

Youth justice in Lancashire (2020/21)

Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

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Contents

1	Overview	1
2	Types of offences	1
	Chart 1 Types of offences, year ending March 2021	1
	Table 1 Number of proven offences, April 2016 to March 2021	2
3	Demographics	2
	Table 2 Young people cautioned or sentenced by age, year ending March 2021	2
	Table 3 Young people cautioned or sentenced by gender, year ending March 2021 ..	3
	Table 4 Young people cautioned or sentenced by ethnicity, year ending March 2021	3
4	Use of justice	4
	Table 5 Use of custody, year ending March 2021	4
5	Outcomes	4
	Table 6 The number of youth cautions or sentences given to children, year ending March 2021	4
	Chart 2: Percentage split of youth cautions or sentences, year ending March 2021 ..	5

1 Overview

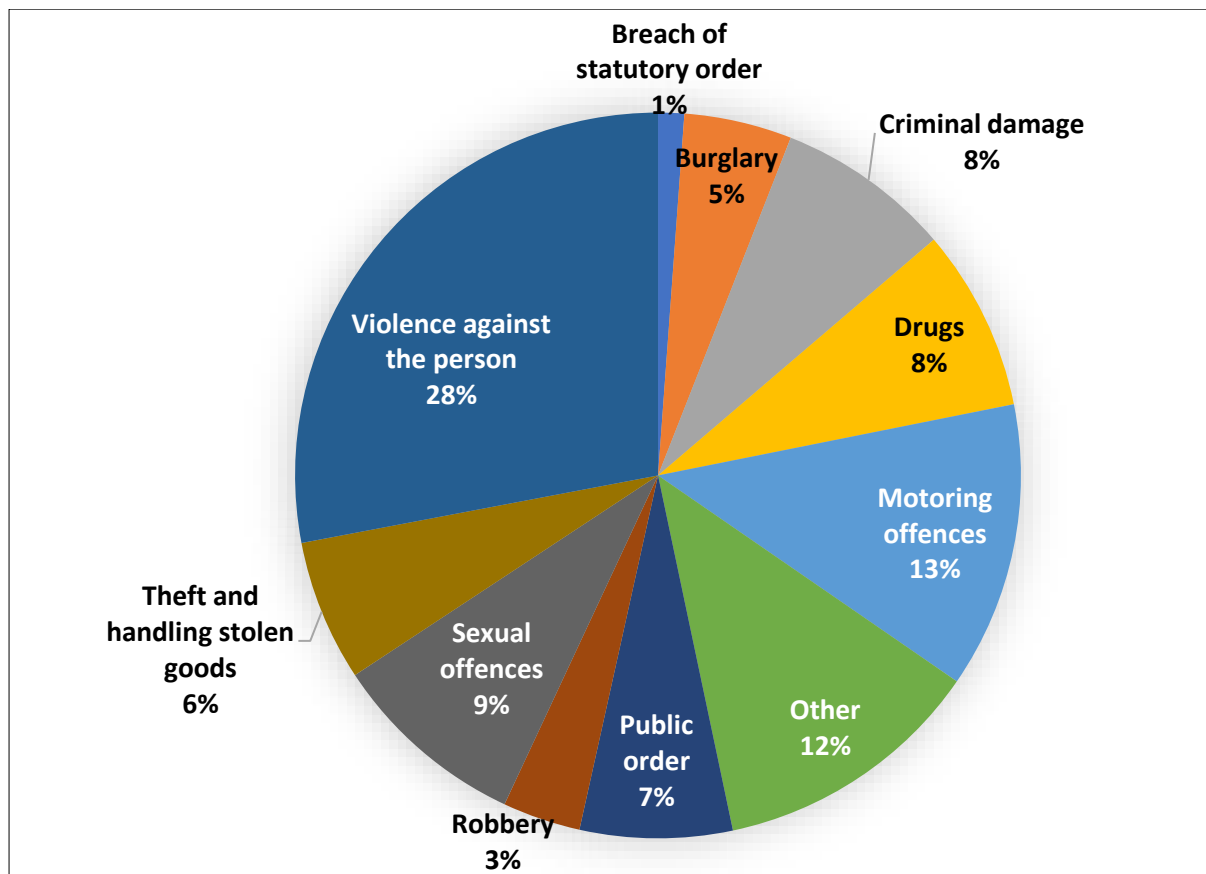
The Ministry of Justice publishes a range of annual statistics which concentrate on the flow of young people (aged 10-17) through the Youth Justice System in England and Wales. This article is a summary of the statistics for Lancashire-14.

For background information on youth justice data sources, concepts and definitions, please read the Ministry of Justice [guide to youth justice statistics](#)

2 Types of offences

Violence against the person is the most common offence for a young offender (28%), followed by other motoring offences (13%), other offences (12%) and sexual offences (9%).

Chart 1 Types of offences, year ending March 2021



Source: [Ministry of Justice, Youth justice statistics](#)

Over the five year period from April 2016 to March 2021, there has been a significant reduction in the number of proven offences. Violence against the person reducing by -48%, criminal damage by -74% and motoring offences by -61%. However, there has been a significant increase in the number of sexual offences by 66%

Table 1 Number of proven offences, April 2016 to March 2021

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Breach of statutory order	83	43	25	9	7
Burglary	101	90	89	40	29
Criminal damage	179	135	103	77	47
Drugs	45	46	59	42	49
Motoring offences	198	116	127	70	77
Other	192	153	123	80	73
Public order	109	107	106	85	41
Robbery	14	11	28	31	21
Sexual offences	32	23	7	14	53
Theft and handling stolen goods	118	112	84	75	38
Violence against the person	324	244	270	209	169
Grand Total	1,395	1,080	1,021	732	604

Source: [Ministry of Justice, Youth justice statistics](#)

3 Demographics

Youth offending teams work with 10 to 17 year olds. The largest group of those managed by YOTs in the Lancashire-14 area are in the oldest age group, 15-17 years (84.4%), compared with 82.3% in England and Wales as a whole.

Table 2 Young people cautioned or sentenced by age, year ending March 2021

YOT	Age group	
	10 to 14	15 to 17
Blackburn with Darwen	3	26
Blackpool	11	53
Lancashire-12	32	170
Lancashire-14	46	249
%	15.6	84.4
England and Wales	2,793	12,958
%	17.7	82.3

Source: [Ministry of Justice, Youth justice statistics](#)

By an over-whelming majority, most young offenders are male.

Table 3 Young people cautioned or sentenced by gender, year ending March 2021

YOT	Gender		
	Male	Female	Not known
Blackburn with Darwen	26	3	
Blackpool	60	4	
Lancashire-12	177	25	
Lancashire-14	263	32	
%	89.2	10.8	
England and Wales	13619	2116	16
%	86.5	13.4	0.0

Source: [Ministry of Justice, Youth justice statistics](#)

The ethnic breakdown is slightly more biased towards white offenders. In the 2011 census, 86% of the Lancashire-14 area were white and 91% of offenders were white. In comparison, 68% of offenders in England and Wales as a whole were white.

Table 4 Young people cautioned or sentenced by ethnicity, year ending March 2021

YOT	Ethnicity		
	Non-white	White	Not Known
Blackburn with Darwen	5	23	1
Blackpool	4	60	
Lancashire-12	17	185	
Lancashire-14	26	268	1
%	8.8	90.8	0.7
England and Wales	4235	10684	832
%	26.9	67.8	5.3

Source: [Ministry of Justice, Youth justice statistics](#)

4 Use of justice

Use of Justice is the number of young people receiving custodial sentences expressed as a rate per 1,000 of 10-17 year old population. The use of justice rate is lower in Lancashire than in the North West and England. In the Lancashire-14 area, 3% of numbers cautioned or sentenced received a custodial sentence, 17% a community sentence, 47% first tier¹ and 32% pre-court disposals.

Table 5 Use of custody, year ending March 2021

District	Custodial sentences	10-17 population mye 2020	Rate per 1,000 of 10-17 population
Blackburn with Darwen	3	17,304	0.17
Blackpool	2	12,605	0.16
Lancashire-12	8	114,410	0.07
Lancashire-14	13	144,319	0.09
North West	106	691,509	0.15
England	783	5,314,383	0.15

Source: [Ministry of Justice, Youth justice statistics](#)

5 Outcomes

A referral order is the most common outcome for a young offender (32%), followed by a youth caution (18%) and a youth rehabilitation order (17%).

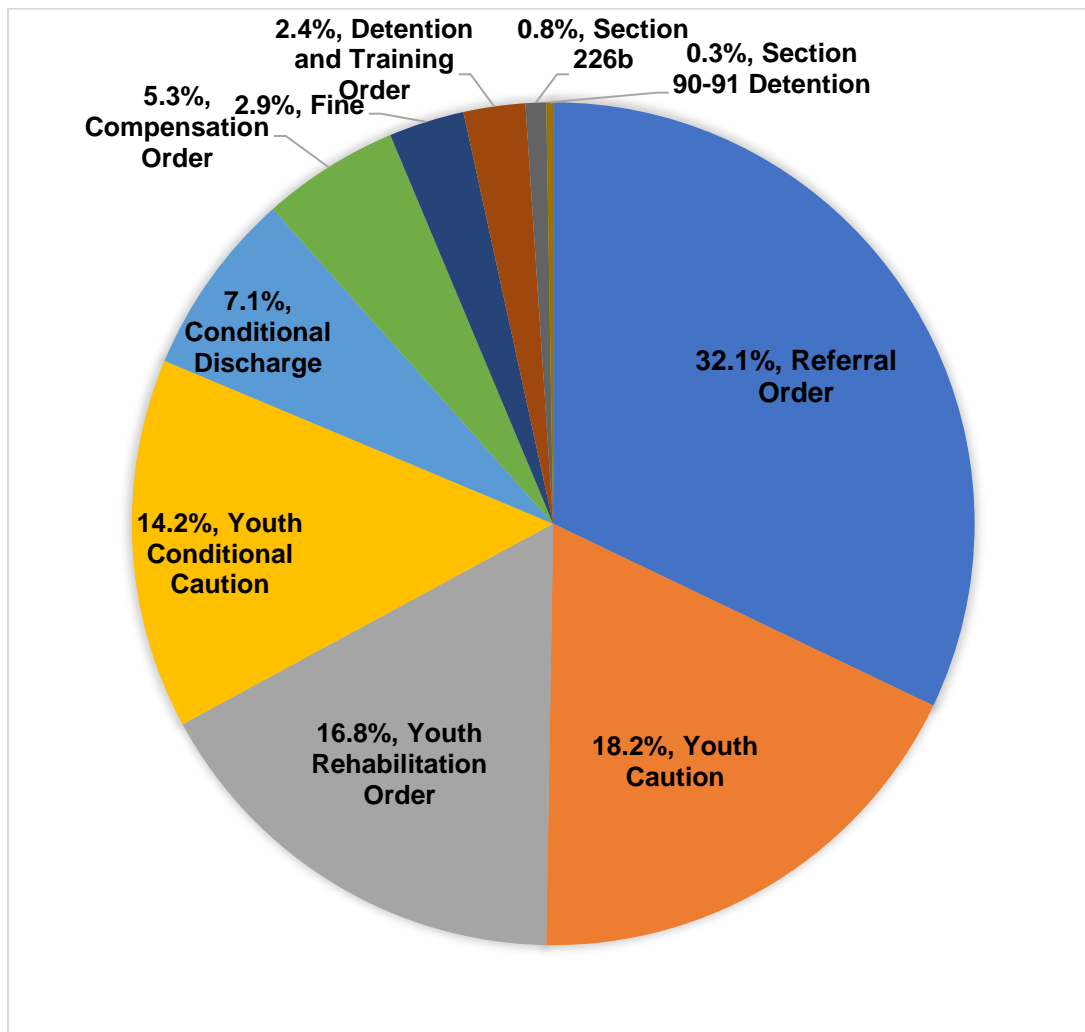
Table 6 The number of youth cautions or sentences given to children, year ending March 2021

Outcome	Blackburn with Darwen	Blackpool	Lancashire-12	Lancashire-14
Referral Order	8	23	91	122
Youth Caution	6	11	52	69
Youth Rehabilitation Order	9	16	39	64
Youth Conditional Caution	1	31	22	54
Conditional Discharge	2	2	23	27
Compensation Order	5		15	20
Fine	4	2	5	11
Detention and Training Order	2	2	5	9
Section 226b			3	3
Section 90-91 Detention	1			1
Total	38	87	255	380

Source: [Ministry of Justice, Youth justice statistics](#)

¹ This is an umbrella term used for the following orders made at court: bind over, discharges, fines and deferred sentences

Chart 2: Percentage split of youth cautions or sentences, year ending March 2021



Source: Ministry of Justice, Youth justice statistics