



BROMLEY BRIEFINGS

PRISON FACTFILE

December 2007

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These 'Bromley Briefings' are being produced in memory of Keith Bromley, a valued friend of PRT and allied groups concerned with prisons and human rights. His support for refugees from oppression, victims of torture and the falsely imprisoned has made a difference to many people's lives. The Prison Reform Trust is grateful to the Bromley Trust for supporting the production of this briefing paper.

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Introduction

The social and economic costs of imprisonment have become too great to bear. We can no longer afford to get it so wrong. When you start talking numbers the scale of the problem quickly becomes evident. The prison population has soared by 25,000 in just over ten years. Previously it took nearly four decades (1958-1995) for it to rise to that degree. Each year over 132,000 people are now received into our overcrowded prisons and 70,000 children enter the youth justice system.

Talking tough, creating new offences, introducing a raft of mandatory penalties and then, under the Criminal Justice Act (2003) bringing in a new indeterminate sentence has led to massive inflation in sentencing. The misuse of prison to contain the mentally ill, addicts in need of treatment, vulnerable women and children and people with learning disabilities compounds the problem. It also provides a key to the solution in terms of the range of government department who must shoulder their responsibilities, alongside the Ministry of Justice, to create healthier, safer communities.

People are beginning to question whether we can afford this exceptionally high use of imprisonment coupled with shattering reconviction rates. Recent reports by the National Audit Office and by Matrix, and a review by the new economics foundation, all take an incisive, critical look at the cost benefits and value for money of the current system where each new place now costs £119,000 and the annual average cost for each prisoner exceeds £40,000. In November it was revealed in Parliament that £29 million has been wasted in one year on overspill police cells. Nor has investment been made in increasing staff numbers in prison and probation services or the Parole Board, despite rocketing central costs following the introduction of the National Offender Management Service.

It is difficult to estimate the social costs of needlessly high rates of imprisonment. But the impact on families, as well as the cycle of crime, will be immense. Today well over 150,000 children

have a parent in prison. According to the Department for Children, Schools and Families, during their time at school 7% of children experience their father's imprisonment. Each year up to 18,000 children are separated from their mother. More children are affected by the imprisonment of a parent than they are by divorce. Yet almost no attention is paid to the needs of prisoners' families and carers in stark contrast to well developed social policy and practice in relation to other life-changing events.

And what of those children who are themselves serving a prison sentence? The number of 15-17 year olds in prison custody increased by 86% in ten years from 1995-2005. Levels of assessed vulnerability are also rising year on year. Here we should stop and think of just one child. On 29 November 2007 notification was received of the death of a 15 year old boy in HMYOI Lancaster Farms. Early in the morning, Liam McManus was found hanging from a bed sheet tied to the window bars in a single cell on normal location. He was serving a sentence of 1 month and 14 days for breach of license.

The death of a child in prison will send shock waves through government and so it should. His sad, lonely death raises fundamental questions about the use of custody for children. If anything good could possibly come out of such a tragedy, it would be for government to review as a matter of urgency its policy of locking our most vulnerable children in under-resourced, unsafe institutions.

The forthcoming report by Lord Carter is a pivotal opportunity to advocate for a more sparing use of custody altogether. Public opinion polls show that what people really want is not vengeance but a system that prevents the next victim. By re-introducing proportionality in sentencing and meeting its commitment to reserve prison only for the most serious and violent offenders, government could begin to repair some of the damage caused by an addiction to imprisonment that has cost us dear.

Prison overview

On 30 November 2007, the prison population in England and Wales was 81,455, including 177 held in police cells under Operation Safeguard.¹

The total UK prison population on 23 November 2007 was 90,248. On 23 November 2007, the prison population in Scotland was 7,318.² The prison population in Northern Ireland on 23 November 2007 was 1,476.³ On the same date, the population in custody in England and Wales was 81,454.⁴ In France, with the same population, the figure is 52,009 and in Germany with over 20 million more people, 76,629.⁵

In 2006/07 the average daily population in Scottish prisons totalled 7,183, an increase of 5% on 2005/06, and the highest level ever recorded.⁶

Since reaching a low point of 926 in 2001, the prison population in Northern Ireland has risen steadily.⁷

England and Wales has the highest imprisonment rate in Western Europe at 148 per 100,000 of the population. France has an imprisonment rate of 85 per 100,000 and Germany has a rate of 93 per 100,000.⁸

The additional 9,500 places that Lord Falconer announced in June 2007 will take the rate of imprisonment in England and Wales to 166 per 100,000 of population. That is beyond Bulgaria (148), Slovakia (155), Romania (155) and Hungary (156).⁹

61% of victims of crime do not think that the use of prison stops re-offending for non-violent crime, such as shoplifting, stealing cars and vandalism.¹⁰

Only 29% of victims of crime think that sending drug addicts to prison is an effective way of reducing the risk of their re-offending. 72% wanted more drug treatment programmes in the community to fight crime.¹¹

The number of prisoners in England and Wales has increased by 25,000 in the last ten years. In 1996, the mid-year prison population was 55,256.¹² When Labour came to government in May 1997, the prison population was 60,131. Previously it took nearly four decades (1958-1995) for the prison population to rise by 25,000.¹³

132,058 people entered prison in England and Wales in 2005.¹⁴

The average age of those sentenced to custody in 2005 was 27. A quarter was aged 21 or under.¹⁵

The number of people found guilty by the courts has remained largely constant over recent years, it was 1,645,831 in 1995 and 1,783,396 in 2005. The number given custody at magistrates' courts has risen from 25,016 in 1993 to 57,250 in 2005. The number of people awarded custodial sentence at the crown court has risen from 33,722 in 1993 to 43,986 in 2005.¹⁶

1. NOMS, Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing for 30 November 2007

2. Scottish Prison Service, <http://www.sps.gov.uk/Default.aspx?DocumentID=7811a7f1-6c61-4667-a12c-f102bbf5b808>

3. Northern Ireland Prison Service, <http://www.niprisonservice.gov.uk/module.cfm/opt/11/area/Situation%20Reports/page/situationreports/srid/249>

4. NOMS, Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing for 23 November 2007

5. International Centre for Prison Studies, <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/rel/icps/worldbrief/europe.html>

6. Scottish Executive, Statistical Bulletin, Criminal Justice Series, Prison Statistics Scotland 2006/07

7. Northern Ireland Prison Service, <http://www.niprisonservice.gov.uk/pop-arch.htm>

8. International Centre for Prison Studies, <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/rel/icps/worldbrief/europe.htm>

9. Ibid.

10. SmartJustice 2006, Briefing: Crime victims say jail doesn't work, <http://www.smartjustice.org/pr16jan06.html>

11. Ibid.

12. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

13. Home Office, Prison Statistics England and Wales 2002, London: Stationery Office.

14. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

15. Ibid.

16. Home Office, Sentencing Statistics 2003 and 2005

The number of women in prison has more than doubled over the past decade. On 30 November 2007 the women's prison population in England and Wales stood at 4,510.¹⁷ In 1995 the average female prison population was 1,998. In 1999 it stood at 3,355. In 2005, 12,275 women were received into prison.¹⁸

Home Office research has found that 66% of women prisoners are mothers, and each year it is estimated that more than 17,700 children are separated from their mother by imprisonment.¹⁹

It is estimated that 150,000 children have a parent in prison. During their time at school 7% of children experience their father's imprisonment.²⁰

At the end of October 2007 there were 9,544 young adults in prisons in England and Wales, up by 3% since October 2006.²¹ There were 2,485 children in prison. The number of children in prison has nearly doubled in the ten years from 1995 - 2005.²²

The prison system as a whole has been overcrowded in every year since 1994.²³

In 2006/7 the average number of people held two to a cell certified for one was 17,974,²⁴ up from 9,498 in 1996/7. The number held three to a cell designed for two was 1,113.²⁵

It costs an average of £40,992 to keep a person in prison in England and Wales.²⁶

The actual cost per prisoner place in Northern Ireland in 2006-07 was £90,298.²⁷

According to the government, the overall cost of the criminal justice system has risen from 2% of GDP to 2.5% over the last ten years. That is a higher per capita level than the US or any EU country.²⁸

Since Labour came to power in 1997, more than 20,000 additional prison places have been provided, an increase of 33%. 9,500 more are planned for 2012.²⁹

The average cost of each prison place built between 2000 and 2004 is £99,839.³⁰ The cost for 940 places added in 2005/6 was £119,000 each.³¹

Research by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit highlighted in the Carter report ('Managing Offenders, Reducing Crime', December 2003) says that a 22% increase in the prison population since 1997 is estimated to have reduced crime by around 5% during a period when overall crime fell by 30% due to other measures and trends. The report states: "There is no convincing evidence that further increases in the use of custody would significantly reduce crime".³²

Prison has a poor record for reducing re-offending – 64.7% are reconvicted within two years of being released - for young men (18-20) it is 75.3%.³³

The Social Exclusion Unit has concluded that re-offending by ex-prisoners costs society at least £11 billion per year. Ex-prisoners are responsible for about one in five of all recorded crimes.³⁴

17. NOMS, Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing for 30 November 2007

18. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

19. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 16 May 2003

20. Department for Education and Skills, (2003) Every Child Matters, London: Stationery Office

21. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

22. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

23. Home Office, Digest 4: Information on the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales, 1999, London: Home Office

24. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 28 March 2007

25. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 9 January 2007

26. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 18 April 2006

27. Northern Ireland Prison Service Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07, 11 July 2007

28. Rt Hon Lord Falconer, the Today Programme, BBC Radio 4, 23 January 2007

29. Hansard, House of Lords, Statement by Rt Hon Lord Falconer, 19 June 2007

30. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 30 June 2005

31. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 26 March 2007

32. Carter (2003) Managing Offenders, Reducing Crime, London: Strategy Unit

33. Home Office, Re-offending of adults: results from the 2004 cohort

34. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

7.5% of the male population born in 1953 had been given at least one custodial sentence before the age of forty-six. 33% of men born in 1953 had at least one conviction for a 'standard list' offence before the age of forty-six.³⁵

Every year an estimated 70,000 school-age children enter the youth justice system.³⁶

Research by Citizen's Advice found that on average, prisoners interviewed had been moved four times. It is concerned that this disrupts links to family and the continuity of work and training in prison.³⁷

The number of people under pre or post release supervision by the Probation Service was 181,211 in 2005.³⁸ Under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, license and supervision will run to the end of the sentence for those who receive over 12 months (as opposed to ending three-quarters of the way through as is now the case). The public protection sentences will carry extended periods of supervision.

The average time out of cell on a weekday for each prisoner was 10 hours exactly in 2005/2006, a fall from 11.2 in 1996-7.³⁹

At the end of 2006 there were 30 prisoners in England and Wales serving a 'whole life' tariff.⁴⁰

Men in prison serving 4 years or more were the fastest growing section of the population between 1995 and 2005, increasing by 86%. The population of men serving between 12 months and 4 years increased by 39%, those serving under a year by 22%.⁴¹

England and Wales has the highest number of life sentenced prisoners in Europe. It has more than Germany, France, the Russian Federation and Turkey combined.⁴²

Indefinite sentences, that is life and the new sentence of indeterminate detention for public protection (IPP), have grown by 31% over the last year. The number of people serving these sentences now exceeds the number on short sentences of a year or less. There were 10,079 people serving indeterminate sentences at the end of October 2007, a rise of 27% on the year before.⁴³ This compares with fewer than 4,000 in 1998 and 3,000 in 1992.⁴⁴

There are now well over 3,000 people serving IPP sentences, more than 300 of whom are being held beyond their tariff.⁴⁵

It is estimated that there will be 12,500 people serving IPPs by 2012.⁴⁶

As at 30 September just 13 offenders sentenced to the indeterminate sentence for public protection have been released on licence.⁴⁷

By the end of June 2014 the demand for prison spaces is projected to increase to between 88,800 and 101,900. Much of the underlying growth in all scenarios can be attributed to the use of IPP sentences.⁴⁸

35. Home Office (2001) Criminal careers of those born between 1953 and 1978

36. HM government – Reducing re-offending through skills and employment, CM 6702, December 2005

37. Citizens' Advice, Locked Out: CAB evidence on prisoners and ex-offenders, March 2007

38. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

39. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 9 January 2007

40. Home Office, FOI release 4595, 27 October 2006

41. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

42. Aebi, M. (2007) Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics, Survey 2005

43. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

44. Home Office (2003) Prison Statistics England and Wales 2002, London: Stationery Office

45. Rt Hon Jack Straw, Minutes of Evidence, Constitutional Affairs Committee, 9 October 2007

46. Sir Duncan Nichol, *The Guardian*, 10 January 2007

47. Prison Reform Trust, Information from NOMS

48. Ministry of Justice Statistical Bulletin, Prison Population Projections, England and Wales, 2007-2014 (August 2007)

Prison overcrowding

Prison overcrowding is defined by the Prison Service as a prison containing more prisoners than the establishment's Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA). "CNA, or uncrowded capacity, is the Prison Service's own measure of accommodation. CNA represents the good, decent standard of accommodation that the service aspires to provide all prisoners."⁴⁹

The limit to overcrowding in prison is called the Operational Capacity. The Prison Service defines it as: "the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold without serious risk to good order, security and the proper running of the planned regime."⁵⁰

The prison population was 113% of the "In Use CNA" (71,871) at 31 October 2007.⁵¹

At the end of October 2007, 85 of the 141 prisons in England and Wales were overcrowded.⁵²

The ten most overcrowded prisons in England and Wales, October 2007

Prison	In use CNA	Operational Capacity	Population	% overcrowded
Kennet	175	342	336	192
Shrewsbury	181	340	329	182
Swansea	240	422	423	176
Preston	429	750	733	171
Leicester	206	385	349	169
Lincoln	436	738	738	169
Usk	150	250	248	165
Altcourse	794	1,288	1,293	163
Durham	591	981	949	161
Northallerton	153	252	245	160

NOMS (2007) *Monthly Bulletin – October 2007*, London: Prison Service

49. The Prison Service, Prison Service Order 1900, Certified Prisoner Accommodation

50. Ibid.

51. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

52. NOMS Monthly Bulletin – October 2007

53. NOMS, Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing for 30 November 2007

54. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 20 November 2007

55. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 28 March 2007

56. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 9 January 2007

On 30 November 2007, the total prison population stood 9 below the ceiling of Useable Operational Capacity for the prison system in England and Wales. Police cells, used as an overflow under the terms of Operation Safeguard, added a further 400 places.⁵³

Just under £29 million has been invoiced by police forces in England and Wales for housing prisoners under Operation Safeguard between October 2006 and November 2007.⁵⁴

The average number of people held two to a cell certified for one in 2006/07 was 17,974,⁵⁵ up from 9,498 in 1996/7. The number held three to a cell designed for two was 1,113.⁵⁶

On 13 April 2007, 2,603 prisoners on life or indeterminate sentences were in local prisons. The majority were waiting for transfer to first stage lifer prisons.⁵⁷

A review undertaken in August 2007 indicated that approximately 120 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection were in prisons which do not provide the accredited offending behaviour or drug treatment programmes such prisoners are required to complete before they can be considered for release.⁵⁸

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons has said that "the inability to progress [indeterminate-sentenced] prisoners properly through the system is both a casualty of, and a contributor to, our overcrowded prisons."⁵⁹

In an interview with *The Times* on 12 July 2007, Jack Straw, new Secretary of State for Justice, stated that "we cannot just build our way out of crowding". He called for a "national conversation" on the use of prison and said that he would still want this to take place even if he could "magic an extra 10,000 places".⁶⁰

Prison overcrowding in England and Wales in the last eleven years (mid-year)

Year	Number of places(CNA)	Number of prisoners	Percentage occupation
1994	48,291	48,929	101%
1995	50,239	51,086	102%
1996	53,152	55,256	104%
1997	56,329	61,467	109%
1998	61,253	65,727	107%
1999	62,369	64,529	103%
2000	63,346	65,194	103%
2001	63,530	66,403	105%
2002	64,046	71,112	111%
2003	66,104	73,627	111%
2004	67,505	74,468	110%
2005	69,394	76,079	110%
2006	70,085	77,962	110%

57. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 10 May 2007

58. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 10 September 2007

59. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, Annual Report 2005/2006, 30 January 2007, p. 58

60. Rt Hon Jack Straw, *The Times*, 12 July 2007

Prison suicide

The suicide rate for men in prison is five times greater than that for men in the community. Boys aged 15-17 are even more likely, 18 times more likely, to kill themselves in prison than in the community.⁶¹

There were 67 apparent self-inflicted deaths among prisoners in England and Wales in 2006 – a ten year low. The rate is 90.3 per 100,000 prisoners.⁶²

However, the number of self-inflicted deaths so far notified to the Prison Reform Trust between 1 January 2007 and 29 November 2007 is 82.

HM Prisons Inspectorate found that even with improvements in safer custody, male local prisons accounted for 73% of deaths in custody though they hold about 36% of the population. Local prisons continue to be at the sharp end of overcrowding pressure.⁶³

Men recently released from prison were eight times more likely, than the general population, to commit suicide. Women were 36 times more likely to kill themselves.⁶⁴

Of the 82 suicides from 1 January to 29 November 2007, seven have been women, up from three in 2006. Six young people aged 18-21 have taken their own lives compared to two in 2006. No children had died in custody since two deaths in 2005. On 29 November 2007 notification was received of the death of a 15 year old boy in HMYOI Lancaster Farms.⁶⁵

Almost one third of suicides occur within the first week of someone arriving in custody and one in seven within two days of admission.⁶⁶

Nearly two-thirds of those who commit suicide in prison have a history of drug misuse and nearly a third have a history of alcohol misuse.⁶⁷

One study found that 72% of people who commit suicide in prison had a history of mental disorder. 57% had symptoms suggestive of mental disorder at reception into prison.⁶⁸

One in five suicides take place in prison healthcare or segregation units.⁶⁹

75% of suicides in prisons between 2000 and 2004 took place in prisons that were overcrowded in that month.⁷⁰

In all, 20% of men and almost 40% of women entering custody say they have previously attempted suicide. According to the government's Social Exclusion Unit, more than 50 prisoners commit suicide shortly after release each year.⁷¹

Number of self-inflicted deaths in Prison Service establishments 1997 - 2006

Year	Number	Rate of suicides per 100,000
1997	65	111
1998	76	127
1999	89	140
2000	80	124
2001	73	110
2002	95	130
2003	94	126
2004	95	127
2005	78	103
2006	67	90
Total	748	

61. Fazel, Seena et al, Suicides in male prisons in England and Wales, 1978-2003, The Lancet, Vol 366, 2005

62. NOMS, Safer Custody News, Jan/Feb 2007

63. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, Annual Report 2005/2006, 30 January 2007, p.14 (the reporting year runs from September 2005 to August 2006)

64. Pratt, D. Piper, M, Appleby, L. Webb, R. Shaw, J. Suicide in recently released prisoners: a population-based cohort study, The Lancet - Vol. 368, Issue 9530, 8 July 2006, pages 119-123

65. NOMS, Safer Custody News, Jan/Feb 2007 and notifications received by Prison Reform Trust from NOMS

66. Joint Committee on Human Rights, Deaths in Custody, Third Report of Session 2004-2005

67. Ibid.

68. Shaw, J. Appleby, L. and Baker, D. Safer Prisons, A National Study of Prison Suicides 1999-2000 by the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by people with Mental Illness (2003), London: Stationery Office

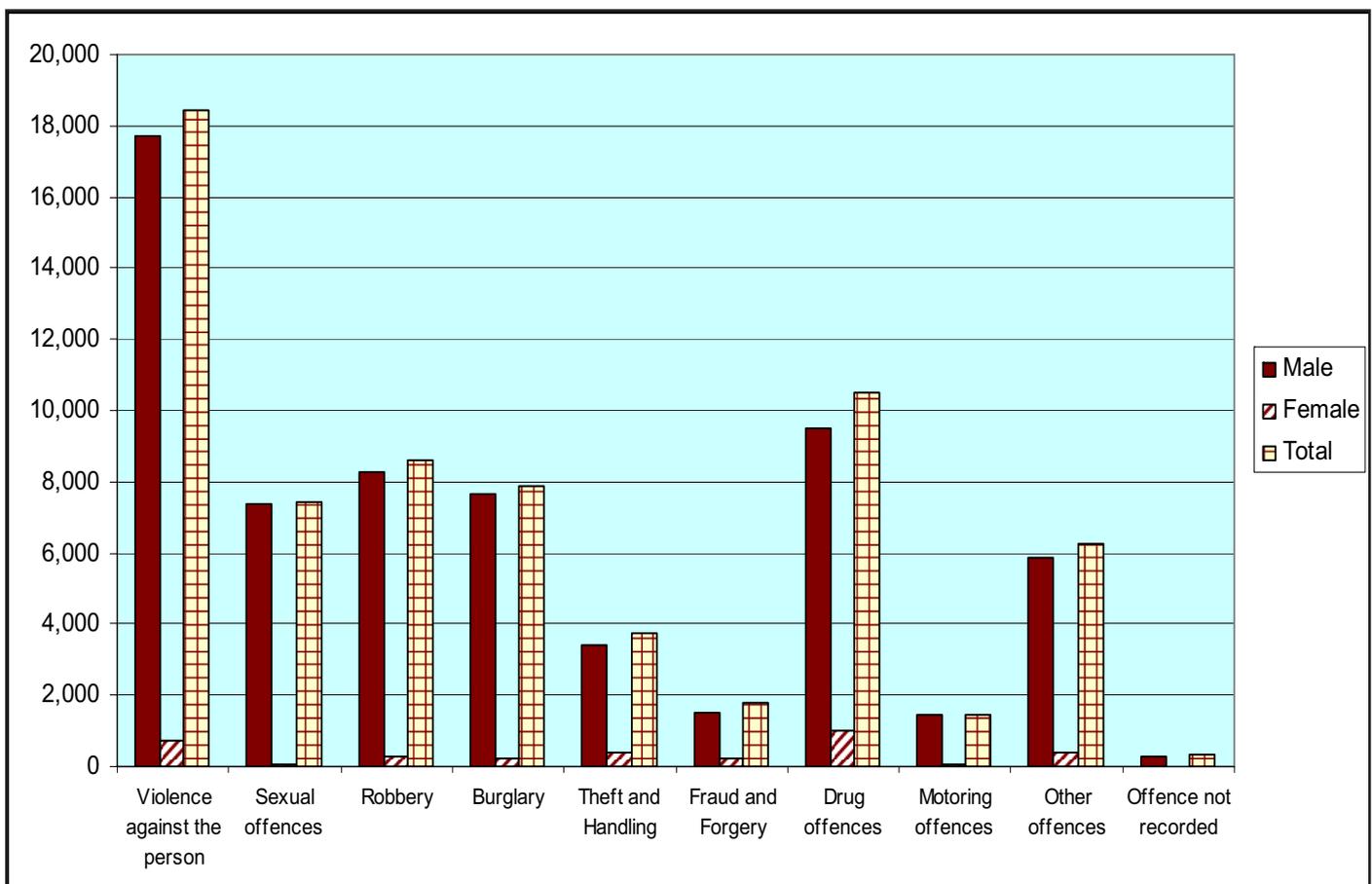
69. Joint Committee on Human Rights, Deaths in Custody, Third Report of Session 2004-2005

70. Hansard, House of Commons, 7 November 2005

71. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

Sentenced population by offence, October 2007

(Source: Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007)



Sentencing trends

The number of people found guilty by the courts has remained largely constant over recent years, it was 1,645,831 in 1995 and 1,783,396 in 2005. The number given custody at magistrates' courts has risen from 25,016 in 1993 to 57,250 in 2005. The number of people awarded custody at the crown court has risen from 33,722 in 1993 to 43,986 in 2005.⁷²

The number of people sentenced for violence against the person was 37,649 in 1994 and 40,754 in 2005. The number of those awarded custodial sentences increased from 8,270 to 12,842. The average sentence rose from 16.7 to 17.8 months.⁷³

Average custodial sentence from a crown court has risen from 20.5 months in 1995 to 25.5 months in 2005. Custody rate at the crown court has risen from 51.6% in 1993 to 58.2% in 2004.⁷⁴

Use of prison in magistrates' courts has risen from 2.5% in 1994 to 4.1% of cases in 2005, meanwhile the use of the fine for indictable offences has shrunk from 83,450 to 56,618.⁷⁵ In 2005, 21% of shoplifters were sent to prison from magistrates' courts, compared with 17% in 1999.⁷⁶

The number of life sentenced and indeterminate sentenced prisoners has increased considerably. There were 10,079 people serving indeterminate sentences at the end of October 2007, a rise of 27% on the year before.⁷⁷ This compares with fewer than 4,000 in 1998 and 3,000 in 1992.⁷⁸

The number sentenced to life imprisonment has almost doubled over the past ten years from 252 in 1994 to 570 in 2004.⁷⁹

England and Wales has the highest number of life sentenced prisoners in Europe. It has more than Germany, France, the Russian Federation and Turkey combined.⁸⁰

At the end of July 2007 the number of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) was 3,019.⁸¹ That is an increase of 1,500 since 20 October 2006, when the number of indeterminate sentences for public protection stood at 1,575 since their introduction in April 2005. The average tariff length was around 30 months.⁸² Well over 300 people are being held beyond their IPP tariff.⁸³

As at 30 September just 13 offenders sentenced to the indeterminate sentence for public protection have been released on licence.⁸⁴

It is estimated that there will be 12,500 people serving IPPs by 2012.⁸⁵

Men in prison serving 4 years or more were the fastest growing section of the population between 1995 and 2005, increasing by 86%. The population of men serving between 12 months and 4 years increased by 39%, those serving under a year by 22%.⁸⁶

Those serving sentences of 6 months or under made up over half of the 92,452 received to prison under sentence in 2005. Those serving a year or under made up 65% of those received into prison under sentence.⁸⁷

Theft and handling accounted for the largest number of immediate custodial receptions at over one fifth. 75% of those sentenced for theft and handling received sentences of less than six months.⁸⁸

72. Home Office, Sentencing Statistics 2003 and 2005

74. Home Office, Sentencing Statistics 2005 and 2004

76. Sentencing Guidelines Council, The Sentencing Guidelines Newsletter, February 2007

77. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

78. Home Office (2003) Prison Statistics England and Wales 2002, London: Stationery Office

79. Home Office (2005) Sentencing Statistics 2004, London: Home Office

80. Aebi, M. (2007) Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics, Survey 2005

81. Rt Hon Jack Straw, Minutes of Evidence, Constitutional Affairs Committee, 9 October 2007

82. Prison Reform Trust information from NOMS

83. Rt Hon Jack Straw, Minutes of Evidence, Constitutional Affairs Committee, 9 October 2007

84. Prison Reform Trust, Information from NOMS

85. Sir Duncan Nichol, *the Guardian*, 10 January 2007

87. Ibid.

73. Home Office, Sentencing Statistics 2005

75. Ibid.

86. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

88. Ibid.

Remand prisoners

One in five (19%) of men and 18% of women held on remand before trial in 2005 were acquitted.⁸⁹ The vast majority received no compensation for this period of incarceration.

Only half of all remanded prisoners go on to receive a prison sentence. In 2005, 53% of men and 41% of women on remand received an immediate custodial sentence.⁹⁰

The remand population in prison decreased by 2% to 12,996 at 31 October 2007 compared to October 2006. Within this total, the untried population decreased 2% to 8,282 and the convicted unsentenced population decreased 3% to 4,714.⁹¹

In Scotland, the average daily remand population in 2006/07 was 1,567, up 26% compared with the 2005/06 figure of 1,242 and the highest level ever recorded.⁹²

Two-thirds of people received into prison on remand awaiting trial are accused of non-violent offences. In 2005, 16% were remanded into custody for theft and handling of stolen goods.⁹³

In 2005, 54,455 untried people were remanded into custody. In the same year 49,104 people were remanded into prison convicted but awaiting sentence.⁹⁴

At the end of October 2007 there were 957 women on remand, 1 in 5 of the female prison population.⁹⁵

Women on remand have been one of the fastest growing groups among the prison population. There was a 105% increase in the number of women remanded into custody between 1995 and 2005, compared to a 24% increase for men.⁹⁶

According to research by the Office for National Statistics, more than a quarter of men on remand have attempted suicide at some stage in their life. For women remand prisoners the figure is even higher. More than 40% have attempted suicide before entering prison.⁹⁷

On 30 June 2005 there were 1,900 people on remand awaiting trial for over three months – 23% of the total.⁹⁸

A significant proportion of those held on remand have been in prison previously. One study found that 65% of respondents had been remanded into custody before.⁹⁹

Remand prisoners suffer from a range of mental health problems. According to the Office for National Statistics more than three-quarters of male remand prisoners suffer from a personality disorder. One in ten have a functional psychosis and more than half experience depression. For female remand prisoners, nearly two-thirds suffer from depression. Once again these figures are higher than for sentenced prisoners. Research has found that 9% of remand prisoners require immediate transfer to the NHS.¹⁰⁰

89. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

90. Ibid.

91. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

92. Scottish Executive Statistical Bulletin, Criminal Justice Series, Prison Statistics Scotland, 2006/07

93. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

94. Ibid. NB, the same person can be remanded before and after trial, so counting twice

95. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

96. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

97. Singleton, N et al (1998) Psychiatric Morbidity among Prisoners in England and Wales, London: Office for National Statistics

98. Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

99. Nacro (2000) Prisoner Resettlement Surveys, Unpublished

100. Singleton, N. et al (1998) Psychiatric Morbidity among Prisoners in England and Wales, London: Office for National Statistics

In 2006-07, 30% of suicides in custody were committed by remand prisoners.¹⁰¹

Remand prisoners are more likely than sentenced prisoners to have a history of living in unstable or unsuitable accommodation. Research by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) has suggested they are five times more likely to have lived in a hostel prior to imprisonment.¹⁰²

More than two in three of all prisoners are unemployed when they go to jail. But research by Nacro has found that remand prisoners are less likely than sentenced prisoners to have had a job before prison. The minority of remand prisoners who do have jobs are very likely to lose them while in prison.¹⁰³

One in four men and half of all women on remand receive no visits from their family.¹⁰⁴

Prisoners on remand are half as likely to have received advice on resettlement than sentenced prisoners,¹⁰⁵ and will receive no discharge grant.

Research by the Prison Reform Trust has found that prisons are failing to equip remand prisoners to prepare for trial. The study found that only 48% of prison libraries in jails holding remand prisoners stock the standard legal texts that under Prison Service regulations they must provide.¹⁰⁶

Remand population by offence type (October 2007)¹⁰⁷

Offence group	Total
Violence against the person	3,291
Drugs offences	1,874
Other	1,813
Burglary	1,411
Robbery	1,352
Theft and Handling	929
Sexual offences	819
Not recorded	807
Fraud and Forgery	557
Motoring offences	143

101. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 11 June 2007

102. Nacro (2000) Prisoner Resettlement Surveys, Unpublished

103. Ibid.

104. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

105. Ibid.

106. Ruthven, D and Seward, E (2002), Restricted Access: Legal Information for Remand Prisoners, London: Prison Reform Trust.

107. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

Women in prison

On 30 November 2007 the number of women in prison stood at 4,510, 28 more than a year before.¹⁰⁸ In the last decade the women's population has more than doubled. In 1995 the average female prison population was 1,998. In 1999 it stood at 3,355. In 2005, 12,275 women were received into prison.¹⁰⁹

Over the ten year period, 1997/98 – 2006/07, the average daily female prison population in Scotland has increased by 90%. The 2006/07 female prison population was 353.¹¹⁰

Over a third of all adult women in prison had no previous convictions – more than double the figure for men.¹¹¹

At the end of October 2007 there were 957 women on remand, a fifth of the female prison population.¹¹²

There was a 105% increase in the number of women remanded into custody between 1995 and 2005, from 3,727 to 7,660.¹¹³

64.3% of women released from prison in 2004 were reconvicted within two years of release.¹¹⁴ This compares to fewer than four out of ten (38%) ten years ago.¹¹⁵

At the end of September 2007 there were 988 foreign national women in prison, 22% of the female population.¹¹⁶

Of the sentenced female prison population, the majority are held for non-violent offences. At the end of October 2007 the

largest group 30%, were held for drug offences.¹¹⁷ **More women were sent to prison in 2005 for theft and handling stolen goods than any other crime.** Just over 2,500 women were received into custody for this offence. They accounted for almost a third (31%) of all women sentenced to immediate custody in 2005.¹¹⁸

The majority of women serve very short sentences. In 2005 nearly two-thirds (63%) were sentenced to custody for six months or less.¹¹⁹

Most of the rise in female prison numbers can be explained by a significant increase in the severity of sentences. In 1995, 8.9% of women convicted of an indictable offence were sent to prison; in 2005, 15.2% received a custodial sentence.¹²⁰

At the end of September 2006 the average distance female prisoners were held from their home was 58 miles.¹²¹ 60% of women are held in prisons outside their home region.¹²²

A forthcoming University of Oxford report on the health of 500 women prisoners, states that: 'women in custody are five times more likely to have a mental health concern than women in the general population, with 78% exhibiting some level of psychological disturbance when measured on reception to prison, compared with a figure of 15% for the general adult female population'. 58% of women had used drugs daily in the six months before prison and 75% of women prisoners had taken an illicit drug in those six months. Crack cocaine, heroin, cannabis and benzodiazepines were the most

108. NOMS, Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing for 30 November 2007 and 1 December 2006

109. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

110. Scottish Executive Statistical Bulletin, Criminal Justice Series, Prison Statistics Scotland, 2006/07

111. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

112. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

113. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

114. Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Re-offending of adults: results from the 2004 cohort

115. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2003

116. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, September 2007

117. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

118. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

119. Ibid.

120. Home Office, Sentencing Statistics 2005

121. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 9 January 2007

122. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 19 June 2007

widely used drugs. The Oxford researchers also found that women coming into prison had very poor physical, psychological and social health, worse than that of women in social class V, the group within the general population who have the poorest health.¹²³

Of all the women who are sent to prison, 37% say they have attempted suicide at some time in their life.¹²⁴

One in four women in prison has spent time in local authority care as a child. Nearly 40% of women in prison left school before the age of 16 years, almost one in ten were aged 13 or younger.¹²⁵

Over half the women in prison say they have suffered domestic violence and one in three has experienced sexual abuse.¹²⁶

Around one-third of women prisoners lose their homes, and often their possessions, while in prison.¹²⁷

Women prisoners are often inadequately prepared for release. According to the Social Exclusion Unit report only 24% of women with a prior skill had the chance to put their skills into practice through prison work. Just 11% of women received help with housing matters whilst in

prison.¹²⁸

In March 2007, the Corston review of vulnerable women in the criminal justice system, commissioned by the home secretary following the deaths of six women at Styal prison, stated: “The government should announce within six months a clear strategy to replace existing women’s prisons with suitable, geographically dispersed, small, multi-functional custodial centres within 10 years.”¹²⁹

The Corston review made several further recommendations, including: “Community solutions for non-violent women offenders should be the norm”, and; “There must be a strong consistent message right from the top of government, with full reasons given, in support of its stated policy that prison is not the right place for women offenders who pose no risk to the public”.¹³⁰

An ICM public opinion poll commissioned by SmartJustice in February 2007 found that, of 1,006 respondents, 86% supported the development of local centres for women to address the causes of their offending. Over two thirds (67%) said prison was not likely to reduce offending.¹³¹

123. The Corston Report, Home Office, March 2007 (quotes University of Oxford findings)

124. Ibid.

125. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit.

126. Ibid.

127. Ibid.

128. Ibid.

129. The Corston Report, Home Office, March 2007

130. Ibid.

131. SmartJustice (2007) ‘Public say: stop locking up so many women’.

Mothers and fathers in custody, prisoners' children

Home Office research has found that 66% of women in prison have dependent children under 18. Of those, 34% had children under 5, a further 40% children aged from 5 to 10.¹³² Each year it is estimated that more than 17,700 children are separated from their mother by imprisonment.

Just 5% of women prisoners' children remain in their own home once their mother has been sentenced.¹³³

At least a third of mothers are lone parents before imprisonment.¹³⁴

Only half of the women who had lived, or were in contact with, their children prior to imprisonment had received a visit since going to prison.¹³⁵

One Home Office study showed that for 85% of mothers, prison was the first time they had been separated from their children for any significant length of time.¹³⁶

An ICM public opinion poll, commissioned by SmartJustice in March 2007, found that, of 1,006 respondents, almost three quarters (73%) thought that mothers of young children should not be sent to prison for non-violent crime.¹³⁷

There are 84 places in mother and baby units in prisons reserved for mothers who have children under the age of 18 months. In 2004, 114 women gave birth while serving a prison sentence.¹³⁸

There are currently 39 children in mother and baby units.¹³⁹

HM Prisons Inspectorate has found that 25% of women prisoners had their children's father or a spouse or partner caring for their children. 25% were cared for by their grandmothers; 29% were cared for by other family members or friends and 12% were in care, with foster parents, or had been adopted.¹⁴⁰

In 2004, for the first time the government announced that a record will be kept of prisoners' children. Information will be recorded on the National Offender Management Information System.¹⁴¹ This commitment has yet to be implemented due to IT systems failure.

Just over half (55%) of male prisoners described themselves as living with a partner before imprisonment¹⁴² and a third of female prisoners described themselves as living with a husband or partner before imprisonment.¹⁴³

Research has found that 59% of men¹⁴⁴ in prison and two-thirds of women in prison have dependent children under 18.¹⁴⁵

It is estimated that every year 150,000 children have a parent in prison. During their time at school 7% of children experience their father's imprisonment.¹⁴⁶

Prisoners' families, including their children, often experience increased financial, housing, emotional and health problems during a sentence. Nearly a third (30%) of prisoners' children suffer significant mental health problems, compared with 10% of the general population.¹⁴⁷

132. Home Office Research Study 208

133. Prison Reform Trust (2000) Justice for Women: The Need for Reform, London: Prison Reform Trust

134. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

136. Home Office Research Study 162 (1997), Imprisoned Women and Mothers, Home Office: London

137. SmartJustice (2007) 'Public say: stop locking up so many women'.

138. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 13 July 2005

140. HM Prisons Inspectorate (1997) Women in Prison: A Thematic Review by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, London: Home Office

141. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 12 September 2004

143. Hamlyn, B. and Lewis, D. (2000) Women prisoners: a survey of their work and training experiences in custody and on release, Home Office Research Study 2000, London: Home Office

144. Hansard, House of Commons, 28 April 2003

145. Hamlyn, B. and Lewis, D. (2000) Women prisoners: a survey of their work and training experiences in custody and on release, Home Office Research Study 2000, London: Home Office

146. Department for Education and Skills, (2003) Every Child Matters, London: Stationery Office

147. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit, and Action for Prisoners' Families (2001) No-one's Ever Asked Me, London: Action for Prisoners' Families and Young Voice (2001) Parenting Under Pressure, London: Young Voice

135. Ibid.

139. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 19 June 2007

142. Home Office (2001) Criminality Survey: Drugs Follow-Up, London: Home Office

During their sentence 45% of people lose contact with their families and many separate from their partners.¹⁴⁸

Charles Clarke, when home secretary, stressed the importance of family: “As we consider the practical steps intended to equip offenders with the means to avoid re-offending we also need to remember the vital role of family, friends and community. I believe that we sometimes fail to give enough emphasis to the powerful impact of supportive relationships to prisoners – to realise that offenders often care deeply about letting down those closest to them, and want to show that they can change, but somehow just never get there. An offender is much less likely to re-offend if he feels part of a family and community, from which he receives support as well as owes obligations.”¹⁴⁹

Home Office research has found that maintaining family contact is associated with successful resettlement. It found that prisoners who had at least one visit from family or partners were twice as likely to have an employment, education or training place arranged on release and three times more likely to have accommodation arranged as those who did not receive any visits. The frequency of visits also increased the likelihood of having a job or accommodation. The research report concluded that ‘opportunities for involving families in the resettlement of prisoners should be increased’.¹⁵⁰

However, many prisoners are still held a long way from their homes. At the end of September 2006 the average distance women in prison were held from their home or committal court address was 58 miles. Men were held an average of 50 miles from their home or committal court address. Around 10,700 prisoners were held over 100 miles away.¹⁵¹

In recent years the number of prison visits has fallen despite an increasing prison population.¹⁵²

The government’s Social Exclusion Unit has found that many families have considerable difficulty getting through to prisons to book visits.¹⁵³

148. Nacro (2000) The forgotten majority, London: Nacro

149. PRT Annual Lecture 2005, Rt Hon Charles Clarke MP

150. Niven, S. and Stewart, D. (2005) Resettlement outcomes on release from prison, Home Office Findings 248, London: Home Office

151. A prisoner’s home area is defined as their home address on their reception into prison. For prisoners with no address, the address of the relevant committal court is used as the home address. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 9 January 2007

152. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

153. Ibid.

Social characteristics of prisoners

Social characteristics of prisoners

(Source: Social Exclusion Unit Report 'Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners', July 2002)

Characteristic	General population	Prison population
Ran away from home as a child	11%	47% of male and 50% of female sentenced prisoners
Taken into care as a child	2%	27%
Regularly truanted from school	3%	30%
Excluded from school	2%	49% of male and 33% of female sentenced prisoners
No qualifications	15%	52% of men and 71% of women
Numeracy at or below Level 1 (level expected 11 year-olds)	23%	65%
Reading ability at or below Level 1	21-23%	48%
Unemployed before imprisonment	5%	67%
Homeless	0.9%	32%
Suffer from two or more mental disorders	5% men and 2% women	72% of male and 70% of female sentenced prisoners
Psychotic disorder	0.5% men and 0.6% women	7% of male and 14% of female sentenced prisoners
Drug use in the previous year	13% men 8% women	66% of male and 55% of female sentenced prisoners
Hazardous drinking	38% men and 15% women	63% of male and 39% of female sentenced prisoners

Young people in prison (18-20 year olds)

At the end of October 2007 there were 9,544 young people aged 18-20 in prison in England and Wales, a rise of 3% on the year before. At the end of October 2007 more young people were in prison for the offence of violence against the person than any other offence.¹⁵⁴

Young offender direct sentenced receptions in Scotland increased by 5% to 2,286 in 2006/07 from 2,170 in 2005/06.¹⁵⁵

In October 2007, 67% more young people were in custody serving indeterminate sentences than in October 2006. The total number increased from 405 in October 2006 to 678 in 2007.¹⁵⁶

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons said in her annual report for 2005/6: "Young adults remain a group whose needs have not been systematically addressed over the last five years, in spite of their evident needs and their high re-offending rates".¹⁵⁷

In 2005 12,644 young people were sent to prison under sentence. In the last ten years the number of sentenced young adults entering prison has increased by 14%. Over that time the number of sentenced young women imprisoned has more than doubled.¹⁵⁸

A study published in November 2004 by the Prison Reform Trust based on interviews with young people and information supplied by Independent Monitoring Boards revealed that whilst in custody many young adults are frequently moved around the prison

estate causing great disruption and distress. It also showed that, in general, they experience impoverished regimes.¹⁵⁹

In January 2007, 2,647 young offenders, approximately a quarter of the total, were held more than 50 miles from their home.¹⁶⁰ HM Chief Inspector of Prisons has commented that: "these considerable distances from home compromise the resettlement and rehabilitation of young adults".¹⁶¹

Fewer than half of young adults surveyed by HM Prisons Inspectorate said that they knew where to get help to find accommodation, drug treatment or continuing education when they left prison.¹⁶²

Reconviction rates are particularly high for young people. 75.3% of young men released from prison in 2004, were reconvicted within two years of release.¹⁶³

Nearly half (42%) of first time offenders are young adults.¹⁶⁴

Young offenders have poor literacy and numeracy skills. Just under a third have basic skills deficits compared to under a quarter of those aged 25 and over in custody. Nearly three-quarters were excluded from school at some stage, and 63 % were unemployed at the time of their arrest.¹⁶⁵

In 2004-5, 54% of those leaving young offender institutions had no recorded education, training or employment place.

154. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007. This figure includes some 21 year-olds not classified as part of the adult population

155. Scottish Executive Statistical Bulletin, Criminal Justice Series, Prison Statistics Scotland, 2006/07

156. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

157. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, Annual Report 2005/2006, 30 January 2007, p. 39

158. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

159. Solomon, E. (2004) A Lost Generation: the experiences of young people in prison, London: Prison Reform Trust

160. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 15 March 2007

161. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, Annual Report 2005/2006, 30 January 2007, p. 39

162. Ibid.

163. Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Re-offending of adults: results from the 2004 cohort

164. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

165. Ibid.

166. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 2 October 2006

13% left with no recorded accommodation.¹⁶⁶

More than a third (35%) of sentenced young men say they have gained a qualification whilst in prison.¹⁶⁷

HM Prisons Inspectorate found that purposeful activity was unsatisfactory in five out of eight young adult prisons. Only half of all young adults said they had done something that would help prevent reoffending.¹⁶⁸

An average of 3.3 hours per week is spent on physical education in young offender institutions in 2006-07. An average of eight hours per week is spent on other educational activities.¹⁶⁹

Mental health problems, drug and alcohol abuse are common amongst young people in prison. They are more likely than adults to suffer from mental health problems and are more likely to commit or attempt suicide than both younger and older prisoners.¹⁷⁰

Up to 30% of young women in custody report having been sexually abused in childhood.¹⁷¹

It is estimated that a quarter of young men in prison are fathers and four out ten young women in prison are mothers.¹⁷²

Young offender institutions and juvenile establishments have the highest assault rates of any prisons in England and Wales.¹⁷³

Sentences being served by young adults - October 2007

	October 2007			Percentage change 2006 to 2007		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total under sentence	7,138	308	7,446	+7%	+1%	+7%
Fine defaulter	3	0	3	*	*	*
Less than or equal to 6 months	863	54	917	+3%	-14%	+1%
Greater than 6 months to less than 12 months	399	22	421	-2%	*	-2%
12 months to less than 4 years	3,681	149	3,830	+6%	+1%	+6%
4 years or more (exc. indeterminate sentences)	1,533	64	1,597	0%	+7%	+1%
Indeterminate sentences	659	19	678	+69%	*	+67%
Non-criminal prisoners	96	4	100	+3%	*	+1%

(Source: Drawn from, Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007)

167. Home Office (2001) Jobs and Homes - a survey of prisoners nearing release, Findings 173, London: Home Office

168. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, Annual Report 2005/2006, 30 January 2007, p. 14

169. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 19 July 2007

170. Singleton et al (2000) Psychiatric Morbidity among young offenders in England and Wales, London: Office for National Statistics

171. Solomon, E. (2004) A Lost Generation: the experiences of young people in prison, London: Prison Reform Trust

172. A survey carried out by Young Voice in 2001 found that 51 % of men in prison under the age of 23 and 79 % of women in the same age group were parents,

Young Voice (2001) Parenting Under Pressure, London: Young Voice

173. Solomon, E. (2003) A Measure of Success: An analysis of the Prison Service's performance against its Key Performance Indicators, London: Prison Reform Trust

Children in Prison

In October 2007 there were 2,441 15-17 year olds in prison and 256 12-15 year olds in privately run secure training centres.

There were 220 children in local authority secure children's homes.¹⁷⁴

The number of 15-17 year olds in prison increased by 86% in ten years from 1995 to 2005.¹⁷⁵

In 1992 only 100 children under 15 were sentenced to penal custody, sentences were all awarded under the 'grave crimes' provision (Section 53 of the 1933 Children and Young Persons Act) for children who had committed serious offences such as robbery or violent offences. In 2005 - 2006, 824 children under 15 were incarcerated but only 48 of these came into the same grave crimes sentencing framework (now Section 90/91 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000).¹⁷⁶

Thirty children have died in penal custody since 1990 most by self inflicted death but one following restraint.¹⁷⁷

In August 2004, 14 year old Adam Rickwood became the youngest child to die in penal custody in recent memory.

Every year an estimated 70,000 school-age children enter the youth justice system.¹⁷⁸

11% of prisoners involved in assaults classified as serious are children, despite being only 3% of the prison population.¹⁷⁹

In 2005/6 around a quarter of boys in custody were held over 50 miles away from their home. Almost half of girls were.¹⁸⁰

Reconviction rates are very high for children.

The latest available data for juvenile offenders discharged from custody in the first quarter of 2005 shows a 76.2% rate of re-offending.¹⁸¹

At the end of October 2007 more children were in prison for robbery than any other offence.¹⁸²

Many children in prison have a background of severe social exclusion. Of those in custody of school age, over a quarter have literacy and numeracy levels of an average seven-year old. Over half of those under 18 in custody have a history of being in care or social services involvement and studies have found that 45% have been permanently excluded from school.¹⁸³

Two fifths of boys and a quarter of girls in custody say they have experienced violence at home. A third of girls and one in twenty boys say they have been subject to sexual abuse of some form.¹⁸⁴

Just over a third of boys and girls have felt unsafe at some time in custody. One in ten boys and girls in prison say they have been hit, kicked or assaulted by a member of staff.¹⁸⁵

Behavioural and mental health problems are particularly prevalent amongst children in prison. Of prisoners aged 16-20, around 85% show signs of a personality disorder and 10% exhibit signs of psychotic illness, for example schizophrenia.¹⁸⁶

174. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

175. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

176. Youth Justice Board Annual Statistics 2005/6

177. <http://www.inquest.org.uk/> and notifications received by Prison Reform Trust from NOMS

178. HM government - Reducing re-offending through skills and employment, CM 6702, December 2005

179. NOMS, Safer Custody News, Jan/Feb 2007

180. Youth Justice Board Annual Statistics 2005/6

181. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 25 October 2007

182. Ministry of Justice, Population in Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

183. Youth Justice Board Information, 2003

184. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

185. HM Inspectorate of Prisons and Youth Justice Board, Juveniles in Custody, 2003-2004, London

186. Singleton et al (2000) Psychiatric Morbidity among young offenders in England and Wales, London: Office for National Statistics

Drug and alcohol abuse are major problems.

Of prisoners aged 16-20, over half reported dependence on a drug in the year prior to imprisonment. Over half the young women and two-thirds of the young male prisoners had a hazardous drinking habit prior to entering custody.¹⁸⁷

The number of children assessed as vulnerable in custody was 1,148 in 2007, a rise of 12% on 2006, which had risen by 12% on 2005.¹⁸⁸

The National Audit Office has highlighted the high number of movements of children between jails to make way for new arrivals, disrupting education and training courses and leading to inconsistent support and supervision. The NAO reports that there were 2,400 movements between April 2002 and January 2003.¹⁸⁹

187. Singleton et al (2000) Psychiatric Morbidity among young offenders in England and Wales, London: Office for National Statistics

188. Hansard House of Commons written answers, 28 March 2007

189. National Audit Office (2004) Youth Offending: The delivery of community and custodial sentences, London: Stationary Office

Minority ethnic prisoners

At the end of December 2005, one in four of the prison population, 19,549 prisoners, was from a minority ethnic group.¹⁹⁰ This compares to one in eleven of the general population.

Of all those sentenced to custody in the last quarter of 2005 more than one in five was from a minority ethnic group.¹⁹¹

Overall black prisoners account for the largest number of minority ethnic prisoners (57%) and their numbers are rising.¹⁹²

Between 1999 and 2002 the total prison population grew by just over 12% but the number of black prisoners increased by 51%.¹⁹³

At the end of June 2005, 35% (6,863) of minority ethnic prisoners were foreign nationals.¹⁹⁴

Out of the British national prison population, 11% are black and 5% are Asian. For black Britons this is significantly higher than the 2% of the general population they represent.¹⁹⁵

In 2002 there were more African Caribbean entrants to prison (over 11,500) than there were to UK universities (around 8,000).¹⁹⁶

Black people are just over six times more likely than white people to be stopped and searched. Black people are three times more likely to be arrested than white people. Young black people and young people of 'mixed' ethnicity, when sentenced, are more likely to receive more punitive sentences than young white people. Whereas black young offenders accounted for 6% of the total offences in 2005-6, they received 11.6% of custodial sentences.¹⁹⁷

Around 40% of black and Asian prisoners report having felt unsafe, and only two-thirds say that staff treat them with respect.¹⁹⁸

190. Home Office (2005) Population in Custody, Quarterly Brief September to December 2005

191. Home Office (2005) Population in Custody, Quarterly Brief September to December 2005

192. Ibid.

193. HM Prison Service and Commission for Racial Equality (2003) Implementing Race Equality in Prisons - a shared agenda for change, London: HM Prison Service

194. Home Office (2005) Population in Custody, Quarterly Brief September to December 2005

195. Ibid.

196. HM Prison Service and Commission for Racial Equality (2003) Implementing Race Equality in Prisons - a shared agenda for change, London: HM Prison Service

197. House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, Young Black People and the Criminal Justice System, Second Report of Session 2006-07, 22 May 2007

198. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, Annual Report 2005/2006, 30 January 2007, p. 50

Foreign national prisoners ¹⁹⁹

At 30 September 2007 there were 11,211 foreign national prisoners (defined as non-UK passport holders), 14% of the overall prison population.²⁰⁰

These prisoners come from 169 countries, but just under half are from ten countries (Jamaica, Nigeria, Irish Republic, Vietnam, Pakistan, China, Somalia, Poland, India and Iraq).

In February 2007, approximately 1,300 foreign nationals were held in prison or immigration detention beyond the length of their sentence.²⁰¹

More than one in five women in prison, 988, are foreign nationals.²⁰²

There has been a 152% increase in foreign national prisoners in the last ten years compared to a 55% increase in British nationals.

In twelve prisons, foreign national prisoners make up a quarter or more of the population.²⁰³ Recently two prisons, Canterbury and Bullwood Hall have been reserved for an entirely foreign national population.

A Prison Service survey found that nearly 90% of prisons holding foreign national prisoners are not making regular use of the translation service available.

The vast majority of foreign national prisoners, four out of ten sentenced men and eight out of ten sentenced women, have committed drug offences, mainly drug trafficking. Six out ten foreign national prisoners are serving sentences of more than four years.

199. All the figures in this section, unless otherwise stated, are from Prison Reform Trust briefing paper (May 2004) *Forgotten Prisoners: the plight of foreign national prisoners in England and Wales*

200. Ministry of Justice, *Population in Custody, England and Wales*, September 2007

201. Letter from Lin Homer of the IND to the Home Affairs Select Committee, 19 February 2007

202. Ministry of Justice, *Population in Custody, England and Wales*, September 2007

203. *Ibid*

Elderly prisoners (aged 60 and over)

On 30 June 2007 there were 2,221 prisoners aged over 60 in England and Wales, including 405 over 70.²⁰⁴ The number of sentenced prisoners aged 60 and over rose by 169% between 1995 and 2005.²⁰⁵

More than one in ten older prisoners belong to a minority ethnic group, far higher than the proportion of the general population.²⁰⁶

The majority of men in prison aged 60 and over (56%) have committed sex offences. The next highest offence is violence against the person (20%) followed by drug offences (11%).²⁰⁷

In March 2007, the number of prisoners over 60 serving sentences of 1-5 years was 541. 551 were serving sentences of 6-10 years. 749 were serving sentences of over 10 years.²⁰⁸

The number and proportion of men aged over 60 sentenced to prison by the courts has increased significantly. Between 1995 and 2000 the number of elderly males given custodial sentences increased by 55%. In 1995 fines accounted for the majority of sentences (31%). By 2000 imprisonment accounted for the majority of sentences (31%) and fines accounted for 24%.²⁰⁹

The significant rise in the number of male prisoners aged over 60 is not matched by a corresponding rise in the number of men convicted by the courts for indictable offences. Between 1995 and 2000 the number of convictions for this age group increased by only

8%.²¹⁰

The increase in the elderly prison population is not explained by demographic changes, nor can it be explained by a so-called 'elderly crime wave'. The increases are due to harsher sentencing policies which have resulted in the courts sending a larger proportion of criminals aged over 60 to prison to serve longer sentences. This has particularly been the case in relation to sex offenders and drug traffickers. The courts are also tending to imprison those older offenders whose crimes most challenge society's age-related stereotypes.²¹¹

A Department of Health study conducted in 1999/2000 of 203 sentenced male prisoners aged 60 and over in 15 establishments in England and Wales (about one-fifth of that total population) reported that 85% had one or more major illnesses reported in their medical records and 83% reported at least one chronic illness or disability when interviewed. The most common illnesses were psychiatric, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal and respiratory.²¹²

More than half of all elderly prisoners suffer from a mental disorder. The most common disorder is depression which often emerges as a result of imprisonment.²¹³

In 2003, 21 people aged over 65 died of natural causes whilst in prison.²¹⁴

204. Prison Reform Trust, information from Offender Policy and Rights Unit, 30 June 2007

205. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 20 March 2007, and Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

206. Prison Reform Trust (2003) Growing Old in Prison, London: Prison Reform Trust

207. Prison Reform Trust, information from Offender Policy and Rights Unit, 30 June 2007

208. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 15 March 2007

209. HM Inspectorate of Prisons (2004) 'No problems – old and quiet': Older prisoners in England and Wales, a thematic review by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, London: Stationery Office

210. Ibid.

211. Ibid.

212. Prison Reform Trust (2003) Growing Old in Prison, London: Prison Reform Trust

213. Ibid.

214. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 10 February 2004

Most older prisoners are held more than 50 miles from home, causing particular problems for visitors, many of whom are themselves older people.²¹⁵

A thematic review of older prisoners by HM Inspectorate of Prisons published in December 2004 found little evidence that their individual needs were being assessed or provision made for them. It concluded 'Prisons are primarily designed for, and inhabited by, young and able-bodied people; and in general the needs of the old and infirm are not met.'²¹⁶ A number of academic studies and a report by the Prison Reform Trust and the Centre for Policy on Ageing have also concluded that the health, social care, rehabilitation and resettlement needs of older prisoners are not being satisfactorily met.

Despite the dramatic rise in the number of elderly prisoners the Home Office has no plans to put in place a separate national strategy for elderly prisoners.²¹⁷ The Department of Health is developing a health policy for older prisoners and the Disability Discrimination Act (2005) now applies to prison.²¹⁸

215. HM Inspectorate of Prisons (2004) 'No problems – old and quiet': Older prisoners in England and Wales A thematic review by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, London: Stationery Office

216. Ibid.

217. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 1 May 2000

218. Personal communication between PRT, CPA and Department of Health.

“On the wing there was plenty of evidence of behaviour brought on by mental distress... one young man only ever wore the same pair of jeans and a green nylon cagoule. He never wore shoes or socks, never went out on exercise, hardly ever spoke to anyone and was understood to have been taken advantage of sexually by predatory prisoners. He was in his early 20s with many years in prison still ahead of him. Another had a habit of inserting objects into his body: a pencil in an arm, matchsticks in his ankles.”²²⁰

Many prisoners have mental health problems. 72% of male and 70% of female sentenced prisoners suffer from two or more mental health disorders. 20% of prisoners have four of the five major mental health disorders.²²¹

Neurotic and personality disorders are particularly prevalent - 40% of male and 63% of female sentenced prisoners have a neurotic disorder, over three times the level in the general population. 64% of male and 50% of female sentenced prisoners have a personality disorder.

According to the NHS plan, around 5,000 prisoners at any time, between 5-8%, have severe and enduring mental illnesses. The plan also said that, by 2004, “all people with severe mental illness will be in receipt of treatment, and no prisoner with serious mental illness will leave prison without a care plan and a care coordinator.”²²²

A significant number of prisoners suffer from a psychotic disorder. 7% of male and 14% of female sentenced prisoners have a psychotic disorder; 14 and 23 times the level in the general population.

10% of men and 30% of women have had previous psychiatric admission before they come into prison.²²³

A fifth of Scottish prisoners reported that they had been put on ACT (Scottish Prison Service Suicide Risk Management Process) and 38% of prisoners indicated that they had experienced mental health problems.²²⁴

A total of 23,420 self-harm incidents were recorded during 2006 by the Prison Service.²²⁵

Women accounted for 11,503 or 49% of total incidents – even though they form only around 6% of the prison population.²²⁶

Latest available data shows that in the three months from 1 January – 29 March 2007, there were 2,839 female self-harm incidents (down against 3,200 in the first three months of 2006). In the same timescale, there were 2,904 male self-harm incidents (compared to 2,636 in the same period in 2006).²²⁷

219. All the statistics in this section are taken from Singleton et al (1998) Psychiatric Morbidity among Prisoners in England and Wales, London: Office for National Statistics, unless otherwise stated.

220. Erwin James, Foreword to 'Troubled Inside: Responding to the mental health needs of men in prison', Prison Reform Trust, 2005

221. Paul Goggins, minister for prisons and probation speaking in a debate on prisons and mental health, Hansard, 17 March 2004

222. Department of Health, 2000: The NHS Plan: a plan for investment, a plan for reform

223. Department of Health, Conference Report, Sharing Good Practice in Prison Health, 4/5 June 2007

224. Scottish Prison Service, 9th Prisoner Survey 2006

225. NOMS, Safer Custody News, May/June 2007

226. Ibid.

227. Ibid.

A high proportion of prisoners have been treated in psychiatric hospitals - 20% of male and 15% of female sentenced prisoners have previously been admitted for in-patient psychiatric care.

The number of restricted patients under the Mental Health Act in England and Wales was 3,395 at the end 2005, the highest for a decade. 779 of the patients were transferred from prison to hospital. Those released from restricted hospitals in 2003 have a 7% reconviction rate after two years.²²⁸

In the quarter ending December 2006, 38 prisoners had been assessed and were waiting three months or more before being transferred to hospital. Many prisoners also have long waits before an assessment takes place.²²⁹

Mental health in-reach teams are operating in 102 prisons.²³⁰

Prison regimes do little to address the mental health needs of prisoners. Research has found that 28% of male sentenced prisoners with evidence of psychosis reported spending 23 or more hours a day in their cells - over twice the proportion of those without mental health problems.

Prisoners with severe mental health problems are often not diverted to more appropriate secure provision. The Chief Inspector of Prisons has estimated, based on visits to local prisons, that 41% of prisoners being held in health care centres should have been in secure NHS accommodation.²³¹ Research has found that there are up to 500 patients in prison health care centres with mental health problems sufficiently ill to require immediate NHS admission.²³² The government has committed itself to a programme of standardising court diversion schemes across the country.²³³

Figures for 2006 showed a 30% rise since 2002 in the transfer of seriously mentally ill prisoners to specialised psychiatric facilities.²³⁴

The resettlement needs of prisoners with mental health problems are not being met. Research found that 96% of mentally-disordered prisoners were put back into the community without supported housing, including 80% of those who had committed the most serious offences; more than three quarters had been given no appointment with outside carers.²³⁵

228. Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Statistics of Mentally Disordered Offenders 2005, 1 March 2007

229. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 27 March 2007

230. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 19 February 2007

231. HM Inspectorate of Prisons (2004) Annual Report of HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales 2002-2003, London: Stationery Office

232. Reed, J. (2003) Mental Health Care in Prisons, British Journal of Psychiatry 182, p287-288

233. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 12 September 2005

234. NOMS, Safer Custody News, July/August 2007

235. Melzer et al (2002) Prisoners with psychosis in England and Wales: a one-year national follow-up study, The Howard Journal 41, page 1-13

Mental health issues amongst prisoners are often linked to previous experiences of violence at home and sexual abuse. About half of women and about a quarter of men in prison have suffered from violence at home while about one in three women report having suffered sexual abuse compared with just under one in 10 men.

