

# Motoring Offence Statistics for Northern Ireland

## 2020 Annual Report

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### Key Statistics

- In 2020, there were 47,077 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 2,816 (6%) offences on the 49,893 detections recorded in 2019.
- Of the 47,077 detections in 2020, three fifths resulted in a referral for prosecution and over one quarter in endorsable fixed penalty notices.
- Despite the reduction in traffic volumes in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of offences showed an increase in detections between 2019 and 2020. Construction and use offences increased by almost 40% year on year, while speeding detections increased by 18%, to 8,985.
- Insurance offences accounted for 8,448 of all these detections in 2020, an increase of 3% on the number recorded in 2019. There were a further 4,255 detections related to driving licence offences, 319 more offences than in 2019.
- Conversely, there has been a decrease of 73% in vehicle test certificate offences since 2019, while parking fell by one third to 1,168.



Northern Ireland  
Statistics and Research Agency



Keeping People Safe

	Page
1. Things you need to know about this release	3
2. Summary	4
3. Trends	5
4. Offence group	6
5. Policing District	9
6. Speeding	11
7. Mobile phone	14
8. Careless driving	17
9. Drink or drug driving	20
10. Disposal types	23
10.1 Fixed penalty notices	24
10.2 Speed awareness courses	26
10.3 Referred for prosecution	27
11. Revisions	28

We welcome user feedback on these statistics. This can be sent to the email address on the cover page or by contacting us at the telephone number provided.

## 1. Things you need to know about this release

Motoring offence statistics for Northern Ireland are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

[PSNI Official Statistics documentation](#) is available on the Official Statistics section of the PSNI website.

### Coverage

This report provides statistics on the number of motoring offences detected by police in Northern Ireland in 2020. It does not include any detections by the NI Road Safety Partnership. Figures relating to such detections through the Partnership can be accessed via the following link – [NI RSP](#).

The range of disposals covered includes those offences dealt with by means of a fixed penalty notice (FPN), speed awareness course and referral for prosecution. Statistics Branch developed the functionality to report on prosecution referrals in 2017, at which point the figures were validated and reported back to 2011. Quality concerns due to the introduction of different information systems prevented any further back dating of the figures.

This report presents the most recent motoring offence statistics based on figures that were extracted on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. As of that date, 99.9% of FPNs for 2020 had been processed, while 0.1% remained pending. Referred for prosecution figures from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 onwards remain provisional and therefore subject to amendment. The information is also available in tabular format in the [accompanying spreadsheets](#) on the PSNI website.

Background information and details of the offences included in each offence grouping (Section 6) can be found in the [Motoring Offence User Guide](#) on the PSNI website. Please note the figures refer to the number of offences and not the number of persons detected as a person can be detected for more than one offence.

### National Statistics Status

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and as producers, it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics were designated as National Statistics in March 2020 following a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#).

### Uses of the statistics

Uses of the statistics, based on user engagement, information requests and satisfaction survey feedback include policy making and policy monitoring, performance monitoring, and public interest, by a range of users including PSNI, Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs), media and academics.

More detail can be found in the Motoring Offence User Guide which can be accessed via the [motoring offences](#) statistics web page on the PSNI website.

### Related statistics

Sources of motoring offences data for other domains include [An Garda Síochána - Republic of Ireland](#) and [England and Wales](#). Related statistics include [Injury road traffic collision statistics](#) and [NI Road Safety Partnership](#) statistics.

## 2. Summary

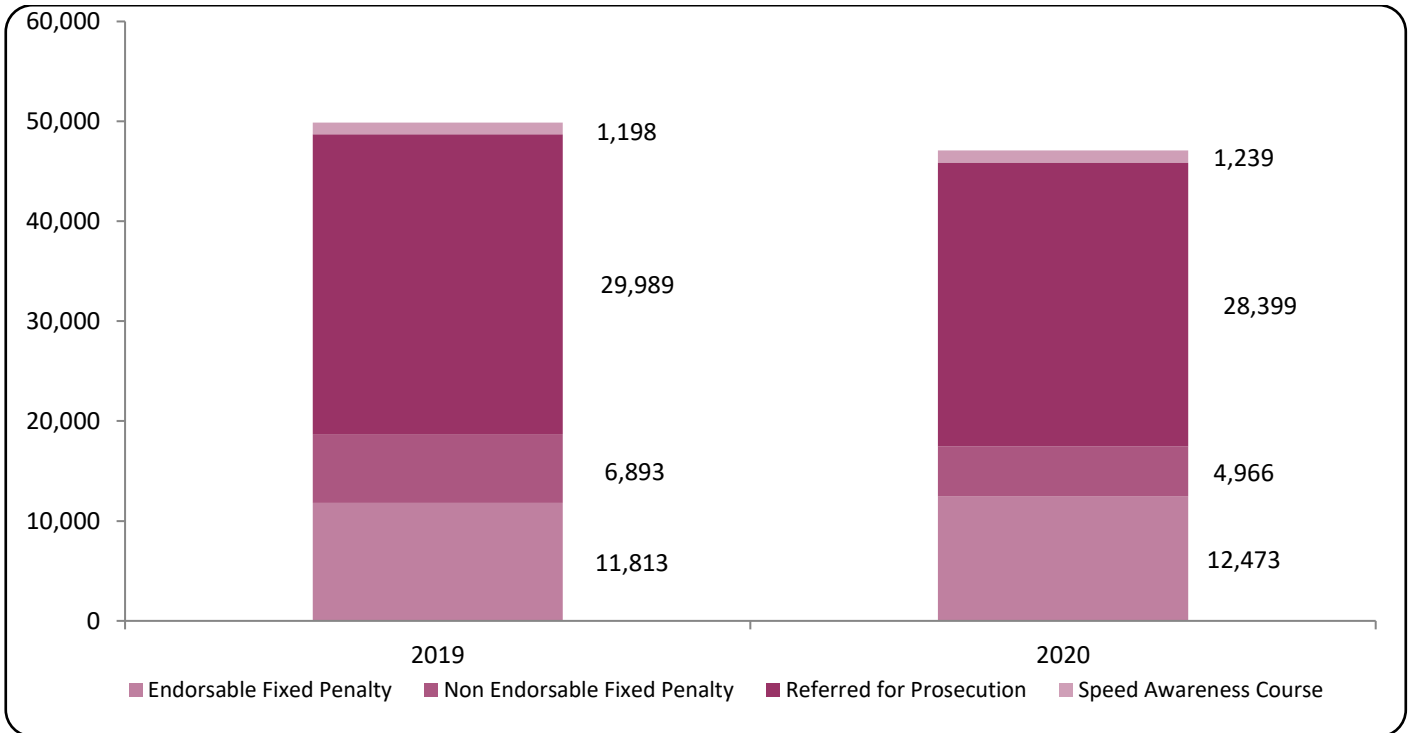
Over the last 12 months:

- the number of motoring offences decreased by 2,816 offences
- offences referred for prosecution fell by 5%
- endorsable fixed penalties increased by 6%
- non endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 28%

**Table 1: Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 2019 and 2020**

	Number and Percentage			
	2019	2020	Change over last 12 months – No.	Change over last 12 months - %
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	11,813	12,473	660	5.6
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	6,893	4,966	-1,927	-28.0
Referred for Prosecution	29,989	28,399	-1,590	-5.3
Speed Awareness Course	1,198	1,239	41	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,893</b>	<b>47,077</b>	<b>-2,816</b>	<b>-5.6</b>

**Figure 1: Comparisons of disposal types for motoring offences, 2019 and 2020**



### 3. Trends

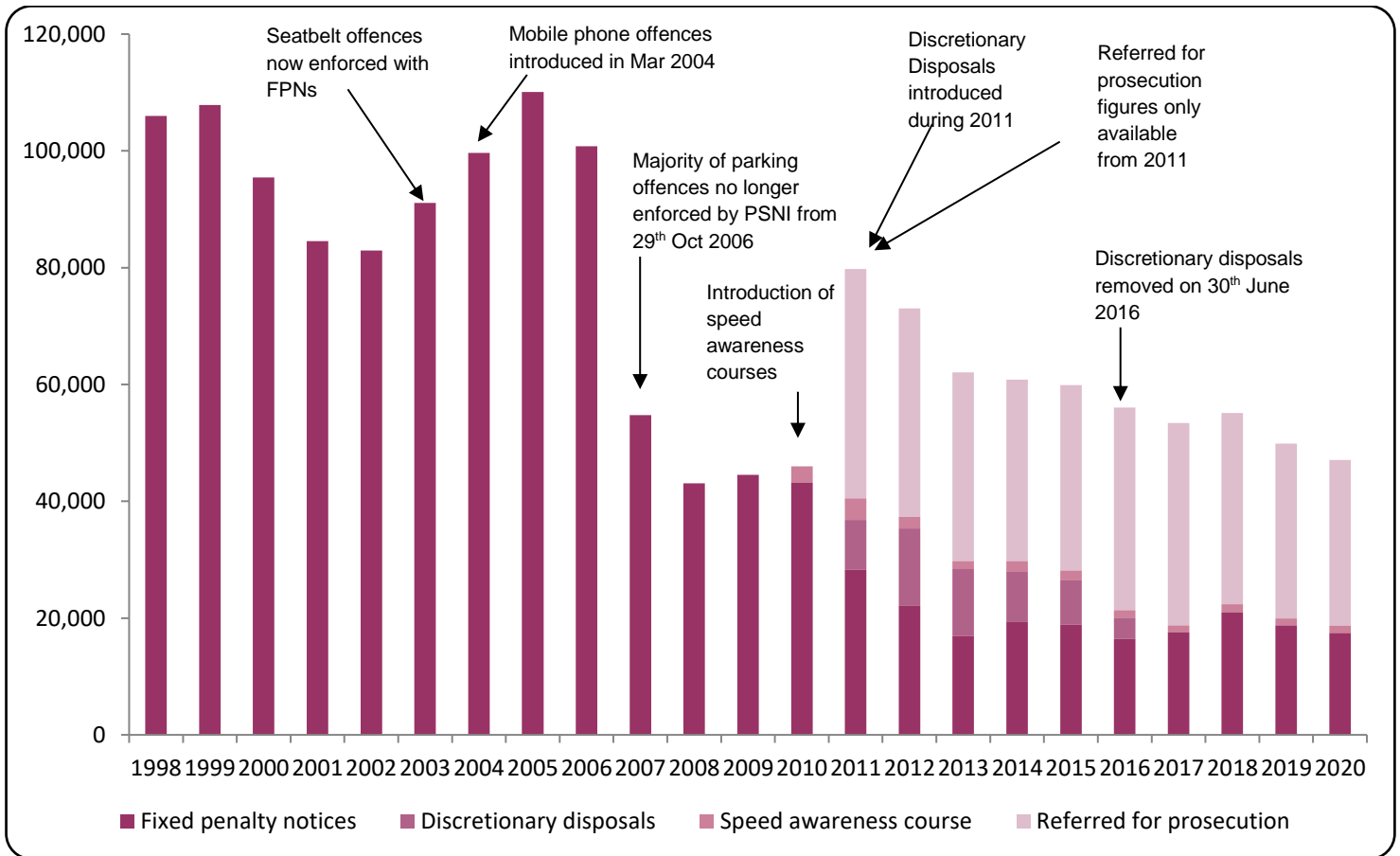
The number of FPNs has significantly decreased over the past number of years from a total 105,966 recorded in 1998 to 17,439 recorded in 2020.

A large proportion of the decrease is due to the introduction of the Traffic Management (NI) Order 2005 which came into effect on 30th October 2006. This legislation decriminalised the vast majority of parking and waiting offences in Northern Ireland. Enforcement of parking/waiting restrictions is now the responsibility of Traffic Attendants employed by National Car Parks Limited on behalf of Transport NI.

The total number of motoring offences has been steadily decreasing over the past number of years from 79,796 recorded in 2011 to 47,077 in 2020.

The removal of discretionary disposals as an option for motoring offences has had a notable impact on the number of motoring offences, albeit other disposals have also seen a decline over the years.

**Figure 2: Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 1998 –2020**



## 4. Offence group

**Table 2: Number of motoring offences by offence group and month of year, 2019 and 2020**

2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Total 2020	Total 2019	Change over last 12 months – No.	Change over last 12 months - %
Breach of signs & signals	26	26	4	3	50	29	25	26	16	32	21	15	<b>273</b>	<b>339</b>	-66	-19.5
Careless driving	370	358	266	179	307	350	330	336	348	303	260	226	<b>3,633</b>	<b>4,466</b>	-833	-18.7
Construction & use	155	188	137	125	298	334	283	283	252	301	249	172	<b>2,777</b>	<b>1,996</b>	781	39.1
Dangerous driving	133	113	87	157	149	160	168	129	170	144	121	85	<b>1,616</b>	<b>1,556</b>	60	3.9
Drink or drug driving	248	250	215	244	293	248	292	269	271	224	198	190	<b>2,942</b>	<b>3,190</b>	-248	-7.8
Driving licence	315	313	297	341	547	484	467	312	360	287	310	222	<b>4,255</b>	<b>3,936</b>	319	8.1
Driving whilst disqualified	101	75	69	72	103	81	92	81	81	81	81	68	<b>985</b>	<b>1,098</b>	-113	-10.3
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	236	229	243	165	235	188	232	248	236	195	146	116	<b>2,469</b>	<b>3,054</b>	-585	-19.2
Fraudulent use / declaration	21	24	17	26	44	28	25	33	20	23	10	28	<b>299</b>	<b>282</b>	17	6.0
Insurance	681	623	599	697	963	855	814	673	671	678	655	539	<b>8,448</b>	<b>8,205</b>	243	3.0
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	112	111	116	149	165	177	160	136	153	148	112	129	<b>1,668</b>	<b>1,552</b>	116	7.5
Miscellaneous	57	78	62	87	117	93	94	88	99	79	71	57	<b>982</b>	<b>923</b>	59	6.4
Mobile phone	269	319	290	194	331	374	382	332	316	278	214	137	<b>3,436</b>	<b>3,749</b>	-313	-8.3
Non motor vehicle	1	0	3	4	5	2	7	3	6	6	2	1	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	10	33.3
Parking	153	130	79	61	244	223	38	49	79	56	26	30	<b>1,168</b>	<b>1,753</b>	-585	-33.4
Pedestrian	11	2	3	4	2	4	5	3	4	8	3	4	<b>53</b>	<b>75</b>	-22	-29.3
Seatbelt	63	78	58	61	97	78	128	79	67	76	67	37	<b>889</b>	<b>932</b>	-43	-4.6
Speeding	683	660	468	531	1,253	1,123	1,018	735	709	703	717	385	<b>8,985</b>	<b>7,619</b>	1,366	17.9
Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering	153	105	95	119	109	95	94	81	102	77	69	53	<b>1,152</b>	<b>1,373</b>	-221	-16.1
Vehicle test certificate	300	162	133	71	82	69	39	34	39	24	31	23	<b>1,007</b>	<b>3,765</b>	-2,758	-73.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,088</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>3,290</b>	<b>5,394</b>	<b>4,995</b>	<b>4,693</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>3,999</b>	<b>3,723</b>	<b>3,363</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>47,077</b>	<b>49,893</b>	-2,816	-5.6

**Table 3: Number of motoring offences by gender, age and offence group, 2020**

2020	Male	Female	Unknown	Age Group					Unknown	Total
				Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 69	70+		
Breach of signs & signals	191	76	6	2	72	79	50	10	60	<b>273</b>
Careless driving	2,854	779	0	87	1,350	1,367	672	151	6	<b>3,633</b>
Construction & use	2,483	293	1	74	1,657	722	269	26	29	<b>2,777</b>
Dangerous driving	1,445	171	0	68	805	570	155	18	0	<b>1,616</b>
Drink or drug driving	2,371	569	2	35	888	1,518	472	28	1	<b>2,942</b>
Driving licence	3,600	655	0	119	1,656	1,999	442	39	0	<b>4,255</b>
Driving whilst disqualified	919	66	0	90	307	493	89	5	1	<b>985</b>
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	2,019	450	0	92	999	1,025	290	60	3	<b>2,469</b>
Fraudulent use / declaration	273	25	1	1	117	137	28	5	11	<b>299</b>
Insurance	6,950	1,494	4	237	3,443	3,881	806	80	1	<b>8,448</b>
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	1,431	237	0	119	811	593	131	14	0	<b>1,668</b>
Miscellaneous	902	80	0	62	406	417	80	16	1	<b>982</b>
Mobile phone	2,876	560	0	22	793	1,791	769	60	1	<b>3,436</b>
Non motor vehicle	39	0	1	3	13	15	9	0	0	<b>40</b>
Parking	651	470	47	0	104	109	54	0	901	<b>1,168</b>
Pedestrian	50	3	0	3	24	17	7	2	0	<b>53</b>
Seatbelt	717	172	0	17	256	415	170	30	1	<b>889</b>
Speeding	6,540	2,444	1	96	3,299	3,743	1,677	169	1	<b>8,985</b>
Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering	1,042	110	0	144	551	414	39	4	0	<b>1,152</b>
Vehicle test certificate	834	172	1	14	311	455	177	23	27	<b>1,007</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,187</b>	<b>8,826</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>17,862</b>	<b>19,760</b>	<b>6,386</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>47,077</b>

- In 2020, there were 47,077 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 2,816 (6%) offences on the 49,893 detections recorded in 2019.
- Despite the reduction in traffic volumes in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of offences showed an increase in detections between 2019 and 2020. Construction and use offences increased by almost 40% year on year, while speeding detections increased by 18%, to 8,985.
- The highest speed recorded by PSNI officers in 2020 was 130mph on the M1 motorway and also on the Ballyquin Road, Limavady.
- In 2019 (latest available figures), the NI Road Safety Partnership detected over 6 times more speeding offences than the PSNI (49,312).
- Insurance offences were the second largest offence group, accounting for 18% of the total and increase of 3% on the number detected in 2019 (table 2).
- There has been a 39% increase in the number of construction and use offences when compared with 2019. The increase is mainly attributed to an increase in the number of FPNs issued for number plate type offences e.g. 'Incorrect form of registration mark'.
- Over half of those detected for mobile phone offences were age 30-49.
- Over one quarter of all female detections was for speeding offences.
- There has been a 73% decrease in the number of vehicle test certificate offences since 2019, while parking fell by one third to 1,168. Automatic MOT renewals coupled with reduced traffic volumes<sup>1</sup> throughout 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic will likely have impacted on this decrease.
- Over three fifths of those detected for construction and use offences were aged under 30.

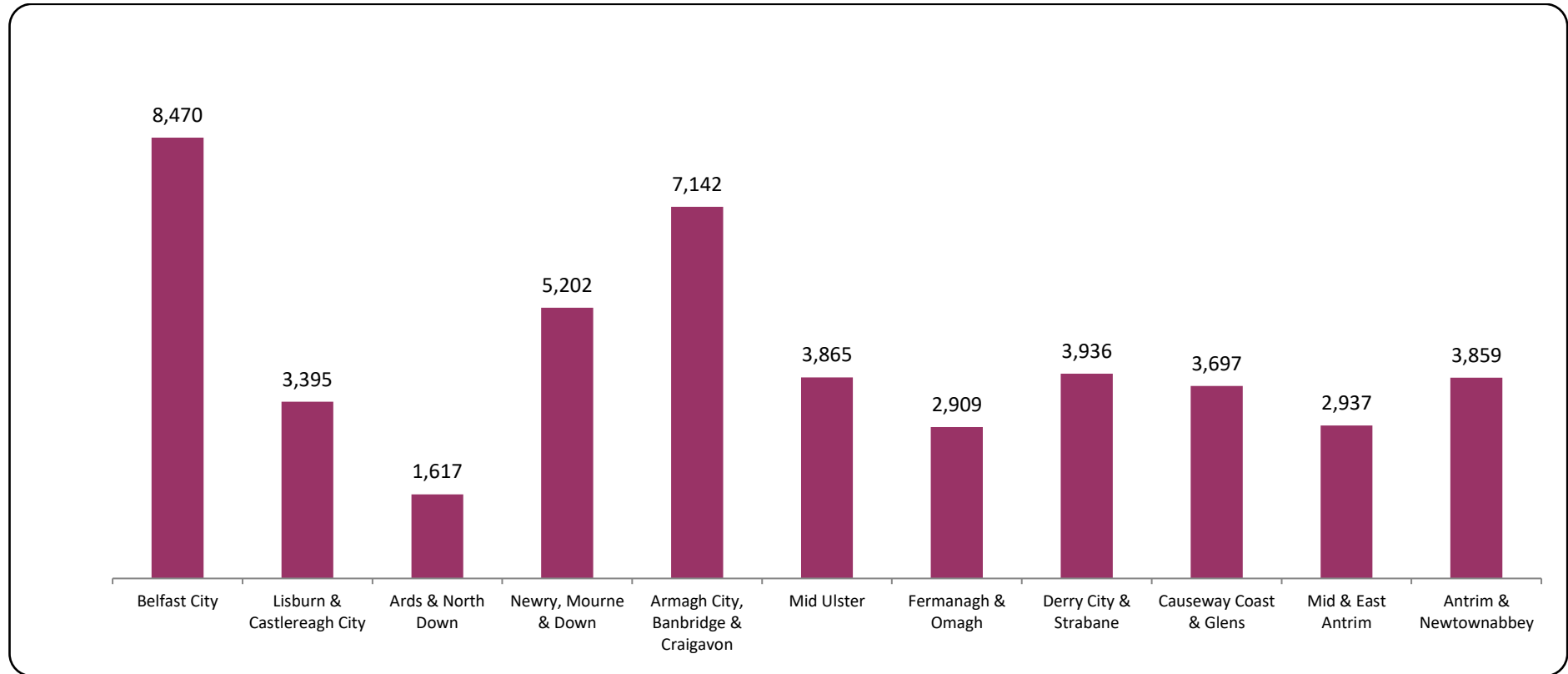
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<sup>1</sup> [DfI traffic volumes](#)



## 5. Policing District

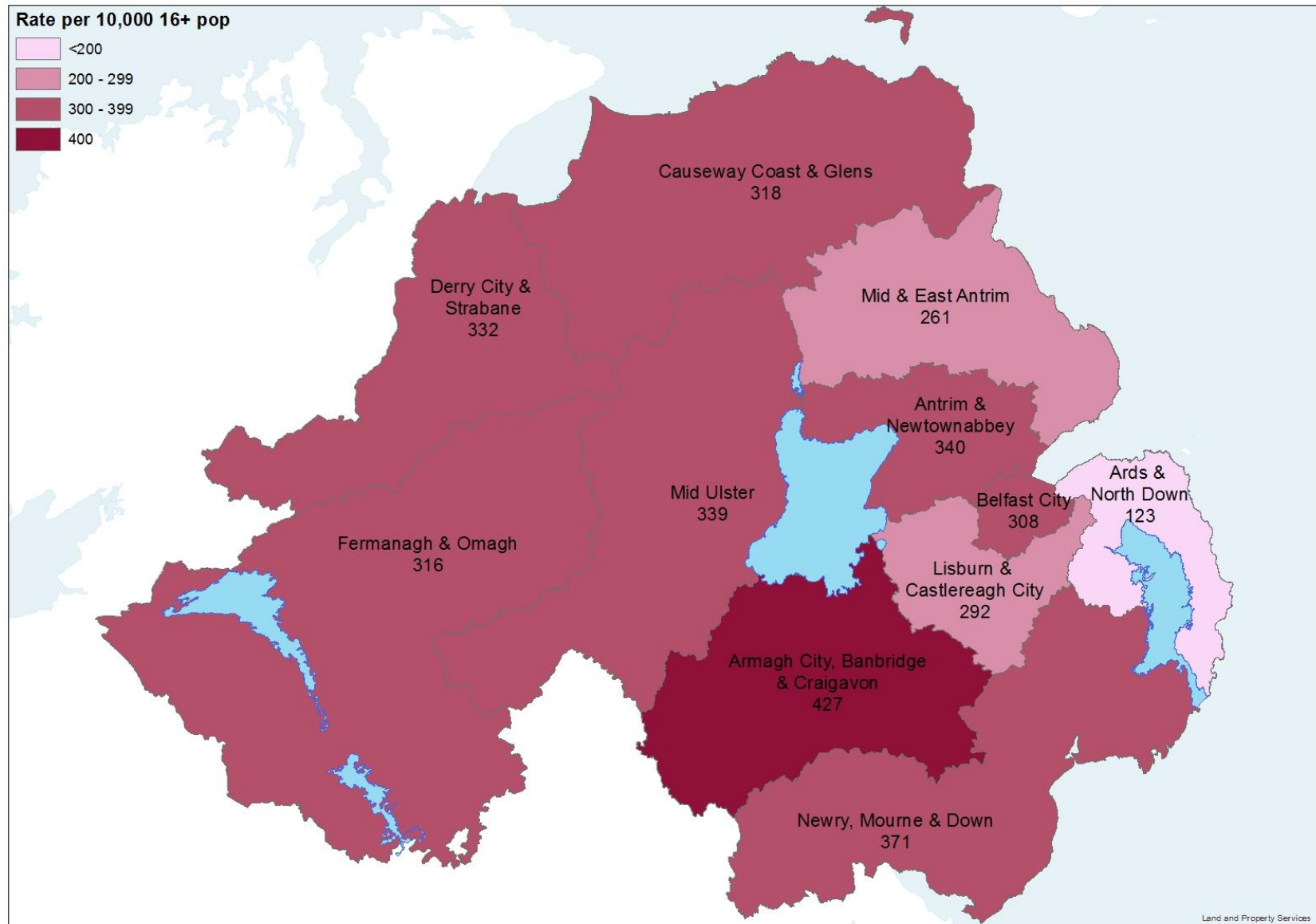
Figure 3: Number of motoring offences by Policing District, 2020



Unknown district is excluded from the chart above

The number of motoring offences detected in Belfast City represented 18% of all motoring offences detected in 2020. Ards and North Down recorded the least detections, accounting for 3% of the total in 2020. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon recorded 427 offences per 10,000 population aged 16+ while Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population aged 16+, with 123 (figure 4).

Figure 4: Rate of motoring offences per 10,000 population<sup>2</sup> aged 16+ by Policing District: 2020

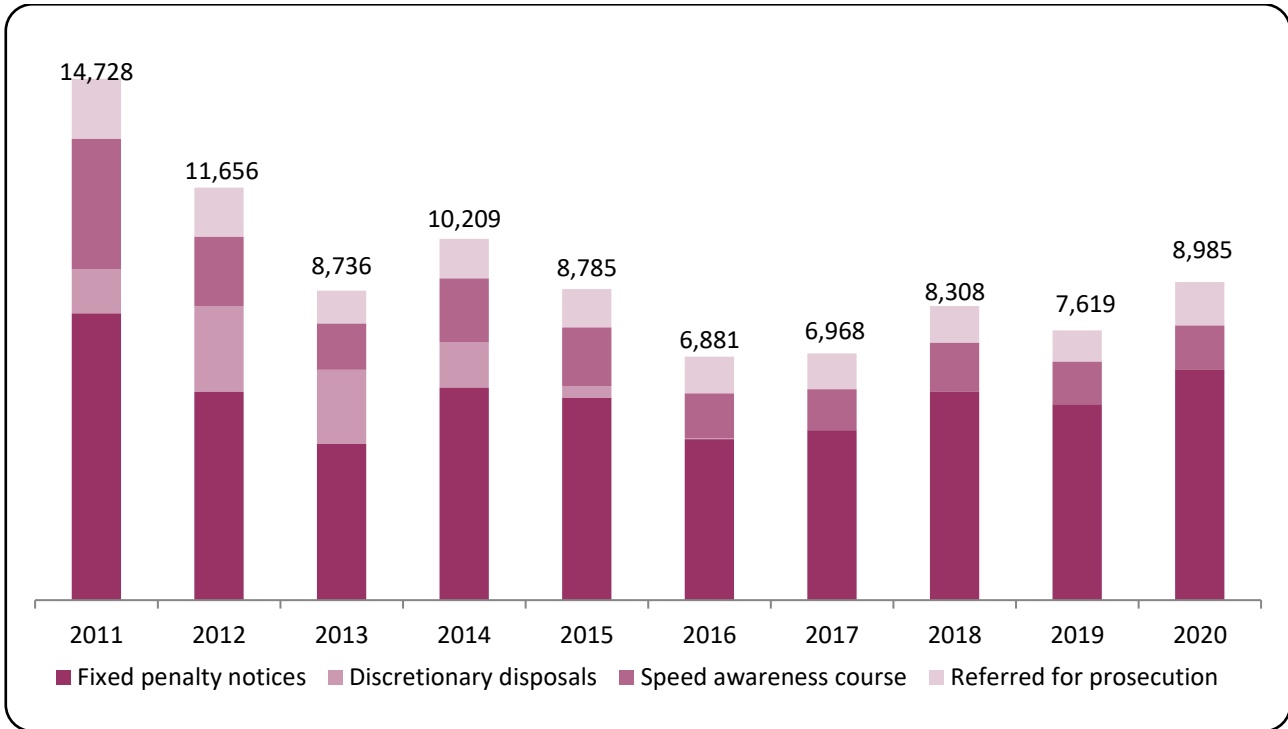


<sup>2</sup> Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Service (NINIS)

## 6. Speeding

In Northern Ireland speeding offences can be detected by PSNI officers or by the fixed cameras and mobile cameras operated by the Northern Ireland Road Safety Partnership (NIRSP). More detailed information regarding the NIRSP can be obtained from the [NI RSP website](#). In 2019<sup>3</sup> (the most recent year available) the NIRSP detected 49,312 persons speeding which equated to 87% of the combined PSNI and NIRSP total for that year.

**Figure 5: Number of speeding offences detected by PSNI, 2011 – 2020**



In 2020, there were 8,985 detections for speeding offences, accounting for 19% of all motoring offences detected by PSNI, with almost one in three of these detected at the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) – see table 5. The highest speed detected in 2020 was 130mph on the M1 motorway, a 70mph stretch of road, and Ballyquin Road, Limavady, a 60mph stretch of road (table 4). Interestingly, speeding detections peaked during the summer months in 2020 despite reduced traffic volumes related to COVID-19 lockdown measures and government guidance on non-essential travel, therefore it is possible that less congestion and quieter roads may have enabled increased speeds.

**Table 4: Top speed detected by PSNI within each speed limit, 2020**

Speed limit	Highest speed detected	Location
20 mph	37 mph	Curran Road, Coleraine
30 mph	90 mph	Newcastle Road, Castlewellan
40 mph	82 mph	Oldstone Hill, Antrim
45 mph	127 mph	A1 dual carriageway, Loughbrickland
50 mph	91 mph	Newtownards Road, Comber
60 mph	130 mph	Ballyquin Road, Limavady
70 mph	130 mph	M1 Motorway, Portadown

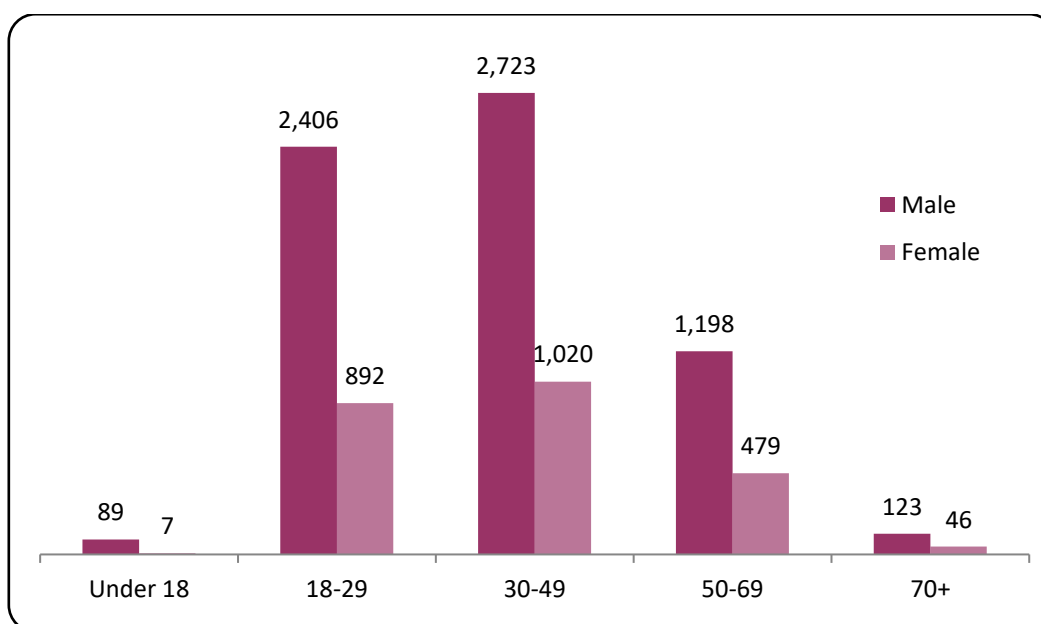
<sup>3</sup> 2020 figures will be published on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**Table 5: Number of speeding offences by day of week and month of year, 2020**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	100	60	93	90	116	103	121	<b>683</b>
February	136	74	49	76	106	77	142	<b>660</b>
March	72	52	86	75	57	69	57	<b>468</b>
April	53	56	92	81	125	75	49	<b>531</b>
May	150	145	181	186	194	172	225	<b>1,253</b>
June	131	190	138	136	212	196	120	<b>1,123</b>
July	132	86	125	139	245	133	158	<b>1,018</b>
August	113	103	91	83	107	115	123	<b>735</b>
September	92	91	101	100	111	96	118	<b>709</b>
October	87	77	48	77	134	158	122	<b>703</b>
November	120	86	90	81	125	100	115	<b>717</b>
December	44	26	85	72	85	46	27	<b>385</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>1,617</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>8,985</b>

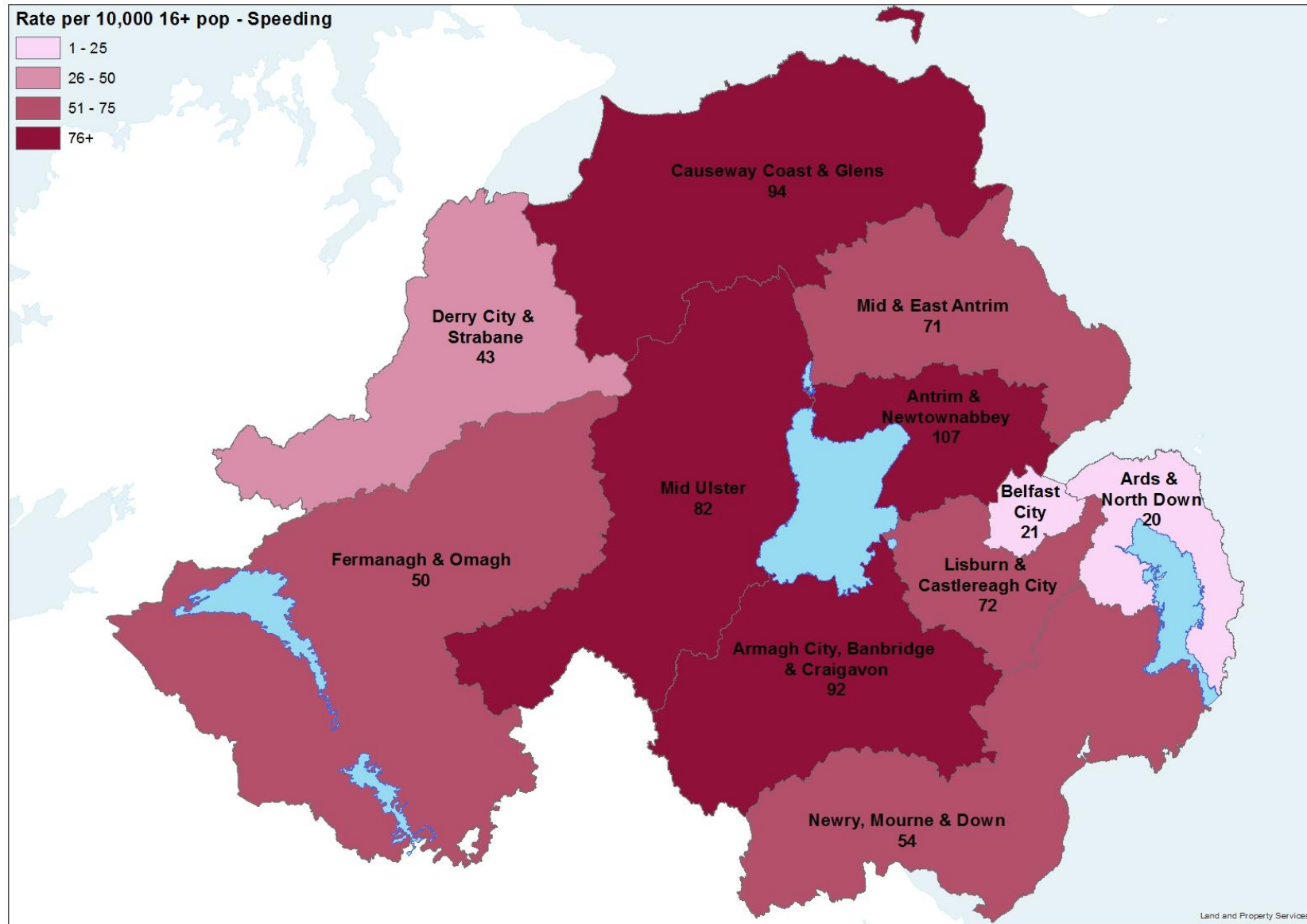
Males accounted for almost three quarters (73%) of all persons detected for speeding offences. Persons aged 30 – 49 represented over two fifths of all persons detected for speeding offences, followed by 18 - 29 year olds accounting for a further 37%.

**Figure 6: Number of speeding offences by age and gender, 2020**



The largest number of speeding offences detected in 2020 was in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon policing district (1,537) while Ards and North Down recorded the fewest detections (269). However as a rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, Antrim and Newtownabbey recorded 107 speeding offences per 10,000 population, while Belfast recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 21 (figure 7).

Figure 7: Rate of speeding offences per 10,000 population<sup>4</sup> aged 16+ by Policing District: 2020

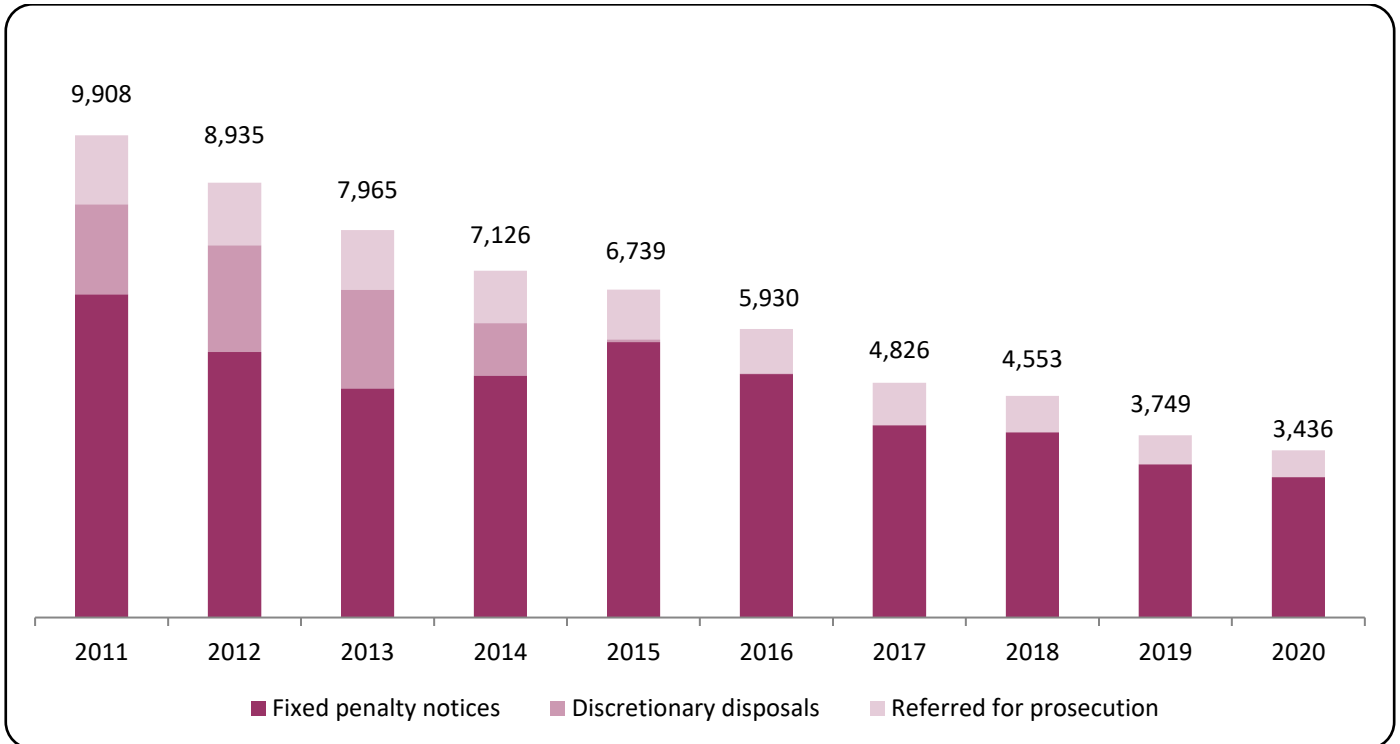


<sup>4</sup> Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Service (NINIS)

## 7. Mobile phone

The number of detections for mobile phone offences has steadily decreased from 9,908 in 2011 to 3,436 in 2020 (a decrease of 65%). Although the number of detections has decreased, research conducted by DfI<sup>5</sup> in 2020/21 shows that 57% of drivers used their phone in some capacity in the last year while driving, with males most likely to make a hand held call. Over 90% of respondents identified they were more likely to cause a crash when using a mobile phone while driving, while 86% believed they were less likely to notice danger ahead.

**Figure 8: Number of mobile phone offences, 2011 – 2020**



Mobile phone offences accounted for 7% of all motoring offences in 2020. There were fewer detections for this offence group on a Saturday and Sunday with the majority detected on a Friday (19%) (table 6).

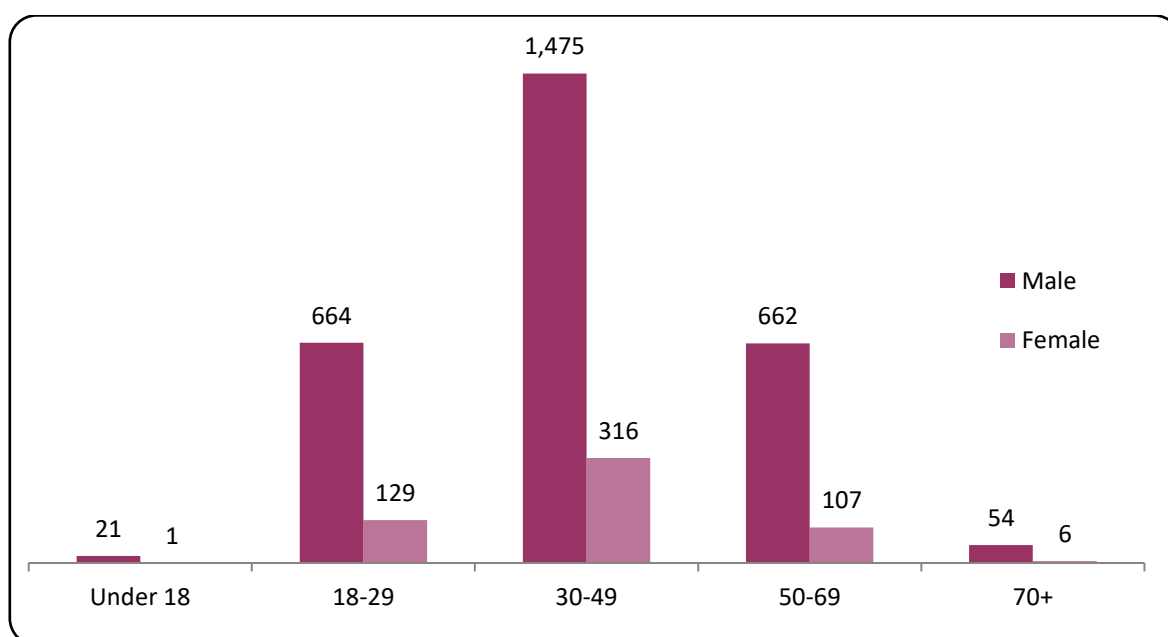
<sup>5</sup> [Road safety issues in Northern Ireland](#)

**Table 6: Number of mobile phone offences by day of week and month of year, 2020**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	17	34	43	43	36	69	27	<b>269</b>
February	21	50	59	58	41	53	37	<b>319</b>
March	21	55	52	39	55	48	20	<b>290</b>
April	10	22	21	46	38	33	24	<b>194</b>
May	37	42	52	50	49	60	41	<b>331</b>
June	24	62	61	66	73	58	30	<b>374</b>
July	17	45	47	70	83	81	39	<b>382</b>
August	19	53	39	50	61	66	44	<b>332</b>
September	11	30	62	56	67	50	40	<b>316</b>
October	7	18	35	48	71	65	34	<b>278</b>
November	9	25	31	31	52	46	20	<b>214</b>
December	10	15	30	26	25	24	7	<b>137</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>3,436</b>

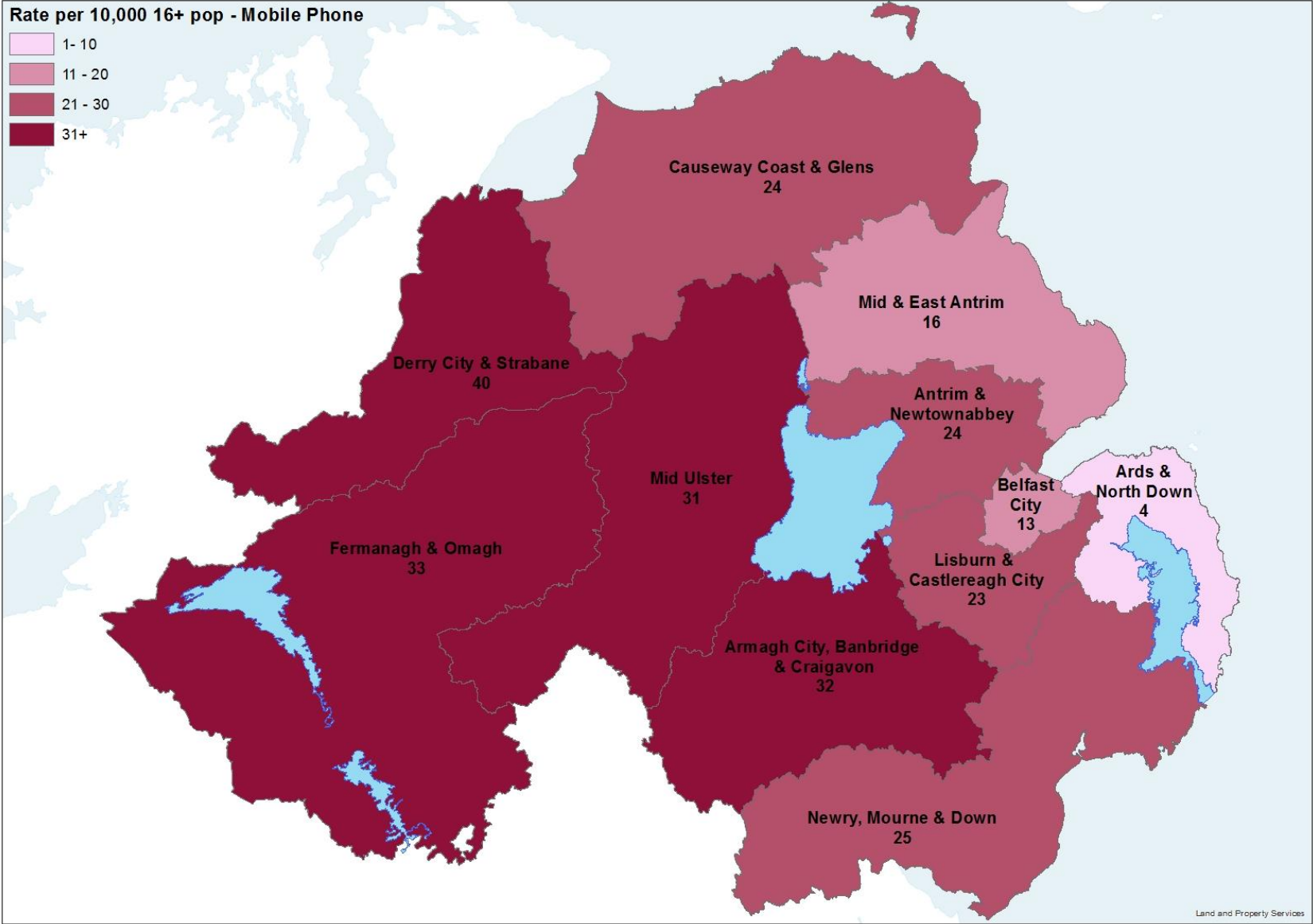
Males accounted for four fifths of all persons detected for mobile phone offences while persons aged 30 – 49 accounted for over half (52%).

**Figure 9: Number of mobile phones offences by age and gender, 2020**



The largest number of mobile phone offences detected in 2020 was in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon policing district (529) while Ards and North Down recorded the least detections (54). However as a rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, Derry City and Strabane recorded 40 mobile phone offences per 10,000 population while Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 4 (figure 10).

Figure 10: Rate of mobile phone offences per 10,000 population<sup>6</sup> aged 16+ by Policing District: 2020



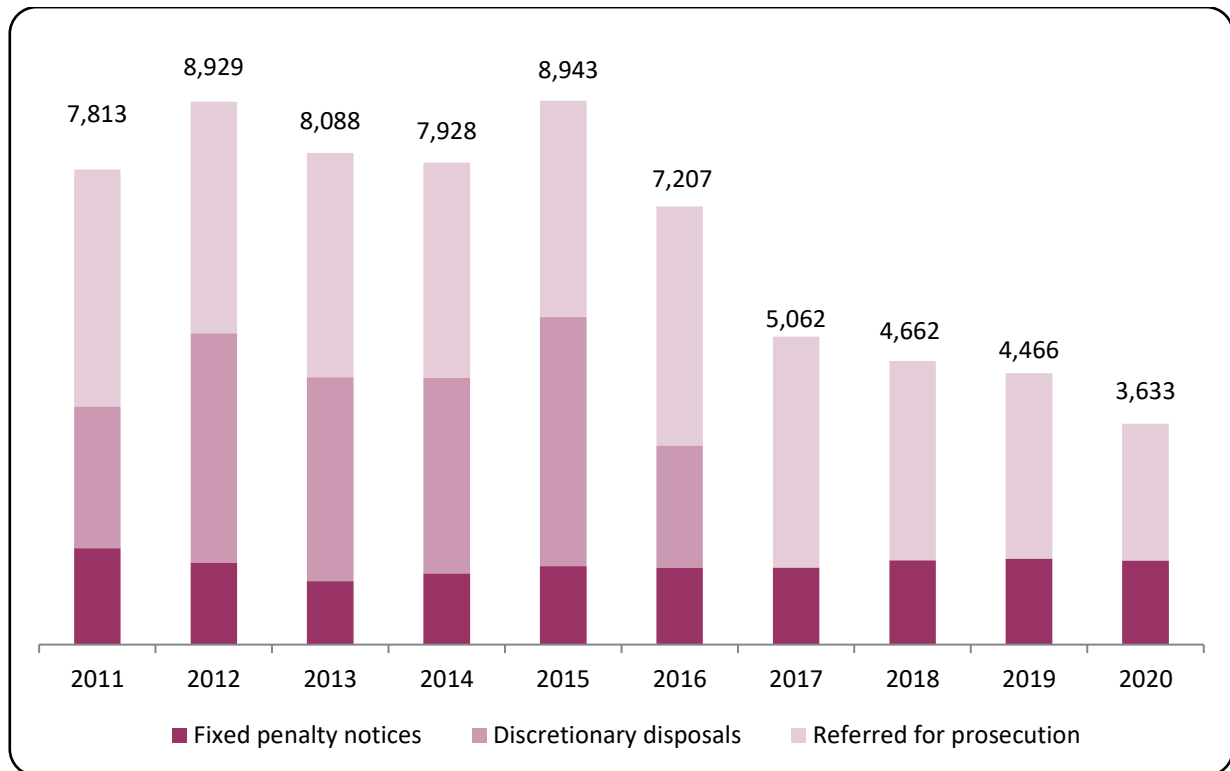
<sup>6</sup> Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Service (NINIS)



## 8. Careless driving

The number of careless driving offences decreased from 7,813 in 2011 to 3,633 in 2020 (a decrease of 54%), however the evidence indicates that it remains the main contributor to injury road traffic collisions. The top 3 principal causation factors in injury collisions between January and November 2020<sup>7</sup> were 'inattention or attention diverted', 'driving too close' and 'emerging from minor road without care'. These types of factors would be captured in the offences under 'driving without due care and attention', which accounted for over half (51%) of all careless driving offences.

Figure 11: Number of careless driving offences, 2011 – 2020



One in six (16%) were issued on a Friday while one in ten careless driving offences were detected in January (table 7).

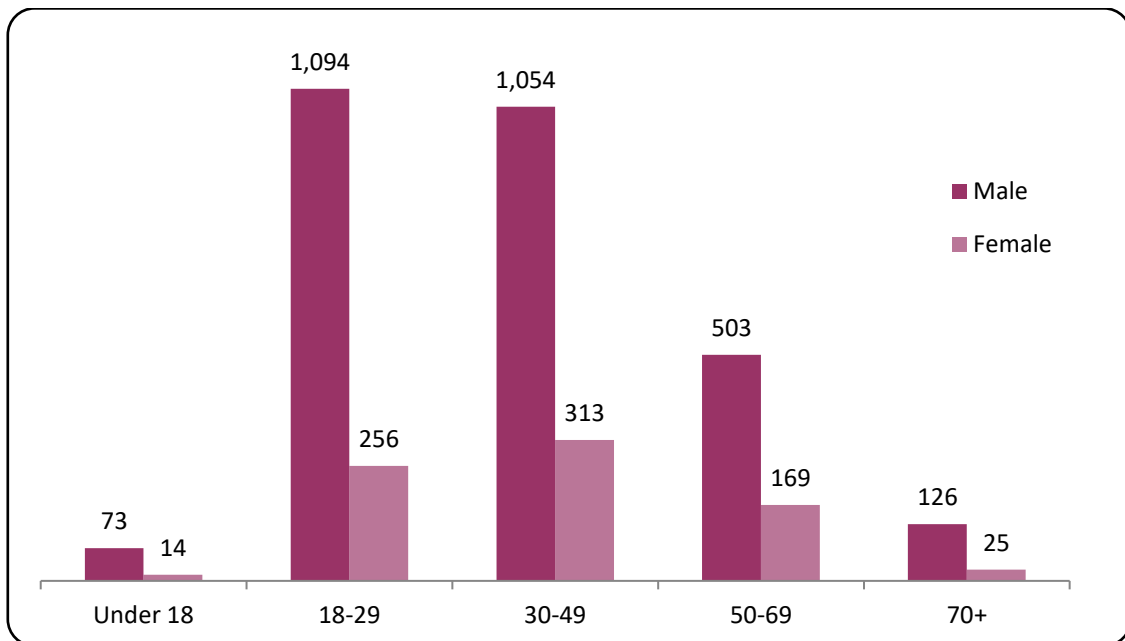
<sup>7</sup> [PSNI injury road traffic collision monthly report](#)

**Table 7: Number of careless driving offences by day of week and month of year, 2020**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	46	39	45	53	61	74	52	<b>370</b>
February	63	48	42	44	37	60	64	<b>358</b>
March	37	38	38	39	44	39	31	<b>266</b>
April	20	24	19	21	31	37	27	<b>179</b>
May	47	40	50	29	55	42	44	<b>307</b>
June	52	54	46	58	45	41	54	<b>350</b>
July	40	46	47	51	57	59	30	<b>330</b>
August	58	48	40	54	44	43	49	<b>336</b>
September	54	42	54	46	58	42	52	<b>348</b>
October	31	38	31	37	61	55	50	<b>303</b>
November	31	47	37	31	36	45	33	<b>260</b>
December	26	30	23	35	33	38	41	<b>226</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>3,633</b>

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for almost four fifths of careless driving offences and 30-49 year olds accounted for 38%.

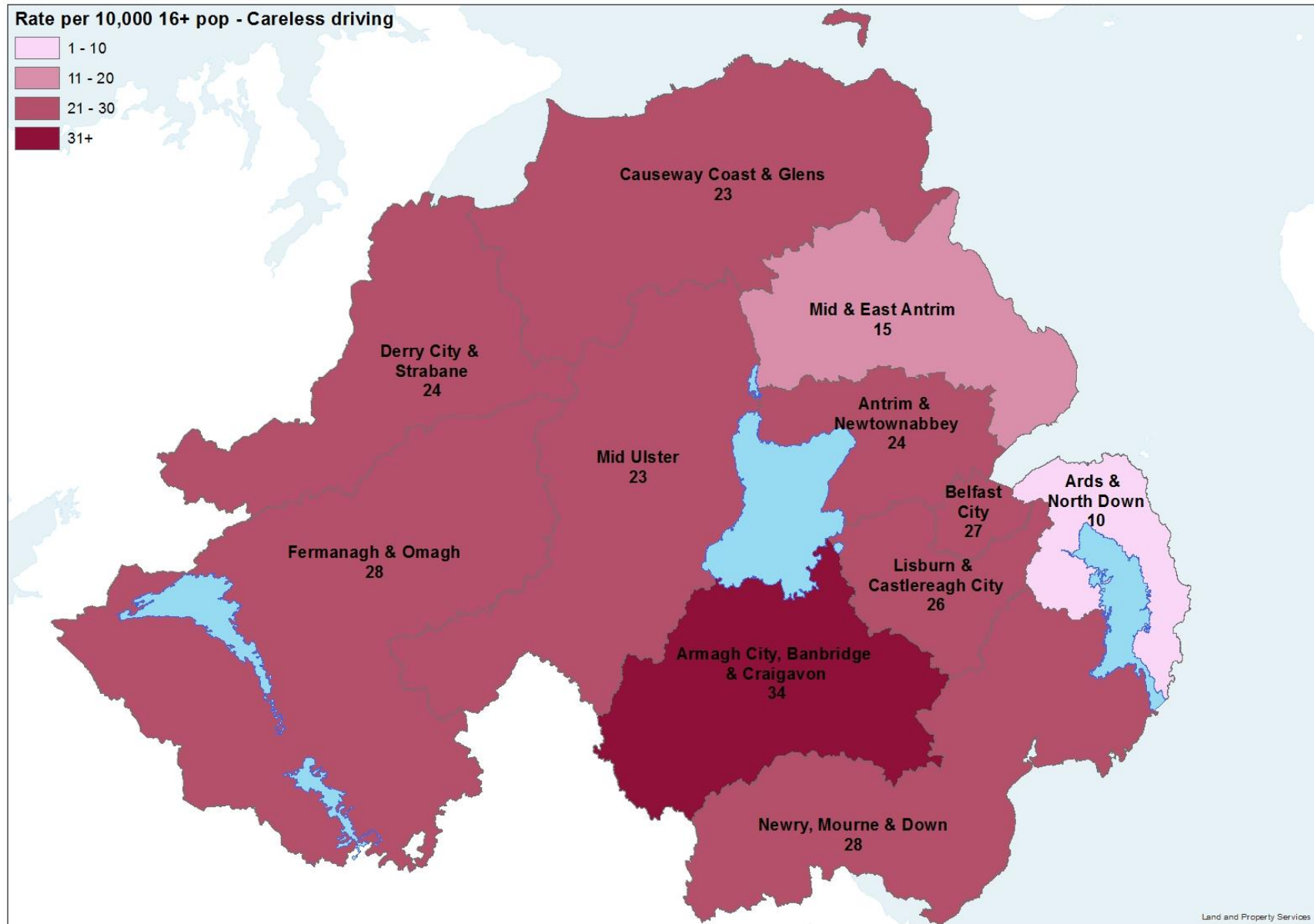
**Figure 12: Number of careless driving offences by age and gender, 2020**



Unknown age and gender is excluded from the chart above

The largest number of careless driving offences detected in 2020 was in Belfast City policing district (729) while Ards and North Down recorded the least detections (136). However as a rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon recorded 34 careless driving phone offences per 10,000 population, while Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 10 (figure 13).

Figure 13: Rate of careless driving offences per 10,000 population<sup>8</sup> aged 16+ by Policing District: 2020

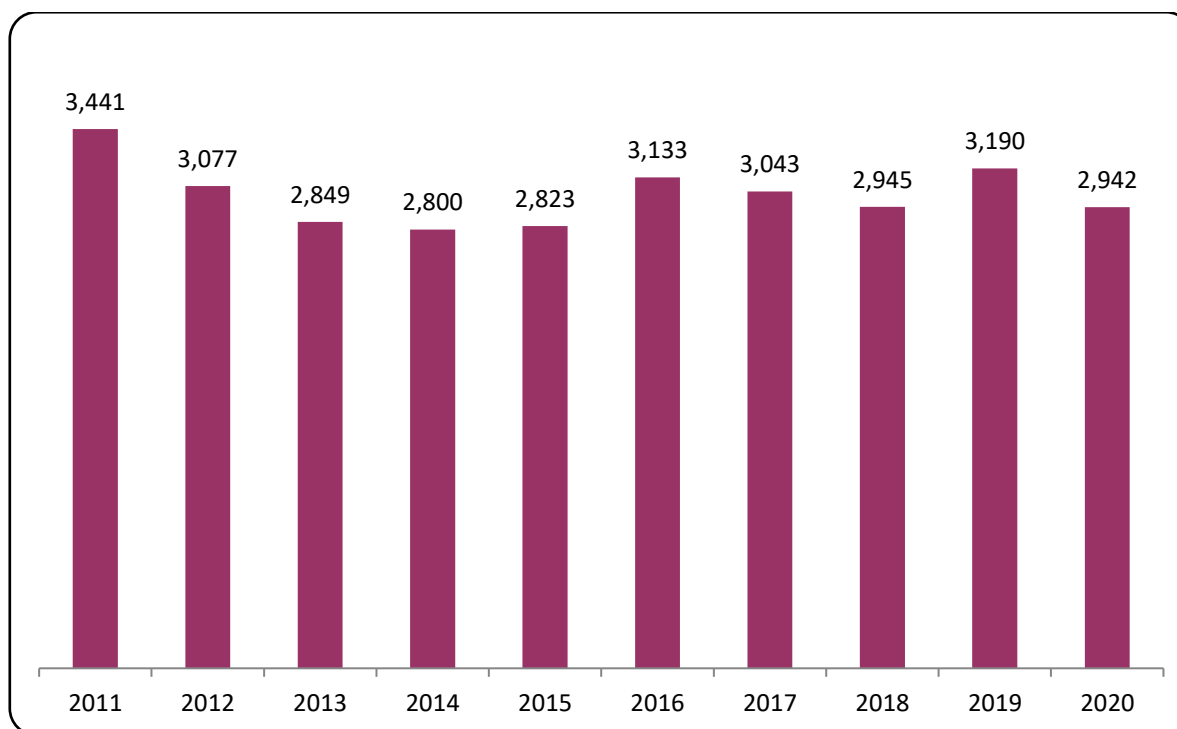


<sup>8</sup> Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Service (NINIS)

## 9. Drink or drug driving

The number of arrests for drink/drug driving offences in 2020 was 3,117 resulting in 2,942 drink/drug driving offences being referred for prosecution, with the worst offender being 6 times over the limit (table 9). This is a decrease from 3,667 arrests and 3,437 offences referred for prosecution in 2011 (a decrease of 15%). Drink/drug driving continues to be a major contributor in fatal and serious injury road traffic collisions as ‘impaired by alcohol/drugs – driver/rider’ was the 4<sup>th</sup> most common principal causation factor for such collisions between January and November 2020<sup>9</sup>. Further analysis identifying issues and trends in relation to fatal and serious collisions caused by drink driving has been completed by Department for Infrastructure<sup>10</sup>.

**Figure 14: Number of drink/drug driving offences, 2011 – 2020**



Almost half (45%) of drink/drug driving offences were detected at the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) and May was the month of year when most detections for drink/drug driving offences occurred, accounting for 10% of the total. The Christmas drink drive campaign<sup>11</sup> in previous years has contributed to the higher number of offences in December, however in 2020 it is showing the lowest monthly total. This is likely due to reduced traffic volumes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, coupled with selective breath testing to minimise risk to both the public and police officers (table 8).

The largest number of drink drug driving offences detected in 2020 was in Belfast City policing district (559) while Ards and North Down recorded the least detections (156). However as a rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, Derry City and Strabane recorded 27 drink drug driving offences per 10,000 population, while Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 12 (figure 16).

<sup>9</sup> [PSNI injury road traffic collision monthly report](#)

<sup>10</sup> [KSI road traffic collisions caused by drink driving 2013 - 2017](#)

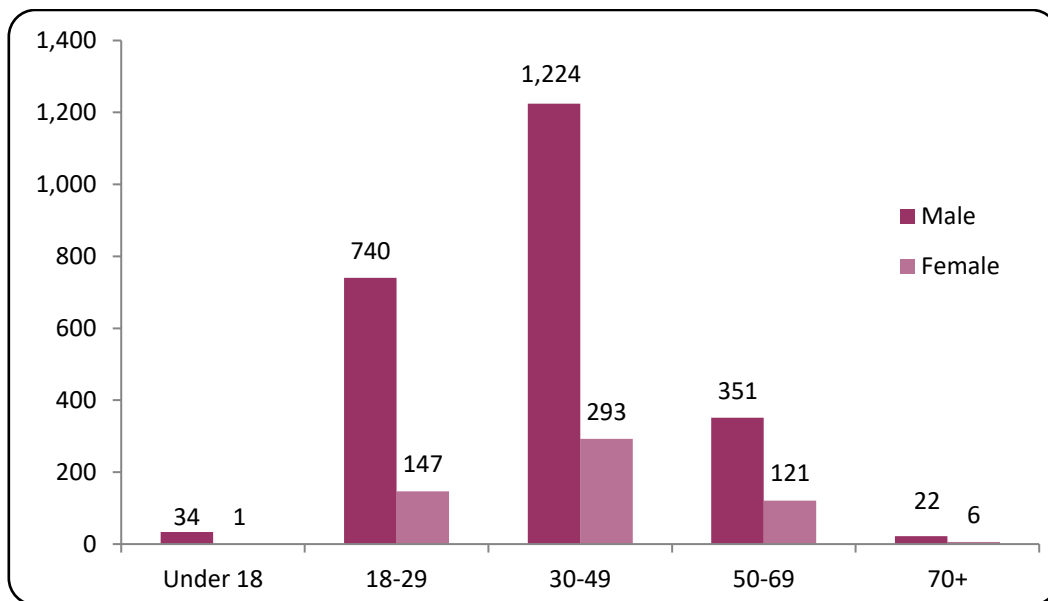
<sup>11</sup> [Christmas drink drive bulletin](#)

**Table 8: Number of drink/drug driving offences by day of week and month of year, 2020**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	60	28	12	44	24	32	48	<b>248</b>
February	69	36	23	18	22	29	53	<b>250</b>
March	45	34	17	26	22	36	35	<b>215</b>
April	54	27	26	33	33	31	40	<b>244</b>
May	71	28	24	37	34	40	59	<b>293</b>
June	53	40	24	26	24	34	47	<b>248</b>
July	85	30	28	36	27	37	49	<b>292</b>
August	89	27	16	19	19	29	70	<b>269</b>
September	55	31	36	39	30	29	51	<b>271</b>
October	38	19	22	27	33	27	58	<b>224</b>
November	57	30	13	20	12	24	42	<b>198</b>
December	43	13	25	25	24	15	45	<b>190</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>2,942</b>

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for over four fifths of drink/drug driving offences and 30-49 year olds accounted for over half (52%).

**Figure 15: Number of drink/drug driving offences by age and gender, 2020**



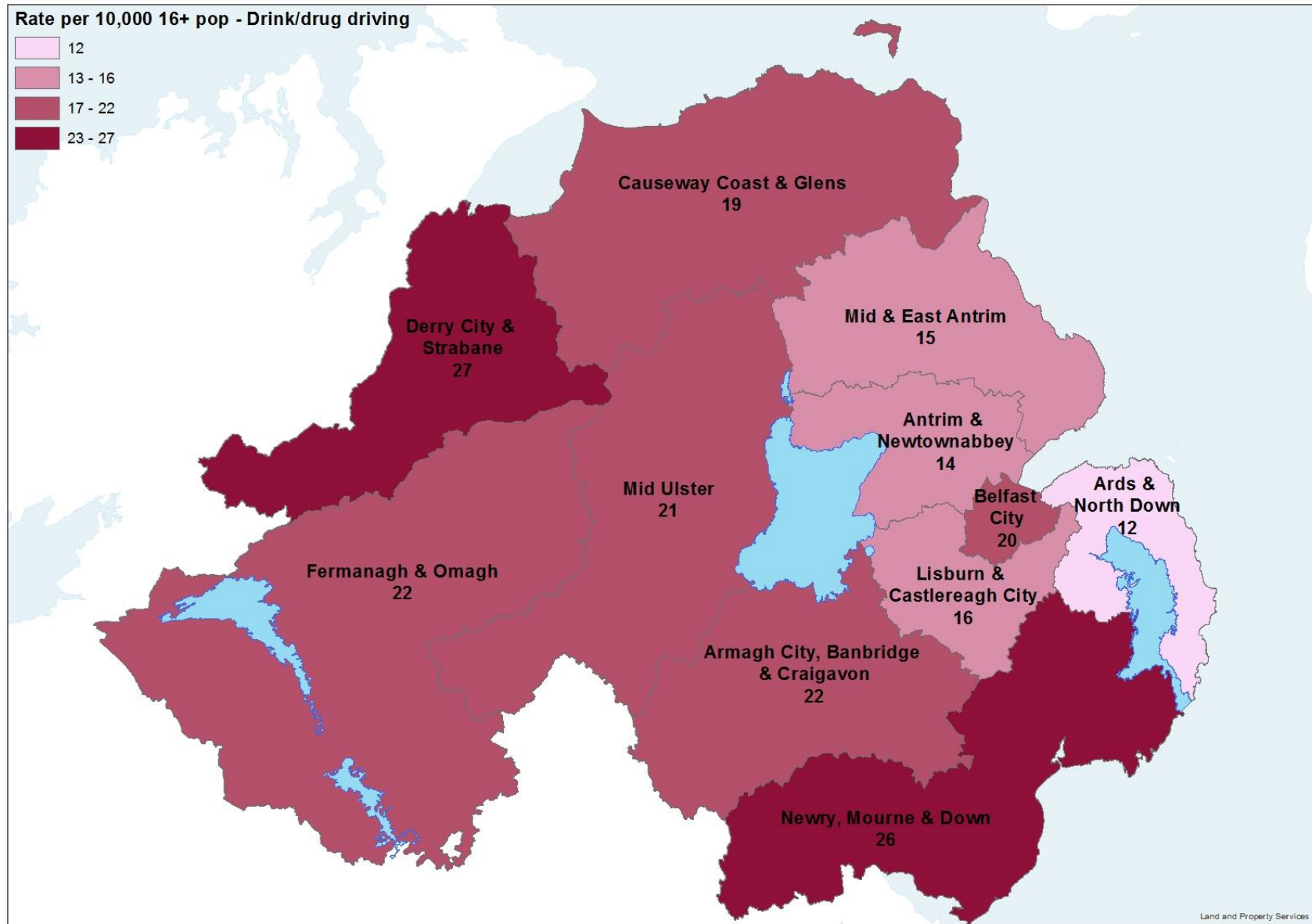
Unknown age and gender is excluded from the chart above

**Table 9: Top 5 alcohol readings for drink/drug driving offences, 2020**

Rank	Breath / Blood	Reading	No of times over legal limit <sup>12</sup>
1	Breath	220 µg/100ml	6.29
2	Breath	165 µg/100ml	4.71
3	Breath	164 µg/100ml	4.69
4	Breath	163 µg/100ml	4.66
5	Breath	162 µg/100ml	4.63

<sup>12</sup> Legal limit for breath tests is 35µg/100ml, blood tests is 80mg/100ml and urine tests 107mg/100ml

Figure 16: Rate of drink/drug driving offences per 10,000 population<sup>13</sup> aged 16+ by Policing District: 2020

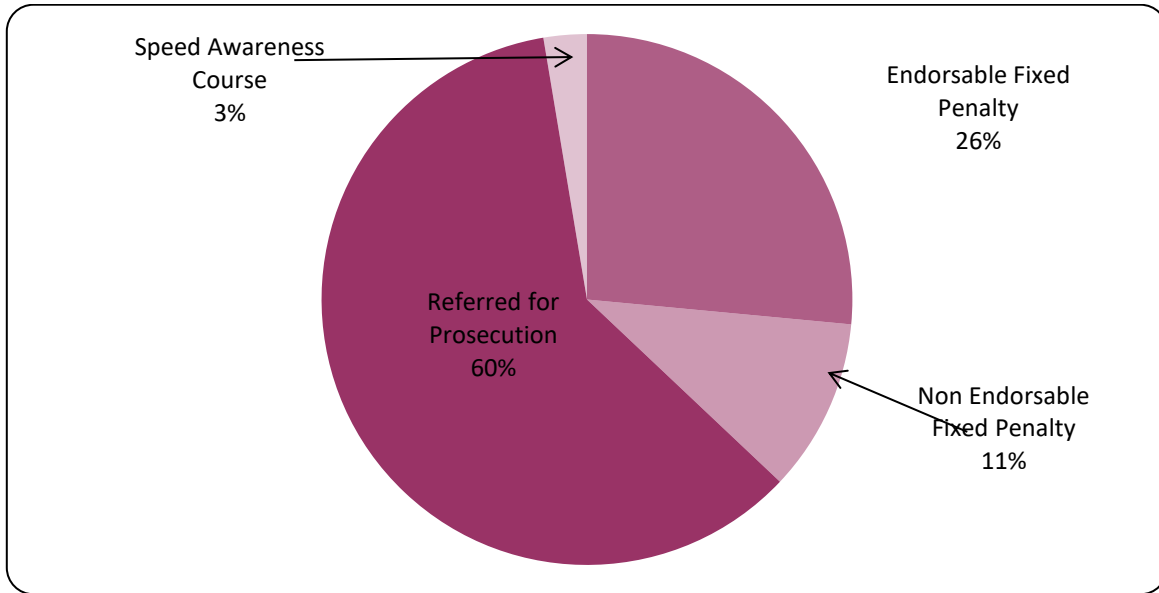


<sup>13</sup> Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Service (NINIS)

## 10. Disposal types

Offences referred for prosecution accounted for 60% of all motoring offences detected in 2020, followed by endorsable FPNs comprising 26%. A further 11% were dealt with by means of a non endorsable FPN, while the remaining 3% completed a speed awareness course.

**Figure 17: Breakdown of disposal types used for motoring offences, 2020**



**Table 10: Offence group by disposal type, 2020**

2020	Endorsable FPN	Non Endorsable FPN	Referred for prosecution	Speed Awareness	Total
Breach of signs & signals	-	272	1	-	<b>273</b>
Careless driving	945	432	2,256	-	<b>3,633</b>
Construction & use	-	2,347	430	-	<b>2,777</b>
Dangerous driving	356	-	1,260	-	<b>1,616</b>
Drink or drug driving	-	-	2,942	-	<b>2,942</b>
Driving licence	-	-	4,255	-	<b>4,255</b>
Driving whilst disqualified	-	-	985	-	<b>985</b>
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	-	-	2,469	-	<b>2,469</b>
Fraudulent use / declaration	-	18	281	-	<b>299</b>
Insurance	1,063	-	7,385	-	<b>8,448</b>
L & R driver	141	-	1,527	-	<b>1,668</b>
Miscellaneous	11	54	917	-	<b>982</b>
Mobile phone	2,881	-	555	-	<b>3,436</b>
Non motor vehicle	0	9	31	-	<b>40</b>
Parking	37	1,123	8	-	<b>1,168</b>
Pedestrian	0	32	21	-	<b>53</b>
Seatbelt	531	103	255	-	<b>889</b>
Speeding	6,508	5	1,233	1,239	<b>8,985</b>
Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering	-	-	1,152	-	<b>1,152</b>
Vehicle test certificate	-	571	436	-	<b>1,007</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,473</b>	<b>4,966</b>	<b>28,399</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>47,077</b>

## 10.1 Fixed penalty notices

FPNs originated as an administrative way to deal with simple parking offences without referring such matters to the courts. The scheme was then expanded to cover minor road traffic offences in the mid-1980s and was again further expanded to incorporate endorsable and non endorsable offences with the introduction of penalty points in October 1997.

Non endorsable offences are those which do not result in penalty points on your licence and which incur a fine of £30. The standard fine for endorsable offences is £60 along with three penalty points. More serious offences such as driving causing or permitting no insurance can incur fines of up to £200 and six points. Fine collection and revenue reporting are managed by NI Court Service.

A list of fixed penalty offences can be found at - [FPN list](#)

### Endorsable fixed penalty notices

Endorsable FPNs accounted for just over one quarter of all disposal types used in 2020. There has been a 6% increase in the number of endorsable FPNs issued when compared with 2019. The increase is mainly attributed to an increase in the number of FPNs issued for speeding offences.

Persons aged 30-49 represented 44% of those issued with an endorsable FPN, followed by persons aged 18-29 (33%). Females accounted for almost one quarter of all issued endorsable FPNs. Over 60% of all endorsable FPNs issued to females were for speeding offences.

**Table 11: Number of endorsable FPNs issued by offence group, age and gender, 2020**

2020	Gender			Age					Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 69	70+	
Careless driving	713	232	0	13	298	368	228	38	<b>945</b>
Dangerous driving	317	39	0	10	195	104	43	4	<b>356</b>
Insurance	766	297	0	2	373	498	173	17	<b>1,063</b>
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	127	14	0	21	90	21	9	0	<b>141</b>
Miscellaneous	11	0	0	0	2	6	3	0	<b>11</b>
Mobile phone	2,392	489	0	16	655	1,470	684	56	<b>2,881</b>
Parking	34	3	0	0	10	16	11	0	<b>37</b>
Seatbelt	433	98	0	2	121	253	128	27	<b>531</b>
Speeding	4,687	1,821	0	54	2,376	2,709	1,235	134	<b>6,508</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,480</b>	<b>2,993</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>4,120</b>	<b>5,445</b>	<b>2,514</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>12,473</b>

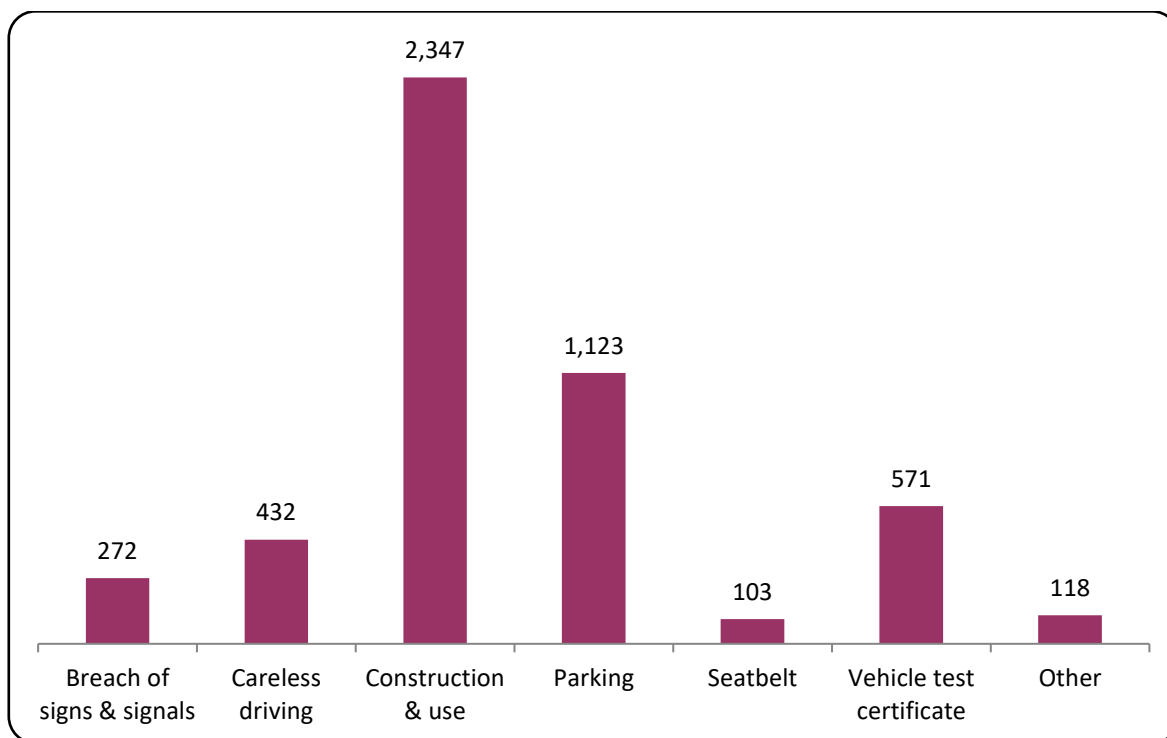


## Non Endorsable fixed penalty notices

There were 4,966 non endorsable FPNs issued in 2020, a decrease of 28% on the number issued in 2019. This decrease can largely be attributed to a decrease in the number of FPNs issued for vehicle test certificate offences over the same period. Automatic MOT renewals coupled with reduced traffic volumes<sup>14</sup> in earlier months of 2020 due to COVID-19 will likely have impacted on this decrease.

Non endorsable FPNs accounted for 11% of all motoring offences. Construction and use offences accounted for almost half (47%) of all non endorsable issued FPNs, followed by parking offences (23%).

**Figure 18: Number of non endorsable FPNs issued by offence group, 2020**



Other includes offence groups 'Fraudulent use / declaration', 'Miscellaneous', 'Non motor vehicle', 'Pedestrians' and 'Speeding'.

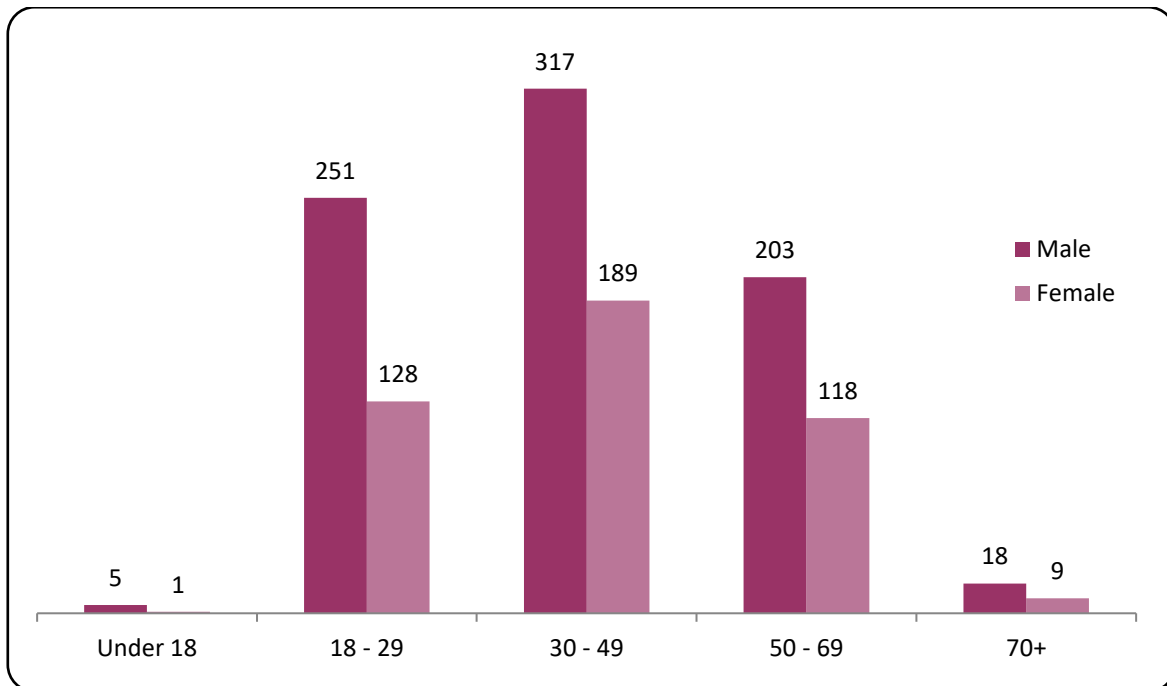
<sup>14</sup> [DfI traffic volumes](#)

## 10.2 Speed awareness courses

Speed awareness courses were introduced in Northern Ireland in 2010. Drivers, depending on the speed at which they were detected, may be offered an opportunity to attend a speed awareness course as an alternative to penalty points. The course, which is available at eight locations throughout Northern Ireland and delivered and managed by an appointed contractor, must be attended within a period of 120 days from the date of detection, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic the courses moved to an online platform from June 2020. Certain restrictions apply to who can qualify for the speed awareness course option, for those not eligible they will be dealt with by means of an alternative disposal option.

One in seven drivers caught speeding by police officers in 2020 completed a speed awareness course. Drivers aged 30-49 represented over two fifths of those who completed a course, followed by drivers aged 18-29 (31%).

**Figure 19: Age and gender of drivers who completed a speed awareness course, 2020**



Based on date of detection and not date course was completed

## 10.3 Referred for prosecution

Police led prosecutions for motoring offences occur when the offence is of a serious nature and has no corresponding fixed penalty or where multiple offences have occurred or where the alleged offender wishes to have the matter(s) heard at court. Where an offending driver has already accumulated a number of penalty points, to the extent that a driving disqualification is now in scope, such cases must be heard at court and will consequently also be subject of a prosecution.

Motoring offences that have been referred for prosecution accounted for 60% of all motoring offences in 2020, with insurance offences making up over one quarter (26%) of all offences referred.

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for over four fifths (85%) of all persons referred for prosecution for motoring offences while persons aged 30-49 accounted for 44%.

**Table 12: Number of offences referred for prosecution by offence group and age, 2020**

2020	Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 69	70+	Unknown	Total
Breach of signs & signals	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
Careless driving	68	859	848	373	106	2	<b>2,256</b>
Construction & use	17	241	130	39	3	0	<b>430</b>
Dangerous driving	58	610	466	112	14	0	<b>1,260</b>
Drink or drug driving	35	888	1,518	472	28	1	<b>2,942</b>
Driving licence	119	1,656	1,999	442	39	0	<b>4,255</b>
Driving whilst disqualified	90	307	493	89	5	1	<b>985</b>
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	92	999	1,025	290	60	3	<b>2,469</b>
Fraudulent use / declaration	1	116	134	26	4	0	<b>281</b>
Insurance	235	3,070	3,383	633	63	1	<b>7,385</b>
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	98	721	572	122	14	0	<b>1,527</b>
Miscellaneous	61	389	391	63	13	0	<b>917</b>
Mobile phone	6	138	321	85	4	1	<b>555</b>
Non motor vehicle	3	7	13	8	0	0	<b>31</b>
Parking	0	1	3	4	0	0	<b>8</b>
Pedestrian	2	7	6	4	2	0	<b>21</b>
Seatbelt	5	85	128	35	2	0	<b>255</b>
Speeding	35	542	526	121	8	1	<b>1,233</b>
Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering	144	551	414	39	4	0	<b>1,152</b>
Vehicle test certificate	13	158	196	63	6	0	<b>436</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>11,345</b>	<b>12,566</b>	<b>3,020</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28,399</b>

## 11. Revisions

Revisions are carried out in accordance with our [Revisions Policy](#), a copy of which is available in the Official Statistics section of the PSNI Statistics website.

Referred for prosecution figures from 2015 onwards are the only figures which have been subject to revision since the previous annual publication.

	2019 publication	2020 publication	Change - No.	Change - %
Referred for Prosecution - 2015	30,733	31,767	1,034	3
Referred for Prosecution - 2016	33,513	34,728	1,215	4
Referred for Prosecution - 2017	33,561	34,699	1,138	3
Referred for Prosecution - 2018	31,561	32,778	1,217	4
Referred for Prosecution - 2019	27,161	29,989	2,828	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>156,529</b>	<b>163,961</b>	<b>7,432</b>	<b>5</b>