



Ministry
of Justice



Youth Justice Board
Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuentid

National Analysis of Reoffending Data, for those aged 10-17

England and Wales

Youth Justice Board / Ministry of Justice

Statistics bulletin

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

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1 Executive Summary

This report presents analysis of statistics on proven reoffending for young people aged 10-17, from 2002 up until the year ending March 2013. This includes young people who were either released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, or received a reprimand or warning¹.

In the 12 months to March 2013, around 52,600 offenders² aged 10-17 were cautioned, convicted or released from custody. This is the number of young offenders in the cohort used for reoffending statistics.³ Of these, around 19,000 committed at least one reoffence. This gives a 'binary reoffending rate' (or the proportion of offenders who reoffend) of 36.1%.

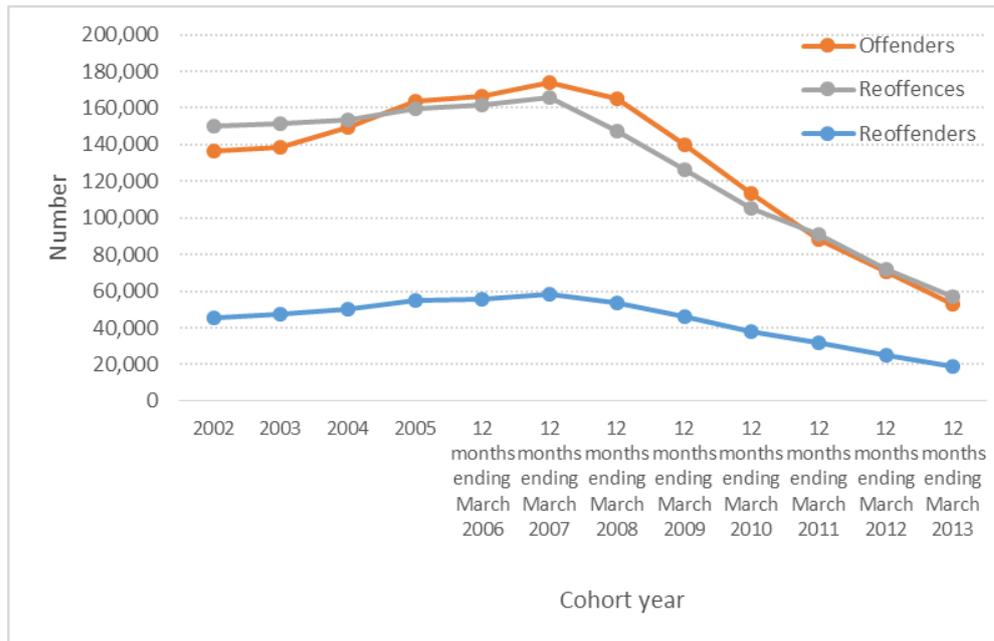
Compared with the previous 12 months, the reoffending rate for young offenders has increased (by 0.6 percentage points) and this continues the general upward trend most noticeable since the 12 months to March 2008. However, accompanying the upward trend in the reoffending rate is a downward trend in the number of offenders in the cohort (and the subsequent number of reoffenders and reoffences that they committed). Each of these peaked in the 12 months ending March 2007 but have since reduced by about two thirds (**Figure 1.1**).

¹ Reprimands and warnings were abolished on 8 April 2013 by the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 and replaced by youth cautions and youth conditional cautions. However, they are still reported on here as the cohort years are prior to the change.

² This is the number of proven offenders who were matched on the Police National Computer. The number includes those receiving reprimands or warnings.

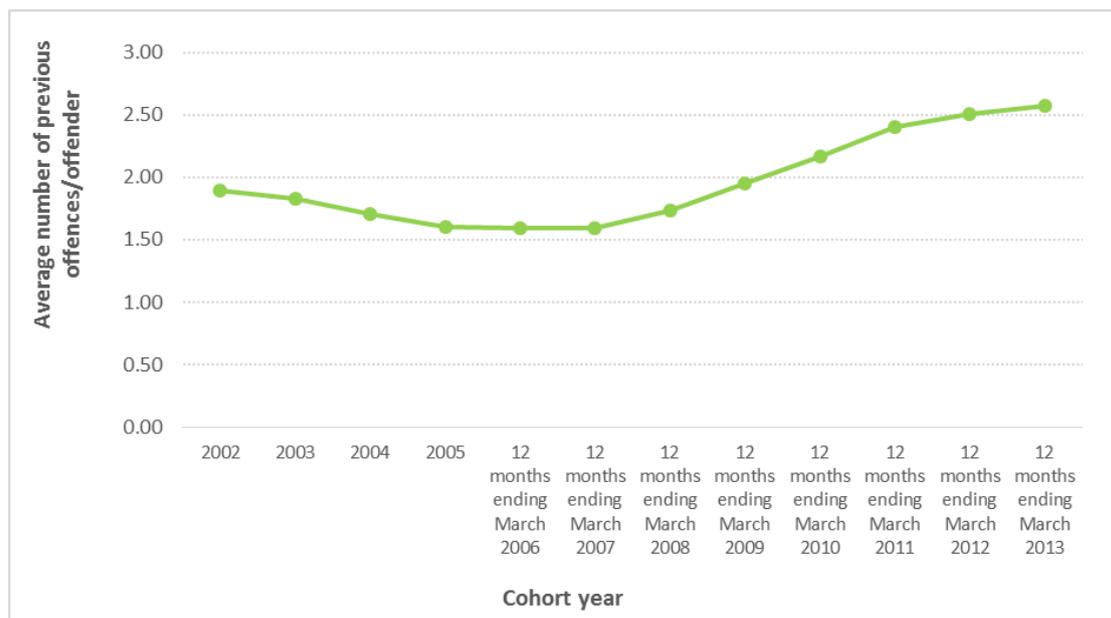
³ The cohort comprises of both first time offenders and known offenders.

Figure 1.1: Number of offenders, reoffenders and reoffences, 2002 to year ending March 2013, England and Wales



The cohort of offenders (as well as the make-up of reoffenders) has changed considerably since 2002 and is comprised of offenders whose characteristics mean they are more likely to reoffend than those in the 2002 cohort. One characteristic of the cohort that can be associated with the likelihood to reoffend is previous criminal history. **Figure 1.2** shows how the average number of previous offences for offenders in the cohort has increased year on year since the year ending March 2007 and is now 2.57 per offender.

Figure 1.2: Average number of previous offences per offender, 2002 to year ending March 2013, England and Wales



The remaining sections show a summary of the key characteristics of the offenders in the cohort and the reoffences they went on to commit.

Gender

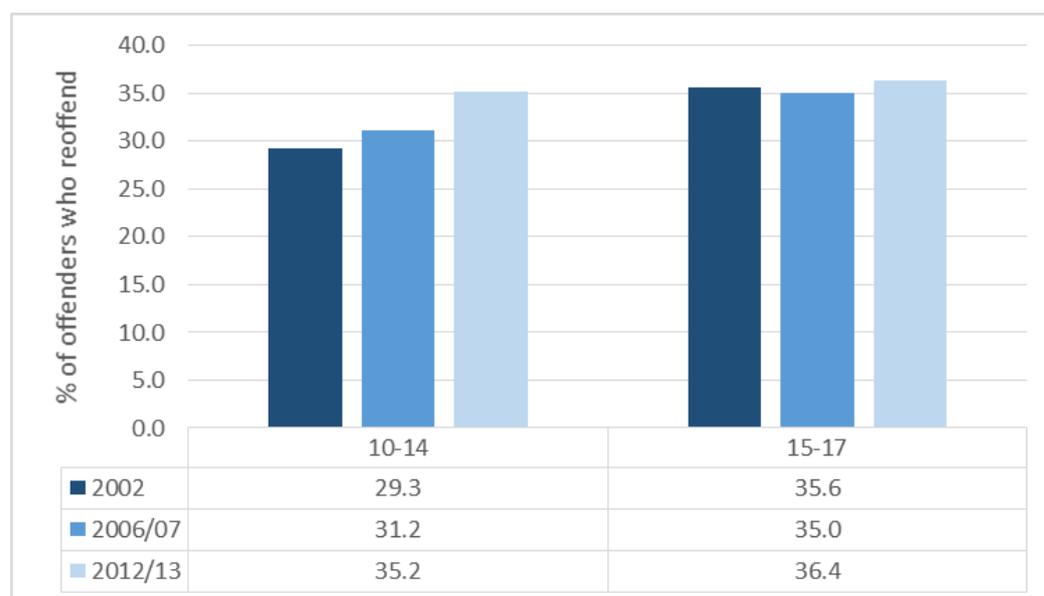
The young people in the offending cohort for the 12 months to March 2013 and reoffenders in the one-year follow-up period were predominately Male, although the proportion was higher for reoffenders (Males accounted for 79% of all offenders but 85% of all reoffenders). Binary reoffending rates were therefore highest amongst Males (38.6% compared to 26.2% for females) and have shown a gradual increase since the 12 months to March 2008.

Age

The offenders in the cohort and those that go on to reoffend are getting older. For offenders, the average age⁴ increased from 14.88 to 15.44 between the 12 months to March 2007 and March 2013. For reoffenders, the average age at first reoffence also increased, from 15.40 to 15.86 over the same period.

Since 2002, the proportion of reoffenders in the cohort aged 15-17 has increased by 7 percentage points to 76% in the 12 months to March 2013. This increase is mainly driven by those aged 17 (since the 12 months to March 2007 they increased by 9 percentage points to 31%). However, since 2002, the binary reoffending rates for those aged 10-14 has increased more sharply than for those aged 15-17 (by 5.9 percentage points compared to 0.7 percentage points, **figure 1.3**).

Figure 1.3: Binary reoffending rates by age-group, 2002 to year ending March 2013, England and Wales



⁴ This is age at date release from custody, at court conviction for non-custodial sentences, or at receipt for a caution, reprimand or final warning.

Ethnicity⁵

The majority of offenders in the cohort for the 12 months to March 2013 were white (81%). However, since the 12 months to March 2007, the proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic offenders has increased. The increase is mainly driven by the proportion of those who are Black (increasing from 7% to 11% between the 12 months to March 2007 and 2013, although there was also a smaller increase in the proportion who are Asian, from 4% to 5% over the same period). The change for reoffenders was similar, with the proportion of those who are Black increasing, from 9% to 13% over the same period.

Since the 12 months to March 2006, the binary reoffending rate has been highest amongst Black young people (43.9% in the 12 months to March 2013) and has generally increased over the last four years.

Previous offences

Half of the offenders in the cohort for the 12 months to March 2013, did not have any offences prior to being in the cohort. A quarter had 1-2 offences and 14% had 3-6 offences. There were 6% of offenders with 11 or more previous offences.

In general, since 2002, the proportion with no previous offences has decreased (by 9 percentage points) whilst the proportion with three or more offences has increased (by 8 percentage points).

Young people with previous offending history are more likely to reoffend, as demonstrated by their higher reoffending rates. In the 12 months to March 2013, there were about 3,300 offenders with 11 or more previous offences and they had a binary reoffending rate of 75.6%, which is more than double the overall rate. Although this group make up only 6% of offenders, they committed almost a fifth of all reoffences (about 11,000).

Index offence

The offence that leads to an offender being included in the offender cohort is called the index offence.

Over three quarters of offenders in the 2012/13 cohort have an index offence of Summary Non-motoring⁶ (37%), Theft (26%) or Drugs (13%). These were also the most common reoffences committed.

⁵ The ethnicity of a person is as defined by the Police on the Police National Computer and is based on appearance. It does not correspond with the self-reported ethnicity provided by young people and recorded by YOTs on YJMIS. The categories on PNC are limited and restricted to White, Black, Asian, Other or not recorded.

⁶ Summary Non-motoring proceedings include TV licence evasion and less serious criminal damage.

Since 2002, there has been a general shift in the proportions of index offences from Theft to those of Summary Non-motoring, Drug and Robbery offences.

Index disposal⁷

The index disposal is the type of sentence the offender received for their index offence.

Most offenders (28,900) in the offending cohort in the 12 months to March 2013, had an index disposal of Reprimand or Warning⁸. Around 17,100 had a First Tier Penalty such as a youth referral order or discharge.

Only 1,700 offenders had been in custody. The binary reoffending rate is the highest for this group (67.9%), but the rate has fallen over the last two years. However, binary offending rates should not be used to compare effectiveness of sentences.⁹

Time to first reoffence

In the 12 months ending March 2013, close to half (46%) of reoffenders reoffended within 3 months of their index disposal or date of release from custody, with 20% reoffending within a month and 71% within 6 months. These proportions were similar to those in the previous year. Compared with the 12 months to March 2007, offenders are reoffending earlier; the proportion reoffending within 3 months has increased (by about 3 percentage points).

In the same year, the modal time¹⁰ for reoffenders to reoffend occurred between two and three months from disposal or release. For those who have left custody, the modal time was between two and three months; for young people with an index offence of Fraud or Summary Motoring offences, or for Black or Asian young people, it was between four and six months.

⁷ It is not appropriate to report the proportion of offenders by index disposal category. This is because some offenders will appear in more than one disposal category and so the number of offenders in each category will not sum to the total number of offenders. More information is available in the reoffending 'Definitions and Measurement' document published by the Ministry of Justice at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics.

⁸ These were abolished on 8 April 2013 by the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 and replaced by youth cautions and youth conditional cautions. However, they are still relevant for the reporting periods within this report.

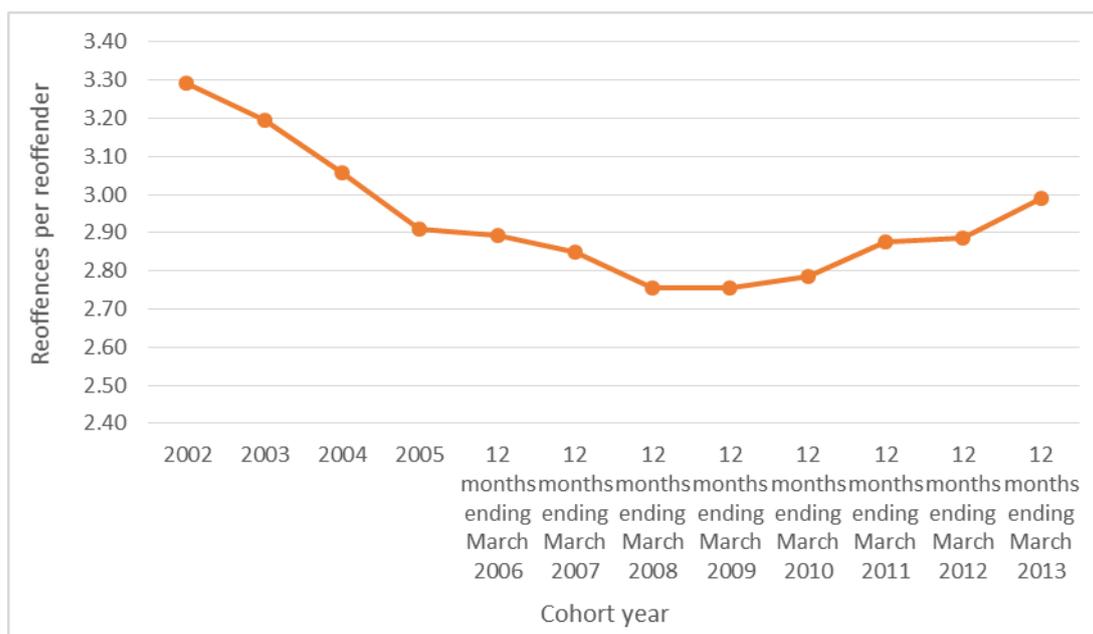
⁹ This is because there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics and the type of sentence given.

¹⁰ The mode is the value that occurs most often.

Reoffences per reoffender¹¹

The 19,000 reoffenders in the 2012/13 offending cohort committed about 56,800 reoffences between them. Therefore, the average number of reoffences per reoffender is 2.99. This is 4% higher than the rate in the previous year (2.88), even though there were more reoffences and reoffenders (72,100 reoffences, 25,000 reoffenders), **figure 1.4**.

Figure 1.4: Reoffences per reoffender, 2002 to year ending March 2013, England and Wales



¹¹ This is the preferred measure used in the Proven Reoffending Statistics Quarterly Bulletin in Proven reoffending statistics published by the Ministry of Justice available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics>. There is another measure, reoffences per offender. Detailed analysis for this is available in section 3.5.

2 Introduction

Reducing reoffending by young people is a priority both for ministers and for the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB).

To achieve this, the YJB embarked upon a three year 'reducing reoffending' project. This includes both national analysis and direct work that supports local service providers in analysing the issues in their local reoffending cohorts and developing actions to address them.

This report presents an in depth analysis of statistics on proven reoffending, from 2002 up until the year ending March 2013.

Although the report gives some comparisons of reoffending measures for adults, it focuses primarily on those aged 10-17. This includes young people who were either released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, or received a reprimand or warning¹².

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.

More recent [key statistics on proven reoffending](#) in England and Wales are published by the Ministry of Justice¹³ and derived from the Police National Computer database. The latest publication covers juvenile offenders who were either released from custody, or received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, or received a reprimand or warning in the period January to December 2013.

Methodology

Data from published sources has been examined as well as an extract of 8 years of information provided by MoJ (for the years 2005/06 to 2012/13) for the following measures:

- Number of offenders in the cohort;
- Number of reoffenders;
- Number of reoffences;
- The percentage of offenders who reoffended (Binary reoffending rate);
- The average number of reoffences per offender (Frequency rate); and

¹² Reprimands and warnings were abolished on 8 April 2013 by the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 and replaced by youth cautions and youth conditional cautions. However, they are still reported on here as the cohort years are prior to the change.

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics>

- The average number of previous offences per offender.

The analysis includes both the number of offenders, reoffenders and reoffences and figures on reoffending rates. This allows us to see overall numbers and the frequency that offences are being committed at. Trends in reoffending have been examined, as well as a breakdown by age, gender, ethnic group¹⁴, index offence¹⁵, index disposal¹⁶, number of previous offences and the time from release or disposal to first reoffence.

Statement of use

The focus of this publication is to present national analysis of proven reoffending data for young people (aged 10-17) in England and Wales.

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

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

¹⁴ As provided on the Police National Computer and recorded by the Police (not self-reported).

¹⁵ The index offence is the proven offence that leads to an offender being included in the cohort.

¹⁶ The index disposal of the offender is the type of sentence the offender received for their index offence. The number of offenders in each disposal category do not sum to the total number of offenders. This is due to a difference in methodology to provide a realistic and relevant view of proven reoffending by disposal type. The first event within each disposal is taken as the start point. Therefore, some offenders will appear in more than one disposal category.

3 Detailed Analysis

This part covers an in depth analysis of statistics on proven reoffending, for young people who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, or received a reprimand or warning from 2002 up until the year ending March 2013.

There are separate sections that cover the key characteristics of the offenders in the cohort, those of them that go on to reoffend and the reoffences they commit. There are also sections on the binary (proven) reoffending rate and rate of reoffences per offender (frequency rate).

3.1 Offenders

In the year ending March 2013 (2012/13), there were around 52,600 offenders in the cohort – a fall of 25% in the last year; 70% since the 2006/07 peak and 61% since 2002. These falls are in line with the pattern of first time entrants to the criminal justice system where the number of young people receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction has also decreased. When analysed by characteristic, all types have fallen since the 2006/07 peak i.e. there have been falls in the number of offenders for each gender, age-group, ethnicity, index disposal¹⁷ and index offence¹⁸. The number of offenders associated with the more common types of offence have changed over time as shown in **Figure 3.1**. Between 2002 and 2012/13, there were large falls in the number of offenders with the main offence of Criminal Damage and Arson (81%), Violence Against the Person (68%), Theft (69%) and Summary Non-motoring offences¹⁹ (56%).

¹⁷ The index disposal of the offender is the type of sentence the offender received for their index offence.

¹⁸ The offence that leads to an offender being included in the relevant year is called the index offence.

¹⁹ For example Common Assault and Criminal Damage up to the value of £5,000.

Figure 3.1: Number of offenders for the most common index offence type, 2002 to year ending March 2013, England and Wales

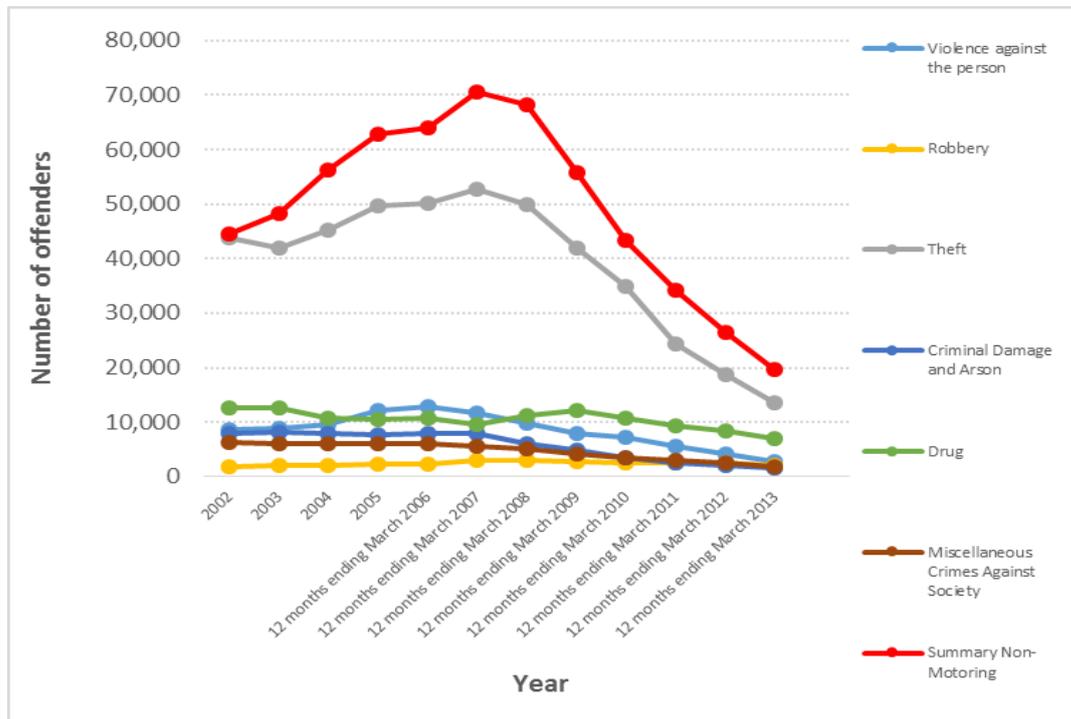
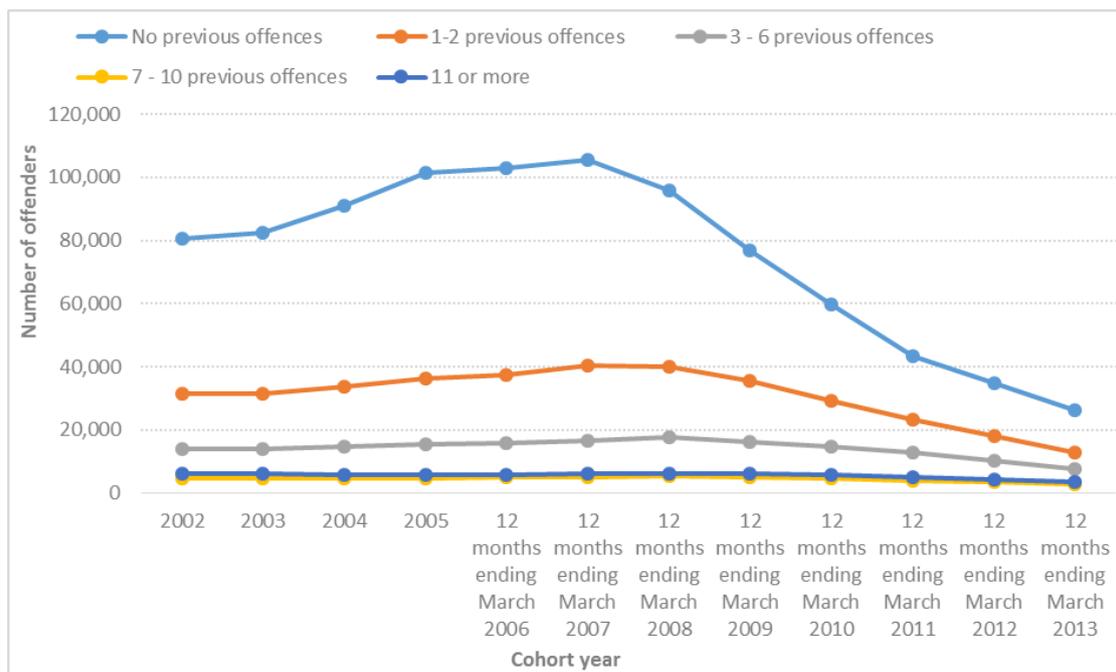


Figure 3.2 shows details of the criminal history of those young people in the cohort from 2002 to 2012/13. It shows that the number of offenders having no previous offences has had the largest fall - by 67% since 2002. Around half of offenders in 2012/13 had no previous offences.

Figure 3.2: Number of offenders by number of previous offences, from 2002 to the year ending March 2013, England and Wales



Although the number of offenders has fallen for all characteristics (or variables) considered, the cohort of offenders (and reoffenders) has changed considerably since 2002. **Figure 3.3** shows that the number of offenders aged 10-14 and 15-17 rose from 2002 to 2006/07 and has since declined. However, the proportion of offenders aged 15-17 has increased (**Figure 3.4**). In 2006/07, 62% of offenders were aged 15-17 as compared with 76% in 2012/13. The average age of young people who offended has increased from 14.89 to 2002 to 15.44 in 2012/13.

Figure 3.5: Number of offenders by age-group, 2002 to year ending March 2013, England and Wales

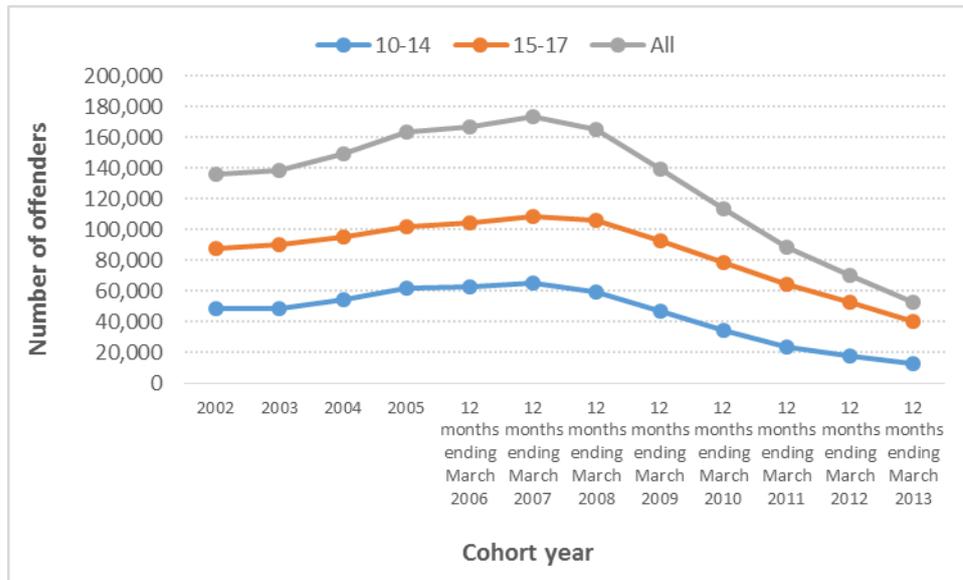


Figure 3.4: Proportion of offenders by age-group, 2002 to year ending March 2013, England and Wales

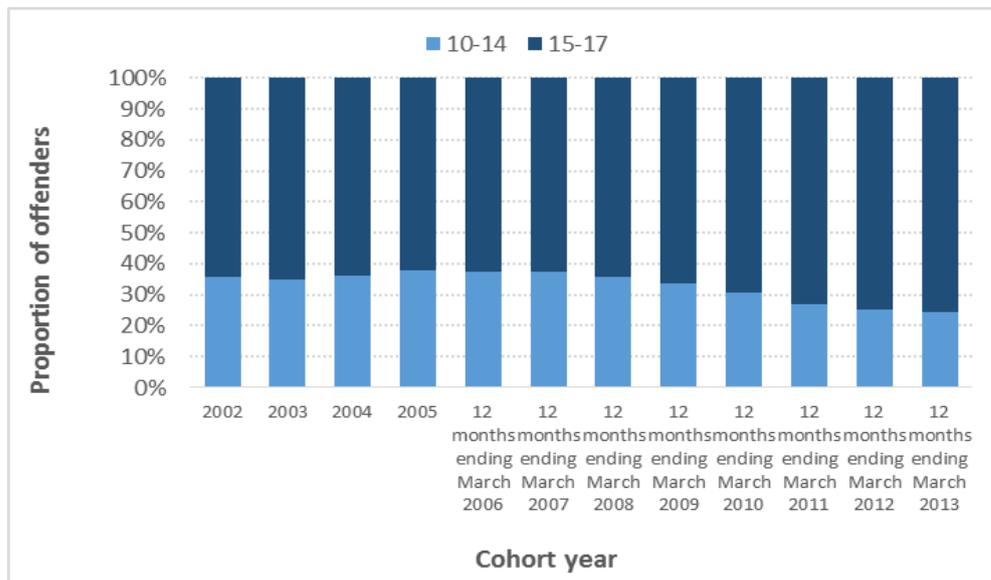


Table 3.1 shows the main characteristics of offenders for the start (2002) and end of the periods (2012/13) being observed, the previous year (2011/12) and for the peak year (2006/07).

Summary of Changes in the Offending Cohort

Table 3.1 shows that offenders in 2012/13 were predominantly:

- Male (accounting for 79% of all offenders);
- Aged 15-17 (76%), with 31% aged 17;
- White (81%);
- Having an index offence of Summary Non-motoring (37%) or Theft (26%);
- Having an index disposal²⁰ of Reprimand or Warning²¹ (28,900) or First Tier Penalty (17,100), such as youth referral order or discharge. Only 1,700 offenders had been in custody;
- Having no previous offences (50%), 1-2 previous offences (25%) or 3-6 previous offences (14%). 6% of offenders had 11 or more previous offences;
- Having no previous custodial order (97%).

Since 2002:

- There has been a larger percentage fall in the number of offenders who were female. This has meant that there has been a small increase in the proportion of males from 77% to 79% (and a more marked change since 2006/07).
- The proportion of offenders in the cohort aged 10-14 has decreased, and that for those aged 15-17 it has increased (the proportion aged 17 has increased by 11 percentage points since 2006/07);
- The proportion of those who are Black (11%) or Asian (5%) has increased, whilst the proportion of those who are White has decreased (81%);
- There have been small recent increases in the proportion of offenders who have the main offence as related to Drugs, Robbery or Sexual offences; The proportion having a First Tier Penalty or Custody has increased, whilst the proportion having a Reprimand or Warning has decreased;

²⁰ It is not appropriate to report the proportion of offenders by index disposal category. This is because some offenders will appear in more than one disposal category and so the number of offenders in each category will not sum to the total number of offenders. More information is available in the reoffending 'Definitions and Measurement' document published by the Ministry of Justice at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics.

²¹ These were abolished on 8 April 2013 by the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 and replaced by youth cautions and youth conditional cautions. However, they are still relevant for the reporting periods within this report.

- The proportion of young people having no previous offences has generally decreased, whilst the proportion having 3 or more offences has increased.

Table 3.1: Summary of the Characteristics of Offenders (Reoffending cohort) for selected years between 2002 and the year ending March 2013, England and Wales

Characteristic	2002 % of total	2006/07 % of total	2011/12 % of total	2012/13 % of total
Gender:				
Males	77.0%	73.0%	78.2%	79.5%
Females	23.0%	27.0%	21.8%	20.5%
Age²²:				
10-14 years	35.6%	37.5%	25.2%	24.4%
15-17 years	64.4 %	62.5%	74.8%	75.6%
15	..	20.9%	19.3%	19.8%
16	..	21.1%	24.8%	24.5%
17	..	20.5%	30.6%	31.3%
Average age	..	14.88	15.41	15.44
Ethnicity (top three only):				
White	..	85.3%	81.6%	81.3%
Black	..	7.4%	10.5%	10.7%
Asian	..	3.6%	4.7%	4.6%
Other	..	0.5%	0.9%	0.9%
Not Recorded	..	3.2%	2.4%	2.6%
BAME	..	11.5%	16.0%	16.1%
Index Offence²³ (top five only):				
Summary Non-motoring	32.7%	40.6%	37.6%	37.3%
Theft	32.1%	30.3%	26.6%	25.9%
Drug	9.3%	5.5%	11.8%	13.1%
Violence Against the Person	6.4%	6.7%	5.8%	5.2%
Robbery	1.3%	1.7%	3.68%	3.96%
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	4.6%	3.3%	3.7%	3.4%
Index Disposal Group²⁴:				

²² Age at date of release from custody, court conviction for non-custodial sentences, or receipt for a caution, reprimand or final warning.

²³ The offence that leads to an offender being included in the relevant year is called the index offence.

Reprimand or Warning ²⁵	90,691	125,962	39,220	28,945
First Tier Penalty	35,988	40,162	23,300	17,122
Youth Rehabilitation Order ²⁶	-	-	12,426	9,182
Youth Community Penalty	20,651	21,586	432	314
Custody	3,884	3,435	1,974	1,666
Other	2,962	3,491	4,609	3,619
Number of previous offences²⁷:				
None	59.0%	60.9%	49.1%	49.7%
1-2	23.0%	23.3%	25.6%	24.6%
3-6	10.2%	9.5%	14.5%	14.3%
7-10	3.4%	2.9%	5.0%	5.1%
11 or more	4.4%	3.4%	5.9%	6.2%
Total	136,401	173,588	70,504	52,648

- Zero

.. Not available; data provided from an extract covering 8 years of information for the years ending March 2006 to 2013.

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

3.2 Reoffenders

In 2012/13, there were around 19,000 reoffenders, a 58% decrease on the 2002 figure of around 45,500 and a 67% fall on the number in 2006/07.

²⁴ The index disposal of the offender is the type of sentence the offender received for their index offence. It is not appropriate to report the proportion of offenders by index disposal category. This is because some offenders will appear in more than one disposal category and so the number of offenders in each category will not sum to the total number of offenders. More information is available in the reoffending 'Definitions and Measurement' document published by the Ministry of Justice at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics.

²⁵ These were abolished on 8 April 2013 by the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 and replaced by youth cautions and youth conditional cautions. However, they are still relevant for the reporting periods within this report.

²⁶ Youth Rehabilitation Order is a community sentence for juvenile offenders, which came into effect on 30 November 2009 as part of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. It replaced the Youth Community Penalty.

²⁷ This is the number of previous offences prior to the reference year.

Figure 3.5: Number of reoffenders by gender, 2002 to year ending March 2013, England and Wales

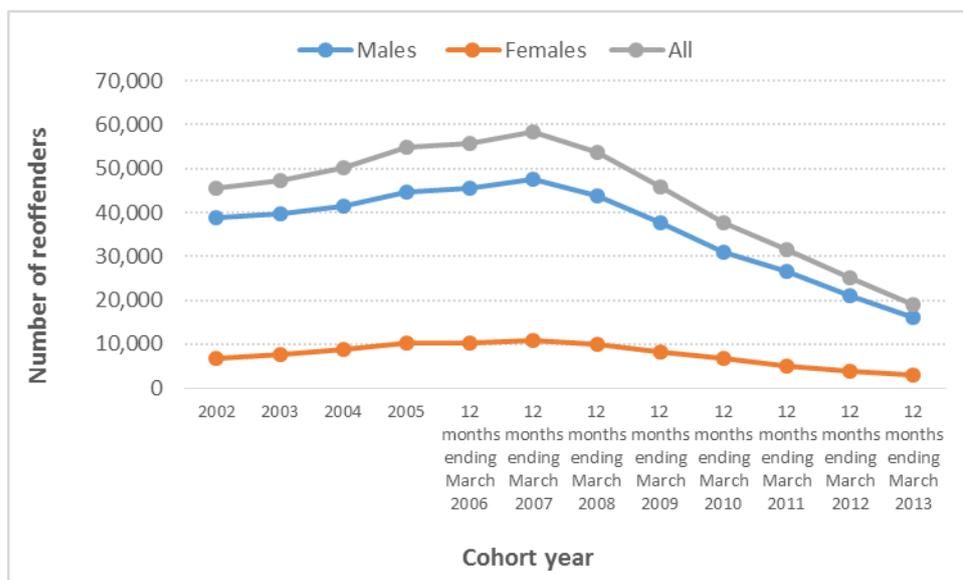


Figure 3.5 shows that the number of all reoffenders increased up until 2006/07. Since then, the number of male reoffenders has fallen by 66% and female reoffenders by 74%.

As well as information on the age when an offender entered the cohort, there are details of the age of the person at the time of the first reoffence. In 2012/13, reoffenders aged 10-14²⁸ accounted for a falling proportion of all young reoffenders (19%), whilst 70% were aged 15-17 and 11% were aged 18. The average age at the time of reoffence went up from 15.4 in 2006/07 to 15.86 in 2012/13.

The number of reoffenders by ethnic group follows a similar trend to the overall number of offenders, with a peak in 2006/07 followed by a year on year decrease. The number of young offenders with a White ethnic group has fallen by 70% since 2006/07; those who were Black by 50% and those who were Asian by 54%. Subsequently, the proportion of reoffenders who were Black has increased from 8% in 2005/06 to 13% in 2012/13 (**Figure 3.6**).

²⁸ Age at the time of the first reoffence.

Figure 3.6: Proportion of reoffenders by ethnicity, year ending March 2006 to 2013, England and Wales

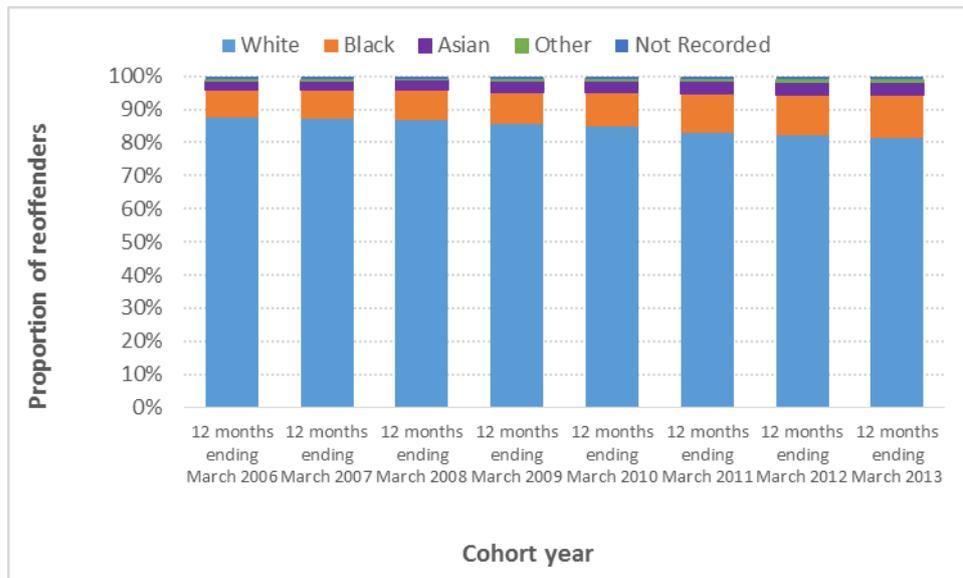


Figure 3.7 shows the index offence (the offence that led to a person being in the cohort) and the index for the first reoffence, for 2012/13. It shows that the main types of offence types for both offence and first reoffence were: Summary Non-motoring, Theft and Drug related offences.

For some reoffenders, the main offence type for the offence and first reoffence was the same. For example, 51% of those whose offence was Summary Non-motoring had the same first reoffence; 42% who had Theft for the offence also had Theft for the first reoffence and 39% of those who had Drugs as their main offence had it as the first reoffence.

However, for other reoffenders there was a change in the main offence. For example, of those who had their main offence as Violence Against the Person, 46% had the first reoffence as Summary Non-motoring; 20% had Theft; 9% had Drug and 8% had Violence Against the Person.

Figure 3.7: Proportion of reoffenders by index offence and index reoffence, year ending March 2013, England and Wales

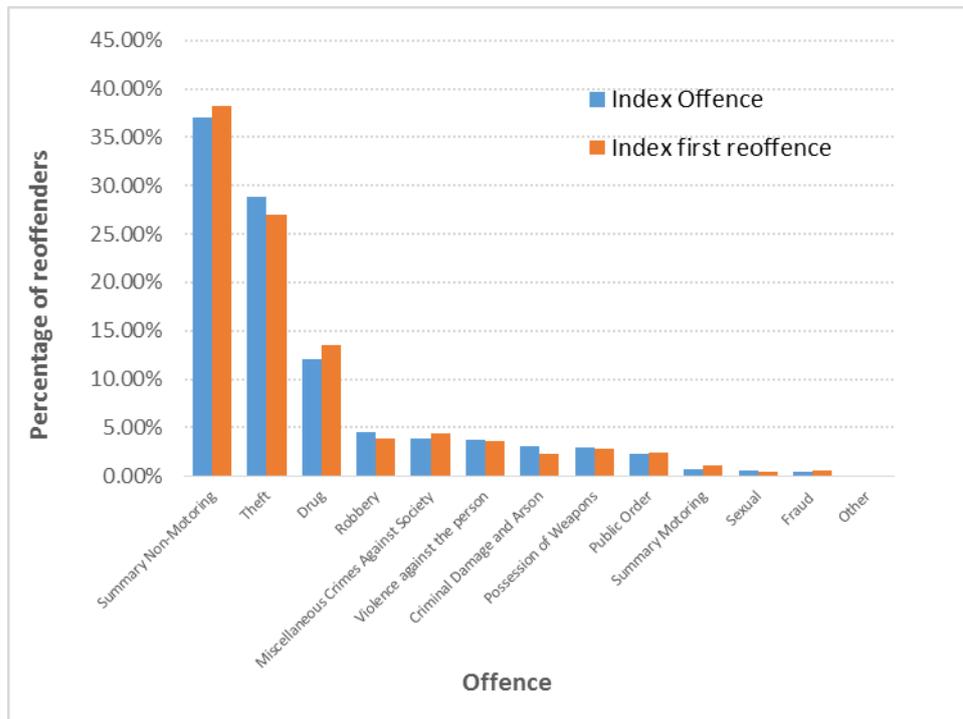
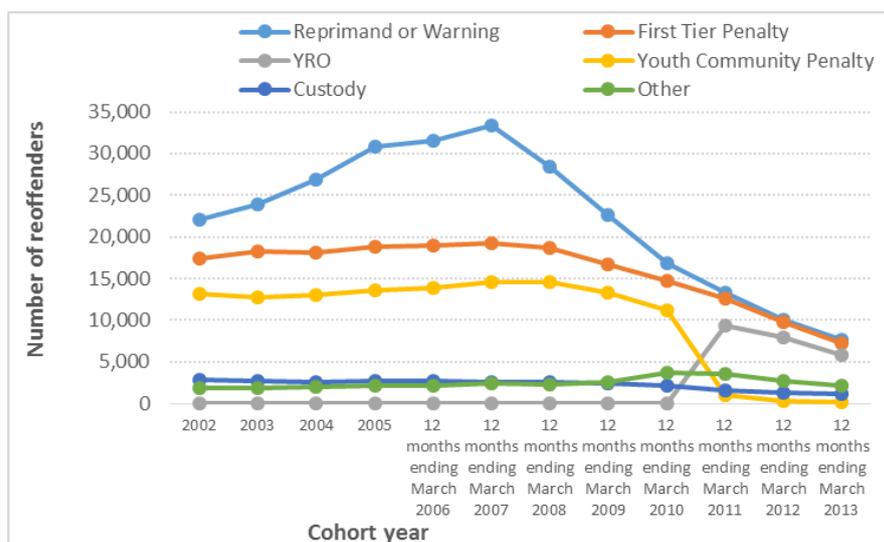


Figure 3.7 shows the index disposal²⁹ for the period 2002 to 2012/13. It shows that the number of reoffenders having Reprimands or Warnings has reduced substantially from 2006/07 (a fall of 77%) and are now similar in number to those having a First Tier Penalty. Youth Community Penalties were replaced by Youth Rehabilitation Orders, which came into effect on 30 November 2009 and reflected in the 2010/11 cohort.

²⁹ The index disposal of the offender is the type of sentence the offender received for their index offence. The number of offenders in each disposal category do not sum to the total number of offenders. This is due to a difference in methodology to provide a realistic and relevant view of proven reoffending by disposal type. The first event within each disposal is taken as the start point. Therefore, some offenders will appear in more than one disposal category.

Figure 3.8: Number of reoffenders by index disposal, 2002 to year ending March 2013, England and Wales



Reoffenders and time to first reoffence

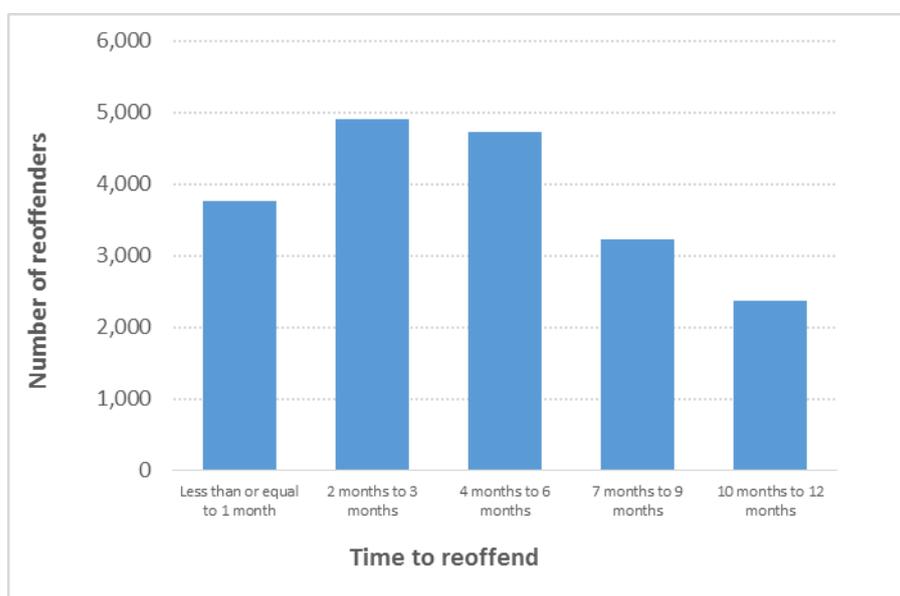
The time *from* entering the cohort (*from* when the disposal was given for the original offence, or in the case of custody, the date of release) *to* the time to first reoffence (this would include those released from the custody part of a Detention and Training Order) is available for those young people who reoffended (18,998 reoffenders in 2012/13). For 2012/13 (see **figure 3.9**):

- 20% of reoffenders committed a reoffence within one month;
- 26% of reoffenders committed a reoffence between two and three months;
- 25% of reoffenders committed a reoffence between three and six months;
- 17% of reoffenders committed a reoffence between seven and nine months;
- 13% of reoffenders committed a reoffence between ten and twelve months.

The modal time³⁰ for reoffenders to reoffend occurred between two and three months from disposal or release. This value varies by characteristic – for example, it occurs at two to three months for those who have left custody; four to six months for those with an index offence of Fraud; four to six months for Black or Asian young people; four to six months for Summary Motoring offences.

³⁰ The mode is the value that occurs most often.

Figure 3.9: Reoffenders by time to first reoffence, year ending March 2013, England and Wales



Summary of changes in the number of reoffenders

Characteristics of reoffenders has changed considerably since 2002. **Table 3.2** shows the main characteristics of reoffenders for the start (2002) and end of the periods (2012/13) being observed, the previous year (2011/12) and for the peak year (2006/07).

Table 3.2 shows the proportion of reoffenders in 2012/13 by characteristic. Reoffenders were predominantly:

- Male (accounting for 85% of all reoffenders);
- Aged 15-17 (76%), with 31% aged 17 at the time of the index offence. 81% were aged 15-18 at the time of the reoffence;
- White (81%);
- Having an index offence of Summary Non-motoring (37%) and Theft (29%);
- Having an index first reoffence of Summary Non-motoring (38%) and Theft (27%);
- Having an index disposal of Reprimand or Warning (7,600), First Tier Penalty such as Youth Discharge or Youth Referral Order (7,300);
- Having no previous offences (32%), 1-2 previous offences (26%) or 3-6 previous offences (21%). 13% of reoffenders had 11 or more previous offences;
- Having no previous custodial order (94%).

- The modal time for reoffenders for reoffending occurred two to three months after the disposal for the offence or release from custody (26%).

Since 2002:

- The proportion of reoffenders in the cohort aged 10-14 at time of offence has decreased, with a corresponding increase for those aged 15-17 from 69% in 2002 to 76% in 2012/13. (The proportion of those aged 17 has increased by 9 percentage points since 2006/07);
- The average age of reoffenders at the time of offence has increased from 15.0 in 2006/07 to 15.47 in 2012/13;
- The proportion of those who are Black has increased (from 9% in 2006/07 to 13% in 2012/13), whilst that for White young people has decreased (from 87% in 2006/07 to 81% in 2012/13);
- The proportion of those having an index offence (and index of first reoffence) of Drug offences has increased;
- Excepting the last year, the proportion of young people having no previous offences has decreased, whilst the proportion having 3 or more offences has increased. The proportion of reoffenders having 11 or more previous offences has increased from 8% in 2006/07 to 13% in 2012/13.

Table 3.2: Summary of the Characteristics of Reoffenders for selected years between 2002 and year ending March 2013, England and Wales

Characteristic	2002	2006/07	2011/12	2012/13
	% of total	% of total	% of total	% of total
Gender:				
Males	85.2%	81.5%	84.7%	85.1%
Females	14.8%	18.5%	15.4%	14.9%
Age³¹:				
10-14 years	31.2%	34.8%	24.5%	23.8%
15-17 years	68.8 %	65.2%	75.5%	76.2%
15	..	21.7%	19.9%	20.1%
16	..	21.5%	24.9%	25.0%
17	..	22.0%	30.6%	31.1%
Average age at offence	..	15.00	15.45	15.47
Age at first reoffence				
10-14	..	27.8%	19.1%	18.6%
15-18	..	72.2%	81.0%	81.4%
Average age at	..	15.40	15.83	15.86

³¹ This is age at date of release from custody, court conviction for non-custodial sentences, receipt for a caution, reprimand or final warning.

first reoffence				
Ethnicity :				
White	..	87.3%	82.0%	81.2%
Black	..	8.5%	12.3%	13.0%
Asian	..	2.9%	4.0%	4.1%
Other	..	0.4%	0.8%	0.9%
Not Recorded	..	1.0%	0.9%	1.0%
BAME	..	11.8%	17.1%	17.9%
Index Offence³² (top five only):				
Summary Non-motoring	33.9%	41.7%	37.6%	37.0%
Theft	31.2%	27.7%	28.4%	28.9%
Drug	8.4%	5.9%	11.1%	12.1%
Robbery	1.8%	2.2%	4.2%	4.6%
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	5.9%	4.2%	4.5%	3.9%
First Reoffence (top five only):				
Summary Non-motoring	..	42.6%	39.1%	38.2%
Theft	..	25.7%	27.3%	27.0%
Drugs	..	6.6%	12.4%	13.6%
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society		4.5%	4.6%	4.4%
Robbery	..	2.5%	4.0%	3.8%
Index Disposal Group³³:				
Reprimand or Warning	22,122	33,430	10,061	7,630
First Tier Penalty	17,414	19,179	9,804	7,283
Youth Rehabilitation Order ³⁴	-	-	7,902	5,833

³² The offence that leads to an offender being included in the relevant year is called the index offence.

³³ The index disposal of the offender is the type of sentence the offender received for their index offence. It is not appropriate to report the proportion of offenders by index disposal category. This is because some offenders will appear in more than one disposal category and so the number of offenders in each category will not sum to the total number of offenders. More information is available in the reoffending 'Definitions and Measurement' document published by the Ministry of Justice at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics.

³⁴ The Youth Rehabilitation Order came into effect on the 30 November 2009 as part of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 and replaced the Youth Community Penalty.

Youth Community Penalty	13,104	14,632	275	199
Custody	2,906	2,563	1,368	1,131
Other	1,843	2,370	2,767	2,177
Number of previous offences³⁵:				
None	37.4%	41.2%	30.5%	31.7%
1-2	27.4%	27.8%	26.8%	25.8%
3-6	17.6%	16.5%	21.3%	20.7%
7-10	7.0%	6.2%	8.8%	8.8%
11 or more	10.7%	8.2%	12.6%	13.1%
Time to first reoffence				
Less than or equal to one month	..	17.9%	20.0%	19.8%
2 months to 3 months	..	24.4%	25.6%	25.9%
4 months to 6 months	..	25.5%	24.7%	24.9%
7 months to 9 months	..	18.4%	17.2%	17.0%
10 months to 12 months	..	13.8%	12.6%	12.5%
Serious offences	20.3%	16.9%	20.3%	20.6%
Serious violent/sexual offences ³⁶	2.0%	1.7%	1.8%	2.0%
Serious acquisitive ³⁷	18.8%	15.5%	18.8%	19.0%
Total	45,542	58,275	25,009	18,998

- Zero

.. Not available; data provided from an extract covering 8 years of information for the years ending March 2006 to 2013.

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

³⁵ This is the number of previous offences prior to the reference year.

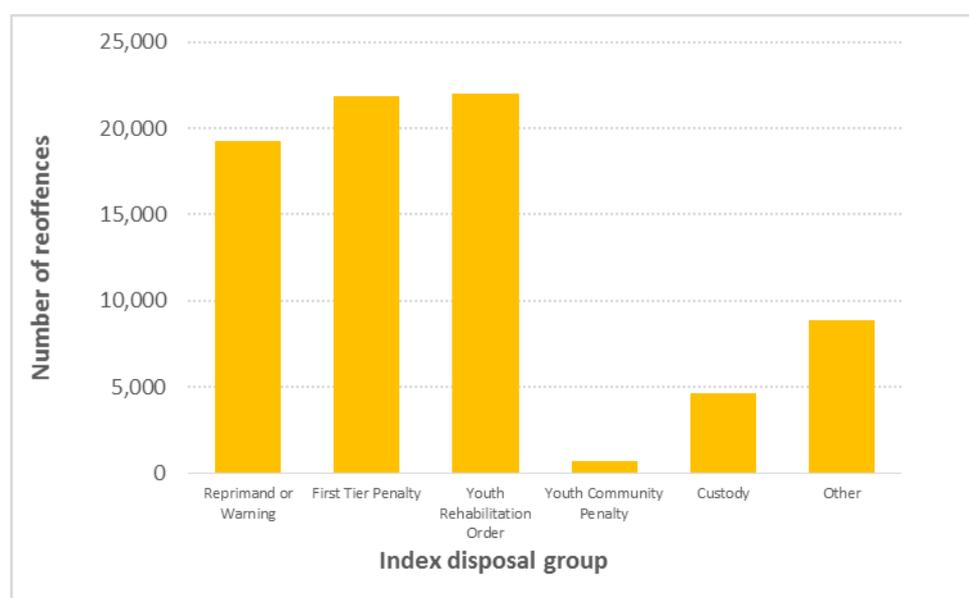
³⁶ *Serious violence against the person* - involving serious violence against the person, a sexual offence, aggravated vehicle taking, manslaughter.

³⁷ *Serious acquisitive offences* - burglary, robbery, taking and driving away, theft from or of a vehicle.

3.3 Reoffences

The number of reoffences has declined year on year since 2006/07, in line with the fall in offenders and reoffenders. The number of reoffences has fallen by 66% since 2006/07. Generally, there are similar patterns for reoffences as for reoffenders, but the distribution is different for the index disposal group. The most common types of disposal for reoffences were Youth Rehabilitation Order and First Tier Penalty (the most common for reoffenders was Reprimand or Warning followed by First Tier Penalty).

Figure 3.10: Number of reoffences by index disposal, year ending March 2013, England and Wales



In 2012/13 there were 6,173 Serious reoffences of which the vast majority (93%) were Serious acquisitive reoffences and the remainder were Serious violent/sexual reoffences. The number of Serious reoffences has fallen by 56% since 2002.

In 2012/13, reoffences³⁸ were predominantly for:

- Males (accounting for 86% of all reoffences);
- Those aged 15-17 (76%), with 30% for those aged 17 at the time of the offence;
- Those who were White (82%);
- Having an index offence of Summary Non-motoring (36%) or Theft (32%);
- Having an index disposal of Youth Rehabilitation Order or First Tier Penalty (both 39%);
- Having no previous custodial order (92%);

³⁸ Results will be influenced by offenders who have reoffended more than once.

- Almost a fifth of reoffences were for those who had 11 or more previous offences.

Since 2002:

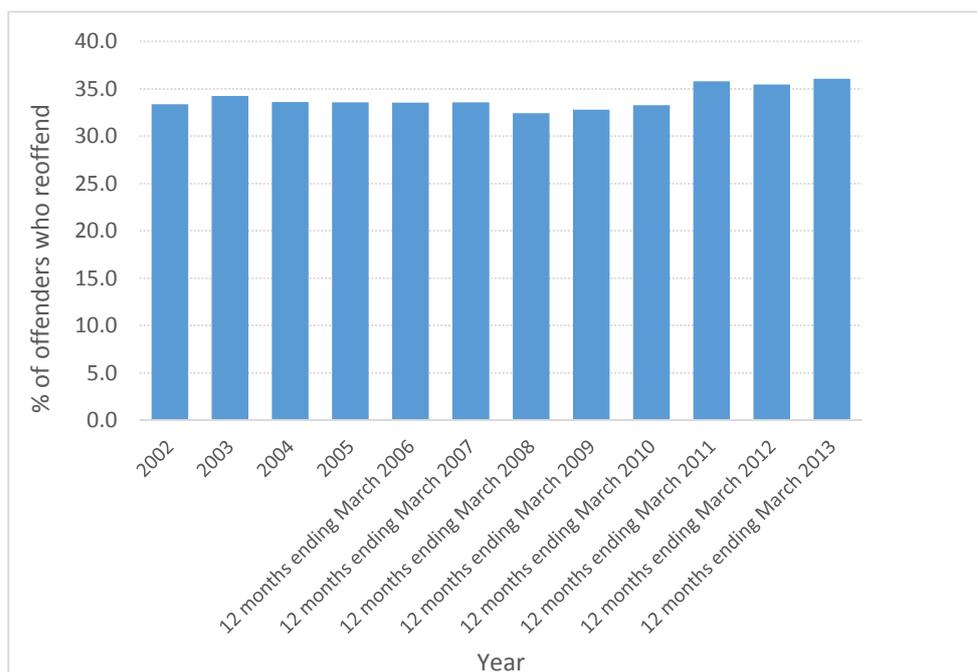
- The number of reoffences committed by males has decreased by 63%, with a 58% decrease in reoffences by females (although this is based on a smaller number). This means that the proportion of reoffences by females has increased (from 12% to 14%).
- The number of reoffences by 10-14 year olds has decreased by 67%, whilst the number for 15-17 year olds has gone down by 60%. The proportion of reoffences by those aged 15-17 at offence year olds has increased by 4 percentage points)
- The number of reoffences by those who were White has gone down by 68% since 2006/07 as compared with Black young people (down by 50%). There has been an increase in the proportion of reoffences committed by those who were Black, from 8% to 12% over the same time period.
- Although the number of reoffences associated with all types of offence has decreased, the proportion of offences that were Theft or Robbery have both increased since 2006/07 by 2 percentage points and for by 5 percentage points for Drug offences.

3.4 Proven Reoffending rate (Binary)

The reduction in the proportion of offenders who reoffend (or binary reoffending rate) is one of the three performance targets for the YJB (alongside reducing the number of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System and reducing the use of custody). Reoffending rates should be considered alongside the figures already presented in the previous sections.

Figure 3.11 shows that overall, there has been a 2.7 percentage point increase in the proven reoffending rate of young people since 2002 (from 33.4 to 36.1%).

Figure 3.11: Binary reoffending rates for young people, 2002 to the year ending March 2013, England and Wales



However, there is some variation in reoffending rates among Youth Offending Teams (YOTs), where the proven reoffending rate varied from 21.2% to 53.2% in 2012/13. A large part of this variability reflects the mix of offenders who are managed by different YOTs. **Table 3.3** shows the ten YOTs with the highest and lowest reoffending rates in 2012/13.

Table 3.3: Binary reoffending rates for YOTs, 2006/07, 2011/12 and 2012/13

YOT	Binary Reoffending rate		
	2006/07	2011/12	2012/13
Highest Reoffending Rates in 2012/13			
Cardiff	35.5%	47.7%	53.2%
Merthyr Tydfil	41.6%	50.0%	52.6%
Newcastle upon Tyne	38.2%	46.9%	50.5%
Hartlepool	40.0%	36.4%	50.0%
Vale of Glamorgan	32.7%	37.6%	49.4%
Islington	42.3%	42.4%	48.5%
Isle of Wight	37.4%	46.0%	48.0%
Hammersmith and Fulham	41.2%	43.4%	47.2%
Wandsworth	36.0%	39.3%	47.1%
Croydon	34.6%	42.4%	47.0%
Lowest Reoffending Rates in 2012/13			
Essex	30.6%	27.9%	27.4%

Torbay	26.3%	29.4%	26.7%
Warwickshire	31.2%	27.4%	26.4%
Stockton on Tees	34.5%	29.0%	26.4%
Windsor and Maidenhead	31.6%	20.9%	26.0%
Wiltshire	25.8%	33.3%	25.5%
Pembrokeshire	31.4%	31.1%	25.4%
Nottinghamshire	32.5%	28.0%	25.4%
Solihull	27.3%	26.9%	23.0%
Wokingham	27.1%	25.3%	21.2%

Figure 3.12 shows the binary proven reoffending rate for young people as compared with adults. The binary reoffending rate for young people has been increasing year on year since 2007/08, whilst the rate for adults has remained steady at around 25%. Although the two rates cannot be directly compared (as different systems and processes are in place), the rate for adults is generally lower. **Figure 3.13** shows the proportion of offenders who reoffend, for young people and adults by age group. It shows that those aged 15-17 have the highest proven reoffending rates of all people and that the rate reduces from age 18 onwards.

Figure 3.12: Binary reoffending rates for young people and adults, 2002 to the year ending March 2013, England and Wales

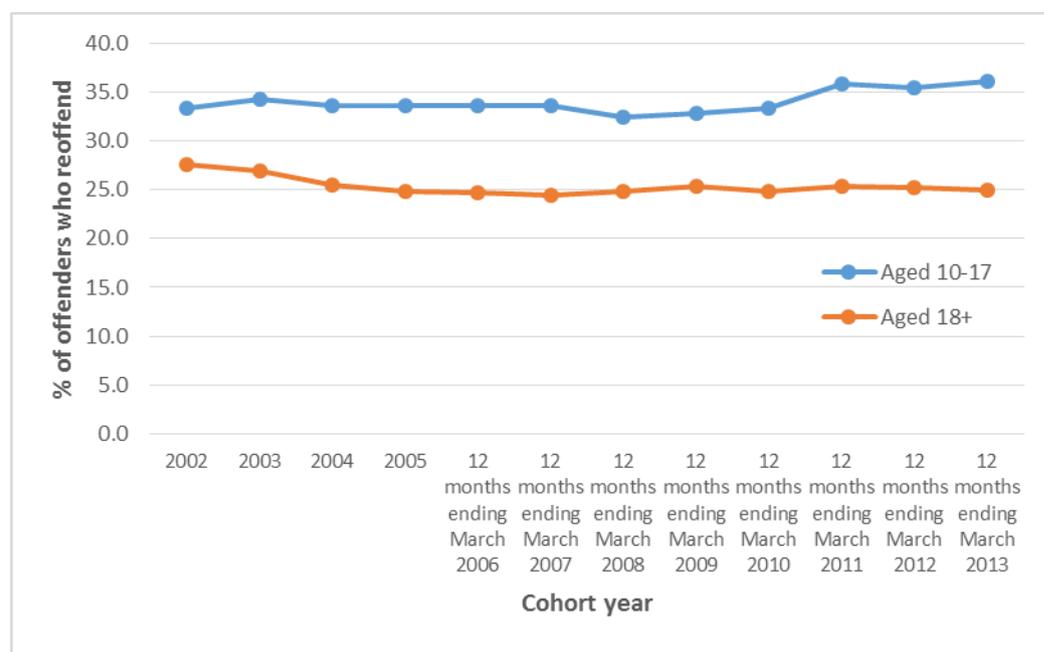
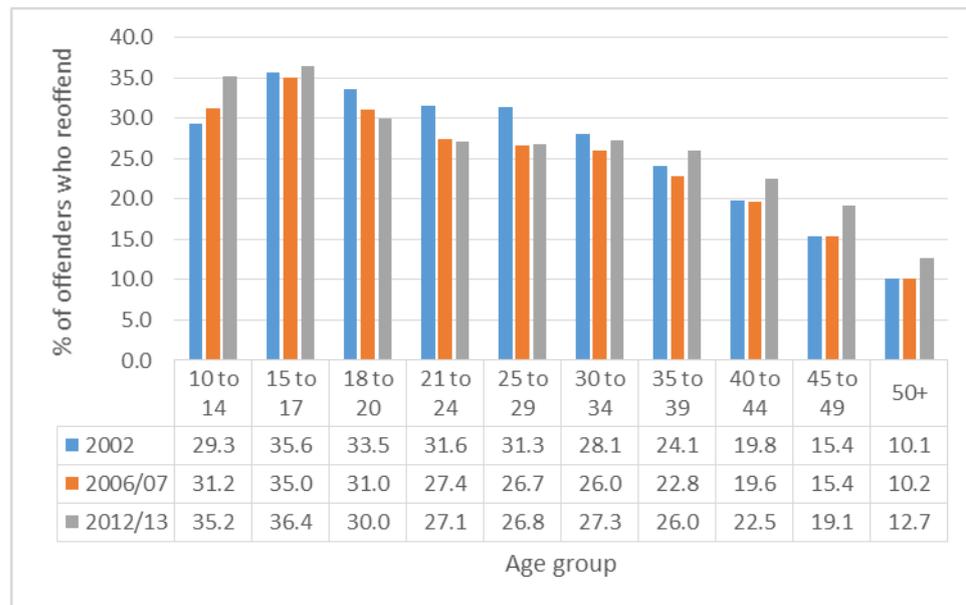


Figure 3.13: Binary reoffending rates by age-group, 2002 to year ending March 2013, England and Wales



The binary reoffending rate for 15-17 year olds is higher than for those aged 10-14 and as this group comprises the majority of young people who reoffend, they are the main driver of rates for all young people. However, when the reoffending rates were examined over time, the rate for those aged 10-14 has increased more sharply – by 5.9 percentage points compared with 2002. The rate for those aged 15-17 has risen by 0.7 percentage points over the same period.

When examined by gender, as males comprise the majority of young people who reoffend, the overall reoffending rate is driven by the rate for males (which shows a similar pattern, but is higher). Rates for both males and females have increased in the last year, by 1.7 and 4.7 percentage points respectively. Since 2009/10 there has been an increase in the reoffending rate for females.

Figure 3.14: Binary reoffending rates by gender, 2002 to year ending March 2013, England and Wales

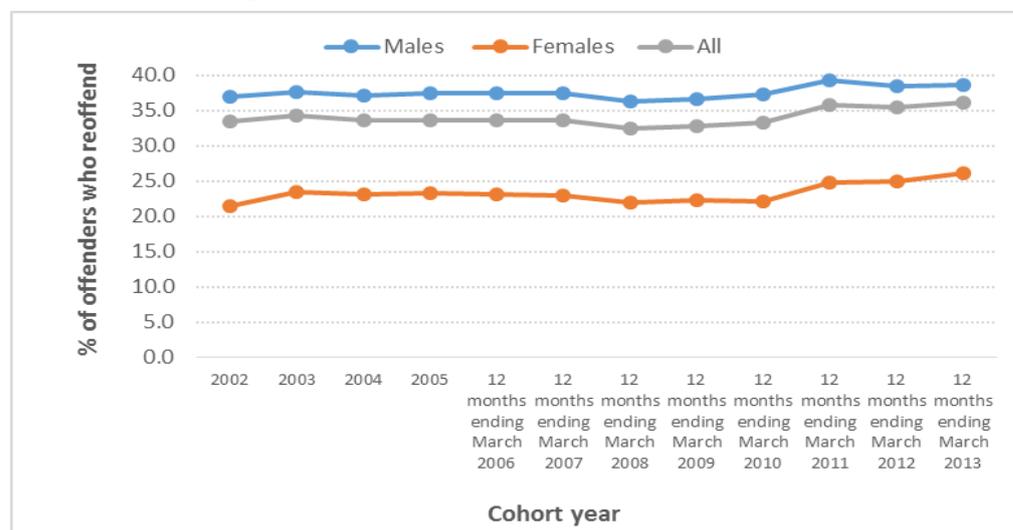
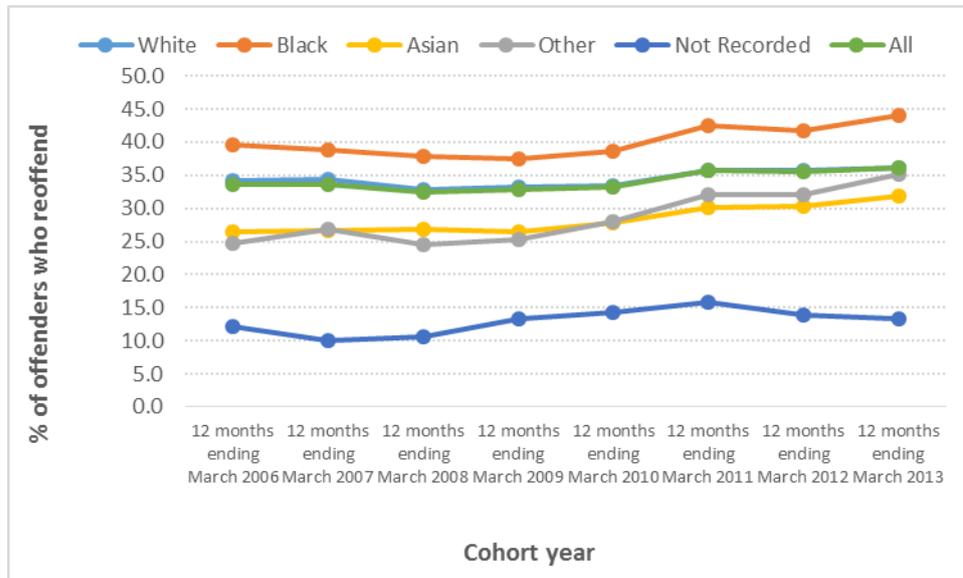


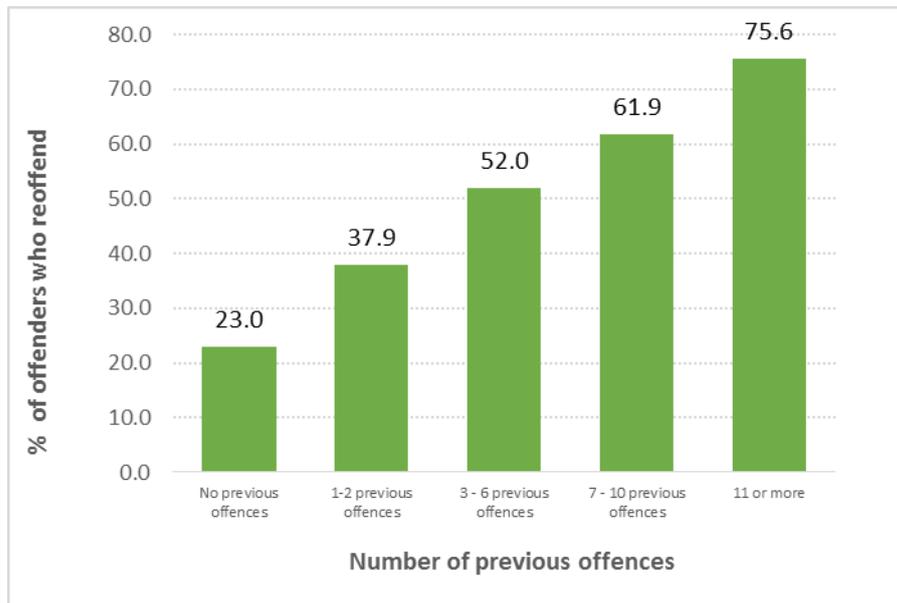
Figure 3.15: Binary reoffending rates by Ethnicity, year ending March 2006 to 2013, England and Wales



The ethnicity of a person is as defined by the Police on the Police National Computer and is based on appearance. It does not correspond with the self-reported ethnicity provided by young people and recorded by YOTs on YJMIS. The categories on PNC are limited and restricted to White, Black, Asian, Other or not recorded. **Figure 3.15** shows that those young people with ethnicity of Black have the highest reoffending rates, followed by those with an ethnicity of White. The rates for Black and Asian young people have increased steadily from 2008/09 and are now 43.9% and 31.8% respectively. The overall rates are driven by the rates of White young people as these form the largest volume of offenders and reoffenders.

An examination of the reoffending rates by number of previous offences (that is offences prior to being in the cohort of offenders) shows that the higher the number of previous offences, the higher the rate of reoffending. For example those young people with 11 or more previous offences had a reoffending rate of 75.6% in 2012/13, whilst those with 3-6 previous offences had a rate of 52.0% and those with no previous offences had a rate of 23%.

Figure 3.16: Binary reoffending rates by number of previous offences, for the year ending March 2013, England and Wales



Although it has remained high, the binary reoffending rate for those with 11 or more previous offences, has reduced by 5.2 percentage points since 2002, and has had small decreases yearly since 2006/07. There was a similar pattern for those having 7 -10 previous offences (reduced by 7.2 percentage points since 2002). However, the proportion of offenders that reoffended and had no previous offences has increased from 19.9% in 2009/10 to 23% in 2012/13.

Examined by index disposal³⁹ (the type of disposal relating to the offence), young people who have been in custody had the highest reoffending rates – 67.9% in 2012/13, followed by those with a Youth Community Penalty (63.4%). Those who had a Reprimand or Warning had the lowest reoffending rate – 26.4% in 2012/13. However, binary offending rates should not be used to compare effectiveness of sentences.⁴⁰

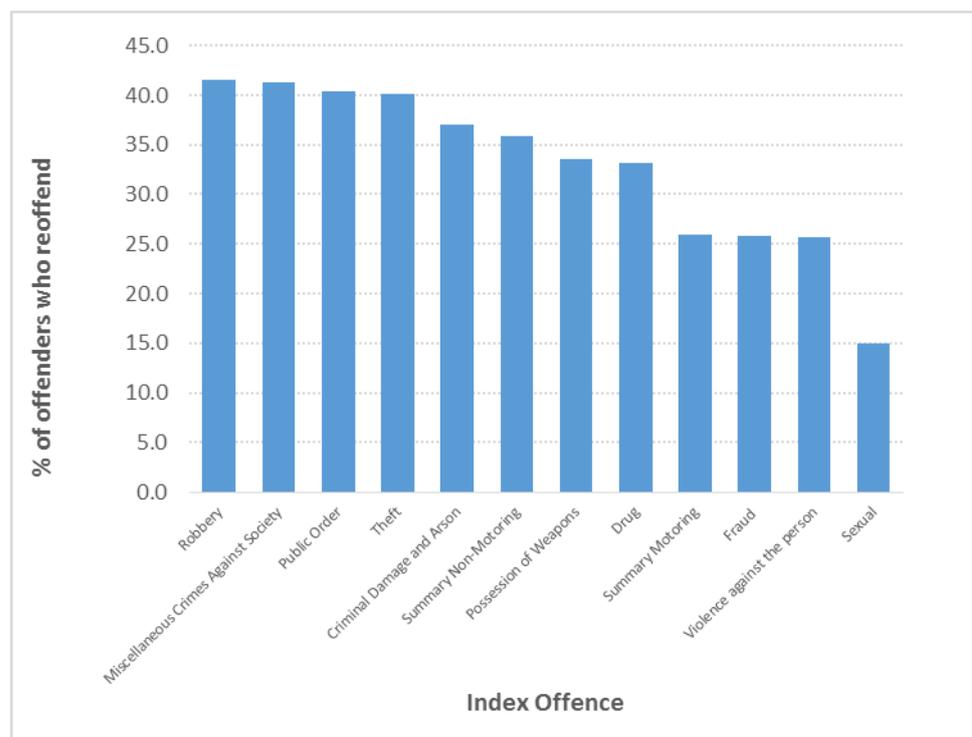
Binary reoffending rates by index offence are shown in **Figure 3.17**. The reoffending rate for those with an index offence of Robbery had the highest reoffending rate – 41.5% in 2012/13 followed by Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society (41.2%), Public Order (40.4%) and Theft (40.1%). The rate for Robbery has fallen since 2007/08, whilst there has been a rise in that for Theft offences.

³⁹ Offenders can appear in more than one disposal category. This is to provide a realistic and relevant view of proven re-offending by disposal.

⁴⁰ This is because there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics and the type of sentence given.

During the period April 2012 to March 2013, the reoffending rate for serious offences⁴¹ was 7.4%. After a decline, the rate has increased each year since 2007/08. The serious reoffending rate is dominated by the rate for serious acquisitive reoffences, rather than for serious violent or sexual offences.

Figure 3.17: Binary reoffending rates by index offence, year ending March 2013, England and Wales



In 2012/13 binary reoffending rates were highest amongst:

- Males (38.6%) and have shown a gradual increase;
- Those aged 15-17 (36.4%);
- Black young people (43.9%) and has increased since 2008/09;
- Those young people who had previously been in Custody (67.9%) and particularly those who had a custodial sentence of less than or equal to 6 months. However, there has been a fall in the rate for those who had been in Custody for the last two years ;
- Those with an index offence of Robbery, Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society, Public Order or Theft (for which the rates have been increasing);
- Those young people with a previous offending history have the highest reoffending rates. There were 3,285 offenders with 11 or more previous

⁴¹ A Serious offence is one involving serious violence against the person, a sexual offence, aggravated vehicle taking, burglary, robbery and theft from or of vehicles. A more detailed definition is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/225091/proven-reoffending-definitions-measurement.pdf

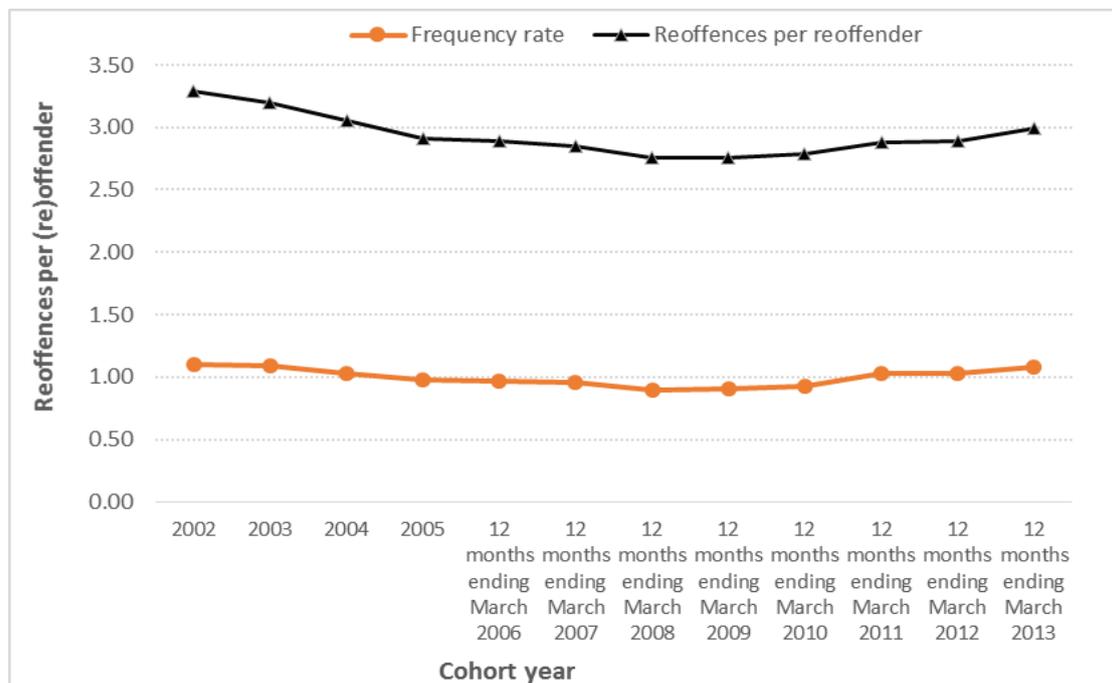
offences and they had a proven reoffending rate of 75.6%. This group make up only 6% of offenders, but committed almost a fifth of all proven reoffences (1,019).

3.5 Reoffences per offender (frequency rate) and reoffences per reoffender

The frequency rate is the average number of reoffences per offender in the cohort. An additional measure is the average number of reoffences per reoffender, both of which are examined in this section.

In the period April 2012 to March 2013, the average number of reoffences per offender was 1.08. The rate has risen since 2008/09, with a 5% rise between 2011/12 and 2012/13. The corresponding average number of offences per reoffender was 2.99 and has gone up by 4% in the last year.

Figure 3.18: Reoffences per offender and reoffences per reoffender, 2002 to year ending March 2013, England and Wales



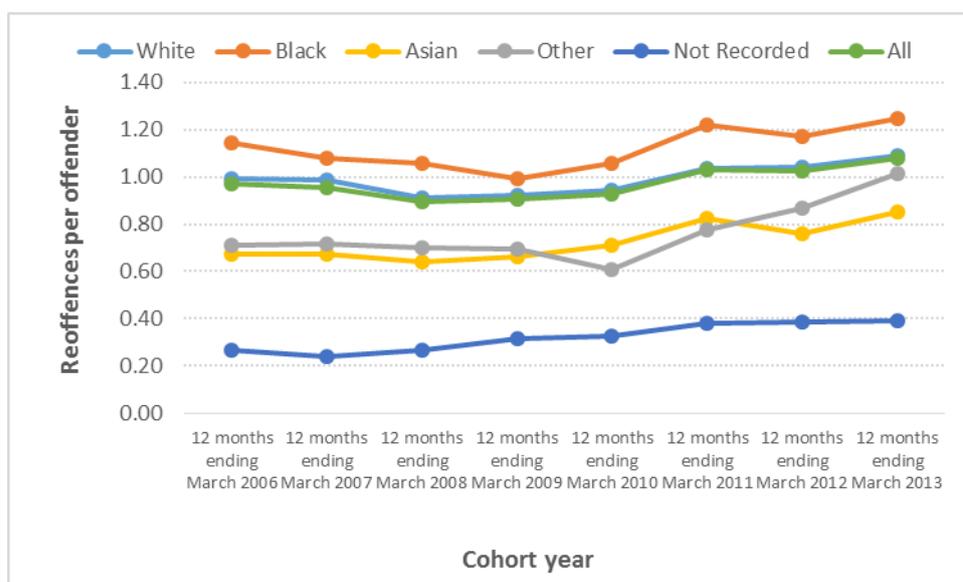
There is some variation in the frequency rate by gender – for males the rate was 1.17 in 2012/13, as compared with 0.72 for females. Although based on smaller numbers of offenders, the rate for females has been generally increasing and is 23% higher than in 2002. Between 2011/12 and 2012/13, the frequency rate for females went up by 7.5% whilst that for males rose by 4.4%.

In 2012/13, the rate of reoffences per reoffender was 3.03 for males and 2.73 for females. As for the frequency rate, the rate of reoffences per offender for females has gradually increased since 2002. The rates for both males and females went up in the last year (by 3.7% and 2.5% respectively).

In 2012/13 the frequency rate for those aged 10-14 was the same as for 15-17 year olds at 1.08. The rate for those aged 10-14 has increased by 25% since 2002 from 0.87. The rate for those aged 15-17 has reduced by 12.3% over the same period from 1.23.

Figure 3.19 shows frequency rates by ethnicity since 2005/06. As for the binary re-offending rate, Black young people have the highest frequency rates (1.25 in 2012/13). In 2012/13 White young people had the highest rate of reoffences per offender (3.03).

Figure 3.19: Reoffences per offender (frequency rate) by Ethnicity, year ending March 2006 to 2013, England and Wales



Examined by index disposal, those who were previously in custody had the highest frequency rate (2.80 in 2012/13) and rate of reoffences per reoffender (4.13), followed by Youth Rehabilitation Order (frequency rate of 2.40 and rate of reoffences per reoffender of 3.77). Those who had a Reprimand or Warning had the lowest frequency rate (0.67) and lowest rate of reoffences per reoffender (2.53), but both rates have increased year on year since 2009/10. Frequency rates for those who have been in custody have reduced over the last two years.

For 2012/13, the highest frequency rates by index offence were for Public order (1.37); Miscellaneous crimes against society (1.36) and Theft (1.31). There was a similar distribution for reoffences per reoffender: Public Order (3.40); Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society (3.30) Theft (3.27); Fraud (3.25).

In 2012/13 frequency rates were highest amongst:

- Males (1.17); although the rate for females has risen year on year since 2002 and is now 0.72;
- Black young people (1.25);

- Those young people who have previously been in custody (2.8), although the rate has fallen in the last two years;
- Those with an index offence of Public order (1.37), Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society (1.36) and Theft (1.31).

In 2012/13 rates of reoffences per reoffender were highest for:

- Males (3.03). As for the frequency rate, the rate of reoffences per offender for females has gradually increased since 2002 and is now 2.73;
- White young people (3.03);
- Those young people who have previously been in custody (4.13), although the rate fell in the last year;
- Those with an index offence of Public Order (3.40); Miscellaneous crimes against society (3.30) Theft (3.27); Fraud (3.25).

Explanatory notes

Data sources and quality

Proven reoffending data for England and Wales has come from an extract of information and from the Proven Reoffending Statistics Quarterly Bulletin. The Bulletin is produced by the Ministry of Justice and available at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics.

The Proven Reoffending Statistics Quarterly Bulletin provides key statistics on proven reoffending in England and Wales. It gives proven reoffending figures for adult and juvenile offenders, who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, reprimand or warning, or tested positive for opiates or cocaine in a year. 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.

The quarterly bulletin presents the proportion of offenders who reoffend (proven reoffending rate) and the number of proven reoffences those offenders commit by age group, gender, criminal history and offence type. Also included are proven reoffending rates for serious proven reoffending, different types of sentence, and for individual prisons and probation trusts.

Definitions and terminology used in this report are available at:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/399317/proven-reoffending-definitions-measurement-oct13.pdf .

Symbols and conventions

The units of measurement in this publication are offenders, offences and disposals; these are given as full numbers where available. The percentages are rounded to the nearest number or one decimal place. The following symbols have been used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

- = Nil / Zero
- .. = Not available; data provided from an extract covering 8 years of information for the years ending March 2006 to 2013

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