Half of all those sentenced to custody are not registered with a GP prior to being sent to prison.²³⁶

In a thematic review of the care and support of prisoners with mental health needs, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, Anne Owers, said that “prison has become, to far too large an extent, the default setting for those with a wide range of mental and emotional disorders.”²³⁷

236. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

237. HM Inspectorate of Prisons, The mental health of prisoners, a thematic review of the care and support of prisoners with mental health needs, October 2007

Drugs

The number of people in prison for drug offences is high and growing. At the end of October 2007, 15% of male sentenced prisoners had been convicted of drug offences. In 1995 drug offences accounted for 10% of male sentenced prisoners. For the sentenced female prison population at the end of October 2007 drug offences accounted for 30% of prisoners, by far the largest proportion. In 1995 they accounted for 27% of the sentenced female prison population.²³⁸

There is a much wider group of prisoners whose offence is in some way drug related. Shoplifting, burglary, vehicle crime and theft can be linked to drug misuse. Over half of prisoners (55%) report committing offences connected to their drug taking, with the need for money to buy drugs the most commonly cited factor.²³⁹

In 18% of violent crimes reported to the 2004/5 British Crime Survey, the victim believed that the offender was under the influence of drugs. More than a quarter (29%) of robbery victims believed their attacker to be under the influence of drugs.²⁴⁰

Epidemiological studies show that around 55% of those received into custody are problematic drug users. That is annual throughput of 70,000 a year, or 39,000 at any one time. According to the Home Office that means around one sixth of problematic drug users are in prison at any one time.²⁴¹

A study for the Home Office found that almost half of recently sentenced male prisoners (47%) had used heroin, crack or cocaine in the 12 months prior to imprisonment. Heroin was the drug most likely to be used on a daily basis. Overall, 73% of respondents had taken an illegal drug in the year before entering prison.²⁴²

Half of Scottish prisoners have reported that they had used drugs in prison at some point in the past. 74% of these said that their use had decreased while in prison.²⁴³

In some inner city local prisons as many as eight out of ten men are found to have class A drugs in their system on reception²⁴⁴ and in the local women's prison, Styal, the same number of new arrivals are thought to have drug problems.²⁴⁵ However a range of studies places the mean figure at 55% – this equates to approximately 74,250 people who use class A drugs entering prison each year (based on annual receptions of 135,000).²⁴⁶

Many prisoners have never received help with their drug problems. According to the Social Exclusion Unit officers at HMP Manchester have estimated that 70% of prisoners come into the jail with a drugs misuse problem but that 80% of these have never had any contact with drug treatment services.²⁴⁷

238. Home Office, Offending Management Caseloads Statistics 2005 and Ministry of Justice, Population In Custody, England and Wales, October 2007

239. Ramsay, M. (ed) (2003), Prisoners' drug use and treatment: seven studies, Home Office Research Findings 186, London: Home Office

240. Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 02/06, January 2006: Violent Crime Overview, Homicide and Gun Crime 2004/5, 2nd edition

241. Home Office FOI Release 4631, 6 Dec 2006

242. Ibid.

243. Scottish Prison Service, 9th Prisoner Survey 2006

244. Interview with Prison Service Director General, Phil Wheatley, Independent, December 1st 2003

245. HM Prisons Inspectorate (2004) Report on a full unannounced inspection of HMP and YOI Styal 19-23 January 2004, London: Home Office

246. Government reply to the first report from the Home Affairs Committee on the Rehabilitation of Prisoners Session 2004-2005, HC193

247. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

Drug use amongst prisoners in custody is reported to be high. A recent Home Office study found that four out ten prisoners said they had used drugs at least once whilst in their current prison, a quarter had used in the past month and 16% in the past week. Cannabis and opiates were the drugs most often used. Almost a third of prisoners reported cannabis use and one in five opiate use in their current prison, while 9% and 10% respectively reported using these drugs in the past week.²⁴⁸

All prisoners are subject to random mandatory drug tests. 9% of the prison population tested positive from random mandatory drug tests compared with over 20% 10 years ago.²⁴⁹ But a recent Home Office study found that 'mandatory drug testing results generally underestimate the level of drug misuse as reported by prisoners'.²⁵⁰

Concerns have been raised about the quality of detoxification, especially for prisoners who have been dependent on crack cocaine.²⁵¹ Research has found that arrangements for detoxification appear to vary considerably between different prisons.²⁵²

In 2006-07, 7,675 drug treatment completions were delivered. This represented an achievement of 29.6% in excess of target.²⁵³

Nine out of ten young adult prisoners say they used drugs prior to imprisonment but only one in three young offender institutions provide intensive drug treatment programmes.²⁵⁴

Transfers between prisons due to overcrowding often disrupt drug treatment. Recent research found that a third of prisons were unlikely to be able to continue the treatment of prisoners transferred to them.²⁵⁵

Drug use on release from prison is very high. One survey of prisoners who had mostly served short sentences and had used drugs in the 12 months before imprisonment, found that 77% admitted taking illegal drugs since release.²⁵⁶

The Social Exclusion Unit found that the 'chances of continuing drugs programmes and support on release are very slim' and concluded, 'prisoners are often viewed as 'new cases' when they are released and have to join the back of the queue'.²⁵⁷ The Home Office has no comprehensive tracking systems in place to monitor access to community drug treatment but is currently developing work in this area.²⁵⁸

248. Singleton et al (2005) The impact and effectiveness of Mandatory Drugs Tests in prison, Findings 223 London: Home Office

249. Prison Service, Annual Report and Accounts April 2006 – March 2007, 17 July 2007, p. 26

250. Singleton et al (2005) The impact and effectiveness of Mandatory Drugs Tests in prison, London: Home Office

251. HM Inspectorates of Prisons and Probation (2001) Through the Prison Gate: Thematic Review by HM Inspectorates of Prisons and Probation, London: Stationery Office

252. Home Office (2003) Differential substance misuse, treatment needs of women, ethnic minorities and young offenders in prison: prevalence of substance misuse and treatment needs, Home Office Online Report 33/03

253. HM Prison Service, Annual Report and Accounts April 2006 – March 2007, 17 July 2007, p. 23

254. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

255. National Audit Office (2002) Reducing re-offending, London: National Audit Office

256. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

257. Ibid.

258. Government reply to the first report from the Home Affairs Committee on the Rehabilitation of Prisoners Session 2004-2005, HC193

A Home Office study has found that the risk of death for men released from prison is forty times higher in the first week of release than for the general population. This is ascribed largely to drug-related deaths. 342 deaths were recorded among their sample group of men in the year after release whereas in a sample matched for age and gender in the general population, only 46 deaths would be expected.²⁵⁹

According to HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, funding for the new integrated drug treatment system, to provide interventions and support for those coming off drugs is nearly 60% less than was hoped for.²⁶⁰ £77.3 million was provided for custodial drug treatment during 2006-07²⁶¹ up from £60.3 million in 2005/06.²⁶²

Offenders that receive residential drug treatment are 45% less likely to re-offend after release than comparable offenders receiving prison sentences.²⁶³

259. Drug-related mortality among newly released offenders 1998 to 2000, Home Office online report 40/05
260. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, Annual Report, 2005/2006, 30 January 2007, p.6.
261. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 21 June 2007
262. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 15 March 2007
263. Matrix Knowledge Group, The Economic Case For and Against Prison, November 2007

In almost half of violent crimes (48%) the victim believed the offender or offenders to be under the influence of alcohol.²⁶⁵

Nearly two-thirds of sentenced male prisoners (63%) and two-fifths of female sentenced prisoners (39%) admit to hazardous drinking which carries the risk of physical or mental harm. Of these, about half have a severe alcohol dependency.

34% of prisoners in Scotland have indicated that their drinking was a problem outside, and 35% that they had to have a drink first thing in the morning. 44% reported that they were drunk at the time of their offence. 20% indicated that they received help/treatment for their alcohol problems whilst in prison.²⁶⁶

44% of young adults (18-24) are binge drinkers. 27% of binge drinkers admitted committing an offence in the past 12 months – compared with 13% of drinkers who did not binge.²⁶⁷

Children who have begun binge drinking by the age of 16 are 90% more likely to have criminal convictions by the age of 30.²⁶⁸

It is common for prisoners who have alcohol problems to also have drug problems. Just over a quarter of male prisoners and about a fifth of female prisoners who are hazardous drinkers are dependent on at least one type of illicit drug.

In 2002/2003 an estimated 6,400 prisoners undertook alcohol detoxification programmes, and an estimated 7,000 more prisoners undertook detoxification for combined alcohol and drug misuse.

There are no specific accredited alcohol treatment programmes with ring-fenced funding in prisons in England and Wales.

A Prison Service survey conducted in 2003, that received responses from half of all prisons in England and Wales, identified only one prison that had a dedicated alcohol strategy.

In December 2004 the Prison Service published its long awaited alcohol strategy for prisoners, which focuses primarily on improving consistency of measures to prevent future hazardous drinking across the prison estate and builds on existing good practice. But it has not been supported by additional resources.

Misuse of alcohol and irresponsible drinking result in economic and social costs in the region of £18 – 20 billion per year.²⁶⁹

264. Unless marked otherwise, all the figures in this section are from Prison Reform Trust briefing paper (January 2004) Alcohol and re-offending: who cares?

265. Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 02/06, January 2006: Violent Crime Overview, Homicide and Gun Crime 2004/5, 2nd edition

266. Scottish Prison Service, 9th Prisoner Survey 2006

267. Home Office, Findings from the 2003 offending, crime and justice survey: alcohol-related crime and disorder- 261

268. Viner, Russell M. and Taylor, Brent, Adult outcomes of binge drinking in adolescence: findings from a UK national birth cohort, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, 2007; 61: pp. 902-907

269. Home Office Departmental Report 2007, May 2007

Disability, health and wellbeing

High numbers of UK prisoners fall within the group defined by the Disability Discrimination Act (2005) which now applies to prison.

20 - 30% of men and women in prison have learning disabilities or difficulties that interfere with their ability to cope within the criminal justice system.²⁷⁰

Studies suggest that 7% of prisoners have very low IQs, of less than 70.²⁷¹

80% of prison staff say that information accompanying people into prison is unlikely to show the presence of learning disabilities or difficulties that had been identified prior to arrival. Once in prison there is no routine or systematic procedure for identifying prisoners with learning disabilities or difficulties.²⁷²

Most prisoner staff (66%) believe that the overall quality of support for prisoners with learning disabilities and difficulties is low.²⁷³

"Once in prison people with learning disabilities face a number of difficulties. Their exclusion from elements of the regime because of their impairments, including from offending behaviour programmes is a particular concern. Not only are they denied help to address their offending behaviour, they may also experience delays in parole dates due to their inability to complete their sentence plan."²⁷⁴

Across the prison estate only 40% of prisoners participate in exercise.²⁷⁵

The average daily food cost per person in public prisons was £1.93 in 2005-2006.²⁷⁶

The average time out of cell on a weekday for each prisoner is 10 hours exactly in 2005/2006, a fall from 11.2 in 1996-7.²⁷⁷

In Northern Ireland, each sentenced prisoner spends on average 20.9 hours per week on constructive activity.²⁷⁸

A survey conducted by the National AIDS Trust and the Prison Reform Trust among prison healthcare managers across the UK, found that a third of prisons surveyed had no HIV policy, one in five had no hepatitis C policy and well over half had no sexual health policy. This is despite the fact that the most recent survey of prevalence in prison found HIV was 15 times higher than in the community.²⁷⁹

Investment in prison health care has increased from £118 million in 2002-03 to £200 million in 2006-07.²⁸⁰

HM Prisons Inspectorate notes with concern that health services in private prisons are separately commissioned, without the supporting framework of accountability in the public sector.²⁸¹

270. Loucks, N. (2007) The prevalence and associated needs of offenders with learning difficulties and learning disabilities. London: Prison Reform Trust

271. Mottram, P. G. (2007) HMP Liverpool, Styal and Hindley Study Report. Liverpool: University of Liverpool

272. Talbot J. (2007) Identifying and supporting prisoners with learning difficulties and disabilities: the views of prison officers. London: Prison Reform Trust.

