



# **Youth Justice Statistics 2016/17**

## **England and Wales**

Youth Justice Board / Ministry of Justice

Statistics bulletin








Published 25 January 2018

# Youth Justice Statistics, England and Wales, April 2016 to March 2017

This publication looks at the Youth Justice System (YJS) in England and Wales for the year ending March 2017 in terms of the number of children and young people (those aged 10 – 17) in the system, the offences they committed, the outcomes they received, their demographics and the trends over time.

The YJS in England and Wales works to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people under the age of 18. The YJS is different to the adult system and is structured to address the needs of children and young people.

## Main points

<b>16,500 first time entrants to the YJS</b>		The number of first time entrants has fallen by 85% over the last 10 years, and by 11% in the last year.
<b>28,400 children and young people were cautioned or convicted</b>		The number of children and young people who received a caution or sentence has fallen by 81% over the last 10 years, and by 14% in the last year.
<b>4,000 proven offences involving possession of a knife or offensive weapon</b>		The number of these offences committed by children and young people has increased by 11% since the year ending March 2012, while the number of these offences committed by adults has fallen by 10% over the same period.
<b>1,600 children and young people were sentenced to custody</b>		The number of children and young people sentenced to immediate custody has fallen by 74% compared with 10 years ago, and by 7% in the last year. In the latest year, there was an average of around 870 children and young people in custody.
<b>Children and young people from a BAME background are over represented in custody</b>		While the number of children and young people in custody from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background has been decreasing, the proportion has been increasing, accounting for 45% of the custodial population in the latest year, whilst only making up 18% of the 10 – 17 general population.
<b>The rate of single separation and the number of Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPIs) in custody have increased in the last year</b>		The rate of single separation per 100 children and young people in Secure Children's Homes and Secure Training Centres has seen a large increase in the latest year, from 52.3 to 93.9. The number of RPIs increased in the latest year by 5% to just over 4,500 after previously seeing decreases.
<b>42.2% of children and young people reoffended</b>		The reoffending rate for children and young people increased by 4.0 percentage points compared with 10 years ago and compares to 28.2% for adults.

For technical details see the accompanying *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*.

**We would welcome any feedback to [informationandanalysis@yjb.gov.uk](mailto:informationandanalysis@yjb.gov.uk)**

To help us better meet the needs of users of these statistics, we are seeking your views. Please take a few minutes to give us your views via our [User Feedback Survey](#).

# Contents

Main points .....	2
Things you need to know .....	4
Flows through the Youth Justice System, year ending March 2017 .....	5
1. Gateway to the Youth Justice System.....	6
2. First time entrants to the Youth Justice System .....	9
3. Demographic characteristics of children and young people in the Youth Justice System .....	13
4. Proven offences by children and young people .....	17
5. Children and young people sentenced .....	20
6. Use of remand for children and young people.....	26
7. Children and young people in custody in the youth secure estate .....	30
8. Behaviour management in the youth secure estate .....	37
9. Proven reoffending by children and young people.....	48
10. Criminal histories of children and young people .....	55
11. Comparisons with the adult system.....	59
Annex A: Deaths in custody and community safeguarding and public protection incidents .....	65
Annex B: Levels of crime experienced by children and young people aged 10 – 15.....	66
Annex C: Comparison of Youth Offending Team caseloads with Police National Computer data .....	67
Annex D: Performance outcomes.....	Supplementary tables only
Annex E: Average time from offence to completion.....	Supplementary tables only
Annex F: Resources in Youth Offending Teams.....	Supplementary tables only
Further information .....	68

## Things you need to know

This publication draws together a range of statistics about children and young people in the YJS from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 (hereafter the year ending March 2017). Following on from the recommendations in the [Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics](#) report, this publication guides the user through the flows of children and young people aged 10 – 17 years in the justice system in England and Wales.

In previous publications we have referred to “young people” whereas we now refer to “children and young people”. The look of the bulletin has changed to reflect other Ministry of Justice Publications.

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

The data described in this publication come from various sources including the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and youth secure estate providers. The Information and Analysis Team in the Youth Justice Board (YJB) produce this report, under the direction of the Chief Statistician in the MoJ.

Details of all the administrative databases and bespoke collections used for this report can be found in *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics* which has been published alongside this report to provide users with further information on the data sources, data quality and terminology, especially the types of disposals given to children and young people. Where data are taken from other publications, links can be found within the chapters.

This is an annual report, with the focus on the year ending March 2017, however much of the data used in this report are drawn from quarterly publications and there may be more up to date data available. The purpose of this report is to provide an overall summary of the YJS, allowing users to find everything in one place. All data referred to are available in the Supplementary Tables that accompany this report. Separate tables covering YOT level information are also available, including in an open and accessible format.

In this report, ethnicity is generally reported as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and White. The Supplementary Tables include individual ethnicities.

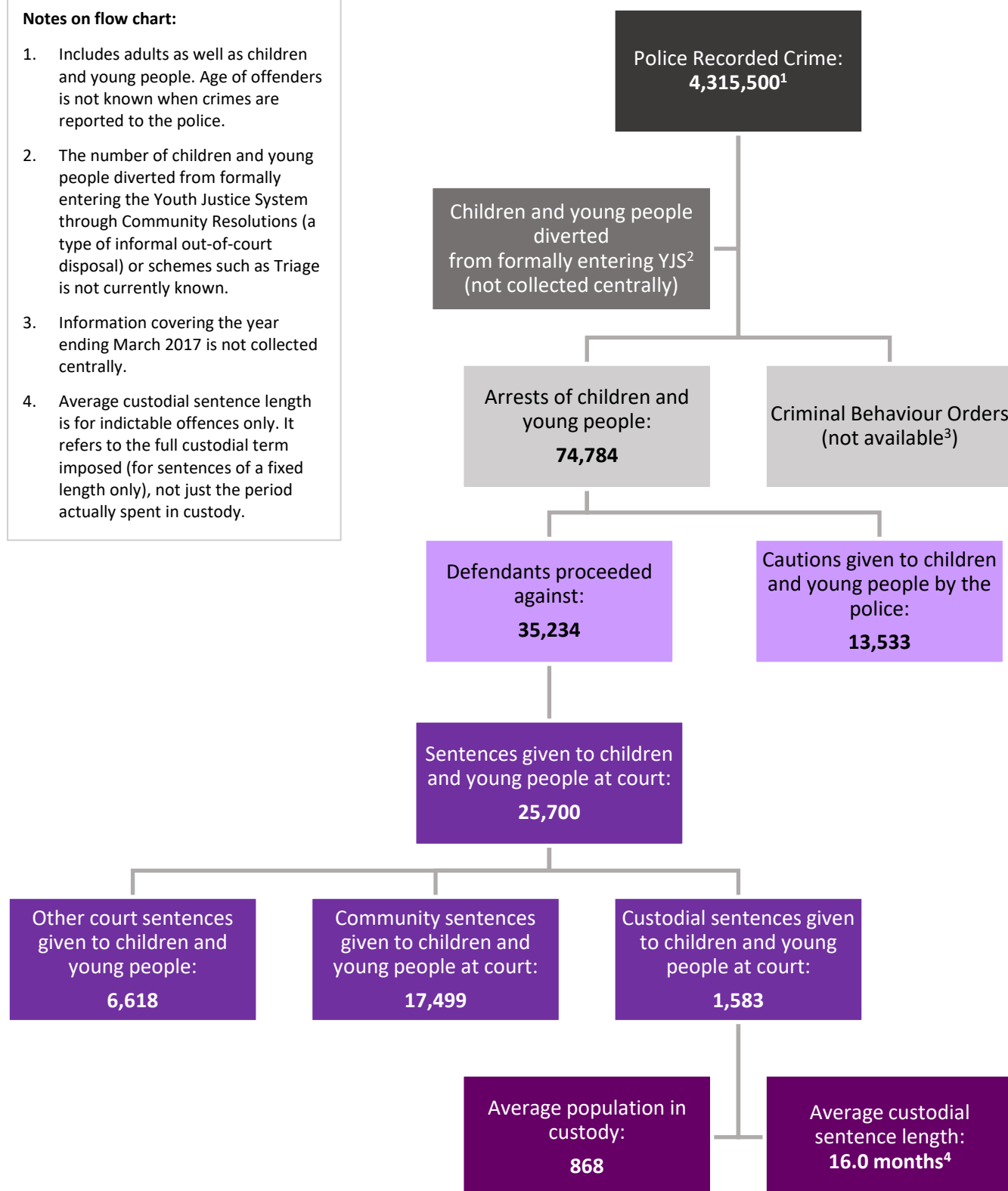
We have adopted rounding conventions in this publication to aid interpretation and comparisons. Figures greater than 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 100 and those smaller than 1,000 to the nearest 10. Rates have been reported to one decimal place. Percentages have been calculated from unrounded figures and then rounded to the nearest whole percentage. Unrounded figures have been presented in the Supplementary Tables.

The data in this report are compared with the previous year (the year ending March 2016 in most cases), with the year ending March 2007 as a long-term comparator (10 years) and where a 10 year comparator is not available, the year ending March 2012 has been used (five year comparator). Any other reference period is referenced explicitly.

# Flows through the Youth Justice System, year ending March 2017

## Notes on flow chart:

1. Includes adults as well as children and young people. Age of offenders is not known when crimes are reported to the police.
2. The number of children and young people diverted from formally entering the Youth Justice System through Community Resolutions (a type of informal out-of-court disposal) or schemes such as Triage is not currently known.
3. Information covering the year ending March 2017 is not collected centrally.
4. Average custodial sentence length is for indictable offences only. It refers to the full custodial term imposed (for sentences of a fixed length only), not just the period actually spent in custody.



# 1. Gateway to the Youth Justice System

In the year ending March 2017:

- There were around 74,800 arrests of children and young people (aged 10 – 17) by the police in England and Wales. This has decreased by 79% over the last 10 years and by 14% in the last year.
- Around 13,500 youth cautions were given to children and young people in England and Wales. This is a decrease of 90% compared with 10 years ago and a decrease of 20% compared with the previous year.

**Description:** The Gateway to the Youth Justice System looks at the number of arrests and youth cautions given to children and young people aged 10 – 17

**Source:** Arrests: Annual data collection from police forces  
Youth Cautions: Police National Computer

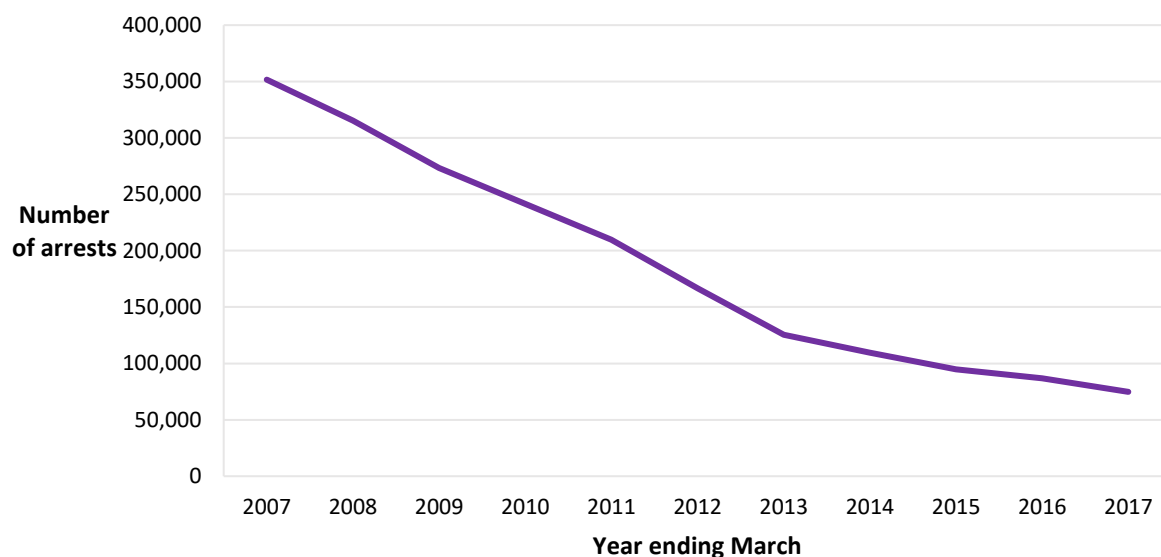
**Time period covered:** Years ending March 2007 to March 2017

**Supplementary Tables:** Ch 1 – Gateway to the Youth Justice System

**More information:** *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*, [Police Powers and Procedures](#), [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#) (more up to date data available)

## 1.1 Arrests of children and young people for notifiable offences

**Figure 1.1: Trends in arrests of children and young people for notifiable offences, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Table 1.1*

In the year ending March 2017, there were around 74,800 arrests of children and young people (aged 10 – 17) for notifiable offences.

This continues the long term downward trend, with the number of arrests falling by 79% since the year ending March 2007. Over this time there have been year on year falls of between 8% and 25% (Supplementary Table 1.1). In the last year, the number of arrests of children and young people has fallen by 14%.

**Figure 1.2: Demographics<sup>1,2</sup> of children and young people arrested for notifiable offences compared to the general 10 – 17 population, England and Wales, year ending March 2017**

	Ethnicity		Gender	
	BAME	White	Male	Female
Arrests	28%	72%	84%	16%
10 – 17 population <sup>3</sup>	18%	82%	51%	49%

*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Tables 1.4 and 1.5*

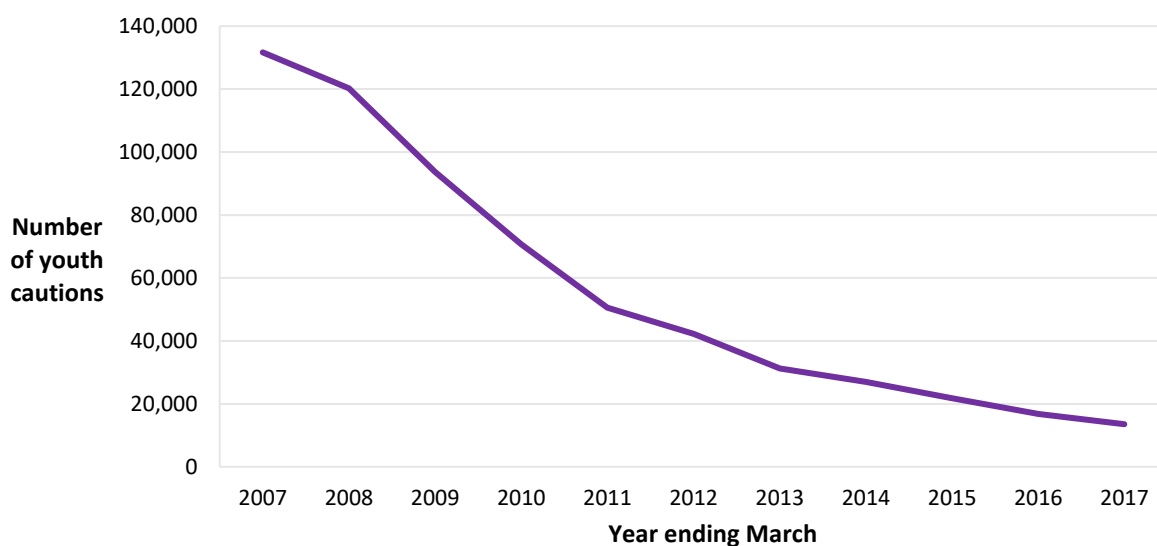
In the year ending March 2017, 28% of arrests were of children and young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups, while BAME children and young people made up 18% of the 10 – 17 year old population.

As shown in Figure 1.2, in the year ending March 2017, males were over-represented in the number of arrests of children and young people. Males accounted for 84% of arrests, while only accounting for 51% of the 10 – 17 year old population.

In the year ending March 2017, the majority of arrests of children and young people were for violence against the person offences (27%) or theft offences (26%) (Supplementary Table 1.4)<sup>4</sup>.

## 1.2 Youth cautions<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 1.3: Trends in youth cautions given to children and young people, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Table 1.7*

<sup>1</sup> Breakdown of age groups for 10 – 14 and 15 – 17 year olds is not available.

<sup>2</sup> Proportions are based on where ethnicity is known. In the year ending March 2017, the ethnicity was not known for 6% of arrests of children and young people.

<sup>3</sup> For gender, population is based on 2016 mid-year estimates. For ethnicity, population is based on the 2011 census. The ethnic breakdown of the population will likely have changed from 2011, so these figures should be treated as an estimate.

<sup>4</sup> In the year ending March 2016, the offence groups used as the reason for arrest were updated to match the groups used in crime statistics. As a result, data on arrests broken down by offence group from the year ending March 2016 onwards are not directly comparable with previous data.

<sup>5</sup> Includes children and young people recorded as receiving a youth caution, and reprimands and warnings which were the available out of court disposals before youth cautions came in.

In the year ending March 2017, around 13,500 youth cautions<sup>6</sup> were given to children and young people. This is a decrease of 90% since the year ending March 2007, and a decrease of 20% compared with the previous year.

With the exception of possession of weapons offences and robbery, there were decreases in the use of youth cautions across all offence types in the most recent year<sup>7</sup>. This included a 46% fall in youth cautions for fraud offences and a 27% fall for both theft offences and criminal damage and arson. Youth cautions for possession of weapons increased by 10% and youth cautions for robbery remained unchanged from the previous year.

**Figure 1.4: Demographic characteristics<sup>8</sup> of children and young people given youth cautions compared to the general 10 – 17 population, England and Wales, year ending March 2017**

	Ethnicity		Gender	
	BAME	White	Male	Female
Youth cautions	16%	84%	78%	22%
10 – 17 population <sup>9</sup>	18%	82%	51%	49%

*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 1, Tables 1.8 and 1.9*

Since the year ending March 2007, the overall number of youth cautions given to children and young people by the police has fallen year on year (by between 9% and 28%). There have been year on year falls in the number of youth cautions given to both White and BAME children and young people. The number of youth cautions fell by 24% for White children and young people and 10% for BAME children and young people in the most recent year (Supplementary Table 1.9).

As shown in Figure 1.4, overall the proportion of youth cautions given to BAME and White children and young people is similar to the proportions in the general 10 – 17 year old population. However, males received 78% of all youth cautions given despite only making up 51% of the general 10 – 17 year old population.

<sup>6</sup> For all offences except summary motoring offences.

<sup>7</sup> In the year ending March 2016 the offence groups used as the reason for giving a youth caution were updated to match the groups used in crime statistics. As a result, data on youth cautions broken down by offence group from the year ending March 2016 onwards are not directly comparable with previously published data.

<sup>8</sup> Proportions are based on where ethnicity and gender is known. In the year ending March 2017, ethnicity was not known for 10%, and gender was not known for 1% of the youth cautions given to children and young people.

<sup>9</sup> For age and gender, population is based on 2016 mid-year estimates. For ethnicity, population is based on the 2011 census. The ethnic breakdown of the population will likely have changed from 2011, so these figures should be treated as an estimate.



## 2. First time entrants to the Youth Justice System

In the year ending March 2017:

- There were around 16,500 first time entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System (YJS). The number of FTEs has been falling since the year ending March 2007 when there were just over 110,800 FTEs. The number of FTEs has fallen by 85% over the last 10 years, and by 11% in the latest year.
- As the number of FTEs has decreased, the proportion of FTEs receiving a conviction has increased from 8% to 39% over the last 10 years.

**Description:** First time entrants to the Youth Justice System are children and young people aged 10 – 17 who receive their first youth caution or court conviction recorded on the Police National Computer.<sup>10</sup>

**Source:** Police National Computer

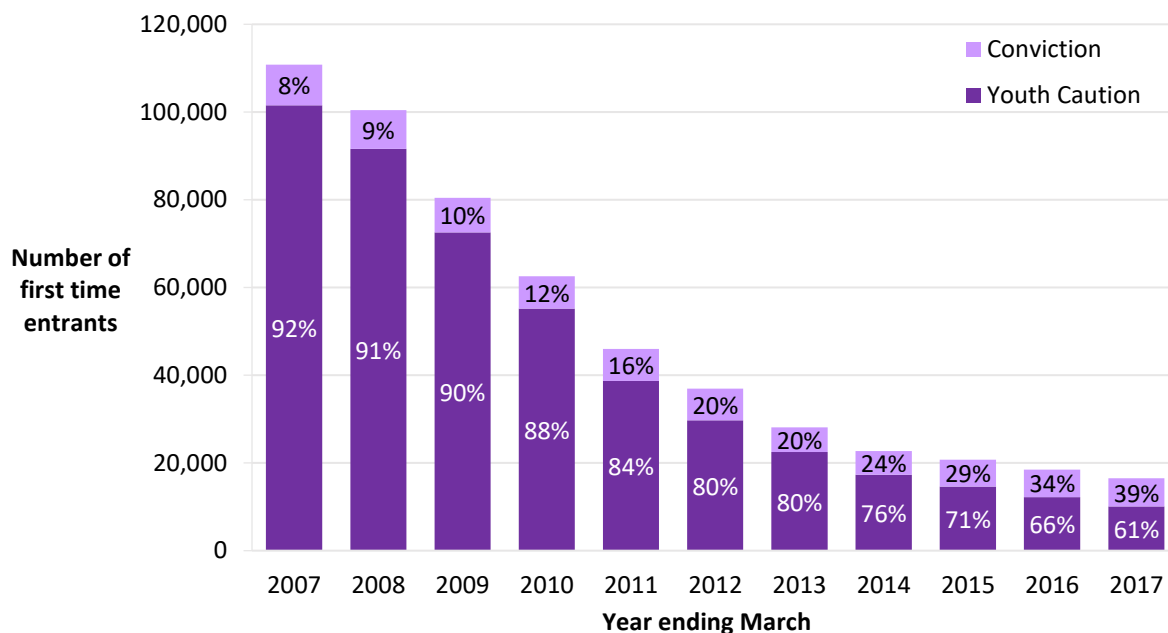
**Time period covered:** Years ending March 2007 to March 2017

**Supplementary Tables:** Ch 2 – First time entrants to the Youth Justice System

**More information:** *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*, Chapter 10 Criminal Histories, [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#) (more up to date data available)

### 2.1 Trends in number and proportion of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System

**Figure 2.1: First time entrants to the Youth Justice System, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Table 2.1 and 2.3*

<sup>10</sup> First offences only include offences committed in England and Wales, committed by offenders residing in England and Wales and recorded on the PNC by an English or Welsh police force.

The number of FTEs to the YJS (aged 10 – 17) has been falling<sup>11</sup>. Compared with the year ending March 2007, the number has fallen by 85% (from just over 110,800). In the last year, the number fell by 11% to around 16,500 in the year ending March 2017.

In the year ending March 2017, 13% of FTEs to the criminal justice system were aged 10 – 17 (see Chapter 11 – Comparisons to the Adult System).

Over the last 10 years, the majority of FTEs received a caution. Of the around 16,500 FTEs in the year ending March 2017, 61% (around 10,100) received a youth caution, with the remaining 6,500 receiving convictions (predominantly community sentences). However, Figure 2.1 shows that the proportion of FTEs receiving a conviction has been steadily increasing, from 8% in the year ending March 2007 to 39% in the latest year (Supplementary Table 2.3).

## 2.2 Characteristics of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System

**Figure 2.2: Demographic characteristics<sup>12</sup> of first time entrants compared to the general 10 – 17 population, England and Wales, year ending March 2017**

	Age group		Ethnicity		Gender	
	10 - 14	15 - 17	BAME	White	Male	Female
FTEs	31%	69%	24%	76%	80%	20%
10 – 17 population <sup>13</sup>	62%	38%	18%	82%	51%	49%

*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Tables 2.5 and 2.6*

### Ethnicity

Whilst Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) children and young people made up 18% of the 10 – 17 year old population, in the year ending March 2017 they made up 24% of FTEs.

This disproportionality has been widening. Whilst both BAME and White FTEs have been decreasing over the last 10 years, White FTEs have been falling at a faster rate (down 88% to around 11,200 FTEs, compared with a fall of 74% for BAME FTEs to nearly 3,500). This difference is particularly noticeable in the most recent year, with a fall in the number of BAME FTEs of just 2% compared to a fall of 17% for White FTEs (Supplementary Table 2.6).

### Gender

There have always been more male FTEs than female. In the year ending March 2017, 80% of FTEs were male compared to 51% of the 10 – 17 year old population.

The number of FTEs has fallen for both males and females over the last decade, with females experiencing the largest percentage decreases. The number of female FTEs has fallen by 91% (from over 34,600 to around 3,200) between the year ending March 2007 and the year ending March 2017. This compares to a decrease of 83% (from 75,900 to 13,100) male FTEs over the same period. Compared with the year ending March 2016, there was an 18% fall in female FTEs compared to a 9% decrease in male FTEs (Supplementary Table 2.5).

<sup>11</sup> See [Analysis of trends in first time entrants to the youth justice system](#) for more information.

<sup>12</sup> Proportions are based on where gender and ethnicity are known. In the year ending March 2017, the gender was not known for 1% of youth FTEs and ethnicity was not known for 11% (around 1,800 youth FTEs).

<sup>13</sup> For age and gender, population is based on 2016 mid-year estimates. For ethnicity, population is based on the 2011 census. The ethnic breakdown of the population will likely have changed from 2011, so these figures should be treated as an estimate.

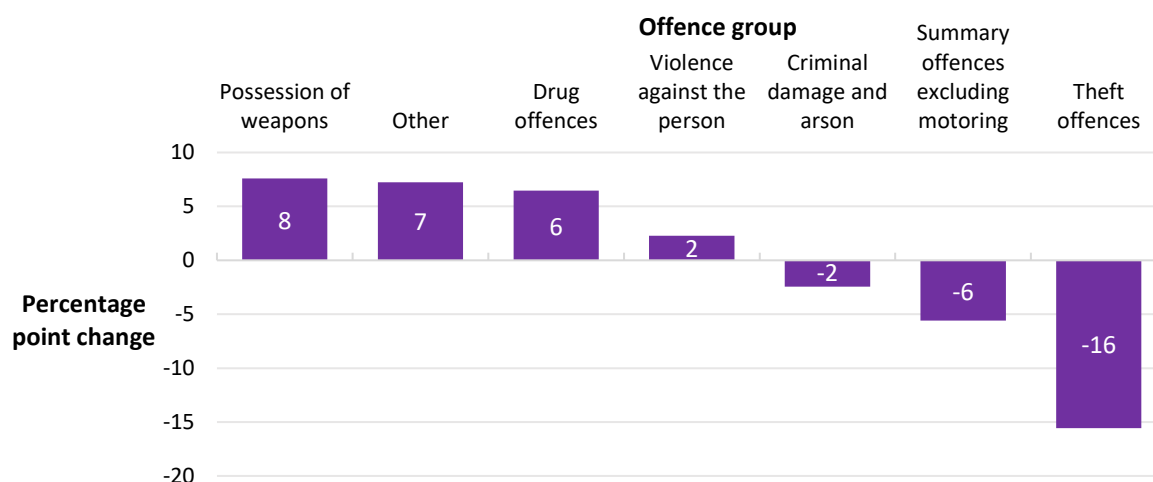
## Age

The average age of FTEs to the YJS has been increasing over the last 10 years<sup>14</sup>. It increased from 14.5 in the year ending March 2007 to 15.2 in the year ending March 2017. This is reflected in the changes in the number of 10 – 14 year old FTEs compared to 15 – 17 year old FTEs over the last 10 years. FTEs aged between 10 – 14 decreased by 90% (from 50,700 to 5,200) between the year ending March 2007 and the year ending March 2017, while the number of FTEs aged between 15 – 17 decreased by 81% over the same period (from 60,100 to 11,300) (Supplementary Tables 2.5 and 2.10).

### 2.3 Types of offences committed by first time entrants to the Youth Justice System

In the year ending March 2017, the most common offence committed by FTEs to the YJS was summary offences excluding motoring. These made up over a third (5,700) of all offences (just over 16,500) committed by first time entrants and include lower level offences such as common assault, shoplifting and low level criminal damage. The next highest offence group was theft offences which made up 18% of all offences committed by FTEs, though this offence group has seen the largest proportion decrease, from 33% compared with the year ending March 2007.

**Figure 2.3: Percentage point change in the proportion of first time entrants by offence group<sup>15</sup>, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 and March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Table 2.9*

While all offence groups saw decreases in the number of FTEs compared with the year ending March 2007, the proportions of some offence groups have increased. These include possession of weapon offences which increased by 8 percentage points, to 11% in the latest year, 'other' offences, which increased by 7 percentage points to 15% and drug offences, which increased by 6 percentage points to 11% in the same period. The offence groups to see the largest proportional decrease in the last 10 years are theft offences (down from 33% to 18%<sup>16</sup>) and summary offences excluding motoring (from 40% to 34%).

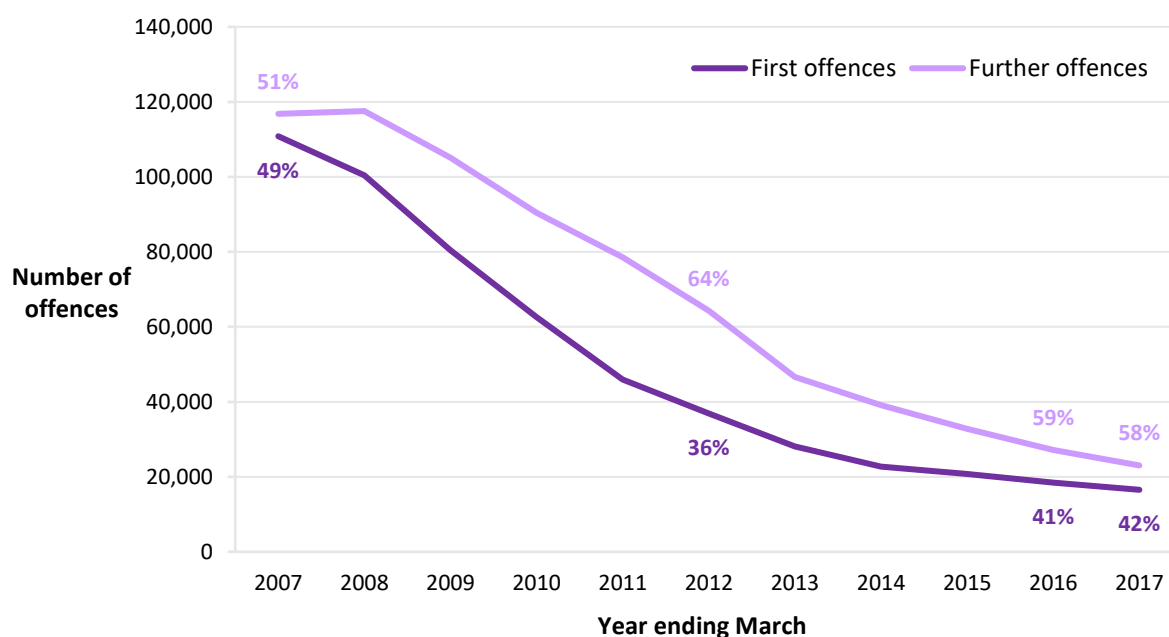
<sup>14</sup> Based on the numbers of FTEs by age on date of offence.

<sup>15</sup> 'Other' offences include sexual offences, robbery, public order, miscellaneous crimes against society, fraud offences, summary motoring offences and unknown offences.

<sup>16</sup> Percentage point increase has been calculated from the unrounded figures. See Supplementary Table 2.9.

## 2.4 First offences and further offences committed by children and young people

Figure 2.4: Number and proportion of first and further offences<sup>17</sup> committed by children and young people, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 2, Table 2.1

In the year ending March 2017, there were around 39,600 primary<sup>18</sup> offences committed by children and young people; 42% of these were first offences (around 16,500) and 58% were further offences (just over 23,000).

The number of first and further offences have both decreased since they peaked (first offences peaked in the year ending March 2007, further offences in the year ending March 2008). In the year ending March 2007, the number of first and further offences was almost equal. This has changed over the years and in the year ending March 2012, just 36% of offences committed were first offences (Supplementary Table 2.1).

<sup>17</sup> First and further offences only include offences committed in England and Wales, committed by offenders residing in England and Wales and recorded on the PNC by an English or Welsh police force.

<sup>18</sup> Primary offence refers to the most serious offence per caution or sentencing occasion.

### 3. Demographic characteristics of children and young people in the Youth Justice System

---

In the year ending March 2017:

- There were around 28,400 children and young people who received a caution or conviction, a fall of 81% compared with 10 years ago, and a fall of 14% compared with the previous year.
  - Whilst BAME children and young people make up 18% of the 10 – 17 year old population<sup>19</sup>, they accounted for 25% of the total children and young people<sup>20</sup> who received a caution or conviction, which is a 7 percentage point increase compared with 10 years ago.
- 

**Description:** This chapter covers the number and demographic characteristics of children and young people given a caution or conviction

**Source:** Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF)

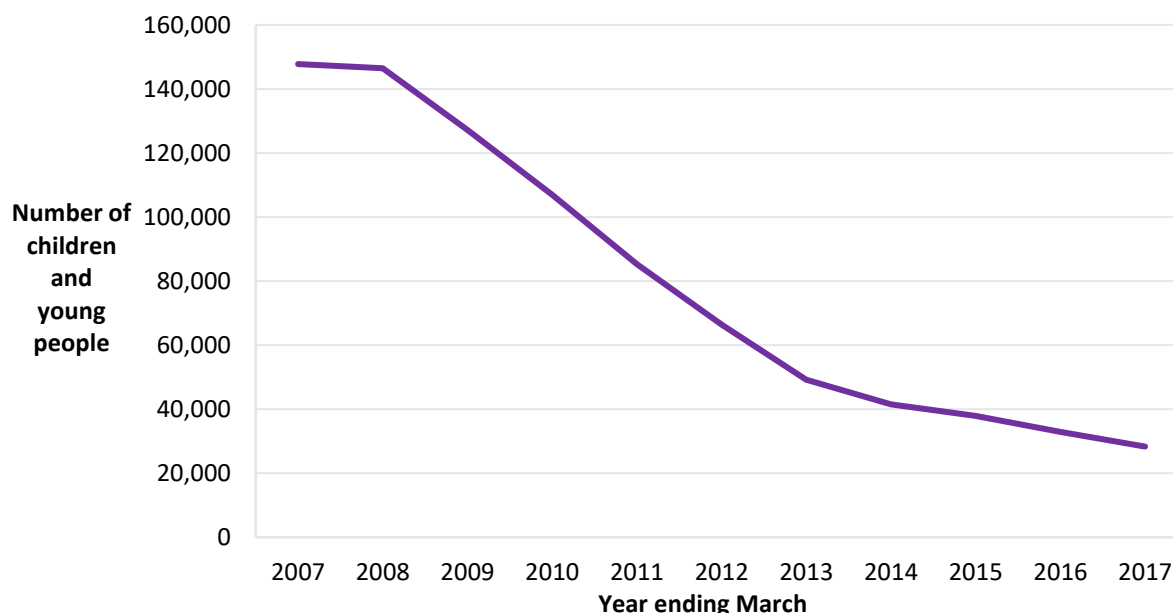
**Time period covered:** Years ending March 2007 to March 2017 (number of children and young people receiving a caution or conviction)  
Years ending March 2012 to March 2017 (characteristics of children and young people)

**Supplementary Tables:** Ch 3 – Demographic characteristics of children and young people in the Youth Justice System

**More information:** *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*, Local level data tables

#### 3.1 Number of children and young people receiving a caution or conviction

**Figure 3.1: Number of individual children and young people given a caution or conviction, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Table 3.8*

---

<sup>19</sup> For ethnicity, population is based on the 2011 census. The ethnic breakdown of the population will likely have changed from 2011, so these figures should be treated as an estimate.

<sup>20</sup> Proportions are based on where ethnicity is known. In the year ending March 2017, ethnicity was not known for 3% of the total children and young people who received a caution or conviction.

Around 28,400 individual children and young people received a caution or conviction in the year ending March 2017. There have been year on year falls in each of the last 10 years, and levels are now 81% lower than they were in the year ending March 2007.

### 3.2 Demographic characteristics of children and young people who received a caution or conviction<sup>21</sup>

**Figure 3.2: Demographic characteristics<sup>22</sup> of children and young people receiving a caution or conviction compared to the general 10 – 17 population, England and Wales, year ending March 2017**

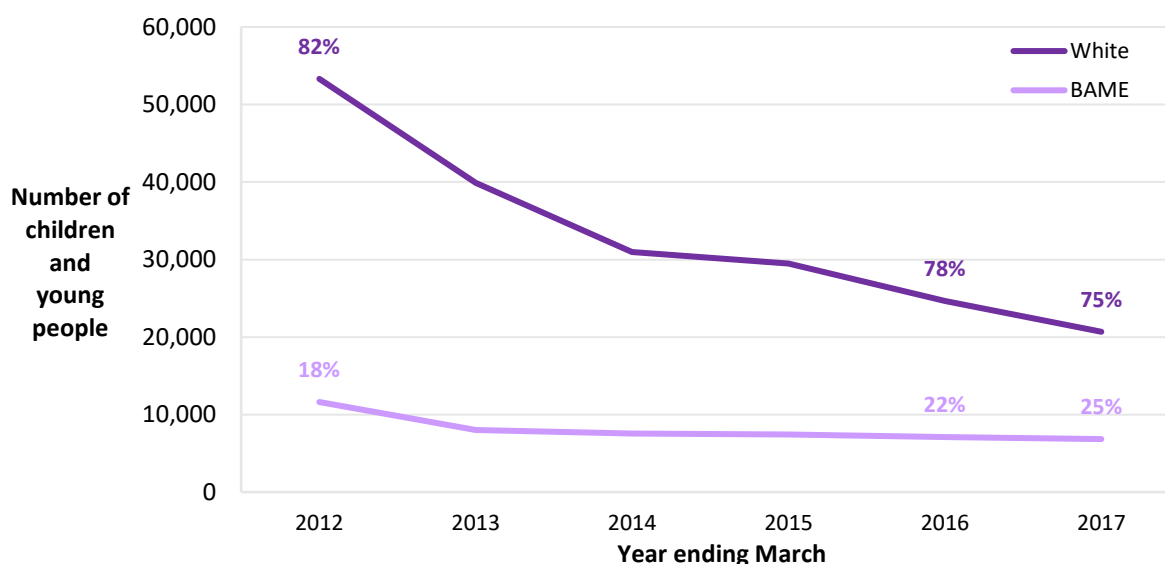
	Age Group		Ethnicity		Gender	
	10 - 14	15 - 17	BAME	White	Male	Female
Children and young people receiving a caution or conviction	24%	76%	25%	75%	83%	17%
10 – 17 population <sup>23</sup>	62%	38%	18%	82%	51%	49%

*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3*

Figure 3.2 shows that while BAME children and young people make up 18% of the 10 – 17 year old population, in the year ending March 2017 they made up 25% of children and young people who received a caution or conviction.

Males made up 51% of the general 10 – 17 population, but accounted for 83% of the total number of children and young people who received a caution or conviction.

**Figure 3.3: Number and proportion of children and young people receiving a caution or conviction by ethnicity, England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Table 3.1*

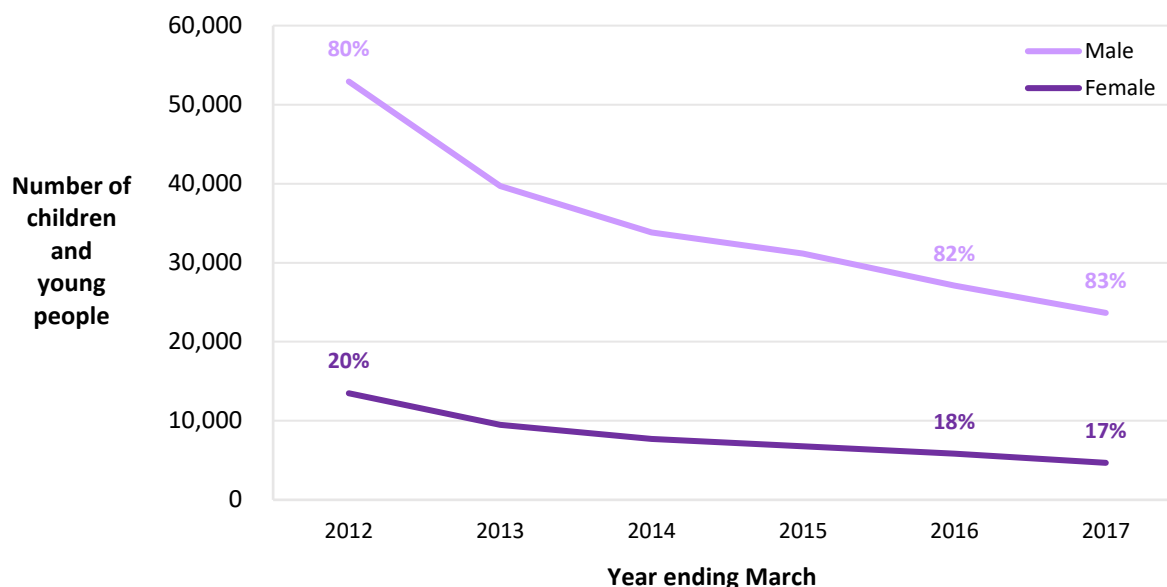
<sup>21</sup> A 10 year comparison is not available.

<sup>22</sup> Proportions are based on where ethnicity and gender is known. In the year ending March 2017, the ethnicity was not known for 3% and gender was not known for less than 1% of children and young people who received a youth caution or conviction.

<sup>23</sup> For age and gender, population is based on 2016 mid-year estimates. For ethnicity, population is based on the 2011 census. The ethnic breakdown of the population will likely have changed from 2011, so these figures should be treated as an estimate.

While both the number of BAME and White children and young people who received a caution or conviction have decreased year on year since the year ending March 2012, the number who were White reduced at a much higher rate. This has led to an increase in the proportion of BAME children and young people receiving a caution or conviction, from 18% in the year ending March 2012 to 25% in the latest year.

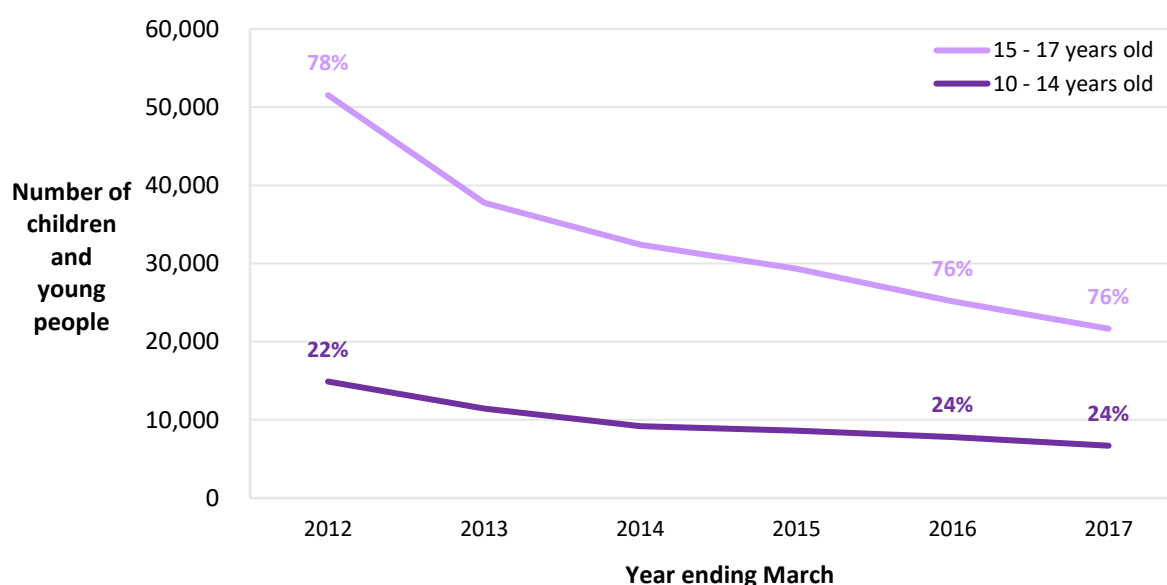
**Figure 3.4: Number and proportion of children and young people receiving a caution or conviction by gender, England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Table 3.2*

In the year ending March 2017, there were around 4,700 young females and around 23,700 young males who received a caution or conviction. Compared with the year ending March 2012, the number of females and males receiving a caution or conviction have fallen by 65% and 55% respectively.

**Figure 3.5: Number and proportion of children and young people receiving a caution or conviction by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 3, Table 3.3*

There were around 6,700 10 – 14 year olds and 21,700 15 – 17 year olds who received a caution or conviction in the year ending March 2017. Both age groups have seen similar decreases compared with the year ending March 2012 (55% and 58% respectively) and the year ending March 2016 (both 14%).



## 4. Proven offences by children and young people

In the year ending March 2017:

- The number of proven offences committed by children and young people has continued to fall; down 75% from 10 years ago and by 8% in the latest year to just under 73,000 proven offences.
- The proportion of violence against the person offences has been steadily increasing over the last 10 years, and now accounts for 28% of all proven offences.

**Description:** All proven offences (indictable and summary) committed by children and young people. A proven offence is one for which a child or young person receives a caution or conviction<sup>24</sup>

**Source:** Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF)

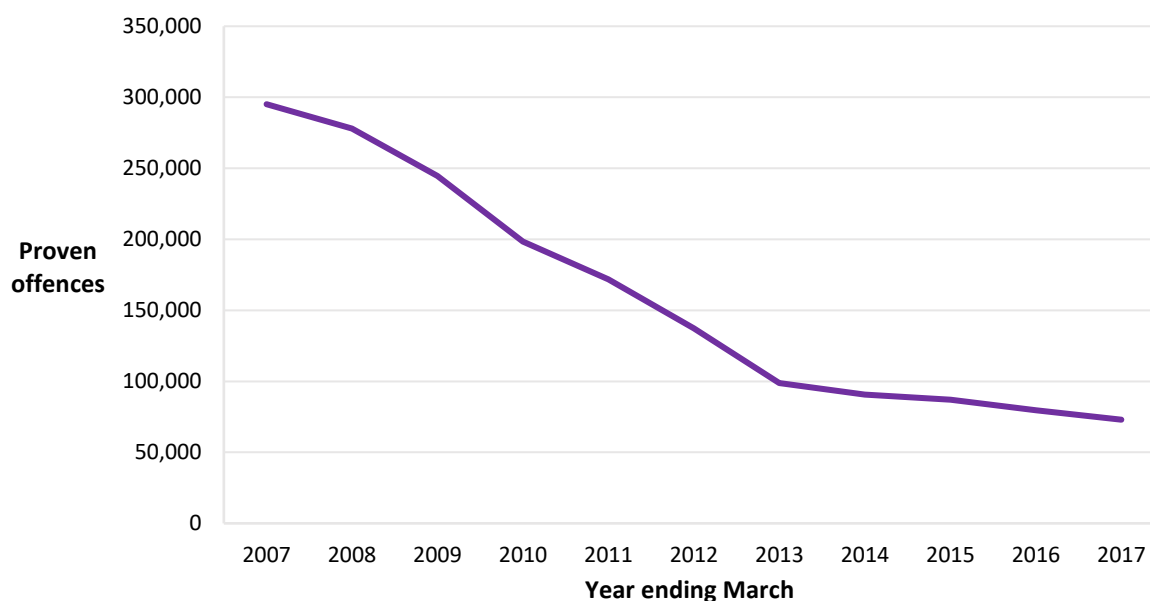
**Time period covered:** Years ending March 2007 to March 2017<sup>25</sup>

**Supplementary Tables:** Ch 4 – Proven offences by children and young people

**More information:** *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*, Local level data tables

### 4.1 Trends in proven offences by children and young people

**Figure 4.1: Number of proven offences by children and young people, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.1*

The number of proven offences has continued to fall. There were just under 73,000 proven offences by children and young people resulting in a caution or conviction in court in the latest year. This is a 75% fall from over 295,100 proven offences 10 years ago and an 8% fall compared with the previous year, although the rate of decrease has reduced since the year ending March 2013.

<sup>24</sup> These data include all offences a young person is given a youth caution or court conviction for, and not just the primary offence. The offence breakdown differs from the main offence types used by the MoJ. See *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics* for more information.

<sup>25</sup> Based on data extracted from YJAF taken in December 2017.

## Numbers

Supplementary Table 4.1 shows that in the last 10 years, all offence groups have seen a decrease in the number of proven offences, except for sexual offences, which has increased by 7% to around 2,000 offences in the latest year<sup>26</sup>. Theft and handling stolen goods, and breach of statutory order are the two offence groups to see the largest fall in the last 10 years (both falling by 85%), although the reduction in breach of statutory order may be due to a change in recording practices.

In the latest year, the number of proven offences decreased across all offence groups, except for:

- Motoring offences, which increased by 18% to just over 7,200 offences,
- Sexual offences, which had a 2% increase to around 2,000 offences.

## Proportions

**Figure 4.2: Percentage point change in the proportion of proven offences by children and young people, England and Wales, between the year ending March 2007 and March 2017<sup>27</sup>**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.1*

Whilst the number of proven offences committed by children and young people has fallen over the latest 10 years for all crime types (except sexual offences), the proportions of these offence types has been changing (Figure 4.2). Violence against the person offences has seen the greatest increase, gradually increasing from 19% in the year ending March 2007 to 28% in the latest year.

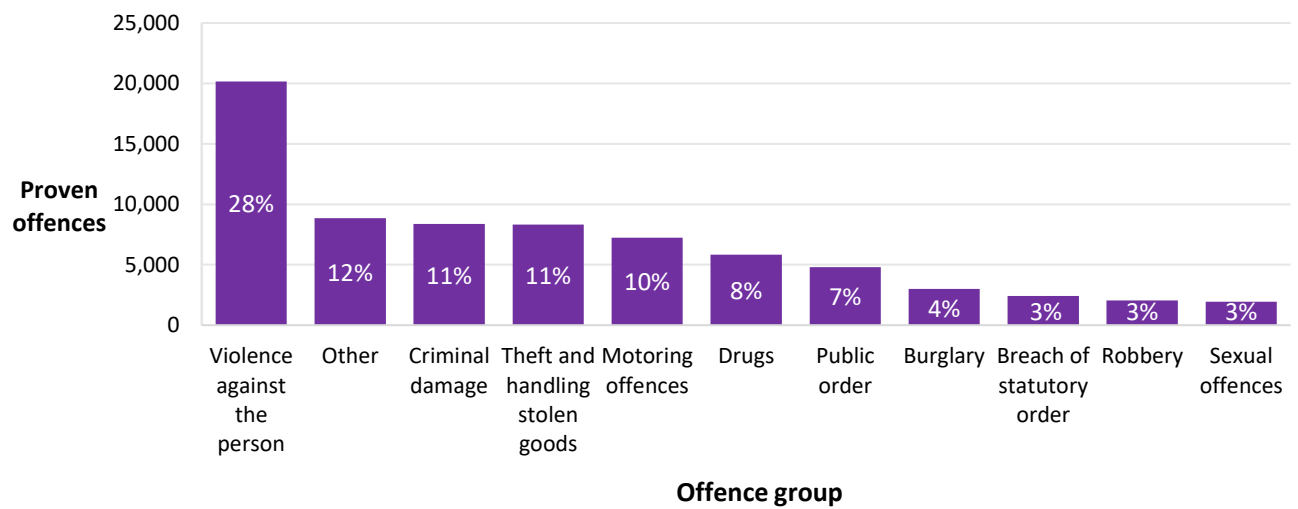
Theft and handling stolen goods offences has seen the largest proportional decrease in the last 10 years, from 19% in the year ending March 2007 to 11% in the latest year.

<sup>26</sup> The [Office for National Statistics](#) states that this may be due to the increased willingness of victims to report these offences and improved recording of these offences by the police.

<sup>27</sup> See Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.2 for the breakdown of the offences which are grouped into 'Other offences'.

## 4.2 Types of proven offences by children and young people

Figure 4.3: Proven offences by children and young people, England and Wales, year ending March 2017



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 4, Table 4.1

Of the nearly 73,000 proven offences by children and young people in the latest year, the main offence types were:

- Violence against the person (28%),
- Other offences (12%, of which a third were vehicle theft/unauthorised taking),
- Criminal damage and theft and handling stolen goods (both 11%).

## 5. Children and young people sentenced

---

In the year ending March 2017:

- Of the children and young people proceeded against at court, 73% (25,700) were sentenced after being found guilty. Over the last 10 years, the number of children and young people sentenced has decreased in line with the number of children and young people proceeded against.
- The number of children and young people sentenced to immediate custody has fallen by 74% since the year ending March 2007, and by 7% in the last year, to around 1,600. The most common sentence given to children and young people in the last year was a Referral Order (44%).
- Around 17,500 children and young people (68%) were given community sentences, of which 64% were Referral Orders (around 11,200), 35% were Youth Rehabilitation Orders (around 6,200) and 1% were Reparation Orders (just under 120).

---

**Description:** This chapter covers children and young people proceeded against and sentenced after being found guilty of proven offences by court type and type of offence

**Source:** Court Proceedings Database

**Time period covered:** Years ending March 2012 to March 2017 (sentencing by ethnicity)  
Years ending March 2007 to March 2017 (all other data)

**Supplementary Tables:** Ch 5 – Children and young people sentenced

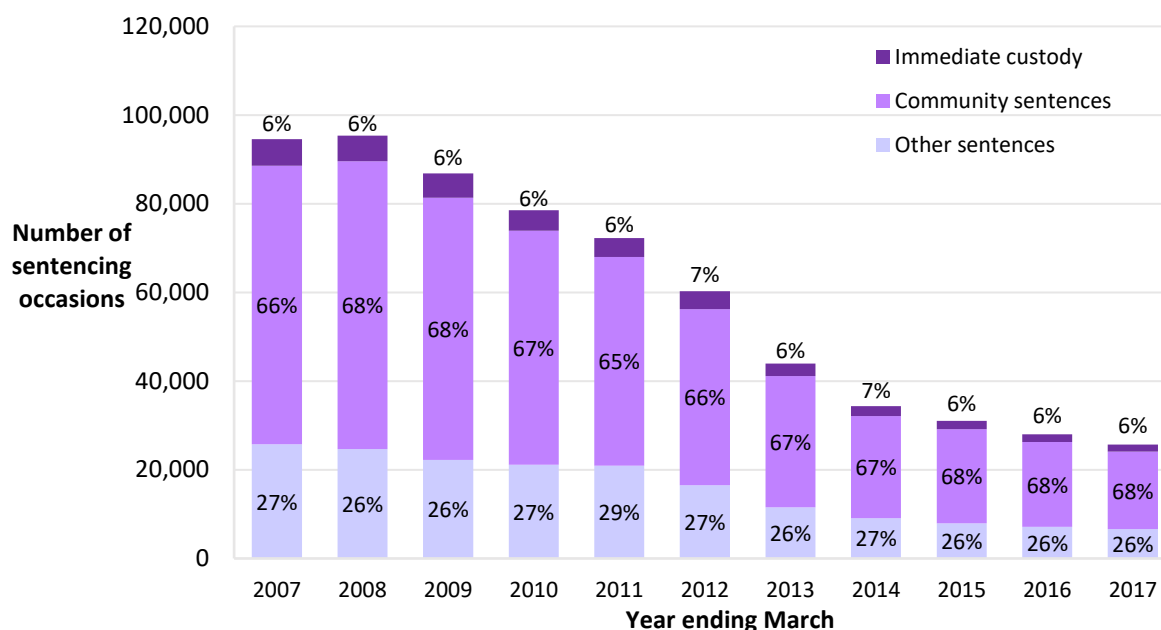
**More information:** *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*, Chapter 10 – Criminal histories of children and young people, [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#) (more up to date data available)

### 5.1 Children and young people proceeded against at magistrates' courts

All cases are initially proceeded against in a magistrates' court before a decision is made which court to hear the case in, depending on the seriousness of the offence. There were around 35,200 children and young people proceeded against at magistrates' courts in the year ending March 2017, a fall of 72% compared with the year ending March 2007 and a fall of 9% compared with the previous year. Over half (53%) of these proceedings were for indictable offences, 39% were for summary non-motoring offences and the remaining 8% for summary motoring offences (Supplementary Table 5.1).

## 5.2 Children and young people sentenced in all courts<sup>28</sup>

**Figure 5.1: Number of sentencing occasions for children and young people sentenced in all courts by sentence type, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Table 5.3*

There were 25,700 children and young people sentenced in all courts in the latest year. There have been continuous falls in the number of children and young people sentenced since the peak in the year ending March 2008, with a fall of 8% in the most recent year. These long term falls since the peak in the year ending March 2008 have been mostly driven by a decrease of 73% in those given community sentences, which make up the majority of all sentences (68% in the latest year). Despite the significant fall in the number of sentences, the proportions by sentence type have remained broadly stable, suggesting that all volumes have declined at comparable rates. As Figure 5.1 shows, the proportion of children and young people sentenced to immediate custody has remained at 6% or 7% over the last 10 years, though the number of children and young people sentenced to immediate custody fell by 74% over the same period, and by 7% in the last year.

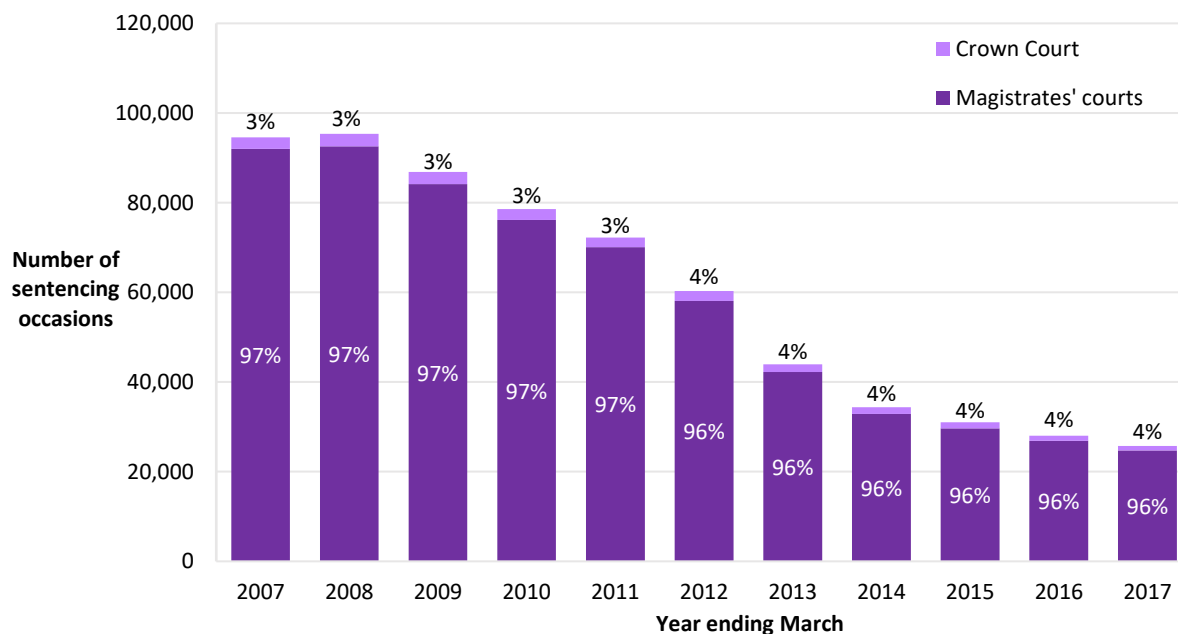
Supplementary Table 5.3 shows that in the year ending March 2017, of the 25,700 children and young people sentenced for all types of offences in all courts:

- Around 1,600 children and young people (6% of all those sentenced) were sentenced to immediate custody, with most (84%) of these being Detention and Training Orders;
- Around 17,500 children and young people (68%) were given community sentences, of which 64% were Referral Orders (around 11,200), 35% were Youth Rehabilitation Orders (around 6,200) and 1% were Reparation Orders (just under 120).
- Just over 6,600 children and young people (26%) were sentenced to other types of sentences (these include discharges, fines and otherwise dealt with disposals).

<sup>28</sup> Children and young people can be counted more than once if they are sentenced for different offences at different points of the year.

### 5.3 Children and young people sentenced by court type<sup>29</sup>

**Figure 5.2: Number and proportion of children and young people sentenced for all offences by court type, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Tables 5.5a and 5.5b*

Depending on the seriousness of the offence the case will either be heard in a magistrates' court from start to finish, or will be referred from a magistrates' court to the Crown Court<sup>30</sup>. The Crown Court only hears cases involving more serious offences and as such, a much smaller number of children and young people are sentenced in this type of court compared with magistrates' courts. In the year ending March 2017, 4% of the 25,700 children and young people sentenced were sentenced at the Crown Court. This proportion has remained broadly stable over the last 10 years varying between 3% and 4%.

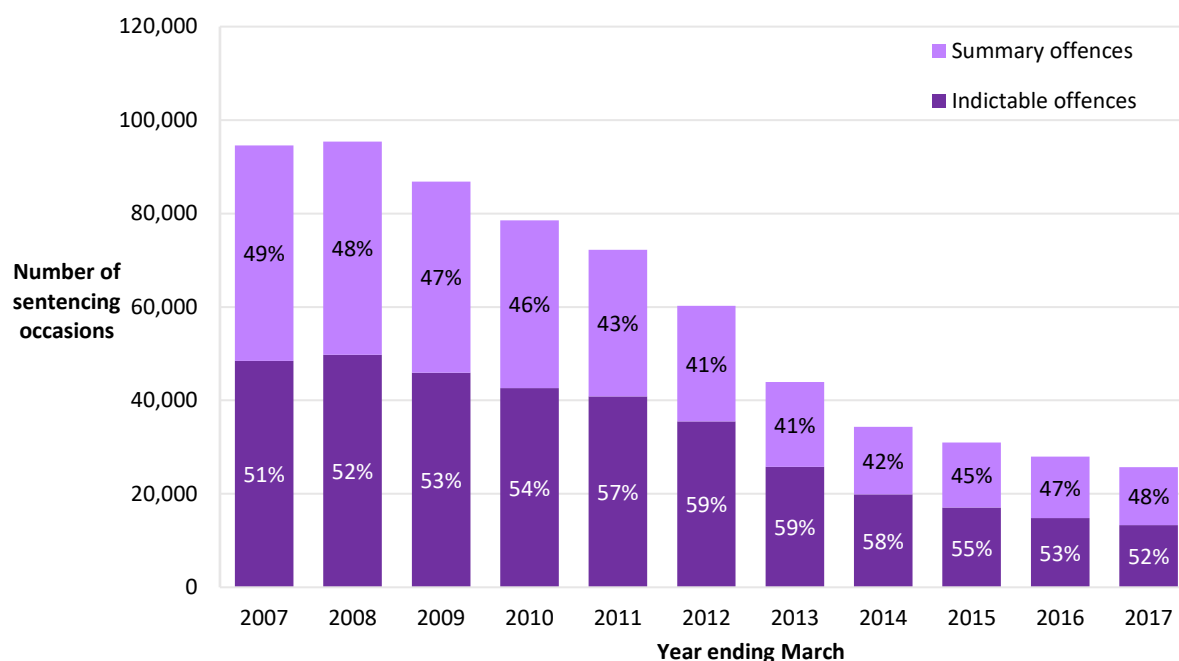
The Crown Court tries the most serious cases and this is reflected in the types of sentences given. In the year ending March 2017, 48% of the 970 children and young people sentenced at the Crown Court were given a custodial sentence. This compares to just 5% of the 24,700 sentenced at magistrates' courts.

<sup>29</sup> The Crown Court only hears cases for the most serious offences. The majority of indictable offences are triable either way. These can be tried in the magistrates' courts or the Crown Court. Summary offences are less serious offences and can only be heard in magistrates' courts.

<sup>30</sup> Cases for 10 – 17 year olds are heard in the youth court, which is a type of magistrates' court.

## 5.4 Children and young people sentenced at all courts by type of offence<sup>31</sup>

**Figure 5.3: Number of children and young people sentenced in all courts by type of offence, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Tables 5.4a and 5.4b*

Of the 25,700 children and young people sentenced in the year ending March 2017, just over half (52%) were sentenced for indictable offences and 48% were sentenced for summary offences.

The number of children and young people sentenced for both indictable and summary level offences have decreased over the past decade, albeit at different rates. While both indictable and summary offences each saw a decrease of 73% since the year ending March 2007, the rate of these decreases has changed in the last five years. Since the year ending March 2012, there was a 63% decrease for indictable offences and a 50% decrease for summary offences. This led to a change in proportions with children and young people sentenced for indictable offences accounting for 52% in the year ending March 2017 compared with 59% in the year ending March 2012.

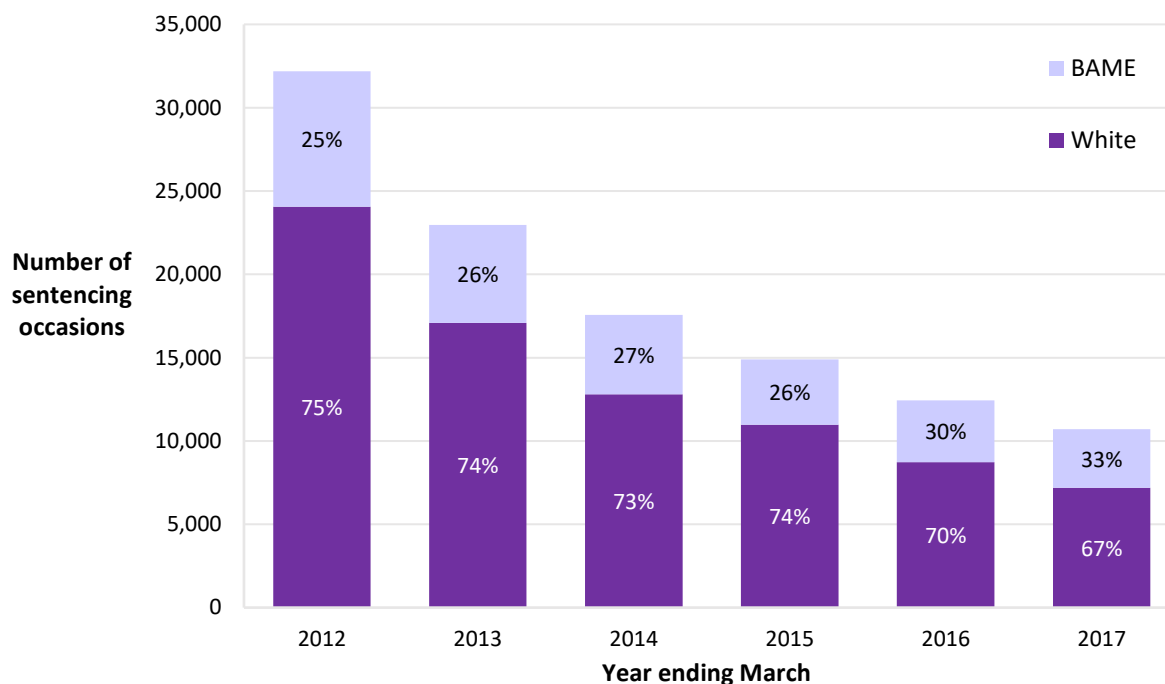
Just over 13,300 children and young people were sentenced for indictable offences in the latest year, of which the majority (74%) received a community sentence. This compares to 62% of the 12,400 children and young people sentenced for summary offences (Supplementary Tables 5.4a and 5.4b).

In the year ending March 2017, 10% of the children and young people sentenced for indictable offences were sentenced to immediate custody compared with 2% for summary offences (Supplementary Tables 5.4a and 5.4b).

<sup>31</sup> Criminal offences are divided into three main offence groups; Indictable; Summary non-motoring; and Summary motoring. In this chapter, summary motoring offences and summary non-motoring offences are grouped together. Please refer to *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics* for further details of these offence groups.

## 5.5 Children and young people sentenced for indictable offences by ethnicity<sup>32,33</sup>

**Figure 5.4: Number of children and young people sentenced for indictable offences in all courts by ethnicity, England and Wales, years ending March 2012<sup>34</sup> to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Table 5.6*

In the year ending March 2017, around 7,200 White children and young people and around 3,500 BAME children and young people were sentenced at court for indictable offences<sup>35</sup>.

While there have been year on year decreases in the number BAME and White children and young people sentenced at court for indictable offences, the decrease for White children and young people has been at a higher rate than for BAME children and young people. Compared with the year ending March 2012, the number of White children and young people sentenced for indictable offences decreased by 70% compared to 57% for BAME children and young people.

The different levels of decrease have led to a change in proportions of young people sentenced for indictable offences by ethnicity. In the year ending March 2017, BAME children and young people accounted for 33% of children and young people sentenced for indictable offences compared with 25% in the year ending March 2012.

<sup>32</sup> Data on summary level offences are not included as many young people are not required to be present when sentenced so data on ethnicity is limited.

<sup>33</sup> See [Race and the Criminal Justice System](#) for more information.

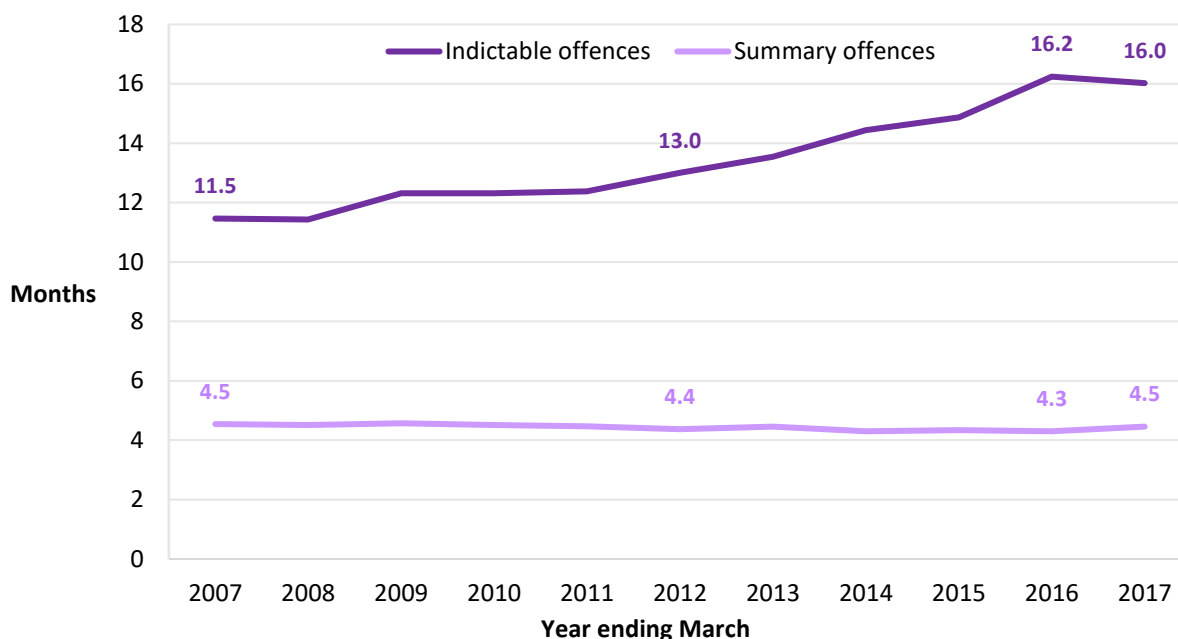
<sup>34</sup> A 10 year comparison is not available.

<sup>35</sup> Proportions are based on where ethnicity is known. In the year ending March 2017, ethnicity was not known for 20% of young people sentenced for indictable offences at all courts.



## 5.6 Average custodial sentence length<sup>36,37</sup>

Figure 5.5: Average custodial sentence length in months by type of offence, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 5, Tables 5.4a and 5.4b*

For young people sentenced to custody, the average custodial sentence length varied significantly based on the type of offence the child or young person was sentenced for. In the year ending March 2017, the average custodial sentence length for those sentenced for indictable offences was 16.0 months compared to 4.5 months for those sentenced for summary offences.

While the average custodial sentence length remained broadly stable over the last 10 years for those sentenced for summary offences, it has increased for indictable offences in the same period, from 11.5 to 16.0 months, though there has been a small decrease in the most recent year.

<sup>36</sup> This is the whole sentence length given in court and not necessarily the amount of time spent in custody.

<sup>37</sup> Excludes life and indeterminate sentences, and where fewer than five examples are available the calculation is suppressed.

## 6. Use of remand for children and young people

---

In the year ending March 2017:

- There were just over 14,100 remand episodes; the majority (87%) were bail remands, with custodial remands accounting for 9% and the remaining 5% being community remands with intervention.
- Over half (54%) of children and young people in the average monthly custodial remand population<sup>38</sup> were from a BAME background, though they made up 45% of the custodial population and 18% of the general 10 – 17 population<sup>39</sup>.
- The majority (65%) of children and young people given a custodial remand did not subsequently receive a custodial outcome.

---

**Description:** Use of remand for children and young people aged 10 – 17 in the Youth Justice System, characteristics of the custodial remand population and the outcomes for children and young people following custodial remand.

**Source:** Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF) – Remand episodes  
SACHS, eAsset and the Youth Justice Application Framework – Custodial remand population  
Court Proceedings Database – Outcomes following a custodial remand

**Time period covered:** Years ending March 2012 to March 2017 (Remand episodes)  
Years ending March 2007 to March 2017 (Custodial remand population)  
Years ending March 2012 to March 2017 (Outcomes following custodial remand)

**Supplementary Tables:** Ch 6 – Use of remand for children and young people

**More information:** *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*, [Youth Custody Data](#) (more up to date provisional data available), [Race and the criminal justice system](#), Chapter 7 – Children and young people in the youth secure estate

When the court makes the decision to remand a young person they have an option of custodial remands, community remands with intervention (including remand to local authority accommodation) or a range of bail options.

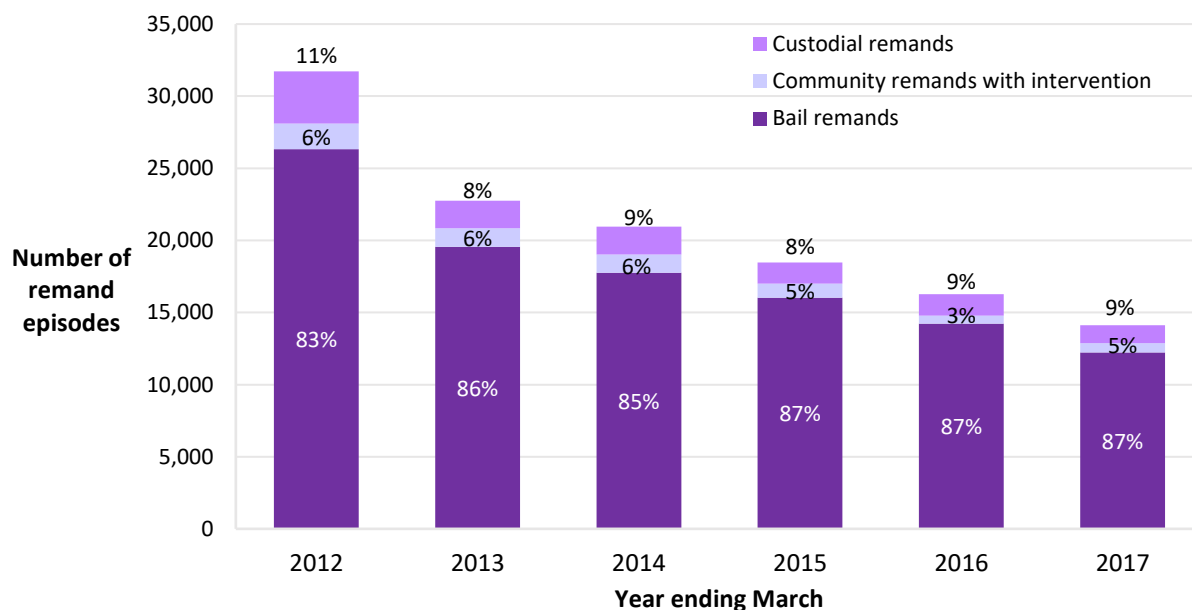
---

<sup>38</sup> These average custodial remand population figures are averages of 12 monthly snapshots of the custodial population in the secure estate for children and young people, taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end.

<sup>39</sup> For ethnicity, population is based on the 2011 census. The ethnic breakdown of the population will likely have changed from 2011, so these figures should be treated as an estimate.

## 6.1 Types of remand given to children and young people

**Figure 6.1: Type of remand decisions given to children and young people, England and Wales, years ending March 2012<sup>40</sup> to March 2017**



*Supplementary Table: Chapter 6, Table 6.1*

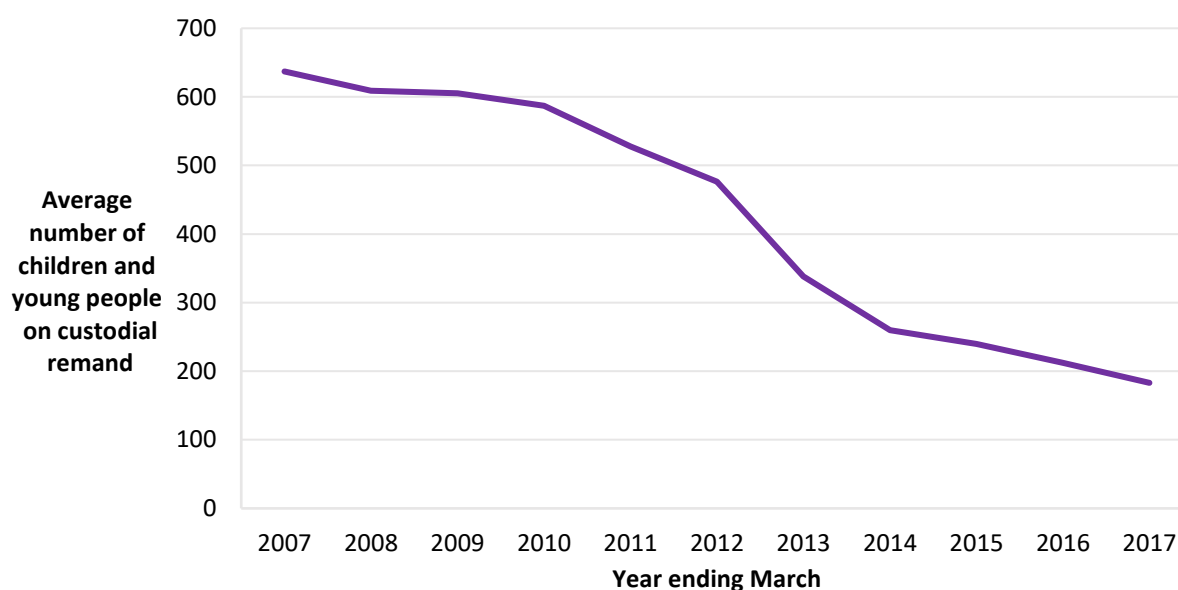
There were just over 14,100 remand episodes in the year ending March 2017, the majority (87%) were bail remands, with custodial remands accounting for 9% and the remaining 5% being community remands with intervention. The number of remand episodes reduced by 55%, from around 31,700, when compared with the year ending March 2012, and by 13% compared with the year ending March 2016 (from around 16,300).

