



Statistics Release

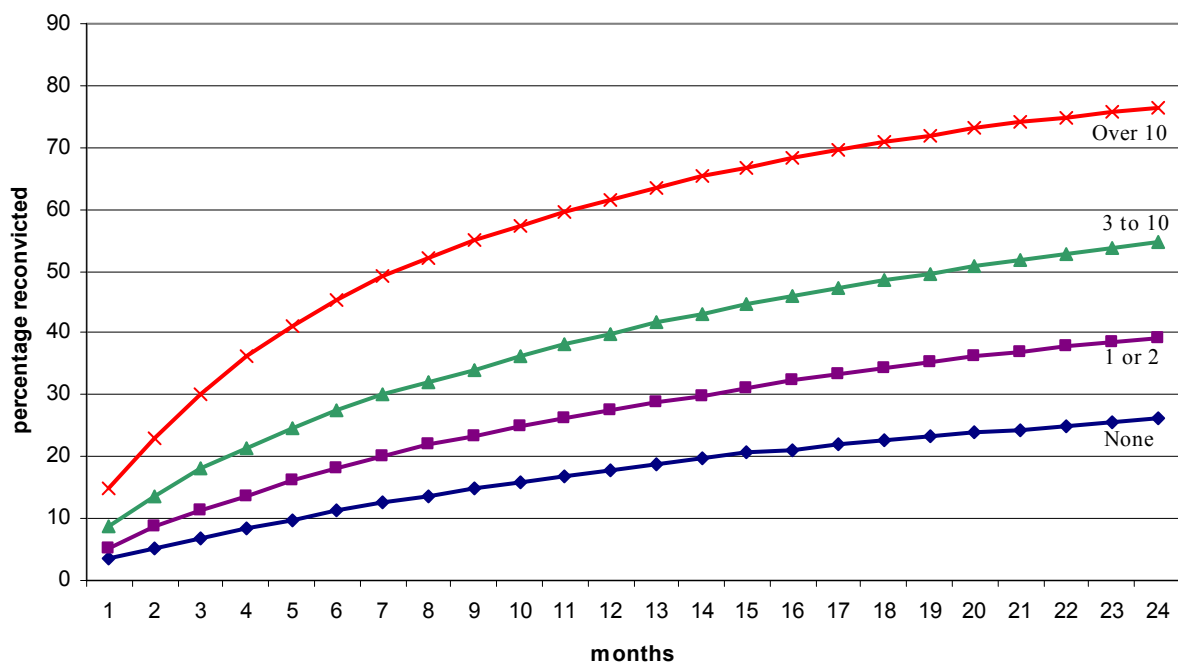
31 October 2006

RECONVICTIONS OF OFFENDERS DISCHARGED FROM CUSTODY OR GIVEN NON-CUSTODIAL SENTENCES IN 2002/03, SCOTLAND

Introduction

This statistics release presents information on the two year reconviction rates for all offenders who were released from custody or who were given non-custodial sentences in 2002/03. The rates are shown by the age and sex of offenders; by sentence type and the main crime for which they were convicted; by their previous conviction history; and by geographical area. The corresponding rates for the offender cohorts from 1995/96 are also presented for comparison. Reconviction statistics are published every two years in a statistical bulletin, and this statistics release provides an interim update between the 2005 and 2007 bulletins.

Chart 1: Percentage of offenders reconvicted within two years of release from custody or sentence in 2002/03 by number of previous convictions



Characteristics of the 2002/03 cohort

The analysis presented in this release relates to a total of 44,848 individual offenders for whom convictions data are recorded on the Scottish Offenders Index, and who were either discharged from a custodial sentence in 2002/03 (5,984 offenders), or who received a non-custodial sentence in 2002/03 (38,864 offenders). Of this cohort, 84 per cent were male; 25 per cent were aged under 21; over half were originally convicted of a violent crime (25 per cent) or a crime of dishonesty (26 per cent); 32 per cent had no previous convictions while 17 per cent had over 10; and 76 per cent had no previous custodial convictions while 4 per cent had over 10.

Reconviction rates by age and gender

Of the 44,848 offenders in the 2002/03 cohort, 23 per cent were reconvicted within six months, 33 per cent within one year and 45 per cent within two years. The proportion of offenders with a custodial reconviction was 7 per cent within six months rising to 15 per cent after two years.

Males were more likely to be reconvicted than females for all age groups: 47 per cent of males were reconvicted within two years compared to 37 per cent of females. Males (16 per cent) were twice as likely as females (8 per cent) to receive a custodial reconviction within two years. However, for those persons who are reconvicted at least once within two years, there was little difference between the sexes in the average number of reconvictions they acquired.

Reconviction rates decreased by age: 54 per cent of under 21 year olds were reconvicted within two years compared to 35 per cent of those aged over 30. This is reflected in the trend for males where the rate of reconviction also decreases by age. However, the relationship between age and reconviction for females in this cohort is more complicated, with those females aged 21 to 30 the most likely to be reconvicted.

**Table 1: Persons released from a custodial sentence or given a non-custodial sentence in 2002/03
Percentage reconvicted within 6 months to 2 years, by sex, age and average number of reconvictions within two years**

Sex by age	Total number (=100%)	Percentage reconvicted within:			Percentage with a custodial reconviction within:			Average number of reconvictions ⁽¹⁾ within 2 years:
		6 months	1 year	2 years	6 months	1 year	2 years	
Persons	44,848	23	33	45	7	10	15	2.6
under 21	11,070	29	41	54	7	11	16	2.9
21 to 25	9,929	26	37	51	9	14	19	2.7
26 to 30	7,134	24	34	47	9	13	18	2.5
over 30	16,715	17	24	35	5	7	11	2.2
Males	37,770	24	34	47	8	11	16	2.6
under 21	9,628	30	43	56	7	12	17	2.9
21 to 25	8,448	27	38	52	10	15	21	2.7
26 to 30	5,975	25	35	48	10	14	20	2.6
over 30	13,719	17	25	36	5	8	12	2.2
Females	7,078	19	27	37	4	5	8	2.6
under 21	1,442	22	30	39	5	6	9	3.1
21 to 25	1,481	24	33	45	5	7	10	2.8
26 to 30	1,159	21	30	42	4	6	9	2.3
over 30	2,996	15	22	31	2	3	6	2.2

1. Average for offenders who had at least one reconviction within two years.

Reconviction rates by number and type of previous convictions

The likelihood of reconviction increased markedly with the number of previous convictions held by the offender. 76 per cent of those offenders with over 10 previous convictions were reconvicted within two years, compared with only 26 per cent of offenders with no previous convictions. Similarly, 66 per cent of those offenders with over 10 previous custodial convictions were given a further custodial conviction within two years, compared to 7 per cent of those with no previous custodial convictions.

For those offenders who had at least one reconviction within two years, the average number of reconvictions rose steadily from 2.1 for those with no previous convictions to 3.4 for those with over 10 previous convictions. The length of time to reconviction is also likely to be shorter for offenders with higher numbers of previous convictions. Forty-five per cent of offenders with over 10 previous convictions are reconvicted within 6 months compared to less than 30 per cent for all other groups. This is further illustrated by Chart 1 in the introduction which shows the reconviction rates in each month of the first two years following the offender's index conviction (defined below). The reconviction rates for offenders with over 10 previous convictions are significantly higher than the other groups from month 1.

Table 2: Persons released from a custodial sentence or given a non-custodial sentence in 2002/03
Percentage reconvicted within 6 months to 2 years by number and type of previous convictions ⁽¹⁾ and average number of reconvictions within 2 years

Number and type of previous convictions	Total number (=100%)	Percentage reconvicted within:			Percentage with a custodial reconviction within:			Average number of reconvictions ⁽³⁾ within 2 years:
		6 months	1 year	2 years	6 months	1 year	2 years	
All offenders	44,848	23	33	45	7	10	15	2.6
Number of previous convictions								
None	14,544	11	17	26	1	2	4	2.1
1 or 2	10,356	18	27	39	2	4	7	2.2
3 to 10	12,505	27	39	54	8	12	17	2.5
Over 10	7,443	45	61	76	24	33	45	3.4
Number of previous custodial convictions								
None	34,199	18	26	37	3	4	7	2.2
1 or 2	4,427	32	45	61	12	18	27	2.7
3 to 10	4,321	42	57	73	23	33	46	3.2
Over 10	1,901	57	72	85	40	52	66	4.1
Number of previous community convictions ⁽²⁾								
None	30,414	16	24	35	3	4	7	2.2
1 or 2	9,217	32	45	61	12	18	26	2.7
3 to 10	4,999	46	62	77	23	32	44	3.4
Over 10	218	58	72	82	29	40	50	4.7

1. Convictions since start of 1989.

2. Convictions resulting in probation or community service.

3. Average for offenders who had at least one reconviction within two years.

Reconviction rates by index disposal and index crime

For each offender in the 2002/03 cohort, their **index conviction** is defined to be the conviction which resulted in a non-custodial sentence being imposed, or the one which had originally led to a custodial sentence being served. The offender's **index disposal** and **index crime** refer to the type of sentence imposed and the main offence for which the offender was convicted in the index conviction.

Those offenders with a sexual index crime had the lowest reconviction rate on average (reconvictions for any crime or offence included in the Scottish Offenders Index – see Notes). 17 per cent were reconvicted within two years, although this is based on a particularly small number of offenders. Those with a crime of dishonesty as their index crime had the highest reconviction rate (58 per cent reconvicted within two years).

Those offenders who were discharged from a custodial sentence (64 per cent) or given probation (63 per cent), were on average more likely to be reconvicted within two years than those given community service (42 per cent) or a monetary penalty (41 per cent). Offenders discharged from custody were also much more likely to acquire a custodial reconviction: over two-fifths (45 per cent) were given a further custodial sentence within two years compared to just over 1 in 10 (11 per cent) of those given a non-custodial sentence. Of those offenders with at least one reconviction within two years, those who were discharged from custody (3.3) or given probation (3.1) have a greater number of reconvictions on average than those given community service (2.3) or a monetary penalty (2.3).

The comparison of reconviction rates across disposals is complicated by a number of issues such as pseudo reconvictions, which can have a differential effect across different types of disposal. The effect of pseudo reconvictions is discussed in a later section of this release. The characteristics of offenders receiving different disposals are also likely to be different and, indeed, the risk of re-offending is often taken into account at the time of sentence. Once the age, sex and number of previous convictions of offenders are taken into account, the differences observed in average reconviction rates for different types of index disposal are found to be less significant. In particular, the number of previous convictions tends to be the dominant factor in terms of the likelihood of reconviction.

Table 3: Persons released from a custodial sentence or given a non-custodial sentence in 2002/03
Percentage reconvicted within 6 months to 2 years by index disposal, index crime and average number of reconvictions within 2 years

Index disposal and crime	Total number (=100%)	Percentage reconvicted within:			Percentage with a custodial reconviction within:			Average number of reconvictions ⁽¹⁾ within 2 years:
		6 months	1 year	2 years	6 months	1 year	2 years	
All offenders	44,848	23	33	45	7	10	15	2.6
Index disposal in 2002/03								
Discharged from custody	5,984	37	50	64	24	34	45	3.3
Community Service	2,703	20	29	42	4	6	11	2.3
Probation	4,227	37	50	63	12	18	25	3.1
Monetary	24,878	20	29	41	4	6	9	2.3
Other	7,056	15	23	33	3	5	8	2.4
Index crime in 2002/03								
Violent crime	11,141	17	25	37	4	6	10	2.2
Sexual crime	460	7	12	17	2	3	5	1.8
Dishonesty	11,544	34	46	58	14	20	27	3.3
Criminal damage	3,069	21	31	43	3	6	10	2.3
Drugs offences	4,675	18	28	42	4	7	11	2.1
Breach of the peace	10,828	21	31	43	5	7	11	2.4
Other crimes and offences	3,131	22	33	46	6	10	15	2.4

1. Average for offenders who had at least one reconviction within two years.

Changes in reconviction rates over time

The analysis in this section compares two year reconviction rates for the 2002/03 cohort of offenders with those for the corresponding cohorts from 1995/96 onwards. When considering trends over time in reconviction rates, it should be borne in mind that these will be affected by changes in criminal justice policy and practice. For example, an increase in police clear up rates will, other things being equal, tend to increase reconviction rates. It is important to note that reconviction rates may also be affected by the characteristics of each cohort group (e.g. age, sex, index crime, index disposal etc). This analysis is based on unadjusted reconviction rates which do not take the characteristics of offenders and changes in criminal justice policy into account.

Table 4: Persons released from a custodial sentence or given a non-custodial sentence, 1995/96 to 2002/03

Percentage reconvicted within 2 years by sex and age

Sex by age	Percentage reconvicted within 2 years:							
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Persons	45	44	43	42	43	44	44	45
under 21	58	56	54	54	54	55	54	54
21 to 25	47	47	46	46	48	48	49	51
26 to 30	43	44	42	42	44	44	46	47
over 30	33	33	32	32	31	33	33	35
Males	46	46	44	44	44	45	46	47
under 21	60	59	56	56	56	56	56	56
21 to 25	48	48	47	47	49	49	50	52
26 to 30	45	45	43	42	44	45	47	48
over 30	34	34	33	33	32	34	34	36
Females	33	34	34	34	35	37	36	37
under 21	39	38	39	40	40	44	41	39
21 to 25	36	37	39	39	41	44	43	45
26 to 30	35	38	37	37	40	39	40	42
over 30	27	27	27	27	26	28	29	31

Over the period 1995/96 to 2002/03, the overall two year reconviction rate fell marginally from 45 per cent to 42 percent in 1998/99 and then increased to 45 per cent in 2002/03. This trend was driven by the reconviction rate for males. The reconviction rate for females steadily increased from 33 per cent in 1995/96 to 37 per cent in 2002/03, driven by increases in the reconviction rates for those females aged 21 to 30.

Table 5: Persons released from a custodial sentence or given a non-custodial sentence, 1995/96 to 2002/03

Percentage reconvicted within 2 years by number and type of previous convictions in the preceding four years

Number and type of previous convictions in preceding four years	Percentage reconvicted within 2 years:							
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
All offenders	45	44	43	42	43	44	44	45
Number of previous convictions								
None	26	27	25	24	25	26	26	27
1 or 2	48	47	46	45	45	46	48	49
3 to 10	73	71	69	68	68	70	71	72
Over 10	90	89	88	88	87	88	88	89
Number of previous custodial convictions								
None	39	39	37	36	36	38	38	39
1 or 2	71	71	67	67	67	67	68	70
3 to 10	84	84	84	82	82	82	84	84
Over 10	94	93	92	91	90	93	92	92
Number of previous community convictions⁽¹⁾								
None	39	39	37	37	37	38	38	39
1 or 2	73	69	69	67	66	67	68	69
3 to 10	86	82	81	81	82	82	82	85
Over 10	100	88	91	96	89	87	93	92

1. Convictions resulting in probation or community service.

Table 5 shows the two year reconviction rate by the number and type of previous convictions in the four years preceding the offender's index conviction. This differs from Table 2 which presented reconviction rates for the 2002/03 cohort of offenders by the number of previous convictions since 1989. Considering previous convictions over this fixed four year period allows these rates to be compared over time.

The reconviction rate by number of previous convictions in the four years preceding the index conviction follows the overall trend, decreasing between 1995/96 and 1998/99 and then increasing to 2002/03. Of the 2002/03 cohort, 27 per cent of those with no previous convictions in the preceding four years were reconvicted within 2 years, rising to 89 per cent for those with over 10 previous convictions in this period.

Table 6: Persons released from a custodial sentence or given a non-custodial sentence, 1995/96 to 2002/03

Percentage reconvicted within 2 years by index disposal and index crime

Index disposal and crime	Percentage reconvicted within 2 years:							
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
All offenders	45	44	43	42	43	44	44	45
Index disposal								
Discharged from custody	65	64	62	61	61	62	63	64
Community Service	49	47	44	42	42	43	42	42
Probation	64	60	59	59	59	60	61	63
Monetary	42	42	40	40	40	41	40	41
Other	34	33	33	31	31	33	33	33
Index crime								
Violent crime	38	38	36	34	34	36	35	37
Sexual crime	16	15	15	19	17	19	17	17
Dishonesty	49	51	51	52	54	56	57	58
Criminal damage	41	43	39	37	40	40	43	43
Drugs offences	40	39	39	39	39	39	39	42
Breach of the peace	46	45	43	43	42	42	42	43
Other crimes and offences	48	45	43	44	43	43	44	46

For those with an index disposal of community service, the reconviction rate fell from 49 per cent for the 1995/96 cohort to 42 per cent for the 2002/03 cohort. The corresponding rates for custodial and probationary index disposals fell by 4 percentage points and 5 percentage points respectively between 1995/96 and 1999/2000 but subsequently increased by 3 and 4 percentage points respectively to 2002/03.

The two year reconviction rate by index crime follows a similar pattern to the overall rate, decreasing between 1995/96 and 1999/2000 followed by an increase to 2002/03. The exception is the reconviction rate for an index crime of dishonesty which has steadily increased over the period, from 49 per cent in 1995/96 to 58 per cent in 2002/03.

Table 7: Persons released from a custodial sentence or given a non-custodial sentence, 1995/96 to 2002/03

Percentage with a custodial reconviction within 2 years by sex and age

Sex and age	Percentage with a custodial reconviction within 2 years:							
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
All Persons	14	14	13	14	15	15	15	15
Males	15	15	15	15	16	17	17	16
Females	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8
under 21	18	17	17	17	18	18	17	16
21 to 25	16	16	15	17	18	19	19	19
26 to 30	15	15	14	15	16	17	18	18
over 30	9	9	9	9	10	10	11	11

The two year custodial reconviction rate increased slightly between 1995/96 and 2002/03 from 14 per cent to 15 per cent. The rate for female offenders in particular increased from 5 per cent to 8 per cent in this period. Custodial reconvictions for under 21 year olds decreased from 18 per cent to 16 per cent but increased for all other age groups.

Geographic analysis

The analysis in this section compares two year reconviction rates for the 2002/03 cohort of offenders across approximate local authority and community justice authority areas, based on the court of the offender's index conviction.

**Table 8: Persons released from a custodial sentence or given a non-custodial sentence, 2002/03
Percentage reconvicted within 6 months to 2 years by approximate community justice authority and local authority areas ⁽¹⁾**

Community Justice Authority by approximate Local Authority area ⁽¹⁾	Total number (=100%)	Percentage reconvicted within:			Percentage with a custodial reconviction within:		
		6 months	1 year	2 years	6 months	1 year	2 years
Northern	6,004	23	33	44	6	8	12
Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire ⁽²⁾	3,183	25	34	44	6	9	13
Eilean Siar	144	19	25	35	5	8	14
Highland	1,911	23	33	44	5	9	13
Moray	544	19	29	45	5	8	12
Orkney Islands	91	10	21	24	1	2	2
Shetland Islands	131	15	21	35	5	5	10
Tayside	4,010	25	35	47	6	10	14
Angus	1,038	21	33	43	3	6	10
Dundee City	2,056	27	37	50	8	12	16
Perth & Kinross	916	24	34	47	6	9	13
Fife & Forth Valley	4,741	25	35	48	7	10	15
Clackmannanshire	403	26	36	53	7	11	15
Falkirk	1,319	28	38	52	9	12	16
Fife	2,196	24	34	45	7	10	14
Stirling	823	24	34	49	7	10	15
Lothian & Borders	6,624	21	29	41	6	9	14
East Lothian	487	21	29	40	5	8	15
Edinburgh and Midlothian ⁽³⁾	4,180	21	30	42	7	10	15
Scottish Borders	844	20	28	41	7	9	13
West Lothian	1,113	19	28	41	6	8	12
North Strathclyde ⁽⁴⁾	4,154	24	34	45	8	12	16
Argyll & Bute	647	17	25	36	3	5	7
East & West Dunbartonshire	974	23	34	47	7	11	17
East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire ⁽⁵⁾	1,515	24	33	45	9	12	17
Inverclyde	1,018	28	39	50	11	16	21
Lanarkshire	4,984	23	33	45	6	9	13
North and South Lanarkshire ⁽⁶⁾	4,984	23	33	45	6	9	13
South West Scotland	4,945	24	34	47	8	12	18
Dumfries & Galloway	1,257	24	34	47	8	12	17
East, North and South Ayrshire ⁽⁷⁾	3,688	24	34	47	9	12	18
Glasgow ⁽⁴⁾	8,402	24	34	47	8	12	18
Glasgow City ⁽⁸⁾	8,402	24	34	47	8	12	18
Scotland ⁽⁹⁾	44,848	23	33	45	7	10	15

1. Approximate areas are based on the court of the offender's index conviction. Some Sheriff Court boundaries include more than one local authority area.
2. Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (Aberdeen, Banff, Stonehaven and Peterhead Sheriff Courts).
3. City of Edinburgh and Midlothian (Edinburgh Sheriff Court).
4. 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.
5. Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire (Paisley Sheriff Court).
6. North and South Lanarkshire (Airdrie, Hamilton and Lanark Sheriff Courts).
7. East, North and South Ayrshire (Kilmarnock and Ayr Sheriff Courts).
8. Includes the Stipendiary Magistrates court.
9. Includes High Court and Remit to High.

The highest two year reconviction rate is for offenders whose index conviction was heard at a court in the Fife and Forth Valley community justice authority (CJA) area, almost half (48 per cent) of such offenders were reconvicted within two years. The highest local authority (LA) reconviction rates were for offenders whose index conviction was heard courts in Clackmannanshire (53 per cent reconvicted within 2 years), Falkirk (52 per cent), Dundee City (50 per cent) and Inverclyde (50 per cent). Similarly, the lowest reconviction rates are for offenders whose index conviction was heard at a court in the Orkney Islands local authority (24 per cent reconvicted within 2 years) or in the Lothian & Borders CJA (41 per cent reconvicted within 2 years). Whilst this approach provides a useful approximation to local authority and community justice authority areas, it is important to note that an offender may not always be supervised in the area in which they are convicted and subsequent reconvictions may have occurred in different areas. The characteristics of offenders are also likely to vary across these areas.

