



# NISRA

Northern Ireland  
Statistics and Research Agency

Gníomhaireacht Thuaisceart Éireann  
um Staitisticí agus Taighde

# Northern Ireland Youth Justice Agency Annual Workload Statistics

## 2019/20

T. Brown







15 October 2020



Department of  
**Justice**

An Roinn Dí agus Cirt  
Máinnstríe O tha Laa

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# 1 | Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the workload delivered by the Youth Justice Services (YJS) and Custodial Services (Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre, (JJC)) directorates within Youth Justice Agency (YJA) during 2019/20 and how it has changed over time. The key findings are summarised below -

- The number of referrals to the YJS in 2019/20 was 1,631, a decrease of 4.7% from 2018/19 (1,712).
- Diversionary referrals (41.9%; 684) accounted for the largest proportion of all referrals in 2019/20, followed by Court Ordered (28.7%; 468) and Earlier Stage Interventions (16.9%; 275).
- The number of individuals referred to YJS in 2019/20 (957) decreased by 2.0% from the previous year (977).
- The total number of individuals in custody decreased by 21.3% (160, 2018/19; 126, 2019/20).
- As in previous years males accounted for the majority of YJS referrals (79.6%) and of children referred to YJS (78.2%) and in custody (85.7%).
- Approximately two thirds of total referrals and individuals referred to YJS during 2019/20 were aged 15 and over (70.9% and 67.9% respectively); the corresponding figure for children in custody was 85.7%.
- Two out of three children in custody in 2019/20 were Catholic (66.7%); 12.7% were Protestant.
- Just under two fifths of children in custody were in care (23.8% subject to a care order; 15.1% were voluntary accommodated).
- In terms of local government district, Belfast had the highest number of YJS referrals (406) and admissions to custody (116). Belfast also had the highest number of children referred to YJS (247) or in custody (40).
- In 2019/20 there was a total of 6,177 days of custody provided by the JJC, 4.9% lower than in 2018/19 (6,497) and 33.4% lower than in 2015/16 (9,268). Of these days 3.5% were for PACE, 66.7% for remand and 29.7% for sentence.
- The total number of admissions to the JJC was 11.6% lower in 2019/20 (298) than in 2018/19 (337). Overall movements within the JJC, that is new admissions plus internal changes of status, such as PACE to Remand, was 9.0% lower in 2019/20 (416) than in the previous year (457).
- Of the 1,246 statutory referrals during 2019/20, the highest proportion involved violence against the person (34.3%; 428).

## 2 Introduction

### Context

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

### Youth Justice Services (YJS)

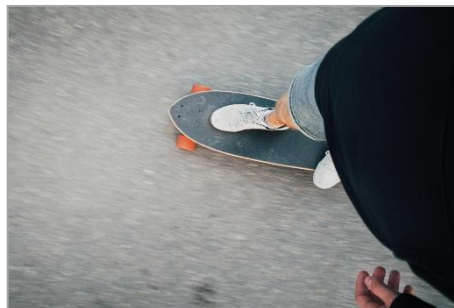
The YJS directorate provides a range of services for children, their families, communities and victims via five area teams spread across the province – Belfast, Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western.

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

### Custodial Services

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

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



# 2 | Introduction

## About this report

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

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

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

- The YJS statistics in this report relate specifically to referrals received from the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) and the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS). These figures do not reflect the number of plans/orders made by PPS/NICTS as children may withdraw their consent and receive another disposal. In addition an agreement can be reached at the conference for no further action to be taken against the young person i.e. a plan is not required. We also receive voluntary referrals which are reported in Section 3.
- In terms of individual involvement with the YJA, a child is counted on their first involvement with each individual business area, YJS and JJC, within the given year. Each child therefore will only be counted once within each of the two business areas. For example, a child who has been in contact with both JJC and YJS in 2019/20 will be counted once in the JJC statistics and once in the YJS statistics for 2019/20.
- In terms of individual children involved with the JJC on an annual basis, individuals are counted on their first movement within the JJC during each financial year; therefore a child will only be counted once within a given financial year but could be counted within more than one financial year. Admissions is the total number of times children have been admitted to the JJC during each financial year as some children may be admitted to custody on more than one occasion. Movements constitutes admissions plus any changes of status within JJC.
- The primary data source for this report is the YJA's case management system, used for the day to day management of cases supervised by the Agency, both within a custodial and community setting.
- Information is based on data extracted after 1<sup>st</sup> July each year, for example the data for 2019/20 will be extracted after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.
- Statistics from youth engagement clinic referrals are not included in this report but are available in a separate report ([Youth Engagement Statistics for Northern Ireland](#)).

# 3

## Youth Justice Services

### About this chapter

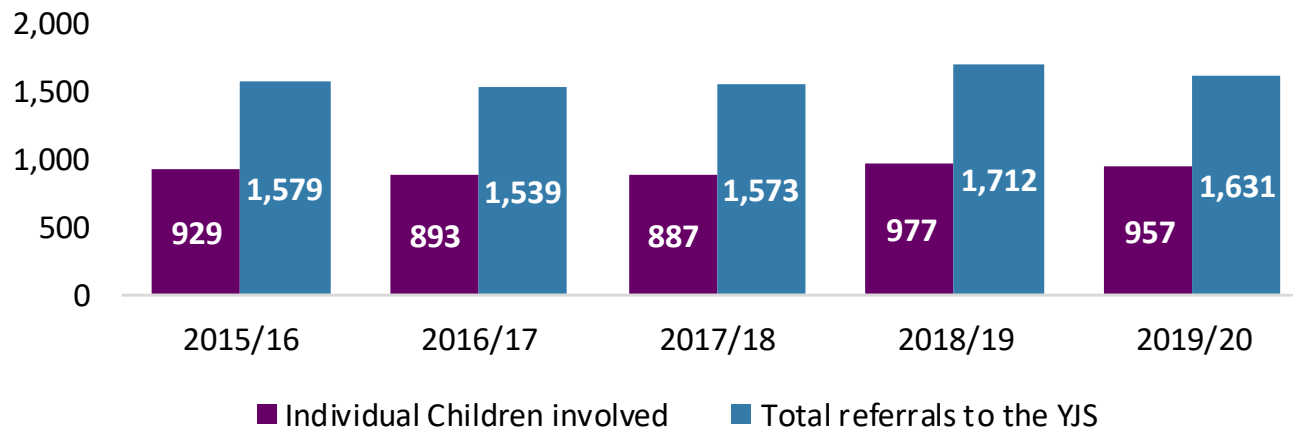
This chapter provides an overview of the gender, age and area of residence of children in contact with and total referrals to the YJS during 2019/20. It also includes an offence type profile of referrals to the YJS during 2019/20. The total number of referrals to the YJS is the measure for YJS workload. A full breakdown of all the data is detailed in Appendix 3. Information relating to religion is collected via a Section 75 Equality monitoring form. A response to the monitoring form is not compulsory and as a result the YJS figures are low; a breakdown by religion has therefore not been included.

### Number of children referred and total referrals to YJS

During 2019/20, 957 individual children were referred to YJS, equating to 5.0 children in every 1,000<sup>1</sup> and a decrease of 2.0% on 2018/19 (977); total referrals to the YJS (1,631) decreased by 4.7% on the previous year (1,712) (Figure 1; [Table 1, Appendix 3](#)).

Insight – The higher numbers in the last two years than previously seen are most likely related to the focus by YJA on earlier stage intervention which provides support to children on the cusp of or involved in the early stages of offending to help divert them from the formal criminal justice system

Figure 1: Individual children referred and total referrals to YJS, 2015/16 to 2019/20



<sup>1</sup>Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The number of children aged 10 to 17 in Northern Ireland on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 was 191,790. Population data source: 2019 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland

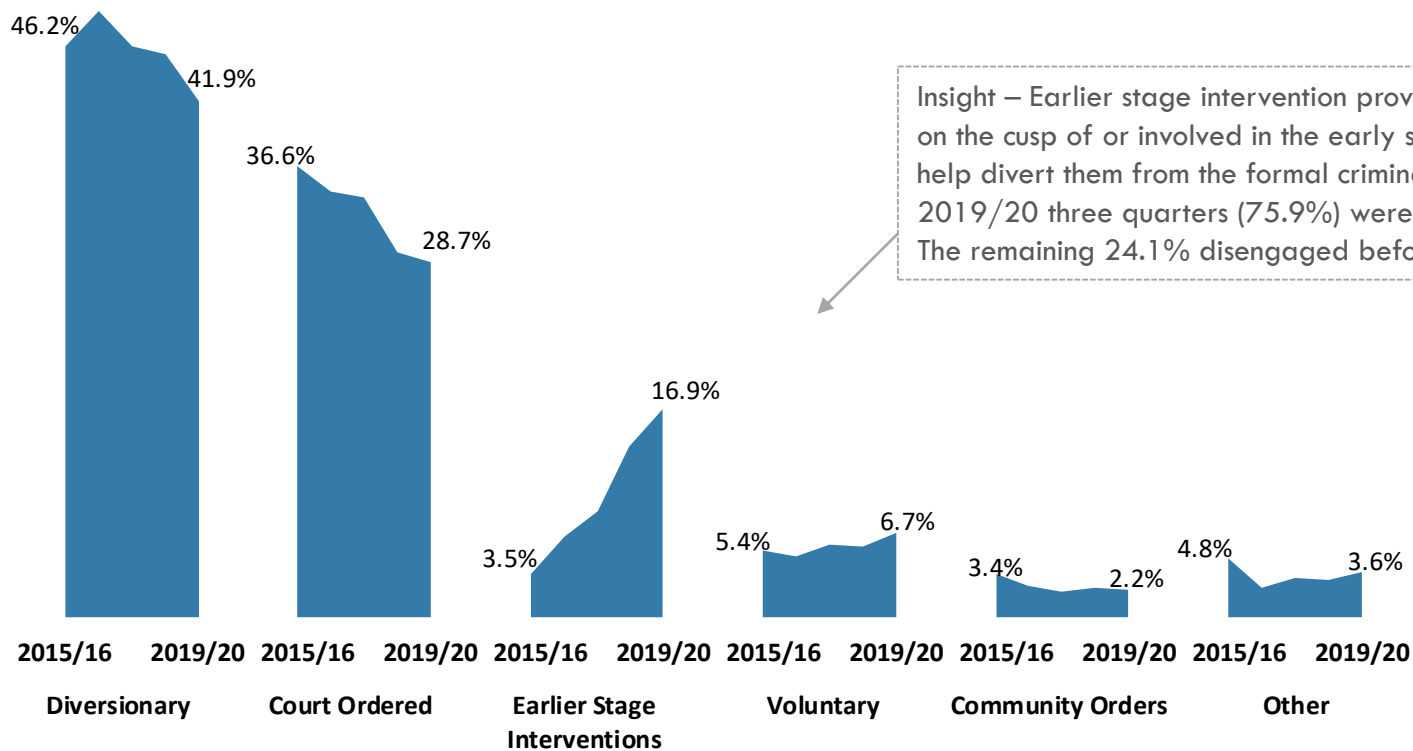
# 3

## Youth Justice Services

### Types of referral

The proportion of diversionary referrals over the past 5 years has ranged between 41.9% and 46.2% of all referrals; the figure for 2019/20 was 41.9%. There has been a decrease of almost 8 percentage points in the proportion of court ordered referrals since 2015/16 (36.6%; 28.7% in 2019/20). In contrast there has been a notable increase in the proportion of Earlier Stage Interventions (16.9%, 2019/20; 3.5%, 2015/16). The remaining referrals in 2019/20 were made up of voluntary referrals (6.7%), community orders<sup>1</sup> (2.2%) and other referrals<sup>2</sup> (3.6%) (Figure 2; [Table 2, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 2: YJS referrals by type, 2015/16 to 2019/20



<sup>1</sup>Community order referrals include attendance centre orders, community responsibility orders and reparation orders.

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

# 3

## Youth Justice Services

### Gender

In 2019/20 males accounted for 78.2% of individual children referred and 79.6% of referrals to the YJS. With the exception of the latest year (2019/20), there has been a year on year decrease in the proportion of referrals involving males over the previous four years from 80.2% in 2015/16 to 77.3% in 2018/19. In 2019/20 females accounted for 21.4% of children referred and 20.0% of referrals to YJS (Figure 3; [Tables 3 and 4](#), [Appendix 3](#)).

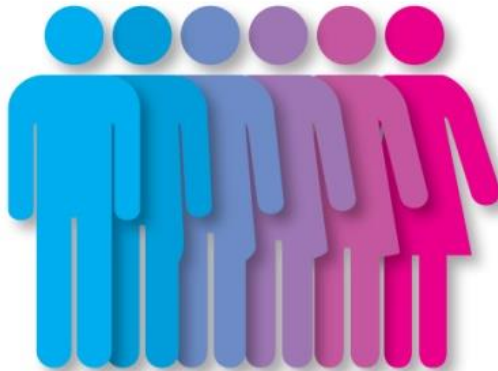
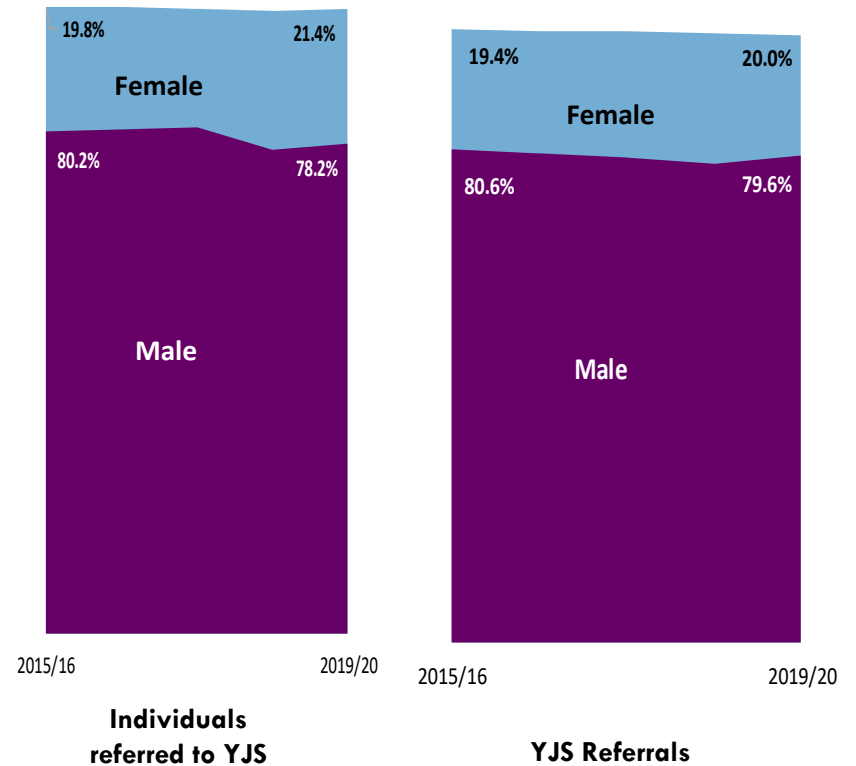


Figure 3: Gender breakdown<sup>1</sup> of individual children referred and referrals to YJS, 2015/16 to 2019/20



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



# 3

## Youth Justice Services

### Age

Children aged 15 and over accounted for 67.9% of individual children referred and 70.9% of referrals to YJS during 2019/20 (Figures 4 and 5; [Tables 5 and 6, Appendix 3](#)). The proportion of individual children referred and referrals in this age bracket has decreased over the five year period (80.4% and 81.6% respectively in 2015/16).

There has however been an increase in the proportion of 10 to 13 year olds of over 7 percentage points for individual children referred and over 6 percentage points for total referrals. This increase is most likely due to the focus by YJA on earlier stage intervention. The proportion of individuals aged 14 has increased over the five year period to its highest level in 2019/20 (15.8%).



Figure 4: Age breakdown of Individual Children referred to YJS, 2015/16 to 2019/20

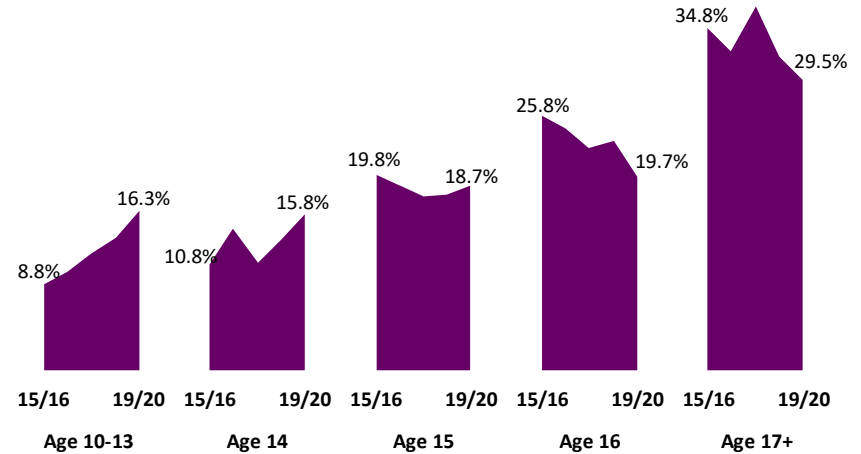
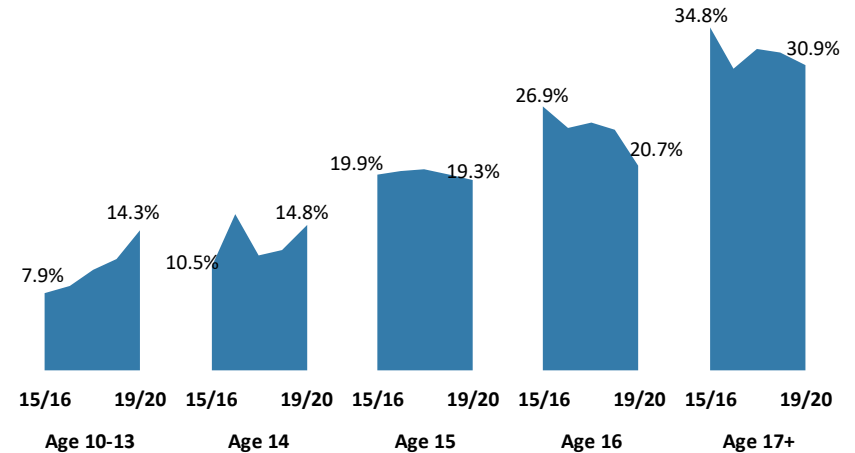


Figure 5: Age breakdown of YJS referrals, 2015/16 to 2019/20

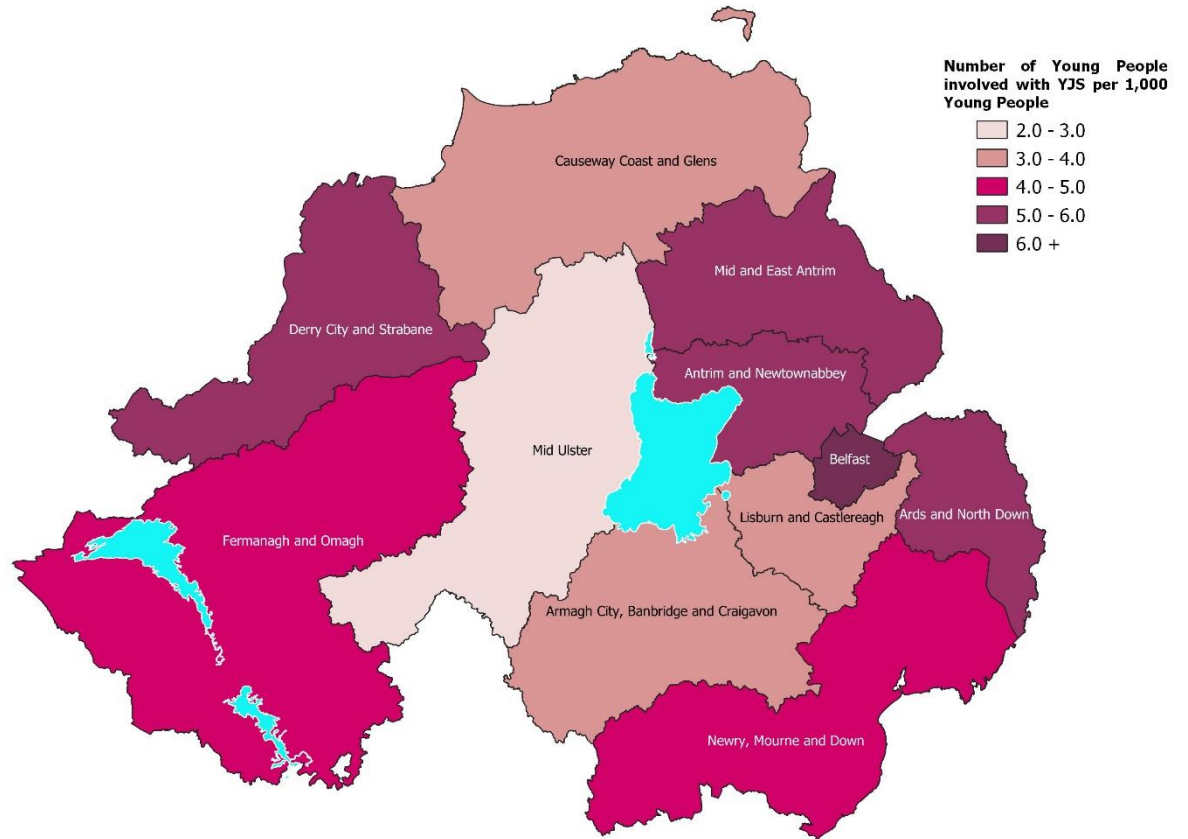


# 3 Youth Justice Services

## Individuals by area of residence

Figure 6 shows the number of individual children referred to YJS by local government district in 2019/20. At 7.8 per 1,000 population<sup>1</sup> aged 10 to 17, Belfast had the highest number. This was followed by Derry City and Strabane (5.9) and Mid and East Antrim (5.6). The lowest rate seen was in Mid Ulster (2.6). [Table 7 in Appendix 3](#) provides a breakdown of figures for the last five financial years.

Figure 6: Individual children referred to YJS by area of residence, 2019/20



<sup>1</sup> Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30th June 2019. Population data source: 2019 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland.

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

# 3

## Youth Justice Services

### Referrals by area of residence

Table 1 shows the number of referrals by area for the last five years. Belfast had the largest number during 2019/20 (406, 24.9%). This was followed by Derry City and Strabane (176, 10.8%), Ards and North Down (159, 9.7%), Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (140, 8.6%), and Fermanagh and Omagh districts (138, 8.5%). Mid Ulster had the lowest number of referrals (72, 4.4%) with the remaining districts ranging between 5.7% and 7.7% of referrals (Table 8, Appendix 3).

Table 1: Referrals by area of residence, 2015/16 to 2019/20

Area	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Antrim and Newtownabbey	109	96	88	87	111
Ards and North Down	202	242	197	208	159
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	134	138	121	147	140
Belfast	422	406	363	415	406
Causeway Coast and Glens	90	86	137	109	95
Derry City and Strabane	195	169	117	172	176
Fermanagh and Omagh	87	86	75	95	138
Lisburn and Castlereagh	56	58	56	98	93
Mid and East Antrim	84	93	106	108	126
Mid Ulster	71	52	79	80	72
Newry, Mourne and Down	129	111	153	163	112
Resident outside NI	0	2	0	0	0
Unassigned <sup>1</sup>	0	0	81	30	3
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>1,631</b>

<sup>1</sup>Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases.

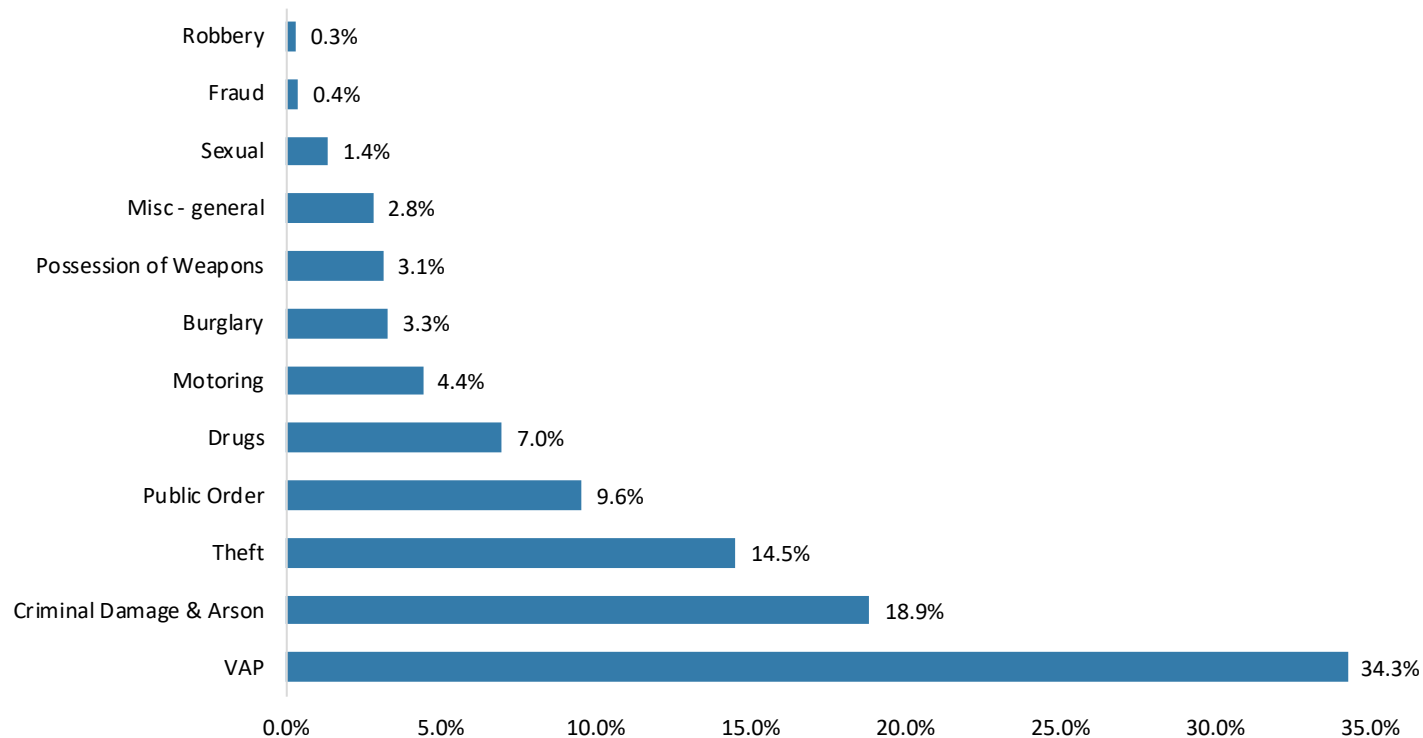
# 3

## Youth Justice Services

### Offence type

Of the 1,246 statutory referrals during 2019/20, the highest proportion involved violence against the person (34.3%; 428), followed by criminal damage and arson (18.9%, 235), theft (14.5%; 181), public order (9.6%; 119) and drugs related offences (7.0%; 87). The remaining categories each came in at under 5.0% with robbery being the lowest (0.3%; 4) (Figure 7, [Table 9 Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 7: Statutory Referrals by offence type, 2019/20



# 4

## Custodial Services

### About this chapter

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

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

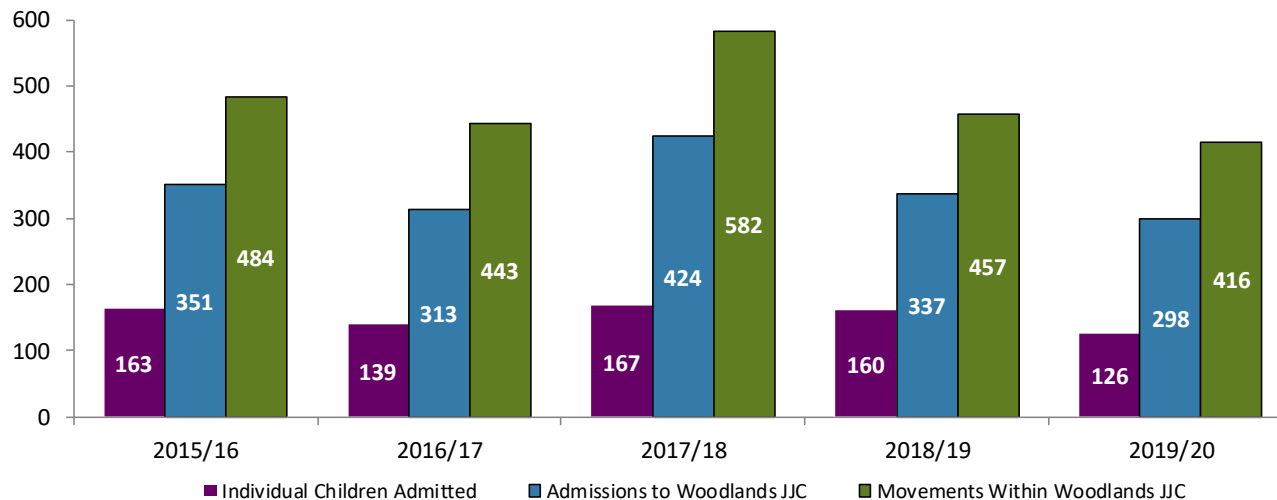
### Individual Children Admitted, Total Admissions and Total Movements within JJC

The number of individual children admitted to the JJC decreased by 21.3% from 160 in 2018/19 to 126 in 2019/20. The latest figure equates to less than one young person in every 1,000<sup>1</sup> in Northern Ireland (Figure 8; [Table 10](#), [Appendix 3](#)).

Over the five year period, admissions to the JJC have ranged between 298 and 424. In 2019/20, the number of admissions to the JJC was 298.

There were 416 movements within JJC in 2019/20, a decrease of 9.0% on 2018/19 (457).

Figure 8: Individual Children Admitted, Total Admissions and Total Movements within JJC, 2019/20



<sup>1</sup>Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The number of children aged 10 to 17 in Northern Ireland on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 was 191,790. Population data source: 2019 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland

# 4 | Custodial Services

## Admissions and movements by status

In 2019/20 there were 298 admissions to the JJC (Figure 8) - 197 (66.1%) related to PACE, 95 (31.9%) to remand and the remaining 6 (2.0%) were sentence admissions. Over the past five years there has been a general increase in the proportion of admissions attributed to PACE (58.1% in 2015/16; 66.1% in 2019/20) although the number of PACE admissions has reduced by 7. The proportions of admissions attributed to remand and sentence have both decreased over the five year period (35.9% to 31.9% and 6.0% to 2.0% respectively) (Figure 9; [Table 11, Appendix 3](#)).

Of the 416 movements within JJC in 2019/20, 197 (47.4%) related to PACE, 190 (45.7%) to remand and 29 (7.0%) were sentence movements. Numbers of PACE and remand movements have decreased by 13.6% and 5.9% respectively on 2018/19 (PACE, 228; Remand, 202). The proportion of sentence movements has decreased by more than five percentage points over the five year period (12.4% in 2015/16; 7.0% in 2019/20) (Figure 10; [Table 12, Appendix 3](#)).



Figure 9: Admissions by status, 2015/16 to 2019/20

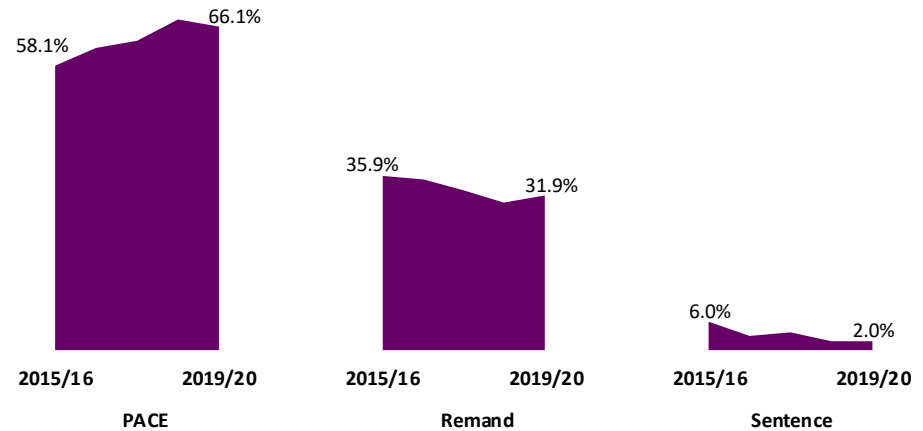
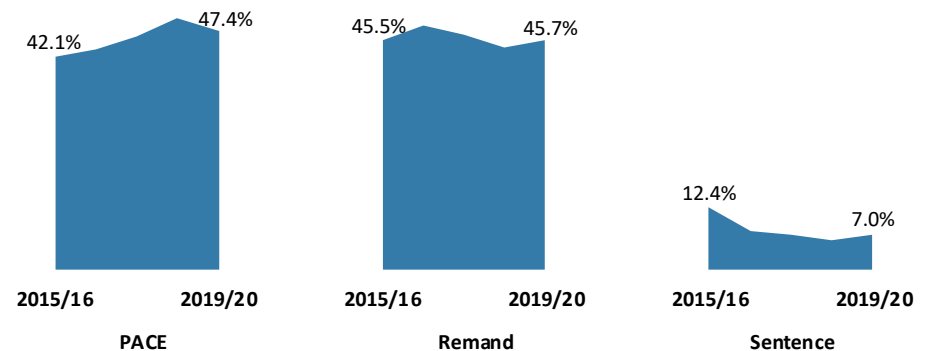


Figure 10: Movements by status, 2015/16 to 2019/20



# 4

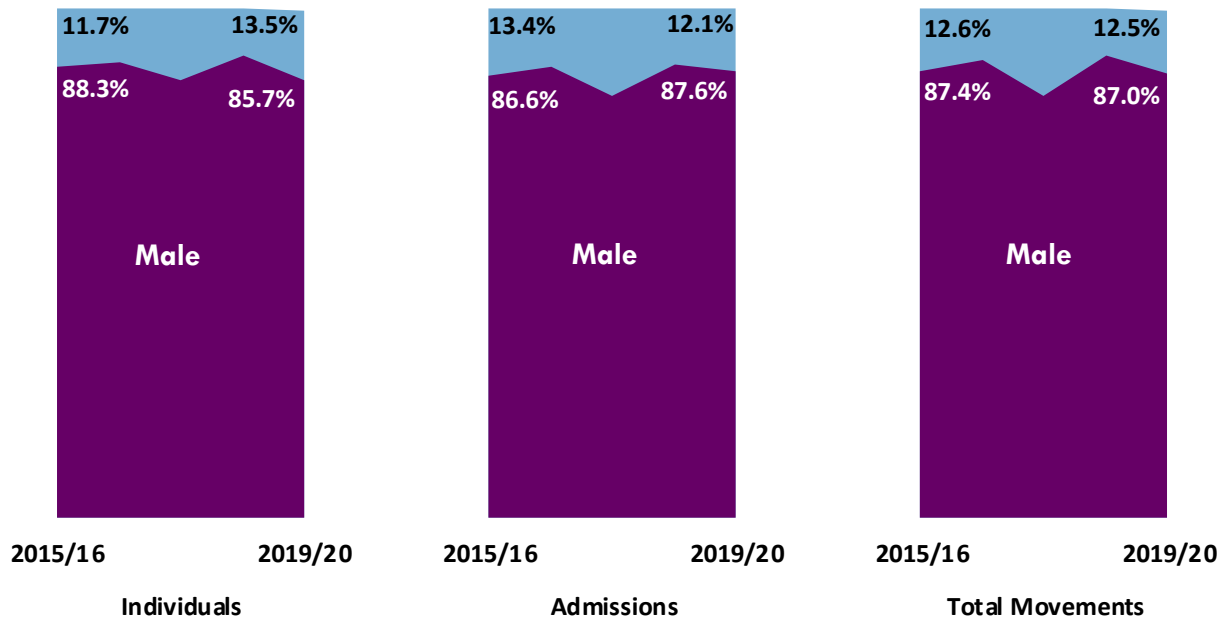
## Custodial Services

### Gender

Males consistently accounted for the vast majority of individual children in custody, admissions to and movements within the JJC over the last five years (Figure 11; [Tables 13-15, Appendix 3](#)). In terms of individuals, children in the JJC in 2019/20 were predominantly male (85.7%), a reduction of almost five percentage points on 2018/19 (90.6%) (Table 13, Appendix 3).

The proportion of admissions accounted for by males has ranged between 82.8% (2017/18) and 88.7% (2018/19). In 2019/20 the proportion of total admissions accounted for by males was 87.6% (Table 14, Appendix 3).

Figure 11: Gender breakdown<sup>1</sup> of individuals, admissions to and total movements within the JJC, 2015/16 to 2019/20



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

# 4 Custodial Services

## Age

In 2019/20, 108 (85.7%) of the 126 children in custody were aged 15 and over, a decrease from 2018/19 (143, 89.4%) (Figure 12; [Table 16, Appendix 3](#)).

Over the five year period the biggest change in the proportion of admissions was in those aged 10-13 (2.3% to 7.4%). The proportion of admissions for those aged 17 and over accounted for just under one third of JJC admissions (32.6%), the lowest over the period (Figure 13; [Table 17, Appendix 3](#)).

The proportions of total movements reflects the admission proportions with the biggest change being in those aged 10-13 (2.1% to 7.5%) and movements for those aged 17 and over being at its lowest level for the five year period (34.4%) (Figure 14; [Table 18, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 12: Age breakdown of individual children in custody, 2015/16 to 2019/20

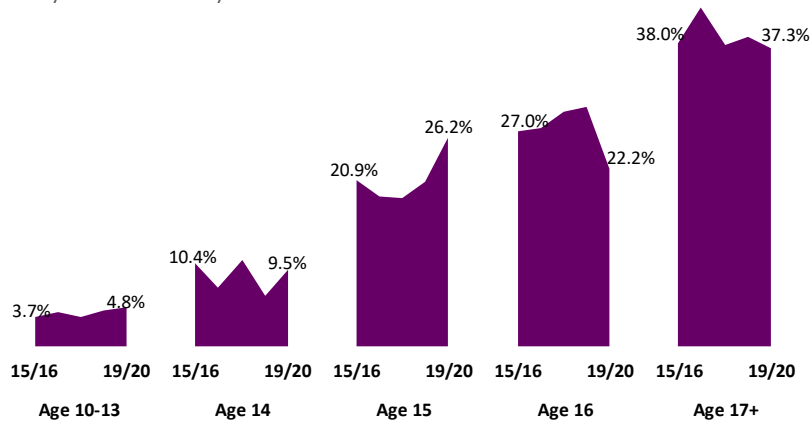


Figure 13: Age breakdown of admissions to JJC, 2015/16 to 2019/20

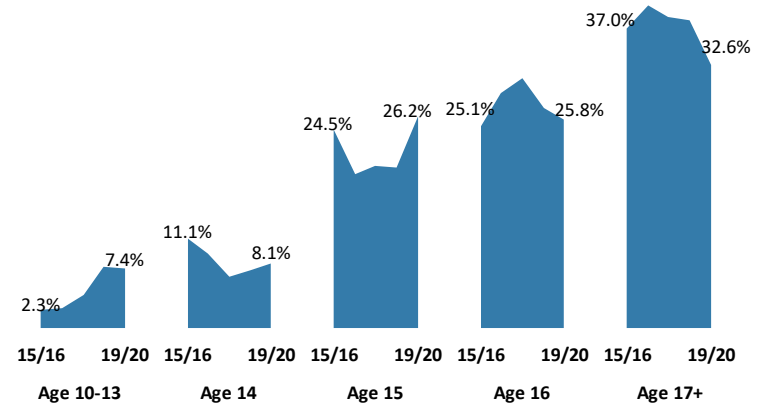
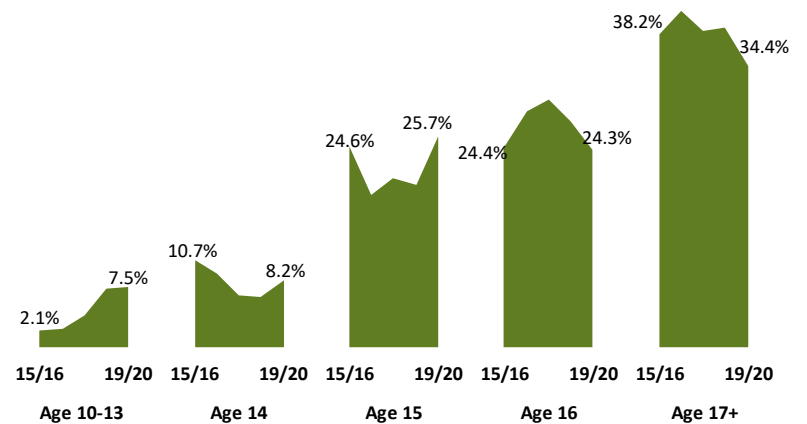


Figure 14: Age breakdown of total movements within JJC, 2015/16 to 2019/20





# 4 | Custodial Services

## Religion<sup>1</sup>

In 2019/20, two out of three children in custody were Catholic (66.7%). A further 12.7% were Protestant, 2.4% had other religious beliefs, 5.6% had no religious belief and the remaining 12.7% were unknown (Figure 15; [Table 19, Appendix 3](#)).

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20 the majority of admissions and total movements involved young Catholics. In 2019/20, 68.1% of admissions and 68.3% of all movements involved young Catholics. The proportions of young Protestants for admissions and total movements were 19.1% and 19.7% respectively. The remainder involved children of other or no religious belief or for whom the information was unknown (Figures 16 and 17; [Tables 20 and 21, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 15: Religion breakdown of individuals involved with JJC, 2015/16 to 2019/20

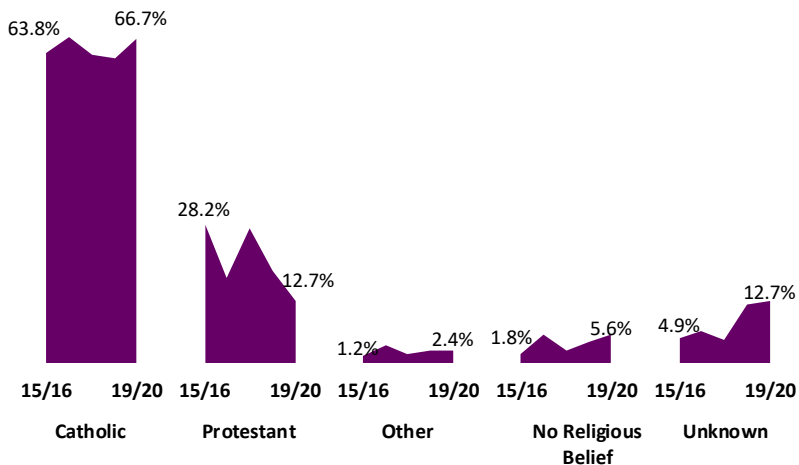


Figure 16: Total admissions by religion, 2015/16 to 2019/20

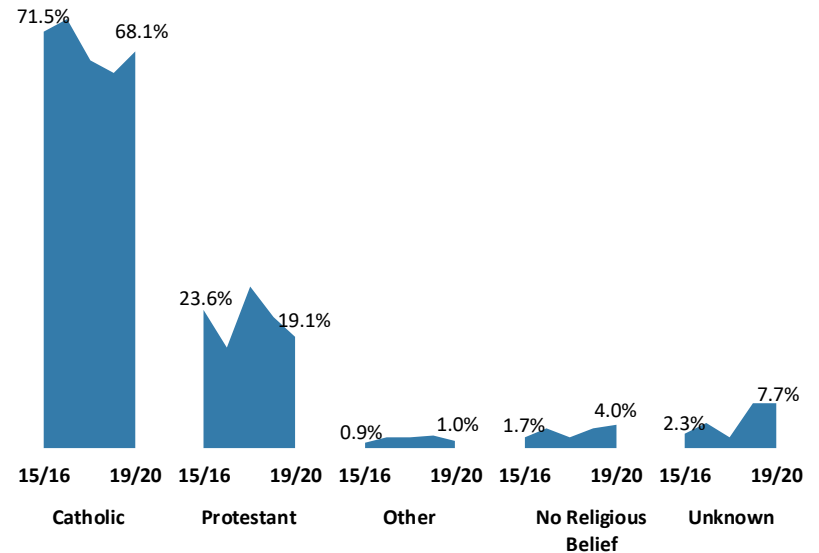
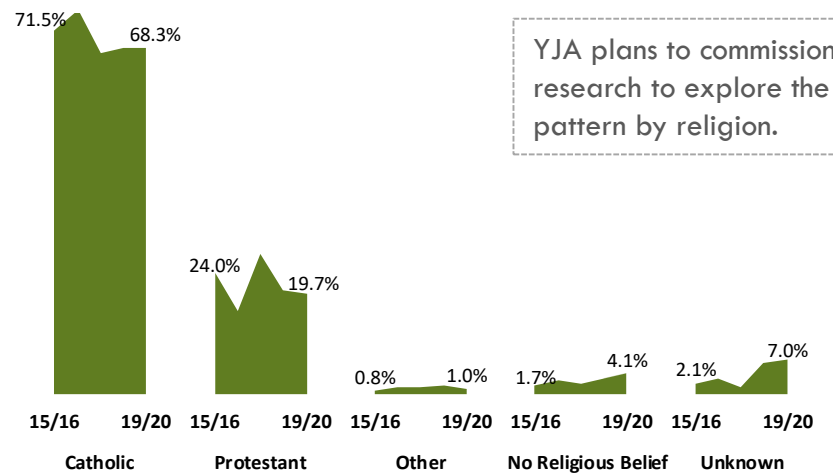


Figure 17: Movements by religion, 2015/16 to 2019/20



YJA plans to commission research to explore the pattern by religion.

<sup>1</sup> Unlike other demographic information this is self-reported by the child and can therefore not be validated

# 4 | Custodial Services

## Looked after status

Figure 18 shows the proportion of children in custody by their looked after status over the past five years. In 2019/20, just under two fifths were in care (23.8% were subject to a care order and 15.1% were voluntary accommodated). With the exception of 1.6%, whose care status was unknown, the remaining children were not in care (59.5%) ([Table 22, Appendix 3](#)).

The proportion of admissions to and movements within the JJC involving children subject to care orders or in voluntary accommodation have increased since 2015/16 (36.5%; 36.2%) to 51.7% and 51.0% respectively in 2019/20 (Figures 19 and 20; [Tables 23 and 24, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 18: Looked after status<sup>1</sup> of children in custody, 2015/16 to 2019/20

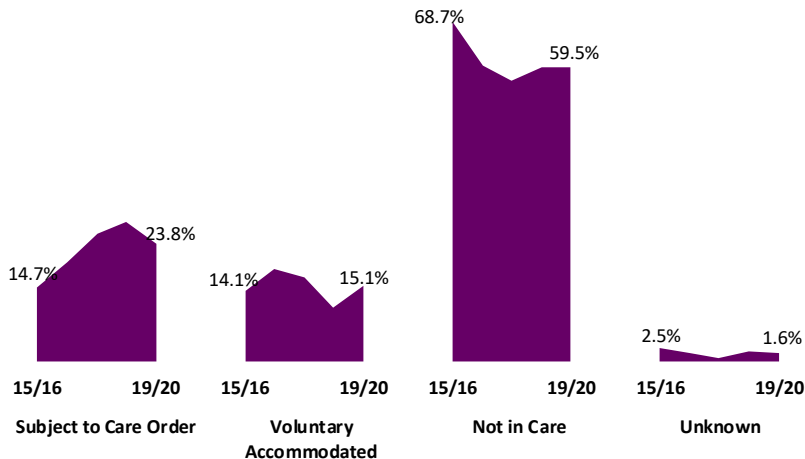


Figure 19: Admissions to JJC by looked after status, 2015/16 to 2019/20

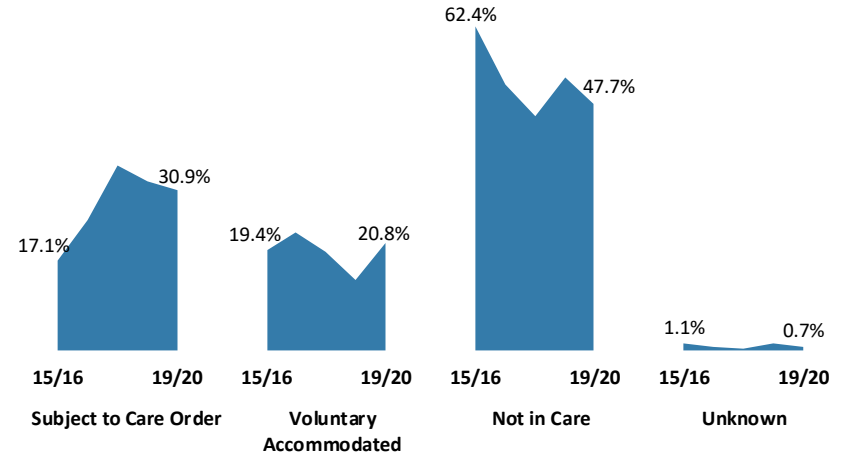
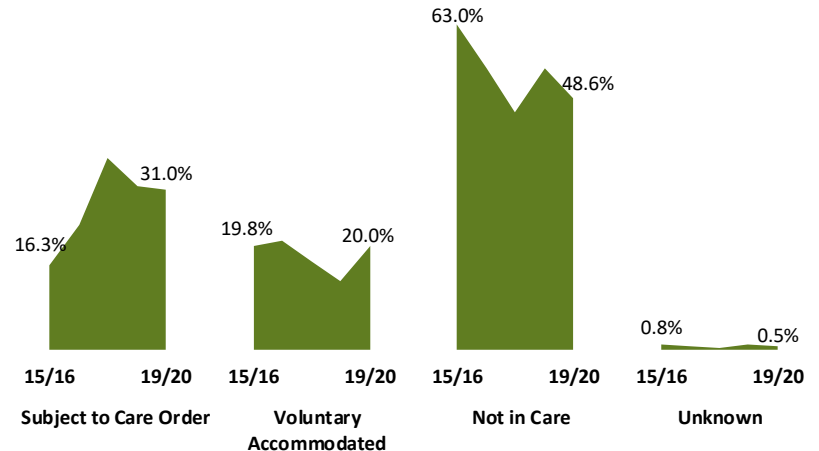


Figure 20: Total movements within JJC by looked after status, 2015/16 to 2019/20



<sup>1</sup>Looked after status is determined based on the young person's first movement within the relevant financial year.

# 4 Custodial Services

## Area of residence

Table 2 shows that Belfast consistently accounted for the largest number of children in custody over the five year period - 40 of 126 in 2019/20 (31.7%). This was followed by Derry City and Strabane (17.5%) and Ards and North Down (9.5%). In 2019/20, Derry City and Strabane had the highest rate per 1000 population<sup>1</sup> aged 10 to 17 at 1.4 followed by Belfast at 1.3 and Ards and North Down at 0.8 ([Table 25, Appendix 3](#)).

The largest number of both admissions to and movements within JJC (116 and 155 respectively) were also from the Belfast area followed by Derry City and Strabane (47; 65) and Ards and North Down (43; 60) ([Tables 26 and 27, Appendix 3](#)).

Table 2: Children in Custody by area of residence, 2015/16 to 2019/20

Area	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Antrim and Newtownabbey	11	6	9	8	3
Ards and North Down	13	19	15	13	12
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	8	10	11	11	10
Belfast	61	47	40	44	40
Causeway Coast and Glens	10	7	14	6	2
Derry City and Strabane	25	19	23	17	22
Fermanagh and Omagh	5	4	8	7	6
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1	4	8	8	4
Mid and East Antrim	5	3	10	8	4
Mid Ulster	10	5	8	12	3
Newry, Mourne and Down	12	7	9	13	11
Resident outside NI	2	4	7	9	5
Unassigned <sup>2</sup>	0	2	5	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>126</b>

Area	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.2
Ards and North Down	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.8
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Belfast	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.3
Causeway Coast and Glens	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.1
Derry City and Strabane	1.6	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.4
Fermanagh and Omagh	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3
Mid and East Antrim	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.3
Mid Ulster	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.2
Newry, Mourne and Down	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.6
Resident outside NI	..	..	..	..	..
Unassigned <sup>2</sup>	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases.

# 4 | Custodial Services

## Average population

In 2019/20 the total average daily population in the JJC was 17 children. This figure is the lowest in the five year period which has ranged from 17 to 25 (2015/16).

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

There has been a general reduction in the JJC population over the last 5 years. The highest level recorded in 2019/20 was 28, with this figure ranging between 28 and 35 (2015/16) over the five year period. The minimum monthly population during 2019/20 was 9, higher than the 2018/19 minimum level (7) (Figure 22).

Figure 21: Average population by status, 2015/16 to 2019/20

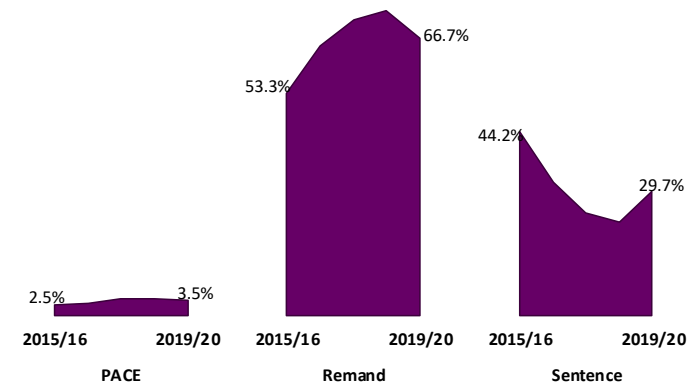
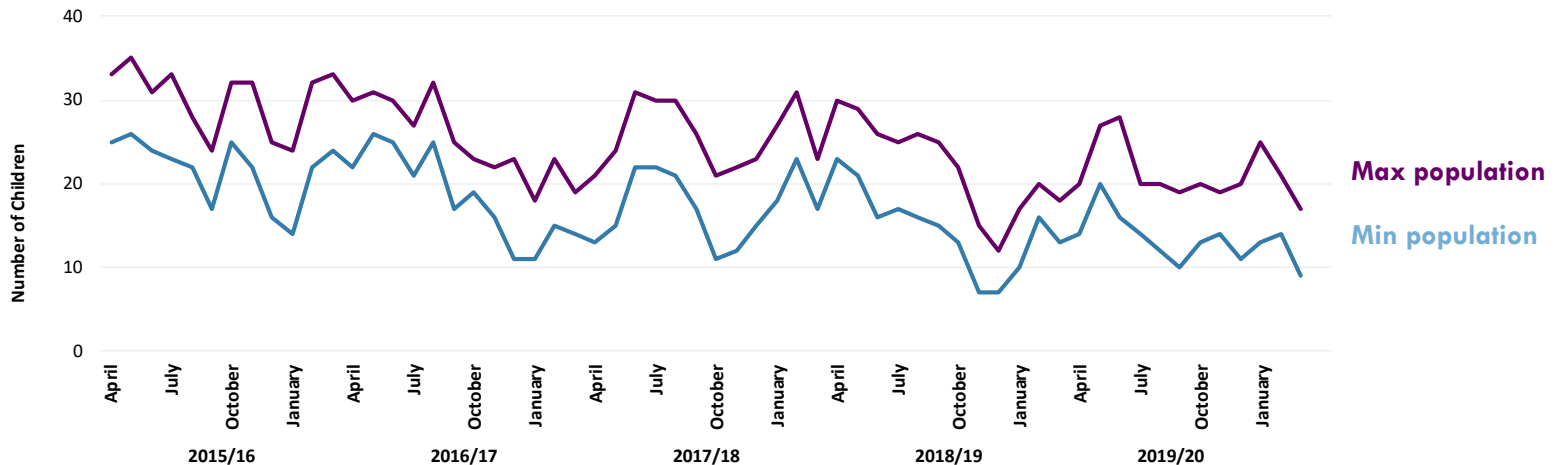


Figure 22: Maximum and minimum monthly population, 2015/16 to 2019/20



# 4 Custodial Services

## Number of custody days

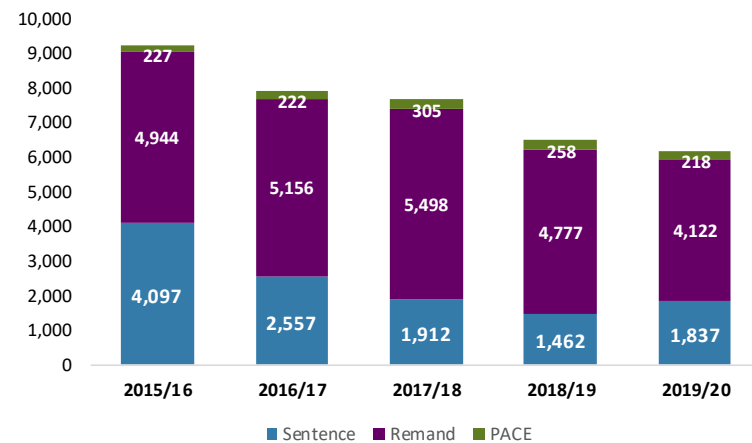
As already mentioned children admitted to the JJC on PACE will typically reside in the centre for a short period of time, usually one or two days; those on remand or sentence will normally reside in the centre for longer periods of time.

When examining the transactional work of the JJC, movements related to PACE make up a high proportion of the workload (47.4% in 2019/20; see Figure 10). However, because these movements result in a short period of custody within the centre they account for a small proportion of the actual custody days. In contrast, sentence movements account for a smaller proportion of the workload (7.0% in 2019/20) but contribute to a much larger proportion of the custody days, as these movements bring with them a longer stay within the centre.

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

Figure 23 shows the proportion of custody days attributed to PACE, remand and sentence movements over the last five years. In 2019/20 there were 6,177 days of custody provided by the JJC, 218 for PACE, 4,122 for remand and 1,837 for sentence. The number of custody days overall has decreased by 33.4% since 2015/16 and 4.9% from 2018/19. The proportion of days related to remand and PACE in the five year period has increased, while the proportion relating to sentences has decreased ([Table 29, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 23: Custody days by status, 2015/16 to 2019/20



## 4 | Custodial Services

### Custody conversion estimate for PACE admissions

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

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

Table 3 shows all PACE admissions in the period and all PACE to remand/sentence movements in the same period. These two figures can then be used to produce a PACE to remand/sentence conversion estimate. The PACE conversion rate increased from 41.2% (94) in 2018/19 to 48.7% (96) in 2019/20, representing a decrease in the percentage of children admitted to the JJC on PACE having been released without having been remanded by court or sentenced to custody.

Table 3: Custody Conversion Estimate, 2015/16 to 2019/20

Financial Year	PACE Admissions	PACE to Remand/Sentence	Conversion Rate
2015/16	204	96	47.1%
2016/17	194	105	54.1%
2017/18	269	132	49.1%
2018/19	228	94	41.2%
2019/20	197	96	48.7%

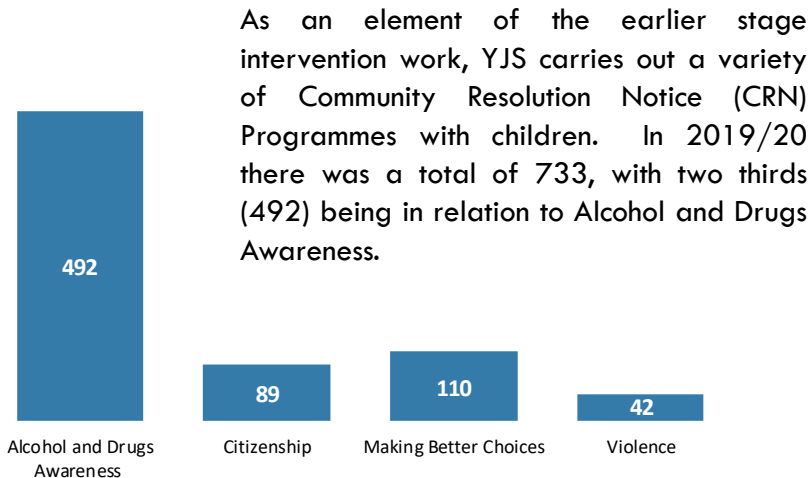
# 5 | Insight

## Youth Justice Services

In YJA surveys carried out during 2019/20, 93.1% of children and 92.1% of parents/carers who provided a response felt their experience of the YJS would help avoid further offending.

During 2019/20, in 48.0% of conferences where a direct victim had been identified, the victim either attended or was represented at a meeting (2018/19, 48.5%).

In the same period, 81.0% of individual victims participated in the youth conferencing process (2018/19, 83.5%).



When children are completing the referral process with YJS, they are asked what they would tell someone who had just been referred.



## Custodial Services (JJC)

Initial Planning Meetings must take place within 10 working days of a child being admitted to JJC. This provides an opportunity for all professionals, family members and the child to work in partnership to formulate and review goals set in a YJA Care Plan. During 2019/20, 96.7% of children in JJC had an Individual Planning Meeting within the stipulated timescale.

Re-integration plans, which are part of the YJA Care plan, focus primarily on accommodation post release, education and employment, family relationships and supports from relevant professionals in the community. These are only valid for children who have been sentenced as they will have gone through the full care planning process in JJC. During 2019/20, 100% of sentenced children had a Reintegration Plan in place on discharge from JJC.

# Appendix 1 – Definitions

## CUSTODY

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

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

## Bail Support

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

## Fine Default

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

## Juvenile Justice Centre Order (JJCO)

This order was introduced on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1999 under the

Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, to replace the training school order. It is available for children and is for a period of six months unless the court specifies a longer period not exceeding two years. The period of detention is for one half of the period of the order, with the remainder comprising a period of close supervision in the community.

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

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

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



# Appendix 1 – Definitions

## NON-CUSTODIAL DISPOSALS SUPERVISED BY YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES

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

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

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

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

### **Diversionary Youth Conference (DYC)**

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

### **Reparation Order (RO)**

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

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

Youth conferencing aims to balance the needs of the victim and the young offender by agreeing plans of action which satisfy the victim and create opportunities for the young person to make amends and stop committing crime. A referral to YJS can be made either by diversion via the PPS, or at court at the point of sentencing. In either case the child must admit the offence and be willing to take part in the conference. The conference agrees a plan for the child to complete comprising of various elements relevant to the

## Appendix 1 – Definitions

child, the impact of the offence and their offending behaviour. The period of the plan must not be more than one year. A plan resulting from a court-ordered conference, subsequently agreed by the court, will form the basis of a Youth Conference Order.

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

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

## Appendix 2 – Technical Notes

### Area Statistics

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

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

### Data Source

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

### Data quality and validation

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

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

### Statistical coverage

The statistics in this publication are based on the number of admissions to, and status changes, within JJC and the number of YJS referrals over a five year period (from the financial year 2015/16 to 2019/20). Tables with data from earlier years (from financial year 2008/09 to 2019/20) are available within the Microsoft Excel and OpenDocument Spreadsheet format documents available at [www.justice-ni.gov.uk](http://www.justice-ni.gov.uk).

### Analysis and Presentation of Statistics

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

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

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 1: Referrals to YJS, Number of Individual Children Involved and Population Comparison, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	Referrals To YJS	Individual Children Involved	NI Population Aged 10-17 <sup>1</sup>	Rate Per 1,000
2015/16	1,579	929	183,893	5.1
2016/17	1,539	893	183,273	4.9
2017/18	1,573	887	184,105	4.8
2018/19	1,712	977	187,533	5.2
2019/20	1,631	957	191,790	5.0

<sup>1</sup> Population as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Table 2: YJS referrals by type, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	Diversions	Court Ordered	Community Orders <sup>1</sup>	Earlier Stage Intervention	Voluntary	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total Referrals
2015/16	730	578	54	55	86	76	1,579
2016/17	757	532	39	99	75	37	1,539
2017/18	729	535	33	135	91	50	1,573
2018/19	782	505	39	236	98	52	1,712
2019/20	684	468	36	275	110	58	1,631

Financial Year	Diversions	Court Ordered	Community Orders <sup>1</sup>	Earlier Stage Intervention	Voluntary	Other <sup>2</sup>	Total Referrals
2015/16	46.2%	36.6%	3.4%	3.5%	5.4%	4.8%	100.0%
2016/17	49.2%	34.6%	2.5%	6.4%	4.9%	2.4%	100.0%
2017/18	46.3%	34.0%	2.1%	8.6%	5.8%	3.2%	100.0%
2018/19	45.7%	29.5%	2.3%	13.8%	5.7%	3.0%	100.0%
2019/20	41.9%	28.7%	2.2%	16.9%	6.7%	3.6%	100.0%

<sup>1</sup> Community order referrals include attendance centre orders, community responsibility orders and reparation orders.

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

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 3: Individual Children Referred to YJS by Gender, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial			
Year	Male	Female	Total Children <sup>1</sup>
2015/16	745	184	929
2016/17	718	174	893
2017/18	718	167	887
2018/19	755	216	977
2019/20	748	205	957

Financial			
Year	Male	Female	Total Children <sup>1</sup>
2015/16	80.2%	19.8%	100.0%
2016/17	80.4%	19.5%	99.9%
2017/18	80.9%	18.8%	99.8%
2018/19	77.3%	22.1%	99.4%
2019/20	78.2%	21.4%	99.6%

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

**Table 4: YJS referrals by Gender, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial			
Year	Male	Female	Total Referrals <sup>1</sup>
2015/16	1,272	307	1,579
2016/17	1,228	307	1,539
2017/18	1,245	326	1,573
2018/19	1,339	366	1,712
2019/20	1,299	327	1,631

Financial			
Year	Male	Female	Total Referrals <sup>1</sup>
2015/16	80.6%	19.4%	100.0%
2016/17	79.8%	19.9%	99.7%
2017/18	79.1%	20.7%	99.9%
2018/19	78.2%	21.4%	99.6%
2019/20	79.6%	20.0%	99.7%

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

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 5: Individual Children referred to YJS by age, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Children
2015/16	82	100	184	240	323	929
2016/17	90	128	167	219	289	893
2017/18	106	97	157	200	327	887
2018/19	132	130	175	228	312	977
2019/20	156	151	179	189	282	957

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Children
2015/16	8.8%	10.8%	19.8%	25.8%	34.8%	100.0%
2016/17	10.1%	14.3%	18.7%	24.5%	32.4%	100.0%
2017/18	12.0%	10.9%	17.7%	22.5%	36.9%	100.0%
2018/19	13.5%	13.3%	17.9%	23.3%	31.9%	100.0%
2019/20	16.3%	15.8%	18.7%	19.7%	29.5%	100.0%

**Table 6: YJS referrals by age, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Referrals
2015/16	125	166	315	424	549	1,579
2016/17	132	245	312	378	472	1,539
2017/18	161	184	321	394	513	1,573
2018/19	194	209	339	417	553	1,712
2019/20	233	242	314	338	504	1,631

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Referrals
2015/16	7.9%	10.5%	19.9%	26.9%	34.8%	100.0%
2016/17	8.6%	15.9%	20.3%	24.6%	30.7%	100.0%
2017/18	10.2%	11.7%	20.4%	25.0%	32.6%	100.0%
2018/19	11.3%	12.2%	19.8%	24.4%	32.3%	100.0%
2019/20	14.3%	14.8%	19.3%	20.7%	30.9%	100.0%

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 7: Individual Children referred to YJS by Area of Residence and Rate per 1,000 Population<sup>1</sup>, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Area	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Antrim and Newtownabbey	72	64	56	63	82
Ards and North Down	91	98	83	82	78
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	92	87	88	95	87
Belfast	239	233	220	237	247
Causeway Coast and Glens	53	52	58	72	56
Derry City and Strabane	91	93	67	99	94
Fermanagh and Omagh	51	52	36	50	52
Lisburn and Castlereagh	43	40	32	53	54
Mid and East Antrim	59	59	58	55	76
Mid Ulster	51	35	44	53	43
Newry, Mourne and Down	87	78	92	103	85
Resident outside NI	0	2	0	0	0
Unassigned <sup>2</sup>	0	0	53	15	3
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>957</b>

Area	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Antrim and Newtownabbey	5.2	4.6	4.6	4.3	5.5
Ards and North Down	6.2	6.7	8.6	5.4	5.0
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	4.4	4.1	7.6	4.3	3.8
Belfast	7.8	7.7	6.7	7.7	7.8
Causeway Coast and Glens	3.7	3.7	7.5	5.0	3.9
Derry City and Strabane	5.6	5.9	4.4	6.3	5.9
Fermanagh and Omagh	4.1	4.2	3.7	4.0	4.1
Lisburn and Castlereagh	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.9	3.8
Mid and East Antrim	4.5	4.5	6.8	4.1	5.6
Mid Ulster	3.3	2.3	4.4	3.3	2.6
Newry, Mourne and Down	4.6	4.1	6.5	5.3	4.3
Resident outside NI	..	..	..	..	..
Unassigned <sup>2</sup>	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

<sup>2</sup> Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 8: Referrals to YJS by Area of Residence, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Area	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Antrim and Newtownabbey	109	96	88	87	111
Ards and North Down	202	242	197	208	159
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	134	138	121	147	140
Belfast	422	406	363	415	406
Causeway Coast and Glens	90	86	137	109	95
Derry City and Strabane	195	169	117	172	176
Fermanagh and Omagh	87	86	75	95	138
Lisburn and Castlereagh	56	58	56	98	93
Mid and East Antrim	84	93	106	108	126
Mid Ulster	71	52	79	80	72
Newry, Mourne and Down	129	111	153	163	112
Resident outside NI	0	2	0	0	0
Unassigned <sup>1</sup>	0	0	81	30	3
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>1,631</b>

<sup>1</sup> Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

**Table 9: Statutory referrals<sup>1</sup> by Offence Group<sup>2</sup>, 2019/20**

Offence Group	Number	Percent
VAP	428	34.3%
Criminal Damage & Arson	235	18.9%
Theft	181	14.5%
Public Order	119	9.6%
Drugs	87	7.0%
Motoring	55	4.4%
Burglary	41	3.3%
Possession of Weapons	39	3.1%
Misc - general	35	2.8%
Sexual	17	1.4%
Fraud	5	0.4%
Robbery	4	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Statutory referrals includes Diversionary, Court Ordered, Community Orders and Other (JJCO, Probation and Bail)

<sup>2</sup> Offence Groups is a statistical grouping created so NI statistics are comparable



## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 10: Admissions to and movements within JJC and children in custody, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	Admissions to Woodlands JJC	Movements Within Woodlands JJC	Individual Children Admitted	NI Population Aged 10-17	Rate Per 1,000 <sup>1</sup>
2015/16	351	484	163	183,893	0.9
2016/17	313	443	139	183,273	0.8
2017/18	424	582	167	184,105	0.9
2018/19	337	457	160	187,533	0.9
2019/20	298	416	126	191,790	0.7

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30th June 2019.

**Table 11: JJC admissions by status, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Admissions
2015/16	204	126	21	351
2016/17	194	110	9	313
2017/18	269	139	16	424
2018/19	228	102	7	337
2019/20	197	95	6	298

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Admissions
2015/16	58.1%	35.9%	6.0%	100.0%
2016/17	62.0%	35.1%	2.9%	100.0%
2017/18	63.4%	32.8%	3.8%	100.0%
2018/19	67.7%	30.3%	2.1%	100.0%
2019/20	66.1%	31.9%	2.0%	100.0%

**Table 12: JJC movements by status, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Movements
2015/16	204	220	60	484
2016/17	194	214	35	443
2017/18	269	272	41	582
2018/19	228	202	27	457
2019/20	197	190	29	416

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Movements
2015/16	42.1%	45.5%	12.4%	100.0%
2016/17	43.8%	48.3%	7.9%	100.0%
2017/18	46.2%	46.7%	7.0%	100.0%
2018/19	49.9%	44.2%	5.9%	100.0%
2019/20	47.4%	45.7%	7.0%	100.0%

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 13: Individual Children in Custody by Gender, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Children <sup>1</sup>	Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Children <sup>1</sup>
2015/16	144	19	163	2015/16	88.3%	11.7%	100.0%
2016/17	124	15	139	2016/17	89.2%	10.8%	100.0%
2017/18	143	24	167	2017/18	85.6%	14.4%	100.0%
2018/19	145	15	160	2018/19	90.6%	9.4%	100.0%
2019/20	108	17	126	2019/20	85.7%	13.5%	99.2%

**Table 14: Admissions to JJC by Gender, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Admissions <sup>1</sup>	Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Admissions <sup>1</sup>
2015/16	304	47	351	2015/16	86.6%	13.4%	100.0%
2016/17	277	36	313	2016/17	88.5%	11.5%	100.0%
2017/18	351	73	424	2017/18	82.8%	17.2%	100.0%
2018/19	299	38	337	2018/19	88.7%	11.3%	100.0%
2019/20	261	36	298	2019/20	87.6%	12.1%	99.7%

**Table 15: Movements within JJC by Gender, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Movements <sup>1</sup>	Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Movements <sup>1</sup>
2015/16	423	61	484	2015/16	87.4%	12.6%	100.0%
2016/17	397	46	443	2016/17	89.6%	10.4%	100.0%
2017/18	482	100	582	2017/18	82.8%	17.2%	100.0%
2018/19	414	43	457	2018/19	90.6%	9.4%	100.0%
2019/20	362	52	416	2019/20	87.0%	12.5%	99.5%

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

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 16: Individual Children in Custody by Age, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Children
2015/16	6	17	34	44	62	163
2016/17	6	10	26	38	59	139
2017/18	6	18	31	49	63	167
2018/19	7	10	33	48	62	160
2019/20	6	12	33	28	47	126

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Children
2015/16	3.7%	10.4%	20.9%	27.0%	38.0%	100.0%
2016/17	4.3%	7.2%	18.7%	27.3%	42.4%	100.0%
2017/18	3.6%	10.8%	18.6%	29.3%	37.7%	100.0%
2018/19	4.4%	6.3%	20.6%	30.0%	38.8%	100.0%
2019/20	4.8%	9.5%	26.2%	22.2%	37.3%	100.0%

**Table 17: Admissions to JJC by Age, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Admissions
2015/16	8	39	86	88	130	351
2016/17	8	29	60	91	125	313
2017/18	18	27	85	131	163	424
2018/19	26	24	67	92	128	337
2019/20	22	24	78	77	97	298

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Admissions
2015/16	2.3%	11.1%	24.5%	25.1%	37.0%	100.0%
2016/17	2.6%	9.3%	19.2%	29.1%	39.9%	100.0%
2017/18	4.2%	6.4%	20.0%	30.9%	38.4%	100.0%
2018/19	7.7%	7.1%	19.9%	27.3%	38.0%	100.0%
2019/20	7.4%	8.1%	26.2%	25.8%	32.6%	100.0%

**Table 18: Movements within JJC by Age, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Movements
2015/16	10	52	119	118	185	484
2016/17	10	40	83	128	182	443
2017/18	23	37	121	176	225	582
2018/19	33	28	91	126	179	457
2019/20	31	34	107	101	143	416

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Movements
2015/16	2.1%	10.7%	24.6%	24.4%	38.2%	100.0%
2016/17	2.3%	9.0%	18.7%	28.9%	41.1%	100.0%
2017/18	4.0%	6.4%	20.8%	30.2%	38.7%	100.0%
2018/19	7.2%	6.1%	19.9%	27.6%	39.2%	100.0%
2019/20	7.5%	8.2%	25.7%	24.3%	34.4%	100.0%

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 19: Individual Children in Custody by Religion<sup>1</sup>, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	Catholic	Protestant	Other	No Religious Belief	Unknown	Total Children
2015/16	104	46	2	3	8	163
2016/17	93	24	5	8	9	139
2017/18	106	46	3	4	8	167
2018/19	100	30	4	7	19	160
2019/20	84	16	3	7	16	126

Financial Year	Catholic	Protestant	Other	No Religious Belief	Unknown	Total Children
2015/16	63.8%	28.2%	1.2%	1.8%	4.9%	100.0%
2016/17	66.9%	17.3%	3.6%	5.8%	6.5%	100.0%
2017/18	63.5%	27.5%	1.8%	2.4%	4.8%	100.0%
2018/19	62.5%	18.8%	2.5%	4.4%	11.9%	100.0%
2019/20	66.7%	12.7%	2.4%	5.6%	12.7%	100.0%

**Table 20: Admissions to JJC by Religion<sup>1</sup>, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	Catholic	Protestant	Other	No Religious Belief	Unknown	Total Admissions
2015/16	251	83	3	6	8	351
2016/17	231	54	5	10	13	313
2017/18	283	118	8	7	8	424
2018/19	217	76	7	11	26	337
2019/20	203	57	3	12	23	298

Financial Year	Catholic	Protestant	Other	No Religious Belief	Unknown	Total Admissions
2015/16	71.5%	23.6%	0.9%	1.7%	2.3%	100.0%
2016/17	73.8%	17.3%	1.6%	3.2%	4.2%	100.0%
2017/18	66.7%	27.8%	1.9%	1.7%	1.9%	100.0%
2018/19	64.4%	22.6%	2.1%	3.3%	7.7%	100.0%
2019/20	68.1%	19.1%	1.0%	4.0%	7.7%	100.0%

**Table 21: Movements within JJC by Religion<sup>1</sup>, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	Catholic	Protestant	Other	No Religious Belief	Unknown	Total Movements
2015/16	346	116	4	8	10	484
2016/17	336	73	7	13	14	443
2017/18	391	162	8	12	9	582
2018/19	312	94	9	14	28	457
2019/20	284	82	4	17	29	416

Financial Year	Catholic	Protestant	Other	No Religious Belief	Unknown	Total Movements
2015/16	71.5%	24.0%	0.8%	1.7%	2.1%	100.0%
2016/17	75.8%	16.5%	1.6%	2.9%	3.2%	100.0%
2017/18	67.2%	27.8%	1.4%	2.1%	1.5%	100.0%
2018/19	68.3%	20.6%	2.0%	3.1%	6.1%	100.0%
2019/20	68.3%	19.7%	1.0%	4.1%	7.0%	100.0%

<sup>1</sup> Unlike other demographic information this is self-reported by the child and can therefore not be validated

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 22: Individual Children in Custody by Looked After Status, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Children
2015/16	24	23	112	4	163
2016/17	28	26	83	2	139
2017/18	43	28	95	1	167
2018/19	45	17	95	3	160
2019/20	30	19	75	2	126

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Children
2015/16	14.7%	14.1%	68.7%	2.5%	100.0%
2016/17	20.1%	18.7%	59.7%	1.4%	100.0%
2017/18	25.7%	16.8%	56.9%	0.6%	100.0%
2018/19	28.1%	10.6%	59.4%	1.9%	100.0%
2019/20	23.8%	15.1%	59.5%	1.6%	100.0%

**Table 23: Admissions to JJC by Looked After Status, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Admissions
2015/16	60	68	219	4	351
2016/17	79	71	161	2	313
2017/18	151	80	192	1	424
2018/19	110	45	178	4	337
2019/20	92	62	142	2	298

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Admissions
2015/16	17.1%	19.4%	62.4%	1.1%	100.0%
2016/17	25.2%	22.7%	51.4%	0.6%	100.0%
2017/18	35.6%	18.9%	45.3%	0.2%	100.0%
2018/19	32.6%	13.4%	52.8%	1.2%	100.0%
2019/20	30.9%	20.8%	47.7%	0.7%	100.0%

**Table 24: Movements within JJC by Looked After Status, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Movements
2015/16	79	96	305	4	484
2016/17	107	93	241	2	443
2017/18	216	98	267	1	582
2018/19	145	60	248	4	457
2019/20	129	83	202	2	416

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Movements
2015/16	16.3%	19.8%	63.0%	0.8%	100.0%
2016/17	24.2%	21.0%	54.4%	0.5%	100.0%
2017/18	37.1%	16.8%	45.9%	0.2%	100.0%
2018/19	31.7%	13.1%	54.3%	0.9%	100.0%
2019/20	31.0%	20.0%	48.6%	0.5%	100.0%

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 25: Individual Children in Custody by Area of Residence and Rate per 1,000 Population<sup>1</sup>, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Area	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Antrim and Newtownabbey	11	6	9	8	3
Ards and North Down	13	19	15	13	12
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	8	10	11	11	10
Belfast	61	47	40	44	40
Causeway Coast and Glens	10	7	14	6	2
Derry City and Strabane	25	19	23	17	22
Fermanagh and Omagh	5	4	8	7	6
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1	4	8	8	4
Mid and East Antrim	5	3	10	8	4
Mid Ulster	10	5	8	12	3
Newry, Mourne and Down	12	7	9	13	11
Resident outside NI	2	4	7	9	5
Unassigned <sup>2</sup>	0	2	5	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>126</b>

Area	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.2
Ards and North Down	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.8
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Belfast	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.3
Causeway Coast and Glens	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.1
Derry City and Strabane	1.6	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.4
Fermanagh and Omagh	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3
Mid and East Antrim	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.3
Mid Ulster	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.2
Newry, Mourne and Down	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.6
Resident outside NI	..	..	..	..	..
Unassigned <sup>2</sup>	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30th June 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 26: Admissions to JJC by Area of Residence, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Area	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Antrim and Newtownabbey	17	11	23	15	11
Ards and North Down	35	61	46	37	43
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	21	18	26	15	20
Belfast	137	108	115	118	116
Causeway Coast and Glens	22	11	45	11	2
Derry City and Strabane	44	48	57	27	47
Fermanagh and Omagh	11	13	13	18	13
Lisburn and Castlereagh	8	8	21	13	9
Mid and East Antrim	14	5	14	13	4
Mid Ulster	13	7	22	22	5
Newry, Mourne and Down	27	14	26	31	20
Resident outside NI	0	..	7	10	4
Unassigned <sup>1</sup>	2	9	9	7	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>298</b>

**Table 27: Movements within JJC by Area of Residence, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Area	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Antrim and Newtownabbey	22	19	35	18	17
Ards and North Down	49	81	62	52	60
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	27	26	40	22	29
Belfast	197	163	159	164	155
Causeway Coast and Glens	26	15	57	16	4
Derry City and Strabane	54	56	72	46	65
Fermanagh and Omagh	16	18	18	19	18
Lisburn and Castlereagh	9	13	29	16	14
Mid and East Antrim	19	7	19	16	7
Mid Ulster	23	15	29	28	7
Newry, Mourne and Down	39	20	39	36	28
Resident outside NI	3	8	8	15	6
Unassigned <sup>1</sup>	0	2	15	9	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>416</b>

<sup>1</sup> Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 28: Average Population by Status, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Average Population
2015/16	1	13	11	25
2016/17	1	14	7	22
2017/18	1	15	5	21
2018/19	1	13	4	18
2019/20	1	11	5	17

**Table 29: Custody Days by Status, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Custody Days
2015/16	227	4,944	4,097	9,268
2016/17	222	5,156	2,557	7,935
2017/18	305	5,498	1,912	7,715
2018/19	258	4,777	1,462	6,497
2019/20	218	4,122	1,837	6,177

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Custody Days
2015/16	2.4%	53.3%	44.2%	100.0%
2016/17	2.8%	65.0%	32.2%	100.0%
2017/18	4.0%	71.3%	24.8%	100.0%
2018/19	4.0%	73.5%	22.5%	100.0%
2019/20	3.5%	66.7%	29.7%	100.0%

**Table 30: PACE to Remand/Sentence Conversion Estimate, 2015/16 to 2019/20**

Financial Year	PACE Admissions	PACE to Remand/Sentence	Conversion Rate
2015/16	204	96	47.1%
2016/17	194	105	54.1%
2017/18	269	132	49.1%
2018/19	228	94	41.2%
2019/20	197	96	48.7%



## Appendix 4 – Quality Assessment

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

Dimension	Assessment by the author
<p><b>Introduction:-</b></p>	<p>This report provides an overview of the workload of the YJA during 2019/20 and how it has changed over time. A breakdown of the gender, age, religion, looked after status, area of residence and offence type profile of referrals to and individuals in contact with the YJS and of individuals in custody is provided.</p> <p>Population and workload (i.e. admissions to and changes of status within the JJC) overviews of the custodial services are also included.</p> <p>The primary data source for this report is the YJA’s case management system, used for the day to day management of cases supervised by the Agency, both within a custodial and community setting. Information is based on data extracted after 1<sup>st</sup> July each year, for example data covering 2019/20 i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 will be extracted after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.</p>
<p><b>Relevance:-</b> <i>The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.</i></p>	<p>This report provides a measure of the workload of the YJA i.e. the number of referrals to the YJS and the number of movements (admissions to and changes of status) within the JJC that were recorded on YJA’s case management system.</p> <p>YJS referrals along with the individuals in contact with YJS, individuals in custody, admissions to JJC and movements within JJC are presented by gender, age, religion, looked after status, area of residence and offence type as applicable.</p> <p>Some comparisons with figures for the previous four financial years are also included.</p>

## Appendix 4 – Quality Assessment

Dimension	Assessment by the author
<p><b>Accuracy and reliability:-</b> <i>The proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value.</i></p>	<p>While every care has been taken in collating and entering the data, they are subject to the limitations inherent in any recording system and to variation in recording practice. While YJA staff have a vested interest in maintaining the accuracy of the data within their management information systems, a number of accuracy, quality assurance/validation procedures have been conducted upon the dataset compiled for this publication, to ensure the data extracted are accurate, complete and fit for the statistical purposes for which they are to be used.</p> <p>Coverage – An individual’s response to the section 75 monitoring form is not compulsory and as a result we do not have full coverage. With this in mind and due to concerns over the quality of reporting, religion for YJS figures has not been included as it has a higher proportion of missing values. This is under continuing annual review.</p>
<p><b>Timeliness and punctuality:-</b> <i>Timeliness refers to the time gap between publication and the reference period. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.</i></p>	<p>The report relates to data from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, and is published on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The gap between the reference date and the publication date is due to the time it took to resolve various data quality issues. The publication date for the current report is four weeks earlier than last year’s report.</p>
<p><b>Accessibility and clarity:-</b> <i>Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice.</i></p>	<p>The report is available on the DoJ website and contains contact details for further information.</p> <p>Explanatory information including sources, discontinuities and missing data have been included.</p>

## Appendix 4 – Quality Assessment

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

## Appendix 4 – Quality Assessment

Dimension	Assessment by the author												
<p><b>Trade-offs between output and quality components:-</b></p>	<p>The data used within this publication is from a database used for case management and therefore YJA has a vested interest in maintaining the accuracy of data. A number of accuracy, quality assurance/validation procedures are also conducted upon the dataset, both automated and manual, at individual case level and the data is corrected to ensure when it is extracted it is as accurate, complete and fit for statistical use as possible.</p> <p>An individual's response to the section 75 monitoring form is not compulsory and as a result we do not have full coverage. With this in mind and due to concerns over the quality of reporting, religion for YJS figures has not been included as it has a higher proportion of missing values (46.7% missing). This is under continuing annual review. Below is the coverage for variables used in this report where full data is not available.</p> <p><b>Youth Justice Services</b></p> <table data-bbox="537 711 1139 782"> <tr> <td>Gender</td> <td>99.6% complete</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area</td> <td>99.7% complete</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Custodial Services</b></p> <table data-bbox="537 863 1139 1006"> <tr> <td>Gender</td> <td>99.2% complete</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religion</td> <td>87.3% complete</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Looked After Status</td> <td>98.4% complete</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Area</td> <td>96.8% complete</td> </tr> </table>	Gender	99.6% complete	Area	99.7% complete	Gender	99.2% complete	Religion	87.3% complete	Looked After Status	98.4% complete	Area	96.8% complete
Gender	99.6% complete												
Area	99.7% complete												
Gender	99.2% complete												
Religion	87.3% complete												
Looked After Status	98.4% complete												
Area	96.8% complete												
<p><b>Performance, cost and respondent burden:-</b> <i>The effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.</i></p>	<p>The annual operational cost (staff time) of producing the report is approximately 40 days.</p> <p>There is no respondent burden, since the data are held on an administrative system, and data on new cases are automatically collected as part of their admission process.</p>												
<p><b>Confidentiality, transparency and security:-</b> <i>The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.</i></p>	<p>Suppression would be applied where the number of cases in a cell containing personal information is disclosive; this is described in table footnotes. If appropriate, cells are merged.</p> <p>Statistical data is held on a network that is only accessible to the statisticians who need access. Printouts containing individual records or small cell sizes are locked away, and shredded as soon as possible.</p>												