

Women's imprisonment factsheet: Bedfordshire

- 35 immediate prison sentences were given to women in Bedfordshire in 2024, a decrease from 40 in 2023 and a 51% decrease since 2014. 66% were for less than six months.¹
- 49% of the prison sentences were for theft offences.
- The use of community sentences for women in Bedfordshire has decreased by 8% since 2014.
- The use of cautions has decreased by 77% since 2014.²

Figure 1

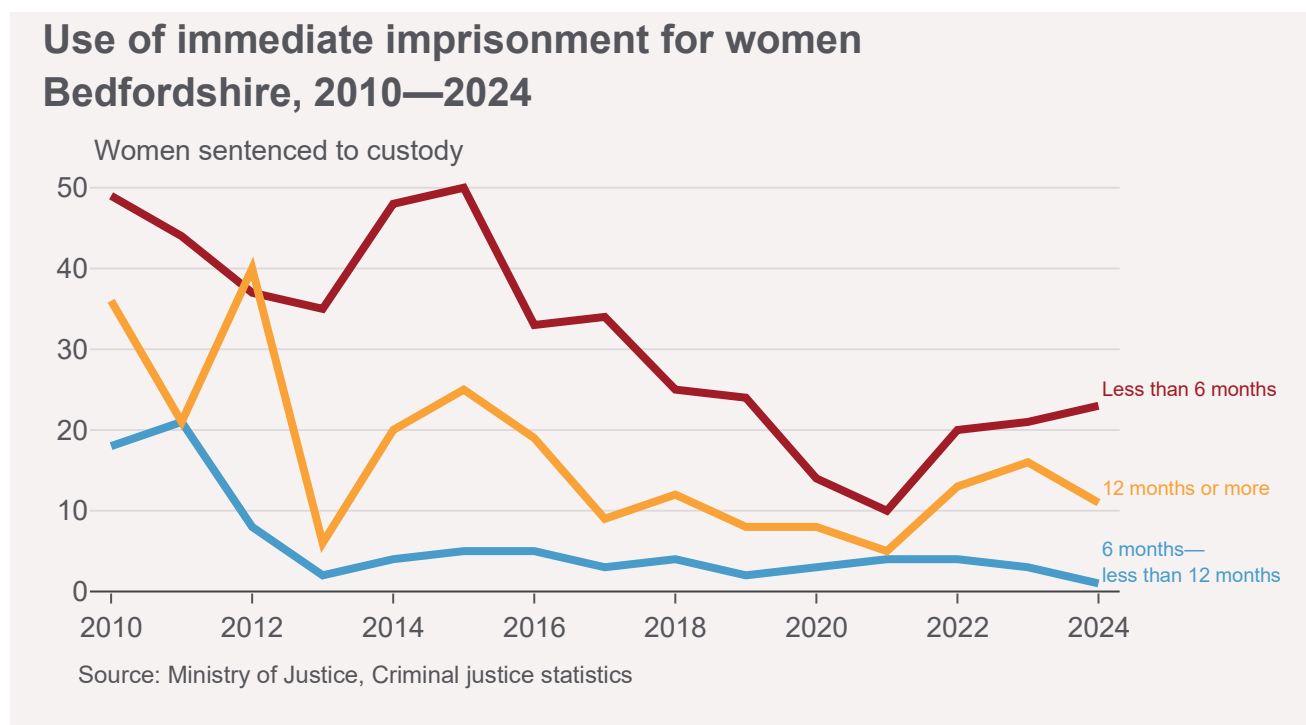
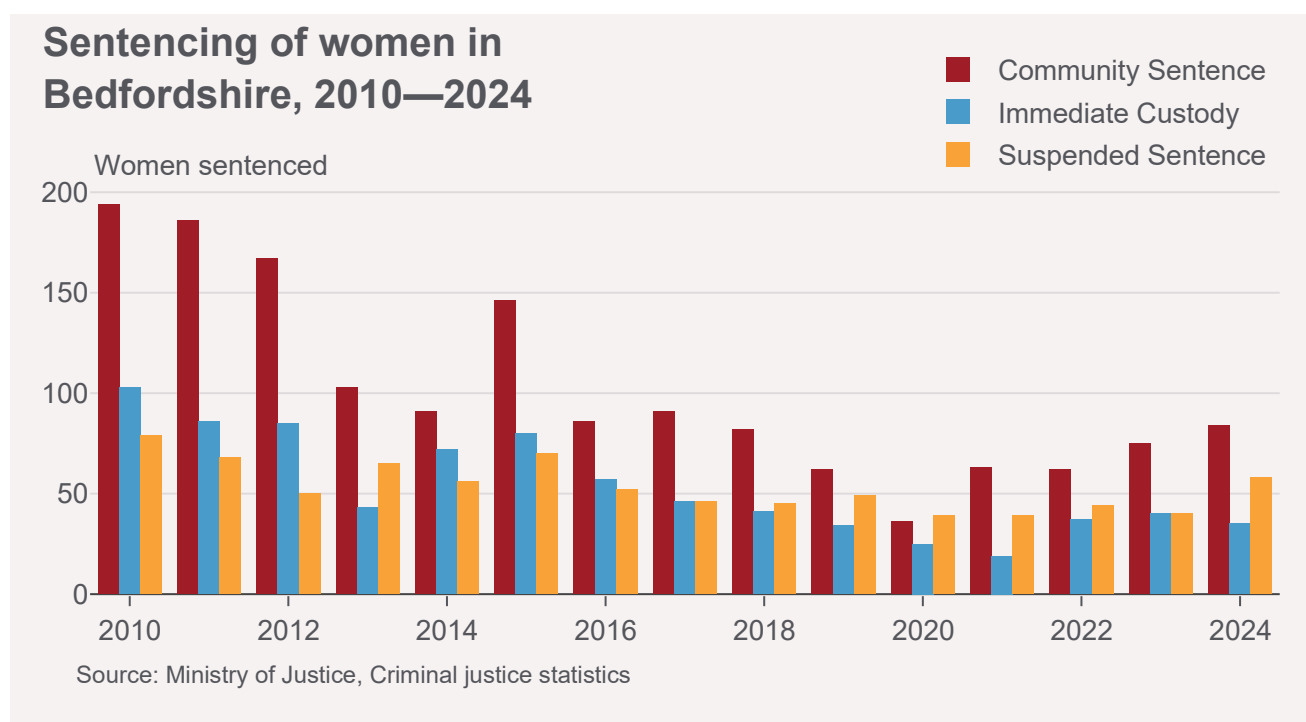


Figure 2

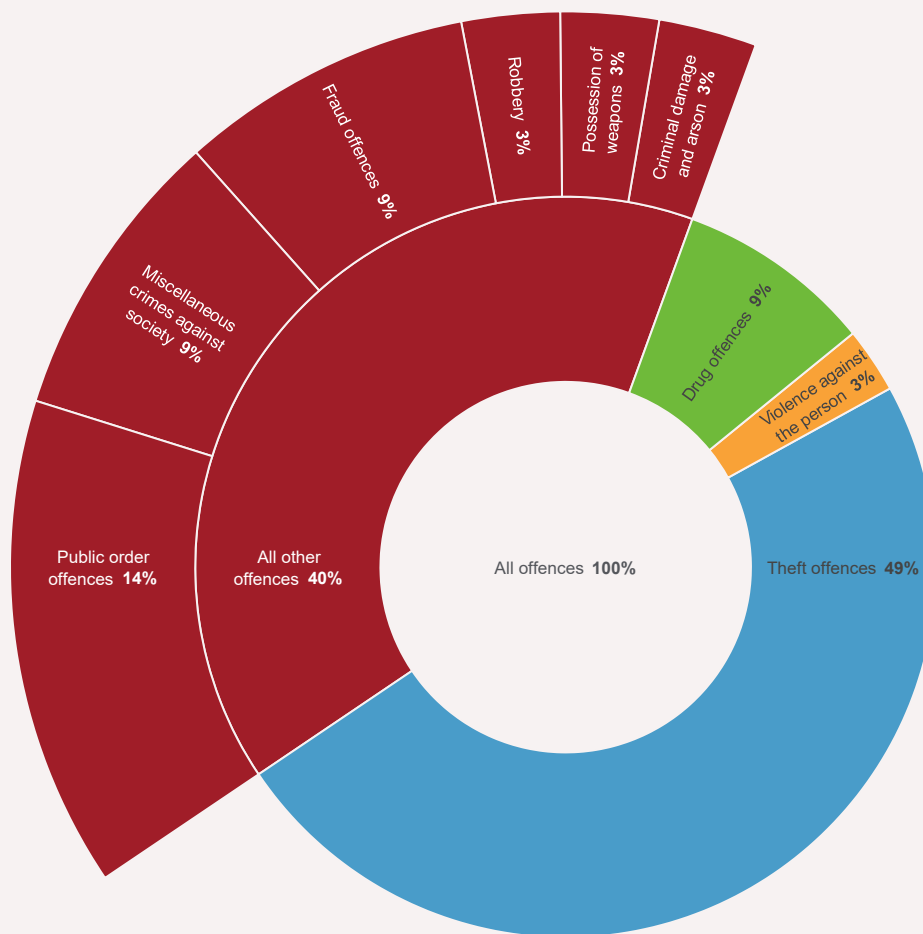


¹ The data in this fact sheet is taken from the following source unless otherwise indicated: Ministry of Justice. (2025). *Outcomes by Offence data tool*. Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: December 2024.

² Ministry of Justice. (2025). *Out of court disposals data tool*. Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: December 2024. Note: this figure excludes the youth caution and youth conditional caution.

Figure 3

Imprisonment of women in Bedfordshire by offence group, 2024



Source: Ministry of Justice, Criminal justice statistics

Women's imprisonment – the national picture

There are more than twice as many women in prison in England and Wales today as there were in 1993.

- The women's prison population on Monday 29 September 2025 was 3,504.³
- Women were sent to prison on 6,190 occasions in 2024 – either on remand or to serve a sentence.⁴
- 75% of immediate prison sentences given to women in 2024 were for less than 12 months.⁵
- In 2024 there were 2,920 recalls of women to custody. Women serving sentences of less than 12 months accounted for almost two-thirds (63%) of all recalls.⁶

Go to www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/women for information and resources to inform the development of effective local women's criminal justice strategies.

³ Ministry of Justice. (2025). *Population bulletin: weekly 29 September 2025*. Prison population: weekly estate figures 2025.

⁴ Table 2.A.1. Ministry of Justice. (2025). *Prison receptions: 2024*. Offender management statistics quarterly: October to December 2024.

⁵ Ministry of Justice. (2025). *Outcomes by Offence data tool: December 2024*. Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: December 2024.

⁶ Table 5.A.2. Ministry of Justice. (2025). *Prison recalls: 2024*. Offender management statistics quarterly: October to December 2024.