



**An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh**

Central
Statistics
Office

Standard SIMS Report: Probation Re-Offending 2019



Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

Probation Re-Offending

This documentation applies to the reporting period:
2019

Last edited: 29/11/2023



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2. Introduction

Measuring re-offending is a core indicator of the effectiveness of a wide array of justice policies focused on managing the law and legal process in Ireland. CSO have since 2011 created estimates of probation reoffending to provide the Probation service, Department of Justice and wider public with an indicator of the effectiveness of sanctions linked to upholding the law. The CSO's principal statistic to measure reoffending is the re-offending rate of the population of probationers for the reference year provided by the probation service each year. The rate is calculated by linking individuals who have received probation to police and courts records to establish if a qualifying re-offending offence has taken place within the qualifying period.

3. Contact

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4. Metadata Update

4.1. Metadata last certified

29/11/2023

4.2. Metadata last posted

18/12/2023

4.3. Metadata last update

29/11/2023



5. Statistical Presentation

5.1. Data Description

Statistical tables covering estimates of Probation re-offending classified by personal (age, sex, dwelling location) and crime related (offence, re-offence) characteristics.

Lifting of Under Reservation Categorisation

Following the publication of the fifth Review of the Quality of Crime Statistics in October 2023, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) has lifted the 'Under Reservation' categorisation around Recorded Crime Statistics. This is possible because An Garda Síochána have introduced a range of quality measures over the last number of years which have resulted in sustained improvement in the quality of the underlying crime data. These changes give a level of assurance to users that they can rely on Recorded Crime Statistics. For further information see our [Lifting of Under Reservation categorisation for Recorded Crime Statistics FAQ](#) page.

5.2. Classification System

- Age (Age categories)
- Gender/sex (male, female)
- NUTS3 geographical
- Irish Crime classification (offence and re-offence type)
- Offender / Re-offender (1,2,3 year)
- Probation type
- Custodial / Non-custodial indicator

. The following outcomes have been classified for this purpose under either custodial or non-custodial sanction.

Classification	Court Outcome Description
Custodial	Detention Detention - Consecutive Detention - Part Suspended Juvenile Detention between the ages of 12 - 17 yrs Juvenile Detention Consecutive Sentence 12 -17 yrs Imprisonment Imprisonment - Consecutive Imprisonment - Consecutive & Part Suspended Imprisonment - Part Suspended Imprisonment in Absence Imprisonment in Absence - Consecutive Remand on Continuing Bail
Non-Custodial	Disqualification - FOR LIFE Detention - Suspended Conviction / Probation Act Orders Dismiss Probation Act 1(2) Disqualification Conviction / Probation Act Orders Forthwith Fine Fine



Classification	Court Outcome Description
	Imprisonment - Suspended Juvenile Fine Order Community Service Order Strike Out Community Service Order - Consecutive Unusual Result 'Withdrawn Imprisonment - Consecutive & Suspended Detention - Consecutive & Consecutive & Suspended

Custodial/Non-custodial court outcomes

For the purposes of showing re-offending sanctions in this publication, court outcomes have been classified to provide aggregate estimates of either a custodial or non-custodial reprimand. The following outcomes have been classified for this purpose under either custodial or non-custodial sanction.

ICCSQ Offence Groups		
01	Homicide Offences	Murder Manslaughter Infanticide Manslaughter (traffic fatality) Dangerous driving causing death
02	Sexual Offences	Rape of a male or female Rape Section 4 Unlawful carnal knowledge/Criminal law (Sexual Offences Act) 2006 Buggery Sexual offence involving mentally impaired person Aggravated sexual assault Sexual Assault Incest Child pornography offences Child pornography – obstruction of warrant Gross indecency
03	Attempts or Threats to Murder, Assaults, Harassments and Related Offences	Murder – attempt Threat to kill or cause serious harm Assault causing harm Poisoning Assault or obstruction of Garda/official, resisting arrest Minor assault Coercion Harassment, stalking, threats Demanding payment of debt causing alarm Housing Act Menacing phone calls Incitement to hatred offences
04	Dangerous or Negligent Acts	Dangerous driving causing serious bodily harm Driving/In charge of a vehicle while over legal alcohol limit



ICCSQ Offence Groups		
		Driving/In charge of a vehicle while under the influence of drugs Endangerment with potential for serious harm or death Abandoning a child, child neglect and cruelty Unseaworthy/dangerous use of a boat or ship False alarm/interference with aircraft or air transport facilities Endangering traffic offences
05	Kidnapping and Related Offences	False imprisonment Abduction of person under 16 years of age Human trafficking offences
06	Robbery, Extortion and Hijacking Offences	Robbery of an establishment or institution Robbery of cash of goods in transit Robbery from the person Blackmail or extortion Carjacking, hijacking/unlawful seizure of aircraft/vessel
07	Burglary and Related Offences	Aggravated burglary Burglary (not aggravated) Possession of an article (with intent to burgle, steal, demand)
08	Theft and Related Offences	Theft/Unauthorised taking of a vehicle Interfering with vehicle (with intent to steal item or vehicle) Theft from person Theft from shop Theft from vehicle Theft/Unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle Theft of, or interference with, mail Handling or possession of stolen property Theft of other property
09	Fraud, Deception and Related Offences	Fraud, deception, false pretence offences Forging an instrument to defraud Possession of an article for use in fraud, deception or extortion Falsification of accounts Offences under the Companies Act Offences under the Investment Intermediaries Act Offences under the Stock Exchange Act Money laundering Embezzlement Fraud against the European Union Importation/Sale/Supply of tobacco Counterfeiting notes and coins Counterfeiting of goods Bad debts criminal (Debtors Ireland) Corruption (involving public office holder)
10	Controlled Drug Offences	Importation of drugs Cultivation or manufacture of drugs Possession of drugs for sale or supply



ICCSQ Offence Groups		
		Possession of drugs for personal use Forged or altered prescription offences Obstruction under the Drugs Act
11	Weapons and Explosives Offences	Causing an explosion Making of explosives Possession of explosives Chemical weapons offences Discharging a firearm Possession of a firearm Possession of offensive weapons (not firearms) Fireworks offences (for sale, igniting etc.)
12	Damage to Property and to the Environment	Arson Criminal damage (not arson) Litter offences
13	Public Order and Other Social Code Offences	Affray/Riot/Violent disorder Public order offences Drunkenness offences Air rage-disruptive or drunken behaviour on aircraft Forcible entry and occupation (not burglary) Trespass on lands or enclosed areas Liquor licensing offences Registered clubs offences Special restaurant offences Provision of intoxicating liquor to under 18 year olds Purchase or consumption of alcohol by under 18 year olds Sale of intoxicating liquor to under 18 year olds Brothel keeping Organisation of prostitution Prostitution, including soliciting etc. Offences under the Betting Acts Collecting money without permit, unauthorised collection Offences under Gaming and Lotteries Acts Permit/License offences for casual/street trading Allowing a child (under 16 years) to beg Bigamy Bestiality Indecency Begging
14	Road and Traffic Offences (NEC)	Driving licence-failure to have, produce etc. Insurance-failure to have, produce, display etc. No tax, non-display of tax, unregistered vehicle etc. Misuse of Trade Licence Misuse of trailers, weight and other offences Obstruction under road traffic acts Other road offences Road transport – carriage of goods offences Public service vehicle offences Light rail offences (Luas)



ICCSQ Offence Groups		
15	Offences against Government, Justice Procedures and Organisation of Crime	Treason Breaches of Offences Against the State Acts Breaches of Official Secrets Act Impersonating member of An Garda Síochána Electoral offences including personation Public mischief-annoying phone calls, wasting police time Criminal Assets Bureau offences (organised crime) Conspiracy to commit a crime Perjury Interfering with a jury (embracery) Assisting offenders Public mischief, pervert course of justice, conceal offence Escape or help to escape from custody Prison offences Breach of Domestic Violence Order (protection, safety, barring) Breach of order under Family Law Act Breach of bail Failure to comply under Sex Offenders Act Other failure to comply with court order, jury summons, warrant etc.

Regional Breakdown of Results

- County
- NUTS 2

5.3. Sector Coverage

Those placed on Probation Orders, and Community Service Orders.

5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

Re-offending

The term “offences” in this report refers to crime incidents known to An Garda Síochána and recorded as such in the Garda PULSE (Police Using Leading Systems Effectively) system. Because of timing issues with respect to the extraction of data, figures may be revised after this publication.

For this report there are two conditions which must be met in order for an individual to be classified as a re-offender:

1. The individual must commit a recorded incident within a defined period of the date of their Probation Order. The length of the period considered varies for different cohorts. The period is 1 year for the 2019 cohort.
2. There must be a conviction for this incident within two years of the date on which the incident was recorded.

For example, if a person was placed on a Probation or Community Service Order on December 31st, 2017 and committed an offence on the December 31st, 2018, they would be considered as having reoffended if court proceedings leading to a conviction were concluded on or before December 31st, 2020.

When considering re-offending, certain offence types were excluded. These offences were mainly traffic offences and some animal welfare offences. For re-offending analysis from 2017 onwards (both prison and probation re-offending) all offences resulting with a court conviction are classified as a re-offending offence for the purpose of measuring re-offending.

**Probation type**

This report considers three types of probation: Probation Orders, Community Service Orders and Post Release Supervision Orders.

Crime recording

Incidents reported, or which become known to members of An Garda Síochána, are recorded when, on the balance of probability, a Garda determines that a criminal offence defined by law has taken place, and there is no credible evidence to the contrary. If it is subsequently determined that a criminal incident did not take place, the record is invalidated and is not counted in the statistics. If a person makes a report and subsequently withdraws it, then this too is invalidated unless there is evidence to suggest that, by reasonable probability, the offence has taken place.

For criminal incidents where victim confirmation is required (e.g. assault, fraud), a criminal incident is recorded only where the victim confirms the incident or where there is evidence to suggest that by reasonable probability it occurred.

Crime Classification

A criminal incident is classified as a particular offence type at the initial recording of that incident. However, upon investigation, it may later become apparent that an alternative offence type should be used. In this event, the record is amended to reflect this. Re-classification based on court proceedings only occurs in relation to homicide offences. The classification is used in this publication is the ICCSq.

5.5. Statistical Unit

Persons who received a probation order during the reference year

5.6. Statistical Population

The total number of persons who received a probation order in the reference year

5.7. Reference Area

Republic of Ireland

5.8. Time Coverage

2019

5.9. Base period

Not applicable.

6. Unit of Measure

Percentage rate, Number of persons

7. Reference Period

- 2017, 3-year re-offending
- 2018, 2-year re-offending
- 2019, 1-year re-offending



8. Institutional Mandate

8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

Garda Síochána Act 2005

<https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2005/act/20/enacted/en/print.html>

8.2. Data Sharing

CSO have agreements in place with the Irish Probation Service and An Garda Síochána that permits the supply of data relating to probationers and crime incidents in order to develop national statistics in the crime and criminal justice domain.

<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/legislation/memorandumsofunderstanding/moupsps/>

<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/legislation/memorandumsofunderstanding/mougarda/>

9. Confidentiality

9.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.

These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes. Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/>

9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

Data provided for probation re-offending is stored in line with CSO procedures on data protection

10. Release Policy

10.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.

10.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, www.cso.ie, or directly from this link:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar>

10.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.



The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at <https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/>

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format as well as on the CSO website (www.cso.ie). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

11. Frequency of Dissemination

Annual

12. Accessibility and clarity

12.1. News release

12.2. Publications

The most recent press release relating to Probation Re-Offending can be found at: https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/crimeandjustice/probation_recidivism/

12.3. Online database

All data disseminated with the release can be found in tabular format in the CSO's dissemination database, PxStat. Tables are directly available from this link <https://data.cso.ie/product/pros>

12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations

Over 10,000

12.4. Micro-data Access

Not applicable.

12.5. Other

Ad-hoc reports provided when requested to Irish Probation Service and Department of Justice

12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Further information on the Methodology used to compile the Probation Re-Offending release can be found in the CSO's methods page for the release, directly from these links: <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/qualityreports/probationreoffendingstatistics/>

12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.



12.7. Quality Documentation

More information on the quality of the probation Reoffending statistics, including access to Quality Reports for Probation Re-offending 2017, 2018 can be found in the CSO's Methods page:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/qualityreports/probationreoffendingstatistics/>

13. Quality Management

13.1. Quality Assurance

Quality Management Framework

The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCoP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

13.2. Quality Assessment

The following quality assurance procedures are applied to the Probation Re-offending report each year before publication:

- Peer review internally prior to publication
- Extensive consistency checks on the data provided from different data sources
- Extensive consistency checks on the data provided to ensure consistent and correct data processing steps
- Continuous consultations with the Probation service and AGS (including at least 4 formal meetings a year) to confirm the data provided for the statistical estimates is suited for the purpose in which it is being used.
- A formal review of the data that the AGS provide is conducted periodically. The review is published (link provided) with the most recent review published in 2020.

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/qualityreports/probationreoffendingstatistics/>

14. Relevance

14.1. User Needs

The statistics released are mainly used for measuring national policy and informing the public (journalists).

14.1.1. Main National Users

- The Irish Probation Service
- The Minister for Justice
- The Department of Justice
- The Irish Courts Service
- Journalists linked with justice
- The general public.

14.1.2. Principal External Users

- European Conference on Criminology
- European Source Book
- Eurostat



14.2. User Satisfaction

The CSO communicates and meets both informally and formally with Crime statistics users regularly each year to make sure we are meeting our user needs. In 2022 representatives from CSO attended and presented at

- The interagency group on a fairer and safer Ireland
- An Garda Síochána (quarterly liaison group meetings)
- Crime and Migration Statistics User Information Group (CMUIG)
- The Probation Service The most recent endorsement of the CSO coverage of probation re-offending was provided by the Minister for Justice and is available here:

<http://www.probation.ie/EN/PB/WebPages/WP21000026>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/51d53-annual-report-of-the-interagency-group-for-a-fairer-and-safer-ireland-2020/>

<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/cgt/ocg/csogroups/cso-angardasiochanaliaisongroup/>

14.3. Data Completeness

Not applicable.

14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

Not applicable.

15. Accuracy and reliability

15.1. Overall accuracy

The main systemic bias that exists with re-offending estimates is that they can only measure reoffending related to detected crime incidents that have been identified by the policing process. A less significant error historically existed in the re-offending estimates when individuals from probation could not be linked (through lack of matching identifiers) to incident data provide by the AGS. To a large extent this error has been removed with more successful matching procedures (99% match of data in 2018 and 2019).

15.2. Sampling Error

Sampling error is not used for probation re-offending statistics. Bias is present as not all re-offending is captured by the legal process

15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

Not applicable

15.3. Non-sampling Error

15.3.1. Coverage error

Data related to crime incidents that are used as the re-offending indicator in the probation re-offending are dependent on the successful investigation of all criminal incidents. As detection rates vary depending on policing effectiveness not all crime incidents are included

15.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

0%



15.3.1.2. A3. Common units-proportion

Not applicable

15.3.2. Measurement error

Any measurement errors in the probation re-offending estimates are created during the administrative data collection conducted by the courts service, An Garda Síochána or the probation service.

CSO consult with the data providers each and ask them to provide assurances that the data being used for the probation re-offending estimates is fit for purpose and collected / measured suitably.

15.3.3. Non-Response Error

Probation re-offending does not collect data directly. Non-response traditionally happened when data of probationers was not linked successfully to crime incident data, however in the most recent publications for 2017 and 2018 the matching between the two data sources has been 100%.

Small numbers of units in the data analysis are missing personal characteristics such as age, region or sex however the missing units have no significant effect on the statistics estimates published.

15.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate

0%

15.3.3.2. Item non-response rate

Not calculated

15.3.4. Processing error

Errors relating to probation re-offending were identified in the publication that took place for reference year 2017. The errors were identified and published to inform users of the adjustments that were made to the probation re-offending estimates. The main change that took place was the inclusion of certain Road Traffic Incidents that had previously been excluded as re-offending estimates
<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-prs/probationre-offendingstatistics2017/introductionandkeyfindings/>

15.3.5. Model assumption error

Statistical modelling is not utilised in the probation re-offending series

16. Timeliness and punctuality

16.1. Timeliness

The current timeliness for publication is 3 years after the end of the reference period due to the late availability of data for analysis. Improved communications with data providers will enable more recent years to be published shortly.

16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results

3 years

16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results

3 years



16.2. Punctuality

The Probation Reoffending Statistics are published in accordance with the date specified in the CSO's advance release calendar. Any delays are clearly notified to our users.

16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication

0 days.

17. Comparability

17.1. Comparability – Geographical

Occasionally low numbers of probationers in certain regions tends to increase the variation of reoffending estimates.

17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not applicable.

17.2. Comparability over time

There are no known breaks in time series.

17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

10 Years

17.3. Coherence – cross domain

Not applicable.

17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable

17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts

Not applicable

17.4. Coherence – internal

Small differences can occur when comparing 1,2,3 year re-offending rates in different reference years due to the improvement of data from the data providers for the probation re-offending estimates.

18. Cost and Burden

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer
<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/enterprisestatistics/responseburdenbarometer/>

Survey specific information is available via CSO's dissemination database PxStat.
<https://data.cso.ie/product/RBB>

The cost of creating the probation re-offending statistics has been considerably reduced by removing the need to manually match data between the series data sources.



19. Data Revision

19.1. Data Revision Policy

Published statistics are subject to correction and revision for a variety of reasons. The most common reasons include the receipt of additional information (for example, late survey responses) and updated seasonal factors. Occasional revisions also occur as a result of changes to definitions, methodology, classifications and general updating of statistical series.

It is recognised internationally that the existence of a sound revisions policy maintains credibility in official statistics. The CSO General Revisions Policy, which details how revisions should be managed and communicated to users, outlines the three main types of revisions:

- Planned Routine Revisions
- Planned Major Revisions
- Unplanned Revisions.

One reason for unplanned revisions occurring can be when errors are detected after publication. The 'CSO Error Correction Policy – How to deal with Publication Errors' outlines the steps taken when these errors are detected. As required under Principle 6.3 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, errors detected in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and users are informed. An important step in the process is the documentation and analysis of errors that have occurred and their causes. This allows the CSO to take measures preventing similar errors from occurring in the future and uniformity in dealing with them when they do.

The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/>

19.2. Data Revision Practice

Overlaps of years are included when significant revisions take place. A separate technical note is also published to explain the changes

There were no revisions for 2017 / 2019 reference periods.

19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not applicable.

20. Statistical processing

20.1. Source Data

Administrative data only is used for the probation re-offending statistics. The data is provided by:

- Irish Probation Service provide details of individuals that have been received probation orders in the reference year. The details include the personal characteristics of the individuals (name, DOB, county) and crime characteristics (offence type, probation type).
- AGS provide data of crime incidents (incident type, offence type, date)
- The Courts Service provide data of court convictions.

Population and sampling frame

Not applicable. The probation re-offending series is not calculated from a survey

20.1.1. Sampling design



Not applicable. The probation re-offending series is not calculated from a survey

20.1.2. Survey size

Not applicable. The probation re-offending series is not calculated from a survey

20.1.3. Survey technique

Secure datasets containing information on probation and offences is transferred to the CSO each year using secure data transfer.

20.2. Frequency of data collection

Annual.

20.3. Data Collection

Considerable challenges arise in documenting the quality of probation and PULSE data. At present it is not possible to systematically store quality measurement of variables provided regularly by the Probation service and PULSE.

20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

Administrative data process.

20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

No questionnaire is currently used to compile probation re-offending statistics by the CSO.

20.3.3. Survey Participation

No participation is currently required to compile the statistics on reoffending

20.3.4. Data Capture

Data for the probation re-offending statistics is provided by the admin data providers in the following way

- AGS provide via Secure file transfer data of crime incidents, detections and courts outcomes
- The Irish Probation Service provide data annually on individuals that received probation orders for the reference year of the study

20.4. Data Validation

Data validation takes place on a continuous basis. The following key validation steps are taken

- The chronology of events relating to the individuals is checked for consistency and coherence
- The logical consistency of the data is checked.
- The newly provided data is checked for consistency with historical datasets provided

20.5. Data Compilation

Operations performed on data to derive new information according to a given set of rules.

The percentage of individuals that received a probation order in 2019 and re-offended within the reference period is calculated by dividing the number of individuals who are identified as having re-offended by the total number of individuals who received a probation order raised to a percentage (multiplying the fraction by 100)

Variables for the probation re-offending are created in the same way as previous iterations. New estimates are only used if the process and correctness of the variables has been validated using consistency and reliability. Occasionally more complex statistical procedures (binary logistic regression)



is used to confirm the consistency of the co-efficient of variation of new variables and classifications

20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Missing data is included in published outputs as missing when significant.

20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not calculated.

20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Grossing is not currently used in probation re-offending statistics.

20.6. Adjustment

Not applicable

20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable

21. Comment