Youth Justice Board

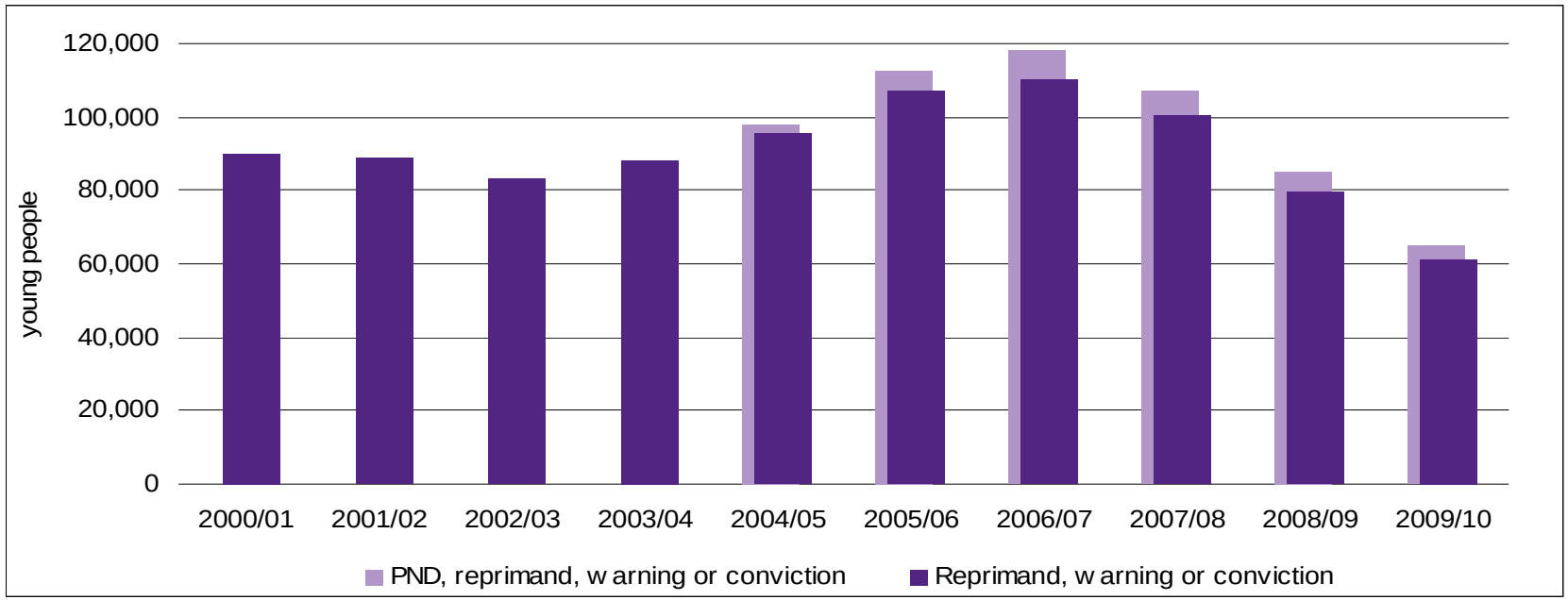
Youth Justice at a crossroad

John Drew, Chief Executive YJB

Strengths

- The youth justice system is performing well

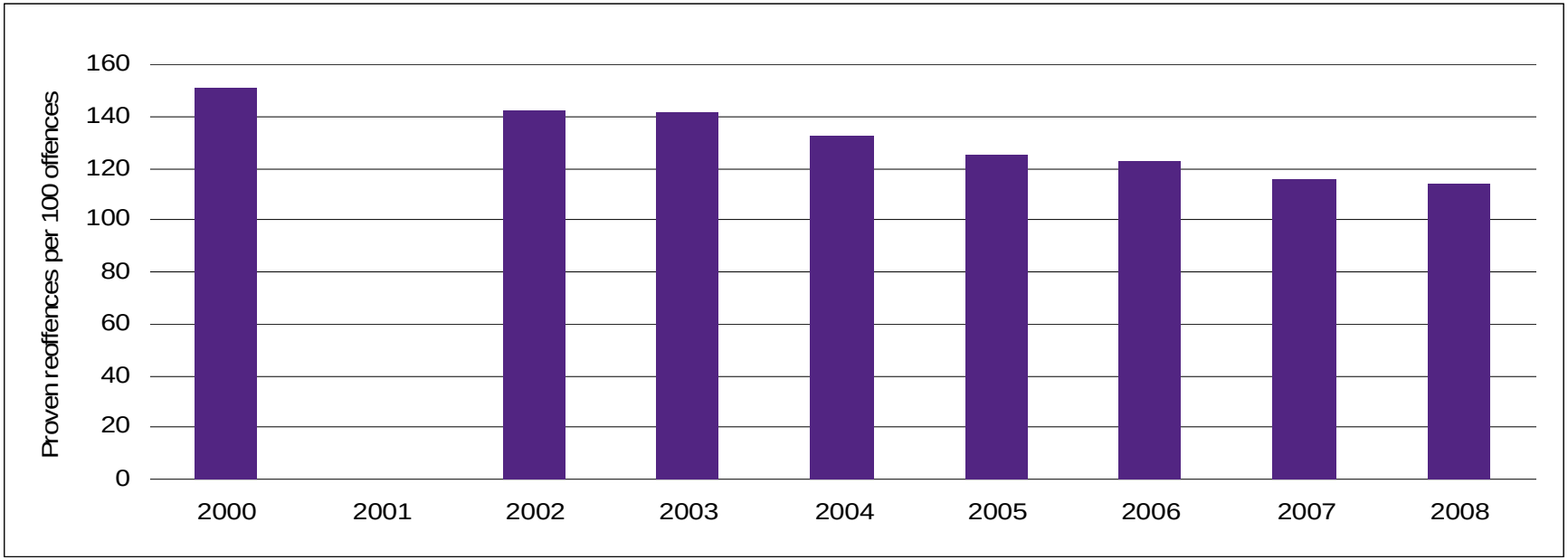
First Time Entrants



The number of first-time entrants in England and Wales was 61,422 in 2009/10; this was 23% lower than in 2008/09 (79,851) and 45% lower than in 2006/07 (110,118).

Source: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/10-17-first-reprimand-warning-convinction.htm

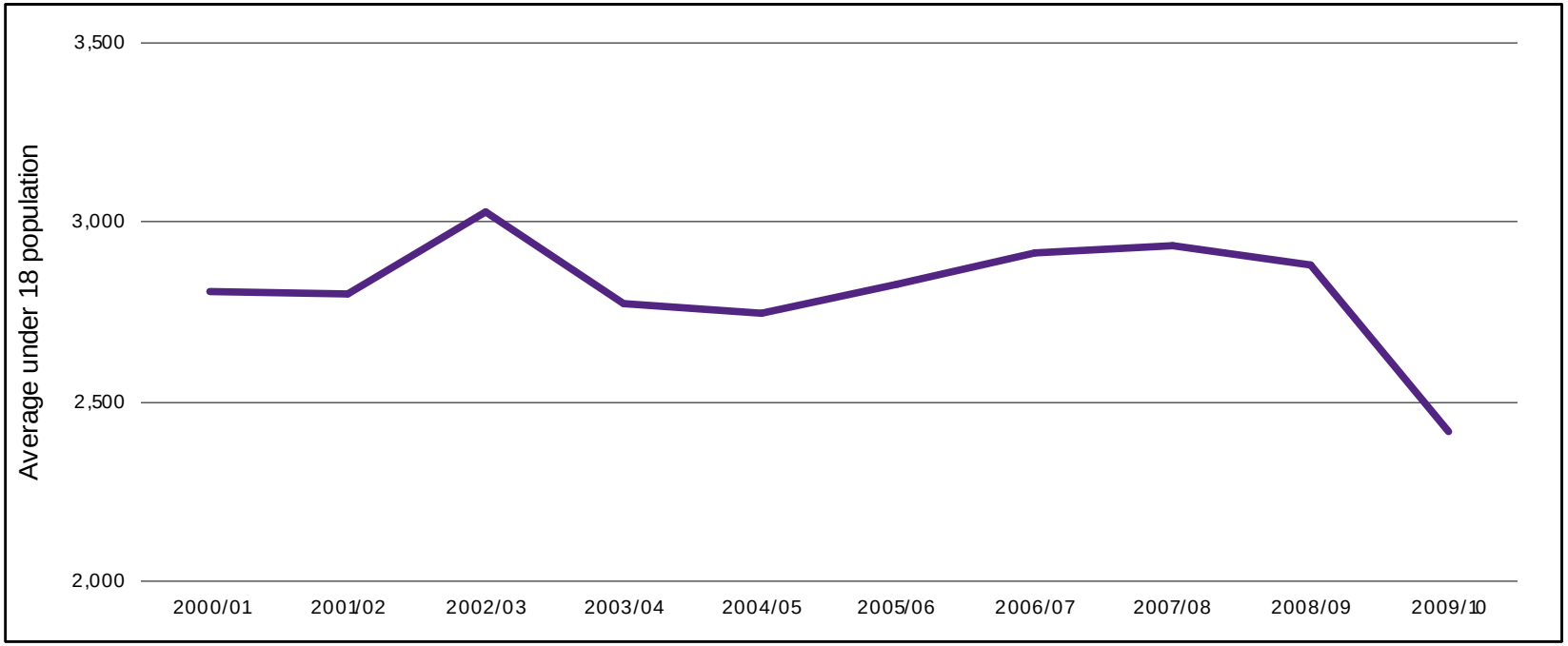
Youth Reoffending



Between 2000 and 2008 the frequency of reoffending rate has fallen 24.8 per cent from 151.4 to 113.9 offences per 100 offenders

Source: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm.

Use of custody (under 18s)



The average population of young people in custody has fallen nearly 20% since 2002/03, from 3,029 in 2002/03 to 2,444 in 2009/10*. Provisional data indicates the population is still falling with September 2010 showing an average of 2,146 young people in custody.

Source: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/youth-custody-data.htm
* 09/10 and 10/11 data is still provisional.

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- The youth justice system is performing well
- Depth and commitment of partnerships in the youth justice system
- Quality of leadership in youth justice

Weaknesses

- Problems in joining up children's services locally
- Relationship between the community and custody
- Public perception of young people and youth crime

Opportunities

- Political support for the YOT partnership model
- Continued support for prevention and early intervention
- Justice Green Paper

Threats

- Reduction in public expenditure
- New approach to local funding
- Abolition of the YJB

Looking to the future

- Partnerships are central to our achievement
- Adapt quickly to the new policy environment
- Create new sector led approaches to development
- Build the links between custody and community
- Get the public more involved and more aware
- Keep children out of the youth justice system
- Improve our evidence base but avoid the trap of ‘over claiming’

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