



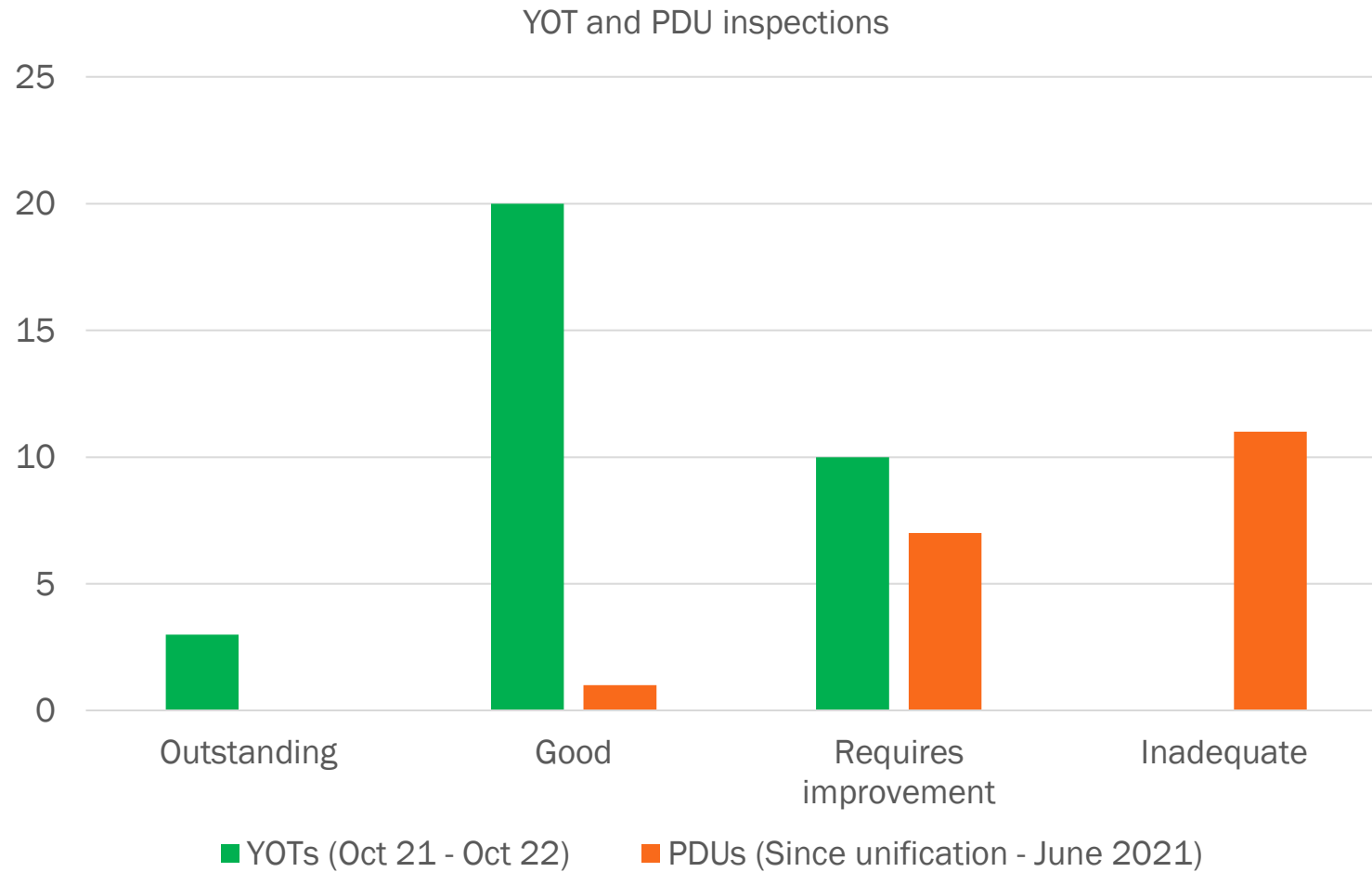
HM Inspectorate
of Probation

Key themes from recent youth justice inspections

Justin Russell, HM Chief Inspector of Probation,
1 March 2023

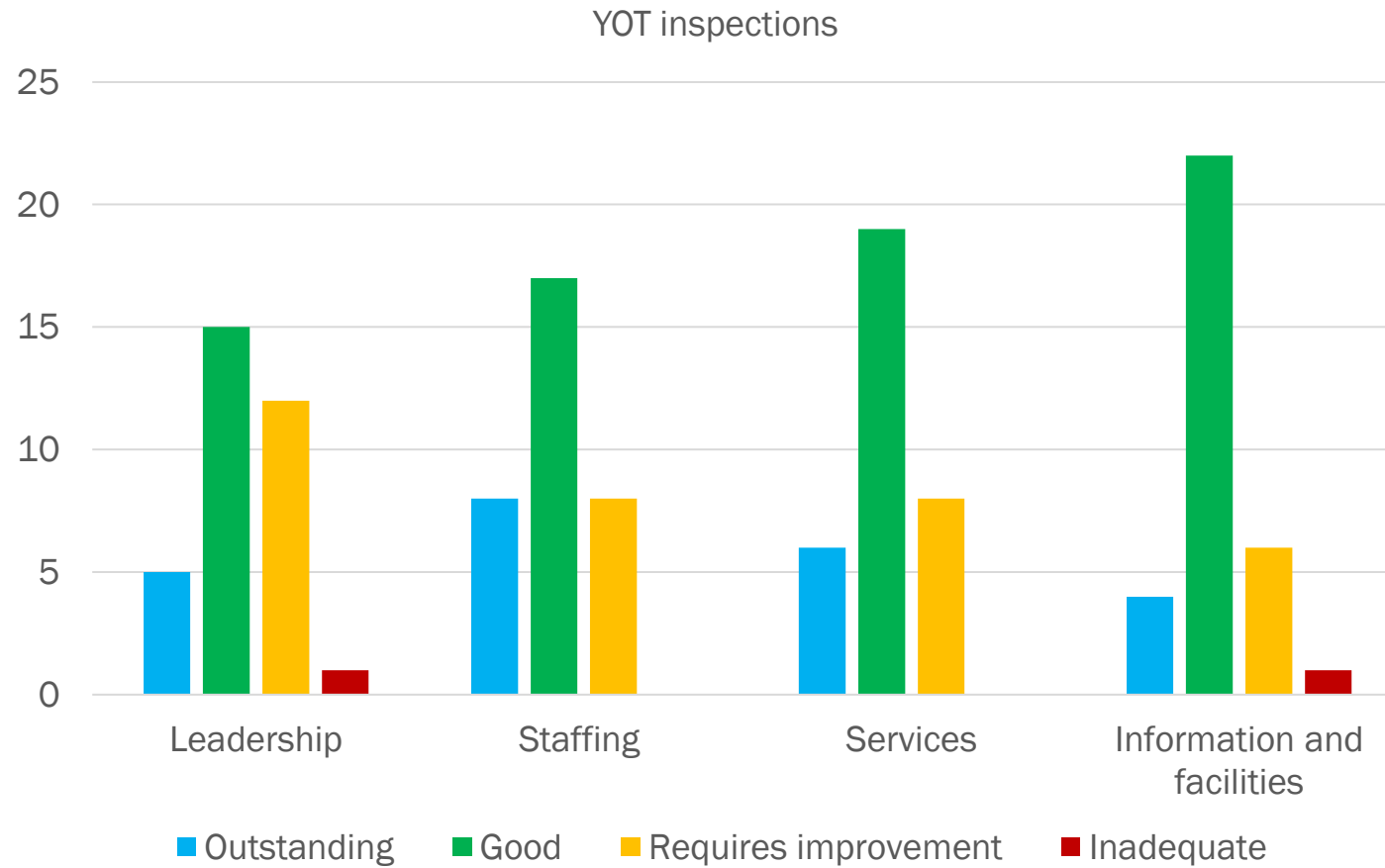


Overall ratings – youth vs probation





Organisational delivery standards





Quality of individual case work

Assessment

| Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to support the child's desistance? | % |
|---|-----|
| Yes | 86% |
| No | 14% |

| Does assessment sufficiently analyse how to keep the child safe? | % |
|--|-----|
| Yes | 75% |
| No | 25% |

| Does assessment analyse how to keep other people safe? | % |
|--|-----|
| Yes | 71% |
| No | 29% |

