



ACTION VISION ZERO

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

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

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions rose by 43% to 22,103 and convictions rose by 45% to 19,982, 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 38% to 693, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 232% to 352, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions rose by 6% to 73, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions fell by 21% to 4,468, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions fell by 55% to 152, 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.

- 1,386 sentences (7%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 987 (97%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 49 (1.3%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 9 (6%) 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 44% 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: Sussex

	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	3	7	7	7	5	4	33%	2	4	4	7	5	1	-50%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	2	0	0	0	0	1	-50%	2	0	0	1	0	0	-100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	7	5	10	5	6	5	-29%	10	5	8	2	2	4	-60%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug	0	0	0	1	0	1								
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	0	0	0	1	0	0								
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified														
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	0	0	0	0	0	0								
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	6	13	9	12	5	9	50%	3	8	12	7	5	5	67%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0	0	1	
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	2	3	1	1	0	1	-50%	2	2	1	0	0	1	-50%
10. Dangerous driving	69	76	66	53	69	73	6%	82	72	65	55	63	62	-24%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,114	996	993	857	816	693	-38%	1,094	973	977	839	800	676	-38%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	106	216	194	288	343	352	232%	105	211	182	276	332	349	232%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	290	321	272	260	254	203	-30%	246	285	228	227	207	166	-33%
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	296	126	157	79	125	67	-77%	288	120	155	70	116	64	-78%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	341	256	321	221	244	152	-55%	309	244	303	198	232	140	-55%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	99	83	66	36	62	50	-49%	85	74	56	32	52	40	-53%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	103	91	91	70	72	57	-45%	92	75	75	56	57	47	-49%
18. Driving licence related offences	382	258	332	225	296	237	-38%	357	245	303	213	274	226	-37%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	2,273	14,870	17,523	18,494	17,779	6,981	207%	1,945	12,793	16,225	17,126	16,303	6,230	220%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	2,020	3,366	22,566	21,780	21,605	6,526	223%	1,564	2,926	21,417	20,736	20,465	6,003	284%
21. Work record and employment offences	4	2	2	0	2	1	-75%	2	2	2	0	2	0	-100%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	3	8	16	21	58	18	500%	3	7	15	14	41	14	367%
23. Defective vehicle parts	129	41	38	30	44	38	-71%	121	39	38	28	44	37	-69%
24. Vehicle test offences	158	166	213	105	84	8	-95%	148	165	211	101	80	8	-95%
25. Speed limit offences	5,663	4,661	5,104	4,593	5,536	4,468	-21%	5,121	4,198	4,501	3,768	4,785	3,874	-24%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	561	501	463	167	42	142	-75%	507	470	426	147	38	138	-73%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	1,514	1,852	2,661	3,188	3,043	1,955	29%	1,390	1,719	2,536	3,057	2,861	1,846	33%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	283	158	224	309	191	60	-79%	259	148	199	283	160	50	-81%
Total	15,428	28,076	51,329	50,803	50,681	22,103	43%	13,737	24,785	47,939	47,243	46,924	19,982	45%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Sussex

	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	2	3	4	7	5	1	-1	100%	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	2			1				100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	6	5	7	2	2	3	-3	60%	100%	88%	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													
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified													
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking													
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	2	5	9	6	3	5	3	50%	71%	69%	86%	60%	100%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified					1								100%
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving													
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment													
10. Dangerous driving	74	63	66	51	59	55	-19	89%	88%	100%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,017	908	930	801	776	646	-371	93%	93%	95%	95%	97%	95%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	105	94	0	156	316	341	236	100%	45%	0%	57%	95%	97%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	167	214	168	158	152	121	-46	68%	75%	73%	70%	73%	73%
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%	1%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	15	15	21	17	22	9	-6	5%	6%	7%	9%	9%	6%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	8	14	12	9	9	17	9	9%	19%	21%	28%	18%	41%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	43	30	29	21	22	23	-20	45%	38%	39%	38%	39%	43%
18. Driving licence related offences	49	77	102	87	87	79	30	14%	31%	34%	41%	32%	35%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	46	32	43	19	37	24	-22	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences													
21. Work record and employment offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records													
23. Defective vehicle parts	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	2.7%
24. Vehicle test offences													
25. Speed limit offences	122	65	79	66	78	49	-73	2.4%	1.5%	1.8%	1.8%	1.6%	1.3%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	9	5	1	7	6	10	1	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences													
Total	1,667	1,532	1,472	1,408	1,575	1,386	-281	12%	6%	3%	3%	3%	7%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Sussex

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool