



Home Office

Police powers and procedures,

England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2020 – Second Edition

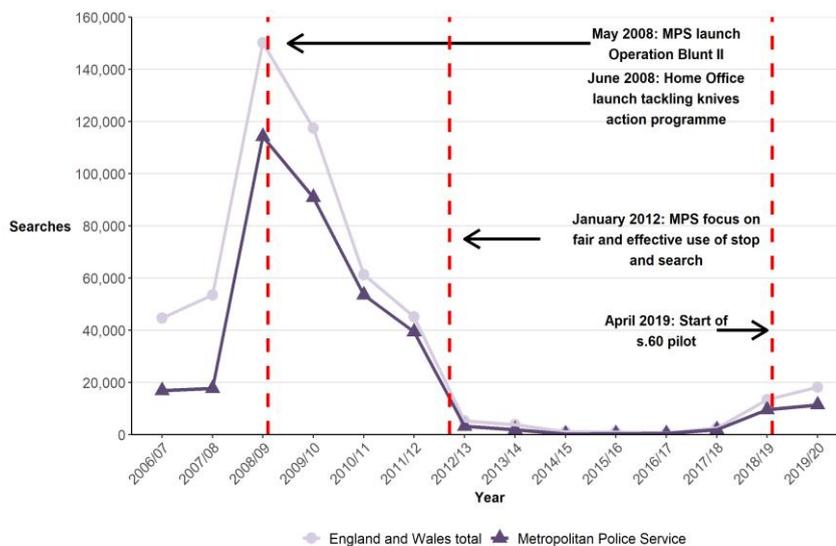
Key results

Stop and search

In the year ending March 2020, there were:

- 558,973 stop and searches conducted under section 1 PACE (and associated legislation), an increase of 52% compared with the previous year, in which there were 366,912 searches (excluding Greater Manchester Police)
- Of these, 73,423 led to an arrest, an increase of 27% on the previous year.
- Despite the increase in the volume of arrests following a section 1 PACE stop and search, the arrest rate fell from 16% to 13% compared with the previous year.

There were also 18,081 stops and searches under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act in anticipation of violence, an increase of 35% compared with the previous year.



Of the 577,054 combined stops and searches, 437,139 resulted in no further action (76%).

Arrests

Overall, police carried out 639,950 arrests for notifiable offences in 2019/20, a similar figure to the previous year (640,867).

Other police powers

Key findings for other PACE powers, fixed penalty notices, breath tests, pre-charge bail and detentions under the Mental Health Act can be found in the relevant chapters.

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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 2020. The release is broken down into seven main sections. Each section contains a summary of the key findings at the start.

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 range of legislative powers, including:
 - 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
- ethnicity of persons searched
- reason given by the officer for conducting a search
- number of searches that led to an arrest

The **Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS)** 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:

- additional outcomes given following a stop and search under the [Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme \(BUSSS\)](#)
- whether or not the outcome was linked to the initial reason for conducting the search (i.e. the officer found what they were searching for)

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

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

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
- number of intimate searches made under section 55 of PACE

The **Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and other outcomes 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 FPNs issued for a range of motoring offences
- FPNs issued as a result of camera-detected offences
- cases where the penalty was paid
- motoring offences that resulted in a driver retraining course, or court action

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 and tests that were positive or refused.

The section on **detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983** contains data provided by the 43 police forces in England and Wales, and British Transport Police, on a financial-year basis. It includes statistics on the:

- number of detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983
- age-group, gender and ethnicity of persons detained
- type of place of safety used to detain individuals, and the reason for using a police station (where applicable)
- method of transportation used to transport an individual to a place of safety, and the reason for using a police vehicle (where applicable)

[Annex A](#) provides provisional data on **detentions under section 135 of the Mental Health Act 1983**, which have been designated as **Experimental Statistics**.

[Annex B](#) provides provisional data on **pre-charge bail**, which have also been designated as **Experimental Statistics**.

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

1.2 NATIONAL STATISTICS STATUS

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. 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 Statistics.

The Home Office worked closely with the UK Statistics Authority to improve information on the quality and limitations of the various datasets, and the ways in which the Home Office engages with users of the statistics. This is documented in the [user guide](#), which is published alongside this release.

Given the known issues around the quality of the data, statistics in this release on 'Best Use of Stop and Search' are designated as **Official Statistics**, and not National Statistics.

Further information can be found in [chapter 3](#).

Furthermore, given the partial nature of the data and inconsistencies across forces, statistics on detentions under section 135 of the Mental Health Act and pre-charge bail are designated as **Experimental Statistics**. These statistics do not yet meet the overall quality standards necessary to be designated as National Statistics. The Home Office intends to improve the completeness and quality of these data in future years.

2 Stop and search

Key results

In the year ending March 2020:

- There were **558,973 stops and searches** conducted under section 1 PACE (and associated legislation) by police in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police who were unable to provide complete stop and search data in 2019/20). This was **an increase of 192,061 (52%)** compared with the previous year (**366,912**). The Metropolitan Police service accounts for half of the increase in the number of stops and searches in latest year.
- This is the highest number of stops and searches since 2013/14 (872,518), but 53% below the peak number of in 2010/11 (1,179,746).
- Of those conducted under section 1 PACE (and associated legislation), **73,423 led to an arrest**. This was **27%** higher than the previous year (57,709), but the increase in the volume of arrests was lower than the increase in stop and searches which led to a fall in the **arrest rate (from 16% to 13%)**.
- Police in England and Wales carried out **18,081 stops and searches** under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act in anticipation of violence. This is **an increase of 35%** compared with the number of searches under this power in the year ending March 2019 (**from 13,414 to 18,081**).
- Combined, there were a total of **577,054 searches** in 2019/20, resulting in **74,121 arrests (an overall arrest rate of 13%)**.
- Individuals from a **Black, Asian and minority ethnic background were stopped at a rate 4.1 times higher** than those who were from a White ethnic group. This was similar to the previous year when the rate was 4.3 times higher.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This section presents the latest statistics on stops and searches conducted by police in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police) under three different legislative powers. These are:

- section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act 1984 and associated legislation¹;
- section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (CJPOA) 1994; and,
- sections 44/47A of the Terrorism Act (TACT) 2000.

These 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](#).

¹ The associated legislation includes stop and search powers under section 47 of the Firearms Act 1968, section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000 as well as other legislation.

This section includes statistics on the:

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

Following the transition from a legacy IT system to a new force system, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) have been unable to provide data returns to the Home Office, including stop and search. In previous years, GMP have accounted for between 1 and 4% of total stop and searches in England and Wales. Data for the first quarter of 2019/20 was collected prior to these issues, and is included in the stop and search open data tables accompanying this publication. As the force have only been able to provide robust data for part of 2019/20, GMP's stop and search data has been removed from year-on-year comparisons in this chapter to enable a consistent time series.

Following the publication of this bulletin on 27 October 2020, Gloucestershire Constabulary made an unscheduled revision to their 2018/19 stop and search figure which, due to a technical issue on their IT system, was incorrect. This has been amended for this second edition of the bulletin and does not affect the overall trends.

2.2 SECTION 1 PACE AND ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION

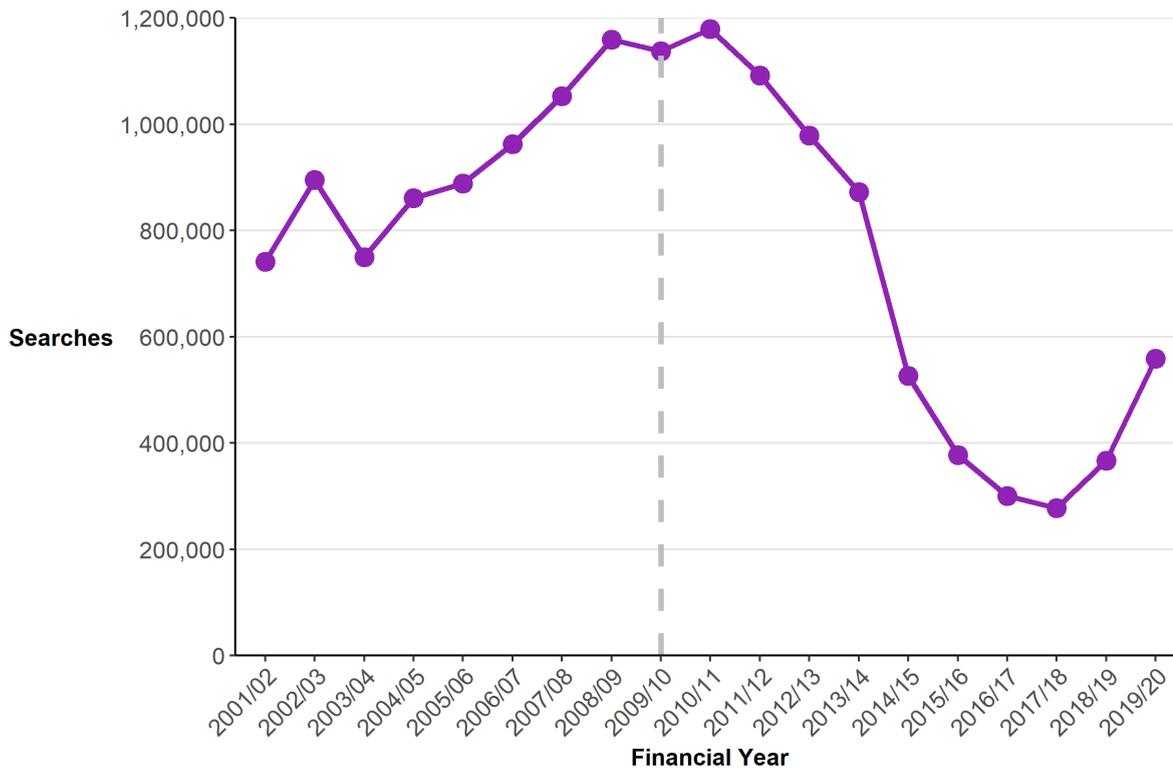
Under section 1 of PACE and associated legislation, police are given the power to search persons and/or vehicles for a range of items including stolen property, offensive weapons, controlled drugs or evidence relating to terrorism, if the officer has reasonable cause to suspect he/she will find such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

In the financial year 2019/20, there were 558,973 stops and searches conducted under section 1 PACE by police in England and Wales (including British Transport Police but excluding Greater Manchester Police). This was the second annual increase following a period in which the use of such powers had been declining between 2010/11 and 2017/18 (Figure 2.1). The increase of 192,061 in the latest year was higher (52%) than last year (when there was a rise of 32%). However, in the context of the longer time-series, the number of stops and searches conducted in 2019/20 was 53% below that recorded in 2010/11 (when there were 1,179,746).

The rate of reduction between 2010/11 and 2017/18 in stop and searches accelerated following the then Home Secretary's decision in 2014 to re-focus the use of such powers. This trend has reversed in the latest two years and is in part thought to reflect willingness to make greater use of such powers as part of the operational response to knife crime. This has been driven by an increase in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) area, which account for 50% of the total increase in stops and searches in 2019/20. Other forces accounting for large proportions of the increase were Merseyside Police Force Area (PFA) (7%), Essex Police PFA (6%) and South Yorkshire (5%). Forty of the 43 forces showed an

increase in stop and searches, although some forces showed smaller increases compared to others. For example, Derbyshire showed the smallest percentage increase compared to the previous year (up 3% from 1,726 in 2018/19 to 1,778 in 2019/20). Three forces showed small decreases in the latest year with Dorset showing the biggest percentage decrease (down 11% from 2,368 in 2018/19 to 2,102 in 2019/20).

Figure 2.1: Number of stops and searches under section 1 PACE and associated legislation, England and Wales¹, year ending March 2002 to 2020



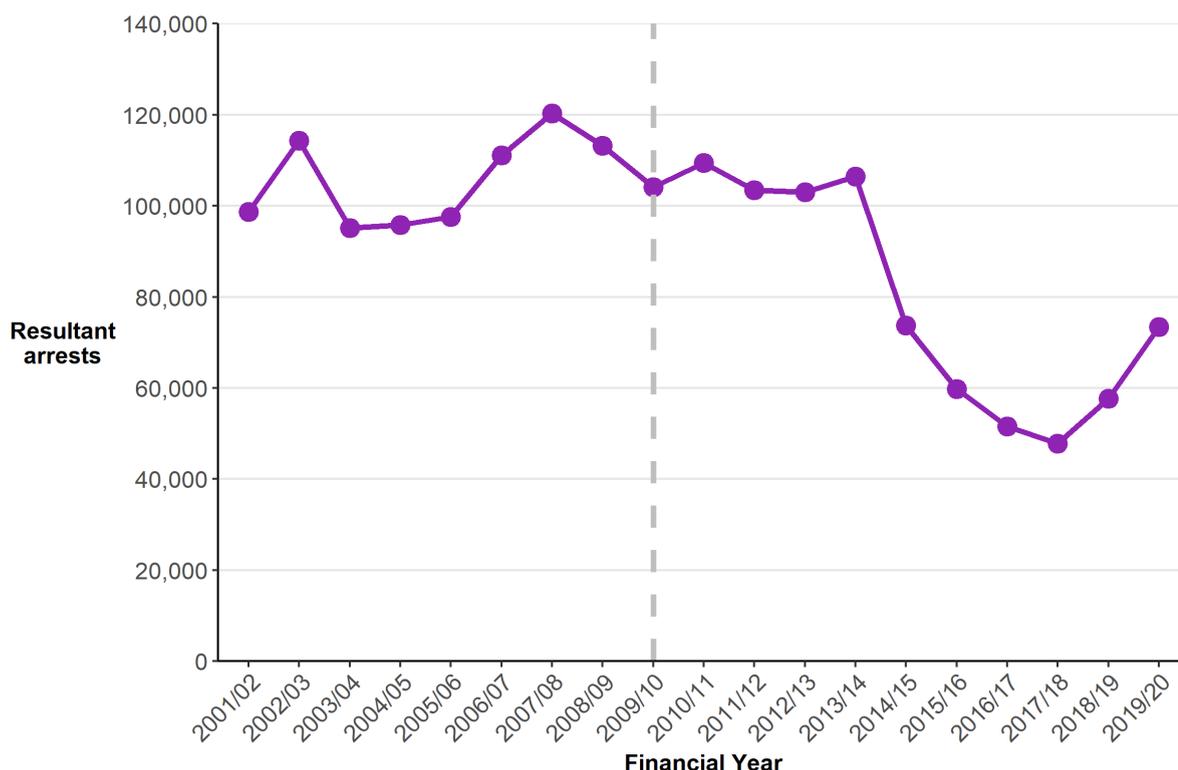
Source: [Stop and Search table SS_02](#), Home Office

Notes:

1. Data from 2009/10 onwards includes the British Transport Police (BTP) but excludes Greater Manchester Police. Due to this, stop and search data before 2009/10 are not directly comparable with more recent years. BTP usually account for between 1 and 1.5% of all stop and across England and Wales per year.

The number of resulting arrests increased by 27% compared with the previous year. As Figure 2.2 shows, the number of arrests following a stop and search generally follows a similar pattern to the total number of stops and searches (Figure 2.1 above). However, arrest numbers remained fairly stable between the years ending March 2011 and 2014, despite a large fall in the number of searches during this period, suggesting better targeting of the power during this period.

Figure 2.2: Number of resultant arrests under section 1 PACE and associated legislation, England and Wales¹, year ending March 2002 to 2020



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

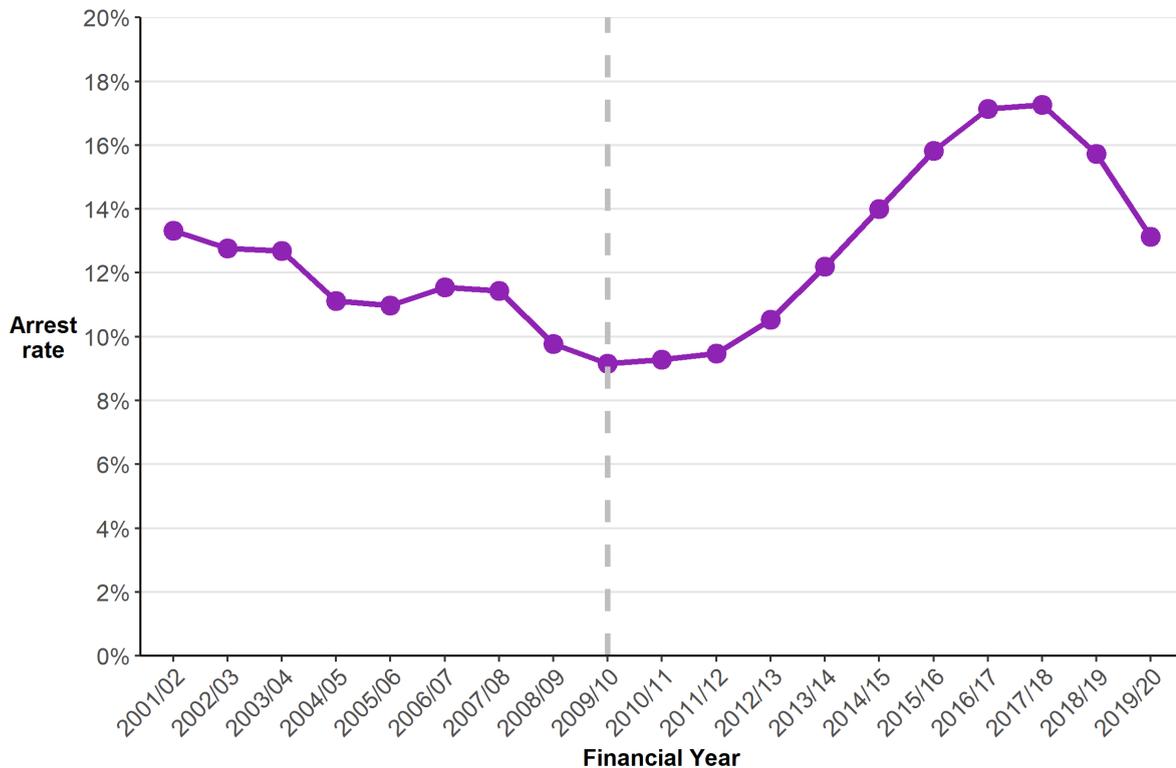
Notes:

1. Data from 2009/10 onwards includes the British Transport Police (BTP) but excludes Greater Manchester Police. Due to this, stop and search data before 2009/10 are not directly comparable with more recent years. BTP usually account for between 1 and 1.5% of all stop and across England and Wales per year.

Arrest rate – the proportion of stop and searches resulting in an arrest

While the number of arrests following a section 1 PACE search rose by 27% in the latest year (up from 57,709 to 73,423), this was a smaller increase than the total number of section 1 PACE searches over the same time period (52%). This led to a reduction in the arrest rate, down from 16% in the previous year to 13% in the latest (Figure 2.3). This returns the arrest rate to a similar level to that seen in 2014/15, in which there were 526,155 searches and an arrest rate of 14%.

Figure 2.3 Arrest rate under section 1 of PACE, England and Wales¹, year ending March 2002 to 2020



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

Notes:

1. Data from 2009/10 onwards includes the British Transport Police (BTP) but excludes Greater Manchester Police. Prior to this data are not directly comparable with more recent years.

Arrest is just one possible outcome following a stop and search, and there are several other that are not covered here. The [Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme \(BUSSS\)](#) aims to capture these additional outcomes to provide a fuller picture of stop and search. Though impacts on crime levels and community relations are not covered in this release, data on other outcomes resulting from stop and search can be found in the [Best Use of Stop and Search section](#).

Reason for search

There are several 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 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 the [Best Use of Stop and Search section](#).

As in previous years, the most common reason for carrying out a PACE stop and search was on suspicion of drug possession. These accounted for 63% of all stop and searches in the latest year, a similar proportion (61%) to the previous year (Table 2.1). The proportion of searches for other reasons also remained similar to the previous year.

Table 2.1 Proportion of PACE stops and searches and subsequent arrests, England and Wales, year ending March 2019 and year ending March 2020

Reason	<i>England and Wales</i>			
	Proportion of searches (%)		Proportion of subsequent arrests (%)	
	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
Drugs	61	63	47	47
Stolen property	11	10	15	15
Offensive weapons	16	16	14	14
Going equipped	8	7	5	5
Other ^{1,2}	4	4	18	18

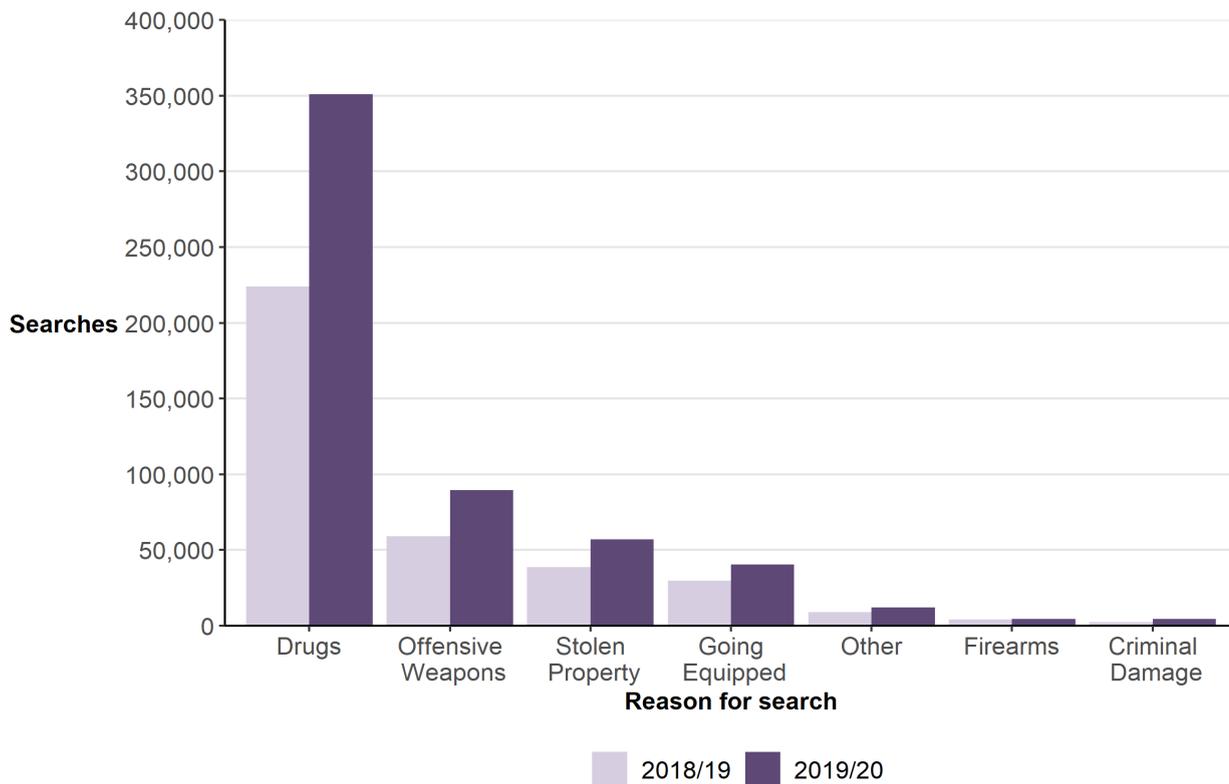
Source: [Stop and Search tables SS_03 and SS_04](#), Home Office

Notes:

1. 'Other' reason for search category includes all other reasons for a stops/arrests, such as firearms, and criminal damage, as well as searches and arrests under section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000.
2. The Metropolitan Police Service are unable to supply data for going equipped arrests as these are not separately identified on their system. Arrests from going equipped are therefore included in 'Other'. This is likely to be driving the large proportion of 'Other' arrests. Excluding the Metropolitan Police Service, the proportion of arrests for 'Other' in England and Wales is 7%.
3. Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100.

The number of searches conducted in the latest year rose across all search reasons (Figure 2.4). The biggest volume increase was in the number of searches for drugs, which rose by 57% from 223,995 in 2018/19 to 350,894 in 2019/20.

Figure 2.4 PACE stops and searches by reason for search, England and Wales, the year ending March 2020 compared with the year ending March 2019



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

Notes:

1. The 'other' search category includes searches for reasons such as fireworks, as well as searches under section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

2.3 SECTION 60 OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC ORDER ACT

Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (CJPOA) 1994 enables officers to conduct 'no suspicion' stop and searches for dangerous instruments or offensive weapons in a specified area, in anticipation of violence.

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

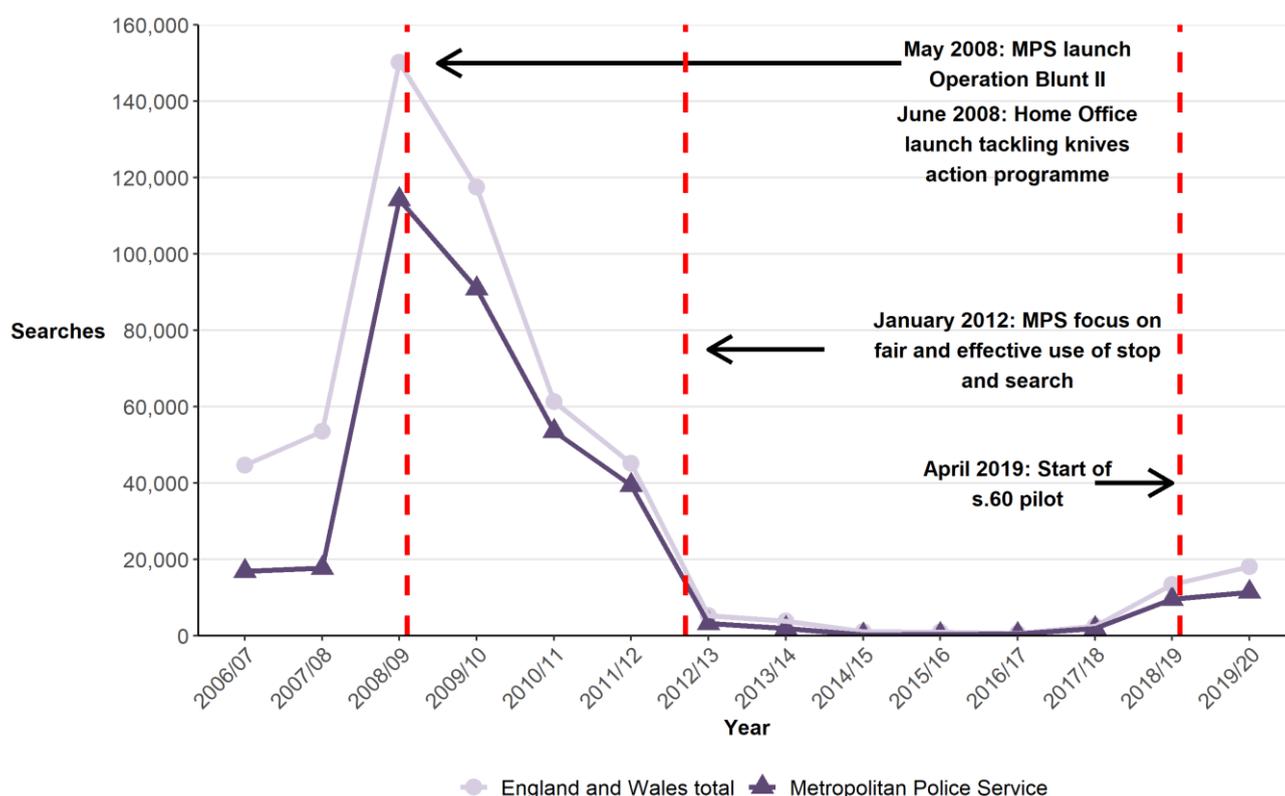
From April 2019, under a pilot scheme agreed by the Home Secretary, some changes were made to the conditions under which a section 60 search could be carried out. The changes included:

- Reducing the rank of authorising officer from senior officer to inspector;
- Relaxing the grounds from a reasonable belief that serious violence *will* take place to a belief that it *may* take place;
- Increasing the length of time the Section 60 order can be in place from 15 to 24 hours;
- Reducing the rank of officer who can extend the order for a further 24 hours from senior officer to superintendent;
- Removing the requirement for forces to communicate to local communities in advance, where practicable, where a Section 60 order is in place.

A phased approach was taken with 7 forces joining the pilot from 1st April 2019 whilst the remaining 37 forces joined from September 2020.

In the year ending March 2020, police in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police) carried out 18,081 stops and searches under section 60 CJPOA, an increase of 35% compared with the previous year (when 13,414 such searches were undertaken). This is the third consecutive annual increase, following a previous downward trend since a peak in 2008/09, of around 150,000 such searches (Figure 2.5). The increase in the latest year was driven by stop and searches conducted by the Metropolitan Police Service, who accounted for 39% of the increase. Other forces with relatively large increases were Essex and Merseyside, who respectively accounted for 18% and 17% of the of the rise. However, West Midlands Police had an 85% decrease in the number of stop and searches under this power in the year to March 2020 (316, down from 2,041 in the previous year).

Figure 2.5 Stops and searches under section 60 CJPOA, England and Wales¹, years ending March 2007 to 2020



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

Notes:

1. Data from 2009/10 onwards includes the British Transport Police (BTP) but excludes Greater Manchester Police. Prior to this data are not directly comparable with more recent years.

The number of forces making at least one stop and search under section 60 powers increased from 24 to 25 of the 43 forces in England and Wales (including BTP, excluding Greater Manchester Police) in the latest year. As in previous years, most section 60 stops took place in London with the MPS accounting for almost two-thirds (63%) of all section 60

searches in England and Wales. This was followed by Merseyside Police (7% of the national total) and Essex Police and British Transport Police (both 5% of the national total). In contrast, although West Midlands Police had previously accounted for 15% of the national total, in the latest year this proportion fell to 2%.

The proportion of section 60 searches that resulted in an arrest in the latest year was 4%, a fall of 1 percentage point compared with the previous year. Between 2002/03 and 2015/16, the arrest rate fluctuated between 2% and 6% then, in 2016/17 the arrest rate peaked at 12%. However, since then, the arrest rate has declined in each of the last three years. As in previous years, the arrest rate for section 60 searches (4%) was much lower than those under section 1 of PACE (13%).

2.4 SECTION 44/47A OF THE TERRORISM ACT 2000

Section 47A (as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012) of the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT) allows the police to exercise stop and searches powers when there is reasonable suspicion an act of terrorism will take place, and only when such powers are considered necessary to prevent such an act taking place. This must be authorised by a senior officer, at least at the rank of Assistant Chief Constable, and the area and duration of the authorisation must be no greater than is necessary to prevent such an act. Section 47A of TACT stop and search powers replaced similar powers under section 44 of TACT on 18 March 2011. Further information on these searches can be found in the [user guide](#).

In the years ending March 2020 and March 2019, stop and search powers under section 47A of TACT were not used. In year ending March 2018, there were 149 stop and searches under section 47A of TACT, details of which can be found in [the bulletin](#).

2.5 STOP AND SEARCH BY POLICE FORCE AREA

The MPS continued to account for a large proportion of all stop and searches conducted in England and Wales (48% in the year ending March 2020)². When examining the use of stop and search amongst different police forces, it is useful to take account of the population of each force using resident-based population figures, produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It should be noted that in areas with relatively large influx of non-residents (such as commuters and tourists), such rates will not take into account the daytime population.

In England and Wales there were 10 stop and searches per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2020. The MPS PFA had the highest rate at 31 per 1,000 population³.

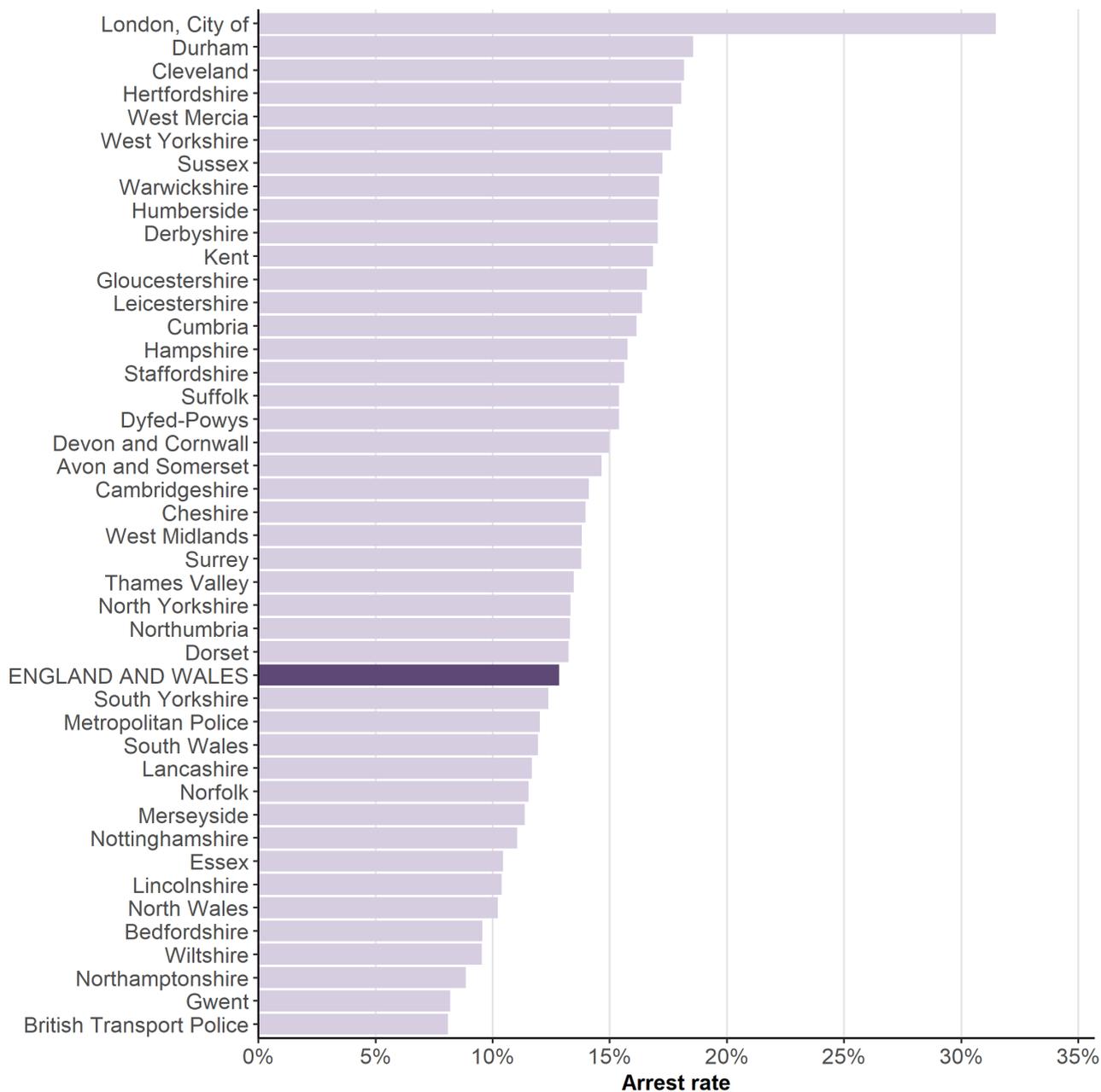
Considering stop and searches under both section 1 PACE and section 60 CJPOA, in England and Wales there was an arrest rate of 13% in the year ending March 2020 (Figure

² Includes searches under section 1 PACE, section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and section 47A of the Terrorism Act 2000 (though this power was not used in 2019/20).

³ Based on the resident population of the Police Force Area. Calculated using the [mid-2019 population estimates for England and Wales](#), supplied by ONS.

2.6). Stop and searches in the City of London PFA resulted in the highest arrest rate (31%) followed by Durham Police (19%). Gwent PFA and British Transport Police had the lowest arrest rate, with 8% of searches leading to an arrest.

Figure 2.6 Arrest rate following a stop and search¹, England and Wales, year ending March 2020



Source: Stop and search table SS 13, Home Office

Notes:

1. Includes stop and searches under section 1 of PACE and associated legislation, and section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

While an arrest is one possible outcome of a stop and search, there are a range of other outcomes that could indicate a successful search, including cautions, cannabis/khat

warnings, community resolutions and summonses. These are not included in this section, but the [BUSSS](#) aims to collect data on these additional outcomes (more information can be found in the [Best Use of Stop and Search section](#)). This release does not examine other aspects of stop and search, such as its association with crime levels or the impact it has on community relations or perceptions of the police.

2.6 ETHNICITY OF PERSONS SEARCHED

When a stop and search is undertaken, the person being searched is asked by the police which ethnic group they consider themselves to be in. This is a measure of “self-defined” ethnicity rather than “officer observed” which appear in some other police data collections. For the purpose of analysis, ethnicities were grouped into the following categories:

- White;
- Black (or Black British);
- Asian (or Asian British)⁴;
- Other Ethnic Group;
- Mixed; or
- Not Stated.

The MPS undertake a large proportion (48%) of all stops and searches in England and Wales and this PFA also has a proportionately larger number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people within its resident population (40%) than the rest of England and Wales (10%)⁵. The combination of the two can mean that data for the MPS area can skew the picture at a national level. In the table below, as with tables [SS_15](#) and [SS_16](#), the MPS area are presented separately, and England and Wales totals exclude the force.

Table 2.2 shows that for both section 1 PACE searches and section 60 searches, stops of individuals who define themselves as BAME accounted for a larger proportion of all stops in the MPS area when compared with forces in the rest of England and Wales.

⁴ Asian or Asian British group now includes people that identify as Chinese. Previously people who identify as Chinese were grouped as ‘Chinese or Other’. Details on groupings are available here: <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/style-guide/ethnic-groups>

⁵ Population data from the 2011 Census, based on whole population. Data available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/2011censusdata>

Table 2.2 Proportion of stop and searches^{1,2} by ethnic group, England and Wales³ and the MPS area, year ending March 2020

<i>Percentages</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>					
	Section 1 PACE		Section 60		Population	
	England & Wales¹	MPS	England & Wales¹	MPS	England & Wales	MPS
White	68	32	62	20	90	60
BAME	18	48	20	51	10	40
Not Stated	14	20	18	29	-	-

Source: [Stop and search table SS_15](#), Home Office

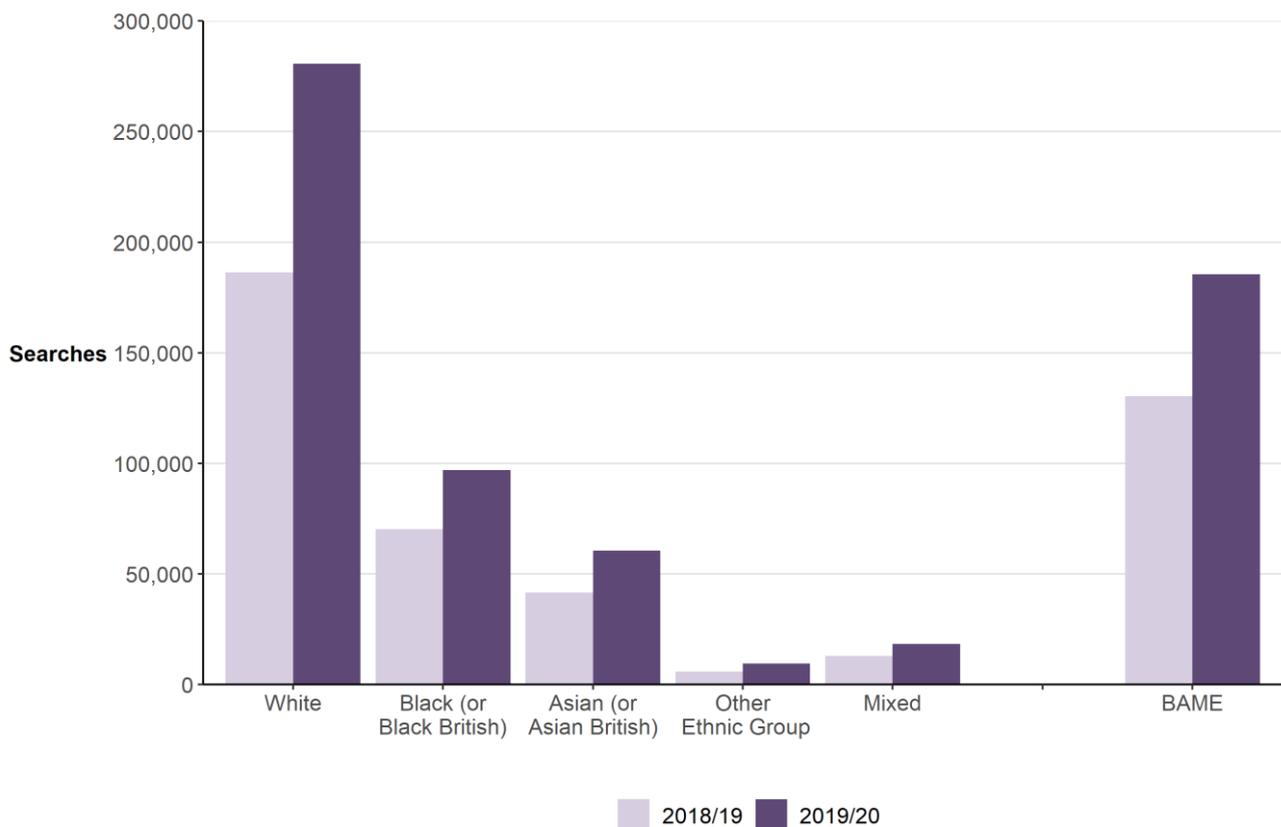
Notes:

1. Excludes vehicle only searches.
2. Includes searches under section 1 PACE and associated legislation and section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.
3. MPS are excluded from the England and Wales figures.

The increase in the use of stop and search over the last year was seen across all ethnic groups (Figure 2.7). In terms of volume, the increase in stop and searches was larger for White individuals (up by 94,445 from 186,216 to 280,661) than for other ethnic minorities (which rose by 55,023 from 130,378 to 185,401). The proportionate increases were also higher for individuals from a White ethnic group (51%) than for those from all other ethnic groups (42%).

Within ethnic minority groups, the volume increases were highest for those from the Black ethnic group (up by 26,781 from 70,124 to 96,905). This compared with an increase of 19,105 for those from the Asian ethnic group (up from 41,470 to 60,575). However, the rise among the latter was proportionally higher (46%) than the former (38%).

Figure 2.7 Change in stops and searches¹ by ethnicity, England and Wales, the year ending March 2020 compared with the year ending March 2019



Source: [Stop and search tables SS_05 and SS_09](#), Home Office

Notes:

1. Includes searches under section 1 PACE and associated legislation, section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, and section 47A of the Terrorism Act 2000.

The above aggregate numbers fail to take account of the rate of stop and search by ethnicity given the variation in the size and geographical distribution of different ethnic groups. The following analysis considers the self-defined 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 the length of time since the last Census. Caution should be taken when interpreting search rates at the national level because, as stated above, force areas vary in their ethnic composition; an average national figure presumes that all stop and searches and ethnic groups are spread evenly across forces, whereas these can differ considerably between forces. Furthermore, even within a PFA there can be significant variation in terms of the distribution of different ethnic groups, which may be masked by the force level averages. One example of this is the Metropolitan Police PFA⁶ which is comprised of several boroughs with a high density and others will be below London average ethnic minority residents. More granular analysis, than is possible with the data we hold centrally, would

⁶ For more information on the Metropolitan Police's stop and search rates at borough level, see <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/stop-and-search-dashboard/>

show greater variation in stop and search rates across the different London boroughs than is apparent from the London-wide average.

Data are presented in terms of the rate BAME people were searched compared with White people.

In the year ending March 2020, BAME people were stopped at a rate 4.1 times higher than those who were from a White ethnic group. This was similar to the previous year when the differential was 4.3. However, there has been a general widening of the differential since 2012/13 when it was twice as high (2.3).

A similar pattern was seen for the Black ethnic group; between 2011/12 and 2014/15 the disparity generally reduced (going from 6 to 4 times higher respectively). However, it started to rise from 2015/16 reaching a peak in the previous 2 years, with the rate around 9.5 times higher for those identifying as Black or Black British compared to those who identify as White). In the latest year the disparity rate fell, decreasing to 8.9 times higher.

2.7 DATA QUALITY

Data presented here have been provided to the Home Office by 42 territorial police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police (BTP). Since the year ending March 2010, BTP have been providing data to the Home Office. Data on total searches prior to this period are therefore not directly comparable with more recent years. However, as BTP typically only account for just over 1.5% of all stop and searches each year, their exclusion has only a marginal impact on the longer-term time series.

Following the transition from a legacy IT system to a new force system, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) have been unable to provide data returns to the Home Office, including stop and search. Data for the first quarter of 2019/20 was collected prior to these issues, and as included in stop and search open data tables accompanying this publication. As the force have only been able to provide robust data for part of 2019/20, Greater Manchester's stop and search data has been removed from year-on-year comparisons in this chapter, in order to provide a consistent time series.

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 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. To ensure data are comparable over time, some forces may have been excluded from annual comparisons. These cases have been highlighted.

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

2.8 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 2020.

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

3 Best Use of Stop and Search

Key results

In the year ending March 2020:

- Of **577,054 stops and searches** conducted by police in England and Wales, **437,139 resulted in no further action (76%)**, a similar proportion to the previous year (73%).
- 32,573 stops and searches resulted in community resolutions, and increase of 73% compared with the previous year, in which there were 18,853.
- **In 20% of stops and searches**, the outcome was linked to the initial reason for the search. This varied by reason for search, from **25% for drugs** to **4% for searches under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act** in anticipation of violence.

3.1 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; and,
- encourage accountability in the police use of stop and search powers.

Outcomes of stop and search

Historically, forces have provided data on the number of stops and searches conducted, and the number of resultant arrests. Arrests represent only one of several 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:

- Arrests;
- Cautions;
- Summons;
- Penalty Notices for Disorder;
- Cannabis/Khat warnings;
- Community resolutions; or,
- No further action.

One outcome per stop and search

For each stop and search, only the first outcome is recorded. For example, where a criminal sanction follows an arrest, only the arrest will be shown in these statistics. Therefore, outcomes that follow an arrest (such as cautions) will be an under-count of the actual number of such outcomes. The data should therefore not 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. For example, police may stop someone on suspicion of carrying drugs. If cannabis is found during the search and the person is given a cannabis warning, then the outcome is linked to the reason for the search. However, if a weapon is found instead of cannabis and the person is arrested, the outcome is not linked to the initial reason for the search. If nothing untoward is found and no action is taken, the outcome is also not linked to the reason for the search.

Tracking whether or not the outcome is linked to the reason for the search aims to increase transparency by allowing for a distinction between outcomes where the officer found what they were searching for, those where the item found was not what the officer was initially searching for, or where nothing was found. Further details can be found in the [BUSS guidance](#).

Currently all forces in England and Wales are signed up to the BUSS scheme. This release includes data provided from the 43 police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police. Given the known issues around the quality of the data, these statistics are designated as **Official Statistics**, and not National Statistics. Further information can be found in the limitation section of this chapter (3.4).

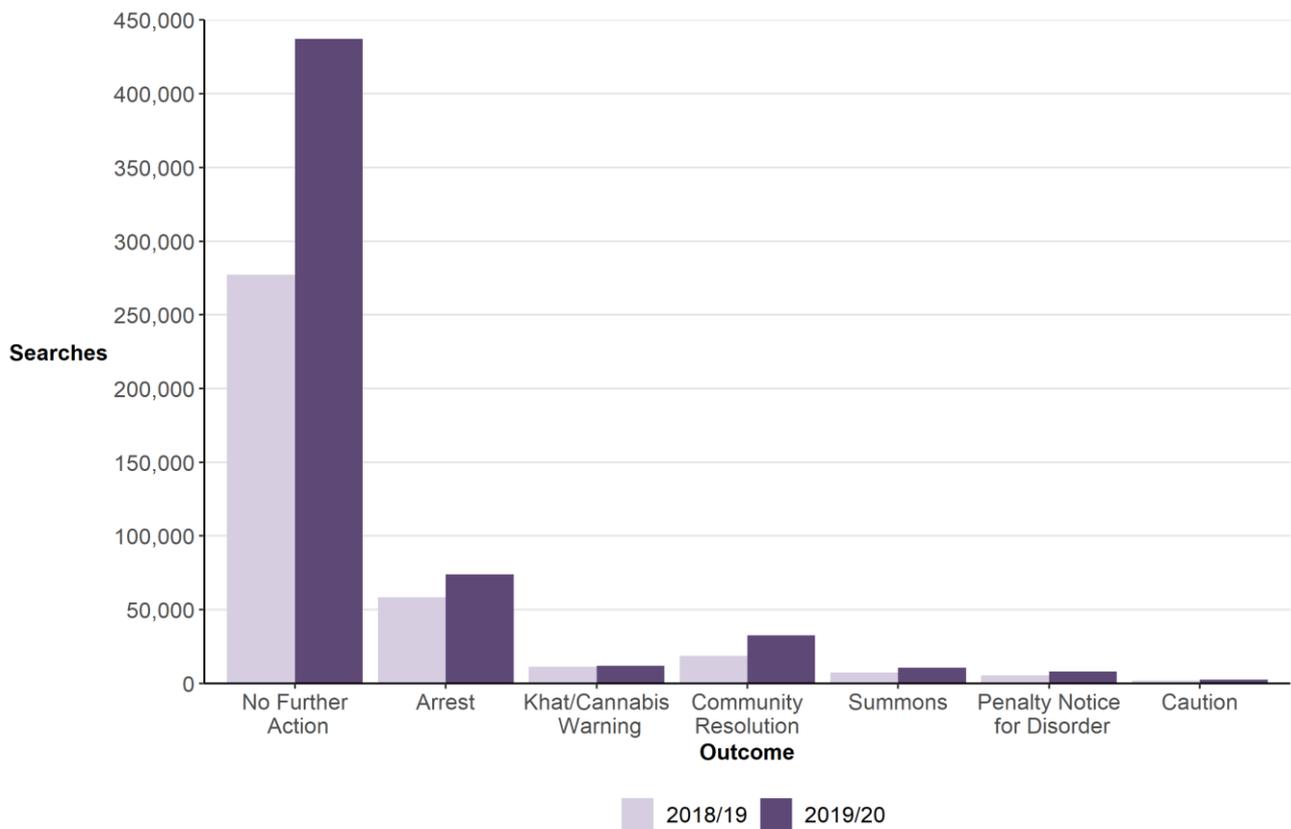
Since BUSS data are collected separately from stop and search data in chapter 2, figures and arrest rates in this chapter may not match exactly those presented in the previous chapter.

3.2 PRINCIPAL OUTCOME FOLLOWING A STOP AND SEARCH

These data include the initial outcome given following the search only. It should be noted that 'No further action' can include a wide range of scenarios. It is therefore possible that, in some cases, an outcome of 'No further action' could be given where the officer finds what they were looking for (outcome linked) but decides not to deal with it by means of arrest, cautions, community resolutions or another outcome.

These data include searches under both section 1 Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) and section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. In 76% of stop and searches the outcome was recorded as needing 'No further action'. In a further 13% the initial outcome was an arrest and an alternative outcome was given in the remaining 11% of cases (Table 3.1).

Figure 3.1 Principal outcome following stop and search¹, England and Wales², year ending March 2020



Source: [Best Use of Stop and Search table BUSS_01](#), Home Office

Notes:

1. Includes vehicle only searches.
2. Includes British Transport Police, excludes Greater Manchester Police.

Table 3.1 Proportion of outcomes following a stop and search, in 2018/19 and 2019/20¹

Outcome	Percentages	
	Year ending March	
	2019	2020
No Further Action	73	76
Arrest	15	13
Khat/Cannabis Warning	3	2
Community Resolution	5	6
Other ²	4	4

Source: [Best Use of Stop and Search table BUSS 01](#) Home Office

Notes:

1. Includes British Transport Police, excludes Greater Manchester Police.
2. 'Other' includes cautions, penalty notices for disorder, and summonses.

The latest figures show a 73% increase in community resolutions following a stop and search, up from 18,853 in 2018/19 to 32,573 in 2019/20. Cannabis warnings only increased slightly by 5%, from 11,360 in 2018/19 to 11,946 in 2019/20. This reflects the fact that a number of forces have adopted a policy of using community resolutions rather than a formal khat/cannabis warning to deal with the possession of small amounts of cannabis. Community resolutions require the offender to confirm that they accept responsibility for the offence and may also include additional advice or warnings about the offending behaviour.

3.3 LINK BETWEEN OUTCOME AND REASON FOR STOP AND SEARCH

In the latest year, 1 in 5 stop and searches (20%) resulted in an outcome that was linked to the reason for the search, with little difference between those conducted on White and BAME people (21% and 20% respectively). However, this proportion varied considerably depending on the reason for the stop, particularly for firearms searches, as shown in Table 3.1. Additionally, across all ethnic groups, while 1 in 4 drug stops (25%) led to an outcome related to 'Drugs', this figure was 1 in 5 (18%) for 'Stolen property' and just under 1 in 10 (9%) for searches relating to 'Offensive weapons' and 'Going equipped'. These proportions were similar to the previous year.

Table 3.1 Proportion of cases where the outcome of the stop was linked to the reason for the stop and search, by reason for stop and ethnicity, England and Wales¹, year ending March 2020²

<i>Percentages</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>		
	Self-defined ethnicity		
Reason for stop	White	BAME	Overall ³
Drugs	26	27	25
Stolen property	20	18	18
Firearms	14	7	11
Offensive weapons	11	8	9
Criminal damage	10	11	10
Going equipped	9	9	9
Other ⁴	14	22	16
Total Section 1 PACE	21	21	20
Section 43 of TACT 2000	8	5	6
Section 60 of Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994	4	4	4
Total	21	20	20

Source: [Best Use of Stop and Search table BUSS_5a](#), Home Office

Notes:

1. Includes British Transport Police. Excludes Greater Manchester Police.
2. Proportions are calculated excluding cases where an object was found however the link between the reason for search and outcome is unknown, or where it's unknown whether an object was found.
3. Includes vehicle only searches and instances where the ethnicity is not known.
4. The 'other' search category includes searches under Section 1 PACE that do not fall into other categories

3.4 LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

Statistics on Best Use of Stop and Search are designated as '**Official Statistics**' rather than 'National Statistics'. This is due to several data quality issues, which are outlined below. While the findings in this section should be considered with caution, they give a reasonable indication of the picture at the national level, but users should be wary of making force level comparisons.

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.

Furthermore, a number of forces have adopted mobile devices to allow officers to directly record stop and searches at the scene, as well as the outcome following a stop and search under the BUSS scheme. Some forces have reported inconsistencies in the way officers use these devices, leading to difficulties when deciding whether the outcome of the search was linked to the reason for the search (for example, more than one outcome was recorded, or the officer had marked the outcome as “linked” to the reason for the search where it did not appear that the outcome was linked).

The Home Office intends to continue to work with forces to ensure greater consistency of recording in future years.

4 Arrests

Key results

In the year ending March 2020:

- There were **639,950 arrests** carried out by territorial police forces in England and Wales, **a similar level to the previous year in which there were 640,867 arrests** (excluding Greater Manchester Police and Lancashire Police). While there was little change in the total volume of arrests, this masked variation across both police forces and offence types.
- The pattern across forces was mixed, with **17 police forces having an increased number of arrests, and 24 had fewer arrests compared with last year.**
- The **change in the number of arrests varied across different offence groups.** There was a **9% increase in arrests for robbery, 8% for drug offences and a 4% rise for possession of weapons offences.** Four-fifths (80%) of the increase in robbery arrests is accounted for by the Metropolitan Police Service and over half of the increase in arrests for drug offences occurred in large PFAs receiving extra funding to tackle serious violence. This is thought to reflect changes in policing priorities and activity with an increased focus on tackling serious violence and related drug offences.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Data presented here are on the police power of arrest. In line with police recorded crime statistics, the arrest collection is designed to cover only arrests for notifiable offences⁷ carried out by police in England and Wales. Further, in this collection, an arrest is counted for each occasion a person is arrested, provided that the arrest is for an offence which is not related to an offence for which the person has already been subject to arrest during the same year. If the arrest is connected, or if a person has been arrested for one or more notifiable offences at the same time, only one arrest is counted and the offence with the highest maximum penalty is recorded⁸. Thus, it does not provide a measure of all arrests made by the police.

Data are presented on a financial-year basis and are provided to the Home Office by the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales. However, Greater Manchester Police were unable to provide 2019/20 data for inclusion in this year's publication, and Lancashire

⁷ A Notifiable Offence is any offence where the police must inform the Home Office by completing a crime report form for statistical purposes. Notifiable offences cover all crimes that must or could be heard at a Crown Court and, except for common assaults, excludes summary only offences that are dealt with exclusively by magistrates' courts. There are strict rules regarding the recording of crime which is outlined in the [Home Office counting rules for recorded crime](#).

⁸ Devon and Cornwall Police and North Wales Police are unable to separately identify the primary arrest in a series of reasons for arrests. Due to this, these forces' data includes all arrests for notifiable offences.

Constabulary were not able to provide complete data for the previous year (2018/19). The Home Office does not receive data on arrests 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. For example, 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.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) amended the offence groups for the police recorded crime series in the year ending March 2013. Since the publication of 'Police powers and procedures' in October 2016, arrests data collected by the Home Office on the reason for arrest are in line with the ONS crime groups. For this reason, data from year ending March 2016 on the reason for arrest are not directly comparable with earlier years. The table below lists the current offence categories and indicates how comparable each is with previous years.

Table 4.1 Comparability of the 'reason for arrest' groups with previous years

Reason for arrest (offence group)	Comparability with the year ending March 2020 data
Criminal damage and arson	Mostly comparable with the year ending March 2015 and earlier.
Drug offences	Directly comparable with the year ending March 2015 and earlier.
Fraud offences	Not comparable with the year ending March 2015 and earlier.
Misc. crimes against society	Not comparable with the year ending March 2015 and earlier.
Possession of weapons offences	Not comparable with the year ending March 2015 and earlier.
Public order offences	Not comparable with the year ending March 2015 and earlier.
Robbery	Directly comparable with the year ending March 2015 and earlier.
Sexual offences	Mostly comparable with the year ending March 2015 and earlier.
Theft offences	Not comparable with the year ending March 2015 and earlier.
Violence against the person	Not comparable with the year ending March 2015 and earlier.

Where a person has been arrested for one or more notifiable offence on the same occasion, forces are asked to record the arrest against the offence with the highest maximum penalty (the primary arrest). However, Devon and Cornwall Police and North Wales Police are unable to separately identify the primary arrest in a series of reasons for arrests. Due to this, these forces' data includes all arrests for notifiable offences and are not directly comparable with other forces. These forces have minimal effect on national totals and have therefore been included in the England and Wales total.

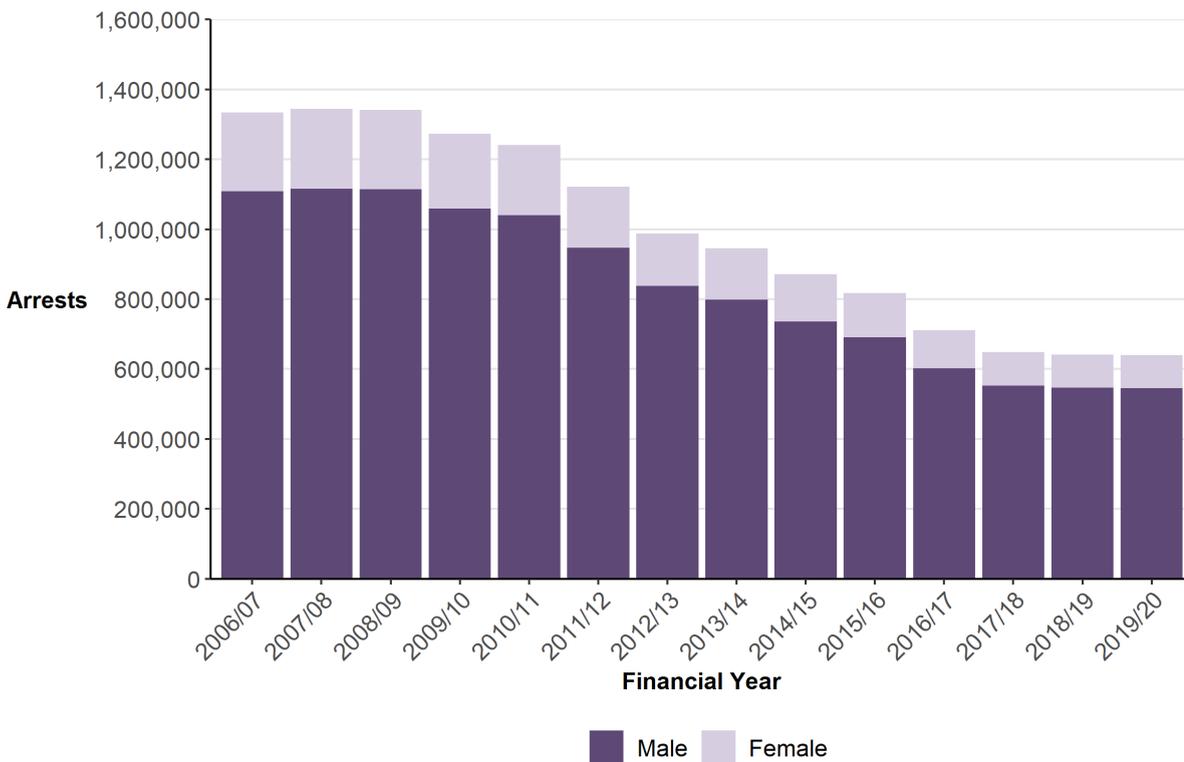
4.2 TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS

Greater Manchester Police were unable to provide 2019/20 arrests data for this publication, and Lancashire Constabulary were unable to provide the Home Office with complete arrests data in 2018/19. Therefore, to ensure comparability with previous years, Greater

Manchester Police and Lancashire Constabulary are excluded from all time-series in this chapter and accompanying data tables. In previous years, these two forces have contributed around 8% of the total number of arrests in England and Wales.

In the year ending March 2020 there were 639,950 arrests carried out by territorial police forces in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police and Lancashire Constabulary), a similar level to the previous year. The total number of arrests has been consistent in the last three years, following a downward trend between 2007/08 and 2017/18 (Figure 4.1). However, this apparently stable pattern conceals variation across offence groups and Police Force Areas (PFAs), as discussed below.

Figure 4.1 Number of arrests, by sex, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to 2020¹



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

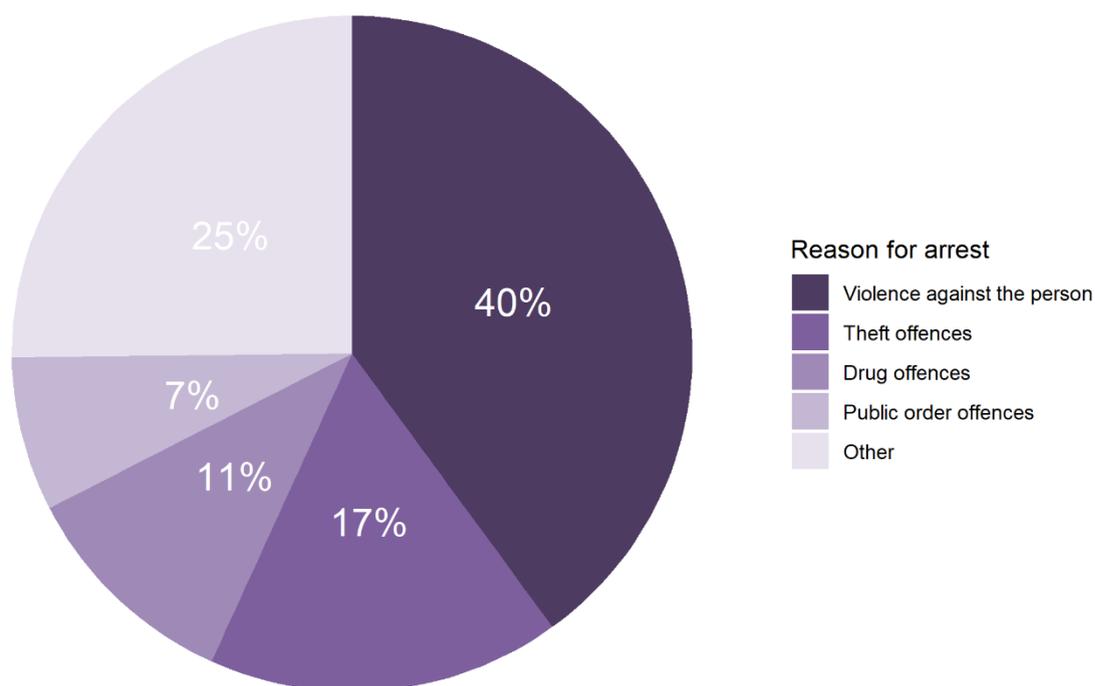
Notes:

1. Arrests data excludes Greater Manchester Police and Lancashire Constabulary for all years.

4.3 ARRESTS BY OFFENCE GROUP

As in previous years, over a third of all arrests by police in England and Wales were connected with violence against the person offences (40%). The next most common offence group was theft, which accounted for 17% of all arrests (Figure 4.2). The proportion of arrests in each offence group has changed little compared with the previous year.

Figure 4.2 Proportion of arrests in each offence group, year ending March 2020^{1,2}



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

Notes:

1. Excludes Greater Manchester Police.
2. Other reasons for arrest include criminal damage and arson, miscellaneous crimes against society, possession of weapons offences, sexual offences, robbery and fraud offences. A full breakdown of reasons for arrests is in Table 4.2.

Most offence types were represented in the arrest collection in the same proportion as their distribution in the recorded crime series. In contrast, the proportion of arrests for violence against the person offences (40%) was higher than the 29% it comprised of all police recorded crime in 2019/20, while theft offences was 31% of all police recorded crime ([ONS Crime Statistics](#)) but 17% of all arrests. Two outliers were fraud which comprised just 1% of all arrests but 13% of all recorded crime (Table 4.2) and drug offences, which comprised 11% of arrests but 3% of recorded crime.

Direct comparisons between the two series should be made with caution since arrests relate to persons and recorded crime relates to offences. For example, one offence may be committed by multiple offenders and therefore may generate several arrests. Conversely an offender may be arrested for committing two or more recorded crimes (e.g. shoplifting and possession of drugs) but only one arrest will be recorded. In addition, some offences can be resolved without the use of an arrest, for example through the issuing of a fixed penalty notice or cannabis warning. Finally, some crimes take longer to investigate than others and therefore arrests and charges may lag trends in recorded crime.

As noted elsewhere ([Crime Outcomes in England Wales: year ending March 2020 statistical bulletin](#)), in recent years police forces have been dealing with both an increased volume of crime and a more complex crime mix. This is thought to have contributed to a downward trend in both the volume and proportion of crimes resulting in a charge/summons and a growth in the proportion of cases in which victims do not support police action. This provides important context to the statistics on arrests presented here. Data on the outcomes assigned to police recorded crime, as well as the median length of time taken to assign an outcome by offence group, can be found in the '[Crime outcomes, England and Wales](#)' statistical bulletin.

Table 4.2 Offence group breakdowns of persons arrested in England and Wales and police recorded crime, year ending March 2020^{1, 2}

<i>Percentages</i>	England and Wales	
	Arrests	Police recorded crime
Violence against the person	40%	29%
Theft offences	17%	31%
Drug offences	11%	3%
Public order offences	7%	7%
Criminal damage and arson	7%	9%
Misc. crimes against society	7%	2%
Sexual offences	4%	3%
Possession of weapons	3%	1%
Robbery	2%	1%
Fraud offences	1%	13%
Total	100%	100%

Source: [Arrests table A.02](#), Home Office and [ONS Crime Statistics](#)

Notes:

1. Following a change in offence groups (in 2015/16) it is believed that a number of police forces are incorrectly recording some 'public order' offences against 'miscellaneous crimes against society'. Caution should therefore be exercised when comparing these offences over time and across forces.
2. Excludes Greater Manchester Police.

The change in the number of arrests in the latest year varied across different offence groups. There was a 9% increase in robbery arrests (up from 14,267 to 15,571), an 8% increase in drug offences (from 63,871 to 68,736) and a 4% increase in arrests for possession of weapons offences, which reflects the increases in stop and search for these offence types (see Chapter 2). Four-fifths (80%) of the increase in robbery arrests is accounted for by the Metropolitan Police Service, and over half of the increase in arrests for drug offences occurred in large PFAs receiving extra funding to tackle serious violence.

Police recorded crime data, as published in the '[Crime in England and Wales](#)' statistical bulletin, show similar increases in robbery (6%) and in drug offences (18%). In contrast to

this, there was an 8% fall in arrests for fraud offences and an 10% fall in arrests for theft offences.

Looking at the long-term trend, all offence groups have shown a fall in the volume of arrests or shown no change compared with 2015/16 apart from possession of weapons offences which has increased by over a third (37%) and robbery which increased by 8%.

Table 4.3 Offence group breakdowns of persons arrested in England and Wales, year ending March 2019 compared with year ending March 2020^{1, 2}

Numbers and percentages	England and Wales		
	Year ending		% change
	31-Mar-19	31-Mar-20	
Violence against the person	250,845	255,148	+1.7
Theft offences	118,876	107,483	-9.6
Drug offences	63,871	68,736	+7.6
Misc. crimes against society	41,373	42,668	+3.1
Public order offences	48,010	47,098	-1.9
Criminal damage and arson	46,806	45,744	-2.3
Sexual offences	28,067	28,581	+1.8
Possession of weapons offences	21,085	21,880	+3.8
Robbery	14,267	15,571	+9.1
Fraud offences	7,667	7,041	-8.2
Total	640,867	639,950	-0.1

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

Notes:

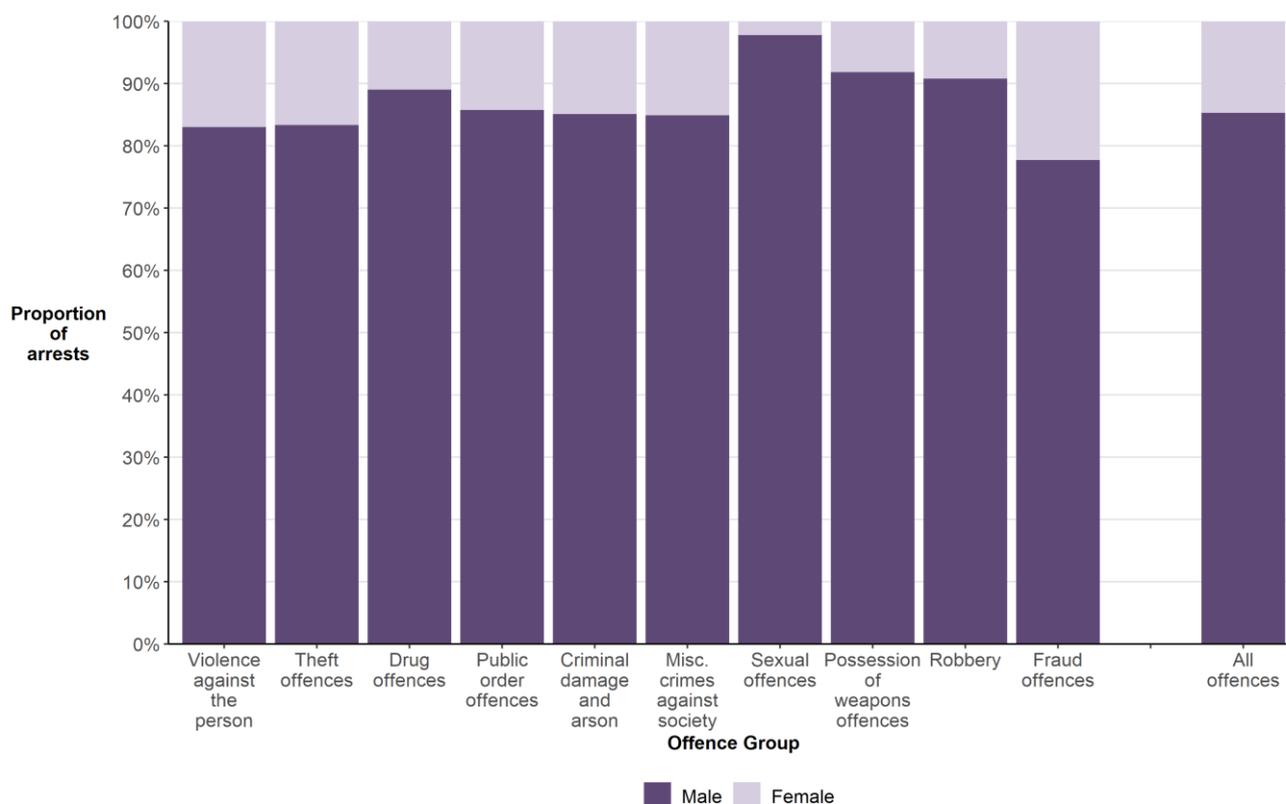
- Following a change in offence groups (in 2015/16) it is believed that a number of police forces are incorrectly recording some 'public order' offences against 'miscellaneous crimes against society'. Caution should therefore be exercised when comparing these offences over time and across forces. The Home Office is working with forces to investigate this issue.
- Excludes Greater Manchester Police and Lancashire Constabulary for both years.

4.4 ARRESTS BY SEX

The majority of arrests in the latest year were of males (85% of total arrests). This percentage has been stable for more than ten years. In the latest year, the number of arrests of males and females were both at similar levels to previous year.

The most common offence group related to the arrest, for both males and females, was violence against the person, followed by theft offences. However, there were some differences in arrest patterns for males and females. For example, females have consistently made up a very small proportion of those arrested for sexual offences (2%) and possession of weapons offences (8%), but a larger proportion of those arrested for fraud offences (22%). Figure 4.3 shows the split for each offence type.

Figure 4.3 Proportion of arrests by sex and offence group, England and Wales, year ending March 2020¹



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

Notes:

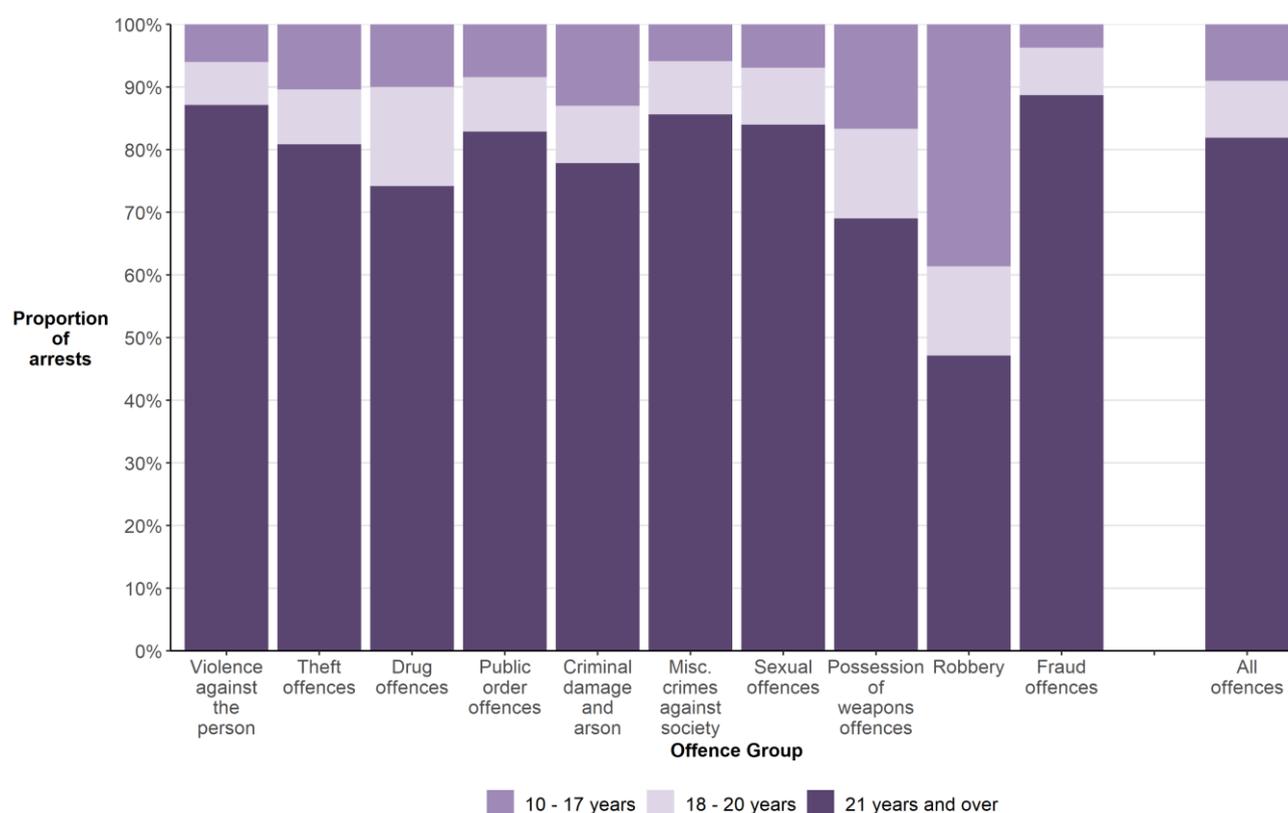
1. Excludes Greater Manchester Police.

4.5 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 prosecution in England and Wales is 10 years old, so the ‘Under 10’ category includes persons who, after further investigation, were found to be too young to be charged with an offence.

The proportions of arrests in each age-group remained similar to the previous year, with 82% of all arrestees being 21 or over. However, there was some variation when analysing the reasons for arrest. For example, although persons under 21 years old accounted for 18% of all arrests, they made up 53% of arrests for robbery offences and just under a third (31%) of possession of weapons offences. Those aged 21 or over made up 89% of all arrests for fraud offences. Figure 4.4 shows the number of persons arrested by offence type and age-group.

Figure 4.4 Age-group¹ of persons arrested, by offence type, England and Wales, year ending March 2020²



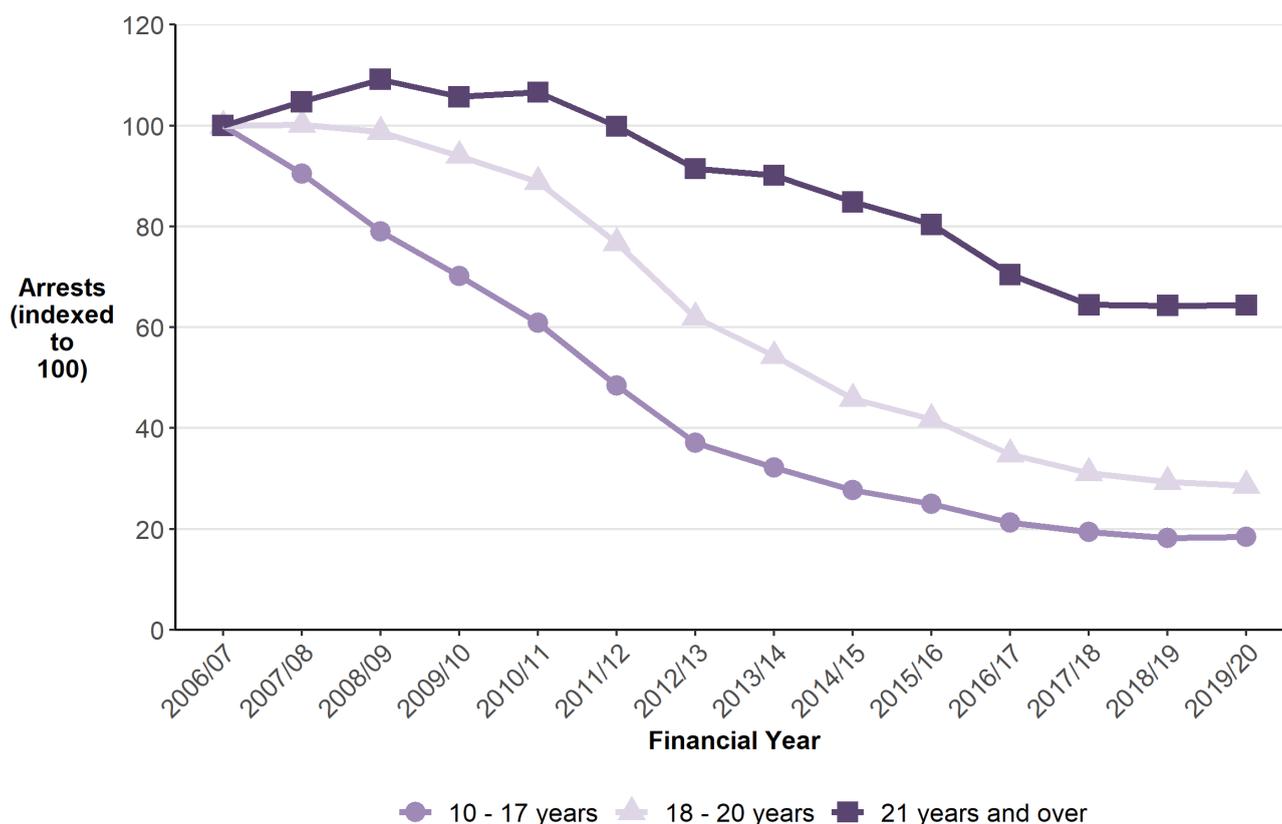
Source: [Arrests table A.03](#), Home Office

Notes:

1. Excludes those whose age was unknown (119 arrests), and those who were under 10 years old at the time of the arrest (6).
2. Excludes Greater Manchester Police

In the latest year, the number of arrests of those aged 21 and over was similar to the previous year. The number of arrests of those aged 10 to 17 increased by 1% compared with the previous year. However, the number of arrests of those aged between 18 and 20 decreased by 2.4%. As Figure 4.5 shows, arrests across all three age-groups have fallen sharply over the past decade, with arrests of those age under 21 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; in 2006/07 those aged 21 and over accounted for 61% of all arrests but accounted for 82% in 2019/20 (a similar proportion to the previous two years).

Figure 4.5 Number of arrests (indexed to 100 in the year ending March 2007) by age group, England and Wales, years ending March 2007 to 2020¹



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

Notes:

1. Excludes Greater Manchester Police and Lancashire Constabulary.

4.6 ARRESTS BY ETHNICITY

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

- White
- Black (or Black British)
- Asian (or Asian British) – including Chinese from 2019/20 onwards
- Mixed
- Other ethnic group.
- Not stated

The ethnic breakdown of those arrested in the latest year was similar to the previous year. Excluding those who did not state their ethnicity (who accounted for around 15% of arrestees in 2019/20), 77% of those arrested defined their ethnicity as White, 10% as Black (or Black British) and 8% as Asian (or Asian British). The remaining 6% considered themselves either of mixed ethnicity (4%) or any other ethnic group (2%).

The following analysis considers the ethnicity of those arrested relative to the population as a whole, by calculating arrest rates for each ethnic group. Population data is based on the 2011 Census, and so should be considered with caution given the length of time since the last Census. Data are presented in terms of how likely Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) people are to be arrested compared with those who are White.

As in previous years, persons who identified as Black (or Black British) were arrested at a rate over 3 times higher than those who identified themselves as White, and BAME people were arrested at a rate over 1 and a half times higher than those who identified themselves to be White in the latest year.

There was a 12.2% increase in arrestees without a stated ethnicity (Table 4.4), which makes changes in the number of arrests by ethnicity more difficult to interpret. There were decreases in arrests of those who consider themselves to be White (down 2.3%) and Black (down 2.2%). The number of people arrested who identify as Mixed ethnicity increased by 1.2%. Overall, the number of arrests of BAME people fell by 0.5%. Although the Asian category showed an increase in the latest year, the figures are not comparable with 2018/19 due to the new inclusion of 'Chinese' in this category (previously in 'Other Ethnic Group').

Table 4.4 Ethnic breakdowns of persons arrested in England and Wales, year ending March 2020 compared with 2019¹

<i>Numbers and percentages</i>	England and Wales		
	Year ending		% change
	31 March 2019	31 March 2020	
Self-defined ethnicity			
White	432,471	422,648	-2.3
Black (or Black British)	58,197	56,937	-2.2
Asian (or Asian British) ²	40,483	41,819	n/a
Mixed	20,799	21,040	+1.2
Other Ethnic Group ²	10,642	9,688	n/a
Not stated	78,275	87,818	+12.2
BAME	130,121	129,484	-0.5
Total	640,867	639,950	-0.1

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

Notes:

1. Excludes Greater Manchester Police and Lancashire Constabulary.
2. Figures for Asian (or Asian British) and Other Ethnic Group are not directly comparable between the year ending March 2019 and year ending March 2020. People who identify as Chinese account for roughly 0.2% of arrests in each of the last two years, and are classed as Other Ethnic group in the year ending March 2019 and Asian (or Asian British) in the year ending March 2020.

4.7 ARRESTS BY POLICE FORCE AREA

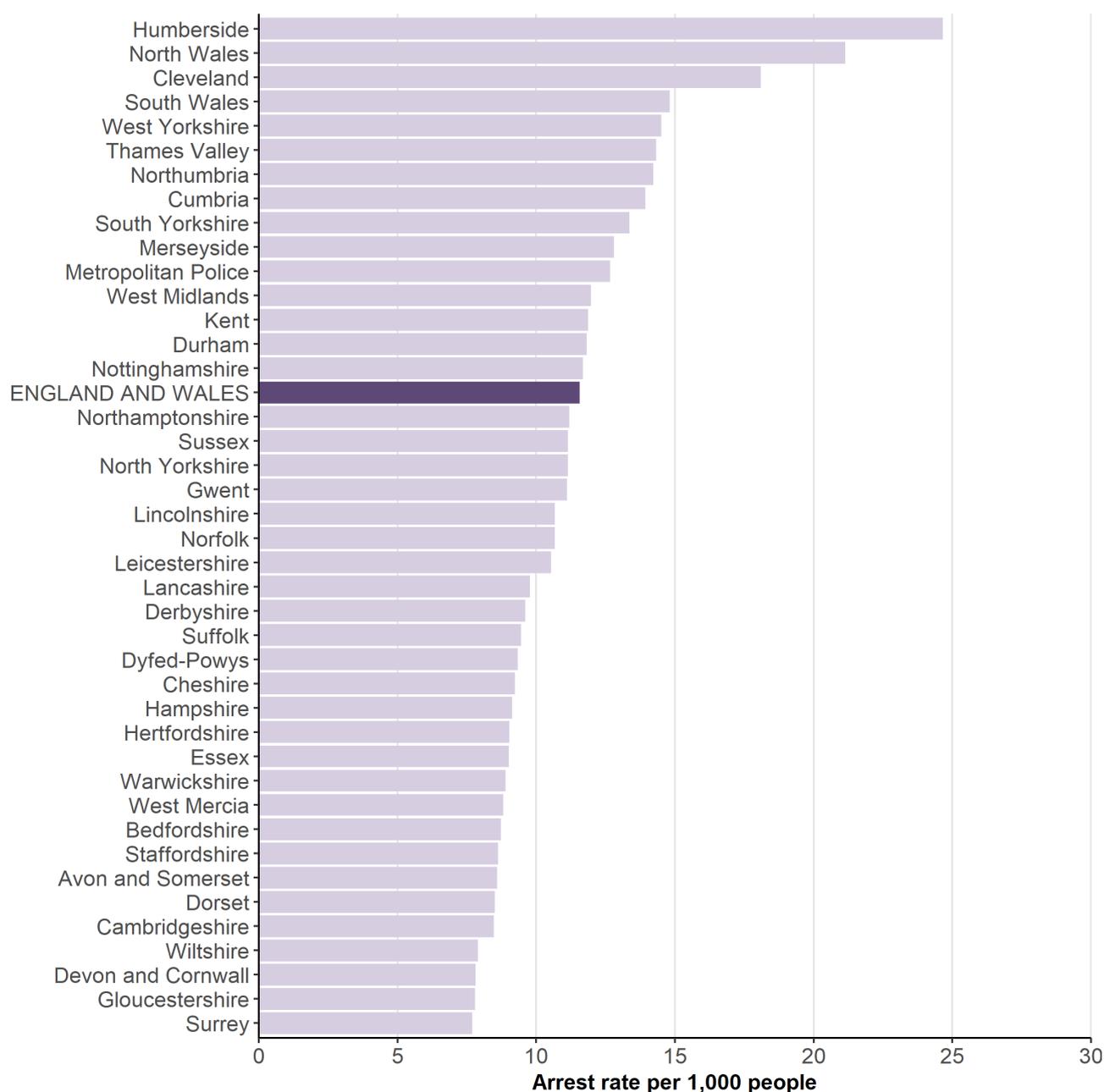
Of the 41 forces in England and Wales who provided complete data in 2018/19 and 2019/20, 17 showed an increase in the number of arrests, while 24 forces showed a decrease, in the latest year compared with the previous.

The number of arrests expressed per 1,000 members of the population in England and Wales was 12 in the year ending March 2020. This varied by Police Force Area (PFA)⁹ with the highest rate in Humberside (25 per 1,000). The lowest arrest rate, at 8 arrests per 1,000 members of the population, was found in the Cambridgeshire, Surrey, Devon and Cornwall, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire PFAs.

Differences in the proportion of BAME arrestees in some PFAs are likely to, in part, reflect the differing resident and day-time populations in those areas. For example, the proportion of those arrested that were of a BAME background ranged from 3% (in Durham, Cumbria and Dyfed-Powys PFAs) to 54% (in the Metropolitan Police Service area). Population data from the 2011 Census shows that Durham, Cumbria and Dyfed-Powys areas had a 2% BAME population, whereas the Metropolitan Police area had 40%. However, comparisons in arrest rates between areas should be made with caution because population breakdowns are based on residents of a particular area (i.e. they do not include visitors).

⁹ City of London Police force area has been excluded from this analysis, as the small resident population and large transient population within means that rates can be misleading.

Figure 4.6 Number of persons arrested per 1,000 population¹, by Police Force Area, England and Wales², year ending March 2020^{3,4}



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

Notes:

1. Calculated using the [mid-2019 population estimates for England and Wales](#), supplied by ONS.
2. City of London rates not shown due to the small resident population of the area relative to the transient or visiting population. City of London figures have been included in the England and Wales total.
3. Excludes Greater Manchester Police.
4. Devon and Cornwall Police and North Wales Police are unable to separately identify the primary arrest in a series of reasons for arrests. Due to this, these forces' data includes all arrests for notifiable offences and are not directly comparable with other forces.

4.8 DATA QUALITY AND INTERPRETING THE FIGURES

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

Greater Manchester Police were unable to supply arrests data in 2019/20. They have been omitted from all analyses in this chapter.

In 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19, Lancashire Constabulary were unable to supply complete arrests data. Figures for this force were therefore estimated in the open data tables for 2016/17 but have been omitted for 2017/18 and 2018/19. Therefore, Lancashire Constabulary have been excluded from time series analysis, but included in analysis of solely 2019/20 data.

Devon and Cornwall Police and North Wales Police are unable to separately identify the primary arrest in a series of reasons for arrests. Due to this, these forces' data includes all arrests for notifiable offences and are not directly comparable with other forces. Kent Police have only been able to identify primary arrests since November 2018, so caution should be taken when interpreting their 2019/20 data with previous years. These forces have minimal effect on national totals and have therefore been included in the England and Wales total.

4.9 OTHER DATA SOURCES

While some ethnic breakdowns are provided here, more detailed figures and analyses are 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 2019. Figures presented relate to the period up to and including the financial year ending March 2018 and may since have been superseded by data included in this edition of 'Police powers and procedures'.

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 2017](#), and includes arrest figures for the financial year ending March 2017. The next edition in the MOJ statistical series is due to be published 26 November 2020.

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 2020 and includes arrests data for the financial year ending March 2019.

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.

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

5 Other PACE powers

Key results

In the year ending March 2020:

- There were a total of **5,151 persons detained** by police in England and Wales under part IV of Police and Criminal Evidence Act for more than 24 hours and subsequently released. This represented **an increase of 3% compared with the previous year** (based on data from 31 forces that were able to provide complete data for both years).
- Of those detained and subsequently released, **90% (4,626) were held for between 24 and 36 hours**, a further **399 persons** were **held for more than 36 hours** before being released without charge, and **126** people were **detained under warrant for further detention**.
- Based on the 40 forces who could supply data, there were **103 intimate searches** carried out by police. Excluding forces who could not supply data for both years, this was **an increase of 28 searches on the previous year**.

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The police have several other powers that are authorised under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE). This section provides information on the use of police powers of detentions and intimate searches.

5.2 DETENTIONS

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 indictable¹⁰ one. From 20 January 2004, powers were introduced which enabled an officer of the rank of superintendent or above to authorise continued detention for up to 36 hours following an arrest. Additionally, police may apply to the Magistrates' Court to authorise warrants of further detention, extending the detention period to a maximum of 96 hours without charge. Further details can be found in the [user guide](#).

This section provides information on the number of persons detained for more than 24 hours who were subsequently released without charge. It also provides details on the number of warrants for further detention that were applied for and that led to charges. Data are requested by the Home Office from the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales on a financial-year basis, though not all forces have been able to provide these data due to technical issues and data quality concerns.

¹⁰ These offences are the most serious breaches of criminal law and must be tried at the Crown Court.

In the year ending March 2020, there were a total of 5,151 persons detained by police in England and Wales under part IV of PACE for more than 24 hours and subsequently released. This represented an increase of 3% during this period, based on data from 31 forces who were able to provide complete data for both years (from 3,587 in 2018/19 to 3,680 in 2019/20).

Of those detained and subsequently released, 90% (4,626) were held for between 24 and 36 hours, a further 399 persons were held for more than 36 hours before being released without charge and 126 were detained under warrant for further detention (before being released without charge).

In the year ending March 2020, police in England and Wales applied to magistrates for 439 warrants of further detention. Of these applications 10 were refused, meaning warrants were granted in 98% of cases. When a warrant of further detention was granted, this led to a charge in 62% of cases (264 cases).

Source: [Other Pace Powers data tables, D_01 to D_04](#), Home Office

5.3 INTIMATE SEARCHES

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 can be found in the [user guide](#).

As is the case with detentions over 24 hours, some forces were unable to provide these data. Based on the 40 forces who could supply data, there were 103 intimate searches carried out by police in the year ending March 2020. Excluding forces who could not supply data for both years, this was an increase of 28 searches on the previous year, although similar to March 2018 (105).

Of the 103 intimate searches, 74 (72%) were carried out by a medical practitioner or in the presence of a suitably qualified person and 24 (23%) were carried out by a police officer. There were 5 searches carried out by designated civilian detention officers.

Of all searches, 90% were made in an attempt to find Class A drugs, with the remaining 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 latest year, Class A drugs were found in 12% of cases, down 6 percentage points from 18% in the previous year. No harmful articles were found in any the 10 searches conducted to find them.

Of the 40 police forces in England and Wales who could supply data to the Home Office, 20 had carried out intimate searches in the year ending March 2020, a proportion that has

remained consistent over the most recent five years. Norfolk Constabulary and Wiltshire Police conducted the most intimate searches (17), followed by Dyfed-Powys Police (11).

Source: [Other Pace Powers data tables, IS_01 to IS_02](#), Home Office

5.4 DATA QUALITY

The presented statistics in this section are correct at the time of publication.

Cheshire, Cleveland, Durham, Gloucestershire, Greater Manchester, Lincolnshire, North Wales and Thames Valley police forces were unable to provide complete detentions data for the year ending March 2020. These forces, along with those who could not provide complete data for the year ending March 2019, have been excluded from any year on year comparisons, as outlined in the footnotes accompanying the [detentions tables](#).

Durham, Greater Manchester and Thames Valley police forces were unable to provide any data on intimate searches in the year ending March 2020. Data for these 3 forces have been excluded from any year-on-year comparison.

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

6 Fixed penalty notices and other outcomes for motoring offences

Key results

In the year ending December 2019:

- There were **2.7 million motoring offences** recorded in 2019 (excluding **372,294 cancelled cases**), which resulted in a Fixed Penalty Notice or another outcome, an **increase of 7.2%** compared with the previous year and continuing an upward trend since 2017.
- **Over four-fifths (85%)** of recorded motoring offences were **for speed limit offences** (2.3 million). **This was an increase of 8% on the previous year** (2,101,647). The number of **speed limit offences** has increased gradually year-on-year since 2011, and now **stand at the highest level recorded**.
- **Just under half (47%)** of driving offences **resulted in driver retraining, while a fine was paid in a further 38% of cases** and **14% of cases involved court action** (excluding those subsequently cancelled), similar proportions to the previous year.

6.1 INTRODUCTION

A fixed penalty notice (FPN) is a prescribed financial penalty which may be issued to a motorist as an alternative to prosecution. They can be issued for a limited 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).

Data in this section are extracted from the PentiP system, a central database, which replaced the Vehicle Procedures and Fixed Penalty Office (VP/FPO) system in 2011. VP/FPO data were previously supplied to the Home Office by individual police forces. Further information can be found in the [user guide](#).

In 2017 the Home Office widened the scope of the collection for motoring offences to include cases where a driver retraining course, such as a speed awareness course, was attended by the individual, as well as cases where an individual faced court action. However, information on the outcome of those summoned to court is not provided and therefore data do not contain the number of individuals prosecuted for motoring offences¹¹. A full-time series back to 2011 was published.

Since PentiP is an administrative dataset used by police forces, data for previous years can be amended as case details are updated. Furthermore, there is a cleansing process where some outcomes (particularly cancelled FPNs) are removed from the system after 6 months.

¹¹ Ministry of Justice publishes data in its [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#) publication on prosecutions and convictions for motoring offences.

For this reason, after publication in this bulletin, the figures represented in the accompanying data tables become fixed, and revisions are not made to data from previous years in subsequent releases.

This section contains data on the outcomes for motoring offences (as recorded on the PentiP system) for the territorial Police Force Areas (PFAs) in England and Wales on a calendar-year basis. Data are broken down by the number of motoring offences:

- that resulted in an FPN (endorsable and non-endorsable);
- where the driver attended a driver retraining course;
- those which resulted in court action; and
- cancelled FPNs.

The data also contain information on the types of motoring offences which led to these outcomes, whether or not the offence was camera detected, and whether or not a fine was paid (where the offence resulted in an FPN).

In previous versions of this bulletin, and although separately identified and labelled within the chapter and data tables, all outcomes were referred to as 'issued FPNs'. However, in cases where the driver accepted a driver retraining course, or faced immediate court action, an FPN will not have been issued by the police. Following engagement with stakeholders, and for clarity throughout this chapter, each outcome is now referred to separately.

Data on FPNs and other outcomes for motoring offences in England and Wales are presented in [the FPN and other outcomes data tables](#).

6.2 TRENDS IN FPNS AND OTHER OUTCOMES OF MOTORING OFFENCES

Excluding cancelled cases¹² (372,294 cases), the PentiP system recorded 2.7 million motoring offences in 2019, which resulted in an FPN or another outcome, an increase of 7.2% compared with the previous year and continuing an upward trend since 2017. Specifically, in 2019:

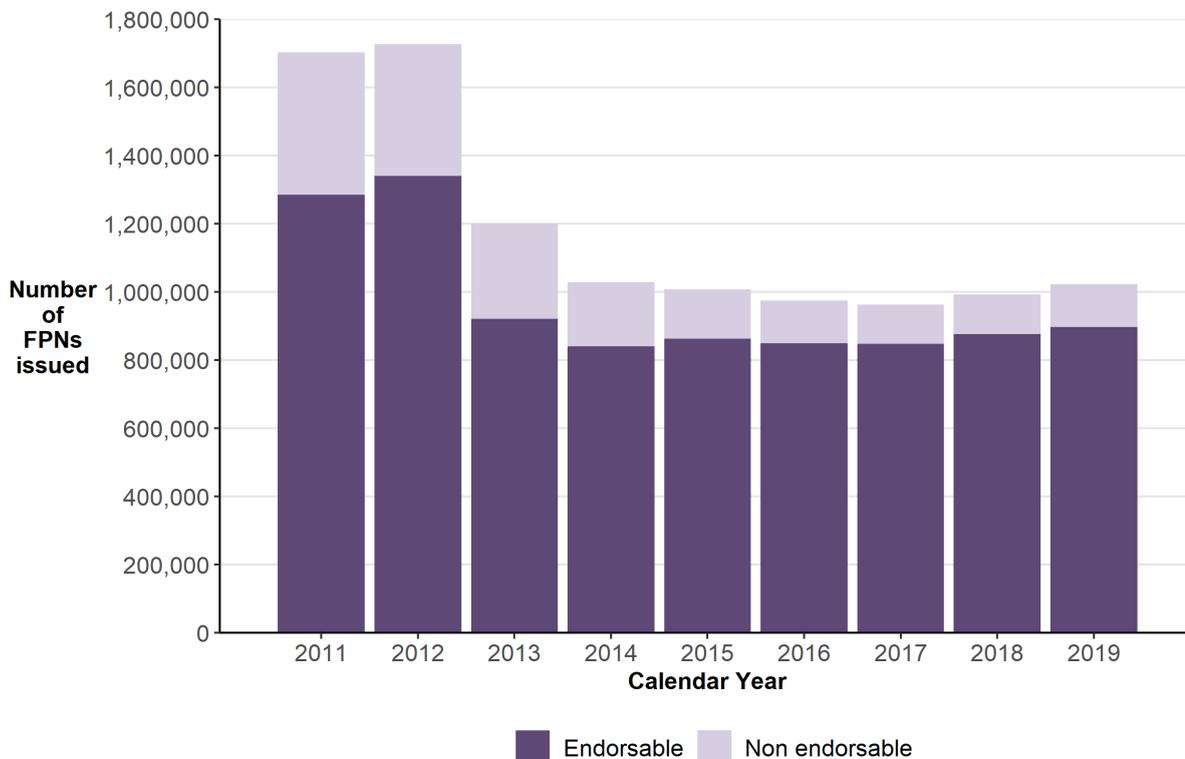
- 896,804 cases resulted in the driver receiving an endorsable FPN (34%);
- 126,624 cases resulted in a non-endorsable FPN (5%);
- an individual attended a driver retraining course in 1,250,729 cases (47%); and,
- 383,038 cases resulted in court action (14%).

The number of endorsable FPNs issued has remained fairly stable in recent years although has shown slight increases in 2018 and 2019 (up to around 900,000 in 2019). The number of non-endorsable FPNs had fallen year-on-year from 2011 to 2017 but there was a small

¹² Examples of cancelled FPNs include cases where the police were unable to identify the driver of the vehicle, or when the vehicle belonged to the emergency services.

increase in 2018 and a larger rise in the latest year from 116,685 in 2018 to 126,624 in 2019 (Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1 Number of motoring offences resulting in an endorsable or non-endorsable FPN^{1,2}, England and Wales³, 2011 to 2019



Source: [FPN 01](#), Home Office

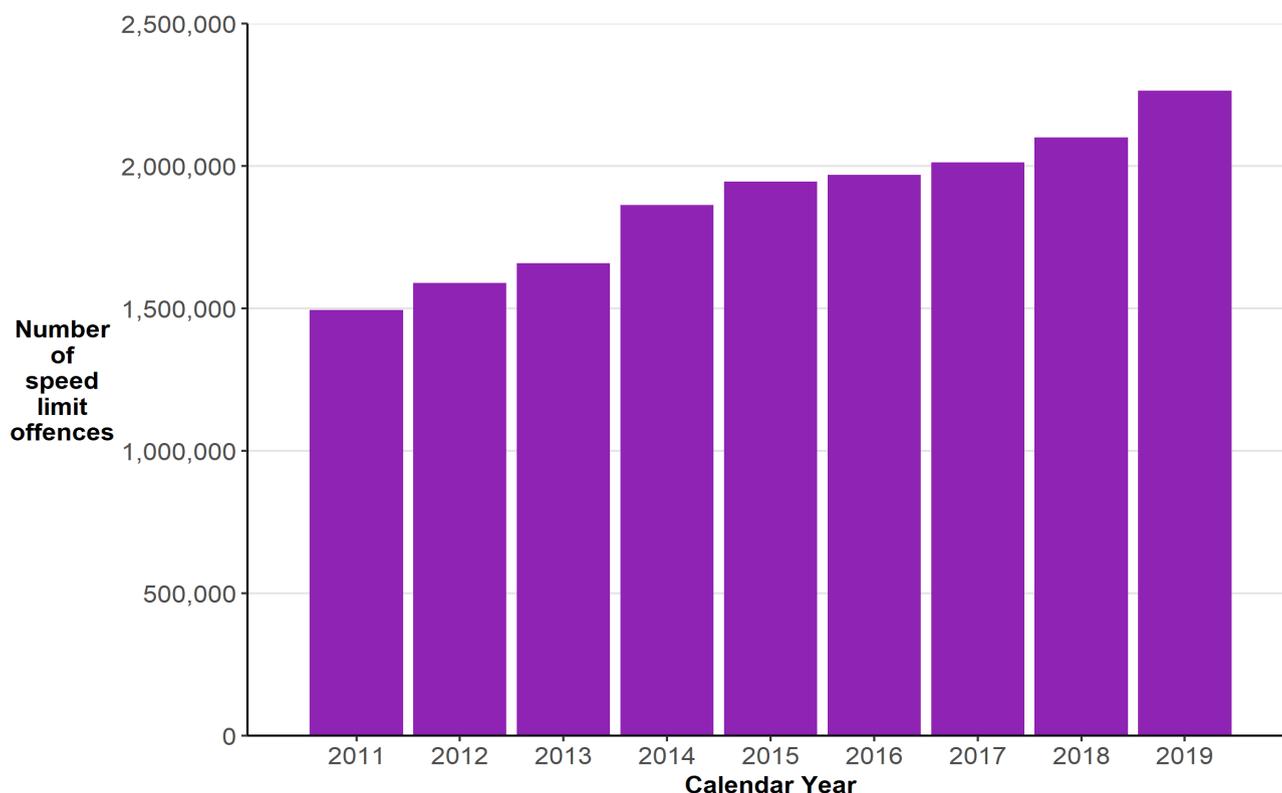
Notes:

1. Excludes cancelled FPNs.
2. Excludes motoring offences which were dealt with via other outcomes such as cases where the individual attended a driver retraining course or faced court action.
3. Excludes British Transport Police.

6.3 FPNS AND OTHER OUTCOMES BY OFFENCE TYPE

Over four-fifths (85%) of the motoring offences recorded on PentiP were for speed limit offences (2,264,749), up 8% on the previous year (when there were 2,101,647 issued). The number of speed limit offences has increased gradually year-on-year since 2011, and now stand at the highest level recorded (Figure 6.2).

Figure 6.2 Number of speed limit offences recorded on the PentiP system, England and Wales, 2011 to 2019^{1,2,3}



Source: [FPN 02](#), Home Office

Notes:

1. Excludes FPNs which were subsequently cancelled.
2. Includes cases where the individual attended a driver retraining course or faced court action.
3. Excludes British Transport Police.

Seatbelt offences (excluding the use of a handheld mobile phone while driving) saw the largest percentage increase of 84% in 2019 compared with the previous year (from 21,577 to 39,771), however the number of FPNs issued for this offence varies considerably each year. Use of a handheld mobile phone fell by 27% from 38,545 offences in 2018 to 28,321 in 2019, continuing the year-on-year decline since 2011. This may reflect changing police priorities and activities. It may also reflect a change in driver behaviour, as shown by the data collected by the Office For National Statistics on self-reported mobile use while driving. The latest statistics show that a large proportion of drivers who reported using a mobile phone whilst driving did so via Bluetooth, Voice command or a dashboard holder. These data that are published by the Department for Transport [here](#).

6.4 CAMERA-DETECTED OFFENCES

Offences that come under ‘neglect of traffic directions’ (for example, failure to adhere to traffic signs such as ‘right of way’) and ‘speed limit offences’ may be detected by the police, or by traffic enforcement cameras. In 2019, the PentiP system recorded 2,264,749 ‘speed

limit offences' and 85,566 'neglect of traffic directions' offences, 85% and 3% of all non-cancelled FPNs respectively. The majority of 'speed limit offences' (97%) were detected by a camera, the same proportion as the previous year, while around two-thirds (65%) of 'neglect of traffic direction' offences were detected by a camera, falling from 74% in 2018.

Table 6.1 Number of 'speed limit offences' and 'neglect of traffic directions' offences and proportion that were camera-detected, England and Wales², 2018 and 2019

<i>Numbers and percentages</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>	
	Calendar year	
Offence type	2018	2019
Speed limit offences	2,101,647	2,264,749
<i>of which</i>		
Camera-detected (%)	97	97
Neglect of traffic	93,889	85,566
<i>of which</i>		
Camera-detected (%)	74	65

Source: [FPN 04](#), Home Office

Notes:

1. Includes offences where an FPN was issued or the individual attended driver retraining or court action. Excludes FPNs which were subsequently cancelled.
2. Excludes British Transport Police.

6.5 OUTCOMES FOLLOWING MOTORING OFFENCES

After an individual is found to have committed a motoring offence there are a number of possible outcomes:

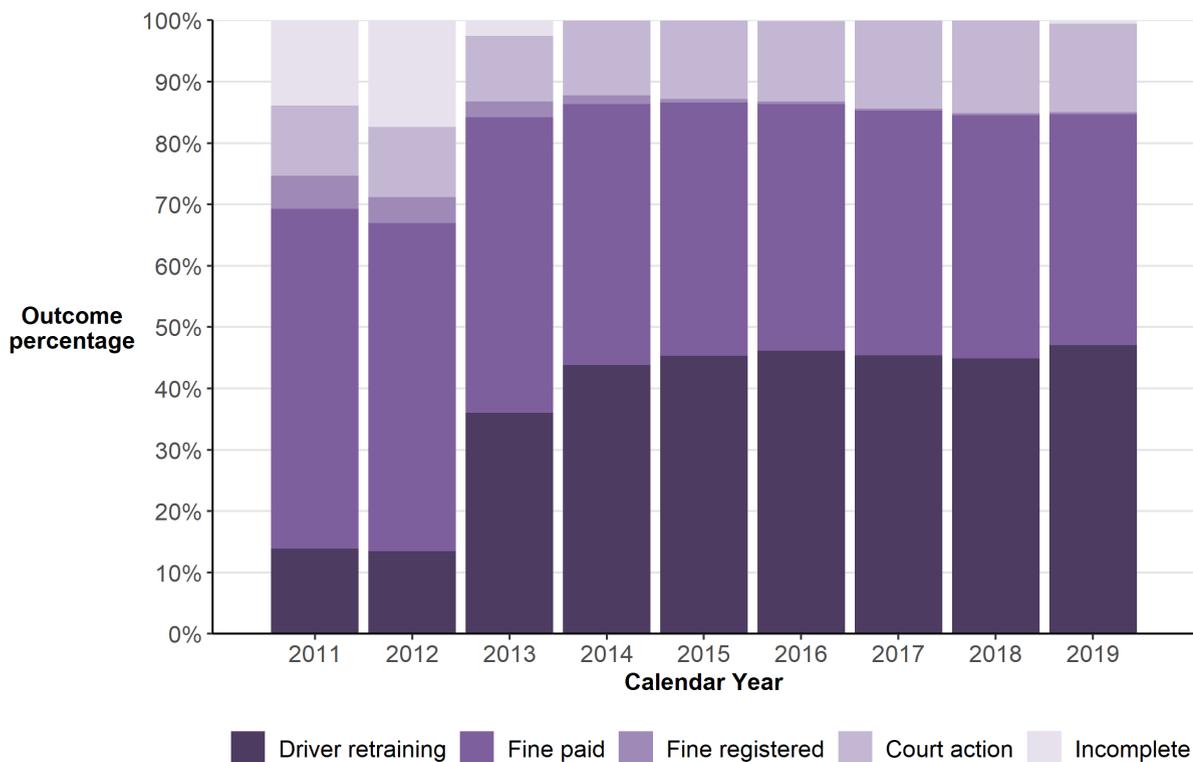
- attend a driver retraining course;
- receive an FPN and pay a fine; or
- court action which may lead to prosecution.

Since 2011 there has been an increase in the number of people attending a driver retraining course as an alternative outcome to paying a fine. In 2011, 14% of individuals found to have committed a motoring offence (excluding cases which were subsequently cancelled) attended a driver retraining course. This proportion showed a large increase between 2011 and 2014 to 44% and has since remained relatively stable, with 47% of individuals having attended a driver retraining course in 2019 (Figure 6.3).

The use of driver retraining courses is at the discretion of the police and the use of such courses can differ by PFA. It is important to note that an individual can only attend a driver retraining course once in a 3-year period for committing the same offence. Therefore, if the individual reoffends and commits the same offence within a three-year period, having previously attended a driver retraining course, they cannot attend again and will be subject to other sanctions.

In 2019, a fine was paid in almost 4 in 10 (38%) of cases (excluding those subsequently cancelled) and the remaining 14% of cases involved court action, similar proportions to the previous year. These statistics do not provide the outcome of those summoned to court. The Ministry of Justice publishes [quarterly statistics](#) on court outcomes including the number of individuals successfully prosecuted for motoring offences.

Figure 6.3 Outcomes following motoring offences, England and Wales, 2011 to 2019^{1,2,3,4}



Source: [FPN 01](#), Home Office

Notes:

1. Excludes FPNs which were subsequently cancelled.
2. Includes offences where an FPN was issued or the individual attended driver retraining or court action.
3. Excludes British Transport Police.
4. There is a large number of incomplete FPNs in 2011 and 2012 due to the transition from VP/FPO to PentiP in 2011. Caution should be taken when looking at the proportion of outcomes for these years.

6.6 DATA QUALITY

From 2011, data have been extracted from the PentiP system, a central database which replaced the Vehicle Procedures and Fixed Penalty Office (VP/FPO) system. VP/FPO data were previously supplied to the Home Office by individual police forces.

In 2017 the Home Office widened the scope of the dataset for Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for motoring offences to include cases where a driver retraining course, such as a speed awareness course, was attended by the individual, as well as cases where an individual faced court action. However, information on the outcome of those summoned to court is not provided and therefore data do not contain the number of individuals prosecuted for motoring offences¹³. A full-time series back to 2011 was published.

Further information can be found in the [user guide](#).

6.7 OTHER DATA SOURCES

Ministry of Justice 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; and
- self-reported mobile phone use while driving

¹³ Ministry of Justice publishes data in its [Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly](#) publication on prosecutions and convictions for motoring offences

7 Breath tests

Key results

In the year ending December 2019:

- There were **302,281 breath tests** carried out by police, **a 11% fall compared with the previous year** (when comparing data for 40 forces who were able to provide full data in both years). This fall continues the **downward trend** seen **since the peak of 698,688 breath tests in 2009**.
- **16%** of breath tests were **positive or refused**, the highest proportion since 2007.
- As in previous years, more breath tests were undertaken in **December** than any other month, coinciding with police drink and drug driving campaigns.

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Under the Road Traffic Act 1988, police may conduct a breath test at the roadside to determine whether motorists are driving with alcohol in their body, beyond the prescribed limit.

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 2019. The data show the number of:

- breath tests carried out by police in England and Wales;
- positive/refused breath tests; and,
- 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](#).

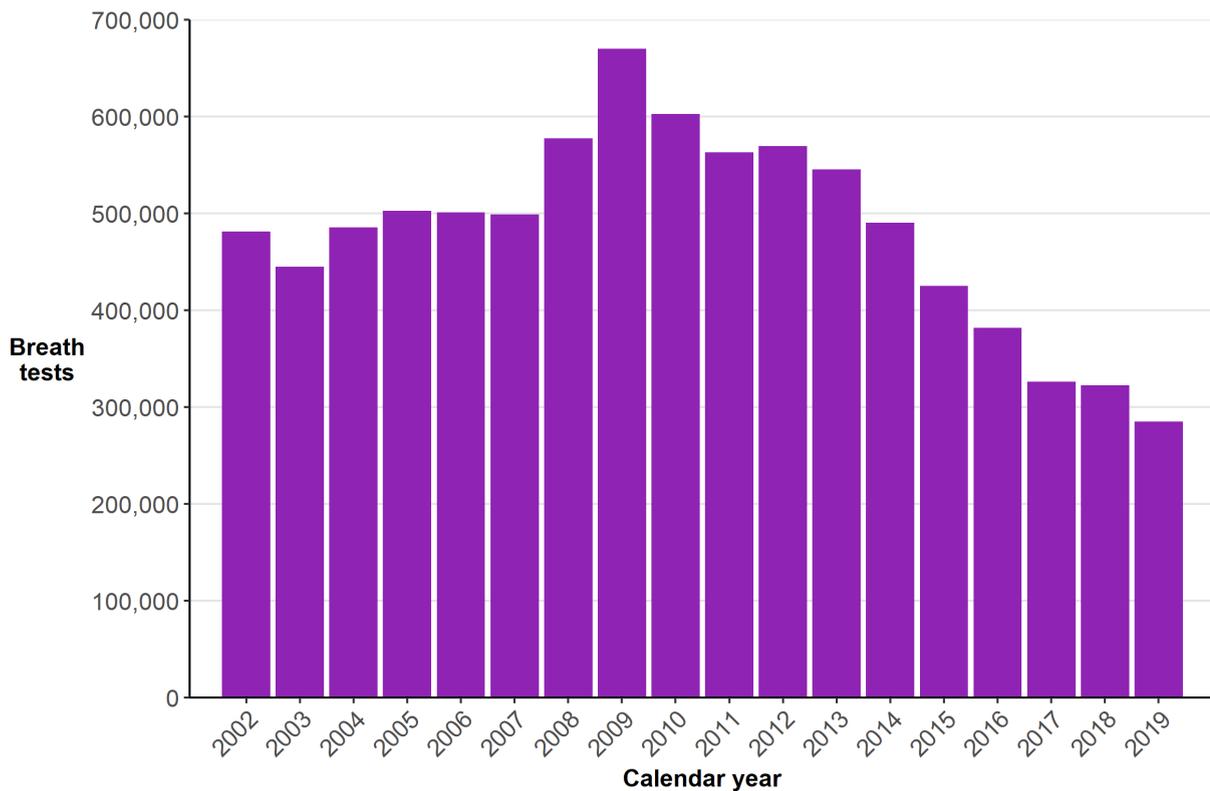
7.2 TRENDS IN BREATH TESTS

The Metropolitan Police were unable to provide complete data for 2019 and are therefore not included in the national totals presented in this chapter and have also been excluded from previous years' totals. Norfolk and Suffolk were unable to provide complete data for 2018 and have also been excluded from any trend analysis to allow like-for-like comparisons.

There were 302,281 breath tests undertaken in 2019 (excluding the Metropolitan Police). When comparing the 40 forces that provided full breath test data in both 2018 and 2019¹⁴, there was an 11% fall compared with the previous year (from 325,203 in 2018 to 289,049 in 2019). This fall continues the downward trend seen since the peak of 698,688 breath tests in 2009 (Figure 7.1).

¹⁴ Metropolitan Police, Norfolk and Suffolk were unable to provide full data in 2018.

Figure 7.1 Number of breath tests carried out by police in England and Wales, 2002 to 2019¹



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

Notes:

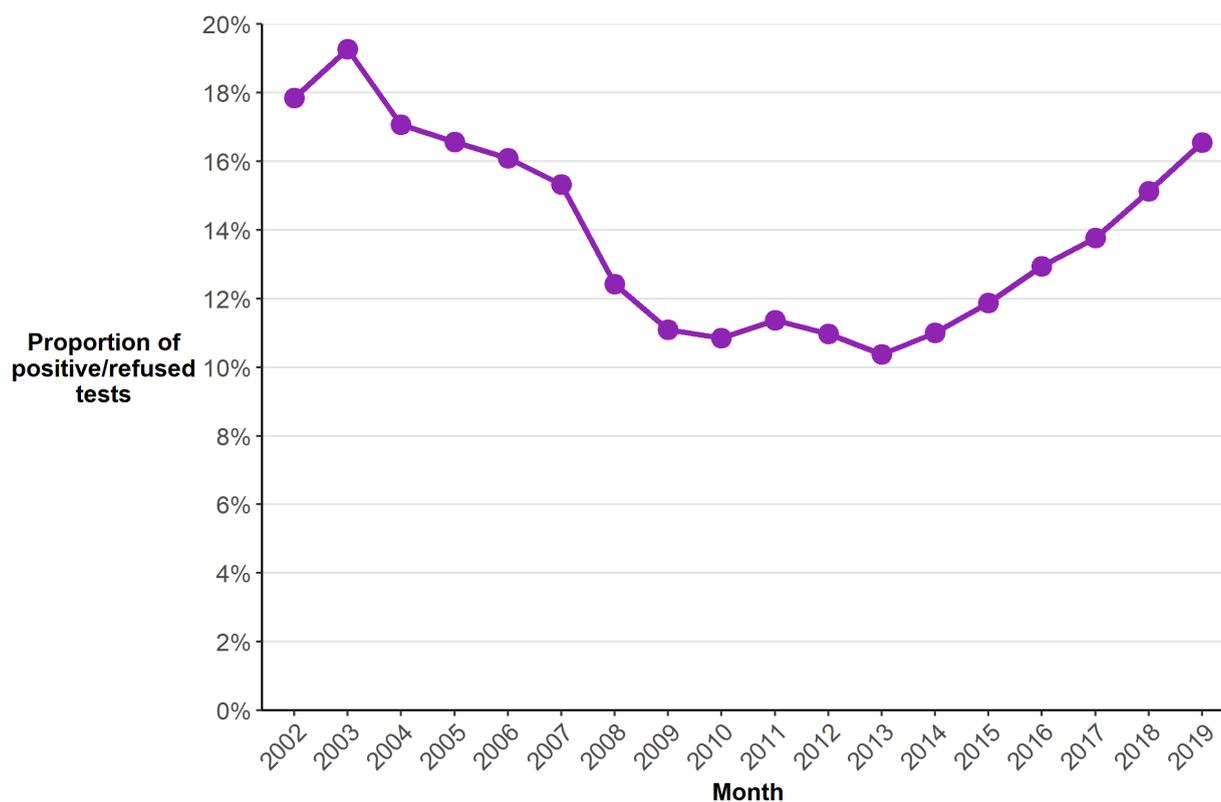
1. Excludes Sussex police, who could not supply complete data in 2017 and Metropolitan, Norfolk and Suffolk police, who could not supply complete data in 2017 or 2018.

In 2019, there were 49,424 positive or refused breath tests (excluding Metropolitan Police data)¹⁵. Based on the 40 forces who supplied complete data for 2018, there was a 3% decrease in the number of positive or refused breath tests in 2019 (from 49,081 to 47,671).

The number of positive or refused breath tests in 2019 represents 16% of the total number of breath tests, the highest proportion since 2007 (Figure 7.2). The proportion of breath tests that were positive or refused gradually fell from 19% in 2003 to 10% in 2013. From 2014 to 2019 there has been a gradual increase in the proportion of breath tests that were positive or refused, from 11% to 16%.

¹⁵ The Metropolitan Police were unable to provide data on the total number of breath tests conducted in 2018 and 2019, however, they were able to supply information on the number of positive tests.

Figure 7.2 Proportion of positive/refused breath tests carried out by police in England and Wales, 2002 to 2019¹



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

Notes:

1. Excludes Sussex police, who could not supply complete data in 2017 and Metropolitan, Norfolk and Suffolk police, who could not supply complete data in 2017 or 2018.

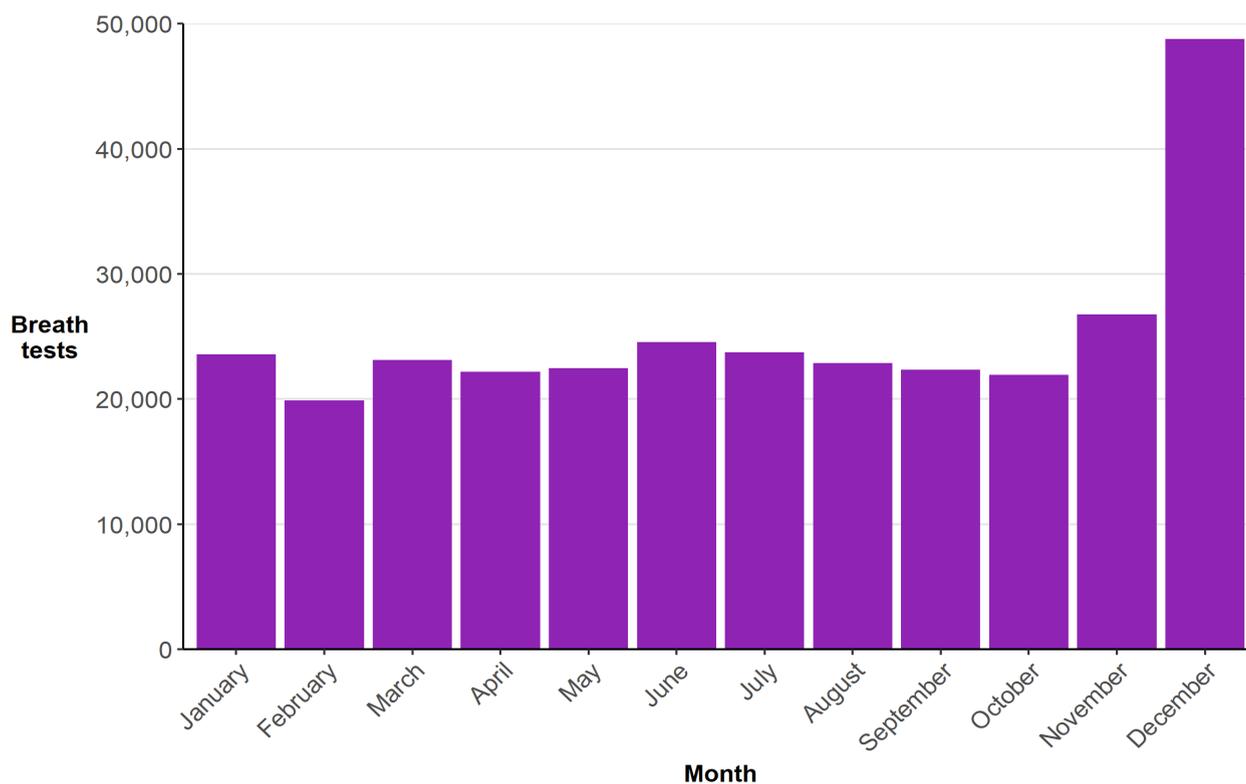
7.3 SEASONAL VARIATION

In 2019, as in previous years, most breath tests were carried out in December (48,804). This comprised 16% of all breath tests in 2019 and coincides with the annual national Christmas drink and drug driving campaign.

Excluding the peak in December, the number of breath tests in each month averaged 23,043. The number of tests carried out in December (48,804) was over twice this monthly average. Although previous years had seen a second peak in June linked with the summer drink and drug driving campaign, this peak was not seen so prominently in the 2019 data.

Despite many more breath tests being conducted in December, the number of positive or refused tests (5,210) showed a relatively small 30% increase compared to the average in other months (4,019), and so the proportion of tests that were positive or refused was much lower in December (11%) than it was throughout the rest of the year (ranging between 15% and 19% in the other months).

Figure 7.3 Number of breath tests carried out by police in England and Wales, by month, 2019¹

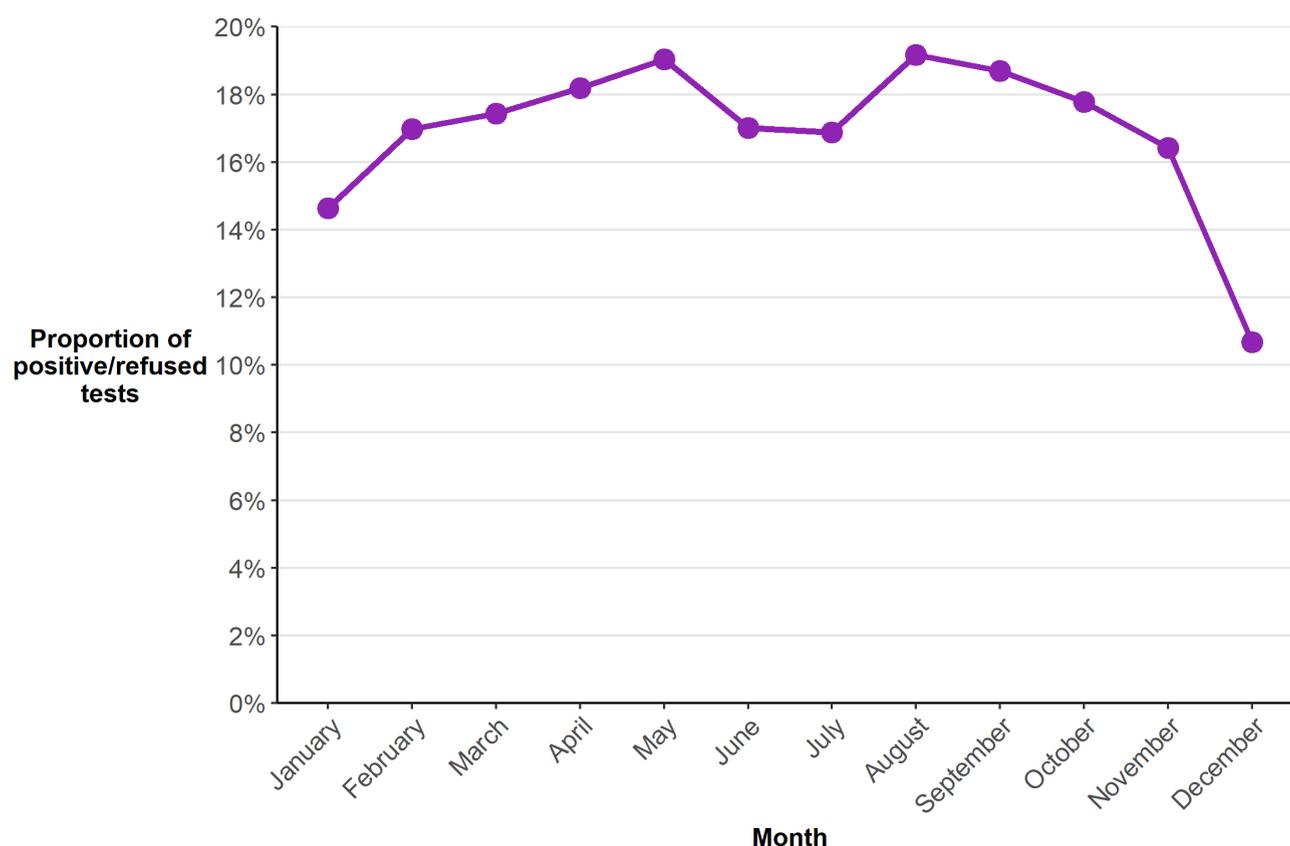


Source: [Breath test table BT.04](#), Home Office

Notes:

1. Excludes the Metropolitan Police

Figure 7.4 Proportion of positive/refused breath tests carried out by police in England and Wales, by month, 2019¹



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

Notes:

1. Excludes the Metropolitan Police

7.4 GEOGRAPHICAL PATTERNS

In 2019, excluding the Metropolitan Police who were unable to supply complete data, 6 breath tests were conducted per 1,000 population across England and Wales. The rate for Wales (10 per 1,000 population) was greater than that for England (6 per 1,000 population), which has been true for recent years. In 2019 this was, in part, due to the relatively large rates of breath tests carried out by North Wales Police (22 per 1,000 population). North Wales and Dyfed-Powys have had higher rates of breath tests compared to the rest of Wales in recent years.

In England, Gloucestershire Constabulary had the highest rate with 11 tests per 1,000 population, as did other non-Metropolitan forces such as Cumbria, Durham, North Yorkshire (all 11 per 1,000 population). Sussex Police had the lowest rate with 2 tests per 1,000 population and Metropolitan forces such as West Midlands (3), GMP (4) and Merseyside (4) tended to have lower rates compared to other forces. The proportion of breath tests that were positive or refused ranged from 4% in Bedfordshire to 35% in Cambridgeshire Police Force Area.

7.5 DATA QUALITY AND INTERPRETING THE FIGURES

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 or not 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 with 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 Department for Transport (DfT). Latest figures were included within DfT's [Reported road casualties in Great Britain: 2019 annual report](#).

8 Detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983

Key results

In the year ending March 2020:

- There were **34,243 detentions** under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. This was a **2% increase** compared with the previous year (when comparing data for 41 forces who were able to provide full data in both years).
- Where the details were known, **55%** were detentions of **males**, **95%** of cases were **adults aged 18 or over** and **86%** were **people from a White ethnic group**.
- Where the details were known, the person being detained was taken to a **health-based place of safety in 73% of cases** (down from 81% of cases the previous year). A fifth (**21%**) were taken to **Accident and Emergency** as a place of safety, and **159 people (0.5%)** were taken to a **police station**.

8.1 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 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. This chapter relates to detentions under section 136 only. See Annex A for information on detentions under section 135 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

Under section 136 of the Act a police officer may remove a person from any place, other than a private dwelling, to a place of safety if, in the officer's judgement, that person appears to be suffering from mental ill health and needs immediate care or control, in the interests of their safety or that of others. The maximum period for which a person can be detained at a place of safety under sections 135 or 136 is usually 24 hours, with the possibility of this period being extended by a further 12 hours in specific circumstances.

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 then 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 the Mental Health Act 1983.

A data collection was developed which requests forces to provide information on the age, gender and ethnicity of people detained, as well as 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).

In the year ending March 2016, the Home Office piloted this new data collection on a voluntary basis, and a response was received from 15 forces. These data were published in an Annex to the [Police Powers and Procedures, year to March 2016](#) statistical release.

This section summarises the findings on detentions under section 136 from the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales, as well as the British Transport Police. Prior to 2016/17, data on the total number of section 136 detentions were collected and published by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), available [here](#).

8.2 DETENTIONS UNDER SECTION 136 OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1983

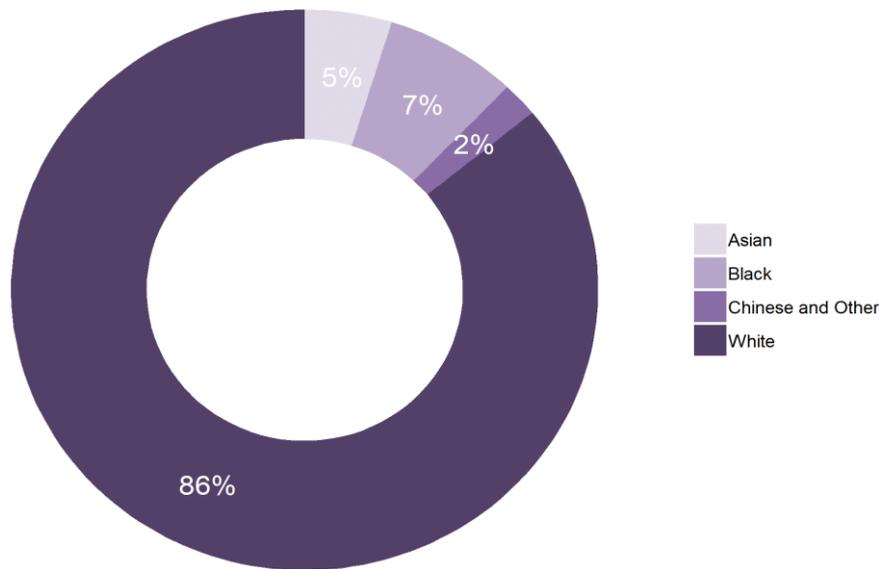
In the year ending March 2020 there were 34,243 detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

When comparing forces who were able to submit complete data in both years¹⁶, there was a 2% increase since 2018/19 (from 31,256 in 2018 to 31,825 in 2019). This continues a trend of increasing numbers of detentions since 2016/17, though is a smaller increase than those since in the previous 2 years of 12% and 13% respectively.

- Of the cases where the gender of the person being detained was recorded, 55% were male detainees.
- The majority of cases (95%) involved adults aged 18 or over (excluding those cases where the age of the person being detained was not recorded).
- In terms of the officer-defined ethnicity of those being detained (excluding those cases where the ethnicity was not recorded):
 - 86% were White
 - 7% were Black
 - 5% were Asian
 - The remaining 2% of people detained were Chinese/Japanese/South East Asian, or of another ethnicity

¹⁶ In 2018/19 Lancashire, Warwickshire and West Mercia stated that new IT systems and/or processes had led to changes in recording of detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act. Therefore, to ensure comparability across year, these forces have been excluded from the calculations for the year on year change.

Figure 8.1 Ethnicity¹ of those detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983, England and Wales, year ending March 2020



Source: [MHA_03](#), Home Office

Notes:

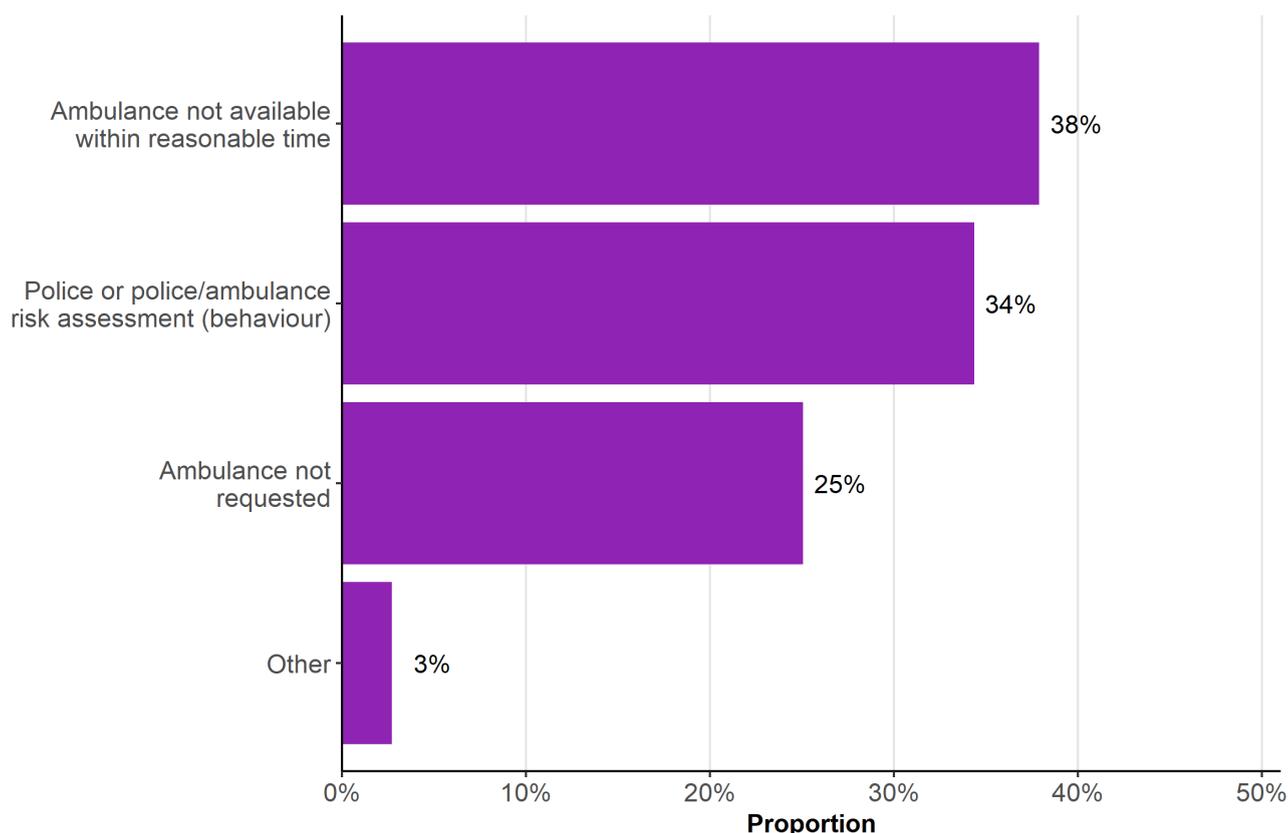
1. Excludes those cases where the ethnicity was not known.

Method of transport to a place of safety

Some forces were unable to distinguish the method of transport used to transport a person to a place of safety. This resulted in the method of transport for approximately one in eight (12%) cases being recorded as “not known”. Of those cases where the method of transport was recorded, a police vehicle was used in 15,326 (51%) of cases. An ambulance was used in a further 13,443 (45%) of cases. The remaining 4% were ‘None (already at a place of safety)’, ‘Other health vehicle’, or ‘Other’.

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 the 15,326 cases where a police vehicle was used, the reason why was “not known” in 2,741 cases (18%). Of those cases where the reason for using a police vehicle was recorded, 4,768 (38%) were because an ambulance was not available in a reasonable amount of time, 4,323 (34%) were because a risk assessment concluded the person being detained should be transported in a police vehicle due to their behaviour and 3,154 (25%) were because an ambulance had not been requested. The remaining cases (3%) were for other reasons including where an ambulance was re-tasked to a higher priority call and when an ambulance crew refused to convey.

Figure 8.2 Reasons for using a police vehicle to transport a detainee to a place of safety^{1,2}, England and Wales², year ending March 2020



Source: [MHA_04b](#), Home Office

Notes:

1. Excludes those cases where the reason for using a police vehicle was not known.
2. Other includes cases where an ambulance was re-tasked to a higher priority call and when an ambulance crew refused to convey.

Place of safety

Following a detention under section 136 of the Mental Health Act, a place of safety was recorded in 92% of cases. Of the cases where the place of safety was known, almost three-quarters (73%) of detainees was taken to a health-based place of safety (HBPOS), down from 81% in the previous year, and lower than the year ending March 2018 (85%). Around a fifth (21%) of people were taken to Accident and Emergency as a place of safety, up from 17% in the previous year. 159 people (0.5%) were taken to a police station, the same proportion as in the previous year.

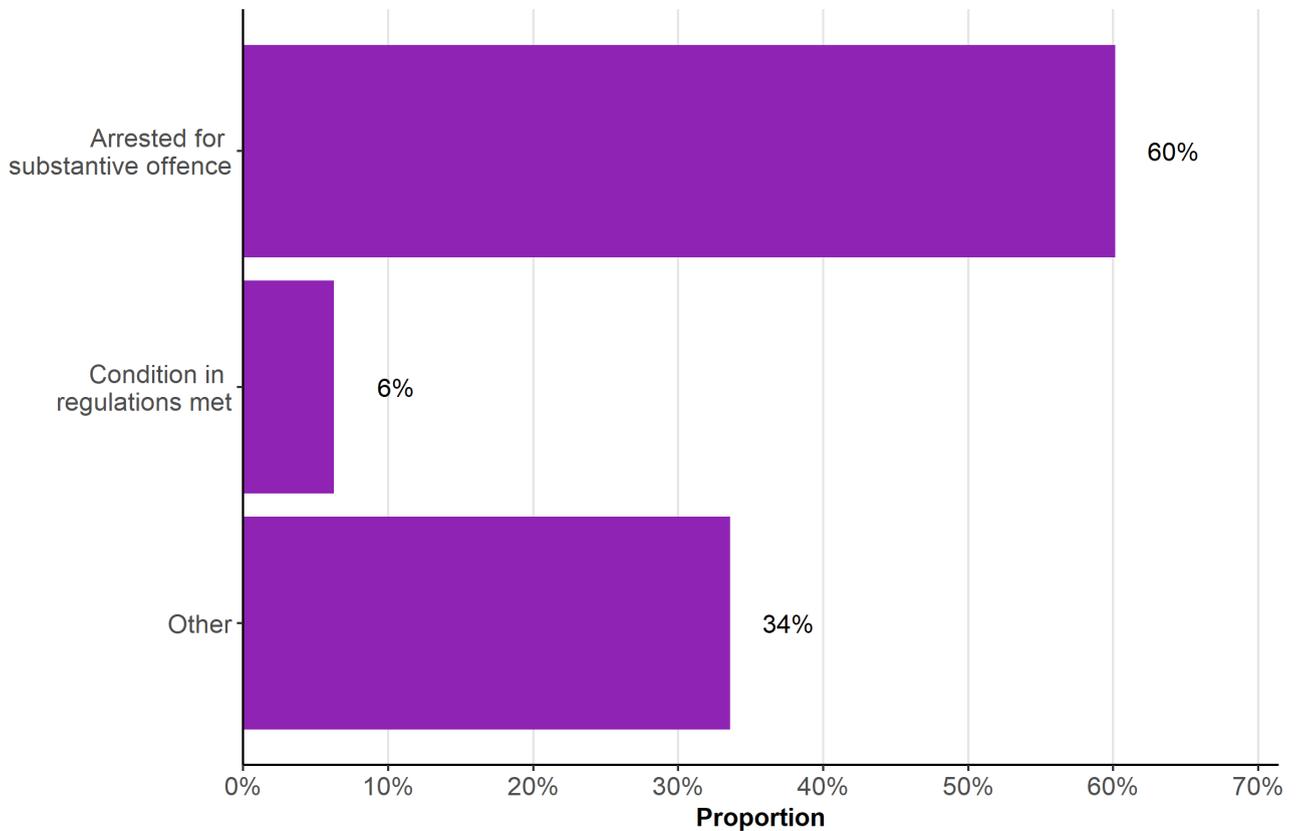
In those cases where the person being detained was taken to a police station (excluding those cases where the reason is not known):

- 60% were arrested for committing an offence
- 6% were because conditions in Regulations were met¹⁷

¹⁷ The conditions in the regulations that need to be met for police custody to be used as a place of safety are: 1. The person is over 18. 2. The behaviour of the adult poses an imminent risk of serious injury or death to that person or others.

- 34% were for another reason

Figure 8.3 Reasons for the detainee being taken to a police station¹, England and Wales², year ending March 2020



Source: [MHA 05b](#), Home Office

Notes:

1. Excludes those cases where the reason for using a police station was not known.

New provisions contained in the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and designed to improve outcomes for people in mental health crisis, came into effect on 11 December 2017. These included banning the use of police cells for under 18s in mental health crisis and ensuring that they can only be used as a place of safety for adults in genuinely exceptional circumstances.

Of the 1,561 detentions of those aged under 18 years old, a police station was used as a place of safety 8 times (0.5%). This is similar to the proportion of detainees held in a police station who were aged over 18 (143 out of 32,350 detentions, 0.4%).

3. Because of the risk posed, no place of safety other than a police station can reasonably be expected to detain the adult. 4. So far as is reasonably practicable, a healthcare professional is present and available to the detainee throughout the period in which they are detained at the police station. Further guidance is available here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656025/Guidance_on_Police_Powers.PDF ”

8.3 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.

Annex A Experimental Statistics – Detentions under section 135 of the Mental Health Act 1983

A.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 section 135 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

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 premise 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 premise 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.

This is the first year in which data on detentions under section 135 of the Act has been provided by all 43 forces. However, some of these forces have raised quality concerns with their data, therefore data in this chapter give an indicative picture only and should be treated with caution.

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 future. The Home Office is working with forces to understand the issues they face with this data collection and will consider whether any changes to the data return requirement are needed.

A.2 KEY FINDINGS

In the year ending March 2020, there were around 2,540 detentions under section 135 of the Mental Health Act. This is a fall of 8% from last year, following 3 years of increasing numbers of section 135 detentions (when analysing forces that had submitted data in all years).

- Of the cases where the gender of the person being detained was recorded, 58% were male detainees.

- The vast majority (99%) 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):
 - 65% were White
 - 23% were Black
 - 8% were Asian
 - the remaining 4% of people detained were Chinese/Japanese/South East Asian, or of another ethnicity.
- The Metropolitan Police accounted for 44% of all detentions (Table A1).

Table A.1 Section 135 detentions, by Police Force Area and gender, year ending March 2020¹

England and Wales		<i>Numbers</i>			
PFA code	Police Force Area	Gender			Total
		Male	Female	Not known	
E23000013	Cleveland	0	0	0	0
E23000008	Durham	10	3	6	19
E23000007	Northumbria	44	35	0	79
E12000001	North East Region	54	38	6	98
E23000006	Cheshire	3	4	0	7
E23000002	Cumbria	26	20	4	50
E23000005	Greater Manchester	12	8	0	20
E23000003	Lancashire	45	28	0	73
E23000004	Merseyside	20	9	0	29
E12000002	North West Region	106	69	4	179
E23000012	Humberside	2	2	0	4
E23000009	North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0
E23000011	South Yorkshire	76	38	0	114
E23000010	West Yorkshire	18	13	0	31
E12000003	Yorkshire and the Humber Region	96	53	0	149
E23000018	Derbyshire	12	4	0	16
E23000021	Leicestershire	75	33	0	108
E23000020	Lincolnshire	6	14	0	20
E23000022	Northamptonshire	1	3	0	4
E23000019	Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0
E12000004	East Midlands Region	94	54	0	148
E23000015	Staffordshire	17	4	0	21
E23000017	Warwickshire	5	3	0	8
E23000016	West Mercia	11	9	0	20
E23000014	West Midlands	31	12	0	43
E12000005	West Midlands Region	64	28	0	92
E23000026	Bedfordshire	3	4	0	7
E23000023	Cambridgeshire	13	5	0	18
E23000028	Essex	87	50	0	137
E23000027	Hertfordshire	4	6	0	10
E23000024	Norfolk	36	19	0	55
E23000025	Suffolk	15	10	1	26
E12000006	East of England Region	158	94	1	253

Police powers and procedures, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2020

E23000034	London, City of	0	0	0	0
E23000001	Metropolitan Police	593	510	5	1108
E12000007	London Region	593	510	5	1,108
E23000030	Hampshire	0	0	0	0
E23000032	Kent	11	5	0	16
E23000031	Surrey	55	41	0	96
E23000033	Sussex	33	18	0	51
E23000029	Thames Valley	61	57	0	118
E12000008	South East Region	160	121	0	281
E23000036	Avon and Somerset	6	6	0	12
E23000035	Devon and Cornwall	56	39	0	95
E23000039	Dorset	12	8	0	20
E23000037	Gloucestershire	5	5	0	10
E23000038	Wiltshire	14	5	0	19
E12000009	South West Region	93	63	0	156
E92000001	ENGLAND	1,418	1,030	16	2,464
W15000004	Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0
W15000002	Gwent	25	7	0	32
W15000001	North Wales	0	0	14	14
W15000003	South Wales	11	19	0	30
W92000004	WALES	36	26	14	76
	British Transport Police	-	-	-	-
K04000001	ENGLAND AND WALES	1,454	1,056	30	2,540

Source: Home Office

Notes: ' - ' = Nil

' .. ' = Not available

1. Due to the provisional and incomplete nature of this dataset, these statistics have been designated as **Experimental Statistics**.

Annex B Experimental Statistics – Pre-charge bail

B.1 INTRODUCTION

Pre-charge bail, also known as police bail, is granted by the police under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) to individuals that have been arrested on suspicion of a criminal offence, but where there are no grounds to keep them in detention while the investigation continues.

Applying bail conditions means that the police can manage a suspect effectively within the community while further investigations progress. Pre-charge bail can be made subject to conditions under the Bail Act 1976. Conditions may be necessary in order to ensure that the suspect:

- surrenders to custody at the end of the bail period;
- does not commit an offence while on bail;
- does not interfere with witnesses; and,
- does not otherwise obstruct the course of justice.

Conditions may typically include:

- a ban on leaving the country, including a requirement to surrender a passport;
- not being allowed to enter a certain area, such as the home of the alleged victim;
- a ban on using the internet; and,
- not being allowed to communicate with certain people, e.g. victims, witnesses or known associates.

On 3 April 2017, the Policing and Crime Act 2017 was announced which introduced measures to limit pre-charge bail periods aiming to rebalance the use of bail in the interests of fairness. Prior to this there had been cases where suspects had been on bail for lengthy periods without being formally charged. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 limited pre-charge bail to an initial period of 28 days. It is still possible for police to secure an extension beyond the initial period of 28 days where it is appropriate and necessary, for example in complex cases. One extension of up to 3 months can be authorised by a senior police officer at superintendent level or above. In exceptional circumstances, where the police need to keep an individual on bail for longer, they will have to apply to a magistrate for further bail.

Data Collected

From April 2017 the Home Office has requested information on a voluntary basis from police forces on the number of individuals released on pre-charge bail following an arrest, broken down by bail length. This new data collection was introduced to understand to what

extent forces were using pre-charge bail following the reforms to conditions of the power as anecdotal evidence suggested that usage had declined. The analyses in this chapter is based on data received from 40 police forces for the 2019/20 financial period. Some of these forces identified quality concerns with their data, including partial returns. Therefore, data in this chapter give an indicative picture only, and should be treated with caution.

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 future. The Home Office is working with forces to understand the issues they face with this data collection and will consider whether any changes to the data return requirement is needed. The Home Office is considering the feasibility of collecting further custody data to provide more insight in this area.

B.2 KEY FINDINGS

In the year ending March 2020, based on a subset of 40 police forces in England and Wales, there were around 153,527 individuals released on pre-charge bail, an increase of 81% (up from 84,221 individuals) compared to the previous year. Of the 153,527 cases:

- 53% were released on bail for 28 days or less;
- 78% were released on bail for 3 months or less; and,
- 22% were released on bail for more than 3 months.

These proportions are the same as last year.

Table B.1 Pre-charge bail durations, year endings March 2019 and 2020^{1,2}

Bail duration	2018/19	2019/20	Percentage change
0 to 7 days	6,040	8,264	37%
8 to 14 days	4,429	7,858	77%
15 to 21 days	10,283	20,852	103%
22 to 28 days	27,756	44,230	59%
29 days to 3 months	18,229	38,149	109%
3 to 6 months	8,773	21,164	141%
6 to 12 months	6,479	10,666	65%
More than 12 months	2,232	2,344	5%
Total	84,221	153,527	81%

Source: Home Office

Notes:

' - ' = Nil

1. Due to the provisional and incomplete nature of this dataset, these statistics have been designated as **Experimental Statistics**.
2. Data are based on a subset of 40 police forces in England and Wales who provided data in both years.

HOSB 31/20

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