Of the three remand types, custodial remands saw the biggest decrease between the years ending March 2012 and March 2017 with a 66% fall. This was followed by community remands with intervention with a 63% fall and bail remands with a 54% decrease.

<sup>40</sup> A 10 year comparison is not available.

## 6.2 Average monthly population of children and young people on custodial remand

**Figure 6.2: Average monthly custodial remand population, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Table: Chapter 6, Table 6.2*

There was an average monthly population of just over 180 children and young people in custody on remand at any one time in the year ending March 2017. The majority (74%) were remanded to custody in a Young Offender Institution (YOI) (Supplementary Table 6.3).

Overall, there has been a steady decrease in the average monthly number of children and young people on remand over the last 10 years, falling 71% since the year ending March 2007 and by 14% in the latest year.

Children and young people held in custody on remand accounted for 21% of the average monthly custody population in the latest year, similar to the 22% seen in the previous year. In the last 10 years, the proportion of children and young people held on remand was at its highest in the year ending March 2011 at 26% (Supplementary Table 6.2).

**Figure 6.3: Average monthly custodial remand population compared to the overall custodial population for children and young people by demographics<sup>41</sup>, England and Wales, year ending March 2017**

	Age Group		Ethnicity		Gender	
	10 - 14	15 - 17	BAME	White	Male	Female
Average monthly <b>remand</b> population in custody	6%	94%	54%	46%	98%	2%
Average monthly population in custody	4%	96%	45%	55%	97%	3%

*Supplementary Table: Chapter 6, Table 6.2*

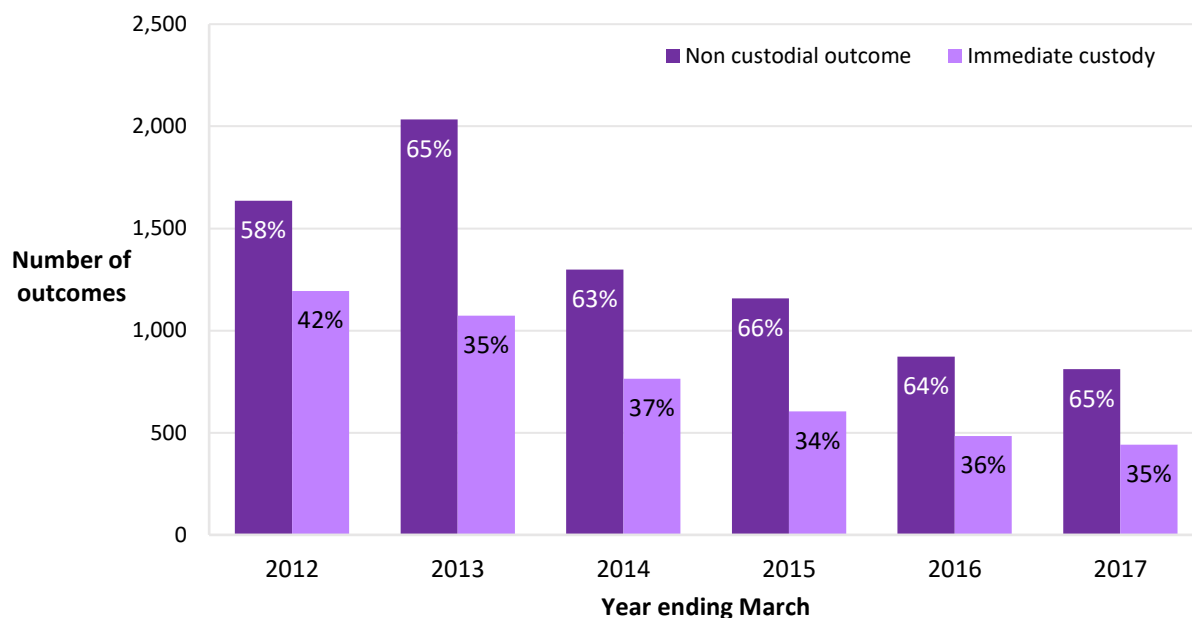
In the year ending March 2017, BAME children and young people accounted for 54% of the average monthly custodial remand population whilst making up 45% of the overall average monthly custody

<sup>41</sup> Proportions are based on where ethnicity was known. In the year ending March 2017 the ethnicity was not known for 1% of both the average monthly remand population and the average monthly population in custody.

population. Similar to the average monthly custodial population, the majority of children and young people on custodial remand are males (98%) and those aged 15 – 17 (94%).

### 6.3 Outcomes for children and young people following custodial remand

**Figure 6.4: Outcomes following custodial remands given to children and young people, England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017<sup>42</sup>**



*Supplementary Table: Chapter 6, Table 6.5*

The majority of children and young people given custodial remand were not subsequently given a custodial sentence. In the year ending March 2017 almost two thirds (around 810 of 1,300) of custodial remand episodes that ended resulted in either a non-custodial sentence (around 450 outcomes) or an acquittal (around 360 outcomes). The proportion of outcomes that resulted in a non-custodial outcome is 7 percentage points higher than the year ending March 2012 but has remained at a similar level over the last four years.

Statistics on the average length of time children and young people spend on remand will be published on 26 April 2018<sup>43</sup>.

<sup>42</sup> A 10 year comparison is not available.

<sup>43</sup> [Length of time spent in Youth Custody: 2016 to 2017](#)

## 7. Children and young people in custody in the youth secure estate

---

In the year ending March 2017:

- In the latest year, there was an average monthly population of just under 870 children and young people in custody at any one time during the year, falling by 70% in the last 10 years and 10% in the last year<sup>44</sup>.
- The proportion of children and young people in custody for more serious offences has continued to increase. The proportion of children and young people in custody for violence against the person offences, robbery and sexual offences accounted for 70% of the total population in the latest year, compared to 52% in the year ending March 2012<sup>45</sup>.
- The proportion of BAME children and young people in custody accounted for 45% of the custodial population<sup>46</sup>, whilst only making up 18% of the 10 – 17 population<sup>47</sup>. This proportion has increased from 27% since the year ending March 2007.

---

**Description:** Children and young people in custody in the youth secure estate in England and Wales

**Source:** SACHS, eAsset and the Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF)

**Time period covered:** Years ending March 2007 to March 2017

**Supplementary Tables:** Ch 7 – Children and young people in the youth secure estate

**More information:** Provisional data from April 2017 is published in the monthly [Youth Custody Data](#), *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*

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

---

<sup>44</sup> Provisional data published in the monthly [Youth Custody Data](#) suggests that there have been increases in the custodial population in 2017/18.

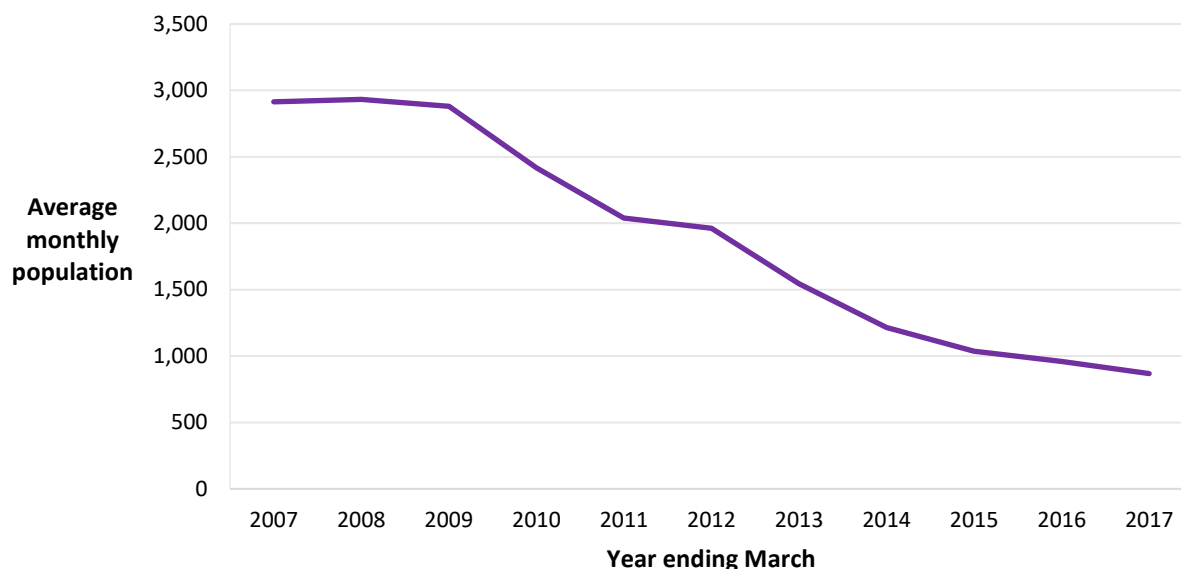
<sup>45</sup> A 10 year comparison is not available.

<sup>46</sup> Proportions are based on where ethnicity is known. In the year ending March 2017, the ethnicity was not known for 1% of the youth custody population.

<sup>47</sup> Based on the 2011 Census. The ethnic breakdown of the population will likely have changed from 2011, so these figures should be treated as an estimate.

## 7.1 Average monthly youth custody population<sup>48</sup>

**Figure 7.1: Average monthly youth custody population, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**

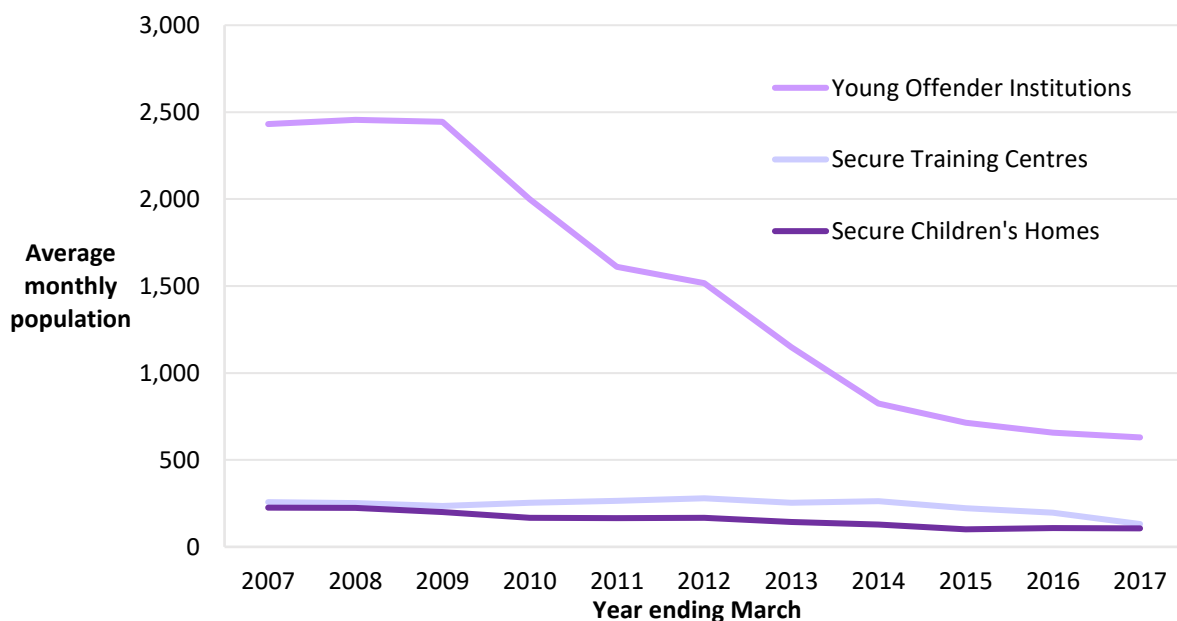


*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.2*

The average monthly number of children and young people in custody has continued to fall. In the year ending March 2017, there was an average of just under 870 children and young people in custody at any one time. This is a reduction of 70% from 10 years ago, when there was an average of around 2,900 children and young people in custody, and a reduction of 10% from the previous year.

## 7.2 Average monthly youth custody population by sector

**Figure 7.2: Average monthly custody population by sector, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.3*

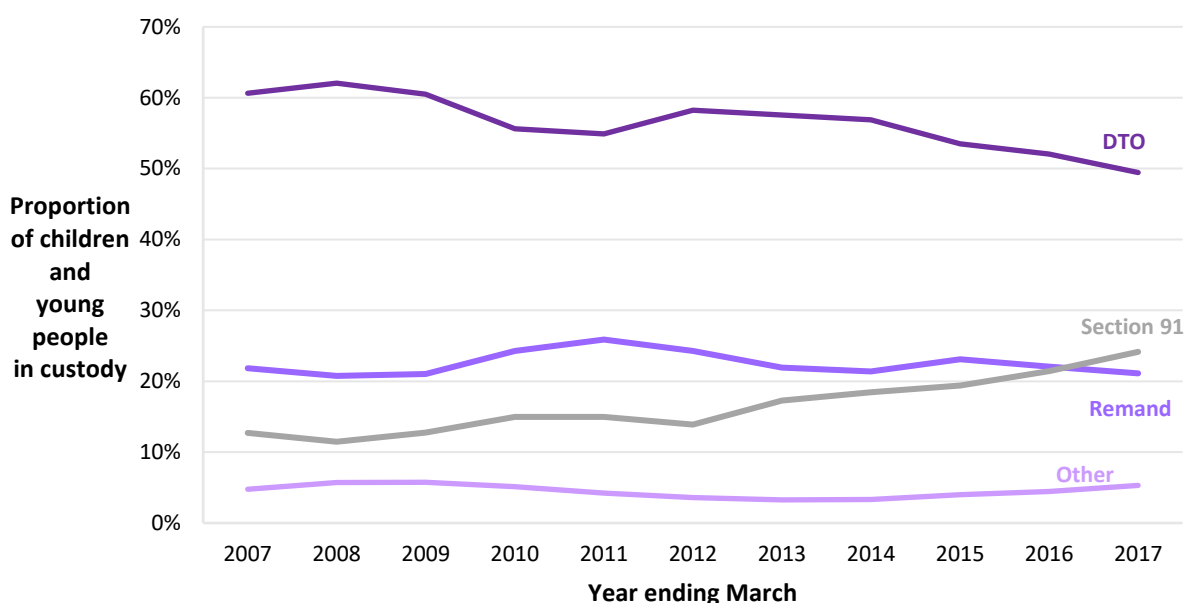
<sup>48</sup> Data on the under 18 custody population are published from 2000/01 in [Youth Custody Data](#).

The majority of children and young people in custody are placed in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs, 73%)<sup>49</sup>, which have seen a population decrease of 4% in the latest year. The average monthly YOI population has seen the largest fall of the three sectors in the last 10 years, decreasing by 74%. Secure Training Centres (STCs) held 15% of the youth custody population, which have seen a decrease of 33% in the last year. The remaining 12% of children and young people in custody were held in Secure Children’s Homes (SCHs), which have remained roughly the same as the previous year.

### 7.3 Legal basis for detention of children and young people in custody

Information on legal basis for detention relate to the most serious legal basis<sup>50</sup> that a young person has (see *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*).

**Figure 7.3: Average monthly youth custody population by legal basis for detention as a proportion of the total, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.5*

Figure 7.3 shows that just under half (49%) of the children and young people in custody in the latest year were serving a Detention and Training Order (DTO)<sup>51</sup>. A further 24% were on a Section 91<sup>52</sup> sentence, and another 21% were on remand. The remaining 5% were serving other sentences<sup>53,54</sup>.

Compared with the year ending March 2007, the distribution of the proportion of these sentences has been changing:

<sup>49</sup> Only males between the ages of 15 – 17 can be placed in a YOI in the youth secure estate. Since August 2013, females have not been placed in YOIs in the youth secure estate, therefore females up to age 18 are held in SCHs and STCs.

<sup>50</sup> A young person may have multiple custodial orders simultaneously, legal basis refers to the most serious custodial order.

<sup>51</sup> DTOs are determinate custodial sentences which can last from four months to 24 months in length. A young person spends the first half of the order in custody and the second half in the community on licence.

<sup>52</sup> If a young person is convicted of a certain “serious” offence other than murder for which an adult could receive at least 14 years in custody, they may be sentenced under Section 91 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. See *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics* for further information.

<sup>53</sup> Percentages do not sum due to rounding.

<sup>54</sup> Other sentences include those serving Detention for Public Protection (section 226), Extended Determinate Sentence (section 226B), Detention at her Majesty’s Pleasure (section 90) and those detained under civil matters. See *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics* for full details.

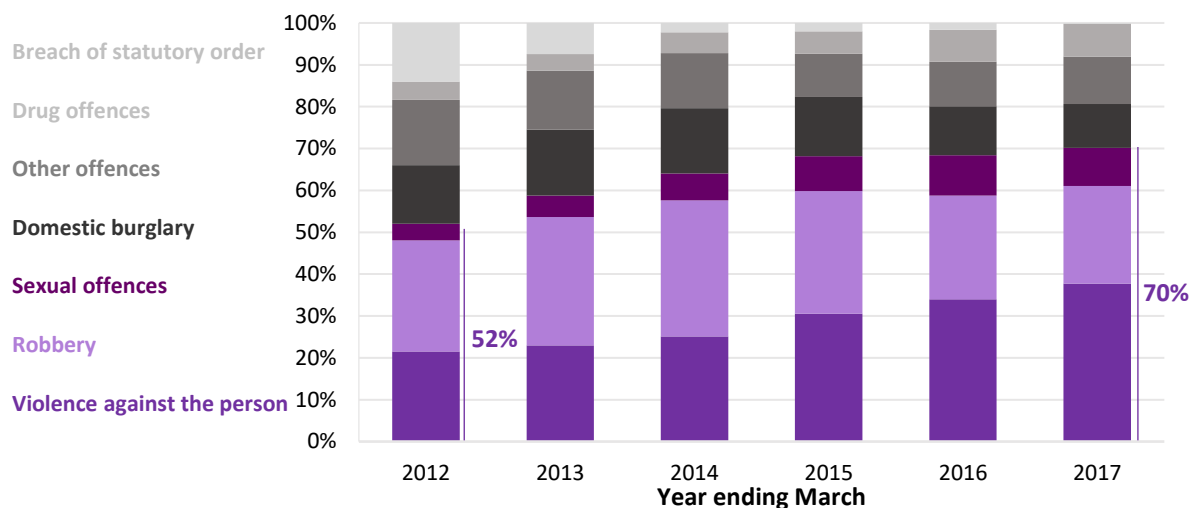


- Both the number and proportion of children and young people serving a DTO have decreased. The number of children and young people on a DTO fell by 76% and the proportion fell from 61% to 49% over the last 10 years.
- While the number of those serving a Section 91 sentence has decreased by 43%, the proportion has increased from 13% to 24%, and is now higher than the proportion on remand for the first time in the last 10 years.
- While the number of children and young people held on remand has decreased by 71%, the proportion has remained broadly stable at 21% (22% in the year ending March 2007).
- The number of children and young people on Other sentences has decreased by 67% however the proportion is the same as it was 10 years ago at 5%.

#### 7.4 Offences resulting in children and young people going into custody

Just as there has been a decline in the average monthly number of children and young people held in custody, there has also been a decline in the average monthly number of children and young people held for each offence group when compared with the year ending March 2012<sup>55</sup>, except for sexual offences which has remained stable (Supplementary Table 7.6).

**Figure 7.4: Proportion of children and young people in custody by offence group, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017**



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.6

However, over the same time period, the proportion of children and young people held for more serious offences has increased (Figure 7.4). Specifically, the proportion of children and young people in custody for violence against the person, robbery and sexual offences has increased from 52% in the year ending March 2012 to 70% in the latest year. The proportion held for robbery has reduced slightly in the last year, but still accounts for nearly a quarter of all children and young people.

There were more children and young people in custody for violence against the person offences (38%) than for any other offence type. This offence type has also seen the greatest increase in proportion, up 16 percentage points since the year ending March 2012 (from 21% to 38%)<sup>56</sup>. The proportion for sexual offences also increased over this period (from 4% to 9%), and for drug offences (from 4% to 8%).

<sup>55</sup> A 10 year comparison is not available.

<sup>56</sup> Percentage point increase has been calculated from the unrounded figures. See Supplementary Table 7.6.

The large fall in the proportion of breach of statutory order offences is most likely due to a change in data recording when administrative systems changed due to the way the data are entered<sup>57</sup>.

## 7.5 Demographics of children and young people in custody

**Figure 7.5: Demographics<sup>58,59</sup> of the youth custody population compared to the general 10 – 17 population, England and Wales, year ending March 2017**

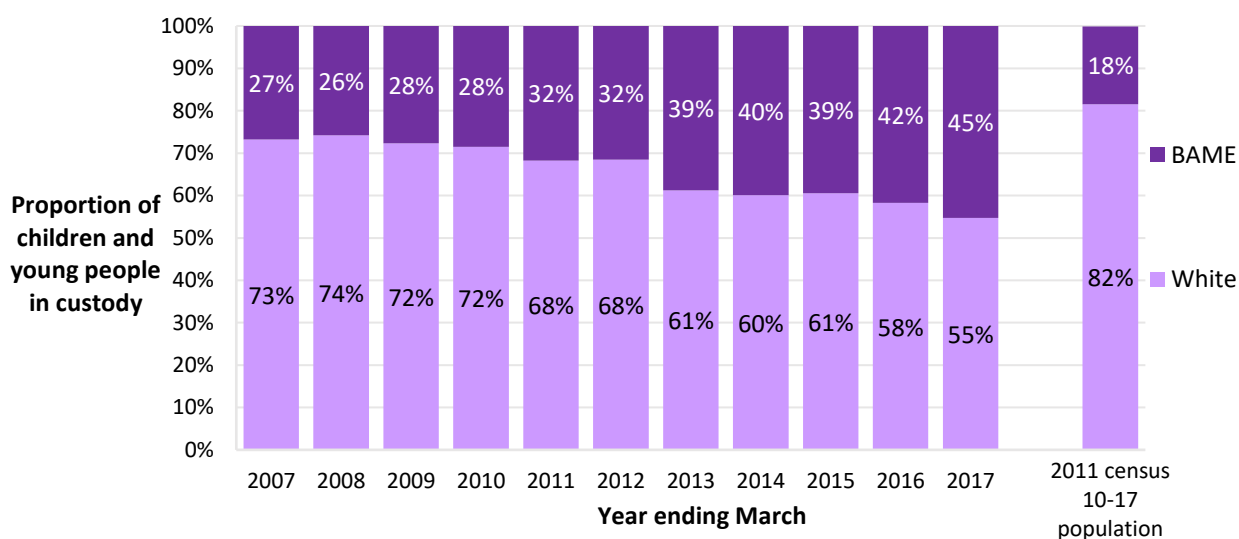
	Age Group		Ethnicity		Gender	
	10 - 14	15 - 17	BAME	White	Male	Female
Youth custody population	4%	96%	45%	55%	97%	3%
10 – 17 population <sup>60</sup>	62%	38%	18%	82%	51%	49%

*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.8*

In the latest year, the majority of children and young people in the youth secure estate were:

- Male (97%),
- White (55%),
- Aged 17 (54%).

**Figure 7.6: Average monthly proportion of children and young people in custody by ethnicity, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to 2017<sup>61</sup>**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.10*

As shown in Figure 7.6, over half of children and young people in custody in the year ending March 2017 were from a White ethnic background (55%). However, it is children and young people from BAME groups which are over-represented in youth custody. This ethnic disproportionality within the

<sup>57</sup> Within the SACHS administrative system, the offence group for Breaches of DTO were recorded as Breach of Statutory Order, however, within eAsset the original offence of the DTO is recorded.

<sup>58</sup> Proportions are based on where ethnicity is known. The ethnicity was not known for 1% of the custodial population in the year ending March 2017.

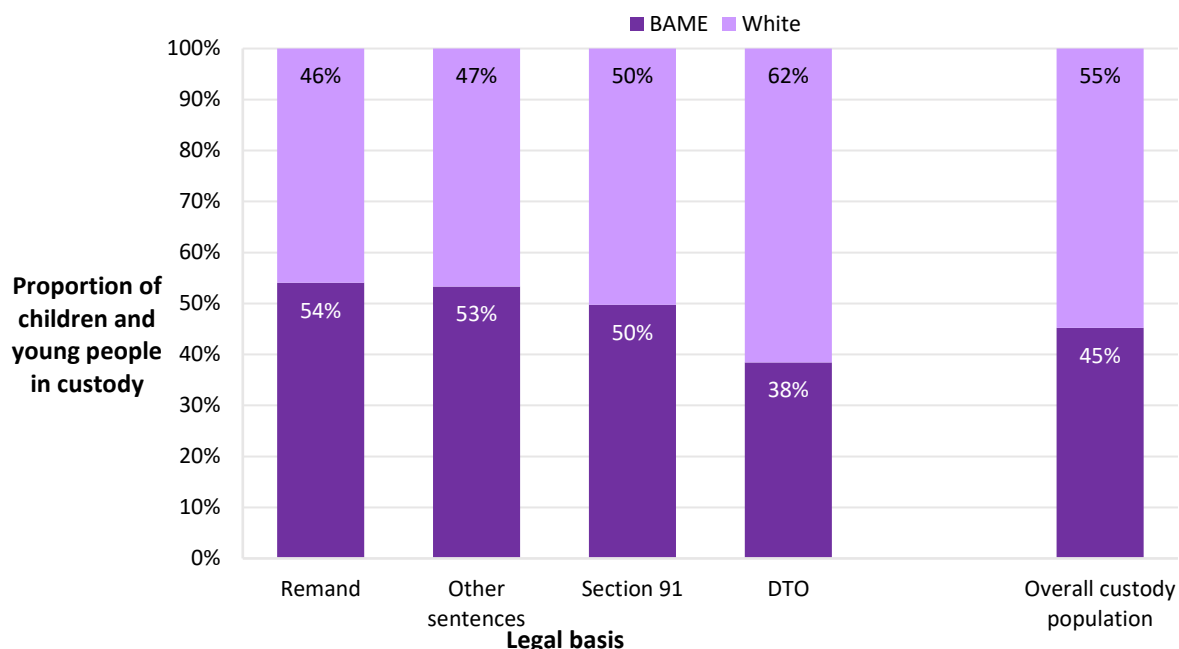
<sup>59</sup> Ethnicity data is self-reported.

