

Analytical Services Group

Northern Ireland Youth Justice Agency Annual Workload Statistics 2017/18

YJA Statistical Bulletin 29/2018

J Mill

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report presents workload statistics for the last five financial years for both Custodial Services (Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre, JJC) and Youth Justice Services (YJS) within the Youth Justice Agency (YJA).

The publication continues to provide descriptive analysis of trends on a range of demographics, including some [Section 75 characteristics](#) and care information.

For the first time this publication includes statistics from youth engagement clinic referrals in 2017/18. This has an impact on the number and profile of youth justice service referrals reported below.

Key findings

- The total number of movements within the JJC, that is new admissions plus internal changes of status, such as PACE to Remand, was 31% higher in 2017/18 (582) than in the previous year (443).
- In 2017/18 there were a total of 7,715 days of custody provided by the JJC. Of these days 4% were for PACE, 71% for remand and 25% for sentence.
- The number of sentence movements has remained low in the last two financial years at 35 in 2016/17 and 41 in 2017/18. The proportion of movements in 2017/18 attributed to PACE (46%) has had a slight increase compared to last year (44%) with remand (47%) having a slight decrease compared to last year (48%).
- The total number of individual young people in custody in 2017/18 increased 20% from 139 to 167. As such, fewer than one in every 1,000 young people in Northern Ireland was involved with Custodial Services in 2017/18.
- The proportion of individual young people involved with custodial services that were looked after increased to 43% in 2017/18 from 39% in 2016/17.
- With youth engagement clinics being included in this publication, the number of referrals to YJS in 2017/18 almost doubled to 2,938. If youth engagement referrals are removed from the 2017/18 total, the number of other referrals was 1,573 which reflects recent patterns.
- Similar to the number of referrals, the number of individual young people involved with YJS has increased from 893 in 2016/17 to 1,437 in 2017/18. Again this increase in the number of young people involved with YJA is a reflection of youth engagement clinics being included in this publication.
- The highest proportion of referrals to YJS in 2017/18 were youth engagement clinics at 46%. Diversionary and court ordered referrals made up the second and third highest proportions at 25% and 18% respectively. The remainder were community orders (1%) and other referrals (9%), which include reducing offending programmes, bail support cases and work with probation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The statistics in this bulletin are produced using two different methods. The first method looks at the workload of the Youth Justice Agency (YJA). Workload statistics for custodial services (Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre, JJC) measure the number of admissions to, and status changes within, the JJC, whilst workload statistics for Youth Justice Services (YJS) measure the number of referrals. These statistics show the annual total workload of the YJA.

The second method has been developed to look specifically at the number of individual young people involved with the YJA on an annual basis. A young person is counted on their first involvement with each individual business area, Youth Justice Services (YJS) and JJC, within the given year. Therefore each young person will only be counted once within each of the two business areas, in any given financial year. For example, a young person who has been in contact with both Custodial Services and YJS in 2017/18 will be counted once in the Custodial Services statistics and once in the YJS statistics for 2017/18.

Both methods produce very different statistics; however both are important when analysing the work of the Agency.

2. CUSTODIAL SERVICES (JJC)

Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre (JJC) has been designed as a centre of national and international excellence in secure custody, offering a wide range of services and support to help prevent young people from re-offending. It seeks to provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment for up to 48 boys and girls placed in custody.

Young people may be held in the JJC on either PACE, remand or sentence (see [background notes](#) 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.

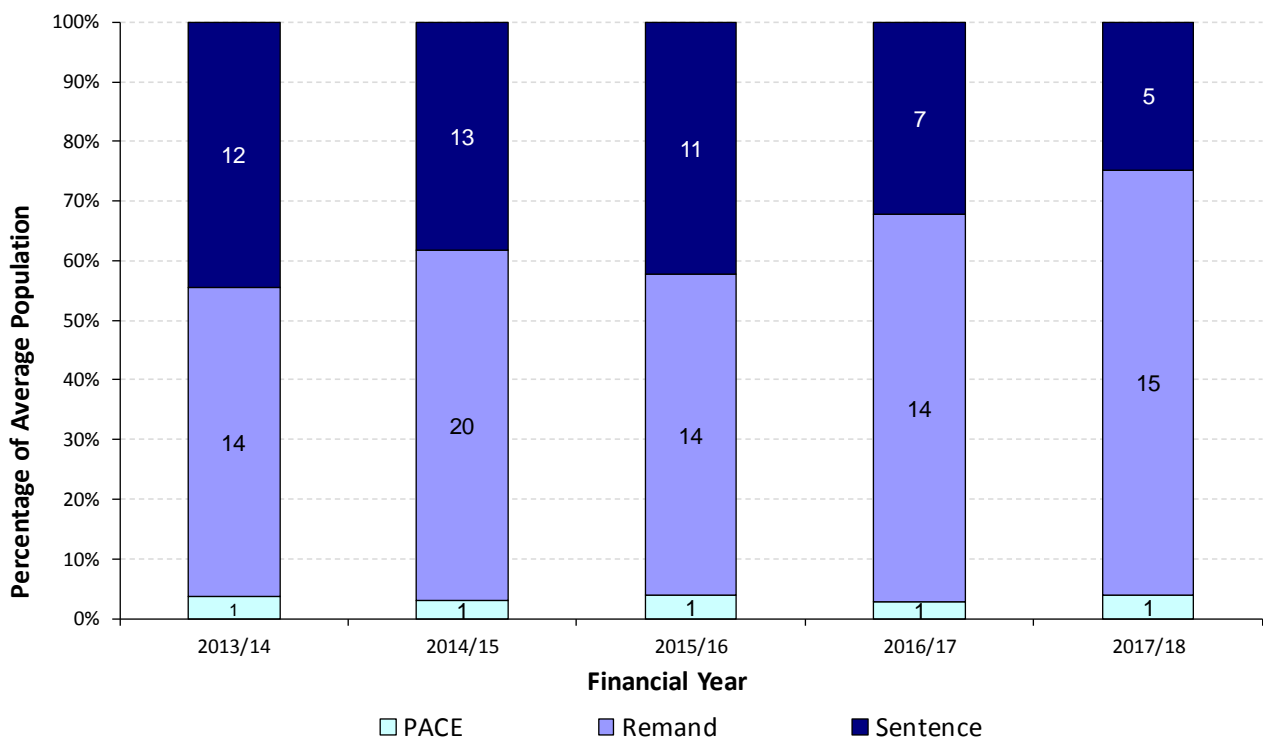
2.1 JJC POPULATION STATISTICS

Average Population

Figure 1 shows the average daily population of the JJC by status. In 2017/18 the total average daily population in the JJC was 21 young people. This figure was lower than in 2016/17, when the average was 22.

Whilst a large number of young people are admitted to the JJC under PACE they 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 young people on remand (Figure 1).

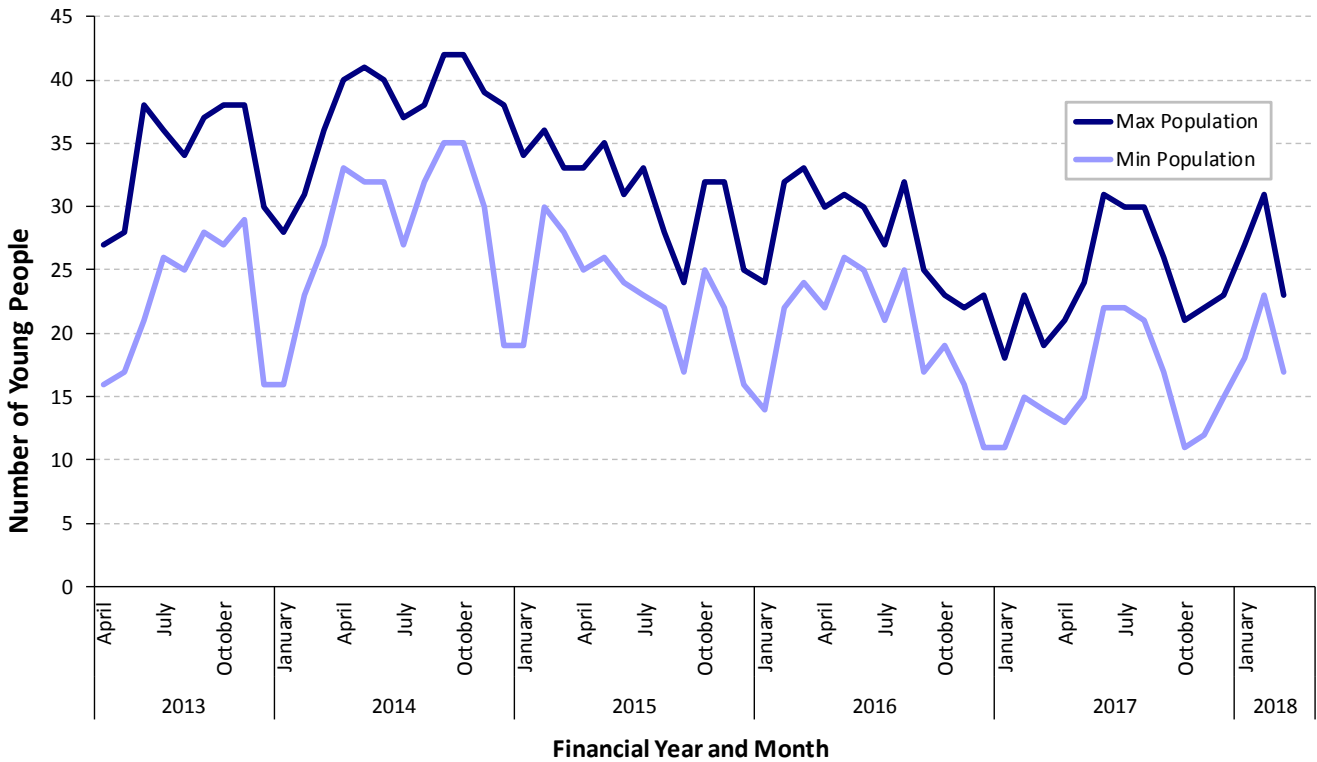
Figure 1: Average Population by Status, 2013/14 to 2017/18



2.2 MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM POPULATION

Figure 2 shows the maximum and minimum daily population of JJC each month from April 2013 to March 2018. The highest population level seen in 2017/18 was 31 (compared with 32 in the previous financial year) and the lowest was 11. This is consistent with reductions in the average JJC population over the last five years. The highest population number observed in this five year period was 42 in 2014/15 (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Maximum and Minimum Monthly Population, 2013/14 to 2017/18



2.3 JJC WORKLOAD STATISTICS

The workload statistics reported in this section specifically refer to admissions and changes of status within the JJC, for example when a young person transfers from PACE to remand; as these events constitute the daily workload of the centre. For this reason, discharges have been removed as all admissions will ultimately result in a discharge.

Workload Summary

Table 1 shows the annual number of movements within Woodlands JJC, the number of individual young people involved in those movements and the equivalent Northern Ireland population aged 10 to 17.

Table 1: Movements Within JJC, Number Of Young People Involved And Population Comparison, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Movements Within Woodlands JJC	Number Of Individual Young People Involved	NI Population Aged 10-17	Rate Per 1,000 ¹
2013/14	741	196	187,097	1.0
2014/15	645	199	185,530	1.1
2015/16	484	163	183,893	0.9
2016/17	443	139	183,273	0.8
2017/18	582	167	184,105	0.9

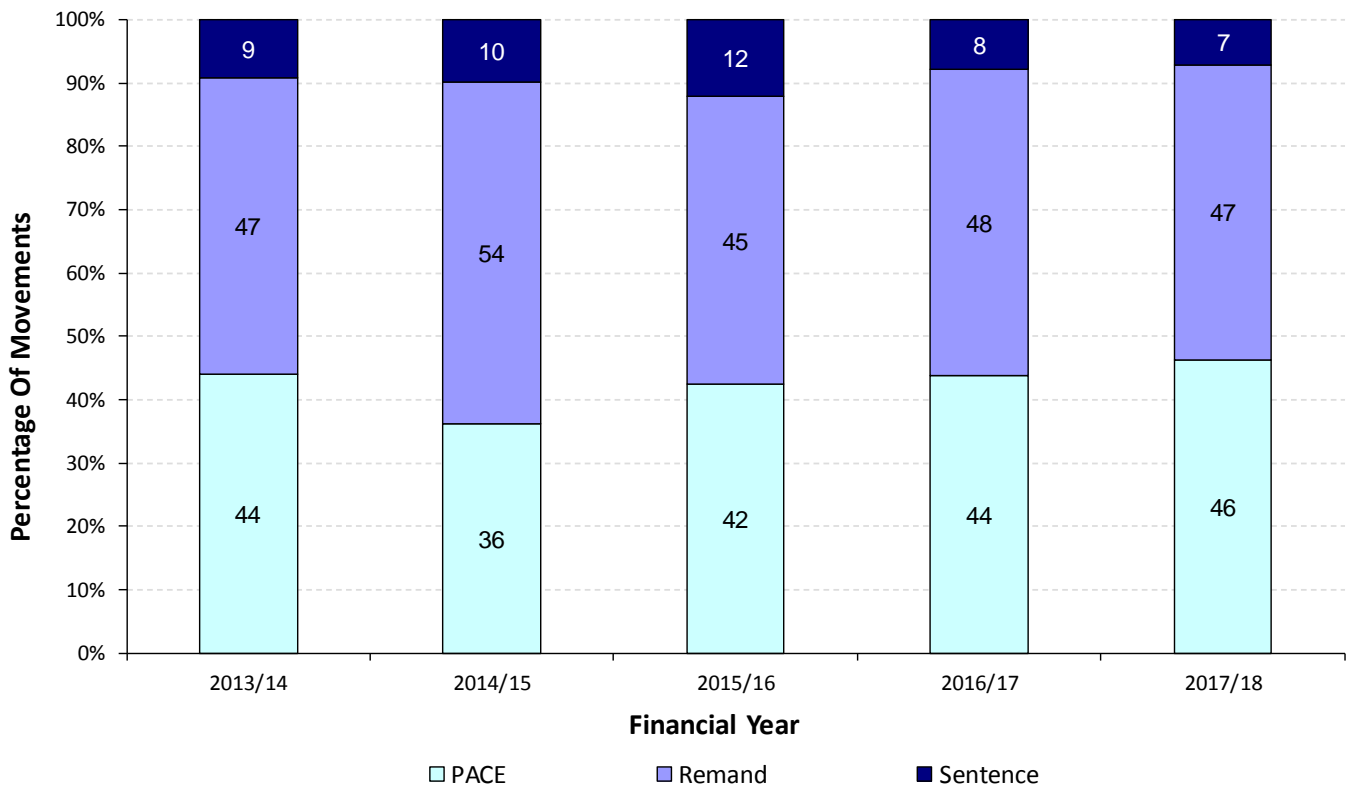
¹ Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30th June 2017. Source: [2017 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland](#).

The figures show that the number of movements within Woodlands JJC has decreased by just over 21% since 2013/14. Additionally, the number of individual young people involved with the JJC decreased by 15% from 196 in 2013/14 to 167 in 2017/18. The total number of young people aged 10 to 17 in Northern Ireland on 30th June 2017 was 184,105. As such, less than one young person in every thousand in Northern Ireland was involved with the JJC in 2017/18 (Table 1).

Movements By Status

In 2017/18 there were 582 movements in the JJC. Of these movements, 269 (46%) related to PACE, 272 (47%) to remand and the remaining 41 (7%) were sentence movements. In the past five years the proportion of movements relating to sentences has declined from 9% in 2013/14 to 7% in 2017/18. Correspondingly the proportion of movements attributed to PACE has increased slightly, from 44% to 46%, over the same time period. In 2013/14 and 2017/18, the proportion of movements attributed to remand were both similar proportions (47%) (Figure 3 and Table A2).

Figure 3: Movements within JJC by Status, 2013/14 to 2017/18 (Percentages)



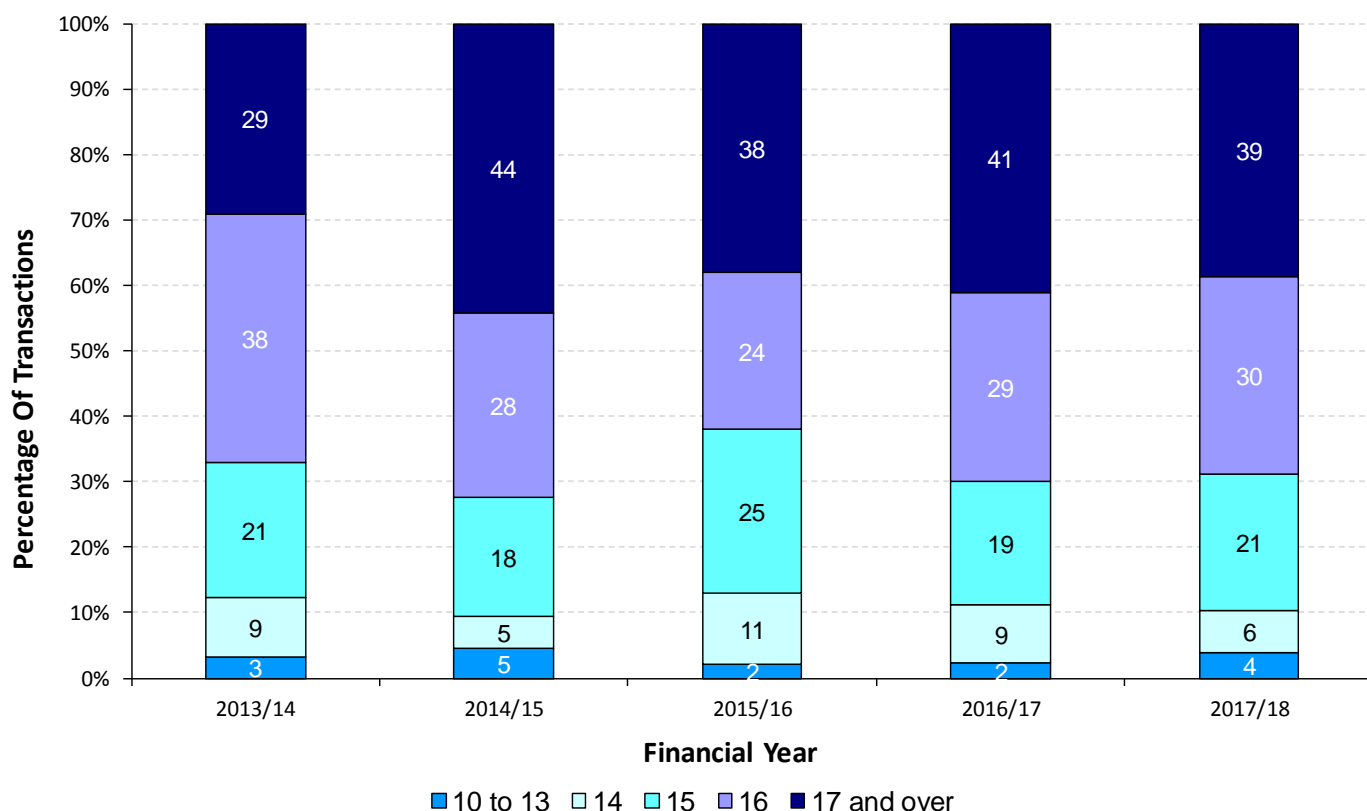
Movements By Gender

Males accounted for the vast majority of movements within JJC in 2017/18 at 83%. This has consistently been the case over the last five years with the proportion of males varying between 83% and 90% since 2013/14 (Table A3).

Movements By Age

In 2017/18, young people aged 17 and over accounted for just under two fifths of JJC movements (39%). This proportion was slightly lower than in 2016/17 (41%) (Figure 4 and Table A4).

Figure 4: Movements Within JJC By Age, 2013/14 To 2017/18 (Percentage)



Movements By Religion

Table 2 shows the total number of movements within JJC broken down by religion between 2013/14 and 2017/18. Over this time period the majority of movements involved Catholic young people. This continues to be the case in 2017/18 with 67% of all movements involving Catholic young people. A further 28% involved Protestant young people. The remainder involved young people of religions other than Catholicism or Protestantism those for whom this information was unknown (Table 2)

Table 2: Movements Within JJC By Religion, 2013/14 To 2017/18

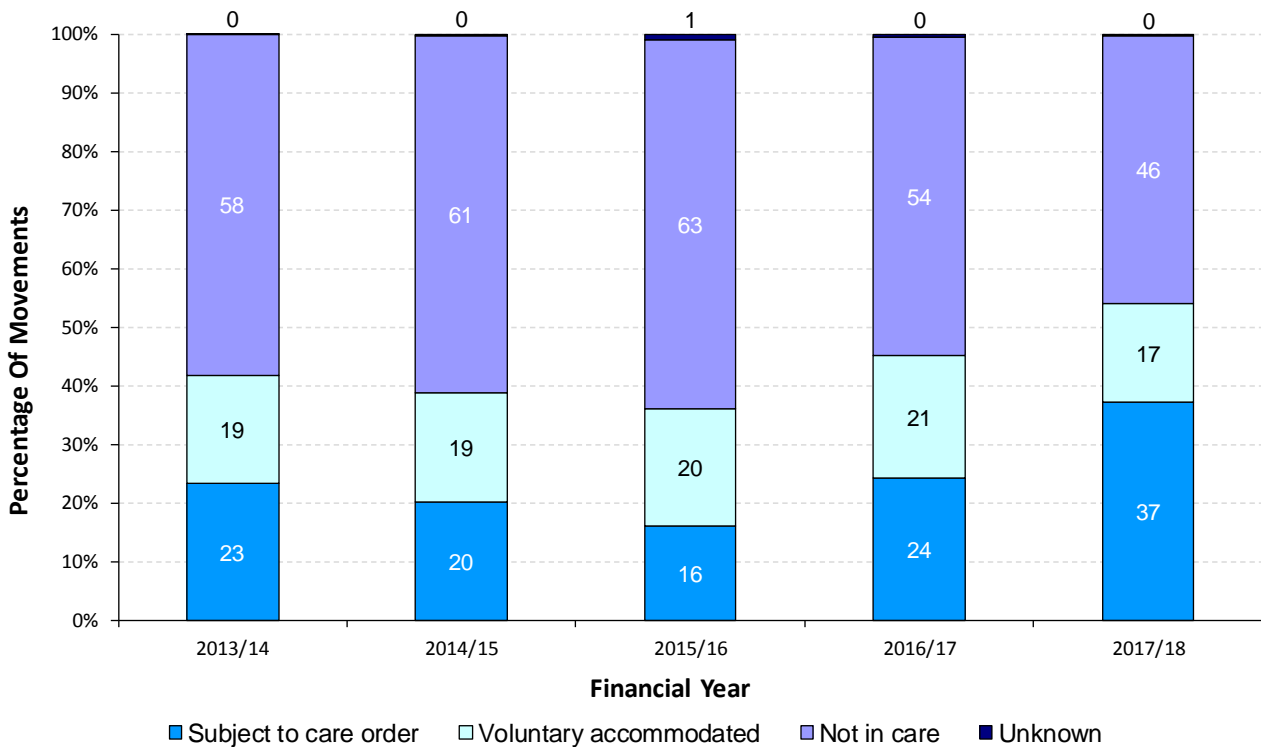
Financial Year	Total Movements	Religion									
		Catholic		Protestant		Other		No Religious Belief		Unknown	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	741	426	57	297	40	8	1	6	1	4	1
2014/15	645	407	63	215	33	5	1	3	0	15	2
2015/16	484	346	71	116	24	4	1	8	2	10	2
2016/17	443	336	76	73	16	7	2	13	3	14	3
2017/18	582	391	67	162	28	8	1	12	2	9	2

Unlike other demographic information this is self-reported by the young person and can therefore not be validated

Movements By Looked After Status

The proportion of movements within the JJC involving young people subject to care orders or in voluntary accommodation reached its highest level since 2013/14 in 2017/18 at 54%. This represents a 9 percentage point increase on 2016/17. Figure 5 shows trends in the proportion of movements in the JJC involving young people in care (Figure 5 and Table A6).

Figure 5: Movements Within JJC by Looked After Status, 2013/14 To 2017/18 (Percentage)



Movements By Area

Table 3 presents the number of movements within the JJC between 2013/14 and 2017/18 according to which Local Government Districts district the young person involved resided.

Young people resident in Belfast consistently accounted for the largest number of movements within the JJC over the five year period: 159 of 582 in 2017/18 (27%). Proportions have varied across the other Local Government Districts from year to year. In 2017/18 the local government districts accounting for the next greatest proportion of movements were Derry and Strabane (12%) and North Down and Ards (11%) (Table 3).

Table 3: Movements Within JJC By Area, 2013/14 To 2017/18

Area	Financial Year				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Total	741	645	484	443	582
Antrim And Newtownabbey	33	43	22	19	35
Armagh, Banbridge And Craigavon	36	47	27	26	40
Belfast	329	308	197	163	159
Causeway Coast And Glens	38	25	26	15	57
Derry And Strabane	37	21	54	56	72
Fermanagh And Omagh	65	22	16	18	18
Lisburn And Castlereagh	20	22	9	13	29
Mid And East Antrim	11	18	19	7	19
Mid Ulster	11	11	23	15	29
Newry, Mourne And Down	34	60	39	20	39
North Down And Ards	122	56	49	81	62
Resident Outside NI	5	7	3	8	8
Unassigned ¹	0	5	0	2	15

¹ Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

Number Of Custody Days

Another way of looking at the work of the JJC is to examine the number of days of custody the centre provides. Young people admitted on PACE will typically reside in the centre for a short period of time, usually one or two days, while those on remand or sentence will normally reside in the centre for longer periods of time.

When examining the transactional work of the JJC, young people on PACE make up a high proportion of the workload (46% in 2017/18). 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% in 2017/18) 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 young people are admitted for less than this duration. In these cases, this is counted as one custody day.

Table 4 shows the number of custody days attributed to PACE, remand and sentence movements over the last five years. In 2017/18 there were 7,715 days of custody provided by the JJC, 305 for PACE, 5,498 for remand and 1,912 for sentence. The number of custody days overall has decreased by 23% since 2013/14 and, consequently there have been decreases in the number of custody days attributable to PACE and sentence movement status with remand having a slight increase from 5,214 in 2013/14 to 5,498 in 2017/18. The proportion of days related to remand in the same time period has also increased, while the proportion relating to sentences has decreased. The proportion related to PACE has remained similar in 2013/14 and 2017/18 (Table 4).

Table 4: Custody Days By Status, 2013/14 To 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Custody Days	Status					
		PACE		Remand		Sentence	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	10,019	383	4	5,214	52	4,422	44
2014/15	12,400	275	2	7,481	60	4,644	37
2015/16	9,268	227	2	4,944	53	4,097	44
2016/17	7,935	222	3	5,156	65	2,557	32
2017/18	7,715	305	4	5,498	71	1,912	25

2.4 JJC STATISTICS FOR INDIVIDUAL YOUNG PEOPLE

The statistics in this section provide information for the number of individual young people involved with the JJC on an annual basis. They are based on each young person’s first movement within the JJC during each financial year; therefore a young person will only be counted once within a given financial year but could be counted several times across years.

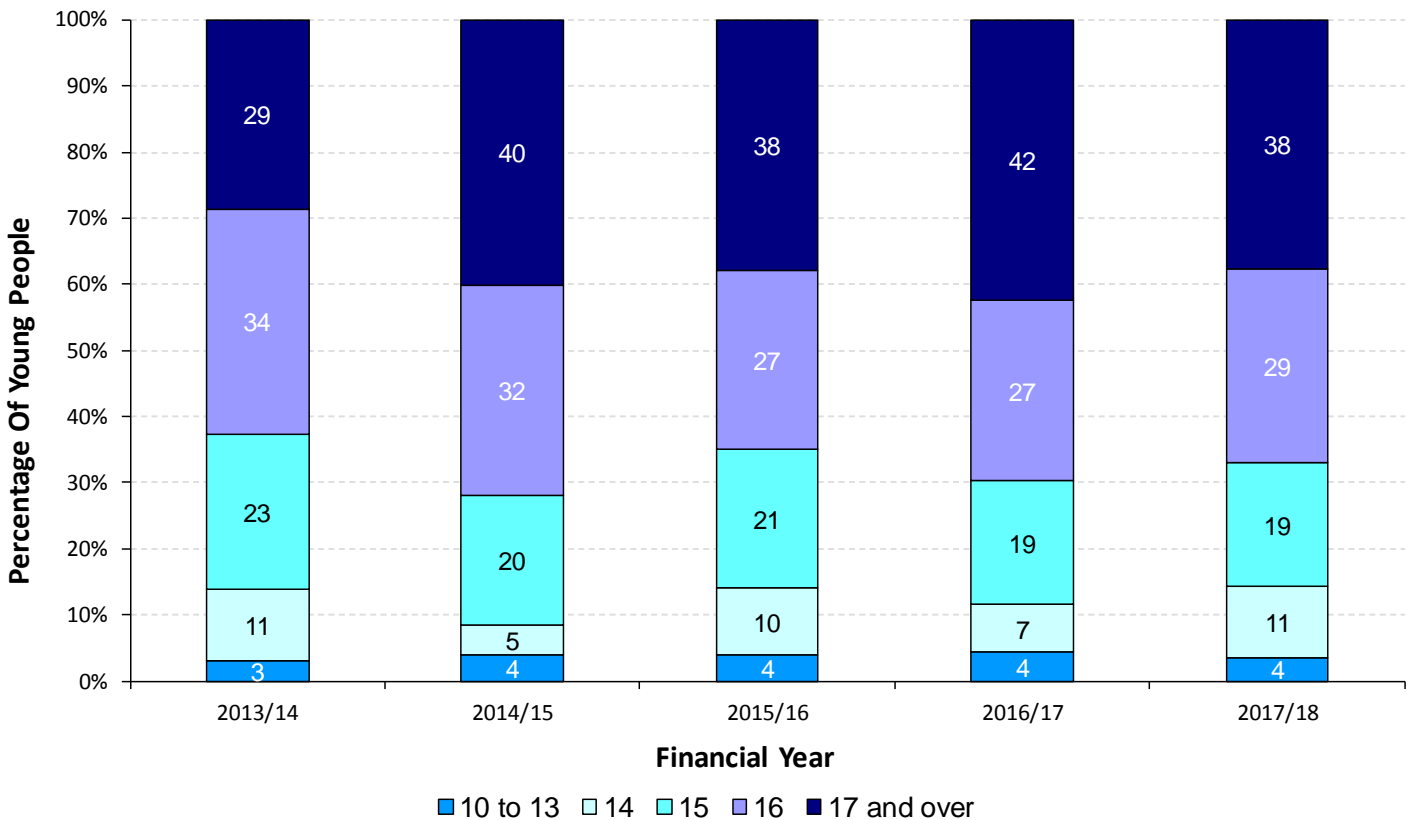
Young People In Custody By Gender

In 2017/18 young people in the JJC were predominately male (86%). This has been consistently the case over the last five years, with the proportion of males always being above 85% or above (Table A9).

Young People In Custody By Age

The age breakdown for individual young people for the last five years is presented in Figure 6. Just under two-fifths (38%) of young people in custody in 2017/18 were aged 17 and over. This is a 4% decrease from 2016/17 (42%) (Figure 6 and Table A10).

Figure 6: Young People In Custody By Age, 2013/14 to 2017/18 (Percentage)



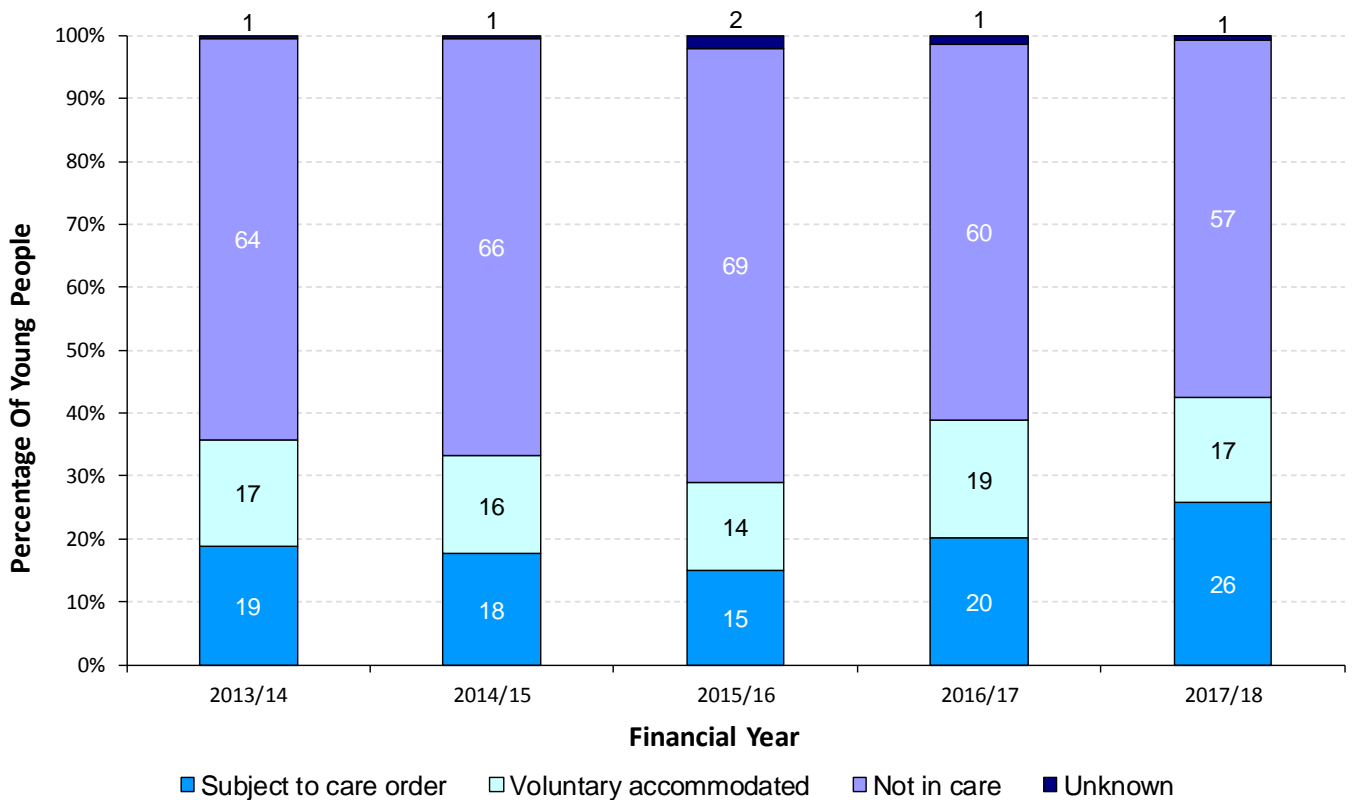
Young People In Custody By Religion

In 2017/18, over three out of five young people in custody were Catholic (63%). A further 28% were Protestant, 2% had other religious beliefs, 2% had no religious belief and the remaining 5% were unknown (Table A11).

Young People In Custody By Looked After Status

Figure 7 shows the proportion of young people involved with the JJC by their looked after status over the past five years. In 2017/18, 57% of young people in custody were not in care. The majority of the remaining young people were in care (26% subject to a care order and 17% voluntary accommodated). The care status of the remaining 1% of young people was unknown (Figure 7 and Table A12).

Figure 7: Young People In Custody By Looked After Status, 2013/14 to 2017/18 (Percentage)



Young People In Custody By Area of Residence

Table 5 shows the number of young people involved with the JJC per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. The information is based on each young person's area of residence at the time of their first movement within the given year.

Derry and Strabane had the highest number of young people admitted to the JJC per 1,000 population in 2017/18 with a rate of 1.5 per 1,000. In the previous four financial years, Belfast has consistently had the highest number of young people admitted to the JJC per 1,000 population – with the highest rate of 2.6 in 2014/15. In 2017/18, Belfast had the second highest rate of young people aged 10 to 17 in custody at 1.3 per 1,000 with North Down and Ards having the third highest rate (1.0 per 1,000). Rates vary across the Local Government Districts from year to year largely due to the small number of young people in custody in Northern Ireland (Table 5).

Table 5: Young People In Custody Per 1,000 Population¹ Aged 10 To 17 By Area Of Residence², 2013/14 To 2017/18

Area	Financial Year				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Northern Ireland	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.9
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0.9	1.3	0.8	0.4	0.6
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.5
Belfast	2.4	2.6	2.0	1.6	1.3
Causeway Coast and Glens	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	1.0
Derry and Strabane	1.1	0.5	1.6	1.2	1.5
Fermanagh and Omagh	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.6
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.6
Mid and East Antrim	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.8
Mid Ulster	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.5
Newry, Mourne and Down	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.5
North Down and Ards	1.7	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.0

¹ Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30th June 2017. Source: [2017 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland](#).

² Excludes young people resident outside Northern Ireland and those for whom accurate address information was unavailable.

2.5 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 young people 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 young people 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 6 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. Over the last five years the PACE conversion rate has remained largely consistent at around 50% each year i.e. half of the young people admitted to the JJC on PACE are released (Table 6).

Table 6: PACE To Remand/Sentence Conversion Estimate, 2013/14 To 2017/18

Financial Year	PACE Admissions	PACE to Remand/Sentence	Conversion Rate
2013/14	326	171	52%
2014/15	233	118	51%
2015/16	204	96	47%
2016/17	194	105	54%
2017/18	269	132	49%

3. YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES (YJS)

Restorative justice is an established part of the Northern Ireland criminal justice system. The YJA uses this approach to focus on the needs of victims and young people. Victims take an active role and young people are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions.

YJS provides a number of disposals to facilitate this. The most frequently used is youth conferencing. Other disposals such as community orders are also provided. The different disposals used are explained in [appendix A](#).

For the first time this publication includes statistics from youth engagement clinic referrals in 2017/18 as indicated by an asterisk (*) in the tables below. This has an impact on the number and profile of youth justice service referrals reported below.

3.1 YJS WORKLOAD STATISTICS

The statistics reported in this section specifically relate 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 young people may withdraw their consent and therefore be given another disposal, or 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.

Workload Summary

Table 7 shows the number of referrals received, the number of individual young people involved in those referrals and the equivalent Northern Ireland population aged 10 to 17.

Table 7: Referrals To YJS, Number Of Young People Involved And Population Comparison, 2013/14 To 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Referrals To The YJS	Number Of Individual Young People Involved	NI Population Aged 10-17 ¹	Rate Per 1,000 ²
2013/14	1,846	977	187,097	5.2
2014/15	1,563	873	185,530	4.7
2015/16	1,579	929	183,893	5.1
2016/17	1,539	893	183,273	4.9
2017/18*	2,938	1,437	184,105	7.8

¹ Population as at 30th June

² Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. Source: [Population data source: 2017 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland](#).

In recent years the number of referrals to YJS had remained constant at 1500 per year. In 2017/18 the number of referrals almost doubled to 2,938 however this was due to the inclusion of 1,365 youth engagement clinic referrals. Whilst YJS staff have been involved with youth engagement clinics since their introduction in 2012/13, previous referral statistics only reflected those which resulted in a diversionary youth conference, i.e. those resulting in an informed warning or a restorative caution were not counted in the workload of YJS. However given the increase in the number of clinics and the resulting increase in staff

resources to host these, it was felt necessary to include this data to give a true reflection of the workload of YJS. If youth engagement referrals are removed from the 2017/18 total the number of other referrals was 1,573 which reflects recent patterns. In 2013/14, there were 1,846 referrals but this dropped in the following 3 years, when the number of referrals remained fairly constant ranging from 1,539 to 1,579 (Table 7).

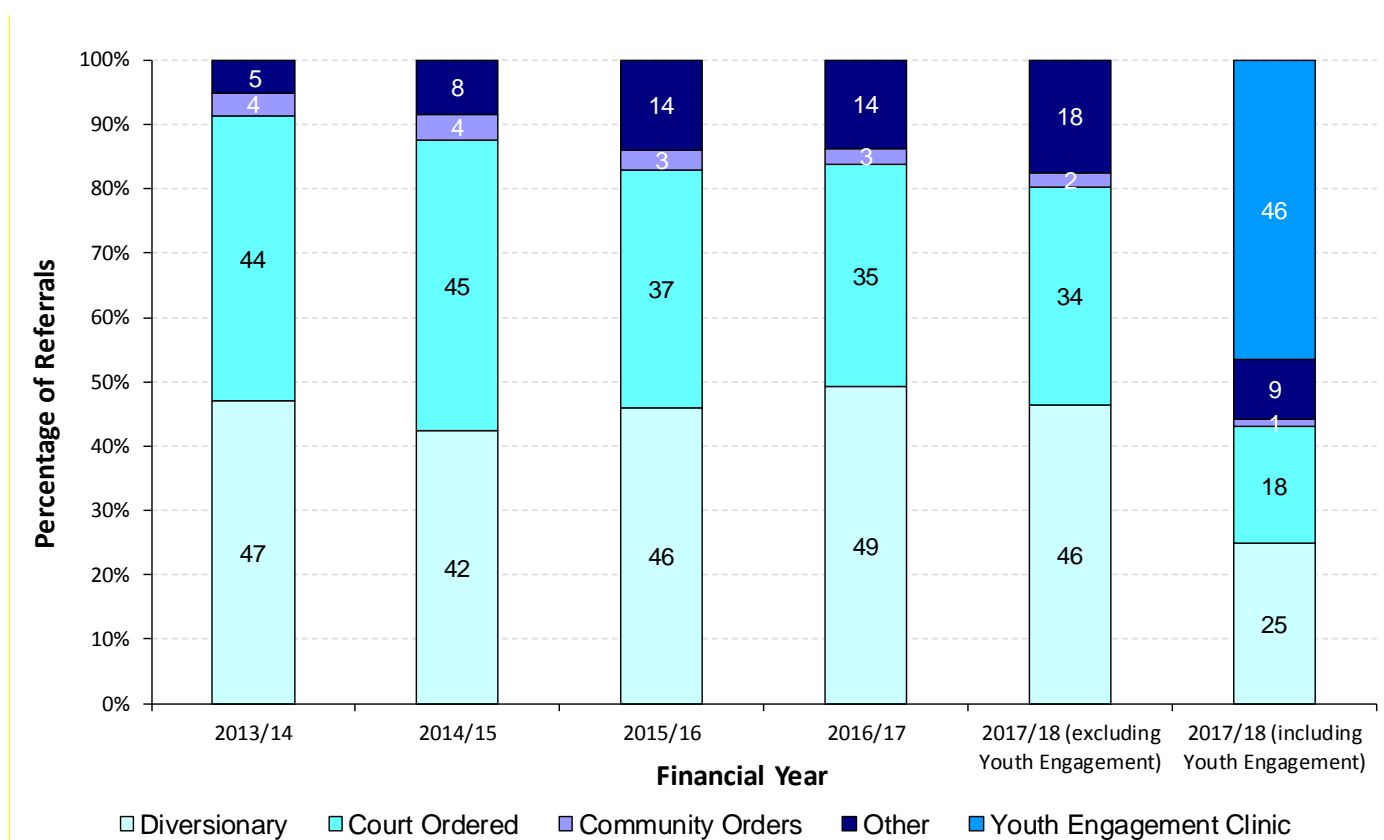
Referrals By Type

A breakdown of the types of referrals received by YJA is shown in Figure 8. Two sets of 2017/18 data are presented – referrals without and with youth engagement clinics.

In order to fairly compare with previous years, 2017/18 figures without youth engagement referrals show that the proportion of diversionary referrals has varied slightly accounting for between 46% and 49% of referrals with the exception of 2014/15 when it accounted for 42% of all referrals. The proportion of court ordered referrals decreased since 2014/15 (45%) to 34% in 2017/18. There has also been a notable increase in the number of other referrals since 2013/14; these accounted for 18% in 2017/18, an increase from 5% in 2013/14.

When the 2017/18 youth engagement referral statistics are included in the proportional calculations, youth engagement referrals accounted for the highest proportion of referrals (46%), with diversionary and court ordered referrals accounting for the second and third highest proportions at 25% and 18% respectively (Figure 8 and Table A16).

Figure 8: Referrals By Type¹, 2013/14 To 2017/18 (Percentage)



¹ Community order referrals include attendance centre orders, community responsibility orders and reparation orders. Other referrals include Juvenile Justice Centre orders where YJS are involved in supervising the community element, reducing offending programme, voluntary referrals, bail support cases and work with probation.

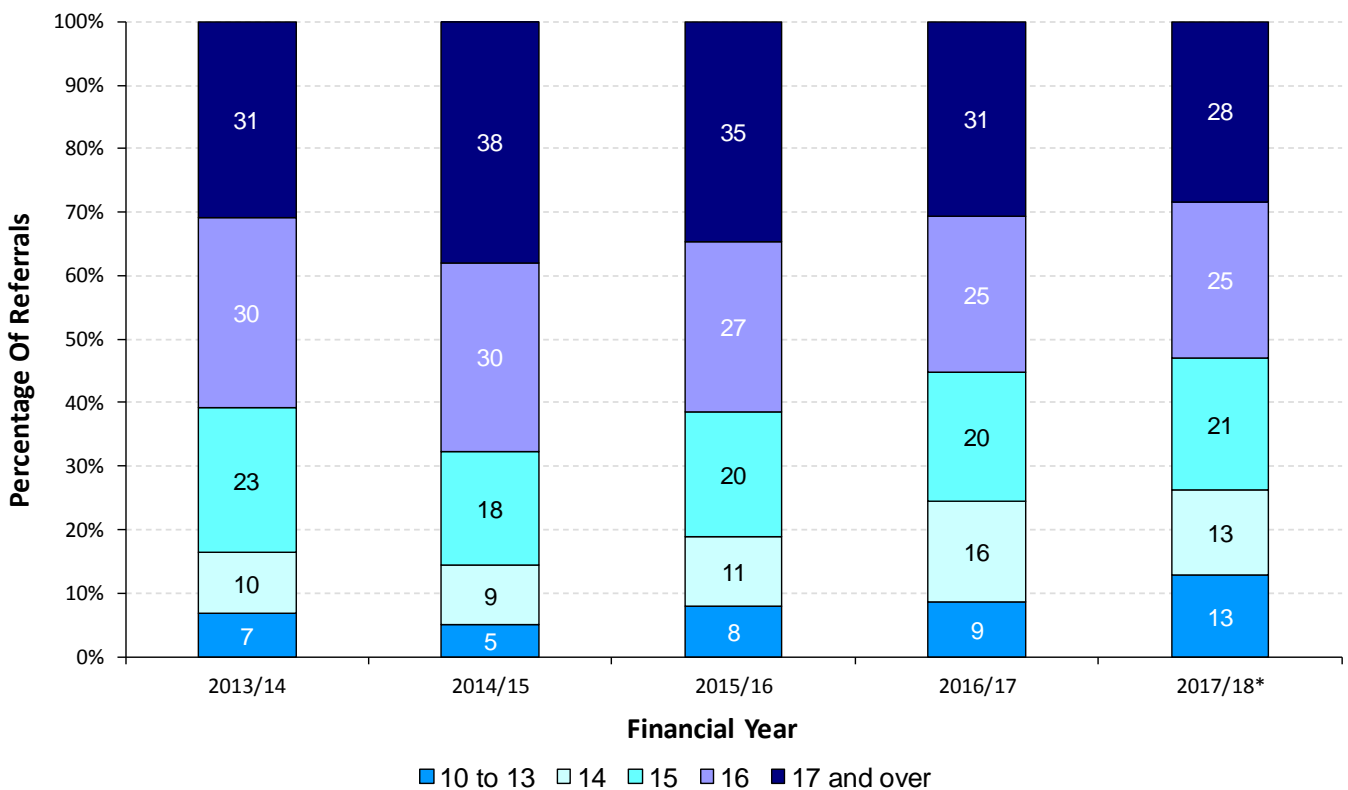
Referrals By Gender

Males accounted for 78% of YJS referrals in 2017/18. The proportion of males among referrals to YJS has been at or around 80% for the last five years (Table A17).

Referrals By Age

In 2017/18, the largest proportion of referrals, 28%, were for young people aged 17 and over although this was a decrease from 2016/17 (31%). Young people aged 16 accounted for 25% of the referrals (the same proportion referred in 2016/17). Young People aged 15 accounted for 21%, with '10 to 13' and 14 each accounting for 13% (Figure 9 and Table A18).

Figure 9: Referrals By Age, 2013/14 To 2017/18 (Percentage)



Referrals By Religion

In previous publications, data was published on referrals by religion. This section has been removed from the current publication due to data quality issues.

Referrals By Area

Table 8 shows the number of referrals by area for the last five years. Over the last five years the largest proportion of referrals related to Belfast (17% of referrals in 2017/18). Over this time period North Down and Ards accounted for the next largest proportion of referrals (11% in 2017/18). Due to the relatively small numbers involved, the local government district with the smallest proportion of referrals tends to change from year to year. In 2017/18 Lisburn and Castlereagh had the smallest proportion of all referrals (3%) (Table 8).

Table 8: Referrals By Area, 2013/14 To 2017/18

Area	Financial Year				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18*
Total	1,846	1,563	1,579	1,539	2,938
Antrim and Newtownabbey	111	103	109	96	128
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	164	122	134	138	262
Belfast	512	519	422	406	498
Causeway Coast and Glens	106	86	90	86	260
Derry and Strabane	210	155	195	169	167
Fermanagh and Omagh	170	110	87	86	135
Lisburn and Castlereagh	57	50	56	58	90
Mid and East Antrim	55	53	84	93	188
Mid Ulster	70	57	71	52	140
Newry, Mourne and Down	140	119	129	111	282
North Down and Ards	250	188	202	242	328
Resident outside NI	0	1	0	2	0
Unassigned ¹	1	0	0	0	460

¹ Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

3.2 YJS STATISTICS FOR INDIVIDUAL YOUNG PEOPLE

As previously noted, workload statistics provide information on the workload of YJS however the data in this section provides information on the number of individual young people involved with YJS on an annual basis. The following statistics are based on each young person’s first referral to the YJS during each financial year; therefore a young person will only be counted once within a given financial year but could be counted several times across years.

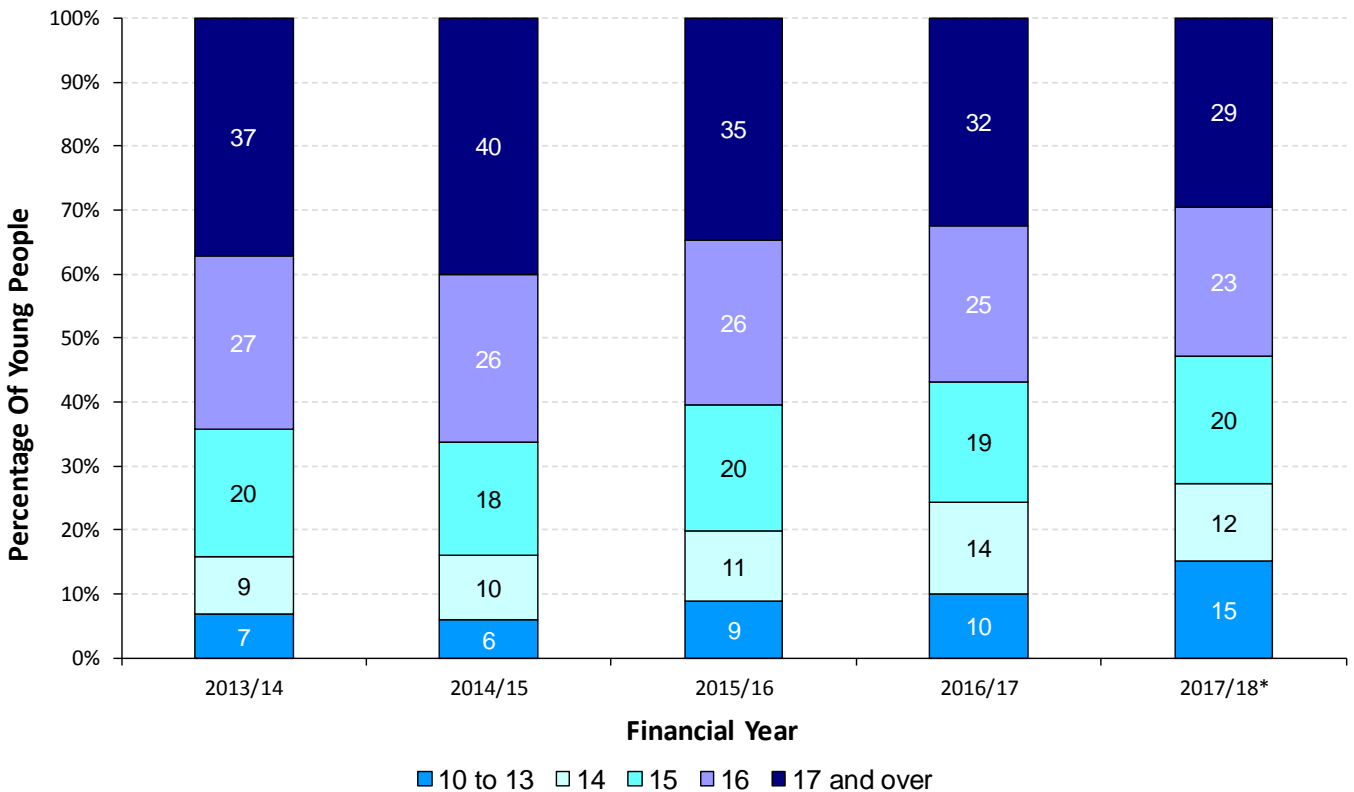
Young People Involved With YJS By Gender

As when counting referrals, 78% of young people involved with YJS in 2017/18 were male. The proportion of male young people involved with YJS has remained at or above this level since 2013/14 (Table A20).

Young People Involved With YJS By Age

29% of young people involved with YJS in 2017/18 were aged 17 and over. This is a decrease from 32% in 2015/16. The age breakdown for individual young people for the last five years is presented in Figure 10 (Table A21).

Figure 10: Young People Involved With YJS By Age, 2013/14 To 2017/18 (Percentages)



Young People Involved With YJS By Religion

In previous publications, data was published on young people involved with YJS by religion. This section has been removed from the current publication due to data quality issues.

Young People Involved With YJS By Area of Residence

Table 9 presents the number of young people involved with YJS by local government district for the last five years. In 2017/18, North Down and Ards had the highest number of young people referred to YJS per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at a rate of 8.6. The next highest rates in 2017/18 were in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (7.6) and Causeway Coast and Glens (7.5). The lowest rate seen was in Lisburn and Castlereagh (2.8) (Table 9).

Table 9: Young People Involved With YJS Per 1,000 Population¹ Aged 10 To 17 By Area of Residence², 2013/14 to 2017/18

Area	Financial Year				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18*
Northern Ireland	5.2	4.7	5.1	4.9	7.8
Antrim and Newtownabbey	4.8	5.0	5.2	4.6	4.6
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	5.0	3.7	4.4	4.1	7.6
Belfast	7.9	8.1	7.8	7.7	6.7
Causeway Coast and Glens	3.9	3.1	3.7	3.7	7.5
Derry and Strabane	6.9	5.5	5.6	5.9	4.4
Fermanagh and Omagh	6.4	4.4	4.1	4.2	3.7
Lisburn and Castlereagh	2.2	2.7	3.2	3.0	2.8
Mid and East Antrim	3.1	3.5	4.5	4.5	6.8
Mid Ulster	3.2	2.6	3.3	2.3	4.4
Newry, Mourne and Down	4.6	4.1	4.6	4.1	6.5
North Down and Ards	6.1	5.6	6.2	6.7	8.6

¹ Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30th June. Source: [Population data source: 2017 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland](#).

² Excludes young people resident outside Northern Ireland and those for whom accurate address information was unavailable.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

Custody

Young People may be held in the Juvenile Justice Centre either on:

- PACE: These young people 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 young people are remanded in custody either awaiting trial or sentence.
- Sentence – These young people 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 young people sentenced to the Juvenile Justice Centre will be given a Juvenile Justice Centre Order (JJCO).

Juvenile Justice Centre Order (JJCO)

This order was introduced on 31st 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 12th 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 1st 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 young people sentenced to Juvenile Justice Centre Orders, YOC Orders and fine default.

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 young people there have been a small number over recent years sentenced to the Juvenile Justice Centre for fine default.

Bail Support

The Youth Justice Agency provides Bails Support services to young people. 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.

Non-Custodial Disposals supervised by Youth Justice Services

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 Youth Justice Services can be made either by diversion via the Public Prosecution Service, 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 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.

Diversionsary Youth Conference (DYC)

The decision whether or not to refer a young person to a diversionary conference is for the Public Prosecution Service to make, but these conferences 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.

Attendance Centre Order (ACO)

An attendance centre order 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)

The order is 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.

Reparation Order (RO)

The order 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 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 young people 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 B: 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 data for this bulletin was taken from the Youth Justice Agency's data management information system.

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 concerns over the quality of reporting this variable with higher proportion of missing values it was decided to be removed from the current publication.

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 2013/14 to 2017/18). Tables with data from earlier years (from financial year 2008/09 to 2017/18) is available within the Microsoft Excel and OpenDocument Spreadsheet format documents available at 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 are rounded to whole numbers whereas population rates are 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 C: DATA TABLES

The data tables presented in this bulletin are also available to download separately in Excel format at: www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications. Tables in this format also contain data for years prior to 2013/14.

Percentage totals may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table A1: Movements Within JJC, Number Of Young People Involved And Population Comparison, 2013/14 to 2017

Financial Year	Movements Within Woodlands JJC	Number Of Individual Young People Involved	NI Population Aged 10-17	Rate Per 1,000 ¹
2013/14	741	196	187,097	1.0
2014/15	645	199	185,530	1.1
2015/16	484	163	183,893	0.9
2016/17	443	139	183,273	0.8
2017/18	582	167	184,105	0.9

¹ Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30th June. Source: [Population data source: 2017 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland..](#)

Table A2: Movements Within JJC By Status, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Movements	Movement Status					
		PACE		Remand		Sentence	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	741	326	44	347	47	68	9
2014/15	645	233	36	349	54	63	10
2015/16	484	204	42	220	45	60	12
2016/17	443	194	44	214	48	35	8
2017/18	582	269	46	272	47	41	7

Table A3: Movements Within JJC By Gender, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Movements	Gender			
		Male		Female	
		Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	741	665	90	76	10
2014/15	645	558	87	87	13
2015/16	484	423	87	61	13
2016/17	443	397	90	46	10
2017/18	582	482	83	100	17

Table A4: Movements Within JJC By Age, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Movements	Age									
		10 to 13		14		15		16		17 and over	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	741	24	3	67	9	153	21	282	38	215	29
2014/15	645	30	5	31	5	117	18	182	28	285	44
2015/16	484	10	2	52	11	119	25	118	24	185	38
2016/17	443	10	2	40	9	83	19	128	29	182	41
2017/18	582	23	4	37	6	121	21	176	30	225	39

Table A5: Movements Within JJC By Religion, 2013/14 To 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Movements	Religion									
		Catholic		Protestant		Other		No Religious Belief		Unknown	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	741	426	57	297	40	8	1	6	1	4	1
2014/15	645	407	63	215	33	5	1	3	0	15	2
2015/16	484	346	71	116	24	4	1	8	2	10	2
2016/17	443	336	76	73	16	7	2	13	3	14	3
2017/18	582	391	67	162	28	8	1	12	2	9	2

¹ Religion is self-reported by the young person and can therefore not be validated

Table A6: Movements Within JJC By Looked After Status, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Movements	Looked After Status							
		Subject to care order		Voluntary accommodated		Not in care		Unknown	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	741	172	23	138	19	430	58	1	0
2014/15	645	130	20	120	19	394	61	1	0
2015/16	484	79	16	96	20	305	63	4	1
2016/17	443	107	24	93	21	241	54	2	0
2017/18	582	216	37	98	17	267	46	1	0

Table A7: Movements Within JJC By Area, 2013/14 To 2017/18

Area	Financial Year				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Total	741	645	484	443	582
Antrim And Newtownabbey	33	43	22	19	35
Armagh, Banbridge And Craigavon	36	47	27	26	40
Belfast	329	308	197	163	159
Causeway Coast And Glens	38	25	26	15	57
Derry And Strabane	37	21	54	56	72
Fermanagh And Omagh	65	22	16	18	18
Lisburn And Castlereagh	20	22	9	13	29
Mid And East Antrim	11	18	19	7	19
Mid Ulster	11	11	23	15	29
Newry, Mourne And Down	34	60	39	20	39
North Down And Ards	122	56	49	81	62
Resident Outside NI	5	7	3	8	8
Unassigned ¹	0	5	0	2	15

¹ Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

Table A8: Custody Days By Status, 2013/14 To 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Custody Days	Status					
		PACE		Remand		Sentence	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	10,019	383	4	5,214	52	4,422	44
2014/15	12,400	275	2	7,481	60	4,644	37
2015/16	9,268	227	2	4,944	53	4,097	44
2016/17	7,935	222	3	5,156	65	2,557	32
2017/18	7,715	305	4	5,498	71	1,912	25

