

Statistical Bulletin

Crime and Justice Series

A National Statistics Publication for Scotland



CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK STATISTICS, 2011-12 21 December 2012

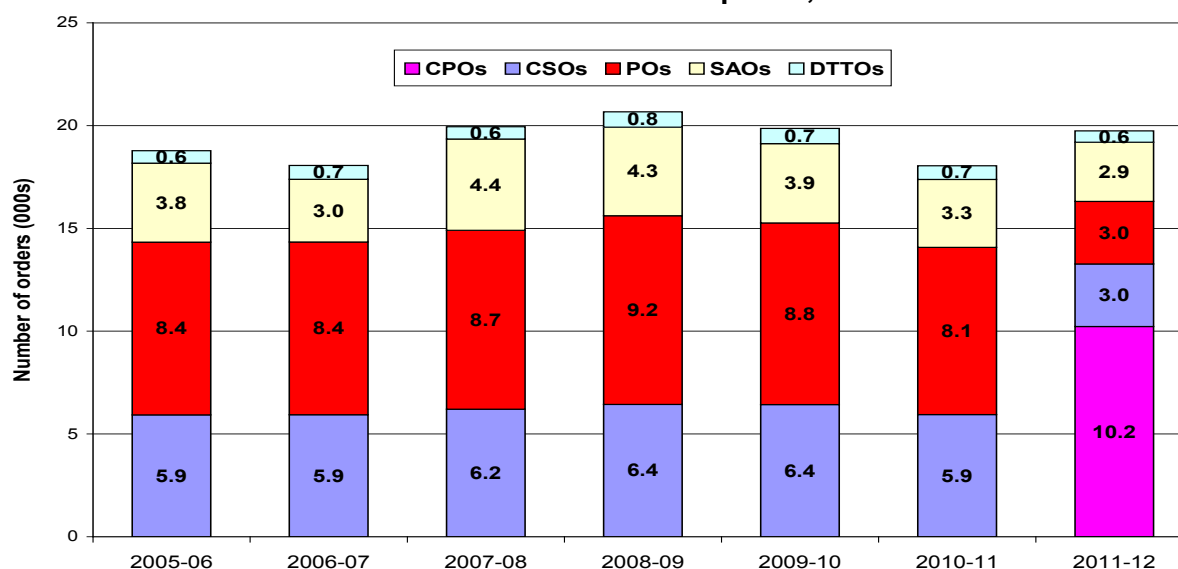
1 Introduction

1.1 This statistical bulletin presents national level information on activity relating to community penalties in Scotland, including Criminal Justice Social Work Reports and “social work orders” - made up of Community Payback Orders (CPOs), the predecessors to CPOs (Community Service Orders, Probation Orders and Supervised Attendance Orders) and Drug Treatment & Testing Orders.

1.2 The number of social work orders increased between 2010-11 and 2011-12. This reversed the trend witnessed in the previous year, and took the number of orders in 2011-12 back to around the same levels as in 2009-10 ([Chart 1](#) and [Table 1](#)), in line with sentencing trends.

1.3 While figures are given precisely in the tables in this bulletin, in the text they are generally given as rounded (see later [§10.3](#)). Percentage changes given in the text are calculated using unrounded figures.

Chart 1 Total number of social work orders imposed, 2005-06 to 2011-12



Note : Orders for 2010-11 exclude a small number of community payback orders imposed in that year.

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2 Key Points for 2011-12

Criminal Justice Social Work Reports (CJSWRs)

- A total of 42,100 reports were requested by the courts in 2011-12, down 4 per cent from 44,000 in 2010-11. A total of 36,400 reports (including supplementary reports) were submitted by local authorities to the Courts in 2011-12, down 3 per cent from 37,500 in 2010-11 ([Table 1](#)).
- Just under 31,900 reports (excluding supplementary reports) were submitted to the courts in 2011-12, very similar to the numbers in 2010-11 ([Table 2](#)).

Social Work Orders

- After falling in each of the last two years, the number of social work orders imposed increased during 2011-12 and is currently 19,700, a similar level to that observed during 2009-10. Social work orders include Community Payback Orders (CPOs), Community Service Orders (CSOs), Probation Orders (POs), Supervised Attendance Orders (SAOs) and Drug Treatment & Testing Orders (DTTOs) ([Table 1](#)).
- Just over half of orders commenced in 2011-12 were CPOs, with 10,200 being started during the year. As expected, due to the introduction of the CPO, the numbers of CSOs and POs commenced fell substantially between 2010-11 and 2011-12, to about 3,000 each. The number of SAOs and DTTOs also fell, but to a lesser extent, reaching 2,900 and 560 respectively ([Table 1](#)).
- In 2011-12, social work orders with an element of unpaid work or other activity (CSOs, SAOs and CPOs/POs with unpaid work) comprised just over three quarters (76 per cent) of social work orders commenced. This was a noticeable increase from the previous year when around 68 per cent of orders included a requirement to carry out unpaid work or other activity ([Tables 1 & 8](#)).
- Just over three-quarters of CPOs commenced in 2011-12 (about 7,800) included an unpaid work or other activity requirement (averaging 120 hours), while 62 per cent (6,400) included an offender supervision requirement (with an average period of supervision of about 14.6 months). Conduct and programme requirements were imposed in 23 and 8 per cent of cases respectively ([Tables 5 & 6](#) and [Chart 6](#)).
- Breach applications of social work orders fell by 13 per cent in 2011-12 to 6,900, the lowest level since 2005-06 ([Table 1](#)).
- The number of terminations of social work orders in 2011-12 was 17,200, 4 per cent lower than in 2010-11 and the lowest annual total since 2007-08 ([Table 1](#)).
- Nearly 70 per cent of social work orders terminated in 2011-12 resulted in successful completion. This is the highest level in any of the last nine years and was a marked increase on the 2010-11 figure of 64 per cent. The rate was highest for CSOs (just under three quarters) and lowest for DTTOs (54 per cent) – for CPOs it was 69 per cent ([Table 1](#)).

Statutory Throughcare

- A total of 2,100 throughcare cases commenced in 2011-12 (including both community and custody). The number of throughcare cases has dropped since 2006-07, fluctuating around the 2,100 mark for the past three years ([Table 1](#)).

Diversion from prosecution and bail supervision

- The number of cases commenced for diversion from prosecution increased by over 30 per cent over the past year to 1,260, after hovering around the 1,000 mark since 2007-08 ([Table 1](#)).
- The number of bail supervision cases rose by about 10 per cent to just less than 500, reaching similar levels to those observed in 2009-10 after a consistent downward trend since 2005-06 ([Table 1](#)).

3 Criminal Justice Social Work Reports (CJSWRs)

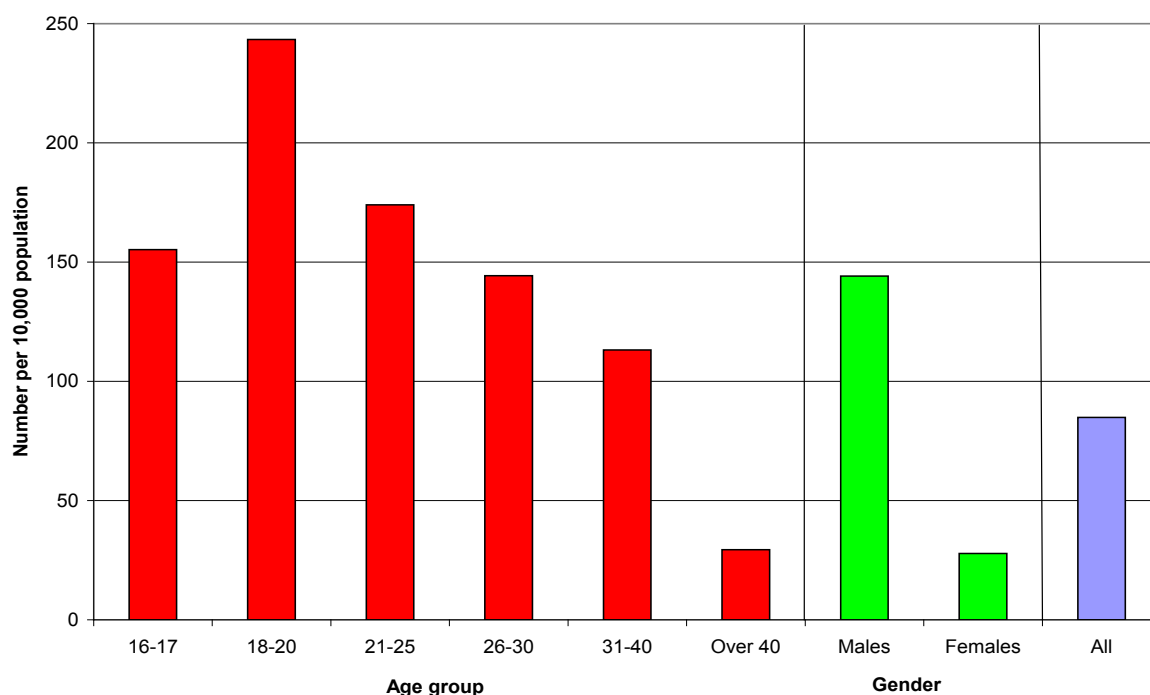
(Tables 1 to 4, Chart 2)

- 3.1 The CJSWR is a new style report, which is intended to be more focused and concise than the previous Social Enquiry Report which it replaced. The new report is also intended to ensure a more consistent provision of information and is designed to allow the inclusion of more professional analysis. The purpose of the CJSWR is to assist in the sentencing process and to complement the range of other information available to sentencers. The new report had been introduced into all council areas by February 2011.
- 3.2 In 2011-12, a total of 42,100 CJSWRs (including supplementary reports) were requested by the courts, a decrease of 4 per cent from the 2010-11 total of 44,000. Just under 36,400 reports were submitted by local authorities to the courts (including supplementaries but excluding letters sent in lieu of reports), a fall of 3 per cent from 37,500 in 2010-11 ([Table 1](#)).
- 3.3 These falls at Scotland level are the net result of varying patterns at local authority level. Further information is provided in the [extra datasets on CJSWRs at community justice authority \(CJA\) / local authority \(LA\) level](#) which accompany this publication.

CJSWRs (excluding Supplementary Reports)

- 3.4 A total of 31,900 reports were submitted to the courts in 2011-12 ([Tables 1 & 2](#)), a very similar level to 2010-11. Eighty-three per cent of these reports in 2011-12 were made in respect of males ([Table 2](#)).
- 3.5 Forty-two per cent (13,400) of reports submitted were for people aged 25 and under. Around the same proportion (39 per cent) were aged between 26 and 40 with just under a fifth relating to people aged over 40 ([Table 2](#)).
- 3.6 Among the population aged 16 to 70 as a whole, there were 85 CJSWRs per 10,000 population in 2011-12 ([Chart 2](#)). Reflecting the general age distribution of offenders, CJSWRs were most commonly submitted for young adults, particularly those aged 18 to 20 (243 per 10,000 population). The incidence was also relatively high amongst 21 to 25 year olds (174 per 10,000 population) and 16 to 17 year olds (155 per 10,000 population). It should be noted that one person can be the subject of more than one CJSWR within a year.
- 3.7 The majority of CJSWRs related to the unemployed (57 per cent). Those employed and self employed accounted for 19 per cent, while 15 per cent of CJSWRs related to those not seeking employment ([Table 2](#)).
- 3.8 Amongst those where the ethnic group was known and able to be provided, 97 per cent of CJSWRs submitted in 2011-12 related to offenders who were white ([Table 2](#)).

Chart 2 Number of CJSWRs per 10,000 population by age and gender, 2011-12



Notes relating to CJSWRs in Chart 2:

Figures exclude supplementary reports. Rates are based on mid-year population estimates, with the rates for “Males”, “Females” and “All” based on those aged between 16 and 70 inclusive and the rate for “Over 40” based on those aged 41 to 70. the 16-17 year old category includes a small number of reports relating to clients aged under 16 years.

CJSWRs and preferred options

3.9 One of the main purposes of a criminal justice social work report is to offer information and advice which can help the court decide between the available sentencing options. [The National Outcomes and Standards for Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System practice guidance on criminal justice social work reports and court-based services](#) state that: “*The report should highlight the worker’s **professional analysis**. The preferred option should flow from the body of the report and be linked to risk. ... It is important to bear in mind that the decision on what disposal to apply is entirely for the court. The report should not offer any opinion as to what disposal might be preferable or most appropriate. The author of the report can and should however offer their professional assessment of how, and the extent to which, each sentencing option may maximise the opportunity for the individual to reduce reoffending and to change their behaviour. ... A more detailed report is likely to be indicated (and may require a further period of deferment) where ... risk of re-offending is high and/or risk of serious harm is identified.*”

3.10 A CPO was the preferred option for 27 per cent of reports in 2011-12 ([Table 3](#)). Ten per cent involved a CPO with supervision but not unpaid work, while 8 per cent involved one with unpaid work but no supervision. This may initially appear contradictory to the fact that more CPOs were issued with unpaid work than supervision in 2011-12 (see [section 4:1](#)). However, the higher proportion of CJSWRs with a preferred option of supervision without unpaid work reflects the fact that supervision cannot be given without a CJSWR being done, while a

report is only required for unpaid work where the number of hours of work being imposed exceeds 100.

- 3.11 The proportion of reports where the preferred option was Community Service and Probation was 9 and 10 per cent, respectively. This was substantially lower than the figures of 17 and 26 per cent in 2010-11, as a result of the introduction of the CPO.
- 3.12 Fifteen per cent gave a deferred sentence of 3 months or more as the preferred option and 7 per cent of CJSWRs suggested a monetary penalty. Custody was rarely suggested, featuring as the preferred option in just over 4 per cent of reports. Fourteen per cent of reports suggested some other form of preferred option (including a Restriction of Liberty Order (RLO) or a deferment for a DTTO assessment). Fourteen per cent of CJSWRs in 2011-12 gave no preferred sentencing option – slightly lower than in 2010-11.
- 3.13 The main outcome for 24 per cent of CJSWRs in 2011-12 was a CPO ([Table 4](#)). Seven per cent of reports resulted in a CPO with unpaid work but no supervision, with 6 per cent resulting in an order with supervision but not unpaid work. In 12 per cent of cases, a CPO was given with both supervision and unpaid work.
- 3.14 Custody was the main outcome for 18 per cent of reports in 2011-12, the same as in 2010-11. As expected, with the introduction of the CPO, those with outcomes of Community Service and Probation accounted for a much smaller proportion in 2011-12 (8 and 7 per cent, respectively) than in 2010-11. The largest other main outcome categories in 2011-12 were deferred sentence and monetary penalty (both 8 per cent).

