

Youth Survey 2009

Research study conducted for the
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

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Publication of data

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Introduction

Background

This report represents the findings for the *Youth Survey 2009*, carried out by Ipsos MORI for the Youth Justice Board (YJB). The survey was conducted among young people in mainstream education and those currently attending pupil referral units (PRUs). PRUs provide education for pupils who have been excluded and can be used to provide short placements for those who are at risk of exclusion. However, it should be noted that PRUs can also be used for young people who cannot attend mainstream school, for reasons such as: medical problems, teenage mothers and those who are pregnant, those assessed as being school-phobic and those awaiting a school place.

Objectives

The overall aim of the research was to examine the experience of crime – both as offenders and victims – among 11 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education and in PRUs. It also set out to measure what has changed for young people in England and Wales since the 2008 and 2005 youth surveys¹ and, where applicable, to compare findings with the youth surveys that Ipsos MORI has conducted annually for the YJB since 1999. In particular, the research looked at:

- the levels of offending among young people, including the types of crimes committed and the circumstances in which they take place
- the consequences of offending, reoffending and the deterrents to doing so
- the consequences of being caught committing a crime
- the carrying of weapons and the circumstances in which they are used by young people
- young people's concerns about their own safety, their experiences of being a victim of crime and the circumstances in which the incidents take place
- young people's experience of groups and how this affects offending behaviour
- the levels of – and reasons for – truancy among young people
- the prevalence of alcohol and drug-taking among young people.

¹ As in the *Youth Survey 2008: Young people in mainstream education (Youth Survey 2008)*, most comparisons are made with the two previous surveys (2008 and 2005 in the case of this report) only for consistency purposes.

Methodology

In both mainstream schools and PRUs, self-completion questionnaires were completed by young people during interviewer-supervised self-completion sessions.

In mainstream schools, a total of 4,855 pupils across Year groups 7–11 (aged 11 to 16) completed questionnaires and this fieldwork ran between 9 January and 3 April 2009. In PRUs, a total of 1,230 pupils aged 11 to 16 completed questionnaires and fieldwork ran between 26 January and 3 April 2009.

Sampling and weighting

Sampling for mainstream schools was conducted, in order to produce a representative sample of middle and secondary state schools in England and Wales (excluding special schools and sixth form colleges). A census of units was taken for PRUs.

However, it should be noted that both the school and PRU samples do not necessarily cover a representative cross-section of young people because sampling occurred at a school/unit level, rather than on an individual level. It is therefore possible that factors not measured through the survey – and possibly linked to offending – may also vary across survey waves (such as the socio-economic status of parents and carers). In addition, not all of the schools and PRUs accepted the invitation to take part; the overall response rate for schools was 32%, and 23% for PRUs. Therefore, the representativeness may have been reduced.

To address the issue of the representativeness of the sample from mainstream schools, the data was weighted by gender, age and region – according to data supplied by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Welsh Assembly Government (Statistical Directorate).

There is no demographic profile of young people attending PRUs and, as such, this data set cannot be weighted. Results can therefore only be seen as indicative.

Further methodological details for both the mainstream schools and PRU surveys can be found in the appendices, alongside a sample profile for each.

Comparing data over time

Where appropriate in this report, reference is made to the previous surveys of young people in mainstream education and PRUs, conducted in 2005 and 2008. For some key questions, the trend data from youth surveys conducted prior to 2005 is also included to provide a wider context. However this is only used at key questions due to rewording of other questions, meaning that past data is no longer comparable. The trend data is used to indicate top-line changes in key measures over time and different years have been used to illustrate trends, depending on the question and the visible pattern in the data.

It is also important to note that the same young people and schools did not take part in the survey year-on-year, so care should be taken when comparing results between survey years; the data describes general trends rather than tracking a cohort's attitudes and behaviours.

For the data on young people attending PRUs, it should also be noted that the sample was sourced differently between the surveying years, due to the fact that a more comprehensive sample of PRUs was available from the DCSF² from 2005 onwards.

Where appropriate, comparisons across sub-groups between 2008 and 2009 are also included. It is important to note that, as the data for young people attending PRUs is not weighted and the profile of respondents may vary between years, there may be a greater degree of bias in the representation of each sub-group for this data set. For example, in the 2008 findings, 10% of girls attending PRUs were aged 13, compared to 21% of girls in 2009.

While all the above points should be borne in mind when comparing data over time, the provision of trend analysis is a key reason why this survey has been commissioned over the years and it is therefore important to show how the findings have changed over time in this report.

Presentation and interpretation of data

Base sizes and descriptions are presented in bold in each of the tables. The base refers to the number of young people from the sample to which that finding relates. This can be all respondents or a sub-sample (for example, those who report having committed a crime in the previous 12 months). Those young people who did not respond to a question are also included in base numbers throughout this report.

In some tables, the overall percentages do not add up to 100%, which can be due to multiple answers being given or rounding up/down of decimal points. It can also be due to the exclusion of 'don't know' or 'no response' categories when presenting data in the tables (although these respondents are still included in the overall base numbers as outlined above). Throughout the tables, an asterisk (*) only denotes a value greater than zero but less than 0.5%.

For the data from mainstream schools, unweighted sample bases are quoted throughout the report.

As the results are based on a sample from mainstream schools or PRUs, they are subject to sampling tolerances – which means that not all differences are statistically significant. Therefore, this report will generally only draw on significant and statistically reliable differences in the data. Data differences that are not statistically significant will be clearly highlighted within the text.

This report does not present findings which are based on fewer than 30 young people in any sub-sample; further to this, references in the text and in

² This was previously the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

footnotes indicate where caution should be taken in interpreting findings, due to relatively small numbers. A more detailed note on statistical reliability can be found in Appendix C. Statistically significant differences between 2008 and 2009 are indicated by an asterisk (*) beside the figure for 2009 in tables.

Regional differences among young people attending PRUs are not discussed, due to the small base sizes at this level. Further statistical analysis of the data for those in both PRUs and mainstream education has been carried out and is referred to, where relevant, throughout the report. Additional information about the types of statistical analysis undertaken can be found in Appendix D.

In previous years of the youth survey there have been separate reports produced for those attending mainstream schools and those attending PRUs. The findings this year are presented together throughout the report, although there have also been changes to the 2009 report structure. The areas of truancy and exclusion, group membership and behaviour, substance use and victimisation have now been combined into one chapter – ‘Young people in context’. By contrast, outcomes of offending – i.e. whether the young person reporting offending was caught by the police and, if so, what outcome followed – and reoffending behaviour are now presented in separate chapters.

Given the differences in methodological approach and sampling for the young people attending mainstream schools and those attending PRUs – and the differences between the key characteristics of both groups – it is not appropriate to directly compare them through statistical testing. Therefore, this report will not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples. However, where appropriate, the report will highlight similarities and differences in patterns shown in the data for both groups. In particular, the two sets of data are presented together in charts throughout this report, although the differences demonstrated in the charts should not be treated as statistically significant, for the reasons outlined above.

Where this report refers to anti-social behaviour, it does so in the context of offences categorised as such in the *Youth Survey 2009* questionnaire: damaging or destroying (on purpose or recklessly) something belonging to someone else; writing or spraying graffiti on walls, buses, trains, seats or shelters; setting fire to anything on purpose (e.g. building, car or furniture); and travelling on a bus, train or underground without paying the fare.

Question wording

Some questions have been altered over the course of time, which makes it difficult to identify trends with absolute reliability – particularly the list of offences which young people may commit. For this reason, some trend data includes only recent years (e.g. the years following alteration of the question). This is noted in the appropriate sections of the report and explanations are provided in footnotes, indicating that any comparisons should be treated with caution.

Finding your way around the report

The report begins with an executive summary of the key findings to emerge from the research, followed by a detailed discussion of the main findings.

Throughout the report, tables and charts are included in order to present the data. In addition, the appendices contain detailed information on methodology, a profile of the young people who participated in the survey and information on statistical reliability.

Summary of findings

1. Young people today

Profile of young people in mainstream education:³

Due to the data being weighted to known profiles of young people in mainstream education, the age and gender profiles have remained similar to past youth surveys. Fifty per cent are boys and 48% are girls; 37% are aged 11 to 12-years-old; 37% are aged 13 to 14-years-old; and 24% are aged 15 to 16-years-old. Similar to young people at PRUs, 80% of the young people in the mainstream education sample are White. A sample profile for both mainstream and PRU respondents can be found in Appendix E.

Three-quarters (73%) of young people in mainstream education live with both of their parents, while 23% live in a single-parent household. The majority (68%) of young people in mainstream education said that their father is currently in full-time employment, while 41% said that their mother or step/foster mother is currently in full-time employment.

Profile of young people attending PRUs:

Boys account for the majority of respondents from PRUs (70% compared with 28% for girls), and young people attending PRUs tend to be older than those in mainstream education. Four in five (82%) of those attending PRUs are White.

Just under half (47%) of young people attending PRUs live with both their mother and father, while a similar proportion (45%) live in a single-parent household. Around two in five (42%) said that their father or step/foster father works full time, and 30% said that their mother or step/foster mother works full time.

2. Young people in context

Truancy and exclusion

The majority of young people attending PRUs reported having truanted at some point (64%) while, in contrast, the majority of young people in mainstream education reported they had never truanted (61%). However, the proportion of young people in either mainstream education or attending PRUs who reported having ever played truant remains consistent with the 2008 survey figure.

³ The mainstream education data is weighted by gender, age and region, using weights derived from data supplied by the DCSF and the Welsh Assembly Government (Statistical Directorate) (see Appendix B for more details).

Nearly three in ten (29%) young people attending PRUs said that they had truanted more than 20 times, compared to just 2% of those in mainstream education.

Truancy levels were higher among girls than boys, among both surveyed groups, and the findings suggest that girls are more likely to truant because they are being bullied or because their families need them at home.

In mainstream education, those who had ever truanted, most commonly did so first in Year 6 or earlier (26%), while those in PRUs most commonly truanted first in Year 7 (42%). The age at which young people first truanted does not differ between offenders and non-offenders, across those in mainstream education or attending a PRU. However, among those attending PRUs, young people who reported carrying a knife or gun were more likely to play truant before the start of secondary school, compared with those who had not carried a knife or gun (23%, compared with 14%).

Whereas the majority of young people in mainstream education reported that they had not been excluded in the last year, 57% of young people attending PRUs *had* been excluded. A similar pattern emerges with suspensions: three-quarters of those in mainstream education had never been suspended, while the majority (66%) of those attending PRUs had been suspended. Given the nature of many PRUs (as discussed on page 5), these findings are not surprising.

Group membership

Most young people see themselves as part of a group (a group being defined as three or more people). However it is important to look beyond group membership *per se* because some groups engage in desirable and healthy pursuits (such as sport teams, hobby groups, etc), while others engage in anti-social or offending behaviour. Therefore, in order to differentiate the different types of group membership, this survey asked about four different areas: what the motivations are for young people in joining groups; whether young people consider their group to display certain attributes (such as a symbol or tag); whether young people think that committing crime is viewed as acceptable by their group; and whether the group they belong to have committed certain anti-social/offending behaviours.

The top three reasons for joining a group remain the same as in 2008 for those in mainstream education, with 'making friends' being the most common (61%). This is also the top reason for those in PRUs, with 39% giving this response.

The majority of young people in mainstream education who consider themselves part of a group said that crime is never seen as acceptable by their group (58%). In stark contrast, the majority (58%) of those in PRUs who consider themselves part of a group reported that their group *does* see crime as acceptable.

The motivations for joining a group differ when those groups see crime as acceptable. For example, 18% of those in mainstream education who are part

of a group in which crime is seen as acceptable reported joining for protection, compared with 5% of those who are part of a group in which crime is not seen as acceptable.

Overall, 59% of young people in mainstream education who consider themselves to be part of a group cited hanging out in public spaces as an activity they do with their group. This was also the most common response (73%) for those in PRUs who consider themselves to be part of a group.

A minority of those in mainstream education reported having taken part in other activities with their group, such as having carried out graffiti (15%) or having stolen something (14%). Among those in PRUs, 47% reported breaking or damaging things and 43% reported having stolen something as group activities.

There is a link between a group seeing crime as acceptable and members of that group having committed an offence. For example, 47% of those in mainstream education who are part of a group where crime is seen as acceptable said that people in their group had broken, damaged or destroyed something. For the same group of young people in PRUs, 61% reported that their group has been involved in threatening or frightening other people.

Of those in mainstream education who are part of a group in which crime is seen as acceptable, very few showed evidence of the characteristics associated with gang membership,⁴ although a third reported that their group has a name. Among those in PRUs who are part of a group in which crime is seen as acceptable, 45% reported that their group has a name, 44% reported their group has a territory and 32% reported it has a tag or symbol.

Substance use

The findings show a continuation of a downward trend in the use of alcohol and tobacco by young people in mainstream education (57% for alcohol and 17% for tobacco, compared to 59% and 19% respectively in 2008). In addition, 29% of those in mainstream education had never taken any substance.⁵

The levels of substance use among young people attending PRUs have remained consistent with 2008, with 11% having never taken a substance. However, recent tobacco use among young people in PRUs has increased since 2008, with 45% reporting they had used tobacco in the last month, compared with 40% in 2008.

While alcohol, tobacco and cannabis are the most prevalent substances young people had ever used in both mainstream education and PRUs, a higher proportion of those in PRUs reported using Class A drugs – such as ecstasy (12%) and cocaine or crack (15%) – than those in mainstream education (3% for each).

⁴ The survey asks if the group the young person belongs to has a name, a territory, a leader, a set of rules, a tag or a symbol or clothing associated with it.

⁵ This includes alcohol, tobacco and any drugs.

The majority of young people in mainstream education and PRUs reported that they know people who could sell or give them drugs (58% in mainstream education, 71% in PRUs). Girls attending PRUs are more likely to report this than their male counterparts (80%, compared with 68%).

Victimisation

Overall, the majority of young people in mainstream education and attending PRUs are *not* worried about being the victim of an offence or bullying. There has been a decrease in the number of young people in mainstream education who are worried about being the victim of theft (33% in 2009, compared with 35% in 2008), and being the victim of racism (19% in 2009, compared with 21% in 2008).

Actual experience of being a victim of crime or bullying in the last 12 months has remained in line with 2008 for young people in mainstream education (51% in 2008 and 52% in 2009). However, for those attending PRUs, there has been a significant increase (66% in 2009 compared with 61% in 2008).

The most commonly cited offences and behaviours which young people in mainstream education and PRUs fall victim to are:

- **being bullied**
Reported by 28% of those in mainstream schools and 24% of those in PRUs.
- **being threatened by others**
Reported by 27% of those in mainstream schools and 44% of those in PRUs.
- **being physically attacked**
Reported by 19% of those in mainstream schools and 44% of those in PRUs.

Younger pupils are more likely than older ones to have been the victim of bullying, while girls are more likely than boys to say this had happened to them. Boys are more likely to say they have been threatened.

Young people in mainstream education, who have been the victim of each offence, most commonly report this victimisation having taken place in school. However – in line with the 2008 figures – this differs for those who have been threatened with a knife or gun, which most commonly occurs in their local area (33%). There has also been an increase in those who reported being threatened with a knife or gun at school since 2008 (14% in 2009, compared with 9% in 2008).

In contrast, young people attending PRUs who have been the victim of an offence, and specified a location, are most likely to experience most types of victimisation in their local area – the only exception being experience of racial abuse, which 36% reported occurring at school.

The proportion of young people in mainstream education who reported having been the victim of an offence, committed by someone under the age of 18, has dropped from 69% in 2008 to 65% in 2009. For those attending PRUs, there has been no significant change in this respect.

There is an apparent link between committing crime and being the victim of crime/bullying. In both mainstream education and PRUs, those who report committing an offence are more likely to have been the victim of an offence than those who do not self-report offending.

3. Offending behaviour

Levels of offending

Less than one in five (18%) young people in mainstream education self-reported having offended in the past 12 months. This represents a significant decrease from previous years (23% in 2008, 27% in 2005 and 26% in 2004). Contrastingly, 64% of young people attending PRUs reported committing an offence in the past 12 months, although this is in line with previous years.

Young people in mainstream schools or attending PRUs are more likely to report committing an offence if they are:

- **male**
In mainstream schools, 23% of boys self-reported offending, compared with 14% of girls. In PRUs, 66% of boys self-reported offending, compared with 57% of girls.
- **older**
In mainstream schools, 30% of young people aged 15 to 16 self-reported offending, compared with 15% of those aged 11 to 14. In PRUs, 68% of young people aged 15 to 16 self-reported offending, compared with 61% of those aged 11 to 14.

The findings also suggest a link between self-reported offending and other types of behaviour reported by young people in both mainstream education and PRUs. These associations include being part of a group where crime is viewed as acceptable, having been a victim of crime, having carried a knife or gun and having truanted or been expelled.

The age at which young people in mainstream education commit their first offence appears to be rising, with 35% reporting being aged 11 or younger, compared with 39% in 2008 and 43% in 2005. However, the age at which young people attending PRUs commit their first offence has remained relatively consistent over the years (in 2009, 49% stated they were 11 years or younger and 47% that they were 12 years or older).

Offending behaviour

The range of offences that young people in mainstream education reported committing is relatively low (25% reported committing only one type of offence). By contrast, among self-reported offenders attending PRUs, the proportion stating they had committed five or more different types of offences has increased to 21% in 2009, from 16% in 2008.

The most common offence type reported by young people in mainstream education is anti-social behaviour (cited by 77% of those who self-reported offending), followed by theft/stealing (74%). Among those who had committed an offence in the last 12 months, 2009 has seen an increase in those reporting drugs offences (27% from 23% in 2008).

Theft-related offences are the most cited category for self-reported offending by young people attending PRUs (80%). This is followed by anti-social behaviour and threatening/assaulting offences (both 79%).

The three most common single offences committed by young people in mainstream schools are:

- fare dodging (49%)
- shoplifting (49%)
- damaging or destroying someone else's belongings (40%).

The top two offences are the same as the two most common offences in 2008.

The three most common single offences committed by young people in PRUs are:

- threatening/assaulting others in public (64%)
- damaging or destroying someone else's belongings (59%)
- shoplifting (57%).

These offences were also the three most frequently cited offences in 2008.

Looking at trend data across survey years (for those who self-reported committing an offence in the previous 12 months), there have been some notable increases in certain offences. In mainstream schools, single offences under the broad groupings of theft/stealing or drugs (e.g. stealing anything in school or buying drugs) were more commonly reported in 2009 than 2008. A similar pattern is seen in PRUs, where there has also been increased reporting in these two categories, in addition to rises in threatening/assaulting offences.

Co-offending

As in previous years, the majority of those who self-reported offending – whether in mainstream education or attending PRUs – committed offences with their friends (60% and 67% respectively).

Circumstance of offending

The most frequently mentioned reason for committing a first offence given by those in mainstream schools and in PRUs was 'for fun' (cited by 37% and 42% respectively), while 'encouragement from friends' was also given.

In line with previous surveys, 'boredom' was also the most common circumstance surrounding recent offences – reported by young people in both mainstream education and attending PRUs. The next most common reason was 'being drunk/having drunk alcohol'.

Knives and guns

In 2009, almost a quarter (23%) of young people in mainstream education reported carrying a knife in the last year. The most commonly carried knife was a penknife. Young people in mainstream education were most likely to say that they used a knife for hobbies, activities and sports (30% of those who reported to have carried a knife), although 24% cited using a knife for protection. A minority of young people in mainstream education (4% of those who had carried a knife) reported using a knife to threaten or injure someone.

Over half (54%) of young people in PRUs reported carrying a knife in the last year. Again, a pen knife is the most commonly carried knife. While 21% of young people attending PRUs who reported having carried a knife in the last year said that they use a knife for hobbies, activities or sports, the reason most frequently reported was to protect themselves (43%). Sixteen per cent of young people attending PRUs who had carried a knife in the last 12 months reported using it to threaten or injure someone.

In 2009, 21% of young people in mainstream education said they'd carried a gun in the last year. The most commonly carried gun among this group was a BB gun and the most likely use for a gun was for hobbies, activities or sports (40%).

Just under half (47%) of young people in PRUs reported carrying a gun. As with young people in mainstream education, if young people in PRUs carry a gun, it is most likely to be a BB gun, and the most common reason for using a gun is for hobbies, activities and sports (29%).

4. Outcomes of offending

Consequences of offending

Detection rates for young people in both mainstream education and PRUs who reported committing an offence remain in line with 2008. As such, the figure for those attending PRUs who had been caught by the police is proportionally higher than those in mainstream education (82% and 49%, respectively).

Boys in mainstream education are more likely to report being caught when they have committed an offence than girls (55%, compared with 40%). However, detection rates do not vary according to gender among those

attending PRUs. Young people who had carried a knife are also more likely to report being caught for an offence, compared to those who had not carried a knife or gun – for both young people in mainstream education and those in PRUs.

The most common consequences of being caught vary between those in mainstream education and those attending PRUs. For young people in mainstream education, the most commonly reported responses were 'nothing happened' (28%) and 'I had to apologise to the victim' (20%). However, for young people attending PRUs, the most commonly reported responses were 'I was contacted by the youth offending team' (46%) and 'I went to court' (40%). Young people in PRUs aged 15 to 16 are more likely to report these consequences than those aged 11 to 14.

The most common disposals received by young people in mainstream education who were caught by the police are:

- Final Warning (26%)
- Reprimand (15%)
- ASBO (anti-social behaviour order) (8%).

For young people attending PRUs, the top three disposals received were similar (with the exception of ASBOs) and these are:

- Final Warning (49%)
- Reprimand (40%)
- fine (25%).

There has been no significant change in whether young people in PRUs reported that being caught stopped them from offending again. However, there has been a significant decrease among those in mainstream education who reported that being caught had little or no impact on their offending.

5. Reoffending behaviour

Levels of reoffending

The steady rise seen in reoffending levels by those in mainstream schools, after being caught by the police since 2001, has not continued in 2009. Rather, there has been a decrease from the 2008 figures (57% in 2009, compared with 65% in 2008). In contrast, reoffending among those attending PRUs has remained consistent (72% in 2009 and 71% in 2008).

Young people in mainstream schools or attending PRUs are more likely to report reoffending after being caught, if they had carried a knife or gun. There is also an apparent link between reoffending and prevalence of truancy.

The three most common offences committed by young people in mainstream education after being caught by the police are:

- damaging or destroying someone else's belongings (45%)
- shoplifting (43%)
- threatening/assaulting others in public (40%).

The pattern is similar among young people attending PRUs:

- threatening/assaulting others in public (56%)
- damaging or destroying someone else's belongings (52%)
- shoplifting (48%).

Among those in either mainstream education or attending PRUs who did not commit further offences, the main reasons given were fear of being caught by the police (again) and growing up/settling down.

Young people in mainstream schools and attending PRUs also shared similar views about the general deterrents to young people committing crime. Concern about parental reaction and the fear of being caught were the top two deterrents to crime cited. This has remained consistent with findings from previous surveys.

Young people today

This section includes a breakdown of young people attending mainstream schools or PRUs by:

1.1 Age and ethnicity

1.2 Home life

1 Young people today

1.1 Profile by age and ethnicity

Due to the data being weighted to known profiles⁶ of young people in mainstream education, the age and gender profiles have remained similar to those in past youth surveys. As shown in Table 1.1 below, 50% are boys and 48% are girls, with 37% aged 11 to 12-years-old, 37% aged 13 to 14-years-old and 24% aged 15 to 16-years-old.

As Table 1.1 shows, boys account for the majority of respondents attending PRUs (70% compared with 28% for girls). Of the boys, 14% are aged 11 to 12, 45% are 13 to 14-years-old, and 39% are 15 to 16-years-old. Girls attending PRUs tend to be older, with 21% aged 16-years-old, compared with 13% of the boys. We should note again here that PRU data is unweighted and based on the respondents' answers alone.

Table 1.1: Profile of young people – age within gender

| Base: All young people | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | All | Boys | Girls | All | Boys | Girls |
| | (4,855) | (2,295) | (2,446) | (1,230) | (857) | (344) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Age | | | | | | |
| 11 | 19 | 18 | 20 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 12 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 9 | 11 | 4 |
| 13 | 18 | 19 | 18 | 21 | 22 | 21 |
| 14 | 18 | 19 | 18 | 22 | 23 | 21 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 27 | 26 | 29 |
| 16 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 15 | 13 | 21 |
| Not stated | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

Figures include missing responses in base calculations

⁶ Weights are derived from data supplied by the DCSF and the Welsh Assembly Government (Statistical Directorate) (see Appendix B for more details).

In terms of the ethnicity of young people in mainstream education, 80% are White, while 8% are Asian or Asian British and 4% are Black or Black British. The ethnicity of young people attending PRUs is similar, with 82% being White, although 3% are Asian or Asian British, and 7% are Black or Black British.

Table 1.2: Profile of young people – ethnicity within gender

| Base: All young people | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | All | Boys | Girls | All | Boys | Girls |
| | (4,855) | (2,295) | (2,446) | (1,230) | (857) | (344) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | |
| White | 80 | 83 | 80 | 82 | 83 | 83 |
| Black or Black British | 4 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Asian or Asian British | 8 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Mixed | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Not stated | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

Figures include missing responses in base calculations

1.2 Home life

Almost three-quarters (73%) of young people in mainstream education live with two parents, while 23% live in a single-parent household: 20% with a single mother, 3% with a single father. In contrast, only 47% of young people in PRUs live with two parents, while 39% live with just their mother and 6% with just their father. Furthermore, only 1% of young people in mainstream education do not live with any parent in the household, compared to 6% of those in PRUs.

Young people attending PRUs are less likely to live with a sibling than young people in mainstream education, with 70% living with either/both a brother or sister, compared to 81% in mainstream education.

Table 1.3: Household composition: who young people live with

| | Young people in schools (4,855) | Young people in PRUs (1,230) |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Base: All young people | (4,855) | (1,230) |
| | % | % |
| My mother | 92 | 80 |
| My stepmother | 1 | 3 |
| My father | 65 | 35 |
| My stepfather | 11 | 15 |
| Both Parents | 73 | 47 |
| Living with foster parent | | |
| - foster mother | * | 4 |
| - foster father | * | 4 |
| Living with sibling | | |
| - brother | 55 | 51 |
| - sister | 49 | 48 |
| Living with somebody else | 8 | 15 |
| Not stated | 2 | 1 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

* Percentage is greater than 0% but less than 1%

For those in mainstream education, the majority of young people's mothers and fathers are in employment (73% of mothers, 79% of fathers), with just 5% of mothers and 5% of fathers being currently unemployed – as shown in Table 1.4.

Conversely, just half of the young people attending PRUs said that their mother or father is currently employed (47 of mothers, 52% of fathers), while 12% of mothers and 10% of fathers are unemployed – double that of the mainstream education parent figure.

Work status of parent/guardian

Table 1.4:

| | Mother/stepmother/foster mother work status | | Father/step father/foster father work status | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| | Young people in schools | Young people in PRUs | Young people in schools | Young people in PRUs |
| Base: All young people | 4,855 | 1,230 | 4,855 | 1,230 |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Works full-time | 41 | 30 | 68 | 42 |
| Works part-time | 32 | 17 | 11 | 10 |
| Is unemployed | 5 | 12 | 5 | 10 |
| Look after house/family | 33 | 42 | 9 | 9 |
| Other | 6 | 7 | 7 | 10 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|----|
| Don't know /not applicable | 1 | | 1 | | 5 | | 16 |
| Not stated | 2 | | 2 | | 4 | | 9 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

Young people in context

This section explores the following areas:

- 2.1 Truancy and exclusion
- 2.2 Group membership
- 2.3 Substance use
- 2.4 Victimisation

2 Young people in context

2.1 Truancy and exclusion

This section explores the levels of truancy, exclusion and suspension among young people in mainstream education and PRUs. It also looks at which groups are most likely to truant and why. Truancy among offenders is also explored.

2.1.1 Prevalence of truancy

2.1.2 Profile of truants – who is most likely to truant?

2.1.3 When young people start playing truant

2.1.4 Truancy among offenders

2.1.5 Reasons for playing truant

2.1.6 Exclusions

2.1.7 Suspensions

2.1.8 Summary

2.1.1 Prevalence of truancy

In line with the *Youth Survey 2008: Young people in mainstream education (Youth Survey 2008)* findings, the majority of young people in mainstream education – no matter what age – reported *never* having played truant for at least a whole day (61%⁷). This compares with 25% who reported having played truant. As in previous years, the majority of those who reported playing truant said they had done so only once or twice.

Young people attending PRUs are much more likely to have tranted for at least a whole day (64%⁸), with only a minority (12%) who reported not having played truant at all. Young people attending PRUs are also more likely to have played truant a greater number of times: 29% of PRU pupils reported playing truant more than 20 times, compared with just 2% of young people in mainstream schools.

7 Figure calculated from a base size of 4,855 (unweighted total number in mainstream education).

8 Figure calculated from a base of 1,230 (total number in PRUs). All PRU base sizes are unweighted (as weights were not applied to this data set).

Table 2.1: Truancy

How often (if at all) have you played truant from school for at least a whole day?

| Base: All respondents | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| | (4,855) | (4,750) | (5,463) | (1,230) | (914) | (1,584) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Never played truant | 61* | 63 | 61 | 12 | 14 | 14 |
| 1-2 times | 13 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 9 |
| 3-4 times | 6* | 5 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 5-9 times | 3* | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| 10-14 times | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| 15-19 times | * | * | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| More than 20 times | 2 | 2 | 2 | 29 | 28 | 36 |
| Don't know/can't remember | 5 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 11 | 8 |
| Not stated | 10* | 8 | 6 | 13 | 14 | 10 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

*In all tables * next to a figure indicates a statistically significant change between 2008 and 2009; * alone indicates a percentage is greater than 0% but less than 1%*

2.1.2 Profile of truants – who is most likely to truant?

Girls are more likely to report playing truant than boys, both among those in mainstream education (26%,⁹ compared with 23%¹⁰) and those attending PRUs (72%,¹¹ compared with 61%¹²).

In mainstream education, age appears to be a contributory factor, as young people aged 11 to 14 are considerably less likely (21%¹³) to report playing truant than those aged 15 to 16 (35%¹⁴).

However, among young people attending PRUs, there is no statistically significant difference between self-reported truancy by age (63%¹⁴ of 11 to 14-year-olds and 65%¹⁵ of 15 to 16-year-olds said they had truanted).

9 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,446 (unweighted total number of girls in mainstream education).

10 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,295 (unweighted total number of boys in mainstream education).

11 Figure calculated from a base size of 344 (total number of girls in PRUs).

12 Figure calculated from a base size of 857 (total number of boys in PRUs).

13 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,470 (unweighted total number of 11 to 14-year-olds in mainstream education).

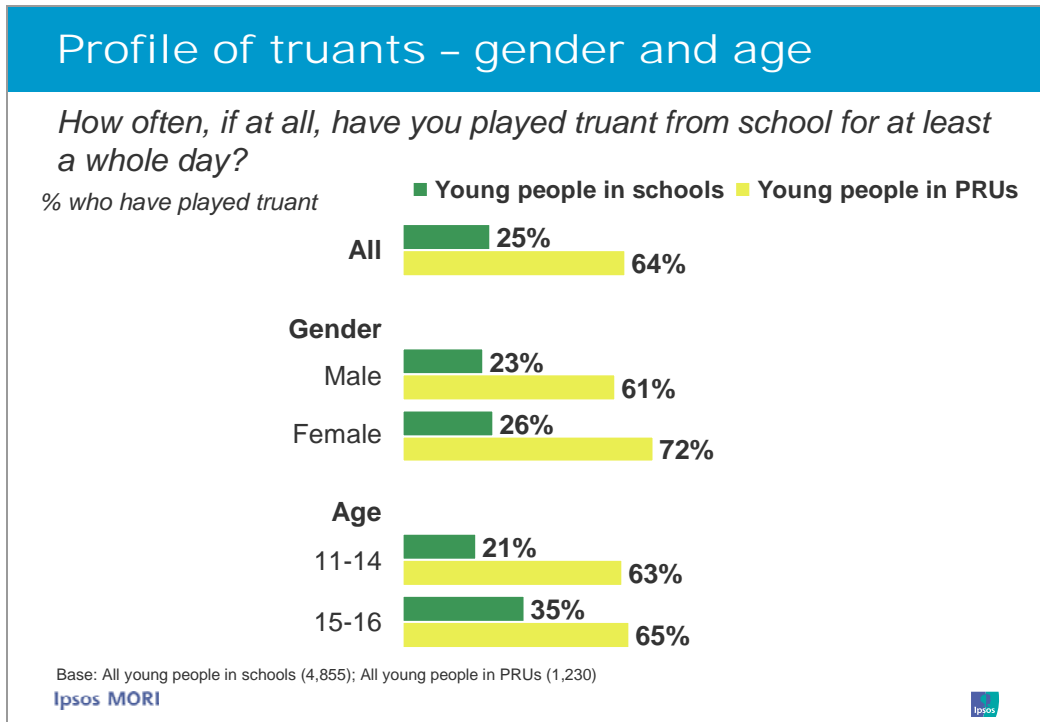
14 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,293 (unweighted total number of 15-16-year-olds in mainstream education).

14 Figure calculated from a base size of 679 (total number of 11-14-year-olds in PRUs).

15 Figure calculated from a base size of 512 (total number of 15-16-year-olds in PRUs).

However, there is a difference in the proportion of young people at PRUs who reported *never* having played truant, with 11 to 14-year-olds twice as likely as 15 to 16-year-olds to say that they had not truanted (16% of those aged 11 to 14, compared with 8% aged 15 to 16).

Figure 2.1: Truancy rates by age and gender¹⁶



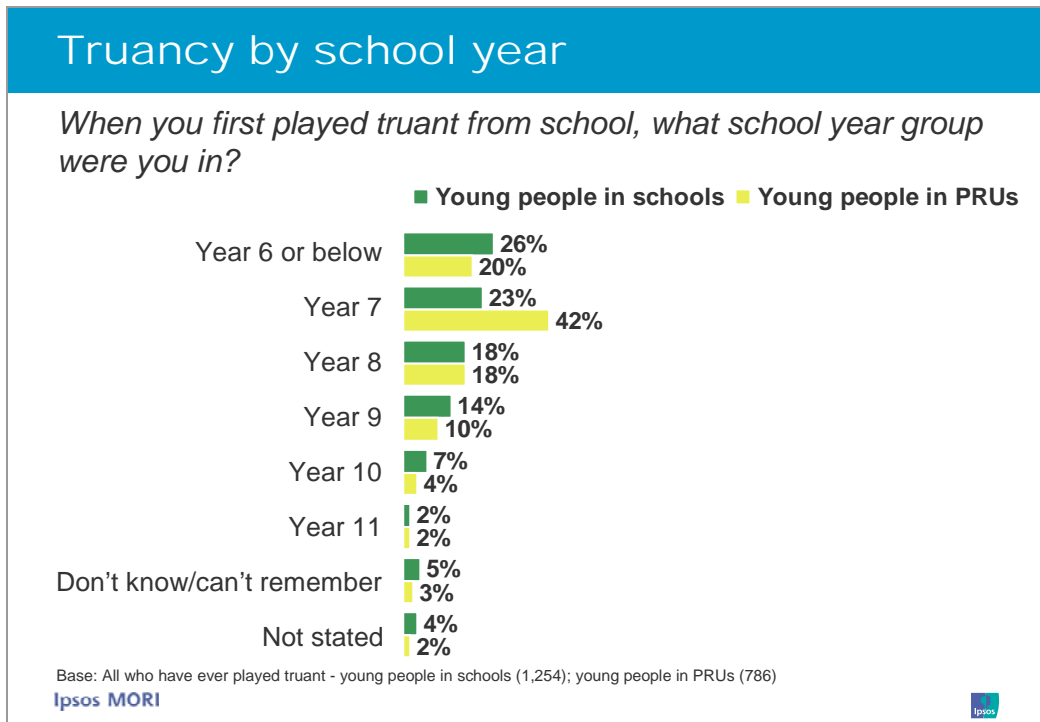
2.1.3 When young people start playing truant

Of the young people in mainstream education who reported having ever truanted, 26% recalled first doing so in primary school (i.e. in Year 6 or below). This represents a significant rise from 2008 (when the figure was 20%) but is the same as in 2005. Of those in PRUs who reported having ever truanted, fewer young people recalled first doing so in primary school (20%), with 42% initially truanting in Year 7.

For both groups, truanting for the first time becomes increasingly rare as young people get older: 67% of mainstream pupils and 80% of pupils in PRUs who have truanted first did so before the end of Year 8. Truancy rarely begins among pupils in Year 10 or above.

¹⁶ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

Figure 2.2: When young people start truanting¹⁷



2.1.4 Truancy among offenders

Among those attending PRUs, persistent¹⁸ truants and those who carry guns or knives are more likely to play truant before the start of secondary school (24% of persistent truants, compared with 15% of those who truant less frequently; 23% of those who carry guns, compared with 14% of those who do not carry guns). There are no significant differences in the age at which truancy starts between self-reported offenders and non-offenders, which is the case for both young people in mainstream education and those attending PRUs.

2.1.5 Reasons for playing truant

The most common reasons given for playing truant are relatively similar from both young people in mainstream education and in PRUs. As can be seen in Table 2.2 below, the most common responses from young people are that they 'found lessons boring' (50% in schools, 78% in PRUs), that they 'didn't get on with their teacher' (25% and 54%) or that they 'wanted to do something better' (23% and 41%).¹⁹

¹⁷ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

¹⁸ In this report, a persistent truant is defined as a young person who reports playing truant from school on 10 or more occasions.

¹⁹ Mainstream figures calculated from a base of 1,254 (unweighted total who have truanted). PRU figures calculated from a base of 786 (total who had truanted).

Table 2.2: Reasons for playing truant
What would you say were the main reasons why you played truant?

| | Young people in schools (1,254) | Young people in PRUs (786) |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Base: All respondents who had played truant from school | | |
| | % | % |
| Found lessons boring | 50 | 78 |
| Didn't get on with the teacher | 25 | 54 |
| Wanted to do something better | 23 | 41 |
| Had not done homework | 21 | 21 |
| Found lessons badly taught | 19 | 24 |
| Trying to avoid a test or an exam | 14 | 26 |
| Bullied by other people at school | 14 | 14 |
| Found lessons difficult | 12 | 26 |
| Family needed me to help out at home | 10 | 8 |
| Friends made me do it | 8 | 9 |
| Experienced racism by another pupil | 2 | 2 |
| I had a job/needed to work | 2 | 4 |
| Experienced racism by a teacher | 1 | 3 |
| Other | 14 | 9 |
| Don't know | 4 | 1 |
| Not stated | 4 | 2 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

There are some notable differences in the reasons different age groups gave for truanting. For example, the younger the pupil in mainstream education, the more likely they are to have cited bullying as a reason for missing school. This was mentioned by 25%²⁰ of 11-year-olds, compared with 10%²¹ of 15-year-olds.²²

By contrast, 15-year-olds are much more likely to say that they found lessons

²⁰ Figure calculated from a base size of 56 (unweighted total number of 11-year-olds in mainstream education who had truanted). Note that this sample size is low so results should be interpreted with caution.

²¹ Figure calculated from a base size of 328 (unweighted total number of 15-year-olds in mainstream education who had truanted).

²² The figures for individual age groups are presented here rather than grouping older and younger pupils together to highlight significant differences.

boring (56%²³ of 15-year-olds, 37%²⁴ of 11-year-olds). Similarly, both 15 and 16 year-olds are more likely than their younger 11-year-old counterparts to say that they were badly taught (27% of 15-year-olds, 24%²⁵ of 16 year-olds, 6% of 11-year-olds); or that they wanted to do something better (31% of 15-year-olds, 37% of 16-year-olds, 14% of 11-year-olds). However, caution should be used when interpreting figures relating to the proportion of 11-year-olds who have truanted, due to the small sample size.

Among young people attending PRUs, 11 to 14-year-olds are more likely than 15 to 16-year-olds to report that they have truanted because of bullying (15%²⁶ as opposed to 11%²⁷). However, 15 to 16-year-olds are more likely to have done so because they found lessons badly taught (30%, compared with 21%); wanted to do something better (44%, compared with 39%) or were needed at home by their families (10%, compared with 7%).

There are a number of significant differences by gender apparent among young people who have truanted in both mainstream schools and those attending PRUs. Girls in mainstream education are more likely to cite the following reasons for playing truant than boys:

- they found lessons boring: 53%,²⁸ compared with 47%²⁹ of boys
- they were being bullied: 18%, compared with 10% of boys
- their family needed them at home: 12%, compared with 8% of boys
- their friends made them do it: 10%, compared with 6% of boys.

Girls attending PRUs also placed more emphasis on several reasons for truanting than boys:

- they found lessons badly taught: 30%,³⁰ compared with 21%³¹ of boys
- to avoid a test or exam: 34%, compared with 22% of boys
- they didn't get on with a teacher: 60%, compared with 51%
- they wanted to do something better: 49%, compared with 38%
- bullying: 18%, compared with 12%

23 Figure calculated from a base size of 328 (unweighted total number of 15-year-olds in mainstream education who had truanted).

24 Figure calculated from a base size of 56 (unweighted total number of 11-year-olds in mainstream education who had truanted).
Caution must be used when interpreting these figures due to the small sample size.

25 Figure calculated from a base size of 136 (unweighted total number of 16-year-olds in mainstream education who had truanted).

26 Figure calculated from a base size of 679 (total number of 11 to 14-year-olds in PRUs who had truanted).

27 Figure calculated from a base size of 512 (total number of 15 to 16-year-olds in PRUs who had truanted).

28 Figure calculated from a base size of 684 (unweighted total number of girls in mainstream education who had truanted).

29 Figure calculated from a base size of 545 (unweighted total number of boys in mainstream education who had truanted).

30 Figure calculated from a base size of 247 (total number of girls in PRUs who had truanted).

31 Figure calculated from a base size of 521 (total number of boys in PRUs who had truanted).

- their families needed them at home: 15%, compared with 5%.

There are also some apparent variations in truancy by ethnicity. Of those in mainstream education, White pupils are more likely than Black and Asian pupils to say that they truant because they found lessons difficult (14%³² compared with 3%³³ and 6%³⁴ respectively); or because they were being bullied (16%, compared with 4% and 5% respectively).

Asian pupils are more likely than average to say they truant because, either they had not done their homework (30%) or because their friends made them do it (15%). Mixed race pupils are also more likely than average to say that they truant to avoid an exam (24%³⁵) or that they had to work (5%). However, caution should be used when interpreting these figures, due to the small sample size.

Among those attending PRUs, White young people are again more likely than Black young people to say that they truant because they found lessons difficult (28%,³⁶ compared with 11%³⁷). Black young people are more likely than White young people to say that they truant because they had experienced racism from a teacher (9%, compared with 2%). Again caution should be used when interpreting these figures, due to the small base sizes.

2.1.6 Exclusions

The majority (88%³⁸) of young people in mainstream education had not been permanently excluded in the last year, with only 2% saying that they had.³⁹ This is in line with the 2008 findings.

Among young people attending PRUs,³⁹ 57%⁴⁰ had been excluded, compared with 27% who reported they had not been excluded.

32 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,028 (unweighted total number of those with White ethnic background in mainstream education who had truant).

33 Figure calculated from a base size of 43 (unweighted total number of those with Black ethnic background in mainstream education who had truant). Caution must be used when interpreting these figures due to the small sample size.

34 Figure calculated from a base size of 89 (unweighted total number of those with Asian ethnic background in mainstream education who had truant). Caution must be used when interpreting these figures due to the small sample size.

35 Figure calculated from a base size of 59 (unweighted total number of those with Mixed-ethnic background in mainstream education who had truant). Caution must be used when interpreting these figures due to the small sample size.

36 Figure calculated from a base size of 653 (total number of those with White ethnic background in PRUs who had truant).

37 Figure calculated from a base size of 45 (total number of those with Black ethnic background in PRUs who had truant). Caution must be used when interpreting these figures due to the small sample size.

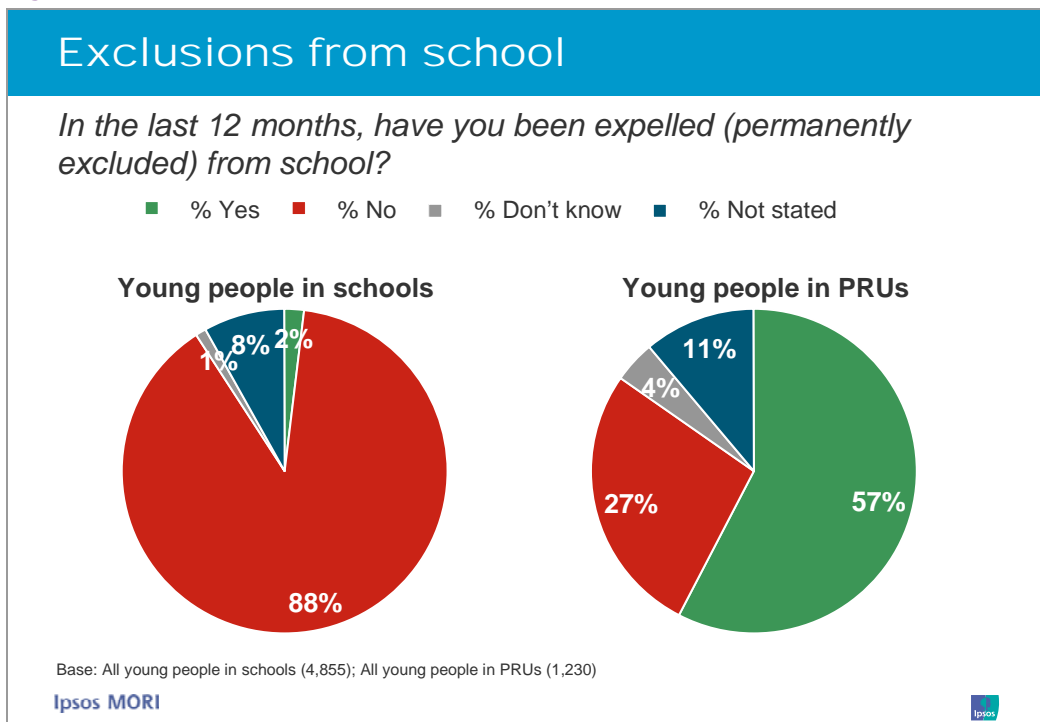
38 Figure calculated from a base of 4,855 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education).

39 In total, 8% did not respond to this question, and 1% responded 'don't know'.

39 PRUs provide education for pupils who have been excluded and they can be used to provide short placements for those who are at risk of exclusion.

40 Figures calculated from a base of 1,230 (total number in PRUs).

Figure 2.3: Exclusions from school⁴¹



In mainstream schools, those aged 14 years old are most likely to say they have been excluded (4%⁴²), while boys in general are also more likely to report exclusion than girls (3%,⁴³ compared with 2%⁴⁴). There are no significant differences by ethnicity.

2.1.7 Suspensions

Three-quarters (74%) of young people in mainstream education said they had *never* been suspended, with only 9% saying they had been suspended. This breaks down as 5% (of the whole mainstream school sample) who had been suspended once and 4% who had been suspended more than once. All of these figures are in line with the results seen in 2008.⁴⁵

For those attending PRUs the picture is almost reversed, where the majority of pupils (66%) stated they had been suspended: 11% on just one occasion, but 55% more than once. Almost a quarter chose not to answer the question, either saying that they did not know (11%) or not stating an answer at all

⁴¹ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

⁴² Figure calculated from a base size of 832 (unweighted total number of 14-year-olds in mainstream education).

⁴³ Figure calculated from a base size of 2,295 (unweighted total number of boys in mainstream education).

⁴⁴ Figure calculated from a base size of 2,446 (unweighted total number of girls in mainstream education).

⁴⁵ Figures calculated from a base of 4,855 (unweighted total number in mainstream education).

(13%). This leaves 10% of young people attending PRUs who reported that they had never been suspended.⁴⁶

In both PRUs and mainstream education, boys are more likely to be suspended than girls (12%,⁴⁷ compared with 6%⁴⁸ of girls in mainstream education; 68%,⁴⁹ compared with 60%⁵⁰ of girls in PRUs).

There are also differences in reported suspension rates by age. In mainstream education – as in 2008 – pupils aged 11 to 14 are less likely to have been suspended (4%⁵¹ once and 3% more than once) than those aged 15 or 16 (8%⁵² once and 6% more than once). However, younger pupils are more likely to be suspended in PRUs, where 12%⁵³ of 11 to 14-year-olds had been suspended once and 61% more than once, while 9%⁵⁴ of 15 to 16-year-olds, had been suspended once and 47% more than once.

Table 2.3: Suspensions
In the last 12 months, how many times, if ever, have you been suspended from school for a limited period of time?

| | Young people in schools | | Young people in PRUs | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Base: All respondents | (4,855) | (4,750) | (1,230) | (914) |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Once | 5 | 5 | 11 | 9 |
| More than once | 4* | 3 | 55 | 57 |
| I have never been suspended from school | 74 | 75 | 10 | 9 |
| Don't know | 4 | 4 | 11 | 9 |
| Not stated | 13 | 13 | 13 | 16 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

46 Figures calculated from a base of 1,230 (unweighted total number in PRUs).

47 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,295 (unweighted total number of boys in mainstream education).

48 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,446 (unweighted total number of girls in mainstream education).

49 Figure calculated from a base size of 857 (total number of boys in PRUs).

50 Figure calculated from a base size of 344 (total number of girls in PRUs).

51 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,470 (unweighted total number of 11 to 14-year-olds in mainstream education).

52 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,293 (unweighted total number of 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education).

53 Figure calculated from a base size of 679 (total number of 11 to 14-year-olds in PRUs).

54 Figure calculated from a base size of 512 (total number of 15 to 16-year-olds in PRUs).

2.1.8 Summary – truancy and exclusion

The proportion of young people in either mainstream education or attending PRUs who reported ever having played truant has remained consistent with 2008. The majority of young people attending PRUs reported having truanted at some point (64%), while the majority of young people in mainstream education reported never having truanted (61%). In addition, 29% of young people attending PRUs said that they had truanted more than 20 times, compared to just 2% of young people in mainstream education.

Truancy levels are higher among girls than boys, both for young people in mainstream education and those attending PRUs. The findings also suggest that girls are more likely to cite certain reasons for truanting than boys, which include being bullied and their families needing them at home.

For those in mainstream education who reported having ever played truant, the most common stage for first doing this is in primary school (Year 6 or below) (26%). For young people attending PRUs, 42% reported that the most common stage for first playing truant is the first year of secondary school (Year 7).

The age at which young people first truant does not differ between offenders and non-offenders – for young people in mainstream education or attending a PRU. However, among those attending PRUs, young people who reported carrying a knife or gun in the last year are more likely to have played truant before the start of secondary school, compared with those who had not carried a knife or gun in the last year (23%, compared with 14%).

The majority of young people in mainstream education reported that they had not been excluded in the last year, (57% of young people attending PRUs had been excluded). A similar pattern emerges with suspensions: three-quarters of those in mainstream education had never been suspended, while the majority (66%) of those attending PRUs had been suspended.

2.2 Group membership

This section examines the attitudes and behaviours of young people relating to friendship groups, particularly those in groups for whom crime is seen as acceptable.

2.2.1 Group membership

2.2.2 Measuring types of group membership

2.2.3 Reasons for group membership

2.2.4 Group attitudes to crime

2.2.5 Those claiming possible gang attributes

2.2.6 Group activity

2.2.7 Offending in groups where crime is seen as acceptable

2.2.8 Summary

2.2.1 Group membership

Most young people in the survey see themselves as belonging to a group and the proportion who consider themselves part of a group⁵⁶ remains consistent across young people in mainstream education (81%) and in PRUs (79%).⁵⁵

Table 2.4: Group membership

Thinking about the people you hang around with, do you think of yourself as part of a group (for these questions, a group is made up of three or more people including you)?

| | Young people in schools | | Young people in PRUs | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Base: All respondents | <u>(4,855)</u> | <u>(4,750)</u> | <u>(1,230)</u> | <u>(914)</u> |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Yes | 81 | 82 | 79 | 79 |
| No | 11 | 12 | 14 | 14 |
| Don't know | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Not stated | 5* | 3 | 6 | 6 |

⁵⁶ In this survey a group was defined as 'three or more people including you'.

⁵⁵ Mainstream education figures calculated from a base of 4,855 (unweighted total number in mainstream education); PRU figures calculated from a base of 1,230 (total number in PRUs).

2.2.2 Measuring types of group membership

It is important to not just look at group membership *per se*, because groups range from desirable and non-delinquent groups (such as sport teams and hobby groups), to groups who engage in anti-social or offending behaviour. It is worth noting that, for the majority of young people, their group affiliation should be viewed as a sign of healthy, age-appropriate socialisation and should be differentiated from the small minority for whom group affiliation is associated with involvement in offending and anti-social behaviour.

However, there are difficulties in measuring and defining different types of group membership. For example, when young people are asked directly about group involvement, they will often refer to their friendship groups as being a 'gang' but they do not engage in any criminal or anti-social behaviour.

Therefore, researchers instead tried to differentiate the types of group membership in other ways, exploring other characteristics. For the *Youth Survey 2009*, young people who said they were part of a group were asked the following:

- what the motivations are for young people in joining groups
- whether young people consider their group to display any of the attributes linked to possible gang membership⁵⁶ (see Section 2.2.5 for definitions)
- whether young people think that committing crime is viewed as acceptable by their group (to which they could answer: 'it was never seen as acceptable'; 'sometimes seen as acceptable': or 'always seen as acceptable'). There remain obvious drawbacks with this as the sole definition of negative activities within groups. Notably, it can over-include groups who do not directly involve themselves in crime at all, but nevertheless this is one way of gaining some insight.
- whether the group to which young people belong had committed certain anti-social/offending behaviours.

2.2.3 Reasons for group membership

In mainstream education, the top three reasons for joining a group remain the same as in 2008. By far the most common answer was 'to make friends' (61%), followed by 'to take part in group activities', such as football, netball or cricket (21%) and 'to feel like you belong to something' (13%).⁵⁷

⁵⁶ It should be highlighted that these characteristics do not definitely equate with gang membership, it is possible that other social groups may also display these characteristics.

⁵⁷ Figures calculated from a base of 3,969.

Also in line with the results from 2008, girls in mainstream education are more likely than boys to say that they joined a group to make friends (66%, as opposed to 57%). They are also more likely to say that they wanted to belong to something (15%, as opposed to 10%). Boys on the other hand are more likely to say they joined a group because there was nothing better to do (11%, compared with 5%), or to take part in group activities (26%, compared with 17%).

For those attending PRUs, making friends was also the top reason for joining a group, although a smaller proportion gave this answer (39%) compared with those in schools (61%). The next most popular responses were that there was nothing better to do (22%) and for protection (15%). Boys are more likely to join because they wanted to take part in group activities (16% of boys, compared with 8% of girls) and to get money or other things, but not from selling drugs⁵⁸ (12% of boys, as opposed to 7% of girls).⁵⁹

2.2.4 Group attitudes to crime

The majority of pupils in mainstream education who consider themselves part of a group said that crime is *never* seen as acceptable by their group (58%⁶⁰), compared with 16% who said crime is sometimes acceptable and 3% who said crime is always acceptable. This supports the idea that, for most young people, their group involvement is a sign of healthy and appropriate development.

Among the young people in PRUs who consider themselves to be part of a group, the majority (58%⁶¹) reported that their group *does* see crime as acceptable, with 40% saying it is sometimes acceptable and 18% saying it is always acceptable. Nevertheless, even among those who consider themselves to be part of a group, a significant minority (21%) said that crime in their group is *never* seen as acceptable.

58 'To get money and other things from selling drugs' and 'to get money and other things (but not from selling drugs)' were differentiated in the questionnaire codes

59 Figures calculated from a base of 972

60 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,969 (unweighted total all those in mainstream education who consider themselves to belong to a group).

61 Figure calculated from a base size of 972 (all those in PRUs who consider themselves to belong to a group).

Table 2.5: Group membership where crime is seen as acceptable by the group

Is committing crime seen as being okay by your group?

| | Young people in schools | Young people in PRUs |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Base: All who think of themselves as part of a group | (3,969) | (972) |
| | % | % |
| Yes – always | 3 | 18 |
| Yes – sometimes | 16 | 40 |
| Yes – total | 19 | 58 |
| No | 58 | 21 |
| Don't know | 15 | 14 |
| Not stated | 9 | 6 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

The survey showed some gender differences in attitudes to crime acceptability and group membership. In PRUs, girls are more likely than boys to say that crime is *never* seen as acceptable in their group (26%,⁶² compared with 20%⁶³ of boys).

A similar pattern was evident among young people in mainstream education, as girls are again more likely than boys to say that their group never sees crime as acceptable (64%⁶⁴ compared with 51%⁶⁵).

Of those in mainstream education, pupils aged 15 to 16 are more likely to say that crime is acceptable (27%),⁶⁷ compared to those aged 11 to 14 (16%⁶⁶).

62 Figure calculated from a base size of 264 (all those girls in PRUs who consider themselves to belong to a group).

63 Figure calculated from a base size of 685 (all those boys in PRUs who consider themselves to belong to a group).

64 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,084 (unweighted total of all those girls in mainstream education who consider themselves to belong to a group).

65 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,809 (unweighted total of all those boys in mainstream education who consider themselves to belong to a group).

67 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,118 (unweighted total of all those 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education who consider themselves to belong to a group).

66 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,801 (unweighted total of all those 11 to 14-year-olds in mainstream education who consider themselves to belong to a group).

As in 2008, there are differences in the motivations between those joining groups where crime is seen as acceptable, compared to those where crime is seen as unacceptable.

In groups where crime is seen as acceptable, the following are key motivators for joining:

- **having nothing to do**
For those in mainstream education, 20% of young people gave this reason for joining groups where crime is seen as acceptable. Of those in groups where crime is seen as unacceptable, 5% gave this reason for joining. Among those attending PRUs, 27% of those in groups where crime is seen as acceptable gave this reason for joining, compared with 17% in groups where crime is not seen as acceptable.
- **protection**
For those in mainstream education, 18% of those in groups where crime is seen as acceptable gave this reason, compared with 5% of those in groups where crime is not seen as acceptable. Among those attending PRUs, the figures for the same groups are 20% and 7% respectively.
- **to take part in illegal activities**
For those in mainstream education, 7% gave this reason for joining groups where crime is seen as acceptable, compared with 1% of those who joined groups where crime is not acceptable. For young people attending PRUs, the figures for the same groups are 16% and 1% respectively.

In groups where crime is *not* seen as acceptable, the following are key motivators for joining:

- **making friends**
In mainstream education, 66% of those in groups where crime is *not* seen as acceptable gave this reason for joining, compared with 57% in groups where crime is seen as acceptable. Among those attending PRUs, 49% gave this reason for joining a group where crime is not seen as acceptable, compared with 39% in groups where crime is acceptable.
- **group activities**
In mainstream education, 24% of those in groups where crime is *not* seen as acceptable gave this reason for joining, compared with 21% who are in groups where crime is viewed as acceptable. For young people attending PRUs, the figures for the same groups are 18% and 14% respectively.

2.2.5 Those claiming possible gang attributes

The survey asked whether the groups that young people belong to display any of a number of characteristics associated with possible gang membership. These characteristics are: a name, a territory, a leader, a set of rules and a tag or symbol which has clothing associated with it.

Only a minority of the groups which young people in mainstream education belong to have any of the characteristics associated with possible gang membership. Of those who said they are part of a group which views crime as acceptable, very few showed evidence of having the key characteristics of possible gang membership. For example, 33% said that their group has a name, 28% said their group has a territory and only 18% said they belong to a group with a 'tag or symbol' (other characteristics were less frequently mentioned). However, as Table 2.6 demonstrates, the proportion of young people reporting these characteristics is significantly higher among those who are part of a group where crime is seen as acceptable, than among those where it is not.

In PRUs, 45% who belong to groups which view crime as acceptable said that their group has a name, 44% said their group has a territory and 32% said their group has a tag or identifying symbol. As with those in mainstream education, young people in PRUs who are in a group where crime is not seen as acceptable are less likely to say their group has any of these characteristics.

Table 2.6: Group characteristics by whether crime seen as acceptable

Does your group have any of the following?

| | Young people in schools | | Young people in PRUs | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Crime acceptable | Crime not acceptable | Crime acceptable | Crime not acceptable |
| Base: All who think of themselves as part of a group | <u>760</u> | <u>2,270</u> | <u>567</u> | <u>207</u> |
| | % | % | % | % |
| A name | 33 | 12 | 45 | 27 |
| A territory | 28 | 6 | 44 | 17 |
| A leader | 19 | 7 | 26 | 15 |
| A set of rules | 10 | 6 | 14 | 9 |
| A tag or symbol | 18 | 3 | 32 | 13 |
| Clothing associated with it | 14 | 4 | 18 | 8 |
| Don't know | 27 | 37 | 15 | 25 |
| Not stated | 23 | 43 | 16 | 32 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

2.2.6 Group activity

When asked to confirm from a list what things their group had done in the last 12 months, the majority of young people in mainstream education cited hanging out in public spaces (59%). It is important to note that this activity is not deemed negative or delinquent and could encompass activities such as

going to parks. However, a minority referred to their group as having committed the following delinquent activities:

- broken, damaged or destroyed things (16%)
- carried out graffiti (15%)
- threatened or frightened other people (15%)
- stolen something (14%).

In relation to more serious crimes, 12% said that their group had used force or violence against other people, while 6% had carried knives.⁶⁷

Consistent with those in mainstream schools, the most common response among young people in PRUs was that their group had hung around in public spaces (73%). The delinquent activities cited by those in PRUs were similar in proportion: broken or damaged things (47%); carried out graffiti (45%); threatened or frightened other people (46%); stolen something (43%). In addition, nearly half also mentioned drug use (47%).⁶⁸

In relation to more serious crimes, 43% of those in PRUs said that their group had used threats or violence against other people, 32% had sold drugs and 32% had carried knives.

Table 2.7: Group behaviour in 2009, compared to 2008

Have people in your group done any of the following things in the last 12 months?

| | Young people in schools | | Young people in PRUs | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Base: All who think of themselves as part of a group | <u>(3,969)</u> | <u>(3,926)</u> | <u>(972)</u> | <u>(723)</u> |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Hung around in public spaces (e.g. streets or parks) | 59 | 57 | 73 | 73 |
| Broken, damaged or destroyed things | 16 | 17 | 47 | 50 |
| Threatened or frightened other people | 15* | 17 | 46 | 46 |
| Graffiti (written things or sprayed paint on things) | 15* | 17 | 45 | 48 |
| Stolen things | 14* | 16 | 43 | 44 |

67 Figures calculated from a base of 3,969 (unweighted total of all those in mainstream education who think of themselves as part of a group).

68 Figures calculated from a base of 972 (unweighted total of all those in PRUs who think of themselves as part of a group).

| | | | | |
|--|-----|----|----|----|
| Used force or violence against other people | 12 | 13 | 43 | 43 |
| Used drugs | 11* | 13 | 47 | 48 |
| Other crimes | 7 | 8 | 28 | 27 |
| Carried knives | 6* | 9 | 32 | 36 |
| Sold drugs to other people | 5 | 6 | 32 | 31 |
| Used violence or threats to steal from someone | 4* | 3 | 22 | 22 |
| Carried guns | 4* | 3 | 19 | 17 |
| None of the above | 20 | 21 | 4 | 5 |
| <i>Don't know</i> | 6* | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| <i>Not stated</i> | 11* | 8 | 5 | 5 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

In mainstream education, girls are more likely than boys to say that their group had hung around in a public space (62%, compared with 57%). Boys are more likely to say that people in their group had committed certain criminal offences, such as threatening or frightening people (17%, compared with 13% of girls) and breaking or destroying things (19%, compared with 12% girls).

In PRUs, girls are more likely to report that people in their group had taken drugs (54%, compared with 45% of boys); threatened or frightened other people; (55%, compared with 42%); or hung around in public spaces (79%, compared with 71%). Boys are more likely to say that people in their group had carried guns (23%, compared with 10% of girls).

There are also differences in group activity by age, as Table 2.8 below indicates. In mainstream particularly, young people aged 15 to 16 who are part of a group are significantly more likely to say their group has been involved in anti-social or criminal activities, as well as hanging around in public spaces. In PRUs, the difference by age in the likelihood of young people citing certain anti-social or criminal activities that people in their group have done still applies to some activities. Young people aged 15 to 16 are more likely than 11 to 14-year-olds to say people in their group have threatened or frightened other people (50% versus 42% of 11-14 year olds), stolen things (47% compared with 39% of 11-14 year olds), used drugs (59% compared with 38%), sold drugs (39% versus 26%) or used violence and threats to steal from someone (25% compared with 18%).

Table 2.8: Group behaviour by age

Have people in your group done any of the following things in the last 12 months?

| | Young people in schools | | Young people in PRUs | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | 11-14 | 15-16 | 11-14 | 15-16 |
| Base: All who think of themselves as part of a group | <u>(2,801)</u> | <u>(1,118)</u> | <u>(541)</u> | <u>(401)</u> |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Hung around in public spaces (e.g. streets or parks) | 55 | 71* | 73 | 74 |
| Broken, damaged or destroyed things | 13 | 23* | 45 | 49 |
| Threatened or frightened other people | 13 | 22* | 42 | 50* |
| Graffiti (written things or sprayed paint on things) | 13 | 21* | 45 | 46 |
| Stolen things | 11 | 21* | 39 | 47* |
| Used force or violence against other people | 9 | 18* | 40 | 47 |
| Used drugs | 7 | 23* | 38 | 59* |
| Other crimes | 6 | 9* | 26 | 29 |
| Carried knives | 6 | 8* | 30 | 35 |
| Carried guns | 4 | 3 | 18 | 19 |
| Sold drugs to other people | 3 | 10* | 26 | 39* |
| Used violence or threats to steal from someone | 3 | 5* | 18 | 25* |
| None of the above | 22* | 15 | 4 | 5 |
| <i>Don't know</i> | 7* | 5 | 7 | 7 |
| <i>Not stated</i> | 12 | 6* | 6 | 5 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

2.2.7 Offending in groups where crime is seen as acceptable

2.2.7.1 Individual offending among young people in groups where crime is acceptable

The findings show a link between young people belonging to a group where crime is seen as acceptable, and the likelihood that they themselves would have committed an offence in the previous 12 months. Among young people in mainstream education, 57% who belong to a group where crime is acceptable said they had personally committed an offence in the past 12 months, compared to 8% in groups who do not see crime as acceptable. This may seem like a large proportion but it should be noted that only 19% of young people in mainstream education are in groups that see crime as acceptable.

The pattern is similar in PRUs, with 83% who belong to a group where crime is acceptable, saying they had personally committed an offence in the past 12 months, compared to 39% of those in groups that do not accept crime.

2.2.7.2 Offending within a group where crime is acceptable

As with individual offending above (i.e. offences that a young person says they have personally committed – see also Section 3: Offending behaviour) – there is a link between a group seeing crime as acceptable and members of that group having committed an offence. Around half of those in mainstream school who are part of a group that sees crime as acceptable said that people in their group had engaged in graffiti (46%), stolen things (46%), or broken, damaged or destroyed things (52%) in the last year. Almost half (48%) said that individuals in their group had threatened or frightened other people and 38% said that their group had used force or violence against other people.

However, again it is worth pointing out that – given that only 19% said they are in a group that views crime as acceptable – these figures relate to only a minority of the overall mainstream school population. As Table 2.9 below shows, young people who are in a group where crime is not acceptable are unlikely to say that people in their group had committed any of these offences.

Of the 58% of young people attending PRUs who belong to groups in which crime is seen as acceptable, 61%⁶⁹ reported that their group had been involved in threatening or frightening other people (compared to 18% in groups that do not see crime as acceptable), while 60% reported that people in their group had used force or violence against other people (compared to 16% in groups that do not accept crime). Furthermore, 63% reported that people in their group had broken, damaged or destroyed things, the same proportion had used drugs, 60% had engaged in graffiti and the same figure had stolen things).

⁶⁹ Figure calculated from a base of 567 (total in PRUs who are part of a group in which crime is seen as acceptable).

Table 2.9: Group behaviour by whether crime seen as acceptable

Have people in your group done any of the following things in the last 12 months?

| | Young people in schools | | Young people in PRUs | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Crime acceptable | Crime not acceptable | Crime acceptable | Crime not acceptable |
| Base: All who think of themselves as part of a group | <u>760</u> | <u>2,270</u> | <u>567</u> | <u>207</u> |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Hung around in public spaces (e.g. streets or parks) | 88 | 52 | 83 | 61 |
| Broken, damaged or destroyed things | 52 | 5 | 63 | 20 |
| Threatened or frightened other people | 48 | 5 | 61 | 18 |
| Graffiti (written things or sprayed paint on things) | 46 | 5 | 60 | 17 |
| Stolen things | 46 | 5 | 60 | 14 |
| Used force or violence against other people | 38 | 3 | 60 | 16 |
| Used drugs | 40 | 3 | 63 | 19 |
| Other crimes | 25 | 1 | 40 | 9 |
| Carried knives | 23 | 2 | 45 | 11 |
| Carried guns | 11 | 2 | 26 | 8 |
| Sold drugs to other people | 20 | 1 | 45 | 11 |
| Used violence or threats to steal from someone | 14 | 1 | 31 | 4 |
| None of the above | 2 | 29 | 1 | 15 |
| <i>Don't know</i> | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| <i>Not stated</i> | 2 | 11 | 2 | 10 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

2.2.7.3 Carrying weapons

For those in mainstream education, the findings suggest relatively low levels of weapons-carrying among groups overall (6% said that people in their group carry knives and 4% said they carry a gun). However, among only groups where crime is seen as acceptable, these figures increase to 23% for people in their group carrying a knife and 11% for a gun.

A similar pattern is evident in PRUs, with reported knife-carrying increasing from 32% overall to 45% among groups where crime is seen as acceptable. One in five (19%) of young people in PRUs who are part of any group said that

people in their group carry a gun. However, this figure rises to 26% among young people who said that crime is seen as acceptable by their group.

2.2.8 Summary – group membership

Most young people see themselves as being part of a group. However, it is important to not just look at group membership per se, as this can range from desirable and healthy groups to groups where young people may be committing anti-social behaviour or offending.

Among young people in mainstream education, the most common reason reported for joining a group was ‘to make friends’, followed by ‘taking part in group activities’ (such as football, netball or cricket) and ‘feeling like you belong to something’. For young people in PRUs, ‘making friends’ was also the most common reason reported but this was followed by ‘there not being anything better to do’ and ‘joining a group for protection’.

The majority of pupils in mainstream education who consider themselves part of a group said that crime is never seen as acceptable by their group (58%⁷²), compared with 16% who said that it is sometimes acceptable and 3% who said that it is always acceptable.

Among those in PRUs who consider themselves part of a group, the majority (58%⁷⁰) reported that their group does see crime as acceptable; which breaks down as 40% in groups where crime is sometimes acceptable and 18% in groups where crime is always acceptable. Only 21% of those in PRUs who consider themselves part of a group said that crime is never seen as acceptable by their group.

When asked to state what their group had done in the last 12 months, the majority of young people in mainstream education who are part of a group cited hanging out in public spaces (59%). This was also the majority group activity for young people who attended PRUs (73%). A minority of young people in mainstream education said that their group had committed offences, although in PRUs, almost half (47%) said that people in their group had committed criminal damage and the same proportion had used drugs.

In both mainstream education and PRUs, young people who are part of a group where crime is acceptable are more likely to have personally committed an offence and to say that people in their group had committed an offence.

72 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,969 (unweighted total all those in mainstream education who consider themselves to belong to a group).

73 Figure calculated from a base size of 972 (all those in PRUs who consider themselves to belong to a group).

2.3 Substance use

This section explores young people's experiences of drinking alcohol and taking drugs at any point in their lives, and in the month prior to the survey taking place.

2.3.1 Experience of alcohol and drug use

2.3.2 Recent alcohol and drug use

2.3.3 Access to drugs

2.3.4 Age of those providing drugs

2.3.5 Summary

2.3.1 Experience of alcohol and drug use

Twenty-nine per cent of young people in mainstream education and 11% of young people attending PRUs reported *never* having taken such a substance (including alcohol).⁷¹

However, the majority of young people reported having taken at least one substance from the list included in the survey (figure 2.5); 59% of pupils in mainstream education and 80% of those attending PRUs. The majority of these had drunk alcohol (57% of those in mainstream education, 74% of those in PRUs).

The 2009 results continue the overall downward trend in substance use by young people in mainstream education. Alcohol use has fallen to 57% (down from 59% in 2008 and 65% in 2005); tobacco use has fallen to 17% (down from 19% in 2008 and 24% in 2005); cannabis use is roughly in line at 10% (compared with 11% in 2008).⁷²

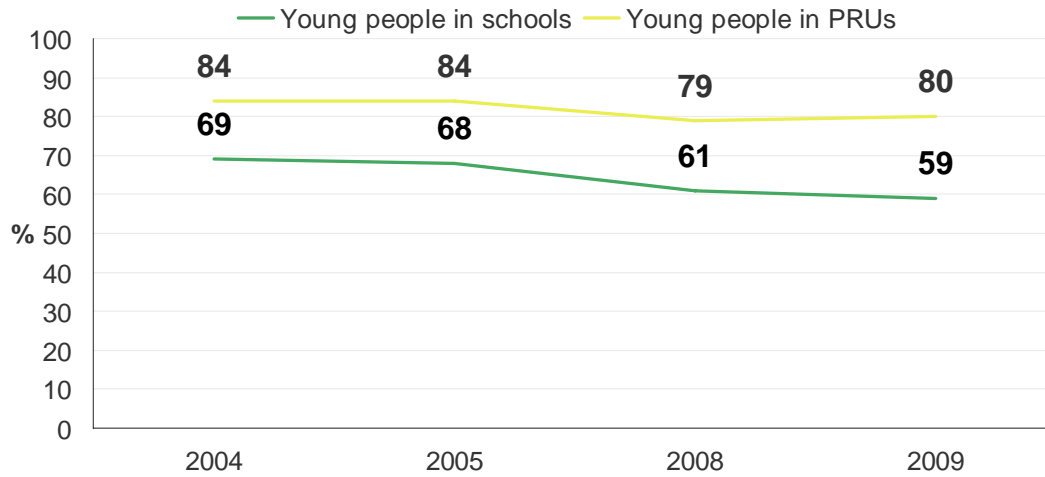
⁷¹ Mainstream figures calculated from a base size of 4,855 (unweighted total number in mainstream education), PRU figures calculated from a base size of 1,230 (total number in PRUs).

⁷² Mainstream figures calculated from a base size of 4,855 (unweighted total number in mainstream education), PRU figures calculated from a base size of 1,230 (total number in PRUs).

Figure 2.4: Substance use trends^{73,74}

Substance use trends

% saying they have taken a substance



Base (2009): All young people in schools (4,855); All young people in PRUs (1,230)

Ipsos MORI



2.3.1.1 Prevalence of types of substance

Among young people in both PRUs and mainstream education, alcohol is the most commonly used substance. This is followed by tobacco (17% in mainstream education and 61% of those attending PRUs) and cannabis (10% in mainstream education, 50% of pupils in PRUs).

In mainstream education the next most frequently reported substances are solvents (5%) and 'other' substances (5%), with lower use of Class A drugs such as ecstasy (3%), cocaine powder or crack (3%) and heroin (2%). In PRUs, the most commonly cited substances (excluding alcohol, tobacco and cannabis) are amphetamines (17%), cocaine powder or crack (15%) and ecstasy (12%).⁷⁵

It is important to note that a fake drug *derbisol* was included in the question in order to calculate the number of young people over-reporting drug abuse. Two

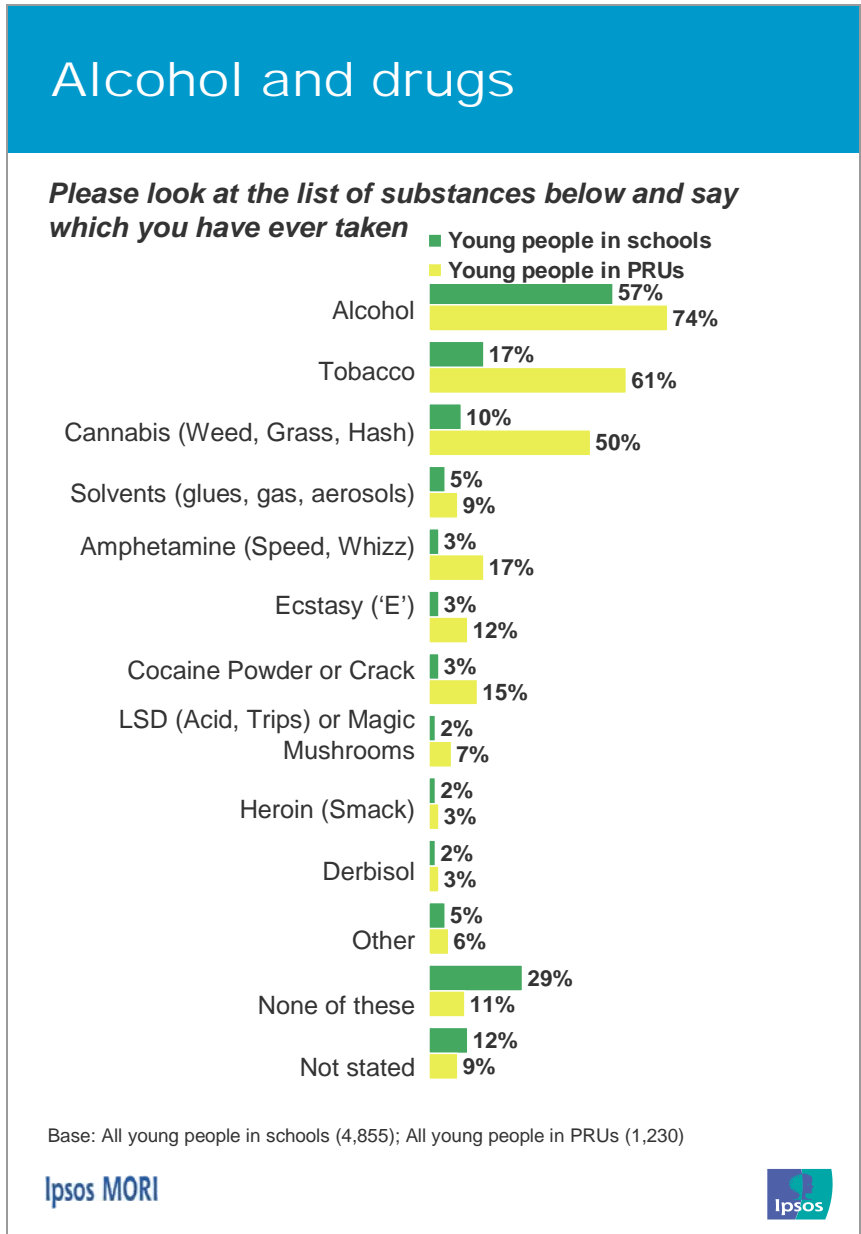
73 The substances asked about are alcohol, amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine or crack, derbisol, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, solvents, tobacco or any other.

74 This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

75 Mainstream figures calculated from a base size of 4,855 (unweighted total number in mainstream education); PRU figures calculated from a base size of 1,230 (total number in PRUs).

per cent of young people in mainstream education and 3% of young people attending PRUs said that they had taken derbisol, which may indicate that a small proportion of pupils are indeed over-reporting drug or alcohol use.

Figure 2.5: Substances ever taken⁷⁶



⁷⁶This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

2.3.1.2 Ethnic variations in substance use

There are a number of notable variations in substance use according to various demographic factors. In both mainstream education and PRUs, White pupils are more likely to drink alcohol than pupils from an ethnic background. In mainstream education, the figure for White pupils is 62%,⁷⁷ compared with 39%⁸¹ (Black pupils) and 24%⁷⁸ (Asian pupils). In PRUs, the figure for White pupils is 78%⁷⁹, compared with 44%⁸⁰ (Black pupils) and 41%⁸¹ (Asian pupils). However, the figures for Black and Asian pupils in PRUs should be treated with caution as these are calculated from small sample sizes.

White young people are also more likely to use tobacco than those from an ethnic background. In mainstream education, the figure for White pupils is 18%, compared with 8% of Black pupils and 11% of Asian pupils. In PRUs, the figure is 64% for White pupils, compared with 36% of Black pupils and 46% of Asian pupils.

2.3.1.3 Gender variations in substance use

There was no difference by gender in the overall proportion who reported substance use in mainstream education. However, among those attending PRUs, girls are more likely than boys to have:

- taken any substance (86%⁸², compared with 78%⁸³ of boys)
- drunk alcohol (83%, compared with 71% of boys)
- taken amphetamines (22%, compared with 15% of boys)
- smoked cannabis (57%, compared with 48% of boys)
- taken cocaine powder or crack (22%, compared with 13% of boys)
- taken ecstasy (17%, compared with 9% of boys)
- used solvents (13%, compared with 7% of boys)

77 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,911 (unweighted total number of those with White ethnic background in mainstream education).

81 Figure calculated from a base size of 174 (unweighted total number of those with Black ethnic background in mainstream education).

78 Figure calculated from a base size of 397 (unweighted total number of those with Asian ethnic background in mainstream education).

79 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,006 (total number of those with White ethnic background in PRUs).

80 Figure calculated from a base size of 84 (total number of those with Black ethnic background in PRUs). These results need to be interpreted with caution due to their small base size.

81 Figure calculated from a base size of 37 (total number of those with Asian ethnic background in PRUs). These results need to be interpreted with caution due to their small base size.

82 Figure calculated on a base of 344 (total number of girls at PRUs).

83 Figure calculated on a base of 857 (total number of boys at PRUs).

- smoked tobacco (69%, compared with 58% of boys).

One factor which may help to explain these gender differences among those attending PRUs may be the age profile of those surveyed. Boys made up a larger proportion of the 11 and 12-year-old sample, while girls comprised a larger proportion of the 16-year-old sample.

2.3.1.4 Age variations in substance use

Older pupils (aged 15 to 16) in mainstream education are more likely to report use of the following substances than their younger counterparts:

- alcohol (74%⁸⁴ of those aged 15 to 16, compared with 52%⁸⁵ of those aged 11 to 14)
- tobacco (30%, compared with 13%)
- cannabis (22%, compared with 7%)
- solvents (6%, compared with 4%)
- cocaine (4%, compared with 3%).

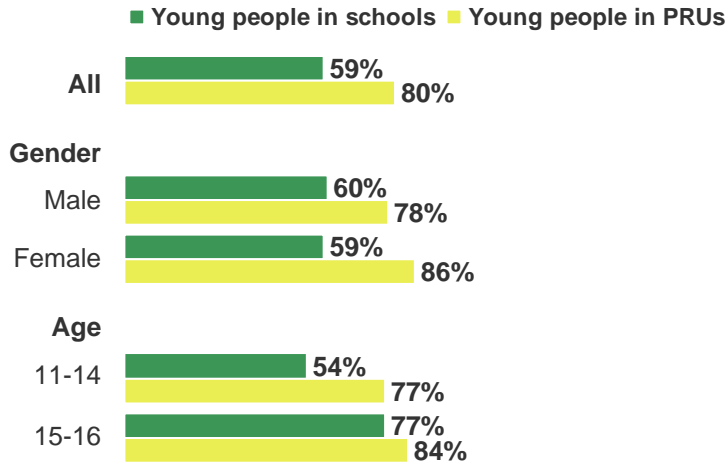
84 Figure calculated on a base of 1,293 (unweighted total of all 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education).

85 Figure calculated on a base of 3,470 (unweighted total of all 11 to 14-year-olds in mainstream education).

Figure 2.6: Profile of substance users⁸⁶

Profile of substance users – gender and age

All young people who have ever taken one or more of the substances listed.



Base: All young people in schools (4,855); All young people in PRUs (1,230)
Ipsos MORI



2.3.1.5 Links between substance use and other behaviours, attitudes or experiences

In both mainstream education and PRUs, those who have been victims of an offence are more likely to have taken a substance (66%,⁸⁷ compared with 53% of non-victims in mainstream education; 87%,⁸⁸ compared with 77% of non-victims in PRUs).

There is also a link between substance use and truancy among those in mainstream education, and a link between substance use and criminal offences among those in PRUs:

- **truancy**

In mainstream education, 81%⁸⁹ of those who had played truant one to nine times (and 86%⁹⁰ of those who had played truant more than 10 times) had taken a substance, compared with 52%⁹¹ of those who had never played truant.

⁸⁶ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

⁸⁷ Figure calculated on a base of 2,517 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had been a victim of an offence).

⁸⁸ Figure calculated on a base of 812 (unweighted total all in PRUs who had been a victim of an offence).

⁸⁹ Figure calculated on a base of 1,081 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had ever played truant one to nine times).

⁹⁰ Figure calculated on a base of 173 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had played truant 10 or more times).

⁹¹ Figure calculated on a base of 2,891 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had never played truant).

- **criminal offences**

In PRUs, 87%⁹² of those who had committed a criminal offence had taken a substance, compared with 67%⁹³ of those who had not committed a criminal offence.

It should also be noted that some of those who claimed not to have committed a criminal offence said they had taken drugs. For example, 5%⁹⁴ of young people in mainstream education who said that they had not committed a criminal offence said they had taken cannabis and 2% had taken heroin. Similarly in PRUs, 26% of those who said that they had not committed a criminal offence admitted to using cannabis and 4% had used cocaine or crack.

2.3.2 Recent alcohol and drug use

Young people were asked if they had drunk alcohol, smoked tobacco or taken an illegal drug in the month prior to the survey taking place. Thirty-seven per cent of pupils in mainstream education and 60% of pupils attending PRUs reported some form of substance use.⁹⁵

Once again, in both mainstream education and PRUs, alcohol was the most commonly cited substance (35% in mainstream education and 49% in PRUs). This was followed by tobacco (9% in schools, 45% in PRUs) and cannabis (5% in schools, 31% in PRUs). The use of substances within the last month was generally more prevalent in PRUs.

92 Figure calculated on a base of 785 (all in PRUs who had committed an offence in the past year).

93 Figure calculated on a base of 318 (all in PRUs who had not committed an offence in the past year).

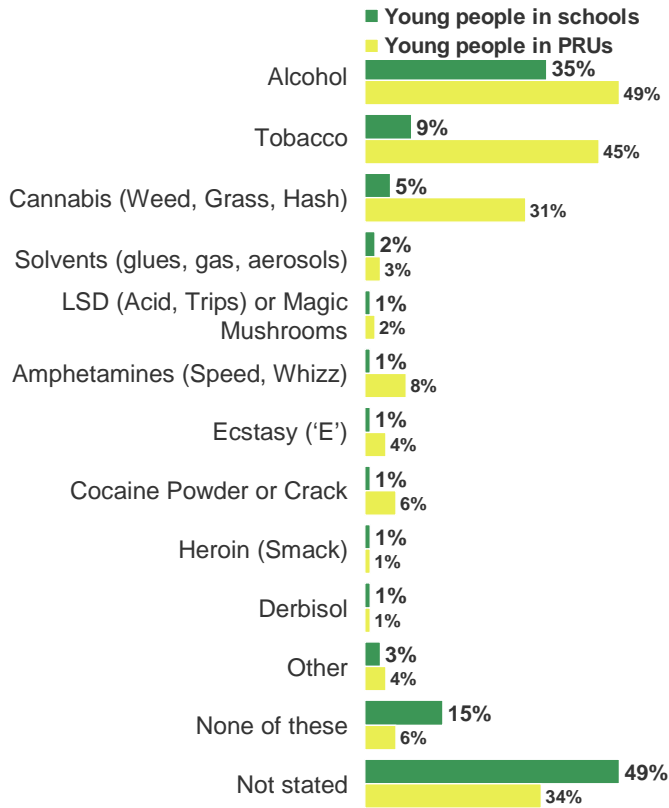
94 Figure calculated on a base of 3,406 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had not committed an offence in the past year).

95 Mainstream figure calculated from a base size of 4,855 (unweighted total number in mainstream education); PRU figure calculated from a base size of 1,230 (total number in PRUs).

Figure 2.7: Substances taken in last month⁹⁶

Alcohol and drugs taken in last month

And have you taken any of the substances in the last month?



Base: All young people in schools (4,855); All young people in PRUs (1,230)

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Comparing the data with previous years, there is a continuation of the downward trend in the number of pupils in mainstream education reporting recent substance use. Reported alcohol use in the last month has fallen from 37% in 2008 and 45% in 2005, to 35% in 2009. Reported recent tobacco use has fallen to 9% in 2009, from 11% in 2008 and 13% in 2005.

However, fewer pupils reported having taken no substances at all in the last month (15%, from 23% in 2008 and 19% in 2005). These reductions may be explained in part by the rise in non-responses to this question in 2009 (49%, compared with 39% in 2008).

⁹⁶ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

By contrast, in PRUs, levels of reported alcohol and cannabis use remained fairly consistent with previous years (49% in 2009, compared with 48% in 2008 for alcohol; 31% compared with 32% in 2008 for cannabis). Tobacco use has risen from 40% in 2008 to 45% in 2009. Amphetamines (8%) have replaced cocaine (6%) as the fourth most likely substance to have been taken in the last month.

2.3.2.1 Gender variations in recent substance use

There are some differences by gender in mainstream education for recent substance use. Boys are more likely than girls to have used cannabis in the last month (6%⁹⁷, as opposed to 4%⁹⁸), while girls are more likely to have smoked tobacco than boys (11%, compared with 8%).

Among those attending PRUs, girls are more likely than boys to report alcohol use (60%,⁹⁹ compared with 45%¹⁰⁰); amphetamine use (11%, compared with 7%); cannabis use (36%, compared with 29%); cocaine use (9%, compared with 5%); solvent use (5%, compared with 3%); and tobacco use (55%, compared with 41%). Boys are more likely than girls to say that they have *not* taken a substance (7%, compared with 2%).

2.3.2.2 Ethnic variations in recent substance use

White pupils in mainstream education and PRUs are more likely than young people from other ethnic backgrounds (especially Asian pupils) to have taken substances in the last month. For mainstream education, these figures are 41%¹⁰¹ for White pupils, compared with 13%¹⁰² for Asian pupils. For PRUs, the figures are 62%¹⁰³ for White pupils, compared with 38%¹⁰⁴ for Asian pupils.

White young people in mainstream education are more likely to have used alcohol (39%) or tobacco (10%) in the last month than Black (21% and 4%¹⁰⁵), and Asian pupils (11% and 3%). The same pattern is seen in PRUs, where

97 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,295 (unweighted total number of boys in mainstream education).

98 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,446 (unweighted total number of girls in mainstream education).

99 Figure calculated from a base size of 344 (total number of girls in PRUs).

100 Figure calculated from a base size of 857 (total number of boys in PRUs).

101 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,911 (unweighted total number of those with White ethnic background in mainstream education).

102 Figure calculated from a base size of 397 (unweighted total number of those with Asian ethnic background in mainstream education).

103 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,006 (total number of those with White ethnic background in PRUs).

104 Figure calculated from a base size of 37 (total number of those with Asian ethnic background in PRUs). These results need to be interpreted with caution due to their small base size.

105 Figure calculated from a base size of 174 (unweighted total number of those with Black ethnic background in mainstream education).

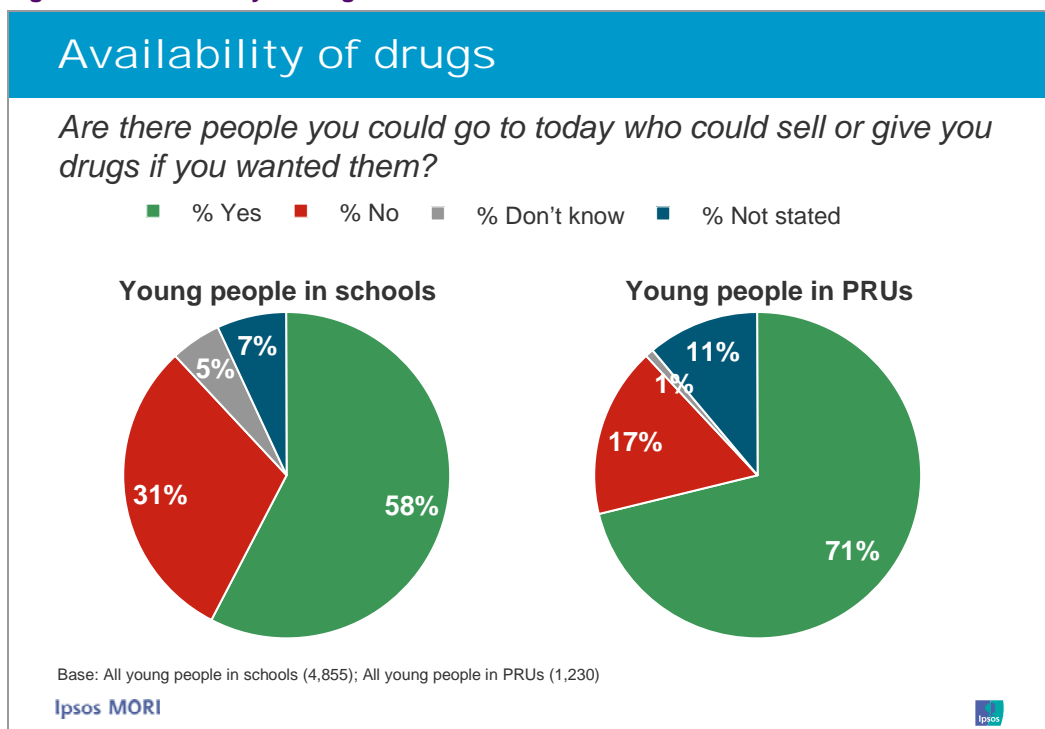
more White pupils reported using alcohol (51%) and tobacco (47%), compared with Black (29%¹⁰⁶ and 26%) and Asian¹⁰⁷ pupils (27% and 32%).

In mainstream education, pupils of a mixed background are more likely than average to report having taken amphetamines (4%,¹⁰⁸ versus 1% overall), cocaine or crack (3%, versus 1% overall), heroin (2%, versus 1%), LSD (2%, versus 1%) and solvents (4%, versus 2% overall).

2.3.3 Access to drugs

Fifty-eight per cent of pupils in mainstream education and 71% of those attending PRUs said that they know people who could sell or give them drugs. Girls attending PRUs are more likely than boys to know people who could sell or give them drugs (80%,¹⁰⁹ compared with 68%¹¹⁰).

Figure 2.8: Availability of drugs¹¹¹



106 Figure calculated from a base size of 84 (total number of those with Black ethnic background in PRUs). These results need to be interpreted with caution due to their small base size.

107 Figure calculated from a base size of 37 (total number of those with Asian ethnic background in PRUs). These results need to be interpreted with caution due to their small base size.

108 Figure calculated from a base size of 195 (unweighted total number of those with mixed ethnic background in mainstream education).

109 Figure calculated from a base size of 344 (total number of girls in PRUs).

110 Figure calculated from base size of 857 (total number of boys in PRUs).

111 This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

There is a correlation between young people using substances and knowing someone they can go to for drugs. Unsurprisingly, the variations in sub-groups as to whether young people can access drugs mirror patterns of substance use more generally. Not only are those aged 15 to 16 more likely to have taken a substance but they are also more likely than young people aged 11 to 14 to know people they could get drugs from.

In mainstream education, 52%¹¹² of 11 to 14-year-olds said that they could access drugs, compared with 75%¹¹³ of 15 to 16-year-olds. Among those attending PRUs, 65%¹¹⁴ of 11 to 14-year-olds and 80%¹¹⁵ of 15 to 16-year-olds reported being able to access drugs.

White pupils in mainstream education are more likely to say that they *do not* have access to drugs (32%¹¹⁶) than Black (23%¹¹⁷) and Mixed race pupils (24%¹¹⁸). There are no significant differences by ethnicity for those attending PRUs.

2.3.4 Age of those providing drugs

Young people were asked the age of the person/people who could provide them with drugs. The majority of pupils in mainstream education who said that they know people who could sell or give them drugs could not give a definitive answer as to whether these people were over 18 or not (56%¹¹⁹). Of those who could give a definitive answer, slightly more said that their source was aged under 18 (23%) than over 18 (20%).

In contrast, more young people attending PRUs who reported being able to access drugs said that their source was aged over 18 (48%¹²⁰) than under 18 (26%).

Young people aged 15 to 16 (27%¹²¹ in mainstream education and 52%¹²² in PRUs) are more likely than those aged 11 to 14 (16%¹²³ and 43%¹²⁴) to say that their source was over 18.

112 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,470 (unweighted total number of 11 to 14-year-olds in mainstream education).

113 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,293 (unweighted total number of 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education).

114 Figure calculated from a base size of 679 (total number of 11 to 14-year-olds in PRUs).

115 Figure calculated from a base size of 512 (total number of 15 to 16-year-olds in PRUs).

116 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,911 (unweighted total number of those with White ethnic background in mainstream education).

117 Figure calculated from a base size of 174 (unweighted total number of those with Black ethnic background in mainstream education).

118 Figure calculated from a base size of 195 (unweighted total number of those with Mixed ethnic background in mainstream education).

119 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,871 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who said they can get drugs).

120 Figure calculated from a base size of 876 (total number of those in PRUs who said they can get drugs).

Table 2.10: Age of those providing drugs
Are the people who could sell or give you drugs mostly over or under 18-years-old?

| | Young people in schools | | Young people in PRUs | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Base: All young people who could obtain drugs | <u>(2,871)</u> | <u>(2,540)</u> | <u>(876)</u> | <u>(643)</u> |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Mostly over 18-years-old | 20 | 23 | 48 | 52 |
| Mostly under 18-years-old | 23 | 28 | 26 | 21 |
| Don't know | 56 | 47 | 24 | 24 |
| Not stated | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

2.3.5 Summary – substance use

The findings show the continuation of a slight downward trend in the use of alcohol and tobacco for young people in mainstream education (57% for alcohol, 17% for tobacco) in 2009 – compared to 59% and 19% respectively in 2008. In addition, 29% reported they had never drunk alcohol, smoked tobacco or taken an illegal drug.

The levels of substance use among young people attending PRUs has remained consistent with 2008 figures, with 11% having never drunk alcohol, smoked tobacco or taken an illegal drug. However, recent tobacco use among young people in PRUs has increased since 2008, with 45% reporting they had used tobacco in the last month, compared with 40% in 2008.

While alcohol, tobacco and cannabis are the most prevalent substances ever used by young people in both mainstream education and attending PRUs, a higher proportion of those in PRUs reported using Class A drugs – such as ecstasy (12%) and cocaine or crack (15%) – than those in mainstream education (3% for each).

The majority of young people in mainstream education and PRUs reported that they know people who could sell or give them drugs (58% in mainstream education, 71% in PRUs). Girls attending PRUs are more likely to report this than their male counterparts (80%, compared with 68%).

121 Figure calculated from a base size of 974 (unweighted total number of 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education who could obtain drugs).

122 Figure calculated from a base size of 409 (total number of 15 to 16-year-olds in PRUs who could obtain drugs).

123 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,852 (unweighted total number of 11 to 14-year-olds in mainstream education who could obtain drugs).

124 Figure calculated from a base size of 442 (total number of 11 to 14-year-olds in PRUs, who could obtain drugs).

2.4 Victimisation

This section explores young people's concerns about crime. It also investigates young people's experience of crime as a victim, focusing on where victimisation takes place, the profile of victims and the characteristics of the perpetrator. Finally, it looks at whom young people tell when they are a victim.

2.4.1 Worry about being a victim of crime

2.4.2 Worry about bullying

2.4.3 Worry about theft

2.4.4 Worry about physical assault

2.4.5 Worry about racism

2.4.6 Experience of being a victim of crime

2.4.7 Victim profile

2.4.8 Where victimisation takes place

2.4.9 Victimisation by another young person

2.4.10 Victimisation by a group of young people

2.4.11 Reporting victimisation

2.4.12 CHAID analysis – victimisation

2.4.13 Summary – victimisation

2.4.1 Worry about being a victim of crime

In all cases, the majority of young people – whether in mainstream education or in PRUs – are *not* worried about being a victim of crime. Table 2.11 below shows the proportions of both pupil groups, in terms of their worries over specific offences.

Table 2.11: Young people's concerns about crime

How worried are you about each of the following?

| | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| | (4,855) | (4,750) | (5,463) | (1,230) | (914) | (1,584) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Base: All respondents | | | | | | |
| Being physically assaulted | | | | | | |
| Worried | 35 | 36 | 52 | 16 | 16 | 23 |
| Not worried | 57 | 57 | 42 | 72 | 74 | 66 |
| Don't know | 4 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Not stated | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Being the victim of a theft | | | | | | |
| Worried | 33* | 35 | 49 | 16 | 18 | 20 |
| Not worried | 58 | 57 | 44 | 71 | 71 | 68 |
| Don't know | 5 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| Not stated | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Being bullied | | | | | | |
| Worried | 21 | 22 | 34 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Not worried | 73 | 73 | 61 | 82 | 82 | 79 |
| Don't know | 3 | 4 | 3 | 6* | 4 | 7 |
| Not stated | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Being the victim of racism | | | | | | |
| Worried | 19* | 21 | 29 | 10 | 12 | 14 |
| Not worried | 70 | 71 | 62 | 76 | 73 | 73 |
| Don't know | 6 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| Not stated | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 4 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

As this table demonstrates, young people attending PRUs tend to be less worried about theft, bullying, assault and racism than their counterparts in mainstream education. However, in both settings, the hierarchy of concerns are the same – with more young people worried about assault and theft than racism and bullying. In mainstream education, 35% were concerned about assault and 33% about theft, compared with 19% for racism and 21% for bullying. Among young people attending PRUs, 16% were worried about

assault and the same proportion about theft, compared with only 10% for racism and 9% for bullying.¹²⁵

Compared with 2008, pupils in mainstream education are generally less concerned about all of these issues, although there are no significant changes between both surveys for pupils attending PRUs.

The findings suggest that certain factors are linked to the levels of concern about being a victim, for example:

- **experience of crime**

Those who have been the victim of crime in the past are more likely to be worried about being victim of all of the crimes they were asked about. For example, among those who had been the victim of crime in mainstream education, 38%¹²⁶ were concerned about being the victim of theft, compared with 30%¹²⁷ for those who had not been the victim of crime. In PRUs, 17%¹²⁸ who had been a victim were concerned about theft, compared with 13%¹²⁹ who had not.

- **having committed a criminal offence**

Those who self-reported offending are less likely to worry about being a victim. For example, in mainstream education, 28%¹³⁰ of those who self-reported offending were worried about being the victim of theft compared with 35%¹³¹ of those who said they had not offended.

2.4.2 Worry about bullying

The proportion of pupils who are worried about bullying has stayed roughly the same from 2008 in both PRUs (10%, to 9% in 2009) and mainstream education (22%, to 21% in 2009).

As in 2008, girls are more worried about bullying than boys in both pupil groups (26%, compared with 17% of boys in mainstream education; 14% compared with 7% of boys in PRUs). Younger pupils in mainstream education are also more likely to be worried about bullying: 23% of 11 to 14-year-olds said they were 'very' or 'fairly worried' about it, compared with 16% of 15 to 16-year-olds.

125 Figures for mainstream education calculated from a base size of 4,855 (unweighted total number in mainstream education); figures for PRUs calculated from a base size of 1,230 (total number in PRUs).

126 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,517 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who had been a victim of crime in the past year).

127 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,805 (unweighted total number of those who had not been a victim of crime in the past year).

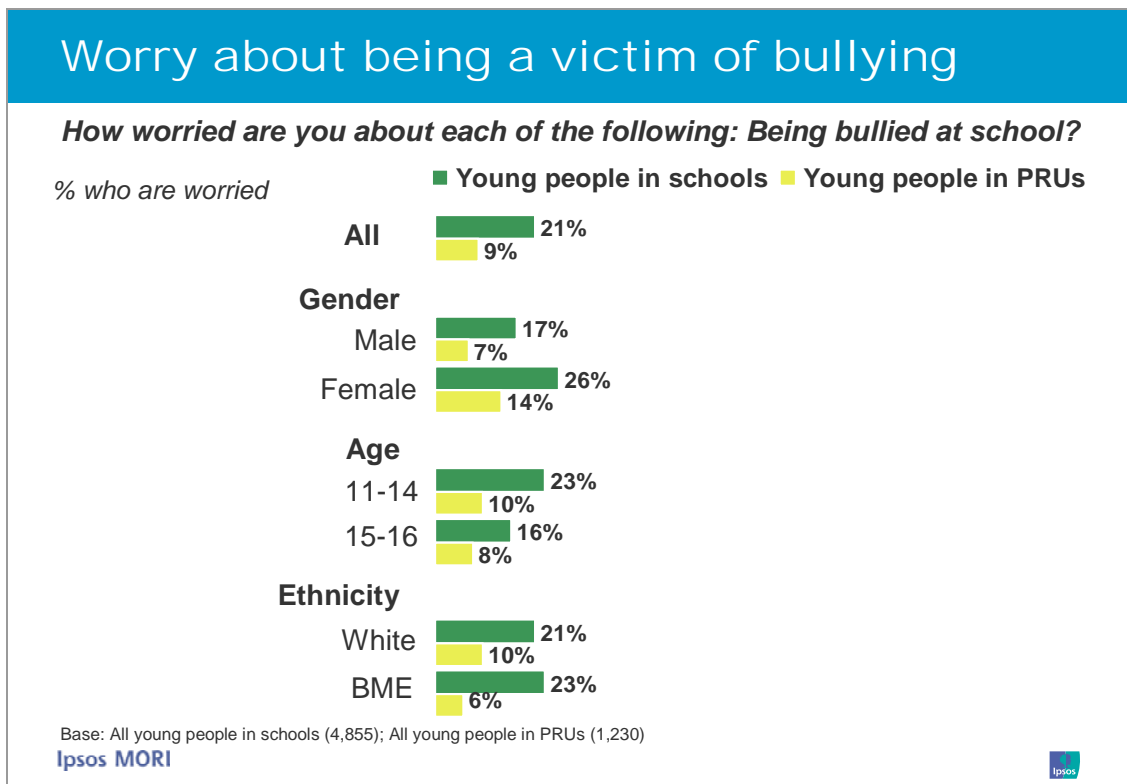
128 Figure calculated from a base size of 812 (total number of those in PRUs who had been a victim of crime in the past year).

129 Figure calculated from a base size of 244 (total number of those in PRUs who had not been a victim of crime in the past year).

130 Figure calculated from a base size of 927 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who reported having committed a criminal offence in the past year).

131 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,406 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who reported not having committed a criminal offence in the past year).

Figure 2.9: Worry about being a victim of bullying – demographic factors¹³²



In both pupil groups, concern about bullying was higher among those who had not carried a gun or knife in the past year: 25%,¹³³ compared with 17%¹³⁴ who had carried a gun or knife in mainstream education; 15%,¹³⁵ compared with 8%¹³⁶ in PRUs. Worry about bullying was also higher among those who do not consider themselves as part of a group: 26%, compared to 21% for those who consider themselves as part of a group in mainstream education; 16%, compared with 8% in PRUs.

There were also more concerns about bullying among those who had not

132 This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

133 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,475 (total number of those in mainstream education who reported not having carried a gun or knife in the past year).

134 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,441 (total number of those in mainstream education who reported having carried a gun or knife in the past year).

135 Figure calculated from a base size of 294 (total number of those in PRUs who reported not having carried a gun or knife in the past year).

136 Figure calculated from a base size of 775 (total number of those in PRUs who reported having carried a gun or knife in the past year).

played truant, than those who had truanted: 23%,¹³⁷ compared with 13%¹³⁸ in mainstream education; 14%,¹³⁹ compared with 7%¹⁴⁰ in PRUs.

The same pattern is visible with expulsions, with those who had never been expelled more concerned by bullying (22%¹⁴¹ in mainstream education and 13%¹⁴² in PRUs) than those who had been expelled (12%¹⁴³ and 8%¹⁴⁴ respectively).

137 Figure calculated on a base of 2,891 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had never played truant).

138 Figure calculated on a base of 173 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had played truant 10 or more times).

139 Figure calculated on a base of 152 (total of all in PRUs who had never played truant).

140 Figure calculated on a base of 454 (total of all in PRUs who had played truant 10 or more times).

141 Figure calculated on a base of 4,282 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had never been expelled).

142 Figure calculated on a base of 337 (all in PRUs who had never been expelled).

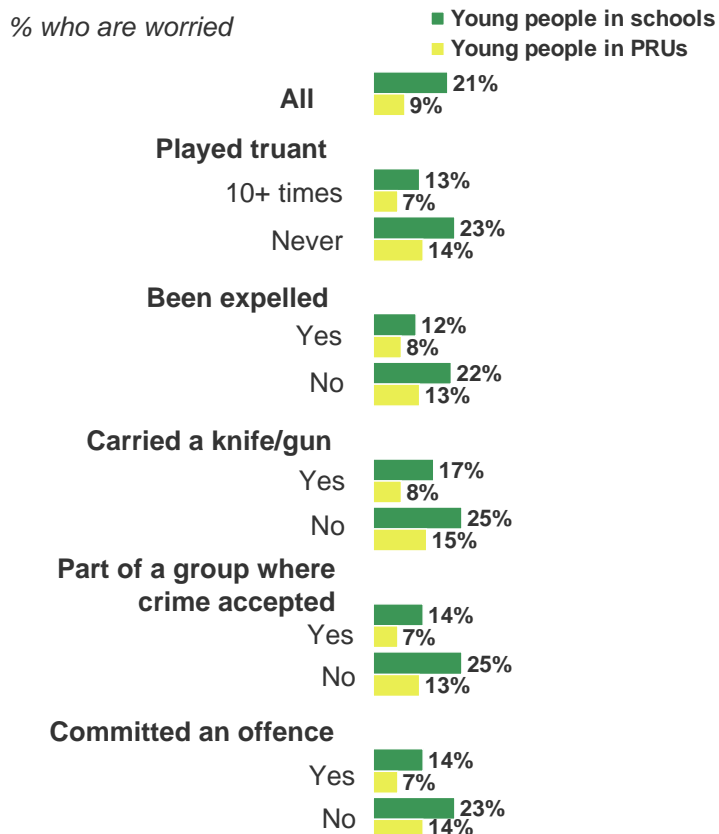
143 Figure calculated on a base of 117 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had been expelled).

144 Figure calculated on a base of 697 (all in PRUs who had been expelled).

Figure 2.10: Worry about being a victim of bullying – behavioural and attitudinal factors¹⁴⁵

Worry about being a victim of bullying

How worried are you about each of the following: Being bullied at school?



Base: All young people in schools (4,855); All young people in PRUs (1,230)



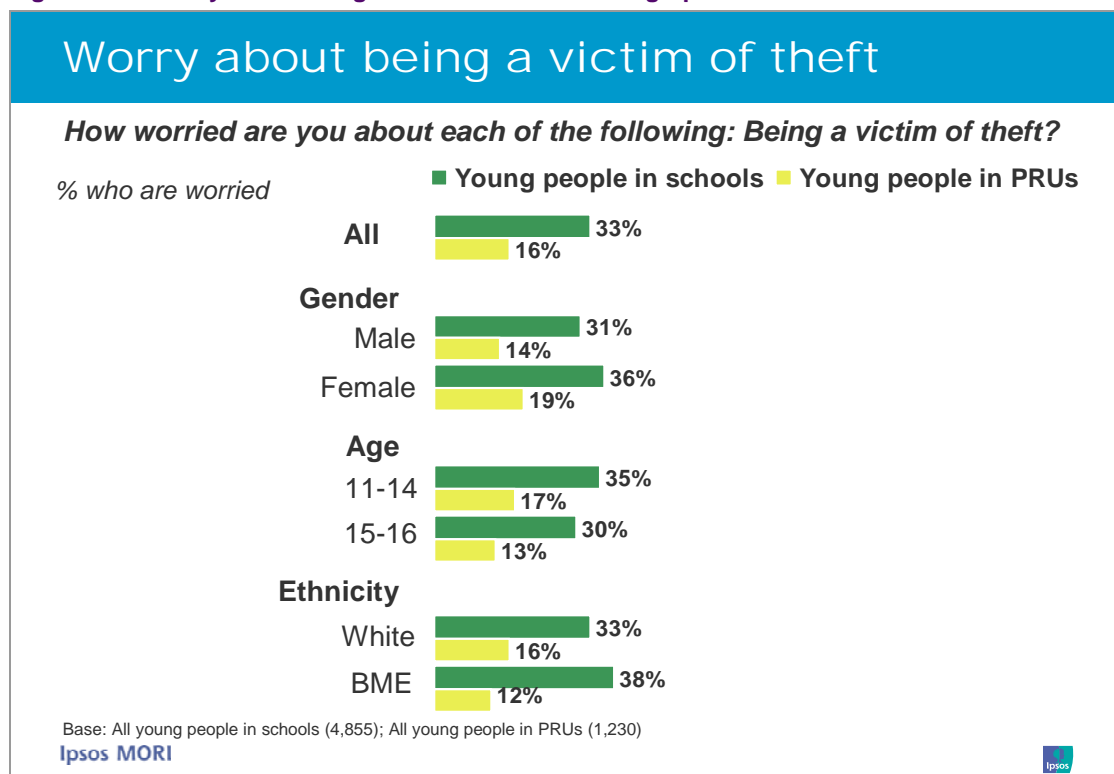
2.4.3 Worry about theft

Concern about being the victim of theft has fallen, slightly from 35% in 2008 to 33% in 2009 for those in mainstream education. Among those attending PRUs, the level of concern is 16% – broadly in line with the 18% found in 2008. As seen with bullying, younger pupils and girls are also the most concerned with

¹⁴⁵ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

theft in both mainstream schools and PRUs. In mainstream education, 36%¹⁴⁶ of girls and 35%¹⁴⁷ of 11 to 14-year-olds were either 'very' or 'fairly worried' about theft, compared with 31%¹⁴⁸ of boys and 30%¹⁴⁹ of 15 to 16-year-olds. In PRUs, 19%¹⁵⁰ of girls and 17%¹⁵¹ of 11 to 14-year-olds reported the same, compared with 14%¹⁵² of boys and 13%¹⁵³ of 15 to 16-year-olds.

Figure 2.11: Worry about being a victim of theft – demographic factors¹⁵⁴



As with bullying, those who had *not* carried a knife or gun in the past year and those who had *never* played truant were more worried by theft than those who had carried these potential weapons or who had played truant ten or more times – both in mainstream education and PRUs.

146 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,446 (unweighted total number of girls in mainstream education).

147 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,470 (unweighted total number of 11 to 14-year-olds in mainstream education).

148 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,295 (unweighted total number of boys in mainstream education).

149 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,293 (unweighted total number of 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education).

150 Figure calculated from a base size of 344 (total number of girls in PRUs).

151 Figure calculated from a base size of 679 (total number of 11 to 14-year-olds in PRUs).

152 Figure calculated from a base size of 857 (total number of boys in PRUs).

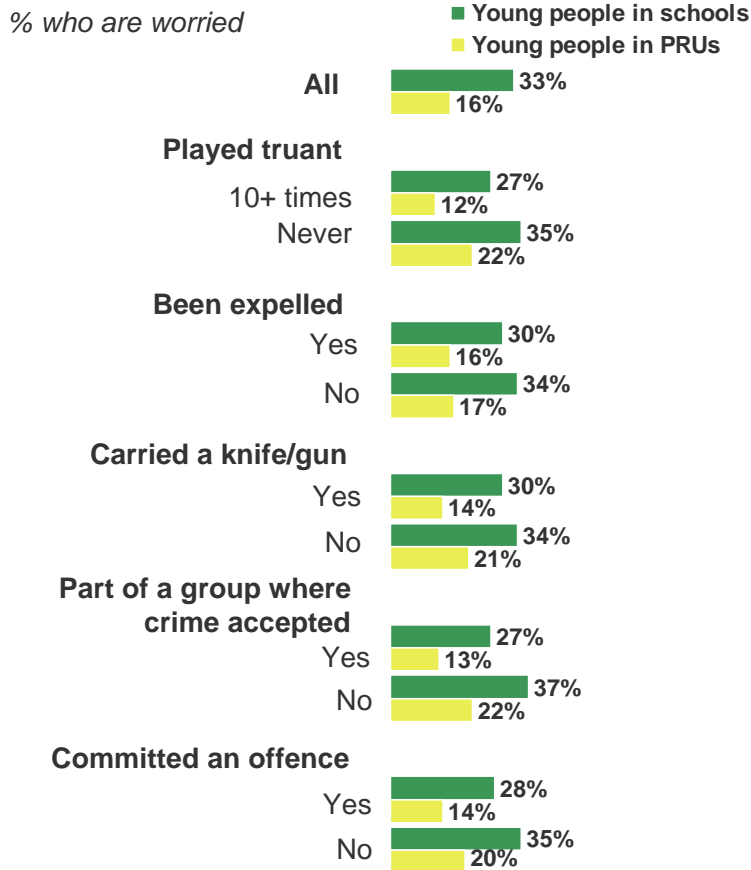
153 Figure calculated from a base size of 512 (total number of 15 to 16-year-olds in PRUs).

154 This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

Figure 2.12: Worry about being a victim of theft – behavioural and attitudinal factors¹⁵⁵

Worry about being a victim of theft

**How worried are you about each of the following:
Being a victim of theft?**



Base: All young people in schools (4,855); All young people in PRUs (1,230)



2.4.4 Worry about physical assault

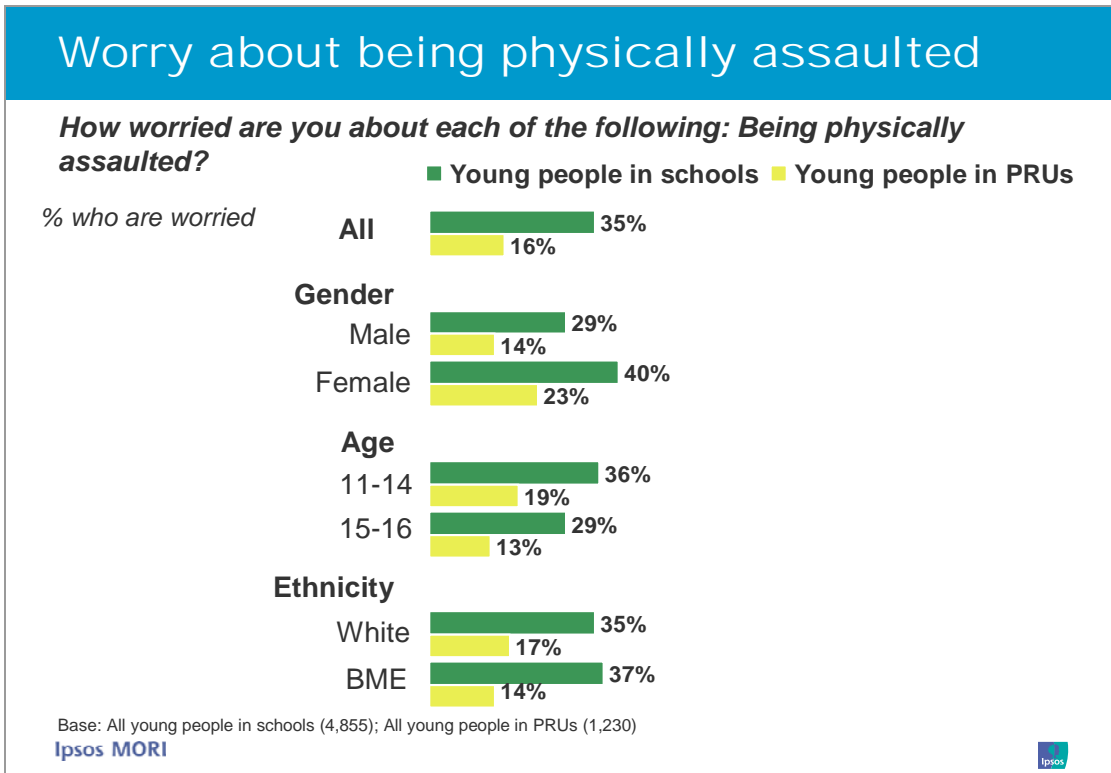
In mainstream education, 35% of pupils said they were worried about being physically assaulted, which is roughly in line with the 36% who said so in 2008 – but considerably lower than the 52% who reported this in 2005. Among

¹⁵⁵ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

young people attending PRUs, 16% said they were worried about being assaulted, which is the same as in 2008 but still lower than the 23% of 2005.¹⁵⁶

Age and gender are again noteworthy factors. Forty per cent of girls in mainstream education and 23% of girls in PRUs stated concern about physical assault, compared with 29% and 14% of boys respectively. Younger pupils were also more worried about physical assault than their older peers: 36% of 11 to 14-year-olds, compared with 29% of 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education; 19% of 11 to 14-year-olds, compared with 13% of 15 to 16-year-olds attending PRUs.

Figure 2.13: Worry about being a victim of physical assault – demographic factors¹⁵⁷



This data suggests a link between other behaviours reported by young people and the worry about being a victim of physical assault. For example, in mainstream education, 37% of pupils who had never played truant reported this concern, compared with 25% of persistent truants.

In mainstream education and PRUs, fewer of those who had carried a gun or knife in the past year (31% in mainstream education, 14% in PRUs) reported being worried about physical assault, compared to those who had not carried a potential weapon (38% in mainstream education, 21% in PRUs).

¹⁵⁶ Figure for mainstream education calculated from a base size of 4,855 (unweighted total in mainstream education); figure for PRUs calculated from a base size of 1,230 (total number in PRUs).

¹⁵⁷ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

Among young people attending PRUs, only 13%¹⁵⁸ of those who reported being members of a group which considers crime acceptable said they were concerned about being a victim of physical assault, compared with 24%¹⁵⁹ who are not members of such a group.

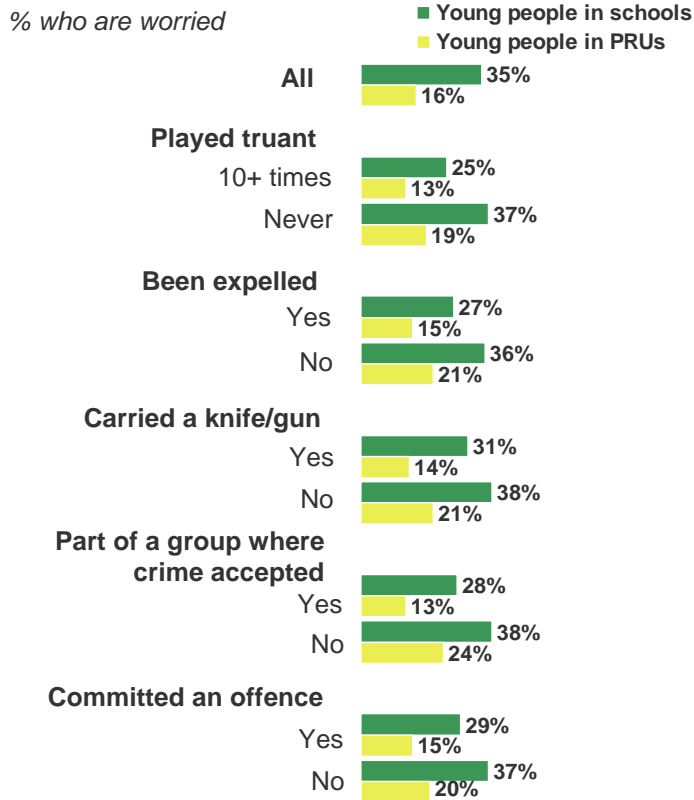
158 Figure calculated from a base size of 567 (total number of those in PRUs in groups where crime is viewed as acceptable (always or sometimes) by the group).

159 Figure calculated from a base size of 207 (total number of those in PRUs in groups where crime is not viewed as acceptable (always or sometimes) by the group).

Figure 2.14: Worry about being a victim of physical assault – behavioural and attitudinal factors¹⁶⁰

Worry about being a victim of physical assault

How worried are you about each of the following: Being physically assaulted?



Base: All young people in schools (4,855); All young people in PRUs (1,230)



2.4.5 Worry about racism

Only 19% of pupils in mainstream education (the lowest figure since 2000) and 10% of those in PRUs (the lowest figure since 2004) reported concern about racism.

¹⁶⁰ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

However, when broken down by demographics, 44%¹⁶¹ of Asian pupils reported being worried about being the victim of racism, compared with just 15%¹⁶² of White pupils.

Figure 2.15: Worry about being a victim of racism – demographic factors¹⁶³



Similar to the pattern found in those that worry about other types of victimisation, young people attending PRUs who had not carried a knife or gun in the past year were more likely (15%) to express concern about being the victim of racism, compared with those who had carried one of these items (10%).

161 Figure calculated from a base size of 397 (unweighted total number of those with Asian ethnic background in mainstream education).

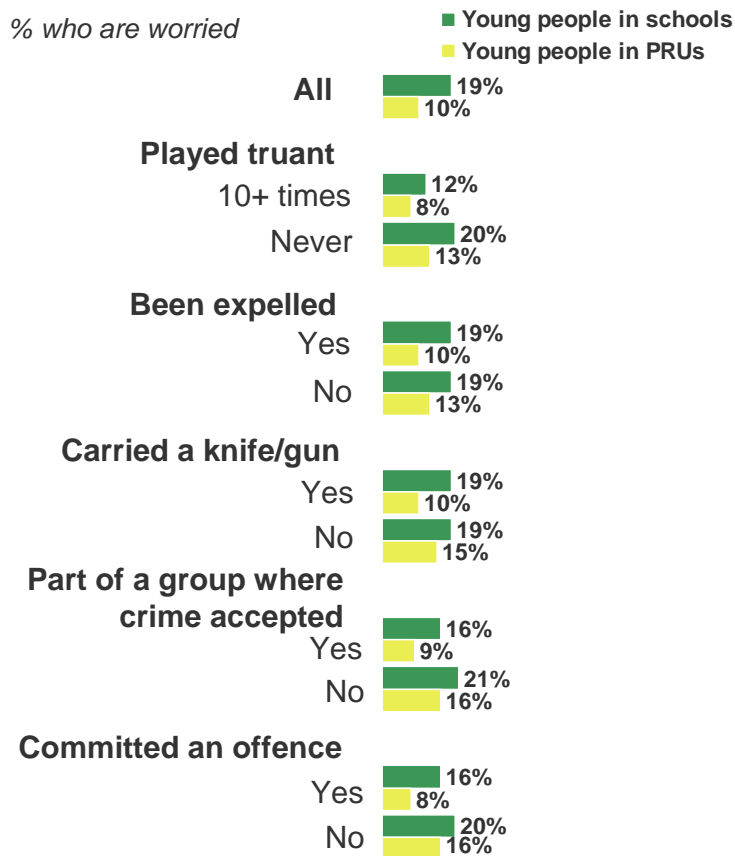
162 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,911 (unweighted total number of those with White ethnic background in mainstream education).

163 This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

Figure 2.16: Worry about being a victim of racism – behavioural and attitudinal factors¹⁶⁴

Worry about being a victim of racism

**How worried are you about each of the following:
Being the victim of racism?**



Base: All young people in schools (4,855); All young people in PRUs (1,230)

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2.4.6 Experience of being a victim of crime or bullying

Just over half of young people in mainstream education (52%) and two-thirds of those attending PRUs (66%) said they had been the victim of crime or bullying in the past year. In mainstream education, this was higher than the 2005 figure (50%), although it remained level with 2008. For those attending

¹⁶⁴ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

PRUs, this represents an increase of five percentage points (from 61% in 2008 and 2005).¹⁶⁵

In the case of most offences in mainstream education, the level reported is roughly in line with previous years. However, there are some notable rises from 2008:

- **being bullied**
The proportion of pupils reporting being bullied in schools has risen from 23% to 28% in 2009.
- **threatened with a gun or knife**
The proportion reporting being threatened with such weapons has risen from 6% to 7%.
- **attacked with a gun or knife**
The proportion reporting being attacked with such weapons has risen from 2% to 4%.

There have also been significant increases from 2008 in the proportion of young people attending PRUs reporting certain offences in 2009:

- **physically attacked by others**
The proportion reporting this in PRUs has risen from 37% in 2008 to 44% in 2009.
- **threatened by others**
The proportion reporting this in PRUs has risen from 41% to 44%.
- **being bullied**
The proportion reporting being bullied in PRUs has risen from 19% to 24%.
- **racial offences**
These offences are also more frequently reported in PRUs than in 2008. Racial abuse has risen from 9% to 13%, with racial attacks rising from 6% to 10% in 2009.

¹⁶⁵ Figure in mainstream education calculated from a base size of 4,855 (unweighted total in mainstream education); figure for PRUs calculated from a base size of 1,230 (total number in PRUs).

Table 2.12: Experience of crime among young people

Have any of the following happened to you in the last 12 months?

| Base: All respondents | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| | 2009 (4,855) | 2008 (4,750) | 2005 (5,463) | 2009 (1,230) | 2008 (914) | 2005 (1,584) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| VICTIM OF ANY OFFENCE | 52 | 51 | 50 | 66* | 61 | 61 |
| Been bullied | 28* | 23 | 22 | 24* | 19 | 18 |
| Been threatened by other(s) | 27 | 28 | 28 | 44 | 41 | 42 |
| Been physically attacked | 19 | 18 | 16 | 44* | 37 | 33 |
| Had something other than a mobile phone stolen from you | 15 | 16 | 15 | 21 | 21 | 18 |
| Had something which belongs to you damaged or destroyed on purpose | 14 | 13 | 13 | 20 | 18 | 17 |
| Had a mobile phone stolen from you | 11 | 10 | 8 | 22 | 20 | 12 |
| Been threatened with a knife or gun | 7* | 6 | N/A | 23 | 22 | N/A |
| Been racially abused | 7 | 7 | 5 | 13* | 9 | 8 |
| Been attacked with a knife or gun | 4* | 2 | N/A | 11 | 11 | N/A |
| Been racially attacked | 4* | 2 | 2 | 10* | 6 | 5 |
| Been the victim of an offence not mentioned above | 7* | 4 | 2 | 9* | 5 | 5 |
| None of these | 37 | 38 | 37 | 20 | 22 | 19 |
| Don't know | 2* | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Not stated | 9 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 17 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

2.4.7 Victim profile

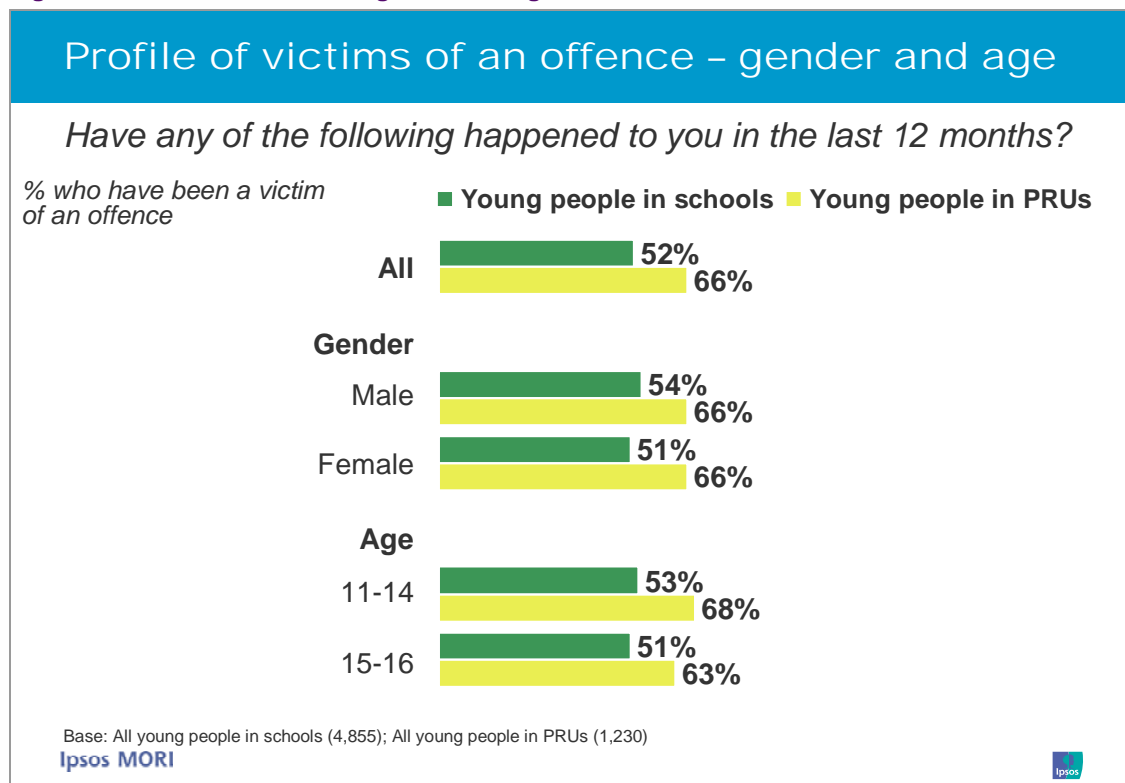
Young people attending PRUs are proportionally more likely to be victims of crime than those in mainstream schools. In schools, there are no significant differences at an overall level between pupils of different ages or genders in the likelihood of them having been the victim of any offence.

However, 11-year-olds attending PRUs are significantly more likely than average (83%¹⁶⁶ of 11-year-olds, compared with 66% in the overall PRU sample), to report having been a victim of some offence. However, owing to the small sample size, these figures should be treated with caution.

¹⁶⁶ Figure calculated from a base size of 36 (total number of 11-year-olds in PRUs). Results should be interpreted with caution due to the low sample size.

Looking at particular types of experience, pupils aged 11 to 14 are more likely to report being bullied – both in mainstream education (31%, compared with 20% of 15 to 16-year-olds), and PRUs (28%, compared with 19% of 15 to 16-year-olds).

Figure 2.17: Profile of victims – gender and age¹⁶⁷



2.4.7.1 Gender variations in victimisation

In mainstream education, girls are more likely to report having been bullied (31%, compared with 26% of boys), although boys are more likely to report having been threatened, stolen from or attacked. For example, 10% of boys said they had been threatened with a knife or gun, compared with 5% of girls; 17% said they have had something other than a mobile phone stolen from them, compared with 14% of girls; and 16% said they have had something which belongs to them damaged or destroyed on purpose, compared with 12% of girls.

Among those who attend PRUs, girls are more likely to report being bullied (30%, compared with 22% of boys), or having a mobile phone stolen (26%, compared with 20% of boys). Contrastingly, boys are more likely to report being threatened (25%, compared with 19% of girls) or attacked with a knife or

¹⁶⁷ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

gun (13%, compared with 7% of girls). There is a roughly equal chance of either gender being the victim of any of the other offences mentioned.

2.4.7.2 Ethnic variations in victimisation

Mixed race pupils in mainstream education are the ethnic group most likely to report having been a victim (reported by 61%,¹⁶⁸ compared with 53%¹⁶⁹ of White, 53%¹⁷⁰ of Black and 47%¹⁷¹ of Asian young people).

Mixed race (34%) and White (28%) young people in mainstream education are more likely than Asian (19%) and Black (15%) young people to say they have been threatened. They are also more likely to say that they have been bullied (33% of Mixed race and 29% of White young people, compared with 23% of Asian and 19% of Black young people).

Overall, BME pupils are more likely than White pupils to report they have been racially abused, with Mixed race pupils the most commonly victimised (21%); followed by Black (19%) and Asian pupils (18%). Mixed race (10%) and Asian (8%) pupils are also the most likely to report that they have been racially attacked. Black pupils are more likely than average (17%, compared to 11%) to report having a mobile phone stolen.

There are fewer differences by ethnicity among young people attending PRUs, but BME pupils are still more likely to report having been racially abused (27%¹⁷² of Black pupils, 24%¹⁷³ of Asian pupils). However, these results need to be interpreted with caution, due to their small sample sizes.

168 Figure calculated from a base size of 195 (unweighted total number of those with Mixed ethnic background in mainstream education).

169 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,911 (unweighted total number of those with White ethnic background in mainstream education).

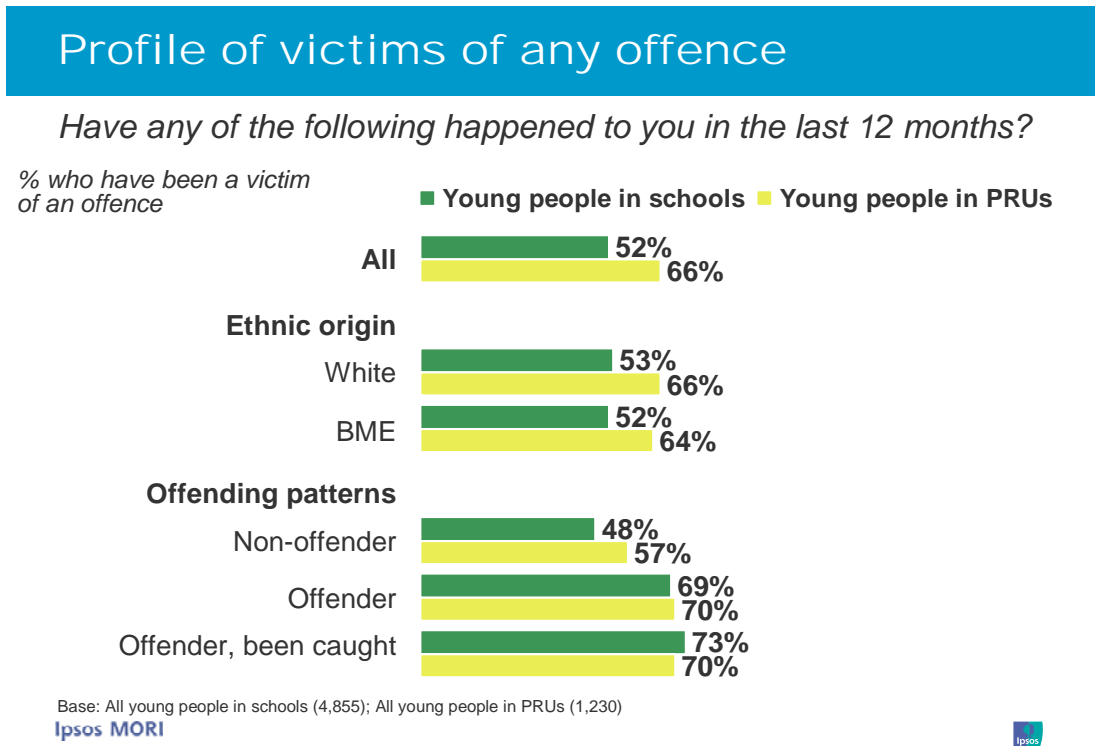
170 Figure calculated from a base size of 174 (unweighted total number of those with Black ethnic background in mainstream education).

171 Figure calculated from a base size of 397 (unweighted total number of those with Asian ethnic background in mainstream education).

172 Figure calculated from a base size of 84 (total number of those with Black ethnic background in PRUs). These results need to be interpreted with caution due to their small base size.

173 Figure calculated from a base size of 37 (total number of those with Asian ethnic background in PRUs). These results need to be interpreted with caution due to their small base size.

Figure 2.18: Profile of victims – ethnicity and offending patterns¹⁷⁴



2.4.7.3 Link between victimisation and offending, and exclusion

There is an apparent link between committing crime and being the victim of crime. In both mainstream education and PRUs, those who report committing an offence are more likely to have been the victim of an offence than those who do not self-report offending.

In mainstream education, 69%¹⁷⁵ of those who reported offending had also been a victim – compared with 48%¹⁷⁶ of those who had not committed an offence. Among young people attending PRUs, 70%¹⁷⁷ of those who had committed an offence had also been victims themselves – compared with 57%¹⁷⁸ of those who had not offended.

174 This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

175 Figure calculated from a base size of 927 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who reported committing a criminal offence in the past year).

176 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,406 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who reported not having committed a criminal offence in the past year).

177 Figure calculated from a base size of 785 (total number of those in PRUs who reported committing a criminal offence in the past year).

178 Figure calculated from a base size of 318 (total number of those in PRUs who reported not having committed a criminal offence in the past year).

Those who report victimisation are also more likely to have played truant. In mainstream education, 65% of those who had truanted between one and nine times and 72% of those who had done so 10 or more times, reported having been a victim – compared with 48% of non-truants. Further statistical analysis supports this link, with the model for mainstream schools showing that the greater the extent of truancy by a young person, the greater propensity they have to be a victim of an offence.

This is not the case for those in PRUs, although truants are still more likely to be victims of an offence (75% of those truanting between one and nine times and 74% of those doing so 10 or more times reported having been a victim – compared with 70% of non-truants).

Young people who say that they have been a victim of an offence are also more likely to have been expelled. In mainstream education, 75% of those who had been expelled had been a victim, compared with 52% who had not been expelled. In PRUs, this figure was 74%, compared with 67% who had not been expelled.

Key driver analysis (or ‘regression analysis’) was carried out to determine those who have the greatest propensity to be a victim of an offence. This type of analysis explores how the response an individual gives to one question is affected by their response to other questions.¹⁷⁹ When looking at who had the greatest propensity to be a victim of an offence, the regression analysis also showed an apparent link with use of a knife for a reason other than hobbies, activities or sports. However, the analysis does not show causality and we cannot say that using a knife, for reasons other than those mentioned, causes people to be a victim – or indeed that being a victim causes young people to use a knife for reasons mentioned.

For those in PRUs only, there is a similar link between young people who say they use a gun for reasons other than hobbies, activities or sports, and victimisation.

2.4.8 Where victimisation takes place

Young people in mainstream education are more likely to be victimised at school than elsewhere for most of the offences shown in Table 2.12, with the exception of the most violent (such as being threatened or attacked with a knife or gun). Table 2.13¹⁸⁰ below shows that being threatened with a knife or a gun is most likely to occur in young people’s local area (33%¹⁸¹ reported being threatened with a knife or gun in their local area). While 25% who have been

179 For more detail on statistical analysis see Appendix D.

180 Table 2.13 shows the figures for 2009. For the data for 2008 and 2005 see Appendix F.

181 Figure calculated on a base size of 349 (unweighted total of those in mainstream education who had been threatened with a knife or a gun in the last year).

attacked with a knife or gun said this happened in their local area, those who have experienced this are more likely to say it happened 'elsewhere'¹⁸² (27%).

In the case of young people attending PRUs, the results are similar to 2008,¹⁸³ with young people more likely to be victimised 'elsewhere', followed by 'in their local area'. The exceptions to this are racial abuse and bullying, which are more likely to happen at school. While the proportion of pupils reporting bullying taking place at school has remained relatively consistent with 2008 (61%, from 59% in 2008), the incidence of racial abuse in this location in PRUs has risen steeply, from 15% in 2008 to 36% in 2009.¹⁸⁴

Despite this, the proportion of pupils in PRUs who said they had been victimised in their local area has fallen since 2008 for a number of offences. Fewer said they had been attacked (41%,¹⁸⁵ from 50% in 2008), been threatened by others (41%,¹⁸⁶ from 52% in 2008) or had a mobile phone stolen in their local area (27%,¹⁸⁷ down from 40% in 2008). This may well be due in part to the fact that the new option 'at home' was added to the questionnaire in 2009, which was cited in around 10% of cases.

As in 2008, of those who had been victims of crime, it is generally older pupils (aged 15 to 16) who report this occurring in their local area. For example, among young people in mainstream education, 35% of 15 to 16-year-olds who had been physically attacked reported that this took place in their local area, as opposed to 27% of 11 to 14-year-olds. Younger pupils aged 11 to 14 in mainstream education are more likely to be threatened (41%) and attacked (40%) at school, compared to pupils aged 15 to 16 (34% and 27% respectively).

Girls are more likely than boys to report having been physically attacked at home, both in mainstream education and in PRUs (16%, compared with 8% [boys] in mainstream education; 17%, compared with 8% [boys] in PRUs).¹⁸⁸

182 Pre-code options presented on the questionnaire were 'at school', 'travelling to and from school', 'where I live/ local area', 'at home' and 'elsewhere'.

183 Table 2.14 shows the data for 2009. These can be found alongside the figures for 2008 and 2005 in Appendix F.

184 The ethnic composition of the PRU sample has remained similar to 2008.

185 Figure calculated on a base size of 544 (all PRU pupils who had been physically attacked in the last year).

186 Figure calculated on a base size of 543 (all PRU pupils who had been threatened in the last year)

187 Figure calculated on a base size of 268 (all PRU pupils who had had a mobile phone stolen in the last year).

188 Figures calculated of base of 603 boys and 279 girls in mainstream education and 390 boys and 139 girls in PRU (all pupils in mainstream education/PRUs who had been physically attacked).

Table 2.13: Where victimisation takes place – young people in mainstream education
For each one, where did this happen?

| Base: All young people in mainstream education who had been a victim of each individual offence in the last 12 months | | | At school | Travelling to and from school | Where I live/local area | Home | Elsewhere | Not stated |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------|-----------|------------|
| | | <i>Base:</i> | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Been physically attacked | 2009 | (899) | 37 | 19 | 29* | 10 | 19 | 16 |
| Been threatened by others | 2009 | (1,340) | 39 | 15* | 32* | 9 | 23 | 18 |
| Had a mobile phone stolen from you | 2009 | (544) | 30* | 8 | 18* | 7 | 22 | 28 |
| Had something other than a mobile phone stolen from you | 2009 | (735) | 39 | 7 | 17* | 12 | 18 | 25 |
| Been racially abused | 2009 | (356) | 41 | 16 | 22 | 5 | 20 | 28 |
| Been racially attacked | 2009 | (205) | 20* | 16 | 21 | 6 | 24 | 43 |
| Been threatened with a knife or gun | 2009 | (352) | 14* | 12* | 33* | 6 | 29 | 30 |
| Been attacked with a knife or gun | 2009 | (185) | 16 | 11* | 25 | 8 | 27 | 43 |
| Had something which belongs to you damaged or destroyed on purpose | 2009 | (676) | 38 | 9 | 22* | 16 | 17 | 27 |
| Been bullied | 2009 | (1,349) | 72* | 20 | 17 | 6 | 13 | 17 |
| Been the victim of an offence not mentioned above | 2009 | (340) | 17* | 10 | 14* | 8 | 14* | 59 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

Table 2.14: Where victimisation takes place – young people attending PRUs

For each one, where did this happen?

| Base: All young people in PRUs who had been a victim of each individual offence in the last 12 months | | | At school | Travelling to and from school | Where I live/local area | Home | Else-where | Not stated |
|--|--------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| | <i>Base:</i> | | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Been physically attacked | 2009 | (544) | 26 | 14 | 41 | 11 | 34 | 13 |
| Been threatened by others | 2009 | (543) | 29 | 18 | 41 | 11 | 32 | 16 |
| Had a mobile phone stolen from you | 2009 | (268) | 21 | 9 | 27 | 10 | 26 | 23 |
| Had something other than a mobile phone stolen from you | 2009 | (262) | 19 | 10 | 28 | 17 | 30 | 22 |
| Been racially abused | 2009 | (160) | 36 | 16 | 28 | 7 | 31 | 26 |
| Been racially attacked | 2009 | (126) | 20 | 10 | 25 | 7 | 31 | 33 |
| Been threatened with a knife or gun | 2009 | (287) | 10 | 11 | 40 | 7 | 41 | 20 |
| Been attacked with a knife or gun | 2009 | (141) | 10 | 9 | 31 | 7 | 35 | 28 |
| Had something which belongs to you damaged or destroyed on purpose | 2009 | (246) | 26 | 12 | 34 | 24 | 26 | 23 |
| Been bullied | 2009 | (299) | 61 | 25 | 31 | 14 | 23 | 18 |
| Been the victim of an offence not mentioned above | 2009 | (105) | 20 | 8 | 25 | 10 | 28 | 37 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

2.4.9 Victimisation by another young person

Young people who had been a victim of an offence¹⁸⁹ in the last 12 months were asked – for each offence they had experienced – whether it was committed by another young person under the age of 18. Of those in

¹⁸⁹ Bullying is included in the list of 'offences' at this question, due to the way this question was worded.

mainstream education, 65%¹⁹⁰ said they had been the victim of an offence committed by someone under 18, compared to 67%¹⁹¹ in PRUs. This is roughly in line with the figures from 2008 (69% in mainstream education, 65% in PRUs).

Table 2.15 below shows, for each offence, the proportion of young people who say the incident was committed by another person under the age of 18. For pupils in mainstream education, the most common offence where the perpetrator was another person under 18 was bullying (32%) followed by being threatened (30%). The next most common offences were being attacked (21%) or having had something damaged or destroyed on purpose (15%). These are the same offences which were most frequently cited in 2008.

Physical violence was more commonly cited by those attending PRUs, with 39% mentioning being threatened by others and 36% being physically attacked. This also matches the pattern of 2008.

There were no differences by age or gender in either mainstream education or PRUs for the proportion of victims of each offence who were under 18. It should be noted that, for both survey groups, a large proportion of young people did not give an answer to this question.

190 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,517 (unweighted total of all those in mainstream education who had been the victim of an offence in the past year).

191 Figure calculated from a base size of 812 (unweighted total of all those in PRUs who had been the victim of an offence in the past year).

Table 2.15: Offences committed by another young person

And for each one that has happened to you, was this done by another young person under the age of 18?

| | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| Base: All respondents who had been a victim of one of the offences | (2,517) | (2,434) | (2,758) | (812) | (558) | (970) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| ALL VICTIM OF AN OFFENCE COMMITTED BY AN UNDER-18 | 65* | 69 | 74 | 67 | 65 | 62 |
| Been threatened by other(s) | 30* | 36 | 41 | 39 | 38 | 40 |
| Been bullied | 32 | 31 | 34 | 22 | 21 | 20 |
| Been physically attacked | 21 | 22 | 22 | 36 | 33 | 30 |
| Had something which belongs to you damaged or destroyed on purpose | 15 | 15 | 19 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Had something other than a mobile phone stolen from you | 14 | 15 | 19 | 15 | 15 | 16 |
| Had a mobile phone stolen from you | 9 | 9 | 8 | 15 | 14 | 9 |
| Been racially abused | 8 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| Been threatened with a knife or gun | 7 | 7 | N/A | 15 | 16 | N/A |
| Been racially attacked | 3* | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| Been the victim of an offence not mentioned above | 6* | 3 | 2 | 4* | 1 | 3 |
| Been attacked with a knife or gun | 3 | 2 | N/A | 7 | 8 | N/A |
| None of these | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Don't know/not stated | 33* | 28 | 24 | 30 | 33 | 38 |
| | - | - | - | | | |

Source: Ipsos MORI

2.4.10 Victimization by a group of young people

Young people who had been the victim of an offence in the last 12 months were also asked whether each offence that they had experienced had been committed by a *group* of young people under the age of 18. In both mainstream education and PRUs, the largest proportion of victims had been the victim of only one offence by a group of young people (30% in mainstream education and 24% in PRUs). In both mainstream education and PRUs, the proportion of people reporting each total decreased as the number of offences rose.

The most frequently committed group offences, mentioned in both mainstream education and PRUs were:

- being bullied (30% in mainstream education, 20% in PRUs)
- being threatened (26% in mainstream education, 34% in PRUs)
- being physically attacked (15% in mainstream education, 31% in PRUs).

In general, the proportion of pupils in mainstream education who reported that a group of people under 18 had carried out each offence was in line with, or slightly below, that of 2008. The exception to this was bullying, which has risen from being reported by 24% of victims to 30%.¹⁹⁵

The same pattern is evident in PRUs, where the reported figures were equal to, or slightly smaller than those in 2008 – with the exception of bullying, which rose from 16% to 20%.

In mainstream education, as with victimisation generally, characteristics making a young person more likely to report having been victimised by a group of under-18s are:

- **having committed an offence**
Sixty-four per cent of those who self-reported offending said they had been the victim of a crime by a group of people under the age of 18, compared with 55% of those who did not self-report offending.
- **carrying a gun or knife**
Sixty-one per cent of those who had carried a gun or knife in the past 12 months said they had been the victim of a crime by a group of people under the age of 18, compared with 56% who had not carried a potential weapon.
- **truancy**
Sixty-two per cent of those who had played truant between one and nine times reported being the victim of a crime by a group of people under the age of 18, compared with 57% of non-truants.

Table 2.16 below shows the proportion of young people who reported that under-18s had carried out each offence.

¹⁹⁵ Figure for mainstream education calculated from a base size of 2,517 (unweighted total of those in mainstream education who had been the victim of an offence); figure for PRUs calculated from a base size of 812 (total of those in PRUs who had been the victim of an offence)

Table 2.16: Victims of an offence (by offence) where that offence was carried out by a group of young people

Were any of the following offences done to you by a group of young people under the age of 18?

| | Young people in schools | | Young people in PRUs | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 |
| <u>% committed by a group of young people</u> | | | | |
| Base: All who had been a victim of an offence in the last 12 months | (2,517) | (2,434) | (812) | (558) |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Been bullied | 30* | 24 | 20* | 16 |
| Been threatened by other(s) | 26 | 28 | 34* | 37 |
| Been physically attacked | 15 | 17 | 31 | 32 |
| Had something which belongs to you damaged or destroyed on purpose | 10 | 10 | 12 | 11 |
| Had something other than a mobile phone stolen from you | 10 | 9 | 12 | 12 |
| Had a mobile phone stolen from you | 7 | 7 | 12* | 15 |
| Been racially abused | 6 | 6 | 8* | 6 |
| Been threatened with a knife or gun | 6 | 6 | 17 | 19 |
| Been the victim of an offence not mentioned above | 3 | 2 | 4* | 2 |
| Been racially attacked | 2 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| Been attacked with a knife or gun | 2* | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| None of these | 19 | 20 | 18* | 15 |
| Don't know | 5* | 7 | 4* | 6 |
| Not stated | 18 | 17 | 18 | 18 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

2.4.11 Reporting victimisation

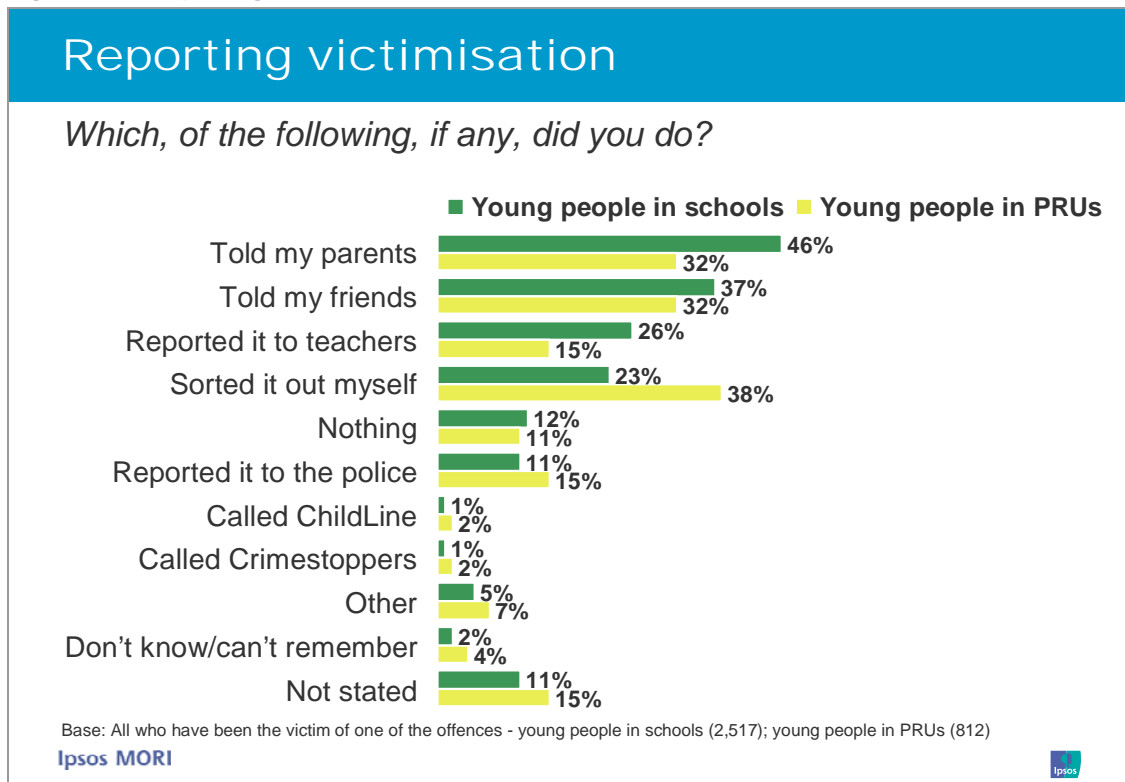
Young people in mainstream education who were victims of crime or bullying were most likely to turn to their parents or their friends, which is consistent with findings from 2008, 2005 and 2004. However, there has been a decline in the number of pupils reporting either course of action; 46% (down from 50% in 2008) said they would report crime or bullying to their parents, while 37% (down from 42% in 2008) would tell their friends.¹⁹⁶

¹⁹⁶ Figures calculated from a base size of 2,517 (unweighted total of those in mainstream education who had been the victim of an offence).

Young people attending PRUs remain most likely to report that they ‘sorted it out themselves’ (38%), after which comes ‘reporting to parents’ (32%) or friends (32%). This may be due to the larger proportion of boys attending PRUs, who – as we see below – are also more likely in mainstream education to report that they sorted it out themselves than say they confided in someone else.¹⁹²

Young people in both mainstream education and PRUs are unlikely to turn to sources such as ChildLine (1% and 2% respectively) or Crimestoppers (1% and 2% respectively).

Figure 2.19: Reporting victimisation¹⁹³



As has been seen in previous years, girls are more likely to confide in someone else, including their parents (52% in mainstream education, 40% in PRUs) or teachers (31% in mainstream education, 20% in PRUs).

In mainstream education, girls are also more likely than boys to confide in their friends (44%, compared with 32% of boys). Boys by contrast are more likely to say that they sorted it out themselves (26%, compared with 19% of girls).

¹⁹² Figures calculated from a base size of 812 (total of those in PRUs who had been the victim of an offence).

¹⁹³ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

In another finding comparable to 2008 and 2005, young people in both mainstream education and PRUs who had committed a criminal offence (37% and 43% respectively) or carried a gun or knife in the past 12 months (31% and 42% respectively), are more likely to say that they sorted crime or bullying out themselves.

This compares to 18% in mainstream education and 21% in PRUs who had not committed a criminal offence and sorted crime or bullying out for themselves. For those who had not carried a gun or knife, 19% in mainstream education and 22% in PRUs sorted it out for themselves.

Young people who had committed an offence or carried a gun or knife in the past year are also less likely to say they would confide in their parents.

Of those who had committed an offence in the past year, 35% in mainstream education and 29% in PRUs stated they would confide in their parents, compared with 50% (in schools) and 40% (in PRUs) of those who had not committed an offence. Of those who had carried a knife or gun, 39% in mainstream education and 27% in PRUs stated they would confide in their parents, compared to 51% and 42% respectively who had not carried a knife or gun.

2.4.12 CHAID analysis¹⁹⁴ – victimisation

The chi-squared automatic interaction detector (CHAID) is a statistical segmentation technique and has been used in this instance to segment the data, according to the propensity of young people who reported being a victim.

Separate CHAID models were run for young people in mainstream education and young people attending PRUs, and the predictors within the three CHAID models shown in this report (being a victim, offending and reoffending) were selected from the 17 variables outlined in Appendix D.

CHAID uses statistical testing (chi-square tests) to test each grouping within a variable, in order to find the most discriminatory grouping. Therefore, the groups for the variables included in the final model may differ from those throughout the rest of the report. For example, truancy is grouped as 'never played truant', 'less than 15 times' and 'at least 15 times' in the model below.

The 'group score' used in this analysis is created using responses to two of the questions asked of those who consider themselves to be part of a group. The two questions relate to whether one's group sees the committing of a crime as acceptable and the number of characteristics (such as a tag or symbol, and a name) that group has. The group score is assigned to those who are part of a

¹⁹⁴ It is important to bear in mind that, although CHAID analyses enable us to look at associations between different factors, these associations do not imply causality. In other words, factors which emerge as significant – e.g. truancy, group membership, knife/gun carrying – do not necessarily cause someone to be victimised. It is not possible to tell with this kind of analysis whether or not victimisation has itself caused the factors to occur (i.e. victimisation caused someone to truant, become involved in groups, or start knife/gun carrying).

group in which crime is seen as acceptable, based on the number of characteristics that group has.

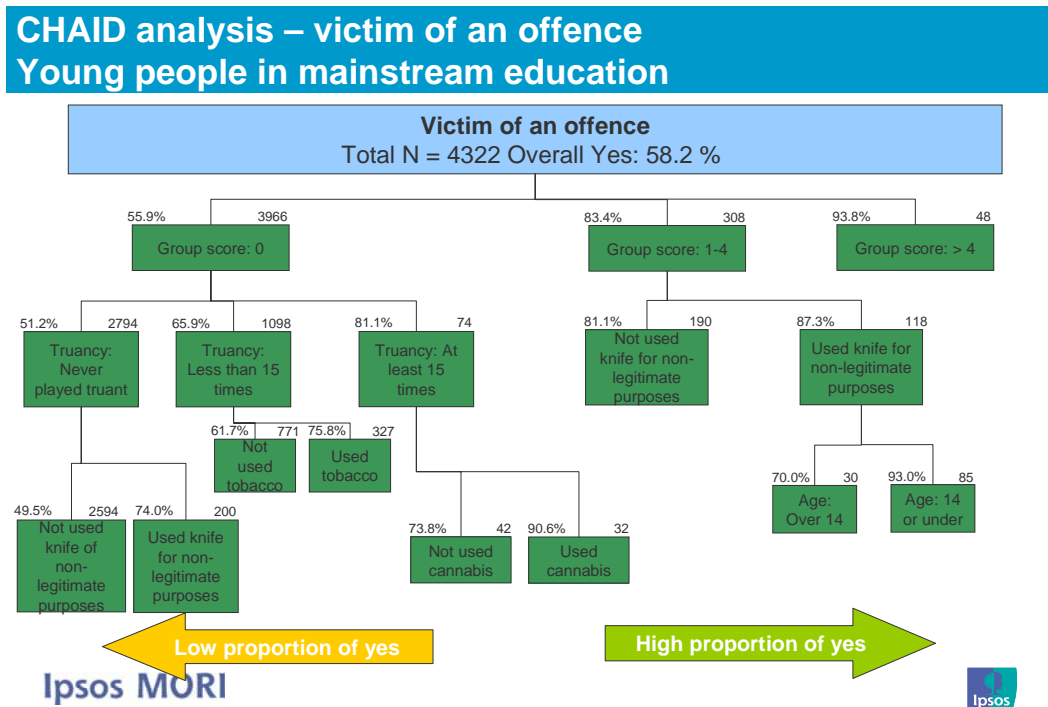
A group score of zero is assigned if the respondent reports that committing crime is never seen as acceptable by their group. Equally, if the respondent does not consider themselves to be part of a group at all (based on a previous question) they would also be assigned a group score of zero.

Where the model refers to using a knife for legitimate or non-legitimate purposes, legitimate purposes are defined as ‘hobbies, activities or sports’ and ‘work-related reasons’.

The valid responses included for each model for mainstream schools and PRUs are shown at the top of each chart in the main report.

2.4.12.1 Young people in mainstream education

Figure 2.20: CHAID – those who have been the victim of an offence



As Figure 2.20 shows, group score¹⁹⁵ is the primary predictor for young people in mainstream education being the victim of an offence. In total, 56% of those with a group score of zero had been a victim of an offence, while this figure

¹⁹⁵ Group score is formed from combining the sum of the elements of question 19 (number of features that a group has), with question 20 (whether one's group sees the committing of a crime as acceptable). A group score of zero is assigned if the respondent reports that committing crime is never seen as acceptable. Group score is then assigned based on the number of features in question 19 that apply to their group. See Appendix D for more details.

rises to 83% for young people with a group score of 1 to 4 – and rises even further to 94% for those who have a group score of greater than 4 (although only 1% of respondents fell into this group).

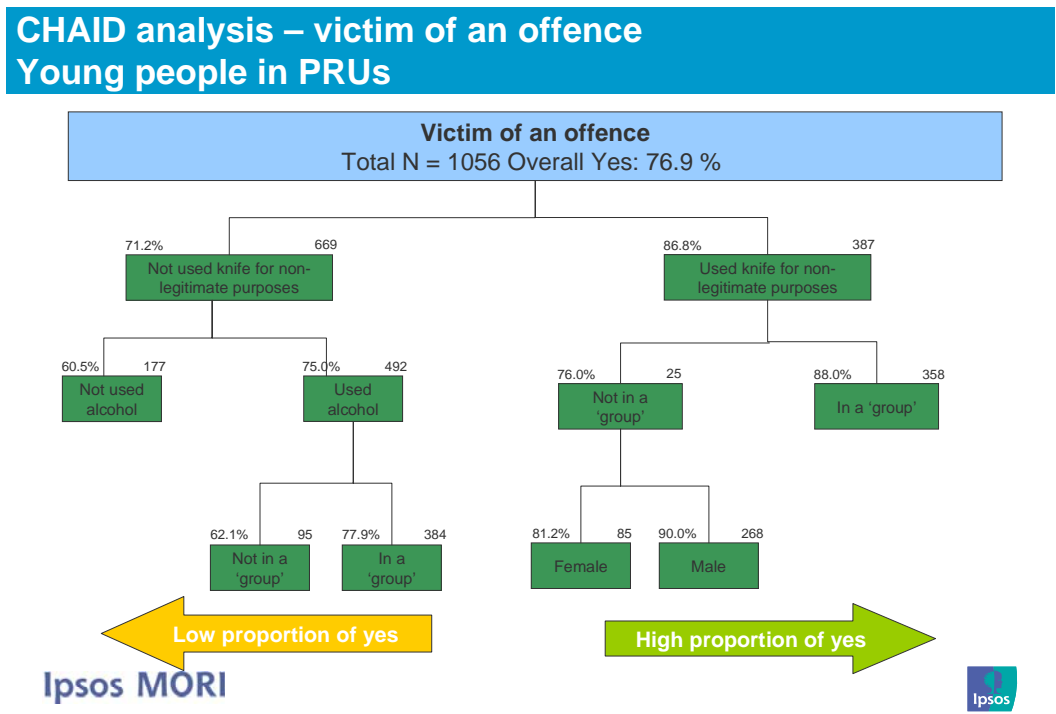
Within those with a group score of zero, truancy serves as a powerful discriminator – with those who have truanted at least 15 times being the most likely of these sub-groups to be a victim of an offence (81%).

The truancy sub-groups also split further. For example, those young people who have a group score of zero, who had truanted at least 15 times and used cannabis, have a 91% victim incidence – compared with 74% of those who had not used cannabis.

Within those with a group score between 1 and 4, the knife usage variable is the strongest discriminator. Those who had used a knife for non-legitimate purposes are marginally more likely to be a victim than those who had not (87%, compared with 81%). In addition, within those who had used a knife for non-legitimate purposes, a greater proportion of those aged 14 or under had been the victim of an offence than those aged over 14 (93%, compared with 70%).

2.4.12.2 Young people attending PRUs

Figure 2.21: CHAID – those who have been the victim of an offence



As Figure 2.21 shows, among young people attending PRUs, knife usage is the primary predictor for being the victim of an offence. In total, 87% of those who had used a knife for non-legitimate purposes had been a victim of an

offence. This figure drops to 71% for those who had not used a knife for non-legitimate purposes.

Among those who had not used a knife for non-legitimate purposes, those who had used alcohol are more likely to be a victim than those who had not (75%, compared to 61%). Within the 'used alcohol' sub-group, the victim incidence drops to 62% for those who are not a part of a group, compared to 78% who are part of a group.

Among those who had used a knife for non-legitimate purposes, and who are not a member of a group, 76% reported being the victim of a crime, compared to 88% of those who are a member of a group (this sub-group is further discriminated by gender: 81% for female respondents and 90% for male respondents).

2.4.13 Summary – victimisation

Overall, the majority of young people in mainstream education and attending PRUs are not worried about being the victim of an offence. There has been a decrease in the number of young people in mainstream education who are worried about being the victim of theft (33% in 2009, compared with 35% in 2008), and being the victim of racism (19% in 2009, compared with 21% in 2008).

Actual experience of being a victim of crime in the last 12 months has remained in line with 2008 for young people in mainstream education (52%). However, for young people attending PRUs there has been a significant increase in this respect (66% compared with 61%).

The most commonly cited crimes/behaviours that young people in mainstream education and PRUs fell victim to were:

being bullied (28% in mainstream schools, 24% in PRUs)

being threatened by others (27% in mainstream schools, 44% in PRUs)

being physically attacked (19% in mainstream schools, 44% in PRUs).

Younger pupils and girls are more likely to say they have been a victim of bullying, while boys are more likely to say they have been threatened.

Looking at where offences take place, young people in mainstream education who have been the victim of each offence most commonly reported this took place in school. However, in line with 2008, this differs for those who have been threatened with a knife or gun, which most commonly occurs in their local area (33%). While this type of victimisation most commonly occurs in the young person's local area, there has also been an increase in those who reported being threatened with a knife or gun at school since 2008 (14% in 2009, from 9% in 2008).

Young people attending PRUs who have been the victim of an offence are most likely to experience this 'elsewhere', with the exception of racial abuse, which 36% reported occurring at school.

The proportion of young people in mainstream education who had been the victim of an offence and reported that it was committed by someone under the age of 18 has dropped from 69% in 2008 to 65% in 2009. There has been no significant change in this respect for those attending PRUs.

Offending behaviour

This section examines offending levels among young people in mainstream education and young people attending PRUs. In addition, the profiles of young people who say they have offended are discussed, alongside behaviour and circumstances surrounding offending and the types of offences most commonly committed. The section then examines the key drivers of offending among young people. Finally, the carrying and use of potential weapons by young people is explored.

3.1 Levels of offending

3.2 Profile of offenders

3.3 Age of first offence

3.4 Offences committed

3.5 Frequency of offending

3.6 Co-offending

3.7 Circumstances of offending

3.8 Knives and guns

3.9 Summary

3 Offending behaviour

3.1 Levels of offending

As in previous years, the majority of young people in mainstream education (71%) said they had *not* committed an offence in the 12 months prior to taking part in the *Youth Survey 2009*. Less than one in five (18%) said they had committed an offence, which is a significant decline compared with previous years (23% in 2008, 27% in 2005 and 26% in 2004).¹⁹⁶

For young people in PRUs, 64% reported committing an offence in the past 12 months, which is the same level as 2008. This figure is also the average proportion for those in PRUs who have reported offending across the last decade of surveying years.¹⁹⁷

It should be noted that the list of offences provided as options in the questionnaire range in terms of the seriousness of the offence.¹⁹⁸ The list includes: 'less' serious offences, such as graffiti or fare-dodging; 'fairly' serious offences, such as shoplifting or threatening/assaulting someone; and 'very' serious offences, such as selling drugs or beating up/hurting someone, causing them to need medical treatment.

¹⁹⁶ Figures calculated from a base size of 4,855 (unweighted total number in mainstream education).

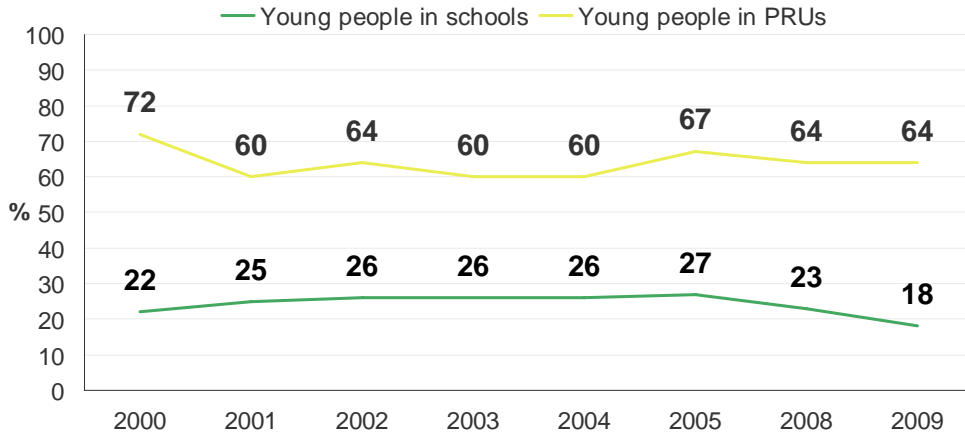
¹⁹⁷ Figure calculated from a base size of 1,230 (total number in PRU education).

¹⁹⁸ Seriousness of offence as defined by the Youth Justice Board. Offences are listed by seriousness in Appendix A.

Figure 3.1: Self-reported offending levels¹⁹⁹

Offending levels by year

Have you committed any criminal offence in the last 12 months? This may range from something like fare dodging (not paying for a train ticket) to stealing something?



Base (2009): All young people in schools (4,855); All young people in PRUs (1,230)

Ipsos MORI



3.2 Profile of offenders

When comparing the profiles of offenders and non-offenders, both in mainstream education and PRUs, several differences become apparent. Similar to findings from previous years, self-reported offending peaks among the older age groups in the sample, both for mainstream pupils and those in PRUs. Thirty per cent²⁰⁰ of pupils aged 15 to 16 in mainstream education said they had offended in the 12 months prior to the survey, compared with 15%²⁰¹ of those aged 11 to 14. In PRUs, 68%²⁰² of those aged 15 to 16 reported committing offences, compared with 61%²⁰³ aged 11 to 14.

Among young people attending PRUs, the proportion of 15 to 16-year-olds committing an offence remains at 2008 levels (66%), having fallen compared with 2005 (74%).

¹⁹⁹ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside the data for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

²⁰⁰ Figure calculated from a base size of 1,293 (unweighted total number of 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education).

²⁰¹ Figure calculated from a base size of 3,470 (unweighted total number of 11 to 14-year-olds in mainstream education).

²⁰² Figure calculated from a base size of 512 (total number of 15 to 16-year-olds in PRUs).

²⁰³ Figure calculated from a base size of 679 (total number of 11 to 14-year-olds in PRUs).

While still more likely than the younger age group to commit an offence, the proportion of 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education who reported having committed an offence has declined steadily, from 41% in 2005 and 35% in 2008, to 30% in 2009.

3.2.1 Gender variations in offending

Boys are more likely than girls to have committed an offence in the last 12 months. This is a pattern evident across both mainstream pupils (23%²⁰⁴ of boys, compared to 14%²⁰⁵ of girls) and those attending PRUs (66%²⁰⁶ of boys, compared to 57%²⁰⁷ of girls). Although self-reported offending has fallen among both boys and girls in mainstream education – reflecting the overall decrease in offending levels – this gender difference reflects the findings from previous years.

Figure 3.2: Profile of offenders – gender and age²⁰⁸



204 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,295 (unweighted total number of boys in mainstream education).

205 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,446 (unweighted total number of girls in mainstream education).

206 Figure calculated from a base size of 857 (total number of boys in PRUs).

207 Figure calculated from a base size of 344 (total number of girls in PRUs).

208 This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

3.2.2 Ethnic variations in offending

One in five (20%²⁰⁹) of White young people in mainstream schools reported offending in the 12 months prior to the survey, compared with 24% in 2008. Eighteen per cent²¹⁰ of Black and 10%²¹¹ of Asian pupils reported committing an offence in the same period. In keeping with findings from 2008, Asian young people in mainstream schools are particularly unlikely to report offending, with 80% saying they had *not* committed any criminal offence in the last 12 months.

3.2.3 Variations in offending by other behaviours

The data suggests a link between self-reported offending rates and other types of behaviour reported by young people, for both young people in mainstream education and those attending PRUs. Young people in mainstream education who reported the following behaviours and experiences were also more likely to report having offended in the 12 months prior to the survey:

- **being part of a group where crime is seen as acceptable**
Fifty-seven per cent,²¹² compared with 8%²¹³ who are not in such groups.
- **having been a victim of an offence**
Twenty-four per cent,²¹⁴ compared with 11%²¹⁵ who had not been a victim.
- **being able to get drugs**
Twenty-six per cent,²¹⁶ compared with 7%²¹⁷ who cannot get drugs.
- **having carried a knife/gun**
Thirty-two per cent,²¹⁸ compared with 13%²¹⁹ who had not done so.

209 Figure calculated from a base size of 3,911 (unweighted total number of those with White ethnic background in mainstream education).

210 Figure calculated from a base size of 174 (unweighted total number of those with Black ethnic background in mainstream education).

211 Figure calculated from a base size of 397 (unweighted total number of those with Asian ethnic background in mainstream education).

212 Figure calculated from a base size of 760 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education in groups where crime is viewed as acceptable (always or sometimes) by the group).

213 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,270 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education in groups where crime is not viewed as acceptable by the group).

214 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,517 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who had been a victim of crime in the past year).

215 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,805 (unweighted total number of those who had not been a victim of crime in the past year).

216 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,871 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who said they can get drugs).

217 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,444 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who said they cannot get drugs).

Further statistical analysis explores this in more detail and shows that those who had carried a knife for a reason *other* than hobbies, activities or sports are more likely to offend (the same pattern is also found for those attending PRUs, see list below).

- **having truanted, particularly if this has been regularly**
Forty-seven per cent²²⁰ who had played truant 10 or more times, compared with 11%²²¹ who had never played truant. The statistical analysis also indicates that the greater the extent of truancy by a young person in mainstream education, the greater their propensity to offend (the same pattern is also found for those attending PRUs, see list below).
- **having been expelled**
Forty-nine per cent²²² of those who had been expelled, compared with 17%²²³ who had not been expelled.

Further statistical analysis identified further drivers of offending for those in mainstream education, namely **having ever drunk alcohol** or **having ever used tobacco**. Those who report doing either of these things have a greater propensity to offend than those who do not report alcohol or tobacco use.

Similar to the pattern in mainstream education, there are also links between offending and the following behaviours/experiences for young people attending PRUs:

- **being part of a group where crime is seen as acceptable**
Eighty-three per cent,²²⁴ compared with 39%²²⁵ who are not in such a group.
- **having been a victim of an offence**
Sixty-eight per cent,²²⁶ compared with 53%²²⁷ who had not been a victim.

218 Figure calculated from a base size of 1,441 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who reported having carried a gun or knife in the past year).

219 Figure calculated from a base size of 2,475 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who reported not having carried a gun or knife in the past year).

220 Figure calculated on a base of 173 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had played truant 10 or more times, ever).

221 Figure calculated on a base of 2,891 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had never played truant).

222 Figure calculated on a base of 117 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had been expelled).

223 Figure calculated on a base of 4,282 (unweighted total of all in mainstream education who had never been expelled).

224 Figure calculated from a base size of 567 (total number of those in PRUs in groups where crime is viewed as acceptable [always or sometimes] by the group).

225 Figure calculated from a base size of 207 (total number of those in PRUs in groups where crime is not viewed as acceptable [always or sometimes] by the group).

226 Figure calculated from a base size of 812 (total number of those in PRUs who had been a victim of crime in the past year).

227 Figure calculated from a base size of 244 (total number of those in PRUs who had not been a victim of crime in the past year).

- **being able to get drugs**
Seventy-one per cent,²²⁸ compared with 37%²²⁹ who cannot get drugs. The statistical analysis shows that, in particular, cannabis use by young people attending PRUs is linked with offending – those who had ever taken cannabis having a higher propensity to offend.
- **having carried a knife/gun**
Seventy-three per cent,²³⁰ compared with 50%²³¹ who had not carried such a weapon. As was the case for those in mainstream schools, further statistical analysis shows that those who carry a knife for a reason *other* than hobbies, activities or sports are more likely to offend.
- **having truanted, particularly if this has been regularly**
Seventy-five per cent²³² who had played truant 10 or more times, compared with 43%²³³ who had never played truant. In line with results found in mainstream education, further statistical analysis indicates that the greater the extent of truancy by a young person attending a PRU, the greater their propensity to offend.
- **having been expelled**
Seventy-one per cent²³⁴ who had been expelled, compared with 53%²³⁵ who had not been expelled.

3.3 Age at first offence

As shown in Table 3.1 below, trend data suggests that young people in mainstream education are increasingly committing their first offence at an older age. In 2009, 35%²³⁶ of self-reported offenders reported being aged 11 or under when they first committed an offence, compared with 39% in 2008 and 43% in 2005.

This data indicates that the fall in young people whose first offence was under the age of 11 is driven by a decrease in first offending among 8 and 9-year-olds. Indeed, the proportion of self-reported offenders saying that they were in the youngest age band (7-years-old or younger) when they first committed an

228 Figure calculated from a base size of 876 (total number of those in PRUs who said they can get drugs).

229 Figure calculated from a base size of 208 (total number of those in PRUs who said they cannot get drugs).

230 Figure calculated from a base size of 775 (total number of those in PRUs who reported having carried a gun or knife in the past year).

231 Figure calculated from a base size of 294 (total number of those in PRUs who reported not having carried a gun or knife in the past year).

232 Figure calculated on a base of 454 (total of all in PRUs who had played truant 10 or more times, ever).

233 Figure calculated on a base of 152 (total of all in PRUs who had never played truant).

234 Figure calculated on a base of 697 (all in PRUs who had been expelled).

235 Figure calculated on a base of 337 (all in PRUs who had never been expelled).

236 Figure calculated from a base size of 927 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who reported having committed a criminal offence in the past year).

offence remains consistent with 2008 at 9%. As with previous years, gender differences are obvious in the age at which a first offence is committed, with boys offending at a younger age (41%²³⁷ of boys reported being 11 or under, compared with 25%²³⁸ of girls).

The age at which young people in PRUs commit their first offence has remained relatively consistent with 49%²³⁹ saying they were 11-years-old or younger and 41% saying they were 12 and over, which is in line with 2008 and 2005. As with young people in mainstream education, boys in PRUs are more likely to consider that they started offending at a younger age, with 52% saying they were 11-years-old or younger, compared with 38% of girls.

Table 3.1: The age at which young people first offend

How old were you when you committed an offence for the first time?

| Base: All who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| | (927) | (1,154) | (1,576) | (785) | (581) | (1,066) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| 7-years-old or younger | 9 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 12 |
| 8-years-old | 2* | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 9-years-old | 4* | 6 | 7 | 5* | 8 | 8 |
| 10-years-old | 9 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| 11-years-old | 11 | 11 | 12 | 16 | 13 | 12 |
| 12-years-old | 13 | 13 | 14 | 16 | 15 | 16 |
| 13-years-old | 16 | 14 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 13 |
| 14-years-old | 11 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 15-years-old | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| 16-years-old | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 11 and under | 35 | 39 | 43 | 49 | 47 | 49 |
| 12 and over | 47* | 42 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 41 |
| Don't know/can't remember | 9* | 14 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| Not stated | 9 | 4 | n/a | 3 | 4 | 4 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

237 Figure calculated from a base size of 531 (unweighted total number of boys in mainstream education who reported having committed a criminal offence in the past year).

238 Figure calculated from a base size of 381 (unweighted total number of girls in mainstream education who reported having committed a criminal offence in the past year).

239 Figure calculated from a base size of 785 (total number of those in PRUs who reported having committed a criminal offence in the past year).

Young people in mainstream education are more likely to say that they were 11 or under when they committed an offence if:

- **crime is seen as acceptable by their group**
Forty-four per cent, compared with 26% who are not part of a group where crime is seen as acceptable.
 - **they have been a victim of an offence**
Forty per cent, compared with 23% who had not been a victim.
 - **they have played truant**
Thirty-seven per cent who had played truant one to nine times, compared with 30% who had never played truant.
 - **they have ever been expelled**
Fifty-three per cent, compared with 33% who had never been expelled.
- they have carried a knife or gun**
Forty-seven per cent, compared with 22% who had never done so.

A similar pattern is evident among young people attending PRUs – particularly in relation to truancy, having been a victim and carrying a knife or gun.

3.4 Offences committed

3.4.1 Offences by typology

As in previous years, offences have been analysed according to a typology – whereby similar offences are grouped together. The analysis was carried out on those young people who reported having committed an offence in the last 12 months.

As shown in Section 3.1: Levels of offending, there has been a decline overall in those who reported offending in mainstream education since 2008, while the proportion has remained in line with 2008 for young people in PRUs. Therefore, the findings below are based on this group of self-reported offenders, rather than being an indication of the prevalence of changes in the whole population.

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Table 3.2: Offences committed by young people in mainstream education and PRUs by type

And what offence/s, if any have you committed in the last 12 months?

| | Young people in schools | | Young people in PRUs | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | (927) | (1,154) | (785) | (581) |

| | % | % | % | % |
|--|-----|----|----|----|
| Anti-social behaviour | 77 | 79 | 79 | 79 |
| Theft/stealing | 74 | 71 | 80 | 78 |
| Threatening or assaulting | 57 | 58 | 79 | 76 |
| Drugs | 27* | 23 | 55 | 51 |
| Other offences (including drink driving) | 20* | 16 | 26 | 25 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

Looking across the five offence typologies, anti-social behaviour remains the most commonly reported offence type among young people in mainstream education who have committed any offence (77% of all who had committed a crime in the previous 12 months reported anti-social behaviour). This is followed by theft/stealing, which was cited by 74% of self-reported offenders in mainstream education.

There has been an increase in the proportion of self-reported offenders in mainstream education who have reported committing drugs-related (27%, from 23% in 2008) and/or 'other' offences (20%, from 16% in 2008) in the last 12 months. Among self-reported offenders in mainstream education, boys are more likely than girls to report committing an offence that falls into the category of anti-social behaviour (80%, compared with 72% of girls).

In 2009, 80% of self-reported offenders in PRUs reported committing theft-related crimes, making this the most commonly cited crime type. This was followed by anti-social behaviour and threatening/assaulting (both 79%) and drugs-related offences (55%).

3.4.1.1 Gender variations by typology

Of young people in PRUs, boys are more likely than girls to report committing any offence. However, of young people who reported offending, a higher proportion of girls than boys said they had committed an offence classed as threatening or assaulting (86%,²⁴⁰ compared with 76%²⁴¹) or drugs-related (62%, compared with 53%).

3.4.1.2 Age variations by typology

Grouping offences into typologies also highlights variations by age, with young people in mainstream education aged 11 to 14 who self-reported committing an offence in the previous 12 months being more likely than those of other

²⁴⁰ Figure calculated from a base size of 197 (total number of girls in PRUs who reported having committed a criminal offence in the past year).

²⁴¹ Figure calculated from a base size of 568 (total number of boys in PRUs who reported having committed a criminal offence in the past year).

ages to commit offences classified as theft/stealing (78%²⁴², compared with 67%²⁴³ of 15 to 16-year-olds), and threatening/assaulting (60%, compared with 51% of 15 to 16-year-olds). In contrast, 15 to 16-year-olds are more likely than 11 to 14-year-olds to commit drug-related offences (30%, compared with 25%).

3.4.2 Single offences²⁴⁴

Table 3.3 shows the offences most commonly committed by self-reported offenders in mainstream education. These are fare dodging and shoplifting (both 49%), followed by damaging or destroying someone else's belongings (40%). While remaining one of the most frequently mentioned offences, the proportion citing fare dodging has fallen over recent years, declining significantly since 2005 (56%). Conversely, there has been an increase in the proportion mentioning shoplifting (from 40% in 2005 and 45% in 2008, to 49% in 2009).

Among those in mainstream education, who self-reported offending in the last 12 months, there have been several changes in the breakdown of offending. The percentages below indicate the increases of specific offence citations as a proportion of self-reported offenders (rather than an increase in the number of young people in mainstream education reporting these offences). These figures should be considered within the context of an overall decrease in self-reported offending:

- **stolen anything from school**
Thirty-nine per cent of self-reported offenders in 2009, compared with 33% in 2008 and 30% in 2005.
- **buying drugs**
Twenty-five per cent of self-reported offenders in 2009, compared with 21% in 2008 and 17% in 2005.
- **taking a bicycle without the owner's permission**
Seventeen per cent of self-reported offenders in 2009, compared with 12% in 2008.²⁴⁵
- **stealing from a car**
Thirteen per cent of self-reported offenders in 2009, compared with 7% in 2008.²⁴⁶

242 Figure calculated from a base size of 538 (total unweighted number of 11 to 14-year-olds in mainstream education who reported having committed a criminal offence in the past year).

243 Figure calculated from a base size of 378 (total unweighted number of 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education who reported having committed a criminal offence in the past year).

244 The list of offences provided as option in the questionnaire range in terms of seriousness. A detailed classification of these offences by seriousness can be found in Appendix A.

245 The 2005 figure is not included here as it is not significantly different from 2008.

246 The 2005 figure is not included here as it is not significantly different from 2008.

- **selling drugs**
Thirteen per cent of self-reported offenders in 2009, compared to 8% in 2008.²⁴⁷
- **sneaking or breaking into a house or building intending to steal something**
Twelve per cent of self reported offenders in 2009, compared with 6% in 2008 (although 9% in 2005).

Whereas in 2008, the most commonly cited offence by young people attending PRUs was damaging or destroying someone else's belongings, this has now been overtaken by threatening or assaulting others in public. The proportion mentioning this has risen significantly (from 59% of self-reported offenders in 2008 to 64% in 2009). Damaging or destroying someone else's belongings is now the second most commonly cited offence among this group of young people (59%), followed by hurting someone but their not needing medical treatment (58%), shoplifting (57%) and buying drugs for personal use (52%).

There have also been changes in the proportion of self reported offenders attending PRUs who report committing 'other' offences in 2009, compared with 2008 – most notably in relation to threatening and assaulting, theft and drugs-related offences – where there have been increased mentions across a range of offences.

Table 3.3: Individual offences committed by young people (as a percentage of those who reported offending in the last 12 months)

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| | Young people in schools | | | Young people attending PRUs | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | <u>(927)</u> | <u>(1,154)</u> | <u>(1,576)</u> | <u>(785)</u> | <u>(581)</u> | <u>(1066)</u> |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Anti-social behaviour | | | | | | |
| Travelled on a bus, train or underground without paying your fare | 49 | 53 | 56 | 50 | 45 | 52 |
| Damaged or destroyed, on purpose or recklessly, something belonging to somebody else | 40 | 39 | 37 | 59 | 61 | 58 |
| Written or sprayed graffiti on walls, buses, trains, seats, shelters | 32 | 33 | 36 | 48 | 43 | 50 |
| Set fire to anything on purpose (e.g. building, car, furniture) | 21 | 22 | 27 | 35 | 32 | 41 |

²⁴⁷ The 2005 figure is not included here as it is not significantly different from 2008.

| Theft/stealing | | | | | | |
|--|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Stolen anything from a shop, supermarket or department store | 49 | 45 | 40 | 57 | 57 | 49 |
| Stolen anything in school | 39* | 33 | 30 | 25 | 24 | 22 |
| Stolen anything from your home or the place where you live | 29 | 26 | 22 | 25 | 23 | 18 |
| Bought, sold or held on to something you believed to be stolen | 28 | 25 | 30 | 47 | 44 | 50 |
| Taken away a bicycle without the owner's permission | 17* | 12 | 12 | 41 | 38 | 41 |
| Stolen money from a gas or electricity meter, public phone, vending machine or any other type of machine | 14* | 9 | 14 | 21 | 18 | 22 |
| Stolen anything from a car | 13* | 7 | 9 | 27 | 24 | 27 |
| Been a passenger in a car that was taken without the owner's permission | 12* | 7 | 11 | 29 | 29 | 39 |
| Sneaked or broken into a house or a building intending to steal something | 12* | 6 | 9 | 26 | 26 | 25 |
| Stolen an iPod or other MP3 player | 11* | 7 | - | 26 | 22 | N/A |

Table 3.3: Individual offences committed by young people (as a percentage of those who reported offending in the last 12 months)

Cont'd

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| | Young people in schools | | | Young people attending PRUs | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | (927) | (1,154) | (1,576) | (785) | (581) | (1066) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Stolen a mobile phone from another person | 10 | 8 | 7 | 34 | 31 | 26 |
| Taken a car, motorbike, etc without the owner's permission | 9* | 4 | 8 | 26 | 24 | 33 |
| Snatched anything from a person, like a purse or bag | 9* | 3 | 4 | 16* | 7 | 7 |
| Used or sold a stolen credit card, chequebook, cash card | 8* | 3 | 3 | 16 | 13 | 9 |
| Threatening or assaulting | | | | | | |
| Hurt someone, but they did not need medical treatment | 39 | 42 | 46 | 58* | 51 | 60 |
| Threatened/assaulted others in public | 32 | 31 | 23 | 64 | 59 | 53 |
| Sent a voicemail or text message to someone on your mobile phone in order to scare, harass or threaten them in some way | 23 | 22 | N/A | 37 | 32 | N/A |
| Threatened or been rude to someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because of a disability they have | 19 | 18 | N/A | 28* | 20 | N/A |
| Beat up or hurt someone <u>not in your family</u> , causing them to need medical treatment | 17* | 12 | 16 | 42 | 40 | 46 |
| Used a mobile phone to video or photograph someone while you or someone else assaulted them ('happy slapping') | 16 | 16 | N/A | 36 | 31 | N/A |
| Beat up or hurt someone <u>in your family</u> , causing them to need medical treatment | 11* | 8 | 4 | 18* | 13 | 13 |
| Physically assaulted someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because of a disability they have | 8* | 4 | N/A | 16* | 8 | N/A |

Table continued over page

Table 3.3: Individual offences committed by young people (as a percentage of those who reported offending in the last 12 months)

Cont'd

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| | Young people in schools | | | Young people attending PRUs | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | (927) | (1,154) | (1,576) | (785) | (581) | (1066) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Drugs | | | | | | |
| Bought drugs for your own use | 25* | 21 | 17 | 52 | 48 | 46 |
| Sold drugs to someone else | 13* | 8 | 8 | 36* | 30 | 31 |
| Other offences | | | | | | |
| Driven a car or bike when you were drunk or over the limit | 13* | 9 | 11 | 26 | 25 | 32 |
| Other | 11* | 7 | 7 | 10* | 6 | 6 |
| None of these | 1 | - | 3 | - | - | 1 |
| Not stated | 1* | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

Of those young people who self-reported offending, there were differences in the types of offences reported, by age, gender and ethnicity, as the following pages illustrate.

3.4.2.1 Age variations by single offence

Although older pupils in mainstream schools are more likely to report offending, when individual offences are examined, 11 to 14-year-old self-reported offenders are more likely to say they committed certain offences than 15 to 16-year-old self-reported offenders. This applies across a range of offences, as shown in Table 3.4 below.

With the exception of drug-related offences – which 15 to 16-year-olds are significantly more likely to have committed – the data suggests that the types of offence committed vary less by age among young people attending PRUs.

Table 3.4: Offences committed by young people, who self-reported offending in the previous 12 months, by age

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | Young people in schools | | Young people in PRUs | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| | 11-14 year olds | 15-16 year olds | 11-14 year olds | 15-16 year olds |
| | (538) | (378) | (412) | (347) |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Anti-social behaviour | | | | |
| Travelled on a bus, train or underground without paying your fare | 44 | 55 | 48 | 54 |
| Damaged or destroyed, on purpose or recklessly, something belonging to somebody else | 44 | 33 | 60 | 58 |
| Written or sprayed graffiti on walls, buses, trains, seats, shelters | 33 | 29 | 49 | 48 |
| Set fire to anything on purpose (e.g. building, car, furniture) | 23 | 19 | 38 | 32 |
| Theft/stealing | | | | |
| Stolen anything from a shop, supermarket or department store | 53 | 43 | 60 | 55 |
| Stolen anything in school | 43 | 33 | 26 | 25 |
| Stolen anything from your home or the place where you live | 36 | 18 | 27 | 24 |
| Bought, sold or held on to something you believed to be stolen | 29 | 27 | 44 | 51 |
| Taken away a bicycle without the owner's permission | 20 | 13 | 41 | 42 |
| Stolen money from a gas or electricity meter, public phone, vending machine or any other type of machine | 18 | 7 | 21 | 21 |
| Stolen anything from a car | 16 | 7 | 27 | 28 |
| Been a passenger in a car that was taken without the owner's permission | 13 | 10 | 27 | 32 |
| Sneaked or broken into a house or a building intending to steal something | 14 | 10 | 26 | 27 |
| Stolen an iPod or other MP3 player | 14 | 6 | 24 | 29 |
| Stolen a mobile phone from another person | 13 | 7 | 33 | 37 |

Table continued over page

Table 3.4: Offences committed by young people, who self-reported offending in the previous 12 months, by age

Cont'd

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| | Young people in schools | | Young people in PRUs | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| | 11-14 year olds | 15-16 year olds | 11-14 year olds | 15-16 year olds |
| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | (538) | (378) | (412) | (347) |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Taken a car, motorbike, etc without the owner's permission | 11 | 6 | 27 | 27 |
| Snatched anything from a person, like a purse or bag | 11 | 4 | 17 | 17 |
| Used or sold a stolen credit card, chequebook, cash card | 10 | 3 | 15 | 18 |
| Threatening or assaulting | | | | |
| Hurt someone, but they did not need medical treatment | 44 | 30 | 60 | 55 |
| Threatened/assaulted others in public | 33 | 29 | 65 | 63 |
| Sent a voicemail or text message to someone on your mobile phone in order to scare, harass or threaten them in some way | 24 | 22 | 33 | 39 |
| Threatened or been rude to someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because of a disability they have | 19 | 18 | 30 | 27 |
| Beat up or hurt someone <u>not in your family</u> , causing them to need medical treatment | 19 | 12 | 43 | 41 |
| Used a mobile phone to video or photograph someone while you or someone else assaulted them ('happy slapping') | 19 | 11 | 36 | 35 |
| Beat up or hurt someone <u>in your family</u> , causing them to need medical treatment | 15 | 6 | 19 | 18 |
| Physically assaulted someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because of a disability they have | 10 | 3 | 16 | 17 |

Table continued over page

Table 3.4: Offences committed by young people, who self-reported offending in the previous 12 months, by age

Cont'd

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | Young people in schools | | Young people in PRUs | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| | 11–14 year olds | 15–16 year olds | 11–14 year olds | 15–16 year olds |
| | (538) | (378) | (412) | (347) |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Drugs | | | | |
| Bought drugs for your own use | 23 | 28 | 42 | 63 |
| Sold drugs to someone else | 15 | 9 | 31 | 43 |
| Other offences | | | | |
| Driven a car or bike when you were drunk or over the limit | 15 | 11 | 24 | 29 |
| Other | 12 | 9 | 10 | 12 |
| None of these | 1 | 2 | - | - |
| Not stated | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

3.4.2.2 Gender variations by single offence

There are gender differences in the types of offences that young people in mainstream education (who have self-reported offending in the previous 12 months) commit. The percentages below indicate proportions within this group, rather than the total sample of boys and girls. Further details on the differences are provided in Table 3.5 below, but include the following.

- Boys are more likely to commit anti-social behaviour, especially damaging or destroying someone else's belongings (46%, compared with 29% of girls) and fire-setting (25%, compared with 16% of girls).
- A higher proportion of girls reported having shoplifted (53%, compared with 46% of boys), although boys are more likely to have committed other theft-related offences, such as handling stolen goods (30%, compared with 23% of girls) and taking away a bicycle without the owner's permission (22%, compared with 10%).
- With threatening and assault type offences, a higher proportion of boys reported offences such as hurting someone but not causing them to need medical treatment (42%, compared with 33% of girls) – whereas a higher proportion of girls cited sending a voice message or text to someone on their mobile in order to scare, harass or threaten them (28%, compared with 19% of boys).

Table 3.5: Offences committed by young people in mainstream education who self-reported offending in the previous 12 months, by gender

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| | Male | | | Female | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | Change 2008-2009 | 2009 | 2008 | Change 2008-2009 |
| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | (531) | (681) | | (381) | (458) | |
| | % | % | +-% | % | % | +-% |
| Anti-social behaviour | 80 | 80 | 0 | 72 | 78 | +6 |
| Damaged or destroyed, on purpose or recklessly, something belonging to somebody else | 46 | 45 | +1 | 29 | 30 | -1 |
| Travelled on a bus, train or underground without paying your fare | 46 | 49 | -3 | 53 | 59 | -6 |
| Written or sprayed graffiti on walls, buses, trains, seats, shelters | 32 | 31 | +1 | 30* | 37 | -7 * |
| Set fire to anything on purpose (e.g. building, car, furniture) | 25 | 23 | +2 | 16 | 19 | -3 |
| Theft/stealing | 72 | 70 | +2 | 76 | 72 | +4 |
| Stolen anything from a shop, supermarket or department store | 46 | 43 | +3 | 53 | 48 | +5 |
| Bought, sold or held on to something you believed to be stolen | 30 | 28 | +2 | 23 | 20 | +3 |
| Taken away a bicycle without the owner's permission | 22* | 14 | +8 * | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Stolen a mobile phone from another person | 13* | 9 | +4 * | 6 | 8 | -2 |
| Been a passenger in a car that was taken without the owner's permission | 12* | 6 | +6 * | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Stolen anything from a car | 15* | 8 | +7 * | 9* | 3 | +6 |
| Sneaked or broken into a house or a building intending to steal something | 15* | 7 | +8 * | 8 | 5 | +3 |
| Taken a car, motorbike, etc without the owner's permission | 10* | 5 | +5 * | 7 | 2 * | +5 |

Table continued over page

Table 3.5: Offences committed by young people in mainstream education who self-reported offending in the previous 12 months, by gender

Cont'd

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| | Male | | | Female | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | Change 2008-2009 | 2009 | 2008 | Change 2008-2009 |
| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | (547) | (681) | | (334) | (458) | |
| Stolen an iPod or other MP3 player | 14* | 8 | +6 * | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Stolen anything in school | 40* | 33 | +7 * | 37 | 32 | +5 |
| Stolen anything from your home or the place where you live | 28 | 26 | +2 | 32 | 28 | +4 |
| Stolen money from a gas or electricity meter, public phone, vending machine or any other type of machine | 17* | 10 | +7 * | 10 | 8 | +2 |
| Used or sold a stolen credit card, chequebook, cash card | 9 | 3 | +6 * | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Snatched anything from a person, like a purse or bag | 10* | 3 | +7 * | 7 | 3 | +4 |
| Threatening or assaulting | 58 | 61 | -3 | 54 | 53 | +1 |
| Threatened/assaulted others in public | 35 | 31 | +4 | 26 | 29 | -3 |
| Hurt someone, but they did not need medical treatment | 42 | 45 | -3 | 33 | 37 | -4 |
| Beat up or hurt someone <u>not in your family</u> , causing them to need medical treatment | 19 | 15 | +4 | 12 | 8 | +4 |
| Sent a voicemail or text message to someone on your mobile phone in order to scare, harass or threaten them in some way | 19 | 19 | 0 | 28 | 26 | +2 |
| Used a mobile phone to video or photograph someone while you or someone else assaulted them ('happy slapping') | 18 | 16 | +2 | 13 | 15 | -2 |

Table continued over page

Table 3.5 Offences committed by young people in mainstream education who self-reported offending in the previous 12 months, by gender

Cont'd

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| | Male | | | Female | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | Change 2008-2009 | 2009 | 2008 | Change 2008-2009 |
| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | (547) | (681) | | (334) | (458) | |
| Threatened or been rude to someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because of a disability they have | 20 | 20 | 0 | 17 | 15 | +2 |
| Beat up or hurt someone <u>in your family</u> , causing them to need medical treatment | 12* | 8 | +4 * | 10 | 7 | +3 |
| Physically assaulted someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because of a disability they have | 8 | 5 | +3 | 6* | 2 | +4 |
| Drugs | 26 | 22 | +4 | 28 | 24 | +4 |
| Bought drugs for your own use | 23 | 20 | +3 | 27 | 23 | +4 |
| Sold drugs to someone else | 13* | 8 | +5 * | 11 | 7 | +4 |
| Other offences | 22* | 10 | +12 * | 18* | 8 | +10 |
| Driven a car or bike when you were drunk or over the limit | 14* | 10 | +4 * | 12 | 8 | +4 |
| Other | 12* | 7 | +5 * | 9 | 6 | +3 |
| None of these | 1 | - | +1 | 1 | - | +1 |
| Not stated | 1 | 3 | -2 | * | 3 | +3 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

As shown in the Table 3.6 below, gender differences are also evident among young people attending PRUs, with girls more likely to commit offences that fall under the category of threatening and assaulting. In particular, these offences include: hurting someone but not causing them to need medical attention (65%, compared with 55% of boys); sending threatening texts or voicemail (55%, compared with 30%); and theft-related offences – such as shoplifting (66%, compared with 54% of boys) or stealing from home (34%, compared with 23%). Girls are also more likely to commit a fare-dodging offence (58%, compared with 48% of boys).

Table 3.6: Offences committed by young people attending PRUs who self-reported offending in the previous 12 months, by gender

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| | Male | | | Female | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | Change 2008-2009 | 2009 | 2008 | Change 2008-2009 |
| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | (568) | (437) | | (197) | (136) | |
| | % | % | +-% | % | % | +-% |
| Anti-social behaviour | 78 | 79 | -1 | 82 | 78 | +4 |
| Damaged or destroyed, on purpose or recklessly, something belonging to somebody else | 61 | 64 | -3 | 55 | 54 | +1 |
| Travelled on a bus, train or underground without paying your fare | 48 | 43 | +5 | 58 | 52 | +6 |
| Written or sprayed graffiti on walls, buses, trains, seats, shelters | 47 | 43 | +4 | 52 | 43 | +9 |
| Set fire to anything on purpose (e.g. building, car, furniture) | 37 | 35 | +2 | 31 | 22 | +9 |
| Theft/stealing | 79 | 79 | 0 | 81 | 72 | +9 |
| Stolen anything from a shop, supermarket or department store | 54 | 56 | -2 | 66 | 60 | +6 |
| Bought, sold or held on to something you believed to be stolen | 47 | 46 | +1 | 46* | 35 | +11 * |
| Taken away a bicycle without the owner's permission | 47 | 43 | +4 | 25 | 20 | +5 |
| Stolen a mobile phone from another person | 33 | 33 | 0 | 39* | 26 | +13 * |
| Been a passenger in a car that was taken without the owner's permission | 28 | 28 | 0 | 35 | 29 | +6 |
| Stolen anything from a car | 29 | 27 | +2 | 21 | 15 | +6 |
| Sneaked or broken into a house or a building intending to steal something | 27 | 28 | -1 | 24 | 18 | +6 |
| Taken a car, motorbike, etc without the owner's permission | 29 | 28 | +1 | 21 | 13 | +8 |

Table continued over page

Table 3.6: Offences committed by young people attending PRUs who self-reported offending in the previous 12 months, by gender

Cont'd

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| | Male | | | Female | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | Change 2008-2009 | 2009 | 2008 | Change 2008-2009 |
| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | (568) | (437) | | (197) | (136) | |
| | % | % | +-% | % | % | +-% |
| Stolen an iPod or other MP3 player | 26 | 23 | +3 | 26 | 20 | +6 |
| Stolen anything in school | 26 | 26 | 0 | 21 | 17 | +4 |
| Stolen anything from your home or the place where you live | 23 | 22 | +1 | 34 | 25 | +9 |
| Stolen money from a gas or electricity meter, public phone, vending machine or any other type of machine | 22 | 20 | +2 | 18* | 10 | +8 * |
| Used or sold a stolen credit card, chequebook, cash card | 16 | 12 | +4 | 18 | 17 | +1 |
| Snatched anything from a person, like a purse or bag | 15* | 7 | +8 * | 22* | 4 | +18 * |
| Threatening or assaulting | 76 | 76 | 0 | 86* | 74 | +12 * |
| Threatened/assaulted others in public | 63 | 57 | +6 | 68 | 66 | +2 |
| Hurt someone, but they did not need medical treatment | 55 | 52 | +3 | 65* | 48 | +17 * |
| Beat up or hurt someone <u>not in your family</u> , causing them to need medical treatment | 40 | 40 | 0 | 48 | 38 | +10 |
| Sent a voicemail or text message to someone on your mobile phone in order to scare, harass or threaten them in some way | 30 | 30 | 0 | 55* | 42 | +13 * |
| Used a mobile phone to video or photograph someone while you or someone else assaulted them ('happy slapping') | 35 | 33 | +2 | 39* | 24 | +15 * |
| Threatened or been rude to someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because of a disability they have | 27* | 21 | +6 * | 30* | 15 | +15 * |

Table continued over page

Table 3.6: Offences committed by young people attending PRUs who self-reported offending in the previous 12 months, by gender

Cont'd

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| | Male | | | Female | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | Change 2008-2009 | 2009 | 2008 | Change 2008-2009 |
| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | (568) | (437) | | (197) | (136) | |
| | % | % | +-% | % | % | +-% |
| Beat up or hurt someone <u>in your family</u> , causing them to need medical treatment | 17 | 14 | +3 | 24* | 10 | +14 * |
| Physically assaulted someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because of a disability they have | 16* | 8 | +8 * | 18* | 8 | +10 * |
| Drugs | 53 | 50 | +3 | 62 | 54 | +8 |
| Bought drugs for your own use | 49 | 47 | +2 | 60* | 49 | +11 * |
| Sold drugs to someone else | 36 | 30 | +6 | 38 | 32 | +6 |
| Other offences | 27 | 29 | -2 | 25* | 13 | +12 * |
| Driven a car or bike when you were drunk or over the limit | 27 | 29 | -2 | 25* | 13 | +12 |
| Other | 11* | 4 | +7 * | 9 | 9 | 0 |
| None of these | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Not stated | 4 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 5 | -2 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

3.4.2.3 Ethnic variations by single offence

There are also variations by ethnicity in the types of offence committed. For young people in mainstream education, these are as follows:

- White young people are more likely than Black young people to have damaged or destroyed someone else's belongings (40%²⁴⁸, compared with 22%²⁴⁹)

²⁴⁸ Figure calculated from a base size of 791 (unweighted total number of those with White ethnic background in mainstream education who self-reported offending in the past year).

²⁴⁹ Figure calculated from a base size of 33 (unweighted total number of those with Black ethnic background in mainstream education who self-reported offending in the past year). Caution must be used when interpreting these figures due to the small sample size.

- White and Asian young people are more likely than Black young people to have carried out graffiti (32% and 39%²⁵⁰ respectively), compared with of Black young people (10%)²⁵¹
- Black young people are more likely to have fare-dodged (69%), compared with 49% of White and 40% of Asian young people
- White young people are more likely to admit sending someone a voicemail or text message in order to scare, threaten or harass them (24%, compared with 7% of Black young people).

Despite White young people in PRUs being more likely to offend overall, there are some indicative ethnic differences in the types of offences committed by young people in PRUs. However, these numbers are too small to draw any meaningful conclusions.

3.5 Frequency of offending

3.5.1 Number of offences in last 12 months

While 20% of young people in mainstream education who had offended in the past year reported committing only one offence in that time, more than double that amount (44%) reported five offences or more. The average number of offences committed by young people in mainstream education, among those who had offended in the past year, is 6.4.

Younger pupils who offend reported committing more offences than older pupils (47% of 11 to 14-year-old self reported offenders claimed to have committed five or more offences, compared with 38% of 15 to 16-year-olds). There are also gender differences, with a higher average number of offences reported by boys (6.8, compared with 5.6 for girls).

Sixty-nine per cent of young people attending PRUs who had offended in the past year reported doing so at least five times. Although this is in line with 2008 figures, it represents a significant fall compared with 2005 (74%) – indicating a decrease between 2005 and 2008, but consistency between 2008 and 2009.

3.5.2 Number of types of offences in last 12 months

The figures discussed above relate to the number of times a young person said they had offended, which could be either committing the same offences multiple times or a variety of different offences. In order to understand offending behaviour in more detail, the number of different types of offences young people said they had committed is examined below.

250 Figure calculated from a base size of 42 (unweighted total number of those with Asian ethnic background in mainstream education who self-reported offending in the past year). Caution must be used when interpreting these figures due to the small sample size.

251 Figure calculated from a base size of 33 (unweighted total number of those with Black ethnic background in mainstream education who self-reported offending in the past year). Caution must be used when interpreting these figures due to the small sample size.

The range of offences that young people in mainstream school reported committing is relatively low. A quarter of those who had offended said they had only committed one type of offence, while 74% reported committing three different types of offence or less.

For those attending PRUs, 12% of self-reported offenders had committed only one type of offence and 21% had committed five or more types of offence (the latter representing a rise from 16% in 2008).

Table 3.7: Number of offences and number of different types of offences committed – as a percentage of young people who reported offending in the last 12 months

And what offence/s, if any, have you committed in the last 12 months?

| | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| Base: All young people who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | (927) | (1,154) | (1,574) | (785) | (581) | (1066) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Number of offences committed | | | | | | |
| 1 offence | 20 | 18 | 17 | 8 | 9 | 6 |
| 2 offences | 13 | 12 | 13 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| 3 offences | 12 | 11 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 4 offences | 9 | 9 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| 5+ offences | 44 | 46 | 45 | 69 | 68 | 74 |
| Number of different types of offences committed | | | | | | |
| 1 type of offence | 25 | 22 | N/A | 12 | 12 | N/A |
| 2 types of offence | 23 | 26 | N/A | 13 | 13 | N/A |
| 3 types of offence | 27 | 29 | N/A | 22 | 24 | N/A |
| 4 types of offence | 14 | 14 | N/A | 27 | 29 | N/A |
| 5 types of offence | 9* | 5 | N/A | 21* | 16 | N/A |

Source: Ipsos MORI

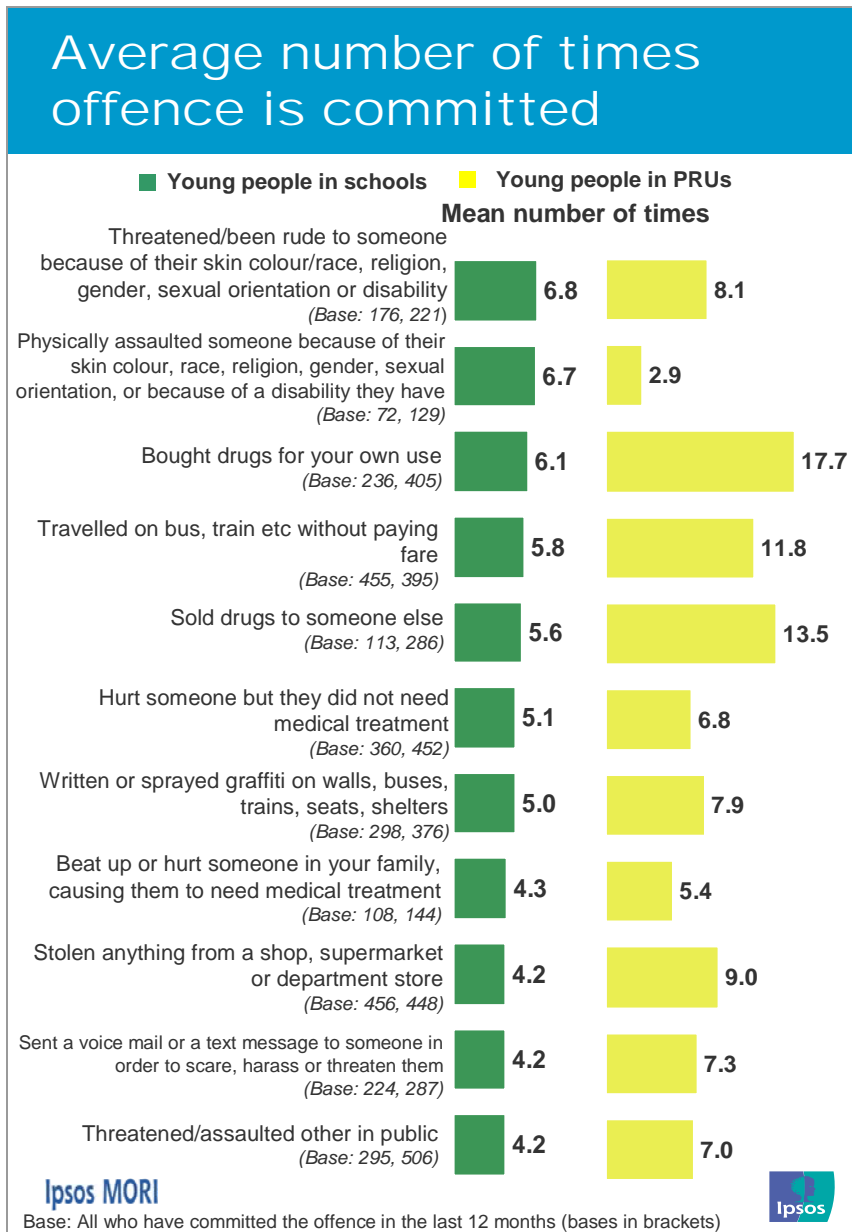
Young people who reported committing a particular offence were then asked how many times they had committed that offence.²⁵² The offence most frequently committed at least once was different among pupils in mainstream schools and young people attending PRUs.

²⁵² This does not mean that this offence is the most commonly committed overall but instead the most frequently committed among those who said they had done it at least once.

The most common type of offence committed at least once by young people in mainstream schools was threatening or being rude to someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. On average, this offence had been committed 6.8 times in the last 12 months, although this has fallen from 7.9 times in 2008.

For young people attending PRUs, buying drugs remains the most frequently committed offence (as was also the case in 2008). Young people in PRUs who reported buying drugs for their own use in the last 12 months did so, on average, 18 times. However, this represents a fall from the figure in 2008, when the average was 22 times.

Figure 3.3: Average number of times an offence is committed²⁵³



3.6 Co-offending

The majority of young people who had committed offences reported doing so with friends: 60% of offenders in mainstream education and 67% of offenders attending PRUs.²⁵⁴

²⁵³ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

²⁵⁴ Figure in mainstream education calculated from a base size of 927 (unweighted total in mainstream education who had committed an offence in the last 12 months); figure from PRUs calculated from a base size of 785 (total in PRUs who had committed an offence in the last 12 months).

Table 3.8: Co-offending: The percentage of young people who reported offending who had co-offended.

Who did you usually do this offence/these offences with?

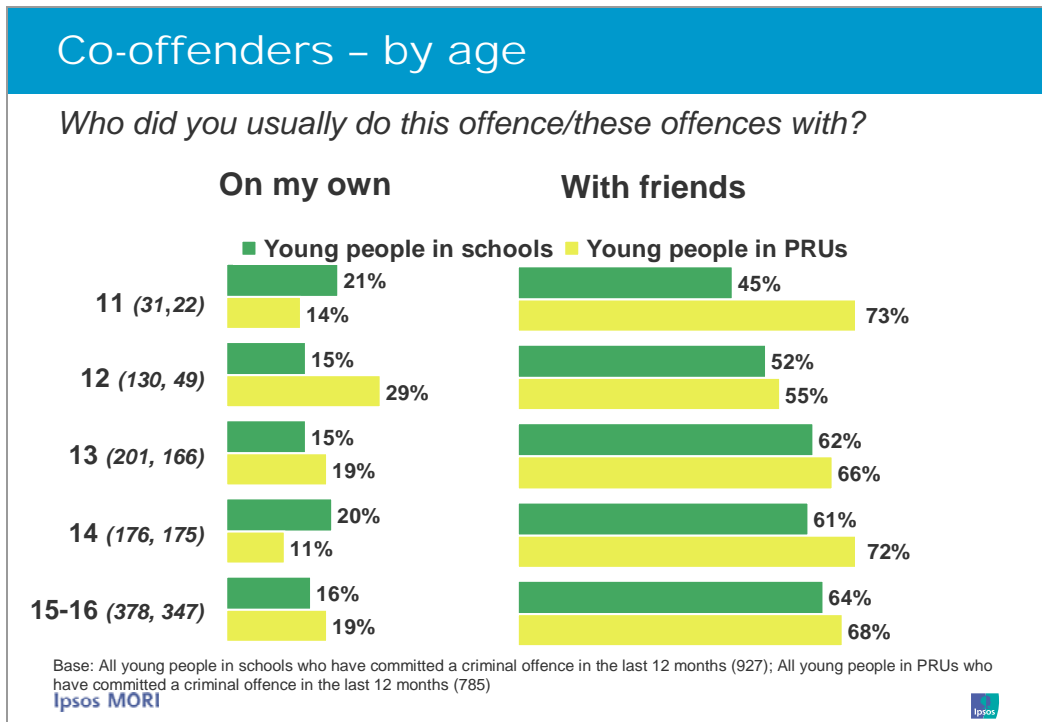
| | Young people in schools | | | Young people attending PRUs | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| Base: All who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | (927) | (1,154) | (1,576) | (785) | (581) | (1,066) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| With my friends | 60 | 64 | 65 | 67 | 65 | 69 |
| On my own | 17 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 21 | 20 |
| With someone else | 4* | 2 | 3 | 4* | 2 | 2 |
| With my brother/sister | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Don't know | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Not stated | 15 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 3 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

Older pupils, who reported having offended in the previous 12 months, are more likely to say that they committed an offence with friends. A significantly higher proportion of 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education said this (64%, compared to 58% of 11 to 14-year-olds). Boys and Asian pupils are more likely to have committed an offence on their own (19% of boys, compared to 14% of girls; 33% of Asian,²⁵⁵ compared to 15% of White young people).

²⁵⁵ Figure calculated from a base size of 42 (unweighted total number of those with Asian ethnic background in mainstream education who self-reported offending in the past year). Caution must be used when interpreting these figures due to the small sample size.

Figure 3.4: Co-offending by age²⁵⁶



Young people who attend PRUs – who had offended in the last 12 months and reported doing so with friends – showed a tendency to commit a higher number of offences than those who offended alone (74% said they had committed five or more offences, compared to 57% for those who offended alone).

²⁵⁶ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

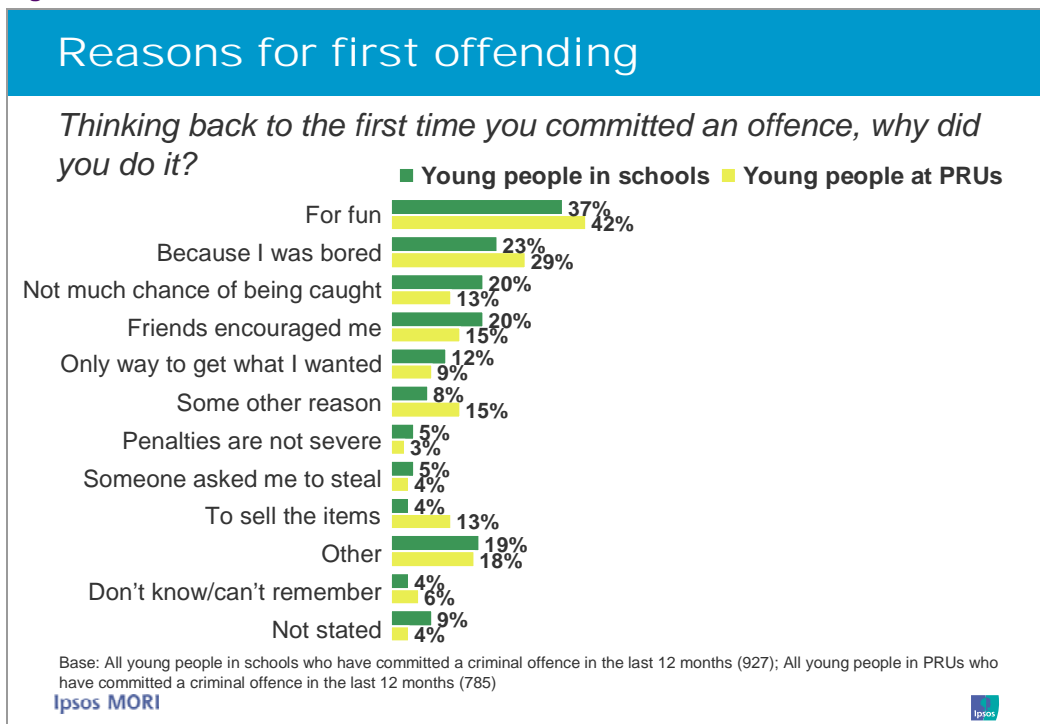
3.7 Circumstances of offending

3.7.1 Reasons for first offence

For young people in mainstream education and PRUs who had offended, the most commonly cited reason for committing their first offence was 'for fun' (37% in mainstream education and 42% in PRUs)²⁵⁷. This was followed by 'boredom' (cited by 23% in mainstream education and 29% in PRUs) and because of 'encouragement from friends' (20% in mainstream education and 15% in PRUs). The perceived low likelihood of getting caught was also a key reason for young people in mainstream education, mentioned by 20%.

Compared with 2008 figures, there has been a decline in the proportion of all young people saying that they committed their first offence for fun (in mainstream education this has fallen from 43% in 2008 to 37% in 2009; in PRUs this has fallen from 48% to 42%).

Figure 3.5: Reasons for first offence²⁵⁸



257 Figure in mainstream education calculated from a base size of 927 (unweighted total in mainstream education who had committed an offence in the last 12 months); figure from PRUs calculated from a base size of 785 (total in PRUs who had committed an offence in the last 12 months).

258 This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

The data suggests that there are differences by demographic sub-group in the reasons why young people committed their first offence. For those in mainstream education:

- a higher proportion of girls than boys said they committed their first offence as there was not much chance they would get caught (25%, compared to 17% of boys)
- younger pupils (aged 11 to 14-years-old) are more likely to say that their friends encouraged them (23%, compared to 16% of 15 to 16-year-olds); or that someone asked them to steal for them (6%, compared to 2% of 15 to 16-year-olds)
- a higher proportion of White young people said that their friends encouraged them to offend (23%, compared with 7% of Asian young people). Asian young people are more likely to say that it was because there was not much chance that they would get caught (37%, compared with 20% of White and 9% of Black young people). However, caution should be used when interpreting these figures, due to the small sample sizes (33 Black young people and 42 Asian young people).

As with the girls in mainstream education, girls attending PRUs are more likely than their male peers to say that they committed their first offence because there was not much chance they would get caught (19%, compared to 11% of boys). Perhaps reflecting the higher proportion of girls committing certain theft-related crimes,²⁵⁹ they are also more likely to say this was the only way of getting what they wanted (13%, compared to 8% of boys); and that someone asked them to steal for them (8%, compared to 3%).

Young people who said that getting caught by the police for an offence committed in the last 12 months had not stopped them reoffending, are more likely to say that they committed an offence for fun. Half of young people in mainstream education who had reoffended reported committing their first offence for fun (compared with 29% who had not reoffended). This was also the case in PRUs, where 48% of reoffenders reported committing their first offence for fun (compared to 32% who had not reoffended).

Young people in both mainstream education and PRUs who are part of a group where crime is accepted are also more likely to say that they first offended for fun, as well as due to boredom.²⁶⁰ Almost half (47%) of young people in mainstream education, who are part of a group where crime is accepted, committed their first offence for fun (compared with 21% who are part of a group where crime is not accepted); and 32% did so because they were bored (compared with 11% in groups where crime is not accepted).

²⁵⁹ See page 112: girls attending PRUs are more likely than boys to have shoplifted (66% versus 54%), stolen something from their home (34% versus 23%) and snatched anything from a person (22% versus 15%).

²⁶⁰ There are further differences in reasons for committing their first offence among young people but as 'for fun' and 'because I was bored' are the most frequently mentioned reasons, these have been specifically mentioned.

A similar pattern is evident among young people attending PRUs, with fun cited by 48%, compared with 28% for those who are not part of a group where crime is accepted. Boredom was also mentioned by 32%, compared with 19% for those in groups where crime is not accepted.

'For fun' and 'because I was bored' are also reasons more likely to be given by young people who play truant more regularly. The data shows that 59% of self-reported offenders in mainstream education, who had truanted 10 or more times, committed their initial offence for fun – compared with 27% who had never played truant. A third of those who had truanted 10 or more times cited boredom as the reason for their first offence, compared with 17% who had never truanted.

Young people attending PRUs are more likely to cite fun (45%, against 35%) or boredom (34% against 25%) if they had played truant 10 or more times, compared with those who had truanted one to nine times.

3.7.2 Circumstances of offence/s committed in the last year

In line with the 2008, 2005 and 2004 surveys, when asked which of a range of circumstances related to offence/s committed in the last 12 months, young people in mainstream education most commonly cited boredom (23%).²⁶¹ This was followed by being drunk/having drunk alcohol, a circumstance more commonly mentioned by girls (21%) than boys (14%) – as was the case in 2008.

A higher proportion of boys said that their offending was due to being excluded (6%, compared with 2% of girls); or that they/their family needed the money (4%, compared with 0%). Young people aged 15 to 16-years-old are more likely than those aged 11 to 14-years-old to give drinking alcohol as a circumstance for their offending (20%, compared to 14%).

Boredom was also the most commonly cited circumstance by self-reported offenders attending PRUs (31%).²⁶² As with young people in mainstream education, having been drinking/drunken was also frequently mentioned (24%). While still commonly cited, the proportion saying they were either playing truant or had been excluded has fallen significantly compared with 2005; in 2009, 21% said there were truanting, down from 28% in 2005; 23% said they were excluded, down from 37% in 2005).

²⁶¹ Figure calculated from a base size of 927 (unweighted total in mainstream education who had committed an offence in the last 12 months).

²⁶² Figure calculated from a base size of 785 (total in PRUs who had committed an offence in the last 12 months).

Table 3.9: Circumstances of offending for young people who reported offending in the last 12 months

Which of the following, if any, applied to you when you committed the offence/s in the last year?

| Base: All who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| | (927) | (1,154) | (1,576) | (785) | (581) | (1006) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| I was bored | 23 | 25 | 24 | 31 | 33 | 32 |
| I was drunk/had been drinking alcohol | 17 | 20 | 16 | 24 | 23 | 26 |
| I was influenced by my friends | 14* | 18 | 14 | 16 | 15 | 17 |
| I was playing truant (bunking/wagging/skiving) from school when I committed the offence | 12 | 12 | 13 | 21 | 23 | 28 |
| I wanted to impress my friends/people I was with | 9 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 11 |
| I was on drugs | 7 | 7 | 6 | 16 | 15 | 21 |
| I was excluded from school at the time when I committed the offence | 4 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 25 | 37 |
| I/my family needed the money | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| None of these | 24* | 28 | 27 | 16 | 15 | 9 |
| Don't know/can't remember | 12 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| Not stated | 16* | 10 | 13 | 8 | 8 | 11 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

In keeping with 2008 findings, older pupils in PRUs (15 to 16-year-olds) are significantly more likely to say that they had used a substance when they committed an offence/s in the last 12 months. A higher proportion of young people in PRUs aged 15 to 16 said they were drunk or had been drinking alcohol when offending, than those aged 11 to 14 (30%, compared with 19%). Twice as many older pupils said they had taken drugs (22%, compared with 11% of those aged 11 to 14).

Girls attending PRUs were more likely than boys to say that their offending in the last 12 months had happened when they:

- had been drinking alcohol/were drunk (41%, compared with 19% of boys)
- were playing truant (29%, compared with 19% of boys)
- were on drugs (23%, compared with 14%)

- were influenced by friends (23%, compared with 14%).

3.8 Knives and guns

In 2009, 23% of pupils in mainstream education said they had carried a knife in the last year, which is comparable to the 24% recorded in 2008. Penknives were the type of knife most frequently carried (with 15%²⁶³ of young people in mainstream education saying they have carried a penknife in the past year). Of those who reported having carried a knife in the last year, the most frequently cited reason for carrying a knife was for hobbies, activities and sports. If those who reported carrying a knife for legitimate reasons, including hobbies, activities, sports or work, are excluded²⁶⁴, then the proportion of young people in mainstream education overall that said they had carried a knife in the last year drops to 16%. The proportion of who had carried a knife who reported having used it to injure or threaten someone was 4%.

Just over half (54%)²⁶⁵ of young people attending PRUs reported carrying a knife in the last year. As with young people in mainstream education, penknives were the most commonly carried type of knife (31%)²⁶⁶, although 22% of those in PRUs said they had carried a flick knife, and 15% had carried a kitchen knife. When asked what they used the knife for, young people in PRUs who had carried a knife were most likely to say that it was to protect themselves (43%), whilst one in five (21%) said they used it for hobbies, activities and sports.

One in five (21%) of young people in mainstream education said they had carried a gun in the last year. This represents no change from the 2008 findings. Amongst young people attending PRUs, 47% said they had carried a gun. For both young people in mainstream education and those attending PRUs, BB guns were the most frequently carried type of gun (14% and 34% respectively). Among those who reported having carried gun in the last year, the most frequently cited reason for carrying was for use in hobbies, activities and sports for both young people in mainstream education and those in PRUs (40% and 29% respectively).

263 Figures in mainstream education calculated from a base size of 4,855 (unweighted total number in mainstream education).

264 Young people in mainstream education who reported having carried a knife and chose options 'for hobbies, activities or sports', or 'just in case I might need it for any of the above (i.e. hobbies, activities or sports)', or 'work related reasons' and no other option were excluded.

265 Figure calculated from a base of 1,230 (total number in PRUs).

266 The Offending, Crime and Justice Survey 2006 of young people aged 10 to 25 years living in private households also found that penknives are the most commonly carried knife among young people, followed by flick knives. The findings are presented for all young people aged between 10 and 25, and they do not specify the type of school the young person attended.

Table 3.10: Carrying potential weapons

Have you carried one of the following around with you in the last year?

| Base: All respondents | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| | 2009 (4,855) | 2008 (4,750) | 2005 (5,463) | 2009 (1,230) | 2008 (914) | 2005 (1,584) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Carried a knife or gun | 30 | 31 | N/A | 63 | 61 | N/A |
| Not carried a knife or gun | 50* | 47 | N/A | 24 | 22 | 19 |
| Carried a knife | 23 | 24 | N/A | 54 | 54 | 57 |
| Carried a gun | 21 | 21 | N/A | 47 | 46 | 50 |
| Penknife | 15* | 17 | 24 | 31 | 32 | 45 |
| BB gun | 14 | 15 | 21 | 34 | 34 | 45 |
| Flick knife | 5* | 6 | 8 | 22 | 25 | 32 |
| Airgun | 5 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 15 | 20 |
| Other type of knife | 5* | 3 | N/A | 13* | 6 | N/A |
| Other type of gun | 5* | 3 | N/A | 6 | 5 | N/A |
| Kitchen knife | 4 | 4 | 4 | 15 | 18 | 15 |
| Replica pistol/firearm | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| Real/loaded pistol/firearm | 2* | 3 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| Don't know | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| None of the above | 50* | 47 | 51 | 24 | 22 | 19 |
| Not stated | 18* | 21 | 9 | 12* | 16 | 11 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

The proportion of young people in mainstream education and those attending PRUs that reported carrying a knife is significantly higher than figures reported in other research. For example, recent research on gun and knife crime for the organisation 11 Million²⁶⁷ reported that just 2% of young people carry a knife.

However, it is important to note that the methodology, sample population and question wording differ between the *Youth Survey 2009* and the research undertaken for 11 Million – all of which will impact on the results.

To provide a closer comparison to the 11 Million survey findings, one can look at the proportion who report using a knife to threaten others or to injure someone. Among young people in mainstream education who had carried a knife in the last 12 months, only 4% said they had used it to threaten others or to injure someone – which is in line with the 11 Million survey findings.

²⁶⁷ http://www.11million.org.uk/content/publications/content_371

3.8.1 Demographic variations of carrying a knife or gun

When overall figures for the carrying of a knife or gun among young people in mainstream education are examined, variations are apparent by age, gender and ethnicity.

- Whereas in 2008,²⁶⁸ young people in mainstream education aged 15 to 16 were more likely to report carrying a weapon than those aged 11 to 14, this is no longer the case and older pupils are now more likely to say they have *not* carried a knife or gun (54% of 15 to 16-year-olds, compared with 50% of 11 to 14-year-olds). There has been a significant decrease in the proportion of 15 to 16-year-olds who reported carrying a knife in 2009 (23%, from 28% in 2008).
- In keeping with findings from previous years, a higher proportion of boys than girls in mainstream education said they had carried a knife or gun (45%, compared 15% of girls). This applies for both knives and guns: 32% of boys (compared with 13% of girls) said they had carried a knife; 34% of boys (compared with 8% of girls) said they had carried a gun.
- Mixed race young people in mainstream education are more likely than White, Black and Asian young people to report carrying a knife (34%, compared with 23%, 15% and 17% respectively).

For the young people attending PRUs, the demographic variations in the carrying of a knife or gun are as follows.

- The 2009 data suggests no differences by age in the carrying of a knife or gun among young people attending PRUs – in contrast to 2008, where young people aged 11 to 14 were significantly more likely to say they had carried a knife or gun than those aged 15 to 16. However, there are differences in 2009 in terms of type of weapon carried by age, with 15 to 16-year-olds significantly more likely to have carried a flick knife (26%, compared with 19% aged 11 to 14) and a real loaded pistol/firearm (8%, compared with 5%).²⁶⁹
- As in 2008, the 2009 survey shows a significantly higher percentage of boys attending PRUs who said they had carried a knife or gun in the last 12 months (71%, compared with 43% of girls). However, the gap has widened since 2008, from 24 percentage points in 2008 to 28 in 2009. With the exception of carrying kitchen knives and ‘other types of gun’ (where there is no difference between boys and girls), boys are significantly more likely than girls to say that they have carried all other types of guns and knives.²⁷⁰

268 Figures calculated from 3470 11 to 14-year-olds and 1293 15 to 16-year-olds (all 11 to 14-year-olds and 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education in the sample).

269 Figures calculated from 679 11 to 14-year-olds and 512 15 to 16-year-olds (all 11 to 14-year-olds and 15 to 16-year-olds in PRU sample).

270 Figures calculated from 857 boys and 344 girls (all young people in PRU sample)

- While the overall figures for carrying guns or knives do not differ by ethnicity among young people attending PRUs, variations begin to emerge when the types of knife/gun carried are examined in more detail. Black young people are more likely to cite carrying a real/loaded pistol/firearm (17% of Black, compared with 5% of White young people).²⁷¹ Caution must be used when interpreting these figures, due to small sample size for Black young people (84).

The data also suggests a link between offending and other behaviours, and whether a young person has carried a knife or gun. This is the case across young people in both mainstream education and those attending PRUs.

- Young people in both mainstream education and PRUs who reported committing a criminal offence in the last 12 months are significantly more likely to have also carried a knife or gun than those who had not committed an offence (52%, compared with 24% in mainstream education; 72%, compared with 42% in PRUs).
The statistical analysis explores this link further, showing that (for both pupil groups), those that had used a knife for reasons other than hobbies, activities or sports, have a greater propensity to have offended in the last year.
- As with more general offending patterns, there appears to be a link between young people carrying a gun or knife and being part of a group where crime is seen as acceptable. Overall, 53% of those in such a group in mainstream schools carried a knife or gun, compared with 24% who are part of a group which does not see crime as acceptable. The same pattern is evident for young people in PRUs, with 78% compared to 53%.
- Those who truant frequently and have been expelled also appear to demonstrate a greater propensity to carry a knife or gun, with 72% of young people in PRUs who said they had played truant 10 or more times claiming to have carried a knife or gun in the last year (compared with 51% who said they had never played truant). Of those in PRUs who had previously been expelled, 70% said they had carried a potential weapon, compared with 54% who had not been expelled.
For young people in mainstream education, 59% of those who had truanted 10 or more times reported having carried a knife or gun, compared with 24% of those who had never played truant. In addition, twice as many young people who had been expelled had carried either a knife or a gun, compared with those who had never been expelled (60%, compared to 29%).
- Young people who are able to get drugs are also more likely to have carried a knife or gun (36%, compared with 21% in mainstream

²⁷¹ Figures calculated from 1006 white young people and 84 Black young people (all white and Black young people in PRU sample). Caution must be used when interpreting these figures due to the small sample size for Black young people.

education who cannot access drugs; 69%, compared with 47% in PRUs who cannot access drugs).

- Young people who had been the victim of a criminal offence in the year prior to the survey are significantly more likely to say they had carried a knife or gun in the last 12 months than those who had not been a victim of an offence. This is the case in both mainstream education (38%, compared with 20% who had not been a victim) and in PRUs (70%, compared with 51%).

Compared with 2008, there has been little change in the types of weapons that young people attending PRUs report carrying. The only exception regards the category for 'other type of knife', with 13% citing this in 2009, compared with 6% in 2008. Another point of note is that the proportion not giving an answer to this question has fallen from 16% in 2008 to 12% in 2009. However, when 2009 data is compared with years previous to 2008, several shifts do become apparent:

- **penknife**
Although the 31% in PRUs who reported carrying this type of weapon in 2009 is in line with the 32% of 2008, this has fallen from 45% in 2005 and 46% in 2004.
- **BB gun**
While 34% in 2009 was the exact same figure as in 2008, this represents a decrease compared with the 45% reported in both 2005 and 2004.
- **flick knife**
The proportion who reported carrying this weapon in 2009 was 22%, continuing the steady decline from 2008 (25%) and 2005 (32%).
- **airgun**
While the figure for 2009 has remained the same as 2008 (15%), this marks a decrease from the 20% of 2005 and 2004. In addition, the proportion of 15 to 16-year-olds, boys and White young people carrying airguns has decreased since 2005.

The figures for those in mainstream education also represent a significant decrease. Since 2005, the proportion of young people saying they had carried a penknife has fallen from 24% to 15% in 2009; those carrying a BB gun has fallen from 21% to 14% in 2009; and those carrying a flick knife has fallen from 8% to 5% in 2009).

3.8.2 Use of knives

Young people who said they had carried any type of knife at least once in the last 12 months were asked what they had used the knife for. Young people in mainstream schools are most likely to say they had used the knife for hobbies,

activities or sports (30%)²⁷². However, 24% said that they used the knife for protection, with a further 10% saying they used a knife in case they got in a fight and 4% reporting they would use it to threaten others or injure someone.

While the proportion saying that they use a knife for hobbies is in line with 2008, there has been a significant decrease in the proportion reporting using a knife for protection, from 30% in 2008 to 24% in 2009.

Whereas 21% of young people attending PRUs who carry a knife said they use it for hobbies, activities or sports, 43% said that they use it to protect themselves – which remains the most commonly cited reason for carrying a knife for young people in PRUs.²⁷³ However, the proportion who said this has decreased since 2008 when 51% of young people said they carried a knife to protect themselves. The related answer of ‘in case I got in a fight’ remains the second most common reason given for using a knife, mentioned by a further 22%. Other common reasons given were to ‘scare’ (14%) or ‘threaten’ (14%) others.

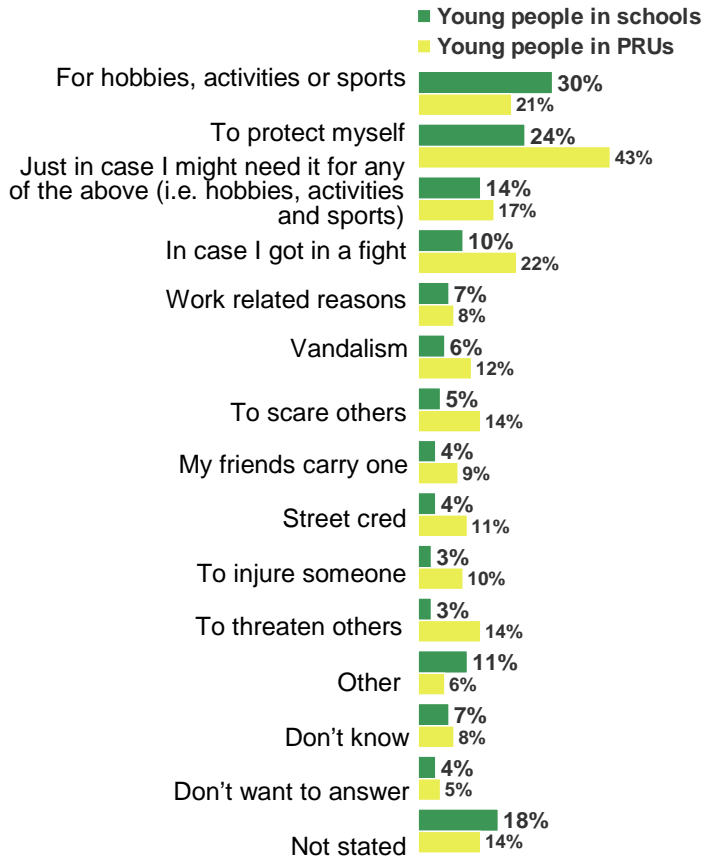
272 Figures calculated from a base size of 1,079 (unweighted total in mainstream education who had carried a knife in the last 12 months).

273 Figures calculated from a base size of 661 (total in PRUs who had carried a knife in the last 12 months).

Figure 3.6: Use of knives²⁷⁴

Use of knives

And what do you use the knife for? (Tick all that apply)



Base: All respondents who have carried a knife with them in the last 12 months - young people in schools (1,079); young people in PRUs (661)



3.8.2.1 Gender variations in the use of knives

Among young people in both mainstream education and PRUs, the data indicates demographic variations as to the use of knives. Of those in mainstream education, boys are more likely than girls to report carrying a knife in the last 12 months for hobbies, activities or sports (34% of boys, compared to 21% of girls).

²⁷⁴ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

There were also gender differences among young people attending PRUs who had carried a knife in the last 12 months, with regard to the reported uses of a knife. As with pupils in mainstream schools, boys attending PRUs are more likely than girls to say they had carried a knife for hobbies, sports and activities (24%, versus 11% of girls). Boys in PRUs are also more likely to say that they carried a knife in the last 12 months for 'street cred' (13%, versus 5% of girls), and work-related reasons (9%, versus 4% of girls).

3.8.2.2 Age variations in the use of knives

A higher proportion of young people in mainstream education aged 15 to 16 who carry a knife said that they do so for hobbies (36%, versus 29% of 11 to 14-year-olds); and in case they got in a fight (13%, versus 9% of 11 to 14-year-olds).

Older pupils attending PRUs are more likely to report carrying a knife for protection (49% of 15 to 16-year-olds, versus 39% of 11 to 14-year-olds). Conversely, a higher proportion of 11 to 14-year-olds said they had carried a knife for use in hobbies, activities or sports (26%, compared to 15% of 15 to 16-year-olds); or because their friends carried one (11%, compared with 6%).

3.8.2.3 Variations in the use of knives by attitudes/behaviour

Differences in the reasons for using a knife also emerge, according to certain attitudes and behaviours towards offending. For example, in both schools and PRUs, young people who reported offending in the last 12 months were more likely to report carrying a knife to protect themselves than those who said they had not committed an offence (37%, versus 16% in schools; 47%, versus 32% in PRUs).

Young people who said they had carried any type of knife or gun were also asked about the number of times they had carried a knife and/or gun in the last 12 months – whether for their own protection, to use in a crime or in case they got into a fight.

In schools, 20% who had carried a knife reported doing so once or twice a year, compared with 4% who said they do so every day. However, 44% did not give an answer to this question.²⁷⁵

The frequency with which young people attending PRUs carry a knife for these purposes varies, with 22% saying they did so once or twice a year and 14% saying they carried a knife more than 10 times a year but not every day.²⁷⁶ The proportion saying the latter has fallen from 18% in 2008. However, 8% of young people attending PRUs claimed to carry a knife every day.

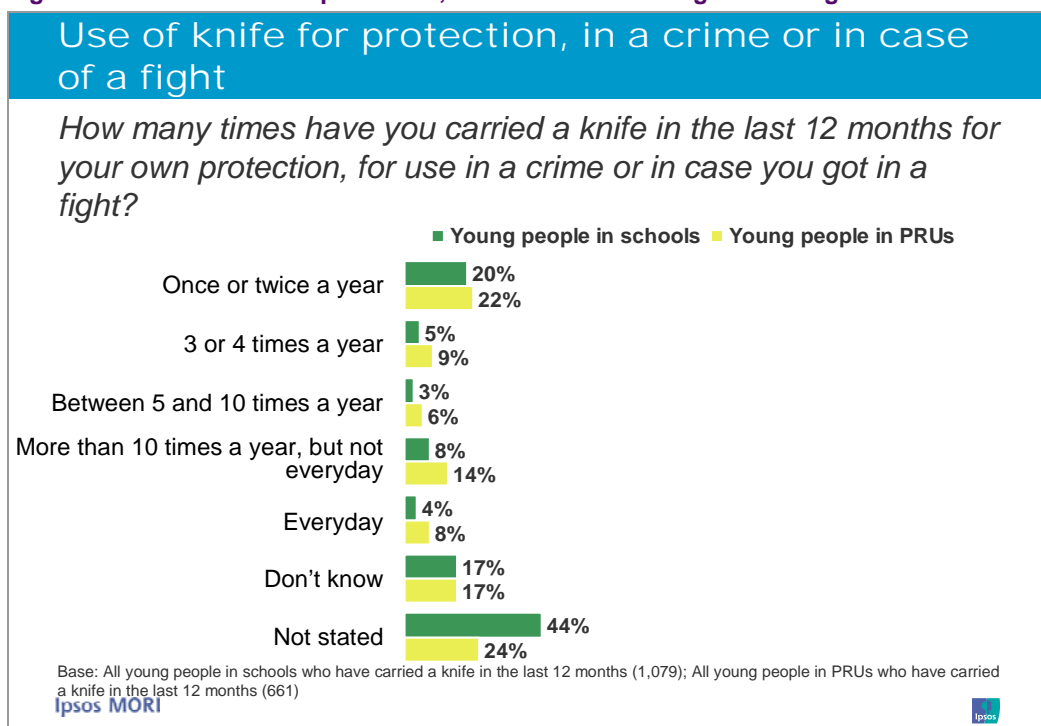
The data suggests that young people who are part of a group where crime is accepted are more likely to carry a knife everyday: 7% of young people in

²⁷⁵ Figures calculated from a base size of 1,079 (unweighted total in mainstream education who had carried a knife in the last 12 months).

²⁷⁶ Figures calculated from a base size of 661 (total in PRUs who had carried a knife in the last 12 months).

mainstream education in such groups carry a knife every day, compared to 2% who are not in a group which accepts crime. In PRUs, the equivalent figures are 10% versus 4%.

Figure 3.7: Use of knife for protection, in a crime or in case got into a fight²⁷⁷



3.8.3 Use of guns

In line with 2008, hobbies, activities and sports remain the most commonly cited reasons for using a gun (mentioned by 40% in mainstream schools and 29% in PRUs in 2009).²⁷⁸ However, 36% of young people in both schools and PRUs did not give an answer as to why they had used a gun.

Less than one in 10 young people in mainstream education gave any other single reason for using a gun, with 7% citing protection and 4% to scare others. Only 3% (of those who had carried a gun) reported using it to threaten or injure someone.

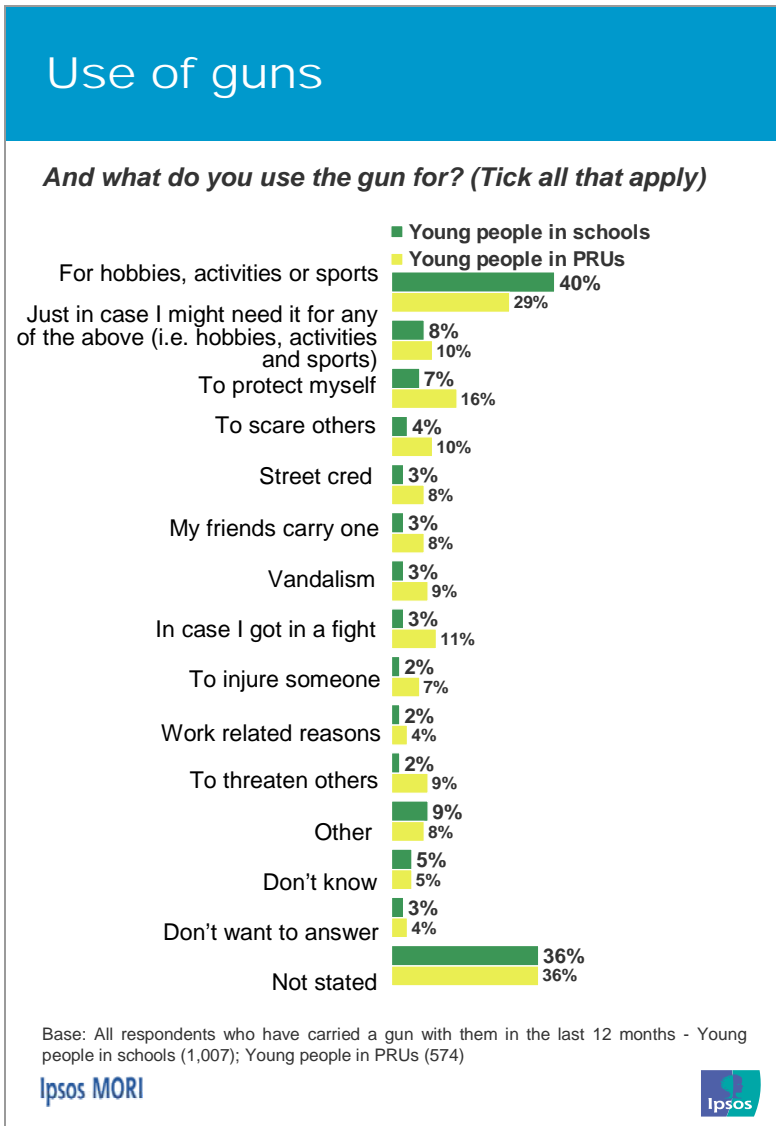
Among young people in PRUs, the second most common reason for using a gun was for protection (16%), while 11% said they would carry a gun in case they got into a fight. There has been an increase in the proportion of young people attending PRUs saying that they used a gun to threaten others (9% of

²⁷⁷ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

²⁷⁸ Figures in mainstream education calculated from a base size of 1,007 (unweighted total in mainstream education who had carried a gun in the last 12 months); figures from PRUs calculated from a base size of 574 (total number in PRUs who had carried a gun in the last 12 months).

those who carried a gun in 2009, compared with 4% in 2008); or because their friends carried one (8% in 2009, compared with 4% in 2008).

Figure 3.8: Use of guns²⁷⁹



There are some demographic differences in the reasons young people gave for using guns. Among young people in mainstream education, these differences are:

- **gender**
Boys are more likely to say that they used a gun for hobby-related reasons (43%, versus 26% of girls).

279 This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

- **ethnicity**

White young people are more likely to say that they used a gun for hobby-related reasons (43%, versus 26% of Asian young people).

Among young people attending PRUs, the demographic differences are:

- **age**

A significantly higher proportion of 11 to 14-year-olds said they used a gun for hobbies, activities or sports (33%, versus 24% of 15 to 16-year-olds); or because their friends carried one (11%, versus 4%).

- **gender**

In keeping with findings for mainstream schools, boys in PRUs are more likely to report using a gun for hobbies (32%, versus 13% of girls).

Similar to the pattern relating to reasons for using a knife – across both schools and PRUs – the reasons why young people use guns vary, according to whether they have committed an offence and their group's attitude towards crime. However, these differences appear less pronounced among young people attending PRUs than young people in mainstream education.

Table 3.11: Difference between usage of knives and guns, among young people who reported having carried a knife or gun in the previous 12 months

What do you use the knife/gun for? Tick all that apply

| Base: All respondents who had carried a knife/gun in the last 12 months | Knife | | Gun | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | Young people in schools | Young people in PRUs | Young people in schools | Young people in PRUs |
| | (1,079) | (661) | (1,007) | (574) |
| | % | % | % | % |
| For hobbies, activities or sports | 30 | 21 | 40 | 29 |
| To protect myself | 24 | 43 | 7 | 16 |
| Just in case I need it for any of the above (hobbies, activities or sports) | 14 | 17 | 8 | 10 |
| In case I got in a fight | 10 | 22 | 3 | 11 |
| Work-related reasons | 7 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| Vandalism | 6 | 12 | 3 | 9 |
| To scare others | 5 | 14 | 4 | 10 |
| My friends carry one | 4 | 9 | 3 | 8 |
| Street cred | 4 | 11 | 3 | 8 |
| To threaten others | 3 | 14 | 2 | 9 |
| To injure someone | 3 | 10 | 2 | 7 |
| Other | 11 | 6 | 9 | 8 |
| Don't know | 7 | 8 | 5 | 5 |
| Don't want to answer | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| Not stated | 18 | 14 | 36 | 36 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

3.8.4 Difference between usage of a knife and usage of a gun

Young people are more likely to report using a gun for hobbies, activities or sports than a knife: in schools, 40% gave this reason for using a gun, compared to 30% (a knife); in PRUs, 29% gave this reason for using a gun, compared to 21% who gave this reason for using a knife.

When the responses of those reporting using a knife specifically 'to threaten others' or 'to injure someone' are combined, only 4% of those in mainstream education (who carry a knife) use it for these reasons, compared to 16% of those in PRUs.

Young people (both in mainstream schools and attending PRUs) are more likely to use a knife than a gun for the following reasons:

- **for protection**
In schools, 24% who had carried a knife said they did so for protection, compared to 7% who carried a gun. In PRUs, 43% gave this reason for carrying a knife, compared with 16% who carried a gun.
- **in case of a fight**
In schools, 10% who had carried a knife said they did so for this reason, compared with 3% who had carried a gun. Among young people attending PRUs, 22% gave this reason, compared with 11% for a gun.

Young people attending PRUs who carried a knife were more likely than those who carried a gun to say they did so for the following reasons:

- **to threaten others**
Given by 14% of those who carried a knife, compared with 9% who carried a gun.
- **to scare others**
Given by 14% of those who carried a knife, compared with 10% who carried a gun.

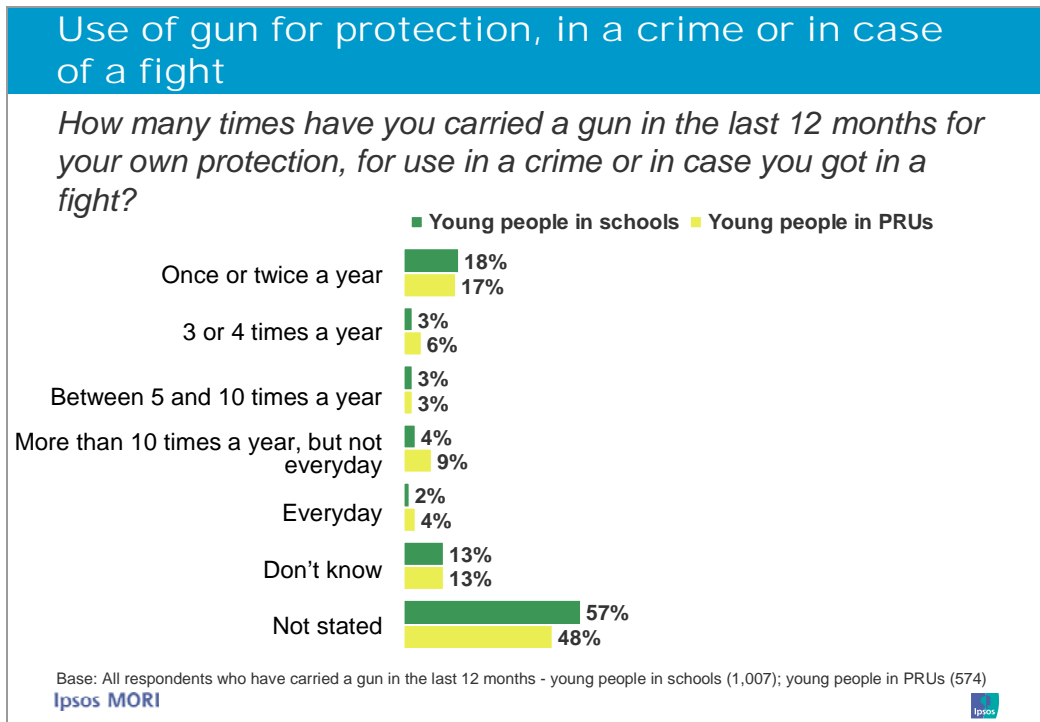
Overall, 16% of young people attending PRUs who used a knife said they did so with the purpose of threatening or injuring someone, compared with 11% who reported carrying a gun for this purpose.

Although the proportion of young people in mainstream education who had carried a gun (21%) is comparable with the proportion who had carried a knife (23%), the data suggests that the carrying of a gun – for protection, use in a crime or in case of a fight – is done on a less frequent basis than the carrying of a knife. For instance, 8% who have carried a knife say that they have done so for protection, use in a crime or in case of a fight more than ten times but not everyday in the last 12 months, compared with 4% who have carried a gun.

Not only do a significantly smaller proportion of young people attending PRUs carry a gun compared to a knife, but young people who said they had carried a gun – for their own protection, to use in a crime or in case they got into a fight – did so less frequently than young people who carried a knife. Seventeen per cent of young people attending PRUs who had carried any type of gun (for the above reasons) said they had carried it once or twice, compared to only 4% who claimed to carry one everyday.

Almost half (48%) of young people in PRUs who had carried a gun in the last 12 months did not state the number of times they had carried it for their own protection, for use in a crime or in case they got into a fight. The fact that a considerable proportion of young people who admitted carrying a gun said that it was for use in hobbies, activities or sports (29%), rather than for any of the reasons in this question, may in part explain this figure – although there may also be other factors that cannot be inferred from the data.

Figure 3.9: Use of gun for protection, in a crime or in case got into a fight²⁸⁰



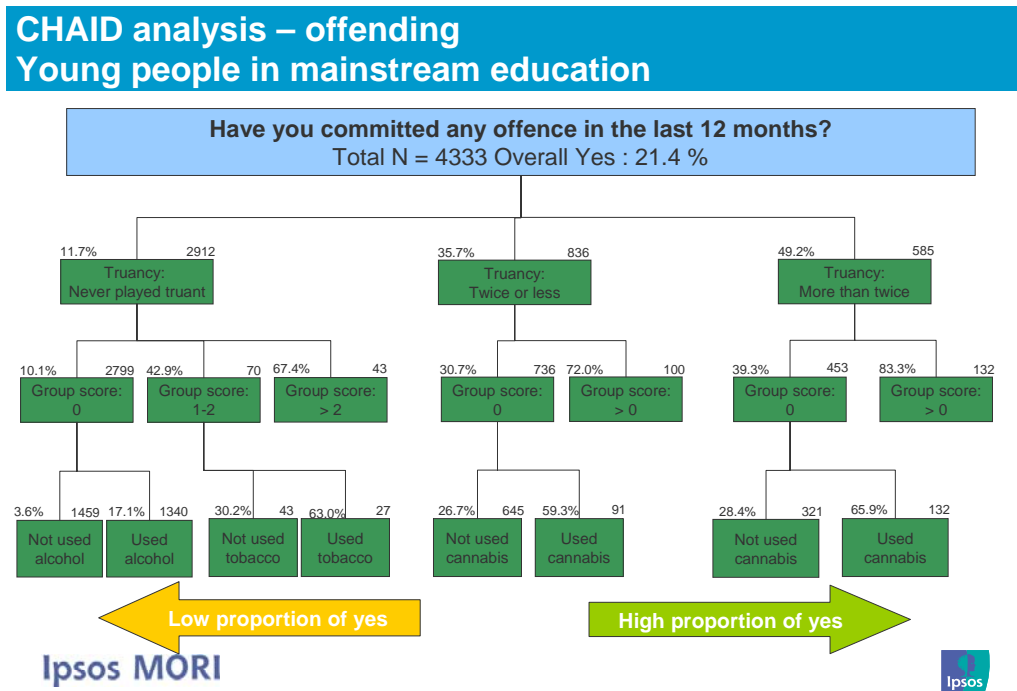
²⁸⁰ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

3.9 CHAID Analysis – offending behaviour

In this instance, CHAID analysis was used to segment the data according to the propensity of young people reporting offending behaviour. It does not necessarily indicate any causal link between the characteristic and offending behaviour.

3.9.1 Young people in mainstream education

Figure 3.10: CHAID – those who had committed an offence in the last 12 months



As Figure 3.10 above shows, the most discriminatory indicator for offending among those in mainstream education is truancy and three groups are formed using this variable. Of those young people in mainstream education who had never played truant (just over two-thirds of the valid sample), 12% had committed an offence. This rises to 36% for those who had played truant on no more than two occasions, and 49% for those who had played truant more than twice.

For all three sub-groups within the truancy variable, the strongest discriminator is group score.²⁸¹

281 The group score is assigned to those who are part of a group in which crime is seen as acceptable based on the number of characteristics that group has. A group score of zero is assigned if the respondent reports that committing crime is never seen as acceptable by their group. Equally, if the respondent does not consider themselves to be part of a group at all they would also be assigned a group score of zero.

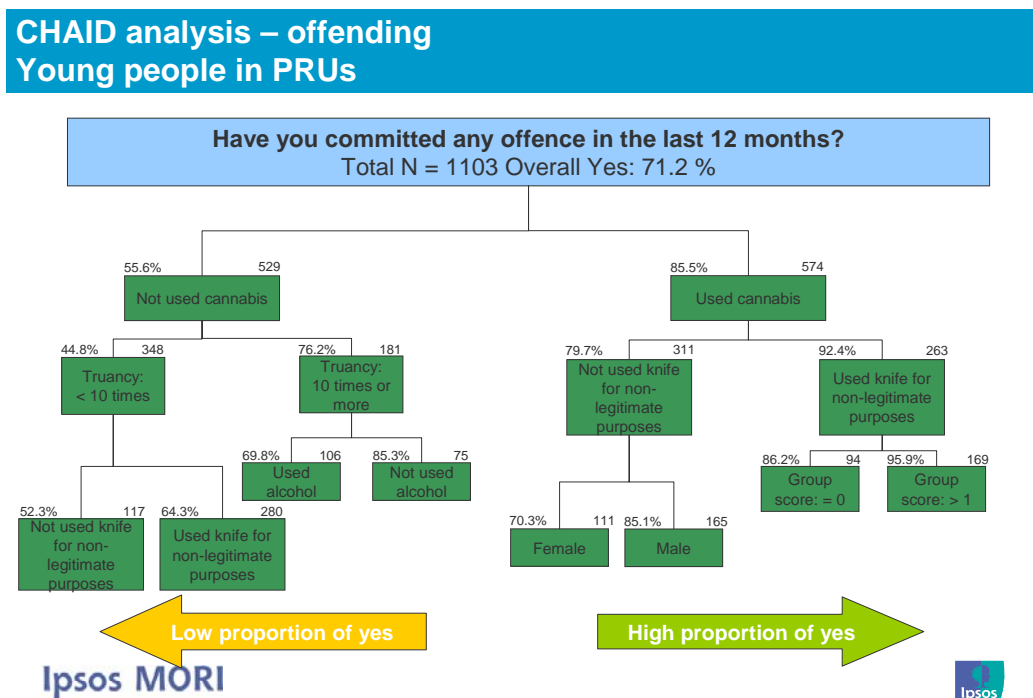
- Within the 'never played truant' sub-group, 10% of young people who have a group score of zero reported committing an offence in the last 12 months.
- Within the sub-group who reported truanting twice or less, 31% of young people who have a group score of zero reported committing an offence. This figure more than doubles for young people who have a group score greater than zero (72% reported committing an offence in the last 12 months).
- This pattern is repeated in the sub-group for those who had truanted more than twice; 39% of those who have a group score of zero, and 83% for those with a group score greater than zero reported offending in the last 12 months.

As Figure 3.11 shows, further separation is found within four of the second-level sub-groups. For example:

- four per cent of those young people who had never truanted, who have a group score of zero and who had not used alcohol, had offended. This represents the segment that is least likely to offend (as defined within the bounds of the CHAID analysis). For those who had used alcohol, this figure is 17%
- those young people who had played truant more than twice, who have a group score of zero and who had used cannabis, are far more likely to have committed an offence than their counterparts who had not used cannabis (66% and 28% respectively).

3.9.2 Young people attending PRUs

Figure 3.11: CHAID – those who had committed an offence in the last 12 months



As Figure 3.11 above shows, the most discriminative indicator for propensity to offend among young people in PRUs is cannabis use. Two groups are formed using this variable: those who had used cannabis and those who had not. Of those who had not used cannabis (just under half of the valid sample), 56% had committed an offence, which rises to 86% for those who had used cannabis.

For those who had not used cannabis, the strongest predictor of propensity to offend is truancy. Within this, 45% of those who had played truant on fewer than 10 occasions had committed a crime in the last 12 months, compared with 76% of those who had truanted more frequently.

Of those young people in PRUs who had not used cannabis and truanted on fewer than 10 occasions, 64% of those who had used a knife for non-legitimate purposes reported having offended in the last 12 months. Those who had not used a knife for non-legitimate purposes were much less likely to have committed an offence (52%).

For those who had used cannabis, the strongest predictor of offending incidence is knife usage. Those who had not used a knife for non-legitimate purposes have an offending incidence of 80% and, within this sub-group, female respondents are significantly less likely to offend than male respondents (70%, compared with 85%). Those who had used a knife for non-legitimate purposes by contrast have an offending incidence of 92%, and

within this group, the figure increases further for those who have a group score greater than zero (96% for those with a group score greater than zero, 86% for those with a group score of zero).

3.10 Summary – offending behaviour

Offending patterns

Less than one in five (18%) of young people in mainstream education self-reported offending in the past 12 months, which represents a significant decrease from previous years.

Almost two-thirds (64%) of young people attending PRUs reported committing an offence in the past 12 months, which is in line with offending levels seen in previous years.

The findings show that certain demographic factors relate to the likelihood of young people offending. For instance, young people in mainstream schools or attending PRUs are more likely to report committing an offence if they are male or older.

The findings also suggest a link between self-reported offending and other types of behaviour reported by young people in both mainstream education and PRUs. These associations include being part of a group where crime is viewed as acceptable, having been a victim of crime, having carried a knife or gun, and having truanted or been expelled.

What offences are young people committing?

The range of offences that young people in mainstream education reported committing is relatively low (25% reported committing only one type of offence). Among self-reported offenders attending PRUs, the proportion saying they had committed five or more different types of offence has increased to 21% in 2009, from 16% in 2008.

The most common offence type reported by those in mainstream education is anti-social behaviour (cited by 77% of those who self-reported offending), followed by theft/stealing (74%). 2009 has seen an increase in the self-reported offenders who cite drugs offences (27%, from 23% in 2008). However, this should be considered in the context of an overall fall in the rate of self-reported offending.

Theft-related offences were the most cited category by young people attending PRUs (80% of those who self-reported offending), followed by anti-social behaviour and threatening/assaulting offences (both 79%).

Who do young offenders commit crimes with?

As in previous years, the majority of those who self-reported offending – whether in mainstream education or attending PRUs – said they offended with their friends (60% and 67% respectively).

Why do young people offend?

The most frequently mentioned reason given for committing a first offence by those in mainstream schools and in PRUs is for fun (cited by 37% and 42% respectively).

In line with previous surveys, boredom was the most common circumstance surrounding recent offences reported by young people in both mainstream education and attending PRUs (23% and 31% respectively). This was followed by being drunk/having drunk alcohol.

Are young people carrying potential weapons?

In line with the 2008 findings, 23% of pupils in mainstream education said they had carried a knife in the last year, while 21% said they had carried a gun. Just over half of young people in PRUs reported having carried a knife (54%) and 47% said they had carried a gun.

The two most commonly cited potential weapons which young people in either mainstream education or PRUs reported carrying were a penknife and a BB gun.

Of those who reported carrying a knife or a gun, young people in schools are most likely to say they use it for hobbies, activities or sports (30% for knives, 40% for guns). However, 24% cited carrying a knife for protection.

Whereas 21% of young people attending PRUs who reported carrying a knife or a gun said that they used a knife for hobbies, activities or sports, 43% said that they used it to protect themselves – which remains the most commonly cited use for a knife. The most common reason given by young people attending PRUs for using a gun was for hobbies, activities and sports (29%).

Outcomes of offending

This section examines detection rates among young people in both mainstream education and PRUs, including what happens as a result of offenders being caught, the disposals which are received and young people's attitudes towards punishments.

4.1 Likelihood of getting caught

4.2 Variations in likelihood of getting caught

4.3 Outcomes of getting caught

4.4 Sentences, orders or agreements

4.5 Attitudes towards punishments

4.6 Summary

4 Outcomes of offending

This section examines detection rates among young people in both mainstream education and PRUs, including what happens as a result of offenders being caught, the disposals which are received and young people's attitudes towards punishments.

4.1 Likelihood of getting caught

4.2 Variations in likelihood of getting caught

4.3 Outcomes of getting caught

4.4 Sentences, orders or agreements

4.5 Attitudes towards punishments

4.6 Summary

4.1 Likelihood of getting caught

The likelihood of young people attending PRUs being caught by the police for an offence they say they have committed is proportionately higher than for those in mainstream education.²⁸² In 2009, 82% of young people attending PRUs who had committed at least one offence in the last 12 months reported being caught by police, compared to 49% for those in mainstream education.²⁸³

While detection rates among both young people attending PRUs and those in mainstream education remain consistent with 2008, they continue to be significantly higher than previous years (between 2001 and 2005). For instance, detection rates in 2005 were 72% in PRUs and 29% in schools.

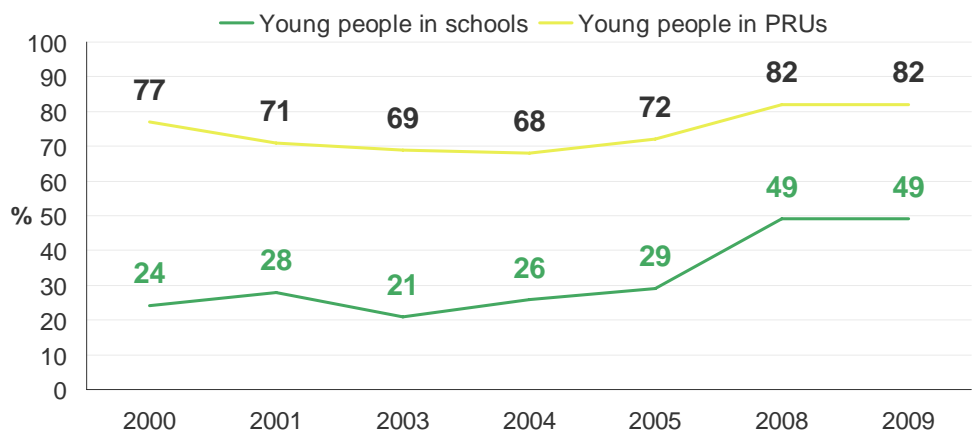
282 Although it is worth remembering that, on average, self-reported offenders attending PRUs commit a higher number of offences than those in mainstream education.

283 Figure in mainstream education calculated from a base size of 927 (unweighted total in mainstream education who had committed an offence in the last 12 months); figure from PRUs calculated from a base size of 785 (total in PRUs who had committed an offence in the last 12 months).

Figure 4.1: Detection rates among young people who say they have committed an offence²⁸⁴

Detection rates

Have you ever been caught by the police for the offence/s you have committed in the last 12 months?



Base (2009): All young people in schools who have committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months (927); All young people in PRUs who have committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months (785)

Ipsos MORI



4.2 Variations in likelihood of getting caught

As in previous years – with the exception of 2008 – boys in mainstream education who offend are more likely to get caught than girls (55% compared to 40% girls). However, this is not the case for young people attending PRUs, where detection rates do not vary according to gender, despite boys being significantly more likely to have committed an offence than girls (as well as being more likely to have committed a variety of offences).

However, there are some differences among sub-groups as to whether young people attending PRUs were caught for offences they had committed, with the following young people reporting higher rates of detection.²⁸⁵

- those who have carried a knife or gun**
 Young people in PRUs who carry such a weapon are more likely to have been caught by police for an offence (86%), compared with those who have not carried one (73%).

²⁸⁴ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

²⁸⁵ Figures calculated from a base size of 785 (total number of those in PRUs who reported having committed a criminal offence in the past 12 months).

- **those who have been expelled**
Young people who have been expelled are more likely to be caught for an offence than those who have not (85%, compared with 76%).

those who are able to get drugs

Young people who can obtain drugs are more likely to be caught than those who cannot (84%, compared with 64%).

The data also suggests that detection rates are higher among young people in mainstream education who exhibit certain attitudes/behaviours, including:²⁸⁶

- **those who had carried a knife or gun**
Young people in mainstream education who carry such a weapon are more likely to be caught for an offence (61%), compared with those who had not carried one (34%).
- **those who are part of a group in which crime is accepted**
Young people in such a group are more likely to be caught (57%) than those not in such a group (43%).
- **those who had been the victim of an offence**
Young people who had been a victim are more likely to be caught (53%) than those who had not (41%).
- **those who had played truant 10 or more times (compared with those who had never played truant)**
Young people who had truanted regularly are more likely to be caught for an offence (65%) than those who had never truanted (43%).
- **those who had been expelled**
Young people who had been expelled are more likely to be caught than those who had not been expelled (80%, compared with 46%).

4.3 Outcomes of getting caught

Self-reported offenders who were caught by the police were asked what happened as a result.²⁸⁷ For young people in mainstream education, the most common outcome was that nothing happened, (cited by 28%).²⁸⁸ This was followed by having to apologise to the victim (mentioned by 20%), while 10% said they were contacted by the youth offending team (YOT) and 9% said they had to pay some money. It should be noted that 12% gave no answer here.

²⁸⁶ Figures calculated from a base size of 927 (unweighted total number of those in mainstream education who reported having committed a criminal offence in the past 12 months).

²⁸⁷ It should be noted that this question has changed slightly compared with previous years with some response categories removed. Therefore trend data is not directly comparable and should be considered indicative only.

²⁸⁸ Figures calculated from a base size of 455 (unweighted total number in mainstream education who had been caught by the police).

Table 4.1: Outcome of being caught by the police

Which of the following things, if any, have happened to you since you were caught by the police?

| | Young people in schools (455) | Young people in PRUs (643) |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Base: All young people who had been caught by the police | (455) | (643) |
| | % | % |
| I had to apologise to the victim | 20 | 29 |
| I was contacted by the youth offending team | 10 | 46 |
| I had to pay some money | 9 | 26 |
| I went to court | 7 | 40 |
| I was made to go to school | 7 | 16 |
| I had to do some work in groups with other young people | 4 | 20 |
| I had to do some work in the community e.g. picking up litter etc. | 3 | 18 |
| I was able to do new activities e.g. car maintenance, play football | 3 | 8 |
| I had to attend a drugs programme | 3 | 16 |
| I was given help to find somewhere to live | 2 | 4 |
| I had to attend an intervention programme (i.e. education, training, employment scheme) | 2 | 5 |
| I was referred to a youth inclusion programme (YIP) | 2 | 10 |
| I was referred to a youth inclusion and support panel (YISP) | 2 | 9 |
| Other | 22 | 21 |
| Nothing happened | 28 | 10 |
| Don't know | 4 | 2 |
| Not stated | 12 | 3 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

As Table 4.1 demonstrates, something happened to the majority of young people attending PRUs as a result of being caught (only 10% said 'nothing happened'),²⁸⁹ with 46% being contacted by the YOT and 40% going to court.

Generally the outcomes mentioned have changed little, compared with 2008, when being contacted by the YOT overtook going to court as the most probable outcome. However, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of young people attending PRUs who mentioned referral to a youth inclusion programme (YIP) in 2009 (10%, compared with 5% in 2008).

There are some sub-group differences in the types of outcome among young people attending PRUs.

- A higher proportion of boys said they had to pay money (29%, compared with 20% of girls).
- Young people aged 15 to 16 are significantly more likely than 11 to 14-year-olds to: report being contacted by the YOT (51%, compared with 42%); report going to court (50%, compared with 33%); and report having to pay money (31%, compared with 23%). On the other hand, young people aged 11 to 14 are more likely to be referred to a youth inclusion and support panel (YISP) – 12%, compared with 7% of 15 to 16-year-olds.
- White young people are more likely than Black young²⁹⁰ people to say that they had to apologise to the victim (29%, compared with 12%), and do some work in the community (18%, compared with 3%). However, caution should be used when interpreting these figures, due to small sample size for Black young people who reported offending.

4.4 Sentences, orders or agreements

The most common disposal received by offenders in both mainstream education and PRUs was a Final Warning (reported by 26% in schools and 49% in PRUs).²⁹¹ The next most common disposal was a Reprimand, cited by 15% of offenders in mainstream education and 40% of offenders attending PRUs. While remaining the most common types of disposal, the proportion of young people who reported receiving either of these has fallen in recent years.

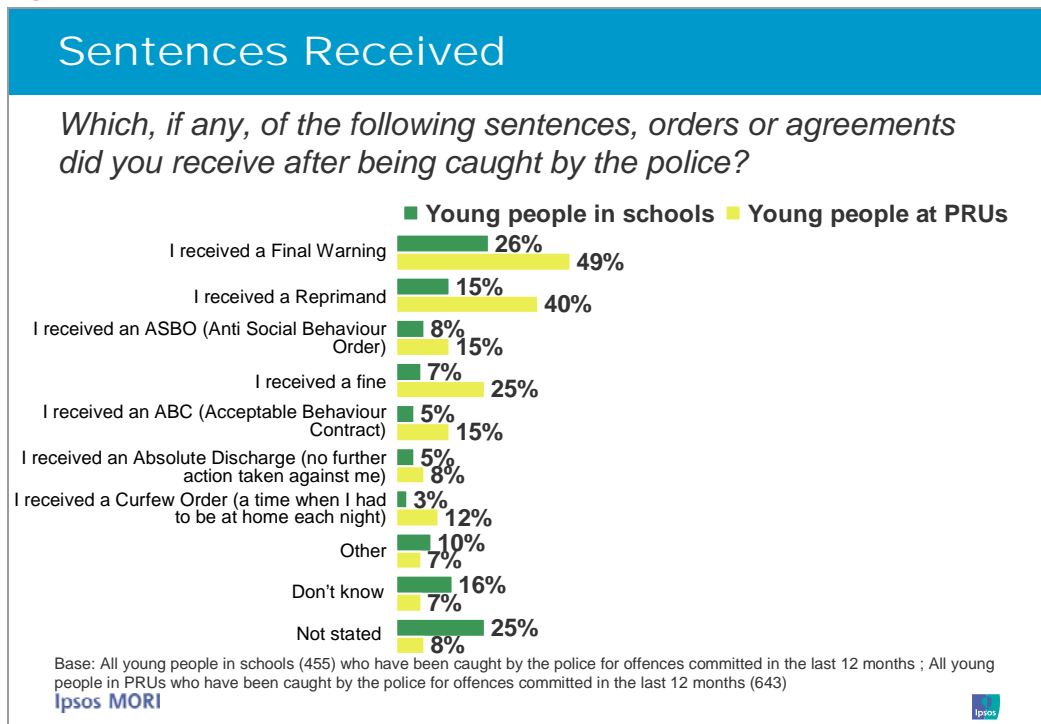
289 Figures calculated from a base size of 643 (total in PRUs who reported being caught by the police for an offence committed in the last 12 months).

290 The base size for Black young people at this question is low (33). Caution must be used when interpreting these figures due to the small sample size.

291 Figures in mainstream education calculated from a base size of 455 (unweighted total in mainstream education who reported being caught by the police for an offence committed in the last 12 months); figures from PRUs calculated from a base size of 643 (total in PRUs who reported being caught by the police for an offence committed in the last 12 months).

Among young people in mainstream education, there has been a steady fall in the proportion saying they had received a Final Warning; from 41% in 2004, 36% in 2005 and 32% in 2008 – to 26% in 2009. The percentage citing Reprimands has also fallen significantly after peaking in 2005 (28% in 2005). The proportion of young people attending PRUs mentioning Final Warnings and Reprimands has dropped since 2008: 56% said they received a Final Warning in 2008, compared with 49% in 2009; 46% said they received a Reprimand in 2008, compared with 40% in 2009.

Figure 4.2: Sentences received²⁹²



The data suggests differences in the disposals most commonly reported by young people of different ages, although this does not take into account the offence frequency, type or gravity. Looking first at young people in mainstream education, 15 to 16-year-olds are twice as likely to report receiving a Reprimand as 11 to 14-year-olds (22%, compared with 11%). However, a higher proportion of younger pupils reported receiving an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) (10% of 11 to 14-year-olds, compared with 3% of 15 to 16-year-olds); or an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) (7%, compared with 1% of 15 to 16-year-olds). Boys are also more likely than girls to mention a Final Warning (30%, compared with 19% of girls).

The disposals mentioned by young people attending PRUs also vary with age, with 11 to 14-year-olds significantly more likely to report receiving a Final

292 This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

Warning (53%, compared with 43% of 15 to 16-year-olds); and an ABC (18%, compared with 12% of 15 to 16-year-olds). A higher proportion of those aged 15 to 16 said they received a Referral Order (26%, compared with 17% of 11 to 14-year-olds); or an Action Plan Order (21% compared with 12%).

4.5 Attitudes towards getting caught

Compared with previous years, there has been a notable decline in the proportion of young people in mainstream education who said that getting caught had *no/little* impact on stopping them offending again (39% in 2009, 48% in 2008 and 53% in 2005). However, this takes no account of whether the young person was a first-time or a repeat offender. In contrast, the impact of being caught on deterring further offending appears to have remained consistent among young people attending PRUs (37% said getting caught stopped them offending a great deal/fair amount and 45% say that only did a little or it did not at all).²⁹³

Table 4.2: Attitudes towards getting caught

And how much has being caught stopped you from doing this again?

| Base: All who had committed a criminal offence in the last 12 months | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| | (455) | (546) | (446) | (643) | (475) | (767) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| A great deal/a fair amount | 35 | 37 | 40 | 37 | 36 | 39 |
| A little/not at all | 39* | 48 | 53 | 45 | 50 | 51 |
| <i>Don't know</i> | 6* | 11 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 7 |
| <i>Not stated</i> | 20* | 6 | 2 | 11* | 5 | 2 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

There are some differences in the data by behavioural and attitudinal sub-groups – most notably in relation to group behaviour and truancy. In both schools (28%, compared with 12%) and PRUs (28%, compared with 10%), those who are part of a group where crime is accepted are more likely to say that getting caught did not stop them offending again.

Young people in mainstream education who had truanted 10 or more times are more likely than those who had not truanted to say that getting caught had no impact on preventing reoffending (31%, compared with 9%). In PRUs, young

²⁹³ Figures in mainstream education calculated from a base size of 455 (unweighted total in mainstream education who reported being caught by the police for an offence committed in the last 12 months); figures from PRUs calculated from a base size of 643 (total in PRUs who reported being caught by the police for an offence committed in the last 12 months).

people are much more likely to say this if they had truanted 10 or more times, than if they had truanted one to nine times (30%, compared with 15%).

Young people attending PRUs who carry a gun/knife are twice as likely as those who do not carry a weapon to say that getting caught did not stop them offending again (26%, compared with 13%).

4.6 Summary – outcomes of offending

Detection rates for young people in both mainstream education and PRUs who have committed an offence remain in line with 2008. As such, the figure for those who attend PRUs and who had been caught by the police is proportionally higher than those in mainstream education (82% and 49% respectively). It may be that this finding, as with others on detection, reflects the number and seriousness of the offences committed among this group.

Boys in mainstream education are more likely to report being caught when they have committed an offence than girls (55%, compared with 40%). However, detection rates do not vary according to gender among those attending PRUs. Young people who had carried a knife are also more likely to report being caught for an offence than those who had not carried a knife or gun. This is the case for both young people in mainstream education and those attending PRUs.

The most common consequences of being caught varied between those in mainstream education and those attending PRUs. For young people in mainstream education, the most common responses were 'nothing happened' (28%) and 'I had to apologise to the victim' (20%). However, for young people attending PRUs, the most common responses were 'I was contacted by the youth offending team' (46%) and 'I went to court' (40%). In PRUs, young people aged 15 to 16 are more likely to report both of these consequences than those aged 11 to 14.

The most common disposals received by young people in mainstream education who had been caught by the police were:

Final Warning (26%)

Reprimand (15%)

ASBO (anti-social behaviour order) (8%).

For young people attending PRUs, the top three disposals received were similar, (with the exception of ASBOs):

Final Warning (49%)

Reprimand (40%)

a fine (25%).

There has been no significant change in whether young people in PRUs reported that being caught has stopped them from offending again. However, there has been a significant decrease among those in mainstream education who reported that being caught had little or no impact on them offending.

However, this takes no account of whether the young person was a first-time or a repeat offender.

Reoffending

This section examines self-reported reoffending rates and offences committed among young people, together with the reasons for not reoffending and deterrents to offending, as reported by young people.

5.1 Levels of reoffending

5.2 Profile of reoffenders

5.3 Offences committed after being caught

5.4 Reasons for not reoffending

5.5 Summary

5 Reoffending

5.1 Levels of reoffending

Since 2001, there has been a steady rise in reoffending among young people in mainstream education who had been caught by the police for an offence committed in the previous 12 months – with figures increasing from 50% in 2001, to 65% in 2008.²⁹⁴ However, as Figure 5.1 below shows, the 2009 data shows a reverse in this trend, with the proportion of young people in mainstream education who claimed to have reoffended after being caught by the police falling to 57%. This is a significant decrease from 2008.

In contrast, reoffending among young people attending PRUs who had been caught by the police for an offence committed in the last 12 months has remained consistent with levels over recent years.²⁹⁵ In 2009, this figure was 72%, which is in line with 2008 (71%) and 2005 (70%). However, prior to 2005, the figures among young people attending PRUs had varied from year to year. For example, 58% reoffended in 2001 but this figure was as high as 75% in 2003.²⁹⁶

294 Figures calculated from a base size of 455 (unweighted total in mainstream education who reported being caught by the police for an offence committed in the last 12 months).

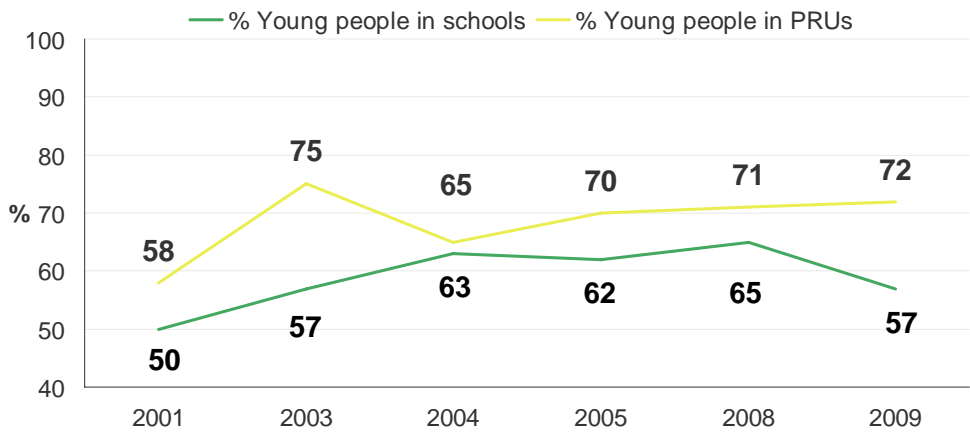
295 Figures calculated from a base size of 643 (total in PRUs who reported being caught by the police for an offence committed in the last 12 months).

296 The 2001 and 2003 comparison has been used here as this was the greatest difference in reoffending figures

Figure 5.1: Reoffending levels²⁹⁷

Committed another offence after being caught

And did you commit any other offences *AFTER* you were caught by the police?



Base (2009): All respondents who have been caught by the police for any offences committed in the last 12 months and have committed another offence - All young people in schools (455); All young people in PRUs (643)

Ipsos MORI



5.2 Profile of reoffenders

Among those young people in mainstream education who had been caught by the police for offences committed in the last 12 months, there are certain sub-groups which are more likely to have reoffended since then:

- **young people who had carried a knife or gun**
Of those who had carried a knife or a gun, 63% had reoffended, compared with 46% who hadn't carried these weapons. Furthermore, using a knife for a reason other than hobbies, activities or sports appears in the additional statistical model for those in mainstream schools *and* PRUs who have the greatest propensity for reoffending. Along similar lines, the reoffending model for young people attending PRUs only shows that using a gun for a reason other than hobbies, activities or sports is linked to the likelihood of reoffending.
- **young people who are part of a group which sees crime as being acceptable**
Those in this group are over twice as likely to reoffend (70%) as those in groups which do not see crime as acceptable (32%).

²⁹⁷ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

There is also a link between levels of truancy and exclusion, and reoffending among young people in mainstream education. Three-quarters of both those who had played truant 10 or more times and those who had been expelled had reoffended (76% and 73% respectively, compared with 43% and 53% who had not truanted or been expelled, respectively).

Similarly, there is a link between truancy and reoffending for young people attending PRUs: 69% of those who had truanted between one and nine times, and 81% of those who had truanted 10 or more times reported reoffending (compared with 50% who had never truanted). This link is supported by results for the further statistical analysis for reoffending, which shows that the greater the truancy by a young person, the greater propensity they have to reoffend.

As with young people in mainstream education, the young people in PRUs, who demonstrate certain behaviours and had been caught by the police, are significantly more likely to have reoffended:

- **young people who said they had carried a knife or a gun**
Those who had done so are more likely to reoffend (78%) after being caught by police than those who said they had not carried either weapon (50%).
- **young people who had been a victim of an offence**
Those who had been a victim are significantly more likely to commit further offences themselves after being caught, 76% reoffending, compared with 58% who hadn't been victims.
- **young people who reported knowing someone who would be able to sell or give them drugs**
Those in this group are over twice as likely to reoffend after being caught (76%), compared with those who said they do not know anyone they could obtain drugs from (35%).

5.3 Offences committed after being caught

As Table 5.1 below shows, the most common offences committed by young people in mainstream education after being caught by the police were damaging or destroying someone else's property (45%), theft from a shop (43%), fare dodging (35%) and threatening or assaulting others in public (40%).²⁹⁸

For young people in PRUs, the most commonly committed crimes after being caught by the police are similar to those in mainstream education, with threatening others in public (56%), damaging others' property (52%) and stealing things from a shop (48%).²⁹⁹

²⁹⁸ Figures calculated from a base size of 259 (unweighted total in mainstream education who had committed an offence after being caught by the police).

²⁹⁹ Figures calculated from a base size of 463 (total in PRUs who had committed an offence after being caught by the police).

Over a third of reoffenders in mainstream education (35%)³⁰⁰ reported drug-related reoffending after being caught, compared to 53% of young people attending PRUs. As the table below shows, these figures can represent young people doing more than one type of drug-related offence – for instance, of those in mainstream education, 32% said they bought drugs and 15% that they sold drugs.

Reoffending levels for many of the offences shown above remain in line with previous years for young people in mainstream education, although since 2008, there has been a significant increase in the proportion who had stolen a bicycle (23% in 2009, compared with 14% in 2008). However, there have been decreases in other offences including:

- the proportion who have dodged their travel fare has decreased from 52% in 2005, to 35% in 2009
- the number of those reoffending by harassing others using a mobile phone has also continued to decline, more than halving from 41% in 2005 to 18% in 2009.

Among young people attending PRUs who have been caught by the police, the pattern of reoffending has remained broadly similar to 2008.

³⁰⁰ This is a net figure covering any drug related offence. 'bought drugs' and 'sold drugs' are on the questionnaire separately. If young people said both of these they would still only be counted once in the overall 'drug related offences' category. The fact that for young people in mainstream and PRU the figure for drug related offences is lower than 'bought drugs' and 'sold drugs' combined indicates some young people are doing both.

Table 5.1: Offences committed after being caught

What offence(s) did you commit after you were caught by the police?

| | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| Base: All young people who had committed an offence after being caught by the police | (259) | (352) | (269) | (463) | (336) | (539) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Damaged or destroyed, on purpose or recklessly, something belonging to somebody else | 45 | 42 | 34 | 52 | 54 | 50 |
| Travelled on a bus, train or underground without paying your fare | 35 | 41 | 52 | 39 | 37 | 46 |
| Written or sprayed graffiti on walls, buses, trains, seats, shelters | 33 | 40 | 46 | 39 | 38 | 46 |
| Set fire to anything on purpose (e.g. building, car, furniture) | 25 | 26 | 33 | 27 | 25 | 27 |
| Stolen anything from a shop, supermarket or department store | 43 | 49 | 40 | 48 | 53 | 45 |
| Stolen anything in school | 27 | 30 | 28 | 19 | 18 | 15 |
| Taken away a bicycle without the owner's permission | 23* | 14 | 15 | 34 | 31 | 35 |
| Stolen anything from your home or the place where you live | 20 | 20 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 12 |
| Bought, sold or held on to something you believed to be stolen | 19 | 17 | 24 | 30 | 29 | 42 |
| Been a passenger in a car that was taken without the owner's permission | 14* | 8 | 13 | 22 | 21 | 30 |
| Stolen a mobile phone from another person | 12 | 10 | 11 | 24 | 25 | 20 |
| Taken a car, motorbike etc. without the owner's permission | 9* | 4 | 15 | 20 | 21 | 27 |
| Threatened/assaulted others in public | 40 | 41 | 32 | 56 | 50 | 44 |
| Hurt someone, but they did not need medical treatment | 27 | 34 | - | 36 | 38 | 41 |
| Sent a voicemail or text message to someone on your mobile phone in order to scare, harass or threaten them in some way | 18 | 22 | 41 | 26 | 21 | N/A |

Table continued over page

Table 5.1: Offences committed after being caught

Cont'd *What offence(s) did you commit after you were caught by the police?*

| <u>Offences mentioned by at least 20% as crimes committed after being caught by the police</u> | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 | 2009 | 2008 | 2005 |
| Base: All young people who had committed an offence after being caught by the police | (259) | (352) | (269) | (463) | (336) | (539) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Beat up or hurt someone not in your family, causing them to need medical treatment | 15 | 14 | 21 | 32 | 28 | 33 |
| Used a mobile phone to video or photograph someone while you or someone else assaulted them ('happy slapping') | 11 | 16 | N/A | 23 | 23 | N/A |
| Bought drugs for your own use | 32 | 30 | 27 | 47 | 46 | 47 |
| Sold drugs to someone else | 15 | 13 | 18 | 29 | 30 | 29 |
| Driven a car or bike when you were drunk or over the limit | 14 | 10 | 17 | 21 | 20 | 24 |
| <i>Not stated</i> | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

This table only includes those offences cited by at least 20% of either PRU or mainstream offenders as crimes committed after being caught by the police

Source: Ipsos MORI

In terms of differences between demographic sub-groups, incidence of reoffending by committing anti-social behaviour and theft tend to be higher among the youngest age groups (11 to 14-year-olds). In mainstream education, 78% of 11 to 14-year-olds committed an anti-social behaviour offence after being caught by the police, compared with 63% of 15 to 16-year-olds. A similar sized difference occurs between these age groups when looking at theft (71%, compared with 56% respectively).

Girls attending PRUs are more likely to reoffend by threatening or assaulting someone (78%, compared with 65% of boys) while boys are more likely to steal bicycles (39%) and cars/motorbikes (23%), compared with 21% and 13% respectively for girls.

For young people attending PRUs, when looking across certain behaviours and reoffending after being caught, 75% of those who consider themselves a victim of bullying or crime reoffended using threatening or violent behaviour, compared with 56% who had not been a victim of bullying or crime.

As previously mentioned, for both young people in mainstream education and those attending PRUs, those who had carried a gun or a knife in the last year are more likely to reoffend than those who had not carried a potential weapon. More specifically, those in mainstream education who had carried a gun or knife are more likely to reoffend by committing: an anti-social behaviour

offence (81%, compared with 51% who had not carried a knife or gun); theft (72%, compared with 43%); and threatening or assaulting offences (63%, compared with 29%).

For young people in PRUs, there are no significant differences between those who had carried a knife or gun³⁰¹ and those who had not, in terms of threatening or assaulting offences, but differences do exist for other offences. For example, young people in PRUs who had carried a knife or gun are more likely to reoffend by: committing arson (30%, compared with 9% who had not carried a weapon); stealing from a car (21%, compared with 6%); and selling drugs to someone else (31%, compared with 11%).

5.4 Reasons for not reoffending

The most common reasons young people in mainstream education gave for not offending again were fear of being caught by the police (27%); that they have grown up/settled down (24%); or because they knew they were wrong (24%).³⁰² As shown in Figure 5.2 below – with the exception of not wishing their family to find out (16%) – other reasons were rarely mentioned. However, it should be noted that 24% of young people in mainstream education did not answer this question.