Implementation and Delivery

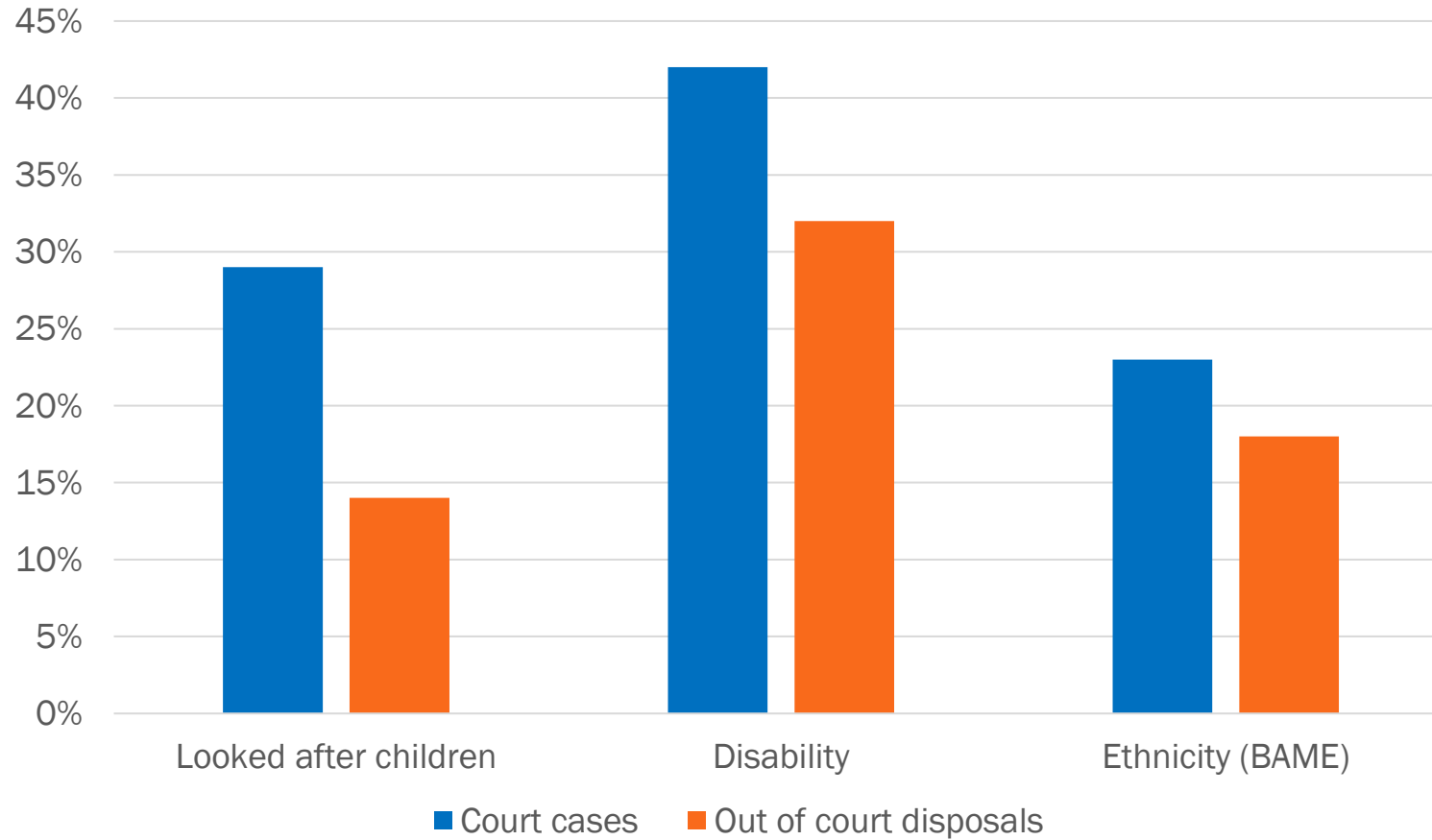
| Does the implementation and delivery of services effectively support the child desistance? | % |
|--|-----|
| Yes | 83% |
| No | 17% |

| Does service delivery effectively support the safety of the child? | % |
|--|-----|
| Yes | 77% |
| No | 23% |

| Does service delivery effectively support the safety of other people? | % |
|---|-----|
| Yes | 73% |
| No | 27% |

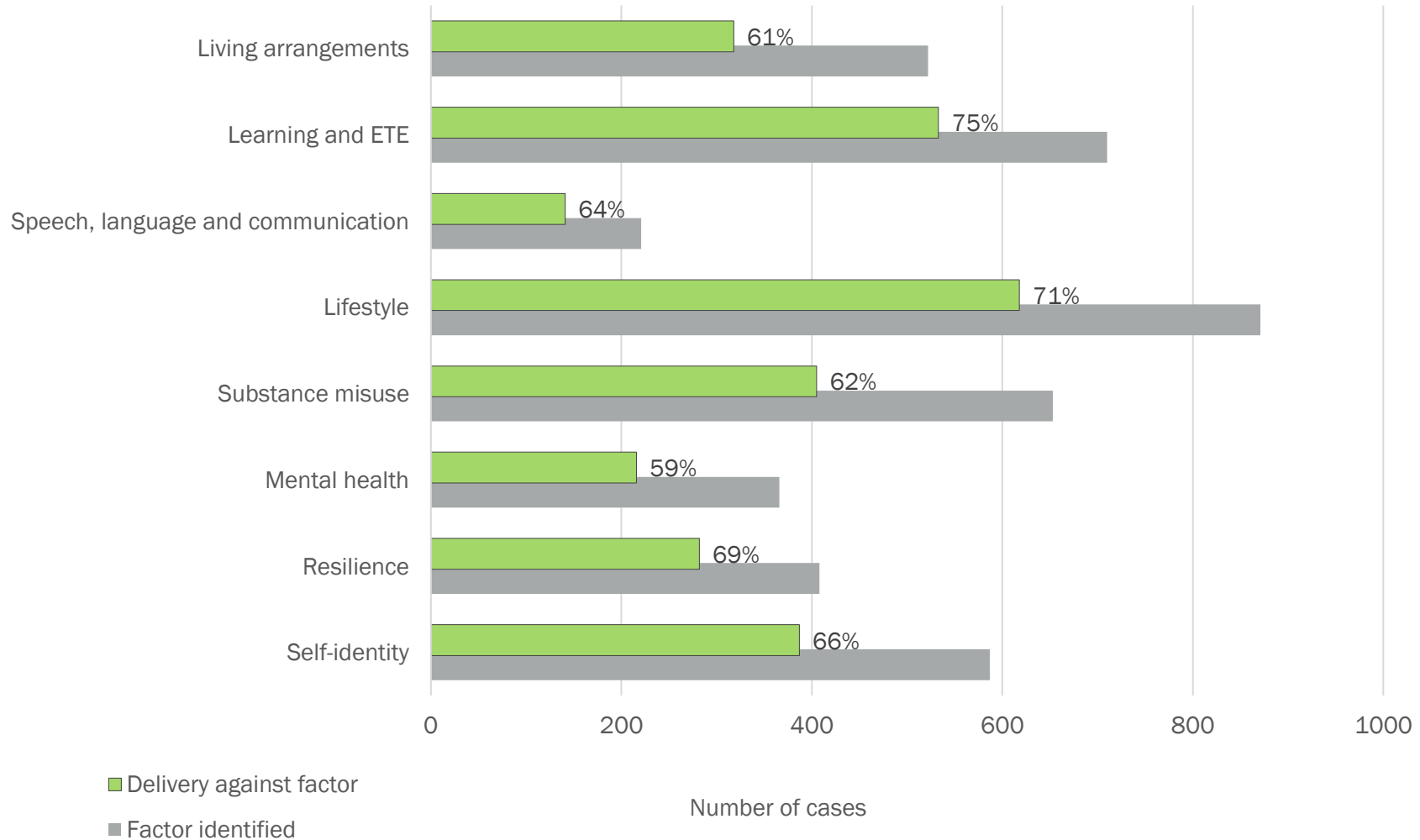


Characteristics of children on YOS caseloads



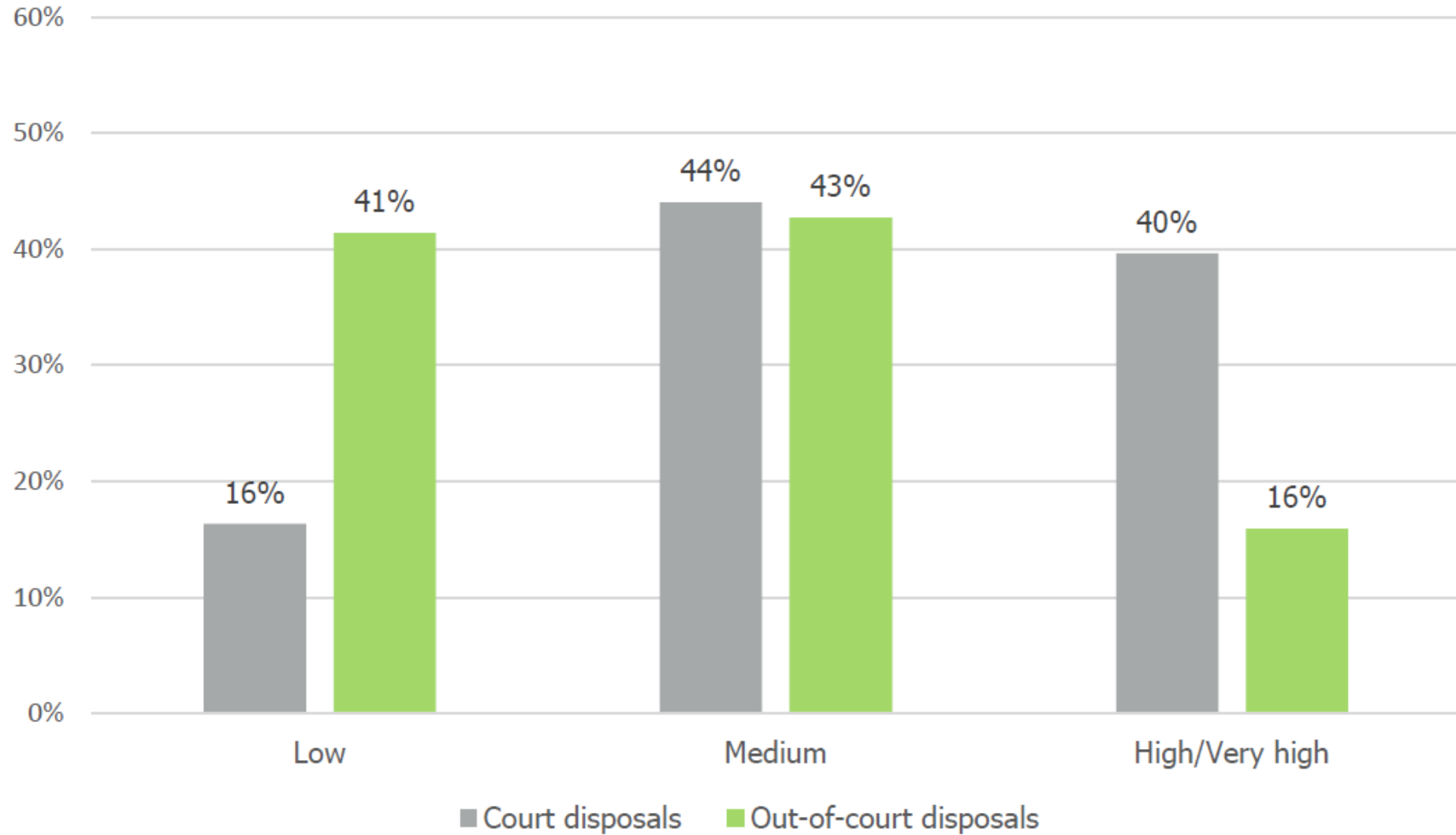


Sufficiency of delivery against identified factors – YOT inspections (June 2018 to February 2020; court orders)





Safety and wellbeing needs of the child





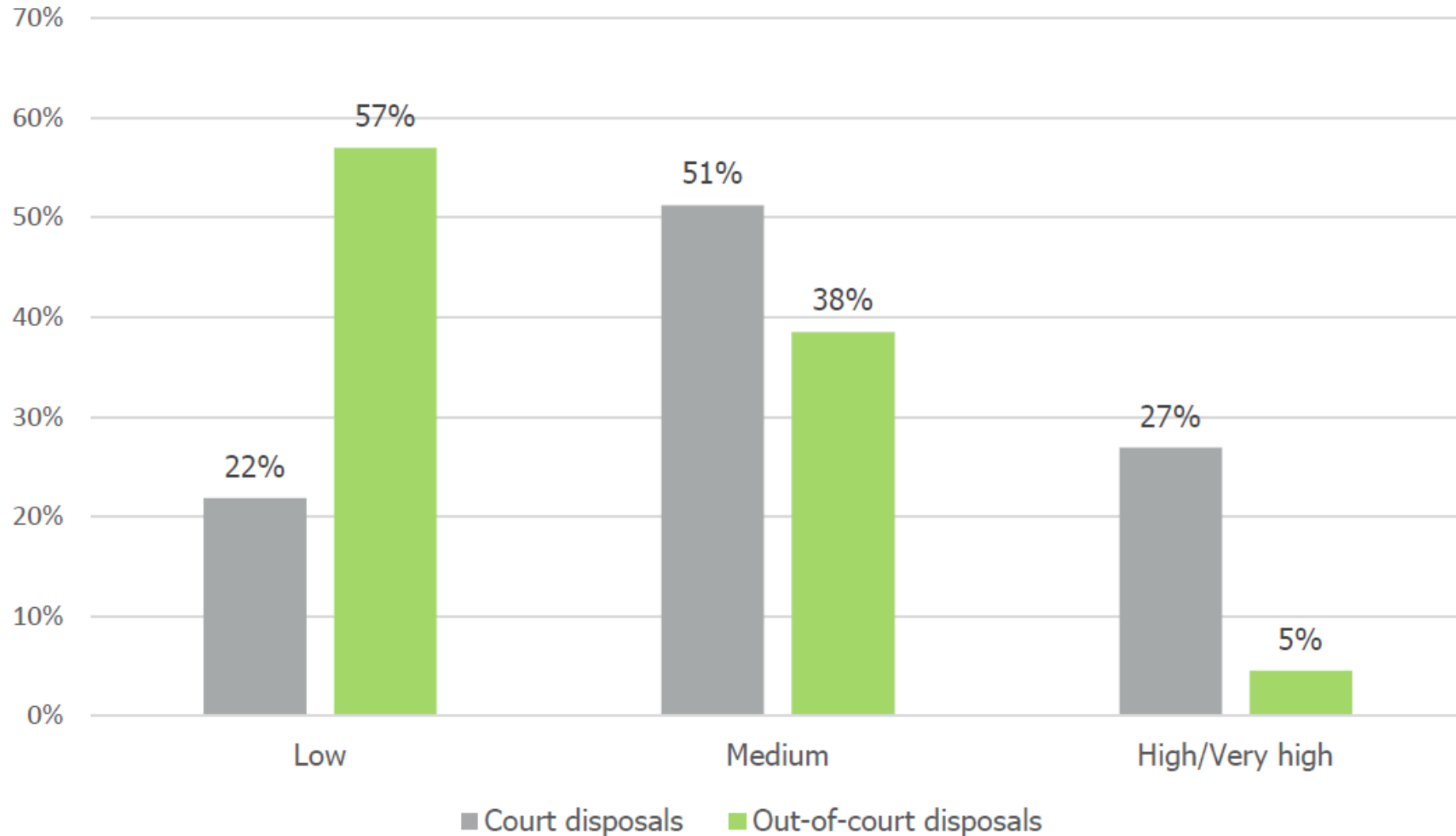
Examples of safety and wellbeing concerns

“The vulnerability of the young person was not recognised. The psychiatric report states he may become a high risk of suicide if he has a prolonged custodial sentence and clearly identifies that this is a young person who has been traumatised by witnessing his friend being tortured and murdered in front of him.”

“This child had experienced considerable childhood trauma. This includes his mother being a heroin addict, his father being murdered in the front garden of the family home, one brother being killed in a car crash, and another dying by suicide. He was originally removed from the family home and placed with extended family but due to their verbal and physical abuse towards him, he was later placed in the care of the local authority.”



Risks of serious harm to other people





HM Inspectorate
of Probation

75% of the cases we assess as high risk to others also have high risks to themselves

"Chris was a 16-year-old boy serving a twelve-month youth rehabilitation order for possession of a bladed article, ten incidents of criminal damage, and attempted burglary. Chris was a 'Looked After Child', and he had been in approximately twenty places within a year. He had complex needs, including fire-setting placing himself and others at risk. There were other concerns around violence and aggression and being in possession of a knife."

"Harold was 17 years old; he was sentenced to a referral order for possession of a knife. Harold presented with many complex needs including psychosis, homelessness, and involvement in drug distribution. His risk of serious harm to others and risk to self are inextricably linked, and he was assessed as high risk across all three domains of serious harm to others, likelihood of reoffending, and safety and wellbeing."

Assessment and management of safety concerns to the child and to others

Lower scores reflected:

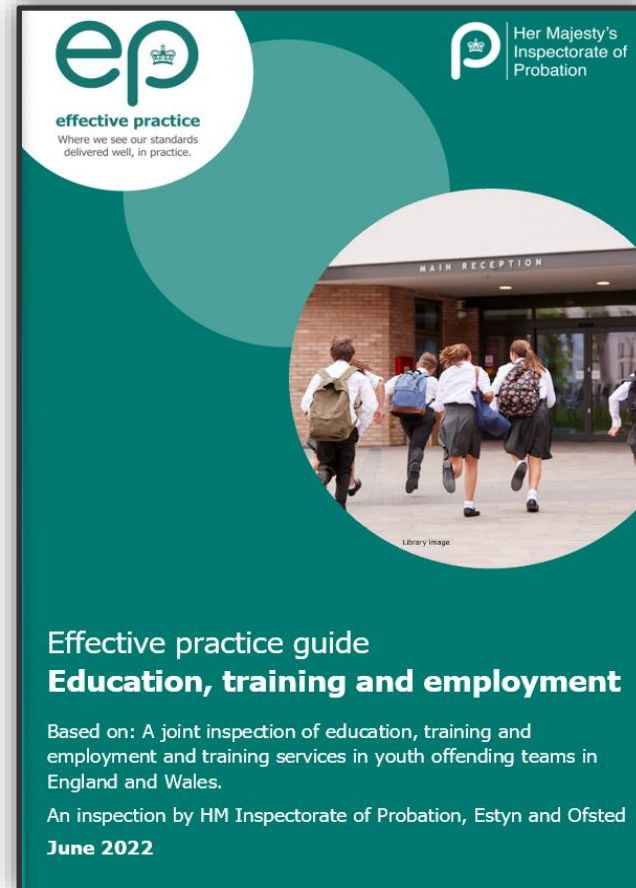
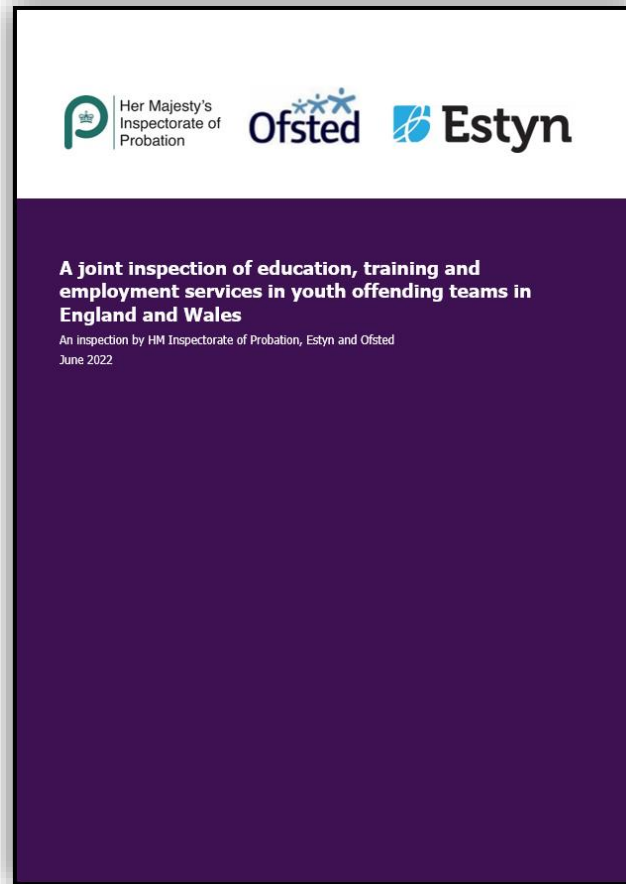
- Assessments not completed or not timely or done by inadequately trained staff
- Use of inadequate assessment tools which didn't give a 'whole child' view
- Incomplete information sharing with schools, social services and police
- Underestimation of risks to child's own welfare or to other people
- Trauma not properly recognised
- Risks at home not given enough consideration

From: The identification of safety concerns relating to children –
HMIP Research and Analysis Bulletin, 2022



HM Inspectorate
of Probation

Education, training and employment provision

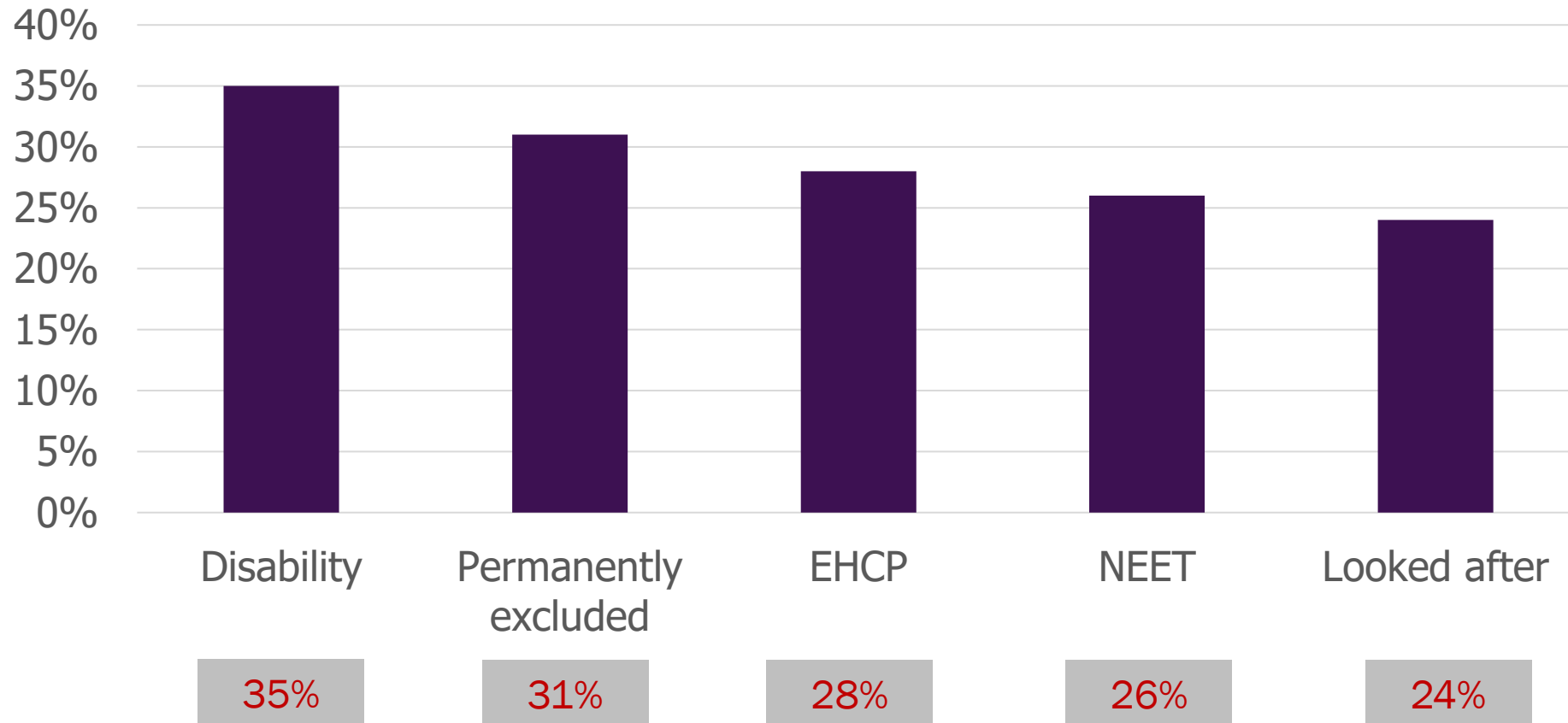


<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/ete-thematic/>



High levels of need and educational exclusion

Groups in our sample of 181 children
across 6 YOS caseloads:





Key areas for improvement

- Much better, more granular data on educational engagement and outcomes for children on YOT caseloads needed to track performance and gaps in delivery
- Early intervention and support to prevent exclusion and disengagement from school
- Full time not part-time timetables – far too many children not getting their statutory entitlement to education
- Much better support for children with an EHCP/ILPs, including meeting statutory requirement for annual reviews
- Reduction in NEET levels for post 16 children – stronger engagement with FE sector and monitoring of engagement and attendance levels



HM Inspectorate
of Probation

Next steps on youth justice inspection

Completion of six year cycle of local YOS inspections by summer 2024

National thematic inspections of youth remands in custody and of young adults on probation and transition from youth offending services

Development of new inspection framework to go live by end of 2024, including:

- Implementation of a stakeholder working group
- Engagement with the other CJS inspectorates
- Working with the YJB
- Collaborating with youth engagement groups
- Roadshows
- Pilots and testing