

# The 2013 Sir Richard Mayne Lecture



## **“CHARACTERISTICS & CRIMINAL CAREERS OF IMPRISONED SERIOUS DRUG TRAFFICKERS – A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS”**

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# Typical?



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# Life-Course Criminology



- **Onset** – at some point, they start offending
- **Participation** – they'll commit an offence or range of offences
- **Escalation** – that offending may get more frequent or more serious
- **Desistance** – at some point, they'll stop



# Research Questions



- Who *are* these traffickers? (their demographics)
- What are their backgrounds? (their criminal careers)
- Do the really top traffickers have different backgrounds to those below them?
- How did they get into this in the first place? (Their pathways)



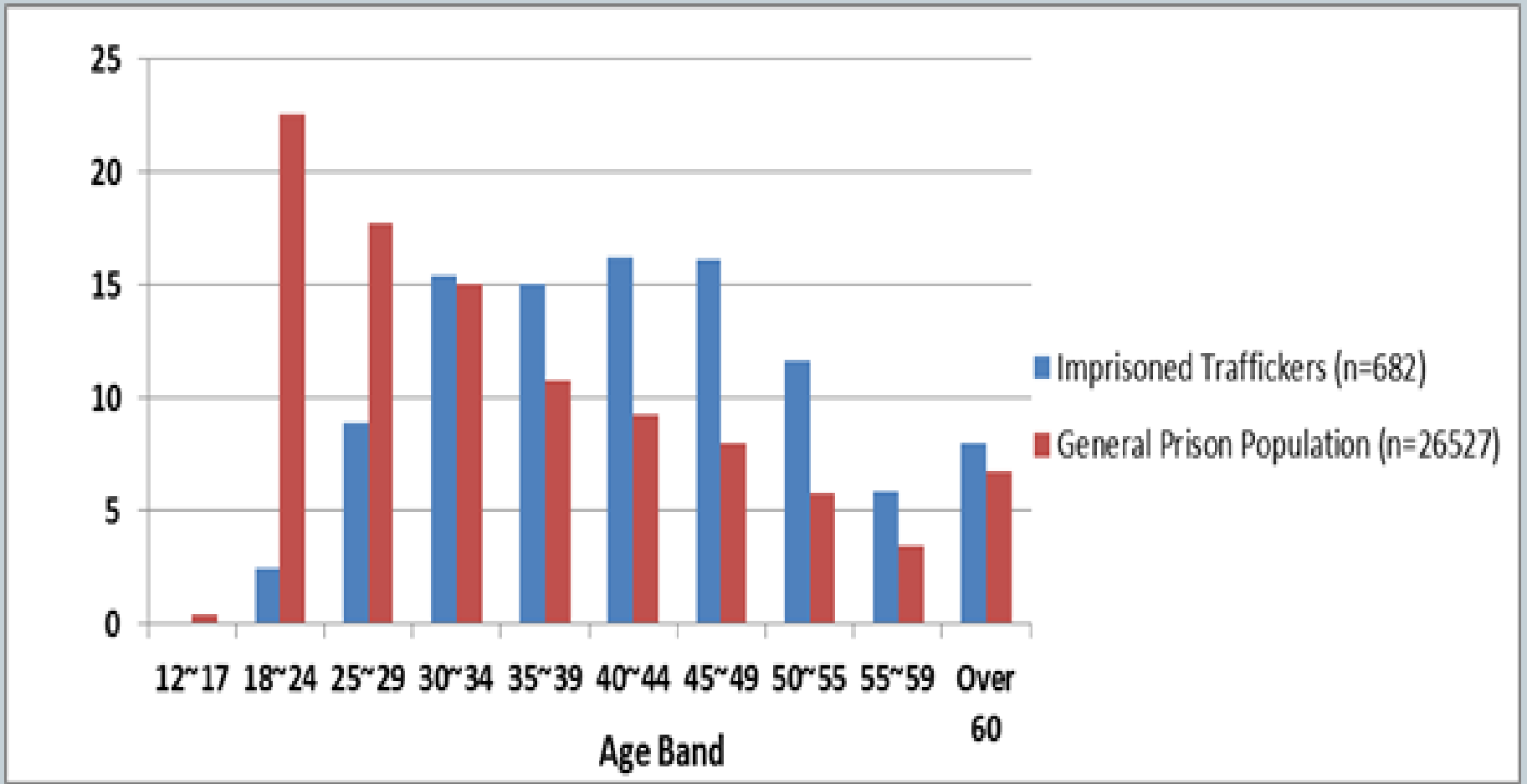
# Sample and Methodology



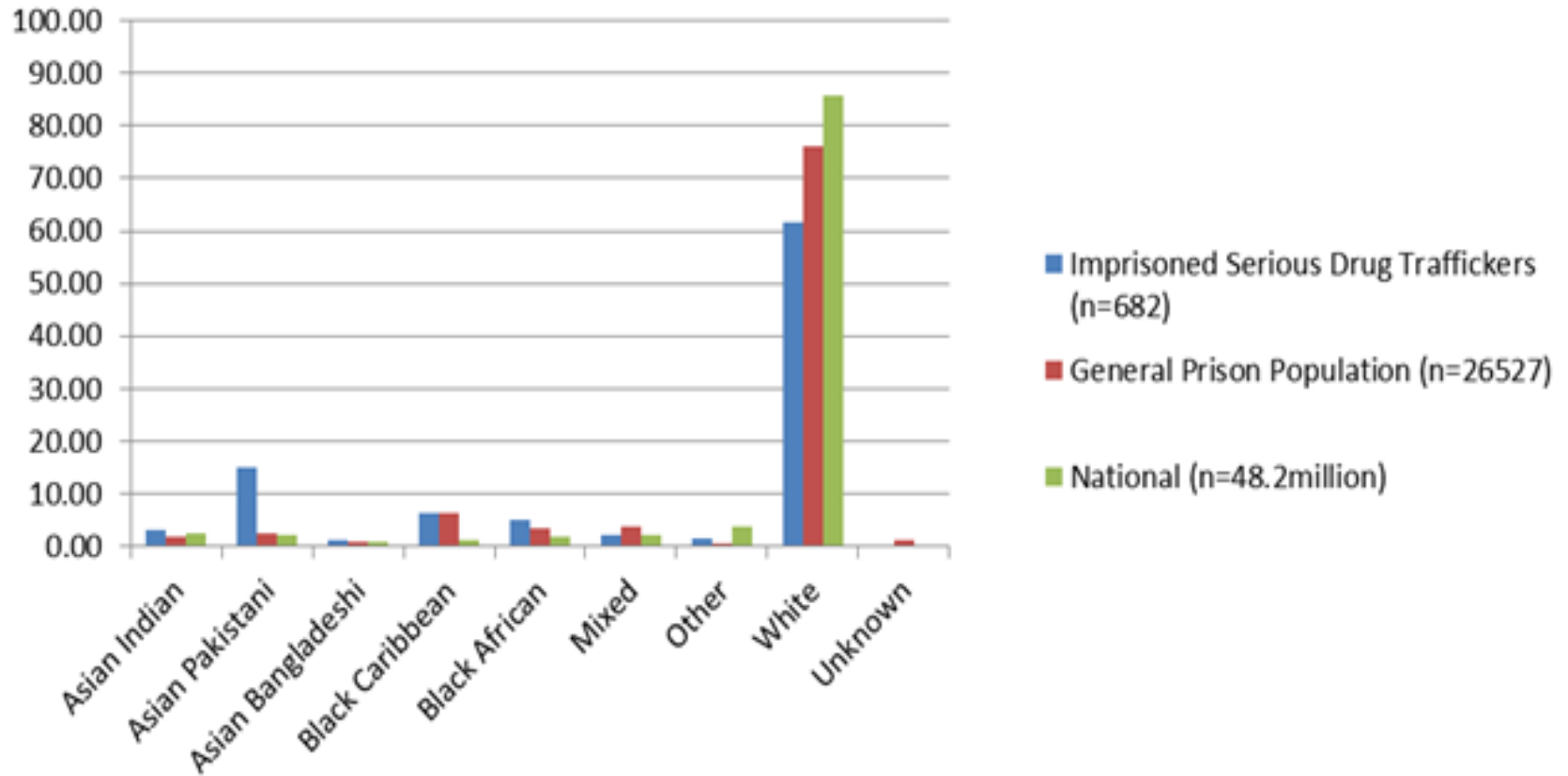
- A cohort of 682 subjects, serving 3 years or more for trafficking offences as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013
- Part 1 – A quantitative analysis of the demographic and criminal career data;
- Part 2 – Semi structured interviews (18)
- Part 3 – Documentary case studies (6)



# Age comparison with GPP



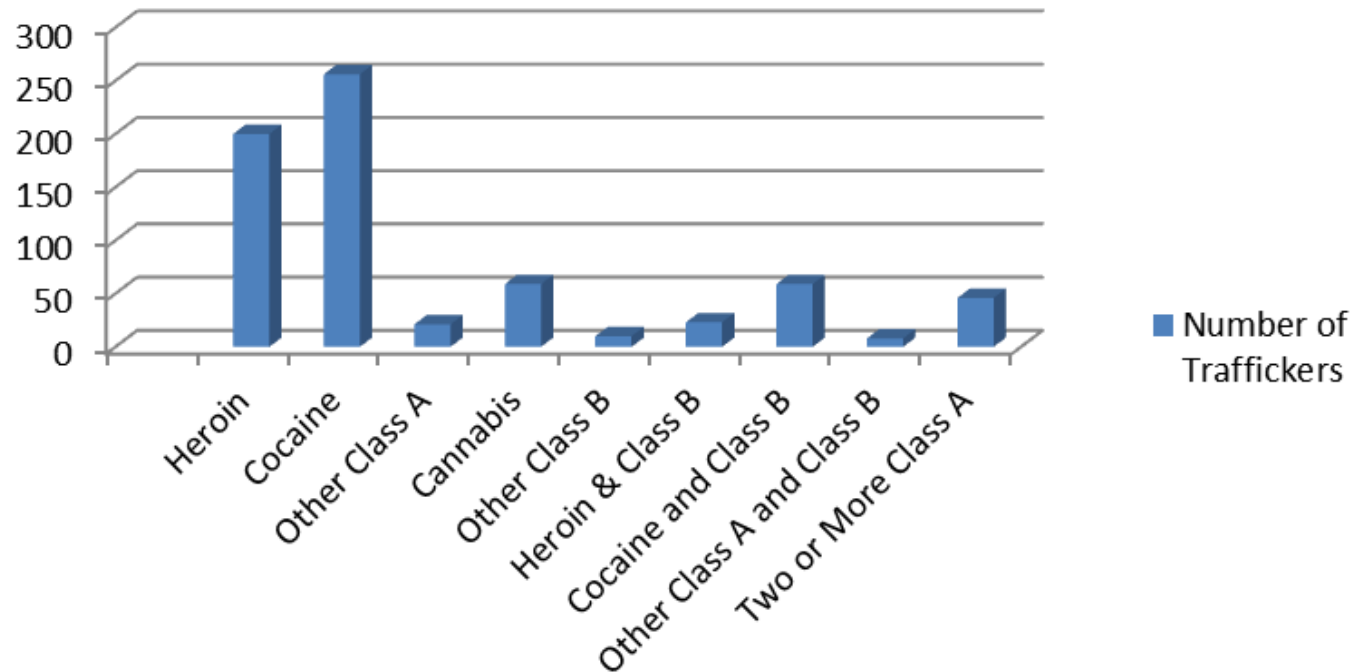
# Ethnicity Comparisons



# Do they specialise?



## Type of Drugs Trafficked by Cohort

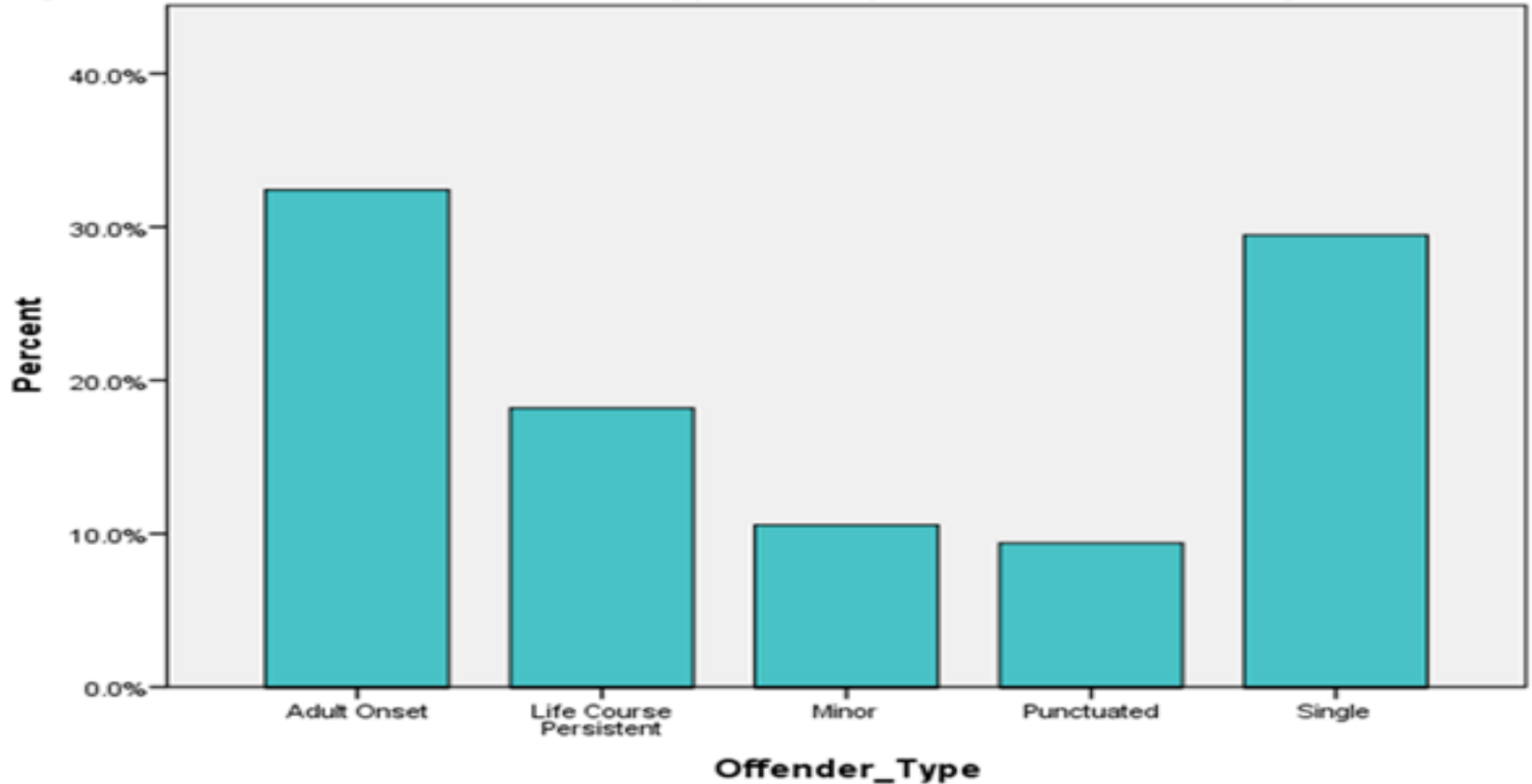




# Offender Patterns



**Figure 4 - Distribution of Offender Types of Imprisoned Serious Drug Traffickers**



# Criminal pasts – Misc.



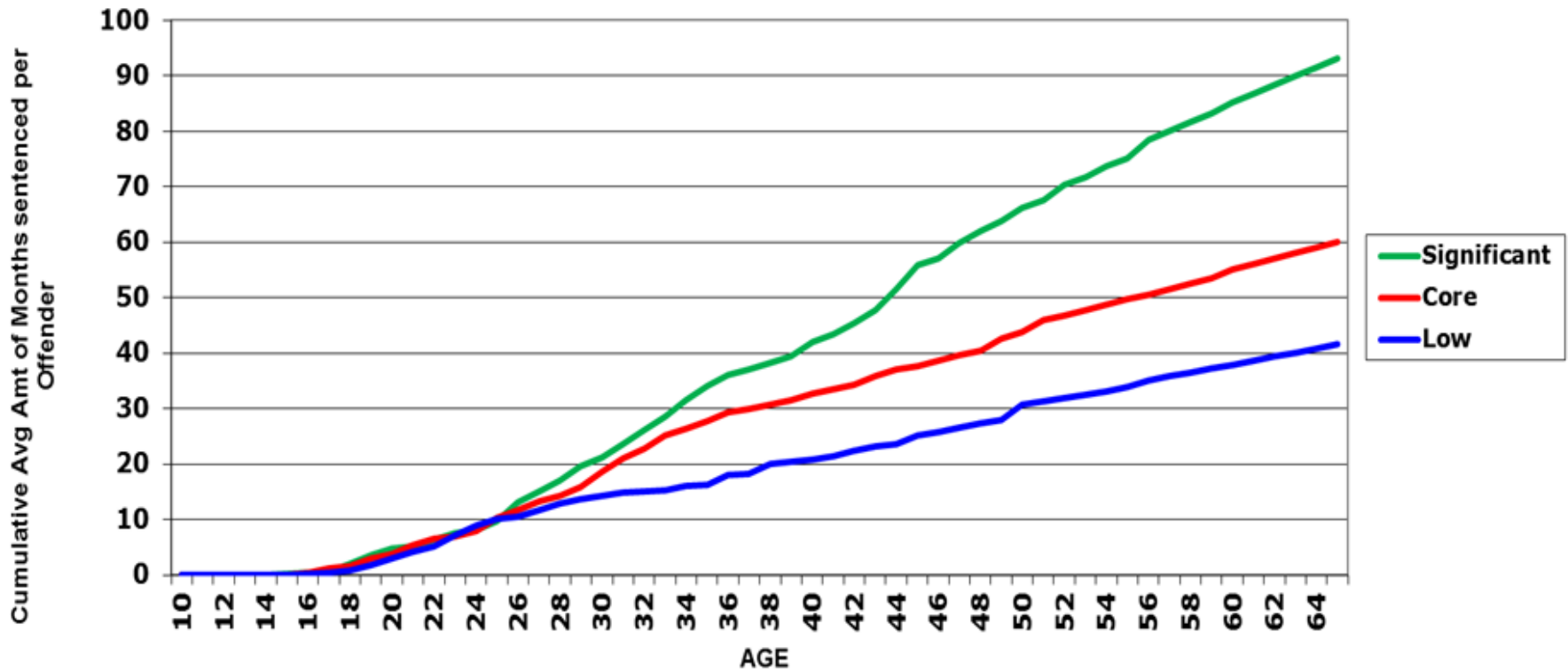
- Mean current sentence – 12.6 years (sd 5.877)
- Mean number of convictions – 5.47 (sd 6.162)
- Mean career length – 13.32 years (sd 13.268)
- Minor drugs offences are low, Drink Driving is high
- Violence low overall, firearms very low



# A graduation towards trafficking?



Fig.5 - Cumulative Offending Trajectories by Role Performed



# Interviews & Case Studies



- **Is the official offending history correct?**
- Interviews 15 yes, 3 no;
- Case studies 0 yes, 6 no
  
- **What was your main route / pathway into trafficking?**
- Family & / or friends – 17/24
- Prison – 2 / 24
- Legitimate business – 4 / 24



# So what?



- Intelligence assessment
- Early intervention
- Covert activity
- Influence activity





*Any questions?*



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