



**An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh**

Central
Statistics
Office

Standard SIMS Report: Probation Re-offending 2018



Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

Probation Re-offending

This documentation applies to the reporting period:
2018

Last edited: 11/11/2022



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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 re-offending 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 re-offending 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

21/11/2022

4.2. Metadata last posted

1/12/2022

4.3. Metadata last update

11/11/2022



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.

5.2. Classification System

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

5.3. Sector Coverage.

Not applicable.

5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

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 2017 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, 2016 and committed an offence on the December 31st, 2017, they would be considered as having reoffended if court proceedings leading to a conviction were concluded on or before December 31st, 2019.

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.

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

The Republic of Ireland



5.8. Time Coverage

2018

Note that any issues concerning comparability over time are discussed under 'Accuracy & Reliability'.

5.9. Base period

Not applicable.

6. Unit of Measure

Percentage rate, Number of persons

7. Reference Period

- 2018, 1-year re-offending
- 2017, 2-year re-offending
- 2016, 3-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

Any personal characteristics or statistics that could identify an individual are not published. Due to the nature of the statistics that CSO publish in relation to probation re-offending it is not possible to identify an individual that is part of the cohort of each study.

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.

Pre-release access is provided to individuals in the probation service and Department of Justice one hour prior to the publication. The individuals with pre-release access is published on the CSO's website:

https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/individuals_approved/

11. Frequency of Dissemination

Annual.

12. Accessibility and clarity

12.1. News release

gov.ie - Department of Justice (www.gov.ie)

12.2. Publications

The latest release of probation reoffending statistics can be found in the CSO website directly from this link:

https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/crimeandjustice/probation_recidivism/



12.3. On-line 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/PRS>

12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables -consultations

Over 10,000

12.4. Micro-data Access

The data is not accessible.

12.5. Other

A presentation to the European Conference on Criminology 2022 (Malaga)

<https://www.eurocrim2022.com/>

12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Further documentation on the methodology used to compile the Probation Re-offending statistics can be found in the CSO's Methods page directly from this link:

<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 2016, 2017 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 (ESCP). 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 8 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-angardasiochanalialiaisongroup/>

14.3. Data Completeness

14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

100%



15. Accuracy and reliability

15.1. Overall accuracy

The main systemic bias that exists with re-offending estimates is that they can only measure re-offending 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 (100% match of data in 2017 and 2018).

15.2. Sampling Error

The re-offending estimates are based on population data and do not use sampling procedures.

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

3 years

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 re-offending estimates.

17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

The probation re-offending statistics do not use mirror flow comparisons.

17.2. Comparability over time

There have been some changes but not enough to warrant the designation of a break in series.



17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

7 years.

17.3. Coherence – cross domain

Currently CSO are the only agency that publishes Probation re-offending estimates for Ireland.

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 because 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

None.

19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

None.

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.

20.1.1. Population and sampling frame

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

20.1.2. Sampling design

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

20.1.3. Survey size

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

20.1.4. Survey technique

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

20.2. Frequency of data collection

Continuous.

20.3. Data Collection

Systematic process of gathering data for official statistics. Reporting for this concept is broken down into the following sub-concepts.

20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

Administrative data.

20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

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

20.3.3. Survey Participation

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



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 2018 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)

Imputation is not used for the probation re-offending.

20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Imputation is not used for the probation re-offending.

20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Grossing and weighting is not used for the probation re-offending estimates.

20.6. Adjustment

No adjustments are used to produce the probation re-offending estimates.

20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Seasonal adjustment is not used for the creating of probation re-offending estimates

21. Comment