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# Restricted Patients Statistics, 2024 England and Wales

## Main Points

Restricted patient population continues to grow and was at 7,921 on 31 December 2024



The restricted patient population on 31 December 2024 was up 1% on the previous year and up 14% from 2014.

The population consisted of 4,644 in hospital and 3,277 conditionally discharged.



The population in hospital remained relatively unchanged (down 0.1%), whereas the population conditionally discharged increased by 2.9% from the previous year.

There were 1,741 admissions (new admissions and recalls) in 2024.



This was about the same as last year (down 0.3%). The largest source of admissions was transfer from prison to hospital (63%).

There were 1,640 authorised disposals and discharges in 2024; 614 discharges and 1,026 disposals.



Combined authorised disposals and discharges increased by 13% from 2023, reflecting increases in both discharges and disposals from the previous year.

### Change in location of the series on conversion of conditional discharges to absolute discharges

The series on the conversion of conditional discharges to absolute discharges has now been moved to Table 8 in the accompanying set of tables.

Restricted Patients statistics were previously published as part of the [Offender Management Statistics Quarterly \(OMSQ\)](#).

This bulletin covers Restricted Patient statistics for England and Wales 2024. A set of summary tables covering each section of this bulletin and guidance notes accompany this bulletin can be found on the same webpage.

## **Statistician's comment**

“Since 2013 (when data became of sufficient quality to publish), the population of restricted patients on 31 December has continued to increase annually, except in 2020 when it fell for the first time partly due to COVID-19 disruptions. The latest figure is an increase on 2023, continuing the increasing trend.

For the first time, we report the sentence type of restricted patients, showing about 9 in 10 restricted patients do not have a prison sentence (solely under restriction orders).

Admissions and recalls in 2024 were relatively unchanged (down 0.3%) from 2023, following an increase from 2022 to a record high in 2023. Transfers from prison to hospitals continue to account for the majority of admissions. However, a majority of patients detained in hospital were detained under a hospital order with restriction order, implying this group stay in hospital longer than do patients transferred from prison.

Authorised disposals and discharges increased to the highest in the series in 2024, following successive decreases in the two years prior. The increase was driven largely by disposals not into the community, for example patients remaining in hospital after their restrictions expire and unsentenced prisoners returning to prison following treatment, which increased to its highest level in the series.”

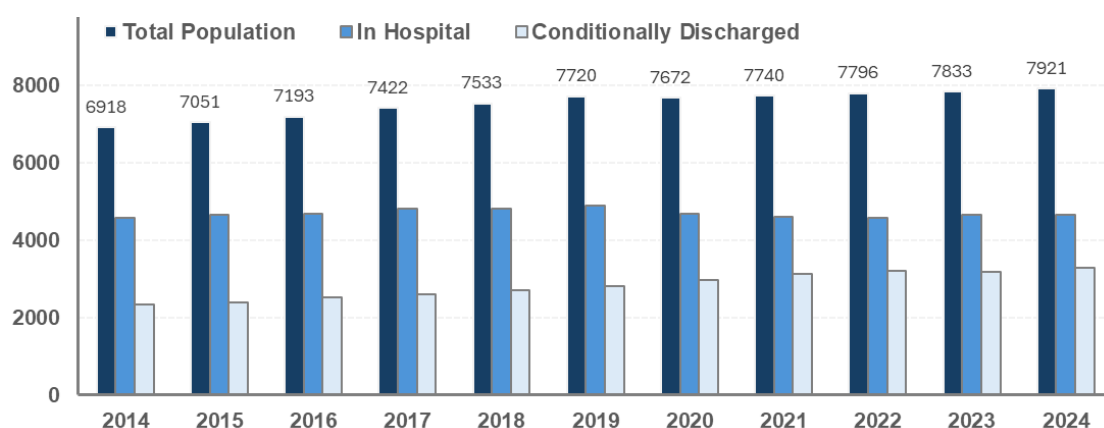
## Population

There were 7,921 restricted patients as at 31 December 2024, an increase of 1% from a year ago. This continues the increasing trend we see in the annual population of restricted patients (Table 1).

The overall population consisted of 4,644 restricted patients in hospitals (relatively unchanged from last year) and 3,277 conditionally discharged patients (an increase of 2.9% from last year). The conditionally discharged population continues to trend upwards. After increasing annually to 2019, the restricted population in hospital then decreased annually to 2022, the decrease being likely driven by COVID-19. There have been recoveries in the last two years, although numbers remain lower than the peak in 2019.

For the first time, we report the sentence type of restricted patient population. Of the restricted patients, about 88% do not have a prison sentence (solely under restriction orders), 5% are serving life sentences, 4% are serving determinate sentences and 3% are IPP offenders.

**Figure 1: Restricted patient population on 31 December 2014 – 2024**  
(Source: Table 1)



About 88% of all restricted patients were males, consistent across the years for which we have data. At the end of 2024, females constituted about 14% of the conditionally discharged population and 10% of the detained population, consistent with recent years (Table 2).

Most restricted patients as at 31 December 2024 were in the 40-59 (48%) and 21-39 (34%).

The majority of patients (62% of males and 61% of females) committed offences of violence against the person. A higher proportion of females (27%) than of males (10%) committed an offence of Criminal Damage and Arson (Table 3).

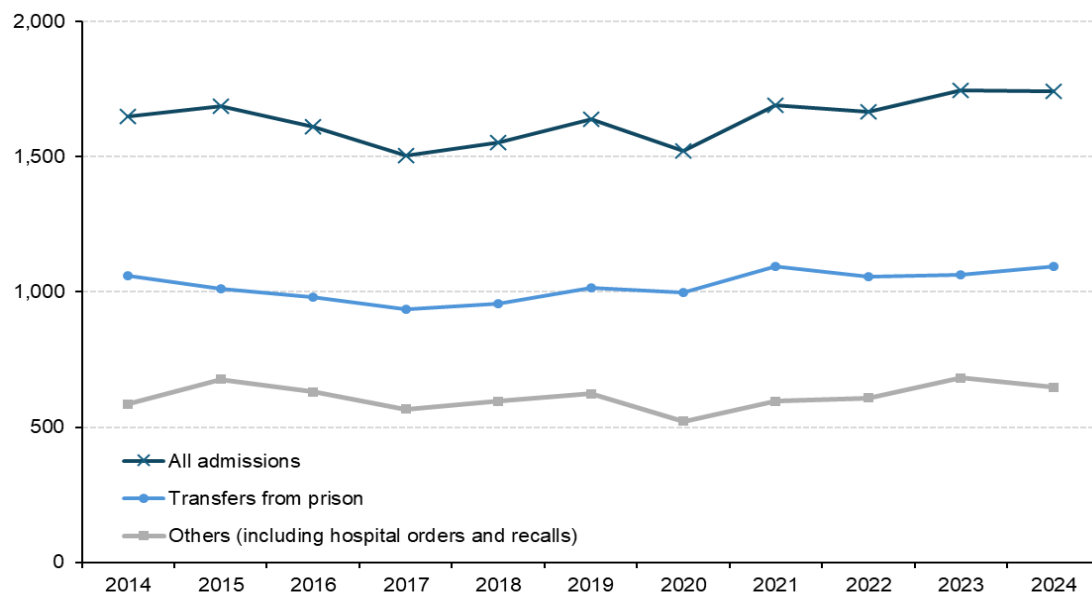
Of the 4,644 restricted patients in hospital, 28% were admitted from prison establishments, consistent with the last 5 years (Table 4).

Of the total population of restricted patients on 31 December 2024, about 64% were white, 19% were black and 8% were Asian. This is consistent with figures published from 2021 (Table 9).

### Admissions and Recalls (Tables 6 and 7)

A total of 1,741 restricted patients were admitted (new admissions and recalls) in 2024, relatively unchanged (down 0.3%) from last year. The number of admissions has mostly fluctuated between 1,500 and 1,700 from 2008, with a slight upward trend from 2017.

**Figure 2: Admission and recall of restricted patients, 2014 - 2024**  
(Source: Table 7)



The largest source of admissions was transfer from prison to hospital (63%), followed by recalls (17%) and hospital orders with restriction orders (14%) (Table 7). These consistently remain the major sources of admissions. However, of the patients detained in hospital (Table 4), 28% had been transferred from prison and 59% had been transferred under hospital order with restriction order, suggesting restricted patients under hospital orders stay longer in hospital than do patients transferred from prison.

A total of 97 (6%) of admissions were into high secure hospitals, 5 of these patients being females (Table 6).

### Discharges and Disposals (Table 8)

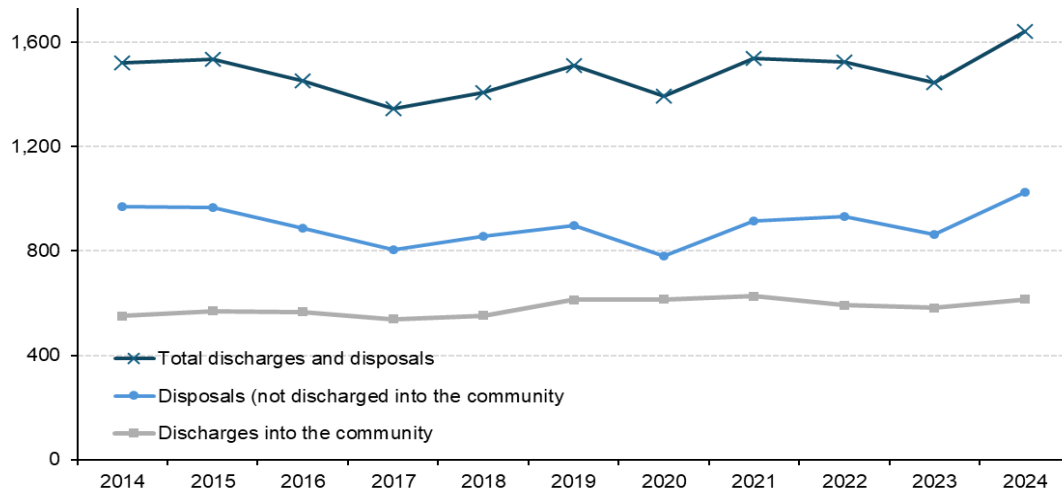
The number authorised disposals and discharges in 2024 (1,640) is the highest in the series, representing 13% increase from 2023. The increase was driven largely by disposals not into the community, which rose to its highest level in the series. The overall number of authorised disposals and discharges has fluctuated in the last decade.

614 discharges into the community were recorded in 2024, an increase of 5% from 2023. Most of these discharges into the community were conditional discharges by tribunals (60%), consistent with previous years.

The overall number of disposals increased from 864 in 2023 to 1,026 in 2024, an increase of 19%. These were mainly disposals at court (42%), returns to custody to complete sentences (20%) and expiry of restrictions in hospital (19%), broadly consistent with previous years.

The number of absolute discharges was 89 (77 conversions from conditional discharges and 12 absolute discharges direct from hospital).

**Figure 3: Discharges and disposals, 2014 - 2024 (Source: Table 8)**



## Further information

This publication presents yearly data trends. Our statisticians regularly review the content of publications. Development of new and improved statistical outputs is usually dependent on reallocating existing resources. As part of our continual review and prioritisation, we welcome user feedback on existing outputs including content, breadth, frequency, and methodology. Please send any comments you have on this publication including suggestions for further developments or reductions in content.

## Accompanying files

As well as this bulletin, the following products are published as part of this release:

- 'Notes and definitions', which provides information about terminology used in this release.
- A document outlining the 'Users of Restricted Patients Statistics'.
- A set of data tables, covering each section of this bulletin.

## Accredited official statistics status

National Statistics are [accredited official statistics](#) that meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. Accredited official statistics are called National Statistics in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's (UKSA) regulatory arm. The UKSA considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

These accredited official statistics were independently reviewed by the Office for Statistics Regulation in July 2012. They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for statistics and should be labelled 'accredited official statistics'.



It is the Ministry of Justice's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected for National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained and reinstated when standards are restored.

## Contact

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/media-enquiries>

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

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London  
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General enquiries about Restricted Patients statistics can be e-mailed to: [MHCSMailbox@justice.gov.uk](mailto:MHCSMailbox@justice.gov.uk)

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

**Next update:** 30 April 2026 URL:  
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