
To: North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority

On: 12th December 2014

Report by: Planning Officer

**Heading: North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority
Reconviction Rates 2014 (2011-2012 cohort)**

1. Summary

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to inform the authority of the latest released reconviction figures for the NSCJA area.
- 1.2** On 10th June 2014 the Crime and Justice series statistical bulletin: Reconviction Rates in Scotland: 2011-12 Offender Cohort was published.
- 1.3** In the North Strathclyde CJA area there were 3805 offenders discharged from custody or given a non custodial sentence in 2011-12. In the following year, these 3805 offenders had a one year frequency rate of 0.52 reconvictions for every offender, matching the national rate.
- 1.4** The current one year frequency rates for each local authority area are:
- | | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| • Argyll & Bute | 0.38 |
| • East & West Dunbartonshire | 0.59 |
| • East Renfrewshire & Renfrewshire | 0.49 |
| • Inverclyde | 0.55 |
- 1.5** Those aged under 18 have the highest one year reconviction figures. The female reconviction frequency rate and one year reconviction figures in this age group are significantly above the national figures. The corresponding figures for males in this age group mirror the national figures.

- 1.6 Over the past five years there has been a decline in the one year reconviction rate. In 2007-08 the one year reconviction rate was 32.1 per cent, whereas in 2011-12 it is 28.3 per cent; a reduction of 3.8 percentage points. Over the same time period there has been a reduction in the reconviction frequency rate from 0.55 to 0.52; a reduction of 0.03 reconvictions per offender.
- 1.7 Offenders given a Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) do not have the highest reconviction frequency rate compared to other disposals for the first time in the last five years. In North Strathclyde the reconviction frequency rate is nearly half the rate in Scotland: in 2007-08 the one year reconviction frequency rate was 1.41 and in 2011-12 the rate is 0.73, representing a decrease of 0.68 reconvictions for every offender
- 1.8 Offenders who commit a crime of dishonesty have the highest reconviction frequency rate compared to those who commit other crimes, and offenders who commit a sexual crime have the lowest reconviction frequency rate. In 2011-12, the reconviction frequency rate is 0.84 for offenders who committed crimes of dishonesty and 0.21 for offenders who committed a sexual crime
- 1.9 Offenders who were released from a custodial sentence of 3 - 6 months have the highest reconviction frequency rate compared to those who were released from longer sentences. The reconviction frequency rate for those released from a sentence of 3- 6 months 1.26. This compares with a reconviction frequency rate of 0.17 for those released from a sentence of over 4 years
- 2.0 A fuller analysis of the Reconviction Rates for North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority area can be found in Appendix 1 to this report.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Note the content of this report and Appendix 1
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3. Background

- 3.1 The underlying principle of measuring recidivism is that someone who has received some form of criminal justice sanction (such as a community sentence or a fine) goes on to commit another offence within a set time period. In this case, the cohort of interest consists of offenders who have been released from a custodial sentence or received a non-custodial sentence during the period 2011-2012
- 3.2 **Reconviction frequency rate** – the average number of reconvictions within a specified follow up period from the date of the index conviction per offender. Unless stated otherwise the reconviction frequency rates that are quoted in this report are for a follow-up period of one year.

Reconviction rate – in the case of a court disposal, the percentage of offenders with index convictions in the cohort who were reconvicted one or more times within a specified follow up period from the relevant date of the index conviction. Unless stated otherwise the reconviction rates that are quoted in this report are for a follow-up period of one year. Note: In the case of a non-court disposal, this is the percentage of individuals who received a further non-court disposal within a specified follow up period from the relevant date of the index conviction.

3.3 Approximate areas are based on the court of the offenders index conviction. Some Sheriff Court boundaries include more than one local authority area.

The caveat to the presented figures for North Strathclyde CJA is:

- Parts of East Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute are also served by Glasgow Sheriff Court as well as the Sheriff Courts in North Strathclyde. However, since this analysis is based on an approximation of court areas, East Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute have been included with North Strathclyde whilst Glasgow Sheriff Court is included with Glasgow CJA area.
- East and West Dunbartonshire (Dumbarton Sheriff Court) Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire (Paisley Sheriff Court)

3.4 It is important to note that information on **convictions** and **reconvictions** is not the same thing as information on **offending** and **reoffending**, or **recidivism**

Implications of the Report

1. Equality & Human Rights

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report as the report is for noting. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Authorities website.

Author Willie Kennedy, Planning Officer, North Strathclyde CJA,
Tel: 0141 887 6133, e-mail: william.kennedy@renfrewshire.gsx.gov.uk

North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority

Reconviction Rates Report 2014 **(2011-12 Cohort)**

Introduction

1. This publication provides analyses of one year reconviction rates and one year reconviction frequency rates for the cohort of offenders released from a custodial sentence or receiving a non-custodial disposal in 2011-12, including non-court disposals for the local authority areas that constitute North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority.
2. The one year reconviction rate has fallen by 0.8 percentage points, the most recent figure being 29.1 per cent in 2011-12 ([Chart 1](#)). The one year reconviction frequency rate for the 2011-12 cohort is 0.52 reconvictions per offender, a slight decrease on the 2010-11 reconviction frequency rate of 0.53 ([Chart 2](#)).
3. Using the convention laid out in the Scottish Government's 'Justice Dashboard' for determining the direction of change, the decrease of 0.01 in the frequency rate indicates that the position is worsening across the NSCJA area. This however cannot be regarded in isolation and other determinants need to be taken into consideration.

Key points

1. Over the past five years there has been a decline in the one year reconviction rate. In 2007-08 the one year reconviction rate was 32.1 per cent, whereas in 2011-12 it is 28.3 per cent; a reduction of 3.8 percentage points. Over the same time period there has been a reduction in the reconviction frequency rate from 0.55 to 0.52; a reduction of 0.03 reconvictions per offender.
2. There has been a fall over time in the number of reconvictions for the under 21 age group. In 2007-08 this group had a one year reconviction rate of 38.1 and in 2011-12 the one year reconviction rate is 31.4; over the five year period a fall of 6.7 percentage points. Over the same time period there has been a reduction in the reconviction frequency rate from 0.67 to 0.57; a reduction of 0.10 reconvictions per offender.
3. Over the past five years the number of offenders discharged from custody or given a non-custodial sentence has decreased from 4664 in 2007-08 to 3805 in 2011-12. During this period, there has generally been a decline in the one year reconviction frequency rate and a corresponding decline in the one year reconviction rate.
4. Offenders given a Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) do not have the highest reconviction frequency rate compared to other disposals for the first time in the last five years. In North Strathclyde the reconviction frequency rate is nearly half the rate in Scotland: in 2007-08 the one year reconviction frequency rate was 1.41 and in 2011-12 the rate is 0.73, representing a decrease of 0.68 reconvictions for every offender. ([Table 8](#)).
5. Offenders who commit a crime of dishonesty have the highest reconviction frequency rate compared to those who commit other crimes, and offenders who commit a sexual crime have the lowest reconviction frequency rate. In 2011-12, the reconviction frequency rate is 0.84 for offenders who committed crimes of dishonesty and 0.21 for offenders who committed a sexual crime.

6. Offenders who were released from a custodial sentence of 3 - 6 months have the highest reconviction frequency rate compared to those who were released from longer sentences. The reconviction frequency rate for those released from a sentence of 3- 6 months 1.26. This compares with a reconviction frequency rate of 0.17 for those released from a sentence of over 4 years.

Age and gender (Tables)

1. Males have higher reconviction frequency rates and higher reconviction rates than females (Chart 3; Table1 and Table 2). The reconviction frequency rate in 2011-12 is 0.54 and 0.40 for males and females respectively, the reconviction rates are 29.6 and 21.6 per cent.
2. Those aged below 18 have the highest one year reconviction figures (Charts 4 - 7). The overall and local authority figures can be seen in Table 3.
The one year reconviction rate is 40.1 in 2011-12, a decrease of 0.2 percentage points since 2007-08. The reconviction frequency rate for this age group is 0.76 in 2011-12 a fall of 0.05 reconvictions for every offender since 2007-08. The gender specific reconviction frequency rate in 2011-12 for this age group is 0.75 and 0.85 for males and females respectively, the reconviction rates are 40.9 and 35 per cent. The female reconviction frequency rate and one year reconviction figures in this age group are significantly above the national figures of 0.52 and 25.7. The corresponding figures for males in this age group mirror the national figures.
3. Those offenders aged 17 have a one year reconviction rate and one year reconviction frequency rate of 39.3 and 0.73 respectively, for 2011-12. These are both above the national figures of 37.4 and 0.68. The reconviction frequency rate in 2011-12 for males and females respectively in this age group is 0.72 and 0.38, a reduction of 0.12 and 0.08 reconvictions per offender on the previous year's figures and a decrease of 0.07 and 0.41 respectively since 2007-08.
The reconviction rates for the same groups are 41.3 and 26.7 per cent. These show an increase of 0.2 and 11.3 percentage points on last year's figures; however the male figure displays an increase of 3.7 and the female figure a decrease of 7.8 since 2007-08.
When compared to the national figures, both the reconviction rate and frequency rate figures for females in this age group are below the figure, however, whilst the frequency rate for males is the same, the reconviction rate is higher.
Given the small numbers in this age group, it should be remembered that any slight variation in the numbers has a dramatic effect on both the reconviction and frequency rates.
Visual representation can be viewed at Charts 10 &11.
4. Those offenders aged 16 have a one year reconviction rate and one year reconviction frequency rate of 42.5 and 0.85 respectively, for 2011-12. These are both above the national figures of 38.8 and 0.82. The reconviction frequency rate in 2011-12 for males and females respectively in this age group is 0.83 and 1.00, an increase of 0.14 for male offenders and 1.00 for female offenders (as there was no rate for the previous year), on the previous year's figures and a decrease of 0.06 for males and increase of 0.25 for females since 2007-08.
The reconviction rates for the same groups are 40.0 and 60.0 per cent. These show an increase of 1.1 for males, with no comparison for females on last year's figures; however the male figure displays a decrease of 10.0 and the female figure an increase of 26.7 since 2007-08.

When compared to the national figures, both the reconviction rate and frequency rate figures for males in this age group are below the figure, however, both the figures for females are significantly higher.

Given the small numbers in this age group, it should be remembered that any slight variation in the numbers has a dramatic effect on both the reconviction and frequency rates.

Visual representation can be viewed at Charts 12 & 13.

5. The reconviction frequency rate in 2011-12 for those aged under 21 is 0.57, a slight decrease of 0.01 reconvictions for every offender since 2009-10. The reconviction rate is 31.4 in 2011-12, a decrease of 2.3 percentage points since 2009-10. (Table 4).

The reconviction frequency rate in 2011-12 for males and females respectively in this age group is 0.59 and 0.43, a reduction of 0.01 and 0.02 reconvictions per offender on the previous year's figures and a decrease of 0.11 and 0.04 respectively since 2007-08.

Charts 14&15

The reconviction rates for the same groups are 32.7 and 23.1 per cent. These show a decrease of 2.4 and 0.6 on last year's figures and a decrease of 6.7 and 5.2 since 2007-08. These are markedly below the national figures.

6. Those aged 21 to 25 have a one year reconviction frequency rate of 0.52 and a one year reconviction rate of 30.7 (Table 5). These represent a significant reduction of 0.09 and 3.6 on last year's figures.

The reconviction frequency rate in 2011-12 for males and females respectively in this age group is 0.55 and 0.3; this shows a reduction of 0.06 and 0.28 on last year's figures, and a reduction of 0.07 and 0.2 on the 2007-08 figures.

The reconviction rates for the same groups are 31.9 and 22.2 per cent a reduction 4.2 and 1.6 respectively on last year's figures and a reduction of 5.7 and 3.0 on the 2007-08 figures.

When compared to the national figures, the overall reconviction frequency rate and the reconviction frequency rate for North Strathclyde are similar, with the frequency rate figure being 0.02 lower. The reconviction rate for males is 0.3 higher and the frequency rate is the same as the national figure. Both the reconviction rate and frequency rate for females are lower than the national figures by 3.3 and 0.18 respectively

7. The one year reconviction frequency rate in 2011-12 for those aged 26-30 is 0.67, an increase of 0.04 on the previous year's figure. The one year reconviction rate is 34.7 an increase of 0.9 percentage points on the 2009-10 figure. The overall and local authority figures can be seen in Table 6.

The reconviction frequency rate in 2011-12 for males and females respectively in this age group is 0.71 and 0.49, an increase on last year's figures for both measures of 0.03 and 0.10 respectively and an increase of 0.09 for the male figure with a decrease of 0.01 for the female figure compared to the 2007-08 figures.

The reconviction rates in 2011-12 for males and females are 37.5% and 21.7%, this represents an increase on last year's figures of 1.5 percentage points for males and a slight decrease of 0.3 for females.

The overall figures for this age group are below the national figures. The figures for males in this age group when compared to the national figures are significantly higher by 4.3 and 0.08 respectively.

The female figures are 7.0 and 0.09 below the national figures.

8. The one year reconviction frequency rate and one year reconviction rate for all those aged over 30 in 2011-12 are 0.44 and 24.1. This shows no change in the frequency rate and an increase of 0.2 on the reconviction rate when compared to last year's figures. The 2011-12 overall and local authority figures can be viewed in Table 7.

The reconviction frequency rate in 2011-12 for this age group is 0.46 and 0.38 for males and females respectively, this shows the male figure as being the same as last year's whilst the female figure has increased by 0.04. However when compared with the 2007-08 figure, the male rate has increased by 0.03 whilst the female rate has decreased by 0.06.

The reconviction rates for the same groups in 2011-12 are 24.8 and 21.0 per cent. Whilst the male figure shows a slight reduction of 0.2 the female figure shows an increase of 2.2 percentage points on the 2010-11 figures. However when compared with the 2007-08 figures they both show a reduction of 1.1 and 4.2 percentage points respectively.

When compared to the national figures, both the overall and male figures are lower whilst the female figures are similar.

Chart 1

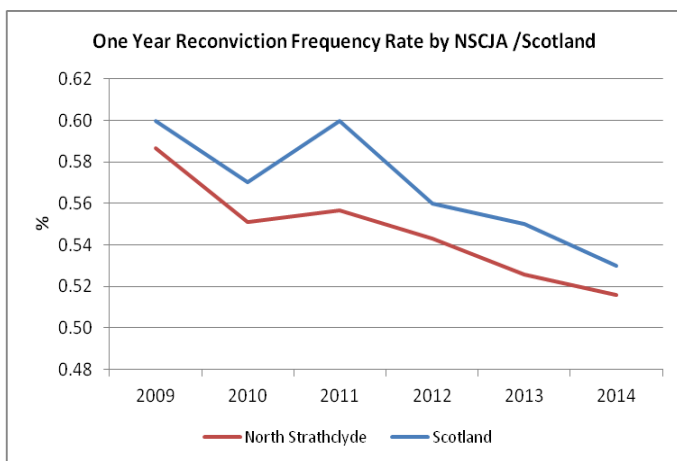


Chart 2

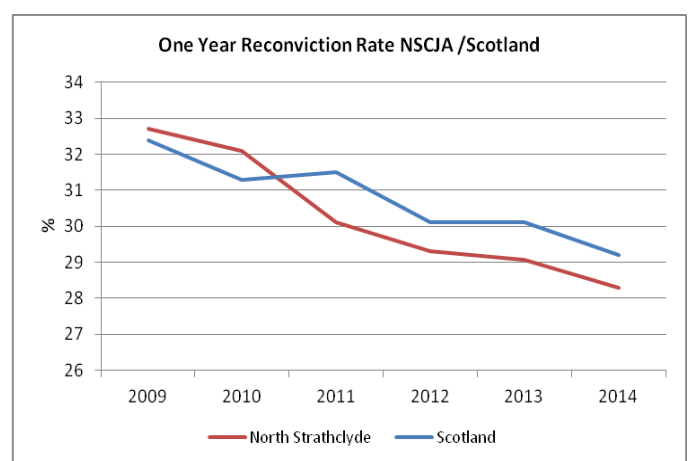


Chart 3

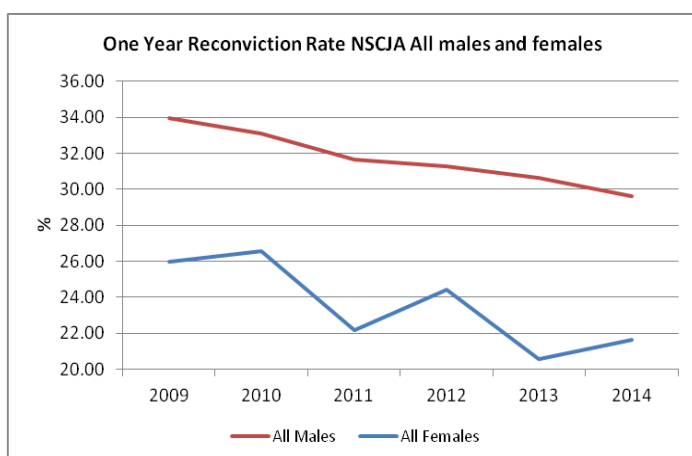


Chart 4

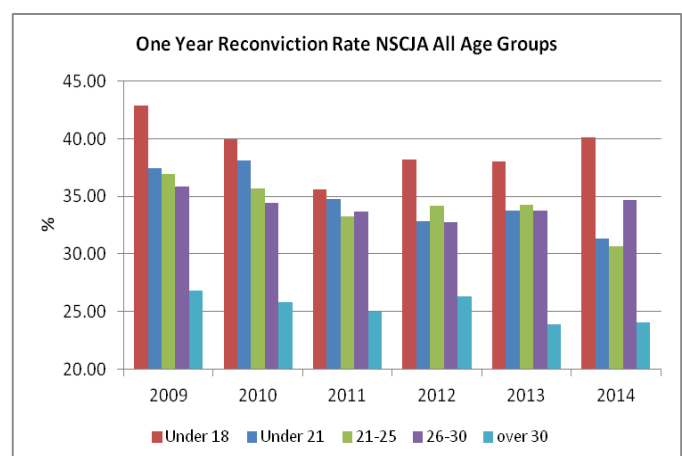


Chart 5

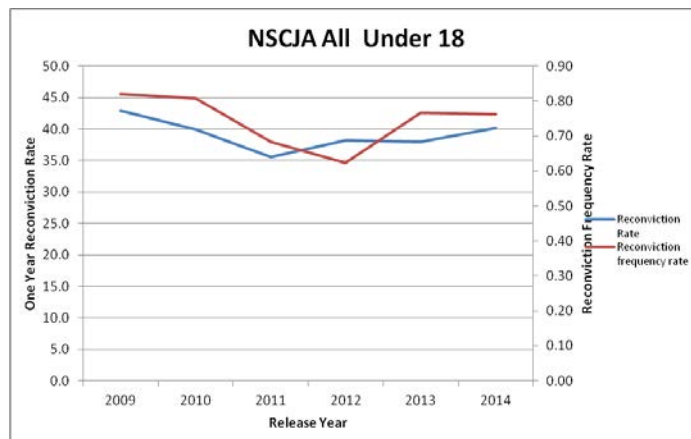


Chart 6

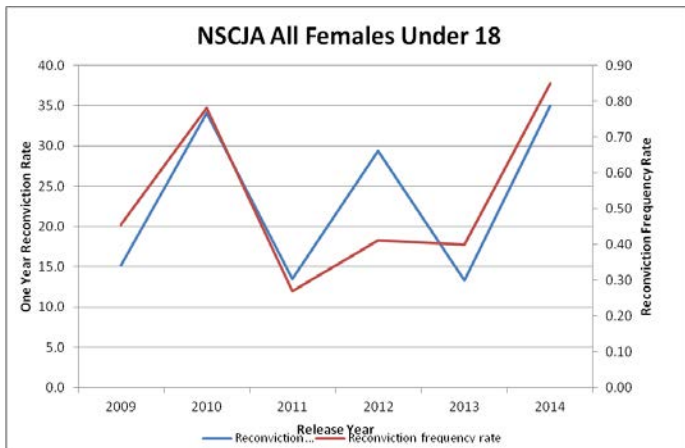


Chart 7

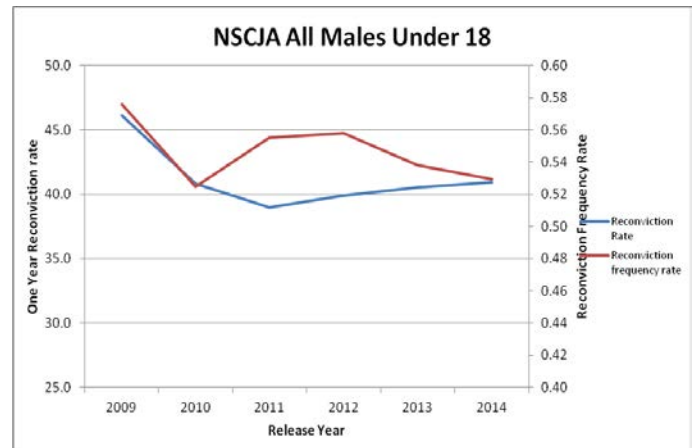


Chart 8

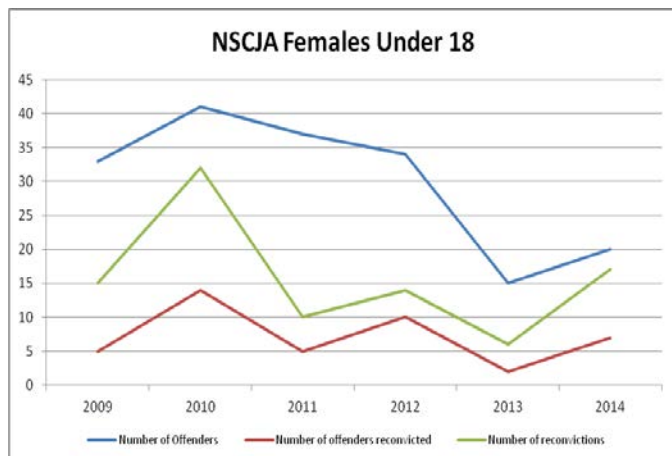


Chart 9

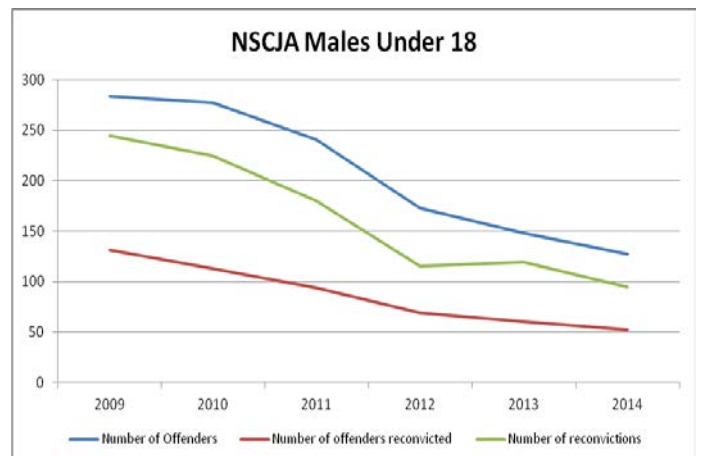


Chart 10

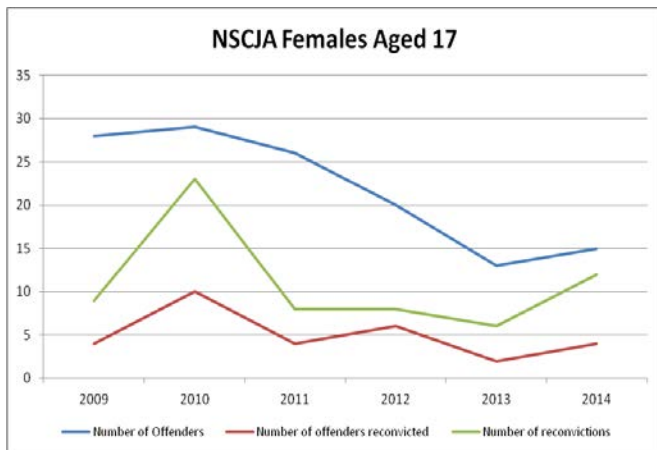


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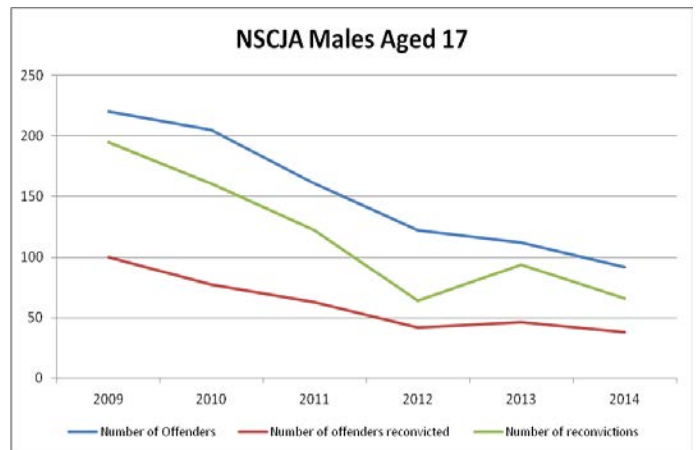


Chart 12

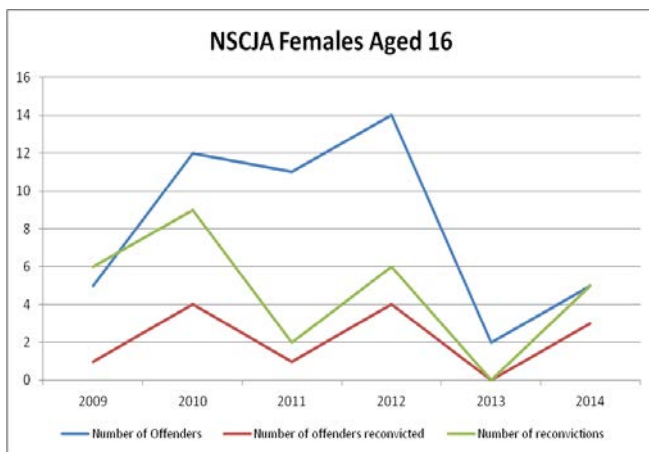


Chart 13

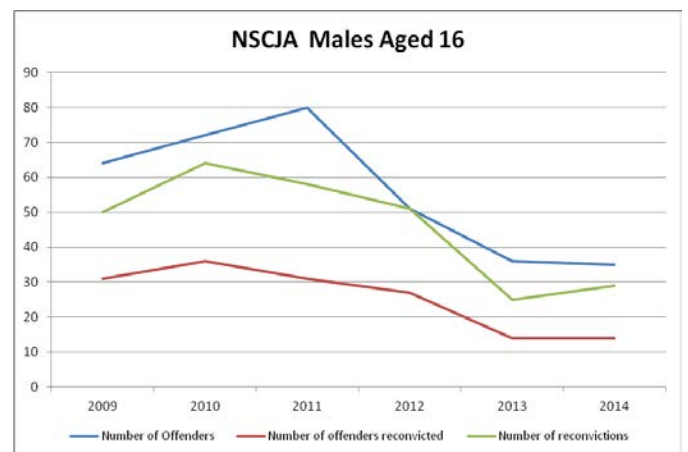


Chart 14

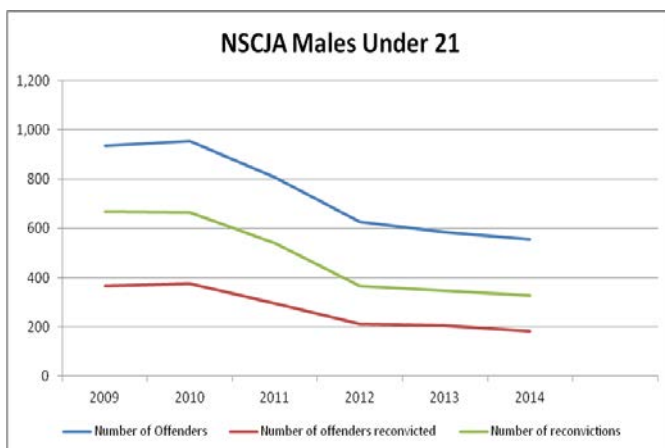


Chart 15

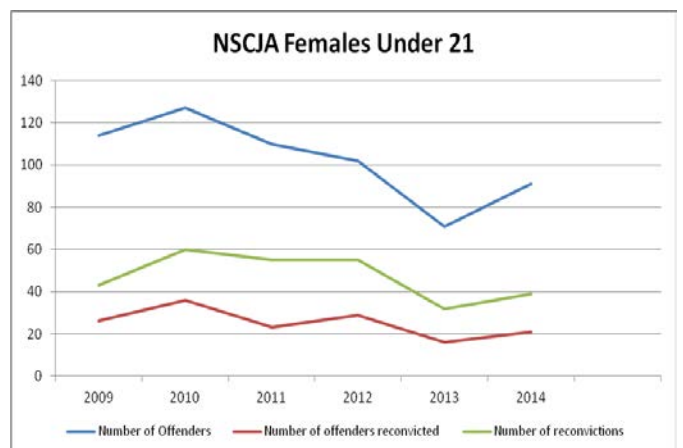


Table 1 :One year reconviction rates and one year frequency rates per local authority Males

Local authority area / community justice area	Number of Offenders	Number of offenders reconvicted	Reconviction Rate %	Number of reconvictions	Reconviction frequency rate
North Strathclyde	3171	939	29.6	1711	0.54
Argyll & Bute	469	120	25.6	183	0.39
East and West Dunbartonshire	889	285	32.1	551	0.62
East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire	1202	338	28.1	609	0.51
Inverclyde	611	196	32.1	368	0.60

Table 2 :One year reconviction rates and one year frequency rates per local authority Females

Local authority area / community justice area	Number of Offenders	Number of offenders reconvicted	Reconviction Rate %	Number of reconvictions	Reconviction frequency rate
North Strathclyde	634	137	21.6	251	0.40
Argyll & Bute	85	16	18.8	27	0.32
East and West Dunbartonshire	185	50	27.0	87	0.47
East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire	223	48	21.5	90	0.40
Inverclyde	141	23	16.3	47	0.33

Table 3 :One year reconviction rates and one year frequency rates per local authority Under 18 years of age

Local authority area / community justice area	Number of Offenders	Number of offenders reconvicted	Reconviction Rate %	Number of reconvictions	Reconviction frequency rate
North Strathclyde	147	59	40.1	112	0.76
Argyll & Bute	25	8	**	10	0.40
East and West Dunbartonshire	34	11	32.4	23	0.68
East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire	67	32	47.8	63	0.94
Inverclyde	21	8	**	16	0.76

Table 4 :One year reconviction rates and one year frequency rates per local authority Under 21 years of age

Local authority area / community justice area	Number of Offenders	Number of offenders reconvicted	Reconviction Rate %	Number of reconvictions	Reconviction frequency rate
North Strathclyde	647	203	31.4	366	0.57
Argyll & Bute	104	22	21.2	30	0.29
East and West Dunbartonshire	169	52	30.8	102	0.60
East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire	245	85	34.7	151	0.62
Inverclyde	129	44	34.1	83	0.64

Table 5 :One year reconviction rates and one year frequency rates per local authority 21 – 25 years of age

Local authority area / community justice area	Number of Offenders	Number of offenders reconvicted	Reconviction Rate %	Number of reconvictions	Reconviction frequency rate
North Strathclyde	733	225	30.7	381	0.52
Argyll & Bute	120	29	24.2	45	0.38
East and West Dunbartonshire	208	73	35.1	132	0.63
East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire	265	84	31.7	149	0.56
Inverclyde	140	39	27.9	55	0.39

Table 6 :One year reconviction rates and one year frequency rates per local authority 26 – 30 years of age

Local authority area / community justice area	Number of Offenders	Number of offenders reconvicted	Reconviction Rate %	Number of reconvictions	Reconviction frequency rate
North Strathclyde	602	209	34.7	406	0.67
Argyll & Bute	90	35	38.9	59	0.66
East and West Dunbartonshire	161	62	38.5	136	0.84
East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire	230	66	28.7	109	0.47
Inverclyde	121	46	38.0	102	0.84

Table 7 :One year reconviction rates and one year frequency rates per local authority over 30 years of age

Local authority area / community justice area	Number of Offenders	Number of offenders reconvicted	Reconviction Rate %	Number of reconvictions	Reconviction frequency rate %
North Strathclyde	1823	439	24.1	809	0.44
Argyll & Bute	240	50	20.8	76	0.32
East and West Dunbartonshire	536	148	27.6	268	0.50
East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire	685	151	22.0	290	0.42
Inverclyde	362	90	24.9	175	0.48

Table 8: DTTO one year reconviction rates and one year frequency rates.

	North Strathclyde		Scotland	
	Reconviction Rate %	Reconviction frequency rate	Reconviction Rate %	Reconviction frequency rate
2006-07	70	1.25	75.2	2.03
2007-08	71.9	1.41	70.9	1.94
2008-09	65.7	1.40	67.6	1.77
2009-10	65.6	1.94	66	1.68
2010-11	66.7	1.44	66.5	1.60
2011-12	46.7	0.73	56.1	1.45