

Section 95

Section 95

**Statistics on Women
and the
Criminal Justice System**

A Home Office publication under section 95 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991

2001

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Criminal Justice Act 1991

section 95

- (1) The Secretary of State shall in each year publish such information as he considers expedient for the purpose of:
 - (a) enabling persons engaged in the administration of justice to become aware of the financial implications of their decisions; or
 - (b) facilitating the performance of such persons of their duty to avoid discriminating against any persons on the ground of race or sex or any other improper ground.
- (2) Publication under subsection (1) above shall be effected in such a manner as the Secretary of State considers appropriate for the purpose of bringing the information to the attention of the persons concerned.

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Summary

This publication brings together the key results from recent research and statistics that focus on the treatment of women in the criminal justice system.

Demographic background

- By 2005, there are expected to be around 3% more females aged 10-59 in the population than in 2000. The number in the 15-20 age group, covering the peak age of offending, is expected to increase by 8%.

Offending

- According to a self-report study, women were less likely than men to have offended in the last year (11% compared with 26%)
- Women 'grow out of crime' – they are most likely to desist from offending in their late teens
- The peak age of reported offending for girls was 14
- Over the age of 17, male offenders outnumber female offenders by a ratio of around three to one
- Criminal statistics show that, in 2000, only 19% of known offenders were women.

Arrests and police disposals

- 16% of those arrested for notifiable offences are women but the proportion is higher for fraud and forgery (27%) and theft and handling (21%)
- Research suggests that following arrest, women are more likely than men to be cautioned and are less likely to have no further action taken or be charged. This partly reflects that women are more likely than men to admit their offences and to be arrested for less serious offences

- According to official statistics, female offenders are more likely than men to be cautioned for indictable offences.

Remand and mode of trial

- Although women are less likely than men to be remanded in custody or committed for trial, this mainly reflects differences in offending history and type of offence
- Women on remand make up a fifth of the female prison population
- Women remanded in custody spend less time on remand than men.

Sentencing

- Women are more likely than men to be discharged or given a community sentence for indictable offences and are less likely to be fined or sentenced to custody.

The top seven offences for women sentenced to custody in 2000 were:

- theft from shops (2,350 women sentenced to custody)
- wounding (480)
- fraud (460)
- production, supply and possession with intent to supply a class A controlled drug (410)
- summary motoring (400)
- burglary of all kinds (340)
- handling stolen goods (300)

Community penalties

- Nearly a third of women sentenced for indictable offences in 2000 received a

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community sentence compared with just under a quarter of men. The community rehabilitation order (formerly probation order) was the most popular community sentence for women

- At the end of 2000, women accounted for 12% of those supervised by the Probation Service
- Women were less likely than men starting all community orders to have previous convictions or to have served a custodial sentence.

Women in custody

- There were, on average, 3,350 women in prison in 2000. They made up 5.2% of the total prison population
- Between 1993 and 2000 the average population of women in prison rose by 115% as against 42% for men, reflecting sentencing changes at the courts
- Theft and handling accounted for 42% of sentenced receptions of women in 2000, drug offences for 13% and violence against the person for 13%
- Among the population of sentenced female offenders, the main offence groups are drug offences (37% at June 2000), theft and handling (20%) and violence against the person (16%);
- 150 women were sent to prison for fine default in 2000 but as the average stay is only 5 days, the average number of fine defaulters in the prison population was just three
- In mid-2000, ethnic minority groups made up 25% of the female prison population compared to 19% of the male prison population;
- 15% of female prisoners in 2000 were foreign nationals. In June 2000, more than three-quarters of sentenced female foreign nationals were held for drug offences

- An estimated 55% of all women in prison have a child under 16 and over a third of mothers in prison have a child under five
- An estimated 20% of women in prison have experienced some time in care
- Over 40% of sentenced women prisoners and over 50% of women on remand have reported being dependent on drugs in the year before coming to prison
- A recent healthcare assessment of prisoners found women reported more health problems and visited doctors more often than their counterparts in the general population
- In 2000, female prisons provided inmates with more time on average out of their cells and on education and skills training
- Female prisoners have a higher rate of offending against prison discipline than men
- A survey of released female prisoners found only 25% were in employment when interviewed five to nine months after discharge.

Victims of crime

- 3.3% of adult women and 5.3% of adult men had been the victim of at least one violent crime in 1999. Just under 40% of violent incidents against women were domestic
- 30% of homicide victims in 2000/01 were female
- Forty-two per cent of women homicide victims, compared with only 4% of men, were killed by a current or former partner
- According to a study of rapes reported in 1996, nearly 90% were committed by acquaintances or intimates. Just 9% of suspects charged with rape offences were convicted of rape or attempted rape mainly due to problems with evidence

- Women are more likely to be stalked (defined as persistent and unwanted attention) than men. The risk is greater for younger women
- An evaluation of the Protection from Harassment Act revealed that stalking is most likely to be perpetrated on someone known to the offender, and usually an ex-partner.
- Women practitioners make up more than 50% of probation officers, CPS lawyers, magistrates' and Crown court staff as well as Home Office, Forensic Science Service and CICA staff. They are also well represented compared to men in victim support roles, both as volunteers and staff
- Women are under-represented in the police, as judges, at the bar and as prison officers.

Women practitioners in the criminal justice system

- Figures suggest that, throughout the criminal justice system, women are well represented though not in senior management positions

[Note: for further information about government policy on these issues, please refer to the Home Office publication 'the Government's strategy for women offenders' – published in October 2000].

Chapter 1

Demographic background (females)

- At mid-2000, there was an estimated 17,454,000 women aged 10-59 in the general population of England and Wales, including 1,666,000 aged 10-14, 943,000 aged 15-17 and 949,000 aged 18-20¹.
- Demographic changes affect the number of offenders dealt with by the criminal justice system. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of women aged 10-59 increased by 4.7%. (Latest projections¹ suggest that this age group will increase by 2.6% between 2000 and 2005.)

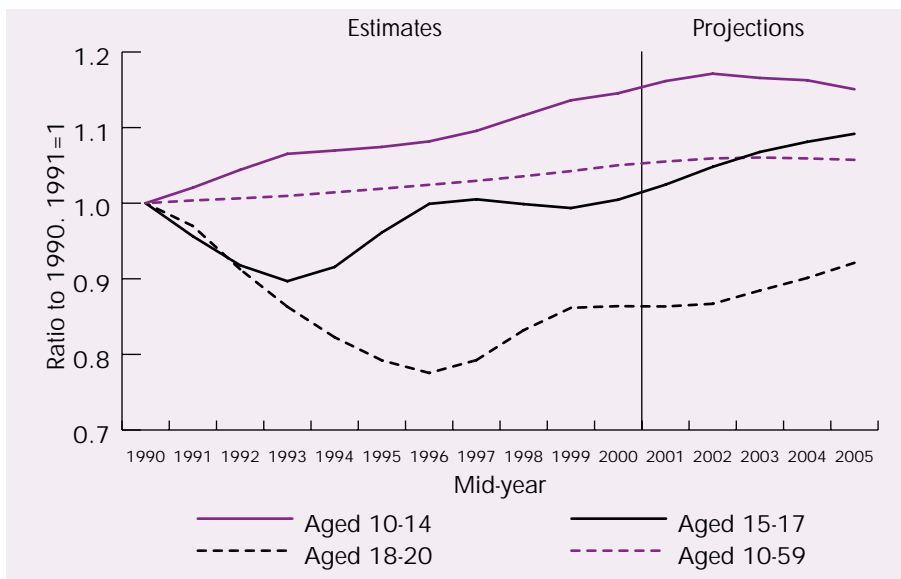


Figure 1.1: Female population of England and Wales, Population estimates 1990-2000, projections 2001-2005

- Included in the overall growth between 1990 and 2000 was an increase of more than 14.5% for the 10-14 age group. This age group is projected to increase between 2000 and 2002 after which it reduces to 2005. Overall, the number of females aged 10-14 is projected to be 1,674,000 in 2005, some 0.5% higher than in 2000.
- Females aged 15-17 increased in number by only a very small amount (4,300) between 1990 and 2000. In 1991, 1992 and 1993 the number was falling. After 1993 this group began to increase again. This age group is projected to increase after 2000. There are expected to be 1,025,000 women aged 15-17 in 2005, an increase of around 8.7% on 2000.
- The number of women aged 18-20 fell from 1990 through to 1996 but has increased since then. This age group is projected to generally increase from 2000 to reach 1,012,000 in 2005.

1. 2000-based national population projections, Source: Government Actuary's Department

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Chapter 2 Offending

The best source of information on the scale of offending is given by self-report studies in which people are asked if they have ever committed particular offences. Recorded crime statistics do not tell us the gender of the person who committed the offence and official statistics on offending only include those offences dealt with by the criminal justice system. Many offences are never reported to the police and, of those that are, a substantial proportion are not cleared up.

Self-report studies show that fewer females than males admit ever committing an offence. The 1998/9 Youth Lifestyles' Survey (2000) provides an estimate of the extent, frequency and nature of self-reported offending amongst 4,848 12- to 30-year-olds in England and Wales. Some comparison can be made with the last YLS reported in *Young People and Crime* (HORS 145) based on 1992/93 information. Findings from the 1998/9 study showed that:

- Men were around two-and-a-half times more likely to have offended in the last year than women (26% compared with 11%);
- Offences commonly committed by girls under 16 include criminal damage, shoplifting, buying stolen goods and fighting although with age they became more increasingly involved in fraud and buying stolen goods;
- Fighting comprised 8% of crimes admitted by women aged 12 to 30, although this proportion again varies between age groups;
- Most women 'grow out of crime' (see figure 2.1). For women over 21, all types of offending fell. This is in accordance with the previous YLS where women were found to be most likely to desist from offending in their late teens;
- The peak age of self-reported offending for women was 14 (18 for men) after which offending declined so that only 8% of women over 21 admitted any offence in the last year. This compares with ages 16 for women and 21 for men in 1992/93;
- Over the age of 17, male offenders outnumber female offenders by a ratio of around three to one;
- Persistent offenders represented less than 1% of women as opposed to 2% of men;
- 1% of women said they had been cautioned or taken to court in the last 12 months on at least one occasion (4% of men).

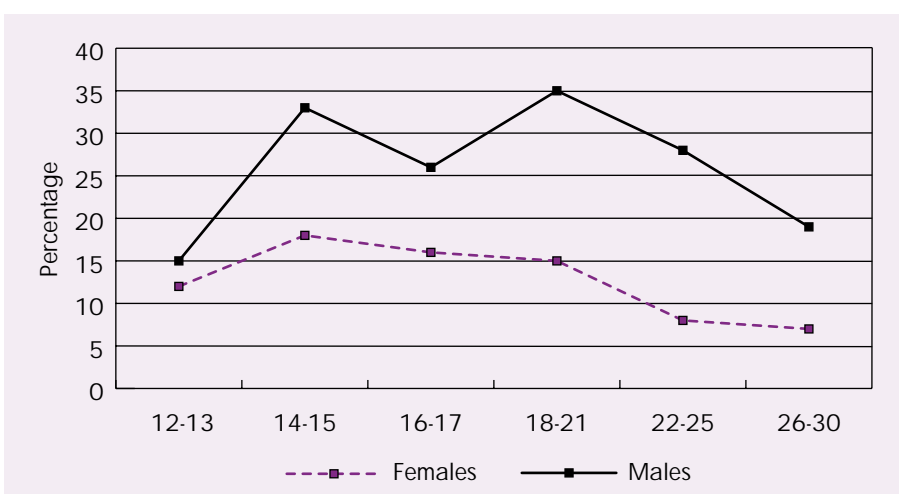


Figure 2.1: Prevalence of offending in the last year, by age and sex

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"Known offenders"

Details of the number of "known offenders" (i.e. those cautioned or found guilty) are available in *Criminal Statistics*, published annually by the Home Office. They show that:

- More men than women are dealt with by the criminal justice system. In 2000, 316,000 or 19% of 1.7 million known offenders were women (see table 2.1). The proportion of female known offenders rose two percentage points between 1999 and 2000 mainly

because of an increase in prosecutions for TV licence evasion. However, self-report studies (see above) suggest that the difference between male and female offending rates may be smaller;

- For all age groups, there are fewer female offenders than male offenders, but the gap is smaller for younger age groups (see table 2.1);
- The peak age of *known* offending (indictable offences) for women and men was 15 and 18 respectively, the same as in 1998.

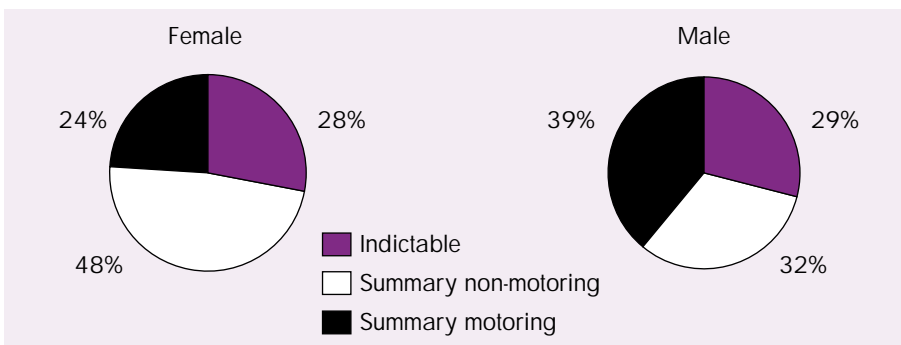


Figure 2.2: Female and male involvement in offending, 2000

- Comparing men and women, a similar proportion (just under 30%) of their known offending in 2000 related to indictable offences.
- Summary non-motoring offences¹ accounted for nearly half of female known offending, significantly up on 1999, mainly because of increased numbers of convictions for TV

licence evasion among females aged 21 or over. This group of offences accounted for about a third of known male offending.

- The remaining offences – summary motoring offences – accounted for nearly 40% of known male offending and about a quarter of known female offending.

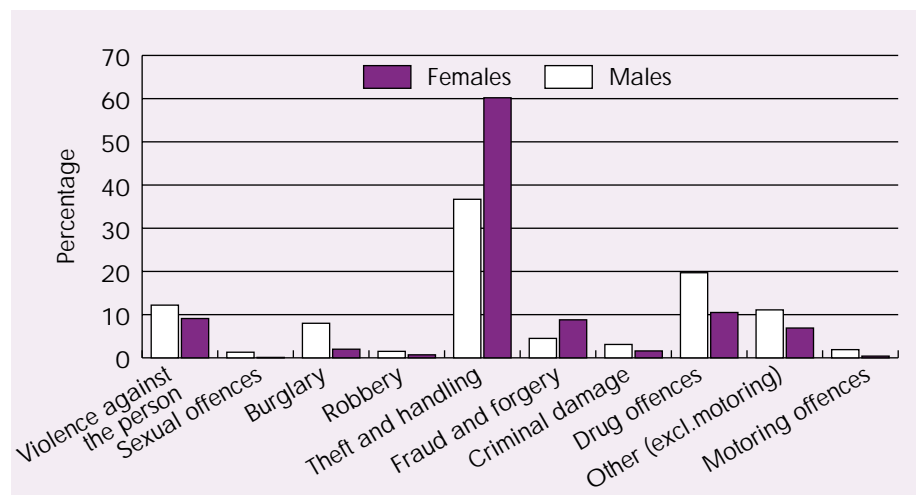


Figure 2.3: Offenders found guilty at all courts or cautioned for indictable offences

² Summary offences are triable only at the magistrates' court.

- Theft and handling is the most common indictable offence among female offenders (60% of female offenders in 2000 were found guilty of this offence) (figure/table 2.3). This is also the most common offence for men although it accounts for only 37% of male offenders (see table 2.3). Drug offences are second at 10% (20% for men) and violence against the person third at 9% (12% for men) – (see figure 2.3).

Drug arrestees

Recent Home Office research based in custody suites (New English and Welsh Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (NEW-ADAM), 2000) utilises data from urine testing and self-reported interviews of arrestees. Latest findings suggest that:

- Based upon urinalysis overall prevalence of any drug use was similar for male and female arrestees.
- Female arrestees (although note based upon a small sample) had a significantly higher rate of positive tests for opiates (33% to 23% for men); amphetamines and benzodiazepines.

Amongst those arrestees that had been identified as having a drug problem and who were reported by an arrest referral worker (October 2000 to March 2001):

- 16 % were female;
- Women were significantly more likely than men to have ever received drug treatment (or be currently in treatment);
- women spent on average £328 per week on drugs (compared to £255 per week for men);
- women were more likely than men to report recent use (last 30 days) of the more harmful drugs (heroin, methadone, crack);
- women were more likely than men to be arrested for shoplifting; fraud, soliciting and handling stolen goods;

- women were more likely than men to be referred to a specialist drug treatment service.

(Source: Home Office DPAS 2000)

Reasons for offending

- A survey of mothers in prison examined the most common reasons for offending. These were:
 - having no money (54%)
 - mixing with the wrong crowd (46%)
 - need to support children (38%)
 - drink or drugs (35%)
 - family problems (33%)
 - having no job (33%)

(Source: *Imprisoned Women and Mothers*, HORS 162. 1,057 mothers were interviewed in late 1994).

Prevalence of offending

- The proportion of women with a conviction² is much lower at all ages than for men. 8% of women born in 1953 were convicted before the age of 40 compared with 34% of men. Only 1% of all women compared to 7% of men had received a custodial sentence before the age of 40.
- The difference is slightly less for younger groups. Of women born in 1958, 9% had received a conviction before the age of 30, compared with 33% of men.
- The proportion of offenders convicted only once is higher for women than for men. For example, of offenders born in 1953, 78% of female offenders have been convicted on only one occasion before the age of 40, compared to 55% of male offenders.
- 83% of female offenders have criminal careers³ lasting less than a year, compared with 60% of male offenders. Only 3% of female offenders have a criminal career of more than 10 years, compared with 25% of male offenders.

2. For a standard list offence (all indictable offences plus some of the more serious summary offences).

3. The proportion of their lifetime where the person is an offender.

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Table 2.1: Offenders⁽¹⁾ found guilty or cautioned by category of offence, sex and age group

England and Wales, 2000		Numbers (Thousands)							
Type of offence	All ⁽¹⁾	Total	Male			Total	Women		
			10-17	18-20	21+		10-17	18-20	21+
Indictable offences⁽²⁾									
Found guilty	325.5	276.5	42.5	49.9	184.0	47.7	6.7	7.5	33.5
Cautioned	150.9	109.7	45.3	20.1	44.3	41.2	19.0	5.2	17.0
Found guilty or cautioned	476.4	386.2	87.8	70.0	228.3	88.9	25.7	12.7	50.6
Summary offences (excluding motoring offences)									
Found guilty	490.7	357.1	23.9	37.4	295.8	131.6	3.8	7.1	120.7
Cautioned	88.1	69.6	26.8	11.9	30.9	18.5	6.5	2.5	9.6
Found guilty or cautioned	578.8	426.7	50.8	49.3	326.7	150.0	10.3	9.6	130.3
Summary motoring offences⁽³⁾									
Found guilty	607.5	523.9	14.0	55.7	454.2	76.8	0.5	4.7	71.6
All offences									
Found guilty	1,423.7	1,157.5	80.6	143.0	934.0	256.0	10.9	19.3	225.8
Cautioned	239.0	179.3	72.1	32.0	75.2	59.7	25.5	7.7	26.6
Found guilty or cautioned	1,662.7	1,336.8	152.6	175.0	1,009.2	315.7	36.4	27.0	252.4

Notes

(1) Other offenders ie companies, public bodies, etc are included here.

(2) Offenders found guilty of indictable motoring offences only; motoring offences may attract written warnings.

(3) Offenders found guilty only: motoring offences may attract written warnings.

Source: Criminal statistics England and Wales, 2000 Table 5.8

Table 2.2: Offenders found guilty at all courts or cautioned⁽¹⁾ for indictable offences by sex and age group

England and Wales			Number of offenders (thousands)						
Year	All		Males			Females			
	offenders	Total	10-17	18-20	21+	Total	10-17	18-20	21+
Number of persons cautioned									
1990	166.3	124.2	74.5	15.1	34.6	42.1	22.1	4.2	15.8
1992	216.2	155.0	76.2	23.8	55.1	61.1	29.4	7.3	24.4
1994	209.8	153.6	67.8	25.0	60.7	56.2	27.6	6.1	22.4
1996	190.8	142.6	58.1	24.3	30.2	48.2	21.7	5.6	20.9
1998	191.7	142.9	55.8	25.7	61.5	48.8	21.5	5.9	21.4
1999	170.6	126.1	50.7	22.7	52.7	44.5	19.1	5.7	19.6
2000	150.9	109.7	45.3	20.1	44.3	41.2	19.9	5.2	17.0
Number of persons found guilty									
1990	339.7	295.7	50.0	65.8	188.8	44.0	5.1	8.3	30.6
1992	322.8	282.8	33.8	58.9	190.1	40.0	4.1	7.3	28.5
1994	312.8	273.2	35.6	50.3	187.4	39.5	4.8	6.2	28.6
1996	299.1	261.1	39.1	46.3	175.6	38.0	5.2	5.7	27.2
1998	340.3	292.9	43.3	51.8	197.9	47.3	6.4	7.1	33.7
1999	340.7	291.7	44.0	52.6	195.0	49.0	6.6	7.6	34.7
2000	324.2	276.5	42.5	44.9	184.0	47.7	6.7	7.5	33.5
Number of persons found guilty or cautioned									
1990	506.0	419.9	115.5	80.9	223.4	86.1	27.2	12.6	46.4
1992	539.0	437.9	110.0	82.7	245.2	101.1	33.7	14.6	52.9
1994	522.5	426.8	103.4	75.3	248.1	95.7	32.4	12.3	51.0
1996	489.9	403.7	97.3	70.5	235.8	86.3	26.9	11.3	48.0
1998	532.0	435.9	99.0	77.5	259.3	96.1	27.9	13.1	55.2
1999	511.2	417.8	94.7	75.4	247.7	93.4	25.8	13.4	54.3
2000	475.1	386.2	87.8	70.0	228.3	88.9	25.7	12.7	50.6

(1) For motoring offences, only persons found guilty are included; these offences may attract written warnings.

Source: Criminal Statistics England and Wales 2001.

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Table 2.3: Offenders found guilty at all courts or cautioned by sex and type of offence

England and Wales		Number of offenders (thousands)					
Sex and type of offence	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000
Males							
Indictable offences							
Violence against the person	60.6	57.3	51.5	43.9	51.7	48.7	47.1
Sexual offences	9.9	8.3	7.4	6.4	6.2	5.7	5.2
Burglary	52.2	56.1	47.5	40.5	37.2	35.0	31.0
Robbery	5.1	5.4	5.1	6.0	5.6	5.7	5.9
Theft and handling stolen goods	174.7	186.7	169.0	153.7	152.6	151.5	142.1
Fraud and forgery	20.4	20.5	19.1	17.6	19.1	19.3	17.6
Criminal damage	14.0	12.6	13.0	11.7	12.4	12.5	12.0
Drug offences	39.0	45.4	65.1	72.8	96.0	87.1	76.5
Other (excluding motoring offences)	30.6	35.4	37.6	41.6	48.1	46.1	42.9
<i>Motoring offences⁽¹⁾</i>	10.6	10.3	11.4	9.4	8.5	7.6	7.2
Total indictable offences (excluding motoring offences)	423.0	439.9	428.2	405.1	437.3	419.1	387.5
Summary offences (excluding motoring offences) ⁽²⁾	429.6	412.5	392.0	414.2	430.1	415.4	428.8
All offences (excluding summary motoring offences)	852.6	852.5	820.2	819.3	867.4	834.5	816.2
Females							
Indictable offences							
Violence against the person	8.6	9.7	9.7	7.9	8.9	8.2	8.1
Sexual offences	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Burglary	2.7	2.5	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.8
Robbery	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6
Theft and handling stolen goods	59.4	71.5	63.4	54.5	56.8	55.2	53.5
Fraud and forgery	6.1	7.0	6.9	6.2	8.0	8.2	7.8
Criminal damage	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4
Drug offences	4.2	4.9	7.0	8.7	11.5	11.0	9.3
Other (excluding motoring offences)	2.9	3.4	4.4	4.8	6.5	6.4	6.1
<i>Motoring offences⁽¹⁾</i>	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Total indictable offences (excluding motoring offences)	86.1	101.1	95.7	86.3	96.1	93.4	88.9
Summary offences (excluding motoring offences) ⁽²⁾	140.4	164.3	161.4	169.6	128.9	113.8	150.0
All offences (excluding summary motoring offences)	226.6	265.4	257.1	255.9	225.0	207.2	239.0

(1) Offenders found guilty only; motoring offences may attract written warnings.

(2) It is estimated that there are shortfalls of 6,900 offenders convicted for summary non-motoring offences in South Wales 1994.

Source: Criminal Statistics England and Wales 2001.

Chapter 3

Arrests and police disposals

Entry into the criminal justice system

- Females are far less likely than males to be arrested for notifiable offences: in 2000/2001, 16% of those arrested were female.
- Women form a larger than average proportion of those arrested for fraud and forgery (27%) and theft and handling (21%) (see table 3.1).
- Conversely, women form a smaller proportion of those arrested for sexual offences (5%) or burglary (8%).
- Women were less likely than men to have been arrested following a stop/search;
- Women were less likely to request a lawyer, reflecting differences in the types of offences for which they were arrested;
- Women were more likely than men to admit offences, even after taking into account other factors such as type of offence;
- Women were less likely than men to exercise their right of silence, again related to differences in the types of offences.

In addition, HORS 185 *Entry into the criminal justice system: a survey of police arrests and their outcomes* showed that:

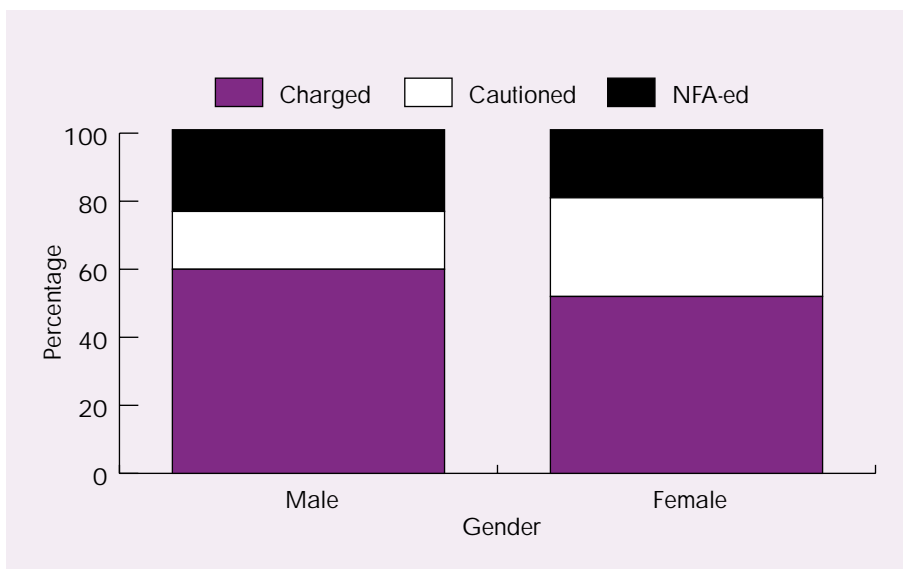


Figure 3.1: Outcome of arrest by sex of suspect

- Figure 3.1 shows that women were more likely than men to be cautioned because they were far more likely than men to admit their offences and more likely to be arrested for less serious offences (e.g. shoplifting). Women were less likely to have no further action taken and less likely to be charged: 52% of arrested women were charged, compared with 60% of arrested men.
- 12% of cases against women were terminated by the CPS compared with 14% of cases against men. The difference is explained by the greater involvement of women in certain offences (e.g. soliciting and shoplifting) which were relatively straightforward to prosecute.

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Cautioning

- Women are more likely than men to be cautioned for all indictable offences. In 2000 the cautioning rate⁴ for women was 47% compared with 29% for men (see table 3.2).

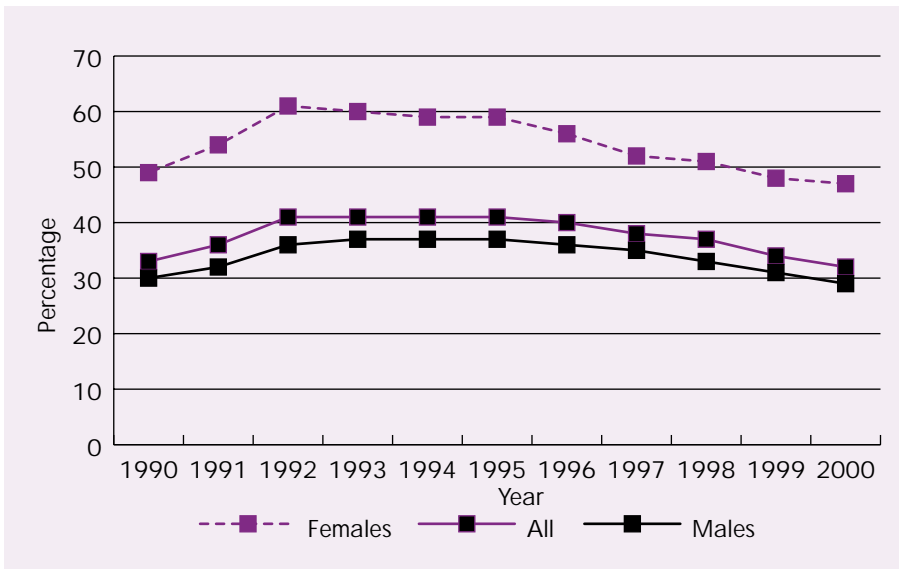


Figure 3.2: Cautioning rates for indictable offences, by sex

- Considering trends over time, the cautioning rate for women reached a peak of 61% for indictable offences in 1992 (see figure/table 3.2) and has fallen steadily since 1995.
- For indictable offences, cautioning is more common for younger age groups. Females have higher cautioning rates than males for all age groups (figure 3.2).

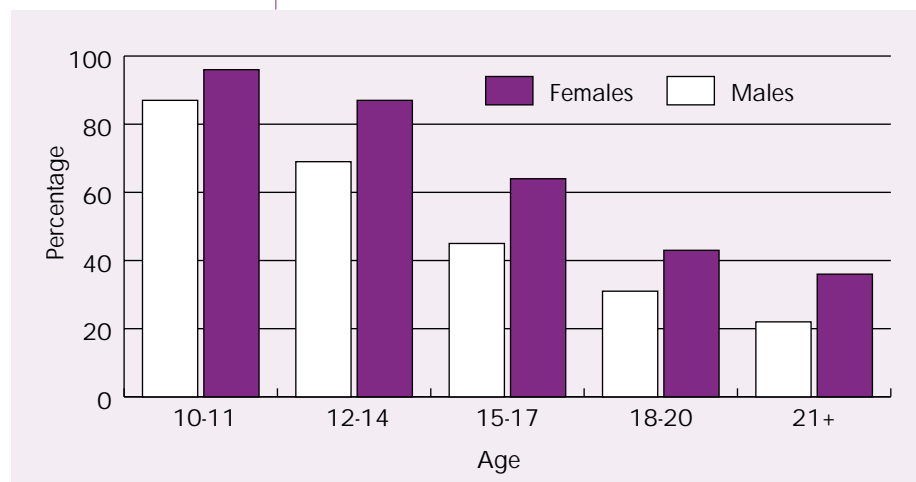


Figure 3.3: Cautioning rates for indictable offences, by age and sex, 2000

- The proportions of male and female offenders cautioned for summary non-motoring offences are relatively close for recent years. The gap between men and women for this offence group has generally decreased over the years (see figure 3.4), possibly reflecting changes in the mix of offences covered. However, the cautioning rate for women has fallen significantly in the last year, reflecting the increase in convictions for TV licence evasion.

4. Offenders cautioned as a proportion of offenders found guilty or cautioned.

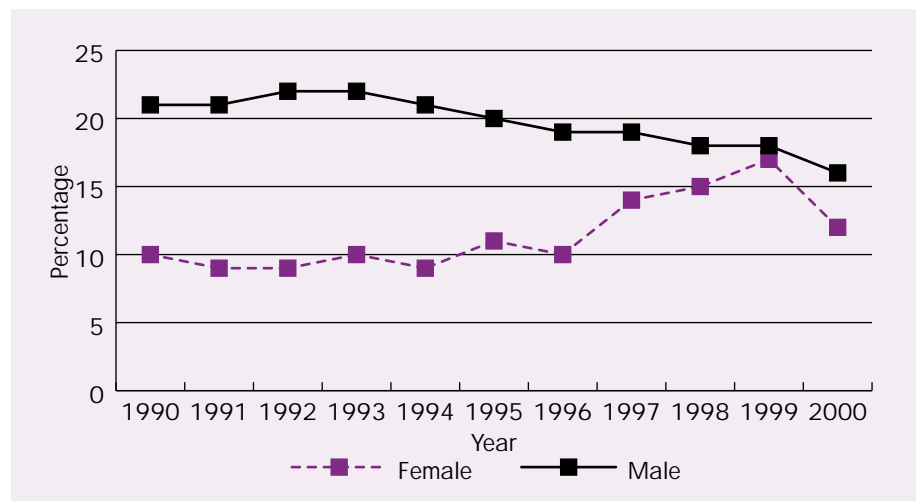


Figure 3.4: Cautioning rates for summary non-motoring offences, by sex

Table 3.1: Arrests⁽¹⁾ for notifiable offences: 2000/01 – England and Wales – by offence group and age

Offence group	Total arrests	% male	% female
Violence against the person	259,500	86	14
Sexual offences	24,100	95	5
Robbery	31,200	90	10
Burglary	106,500	92	8
Theft & handling stolen goods	442,700	79	21
Fraud & forgery	1,100	73	27
Criminal damage	131,700	89	11
Drug offences	111,300	88	12
Other notifiable offences	116,200	88	12
Total	1,264,200	84	16

(1) Estimated

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Table 3.2: Offenders(1) cautioned as a percentage of offenders found guilty or cautioned by type of offence, sex and age group

England and Wales													%
Year	Males							Females					
	All offenders	All ages	Aged 10-11	Aged 12-14	Aged 15-17	Aged 18-20	Aged 21 & over	All ages	Aged 10-11	Aged 12-14	Aged 15-17	Aged 18-20	Aged 21 & over
Indictable offences⁽²⁾													
1992	41	36	96	86	59	29	23	61	99	96	81	50	46
1994	41	37	95	81	56	34	25	59	100	94	77	50	44
1996	40	36	94	77	51	35	26	56	99	91	72	50	44
1998	37	33	91	72	48	34	24	51	97	88	67	46	39
1999	34	31	87	69	45	31	22	48	96	87	64	43	36
2000	32	29	86	68	43	29	20	47	95	86	63	41	34
Summary offences⁽²⁾													
1992	18	22	96	84	57	26	16	9	99	91	68	25	6
1994	18	21	97	82	60	29	15	9	99	86	67	27	6
1996	16	19	95	79	55	29	12	10	97	82	60	23	6
1998	17	18	92	73	47	26	11	15	98	79	53	28	10
1999	18	18	88	70	46	26	11	17	92	75	56	32	11
2000	15	16	86	67	44	24	9	12	92	75	56	26	7

Notes:

(1) Other offenders, i.e. companies, public bodies etc are included with males aged 21 and over.

(2) Excluding all motoring offences.

Source: Criminal statistics, England and Wales, 2000, Table 5.3

Table 3.3: Offenders(1) cautioned by sex and type of offence

England and Wales	Number of offenders (thousands)					
Sex and type of offence	1992	1994	1996	1998 ⁽²⁾	1999 ⁽²⁾	2000 ⁽²⁾
Males						
Indictable offences						
Violence against the person ⁽³⁾	17.5	17.6	16.7	18.4	16.6	15.5
Sexual offences	3.4	2.9	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.3
Burglary	13.1	10.5	9.3	7.5	6.8	5.8
Robbery	0.6	0.6	5.0	0.5	0.5	0.5
Theft and handling stolen goods	82.8	69.9	60.1	51.4	46.4	40
Fraud and forgery	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.6	3.8
Criminal damage	3.6	3.8	2.8	2.4	2.6	2.8
Drug offences	24.8	39.9	42.4	52.3	43.5	36.4
Other (excluding motoring offences)	4.3	3.4	3.9	4.2	3.7	3.6
Motoring offences	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	155.0	153.6	142.6	142.9	126.1	109.7
Summary offences						
(excluding motoring offences)	90.0	83.6	79.2	76.9	76.1	69.6
All offences						
(excluding summary motoring offences)	245.1	237.2	221.8	219.8	202.3	179.3
Females						
Indictable offences						
Violence against the person ⁽³⁾	6.0	5.9	5.2	5.1	4.7	4.4
Sexual offences	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0
Burglary	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Robbery	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Theft and handling stolen goods	47.5	40.9	33.6	32.2	29.1	27.6
Fraud and forgery	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.4
Criminal damage	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Drug offences	2.8	4.5	5.1	6.4	5.8	4.7
Other (excluding motoring offences)	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.8
Motoring offences	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	61.1	56.2	48.2	48.8	44.5	41.2
Summary offences						
(excluding motoring offences)	15.1	15.1	16.2	19.2	19.4	18.5
All offences						
(excluding summary motoring offences)	76.2	71.3	64.4	68.1	63.9	59.7

Notes:

(1) Other offenders, i.e. companies, public bodies, etc are included with males.

(2) Includes reprimands and final warnings introduced for young offenders in seven pilot from 30 September 1998 and nationally from June 2000.

(3) A new charging standard was introduced for assault in 1994.

* Not applicable.

Source: Criminal statistics England and Wales, 2000, Table 5.1

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Remand and mode of trial

Decisions in court

The figures in this subsection are derived from 2000 remand statistics (as reported in chapter 8 of *Criminal Statistics* but without separate figures for females). The statistics are of poor quality for some magistrates' courts.

- Men are more likely than women to be remanded in custody during proceedings at magistrates' courts (4% of men compared with 2% of women). However, research has shown that taking into account offending history and

type of offence, sex seems to have only a marginal effect on remand decisions;

- Men are more likely than women to be remanded in custody on committal to the Crown Court (30% of men compared with 18% of women);
- 36% of women remanded in custody at some stage receive a custodial sentence, compared with 48% of men.

Remanded prisoners

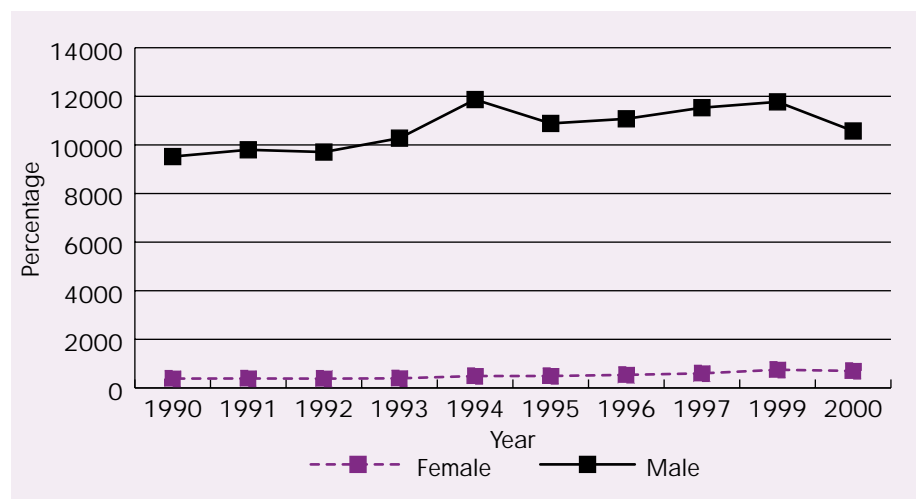


Figure 4.1: Average population of remand prisoners in custody, by sex

- The female remand population averaged 700 in 2000 compared to 10,570 for men (figure 4.1 - see table 4.2).
- 20% of the total female prison population were on remand in June 2000.
- 4,030 female untried prisoners entered prison in 2000 and they spent 36 days on average in custody, compared with 49 days for men (see table 4.1).
- 47% of remand receptions of women were for theft and fraud (see table 4.3).

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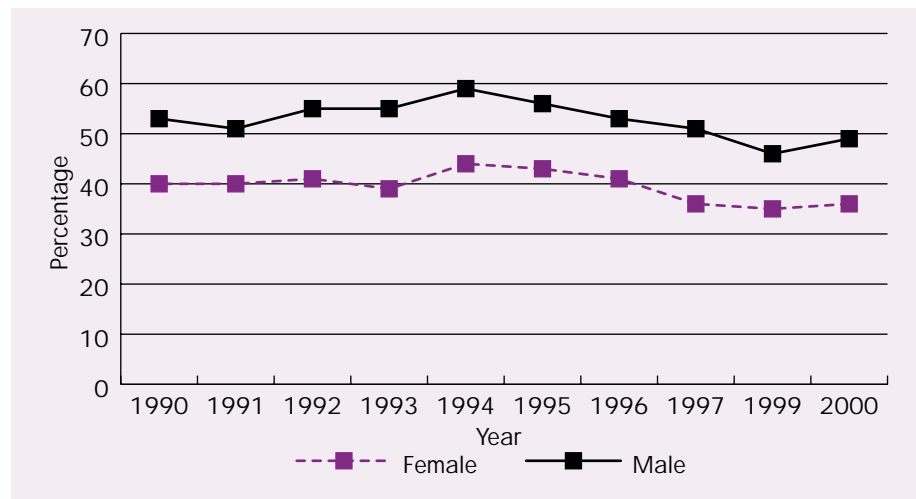


Figure 4.2: Estimated average time spent in custody, untried prisoners

- 3,770 female convicted unsentenced prisoners entered prison in 2000 and they spent 30 days on average in custody, compared with 35 days for men (see table 4.1).
- Of women received under a custodial sentence, 41% had previously been remanded in custody compared with 50% of men.

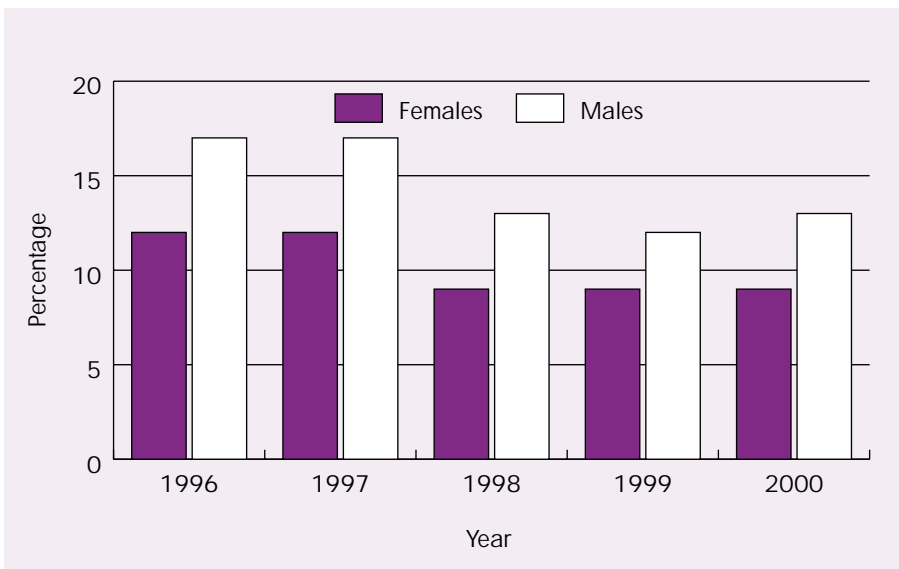


Figure 4.3: Persons aged 18 and over committed for trial at the Crown Court for triable either way offences

- 2000 data shows that, in triable either way cases, women were less likely than men to be committed to the Crown Court for trial (9% of women aged 18 or more compared with 13% of men in 2000). This partly reflected differences in type of offence (see table 4.4).

Table 4.1: Untried and convicted unsentenced prisoners in prison: average population, receptions and estimated average time spent in custody

England and Wales						
Males and females		Number of persons (thousands) / days				
Type of prisoner	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000
Untried prisoners						
Males						
Average population	7.32	7.12	8.70	8.00	7.7	6.7
Receptions	50.43	47.50	54.16	55.55	60.16	50.87
Average number of days in custody ⁽¹⁾	53	55	59	53	47	49
Females						
Average population	0.30	0.26	0.35	0.37	0.43	0.4
Receptions	2.70	2.37	2.92	3.34	4.54	4.03
Average number of days in custody ^{(1) (3)}	40	41	44	41	34	36
Convicted unsentenced prisoners						
Males						
Average population	1.73	1.89	3.04	3.07	4.13	3.87
Receptions	19.23	20.05	32.75	32.99	39.95	40.12
Average number of days in custody ⁽²⁾	33	34	34	34	38	35
Females						
Average population	0.08	0.10	0.14	0.17	0.28	0.3
Receptions	1.18	1.20	1.81	1.99	3.44	3.77
Average number of days in custody ^{(2) (3)}	26	32	28	31	30	30

(1) Time spent in Prison Service establishments before conviction, acquittal etc.

(2) Time spent in Prison Service establishments after conviction.

(3) Averages are subject to wide variation because of the small populations on which they are based.

Source: Prison Statistics England and Wales, 2000, table 2.2

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Table 4.2: Average population of remand prisoners in custody: by type of committal, age and sex

England and Wales							
Males and females		Number of persons (thousands)					
Type of prisoner	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	
Males							
All untried prisoners	7.32	7.12	8.70	8.00	7.73	6.70	
Involved in proceedings at Magistrates' courts	3.97	3.34	4.13	4.46	4.29	3.53	
Committed for trial to the Crown Court	3.33	3.77	4.54	3.51	3.40	3.12	
Other untried prisoners	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.06	
Convicted unsentenced prisoners	1.73	1.89	3.04	3.07	4.13	3.88	
All remand prisoners in Prison Service establishments	9.06	9.01	11.74	11.08	11.86	10.57	
Aged 14-20 ⁽¹⁾	2.82	2.49	2.92	2.85	2.82	2.48	
Aged 21 and over	6.24	6.52	8.82	8.23	9.05	8.09	
Remand prisoners in police cells ⁽²⁾	0.47	0.70	0.13	-	-	-	
All in custody	9.52	9.71	11.87	11.08	11.86	10.57	
Females							
All untried prisoners	0.30	0.26	0.35	0.37	0.43	0.40	
Involved in proceedings at Magistrates' courts	0.17	0.13	0.17	0.20	0.25	0.22	
Committed for trial to the Crown Court	0.13	0.14	0.17	0.15	0.18	0.18	
Other untried prisoners	-	-	0.01	0.02	0.01	-	
Convicted unsentenced prisoners	0.08	0.10	0.14	0.17	0.28	0.30	
All remand prisoners in Prison Service establishments	0.38	0.37	0.49	0.54	0.70	0.7	
Aged 14-20 ⁽¹⁾	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.09	0.12	0.13	
Aged 21 and over	0.31	0.30	0.42	0.45	0.59	0.57	
Remand prisoners in police cells ⁽²⁾	-	0.02	-	-	-	-	
All in custody	0.38	0.38	0.49	0.54	0.70	0.70	

(1) 14 year olds have not been held in custody since October 1993.

(2) Estimated. Up to 1987 all prisoners in police cells are assumed to be remand prisoners.

Table 4.3: Receptions (1) of untried and convicted unsentenced prisoners in prison by offence and sex

England and Wales
Males and females

Number of persons (thousands)

Offence	1999			2000		
	Untried	Convicted Unsentenced	Total	Untried	Convicted Unsentenced	Total
Males						
All offences	59.99	41.96	77.38	50.87	40.12	74.75
Violence against the person	9.42	4.24	10.79	9.16	4.88	11.77
Sexual offences	2.45	0.88	2.69	2.07	0.98	2.59
Burglary	10.74	7.24	12.61	9.16	7.11	12.58
Robbery	3.73	1.68	3.94	3.85	2.13	4.76
Theft and handling	13.36	12.89	19.80	10.0	11.35	17.86
Fraud and forgery	1.09	0.81	1.48	0.80	0.71	1.26
Drug offences	5.16	2.97	6.10	4.30	3.00	5.90
Other offences	13.17	10.60	18.62	10.57	9.10	16.50
Offence not recorded	0.86	0.65	1.36	0.95	0.87	1.55
Females						
All offences	4.59	3.94	6.72	4.03	3.77	6.58
Violence against the person	0.50	0.29	0.62	0.54	0.30	0.71
Sexual offences	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Burglary	0.34	0.19	0.38	0.31	0.19	0.40
Robbery	0.18	0.08	0.19	0.23	0.14	0.29
Theft and handling	1.67	2.01	2.92	1.40	1.94	2.88
Fraud and forgery	0.22	0.19	0.33	0.13	0.12	0.20
Drug offences	0.75	0.36	0.87	0.63	0.41	0.85
Other offences	0.77	0.70	1.18	0.64	0.55	0.99
Offence not recorded	0.13	0.10	0.21	0.13	0.13	0.23

(1) Total receptions cannot be calculated by adding together receptions in each category, because there is double counting.
Source: Prison Statistics England and Wales, 2000, table 2.9

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Table 4.4: Persons aged 18 and over proceeded against and committed for trial at the Crown Court for triable either way offences, by offence category(1) and sex

England and Wales				Number of persons (thousands)					
Offence group	Total number proceeded against			Committed for trial			Percentage of those proceeded against		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Males									
Violence against the person	50.4	50.5	48.9	9.3	9.7	9.9	18	19	20
Sexual offences	4.5	4.6	4.2	1.8	1.9	1.7	41	42	42
Burglary	31.1	30.5	27.8	8.0	7.9	7.5	26	26	27
Theft and handling stolen goods	107.5	110.7	107.2	7.0	6.1	5.4	7	5	5
Fraud and forgery	18.5	18.9	17.7	2.4	2.3	2.1	13	12	12
Criminal damage	12.3	11.9	11.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	9	9	9
Drug offences	46.9	46.6	41.5	7.7	7.5	6.8	16	16	16
Other (excluding motoring offences)	64.7	63.6	58.6	5.3	5.3	5.3	8	8	9
Motoring offences	10.7	9.7	9.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	10	11	12
Total	346.6	346.8	326.0	43.8	42.9	40.8	13	12	13
Females									
Violence against the person	5.2	5.0	5.4	1.0	1.0	1.1	19	19	21
Sexual offences	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	(49)	39	(55)
Burglary	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	24	25	26
Theft and handling stolen goods	26.5	27.8	27.4	1.2	1.1	1.0	5	4	4
Fraud and forgery	6.4	6.9	6.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	9	9	9
Criminal damage	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	9	12	10
Drug offences	6.1	6.3	5.4	1.4	1.5	1.3	23	23	24
Other (excluding motoring offences)	8.9	8.7	9.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	6	5	6
Motoring offences	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	5	6	6
Total	56.3	58.2	56.4	5.3	5.3	5.1	9	9	9
Total persons	402.9	405.0	382.4	49.1	48.2	45.9	12	12	12

Notes:

(1) For persons aged 18 and over, offences of robbery are triable only on indictment.

() Percentages in brackets are based on total of less than 100.

Source: Criminal statistics England and Wales, 2000, Table 6.6

Chapter 5 Sentencing

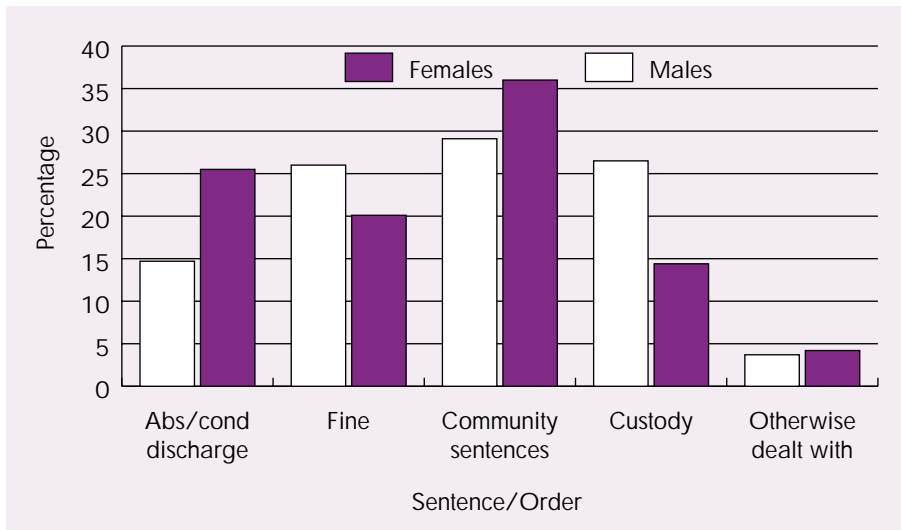


Figure 5.1: Type of sentence or order for indictable offences by sex, 2000

- For indictable offences as a whole, women are more likely than men to be discharged or given a community sentence and are less likely to be fined or sentenced to custody (see figure/table 5.1).
- Custody rates for indictable offences are higher for men than for women at magistrates' courts and at the Crown Court (and across all ages). Since 1992, the custody rate for women has increased from 2% to nearly 10% at the magistrates' court and from 23% to around 42% at the Crown court compared to an increase from 5% to nearly 15% at the magistrates' court and from 46% to 66% at the Crown court for men. (See tabel 5.2)
- Women receive shorter sentences on average (see tables 5.3 and 5.4 for those aged 21 or over).
- These differences partly reflect the different types of offences committed by women. However, even within offence groups, the above tends to hold (although offence group is a crude control as the seriousness of offence can vary greatly within a group).
- In 2000, 7,900 women were sentenced to custody for all offences.
- The seven offences for which women were most often sentenced to custody in 1999 were:
 - theft from shops (2,350 women sentenced to custody)
 - other wounding (480)
 - other fraud (460)
 - production, supply and possession with intent to supply a class A controlled drug (410)
 - summary motoring (400)
 - burglary of all kinds (340)
 - handling stolen goods (300)

Some of these offences have relatively low custody rates (e.g. 11% for theft from shops) but the large volume of offences means that even a low custody rate delivers a large number to prison.

The most thorough recent study of the sentencing of women – *Understanding the sentencing of women* (HORS 170) – examined the sentencing of 13,000 men and women for offences of shoplifting, violence and drugs. The study was restricted to those aged 21 and over and related to sentences in 1991. After taking into account

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factors such as criminal and sentencing history, the study found that:

- Female shoplifters were less likely than comparable males to receive a prison sentence. They were more likely to be sentenced to a community penalty or discharged, suggesting a reluctance to fine women. The result is that some women end up with a less severe sentence but others with a more severe sentence than a fine.
- Men and women were equally likely to receive a custodial sentence for a first violent offence. Among repeat offenders women were less likely to receive a custodial sentence.
- Female first offenders were less likely than males to receive a prison sentence for a drug offence. Repeat offenders were equally likely to go to prison.

Sentencing and the prison population

Figure 5.2 gives some indication for the reasons for the increasing prison population, comparing those sentenced between 1996 and 2000 for all offences at all courts.

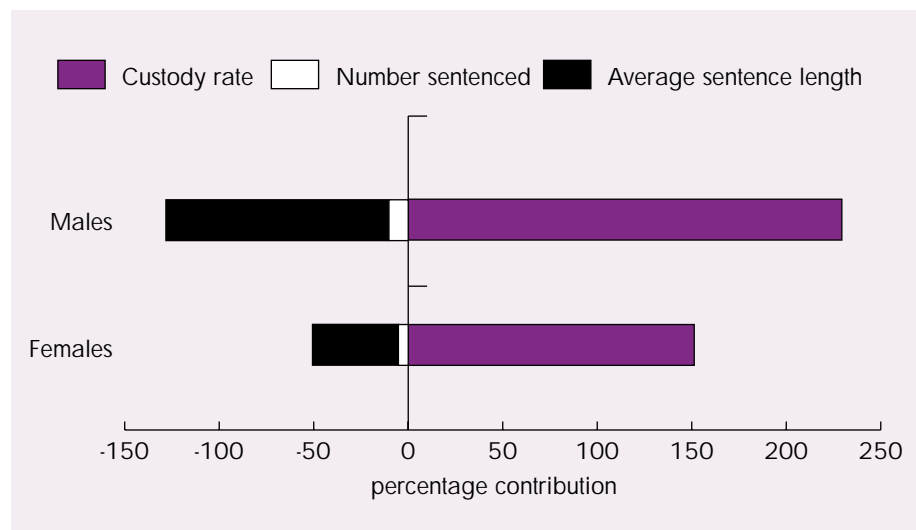


Figure 5.2: The proportionate influence of changes in number sentenced, custody rates and average sentence lengths on the rise in the male and female prison population between 1996 and 2000

- This shows that for both male and females, increases in custody rates more than offset decreases in the other two components leading to an increase in the implied prison population (IPP)⁶
- The numbers going through the courts are relatively more important in explaining the rise in the female prison population. 'Drugs' and 'Theft and handling stolen goods' offences explained 53% and 14% of the increase in the female IPP respectively. For males 'Drugs' offences explained 47% while 'Domestic burglary' explained 29%.

Equality of sentencing options

Differences in sentencing may reflect differences in provision. The HM Inspectorate of Probation report *A Review of Probation Service Provision for Women Offenders* (May 1996) found that:

- A minority of probation areas had strategies, action plans or practice guidelines to help ensure that women had equal access to community sentences;
- A minority of areas provided women-only group work and community service tasks;

6. $IPP = \text{Numbered sentenced} * \text{Custody rate} * (\text{Average sentence length} / 2)$. The formula assumes that a person will remain in prison for exactly half their sentence.

- The needs of women were not a priority when developing local partnership; arrangements to deal with misuse of drugs and alcohol, and the effect of unemployment.
- Provision of safe and secure accommodation – pre- and post-trial – was patchy;
- There was not always full consideration of the issues involved in preparing a Pre-sentence

Report on women offenders. Lack of knowledge of child-care provisions meant that some women were excluded from consideration for a community sentence. Work in 1998 revealed evidence that the kinds of information available to sentencers via pre-sentence reports vary in significant respects for men and women and according to ethnic group.

Table 5.1: Offenders⁽¹⁾ sentenced by sex, type of offence and type of sentence or order

England and Wales 2000		Number of people (thousands)										
Sex and type of offence	Total number of offenders sentenced	Absolute or conditional discharge			Community sentence	Detention and S53 C&YP Act 1933			Imprisonment			Total immediate custody
		Fine				Secure training order	Young offender institution	Fully suspended	Un-suspended	Otherwise dealt with		
Males												
Indictable offences	278.4	40.8	72.5	80.9	0.6	3.9	0.1	14.3	1.8	55.1	8.5	73.9
Summary offences	889.9	55.1	745.7	51.1	*	0.9	0.0	4.6	0.5	18.9	13.1	24.4
All offences	1168.2	95.9	818.2	131.9	0.6	4.7	0.1	18.9	2.4	74.0	21.6	98.3
Females												
Indictable offences	47.8	12.2	9.6	17.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.1	0.6	5.5	1.4	6.9
Summary offences	208.3	13.3	185.6	6.5	*	0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.8	1.8	1
All offences	256.1	25.5	195.2	23.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.2	0.7	6.3	3.2	7.9

Note:

(1) Other offenders, i.e. companies, public bodies, etc are included with males aged 21 and over.

Source: Criminal statistics England and Wales, 2000, Table 7.4

Table 5.2: Custody rates at the magistrates' courts and at the Crown Court for indictable offences by sex

Magistrates courts	Gender	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000
Number sentenced	Male	207,962	209,417	196,180	222,629	224,636	213,222
	Female	33,454	34,178	31,803	39,984	41,816	40,739
Number sentenced to immediate custody	Male	11,161	16,127	20,394	27,107	29,751	31,509
	Female	635	1,212	1,625	3,120	3,637	3,971
Custody rates	Male	5.4	7.7	10.4	12.2	13.2	14.8
	Female	1.9	3.5	5.1	7.8	8.7	9.7
Crown Court							
Number sentenced	Male	74,581	63,180	64,647	69,760	66,662	63,862
	Female	6,536	5,282	6,217	7,263	7,190	7,059
Number sentenced to immediate custody	Male	34,443	34,052	40,561	44,426	43,429	42,376
	Female	1,510	1,556	2,229	2,659	2,971	2,928
Custody rates	Male	46.2	53.9	62.7	63.7	65.1	66.4
	Female	23.1	29.5	35.9	36.6	41.3	41.5

Source: Crime and Criminal Justice Unit (RDS), Home Office

Date 5 Nov. 2001

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Table 5.3: Proportion of females aged 21 and over sentenced to immediate imprisonment⁽¹⁾ for indictable offences and average length of sentence given by offence group and type of court

England and Wales

Year	Total indictable offences	Violence against the person ⁽²⁾	Sexual offences	Burglary	Robbery	Theft and handling	Fraud and Forgery stolen goods	Criminal damage	Drug	Other offences (excluding motoring)	Motoring offences
Magistrates' court											
Proportionate use of immediate imprisonment ⁽¹⁾ (percentage)											
1992	2	2	-	6	*	2	2	5	1	2	-
1994	4	5	7	14	*	4	4	5	1	2	1
1996	6	7	-	14	*	7	5	5	2	3	1
1998	9	10	(30)	16	*	11	8	7	4	6	1
1999	10	11	(9)	18	*	13	9	4	4	5	2
2000	11	11	(13)	32	*	14	8	5	4	6	3
Average length of sentence for principal offences (months) ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾											
1992	2.2	2.6	-	2.7	*	2.2	2.7	1.7	3.4	1.0	-
1994	2.5	2.7	6.0	2.9	*	2.5	2.9	2.2	1.9	1.7	3.7
1996	2.3	2.8	-	3.5	*	2.2	2.7	1.7	2.1	1.4	4.3
1998	2.2	2.9	4.0	3.1	*	2.2	2.7	2.0	2.4	1.3	3.0
1999	2.3	2.8	5.0	3.2	*	2.2	2.7	1.9	2.5	1.4	4.3
2000	2.3	3.0	4.0	3.5	*	2.2	2.7	1.7	2.3	1.3	4.1
Crown Court											
Proportionate use of immediate imprisonment ⁽¹⁾ (percentage)											
1992	24	22	(41)	27	58	21	22	19	39	22	(22)
1994	30	27	(50)	42	72	26	26	20	42	24	(39)
1996	36	32	(64)	51	80	33	34	30	43	25	(24)
1998	37	28	(51)	51	73	33	34	23	45	27	(16)
1999	42	31	(47)	63	67	41	37	26	52	32	(27)
2000	42	33	(67)	53	75	41	32	25	55	30	(32)
Average length of sentence for principal offences ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ (months)											
1992	17.7	21.2	16.9	13.1	26.8	8.7	11.3	25.0	37.8	9.2	6.7
1994	18.5	20.5	32.7	14.8	31.4	9.0	10.8	29.9	35.0	10.2	7.3
1996	20.0	23.6	15.3	16.4	29.9	9.9	11.1	33.9	32.1	12.1	7.6
1998	19.7	21.4	28.1	17.6	30.1	8.4	11.0	29.5	30.4	10.1	8.0
1999	19.6	18.0	13.4	17.0	26.1	8.8	11.2	26.0	33.6	7.8	6.9
2000	21.0	20.4	39.4	17.6	28.4	8.6	9.5	27.9	34.6	9.3	7.7

(1) Up to 30 September 1992, includes partly suspended sentences given for principal offences; the full length (i.e. the suspended and the unsuspended part) of such sentences is included.

(2) A charging standard for assault was introduced on 31 August 1994, which led to the increase use of the summary offence of common assault.

(3) Excludes life sentences.

(*) Based on less than 100 females sentenced.

Source: Criminal statistics England and Wales, 2000, Table 7.16

Table 5.4: Proportion of males aged 21 and over sentenced to immediate imprisonment⁽¹⁾ for indictable offences and the average length of sentence given by offence group and type of court

England and Wales

Year	Total indictable offences	Violence against the person ⁽²⁾	Sexual offences	Burglary	Robbery	Theft and handling	Fraud and Forgery stolen goods	Criminal damage	Drug	Other offences (excluding motoring)	Motoring offences
Magistrates' court											
Proportionate use of immediate imprisonment ⁽¹⁾ (percentage)											
1992	5	5	5	14	*	5	5	4	2	3	3
1994	7	9	8	22	*	7	7	4	1	4	4
1996	11	13	12	28	*	12	13	6	3	6	5
1998	13	17	16	33	*	18	16	6	3	8	7
1999	15	17	22	35	*	20	15	8	4	8	8
2000	16	19	24	39	*	22	16	7	4	9	8
Average length of sentence for principal offences ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ (months)											
1992	2.7	3.0	3.8	3.3	*	2.3	2.8	1.9	2.1	1.9	3.8
1994	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.7	*	2.8	3.1	2.3	2.7	2.4	3.9
1996	2.7	3.2	3.7	3.5	*	2.4	2.8	2.0	2.3	2.0	3.7
1998	2.6	3.0	3.6	3.5	*	2.3	2.9	2.0	2.3	2.1	3.8
1999	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.5	*	2.3	3.0	1.9	2.3	2.2	4.0
2000	2.5	3.1	3.7	3.5	*	2.3	2.9	2.0	2.2	2.0	4.0
Crown Court											
Proportionate use of immediate imprisonment ⁽¹⁾ (percentage)											
1992	47	46	66	55	88	34	40	34	55	41	51
1994	54	53	71	66	91	41	50	38	58	45	49
1996	63	62	75	78	94	53	55	48	66	52	55
1998	64	59	77	79	92	57	57	40	66	53	60
1999	66	60	76	80	91	60	58	41	69	53	63
2000	67	61	78	81	92	62	57	43	69	56	65
Average length of sentence for principal offences ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ (months)											
1992	21.1	21.0	38.2	16.0	47.9	10.5	15.9	22.7	31.0	12.6	8.7
1994	21.6	22.5	38.7	16.8	50.1	10.9	15.2	28.3	30.3	12.2	8.6
1996	23.6	24.7	38.8	20.3	52.5	11.9	16.0	30.0	32.0	12.9	9.3
1998	23.6	23.1	41.3	21.9	47.2	12.4	16.1	26.3	32.2	12.5	9.8
1999	24.1	22.7	40.4	22.3	46.0	11.3	14.4	27.7	35.0	12.9	10.0
2000	24.2	22.4	41.4	22.5	47.4	11.0	15.6	25.8	36.1	12.4	9.9

(1) Up to 30 September 1992, includes partly suspended sentences given for principal offences; the full length (i.e. the suspended and the unsuspended part) of such sentences is included.

(2) A charging standard for assault was introduced on 31 August 1994, which led to the increase use of the summary offence of common assault.

(3) Excludes life sentences.

Source: Criminal statistics England and Wales, 2000, Table 7.15

Chapter 6

Community penalties

- According to sentencing statistics, nearly a third of women sentenced for indictable offences in 2000 received a community sentence compared with just under a quarter of men. The most common community sentence for women was the community rehabilitation order⁶, with the proportion of women getting this sentence being about twice that of men. The other community sentences were for roughly similar proportions of men and women.
- At the end of 2000, 25,600 women were either on probation, being supervised by the probation service under criminal court orders or receiving pre- or post-release supervision. They accounted for 12% of all such persons supervised. The proportion increased slightly with age and was highest for offenders in their 30s and 40s (13%).
- More than a third (35%) of women and nearly a quarter (23%) of men starting community rehabilitation orders in 2000 had no previous convictions. Women were less likely than men to have served a custodial sentence for a previous offence (18% of women against 40% of men) and more women than men had received a community rehabilitation order for a previous offence: 20% of women as opposed to 10% of men.
- Similarly more women than men had no previous conviction before starting a community punishment order:⁷ 60% of women compared with 45% of men. Here too women were less likely to have had a custodial sentence for a previous conviction (7% women compared to 21% of men). A similar percentage of both sexes had experienced a community punishment order for a previous offence: 9% for women and 11% for men. Again slightly more women than men had been given a community rehabilitation order for a previous offence: 8% of women and 6% of men.
- The pattern was similar again for community punishment and rehabilitation orders⁸ with 43% of women and 25% of men having no previous convictions and with fewer women than men (14% of women and 36% of men) having had experience of a custodial sentence. However the same proportion of women and men had had a community punishment and rehabilitation order for a previous offence (7%) and the percentage of women who had received probation supervision for a previous offence was more than twice the percentage of men (15% women and 7% men).
- These differences reflect the different pattern of sentencing for women

6. Previously known as probation order.

7. Previously known as community service order.

8. Previously known as combination order.

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Table 6.1: Persons sentenced for indictable offences by sex and type of sentence or order

Sex and Year	Total number of persons sentenced	Community rehabilitation order	Community punishment order	Community punishment and rehabilitation order	Curfew order	Drug treatment and testing order	Total community sentences
Number sentenced for indictable offences				Number of persons (hundreds)			
Males							
1992	2825.4	258.4	291.0	*	*	*	549.4
1994	2726.0	279.2	303.6	72.8	*	*	655.6
1996	2608.3	259.3	258.7	91.1	1.0	*	610.1
1998	2923.9	293.6	272.0	112.0	5.0	*	682.5
1999	2913.0	294.1	270.5	108.1	7.8	*	680.5
2000	2770.8	279.0	263.6	99.4	13.1	2.5	657.6
Females							
1992	399.9	63.5	21.0	*	*	*	84.5
1994	394.6	69.2	25.1	8.3	*	*	102.6
1996	380.2	72.2	24.6	11.2	0.1	*	108.1
1998	472.5	90.5	30.5	16.0	0.6	*	137.6
1999	490.1	95.1	34.7	16.0	1.3	*	147.0
2000	478.0	93.5	35.8	14.2	1.8	0.0	145.7
Percentage sentenced for indictable offences							
Males							
1992	100.0	9.1	10.3	*	*	*	19.4
1994	100.0	10.2	11.1	2.7	*	*	24.1
1996	100.0	9.9	9.9	3.5	0.0	*	23.4
1998	100.0	10.0	9.3	3.8	0.2	*	23.3
1999	100.0	10.1	9.3	3.7	0.3	*	23.4
2000	100.0	10.1	9.5	3.6	0.5	0.1	23.7
Females							
1992	100.0	15.9	5.3	*	*	*	21.1
1994	100.0	17.5	6.4	2.1	*	*	26.0
1996	100.0	19.0	6.5	3.0	0.0	*	28.4
1998	100.0	19.1	6.5	3.4	0.1	*	29.1
1999	100.0	19.4	7.1	3.3	0.3	*	30.0
2000	100.0	19.6	7.5	3.0	0.4	0.1	30.5

Chapter 7 Women in custody

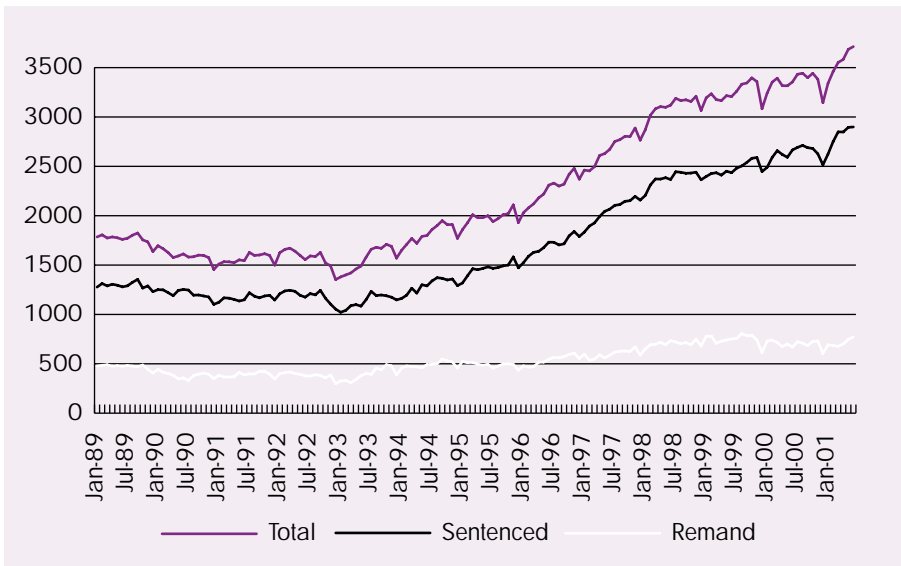


Figure 7.1: The female prison population, January 1989 – June 2001

Population (see table 7.1)

- Women are a small but increasing part of the total prison population⁹. In 1993, women comprised 3.5% of the prison population, rising to 3.9% in 1995, 4.4% in 1997 and 5.2% in 2000.
- The number of women in prison has risen in most months since the beginning of 1993, apart from the usual seasonal falls in December of each year. The annual average population increased from 1,560 in 1993 to 3,350 in 2000.
- Between 1993 and 2000, the average population of women in prison increased by 115% while the average population of men in prison increased by 42%. This reflects sentencing changes, especially the increase in the custody rate, shown in Chapter 5.
- 79% of the total female prison population were under sentence in June 2000.

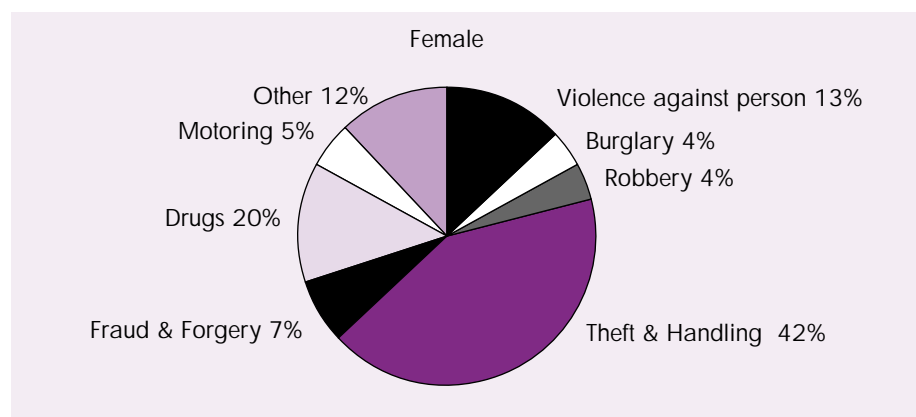


Figure 7.2a: Female receptions under sentence, 2000

9. This includes women who are unconvicted, convicted, are awaiting sentence or have been sentenced.

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Receptions of sentenced prisoners (see table 7.2)

- 7,160¹⁰ women were received as sentenced prisoners during 2000, 7.6% of all people received in prison under sentence.

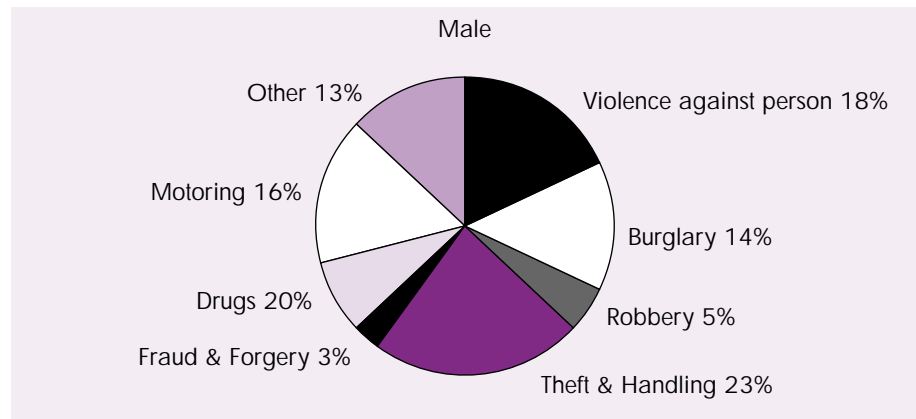


Figure 7.2b^{11,12}: Male receptions under sentence, 2000

- The most common offence category for which women are received into prison is theft and handling. 42% of sentenced receptions of women in 2000 were for this offence category, followed by violence against the person (13% of receptions), drug offences (13%) and other offences (12%).
- In 2000, greater proportions of women than men were received under sentence for the offences of theft and handling, fraud and forgery and drug offences while greater proportions of men than women were received

under sentence for violence against the person, sexual offences, burglary, robbery and motoring offences.

Sentenced female population

- Due to differences in sentence length, the pattern of offences in the population of women in prison differs from receptions. At the end of June 2000, the main offence groups were drug offences (37%), theft and handling (20%) and violence against the person (16%) (figure 7.3).

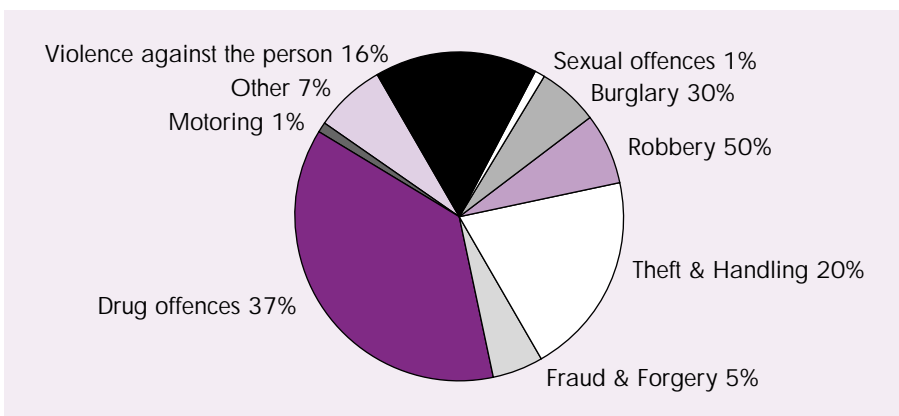


Figure 7.3¹³: Sentenced female prison population, 30 June 1999

10. Including fine defaulters.

11. The proportion of males under sentence for sexual offences (3%3%) is included in the segment for violence against the person. In addition, the proportion of females received for violence against the person includes 19 25 females received for sexual offences.

12. Percentages exclude offence not recorded.

13. Percentages exclude fine defaulters and offence not recorded.

- The number of women sent to prison for fine default has declined substantially in recent years from 1,370 in 1995 to 370 in 1997 and 150 in 2000.
- Because of the short time served on average by fine defaulters (five days), the average number of female fine defaulters held during 2000 was just three.

Sentence lengths

- Most women coming into prison have received sentences of no more than a year. The sentences of women received into prison during 2000 were:
 - Up to and including 3 months 40%
 - Over 3 months to 6 months 26%
 - Over 6 months up to 1 year 14%
 - Over 1 year up to 3 years 13%
 - 3 years or over 7%

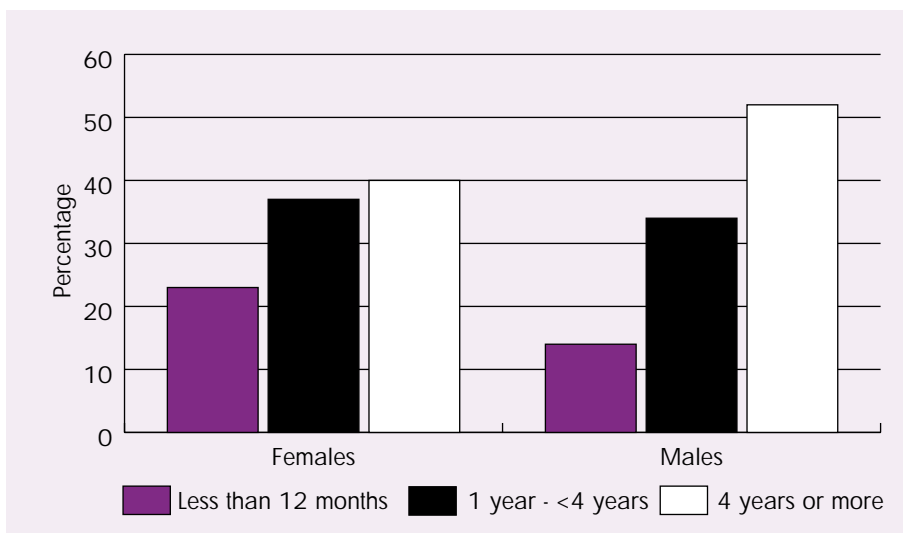


Figure 7.4: Sentence lengths of the adult sentenced population, June 2000

- Women in custody tend to be serving shorter sentences than men. (See figure 7.4)

Life sentence prisoners

- At the end of June 2000, females comprised only a small proportion of the life sentence prisoner population, 3.4% compared to 5.2% of the total prison population. Seven of the 150 females serving life sentences were young offenders.
- The majority, (82%) were serving life sentences for murder. The main offence category for male life sentence prisoners was also murder (73%).

Ethnic minorities

- On 30 June 2000, ethnic minority groups made up 25% of the female prison population compared to 19% of the male prison population. Black prisoners comprised 19% of

the female prison population (12% males). Of those whose nationality was recorded, 15% of female prisoners were foreign nationals compared with 8% of men.

- When comparing the ethnic composition of the prison population with the ethnic composition of the general population, it is more appropriate to compare only prisoners who are normally resident in the United Kingdom¹⁴. Using British nationality as a proxy for this, and limiting the comparison to the general population aged between 15 and 64, research has shown that in 2000 there were proportionately more black and 'Chinese and other' women and proportionately fewer South Asian women in prison than in the general population.

14. Figures might, for example, be distorted by relatively large numbers of third world females serving sentences for drug importation.

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- In June 2000, the proportion of black sentenced women in prison for drug offences (68%) was almost double the proportion of all sentenced female prisoners in prison for drug offences (36%). Excluding foreign nationals, the proportion of black women serving sentences for drug offences (50%) was still considerably higher than that of white women (25%) and black men (19%). (See figure 7.5)
- In June 2000, more than three-quarters (79%) of sentenced female prisoners who were foreign nationals were held for drug offences. Many of these were arrested at ports and other locations and convicted of importing drugs.

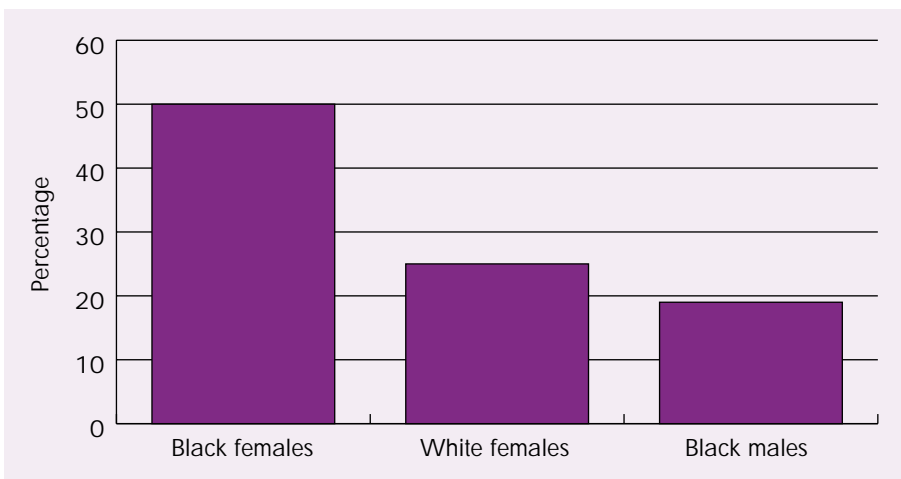


Figure 7.5: Sentenced population of British Nationals for drug offences, 2000

Non-criminal prisoners

- During 2000, 80 women were received into prison for non-criminal offences, such as detention under the 1971 Immigration Act, contempt of court and non-payment of council tax.
- The average female non-criminal population during 2000 was similar to the number in 1999, at a little over 20.

Age of women in custody

- 71% of sentenced women in custody in 2000 were aged between 21 and 39 years. The age distribution of females in prison stayed relatively stable between 1999 and 2000 (figure 7.6).

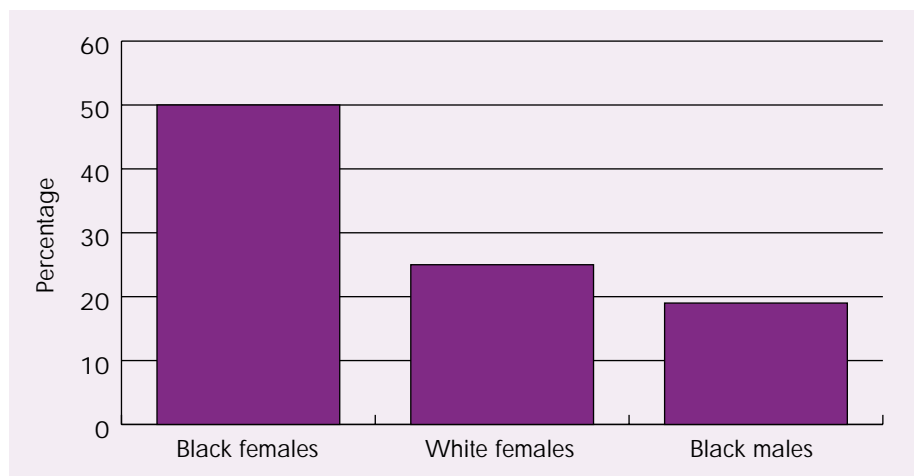


Figure 7.6: Age of sentenced prisoners, June 2000

- 12% of all women in custody in June 2000 were young offenders (aged under 21 years old).

Juveniles (under 18s)

- There are proportionately fewer juvenile females in prison than males.
- There were 300 receptions of sentenced females aged 15 to 17 in 2000, compared to 350 in 1999.
- 50 female juveniles were received with sentences of up to and including three months, 150 with sentences over 3 months and up to and including 6 months, 40 with sentences of over 6 months but less than 12 months and 70 with sentences of a year or more (including those sentenced under section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933).
- The main offences were theft and handling, violence and robbery. These categories accounted for nearly three-quarters of all female (72%) juvenile receptions in 2000.
- Detention and Training Orders were introduced as a sentence of the courts for 12-17 year olds in April 2000. This means that the shortest sentence is now four months compared to 2 months previously

Family Circumstances

A survey in late 1996 of 234 female prisoners for the Chief Inspector of Prisons' Thematic Review of Women in Prison found 66% of female prisoners were mothers. This compares with 61% of female prisoners who were mothers with children under 18 or were pregnant in a 1994 survey of imprisoned women and mothers. Findings from The Chief Inspector's survey were as follows:

- 55% of female prisoners had at least one child under 16. Estimates based on the survey results suggest that on average 4,500 children under 16 had a mother in prison during 1998.

- Over a third of the mothers had one or more children under 5 years old.
- A quarter of the mothers said their children were being cared for by the children's father or a spouse or partner, compared with 92% of fathers in the 1991 National Prison Survey who said their children were being cared for by the children's mother or a spouse or partner.
- The carers of the children of mothers in prison tended to be grandmothers (27%) or other family or friends (29%), but 11% of mothers in prison had one or more children in care, fostered or adopted. Worries about contact with children/family and concern about family well being were the main worries of women in prison.

History of care and abuse

- According to the 1997 Thematic review, 20% of women said that they had experienced time in care. The equivalent figure for the general population is just 2%.
- The review reports that nearly half of the females interviewed said that they had suffered abuse. Of these, a third reported both physical and sexual abuse, a third reported sexual abuse and the remainder reported that they had been physically abused. 40% of these women had been under 18 at the time; a further 22% had been abused both as a child and as an adult.

Drug abuse

- A survey of psychiatric morbidity among prisoners, carried out by the Office for National Statistics in 1997, found a large proportion of prisoners in all sample groups reported a measure of dependence on drugs in the year before prison – ranging from 41% of female and 43% of male sentenced prisoners to 54% of female and 51% of male remand prisoners.

- A larger proportion of women than men were dependent on opiates (i.e. heroin and non-prescribed methadone). Opiate dependence in the year before coming to prison, either alone or together with dependence on stimulants, was reported by 41% of the women in the remand group and 23% of those in the sentenced group compared with 26% of the male remand and 18% of the male sentenced group.
- In financial year 2000/01, 9.9% of mandatory drug tests carried out in female prisons were positive compared with 12.8% in adult male prisons.

Mental health of prisoners

- According to the Office for National Statistics, the proportion of females who had received help or treatment for a mental or emotional problem in the 12 months before entering prison was 40% – double the proportion of male prisoners.
- The prevalence of any personality disorder was lower for female prisoners than for males. 50% of females had some type of personality disorder compared to 78% of males held on remand and 64% of male sentenced prisoners.
- 31% of female prisoners were assessed as having anti-social personality disorder – the highest prevalence of any single type of personality disorder.

Healthcare

- The greater part of most prisoners' health care is delivered by the Prison Service rather than the NHS. It has always been the aim to ensure that prisoners get health care standards equivalent to the NHS, but it is generally recognised this is not being achieved everywhere and in some places the gulf in standards is very wide.
- In an effort to secure better healthcare in prisons, a new formal partnership between the

Prison Service and the NHS was set up in 1999. A first task has been a health care needs assessment for prisons.

- This assessment, carried out by a team from the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology at Birmingham University, found that women prisoners report higher rates of various physical and psychological problems than women in the general population. These include asthma, epilepsy, high blood pressure, anxiety and depression, stomach complaints, period and menopausal problems, sight and hearing difficulties and kidney and bladder problems.
- An earlier survey of healthcare needs of women in prison indicated 60% rated their own health as fair, poor or very poor.
- Female prisoners consult doctors about 20 times a year. This is five times more frequently than women of equivalent age in the community. Although it is slightly less than male prisoners who consult doctors 23 times a year on average.

Regimes

- A 2000 comparison of regimes in female prisons with all prisons indicated that female prisons provide:
- higher average hours on purposeful activity per week (26.3 hours compared with 23.7 for all prisons).
- longer time out of cell (11.1 hours on weekdays and 10.8 a day at weekends compared with 9.5 and 8.3 hours respectively).
- fewer accredited offending behaviour programmes (only 4.7% of completions in 2000/01 took place in female prisons).
- more hours of education and skills training (7.4 hours a week compared with 6.6 hours for all prisons).

- In 2000, temporary releases for all female adult prisoners were 16% more than in 1993 compared to a 73% increase in releases overall. This reflects reductions in compassionate and family visits; releases for working outside and reparations have risen.

Basic skills

- Prisoners have much lower basic skill attainments than the general population. Females however tend to achieve slightly better results than male prisoners in basic skills assessment screening tests. Results from female prisons for 2000/01 showed that the proportion whose results were low (at level one and below) in reading was 41.7%, in writing was 73.5% and in numeracy was 68.9%. This compares to overall results from all prisons of 48.2% in reading, 81.9% in writing and 64.6% in numeracy.

Offences and punishments in prisons

- Women have a higher rate of offending against prison discipline compared with men (in 2000 there were 256 offences per 100 female prisoners compared with 159 per 100 male prisoners).
- Female prisoners are more likely to receive forfeiture of privileges, stoppage or reduction of earnings or cautions as a punishment than are men, although for both groups additional days are the main punishment.

Self harm/suicide

- Female prisoners are known from past research to be at higher risk of self-harm. In the survey carried out in 1996 for the Chief Inspector's Thematic Review of Women in Prison, over 40% of the women said they had harmed themselves intentionally and/or attempted suicide.
- In 2000 there were 8 self-inflicted deaths of women in prison, a rate per 1000 prisoners of 2.4 compared with a rate of 1.19 for men.

Living arrangements

- The 1994 Home Office Research Study on Imprisoned Women and Mothers found a third (34%) of mothers were single parents before prison, with the proportion rising to 43% for those who expected to be single parents on release.
- The same study found that 63% of the women lived in rented accommodation before release, 18% were owners and 4% had been in temporary accommodation or living on the streets. Only 55% expected to return to the same accommodation and there was an increase to 14% for those saying they expected to be in temporary accommodation or homeless on release.

Work experience

- A 1999 survey of 567 sentenced women prisoners aged 18 to 40 found that although 82% had worked at some stage before prison, only about half of these 44% had held a job in the 12 months prior to imprisonment.
- A follow-up survey of 178 of the women indicated that they did not find it easy to re-establish themselves in the workplace after their release. At the time of the follow-up interview (5 to 9 months after release) only 25% were in employment. Three in ten (30%) described themselves as unemployed and most of the remainder were looking after the home or family (29%).
- Labour market success on release tended to be related to respondents' pre-prison work record. Shorter-term prisoners (with sentences of no more than a year) were also more likely to have found work compared to longer-term prisoners.

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Table 7.1: Average population in custody by type of custody and sex, 1990 – 2000

Number of prisoners (thousands)

	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000
All males							
Population in custody of which:	44.0	44.2	47.0	53.0	62.2	61.5	61.3
Prisoners on remand	9.5	9.7	11.9	11.1	11.9	11.8	10.6
Prisoners under sentence	34.3	34.2	34.5	41.3	49.8	49.2	50.1
Young offenders	6.1	5.3	5.2	6.5	8.2	8.0	8.1
Adults	28.2	28.9	29.3	34.9	41.6	41.2	42.0
Non-criminal prisoners	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6
All females							
Population in custody of which:	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.3	3.1	3.2	3.4
Prisoners on remand	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7
Prisoners under sentence	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.7	2.4	2.5	2.6
Young offenders	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4
Adults	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.1	2.3
Non-criminal prisoners		-	-	-	-	-	-

- = nil or negligible

Table 7.2: Receptions⁽¹⁾ into prison under an immediate custodial sentence: by age and sex(p), 1990–2000

	1990 ⁽²⁾	1992 ⁽²⁾	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000
Males							
<i>Total</i>	48.7	47.8	58.2	70.3	80.0	83.4	84.2
Adults	34.7	35.0	43.8	53.4	61.5	63.6	64.1
Young Offenders							
15-17	3.7	3.3	4.0	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.5
18-20	10.3	9.4	10.5	11.8	13.2	14.3	14.6
Females							
<i>Total</i>	2.1	2.2	3.0	4.0	5.9	6.8	7.0
Adults	1.7	1.8	2.4	3.3	4.8	5.6	5.8
Young Offenders							
15-17	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3
18-20	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.9

(1) Excludes fine defaulters.

(2) Includes 14 year old males

Chapter 8 Reconvictions

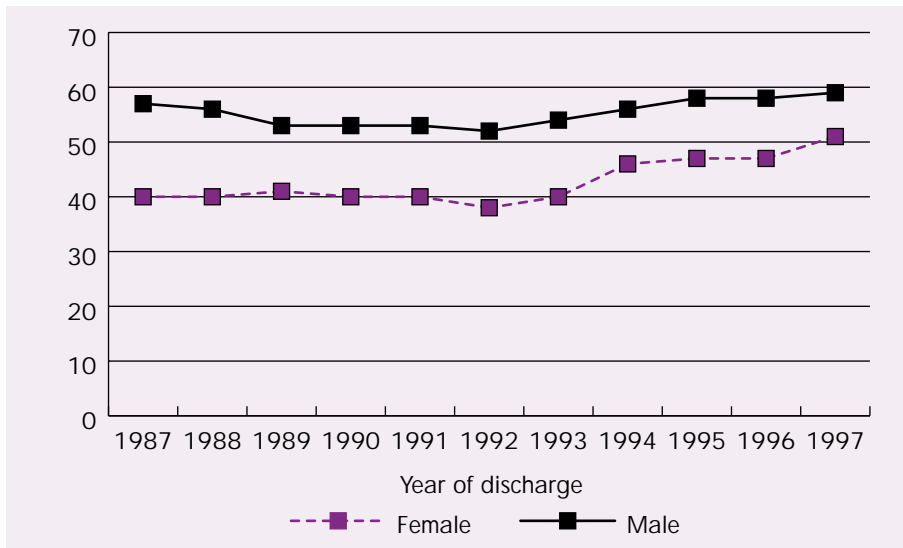


Figure 8.1¹⁵: Prisoners reconvicted within 2 years

- 58% of all prisoners discharged in 1997 were reconvicted for a standard list offence¹⁶ within two years. The rates for the main groups were:
 - 54% for adult men;
 - 76% for male young offenders;
 - 51% for women.
- The reconviction rate varied according to the length of the sentence. Women sentenced to between one and four years had a reconviction rate of 35% within two years, compared with 56% for men. For those sentenced to up to 12 months women had a reconviction rate of 56%, compared to 61% for men.
- Subsequent conviction rates for men and women cautioned in 1994 were 21% for men and 10% for women.
- The rate of reconviction within a two-year period for female offenders commencing community penalties in 1996 was 46% compared with 57% for men.
- In the same year, the reconviction rate for probation orders was 49% (63% for men), for community service was 35% (51% for men) and for combination orders was 50% (59% for men).

15. 1997 figures in this chart are provisional for the first quarter of the year.

16. Offences listed in Criminal Statistics publications which are mainly indictable either way offences, but include some summary offences as well.

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Table 8.1: Males and females reconvicted⁽¹⁾, by age at discharge from custody or commencement of a community penalty and number of previous court appearances, within two years of discharge or commencement during 1996

	Number of previous convictions ⁽²⁾					Total
	None	1 or 2	3-6	7-10	11 or more	
All males						
Probation	34	52	65	72	79	63
Community service	29	46	62	67	76	51
Combination order	37	53	64	72	75	59
All community penalties	32	49	63	71	78	57
Immediate custody	19	42	57	69	79	58
All females						
Probation	26	48	60	65	85	49
Community service	19	39	57	74	82	35
Combination order	26	58	66	85	88	50
All community penalties	24	47	60	68	85	46
Immediate custody	11	37	61	76	83	47

(1) The number reconvicted includes only those reconvicted for standard list offence.

(2) Appearances at court that led to a conviction for standard list offences before the commencement or discharge date, excluding the last conviction before commencement or discharge if no conviction is recorded on the day of commencement or discharge date – this would normally be the number of previous convictions prior to the sentencing date.

Chapter 9

Victims of crime

The majority of the material on violent crime presented in this section is drawn from the 2000 British Crime Survey (reported in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 18/00) – a household survey of nearly 20,000 adults¹⁷, with a 4,000 ethnic boost sample¹⁸. Some information on violence against the person and Robbery are taken from 2001 Recorded Crime figures (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/01)¹⁹.

Violent crime (includes domestic violence, mugging and other violence by strangers or acquaintances) (see tables 9.1 and 9.2)

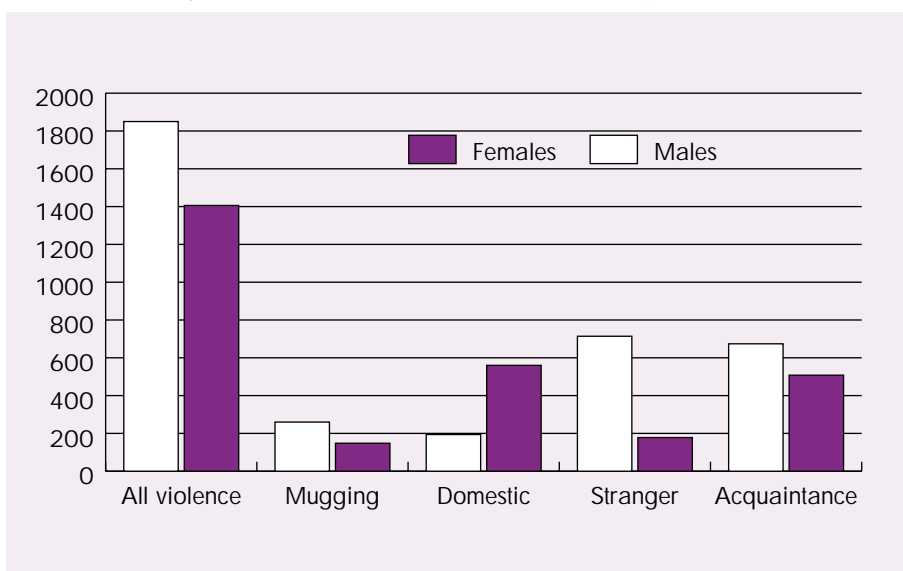


Figure 9.1: Number of violent crimes against males and females in 1999

- 5.3% of adult men and 3.3% of adult women had been the victim of at least one violent crime in 1999. The risks were greater for men and women aged less than 25;
- Men are the most frequent victims of stranger violence. Acquaintance violence and muggings are more evenly split between the sexes, though men remain at higher risk;
- Just under 40% of violent incidents against women were domestic. Repeat victimisation was particularly common for domestic violence.

The 1996 British Crime Survey included a new computerised self-completion questionnaire

designed to give the most reliable findings to date on the extent of domestic violence in England and Wales. The self-completion questionnaire increased respondents' willingness to report incidents by maximising anonymity and confidentiality. It also encouraged reporting of incidents victims did not define as 'crimes'. The questionnaire covered physical assaults and frightening threats by current and former partners against men and women aged 16 to 59.

The main findings from *Domestic Violence: Findings from a new British Crime Survey self-completion questionnaire*, HORS 191 were:

17. Adult offenders are defined here as over 16

18. 2000 BCS data will be presented in full in the next publication, following release in summer 2002.

19. Recorded crime figures differ from the British Crime Survey in they include only those crimes reported to the police.

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- 4.2% of women and 4.2% of men said they had been physically attacked by a current or former partner in the last year. 4.9% of men and 5.9% of women had experienced physical assault and / or frightening threats. These levels are considerably higher than the figures from other British Crime Survey sources.
- Women were twice as likely as men to be injured by a partner in the last year, and three times as likely to have suffered frightening threats. They were also more likely to have been assaulted three or more times. Women tended to be more upset by the experience, considerably more frightened and more likely to seek medical help.

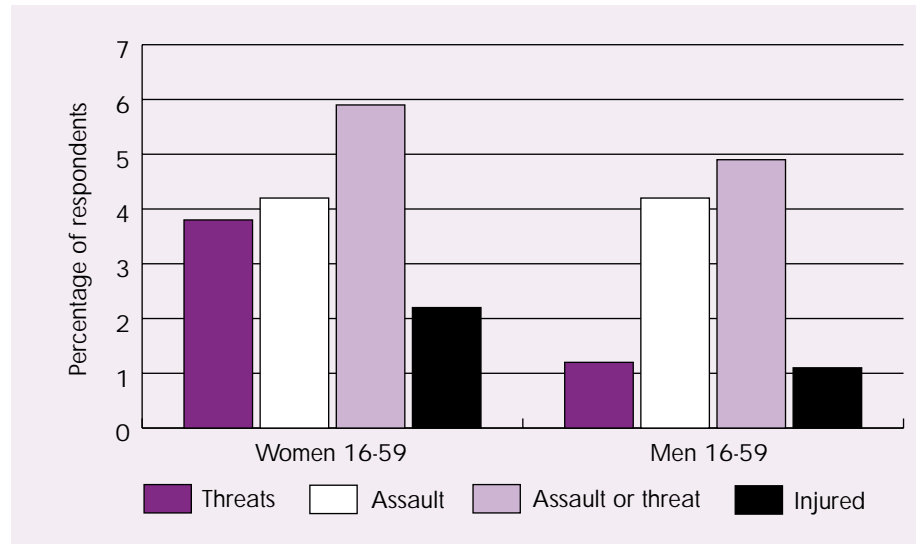


Figure 9.2: Prevalence of domestic violence in the last year

- 23% of women and 15% of men aged 16 to 59 said a current or former partner had physically assaulted them at some time in their lives. These figures increased to 26% and 17% respectively when frightening threats were included.
- At greatest risk of domestic assault were under 25s and those in financial difficulties. For women, risks were particularly high for those separated from a spouse.
- Just over a third of victims were female and the majority of victims were aged between 16 and 39;
- Just under half of the offences against women took place at the home of the victim or suspect.
- Recorded Crime figures for 2000/01 show that three-quarters of male victims and nearly 90 per cent of female victims knew the offender.

Further information on the victims of violent crime recorded by the police between 1990 and 1994 was collected from police forces and published in *Victims of violent crime recorded by the police*, HOSF 1/96. Up to 28 forces provided information on the age and sex of the victim, the relationship of victim to suspect and the location of the offence.

Violence against the person (includes murder, manslaughter, wounding and other acts endangering life but excludes common assault)

Robbery

- British Crime Survey 2000 figures indicated that just over 40% of victims were female.

Recorded Crime Figures for 2000/01 showed that:

- The 14-17 year old male age group accounted for a quarter of all victims.
- Victimization levels for females were much lower and more evenly spread by age, although 15 per cent of female victims were aged 70 and over.

- The victim knew the suspect in almost half the robberies with male victims, and about a third with female victims.

Indecent assault (including buggery)

- Female victims of indecent assault tended to be older than male victims
- 37% of female victims were known to have been assaulted by a stranger compared with 27% of male victims
- About half of female victims of indecent assault were aged under 16 compared with 70% of male victims

Homicide

(information from the Home Office's Homicide Index)

- There were 242 female homicide victims in 2000/01 (30% of all homicide victims)
- Women were more likely to be strangled or asphyxiated than men (25% compared with 15%)
- The main suspect was known to 43% of male victims and 71% of female victims. 42% of women were killed by current or former partners or lovers compared with only 4% of men.

Rape (information from Criminal Statistics)

- The police recorded 7,929 offences of rape (of a female) in 2000/2001. There were also 664 offences of male rape
- The police cleared up 46% of female rapes and 49% of male rapes.

A Home Office study looking at the processing of rape cases based on 1996 data found that:

- Nearly 90% of rapes were committed by someone known to the victim. Over half were committed at the home of the victim or suspect

- Just over a quarter of complainants were less than 16 years old. Those under the age of 12 were the most likely of all ages to report having been raped by someone they knew well (e.g. a parental figure) whilst those between 13 and 15 were more likely to report rape by an acquaintance
- 25% of cases were not recorded as a crime;
- 11% were undetected
- In 31% of cases the police decided to take no further action against a suspect (i.e. the cases were NFA-ed)
- 8% of cases were discontinued by the CPS, 25% of all those passed by the police to the CPS for prosecution
- Cases where the alleged complainant was under 16 at the time of the attack were most likely to proceed to court and the most likely to result in a conviction;
- 26% of crimed cases reached the Crown Court²⁰
- Just 9% of suspects were convicted of rape or attempted rape.

Stalking

The material on stalking is taken from the 1998 British Crime Survey drawing from a new self-completion questionnaire designed to provide the first reliable measure of the extent of stalking, defined as persistent and unwanted attention, in England and Wales.

- Women are more likely to be stalked than men
- In 1998, 16.1% of women had experienced being stalked at some time in their lives, compared to 6.8% of men
- Three-quarters of those who were identified as having been subject to persistent and unwanted attention were women

20. One defendant was convicted and sentenced at magistrates' court for unlawful sexual intercourse.

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- Overall, the risks of being stalked in the last year were higher for women than for men – 4% and 1.7% respectively. This is due to particularly high risks among younger women
- 16.8% of women aged between 16 and 19 years of age reported having been stalked compared with 3.1% of men, as well as 7.8% of women between 20 and 24 compared with 4.6% of men
- An evaluation of the use of the Protection from Harassment Act revealed that harassment was most often perpetrated by an ex-partner (Harris 2000).

Table 9.1: Proportion of adults victims of violence, by personal characteristics, 1999

	% victims once or more				
	All violence	Domestic	Acquaintance	Stranger	Mugging
Males	5.3	0.5	2.0	2.3	0.8
16-24	20.1	1.8	8.2	8.3	4.3
25-44	5.4	0.6	1.9	2.6	0.5
45-64	2.5	0.2	1.0	1.1	0.3
65-74	0.7	-	0.1	0.4	0.3
75+	0.7	-	0.2	0.3	0.2
Females	3.3	1.0	1.3	0.7	0.5
16-24	9.1	3.4	3.6	2.3	1.4
25-44	3.9	1.5	1.4	0.8	0.4
45-64	2.0	0.3	1.1	0.4	0.2
65-74	1.0	<0.1	0.4	0.2	0.5
75+	0.7	-	0.1	0.1	0.6

(1) Source 2000 BCS. Risks based on adults.

Table 9.2: Number of violent incidents against males and females in 1999

	Number of incidents in 000's		
	All	Males	Females
All violence	3,246	1,850	1,406
Domestic	761	194	560
Mugging	1,178	674	508
Stranger	881	714	178
Acquaintance	406	260	148

Notes:

1 Source 2000 BCS.

2 All BCS violence includes common assault, wounding, robbery and snatch theft. The typology of violence does not add to the total because not all violent incidents can be categorised into the typology due to missing information.

3 Because of the differing proportions of males and females in the sample to the population, the number of incidents against males and females do not add to totals. Survey rates are grossed up to population estimates.

Chapter 10

Female practitioners in the criminal justice system

This section provides information on the employment of women of women in the criminal justice system. The information shows that, for most criminal justice agencies, women are employed in lower proportions at senior levels than their presence in the workforce.

Employment in the Criminal Justice System 2000

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Home Office					
AO equivalent & below	5,709	3,658	(64%)	2,051,	(36%)
EO equivalent	5,283	2,714	(51%)	2,569	(49%)
HEO equivalent	2,030	959	(46%)	1,071	(54%)
SEO equivalent	783	299	(38%)	484	(62%)
G7 & above	892	310	(35%)	582	(65%)
TOTAL	14,697	7,940	(54%)	6,757	(46%)

At 23 August 20001.

Survey covering all devolved areas except the Prison Service.

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Police					
Constables	95,948	18,778	(20%)	77,170	(80%)
Sergeants	18,581	1,786	(10%)	16,795	(90%)
Inspectors & Chief Inspectors	7,549	509	(7%)	7,040	(93%)
Superintendent & above	1,397	91	(7%)	1,306	(93%)
TOTAL	123,476	21,164	(17%)	102,312	(83%)
Civilian Staff (inc. Traffic Wardens)	56,084	34,458	(61%)	21,625	(39%)

At 31 March 2001.

The highest ranking female Police Officer is of Chief Constable rank.

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Forensic Science Service					
AO equivalent & below	427	294	(69%)	133	(31%)
EO equivalent	79	55	(70%)	24	(30%)
HEOs & SEOs	83	38	(46%)	45	(54%)
Assistant Forensic Scientists	989	643	(65%)	346	(35%)
Forensic Scientists	421	263	(62%)	158	(38%)
Senior Forensic Scientists	409	140	(34%)	269	(66%)
G7 & above	45	9	(20%)	36	(80%)
TOTAL	2,453	1,442	(59%)	1,011	(31%)

At 31 July 2001.

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	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Crown Prosecution Service					
Level B & below (Administrators)	4,255	3,188	(75%)	1,067	(25%)
Level C (Lawyers)	1,762	929	(53%)	833	(47%)
Level D & above (Lawyers)	375	111	(30%)	264	(70%)
Level D & above (Administrators)	101	26	(26%)	75	(74%)
TOTAL	6,493	4,254	(66%)	2,239	(34%)

At 17 September 2001.

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Serious Fraud Office					
HEO equivalent & below	131	63	(48%)	68	(52%)
SEO & above	80	24	(30%)	56	(70%)
TOTAL	211	87	(41%)	124	(59%)

At 1 November 2001.

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Lord Chancellor's Department Headquarters					
Bands E & below	682	388	(57%)	294	(43%)
Bands F & over (exc. Lawyers)	163	61	(37%)	102	(69%)
Lawyers	87	49	(56%)	38	(44%)

At 30 October 2000.

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Magistrates' courts					
MCC secretariat staff	262	204	(78%)	58	(22%)
Clerical, administrative & security staff	7,554	5,731	(76%)	1,823	(24%)
Court Clerks (inc. Trainees)	1,590	920	(58%)	670	(42%)
Justices' Clerks (inc. Deputies)	295	106	(36%)	189	(64%)
Justices' Chief Executives	73	8	(11%)	65	(89%)
TOTAL	9,774	6,969	(71%)	2,805	(29%)

At 31 March 2001.

On 1st April 2001 a new structure took effect which reduced the number of MCC areas from 73 to 42, and consequently reduced the number of Justices' Chief Executives to match. However, there is no indication of other staff changes on that date.

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Crown Court					
Spans 7 & below	1,154	807	(70%)	347	(30%)
Spans 8 & above	11	5	(45%)	6	(56%)

At 31 July 2001

These figures exclude all casuals and off strength staff

	Total	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Combined Courts					
Spans 7 & below	2531	1732	(68%)	799	(32%)
Spans 8 & above	8	2	(25%)	6	(75%)

At 31 July 2001

These figure exclude all casuals and off strength staff

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Judiciary					
District judges ²¹ (inc. deputies)	264	49	17%	215	(83%)
Recorders	1,329	158	(12%)	1,171	(88%)
Circuit Judges	616	54	(9%)	562	(91%)
High Court Judges	107	8	(7%)	99	(93%)
Lords Justices	35	2	(6%)	33	(94%)

At 1 August 2001.

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Magistracy					
Lay magistrates	25,917	12,714	(49%)	13,203	(51%)

At 14 June 2000.
Excluding the Duchy of Lancaster.

Stipendiary magistrates	96	15	(16%)	81	(84%)
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At 1 August 2000.

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Legal profession					
Solicitors on the Roll	109,552	42,232	(39%)	67,320	(61%)
Solicitors with Practising Certificates	86,603	32,395	(37%)	54,208	(63%)
Solicitors in private practice	68,466	24,095	(35%)	44,371	(65%)

At 31 July 2001

	Total staff	Gender of staff					
		Female		Male		Not known	
Barristers in independent practice	10,132	2,324	(23%)	6,723	(66%)	1085	(11%)
Queen's Counsel	1,093	80	(7%)	931	(85%)	82	(8%)

At 13 August 2001.

21. 2001 figures exclude County Court District Judges.

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	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Probation Service					
Probation Officers (main grade)	6,579	4,019	(61%)	2,560	(39%)
Probation Officers (senior grade)	1,474	656	(45%)	818	(55%)
TOTAL (Probation Officers)	8,053	4,675	(58%)	3,378	(42%)
Other staff (inc. hostel wardens)	8,998	6,873	(76%)	2,125	(24%)
TOTAL staff	17,051	11,548	(68%)	5,503	(32%)

At 31 December 2000.

The highest ranking female Probation Officers(excluding those seconded to the Home Office) were: 16 Chief Officers, 4 Deputy Chief Officers and 75 Assistant Chief Officers.

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Prison Service					
Prison Officer grades	23,371	3,724	(16%)	19,380	(84%)
Governor grades & equivalent new					
Prison Service grades	1,161	192	(17%)	969	(83%)
Other grades	19,380	8,692	(45%)	10,688	(55%)

At 31 July 2001.

The highest ranking female Prison Officer was a Grade 1 Band A (formerly Governor grade).

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Parole Board					
Members	108	37	(34%)	71	(66%)

At August 2001.

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Boards of Visitors					
Members	1773	830	(48%)	943	(52%)

At 20 August 2001.

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority & Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel					
AO equivalent & below	158	90	(57%)	68	(43%)
EO equivalent	32	17	(53%)	15	(47%)
HEO equivalent	25	7	(28%)	18	(72%)
SEO equivalent	7	4	(57%)	3	(43%)
G7 & above	13	8	(61%)	5	(39%)
TOTAL	235	126	(54%)	109	(46%)

At 23 August 2001.

	Total staff	Gender of staff					
		Female			Male		
Victim Support							
• Volunteers							
Volunteer Staff Scheme	7,482	5,193	(69%)	1,631	(22%)	658	(9%)
Crown Court Witness Service Volunteers	1,284	874	(68%)	232	(18%)	178	(14%)
Magistrates' Court Witness Service Volunteers	805	468	(58%)	148	(18%)	189	(23%)
Support Line	40	34	(85%)	6	(15%)		
TOTAL	9,611	6,569	(68%)	2,017	(21%)	1,025	(11%)

At January 2001.

	Total staff	Gender of staff			
		Female		Male	
• Staff					
Volunteer Staff Scheme	784	644	(82%)	140	(18%)
Crown Court Witness Service Volunteers	90	64	(71%)	26	(29%)
Magistrates' Court Witness Service Volunteers	67	48	(72%)	19	(28%)
Support Line	6	4	(67%)	2	(33%)
TOTAL	947	760	(80%)	187	(20%)

At January 2001.

	Gender of staff	
	Female	Male
Youth Justice Board (Percentage)		
Manager (1)	43%	57%
Police	44%	56%
Probation	60%	40%
Social services	54%	46%
Education	62%	38%
Health	69%	31%
Administration	94%	6%
Others	59%	41%
Total	61%	40%

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