



ACTION VISION ZERO

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

Hertfordshire Motoring offences prosecuted at court

MoJ Criminal justice statistics (2015-2020)

Action Vision Zero Summary

Hertfordshire

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

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions fell by 80% to 6,708 and convictions fell by 77% to 6,128, 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 33% to 469, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 365% to 121, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions fell by 28% to 41, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions fell by 38% to 2,195, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions fell by 11% to 179, 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.

- 804 sentences (13%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 562 (98%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 19 (0.9%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 6 (4%) 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 83% 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: Hertfordshire

	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	2	6	2	3	11	3	50%	2	2	2	1	4	8	300%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	1	0	0	0	0	
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	2	5	4	3	2	1	-50%	5	7	4	3	0	2	-60%
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	1	0	0	0	0	0	-100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified	0	1	0	0	0	0								
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	0	0	0	0	0	0								
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	9	6	7	3	1	7	-22%	8	9	2	3	2	6	-25%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified														
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	0	0	0	0	1								
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	1	1	1	0	0	0	-100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10. Dangerous driving	57	65	54	58	45	41	-28%	52	84	51	61	46	39	-25%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	696	584	603	467	539	469	-33%	672	568	578	445	523	456	-32%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	26	74	71	101	98	121	365%	26	73	68	95	91	117	350%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	168	192	169	193	201	177	5%	145	166	141	156	169	140	-3%
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	201	234	261	245	84	-72%	274	197	220	214	217	73	-73%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	200	267	258	186	223	179	-11%	183	243	238	170	209	158	-14%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	94	113	130	78	80	67	-29%	74	93	111	63	66	57	-23%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	114	107	97	91	75	67	-41%	80	87	78	69	56	48	-40%
18. Driving licence related offences	288	291	245	204	245	179	-38%	257	278	227	183	228	169	-34%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	24,366	7,990	2,031	1,903	2,094	1,380	-94%	19,282	6,449	1,704	1,587	1,804	1,222	-94%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	1,541	1,121	197	224	241	113	-93%	1,143	922	80	94	135	54	-95%
21. Work record and employment offences	13	6	3	5	8	5	-62%	13	6	3	5	7	4	-69%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	2	1	2	3	9	6	200%	2	1	3	4	6	4	100%
23. Defective vehicle parts	128	86	104	61	95	93	-27%	117	85	97	56	89	91	-22%
24. Vehicle test offences	31	24	41	77	182	89	187%	24	22	38	76	178	85	254%
25. Speed limit offences	3,526	3,105	3,535	3,182	3,240	2,195	-38%	3,284	2,859	3,132	2,856	3,071	2,076	-37%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	687	1,641	1,233	1,227	850	431	-37%	649	1,547	1,143	1,150	807	410	-37%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	812	1,304	1,618	1,188	846	915	13%	730	1,224	1,514	1,059	727	832	14%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	215	124	139	114	146	85	-60%	201	118	131	108	137	77	-62%
Total	33,275	17,316	10,778	9,632	9,476	6,708	-80%	27,223	15,041	9,565	8,458	8,572	6,128	-77%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Hertfordshire

	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	2	2	1	4	8	6	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs		1						100%	100%	33%	67%		50%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	5	7	1	2		1	-4	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	6	5	2	3	2	5	-1	75%	63%	67%	100%	67%	83%
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	44	79	56	60	51	35	-9	81%	92%	100%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	642	553	558	437	506	447	-195	96%	98%	96%	98%	97%	98%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	26	30	1	42	89	115	89	100%	41%	1%	44%	97%	97%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	104	120	100	114	98	92	-12	72%	72%	69%	73%	58%	66%
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	0	0	0	0	0	-2	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	5	10	12	15	13	6	1	3%	4%	5%	9%	6%	4%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	5	6	11	7	6	4	-1	7%	6%	10%	11%	9%	7%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	23	35	22	19	14	11	-12	29%	39%	29%	28%	25%	23%
18. Driving licence related offences	67	89	68	67	78	38	-29	26%	32%	30%	36%	34%	22%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	38	40	62	80	61	21	-17	0%	1%	4%	5%	3%	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
23. Defective vehicle parts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
24. Vehicle test offences													
25. Speed limit offences	109	45	101	62	61	19	-90	3.3%	1.6%	3.2%	2.2%	2.0%	0.9%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	26	27	29	14	19	0	-26	4.0%	1.7%	2.5%	1.2%	2.4%	0.0%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	2	4	7	9	5	2	0	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.8%	0.7%	0.2%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	1,106	1,053	1,032	932	1,007	804	-302	4%	7%	11%	11%	12%	13%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Hertfordshire

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool