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Adult Reconviction in Northern Ireland 2001

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This bulletin describes a study of adult (aged 17 years or more) reconviction in Northern Ireland. The findings are based on an analysis of two separate datasets consisting of records on adult offenders as shown on the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Integrated Crime Information System (ICIS).

This information provides a new baseline for information on reconviction rates. Comparisons with information produced previously are not valid as the reconviction rates are based on unadjusted rates, that is they make no allowance for any of the factors known to affect such rates e.g. age, type of offence, gender and previous criminal history.

The datasets consist of those offenders who received a non-custodial disposal during 2001 and those released from custody into the community in 2001.

KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ 17% of those who received a non-custodial disposal in 2001 were reconvicted within two years – one third (34%) of those who received a community supervision disposal (community service order, attendance centre order or probation/supervision order) were reconvicted within two years (Table 3).
- ◆ 45% of those discharged from custody into the community in 2001 were reconvicted within two years (Table 3).
- ◆ The highest reconviction rates were for offenders discharged from the Young Offenders Centre (immediate custody) (74%) followed by combination order (43%) and those discharged from Young Offenders Centre (custody probation order) (43%). The lowest rates were for absolute discharge (9%) and fine (14%) (Table 3).
- ◆ Younger offenders had the highest reconviction rates. In the non-custodial group, the highest reconviction rate was for those aged 17-19 years (30%): males (32%) and females (12%) (Table 4). In the custodial discharge group, with a caution on the low numbers involved, the highest reconviction rates were again for those aged 17-19 years (72%) (Table 5).
- ◆ For both the non-custodial group and the custodial discharge group, generally the greater the number of previous convictions, the higher the reconviction rate (Tables 6 and 8). 43% of the non-custodial group with 17 or more previous convictions were reconvicted within two years compared to 60% of the custodial discharge group with a similar criminal history.
- ◆ The highest reconviction rates were, for both groups, found to be for property offences (burglary, theft and criminal damage) – 32% for the non-custodial group and 65% for the custodial discharge group. In the non-custodial group, the lowest reconviction rates were for 'other' offences (8%) and sexual offences (12%) (Table 10). In the custodial discharge group, with a caution on the low numbers involved, the lowest reconviction rates were for sexual offences (20%), fraud and forgery (27%) and drug offences (29%) (Table 11).

Executive Summary

1. The overall two-year reconviction rates for offenders considered in this study were 17% for the non-custodial group and 45% for the custodial discharge group (Table 3).

Non-custodial group

2. Seventeen percent of those who received a non-custodial disposal in 2001 were reconvicted within two years. One third (34%) of those who received community supervision (community service order, probation order and combination order) were reconvicted. The highest reconviction rates were for those receiving a combination order (43% - caution, small numbers), recognisance (35%) and probation order (34%). The lowest reconviction rates were for absolute discharge (9%) and fine (14%). One in four (25%) of those receiving a suspended prison sentence were reconvicted within two years (Table 3).

3. Those offenders who received community supervision disposals or suspended custody (and were reconvicted), were typically reconvicted sooner than those given a conditional discharge or a fine (Figure 1).

4. As regards factors such as age, gender and criminal history, younger offenders showed higher reconviction rates than older offenders - for those aged 17-19 years, the rate was 30% compared to 8% for those aged 50-59 years (Table 4). The reconviction rate for males (18%) was double that for females (9%). 56% of the non-custodial group had previous convictions. The reconviction rate for those with previous convictions (23%) was more than twice that for those who had no previous criminal history (9%) (Table 6). In general, as found by Spicer & Glicksman (2004) and Kerr & Wilson (2000), for both the non-custodial group and the custodial discharge group, the greater the number of previous convictions, the higher the reconviction rate.

5. The highest reconviction rates by baseline offence category were for burglary (53%), robbery (33%) and criminal damage (31%). Collectively, the reconviction rate for property offences (including burglary, theft and criminal damage) at 32% was higher than that for violent offences (violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery) at 23% (Table 10).

Custodial discharge group

6. The two-year reconviction rate for those discharged from custody into the community in 2001 was 45%. 49% of those receiving immediate custody and almost one third (32%) who received a custody probation order had been reconvicted within two years (Table 3).

