

Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin

January to March 2012, England and
Wales

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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Introduction

This publication provides key statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under Probation Service supervision. It covers flows into these services (receptions into prison or probation starts) and flows out (discharges from prison or probation terminations) as well as the caseload of both services at specific points in time. Latest figures for 2012 are provided with comparisons to 2011, as well as reference to longer term trends.

The contents of the report will be of interest to government policy makers, the agencies responsible for offender management at both national and local levels, and others who want to understand more about the prison population, probation caseload, licence recalls and returns to custody.

The statistics included in this publication are used extensively and meet a broad spectrum of user needs as shown below.

User	Summary of main statistical needs
MOJ Ministers	Use the statistics to monitor the prison population and capacity of the prison estate; monitor effectiveness of probation service and whether resources are deployed efficiently; assess policy impacts (e.g. changes to sentencing guidance)
MPs and House of Lords	Statistics are used to answer parliamentary questions – approximately 100 are answered each year using prison and probation data
Policy teams	Statistics are used to inform policy development, to monitor impact of changes over time and to model future changes and their impact on the system
Agencies responsible for offender management	Current and historical robust administrative data are used to support performance management information at national and local levels within each agency to complement their understanding of the current picture and trends over time
Academia, students and businesses	Used as a source of statistics for research purposes and to support lectures, presentations and conferences
Journalists	Used as a compendium of robust data on offender management so that an accurate and coherent story can be told on the prison population and probation service
Voluntary sector	Data are used to inform policy work, responses to consultations and briefing papers by analysing trends and changes to the prison population
General public	Data are used to respond to ad-hoc requests and requests made under the Freedom of Information Act

This bulletin is published alongside two inter-related bulletins:

- **Proven Re-offending Statistics Quarterly:** provides proven re-offending figures for offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, reprimand, warning or tested positive for opiates or cocaine in the 12 months ending September 2010.
- **Safety in Custody Statistics Quarterly Bulletin, January to March 2012:** provides statistics on death, self harm and assault incidents whilst in prison custody.

Taken together, these publications present users with a more coherent overview of offender management, re-offending among both adults and young people and the safety of offenders whilst in prison custody.

Table 1: Overview – latest period compared to the previous year

Overview – latest period compared to the previous year

	30 June 2012	Percentage change 30 June 2011 to 30 June 2012
Prison population	86,048	1% ↑
Remand	11,324	-9% ↓
Untried	7,671	-8% ↓
Convicted unsentenced	3,653	-12% ↓
Under sentence	73,562	2% ↑
Fine Defaulters	127	-2% ↓
Less than or equal to 6 months	5,003	-8% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,473	4% ↑
12 months to less than 4 years	21,304	4% ↑
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	25,484	5% ↑
Indeterminate sentences	13,754	1% ↑
Recalls	5,417	-4% ↓
Non criminal	1,162	23% ↑
	January-March 2012	Percentage change January-March 2011 to 2012
Prison receptions		
First receptions	30,303	0% →
Remand - untried	13,031	-1% ↓
Remand - convicted unsentenced	9,270	1% ↑
Under sentence	22,214	-5% ↓
Fine Defaulters	346	5% ↑
Less than or equal to 6 months	10,726	-6% ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,275	-3% ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	6,762	-2% ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	1,930	-8% ↓
Indeterminate sentences	175	-22% ↓
Prison discharges		
Determinate sentences	21,770	4% ↑
Less than or equal to 6 months	9,070	4% ↑
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	2,279	7% ↑
12 months to less than 4 years	8,020	4% ↑
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	2,401	1% ↑
Indeterminate sentences	173	45% ↑
Indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP)	101	84% ↑
Life sentence	72	13% ↑
Average percentage of time served ⁽¹⁾		
Determinate sentences	53%	-2 pp ↓
Less than or equal to 6 months	56%	-1 pp ↓
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	47%	-1 pp ↓
12 months to less than 4 years	49%	-3 pp ↓
4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences)	58%	-1 pp ↓
Probation starts		
All court orders	44,905	-3% ↓
All community sentences	32,494	-3% ↓
Community order	31,691	-3% ↓
Other sentences	12,572	-1% ↓
Suspended sentence order	12,442	-1% ↓
Pre release supervision	12,909	3% ↑
	31 March 2012	Percentage change 31 Mar 2011 to 31 Mar 2012
Persons supervised by the Probation Service		
All court orders	124,297	-7% ↓
All community sentences	85,834	-8% ↓
Community order	83,415	-7% ↓
All pre CJA orders	377	-66% ↓
Other sentences	41,507	-5% ↓
Deferred sentence	75	-11% ↓
Suspended sentence order	41,446	-5% ↓
All pre and post release supervision	111,597	5% ↑
Pre release supervision	71,318	3% ↑
Post release supervision	40,649	9% ↑
	January-March 2011	
Licence recalls		
Recalled in latest quarter	4,185	
Not returned to custody by 30 June 2012	78	
Total not returned to custody by 30 June 2012	988	

⁽¹⁾ Average percentage of time served includes time served on remand; change in percentages are given as percentage point change (pp).

* - One or both of the comparison figures are less than 50

Prison population

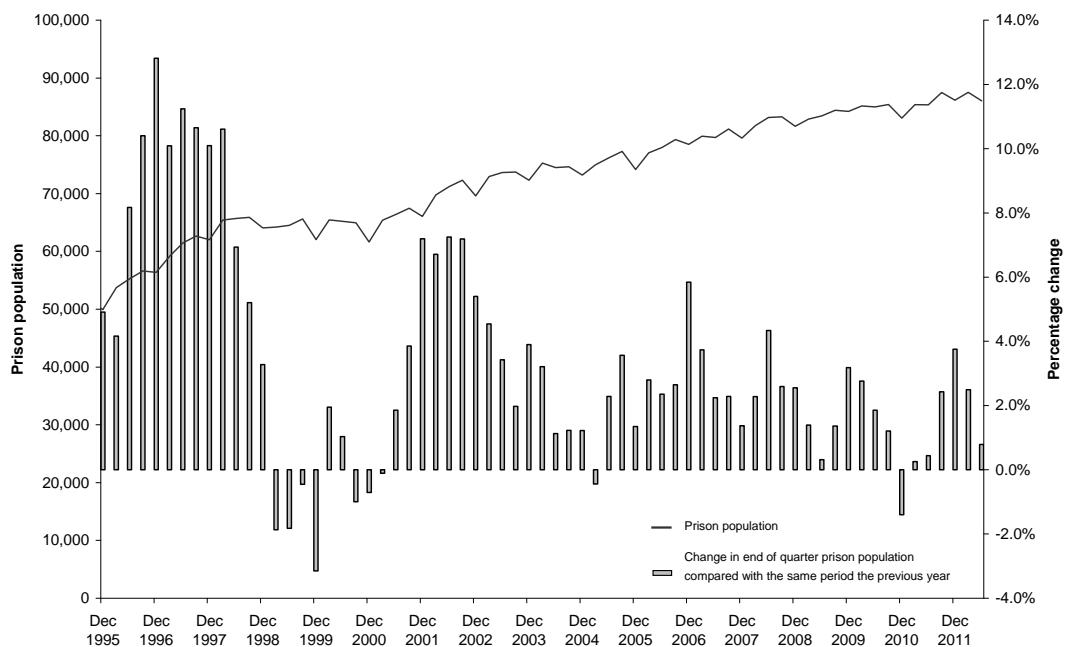
The prison population grew rapidly between 1993 to 2008 – an average of 4 per cent a year. This rapid rise was driven by:

- Increased numbers of people sentenced to immediate custody from 1999 to 2002.
- Increases in the average custodial sentence length and increased use of indeterminate sentences.
- Increase in numbers recalled to prison following breaches of the conditions of licence and these offenders spending longer in prison once recalled.

The rise in the prison population slowed considerably from the summer of 2008 with an average annual increase of 1 per cent (Figure 1.1), until the public disorder seen in UK cities from 6 to 9 August 2011 which had an immediate impact on the prison population. Other factors, over and above the direct impact of the public disorder, contributed to an increased prison population for a temporary period which now appears to be over. This, combined with a falling remand population in 2012, means that the prison population is now slightly below the medium projection (as it was immediately prior to the August 2011 public disorder).

The flatter trend prior to the disorder partly reflected the introduction of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act (CJIA) 2008, which changed sentencing and offender management in ways which helped to reduce growth in the prison population. For more information see [CJIA 2008](#). Additionally the remand population had been falling, partly because of the increased use of fast delivery pre-sentence reports.

Figure 1.1: Quarterly prison population and annual percentage change, England and Wales, December 1995 to June 2012



The prison population at 30 June 2012 was 86,048, an increase of 674 (1 per cent) compared to 30 June 2011 when the total population was 85,374.

This increase includes the impact of the public disorder in UK cities from 6 to 9 August 2011 which as at 30 June 2012 accounted for around 650 prisoners.

At 30 June 2012, there were:

- 81,925 males in prison - a rise of 1 per cent over the year
- 4,123 females in prison - a fall of 1 per cent over the year

The overall increase in the total prison population over the last year (30 June 2011 to 30 June 2012) mainly comprised increases in the sentenced and non-criminal segments of the prison population:

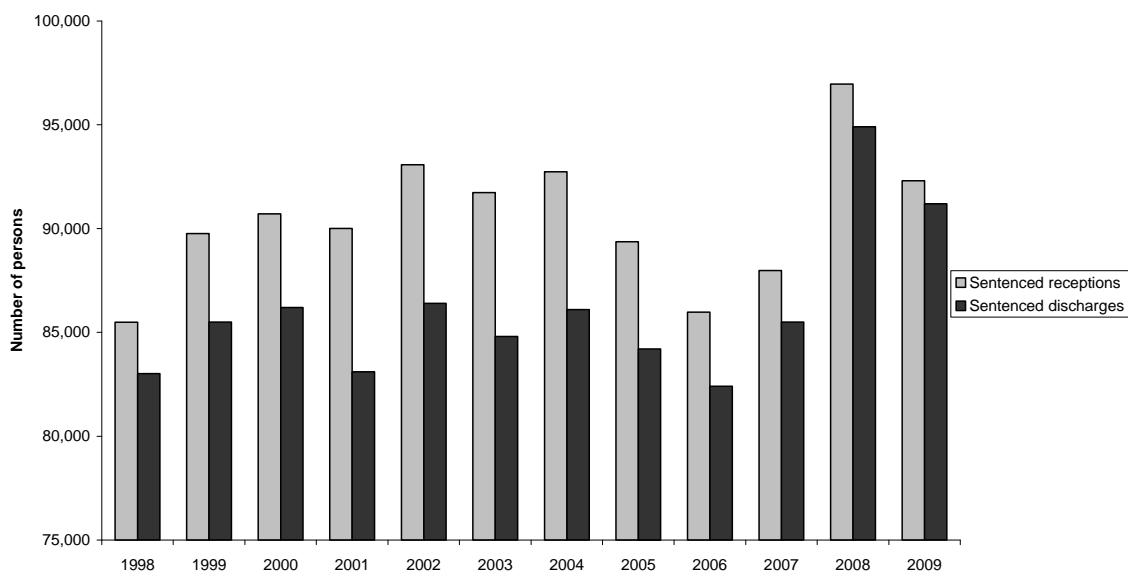
- The remand population fell by 1,140, or 9 per cent, between June 2011 and June 2012 from 12,464 to 11,324. This comprised an 8 per cent decrease in the untried population to 7,671 and a 12 per cent fall in the convicted unsentenced population at 3,653. The falling remand population is consistent with the falling number entering prison on remand (see the section on prison receptions) and the continued increase in use of fast delivery pre-sentence reports (which are more likely to be completed on the day and therefore not involve the offender being remanded in custody awaiting sentence; see the section on court reports).

- The sentenced population rose by 1,598, or 2 per cent, from 71,964 in June 2011 to 73,562 in June 2012. This was due to an increase in those serving longer sentences, while the number serving short sentences continued to fall (4 per cent fall in the number serving less than 12 months). The greatest proportional increase came from the 4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences) group (up 5 per cent from 24,339 to 25,484). There was also an increase in the 12 months to less than 4 years group (up 4 per cent from 20,392 to 21,304).
- The number of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences (either a life sentence or an Indeterminate sentence for Public Protection – an IPP) rose 1 per cent to reach 13,754. Although the indeterminate sentenced population has continued to increase, the rate of year-on-year growth has slowed considerably following the changes introduced in the CJIA 2008 which restricted the use of IPPs.
- Within the indeterminate sentenced population 44 per cent were serving an IPP (6,078) while 56 per cent were serving life sentences (7,676). Among those serving IPPs, most had a tariff length of 6 years or less (2,832 had a tariff length of 2 to 4 years, 1,251 a tariff of 4 to 6 years, and 1,208 had a tariff length of less than 2 years). A total of 3,531 (58 per cent) IPP prisoners had passed their tariff expiry date. For those serving life sentences 4,145 had a tariff length of 10 to 20 years and a further 2,353 had a tariff length of less than 10 years. There were 45 offenders serving a whole life sentence as at 30 June 2012.
- The number of non-criminals in prison rose by 23 per cent to 1,162 between June 2011 and June 2012. Non-criminal prisoners are largely immigration detainees (98 per cent in June 2012), and the increase partly reflects the opening of Morton Hall as a new Immigration Removal Centre in the summer of 2011.

The foreign national prisoner population was 10,861 as at 30 June 2012, accounting for 13 per cent of the prison population (the same proportion as in recent quarters). This figure includes Immigration Removal Centres (IRC's). When looking at the population excluding IRC's, 12 per cent were foreign national prisoners (again the same proportion as in recent quarters).

An increasing proportion of sentenced prisoners are serving sentences for the most serious offences. As at 30 June 2012, 28 per cent of the sentenced population had committed violence against the person offences, an increase from 21 per cent in 2000. Similarly, the proportion serving sentences for sexual offences increased from 10 per cent in 2000 to 14 per cent in June 2012. In contrast, the number serving sentences for motoring offences has fallen steadily over time, and now comprises just 1 per cent of the sentenced population compared with 4 per cent in 2000.

Changes in the size of the prison population are affected by changes in the number and type of receptions and of those who are discharged. Figure 1.2 below compares determinate sentenced receptions with determinate sentenced discharges between 1998 and 2009, illustrating the difference between sentenced receptions and discharges, which began to narrow in 2005 when growth in the determinate sentenced population also began to slow.



¹Excludes discharges following recall after release on licence, non-criminals, persons committed to custody for non-payment of a fine, those becoming time served and deported prisoners. Data prior to 1998 is unavailable

Prison receptions

In the quarter ending March 2012 there were 30,303 first receptions into prison, 0.3 per cent higher than in the quarter ending March 2011.

The number of untried receptions – those remanded in custody awaiting trial – fell from 13,206 in the quarter ending March 2011 to 13,031 in the quarter ending March 2012, a slight fall of 1 per cent. This was made up of a 1 per cent fall in the number of male untried receptions, while the number of female untried receptions was down 8 per cent on the same period last year. The number of convicted unsentenced receptions – those remanded in custody awaiting sentence – rose by 1 per cent overall in the quarter ending March 2012 compared to the previous year. This was made up of a 2 per cent rise in the number of male convicted unsentenced receptions and a 15 per cent fall in female convicted unsentenced receptions.

There was a 5 per cent fall in the number of prisoners received under sentence in the quarter ending March 2012 (22,214), compared to the quarter ending March 2011. The largest fall was in those sentenced to less than or equal to six months, down from 11,430 in Jan-Mar 2011 to 10,726 in the current quarter. Sentences of this length made up 48 per cent of all sentenced receptions in the quarter ending March 2012, this is in contrast to those currently in prison where sentences of 12 months or more predominate (this difference in sentence lengths for those received into prison and those currently in prison explains why the two are showing a different trend).

Prison discharges

In the quarter ending March 2012, a total of 21,770 offenders were discharged from determinate sentences, up 4 per cent from the quarter ending March 2011. Within this total, male discharges rose by 4 per cent and female discharges rose by 1 per cent. A further 101 offenders were discharged from an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP) and 72 from a life sentence.

The overall increase in numbers discharged from determinate sentences was reflected across all sentence length bands: less than or equal to 6 months rose 4 per cent; greater than 6 months to less than 12 months rose 7 per cent; 12 months to less than 4 years rose 4 per cent; and 4 years or more (excluding indeterminate sentences) rose by 1 per cent.

Those discharged from determinate sentences in the quarter ending March 2012 had served 53 per cent of their sentence in custody (including time on remand). On average males served a greater proportion of their sentence in custody – 54 per cent compared to 49 per cent for females in the quarter ending March 2012. This gender difference is consistent over time, and partly reflects the higher proportion of females who are released on Home Detention Curfew (HDC – under which certain offenders can be released on electronically monitored curfew up to 135 days before the halfway point of their sentence when they would otherwise be released).

A total of 3,246 prisoners were released on HDC in the quarter ending March 2012, 10 per cent higher than in the quarter ending March 2011. Prisoners released on HDC in the quarter ending March 2012 spent an average of 2.9 months on HDC, up 1 per cent from the quarter ending March 2011.

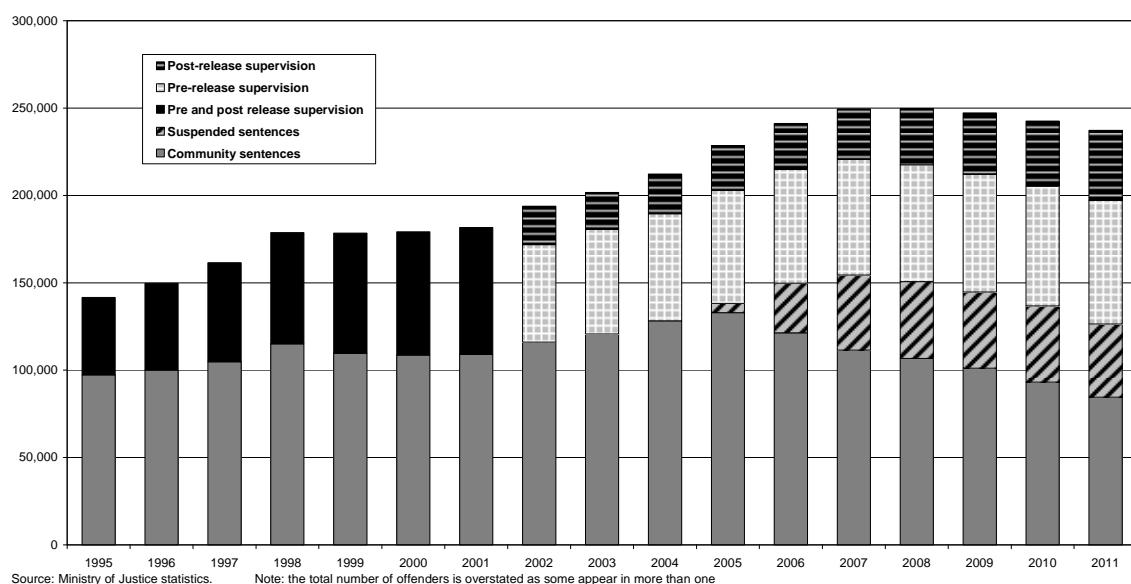
Probation

The annual total probation caseload (court orders and pre and post release supervision) increased by 39 per cent between 2000 and 2008 to 243,434, before falling slightly to 234,528 in 2011. The rise between 2000 and 2008 was driven by:

- Introduction of new court orders, in particular the Suspended Sentence Order (SSO) in 2005 (under the Criminal Justice Act 2003).
- Increase in pre and post-release supervision caseload due to:
 - continued growth in the number of offenders serving custodial sentences of 12 months or more who require supervision on release from custody,
 - offenders spending longer periods on licence after release from custody under CJA 2003.

The number being supervised at the end of 2011 (the caseload) continued the decrease seen in each of the previous three years; community orders fell by 8 per cent and SSOs by 4 per cent compared to 2010. As at 31 March 2012, the total caseload fell again slightly to 234,510.

Figure 1.3: Number of offenders under Probation Service supervision (at end December), 1995-2011



The court order caseload continued to fall during the first quarter of 2012, reaching 124,297 at 31 March 2012, with community orders down 7 per cent and the SSO caseload down 5 per cent from the same time point in 2011. The number of offenders starting court orders also decreased over this period, driven largely by the fall in starts of community orders, which fell by 3 per cent between

the quarter ending March 2011 and quarter ending March 2012. SSO starts fell by 1 per cent over this period.

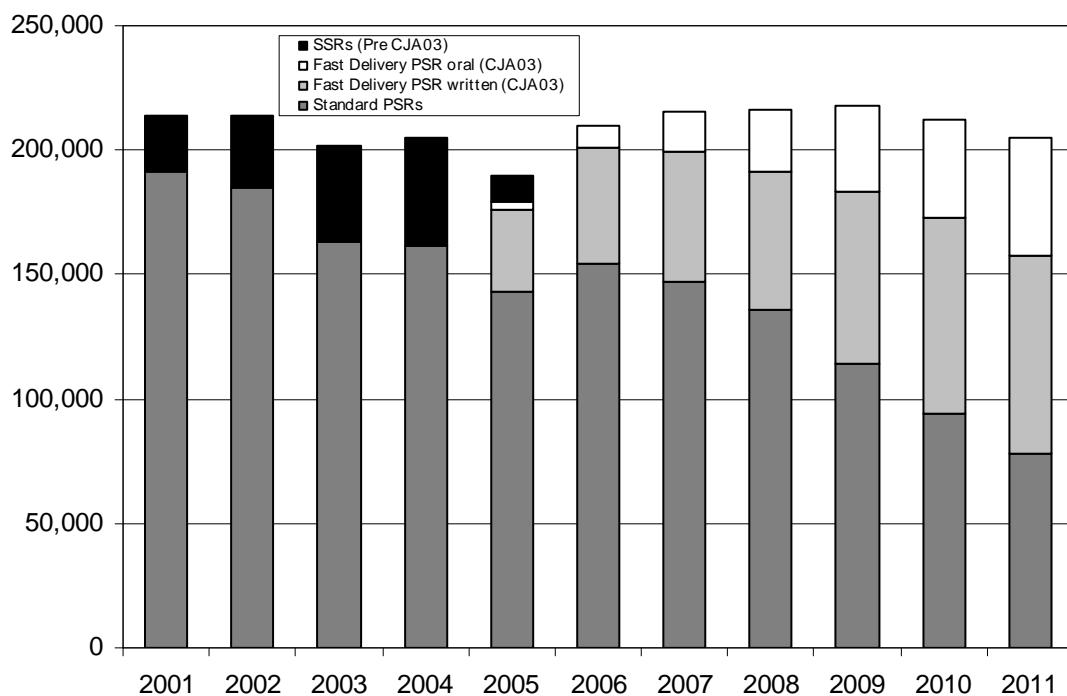
The number of offenders being supervised before or after release from prison increased by 5 per cent between 31 March 2011 and 31 March 2012, including a 9 per cent increase in the number being supervised on licence post release. Over the same period, the number starting pre release supervision rose by 3 per cent.

Of the 30,710 community orders terminated in the quarter ending March 2012, 65 per cent had run their full course or were terminated early for good progress, a slight increase from the quarter ending March 2011 (64 per cent). Sixty-seven per cent of SSOs had run their full course or were terminated early for good progress in the quarter ending March 2012, again a slight increase from the previous equivalent quarter (66 per cent).

Court reports

In the longer term, the total number of court reports prepared in 2011 fell by 4 per cent on the previous year to the lowest level since 2005. Compared to 2010, Standard pre-sentence reports (PSRs) fell by 17 per cent, whilst Fast Delivery PSRs rose by 7 per cent and accounted for 62 per cent of all PSRs completed in 2011.

Figure 1.4: Numbers of different types of court reports prepared by the Probation Service, 2001-2011



Looking at the latest quarterly figures, a total of 56,332 court reports were prepared in the first quarter of 2012 - 1 per cent down on the quarter ending March 2011. The decrease was due to an 18 per cent fall in the number of Standard PSRs, while Fast delivery oral PSRs continued to rise, up 34 per cent.

Licence recalls

Offenders serving a sentence of twelve months and over are released from prison, in most cases automatically at the half way point of their sentence, under licensed supervision to the Probation Service. They are all subject to a set of standard licence conditions, requiring them to report regularly to the Probation Service, live at an address approved by the Probation Service and to be of good behaviour.

A key element of public protection is that offenders released on licence should be effectively supervised in the community and swiftly recalled to custody if their behaviour gives cause for concern. It is explained to offenders at the outset that they may be recalled to custody if they breach any of the conditions of their licence.

There are various reasons why offenders are recalled to custody for breaching their licence conditions besides committing a further offence. For example, an offender may be recalled if there is any deterioration in behaviour which leads the Probation Service to conclude that there is an increased risk of the offender committing further offences.

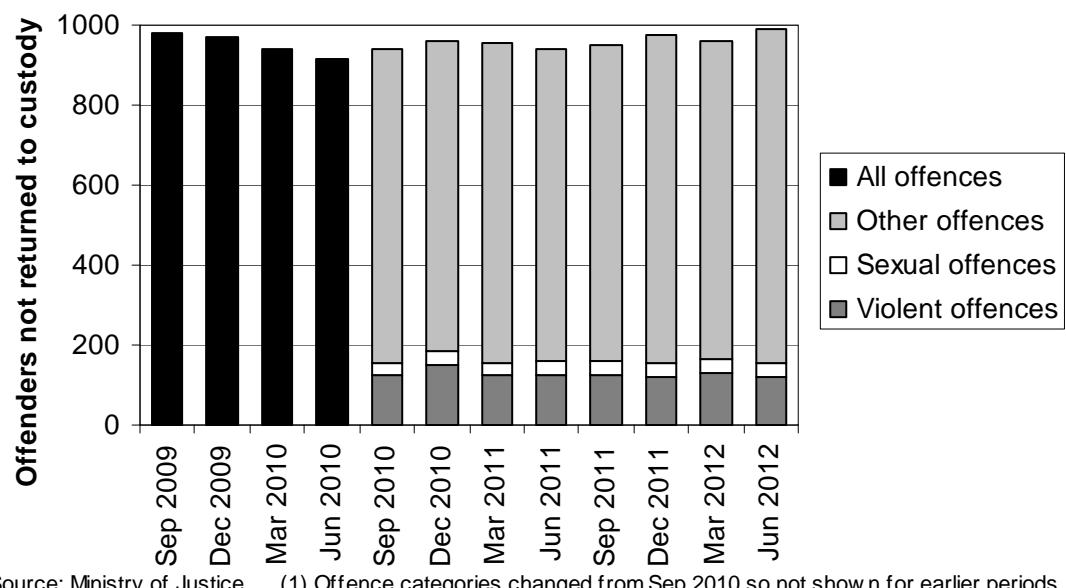
Over the period 1999 to March 2012, a total of 580,000 offenders were released from prison on licence supervision. Between April 1999 and March 2012, 139,000 of those released on licence were recalled to custody for breaching the conditions of their licence, e.g. failing to report to their probation officer. Of all those recalled to custody, only 988 had not been returned to custody by the end of June 2012. This total may include some offenders believed to be dead or living outside of the UK but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

Of the 988 not returned to custody by 30 June 2012, 122 had originally been serving a prison sentence for violence against the person offences and a further 35 for sexual offences.

During the quarter ending March 2012, a total of 4,185 offenders had their licence revoked and were recalled. By 30 June 2012, 4,107 of these recalled offenders had been returned to custody and 78 had not been returned to custody.

The end-to-end measure across all agencies involved in the process is for 75 per cent of recalled offenders to be returned to custody within 74 hours for emergency recalls and 144 hours for standard recalls. In the quarter ending 31 March 2012, 3,446 (82 per cent) were returned within agreed timescales.

Figure 1.5: Number of offenders not returned to custody by quarter, by major offence group



Source: Ministry of Justice

(1) Offence categories changed from Sep 2010 so not shown for earlier periods

References

This publication and associated spreadsheet files of the tables contained in this document and detailed information of definitions, sources and key legislative changes are available for download at

www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/prisons-and-probation/oms-quarterly

Bulletins from earlier related series are available at

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/index.htm

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Appendix A – Data sources and quality

The data presented in this publication are drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. While the figures shown have been checked as far as practicable, they should be regarded as approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number shown in the tables. Where figures in the tables have been rounded to the nearest whole number, the rounded components do not always add to the totals, which are calculated and rounded independently.

Prison data – impact of data collection issues affecting the quarters July-September 2009, October-December 2009 and January-March 2010

In May 2009, the National Offender Management Service began the roll-out of a new case management system for prisons (Prison-NOMIS). During the phased roll-out, data collection issues emerged that affected the supply of data for statistical purposes from July 2009 to February 2010. Specifically, statistical information on sentence length and offence group is not available on any of our prison datasets for this period. These problems were successfully resolved in March 2010.

As a consequence, there are no breakdowns by sentence length or offence group for the third and fourth quarter of 2009 in any of the prison population, receptions or discharges tables.

In order to ensure the fullest possible set of data for 2010, sentence lengths have been estimated for those prisoners received or discharged before the problems were resolved. A small number of prison establishments are still using the old LIDS case management system; data for prisoners received or discharged from these prisons has been assumed to be unaffected.

For those prisoners received or discharged from prisons operating Prison-NOMIS, efforts were made to populate their record with the correct sentence length using other data extracts. For example, many prisoners discharged in January 2010 were originally received into prison prior to July 2009, so we were able to take their sentence length from unaffected datasets before the problems began. Similarly, the majority of those received in early 2010 were still in prison in March 2010 when the problems were resolved, so we were able to use the sentence length in the corrected prison population data.

Where it was not possible to populate a sentence length using other datasets, prisoners were allocated a sentence length band based on the number of days they spent in custody (taking account of early release schemes where relevant).

Offence groups have not been estimated for the first quarter of 2010, so prison receptions tables do not include this breakdown. Additionally, the number of Home Detention Curfew releases by sentence length band, and the average time served for those discharged from determinate sentences, have not been estimated so figures are not available for January – March 2010.

Indeterminate sentences for public protection

Information relating to tariffs for IPP and DPP prisoners and those serving life sentences is held by the Offender Management and Public Protection Group, NOMS, in the Public Protection Database.

Licence recalls and returns to custody

Returned to custody – the figures for those returned to custody include people who have died or been deported by the UK Borders Agency as prior to 2007 this information was not collected separately. The information held centrally records whether or not recalled offenders are still wanted for return to custody but for those offenders no longer wanted for return to custody, information is not held on whether the recall was completed by actual return to custody or because the offender died or was deported.

Not returned to custody – this includes those offenders believed to be dead or living outside of the UK but who have not been confirmed as dead or deported.

Symbols used

..	not available
0	Nil or less than half the final digit shown
-	not applicable
*	One or both of the comparison figures are less than 50
(p)	Provisional data
(r)	Revised data

Revisions policy

Figures for prison receptions and discharges for each of the first three quarters of the calendar year are generally revised in the October to December publication each year. Prison population, probation and licence recall figures are not routinely revised, but are corrected if an error is identified.

Contact points

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

Tel: 020 3334 3536

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

Jo Peacock

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7th Floor
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
Tel: 020 3334 5066

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

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

Ministry of Justice publishes data relating to offender management in England and Wales. Equivalent statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland can be found at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice

www.dojni.gov.uk/index/statistics-research/stats-research-publications.htm

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