<sup>60</sup> For age and gender, population is based on 2016 mid-year estimates. For ethnicity, population is based on the 2011 census. The ethnic breakdown of the population will likely have changed from 2011, so these figures should be treated as an estimate.

<sup>61</sup> See [Exploratory analysis of the youth secure estate by BAME groups](#) and [Trends in associations between ethnic background and being sentenced to custody for young offenders in England and Wales](#) for more information.

youth secure estate has been changing over the last 10 years. In the year ending March 2007, BAME children and young people accounted for 27% of all children and young people in custody, rising to 45% in the latest year. This compares to 18% of the general 10 – 17 population, with those from a Black ethnic background accounting for 24% and just 4% of the 10 – 17 population (Supplementary Table 7.10).

**Figure 7.7: Proportion of children and young people in custody by ethnic group and legal basis for detention, secure estate in England and Wales, year ending March 2017<sup>62</sup>**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.12*

As shown in Figure 7.7, while BAME children and young people made up just 18% of the 10 – 17 general population, in the year ending March 2017 they made up:

- 54% of those held on remand;
- 53% of those held on other sentences; and
- 50% of those held on Section 91 sentences.

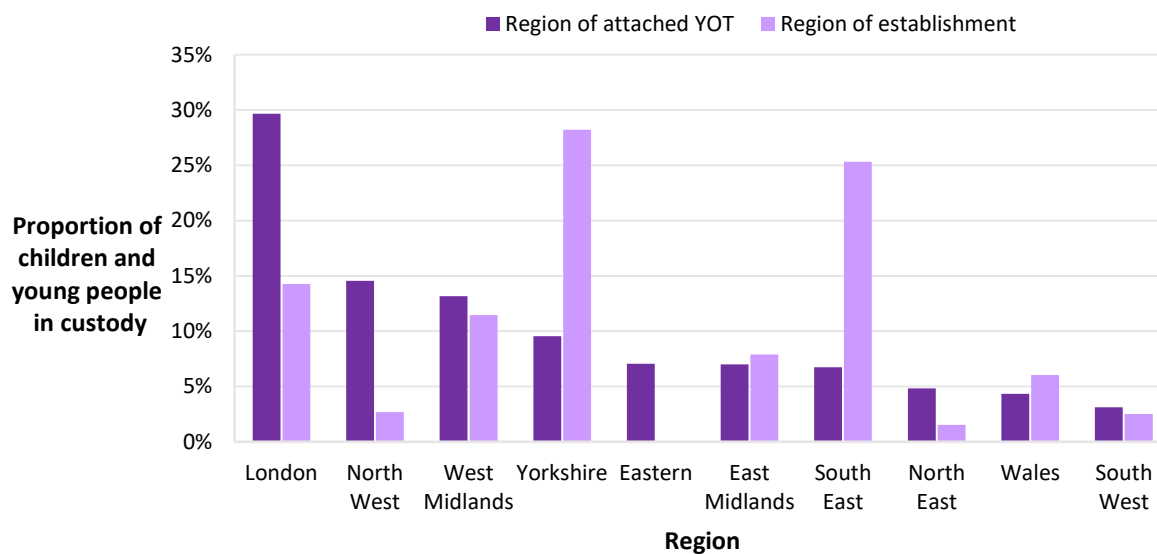
While the minority of those on a DTO were BAME (38%), this is still higher than the proportion of BAME children and young people in the general 10 – 17 population.

## 7.6 Location for children and young people held in custody

For children and young people in custody, the region of the secure establishment children and young people are placed in is not always the same as the region of their attached Youth Offending Team (YOT) due to the geographical location of secure establishments. It is not always possible to place children and young people in an establishment close to their home/attached YOT as placement decisions are determined by a number of factors, including the risks and needs of individual children and young people and available capacity at establishments. See [The Youth Custody Service Placement Team: Overview of operational procedures](#) for further information on how placement decisions are made.

<sup>62</sup> Proportions are based on where ethnicity is known. The ethnicity was not known for 1% of the population in the year ending March 2017.

**Figure 7.8: Proportion of children and young people in custody by region of attached YOT and region of establishment, England and Wales, year ending March 2017<sup>63,64,65,66,67</sup>**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 7, Table 7.7*

Whilst the largest proportion of children and young people in custody were attached to a London YOT (30%) in the latest year, the majority of children and young people were in secure establishments in either Yorkshire (28%) or the South East (25%). These are the regions with the establishments with the largest capacity.

Statistics on the average length of time children and young people spend in custody will be published on 26 April 2018<sup>68</sup>.

<sup>63</sup> There are three establishments in the East Midlands (Clayfields House SCH, Lincolnshire SCH and Rainsbrook STC), in the South East (Cookham Wood YOI, Medway STC and Oakhill STC) and in Yorkshire (Adel Beck SCH, Aldine House SCH and Wetherby YOI).

<sup>64</sup> There are two establishments in Wales: Hillside SCH and Parc YOI.

<sup>65</sup> There is only one London establishment; Feltham YOI. Feltham YOI holds young males aged 15 – 17 sentenced or remanded to Youth Detention Accommodation, as well as sentenced young adults aged 18 - 21. There is also only one establishment in the following regions: North East: Aycliffe SCH; North West: Barton Moss SCH; South West: Vinney Green SCH; West Midlands: Werrington YOI.

<sup>66</sup> There were no custodial establishments in the Eastern Region in the year ending March 2017.

<sup>67</sup> It should be noted that, for instance, the 14% of children and young people in an establishment in London are not necessarily all attached to a London YOT.

<sup>68</sup> [Length of time spent in Youth Custody: 2016 to 2017](#)

## 8. Behaviour management in the youth secure estate

---

In the year ending March 2017:

- The number of Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPIs) of children or young people in the secure estate increased in the latest year (by 5% to just over 4,500) after four years of declines. This has led to an increase in the rate of RPIs, from 27.8 to 32.1 per 100 children or young people in custody in the last year.
  - The rate of single separation in SCHs and STCs has seen a large increase in the latest year, from 52.3 to 93.9 per 100 children or young people.
  - There was a marked increase in the number of self harm injuries requiring medical treatment. The rates of self harm were much higher for females than males and have increased sharply this year.
  - The rate of proven assaults per 100 children or young people in custody have been increasing steadily (until the year ending March 2016 when rates levelled off), with a slight increase from 19.3 to 19.5 in the latest year.
- 

**Description:** This chapter covers information on behaviour management and use of force in the youth secure estate<sup>69</sup>

**Source:** Bespoke returns submitted to the Youth Justice Board from establishments

**Time period covered:** Years ending March 2012 to March 2017 (Behaviour management data)  
Year ending March 2017 (Use of force data)

**Supplementary Tables:** Ch 8 – Behaviour management in the youth secure estate

**More information:** *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*, [Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint: safeguarding processes, governance arrangements and roles of responsibilities](#)

This chapter covers all children or young people in the secure estate, which includes some 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate for a short time<sup>70</sup>.

Due to the way the data are collected it is not possible to link incidents to individual children or young people. Therefore a distribution of incidents per child or young person (in other words how many people were only involved in any one incident) cannot be provided.

The custodial population used in this chapter is based on the number of children and young people in custody on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month plus any new admissions during the month.

The small number of females and those aged 10 – 14 in the youth secure estate should be considered when comparing trends and rates over time, and making comparisons between groups.

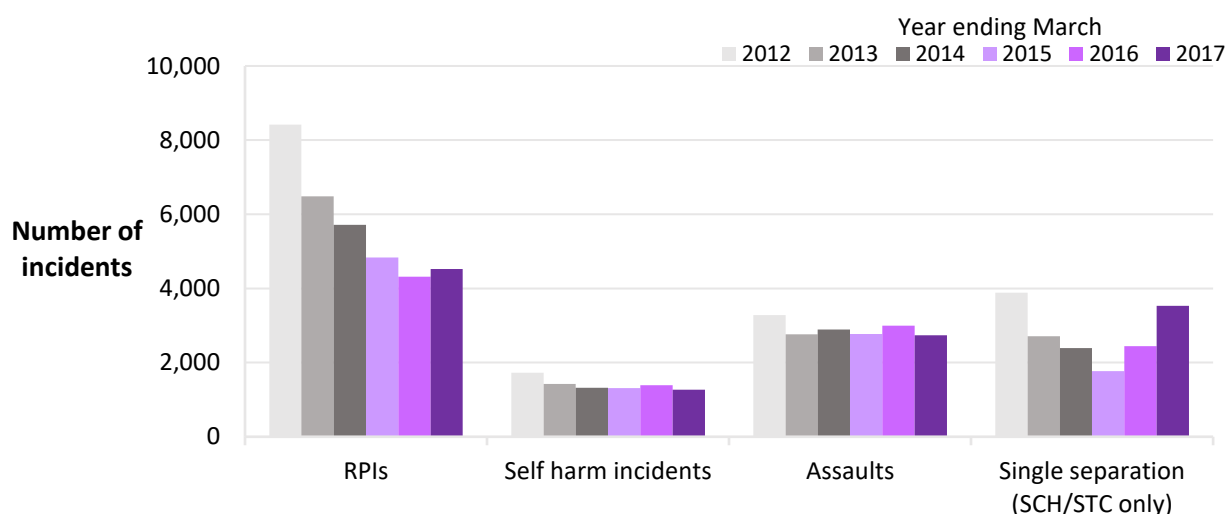
---

<sup>69</sup> See *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics* for definitions of each behaviour management measure.

<sup>70</sup> To avoid disrupting their regimes, children and young people aged over 17 may remain in the youth secure estate if they have only a short period of their sentence left to serve.

## 8.1 Trends in the number of behaviour management incidents in the youth secure estate<sup>71</sup>

**Figure 8.1: Trend in the number of behaviour management incidents, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.2*

While the average custodial population has been decreasing since the year ending March 2012, Figure 8.1 shows that in the year ending March 2017, there have been increases in the number of:

- RPI incidents by 5% since the previous year to just over 4,500, following four years of decreases, though the number of RPI incidents decreased by 46% compared with the year ending March 2012.
- single separation incidents by 45% in the last year to over 3,500 occurrences and is now closer to the number of incidents in the year ending March 2012 (just under 3,900).

There have been decreases in the number of:

- proven assaults by children or young people, by 9% in the last year to just over 2,700. This is also a decrease compared with the year ending March 2012, when there were just under 3,300 proven assaults by children or young people.
- self harm by 8% in the last year to just under 1,300 incidents. The number of incidents decreased from the year ending March 2012 until a slight increase in the year ending March 2016, however the downward trend continued in the latest year.

**Figure 8.2: Average number of incidents per child and young person involved, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017**

Measure	Year ending March					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
RPIs	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7
Self harm	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.8
Proven assaults	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4
Single separation	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.2	3.2	3.6

*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.3*

When compared with the year ending March 2012, all measures have seen an increase in the average number of incidents per child and young person involved (Figure 8.2).

<sup>71</sup> A 10 year comparison is not available.

When compared with the previous year, the average number of single separation incidents per child or young person involved has seen the greatest increase, increasing from 3.2 to 3.6. The average number of RPIs and proven assaults per child or young person involved have increased slightly from the previous year. The average number of incidents of self harm per child or young person involved has seen a small decrease.

## 8.2 Use of Restrictive Physical Intervention in the youth secure estate

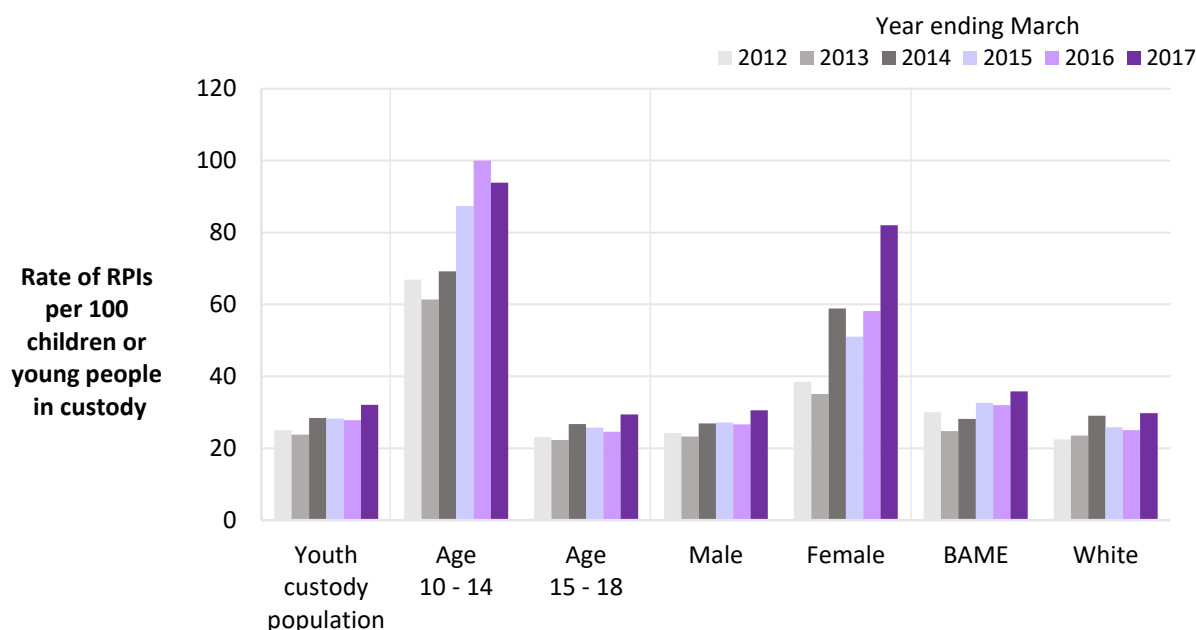
A Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) is any occasion when force is used with the intention of overpowering or to overpower a child or young person<sup>72</sup>. RPIs should only be used on children or young people as a last resort, for example to prevent them causing harm to themselves or others.

The number of RPIs increased in the last year after four years of decline. There were around 4,500 RPIs in the year ending March 2017, up by 5% compared with the previous year (Figure 8.1).

As the number of RPI incidents has increased, the population of children or young people in the youth secure estate has decreased, which has led to an increase in the rate of RPIs per 100 children or young people.

The rate of RPIs has increased in the last year, from 27.8 to 32.1 per 100 children or young people in custody. It is also an increase compared with the year ending March 2012, when the rate was 25.1.

**Figure 8.3: Rate of RPIs per 100 children or young people in custody by demographic characteristics<sup>73,74,75</sup>, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.6*

Looking at the demographic characteristics of the children or young people (Figure 8.3), in the year ending March 2017, the rate of RPIs per 100 children or young people in custody was higher for:

- 10 – 14 year olds, (at 93.8 compared to 29.4 for those aged 15 – 18),
- Females (at 82.0 compared to 30.6 for males),

<sup>72</sup> Overpower is restricting movement or mobility.

<sup>73</sup> Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

<sup>74</sup> RPI data from bespoke returns are based on self-reported ethnicity.

<sup>75</sup> The small population of females and those aged 10 – 14 in the youth secure estate should be considered when comparing trends and rates over time, and making comparisons between groups.

- BAME children or young people (at 35.8 compared to 29.8 for White children or young people).

**Figure 8.4: The number of injuries requiring medical treatment to children or young people by severity of injury as a result of an RPI, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017<sup>76</sup>**

Severity of RPI injury requiring medical treatment	Year ending March					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Minor injury requiring medical treatment on site	235	150	131	105	84	92
Serious injury requiring hospital treatment	19	10	3	4	3	8
<b>Total injuries requiring medical treatment</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100</b>

*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.8*

In the year ending March 2017, 2% of all RPIs resulted in injuries which required medical treatment. This is a similar proportion to the previous year and a slight decrease from 3% in the year ending March 2012 (Supplementary Table 8.7).

As shown in Figure 8.4, there were 100 RPIs that resulted in an injury requiring medical treatment, of which:

- 92% were minor injuries requiring medical treatment on site, and
- 8% were serious injuries requiring hospital treatment.

The number of injuries requiring medical treatment as a result of an RPI had been steadily decreasing since the year ending March 2012 to the year ending March 2016, when it fell to a low of just under 90 injuries. This number has now seen the first year on year increase in the last five years, increasing by 15%.

### **8.3 Self harm by children or young people in the youth secure estate**

Self harm in custody is any act by which a child or young person deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent or severity of any injury.

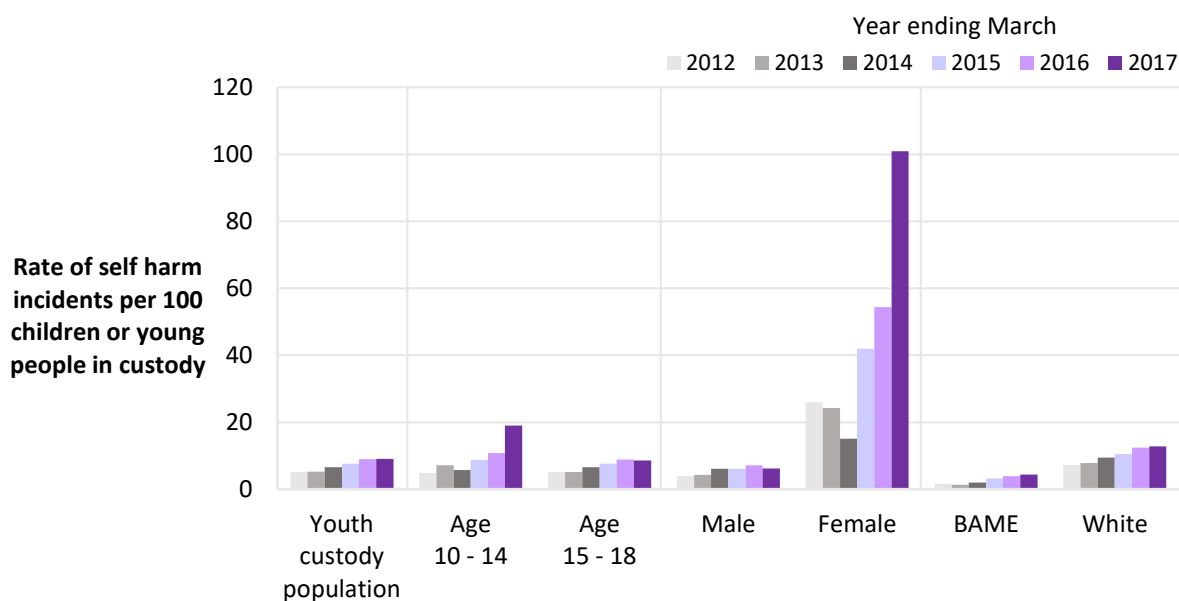
The number of self harm incidents had been fairly stable from the year ending March 2012 until the year ending March 2016, when there was the first year on year increase (of 5% compared with the previous year). The nearly 1,300 incidents of self harm in the year ending March 2017 is an 8% fall compared with the previous year (Figure 8.1).

There were 9.0 self harm incidents per 100 children or young people in custody in the year ending March 2017. This has remained broadly stable compared with the previous year, when the rate was 8.9. However, the rate has increased from 5.1 in the year ending March 2012.

<sup>76</sup> In April 2016 there were some small changes to the counting rules for RPI incidents requiring medical treatment. The full impact of these counting rules changes is not known, but it is likely to be small. However care should be taken when comparing the number of incidents requiring medical treatment figures since 2016/17 with those from 2015/16 or before. See *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics* for more information.



**Figure 8.5: Rate of self harm incidents per 100 children or young people in custody by demographic characteristics<sup>77,78,79</sup>, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017**



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.11

Looking at the demographic characteristics of the children or young people involved in self-harm incidents (Figure 8.5), in the year ending March 2017, the rate of self-harm per 100 children or young people in custody was higher for:

- Females, who had a much higher rate than males (at 100.9, compared to 6.2 for males),
- Those aged 10 – 14 (at 19.0, compared to 8.6 for 15 – 18 year olds),
- White children or young people (at 12.8, compared to 4.4 for BAME children or young people).

**Figure 8.6: The number of injuries requiring medical treatment to children or young people by severity of injury as a result of self-harm, England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017<sup>80</sup>**

Severity of self-harm injury requiring medical treatment	Year ending March					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Minor injury requiring medical treatment on site	240	247	168	146	178	319
Serious injury requiring hospital treatment	17	9	13	22	15	19
<b>Total injuries requiring medical treatment</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>338</b>

Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.13

In the year ending March 2017, 27% of self-harm incidents resulted in injuries which required medical treatment (Supplementary Table 8.12). This is the highest proportion there has been since the year ending March 2012, and is 13 percentage points higher than the previous year.

<sup>77</sup> Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

<sup>78</sup> Self-harm data from bespoke returns are based on self-reported ethnicity.

<sup>79</sup> The small population of females and those aged 10 – 14 in the youth secure estate should be considered when comparing trends and rates over time, and making comparisons between groups.

<sup>80</sup> In April 2016 there were some small changes to the counting rules for self-harm incidents requiring medical treatment. The full impact of these counting rules changes is not known, but it is likely to be small. However care should be taken when comparing the number of incidents requiring medical treatment figures since 2016/17 with those from 2015/16 or before. See *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics* for more information.

As shown in Figure 8.6, in the year ending March 2017 there were nearly 340 incidents of self harm that resulted in an injury requiring medical treatment, of which:

- 94% were minor injuries requiring medical treatment on site, and
- 6% required hospital treatment.

There were 75% more injuries requiring medical treatment to children or young people following a self harm incident than in the previous year, with SCHs seeing the largest increase in the number of injuries in the last year, nearly doubling from just over 90 to just over 180 injuries.

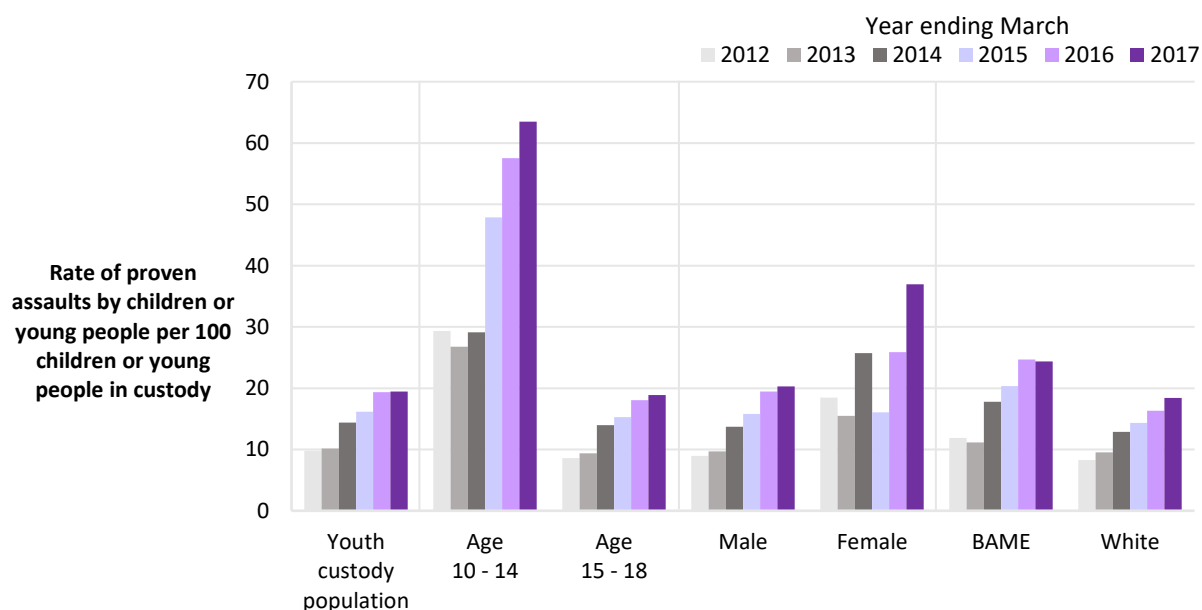
#### 8.4 Proven assaults by children or young people in the youth secure estate

Proven assaults are the intentional use of unnecessary force that results in physical contact with the victim.

There were around 2,700 proven assaults by children or young people in the year ending March 2017. This number has fluctuated year on year, but the latest year was a decrease of 9% compared with the previous year and of 17% when compared with the year ending March 2012 (Figure 8.1).

The rate of proven assaults by children or young people per 100 children or young people has shown year on year increases since the year ending March 2012. In the year ending March 2017, there were 19.5 proven assaults by children or young people per 100 children or young people in custody. This is broadly stable compared with the previous year (19.3), and an increase compared with the year ending March 2012 (9.8).

**Figure 8.7: Rate of proven assaults by children or young people per 100 children or young people in custody by demographic characteristics<sup>81,82,83,84</sup>, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017**



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.16

<sup>81</sup> Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

<sup>82</sup> Assaults data from bespoke returns are based on self-reported ethnicity.

<sup>83</sup> Demographics are based on the perpetrators.

<sup>84</sup> The small population of females and those aged 10 – 14 in the youth secure estate should be considered when comparing trends and rates over time, and making comparisons between groups.

Looking at the demographic characteristics of the children or young people committing proven assaults (Figure 8.7), in the year ending March 2017, the rates per 100 children or young people were higher for:

- Those aged 10 – 14 (at 63.5, compared to 18.9 for those aged 15 – 18 year olds),
- Females (at 37.0, compared to 20.3 for males),
- BAME children or young people (at 24.4, compared to 18.4 for White children or young people).

The victim of an assault can be either another child or young person, a staff member or a visitor. Supplementary Table 8.17 shows that in the year ending March 2017:

- The majority of proven assaults had another child or young person as the victim (57%), and 43% had a staff member or a visitor as the victim.
- There were just under 1,600 proven assaults by children or young people where the victim was a young person. This is a fall of 9% compared with the previous year and a fall of 28% since the year ending March 2012.
- There were just over 1,200 proven assaults by children or young people where the victim was a staff member or visitor. This is up by 12% compared with the previous year and by 13% since the year ending March 2012.

**Figure 8.8: The number of injuries requiring medical treatment to children or young people by severity of injury as a result of a proven assault by children or young people, secure estate in England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017<sup>85,86</sup>**

Severity of proven assault injury requiring medical treatment	Year ending March					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Minor injury requiring medical treatment on site	255	223	167	175	154	197
Serious injury requiring hospital treatment	45	46	28	31	27	30
<b>Total injuries requiring medical treatment</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>227</b>

*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.19*

In the year ending March 2017, 8% of all proven assaults by children or young people resulted in injuries which required medical treatment. This proportion has fluctuated since the year ending March 2012; it is 2 percentage points higher than the previous year, but 1 percentage point lower than the year ending March 2012 (Supplementary Table 8.18).

As shown in Figure 8.8, there were nearly 230 injuries requiring medical treatment as a result of a proven assault by children or young people, of which:

- 87% were minor injuries requiring medical treatment on site, and
- 13% were serious injuries requiring hospital treatment.

The number of injuries requiring medical treatment has fluctuated since the year ending March 2012, and in the latest year there has been a 25% increase compared with the previous year.

<sup>85</sup> These data include all injuries requiring medical treatment and may therefore include the perpetrators as well as victims.

<sup>86</sup> In April 2016 there were some small changes to the counting rules for assault incidents requiring medical treatment. The full impact of these counting rules changes is not known, but it is likely to be small. However care should be taken when comparing the number of incidents requiring medical treatment figures since 2016/17 with those from 2015/16 or before. See *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics* for more information.

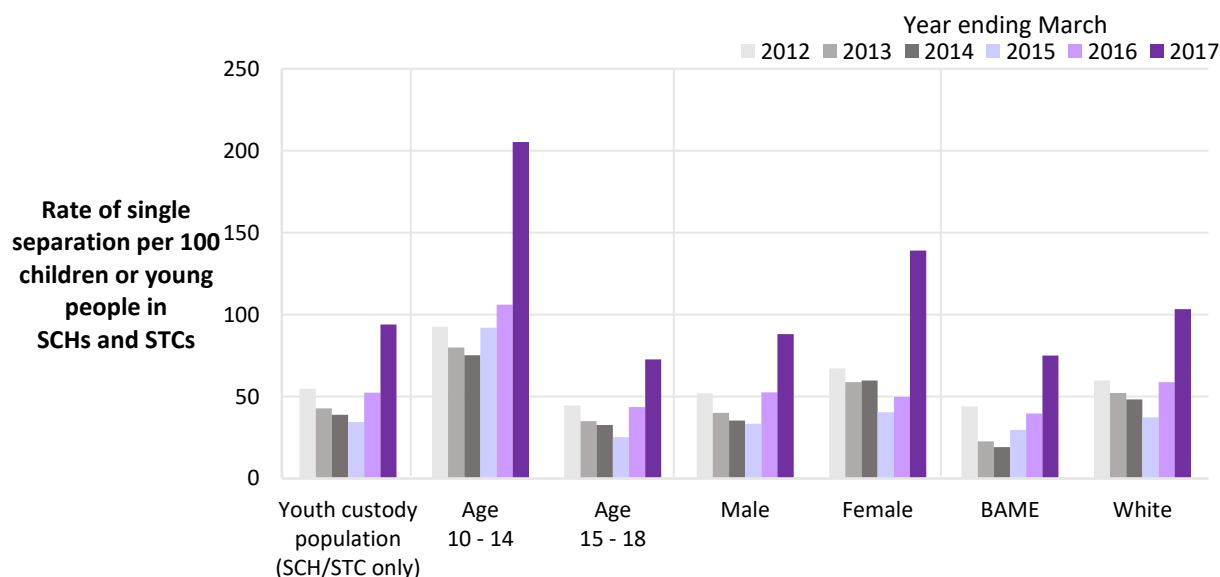
## 8.5 Single separation in SCHs and STCs

Single separation refers to the confining of a child or young person in an area as a means of control, and without the child’s permission or agreement. A member of staff is not present and the door is locked in order to prevent exit. The data in this section refer only to SCHs and STCs.

There were around 3,500 single separation incidents in the year ending March 2017. The number of single separation incidents had been falling each year from the year ending March 2012 to March 2015, when the number of incidents began to rise. There has been an increase of just under 1,100 incidents compared with the year previous (Figure 8.1).

The rate of single separation incidents per 100 children or young people in SCHs and STCs follows a similar trend to the number of incidents. The rate had decreased year on year from the year ending March 2012 to March 2015, and then has increased in the two years since, to 93.9 in the year ending March 2017.

**Figure 8.9: Rate of single separation incidents per 100 children or young people in custody by demographic characteristics<sup>87,88</sup>, SCHs and STCs in England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.22*

Looking at the demographic characteristics of the children or young people placed in single separation (Figure 8.9), in the year ending March 2017, rates were higher for:

- 10 – 14 year olds (205.3 compared to 72.7 for those aged 15 – 18);
- White children or young people<sup>89</sup> (103.3 compared to 75.0 for those from a BAME background); and
- females (139.1 compared to 88.2 for males).

## 8.6 Use of force incidents in the youth secure estate

Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR) is a behaviour management and restraint system that has been developed specifically for staff working with children or young people in STCs

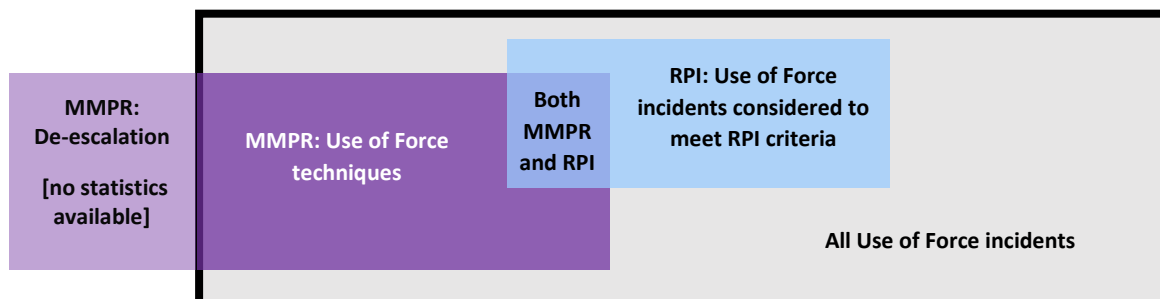
<sup>87</sup> Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

<sup>88</sup> The small population of females and those aged 10 – 14 in the youth secure estate should be considered when comparing trends and rates over time, and making comparisons between groups.

<sup>89</sup> Single separation data from bespoke returns are based on self-reported ethnicity.

and under-18 YOIs. MMAPR puts considerable emphasis on using appropriate de-escalation and deceleration techniques (non-physical interventions) to ensure that force is only ever used as a last resort, when no other intervention is possible or appropriate. Within MMAPR, any physical intervention is counted as a 'use of force', unlike the RPI system which only counts those physical interventions deemed restrictive<sup>90</sup>.

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



This diagram (not drawn to scale) is a schematic representation of a complex issue: it is illustrative only. For more details, see *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*. Sections 8.6 to 8.9 of this chapter refer to all use of force techniques highlighted by the bold outline in the diagram.

The YJB started collecting MMAPR data from March 2013 and by the end of March 2017 MMAPR techniques had been implemented in seven secure establishments: all three STCs<sup>91</sup> and four under-18 YOIs<sup>92</sup>. This section covers the year ending March 2017 only, a period of 12 months for six of the seven secure establishments, and six months for Feltham YOI<sup>93</sup>. It is therefore important to note that the number of months on which the averages are based varies according to the month that each establishment started using MMAPR<sup>94</sup>. Hence, although the number of incidents of use of force has increased in the most recent year, comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution owing to the different start dates in different establishments.

## 8.7 Characteristics of use of force incidents in STCs and YOIs<sup>95</sup>

There were over 4,600 use of force<sup>96</sup> incidents across seven secure establishments in the year ending March 2017. This is an average of nearly 390 incidents per month, and an average of 43.5 incidents per 100 children or young people across the seven secure establishments per month (Supplementary Table 8.25).

In the year ending March 2017, MMAPR techniques were involved in 61% of all use of force incidents, an average of nearly 240 MMAPR incidents per month.

<sup>90</sup> Owing to the different definitions of Use of force, MMAPR and RPI a particular use of force may be classed as MMAPR, RPI, both MMAPR and RPI or neither.

<sup>91</sup> Medway, Oakhill and Rainsbrook.

<sup>92</sup> Cookham Wood, Feltham, Werrington and Wetherby. Parc under-18 YOI has now implemented MMAPR but had not done so by the end of March 2017 so does not feature in this section or the associated Supplementary Tables.

<sup>93</sup> Feltham YOI, six months data (October 2016 to March 2017).

<sup>94</sup> MMAPR went live at Rainsbrook STC on 4 March 2013, Oakhill STC on 2 September 2013, Medway STC on 2 June 2014, Wetherby YOI on 23 October 2013, Werrington YOI on 19 May 2015, Cookham Wood YOI on 1 July 2015 and Feltham YOI on 1 October 2016.

<sup>95</sup> Not including Parc YOI.

<sup>96</sup> All uses of MMAPR or RPI must be counted as a Use of force: It is not possible for either a use of MMAPR or an RPI to be not classed as a Use of force although it is possible for a Use of force to be neither MMAPR or RPI.

In the year ending March 2017, the following techniques were used in the reported MMPR incidents<sup>97,98</sup>:

- High level techniques were used in 46% (e.g. inverted wrist hold or figure-four leg lock).
- Medium level techniques were used in 27% of incidents (e.g. figure-four arm hold or head hold)
- Low level techniques were used in 23% of incidents (e.g. guiding hold or single embrace)
- Pain inducing techniques were used in just 4% of incidents (e.g. wrist flexion or mandibular angle technique)<sup>99</sup>.

The most common reason reported for the use of force<sup>100</sup> was “preventing harm to a third party”, in 69% of incidents (around 4,100). In 16% of incidents (just under 970) the reason was to prevent the child or young person harming themselves.

The majority (65%) of use of force incidents across the seven establishments lasted for two minutes or less. A further 26% lasted between three to five minutes. Only 9% of incidents lasted for six minutes or more.

Supplementary Table 8.24 shows that handcuffs were used in 610 (13%) incidents.

## **8.8 Use of force incidents involving injuries requiring medical treatment**

There were 70 occasions in which children or young people required medical treatment for an injury following a use of force on them (2% of all incidents). Of these, 66 injuries were minor requiring medical treatment on site and four incidents involved a more serious injury requiring hospital treatment.

Medical warning signs<sup>101</sup> and symptoms are included in the use of force data return sent to the YJB<sup>102</sup>. Warning signs were observed in 2% of incidents.

---

<sup>97</sup> This counts the highest level technique used per incident.

<sup>98</sup> See Supplementary Table 8.28 for the full breakdown of techniques in each level.

<sup>99</sup> The use of pain inducing techniques for the under-18 secure estate must be restricted to circumstances where it is necessary to protect a young person or others from an immediate risk of serious physical harm.

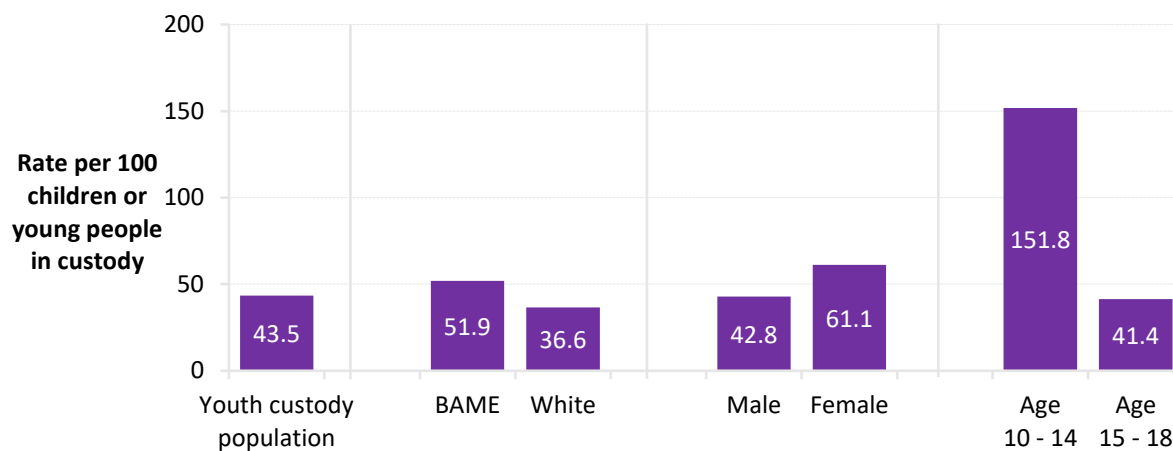
<sup>100</sup> There may be more than one reason for restraint in a single incident.

<sup>101</sup> These include: Lost or reduced consciousness, abruptly/unexpectedly stopped struggling or suddenly calmed down, blueness of lips/fingernails/ear lobes (cyanosis), tiny pin point red dots seen on the skin (upper chest, neck, face, eye lids), difficulty breathing, complaints of feeling sick, vomiting and complaints of difficulty breathing.

<sup>102</sup> Detailed reports on each such occasion are sent to directly to the MMPR National Team within Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) as part of the Serious Injuries and Warning Signs (SIWS) process.

## 8.9 Demographic characteristics of children or young people involved in use of force incidents

Figure 8.10: Rate of use of force incidents per 100 children or young people in custody by demographic characteristics<sup>103,104</sup>, STCs and YOIs<sup>105</sup> in England and Wales, year ending March 2017



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 8, Table 8.25

Use of force incidents varied by demographic characteristics of the child or young person. In the year ending March 2017, the rate per 100 children or young people in custody was higher for:

- Females (at 61.1 compared to 42.8 for males),
- Those aged 10 – 14 years (at 151.8 compared to 41.4 for 15 – 18 year olds),
- BAME children or young people (at 51.9 compared to 36.6 for White children or young people).

<sup>103</sup> Data include any 18 year olds who remain in the youth secure estate.

<sup>104</sup> Use of force data are based on self-reported ethnicity.

<sup>105</sup> Not including Parc YOI.

## 9. Proven reoffending by children and young people

---

- In the three months ending March 2016, there were around 8,900 children and young people in the reoffending cohort<sup>106</sup>, of which 42.3% reoffended within 12 months.
- The annual aggregate of the four quarterly cohorts was made up of around 38,300<sup>107</sup> children and young people for the year ending March 2016, of which 42.2% reoffended within 12 months. This is a 4.0 percentage point increase compared with the year ending March 2006, but a small decrease of 0.4 percentage points compared with the previous year.
- In the year ending March 2016, children and young people who reoffended committed around 61,300 reoffences giving an average of 3.79 reoffences per reoffender (frequency rate). This is an increase from 3.22 in the year ending March 2006 and 3.61 in the year ending March 2015.

- 
- **Description:** This section provides key statistics on proven reoffending for children and young people between April 2015 and March 2016. The focus in this chapter is on the annual data based on the aggregate of the four quarterly offender cohorts.
  - **Source:** Police National Computer
  - **Period covered:** Years ending March 2006 to March 2016
  - **Supplementary Tables:** Ch 9 – Proven reoffending by children and young people
  - **More information:** *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*, Ch 11 – Comparisons to the adult system, [Proven reoffending statistics](#), [Guide to proven reoffending statistics](#), [How the measure of proven reoffending has changed and the effect of these changes](#), [Response to consultation on changes to proven reoffending statistics](#)

A child or young person enters the reoffending cohort if they receive a caution, a non-custodial conviction at court or who were released from custody during the cohort period. A proven reoffence is any offence committed in a one year follow-up period that leads to a court conviction or caution either within the one year follow-up or within a further six month waiting period to allow the offence to be proven in court.

### 9.1 New methodology

This is the first annual publication presenting proven reoffending statistics based on the new methodology for calculating these statistics, adopted in October 2017. One effect of changing from 12-month offender cohorts to three-month offender cohorts is that the cohort is likely to contain a higher proportion of prolific offenders as they can be counted in more than one quarter, resulting in higher reoffending rates. The reoffending rates are now around four to five percentage points higher than the previous method. Despite the increase in the reoffending rate, both the old and new measures show similar trends over time.

In October 2017<sup>108</sup>, there was a change of data source for children and young people released from Young Offender Institutions. Therefore, users should be cautious when making any comparison

---

<sup>106</sup> Children and young people who received a caution, a non-custodial conviction at court or who were released from custody.

<sup>107</sup> As the annual figure is based on the aggregate of the four quarterly offender cohorts, it is therefore possible for a young person to appear more than once.

<sup>108</sup> From the quarterly cohort October to December 2015.



between data before and after October 2017. However, the impact of changing data source for children and young people is marginal<sup>109</sup>.

**Figure 9.1: Reoffending data, England and Wales, year ending March 2016<sup>110</sup>**

	Quarterly cohorts				Annual aggregate: year ending March 2016
	Apr-Jun 2015	Jul-Sep 2015	Oct-Dec 2015	Jan-Mar 2016	
Proportion of offenders who reoffend (%)	42.9	41.9	41.8	42.3	<b>42.2</b>
Average number of reoffences per reoffender	3.70	3.71	3.88	3.86	<b>3.79</b>
Number of reoffences	15,840	15,555	15,256	14,618	<b>61,269</b>
Number of reoffenders	4,276	4,194	3,930	3,784	<b>16,184</b>
Number of offenders in cohort	9,978	9,999	9,405	8,942	<b>38,324</b>
Average number of previous offences per offender	3.55	3.50	3.59	3.62	<b>3.56</b>

*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.1*

In the three months ending March 2016, there were around 8,900 children and young people in the cohort, of which 42.3% reoffended within 12 months.

However, as this is an annual publication, this chapter focusses on youth reoffending data based on the annual aggregate of the four quarterly cohorts for the year ending March 2016<sup>111</sup>. For analysis of the latest quarterly cohort (Jan 2016 to Mar 2016), a more detailed publication covering adult and youth reoffending is published by the Ministry of Justice<sup>112</sup>.

<sup>109</sup> More details on the change of methodology and data source can be found in [How the measure of proven reoffending has changed and the effect of these changes](#)

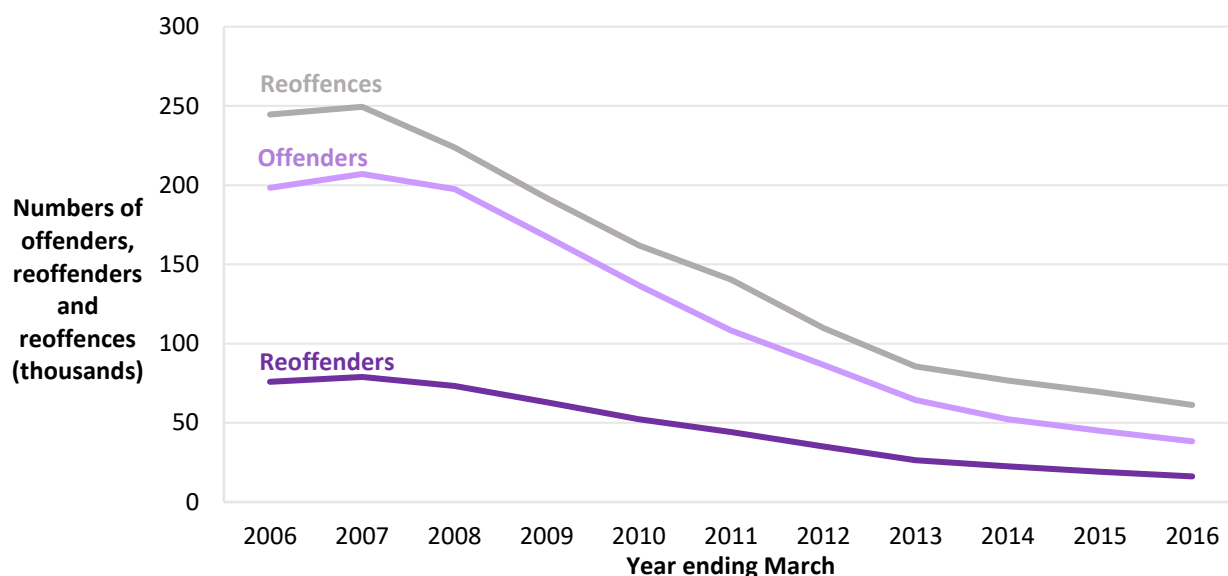
<sup>110</sup> Data on young people released from YOIs are taken from a different source (PNOMIS) from October 2017 onwards.

<sup>111</sup> This publication is based on the new methodology, including for trends over time, and as such should not be compared with those in previous publications.

<sup>112</sup> [Proven reoffending statistics](#)

## 9.2 Offenders, reoffenders and reoffences

**Figure 9.2: Number of offenders, reoffenders and reoffences, England and Wales, years ending March 2006 to March 2016**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.1*

There have been decreases in the number of children and young people in the annually aggregated cohorts (and the number of reoffenders and reoffences that they committed) in each year since the peak in the year ending March 2007.

The long term increases in the reoffending rate can in part be explained by the size and composition of the cohort, which has changed considerably over the years.

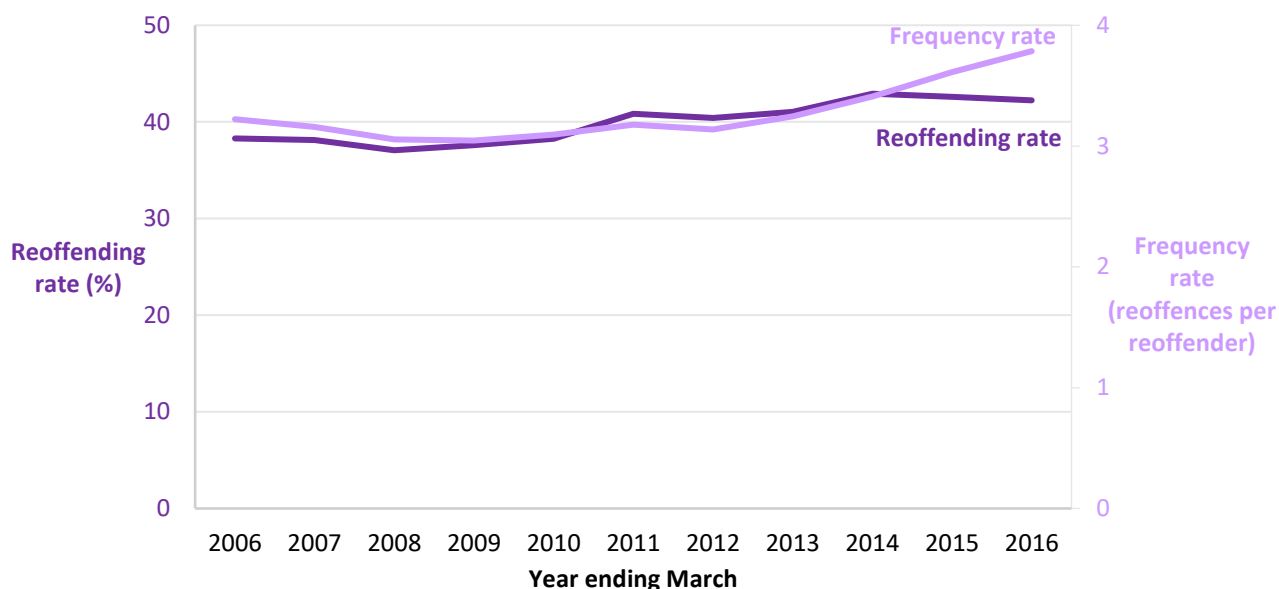
In the year ending March 2006, around 198,300 children and young people formed the combined quarterly cohorts<sup>113</sup>; in the year ending March 2016 this number had fallen by 81% to around 38,300. The corresponding number of reoffenders decreased from around 75,900 to 16,200, a fall of 79%. As the size of the combined quarterly cohorts has fallen by a greater proportion over the period than the number of reoffenders, the long-term reoffending rate has increased.

Similarly, over the same period, the number of reoffences has decreased by 75% to around 61,300 but the average reoffences per reoffender has gone up.

<sup>113</sup> It is possible for the same young person to appear in more than one quarterly cohort in the same year.

### 9.3 Reoffending Rate

Figure 9.3: Reoffending rate and frequency rate, England and Wales, years ending March 2006 to March 2016



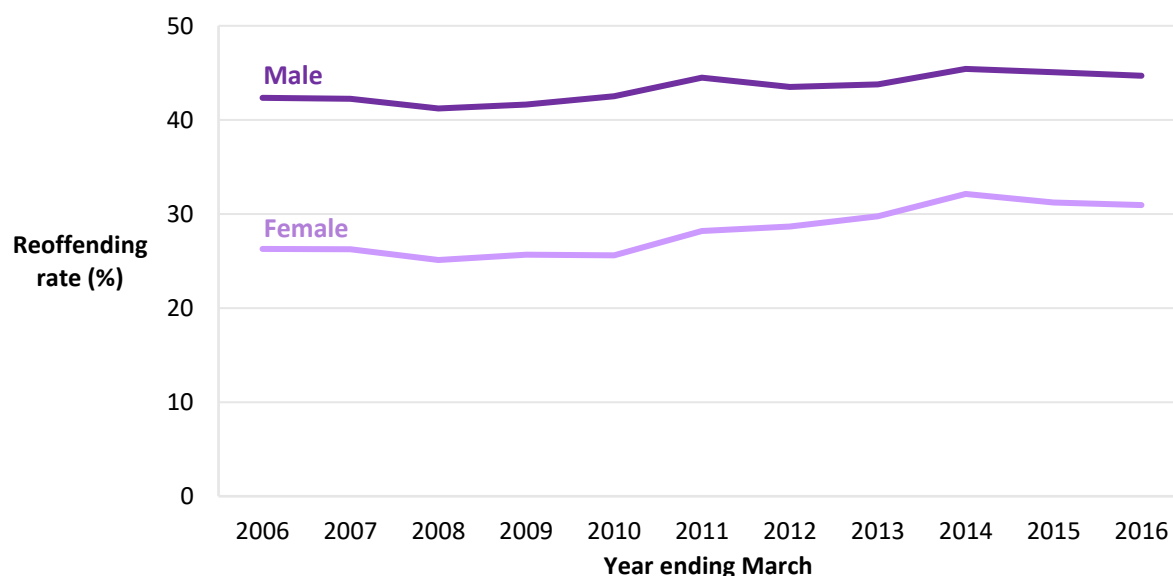
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.1

The reoffending rate (the number of reoffenders as a percentage of offenders) for children and young people for the year ending March 2016 increased by 4.0 percentage points compared with the year ending March 2006, but decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 42.2% compared with the previous year.

In the latest year, children and young people who reoffended committed an average of 3.79 reoffences each (frequency rate). This is an increase of 17% compared with the year ending March 2006 and a 5% increase compared with the previous year. It has been steadily increasing every year since the year ending March 2013.

### 9.4 Reoffending by demographic characteristics of children and young people

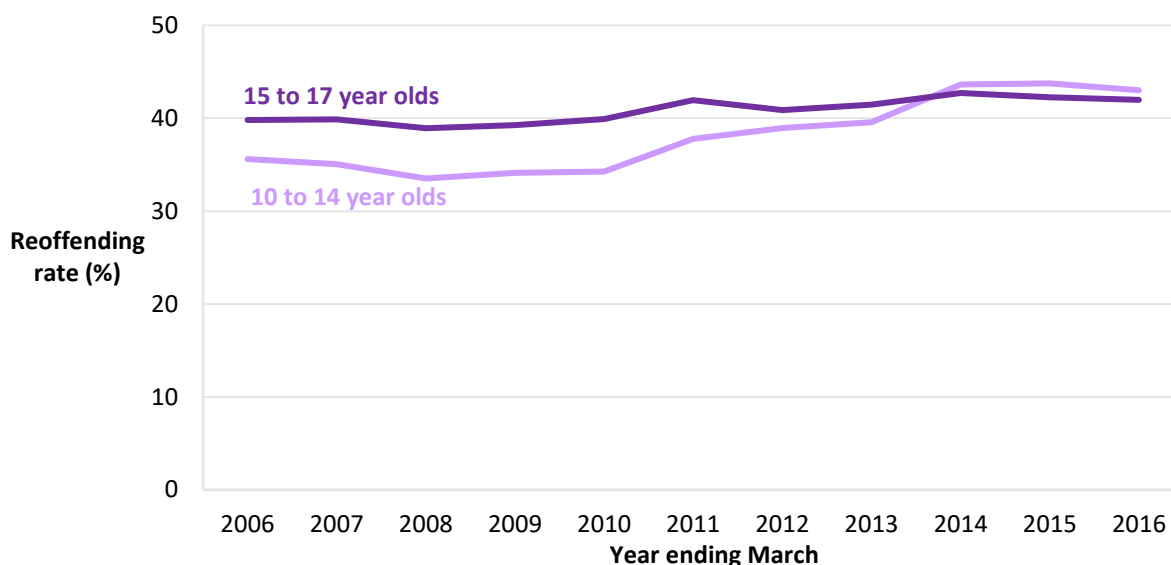
Figure 9.4: Reoffending rate by gender, England and Wales, years ending March 2006 to March 2016



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.2

Males, who made up 82% of all children and young people in the aggregated cohorts, had a higher reoffending rate than females; the reoffending rate for males for the year ending March 2016 was 44.7% compared to 31.0% for females. Compared with the year ending March 2006, the reoffending rate increased by 2.3 percentage points for males and by 4.7 percentage points for females. Compared with the previous year, the reoffending rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points for males and by 0.3 percentage points for females.

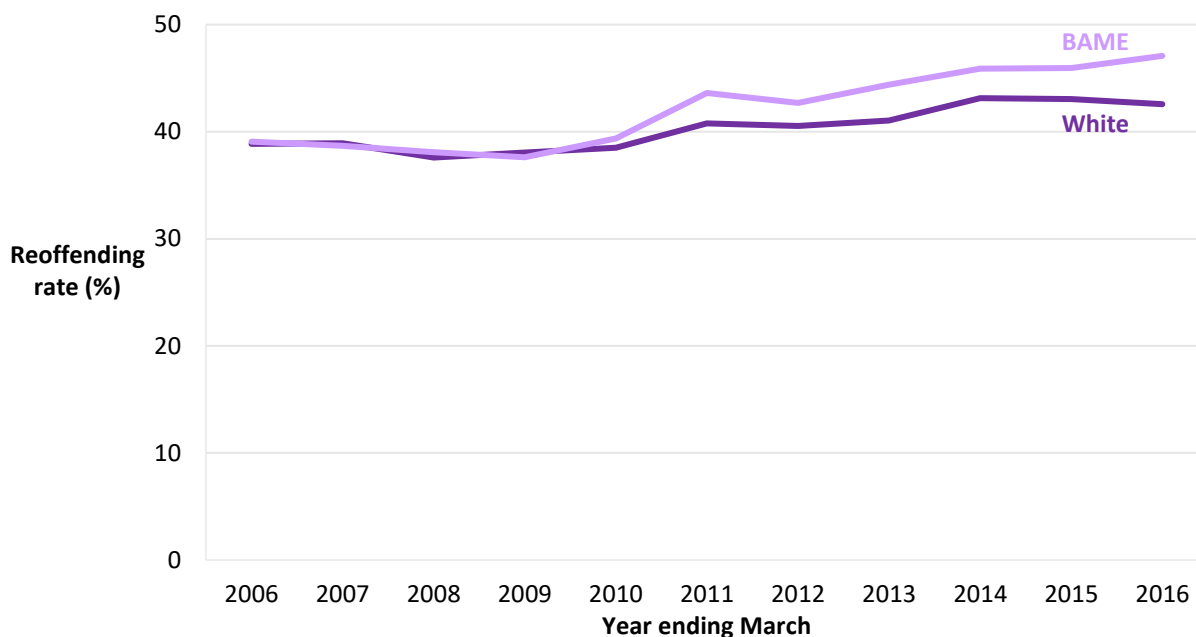
**Figure 9.5: Reoffending rate by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2006 to March 2016**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.3*

The majority of children and young people in the aggregated cohorts were aged 15 – 17, with the proportion increasing from 64% in the year ending March 2006 to 76% in the year ending March 2016. Historically, the reoffending rate for 10 – 14 year olds has been lower than that for 15 – 17 year olds. However, since the year ending March 2014, the rate for 10 – 14 year olds has been higher and is now 43.0% compared to 42.0% for 15 – 17 year olds. The reoffending rate for 10 – 14 year olds has been increasing faster than that for 15 – 17 year olds. Compared with the year ending March 2006 the rate increased by 7.4 percentage points for 10 – 14 year olds and by 2.2 percentage points for 15 – 17 year olds.

**Figure 9.6: Reoffending rate by ethnicity, England and Wales, years ending March 2006 to March 2016**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.4*

The reoffending rate has increased across all ethnicity groups<sup>114</sup> compared with the year ending March 2006. The reoffending rate for BAME children and young people increased by 8.0 percentage points and by 3.7 percentage points for White children and young people. Compared to the previous year, the reoffending rate for BAME children and young people has increased by 1.1 percentage points, and has decreased slightly for White children and young people (by 0.5 percentage points).

White children and young people account for the majority of the aggregated cohorts (80%, compared to 20% BAME children and young people)<sup>115</sup>. However, BAME children and young people had the highest reoffending rate of 47.1%, compared to 42.6% for White children and young people.

### 9.5 Reoffending by criminal history

As could be expected, the rate of reoffending increases with the number of previous offences. Those with no previous offences had a reoffending rate of 24.7%, compared to those with 11 or more previous offences who had a reoffending rate of 76.0%.

Those with no previous offences made up 43% of all children and young people in the combined cohorts but committed only 18% of all proven reoffences. Those with 11 or more previous offences made up only 10% of all children and young people in the combined cohorts but committed over a quarter (26%) of all proven reoffences.

The average number of previous offences per offender rose from 2.40 in the year ending March 2006 to 3.56 in the year ending March 2016, which is the same as the previous year.

<sup>114</sup> Ethnicity is officer identified.

<sup>115</sup> Figure is based on where ethnicity is known. 4% of the total children and young people in the combined cohorts who received a caution or court conviction had an unknown ethnicity.

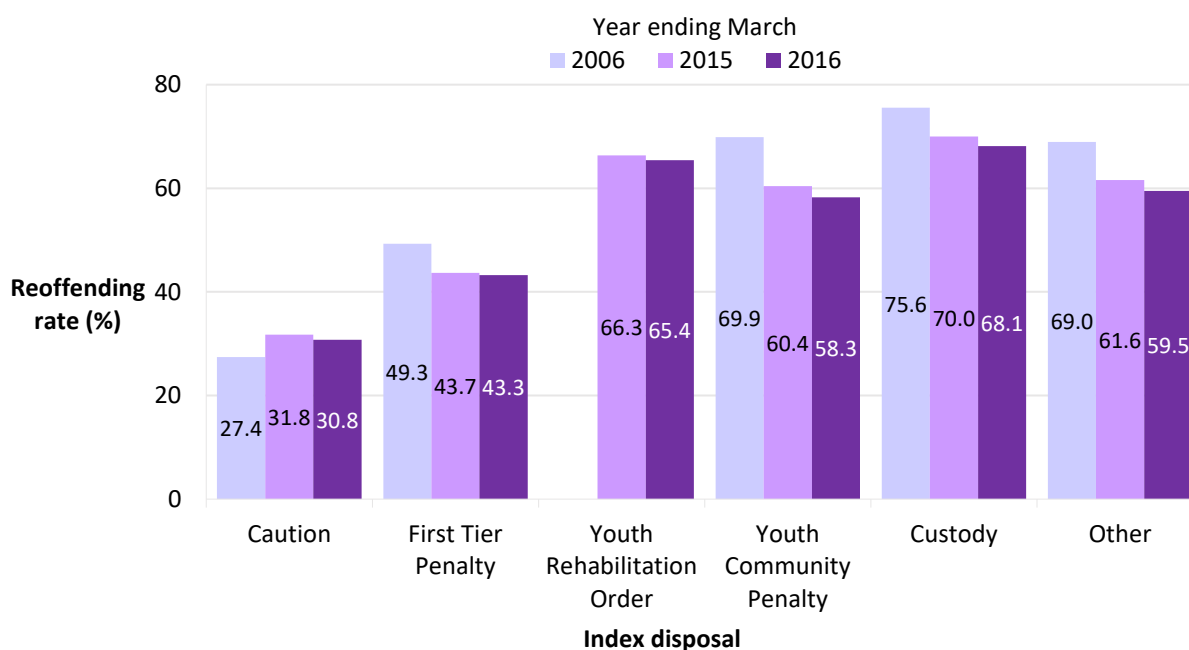
## 9.6 Reoffending by index offence

The offence that leads to an offender being included in the offender cohort is called the index offence. In the year ending March 2016:

- Summary non-motoring offences accounted for the largest proportion of all index offences with a 38% share, followed by theft with 22%. Their associated reoffending rates were 43.2% and 47.1%, respectively.
- Children and young people with an index offence of public order and miscellaneous crimes against society had the highest reoffending rates (51.2% and 49.7%, respectively). Sexual offences had the lowest reoffending rate of 15.2%.
- Summary motoring offences had the largest fall in reoffending rate compared with the year ending March 2006 (by 7.8 percentage points) to 37.0%, and it currently accounts for 2% of all index offences.
- Over the same period, the largest rise in reoffending rate (by 11.1 percentage points) was for theft.

## 9.7 Reoffending by index disposal

**Figure 9.7: Reoffending rate by index disposal<sup>116</sup>, England and Wales, years ending March 2006, March 2015 and March 2016**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 9, Table 9.7*

The index disposal is the caution or type of sentence the offender received for their index offence. Children and young people given a caution made up the largest proportion (42%) of all index disposals in the year ending March 2016 and had the lowest reoffending rate (30.8%). Those released from custody made up the smallest proportion (2%) and had the highest reoffending rate (68.1%) although this rate has fallen by 7.4 percentage points compared to the year ending March 2006.

Proven reoffending rates by index disposal should not be compared to assess the effectiveness of sentences, as there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics, the offence committed and the type of sentence given<sup>117</sup>.

<sup>116</sup> Youth Rehabilitation Orders came into force on 20 November 2009.

<sup>117</sup> See [Guide to proven reoffending statistics](#) for further detail.

## 10. Criminal histories of children and young people

---

In the year ending March 2017:

- Children and young people cautioned or convicted had on average 2.1 previous convictions or cautions compared to 1.7 previous convictions or cautions 10 years ago and 2.2 in the previous year.
- The proportion of children and young people cautioned or convicted who had a criminal history was 55%, an increase of 4 percentage points compared with 10 years ago but a slight decrease of 2 percentage points compared with the previous year.
- Of the children and young people cautioned or convicted who had a criminal history of 15 or more previous cautions or convictions, 36% were sentenced to immediate custody compared to just 1% for those with no previous criminal history.
- White children and young people had a greater number of previous cautions and convictions (an average of 2.3 per child or young person) than BAME children and young people with an average of 1.9.

---

**Description:** Number of previous cautions and convictions given to children and young people.

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

**Source:** Police National Computer

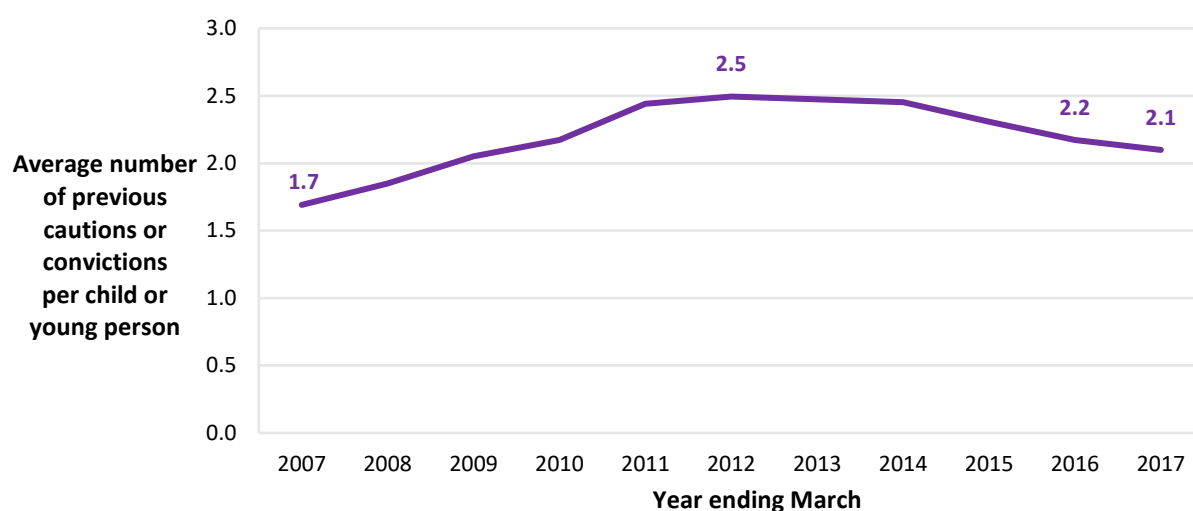
**Time period covered:** Years ending March 2007 to March 2017

**Supplementary Tables:** Ch 10 – Criminal histories of children and young people

**More information:** *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*, [Chapter 2 First Time Entrants](#) of this publication and [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#) (more up to date data available)

## 10.1 Criminal histories of children and young people in the Youth Justice System

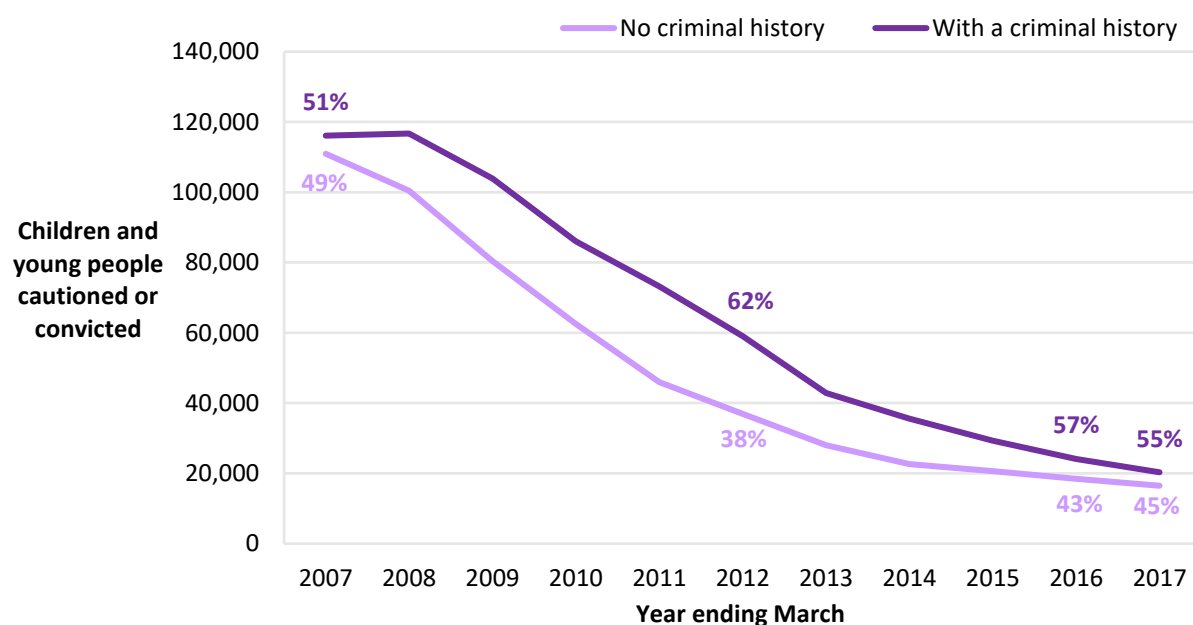
**Figure 10.1: Average number of previous cautions and convictions of children and young people cautioned or convicted for any offence, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.1*

The overall trend in the average number of previous cautions and convictions rose from 1.7 per child or young person in the year ending March 2007 to 2.5 in the peak in the year ending March 2012. Levels then remained fairly stable until the steady decline seen since the year ending March 2015 to 2.1 in the latest year (a slight decrease from 2.2 in the previous year).

**Figure 10.2 Number and proportion of children and young people cautioned or convicted with no criminal history compared with those with a criminal history, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.2*

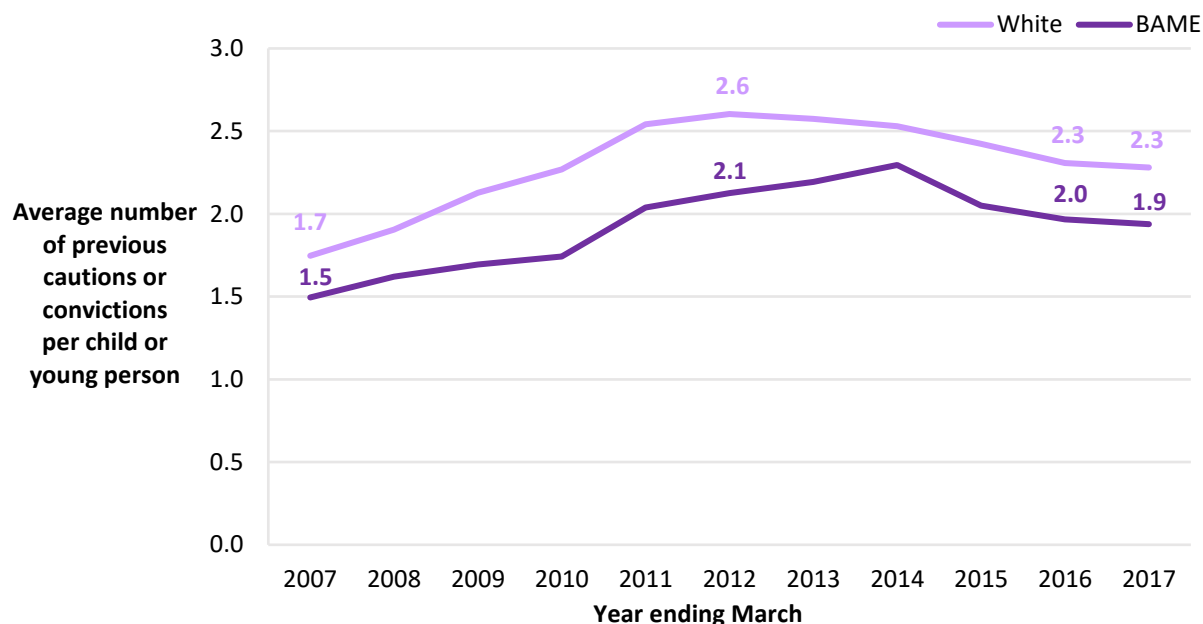
The number of children and young people cautioned or convicted with a criminal history was around 20,300 in the year ending March 2017. This has decreased by 83% since the year ending March 2007 when the figure was around 116,100.



The proportion of children and young people cautioned or convicted with a criminal history has been higher than the proportion with no criminal history over the last 10 years. In the year ending March 2007, the proportions were a lot closer with 51% having a criminal history. This increased gradually over the next five years to a peak of 62% in the year ending March 2012 before gradual year on year decreases brought this proportion down to 55% in the year ending March 2017.

## 10.2 Criminal histories of children and young people by ethnicity

**Figure 10.3: Average number of previous cautions and convictions of children and young people cautioned or convicted for any offence by ethnicity<sup>118</sup>, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.1*

Figure 10.3 shows that the average number of previous cautions and convictions for children and young people vary by ethnicity. White children and young people had a greater average number of previous cautions and convictions than Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) children and young people in each of the last 10 years.

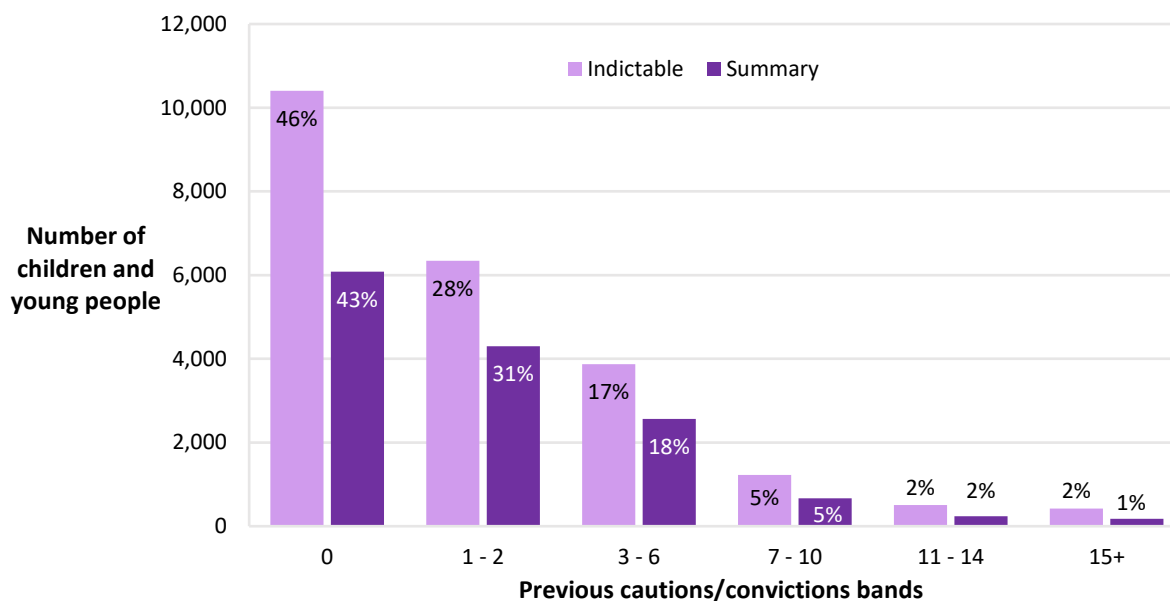
White children and young people cautioned or convicted in the year ending March 2017 had an average of 2.3 previous cautions or convictions. There was an increase from 1.7 in the year ending March 2007, but remained the same as the previous year.

BAME children and young people who received a caution or conviction in the year ending March 2017 had an average of 1.9 previous cautions or convictions, an increase from 1.5 in the year ending March 2007, but a slight decrease compared with the previous year (2.0).

<sup>118</sup> Figures are based on where ethnicity is known. In the year ending March 2017, the ethnicity was unknown for 6% of children and young people cautioned or convicted.

### 10.3 Criminal histories of children and young people – indictable and summary offences

**Figure 10.4: Number and proportion of children and young people cautioned or convicted for summary and indictable offences by number of previous cautions and convictions, England and Wales, year ending March 2017**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.3*

Supplementary Table 10.3 shows that the number of children and young people receiving a caution or conviction for summary offences in the year ending March 2017 was just over 14,000. This was 38% fewer than the nearly 22,800 children and young people receiving a caution or conviction for indictable offences. Though the numbers are very different, the offending histories are quite similar despite indictable offences being more serious, with 57% of children and young people cautioned or convicted for summary offences having a previous caution or conviction compared to 54% for indictable offences. Figure 10.4 demonstrates this by previous caution and conviction bands.

### 10.4 Proportion of children and young people cautioned or convicted for indictable and summary offences with no previous criminal history compared to those with 15+ previous cautions or convictions

**Figure 10.5: Proportion of children and young people cautioned or convicted for children and young people with no criminal history compared to those with 15+ previous cautions or convictions by type of disposal, England and Wales, year ending March 2017**

Disposal type	Number of cautions and convictions	Caution	Absolute discharge	Conditional discharge	Fine	Community sentence	Immediate custody	Other
No criminal history	16,488	61%	0%	3%	1%	31%	1%	2%
15+ cautions/convictions	596	1%	2%	17%	5%	31%	36%	9%

*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 10, Table 10.3*

For children and young people cautioned or convicted with a criminal history of 15 or more previous cautions or convictions, the majority were sentenced to either immediate custody (36%) or to a community sentence (31%). For those with no previous cautions or convictions the majority received either a caution (61%) or a community sentence (31%).

## 11. Comparisons with the adult system

---

- In the year ending March 2017, there was an 85% decrease in the number of 10 – 17 year old first time entrants compared to the last 10 years, and compared to a 48% decrease in adult FTEs.
  - Whilst there has been a 7% rise in the total custodial population<sup>119</sup> compared with 2007, the number of children and young people in custody has reduced considerably (by 68%) as has the number of young adults (aged 18 – 20), reducing by 47% over the same time period.
  - In the year ending March 2017, the overall number of offences involving the use of a knife or offensive weapon has decreased by 6% compared to the year ending March 2012, however the number of these offences committed by children and young people has increased by 11% in the same time period.
  - In the year ending March 2016, children and young people had the highest reoffending rate of 42.2% compared with 31.4% for young adults (aged 18 – 20) and 28.2% for adults (aged 21+).
- 

**Description:** A comparison between children and young people aged 10 – 17, young adults aged 18 - 20 (where available) and adults (aged 21+) in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) in England and Wales.

**Source:** Police Powers and Procedures statistics - Arrests  
Police National Computer – First time entrants, Reoffending, Offences involving a knife or offensive weapon  
Court Proceedings Database – People sentenced  
P-NOMIS and eAsset – Custody population

**Time period covered:** Years ending March 2007 to March 2017 (Arrests, First time entrants and people sentenced)  
Years ending March 2006 to March 2016 (Reoffending)  
30<sup>th</sup> June snapshot between 2007 and 2017 (Custody population)  
Years ending March 2012 to March 2017 (Offences involving a knife or offensive weapon)

**Supplementary Tables:** Ch 11 – Comparisons with the adult system

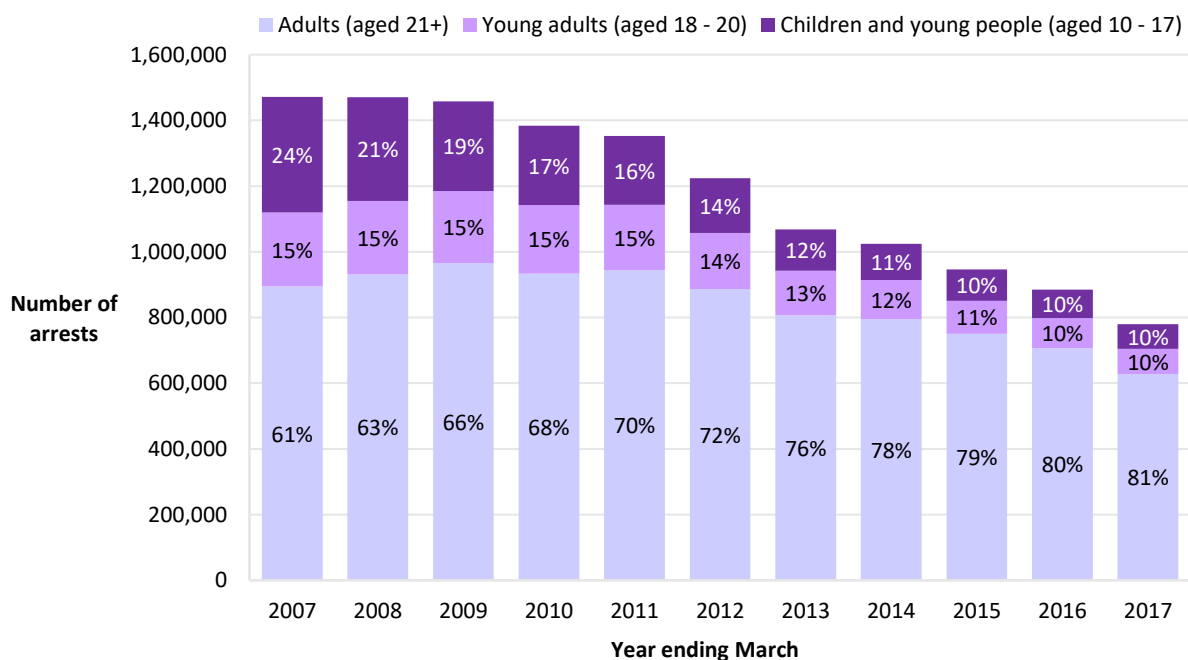
**More information:** *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*, [Proven reoffending statistics](#), [Offender Management Statistics \(Custody\)](#) (more recent data available), [Criminal Justice Statistics](#) (more recent data available)

---

<sup>119</sup> Based on snapshots taken on 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.

## 11.1 Arrests by age group

**Figure 11.1: Number and proportion of arrests by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017<sup>120</sup>**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.1*

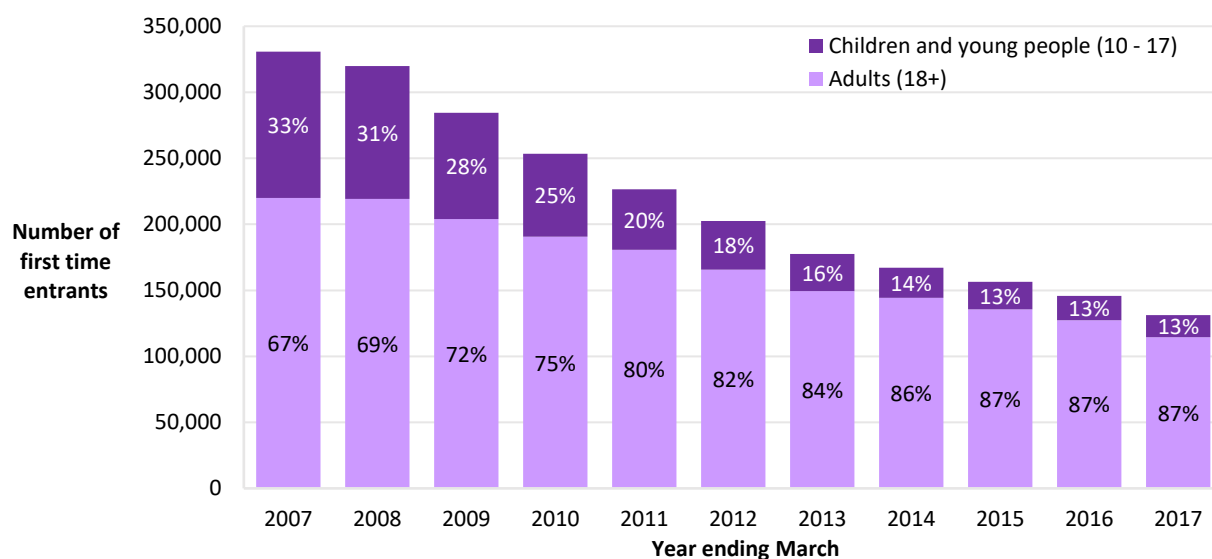
There have been year on year reductions in the overall number of arrests in England and Wales over the last decade. When looking at the three age groups, this has been the case for children and young people and young adults. Whilst arrests of adults is now lower than 10 years ago, they did increase in several years between the years ending March 2007 and and March 2011.

There has been an overall reduction of 47% in the number of arrests over the last 10 years, to around 779,300 in the latest year. Arrests of children and young people have seen the biggest percentage falls, of 79%, followed by falls of 66% for young adults and 30% for adults. This has led to a change in proportions of people arrested by age group (Figure 11.1). Arrests of children and young people made up almost a quarter of all arrests in the year ending March 2007 compared to 10% in the year ending March 2017.

<sup>120</sup> Figures do not sum due to rounding.

## 11.2 First time entrants to the Criminal Justice System by age group

**Figure 11.2: Number and proportion of first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**

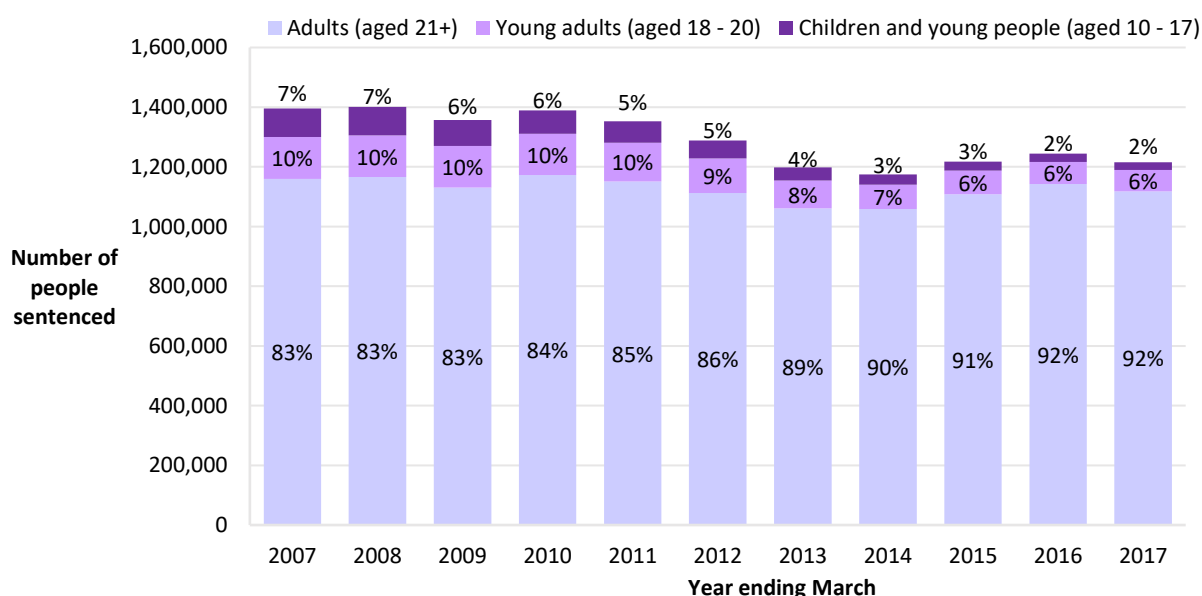


Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.2

In the year ending March 2017, there were around 131,100 first time entrants (FTEs) to the Criminal Justice System, of which 13% were children and young people (aged 10 – 17). There have been year on year decreases for both children and young people and adult (18+) FTEs over the last 10 years, however the number of FTEs aged 10 – 17 has been decreasing at a much faster rate than adults. There was an 85% decrease in the number of FTEs aged 10 – 17 compared to a 48% decrease for adults. This has led to a change in proportions over time with FTEs aged 10 – 17 accounting for 33% of the total number in the year ending March 2007, compared to 13% of all FTEs in the latest year.

## 11.3 People sentenced at court by age group

**Figure 11.3: Number and proportion of people sentenced by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.4

In the year ending March 2017, around 1.2 million people were sentenced at court. Of these just 25,700 (2%) were aged 10 – 17.

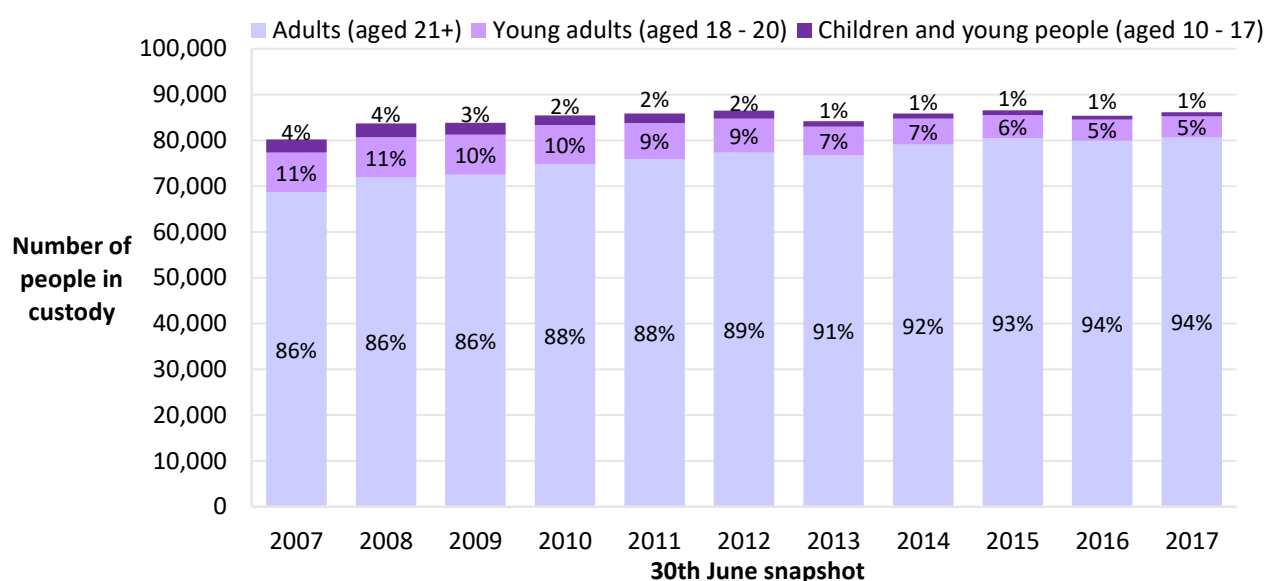
While the overall number of people sentenced has reduced by 13% from 1.4 million in the year ending March 2007, the three age groups have fallen at a different rate:

- The number of children and young people (aged 10 – 17) sentenced reduced by 73%,
- The number of young adults (aged 18 – 20) sentenced reduced by 50%, and
- The number of adults (aged 21+) sentenced reduced by 4% in the same period.

Of the total sentences given in the year ending March 2017, 70% were fines given to adults (aged 21+) (Supplementary Table 11.4).

#### 11.4 Custody population by age group<sup>121</sup>

**Figure 11.4: Number and proportion of people in custody by age group, England and Wales, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 compared with 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017**



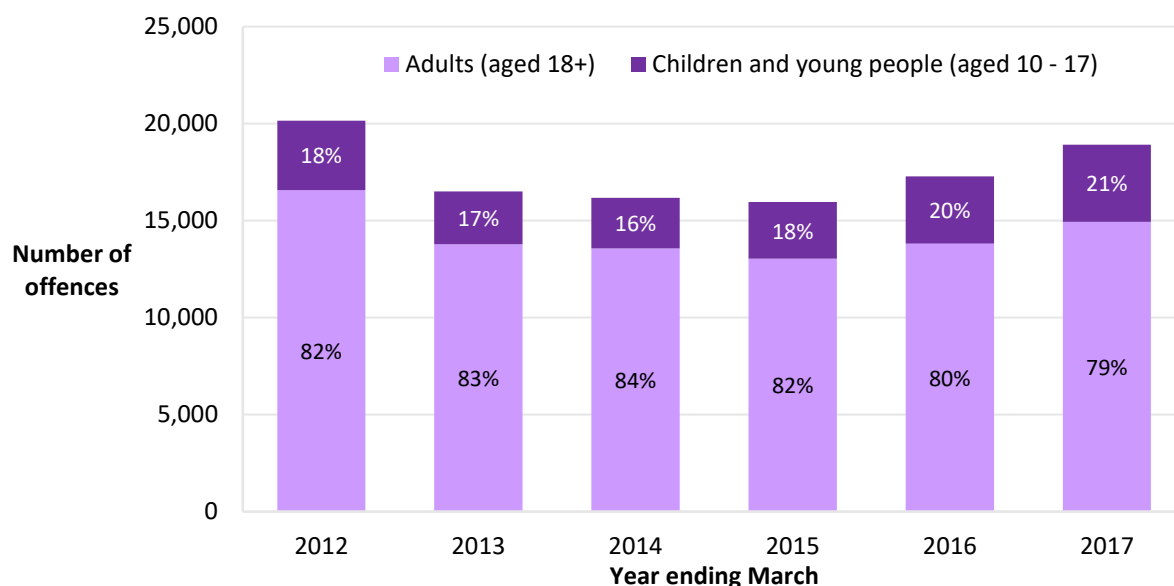
Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.8

There were around 86,100 people in custody on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Children and young people accounted for 1% (just over 930) of the custodial population while young adults (aged 18 – 20) accounted for 5% (around 4,600) and adults (aged 21+) accounted for 94% (over 80,600). Whilst there has been a 7% rise in the total custodial population compared with 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 (driven by a 17% increase in the adult population), the number of children and young people in custody has reduced by 68% and the number of young adults (aged 18 – 20) in custody has reduced by 47% in the same time period.

<sup>121</sup> In this section the snapshot date for the custodial population across all age groups is 30<sup>th</sup> June. This differs to Chapter 7 of this publication, where the snapshot of the youth secure estate is taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end.

## 11.5 Offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon by age group

**Figure 11.5: Number and proportion of offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a caution or conviction by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017<sup>122</sup>**

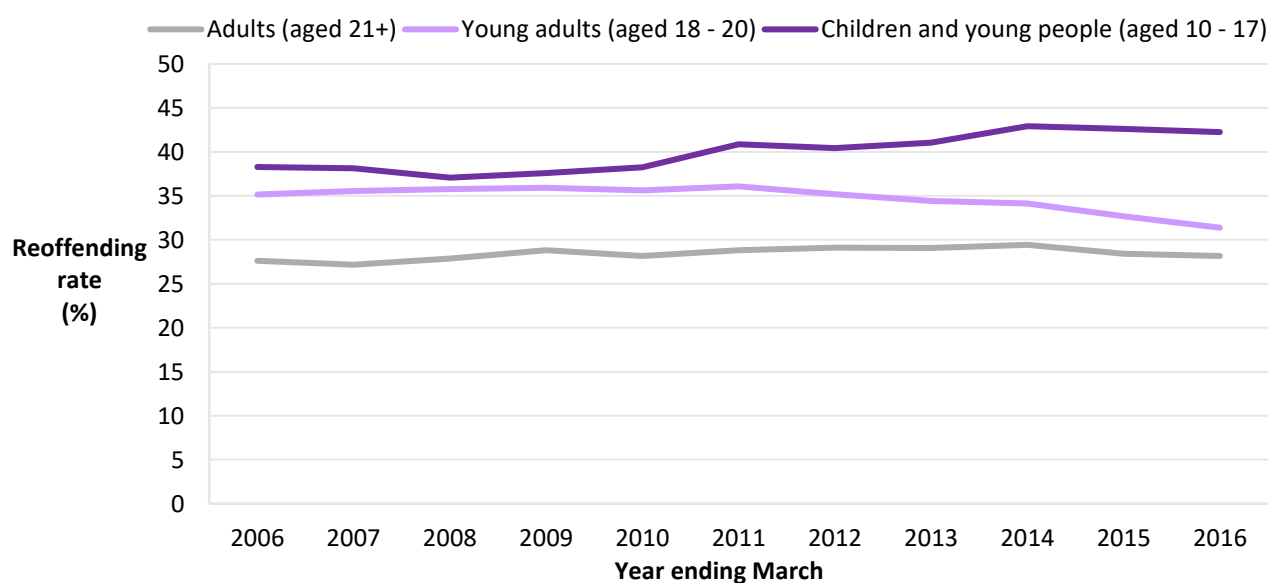


*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.12*

In the year ending March 2017, there were around 18,900 offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon that resulted in a caution or conviction. Children and young people were involved in almost 4,000 (21%) of these offences. While the overall number of these offences has decreased by 6% since the year ending March 2012, and the number of these offences committed by adults has fallen by 10%, the number of these offences committed by children and young people has increased by 11% in the same period.

## 11.6 Reoffending

**Figure 11.6: Annual reoffending rates for children and young people, young adults (aged 18 – 20) and adults (aged 21+)**



*Supplementary Tables: Chapter 11, Table 11.7*

<sup>122</sup> A 10 year comparison is not available.

In the year ending March 2016, children and young people had a reoffending rate of 42.2% compared to 31.4% for young adults (aged 18 – 20) and 28.2% for adults (aged 21+). Figure 11.6 shows the gap between children and young people and young adults has been widening. In the year ending March 2006 children and young people had a reoffending rate of 38.3% compared to 35.1% for young adults, but while the reoffending rate decreased year on year for young adults from the year ending March 2012, it increased year on year for children and young people for two consecutive years before some minor decreases in the following two years. The adult reoffending rate has remained broadly stable over the last 10 years varying by no more than 2.2 percentage points in the period.



## Annex A: Deaths in custody and community safeguarding and public protection incidents

### A1 Deaths in custody

In the year ending March 2017, there were no self-inflicted deaths of children or young people in custody in the secure estate. There was one death in February 2017 believed to be due to natural causes (the formal inquest verdict is awaited). Prior to that, there was one death during the year ending March 2016; the medical cause of death is recorded as Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP).

Between the years ending March 2007 and March 2017, there were six deaths in youth custody.

### A2 Community safeguarding and public protection incidents

Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) are required to report to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) any community safeguarding and public protection incidents (CSPPi) that occur in the community regarding children and young people.

Mandatory reporting is required when a young person is charged with offences of murder/manslaughter, rape or they are subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements and a serious further offence is committed. Safeguarding reporting is required in the event of the death of a child or young person, attempted suicide or if they are the victim of rape<sup>123</sup>.

In the year ending March 2017, 163 safeguarding and public protection incidents were reported to the YJB. This comprised of 105 public protection incidents and 58 public protection incidents.

**Figure A.1: The number of CSPPi incidents reported to the YJB, years ending March 2015 to March 2017**

	Year ending March		
	2015	2016	2017
Number of CSPPi incidents reported to the YJB	213	197	163

As shown in Figure A.1, the number of CSPPi incidents reported to the YJB has decreased each year since the year ending March 2015<sup>124</sup>, falling by 17% in the last year.

<sup>123</sup> Full details can be found in the [operating procedures](#).

<sup>124</sup> When data collection began.

## Annex B: Levels of crime experienced by children and young people aged 10 – 15

As shown in the Office for National Statistics [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) (CSEW), there were an estimated 5.9 million instances of crime against households and resident adults (counted here as those aged 16 and over) in England and Wales for the year ending March 2017<sup>125,126</sup>.

Crime covered by the CSEW increased steadily from the 1981 survey, before peaking in 1995. The CSEW then showed marked falls until the survey year ending March 2005. Following this there were smaller changes from year to year but the underlying trend continued downwards, albeit with some fluctuation. Since the survey year ending March 2013, crime has seen reductions each year.

**Figure B1: Offences experienced by children and young people aged 10 - 15, Crime Survey for England and Wales, years ending March 2012 to March 2017<sup>127</sup>**

Measure	Year ending March					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Estimated number of <b>incidents</b> (thousands)	1,066	817	797	718	844	697
Estimated percentage who were <b>victims of one incident or more</b>	15%	12%	12%	12%	13%	11%
Estimated percentage who were a victim of a <b>violent</b> offence	6%	5%	6%	5%	6%	6%
Estimate percentage who were a victim of a <b>theft</b> offence	8%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%
Number of children and young people aged 10 – 15 surveyed	3,930	2,879	2,933	2,374	2,804	3,062

Source: [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#), ONS

Figure B1 shows that an estimated 11% of 10 – 15 year olds were victims of crime in the year ending March 2017<sup>128</sup>.

Of the estimated 697,000 crimes experienced by 10 – 15 year olds in the year ending March 2017:

- 52% were categorised as violent offences; (of which the majority were with injury);
- 36% were theft offences;<sup>129</sup>
- 7% were criminal damage to personal property;
- 6% were robbery offences.

Of the theft offences experienced by children and young people:

- The majority of the offenders were also children and young people aged 10 – 15 (92%)
- Most involved one offender (75%)
- The majority took place in or around school (62%)
- Most children and young people knew the offender well (62%)<sup>130</sup>.

<sup>125</sup> Two methods for classifying incidents recorded in the survey have been used – ‘preferred’ and ‘broad’. The analysis provided here uses the ‘preferred’ measure. See *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics* for more information.

<sup>126</sup> Excluding new experimental statistics on fraud and computer misuse.

<sup>127</sup> Given the small sample size for the 10 – 15 year old element of the CSEW, estimates can fluctuate over time and as a result, trends can be difficult to interpret.

<sup>128</sup> The difference in the estimated percentage of victims over time is not a statistically significant change.

<sup>129</sup> For the children and young people’s survey, property offences are restricted to personal level crimes only. See the [User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#) for more information.

<sup>130</sup> From [Nature of crime: children and young people aged 10 to 15 years theft](#).

## Annex C: Comparison of Youth Offending Team caseloads with Police National Computer data

The number of individual children and young people who received a caution or conviction can be sourced from the Youth Offending Team (YOT) caseload data (sourced from the Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF)) and also from the Police National Computer (PNC). This Annex looks at the differences between the two sets of data.

**Figure C1: Comparison of YOT caseload with PNC data, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**

	Year ending March										
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
YOT caseload	147,791	146,526	127,197	106,969	85,300	66,430	49,222	41,569	37,946	32,949	28,352
PNC	175,108	166,631	141,233	114,463	89,399	71,507	53,403	43,046	36,785	31,543	27,426

Historically there has been a difference in the numbers of individual young people cautioned or convicted taken from the PNC and the YOT caseload, with the PNC figure being higher than that of the YOT caseload. This was thought to be because the police don't always pass on the details of youth cautions that don't require formal intervention to YOTs.

**Figure C2: Percentage difference between YOT caseload and PNC data, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to March 2017**



The difference between the figures has been generally been reducing with the exception of the years ending March 2012, March 2013 and March 2016. In the year ending March 2017, for the third consecutive year, the number of young people receiving a caution or conviction as recorded by YOTs was higher than that recorded on the PNC. In the year ending March 2017, there were around 930 more individuals on the YOT caseload than on the PNC.

## Further information

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. Steps are taken to improve the completeness and accuracy of this information each year.

Other figures have been taken from official published statistics, which may be National Statistics. Further details on the sources of information are given in *A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics*.

## Accompanying files

As well as this bulletin, the following products are published as part of this release:

A Guide to Youth Justice Statistics providing further information on the data included in this publication and how these data are collected and processed. This includes a glossary of the terms used in this bulletin.

An Infographic, covering the main points.

A set of Supplementary Tables, covering each section of this bulletin.

A set of open explorable data.

## National Statistics status

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.



All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

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

## Contact

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

Tel: 020 3334 3536

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

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

### Steve Ellerd-Elliott

Head of Profession for Statistics  
Justice Statistics Analytical Services  
Ministry of Justice  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ  
Tel: 07973 725841  
[steve.ellerd-elliott@justice.gov.uk](mailto:steve.ellerd-elliott@justice.gov.uk)

### Sophie Riley

Head of Information and Analysis  
Information and Analysis Team  
Youth Justice Board  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ  
Tel: 020 3545 8893  
[sophie.riley@yjb.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.riley@yjb.gov.uk)

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

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from: [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk)

For enquires direct to the YJB please email: [informationandanalysis@yjb.gov.uk](mailto:informationandanalysis@yjb.gov.uk)

**Next update:** 24 January 2019

**URL:** [www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics)

© Crown copyright

Produced by the Ministry of Justice.

Alternative formats are available on request from [statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)