



Home Office



Police powers and procedures, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2016

Statistical Bulletin 15/16

Produced by: Jodie Hargreaves, Chris Linehan and Chris McKee

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Further information

The annual 'Police powers and procedures, England and Wales' publication and other Home Office statistical releases are available from the [Statistics at Home Office](#) pages on the GOV.UK website.

The dates of forthcoming publications are pre-announced and can be found via the [GOV.UK publication hub](#).

For further information about the statistics in this publication, email crimeandpolicestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk, or write to: Crime and Policing Analysis Unit, 1st floor Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

Home Office Responsible Statistician:

Damon Wingfield, Director of Crime and Policing Statistics Programme

Contact via crimeandpolicestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk if you have any statistical comments or need any assistance accessing the data.

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1 Introduction

1.1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This release contains statistics on the use of various police powers in England and Wales up to the year ending 31 March 2016. The release is broken down into five main sections.

The **arrests** section contains information provided by the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales on a financial-year basis (April to March). It includes statistics on:

- arrests for notifiable offences
- the reason for which persons were arrested
- the age, gender and ethnicity of persons arrested

The **stop and search** section contains information provided by the 43 police forces in England and Wales, and the British Transport Police (BTP) on a financial-year basis. It includes statistics on:

- the number of stops and searches carried out under a number of different legislative powers
 - section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE)
 - section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
 - section 44/47A of the Terrorism Act 2000
- the ethnicity of persons searched
- the reason given by the officer for conducting a search
- the number of searches that led to an arrest

[Annex A](#) provides some provisional data on the [Best use of stop and search \(BUSS\) scheme](#).

The section on **other PACE powers** contains data provided by the 43 police forces in England and Wales on a financial-year basis. It includes statistics on:

- the number of persons detained under a warrant for further detention
- the number of road checks conducted under section 4 of PACE
- the number of intimate searches made under section 55 of PACE

The **fixed penalty notices for motoring offences** section contains data from the national fixed penalty processing system (PentiP), on a calendar-year basis. It includes statistics on:

- the number of endorsable and non-endorsable fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued for a range of motoring offences
- the number of FPNs issued as a result of camera-detected offences
- the number of cases where the penalty was paid

The **breath tests** section contains data from the 43 police forces in England and Wales on a calendar-year basis. It includes statistics on:

- the number of alcohol screening breath tests carried out by police
- the number of tests that were positive or refused

Further information on these data collections can be found in the [user guide](#) and in the accompanying [data tables](#) on the relevant sections.

[Annex A](#) provides data on the [Best Use of Stop and Search \(BUSS\) scheme](#).

[Annex B](#) provides data on detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

1.2 NEW CONTENT IN THIS RELEASE

This release contains some areas that have not featured in previous publications:

Provisional data on the Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme.

- These data are based on a subset of forces that provided data on a voluntary basis, and are therefore **Experimental Statistics**. They provide a more refined picture than the limited data taken from the police.uk website that was published in the previous bulletin.

Provisional data on detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

- These data are based on a subset of forces that provided data on a voluntary basis, and are therefore **Experimental Statistics**. They add further context to [figures published by the National Police Chiefs Council \(NPCC\)](#) on total detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act.

1.3 NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS

Since the previous publication, these statistics have been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure that they continue to meet the standards required to be designated as National Statistics. The Home Office has worked closely with the UK Statistics Authority during this process, and as a result has made several changes to the 'User Guide, which is published alongside this release. This now contains further information on the quality and limitations of the various datasets, and the ways in which the Home Office engages with users of the statistics.

Following this process, the UK Statistics Authority has confirmed the continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics. This means that these statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, impartiality, quality and public value, and are fully compliant with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

As mentioned above, given the partial nature of the data, the statistics on the BUSS scheme and detentions under the Mental Health Act are designated as **Experimental Statistics**, and not National Statistics. The Home Office intends to improve the completeness and quality of these data in future years.

1.4 OPEN DATA TABLES

As in the year ending 31 March 2015 publication, open data tables have been published alongside this bulletin to allow users to access trend data more easily, and carry out more detailed analysis of the data. These cover the following areas:

1. Stop and search
2. Arrests

2 Key findings

Arrests

In the year ending 31 March 2016, there were 896,209 arrests carried out by police in England and Wales, a fall of 5% on the previous year, and continuing the downward trend since a peak in the year ending 31 March 2008, when there were almost 1.5 million arrests.

As in previous years, the majority of arrests in the year ending 31 March 2016 were of males (84%). Over a third of arrests (35%) were for offences related to violence against the person and over 1 in 5 (22%) were for theft offences.

In the year ending 31 March 2016, the majority (78%) of persons arrested for notifiable offences considered themselves to be White. Persons who identified themselves as being Black (or Black British) were around 3 times as likely to be arrested as those who were White.

Stop and search

In the year ending 31 March 2016, there were 387,448 stops and searches conducted by police in England and Wales, a fall of 28% compared with the previous year, and the lowest number of stops and searches carried out since the data collection began in the year ending 31 March 2002. In the latest year, arrests resulting from stop and search fell by 19%.

Sixteen per cent of stops led to an arrest, up 2 percentage points from 14% in the previous year, and the highest since the collection began.

In the last year, searches have fallen across all ethnicity groups. Searches on White individuals fell by the largest amount (38%), while searches on Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) individuals fell by 13%.

Those from BME groups were 3 times as likely to be stopped and searched as those who are White. In particular, those who are Black (or Black British) were over 6 times more likely to be stopped. In both cases these figures were higher than the previous year, and reflect the fact that although stops of all ethnicities have fallen, stops of White individuals have fallen by more than stops of BME individuals.

Detentions, road checks and intimate searches

In the year ending 31 March 2016, there were a total of 3,338 persons detained under part IV of PACE for more than 24 hours by police in England and Wales, representing an increase of 11% on the previous year.

There were 14 road checks carried out by police in England and Wales in the year ending 31 March 2016, 2 more than in the previous year. In terms of the number of vehicles stopped there was an 8% increase over the same time period.

There were a total of 77 intimate searches carried out by police in England and Wales the year ending 31 March 2016. This was broadly in line with previous years.

Fixed penalty notices and breath tests

There were just under 1.02 million FPNs issued for motoring offences by police in England and Wales in 2015, a fall of 1% compared with the previous year. However, during this period, the number of FPNs issued for speed limit offences increased by 6%.

Police in England and Wales carried out 520,219 breath tests in 2015, a fall of 14% compared with the 606,241 breath tests carried out in 2014. 12% of breath tests carried out in 2015 were positive or refused, up 1 percentage point on 2014.

Best use of stop and search – Experimental Statistics

Partial, provisional data based on 17 forces suggests that in around one in five (20% of) stops and searches in the year ending 31 March 2016, the outcome of the search was linked to the initial reason for the search.

An outcome other than 'No further action' was given in 24% of stops and searches. In the remaining 76% of stops, the outcome was 'No further action'.

Detentions under the Mental Health Act – Experimental Statistics

Partial, provisional data based on 15 forces shows that in half of all detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in the year ending 31 March 2016, the person being detained was escorted to a place of safety in a police vehicle. In 40% of these cases it was because an ambulance was not available in a reasonable amount of time.

In around one in ten cases the person detained was taken to a police station. In 62% of these cases, this was because there was no capacity at the health based place of safety.

3 Arrests

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Data presented here are on the police power of arrest. In line with police recorded crime statistics, these data cover arrests for all notifiable offences carried out by police in England and Wales. A person arrested for a notifiable offence is counted for each occasion on which they are arrested, provided that the offence is not connected or related to an offence for which the person has already been subject to arrest during the year. If it is connected, or if a person has been arrested for one or more notifiable offences on the same occasion, the offence with the highest maximum penalty is recorded.

Data are presented on a financial-year basis (April to March) and are provided directly to the Home Office by the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales. The Home Office does not request arrest data from the British Transport Police (BTP).

Figures on arrests reported to the Home Office reflect police activity and should not be used to infer levels of crime committed by offenders. In particular, the number of arrests for drug offences is greatly dependent on police activities and priorities, and does not give a reliable indication of trends in the level of drug offending. When looking at arrests for sexual offences, it should be considered that as with recorded crimes, the figures are influenced by the willingness of victims to report offences.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) amended the offence groups for the police recorded crime series in the year ending 31 March 2013. For the first time, in this publication, data collected on the reason for arrest have been brought into line with the ONS crime groups. For this reason the year ending 31 March 2016 data on the reason for arrest are not directly comparable with earlier years. The table below lists the new offence categories, and indicates how comparable each is with previous years.

Table 3.1 Reason for arrest groups in the year ending 31 March 2016 and comparability with previous years

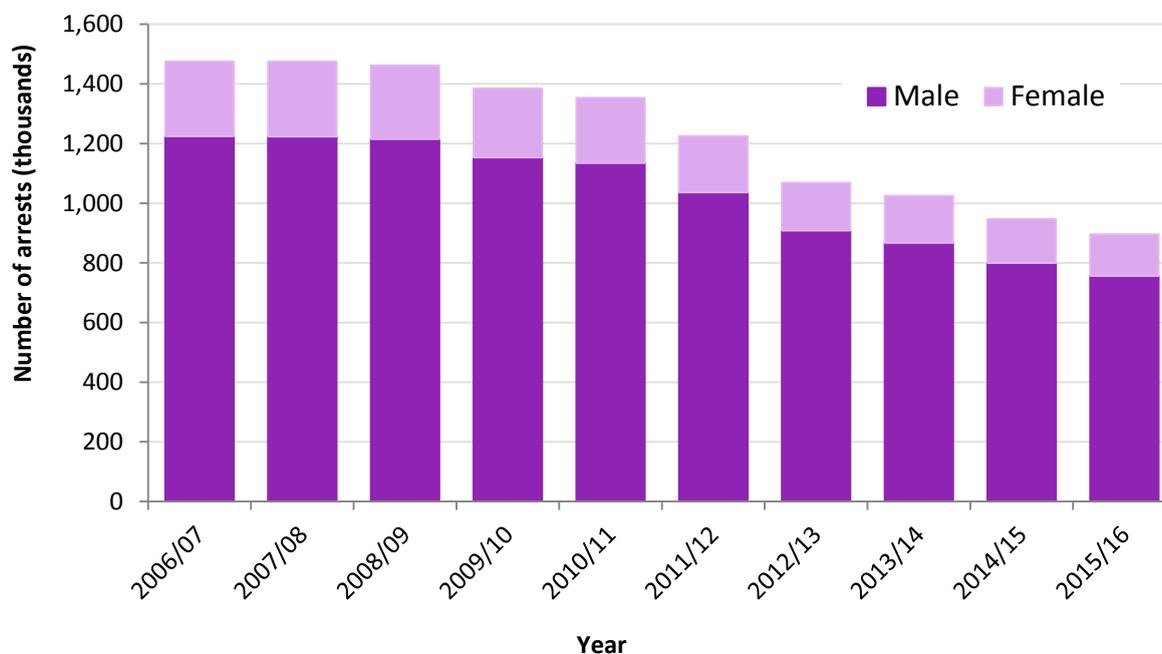
Reason for arrest (offence group)	Comparability with pre the year ending 31 March 2016 data
Criminal damage and arson	Mostly comparable with the year ending 31 March 2015 and earlier.
Drug offences	Directly comparable with the year ending 31 March 2015 and earlier.
Fraud offences	Not comparable with the year ending 31 March 2015 and earlier.
Misc crimes against society	Not comparable with the year ending 31 March 2015 and earlier.
Possession of weapons offences	Not comparable with the year ending 31 March 2015 and earlier.
Public order offences	Not comparable with the year ending 31 March 2015 and earlier.
Robbery	Directly comparable with the year ending 31 March 2015 and earlier.
Sexual offences	Mostly comparable with the year ending 31 March 2015 and earlier.
Theft offences	Not comparable with the year ending 31 March 2015 and earlier.
Violence against the person	Not comparable with the year ending 31 March 2015 and earlier.

Four forces were unable to supply data in the new format and instead submitted data using the old offence groups. Estimation methods were then used to categorise their data into the new offence groups. The total number of arrests broken down by age and gender is unaffected by the estimation.

3.2 ARRESTS

In the year ending 31 March 2016 there were 896,209 arrests carried out by police in England and Wales, a fall of 5% on the previous year, and continuing the downward trend since a peak in the year ending 31 March 2008, when there were 1,475,266 arrests (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1 Number of arrests, by gender, England and Wales, years ending 31 March 2007 to 2016



Source: [Arrests table A.01](#), Home Office

Although the change in offence categories means that the latest year's data are not directly comparable with previous years, the data suggest that the downward trend in the total number of arrests has been due to falls across almost all reasons for arrest, with the exception of sexual offences, which rose by 18% across the period. Arrests for criminal damage and robbery have seen the largest falls (both over 50%).

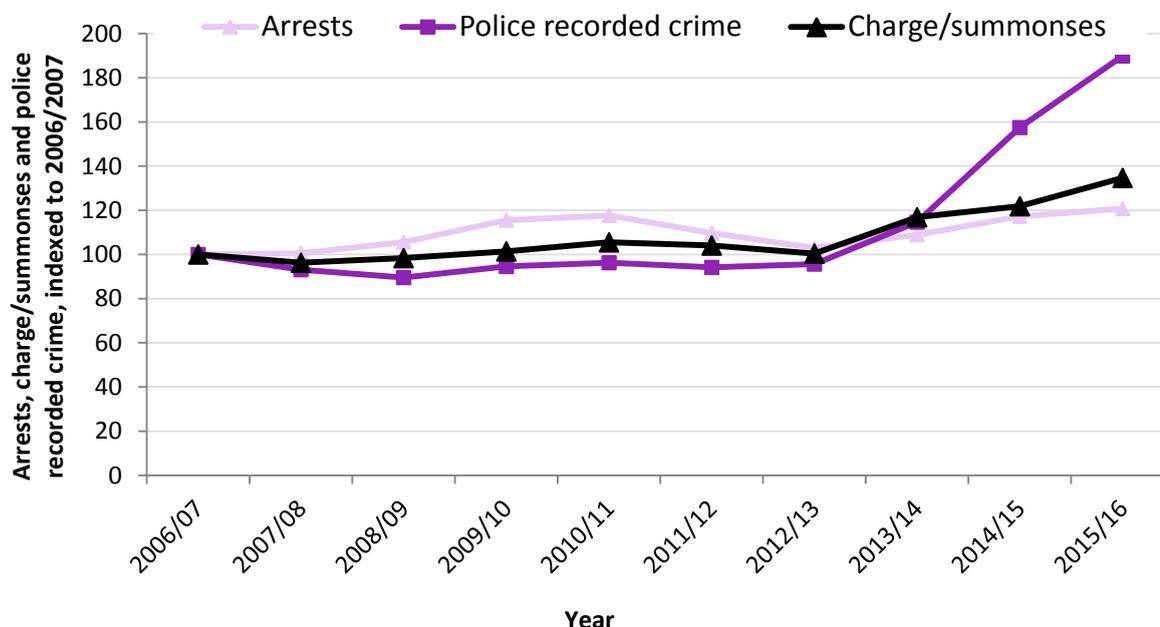
In the year ending 31 March 2016, just over a third of all arrests by police in England and Wales were for violence against the person offences (35%). The next most common reason for arrest was for theft offences, which accounted for 22% of all arrests.

Comparisons with recorded crime are limited as arrests relate to persons and recorded crime relates to offences, so it is not appropriate to compare actual numbers. Furthermore, an individual arrested in a particular financial year could be arrested for an offence that was recorded by police in a previous year. The change in the arrest groups between the year ending 31 March 2015 and the year ending 31 March 2016 also makes it difficult to compare trends over time. That said, 4 of the arrest groups (sexual offences, criminal damage and arson, robbery, and drug offences) have remained very similar, and so some comparisons are possible.

Figure 3.2 shows how the number of arrests and charge/summonses for sexual offences followed a similar trend to police recorded sexual offences between the years ending 31 March 2007 and 2013, after which the levels of recorded sexual crime increased more sharply than arrests and charge/summonses. This may in part reflect the fact that some of the additional offences recorded

involved a suspect that has subsequently died (for example those relating to Operation Yewtree, including Jimmy Savile), and so it is not possible to arrest and charge an individual for the offence. Increased levels of recorded crime are also likely to reflect an increased willingness of victims to report offences, including some historical ones.

Figure 3.2 Changes in arrests and police recorded crime for sexual offences, years ending 31 March 2007 to 2016



Source: [Arrests open data table](#), Home Office
[Table A4](#), Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Arrests and police recorded crime for criminal damage and arson, and drug offences, follow a similar time series trend.

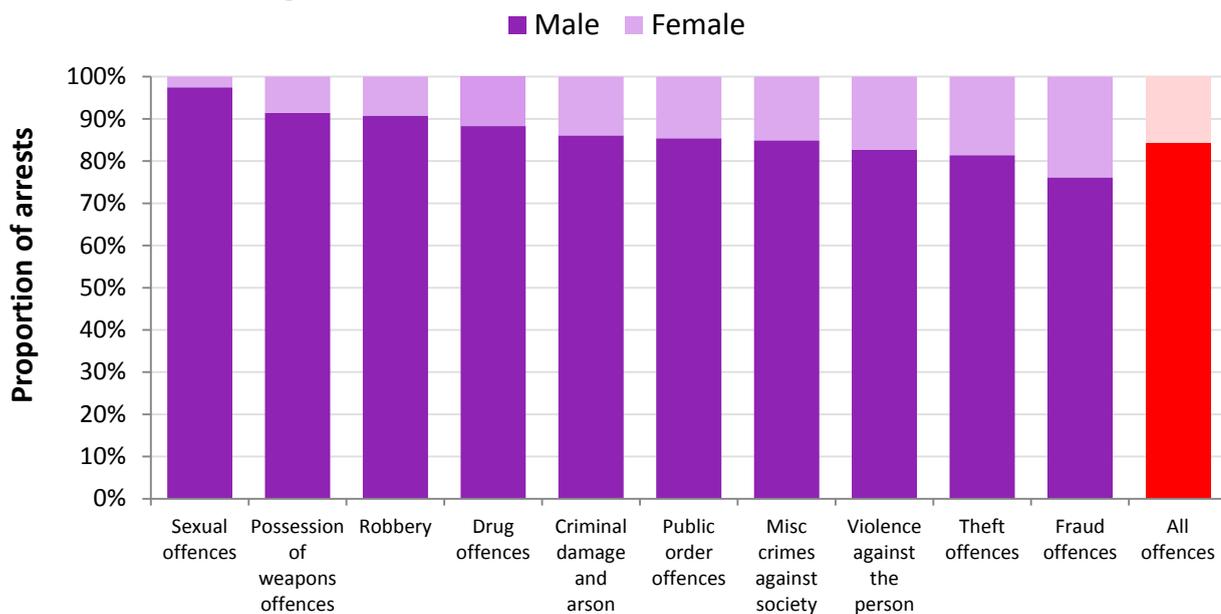
Figures on arrests reported to the Home Office reflect police activity and should not be used to infer levels of crime committed by offenders, or their specific characteristics. In addition, not all arrests are associated with a crime being recorded. [Crime statistics in England and Wales](#) are available on the Office for National Statistics website.

3.3 ARRESTS BY GENDER

As in previous years, the majority of arrests in the year ending 31 March 2016 were of males (84%). In the year ending 31 March 2016 there was a 5% fall in the number of both males and females arrested compared with the previous year.

The most common reason for arrest for both males and females was for violence against the person, followed by theft offences. However, there were some differences in arrest patterns for males and female. For example, females made up a very small proportion (3%) of those arrested for sexual offences, but a larger proportion (24%) of those arrested for fraud offences. Figure 3.3 shows the gender split for each offence type.

Figure 3.3 Proportion of arrests by gender and offence group, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2016



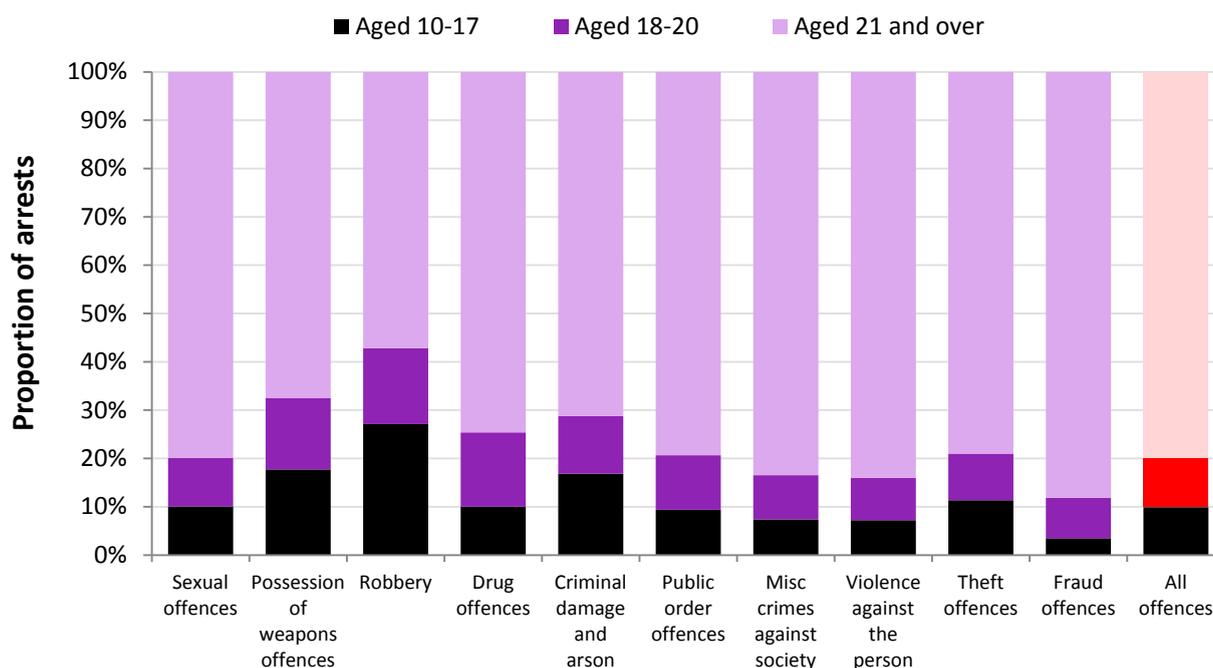
Source: [Arrests table A.02](#), Home Office

3.4 ARRESTS BY AGE

Data on arrests by age are grouped into 1 of 5 categories: 'Under 10', 'Aged 10 to 17', 'Aged 18 to 20', 'Aged 21 and over', or, 'Age unknown'. The legal minimum age for arrest is 10 years old, so the 'Under 10' category includes persons who, after further investigation, were found to be under the legal age limit for arrest.

The proportions of arrests in each age group remained similar to the previous year, with around 80% of all arrestees being 21 or over. However, there was some variation when looking at reasons for arrest. For example, although persons under 21 years old accounted for 20% of arrests overall, they made up 43% of arrests for robbery offences. Figure 3.4 shows the number of persons arrested by offence type and age.

Figure 3.4 Age group¹ of persons arrested, by offence type, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2016



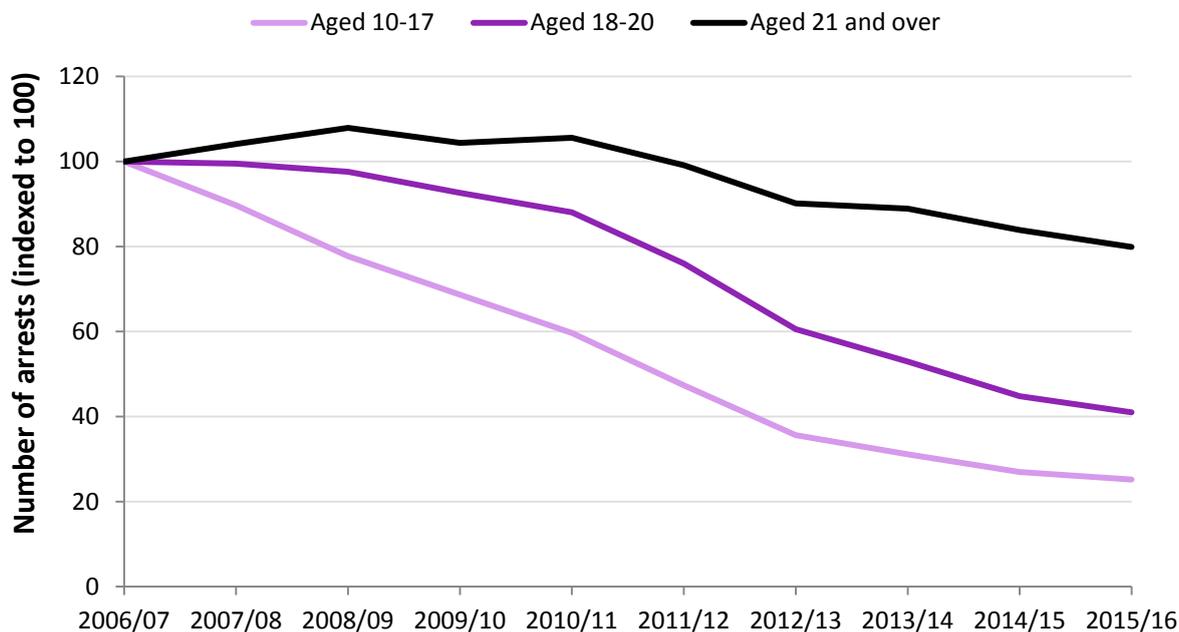
Source: [Arrests table A.03](#), Home Office

Chart notes

1. Excludes those whose age was unknown (345 arrests), and those who were under 10 years old at the time of the arrest (95).

In the year ending 31 March 2016, the 18 to 20 age group saw the largest decrease (8%) in the number of arrests compared with the previous year. Arrests of 10 to 17 year olds and those aged 21 years old and over also fell (by 7% and 5% respectively), but by slightly less. As figure 3.5 shows, arrests of all three age groups have fallen sharply since the year ending 31 March 2007, with arrests of under 21s falling by much more than arrests of those aged 21 and over. There has therefore been a shift in the age profile of those arrested over this period.

Figure 3.5 Number of arrests (indexed to 100 in the year ending 31 March 2007) by age group, England and Wales, years ending 31 March 2007 to 2016



Source: [Arrests table A.01b](#), Home Office

3.5 ARRESTS BY ETHNICITY

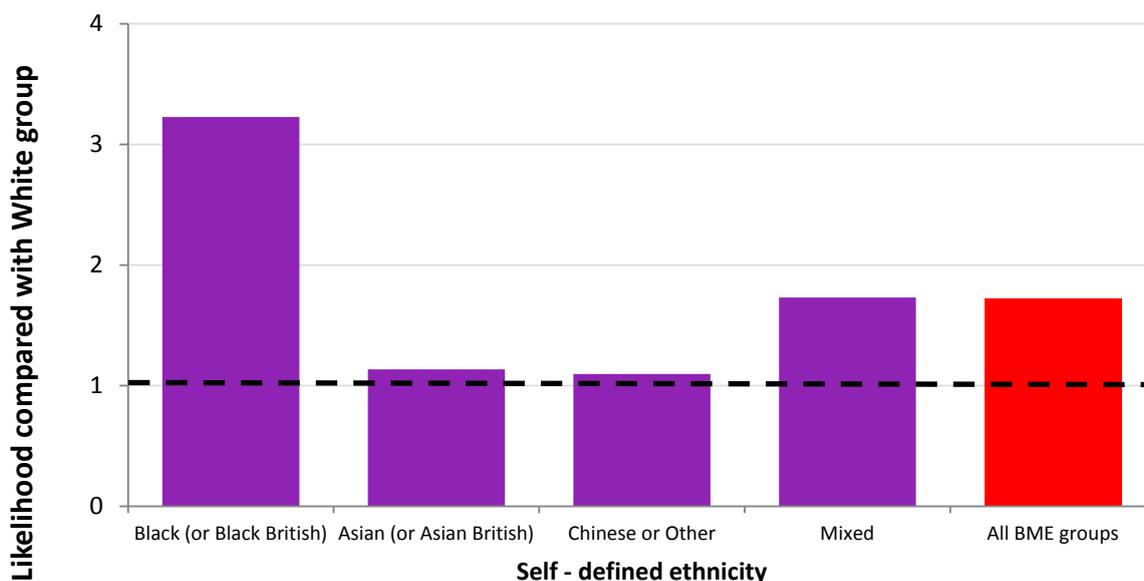
When an individual is arrested, they are asked to define their ethnicity. For the purpose of this analysis, these are grouped into 6 categories:

- White
- Black (or Black British)
- Asian (or Asian British)
- Chinese or other
- Mixed
- Not stated

The ethnic breakdown of those arrested in the year ending 31 March 2016 was similar to the previous year. Excluding those who did not state their ethnicity (who accounted for around 5% of arrestees), 78% of those arrested defined their ethnicity as White, 10% as Black (or Black British) and 7% as Asian (or Asian British). The rest considered themselves either of mixed ethnicity, or Chinese or other.

As in previous years, in the year ending 31 March 2016 persons from BME groups were over one and a half times as likely to be arrested as those who were White, and those who were Black (or Black British) were over 3 times more likely to be arrested than those who identified themselves as White (Figure 3.6).

Figure 3.6 Likelihood¹ of being arrested by self-defined ethnic group, compared with those from White ethnic groups, England and Wales², the year ending 31 March 2016



Source: [Arrests table A.04](#), Home Office

Chart notes

1. A likelihood of 1 indicates that the ethnic group is equally as likely to be arrested as those who are White.
2. Population breakdowns are based on 2011 Census (the latest available figures). It is likely that ethnicity breakdowns of the population have changed since 2011. Such changes are not accounted for in the figures. Therefore, these figures should be considered estimates only.

In the year ending 31 March 2016, decreases in the number of arrests were seen across all ethnicities, with the exception of the 'Chinese or other' ethnic group. Overall, the number of arrests of those from the BME group fell by 1%, and there was a decrease of 10% in the number of arrests of those who considered themselves to be White (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2 Ethnic breakdowns of persons arrested in England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2016 compared to 2015

Self-defined ethnicity	England and Wales		
	Numbers and percentages		% change
	Year		
	31 March 2015	31 March 2016	
White	735,128	663,059	-10
Black (or Black British)	83,461	82,789	-1
Asian (or Asian British)	60,709	59,665	-2
Mixed	29,599	29,146	-2
Chinese or Other	13,926	14,443	4
All BME	187,695	186,043	-1
Total	946,759	896,209	-5

Source: [Arrests table A.04](#), Home Office

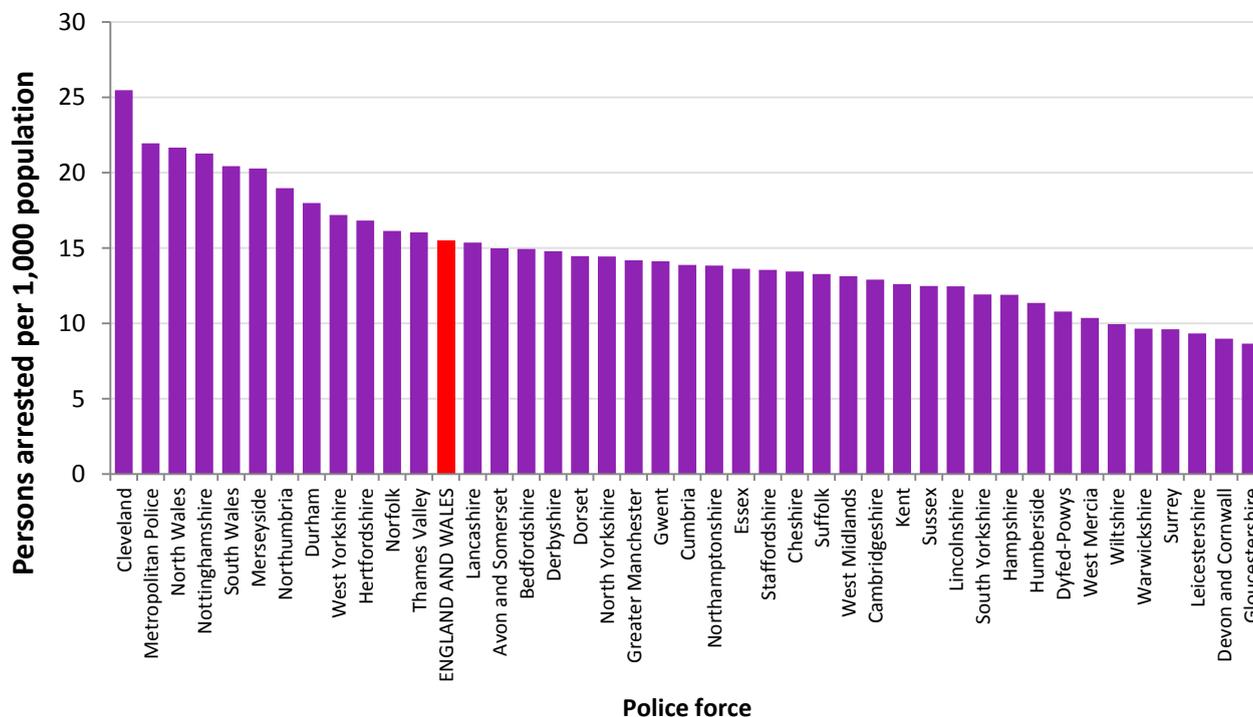
3.6 ARRESTS BY POLICE FORCE AREA

There were 15 arrests per 1,000 members of the population in England and Wales in the year ending 31 March 2016. The number of arrests per 1,000 population was again highest in Cleveland, with 25 arrests per 1,000 members of the population (compared to 28 arrests per 1,000 members of the population in the year ending 31 March 2015). Gloucestershire recorded the lowest arrest rate with 9 arrests per 1,000 members of the population, closely followed by Leicestershire and Devon and Cornwall.

City of London Police have been excluded from this analysis, as the small resident population within the force means that caution is needed when comparing arrests with the local population. Differences in the proportion of BME arrestees in some police force areas are likely to, in part, reflect the differing populations of those areas, as well as visitors to those areas. For example, the proportion of those arrested that are from BME groups ranges from 2% in North Wales to 51% in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). This is likely to reflect the substantial difference in the proportion of the population that are BME in these areas. Furthermore, an individual arrested in a particular police force area will not necessarily be a resident of that area. Because population breakdowns are based on residents of a particular area (i.e. they do not include visitors), arrest rates should therefore be considered with caution.

Out of the 43 forces in England and Wales, 9 showed an increase in the number of arrests, 33 showed a decrease in the number of arrests and 1 (Cheshire) recorded a similar number of arrests in the year ending 31 March 2016 compared with the previous year.

Figure 3.7 Number of persons arrested per 1,000 population, by police force area, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2016



Source: [Arrests table A.05](#), Home Office.

3.7 DATA QUALITY AND INTERPRETING THE FIGURES

The figures presented are correct at the time of publication and may include revisions submitted by forces for the previous years.

In the year ending 31 March 2016 the 'reason for arrest' groups were updated to reflect the offence groups used by the ONS in its crime statistics series. Four forces were unable to supply arrests data in the new format and instead submitted data using the old offence groups. Data for the new offence groups were estimated from those.

The estimation method used was based on the data supplied by other forces. There was little or no change in the offences that made up the 'sexual offences', 'drug offences' and 'criminal damage and arson offences' groups, so the data supplied for those groups were not altered.

To estimate the number of arrests for the other offence groups, the proportion of arrests in each offence group was calculated for England and Wales (excluding the 4 forces who could not supply data in the new format), and these proportions were applied to the total number of arrests for the forces who were unable to supply the data.

For example, excluding the 4 forces who could not supply data in the new format, 28% of all arrests in England and Wales were for theft offences. Therefore 28% of the total number of arrests supplied by each of the 4 forces was allocated to theft offences. Gender, age and ethnic breakdowns were held constant while doing this, so that the total number of arrests broken down by these demographics is consistent with the data supplied by the force.

3.8 OTHER DATA SOURCES

While some ethnic breakdowns are provided here, detailed figures and analysis continue to be published by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The latest edition of its [Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System](#) series was published in November 2015. Figures presented relate to the period up to and including the financial year ending 31 March 2014, and may since have been superseded by data included in this edition of 'Police powers and procedures'. The next edition of MOJ's bulletin is expected to be published in November 2017.

MOJ also publishes biennial statistics on the representation of females and males as victims, suspects, offenders and employees in the criminal justice system. Its latest statistics can be found in [Statistics on Women and the Criminal Justice System 2013](#), and includes arrest figures for the financial year ending 31 March 2014. The next edition of this bulletin will be published on 24 November 2016.

The Youth Justice Board's series on [Youth Justice Statistics](#) looks at the flow of young people through the Youth Justice System. The latest edition was released in January 2016 and includes arrests data for the financial year ending 31 March 2015, which may since have been superseded by data included in this edition of 'Police powers and procedures'. The next release is scheduled for 26 January 2017, and will cover the period up to the financial year ending 31 March 2016.

Data on individuals given an out of court disposal or proceeded against at court are published in MOJ's [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#).

[Crime Statistics](#), including police recorded crime figures, are published by ONS on a quarterly basis.

4 Stop and search

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section looks at stops and searches conducted by police in England and Wales under three different legislative powers. These are:

- section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act 1984 and associated legislation
- section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- sections 44/47A of the Terrorism Act 2000

The powers allow police to search persons and vehicles without a warrant in specific situations. Details of the above legislation and the legislation associated with section 1 of PACE are included in the [user guide](#).

This release includes statistics on the number of stops and searches carried out by police in England and Wales on a financial-year basis (April to March). It includes statistics on:

- the number of stops and searches, and subsequent arrests carried out under different legislation
- the reason for the stop and search and/or subsequent arrest
- the ethnicity of persons stopped

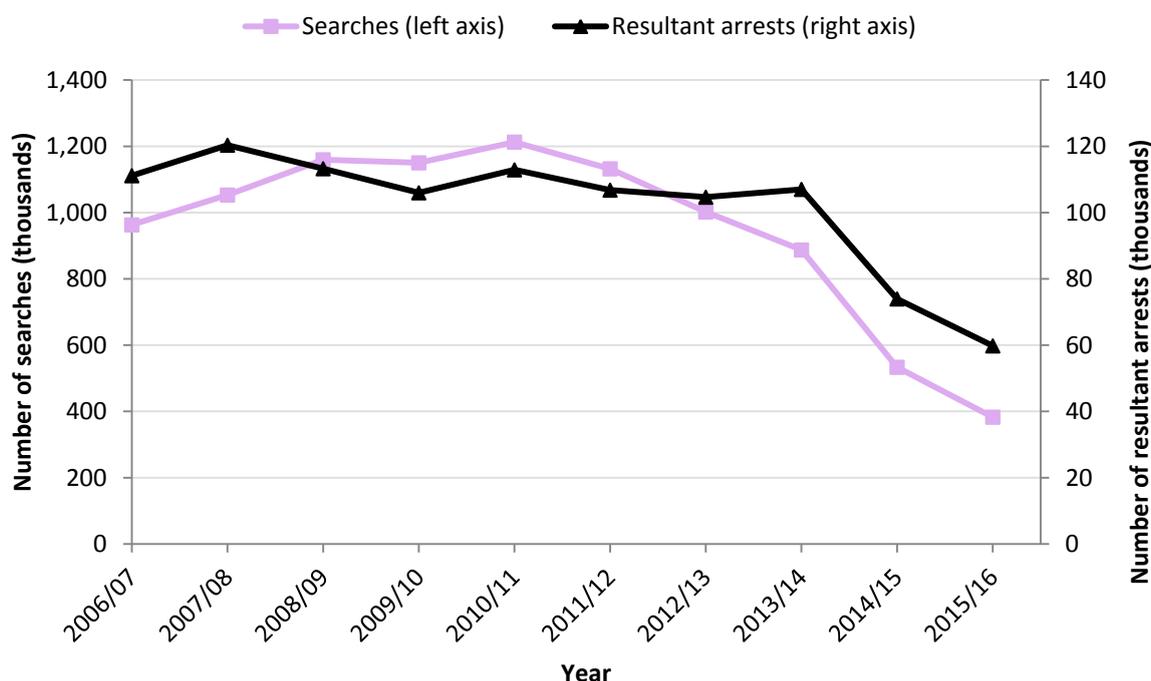
4.2 SECTION 1 PACE AND ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION

Under section 1 of PACE, police are given the power to search persons and/or vehicles for a range of items including stolen property, offensive weapons, controlled drugs or evidence relating to terrorism, if the officer has reasonable cause to suspect he/she will find such items. Further details can be found in the [user guide](#).

Section 1 of PACE is the most common power used by police to conduct a stop and search. In the year ending 31 March 2016, it accounted for 99.7% of all stops and searches in England and Wales.

In the year ending 31 March 2016, there were 386,474 stops and searches conducted under section 1 of PACE by police in England and Wales. This was a fall of 28% compared with the previous year, continuing a downward trend since the peak in the year ending 31 March 2011 (figure 4.1). This was the lowest number of stops under this power since the data collection began in the year ending 31 March 2002.

Figure 4.1 Number of stops and searches and resultant arrests under section 1 of PACE, England and Wales¹, years ending 31 March 2007 to 2016



Source: [Stop and search table SS_02](#), Home Office

Chart notes:

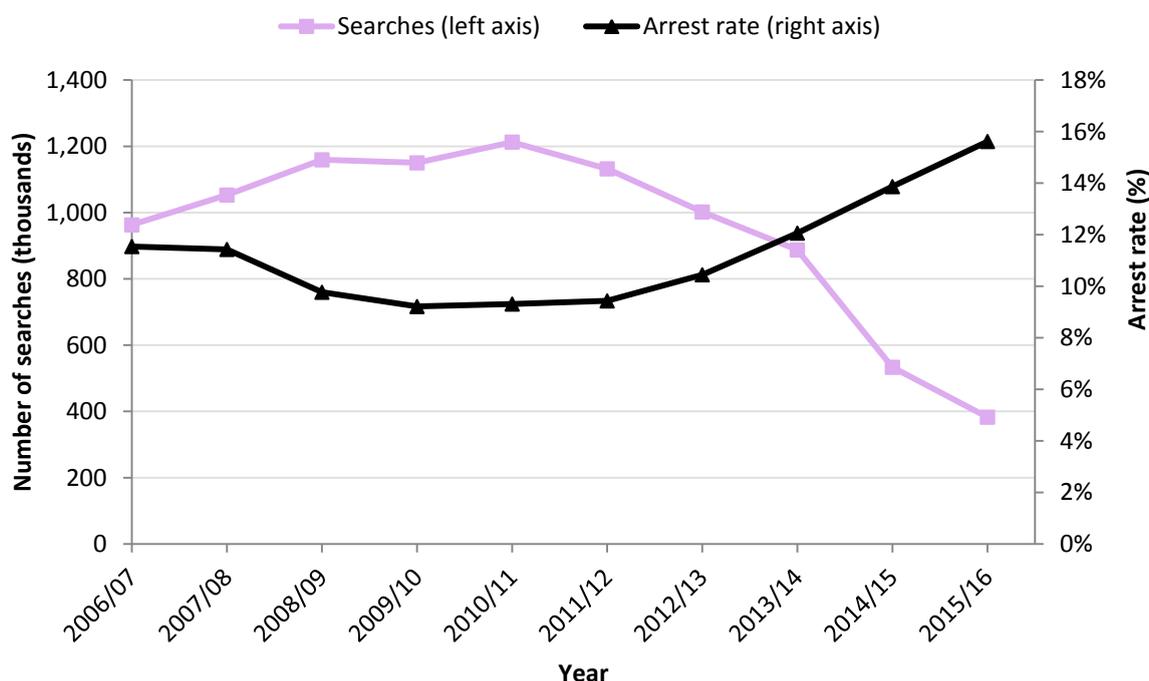
1. Excludes the British Transport Police, who did not provide data prior to 2009/10

The number of arrests resulting from stops and searches fell by 19% in the year ending 31 March 2016. As Figure 4.1 shows, the number of arrests following a stop and search generally follows a similar pattern to the total number of stops and searches. However, arrest numbers remained fairly stable between the years ending 31 March 2011 and 2014, despite a fall in the number of searches during this period, suggesting better targeting of the power. In the latest two years, arrests have fallen alongside stop and search numbers, although it should be noted that the fall in the arrests was lower than the fall in searches. Even so, arrests resulting from stops and searches are at their lowest level since the series began in the year ending 31 March 2002.

Arrest Rate

Of the 386,474 stops in the year ending 31 March 2016, 60,517 led to an arrest. This was an arrest rate of 16%, the highest rate since the series began, and an increase of 2 percentage points on the 14% arrest rate seen in the previous year (Figure 4.2). This continues the rising trend in arrest rates in recent years, and supports the idea that the police are taking a more targeted approach to the use of stop and search, and are therefore finding reason for an arrest in a higher proportion of cases.

Figure 4.2 Number of stops and searches, and arrest rates under section 1 of PACE, England and Wales¹, years ending 31 March 2007 to 2016



Source: [Stop and search table SS_01](#), Home Office

Chart notes:

1. Excludes the British Transport Police, who did not provide data prior to 2009/10

Although the arrest rate can be used as an indicator for the effectiveness of stop and search, there are a number of other possible outcomes following a stop and search that are not covered here. The [Best Use of Stop and Search \(BUSS\) scheme](#) aims to capture these additional outcomes to provide a fuller picture of how effectively stop and search is being used. Provisional data on other outcomes resulting from stop and search can be found in [Annex A](#).

Reason for search

There are a number of reasons why the police may carry out a section 1 PACE stop and search, such as suspecting an individual is carrying drugs or a weapon. Any subsequent arrests resulting from a PACE search may not be related to the initial reason for the search; for example, an officer may suspect that an individual is carrying drugs, but actually arrest them as they are found to be carrying a weapon. As a result, while arrest rates give an overall picture of the number of searches leading to arrests, they do not give insight into arrest rates for specific offence categories. More information on how frequently arrests (and other outcomes) are linked to the initial reason for the search can be found in [Annex A](#).

The most common reason for carrying out a PACE stop and search is on suspicion of drug possession. These accounted for 61% of all stop and searches in the year ending 31 March 2016, an increase of 2 percentage points since the year ending 31 March 2015 (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 Proportion of PACE stops and searches, subsequent arrests, and arrest rates, by reason for search/arrest, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2016

Reason	Proportion of searches (%)	Proportion of subsequent arrests (%)	Arrest rate (%)
Drugs	61	51	13
Stolen property	16	22	22
Going equipped	10	9	14
Offensive weapons	9	13	21
Other ¹	4	5	19

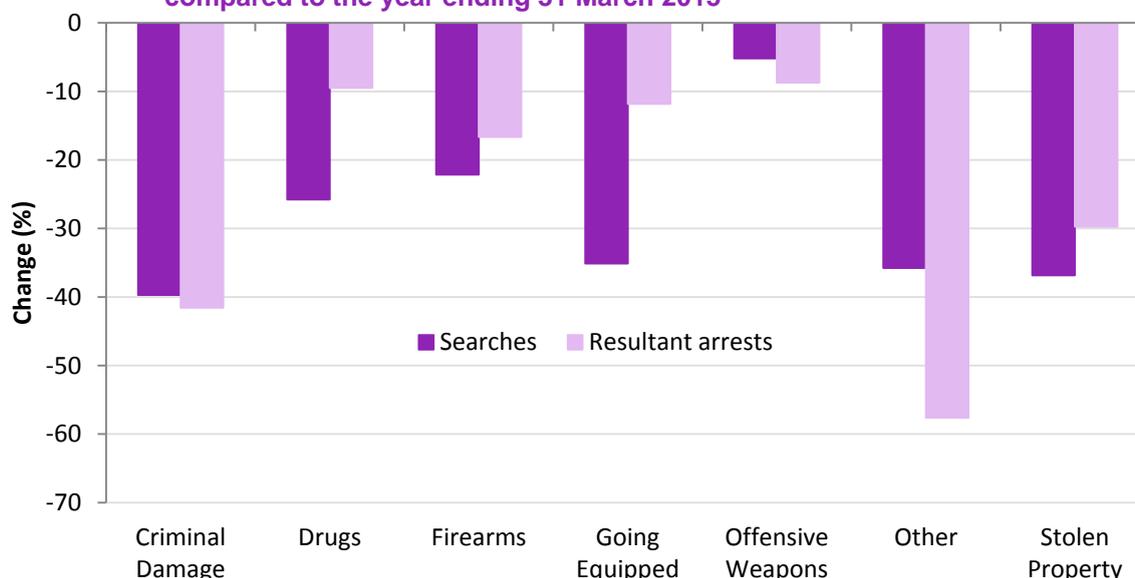
Source: [Stop and search tables SS_03 and SS_04](#), Home Office

Table notes:

1. 'Other' includes all other reasons for a stop, such as firearm and criminal damage related stops.
2. Merseyside police were unable to categorise the reason for a large number of their searches in the year ending 31 March 2016, and so have been excluded from this table.

The number of searches conducted in the year ending 31 March 2016 fell across all search reasons, as did the number of resultant arrests (see Figure 4.3). In most cases searches fell by more than arrests in percentage terms. However, offensive weapons and criminal damage searches were exceptions to this, with resultant arrests falling by more than searches.

Figure 4.3 Change in number PACE stops and searches and subsequent arrests by reason for search/arrest, England and Wales, the year ending 31 March 2016 compared to the year ending 31 March 2015



Source: [Stop and search tables](#), Home Office

Chart notes:

1. Merseyside police were unable to categorise the reason for a large number of their searches in the year ending 31 March 2016, and so have been excluded from this chart.

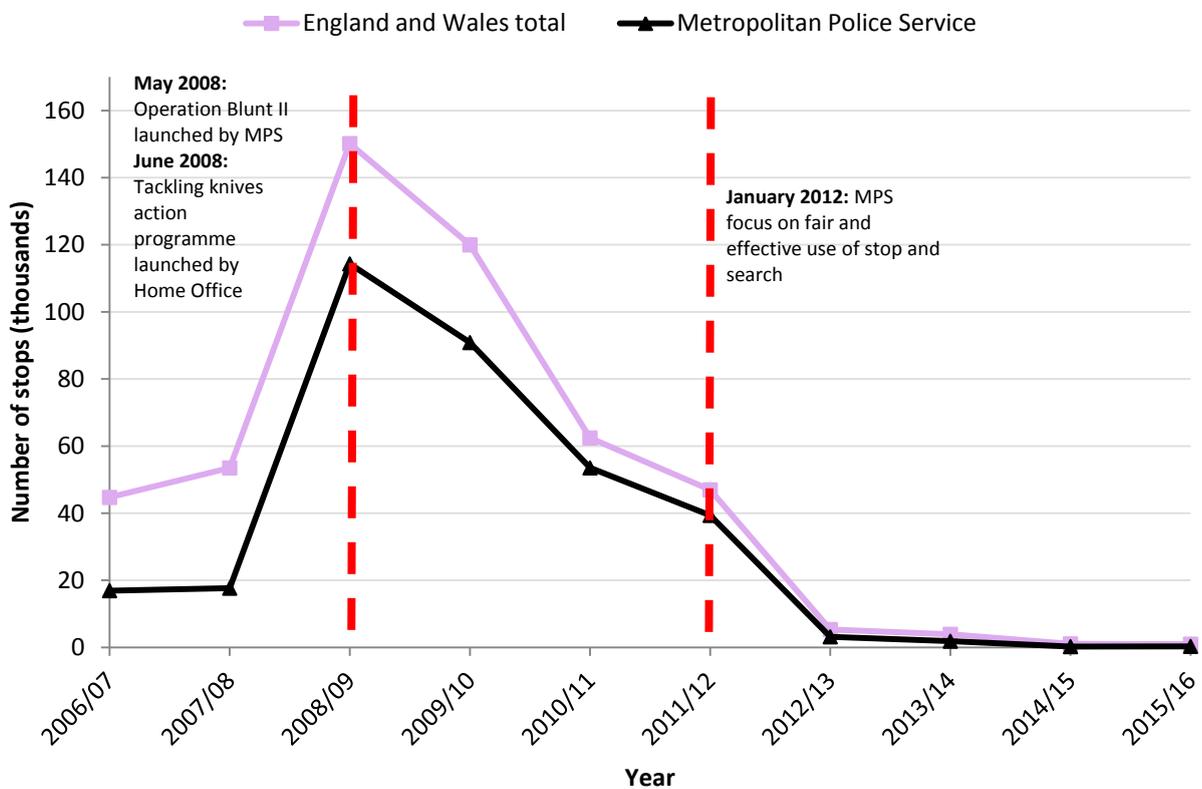
4.3 SECTION 60 OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC ORDER ACT

Under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, the police have the power to stop and search persons and/or vehicles in anticipation of violence through the use of offensive weapons or dangerous instruments. Further details can be found in the [user guide](#).

In the year ending 31 March 2016, police in England and Wales carried out 974 stops and searches under section 60 of Act. This represents a fall of 8% compared with the previous year. Since a peak of 150,000 searches in the year ending 31 March 2009, the use of section 60 stops and searches has drastically declined. The current year total represents less than 1% of all section 60 searches conducted in the year ending 31 March 2009.

The MPS account for a large proportion of all section 60 searches in England and Wales. In the year ending 31 March 2016, Lincolnshire also accounted for almost 1 in 3 section 60 searches.

Figure 4.4 Stops and searches under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, England and Wales¹, years ending 31 March 2007 to 2016



Source: [Stop and search open data table](#), Home Office.

Chart notes:

- 1. Excludes BTP.

In the year ending 31 March 2009, there were large increases in the number of section 60 stops and searches conducted in England and Wales. This coincided with two initiatives aimed at reducing knife crime:

- Operation Blunt II, launched by MPS in May 2008
- Tackling Knives Action Programme, launched by the Home Office in June 2008

In more recent years, the decline in the number of searches (under both section 60 and section 1 of PACE) has followed reviews by MPS and the Home Office on the use of stop and search powers. The falls have been seen in line with an increased focus on fair and proportionate use of stop and search powers, leading to forces using stop and search in a more focussed way.

In the year ending 31 March 2016, 24 of the 44 forces in England and Wales (including BTP) conducted at least 1 stop and search under section 60. This continues the recent downward trend in the number of forces employing the power in a given year.

The proportion of section 60 searches that resulted in an arrest in the year ending 31 March 2016 was 6%. Since the year ending 31 March 2003, the arrest rate has been no higher than 6%. This is significantly lower than the arrest rate following searches under section 1 of PACE, which has been between 9% and 16% over the same period.

4.4 SECTION 44/47A OF THE TERRORISM ACT

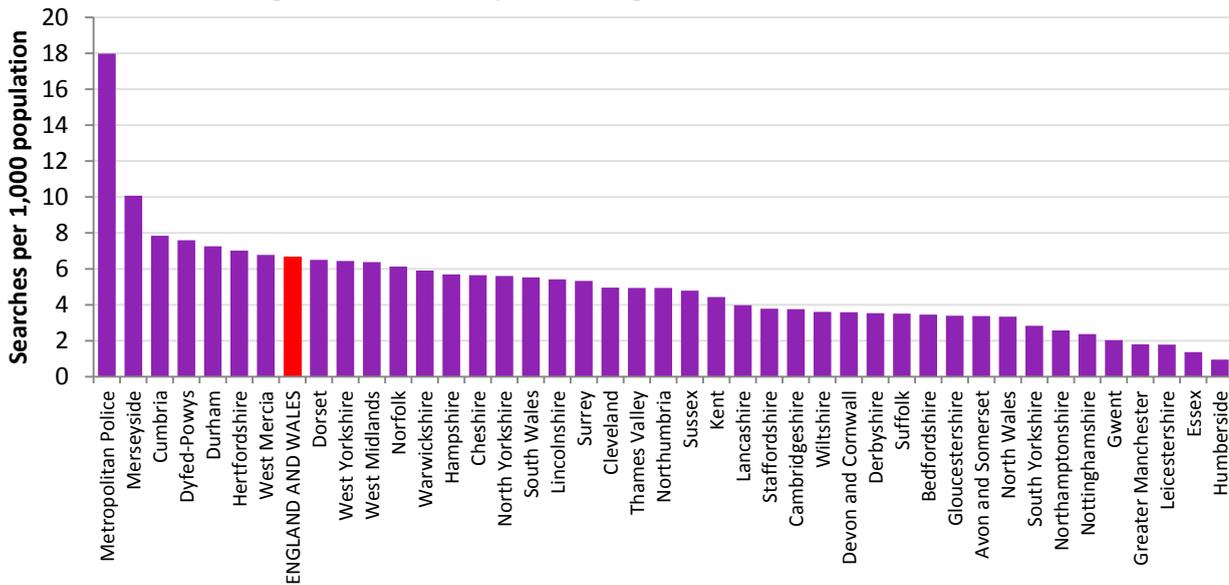
Section 47A (as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012) of the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT) allows the police to stop and search persons, without reasonable suspicion, in order to prevent acts of terrorism. Searches under this power may only be authorised in a specific area for a defined period where the police reasonably suspect an act of terrorism will take place. Section 47A of TACT stop and search powers replaced similar powers under section 44 to 47 of TACT on 18 March 2011. There has, as yet, been no use of stop and search powers under section 47A of TACT.

Data on long-term trends presented in the [stop and search table SS_12](#) combine data for section 44 and section 47A searches. Further information on these searches can be found in the [user guide](#).

4.5 STOP AND SEARCH BY POLICE FORCE AREA

The MPS account for a large proportion of all stop and searches in England and Wales (40% in the year ending 31 March 2016). Therefore when looking at the use of stop and search amongst different police forces, it is useful to factor in the population of each force by considering search rates.

Figure 4.5 Number of stops and searches per 1,000 population¹ by police force area^{2,3}, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2016



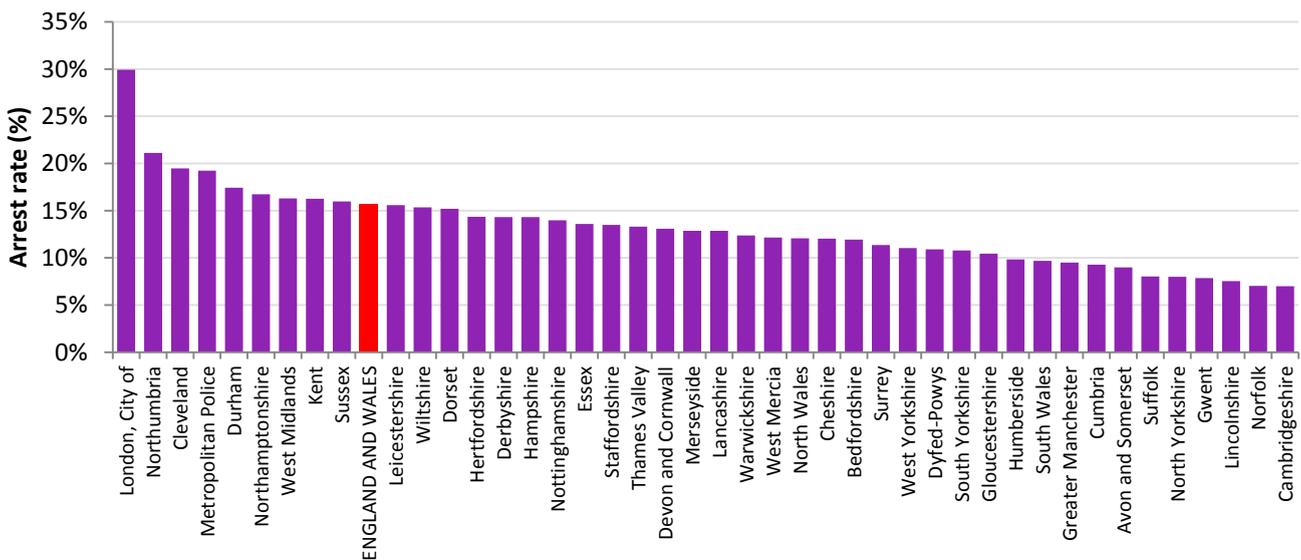
Source: [Stop and search table SS 14](#), Home Office

Chart notes:

1. Calculated using the [mid-2015 population estimates for England and Wales](#) supplied by ONS.
2. Population data for BTP are not available, however the forces searches are included in the England and Wales rates.
3. Rates for City of London police are not included due to a small residential population relative to the transient or visiting population. However, the forces searches are included in the England and Wales rates.

In England and Wales there were 7 searches per 1,000 population in the year ending 31 March 2016. MPS had the highest search rate at 18 stops per 1,000 population, while Humberside had the lowest with 1 search per 1,000 population.

Figure 4.6 Arrest rate following a stop and search, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2016



Source: [Stop and search table SS 14](#), Home Office

City of London police had the highest arrest rate, with 30% of searches leading to an arrest. This was followed by Northumbria, who had an arrest rate of 21%, and Cleveland and MPS who both had arrest rates of 19%.

While arrest rates do offer some indication of the effective and targeted use of stop and search, there are a range of other outcomes that could indicate a successful stop and search. These are not included in this section, but the [BUSS scheme](#) aims to collect data on these additional outcomes (see [Annex A](#) for more details).

4.6 ETHNICITY OF PERSONS SEARCHED

When conducting a stop and search, police are required to ask the person being stopped to define their ethnicity. For the purpose of this analysis, ethnicities are grouped into the following:

- White
- Black (or Black British)
- Asian (or Asian British)
- Chinese or other
- Mixed
- Not Stated

MPS account for a large proportion (40%) of stops and searches in England and Wales. As the force has a considerably larger BME population than other parts of the county, data for MPS can skew the data at a national level when considering the ethnicity of those stopped. In the table below, as with tables [SS 15](#) and [SS 16](#), MPS are presented separately, and England and Wales totals exclude the force. Merseyside Police Force has also been excluded from this analysis as it could not accurately categorise the ethnicity of many of the persons stopped under section 1 of PACE in the year ending 31 March 2016.

Table 4.2 shows that for both section 1 PACE searches and section 60 searches, stops of BME individuals accounted for a much larger proportion of all stops in the MPS when compared with forces in the rest of England and Wales. This was particularly apparent for section 60 searches, where nearly three quarters of those stopped by MPS were from BME groups.

Table 4.2 Proportion of searches by ethnic group, England and Wales and MPS, year ending 31 March 2016

	Section 1 PACE		Section 60	
	England & Wales	MPS	England & Wales	MPS
White	76	41	79	14
BME	16	50	16	74
Not Stated	7	9	5	12

Source: [Stop and search tables SS 16](#), Home Office

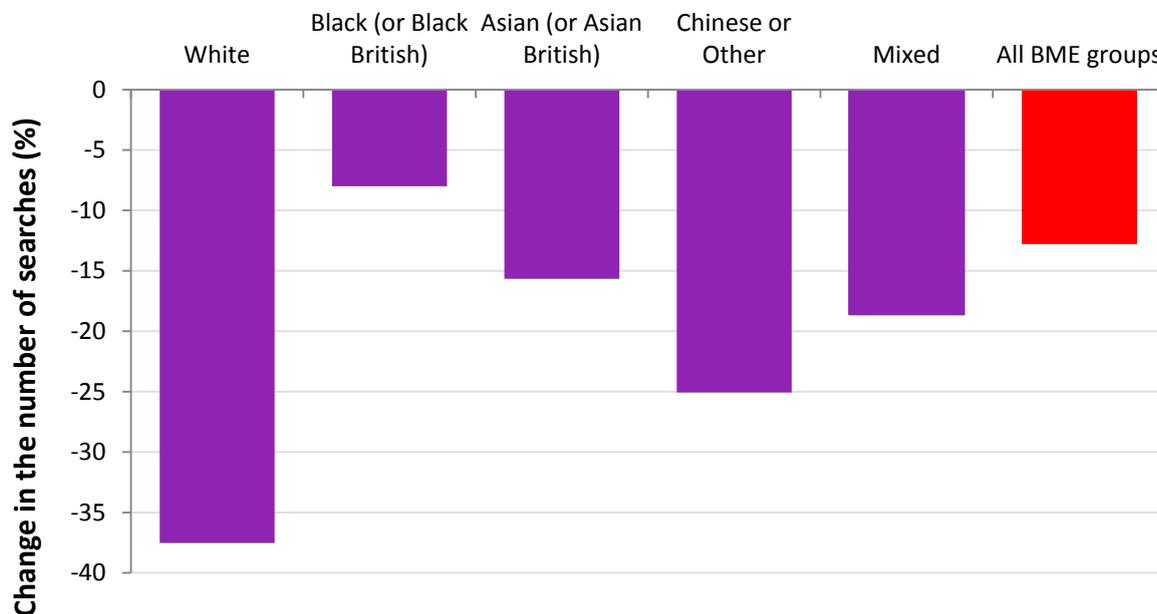
Table notes:

1. MPS excluded from England and Wales figures
2. Merseyside also excluded from England and Wales figures due to the large number of its searches in the year ending 31 March 2016 where the ethnicity of the person could not be categorised
3. Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding

There were 153,696 fewer stops in the year ending 31 March 2016 compared with the previous year, a fall of 28%. While falls in the use of stop and search have been seen across all ethnicity groups,

they have fallen at different rates. Stops of White individuals have fallen by the most (38%), while BME stops have fallen 13%. The number of stops on those who considered themselves to be Black has fallen by 8%.

Figure 4.7 Change in stops and searches by ethnicity, England and Wales, the year ending 31 March 2016 compared with the year ending 31 March 2015



Source: [Stop and search tables SS_06](#), Home Office

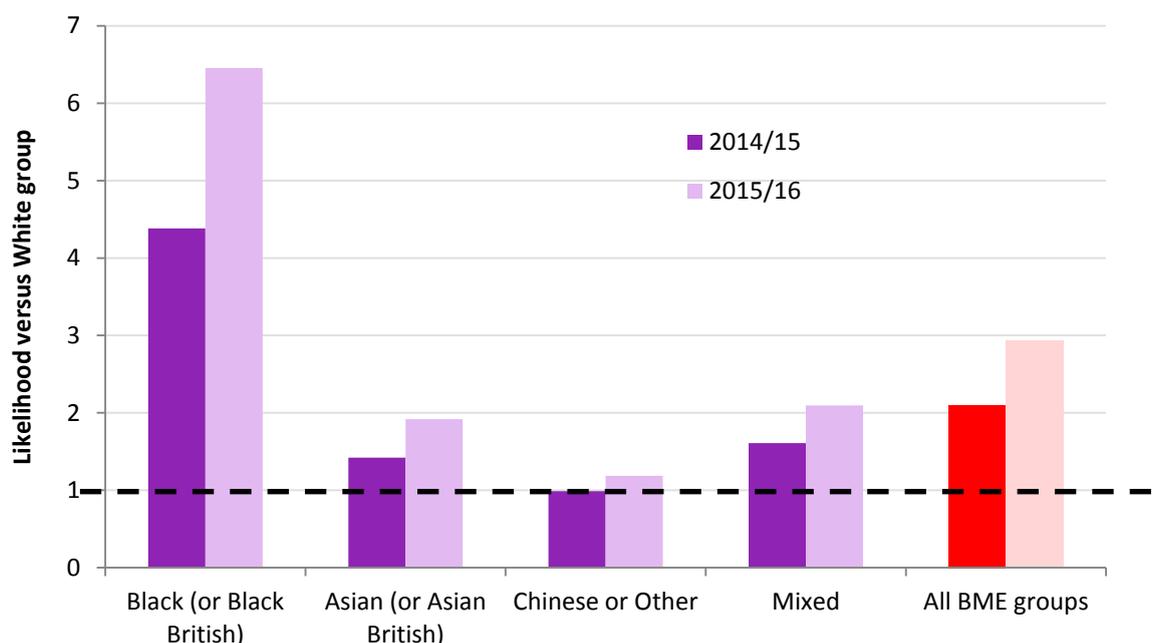
Chart notes:

1. Figures exclude Merseyside, as the force was unable to accurately categorise the ethnicity of many of the people stopped in the year ending 31 March 2016.

The following analysis considers the ethnicity of those searched relative to the population as a whole, by calculating search rates for each ethnic group. Population data is based on the 2011 census, and so should be considered with caution given that the ethnic breakdown of the population is likely to have changed since 2011. Data are presented in terms of how likely BME groups are to be searched compared to those who are White.

In the year ending 31 March 2016, those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were around 3 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. The difference between the two groups narrowed to twice as likely between the years ending 31 March 2011 and 2015, but has risen again in the latest year. This is likely to be because as mentioned above, searches have fallen more amongst the White group than among BME groups in the latest year. A similar story has been seen for the Black group, which fell from over 6 times more likely to just over four times more likely between the years ending 31 March 2011 and 2015, before rising again to over six times more likely in the year ending 31 March 2016.

Figure 4.8 Likelihood¹ of being stopped and searched by self-defined ethnic group, compared with those from White ethnic groups, England and Wales², year ending 31 March 2015 compared with 2016



Source: [Stop and search table SS 13](#), Home Office

Chart notes:

1. A likelihood of 1 indicates that the ethnic group is equally as likely to be stopped as those who are White.
2. Population breakdowns are based on the 2011 census. It is likely that ethnicity breakdowns have changed since 2011. Such changes are not accounted for in the figures. Therefore, these figures should be considered estimates only.

4.7 DATA QUALITY AND INTERPRETING THE FIGURES

Data presented here have been provided to the Home Office by the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales. Since the year ending 31 March 2010, BTP have been providing data to the Home Office. Data on total searches prior to this period is therefore not directly comparable to more recent years.

The figures presented are correct at the time of publication and may include revisions submitted by forces for previous years.

For some years, certain forces were unable to provide all of the requested breakdowns of the data; for example, the reason for some stops and searches or the ethnicity of the person searched may not have been provided for all cases. Such cases have been outlined in the relevant table notes. In order to ensure data are comparable over time, some forces may have been excluded from comparisons. These cases have been highlighted.

The [user guide](#) provides further details relating to definitions, legislation and procedure around stop and search.

4.8 OTHER DATA SOURCES

Quarterly figures for stops and searches conducted in Great Britain under the Terrorism Act 2000 appear in the Home Office series [Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000](#).

MOJ publishes a biennial [Race and the criminal justice system](#) series that includes data supplied by the Home Office on stop and search. The next publication is due for release in November 2017.

MPS publishes [monthly reports](#) on the use of stop and search by the force. Other forces may publish similar reports.

5 Other PACE powers

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Police have a number of other powers that are authorised under PACE. This section provides information on the police powers of detentions, road checks, and intimate searches.

Under section 42 of PACE, police may detain a suspect before charge, usually for a maximum of 24 hours, or for up to 36 hours when an alleged offence is an indictable one. From 20 January 2004, powers were introduced which enabled an officer of the rank superintendent or above to authorise continued detention for up to 36 hours for all arrestable offences. Additionally, police may apply to magistrates to authorise warrants of further detention for up to 60 hours, extending the maximum detention period to a maximum of 96 hours without charge.

Road checks can be carried out under section 4 of PACE 1984, for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle is carrying a person who may be of interest to the police. This section gives information on the number of times this power has been used, including the number of resultant arrests and the total number of vehicles stopped, on a financial-year basis.

If a person who is arrested is believed to be concealing Class A drugs, or anything that could be used to cause physical injury, a suitably qualified person may carry out an intimate search under section 55 of PACE. This section includes data on the number of intimate searches carried out by police in England and Wales, as well as details of who conducted the search and why, on a financial-year basis.

Further details on intimate searches can be found in the [user guide](#).

5.2 DETENTIONS

This section provides information on the number of persons detained for more than 24 hours who were subsequently released. It also provides details on the number of warrants for further detention that were applied for and the number that led to charges. Data are collected by the Home Office from the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales on a financial-year basis.

In the year ending 31 March 2016 there were a total of 3,338 persons detained for more than 24 hours, and subsequently released, under part IV of PACE by police in England and Wales. This represents an increase of 11.3% compared with the previous year (based on data from 36 forces that were able to provide complete data in both years ending 31 March 2015 and 2016).

Of those detained and subsequently released, 89% (2,964) were held for between 24 and 36 hours and a further 237 persons were held for more than 36 hours before being released without charge.

Police in England and Wales applied to magistrates for 390 warrants of further detention. 21 of these applications were refused, meaning warrants were granted in 95% of cases. When a warrant of further detention was granted, this led to a charge in 58% of cases (a fall of 12 percentage points compared with the previous year).

5.3 ROAD CHECKS

In the year ending 31 March 2016 there were 14 road checks carried out by police in England and Wales, resulting in 2,818 vehicles being stopped (based on 38 police forces who could supply data to the Home Office).

Although this was 2 road checks fewer than the previous year, in terms of the number of vehicles stopped there was an 8% increase over the same time period (from 2,598 in the year ending 31 March 2015 to 2,818 in the year ending 31 March 2016). Road checks were carried out by a total of 6 forces and the average number of vehicles stopped per road check rose from 162 in the year ending 31 March 2015 to 201 in the year ending 31 March 2016.

Each of the 14 road checks that were authorised in the year ending 31 March 2016 were to ascertain whether the vehicle was carrying an individual who had witnessed an indictable offence. None of the road checks resulted in an arrest.

5.4 INTIMATE SEARCHES

There were a total of 77 intimate searches carried out by police in England and Wales in the year ending 31 March 2016. This figure is broadly in line with the number of intimate searches in England and Wales in previous years.

Of the 77 intimate searches, 72 (or 94%) were carried out by a suitably qualified person. Five searches were carried out by a police officer.

Of all searches, 88% were made in an attempt to find Class A drugs, with the remaining 12% of searches conducted to find harmful articles. This is consistent with breakdowns for recent years, where around 80 to 90% of searches were conducted to find Class A drugs. Of the searches made for drugs (in the year ending 31 March 2016), Class A drugs were found in 9% of cases, down 5 percentage points from 14% in the year ending 31 March 2015.

Of the 38 police forces in England and Wales who could supply data to the Home Office, 25 had carried out intimate searches in the year ending 31 March 2016. Surrey and South Wales conducted the most intimate searches with 11, followed by Hampshire, who conducted 7.

5.5 DATA QUALITY AND INTERPRETING THE FIGURES

The presented statistics are correct at the time of publication. There have been no revisions submitted by forces for previous years.

Durham, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Thames Valley were unable to provide detentions data for the year ending 31 March 2016. Cheshire and Dorset were only able to provide partial data. These forces have been excluded from some year on year comparisons, as outlined in the footnotes accompanying the [detentions tables](#).

Cambridgeshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, MPS and South Yorkshire were unable to provide road check data to the Home Office in the year ending 31 March 2016. A number of other forces were unable to provide data for previous years. See the [road check data tables](#) for further details.

Gwent, Kent, Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire and Thames Valley were unable to provide any data on intimate searches in the year ending 31 March 2016. Data for these 5 forces have been excluded from any comparison between these 2 years.

The [user guide](#) provides further details relating to definitions, legislation and procedures, and data quality.

5.6 FUTURE DATA COLLECTION

The Home Office is considering the future of the data collections on other PACE powers given the current issues with completeness and data quality. As a result, it is possible that the Home Office will not collect and publish data on the use of these powers in future years. We welcome feedback from users on this proposal. If you wish to provide feedback, please email crimeandpolicestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

6 Fixed penalty notices for motoring offences

6.1 INTRODUCTION

A fixed penalty notice (FPN) is a prescribed financial penalty issued to a motorist as an alternative to facing prosecution. They can be issued for a range of motoring offences, such as speeding offences and using a handheld mobile phone while driving. An FPN can be **endorsable** (accompanied by points on a driving licence) or **non-endorsable** (not accompanied by points on a driving licence).

This section includes data on the number of FPNs issued by police in England and Wales (excluding BTP) on a calendar-year basis. The data are broken down to show the:

- number of FPNs issued by each police force in England and Wales
- types of offences for which FPNs are issued
- number of FPNs resulting from camera-detected offences
- number of fines that have been paid and registered in court

Data in this section do not include cases where a speed awareness course was offered and accepted by an individual as an alternative to receiving an FPN or being prosecuted.

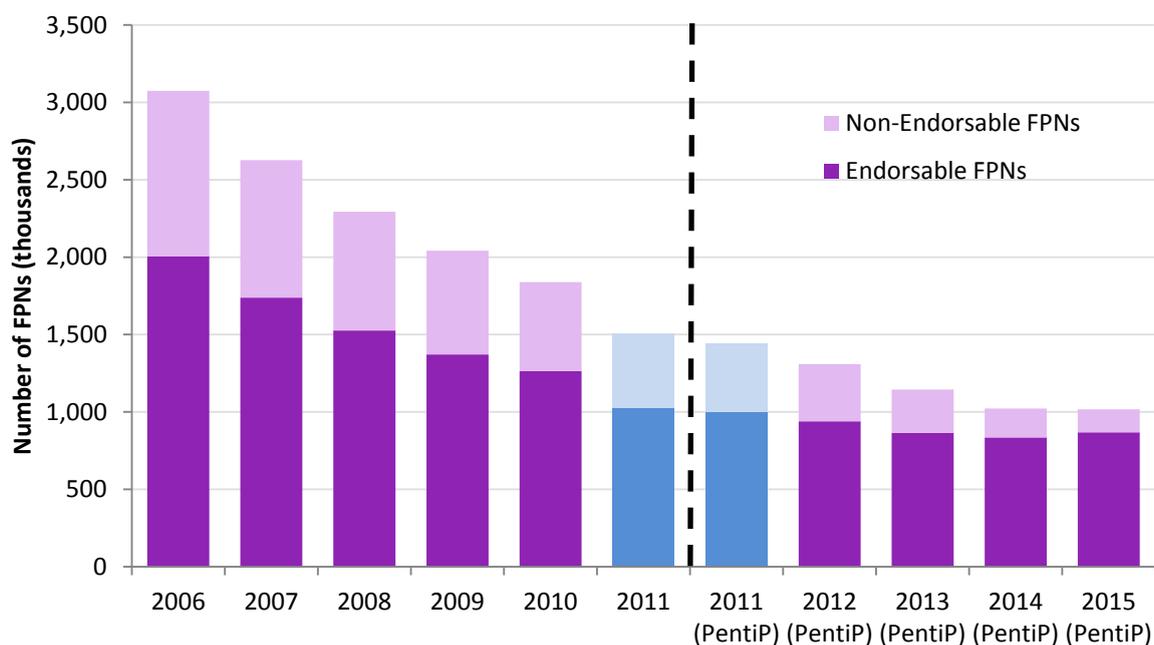
Data on FPNs issued by police in England and Wales for motoring offences are presented in the [FPN tables](#).

6.2 TRENDS IN FPNS

There were 1,016,827 FPNs issued for motoring offences by the police in England and Wales (including police employed traffic wardens) in 2015. This represents a fall of less than 1% compared with the previous year and continues a year-on-year downward trend in the number of FPNs issued since 2005. In recent years, this may in part reflect a number of people attending a speed awareness course rather than receiving an FPN. 868,066 (85%) of the FPNs issued in 2015 were endorsable, and 148,761 (15%) were non-endorsable. Therefore the vast majority of FPNs were accompanied by points on a driving licence.

Although there have been falls in both the number of endorsable and non-endorsable FPNs issued over the last few years, the number of non-endorsable FPNs has fallen at a faster rate than endorsable FPNs. In 2015, the number of non-endorsable FPNs fell by one fifth compared with 2014, while the number of endorsable FPNs issued rose by 4%. This is the first year since 2005 that the number of endorsable FPNs has increased, having fallen year on year between 2005 and 2014.

Figure 6.1 Number of endorsable and non-endorsable FPNs issued for motoring offences, England and Wales^{1,2,3}, 2006 to 2015



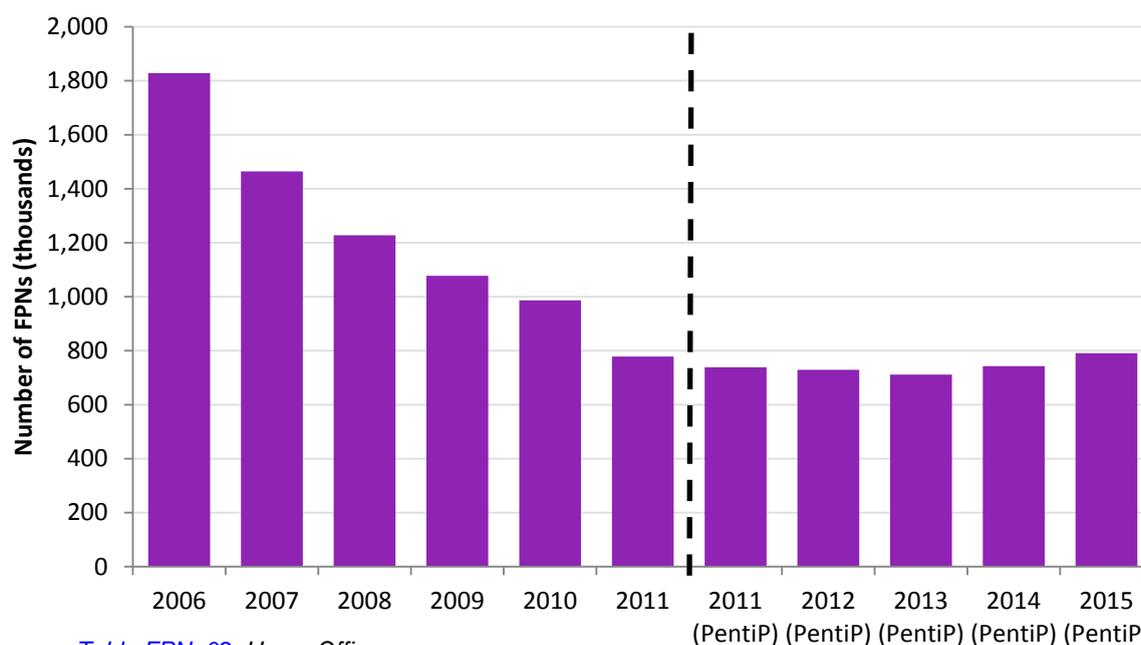
Source: [FPN Table 1](#), Home Office

Chart notes

1. Excludes BTP.
2. Data from 2011 onwards are extracted from the PentiP system and are not directly comparable with data from previous years. Further information can be found in the [user guide](#).
3. Data for 2011 is presented twice - once for the VP/FPO system, and once for the PentiP system. The comparison between the two 2011 bars highlights the difference between the two recording methods.

6.3 FPNS BY OFFENCE TYPE

Over three-quarters (78%) of FPNs issued in 2015 were for speed limit offences, up 5 percentage points on the previous year, to the highest level recorded. The number of FPNs issued for speed limit offences showed a year-on-year fall between 2005 and 2013, after which there have been increases, including an increase of around 48,000 FPNs (or 6%) in the latest year.

Figure 6.2 Number of FPNs issued for speed limit offences, 2006 to 2015

Source: [Table FPN_02](#), Home Office

While FPNs for ‘work record or employment’, ‘operator’s licence’ and ‘miscellaneous motoring’ offence groups also saw marginal increases, all other offence types saw a decrease in the number of FPNs issued. Most notably, FPNs issued for ‘seatbelt offences’ fell by 44% between 2014 and 2015, and ‘use of a handheld mobile phone while driving’ fell by 43% over the same period.

Offences that come under ‘neglect of traffic directions’ and ‘speed limit offences’ may be detected by the police, or by traffic enforcement cameras. The proportion of ‘neglect of traffic directions’ offences (for example, failure to adhere to traffic signs such as ‘right of way’) that were detected by a camera in 2015 was 64%, up 15 percentage points on the previous year. The majority (92%) of FPNs for ‘speed limit offences’ were camera-detected in 2015. This was an increase of 2 percentage points on the previous year.

Table 6.1 Number of FPNs for ‘speed limit offences’ and ‘neglect of traffic directions’ offences and proportion that were camera-detected, 2014 and 2015

<i>Numbers and percentages</i>	England & Wales	
	Calendar year	
	2014	2015
Neglect of traffic directions	39,090	38,302
<i>of which</i>		
Camera-detected (%)	49	64
Speed limit offences	743,054	790,956
<i>of which</i>		
Camera-detected (%)	90	92

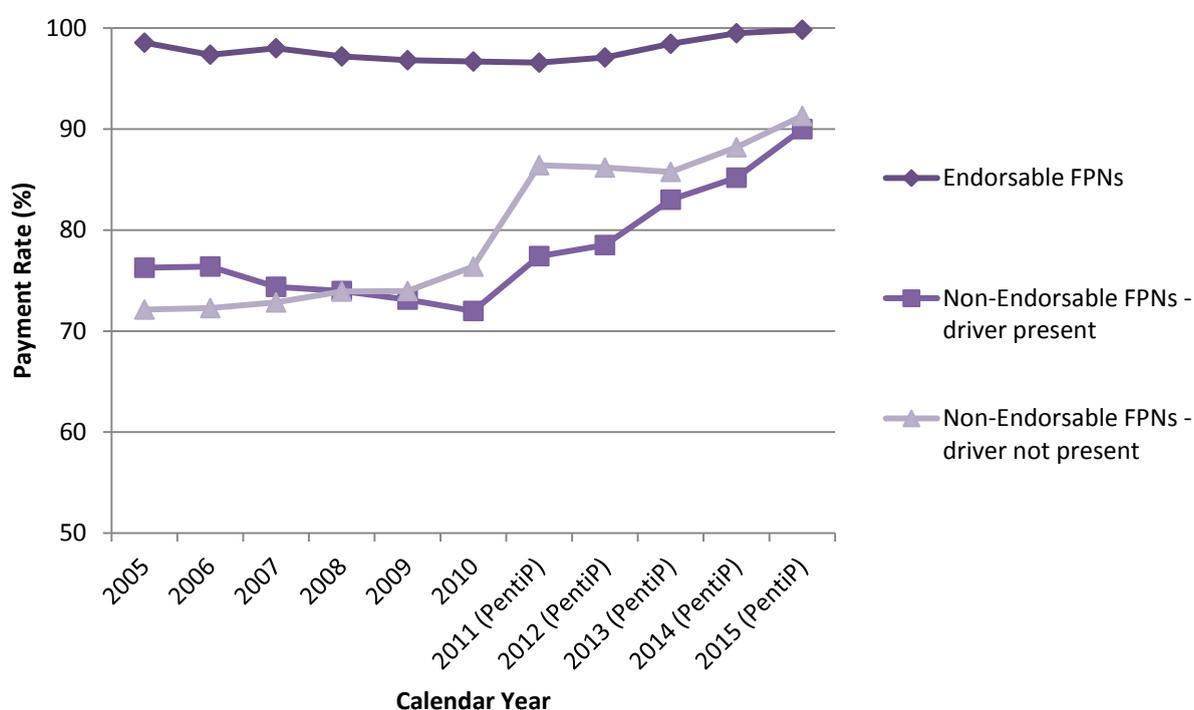
Source: [Table FPN_06](#), Home Office

6.4 OUTCOMES OF FPNS

When an individual is issued with an FPN, they may pay the fine, or alternatively the fine may be registered in court. In 2015, the fine was paid in 98% of cases, an increase of 1 percentage point on the previous year. As with previous years, the fine was paid in a larger proportion of endorsable offences (99.8%) than non-endorsable offences, which saw a payment rate of 90%, up 4 percentage points on the previous year.

Payment rates have remained fairly constant since 2005. Since the implementation of the PentiP system in 2011 (a national system designed to process FPNs), payment rates for non-endorsable FPNs have increased. This is due in part to differences in recording between the two systems. The PentiP system does not record cases that have been referred for court proceedings, or those for which no further action was taken.

Figure 6.3 FPN payment rate by type of FPN, England and Wales^{1,2,3}, 2006 to 2015



Source: [Table FPN_05](#), Home Office

Chart notes

1. Data from 2011 onwards are extracted from the PentiP system and are not directly comparable with data from previous years. Further information can be found in the [user guide](#).
2. Driver present includes cases where the driver was present at the time the penalty notice was issued. Driver not present includes cases where the driver was not present at the time the penalty notice was issued.

6.5 DATA QUALITY AND INTERPRETING THE FIGURES

From 2011, data are extracted from the PentiP system, which replaced the Vehicle Procedures and Fixed Penalty Office (VP/FPO) system. VP/FPO data were supplied to the Home Office by individual police forces and are presented for the years 2005 to 2011. Caution must be taken when comparing the two data sources. The number of FPNs reported in the PentiP data are slightly lower than equivalent data taken from VP/FPO data (see Figure 6.1).

The [user guide](#) contains further information relating to definitions, legislation, procedure and the change to PentiP.

Data relating to the failure to hold an operator's licence and work record or employment offences (relating to the failure of employers or employees to observe limits on driving time) are only presented from 2011 onwards. There were just under 5,300 FPNs issued in relation to these offence groups in 2015. Since these represent less than 1% of the total FPNs issued in England and Wales, these categories have been included in long-term trend analysis.

6.6 OTHER DATA SOURCES

MOJ publishes data in its [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#) publication on:

- penalty notices for disorder (PNDs); these follow similar principles to FPNs and can be issued for low-level summary offences, e.g. being drunk and disorderly, petty theft, and possession of cannabis prosecutions and convictions for motoring offences

The Department for Transport (DfT) publishes a number of [Road Accident and Safety Statistics](#) including data on:

- road casualties
- drink and drug driving

7 Breath tests

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Under the Road Traffic Act 1988, police may conduct a breath test at the roadside in order to determine whether motorists are driving with alcohol in their body, beyond the prescribed limit. If a person refuses a breath test, police may deal with this in the same way as somebody found to fail a breath test, and they may experience the same penalties.

This section includes data on the number of breath tests carried out by police in England and Wales (excluding BTP). It presents data on a calendar-year basis up to and including 2015. The data show:

- the number of breath tests carried out by police in England and Wales
- the number of positive/refused breath tests
- the number of breath tests conducted per 1,000 population in each police force across England and Wales

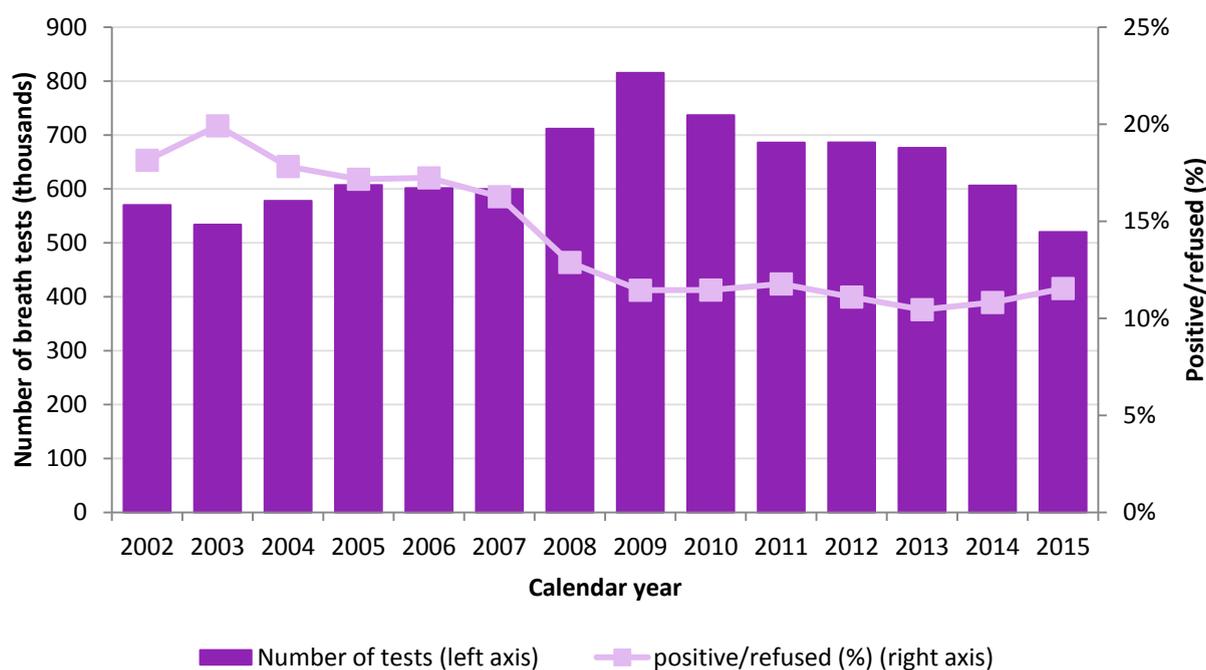
Further details relating to definitions, legislation and procedure are given in the [user guide](#).

7.2 TRENDS IN BREATH TESTS

There were 520,219 breath tests carried out by police in 2015, the lowest number since data collection began in 2002. This represents a fall of 14% when compared with 606,241 breath tests carried out in 2014. The decrease continues the downward trend since the peak of 815,290 breath tests in 2009.

There were 60,019 breath tests which were positive or refused in 2015 compared with 65,585 positive or refused tests in 2014. The proportion of breath tests that were positive or refused gradually fell from 20% in 2003 to 11% in 2009 and has remained stable at between 10% and 12% since then.

Figure 7.1 Number of breath tests, and number of positive/refused tests carried out by police in England and Wales, 2002 to 2015



Source: [Breath test table BT.03](#), Home Office

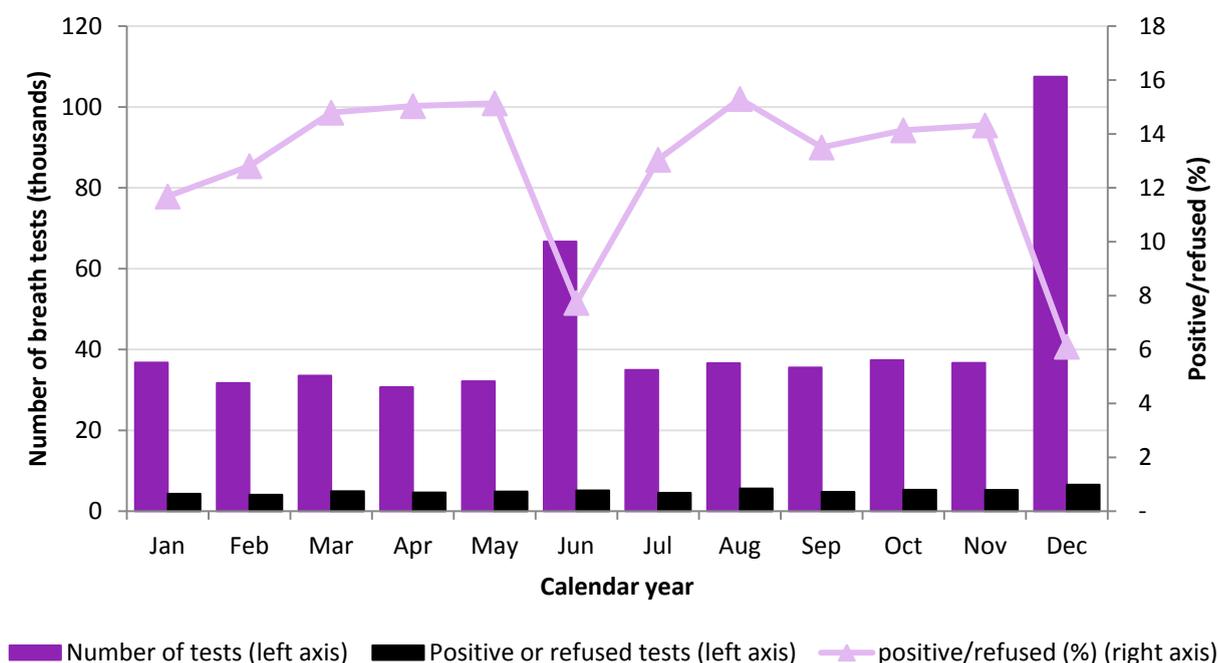
7.3 SEASONAL VARIATION

In 2015, the highest number of breath tests (107,474) was carried out in December; this equates to 21% of all breath tests in 2015 and coincides with the annual national Christmas drink and drug driving campaign. The second highest number of breath tests occurred in June, with 66,716. This accounted for a further 13% of all breath tests in 2015 and is likely to be due to police campaigns against drink and drug driving during the summer period.

Excluding the two peaks in June and December, the number of breath tests in each month averaged almost 35,000. The number of tests carried out in June (66,716) was almost double, and in December (107,474) was more than three times, the average of the other months.

Although there were much higher numbers of breath tests in June and December, the number of positive or refused tests increased only slightly, and so the proportion of tests that were positive or refused was much lower in June (8%) and December (6%) than it was throughout the rest of the year (between 12% and 15% in the other months).

Figure 7.2 Number of breath tests, and proportion of positive/refused tests carried out by police in England and Wales, by month, 2015



Source: [Breath test table BT.04](#), Home Office

7.4 GEOGRAPHICAL PATTERNS

In 2015, 9 breath tests were conducted per 1,000 population across England and Wales. The rate for Wales (20 per 1,000 population) was more than twice that for England (8 per 1,000 population). This was helped by relatively large rates of breath tests carried out by Dyfed-Powys and North Wales which was down to a particularly proactive approach from the forces during the summer and Christmas drink driving campaigns.

Excluding Dyfed-Powys and North Wales, Suffolk had the highest rate with 17 tests per 1,000 population and Greater Manchester had the lowest rate with 3 tests per 1,000 population. The proportion of breath tests that were positive or refused ranged from 5% in Dyfed-Powys to 35% in Cambridgeshire.

7.5 DATA QUALITY AND INTERPRETING THE FIGURES

A breath alcohol screening test can be required when a driver involved in a collision is suspected of driving with alcohol in the body or following the commission of a moving traffic offence. Results of breath alcohol screening tests can only be regarded as indicative of the level of alcohol present in a sample of breath and are not used to determine whether a driver was above or below the legal limit to drive. It remains the case that it is only at a police station or hospital that a specimen(s) can be obtained to determine a person's actual alcohol concentration, using pre-calibrated evidential devices ensuring the sample has not been affected by any interfering substances or that blood or urine specimens may be taken for subsequent laboratory analysis. These subsequent evidential tests are not included in the breath test statistics.

From April 2008, new digital recording equipment started to be used by forces. The devices are able to record exact breath alcohol readings and the result of individual tests, as well as reason for test,

time of day, day of week and age and gender profiles of those tested, and results are downloaded to data systems on a monthly basis and provided to the Department for Transport (DfT).

Data presented here have been sourced from annual statistical returns received from the 43 police forces in England and Wales. By 2011, a large number of police forces in England and Wales had made greater use of the digital breath test devices, in comparison to previous years. However, the manual recording systems are still used by some police forces. The figures presented here are based on the combined results of both systems. Negative breath test data supplied to the Home Office may have been under-reported based on the old system and it is likely that moving to the digital services has led to improvements in data recording practices by forces. This appears to have been reflected in the decrease in the proportion of positive or refused tests of total breath tests, since the beginning of 2008.

The [user guide](#) provides further details relating to data quality and interpreting the figures.

7.6 OTHER DATA SOURCES

Analysis of reported roadside breath alcohol screening tests, based on data from digital breath testing devices, is published by the DfT. Latest figures were included within DfT's [Reported road casualties in Great Britain: 2015 annual report](#).

Annex A Experimental statistics: Best use of stop and search

A.1 INTRODUCTION

On 30 April 2014, the [Best Use of Stop and Search \(BUSS\) scheme](#) was announced. The aims of the scheme were to:

- achieve greater transparency around how stop and search is used
- improve community engagement and involvement in the use of stop and search powers
- develop a more intelligence-led approach to the use of stop and search
- encourage accountability in the police use of stop and search powers

Currently all forces in England and Wales are signed up to the Best Use scheme, and it is anticipated that in future years all forces should be able to provide the information required as part of the scheme, following the partial, voluntary data provided for the year ending 31 March 2016 that is presented in this section.

Outcomes of stop and search

Historically, forces have provided data on the number of stops and searches conducted, and the number that have led to an arrest. Arrests represent only one of a number of possible outcomes available to the police when conducting a stop and search. As part of the scheme, forces are required to report on a wider range of outcomes, including:

- Arrest
- Caution
- Summons
- Penalty Notice for Disorder
- Cannabis/khat warning
- Community resolution
- No further action

Further details can be found in the [BUSS guidance](#).

One outcome per stop and search

For each stop and search, only the first outcome is recorded. Where an outcome follows an arrest, only the arrest will be recorded in order to avoid double counting. Therefore outcomes that follow an arrest (such as cautions) will be under-recorded in the figures. The data should not therefore be used to infer, for example, the total number of cautions that result from stops and searches.

Outcome linked to reason for stop and search

Forces are also required to report on whether the outcome was linked to the initial reason for conducting the search. This aims to increase transparency by allowing for a distinction between those outcomes that are a result of a professional judgement (i.e. the officer found what they were searching for), and those where the item found was not what the officer was searching for, or where nothing was found. Table A.1 presents some example scenarios to demonstrate this distinction.

Table A.1: Example scenarios for a stop and search

Reason for stop	Scenario	Outcome	Linked?
Drugs	Cannabis found	Cannabis warning	Linked
Drugs	No drugs found, but weapon found	Arrest	Not linked
Drugs	Nothing found	No further action	Not linked

In the 'Police powers and procedures' bulletin for the year ending 31 March 2015, provisional data was published from the police.uk website, based on a 9 month time period and a limited number of forces. This bulletin builds on this and provides additional data, including further breakdowns by ethnicity. The data are based on a subset of forces (17) that were able to provide data for the year ending 31 March 2016. This excludes MPS, who accounted for around 40% of all searches in England and Wales in the year ending 31 March 2016. Some of the forces included were not able to provide complete data for the whole year.

These data are therefore indicative, and should be considered with some caution. Data should not be compared to the previous year, when data were more provisional and a different subset of forces was used. Arrest rates may not match those published elsewhere in the bulletin, which are based on a more complete dataset from all forces.

Due to the provisional and incomplete nature of this dataset, these statistics have been designated as **Experimental Statistics**, to acknowledge that further development will take place in the coming years. Findings are presented in terms of proportions rather than volumes, as volumes are based on only a subset of forces, and so do not represent the full national picture.

A.2 ANALYSIS

Link between outcome and reason for stop and search

Overall, in the year ending 31 March 2016 around 1 in 5 searches resulted in an outcome that was linked to the reason for the search, i.e. the officer found what they were searching for. This proportion varied considerably depending on the reason for the stop, as shown in Table A.2. While just under a quarter of drug stops led to an outcome related to 'Drugs', this figure was less than 10% for searches relating to 'Criminal damage' and 'Going equipped'. This indicates that in these cases the use of stop and search was less well targeted.

Table A.2 also highlights some differences by ethnicity. For all search reasons, officers were more likely to find what they were searching for (and thus undertake a successful search) in searches of BME individuals than of White individuals. However, these differences are relatively small, and should be interpreted with some caution given the limited number of forces included.

Table A.2: Proportion of cases where the outcome of the stop was linked to the reason for the stop, by reason for stop and ethnicity, year ending 31 March 2016

	White	BME	Overall
Drugs	23%	24%	23%
Stolen property	17%	20%	18%
Firearms	14%	15%	14%
Offensive Weapons	13%	14%	13%
Going equipped	8%	12%	9%
Criminal damage	8%	11%	9%
Other	6%	8%	7%
Overall	19%	21%	20%

The figures in Table A.2 cover all searches, including those that resulted in an outcome of 'No further action'. Given that 'No further action' outcomes will rarely be linked to the initial reason for the search, it is helpful to consider the picture when these cases are excluded. When this is done, the majority of outcomes (74%) were linked to the initial reason for the search. This proportion varied by outcome type. For example, while nearly 90% of cannabis/khat warnings were linked to the reason for the search (i.e. followed drug searches), fewer than two-thirds of community resolutions were given for the same reason as the initial search. The proportion of each outcome (excluding 'No further action' outcomes) that was linked to the reason for the search is shown in Figure A.1.

As Figure A.1 shows, there was relatively little difference between White and BME groups when considering how frequently an outcome was linked to the initial reason for the search.

Figure A.1: Proportion of cases where the outcome of the search was linked to the reason for the search, by outcome type and ethnicity, year ending 31 March 2016

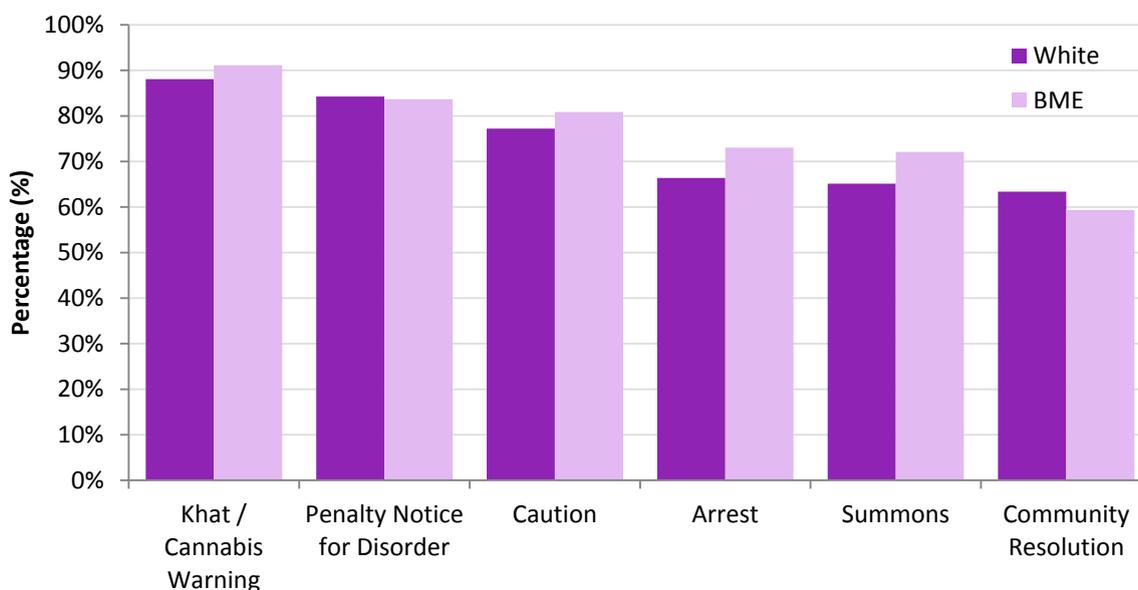


Chart notes:

1. Excludes searches where the outcome was 'No further action'

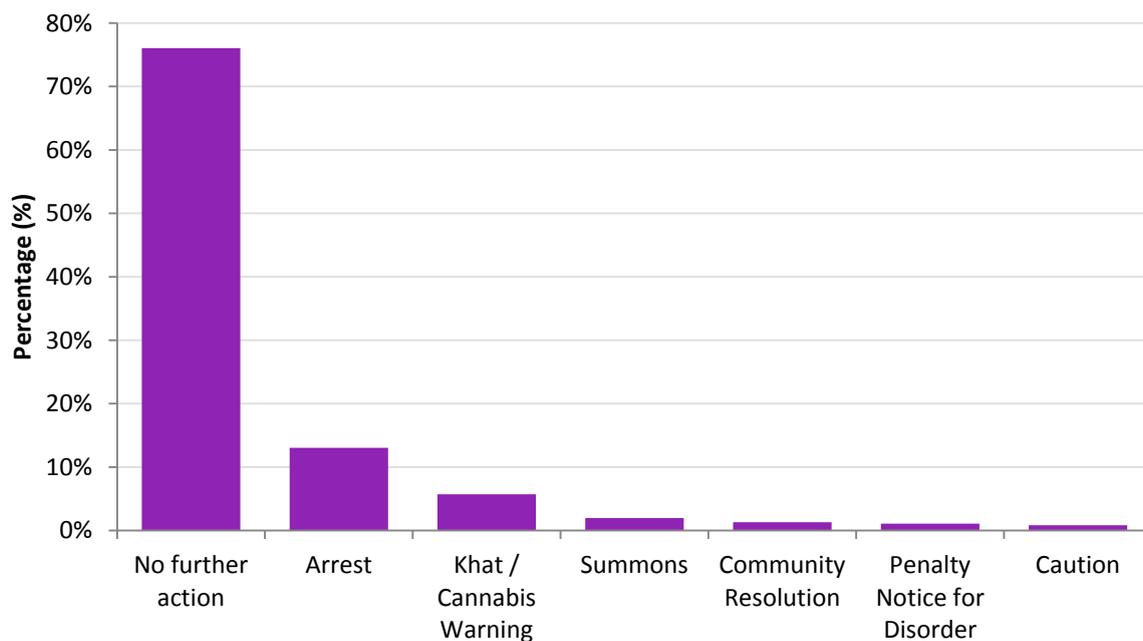
Frequency of outcomes given following stop and search

As previously mentioned, these data only include the initial outcome given following the search. If an arrest took place and was later followed by a caution, only the arrest is recorded. It should be noted that 'No further action' includes a wide range of scenarios, such as where words of advice are given, or an individual is detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act. It is therefore possible that, in some cases, an outcome of 'No further action' could be given when the officer finds what they were looking for (outcome linked), but decides not to deal with it by means of another outcome.

These data include searches under both section 1 PACE and section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. The key findings were that:

- an outcome other than 'No further action' was given in 24% of stops and searches; in the remaining 76% of stops, the outcome was 'No further action'.
- the proportion of searches that led to an outcome other than 'No further action' did not vary substantially by ethnic group. This proportion was very similar for BME groups (25%) and White groups (24%).
- in 13% of stops the initial outcome was an arrest, and in 11% an alternative outcome other than 'No further action' was the initial outcome.

Figure A.2: Principal outcomes following stop and search, England and Wales¹, year ending 31 March 2016



A.3 LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

While the outcome of each stop and search is relatively straightforward to record, the link between the reason for the search and the search outcome is more complex. In many forces, officers themselves assess whether a link is involved, and so there is an element of subjectivity involved. It is likely that different officers may classify whether there is a link or not in different ways. The Home Office intends to continue to work with forces to ensure greater consistency of recording in future years.

A.4 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The above analyses are based on limited data for a subset of forces. These data are continually being developed, and the Home Office is working with forces to ensure that the data provided are as comparable and reliable as possible. As more data become available, it will be possible to carry out more detailed analysis.

Annex B Experimental statistics: Detentions under the Mental Health Act 1983

B.1 INTRODUCTION

Police forces in England and Wales regularly interact with people experiencing mental ill health. Sometimes these interactions may result in the need to remove a person from where they are, and take them to a place of safety, under sections 135 or 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

Section 135

Under section 135 a magistrate may issue a warrant, on application by a mental health professional, authorising a police officer to enter specific premises in respect of a mentally disordered person, believed to be in need of care or control, and to remove that person from those premises if necessary. Incidents are only recorded by the police under section 135 if an officer:

- enters a private premises in execution of the warrant, (including by force if necessary); and/or
- removes the person from the premises to a place of safety in accordance with the terms of the warrant.

Either or both of these powers must be executed by an officer for it to constitute a section 135 detention for the purposes of this data collection. Therefore, incidents where an officer attends a private premises in response to ad hoc requests for assistance, or other reasons, but does not execute either part of a section 135 warrant are not recorded in this data set.

Section 136

Under section 136 a police officer may remove a person from any public place to a place of safety (for up to 72 hours) if, in the officer's judgement, that person appears to be suffering from mental ill health and is in need of immediate care or control, in the interests of their safety or the safety of others.

Data Collected

Following concerns raised about the quality and transparency of police data in this area, at the Policing and Mental Health Summit in October 2014 the Home Secretary announced that the Home Office would work with the police to develop a new data collection covering the volume and characteristics of detentions under sections 135 and 136.

In the year ending 31 March 2016, the Home Office piloted this new data collection on a voluntary basis, in advance of it becoming a mandatory part of the Annual Data Requirement for all forces in England and Wales in the year ending 31 March 2017.

Annual data on the volume of detentions under section 136, whether the person being detained was under the age of 18 years old, and whether the initial place of safety was a police cell or health based place of safety, have previously been published by NPCC. The latest data can be found [here](#).

The new Annual Data Requirement asks forces to provide more detailed information about section 135 and 136 detentions, including the ethnicity and gender of people detained, the place of safety used (including, where applicable, the reason for using police custody), and the method of transportation used (including, where applicable, the reason for using a police vehicle). This aims to provide further insight into the use of these detentions.

In the year ending 31 March 2016, 15 forces voluntarily submitted full or partial data in response to the pilot data collection.

This section summarises the findings on detentions under section 136 from those forces. Since data are partial and relate to 15 forces only, this section will concentrate on the proportions of detentions in each category rather than the specific volumes. Users should refer to the NPCC data for the total volume of detentions in the year ending 31 March 2016.

Very few forces were able to submit data returns on detentions under section 135 during this trial period. Those forces that did provide data had significant quality issues, and returns were mostly incomplete. For this reason data on detentions under section 135 will not be published until the year ending 31 March 2017 version of this bulletin, when all forces are required to submit a return.

Data analysis is based on data received from 15 police forces: Avon and Somerset, Cleveland, Derbyshire, Essex, Kent, City of London, Merseyside, Norfolk, Northumbria, South Wales, Thames Valley, West Midlands, West Yorkshire, Wiltshire, and BTP.

Due to the provisional and incomplete nature of this dataset, these statistics have been designated as **Experimental Statistics**, to acknowledge that further development will take place in the coming years. This development will involve working with forces to ensure that more of them are able to provide data, and that the data are comparable between forces.

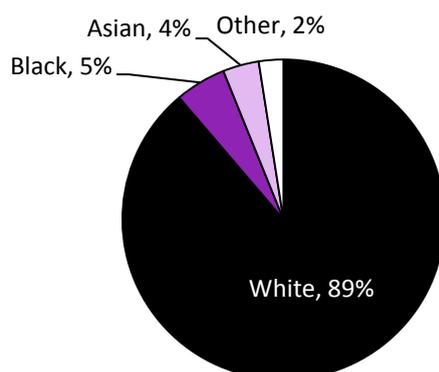
B.2 KEY FINDINGS

The NPCC figures show that there were 26,907 detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in the year ending 31 March 2016.

Analysis conducted on the more detailed Home Office data collection, in which 15 forces voluntarily submitted a return (covering around 40% of detentions recorded by the NPCC), shows the following:

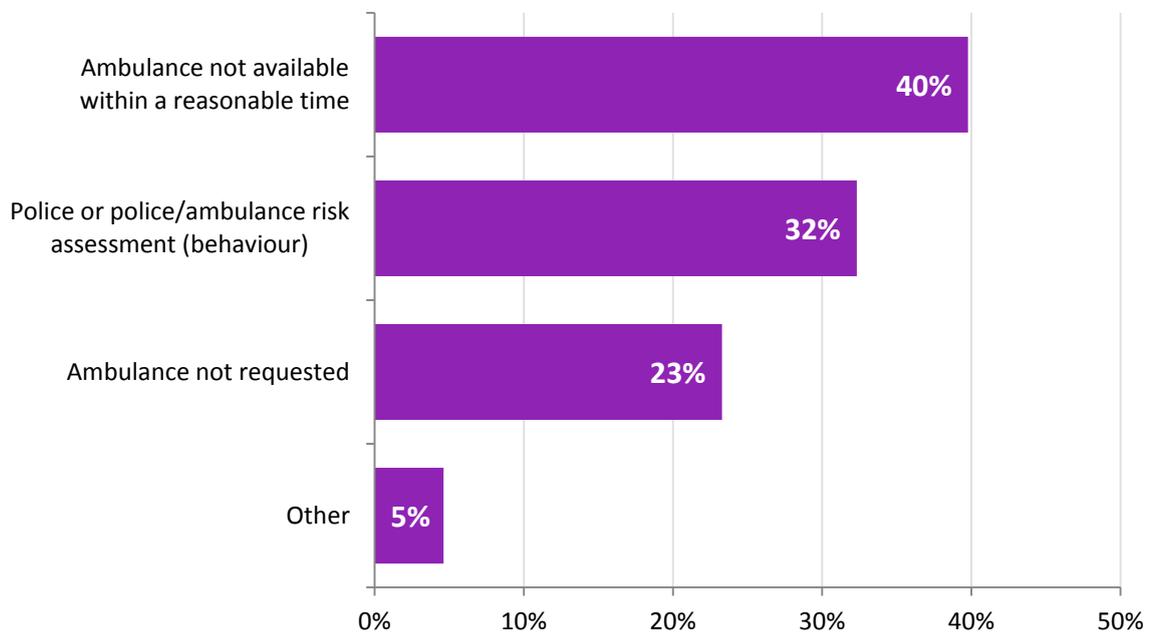
- Of the cases where the gender of the person being detained was recorded, 58% were detentions of males.
- 96% of cases were detentions of adults aged 18 or over (excluding those cases where the age of the person being detained was not recorded)
- In terms of the ethnicity of those being detained (excluding those cases where the ethnicity was not recorded):
 - 89% of detentions were of White people
 - 5% were of Black people, and
 - 4% were Asian

Figure B.1 Ethnicity of those detained under section 136 of the Metal Health Act 1983



- In half of all detentions under section 136, the person being detained was escorted to a place of safety in a police vehicle. In a further 49% of cases the person was transported in an ambulance.
- In the case where a police vehicle was used to transport the person to a place of safety, police forces are requested to give a reason why:
 - In 40% of the cases where a police vehicle was used to transport the person to a place of safety, the reason for using a police vehicle was that an ambulance was not available in a reasonable amount of time.
 - in a further third of cases (32%) a risk assessment concluded that the person should be transported in a police vehicle due to their behaviour, and
 - in around a quarter of cases (23%) the reason for using a police vehicle was because an ambulance had not been requested.

Figure B.2 Reasons for using a police vehicle to transport a detainee to a place of safety

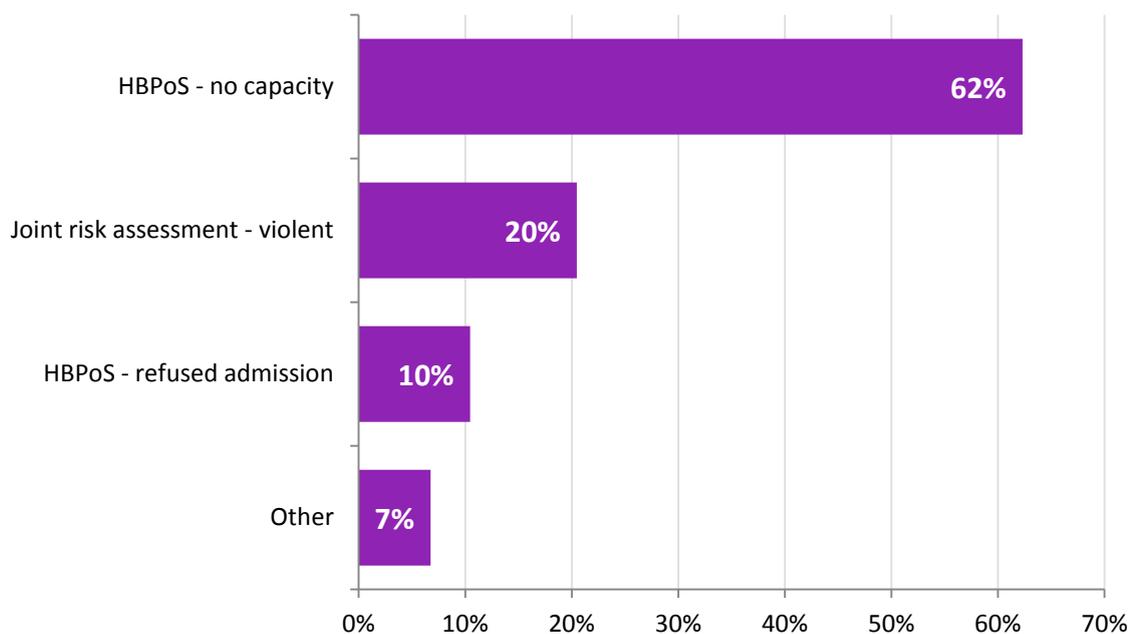


- In 87% of all detentions under section 136 the person being detained was taken to a health based place of safety (HBPOS). In the NPCC data the equivalent figure was 92%. One in ten people (10%) were taken to a police station according to the data collected under the pilot scheme. The NPCC found that in 8% of cases the person being detained was taken to a police station.

In those cases where the person being detained was taken to a police station:

- 62% were taken there because there was no capacity at the HBPOS
- 20% were because a risk assessment was undertaken and the outcome was that the person should be detained in police custody
- 10% were because the HBPOS refused admission

Figure B.3 Reasons for the detainee being taken to a police station



- A police station was used as the place of safety in 4% of cases where the person being detained was under 18 years old. This compares to 10% of detainees aged 18 years or over who were held in a police station.

B.3 OTHER DATA SOURCES

As part of its annual Mental Health Bulletin, NHS Digital (formerly the Health and Social Care Information Centre) publishes data on inpatients detained in hospitals in England under the Mental Health Act 1983. Although these numbers will include some cases where the police initially detained the individual, they will also include a large number of other cases where the police were not involved. The latest data can be found [here](#).

Data on the number of occasions where a HBPOS was used can differ between the NHS Digital data and the NPCC data, due to the different data sources used.

Statistical Bulletins are prepared by staff in Home Office Statistics under the National Statistics Code of Practice and can be downloaded from GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics>

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