



# NISRA

Northern Ireland  
Statistics and Research Agency  
Gníomhaireacht Thuaisceart Éireann  
um Staitisticí agus Taighde

# Northern Ireland Youth Justice Agency Annual Workload Statistics

## 2020/21

T. Brown  
7 October 2021



Department of  
**Justice**

An Roinn Dí agus Cirt  
Máinnstríe O tha Laa

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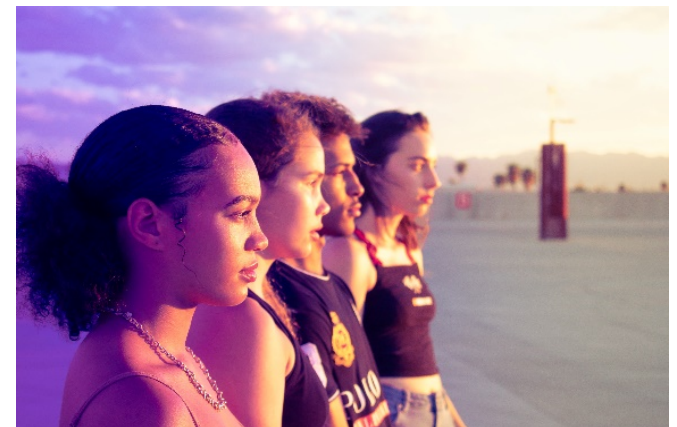
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# 1 | Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the workload provided by the Youth Justice Services (YJS) and Custodial Services (Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre, (JJC)) directorates within Youth Justice Agency (YJA) during 2020/21 and how it has changed over time. The principal findings are summarised below -

- The number of referrals to the YJS in 2020/21 was 1,276, a decrease of 21.8% from 2019/20 (1,631).
- Diversionary referrals (45.6%; 582) accounted for the largest proportion of all referrals in 2020/21, followed by Court Ordered (22.8%; 291) and Earlier Stage Diversions (20.2%; 258).
- The number of individuals referred to YJS in 2020/21 (831) decreased by 13.2% from the previous year (957).
- The total number of individuals in custody decreased by 14.3% (126, 2019/20; 108, 2020/21).
- As in previous years males accounted for the majority of YJS referrals (74.5%) and of children referred to YJS (77.7%) and in custody (79.6%).
- During 2020/21, 72.7% of total referrals and 72.6% of individuals referred to YJS were aged 15 and over; the corresponding figure for children in custody was 82.4%.
- Three out of five children in custody in 2020/21 were Catholic (59.3%); 17.6% were Protestant.
- In 2020/21, 35.2% of children in custody were in care (25.0% subject to a care order; 10.2% were voluntary accommodated).



# 1

## Executive Summary

- In terms of local government district, Belfast had the highest number of YJS referrals (294) and admissions to custody (83). Belfast also had the highest number of children referred to YJS (206) or in custody (29). Regarding children in custody, Derry City and Strabane had the highest rate per 1000 at 1.4.
- In 2020/21 there was a total of 3,896 days of custody provided by the JJC, 36.9% lower than in 2019/20 (6,177) and 50.9% lower than in 2016/17 (7,935). Of these days 6.1% were for PACE, 86.1% for remand and 7.8% for sentence.
- The total number of admissions to the JJC was 9.7% lower in 2020/21 (269) than in 2019/20 (298). Overall movements within the JJC, that is new admissions plus internal changes of status, such as PACE to Remand, was 8.4% lower in 2020/21 (381) than in the previous year (416).
- Of the 916 statutory referrals during 2020/21, the highest proportion involved violence against the person (31.9%; 292).

## 2 | Introduction

### Context

The Youth Justice Agency (YJA) aims to make communities safer by helping children to stop offending. Working with 10-17 year olds who have offended or are at serious risk of offending, it provides a range of services, often delivered in partnership with others, to help the children address their offending behaviour, divert them from crime, assist their integration into the community and to meet the needs of victims. These front-line services are delivered by the Youth Justice Services (YJS) and Custodial Services (Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre, (JJC)) directorates within YJA.

### Youth Justice Services (YJS)

The YJS directorate provides a range of services for children, their families, communities and victims via five area teams spread across the province – Belfast, Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western.

Providing a number of disposals to facilitate YJA’s restorative approach, an established part of the Northern Ireland criminal justice system, YJS focuses on the needs of children and victims, with victims taking an active role and children encouraged to take responsibility for their actions. While the most frequently used disposal is youth conferencing, other disposals including community orders are also provided. An overview of the different disposals used are detailed in [Appendix 1](#).

### Custodial Services

Woodlands JJC provides custodial facilities, offering a wide range of services and support to help prevent children from re-offending. It can accommodate up to 48 young boys and girls aged between 10 and 17 placed in custody.

The children in the JJC may be held on either a Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order, remand or when sentenced (see Appendix 1 for definitions). Information is recorded on each admission, each change of status (for example, when a young person transfers from PACE to remand) and each discharge.

## 2 | Introduction

### About this report

This report provides an overview of the composition of children that the YJA works with within both the YJS and Custodial Services directorates. Focusing specifically on referrals to (the measure of YJS workload) and individuals in contact with YJS, it looks at gender, age, area of residence and offence type (Chapter 3).

An overview of the workload of custodial services is also provided (Chapter 4), specifically the total number of admissions to and changes of status within the JJC (for example when a child transfers from PACE to remand) and individuals in custody. Admissions plus changes of status within the JJC constitute the daily workload of the centre and are collectively referred to as movements. Discharges are not included as all admissions will ultimately result in a discharge.

The following methodological considerations should be taken into account when reading this report -

- The YJS statistics in this report relate specifically to referrals received from the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) and the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS). These figures do not reflect the number of plans/orders made by PPS/NICTS as children may withdraw their consent and receive another disposal. In addition an agreement can be reached at the conference for no further action to be taken against the young person i.e. a plan is not required. We also receive voluntary referrals which are reported in Chapter 3.
- In terms of individual involvement with the YJA, a child is counted on their first involvement with each individual business area, YJS and JJC, within the given year. Each child therefore will only be counted once within each of the two business areas. For example, a child who has been in contact with both JJC and YJS in 2020/21 will be counted once in the JJC statistics and once in the YJS statistics for 2020/21.

## 2 | Introduction

- In terms of individual children involved with the JJC on an annual basis, individuals are counted on their first movement within the JJC during each financial year; therefore a child will only be counted once within a given financial year but could be counted within more than one financial year. Admissions is the total number of times children have been admitted to the JJC during each financial year as some children may be admitted to custody on more than one occasion. Movements constitutes admissions plus any changes of status within JJC.
- The primary data source for this report is the YJA's case management system, used for the day to day management of cases supervised by the Agency, both within a custodial and community setting.
- Information is based on data extracted after 1 July each year, for example the data for 2020/21 will be extracted after 1 July 2021.
- Statistics from youth engagement clinic referrals are not included in this report but are available in a separate report ([Youth Engagement Statistics for Northern Ireland](#) – opens in new tab).

# 3 Youth Justice Services

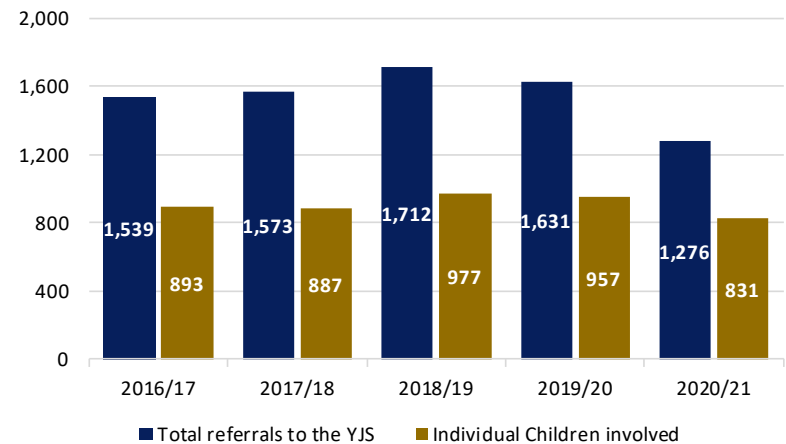
## About this chapter

This chapter provides an overview of the gender, age and area of residence of children in contact with and total referrals to the YJS during 2020/21. It also includes an offence type profile of referrals to the YJS during 2020/21. The total number of referrals to the YJS is the measure for YJS workload. A full breakdown of all the data is detailed in Appendix 3. Information relating to religion is collected via a Section 75 Equality monitoring form. A response to the monitoring form is not compulsory and as a result the YJS figures are low; a breakdown by religion has therefore not been included.

## Number of children referred and total referrals to YJS

During 2020/21, 831 individual children were referred to YJS, equating to 4.3 children in every 1,000 [note 1] and a decrease of 13.2% on 2019/20 (957); total referrals to the YJS (1,276) decreased by 21.8% on the previous year (1,631) (Figure 1; [Table 1, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 1: Individual children referred and total referrals to YJS, 2016/17 to 2020/21



Insight – The reduction in numbers during the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 is likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. YJA continued to provide services throughout the pandemic, operating within government guidelines at all times.

1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. The number of children aged 10 to 17 in Northern Ireland on 30 June 2020 was 195,498.

Population data source: 2020 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland as at 30 June 2020



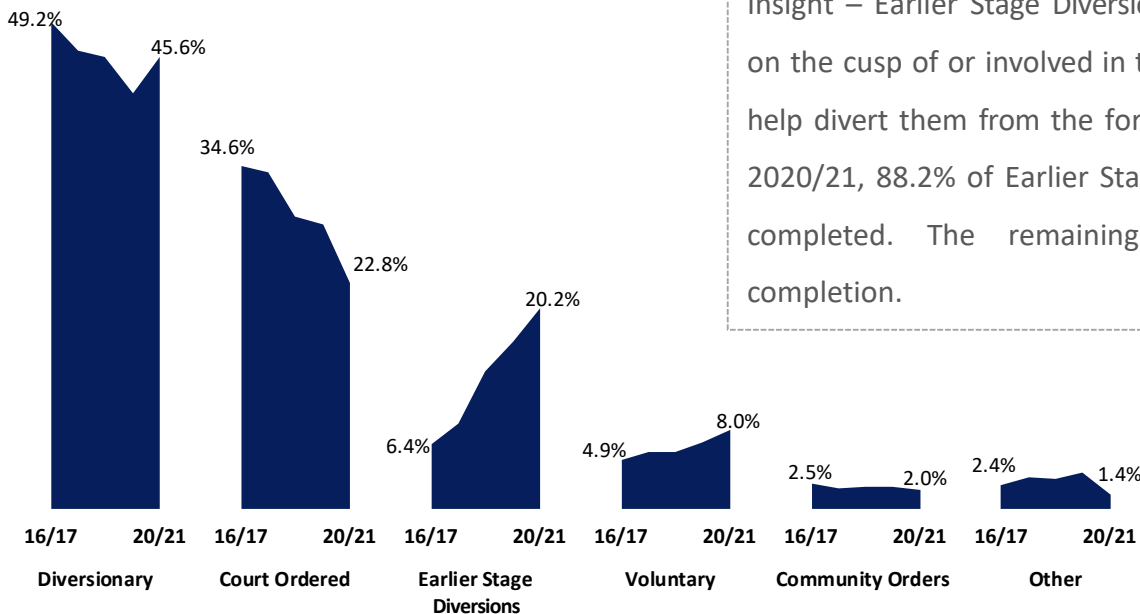
# 3

## Youth Justice Services

### Types of referral

The proportion of diversionary referrals over the past 5 years has ranged between 41.9% and 49.2% of all referrals; the figure for 2020/21 was 45.6%. There has been a decrease of almost 12 percentage points in the proportion of court ordered referrals since 2016/17 (34.6%; 22.8% in 2020/21). In contrast there has been a notable increase in the proportion of Earlier Stage Diversions (20.2%, 2020/21; 6.4%, 2016/17). The remaining referrals in 2020/21 were made up of voluntary referrals (8.0%), community orders [note 1] (2.0%) and other referrals [note 2] (1.4%) (Figure 2; [Table 2, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 2: YJS referrals by type, 2016/17 to 2020/21



Insight – Earlier Stage Diversion provides support to children on the cusp of or involved in the early stages of offending to help divert them from the formal criminal justice system. In 2020/21, 88.2% of Earlier Stage Diversions were successfully completed. The remaining 11.8% disengaged before completion.

1. Community order referrals include attendance centre orders, community responsibility orders and reparation orders.
2. Other referrals include Juvenile Justice Centre orders where YJS are involved in supervising the community element, reducing offending programmes, bail support cases and work with probation.

# 3 | Youth Justice Services

## Gender

In 2020/21 males accounted for 77.7% of individual children referred and 74.5% of referrals to the YJS. Over the past five years the proportion of referrals involving males has ranged between 74.5% and 79.8%. In 2020/21 females accounted for 21.9% of children referred and 25.3% of referrals to YJS, representing the highest proportion of referrals for females seen to date (Figure 3; [Tables 3 and 4, Appendix 3](#)).

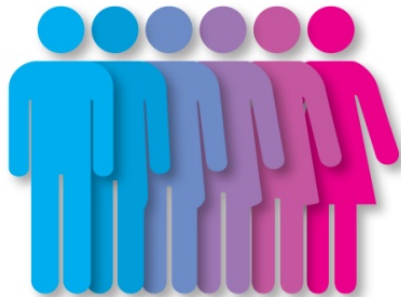
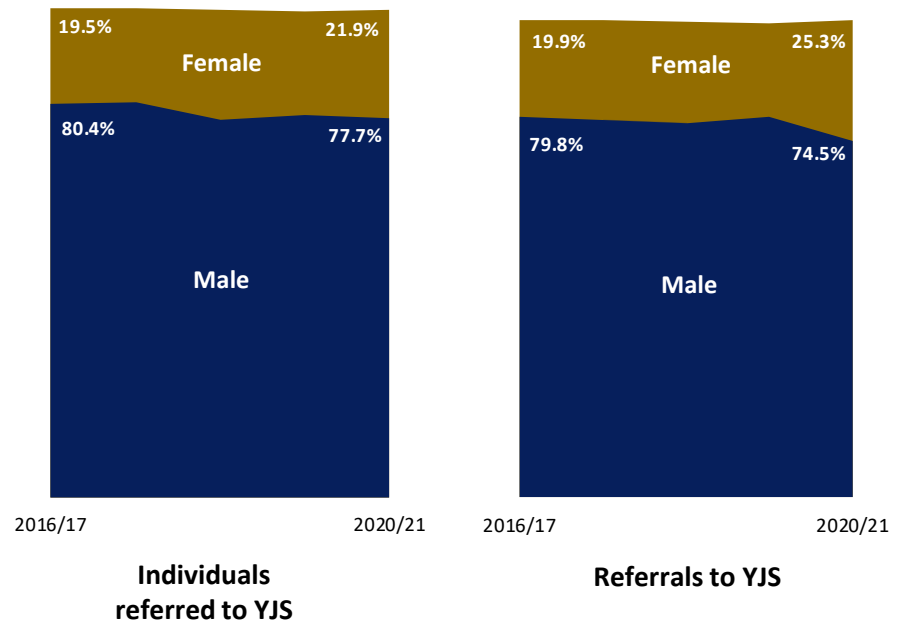


Figure 3: Gender breakdown [note 1] of individual children referred and referrals to YJS, 2016/17 to 2020/21



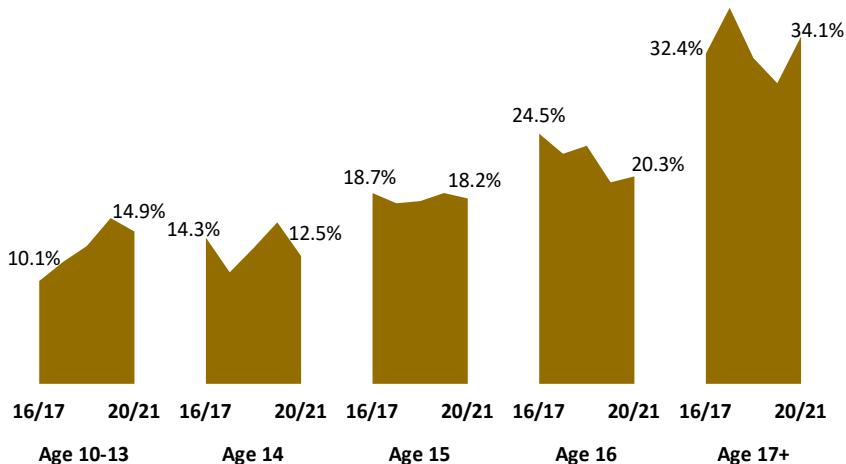
1. Figures for each gender may not sum to 100% as providing gender is optional and for a small proportion is not available.

# 3 Youth Justice Services

## Age - Individuals

The proportion of individual children referred in the 10 to 13 year old and 14 year old age brackets decreased during the financial year to 14.9% and 12.5% respectively. Children aged 15 and over accounted for 72.6% of individual children referred during 2020/21 (Figure 4; [Table 5, Appendix 3](#)). This represents an increase on the proportion of individual children referred on the previous year but still shows an overall decrease over the five year period (2016/17, 75.6%).

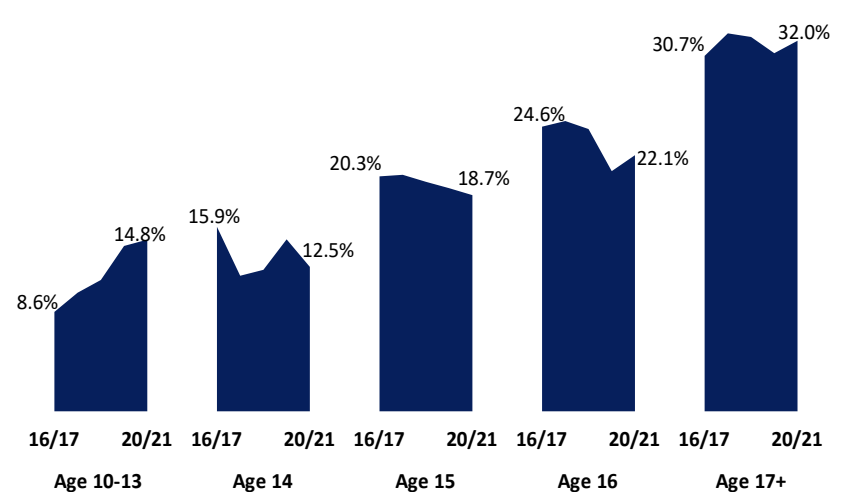
Figure 4: Age breakdown of individual children referred to YJS, 2016/17 to 2020/21



## Age - Referrals

The proportion of referrals for children aged 10 to 13 years has increased year on year over the five year period to 14.8% in 2020/21. The proportion of overall referrals decreased in both the 14 year old and 15 year old age brackets to 12.5% and 18.7% respectively from 2019/20 (14.8%, 19.3%). During 2020/21, referrals for those aged 16 and over accounted for 54.1% of all referrals (2019/20, 51.6%) (Figure 5; [Table 6, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 5: Age breakdown of YJS referrals, 2016/17 to 2020/21

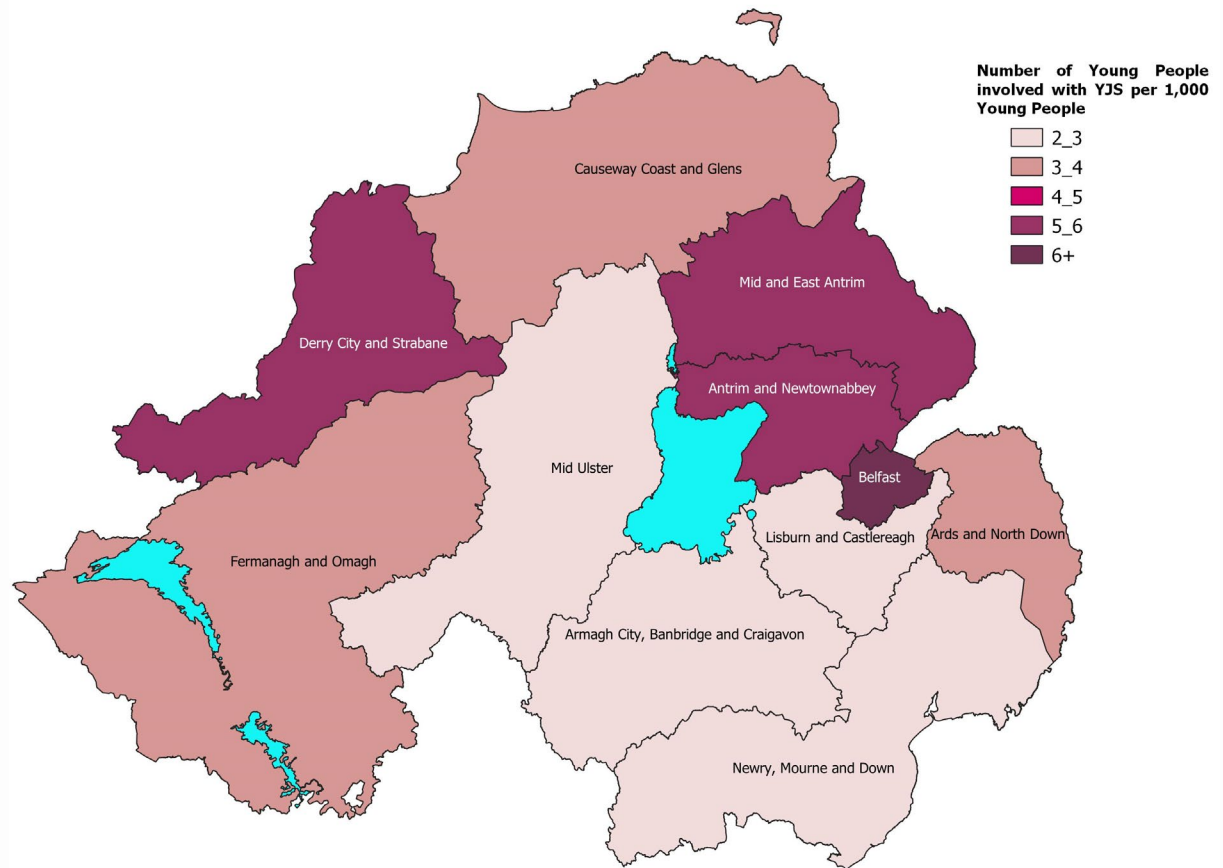


# 3 Youth Justice Services

## Individuals by area of residence

Figure 6 shows the number of individual children referred to YJS by local government district in 2020/21. At 6.4 per 1,000 population [note 1] aged 10 to 17, Belfast had the highest rate. This was followed by Mid and East Antrim (5.9), Antrim and Newtownabbey (5.7) and Derry City and Strabane (5.3). The lowest rates seen were in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (2.6) and Mid Ulster (2.4). [Table 7 in Appendix 3](#) provides a breakdown of figures for the last five financial years.

Figure 6: Individual children referred to YJS by area of residence [note 2], 2020/21



1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. Population data source: 2020 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland at 30 June 2020.

2. The information is based on each young person's area of residence at the time of their first referral within the given year.

# 3

## Youth Justice Services

### Referrals by area of residence

Table 1 shows the number of referrals by area for the last five years. Belfast had the largest number during 2020/21 (294, 23.0%). This was followed by Derry City and Strabane (150, 11.8%), Newry, Mourne and Down (117, 9.2%), Antrim and Newtownabbey (113, 8.9%), Ards and North Down (110, 8.6%) and Mid and East Antrim (107, 8.4%) districts. Mid Ulster had the lowest number of referrals (57, 4.5%) with the remaining districts ranging between 5.7% and 7.9% of referrals ([Table 8, Appendix 3](#)).

Table 1: Referrals by area of residence, 2016/17 to 2020/21

Area	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Antrim and Newtownabbey	96	88	87	111	113
Ards and North Down	242	197	208	159	110
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	138	121	147	140	101
Belfast	406	363	415	406	294
Causeway Coast and Glens	86	137	109	95	74
Derry City and Strabane	169	117	172	176	150
Fermanagh and Omagh	86	75	95	138	73
Lisburn and Castlereagh	58	56	98	93	80
Mid and East Antrim	93	106	108	126	107
Mid Ulster	52	79	80	72	57
Newry, Mourne and Down	111	153	163	112	117
Resident outside NI	2	0	0	0	0
Unassigned [note 1]	0	81	30	3	0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>1,631</b>	<b>1,276</b>

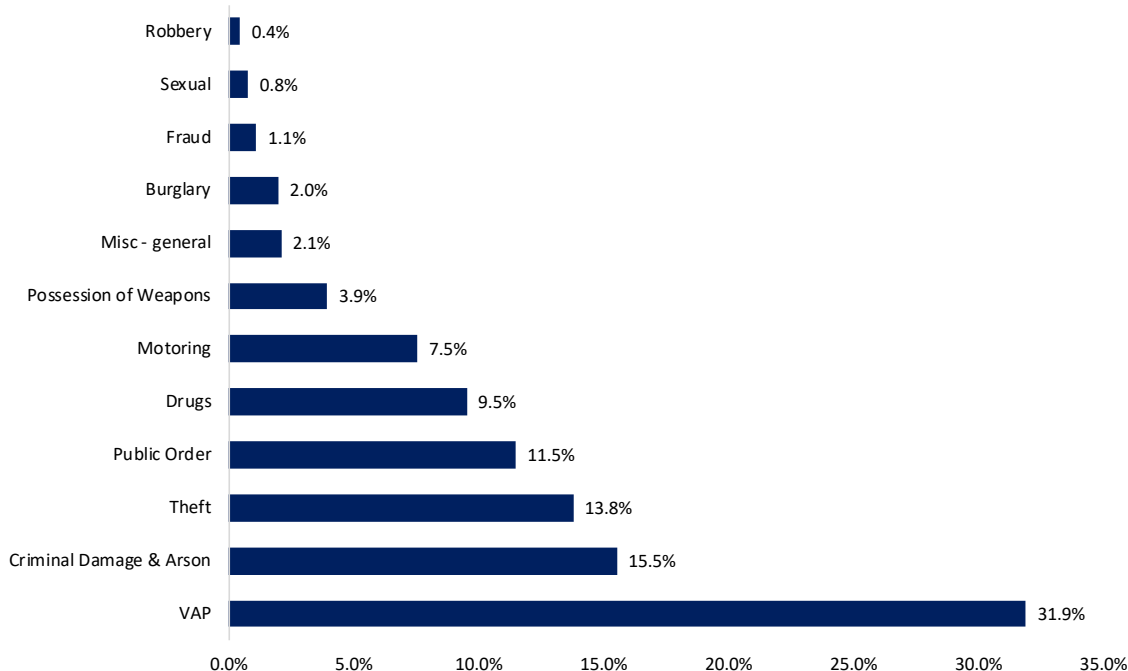
1. Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases.

# 3 | Youth Justice Services

## Offence type

Of the 916 statutory referrals during 2020/21, the highest proportion involved violence against the person (31.9%; 292), followed by criminal damage and arson (15.5%, 142), theft (13.8%; 126), public order (11.5%; 105), drugs related offences (9.5%; 87) and motoring (7.5%, 69). The remaining categories each came in at under 4.0% with robbery being the lowest (0.4%; 4) (Figure 7, [Table 9, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 7: Statutory referrals by offence type, 2020/21

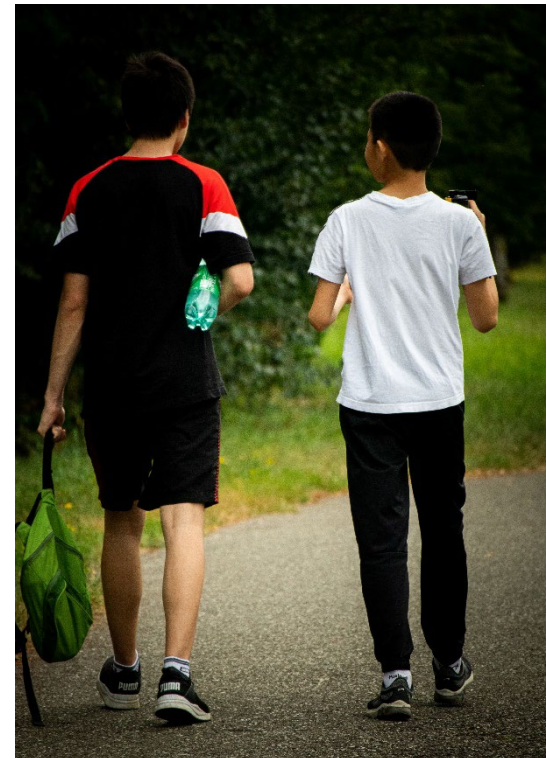


# 4 | Custodial Services

## About this chapter

This chapter provides an overview of the gender, age, religion, looked after status and area of residence profile of individual children in custody, admissions to and total movements within the JJC. A full breakdown of all the data is detailed in Appendix 3.

Admissions and changes of status (for example when a young person transfers from PACE to remand) within the JJC are collectively referred to as movements. These events constitute the daily workload of the centre. Discharges are not included as all admissions will ultimately result in a discharge.



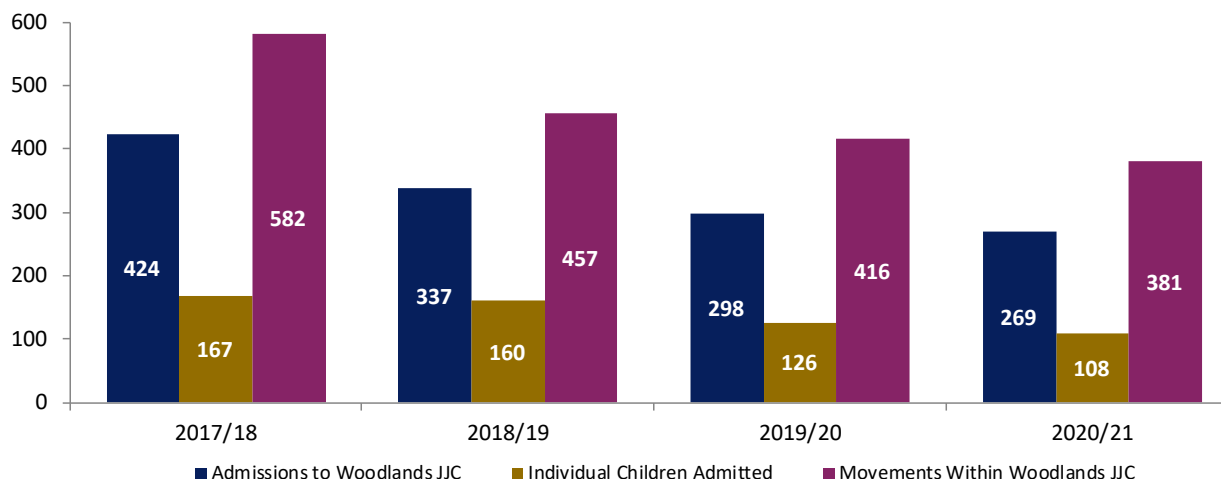
# 4 Custodial Services

## Individual Children Admitted, Total Admissions and Total Movements within JJC

The number of individual children admitted to the JJC decreased by 14.3% from 126 in 2019/20 to 108 in 2020/21. The latest figure equates to less than one young person (0.6) in every 1,000 [note 1] in Northern Ireland (Figure 8; [Table 10, Appendix 3](#)).

Over the five year period, admissions to the JJC have ranged between 269 and 424. In 2020/21, the number of admissions to the JJC was at its lowest level (269), a reduction of 9.7% on the previous year. There were 381 movements within JJC in 2020/21, a decrease of 8.4% on 2019/20 (416).

Figure 8: Individual children admitted, total admissions and total movements within JJC, 2020/21



1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. The number of children aged 10 to 17 in Northern Ireland on 30 June 2020 was 195,498.

Population data source: 2020 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland at 30 June 2020.

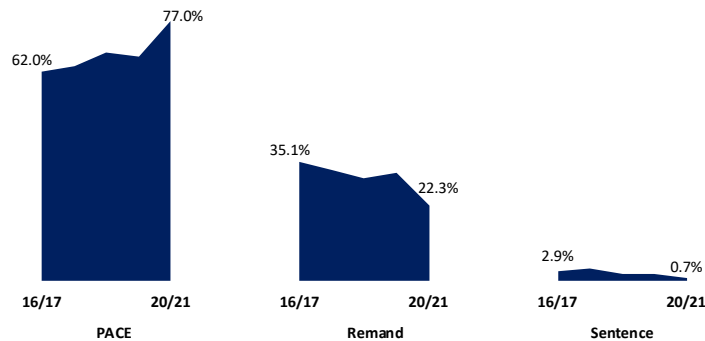


# 4 Custodial Services

## Admissions and movements by status

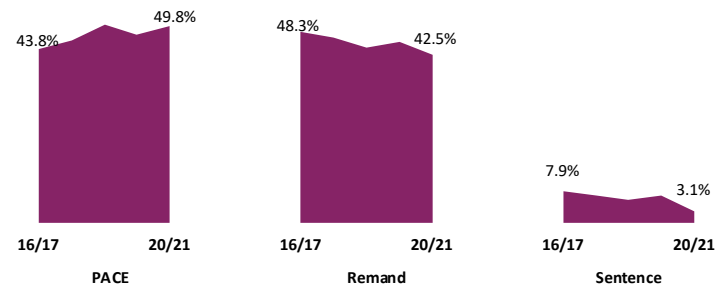
In 2020/21 there were 269 admissions to the JJC (Figure 8) - 207 (77.0%) related to PACE, 60 (22.3%) to remand and the remaining 2 (0.7%) were sentence admissions. Over the past five years there has been a general increase in the proportion of admissions attributed to PACE (62.0% in 2016/17; 77.0% in 2020/21). The proportions of admissions attributed to remand and sentence have both decreased over the five year period (35.1% to 22.3% and 2.9% to 0.7% respectively) (Figure 9; [Table 11, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 9: Admissions by status, 2016/17 to 2020/21



Of the 381 movements within JJC in 2020/21, 207 (49.8%) related to PACE, 162 (42.5%) to remand and 12 (3.1%) were sentence movements. Numbers of remand and sentence movements have decreased by 14.7% and 58.6% respectively from 2019/20 (Remand, 190; Sentence, 29). The proportion of PACE movements has increased following a slight decrease in 2019/20 (47.4%) (Figure 10; [Table 12, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 10: Movements by status, 2016/17 to 2020/21



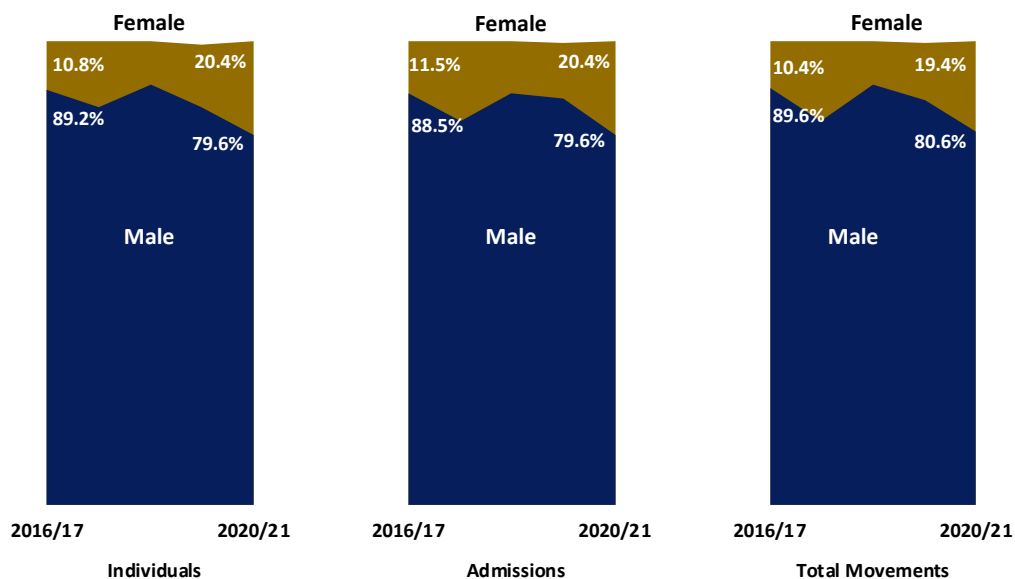
# 4 Custodial Services

## Gender

Males consistently accounted for the vast majority of individual children in custody, admissions to and movements within the JJC over the last five years (Figure 11; [Tables 13-15, Appendix 3](#)). In terms of individuals, children in the JJC in 2020/21 were predominantly male (79.6%), a reduction of six percentage points on 2019/20 (85.7%) (Table 13, Appendix 3).

The proportion of admissions accounted for by males has ranged between 79.6% (2020/21) and 88.7% (2018/19) (Table 14, Appendix 3). In 2020/21 the proportion of total movements accounted for by males was at its lowest level (80.6%) in the past five years (Table 15, Appendix 3).

Figure 11: Gender breakdown [note 1] of individuals, admissions to and total movements within the JJC, 2016/17 to 2020/21



1. Figures for each gender may not sum to total number of referrals as providing gender is optional and for a small proportion is not available.

# 4

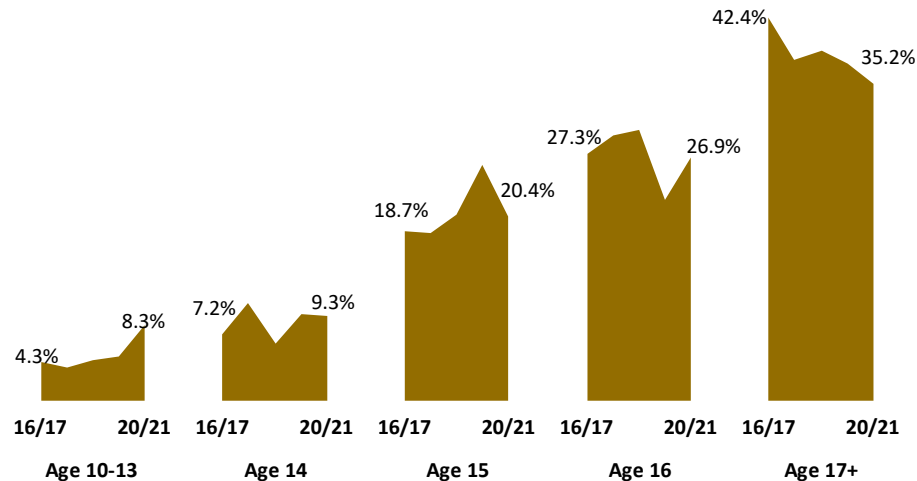
## Custodial Services

### Age

In 2020/21, 89 (82.4%) of the 108 children in custody were aged 15 and over, a decrease from 2019/20 (108, 85.7%) and the lowest proportion over the five year period. While the proportion of 16 year old individuals (26.9%) showed an increase on 2019/20 (22.2%), the proportion of 15 year olds and 17 year olds decreased to 20.4% and 35.2% respectively (2019/20: 26.2%, 37.3%).

There were 9 (8.3%) children in custody aged 10 to 13, an increase from 6 (4.8%) in 2019/20 (Figure 12; [Table 16, Appendix 3](#)). The number of children in custody aged 14 has ranged from 10 to 18 over the five year period with a proportion between 6.3% and 10.8%. The proportion of children in custody aged 14 in 2020/21 was 9.3%.

Figure 12: Age breakdown of individual children in custody, 2016/17 to 2020/21



# 4

## Custodial Services

### Age

The proportion of admissions for those aged 10-13 has increased from 2.6% in 2016/17 to 9.3% in 2020/21. The proportion of admissions for those aged 17 and over accounted for just under one third of JJC admissions (32.0%), a decrease of nearly eight percentage points over the period (2016/17, 39.9%) (Figure 13; [Table 17, Appendix 3](#)).

The proportions of total movements for those aged 10-13 has increased year on year over the five year period from 2.3% in 2016/17 to 8.4% in 2020/21. The proportion of movements attributed to 14 year olds is also at its highest level (11.3%) for the five year period. The number and proportion of movements for those aged 17 and over are at their lowest level (129, 33.9%) for the period, having decreased from 182 (41.1%) in 2016/17 (Figure 14; [Table 18, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 13: Age breakdown of admissions to JJC, 2016/17 to 2020/21

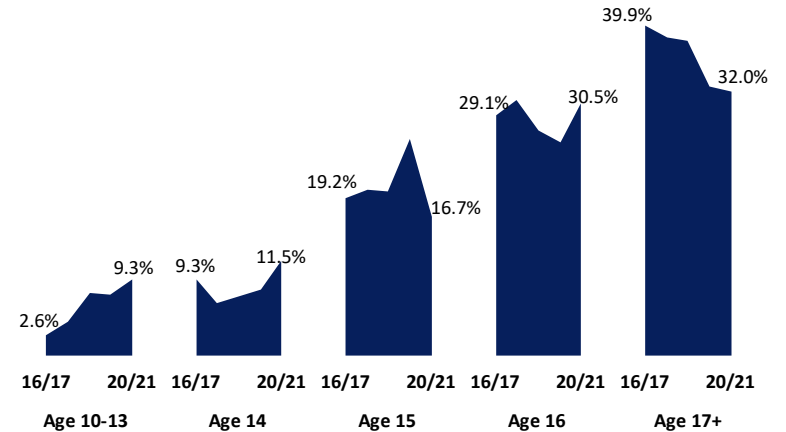
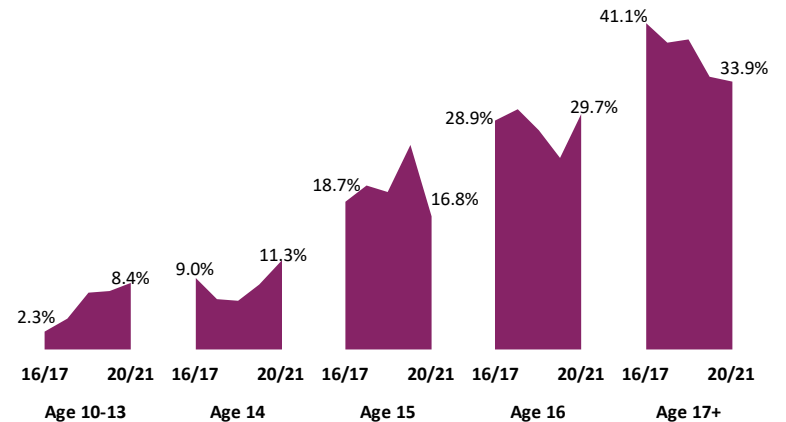


Figure 14: Age breakdown of total movements within JJC, 2016/17 to 2020/21

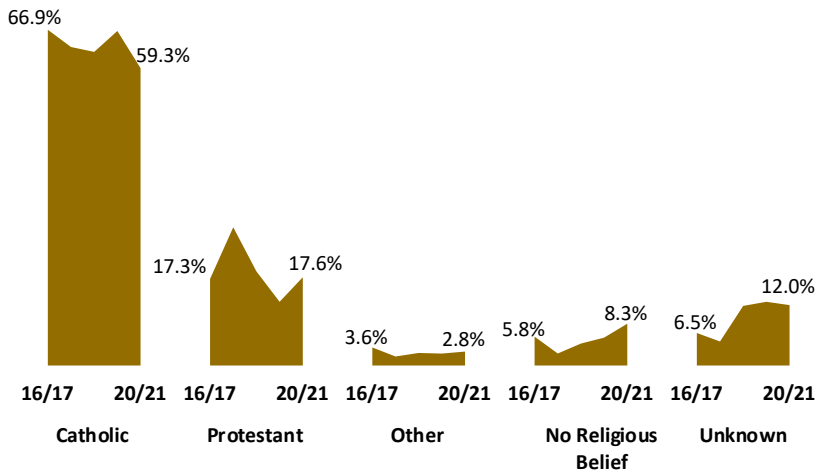


# 4 | Custodial Services

## Religion [Note 1]

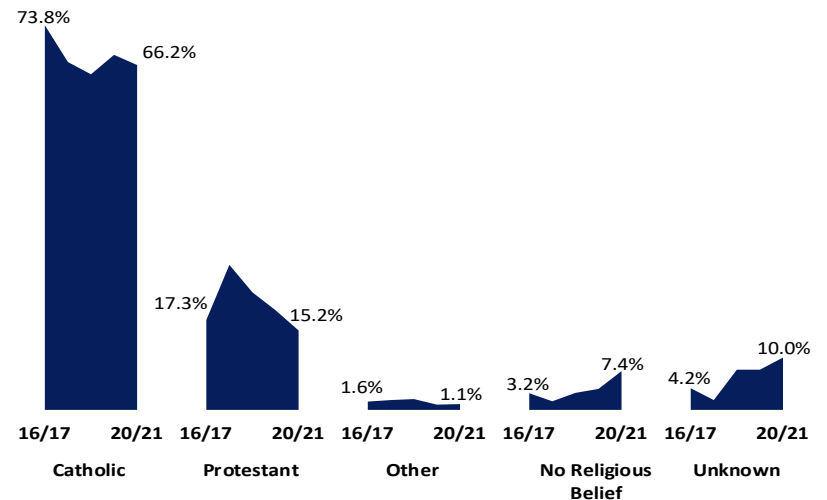
In 2020/21, the proportion of children in custody who were Catholic decreased by more than seven percentage points to 59.3% (2019/20, 66.7%). The proportion of children in custody who were Protestant increased to 17.6% (2019/20, 12.7%) with 2.8% having other religious beliefs, 8.3% with no religious belief and the remaining 12.0% were unknown (Figure 15; [Table 19, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 15: Religion breakdown of individuals involved with JJC, 2016/17 to 2020/21



In 2020/21, the proportion of admissions attributed to both Catholic (66.2%) and Protestant (15.2%) children decreased on the previous year (68.1% and 19.1% respectively). Those with no religious belief accounted for 7.4% of admissions with the religious background of 10.0% of admissions being unknown. The remaining 1.1% of admissions were from children with other religious beliefs (Figure 16; [Table 20, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 16: Total admissions by religion, 2016/17 to 2020/21

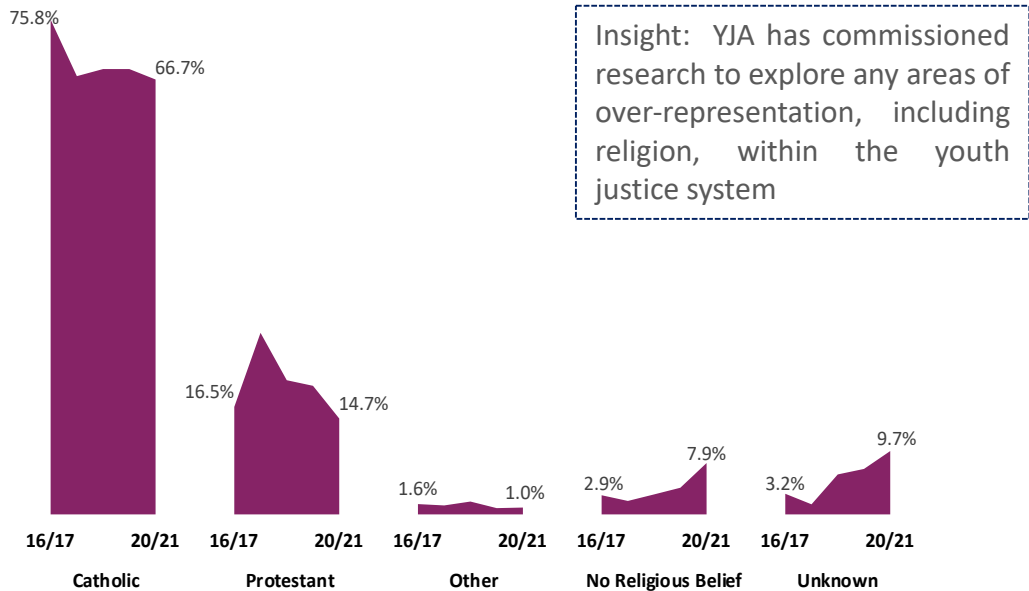


# 4 | Custodial Services

## Religion [Note 1]

As with admissions, the proportions of movements attributed to Catholic children (66.7%) and Protestant children (14.7%) in 2020/21 decreased on the previous year (68.3% and 19.7% respectively). The proportion of movements for children with other religious beliefs remained static at 1.0% while those for children with no religious belief increased to 7.9% from 4.1% in 2019/20. The remaining 9.7% of movements were attributed to children whose religious beliefs were unknown (Figure 17; [Table 21](#), [Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 17: Movements by religion, 2016/17 to 2020/21



# 4 | Custodial Services

## Looked after status [Note 1]

Figure 18 shows the proportion of children in custody by their looked after status over the past five years. In 2020/21, 35.2% were in care (25.0% were subject to a care order and 10.2% were voluntary accommodated). The proportion of children in custody who were not in care (64.8%) increased by just over five percentage points on the previous year (59.5%) and is at its highest level in the five year period ([Table 22, Appendix 3](#)).

The proportion of admissions to and movements within the JJC involving children subject to care orders or in voluntary accommodation have decreased slightly since 2016/17 (47.9%; 45.1%) to 46.5% and 43.6% respectively in 2020/21 (Figures 19 and 20; [Tables 23 and 24, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 18: Looked children in custod 2020/21

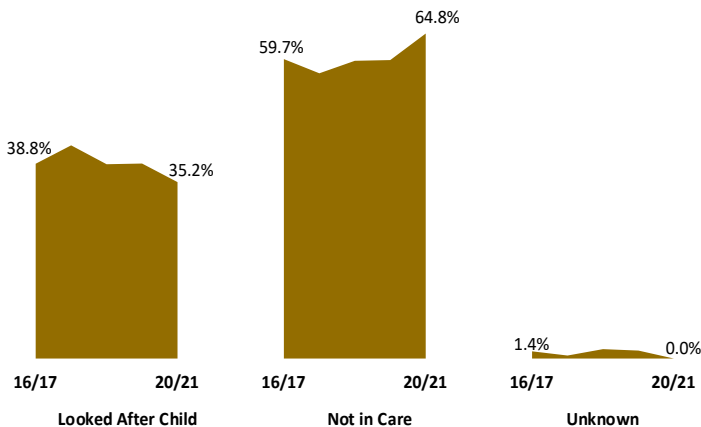


Figure 19: Admissions to JJC by looked after status, 2016/17 to 2020/21

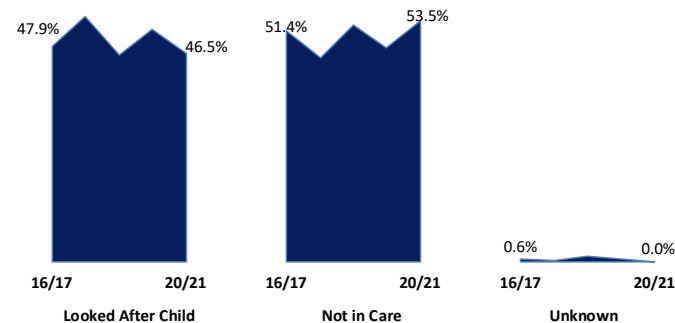
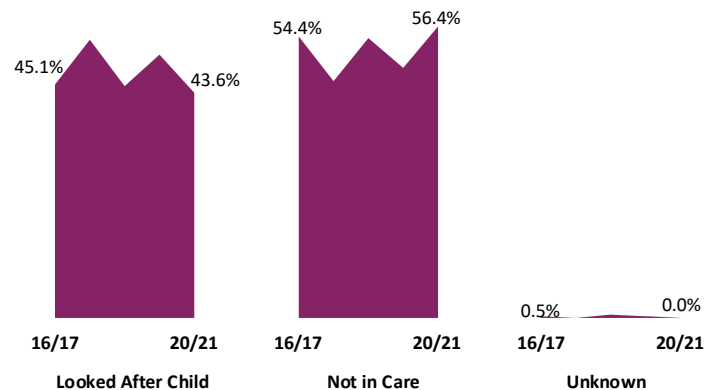


Figure 20: Total movements within JJC by looked after status, 2016/17 to 2020/21



1. Looked after status is determined based on the young person’s first movement within the relevant financial year.

# 4 Custodial Services

## Area of residence

Table 2 shows that Belfast consistently accounted for the largest number of children in custody over the five year period - 29 of 108 in 2020/21 (26.9%). This was followed by Derry City and Strabane (22, 20.4%) and Newry, Mourne and Down (13, 12.0%). In 2020/21, Derry City and Strabane had the highest rate per 1000 population [note 1] aged 10 to 17 for the second year running at 1.4. This was followed by Belfast at 0.9 and Ards and North Down at 0.7 ([Table 25, Appendix 3](#)).

The largest number of both admissions to and movements within JJC (83 and 117 respectively) were also from the Belfast area followed by Derry City and Strabane (57; 88) and Ards and North Down (37; 46) ([Tables 26 and 27, Appendix 3](#)).

Table 2: Children in custody by area of residence, 2016/17 to 2020/21

Area	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Antrim and Newtownabbey	6	9	8	3	4
Ards and North Down	19	15	13	12	11
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	10	11	11	10	8
Belfast	47	40	44	40	29
Causeway Coast and Glens	7	14	6	2	5
Derry City and Strabane	19	23	17	22	22
Fermanagh and Omagh	4	8	7	6	1
Lisburn and Castlereagh	4	8	8	4	7
Mid and East Antrim	3	10	8	4	3
Mid Ulster	5	8	12	3	1
Newry, Mourne and Down	7	9	13	11	13
Resident outside NI	4	7	9	5	3
Unassigned [Note 2]	2	5	4	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>108</b>

Area	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.3
Ards and North Down	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3
Belfast	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.3	0.9
Causeway Coast and Glens	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.3
Derry City and Strabane	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.4
Fermanagh and Omagh	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.1
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.5
Mid and East Antrim	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.2
Mid Ulster	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.1
Newry, Mourne and Down	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6
Resident outside NI	..	..	..	..	..
Unassigned [Note 2]	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>

1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. Population data source: 2020 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland at 30 June 2020.

2. Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases.



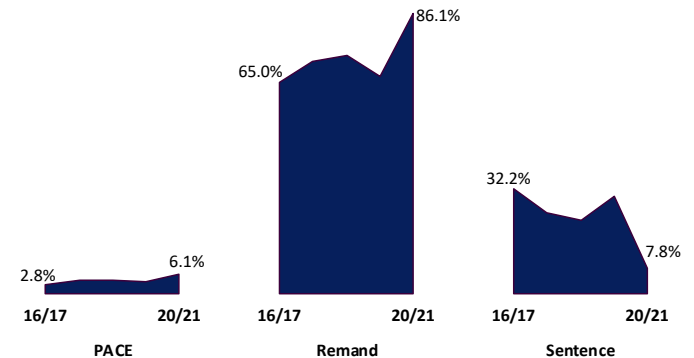
# 4 Custodial Services

## Average population

In 2020/21 the total average daily population in the JJC was 11 children. This figure is the lowest in the five year period which has ranged from 11 to 22 (2016/17).

A large number of children are admitted to the JJC under PACE and so will remain in the centre for, at most, a few days. As a result these admissions have very little impact on the average population with the largest percentage resulting from those children on remand (Figure 21, [Table 28, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 21: Average population by status, 2016/17 to 2020/21



There has been a general reduction in the JJC population over the last 5 years. The highest level recorded in 2020/21 was 20, with this figure ranging between 20 and 32 (2016/17) over the five year period. The minimum monthly population during 2020/21 was 4, the lowest monthly population seen in the five year period (Figure 22).

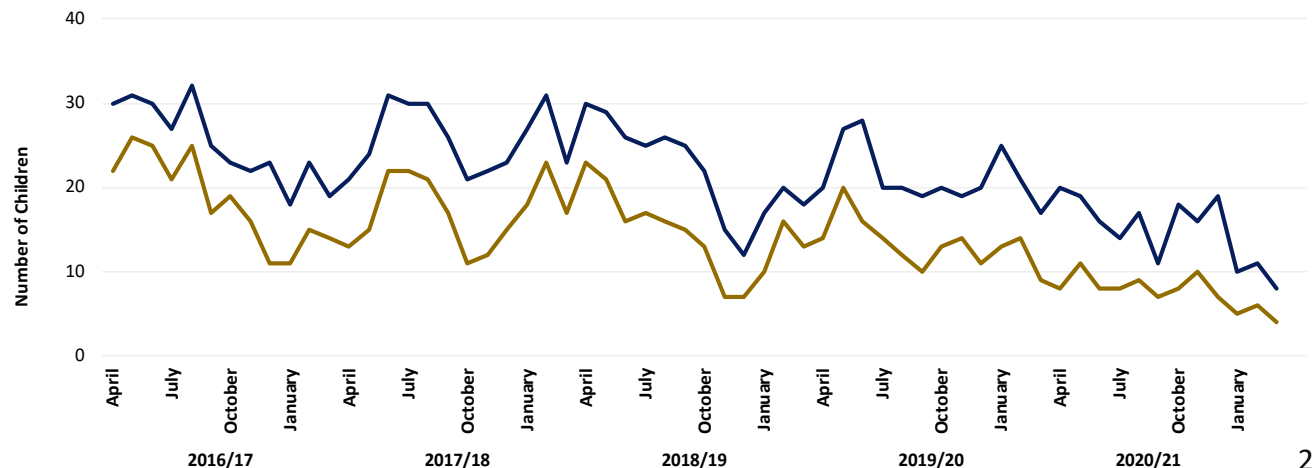


Figure 22: Maximum and minimum monthly population, 2016/17 to 2020/21

# 4 | Custodial Services

## Number of custody days

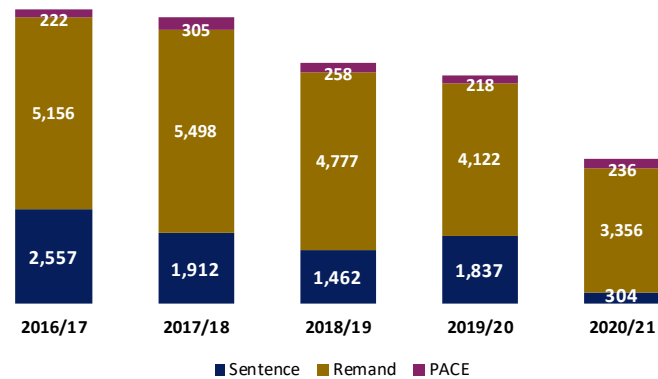
As already mentioned children admitted to the JJC on PACE will typically reside in the centre for a short period of time, usually one or two days; those on remand or sentence will normally reside in the centre for longer periods of time.

When examining the transactional work of the JJC, movements related to PACE make up a high proportion of the workload (49.8% in 2020/21; see Figure 10). However, because these movements result in a short period of custody within the centre they account for a small proportion of the actual custody days. In contrast, sentence movements account for a much smaller proportion of the workload (3.1% in 2020/21) but contribute to a larger proportion of the custody days, as these movements bring with them a longer stay within the centre.

It should be noted that the minimum unit of measurement is one full day but many children are admitted for less than this duration. In these cases, this is counted as one custody day.

Figure 23 shows the proportion of custody days attributed to PACE, remand and sentence movements over the last five years. In 2020/21 there were 3,896 days of custody provided by the JJC, 236 for PACE, 3,356 for remand and 304 for sentence. The number of custody days overall has decreased by 36.9% from 2019/20 in comparison with a decrease of just 4.9% from 2018/19 to 2019/20. This may be partly due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The proportion of days related to remand and PACE in the five year period has increased, while the proportion relating to sentences has decreased ([Table 29, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 23: Custody days by status, 2016/17 to 2020/21



# 4 | Custodial Services

## Custody conversion estimate for PACE admissions

To produce a custody conversion estimate we must first make the assumption that each admission to the JJC can only result in two outcomes: either the individual is released from the JJC without charge, or their status within custody will progress over time from PACE to remand to sentence. This implies that all children who receive a final disposal other than a custodial sentence should not enter custody.

Working on this assumption we can look at the number of PACE admissions compared to the number of PACE outcomes to create a conversion estimate, i.e. of all children admitted into the JJC on PACE how many are subsequently remanded by court or sentenced to custody? There are inherent problems with this approach; for example, some movements in the current year will relate to admissions which occurred in the previous year and admissions during the current year will have subsequent movements in the following year, so the estimate will only ever be an approximation of the “use” of the JJC.

Table 3 shows all PACE admissions in the period and all PACE to remand/sentence movements in the same period. These two figures can then be used to produce a PACE to remand/sentence conversion estimate. The PACE conversion rate increased from 48.7% (96) in 2019/20 to 49.3% (102) in 2020/21, representing a decrease in the percentage of children admitted to the JJC on PACE having been released without having been remanded by court or sentenced to custody.

Financial Year	PACE Admissions	PACE to Remand/Sentence	Conversion Rate
2016/17	194	105	54.1%
2017/18	269	132	49.1%
2018/19	228	94	41.2%
2019/20	197	96	48.7%
2020/21	207	102	49.3%

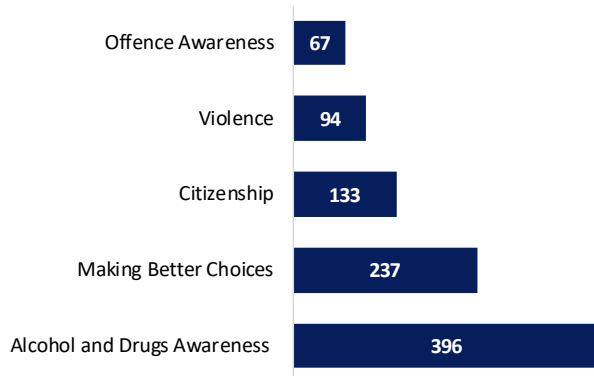
Table 3: Custody conversion estimate, 2016/17 to 2020/21

# 5 | Insight

## Youth Justice Services

In YJA surveys carried out during 2020/21, 82.9% of children and 94.9% of parents/carers who provided a response felt their experience of the YJS would help avoid further offending.

As an element of the earlier stage diversion work, YJS carries out a variety of Community Resolution Notice (CRN) Programmes with children. In 2020/21 there was a total of 927 CRN programmes delivered, over five topics.



Of the 671 children who attended CRN programmes in 2019/20, only 8% received a statutory referral to YJA within a year of completing the programme.

There were 114 Sexting Awareness programmes delivered to children and their parents/carers in 2020/21.

Comments received included:



## Custodial Services (JJC)

Initial Planning Meetings must take place within 10 working days of a child being admitted to JJC. This provides an opportunity for all professionals, family members and the child to work in partnership to formulate and review goals set in a YJA Care Plan. During 2020/21, 84.5% of children in JJC had an Individual Planning Meeting within the stipulated timescale.

Re-integration plans, which are part of the YJA Care plan, focus primarily on accommodation post release, education and employment, family relationships and supports from relevant professionals in the community. These are only valid for children who have been sentenced as they will have gone through the full care planning process in JJC. During 2020/21, 100% of sentenced children had a Reintegration Plan in place on discharge from JJC.

# Appendix 1 – Definitions

## CUSTODY

Children may be held in the Juvenile Justice Centre either on:

- PACE - These children are held under the Police and Criminal Evidence Order 1989 until they can be questioned by police or until a court date becomes available.
- Remand – These children are remanded in custody either awaiting trial or sentence.
- Sentence – These children are held in custody as a result of a sentence of criminal court. Persons committed in default of a payment of a fine are normally included in this group. The majority of children sentenced to the Juvenile Justice Centre will be given a Juvenile Justice Centre Order (JJCO).

## Bail Support

The Youth Justice Agency provides Bails Support services to children. This option is offered as an alternative to remand in custody, which means that the court can consider bail, even where there are ‘substantial grounds’ for refusal.

## Fine Default

On occasion, a fine can be seen by the courts as an appropriate disposal for some offences. If the individual fails to pay the fine this can result in them being admitted to custody for a short period of time (usually three or four days). Whilst this is not a common disposal for children there have been a small number over recent years sentenced to the Juvenile Justice Centre for fine default.

## Juvenile Justice Centre Order (JJCO)

This order was introduced on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1999 under the Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, to replace the training school order. It is available for children and is for a period of six months unless the court specifies a longer period not exceeding two years. The period of detention is for one half of the period of the order, with the remainder comprising a period of close supervision in the community.

## “YOC Order” (Sentence of Detention in the Young Offenders Centre)

This disposal was introduced on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1968 as part of the Treatment of Offenders Act (Northern Ireland) 1968. It is available for those over 16 but under 21 years of age, who were convicted of an offence that would normally attract a custodial sentence if the individual was over 21 years of age.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 the Justice Minister has given an undertaking that no young person under 18 years of age will be held anywhere other than the Juvenile Justice Centre. As a result the sentence statistics in this bulletin include children sentenced to Juvenile Justice Centre Orders, YOC Orders and fine default.

# Appendix 1 – Definitions

## **NON-CUSTODIAL DISPOSALS SUPERVISED BY YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES**

### **Attendance Centre Order (ACO)**

Requires an offender, aged under 18, to attend a designated attendance centre and undertake a structured programme of activities. The order should not be less than 12 hours and no more than 24 hours. The times at which the offender attends the centre should avoid interference, so far as practicable, with school hours or working hours.

### **Community Resolution Notices (CRNs)**

A community resolution notice is an alternative way of dealing with less serious crimes, allowing PSNI officers to use their professional judgement when dealing with offences such as low level Public Disorder, Criminal Damage, Theft, minor assaults, and minor drug related offences. CRNs allow victims a quick resolution to the harm caused to them whilst giving those who commit the offence support to avoid further offending and the opportunity to repair the harm caused by their behaviour, without attracting a criminal record.

### **Community Responsibility Order (CRO)**

A form of community service which may be imposed on a child, currently under the age of 18, and combines a specified number of hours to be spent on practical activities and instruction on citizenship. The aggregate number of hours specified in the order must not be less than 20 and not more than 40. In addition, the number of hours spent on instruction in citizenship must not be less than one half of the aggregate number of hours in the order.

### **Diversionsary Youth Conference (DYC)**

The PPS decides whether or not to refer a young person to a diversionary conference. These conferences however can only take place where the offender has admitted the offence. A diversionary conference is a meeting or a series of meetings held to consider how a young person should be dealt with for an offence. A conference plan will be produced, which will be presented to the prosecutor for their approval. If the prosecutor accepts the plan, the young person must comply. However, if the young person fails to comply or the prosecutor doesn't accept the plan, then the prosecutor can refer the case to court.

# Appendix 1 – Definitions

## **Reparation Order (RO)**

Requires the offender to make reparation either to the victim of the offence or some other person affected by it, or to the community at large. The order may currently be made only where the offender is under the age of 18 years. An order must not require the offender to make reparation for more than 24 hours or to make reparation to any person without their consent. Forms which reparation might take could be, for example, repairing property which has been damaged or removing graffiti.

## **Youth Conference Order (YCO)**

Youth conferencing aims to balance the needs of the victim and the young offender by agreeing plans of action which satisfy the victim and create opportunities for the young person to make amends and stop committing crime. A referral to YJS can be made either by diversion via the PPS, or at court at the point of sentencing. In either case the child must admit the offence and be willing to take part in the conference. The conference agrees a plan for the child to complete comprising of various elements relevant to the child, the impact of the offence and their offending behaviour. The period of the plan must not be more than one year. A plan resulting from a court-ordered conference, subsequently agreed by the court, will form the basis of a Youth Conference Order.

## **Youth Engagement Clinics (YEC)**

Youth engagement is a tripartite initiative involving PSNI, PPS and YJA which was piloted in 2012/13 and is now fully implemented and operational across Northern Ireland. This intervention aims to keep children who have offended away from the formal Court environment, whilst encouraging them to take responsibility for their behaviour and to take up whatever support is seen as necessary: to help prevent further offending behaviour and harm. Youth engagement clinics are hosted by YJA and delivered jointly, with Police Youth Diversion Officers. Youth engagement clinics can result in a number of diversionary disposals including informed warnings and restorative cautions (both PSNI led) and diversionary youth conferences, which are taken forward by YJA.

## Appendix 2 – Technical Notes

### Area Statistics

Area statistics in this publication have been based on the young person's home address postcode at time of admission to the JJC or referral to YJS. If this information is unavailable then, where possible, the most recent home address postcode information held for the individual has been used.

It should also be noted that areas which contain care homes will have a greater concentration of referrals as children in care will have these addresses recorded as their permanent place of residence at the time of referral.

### Data Source

The primary data source for this report is the YJA's case management system, used for the day to day management of cases supervised by the Agency, both within a custodial and community setting.

### Data quality and validation

Following guidance provided by the Office for National Statistics on the Quality Assessment of Administrative Data, information pertaining to data quality and validation is continually assessed. A number of accuracy, quality assurance/validation procedures have been conducted upon the dataset used to compile this data series, to ensure the data extracted are accurate, complete and fit for the statistical purposes for which they are to be used. Both automated and manual checks have been carried out at individual case level and data corrected, where possible, to ensure that key fields are complete and logical and a general check of the data as a whole suggests no other anomalies.

Within the 2017/18 YJS dataset, there was an increase in the number of records where religion had not been recorded. Due to quality concerns related to the missing values, information by religion was removed from 2017/18 onwards. This is under continuing annual review.

### Statistical coverage

The statistics in this publication are based on the number of admissions to, and status changes, within JJC and the number of YJS referrals over a five year period (from the financial year 2016/17 to 2020/21). Tables with data from earlier years (from financial year 2008/09 to 2020/21) are available within the Microsoft Excel and OpenDocument Spreadsheet format documents available at [www.justice-ni.gov.uk](http://www.justice-ni.gov.uk).

### Analysis and Presentation of Statistics

The data used in this report is extracted using Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio and is validated, maintained and analysed using a combination of Microsoft SQL Server Management and IBM SPSS.

For ease of use, figures are given as whole numbers throughout the text, tables and charts. Percentages and population rates are rounded to one decimal place. Whilst tables of information have been included in Appendix 3, the tables are also published alongside this bulletin in Microsoft Excel and OpenDocument Spreadsheet format, for ease of use.



## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 1: Referrals to YJS, number of individual children involved and population comparison, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	Individual Children		NI Population Aged	
	Referrals To YJS	Involved	10-17 [Note 1]	Rate Per 1,000
2016/17	1,539	893	183,273	4.9
2017/18	1,573	887	184,105	4.8
2018/19	1,712	977	187,533	5.2
2019/20	1,631	957	191,790	5.0
2020/21	1,276	831	195,498	4.3

1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. Population data source: 2020 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland at 30 June 2020.

**Table 2: YJS referrals by type, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	Court		Community	Earlier Stage		Other	Total Referrals
	Diversions	Ordered	Orders [Note 1]	Diversions	Voluntary	[Note 2]	
2016/17	757	532	39	99	75	37	1,539
2017/18	729	535	33	135	91	50	1,573
2018/19	782	505	39	236	98	52	1,712
2019/20	684	468	36	275	110	58	1,631
2020/21	582	291	25	258	102	18	1,276

Financial Year	Court		Community	Earlier Stage		Other	Total Referrals
	Diversions	Ordered	Orders [Note 1]	Diversions	Voluntary	[Note 2]	
2016/17	49.2%	34.6%	2.5%	6.4%	4.9%	2.4%	100.0%
2017/18	46.3%	34.0%	2.1%	8.6%	5.8%	3.2%	100.0%
2018/19	45.7%	29.5%	2.3%	13.8%	5.7%	3.0%	100.0%
2019/20	41.9%	28.7%	2.2%	16.9%	6.7%	3.6%	100.0%
2020/21	45.6%	22.8%	2.0%	20.2%	8.0%	1.4%	100.0%

1. Community order referrals include attendance centre orders, community responsibility orders and reparation orders.

2. Other referrals include Juvenile Justice Centre orders where YJS are involved in supervising the community element, reducing offending programme, bail support cases and work with probation.

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 3: Individual children referred to YJS by gender, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Children [Note 1]
2016/17	718	174	893
2017/18	718	167	887
2018/19	755	216	977
2019/20	748	205	957
2020/21	646	182	831

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Children [Note 1]
2016/17	80.4%	19.5%	99.9%
2017/18	80.9%	18.8%	99.8%
2018/19	77.3%	22.1%	99.4%
2019/20	78.2%	21.4%	99.6%
2020/21	77.7%	21.9%	99.6%

1. Figures for each gender may not sum to total number of children as providing gender is optional and for a small proportion is not available.

**Table 4: YJS referrals by gender, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Referrals [Note 1]
2016/17	1,228	307	1,539
2017/18	1,245	326	1,573
2018/19	1,339	366	1,712
2019/20	1,299	327	1,631
2020/21	950	323	1,276

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Referrals [Note 1]
2016/17	79.8%	19.9%	99.7%
2017/18	79.1%	20.7%	99.9%
2018/19	78.2%	21.4%	99.6%
2019/20	79.6%	20.0%	99.7%
2020/21	74.5%	25.3%	99.8%

1. Figures for each gender may not sum to total number of referrals as providing gender is optional and for a small proportion is not available.

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 5: Individual children referred to YJS by age, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Children
2016/17	90	128	167	219	289	893
2017/18	106	97	157	200	327	887
2018/19	132	130	175	228	312	977
2019/20	156	151	179	189	282	957
2020/21	124	104	151	169	283	831

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Children
2016/17	10.1%	14.3%	18.7%	24.5%	32.4%	100.0%
2017/18	12.0%	10.9%	17.7%	22.5%	36.9%	100.0%
2018/19	13.5%	13.3%	17.9%	23.3%	31.9%	100.0%
2019/20	16.3%	15.8%	18.7%	19.7%	29.5%	100.0%
2020/21	14.9%	12.5%	18.2%	20.3%	34.1%	100.0%

**Table 6: YJS referrals by age, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Referrals
2016/17	132	245	312	378	472	1,539
2017/18	161	184	321	394	513	1,573
2018/19	194	209	339	417	553	1,712
2019/20	233	242	314	338	504	1,631
2020/21	189	159	238	282	408	1,276

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Referrals
2016/17	8.6%	15.9%	20.3%	24.6%	30.7%	100.0%
2017/18	10.2%	11.7%	20.4%	25.0%	32.6%	100.0%
2018/19	11.3%	12.2%	19.8%	24.4%	32.3%	100.0%
2019/20	14.3%	14.8%	19.3%	20.7%	30.9%	100.0%
2020/21	14.8%	12.5%	18.7%	22.1%	32.0%	100.0%

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 7: Individual children referred to YJS by area of residence and rate per 1,000 population [Note 1], 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Area	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Antrim and Newtownabbey	64	56	63	82	86
Ards and North Down	98	83	82	78	61
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	87	88	95	87	62
Belfast	233	220	237	247	206
Causeway Coast and Glens	52	58	72	56	57
Derry City and Strabane	93	67	99	94	85
Fermanagh and Omagh	52	36	50	52	46
Lisburn and Castlereagh	40	32	53	54	40
Mid and East Antrim	59	58	55	76	81
Mid Ulster	35	44	53	43	41
Newry, Mourne and Down	78	92	103	85	66
Resident outside NI	2	0	0	0	0
Unassigned [Note 2]	0	53	15	3	0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>831</b>

Area	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Antrim and Newtownabbey	4.6	4.6	4.3	5.5	5.7
Ards and North Down	6.7	8.6	5.4	5.0	3.9
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	4.1	7.6	4.3	3.8	2.6
Belfast	7.7	6.7	7.7	7.8	6.4
Causeway Coast and Glens	3.7	7.5	5.0	3.9	3.9
Derry City and Strabane	5.9	4.4	6.3	5.9	5.3
Fermanagh and Omagh	4.2	3.7	4.0	4.1	3.6
Lisburn and Castlereagh	3.0	2.8	3.9	3.8	2.8
Mid and East Antrim	4.5	6.8	4.1	5.6	5.9
Mid Ulster	2.3	4.4	3.3	2.6	2.4
Newry, Mourne and Down	4.1	6.5	5.3	4.3	3.3
Resident outside NI	..	..	..	..	..
Unassigned [Note 2]	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>

1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30 June 2020
2. Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 8: Referrals to YJS by area of residence, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Area	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Antrim and Newtownabbey	96	88	87	111	113
Ards and North Down	242	197	208	159	110
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	138	121	147	140	101
Belfast	406	363	415	406	294
Causeway Coast and Glens	86	137	109	95	74
Derry City and Strabane	169	117	172	176	150
Fermanagh and Omagh	86	75	95	138	73
Lisburn and Castlereagh	58	56	98	93	80
Mid and East Antrim	93	106	108	126	107
Mid Ulster	52	79	80	72	57
Newry, Mourne and Down	111	153	163	112	117
Resident outside NI	2	0	0	0	0
Unassigned [note 1]	0	81	30	3	0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>1,631</b>	<b>1,276</b>

1. Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

**Table 9: Statutory referrals [note 1] by offence group [note 2], 2020/21**

Offence Group	Number	Percent
VAP	292	31.9%
Criminal Damage & Arson	142	15.5%
Theft	126	13.8%
Public Order	105	11.5%
Drugs	87	9.5%
Motoring	69	7.5%
Possession of Weapons	36	3.9%
Misc - general	19	2.1%
Burglary	18	2.0%
Fraud	10	1.1%
Sexual	7	0.8%
Robbery	4	0.4%
No offence recorded [Note 3]	1	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

1. Statutory referrals includes Diversionary, Court Ordered, Community Orders and Other (JJCO, Probation and Bail)

2. Offence Groups is a statistical grouping created so NI statistics are comparable

3. No offence recorded in a Bail Support – Court referral as offence already included

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 10: Admissions to and movements within JJC and children in custody, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	Movements Within Woodlands JJC	Admissions to Woodlands JJC	Individual Children Admitted	NI Population Aged 10-17	Rate Per 1,000 [Note 1]
2016/17	443	313	139	183,273	0.8
2017/18	582	424	167	184,105	0.9
2018/19	457	337	160	187,533	0.9
2019/20	416	298	126	191,790	0.7
2020/21	381	269	108	195,498	0.6

1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. Population data source: 2020 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland at 30 June 2020.

**Table 11: JJC admissions by status, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Admissions
2016/17	194	110	9	313
2017/18	269	139	16	424
2018/19	228	102	7	337
2019/20	197	95	6	298
2020/21	207	60	2	269

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Admissions
2016/17	62.0%	35.1%	2.9%	100.0%
2017/18	63.4%	32.8%	3.8%	100.0%
2018/19	67.7%	30.3%	2.1%	100.0%
2019/20	66.1%	31.9%	2.0%	100.0%
2020/21	77.0%	22.3%	0.7%	100.0%

**Table 12: JJC movements by status, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Movements
2016/17	194	214	35	443
2017/18	269	272	41	582
2018/19	228	202	27	457
2019/20	197	190	29	416
2020/21	207	162	12	381

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Movements
2016/17	43.8%	48.3%	7.9%	100.0%
2017/18	46.2%	46.7%	7.0%	100.0%
2018/19	49.9%	44.2%	5.9%	100.0%
2019/20	47.4%	45.7%	7.0%	100.0%
2020/21	49.8%	42.5%	3.1%	100.0%

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 13: Individual children in custody by gender, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Children [Note 1]
2016/17	124	15	139
2017/18	143	24	167
2018/19	145	15	160
2019/20	108	17	126
2020/21	86	22	108

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Children [Note 1]
2016/17	89.2%	10.8%	100.0%
2017/18	85.6%	14.4%	100.0%
2018/19	90.6%	9.4%	100.0%
2019/20	85.7%	13.5%	99.2%
2020/21	79.6%	20.4%	100.0%

**Table 14: Admissions to JJC by gender, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Admissions [Note 1]
2016/17	277	36	313
2017/18	351	73	424
2018/19	299	38	337
2019/20	261	36	298
2020/21	214	55	269

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Admissions [Note 1]
2016/17	88.5%	11.5%	100.0%
2017/18	82.8%	17.2%	100.0%
2018/19	88.7%	11.3%	100.0%
2019/20	87.6%	12.1%	99.7%
2020/21	79.6%	20.4%	100.0%

**Table 15: Movements within JJC by gender, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Movements [Note 1]
2016/17	397	46	443
2017/18	482	100	582
2018/19	414	43	457
2019/20	362	52	416
2020/21	307	74	381

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Movements [Note 1]
2016/17	89.6%	10.4%	100.0%
2017/18	82.8%	17.2%	100.0%
2018/19	90.6%	9.4%	100.0%
2019/20	87.0%	12.5%	99.5%
2020/21	80.6%	19.4%	100.0%

1. Figures for each gender may not sum to total number of children, admissions or movements as providing gender is optional and for a small proportion is not available.

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 16: Individual children in custody by age, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Children
2016/17	6	10	26	38	59	139
2017/18	6	18	31	49	63	167
2018/19	7	10	33	48	62	160
2019/20	6	12	33	28	47	126
2020/21	9	10	22	29	38	108

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Children
2016/17	4.3%	7.2%	18.7%	27.3%	42.4%	100.0%
2017/18	3.6%	10.8%	18.6%	29.3%	37.7%	100.0%
2018/19	4.4%	6.3%	20.6%	30.0%	38.8%	100.0%
2019/20	4.8%	9.5%	26.2%	22.2%	37.3%	100.0%
2020/21	8.3%	9.3%	20.4%	26.9%	35.2%	100.0%

**Table 17: Admissions to JJC by age, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Admissions
2016/17	8	29	60	91	125	313
2017/18	18	27	85	131	163	424
2018/19	26	24	67	92	128	337
2019/20	22	24	78	77	97	298
2020/21	25	31	45	82	86	269

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Admissions
2016/17	2.6%	9.3%	19.2%	29.1%	39.9%	100.0%
2017/18	4.2%	6.4%	20.0%	30.9%	38.4%	100.0%
2018/19	7.7%	7.1%	19.9%	27.3%	38.0%	100.0%
2019/20	7.4%	8.1%	26.2%	25.8%	32.6%	100.0%
2020/21	9.3%	11.5%	16.7%	30.5%	32.0%	100.0%

**Table 18: Movements within JJC by age, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Movements
2016/17	10	40	83	128	182	443
2017/18	23	37	121	176	225	582
2018/19	33	28	91	126	179	457
2019/20	31	34	107	101	143	416
2020/21	32	43	64	113	129	381

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Movements
2016/17	2.3%	9.0%	18.7%	28.9%	41.1%	100.0%
2017/18	4.0%	6.4%	20.8%	30.2%	38.7%	100.0%
2018/19	7.2%	6.1%	19.9%	27.6%	39.2%	100.0%
2019/20	7.5%	8.2%	25.7%	24.3%	34.4%	100.0%
2020/21	8.4%	11.3%	16.8%	29.7%	33.9%	100.0%



## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 19: Individual children in custody by religion [note 1], 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year				No Religious		Total Children
	Catholic	Protestant	Other	Belief	Unknown	
2016/17	93	24	5	8	9	139
2017/18	106	46	3	4	8	167
2018/19	100	30	4	7	19	160
2019/20	84	16	3	7	16	126
2020/21	64	19	3	9	13	108

Financial Year				No Religious		Total Children
	Catholic	Protestant	Other	Belief	Unknown	
2016/17	66.9%	17.3%	3.6%	5.8%	6.5%	100.0%
2017/18	63.5%	27.5%	1.8%	2.4%	4.8%	100.0%
2018/19	62.5%	18.8%	2.5%	4.4%	11.9%	100.0%
2019/20	66.7%	12.7%	2.4%	5.6%	12.7%	100.0%
2020/21	59.3%	17.6%	2.8%	8.3%	12.0%	100.0%

**Table 20: Admissions to JJC by religion [note 1], 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year				No Religious		Total Admissions
	Catholic	Protestant	Other	Belief	Unknown	
2016/17	231	54	5	10	13	313
2017/18	283	118	8	7	8	424
2018/19	217	76	7	11	26	337
2019/20	203	57	3	12	23	298
2020/21	178	41	3	20	27	269

Financial Year				No Religious		Total Admissions
	Catholic	Protestant	Other	Belief	Unknown	
2016/17	73.8%	17.3%	1.6%	3.2%	4.2%	100.0%
2017/18	66.7%	27.8%	1.9%	1.7%	1.9%	100.0%
2018/19	64.4%	22.6%	2.1%	3.3%	7.7%	100.0%
2019/20	68.1%	19.1%	1.0%	4.0%	7.7%	100.0%
2020/21	66.2%	15.2%	1.1%	7.4%	10.0%	100.0%

**Table 21: Movements within JJC by religion [note 1], 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year				No Religious		Total Movements
	Catholic	Protestant	Other	Belief	Unknown	
2016/17	336	73	7	13	14	443
2017/18	391	162	8	12	9	582
2018/19	312	94	9	14	28	457
2019/20	284	82	4	17	29	416
2020/21	254	56	4	30	37	381

Financial Year				No Religious		Total Movements
	Catholic	Protestant	Other	Belief	Unknown	
2016/17	75.8%	16.5%	1.6%	2.9%	3.2%	100.0%
2017/18	67.2%	27.8%	1.4%	2.1%	1.5%	100.0%
2018/19	68.3%	20.6%	2.0%	3.1%	6.1%	100.0%
2019/20	68.3%	19.7%	1.0%	4.1%	7.0%	100.0%
2020/21	66.7%	14.7%	1.0%	7.9%	9.7%	100.0%

1. Unlike other demographic information this is self-reported by the child and can therefore not be validated

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 22: Individual children in custody by looked after status, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Children
2016/17	28	26	83	2	139
2017/18	43	28	95	1	167
2018/19	45	17	95	3	160
2019/20	30	19	75	2	126
2020/21	27	11	70	0	108

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Children
2016/17	20.1%	18.7%	59.7%	1.4%	100.0%
2017/18	25.7%	16.8%	56.9%	0.6%	100.0%
2018/19	28.1%	10.6%	59.4%	1.9%	100.0%
2019/20	23.8%	15.1%	59.5%	1.6%	100.0%
2020/21	25.0%	10.2%	64.8%	0.0%	100.0%

**Table 23: Admissions to JJC by looked after status, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Admissions
2016/17	79	71	161	2	313
2017/18	151	80	192	1	424
2018/19	110	45	178	4	337
2019/20	92	62	142	2	298
2020/21	83	42	144	0	269

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Admissions
2016/17	25.2%	22.7%	51.4%	0.6%	100.0%
2017/18	35.6%	18.9%	45.3%	0.2%	100.0%
2018/19	32.6%	13.4%	52.8%	1.2%	100.0%
2019/20	30.9%	20.8%	47.7%	0.7%	100.0%
2020/21	30.9%	15.6%	53.5%	0.0%	100.0%

**Table 24: Movements within JJC by looked after status, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Movements
2016/17	107	93	241	2	443
2017/18	216	98	267	1	582
2018/19	145	60	248	4	457
2019/20	129	83	202	2	416
2020/21	116	50	215	0	381

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Movements
2016/17	24.2%	21.0%	54.4%	0.5%	100.0%
2017/18	37.1%	16.8%	45.9%	0.2%	100.0%
2018/19	31.7%	13.1%	54.3%	0.9%	100.0%
2019/20	31.0%	20.0%	48.6%	0.5%	100.0%
2020/21	30.4%	13.1%	56.4%	0.0%	100.0%

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 25: Individual children in custody by area of residence and rate per 1,000 population [note 1], 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Area	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Antrim and Newtownabbey	6	9	8	3	4
Ards and North Down	19	15	13	12	11
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	10	11	11	10	8
Belfast	47	40	44	40	29
Causeway Coast and Glens	7	14	6	2	5
Derry City and Strabane	19	23	17	22	22
Fermanagh and Omagh	4	8	7	6	1
Lisburn and Castlereagh	4	8	8	4	7
Mid and East Antrim	3	10	8	4	3
Mid Ulster	5	8	12	3	1
Newry, Mourne and Down	7	9	13	11	13
Resident outside NI	4	7	9	5	3
Unassigned [Note 2]	2	5	4	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>108</b>

Area	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.3
Ards and North Down	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3
Belfast	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.3	0.9
Causeway Coast and Glens	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.1	0.3
Derry City and Strabane	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.4
Fermanagh and Omagh	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.1
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.5
Mid and East Antrim	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.2
Mid Ulster	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.1
Newry, Mourne and Down	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6
Resident outside NI	..	..	..	..	..
Unassigned [Note 2]	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>

1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30 June 2020.
2. Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 26: Admissions to JJC by area of residence, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Area	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Antrim and Newtownabbey	11	23	15	11	7
Ards and North Down	61	46	37	43	37
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	18	26	15	20	16
Belfast	108	115	118	116	83
Causeway Coast and Glens	11	45	11	2	7
Derry City and Strabane	48	57	27	47	57
Fermanagh and Omagh	13	13	18	13	3
Lisburn and Castlereagh	8	21	13	9	18
Mid and East Antrim	5	14	13	4	3
Mid Ulster	7	22	22	5	4
Newry, Mourne and Down	14	26	31	20	30
Resident outside NI	..	7	10	4	3
Unassigned [Note 1]	9	9	7	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>269</b>

**Table 27: Movements within JJC by area of residence, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Area	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Antrim and Newtownabbey	19	35	18	17	13
Ards and North Down	81	62	52	60	46
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	26	40	22	29	20
Belfast	163	159	164	155	117
Causeway Coast and Glens	15	57	16	4	10
Derry City and Strabane	56	72	46	65	88
Fermanagh and Omagh	18	18	19	18	3
Lisburn and Castlereagh	13	29	16	14	26
Mid and East Antrim	7	19	16	7	4
Mid Ulster	15	29	28	7	6
Newry, Mourne and Down	20	39	36	28	43
Resident outside NI	8	8	15	6	3
Unassigned [Note 1]	2	15	9	6	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>381</b>

1. Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 28: Average population by status, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Average Population
2016/17	1	14	7	22
2017/18	1	15	5	21
2018/19	1	13	4	18
2019/20	1	11	5	17
2020/21	1	9	1	11

**Table 29: Custody days by status, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Custody Days
2016/17	222	5,156	2,557	7,935
2017/18	305	5,498	1,912	7,715
2018/19	258	4,777	1,462	6,497
2019/20	218	4,122	1,837	6,177
2020/21	236	3,356	304	3,896

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Custody Days
2016/17	2.8%	65.0%	32.2%	100.0%
2017/18	4.0%	71.3%	24.8%	100.0%
2018/19	4.0%	73.5%	22.5%	100.0%
2019/20	3.5%	66.7%	29.7%	100.0%
2020/21	6.1%	86.1%	7.8%	100.0%

**Table 30: PACE to remand/sentence conversion estimate, 2016/17 to 2020/21**

Financial Year	PACE Admissions	PACE to Remand/Sentence	Conversion Rate
2016/17	194	105	54.1%
2017/18	269	132	49.1%
2018/19	228	94	41.2%
2019/20	197	96	48.7%
2020/21	207	102	49.3%

## Appendix 4 – Quality Assessment

This section provides information about the quality of the data used to produce this publication, and any statistics derived from these data.

Dimension	Assessment by the author
<p><b>Introduction:-</b></p>	<p>This report provides an overview of the workload of the YJA during 2020/21 and how it has changed over time. A breakdown of the gender, age, religion, looked after status, area of residence and offence type profile of referrals to and individuals in contact with the YJS and of individuals in custody is provided.</p> <p>Population and workload (i.e. admissions to and changes of status within the JJC) overviews of the custodial services are also included.</p> <p>The primary data source for this report is the YJA’s case management system, used for the day to day management of cases supervised by the Agency, both within a custodial and community setting. Information is based on data extracted after 1<sup>st</sup> July each year, for example data covering 2020/21 i.e. 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 will be extracted after 1 July 2021.</p>
<p><b>Relevance:-</b> <i>The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.</i></p>	<p>This report provides a measure of the workload of the YJA i.e. the number of referrals to the YJS and the number of movements (admissions to and changes of status) within the JJC that were recorded on YJA’s case management system.</p> <p>YJS referrals along with the individuals in contact with YJS, individuals in custody, admissions to JJC and movements within JJC are presented by gender, age, religion, looked after status, area of residence and offence type as applicable.</p> <p>Some comparisons with figures for the previous four financial years are also included.</p>

## Appendix 4 – Quality Assessment

Dimension	Assessment by the author
<p><b>Accuracy and reliability:-</b> <i>The proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value.</i></p>	<p>While every care has been taken in collating and entering the data, they are subject to the limitations inherent in any recording system and to variation in recording practice. While YJA staff have a vested interest in maintaining the accuracy of the data within their management information systems, a number of accuracy, quality assurance/validation procedures have been conducted upon the dataset compiled for this publication, to ensure the data extracted are accurate, complete and fit for the statistical purposes for which they are to be used.</p> <p>Coverage – An individual’s response to the section 75 monitoring form is not compulsory and as a result we do not have full coverage. With this in mind and due to concerns over the quality of reporting, religion for YJS figures has not been included as it has a higher proportion of missing values. This is under continuing annual review.</p>
<p><b>Timeliness and punctuality:-</b> <i>Timeliness refers to the time gap between publication and the reference period. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.</i></p>	<p>The report relates to data from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, and is published on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The gap between the reference date and the publication date is due to the time it took to resolve various data quality issues. The publication date for the current report is one week earlier than last year’s report.</p>
<p><b>Accessibility and clarity:-</b> <i>Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice.</i></p>	<p>The report is available on the DoJ website and contains contact details for further information.</p> <p>Explanatory information including sources, discontinuities and missing data have been included.</p>

## Appendix 4 – Quality Assessment

Dimension	Assessment by the author
<p><b>Coherence and comparability:-</b>  <i>Coherence is the degree to which data that are derived from different sources or methods, but refer to the same topic, are similar. Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain.</i></p>	<p>There are no alternative sources of information on the workload of the Northern Ireland YJA.</p>
<p><b>Assessment of user needs and perceptions:-</b>  <i>The process for finding out about users and uses, and their views on the statistical products.</i></p>	<p>The report currently contains contact details in case users wish to provide feedback, comments or queries on the publication.</p> <p>Key stakeholders, notably YJA senior management, regularly communicate their requirements to NISRA. In addition in January 2020, a meeting was undertaken with the Children’s Commissioner, the main external user of the publication to gather feedback which has been implemented where possible in the report.</p> <p>An annual customer satisfaction survey is also undertaken to review the publication by gathering feedback on the statistics produced, how well they meet user needs and whether there are any suggested improvements. The most recent survey conducted in June 2020 indicated that 80% of users were satisfied with the report but a better format/format of data within the report would be helpful.</p> <p>Users of the statistics when accessing the publications on the DoJ website are also invited to complete a short survey relating to the publication or to provide feedback or comments.</p>



## Appendix 4 – Quality Assessment

Dimension	Assessment by the author						
<p><b>Trade-offs between output and quality components:-</b></p>	<p>The data used within this publication is from a database used for case management and therefore YJA has a vested interest in maintaining the accuracy of data. A number of accuracy, quality assurance/validation procedures are also conducted upon the dataset, both automated and manual, at individual case level and the data is corrected to ensure when it is extracted it is as accurate, complete and fit for statistical use as possible.</p> <p>An individual's response to the section 75 monitoring form is not compulsory and as a result we do not have full coverage. With this in mind and due to concerns over the quality of reporting, religion for YJS figures has not been included as it has a higher proportion of missing values (46.9% missing). This is under continuing annual review. Below is the coverage for variables used in this report where full data is not available.</p> <p><b>Youth Justice Services</b></p> <table data-bbox="498 711 1103 743"> <tr> <td>Gender</td> <td>99.6% complete</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Custodial Services</b></p> <table data-bbox="498 825 1103 893"> <tr> <td>Religion</td> <td>88.0% complete</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area</td> <td>99.1% complete</td> </tr> </table>	Gender	99.6% complete	Religion	88.0% complete	Area	99.1% complete
Gender	99.6% complete						
Religion	88.0% complete						
Area	99.1% complete						
<p><b>Performance, cost and respondent burden:-</b> <i>The effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.</i></p>	<p>The annual operational cost (staff time) of producing the report is approximately 40 days.</p> <p>There is no respondent burden, since the data are held on an administrative system, and data on new cases are automatically collected as part of their admission process.</p>						
<p><b>Confidentiality, transparency and security:-</b> <i>The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.</i></p>	<p>Suppression would be applied where the number of cases in a cell containing personal information is disclosive; this is described in table footnotes. If appropriate, cells are merged.</p> <p>Statistical data is held on a network that is only accessible to the statisticians who need access. Printouts containing individual records or small cell sizes are locked away, and shredded as soon as possible.</p>						