quarter (28%) felt that the way young offenders were dealt with was about right, compared with about a third (32%) of those who had not been a victim of crime. Broadsheet newspaper readers were more likely to feel treatment was about right (39%), compared

⁵⁷ Responses were grouped by age: 16-17 year olds, 18-20 year olds, and those 21 and older. This was in order to draw particular attention to the perceptions of younger people, who are treated differently by the CJS (i.e. held separately within custodial institutions).

with readers of 'popular' papers (28%), and those who didn't read any newspaper (32%).

Chart 12.2: Proportion who responded that the police and courts treat young offenders too leniently, by age group, 2011/12*



*Source: CSEW. Base sample size = 5,364.

Confidence that local youth crime or Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is tackled effectively

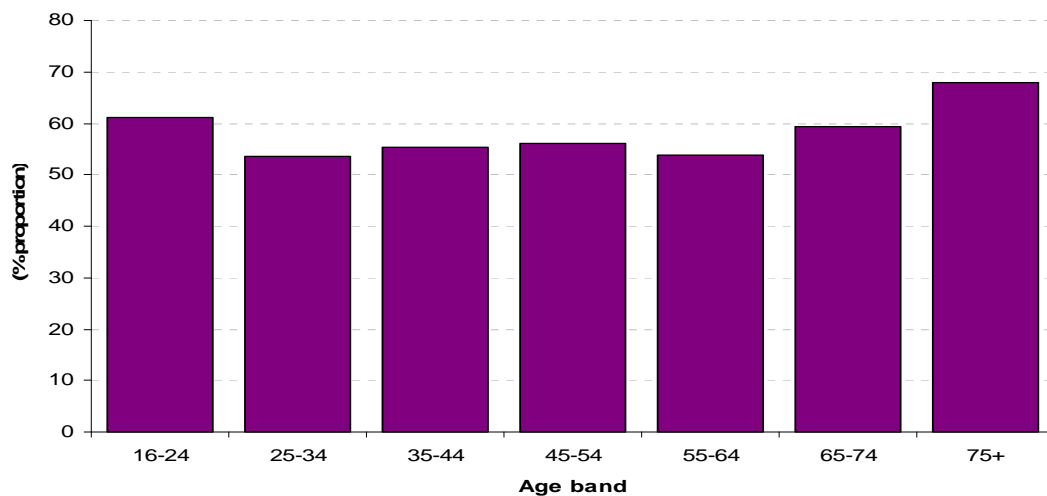
The public were asked “How confident are you that crime or Anti-Social Behaviour committed by young people aged 10-17 is tackled effectively in your local area?”

In 2011/12, seven per cent responded that crime or Anti-Social Behaviour committed by young people was not a problem in their local area – the same as in 2010/11 and 2009/10. Over half (57%) felt very or fairly confident that youth crime and ASB was tackled effectively in their local area (compared to 59% in the previous year), and of these, five per cent reported that they were 'very' confident.

- A larger proportion of the oldest (68%) and youngest age groups (61%) felt confident that crime or ASB committed by young people was tackled effectively in their local area, compared with those in age groups spanning 25-64 years.
- Those who had been a victim of crime were less likely to respond that they were confident that crime or ASB committed by young people was tackled effectively in their area (45%), compared with those who had not been a victim (61%).
- Those with lower household incomes (54%) were more likely to respond that they were confident that crime or ASB committed by young people was tackled effectively in their area, compared with those with higher household incomes (58%).

- Those who were economically inactive (60%) and those who had no qualifications (61%) were more likely than those in employment (56%) and those educated to A-level and above (56%), to feel confident that crime or ASB committed by young people was tackled effectively in their area.
- Seven per cent responded that crime or Anti-Social Behaviour committed by young people was not a problem in their local area – the same as in 2010/11 and 2009/10.

Chart 12.3: Proportion who felt confident that crime or anti-social behaviour committed by young people aged 10-17 was tackled effectively in their local area, by age group, 2011/12*



*Source: CSEW. Base sample size = 10,734.

Similar findings were reported in a 2010 MoJ publication⁵⁸ which presented findings from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey, on levels of confidence in the CJS – where confidence levels were higher among younger people, and those who had not experienced crime in the past 12 months. The 2010 publication also reflected that “levels of confidence in the CJS varied by demographic and socio-economic characteristics” and we also see evidence of this in the 2011/12 findings, in comparisons between household income, level of education and newspaper readership.

⁵⁸ Smith D. (July 2010) *Public confidence in the Criminal Justice System: findings from the British Crime Survey 2002/03 to 2007/08*, Ministry of Justice Research Series 16/10 (An update to this is expected in February 2013 - Hough, Bradford, Jackson and Roberts (Date Forthcoming) *Attitudes to sentencing and trust in justice: Exploring trends from the Crime Survey for England and Wales*. London: Ministry of Justice.)

Links to other resources

Statistics References

Arrest statistics

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/police-powers-procedures-201011/arrests-1011

This annual bulletin presents data on arrests for notifiable offences; stops and searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE); breath tests and police action in relation to motoring offences

Anti-Social Behaviour statistics

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/asbo-stats-england-wales-2011/?view=Standard&pubID=1079288

This annual bulletin presents the number of anti-social behaviour orders issued and breached in the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2011.

Crime in England and Wales

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales

This quarterly bulletin presents key statistics on crime in England and Wales taken from statistics from two different sources: the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW, previously known as the British Crime Survey), and police recorded crime. The publication also includes experimental statistics on the victimisation and experiences of crime from children aged 10 to 15.

Criminal Statistics

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics.htm

This quarterly bulletin presents key statistics on activity in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) for England and Wales. The data provides users with information about proven offending and its outcomes in England and Wales. It contains statistics for adults and young people on; offences, out of court disposals, court disposals and offending histories (including first time entrants and previous disposals).

Re-offending of juveniles

www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/reoffending/proven-re-offending

This report provides key statistics on proven re-offending in England and Wales. It gives proven re-offending figures for offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, reprimand, warning or tested positive for opiates or cocaine between April 2010 and March 2011.

Young people in custody

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/youth-justice/custody-data.htm

This monthly report covers information on the population in custody within the youth secure estate. The data provides users with the breakdown of the population in custody each month as well as trend data from 2005/06 onwards.

Explanatory notes

Data sources and quality

Most of the figures in this report 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.

1. Data from the Ministry of Justice.

Much of the data in this report has been taken from previously published statistical bulletins published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and other government departments. In these cases links to original publication are provided. Please see these publications for comments on the quality of this data.

For more information about the databases used and definitions used in the Criminal Justice System please see:

www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/statistics/criminal-justice-stats/criminal-justice-statistics-guide-nov-2012.pdf

2. Data from the Youth Justice Board

Some of the data in this publication come from youth offending teams (YOTs) and do not come from the police or courts. As such the data given in this publication may differ from that presented in other Ministry of Justice publications. The 2011/12 data have been taken from the Youth Justice Management Information System (YJMIS) in January 2013. This system contains summary and case level data on young people on the YOT caseload. Prior to 2009/10 only summary level data was submitted to the YJB.

Data on young people in the secure estate comes from the YJB's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS) database.

The Behaviour Management data are taken from monthly 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. This data was subject to a validation exercise with establishments prior to publication.

Data on serious incidents in the community have come from individual returns submitted by YOTs throughout the year. These are collected centrally by the YJB. This data was subject to a validation exercise with YOTs prior to publication.

3. Data from the Office of National Statistics

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. The Crime Survey for England and Wales includes questions that allow us to look at the perceptions of older teenagers and adults with regard to the Youth Justice System (YJS). The main Crime Survey for England and Wales publication can be found at:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/surveys/list-of-surveys/survey.html?survey=Crime+Survey+for+England+and+Wales

Un-weighted base: All Crime Survey for England and Wales percentages and rates presented in the tables are based on data weighted to compensate for differential non response. Tables show the un-weighted base which represents the number of people/households interviewed in the specified group.

Percentages: Row or column percentages may not add to 100 per cent due to rounding.

Most Crime Survey for England and Wales tables present cell percentages where the figures refer to the percentage of people/households who have the attribute being discussed and the complementary percentage, to add to 100 per cent, is not shown.

A percentage may be quoted in the text for a single category that is identifiable in the tables only by summing two or more component percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single category and therefore may differ by one percentage point from the sum of the percentages derived from the tables.

'No answers' (missing values): All Crime Survey for England and Wales analysis excludes don't know/refusals unless otherwise specified.

4. Data from the Home Office

Data on arrests are taken from the Home Office 'Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales 2010/11'. Data for 2011/12 is not yet available and will be published in the spring of 2013.

Symbols and conventions

The units of measurement in this publication 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:

- = Nil / Zero
- .. = Not available
- * = small values (less than five cases)

Revisions policy

Data are received from YOTs and the secure estate on a rolling basis which may lead to slight changes to published figures. Revisions are only made when there is a significant change or when an error was identified in the original data.

For the revisions policy for data taken from other sources see their respective publications.

Contacts

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Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

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Ministry of Justice
Justice Statistics Analytical Services
7th Floor
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

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

For inquiries direct to the YJB please email: analysis@yjb.gsi.gov.uk

Spreadsheet files of the tables contained in this document are also available for download with this publication.

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Alternative formats are available on request from esd@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A: Performance Outcomes in the YJS, 2011/12

This annex covers information on the performance outcomes for the Youth Justice System (YJS). During 2011/12, England and Wales had three indicators; two Impact Indicators on first time entrants to the YJS and re-offending for young people, and a Transparency Indicator on the use of custody. There were a further three Welsh Justice indicators around young people in suitable accommodation, levels of education, training and employment (ETE) and substance misuse. Data for all these indicators are shown below for both England and Wales.

The old National Indicators came to an end in March 2011 as the Government's response to the Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle'⁵⁹ signalled a move towards a national risk based monitoring programme.

England and Wales Impact Indicators, 2011/12

First Time Entrants: First time entrants (FTEs) to the criminal justice system are classified as young people aged 10-17 years, resident in England and Wales, who received their first reprimand, warning, caution or conviction, based on data recorded by the police on the PNC ([Chapter 2](#))

- There were 36,677 first time entrants to the Youth Justice System in England and Wales in 2011/12.
- The number of FTEs has fallen 67 per cent from the peak of 110,826 in 2006/07. The number of FTEs fell 20 per cent between 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Re-offending by young people: A proven re-offence is defined as a new offence committed within the one-year follow up period of being released from custody or given a caution/conviction, which is proved by another formal disposal ([Chapter 9](#)).

- Results from the 2010/11 cohort show that the rate of re-offending for young people was 35.8 per cent. An increase of 2.1 percentage points since 2000.
- The average number of re-offences per re-offender was 2.87 in 2010/11, down from 3.32 re-offences in 2000.

⁵⁹ www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-040311.htm

England and Wales Transparency Indicator, 2011/12

Use of custody:

The Transparency Indicator on the use of custody is measured as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 young people (aged 10-17) in the population. This data is taken from YJMIS.

Previously the use of custody was measured by the custody rate, i.e. the number of young people sentenced to custody as a proportion of all young people sentenced. For information on young people in custody see [Chapter 7](#).

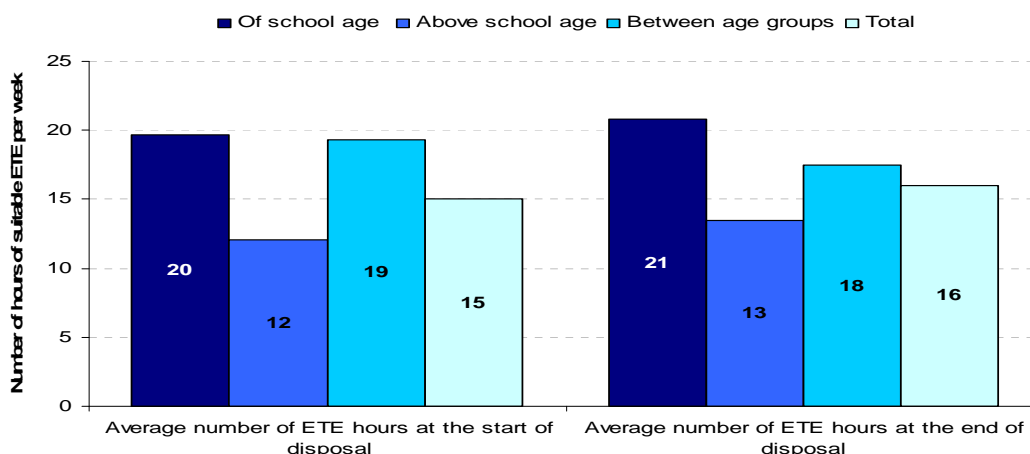
- Data from YJMIS shows that there were 0.85 custodial sentences per 1,000 young people in 2011/12, compared to 0.90 in 2010/11.
- Data from the MoJ shows that the overall custody rate was 6.6 per cent in 2011/12, compared to 5.8 per cent in 2010/11.
- The custody rate has been broadly stable for the last decade fluctuating between five and eight percent. This is against a background of a reduction in the number of young people coming before the courts, and those receiving custody.

Welsh only Youth Justice Indicators

Education, Training and Employment in Wales: The measure looks at the change in the average number of hours of ETE per week young people complete at the start to the end of their disposal.

- In Wales during 2011/12, young people had an average of 15 hours of ETE per week at the beginning of their disposals and an average of 16 at the end of their disposals. This represented a seven per cent increase in the average number of hours they completed.