The effect of pseudo reconvictions

Pseudo reconvictions are defined to be convictions which occur after the relevant date of the index conviction (the sentence date for non-custodial sentences or the estimated date of discharge from custody for custodial sentences) but which relate to offence(s) committed prior to that date. This can arise, for example, in cases where there may be several sets of proceedings in train against an individual for offences committed on a range of dates. Pseudo reconvictions will therefore exaggerate the rate of “real” reconvictions to some extent and the impact of this exaggeration will vary for different disposal and offender types.

The Scottish Offenders Index does not currently contain information on offence dates and therefore the extent of pseudo reconvictions remains an unknown quantity. Unless otherwise specified, all reconviction rates quoted in this release include pseudo reconvictions and this should be kept in mind when making comparisons between the reconviction rates for different types of disposal and offender.

However, it is possible to estimate the impact of pseudo reconvictions by making use of the fact that the police case reference numbers associated with most convictions recorded in Strathclyde Police Force Area, and increasingly in other police force areas, contain information which can be used to derive a proxy for the date of offence. This proxy offence date for a reconviction can then be compared with the relevant date of the index conviction to determine whether or not it is a pseudo reconviction.

For 35,064 (78 per cent) of the cohort of offenders with an index conviction in 2002/03, offence dates for their convictions can be derived in the way described above. The profile of this subset (sex, age, index disposal, index crime and number of previous convictions) does not vary greatly from that of the cohort as a whole. It features slightly higher proportions of offenders who are male; whose index disposal was a probation order; and whose index crime was breach of the peace or drugs offences. Similarly it features slightly lower proportions of offenders whose index crime was violence or dishonesty; and who had no previous convictions. However, in all of these cases the difference in proportion is only around one percentage point and therefore these marginal differences are not judged to bias significantly this approach to estimating the effect of pseudo reconvictions.

One quarter of this subset of the 2002/03 cohort of offenders were reconvicted within two years for offences committed prior to the relevant date of their index conviction, i.e. had at least one pseudo reconviction within this period. However, 60 per cent of these offenders also had “real” reconvictions, i.e. in respect of offences committed after the relevant date of their index conviction. The overall two year reconviction rate for this subset of the cohort was 46 per cent (slightly higher than the 45 per cent for the 2002/03 cohort as a whole). However, excluding pseudo reconvictions gives a “real” reconviction rate of 36 per cent. The average estimated effect of pseudo reconvictions is therefore 10 percentage points.

As reconviction rates vary with type of crime, age and other factors, so does the effect of pseudo reconvictions. In general, those groups of offenders who tend to have higher reconviction rates also have higher rates of pseudo reconvictions, though the effect of these is generally offset by higher rates of “real” reconvictions. The estimated effect of pseudo reconvictions on the reconviction rates for those discharged from a custodial sentence in 2002/03 was 9 percentage points; for offenders whose index conviction involved community service or probation the effect was 11 and 13 percentage points respectively. This will partly reflect the fact that the follow up time for reconvictions for the former group is taken from their

estimated date of release from custody rather than the date that they were originally sentenced to custody. Offenders released from custody, particularly those who have served relatively long sentences, might be expected to have fewer subsequent pseudo reconvictions.

The estimated effect of pseudo reconvictions ranged from 3 percentage points for those whose index crime was a sexual crime to 12 percentage points for those with an index crime of dishonesty. Similarly the estimated effect ranged from 7 per cent for those with no previous convictions to 13 per cent for those with 3 to 10. The estimated effect of pseudo reconvictions has remained stable at around 10 per cent for each of the cohorts over the past five years where offence dates can be estimated.

**Table 9: Persons released from a custodial sentence or given a non-custodial sentence, 2002/03
Percentage reconvicted within two years and estimated effect of pseudo reconvictions**

Age, sex, index disposal and index crime, number and type of previous convictions in 2002/03	Total cohort	Cohort subset ⁽¹⁾			Rate of pseudo reconvictions
	Overall rate of reconviction	Overall rate of reconviction	"Real" rate of reconviction	Estimated effect of pseudo reconvictions	
All offenders	45	46	36	10	25
Age					
under 21	54	54	43	11	32
21 to 25	51	52	41	11	28
26 to 30	47	48	38	10	26
over 30	35	36	28	8	17
Sex					
Males	47	48	38	10	25
Females	37	39	29	10	22
Index disposal in 2002/03					
Discharged from custody	64	65	56	9	35
Community service	42	44	33	11	23
Probation	63	64	51	13	39
Monetary	41	42	32	10	22
Other	33	34	27	7	16
Index crime in 2002/03					
Violent crime	37	37	29	8	17
Sexual crime	17	18	15	3	6
Dishonesty	58	62	50	12	37
Criminal damage	43	43	33	10	21
Drug offences	42	42	32	10	21
Breach of the peace	43	43	34	9	21
Other crimes and offences	46	46	34	12	27
Number of previous convictions ⁽²⁾					
None	26	27	20	7	13
1 or 2	39	39	30	9	20
3 to 10	54	55	42	13	29
Over 10	76	76	65	11	43
Number of previous custodial convictions ⁽²⁾					
None	37	38	29	9	20
1 or 2	61	61	48	13	34
3 to 10	73	73	62	11	40
Over 10	85	85	76	9	48
Number of previous community convictions ^{(2) (3)}					
None	35	36	27	9	18
1 or 2	61	61	48	13	34
3 to 10	77	77	66	11	45
Over 10	82	84	77	7	56

1. Offenders for whom the month and year of the offence(s) they are convicted for can be proxied by information embedded in the associated police case reference number

2. Convictions since the start of 1989.

3. Convictions resulting in probation or community service.

Notes on the statistics

The information presented is based on data held in the Scottish Offenders Index (SOI). This database, which is in turn derived from information held on the police operational computer at the Scottish Criminal Records Office (SCRO), currently contains a record for each set of criminal proceedings against individuals (excluding companies) in Scottish courts. The data covers all convictions where sentence was imposed in the period 1st January 1989 to 31st March 2005 and the main offence involved was a crime in Groups 1-5 of the Scottish Executive Justice Department's classification of crimes and offences or the offences of simple assault, breach of the peace, petty assault on an emergency worker, anti-social behaviour offences, racially aggravated harassment or conduct, miscellaneous firearms offences and social security offences.

Each record on the SOI database includes information on the sex and age of the offender, the dates of conviction and sentence, the main offence involved and details of the sentence imposed. Information is also available on any offences which were additional to the main offence involved. Each offender has a unique reference number, which allows individual convictions for that offender to be linked together. It should be noted that the SOI is a purely statistical database; names and other personal information of offenders are not held.

The methodology used to produce this analysis of reconvictions remains the same as that in the statistical bulletin 'Reconvictions of offenders discharged from custody or given non-custodial sentences in 1999, Scotland' and full details can be accessed from that report at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00424>

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE STATISTICAL SERVICES OUR AIM

The aim of the Statistical Service is to provide relevant and reliable information, analysis and advice that meet the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. To produce statistics and analysis relevant to user needs by**
 - Developing the range of statistics and analysis we produce;
 - Where practicable improving timeliness;
 - Providing more statistics disaggregated by age, gender and ethnicity;
 - Developing more data for small areas through the Neighbourhood Statistics project;
 - Contributing to production of comparable statistics across the UK and internationally.
- 2. To ensure effective use of our statistics by**
 - Contributing more directly to policy processes inside and where possible outside government;
 - Improving access to and presentation of data and analysis;
 - Improving the advice provided on statistics.
- 3. To work effectively with users and providers by**
 - Maintaining arrangements to consult and involve users and providers;
 - Involving users and providers in planning developments in outputs and processes.
- 4. To develop the quality of statistics by**
 - Assuring and improving quality as an integral part of data collection and analysis and through regular reviews in line with National Statistics quality strategy;
 - Developing statistical methods, systems and classifications;
 - Working with the rest of the Government Statistical Service to develop joint approaches/solutions where appropriate.
- 5. To assure the integrity of statistics by**
 - Maintaining and promoting integrity through implementation of the National Statistics Code of Practice and related protocols;
 - Safeguarding the confidentiality of data subjects.
- 6. To ensure the efficient and effective delivery of statistics products and services by**
 - Making best use of all sources including administrative sources;
 - Minimising the burden on data providers through Survey Monitoring & Advice;
 - Ensuring value for money;
 - Making best use of Information and Communications Technology;
 - Working with other analysts;
 - Ensuring effective communication within the Statistician Group.
- 7. To develop our workforce and competences**
 - Ensuring recruitment of staff with the necessary skills and potential;
 - Ensuring development of expertise amongst existing staff;
 - Promoting and upholding the standards of the statistics profession.

This is a National Statistics publication

"This is a National Statistics publication. It has been produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice and Release Practice Protocol. http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/cop/default.asp

These statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference."

