



7 Guess the social characteristics of adult prisoners

	Characteristic Prison population	General population
Taken into care as a child		<b>2%</b>
Experienced abuse as a child		<b>20%</b>
Observed violence in the home as a child		<b>14%</b>
Regularly truant from school		<b>5.2%</b>
Expelled or permanently excluded from school		In 2005 > <b>1%</b> of school pupils were permanently excluded (England)
No qualifications		<b>15%</b> of working age population
Unemployed in the four weeks before custody		<b>7.7%</b> of the economically active population are unemployed
Never had a job		<b>3.9%</b>
Identified as suffering from both anxiety and depression		<b>15%</b>
Have ever used Class A drugs		<b>13%</b>
Drank alcohol every day in the four weeks before custody		<b>16%</b> of men and <b>10%</b> of women reported drinking on a daily basis

**HOWEVER**

Crime rates have fallen by 14% in the year ending March 2014. Crime is at the lowest level since the survey began in 1981 and is now 62% lower than its peak level in 1995. The likelihood of becoming a victim of crime is lower than people believe. In a survey 13% of respondents thought that they were very likely or fairly likely to be a victim of violent crime, compared with 3% who reported having been a victim of such a crime in the year before interview.