



**ACTION VISION ZERO**

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

**Essex**  
**Motoring offences prosecuted at court**

**MoJ Criminal justice statistics (2015-2020)**

**Action Vision Zero Summary**

## Essex

### Motoring offences prosecuted at court MoJ Criminal justice statistics (2015-2020)

#### 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: Essex
- Table 2 Motoring Offences at Court, Bans 2015-2020: Essex
- Table 3 Motoring Offences at Court, Ban Durations 2020: Essex

#### Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions fell by 26% to 13,712 and convictions fell by 27% to 12,506, 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 16% to 830, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 1,817% to 786, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions rose by 29% to 75, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions fell by 28% to 5,107, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions fell by 23% to 495, 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.

- 2,162 sentences (17%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 1,538 (99%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 73 (1.6%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 42 (10%) sentences for careless driving included a ban, compared to 5% in E&W
- Bans given were 6 months or less for 100% of speeding and 36% 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: Essex**

	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	6	6	16	2	10	3	-50%	0	5	14	2	7	2	
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	1	1	0	0	1	1	0%	0	1	2	1	0	1	
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	5	5	7	2	5	5	0%	4	3	7	5	2	1	-75%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug	0	0	0	0	2	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified														
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	0	0	0	0	1	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	10	8	9	15	5	9	-10%	9	6	6	13	9	3	-67%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	0	0	0	1	0	0		0	0	0	1	0	0	
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	1	0%
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	1	4	0	1	2	3	200%	1	3	0	1	3	2	100%
10. Dangerous driving	58	54	68	79	72	75	29%	55	60	71	74	74	82	49%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	984	857	879	966	1,094	830	-16%	956	833	854	941	1,066	810	-15%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	41	148	192	443	786	786	1817%	41	140	186	425	761	762	1759%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	287	275	264	322	394	349	22%	256	229	232	271	346	317	24%
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	770	499	471	876	799	251	-67%	737	459	445	744	601	218	-70%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	644	546	412	391	488	495	-23%	605	495	389	358	445	442	-27%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	98	96	88	65	69	66	-33%	84	81	79	59	59	60	-29%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	194	168	129	120	114	66	-66%	155	137	116	107	93	56	-64%
18. Driving licence related offences	512	387	401	442	469	385	-25%	480	368	384	423	438	360	-25%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	2,461	2,007	2,228	2,305	2,114	2,134	-13%	2,053	1,689	1,814	1,933	1,800	1,889	-8%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	139	152	214	284	431	164	18%	71	92	100	141	256	71	0%
21. Work record and employment offences	9	11	10	4	2	1	-89%	9	9	10	4	2	1	-89%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	2	2	8	1	5	3	50%	2	2	7	1	2	2	0%
23. Defective vehicle parts	220	119	101	147	186	121	-45%	205	107	94	134	173	111	-46%
24. Vehicle test offences	32	21	15	373	351	182	469%	28	17	11	361	340	171	511%
25. Speed limit offences	7,122	6,499	6,529	7,745	8,281	5,107	-28%	6,928	6,227	5,935	6,605	7,482	4,698	-32%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	718	890	1,307	1,212	962	660	-8%	687	826	1,265	1,152	899	631	-8%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	3,465	4,320	3,456	2,590	1,868	1,172	-66%	2,906	3,558	2,902	2,227	1,614	1,012	-65%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	857	509	609	1,290	1,435	843	-2%	813	471	590	1,235	1,353	803	-1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,636</b>	<b>17,585</b>	<b>17,413</b>	<b>19,676</b>	<b>19,946</b>	<b>13,712</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>17,086</b>	<b>15,818</b>	<b>15,513</b>	<b>17,218</b>	<b>17,825</b>	<b>12,506</b>	<b>-27%</b>

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

**Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Essex**

	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		5	14	2	7	2		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs		1	2	1	1	1		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	3	3	7	4	2	0	-3	100%	100%	88%	80%	100%	0%
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													
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified													
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking													
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	5	5	3	10	8	2	-3	56%	83%	60%	83%	100%	100%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified					1								
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving													
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	0	0		0	1			0%	0%		0%	50%	
10. Dangerous driving	50	60	68	74	79	82	32	89%	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	883	809	822	913	1,034	796	-87	92%	97%	96%	97%	97%	98%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	39	56	1	267	737	742	703	98%	40%	1%	62%	97%	97%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	194	180	162	207	265	238	44	76%	79%	69%	76%	76%	75%
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	2	1	1	0	0	0	-2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	57	59	44	33	28	42	-15	9%	12%	11%	9%	6%	10%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	19	16	21	14	15	19	0	23%	20%	27%	24%	25%	31%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	49	49	36	47	40	22	-27	31%	36%	31%	44%	43%	39%
18. Driving licence related offences	96	120	112	131	172	117	21	20%	32%	29%	31%	39%	32%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	77	57	73	47	23	18	-59	4%	3%	4%	2%	1%	1%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences													
21. Work record and employment offences													
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
23. Defective vehicle parts	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.6%	0.9%
24. Vehicle test offences													
25. Speed limit offences	201	238	232	163	73	73	-128	2.9%	3.8%	3.9%	2.5%	1.0%	1.6%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	3	5	7	8	5	3	0	0.4%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	28	63	38	21	12	4	-24	1.0%	1.8%	1.3%	0.9%	0.7%	0.4%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>1,644</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>2,162</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>17%</b>

*Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool*

**Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Essex**

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool