

Statistical Bulletin

Burglary Offences

Introduction

This bulletin provides information on volumes and sentence outcomes for adult offenders¹ sentenced for offences covered by the Sentencing Council's draft guideline on burglary offences. There are three draft guidelines covering the following offences:

- Non-domestic burglary (section 9);
- Domestic burglary (section 9);
- Aggravated burglary (section 10).

These offences are covered by sections 9 and 10 of the Theft Act 1968.

The Court Proceedings Database (CPD), maintained by the Ministry of Justice, is the data source for this bulletin.

Additional figures are available to download as Excel spreadsheets or Open Document spreadsheets at the following link:

<http://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/publications/?type=publications&s&cat=statistical-bulletin>.

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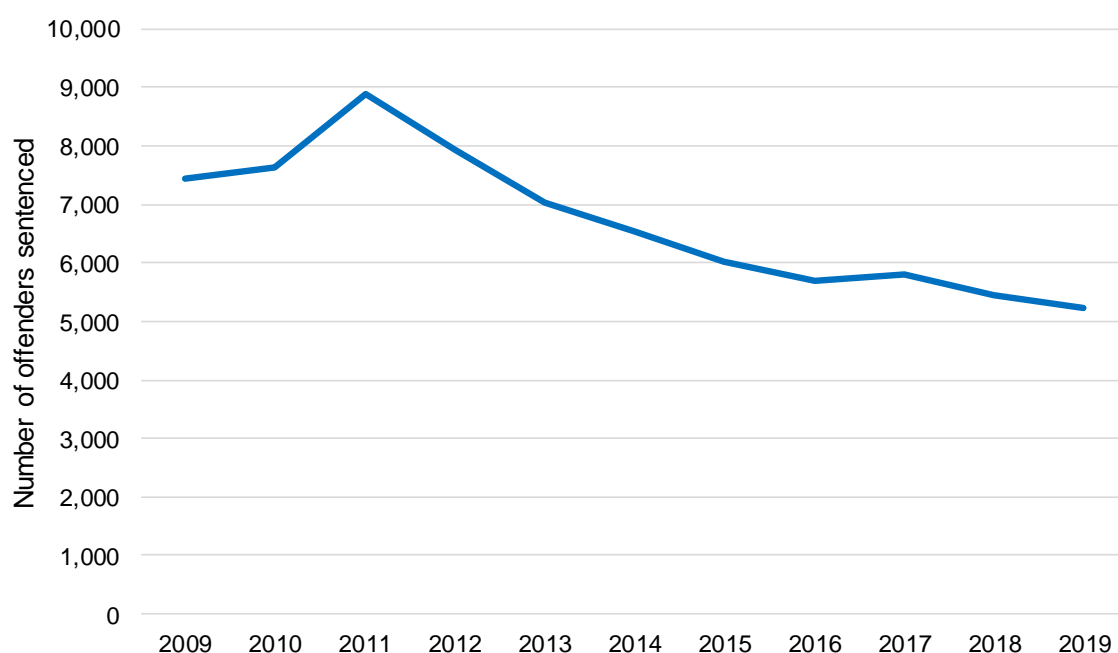
¹ Offenders aged 18 or over at the time of conviction.

Non-domestic burglary

Sentence volumes

In 2019, around 5,200 adults were sentenced for a non-domestic burglary offence. This number has been decreasing since a peak in 2011 when 8,900 adults were sentenced for this offence. In 2019, 64 per cent of offenders were sentenced in magistrates' courts and the remaining 36 per cent were sentenced in the Crown Court.

Figure 1: Number of adults sentenced for non-domestic burglary, 2009-2019



Sentence outcomes

Just over half (55 per cent) of those sentenced for non-domestic burglary in 2019 were sentenced to immediate custody. A further 22 per cent and 17 per cent of adults received a community sentence and a suspended sentence respectively. In addition, 2 per cent received a fine, 2 per cent were discharged and 2 per cent were 'otherwise dealt with'².

Sentence lengths

The statutory maximum sentence for this offence is 10 years' custody. In 2019, the average custodial sentence length (ACSL)³ was 11.3 months. Of those sentenced to immediate custody, almost three-quarters (73 per cent) received a sentence of 1 year

² The category 'Otherwise dealt with' in this case includes: one day in police cells; hospital order; forfeiture of property; restraining order; a deferred sentence; compensation; and other miscellaneous disposals. Due to a data issue currently under investigation, there are a number of non-domestic burglary cases which are incorrectly categorised in the CPD as 'Otherwise dealt with'. The figures shown for 'Otherwise dealt with' should therefore be treated with caution.

³ The average custodial sentence lengths presented in this report are mean average custodial sentence length values for offenders sentenced to determinate custodial sentences, after any reduction for guilty plea.

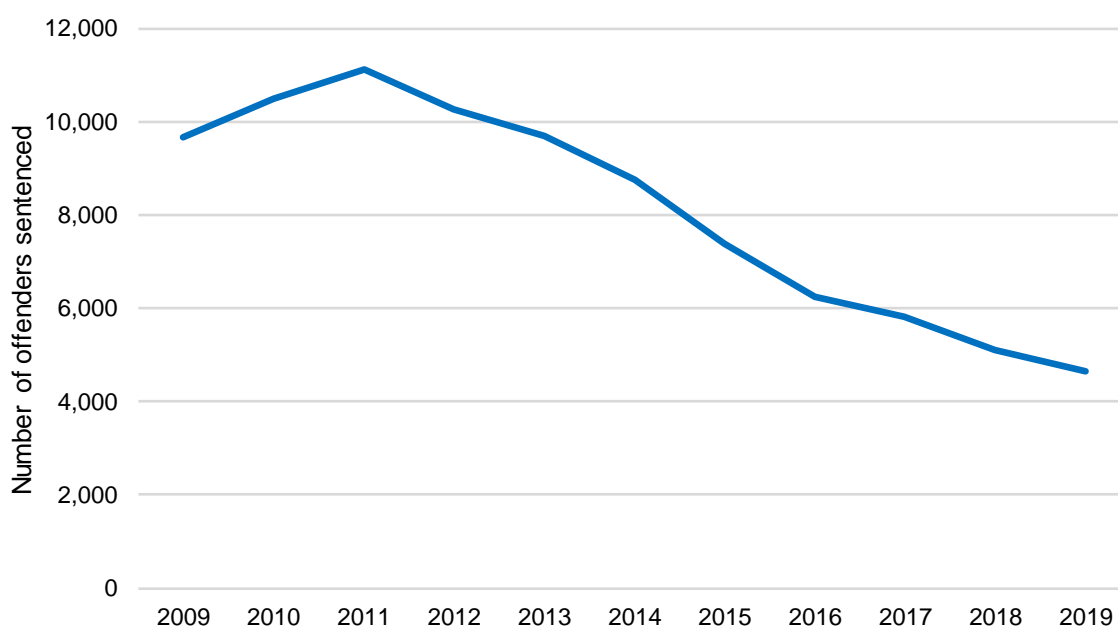
or less⁴. A further 15 per cent received a sentence of between 1 and 2 years. The remaining 12 per cent received a sentence of over 2 years.

Domestic burglary

Sentence volumes

Around 4,700 adults were sentenced for a domestic burglary offence in 2019. As with non-domestic burglary, there has been a decrease since a high of 11,100 in 2011. Most offenders were sentenced in the Crown Court (87 per cent), the remaining 13 per cent was in magistrates' courts.

Figure 2: Number of adults sentenced for domestic burglary, 2009-2019



Sentence outcomes

In 2019, just over three-quarters (77 per cent) of those adults sentenced for domestic burglary received an immediate custodial sentence. A further 12 per cent received a suspended sentence and 9 per cent received a community sentence. Additionally, 2 per cent were 'otherwise dealt with'⁵, 1 per cent were discharged and less than 0.5 per cent were fined.

⁴ Sentence length intervals do not include the lower bound, but do include the upper bound sentence length. For example, the category 'Less than 1 year' includes sentence lengths less than and equal to 1 year, and '1 to 2' includes sentence lengths over 1 year, and up to and including 2 years.

⁵ The category 'Otherwise dealt with' in this case includes: one day in police cells; hospital order; compensation; restraining order; and other miscellaneous disposals. Due to a data issue currently under investigation, there are a number of domestic burglary cases which are incorrectly categorised in the CPD as 'Otherwise dealt with'. The figures shown for 'Otherwise dealt with' should therefore be treated with caution.

Sentence lengths

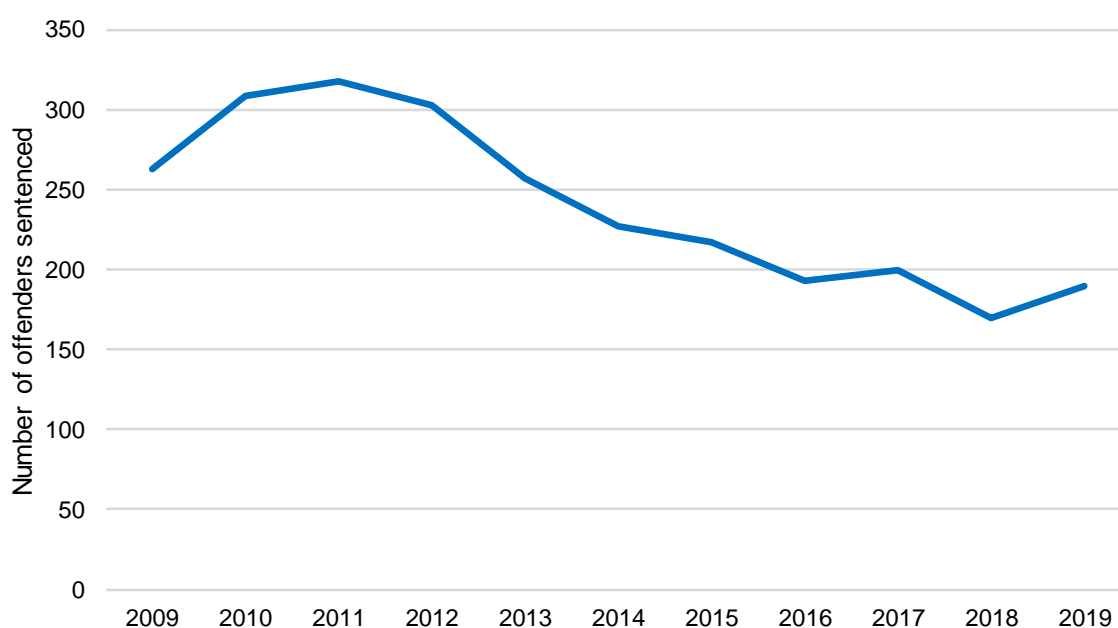
The statutory maximum sentence for this offence is 14 years' custody and the ACSL in 2019 was 28.6 months. Of those sentenced to immediate custody, 34 per cent received a custodial sentence between 2 and 3 years. Around 22 per cent received a sentence of between 1 and 2 years and 21 per cent received a sentence of less than 1 year.

Aggravated burglary

Sentence volumes

Around 190 adults were sentenced for an aggravated burglary in 2019. This is a reduction from 2011 when 320 adults were sentenced for the same offence. This offence is indictable only and therefore all sentences were given in the Crown Court⁶.

Figure 3: Number of adults sentenced for aggravated burglary, 2009-2019



Sentence outcomes

In 2019, nearly all offenders (91 per cent) received an immediate custodial sentence with the remaining 9 per cent recorded as otherwise dealt with⁷.

⁶ There were 8 aggravated burglary cases between 2009 and 2019 that were recorded in the CPD as being sentenced in magistrates' courts. These have been removed from the data as this offence is indictable only.

⁷ The category 'Otherwise dealt with' in this case includes, otherwise dealt with on conviction (or finding of guilt) and victim surcharge. Due to a data issue currently under investigation, there are a number of aggravated burglary cases incorrectly categorised in the CPD as 'Otherwise dealt with', whereby offenders have been incorrectly coded as having victim surcharges as their main sentence. The figures shown for 'Otherwise dealt with' should therefore be treated with caution.

Sentence lengths

The statutory maximum sentence for this offence is life imprisonment. The ACSL in 2019 was 7.8 years and 1 per cent of those sentenced in 2019 received an indeterminate sentence. Just under 60 per cent of adults received a custodial sentence of between 6 and 12 years, 38 per cent received a sentence of less than 4 years and the remaining 2 per cent were given sentences of over 12 years.

Further information

Volumes of sentences

The data presented in this bulletin only include cases where the offence detailed was the principal offence committed. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences this is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe. Although the offender will receive a sentence for each of the offences that they are convicted of, it is only the sentence for the principal offence that is presented in this bulletin.

Sentence outcomes

The outcomes presented are the final sentence outcomes, after taking into account all factors of the case, including whether a guilty plea was made. This is because the sentence length information available in the Court Proceedings Database is the final sentence imposed, after any reduction for guilty plea.

General conventions

Actual numbers of sentences have been rounded to the nearest 100, when more than 1,000 offenders were sentenced, and to the nearest 10 when less than 1,000 offenders were sentenced.

Data sources and quality

The source of data for this bulletin is the Court Proceedings Database (CPD), which is maintained by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). Every effort is made by MoJ and the Sentencing Council to ensure that the figures presented in this publication are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. Subsequently, although numbers in the accompanying tables available online are shown to the last digit in order to provide a comprehensive record of the information collected, they are not necessarily accurate to the last digit shown.

Further details of the processes by which MoJ validate the records in the CPD can be found within the guide to their Criminal Justice Statistics publication which can be

downloaded via the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics>

Contact points for further information

We would be very pleased to hear your views on our statistical bulletins. If you have any feedback or comments, please send them to:

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Further information on the Sentencing Council and its work can be found at:

<http://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/>