



Fire and Rescue Authority performance, 2019-20

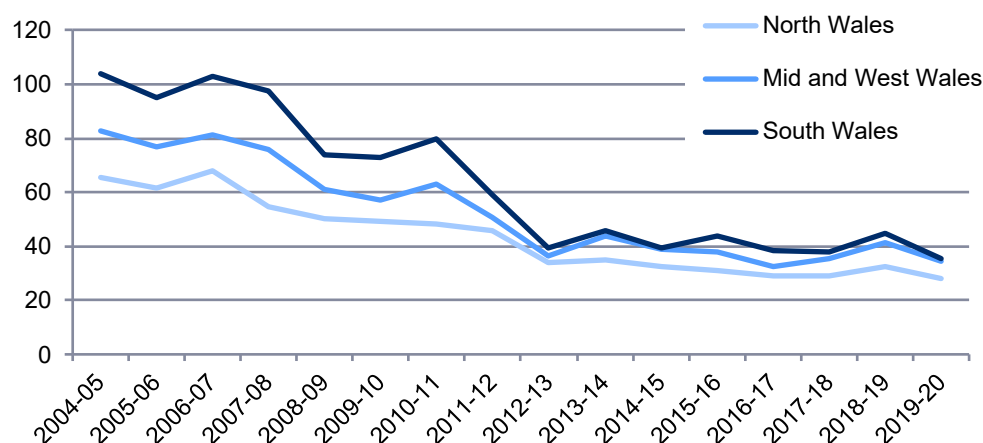
17 December 2020
SFR 235/2020

Key points

34 fires per 10,000
population

There were 10,584 fires attended by the FRAs, a decrease of 18% in the number compared with 2018-19. Since responsibility for fire and rescue services was devolved to Wales in 2004-05 the rate has more than halved.

Chart 1 Total fires attended per 10,000 population



47 false alarms per 10,000
population

There were 14,758 [false alarms attended](#) in 2019-20, a decrease in numbers of 2%.

6 casualties per 100,000
population

There were 182 casualties ([deaths and those sent to hospital](#)) from fires in 2019-20, a small increase (2%) in numbers, but no change in the rate per 100,000 population.

About this release

The Welsh Government's Performance Management Framework for measuring Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) performance was introduced in 2007.

The performance indicators are grouped under two themes: 'risk reduction and community safety' and 'effective response'.

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Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) have a duty under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to collect information relating to performance and use that information to compare their performance in previous years and with similar organisations. They are also required to use this information to assess how they can improve.

Following a consultation in 2015, the Performance Indicators collected by the Welsh Government from the Fire and Rescue Authorities were redefined to more accurately measure FRA activity and outcomes; the first collection of these data took place in 2015-16. The 3 indicators have a total of 7 measures and are divided into two themes as defined below:

Risk Reduction and Community Safety

1st Indicator FRS/RRC/S/001:

- Total fires attended per 10,000 population;
- v) Total false alarms attended per 10,000 population;
- vi) Total Road Traffic Collisions attended per 10,000 population;
- vii) Total other incidents attended per 10,000 population.

2nd Indicator FRS/RRC/S/002:

Total number of:-

- vii) Deaths and injuries arising from all fires per 100,000 population;
- viii) Deaths and injuries arising from accidental fires per 100,000 population.

Effective Response

3rd Indicator FRS/EFR/S/003:

- The percentage of dwelling fires which were contained in the room in which they originated.

For comparability considerations please see the [Key Quality Information](#).

Note: indicators FRS/RRC/S/001 parts ii to iv and FRS/RRC/S/002 parts i to vi are no longer collected, historical data for these indicators are published on [StatsWales](#).

1. Risk reduction and community safety

The first indicator (FRS/RRC/S/001) has 4 measures and looks at attendances at fire and rescue service incidents.

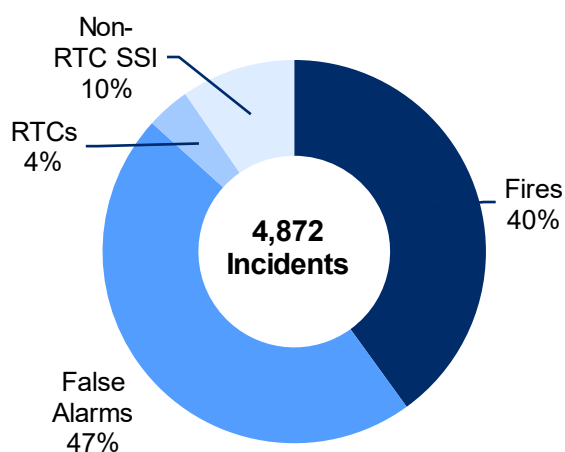
Analysis of this data allows FRAs to gauge the success of their community fire safety initiatives in the reduction of fires and false alarms.

FRAs record attendances at fires, false alarms and Special Service Incidents (SSIs) via the Incident Recording System (IRS).

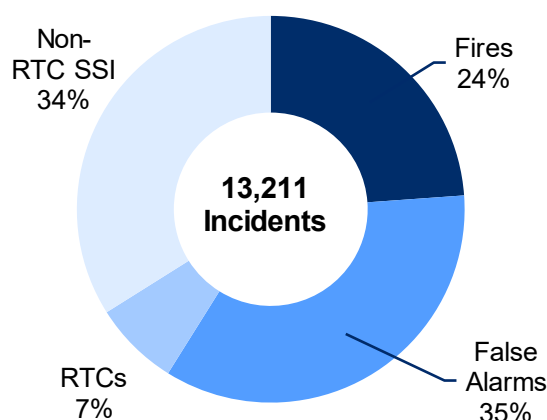
3 in 10 incidents attended in Wales in 2019-20 were fires; 42% were false alarms, 6% were Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) and 21% were non RTC Special Service Incidents (SSIs). In all three Welsh FRAs, false alarms accounted for the largest proportion on incidents; 47% in North Wales, 35% in Mid and West Wales and 46% in South Wales. However whereas in North Wales and South Wales the second largest category was fires (40% and 32% respectively), in Mid and West Wales the second largest category was non-RTC SSIs (34%).

Chart 2 Proportion of incidents(a) attended by FRA and for Wales

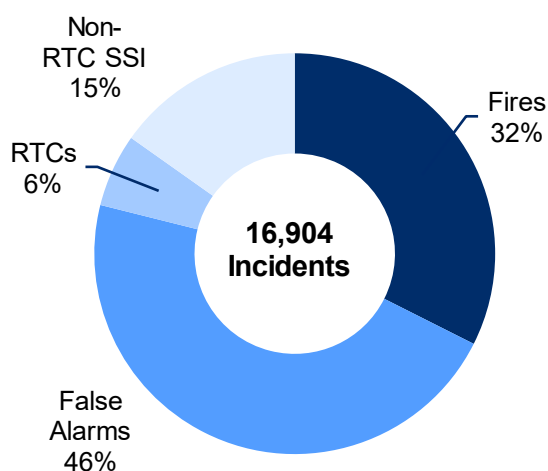
2a. North Wales



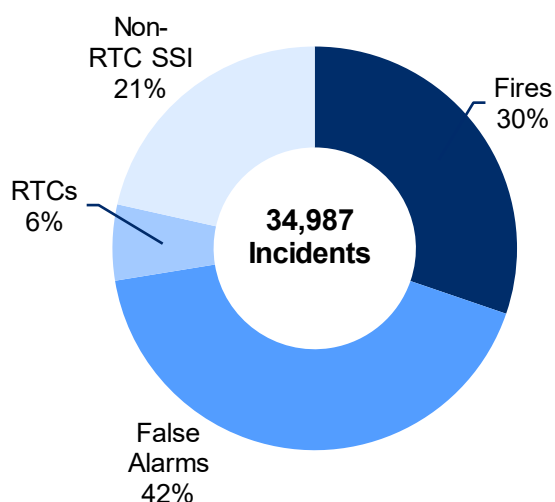
2b. Mid and West Wales



2c. South Wales

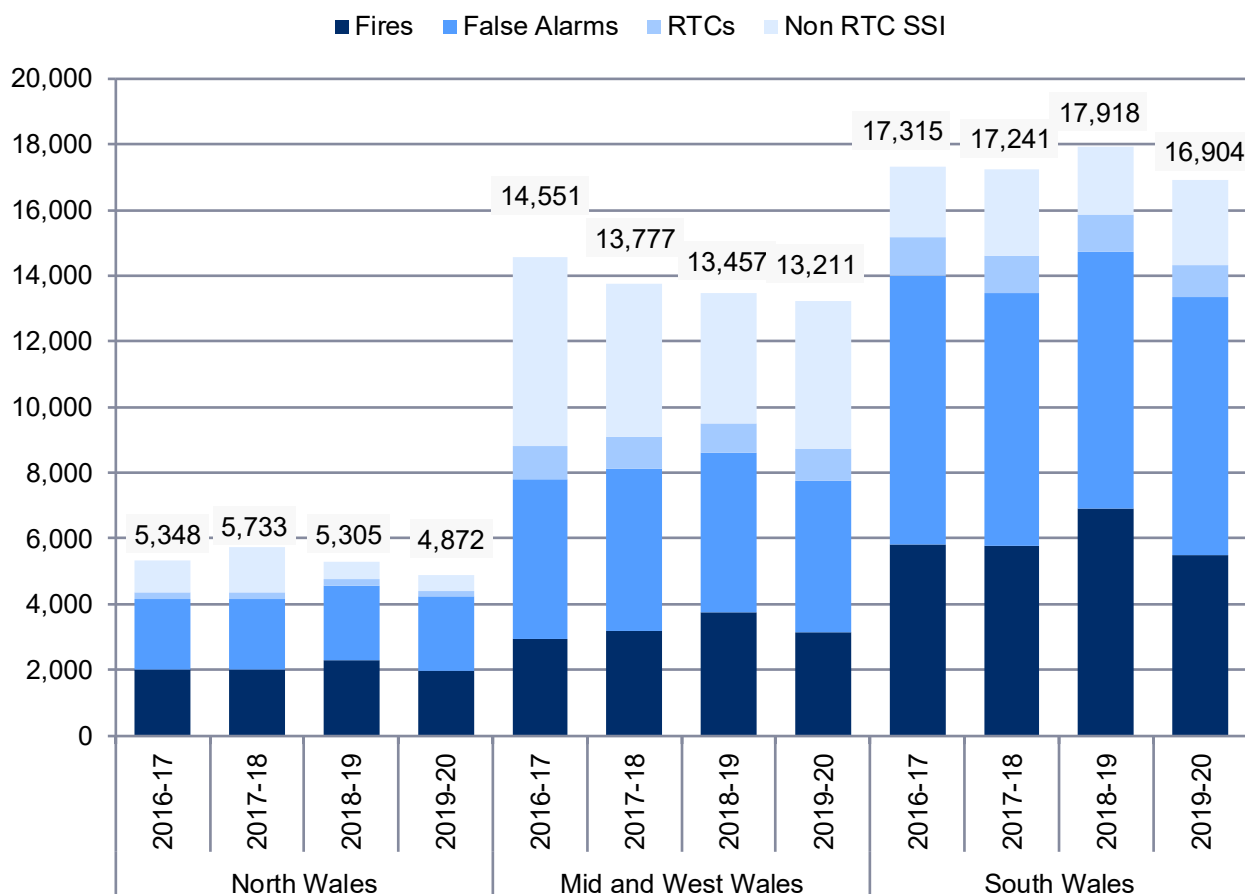


2d. Wales



(a) False alarms quoted in this release include those related to SSIs and so will be higher than figures quoted elsewhere, for instance in the 'Fire and Rescue Incidents 2019-20' publication.

Chart 3 Number of incidents attended by fire and rescue authority



The chart above shows that in all FRAs the number of incidents attended decreased in 2019-20 compared with 2018-19. The largest decrease was seen in North Wales (8%), whilst the number fell by 2% in Mid and West Wales and 6% in South Wales. Overall in 2019-20 attendances in Wales decreased by 5%.

Fires attended

In 2019-20, there were 10,584 fires (34 fires per 10,000 population) attended by the FRAs in Wales; this is an 18% decrease in numbers compared with 2018-19. The rate (per 10,000 population) is the lowest rate in the time series (starting in 2004-05). Incident data for 2019-20 (published in November 2020¹) shows 58% of fires occurred outdoors, and that numbers of fires occurring outdoors decreased by a 27% compared with 2018-19. Such fires may be affected by factors such as the weather and the prevalence of litter which in turn helps us understand the fluctuations in fire numbers seen over time.

Throughout the time series the highest rate of fires (per 10,000 population) has been seen in South Wales, although over recent years the rates seen in each FRA have become closer, as can be seen from table 1 and chart 1 (on page 1) of this bulletin.

Over the time series there has been an overall downward trend, however in recent years the numbers and rates have become more erratic.

¹ [Fire and rescue incident statistics](#)

Table 1 Total number of fires attended per 10,000 population

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
2010-11	48	63	80	68
2011-12	46	51	59	54
2012-13	34	36	39	37
2013-14	35	44	46	43
2014-15	32	39	40	38
2015-16	31	38	44	39
2016-17	29	33	38	35
2017-18	29	35	38	35
2018-19	33	41	45	41
2019-20	28	35	36	34

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

False alarms attended

Prior to 2015-16 only numbers of malicious false alarms and false alarms caused by automatic fire detection were collected for the purposes of performance indicators. The revised indicator includes malicious false alarms, good intent false alarms and false alarms due to apparatus. Definitions are given in the Glossary.

In 2019-20 FRAs in Wales attended 14,758 false alarms², equating to 47 per 10,000 population. North Wales FRA attended the fewest false alarms, equating to 33 per 10,000 population; Mid and West Wales and South Wales each had a rate of attending 51 false alarms per 10,000 population. Overall there was a 2% decrease in the number of false alarms attended; only Mid and West Wales saw a decrease (5%), whilst North Wales and South Wales both saw small rises although no percentage change.

Table 2 False alarms attended

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
Numbers of false alarms				
2015-16	1,995	4,599	8,323	14,917
2016-17	2,140	4,889	8,191	15,220
2017-18	2,112	4,939	7,691	14,742
2018-19	2,269	4,886	7,847	15,002
2019-20	2,274	4,627	7,857	14,758
Percentage change				
2019-20 with 2018-19	0	-5	0	-2
Rate per 10,000 population				
2015-16	29	51	55	48
2016-17	31	54	54	49
2017-18	30	55	50	47
2018-19	32	54	51	48
2019-20	33	51	51	47

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

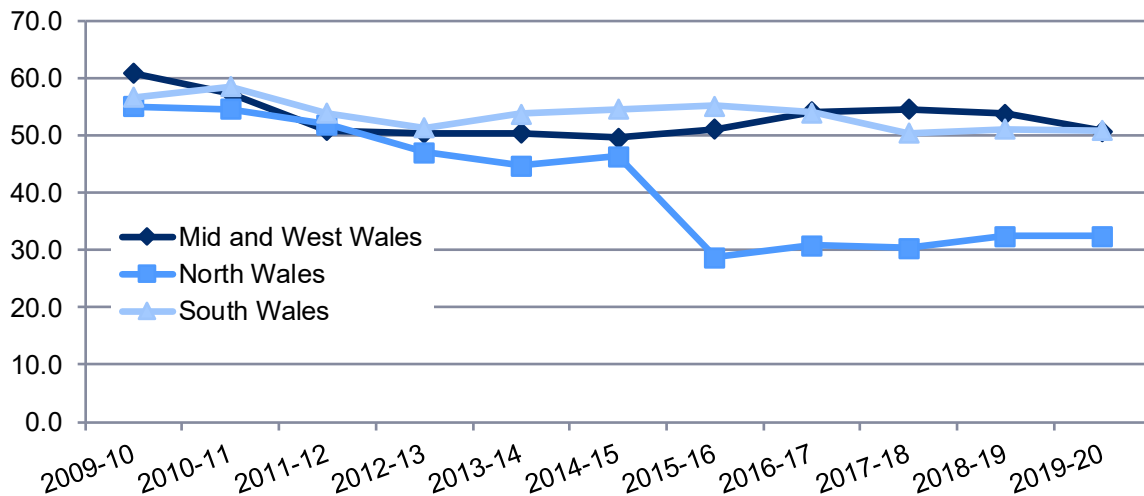
(r) Revised data

Although 2015-16 was the first year this false alarm data was collected as part of the Performance Indicators, comparable back data are available (although these data are revised periodically).

² False alarms quoted in this bulletin include those related to Special Service Incidents (SSIs). The statistics published in the Fire Statistics Wales series of bulletins excludes false alarms related to SSIs and are therefore not comparable.

Chart 4 shows the rate of fire alarms attended (per 10,000 population) since 2009-10. Notably the rate in North Wales fell in 2015-16; this can be attributed to a change in policy regarding attendance at automatic fire alarms in April 2015.

Chart 4 False alarms attended (a) per 10,000 population



Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

(a) Data prior to 2015-16 were not collected as part of the Performance Indicator data collection but are taken from the Incident Recording System.

Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) attended

Prior to 2015-16 numbers of RTCs attended were not collected as part of the performance indicator data collection.

In 2019-20 FRAs in Wales attended 2,123 RTCs, equating to 7 per 10,000 population and numbers decreased by 4% compared with 2018-19. Overall, since this data collection began in 2015-16, there have been annual decreases every year in the number of RTCs attended.

Table 3 Road Traffic Collisions attended

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
Numbers of Non RTC SSI				
2015-16	212	1,079	1,322	2,613
2016-17	215	997	1,179	2,391
2017-18	206	983	1,139	2,328
2018-19	220	870	1,112	2,202
2019-20	179	948	996	2,123
Percentage change				
2019-20 with 2018-19	-19	9	-10	-4
Rate per 10,000 population				
2015-16	3	12	9	8
2016-17	3	11	8	8
2017-18	3	11	7	7
2018-19	3	10	7	7
2019-20	3	10	6	7

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

(r) Revised data

Earlier data for RTCs attended have been collected and published via the Operational data collection (for years 2004-05 to 2010-11) and via the Incident Recording System (IRS) since 2009-10. For comparability issues see the Key Quality Information.

These data (and those for other Special Service Incidents) can be found on [StatsWales](https://stats.wales.gov.uk/).

South Wales FRA attended the most RTCs, (996 incidents and 6 per 10,000 population), but Mid and West Wales had a higher rate per population; North Wales attended the fewest (179) and had the lowest rate, 3 per 10,000 population. Only Mid and West Wales saw an increase (9%). In North Wales numbers fell by 19% and in South Wales there was a drop of 10%.

RTCs accounted for over a fifth of SSIs attended in Wales in 2019-20. This proportion was lowest in Mid and West Wales where a sixth of SSIs were RTCs, whereas in North Wales and South Wales the proportion was 28%.

Other Special Service Incidents attended

Other SSI incidents include flooding, release of persons and animals, and so on. A full list of incident types can be found in the [Key Quality Information](#).

This is the third year this data has been collected as part of the Performance Indicators data collection, however a longer time series of SSIs are published in [StatsWales](#).

In 2019-20 FRAs in Wales attended 7,522 SSIs other than RTCs, equating to 24 per 10,000 population and an increase of 15% in number compared with the previous year.

Mid and West Wales FRA attended the most (4,484), equating to 49 per 10,000 population; North Wales attended 469 (7 per 10,000 population) and South Wales attended 2,569 (17 per 10,000 population). North Wales was the only FRA to see a fall in numbers of non RTC SSIs, with a 12% drop; in Mid and West Wales and South Wales there were increases of 13% and 25% respectively. SSI Incident data³ published in November 2020 shows notable increases in the number of flooding and rescue from water incidents (almost double the number in the previous year), and over a third of these occurred in February 2020, the wettest February on record (since 1862).

Variation between individual FRAs can be partly attributed to differences in operational protocols. The StatsWales table shows the numbers of different SSI incident types.

Table 4 Other Special Service Incidents(a) attended

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
Numbers of Non RTC SSI				
2015-16	532	4,478	2,101	7,111
2016-17	978	5,732	2,147	8,857
2017-18	1,386	4,665	2,621	8,672
2018-19	535	3,967	2,062	6,564
2019-20	469	4,484	2,569	7,522
Percentage change				
2019-20 with 2018-19	-12	13	25	15
Rate per 10,000 population				
2015-16	8	50	14	23
2016-17	14	64	14	28
2017-18	20	52	17	28
2018-19	8	44	13	21
2019-20	7	49	17	24

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

(a) A full list of incidents included in 'Other Special Service Incidents' are included in the [Glossary](#).

(r) Revised data.

³ [Special Service Incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Service](#)

The second indicator (FRS/RRC/S/002) has two parts and looks at the casualties resulting from fires.

Deaths and injuries from fires

During 2019-20, there were 182 deaths and persons injured⁴ due to fire in Wales, 4 more than in 2018-19. The number of deaths and injuries is equivalent to 6 casualties per 100,000 population (around the same rate as in the previous 3 years). The rates in South Wales and Mid and West Wales were both 5 per 100,000 population, whilst North Wales had the highest rate at 7 per 100,000 population.

Table 5 Number of deaths and injuries arising from all fires per 100,000 population (a)(b)(c)

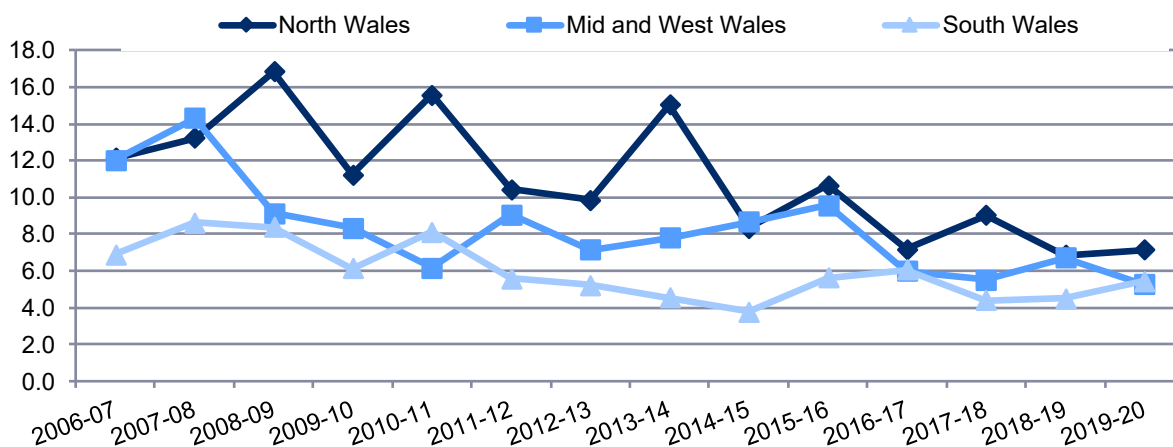
	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
2010-11	16	6	8	9
2011-12	10	9	6	8
2012-13	10	7	5	7
2013-14	15	8	5	8
2014-15	8	9	4	6
2015-16	11	10	6	8
2016-17	7	6	6	6
2017-18	9	6	4	6
2018-19	7	7	5	6
2019-20	7	5	5	6

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

- (a) Excluding those who are sent to hospital for a precautionary check up or told to seek medical advice, and those receiving first aid at the scene. Non-fatal casualties recorded as not fire related are also excluded.
(b) This chart does not show data before 2006-07 as the interpretation of the definition of fire injuries may have differed for these years.
(c) Time series derived from data provided for previous PIs.

The chart shows how numbers of casualties have fluctuated throughout the time series, most noticeably in North Wales.

Chart 5 Number of deaths and injuries arising from all fires per 100,000 population (a)(b)(c)



Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

- (a) Excluding those who are sent to hospital for a precautionary check up or told to seek medical advice, and those receiving first aid at the scene. Non-fatal casualties recorded as not fire related are also excluded.
(b) This chart does not show data before 2006-07 as the interpretation of the definition of fire injuries may have differed for these years.
(c) Time series derived from data provided for previous PIs.

⁴ Excluding those who are sent to hospital for a precautionary check up or told to seek medical advice, and those receiving first aid at the scene. Non-fatal casualties recorded as not fire related are also excluded. See Key Quality information for comparability issues with data contained in Fire Statistics series of bulletins.

Table 6 Number of deaths and injuries arising from accidental fires per 100,000 population (a)(b)(c)

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
2010-11	14	6	7	8
2011-12	9	8	4	6
2012-13	8	7	4	6
2013-14	12	7	4	6
2014-15	7	7	3	5
2015-16	9	8	5	7
2016-17	6	6	5	5
2017-18	8	5	4	5
2018-19	4	6	4	4
2019-20	7	5	4	5

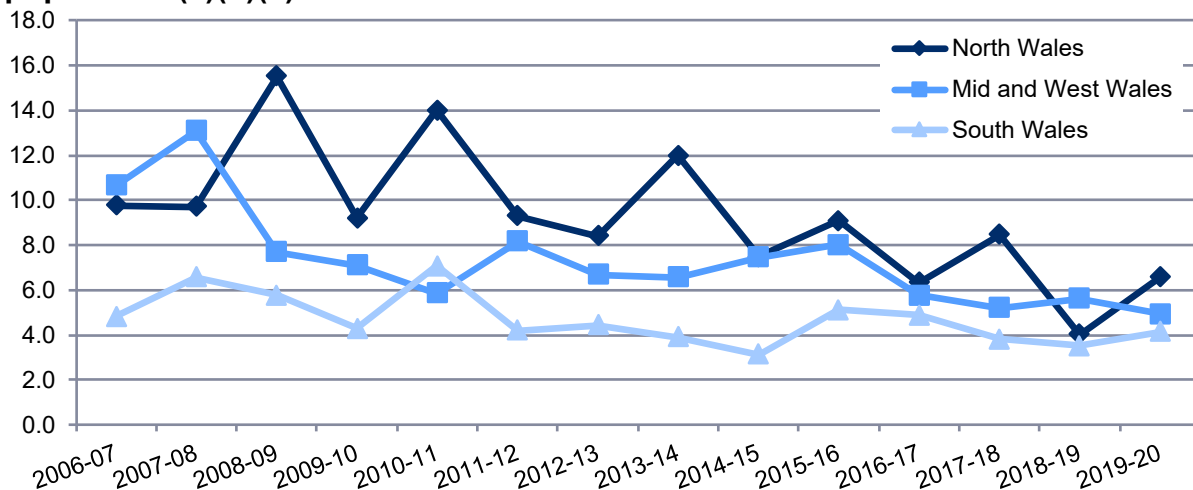
Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

- (a) Excluding those who are sent to hospital for a precautionary check up or told to seek medical advice, and those receiving first aid at the scene. Non-fatal casualties recorded as not fire related are also excluded.
- (b) This chart does not show data before 2006-07 as the interpretation of the definition of fire injuries may have differed for these years.
- (c) Time series derived from data provided for previous PIs.

Most injuries occurred in accidental fires (85% in 2019-20) and so the overall trend in injuries occurring in such fires is very similar to the trend across all fires.

North Wales had the highest rate with 7 casualties in accidental fires per 100,000 population. In Mid and West Wales and South Wales the rates were 5 and 4 casualties per 100,000 respectively.

Chart 6 Number of deaths and injuries arising from accidental fires per 100,000 population (a)(b)(c)



Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

- (a) Excluding those who are sent to hospital for a precautionary check up or told to seek medical advice, and those receiving first aid at the scene. Non-fatal casualties recorded as not fire related are also excluded.
- (b) This chart does not show data before 2006-07 as the interpretation of the definition of fire injuries may have differed for these years.
- (c) Time series derived from data provided for previous PIs.

2. Effective response

The third indicator (FRS/EFR/S/003) has only one measure and relates to containment of fires.

The percentage of dwelling fires which were contained in the room in which they originated

The Performance Indicator is intended to provide an indication of the success of FRA intervention in terms of both community fire safety messages being understood and implemented by members of the public and the timely and effective response of FRAs to emergency calls.

2015-16 was the first year these data were collected; no similar analysis had previously been published.

For the year 2019-20, in 86% of dwelling fires the fire was contained to the room of origin, the same as in the previous three years.

North Wales had the highest percentage of dwelling fires restricted to the room of origin at 89%. South Wales had the lowest percentage (84%), whilst in Mid and West Wales 85% of dwelling fires were contained within the room of origin.

North Wales and South Wales saw increases in the number of dwelling fires contained within the room of origin, whereas North Wales saw a reduction. These percentage changes in North Wales and South Wales are mirrored in the number of dwelling fires as seen from the incident data published in Fire and Rescue Incidents 2019-20.

Table 7 Percentage of dwelling fires(a) which were contained in the room of origin(b)

	North Wales	Mid and West Wales	South Wales	Wales
Numbers of fires contained				
2015-16	388	518	641	1,547
2016-17	419	538	647	1,604
2017-18	375	482	527	1,384
2018-19	313	489	528	1,330
2019-20	339	420	629	1,388
Percentage change				
2019-20 with 2018-19	8	-14	19	4
Percentage contained				
2015-16	91	88	85	87
2016-17	90	86	85	86
2017-18	89	85	84	86
2018-19	87	89	83	86
2019-20	89	85	84	86

Source: Annual performance indicator returns, ONS Population Mid-Year Estimates

- (a) Dwelling means a property which is a permanent place of residence. As well as conventional dwellings, it includes static caravans, prefabricated dwellings and houseboats. It does not include temporary or mobile structures such as tents, marquees, sheds, outhouses, vehicles (including recreational vehicles containing sleeping accommodation) and mobile caravans.
- (b) Includes 'Heat and Smoke damage only' incidents and those fires where the damage was restricted to the first item ignited, the room of origin, the roof space only or the external roof only.

Glossary

- Accidental fires are defined as fires where the fire was ignited by accident or the cause of the fire is not known or specified.
- Deliberate fires are defined as fires where the fire was ignited deliberately or if it is suspected or recorded as 'doubtful' by the Fire and Rescue Services.
- Injuries include those injured as a direct result of the fire, but not fatally injured, who required more medical treatment than could be given at the fire ground. This excludes those who are only sent to hospital for a precautionary check up, those only told to seek medical advice or those only receiving first aid at the scene.
- Dwellings are defined as buildings occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. From 1988, mobile homes have been specifically included in the dwelling count. In 2000, the definition of a dwelling was widened to include any non-permanent structures used solely as a dwelling, such as houseboats.
- False Alarms are events in which the Fire and Rescue Authority was called to a reported fire which turned out not to exist. False alarms are categorised as follows:
 - Malicious False Alarms means calls that were made with the intent of getting the Fire and Rescue Service to attend a non-existent event (both fire and special service). Includes deliberate and suspected malicious intentions.
 - Good Intent False Alarms are calls made in good faith in the belief that the FRA really would attend a fire.
 - False Alarms Due to Apparatus are calls initiated by fire alarm and fire-fighting equipment operating (including accidental initiation of alarm apparatus by persons).
- Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs): where a mechanically propelled vehicle (eg a car, lorry or motorbike) on a public road or other public place causes damage to someone else's property or vehicle, or any other person or animal is injured.
- Room of origin means the place where the fire started and refers to any space within the property which is defined and enclosed by the structure of the property. It includes stairwells, roof voids, attics, basements and cellars, but not chimneys, flues, ducts or built-in storage furniture (eg airing cupboards and fitted wardrobes). Where a wall or door has been removed by the owner or occupier to create a larger space, the whole of that space counts as one room. Structures such as garages, workshops and conservatories which are part of, or attached to, the premises and accessible from the interior of it are also rooms for the purposes of this indicator. A roof is not a room. However, a fire which originates on the external roof of a dwelling, but is extinguished without spreading to the roof void, or to another room as defined above, is deemed to have been contained in the room of origin for the purposes of this indicator.

- Primary fires include all fires in non-derelect buildings, vehicles or outdoor structures, or any fire involving casualties, or rescues, or fires attended by five or more appliances.
- Secondary fires are mainly outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, or unless five or more appliances attend. They include fires in single derelect buildings and vehicles. They are reported in less detail than other fires and consequently less information concerning them is available.
- Special Service Incidents are non-fire incidents which require the attendance of an appliance or officer and are split into the following highest level categories:
 - Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)
 - Other transport incidents
 - Flooding
 - Rescue or evacuation from water
 - Other rescue/release of persons
 - Animal assistance incidents
 - Hazardous Materials incident
 - Spills and Leaks (not RTC)
 - Lift Release
 - Effecting entry/exit
 - Removal of objects from people
 - Suicide/attempts
 - Medical Incident - Co-responder/First responder
 - Evacuation (no fire)
 - Water provision
 - Assist other agencies Incident

Where more than one activity is carried out, the incident is recorded under the most resource intensive part or what was the most appropriate e.g. a railway incident with persons trapped is likely to be recorded under 'railway accident' even though the FRA may be involved in 'first aid', 'other rescue' and possibly 'making safe'.

Key quality information

The analysis in this bulletin relates to fire and rescue service incidents between April 2019 and end March 2020 and therefore covers a period largely prior to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, and the lockdown measures introduced on 23 March 2020.

On 10 November 2004 the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, which devolved fire and rescue services to the National Assembly for Wales (now the responsibility of the Welsh Government), was brought into effect. In Wales, these services are provided by three Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). The three FRAs cover varied geographical areas with a wide variety of risks including: fires in homes; outdoor fires; fires in business premises; road traffic collisions; rail or air crashes; chemical spills; building collapses; and trapped people or animals.

North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority provides cover for a population of almost 700,000 across a geographical area of 2,400 square miles. It employs nearly 900 operational and non-operational support staff from its headquarters and its 44 fire stations.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority covers over half the area of Wales and a population of over 910,000. There are 58 fire stations and over 1,300 employees.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority serves a population of over 1.5 million people covering 1,085 square miles. It employs almost 1,800 staff including around 1,400 fire-fighters who operate from 47 fire stations throughout South Wales.

Relevance

Fire statistics produced by the Welsh Government are used widely in measuring a number of targets and key performance indicators and in making policy decisions. Fire and rescue services use the data to monitor and benchmark performance and to make strategic decisions. Other interest and uses of this data are outlined in the 'Users and Uses' section of the [Quality Report](#).

We regularly review our data collections and outputs to ensure that they are relevant, collect reliable data and meet user needs. We also consult our users on a number of fire data collections issues. This is part of an ongoing exercise covering all fire statistics in order to better understand user requirements and priorities for the future.

The timing of outputs is discussed with internal users on an annual basis. Regular meetings with users allow us to discuss content, format and timing of outputs. We use networks such as the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) Wales groups, plus specific fire networks to reach other users.

We encourage feedback on all our outputs and data collections.

Accuracy

At the time of publication, the rates in this release will be based on the most recently published population and dwellings data for the relevant years. In time, some of these rates may become out of date. As these changes have only a very minor effect on the results, this release will not be revised, and the latest data will be reflected only in the rates shown on our StatsWales

website, and, if relevant, in future versions of this release. Similarly previous first releases in this series have not been updated to reflect changes to population and the data within those publications may differ from the figures for earlier years included in this release.

Performance Indicator denominators (e.g. population and number of dwellings) are provided to data providers as part of the data collection process. Data providers input all numerator data including fire related data from IRS.

The Welsh Government with agreement from data providers will impute data if validation errors cannot be resolved. Any such occurrences will be highlighted in the 'quality information' section of the first release. Since data collections have been undertaken by the Welsh Government, no imputation of data has been necessary.

Revised data are marked with an (r) in the statistical release.

We follow the Welsh Government's statistical [revisions policy](#).

Timeliness and punctuality

All outputs adhere to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics by pre-announcing the date of publication. Furthermore, should the need arise to postpone an output, this would follow the Welsh Government's Revisions, Errors and Postponements arrangements.

The timetable for outputs is generally developed in line with user needs and aims to ensure that outputs are published as soon as the statistics are ready.

Accessibility and clarity

Welsh fire statistics are published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication. All releases are available to download for free.

In our outputs, we aim to provide a balance of commentary, summary tables, charts and maps. The aim is to 'tell the story' in the output, without the output becoming overly long and complicated. We provide additional, detailed data on StatsWales.

We aim to make our outputs clear for the audience and all outputs adhere to the Welsh Government accessibility policy. Furthermore, all our headlines are published in Welsh and English.

[Forms and guidance](#) used to collect data are available for download from the Statistics and Research page on the Welsh Government website.

Further information regarding the statistics can be obtained by contacting the relevant staff detailed on the release or via stats.inclusion@gov.wales

More information is available in the form of [StatsWales](#) tables that accompany this release.

Comparability and coherence

Since 2009-10 the three Fire and Rescue Services have recorded all their fire incidents using the Incident Recording System (IRS). This may affect some of the performance indicators especially when data are compared with years prior to 2009-10. Between 2005-06 and 2008-09

the data were collected by the Local Government Data Unit Wales (Data Unit) on behalf of the then Welsh Assembly Government. Prior to the 2005-06 collection, data were collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG).

Data are taken from the Incident Recording System (IRS) by the Fire and Rescue Authorities. Whilst the data are accurate at the time of extraction, numbers may subsequently change as IRS is an administrative database which is updated throughout the year. Consequently the data published here may not match numbers appearing in other publications. Data from IRS will not be revised in subsequent editions of this release unless an error in the previously published figures has been detected (i.e. data in this publication is not marked as provisional).

The non-fatal casualties recorded within the second indicator FRS/RRC/S/002 exclude those casualties which were recorded as 'not fire related'. However these casualties are included in the Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics series of bulletins, data published by the Home Office for England and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for Scotland data publications.

False alarms quoted in this bulletin include those related to Special Service Incidents (SSIs). The statistics published in the Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics series of bulletins excludes false alarms related to SSIs includes them with SSIs rather than false alarms.

The [Fire Statistics Quality Report](#) covers the general principles and processes leading up to the production of our fire statistics. The report covers various topics including definitions, coverage, timeliness, relevance and comparability.

Other UK data:

England: The Audit Commission collected Best Value Performance Indicators for England up until 2007-08. These were replaced with a smaller set of National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships. These included indicators on arson, primary fires, fatalities and casualties. These indicators are similar to Wales but have been developed separately so care should be taken in comparing the data. Performance indicator data are not collected centrally in England however similar data is available in the Home Office's [Fire Statistics publications](#).

Scotland: The Scottish Fire and Rescue service publish an [Annual Performance Review](#).

Other Scottish fire data are available here:

[Data from 2014-15 onwards](#)

[Pre 2014-15 data](#)

Northern Ireland: [The Fire and Rescue Service in Northern Ireland publish an annual report](#).

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

The statistics last underwent a full [assessment](#) against the [Code of Practice](#) in June 2012.

Since the review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Extended time series where possible
- Improved Key Quality information.
- Publication of data tables in Excel alongside the bulletin.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#)

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

This document is available here: <https://gov.wales/fire-and-rescue-authority-performance>

[Fire Statistics Data Quality Report](#)

[Incident Recording System Questions and Lists](#)

Next update

Fire and rescue authority performance 2020-21 - September 2021

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to stats.inclusion@gov.wales.

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