

Safeguarding Adults

Annual Report, England 2015-16 Experimental Statistics

Published 05 October 2016

This report contains information on the use of Safeguarding Adults under the Care Act 2014 during the reporting period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

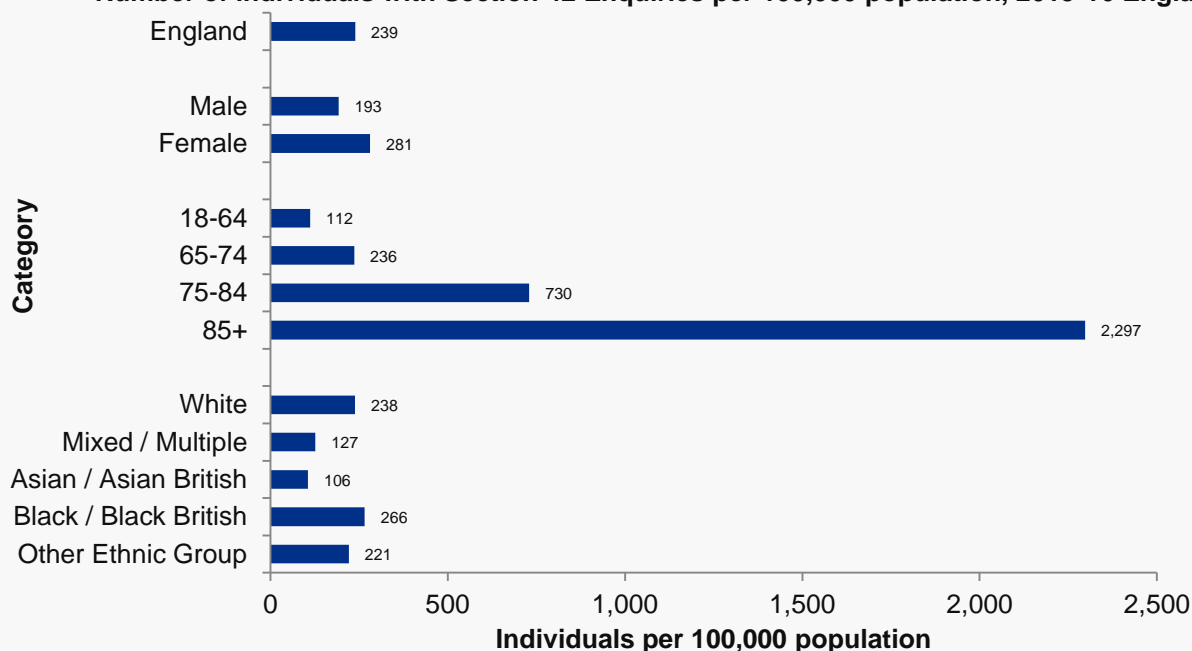
This is the first reporting year since safeguarding adults became a statutory duty for councils on 1 April 2015. Some of the terminology and definitions used in this report, therefore, have changed from previous publications to meet current practices. Care should be taken when making comparisons to previous years due to these changes.

Key findings

- For the 2015-16 reporting year there were 102,970 individuals with enquiries under Section 42 of the Care Act. Of these enquiries, 60 per cent were for females (61,985 enquiries) and 63 per cent of individuals at risk were aged 65 or over (65,085 enquiries).
- For Section 42 enquiries which concluded during the reporting year, there were 124,940 risks¹ recorded by type of risk. Of these, the most common type was neglect and acts of omission, which accounted for 34 per cent of risks, followed by physical abuse with 26 per cent.
- There were 110,095 risks recorded by location of risk in concluded Section 42 enquiries. The location of risk was most frequently the home of the adult at risk (43 per cent of enquiries) or in a care home (36 per cent).

¹ One enquiry can include multiple risks if more than one type, location or source of risk is involved

Number of individuals with Section 42 Enquiries per 100,000 population, 2015-16 England



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This report may be of interest to members of the public, policy officials and other stakeholders to make local and national comparisons and to monitor the quality and effectiveness of services.

Introduction

This report provides the key findings from the Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) data collection for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. It presents information about adults at risk for whom safeguarding concerns or enquiries were opened during the reporting period. It also contains case details for safeguarding enquiries which concluded during the reporting period. A safeguarding concern is where a council is notified about a risk of abuse, which instigates an investigation (enquiry) under the local safeguarding procedures.

The SAC data collection only includes cases of suspected abuse where a council safeguarding service has been notified and has entered details onto their system. It does not include cases where partner agencies have dealt with the allegation and not shared the information with the council. Therefore there may be cases of abuse that have not been reported to councils.

The Care Act 2014² came into effect on 1 April 2015. It reformed the way the adult social care system works in England including how care is delivered. The changes included a range of new obligations for local authorities around the provision of information and advice, the integration of care and support with health-related services and eligibility assessments. It also strengthened the rights and recognition of carers in the social care system, and (relevant for this collection) provided a legal basis for safeguarding adults from abuse or neglect.

For the first time, Safeguarding Adults is now a statutory duty. Under Section 42 of the Act, where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there)

(a) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs) and

(b) is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and

(c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it

then the local authority must make (or cause to be made) whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to enable it to decide whether any action should be taken in the adult's case and, if so, what and by whom.

Some of the terminology and definitions used in this report, therefore, have changed from previous publications to meet current practices. A glossary of terms and definitions is available in Appendix B. Where possible, we have presented time series to provide context for the figures, but some caution must be exercised in comparing data over time, as is noted in the relevant sections. The time series is limited to the two previous reporting years (2013-14 and 2014-15) as these are the only reports available since the Safeguarding Adults Return/Collection was established following a "zero-based review" of adult social care data collections in 2012 to replace the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults return (AVA).

The data tables published as annexes to this report present further analyses and breakdowns of the data, including breakdowns by council.

The data used to generate this report were collated by NHS Digital (formally known as the Health and Social Care Information Centre or HSCIC) from a mandatory data collection of all councils. The guidance notes specifying which activity should be included, and where, are available on the NHS Digital Social Care collections web page³. Submissions were received from all 152 councils, but any caveats or issues affecting the quality of the data (such as accuracy of the records submitted, or completeness of a council's data) are noted in [Appendix A – Data Quality](#), and in the footnotes to the relevant data tables.

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted/data.htm>

³ <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/socialcarecollections2016>

To prevent disclosure, all presented counts have been rounded to the nearest five. The England totals shown in the data files accompanying this report is calculated from the raw data then rounded to the nearest five. As a result of this the total for England will not be the sum of the rounded numbers for the councils. Any percentages and rates are calculated from the original data but presented to the nearest whole number. Councils that supplied data for fewer than 10 individuals were merged with neighbours; in this report Isles of Scilly was merged with Cornwall.

All data are as at 31 March 2016.

Chapters 1 to 4 of this report discuss the mandatory data returns for enquiries made under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 (referred to in the report as Section 42 enquiries) and, where appropriate for 2013-14 and 2014-15 reporting years, equivalent data is provided to give a contextual comparison. Chapter 5 discusses the “other” enquiries (non-Section 42 enquiries) along with the other voluntary data items and Chapter 6 gives further background information about Safeguarding Adults.

Data for all tables can be found in the data file in Annex C in the Resources section of the publication web page, along with a comparator dashboard (Annex E) allowing councils to benchmark their submission against a “nearest neighbour” selection of other councils.

Definitions

Pre Care Act 2014

For the purpose of the return, a **safeguarding referral** is where a concern is raised about a risk of abuse and this instigates an investigation under the safeguarding process. Cases which do not meet a council’s safeguarding threshold should not be regarded as a referral in this return even if the council/system does class these cases as “referrals”.

For the purpose of the return, a **concluded safeguarding referral** is when the safeguarding investigation is complete and the conclusions and actions have been decided. Only referrals that concluded within this reporting year should be recorded. This can include cases that began in a previous reporting period.

Post Care Act 2014

A **safeguarding concern** is a sign of suspected abuse or neglect that is reported to the council or identified by the council.

The collection captures information about concerns that were raised during the reporting year, that is, the date the concern was raised with the council falls within the reporting year, regardless of the date the incident took place.

Safeguarding concerns can include cases of domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and self-neglect.

A **safeguarding enquiry** is the action taken or instigated by the local authority in response to a concern that abuse or neglect may be taking place. An enquiry could range from a conversation with the adult to a more formal multi-agency response.

Safeguarding enquiries can include cases of domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and self-neglect.

A **concluded safeguarding enquiry** is when all of the necessary information gathering is complete and all of the necessary actions have been agreed.

Chapter 1: Individuals with Safeguarding Section 42 Enquiries

A safeguarding *concern* is where a council is notified about a risk of abuse, which instigates an investigation under the local safeguarding procedures. The initial investigation may then develop into a formal investigation, known as an *enquiry*. Enquiries categorised as opened during the reporting year may not necessarily have concluded during the reporting year.

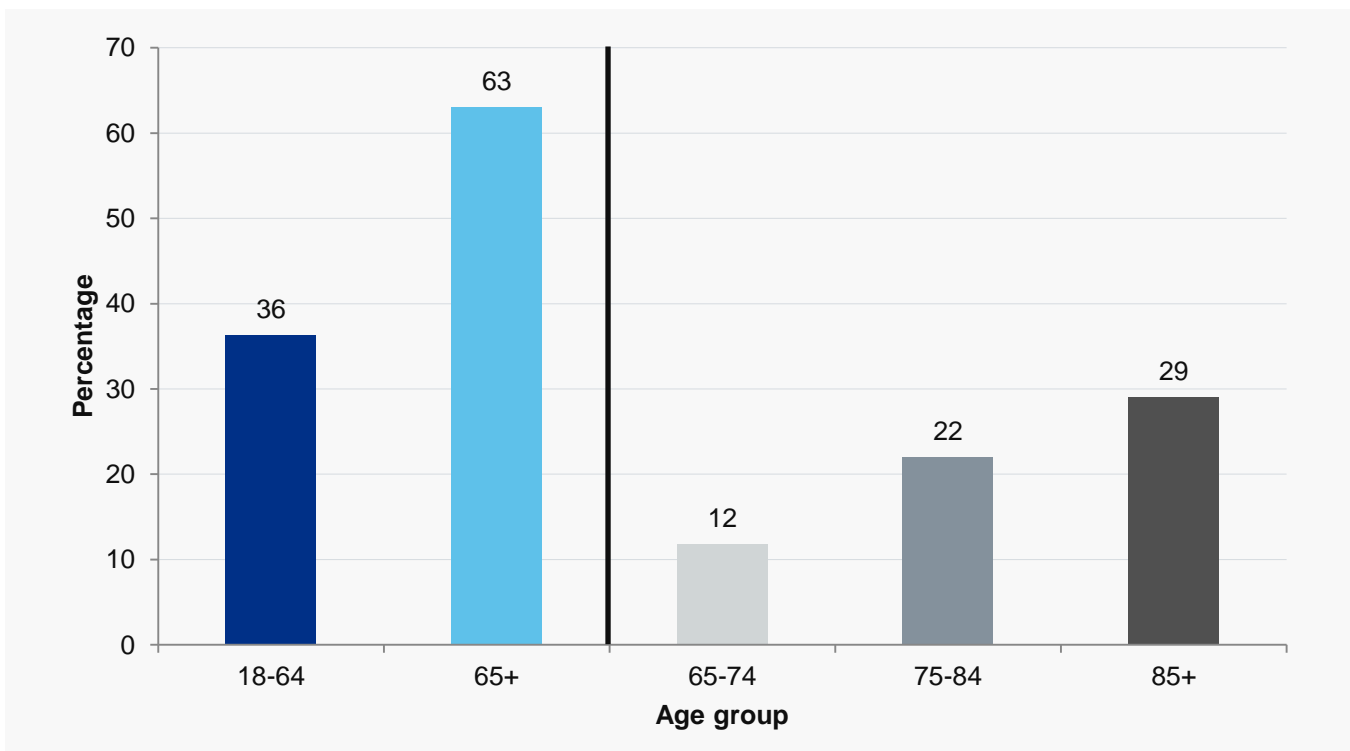
Time series tables and charts have been presented to provide context for the figures, but some caution must be exercised in comparing data over time due to the changes introduced to the collection by the Care Act 2014. The time series is limited to the two previous reporting years (2013-14 and 2014-15) as these are the only reports available since the Safeguarding Adults Return/Collection was established following a “zero-based review” of adult social care data collections in 2012 to replace the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults return (AVA).

Demographics of Individuals with Section 42 Enquiries

For the 2015-16 reporting year 102,970 enquiries were opened under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014.

Figure 1.1 shows the percentage of the individuals with a Section 42 enquiry who fall into each age group. It can be seen that the majority of Section 42 enquires are undertaken for adults aged 65 and over (63 per cent) compared to those aged below 65. Of those aged 65 and over, the largest group (29,760 individuals with Section 42 enquiries) were aged 85 and over.

Figure 1.1: Percentage distribution of individuals with Section 42 Enquiries by age of adult, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG1a

i. Based on information provided by 152 councils

ii. Based on 102,970 individuals with Section 42 enquiries

iii. Individuals Involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is partial for 2 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)

iv. Individuals Involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is overstated for 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A4)

v. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

vi. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding

Table 1.1 shows the percentage distribution of individuals with enquiries broken down by gender with comparisons between 2013-14 and 2014-15 for referrals along with Section 42 enquiries in 2015-16. Females accounted for 60 per cent of individuals across all three collections whilst males accounted for about 40 per cent each year.

Table 1.1: Distribution of individuals with referrals/Section 42 Enquiries by gender, 2013-16 England

	Male		Female	
	Referrals / Enquiries	Percentage	Referrals / Enquiries	Percentage
Individuals with Referrals 2013-14	42,055	40	61,990	60
Individuals with Referrals 2014-15	40,785	39	62,660	60
Individuals with S42 Enquiries 2015-16	40,530	40	61,985	60

Data Source: SAC Table SG1b

i. Based on information provided by 152 councils

ii. Based on 104,050 individuals with referrals in 2013-14, 103,445 in 2014-15 (excludes 455 individuals with an unknown gender) and 102,515 individuals with Section 42 enquiries in 2015-16 (excludes 455 individuals with an unknown gender)

iii. Category Age Unknown was not recorded for 2013-14

iv. For 2015-16 - Individuals Involved In Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is partial for 2 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)

v. For 2015-16 - Individuals Involved In Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is overstated for 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A4)

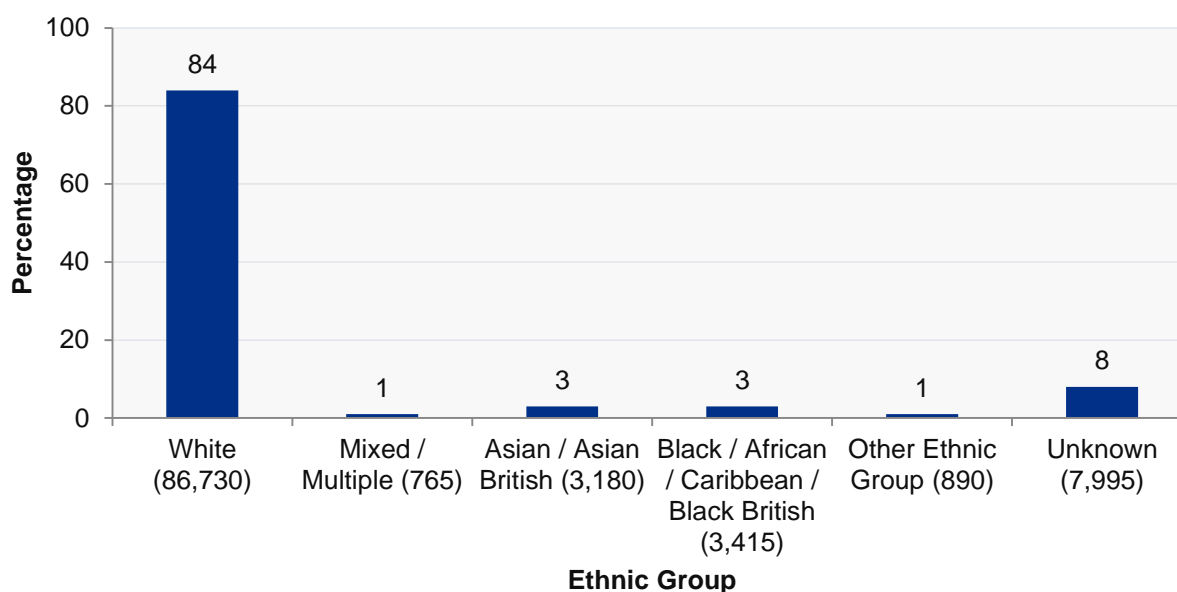
vi. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

vii. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding

viii. 2013-14 and 2014-15 figures are for referrals, 2015-16 figures are for Section 42 Enquiries

Figure 1.2 shows the percentage distribution of individuals with section 42 enquiries broken down by ethnicity.

Figure 1.2: Percentage distribution of individuals with Section 42 Enquiries by ethnic group, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG1c

i. Based on information provided by 152 councils

ii. Based on 102,970 individuals with Section 42 enquiries

iii. Individuals Involved In Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is partial for 2 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)

iv. Individuals Involved In Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is overstated for 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A4)

v. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

vi. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding

The above charts show how many individuals with Section 42 enquiries there were for different demographic categories in 2015-16. In order to show the data in relation to the demographic breakdown of the general population **Figures 1.3a and 1.3b** show the number of individuals with Section 42 enquiries per 100,000 population, broken down by Gender, Age and Ethnic Group. These numbers can be compared to other rates within the chart to assess which demographic groups are more or less likely to have a Section 42 enquiry made about them.

Overall in England for 2015-16, there were 239 individuals per 100,000 population with Section 42 enquiries. Females have a higher Section 42 enquiry rate than males, with 281 and 193 individuals per 100,000 population respectively. The rate of Section 42 enquiries increased with age, with individuals in the 18 to 64 and 65 to 74 age bands being less likely to have a Section 42 enquiry than the England average. Adults aged 75 to 84 were more than three times more likely to have a Section 42 enquiry than the England average, with 730 individuals per 100,000 adults. The 85 and over age group had almost ten times more individuals with Section 42 enquiries than the England rate, with 2,297 per 100,000 adults.

Whilst the individuals of White ethnicity made up 84 per cent of the individuals with Section 42 enquiries, the Black/Black British ethnic group has the highest rate of Section 42 Enquiries per 100,000 population (266). The White ethnic group has the second highest (238 Section 42 enquiries per 100,000 population).

Figure 1.3a: Individuals with referrals per 100,000 adults, 2013-14 and 2014-15 England

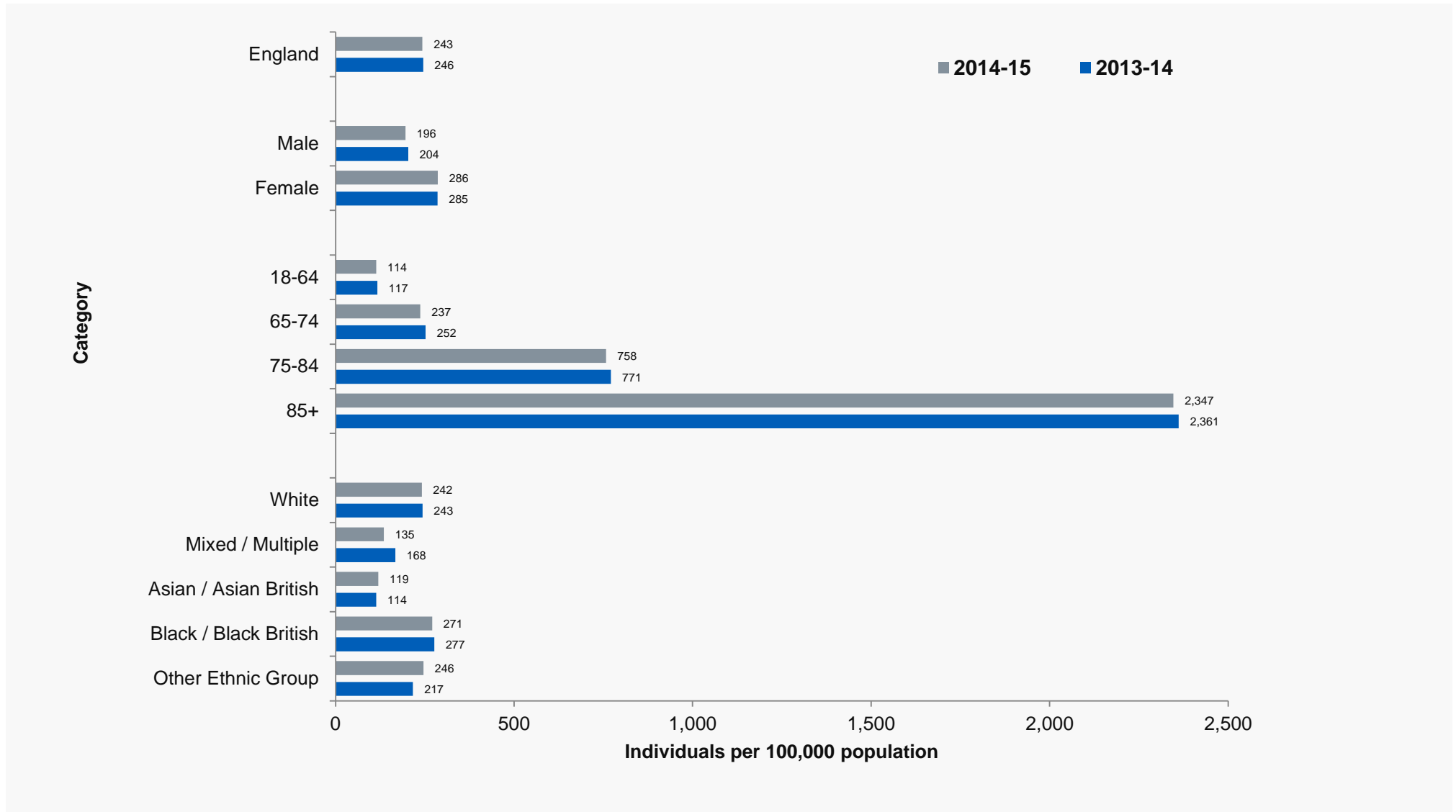
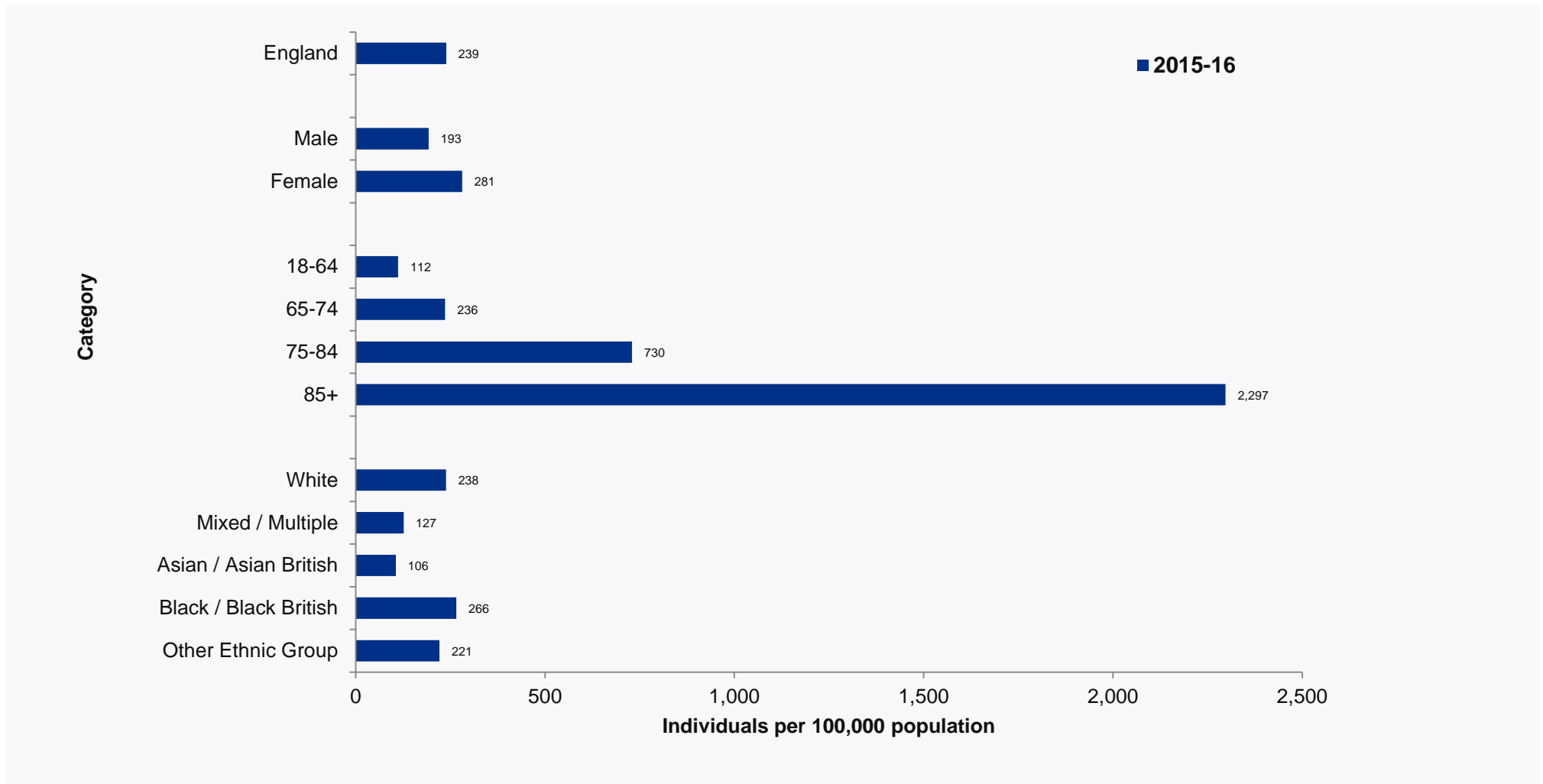


Figure 1.3b: Individuals with Section 42 Enquiries per 100,000 adults, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG1a, SG1b, SG1c and Office for National Statistics (ONS)

i. SAC data based on 104,050 individuals with referrals in 2013-14, 103,900 referrals in 2014-15 and 102,970 Section 42 Enquiries in 2015-16 provided by 152 councils

ii. England, age and gender population data based on ONS mid-year population estimates for 2015

iii. Ethnicity population data is based on the ONS 2011 census, the latest data available (sourced from https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/DC2101EW/view/2092957699?rows=c_ethpuk11&cols=c_age)

iv. For 2015-16 - Individuals Involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is partial for 2 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)

v. For 2015-16 - Individuals Involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is overstated for 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A4)

vi. All SAC and population data is based on adults aged 18 and over

vii. Numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number

viii. 2013-14 and 2014-15 figures are for referrals, 2015-16 figures are for Section 42 Enquiries

Enquiries by Region

Table 1.2 looks at the number of individuals with referrals within each region of England during 2013-14 and 2014-15 and the number of individuals with Section 42 enquiries during 2015-16.

Table 1.2: Individuals with referrals/Section 42 Enquiries by region, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 England

Region	2013-14			2014-15			2015-16		
	Individuals with Referrals	Percentage	Total Per 100,000 Population	Individuals with Referrals	Percentage	Total Per 100,000 Population	Individuals with Section 42 Enquiries	Percentage	Total Per 100,000 Population
East Midlands	7,320	7	201	8,160	8	222	8,575	8	231
East of England	11,360	11	243	11,035	11	233	13,610	13	285
London	15,805	15	242	17,240	17	260	13,665	13	203
North East ^{viii}	5,050	5	242	4,375	4	209	9,975	10	475
North West	17,125	16	306	16,980	16	302	15,225	15	269
South East	15,050	14	218	14,350	14	206	16,670	16	237
South West	9,800	9	228	10,135	10	233	9,425	9	215
West Midlands	13,890	13	314	14,380	14	323	9,475	9	211
Yorkshire & the Humber	8,650	8	206	7,245	7	172	6,355	6	150
England	104,050		246	103,900		243	102,970		239

Data Source: SAC Table SG1a and 2013, 2014 and 2015 Mid-Year Population Estimates from the Office for National Statistics

i. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding

ii. SAC data based on 104,050 Individuals with referrals in 2013-14, 103,900 in 2014-15 and 102,970 Section 42 enquiries in 2015-16 provided by 152 councils

iii. For 2015-16 - Individuals Involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is partial for 2 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)

iv. For 2015-16 - Individuals Involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is overstated for 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A4)

v. Individuals with enquiries and 18+ population are rounded to the nearest 5

vi. Percentages and total per 100,000 population are rounded to the nearest whole number

vii. 2013-14 and 2014-15 figures are for referrals, 2015-16 figures are for Section 42 Enquiries

viii. A number of councils within the North East region reported that methods of reporting had changed, due to application of the Care Act. See Appendix A: Data Quality, Reliability section

The table shows that for 2015-16 Section 42 safeguarding enquiries were most prevalent in the North East region, where there were 475 individuals with enquiries per 100,000 population. A number of councils within the North East region reported that methods of reporting had changed, due to application of the Care Act. See Appendix A: Data Quality, Reliability section. The other regions had broadly similar rates to each other, varying from 203 enquiries in London to 285 in the East of England. This information is also displayed in chart form in **Figure 1.4a** for 2013-16 and 2014-15 and **1.4b** for 2015-16.

Figure 1.4a: Individuals with referrals per 100,000 adults by region, 2013-14 and 2014-15 England

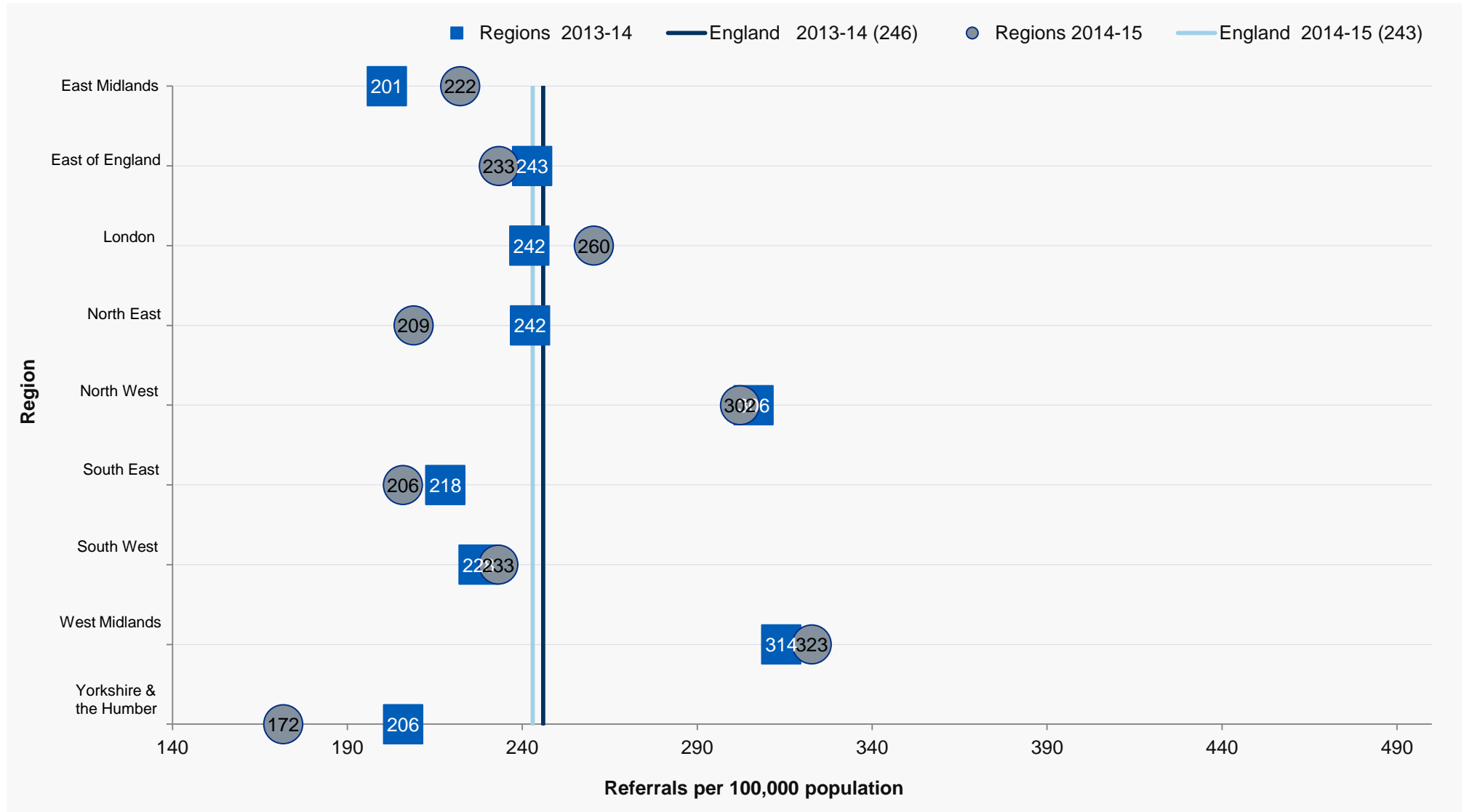
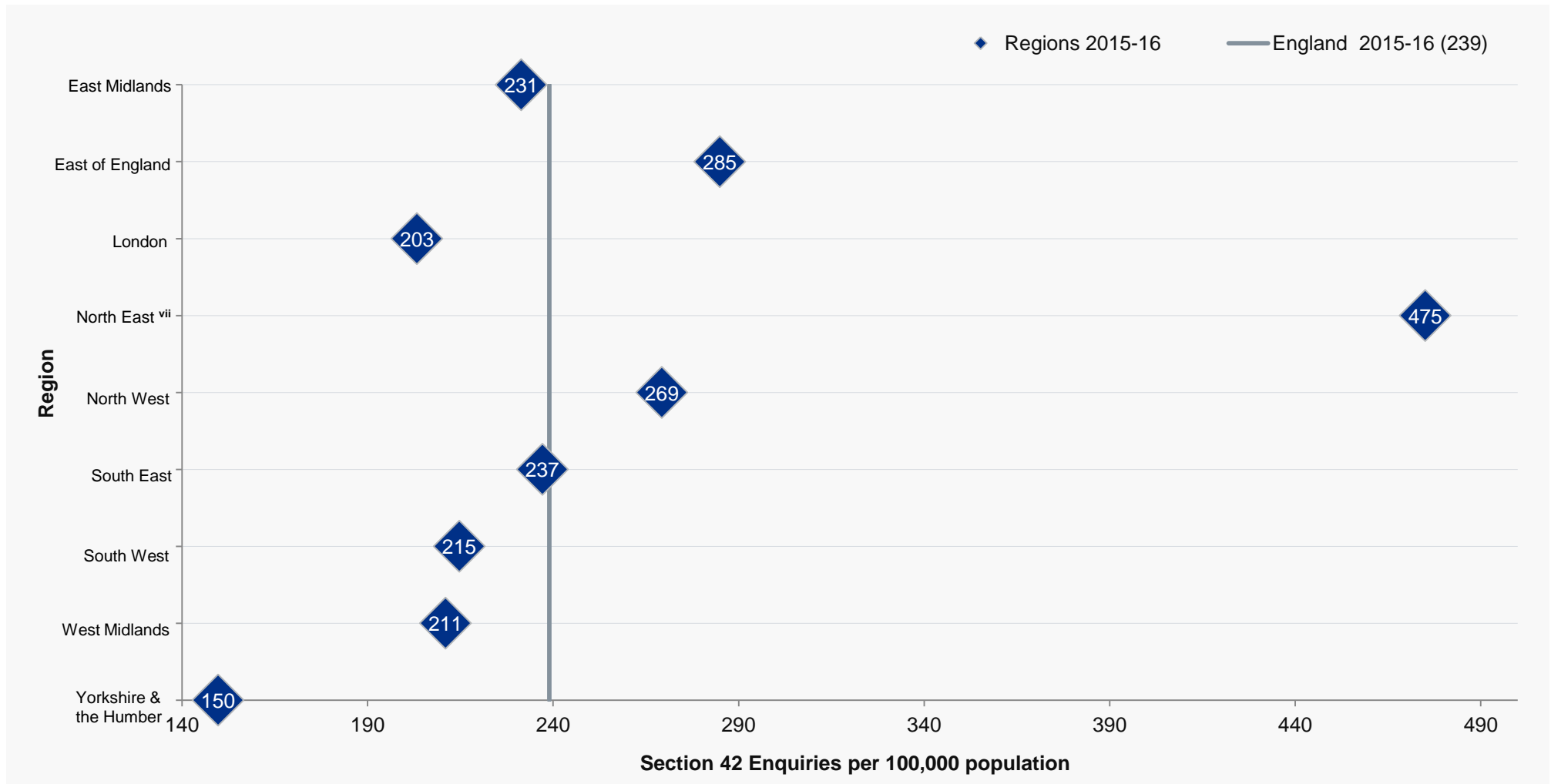


Figure 1.4b: Individuals with Section 42 Enquiries per 100,000 adults by region, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG1a and 2013, 2014 and 2015 Mid-Year Population Estimates from the Office for National Statistics

i. SAC data based on 104,050 Individuals with referrals for 2013-14, 103,900 for 2014-15 and 102,970 Section 42 Enquiries for 2015-16 provided by 152 councils

ii. For 2015-16 - Individuals Involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is partial for 2 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)

iii. For 2015-16 - Individuals Involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is overstated for 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A4)

iv. Numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number

v. Enquiries per 100,000 adults are rounded to the nearest whole number

vi. 2013-14 and 2014-15 figures are for referrals, 2015-16 figures are for Section 42 Enquiries

vii. A number of councils within the North East region reported that methods of reporting had changed, due to application of the Care Act. See Appendix A: Data Quality, Reliability section

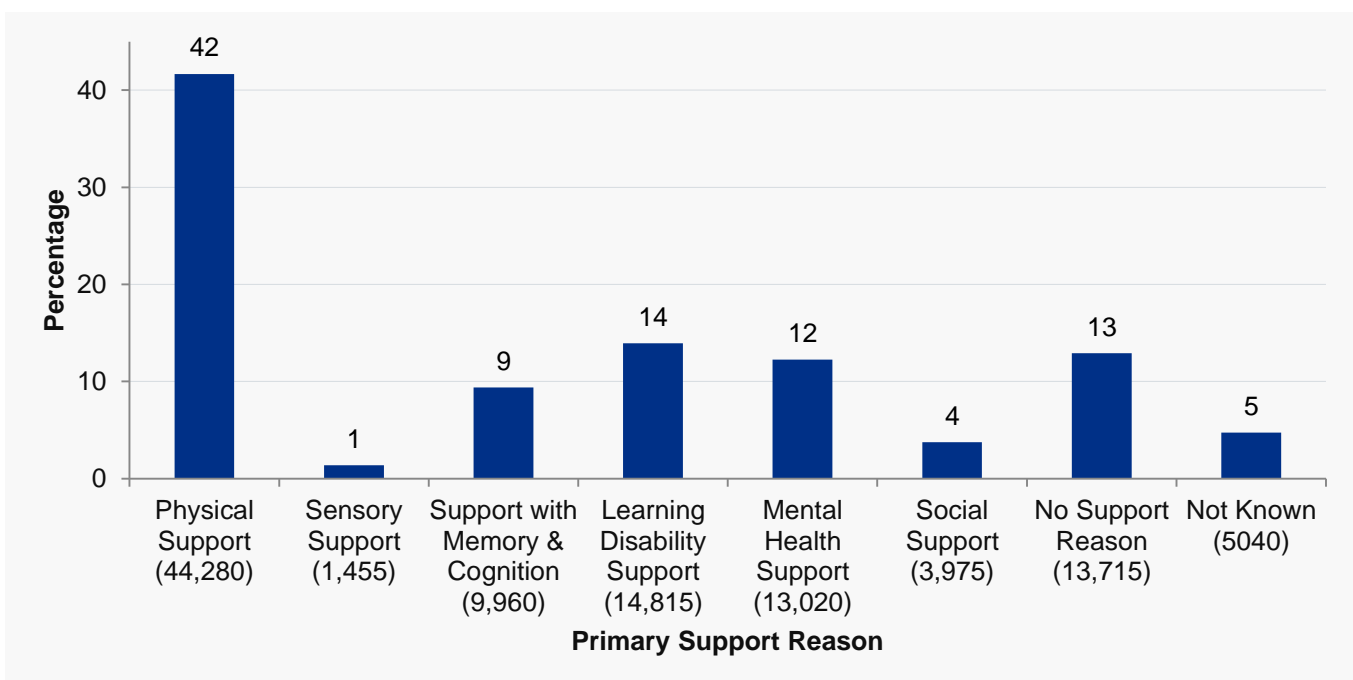
Enquiries by Support Reasons

The Primary Support Reason (PSR) classification, introduced in 2014-15, focusses on the main reason that a person requires social care services at any particular time. This provides a better description of the circumstances impacting on the individual's quality of life and creating a need for support and assistive care than the Primary Client Group used in previous reports. It may or may not be related to any underlying health conditions⁴.

Figure 1.5 shows the breakdown of individuals with S42 enquiries by Primary Support Reason.

The majority of Section 42 enquiries regarded individuals with a Primary Support Reason of Physical Support (42 per cent). Sensory Support was the least common primary support reason, accounting for only 1 per cent of individuals with a Section 42 enquiry.

Figure 1.5: Percentage distribution of Individuals with Section 42 Enquiries by primary support reason, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG1d

- Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding
- SAC data based on 106,265 Individuals with Section 42 Enquiries provided by 152 councils
- Individuals Involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is partial for 2 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)
- Individuals Involved in Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiries is overstated for 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A4)
- Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

Table SG1e collected data about Reported Health Condition (RHC). These relate to an illness, disability or condition affecting the client that is a factor in the client's need for support and may contribute to their Primary Support Reason (though it doesn't necessarily have to). Not all individuals involved in safeguarding have an identified reported health condition.

Completion of this data was voluntary for all conditions apart from Autism (excluding Asperger's Syndrome / High Functioning Autism) and Asperger's Syndrome / High Functioning Autism. These showed 1,760 and 500 individuals respectively with a Section 42 enquiry reported with these health conditions.

⁴ For more information on PSR, and its use across social care data, please see http://content.digital.nhs.uk/media/15062/EQ-CL-Framework/pdf/EQ-CL_2015-16_Framework_v1.2.pdf

Data for the other, voluntary RHCs for individuals with Section 42 enquiries is available in the data file in Annex C in the Resources section of the publication web page. However, this data should be treated with caution as it is not a complete dataset from all councils for all enquiries (152 councils submitted data for the mandatory items with a range between 50 and 102 councils submitting data for the various voluntary data items in the table).

Chapter 2: Case Details for Concluded Enquiries

Prior to 2013-14 Safeguarding data was published in the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults (AVA) report. The statistics in this chapter cannot be directly compared to those in the AVA report because the tables record enquiries with more than one risk in different ways. For example, a single enquiry could include claims of physical abuse by a social care worker and by someone unknown to the individual. This would generate a count of two risks in the SAC data but only one referral in the AVA data.

This chapter discusses the case details for Section 42 enquiries which concluded in the 2015-16 reporting year. In this report, an enquiry is categorised as concluded when the safeguarding investigation is complete and the conclusions and actions have been decided. The concluded enquiries discussed here concluded at some point during the reporting year but may have been opened in previous years. Therefore, concluded enquiries are not a subset of the opened enquiries discussed in **Chapter 1**.

The SAC SG2 tables record details about the risks found during safeguarding enquiries, including the type, location and source of risk. One enquiry can include multiple records in the data tables if more than one type, location or source of risk is involved. Each SG2 table has a different total which depends on how many different risks are reported for each enquiry.

Time series tables and charts have been presented to provide context for the figures, but some caution must be exercised in comparing data over time due to the changes introduced to the collection by the Care Act 2014.

Enquiries by Type of Risk

Figures 2.1a and 2.1b show the distribution of types of risk (i.e. the type of abuse that was recorded as having taken place). For Section 42 enquiries which concluded during the 2015-16 reporting year there were 124,940 risks recorded. The most common type of risk was Neglect and Omission, which accounted for 34 per cent of the recorded risks, followed by Physical abuse with 26 per cent. The least common abuse type was Discriminatory, accounting for one per cent of risks.

Figure 2.1a: Percentage distribution of concluded referrals by type of risk, 2013-14 and 2014-15 England

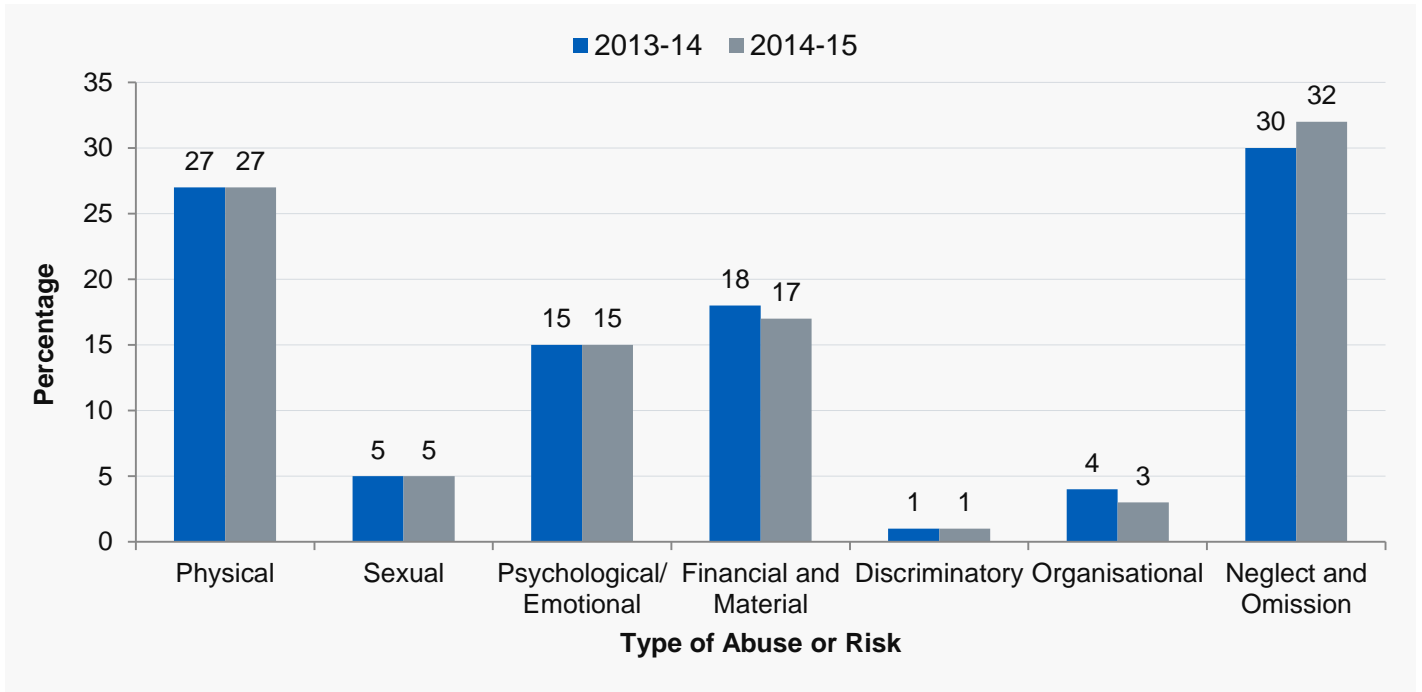
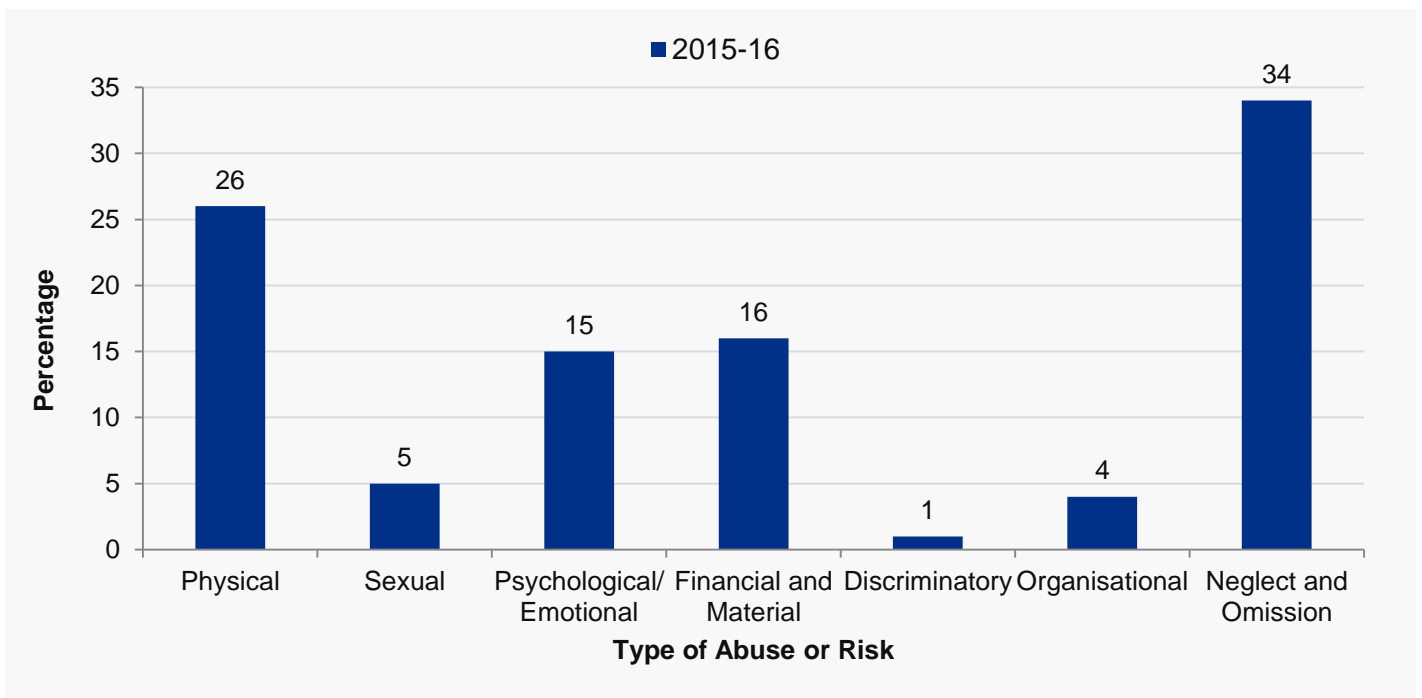


Figure 2.1b: Percentage distribution of concluded Section 42 Enquiries by type of risk, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG2a

i. Based on 122,140 risks for 2013-14, 128,060 risks for 2014-15 and 124,940 risks for 2015-16 from concluded referrals/Section 42 Enquiries provided by 152 councils

ii. For 2015-16 - Discriminatory Abuse was left blank by 2 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A6)

iii. For 2015-16 - Organisational Abuse was left blank by 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A6)

iv. For 2015-16 - 185 cases are missing for 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)

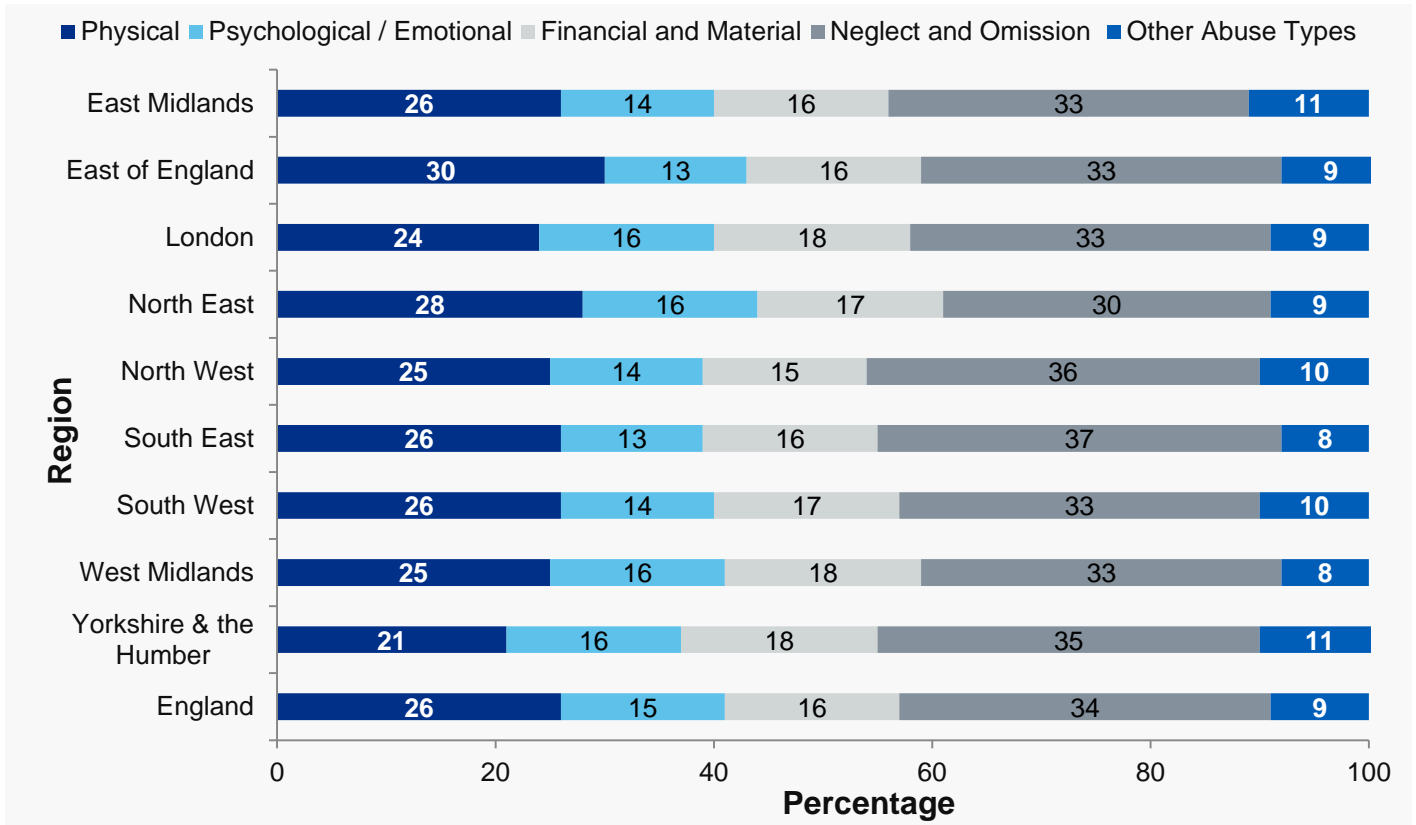
v. For 2015-16 - 235 cases had the type of risk estimated by 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)

vi. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

vii. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding

Figure 2.2 displays the distribution of types of risk by region. This shows the proportions for the different types of risk are very similar across the different regions and none vary greatly from the England breakdown. The most common type of abuse in all regions was Neglect and Omission (ranging between 30 and 37 per cent) with the South East region showing the highest proportion at 37 per cent. Excluding “Other”, the least common type of abuse in all regions was Psychological/Emotional, which ranged from 13-16 per cent of reported abuse per region.

Figure 2.2: Types of abuse by region, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG2a

- i. SAC data based on 124,940 risks from concluded Section 42 enquiries provided by 152 councils
- ii. For 2015-16 - Discriminatory Abuse was left blank by 2 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A6)
- iii. For 2015-16 - Organisational Abuse was left blank by 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A6)
- iv. For 2015-16 - 185 cases are missing for 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)
- v. For 2015-16 - 235 cases had the type of risk estimated by 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)
- vi. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding
- vii. Other Abuse types combines: Sexual Abuse, Discrimination and Organisational Abuse
- viii. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

Enquiries by Source of Risk

Figures 2.3a and 2.3b show the different types of abuse broken down by the source of risk (i.e. who was reported as committing the abuse that led to the safeguarding enquiry). In 2015-16 the majority of Organisational abuse (71 per cent, 3,450 risks) and Neglect and Omission (57 per cent, 24,220 risks) was recorded as being caused by Social Care and support workers. For the remaining abuse types 47 per cent or more of counts of source of risk were recorded as having been perpetrated by someone who was known to the individual at risk (other than a Social Care worker).

Figure 2.3a: Distribution of concluded referrals by type and source of risk, 2013-15 England

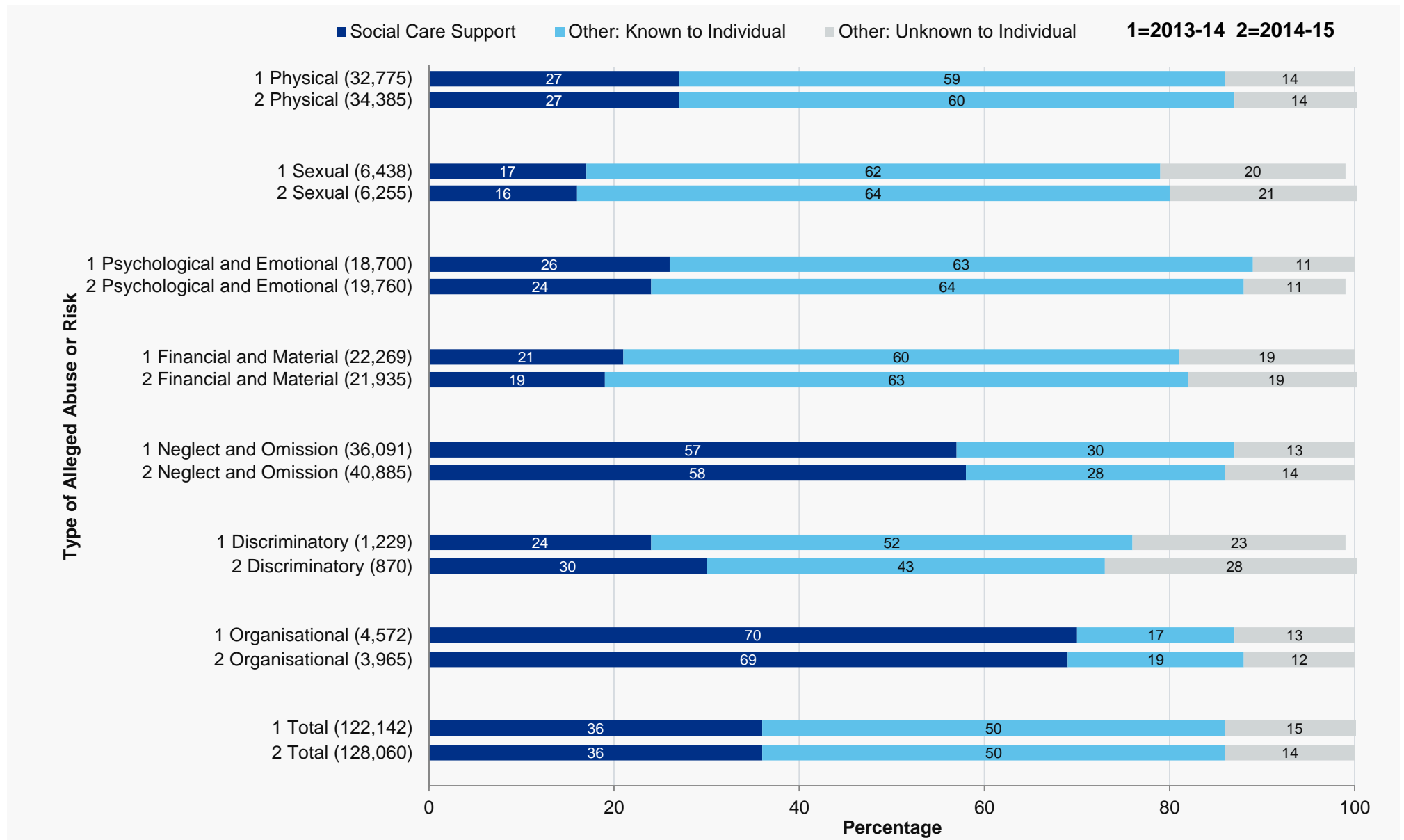
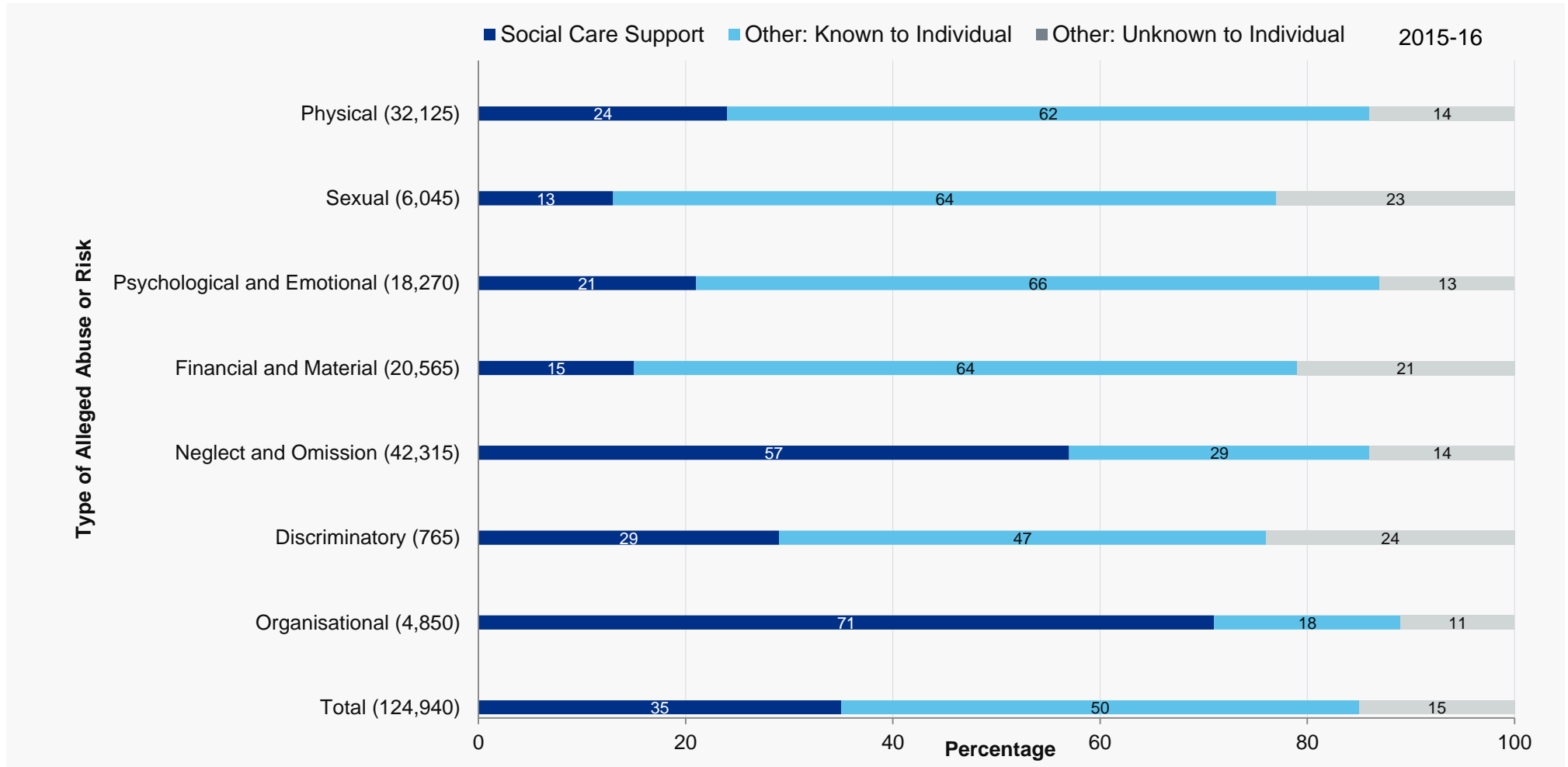


Figure 2.3b: Distribution of concluded Section 42 Enquiries by type and source of risk, 2015-16 England

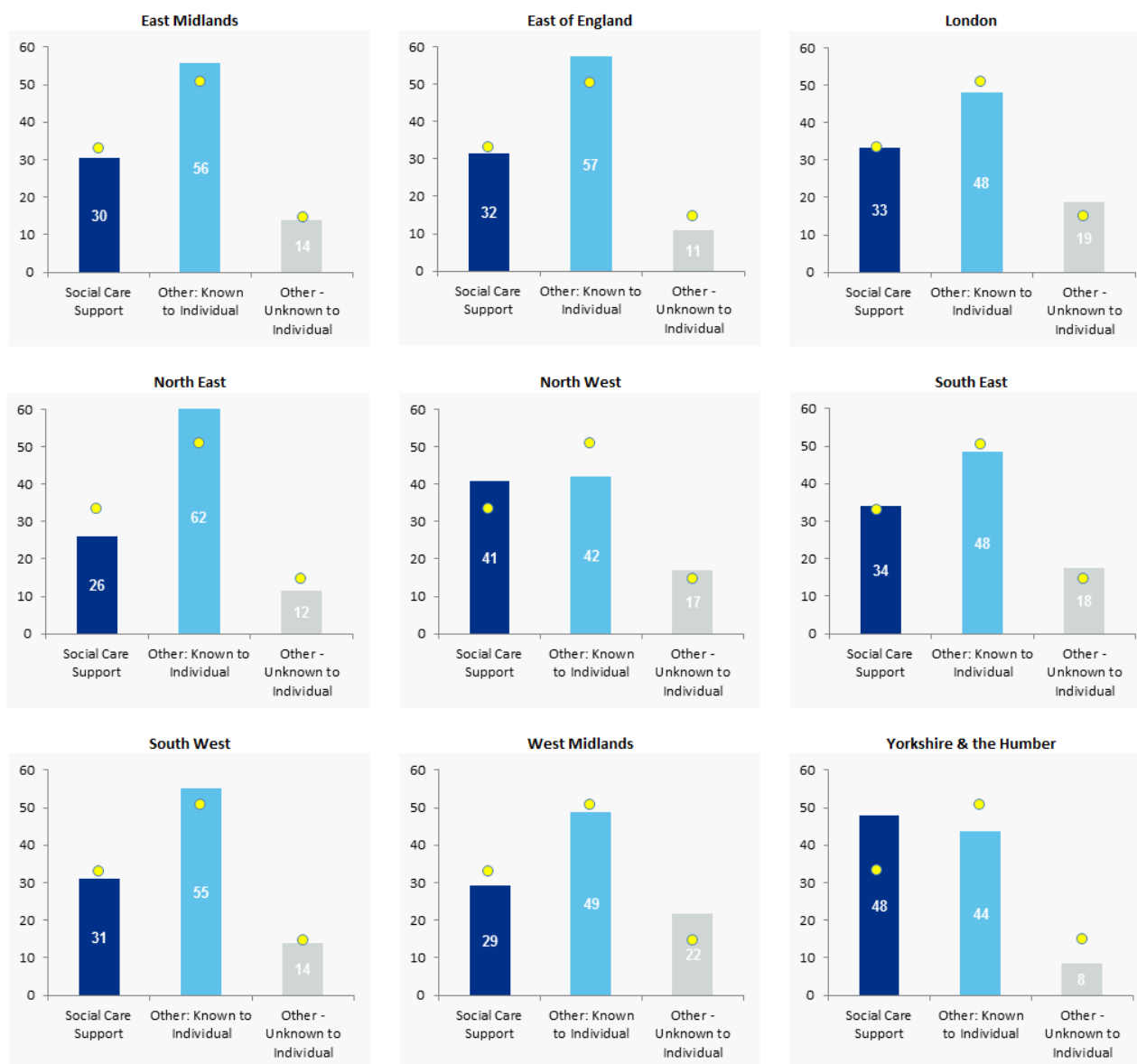


Data Source: SAC Table SG2a

- i. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding
- ii. Based on 124,940 risks from concluded Section 42 enquiries provided by 152 councils
- iii. For 2015-16 - Discriminatory Abuse was left blank by 2 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A6)
- iv. For 2015-16 - Organisational Abuse was left blank by 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A6)
- v. For 2015-16 - 185 cases are missing for 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)
- vi. For 2015-16 - 235 cases had the type of risk estimated by 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)
- vii. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

Figure 2.4 shows the percentage distribution of sources of risk by region. Yorkshire and the Humber had the highest proportion of social care support as the source of risk for enquiries at 48 per cent (varies between 26 and 48 per cent). The North East had the largest percentage of sources known to the individual at risk with 62 per cent with the North West region having the lowest at 42 per cent. The proportion of risks in the Unknown/Stranger category was highest in the West Midlands (22 per cent). West Yorkshire & the Humber region had the lowest proportion in this group at 8 per cent.

Figure 2.4: Source of risk by region, 2014-15 England



Key: ● Totals for England 2015-16 – Social Care Support 34%, Other: Known to Individual 51%, Other: Unknown to Individual 15%
 Data Source: SAC Table SG2b

- i. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding
- ii. SAC data based on 110,095 risks from concluded Section 42 Enquiries provided by 152 councils
- iii. 185 cases are missing for 1 council (South East region) (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)
- iv. 235 cases had the source of risk estimated by 1 council (Yorkshire & the Humber region) (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)
- v. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

Enquiries by the Location of Risk

Figures 2.5a and b show the percentage distribution of concluded enquiries by the location of the risk. There were 110,095 risks recorded about the location of risk in concluded Section 42 enquiries in 2015-16. The most common location of risk was the person’s own home, accounting for 43 per cent of locations, followed by care homes, which accounted for 36 per cent of the locations of risk.

Figure 2.5a: Percentage distribution of concluded referrals by location of risk, 2013-14 and 2014-15 England

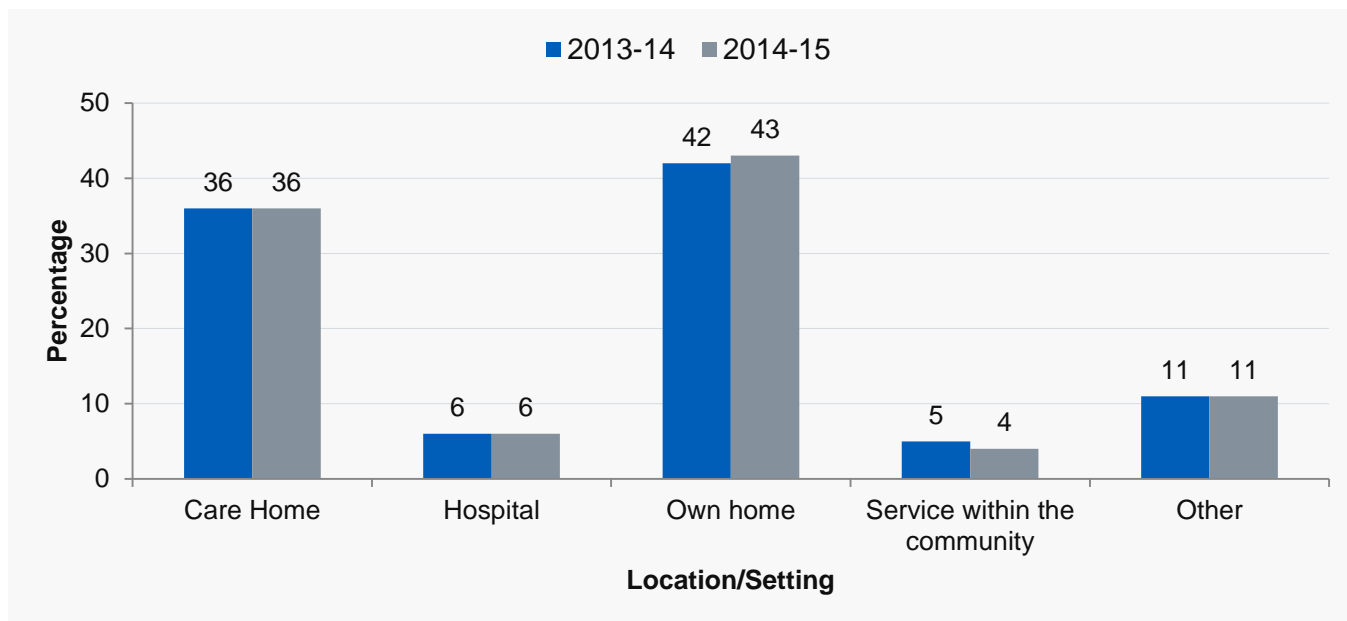
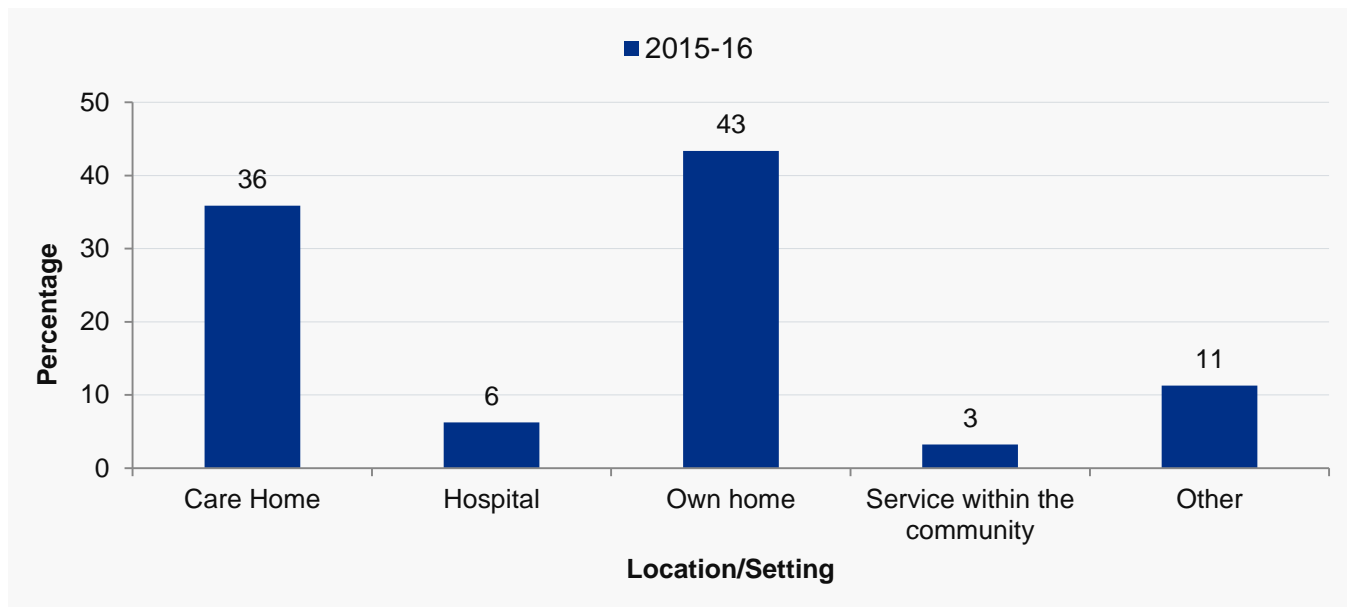


Figure 2.5b: Percentage distribution of concluded Section 42 Enquiries by location of risk, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG2b

i. Based on 99,195 risks for 2013-14, 108,240 risks for 2014-15 and 110,095 risks for 2015-16 from concluded referrals/Section 42 enquiries provided by 152 councils

ii. For 2015-16 - 185 cases are missing for 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)

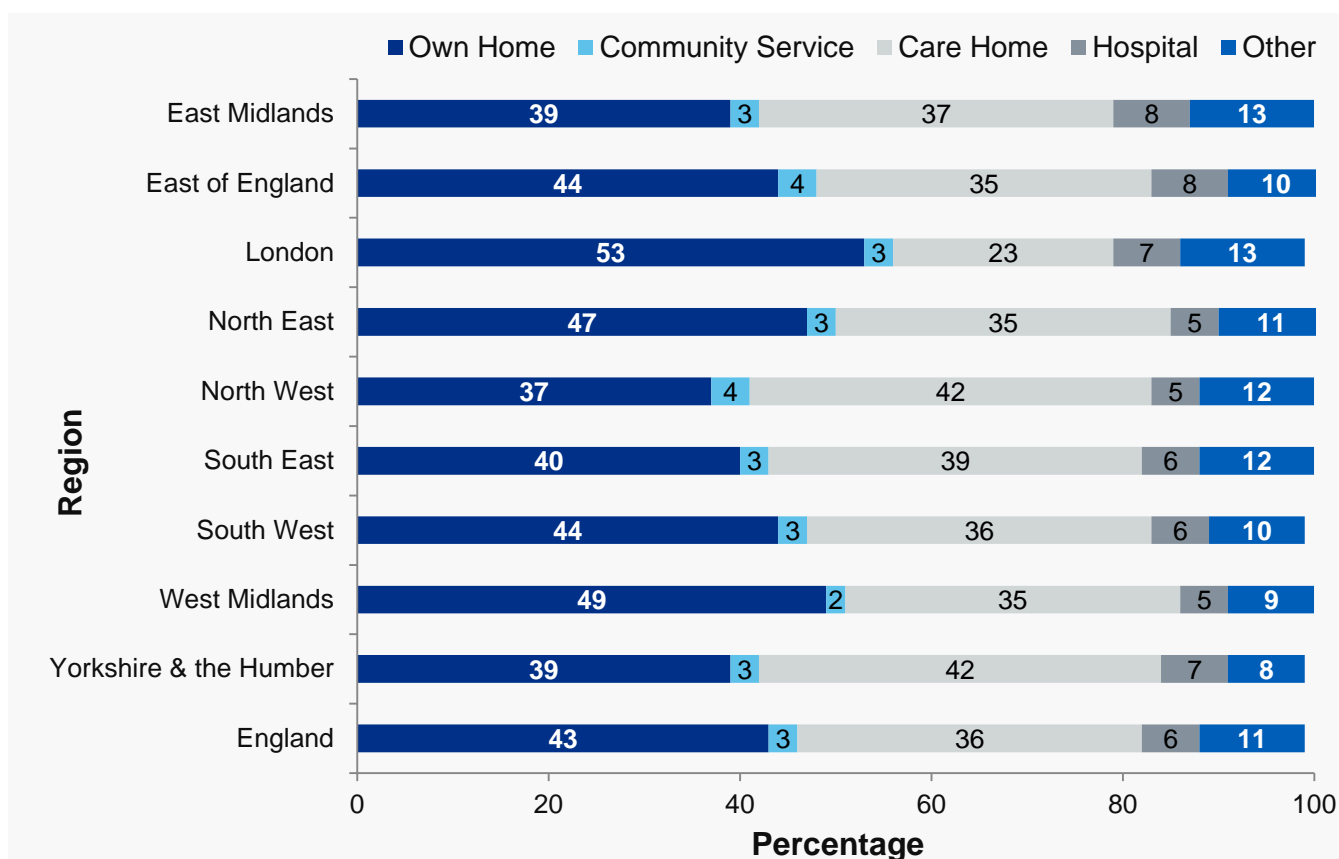
iii. For 2015-16 - 235 cases had the location of risk estimated by 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)

iv. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding

v. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

Figure 2.6 shows the percentage distribution of risks by location and region. London had the highest proportion of risks that had taken place in the individual’s own home (53 per cent of all risks). The North West and Yorkshire and the Humber regions had the highest percentage of risks that had occurred in care homes at 42 per cent.

Figure 2.6: Percentage distribution of location of risk by region, 2015-16 England

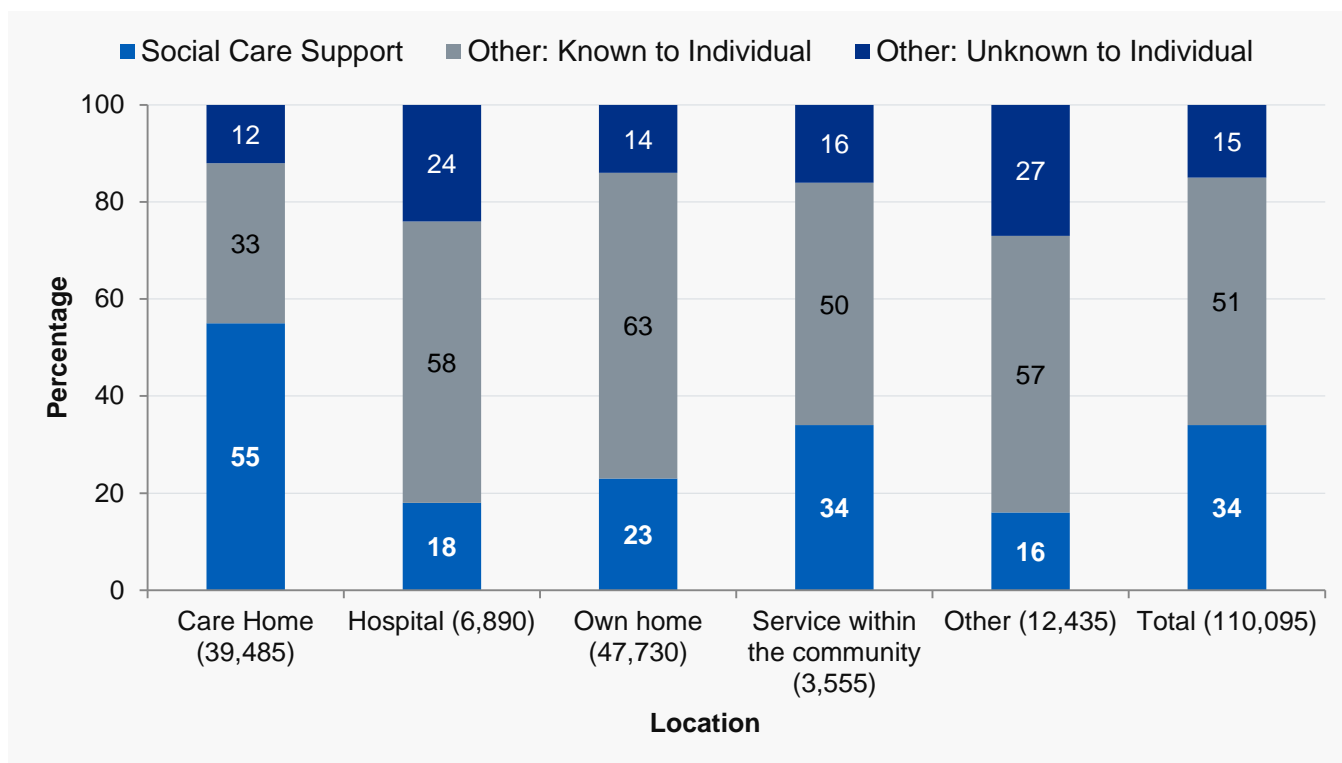


Data Source: SAC Table SG2b

- i. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding
- ii. SAC data based on 110,095 risks for concluded Section 42 enquiries provided by 152 councils
- iii. 185 cases are missing for 1 council (South East region) (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)
- iv. 235 cases had the location of risk estimated by 1 council (Yorkshire & the Humber region) (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)
- v. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

Figure 2.7 shows the distribution of risks recorded for concluded Section 42 enquiries by location and source of risk. Risks which occurred in Care Homes were most likely to have social care support as their source, accounting for 55 per cent of the risks in that location compared to 18 to 34 per cent in other locations. Other people known to the individual, but not in a social care professional capacity, were the most common source of risk in every other location, ranging from 63 per cent in the individual’s own home to 50 per cent in Services within the community. People not known to the individual at risk made up around a quarter of the risks in Hospitals (24 per cent) and Other settings (27 per cent) such as public places, offices, retail property or other people’s homes.

Figure 2.7: Percentage distribution of concluded Section 42 Enquiries by location and source of risk, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG2b

- i. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding
- ii. Based on 110,095 risks from concluded Section 42 enquiries provided by 152 councils
- iii. 185 cases are missing for 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)
- iv. 235 cases had the location and source of risk estimated by 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)
- v. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

Enquiries by Action Taken and Result

Following a safeguarding enquiry a decision is taken regarding whether actions need to be taken as a result. This section gives data on the outcome of concluded enquiries.

Figures 2.8a and b show the percentage distribution of concluded safeguarding enquiries by the action taken and outcome of the action. In 2015-16 no further action was taken other than the safeguarding enquiry for a quarter of enquiries. For cases where further action was taken, the risk was reduced for 47 per cent of enquiries. For the remaining cases where further action was taken, the risk was completely removed in 20 per cent of cases. The proportion of enquiries where the risk remained was 8 per cent.

Figure 2.8a: Percentage distribution of concluded referrals by action and outcome, 2013-14 and 2014-15 England

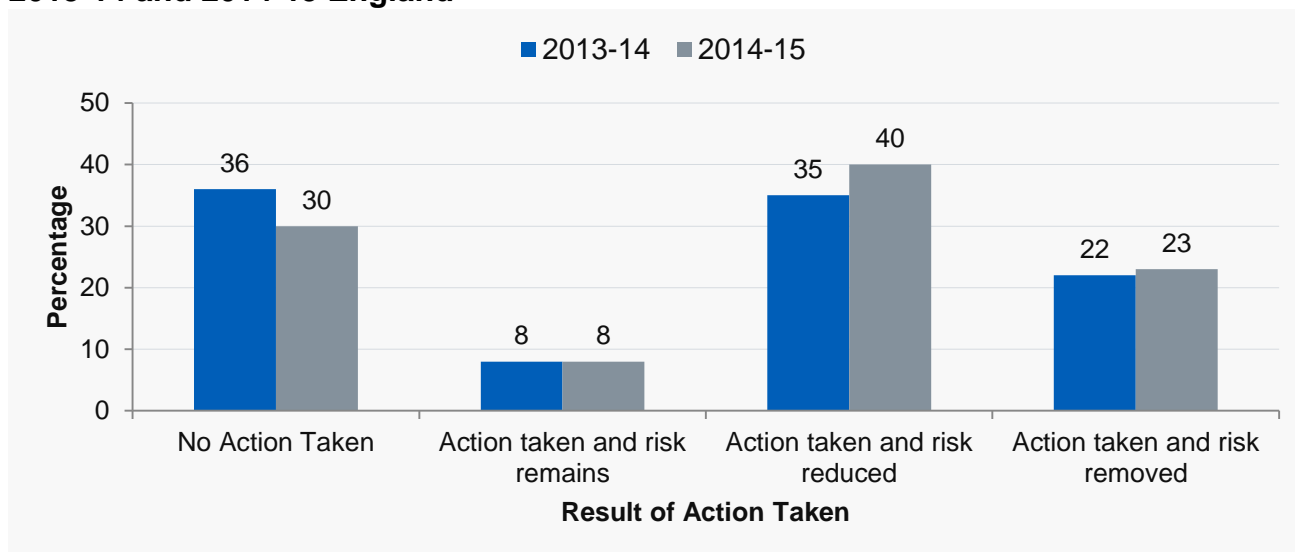
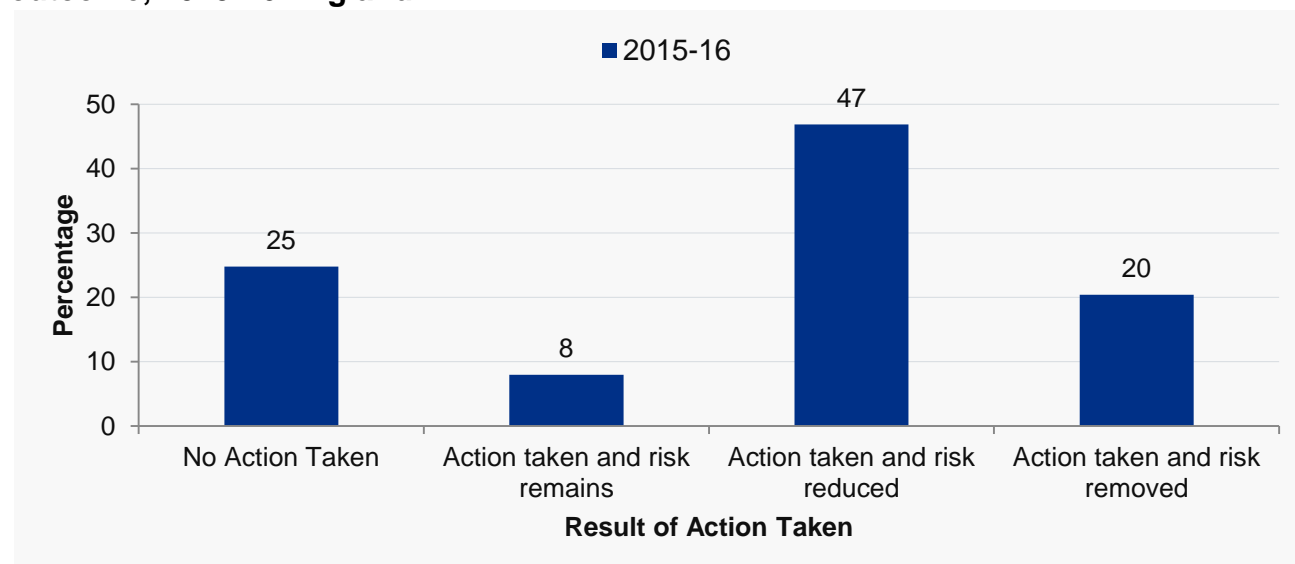


Figure 2.8b: Percentage distribution of concluded Section 42 Enquiries by action and outcome, 2015-16 England



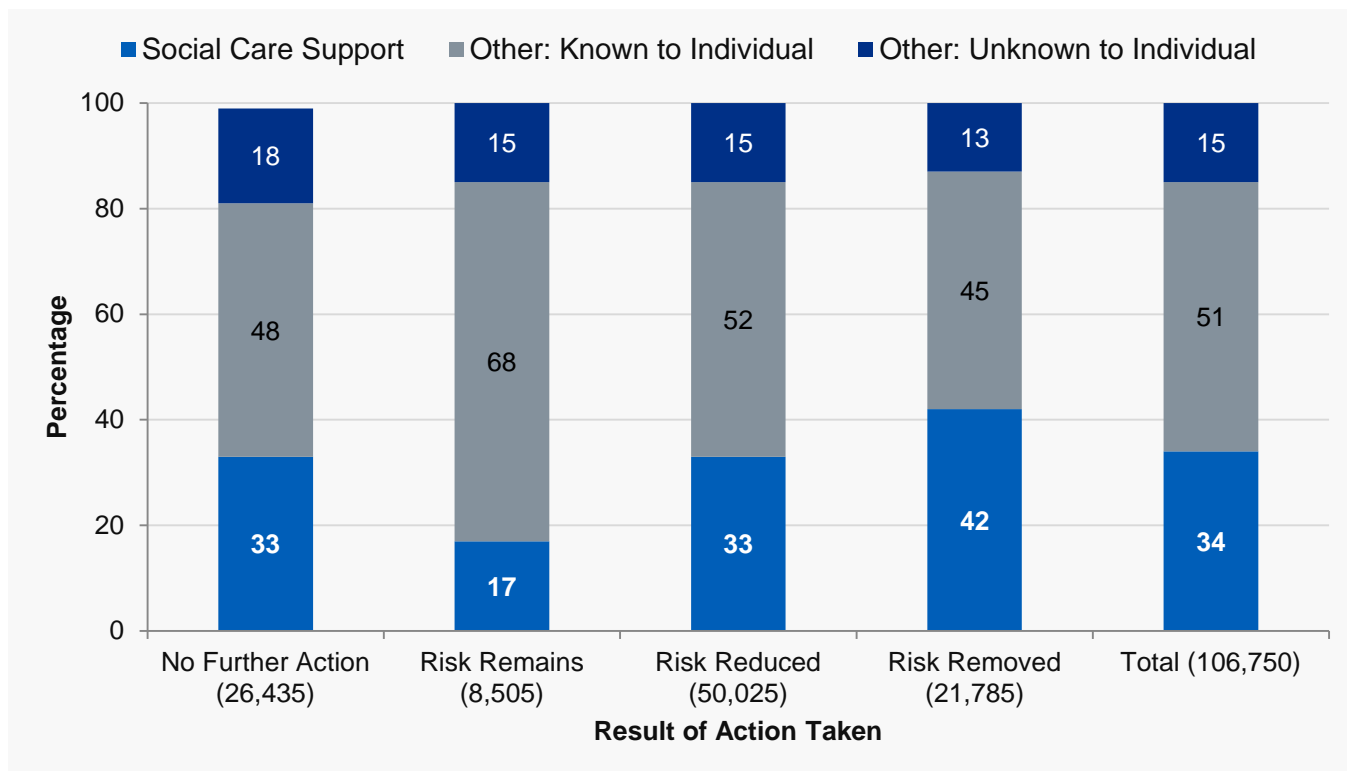
Data Source: SAC Table SG2c

- i. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding
- ii. Based on 88,080 counts for 2013-14, 105,525 counts for 2014-15 and 106,750 counts for 2015-16 from concluded referrals/Section 42 enquiries provided by 145 councils in 2013-14, 151 councils in 2014-15 and 151 councils in 2015-16
- iii. For 2015-16 - Risk Reduced is overstated by 1 council that left the rest of the table blank (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A6)
- iv. For 2015-16 - 750 records had the Action and Result estimated by 2 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)
- v. For 2015-16 - No Action Taken is overstated for 6 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A4)
- vi. For 2015-16 - 100 records are missing for 1 council where action is unknown (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)
- vii. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

Figure 2.9 shows the actions and outcomes of the concluded enquiries broken down by the source of risk. As noted previously, in the majority of cases the source of the risk was known to the individual. This varied from 45 to 68 per cent of cases in the different categories, the highest being in cases where the risk remained.

Where the risk was identified as Social Care support the outcome varied from 17 per cent where the risk remained to 42 per cent where the risk was removed.

Figure 2.9: Percentage distribution of action and outcome by source of risk, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG2c

- i. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding
- ii. Based on 106,750 counts from concluded Section 42 enquiries provided by 151 councils
- iii. Risk Reduced is overstated by 1 council that left the rest of the table blank
- iv. 1 council left the entire table blank (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A6)
- v. 750 records had the Action and Result estimated by 2 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)
- vi. 235 records had the Source of Risk estimated by 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)
- vii. No Action Taken is overstated for 6 councils (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A4)
- viii. 100 records are missing for 1 council where action is unknown (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)
- ix. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

Chapter 3 – Mental Capacity

This section looks at the mental capacity of individuals involved in concluded Section 42 enquiries. Mental capacity in regard to safeguarding is assessed as the person's ability to contribute to making decisions about their protection, including their participation in the safeguarding investigation, as well as their mental capacity at the time of the incident causing a safeguarding concern and enquiry. In cases where the individuals were assessed as lacking capacity, it also looks at what proportions were supported by a friend, family member or advocate. The safeguarding return collects information about the mental capacity of the individual during the enquiry. The return also collects information about whether support is provided to individuals found to be lacking capacity.

Time series tables and charts have been presented to provide context for the figures, but some caution must be exercised in comparing data over time due to the changes introduced to the collection by the Care Act 2014. The time series is limited to the two previous reporting years (2013-14 and 2014-15) as these are the only reports available since the Safeguarding Adults Return/Collection was established following a "zero-based review" of adult social care data collections in 2012 to replace the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults return (AVA).

Table 3.1 shows the distribution of concluded Section 42 enquiries broken down by whether the individual at risk lacked capacity to make decisions related to the safeguarding enquiry. In 2015-16, 27 per cent of individuals were found to lack capacity and 48 per cent of individuals were found not to be lacking capacity. A category of "Not Recorded" was introduced in the 2014-15 collection to separate out the "Don't know" category. In 2015-16 there were 12 per cent where the individual's capacity was not known and in 14 per cent of cases capacity was not recorded.

Table 3.1: Percentage distribution of individuals assessed as lacking capacity, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 England

Concluded Referrals/Section 42 Enquiries where the Individual Assessed As Lacking Capacity	2013-14 Total (88,280)	2014-15 Total (104,760)	2015-16 Total (112,070)
Yes	28	25	27
No	44	46	48
Don't know	29	16	12
Not Recorded	---	12	14

Data Source: SAC Table SG3a

i. SAC data based on 88,280 concluded referrals in 2013-14, 104,760 concluded referrals in 2014-15 and 112,070 concluded Section 42 enquiries in 2015-16 provided by 144 councils in 2013-14, 136 councils in 2014-15 and 152 councils in 2015-16

ii. "Not Recorded" was not an available category in the 2013-14 collection. Data was included in the "Don't know" category.

iii. For 2015-16 - Not Recorded is Overstated for 1 council that left the rest of the table blank (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A6)

iv. For 2015-16 - 1 council has an additional 120 individuals on this table from large scale enquiries with multiple individuals (See Appendix A: Data Quality section Enquiries involving multiple individuals)

v. For 2015-16 - 1000 records were estimated by 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)

vi. For 2015-16 - 1 council has an additional 5,500 records which were dealt with by external agencies not as enquiries but still had mental capacity assessed (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A4)

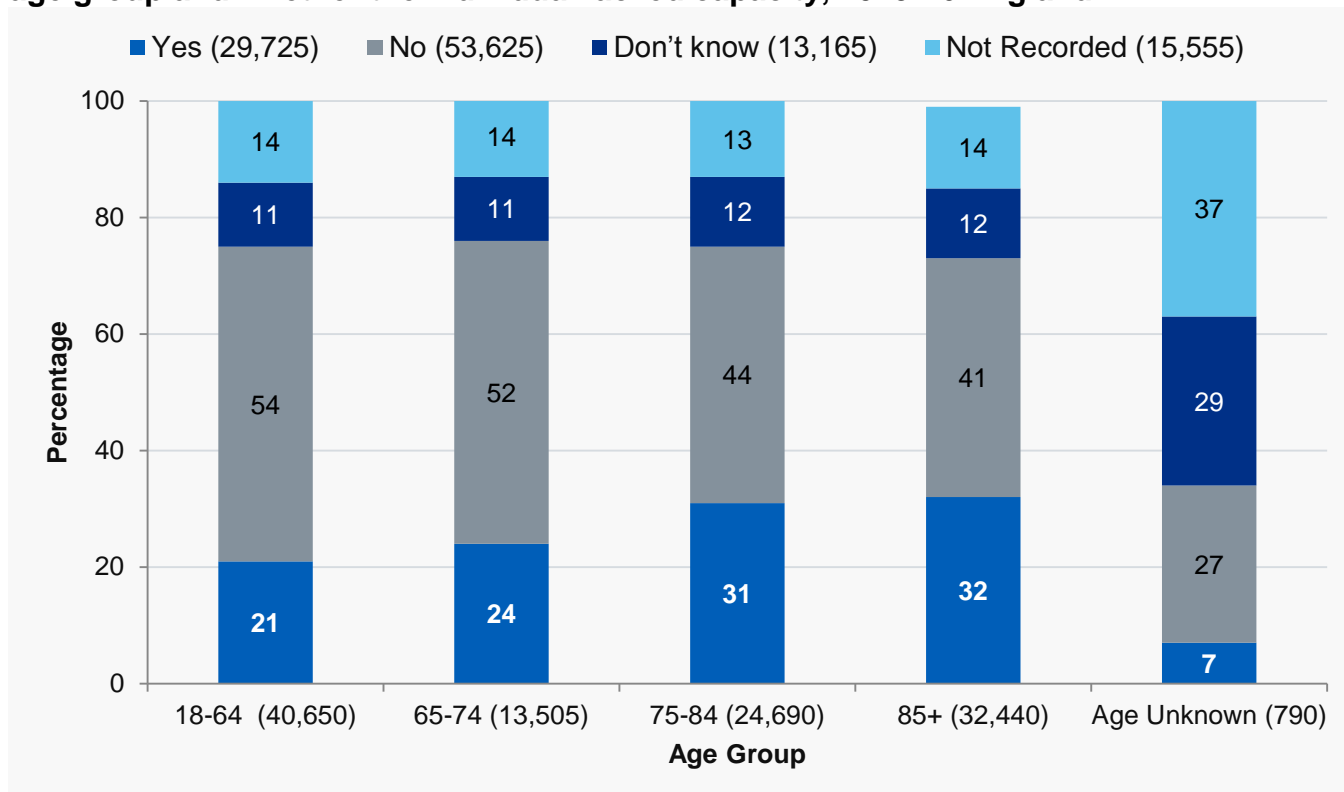
vii. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

viii. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding

ix. 2013-14 and 2014-15 figures are for referrals, 2015-16 figures are for Section 42 Enquiries

Figure 3.1 shows the percentage distribution of concluded enquiries broken down by the age group of the individual and whether the individual lacked capacity. Of the categories where the age of the individual was known, younger adults aged 18-64 were the least likely to lack capacity with 21 per cent. The likelihood of the individual lacking capacity rose with age with 32 per cent of individuals aged 85 and over lacking capacity.

Figure 3.1: Percentage distribution of concluded Section 42 Enquiries broken down by age group and whether the individual lacked capacity, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG3a

- SAC data based on 112,070 concluded Section 42 enquiries provided by 152 councils
- Not Recorded is Overstated for 1 council that left the rest of the table blank (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A6)
- 1 council has an additional 120 individuals on this table from large scale enquiries with multiple individuals (See Appendix A: Data Quality section Enquiries involving multiple individuals)
- 1000 records were estimated by 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)
- 1 council has an additional 5,500 records which were dealt with by external agencies not as enquiries but still had mental capacity assessed (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A4)
- Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number
- Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding
- 2013-14 and 2014-15 figures are for referrals, 2015-16 figures are for Section 42 Enquiries

Figures 3.2a and b look at just the concluded enquiries where the individual was found to lack capacity (29,725 concluded Section 42 enquiries in 2015-16 provided by 151 councils). The charts show the percentage of these enquiries where the individual was supported by an advocate, family or friends.

Overall, 62 per cent of those lacking capacity were supported in 2015-16.

For 2015-16, the percentage supported by an advocate, family or friends increases with age between each of the age groups, with those individuals aged 85 and over receiving the highest level of support at 65 per cent.

Figure 3.2a: Percentage of concluded referrals where the individual lacked mental capacity and was supported by an advocate, family or friends, 2013-14 and 2014-15 England

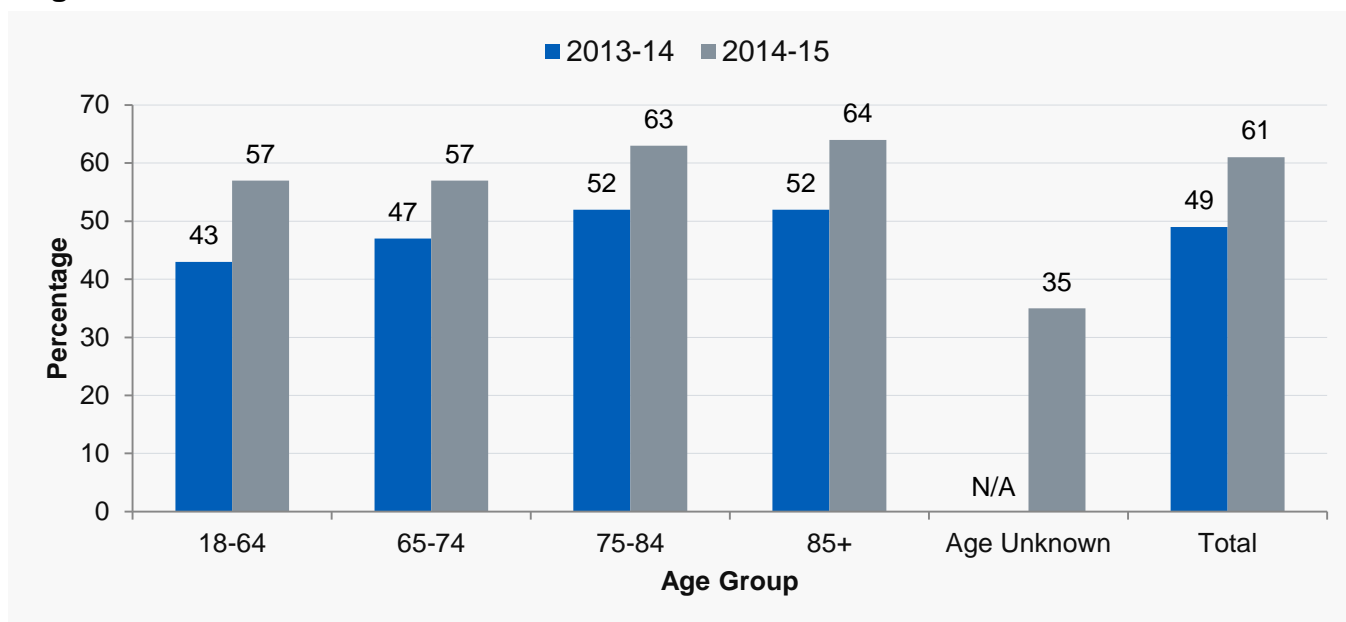
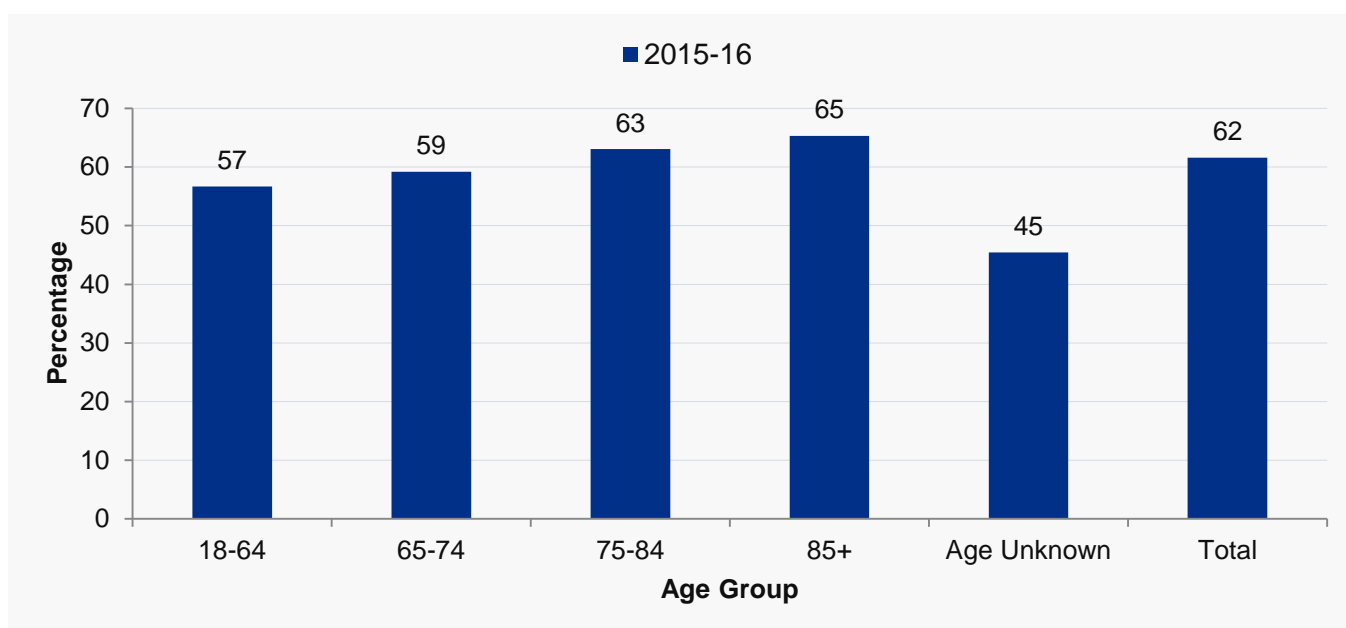


Figure 3.2b: Percentage of concluded Section 42 Enquiries where the individual lacked mental capacity and was supported by an advocate, family or friends, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG3a

- i. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding
- ii. SAC data based on 22,130 concluded referrals where the individual lacked capacity in 2013-14, 26,370 in 2014-15 and 29,725 concluded Section 42 enquiries in 2015-16 provided by 137 councils in 2013-14, 148 councils in 2014-15 and 151 councils in 2015-16
- iii. Category Age Unknown was not recorded for 2013-14
- iv. For 2015-16 - Not Recorded is Overstated for 1 council that left the rest of the table blank (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A6)
- v. For 2015-16 - 1 council has an additional 120 individuals on this table from large scale enquiries with multiple individuals (See Appendix A: Data Quality section Enquiries involving multiple individuals)
- vi. For 2015-16 - 1000 records were estimated by 1 council (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A2)
- vii. For 2015-16 - 1 council has an additional 5,500 records which were dealt with by external agencies not as enquiries but still had mental capacity assessed (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A4)
- viii. For 2015-16 - 4 councils did not provide any data for advocate support (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A6)
- ix. For 2015-16 - 1 council's advocate support data is partial (See Appendix A: Data Quality table A3)
- x. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number
- xi. 2013-14 and 2014-15 figures are for referrals, 2015-16 figures are for Section 42 Enquiries

Chapter 4 – Safeguarding Adult Reviews

Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) within councils now have a statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 to undertake a Safeguarding Adult Review where a vulnerable adult has died or suffered serious harm but survived following abuse or neglect (Section 44 of the Act). They are held in order to determine what went wrong and what lessons may be learned about the way in which staff and agencies work together to prevent and reduce abuse and neglect of adults. SARs may also be used to explore examples of good practice where this is likely to identify lessons that can be applied to future cases.

The Safeguarding Adult Collection collects the number of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) that took place in the reporting year and how many individuals this related to as a mandatory return by all councils.

Time series tables and charts have been presented to provide context for the figures, but some caution must be exercised in comparing data over time due to the changes introduced to the collection by the Care Act 2014. The time series is limited to the two previous reporting years (2013-14 and 2014-15) as these are the only reports available since the Safeguarding Adults Return/Collection was established following a “zero-based review” of adult social care data collections in 2012 to replace the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults return (AVA).

Table 4.1 shows there were a total of 90 safeguarding adult reviews recorded for 2015-16 (compared to 65 in 2014-15 and 60 in 2013-14). These SARs involved a total of 110 adults at risk, of which 57 per cent suffered serious harm and died and 43 per cent suffered serious harm but survived. This is a decrease in the number of individuals involved in SARs from 190 in 2014-15 and a similar number to 2013-14 (100 individuals) but a larger proportion of the individuals died as a result of the abuse (57 per cent compared to 30 per cent in 2014-15 and 46 per cent in 2013-14).

Table 4.1: Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)/Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, England

Year	Number of councils supplying data	Number of councils with SCRs / SARs	Number of SCRs / SARs	Number of people involved in SCRs / SARs	Number of individuals who died	Number of individuals who suffered serious harm
2013-14 (SCRs)	152	42	60	100	45	55
2014-15 (SCRs)	152	53	65	190	60	135
2015-16 (SARs)	151	60	90	110	60	50

Data Source: SAC Table SG5a and SG5b

i. SAC data based on 60 serious case reviews in 2013-14 and 65 in 2014-15 provided by 152 councils and 90 in 2015-16 provided by 151 councils

ii. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 for SCRs, SARs and numbers of individuals

iii. Figures may not add up due to rounding

Table 4.2 shows the number of Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Adults Reviews by region. Of the SARs reported in 2015-16 (90), the highest number was in the London region

(25). There were 60 councils involved in these SARs, which was an increase of around 15 per cent compared to 52 councils in 2014-15, (though a smaller increase from 42 councils in 2013-14 to 52 in 2014-15, a 24 per cent increase).

Table 4.2: Number of Serious Case Reviews/Safeguarding Adult Reviews by region, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, England

Region	Serious Case Reviews		Safeguarding Adult Reviews
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
East Midlands	5	5	5
East of England	5	10	10
London	10	10	25
North East	0	5	5
North West	5	5	5
South East	10	15	10
South West	10	10	15
West Midlands	5	5	10
Yorkshire & the Humber	0	0	5
England	60	65	90

Data Source: SAC Table SG5a

i. SAC data based on 60 serious case reviews in 2013-14 and 65 in 2014-15 provided by 152 councils and 90 safeguarding adult reviews in 2015-16 provided by 151 councils

ii. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding

iii. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5

Chapter 5 – “Other” Safeguarding Enquiries and Voluntary data items

Between December 2014 and February 2015 the HSCIC ran a public consultation⁵ about what changes needed to be made to the safeguarding return as a result of implementation of the Care Act in April 2015. The results of the consultation were used to make recommendations to the Safeguarding Adults stakeholder group regarding which data items to include in the 2015-16 return. This resulted in the inclusion of some data items on a mandatory basis (which relate to enquiries under Section 42 of the Care Act) and others were made voluntary for submission. Details of the changes made can be found in the Guidance document for the 2015-16 collection available on the NHS Digital Social Care collections web page.⁶

Full data values for all the voluntary data items can be found in Data file included in the Resources section of the publication web page (<http://content.digital.nhs.uk/pubs/sa1516>).

Submission of the voluntary items varied greatly from council to council, with some providing substantial amounts of the requested items while others provided data for only a few items and others none at all. The number of councils which submitted data for each data item can be seen in Annex B.

Due to this variation, analysis of the voluntary data should be treated with caution and not regarded as representative or comparable with the mandatory Section 42 enquiry data.

Individuals with Safeguarding Concerns and Enquiries

The term *concern* has numerous meanings and councils often use a different definition locally to that used in the SAC data. For the purpose of this report, a safeguarding concern is where a risk of abuse is reported under local safeguarding procedures.

110 councils submitted data for Safeguarding Concerns in the SG1a and SG1b tables and 109 in the SG1c table, while 67 councils submitted data for Individuals involved in Other Safeguarding Enquiries in all three tables.

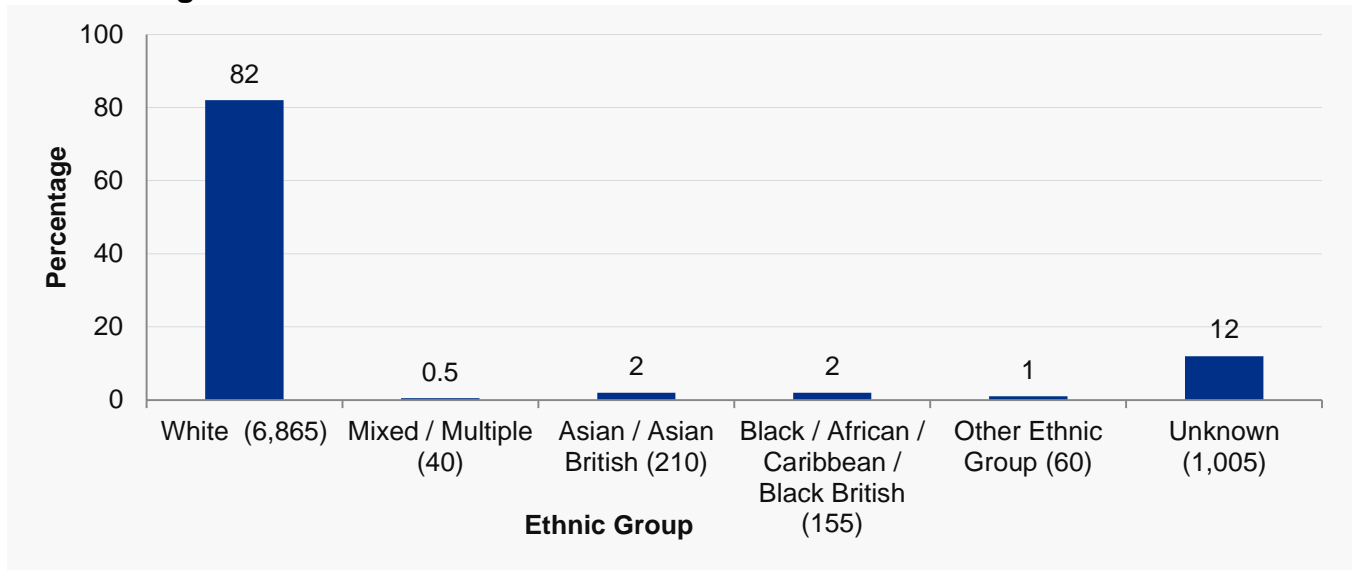
For the 2015-16 reporting year, there were 184,860 reported concerns and 8,365 Other enquiries. Of these enquiries, 58 per cent were for females (4,875 enquiries) and 60 per cent of individuals at risk were aged 65 or over (5,020 enquiries).

For Ethnicity, whilst **Figure 5.1** shows the White ethnic group made up 82 per cent of the individuals with Other enquiries and the numbers of individuals of other ethnic groups is relatively small, when compared by rate of Other enquiries per 100,000 adults (**Figure 5.2**) the breakdown between different ethnic groups show less variation. The White ethnic group remains the highest group (19 Other enquiries per 100,000 population), with the Other ethnic group having the next highest rate of 15 Other enquiries per 100,000 population.

⁵ http://content.digital.nhs.uk/media/16551/Safeguarding-Adults-Return-SAR/pdf/Care_Act_Consultation_Findings_for_the_Safeguarding_Adults_Return.pdf

⁶ <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/socialcarecollections2016>

Figure 5.1: Percentage distribution of individuals with Other Enquiries by ethnic group, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG1c

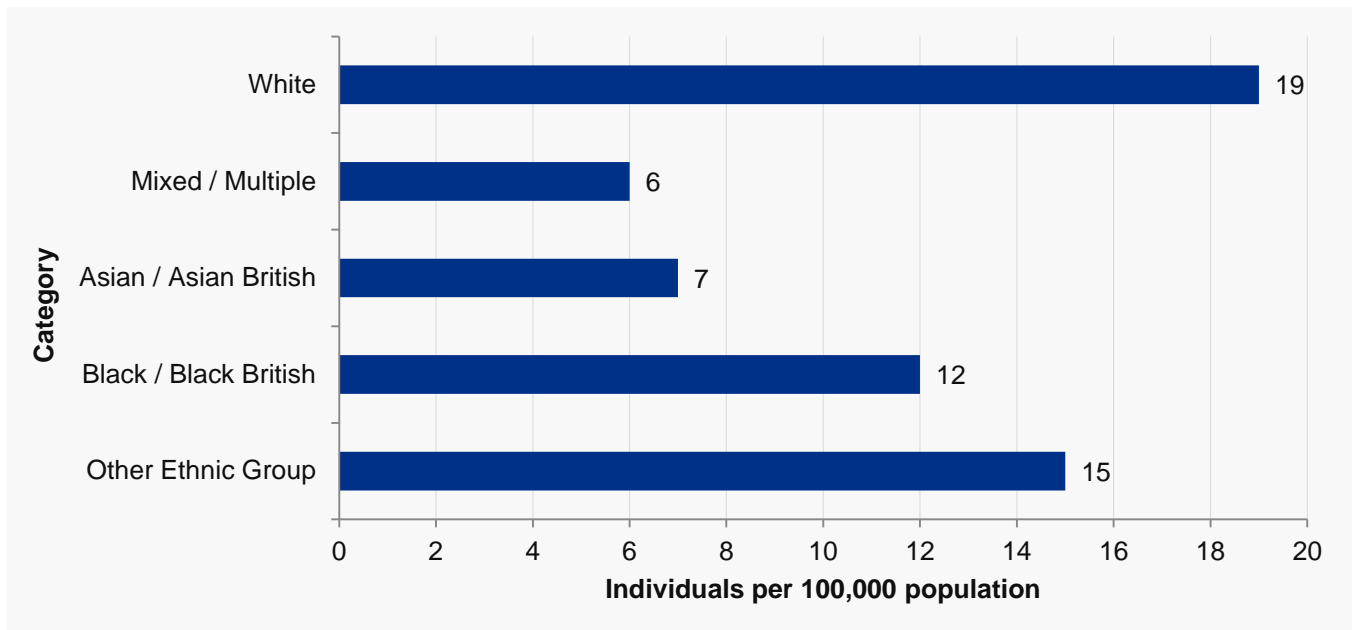
i. Based on information provided by 67 councils

ii. Based on 8,365 individuals with Other enquiries

iii. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

iv. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding

Figure 5.2: Number of individuals with Other Enquiries per 100,000 population, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG1c and Office for National Statistics (ONS)

i. SAC data based on 8,365 Other Enquiries in 2015-16 provided by 67 councils

ii. Ethnicity population data is based on the ONS 2011 census which is the latest data available

iii. All SAC and population data is based on adults aged 18 and over

iv. Total per 100,000 population are rounded to the nearest whole number

v. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding

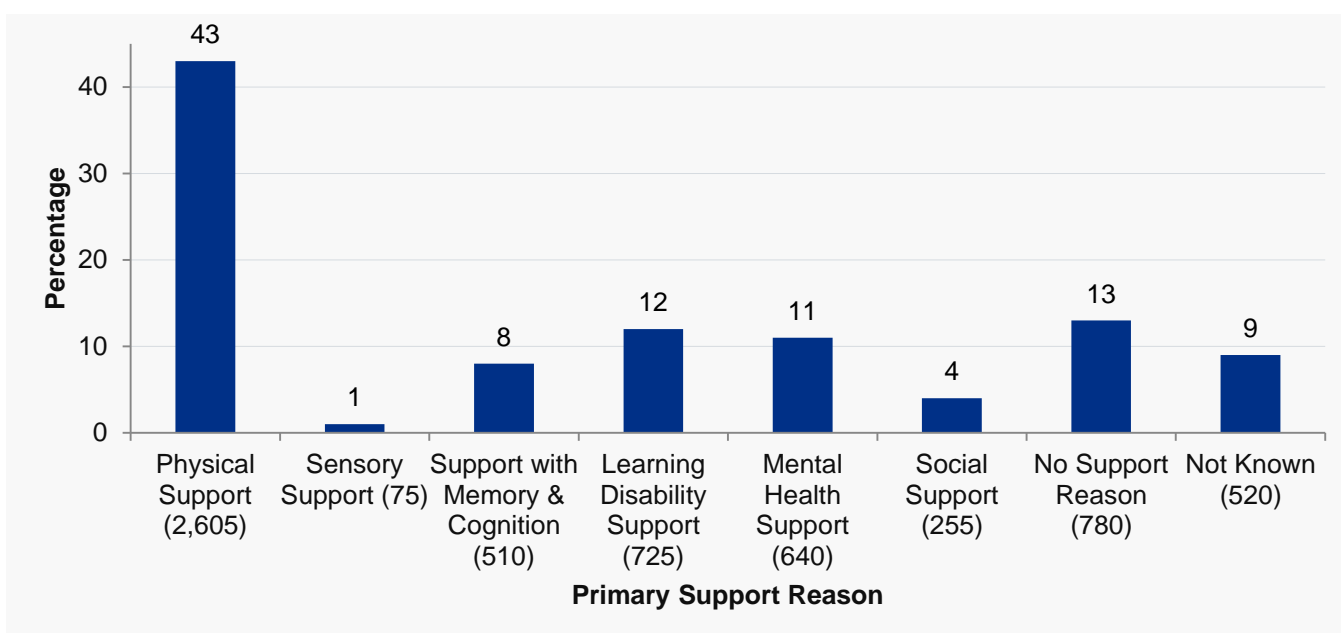
Enquiries by Support Reasons

Data for Individuals involved in Other Safeguarding Enquiries by Primary Support Reason was provided by 66 councils.

Figure 5.3 shows the breakdown of individuals with Other enquiries by Primary Support Reason.

The majority of Other enquiries regarded individuals with a Primary Support Reason of Physical Support (43 per cent). Sensory Support was the least common primary support reason, accounting for only 1 per cent of individuals with an Other enquiry.

Figure 5.3: Percentage distribution of Individuals with Other Enquiries by primary support reason, 2015-16 England



Data Source: SAC Table SG1d

i. SAC data based on 6,110 Individuals with Other Safeguarding Enquiries provided by 66 councils

ii. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number

iii. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding

Reported health condition was collected on a voluntary basis for all categories except Autism (excluding Asperger's Syndrome / High Functioning Autism) and Asperger's Syndrome/ High Functioning Autism which were mandatory. Data for the voluntary categories can be found in the data file in Annex C in the Resources section of the publication web page. However, this data should be treated with caution as it is not a complete dataset from all councils for all enquiries (152 councils submitted data for the mandatory items with a range between 50 and 102 councils submitting data for the various voluntary data items in the table).

Making Safeguarding Personal

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is about having conversations with people about how to respond in safeguarding situations in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety. The Care Act advocates a person centred rather than process driven approach and many councils have already adopted this way of working. There is no set approach – a local authority should consider each case on its own merits, consider what the person wants to achieve, and how the action which the local authority is taking may affect the individual.

Completion of the tables for MSP (SG4a and SG4b) was voluntary for the 2015-16 collection. For the SG4a table for Section 42 enquiries, 55 councils submitted data. Forty councils made a submission for the SG4b table for Other enquiries. Data for the voluntary categories can be found in the data file in Annex C in the Resources section of the publication web page. However, this data should be treated with caution as it is not a complete dataset from all councils for all enquiries.

Chapter 6 – Background to Safeguarding Adults

This chapter provides further details about the Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) data collection for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. This mandatory data collection records information about individuals aged 18 years or over (also referred to as adults or individuals at risk) for whom safeguarding enquiries were opened during the reporting period, and case details for safeguarding enquiries which concluded during the reporting period.

A safeguarding concern is where a council is notified about a risk of abuse, which instigates an investigation under the local safeguarding procedures. One concern can include multiple records in the data tables if more than one type, location or source of risk is involved. Enquiries categorised as opened during the reporting year may not necessarily have concluded during the reporting year.

An enquiry is categorised as concluded when the safeguarding investigation is complete and the conclusions and actions have been decided. The concluded enquiries recorded in SAC were concluded at some point during the reporting year but may not necessarily have been opened during the reporting year.

An adult at risk is the person who is alleged to have suffered the abuse. The adults at risk included in this report are aged 18 or over and have some level of care and support needs. These adults do not need to be eligible for, or already receiving, social care support.

The Care Act

This report covers the year 2015-16; the first year after safeguarding adults became a statutory duty under the Care Act (2014). Some of the terminology and definitions used in this report, therefore, have changed from previous publications to meet current practices.

For the first time, under the Care Act there is a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the health and care system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. For more information, please see the **Related resources and further reading** section below.

The SAC Data Collection

Collection Process

Throughout the reporting year, details about safeguarding cases are recorded on council systems by the local safeguarding service. At the end of the reporting year, these data are used to populate the Safeguarding Adults Collection, a set of defined, formatted, tables that capture the required information. The data are submitted to NHS Digital through the Omnibus system, a secure online tool which also runs a series of validation checks on the data, such as indicating any blank data items, comparing related values within tables and reviewing consistency between tables.

NHS Digital conducts further validations. Examples of these are detailed checks for unusually high or low numbers compared to other councils, checks that table and row totals are consistent where appropriate and comparisons of table rows for zero values.

Validation reports are sent back to councils, who are then able to explain their data or make amendments where appropriate during a second submission period. The validation process was run again on any re-submitted data to confirm amendments had been made. This report uses the second, validated cut of data.

This report is based on data submitted by all 152 CASSRs in England. National and regional information are provided in this report.

Some councils were unable to submit all of the required data items for the return since local systems do not always include all of the categories present in the SAC data template. For the final cut of data, a total of 144 mandatory cells were left blank in the returns by 15 councils, which equates to 0.8 per cent of the total cells (compared to 2014-15 where there were 199 blank cells by 28 councils equating to 0.8 per cent of the total cells), although some of these blank cells relate to “Don’t Know” or “Not Recorded” categories. Further details about blank cells can be found in **Appendix A: Data Quality**.

Due to changes made to the source data, the statistics presented in this report are not comparable with the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults official statistics that were published up to 2012-13.

Updates from the 2014-15 SAR

Due to changes in safeguarding introduced by the Care Act (as noted above), there have been several changes made to the Safeguarding data that were collected in 2015-16. A full list of these changes can be seen in the guidance document for the 2015-16 data collection, available on our website⁷.

In summary:

- Counts of individuals involved in Section 42 safeguarding enquiries were mandatory; counts of individuals involved in safeguarding concerns and other safeguarding enquiries were voluntary;
- Counts of safeguarding activity (safeguarding concerns and Section 42 and other enquiries) were collected on a voluntary basis;
- Counts and case details of concluded Section 42 safeguarding enquiries were mandatory; counts and case details of other concluded safeguarding enquiries were voluntary;
- New categories added to Type of Risk were collected on a voluntary basis – Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery, Domestic Abuse and Self-Neglect;
- Voluntary collection of information on Making Safeguarding Personal

In addition, whilst remaining materially the same data source, the data collection has been renamed the Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC), to avoid confusion with Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs)

We have also already announced minor changes to the 2016-17 data collection, details of which are available on our website⁸.

A History of Safeguarding Adults Statistics

In March 2000, the Department of Health and the Home Office jointly published the ‘No Secrets’ document⁹. This provided the framework for councils to work with partner agencies such as the police, NHS and regulators to tackle abuse and prevent its occurrence. While they were urged to keep records, there was no detailed guidance on what should be recorded and, as a consequence, any data available was not comparable across councils.

⁷ http://content.digital.nhs.uk/media/16704/SAC-Guidance/pdf/SAC_guidance_1516_v1.0.pdf

⁸ <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/socialcarecollections2017>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-secrets-guidance-on-protecting-vulnerable-adults-in-care>

In 2004, the abuse of older people was the subject of a Health Select Committee inquiry. This led to the Department of Health funding a project delivered by Action on Elder Abuse. The scope of the project included looking at current recording systems used by local authorities and the development and piloting of new recording and reporting systems. A report¹⁰ on this project was published in March 2006 and recommended a national collection about the abuse of adults.

The HSCIC carried out a fact finding survey in early 2007. The results from this and the groundwork carried out by Action on Elder Abuse were used to devise a national collection about the abuse of vulnerable adults. This collection was piloted among 31 CASSRs in 2008. The results of the pilot were used to engage with stakeholders to improve the quality and reduce the burden of the collection.

In 2009, all 152 CASSRs in England were invited to take part in the national Abuse of Vulnerable Adults return (AVA) on a voluntary basis, covering a six month collection period from 1 October 2009 to 31 March 2010. For the 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 reporting periods, the AVA collections were mandatory to complete for all CASSRs. 2012-13 was the last year for collection of the AVA.

Since 2013-14 onwards, Safeguarding data has been collected through the Safeguarding Adults Return or Collection (SAR or SAC), following a “zero-based review” of adult social care data collections. The review considered changes in the delivery of social care and looked into what information should be provided to monitor the most important current and future priorities.

The 2013-14 SAR collection was developed following consideration of this feedback and was approved by the Department of Health (DH), the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and other key stakeholder organisations including the Association of the Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).

The SAR covers the same subject area as the AVA but is very different. The main differences are as follows:

- The SAR is much smaller than the AVA (191 data items in SAR compared to 2,070 in AVA)
- Counts of safeguarding alerts are no longer collected
- The number of opened enquiries is no longer collected
- Demographic information is now based on counts of individuals rather than opened enquiries
- The number of repeat enquiries is no longer collected
- The types of action taken are no longer collected
- The result of any action taken is now collected (risk remains / reduced / removed)
- Mental capacity information is now collected

Comparisons between the SAR data and the AVA data for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 are not possible as there are no directly comparable data items across the data sources.

Primary Support Reason (PSR) and Reported Health Condition

The introduction of PSR brings the Safeguarding adults data in line with the Equalities and Classifications (EQ-CL) framework which is being adopted across all social care statistics. The EQ-CL Framework has been created to help ensure the consistency and comparability of adult social care data collected nationally. It will standardise information required to support current

¹⁰ <http://www.elderabuse.org.uk/Documents/AEA%20documents/AEA%20Report%20-%20Data%20Monitoring%20-%20DH%20Monitoring%20Project.pdf>

policy and emerging best practice in health and social care. The guidance for the EQ-CL framework can be found at http://digital.nhs.uk/EQ-CL_2015-16_Framework

Related resources and further reading

Safeguarding Publications

This publication can be downloaded from the NHS Digital website at <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/pubs/sa1516>

Last year's report can also be accessed via <http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/pubs/sa1415>.

Earlier statistics on the Abuse of Vulnerable Adults (up to 2012-13) are available at <http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/pubs/abuseva1213final>

The Care Act (2014)

The Care Act itself can be read at

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/part/1/crossheading/safeguarding-adults-at-risk-of-abuse-or-neglect/enacted>.

Further guidance and factsheets are available from Gov.uk

(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/366087/Factsheet_7_-_Safeguarding.pdf) and the Social Care Institute for Excellence (<http://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/safeguarding-adults/>).

Other NHS Digital Social Care Official Statistics Publications

NHS Digital publishes other official statistics on social care, which may be of interest, including *Community Care Statistics: Social Services Activity, England 2014-15*, available at <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB18663>. This report includes some statistics on safeguarding concerns, but not does cover the same activity described in this report.

Data for Children's Social Services

Information on social care for children is available at <https://www.gov.uk/childrens-services>

Data for the UK

Information within this report relates to England data. Similar publications for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland can be found via the following links:

The Welsh Assembly Government:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/socialcare/reports/?lang=en>

The Scottish Government:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/Recent>

Department of Health in Northern Ireland:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications>

Acknowledgement

Collation of the data for the SAC involves significant work for staff in CASSRs at a busy time. NHS Digital would like to express our sincere thanks to council colleagues for their work in collating the data and their efforts to ensure that the data reported give a true picture of the safeguarding activity that has taken place.

Feedback on this report

If you have any comments or queries regarding this publication, they would be welcomed. Please email the Safeguarding mailbox at: safe.guarding1@nhs.net

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