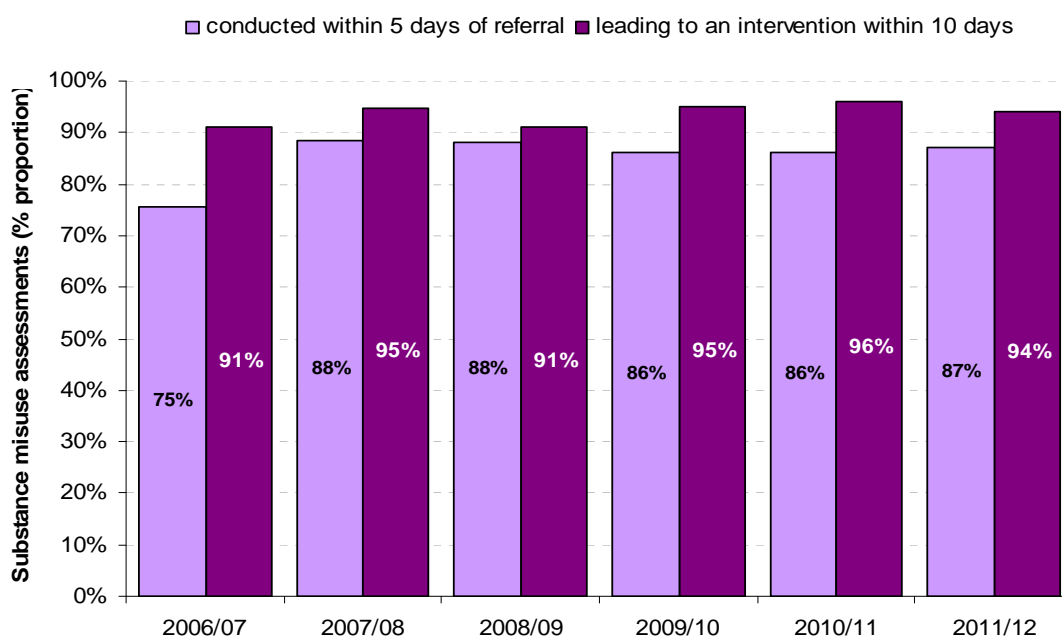
Chart A.1: Number of hours of suitable ETE per week, Wales 2011/12



Substance misuse in Wales: Covers the timeliness of assessments for young people with potential substance misuse needs in Wales. Initial assessments should be conducted within five working days of referral, and interventions should be started within ten working days of their assessment.

- In 2011/12, 87 per cent of assessments were conducted within five working days of referral, up slightly on the 86 per cent in 2010/11.
- The proportion of young people with substance misuse needs that started interventions within 10 working days of their assessment was 94 per cent in 2011/12, down slightly on the 96 per cent in 2010/11.

Chart A.2: Substance misuse assessment for young people in Wales, 2006/07 to 2011/12



Accommodation in Wales: This indicator measures the change in the number of young people who were in suitable accommodation at the end of their order, compared to the number at the start.

The number of young people who were in suitable accommodation at the start of their order (all disposals) in 2011/12 was 93 per cent. This remained at 93 per cent at the end of their disposal.

For young people on a custodial disposal 68 per cent were assessed as having suitable accommodation prior to their disposal. At the end of their disposals 82 per cent were assessed as having suitable accommodation.

Annex B: Resources in Youth Offending Teams

Youth offending teams (YOTs) work with young people who are in the Youth Justice System or who are on programmes that serve to prevent young people offending for the first time or behaving anti-socially. Most of the YOT caseload are young people aged 10 to 17 years; however some 18 year olds who start their disposals before their 18th birthday may also still be engaged with the YOT. The information supplied for 2011/12 was up to date as of close of play on the 28th of January 2012. There is some information missing from a small number of YOTs;

Staffing; Barnsley and Birmingham

Budget; Barnsley and Kent

YOTs are multi-agency teams made up of representatives from police, probation, education, health and social services, and specialist workers, such as accommodation officers and substance misuse workers.

YOTs are mostly coterminous with local authorities in England and Wales; however there are some exceptions where a single YOT covers two or more local authorities. At the end of March 2012, there were 158 YOTs; 142 in England and 18 in Wales. The composition of YOTs is changing over time and these numbers may change again in future years.

From 2011/12 the YOT grant from the YJB was one single grant with no ring fenced amounts for certain strands of work.

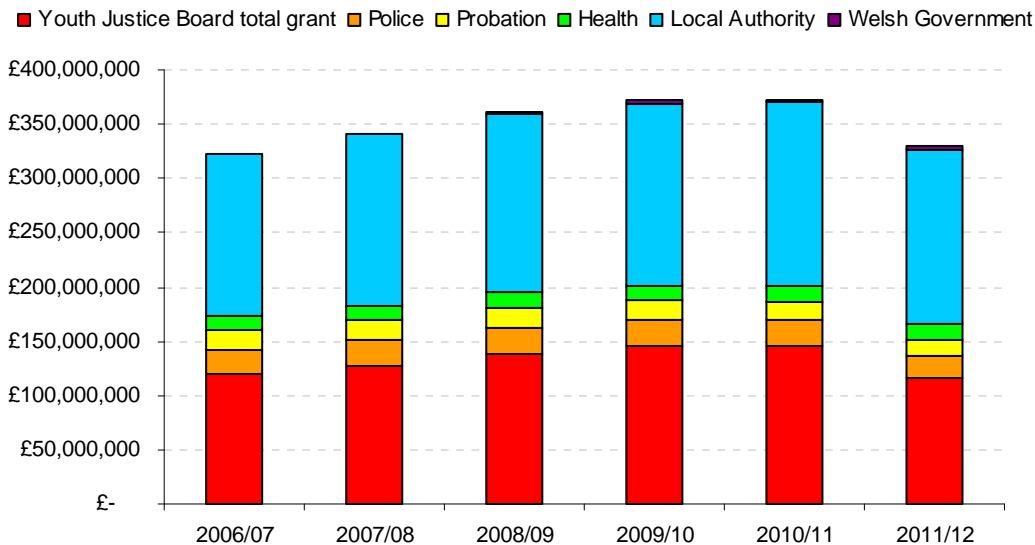
The funding figures below are based on returns submitted to the YJB from Youth Offending Teams.

Overall YOT funding over time

Between 2010/11 and 2011/12 there was a reduction in the overall level of funding available to YOTs from £373m to £330m, a reduction of 12 per cent. This is the lowest level of funding YOTs received since 2006/07. The reductions in funding to YOTs were made up as follows;

- The YJB Grant reduced by 20 per cent
- Police reduced by 15 per cent
- Probation reduced by eight per cent
- Health services reduced by five per cent
- Local Authorities reduced by five per cent
- Welsh Assembly Government reduced by eight per cent.

Chart B.1: Total YOT funding over time, 2006/07 to 2011/12

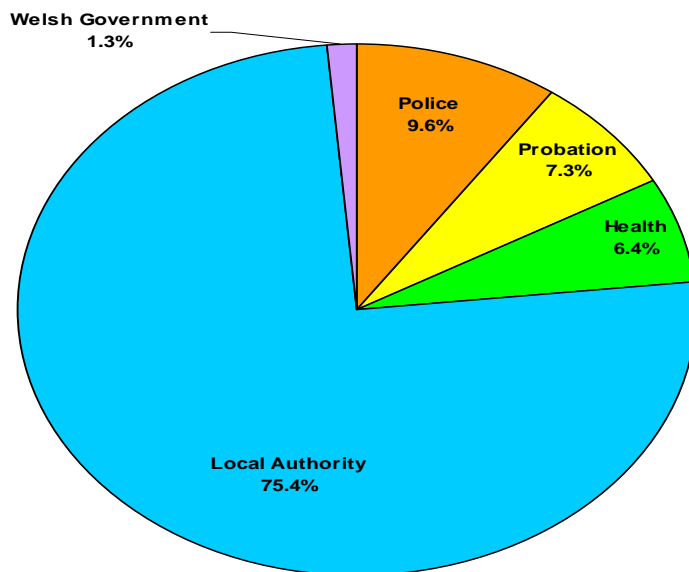


Partnership of funding of YOTs

The Youth Justice Board typically provides over a third (35%) of funding to YOTs, although this figures varies by YOT. The remaining funding comes form Partnership Agencies who work with the YOT to support young people in, or at risk of joining, the Youth Justice System.

In terms of partnership funding Local Authority services contributed the most to YOT funding, providing around 75 per cent of the overall total. The police provided ten per cent, probation seven per cent and health six per cent. The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) provided additional funding to YOTs in Wales, accounting for one per cent of all funding YOTs (in England and Wales) received,

Chart B.2: Partnership funding of YOTs, 2011/12



YOT workforce

As of 30th June 2011, a total of 15,955 people were recorded as working for YOTs in some capacity. This is a reduction of 15 per cent on the staffing levels in YOTs in 2010/11. These figures include volunteers, part-time and temporary staff and so are not measures of the full-time equivalent workforce.

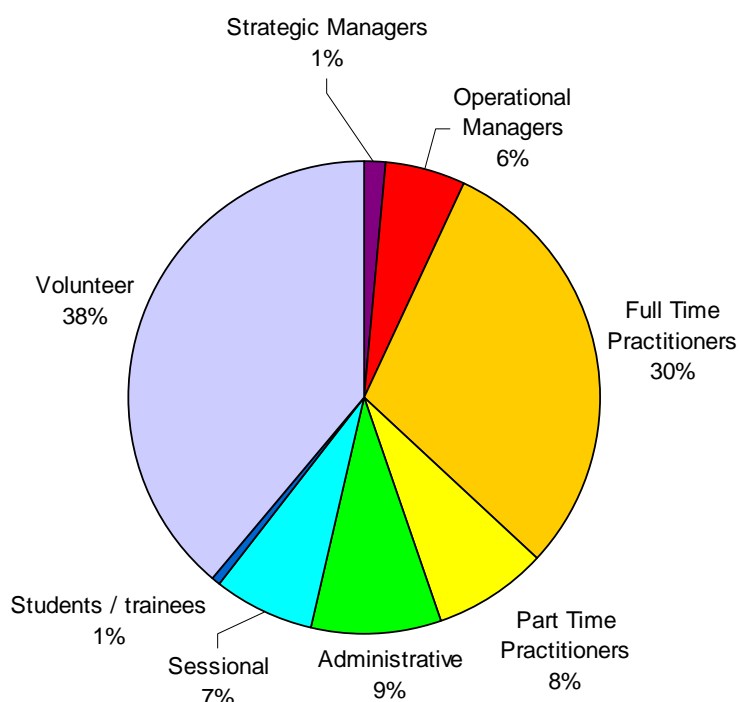
YOTs vary in size from less than 20 members of staff to over 500. This section presents information on the total number of staff across all YOTs, broken down by contract status, gender and ethnicity.