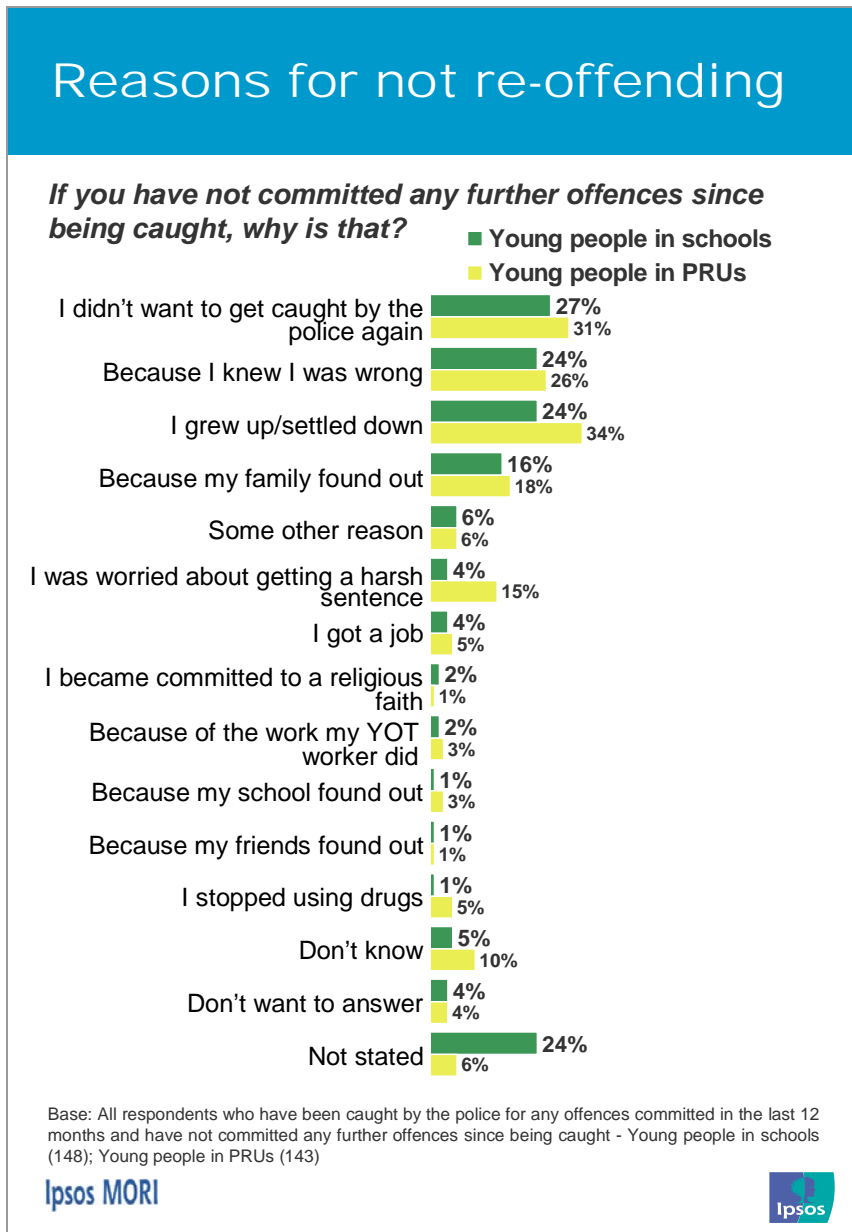
Those young people attending PRUs who did not offend again most commonly stated that this was due to them growing up/settling down (34%).³⁰³ Others mentioned not reoffending because they did not want to get caught by the police again (31%); or because they knew what they were doing was wrong (26%)-

301 Figures calculated from 375 who had carried a gun and 54 who had not (unweighted total number in PRUs who had been caught by the police for an offence committed in the last 12 months and had since committed another offence, said either 'yes' or 'no' as to whether had carried a knife or gun in last 12 months)

302 Figures calculated from a base size of 148 (unweighted total number in mainstream education who had been caught by the police for an offence committed in the last 12 months, but had not committed any further offences).

303 Figures calculated from a base size of 143 (total number in PRUs who had been caught by the police for an offence committed in the last 12 months, but had not committed any further offences).

Figure 5.2: Reasons for not reoffending³⁰⁴



While there are no significant differences in the demographics among young people in PRUs who did not reoffend after being caught, there are differences across demographic groups for young people in mainstream education. For example, 37% of pupils aged 15 to 16 who did not reoffend after being caught stated this was because they had settled down – double the figure for 11 to 14-

³⁰⁴ This chart presents the data for young people in mainstream education alongside that for young people in PRUs but does not draw on statistically significant differences between the samples.

year-olds (18%).³⁰⁵ In addition, 34% of this group cited knowing they were wrong as a reason for not reoffending, compared with 18% of their 11 to 14-year-old counterparts.

Girls are also more likely to feel they were wrong in committing the offence initially, with 34% citing this as a reason for not reoffending, compared with 17% of boys.³⁰⁶ However, caution must be used when interpreting these figures, due to the small sample sizes.

5.4.1 Deterrents to reoffending

Both young people in mainstream education and young people who attend PRUs share similar views about the deterrents to committing crimes, as shown in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2: Deterrents to reoffending

Which two of these things do you think has the biggest effect on stopping young people from committing crimes?

| Base: All respondents | Young people in schools | | | Young people in PRUs | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | 2009 % | 2008 % | 2005 % | 2009 % | 2008 % | 2005 % |
| | (4,855) | (4,750) | (5,463) | (1,230) | (914) | (1,584) |
| Worry about how their parents will react | 43 | 42 | 36 | 35 | 31 | 32 |
| The fear of being caught | 39* | 36 | 39 | 25 | 27 | 29 |
| The type of punishment | 24 | 24 | 24 | 20 | 20 | 23 |
| The fear of being punished | 22 | 23 | 22 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Getting a good education | 12 | 12 | 9 | 15 | 13 | 15 |
| The attitude of their friends | 9* | 11 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 10 |
| Having interesting things to do in their spare time | 8* | 10 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 15 |
| Concern for the victims of the crime | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| Meeting the victim | 7 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 11 |
| Having a mentor/someone to look out for them | 6* | 5 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 10 |

³⁰⁵ Figures are calculated from a base size of 87 11 to 14-year-olds and 59 15 to 16-year-olds (unweighted total of 11 to 14-year-olds and 15 to 16-year-olds in mainstream education who had been caught by the police for offences committed in the last 12 months and had not committed any further offences since getting caught).

³⁰⁶ Figures are calculated from a base size of 87 boys and 60 girls (unweighted total of boys and girls in mainstream education who had been caught by the police for offences committed in the last 12 months and had not committed any further offences since getting caught).

| | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Don't know | 9 | 10 | 14 | 16* | 21 | 15 |
| Not stated | 6* | 5 | 4 | 11 | 10 | 9 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

As in 2008, young people in mainstream education felt that the best deterrent to young people who commit offences is the reaction of their parents, with 43% citing this as having an effect. For young people in PRUs, this was also the most commonly mentioned deterrent, with 35% thinking parental reaction is a strong deterrent to offending.³⁰⁷

The fear of being caught was the second most common deterrent, mentioned by both young people in mainstream education and those attending PRUs (39% and 25% respectively). Similarly, the type of punishment was the third most common deterrent mentioned by both groups (24% and 20%), with fear of being punished the fourth (22% and 18% respectively).

In terms of age, there are some key differences in what young people in mainstream education cite as deterrents to offending. For example, 15 to 16-year-olds, in contrast to 11 to 14-year-olds, are significantly more likely to feel the following factors act as a deterrent:

- **the attitude of their friends**
This acted as a deterrent to 12% of 15 to 16-year-olds, compared with 8% of 11 to 14-year-olds.
- **the fear of being punished**
This was a deterrent to 26% of 15 to 16-year-olds, compared with 21% of those aged 11 to 14.
- **the type of punishment**
This was a deterrent to 27% of 15 to 16-year-olds, compared with 23% aged 11 to 14.
- **having interesting things to do in their spare time**
This was a deterrent to 11% of 15 to 16-year-olds, compared with 7% in the younger age group.

There are also some significant differences according to gender. Girls in mainstream education believed that the fear of being caught was a greater deterrent than it was for boys (42%, compared with 38%). Girls are also more likely to think that the attitude of their friends has a greater effect (10%, compared with 7% of boys). Conversely, boys are more likely to state that getting a good education is important in deterring crime (13%, compared with 11% of girls).

In terms of young people who attend PRUs, 24% of girls felt that the type of punishment is important in stopping young people committing crimes

³⁰⁷ Figure in mainstream education calculated from a base size of 4,855 (unweighted total in mainstream education); figure from PRUs calculated from a base size of 1,230 (total number in PRUs).

compared with 19% of boys. In addition, a greater proportion of 15 to 16-year-olds felt that the type of punishment is an important deterrent to young people (25%, compared to 17% of 11 to 14-year-olds).

Young people in mainstream education who had carried a gun or a knife are more likely to state that getting a good education is important, compared with those who had not carried a weapon (14% versus 11%). Yet those who had not carried either of these weapons are more likely to believe that the consequences in terms of being caught or the punishment are the greatest deterrents: 43% cited the fear of being caught and 27% the type of punishment it may bring, compared with 36% and 21% respectively for those who had carried a knife or gun.³⁰⁸

Similarly, some significant differences emerge among young people attending PRUs who exhibit certain behaviours, with those who had previously carried a knife or a gun more likely to suggest that having concern for the victims of crime would help prevent young people committing crimes (10%, compared with 5% who had never carried a knife or gun).³⁰⁹

Getting a good education is said to be a good deterrent among those who had never truanted, compared with those who had truanted (24%, compared to 16% of those who have truanted one to nine times, and 13% of those who had truanted 10 or more times).

5.5 CHAID analysis – reoffending behaviour

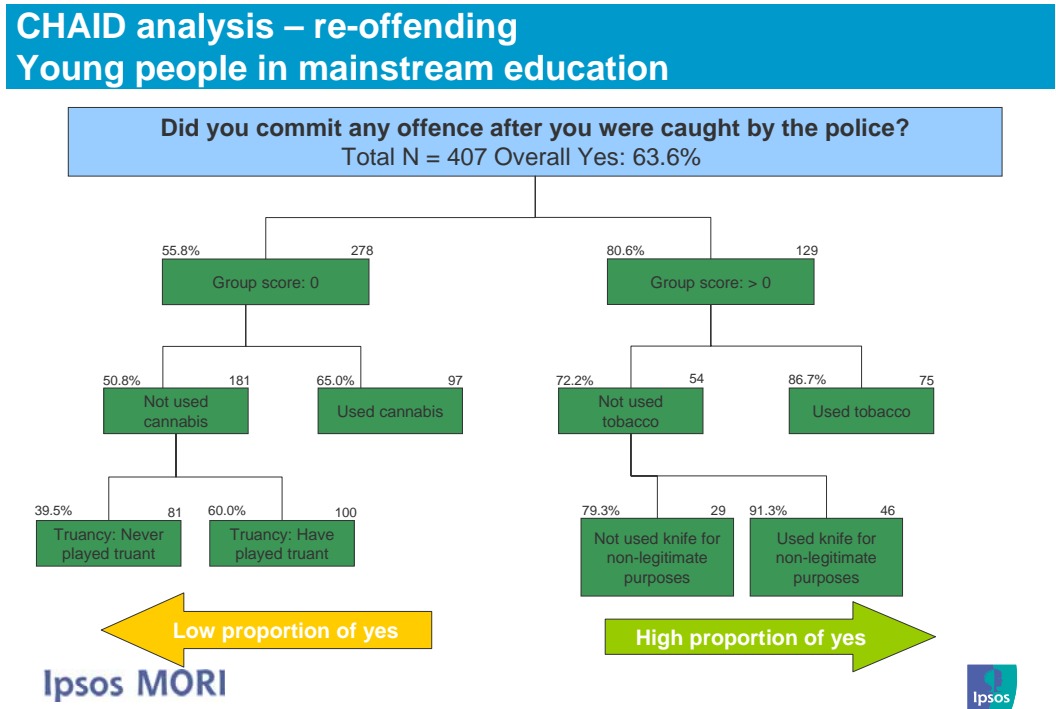
In this instance, CHAID was used to segment the data according to the propensity of young people to report reoffending.

³⁰⁸ Figures calculated from unweighted base sizes of 1441 young people in mainstream education who had carried a knife or gun and 2475 who had not.

³⁰⁹ Figures calculated from unweighted base sizes of 775 young people in PRUs who had carried a knife or gun and 294 who had not.

5.5.1 Young people in mainstream education

Figure 5.3: CHAID – those who had committed an offence after being caught by the police



For young people in mainstream education, group score³¹⁰ is the most discriminatory of the available predictors for reoffending. Just over four-fifths (81%) of those with a group score greater than zero had reoffended after being caught by police, compared with 56% of those with a group score of zero.

Within those who have a group score of zero, 65% of those who had used cannabis reported having reoffended, compared with 51% who had not used cannabis. Those who reported having never used cannabis then divide further on the basis of truancy: 40% of those who had never played truant reported reoffending, while the reoffending figure is significantly higher for those who had played truant (60%).

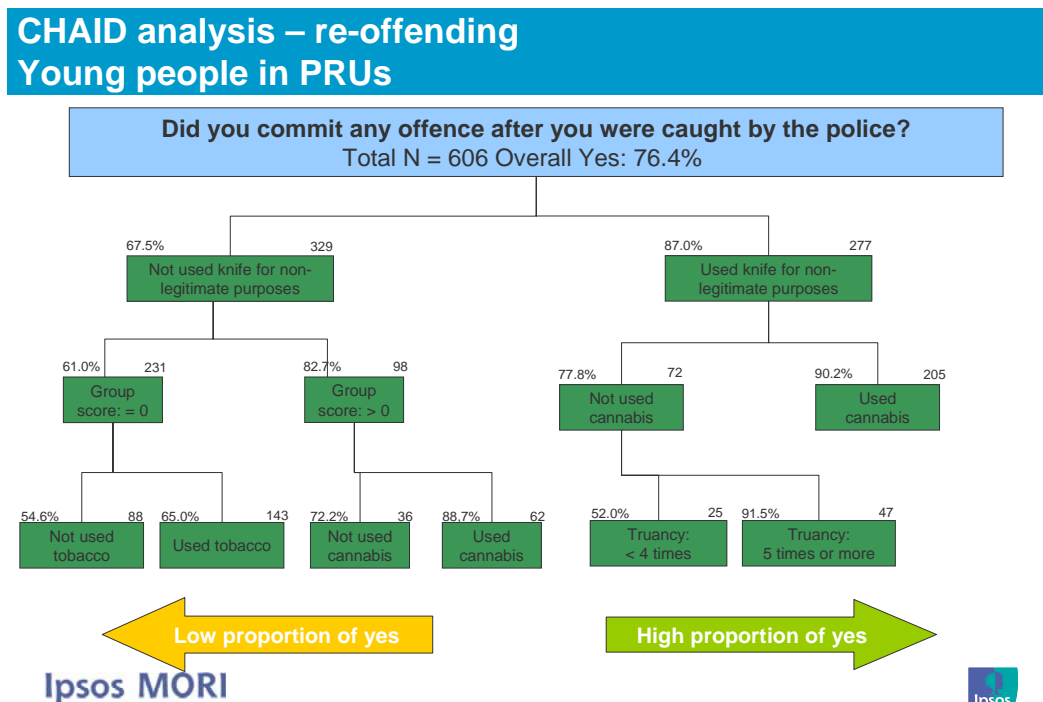
Within those who have a group score greater than zero, 87% of those who had ever used tobacco had reoffended, while a slightly lower reoffending rate (72%) is seen for young people who had not used tobacco.

³¹⁰ The group score is assigned to those who are part of a group in which crime is seen as acceptable, based on the number of characteristics that group has. A group score of zero is assigned if the respondent reports that committing crime is never seen as acceptable by their group. Equally, if the respondent does not consider themselves to be part of a group at all (based on a previous question) they would also be assigned a group score of zero.

A further divide is seen among those who had not used tobacco, based on whether they had carried a knife for purposes other than those deemed legitimate, with 91% who had used a knife for non-legitimate purposes having reoffended, compared to 79% who had not carried a knife for non-legitimate purposes.

5.5.2 Young people attending PRUs

Figure 5.4: CHAID – those who had committed an offence after being caught by the police



The reason for carrying a knife is the most discriminatory of the available predictors for reoffending among young people attending PRUs. In total, 87% of young people who had carried a knife for non-legitimate purposes had reoffended, compared with 68% of those who had not carried a knife for these reasons.

Within the grouping of those who had not carried a knife for non-legitimate purposes, group score is the strongest predictor for reoffending: 61% of those with a group score of zero reported reoffending, compared with 83% of those with a group score of greater than zero.

Further discrimination is seen in these groups:

- **those with a group score of zero**
Tobacco users are significantly more likely to reoffend than non-users (65%, compared to 55% who had not used tobacco).

- **those with a group score greater than zero**

Cannabis users are more likely to reoffend than those who had not used cannabis (89%, compared with 72%).

Within those who had carried a knife for non-legitimate purposes and had ever used cannabis, 90% had reoffended, compared with 78% of those who had never used cannabis (who are in the minority in this sub-group). Those who had never used cannabis can be broken down further into those who had played truant on five or more occasions (92% of whom reported reoffending), and those who had played truant four times or fewer (52% of whom reported reoffending).

5.6 Summary – reoffending behaviour

The steady rise in reoffending levels by those in mainstream schools after being caught by the police since 2001 has reversed in 2009, with 57% now claiming to have committed other offences after being caught (a decrease from 65% in 2008). In contrast, reoffending among those attending PRUs has remained consistent (72% in 2009, in line with 71% in 2008).

Young people in both mainstream schools and attending PRUs are more likely to report reoffending after being caught if they had carried a knife or gun. There is also an apparent link between reoffending and prevalence of truancy.

The three most common offences committed by young people in mainstream education after being caught by the police were:

damaging or destroying someone else’s belongings (45%)

shoplifting (43%)

threatening/assaulting others in public (40%).

The pattern was similar among young people attending PRUs:

threatening/assaulting others in public (56%)

damaging or destroying someone else’s belongings (52%)

shoplifting (48%).

Among those in either mainstream education or attending PRUs who did not commit further offences, the main reasons given were fear of being caught by the police (again) and growing up/settling down.

Young people in mainstream schools and attending PRUs also shared similar views about general deterrents to young people committing crime; concern about parental reaction and fear about being caught being the top two deterrents, as cited by young people themselves.

Appendix A – Typologies

List of offences by level of seriousness

Very serious

- Sneaked or broken into a house or building intending to steal something
- Driven a car or bike when you were drunk or over the limit
- Beat up or hurt someone in your family, causing them to need medical treatment
- Beat up or hurt someone not in your family, causing them to need medical treatment
- Taken a car, motorbike, etc, without the owner's permission
- Used or sold a stolen credit card, chequebook, cash card
- Carried a weapon other than a knife or gun
- Stolen a mobile phone from another person
- Stolen an iPod or other MP3 player
- Sold drugs to someone else
- Set fire to anything on purpose (e.g. building, car, furniture)
- Physically assaulted someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or because of a disability they have

Fairly serious

- Stolen anything from a shop, supermarket or department store
- Stolen anything in school
- Stolen anything from your home or the place where you live
- Stolen anything from a car
- Snatched anything from a person, like a purse or bag
- Stolen money from a gas or electricity meter, public phone, vending machine or any other type of machine
- Taken away a bicycle without the owner's permission
- Been a passenger in a car that was taken without the owner's permission
- Bought, sold or held on to something you believed to be stolen
- Threatened/assaulted others in public
- Hurt someone, but they did not need medical treatment
- Used a mobile phone to video or photograph someone while you or someone else assaulted them ('happy slapping')

Less serious

- Damaged or destroyed, on purpose or recklessly, something belonging to somebody else
- Written or sprayed graffiti on walls, buses, trains, seats, shelters
- Bought drugs for your own use
- Travelled on a bus, train or underground train without paying your fare
- Sent a voicemail or text message to someone on your mobile phone in order to scare, harass or threaten them in some way
- Threatened or been rude to someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or because of a disability they have

List of offences by type

Anti-social behaviour

- Damaged or destroyed, on purpose or recklessly, something belonging to someone else
- Travelled on a bus, train or underground without paying your fare
- Written or sprayed graffiti on walls, buses, trains, seats, shelters
- Set fire to anything on purpose (e.g. building, car, furniture)

Theft/stealing

- Stolen anything from a shop, supermarket or department store
- Bought, sold or held onto something you believed to be stolen
- Taken away a bicycle without the owner's permission
- Stolen a mobile phone from another person
- Been a passenger in a car that was taken without the owner's permission
- Sneaked or broken into a house or building intending to steal something
- Stolen anything in school
- Stolen anything from a car
- Taken a car, motorbike, etc, without the owner's permission
- Stolen anything from your home or the place where you live
- Stolen an ipod or other MP3 player
- Stolen money from a gas or electricity meter, public phone, vending machine or any other type of machine
- Used or sold a stolen credit card, chequebook, cash card
- Snatched anything from a person, like a purse or bag

Threatening or assaulting

- Threatened/ assaulted others in public
- Hurt someone, but they did not need medical treatment
- Beat up or hurt someone not in your family causing them to need medical treatment
- Sent a voicemail or text message to someone on your mobile in order to scare, harass or threaten them in some way
- Used a mobile phone to video or photograph someone while you or someone else assaulted them ('happy slapping')
- Threatened or been rude to someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or because of a disability they have
- Beat up or hurt someone in your family, causing them to need medical treatment
- Physically assaulted someone because of their skin colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or because of a disability they have

Drugs

- Bought drugs for your own use
- Sold drugs to someone else

Other offences

- Driven a car or bike when you were drunk or over the limit

Appendix B – Technical note

Schools

Below we outline the approach we adopted for surveying young people in mainstream education.

Sampling

The sample of schools drawn to take part in the survey comprised 342 middle and secondary state schools in England and Wales. The sampling universe included local education authority (LEA), voluntary aided/controlled and foundation schools, but excluded special schools and sixth-form colleges. Any schools contacted by Ipsos MORI to take part in other research studies during the same academic year were also excluded from the sample. This sampling frame was stratified by government office regions (GORs), including Wales, and, within each stratum, schools were selected proportional to the size of the school register – thus producing a nationally representative sample of secondary and middle schools.

Fieldwork for the study was conducted between 9 January and 3 April 2009. Of the 342 schools approached, 110 schools participated, giving a response rate of 32%. Overall, fully completed questionnaires were obtained from 4,855 pupils, at an average of 22 pupils per class.

Methodology

The age groups included in the survey were 11 to 16-year-olds in curriculum Years 7 to 11. Each school was randomly allocated one of these curriculum years, from which Ipsos MORI interviewers selected two classes at random to be interviewed. Interviewing was carried out through self-completion questionnaires with the whole class in one classroom period. An Ipsos MORI interviewer was present to explain the survey to pupils, reassure them about the confidentiality of the survey, assist them in completing the questionnaire and to collect completed questionnaires. In classes where four or more children were absent during the self-completion session, up to two follow-up visits were arranged to interview absent pupils.

Weighting

Weighting factors are sometimes applied to survey data in order to minimise any bias that may occur, as a result of under- or over-representation of certain groups among respondents. Any weighting that is applied has a 'design effect' which reduces the effective sample size and therefore increases sampling error.

After examining the profile of the data collected from the survey, we took the decision to weight the data by gender, age and region – using rrm rather than

inter-locking cell weights. The reason for choosing these variables was because this is where the profile of our survey data is slightly different from the known profiles, as recorded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

The weights are derived from data supplied by the DCSF and the Welsh Assembly Government (Statistical Directorate). The same weighting sources are used year-on-year to allow for comparability (the effect of weighting is shown in the computer tables).

When a weighting scheme is imposed after data collection, or the sample is clustered, then the precision would not be as great as would be suggested by using a straightforward simple random sample formula. Consequently, the confidence interval would be somewhat wider.

The extent to which these modifications affect the confidence interval is known as the design effect (DE). The DE for this survey is 1.1869. This is equivalent to reducing the effective sample size to 4,090 and widening the confidence interval by a further 0.1 percentage points.

PRUs

Below we outline the approach adopted for surveying the young people who attend pupil referral units (PRUs).

The sampling frame was provided by the Youth Justice Board from a database compiled by the Alternative Provision Team at the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Four-hundred and fifteen PRUs in England and Wales were invited to take part in the *Youth Survey 2009*, of which 145 agreed to take part. This represents a response rate of 35%.

Due to the nature of the regimes in PRUs – and the differences between them – random allocation of a year group to assist sampling was not possible. Therefore, interviewers could not use a number grid to select specific classes to approach, and the quantity and age of the pupils interviewed was often defined by the limitations imposed at each individual unit.

In total, interviews were conducted with 1,230 young people aged 11 to 16 in these units, between 26 January and 3 April 2009. Self-completion questionnaires were completed by each young person in a classroom setting. An Ipsos MORI interviewer was present to explain the survey to pupils, reassure them about the confidentiality of the survey, assist them in completing the questionnaire and, if necessary, to collect completed questionnaires.

The level of assistance in completing the questionnaire given by interviewers varied across units and young people. While many young people completed the questionnaire unassisted, some required assistance with one or two questions and others needed assistance with the whole survey. In all

circumstances, young people were asked not to confer or show their answers to fellow classmates. The same methodology for administering the questionnaires has been used in previous years of the survey.

Data were unweighted because, at the time of the survey, there was no definitive profile of young people who attend PRUs – against which the data could be judged for bias.

Although data was unweighted, in any survey where the sample is clustered, or there is unequal likelihood of inclusion, the precision would not be as great as would be suggested from using a straightforward simple random sample formula. Consequently, the confidence interval would be somewhat wider. The extent to which these modifications affect the confidence interval is known as the design effect (DE)

Appendix C – Statistical reliability

The respondents to the questionnaire are only samples of the total 'population', so we cannot be certain that the figures obtained are exactly those we would have if everybody had been interviewed (i.e. the 'true' values). We can, however, predict the variation between the sample results and the 'true' values from knowledge of the size of the samples on which the results are based, and the number of times that a particular answer is given. The confidence with which we can make this prediction is usually chosen to be 95% – that is, the chances are 95 in 100 that the 'true' value will fall within a specified range.

The table below illustrates the predicted ranges for different sample sizes and percentage results at the '95% confidence interval'.

| Size of sample on which survey results is based | Approximate sampling tolerances applicable to percentages at or near these levels | | |
|---|---|------------|-----|
| | 10% or 90% | 30% or 70% | 50% |
| | ± | ± | ± |
| 100 interviews | 6 | 9 | 10 |
| 500 interviews | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| 1,230 interviews (PRU survey) | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| 4,855 interviews (schools survey) | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

For example, with a sample size of 1,230, where 30% give a particular answer, the chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value (which would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed) will fall within the range of plus or minus 3 percentage points, i.e. between 27% and 33%.

A similar technique is applied to comparisons between subgroup responses. When undertaking a comparison between two subgroups, the difference is only considered 'statistically significant' if the 95% confidence intervals do not overlap. The size of the confidence intervals is again, dependent on the subgroup size and proportion under investigation. To have confidence at the 95% level, the differences between the two sample results must be greater than the values given in the table overleaf:

| Size of sample compared | Differences required for significance at or near these percentage levels | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------|-----|
| | 10% or 90% | 30% or 70% | 50% |
| | ± | ± | ± |
| 100 and 100 | 8 | 13 | 14 |
| 250 and 100 | 7 | 11 | 12 |
| 500 and 250 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| 1,000 and 500 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| 1,000 and 1,000 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| 1,500 and 1,000 | 2 | 4 | 4 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

Appendix D – Statistical analysis

Further statistical analysis was carried out on the *Youth Survey 2009* findings, as detailed below.

Key driver analysis (regression analysis)

Key driver analysis (KDA) is a statistical tool that explores how one particular measure is affected by other, related variables. It uses multiple regression analysis, which is an effective way of exploring how the response an individual gives to one question is affected by their responses to other questions. KDA is a useful tool for finding out how much of the variation in responses to an outcome of interest (e.g. whether or not a young person has committed an offence) can be explained by their answers to other questions (e.g. whether they have used a substance).

Separate KDA models were run for mainstream schools and PRUS, looking at three outcomes of interest:

- self-reported offending (as at Q2)
- self-reported reoffending (as at Q12)
- self-reported victimisation (as at Q24a).

It is important to note that due to the limited variables which could be included in the KDA, the models are of *propensity* only – i.e. the drivers are *not* predictors of offending/reoffending/being a victim, but instead are indicators of who is more likely to do, or experience, those things. Therefore, the KDA models are more accurately defined as propensity models, as opposed to causal/predictive models. For example, if age was identified as the most influential ‘driver’, it would lack face validity to claim that one’s age causes one to commit (or be a victim of) crime. All that can be claimed is that there is an increased propensity for individuals of a particular age to commit/be a victim of crime. It should be noted that whereas offending and reoffending are *active* behaviours, being the victim of an offence differs in that it is *passive*.

Each KDA model that is run highlights key drivers of the outcome of interest and each key driver has a relative strength within the model. The model itself also has a measure of strength, as expressed by a percentage of variation explained – as can be seen in the table below. Generally speaking, a good model will be able to explain the majority of the variation (R-sq > 50%), therefore findings from these KDAs should be treated with caution. It should be noted that the *Youth Survey 2009* questionnaire is not particularly conducive to running further statistical analysis, given the nature of the questions included, and this therefore contributes to the limited strength of the models.

| | Mainstream schools | PRUs |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | % of variation explained | % of variation explained |
| Offending model | 32% | 30% |
| Reoffending model | 17% | 15% |
| Victimisation model | 19% | 12% |

For example, for the offending KDA, a regression model was developed using data from certain questions in the *Youth Survey 2009* questionnaire. These factors together account for 32% of the variation in levels of the outcome of interest (e.g. offending). This therefore means that 68% of variation in offending is accounted for by factors outside this regression model. This will include variation caused by factors such as personal characteristics and a variety of other issues.

Where relevant, reference is made throughout the report where results from the KDA support the survey findings.

CHAID Analysis

Chi-squared automatic interaction detector (CHAID) is a statistical segmentation technique. In this instance, it was used to segment the data according to the propensity of young people to report three different behaviours:

- offending
- reoffending
- being a victim.

Separate CHAID models were run for young people in mainstream education and young people attending PRUs.

The predictors within the three CHAID models were selected from the following 17 variables:

| Variable number | Question number | Variable Label | Measurement |
|------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1 | QA | Age | Ordinal 6 (11-16) |
| 2 | QB | Gender | Binary (M-F) |
| 3 | QC | Ethnicity | Nominal 5 (White, Black, Asian, All Mixed and other, N/S) |
| 4 | QD | Household parental composition | Nominal 4 (Both parents, one parent, no parents, N/S) |
| 5 | QD | Siblings | Binary (Y/N) |
| 6 | Government Office Region (GOR) data used | Geographic region | Nominal 10 (representing GORs) |
| 7 | Q16 | Use a knife for legitimate purposes | Binary (Y/N) |
| 8 | Q16 | Use a gun for legitimate purposes | Binary (Y/N) |
| 9 | Q16 | Use a knife for non-legitimate purposes | Binary (Y/N) |
| 10 | Q16 | Use a gun for non-legitimate purposes | Binary (Y/N) |
| 11 | Q18 | Consider oneself in a group | Binary (Y/N) |
| 12 | Q19 | Number of group features | Discrete scale (0-6) |
| 13 | Q19 and Q20 | Group score based on crime being seen as acceptable and number of group features | Discrete scale (0-6) |
| 14 | Q28 | Frequency of truancy | Discrete scale (Never, 1-2 times, 3-4 times, 5-9 times, 10-14 times, 15-19 times, more) |

| | | | |
|----|-----|--------------|----------------|
| | | | than 20 times) |
| 15 | Q35 | Alcohol use | Binary (Y/N) |
| 16 | Q35 | Cannabis use | Binary (Y/N) |
| 17 | Q35 | Tobacco use | Binary (Y/N) |

As outlined in the report, CHAID uses statistical testing (Chi-square tests) to test each grouping within a variable to find the most discriminatory grouping. Therefore, the groups for the variables included in the final model may differ from those throughout the rest of the report. For example, truancy is grouped as 'never played truant', 'less than 15 times' and 'at least 15 times' in the model on being a victim.

As outlined in the report, the variable created from questions 19 and 20 (variable 13 – group score) is formed from combining the sum of the elements of question 19 (number of features that a group has), with question 20 (whether one's group sees the committing of a crime as acceptable). A group score of zero is assigned if the respondent reports that committing crime is never seen as acceptable. If the respondent gives either positive response in question 20 (yes – always, or yes – sometimes), they are assigned a group score based on the number of features in question 19 that apply to their group.

If the respondent does not consider themselves to be part of a group (based on the response at question 18), the default group score of zero will also apply. The additional variable created from question 19 (variable 12) only takes account of the number of group features displayed by the respondent's group, regardless of whether the respondent is part of a group that sees crime as acceptable or not. Both variables are considered in the CHAID process, but only the group is selected as a discriminator in the CHAID models.

For variables 7 to 10, legitimate reasons at question 16 are defined as 'hobbies, activities or sports' and 'work-related reasons'. Therefore, for variables 9 and 10, if the respondent has answered positively to any of the other reasons, they are assigned the value of one, otherwise a zero is assigned.

The valid responses included for each model for mainstream schools and PRUs are shown at the top of each chart in the main report.

Appendix E – Sample profile

| Sample profile: Young people in PRUs | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|------|-----|
| | 2009 | | 2008 | | 2005 | | 2004 | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Total | 1230 | 100 | 914 | 100 | 1,584 | 100 | 687 | 100 |
| Age of pupils | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | 36 | 3 | 22 | 2 | 36 | 2 | 11 | 2 |
| 12 | 107 | 9 | 64 | 7 | 97 | 6 | 37 | 5 |
| 13 | 261 | 21 | 167 | 18 | 279 | 18 | 106 | 15 |
| 14 | 275 | 22 | 215 | 24 | 386 | 24 | 178 | 26 |
| 15/16 and over | 512 | 42 | 387 | 42 | 758 | 48 | 333 | 48 |
| Gender of pupils | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 857 | 70 | 651 | 71 | 1,156 | 73 | 502 | 73 |
| Female | 344 | 28 | 248 | 27 | 411 | 26 | 174 | 25 |
| Ethnic Origin | | | | | | | | |
| White | 1006 | 82 | 752 | 82 | 1,369 | 86 | 561 | 82 |
| Black and ethnic minorities | 201 | 16 | 151 | 17 | 198 | 13 | 117 | 17 |
| Black/ Black British | 84 | 7 | 71 | 8 | 119 | 8 | 83 | 12 |
| Asian/ Asian British | 37 | 3 | 20 | 2 | 31 | 2 | 15 | 2 |
| Mixed | 68 | 6 | 46 | 5 | | | | |
| Other | 12 | 1 | 14 | 2 | | | | |
| Family composition | | | | | | | | |
| Mother | 989 | 80 | 733 | 80 | | | | |
| Stepmother | 38 | 3 | 26 | 3 | | | | |
| Foster mother | 54 | 4 | 41 | 4 | | | | |
| Father | 433 | 35 | 364 | 40 | | | | |
| Stepfather | 190 | 15 | 124 | 14 | | | | |
| Foster father | 44 | 4 | 30 | 3 | | | | |
| Brother | 630 | 51 | 464 | 51 | | | | |
| Sister | 590 | 48 | 436 | 48 | | | | |
| Somebody else | 182 | 15 | 145 | 16 | | | | |
| Both parents in h/hold | 584 | 47 | | | 796 | 50 | 321 | 47 |
| Single parent in h/hold | 557 | 45 | | | 608 | 38 | 287 | 42 |
| Sibling in h/hold | 861 | 70 | | | 1,144 | 72 | 478 | 70 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|-------|----|----|-------|----|----|-------|----|----|-------|----|----|-------|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Mixed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 195 | 4 | 4 | 142 | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 41 | 1 | 1 | 73 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Government Office Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| North East | 300 | 6 | 5 | 313 | 7 | 5 | 192 | 4 | 5 | 249 | 5 | 5 | 272 | 5 | 5 | 223 | 4 | 3 | 332 | 6 | 5 | 321 | 12 | 6 |
| North West (incl. Merseyside) | 643 | 13 | 14 | 484 | 10 | 14 | 660 | 12 | 14 | 685 | 15 | 14 | 669 | 13 | 14 | 717 | 14 | 14 | 687 | 13 | 14 | 350 | 13 | 13 |
| Yorkshire & Humberside | 648 | 13 | 10 | 426 | 9 | 10 | 489 | 9 | 10 | 283 | 6 | 10 | 274 | 6 | 10 | 487 | 9 | 10 | 403 | 8 | 10 | 216 | 8 | 9 |
| East Midlands | 412 | 10 | 8 | 470 | 10 | 8 | 522 | 10 | 8 | 396 | 8 | 8 | 511 | 10 | 8 | 559 | 11 | 9 | 649 | 12 | 8 | 529 | 19 | 19 |
| West Midlands | 524 | 14 | 11 | 447 | 9 | 11 | 517 | 9 | 11 | 410 | 9 | 11 | 627 | 13 | 11 | 401 | 8 | 11 | 457 | 9 | 11 | 362 | 10 | 11 |
| Eastern (incl. Anglia) | 587 | 12 | 12 | 476 | 10 | 10 | 898 | 16 | 10 | 664 | 14 | 10 | 716 | 14 | 10 | 499 | 10 | 10 | 691 | 13 | 10 | 340 | 12 | 4 |
| London | 247 | 5 | 7 | 520 | 11 | 12 | 1,571 | 29 | 26 | 1,283 | 27 | 26 | 1,003 | 20 | 26 | 1,477 | 29 | 27 | 1,038 | 20 | 17 | 388 | 14 | 34 |
| South East | 733 | 15 | 20 | 683 | 14 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| South West | 227 | 5 | 9 | 408 | 9 | 9 | 286 | 5 | 9 | 477 | 10 | 9 | 446 | 9 | 9 | 567 | 11 | 9 | 651 | 12 | 9 | 341 | 12 | 9 |
| Wales | 318 | 6 | 6 | 523 | 11 | 6 | 328 | 6 | 6 | 268 | 6 | 6 | 445 | 9 | 6 | 237 | 5 | 7 | 355 | 7 | 6 | 282 | 10 | 6 |

Table A2.13: Where victimisation takes place – young people in mainstream education

Cont'd *For each one, where did this happen?*

| Base: All who had been a victim of each individual offence in the last 12 months | | <i>Base:</i> | At school | Travelling to and from school | Where I live/ local area | Home | Else-where | Not stated |
|---|-------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| | | | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Been attacked with a knife or gun | 2009 | (185) | 16 | 11* | 25 | 8 | 27 | 43 |
| | 2008 | (102) | 14 | 4 | 27 | N/A | 25 | - |
| | 2005 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Had something which belongs to you damaged or destroyed on purpose | 2009 | (676) | 38 | 9 | 22* | 16 | 17 | 27 |
| | 2008 | (625) | 39 | 8 | 31 | N/A | 18 | - |
| | 2005 | (704) | 47 | 10 | 31 | N/A | 22 | 18 |
| Been bullied | 2009 | (1,349) | 72* | 20 | 17 | 6 | 13 | 17 |
| | 2008 | (1,100) | 76 | 20 | 20 | N/A | 14 | - |
| | 2005 | (1,175) | 79 | 23 | 24 | N/A | 12 | 11 |
| Been the victim of an offence not mentioned above | 2009 | (340) | 17* | 10 | 14* | 8 | 14* | 59 |
| | 2008 | (188) | 25 | 9 | 28 | N/A | 24 | - |
| | 2005 | (124) | 33 | 17 | 27 | N/A | 21 | 31 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

Young people in PRUs:

Table A2.14 Where victimisation takes place – young people attending PRUs

For each one, where did this happen?

| Base: All who had been a victim of each individual offence in the last 12 months | | At school | Travelling to and from school | Where I live/ local area | Home | Else-where | Not stated | |
|---|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------|------------|------------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | Base: |
| Been physically attacked | 2009 | (544) | 26 | 14 | 41 | 11 | 34 | 13 |
| | 2008 | (336) | 26 | 15 | 50 | N/A | 33 | N/A |
| | 2005 | (520) | 13 | 6 | 53 | N/A | 40 | 8 |
| Been threatened by others | 2009 | (543) | 29 | 18 | 41 | 11 | 32 | 16 |
| | 2008 | (373) | 29 | 17 | 52 | N/A | 34 | N/A |
| | 2005 | (669) | 12 | 9 | 55 | N/A | 35 | 12 |
| Had a mobile phone stolen from you | 2009 | (268) | 21 | 9 | 27 | 10 | 26 | 23 |
| | 2008 | (183) | 20 | 8 | 40 | N/A | 30 | N/A |
| | 2005 | (186) | 8 | 6 | 48 | N/A | 28 | 18 |
| Had something other than a mobile phone stolen from you | 2009 | (262) | 19 | 10 | 28 | 17 | 30 | 22 |
| | 2008 | (195) | 13 | 5 | 42 | N/A | 24 | N/A |
| | 2005 | (292) | 10 | 7 | 45 | N/A | 27 | 25 |
| Been racially abused | 2009 | (160) | 36 | 16 | 28 | 7 | 31 | 26 |
| | 2008 | (86) | 15 | 9 | 35 | N/A | 30 | N/A |
| | 2005 | (131) | 21 | 7 | 34 | N/A | 42 | 21 |
| Been racially attacked | 2009 | (126) | 20 | 10 | 25 | 7 | 31 | 33 |
| | 2008 | (52) | 21 | 10 | 23 | N/A | 37 | N/A |
| | 2005 | (76) | 17 | 9 | 32 | N/A | 38 | 24 |
| Been threatened with a knife or gun | 2009 | (287) | 10 | 11 | 40 | 7 | 41 | 20 |
| | 2008 | (203) | 3 | 6 | 43 | N/A | 38 | N/A |
| | 2005 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Been attacked with a knife or gun | 2009 | (141) | 10 | 9 | 31 | 7 | 35 | 28 |
| | 2008 | (104) | 6 | 7 | 39 | N/A | 35 | N/A |
| | 2005 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Table A2.14 Where victimisation takes place – young people attending PRUs

Cont'd For each one, where did this happen?

| Base: All who had been a victim of each individual offence in the last 12 months | | <i>Base:</i> | At school | Travelling to and from school | Where I live/ local area | Home | Else-where | Not stated |
|---|-------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| | | | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Had something which belongs to you damaged or destroyed on purpose | 2009 | <u>(246)</u> | 26 | 12 | 34 | 24 | 26 | 23 |
| | 2008 | <u>(166)</u> | 16 | 9 | 39 | N/A | 21 | N/A |
| | 2005 | <u>(264)</u> | 9 | 6 | 48 | N/A | 31 | 25 |
| | 2004 | <u>(99)</u> | 9 | 1 | 53 | N/A | 19 | 28 |
| Been bullied | 2009 | <u>(299)</u> | 61 | 25 | 31 | 14 | 23 | 18 |
| | 2008 | <u>(177)</u> | 59 | 26 | 32 | N/A | 23 | ?? |
| | 2005 | <u>(288)</u> | 30 | 13 | 43 | N/A | 36 | 18 |
| | 2004 | <u>(109)</u> | 28 | 13 | 44 | N/A | 28 | 19 |
| Been the victim of an offence not mentioned above | 2009 | <u>(105)</u> | 20 | 8 | 25 | 10 | 28 | 37 |
| | 2008 | <u>(45)</u> | 24 | 7 | 38 | N/A | 31 | N/A |
| | 2005 | <u>(73)</u> | 16 | 10 | 29 | N/A | 40 | 34 |
| | 2004 | <u>(32)</u> | 3 | 3 | 41 | N/A | 25 | 38 |

Source: Ipsos MORI

Stock code: D125