

Women in Prison

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Prison Reform Trust

The Prison Reform Trust (PRT) is an independent UK charity working to create a just humane and effective penal system. We do this by inquiring into the workings of the system; informing prisoners, staff and the wider public; and by influencing Parliaments , government and officials towards reform

Transforming Lives

PRT has a longstanding interest in improving criminal justice outcomes for women and we are currently pursuing a strategy through our Transforming Lives programme, supported by the Big Lottery Fund, to reduce the unnecessary imprisonment of women in the UK.

Publications

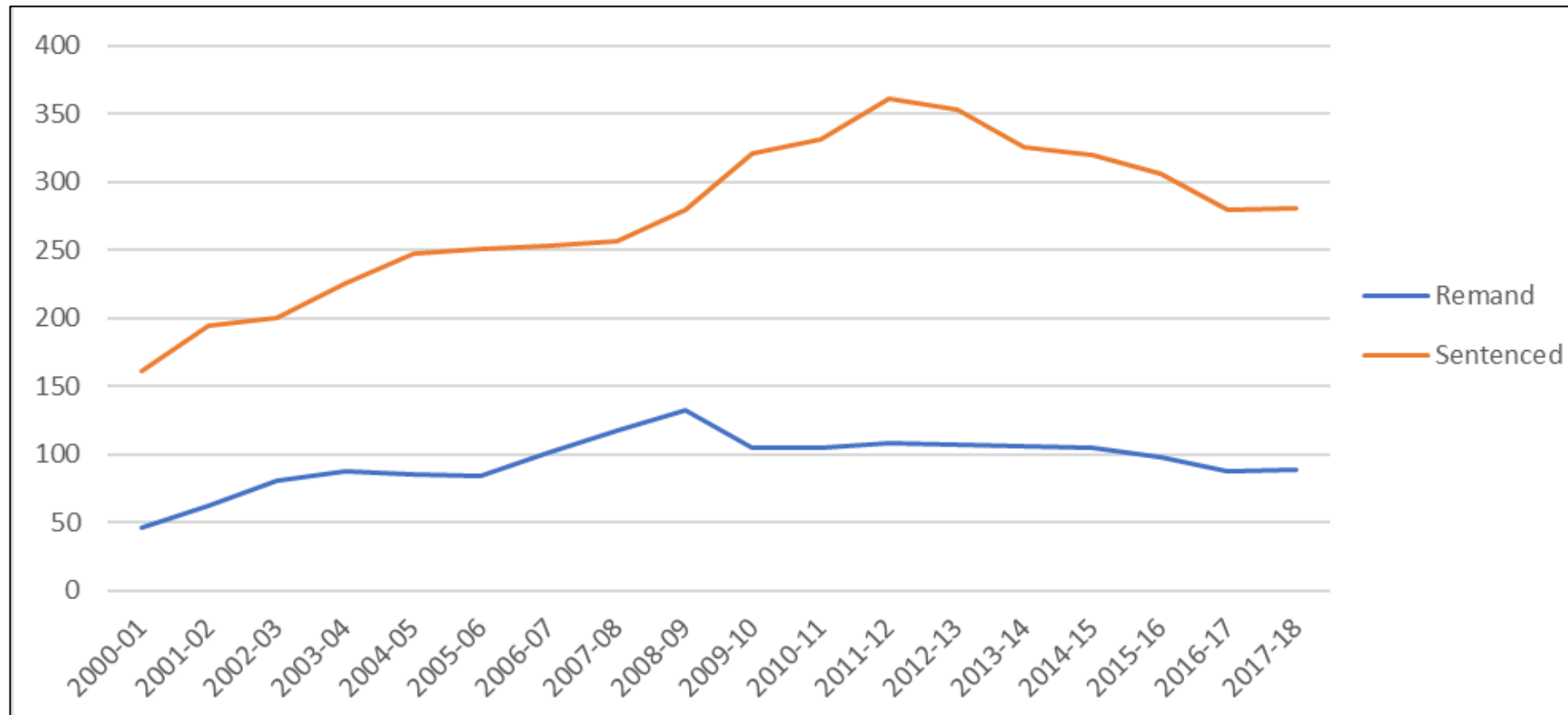
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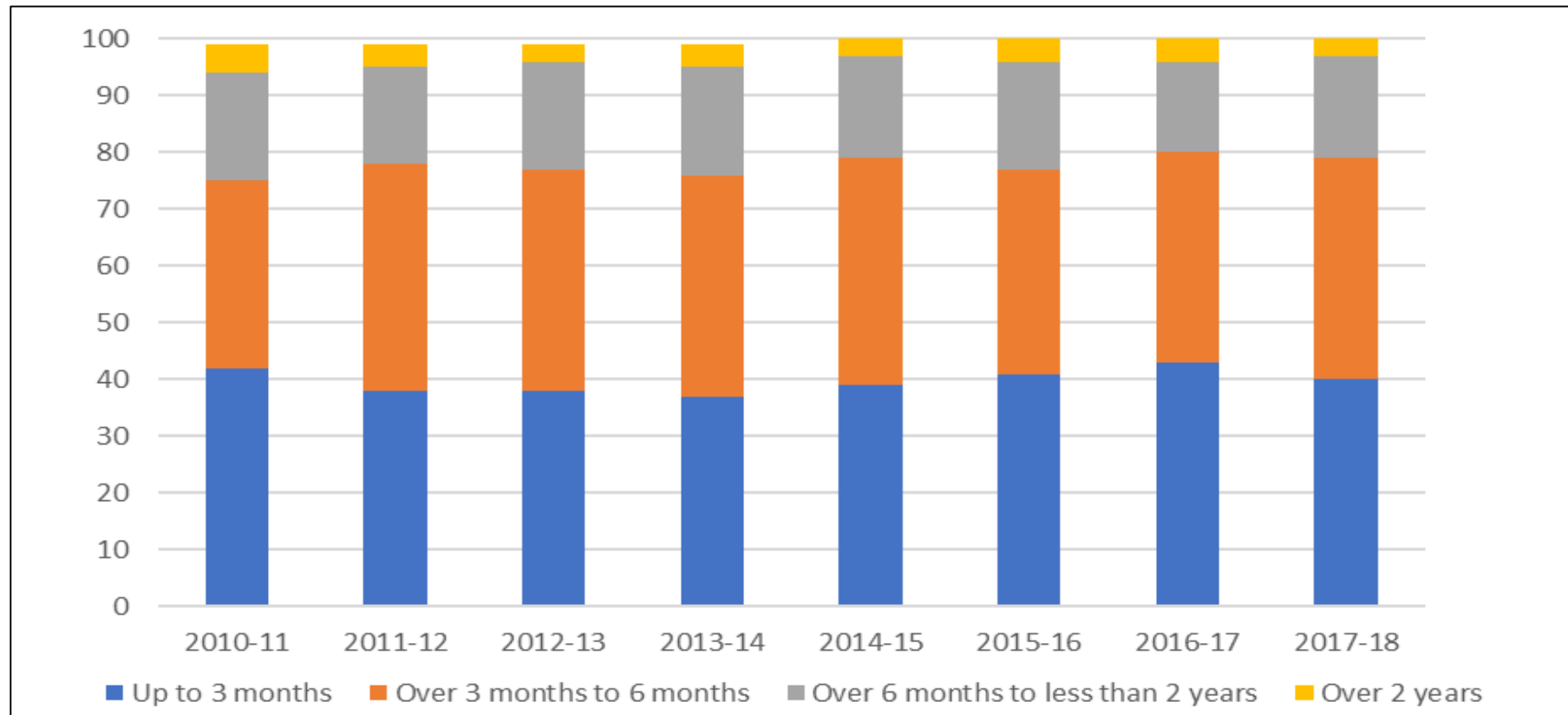
What about me?

The impact on children when mothers are involved in the criminal justice system

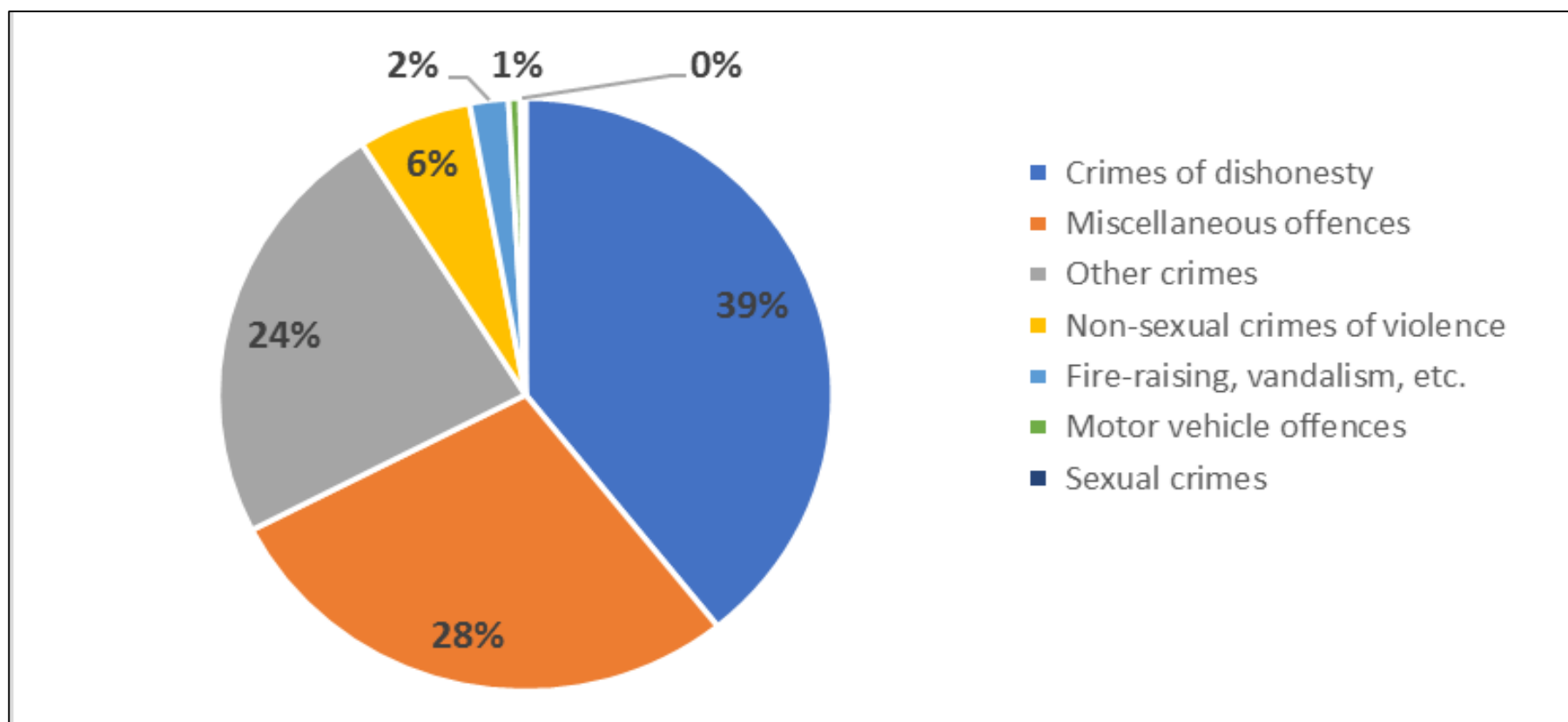
Average daily prison population for women in Scotland, 2000-2018



Sentence lengths of women in Scotland, 2010/11-2017/18



Women sentenced to custody by offence group Scotland, 2017/18



Disposals for women 2017-18

2797 women given Community Payback Order

1133 women received custodial sentence by Scottish Courts

- 91% received sentences of less than 12 months
- average female prisoner population **370**

2013-14 2835 women admitted to prison

- 1805 remand
- 1030 convicted

70-80% women remanded by courts do not receive a custodial sentence

Characteristics of women and their drivers to offending

- Crimes of dishonesty account for **39%** of convictions for women, **71%** are for shoplifting
- Women report significant problem with alcohol and drugs, **38%** women were drunk at the time of their offence
- Women in prison are often victims of much more serious offences than the ones they are accused of committing
- Domestic abuse is often a driver to women's offending, **70%** of women have been victims of violence from their partner
- **60%** women lose their tenancy as a result of imprisonment
- Women can become trapped in a vicious cycle of victimisation and criminal activity. Their situation is worsened by poverty and poor mental health

Solutions

- the solution to women's offending lies outwith the criminal justice system
- more requires to be done on justice reinvestment and prevention

Opportunities

- Early Intervention
 - Triage and Diversion
- Extension of Presumption against short term sentences up to 12 months
- Extension of electronic monitoring
- New custodial estate for women

Requirements

- Credible alternatives to remand and custody
- Partnership working
- 3rd sector involvement
- Commissioning strategy
- Allocation of funding
- Sustainable funding for successful projects
- Resource transfer

Case Study

Financial costs only

27 month sentence

9 months custody

£ 26,500

5months Home Detention Curfew

£1,525

Loss of tenancy

£13,000*

69 week foster placement

£44,845*

52 week residential placement

£121,884

20 weeks Supported Accommodation

£4,000*

13 weeks Bed & Breakfast

£10,400*

33 weeks Temporary Housing

£19,800*

Cost to March 2019

£241,954

*ongoing/additional costs

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