

# Measuring the Effectiveness of Court Penalties Using Reconviction Analysis

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**Summary:** The most commonly used method to measure the effectiveness of court disposals in the UK is reconviction. In Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Office has responsibility for producing this information. It is regarded as an independent and impartial body as it does not directly supervise court disposals, which adds legitimacy to its findings. Reconviction figures for the 2002 cohort for both adults and juveniles have recently been published and report that 18% of adults receiving a non-custodial sentence and 47% of adults released from custody were reconvicted within two years. In addition, they showed that those who received statutory supervision following custody had a lower reconviction rate than those without this element to their sentence.

**Keywords:** Effectiveness, community sentences, reoffending, reconviction.