As of 30th June 2011 there were 6,018 practitioners (21% working part-time), 888 operational managers and 237 strategic managers. The YOTs were supported by 1,117 sessional workers and 6,177 volunteers.

Over two-thirds (67%) of the staff were female and 81 per cent classed themselves as being from a White ethnic background.

Overall the level of staffing in the YOTs has reduced by 15 per cent between 2010/11 and 2011/12. The largest reductions have been in sessional staff (down 29%), students/trainees (down 25%), full time practitioners (down 19%) and administrative staff (down 18%).

Chart B.4: YOT workforce, as of 30th June 2011



Annex C: Levels of crime experienced by children and their risk of victimisation

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (formerly British Crime Survey) asks people aged 16 and over living in households in England and Wales about their experiences of crime in the last 12 months. These experiences are used to estimate levels of crime in England and Wales. Until recently the survey did not cover crimes against those aged under 16, but since January 2009 we have also interviewed children aged 10 to 15.

In 2009 the Crime Survey for England and Wales was extended to children aged 10 to 15. The primary objective of extending the survey to children aged 10-15 was to provide estimates of the levels of crime experienced by children and their risk of victimisation. Key findings on levels of victimisation are available in the main publication:

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/surveys/list-of-surveys/survey.html?survey=Crime+Survey+for+England+and+Wales

In addition to questions about experience of crime, the survey extension also gathers information on a number of crime-related topics such as experience and attitudes towards the police, personal safety, being in public spaces and access to leisure facilities. As the questions asked of 10 to 15s were quite different, there is no comparison made here with perceptions about the Youth Justice System.

Annex D: Impact of sentences on proven re-offending rates for young people

This analysis compares proven re-offending rates for young offenders aged between 10 and 17 receiving different types of sentences at courts in England and Wales, for each year from 2005 to 2009.

The analysis uses a statistical method called Propensity Score Matching (PSM) which enables the comparison of outcomes for groups receiving different ‘treatments’ – in this case young offenders receiving different sentence types. Pairs of young offenders with different sentences were matched on the basis of observable characteristics such as age, gender, offence and criminal history. Once matched, the impact of one sentence compared with another was calculated by taking difference in mean rates of proven re-offending for each group.

These results should be treated as indicative and with a degree of caution, as findings fluctuate from year to year, and there can be no certainty that the matching technique has controlled for all the main relevant factors that predispose offenders to re-offend. For example, factors such as whether the young person has learning difficulties or a drug problem. For this reason, further work is required using a richer dataset, for example using information on risk assessments for young people.

To note, the comparisons included in the report pre-date the introduction of the Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) in November 2009.

Proven re-offending rates in a one year follow-up period⁶⁰, for a subset of those aged between 15 and 17 show the following results for the sentencing comparisons set out below:

Low level community sentences compared with high level community sentences

Young offenders receiving a low level community sentence in 2009 had a lower re-offending rate (63 per cent) than those receiving a high level community sentence (67 per cent), a statistically significant difference of four percentage points. A statistically significant difference was also found in all other years with differences of four percentage points in 2005, six percentage points in 2006 and five percentage points in 2007 and 2008.

Custodial sentences (6 months or less) compared with high level community sentences

In 2009, there was no statistically significant difference in re-offending rates of young offenders given a custodial sentence of six months or less and those given a high level community sentence. In other years, however, young

⁶⁰ Plus a further 6 months waiting period to allow time for the offence to be proven at court.

offenders given a custodial sentence of six months or less had a significantly higher re-offending rate, between three percentage points in 2008, five percentage points in 2006 and four percentage points in 2005 and 2007.

Custodial sentences (over six months and less than 12 months) compared with custodial sentences (six months or less)

In all years except 2008, there was no statistically significant difference in re-offending rates for young offenders given a custodial sentence over six months and under 12 months and those given shorter custodial sentences. In 2008, those young offenders given the longer custodial sentences had a significantly higher re-offending rate, with a four percentage point difference.