273. Ibid.

274. Talbot, Jenny, Submission to the Joint Committee on Human Rights, The Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities, 6 June 2007

275. House of Commons, Committee of Public Accounts, Serving time: prisoner diet and exercise, 56th Report of Session 2005-06

276. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 28 March 2007

277. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 9 January 2007

278. Northern Ireland Prison Service Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07, 11 July 2007

279. HIV and Hepatitis in UK Prisons: Addressing Prisoners' Healthcare Needs, Prison Reform Trust and National AIDS Trust, 2005

280. Hansard, House of Commons, written answers, 19 June 2007

281. HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales, Annual Report 2005/2006, 30 January 2007, p. 34

Homelessness and unemployment

Surveys indicate 30% of people released from prison will have nowhere to live.²⁸² This is despite the fact that stable accommodation can reduce re-offending by over 20%.²⁸³ The Home Office claims that recent progress on supporting prisoners to find accommodation has led to significant improvements and that 90.1% of the total number of prisoners released in the year ending March 2006 reported having accommodation arranged.²⁸⁴

In the year 2006-7, 65,733 prisoners had an 'accommodation outcome' on release.²⁸⁵

14% of men, 20% of women and 10% of young offenders were not in permanent accommodation before custody.²⁸⁶

Home Office research into the resettlement of short term prisoners found that more than half (51%) had housing problems prior to imprisonment.²⁸⁷ Around one in every 20 prisoners was sleeping rough before they were sent to custody.²⁸⁸

Most prisoners depend on housing benefit to help with their rent before they enter custody. However, entitlement to Housing Benefit stops for all sentenced prisoners expected to be in prison for more than 13 weeks. This means that many prisoners have very little chance of keeping their tenancy open until the end of their sentence and lose their housing.

The Home Office has found that women prisoners are particularly likely not to have accommodation arranged for their release. Just 62% of women had accommodation arranged, compared with 90% of young male

offenders and 69% of adult men.²⁸⁹ Housing advisors have been recruited for all women's local prisons.²⁹⁰

The Revolving Doors Agency has found that 49% of prisoners with mental health problems had no fixed address on leaving prison. Of those who had a secure tenancy before going to prison, 40% lost it on release.²⁹¹

The Big Issue conducted the largest survey of its vendors in 2001. More than one-third of Big Issue vendors are ex-prisoners. Only 13% received any form of resettlement advice before their release from prison.

A Home Office study found recently that only one in five prisoners who need help with accommodation get support or advice. It also found that two-thirds of prisoners with no accommodation arranged on release had not received any housing support. The same study found that only half of those who had received some form of help had an address to go to on release. The study concluded that 'many prisoners would like help looking for accommodation but do not receive it'.²⁹²

Research by the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee found that only 19% of prisoners received advice or guidance about accommodation.²⁹³

Getting ex-prisoners into stable housing can act as a gateway to effective resettlement. Home Office research has found that prisoners who have accommodation arranged on release are four times more likely to have employment, education or training arranged than those who

282. Niven, S. and Stewart, D. (2005) Resettlement outcomes on release from prison, Home Office Findings 248, London: Home Office

283. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

284. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 9 January 2007

285. HMPS Annual Report and Accounts, April 2006 – March 2007, 17 July 2007, p. 23

286. Niven, S. and Stewart, D. (2005) Resettlement outcomes on release from prison, Home Office Findings 248, London: Home Office

287. Home Office (2003) The resettlement of short term prisoners: an evaluation of seven pathfinder programmes, Findings 200, London: Home Office

288. Niven, S. and Stewart, D. (2005) Resettlement outcomes on release from prison, Home Office Findings 248, London: Home Office

289. Ibid.

290. Hansard, House of Lords, 28 October 2004

291. Revolving Doors Agency (2002) Where Do They Go? Housing, Mental Health and Leaving Prison, London: Revolving Doors

292. Niven, S. and Stewart, D. (2005) Resettlement outcomes on release from prison, Home Office Findings 248, London: Home Office

293. House of Commons, Home Affairs Committee, Rehabilitation of Prisoners, First Report of Session 2004-2005, Volume 1 and 2

do not have accommodation in place.²⁹⁴ Homelessness can also prevent ex-prisoners from accessing support services such as benefits or registering with a GP.²⁹⁵

The Prison Service states that in about 50 prisons some form of housing advice and support service is available.²⁹⁶

Two-thirds of prisoners are unemployed at the time of imprisonment - around 13 times the national unemployment rate. A recent Home Office study found that 14% of prisoners said they had never had a paid job before custody.²⁹⁷

Around two-thirds of those who do have a job lose it whilst in custody.²⁹⁸

A survey by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development showed that people with a criminal record are part of the 'core jobless group' that more than 60% of employers deliberately exclude when recruiting.²⁹⁹

Research by the House of Commons Home Affairs committee found that two-thirds of prisoners have no job on release.³⁰⁰

In the year 2006-7, 36,501 prisoners had a job, training or education outcome on release.³⁰¹ Data is not collected to establish whether or not these prisoners accessed the places that they said had been arranged for them or for how long they held them.

A Home Office survey carried out in 2003 found that only a third of people released from prison had a job or a training or education place arranged.³⁰²

The same study found that of those who had an employment, training or education place to go to on release only 15% had arranged this through the Prison Service or a voluntary agency working in the prison. More than half said it had been arranged through family, friends or personal contacts. The study highlighted the value of personal contacts and support networks in helping prisoners find employment or training.³⁰³

Prisoners face great difficulties finding employment after release. A criminal record and the failure to amend The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974), low educational attainment, health problems and a lack of stable housing makes it problematic for prisoners to find a job.

'Breaking the Circle', published in 2002, is the Home Office's consultation on important amendments to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974). To date these proposals have not been carried forward in legislation.

A Home Office study which followed up prisoners between two and 12 months after release found that only half had done some paid work; 2% were on a government training scheme; and 48% had not found any work. Of those who had done some paid work, nearly two-thirds found it after leaving prison. Only 9% arranged a job whilst in custody.³⁰⁴

294. Niven, S. and Stewart, D. (2005) Resettlement outcomes on release from prison, Home Office Findings 248, London: Home Office; Home Office (2001) Jobs and Homes - a survey of prisoners nearing release, Findings 173, London: Home Office

295. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners, London: Social Exclusion Unit

296. House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, Rehabilitation of Prisoners, First Report of Session 2004-2005, Volume 1 and 2

297. Niven, S. and Stewart, D. (2005) Resettlement outcomes on release from prison, Home Office Findings 248

298. Home Office (2001) Through the Prison Gate: a joint thematic review by HM Inspectorates of Prisons and Probation, London: Stationery Office

299. Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, Labour Market Outlook, Summer 2005

300. House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, Rehabilitation of Prisoners, First Report of Session 2004-2005, Volume 1 and 2

301. HMPS Annual Report and Accounts, April 2006 - March 2007, 17 July 2007, p. 23

302. Niven, S. and Stewart, D. (2005) Resettlement outcomes on release from prison, Home Office Findings 248

303. Ibid.

304. Stewart, D. An evaluation of basic skills training for prisoners, Home Office Findings 260, London: Home Office (2005)

Education

48% of prisoners are at or below the level expected of an 11 year old in reading, 65% in numeracy and 82% in writing.³⁰⁵

More than half of male and more than two-thirds of female adult prisoners have no qualifications at all.³⁰⁶

Half of all prisoners do not have the skills required by 96% of jobs and only one in five are able to complete a job application form.³⁰⁷

Nearly half of male sentenced prisoners were excluded from school.³⁰⁸

In 2002-2003 an average of £1,185 per prisoner was spent on education in jails. This is less than half the average cost of secondary school education at £2,590 per student per year, which many prisoners have missed.³⁰⁹

Government funding for prison education more than doubled in five years from £7.5m in 1999-2000 to £122m in 2004-2005.³¹⁰

According to the Offenders Learning and Skills Unit in the former Department for Education and Skills (now DCSF), just under a third of the prison population is attending education classes at any one time.³¹¹

Research by NATFHE and the Association of College Lecturers has found that only one third of education managers regularly receive prisoners' records following transfers.³¹²

Prison Service targets for the number of prisoners achieving different skills qualifications were significantly exceeded in 2005-2006. Prisoners achieved 146,053 key work skills awards, and 42,520 basic skills awards.³¹³ However, Home Office research found that improvements in literacy and numeracy were not significantly related to prisoners' chances of finding employment or preventing re-offending after release. Factors such as links with previous employers and family contacts were more strongly related to employment outcomes.³¹⁴

Research highlighted by the government's Social Exclusion Unit has found that prisoners who do not take part in education or training are three times more likely to be reconvicted. This research has yet to be tested empirically by the Home Office and the House of Commons Education and Skills Committee concluded that 'more research is needed to isolate the impact of education and training'.³¹⁵

The Social Exclusion Unit also found that that basic skills learning can contribute to a reduction in re-offending of around 12%.³¹⁶ However, the House of Commons Education and Skills Committee has expressed concern that 'the heavy concentration on basic skills qualifications is based on little more than a hunch' and urged the government to undertake more research.³¹⁷

305. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 9 January 2007

306. Home Office (2001) *Through the Prison Gate: a joint thematic review by HM Inspectorates of Prisons and Probation*, London: Stationery Office

307. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) *Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners*, London: Social Exclusion Unit

308. Singleton et al (2000) *Psychiatric Morbidity among young offenders in England and Wales*, London: Office for National Statistics

309. Braggins, J. and Talbot, J. (2003) *Time to Learn: Prisoners' Views on Prison Education*, London: Prison Reform Trust

310. House of Commons Education and Skills Committee, *Prison Education*, Seventh Report of Session 2004-2005

311. Ibid.

312. Braggins, J. (2002), *Shared Responsibilities: Education for prisoners at a time of change*, London: NATFHE

313. Prison Service Annual Report and Accounts 2005/2006, London: Stationery Office

314. Stewart, D. *An evaluation of basic skills training for prisoners*, Home Office Findings 260, London: Home Office

315. House of Commons Education and Skills Committee, *Prison Education*, Seventh Report of Session 2004-2005

316. Social Exclusion Unit (2002) *Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners*, London: Social Exclusion Unit

317. House of Commons Education and Skills Committee, *Prison Education*, Seventh Report of Session 2004-2005

Prison work and volunteering

Overall there are around 24,000 work places for prisoners across the estate in workshops, catering, cleaning, land based activities and day release programmes - the majority is low grade menial work.³¹⁸ This means that a maximum of just under a third of the prison population is engaged in work activities at any one time.

An average of 10,000 prisoners are employed in nearly 300 workshops across the prison estate in a diverse range of industries that include; clothing and textiles, woodwork, engineering, print and laundries.³¹⁹

40% of the 10,000 prisoners who work across these industries work for 'contract services' and are producing goods and services for an external, commercial market. This can range from laundry contracts for hospitals to manufacturing camouflage jackets for the Ministry of Defence.³²⁰

Clothing and textiles is the biggest employer in prison workshops with roughly 3,000 prisoners involved across 60 prisons. Almost all (95%) of textile products are for the internal market.³²¹

An internal Prison Service review of workshops suggested that the focus should be almost totally on the internal market as demand for goods was so high due to the rise in prison numbers over the last decade.³²²

There are around 1,500 people in the open prison estate who go out to work in full time paid employment during the day on day release.³²³ They are, generally, long term prisoners who are in the final stages of their period in custody and preparing to return to the community.

The average rate of pay for employed prisoners is £8 per week. The Prison Service sets a minimum rate of pay which is currently £4.00 per week but each prison has devolved responsibility to enable it to set its own pay rates.³²⁴

The Prison Service has acknowledged that prison industries have 'rather got left behind by other developments within the system' and that providing work opportunities for prisoners is not currently a central and essential part of the prison regime.³²⁵

1,955 Samaritan Listeners were selected and trained during 2006. Listeners, prisoners supported by local Samaritan groups, play an invaluable role in making prisons safer by offering emotional support to fellow prisoners in crisis.³²⁶

There were 103,927 Listeners contacts during 2006, an average of 67 contacts per Listener per year.³²⁷

Surveys by the Prison Reform Trust have shown that there is considerable scope to develop more opportunities for people in prison to take responsibility and engage in volunteering, peer support, representation and prisoner councils.³²⁸

318. House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, Rehabilitation of Prisoners, First Report of Session 2004-2005

319. 'Service on the verge of industrial revolution' Prison Service News, September, 2003

320. Ibid.

321. Ibid.

322. Prison Service (2003) Report of the Industries Review Team, An internal review of the strategic oversight and management of public sector prison industries in England and Wales, London: Prison Service

323. House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, Rehabilitation of Prisoners, First Report of Session 2004-2005

324. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 23 March 2007.

