



ACTION VISION ZERO

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

West Midlands Motoring offences prosecuted at court

MoJ Criminal justice statistics (2015-2020)

Action Vision Zero Summary

West Midlands

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

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions fell by 29% to 18,056 and convictions fell by 27% to 15,184, 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 31% to 1,274, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 398% to 199, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions rose by 72% to 432, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions fell by 51% to 3,298, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions fell by 6% to 598, 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.

- 2,653 sentences (18%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 1,330 (95%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 39 (1.7%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 26 (5%) 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 58% 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 Midlands

	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	22	21	17	26	9	50%	8	11	21	21	12	11	38%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	1	2	2	2	1		1	0	1	1	2	2	100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	8	6	11	5	9	2	-75%	4	7	6	9	10	3	-25%
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	1	0	0	
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	1	0	0	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified	0	0	1	0	0	0		0	0	0	1	0	0	
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	0	2	0	0	1	0		1	0	0	0	1	0	-100%
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	14	12	22	23	25	33	136%	18	17	20	25	26	21	17%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	0	0	0	2	0	0		0	0	0	1	0	0	
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	0	1	0	0	0		0	1	0	1	0	0	
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	3	1	1	1	1	6	100%	2	1	0	0	1	1	-50%
10. Dangerous driving	251	309	296	334	391	432	72%	255	331	309	328	400	395	55%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,842	1,850	1,490	1,451	1,500	1,274	-31%	1,774	1,791	1,456	1,408	1,465	1,227	-31%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	40	127	62	159	168	199	398%	40	113	62	135	158	187	368%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	645	655	585	601	656	581	-10%	565	570	513	524	544	481	-15%
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	567	916	587	413	401	155	-73%	517	855	537	362	319	118	-77%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	637	717	602	526	527	598	-6%	399	513	494	404	423	491	23%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	159	269	313	249	210	169	6%	96	183	204	157	126	106	10%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	433	409	371	316	272	217	-50%	330	329	311	238	224	155	-53%
18. Driving licence related offences	856	1,036	894	846	771	741	-13%	698	908	778	728	702	660	-5%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	5,916	8,556	6,840	5,937	4,857	4,348	-27%	4,609	7,521	6,134	5,310	4,385	3,920	-15%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	2,540	1,061	154	138	192	108	-96%	2,023	897	142	126	174	89	-96%
21. Work record and employment offences	20	14	6	6	8	3	-85%	19	13	6	6	8	3	-84%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	6	7	7	14	25	23	283%	3	6	6	11	14	12	300%
23. Defective vehicle parts	193	375	174	218	109	140	-27%	157	329	153	182	95	113	-28%
24. Vehicle test offences	249	384	255	188	139	77	-69%	163	273	187	133	103	57	-65%
25. Speed limit offences	6,754	6,297	7,448	4,613	4,588	3,298	-51%	5,513	5,444	6,303	3,665	3,719	2,346	-57%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	1,058	713	482	1,069	2,008	1,940	83%	844	611	401	857	1,608	1,459	73%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	3,008	2,368	3,416	2,649	3,412	3,438	14%	2,480	2,026	3,039	2,278	3,032	3,093	25%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	391	576	266	299	308	264	-32%	348	521	226	257	286	234	-33%
Total	25,596	26,684	24,307	20,076	20,608	18,056	-29%	20,867	23,271	21,309	17,168	17,837	15,184	-27%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

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

	Bans						5 year change	Bans as % of Sentenced				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
01. Causing death by dangerous driving	7	11	21	21	12	11	4	88%	100%	100%	100%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	2	5	4	7	5	3	1	50%	71%	67%	78%	56%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug												75%
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers				1							100%	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified												
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	1							100%				0%
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	11	10	13	16	13	11	0	61%	63%	72%	59%	50%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified				1							100%	58%
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving		1		1								
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment												
10. Dangerous driving	229	278	322	332	413	347	118	87%	87%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,508	1,734	1,386	1,346	1,403	1,156	-352	85%	97%	95%	95%	94%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	39	61	1	73	148	174	135	98%	53%	2%	53%	90%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	419	441	391	390	406	368	-51	74%	77%	76%	74%	74%
13a. Fail to give permission for a laboratory test on a blood specimen having caused death												76%
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	31	60	34	41	27	26	-5	8%	12%	7%	10%	6%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	22	25	23	26	28	23	1	23%	14%	11%	17%	22%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	108	120	120	88	81	62	-46	32%	38%	38%	38%	39%
18. Driving licence related offences	232	326	323	320	374	341	109	33%	36%	41%	44%	53%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	75	107	130	106	87	77	2	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences												
21. Work record and employment offences												
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0.0%	16.7%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%
23. Defective vehicle parts	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
24. Vehicle test offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
25. Speed limit offences	77	111	107	79	56	39	-38	1.4%	2.0%	1.7%	2.2%	1.5%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	4	1	0	6	11	3	-1	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.7%	0.2%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	4	5	11	7	6	8	4	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	2,770	3,301	2,890	2,863	3,072	2,653	-117	13%	14%	14%	17%	18%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: West Midlands

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool