

Department of Justice Key Statistics Summary

Updated May 2026



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 the number of cases **disposed** decreased by **1%** across all court types.

Prisons

In 2024/25, the **overall** average daily prison population **↑ by 1.8%** from the previous year; the average daily **remand** population **↑ 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

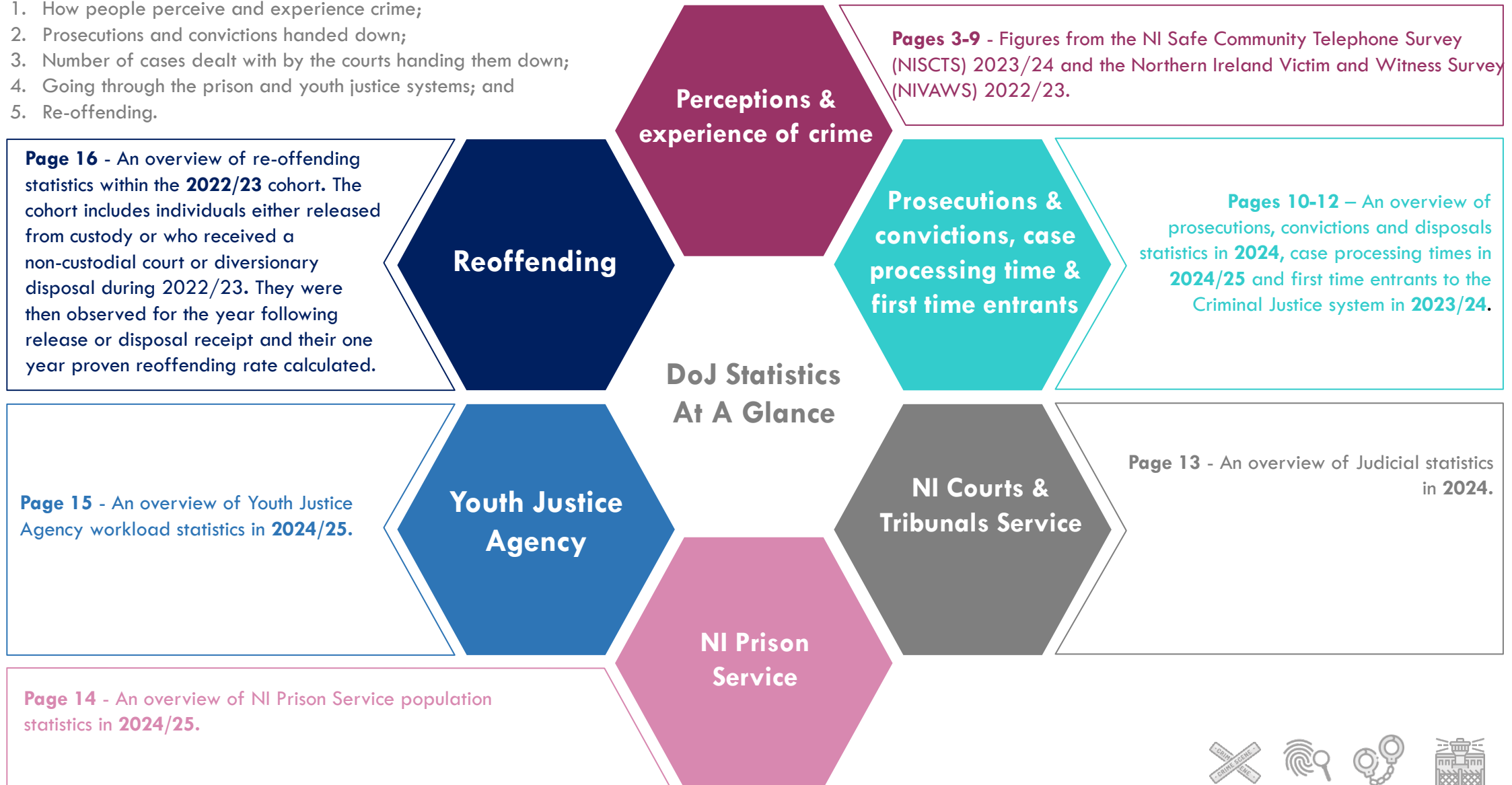


The **reoffending rate** for the 2022/23 cohort was **17.6%**.



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 of crime overview

Figures represent % 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 re impact are available [here](#). Full report available [here](#).

Worry about crime

In 2023/24, **5%** of NISCTS respondents felt **very worried** about **being a victim of crime**.

The % of respondents reporting **high levels** of **worry** by crime type was -

7% for
car crime



8% for
burglary

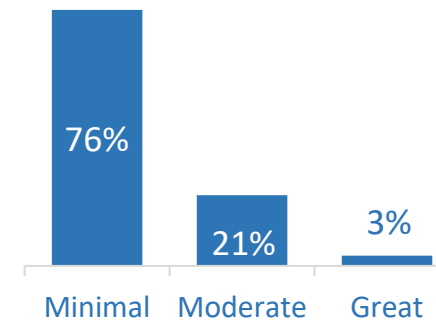


8% for
violent crime



Quality of life

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



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

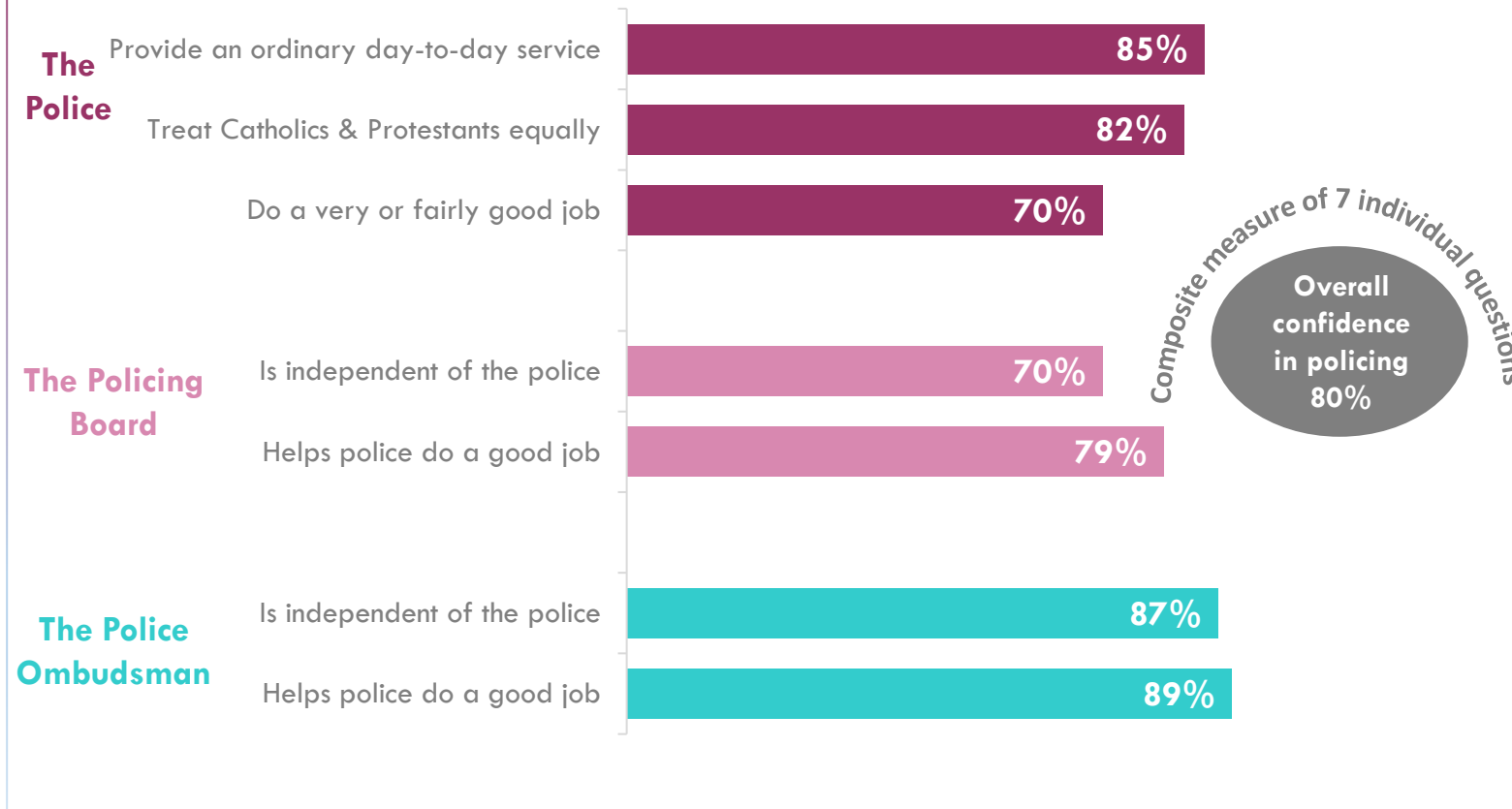
- 1. Using or dealing drugs (28%)**
- 2. Litter (27%)**
- 3. Teenagers hanging around (13%)**



Perceptions of policing and justice overview

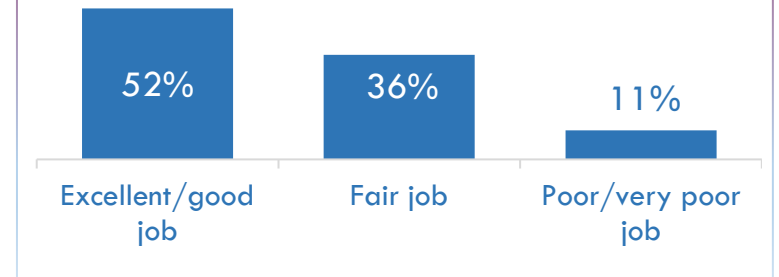
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Confidence in police and police accountability arrangements



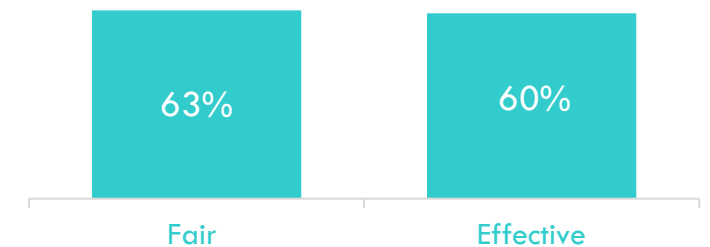
Local police

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



Criminal justice system

% of respondents confident that the criminal justice system as a whole is

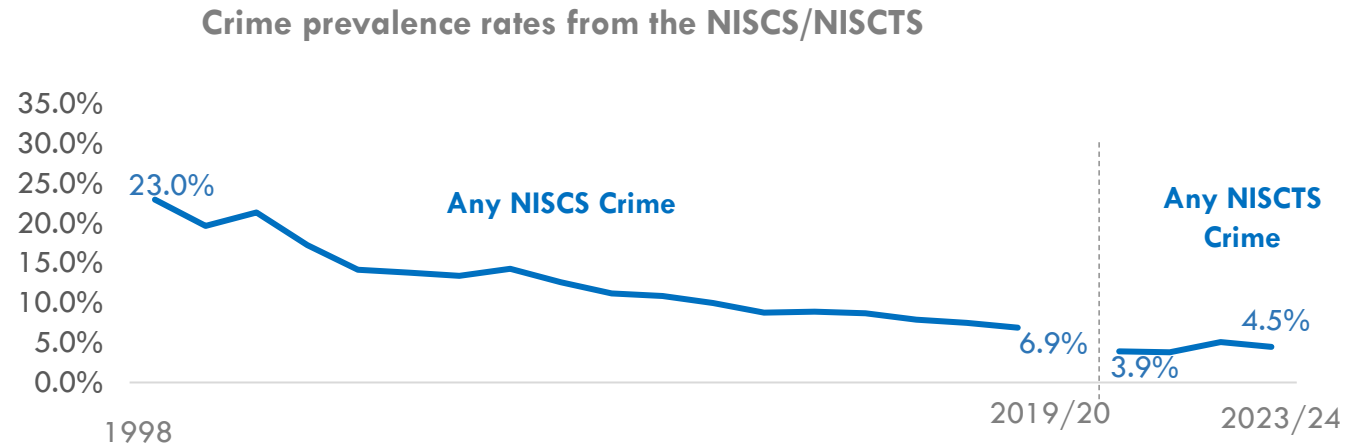


Crime victimisation rate overview

Figures represent % 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 re impact are available [here](#). Full report available [here](#).

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

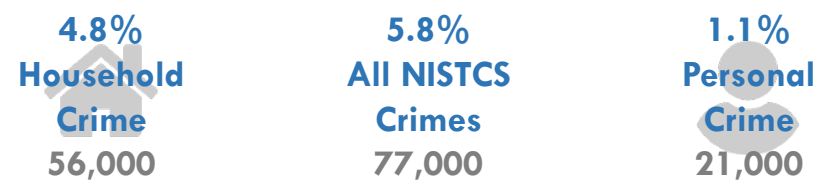
Prevalence rate by NISCTS crime type



Estimated incidents by NISCTS crime type

NISCTS crime type 2022/23

Prevalence rate by NISCTS crime type



Estimated incidents by NISCTS crime type



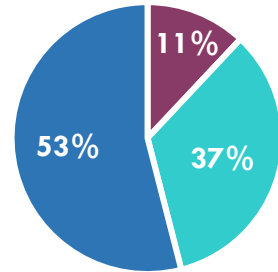
Perceptions and experience of cyber crime overview

Figures represent % 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.**

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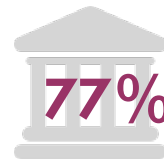
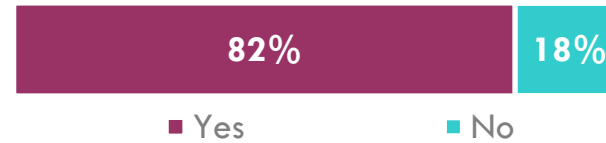
Experience

Experience of cyber crime (%)



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

Whether victims reported the incident(s) to anyone (%)



77%

The majority **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.**



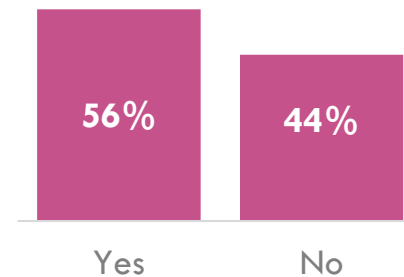
Confidence

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



Awareness

Aware of where or how to seek advice about cyber security and staying safe online? (%)



% aware of how to apply security measures on a child(rens) device or computer to help protect them while online*



82%

*Based on those indicating they had children



Perceptions of modern slavery overview

Figures represent % 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 re impact are available [here](#). Full report available [here](#).

Perceptions

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**.

Types of **modern slavery** viewed as most **prevalent**

Sexual exploitation

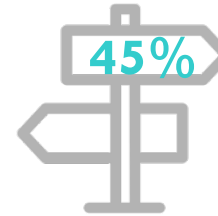
89%

Labour exploitation

85%

Awareness

% who felt they would **recognise** the **signs** someone is a **victim** of **modern slavery**.



Whether respondents' **awareness** of **modern slavery** has **changed** in the **past year** (%)

49% Increased

51% Stayed the same



At **84%**, the main **medium** through which respondents had **heard** about **modern slavery** was the **media**.

Reporting

Would you report your concerns that someone is a victim of modern slavery?

93%

Yes

7%

No



87% of those who would report their concerns would report them to the **police**.

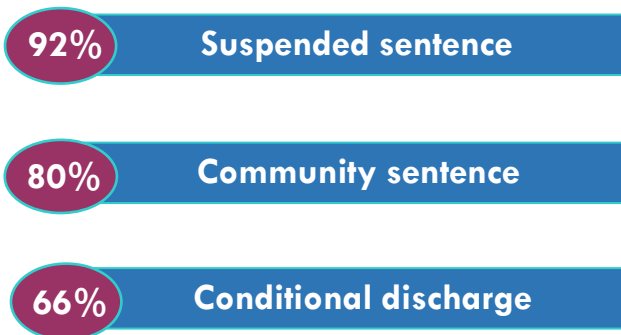


Perceptions of sentencing overview

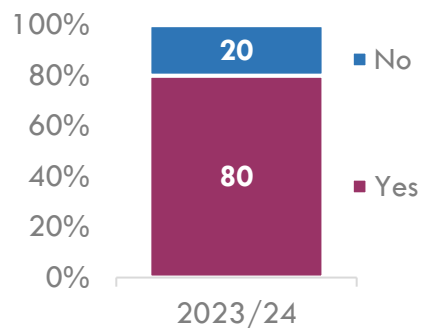
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Awareness

Awareness of sentence types available (%)



Should courts take into account an offender's circumstances when imposing a sentence?



Perceptions

38% think **prison sentences** should only be for **dangerous offenders** who have committed **serious offences**.



75% think **sentences** requiring offenders to do **unpaid work** or **attend programmes** are **worthwhile**.

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**.

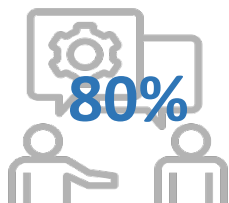
Importance of Sentencing

% agreeing that each outcome is an important part of sentencing



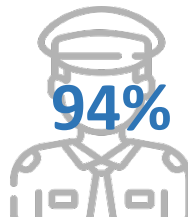
84%

Deterrence



80%

Rehabilitation



94%

Public protection



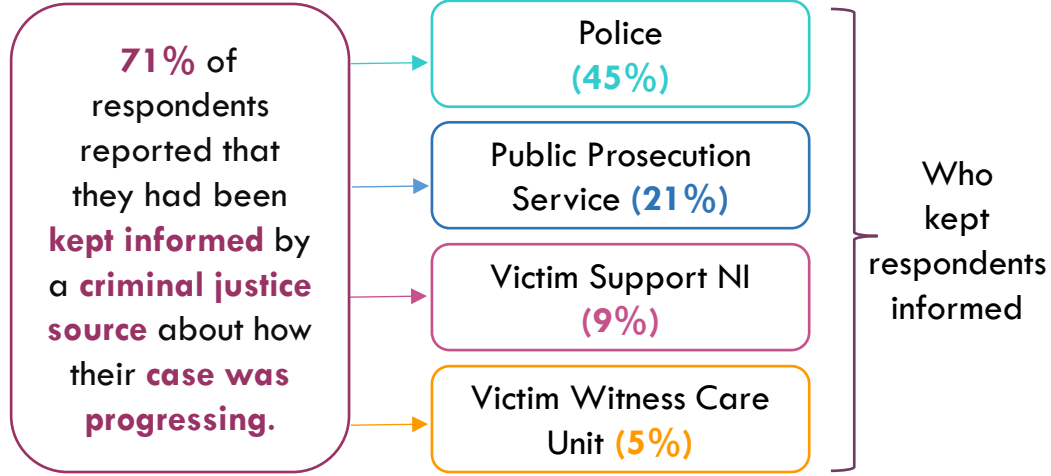
90%

Make amends



Northern Ireland Victim and Witness Survey overview

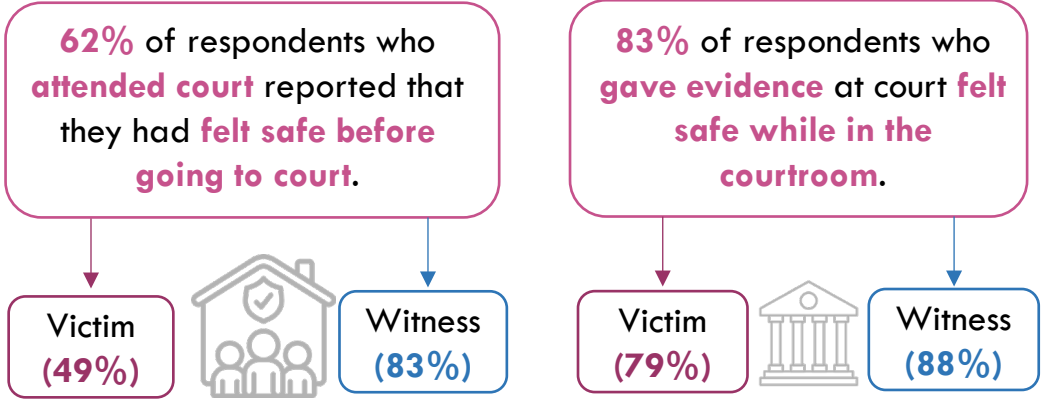
Information regarding case progression



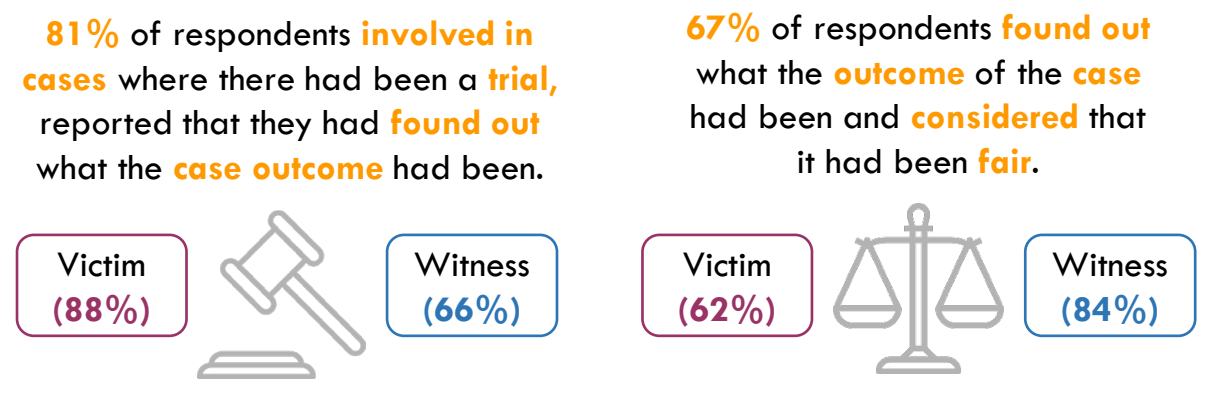
Satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System

% of respondents satisfied with –	All	Victim	Witness
information received about criminal justice process.	68%	63%	73%
how well they were treated by staff in criminal justice system.	79%	72%	85%
how well they were kept informed of progress of their case.	56%	52%	60%
contact they had with criminal justice system.	68%	60%	74%

Feelings of safety

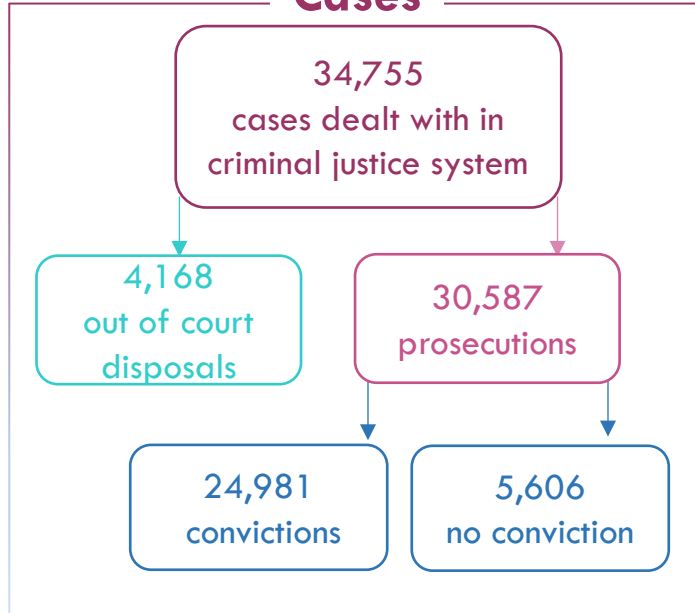


Case Outcome

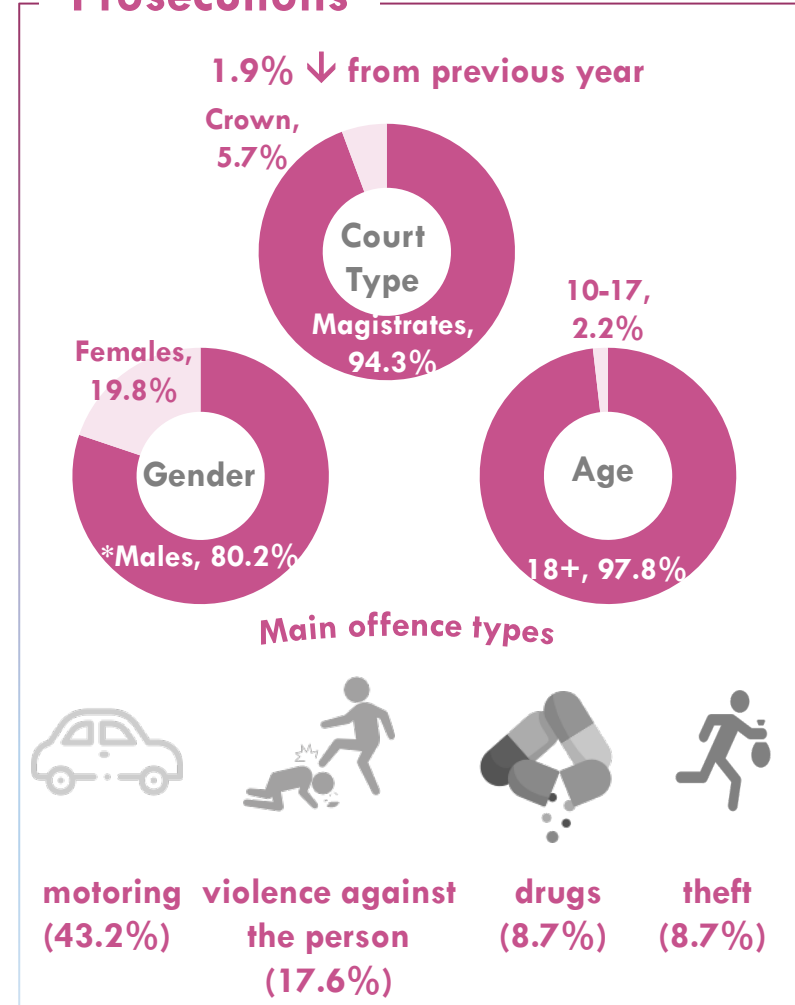


Prosecutions & convictions overview

Cases

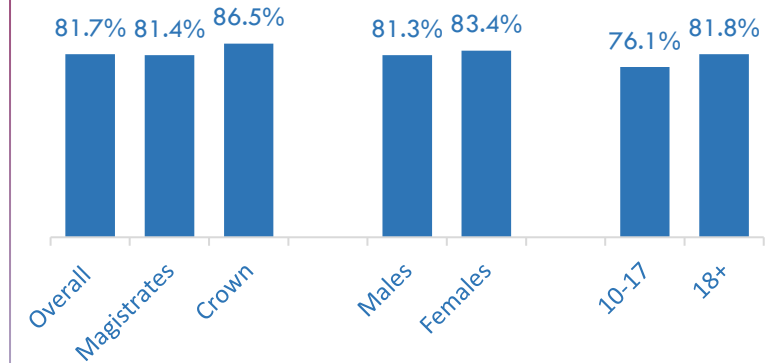


Prosecutions

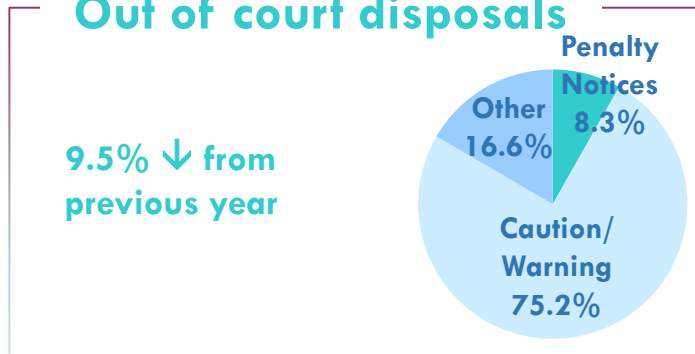


Convictions

Conviction rates by court type, gender and age



Out of court disposals



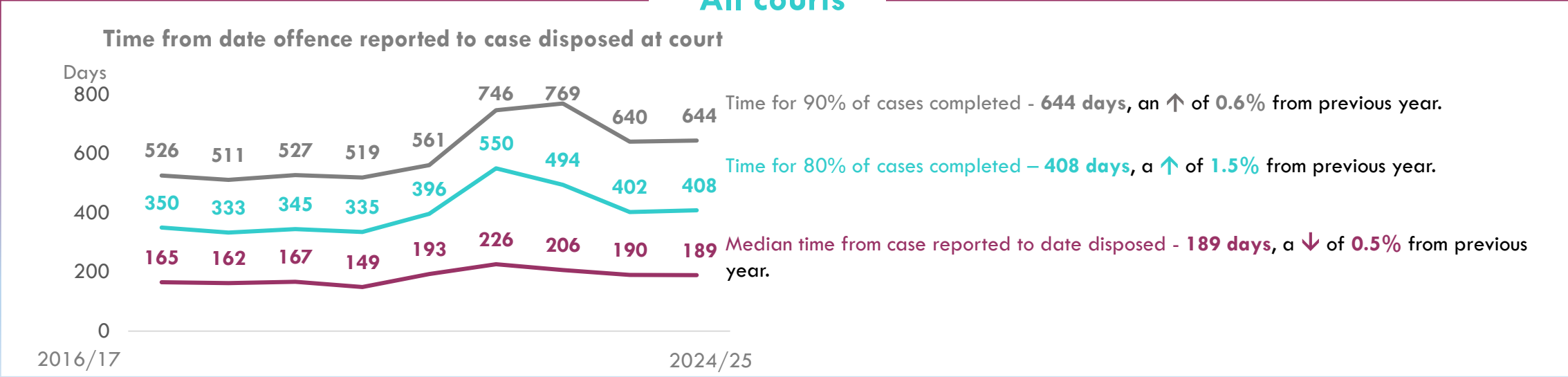
Main types of disposal

1. Fines (54.6%)
2. Suspended sentences (17.7%)
3. Imprisonment (13.9%)
4. Community sentences (10.5%)



Case processing time overview

All courts



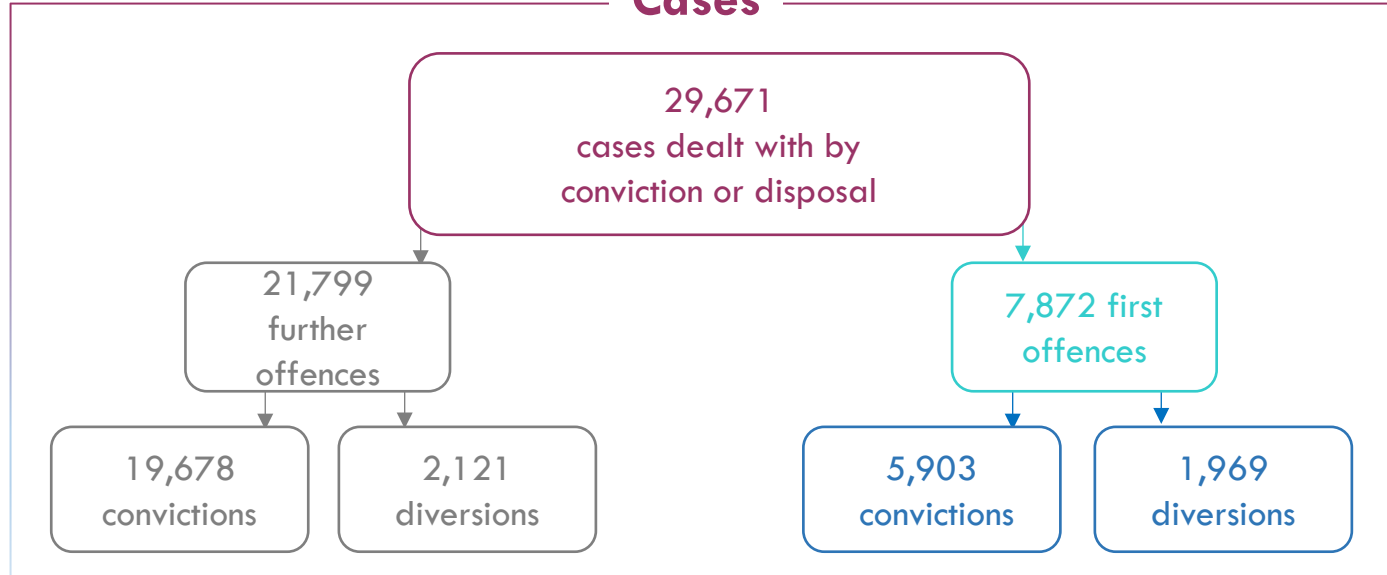
Median time & change from previous year by court type

Crown		Adult Magistrates		Youth Magistrates	
Charge	Summons	Charge	Summons	Charge	Summons
542 days	1,211 days	92 days	223 days	158 days	290 days
1.6% ↓	1.0% ↑	3.2% ↓	3.0% ↓	6.5% ↓	0.3% ↓
from 551 days	from 1,199 days	from 95 days	from 230 days	from 169 days	from 291 days



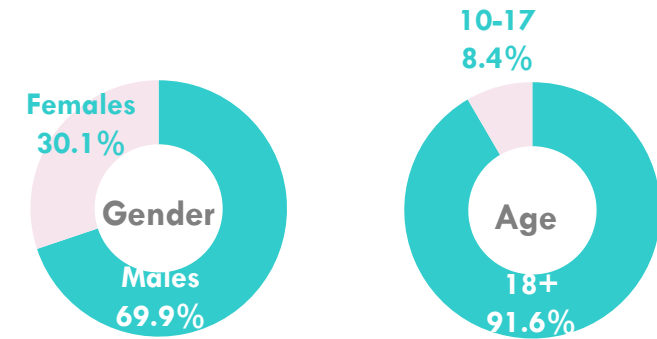
First time entrants to criminal justice system overview

Cases

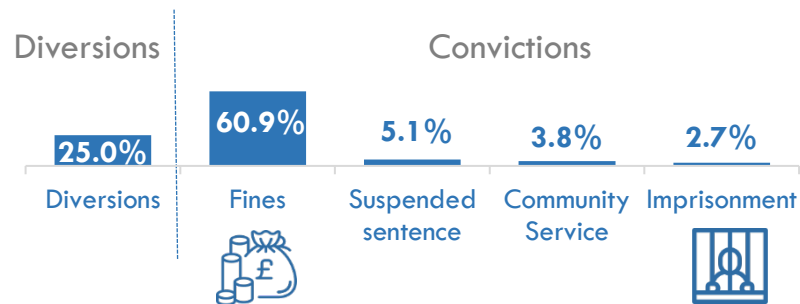


About first time entrants

Accounted for 26.5% of cases dealt with.



Disposals



Offence types mostly dealt with by

Diversion	Conviction
Possession of weapons	Motoring
Drugs	Sexual
Public Order	Violence Against the Person

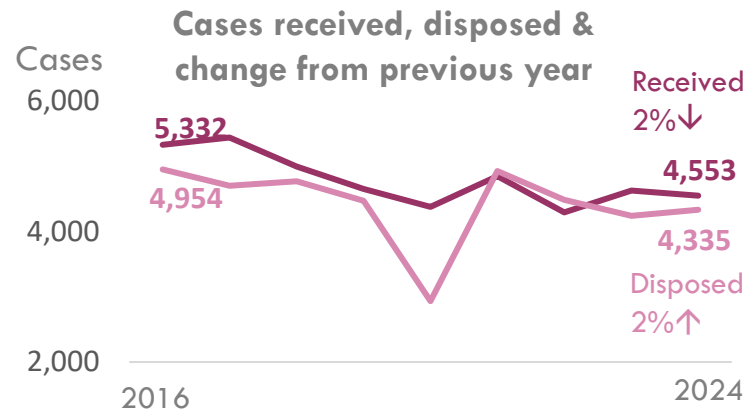
Main offence types



NI Courts & Tribunal Service overview

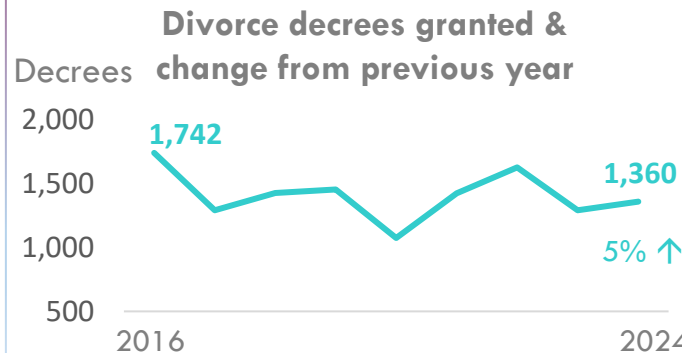
Children Order

1,781 sittings, a 5%↓ from 2023



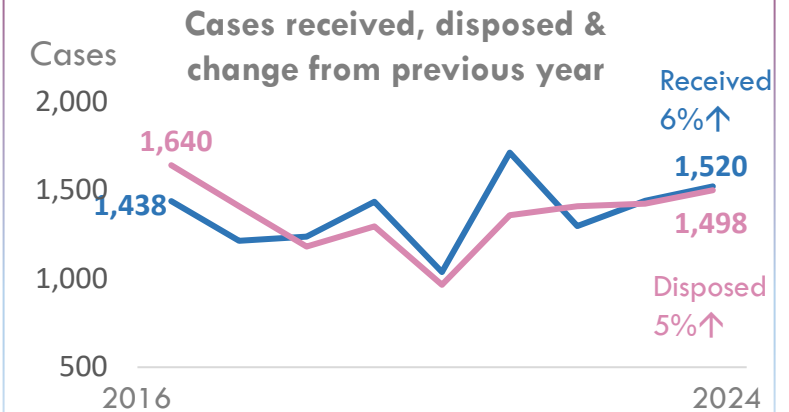
County Court

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



Crown Court

2,931 sittings, a 8%↑ from 2023



High Court

2,052 sitting days, a 2%↓ from 2023

Changes from previous year

Chancery Division Cases

Received, 2,397 20%↑
Disposed, 1,827 39%↑

Family Division

Adoptions disposed, 75 34%↑
Divorce decrees granted, 836 4%↓

Kings Bench Division Writs

Received, 4,934 31%↑
Disposed, 3,554 9%↑

Magistrates' Court

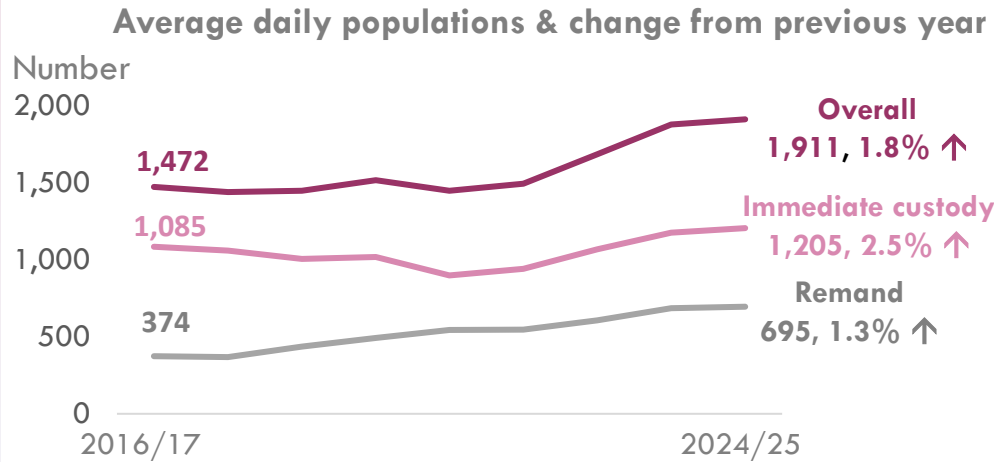
97% of defendants received and disposed were adults

Decrease in number of all defendants received (↓ 2%) and disposed (↓ 4%) compared to previous year



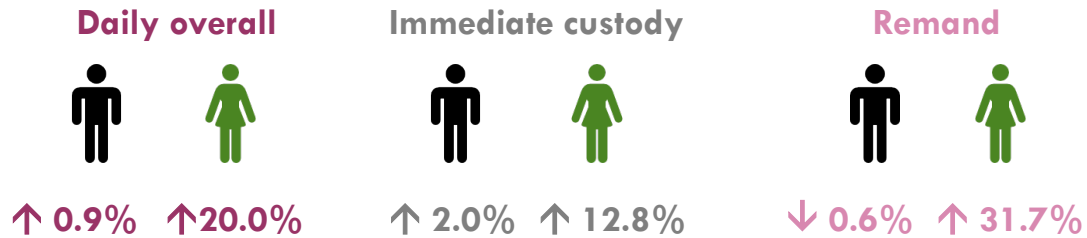
NI prison population overview

Average daily population

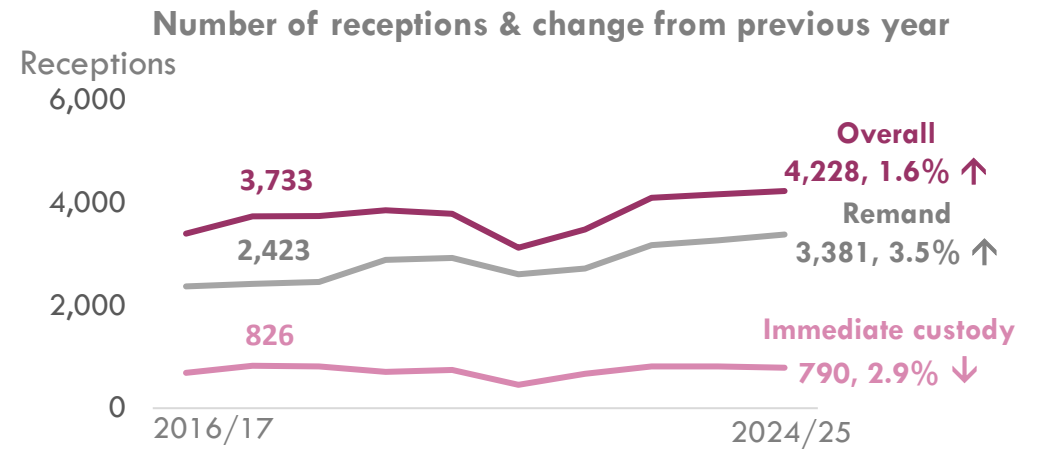


Males accounted for **94.3%** of average daily prison population.

Comparing populations to previous year

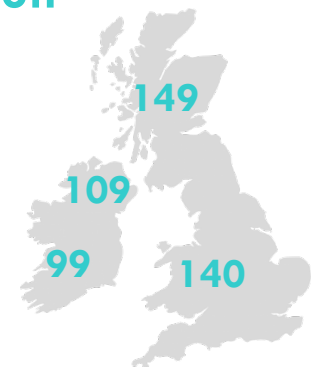


Receptions



Prisoners per 100,000 of population

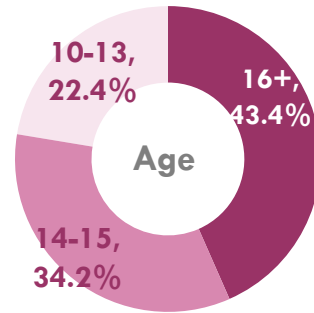
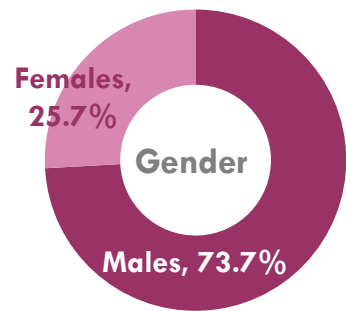
NI higher than Ireland;
lower than Scotland &
England/Wales.



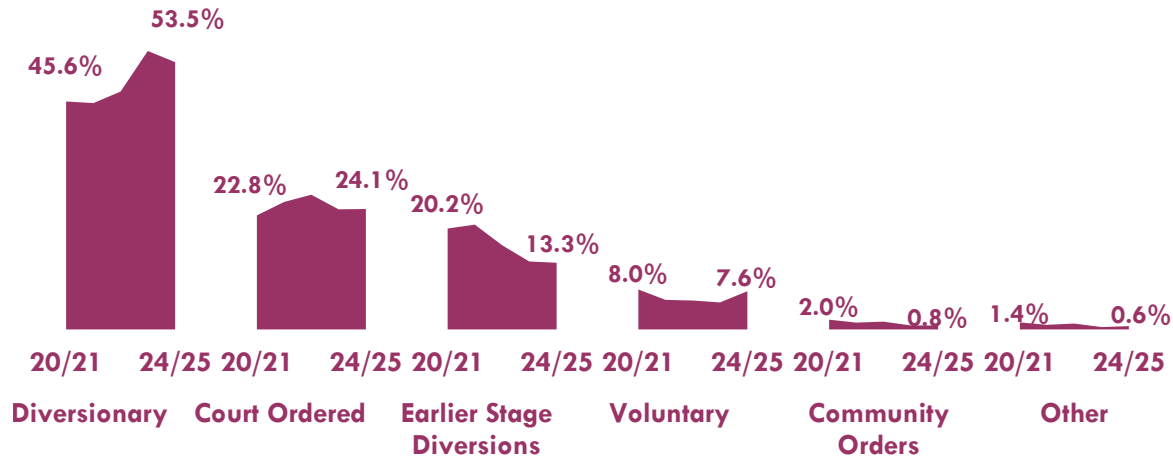
Youth Justice Agency overview

Youth Justice Service Referrals

1,402 referrals involving 768 children.



