

Motoring Offence Statistics for Northern Ireland

2019 Annual Report

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Key Statistics

- In 2019, there were 47,065 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 6,846 (13%) offences on the 53,911 detections recorded in 2018.
- Of the 47,065 detections in 2019, over half (58%) resulted in a referral for prosecution and a further one quarter in endorsable fixed penalty notices.
- The largest offence group recorded was speeding offences with a total of 7,578 detections in 2019 accounting for 16% of all detections for motoring offences. This was a decrease of 9% on the number recorded in 2018.
- Insurance offences accounted for 7,560 of all these detections in 2019, a decrease of 14% on the number recorded in 2018. There were a further 4,158 detections related to careless driving offences, 488 fewer offences on the number detected in 2018.
- Drink or drug driving offences has seen an increase of 2% to 3,005 in 2019 when compared with 2018.



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency



Keeping People Safe

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We welcome user feedback on these statistics. This can be sent to the email address on the cover page or by contacting us at the telephone number provided.

1. Things you need to know about this release

Motoring offence statistics for Northern Ireland are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

[PSNI Official Statistics documentation](#) is available on the Official Statistics section of the PSNI website.

Coverage

This report provides statistics on the number of motoring offences detected by police in Northern Ireland in 2019. It does not include any detections by the NI Road Safety Partnership. Figures relating to such detections through the Partnership can be accessed via the following link – [NI RSP](#).

The range of disposals covered includes those offences dealt with by means of a fixed penalty notice (FPN), speed awareness course and referral for prosecution. Statistics Branch developed the functionality to report on prosecution referrals in 2017, at which point the figures were validated and reported back to 2011. Quality concerns due to the introduction of different information systems prevented any further back dating of the figures.

This report presents the most recent motoring offence statistics based on figures that were extracted on 13th March 2020. As of that date, 99.9% of FPNs for 2019 had been processed, while 0.1% remained pending. Referred for prosecution figures from 1st January 2018 onwards remain provisional and therefore subject to amendment. The information is also available in tabular format in the [accompanying spreadsheets](#) on the PSNI website.

Background information and details of the offences included in each offence grouping (Section 6) can be found in the [Motoring Offence User Guide](#) on the PSNI website. Please note the figures refer to the number of offences and not the number of persons detected as a person can be detected for more than one offence.

National Statistics Status

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and as producers, it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics were designated as National Statistics in March 2020 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#).

What's new in this report

This report now includes a section dedicated to drink drug driving offences, including number of arrests and top 5 alcohol readings. Within the speeding section it now includes the top speed detected by PSNI officers for each speed limit. New thematic maps have been developed to show the detection rate per 10,000 population across a range of offences.

Uses of the statistics

Uses of the statistics, based on user engagement, information requests and satisfaction survey feedback include policy making and policy monitoring, performance monitoring, and public interest, by a range of users including PSNI, Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs), media and academics.

More detail can be found in the Motoring Offence User Guide which can be accessed via the [motoring offences](#) statistics web page on the PSNI website.

PSNI Statistics Branch welcomes any user feedback on the changes, which can be provided via the email address on the cover page.

Related statistics

Sources of motoring offences data for other domains include [An Garda Síochána - Republic of Ireland](#) and [England and Wales](#). Related statistics include [Injury road traffic collision statistics](#) and [NI Road Safety Partnership](#) statistics.

2. Summary

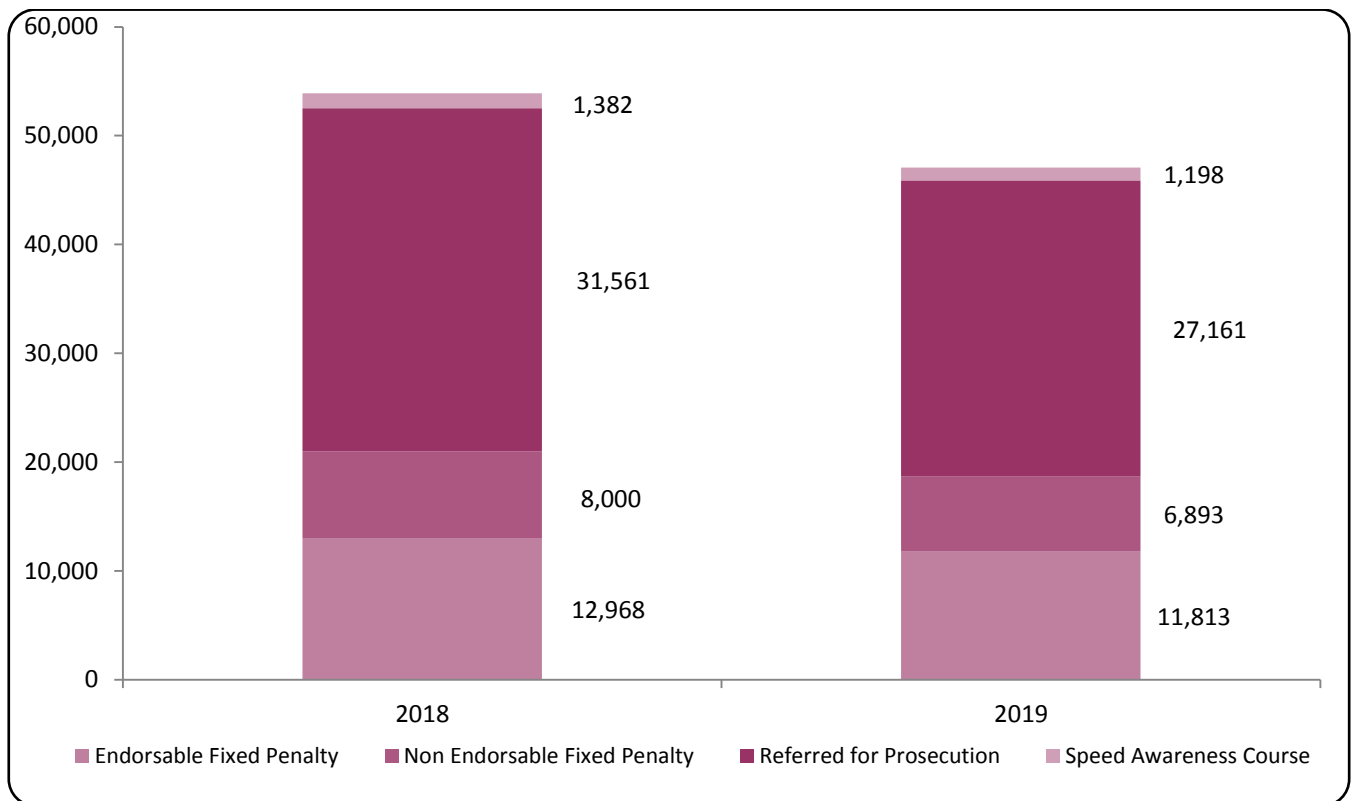
Over the last 12 months:

- the number of motoring offences decreased by 6,846 offences
- offences referred for prosecution fell by 14%
- endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 9%
- non endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 14%

Table 1: Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 2018 and 2019

	Number and Percentage			
	2018	2019	Change over last 12 months	
			Number	%
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	12,968	11,813	-1,155	-9
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	8,000	6,893	-1,107	-14
Referred for Prosecution	31,561	27,161	-4,400	-14
Speed Awareness Course	1,382	1,198	-184	-13
Total	53,911	47,065	-6,846	-13

Figure 1: Comparisons of disposal types for motoring offences, 2018 and 2019



3. Trends

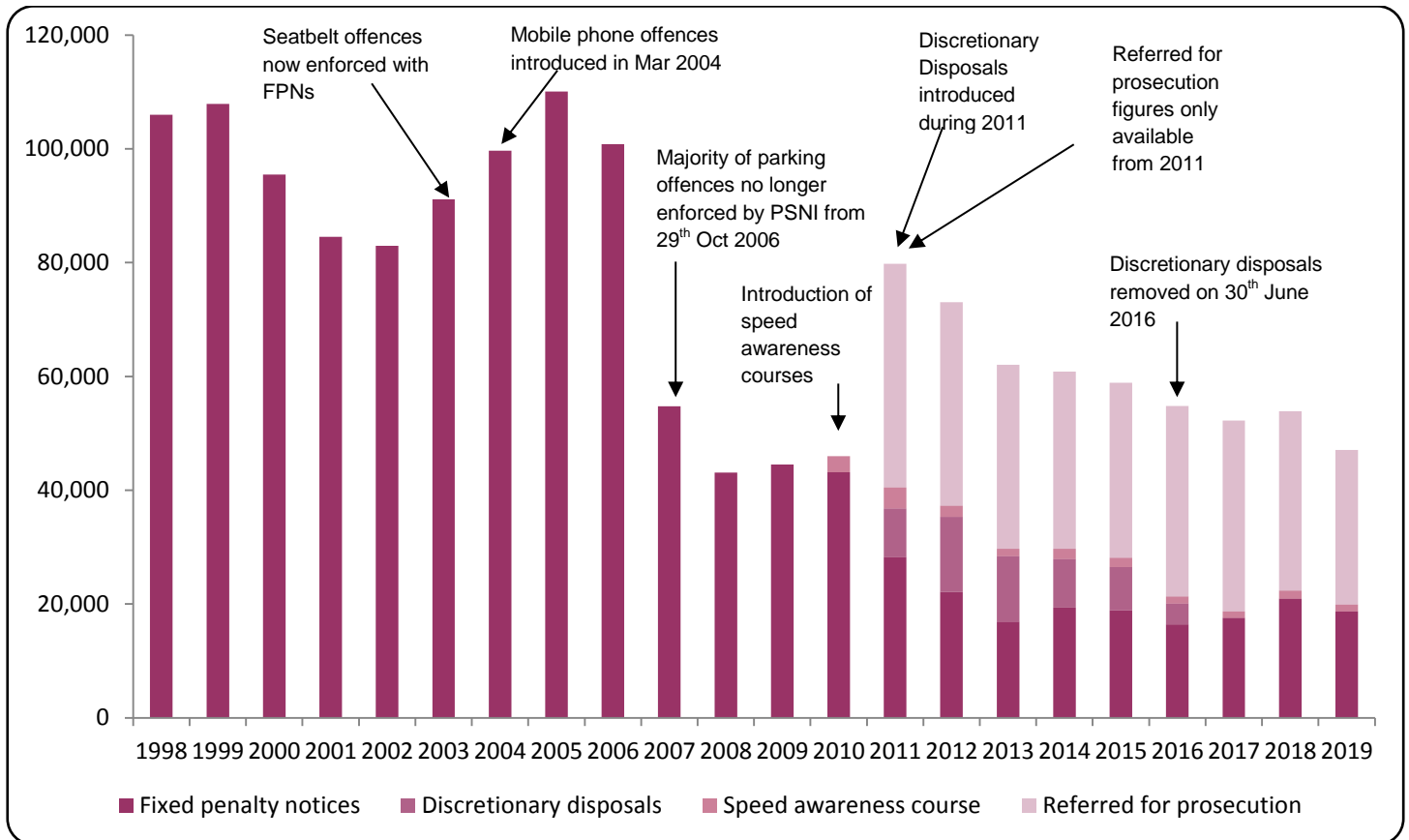
The number of FPNs has significantly decreased over the past number of years from a total 105,966 recorded in 1998 to 18,706 recorded in 2019.

A large proportion of the decrease is due to the introduction of the Traffic Management (NI) Order 2005 which came into effect on 30th October 2006. This legislation decriminalised the vast majority of parking and waiting offences in Northern Ireland. Enforcement of parking/waiting restrictions is now the responsibility of Traffic Attendants employed by National Car Parks Limited on behalf of Transport NI.

The total number of motoring offences has been steadily decreasing over the past number of years from 79,796 recorded in 2011 to 47,065 in 2019.

The removal of discretionary disposals as an option for motoring offences has had a notable impact on the number of motoring offences, albeit other disposals have also seen a decline over the years.

Figure 2: Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 1998 –2019



4. Offence group

Table 2: Number of motoring offences by offence group and month of year, 2018 and 2019

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Total	Change over last	
	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2018	Number	%
Breach of signs & signals	32	24	15	27	15	35	15	43	28	34	33	34	335	427	-92	-22
Careless driving	361	375	402	379	359	372	346	338	330	343	311	242	4,158	4,646	-488	-11
Construction & use	134	157	221	138	129	145	132	154	110	206	191	136	1,853	1,939	-86	-4
Dangerous driving	128	129	132	125	129	122	122	135	101	102	91	80	1,396	1,855	-459	-25
Drink or drug driving	207	214	271	260	295	244	226	285	256	240	232	275	3,005	2,942	63	2
Driving licence	349	307	369	330	318	316	317	320	296	327	265	214	3,728	4,513	-785	-17
Driving whilst disqualified	87	106	93	96	95	97	87	81	82	93	64	44	1,025	1,177	-152	-13
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	213	205	287	265	267	249	211	264	189	181	179	148	2,658	2,787	-129	-5
Fraudulent use / declaration	23	16	31	26	22	17	26	25	17	18	25	8	254	297	-43	-14
Insurance	650	585	706	628	657	670	682	621	595	665	599	502	7,560	8,766	-1,206	-14
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	93	118	144	118	121	143	145	132	94	152	129	75	1,464	1,632	-168	-10
Miscellaneous	54	58	59	51	58	64	63	70	43	49	44	36	649	749	-100	-13
Mobile phone	293	364	357	309	336	264	345	340	299	343	269	212	3,731	4,553	-822	-18
Non motor vehicle	2	3	0	1	1	6	1	1	1	4	5	5	30	30	0	0
Parking	148	197	150	106	112	96	153	100	163	243	159	124	1,751	1,769	-18	-1
Pedestrian	9	3	8	6	6	4	12	8	3	4	3	6	72	80	-8	-10
Seatbelt	54	61	100	104	70	82	120	68	50	79	85	49	922	1,128	-206	-18
Speeding	623	718	683	672	678	517	769	596	674	767	570	311	7,578	8,307	-729	-9
Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering	93	114	96	107	149	85	89	108	85	82	84	85	1,177	1,387	-210	-15
Vehicle test certificate	339	329	385	329	321	329	308	238	296	300	306	239	3,719	4,927	-1,208	-25
Total	3,892	4,083	4,509	4,077	4,138	3,857	4,169	3,927	3,712	4,232	3,644	2,825	47,065	53,911	-6,846	-13

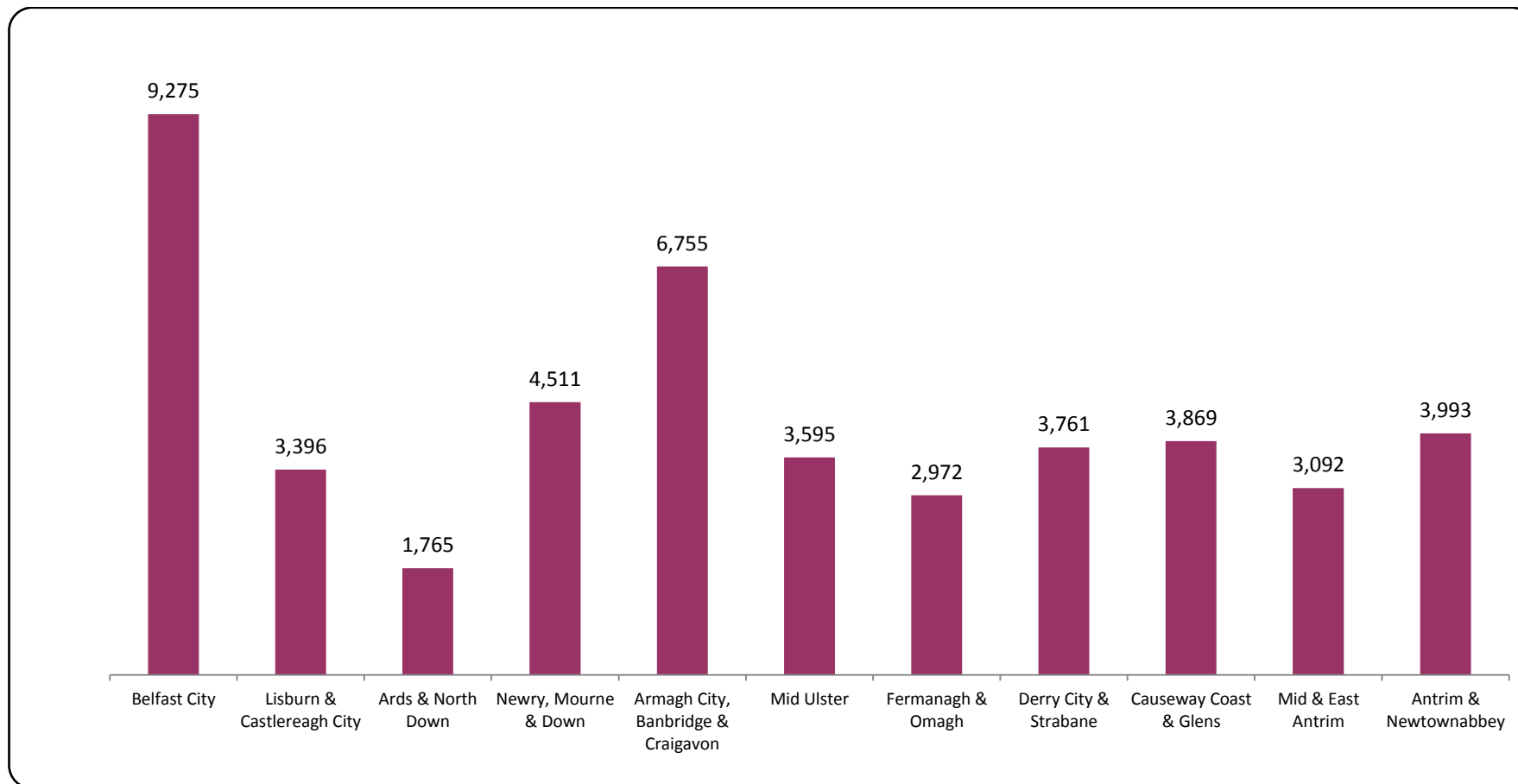
Table 3: Number of motoring offences by gender, age and offence group, 2019

	Gender			Age						Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 69	70+	Unknown	
Breach of signs & signals	227	79	29	4	64	101	52	12	102	335
Careless driving	3,105	1,049	4	100	1,427	1,547	857	222	5	4,158
Construction & use	1,623	227	3	88	1,054	478	163	19	51	1,853
Dangerous driving	1,223	171	2	63	707	476	128	22	0	1,396
Drink or drug driving	2,435	568	2	30	954	1,419	549	53	0	3,005
Driving licence	3,112	611	5	99	1,445	1,714	417	53	0	3,728
Driving whilst disqualified	916	109	0	74	337	519	90	5	0	1,025
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	2,133	525	0	80	1,023	995	427	130	3	2,658
Fraudulent use / declaration	225	27	2	4	86	124	32	3	5	254
Insurance	6,195	1,355	10	196	3,086	3,383	809	84	2	7,560
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	1,220	237	7	110	664	514	162	14	0	1,464
Miscellaneous	586	62	1	30	302	253	58	3	3	649
Mobile phone	3,002	728	1	16	828	1,977	830	80	0	3,731
Non motor vehicle	28	1	1	4	16	8	2	0	0	30
Parking	953	727	71	1	109	111	42	7	1,481	1,751
Pedestrian	68	4	0	7	31	25	5	3	1	72
Seatbelt	733	189	0	7	311	381	197	26	0	922
Speeding	5,319	2,259	0	122	2,607	3,142	1,545	162	0	7,578
Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering	1,065	112	0	150	581	388	56	2	0	1,177
Vehicle test certificate	2,773	945	1	20	969	1,787	717	69	157	3,719
Total	36,941	9,985	139	1,205	16,601	19,342	7,138	969	1,810	47,065

- In 2019, there were 47,065 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 6,846 (13%) offences on the 53,911 detections recorded in 2018.
- Table 2 shows that the largest offence group recorded in 2019 was speeding offences with a total of 7,578 detections, accounting for 16% of all detections for motoring offences. This was a decrease of 729 on the number recorded in 2018.
- The highest speed recorded by PSNI officers in 2019 was 135mph on the A1 dual carriageway.
- In 2018 (latest available figures), the NI Road Safety Partnership detected over 5 times more speeding offences than the PSNI (40,969).
- Despite a decrease of more than 1,200 during 2019, insurance offences were the second largest offence group, accounting for 16% of the total (table 2).
- Over half of those detected for mobile phone offences were age 30-49 (table 3).
- Based on 2019 figures, parking offences have decreased on the number recorded in 2018. However, the most recent period shows a 64% increase on the number recorded in 2016. It is likely that the ongoing Pavement Parking Campaign, which was originally launched in early 2017, contributed to this increase. The campaign employs a graduated approach whereby officers use flyers to educate drivers that they are parked in a manner which is likely to obstruct pedestrians. Drivers are informed that if they continue to do so they may be issued with a FPN.

5. Policing District

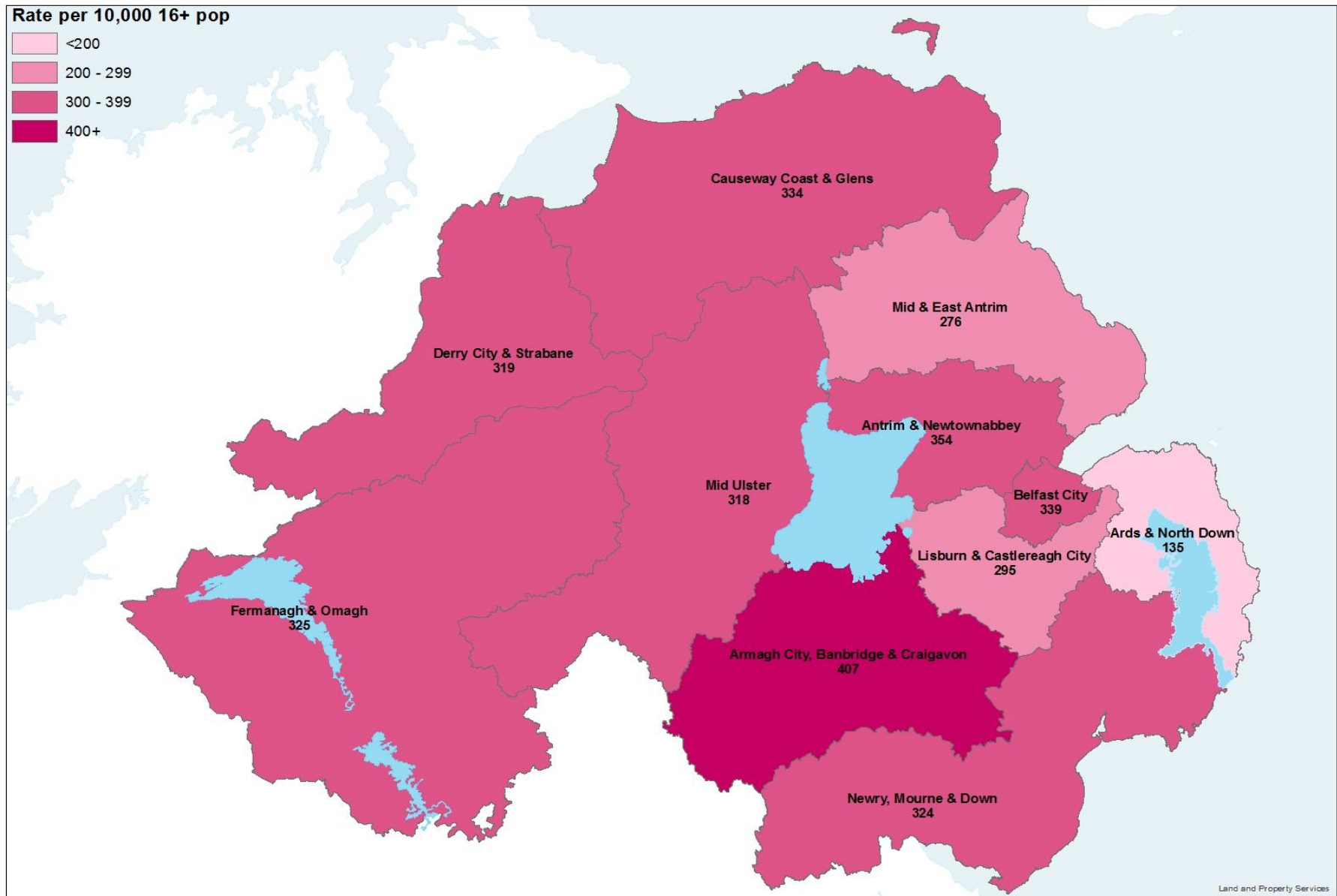
Figure 3: Number of motoring offences by Policing District, 2019



Unknown district is excluded from the chart above

The number of motoring offences detected in Belfast City represented almost one fifth of all motoring offences detected in 2019. Ards and North Down recorded the least detections, accounting for 4% of the total in 2019. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon recorded 407 offences per 10,000 population aged 16+ while Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population aged 16+, with 135 (figure 4).

Figure 4: Rate of motoring offences per 10,000 population¹ aged 16+ by Policing District: 2019

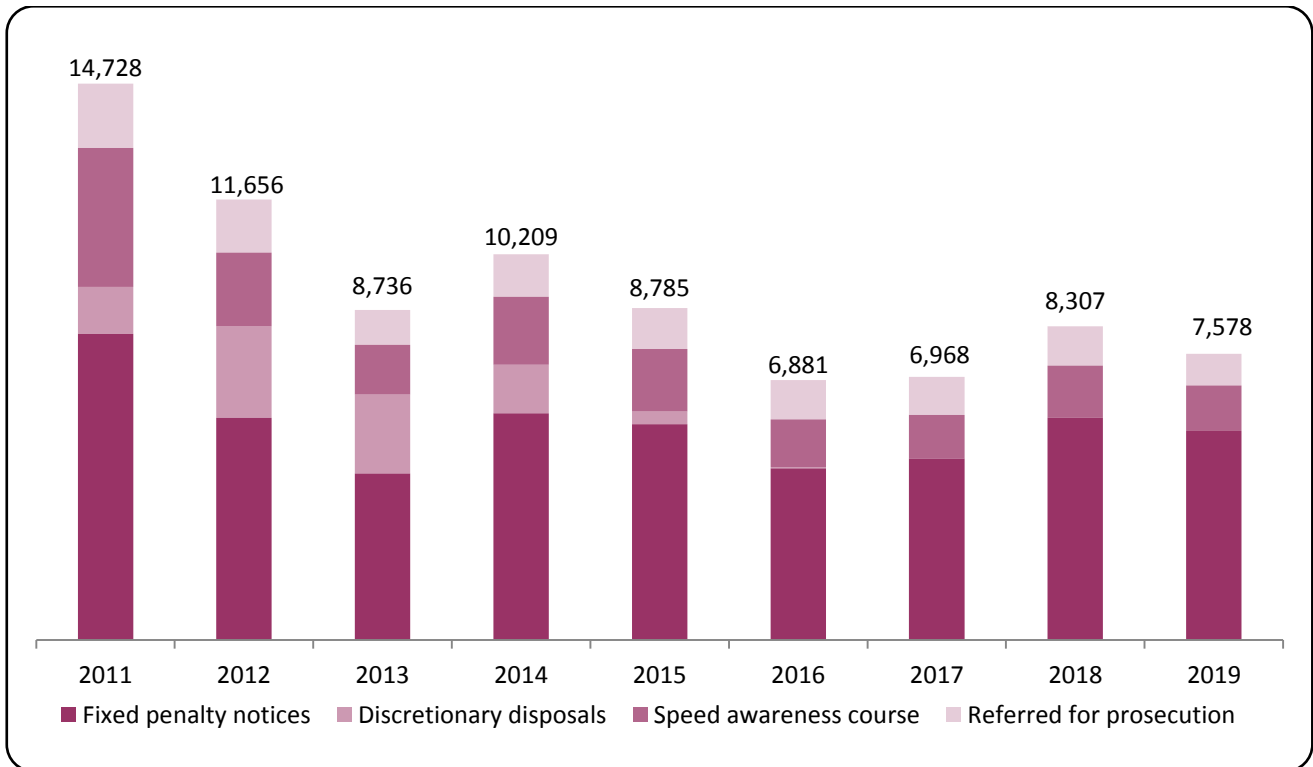


¹ Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Service (NINIS)

6. Speeding

In Northern Ireland speeding offences can be detected by PSNI officers or by the fixed cameras and mobile cameras operated by the Northern Ireland Road Safety Partnership (NIRSP). More detailed information regarding the NIRSP can be obtained from the [NI RSP website](#). In 2018² (the most recent year available) the NIRSP detected 40,969 persons speeding which equated to over four fifths of the combined PSNI and NIRSP total for that year.

Figure 5: Number of speeding offences detected by PSNI, 2011 – 2019



In 2019, there were 7,578 detections for speeding offences, accounting for 16% of all motoring offences detected by PSNI, with 31% of these detected at the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) – see table 5. The highest speed detected in 2019 was 135mph on the A1 dual carriageway, a 70mph stretch of road (table 4).

Table 4: Top speed detected by PSNI within each speed limit, 2019

Speed limit	Highest speed detected	Location
20 mph	45 mph	Finvoy Road, Ballymoney
30 mph	80 mph	Victoria Road, New Buildings Raceview Road, Broughshane Belfast Road, Bangor Mallusk Road, Newtownabbey
40 mph	87 mph	M1 Motorway, Portadown
45 mph	109 mph	M1 Motorway, Moira
50 mph	87 mph	M1 Motorway, Dungannon
60 mph	126 mph	A1, Banbridge
70 mph	135 mph	A1, Newry

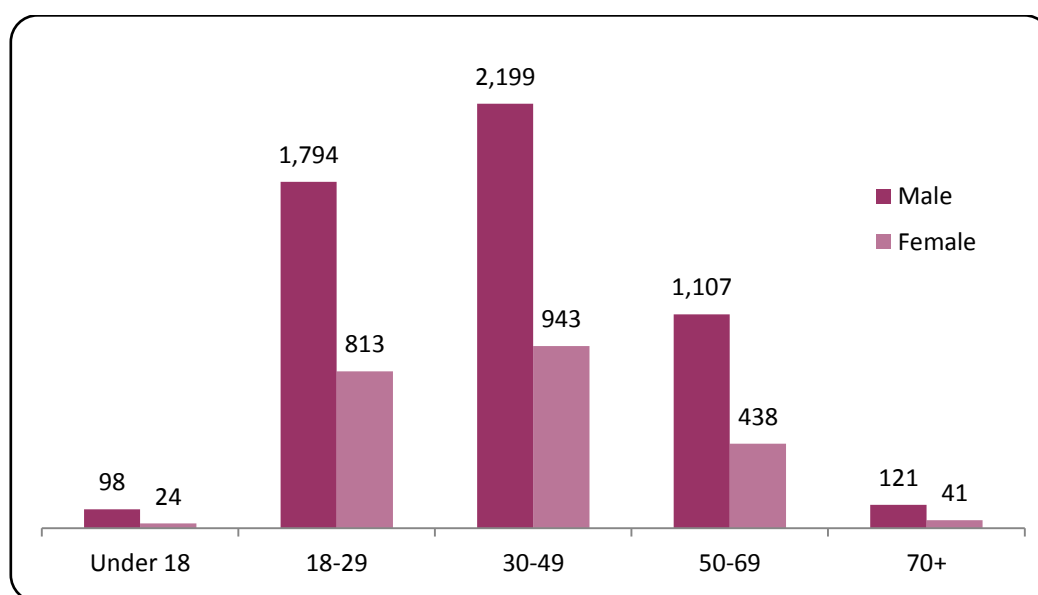
² 2019 figures will be published on 26th June 2020.

Table 5: Number of speeding offences by day of week and month of year, 2019

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	95	67	57	89	107	103	105	623
February	121	93	124	92	107	89	92	718
March	151	81	76	84	103	102	86	683
April	109	93	87	91	86	112	94	672
May	103	64	93	74	87	110	147	678
June	77	60	75	64	89	84	68	517
July	98	106	115	120	114	78	138	769
August	87	71	68	68	107	86	109	596
September	131	81	88	73	117	106	78	674
October	90	89	83	106	97	178	124	767
November	97	75	50	78	74	114	82	570
December	55	54	39	38	37	48	40	311
Total	1,214	934	955	977	1,125	1,210	1,163	7,578

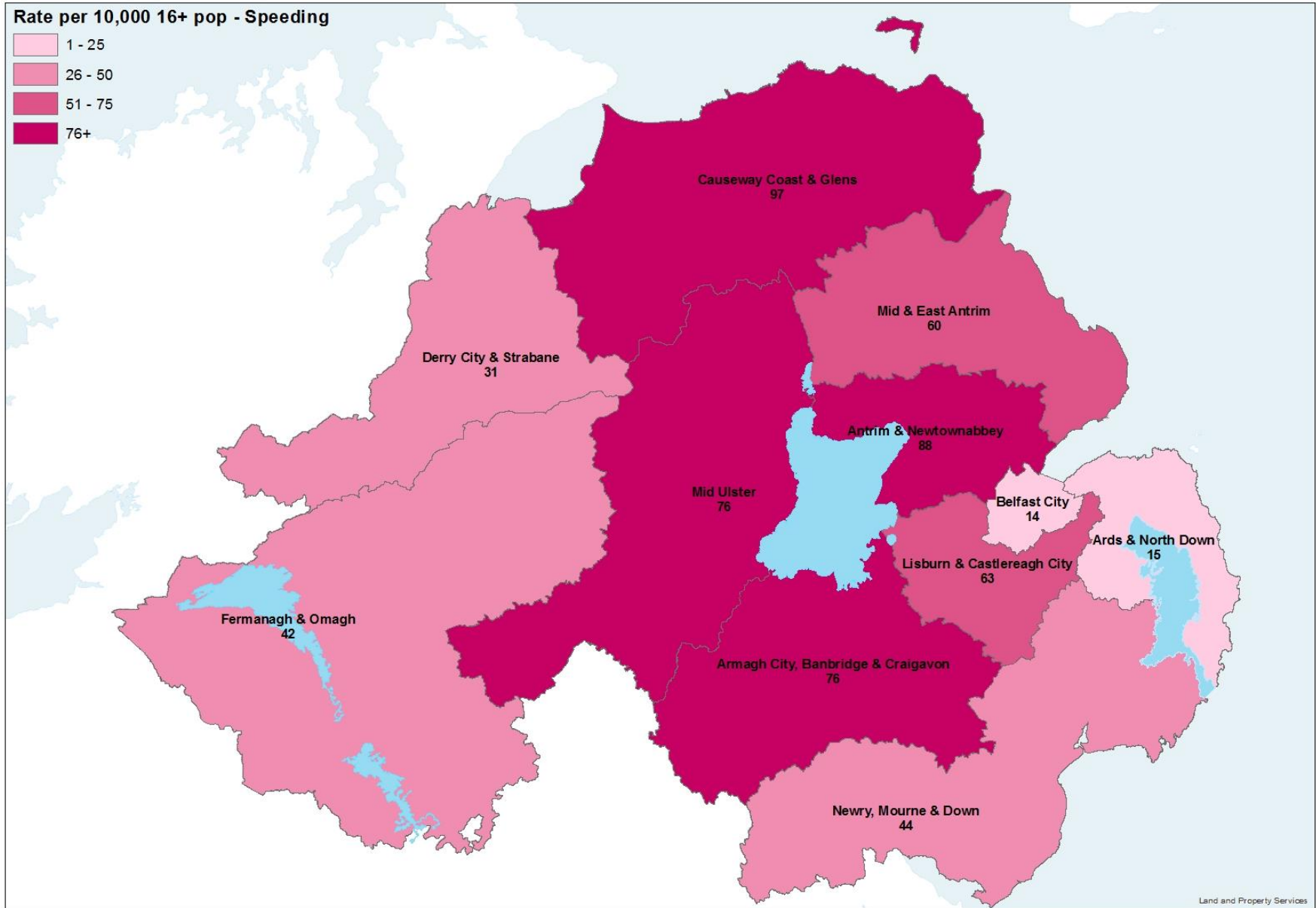
Males accounted for 70% of all persons detected for speeding offences. Persons aged 30 – 49 represented over two fifths of all persons detected for speeding offences, followed by 18 - 29 year olds accounting for a further 34%.

Figure 6: Number of speeding offences by age and gender, 2019



The largest number of speeding offences detected in 2019 was in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon policing district (1,257) while Ards and North Down recorded the least detections (200). However as a rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, Causeway Coast and Glens recorded 97 speeding offences per 10,000 population, while Belfast recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 14 (figure 7).

Figure 7: Rate of speeding offences per 10,000 population³ aged 16+ by Policing District: 2019

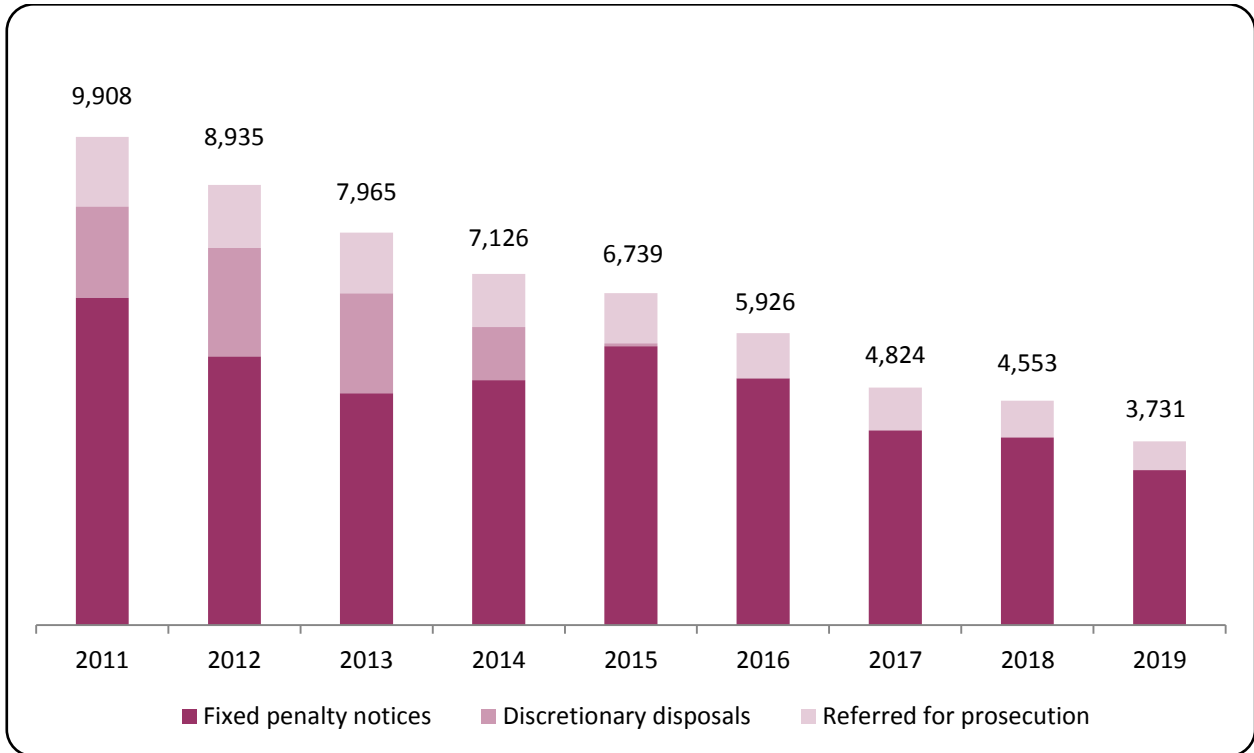


³ Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Service (NINIS)

7. Mobile phone

The number of detections for mobile phone offences has steadily decreased from 9,908 in 2011 to 3,731 in 2019 (a decrease of 62%). Although the number of detections has decreased, research conducted by DfI⁴ shows that 52% of drivers used their phone in some capacity in the last year while driving, with males most likely to make a hand held call. Over 90% of respondents identified they were more likely to cause a crash when using a mobile phone while driving, while 82% believed they were less likely to notice danger ahead.

Figure 8: Number of mobile phone offences, 2011 – 2019



Mobile phone offences accounted for 8% of all motoring offences in 2019. There were fewer detections for this offence group on a Saturday and Sunday with the majority detected on a Friday (19%) (table 6).

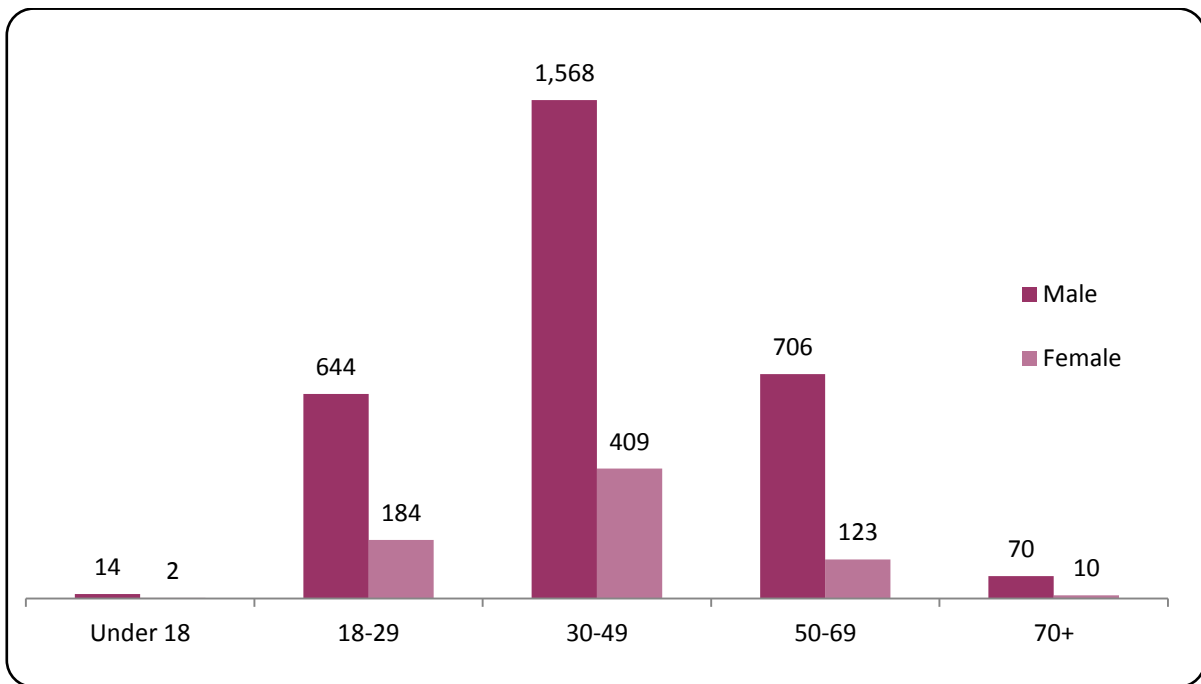
⁴ <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/road-safety-issues-northern-ireland-201718>

Table 6: Number of mobile phone offences by day of week and month of year, 2019

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	16	43	53	52	50	49	30	293
February	19	52	55	49	78	67	44	364
March	28	41	53	46	65	85	39	357
April	16	47	56	58	49	53	30	309
May	15	35	53	66	59	71	37	336
June	13	37	48	31	50	52	33	264
July	11	49	60	71	62	56	36	345
August	24	39	54	44	64	81	34	340
September	18	54	40	46	56	51	34	299
October	13	45	60	70	70	60	25	343
November	17	39	26	42	62	54	29	269
December	17	52	39	23	35	25	21	212
Total	207	533	597	598	700	704	392	3,731

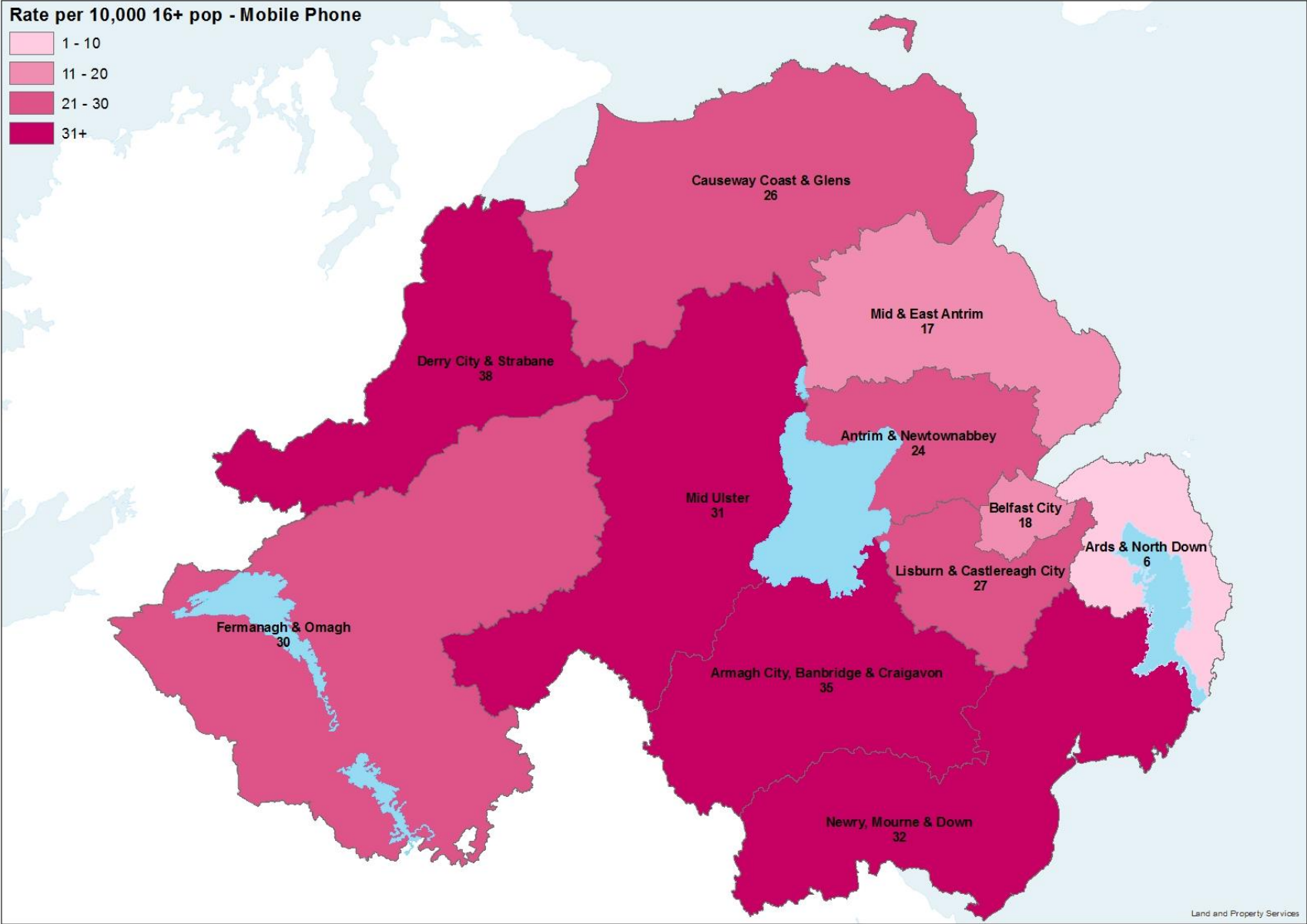
Males accounted for four fifths of all persons detected for mobile phone offences while persons aged 30 – 49 accounted for over half (53%).

Figure 9: Number of mobile phones offences by age and gender, 2019



The largest number of mobile phone offences detected in 2019 was in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon policing district (580) while Ards and North Down recorded the least detections (76). However as a rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, Derry City and Strabane recorded 38 mobile phone offences per 10,000 population while Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 6 (figure 10).

Figure 10: Rate of mobile phone offences per 10,000 population⁵ aged 16+ by Policing District: 2019

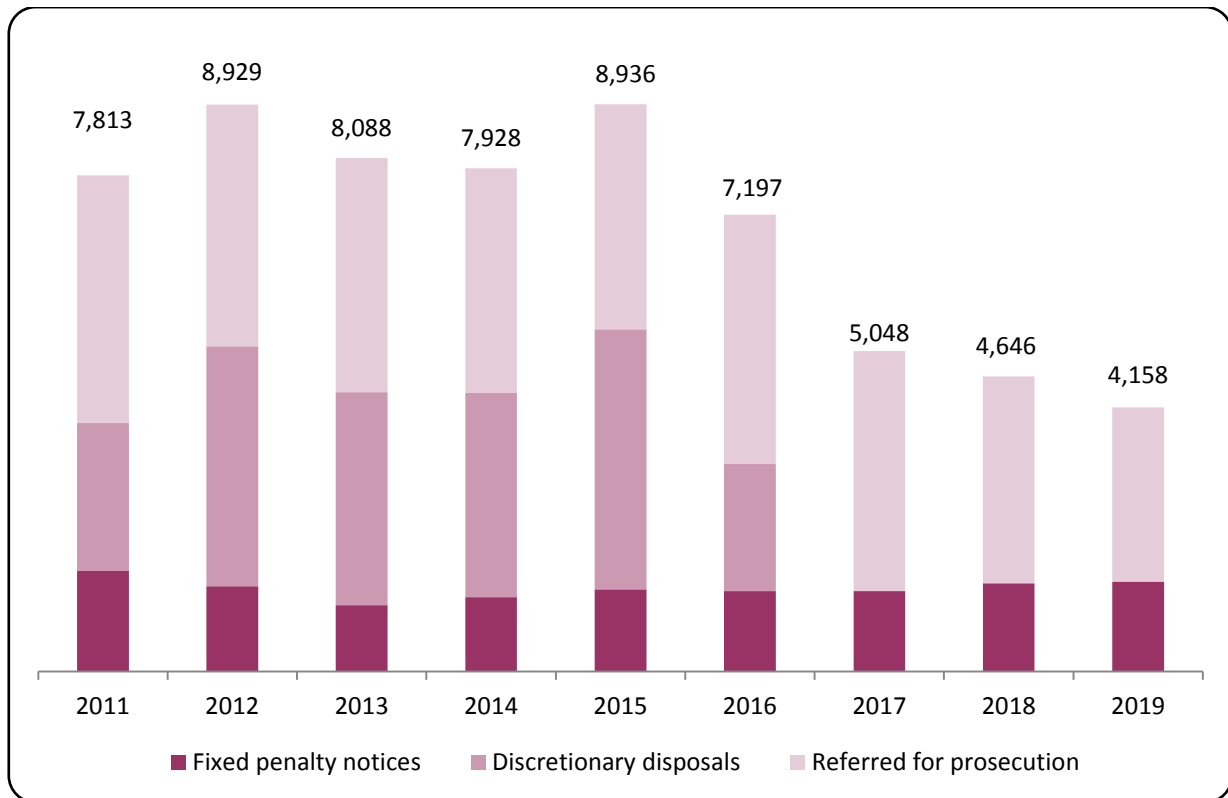


⁵ Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Service (NINIS)

8. Careless driving

The number of careless driving offences decreased from 7,813 in 2011 to 4,158 in 2019 (a decrease of 47%), however the evidence indicates that it remains the main contributor to injury road traffic collisions. The top 3 principal causation factors in injury collisions between January and November 2019⁶ were 'inattention or attention diverted', 'driving too close' and 'emerging from minor road without care'. These types of factors would be captured in the offences under 'driving without due care and attention', which accounted for 85% of all careless driving offences.

Figure 11: Number of careless driving offences, 2011 – 2019



One in six (17%) were issued on a Friday while one in ten careless driving offences were detected in March (table 7).

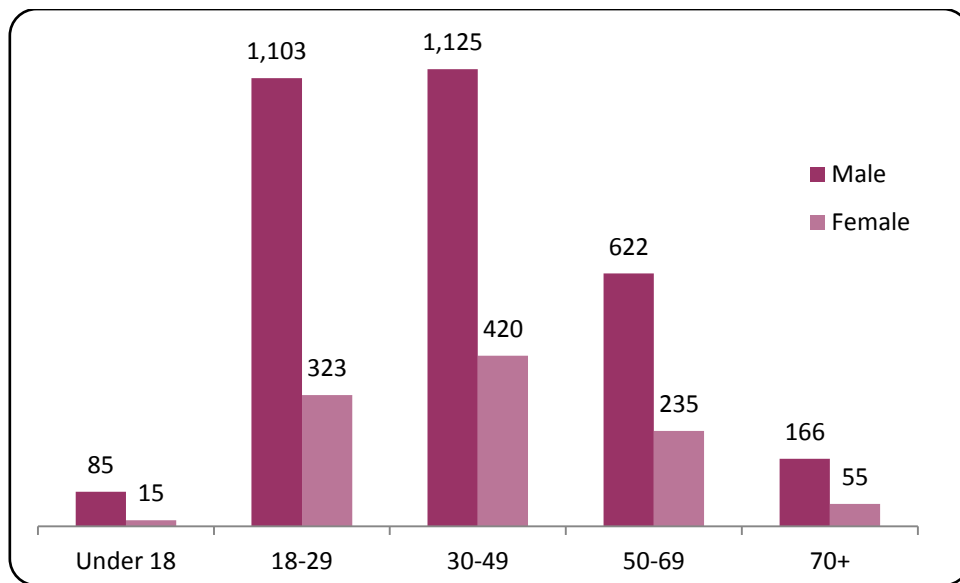
⁶ <https://www.psnipolice.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/road-traffic-collision-statistics/2019/november/police-recorded-injury-road-traffic-collisions-and-casualties-november-2019.pdf>

Table 7: Number of careless driving offences by day of week and month of year, 2019

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	44	43	57	57	67	56	37	361
February	38	48	58	45	66	50	70	375
March	48	59	58	46	45	76	70	402
April	52	67	62	37	54	46	61	379
May	42	26	49	55	65	77	45	359
June	56	50	50	53	44	59	60	372
July	45	54	52	51	48	49	47	346
August	34	65	39	39	44	61	56	338
September	48	49	30	33	53	65	52	330
October	34	34	60	50	65	59	41	343
November	37	40	36	46	43	67	42	311
December	27	41	24	24	43	41	42	242
Total	505	576	575	536	637	706	623	4,158

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for three quarters of careless driving offences and 30-49 year olds accounted for 37%.

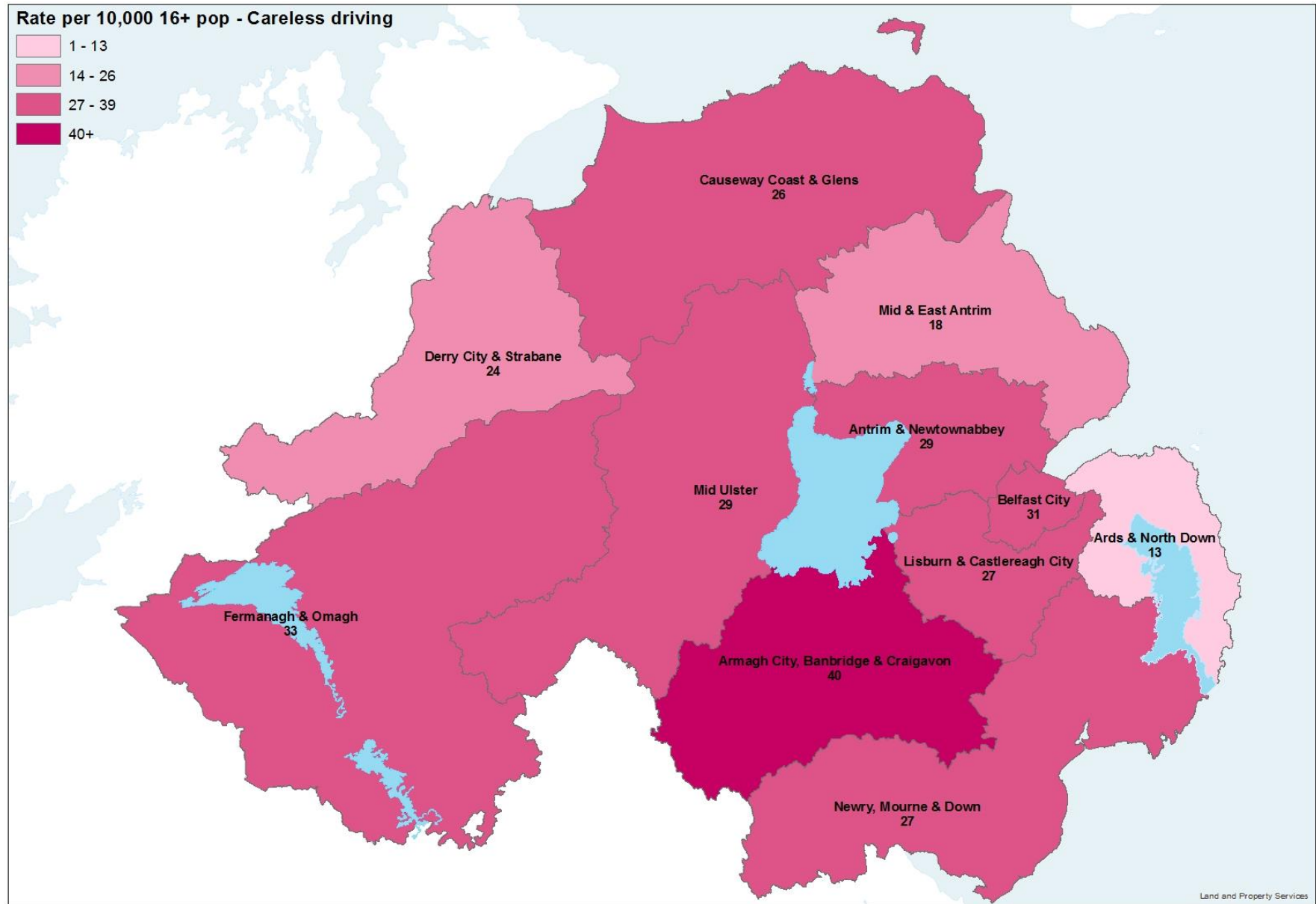
Figure 12: Number of careless driving offences by age and gender, 2019



Unknown age and gender is excluded from the chart above

The largest number of careless driving offences detected in 2019 was in Belfast City policing district (861) while Ards and North Down recorded the least detections (175). However as a rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon recorded 40 careless driving phone offences per 10,000 population, while Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 13 (figure 13).

Figure 13: Rate of careless driving offences per 10,000 population⁷ aged 16+ by Policing District: 2019

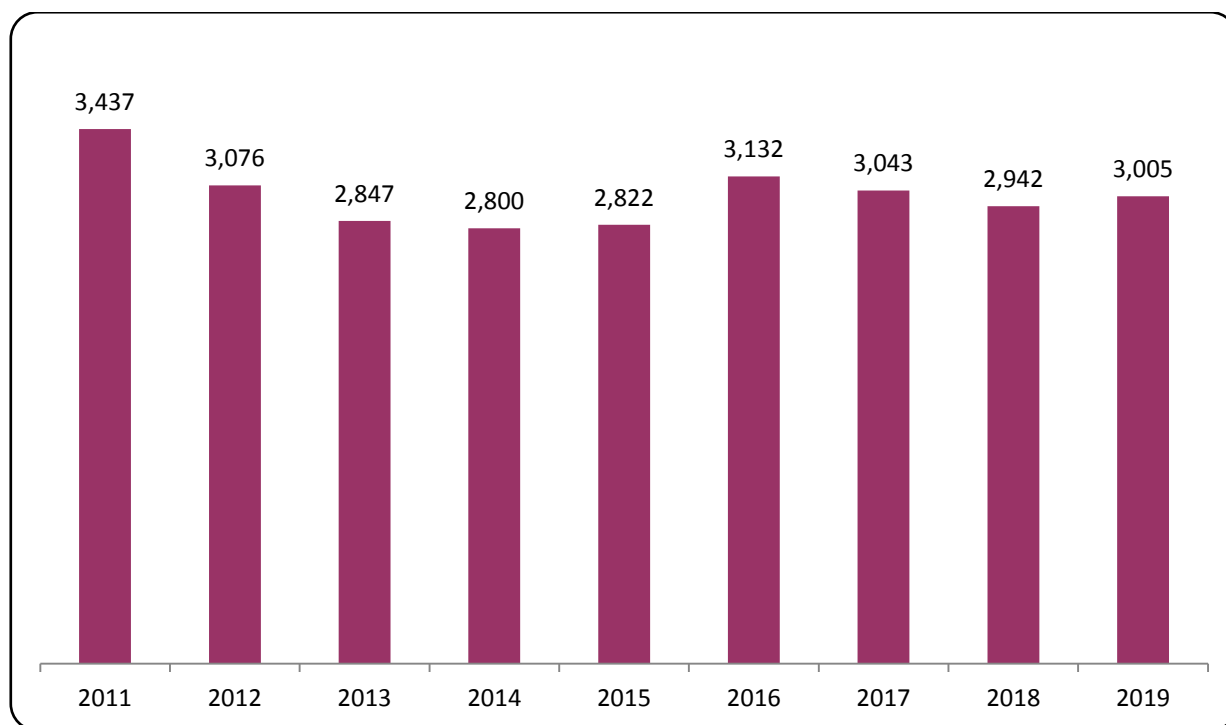


⁷ Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Service (NINIS)

9. Drink or drug driving

The number of arrests for drink/drug driving offences in 2019 was 3,288 resulting in 3,005 drink/drug driving offences being referred for prosecution, with the worst offender being almost 5 times over the limit (table 9). This is a decrease from 3,669 arrests and 3,437 offences referred for prosecution in 2011 (a decrease of 10% and 13% respectively). Drink/drug driving continues to be a major contributor in fatal and serious injury road traffic collisions as 'impaired by alcohol/drugs – driver/rider' was the 4th most common principal causation factor for such collisions between January and November 2019⁸. Further analysis identifying issues and trends in relation to fatal and serious collisions caused by drink driving has been completed by Department for Infrastructure⁹.

Figure 14: Number of drink/drug driving offences, 2011 – 2019



Almost half (46%) of drink/drug driving offences were detected at the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) and May was the month of year when most detections for drink/drug driving offences occurred, accounting for 10% of the total. The Christmas drink drive campaign¹⁰ contributes to the higher number of offences in December, which showed the third highest monthly total for 2019 (table 8).

The largest number of drink drug driving offences detected in 2019 was in Belfast City policing district (520) while Ards and North Down recorded the least detections (154). However as a rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon recorded 24 drink drug driving offences per 10,000 population, while Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 12 (figure 16).

⁸ <https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/road-traffic-collision-statistics/2019/november/police-recorded-injury-road-traffic-collisions-and-casualties-november-2019.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/system/files/publications/infrastructure/fatal-and-serious-%28ksi%29-road-traffic-collisions-caused-by-drink-driving-northern-ireland-2013-2017.pdf>

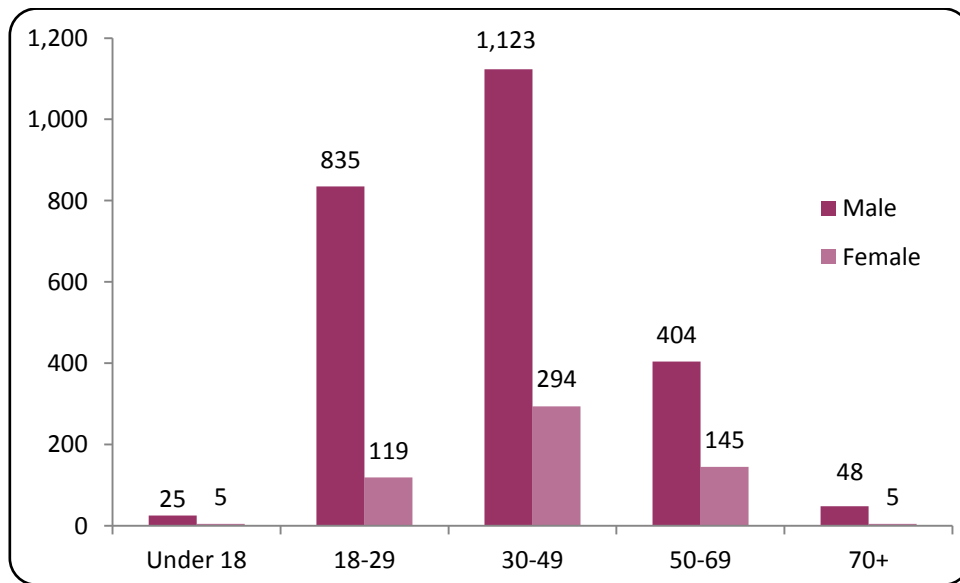
¹⁰ https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/motoring-offences-statistics/2018/christmas-drink-drive-bulletin-2018_19.pdf

Table 8: Number of drink/drug driving offences by day of week and month of year, 2019

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	50	24	28	24	19	31	31	207
February	64	26	17	17	19	26	45	214
March	65	35	21	22	38	31	59	271
April	53	40	38	20	28	33	48	260
May	70	46	24	31	23	48	53	295
June	81	22	24	16	11	21	69	244
July	56	34	31	22	16	31	36	226
August	69	32	19	22	40	28	75	285
September	72	38	23	14	24	29	56	256
October	68	30	25	20	27	26	44	240
November	68	18	18	15	22	39	52	232
December	67	41	27	29	30	42	39	275
Total	783	386	295	252	297	385	607	3,005

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for over four fifths of drink/drug driving offences and 30-49 year olds accounted for almost half (47%).

Figure 15: Number of drink/drug driving offences by age and gender, 2019



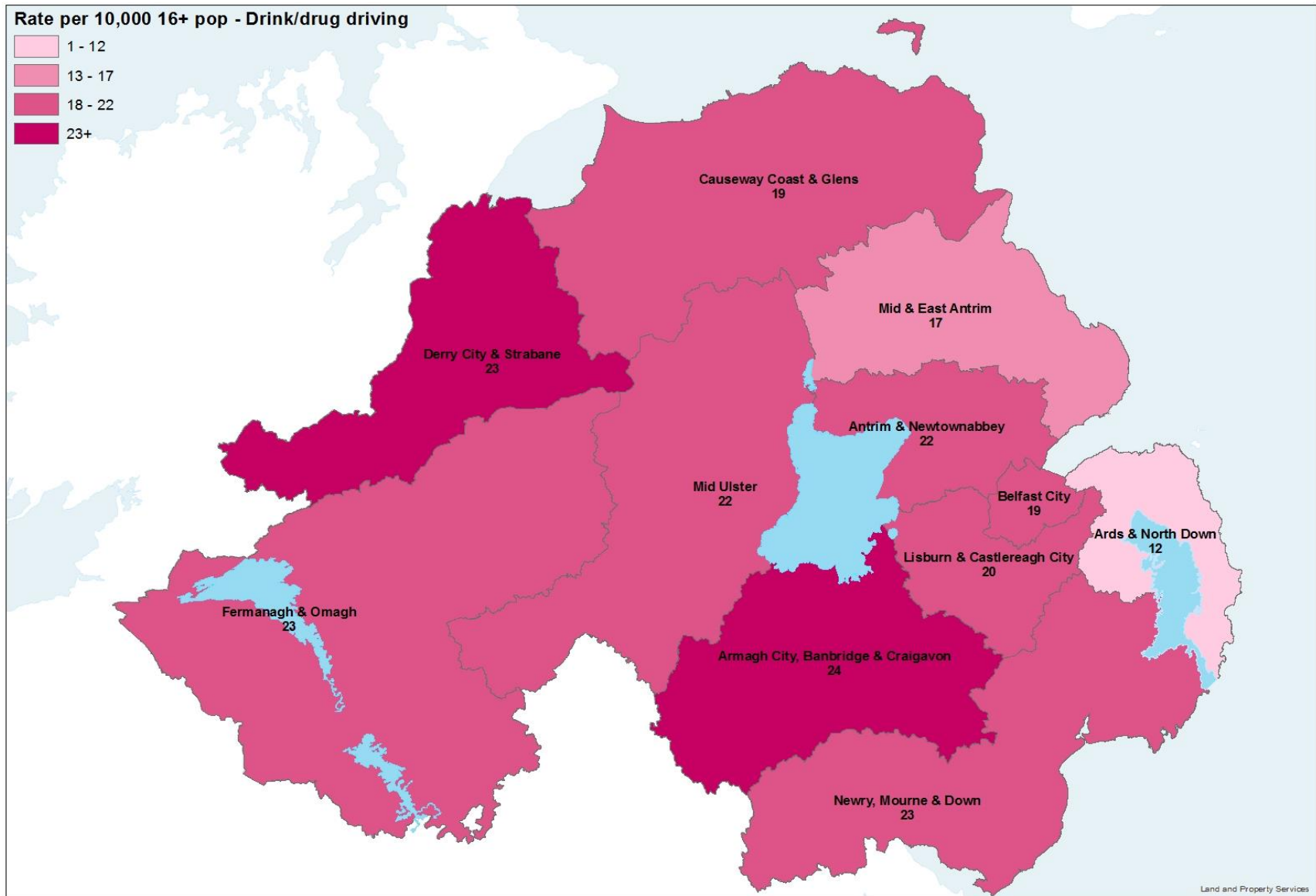
Unknown age and gender is excluded from the chart above

Table 9: Top 5 alcohol readings for drink/drug driving offences, 2019

Rank	Breath / Blood	Reading	No of times over legal limit ¹¹
1	Breath	171 µg/100ml	4.89
2	Breath	169 µg/100ml	4.83
3	Breath	168 µg/100ml	4.80
4	Breath	165 µg/100ml	4.71
5	Breath	161 µg/100ml	4.60

¹¹ Legal limit for breath tests is 35µg/100ml and for blood tests is 80mg/100ml

Figure 16: Rate of drink/drug driving offences per 10,000 population¹² aged 16+ by Policing District: 2019



¹² Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Service (NINIS)

10. Disposal types

Offences referred for prosecution accounted for 58% of all motoring offences detected in 2019, followed by endorsable FPNs comprising 25%. A further 15% were dealt with by means of a non endorsable FPN, while the remaining 2% completed a speed awareness course.

Figure 17: Breakdown of disposal types used for motoring offences, 2019

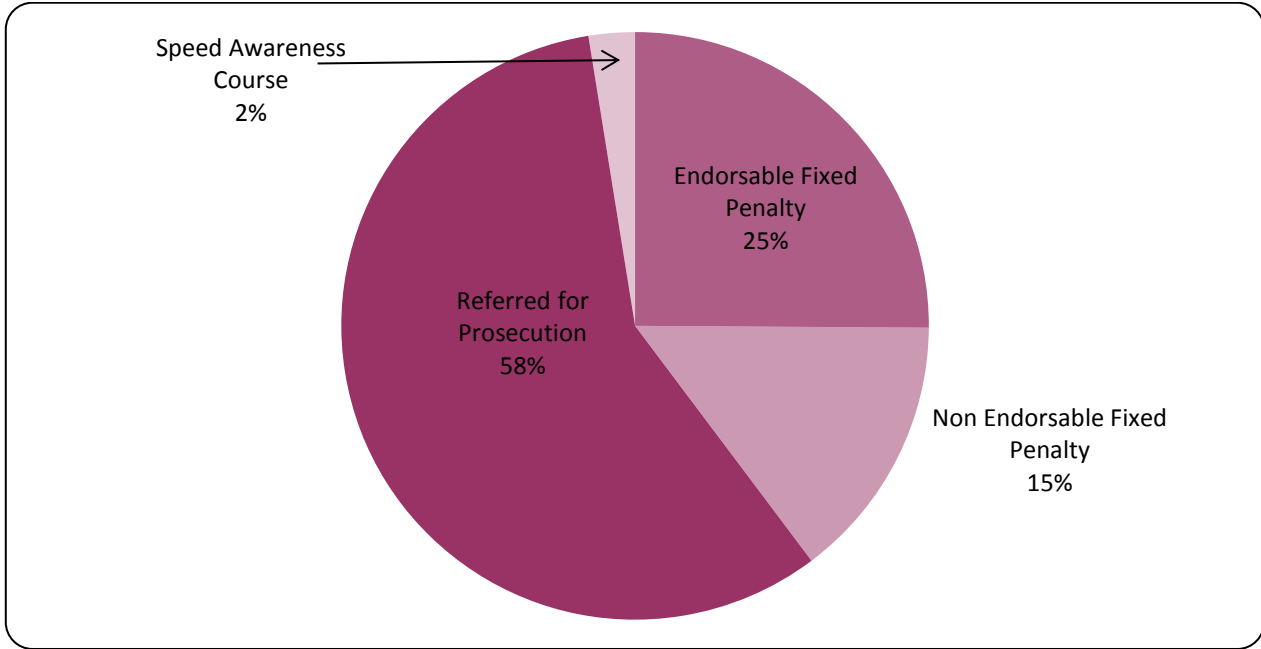


Table 10: Offence group by disposal type, 2019

	Endorsable FPN	Non Endorsable FPN	Referred for prosecution	Speed Awareness	Total
Breach of signs & signals	-	335	0	-	335
Careless driving	1,155	254	2,749	-	4,158
Construction & use	-	1,608	245	-	1,853
Dangerous driving	320	-	1,076	-	1,396
Drink or drug driving	-	-	3,005	-	3,005
Driving licence	-	-	3,728	-	3,728
Driving whilst disqualified	-	-	1,025	-	1,025
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	-	-	2,658	-	2,658
Fraudulent use / declaration	-	8	246	-	254
Insurance	959	-	6,601	-	7,560
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	95	-	1,369	-	1,464
Miscellaneous	9	42	598	-	649
Mobile phone	3,146	-	585	-	3,731
Non motor vehicle	-	8	22	-	30
Parking	23	1,711	17	-	1,751
Pedestrian	-	34	38	-	72
Seatbelt	577	78	267	-	922
Speeding	5,529	6	845	1,198	7,578
Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering	-	-	1,177	-	1,177
Vehicle test certificate	-	2,809	910	-	3,719
Total	11,813	6,893	27,161	1,198	47,065

10.1 Fixed penalty notices

FPNs originated as an administrative way to deal with simple parking offences without referring such matters to the courts. The scheme was then expanded to cover minor road traffic offences in the mid-1980s and was again further expanded to incorporate endorsable and non endorsable offences with the introduction of penalty points in October 1997.

Non endorsable offences are those which do not result in penalty points on your licence and which incur a fine of £30. The standard fine for endorsable offences is £60 along with three penalty points. More serious offences such as driving causing or permitting no insurance can incur fines of up to £200 and six points. Fine collection and revenue reporting are managed by NI Court Service.

A list of fixed penalty offences can be found at - [FPN list](#)

Endorsable fixed penalty notices

Endorsable FPNs accounted for one quarter of all disposal types used in 2019. Persons aged 30-49 represented 44% of those issued with an endorsable FPN, followed by persons aged 18-29 (30%). Females accounted for just over one quarter of all issued endorsable FPNs, while males accounted for 74%. Over half of all endorsable FPNs issued to females were for speeding offences.

Table 11: Number of endorsable FPNs issued by offence group, age and gender, 2019

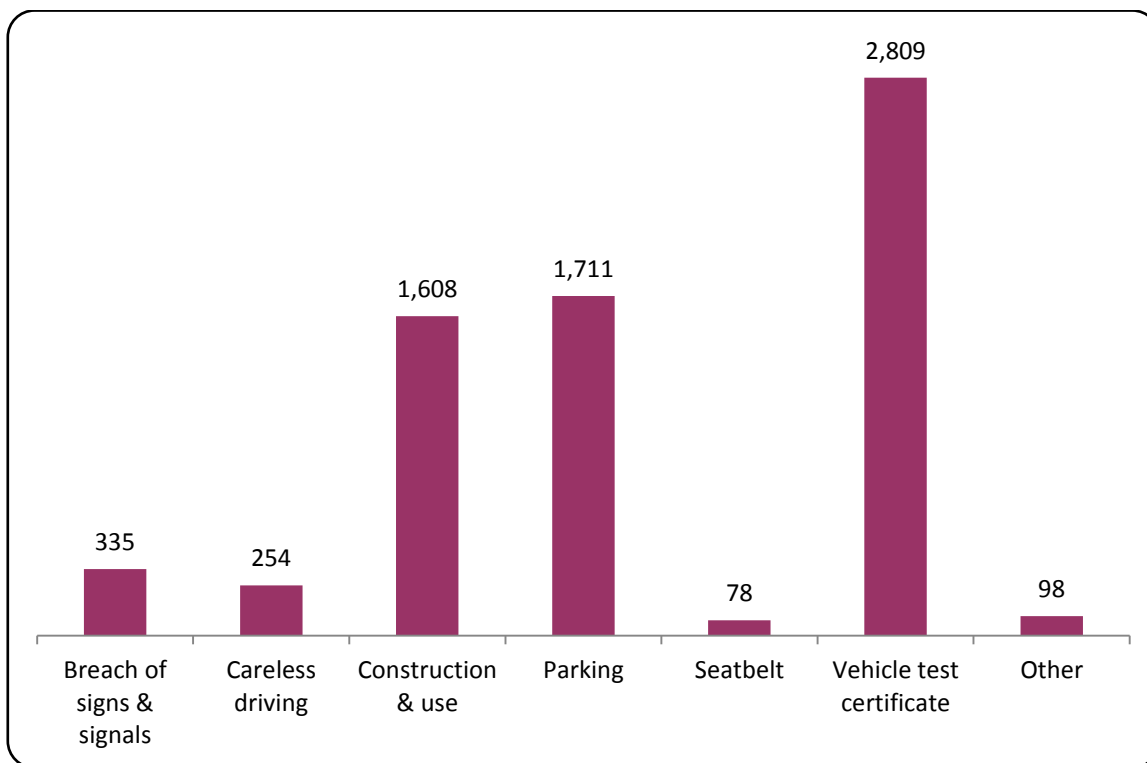
	Gender		Age					Total
	Male	Female	Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 69	70+	
Careless driving	833	322	9	318	438	340	50	1,155
Dangerous driving	281	39	14	172	89	38	7	320
Insurance	670	289	3	304	446	182	24	959
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	85	10	23	47	18	7	0	95
Miscellaneous	9	0	1	4	3	1	0	9
Mobile phone	2,497	649	13	690	1,631	736	76	3,146
Parking	19	4	0	5	13	4	1	23
Seatbelt	475	102	1	151	253	151	21	577
Speeding	3,886	1,643	75	1,867	2,342	1,127	118	5,529
Total	8,755	3,058	139	3,558	5,233	2,586	297	11,813

Non Endorsable fixed penalty notices

There were 6,893 non endorsable FPNs issued in 2019, a decrease of 14% on the number issued in 2018. This decrease can largely be attributed to a decrease in the number of FPNs issued for vehicle test certificate offences over the same period.

Non endorsable FPNs accounted for 15% of all motoring offences. Vehicle test certificate offences accounted for over two fifths of all non endorsable issued FPNs, followed by parking offences (25%).

Figure 18: Number of non endorsable FPNs issued by offence group, 2019



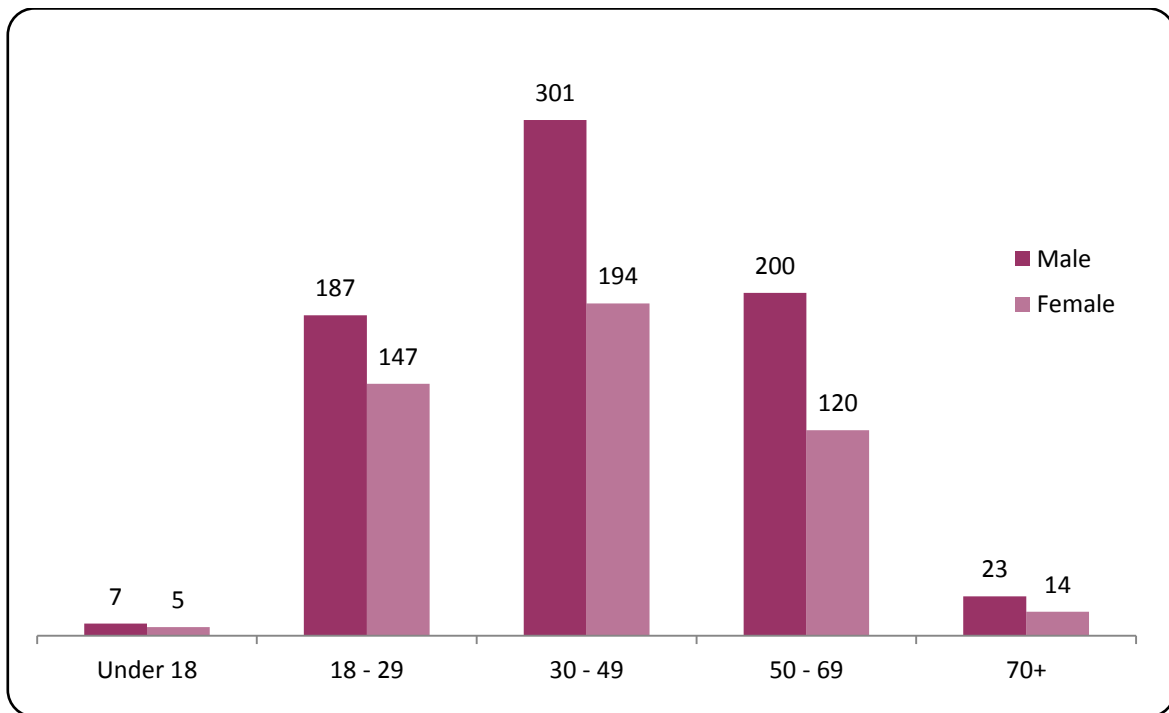
Other includes offence groups 'Fraudulent use / declaration', 'Miscellaneous', 'Non motor vehicle', 'Pedestrians' and 'Speeding'.

10.2 Speed awareness courses

Speed awareness courses were introduced in Northern Ireland in 2010. Drivers, depending on the speed at which they were detected, may be offered an opportunity to attend a speed awareness course as an alternative to penalty points. The course, which is available at eight locations throughout Northern Ireland and delivered and managed by an appointed contractor, must be attended within a period of 120 days from the date of detection. Certain restrictions apply to who can qualify for the speed awareness course option, for those not eligible they will be dealt with by means of an alternative disposal option.

One in six drivers caught speeding by police officers in 2019 completed a speed awareness course. Drivers aged 30-49 represented over two fifths of those who completed a course, followed by drivers aged 18-29 (28%).

Figure 19: Age and gender of drivers who completed a speed awareness course, 2019



Based on date of detection and not date course was completed

10.3 Referred for prosecution

Police led prosecutions for motoring offences occur when the offence is of a serious nature and has no corresponding fixed penalty or where multiple offences have occurred or where the alleged offender wishes to have the matter(s) heard at court. Where an offending driver has already accumulated a number of penalty points, to the extent that a driving disqualification is now in scope, such cases must be heard at court and will consequently also be subject of a prosecution.

Motoring offences that have been referred for prosecution accounted for 58% of all motoring offences in 2019, with insurance offences making up almost one quarter of all offences referred.

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for over four fifths of all persons referred for prosecution for motoring offences while persons aged 30-49 accounted for 42%.

Table 12: Number of offences referred for prosecution by offence group and age, 2019

	Age					Unknown	Total
	Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 69	70+		
Breach of signs & signals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Careless driving	86	1,003	1,015	477	166	2	2,749
Construction & use	11	122	83	24	5	0	245
Dangerous driving	49	535	387	90	15	0	1,076
Drink or drug driving	30	954	1,419	549	53	0	3,005
Driving licence	99	1,445	1,714	417	53	0	3,728
Driving whilst disqualified	74	337	519	90	5	0	1,025
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	80	1,023	995	427	130	3	2,658
Fraudulent use / declaration	4	85	123	31	3	0	246
Insurance	193	2,782	2,937	627	60	2	6,601
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	87	617	496	155	14	0	1,369
Miscellaneous	28	289	233	44	3	1	598
Mobile phone	3	138	346	94	4	0	585
Non motor vehicle	4	13	4	1	0	0	22
Parking	0	5	10	2	0	0	17
Pedestrian	7	17	6	4	3	1	38
Seatbelt	4	110	107	42	4	0	267
Speeding	34	403	304	97	7	0	845
Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering	150	581	388	56	2	0	1,177
Vehicle test certificate	16	328	441	115	10	0	910
Total	959	10,787	11,527	3,342	537	9	27,161

11. Revisions

Revisions are carried out in accordance with our [Revisions Policy](#), a copy of which is available in the Official Statistics section of the PSNI Statistics website.

Referred for prosecution figures from 2016 onwards are the only figures which have been subject to revision since the previous annual publication.

	2018	2019	Change	
	publication	publication	Number	%
Referred for Prosecution - 2016	33,490	33,513	23	0.1
Referred for Prosecution - 2017	33,432	33,561	129	0.4
Referred for Prosecution - 2018	29,771	31,561	1,790	6.0
Total	96,693	98,635	1,942	2.0