

**West Mercia
Motoring offences prosecuted at court**

MoJ Criminal justice statistics (2015-2020)

Action Vision Zero Summary

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Introduction

Action Vision Zero is committed to reducing road danger and traffic harm. This includes increasing the transparency and understanding of how the justice system holds drivers to account for putting others in danger. Here we summarise the court prosecutions and convictions for motoring offences in a police service area over the last five years (2015-2020), with a comparison to England and Wales (E&W). See below for:

- Table 1 Motoring Offences, Prosecutions and Convictions 2015-2020: West Mercia
- Table 2 Motoring Offences at Court, Bans 2015-2020: West Mercia
- Table 3 Motoring Offences at Court, Ban Durations 2020: West Mercia

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions rose by 40% to 15,911 and convictions rose by 41% to 13,965, compared to decreases of 20% and 17% in E&W

We are concerned that sober dangerous driving is rarely prosecuted and so have compared it with drink and drug driving below.

- Drink driving prosecutions fell by 17% to 857, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 575% to 655, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions fell by 7% to 68, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions fell by 9% to 2,868, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions fell by 28% to 297, compared to a 35% decrease in E&W

Driving bans

We have included an analysis of driving bans given in the local police service area. With only 1% of those convicted at court of motoring offences in E&W going to prison, disqualifications are key to removing unsafe drivers from our roads.

But driving bans are mainly used where they are mandatory, e.g. drink/drug driving. Disqualifications are very rarely given to those convicted at court of speeding or careless driving, where they are optional. This is despite these cases being the more serious as most speeding and careless drivers are sanctioned out of court.

- 1,866 sentences (13%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 1,438 (98%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 74 (3.1)% sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 9 (4%) sentences for careless driving included a ban, compared to 5% in E&W
- Bans given were 6 months or less for 97% of speeding and 78% of careless driving bans

Action Vision Zero calls

1. Dangerous driving and careless driving to be police priorities. This would result in more detections, as seen by drink and drug driving, which are already police priorities.
2. More unsafe unimpaired drivers to be banned. This should include those summoned to court for extreme speeding (too high for a Fixed Penalty Notice or National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme), and for durations similar to drink/drug driving. Likewise more of the serious cases of careless driving should result in more and longer bans.

Source: MoJ (2021) *Motoring data tool*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2020>

Table 1 Motoring Offences, Prosecutions and Convictions 2015-2020: West Mercia

	Prosecutions						5 year change	Convictions						5 year change
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
01. Causing death by dangerous driving	4	4	2	10	8	5	25%	6	2	5	5	8	2	-67%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	1	0	0	0	-100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	5	8	5	9	4	3	-40%	8	11	2	3	7	3	-63%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug	0	0	1	0	0	0								
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	1	0	0	0	0	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified														
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0	-100%
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	14	16	11	9	7	9	-36%	8	11	10	7	5	5	-38%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	1	0	0	0	0	
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	1	2	1	1	0	0	-100%	1	0	2	1	0	0	-100%
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	1	4	0	0	1	0	-100%	1	3	0	0	0	0	-100%
10. Dangerous driving	73	68	63	56	75	68	-7%	67	69	63	59	62	64	-4%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,032	1,077	980	841	901	857	-17%	1,012	1,061	967	830	885	846	-16%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	97	459	497	514	436	655	575%	97	442	477	495	423	643	563%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	217	263	270	243	266	245	13%	198	234	240	209	240	226	14%
13a. Fail to give permission for a laboratory test on a blood specimen having caused death														
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	251	237	344	437	254	94	-63%	225	215	313	386	207	74	-67%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	412	768	554	412	291	297	-28%	254	315	290	225	152	203	-20%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	145	264	139	105	50	49	-66%	101	162	79	60	32	31	-69%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	106	100	84	55	65	37	-65%	93	77	70	44	60	33	-65%
18. Driving licence related offences	284	369	380	282	278	251	-12%	257	334	344	263	259	226	-12%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	2,071	9,275	11,593	12,267	9,544	4,806	132%	1,708	7,811	9,156	10,304	7,946	4,141	142%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	982	7,101	12,235	10,137	12,986	3,259	232%	766	6,205	10,843	9,140	11,584	2,905	279%
21. Work record and employment offences	22	9	7	4	3	0	-100%	21	9	7	3	3	0	-100%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	8	8	6	11	20	7	-13%	5	7	6	12	19	3	-40%
23. Defective vehicle parts	119	144	126	84	62	71	-40%	100	126	114	77	57	61	-39%
24. Vehicle test offences	52	35	83	57	53	41	-21%	48	29	71	54	52	40	-17%
25. Speed limit offences	3,165	4,832	4,020	4,144	4,632	2,868	-9%	3,031	4,236	3,424	3,549	4,073	2,394	-21%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	209	111	192	244	485	494	136%	191	98	172	221	423	420	120%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	1,963	2,511	1,714	1,725	1,834	1,682	-14%	1,513	2,009	1,560	1,561	1,670	1,554	3%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	172	144	231	255	246	113	-34%	161	120	191	222	189	91	-43%
Total	11,405	27,811	33,538	31,902	32,501	15,911	40%	9,874	23,588	28,407	27,730	28,356	13,965	41%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: West Mercia

	Bans						5 year change	Bans as % of Sentenced					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
01. Causing death by dangerous driving	6	2	5	5	8	2	-4	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	1		1					100%		100%			
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	5	9	2	3	7	3	-2	63%	82%	100%	100%	100%	100%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug													
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers		0							0%				
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified													
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	1							100%					
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	6	6	9	5	3	5	-1	75%	60%	82%	83%	60%	100%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified													
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving													
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment													
10. Dangerous driving	58	56	69	59	67	59	1	92%	84%	100%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	970	1,025	936	807	862	812	-158	96%	97%	97%	97%	97%	96%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	97	145	6	254	410	626	529	100%	33%	1%	51%	97%	98%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	135	172	164	160	172	160	25	68%	74%	68%	76%	72%	71%
13a. Fail to give permission for a laboratory test on a blood specimen having caused death													
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	8	10	12	9	10	9	1	3%	3%	4%	4%	7%	4%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	4	6	6	5	5	3	-1	4%	4%	8%	8%	16%	10%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	27	25	29	15	25	14	-13	28%	33%	41%	36%	42%	45%
18. Driving licence related offences	65	78	87	104	92	72	7	25%	23%	25%	40%	35%	32%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	14	20	32	25	13	15	1	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences													
21. Work record and employment offences													
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records													
23. Defective vehicle parts	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	1.3%	1.8%	0.0%
24. Vehicle test offences													
25. Speed limit offences	91	132	153	120	188	74	-17	3.0%	3.1%	4.5%	3.4%	4.6%	3.1%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	1	0	0	4	14	7	6	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	3.3%	1.7%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	3	0	5	1	2	5	2	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	1,492	1,688	1,517	1,577	1,879	1,866	374	15%	7%	5%	6%	7%	13%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: West Mercia

	Not Banned	Banned Total	Under 6 months	6 months	Over 6 months and less than 1 year	1 year	Over 1 year and less than 2 years	2 years and less than 3 years	3 years	Over 3 years and less than 4 years	4 years and less than 5 years	5 years and less than 10 years	10 years and less than life	Life	Until driving test	Unknown
01. Causing death by dangerous driving	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	0														
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug		0														
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	0	0														
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified		0														
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	0	0														
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	0	0														
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	0														
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	0	0														
10. Dangerous driving	0	59	0	0	0	1	10	4	1	2	1	1	0	0	39	0
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	36	812	0	0	0	217	397	76	77	29	10	3	1	0	1	1
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	15	626	0	0	0	391	102	22	101	3	5	1	1	0	0	0
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving death	66	160	4	7	1	47	44	18	29	2	5	2	1	0	0	0
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	74	0														
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	194	9	3	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	28	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	17	14	0	0	1	7	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
18. Driving licence related offences	155	72	16	10	6	6	9	9	5	3	5	1	0	0	2	0
19. Vehicle insurance offences	4,126	15	9	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	2,905	0														
21. Work record and employment offences	0	0														
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	4	0														
23. Defective vehicle parts	61	0														
24. Vehicle test offences	40	0														
25. Speed limit offences	2,320	74	71	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	413	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	1,549	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	91	0														
Total	12,094	1,866	112	32	9	672	563	132	216	39	26	8	3	0	51	3

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool