



Restricted Patients Statistics, 2025 England and Wales

Main Points

Restricted patient population continues to grow and was at 7,998 on 31 December 2025



The restricted patient population on 31 December 2025 showed a slight increase over the previous year (1.0%) and was up 13% from 2015.

The population consisted of 4,674 in hospital and 3,324 conditionally discharged.



Both populations in the hospital and in the community conditionally discharged increased slightly, up 0.6% and 1.4%, respectively from the previous year.

There were 1,733 admissions (new admissions and recalls) in 2025.



This was slightly lower from last year (down 0.5%). The largest source of admissions was transfer from prison to hospital (65% of admissions).

There were 1,642 authorised disposals and discharges in 2025; 614 discharges and 1,028 disposals.



Combined authorised disposals and discharges was about the same as in last year, increasing slightly by 0.1%, reflecting no change in discharges and an additional 2 disposals from the previous year.

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 2025. 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 2024, continuing the increasing trend.

Admissions and recalls in 2025 decreased slightly by 0.5% from 2024, but stayed above 1,700, levels only seen in the last three years. 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, likely partly as a result of prison sentences or remand orders coming to an end.

Authorised disposals and discharges increased to the highest in the series in 2025. However, this is only slightly more than it was in 2024, with figures for both discharges into the community and disposals not into the community being (almost) unchanged from last year.”

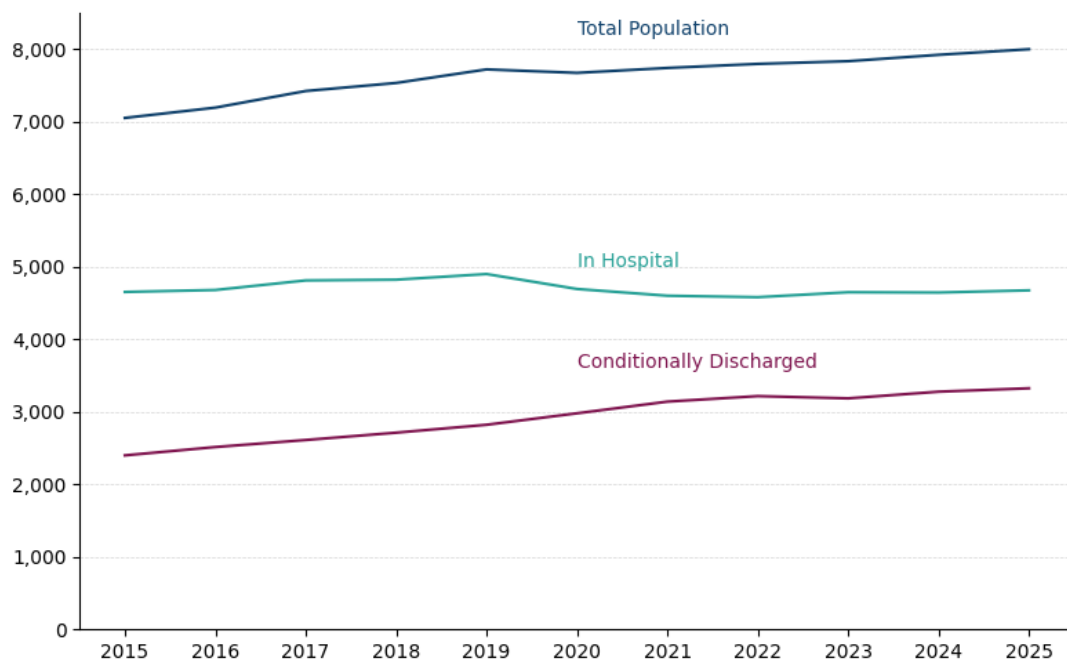
Population

There were 7,998 restricted patients as at 31 December 2025, a slight increase of 1.0% 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 4,674 restricted patients in hospitals (a slight increase of 0.6% from last year) and 3,324 conditionally discharged patients (a slight increase of 1.4% 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. Following limited recovery, there has been relative stability in the last three years, although numbers remain lower than the peak in 2019.

Of the restricted patients, about 88% do not have a prison sentence (solely under restriction orders), 6% are serving life sentences, 4% are serving determinate sentences and 3% are IPP offenders. This distribution has been stable in the last 2 years since we first reported on sentence breakdown.

Figure 1: Restricted patient population on 31 December 2015 – 2025
(Source: Table 1)



At the end of 2025, about 88% of all restricted patients were males. Females constituted about 14% of the conditionally discharged population and 10% of the detained population. These proportions have been consistent with recent years (Table 2).

Most restricted patients as at 31 December 2025 were in the 40-59 (48%) and 21-39 (33%) age bands.

The majority of patients (62% of males and 62% of females) committed offences of violence against the person. A higher proportion of females (26%) than of males (10%) committed an offence of Criminal Damage and Arson whereas a higher proportion of males (12.2%) than of females (0.6%) committed a sexual offence (Table 3).

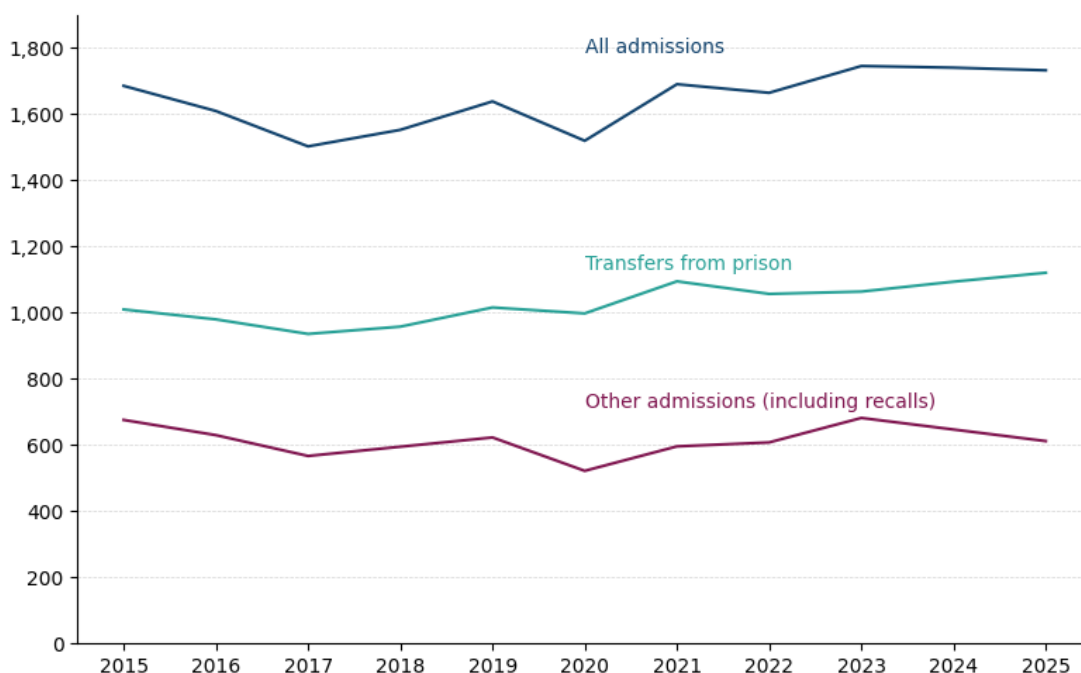
Of the 4,674 restricted patients in hospital, 29% were admitted from prison establishments, consistent with the last 6 years (Table 4).

Of the total population of restricted patients on 31 December 2025, about 64% were white, 19% were black and 8% were Asian. This is consistent with figures published for years since 2021 (Table 9).

Admissions and Recalls (Tables 6 and 7)

A total of 1,733 restricted patients were admitted (new admissions and recalls) in 2025, slightly down by 0.5% from last year. The number of admissions fluctuated between 1,500 and 1,700 from 2008 to 2022, but have been above 1,700 in each of the last three years.

Figure 2: Admission and recall of restricted patients, 2015 - 2025
(Source: Table 7)



The largest source of admissions was transfer from prison to hospital (65%), followed by recalls (17%) and hospital orders with restriction orders (12%) (Table 7). These consistently remain the major sources of admissions. However, of the patients detained in hospital (Table 4), 29% had been transferred from prison and 58% 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.

Eighty-eight admissions were to high secure hospitals, including 6 female patients (Table 6).

Discharges and Disposals (Table 8)

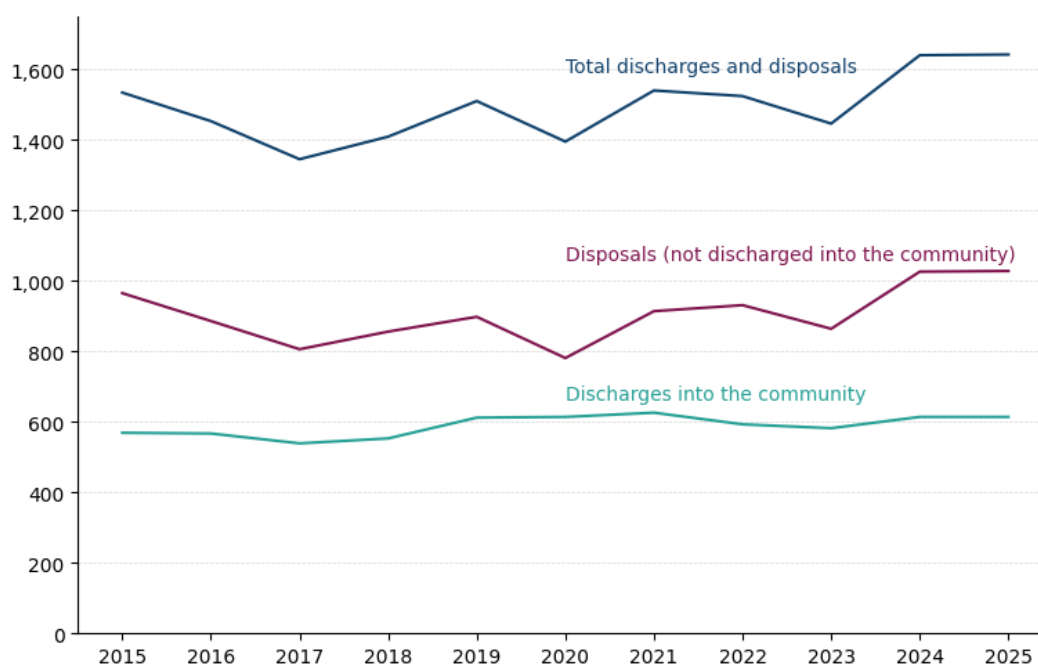
The number of authorised disposals and discharges in 2025 (1,642) is the highest in the series, representing an increase of 7% from 2015 and a slight change of 0.1% from last year. The overall number of authorised disposals and discharges has fluctuated in the last decade.

There was no change in the number of discharges into the community (614). Most of these discharges into the community were conditional discharges by tribunals (58%), consistent with previous years.

The overall number of disposals (1,028) in 2025 is also the highest in the series, but only a slight increase of 0.2% from last year. These were mainly disposals at court (45%), returns to custody to complete sentences (20%), expiry of restrictions in hospital (15%) and remission of untried/unsentenced prisoners (15%).

The number of absolute discharges (not into hospital) was 84 (61 conversions from conditional discharges and 23 absolute discharges direct from hospital).

Figure 3: Discharges and disposals, 2015 - 2025 (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:

Eric Nyame
Public Protection Group
HM Prison and Probation Service
8th Floor
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

General enquiries about Restricted Patients statistics can be e-mailed to: MHCSMailbox@justice.gov.uk

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

Next update: 29 April 2027 URL:
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