



Member Bulletin No 300

05th April 2011



Hate crime and crimes against older people report 2009-2010

The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) Third Annual Report¹ on Hate Crime and Crimes Against Older People 2009/10 has been published.

The annual report brings together information on CPS performance in prosecuting racist and religious hate crime, homophobic and transphobic crime, crimes against the older person, disability incidents and domestic violence.

This bulletin provides the overall key findings from the report.

Hate crime: overall key findings

- In the four years ending March 2010, more than 53,600 defendants were prosecuted for hate crimes
- The conviction rate rose from 77% in 2006-07 to 82% in 2009-10
- Guilty pleas increased from 64% to 70%
- The proportion of cases failing due to key reasons such as victim issues, acquittals after trial and essential legal element missing increased from 63% to 67% of all unsuccessful outcomes
- The majority of defendants across the hate crime strands were men
- Data on victim demographics are less complete and remain under development. However, where gender is known, men formed the largest proportion of victims across all strands, at 68% of the total.
- The most commonly prosecuted offences were those against the person and public order offences (43% and 40% of the total respectively)
- 75% of hate crime defendants were identified as belonging to the White British category, and 79% were categorised as White
- 50% of defendants were aged between 25-59 and 30% between 18-24.

¹ The CPS data is drawn from the CPS's administrative IT system, and is used for internal performance management. Therefore, this data should not be considered as official Government statistics.

Racist and religious crime: key findings

- In the four years ending March 2010, more than 48,400 defendants were prosecuted for crimes involving racist or religious crime
- Convictions rose from 77% in 2006-07 to more than 82% in 2009-10
- Guilty pleas increased from 64% to 70%
- The most common reasons for unsuccessful outcomes included acquittals and victim non attendance at court. Cases failing due to victim issues including victim retraction, and those cases where the evidence of victims did not support the case increased from 20% to 22%
- The majority of defendants were men at 83%
- Offences against the person and public order offences were the most common (83%)
- In 2009-10, 75% of racially and religiously aggravated crime defendants were identified as belonging to the White British category
- 50% of defendants were aged between 25-59 and 30% between 18-24.

Homophobic and transphobic crime: key findings

- In the four years ending in March 2010, more than 3,900 defendants were prosecuted for homophobic or transphobic crimes
- Over the same period, convictions rose from 74% to 81%
- Guilty pleas increased from 58% to 68%
- Acquittals, conflicts of evidence and where the evidence of the victim did not support the case accounted for the majority of unsuccessful outcomes
- The number and proportion of unsuccessful outcomes due to victim difficulties increased from 06-07 to 09-10
- The majority of defendants were men (85%)
- Offences against the person were the most common offences
- 75% of defendants were identified as belonging to the White British category
- 45% of defendants were aged between 25-59 years and 31% between 18-24.

Disability hate crime: key findings

- In the three years ending March 2010, 1,200 defendants were prosecuted for disability hate crime
- 76% of cases resulted in a conviction
- The guilty plea rate was 66%
- Acquittals after trial and an essential legal element missing accounted for more unsuccessful outcomes than victim issues
- 83% of defendants prosecuted were men
- Offences against the person were the most common offences. Public order, theft and handling were also common
- 72% of defendants were identified as belonging to the White British category
- 51% of defendants were aged between 25-59 and 24% between 18-24.

Crimes against an older person: key findings

- 2009-10 is the second year that performance information on crimes committed against older people have been captured
- In the two years ending March 2010, 2,997 defendants were prosecuted for crimes against an older person
- 82% of cases resulted in a conviction
- The guilty plea rate was 72%
- 16% of unsuccessful outcomes were due to victim issues
- 79% of defendants prosecuted were men
- Offences against property (including the categories theft, robbery, burglary and forgery) were the most common offences
- Offences against the person was the largest single category
- 63% of defendants were aged between 25-59 and 22% between 18-24
- 76% of defendants were identified as belonging to the White British category.

Further information

The full report containing regional data (by CPS region) is available from the CPS website <http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/equality/> and via the following links:

[Hate crime and crimes against older people report 2009-2010 - English PDF](#)

[Hate crime and crimes against older people report 2009-2010 - Welsh PDF](#)

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