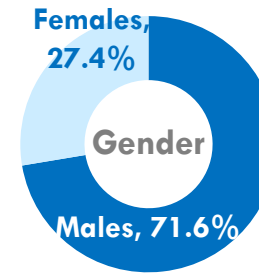
Proportion of referrals by type of referral



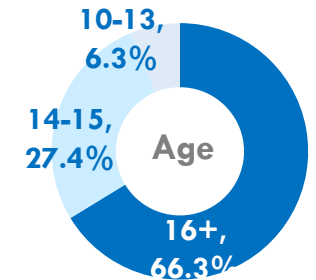
Note - figures for gender may not sum to 100% as information was unavailable for a small number of individuals.

Custodial Services

180 admissions involving 95 children.

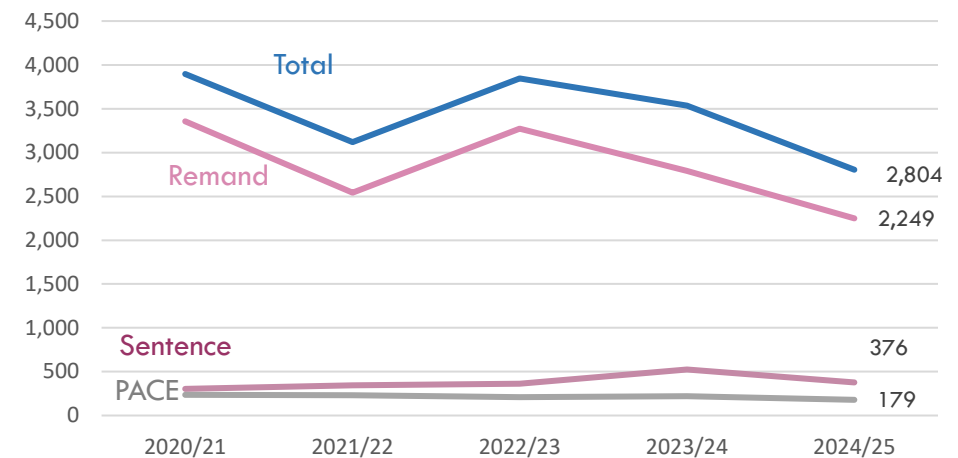


38.9% of children subject to a care order or voluntary accommodated



Custody Days

Custody days by status



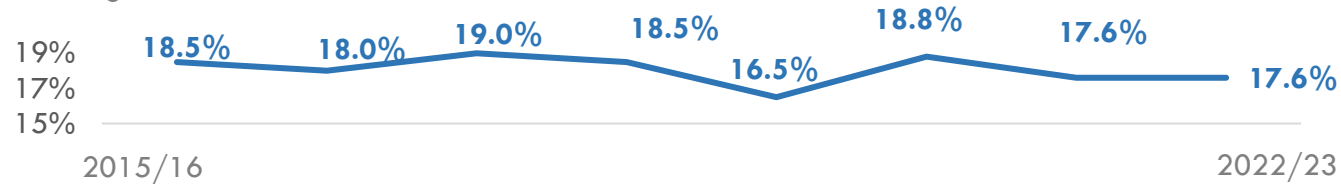
Reoffending overview

Adult and youth reoffending in NI for the **2022/23** cohort.
Full report available [here](#).

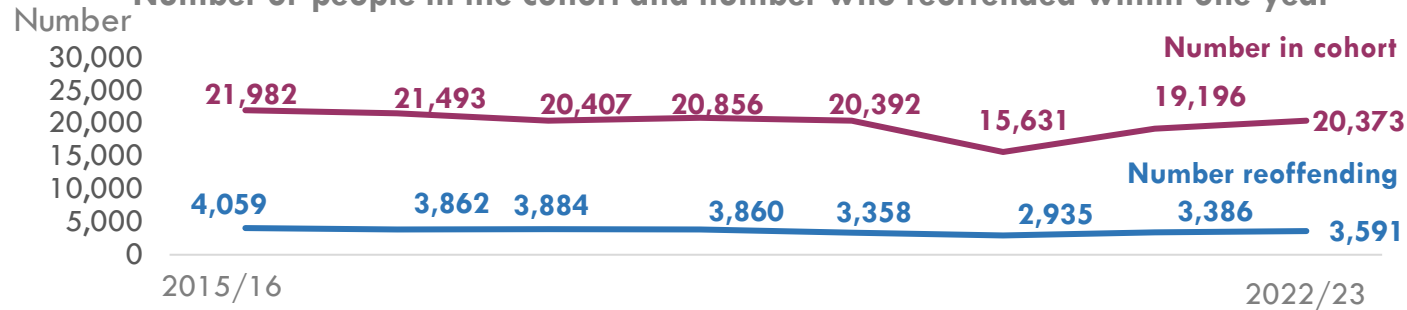
Reoffending rates

Overall reoffending rate

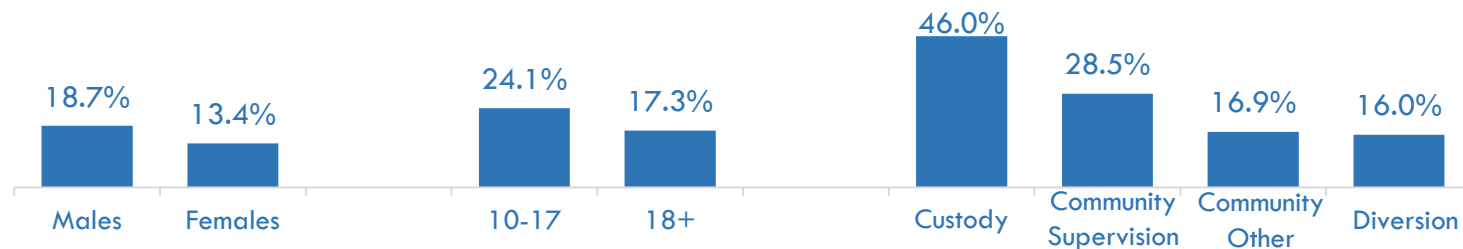
Reoffending Rate



Number of people in the cohort and number who reoffended within one year



Reoffending rates by gender, age and disposal



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**.