Two additional comparisons were explored between offenders aged between 10 and 17, but the analysis did not provide robust results mainly due to the inability of the PSM methodology to generate valid matches between the sentence types. These were absolute discharges with referral orders, and custodial sentences (six months or less) with referral orders.

Overall, the results show that for some offenders receiving low level community sentences have a lower proven re-offending rate than those offenders given high level community sentences. Offenders given custodial sentences have a higher proven re-offending rate than those given high level community sentences and finally, the proven re-offending rates are not significantly different for offenders receiving short custodial sentences (six months or less) or longer custodial sentences between six and 12 months.

For further information please see;

www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/reoffending/compendium-of-reoffending-statistics-and-analysis

Annex E: European comparisons of age of criminal responsibility and other Youth Justice Systems

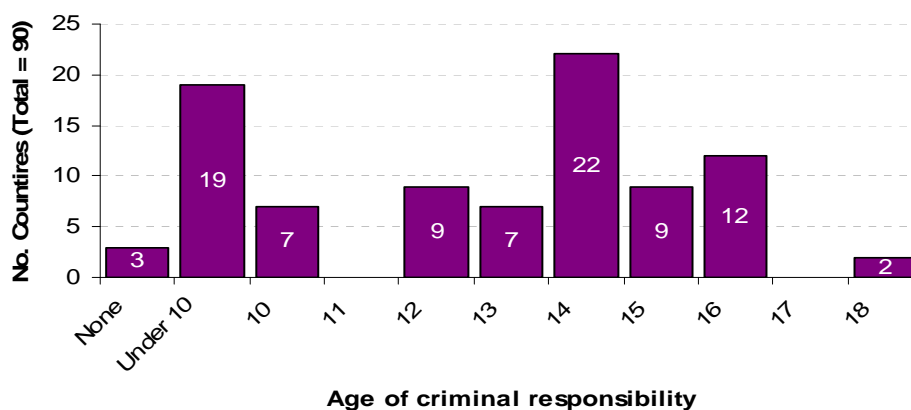
The Youth Justice Systems in England and Wales covers young people aged 10 to 17. When young people become 18 they are treated as adults. The most basic defining characteristic that distinguishes Youth Justice Systems around the world is the ages of young people that they work with. A report previously published by the YJB (Hazel, 2008) showed that there is a significant amount of variation in these ages across jurisdictions and that there are many other factors including policies, methods of assessments and interventions that make it very complex to compare Youth Justice Systems.

This annex focuses on the age ranges that define Youth Justice Systems in different countries, and is based on findings from the Hazel (2008) study.

The age of criminal responsibility is defined as the age where a child or young person can formally enter the criminal justice system for a proven offence. It is at this age (10 for England and Wales) that a child or young person is viewed as being able to understand their offending behaviour was wrong and expect some form of punishment, in the form of a formal outcome for the criminal justice system. Hazel (2008) looked at the age of criminal responsibility in 90 countries around the world and found that, for those who had one allocated, the age of responsibility ranged from 6 to 18 years.

Within this there were 22 countries that had an age of criminal responsibility under 10 or no age of criminal responsibility. A further seven countries had an age of criminal responsibility of ten years old, including England and Wales.

Chart E1: Range in ages of criminal responsibility⁶¹



Note: Chart E1 is based on the data presented in Table 5.1 Hazel (2008).

⁶¹ There are certain countries, such as the United States of America where the age of criminal responsibility differs by state. These are not shown here. For further details see the publication listed below.

Most European countries set their ages of criminal responsibility at between 14 and 16 years, although France comes in just under at 13 years. The three major exceptions are Switzerland and Cyprus at seven years, and the countries of the UK (Scotland at eight years, and Northern Ireland and England and Wales at 10 years).

The age at which young people are able to enter the adult criminal justice system (18 in England and Wales) is known as the age of criminal majority. At this point they leave the Youth Justice System, although in reality young people can finish their disposal within the youth system to minimise the disruption to them. For example there are a small number of 18 year olds in the youth secure estate. Adult criminal justice systems may have different sentences to a Youth Justice System and different focuses, for example less focus on educational outcomes.

While there is no standard age of criminal majority around the world, many criminal justice systems, including England and Wales, have their age of majority at 18 years old. This is also the age at which the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), and its protection of children, fails to apply any more.

