

Department of Justice

Key Statistics Summary

Updated March 2026
(Accessible Version)



10 Key Statistics

Safe Community Telephone Survey respondents

In 2023/24, 5% of Safe Community Survey respondents felt very worried about being a victim of crime.

Crime prevalence

Overall crime prevalence rate for 2023/24 was 4.5%.

Prosecutions

In 2024, 94.3% of prosecutions were in the Magistrates and 5.7% in the Crown Court; the majority were against males and adults.

Convictions

Main disposals at conviction in 2024 were monetary penalties (54.6%), suspended sentences (17.7%) and imprisonment (13.9%).

Processing time

In 2024/25, the median time from date offence was reported until case was disposed at court was 189 days, one day less than the previous year.

First time entrants

First time entrants accounted for 26.5% of the 29,671 cases dealt with by conviction or disposal in 2023/24.

Courts

In 2024, the number of cases received increased by 1% and disposed decreased by 1% across all court types.

Prisons

In 2024/25, the overall average daily prison population increased by 1.8% from the previous year; the average daily remand population increased by 1.3%.

Youth Justice

During 2024/25, there were 1,402 youth justice service referrals (768 children) and 180 custodial service admissions (95 children).

Reoffending

The reoffending rate for the 2022/23 cohort was 17.6%.

This bulletin provides an overview of the most recently available key statistics produced by Analytical Services Group (ASG), the statistical and research team posted within the Department of Justice (DoJ) from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). It will be updated on a continual basis as official statistics are published. Note that the year the data comes from will vary on each slide, depending on when information becomes available and whether it is calculated on a calendar or financial year basis.

The information is presented in the following order –

1. How people perceive and experience crime;
2. Prosecutions and convictions handed down;
3. Number of cases dealt with by the courts handing them down;
4. Going through the prison and youth justice systems; and
5. Re-offending.

Perceptions & experience of crime

Pages 3 to 9 - Figures from the NI Safe Community Telephone Survey (NISCTS) 2023/24 and the Northern Ireland Victim and Witness Survey (NIVAWS) 2022/23.

Prosecutions & convictions, case processing time & first time entrants

Pages 10 to 12 - An overview of prosecutions, convictions and disposals statistics in 2024, case processing times in 2024/25 and first time entrants to the Criminal Justice system in 2023/24.

NI Courts & Tribunals Service

Page 13 - An overview of Judicial statistics in 2024.

NI Prison Service

Page 14 - An overview of NI Prison Service population statistics in 2024/25.

Youth Justice Agency

Page 15 - An overview of Youth Justice Agency workload statistics in 2024/25.

Reoffending

Page 16 - An overview of re-offending statistics within the 2022/23 cohort. The cohort includes individuals either released from custody or who received a non-custodial court or diversionary disposal during 2022/23. They were then observed for the year following release or disposal receipt and their one year proven reoffending rate calculated.

Perceptions of crime overview

Figures represent percentage of respondents from the 2023/24 NI Safe Community Telephone Survey (NISCTS). NISRA suspended all face-to-face household interviews in April 2020 due to the pandemic. Interviews since then have been conducted by telephone and are not comparable to the previous NI Safe Community Survey which used face-to-face methodology. Details regarding the impact are available in the [update on the reporting of the 2020/21 survey \(opens in a new window\)](#). Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Worry about crime

- In 2023/24, 5% of NISCTS respondents felt very worried about being a victim of crime.
- The proportion of respondents reporting high levels of worry by crime type was 7% for car crime, 8% for burglary and 8% for violent crime.

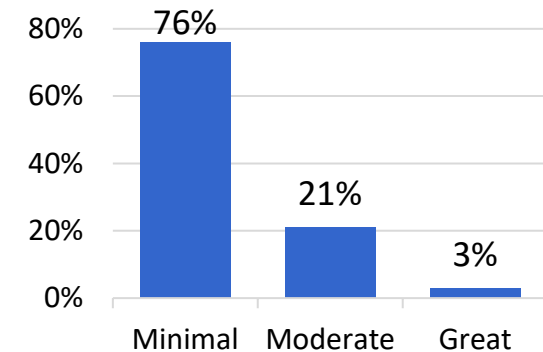
Night-time safety

- 6% of respondents felt very unsafe walking alone in their area after dark.
- 1% felt very unsafe at home alone at night.

Anti-social behaviour

- 7% perceive anti-social behaviour (ASB) to be high in their local area.
- Commonly identified ASB problems in local area were 1. Using or dealing drugs (28%), 2. Litter (27%) and 3. Teenagers hanging around (13%).

Figure 1: Perceptions of the effect of ‘fear of crime’ on quality of life, 2023/24 (%)

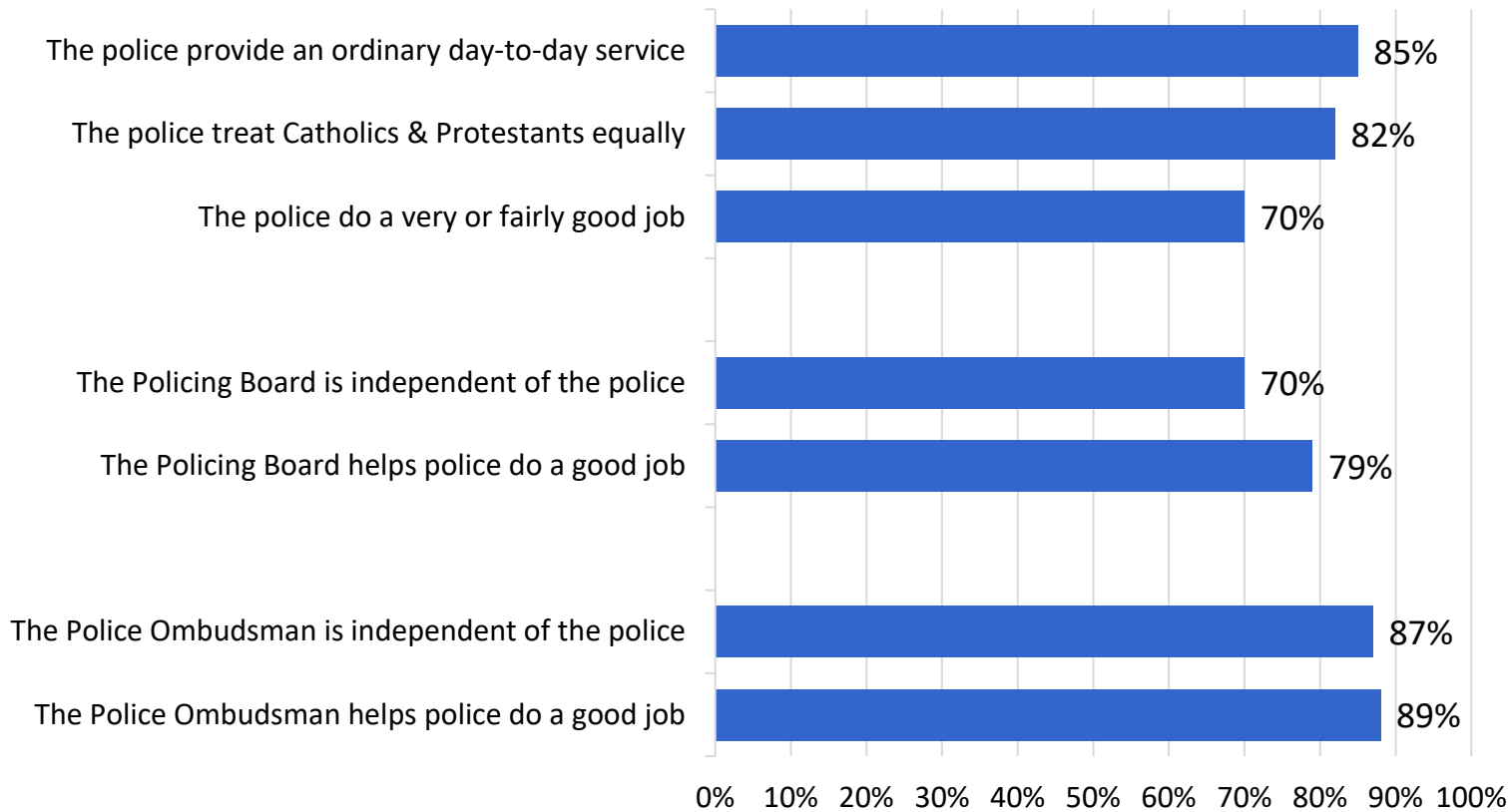


3% of respondents said that fear of crime had a great impact on their quality of life.

Perceptions of policing and justice overview

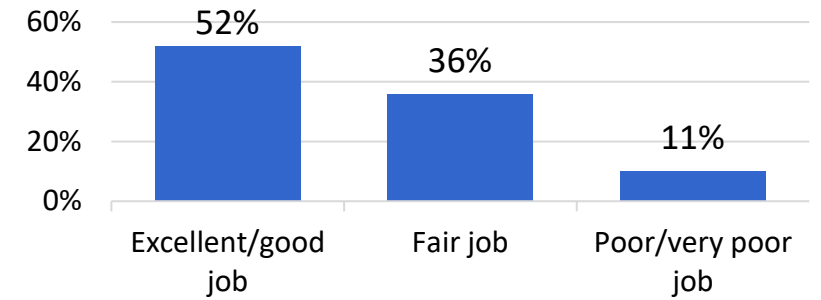
Figures represent percentage of respondents from the 2023/24 NI Safe Community Telephone Survey (NISCTS). NISRA suspended all face-to-face household interviews in April 2020 due to the pandemic. Interviews since then have been conducted by telephone and are not comparable to the previous NI Safe Community Survey which used face-to-face methodology. Details regarding the impact are available in the [update on the reporting of the 2020/21 survey \(opens in a new window\)](#). Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Figure 2: Confidence in the police and police accountability arrangements, 2023/24 (%)



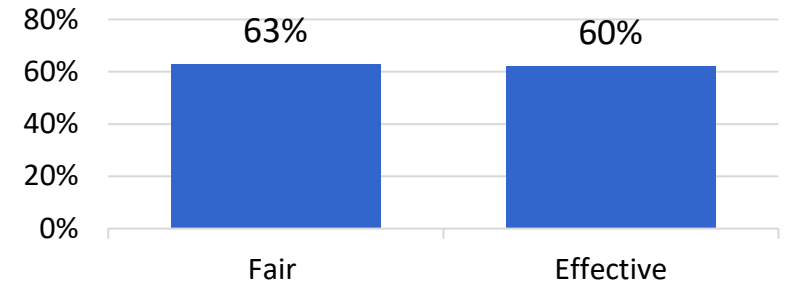
The composite measure of the seven individual questions - overall confidence in policing 80%.

Figure 3: Ratings of local police performance, 2023/24 (%)



52% of respondents said that local police are doing an excellent/good job.

Figure 4: Confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system, 2023/24 (%)



Crime victimisation rate overview

Figures represent percentage of respondents from the 2023/24 NI Safe Community Telephone Survey (NISCTS). NISRA suspended all face-to-face household interviews in April 2020 due to the pandemic. Interviews since then have been conducted by telephone and are not comparable to the previous NI Safe Community Survey which used face-to-face methodology. Details regarding the impact are available in the [update on the reporting of the 2020/21 survey \(opens in a new window\)](#). Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

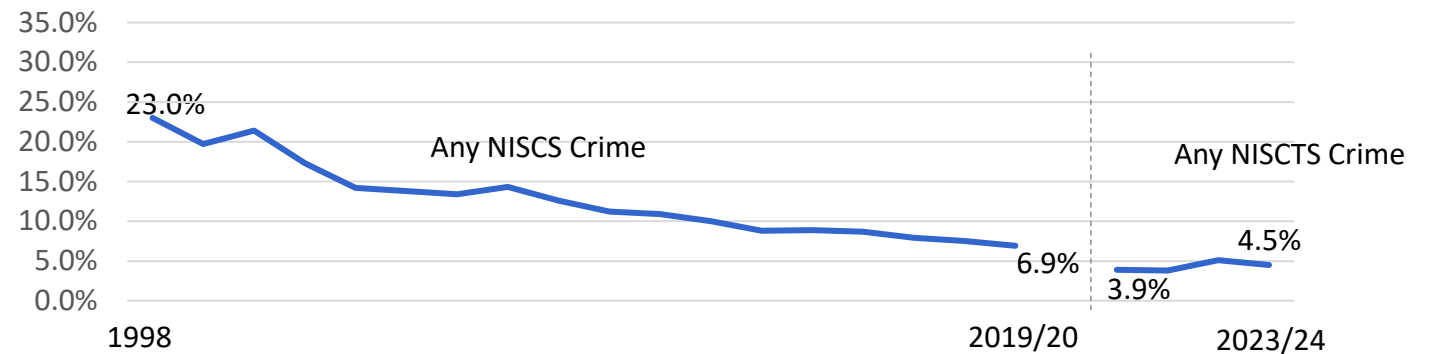
Overall

An alternative, but complementary, measure of crime to offences recorded by the PSNI, the NISCTS measures victimisation rates experienced by people living in private households regardless of whether these crimes were reported to, or recorded by, the police.

NISCTS crime type 2023/24

- Prevalence rate was 4.5% for all NISCTS crimes (3.6% for household crime; 1.2% for personal crime).
- Estimated incidents were 64,000 for all NISCTS crimes (38,000 for household crime; 27,000 for personal crime).

Figure 5: Households/adults victims of crime once or more: any NISCS crime 1998-2019/20 and any NISCTS crime 2020/21-2023/24 (%)



The risk of becoming a victim of crime remains lower in NI than England and Wales

NISCTS crime type 2022/23

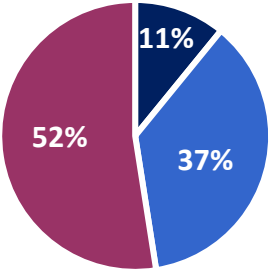
- Prevalence rate was 5.8% for all NISCTS crimes (4.8% for household crime; 1.1% for personal crime).
- Estimated incidents were 77,000 for all NISCTS crimes (56,000 for household crime; 21,000 for personal crime).

Perceptions and experience of cyber crime overview

Figures represent percentage of respondents from the 2023/24 NI Safe Community Telephone Survey (NISCTS). NISRA suspended all face-to-face household interviews in April 2020 due to the pandemic. Interviews since then have been conducted by telephone and are not comparable to the previous NI Safe Community Survey which used face-to-face methodology. Details regarding the impact are available in the [update on the reporting of the 2020/21 survey \(opens in a new window\)](#). Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Experience

Figure 6: Experience of cyber crime, 2023/24 (%)



- Yes - I have been a victim
- Yes - an attempt against me
- Not a victim

The majority (77%) reported the incident to their bank, building society or credit card company.

Safeguarding

At 84%, the most common step taken by respondents to safeguard themselves against cyber crime was the use of strong passwords.

Awareness

82% of respondents were aware of how to apply security measures on a child(rens) device or computer to help protect them while online (this is based on those indicating they had children).

Figure 8 : Aware of where or how to seek advice about cyber security and staying safe online?, 2023/24 (%)

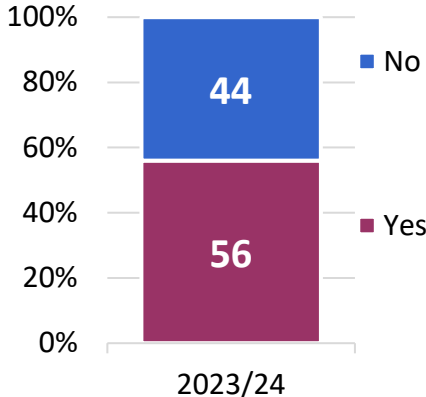
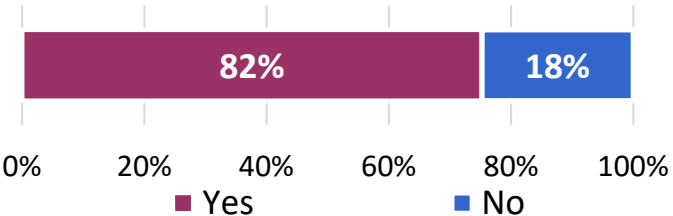


Figure 7: Whether victims reported the incident(s) to anyone, 2023/24 (%)



Confidence

43% of respondents were confident the criminal justice system, government and police are effective at dealing with cyber crime.

Perceptions of modern slavery overview

Figures represent percentage of respondents from the 2023/24 NI Safe Community Telephone Survey (NISCTS). NISRA suspended all face-to-face household interviews in April 2020 due to the pandemic. Interviews since then have been conducted by telephone and are not comparable to the previous NI Safe Community Survey which used face-to-face methodology. Details regarding the impact are available in the [update on the reporting of the 2020/21 survey \(opens in a new window\)](#). Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Perceptions

- In 2023/24, 92% of respondents perceived modern slavery to be present in Northern Ireland.
- 48% of respondents were confident the courts and police are effective at dealing with modern slavery.

Figure 9: Types of modern slavery viewed as most prevalent, 2023/24 (%)



Awareness

- 45% of respondents felt they would recognise the signs someone is a victim of modern slavery.
- 51% of respondents' felt their awareness of modern slavery had stayed the same in the past year (%). The remaining 49% felt their awareness had increased.
- At 84%, the main medium through which respondents had heard about modern slavery was the media.

Reporting

- 93% of respondents would report their concerns that someone is a victim of modern slavery.
- The majority (87%) of those who would report their concerns would report them to the police.

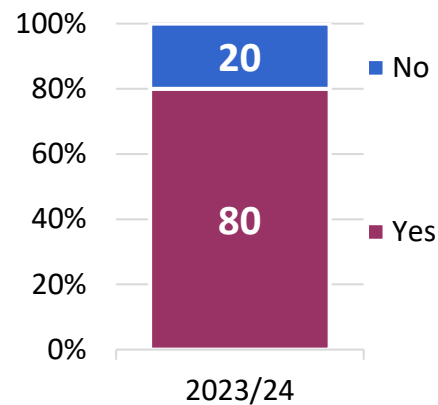
Perceptions of sentencing overview

Figures represent percentage of respondents from the 2023/24 NI Safe Community Telephone Survey (NISCTS). NISRA suspended all face-to-face household interviews in April 2020 due to the pandemic. Interviews since then have been conducted by telephone and are not comparable to the previous NI Safe Community Survey which used face-to-face methodology. Details regarding the impact are available in the [update on the reporting of the 2020/21 survey \(opens in a new window\)](#). Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Awareness

When asked whether they had heard of certain sentences, respondents were most likely to have heard of a suspended and a community sentence (92% and 80% respectively). 66% of respondents were aware of a conditional discharge sentence.

Figure 10: Should courts take into account an offender's circumstances when imposing a sentence? 2023/24 (%)



Importance of sentencing

A set of questions on the purposes of sentencing was asked of respondents, more specifically on the extent to which they agree or disagree it is important that sentencing achieves certain outcomes. Of the four outcomes asked about, participants were more likely to agree that it is important sentencing protects the public (94%) and requires offenders to make amends for the harm caused (90%). This was followed by rehabilitation (80%) and deterrence (84%).

Perceptions

- 75% of respondents think sentences requiring offenders to do unpaid work or attend programmes are worthwhile.
- 38% think prison sentences should only be for dangerous offenders who have committed serious offences.
- 83% are aware an offender could spend part of their prison sentence out in the community.
- 58% think spending part of a prison sentence out in the community is an effective way of dealing with offenders.

Northern Ireland Victim And Witness Survey (NIVAWS) overview

Northern Ireland Victim and Witness Survey (NIVAWS) 2022/23. Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Information regarding case progression

- 71% of respondents reported that they had been kept informed by a criminal justice source about how their case was progressing.
- Of these respondents, 45% reported to the police, 21% reported to the Public Prosecution Service, 9% reported to Victim Support NI and 5% reported to the Victim Witness Care Unit.

Feelings of safety

- 62% of respondents (49% of victims and 83% of witnesses) who attended court reported that they had felt safe before going to court.
- Of those asked to give evidence in 2022/23, 83% (79% of victims and 88% of witnesses) reported feeling safe while in the court room.

Satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System

- 68% of respondents (63% of victims and 73% of witnesses) were satisfied with the information received about the criminal justice process. The
- 79% of respondents (72% of victims and 85% of witnesses) were satisfied with how well they were treated by staff in the criminal justice system.
- 56% of respondents (52% of victims and 60% of witnesses) were satisfied with how well they were kept informed of the progress of their case.
- 68% of respondents (60% of victims and 74% of witnesses) were satisfied with the contact they had with the criminal justice system.

Prosecutions & convictions overview

Prosecutions and convictions data for 2024. Note that males includes 'other' category. Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Cases

- 34,755 cases dealt with in criminal justice system (30,587 by prosecutions and 4,168 by out of court disposals).
- Of the 30,587 prosecutions, 24,981 resulted in a conviction and 5,606 in no conviction.

Out of court disposals

- Out of court disposals were 9.5% lower than the previous year.
- Cautions/warnings accounted for 75.2%, penalty notices accounted for 8.3% and other for 16.6% of out of court disposals.

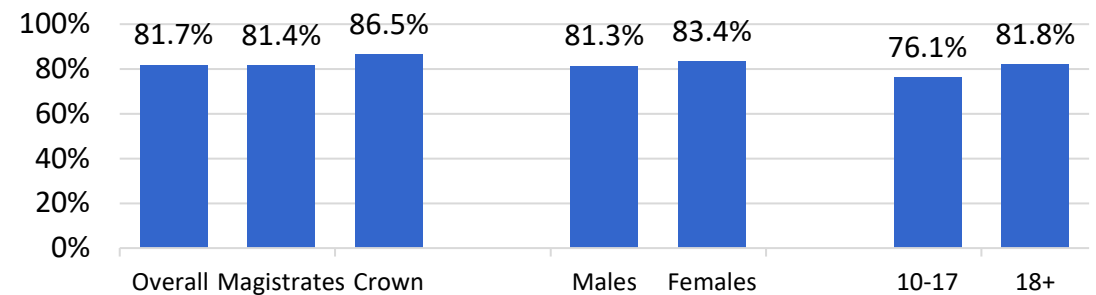
Prosecutions

- Prosecutions were 1.9% lower than previous year.
- 94.3% were in the Magistrates and 5.7% in the Crown Court.
- 80.2% were against males and 19.8% against females.
- 97.8% were against those aged 18 and over and 2.2% were against those aged 10-17 years.
- Main offence types were motoring (43.2%), violence against the person (17.6%), drugs (8.7%) and theft (8.7%).

Convictions

- Main types of disposal were fines (54.6%), suspended sentences (17.7%), imprisonment (13.9%) and community sentences (10.5%).

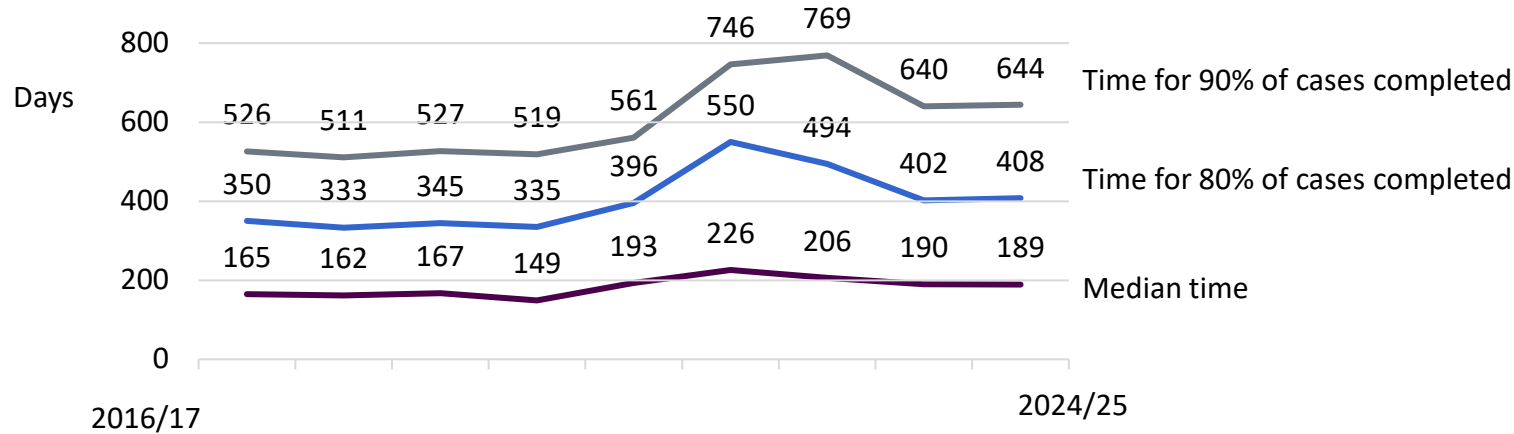
Figure 11: Conviction rates by court type, gender and age, 2024 (%)



Case processing time overview

Case processing time data for 2024/25. Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Figure 12: All Courts - time from date offence reported to case disposed at court, 2016/17-2024/25



Time for 90% of cases completed – 644 days, an increase of 0.6% from previous year.

Time for 80% of cases completed - 408 days, an increase of 1.5% from previous year.

Median time from case reported to date disposed - 189 days, a decrease of 0.5% from previous year.

Crown Court

- Median time for charge cases was 542 days, a 1.6% decrease from 551 days during the previous year.
- Median time for summons cases was 1,211 days, a 1.0% increase from 1,199 days during the previous year.

Adult Magistrates' Court

- Median time for charge cases was 92 days, a 3.2% decrease from 95 days during the previous year.
- Median time for summons cases was 223 days, a 3.0% decrease from 230 days during the previous year.

Youth Magistrates' Court

- Median time for charge cases was 158 days, a 6.5% decrease from 169 days during the previous year.
- Median time for summons cases was 290 days, a 0.3% decrease from 291 days during the previous year.

First time entrants to criminal justice overview

First time entrants data for 2023/24. Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Cases

- 29,671 cases dealt with by conviction or disposal.
- 21,799 were for further offences, 19,678 of which resulted in convictions and 2,121 in diversions.
- 7,872 were for first offences, 5,903 of which resulted in convictions and 1,969 in diversions.

About first time entrants

- First time entrants accounted for 26.5% of cases.
- Main offence categories were –
 - motoring (59.1%);
 - violence against the person (15.2%); and
 - drugs (6.7%).
- 69.9% were male and 30.1% were female.
- 91.6% were aged 18 and over and 8.4% were aged 10-17.

Disposals

- Possession of weapons, drug offences and public order were mostly dealt with by diversion.
- Motoring, sexual offences and violence against the person were mostly dealt with by conviction.
- Fines (60.9%) were the main disposal type. This was followed by diversions (25.0%), suspended sentence (5.1%), community service (3.8%) and imprisonment (2.7%).

NI Courts & Tribunal service overview

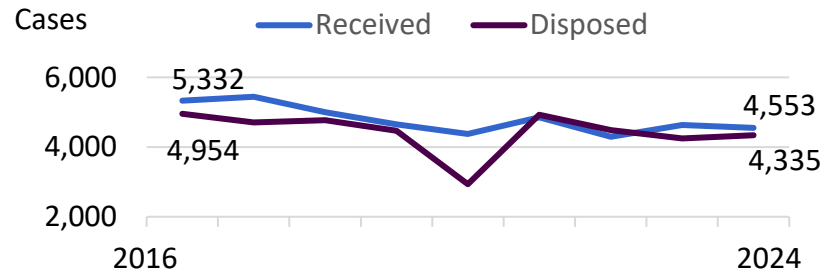
Judicial data for 2024.

Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Children Order

1,781 sittings, a 5% decrease from 2023.

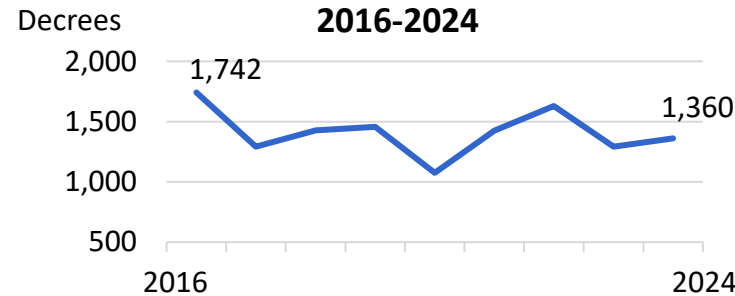
Figure 13: Cases received, disposed and change from previous year, 2016-2024



County Court

Ordinary civil bills, small claims and appeals from the Magistrates' Court made up 96% of cases received and 96% of cases disposed.

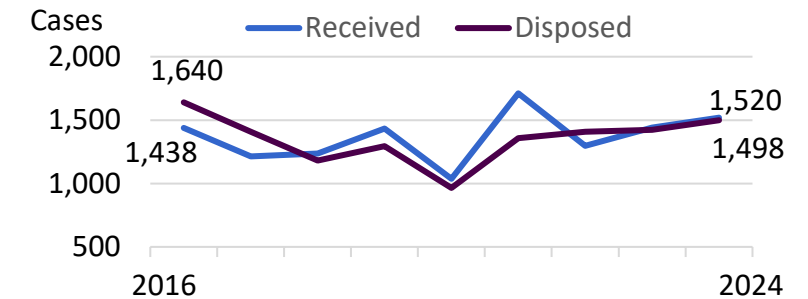
Figure 14: Divorce decrees granted and change from previous year, 2016-2024



Crown Court

2,931 sittings, an 8% increase from 2023.

Figure 15: Cases received, disposed & change from previous year, 2016-2024



High Court

- 2,052 sitting days, a 2% decrease from 2023.
- Chancery Division, 2,397 cases received, 20% more than previous year; 1,827 disposed, 39% more than previous year.
- Family Division, 75 adoptions disposed, 34% more than previous year; 836 divorce decrees granted, 4% less than the previous year.
- Kings Bench Division 4,934 writs received, 31% more than previous year; 3,554 disposed, 9% more than the previous year.

Magistrates' Court

- 97% of defendants received and disposed were adults.
- Decrease in number of all defendants received (4%) and disposed (4%) compared to previous year.

NI Prison population overview

Average daily prison population data for 2024/25. Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Figure 16: Average daily populations & change from previous year, 2016/17-2024/25

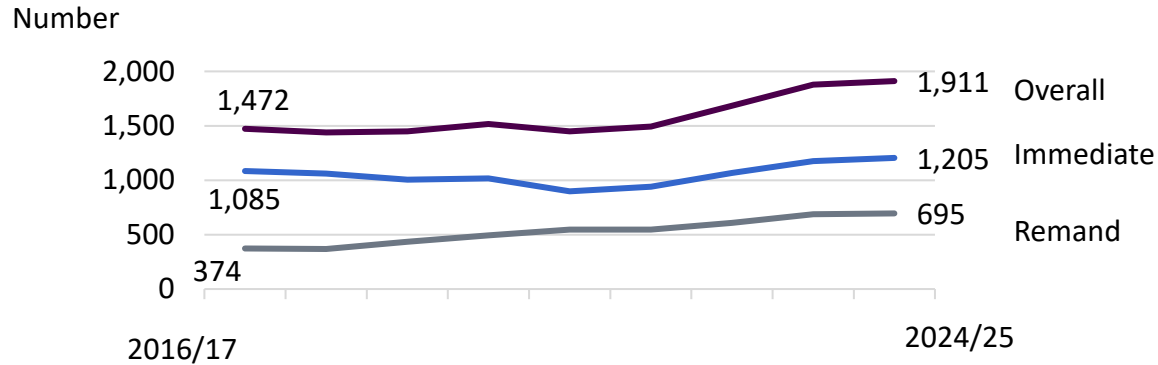
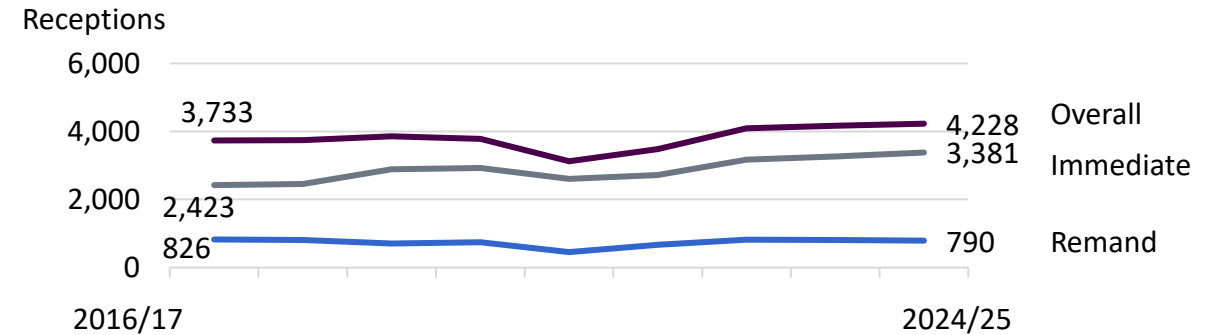


Figure 17: Number of receptions & change from previous year, 2016/17-2024/25



- Males accounted for 94.3% of average daily prison population.
- Comparing populations to previous year –
 - Daily overall was 0.9% higher for males and 20% higher for females;
 - Immediate custody was 2.0% higher for males and 12.8% higher for females; and
 - Remand was 0.6% lower for males and 31.7% higher for females.

Prisoners per 100,000 of population

- NI (109) higher than Ireland (99); lower than Scotland (149) & England/Wales (140).

Youth Justice Agency Overview

Youth Justice Agency (YJA) data for 2024/25. Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Youth Justice Services

- 1,402 referrals involving 768 children.
- 73.7% of children were male and 25.7% female.
- 22.4% of children were aged 10 to 13, 34.2% 14 to 15 and 43.4% 16 plus.

Custodial Services

- 180 admissions involving 95 children.
- 71.6% of children were male and 27.4% female.
- 6.3% of children were aged 10 to 13, 27.4% 14 to 15 and 66.3% 16 plus.
- 38.9% of children subject to a care order or voluntary accommodated.

Figure 18: Proportion of referrals by type of referral, 2020/21-2024/25 (%)

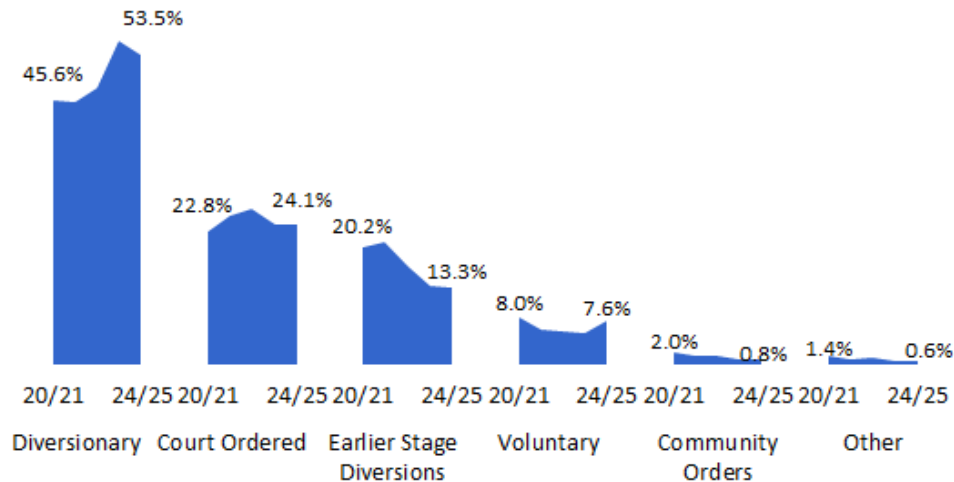
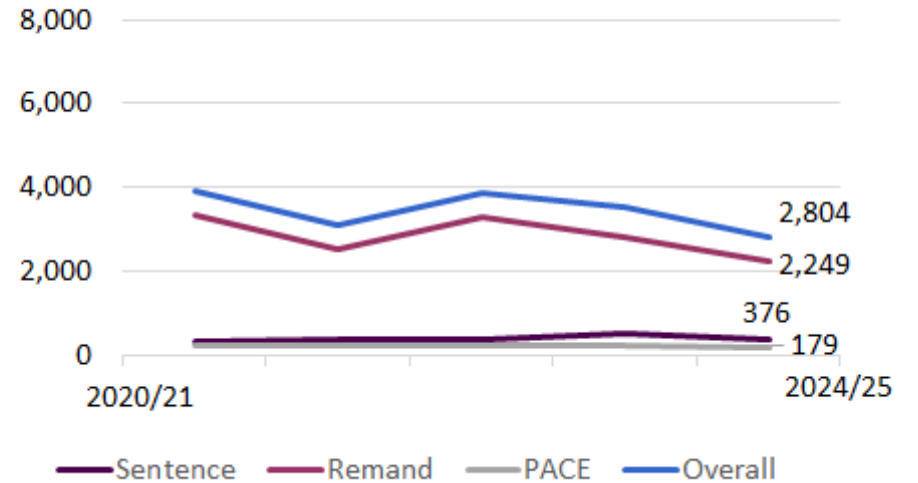


Figure 19: Custody days by status, 2020/21-2024/25

Custody Days



Reoffending overview

Adult and youth reoffending in NI for the 2022/23 cohort.
Full report available on the [DoJ website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Reoffending rates

Figure 20: Overall reoffending rate, 2015/16-2022/23 (%)

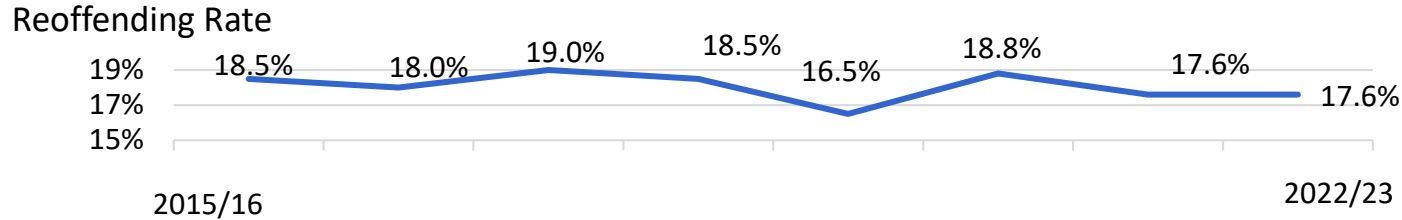


Figure 21: Number in the cohort and number who reoffended within one year, 2015/16-2022/23

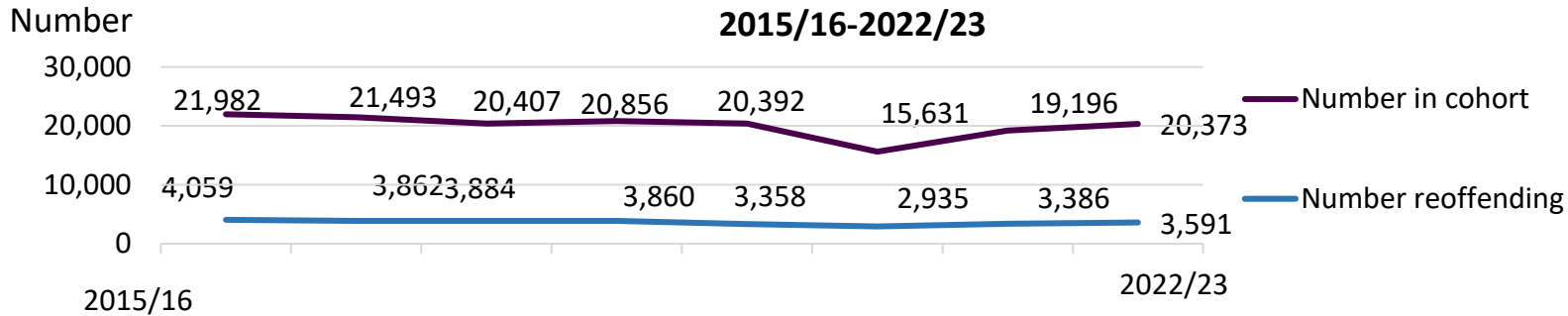
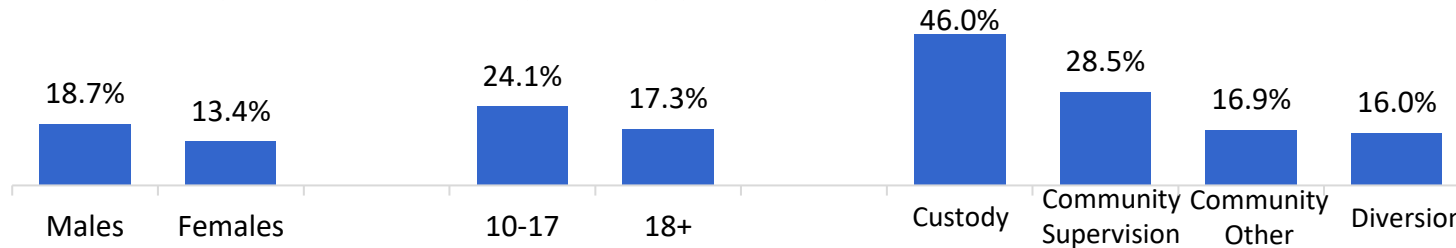


Figure 22: Reoffending rates by gender, age and disposal, 2022/23 (%)



About the cohort

19,455 adults (95.5%) and 918 youths (4.5%) released from custody or who received a non-custodial court or diversionary disposal during 2022/23. They were observed for the following year and their one year proven reoffending rate calculated.

Offending history

- 63.7% had committed previous offences (range, 1 - 455 distinct offences).
- Those previously convicted of robbery, burglary or theft were most likely to reoffend.

Time to first reoffence

- 46.2% committed first reoffence within 3 months.