

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Outcomes of Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2015/16 to 2019/20

Annual Bulletin published 27 November 2020



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1 Introduction

Coverage

Statistics on police recorded crime in 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). They are recorded in compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules and further details of recording practices are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics](#).

The Home Office introduced a new outcomes framework in England & Wales in April 2014, allowing every crime recorded by the police to be given an outcome and therefore showing how the police deal with all crimes. This framework was implemented within the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in April 2015. Prior to this, outcomes focused solely on those crimes resulting in a 'sanction', such as charge, summons, caution, community resolution or penalty notice for disorder and published as outcome rates. These outcome rates continue to be published in the Police Recorded Crime Monthly and Annual Trends bulletins (see below and [Appendix 1](#)).

This is the fourth annual bulletin presenting the wider outcomes framework within PSNI, summarising the outcomes that have been assigned to crimes recorded by the police between 2015/16 and 2019/20. This bulletin can be read alongside the publication [Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2019/20](#) in order to see the wider context of recorded crime and crime outcomes.

Figures were compiled on 18th November 2020, using data extracted from the police administrative system on that date. All tables and charts in the bulletin, along with supplementary data, are available from the PSNI website in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#).

Future publication of these figures will be pre-announced in due course.

National Statistics

While the statistics on Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland are designated as National Statistics, the statistics in this bulletin are designated as Official Statistics.

Data Quality: 'Sanction' outcomes are applied on the basis of charge sheets, PPS directions (summonses issued), signed caution forms, PND notices and community resolution forms. They are checked for compliance by the PSNI's Statistics Branch and validated in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules.

Crimes resulting in no formal action being taken by police against a suspect will also have the outcome assigned according to the Home Office Counting Rules. The correct application of these outcomes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Statistics Branch. However basic quality checks are conducted to ensure records have the essential elements completed, allowing inclusion in the data.

Points to note

Crime outcomes show the action taken in relation to each crime recorded. This is regardless of the number of suspects identified in relation to each crime. Therefore the figures in this bulletin cannot be used to comment on suspects or offenders.

The commentary within this bulletin refers to observations and patterns of crime outcomes across all of the five financial years 2015/16 to 2019/20.

Comparison of 'Outcome Rates' and 'Wider Outcomes Framework'

[Appendix 1](#) presents a comparison of the 'Outcome Rates' statistics (an integral part of the Police Recorded Crime statistics) and the 'Wider Outcomes Framework' (published in this bulletin). Appendix 1 highlights the differences between the two sets of statistics in terms of the time series available, coverage and data quality. It provides strengths and limitations of each approach, caution to be exercised in interpreting the figures and how both sets of figures are calculated.

Outcome Methods Available

[Appendix 2](#) presents the full range of outcomes available by the outcome group and the more detailed outcome type. While the full range of Home Office outcomes is presented, some of these are not available for use within Northern Ireland, or are administered differently. Appendix 2 highlights those 'sanction' outcome methods in use within Northern Ireland prior to the implementation of the wider outcome framework in April 2015. The outcome groups are further aggregated for presentation purposes.

Revisions

While every crime should eventually be assigned an outcome, this may take some time due to ongoing investigations. Therefore the figures published within this bulletin will be subject to revision in future publications, as investigations are completed and as outcomes continue to be assigned. This is particularly applicable to the most recent period, 2019/20, as can be seen in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Crimes recorded 2015/16 to 2019/20 that have since been assigned an outcome, comparison of current figures with previously published figures

Date of publication	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
January 2018	98.0	94.7	-	-	-
November 2018	98.5	97.8	92.4	-	-
November 2019	98.7	98.3	95.1	90.4	-
November 2020	98.7	98.4	95.5	92.5	91.2

Comparisons with England and Wales

The links below are to publications relating to the crime outcome framework in England and Wales.

[Crime Outcomes in England and Wales Statistics](#)

[Domestic abuse and the criminal justice system, England and Wales: November 2020](#)

[Hate Crime, England and Wales](#)

These publications should be viewed alongside their Northern Ireland equivalents, which provide further information on methodologies that may affect comparisons (see [Appendix 3](#)).

User Feedback

We welcome comment and feedback on these statistics. If you would like to forward your views, receive notification of new publications or be kept informed of developments relating to PSNI statistics, please email your contact details using the email address provided below. [Comments and feedback](#) from users of the crime data are available on the PSNI website.

Contact Details

For further information about the police recorded crime outcome statistics for Northern Ireland, or to contact the PSNI Crime Statistician please:

Email: statistics@psni.police.uk;

Write to: Statistics Branch, Lisnasharragh, 42 Montgomery Road, Belfast, BT6 9LD; or

Telephone: 028 9065 0222 ext 24135

2 Key summary Statistics

At time of analysis, outcomes have been assigned to 98.7 per cent of crimes recorded during 2015/16, 98.4 per cent of crimes recorded in 2016/17, 95.5 per cent of crimes recorded in 2017/18, 92.5 per cent of crimes recorded in 2018/19 and 91.2 per cent of crimes recorded in 2019/20.

Charge / summons

- Around one in five (20%) of all crimes are resolved by means of charge or summons.
- For violence against the person and sexual offences this is up to one in four crimes (25%).
- For robbery, theft and criminal damage offences this is just over one in ten crimes.
- For crimes against society this is up to fifty per cent of crimes.
- For crimes with a domestic abuse motivation this is around one in four crimes.
- Around one in five homophobic crimes are dealt with in this way, while around one in ten crimes with a racist or sectarian motivation are dealt with by charge or summons. Proportions tend to be smaller and show a greater degree of variability for crimes with a faith/religion, disability or transphobic motivation.

Out-of-court disposals

- Between seven and eight per cent of crimes are resolved using out-of-court disposal methods.
- For violence against the person and sexual offences this is between four and five per cent.
- For robbery, theft and criminal damage offences this is between five and seven per cent.
- For crimes against society this is up to one in four crimes, 26 per cent in 2018/19.
- For crimes with a domestic abuse or hate motivation this is generally less than five per cent.

Evidential difficulties

- Around thirty per cent of crimes do not progress to prosecution due to evidential difficulties.
- For around one in five crimes the evidential difficulties are where the victim does not support action, while for one in ten crimes the victim does support action.
- For violence against the person and sexual offences evidential difficulties accounts for around fifty per cent of crime outcomes.
- For robbery, theft and criminal damage offences and also for crimes against society this is up to twenty per cent.
- For crimes with a domestic abuse motivation this is around three in five crimes (60%); close to forty per cent are where the victim does not support action.
- For crimes with a racist or sectarian motivation this is around one in four. Proportions are higher for crimes with a homophobic, disability or transphobic motivation. For crimes with a faith religion motivation proportions have ranged from around one in five in 2016/17 and 2018/19 to two in five in 2019/20.

Investigation complete – no suspect

- In up to two in five offences recorded, a suspect is not identified and the investigation is closed. The range, from 40 per cent in 2015/16 to 30.9 per cent in 2018/19 and 28.5 per cent in 2019/20 may reflect the larger proportion of crimes in the more recent years yet to have an outcome applied.
- For violence against the person and sexual offences this is up to 14 per cent.
- The proportion of robbery, theft and criminal damage offences resulting in an investigation being completed with no suspect identified ranges from 65 per cent in 2015/16 to 52 per cent in 2019/20.
- For crimes against society this is between four and six per cent.
- This outcome type accounts for around one third of crimes with a homophobic or transphobic motivation, half of crimes with a racist motivation, three in five crimes with a sectarian or faith/religion motivation and between one quarter and half of crimes with a disability motivation.

Offences not yet assigned an outcome

- 1.3 per cent of crimes in 2015/16, 1.6 per cent in 2016/17, 4.5 per cent in 2017/18, 7.5 per cent in 2018/19 and 8.8 per cent in 2019/20 have yet to be assigned an outcome.
- Sexual offences, rape offences in particular, are the main crimes where outcomes have not yet been assigned. More than one in five sexual offences and more than a quarter of rape offences recorded during 2019/20 have not yet had an outcome assigned.

3 Analysis

3.1 Distribution of outcomes

Comparing financial years: At the time the figures were compiled, an outcome had yet to be assigned to 1.3 per cent of crimes recorded during 2015/16, 1.6 per cent of 2016/17 crimes, 4.5 per cent of 2017/18 crimes, 7.5 per cent of 2018/19 crimes and 8.8 per cent of 2019/20 crimes. It should be borne in mind that the larger proportion of outcomes not yet allocated for more recent years may have a greater impact on the final distribution of outcomes for these years than would be the case for the previous years.

The figures in this section are based on the date the crime was reported to police; they relate to crimes recorded between 2015/16 and 2019/20 and show the outcome methods that have since been assigned.

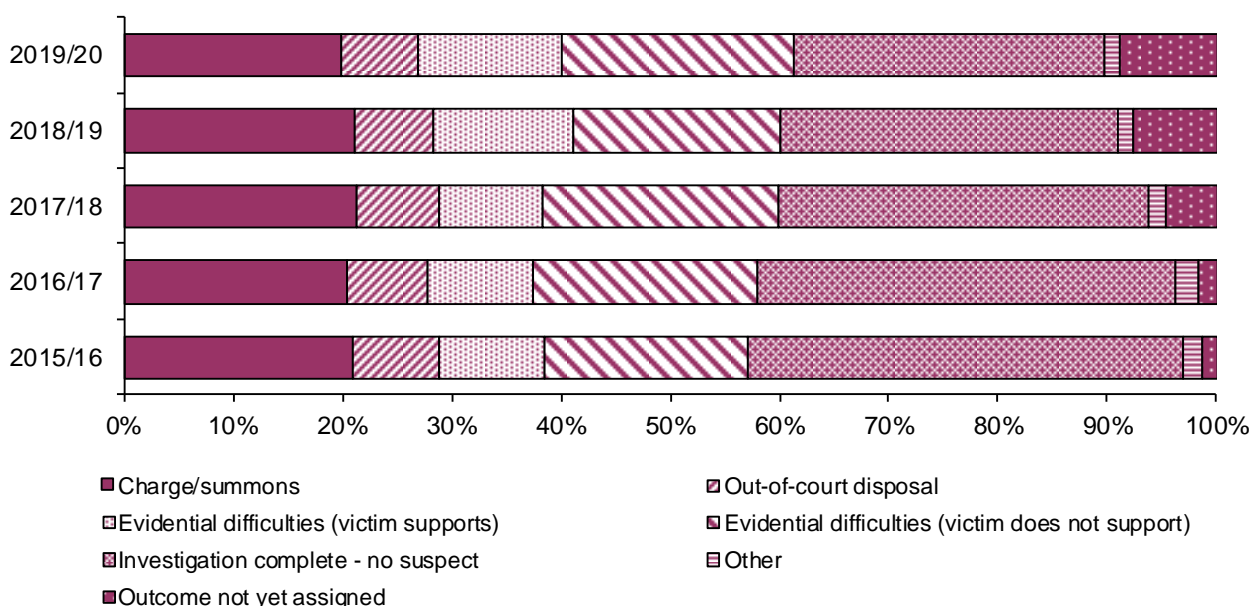
Taking into account those crimes yet to be assigned an outcome, the overall distribution of outcome methods is broadly similar for each year, as shown in Figure 3.1. Figures 3.2 to 3.5 show the distribution of outcomes for the latest year 2019/20 only.

A more detailed breakdown of outcome types for all crime is shown in Table 3.1.

At time of analysis:

- Outcomes have been assigned to 98.7 per cent of crimes recorded during 2015/16, 98.4 per cent during 2016/17, 95.5 per cent during 2017/18, 92.5 per cent during 2018/19 and 91.2 per cent during 2019/20.
- Around one in five crimes have been resolved by means of charge or summons (20 per cent in 2019/20).
- Between seven and eight per cent of crimes have been resolved using out-of-court disposal methods.
- Around 30 per cent of crimes do not progress to prosecution due to evidential difficulties (34.5 per cent in 2019/20). Around one in five crimes result in evidential difficulties where the victim does not support action, and around one in ten crimes result in evidential difficulties where the victim supports action.
- In up to 40 per cent of offences recorded, a suspect is not identified and the investigation is closed (an investigation can be re-opened at any time should further information come to light). For 2019/20 this figure is 29 per cent which may reflect the larger proportion of crimes yet to have an outcome applied.
- Prosecution is prevented in up to one per cent of crimes; this percentage is similar for crimes where the action is undertaken by another body/agency.

Figure 3.1 Outcomes¹ that have since been assigned to all crimes recorded, 2015/16 to 2019/20



¹ Other includes the outcome groups Taken into consideration, Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest and Action undertaken by another body/agency.

Table 3.1 Outcomes that have since been assigned to crimes recorded during 2015/16 and 2019/20

Outcome group & type	Percentages				
	Percentage of crimes assigned each outcome type				
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Charge/summons	21.0	20.5	21.3	21.1	20.0
Taken into consideration	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Out-of-court (formal)	3.9	3.3	2.8	2.4	2.0
Juvenile caution	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7
Adult caution	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1
Penalty Notice for Disorder	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.2
Out-of-court (informal)	4.0	4.1	4.9	4.9	4.9
Community resolution	4.0	4.1	4.9	4.9	4.9
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.4
Offender died before proceedings	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
No prosecution directed (not in the public interest, PPS)	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1
Prosecution prevented - suspect under age	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Prosecution prevented - suspect too ill	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Prosecution prevented - victim/key witness dead/too ill	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Prosecution time limit expired	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	9.7	9.6	9.4	12.9	13.2
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	18.5	20.6	21.6	18.9	21.3
Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.8
Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support further action	17.5	19.2	20.1	17.7	19.5
Investigation complete - no suspect identified	40.0	38.2	34.0	30.9	28.5
Action undertaken by another body/agency	0.7	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Total offences that have since been assigned an outcome	98.7	98.4	95.5	92.5	91.2
Offences not yet assigned an outcome	1.3	1.6	4.5	7.5	8.8
Total offences % (excluding Action Fraud)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

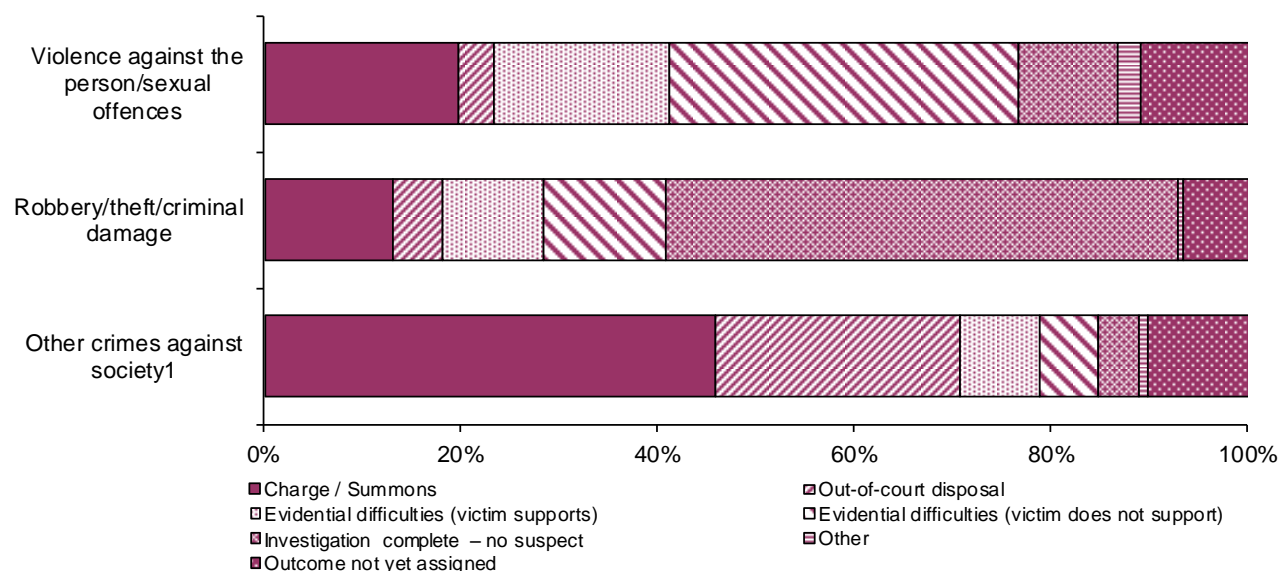
3.2 Distribution of outcomes by type of crime

Outcome types vary depending on the type of crime recorded. This often reflects the nature of the offence such as, for example, its seriousness or how difficult it may be to identify a suspect. This can most easily be seen when comparing the following crime groups: violence against the person / sexual offences, robbery / theft / criminal damage and other crimes against society (made up of drugs offences, possession of weapons, public order offences and miscellaneous crimes against society).

- Around half of violence against the person and sexual offences are assigned outcomes relating to evidential difficulties, up to one in four are dealt with by means of charge/summons and between four and five per cent by out-of-court disposals.
- Between half and two thirds of robbery, theft and criminal damage offences result in an investigation being completed with no suspect identified, more than one in ten are dealt with by means of charge/summons and between five and seven per cent by out-of-court disposals.
- Up to half of crimes against society result in a charge/summons being applied, with around one in four being dealt with by out-of-court disposals. In around five per cent of crimes the investigation is completed with no suspect identified.

Figure 3.2 presents the distribution of outcomes for crimes recorded during 2019/20, while figure 3.3 shows the differences in allocation of outcomes in greater detail. A further breakdown by outcome group and offence group for 2015/16 to 2019/20 is available in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#) Tables 3.2 and 3.3.

Figure 3.2 Outcomes that have since been assigned to crimes recorded during 2019/20

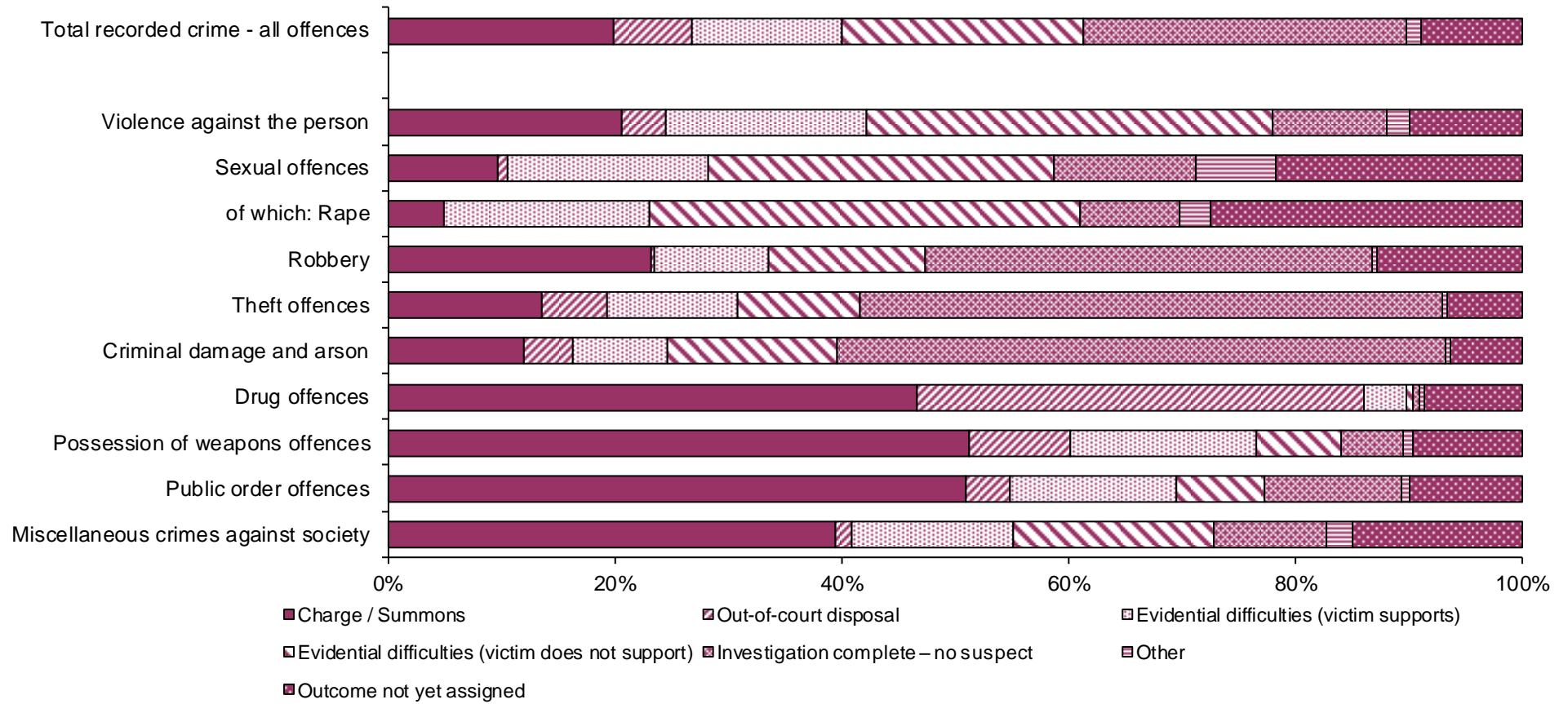


¹ includes drug offences, possession of weapons offences, public order offences and miscellaneous crimes against society.

Figure 3.3 shows the differences in allocation of outcomes in greater detail. Further information is available in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#), Table 3.3. Some of the main observations are:

- The proportion of violence against the person offences resulting in charge/summons has fallen each year from 25.6 per cent in 2015/16 to 20.6 per cent in 2019/20. Those resulting in an out-of-court disposal have also fallen each year, from 5.7 per cent in 2015/16 to 3.9 per cent in 2019/20.
- Sexual offences, especially rape offences, show the highest proportion of crimes for which an outcome has yet to be assigned (ie still under investigation). Figures for 2015/16 show that 6 per cent of rape offences have yet to be assigned an outcome, while 73 per cent have been assigned an outcome code relating to evidential difficulties. For the most recent time period (2019/20), 27 per cent of rape offences have not yet been assigned an outcome and 56 per cent show an outcome relating to evidential difficulties.
- Since 2015/16 the proportion of robbery, theft and criminal damage offences being assigned an outcome code relating to evidential difficulties has steadily increased, with each of these classifications approaching one in four offences dealt with in this way in 2019/20.
- Up to half of all drug offences result in charge or summons. Since 2015/16 the proportion of drug offences resulting in a formal out-of-court disposal has fallen each year, while the proportion resulting in an informal out-of-court disposal has generally increased.

Figure 3.3 Outcomes that have since been assigned to crimes recorded during 2019/20 by outcome group and offence group



3.3 Length of time between report to police and outcome being assigned

This section looks at the length of time between the initial report being made to police and an outcome being assigned. Figures 3.4 and 3.5 are based on outcomes assigned during 2019/20, regardless of the crime report date. This allows the analysis to fairly represent all crime types, including those crimes that tend to have longer investigations.

The numbers behind these charts, along with all figures for 2015/16 to 2019/20, are available in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#) Tables 3.4 and 3.5.

Figure 3.4 Length of time between offence being reported to police and outcome being assigned by type of offence, 2019/20

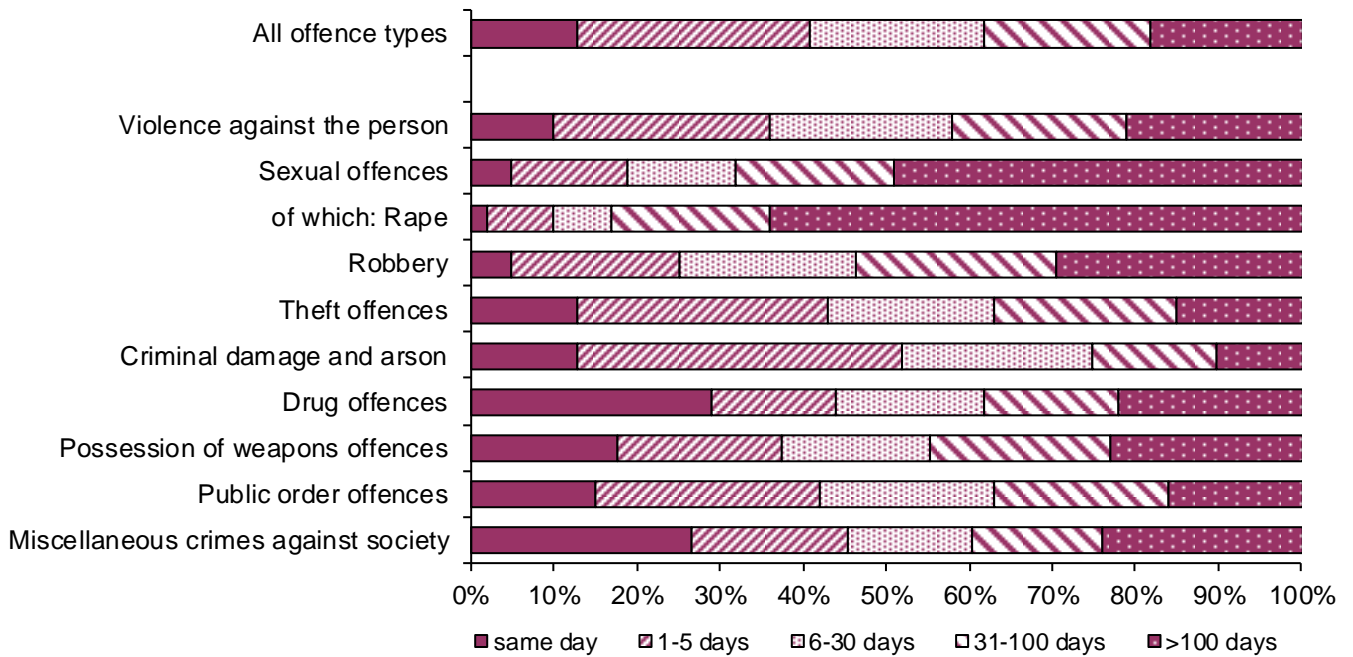
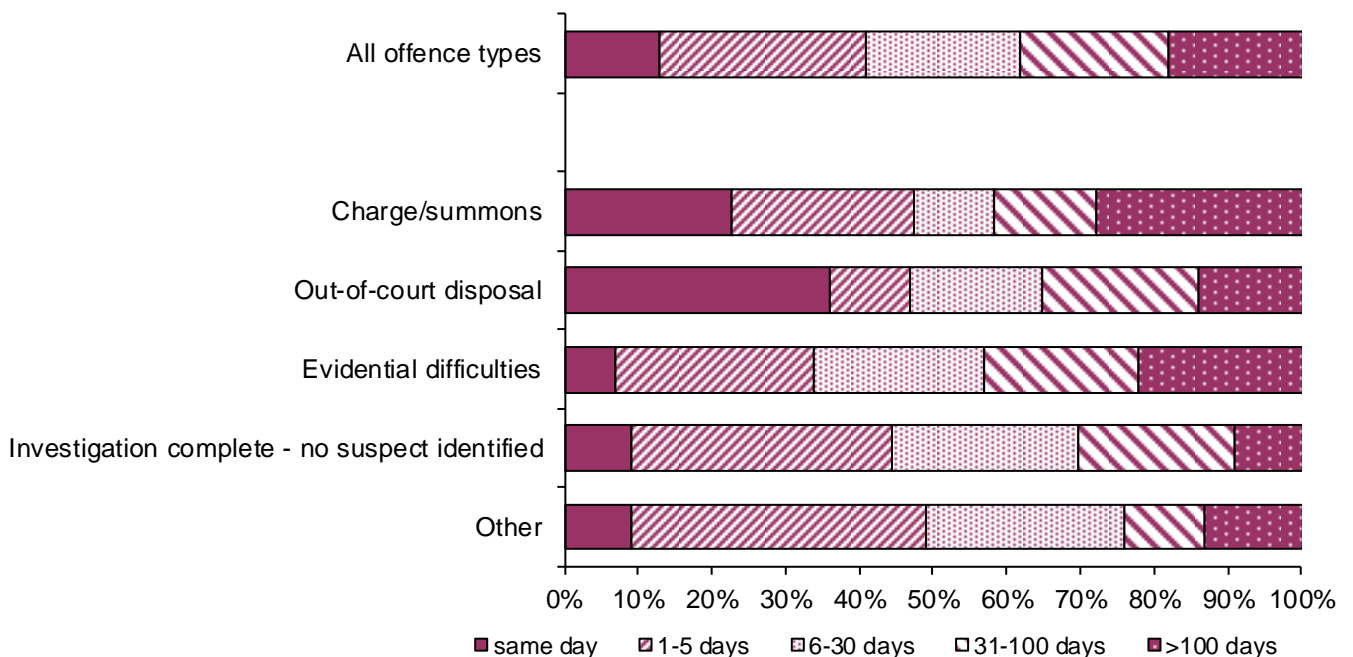


Figure 3.5 Length of time between offence being reported to police and outcome being assigned by type of outcome, 2019/20



3.4 Distribution of outcomes for crimes with a domestic abuse motivation

The charts in this section present the distribution of outcomes in relation to crimes with a domestic abuse motivation. The figures behind these charts are available in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#) Table 3.6.

Charge / summons: Around one in four crimes with a domestic abuse motivation result in a charge or summons; this proportion has fallen by 5 percentage points over five years from 27.4 per cent to 22.4 per cent.

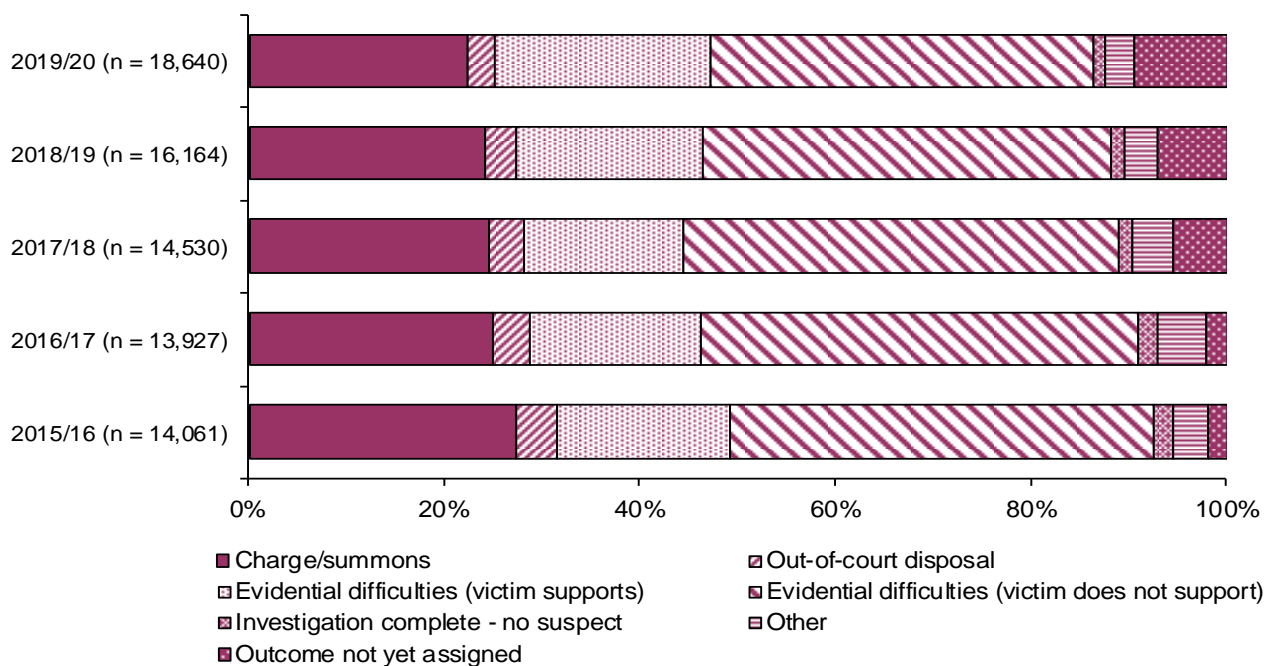
Out-of-court disposals: The proportion of out-of-court disposals (both formal and informal) has fallen from 4.1 per cent in 2015/16 to 2.7 per cent in 2019/20.

Evidential difficulties: Three in five crimes do not proceed further due to evidential difficulties. Around two in five outcomes with evidential difficulties are where the victim does not support action, with around one in five being those where the victim supports action.

The proportion of those where the victim does not support action has fallen from 44.9 per cent in 2016/17 to 39.2 per cent in 2019/20. Conversely, the proportion of those where the victim supports action has risen from 16.3 per cent in 2017/18 to 22.1 per cent in 2019/20.

Offences not yet assigned an outcome: These changes should be considered in light of the proportion of domestic abuse crimes where an outcome has yet to be assigned, rising from 1.9 per cent in 2015/16 to 9.4 per cent in 2019/20.

Figure 3.6 Outcomes that have been assigned to domestic abuse crimes recorded between 2015/16 and 2019/20 (n = number of crimes recorded)



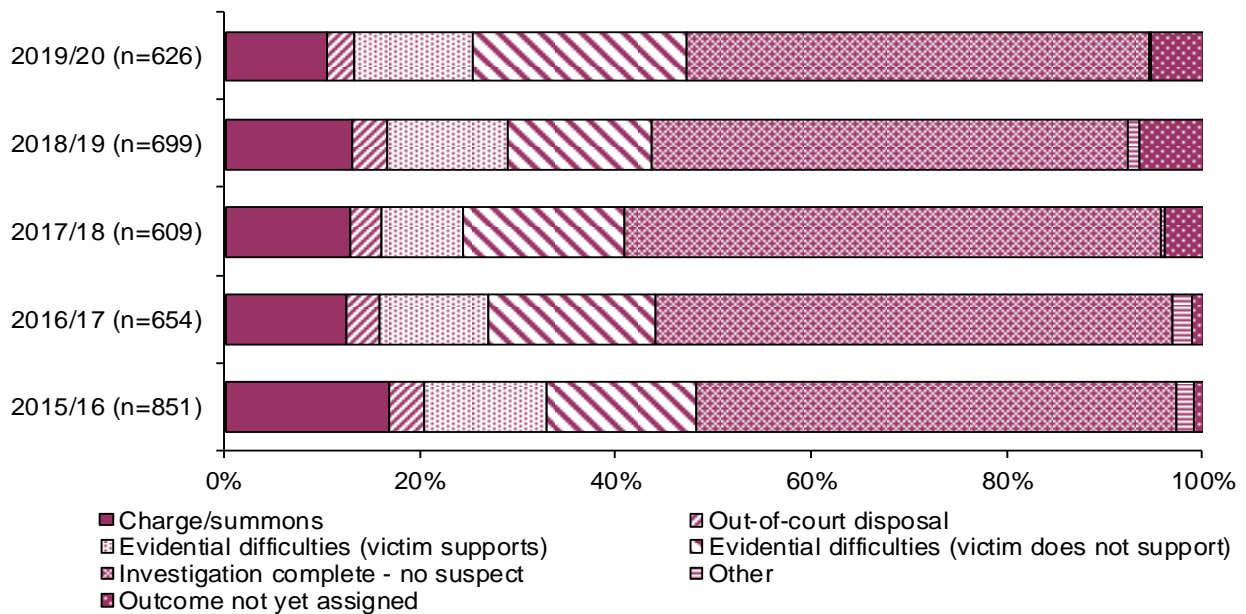
3.5 Distribution of outcomes for crimes with a hate motivation

The charts in this section present the distribution of outcomes in relation to crimes with a hate motivation. The figures behind these charts are available in the accompanying [spreadsheet](#) Table 3.7. As some of the hate motivations have low levels of crimes recorded, these numbers are shown in the charts. This is to help put the outcome distribution in context as there can be much greater variability between years.

For crimes with a hate motivation, the majority of outcomes assigned relate to evidential difficulties or the investigation being completed with no suspect identified:

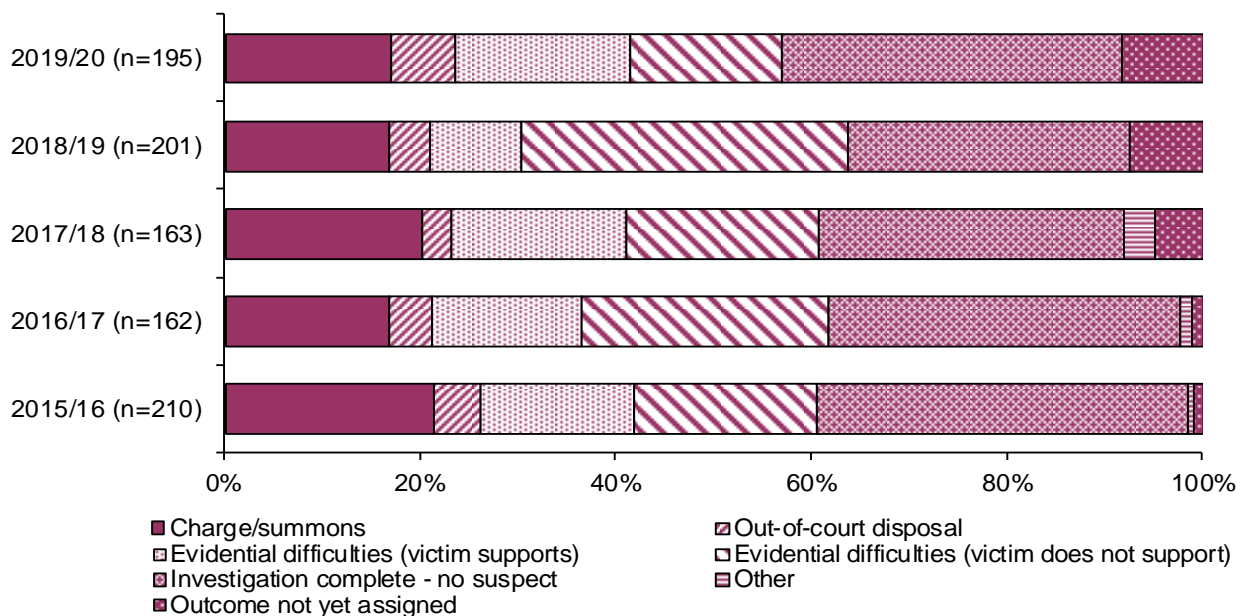
Racist motivation: No suspect is identified in relation to half of these crimes, while a quarter are given an outcome relating to evidential difficulties (34 per cent in 2019/20). The majority of the remaining crimes are dealt with by charge/summons or an out-of-court disposal.

Figure 3.7 Outcomes that have since been assigned to crimes with a racist motivation recorded between 2015/16 and 2019/20 (n = number of crimes recorded)



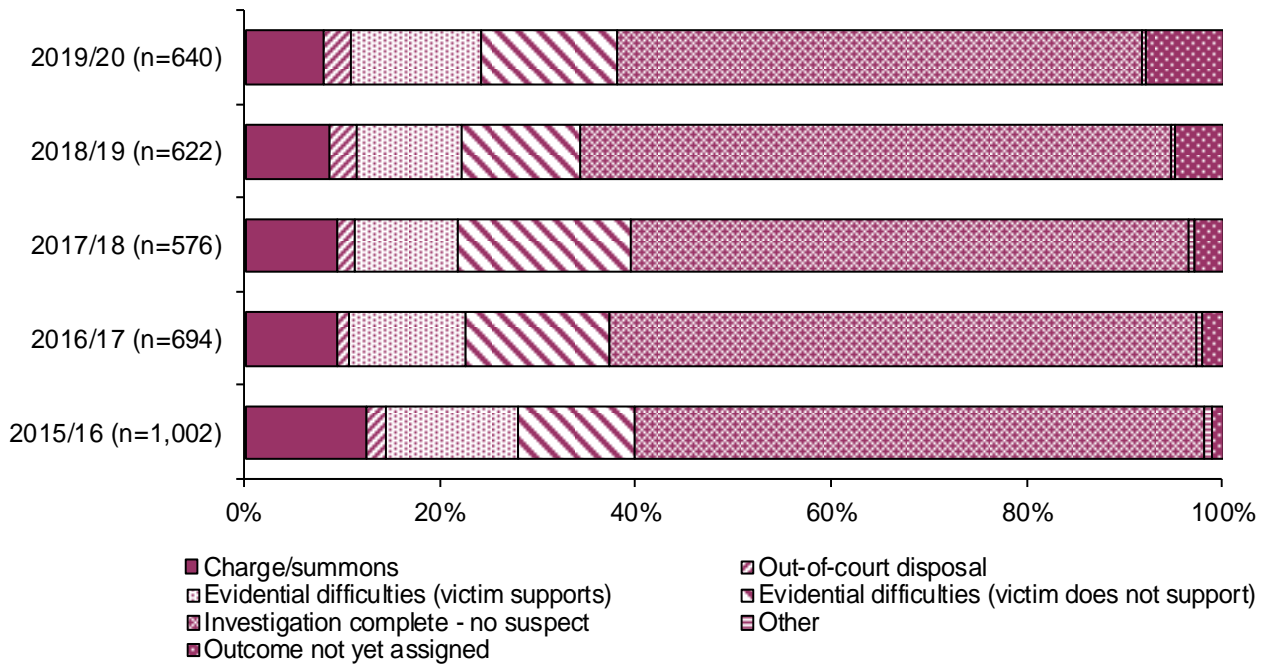
Homophobic motivation: Up to two in five crimes are closed with no suspect identified, the same proportion are closed with evidential difficulties. The majority of the remaining crimes are dealt with by charge/summons or an out-of-court disposal.

Figure 3.8 Outcomes that have since been assigned to crimes with a homophobic motivation recorded between 2015/16 and 2019/20 (n = number of crimes recorded)



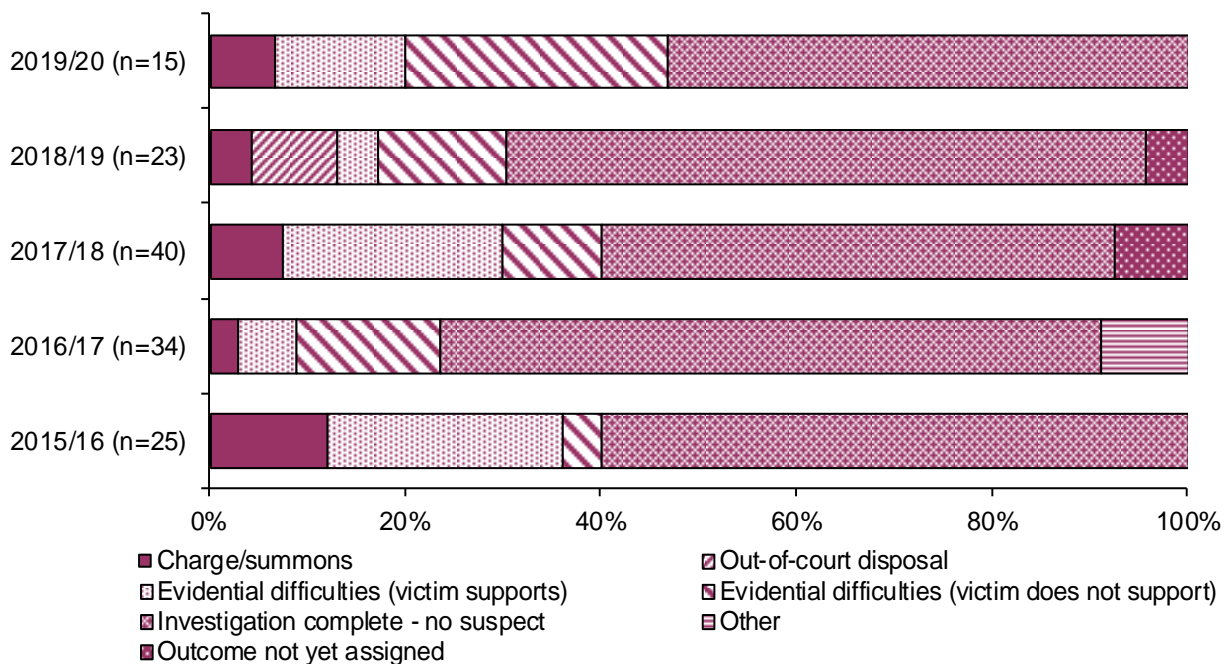
Sectarian motivation: Up to three in five crimes are closed with no suspect identified, while around one in four are given an outcome relating to evidential difficulties. Around one in ten are dealt with by means of charge/summons or an out-of-court disposal.

Figure 3.9 Outcomes that have since been assigned to crimes with a sectarian motivation recorded between 2015/16 and 2019/20 (n = number of crimes recorded)



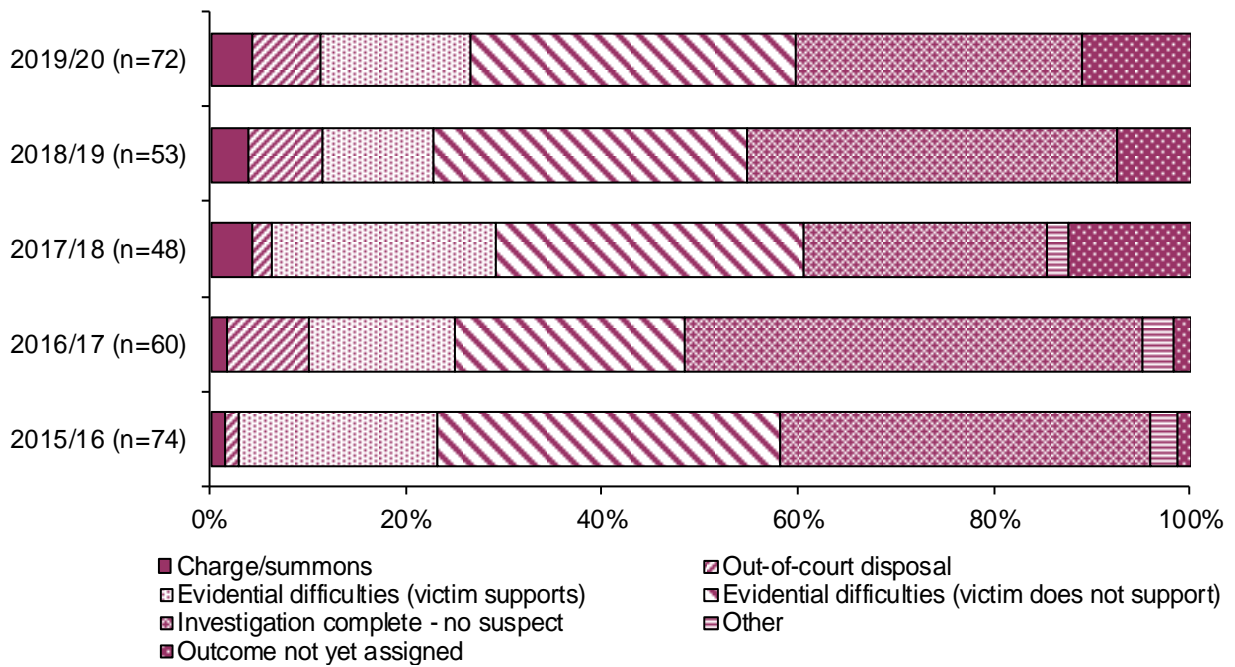
Faith/religion motivation: Up to two thirds of crimes are closed with no suspect identified. More than one in five crimes do not proceed due to evidential difficulties (40 per cent in 2019/20), with the exception of 2018/19 when the figure was 17 per cent. Up to one in ten are dealt with by means of charge/summons.

Figure 3.10 Outcomes that have since been assigned to crimes with a faith/religion motivation recorded between 2015/16 and 2019/20 (n = number of crimes recorded)



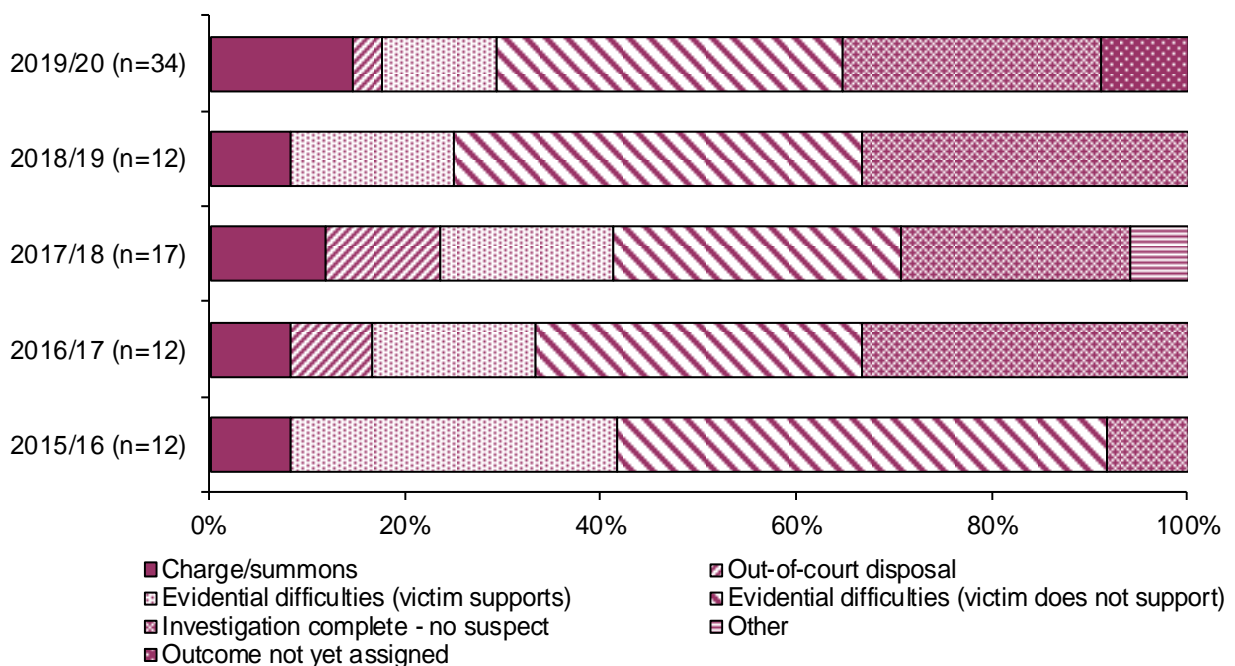
Disability motivation: While outcome distribution for crimes with a disability motivation shows a greater degree of variability, the vast majority of outcomes fall within the outcome groups relating to evidential difficulties and no suspect identified. Up to 11 per cent have been dealt with by means of charge/summons or out-of-court disposal.

Figure 3.11 Outcomes that have since been assigned to crimes with a disability motivation recorded between 2015/16 and 2019/20 (n = number of crimes recorded)



Transphobic motivation: As with disability crime, these outcomes show a greater degree of variability with most attributed to evidential difficulties and no suspect identified. Since 2015/16, between 8 per cent and 24 per cent have been dealt with by means of charge/summons or out-of-court disposal.

Figure 3.12 Outcomes that have since been assigned to crimes with a transphobic motivation recorded between 2015/16 and 2019/20 (n = number of crimes recorded)



Appendix 1: Presentation of the Wider Crime Outcomes Framework compared with presentation of Outcome Rates

Outcome Rates	Wider Crime Outcomes Framework
<p>Publications: Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland Monthly Updates & Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland Annual Bulletin.</p>	<p>Publications: Outcomes of Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland, annual update.</p>
<p>Time series: Crimes detected since 1st April 1998 (sanction outcome methods only).</p>	<p>Time series: Crimes recorded since 1st April 2015 that have subsequently been assigned an outcome (all outcome methods).</p>
<p>Coverage: Sanction outcome, ie investigation resulting in charge/summons, adult or juvenile caution, offence taken into consideration at court, penalty notice for disorder (PND), community resolution and no prosecution directed (prosecution not in public interest / offender died before proceedings where offence is indictable-only and where there is sufficient evidence to prosecute).</p>	<p>Coverage: All methods of outcome; those resulting in formal action being taken and those where no formal action could be taken due to evidential difficulties / no suspect identified / action undertaken by another agency.</p>
<p>Data Quality: ‘Sanction’ outcomes are applied on the basis of charge sheets, PPS directions (summonses issued), signed caution forms, PND notices and community resolution forms. They are checked for compliance by the PSNI’s Statistics Branch and validated in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules.</p>	<p>Data Quality: Crimes where no formal action is taken by police against a suspect are assigned outcome codes based on the guidance provided in the Home Office Counting Rules. The correct application of these outcomes is not quality assured by the PSNI’s Statistics Branch. However basic quality checks are conducted to ensure records have the essential elements completed, allowing inclusion in the data. These figures are published as Official Statistics.</p>
<p>Basis for presentation: Number of crimes detected in a defined period as a percentage of the number of crimes recorded in that same period. In other words these are two separate data sets with no direct link between crime and outcome, although there will be a great degree of overlap between them.</p>	<p>Basis for presentation: Number of crimes recorded in a defined period and how they have since been resolved, ie the crime is directly linked to its associated outcome.</p>
<p>Calculation example: These outcome rates are based on sanction detection methods only. For example 106,585 crimes recorded during 2019/20 and 30,393 crimes detected by means of a sanction outcome during 2019/20</p> <p>Percentage (outcome rate) =</p> $100 * 30,393/106,585 \text{ ie } 28.5\%$ <p>It is possible to show a rate of over 100 per cent against a particular outcome.</p>	<p>Calculation example: This calculation is based on all crimes having the potential to be allocated an outcome. For example 106,585 crimes recorded during 2019/20 of which 97,238 have since been assigned an outcome (at data extract date)</p> <p>Percentage (outcome since assigned) =</p> $100 * 97,238/106,585 \text{ ie } 91.2\%$ <p>This percentage will increase over time until it reaches 100%.</p>
<p>Strengths: Volumes of outcomes recorded in a particular time period provide a useful indication of police activity in resolving crime. The outcome rate is not impacted by the lag time for a crime to result in an outcome.</p>	<p>Strengths: This presentation is the best way of understanding how crimes recorded in a specified time period have been resolved, with such analysis repeated over time as investigations are completed and outcomes are assigned. It gives a more complete picture of the work the police do to investigate and resolve crime.</p>
<p>Limitations: These outcome rates are described by the Home Office as illustrative rather than true rates that can be influenced by changes in crime volumes. Where crime volumes increase or decrease markedly from one year to the next, it is likely that any outcome rate will react more slowly.</p>	<p>Limitations: The proportion of crimes not yet assigned an outcome is a main consideration when looking at outcomes covering a more recent time period with those for an earlier time period.</p>
<p>Caution when using figures: Comparison between two time periods should be treated with caution where the proportion not yet assigned for a more recent time period is higher than the proportion for an earlier time period. Figures within this bulletin show that 1.3% of crimes recorded during 2015/16, 1.6% during 2016/17, 4.5% during 2017/18 and 7.5% during 2018/19 have yet to be assigned an outcome, while the figure for 2019/20 is currently 8.8%.</p>	

Appendix 2: Wider Crime Outcomes Framework

Please note: Some outcome methods used within England and Wales are not available for use within Northern Ireland, or are administered differently. These are identified in the table below.

☐ The greyed-out cells indicate outcome methods in place prior to expansion of outcomes from April 2015, including Indictable only offences in relation to 'Offender died before proceedings' and 'Not in the public interest, PPS'; Hybrid and summary offences dealt with in this way were not included prior to April 2015. Further details on the changes to crime outcome methods since the start of the data series in 1998/99 can be found in the Crime User Guide.

Outcome Group	Outcome Type	Bulletin Presentation
Charge/summons	Charge/summons.	Charge / summons
Taken into consideration	Taken into consideration.	Other
Out-of-court (formal)	Juvenile caution.	Out-of-court disposal
	Adult caution.	
	Penalty Notice for Disorder.	
Out-of-court (informal)	Cannabis/Khat warning (this option is not available within Northern Ireland; the outcomes most likely to be used in these circumstances fall within out-of-court (formal) and Community Resolution).	N/A
	Community Resolution.	Out-of-court disposal
Prosecution prevented or not in the public interest	Offender died before proceedings.	Other
	Not in the public interest, PPS (in England & Wales this would be the CPS).	
	Not in the public interest, police (this outcome method is not available within Northern Ireland, public interest decisions can only be made by PPS).	
	Prosecution prevented – suspect under age (named suspect identified but is below the age of criminal responsibility).	
	Prosecution prevented – suspect too ill (named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute).	
	Prosecution prevented – victim/key witness dead/too ill (named suspect identified but victim or key witness is dead or too ill to give evidence).	
Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)	Evidential difficulties named suspect identified – the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevents further action.	Evidential difficulties
	Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified – the crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender.	Evidential difficulties
Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)	Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect identified – the victim does not support (or withdraws support from) police action.	
Investigation complete – no suspect identified	Investigation complete – no suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible – case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available.	Investigation complete - no suspect
Action undertaken by another body/agency	Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the action to be taken.	Other
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	Further investigation, resulting from the crime report, which could provide evidence sufficient to support formal action being taken against the suspect is not in the public interest – police decision (from January 2016). This outcome method is not available within Northern Ireland, public interest decisions can only be made by PPS.	N/A
National Fraud Intelligence Bureau filed	A crime of fraud has been recorded but has not been allocated for investigation because the assessment process at the NFIB has determined there are insufficient lines of enquiry to warrant such dissemination. This outcome method is not included in any tables as it applies to fraud offences recorded by NFIB only. From 1 April 2015 Action Fraud became responsible for the central recording of fraud and cyber crime previously recorded by PSNI.	N/A

Appendix 3: Further Information

Crime Statistics User Guide

Further details on Police Recorded Crime statistics are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland](#). This is a reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of police recorded crime statistics. The guide provides background information on:

- definitions relating to crimes, incidents and outcomes, including a description of the crime types included within the crime bulletins;
- recording practices, including PSNI data collection, quality and audit processes;
- data timeliness and availability; and
- the geographic areas for which crimes are available (statistics for geographies other than policing area and policing district can be accessed through the [Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System \(NINIS\)](#)).

Related information available on the PSNI website

Police Recorded Crime Statistics: These statistics are updated on a monthly basis, with publication dates available in the [publication schedule](#). The latest publications and those that have been archived can be accessed through: <https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/>

Domestic Abuse Statistics: These statistics are updated on a quarterly basis (in August, November, February and May), with a more comprehensive trends publication made available annually; publication dates are available in the [publication schedule](#). The latest publications and those that have been archived can be accessed through: <https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/>

Hate Motivation Statistics: These statistics are updated on a quarterly basis (in August, November, February and May), with a more comprehensive trends publication made available annually; publication dates are available in the [publication schedule](#). The latest publications and those that have been archived can be accessed through: <https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/>