



# NISRA

Northern Ireland  
Statistics and Research Agency  
Gníomhaireacht Thuaisceart Éireann  
um Staitisticí agus Taighde

# Northern Ireland Youth Justice Agency Annual Workload Statistics

## 2022/23

T. Brown  
14 September 2023



Department of  
**Justice**

An Roinn Dí agus Cirt  
Mánnystrie O tha Laa

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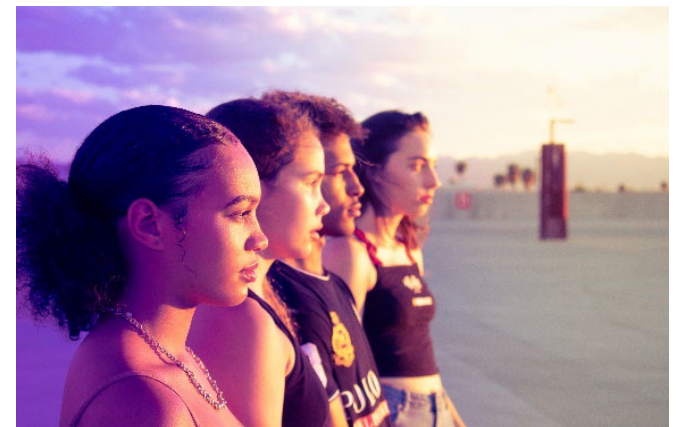
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# 1 | Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the workload provided by the Youth Justice Services (YJS) and Custodial Services (Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre, (JJC)) directorates within Youth Justice Agency (YJA) during 2022/23 and how it has changed over time. The principal findings are summarised below -

- The number of referrals to the YJS in 2022/23 was 1,361, a decrease of 5.2% from 2021/22 (1,435).
- Diversionary referrals (47.6%; 648) accounted for the largest proportion of all referrals in 2022/23, followed by Court Ordered (27.0%; 367) and Earlier Stage Diversions (16.9%; 230).
- The number of individuals referred to YJS in 2022/23 (774) decreased by 14.4% from the previous year (904).
- The total number of individuals in custody increased by 3.8% (106, 2021/22; 110, 2022/23).
- As in previous years males accounted for the majority of YJS referrals (75.3%) and of children referred to YJS (76.5%) and in custody (81.8%).
- During 2022/23, 66.4% of total referrals and 65.2% of individuals referred to YJS were aged 15 and over; the corresponding figure for children in custody was 82.7%.
- In 2022/23, 57.3% of children in custody were Catholic; 13.6% were Protestant.
- Of the children in custody during 2022/23, 41.8% were in care (32.7% were subject to a care order; 9.1% were voluntary accommodated).



# 1 | Executive Summary

- In terms of local government district, Belfast had the highest number of YJS referrals (231) and the highest number of children referred to YJS (160). Derry City and Strabane had the highest number of admissions to custody (44) while Belfast had the highest number of children in custody (22). Regarding children in custody, Derry City and Strabane had the highest rate per 1,000 at 1.0.
- In 2022/23, there was a total of 3,844 days of custody provided by the JJC, 23.2% higher than in 2021/22 (3,120) and 40.8% lower than in 2018/19 (6,497). Of these days 5.4% were for PACE, 85.1% for remand and 9.4% for sentence.
- The total number of admissions to the JJC was 8.2% higher in 2022/23 (224) than in 2021/22 (207). Overall movements within the JJC, that is new admissions plus internal changes of status, such as PACE to Remand, was 9.0% higher in 2022/23 (314) than in the previous year (288).
- Of the 1,052 statutory referrals during 2022/23, the highest proportion involved violence against the person (40.3%; 424).

## 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, it looks at gender, age, 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) and individuals in custody. 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 Chapter 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 2022/23 will be counted once in the JJC statistics and once in the YJS statistics for 2022/23.

## 2 | Introduction

- Furthermore, individual children involved with JJC are counted on their first movement 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.
- The Insight elements of this report are based on management information at the time of publication and are not fully validated. As such, they may be subject to some minor fluctuations.
- Information is based on data extracted after 1 July each year, for example the data for 2022/23 will be extracted after 1 July 2023.
- Population figures used for calculations for the five year period in the report have been revised to reflect the 2011-2021 Rebased Mid-Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland as published by NISRA on 29 June 2023. Mid year estimates for 2022 are due to be released later in 2023.
- 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](#) – opens in new tab).

# 3 | Youth Justice Services

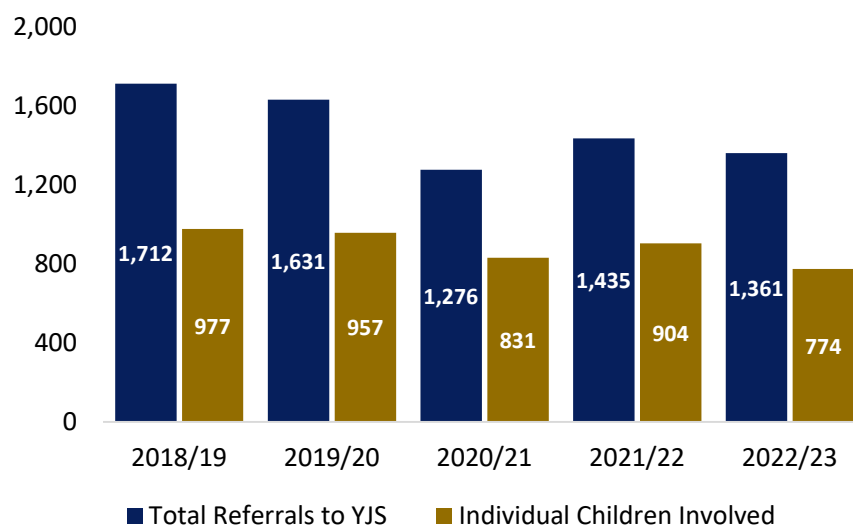
## About this chapter

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 2022/23. It also includes an offence type profile of referrals to the YJS during 2022/23. 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 2022/23, 774 individual children were referred to YJS, equating to 3.9 children in every 1,000 [note 1] and a decrease of 14.4% on 2021/22 (904); total referrals to the YJS (1,361) decreased by 5.2% on the previous year (1,435). Neither the numbers of children nor the number of referrals have reached the pre-Covid 19 levels in 2019/20 (957 and 1,631 respectively) (Figure 1; [Table 1, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 1: Individual children referred and total referrals to YJS, 2018/19 to 2022/23



1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. The number of children aged 10 to 17 in Northern Ireland on 30 June 2021 was 197,423.

Population data source: 2011-2021 Rebased Mid-Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland.

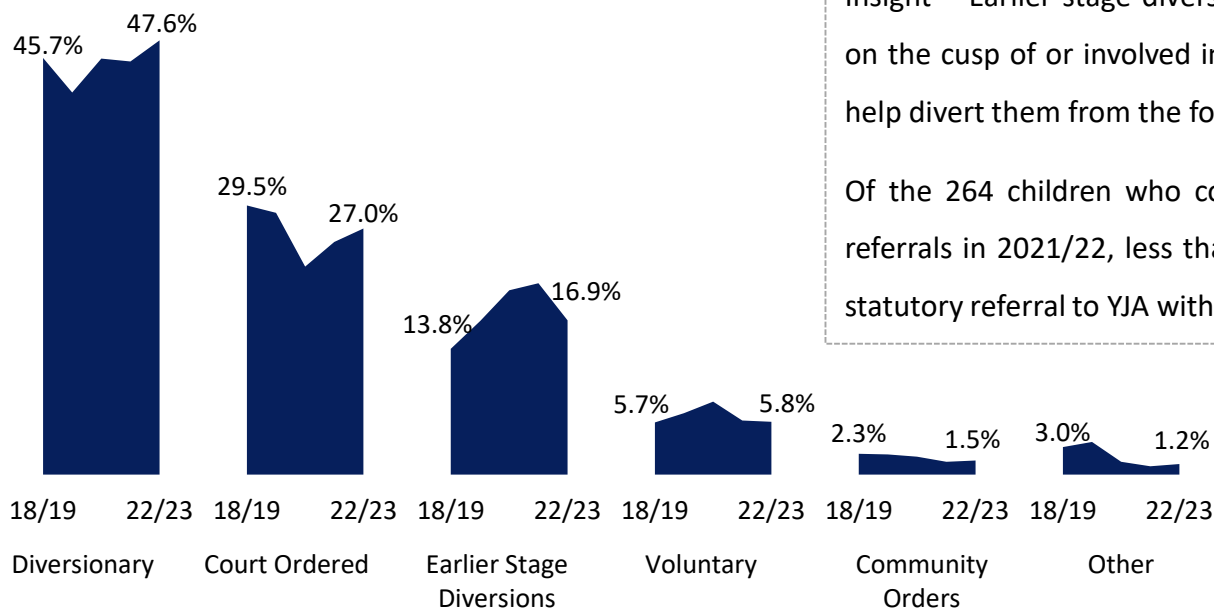


# 3 Youth Justice Services

## Types of referral

The proportion of diversionary referrals over the past 5 years has ranged between 41.9% and 47.6% of all referrals; the figure for 2022/23 was 47.6%. Although there has been an increase in the proportion of court ordered referrals from 25.5% in 2021/22 to 27.0% in 2022/23, it has decreased in the 5 year period since 2018/19 (29.5%). In 2022/23 the proportion of Earlier Stage Diversions was 16.9%, a decrease on the previous year (21.0%). The remaining referrals in 2022/23 were made up of voluntary referrals (5.8%), community orders [note 1] (1.5%) and other referrals [note 2] (1.2%) (Figure 2; [Table 2, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 2: YJS referrals by type, 2018/19 to 2022/23



Insight – Earlier stage diversion 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.

Of the 264 children who completed Earlier Stage Diversion referrals in 2021/22, less than one in five (18.9%) received a statutory referral to YJA within a year of completion.

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 programmes, bail support cases and work with probation.

# 3 Youth Justice Services

## Gender

In 2022/23 males accounted for 76.5% of individual children referred and 75.3% of referrals to the YJS. Over the past five years the proportion of referrals involving males has ranged between 74.5% and 79.6%. In 2022/23 females accounted for 22.6% of children referred and 23.1% of referrals to YJS, representing the highest proportion of individual female children referred in the period (Figure 3; [Tables 3 and 4, Appendix 3](#)).

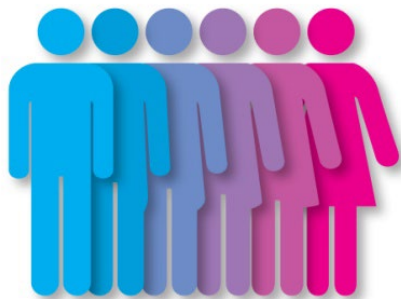
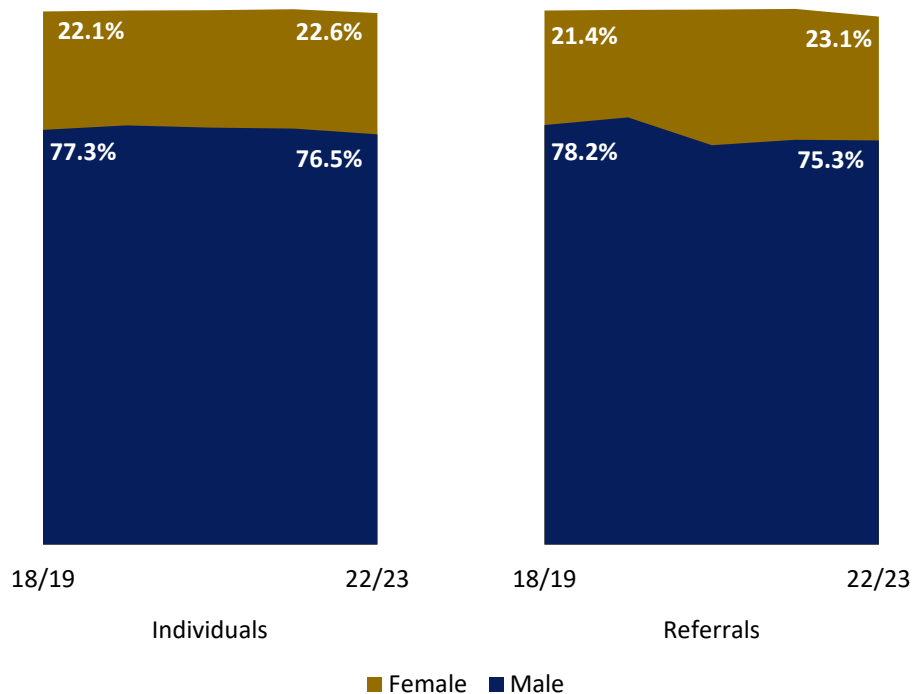


Figure 3: Gender breakdown [note 1] of individual children referred and of total referrals to YJS, 2018/19 to 2022/23



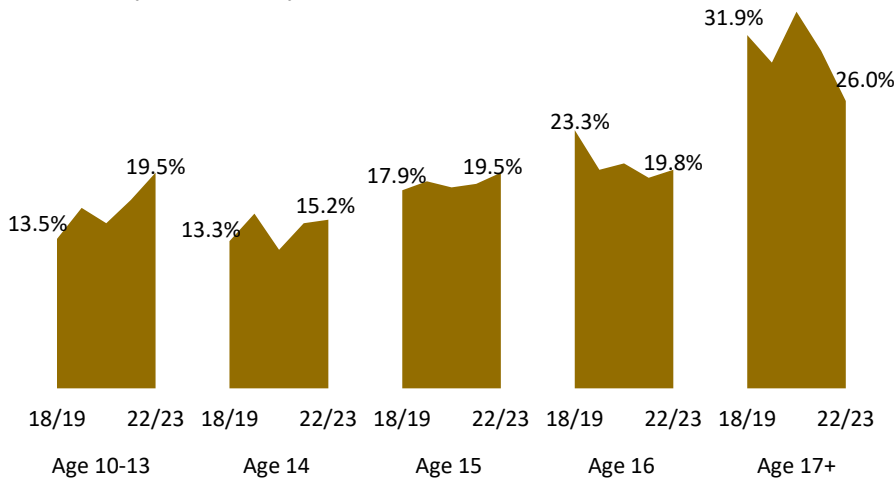
1. Figures for each gender may not sum to 100% as providing gender is optional and for a small proportion is not available.

# 3 Youth Justice Services

## Age - Individuals

During the financial year, the proportion of individual children referred in the 10 to 13 year old age bracket increased to its highest level in the five year period (19.5%). The proportion of individual children referred in the 14 year old age bracket in 2022/23 (15.2%) increased on the previous year (14.9%). Children aged 15 and over accounted for 65.2% of individual children referred during 2022/23 (Figure 4; [Table 5, Appendix 3](#)). This has decreased by 8 percentage points over the five year period (2018/19, 73.2%).

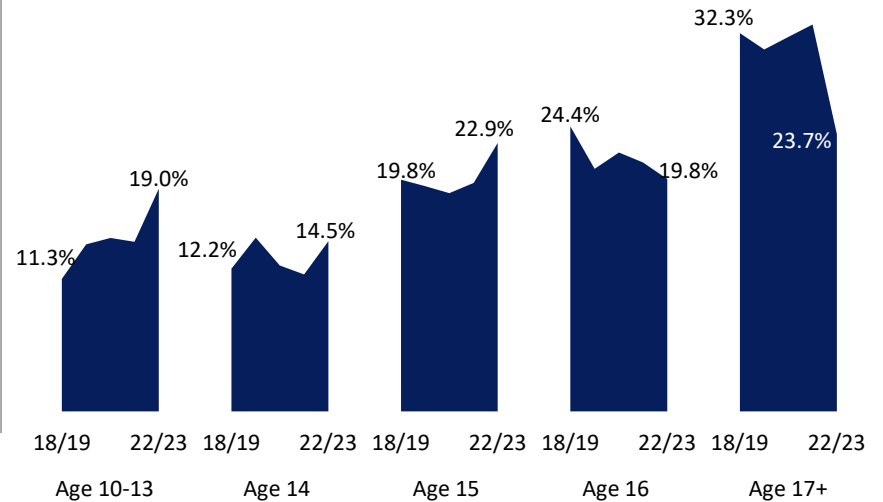
Figure 4: Age breakdown of individual children referred to YJS, 2018/19 to 2022/23



## Age - Referrals

The proportion of referrals for children aged 10 to 13 years increased in 2022/23 (19.0%) from 2021/22 (14.5%) and represents an increase of almost 8 percentage points over the five year period from 11.3% in 2018/19. The proportion of overall referrals increased in the 14 year old age bracket to 14.5% from 2021/22 (11.7%). During 2022/23, referrals for those aged 15 and over accounted for 66.4% of all referrals, a decrease of 10 percentage points in the five year period (2018/19, 76.5%) (Figure 5; [Table 6, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 5: Age breakdown of YJS referrals, 2018/19 to 2022/23

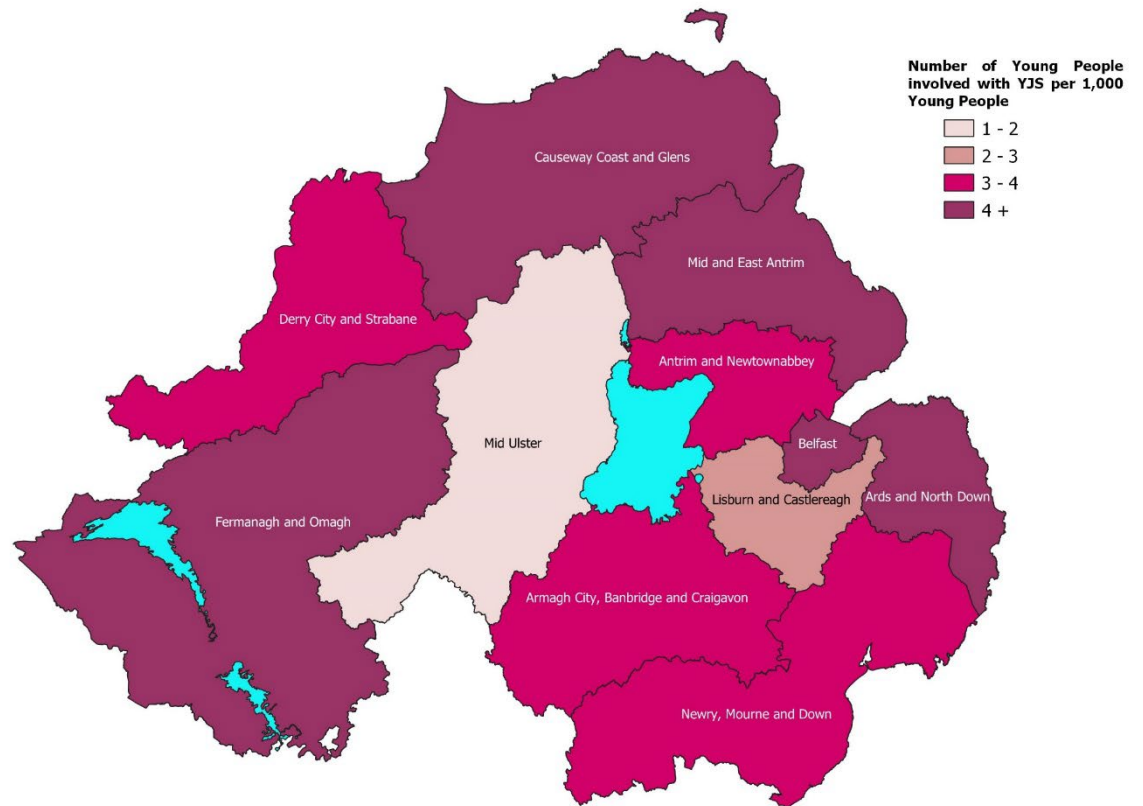


# 3 | Youth Justice Services

## Individuals by area of residence

Figure 6 shows the number of individual children referred to YJS by local government district in 2022/23. Fermanagh and Omagh had the highest rate of children referred at 5.0 per 1,000 population [note 1] aged 10 to 17. This was followed by Belfast (4.9), Causeway Coast and Glens (4.7) and Mid and East Antrim (4.6). The lowest rates seen were in Lisburn and Castlereagh (2.5) and Mid Ulster (2.0). [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 [note 2], 2022/23



1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. Population data source: 2011-2021 Rebased Mid-Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland.
2. 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 2022/23 (231, 17.0%). This was followed by Ards and North Down (155, 11.4%), Derry City and Strabane (154, 11.3%) and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (147, 10.8%). Mid Ulster had the lowest number of referrals (52, 3.8%) with the remaining districts ranging between 6.5% and 9.1% of referrals ([Table 8, Appendix 3](#)).

Table 1: Referrals by area of residence, 2018/19 to 2022/23

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Antrim and Newtownabbey	87	111	113	108	90
Ards and North Down	208	159	110	128	155
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	147	140	101	152	147
Belfast	415	406	294	294	231
Causeway Coast and Glens	109	95	74	124	124
Derry City and Strabane	172	176	150	152	154
Fermanagh and Omagh	95	138	73	95	96
Lisburn and Castlereagh	98	93	80	55	89
Mid and East Antrim	108	126	107	147	104
Mid Ulster	80	72	57	73	52
Newry, Mourne and Down	163	112	117	106	118
Resident outside NI	0	0	0	1	1
Unassigned [note 1]	30	3	0	0	0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>1,631</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>1,435</b>	<b>1,361</b>

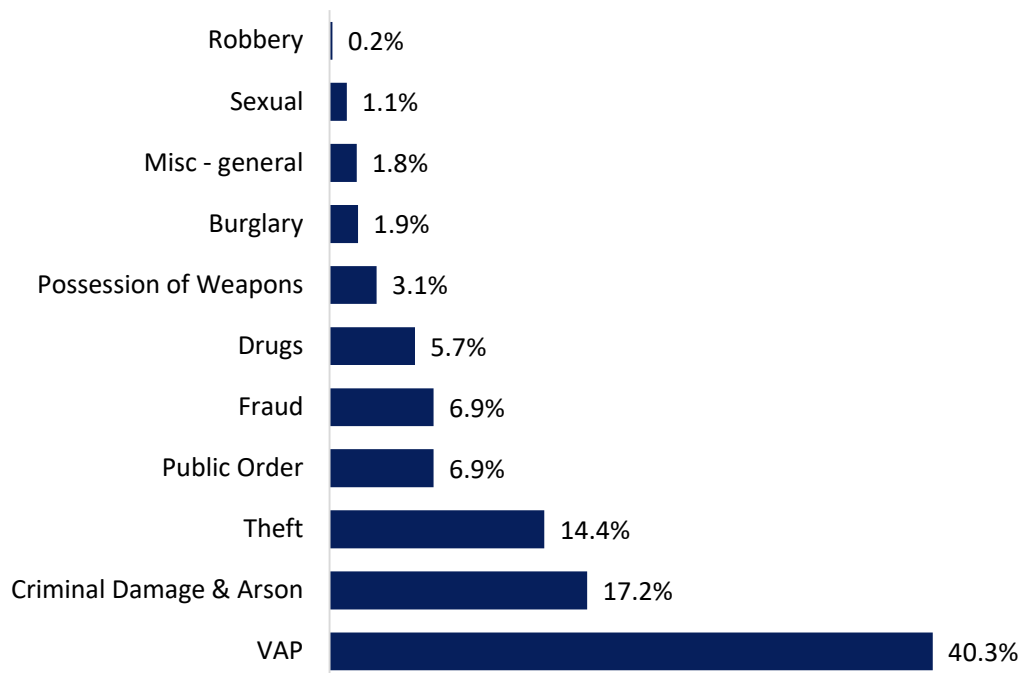
1. Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases.

# 3 Youth Justice Services

## Offence type

Of the 1,052 statutory referrals [note 1] during 2022/23, the highest proportion involved violence against the person (40.3%; 424), followed by criminal damage and arson (17.2%, 181), theft (14.4%; 151), public order and fraud (each with 6.9%; 73) and drugs related offences (5.7%; 60). The remaining categories each came in at under 4.0% with robbery being the lowest (0.2%; 2) (Figure 7, [Table 9, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 7: Statutory referrals by offence type, 2022/23



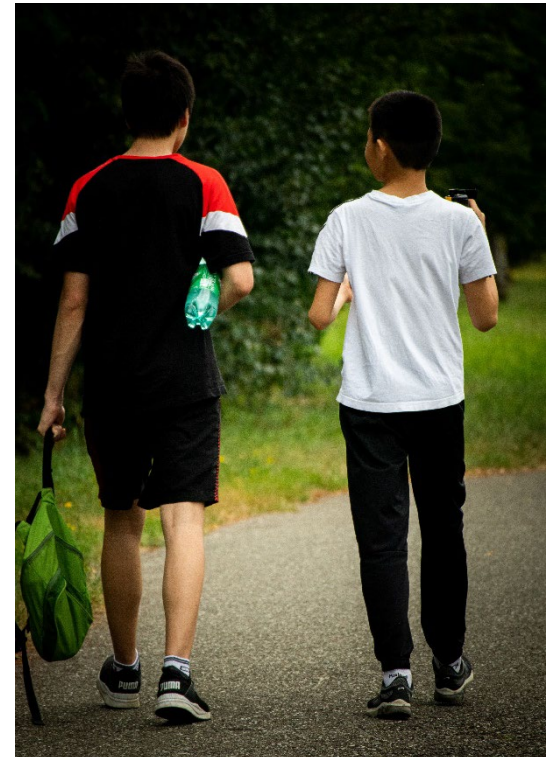
1. Statutory referrals includes Diversionary, Court Ordered, Community Orders and Other (JJCO, Probation and Bail).

# 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.



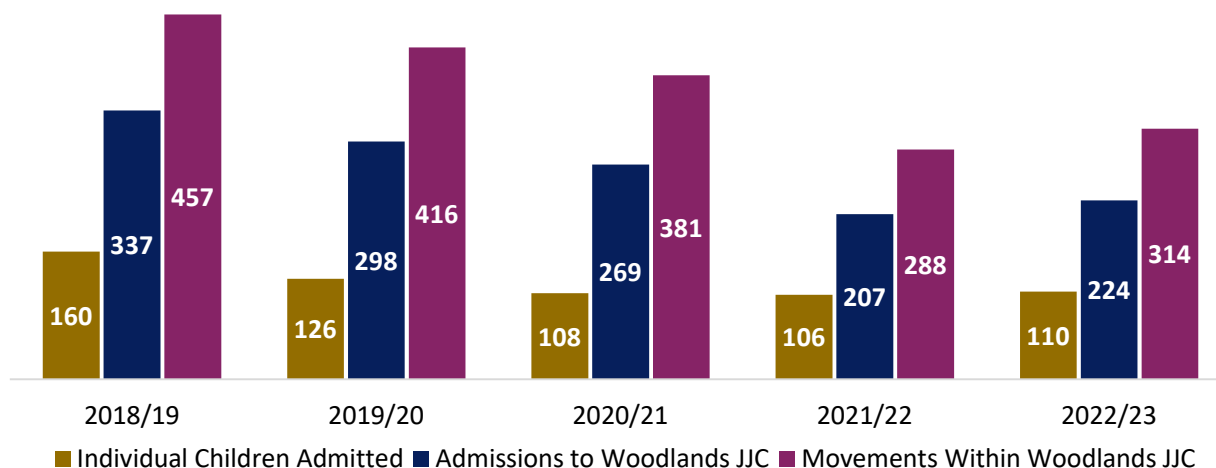
# 4 | Custodial Services

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

The number of individual children admitted to the JJC increased by 3.8% to 110 in 2022/23 (106, 2021/22) and decreased by 31.3% over the five year period (160, 2018/19). The latest figure equates to 0.6 in every 1,000 [note 1] children aged 10-17 in Northern Ireland (Figure 8; [Table 10, Appendix 3](#)).

Over the five year period, admissions to the JJC have ranged between 207 and 337. In 2022/23, the number of admissions to the JJC (224) rose by 8.2% on the previous year (207). There were 314 movements within JJC in 2022/23, an increase of 9.0% on 2021/22 (288).

Figure 8: Individual children admitted, total admissions and total movements within JJC, 2018/19 to 2022/23



1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. The number of children aged 10 to 17 in Northern Ireland on 30 June 2021 was 197,423.

Population data source: 2011-2021 Rebased Mid-Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland.

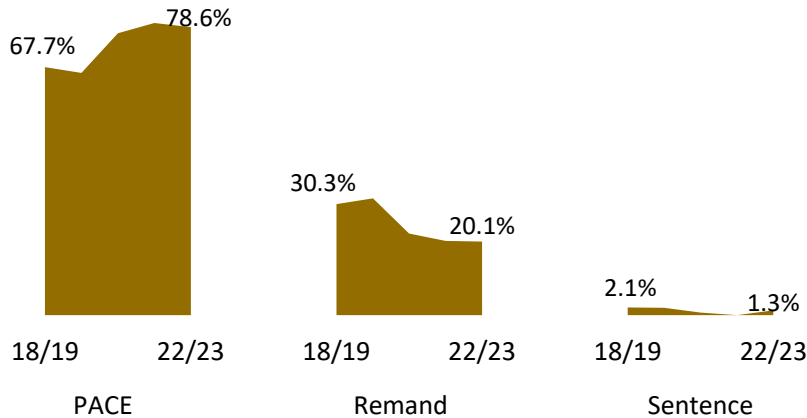


# 4 Custodial Services

## Admissions and movements by status

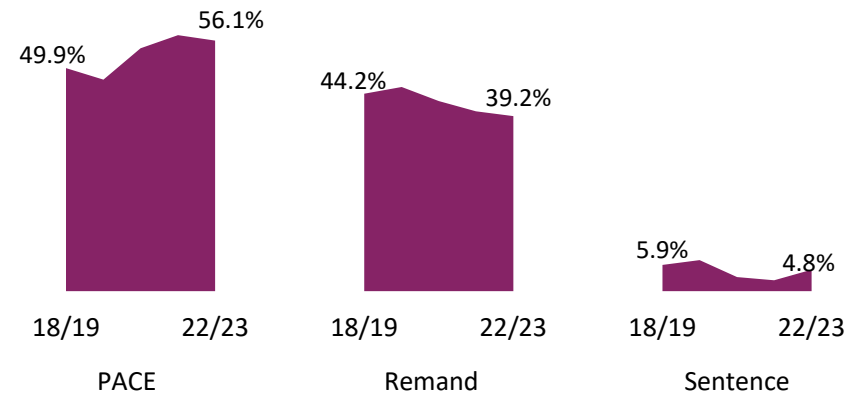
In 2022/23 there were 224 admissions to the JJC (Figure 8) - 176 (78.6%) related to PACE, 45 (20.1%) to remand and 3 (1.3%) to sentence admissions. Over the five year period, the proportion of admissions attributed to PACE has ranged between 66.1% and 79.7%, reducing slightly this year after being at it's highest level in 2021/22. The proportion of admissions attributed to remand is at its lowest level in the period, representing a decrease of 10 percentage points since 2018/19 (30.3%) (Figure 9; [Table 11, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 9: Admissions by status, 2018/19 to 2022/23



Of the 314 movements within JJC in 2022/23, 176 (56.1%) related to PACE, 123 (39.2%) to remand and 15 (4.8%) were sentence movements. The proportion of PACE movements has increased by six percentage points over the five year period (2018/19, 49.9%) while the proportions of both remand and sentence movements have reduced over the same period (2018/19, 44.2% and 5.9% respectively) (Figure 10; [Table 12, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 10: Movements by status, 2018/19 to 2022/23



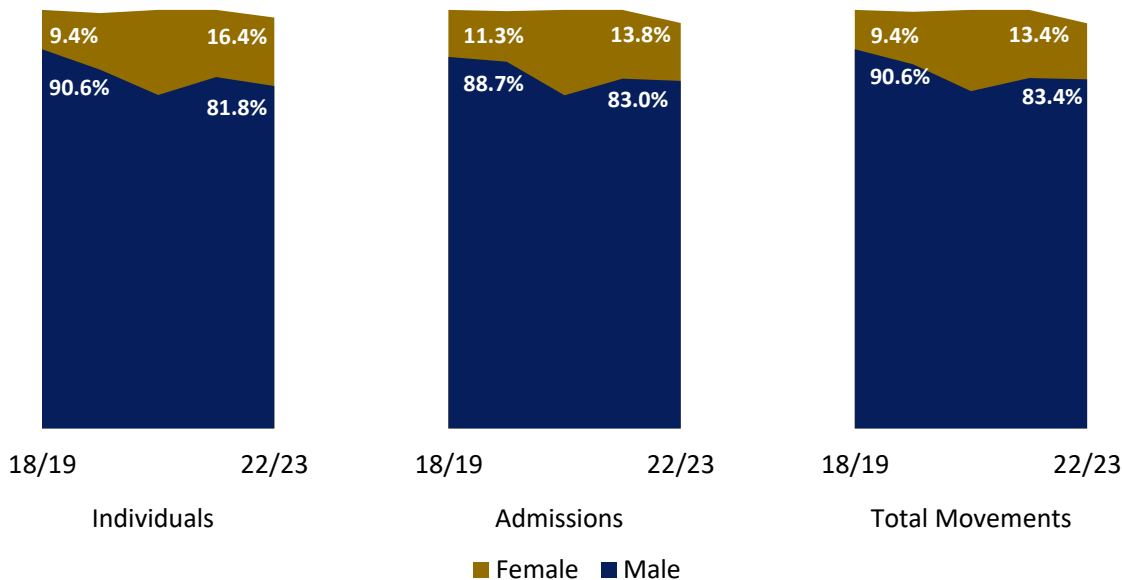
# 4 Custodial Services

## 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](#)) although the proportions have decreased from 2021/22. In terms of individuals, children in the JJC in 2022/23 were predominantly male (81.8%), a decrease from 84.0% in 2021/22 (Table 13, Appendix 3).

The proportions of admissions and total movements accounted for by males decreased in 2022/23 to 83.0% and 83.4% respectively (2021/22, 83.6% and 83.7%) (Tables 14 and 15, Appendix 3).

Figure 11: Gender breakdown [note 1] of individuals, admissions to and total movements within the JJC, 2018/19 to 2022/23



1. 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

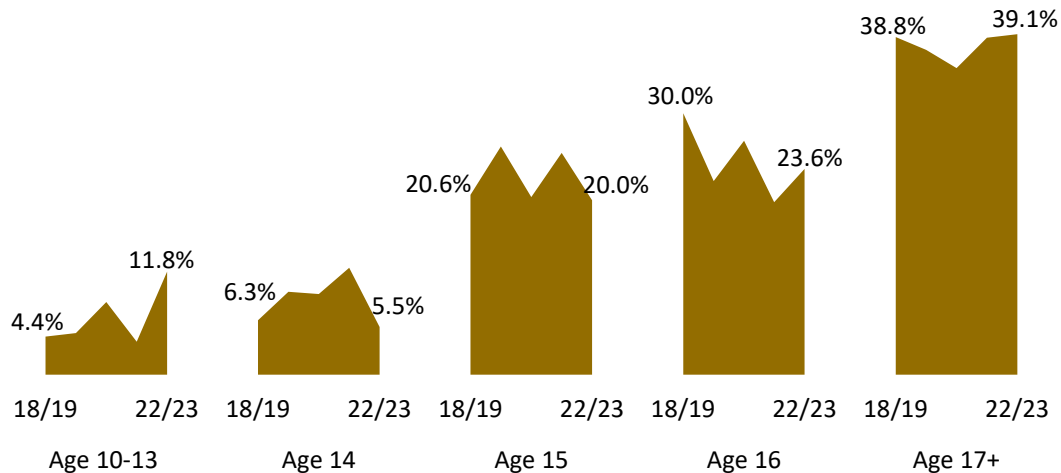
## Custodial Services

### Age

There were 13 (11.8%) children in custody aged 10 to 13, an increase of eight percentage points from 2021/22 (3.8%) (Figure 12; [Table 16, Appendix 3](#)). The number and proportion of children in custody during 2021/22 aged 14 were at their lowest levels in the five year period (6, 5.5%). Children aged 15 accounted for 20.0% (22) of the 110 children in custody, the lowest proportion for this age group in the reporting period.

In 2022/23, 69 (62.7%) of the children in custody were aged 16 and over, an increase from 2021/22 (62, 58.5%). The proportion of 16 year old individuals has ranged between 19.8% and 30.0% over the five year period (2022/23, 23.6%). Individual children aged 17 and over increased slightly in 2022/23 to 39.1% (2021/22, 38.7%) to its highest level in the period. Those aged 17 and over consistently accounted for the highest proportion of individual children in custody over the five year period.

Figure 12: Age breakdown of individual children in custody, 2018/19 to 2022/23



# 4

## Custodial Services

### Age

The proportion of admissions for those aged 10-13 has increased over the five year period, from 7.7% in 2018/19 to 16.5% in 2022/23. The proportion of admissions for those aged 15 and over is at its lowest level in the period (77.7%), a decrease from 85.2% in 2018/19. The proportions of 10-13 and 16 year olds increased in 2022/23 with the proportion in each of the other age groups decreasing from 2021/22 (Figure 13; [Table 17, Appendix 3](#)).

The proportions of movements for those aged 10-13 increased in 2022/23 to its highest level in the five year period (16.6%). The proportion of movements in this age group and for those aged 16 increased while the proportions in each of the other age categories decreased. Despite this increase for 16 year olds, the proportion of movements attributed to those aged 15 and over decreased to 78.7%, its lowest level in the reporting period (Figure 14; [Table 18, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 13: Age breakdown of admissions to JJC, 2018/19 to 2022/23

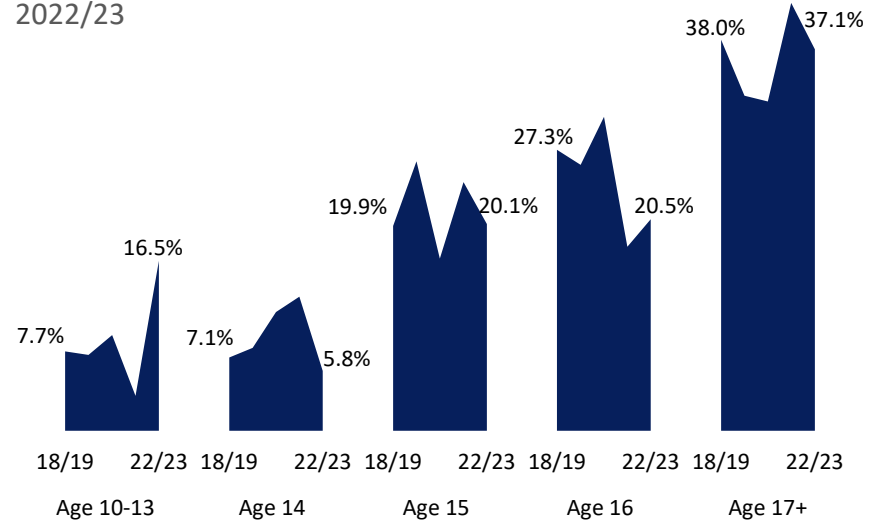
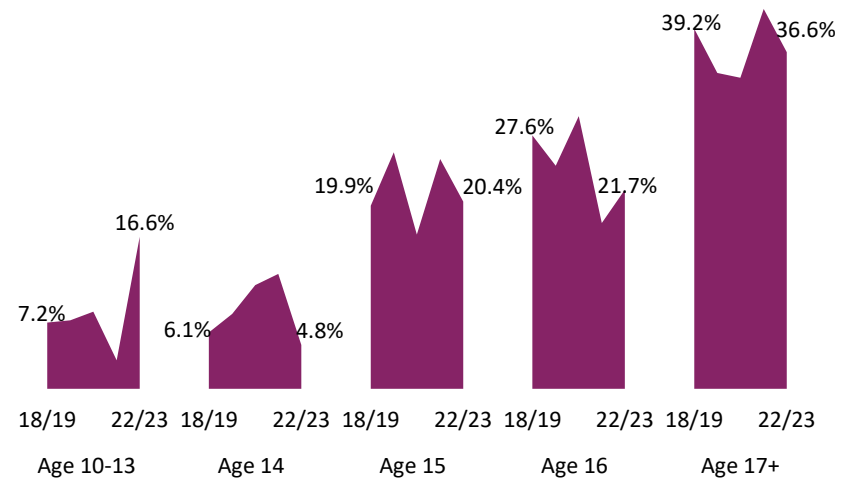


Figure 14: Age breakdown of total movements within JJC, 2018/19 to 2022/23

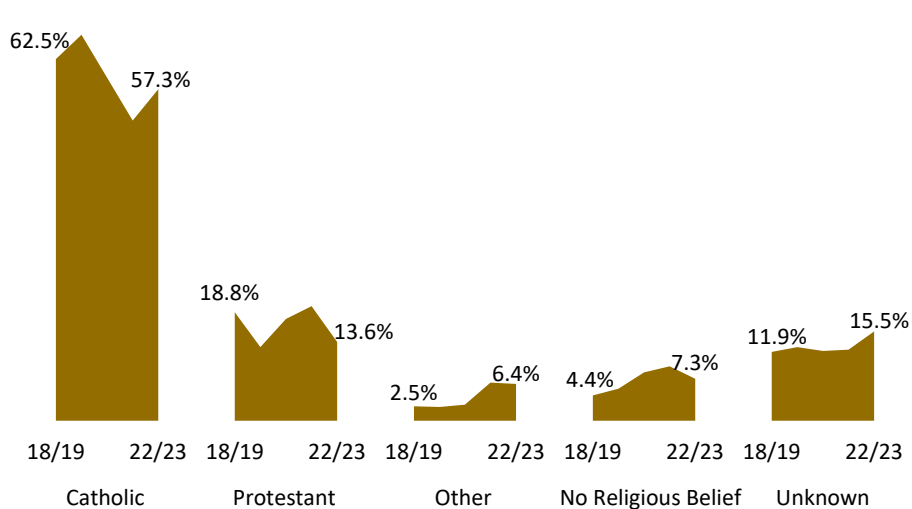


# 4 Custodial Services

## Religion [Note 1]

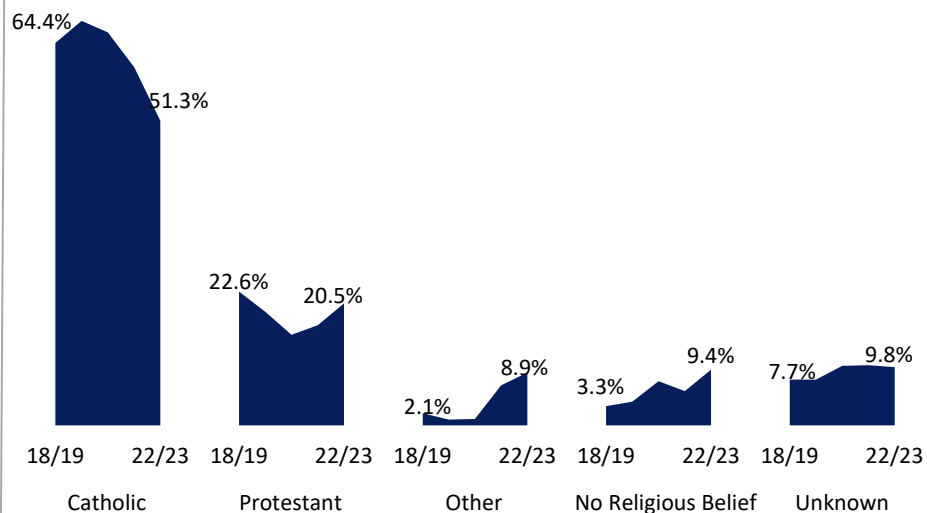
In 2022/23, the proportion of children in custody who were Catholic increased to 57.3% (2021/22, 51.9%). The proportion of children in custody who were Protestant decreased by more than six percentage points to 13.6% (2021/22, 19.8%) with 6.4% having other religious beliefs, 7.3% with no religious belief and the remaining 15.5% were unknown (Figure 15; [Table 19, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 15: Religion breakdown of individuals involved with JJC, 2018/19 to 2022/23



In 2022/23, the proportion of admissions attributed to Catholic children decreased by nine percentage points to its lowest level in the period (51.3%) while Protestant children accounted for 20.5% of admissions, an increase from 2021/22 (16.9%). Those with other religious beliefs accounted for 8.9% of admissions with the religious background of 9.8% of admissions being unknown. The remaining 9.4% of admissions were from children with no religious belief (Figure 16; [Table 20, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 16: Total admissions by religion, 2018/19 to 2022/23

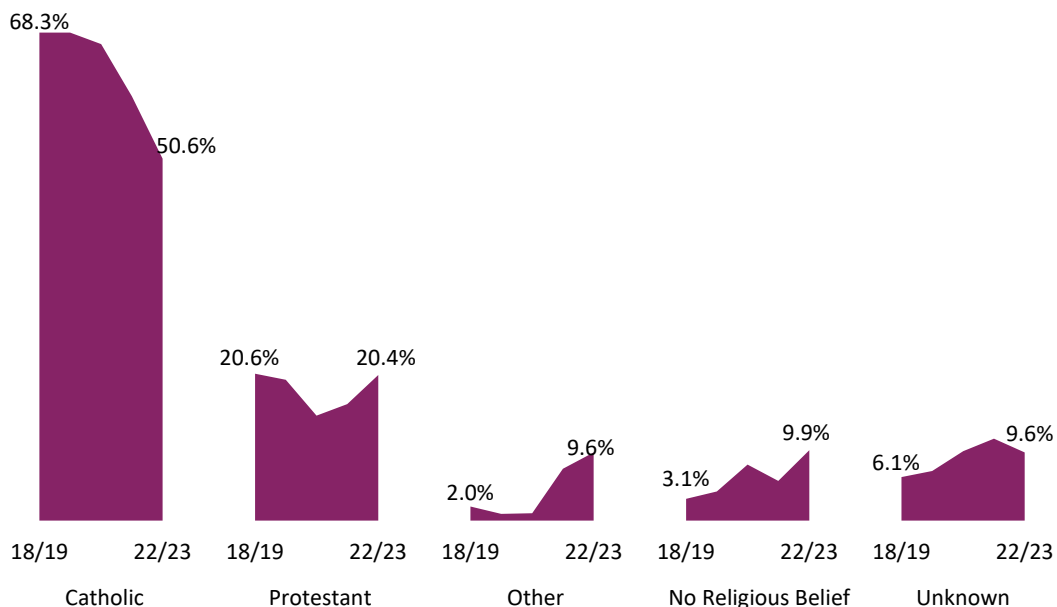


# 4 | Custodial Services

## Religion [Note 1]

The proportions of movements attributed to Catholic children in 2022/23 (50.6%) decreased to its lowest level in the five year period. The proportion of movements for Protestant children (20.4%) increased by four percentage points on the previous year (16.3%). The proportion of movements for children with other religious beliefs increased from 7.3% in 2021/22 to 9.6% in 2022/23. Children with no religious belief accounted for 9.9% of movements (2021/22, 5.6%) and the remaining 9.6% of movements were attributed to children whose religious beliefs were unknown (Figure 17; [Table 21, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 17: Movements by religion, 2018/19 to 2022/23



1. Unlike other demographic information this is self-reported by the child and can therefore not be validated.

# 4 Custodial Services

## Looked after status [Note 1]

Figure 18 shows the proportion of children in custody by their looked after status over the past five years. In 2022/23, 41.8% were in care (32.7% were subject to a care order and 9.1% were voluntary accommodated), representing the highest rate in the five year period. The proportion of children in custody who were not in care (58.2%) decreased on the previous year (60.4%) (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 each increased by more than four percentage points since 2018/19 (46.0%; 44.9%) to 50.4% and 49.0% in 2021/22 (Figures 19 and 20; Tables 23 and 24, Appendix 3).

Figure 18: Looked after status of children in custody, 2018/19 to 2022/23

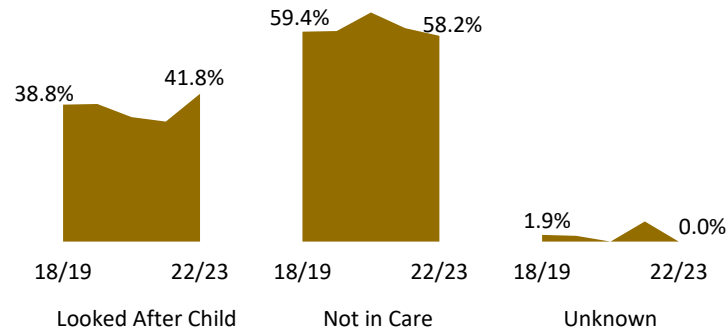


Figure 19: Admissions to JJC by looked after status, 2018/19 to 2022/23

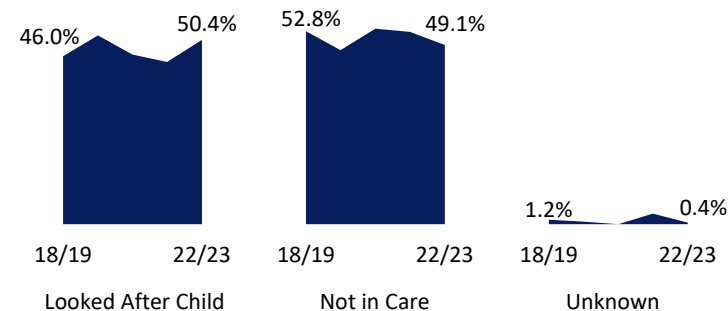
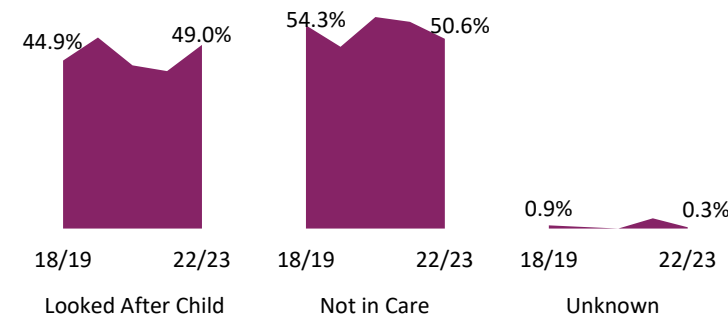


Figure 20: Total movements within JJC by looked after status, 2018/19 to 2022/23



1. Looked after status is determined based on the child's first admission 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 - 22 of 110 in 2022/23 (20.0%). This was followed by Derry City and Strabane (16, 14.5%) and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and Newry, Mourne and Down districts (13, 11.8% each). In 2022/23, Derry City and Strabane had the highest rate per 1,000 population (1.0) [note 1] followed by Ards and North Down and Belfast (0.7 each) ([Table 25, Appendix 3](#)).

The largest number of admissions to JJC came from the Derry City and Strabane area (44) while the largest number of movements were from the Belfast area (54) ([Tables 26 and 27, Appendix 3](#)).

Table 2: Children in custody by area of residence and rate per 1,000 population [Note 1], 2018/19 to 2022/23

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Antrim and Newtownabbey	8	3	4	5	5
Ards and North Down	13	12	11	7	11
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	11	10	8	18	13
Belfast	44	40	29	23	22
Causeway Coast and Glens	6	2	5	5	6
Derry City and Strabane	17	22	22	13	16
Fermanagh and Omagh	7	6	1	4	3
Lisburn and Castlereagh	8	4	7	5	4
Mid and East Antrim	8	4	3	4	2
Mid Ulster	12	3	1	7	7
Newry, Mourne and Down	13	11	13	10	13
Resident outside NI	9	5	3	4	8
Unassigned [Note 2]	4	4	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>110</b>

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Ards and North Down	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.7
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.5
Belfast	1.4	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.7
Causeway Coast and Glens	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4
Derry City and Strabane	1.1	1.4	0.8	0.8	1.0
Fermanagh and Omagh	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Mid and East Antrim	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Mid Ulster	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Newry, Mourne and Down	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6
Resident outside NI	..	..	..	..	..
Unassigned [Note 2]	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>

1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. Population data source: 2011-2021 Rebased Mid-Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland.

2. Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases.



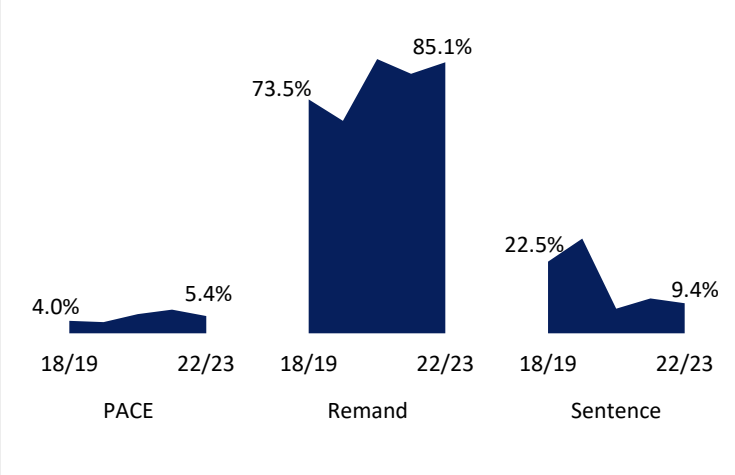
# 4 | Custodial Services

## Average population

In 2022/23 the total average daily population in the JJC was 11 children, an increase from 2021/22 (9).

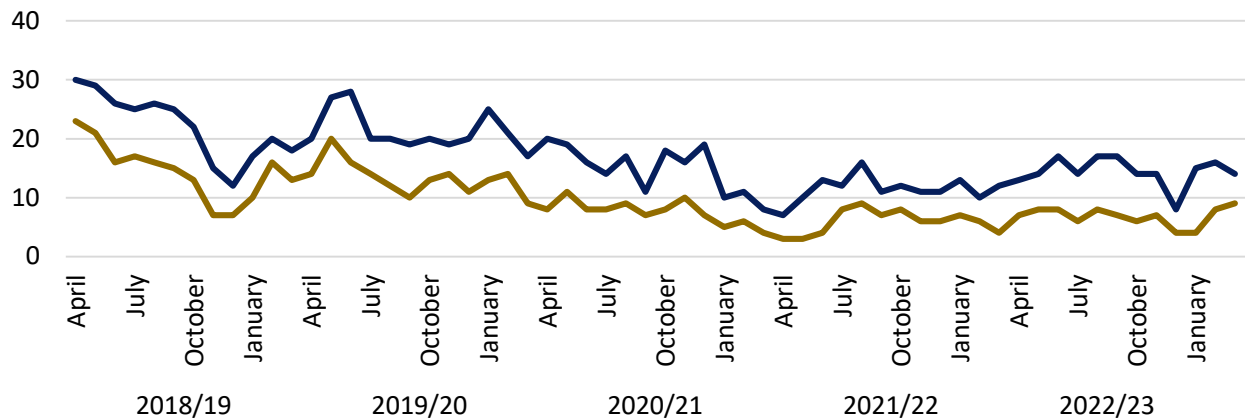
A large number of children are admitted to the JJC under PACE and so will remain in the centre for, at most, a few days. As a result these admissions have very little impact on the average population with the largest percentage resulting from those children on remand (Figure 21, [Table 28, Appendix 3](#)).

Figure 21: Average population by status, 2018/19 to 2022/23



There has been a general reduction in the JJC population over the last 5 years. The highest level recorded in 2022/23 was 17, with this figure ranging between 16 and 30 (2018/19) over the five year period. The minimum monthly population during 2022/23 was 4, an increase of 1 on the lowest monthly population seen in 2021/22 (Figure 22).

Figure 22: Maximum and minimum monthly population, 2018/19 to 2022/23



# 4 | Custodial Services

## Number of custody days

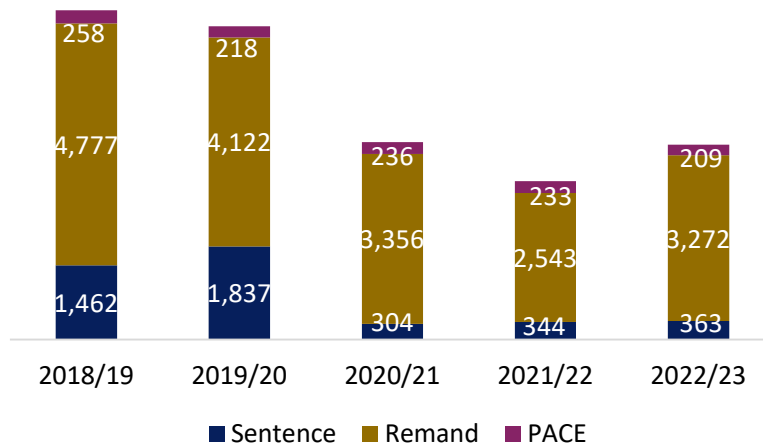
As already mentioned children admitted to the JJC on PACE will typically reside in the centre for a short period of time, usually one or two days; those on remand or sentence will normally reside in the centre for longer periods of time.

When examining the transactional work of the JJC, movements related to PACE make up a high proportion of the workload (56.1% in 2022/23; 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 much smaller proportion of the workload (4.8% in 2022/23) but contribute to a 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 number of custody days attributed to PACE, remand and sentence movements over the last five years. In 2022/23 there were 3,844 days of custody provided by the JJC, 209 for PACE, 3,272 for remand and 363 for sentence. The number of custody days overall has decreased by 40.8% in the five year period, despite an increase of 23.2% from 2021/22 (3,120 days). 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, 2018/19 to 2022/23



# 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 decreased from 44.8% (74) in 2021/22 to 43.2% (76) in 2022/23, representing an increase in the percentage of children admitted to the JJC on PACE having been released without having been remanded by court or sentenced to custody.

Financial Year	PACE Admissions	PACE to Remand/Sentence	Conversion Rate
2018/19	228	94	41.2%
2019/20	197	96	48.7%
2020/21	207	102	49.3%
2021/22	165	74	44.8%
2022/23	176	76	43.2%

Table 3: Custody conversion estimate, 2018/19 to 2022/23



# 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.

# Appendix 1 – Definitions

## **CUSTODY**

### **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 Resolution Notices (CRNs)**

A community resolution notice is an alternative way of dealing with less serious crimes, allowing PSNI officers to use their professional judgement when dealing with offences such as low level Public Disorder, Criminal Damage, Theft, minor assaults, and minor drug related offences. CRNs allow victims a quick resolution to the harm caused to them whilst giving those who commit the offence support to avoid further offending and the opportunity to repair the harm caused by their behaviour, without attracting a criminal record.

### **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.

# Appendix 1 – Definitions

## **NON-CUSTODIAL DISPOSALS SUPERVISED BY YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES**

### **Diversiory 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.



# Appendix 1 – Definitions

## **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 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 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. Full details of the data quality checks and processes that are in place are documented in the [Quality Assurance of Administrative Data \(QAAD\)](#) document on the DoJ website.

## Appendix 2 – Technical Notes

### **Data quality and validation (continued)**

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 2018/19 to 2022/23). Tables with data from earlier years (from financial year 2008/09 to 2022/23) 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, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Referrals To YJS	Individual Children NI Population Aged		
		Involved	10-17 [Note 1]	Rate Per 1,000
2018/19	1,712	977	187,444	5.2
2019/20	1,631	957	190,991	5.0
2020/21	1,276	831	194,156	4.3
2021/22	1,435	904	197,423	4.6
2022/23	1,361	774	197,423	3.9

1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. Population data source: 2011-2021 Rebased Mid-Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland.

**Table 2: YJS referrals by type, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Diversionary	Court Ordered	Community		Earlier Stage		Other [Note 2]	Total Referrals
			Orders [Note 1]	Diversion	Voluntary	Other [Note 2]		
2018/19	782	505	39	236	98	52	1,712	
2019/20	684	468	36	275	110	58	1,631	
2020/21	582	291	25	258	102	18	1,276	
2021/22	650	366	20	301	85	13	1,435	
2022/23	648	367	21	230	79	16	1,361	

Financial Year	Diversionary	Court Ordered	Community		Earlier Stage		Other [Note 2]	Total Referrals
			Orders [Note 1]	Diversion	Voluntary	Other [Note 2]		
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%	
2020/21	45.6%	22.8%	2.0%	20.2%	8.0%	1.4%	100.0%	
2021/22	45.3%	25.5%	1.4%	21.0%	5.9%	0.9%	100.0%	
2022/23	47.6%	27.0%	1.5%	16.9%	5.8%	1.2%	100.0%	

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, bail support cases and work with probation.

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 3: Individual children referred to YJS by gender, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Children [Note 1]
2018/19	755	216	977
2019/20	748	205	957
2020/21	646	182	831
2021/22	701	201	904
2022/23	592	175	774

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Children [Note 1]
2018/19	77.3%	22.1%	99.4%
2019/20	78.2%	21.4%	99.6%
2020/21	77.7%	21.9%	99.6%
2021/22	77.5%	22.2%	99.8%
2022/23	76.5%	22.6%	99.1%

1. 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, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Referrals [Note 1]
2018/19	1,339	366	1,712
2019/20	1,299	327	1,631
2020/21	950	323	1,276
2021/22	1,083	350	1,435
2022/23	1,025	315	1,361

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Referrals [Note 1]
2018/19	78.2%	21.4%	99.6%
2019/20	79.6%	20.0%	99.7%
2020/21	74.5%	25.3%	99.8%
2021/22	75.5%	24.4%	99.9%
2022/23	75.3%	23.1%	98.5%

1. 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, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Children
2018/19	132	130	175	228	312	977
2019/20	156	151	179	189	282	957
2020/21	124	104	151	169	283	831
2021/22	154	135	167	172	276	904
2022/23	151	118	151	153	201	774

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Children
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%
2020/21	14.9%	12.5%	18.2%	20.3%	34.1%	100.0%
2021/22	17.0%	14.9%	18.5%	19.0%	30.5%	100.0%
2022/23	19.5%	15.2%	19.5%	19.8%	26.0%	100.0%

**Table 6: YJS referrals by age, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Referrals
2018/19	194	209	339	417	553	1,712
2019/20	233	242	314	338	504	1,631
2020/21	189	159	238	282	408	1,276
2021/22	208	168	280	305	474	1,435
2022/23	259	198	312	270	322	1,361

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Referrals
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%
2020/21	14.8%	12.5%	18.7%	22.1%	32.0%	100.0%
2021/22	14.5%	11.7%	19.5%	21.3%	33.0%	100.0%
2022/23	19.0%	14.5%	22.9%	19.8%	23.7%	100.0%

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 7: Individual children referred to YJS by area of residence and rate per 1,000 population [Note 1], 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Antrim and Newtownabbey	63	82	86	79	59
Ards and North Down	82	78	61	44	65
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	95	87	62	91	91
Belfast	237	247	206	205	160
Causeway Coast and Glens	72	56	57	83	67
Derry City and Strabane	99	94	85	77	62
Fermanagh and Omagh	50	52	46	68	63
Lisburn and Castlereagh	53	54	40	39	38
Mid and East Antrim	55	76	81	88	62
Mid Ulster	53	43	41	53	34
Newry, Mourne and Down	103	85	66	77	72
Resident outside NI	0	0	0	0	1
Unassigned [Note 2]	15	3	0	0	0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>774</b>

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Antrim and Newtownabbey	4.4	5.5	5.7	5.2	3.9
Ards and North Down	5.4	5.1	3.9	2.8	4.1
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	4.2	3.8	2.6	3.7	3.7
Belfast	7.6	7.8	6.4	6.3	4.9
Causeway Coast and Glens	5.1	4.0	4.0	5.8	4.7
Derry City and Strabane	6.3	5.9	5.3	4.7	3.8
Fermanagh and Omagh	4.1	4.2	3.7	5.4	5.0
Lisburn and Castlereagh	3.9	3.9	2.8	2.6	2.5
Mid and East Antrim	4.1	5.7	5.9	6.5	4.6
Mid Ulster	3.3	2.6	2.4	3.1	2.0
Newry, Mourne and Down	5.3	4.3	3.3	3.8	3.5
Resident outside NI	..	..	..	..	..
Unassigned [Note 2]	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>

1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. Population data source: 2011-2021 Rebased Mid-Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland.

2. Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases.

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 8: Referrals to YJS by area of residence, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Antrim and Newtownabbey	87	111	113	108	90
Ards and North Down	208	159	110	128	155
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	147	140	101	152	147
Belfast	415	406	294	294	231
Causeway Coast and Glens	109	95	74	124	124
Derry City and Strabane	172	176	150	152	154
Fermanagh and Omagh	95	138	73	95	96
Lisburn and Castlereagh	98	93	80	55	89
Mid and East Antrim	108	126	107	147	104
Mid Ulster	80	72	57	73	52
Newry, Mourne and Down	163	112	117	106	118
Resident outside NI	0	0	0	1	1
Unassigned [Note 1]	30	3	0	0	0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>1,631</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>1,435</b>	<b>1,361</b>

1. Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases

**Table 9: Statutory referrals [note 1] by offence group [note 2], 2022/23**

Offence Group	Number	Percent
VAP	424	40.3%
Criminal Damage & Arson	181	17.2%
Theft	151	14.4%
Public Order	73	6.9%
Fraud	73	6.9%
Drugs	60	5.7%
Possession of Weapons	33	3.1%
Burglary	20	1.9%
Misc - general	19	1.8%
Sexual	12	1.1%
Robbery	2	0.2%
Motoring	0	0.0%
No offence recorded [Note 3]	4	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,052</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

1. Statutory referrals includes Diversionary, Court Ordered, Community Orders and Other (JJCO, Probation and Bail). 2. Offence Groups is a statistical grouping created so NI statistics are comparable. 3. No offence recorded in a Bail Support – Court referral as offence already included.



## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 10: Admissions to and movements within JJC and children in custody, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Movements Within Woodlands JJC	Admissions to Woodlands JJC	Individual Children Admitted	NI Population Aged 10-17	Rate Per 1,000 [Note 1]
2018/19	457	337	160	187,444	0.9
2019/20	416	298	126	190,991	0.7
2020/21	381	269	108	194,156	0.6
2021/22	288	207	106	197,423	0.5
2022/23	314	224	110	197,423	0.6

1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. Population data source: 2011-2021 Rebased Mid-Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland.

**Table 11: JJC admissions by status, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Admissions
2018/19	228	102	7	337
2019/20	197	95	6	298
2020/21	207	60	2	269
2021/22	165	42	0	207
2022/23	176	45	3	224

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Admissions
2018/19	67.7%	30.3%	2.1%	100.0%
2019/20	66.1%	31.9%	2.0%	100.0%
2020/21	77.0%	22.3%	0.7%	100.0%
2021/22	79.7%	20.3%	0.0%	100.0%
2022/23	78.6%	20.1%	1.3%	100.0%

**Table 12: JJC movements by status, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Movements
2018/19	228	202	27	457
2019/20	197	190	29	416
2020/21	207	162	12	381
2021/22	165	116	7	288
2022/23	176	123	15	314

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Movements
2018/19	49.9%	44.2%	5.9%	100.0%
2019/20	47.4%	45.7%	7.0%	100.0%
2020/21	54.3%	42.5%	3.1%	100.0%
2021/22	57.3%	40.3%	2.4%	100.0%
2022/23	56.1%	39.2%	4.8%	100.0%

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 13: Individual children in custody by gender, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Children [Note 1]
2018/19	145	15	160
2019/20	108	17	126
2020/21	86	22	108
2021/22	89	17	106
2022/23	90	18	110

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Children [Note 1]
2018/19	90.6%	9.4%	100.0%
2019/20	85.7%	13.5%	99.2%
2020/21	79.6%	20.4%	100.0%
2021/22	84.0%	16.0%	100.0%
2022/23	81.8%	16.4%	98.2%

**Table 14: Admissions to JJC by gender, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Admissions [Note 1]
2018/19	299	38	337
2019/20	261	36	298
2020/21	214	55	269
2021/22	173	34	207
2022/23	186	31	224

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Admissions [Note 1]
2018/19	88.7%	11.3%	100.0%
2019/20	87.6%	12.1%	99.7%
2020/21	79.6%	20.4%	100.0%
2021/22	83.6%	16.4%	100.0%
2022/23	83.0%	13.8%	96.9%

**Table 15: Movements within JJC by gender, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Movements [Note 1]
2018/19	414	43	457
2019/20	362	52	416
2020/21	307	74	381
2021/22	241	47	288
2022/23	262	42	314

Financial Year	Male	Female	Total Movements [Note 1]
2018/19	90.6%	9.4%	100.0%
2019/20	87.0%	12.5%	99.5%
2020/21	80.6%	19.4%	100.0%
2021/22	83.7%	16.3%	100.0%
2022/23	83.4%	13.4%	96.8%

1. 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, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Children
2018/19	7	10	33	48	62	160
2019/20	6	12	33	28	47	126
2020/21	9	10	22	29	38	108
2021/22	4	13	27	21	41	106
2022/23	13	6	22	26	43	110

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Children
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%
2020/21	8.3%	9.3%	20.4%	26.9%	35.2%	100.0%
2021/22	3.8%	12.3%	25.5%	19.8%	38.7%	100.0%
2022/23	11.8%	5.5%	20.0%	23.6%	39.1%	100.0%

**Table 17: Admissions to JJC by age, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Admissions
2018/19	26	24	67	92	128	337
2019/20	22	24	78	77	97	298
2020/21	25	31	45	82	86	269
2021/22	7	27	50	37	86	207
2022/23	37	13	45	46	83	224

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Admissions
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%
2020/21	9.3%	11.5%	16.7%	30.5%	32.0%	100.0%
2021/22	3.4%	13.0%	24.2%	17.9%	41.5%	100.0%
2022/23	16.5%	5.8%	20.1%	20.5%	37.1%	100.0%

**Table 18: Movements within JJC by age, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Movements
2018/19	33	28	91	126	179	457
2019/20	31	34	107	101	143	416
2020/21	32	43	64	113	129	381
2021/22	9	36	72	52	119	288
2022/23	52	15	64	68	115	314

Financial Year	10 to 13	14	15	16	17 and over	Total Movements
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%
2020/21	8.4%	11.3%	16.8%	29.7%	33.9%	100.0%
2021/22	3.1%	12.5%	25.0%	18.1%	41.3%	100.0%
2022/23	16.6%	4.8%	20.4%	21.7%	36.6%	100.0%

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 19: Individual children in custody by religion [note 1], 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Religious			No Religious		Total Children
	Catholic	Protestant	Other	Belief	Unknown	
2018/19	100	30	4	7	19	160
2019/20	84	16	3	7	16	126
2020/21	64	19	3	9	13	108
2021/22	55	21	7	10	13	106
2022/23	63	15	7	8	17	110

Financial Year	Religious			No Religious		Total Children
	Catholic	Protestant	Other	Belief	Unknown	
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%
2020/21	59.3%	17.6%	2.8%	8.3%	12.0%	100.0%
2021/22	51.9%	19.8%	6.6%	9.4%	12.3%	100.0%
2022/23	57.3%	13.6%	6.4%	7.3%	15.5%	100.0%

**Table 20: Admissions to JJC by religion [note 1], 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Religious			No Religious		Total Admissions
	Catholic	Protestant	Other	Belief	Unknown	
2018/19	217	76	7	11	26	337
2019/20	203	57	3	12	23	298
2020/21	178	41	3	20	27	269
2021/22	125	35	14	12	21	207
2022/23	115	46	20	21	22	224

Financial Year	Religious			No Religious		Total Admissions
	Catholic	Protestant	Other	Belief	Unknown	
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%
2020/21	66.2%	15.2%	1.1%	7.4%	10.0%	100.0%
2021/22	60.4%	16.9%	6.8%	5.8%	10.1%	100.0%
2022/23	51.3%	20.5%	8.9%	9.4%	9.8%	100.0%

**Table 21: Movements within JJC by religion [note 1], 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Religious			No Religious		Total Movements
	Catholic	Protestant	Other	Belief	Unknown	
2018/19	312	94	9	14	28	457
2019/20	284	82	4	17	29	416
2020/21	254	56	4	30	37	381
2021/22	171	47	21	16	33	288
2022/23	159	64	30	31	30	314

Financial Year	Religious			No Religious		Total Movements
	Catholic	Protestant	Other	Belief	Unknown	
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%
2020/21	66.7%	14.7%	1.0%	7.9%	9.7%	100.0%
2021/22	59.4%	16.3%	7.3%	5.6%	11.5%	100.0%
2022/23	50.6%	20.4%	9.6%	9.9%	9.6%	100.0%

1. 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, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Children
2018/19	45	17	95	3	160
2019/20	30	19	75	2	126
2020/21	27	11	70	0	108
2021/22	33	3	64	6	106
2022/23	36	10	64	0	110

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Children
2018/19	28.1%	10.6%	59.4%	1.9%	100.0%
2019/20	23.8%	15.1%	59.5%	1.6%	100.0%
2020/21	25.0%	10.2%	64.8%	0.0%	100.0%
2021/22	31.1%	2.8%	60.4%	5.7%	100.0%
2022/23	32.7%	9.1%	58.2%	0.0%	100.0%

**Table 23: Admissions to JJC by looked after status, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Admissions
2018/19	110	45	178	4	337
2019/20	92	62	142	2	298
2020/21	83	42	144	0	269
2021/22	77	15	109	6	207
2022/23	95	18	110	1	224

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Admissions
2018/19	32.6%	13.4%	52.8%	1.2%	100.0%
2019/20	30.9%	20.8%	47.7%	0.7%	100.0%
2020/21	30.9%	15.6%	53.5%	0.0%	100.0%
2021/22	37.2%	7.2%	52.7%	2.9%	100.0%
2022/23	42.4%	8.0%	49.1%	0.4%	100.0%

**Table 24: Movements within JJC by looked after status, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Movements
2018/19	145	60	248	4	457
2019/20	129	83	202	2	416
2020/21	116	50	215	0	381
2021/22	100	21	159	8	288
2022/23	129	25	159	1	314

Financial Year	Subject to Care Order	Voluntary Accommodated	Not in Care	Unknown	Total Movements
2018/19	31.7%	13.1%	54.3%	0.9%	100.0%
2019/20	31.0%	20.0%	48.6%	0.5%	100.0%
2020/21	30.4%	13.1%	56.4%	0.0%	100.0%
2021/22	34.7%	7.3%	55.2%	2.8%	100.0%
2022/23	41.1%	8.0%	50.6%	0.3%	100.0%

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 25: Individual children in custody by area of residence and rate per 1,000 population [note 1], 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Antrim and Newtownabbey	8	3	4	5	5
Ards and North Down	13	12	11	7	11
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	11	10	8	18	13
Belfast	44	40	29	23	22
Causeway Coast and Glens	6	2	5	5	6
Derry City and Strabane	17	22	22	13	16
Fermanagh and Omagh	7	6	1	4	3
Lisburn and Castlereagh	8	4	7	5	4
Mid and East Antrim	8	4	3	4	2
Mid Ulster	12	3	1	7	7
Newry, Mourne and Down	13	11	13	10	13
Resident outside NI	9	5	3	4	8
Unassigned [Note 2]	4	4	1	1	0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>110</b>

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Ards and North Down	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.7
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.5
Belfast	1.4	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.7
Causeway Coast and Glens	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4
Derry City and Strabane	1.1	1.4	0.8	0.8	1.0
Fermanagh and Omagh	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Mid and East Antrim	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Mid Ulster	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Newry, Mourne and Down	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6
Resident outside NI	..	..	..	..	..
Unassigned [Note 2]	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>

1. Rate per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. Population data source: 2011-2021 Rebased Mid-Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland.

2. Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases.

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 26: Admissions to JJC by area of residence, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Antrim and Newtownabbey	15	11	7	12	8
Ards and North Down	37	43	37	18	25
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	15	20	16	39	28
Belfast	118	116	83	50	34
Causeway Coast and Glens	11	2	7	7	14
Derry City and Strabane	27	47	57	25	44
Fermanagh and Omagh	18	13	3	4	4
Lisburn and Castlereagh	13	9	18	5	11
Mid and East Antrim	13	4	3	6	7
Mid Ulster	22	5	4	12	8
Newry, Mourne and Down	31	20	30	24	33
Resident outside NI	10	4	3	4	8
Unassigned [Note 1]	7	4	1	1	0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>224</b>

**Table 27: Movements within JJC by area of residence, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Area	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Antrim and Newtownabbey	18	17	13	14	11
Ards and North Down	52	60	46	21	31
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	22	29	20	64	42
Belfast	164	155	117	71	54
Causeway Coast and Glens	16	4	10	11	21
Derry City and Strabane	46	65	88	30	52
Fermanagh and Omagh	19	18	3	4	4
Lisburn and Castlereagh	16	14	26	6	16
Mid and East Antrim	16	7	4	8	8
Mid Ulster	28	7	6	19	16
Newry, Mourne and Down	36	28	43	32	49
Resident outside NI	15	6	3	6	10
Unassigned [Note 1]	9	6	2	2	0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>314</b>

1. Accurate address information was unavailable for these cases.

## Appendix 3 – Data Tables

**Table 28: Average population by status, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Average Population
2018/19	1	13	4	18
2019/20	1	11	5	17
2020/21	1	9	1	11
2021/22	1	7	1	9
2022/23	1	9	1	11

**Table 29: Custody days by status, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Custody Days
2018/19	258	4,777	1,462	6,497
2019/20	218	4,122	1,837	6,177
2020/21	236	3,356	304	3,896
2021/22	233	2,543	344	3,120
2022/23	209	3,272	363	3,844

Financial Year	PACE	Remand	Sentence	Total Custody Days
2018/19	4.0%	73.5%	22.5%	100.0%
2019/20	3.5%	66.7%	29.7%	100.0%
2020/21	6.1%	86.1%	7.8%	100.0%
2021/22	7.5%	81.5%	11.0%	100.0%
2022/23	5.4%	85.1%	9.4%	100.0%

**Table 30: PACE to remand/sentence conversion estimate, 2018/19 to 2022/23**

Financial Year	PACE Admissions	PACE to Remand/Sentence	Conversion Rate
2018/19	228	94	41.2%
2019/20	197	96	48.7%
2020/21	207	102	49.3%
2021/22	165	74	44.8%
2022/23	176	76	43.2%



## 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
<b>Introduction:-</b>	<p>This report provides an overview of the workload of the YJA during 2022/23 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 July each year, for example data covering 2022/23 i.e. 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 will be extracted after 1 July 2023.</p>
<b>Relevance:-</b> <i>The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.</i>	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.

## Appendix 4 – Quality Assessment

Dimension	Assessment by the author
<p><b>Relevance (continued):-</b> <i>The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.</i></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>
<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>

## Appendix 4 – Quality Assessment

Dimension	Assessment by the author
<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 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, and is published on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023. 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 one day 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. 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 (38.9% missing for individuals, 46.9% missing for referrals). 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 border="1" data-bbox="712 965 1302 1082"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Individuals</th> <th>Referrals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Gender</td> <td>99.1%</td> <td>98.5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Custodial Services</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="712 1149 1601 1379"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Individuals</th> <th>Admissions</th> <th>Movements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Gender</td> <td>98.2%</td> <td>96.9%</td> <td>96.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religion</td> <td>84.5%</td> <td>90.2%</td> <td>90.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAC</td> <td>100.0%</td> <td>99.6%</td> <td>99.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Individuals	Referrals	Gender	99.1%	98.5%		Individuals	Admissions	Movements	Gender	98.2%	96.9%	96.8%	Religion	84.5%	90.2%	90.4%	LAC	100.0%	99.6%	99.7%
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<b>Performance, cost and respondent burden:-</b> <i>The effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.</i>	<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>
<b>Confidentiality, transparency and security:-</b> <i>The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.</i>	<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>