Details of pre-release access will be provided in the Scottish Executive Statistics Website under 'Forthcoming Releases'.

Correspondence and enquiries

Enquiries on Reconvictions statistics should be addressed to:

Ailie Clarkson
Court Affairs, Prisons and Offenders Analytical Team
Scottish Executive Justice Department
Area GWR, St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
Telephone: (0131) 244 2752; Fax (0131) 244 2109
e-mail: ailie.clarkson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

General enquiries on Scottish Executive statistics can be addressed to:

Ryan Stewart
Office of the Chief Statistician
Scottish Executive
3 Floor West Rear, St Andrews House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
Telephone: (0131) 244 0442; Fax: (0131) 244 0335
e-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Advice on specific areas of Scottish Executive statistical work can be obtained from staff at the telephone numbers given below:

Scottish Executive Statistics contacts

Schools – qualifications	(0131) 244 0313
Schools – pupils and teachers	(0131) 244 1689
Further and Higher Education	(0141) 242 0273
The Economy	(0131) 244 2234
Labour market	(0141) 242 5446
Business	(0141) 242 5446
Income, Tax and Benefits	(0131) 244 2583
Local government finance	(0131) 244 7033
Environment, planning & local government staffing	(0131) 244 0445
Equality	(0131) 244 0442
Housing	(0131) 244 7236
Transport	(0131) 244 7255
Health	(0131) 244 3432
Community Care	(0131) 244 3777
Social Justice	(0131) 244 0442
Scottish Executive personnel	(0131) 244 3926
Agricultural census and labour force	(0131) 244 6150
Fisheries	(0131) 244 6441
Courts and law	(0131) 244 2227
Recorded crime and prisons	(0131) 244 2225

Other contacts for Scottish statistics

Forestry Commission	(0131) 314 6337
The Scottish Funding Councils for Higher and Further Education	(0131) 313 6575
General Register Office for Scotland - Vital statistics and publications - Population statistics, census statistics or digital boundary products	(0131) 314 4243 (0131) 314 4254

For **general enquiries about National Statistics** in the United Kingdom Government contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service on
020 7533 5888
minicom: 01633 812399
Email: info@statistics.gov.uk
Fax: 01633 652747
Letters: room DG/18, 1 Drummond Gate,
LONDON SW1V 2QQ

You can also find National Statistics on the internet - go to **www.statistics.gov.uk**

If you would like to be consulted about new or existing statistical collections or to receive notification of forthcoming statistical publications, please register your statistical interest on the Scottish Executive ScotStat web site at **www.scotland.gov.uk/scotstat**

Current staff names, e-mail addresses and the publications listed below as well as a range of other statistical publications can be found on the Scottish Executive Web site at **www.scotland.gov.uk/stats**.

Further information on the General Register Office for Scotland is available on the website **www.gro-scotland.gov.uk**

Most recent Justice Statistical Publications relating to the Crime and Justice theme

Ref no.	Title	Last published	Price
CrJ/2005/11	Recorded Crime and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland, 2004/05	October 2005	£2.00
Statistics Release	Criminal Appeals Statistics, Scotland, 2004/05	November 2005	N/A
CrJ/2005/12	Homicide in Scotland, 2004/05	December 2005	£2.00
CrJ/2006/1	Criminal Justice Social Work Statistics, 2004-05	January 2006	£2.00
CrJ/2006/2	Fire Statistics Scotland, 2004	February 2006	£2.00
CrJ/2006/3	Criminal Proceedings in Scottish Courts	April 2006	£2.00
CrJ/2006/4	Firearms Certificate Statistics, Scotland, 2005	May 2006	£2.00
CrJ/2006/5	Prison Statistics Scotland, 2005/06	August 2006	£2.00
CrJ/2006/6	Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2005/06	September 2006	£2.00
CrJ/2006/7	Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2005-06	September 2006	£2.00

Additional copies of these publications may be purchased from **Scottish Executive Publication Sales, Blackwell's Bookshop, 53 South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1YS**, Telephone: 0131 622 8283, Fax: 0131 622 8258. Cheques should be made payable to 'Blackwell's Bookshop'.

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service, please write to the Chief Statistician, Mr Rob Wishart, 4 Floor East Rear, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail rob.wishart@scotland.gsi.gov.uk. We also welcome any comments or suggestions that would help us to improve our standards of service.

ISSN 0264 1178

ISBN 0-7559-6315-6

Crown Copyright: brief extracts from the material in this publication may be reproduced provided the source is fully acknowledged.