



27 October 2016

Statistical News Release

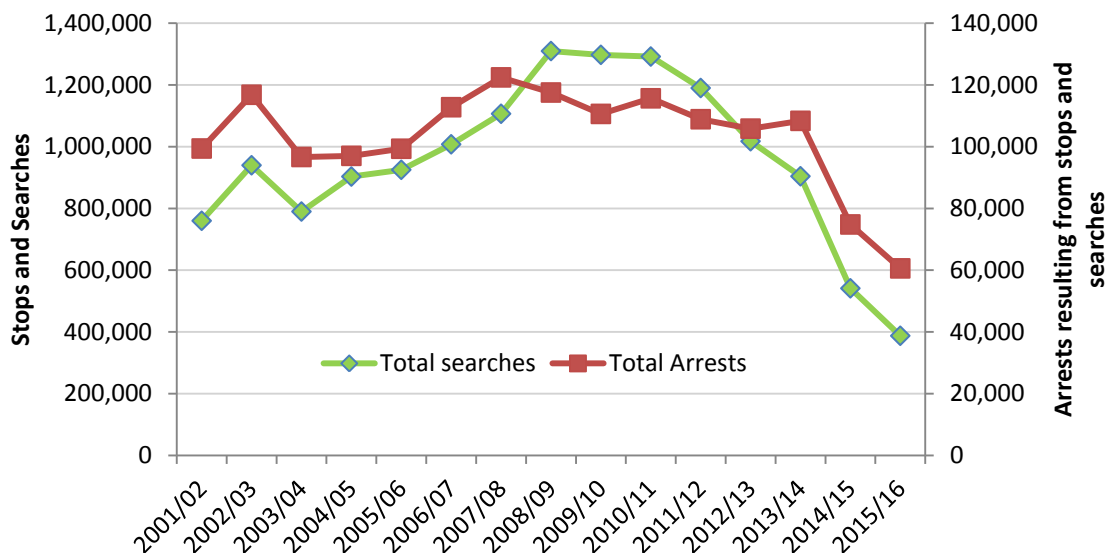
Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2016

This National Statistics release contains figures on arrests, detentions, road checks, intimate searches, stops and searches, breath tests, fixed penalty notices, and detentions under the Mental Health Act. The key findings are as follows:

Stop and Search

- There were 387,448 stops and searches conducted by police in England and Wales, a fall of 28% compared with the previous year and the lowest number since the current data collection began in 2001/02.
- The number of arrests resulting from stops and searches fell by 19% from the previous year, also to the lowest number since the current collection began (60,571).

Figure 1: Number of stops and searches and resultant arrests, 2001/02 to 2015/16



1. Stops and searches include those under section 1 PACE and section 60. Section 44 and 47a stops are excluded due to a change in the legislation that means that none of these stops have been carried out since 2010/11.

- 16% of stops led to an arrest, up 2 percentage points compared with 14% in the previous year, and the highest rate since the collection began.

- Since the year ending 31 March 2015, stops on White individuals (down 38%) fell by more than stops on BME individuals (down 13%) and Black individuals (down 8%). Since the year ending 31 March 2011, stops on all three groups have fallen by the same amount (72%).

Best Use of Stop and Search (Experimental Statistics)

Provisional data are presented, based on 17 forces that provided data for 2015/16. They show that:

- In around one in five stops and searches the outcome of the search was linked to the initial reason for the search.
- An outcome other than 'No further action' was given in 24% of stops and searches.

Arrests

- There were 896,209 arrests carried out by police in England and Wales in the year ending 31 March 2016, a fall of 5% on the previous year, and continuing the downward trend since a peak in 2007/08 (when there were almost 1.5 million arrests).
- Falls have been seen for almost all reasons for arrest over time, with the exception of sexual offences (up 18%). The increase in number of these arrests corresponds with an increase in the number of police recorded sexual offences.

Fixed Penalty Notices

- There were just over 1 million fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued for motoring offences by police in England and Wales in 2015, a fall of 1% compared with the previous year. However, the number of FPNs issued for speed limit offences increased by 6% over this period.

Breath Tests

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

Detentions under the Mental Health Act (Experimental Statistics)

Provisional data are presented, based on 15 forces that provided data for 2015/16. They show that:

- in half of all detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act, the person detained was escorted to a place of safety in a police vehicle. In 40% of these cases it was because an ambulance was not available in reasonable time.
- In around one in ten cases the person detained was taken to a police station. In 62% of these cases, this was because there was no capacity at the health based place of safety.

Notes to editors

1. 'Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2016' is available via the GOV.UK website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales-year-ending-31-march-2016>

2. Tables providing a greater level of detail on each of the topics, and a User Guide giving further information about the measures, are also published.

For all press enquiries, please contact the Home Office Press Office who will liaise with Home Office Statistics:

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