

# Further Education Sector Activity in Northern Ireland by Local Government District: 2014/15 to 2018/19



This statistical fact sheet presents a range of analysis regarding enrolments in the Northern Ireland Further Education Sector covering academic years 2014/15 to 2018/19.

# Further Education Sector Activity in Northern Ireland by Local Government District: 2014/15 to 2018/19

The analysis covers all enrolments, regulated enrolments, higher education enrolments as well as qualifications and performance (retention, achievement and success rates) in the FE sector by Local Government District.

The figures in this statistical fact sheet are based on a full year count of enrolments; however, it should be noted that students may be enrolled on more than one course at a given time and may, therefore, be counted as two or more enrolments. This is the second edition of this fact sheet and it is our intention to release future editions of this fact sheet annually. As we want to engage with users of our statistics, we invite you to feedback your comments on this publication.

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### Additional Tables

Detailed Additional Tables covering the characteristics of those enrolling in FE colleges and trends across a range of variables, including sex, age, mode of attendance, provision area, level of study, subject area, deprivation quintile and performance (retention, achievement and success rates) are available on the DfE web page:

[Further Education Sector Activity in Northern Ireland by Local Government: 2014/15 to 2018/19](#)

**Table 1: All enrolments in the FE sector by Local Government District and FE college in 2018/19**

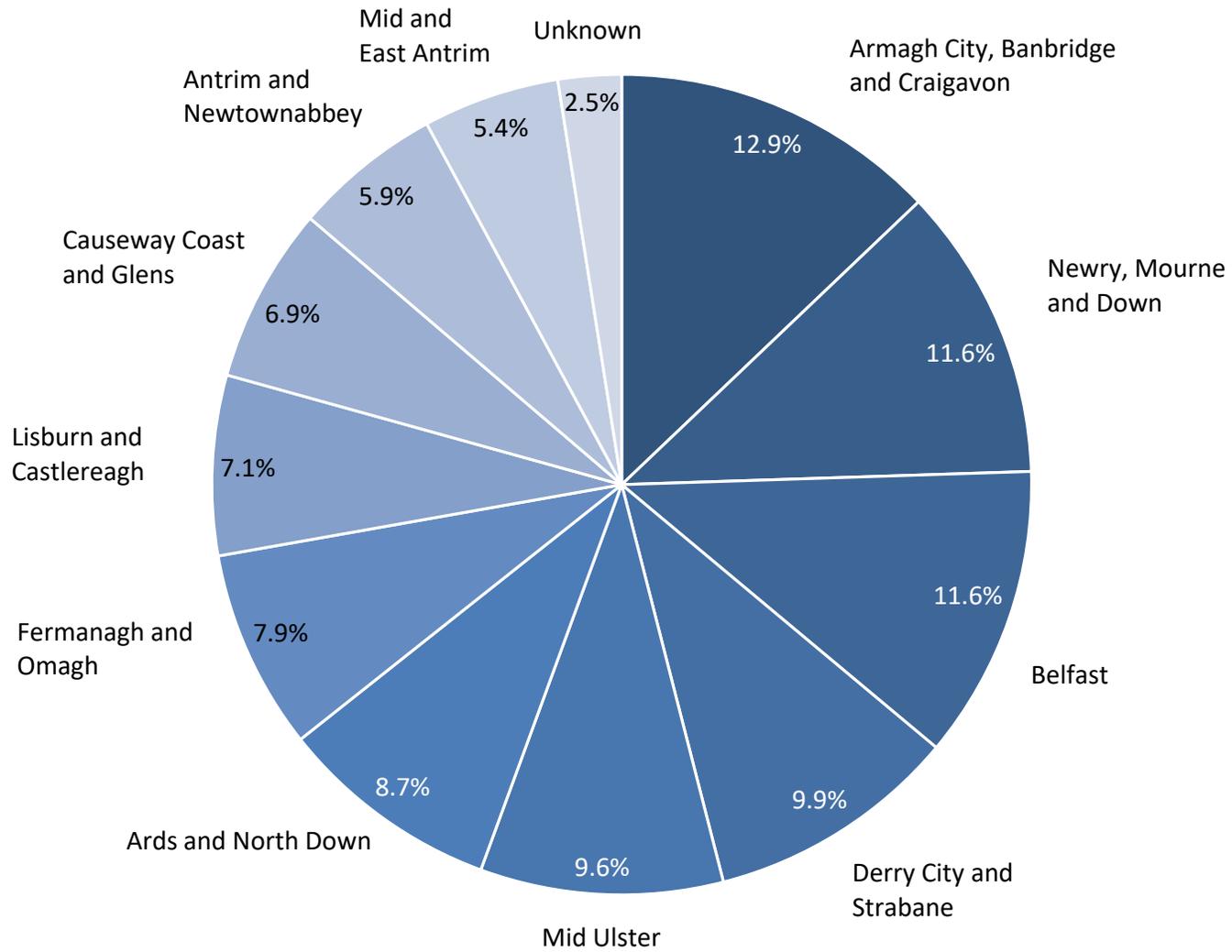
| Local Government District            | FE college           |                   |                     |                        |                   |               | Total          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
|                                      | Belfast Metropolitan | Northern Regional | North West Regional | South Eastern Regional | Southern Regional | South West    |                |
| Antrim and Newtownabbey              | 2,754                | 5,052             | 5                   | 796                    | 60                | 12            | <b>8,679</b>   |
| Ards and North Down                  | 1,782                | 68                | 2                   | 11,036                 | 58                | 3             | <b>12,949</b>  |
| Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | 1,260                | 62                | 18                  | 1,946                  | 14,980            | 818           | <b>19,084</b>  |
| Belfast                              | 13,660               | 716               | 39                  | 2,551                  | 167               | 12            | <b>17,145</b>  |
| Causeway Coast and Glens             | 329                  | 5,296             | 4,421               | 110                    | 29                | 85            | <b>10,270</b>  |
| Derry City and Strabane              | 151                  | 55                | 11,303              | 77                     | 13                | 3,106         | <b>14,705</b>  |
| Fermanagh and Omagh                  | 199                  | 28                | 154                 | 85                     | 48                | 11,152        | <b>11,666</b>  |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh              | 3,160                | 113               | 11                  | 6,716                  | 463               | 30            | <b>10,493</b>  |
| Mid and East Antrim                  | 1,427                | 6,143             | 23                  | 267                    | 38                | 77            | <b>7,975</b>   |
| Mid Ulster                           | 565                  | 4,252             | 175                 | 172                    | 530               | 8,482         | <b>14,176</b>  |
| Newry, Mourne and Down               | 1,044                | 43                | 12                  | 6,582                  | 9,188             | 289           | <b>17,158</b>  |
| Unknown*                             | 156                  | 72                | 2,356               | 84                     | 430               | 604           | <b>3,702</b>   |
| <b>FE Sector Total</b>               | <b>26,487</b>        | <b>21,900</b>     | <b>18,519</b>       | <b>30,422</b>          | <b>26,004</b>     | <b>24,670</b> | <b>148,002</b> |

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown\*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled student enrolments (80.7%, 2,989).

- In 2018/19, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD had the highest proportion of the 148,002 enrolments, accounting for 12.9% (19,084), and Mid and East Antrim the lowest, with 5.4% (7,975).
- In all eleven LGDs, over half of student enrolments were at one particular college. However, this ranged from Causeway Coast and Glens, where 51.6% of student enrolments were at Northern Regional College, to Fermanagh and Omagh, where 95.6% of student enrolments were at South West College.
- Almost a third of enrolments from students residing in either Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD or Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD were at Belfast Metropolitan College (31.7% and 30.1% respectively).
- Notably, in North West Regional College, a relatively large number of enrolments did not have an associated postcode (2,356), accounted for mainly by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled students (87.9%, 2,070).

**Figure 1: Proportion of all enrolments in the FE sector by Local Government District in 2018/19**



Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

**Table 2: All enrolments in the FE sector by Local Government District and academic year**

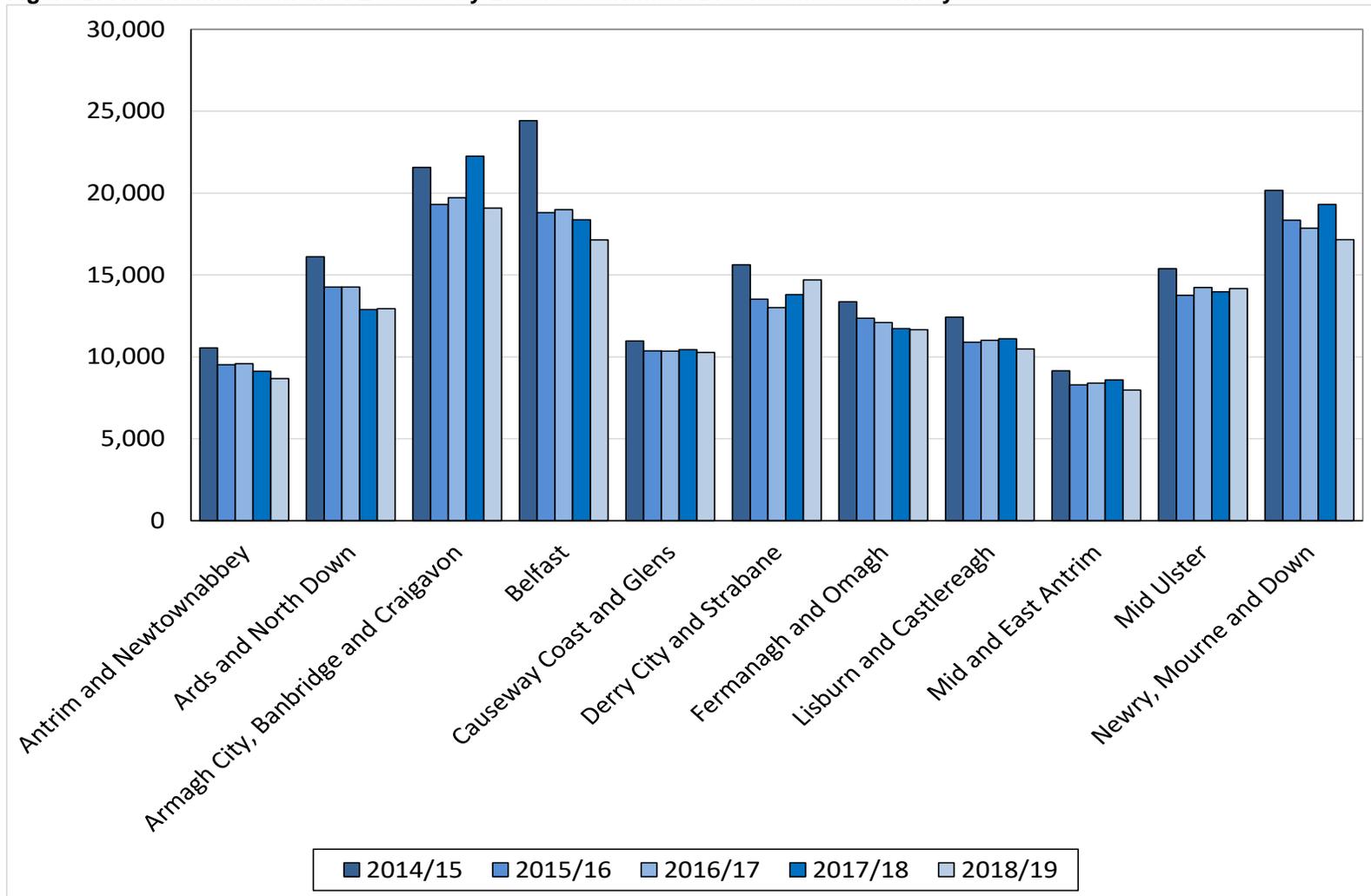
| Local Government District            | Academic Year  |                |                |                |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                      | 2014/15        | 2015/16        | 2016/17        | 2017/18        | 2018/19        |
| Antrim and Newtownabbey              | 10,560         | 9,524          | 9,586          | 9,131          | 8,679          |
| Ards and North Down                  | 16,117         | 14,267         | 14,262         | 12,890         | 12,949         |
| Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | 21,573         | 19,314         | 19,721         | 22,262         | 19,084         |
| Belfast                              | 24,420         | 18,812         | 18,998         | 18,369         | 17,145         |
| Causeway Coast and Glens             | 10,982         | 10,374         | 10,361         | 10,450         | 10,270         |
| Derry City and Strabane              | 15,630         | 13,528         | 13,012         | 13,797         | 14,705         |
| Fermanagh and Omagh                  | 13,361         | 12,357         | 12,094         | 11,725         | 11,666         |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh              | 12,428         | 10,902         | 11,011         | 11,112         | 10,493         |
| Mid and East Antrim                  | 9,148          | 8,294          | 8,404          | 8,599          | 7,975          |
| Mid Ulster                           | 15,388         | 13,761         | 14,238         | 13,971         | 14,176         |
| Newry, Mourne and Down               | 20,176         | 18,349         | 17,853         | 19,312         | 17,158         |
| Unknown*                             | 6,035          | 4,335          | 3,548          | 3,892          | 3,702          |
| <b>FE Sector Total</b>               | <b>175,818</b> | <b>153,817</b> | <b>153,088</b> | <b>155,510</b> | <b>148,002</b> |

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown\*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled student enrolments. (Over the five year period, this ranged from 70.4% in 2014/15 to 80.7% in 2018/19.)

- Total enrolments at FE colleges decreased by a net 15.8% between 2014/15 (175,818) and 2018/19 (148,002); this relates mainly to a fall in part-time enrolments and coincides with a ‘demographic dip’ among 16-19 year-olds.
- Since 2014/15, enrolments have decreased in net terms in each of the 11 Local Government Districts.
- The largest percentage net decrease has been in Belfast (29.8%), from 24,420 in 2014/15 to 17,145 in 2018/19. As a result, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon has taken over from Belfast, with the most enrolments (19,084) in 2018/19.
- The smallest percentage net decrease has been in Derry City and Strabane (5.9%), from 15,630 in 2014/15 to 14,705 in 2018/19. Enrolments in this LGD increased by 6.6% between 2017/18 (13,797) and 2018/19 (14,705).

**Figure 2: All enrolments in the FE sector by Local Government District and academic year**



Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Please note approximately 3% of all enrolments have unknown postcodes, which are not labelled in the chart but included in Table 2.

**Table 3: Regulated enrolments in the FE sector by Local Government District and academic year**

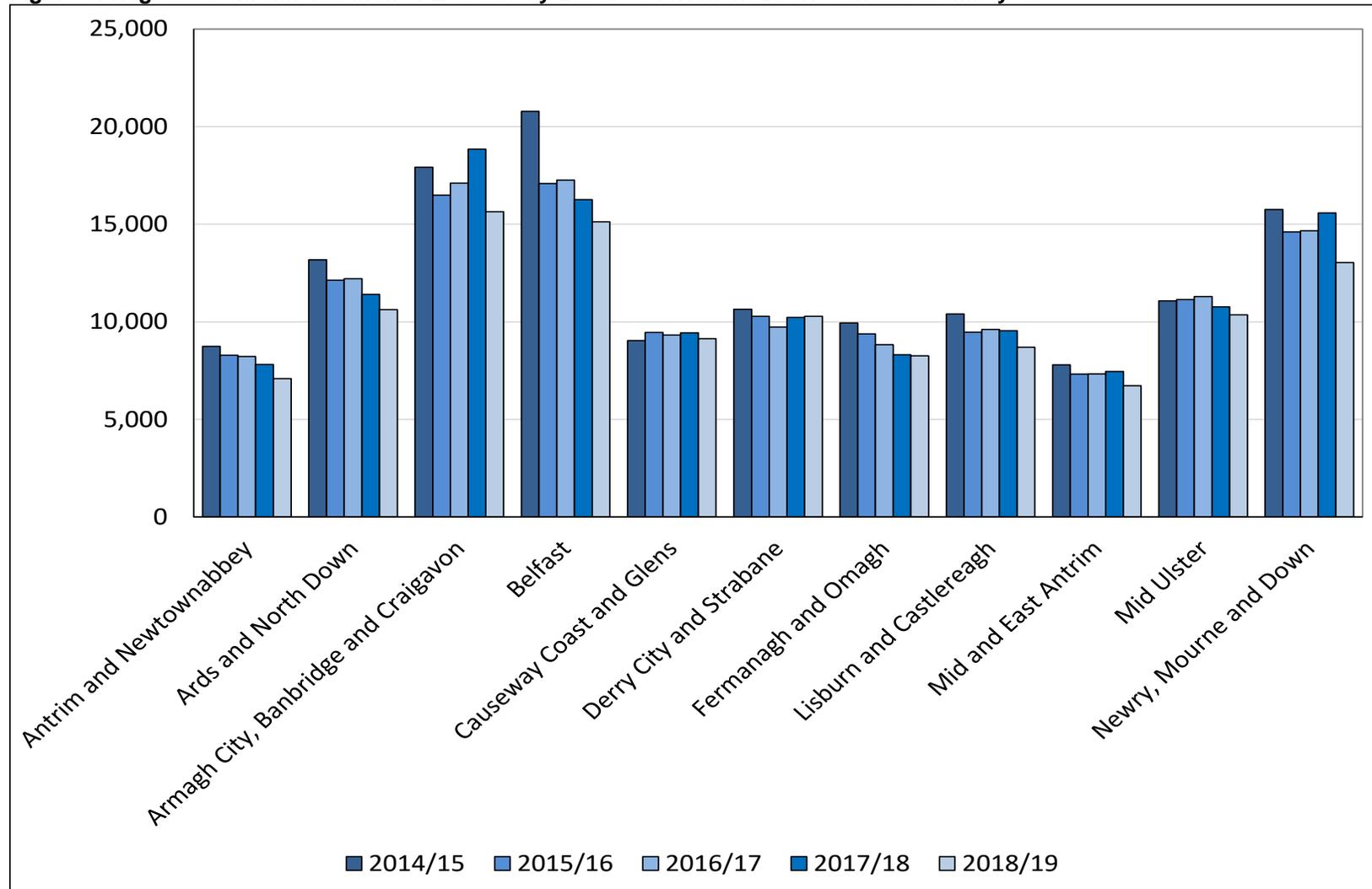
| Local Government District            | Academic Year  |                |                |                |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                      | 2014/15        | 2015/16        | 2016/17        | 2017/18        | 2018/19        |
| Antrim and Newtownabbey              | 8,738          | 8,288          | 8,222          | 7,813          | 7,085          |
| Ards and North Down                  | 13,180         | 12,134         | 12,210         | 11,407         | 10,624         |
| Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | 17,922         | 16,494         | 17,101         | 18,841         | 15,639         |
| Belfast                              | 20,786         | 17,089         | 17,258         | 16,256         | 15,126         |
| Causeway Coast and Glens             | 9,033          | 9,454          | 9,327          | 9,429          | 9,137          |
| Derry City and Strabane              | 10,643         | 10,277         | 9,728          | 10,229         | 10,286         |
| Fermanagh and Omagh                  | 9,937          | 9,376          | 8,829          | 8,314          | 8,251          |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh              | 10,406         | 9,464          | 9,608          | 9,538          | 8,700          |
| Mid and East Antrim                  | 7,796          | 7,315          | 7,327          | 7,454          | 6,721          |
| Mid Ulster                           | 11,070         | 11,140         | 11,296         | 10,760         | 10,363         |
| Newry, Mourne and Down               | 15,755         | 14,606         | 14,665         | 15,577         | 13,030         |
| Unknown*                             | 4,871          | 3,637          | 3,058          | 3,436          | 3,198          |
| <b>FE Sector Total</b>               | <b>140,137</b> | <b>129,274</b> | <b>128,629</b> | <b>129,054</b> | <b>118,160</b> |

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown\*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled student enrolments. (Over the five year period, this ranged from 70.2% in 2017/18 to 82.3% in 2018/19.)

- Regulated enrolments at FE colleges decreased by a net 15.7% between 2014/15 (140,137) and 2018/19 (118,160).
- Since 2014/15, regulated enrolments have decreased in net terms in ten of the eleven Local Government Districts.
- The largest percentage net decrease has been in Belfast (27.2%), from 20,786 in 2014/15 to 15,126 in 2018/19.
- The only percentage net increase has been in Causeway Coast and Glens (1.2%), from 9,033 in 2014/15 to 9,137 in 2018/19.

**Figure 3: Regulated enrolments in the FE sector by Local Government District and academic year**



Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Please note approximately 3% of regulated enrolments have unknown postcodes, which are not labelled in the chart but included in Table 3.

**Table 4: Higher Education enrolments in the FE sector by Local Government District and academic year**

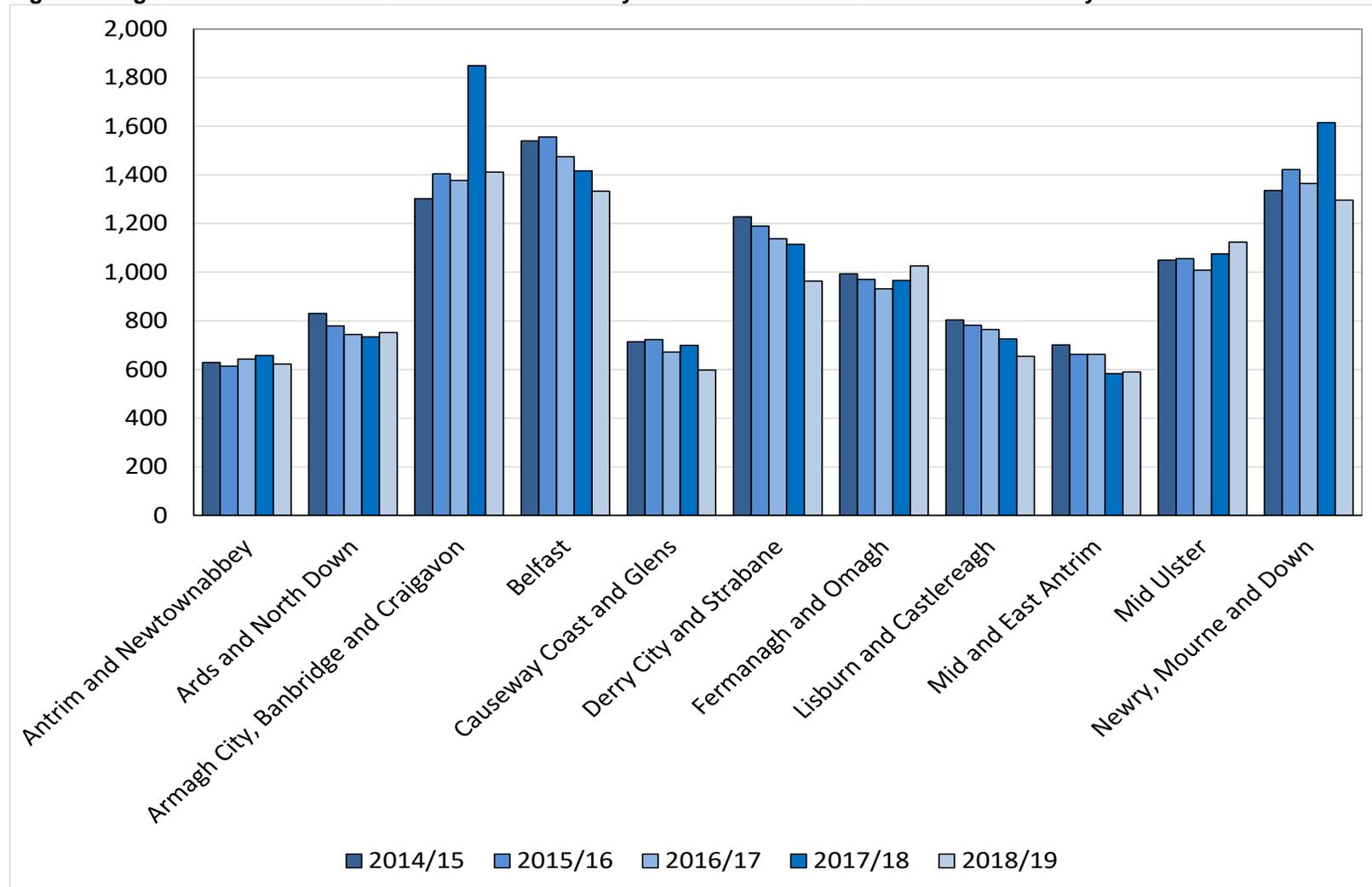
| Local Government District            | Academic Year |               |               |               |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                      | 2014/15       | 2015/16       | 2016/17       | 2017/18       | 2018/19       |
| Antrim and Newtownabbey              | 629           | 614           | 643           | 658           | 623           |
| Ards and North Down                  | 830           | 779           | 744           | 734           | 752           |
| Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | 1,302         | 1,405         | 1,377         | 1,849         | 1,412         |
| Belfast                              | 1,540         | 1,556         | 1,475         | 1,417         | 1,333         |
| Causeway Coast and Glens             | 714           | 723           | 672           | 699           | 598           |
| Derry City and Strabane              | 1,228         | 1,190         | 1,138         | 1,115         | 963           |
| Fermanagh and Omagh                  | 993           | 970           | 932           | 966           | 1,026         |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh              | 804           | 782           | 764           | 726           | 654           |
| Mid and East Antrim                  | 701           | 662           | 662           | 583           | 590           |
| Mid Ulster                           | 1,050         | 1,056         | 1,008         | 1,075         | 1,124         |
| Newry, Mourne and Down               | 1,336         | 1,422         | 1,365         | 1,615         | 1,296         |
| Unknown*                             | 595           | 472           | 395           | 411           | 333           |
| <b>FE Sector Total</b>               | <b>11,722</b> | <b>11,631</b> | <b>11,175</b> | <b>11,848</b> | <b>10,704</b> |

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown\*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled student enrolments. (Over the five year period, this ranged from 72.2% in 2016/17 to 82.9% in 2018/19.)

- Higher Education enrolments at FE colleges decreased by a net 8.7% between 2014/15 (11,722) and 2018/19 (10,704).
- Since 2014/15, Higher Education enrolments have decreased in net terms in eight of the eleven LGDs.
- The largest percentage net decrease has been in Derry City and Strabane (21.6%), from 1,228 in 2014/15 to 963 in 2018/19.
- The largest percentage net increase has been in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (8.4%), from 1,302 in 2014/15 to 1,412 in 2018/19, making it the LGD with the highest number of Higher Education enrolments in the FE sector in 2018/19, ahead of Belfast (1,333) and Newry, Mourne and Down (1,296).

**Figure 4: Higher Education enrolments in the FE sector by Local Government District and academic year**



Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Please note approximately 4% of higher education enrolments have unknown postcodes, which are not labelled in the chart but included in Table 4.

**Table 5: Number of qualifications achieved in the FE sector by Local Government District and FE college in 2018/19**

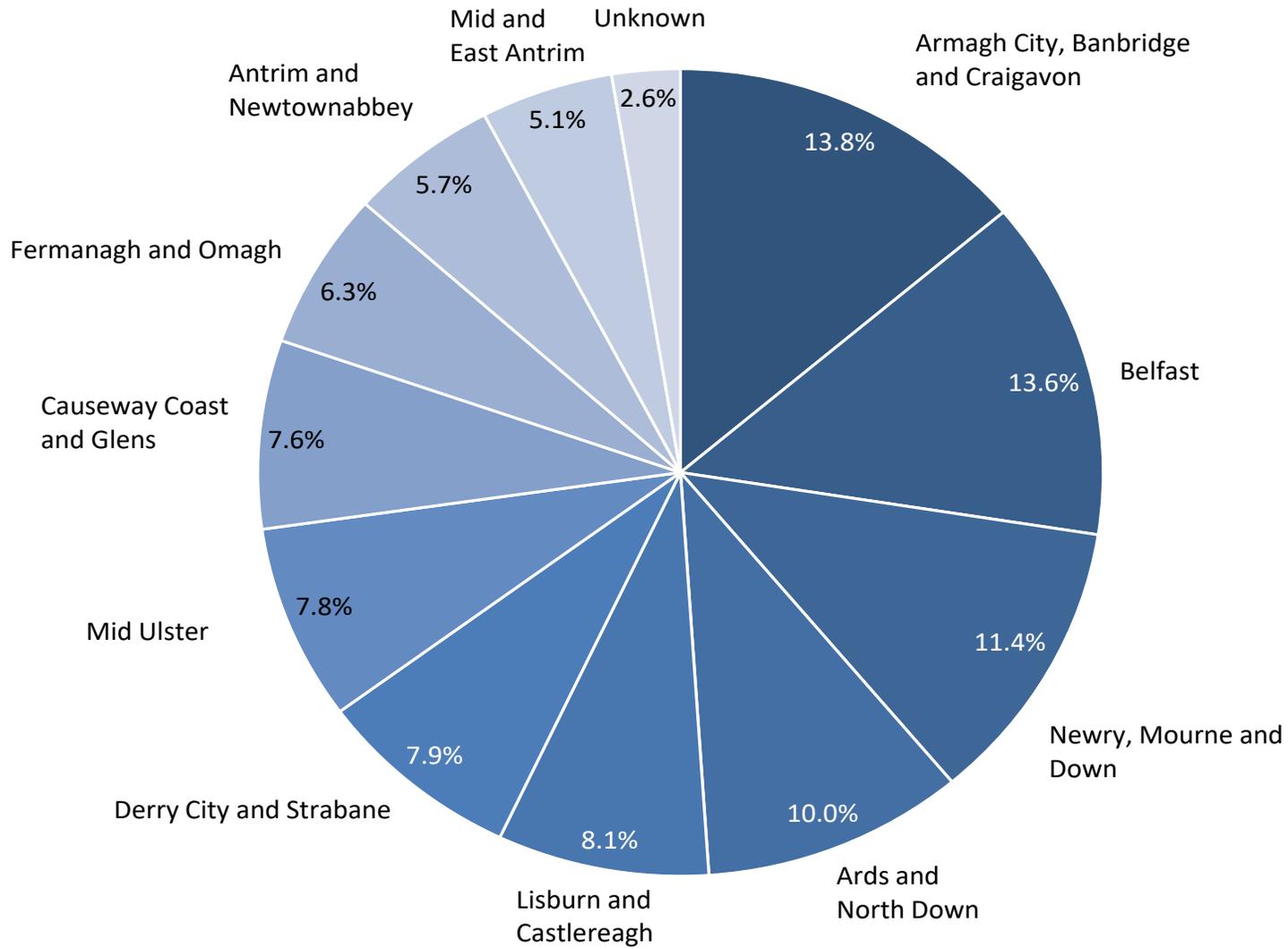
| Local Government District            | FE college           |                   |                     |                        |                   |              | Total         |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
|                                      | Belfast Metropolitan | Northern Regional | North West Regional | South Eastern Regional | Southern Regional | South West   |               |
| Antrim and Newtownabbey              | 1,688                | 2,084             | 3                   | 461                    | 29                | 3            | 4,268         |
| Ards and North Down                  | 1,102                | 25                | 0                   | 6,304                  | 47                | 1            | 7,479         |
| Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | 752                  | 21                | 10                  | 1,255                  | 8,044             | 240          | 10,322        |
| Belfast                              | 8,264                | 269               | 12                  | 1,536                  | 75                | 6            | 10,162        |
| Causeway Coast and Glens             | 180                  | 2,751             | 2,609               | 58                     | 11                | 23           | 5,632         |
| Derry City and Strabane              | 66                   | 20                | 4,925               | 54                     | 9                 | 806          | 5,880         |
| Fermanagh and Omagh                  | 90                   | 9                 | 79                  | 63                     | 25                | 4,427        | 4,693         |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh              | 2,012                | 45                | 2                   | 3,740                  | 234               | 10           | 6,043         |
| Mid and East Antrim                  | 879                  | 2,707             | 12                  | 153                    | 14                | 15           | 3,780         |
| Mid Ulster                           | 307                  | 1,314             | 114                 | 98                     | 277               | 3,735        | 5,845         |
| Newry, Mourne and Down               | 595                  | 16                | 7                   | 3,218                  | 4,675             | 15           | 8,526         |
| Unknown*                             | 116                  | 43                | 1,259               | 54                     | 191               | 286          | 1,949         |
| <b>FE Sector Total</b>               | <b>16,051</b>        | <b>9,304</b>      | <b>9,032</b>        | <b>16,994</b>          | <b>13,631</b>     | <b>9,567</b> | <b>74,579</b> |

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown\*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by qualifications gained by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled students (80.7%, 1,573).

- In 2018/19, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon had the highest proportion of the 74,579 qualifications achieved, accounting for 13.8% (10,322), and Mid and East Antrim the lowest, with 5.1% (3,780).
- In nine of the eleven LGDs, over half of student qualifications achieved were at one particular college, with the largest concentration being in Fermanagh and Omagh where 94.3% of qualifications were at South West College. However, in both Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD and Causeway Coast and Glens LGD, 48.8% of qualifications were at Northern Regional College.
- Around a third of qualifications achieved by students residing in either Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD or Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD were undertaken at Belfast Metropolitan College (39.6% and 33.3% respectively).
- Notably, in North West Regional College, a relatively large number of qualifications awarded did not have an associated postcode (1,259), accounted for mainly by those gained by RoI domiciled students (88.9%, 1,119).

**Figure 5: Proportion of qualifications achieved in the FE sector by Local Government District in 2018/19**



Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

**Table 6: Number of qualifications achieved in the FE sector by Local Government District and academic year**

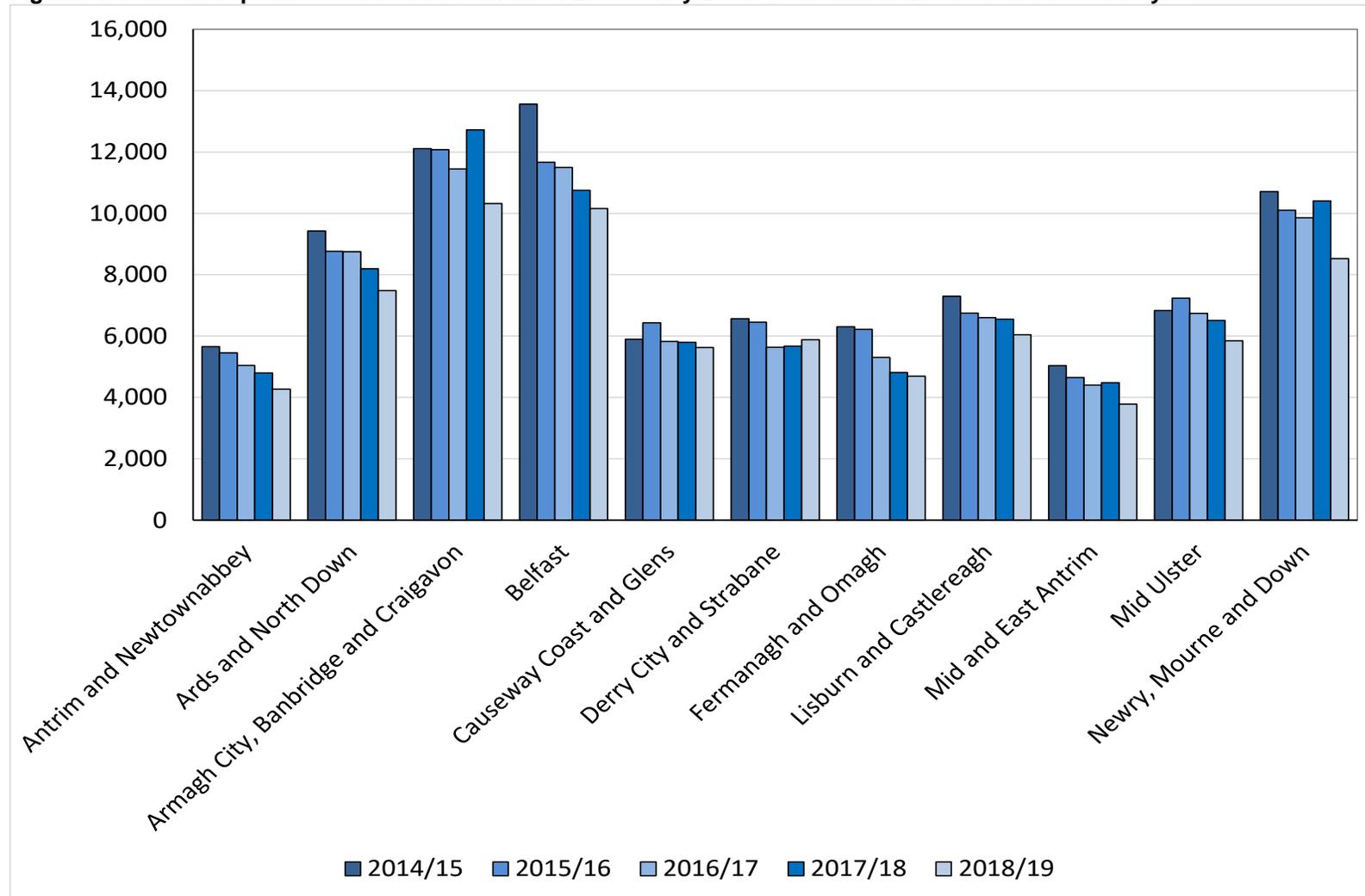
| Local Government District            | Academic Year |               |               |               |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                      | 2014/15       | 2015/16       | 2016/17       | 2017/18       | 2018/19       |
| Antrim and Newtownabbey              | 5,656         | 5,452         | 5,041         | 4,794         | 4,268         |
| Ards and North Down                  | 9,426         | 8,765         | 8,748         | 8,195         | 7,479         |
| Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | 12,107        | 12,075        | 11,449        | 12,723        | 10,322        |
| Belfast                              | 13,564        | 11,667        | 11,496        | 10,752        | 10,162        |
| Causeway Coast and Glens             | 5,895         | 6,431         | 5,827         | 5,798         | 5,632         |
| Derry City and Strabane              | 6,563         | 6,456         | 5,633         | 5,673         | 5,880         |
| Fermanagh and Omagh                  | 6,306         | 6,217         | 5,308         | 4,812         | 4,693         |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh              | 7,298         | 6,747         | 6,599         | 6,549         | 6,043         |
| Mid and East Antrim                  | 5,039         | 4,652         | 4,402         | 4,480         | 3,780         |
| Mid Ulster                           | 6,836         | 7,234         | 6,745         | 6,512         | 5,845         |
| Newry, Mourne and Down               | 10,706        | 10,102        | 9,854         | 10,408        | 8,526         |
| Unknown*                             | 3,083         | 2,355         | 1,913         | 2,074         | 1,949         |
| <b>FE Sector Total</b>               | <b>92,479</b> | <b>88,153</b> | <b>83,015</b> | <b>82,770</b> | <b>74,579</b> |

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown\*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by qualifications gained by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled students. (Over the five year period, this ranged from 69.0% in 2017/18 to 80.7% in 2018/19.)

- The number of qualifications achieved at FE colleges decreased by 19.4% between 2014/15 (92,479) and 2018/19 (74,579).
- Since 2014/15, the number of qualifications awarded has decreased in net terms in all eleven Local Government Districts.
- The largest percentage net decrease has been in Fermanagh and Omagh (25.6%), from 6,306 in 2014/15 to 4,693 in 2018/19.
- The smallest percentage net decrease has been in Causeway Coast and Glens (4.5%), from 5,895 in 2014/15 to 5,632 in 2018/19.

**Figure 6: Number of qualifications achieved in the FE sector by Local Government District and academic year**



Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Please note approximately 3% of all qualifications achieved have unknown postcodes, which are not labelled in the chart but included in Table 6.

**Table 7: Performance rates of final year regulated enrolments in the FE sector by Local Government District in 2018/19**

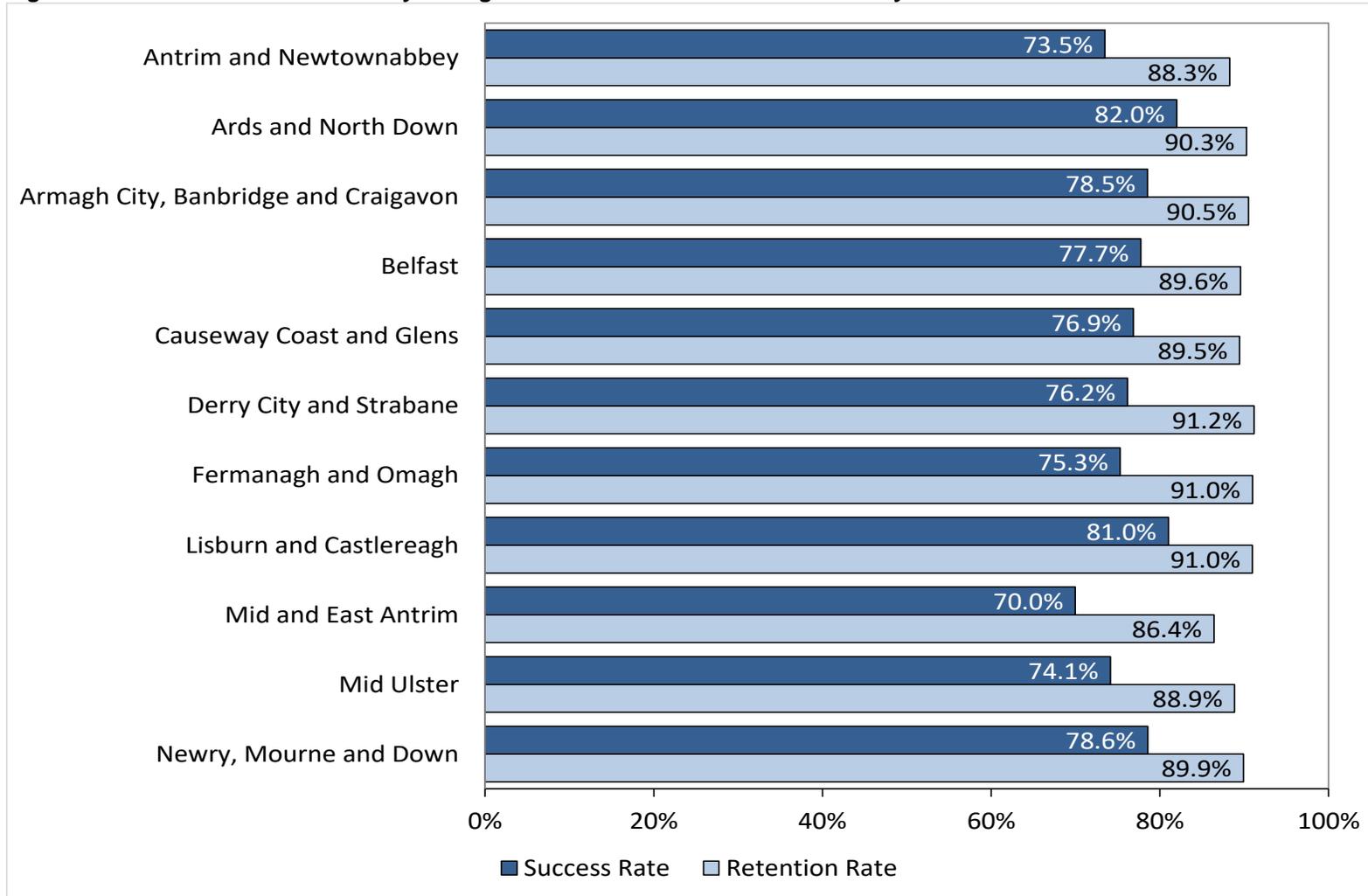
| Local Government District            | Final Year enrolments | Final Year Completers | Retention Rate | Achievements  | Achievement Rate | Success Rate |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| Antrim and Newtownabbey              | 5,807                 | 5,126                 | 88.3%          | 4,268         | 83.3%            | 73.5%        |
| Ards and North Down                  | 9,122                 | 8,236                 | 90.3%          | 7,479         | 90.8%            | 82.0%        |
| Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | 13,141                | 11,895                | 90.5%          | 10,322        | 86.8%            | 78.5%        |
| Belfast                              | 13,072                | 11,707                | 89.6%          | 10,162        | 86.8%            | 77.7%        |
| Causeway Coast and Glens             | 7,328                 | 6,556                 | 89.5%          | 5,632         | 85.9%            | 76.9%        |
| Derry City and Strabane              | 7,721                 | 7,040                 | 91.2%          | 5,880         | 83.5%            | 76.2%        |
| Fermanagh and Omagh                  | 6,233                 | 5,671                 | 91.0%          | 4,693         | 82.8%            | 75.3%        |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh              | 7,459                 | 6,786                 | 91.0%          | 6,043         | 89.1%            | 81.0%        |
| Mid and East Antrim                  | 5,402                 | 4,668                 | 86.4%          | 3,780         | 81.0%            | 70.0%        |
| Mid Ulster                           | 7,885                 | 7,007                 | 88.9%          | 5,845         | 83.4%            | 74.1%        |
| Newry, Mourne and Down               | 10,853                | 9,757                 | 89.9%          | 8,526         | 87.4%            | 78.6%        |
| Unknown*                             | 2,501                 | 2,286                 | 91.4%          | 1,949         | 85.3%            | 77.9%        |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>96,524</b>         | <b>86,735</b>         | <b>89.9%</b>   | <b>74,579</b> | <b>86.0%</b>     | <b>77.3%</b> |

Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Unknown\*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled students [final year enrolments (81.4%), final year completers (81.2%) and qualifications achieved (80.7%)].

- The retention rate for the FE sector was 89.9% in 2018/19, while those across the eleven LGDs ranged from 86.4% in Mid and East Antrim to 91.2% in Derry City and Strabane.
- While the success rate for the FE sector was 77.3% in 2018/19, the success rates across the eleven LGDs ranged from 70.0% in Mid and East Antrim to 82.0% in Ards and North Down.
- In 2018/19, the success rate in Mid and East Antrim (70.0%) was 3.5 percentage points lower than the second lowest success rate of 73.5% at Antrim and Newtownabbey.

**Figure 7: Performance rates of final year regulated enrolments in the FE sector by Local Government District in 2018/19**



Source: Consolidated Data Return (CDR)

Please note approximately 3% of final year enrolments/completers/achievements have unknown postcodes, which are not labelled in the chart but included in Table 7.

**Table 8: All enrolments in the FE sector and NI Population aged 16+ by Local Government District in 2018/19**

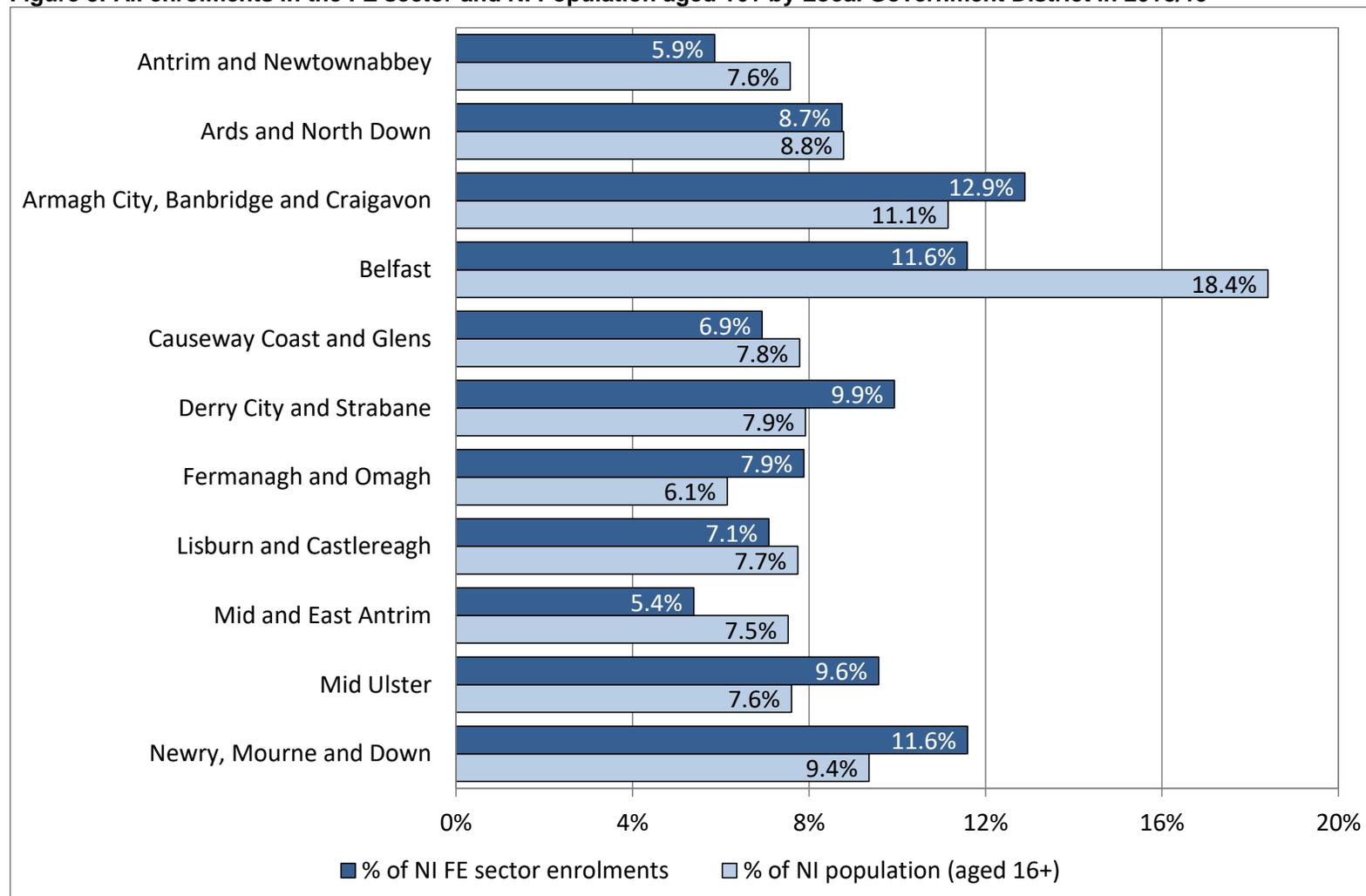
| Local Government District            | Enrolments     | % of NI FE sector | Population aged 16+ | % of NI population (aged 16+) |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Antrim and Newtownabbey              | 8,679          | 5.9%              | 112,705             | 7.6%                          |
| Ards and North Down                  | 12,949         | 8.7%              | 130,725             | 8.8%                          |
| Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | 19,084         | 12.9%             | 165,924             | 11.1%                         |
| Belfast                              | 17,145         | 11.6%             | 273,854             | 18.4%                         |
| Causeway Coast and Glens             | 10,270         | 6.9%              | 115,874             | 7.8%                          |
| Derry City and Strabane              | 14,705         | 9.9%              | 117,872             | 7.9%                          |
| Fermanagh and Omagh                  | 11,666         | 7.9%              | 91,479              | 6.1%                          |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh              | 10,493         | 7.1%              | 115,255             | 7.7%                          |
| Mid and East Antrim                  | 7,975          | 5.4%              | 111,988             | 7.5%                          |
| Mid Ulster                           | 14,176         | 9.6%              | 113,144             | 7.6%                          |
| Newry, Mourne and Down               | 17,158         | 11.6%             | 139,311             | 9.4%                          |
| Unknown*                             | 3,702          | 2.5%              | 0                   | n/a                           |
| <b>Northern Ireland</b>              | <b>148,002</b> | <b>100.0%</b>     | <b>1,488,131</b>    | <b>100.0%</b>                 |

Sources: Consolidated Data Return (CDR) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2018

Unknown\*: Postcodes with unassigned LGDs are mainly accounted for by Republic of Ireland (RoI) domiciled student enrolments (80.7%, 2,989).

- In 2018/19, almost a fifth (18.4%) of the NI population (aged 16 and over) lived in the Belfast LGD, whereas, Belfast made up 11.6% (17,145) of the 148,002 enrolments in the NI FE sector.
- In contrast, while 9.4% of the NI population (aged 16 and over) lived in Newry, Mourne and Down, this LGD accounted for 11.6% (17,158) of the 148,002 enrolments in the NI FE sector.
- When considering the LGD proportions of the NI population against the LGD proportion of NI FE sector enrolments, it should be noted there are no unknown postcodes for population, but there are 2.5% unknown postcodes with regards to FE sector enrolments. Of the 3,702 enrolments with unknown postcodes in the FE sector, 2,989 were RoI domiciled student enrolments, accounting for 2.0% of enrolments within the sector.

**Figure 8: All enrolments in the FE sector and NI Population aged 16+ by Local Government District in 2018/19**



Sources: Consolidated Data Return (CDR) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2018  
 Please note 2.5% of all enrolments have unknown postcodes, which are not labelled in the chart but included in Table 8.

## Notes:

1. Figures are correct as at 11th October 2019.
2. The Local Government District is based on the postcode provided by the student at the time of enrolment.
3. The level of study indicates the nationally recognised qualification level of the course.
4. 'Regulated enrolments' consist of Higher Education courses ('Level 4 or above') and courses at 'Level 3 or below' that appear on either the Register of Regulated Qualifications (RRQ) or DfE's Prescribed List of Approved Qualifications (PLAQ).
5. Geographical data have been sourced from the Central Postcode Directory to assign Local Government Districts to each enrolment. Approximately 3% of all enrolments are not assigned to a Local Government District due to invalid geo-referencing or non-Northern Ireland domiciled students.
6. Performance analysis is based on Final Year Enrolments and excludes transfers.
7. Withdrawals are included where there is an achieved outcome.
8. Those in their final year who have completed the course and subsequently achieved are regarded as final year achievements.
9. Retention rate is defined as the proportion of all final year enrolments that are completed.
10. Achievement rate is defined as the proportion of completed final year enrolments that result in an achieved qualification.
11. Success rate (or overall measure of performance) is defined as the proportion of all final year enrolments that result in an achieved qualification.
12. Achievement and success rates are based on final year full and partial achievements.
13. Tables for lower geographies, for example, Assembly Area, District Electoral Area and Ward are available from [NISRA's Neighbourhood Information Service \(NINIS\)](#) and [Open Data NI](#).

More Further Education sector statistics are available from:-

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-economic-research/further-education-statistics>