



- **Scale.** In 2010-11, the police recorded 4.2 million crimes in England and Wales. In 2011, criminal court proceedings were commenced against 1.56 million people. Out of court disposals, such as cautions and penalty notices, were issued to an additional 439,400 people.
- **Costs.** In 2010-11, more than £9.7 billion was spent on policing. This does not include the cost of other law enforcement agencies, such as HM Revenue and Customs. Legal aid costs £39 per head of population annually. Our spending on criminal courts, prosecutions and legal aid as a percentage of GDP per capita is average when compared with other countries in Europe, at 0.33 per cent.
- **Costs of sentences.** The average annual cost per prisoner in England and Wales in 2010-11 was £37,000. A person in a Young Offender Institution costs about £60,000 a year. It costs four times as much to put a young person through the criminal justice system as it does to keep them out of it. Community sentences cost on average £2,100 per year per offender.
- **Sentencing.** Over 1.3 million people are sentenced in criminal courts in England and Wales each year. Just over 65 per cent of those sentences are fines. 8 per cent were sentenced to immediate imprisonment in 2011.
- **Prison population.** There are currently 86,980 people in prison in England and Wales, in prisons designed to hold a maximum of 90,141. Prisoner numbers have more than doubled since 1992.
- **Short sentences.** Last year, 24,238 offenders received prison sentences of 12 months or less. Those given sentences of less than 12 months are 4.4 per cent more likely to reoffend than those sentenced to 1 to 2 years and between 5 and 9 percentage points more likely than those given community orders and suspended sentence orders. 74 per cent of those jailed for less than 12 months are reconvicted within two years.
- **Older prisoners.** People aged 60 and over are the fastest growing age group in the prison estate. In June 2010 there were 8,263 prisoners aged over 50 in England and Wales, of which 2,849 were aged 60 and over. This total figure represents just under 10 per cent of the total prison population.
- **Restorative justice (RJ).** RJ gives victims the chance to tell offenders the real impact of their crime, to get answers to their questions, and an apology. Over half of victims said that taking part in RJ had given them a sense of closure and almost 40 per cent said that they felt more secure after taking part. RJ also reduces the frequency of re-offending by 14 per cent. Some trials estimate that RJ can deliver cost savings of up to £9 for every £1 spent.
- **Reducing re-offending.** In 2011, 327,900 people were convicted of indictable (or serious) offences. Of those, 31 per cent had 15 or more previous convictions and cautions, only 10 per cent had no previous conviction.
- **Young adults.** Young adults aged 18-24 constitute less than 10 per cent of the population but make up more than one-third of those commencing a community order or suspended sentence order, one-third of the probation service's caseload and almost one-third of those sentenced to prison each year. Seventy five per cent of offenders sentenced to youth custody re-offend within a year of release.