7. Those reconvicted in the custodial discharge group were typically reconvicted in less time than the non-custodial group. Within twelve months 24% of those receiving immediate custody and 17% who received a custody probation order had been reconvicted (Figure 1).

8. As with the non-custodial group, the highest reconviction rates were associated with younger offenders. 72% of 17-19 years were reconvicted within two years compared to 8% of 50-59 year olds. With a caution on the low numbers involved, the two-year reconviction rate for males (46%) was three times that for females (15%) (Table 5).

9. The vast majority of the custodial discharge group (700 of 703) had previous convictions. The reconviction rate for those with previous convictions was 45%. As with the non-custodial group, generally those with a greater number of previous convictions had a higher rate of reconviction. The reconviction rate for those with 1-4 previous convictions was 20% compared to 60% for those with 17 or more previous convictions (Table 8).

10. Reconviction rates were highest for those convicted of theft (68%) and burglary (64%) and lowest for sexual offences (20%) and fraud and forgery (27%). As with the non-custodial group, property offences (burglary, theft and criminal damage) had a higher reconviction rate (65%) than violent offences (violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery) at 34% (Table 11).

Background

11. Reconviction rates provide a means of assessing the effectiveness of custodial or community penalties in preventing reoffending. However, comparing reconviction rates for different court penalties is very difficult, as they are a product of many factors, not only of the sentence handed down.

12. This study involves the analysis of two groups of offenders - those who received a non-custodial disposal (e.g. suspended prison or suspended YOC sentence, probation order, community service order, combination order, etc.) during 2001 and those adults discharged from prison or the YOC into the community during 2001.

Methodology

13. These findings are based on an analysis of two datasets, consisting of records on adult (aged 17 years or more) offenders as shown on the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Integrated Crime Information System (ICIS). ICIS includes details of convictions for all criminal offences including motoring offences. The first group consists of offenders who received a non-custodial disposal in 2001. The second consists of offenders discharged from custody into the community in 2001. Details of offenders discharged from custody were taken from the Prison Index database, maintained by the Statistics and Research Branch of the Northern Ireland Office. These offenders were matched to records held on ICIS. The criminal careers of these individuals were then monitored for subsequent convictions over the next two years.

14. The terms **Baseline Offence**, **Baseline Conviction** and **Baseline Disposal** refer to the offence, conviction and disposal respectively for either the original non-custodial disposal received in 2001 or the first discharge from custody into the community in 2001.

15. **Pseudo Reconvictions** are convictions within the follow-up period for offences committed prior to commencement of an order or ‘in the pipeline’. Where possible (due to the incompleteness of the offence date information), these have been removed from this study by excluding convictions where the date of offence was before the date of the baseline conviction/discharge from custody.

16. Convictions for ‘breaches’ (contravention of a court order or licence) do not play a substantial role in the dataset but are included.

The Dataset

17. In all, details of 19,413 individual adult offenders were recorded. These consisted of 18,710 individuals who received a non-custodial disposal in 2001 and a further 703 individuals discharged from prison establishments into the community in 2001. These two groups of offenders are treated separately throughout most of this paper due to the differences in their characteristics.

Non-custodial group

18. The non-custodial group consisted of 18,710 individuals identified using ICIS. The disposal groups were selected using the baseline disposal at their first court appearance in 2001.

19. A total of 15,782 of these were male (84%) while the remaining 2,928 females accounted for 16%. The offender’s age is calculated at the date of their baseline conviction in 2001.

Table 1: Non-custodial group by age and gender

Age group	Male		Female		All	
17-19 years	2,024	13%	233	8%	2,257	12%
20-29 years	6,049	38%	984	34%	7,033	38%
30-39 years	4,103	26%	973	33%	5,076	27%
40-49 years	2,216	14%	490	17%	2,706	14%
50-59 years	1,021	6%	208	7%	1,229	7%
60 years and over	369	2%	40	1%	409	2%
Total	15,782	100%	2,928	100%	18,710	100%

Note: Percentage figures are for columns and may not sum to 100 due to rounding

20. Table 1 shows that overall, 12% of the non-custodial group were aged 17-19 years, almost two-fifths (38%) were aged 20-29 years, more than one quarter (27%) were aged 30-39 years, 14% were aged 40-49 years, 7% were aged 50-59 years and 2% were aged 60 years or more.

21. The age structure of males was broadly similar to that of females in all age categories, with the exception of those aged 30-39 years – just over one quarter (26%) of males were aged 30-39 years compared to one third (33%) of females.

Custodial discharge group

22. The custodial group consisted of 703 offenders discharged from prison establishments into the community in 2001 and was identified using the Northern Ireland Office’s Prison Index System. A total of 865 discharges were identified (842 males and 23 females).

23. In the case of an individual having more than one discharge from a prison establishment into the community in 2001, the details of the first discharge were used. Thirteen of the females discharged into the community in 2001 were matched between the Prison Index System and ICIS and were included in the analysis.

Table 2: Custodial discharge group by age and gender

Age group	Male		Female		All	
17-19 years	83	12%	2	15%	85	12%
20-29 years	352	51%	4	31%	356	51%
30-39 years	156	23%	5	38%	161	23%
40-49 years	65	9%	2	15%	67	10%
50-59 years	26	4%	0	(-)	26	4%
60 years and over	8	1%	0	(-)	8	1%
Total	690	100%	13	100%	703	100%

Note: Percentage figures are for columns and may not sum to 100 due to rounding

(-) value is less than 0.5%

24. Table 2 shows that, overall, 12% of the custodial discharge sample were aged 17-19 years, just over half (51%) were aged 20-29 years, another 23% were aged 30-39 years and 10% were aged 40-49 years. Twenty six (4%) were aged 50-59 years and eight were aged 60 years or more.

25. The age structure of males differed from that of females, with the exception of the 17-19 years age group. Half (51%) of all males were aged 20-29 years compared to almost one third (31%) of females. 23% of males were aged 30-39 years compared to 38% of females, and almost one in ten (9%) males was aged 40-49 years compared to 15% of females. No females were aged over 50 years, compared to 5% (34) of males.

Effectiveness of custodial and non-custodial disposals - reconviction rates

26. A reconviction rate is defined as the percentage of offenders who were reconvicted, for any offence, within a specified period (two years in the case of adults) from the date of their discharge from custody in 2001 or receipt of their non-custodial disposal in 2001.

Reconviction rates by baseline disposal

27. Table 3 shows the two-year reconviction rates for the non-custodial group and the custodial discharge group by baseline disposal. The overall two-year reconviction rate for those who received a non-custodial disposal was 17% (3,138 of the 18,710). The reconviction rate for those who received a community supervision disposal (probation order, community service order and combination order) was 34% (387 of the 1,141). The reconviction rate for those discharged from custody into the community in 2001 was 45% (317 of the 703).

Table 3: Two-year reconviction rate by baseline disposal*

Primary disposal	Total	Reconvicted	
Prison (suspended)	1,079	275	(25%)
YOC (suspended)	66	19	(29%)
Community supervision**	1,141	387	(34%)
- Community Service Order	483	158	(33%)
- Probation Order	635	219	(34%)
- Combination Order	23	10	(43%)
Bound Over	629	157	(25%)
Fine	14,459	2,017	(14%)
Conditional Discharge	1,081	246	(23%)
Absolute Discharge	176	15	(9%)
Other	79	22	(28%)
Non-custodial disposal	18,710	3,138	(17%)
Immediate custody	529	261	(49%)
- Discharged from prison	408	172	(42%)
- Discharged from YOC	121	89	(74%)
Custody Probation Order	174	56	(32%)
- Discharged from prison	146	44	(30%)
- Discharged from YOC	28	12	(43%)
All discharges from custody	703	317	(45%)

*Caution – small numbers in some categories

**Includes community service order, probation order and combination order

28. The reconviction rates vary from disposal to disposal. The highest reconviction rate was for those discharged from YOC (immediate custody) (74%), followed by combination order (43% - caution, small numbers) and those discharged from YOC (custody probation order) (43%). Two year reconviction rate for community service

order (33%) and probation order (34%) were similar. The lowest reconviction rates were for absolute discharge at 9% and fine at 14%. The reconviction rate for the fine (14%) is particularly important as fines comprised more than three-quarters (77%) of all non-custodial disposals in 2001.

29. The reconviction rate for immediate custody was 49%; 42% for those discharged from prison and 74% for those discharged from YOC. In comparison, the reconviction rate for custody probation order was 32%; 30%; for those discharged from prison and 43% for those discharged from YOC.

Effectiveness of custodial and non-custodial disposals - reconviction intervals

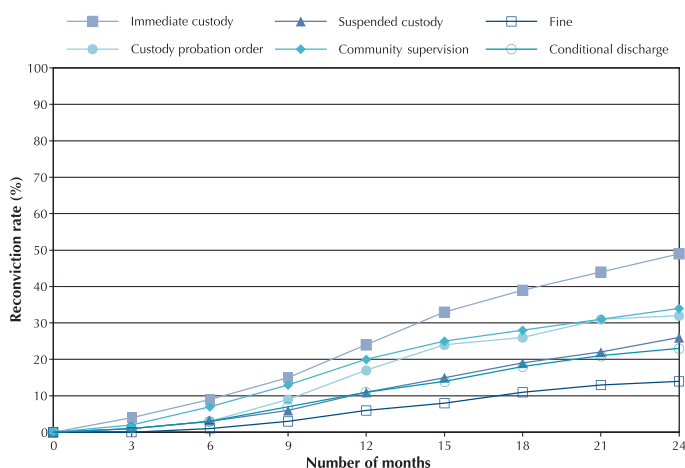
30. The reconviction rates quoted need to be put into some context. It is particularly important that the speed of reconviction or time to reconviction for each baseline disposal is examined. This measure is called the **reconviction interval**. This is calculated in one of two ways depending on whether the individual concerned received a non-custodial disposal or was discharged from custody into the community. The definitions used in this study are as follows:

- ◆ non-custodial disposal - the time from the date of the baseline conviction to the date of the next conviction (for any offence committed after the date of the baseline conviction).
- ◆ discharged from custody into the community - the time from the date of release to the date of the next conviction (for any offence committed after the date of release).

Reconviction interval by baseline disposal

31. Figure 1 shows that the reconviction intervals vary from disposal to disposal. For example, the reconviction interval for the fine is considerably longer than for the other disposals.

Figure 1: Reconviction interval by baseline disposal



32. Figure 1 shows that after three months following baseline conviction or discharge from custody, 4% of those receiving immediate custody had been reconvicted. This is compared to 2% of those who received a community supervision order, 1% who received custody probation order, 1% receiving suspended custody and 1% receiving a conditional discharge.

33. After 12 months, differences in the reconviction intervals between disposals become more apparent. Almost one quarter (24%) of those who received immediate custody were reconvicted compared to less than one fifth (17%) who received a custody probation order. Eleven percent of those who received suspended custody and 11% receiving a conditional discharge were reconvicted compared to one fifth (20%) of those receiving a community supervision order. Six percent of those receiving a fine had been reconvicted after one year.

34. After two years, almost half (49%) of those who received immediate custody and almost one third (32%) of those receiving a custody probation order were reconvicted. Approximately one quarter of those given suspended custody (26%) and conditional discharge (23%) were reconvicted. One in three of those given a community supervision disposal (34%) was reconvicted compared with one in seven (14%) who received a fine.

Other factors affecting reconviction

35. Past studies (Lloyd et al, 1994) have shown that two factors closely associated with reconviction rates were the age of the offender and criminal history. The following sections consider the influence of these variables together with baseline offence category, on reconviction rates.

Reconviction - age and gender

Table 4: Non-custodial group – two-year reconviction rate by age and gender

Age group	Male		Female		All	
	N	Reconvicted	N	Reconvicted	N	Reconvicted
17-19 years	2,024	640 (32%)	233	29 (12%)	2,257	669 (30%)
20-29 years	6,049	1,267 (21%)	984	102 (10%)	7,033	1,369 (19%)
30-39 years	4,103	602 (15%)	973	73 (8%)	5,076	675 (13%)
40-49 years	2,216	276 (12%)	490	35 (7%)	2,706	311 (11%)
50-59 years	1,021	88 (9%)	208	11 (5%)	1,229	99 (8%)
60 years and over	369	15 (4%)	40	0 (-)	409	15 (4%)
Total	15,782	2,888 (18%)	2,928	250 (9%)	18,710	3,138 (17%)

(-) value is less than 0.5%

36. Table 4 shows that, for the non-custodial group, the highest reconviction rates were associated with offenders

aged 17-19 years (30%). Reconviction rates decreased as age of offender increased. Nineteen percent of those aged 20-29 years were reconvicted compared to 13% of those aged 30-39 years. In contrast, only 15 (4%) of the 409 offenders aged 60 years and over were reconvicted.

37. Overall, a much larger proportion of males were reconvicted than females – 18% of males compared to 9% of females. One third (32%) of males and 12% of females aged 17-19 years were reconvicted within two years. One in five males (21%) and one in ten (10%) females aged 20-29 years were reconvicted within two years.

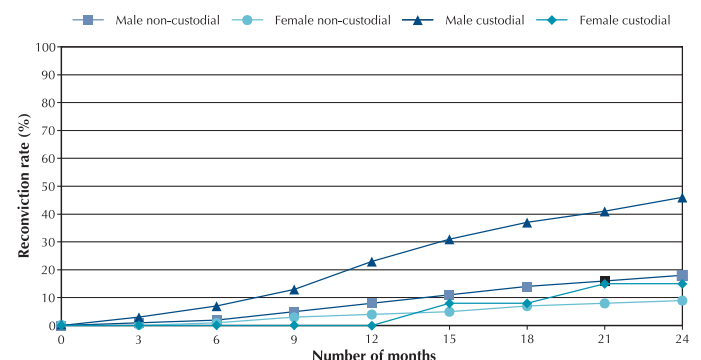
Table 5: Custodial discharge group – two-year reconviction rate by age and gender*

Age group	Male		Female		All	
	N	Reconvicted	N	Reconvicted	N	Reconvicted
17-19 years	83	60 (72%)	2	1 (50%)	85	61 (72%)
20-29 years	352	181 (51%)	4	1 (25%)	356	182 (51%)
30-39 years	156	60 (38%)	5	0 (-)	161	60 (37%)
40-49 years	65	12 (18%)	2	0 (-)	67	12 (18%)
50-59 years	26	2 (8%)	0	0 (-)	26	2 (8%)
60 years and over	8	0 (-)	0	0 (-)	8	0 (-)
Total	690	315 (46%)	13	2 (15%)	703	317 (45%)

* Caution – small numbers in some categories (-) value is less than 0.5%

38. Table 5 shows that, as with the non-custodial group, the highest reconviction rates were associated with younger offenders. More than seven out of ten (72%) offenders aged 17-19 years were reconvicted within two years. This compares to half (51%) of those aged 20-29 years and 37% of those aged 30-39 years. None of the eight offenders aged 60 years and over were reconvicted.

Figure 2: Reconviction interval by gender and disposal



39. The reconviction interval for the female non-custodial group is considerably longer than for the male

custodial discharge group and for both non-custodial groups (figure 2). Almost one in ten (8%) males and one in twenty (4%) females in the non-custodial group were reconvicted after 12 months compared to 23% of males and no females in the custodial discharge group. After 18 months, 14% of the males and 7% of females in the non-custodial group were reconvicted. The corresponding figures for the custodial discharge group were 37% and 8% respectively.

40. After two years, the reconviction rate for males was still considerably higher than that for females. Almost one in two (46%) male custodial discharges and almost one in five (18%) of the male non-custodial group were reconvicted compared to 15% of female custodial discharges and almost one in ten (9%) of the female non-custodial group.

Reconviction - criminal history

41. Past studies by Spicer & Glicksman (2004) and Kerr & Wilson (2000), have shown that for both those who received non-custodial penalties and those discharged from prison, the greater the number of previous convictions, the higher the reconviction rate.

42. This section looks at the differences in reconviction rates and reconviction intervals with previous criminal history (convictions prior to the baseline conviction or date sentenced to custody). Table 6 shows the two-year reconviction rates by criminal history for those who received a non-custodial disposal in 2001.

Table 6: Non-custodial group – two-year reconviction rate by previous criminal history

Criminal History	Total	Reconvicted	
No previous convictions	8,146	721	(9%)
1-4 previous convictions	6,486	1,184	(18%)
5-8 previous convictions	1,981	482	(24%)
9-12 previous convictions	900	282	(31%)
13-16 previous convictions	507	169	(33%)
17+ previous convictions	690	300	(43%)
Total previous convictions	10,564	2,417	(23%)
Total	18,710	3,138	(17%)

43. Table 6 shows that 56% (10,564) of the non-custodial group had at least one previous conviction. The reconviction rate for those given a non-custodial disposal and who had a previous conviction was 23%, more than double the reconviction rate for those with no previous convictions (9%).

44. In general, the highest reconviction rates for the non-custodial group were associated with the highest numbers of previous convictions. The reconviction rate for

those with 1-4 previous convictions was 18% compared to 31% for those with 9-12 previous convictions and 43% for those with 17 or more previous convictions.

Table 7: Non-custodial group – two-year reconviction rate by age and previous criminal history

Age group	Previous convictions			No previous convictions		
	N	Reconvicted		N	Reconvicted	
17-19 years	795	347	(44%)	1,462	322	(22%)
20-29 years	4,030	1,104	(27%)	3,003	265	(9%)
30-39 years	3,213	594	(18%)	1,863	81	(4%)
40-49 years	1,691	277	(16%)	1,015	34	(3%)
50-59 years	663	84	(13%)	566	15	(3%)
60 years and over	172	11	(6%)	237	4	(2%)
Total	10,564	2,417	(23%)	8,146	721	(9%)

45. Table 7 shows that regardless of previous criminal history, the highest reconviction rates were for the younger age groups. 44% of 17-19 year olds with a previous criminal history and one in five (22%) 17-19 year olds with no previous criminal history were reconvicted within two years. This was compared to 6% of those aged 60 years and over with a previous criminal history and 2% of those in the same age category with no previous criminal history. Reconviction rates were higher for those with a previous conviction compared to those with no previous conviction across all age groups.

Table 8: Custodial discharge group – two-year reconviction rate by previous criminal history*

Criminal history	Total	Reconvicted	
No previous convictions	3	0	(-)
1-4 previous convictions	151	30	(20%)
5-8 previous convictions	133	56	(42%)
9-12 previous convictions	109	59	(54%)
13-16 previous convictions	92	43	(47%)
17+ previous convictions	215	129	(60%)
Total previous convictions	700	317	(45%)
Total	703	317	(45%)

*Caution – small numbers in some categories (-) value is less than 0.5%

46. Table 8 shows that almost all (700 out of 703) of the custodial discharge group had at least one previous conviction. A sound comparison in reconviction rates between those who did, and did not, have previous convictions is not possible due to the small numbers who had no previous convictions.

47. However, similar to the non-custodial group, in general those with a greater number of previous convictions had a greater likelihood of reconviction. The reconviction rate for those with 1-4 previous convictions was 20% compared to 60% for those with 17 or more previous convictions.

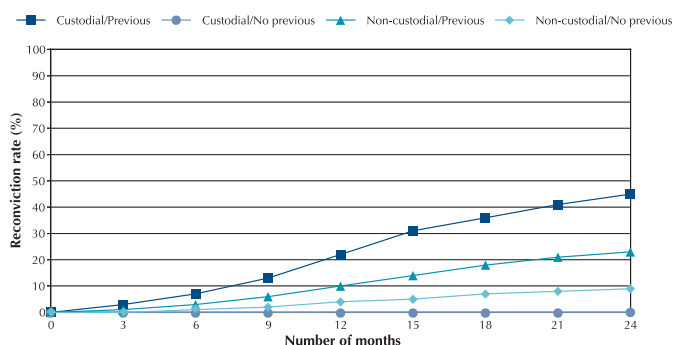
Table 9: Custodial discharge group – two-year reconviction rate by age and previous criminal history*

Age group	Previous convictions			No previous convictions		
	N	Reconvicted	(%)	N	Reconvicted	(%)
17-19 years	85	61	(72%)	0	0	(-)
20-29 years	356	182	(51%)	0	0	(-)
30-39 years	160	60	(38%)	1	0	(-)
40-49 years	65	12	(18%)	2	0	(-)
50-59 years	26	2	(8%)	0	0	(-)
60 years and over	8	0	(-)	0	0	(-)
Total	700	317	(45%)	3	0	(-)

*Caution – small numbers in some categories
(-) value is less than 0.5%

48. Table 9 shows that for the custodial discharge group those in the younger age groups had higher reconviction rates compared to older offenders. 72% of 17-19 year olds were reconvicted within two years compared with 8% of 50-59 year olds. There were no reconvictions among the small number (3) who had no previous convictions.

Figure 3: Reconviction interval by criminal history



49. There were differences between the reconviction intervals of those with previous convictions and those with no previous convictions (Figure 3). This is true for both the non-custodial group and the custodial discharge group, although the small number of offenders in the custody discharge group who had no previous convictions (3 out of 703) should be borne in mind. After six months, 7% of the custodial discharge group and 3% of the non-custodial group with prior convictions were reconvicted compared to none (of the 3 offenders concerned) in the custodial discharge group and 1% of the non-custodial group with no

prior convictions. After 12 months, 22% of the custodial discharge group and 10% of the non-custodial group with prior convictions were reconvicted compared to none of the custodial discharge group and 4% of the non-custodial group with no prior convictions.

50. After two years, 45% of the custodial discharge group and 23% of the non-custodial group with prior convictions were reconvicted compared to none of the custodial discharge group and 9% of the non-custodial group with no prior convictions. The differences shown in Figure 3, as with previous studies, suggest that prior offending is an important predictor of reconviction.

Reconviction - baseline offence category

51. Reconviction rates also vary depending on the type of offence committed. Table 10 shows the two-year reconviction rates by baseline offence category for those who received a non-custodial disposal in 2001.

Table 10: Non-custodial group - two-year reconviction rate by baseline offence category*

Primary offence category	Total	Reconvicted	(%)
Violence against the person	1,051	239	(23%)
Sexual offences	43	5	(12%)
Robbery	18	6	(33%)
Violent offences**	1,112	250	(22%)
Theft	1,007	283	(28%)
Burglary	165	87	(53%)
Criminal damage	500	157	(31%)
Property offences***	1,672	527	(32%)
Offences against the state	109	30	(28%)
Drug offences	296	68	(23%)
Fraud/Forgery	273	63	(23%)
Other	13	1	(8%)
Indictable offences	3,475	939	(27%)
Summary offences	2,762	599	(22%)
Motoring offences	12,474	1,600	(13%)
Total	18,710	3,138	(17%)

*Caution – small numbers in some categories

**Includes violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery

***Includes burglary, theft and criminal damage

52. Looking at offence qualifier, the highest reconviction rate was for the more serious indictable offences (27%), followed by summary offences (22%). Motoring offences showed the lowest reconviction rate overall at 13%.

53. Concentrating on indictable offences, higher reconviction rates were recorded for property offences (32%) than for violent offences (22%). Of the individual baseline offence categories burglary (53%) had the highest reconviction rate, followed by robbery (33% - caution, small numbers) and criminal damage (31%). Theft and offences against the state both had a reconviction rate of 28% while violence against the person, fraud/forgery and drug offences all had a rate of 23%. The reconviction rate for sexual offences was 12%, though care should be taken when interpreting this figure due to the small numbers involved.

Table 11: Custodial discharge group – two-year reconviction rate by baseline offence category*

Primary Offence Category	Total	Reconvicted	
Violence against the person	139	47	(34%)
Sexual offences	50	10	(20%)
Robbery	68	30	(44%)
Violent offences**	257	87	(34%)
Theft	119	81	(68%)
Burglary	64	41	(64%)
Criminal damage	31	18	(58%)
Property offences***	214	140	(65%)
Offences against the state	26	15	(58%)
Drug offences	59	17	(29%)
Fraud/Forgery	26	7	(27%)
Other	54	19	(35%)
Motoring offences	67	32	(48%)
Total	703	317	(45%)

*Caution – small numbers in some categories

**Includes violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery

***Includes burglary, theft and criminal damage

54. The breakdown by offence type for those discharged from custody is only available by the range of offence types recorded on the Prison Index System. Whilst it is therefore not possible to split the figures by Indictable, Summary or Motoring offences, these offences would have been the more serious offences since they did attract custodial disposals.

55. Table 11 shows that higher reconviction rates were again associated with property offences with an overall rate of 65% (68% for theft, 64% for burglary and 58% for criminal damage). Violent offences, with an overall rate of 34%, showed a range of reconviction rates from 20% for sexual offences to 34% for violence against the person and 44% for robbery. Motoring offences showed a relatively

high reconviction rate of 48% while drug offences showed a lower rate of 29%. Care should be taken in interpreting these figures due to the small numbers involved in many categories.

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