

**Transforming Lives: Reducing Women’s Imprisonment
Factsheet: West Mercia¹**

- 107 prison sentences were given to women in West Mercia in 2018*, a 19% decrease since 2008. Of those 71% were sentences of less than six months in prison.
- 56% of the prison sentences were for theft offences.
- The use of community sentences for women in West Mercia has decreased by 39% since 2008. The use of cautions decreased by 69% over the same period.²

Figure 1: Use of immediate imprisonment for women, 2008-2018

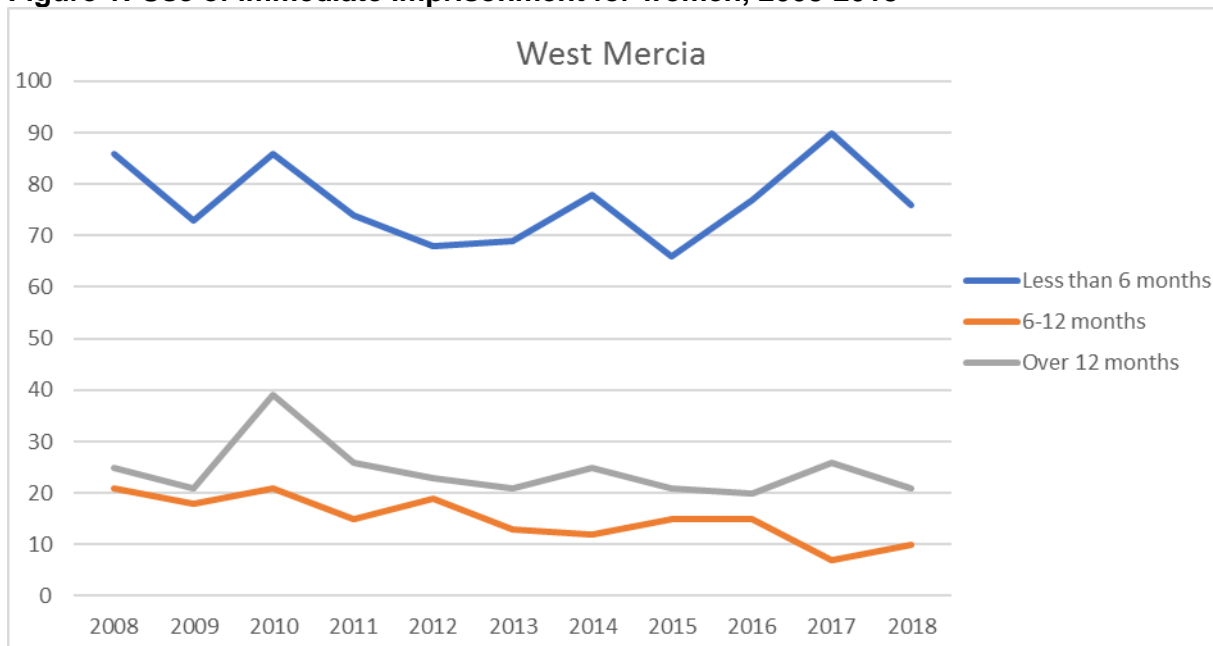
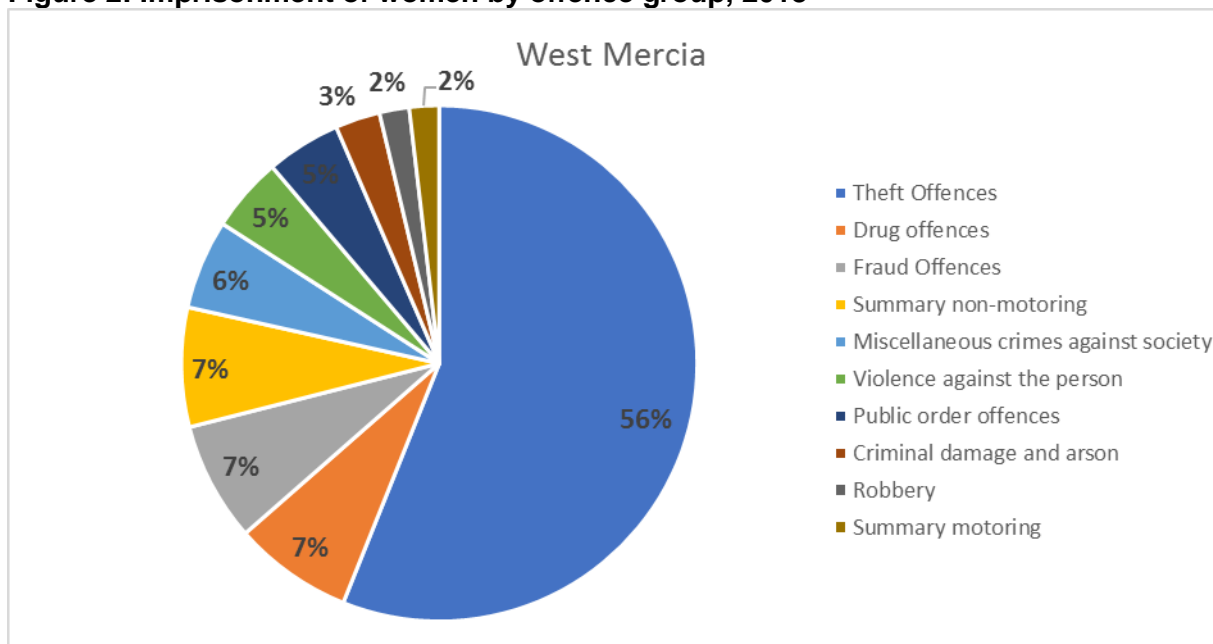


Figure 2: Imprisonment of women by offence group, 2018

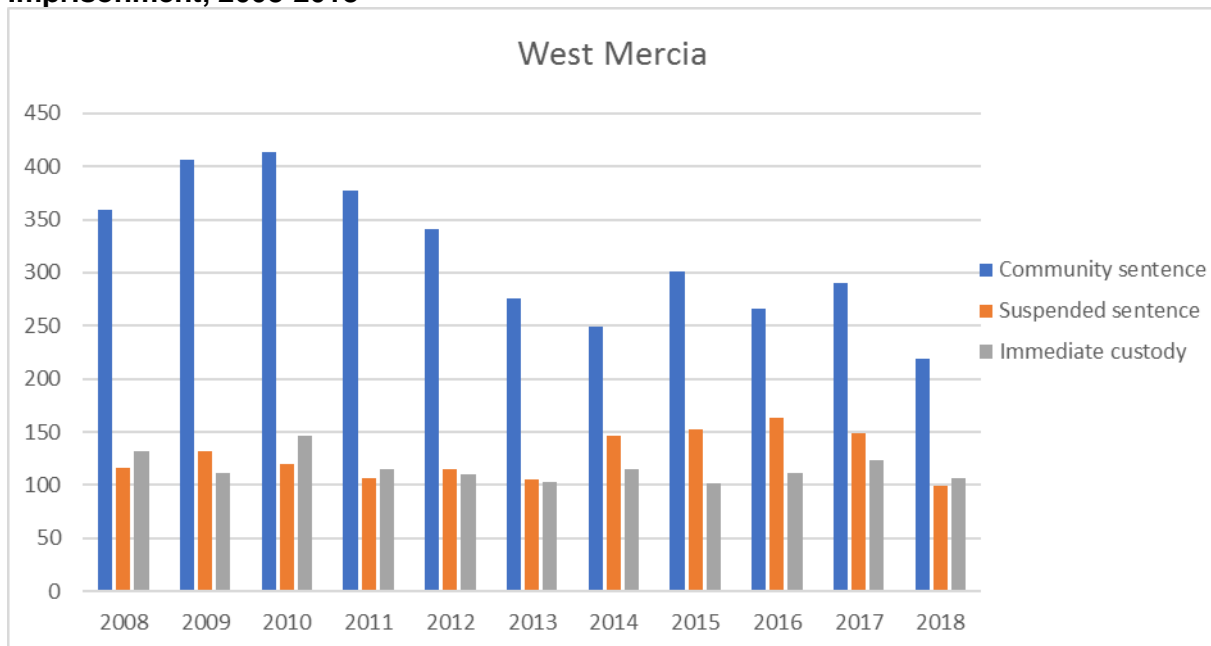


* Not including suspended sentences

¹ The data in this fact sheet is taken from the following source unless otherwise indicated: Ministry of Justice (2019) Court Outcomes by Police Force Area Data Tool, Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: December 2018, London: MoJ

² Ministry of Justice (2019) Out of Court Disposals Data Tool, Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: December 2018, London: MoJ

Figure 3: Sentencing of women to Community Orders, Suspended Sentences and Immediate Imprisonment, 2008-2018



About the Prison Reform Trust

The Prison Reform Trust (PRT) is an independent UK charity working to create a just, humane and effective penal system. We do this by inquiring into the workings of the system; informing prisoners, staff and the wider public; and by influencing Parliament, government and officials towards reform.

The women's prison population in England and Wales more than doubled between 1995 and 2010 – from under 2,000 women to over 4,000. The numbers have since declined slightly to under 4,000 but this remains one of the highest rates of imprisonment for women in Western Europe.

PRT has a longstanding interest in improving criminal justice outcomes for women and we are working through our Transforming Lives programme, supported by the National Lottery Community Fund, to reduce the unnecessary imprisonment of women in the UK. For more information and practical proposals please see our publications:

- [Out of the Shadows: Women with learning disabilities in contact with or on the edges of the criminal justice system](#)
- [Broken Trust: The rising numbers of women recalled to prison](#)
- [Still no way out: Foreign national women and trafficked women in the criminal justice system](#)
- [What about me? The impact on children when mothers are involved in the criminal justice system](#)
- [Home truths: housing for women in the criminal justice system](#)
- ["There's a reason we're in trouble" - Domestic abuse as a driver to women's offending](#)
- [Counted Out: Black, Asian and minority ethnic women in the criminal justice system](#)
- [Fair Cop? Improving outcomes for women at the point of arrest](#)
- [Leading Change: the role of local authorities in supporting women with multiple needs](#)

For more information go to: www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/women