



Motoring Offence Statistics for Northern Ireland

2021 Annual Report

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Key statistics

- In 2021, there were 42,449 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 6,597 offences (13%) on the 49,046 detections recorded in 2020.
- Of the 42,449 detections in 2021, three fifths resulted in a referral for prosecution and almost one quarter in endorsable fixed penalty notices.
- Motoring offence detections have fallen by two-fifths over the last ten years and 2021 saw the largest annual reduction since 2013. Almost three quarters of the decrease in detections between 2020 and 2021 was attributable to three offence groups – speeding (-2,309), insurance (-1,366) and mobile phone (-1,022).
- Nonetheless, insurance offences was the largest group in 2021 with 6,905 detections, followed by speeding with 6,721 detections. There were a further 3,603 detections related to driving licence offences, 769 fewer offences than in 2020.
- Six offence groups showed modest increases in detections in 2021 including parking which was up by 253 (22%).



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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 2021. 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 14th March 2022. As of that date, 99.9% of FPNs for 2021 had been processed, while 0.1% remained pending. Referred for prosecution figures from 1st January 2020 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 [Official Statistics 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

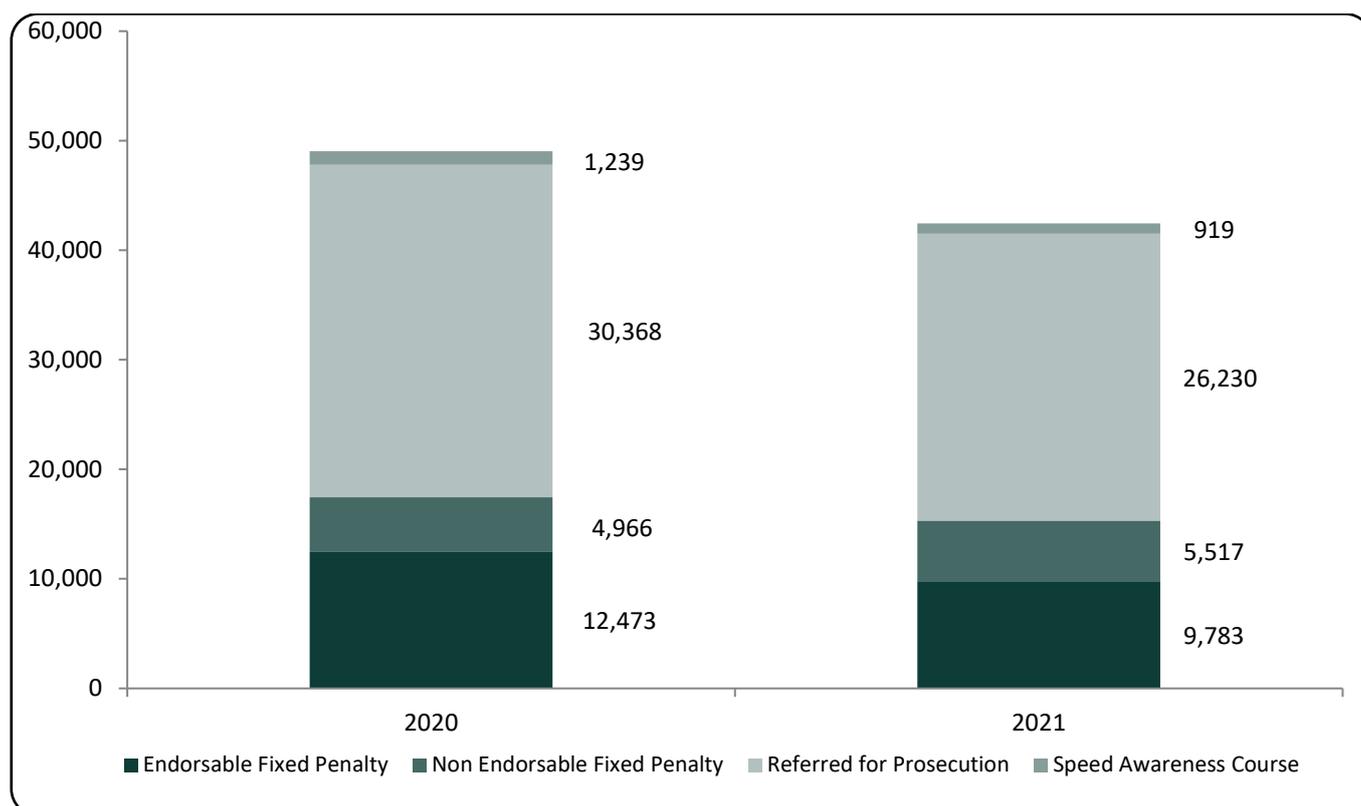
Over the last 12 months:

- the number of motoring offences decreased by 6,597 offences
- offences referred for prosecution fell by 14%
- endorsable fixed penalties decreased by 22%
- non endorsable fixed penalties increased by 11%

Table 1: Number of motoring offences by disposal type, 2020 and 2021

Disposal Type	2020	2021	Change over last 12 months Number	Change over last 12 months %
Endorsable Fixed Penalty	12,473	9,783	-2,690	-22
Non Endorsable Fixed Penalty	4,966	5,517	551	11
Referred for Prosecution	30,368	26,230	-4,138	-14
Speed Awareness Course	1,239	919	-320	-26
Total	49,046	42,449	-6,597	-13

Figure 1: Comparisons of disposal types for motoring offences, 2020 and 2021



3. Trends

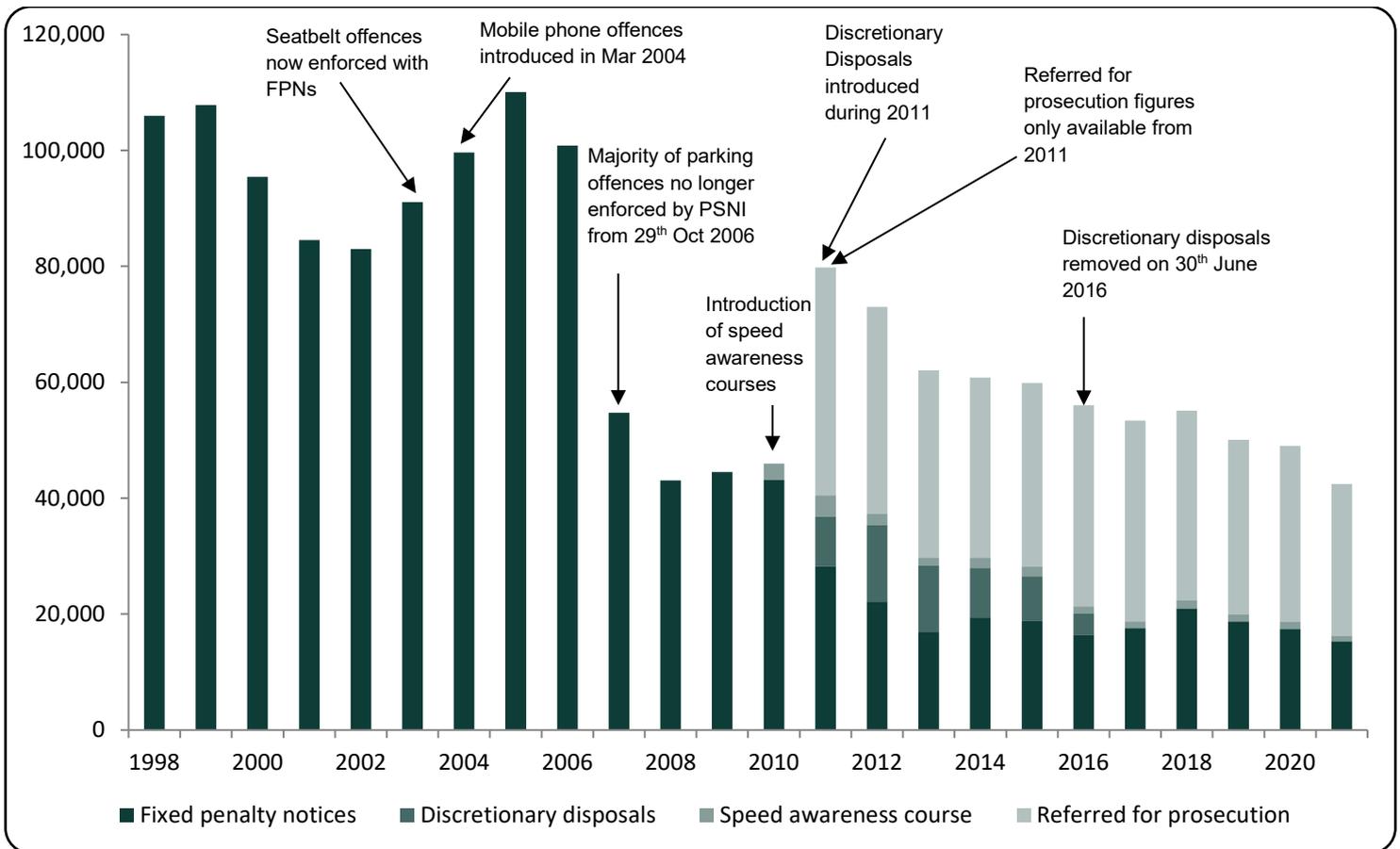
The number of FPNs has significantly decreased over the past number of years from a total 105,966 recorded in 1998 to 15,300 recorded in 2021.

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 NSL Services Group (NSL) on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI).

The total number of motoring offences has been steadily decreasing over the past number of years from 79,796 recorded in 2011 to 42,449 in 2021.

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 –2021



4. Offence group

Table 2: Number of motoring offences by offence group and month of year, 2020 and 2021

Offence group	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Total 2021	Total 2020	Change over last 12 months - Number	Change over last 12 months - %
Breach of signs & signals	28	22	58	43	20	33	30	23	15	41	13	18	344	273	71	26
Careless driving	295	299	300	394	413	408	362	339	385	348	293	245	4,081	3,913	168	4
Construction & use	267	257	216	291	341	265	213	227	215	234	275	151	2,952	2,790	162	6
Dangerous driving	142	155	169	179	202	150	126	140	127	114	124	77	1,705	1,757	-52	-3
Drink or drug driving	192	185	191	201	271	250	261	266	243	268	209	219	2,756	3,096	-340	-11
Driving licence	291	311	352	360	340	346	312	314	270	277	218	212	3,603	4,372	-769	-18
Driving whilst disqualified	82	95	112	101	95	102	82	81	89	84	62	65	1,050	1,021	29	3
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	173	188	159	193	259	218	180	240	204	172	125	103	2,214	2,827	-613	-22
Fraudulent use / declaration	27	15	36	26	20	25	13	23	19	26	18	12	260	326	-66	-20
Insurance	622	566	684	670	597	630	594	542	524	587	440	449	6,905	8,271	-1,366	-17
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	152	148	149	158	157	169	150	151	178	188	132	132	1,864	1,717	147	9
Miscellaneous	88	86	84	82	75	86	77	89	81	71	57	61	937	1,039	-102	-10
Mobile phone	246	216	199	234	246	238	187	219	193	201	174	87	2,440	3,462	-1,022	-30
Non driver	42	46	57	52	53	55	45	41	43	40	32	41	547	736	-189	-26
Parking	61	53	313	176	168	69	249	65	65	94	76	32	1,421	1,168	253	22
Seatbelt	44	67	62	95	83	113	69	86	78	60	48	43	848	896	-48	-5
Speeding	464	501	638	698	717	653	581	486	510	574	551	348	6,721	9,030	-2,309	-26
Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering	102	90	106	100	89	81	88	94	109	72	60	69	1,060	1,339	-279	-21
Vehicle test certificate	14	27	34	48	61	76	90	100	64	84	83	60	741	1,013	-272	-27
Total	3,332	3,327	3,919	4,101	4,207	3,967	3,709	3,526	3,412	3,535	2,990	2,424	42,449	49,046	-6,597	-13

Table 3: Number of motoring offences by gender, age and offence group, 2021

Offence group	Male	Female	Unknown	Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 69	70+	Unknown	Total
Breach of signs & signals	242	93	9	2	82	113	61	6	80	344
Careless driving	3,174	900	7	78	1,443	1,589	797	168	6	4,081
Construction & use	2,557	389	6	81	1,736	794	267	25	49	2,952
Dangerous driving	1,525	178	2	48	873	583	176	25	0	1,705
Drink or drug driving	2,227	526	3	20	832	1,391	466	46	1	2,756
Driving licence	3,098	492	13	131	1,366	1,697	353	55	1	3,603
Driving whilst disqualified	965	82	3	100	309	555	80	6	0	1,050
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	1,831	380	3	67	784	954	349	57	3	2,214
Fraudulent use / declaration	220	40	0	0	67	147	40	5	1	260
Insurance	5,786	1,100	19	245	2,769	3,228	597	65	1	6,905
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	1,528	329	7	139	877	686	150	12	0	1,864
Miscellaneous	850	81	6	68	407	339	113	5	5	937
Mobile phone	2,019	420	1	9	563	1,271	543	54	0	2,440
Non driver	328	215	4	8	230	220	79	9	1	547
Parking	809	540	72	2	139	151	72	8	1,049	1,421
Seatbelt	685	163	0	9	263	360	183	33	0	848
Speeding	4,823	1,895	3	52	2,548	2,757	1,250	114	0	6,721
Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering	970	87	3	129	442	442	43	3	1	1,060
Vehicle test certificate	575	166	0	12	214	342	136	18	19	741
Total	34,212	8,076	161	1,200	15,944	17,619	5,755	714	1,217	42,449

Overall change

- In 2021, there were 42,449 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 6,597 (13%) on the 49,046 detections recorded in 2020.

Offence groups

- Three offence groups attributed for almost three-quarters of the 6,597 decrease in detections since 2020 – speeding (-2,309), insurance (-1,366) and mobile phone (-1,022).
- Nonetheless, insurance offences was the largest offence group in 2021 with 6,905 detections, accounting for 16% of all detections. Similarly, 16% of the total comprised of speeding offences, with 6,721 detected. There were a further 3,603 detections related to driving licence offences, which was 8% of the total and 769 fewer offences than in 2020.
- Six offence groups showed modest increases in detections in 2021 including parking, which was up by 253 (22%).

Speeding

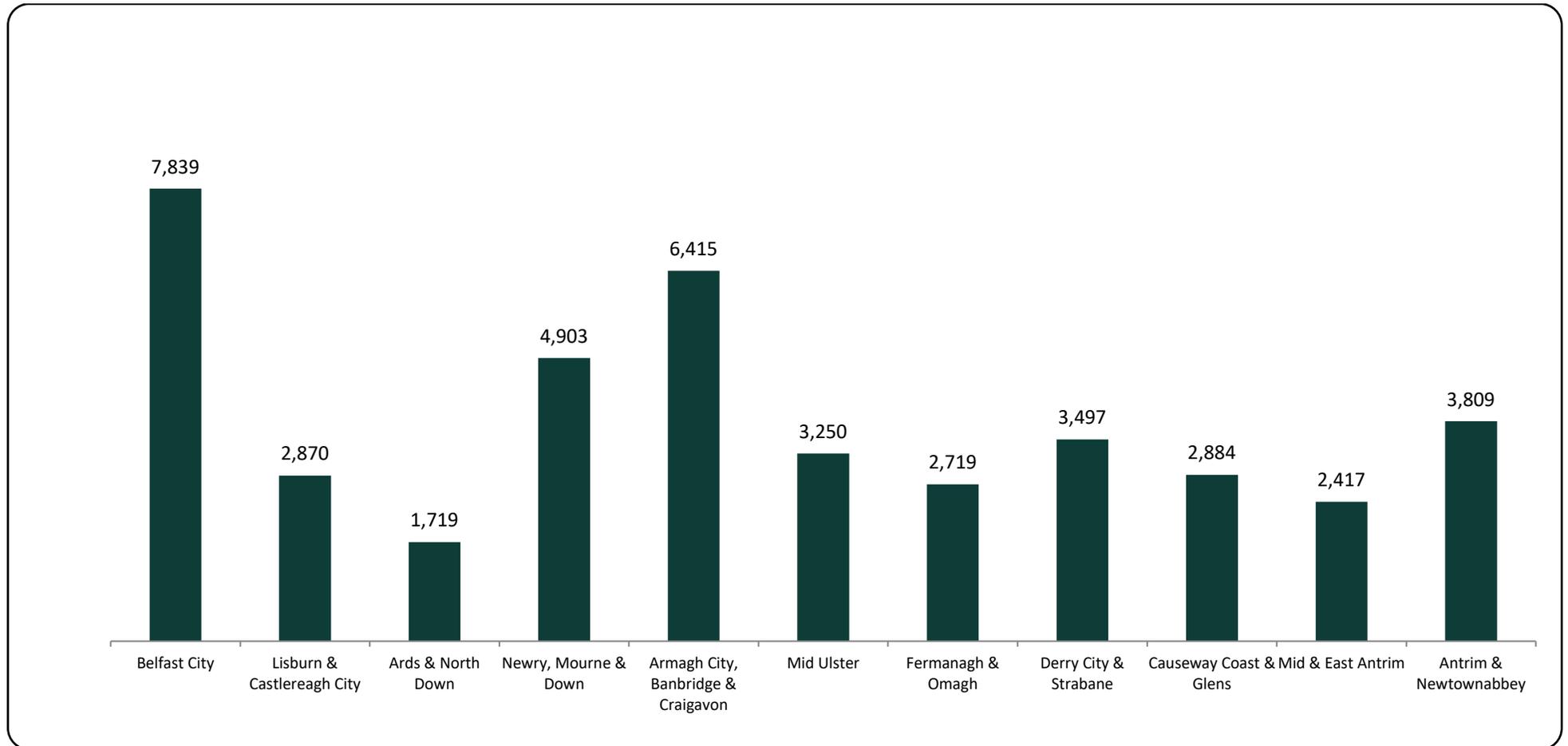
- The highest speed recorded by PSNI officers in 2021 was 125mph on the M2 motorway, Antrim which is a 70mph stretch of road.
- In 2020 (the most recent year available), the NI Road Safety Partnership detected over 5 times more speeding offences than the PSNI (46,731), equating to 84% of the combined PSNI and NIRSP total for that year.

Age and gender

- Almost one quarter of all female detections was for speeding offences.
- One fifth of under 18 year olds were detected for insurance offences, while careless driving offences accounted for almost one quarter of offences detected among those aged 70 and over.
- Over three fifths of those detected for construction and use offences were aged under 30.
- Over half of those detected for mobile phone offences were age 30-49.

5. Policing District

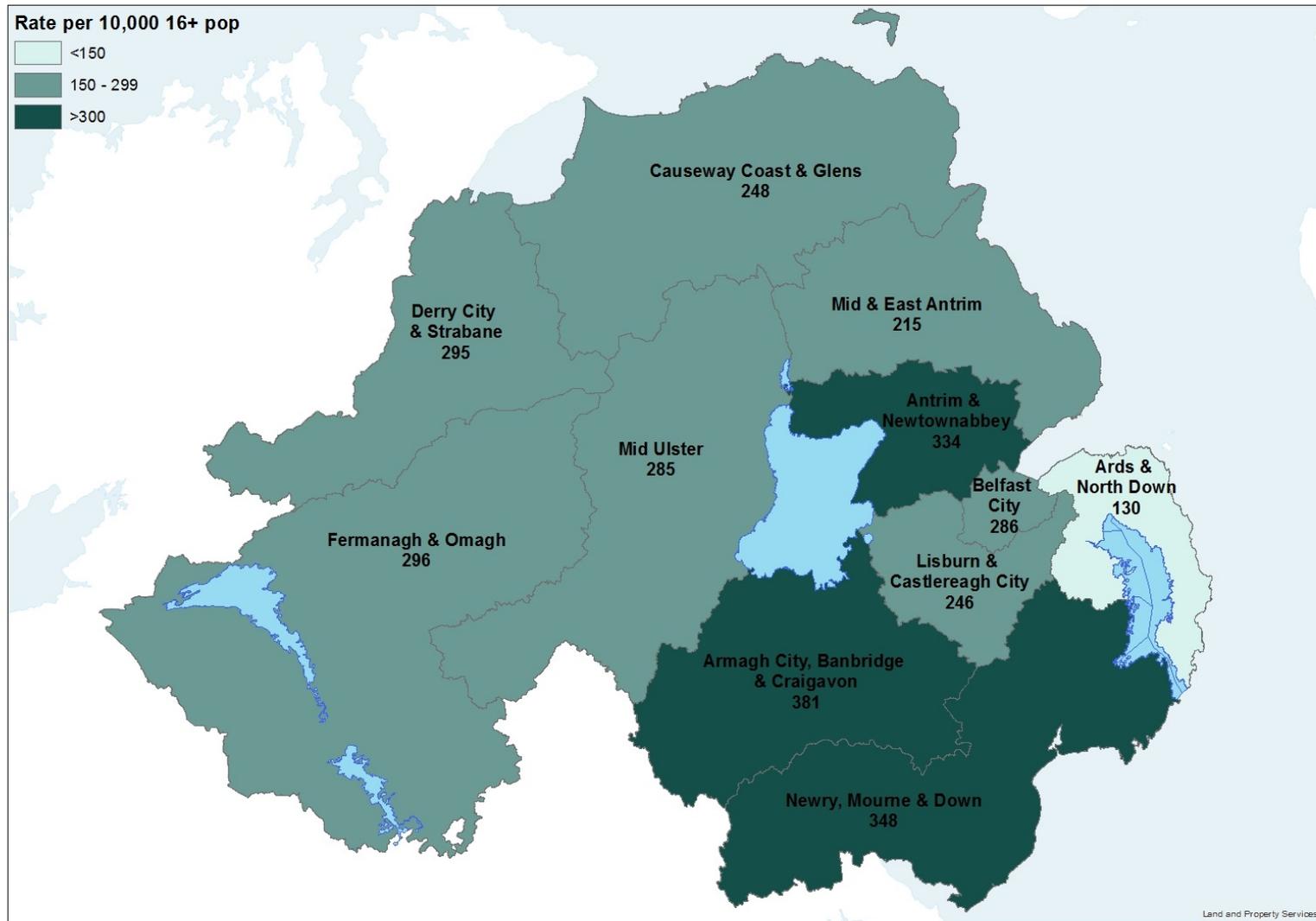
Figure 3: Number of motoring offences by Policing District, 2021



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 2021. Ards and North Down recorded the fewest detections, accounting for 4% of the total in 2021. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon recorded 381 offences per 10,000 population aged 16+ while Ards and North Down recorded the lowest number per 10,000 population aged 16+, with 130 (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Rate of motoring offences per 10,000 population¹ aged 16+ by Policing District: 2021

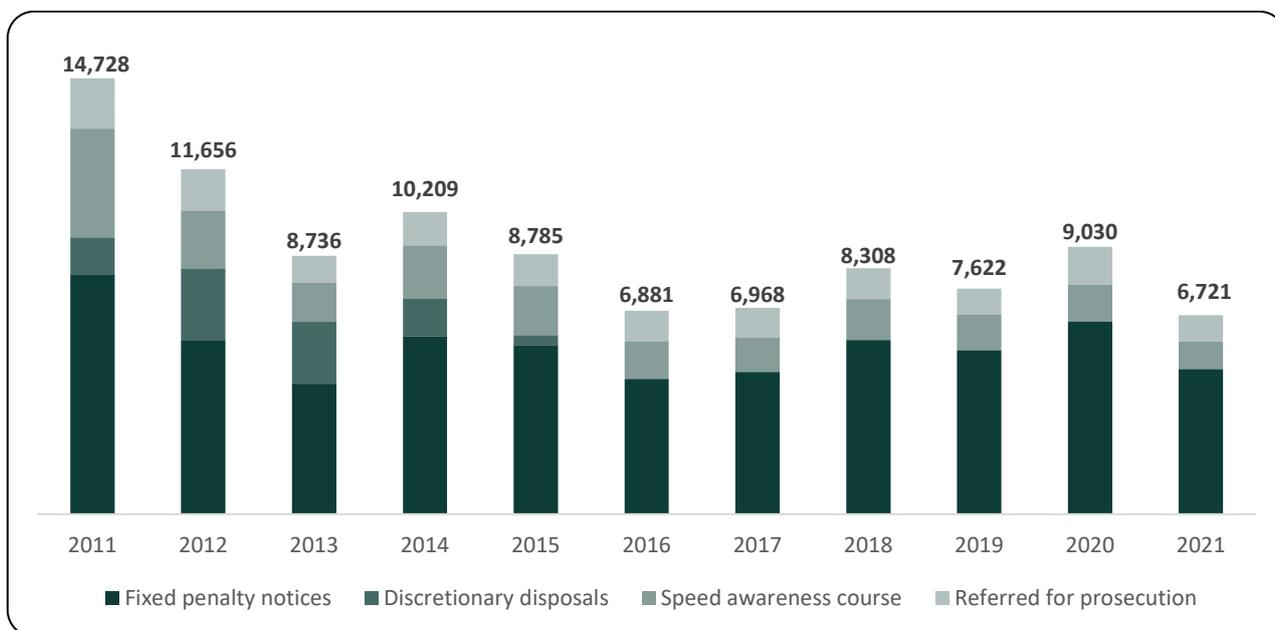


¹ Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

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 2020² (the most recent year available) the NIRSP detected 46,731 persons speeding which equated to 84% of the combined PSNI and NIRSP total for that year.

Figure 5: Number of speeding offences detected by PSNI, 2011 – 2021



In 2021, there were 6,721 detections for speeding offences, accounting for 16% 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 2021 was 125mph on the M2 motorway, Antrim which is a 70mph stretch of road. (Table 4).

Table 4: Top speed detected by PSNI within each speed limit, 2021

Speed limit	Highest speed detected	Location
20 mph	60 mph	Garryduff Road, Ballymoney
30 mph	90 mph	Chancellors Road, Newry
40 mph	80 mph	Main Street, Kesh
40 mph	80 mph	Hillhead Road, Ballyclare
45 mph	101 mph	Moneymore Dual Carriageway, Cookstown
50 mph	109 mph	Sydenham Bypass, Belfast
60 mph	120 mph	Moneycarrie Road, Coleraine
60 mph	120 mph	A1 Northbound
60 mph	120 mph	Cookstown Road, Moneymore
70 mph	125 mph	M2 Motorway, Antrim

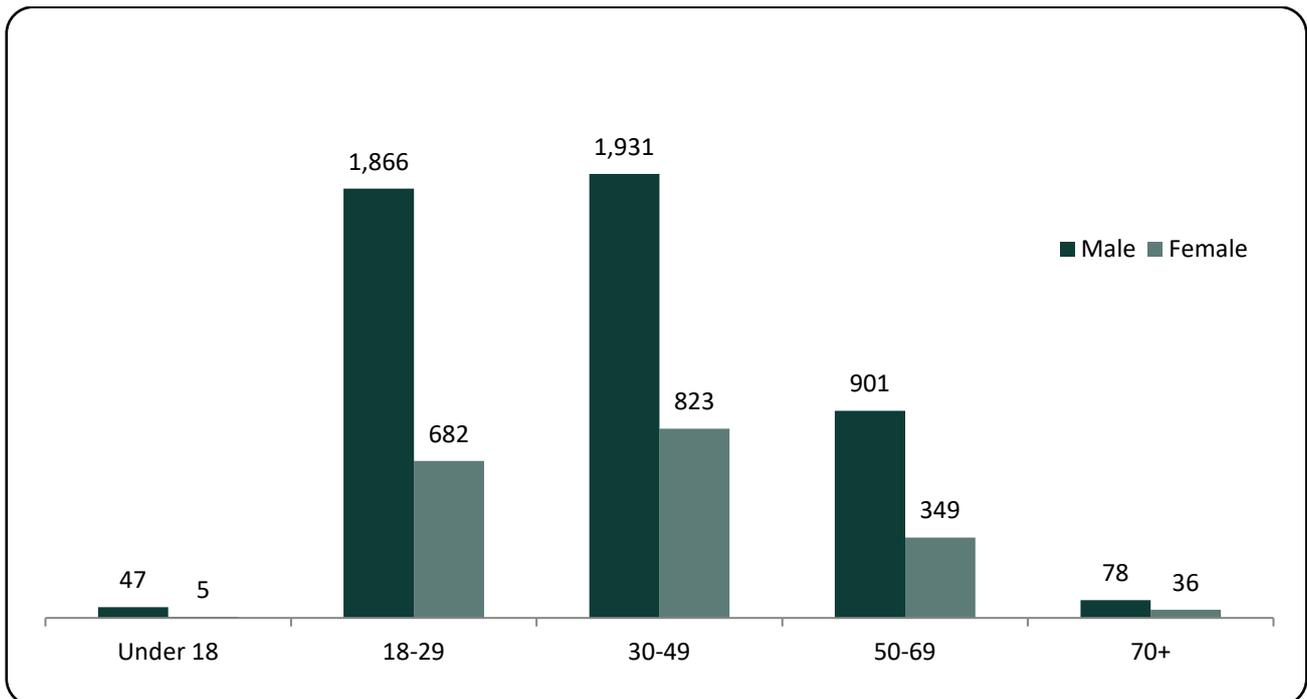
² 2021 figures will be published on 24th June 2022.

Table 5: Number of speeding offences by day of week and month of year, 2021

Month	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	66	55	36	48	82	105	72	464
February	76	55	33	87	93	100	57	501
March	90	101	88	102	78	87	92	638
April	98	75	68	76	148	123	110	698
May	115	88	105	62	106	122	119	717
June	94	80	80	92	111	112	84	653
July	96	51	78	81	91	96	88	581
August	104	57	73	75	67	54	56	486
September	60	64	61	80	116	57	72	510
October	118	65	56	61	90	104	80	574
November	94	81	71	58	86	80	81	551
December	60	28	32	47	82	70	29	348
Total	1,071	800	781	869	1,150	1,110	940	6,721

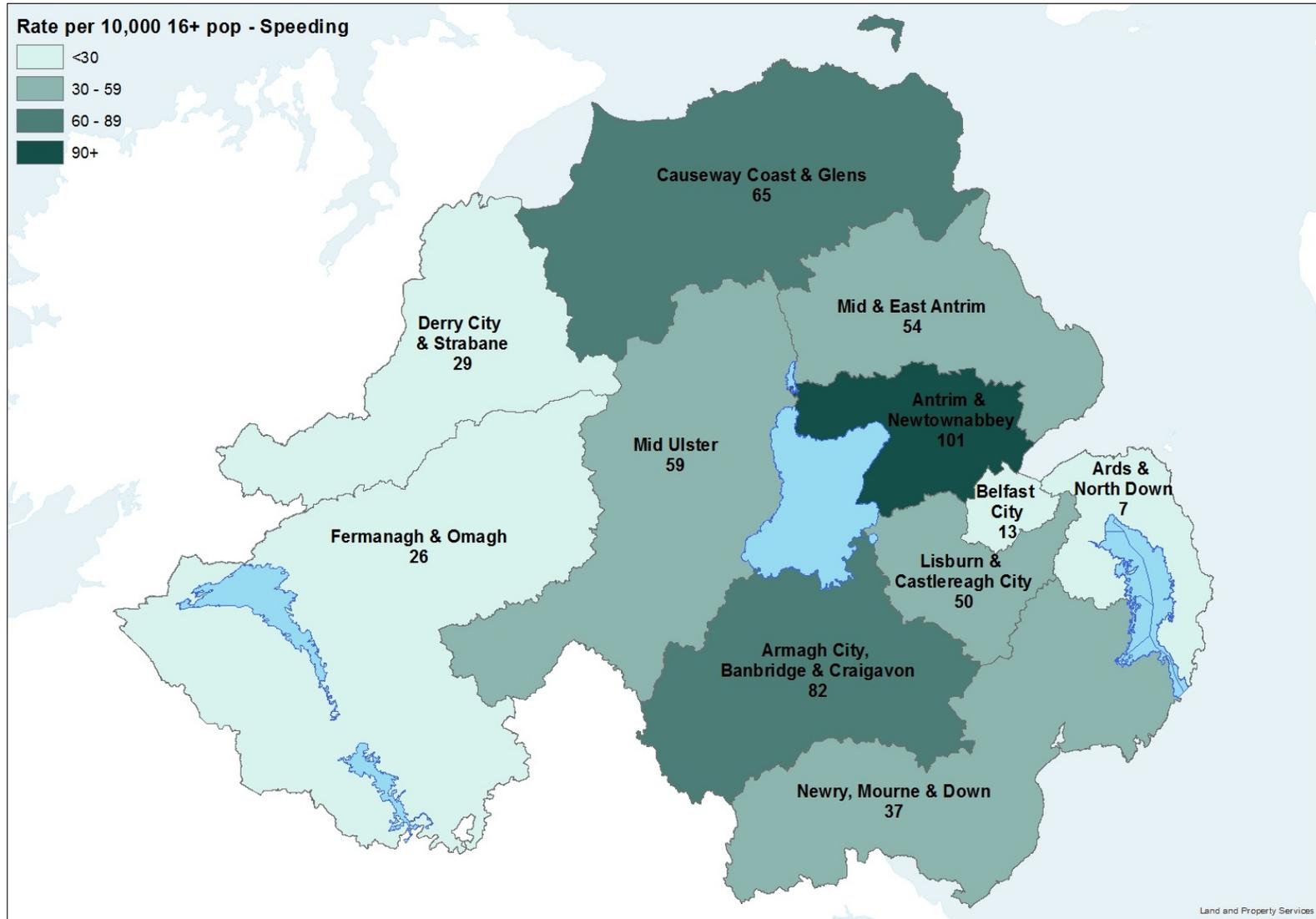
Males accounted for almost three quarters (72%) of all persons detected for speeding offences. Persons aged 30 – 49 represented over two fifths of all persons detected for speeding offences, followed by 18 - 29 year olds accounting for a further 38%.

Figure 6: Number of speeding offences by age and gender, 2021



Of the 11 Policing Districts, the highest number of speeding offences detected in 2021 was in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (1,379). However, Antrim and Newtownabbey recorded the highest rate of speeding offences with 101 per 10,000 population aged 16+. Ards and North Down recorded the fewest speeding detections (99) as well as the lowest number per 10,000 population, with 7 (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Rate of speeding offences per 10,000 population³ aged 16+ by Policing District: 2021

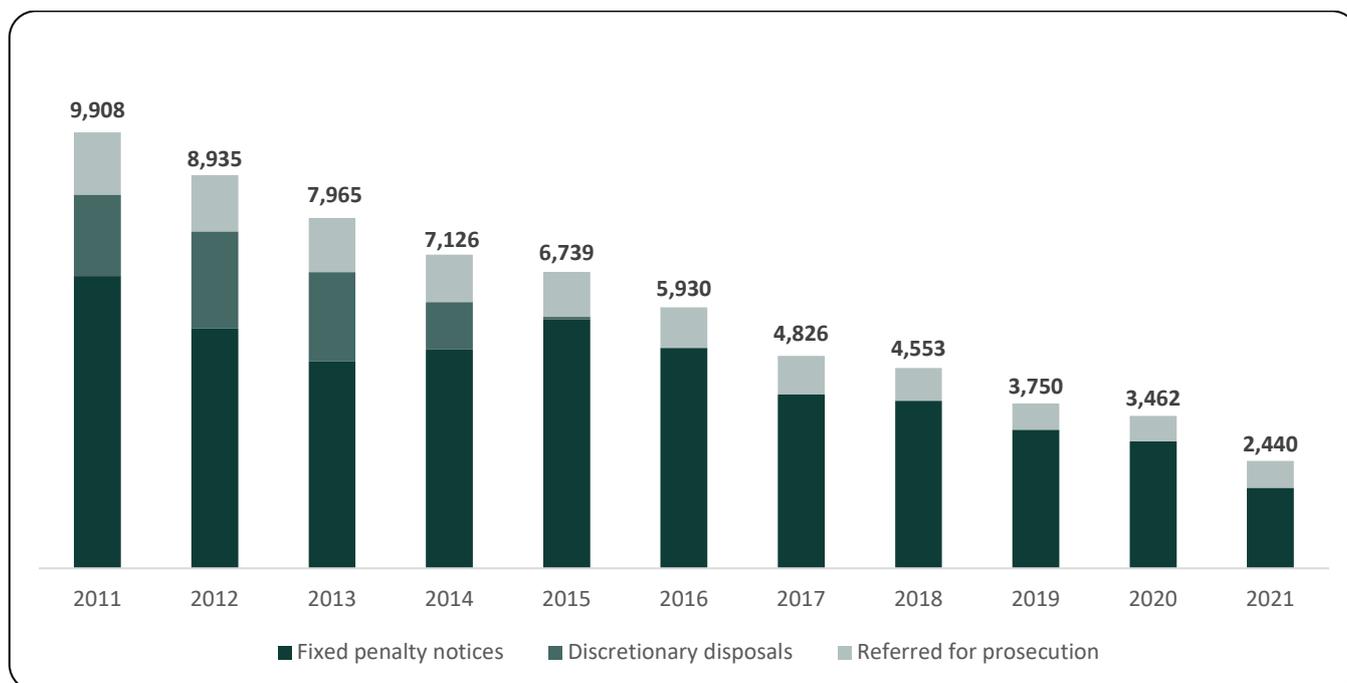


³ Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

7. Mobile phone

The number of detections for mobile phone offences has steadily decreased from 9,908 in 2011 to 2,440 in 2021 (a decrease of 75%). Although the number of detections has decreased, research conducted by DfI⁴ in 2020/21 shows that 64% of drivers used their phone in some capacity in the last year while driving, with males more likely to make a hand held call. Less than half (48%) of respondents believed that drivers were likely to be stopped by police for using their mobile phone while driving.

Figure 8: Number of mobile phone offences, 2011 – 2021



Mobile phone offences accounted for 6% of all motoring offences in 2021. There were fewer detections for this offence group on a Saturday and Sunday with the highest proportion detected on a Friday (21%) (Table 6).

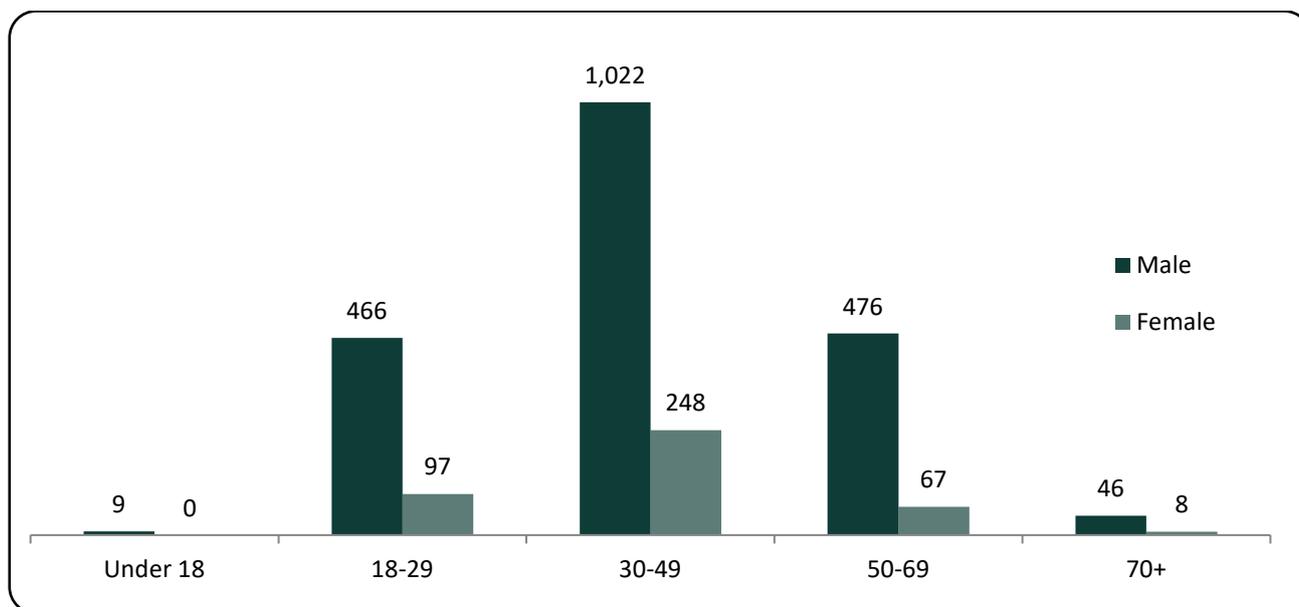
⁴ [Road safety issues in Northern Ireland](#)

Table 6: Number of mobile phone offences by day of week and month of year, 2021

Month	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	16	34	34	29	47	49	37	246
February	9	35	30	35	50	43	14	216
March	7	26	26	45	36	35	24	199
April	13	23	41	27	52	62	16	234
May	14	22	37	33	43	49	48	246
June	11	31	42	37	46	46	25	238
July	8	20	24	34	36	44	21	187
August	17	36	48	39	36	33	10	219
September	12	31	24	35	40	31	20	193
October	10	16	23	28	39	68	17	201
November	10	27	37	19	28	33	20	174
December	1	7	10	14	28	21	6	87
Total	128	308	376	375	481	514	258	2,440

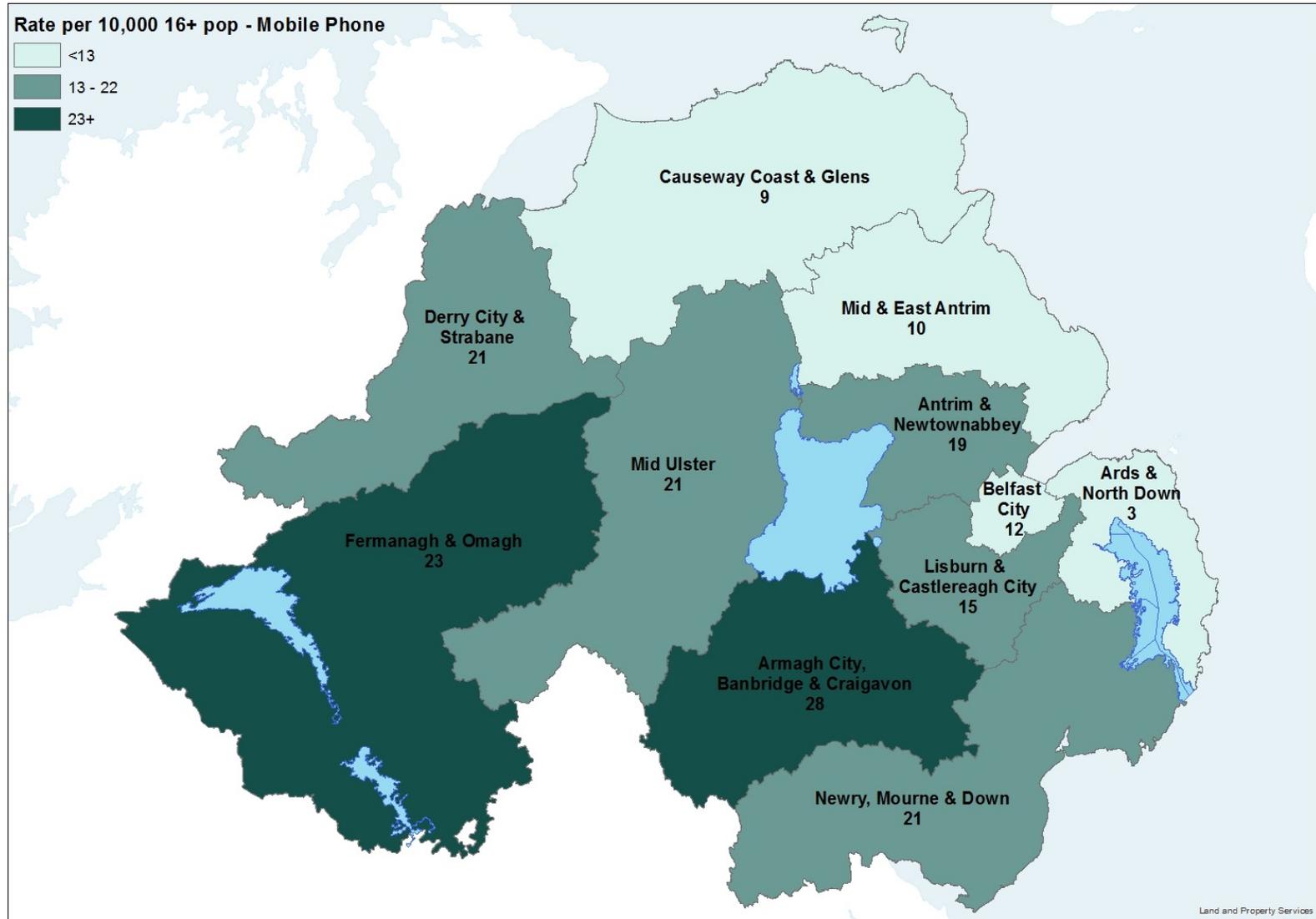
Males accounted for just over four fifths of all persons detected for mobile phone offences while persons aged 30 – 49 accounted for more than half (52%).

Figure 9: Number of mobile phones offences by age and gender, 2021



Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon policing district recorded the largest number (467) and rate (28 per 10,000 population aged 16+) of mobile phone offences out of the 11 Districts in 2021. Ards and North Down ranked lowest in both measures, with 39 detections which is equivalent to 3 per 10,000 population aged 16+. (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Rate of mobile phone offences per 10,000 population⁵ aged 16+ by Policing District: 2021

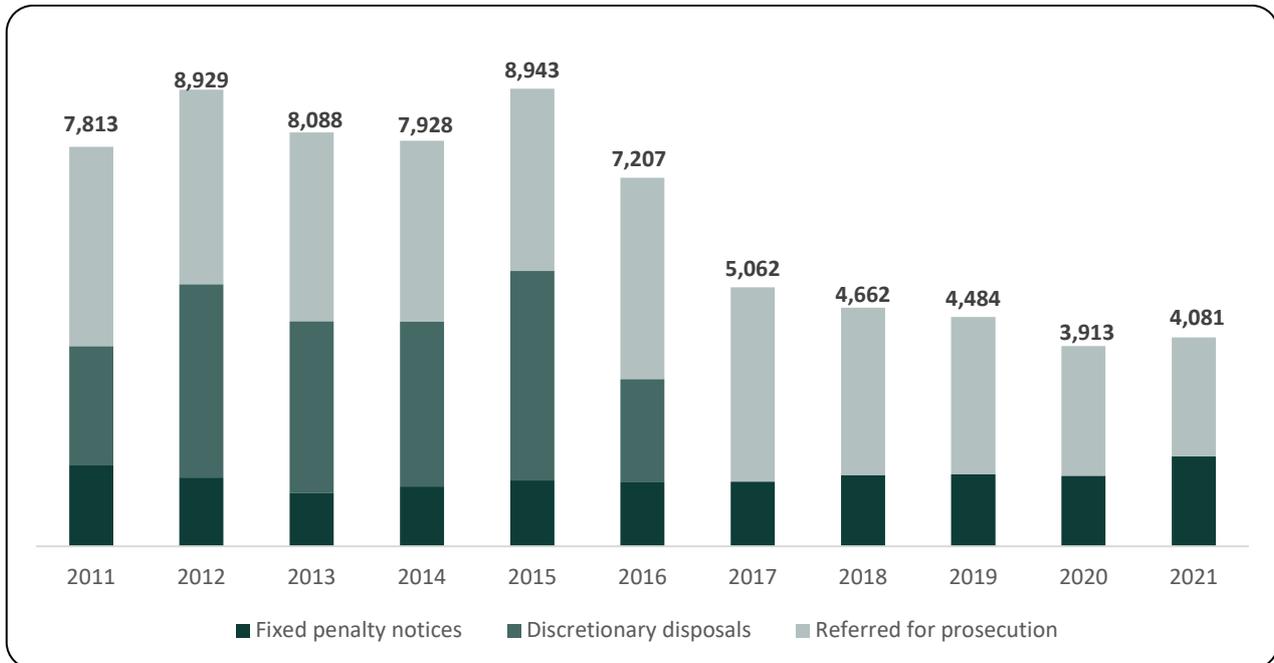


⁵ Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

8. Careless driving

The number of careless driving offences decreased from 7,813 in 2011 to 4,081 in 2021 (a decrease of 48%), 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 September 2021⁶ 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 almost half (48%) of all careless driving offences.

Figure 11: Number of careless driving offences, 2011 – 2021



Almost one fifth (18%) were issued on a Friday while one in ten careless driving offences were detected in May (Table 7).

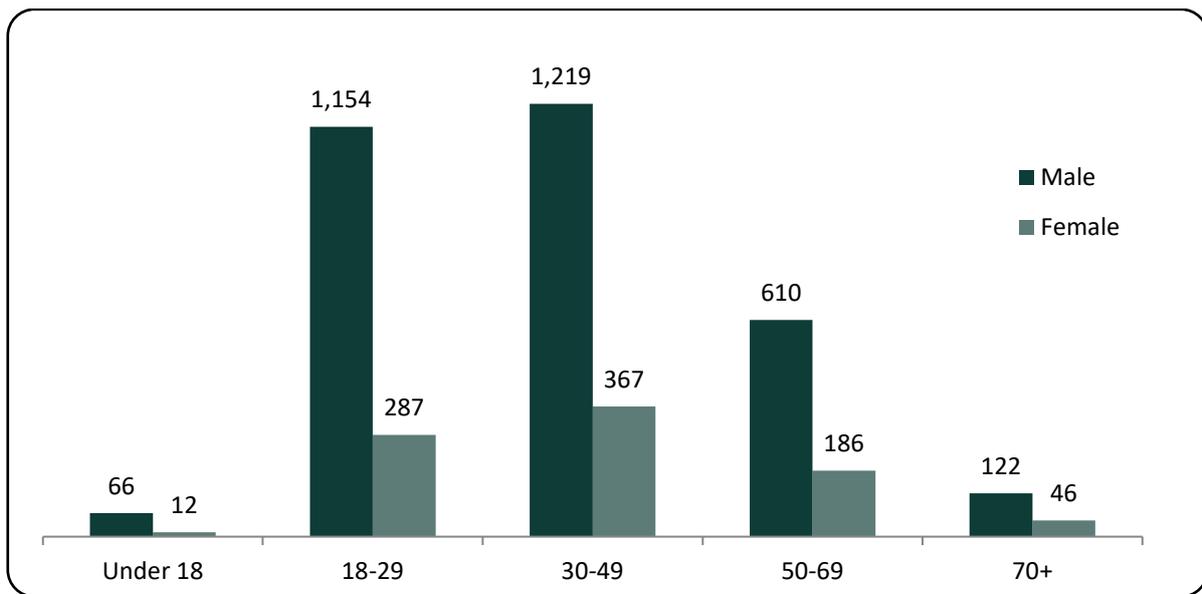
⁶ [PSNI injury road traffic collision monthly report](#)

Table 7: Number of careless driving offences by day of week and month of year, 2021

Month	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	49	33	40	39	48	46	40	295
February	39	31	38	35	62	57	37	299
March	36	54	42	58	34	42	34	300
April	46	45	52	51	85	63	52	394
May	54	63	47	46	63	70	70	413
June	46	38	75	50	69	85	45	408
July	43	40	48	44	64	68	55	362
August	41	49	51	33	52	69	44	339
September	33	54	40	55	71	68	64	385
October	41	43	45	50	47	72	50	348
November	30	32	45	32	56	57	41	293
December	23	22	38	48	47	34	33	245
Total	481	504	561	541	698	731	565	4,081

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for almost four fifths of careless driving offences and 30-49 year olds accounted for 39%.

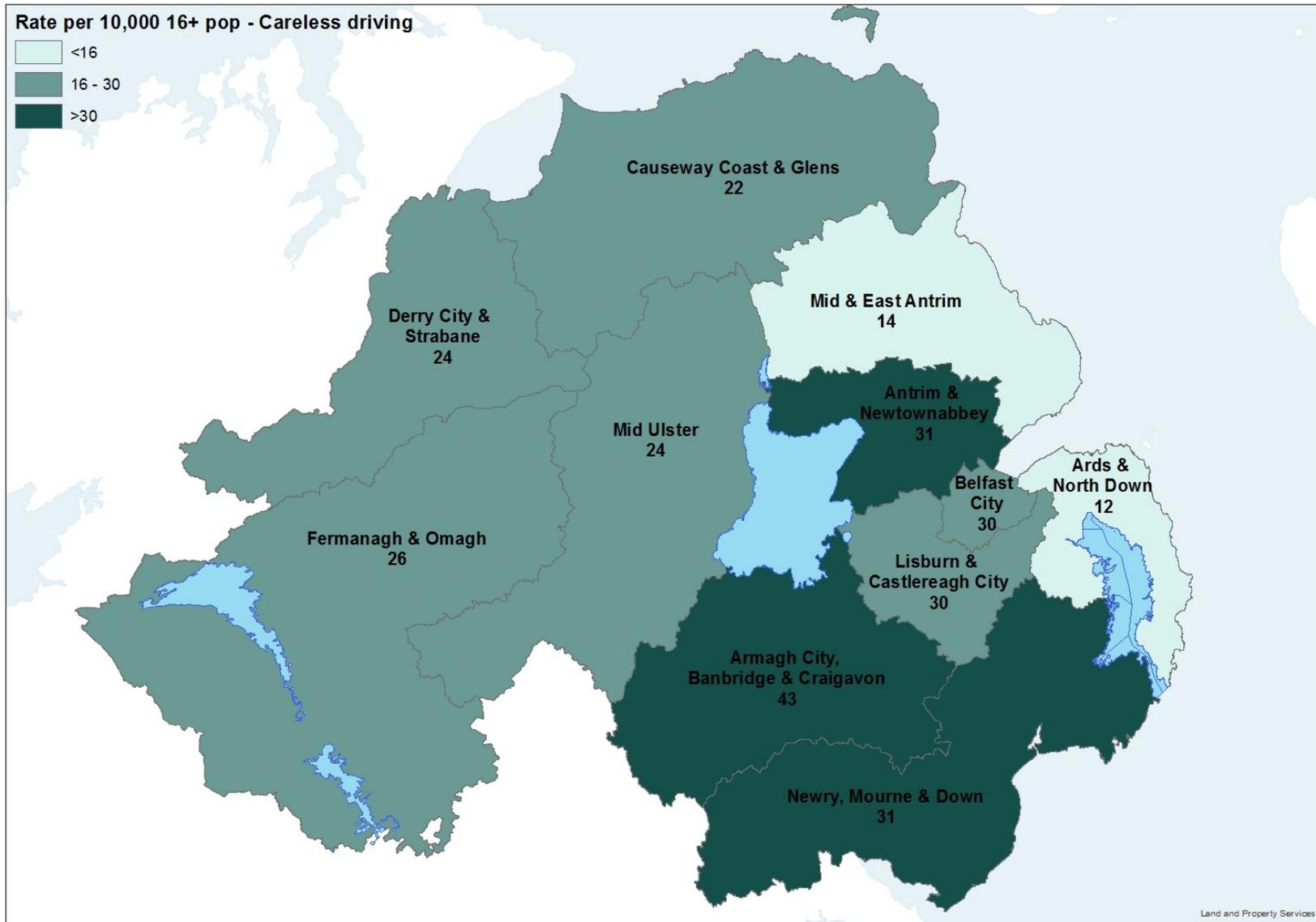
Figure 12: Number of careless driving offences by age and gender, 2021



Unknown age and gender is excluded from the chart above

Of the 11 Districts, the biggest number of careless driving offences detected in 2021 was in Belfast City (816) however the highest rate per 10,000 population aged 16+ was in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (43). Ards and North Down recorded the fewest detections for such offences (159) and the lowest rate per 10,000 population, with 12 (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Rate of careless driving offences per 10,000 population⁷ aged 16+ by Policing District: 2021

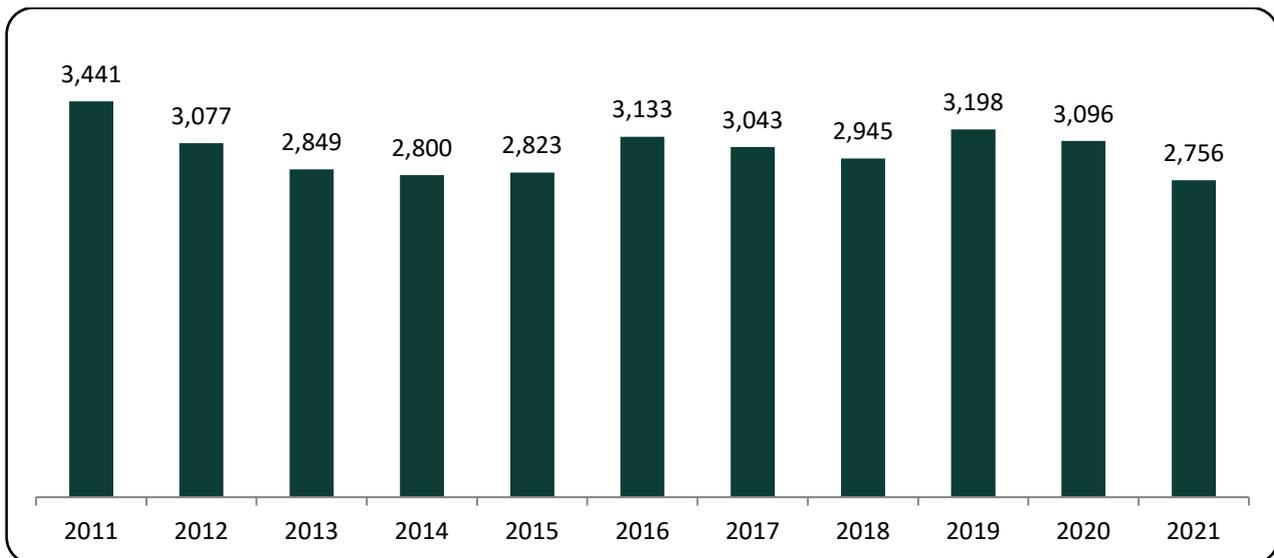


⁷ Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

9. Drink and drug driving

The number of arrests for drink/drug driving offences in 2021 was 2,947 resulting in 2,756 drink/drug driving offences being referred for prosecution, with the worst offender being more than 5 times over the limit (Table 9). This is a decrease from 3,666 arrests and 3,441 offences referred for prosecution in 2011, a decrease of 20% for both measures. 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 2nd most common principal causation factor for KSI casualties between January and September 2021⁸. Further analysis identifying issues and trends in relation to fatal and serious collisions caused by drink driving has been completed by Department for Infrastructure⁹.

Figure 14: Number of drink/drug driving offences referred for prosecution, 2011 – 2021



Almost half (46%) of drink/drug driving offences were detected at the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) and the month with most detections for drink/drug driving offences was May, accounting for 10% of the total (Table 8).

Of the 11 Policing Districts, Belfast City recorded the highest number of drink drug driving offence detections in 2021 (503), however Derry City and Strabane recorded the highest rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, with 25. Ards and North Down had the fewest detections (159) and the lowest rate per 10,000 population aged 16+, with 12 (Figure 16).

⁸ [PSNI injury road traffic collision monthly report](#)

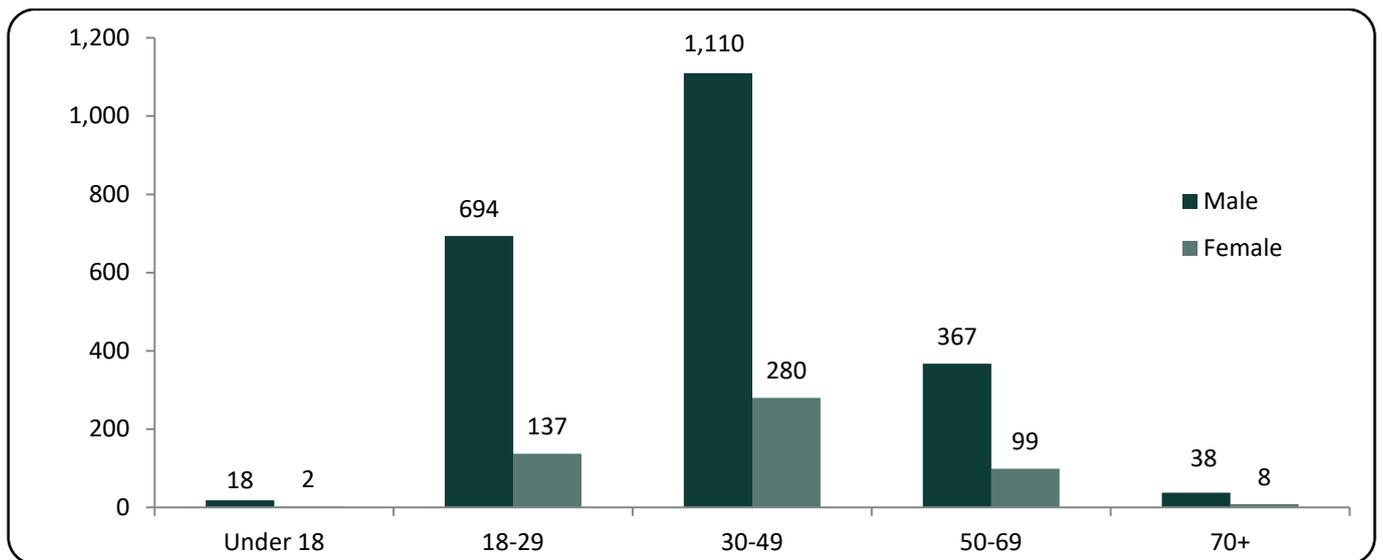
⁹ [KSI road traffic collisions caused by drink driving 2013 - 2017](#)

Table 8: Number of drink/drug driving offences by day of week and month of year, 2021

Month	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
January	41	20	18	20	22	33	38	192
February	49	18	16	13	23	24	42	185
March	44	18	17	25	25	23	39	191
April	41	33	18	19	21	24	45	201
May	71	32	29	21	23	32	63	271
June	66	37	29	30	24	22	42	250
July	64	26	21	20	36	23	71	261
August	77	38	29	21	24	33	44	266
September	53	29	26	28	33	22	52	243
October	71	22	28	25	25	33	64	268
November	59	18	21	21	20	25	45	209
December	56	27	14	26	21	34	41	219
Total	692	318	266	269	297	328	586	2,756

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for over four fifths of drink/drug driving offences and 30-49 year olds accounted for half (50%).

Figure 15: Number of drink/drug driving offences by age and gender, 2021



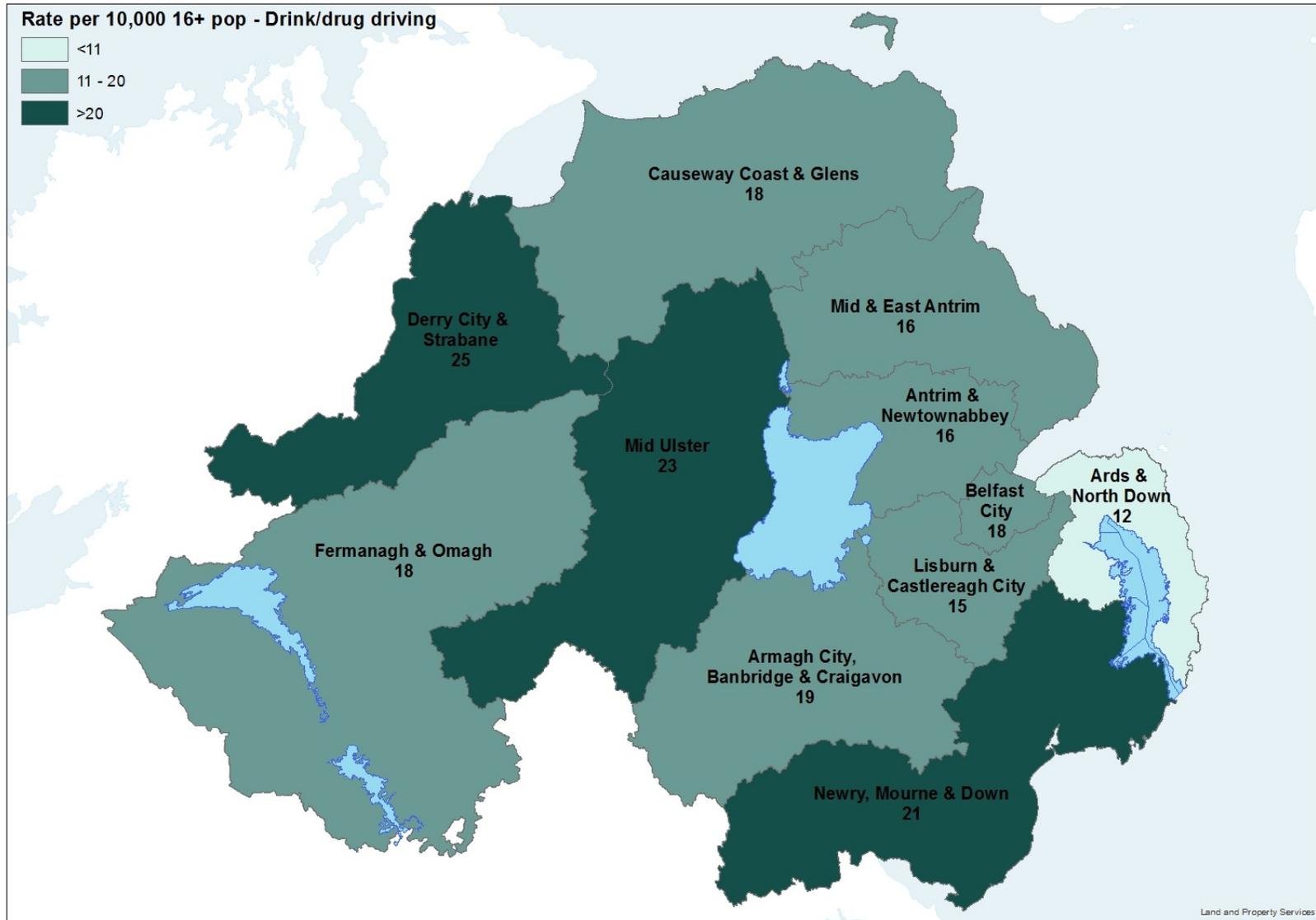
Unknown age and gender is excluded from the chart above

Table 9: Top 5 alcohol readings for drink/drug driving offences, 2021

Rank	Breath / Blood	Reading	No of times over legal limit ¹⁰
1	Breath	180 µg/100ml	5.14
2	Breath	173 µg/100ml	4.94
3	Breath	164 µg/100ml	4.69
4	Breath	157 µg/100ml	4.49
5	Breath	150 µg/100ml	4.29

¹⁰ 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 population¹¹ aged 16+ by Policing District: 2021



¹¹ Population figures sourced from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

10. Disposal types

Offences referred for prosecution accounted for 62% of all motoring offences detected in 2021, followed by endorsable FPNs comprising 23%. A further 13% were dealt with by means of a non endorsable FPN, while the remaining 2% completed a speed awareness course.

Figure 17: Breakdown of disposal types used for motoring offences, 2021

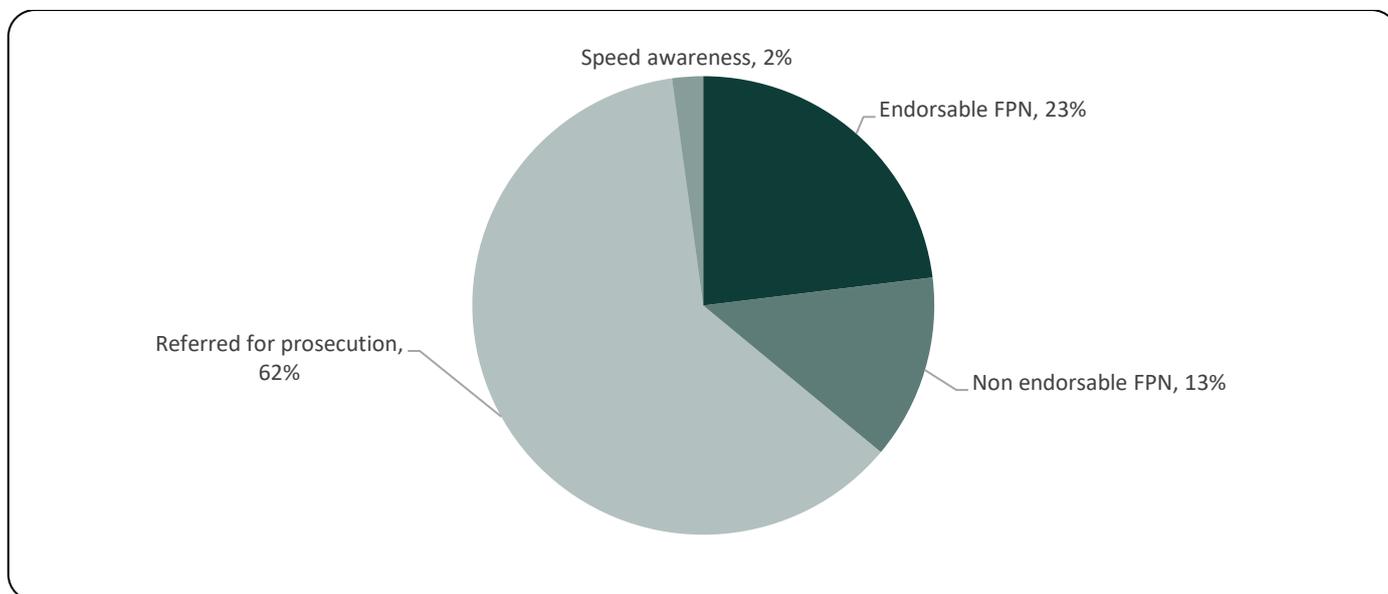


Table 10: Offence group by disposal type, 2021

Offence group	Endorsable FPN	Non Endorsable FPN	Referred for prosecution	Speed Awareness	Total
Breach of signs & signals	0	342	2	0	344
Careless driving	1,235	524	2,322	0	4,081
Construction & use	0	2,544	408	0	2,952
Dangerous driving	455	0	1,250	0	1,705
Drink or drug driving	0	0	2,756	0	2,756
Driving licence	0	0	3,603	0	3,603
Driving whilst disqualified	0	0	1,050	0	1,050
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	0	0	2,214	0	2,214
Fraudulent use / declaration	0	2	258	0	260
Insurance	693	0	6,212	0	6,905
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	148	0	1,716	0	1,864
Miscellaneous	12	60	865	0	937
Mobile phone	1,825	0	615	0	2,440
Non driver	0	44	503	0	547
Parking	31	1,379	11	0	1,421
Seatbelt	483	126	239	0	848
Speeding	4,901	5	896	919	6,721
Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering	0	0	1,060	0	1,060
Vehicle test certificate	0	491	250	0	741
Total	9,783	5,517	26,230	919	42,449

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, or causing or permitting a person to drive a motor vehicle whilst uninsured, 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 almost one quarter of all disposal types used in 2021. There has been a 22% decrease in the number of endorsable FPNs issued when compared with 2020, driven by significant reductions in the speeding and mobile phone offence groups. The number of endorsable FPNs issued in 2021 was the lowest total recorded since 2002.

Persons aged 30-49 represented 43% of those issued with an endorsable FPN, followed by persons aged 18-29 (34%). Females accounted for almost one quarter of all issued endorsable FPNs. Three fifths of all endorsable FPNs issued to females were for speeding offences.

Table 11: Number of endorsable FPNs issued by offence group, age and gender, 2021

Offence group	Male	Female	Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 69	70+	Total
Careless driving	975	260	10	391	511	285	38	1,235
Dangerous driving	403	52	8	262	130	47	8	455
Insurance	501	192	0	264	316	107	6	693
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	127	21	21	91	29	5	2	148
Miscellaneous	11	1	0	5	5	1	1	12
Mobile phone	1,483	342	3	404	914	456	48	1,825
Non driver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parking	27	4	1	11	9	9	1	31
Seatbelt	397	86	1	104	218	133	27	483
Speeding	3,488	1,413	26	1,809	2,029	956	81	4,901
Total	7,412	2,371	70	3,341	4,161	1,999	212	9,783

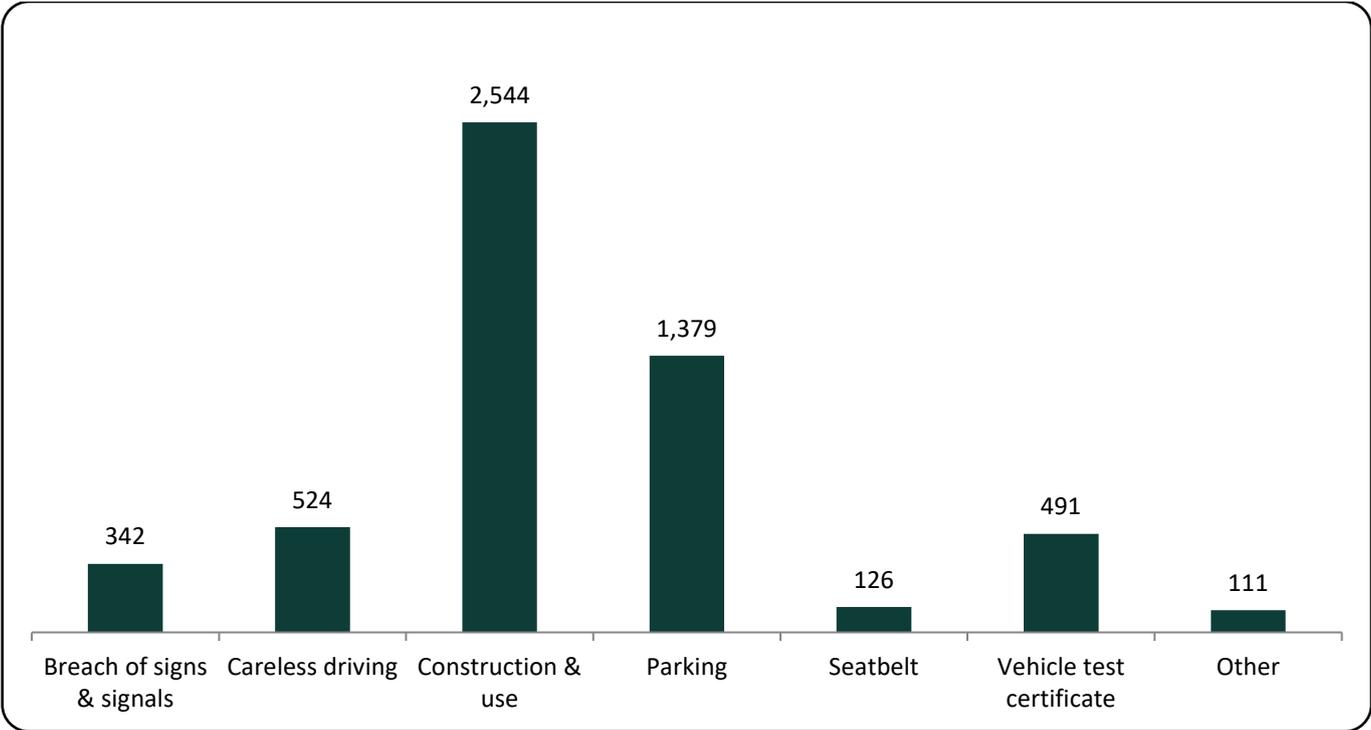
Non Endorsable fixed penalty notices

There were 5,517 non endorsable FPNs issued in 2021, an increase of 11% on the number issued in 2020. This increase can largely be attributed to an increase in the number of non-endorsable FPNs issued for the two main offence types in this category - parking and construction and use offences.

Overall, construction and use offences accounted for almost half (46%) of all non endorsable FPNs issued, while a further one quarter were issued for parking offences.

Non endorsable FPNs accounted for 13% of all motoring offences in 2021.

Figure 18: Number of non endorsable FPNs issued by offence group, 2021



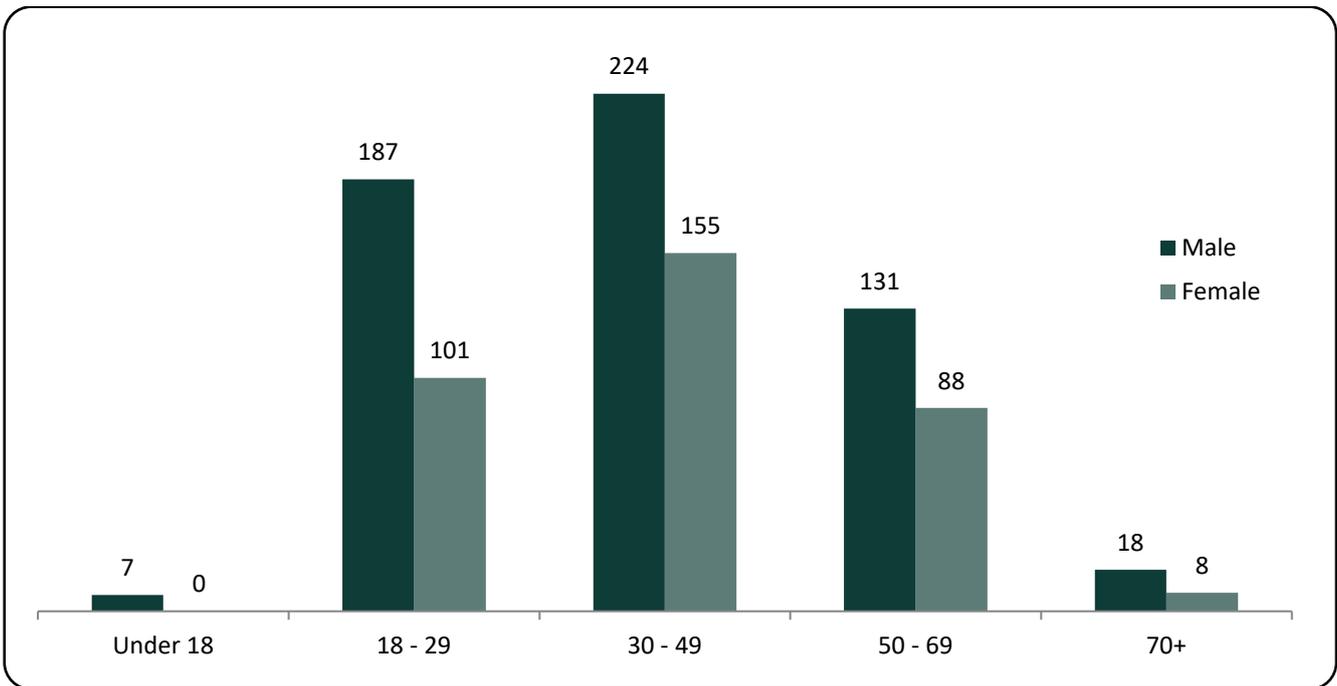
Other includes offence groups 'Fraudulent use / declaration', 'Miscellaneous', 'Non driver' and 'Speeding'.

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 2021 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, 2021



Based on date of detection as opposed to the date the 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 62% of all motoring offences in 2021, with insurance offences making up almost one quarter (24%) of all offences referred.

Where gender and age is known, males accounted for over four fifths (84%) of all persons referred for prosecution for motoring offences while persons aged 30-49 accounted for 45%.

Table 12: Number of offences referred for prosecution by offence group and age, 2021

Offence group	Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 49	50 - 69	70+	Unknown	Total
Breach of signs & signals	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Careless driving	62	840	885	414	119	2	2,322
Construction & use	18	235	127	25	3	0	408
Dangerous driving	40	611	453	129	17	0	1,250
Drink or drug driving	20	832	1,391	466	46	1	2,756
Driving licence	131	1,366	1,697	353	55	1	3,603
Driving whilst disqualified	100	309	555	80	6	0	1,050
Failing to stop / remain / report collision	67	784	954	349	57	3	2,214
Fraudulent use / declaration	0	67	147	39	5	0	258
Insurance	245	2,505	2,912	490	59	1	6,212
Learner & Restricted (L&R) driver	118	786	657	145	10	0	1,716
Miscellaneous	68	383	309	98	3	4	865
Mobile phone	6	159	357	87	6	0	615
Non driver	8	204	207	75	9	0	503
Parking	0	1	7	3	0	0	11
Seatbelt	0	91	101	42	5	0	239
Speeding	19	448	347	75	7	0	896
Vehicle taking and driving away / tampering	129	442	442	43	3	1	1,060
Vehicle test certificate	11	72	126	37	4	0	250
Total	1,042	10,135	11,676	2,950	414	13	26,230

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 2019 onwards are the only figures which have been subject to revision since the previous annual publication.

Figure under revision	2020 publication	2021 publication	Change - Number	Change - %
Referred for Prosecution - 2019	29,989	30,178	189	0.6
Referred for Prosecution - 2020	28,399	30,368	1,969	6.9