Further information on the findings of the report previously published by the YJB (Hazel, 2008) can be found at;

www.yjb.gov.uk/publications/Resources/Downloads/Cross_national_final.pdf

Annex F: Sources used for each chapter

The table below shows which data sources are used for each chapter of the report and the quality of the data.

| Name | Owner | Description | Quality | Source / Other publications | Use in YJ Stats 2011/12 |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---|---------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Police National Computer (PNC) | NPIA / MoJ | 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. | NS | 1 | Chapters 2, 4, 9, 10,11 and Annex A |
| Penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) | MoJ | Since 2004, when PNDs were piloted, data has been received from the individual police forces on a monthly basis. The two returns provided are details of PNDs issued and their subsequent outcomes. The returns are checked by the statistical teams for completeness and accuracy. Any anomalies in the data are queried with the force and any duplication of data are removed from the database. On an annual basis a full reconciliation process is undertaken where each police force is given the opportunity to verify the monthly figures they have supplied and make revisions to the annual returns prior to publication. | NS | 1 | Chapter 1 |
| Cautions | MoJ | From April 2011 all cautions data are collected from the Police National Computer, the records are validated for accuracy and completeness and amended as necessary. Additionally any apparent cautions given for serious offences, such as rape, are investigated thoroughly with forces. All cautions data prior to April 2011 were collected directly from police forces and have been through the same validation process. From 2009/2010 the reporting of conditional cautions was made mandatory, including those given to juveniles aged 16 and 17. This meant from 1st April 2009 all returns distinguish conditional cautions from other caution type interventions. In addition Youth Conditional Cautions (YCC), for juveniles aged 16 or 17, were introduced from 1 April 2009. | NS | 1 | Chapter 1 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 | NS | 1 | Chapters 5 and 11 |

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|------------------------------------|---------------|---|------|-----|---|
| | | 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 | | | |
| YJMIS | YJB | This system contains summary and case level data on young people on the YOT caseload. Prior to 2009/10 only summary level data was submitted to the YJB via Youth Offending Teams. | None | 2 | Chapters 3, 4, 6, Annex A and Annex B. Used for the local level data. |
| SACHS | YJB | The information about secure training centres (STCs) and secure children's homes (SCHs) comes from the YJB's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS) database. The under 18 year olds in Young Offender Institutions is also from SACHS. Data is based on 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. | None | 3 | Chapters 6, 7 and 11 |
| Behaviour management | YJB | The Behaviour Management data are taken from monthly 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. | None | N/A | Chapter 8a |
| Serious incidents in the community | YJB | Data on serious incidents in the community have come from individual returns submitted by YOTs through out the year. These are collected centrally by the YJB. | None | N/A | Chapter 8b |
| Deaths in custody | YJB | Data on deaths in custody (YOIs, STCs and SCHs) based on information reported to the YJB. | None | N/A | Chapter 8b |
| 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 from 2000/01 to 2010/11, as well as breakdowns by offence group, sex 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. | NS | 4 | Chapter 1 |
| ASBOs | Home Office / | These statistics are based on ASBOs issued after application by a relevant body (Including local authorities, police, | NS | 5 | Chapter 1 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|---|----|---|------------------------|
| | MoJ | registered social landlords, housing action trusts, British Transport Police, Transport for London) to magistrates' courts (acting in their civil capacity) or to county courts and ASBOs issued following conviction for a criminal offence either by magistrates' courts (acting in their criminal capacity) or the Crown Court. | | | |
| Crime Survey for England and Wales | ONS | The Crime Survey for England and Wales, previously the British Crime Survey (BCS), is one of the largest social research surveys conducted in England and Wales. It asks people resident in households about their experiences of crime in face-to-face interviews. In the 2010/11 BCS, around 51,000 people were interviewed, that is, around 47,000 adults aged 16 or over in the main survey and a further 4,000 interviews conducted with children aged 10 to 15.. Around 1,000 interviews were carried out in each police force area in 2010/11. The overall response rate is currently 76 per cent – among the highest for the large continuous government surveys. | NS | 6 | Chapter 12 and Annex C |
| Mid year estimates | ONS | Mid 2010 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. | NS | 7 | Chapter 1, Annex B |
| Re-offending | MoJ | Key statistics on proven re-offending in England and Wales. It gives proven re-offending figures for offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, reprimand, warning or tested positive for opiates or cocaine between January and December 2010. Proven re-offending is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow-up. Following this one year period, a further six month waiting period is allowed for cases to progress through the courts. | NS | 8 | Chapter 9 |
| Adults in custody | MoJ | Key statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under Probation Service 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. | NS | 9 | Chapter 11 |

Other publications;

1. www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics
2. www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/youth-justice/statistics
3. www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/youth-justice/custody-data

4. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/police-powers-procedures-201011/arrests-1011
5. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/asbo-stats-england-wales-2011/?view=Standard&pubID=1079288
6. www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales
7. www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html?newquery=*&uday=0&umonth=0&uyear=0&title=Population+Estimates+for+UK%2C+England+and+Wales%2C+Scotland+and+Northern+Ireland&pagetype=calendar-entry&day=&month=&year
8. www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/reoffending/proven-reoffending-quarterly.htm
9. www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/prisons-and-probation/oms-quarterly

NS denotes National Statistics publications