

Assault Offences Sentencing Outcomes by Ethnicity

This paper highlights the statistics on the distribution of sentencing outcomes and the average (mean) custodial sentence lengths (ACSL) for assault offences by ethnicity, this information has been used to inform the disparity wording that has been included within the guidelines.

Please note:

- The proportions presented below have been calculated excluding offenders recorded as 'otherwise dealt with'.
- Offences marked with an asterisk (*) are those for which we have included disparity wording within the guideline. Where no asterisk is present, it denotes that no obvious evidence of disparity was found.
- For most offences, figures are presented for 2019 only, for offences with low volumes, data from 2015-2019 has been grouped together to allow for more meaningful analysis.
- Offenders with unknown or unrecorded ethnicity have been excluded from the analysis.

Common Assault

- In 2019, there were generally similar outcomes across all ethnicity, the most common outcome across all ethnic groups was a community sentence.
- The ACSL was broadly similar across ethnicities (ranging between 2.8 and 3 months).

Racially of religiously aggravated common assault

- Sentencing outcomes were broadly similar across all ethnicities in 2019, and as seen for common assault, the most frequent outcome was a community sentence.

Assault on emergency workers

- In 2019, around 60 per cent of offenders of all ethnicities received a fine or community order.
- For those sentenced to immediate custody, the ACSL was similar across all ethnicities (2.6 months for all ethnicities except Asian which was 2.0 months)

Assault with intent to resist arrest *

- Between 2015 and 2019, a higher proportion of Black and Mixed offenders (36 per cent and 38 per cent) received an immediate custodial, compared to 28 per cent of White offenders, 24 per cent of Asian offenders and 20 per cent of Chinese or Other ethnicity offenders.
- For those receiving an immediate custodial sentence, the ACSL was broadly similar across all ethnicities.

Assault occasioning actual bodily harm *

- In 2019, a higher proportion of Black (50 per cent) and Mixed offenders (57 per cent) received an immediate custodial sentence, compared to White (43 per cent), Asian (40 per cent) and Chinese or Other ethnicity offender (34 per cent).
- The ACSL's were very similar across ethnicities (around 13 months in 2019).

Racially/religiously aggravated assault occasioning actual bodily harm

- Between 2015 and 2019, there were very low volume of Black, Asian, Mixed and Chinese or Other ethnicity offenders sentenced for this offence.
- Of those that were sentenced, outcomes were broadly similar across ethnicities.

Inflicting grievous bodily harm/unlawful wounding (s20) *

- In 2019, a higher proportion of Black (64%), Mixed (69%) and Chinese or Other (65%) ethnicity offenders received an immediate custodial sentence than White and Asian offenders (54% and 55%).
- The ACSL was broadly stable among the ethnicities, ranging between 21 and 23 months.

Racially/religiously aggravated grievous bodily harm/unlawful wounding

- Between 2015 and 2019, there were very few offenders sentenced for this offence and nearly all were White.

Grievous bodily harm/wounding with intent (s18) *

- In 2019, almost all offenders were sentenced to immediate custody (around 96%).
- The ACSL was approximately a year higher for Black and Asian offenders (7.7 years and 7.5 years), than for White, Mixed and Chinese or Other ethnicity offenders (6.7 years, 6.4 years and 6.5 years respectively).

Attempted murder *

- Between 2015 and 2019, nearly all offenders received immediate custody (1 White offender received a suspended sentence).
- The ACSL for Black and Asian offenders was higher than for White offenders (14.8 and 21.1 years compared to 13.8 years).¹

¹ Mixed and Chinese or Other ethnicity offenders have been excluded from this due to very small volume of offenders sentenced.