4 Social work orders

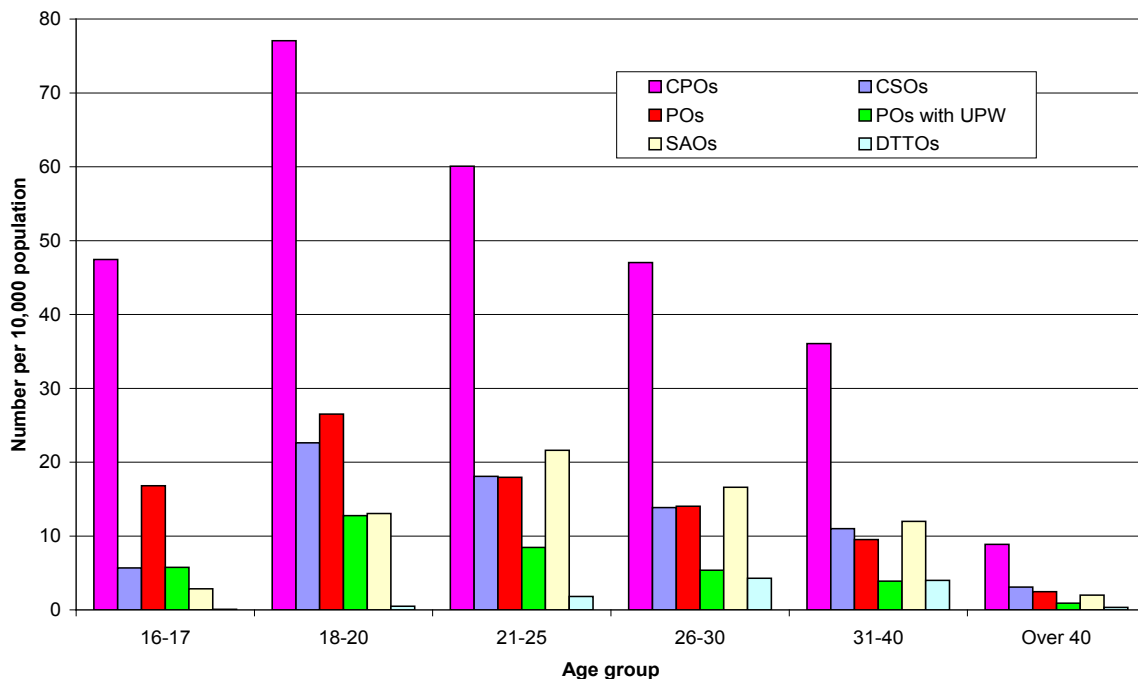
([Tables 1, 2 & 5 to 23](#), [Charts 3 to 5](#))

- 4.1 In this bulletin, the term “social work orders” includes Community Payback, Community Service, Probation, Supervised Attendance and Drug Treatment & Testing orders. Community Payback Orders (CPOs) replaced Community Service, Probation and Supervised Attendance orders for offences committed on or after 1 February 2011.
- 4.2 The total number of social work orders commenced in 2011-12 was 19,700 ([Tables 1 & 2](#)). This represented an increase on 2010-11 and took total orders back to around the same level as the 19,900 in 2009-10. This reflects patterns in sentencing (see [Criminal Proceedings in Scotland publication](#) for details).
- 4.3 Local authority and community justice authority level breakdowns of the figures in this bulletin are available for each of the different social work order types in the [extra datasets at CJ/LA level](#) which accompany the publication.
- 4.4 CPOs consisted of 10,200 (just over half) of all social work orders commenced in 2011-12 ([Table 1](#)). In the future, as fewer social work orders will relate to

crimes committed before 1 February 2011, CPOs will form an increasingly high proportion of total orders.

- 4.5 Eighty-four per cent of total social work orders in 2011-12 (16,700) were for males (Table 2). Recipients of an SAO were the most likely to be male (88 per cent) while recipients of a PO were the least likely (79 per cent).
- 4.6 Those aged 31 to 40 accounted for the largest number of orders (4,700 – 24 per cent) in 2011-12 (Table 2), However, the largest group as a proportion of the population was for those aged 18 to 20, with 140 orders per 10,000 population (Chart 3). This proportion was also high for people aged 21 to 25 (120 per 10,000 population).
- 4.7 For each of CPOs, CSOs and POs, numbers were highest as a proportion of the population for 18 to 20 year olds (77, 23 and 27 per 10,000 population, respectively). SAOs were most commonly given to 21 to 25 year olds, while for DTTOs, it was those aged between 26 and 40.

Chart 3 Number of social work orders per 10,000 population by age group, 2011-12



Notes relating to social work orders in Chart 3:
 Rates are based on mid-year population estimates, with the rate for “Over 40” based on those aged 41 to 70. The 16-17 year old category includes a small number of orders relating to clients aged under 16 years.

- 4.8 The employment status of offenders provides an indication of whether the offender is likely to be available for work during normal working hours (i.e. weekdays between 9am and 5pm). Most social work orders related to people who were unemployed (61 per cent), with 20 per cent employed or self-employed and 11 per cent not seeking employment (Table 2 & Chart 4).

