



# Proven Reoffending Statistics Quarterly Bulletin, October 2014 to September 2015

## Main points

This bulletin provides key statistics on Proven Reoffending for adult and juvenile offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, or received a caution in the period **October 2014 to September 2015**. This bulletin, associated tables and data tools present the proportion of offenders who reoffend (proven reoffending rate) and the number of proven reoffences by offender history, demographics, individual prisons, probation area, local authorities and youth offending teams.

**The overall proven reoffending rate was 24.8%**



There is a 0.9 percentage point decrease in the overall proven reoffending rate compared to the previous 12 months and a 2.5 percentage point decrease since 2004. Over time the rate has fluctuated between 25% and 27%, and is now the lowest since 2004.

**Adult offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 23.8%**



The adult proven reoffending rate is down 0.9 percentage points compared to the previous 12 months and 1.6 percentage points since 2004. The rate has remained broadly flat over time, and this is the lowest adult reoffending rate since 2004.

**Juvenile offenders had a proven reoffending rate of 37.8%**



The juvenile reoffending rate has increased by 4.2 percentage points since 2004. However, the size of the cohort has fallen by around 78% over the same period. The rate has remained broadly the same as 12 months earlier.

**Adults released from custody or court orders had a proven reoffending rate of 32.6%**



The proven reoffending rate for adult offenders released from custody or court orders was 32.6%, a decrease of 2.2 percentage points compared to the previous 12 months and 7.1 percentage points since 2004.

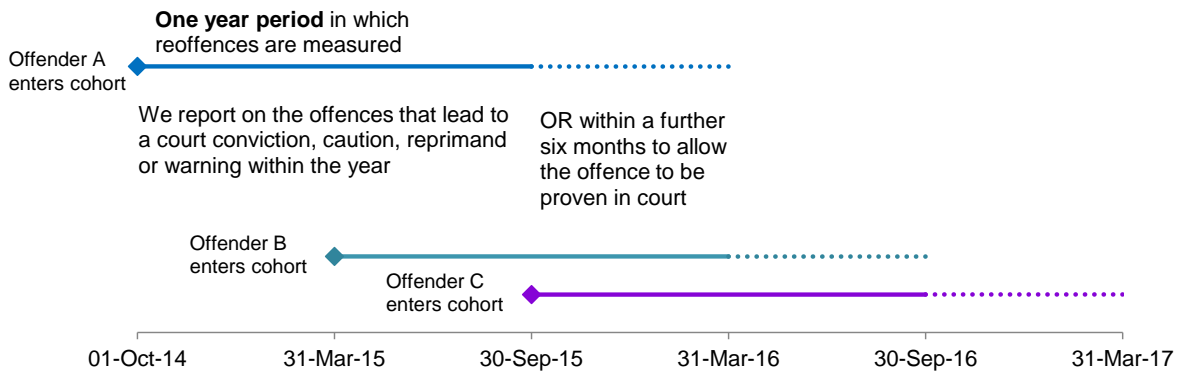
Latest figures are provided with comparisons to October 2013 to September 2014, and 2004 in order to highlight long-term trends. For full and detailed commentary please refer to the annual publication. For technical details and how proven reoffending is measured please refer to the accompanying [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#).

**We are changing how our quarterly bulletins look, and would welcome any feedback to [commentary.champions@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:commentary.champions@justice.gsi.gov.uk)**

For other feedback related to the content of this publication, please let us know at [Statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

## How is proven reoffending measured?

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



An offender enters the cohort if they are released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court or received a reprimand or warning in the period October 2014 to September 2015.

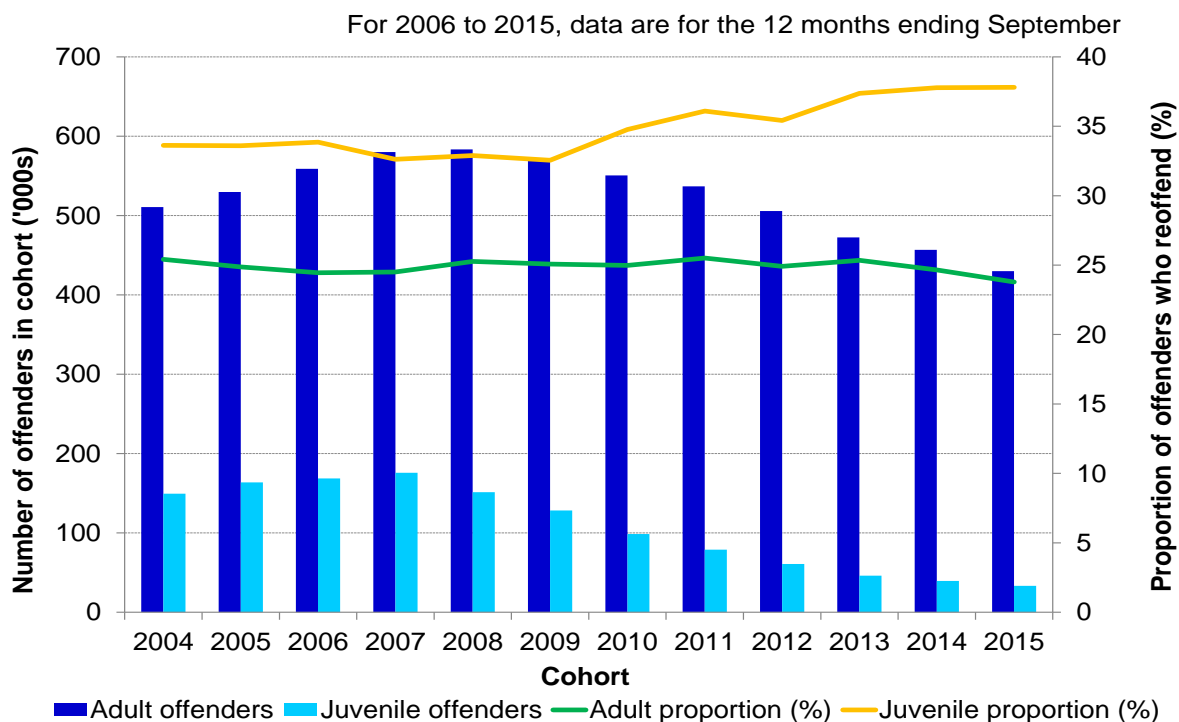
For further detail on how proven reoffending is measured, please see the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#).

## 1. Overall – adult and juvenile offenders

### 24.8% of offenders in the October 2014 to September 2015 cohort reoffended within a year

In October 2014 to September 2015 around 463,000 adult and juvenile offenders were cautioned<sup>1</sup>, received a non-custodial conviction at court or released from custody. Around 115,000 of these offenders committed a proven re-offence within a year. This gives an overall proven reoffending rate of 24.8%, down 0.9 percentage points compared to the previous 12 months. The rate has fluctuated between 25% and 27% over time, and is the lowest since 2004.

**Figure 1: Proportion of adult and juvenile offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven re-offence, 2004 to September 2015 (Source: Table A1)**



Around 376,000 proven reoffences were committed over the one year follow-up period, with those that reoffended committing, on average, 3.27 reoffences each. The average number of reoffences per reoffender has gradually increased since October 2008 to September 2009, and is now similar to 2004 levels.

In the October 2014 to September 2015 cohort, 82% were male and 18% were female, a split that has changed little since 2004. Male offenders reoffended at a higher rate of 26.2% compared to female offenders who reoffended at a rate of 18.6%. Both rates have remained broadly stable since 2004.

Less than 1% of all offenders committed indictable only reoffences<sup>2</sup> over the one year follow-up period. This is compared to 1.16% in 2004 – the highest level over the period.

<sup>1</sup> Includes reprimands and warnings for juveniles.

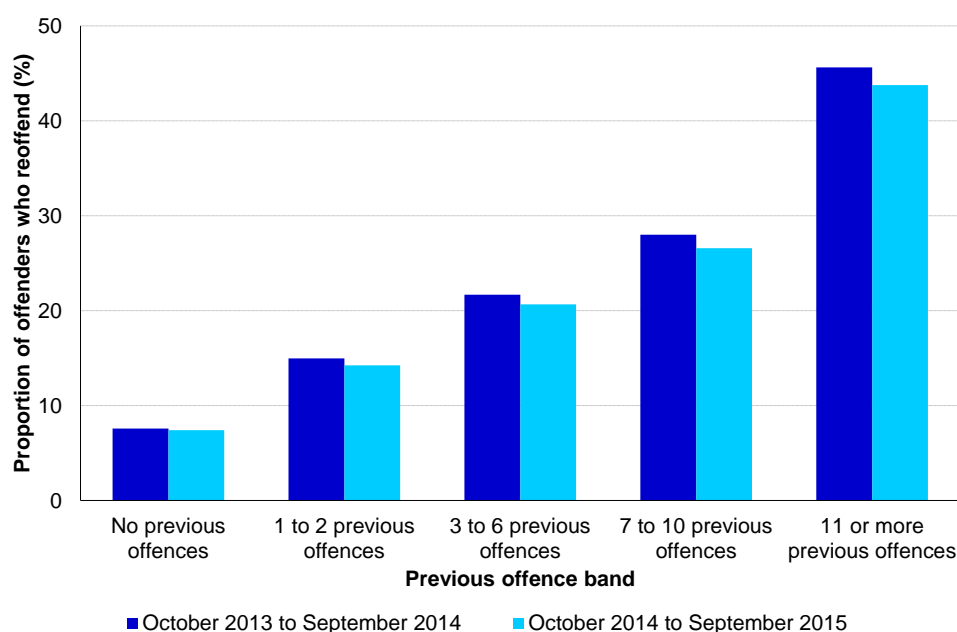
<sup>2</sup> Indictable-only offences cover the most serious offences that must be tried at the Crown court; these 'indictable-only' offences include murder, manslaughter, rape and robbery.

## 2. Adult offenders

### 23.8% of adult offenders in the October 2014 to September 2015 cohort reoffended within a year

Adult offenders accounted for 93% (around 430,000) of the October 2014 to September 2015 cohort and juvenile offenders accounted for 7% (around 33,000)<sup>3</sup>. Around 102,000 of all adult offenders were proven to have committed a reoffence within a year, giving a proven reoffending rate of 23.8%.

**Figure 2: Proportion of adult offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by number of previous offences, October 2014 to September 2015 (Source: Table A5a)**



The latest adult reoffending rate represents a decrease of 0.9 percentage points compared to the previous 12 months and a fall of 1.6 percentage points since 2004. This rate has been fairly flat over time, and is now the lowest since 2004.

Around 334,000 proven reoffences were committed by adults over the one year follow-up period. Those that reoffended committed on average 3.26 reoffences each.

Generally, offenders with a large number of previous offences have a higher rate of proven reoffending than those with fewer previous offences. In the cohort, the proven reoffending rates for adults ranged from 7.4% for offenders with no previous offences to 43.8% for offenders with 11 or more previous offences. Adult offenders with 11 or more previous offences represented just under a third of all adult offenders in the cohort, but committed over two thirds of all adult proven reoffences. Adult reoffending rates have decreased across all previous offence bands, with no category showing an increase compared to the previous 12 months or since 2004.

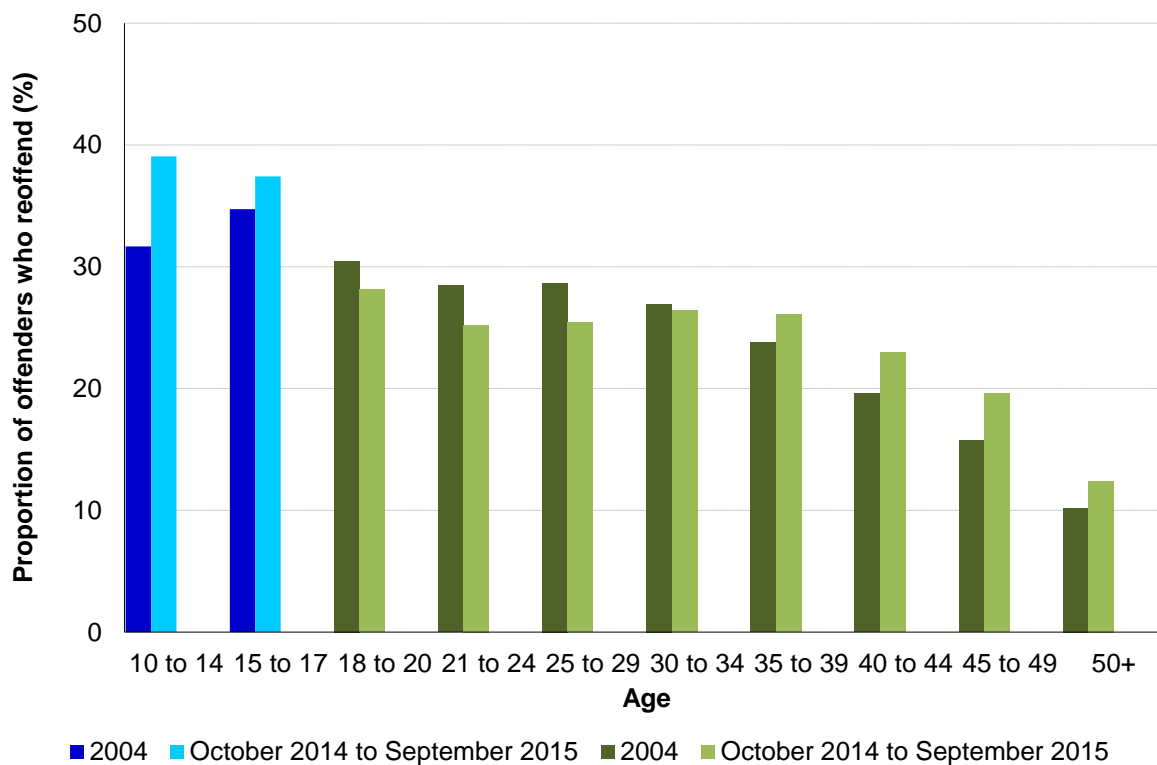
<sup>3</sup> A certain proportion of offenders who could not be matched to the Police National Computer (PNC) are excluded from the offender cohort. Therefore, this number does not represent all proven offenders. This means that the number of offenders in this bulletin will be different from the numbers published in Offender Management Statistics Quarterly and Criminal Justice Statistics. Please refer to the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#) for further information.

### 3. Juvenile offenders<sup>4</sup>

#### 37.8% of juvenile offenders in the October 2014 to September 2015 cohort reoffended within one year

Around 33,000 juvenile offenders were cautioned, convicted or released from custody in the October 2014 to September 2015 cohort and around 13,000 of them committed a reoffence. This gives a proven reoffending rate of 37.8%, which is broadly the same as the previous 12 months and an increase of 4.2 percentage points since 2004. However, the size of the cohort has fallen by around 78% since 2004.

**Figure 3: Proportion of adult and juvenile offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by age, 2004 and October 2014 to September 2015 (Source: Table A3)**



Around 42,000 proven reoffences were committed by juveniles over the one year follow-up period. Those that reoffended committed on average 3.35 reoffences each. Juvenile offenders with 11 or more previous offences had a higher reoffending rate than those with no previous offences –73.8% compared to 25.0%.

Offenders aged 10 to 14 had the highest reoffending rate of any age group, with a reoffending rate of 39.1%. However, the number of offenders in this age group has fallen by around 85% since 2004. The reoffending rate for this age group overtook offenders aged 15 to 17 in 2013/14, who previously had a consistently higher reoffending rate but are now second highest. Figure 3 shows that the proven reoffending rate generally falls with increasing age.

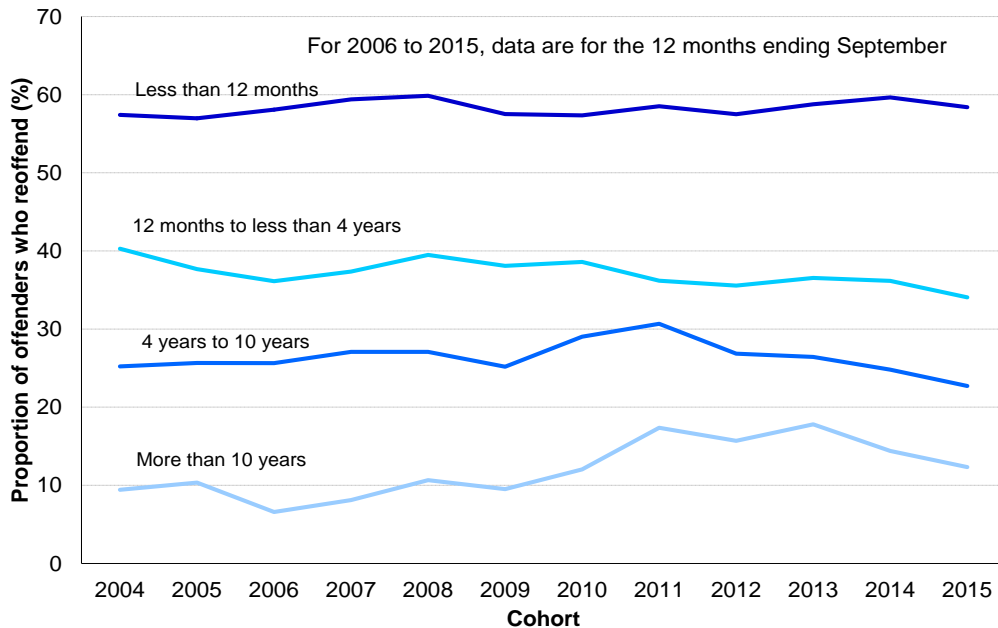
<sup>4</sup> Juveniles are defined as those aged 10 to 17 years old.

## 4. Index disposal<sup>5</sup> - adults

### Adults released from custody or starting court orders had a proven reoffending rate of 32.6%

This is a reduction of 7.1 percentage points since 2004. The index disposal of the offender is the type of sentence the offender received for their index offence. For Proven Reoffending Statistics this is defined as custody, court order, or other disposal resulting from a conviction at court, such as a fine or discharge, or caution.

**Figure 4: Proportion of adult offenders released from custody who commit a proven reoffence, by custodial sentence length, 2004 to September 2015 (Source: Table C2a)**



For adult offenders starting a court order (Community sentence or Suspended Sentence Order) the proven reoffending rate was 31.0%, a fall of 6.4 percentage points since 2004 and a fall of 2.2 percentage points compared to the previous 12 months. The proven reoffending rate for adult offenders released from custody was 43.4%, representing a fall of 2.1 percentage points compared to the previous 12 months and a fall of 5.2 percentage points since 2004. This is the lowest rate since 2004 for adults released from custody or starting court orders.

The rate for those released from short sentences has been consistently higher compared to those released from longer sentences. Adults who served sentences of less than 12 months reoffended at a rate of 58.4%, compared to 31.1% for those who served determinate sentences of 12 months or more. The trend for adults released from less than 12 month custodial sentences has remained broadly flat since 2004, whereas the reoffending rate has been decreasing since October 2009 to September 2010 for adults who were released from custodial sentences of 12 months or more.

<sup>5</sup> 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 and the type of sentence given. For further information see [Annex D of the October 2016 publication](#) (page 41) and the [guide to proven reoffending statistics](#).

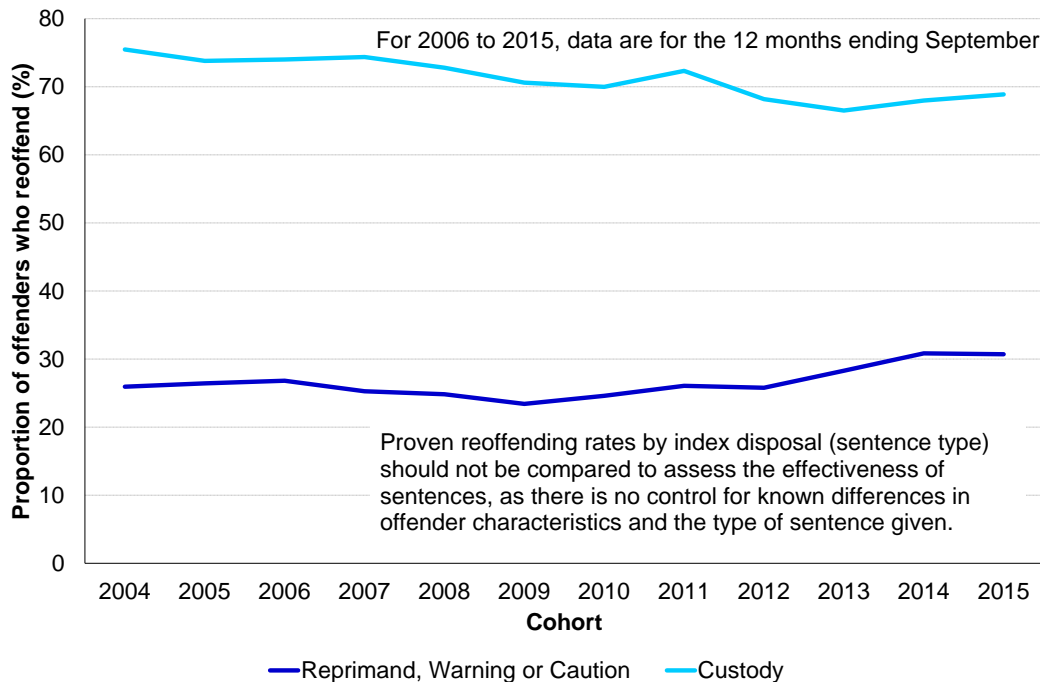
## 5. Index disposal – juveniles

### Juvenile offenders given a reprimand, warning or youth caution had a proven reoffending rate of 30.7%

The reoffending rate for juvenile offenders given a youth caution was 30.7%, which is broadly the same as the previous year and an increase of 4.8 percentage points since 2004. Reprimands and warnings for youths were abolished under Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 with effect from 8 April 2013 and replaced with youth cautions.

Youth cautions are a formal out-of-court disposal that can be used as an alternative to prosecution for juvenile offenders in certain circumstances. A Youth Caution may be given for any offence where the young offender admits an offence, there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction but it is not in the public interest to prosecute.

**Figure 5: Proportion of juvenile offenders released from custody or given a reprimand, warning or caution who commit a proven reoffense, 2004 to September 2015 (Source: Table C1b)**



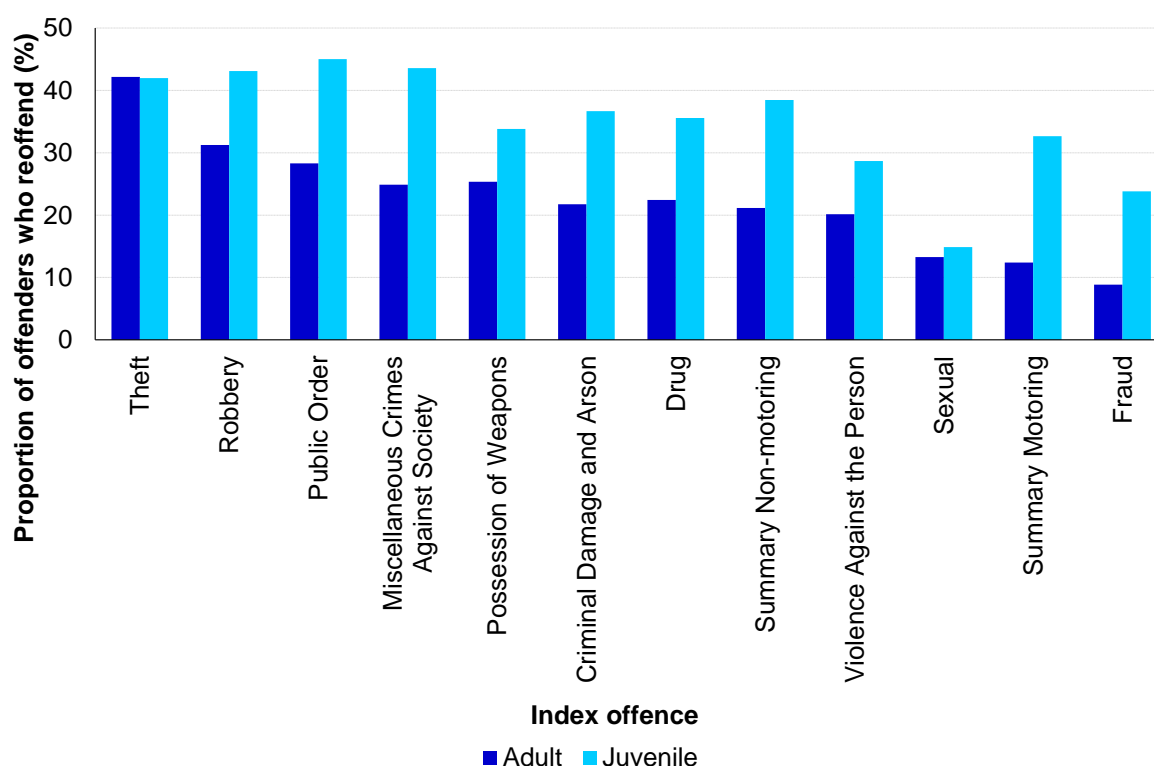
Between October 2014 and September 2015 around 900 juvenile offenders were released from custody and around 600 of these (68.9%) were proven to have committed a reoffense within a year. This represents a fall of 6.6 percentage points since 2004, but an increase of 0.9 percentage points compared to the previous 12 months.

## 6. Index offences

**In the October 2014 to September 2015 cohort, adult offenders with an index offence of 'Theft' had the highest reoffending rate at 42.2%**

The offence that leads to an offender being included in the offender cohort is called the index offence. In the October 2014 to September 2015 cohort, adult offenders with an index offence of 'Theft' had the highest proven reoffending rate of 42.2%. The second highest reoffending rate for adult offenders was for those with an index offence of 'Robbery' with a rate of 31.2%.

**Figure 6: Proportion of adult and juvenile offenders in England and Wales who commit a proven reoffence, by index offence, October 2014 to September 2015 (Source: Table A4a/b)**



With the exception of index offences recorded as 'Other', those with the lowest rate of reoffending in the adult cohort had an index offence of 'Fraud' – reoffending at a rate of 8.8%. Additionally, with a fall of 10.0 percentage points, the 'Fraud' index offence category saw the largest decrease between 2004 and October 2014 to September 2015. In contrast, the largest increase of 5.3 percentage points over the same period occurred for those with an index offence of 'Public Order' with a reoffending rate of 28.3%.

In the juvenile cohort those with an index offence of 'Public Order' had the highest proven reoffending rate at 45.0%, closely followed by those with an index offence of 'Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society' at 43.6%. Those with the lowest rate had a 'Sexual' index offence and reoffended at a rate of 14.9%. The 'Summary motoring' index offence category, had the largest decrease between 2004 and October 2014 to September 2015 with a fall of 8.5 percentage points to a reoffending rate of 32.7%. The largest increase of 10.4 percentage points over the same period occurred for those with an index offence of 'Theft'.



## Further information

### Accompanying files

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

- A technical guide to proven reoffending statistics providing information on how proven reoffending is measured, and the data sources used.
- A set of overview tables, covering each section of this bulletin.
- A number of data tools which provide proven reoffending data by demographics, offender history, individual prison and probation area and geography.

### Impact of further education on prisoner outcomes

As part of this [quarterly publication](#), a report on the impact of further education on one year proven reoffending outcomes has been published. The report uses linked data from the Police National Computer and Individual Learning Records (from the former BIS – now part of DfE) to compare offenders with an immediate custodial sentence who have taken at least one further education learning activity during their prison sentence and were released in 2010 to offenders who have not taken further education during prison. This report also utilises linked data from DWP and HMRC to examine the relationships between employment and benefit status before and after prison, further education in prison and reoffending.

### Changes to Proven Reoffending National Statistics from October 2017

As announced in April 2016 in '[Response to consultation on changes to proven reoffending statistics](#)', the way in which proven reoffending is measured is changing from October 2017. This is to bring the Proven Reoffending Statistics into alignment with the Payment by Result statistics for Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) and the National Probation Service (NPS), and to assess the progress of the rehabilitation reforms. The key changes from October will be:

- Moving to a three month cohort. The publication will report on offenders who are released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, or received a caution within a three month period, for all measures of reoffending, including for juveniles. Currently MoJ use a 12 month cohort.
- Production of adjusted reoffending rates for adults (alongside the raw rates). The Offender Group Reconviction Score (OGRS) will be used to adjust the raw reoffending rates for adults, to take account of the influence that differences in offender mix can have on the binary reoffending rates.
- Proven reoffending rates for the annual and quarterly cohorts will be provided back to 2005 to assist in the comparison of trends over time. It is not possible to produce a fully consistent back-series due to changes in data systems, but this will give the best indication of change over time.
- In October 2017 we will publish the first quarterly statistics for the October – December 2015 cohort. Annual figures will be provided from January 2018 based on a financial year (the first annual figures will be for April 2015-March 2016). Annual

figures will be based on a weighted average of the four preceding three month offender cohorts.

- As the three month cohorts limit the scope for geographical breakdowns, we will endeavour to produce on a quarterly basis average reoffending rates formed by taking a weighted average of the four preceding three month offender cohorts.

For more details around these changes and the impact they may have on the statistics, please see the consultation response. Any queries please email [statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

## 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 the Justice Statistics Analytical Services division of the Ministry of Justice:

Nick Mavron, Head of Prison, Probation, Reoffending and PbR Statistics  
Ministry of Justice, 7th Floor, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

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



**Next update: October 2017**

**URL:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics>

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