325. House of Commons, Home Affairs Committee, Rehabilitation of Prisoners, First Report of Session 2004-2005

326. NOMS, Safer Custody News, July/August 2007

327. Ibid.

328. Edgar, K. and Talbot, J. (2006) The Impact of volunteering: a review of the CSV national day release prisoner volunteer pilot project, London: Prison Reform Trust, Farrant, F. and Levenson, J. (2002) Barred Citizens, Volunteering and Active Citizenship by Prisoners, London: Prison Reform Trust, Solomon, E. and Edgar, K. (2004) Having Their Say: The work of prisoner councils, London: Prison Reform Trust

In the five years to 2005 there has been a 350% increase in the number of offenders recalled to prison for apparent breach of their conditions. This is despite the fact that the number of ex-prisoners on licence in the community has increased by less than 15%. Rates of recall for those technically eligible have risen from 53% in 2000, to 86% in 2004.³³⁰

Recalled prisoners now make up nearly 11% of the population of local prisons.³³¹

The average daily population of prisoners in Scotland recalled from supervision or licence has risen substantially, increasing by 30% to 519 in 2006/07, from 400 in 2005/06.³³²

In 2006-07, 11,231 offenders were recalled compared to 8,678 in the previous year.³³³

During the last year the prison recall population has increased by 28% to 5,000 as at 30 March 2007 due to an increase in the number of offenders being recalled and the fact that prisoners are sentenced to determinate sentences under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 are liable to spend longer in custody if recalled.³³⁴

Between April and June 2005, 2,100 people were recalled on a breach of their licence. Of these the largest proportion, 30%, were 'out of touch', 18% were breached for problems with their behaviour, 8% for breaking their residency conditions and 18% for 'other reasons'. Only a quarter were recalled to face a further charge.³³⁵

In 2005, 54,616 people were released on Home Detention Curfew. The proportion recalled for breach of their HDC conditions went down by 5%.³³⁶ On 30 November 2007, 2,369 people were on HDC.³³⁷

Under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, the time served under licence will increase hugely. Those serving long sentences will be under supervision for the whole sentence, instead of until the three-quarters point and the new public protection sentences will include long periods of licence.

329. Unless otherwise stated, all facts in this section are drawn from the Prison Reform Trust's briefing paper, Recycling Offenders through Prison, May 2005

330. HMCIIP, Recalled prisoners, December 2005

331. Ibid.

332. Scottish Executive, Statistical Bulletin, Criminal Justice Series, Prison Statistics Scotland 2006/07.

333. HMPS Annual Report and Accounts, April 2006 - March 2007, 17 July 2007, p. 25

334. Ibid.

335. NOMS Recall newsletter edition 7, annex A

336. Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005

337. NOMS, Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing for 30 November 2007

Prison Service performance and staffing

The total full-time equivalent staff of officer grade employed throughout the prison estate was 24,272 in 2000 and 26,474 at the beginning of 2006. That is an increase of 9%, while over the same period, the prison population has increased by 24%.³³⁸

In 2006-2007, the Prison Service met 9 of the 12 annual delivery targets.³³⁹

It just failed to meet its overcrowding target, having 24.1% of the prison population held in “accommodation units intended for fewer prisoners”, the target was under 24%.³⁴⁰ In 2003-4 a lower target was set of 18% of all prisoners held two for a cell designed for one. In that year the Prison Service failed to meet the target, instead putting 21.7% in such accommodation.³⁴¹

Targets on serious assaults, ethnic diversity among the staff were not met. Some progress towards them had been made in all areas.

In 2006 there were 11,520 recorded prisoner on prisoner assaults and 3,123 recorded prisoner on officer assaults.³⁴²

The Prison Service is faced with high sickness levels amongst prison officers. The average number of working days lost due to staff sickness in 2006-07 was 11.6.³⁴³

There has been a high turnover of prison governors. In the five years to March 2002 just under a third of all prisons (44) had had four or more governors or acting governors in charge.³⁴⁴ The average tenure for governing governors in an establishment is one year and nine months.³⁴⁵

The under-representation of staff from minority ethnic groups is particularly marked at a senior level in the Prison Service. Just 2.7% of senior operational managers are from a minority ethnic group.³⁴⁶

The number of minority ethnic staff in the Prison Service overall is now 5.7%. It has grown steadily for many years.³⁴⁷

61% of black and minority ethnic prison staff have experienced direct racial discrimination while employed in the service. Over half chose not to report it.³⁴⁸

338. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 20 March 2007., and Home Office, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2005, and NOMS, Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing for 30 March 2007

339. HMPS Annual Report and Accounts, April 2006 – March 2007, 17 July 2007, p. 10

340. Ibid., p. 26

341. Prison Service Annual Report and Accounts 2003/2004, London: Stationery Office

342. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 30 October 2007

343. HMPS Annual Report and Accounts, April 2006 – March 2007, 17 July 2007, p. 96

344. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 31 January, 2003

345. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 19 January, 2004

346. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 23 March 2007

347. Prison Service Annual Report and Accounts 2005/2006, London: Stationery Office

348. Prison Reform Trust 2006. Briefing: Experiences of Minority Ethnic Employees in Prisons

Private prisons³⁴⁹

There are eleven privately run prisons in England and Wales. Nine prisons have been financed, designed, built and are run by the private sector under PFI contracts -Dovegate, Altcourse, Ashfield, Forest Bank, Lowdham Grange, Parc, Rye Hill, Bronzefield and Peterborough, the only prison which holds both men and women on the same site. In addition Wolds and Doncaster were built and financed by the public sector but are run by private companies under management-only contracts. Two former privately managed prisons, Blakenhurst and Buckley Hall, are now publicly run.

Two new 600 cell PFI category B prisons at Belmarsh, south east London and Maghull, Merseyside, should be open by 2010. The current programme of competitions is expected to include up to five new PFI prisons.

Private prisons in England and Wales now account for 10% of the prison population holding around 7,695 prisoners.³⁵⁰

England and Wales has the most privatised prison system in Europe and in August 2006 the government announced that some 4,000 new prison places are expected to be provided by the private sector. Scotland currently has 10% of its prisoners held privately, although this is due to increase with the addition of the 700-cell Addiewell, a second privately financed, designed, built and run prison. Australia has 17% of its prisoners held in private prisons and the US has 7.2%.

Serco is the largest provider of private prisons, operating Dovegate, Ashfield, Lowdham Grange and Doncaster. GSL, operates Rye Hill, Altcourse and the Wolds. Kalyx, owned by the Paris-based multi-national Sodexho Alliance SA, operates Forest Bank, Bronzefield and Peterborough. G4S operates Parc prison.

According to a parliamentary written answer,³⁵¹ the costs of private prisons per place are higher than public sector prisons in most categories:

Function	Contracted sector cost per place	Public sector cost per place
Male category B	26,813	25,881
Male category C	20,855	21,976
Female closed	44,400	34,617
Male juvenile	48,669	42,143
Male local	33,805	31,912

In 2006, basic pay for private sector custody officers was 39% less than their public sector equivalents. Taking a valuation of benefits such as pensions and holidays into account, the public sector advantage rose to 61%.³⁵²

349. For more information on the performance of private prisons, the companies and their profits see Prison Reform Trust (2005) *Private Punishment: Who Profits?*, London: Prison Reform Trust

350. NOMS, *Monthly Bulletin*, August 2007

351. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 9 January 2007

352. Prison Service Pay Review Body, *Privately Managed Custodial Service*, September 2006

An average of 40% of private sector staff have over five years' service.³⁵³

Private prison percentage staff turnover³⁵⁴

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Altcourse	5	11	9	10	(1)
Ashfield	19.51	29.41	(1)	34.60	(1)
Bronzefield	17.17	30.55	27.25	(2)	(2)
Doncaster	14.63	17.97	19.76	9.07	(1)
Dovegate	21.69	22.35	41.50	43.90	(1)
Forest Bank	19.79	25.50	25.52	25.30	22.74
Lowdham Grange	30.19	24.70	29.08	30.94	(1)
Parc	12.94	19.47	16.17	27.12	23.14
Peterborough	29.16	18.81	(3)	(3)	(3)
Rye Hill	15	39	27	36	(1)
Wolds	10	11	11	8	(1)

Notes: staff turnover expressed as a percentage of the total staff for each year since 2002

(1) Unavailable (2) Opened June 2005 (3) Opened March 2005

In 2006 resignations of prison custody officers and detention custody officers in the private sector averaged 24%, with very large variations between establishments.³⁵⁵

According to the NAO, staffing problems mean private prisons struggle to create a safe environment for prisoners. It noted high levels of assaults at Dovegate, Ashfield, Rye Hill, Forest Bank and Altcourse. It said that prisoners in these jails expressed concerns about their safety due to the relative inexperience of staff.³⁵⁶

The Chief Inspector of Prisons expressed concerns in her last annual report: "... it is of some concern that the four private adult prisons reported on had more negative than positive assessments, and only one out of four was assessed as performing satisfactorily on safety. This has been a recurring concern, in our inspection reports and in the National Audit Office's report, as has the nature of activity available, with contracts that tend to focus on quantity rather than quality."³⁵⁷

According to the prison service performance rating system the ratings for privately managed prisons in England and Wales were as set out below:³⁵⁸

Private prisons - ratings 06-07

Establishment	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Bronzefield	3	3	3	3
Peterborough	2	2	2	2
Lowdham Grange	3	3	3	na
Rye Hill	2	2	2	na
Altcourse	4	4	4	4
Forest Bank	3	3	3	3
Parc	3	3	3	3
Dovegate	2	2	2	2
Doncaster	3	3	3	3
Wolds	3	3	3	3
Ashfield	3	3	3	na

353. Hansard, House of Commons written answers, 1 March 2007

354. Ibid.

355. Prison Service Pay Review Body, Sixth Report on England and Wales, March 2007

356. National Audit Office (2003) The Operational Performance of PFI Prisons, London: Stationery Office

357. Annual Report 2005/06, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales

358. Quarters 1-3 www.noms.justice.gov.uk and Quarter 4 from individual ROM's websites. Details for Lowdham Grange, Rye Hill and Ashfield had not been posted at the time of writing. Note: Level 4 = exceptionally high performing, consistently meeting or exceeding targets; no significant operating problems.

Level 3 = meeting the majority of targets, experiencing no significant problems. Level 2 = basically stable, secure and providing decent but limited regimes;

Level 1 = experiencing significant problems in meeting targets and/or experiencing major operational problems.

Long term trends and future prison building

By the end of June 2014 the demand for prison spaces is projected to increase to between 88,800 and 101,900. Much of the underlying growth in all scenarios can be attributed to the use of IPP sentences.³⁵⁹

In a statement on prison population made on 19 June 2007, Lord Falconer announced: “We have built over 20,000 more prison places since 1997, with a commitment to 8,000 more by 2012. To help accommodate the current pressures, I can announce today that Her Majesty’s Treasury has made available new money to build an additional 1,500 places over and above the 8,000 already announced. We will be starting work immediately on 500 of those extra places. The first of these additional places will come on-stream in January 2008.”³⁶⁰

On 31 August 2007 the Ministry of Justice announced that planning permission has been granted for the site owned by NOMS at Maghull near Merseyside, which it expects to deliver 600 new places by 2010. A planning application will be submitted in respect of a third site owned by NOMS adjacent to HMP Belmarsh.³⁶¹

The Scottish prison population is predicted to rise to 9,300 by 2015.³⁶²

On 24 August 2007 the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Kenny MacAskill announced that a new publicly operated prison is to be built in the Peterhead area to replace existing facilities there and at HMP Aberdeen.³⁶³

During comments made to BBC Scotland, Kenny MacAskill said “prisons are for public safety, not for profit ... we are drawing a line in the sand.”³⁶⁴

The prison population is expected to rise in Northern Ireland by 6%, year on year for the next five years, and by 5% in the following years, with the population of life sentenced prisoners up by 50% within 10 years.³⁶⁵

In an interview with The Times, Jack Straw stated that “the government will not be able to build its way out of the prison crisis” and indicated that “the only way the pressure could be relieved was by sending fewer people to jail and using more noncustodial sentences.” In the interview, his first since becoming Justice Secretary and Lord Chancellor, Mr Straw called for a “national conversation” about the use of prison. He also spoke of the need to make community sentences more effective to build confidence and trust in non-custodial sentences. Even if he could click his fingers “and magic an extra 10,000 places” they would still need to have the same debate about the use of prison, he said.³⁶⁶

359. Ministry of Justice Statistical Bulletin, Prison Population Projections, England and Wales, 2007-2014 (August 2007)

360. Hansard, House of Lords debates, 19 June 2007

361. Ministry of Justice, Prison Capacity Building Programme update, <http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease310807a.htm>

362. BBC News online, 25 November 2005

363. www.sps.gov.uk

364. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/6959920.stm

365. Interview with Robin Masefield, Director General of the Northern Ireland Prison Service, 12 February 2006 – Belfast Telegraph

366. Rt Hon Jack Straw, *The Times*, 12 July 2007

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- Restricted Access: Legal Information for Remand Prisoners, 2002 - £5.00
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