Table A9: Young People In Custody By Gender, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Young People	Gender			
		Male		Female	
		Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	196	170	87	26	13
2014/15	199	169	85	30	15
2015/16	163	144	88	19	12
2016/17	139	124	89	15	11
2017/18	167	143	86	24	14

Table A10: Young People In Custody By Age, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Young People	Age									
		10 to 13		14		15		16		17 and over	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	196	6	3	21	11	46	23	67	34	56	29
2014/15	199	8	4	9	5	39	20	63	32	80	40
2015/16	163	6	4	17	10	34	21	44	27	62	38
2016/17	139	6	4	10	7	26	19	38	27	59	42
2017/18	167	6	4	18	11	31	19	49	29	63	38

Table A11: Young People In Custody By Religion, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Young People	Religion ¹									
		Catholic		Protestant		Other		No Religious Belief		Unknown	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	196	112	57	76	39	3	2	2	1	3	2
2014/15	199	117	59	67	34	4	2	2	1	9	5
2015/16	163	104	64	46	28	2	1	3	2	8	5
2016/17	139	93	67	24	17	5	4	8	6	9	6
2017/18	167	106	63	46	28	3	2	4	2	8	5

¹ Religion is self-reported by the young person and can therefore not be validated

Table A12: Young People In Custody By Looked After Status, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Young People	Looked After Status							
		Subject to care order		Voluntary accommodated		Not in care		Unknown	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	196	37	19	33	17	125	64	1	1
2014/15	199	35	18	31	16	132	66	1	1
2015/16	163	24	15	23	14	112	69	4	2
2016/17	139	28	20	26	19	83	60	2	1
2017/18	167	43	26	28	17	95	57	1	1

Table A13: Young People in Custody by Area of Residence, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Area	Financial Year									
	2013/14		2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		2017/18	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
Northern Ireland	191	1.0	190	1.0	161	0.9	131	0.7	167	0.9
Antrim And Newtownabbey	12	0.9	18	1.3	11	0.8	6	0.4	9	0.6
Armagh, Banbridge And Craigavon	7	0.3	17	0.8	8	0.4	10	0.5	11	0.5
Belfast	75	2.4	79	2.6	61	2.0	47	1.6	40	1.3
Causeway Coast And Glens	11	0.7	9	0.6	10	0.7	7	0.5	14	1.0
Derry And Strabane	18	1.1	9	0.5	25	1.6	19	1.2	23	1.5
Fermanagh And Omagh	18	1.4	10	0.8	5	0.4	4	0.3	8	0.6
Lisburn And Castlereagh	4	0.3	7	0.5	1	0.1	4	0.3	8	0.6
Mid And East Antrim	6	0.4	9	0.7	5	0.4	3	0.2	10	0.8
Mid Ulster	6	0.4	5	0.3	10	0.6	5	0.3	8	0.5
Newry, Mourne And Down	9	0.5	15	0.8	12	0.6	7	0.4	9	0.5
North Down And Ards	25	1.7	12	0.8	13	0.9	19	1.3	15	1.0
Resident outside NI	5	..	4	..	2	..	4	..	7	..
Unassigned ²	0	..	5	..	0	..	2	..	5	..

¹ Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30th June. Source: [Population data source: 2017 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland](#).

² Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

Table A14: PACE To Remand/Sentence Conversion Estimate, 2013/14 To 2017/18

Financial Year	PACE Admissions	PACE to Remand/Sentence	Conversion Rate
2013/14	326	171	52%
2014/15	233	118	51%
2015/16	204	96	47%
2016/17	194	105	54%
2017/18	269	132	49%

Table A15: Referrals To YJS, Number Of Young People Involved And Population Comparison, 2013/14 To 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Referrals To The YJS	Number Of Individual Young People Involved	NI Population Aged 10-17 ¹	Rate Per 1,000 ²
2013/14	1,846	977	187,097	5.2
2014/15	1,563	873	185,530	4.7
2015/16	1,579	929	183,893	5.1
2016/17	1,539	893	183,273	4.9
2017/18*	2,938	1,437	184,105	7.8

¹ Population as at 30th June

² Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. Source: [Population data source: 2017 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland.](#)

Table A16: Referrals By Type, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Referrals	Type Of Referral									
		Diversionary		Court Ordered		Community Orders ¹		Youth Engagement Clinic		Other ²	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	1,846	867	47	817	44	69	4	..	..	93	5
2014/15	1,563	661	42	707	45	64	4	..	..	131	8
2015/16	1,579	730	46	578	37	54	3	..	..	217	14
2016/17	1,539	757	49	532	35	39	3	..	..	211	14
2017/18*	2,938	729	25	535	18	33	1	1,365	46	276	9

¹ Community order referrals include attendance centre orders, community responsibility orders and reparation orders.

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

Table A17: Referrals By Gender, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Referrals ¹	Gender			
		Male		Female	
		Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	1,846	1,535	83	311	17
2014/15	1,563	1,294	83	269	17
2015/16	1,579	1,272	81	307	19
2016/17	1,539	1,228	80	307	20
2017/18*	2,938	2,290	78	616	21

¹ Figures for each gender may not sum to total number of referrals as some young people may refuse to supply their gender

Table A18: Referrals By Age, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Referrals	Age									
		10 to 13		14		15		16		17 and over	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	1,846	124	7	178	10	422	23	551	30	571	31
2014/15	1,563	78	5	147	9	280	18	465	30	593	38
2015/16	1,579	125	8	166	11	315	20	424	27	549	35
2016/17	1,539	132	9	245	16	312	20	378	25	472	31
2017/18*	2,938	376	13	396	13	607	21	727	25	832	28

Table A19: Referrals By Area, 2013/14 To 2017/18

Area	Financial Year				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18*
Total	1,846	1,563	1,579	1,539	2,938
Antrim and Newtownabbey	111	103	109	96	128
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	164	122	134	138	262
Belfast	512	519	422	406	498
Causeway Coast and Glens	106	86	90	86	260
Derry and Strabane	210	155	195	169	167
Fermanagh and Omagh	170	110	87	86	135
Lisburn and Castlereagh	57	50	56	58	90
Mid and East Antrim	55	53	84	93	188
Mid Ulster	70	57	71	52	140
Newry, Mourne and Down	140	119	129	111	282
North Down and Ards	250	188	202	242	328
Resident outside NI	0	1	0	2	0
Unassigned ¹	1	0	0	0	460

¹ Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

Table A20: Young People Involved With YJS By Gender, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Year	Total Young People ¹	Gender			
		Male		Female	
		Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	977	809	83	168	17
2014/15	873	720	82	153	18
2015/16	929	745	80	184	20
2016/17	893	718	80	174	19
2017/18*	1437	1125	78	283	20

¹ Figures for each gender may not sum to total number of referrals as some young people may refuse to supply their gender

Table A21: Young People Involved With YJS By Age, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Financial Year	Total Young People	Age									
		10 to 13		14		15		16		17 and over	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2013/14	977	67	7	88	9	194	20	266	27	362	37
2014/15	873	51	6	89	10	154	18	230	26	349	40
2015/16	929	82	9	100	11	184	20	240	26	323	35
2016/17	893	90	10	128	14	167	19	219	25	289	32
2017/18*	1437	217	15	175	12	285	20	337	23	423	29

Table A22: Young People Involved With YJS By Area Of Residence, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Area	Financial Year									
	2013/14		2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		2017/18*	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
Northern Ireland	976	5.2	872	4.705	929	5.052	891	4.862	1437	7.805
Antrim And Newtownabbey	68	4.8	70	5.0	72	5.2	64	4.6	65	4.6
Armagh, Banbridge And Craigavon	105	5.0	77	3.7	92	4.4	87	4.1	164	7.6
Belfast	245	7.9	251	8.1	239	7.8	233	7.7	203	6.7
Causeway Coast And Glens	58	3.9	45	3.1	53	3.7	52	3.7	106	7.5
Derry And Strabane	117	6.9	90	5.5	91	5.6	93	5.9	68	4.4
Fermanagh And Omagh	81	6.4	55	4.4	51	4.1	52	4.2	46	3.7
Lisburn And Castlereagh	30	2.2	36	2.7	43	3.2	40	3.0	38	2.8
Mid And East Antrim	42	3.1	47	3.5	59	4.5	59	4.5	90	6.8
Mid Ulster	50	3.2	40	2.6	51	3.3	35	2.3	69	4.4
Newry, Mourne And Down	90	4.6	78	4.1	87	4.6	78	4.1	123	6.5
North Down And Ards	90	6.1	83	5.6	91	6.2	98	6.7	127	8.6
Resident outside NI	0	..	1	..	0	..	2	..	..	..
Unassigned ²	1	..	0	..	0	..	0	..	338	..

¹ Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17 at 30th June. Source: [Population data source: 2017 Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland](#).

² Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

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