

Analysis of ethnicity in the GPS tagging programme for knife crime

Summary

- This analysis compares the ethnicity of people who appear in the GPS tagging for knife crime programme with the ethnicity of people from two similar comparison groups.
- This analysis shows that black people are more over-represented in the GPS tagged group (being 2.3 times more likely to appear than white people), than in either of the current closest comparison groups (where black people are 1.2 or 1.5 more likely to appear than white people).
- For more information about the GPS tagging for knife crime programme, please see the published evaluation report, which also contain previous analysis of ethnicity data.

What is the purpose of this analysis?

This analysis is part of the ongoing monitoring of the GPS for knife crime programme and is focused on the ethnicity of tag wearers due to previous indicators of disproportionality in this area that are detailed in the previously published evaluation reports.

Where does the data come from?

Comparative ethnicity data to the GPS Knife Crime tag cohort has been generated by the Ministry of Justice from the Prison National Offender Management Information System (P-NOMIS) and the probation case management system National Delius (nDelius) and can be found here: [London Knife Crime Ad Hoc - GOV.UK](#)

The P-NOMIS data provides the ethnicity of the 1,503 individuals released from selected London prisons between 1 February 2019 and 26 February 2024 who were managed by London Probation when released from prisons in certain London boroughs and who had been convicted of an offence involving a knife or a bladed/sharpened weapon where this is specified in statute as part of the wording for the offence.

The nDelius data provides the ethnicity of 526 individuals who had been convicted of an offence involving a knife or a bladed/sharpened weapon where this is specified in statute as part of the wording for the offence and either: had been released from prison and were managed by London Probation on 30 June 2024; individuals who were in prison on 30 June 2024 and on release would be managed by London Probation.

The GPS cohort data his data is collated from the people included in the GPS tagging knife crime programme from 1 February 2019 up to 18/11/24.

How has this analysis been undertaken?

When exploring racial disparity we would recommend calculating relative likelihoods ([see guidance from the Race Disparity Unit/Race Equality Unit](#)). Typically, this type of analysis compares the differences in percentages or rates per capita between ethnic groups, often using the White or White British ethnic group as the 'comparator' group.

Relative likelihood is a number that indicates the extent to which two groups differ in their likelihood of experiencing an outcome. To calculate a relative likelihood, we use the following formula:

- Relative likelihood = percentage (or rate per capita) of one group experiencing an outcome, divided by percentage (or rate per capita) of the comparator group experiencing an outcome.
- The closer a relative likelihood is to 1, the greater equality there is between the two ethnic groups. A relative likelihood greater than 1 suggests the outcome is more likely in an ethnic group compared to the comparator ethnic group. A relative likelihood less than 1 suggests the outcome is less likely in an ethnic group compared to the comparator group.

The difference in metrics (offence details, prisons selected and time periods) used for each cohort means that it is not possible to compare these cohorts directly for differences between ethnic groups (for specific details of these differences see below). However, it is possible to compare using relative likelihoods in line with the guidance from the Race Disparity Unit/Race Equality Unit.

What does the analysis show?

- The analysis below shows that by looking at relative likelihoods we can see that the disparity between Black and White ethnic groups is **larger** for the GPS tagged cohort than in the PNOMIS and nDelius cohorts.
- Black people are more over-represented in the GPS tagged group (being 2.3 times more likely to appear than white people), than in either of the current closest comparison groups (where black people are 1.2 or 1.5 more likely to appear than white people).
- Were there to be no additional disproportionality in the GPS tagged cohort, then the relative likelihood for this group would be the same to either of the comparison groups (i.e. either 1.2 or 1.5).

How has each group been analysed to allow comparison?

The percentages and relative likelihoods for the *PNOMIS cohort* by ethnicity are shown below. From these data we can say that Black ethnic groups are **1.2 times more likely** as White ethnic groups to be part of the PNOMIS cohort. Asian ethnic groups are 0.3 as likely as White ethnic groups to be part of the PNOMIS cohort (i.e. less likely). Mixed ethnic groups are 0.2 as likely as White ethnic groups to be part of the PNOMIS cohort (i.e. less likely).

Recorded ethnicity	P-NOMIS percentage	Relative likelihood
Asian or Asian British	9.7%	0.3
Black or Black British	40.7%	1.2
Mixed	7.3%	0.2
Other ethnic group	6.5%	0.2
White	32.9%	1.0

Looking at the percentages and relative likelihoods for the *n-Delius cohort* it shows that Black ethnic groups are **1.5 times more likely** as White ethnic groups to be part of the nDelius cohort, whereas Asian or Asian British ethnic groups are 0.3 as likely and Mixed ethnic groups are also 0.3 times as likely.

Recorded ethnicity	nDelius percentage	Relative likelihood
Asian or Asian British	8.4%	0.3
Black or Black British	41.8%	1.5
Mixed	8.6%	0.3
Other ethnic group	6.1%	0.2
White	28.5%	1.0

The percentages and relative likelihoods for the *GPS tag cohort* by ethnicity are shown below. From these data we can say that Black ethnic groups are **2.3 times more likely** as White ethnic groups to appear in the GPS tag cohort while Asian ethnic groups are 0.3 and Mixed ethnic groups are 0.6 times as likely as White ethnic groups to appear in the GPS tag cohort.

Recorded ethnicity	GPS Cohort percentage	Relative likelihood
Asian or Asian British	7.0%	0.3
Black or Black British	46.8%	2.3
Mixed	12.2%	0.6
Other ethnic group	3.6%	0.2
White	20.2%	1.0

How is the GPS tagged cohort different from the comparison groups?

Compared to the GPS tagged cohort, the PNOMIS data is:

- a subset of prison releases from prisons in 23 London boroughs (the GPS tagged cohort includes people returning to London from the following prisons (Belmarsh, Brixton, Bronzefield, Coldingley, Downview, Feltham, High Down, Highpoint, Isis, Onley, Pentonville, Send, Thameside, Wandsworth, Wormwood Scrubs) as well as approximately 25% of the GPS cohort who were tagged in the community irrespective of prison of release),
- a subset of the time-period covered by the GPS tagged cohort (PNOMIS: Feb 19 – Feb 24 compared to GPS: Feb 19 to Nov 24)
- a subset of offence types included in the GPS tagged cohort (the GPS tagged cohort includes those convicted of an offence involving a knife or a bladed/sharpened weapon where this is specified in statute as part of the wording for the offence, but also people who committed other offences where a knife was involved in some way)

Compared to the GPS tagged cohort, the nDelius data is:

- the same geography
- a snapshot in time whereas the GPS tagged cohort covers roughly a 5.5 year period
- a subset of offence types included in the GPS tagged cohort (the GPS tagged cohort includes those convicted of an offence involving a knife or a bladed/sharpened weapon where this is specified in statute as part of the wording for the offence, but also people who committed other offences where a knife was involved in some way).