

**EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF CPS STATUTORY CHARGING:
ENGLAND AND WALES: APRIL 2006 TO MARCH 2007
[Version : 7 January 2009]**

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1. Executive Summary

1.1 This is the third Equality and Diversity Impact assessment of the CPS charging process since Statutory Charging was introduced. It broadens and deepens the results included in the first two EDIAs and draws on more comprehensive and better quality results from the CPS management information system COMPASS.

1.2 In 2006-7 there was little variation of charging decision by **gender** except that female suspects are slightly more likely to receive a decision to make no prosecution on evidential grounds rather than a decision to charge.

1.3 In 2006-7 there were one or two data quality issues to do with **ethnicity** but conclusions can still be drawn: in particular, there was no variation of charging decision by the main ethnic group of the suspect except that non-White suspects were slightly less likely to receive a decision to No Prosecution on evidential grounds. The variation in charging decision by ethnic classification was much greater for female cases than for male cases. Some issues remain that cannot be fully covered by the data available to this impact assessment.

1.4 In 2006-7 there was some variation in the charging process by **age group**, with the proportion charged falling off for the age groups over 44 years old. As a mirror image to this the proportion where there was no prosecution on evidence or public interest grounds, rose considerably for these older age groups.

1.5 Given the nature of Statutory Charging, whereby the CPS make the decision to charge, the **Offence** is only recorded on the COMPASS system once the charge has been made, so it is not possible to produce an analysis showing the result of the charging process for different offences or the offence before the charging process was completed. However, analyses have been carried out in this EDIA showing the patterns

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of offences charged for different genders, ethnicities and age groups. COMPASS is only able to report on the principal offence categories and as such is unable to breakdown further into types of offence.

1.6 The attempt to collect data on **disability of suspects** in 2006-7 just did not work. A 'Disabled' suspect was recorded in less than 1% of all cases, and a 'Not Disabled' suspect was recorded in 3% of cases. But in 96% of cases the disability record was marked 'Unknown'. Because the extent of disability was only coded for a small percentage of suspects, no sensible analysis is possible.

1.7 This EDIA shows national data for England & Wales. There are some variations in all results across the CPS areas and regions but these are made available separately to local Chief Crown Prosecutors along with guidance to understand and establish whether disproportionality is a factor and measures to take for improvement.

2. Introduction

2.1 This EDIA assessment has been prepared so that the CPS can fulfil its statutory gender and race equality duties. It also enables the CPS to monitor its key services for potential adverse impact on different age groups and to address the issues raised by the House Home Affairs Committee report on Young Black People and the Criminal Justice System. It updates and extends two earlier EDIAs for 2004-5 and for 2005-6. (Lewis, 2005, Chen & Lewis, 2007). This draft EDIA is subject to a consultation process and will be discussed with a focus group of voluntary and community organisations in January 2009.

2.2 As a result of the consultation process following previous EDIAs the CPS data collection and the contents of this EDIA were modified to deal with some issues not previously covered, in particular the effect of the charging process on suspects from different age groups and the effect of charging on suspects with disabilities. In a similar way, comments received on this EDIA will be reflected in CPS data collection systems and new work is likely to be added to the next EDIA, expected late 2009. Comments are also invited from those not involved in the consultation process as such and should be sent to the authors.

2.3 This EDIA covers the period April 2006 to March 2007, by which time statutory charging had been rolled out to all parts of England and Wales. Its main purposes are to assess the impact of statutory charging and discover if charging decisions vary with: the gender, ethnicity, disability or age of the suspect: and (when charged) the type of offence with which suspects are charged.

2.4 This assessment has been written by independent consultants, based on data extracted from the CPS case management system, COMPASS. A summary of the technical processes used is given at Appendix A. Data for individual areas has been produced separately and made available to CPS Chief Crown prosecutors. Those interested in material for individual areas should approach the authors of this report.

3. Background

3.1 Up to 2002, charging decisions in England & Wales were taken by the Police. In October 2002 Lord Justice Auld's *Review of the Criminal Courts* recommended the CPS should be given greater legal powers to determine the decision to charge in all but minor cases. Successful pilot schemes were conducted during 2002 and during 2003 the CPS, in partnership with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) developed charging arrangements to enable each area to roll out the principles of statutory charging. Under statutory charging local arrangements are complemented by an out of hours service, CPS Direct. This is staffed by experienced prosecutors, operates from 5pm to 9am Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and public holidays enabling the CPS to offer round the clock coverage. For more detail see <http://www.cps.gov.uk/direct/>

3.2 This EDIA refers to the 12 months from April 2006 to March 2007. By this time all areas had moved to Statutory Charging. Data were drawn from COMPASS; the CPS computerised case management system, in the form of EXCEL spreadsheets that included area, gender, ethnicity, age, disability, offence, month of case and the result of the charging process.

4. History of Statistics on Gender, Ethnicity, Age , Disability, and Offence charged

4.1 Statistics on the position of Women and of Black and Minority ethnic communities within the CJS have been collected and published since 1992 under section S95 of the 1991 CJA³. This legislation aimed to produce information to assist members of the criminal justice agencies in their duty of non-discrimination on grounds of gender or ethnicity. The collection of such statistics has been mostly through these agencies and the most visible evidence of publication has been through the annual S95 publications of the Home Office. For ethnicity this has been supplemented by a published commentary on the statistics (Home Office, 2006a, 2006b before 2007 and Ministry of Justice, 2007, 2008 since).

4.2 For the CPS, equality and diversity is fundamental in delivering fair prosecutions, achieving equitable employment practice and essential to command the confidence of communities. The main CPS duties are as follows:

- Under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 they are required to produce a Race Equality Scheme.
- Under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 they are required to produce a Disability Equality Scheme.
- Under the Equality Act 2006 they must produce a Gender Equality Scheme.

4.3 These duties have been combined into the CPS Single Equality Scheme 2006-2010 (CPS, 2008b)

4.4 The main results on ethnicity from the 2005-6 EDIA indicated that:

3 Section 95 of the 1991 Criminal Justice Act says that:

- (1) The Secretary of State shall in each year publish such information as he considers expedient for the purpose of: (a) enabling persons engaged in the administration of justice to become aware of the financial implications of their decisions; or (b) facilitating the performance of such persons of their duty to avoid discriminating against any person on the ground of race or sex or any other improper ground.
- (2) Publication under subsection (1) above shall be effected in such a manner as the Secretary of State considers appropriate for the purpose of bringing the information to the attention of the persons concerned.

- There were no significant differences across different ethnic groups in the proportion of cases finalised by a charge. Cases with *Black* suspects were finalised by charge in slightly more cases (48.9%), as were cases with *Mixed* suspects (47.8%). Cases with *White*, *Asian* or *Other* suspects were similar.
- There were some differences by ethnicity in cases finalised by No Further Action (NFA) on evidential grounds. 25.4% of cases nationally with *White* suspects were so finalised: cases with *Black*, *Mixed* or *Other* suspects were less likely to have their cases finalised NFA on evidential grounds (all significantly lower than *White* at around 19%-20 %).

4.5 The main results on gender from the 2005-6 EDIA indicated that:

- Male suspects (41.9%) were more likely than Females (37.5%) to receive a charge – although the report stated that without further analysis of factors such as offence type it is difficult to assess the reason for this.
- Females (5.1%) were more likely than Males (3.2%) to have their case finalised by a decision to caution, reprimand or issue a warning.
- Females (32.0%) were more likely than Males (28.6%) to receive a charging decision of No Prosecution on evidential grounds.
- No significant difference in the percentage of cases for which more information was sought or where there was a No Prosecution on public interest grounds.

4.6 The 2005-6 EDIA included some very basic statistics relating to age differences in the charging process. However, consultation with voluntary and community groups led to a need for better age data. As a result CPS collected more data on age, so this EDIA is now able to include full data on charging differences according to standard age grouping. This brings this EDIA into line with most other statistical publications⁴. It also enables the CPS to respond to the Home Affairs Committee report on *Young Black people and the Criminal Justice System* (House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, 2007).

⁴ See, for example Chapter 3 ‘*Offenders Found Guilty and Cautioned*’ of Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 2005 to be found on Home office web site <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1906.pdf>. and Annual Sentencing statistics, 2006, Ministry of Justice <http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/sentencing-stats2006.pdf>

4.7 Data on diversity and the justice system have been gradually improved over the last few years, since a Home Office (later Ministry of Justice) consultative committee was set up for this purpose. Recommendations on how to improve the proportion of cases where an ethnicity code is passed on by the police were made in an OCJR report in 2005 (Lewis & Ellis, 2005.) In broad terms these involved setting quality recording thresholds for the police, as the main agency collecting data on the ethnicity of suspects.

4.8 A Minimum Data Set (MDS) for ethnicity statistics was subsequently recommended and piloted by the MOJ in seven areas during 2008. (Avon & Somerset; Manchester; North Yorkshire; North Wales; Durham; London and Wiltshire.) Some police data is collected locally but most criminal justice data is made available from central record systems. Advice is given to areas on how to analyse their data to decide if disproportionality exists (eg. Matrix Consulting, 2008). The MDS is planned to be rolled out to all CJS areas during 2009 and 2010.

4.9 This EDIA contains no data for individual areas. However, internally, the CPS will share data for each area with the Chief Crown Prosecutors, together with internal guidance on how to interpret the figures and understand the existence of disproportionality in each area, allowing for the often small numbers that are involved.

5. Data on which this impact assessment is based

5.1 The data on which this current impact assessment is based are the 580,000 cases finalised nationally from April 2006 – March 2007. This total figure is very similar to the 560,000 cases finalised in 2005-6 on which the last EDIA was based. The total charging workload of CPS is thus virtually the same as last year.

5.2 There are a few concerns about all analyses of this type that should be recalled when interpreting the results in this EDIA. In a large administrative system there will always be a number of cases when data has not been recorded or been recorded inaccurately. Most initial difficulties with COMPASS have been ironed out but some difficulties remain, especially with recording disability:

- This EDIA cannot consider cases not entered on COMPASS for any reason.
- This assessment looks at CPS processes only. It does not consider the 700,000 cases that are ended by the police with no CPS involvement.
- It is not an assessment of the impact of the criminal justice system as a whole and CPS can only prosecute cases brought to it by the police.
- The accuracy of the classification of gender, ethnicity, age, disability and offence, depends to a large extent on police and court processes rather than those of CPS.

5.3 However, the quality of the data from this case management system is generally very good. Because of its central data base system COMPASS, CPS has access to the best equality and diversity data in the justice system. There is a general lesson to be learnt by other agencies from the success of CPS in collating, as well as in publishing, these data on equality and diversity.

5.4 COMPASS records gender very well indeed, and over 99% of all records include a gender code. Thus, there are no concerns about the quality of data on gender.

5.5 COMPASS records ethnicity better than other CJ agencies and national analyses are possible for all ethnic categories. However, an ethnicity code was not available for 19% cases recorded on COMPASS, ie 110,000. This missing data continues the long term improvement in data quality (35% was missing in 2004-5 and 24% was missing in 2005-6) and is to be encouraged.

5.6 For the first time in 2006-7 data on the age of the suspect was collected and made available to the authors grouped in 10-year age bands. However, there are some significant gaps in this data collection by age. In 43% of cases with a female suspect and 41% of cases with a male suspect the age of the suspect was not recorded. This is not a random occurrence, however. This lack of data collection was much more likely when the case did not result in a charge, suggesting that the recording process was less efficient in such cases. The large number of cases where age was not recorded will throw doubt on the patterns in this EDIA and efforts should be made to improve this recording of age in the future.

5.7 Offence is only recorded after charge, limiting the amount of analysis that can be made.

5.8 Although the CPS tried to collect data on whether suspects were disabled from 1 April 2006, this was not a success for 2006-2007. In some areas all records were marked 'Unknown' for disability. Throughout the country as a whole 96% of records were marked 'unknown' .Thus no sensible analysis is possible. The EDIA for 2007-2008 will be able to judge whether this percentage has risen to levels which enable some statistics to be analysed

5.9 COMPASS data used in this EDIA on the results of the pre-charge process has changed slightly since the first EDIA. Details are given in Annex B.

6. Variations by Gender

National variations in case decisions

6.1 Nearly 580,000 cases were finalised during the 12-month period, compared with 560,000 in 2005-6 (Chen & Lewis, 2007) and many times the numbers considered in previous investigations before statutory charging (eg. Mhlanga (1999), John(2003), CPS (PB045, 2004) This enables a very robust analysis. Summary results for gender are given in Table 6.1 and Figure 6.1.

Table 6.1 National Results of the charging process by gender, 2006-7

	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	Number of cases
Number of cases	266915	169821	16276	59436	37323	20459	12530	582760
Male	46.3%	28.8%	2.7%	10.3%	6.4%	3.3%	2.1%	513681
Female	42.2%	31.6%	3.5%	9.2%	6.0%	5.1%	2.3%	68741
Unknown	12.7%	48.5%	3.3%	10.7%	22.2%	1.8%	0.9%	338
Total (06-07)	45.8%	29.1%	2.8%	10.2%	6.4%	3.5%	2.2%	582760
Total (05-06)	41.4%	29.0%	2.5%	16.2%	1.5%	3.4%	6.0%	558,061

6.2 The main conclusions from Table 6.1 are:

- 45.8% of suspects were charged in 2006-7 compared with 41.4% in 2005-6.
- There was a greater proportion of male suspects (88.1%) compared with female suspects (11.9%), very similar to the 87.6% of male cases in 2005-6.
- Male suspects (46.3%) were more likely than Females (42.2%) to receive a charge.
- Females (5.1%) are slightly more likely than Males (3.3%) to have their case finalised by a decision to issue a conditional caution, a caution, a reprimand or a warning.
- Females (31.6%) are slightly more likely than Males (28.8%) to receive no prosecution on evidential grounds.
- There was no significant difference in the percentage of cases finalised administratively or where there was no prosecution on public interest grounds.

6.3 These results continue the improvement in the percentage of cases that lead to a charge:

- Cases finalised by charge rose from 38.9% in 2004-5 to 41.4% in 2005-6 and to 45.8% in 2006-7.
- Those finalised by another decision changed little (3.6%, 3.4%, 3.5% in the three periods).
- Incomplete cases fell from 8.1% to 6.0% to 2.2%.
- Cases with no prosecution due to evidence stayed at its 2005-6 level (32.5%, 29.0%, 29.1%).
- Cases with no prosecution on public interest grounds have remained broadly level (2.9%, 2.5%, 2.8% in the three periods).

6.4 These results should be considered in the context of wider data on the interaction between gender and the criminal justice system and more material is published in the annual publication *Statistics on Women and the Criminal Justice System* (Ministry of Justice, 2008.) Government policy has been set out in the recent response to the Corston Committee on vulnerable women and the CJS. (Ministry of Justice, 2007a.)

6.5 These publications show a large number of aspects of criminal justice where women have different patterns from men:

- Women are far less likely to commit offences than men.
- They generally commit less serious offences.
- Women's criminal careers are far shorter than men's.
- Women are more likely to plead guilty.
- Women are more likely to be cautioned, discharged or given a community sentence.

6.6 This EDIA does not claim to comment on how all these different patterns might influence the result of the charging process. However, there is some information on the offences with which people were charged once the charging process had been completed. Because the offence is not recorded pre-charge, it is not possible to look at the proportion of each offence that led to a charge, incomplete case, etc. Table 6.2 simply looks at the patterns of charging by gender and see whether this is likely to have influenced the outcome of the charging process.

Table 6.2 Patterns of offence charged by gender, 2006-2007

	Homicide	Offence against the person	Sexual offence	Burglary	Robbery	Theft And Handling	Fraud And Forgery	Criminal Damage	Drugs Offences	Public Order Offences	All Other Offences	Motoring Offences	Admin finalised	Pre-charge Decision	Not Finalised	Undefined
Male	0.3%	28.0%	2.2%	6.5%	3.3%	16.5%	1.5%	7.7%	6.6%	10.1%	5.6%	8.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	1.1%
Female	0.2%	33.2%	0.3%	2.6%	2.7%	24.2%	2.9%	5.7%	5.8%	9.3%	5.9%	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	1.1%
Unknown	0.0%	22.9%	0.0%	4.3%	2.9%	14.3%	1.4%	10.0%	5.7%	7.1%	11.4%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	5.7%	0.0%
Total	0.3%	28.6%	2.0%	6.1%	3.3%	17.3%	1.6%	7.5%	6.5%	10.0%	5.6%	7.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	1.1%
Number of cases	730	75262	5308	16020	8574	45641	4240	19617	17163	26410	14737	19905	74	12	6480	2914

6.6 Table 6.2 shows different likelihoods of women being charged for particular offences than men: Women were more likely to be charged with offences against the person than men (33% against 28%): less than half as likely to be charged for burglary (2.6% against 6.5%): more likely to be charged for theft (24% against 16%) twice as likely to be charged for fraud. The overrepresentation of Theft and Fraud (27% for women: 18% for men), together with previous research, is suggestive that the CPS is faced with less serious cases, on average, for women than for men: e.g. shoplifting, TV licence evasion and social security fraud. This would certainly be a cause of the higher proportion of cases finalised by a decision, and the slightly higher proportion of cases dropped in the public interest. However, it is still not clear why more female cases are dropped on evidential grounds.

Table 6.3 Results of the charging process by gender and age: Females, 2006-7

Age group	Charge	No Pros (evidenc e)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalise d	Finalise d by a decision	Incompl ete Cases	Number of cases
10-17	56.5%	19.1%	3.0%	9.6%	3.9%	4.9%	3.1%	9118
18-24	57.1%	20.1%	1.7%	11.2%	3.5%	3.5%	2.8%	9605
25-34	56.1%	20.2%	2.2%	12.0%	4.0%	2.7%	2.8%	9671
35-44	55.8%	22.3%	2.2%	10.4%	3.3%	3.2%	2.8%	7242
45-54	52.8%	23.2%	3.1%	10.4%	4.2%	3.6%	2.7%	2579
55-64	48.0%	28.1%	3.5%	11.5%	3.1%	3.1%	2.7%	711
65+	32.9%	27.9%	9.9%	8.1%	12.7%	4.6%	3.9%	283
Not provided	24.1%	46.1%	5.0%	6.9%	9.0%	7.0%	1.7%	29532
Total	42.2%	31.6%	3.5%	9.2%	6.0%	5.1%	2.3%	68741

Table 6.4 Results of the charging process by gender and age: Males, 2006-7

Age group	Charge	No Pros (evidenc e)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalise d	Finalise d by a decision	Incompl ete Cases	Number of cases
10-17	57.8%	19.6%	2.1%	10.4%	4.2%	3.6%	2.3%	58323
18-24	60.6%	16.9%	1.4%	12.5%	3.9%	2.1%	2.6%	91097
25-34	61.5%	16.8%	1.7%	12.3%	3.8%	1.6%	2.3%	75050
35-44	59.9%	18.8%	1.7%	11.6%	3.7%	1.9%	2.4%	51763
45-54	56.9%	21.3%	1.9%	11.5%	3.5%	2.4%	2.4%	19121
55-64	52.2%	24.7%	2.2%	12.0%	3.4%	2.8%	2.6%	6091
65+	42.1%	29.0%	4.5%	9.5%	9.8%	2.8%	2.2%	2850
Not provided	27.0%	44.1%	4.1%	8.2%	10.1%	4.8%	1.7%	209386
Total	46.3%	28.8%	2.7%	10.3%	6.4%	3.3%	2.1%	513681

6.7 The poor recording of age for suspects in 2006-7 has been mentioned above and can be seen from Tables 6.3 and 6.4. In nearly 240,000 of the 580,000 cases, no age was recorded for the suspect. Most of these, 106,000 were cases where no prosecution was made on evidential grounds, suggesting that the recording of details on such case file was given lower priority. However, a substantial number, nearly 64,000 were cases where a charge was made suggesting a need to improve data collection on age generally.

6.8 For those cases where age was recorded, there was a clear pattern, with the younger age group below 18 being slightly less likely to receive a charge than those in age groups 18-44. However, for the age groups above that, the chances of receiving a charge fell off considerably: for men 56.9% of those under 44 were charged: 52.2% of those 45-54: 52.2% of those 55-64 and only 42.1% of those over 65: for women, the fall off was faster: with 55.8% of those under 44 being charged: 52.8% of those aged 45-54: 48% of those 55-64 and only 32.9% of those over 65. There was almost a continuous rise in the proportions of both men and women as they grew older who were not prosecuted on evidential or public interest grounds. By 65, 33.5% of men and nearly 38% of women were not prosecuted for these reasons, compared to around 18% for those in their 20s. This is likely to reflect the guidance in the CPS Code of Practice that the age of a suspect is a relevant factor when considering if a case should be dropped in the public interest. (CPS, 2008, section 5.10g)

7. Variations by Ethnicity

7.1 National results for ethnicity are summarised in Tables 7.1 and 7.2. These are not as clear-cut as those by gender. In particular, the 19% of cases lacking an ethnicity classification (compared with 25% in 2005-2006) had a very different set of results of the charging process than the cases in which an ethnicity classification was present. Cases lacking an ethnicity classification were very less likely to result in a charge and much more likely to result in no prosecution on evidence or on public interest grounds. This is exactly as in previous years and probably a result of lower priority being given to the process of recording in cases where a charge was not made. However, this would need further study.

Table 7.1 National Results of the charging process by main ethnicity categories (summary ethnic categories), 2006-7

Ethnic group	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	Number of cases
Asian	50.0%	28.5%	1.9%	9.9%	5.0%	2.3%	2.5%	24012
Black	52.1%	21.5%	1.9%	13.8%	6.3%	2.0%	2.5%	36609
Mixed	54.9%	20.1%	2.0%	13.1%	5.1%	2.1%	2.6%	11620
Other	53.4%	20.0%	1.4%	13.8%	7.3%	2.4%	1.7%	4661
White	51.3%	24.8%	2.3%	10.7%	5.2%	3.3%	2.3%	395630
Not Provided	17.1%	54.4%	5.8%	5.1%	10.6%	5.9%	1.2%	77310
Not Stated	33.1%	35.1%	3.3%	10.4%	12.3%	3.8%	2.1%	32918
Total	45.8%	29.1%	2.8%	10.2%	6.4%	3.5%	2.2%	582760

7.2 The main results on ethnicity are:

- There were no significant differences across different ethnic groups in the proportion of cases finalised by a charge. Cases with Mixed suspects (54.9%) or with Other suspects (53.4%) were finalised by charge in slightly more cases: those with Black suspects were finalised in 52.1% of cases: with White suspects with 51.3% of cases and in exactly a half of those with Asian suspects. Looking at the 16+1 classification (Table 7.2) there were some small variations within the main categories.
- There were no significant differences across different ethnic groups in the proportion of cases finalised by a decision.
- There were some differences by ethnicity in cases finalised by no prosecution on evidential grounds. 24.8% of cases with White suspects and 28.5% of cases with Asian suspects were so finalised; cases with Black, Mixed or Other suspects were less likely to have their cases finalised with no prosecution on evidential grounds (all significantly lower than White at around 20-21%.) There were some other differences within the 16+1 categories but most of these are because of small numbers in these categories (Table 7.2) However, it is notable that there are very low percentages with no prosecution on evidence grounds (around 20%) among the categories of Black (B2, B9) Mixed (M9) and Other (O1).

Table 7.2 National Results of the charging process by main ethnicity categories (full ethnic categories), 2006-7

Ethnic category	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (PI)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	Number of cases
Asian	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%	0.0%	6
A1 – Indian	48.7%	29.9%	2.3%	9.7%	3.8%	2.8%	2.8%	5670
A2 – Pakistani	51.4%	29.0%	1.8%	8.2%	5.1%	2.1%	2.4%	9898
A3 – Bangladeshi	49.2%	25.8%	1.6%	13.7%	5.6%	2.1%	2.0%	2636
A9 – Other Asian Background	49.1%	27.2%	2.0%	11.2%	5.5%	2.5%	2.5%	5802
Black or Black British	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2
B1 – Caribbean	52.3%	22.2%	2.0%	13.2%	5.8%	2.0%	2.6%	19792
B2 – African	51.7%	20.6%	1.8%	15.1%	6.7%	2.0%	2.2%	10750
B9 - Other Black Background	52.0%	20.7%	2.0%	13.7%	7.1%	2.2%	2.4%	6065
Mixed	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2
M1 – White/Black Caribbean	56.5%	19.8%	1.9%	12.4%	4.6%	2.0%	2.7%	6542
M2 – White/Black African	54.7%	20.0%	2.7%	11.4%	6.4%	2.4%	2.5%	1257
M3 – White/Asian	51.2%	22.4%	2.2%	14.6%	4.5%	2.5%	2.7%	1203
M9 – Other Mixed	52.9%	19.9%	1.7%	14.9%	6.1%	2.1%	2.4%	2616
Not Provided	17.1%	54.4%	5.8%	5.1%	10.6%	5.9%	1.2%	77310
Not Stated	33.1%	35.1%	3.3%	10.4%	12.3%	3.8%	2.1%	32918
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6
O1 – Chinese	55.7%	16.8%	1.9%	12.6%	10.0%	1.7%	1.4%	1297
O9 – Other Ethnic Group	52.6%	21.3%	1.3%	14.2%	6.3%	2.6%	1.8%	3358
White	0.0%	37.5%	0.0%	4.2%	58.3%	0.0%	0.0%	24
W1 – White British	51.3%	25.0%	2.4%	10.6%	5.2%	3.3%	2.3%	380140
W2 – White Irish	52.3%	23.4%	2.4%	12.3%	5.9%	1.9%	1.8%	3643
W9 – Other White	49.8%	21.4%	1.8%	15.5%	6.7%	2.9%	2.0%	11823

7.3 This EDIA cannot explain all these differences. However, there is some information on the offences with which people of different ethnicities were charged once the charging process had been completed. Because the offence is not recorded pre-charge, it is not possible to look at the proportion of each offence that led to a charge, incomplete case, etc. We can simply look at the patterns of charging by ethnicity and see whether this is likely to have influenced the outcome of the charging process.

Table 7.3 Offence for which different ethnicities were charged, 2006-7

Ethnic group	Homicide Against the person	Sexual offence	Burglary	Robbery	Theft And Handling	Fraud And Forgery	Criminal Damage	Drugs Offences	Public Order Offences	All Other Offences	Motoring Offences	Admin finalised	Pre-charge Decision	Not Finalised	Undefined	Number of cases	
Asian	0.4%	25.4%	2.7%	2.9%	4.5%	14.0%	4.1%	3.7%	10.2%	8.6%	7.7%	12.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	1.2%	10519
Black	0.5%	20.9%	1.6%	4.2%	8.8%	15.4%	4.5%	3.5%	12.2%	7.4%	7.6%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%	1.5%	18223
Mixed	0.3%	25.2%	1.0%	6.2%	9.4%	17.5%	1.7%	5.7%	8.0%	8.7%	6.1%	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	1.3%	6110
Other	0.5%	17.6%	2.6%	3.1%	3.1%	14.6%	10 %	2.8%	8.7%	7.7%	16.1%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	4.4%	1.1%	2258
White	0.2%	30.0%	2.0%	6.5%	2.5%	17.9%	1.1%	8.2%	5.7%	10.4%	5.1%	7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	1.0%	200382
Not Given	0.2%	24.0%	1.9%	6.0%	3.5%	18.2%	2.0%	7.6%	8.2%	10.1%	5.7%	8.5%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	1.2%	11182
Not Stated	0.5%	28.4%	2.5%	5.1%	3.3%	14.6%	2.1%	6.0%	6.2%	10.7%	6.3%	10.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	1.4%	14413
Total	0.3%	28.6%	2.0%	6.1%	3.3%	17.3%	1.6%	7.5%	6.5%	10.0%	5.6%	7.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	1.1%	263087
Number of cases	730	75262	5308	16020	8574	45641	4240	19617	17163	26410	14737	19905	74	12	6480	2914	263087

7.4 Table 7.3 shows the pattern of offences with which people of different ethnicities were charged. Variations can be seen but most of them are not significant. Those worth mentioning which could have influenced the result of the charging process are:

- White defendants were more likely to be charged with Burglary and less likely to be charged with Robbery or Fraud and Forgery.
- Asians were less than half as likely to be charged with burglary than average: less likely to be charged with theft or damage but much more likely to be charged with fraud.
- Black defendants were less likely to be charged with offences against the person but much more likely to be charged with drugs offences, robbery or fraud.
- Defendants of Mixed race were much more likely to be charged with robbery.
- Defendants of 'other' ethnicity were much less likely to be charged with offences against the person and burglary and much more likely to be charged with drugs offences or with fraud.

7.5 Age patterns by ethnicity have also been examined. Tables 7.4-7.10 show the ethnicity and charge breakdown for the different age groups. There are some variations, but broadly they show similar patterns to all the age groups (see section 8).

- For young people aged under 18 Black suspects were less likely to be charged (57%) than other ethnic groups. (Mixed 63%, Other 64%, White and Asian 62%.) Asian suspects were more likely to have no prosecution for evidence reasons.
- For those aged 18-24 Black suspects were again less likely to be charged (62%) than Mixed ethnicity suspects (66%). Asian suspects were more likely to have no prosecution on evidence grounds (16%) compared to Mixed and Other groups (11%).
- For those aged 25-44 there are no differences in charging patterns but Asian and White groups are more likely to have no prosecution for evidence reasons.
- For those aged 45-54 Asians are less likely to be charged and more likely to have no prosecution for evidence reasons.
- Above the age of 55, numbers of ethnic minorities are very much smaller and fewer conclusions can be drawn about the differences in patterns of charging between different groups. As an example, little can be concluded from the low charging rates for Mixed and Other groups over 65, as there are so few of them.

Table 7.4 Those charged aged 10-17 by ethnicity, 2006-7

Ethnicity Group	No of cases	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases
Asian	1842	61.7%	18.4%	1.8%	7.5%	4.0%	3.0%	3.5%
Black	4659	59.4%	15.5%	1.6%	13.2%	4.7%	2.6%	2.9%
Mixed	2367	63.2%	13.9%	1.6%	12.7%	3.6%	1.9%	3.1%
Other	269	64.7%	12.6%	0.7%	14.9%	1.9%	3.3%	1.9%
White	48616	61.9%	16.3%	1.9%	10.6%	3.5%	3.4%	2.5%
Not Provided	7050	27.0%	46.0%	5.6%	5.3%	7.0%	7.8%	1.3%
Not Stated	2655	48.9%	22.3%	2.0%	11.6%	8.5%	3.8%	2.9%

Table 7.5 Those charged aged 18-24 by ethnicity, 2006-7

Ethnicity group	No of cases	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases
Asian	5141	62.9%	16.0%	1.4%	11.7%	3.7%	1.3%	3.0%
Black	6802	61.7%	12.8%	1.3%	16.0%	4.1%	1.0%	3.1%
Mixed	2583	66.0%	11.1%	1.0%	15.2%	3.1%	0.9%	2.6%
Other	799	63.6%	10.9%	0.9%	18.0%	4.1%	1.4%	1.1%
White	71342	64.0%	14.3%	1.1%	12.5%	3.2%	2.1%	2.7%
Not Given	9422	31.4%	43.6%	4.2%	7.6%	6.6%	4.9%	1.6%
Not Stated	4631	51.5%	19.1%	1.4%	14.3%	8.6%	2.1%	2.9%

Table 7.6 Those charged aged 25-34 by ethnicity, 2006-7

Ethnicity group	No of cases	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases
Asian	5019	63.3%	16.2%	1.3%	12.1%	3.3%	1.4%	2.5%
Black	6193	64.1%	11.9%	1.5%	15.4%	3.8%	1.0%	2.3%
Mixed	1531	63.6%	12.5%	1.0%	15.7%	3.4%	1.0%	2.7%
Other	1056	64.4%	12.3%	0.5%	14.6%	4.2%	1.5%	2.6%
White	59168	64.6%	14.6%	1.4%	12.2%	3.3%	1.6%	2.4%
Not Given	7771	32.2%	42.8%	5.0%	8.1%	6.4%	3.8%	1.7%
Not Stated	4005	52.0%	19.1%	2.2%	15.0%	7.6%	1.7%	2.4%

Table 7.7 Those charged aged 35-44 by ethnicity, 2006-7

Ethnicity group	No of cases	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases
Asian	2135	61.3%	18.5%	1.3%	12.0%	3.1%	1.0%	2.9%
Black	4613	63.1%	13.0%	1.5%	14.7%	4.1%	1.0%	2.6%
Mixed	787	63.9%	11.2%	1.9%	15.6%	3.6%	1.1%	2.7%
Other	534	63.7%	13.5%	0.9%	16.3%	3.4%	0.7%	1.5%
White	42623	63.2%	16.5%	1.4%	11.4%	3.1%	1.9%	2.5%
Not Given	5636	30.0%	46.7%	4.8%	7.0%	5.7%	4.3%	1.5%
Not Stated	2689	51.9%	19.4%	2.0%	14.2%	7.5%	2.5%	2.5%

Table 7.8 Those charged aged 45-54 by ethnicity, 2006-7

Ethnicity group	No of cases	Charge	No Pros (evidenc e)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalise d	Finalise d by a decision	Incompl ete Cases
Asian	827	56.0%	21.9%	1.9%	13.7%	2.5%	1.5%	2.5%
Black	1497	60.8%	14.5%	1.3%	15.6%	3.9%	0.9%	2.9%
Mixed	224	62.9%	16.5%	0.9%	14.3%	2.7%	0.9%	1.8%
Other	224	62.9%	15.2%	1.8%	15.6%	2.7%	0.4%	1.3%
White	15742	60.5%	18.6%	1.7%	11.3%	3.1%	2.3%	2.5%
Not Provided	2152	26.2%	48.0%	5.6%	6.5%	6.2%	6.1%	1.4%
Not Stated	1036	48.1%	23.7%	1.9%	13.4%	6.9%	2.7%	3.2%

Table 7.9 Those charged aged 55-64 by ethnicity, 2006-7

Ethnicity Group	No of cases	Charge	No Pros (evidenc e)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalise d	Finalise d by a decision	Incompl ete Cases
Asian	191	49.7%	26.7%	1.6%	14.1%	3.7%	1.6%	2.6%
Black	213	59.2%	20.2%	0.9%	13.6%	2.8%	2.3%	0.9%
Mixed	33	54.5%	24.2%	0.0%	18.2%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%
Other	41	63.4%	24.4%	0.0%	9.8%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%
White	5282	55.9%	21.3%	2.1%	12.1%	3.1%	2.5%	2.9%
Not Provided	704	24.3%	51.8%	4.7%	8.1%	4.3%	5.7%	1.1%
Not Stated	341	38.7%	29.6%	3.5%	15.0%	7.9%	2.6%	2.6%

Table 7.10 Those aged over 65, by ethnicity, 2006-7

Ethnicity group	No of cases	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases
Asian	107	51.4%	24.3%	3.7%	8.4%	9.3%	0.0%	2.8%
Black	103	46.6%	23.3%	3.9%	15.5%	7.8%	0.0%	2.9%
Mixed	16	25.0%	12.5%	0.0%	43.8%	18.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	15	26.7%	33.3%	0.0%	26.7%	13.3%	0.0%	0.0%
White	2027	50.7%	23.3%	3.8%	9.3%	7.4%	2.9%	2.6%
Not Provided	308	14.9%	48.7%	12.0%	8.4%	7.5%	6.2%	2.3%
Not Stated	563	19.9%	40.5%	6.0%	8.0%	21.3%	2.7%	1.6%

Comparisons with other studies

7.6 These national findings can be compared with previous CPS work on variations in the treatment of suspects by ethnicity. The main conclusions are that the situation is similar to that in the previous EDIAs (Lewis, 2005, Chen & Lewis, 2007) Much more limited comparisons are possible with the previous work of the work of Mhlanga (1999) and of the Gus John Partnership (2003) as both researchers dealt with the situation before statutory charging was introduced and were constrained by smaller samples.

7.7 **Mhlanga**, (Mhlanga (1999) and Barclay & Mhlanga (2000)) looked at CPS decisions in a study of 6,100 cases of young defendants during September and October 1996. They found termination on grounds of insufficiency of evidence was more common for minority than White defendants. Tables 7.4 and 7.5 above confirm this for Asian groups but not for Black or Other minority groups.

7.8 **The Gus John Partnership** (2003) analysed the charging process in a sample of areas with regard to offence group. They found a number of different patterns by offences and ethnicity: e.g. that half of all men, but two-thirds of all White and Afro-Caribbean women received a dishonesty charge: and that a grievous bodily harm charge was twice as common among White male suspects as among Afro-Caribbean suspects. As far as the charging process is concerned, Gus John found that percentage differences between ethnic groups were too small to be statistically significant but there was a tendency for NFA on evidential and public interest grounds to be more common for Afro-Caribbean suspects than those from other ethnic groups.

7.9 The current and earlier EDIAs are in some ways complementary to the two previous studies. The coming of COMPASS means that EDIAs now benefit from large-scale data analyses not possible earlier. They also provide a base from which more complex analysis could be conducted.

8. Variations by Age

8.1 One of the comments made on 2005-6 EDIA (Chen & Lewis, 2007) was that the analyses took no account of age. In 2006-7 CPS has been able to address this concern by collecting data by the age group of suspects. This replaces the rather incomplete analysis of different types of young offender in the previous EDIA. However, as has been discussed above, there is a large amount of missing data. There is no way of knowing whether this data is biased, and the effect of any bias on the patterns noted below. However, these patterns in the table below are many as would be expected and there are no real surprises.

Table 8.1 Result of charging process by age group: national

Age group of suspect	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	Number of cases
10-17 years	57.6%	19.5%	2.2%	10.3%	4.2%	3.7%	2.4%	67458
18-24 years	60.2%	17.2%	1.5%	12.4%	3.9%	2.2%	2.7%	100720
25-34 years	60.9%	17.2%	1.7%	12.2%	3.8%	1.8%	2.3%	84743
35-44 years	59.4%	19.2%	1.8%	11.5%	3.6%	2.0%	2.4%	59017
45-54 years	56.4%	21.5%	2.1%	11.4%	3.6%	2.6%	2.4%	21702
55-64 years	51.8%	25.1%	2.4%	12.0%	3.4%	2.8%	2.6%	6805
65+ or older	41.3%	28.9%	5.0%	9.4%	10.1%	2.9%	2.4%	3139
Not Provided	26.6%	44.4%	4.2%	8.1%	10.0%	5.1%	1.7%	239176

8.2 Table 8.1 summarises the results of the charging process for these 7 age groups. There is considerable variation.

- There is a gradient in the percentages charged by age. 58% of those under 18 were charged, rising to 60% for those 18-24 and 61% for those 25-34: then falling to 59% for those aged 35-44: 56% for those aged 45-54: 52% for those aged 52% for those aged 55-64 and to as low as 41% for those over 65. This is because age is included in the Code of practice as relevant to the decision to drop on public interest grounds.

- The mirror image can be seen when looking at the percentage of cases with no prosecution on evidence grounds. Under 20% of those aged 10-44 were in this category, but 22% of those aged 54-65 and 29% of those aged 65 or over. In theory there should be no difference between age groups when looking at evidence, but this may reflect the police investigating cases against younger people more thoroughly than those against older people.
- There is a similar profile when considering cases where the prosecution was dropped on public interest grounds, where age, especially advanced age, can be part of the process of dropping a case. However, percentages are very small even for older people, so this criterion is not necessarily being over-applied.
- The only other result where there seems to be a difference by age is for young people given a case ending decision, which reaches 3.7% compared to half that rate for people in the 25-34 age group. This is probably because of younger people, being given more conditional cautions and warnings, due to their age.

Charging patterns by gender and age group

8.3 An analysis of the charging process by gender and age group was given in section 6 at tables 6.3 and 6.4 and is not repeated here.

Patterns by Offence charged and age group

8.4 Table 8.2 shows the Pattern of offences for which different age categories were charged. There are some interesting patterns:

- There are some sharp gradients by age group for some offences, partly reflecting section 5.10g of the CPS Code for Prosecutors, which gives age as a reason for considering not charging as a matter of public interest.
- For the older age groups, particularly those aged over 65, the likelihood of being charged is much higher for the more serious offences such as Homicide, Violence, Fraud or Sexual offences and much lower for offences such as Burglary, Robbery, Drugs offences, Criminal Damage or Theft.
- This suggests that the law enforcement agencies are pursuing serious cases right through to prosecution, whatever the age of the suspect, while perhaps not pursuing older people for less serious cases, involving acquisitive crime involving small sums of money or drug crime involving small amounts. However, this is speculation and more research would be needed to confirm this. Table 8.2 Pattern of offences for which different age categories were charged. For young people under 18, there was a lower chance of being charged with sexual offences (1% compared with 25% for those over 65), motoring, fraud or drugs offences.
- However, there was a much higher chance of a young person under 18 being charged with Burglary, Robbery or Theft, all acquisitive offences.

Table 8.2 Pattern of offences changed for different age groups, 2006-7

Age group	Homicide offence against the person	sexual offence	Burglary	Robbery	Theft And Handling	Fraud And Forgery	Criminal Damage	Drugs Offences	Public Order Offences	All Other Offences	Motoring Offences	Admin finalised	Pre-charge Decision	Not Finalised	Undefined	Number of cases	
10-17	0.3%	27.7%	1.2%	9.5%	8.8%	18.6%	0.3%	9.4%	3.4%	10.0%	4.7%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.7%	34483
18-24	0.4%	28.9%	1.5%	6.8%	4.9%	13.7%	1.5%	6.2%	7.2%	10.5%	5.3%	7.8%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	1.0%	54669
25-34	0.4%	26.9%	2.2%	6.9%	2.4%	17.4%	2.8%	5.1%	8.9%	8.0%	5.5%	7.4%	0.1%	0.0%	4.8%	1.1%	44700
35-44	0.4%	32.0%	3.9%	4.9%	1.4%	14.9%	2.6%	5.3%	7.7%	8.4%	6.5%	6.9%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	1.0%	28869
45-54	0.5%	32.1%	7.8%	2.5%	0.8%	12.2%	2.8%	4.5%	7.1%	9.4%	7.0%	8.0%	0.1%	0.0%	4.2%	1.0%	9782
55-64	0.5%	30.4%	16.0%	1.2%	0.2%	9.6%	2.8%	4.1%	4.4%	8.2%	7.9%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	1.2%	2759
65+	0.5%	23.7%	24.9%	2.4%	1.0%	6.7%	2.5%	4.0%	3.6%	9.2%	6.4%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	2.0%	1128
Not Provided	0.1%	28.1%	0.6%	4.8%	1.5%	20.9%	1.1%	9.9%	5.8%	11.5%	5.6%	8.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	1.3%	86697
Number of cases	730	75262	5308	16020	8574	45641	4240	19617	17163	26410	14737	19905	74	12	6480	2914	263087

9. Analysis of the charging process for gender and ethnicity together

- 9.1 Tables 9.1-9.4 show how the charging of male and female suspects varies by ethnic background. In 19.5% of male cases and 14.4% of female cases ethnicity was not recorded. It is not at all clear why recording of ethnicity should be much better for women than for men.
- 9.2 For Female suspects, the proportions charged varied by ethnic group: 42.6% of Asian suspects were charged: 45.8% of White suspects: 49.4% of Black suspects: 51.7% of Mixed ethnicity suspects and 54.1% of other suspects.
- 9.3 For female suspects the proportions where there were no prosecutions on evidence grounds also varied by ethnic group: 18.6% of other ethnicity were not prosecuted: 21.9% of mixed ethnicity: 23.7% of Black suspects: 29.1% of White suspects and 35.2% of Asian suspects.

- 9.4 For female suspects the proportions where there were no prosecutions on public interest grounds varied by ethnic group: 1.9% of Other suspects were not prosecuted: 2.3%/2.4% of Mixed and Black suspects: 3.2% of White suspects and 4.1% of Asian suspects.
- 9.5 There was less variation for female suspects whose case was ended by a decision such as a caution: this occurred to 2.7% of other suspects: 3.4% of Asian and Black suspects: 4.1% of Mixed suspects and 4.8% of White suspects.
- 9.6 For male suspects, the proportions charged also varied by ethnic group: 50.4% of Asian suspects were charged: 52% of White and 52% of Black suspects: 53% of other suspects and 54% of Mixed suspects.
- 9.7 For male suspects, the proportions with no prosecution on evidence grounds varied considerably: 20% of Mixed and Other suspects had no such prosecution: 21% of Black suspects: 24% of White suspects and 28% of Asian suspects.
- 9.8 For male suspects, the proportions with no prosecution on public interest grounds varied little.
- 9.9 For male suspects, the proportions whose case was ended by a decision such as a caution varied, as for females: this occurred to 1.8% of Black and Mixed suspects: to 2.3% of Asian and Other suspects and to 3.0% of White suspects.

Table 9.1 Results of the charging process by main ethnicity categories: female cases

Ethnic Group	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete cases	Number of cases
Asian	42.6%	35.2%	4.1%	7.6%	4.1%	3.4%	3.0%	1218
Black	49.4%	23.7%	2.4%	11.9%	6.1%	3.4%	3.1%	3683
Mixed	51.7%	21.9%	2.3%	11.9%	4.4%	4.1%	3.7%	1543
Other	54.1%	18.6%	1.9%	11.0%	9.7%	2.7%	2.0%	484
White	45.8%	29.1%	3.2%	9.5%	5.2%	4.8%	2.4%	51900
Not Provided	13.3%	56.6%	7.0%	3.6%	10.3%	8.0%	1.2%	6289
Not Stated	28.1%	37.5%	4.5%	10.5%	11.2%	6.1%	2.1%	3624

Table 9.2 Results of the charging process by all ethnicity categories: female cases

Ethnic Group	Charge	No Pros (evidenc e)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalise d	Finalise d by a decision	Incompl ete Cases	Number of cases
A - Asian or Asian British	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0
A1 - Indian	42.0%	34.6%	3.5%	8.2%	3.8%	5.2%	2.7%	367
A2 - Pakistani	43.2%	38.7%	4.3%	4.5%	2.9%	2.9%	3.6%	447
A3 - Bangladeshi	38.9%	33.3%	5.6%	13.3%	5.6%	0.0%	3.3%	90
A9 - Other Asian Background	43.6%	31.5%	4.1%	9.9%	5.7%	3.2%	1.9%	314
B - Black or Black British	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0
B1 - Caribbean	48.1%	25.9%	2.6%	11.3%	5.3%	3.2%	3.6%	1922
B2 - African	52.8%	21.4%	2.2%	12.0%	5.6%	4.3%	1.7%	1175
B9 - Any Other Black Background	46.9%	21.5%	2.2%	13.8%	9.7%	2.4%	3.4%	586
M – Mixed	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0
M1 - White and Black Caribbean	54.7%	20.2%	2.6%	10.6%	4.0%	4.2%	3.7%	908
M2 - White and Black African	43.1%	25.7%	3.5%	12.5%	7.6%	5.6%	2.1%	144
M3 - White and Asian	50.0%	21.2%	1.7%	16.9%	2.5%	4.2%	3.4%	118
M9 - Other Mixed Background	48.0%	24.9%	1.3%	13.4%	4.8%	3.2%	4.3%	373
NP - Not Provided	13.3%	56.6%	7.0%	3.6%	10.3%	8.0%	1.3%	6289
NS - Not Stated	28.1%	37.5%	4.5%	10.5%	11.2%	6.1%	2.1%	3624
O - Chinese or Other Group	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1
O1 - Chinese	53.2%	16.6%	2.4%	11.7%	14.1%	1.0%	1.0%	205
O9 - Any Other Ethnic Group	55.0%	20.1%	1.4%	10.1%	6.5%	4.0%	2.9%	278
W – White	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2
W1 - British	45.7%	29.3%	3.2%	9.4%	5.2%	4.9%	2.4%	50123
W2 – Irish	51.2%	26.1%	2.4%	10.0%	5.7%	2.8%	1.7%	459
W9 - Other White Background	49.2%	22.9%	1.9%	14.1%	6.2%	3.6%	2.0%	1316

Table 9.3 Results of the charging process by main ethnicity categories: male cases

Ethnic group	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	Number of cases
Asian	50.4%	28.1%	1.8%	10.0%	5.0%	2.3%	2.4%	22791
Black	52.4%	21.2%	1.9%	14.0%	6.3%	1.8%	2.4%	32919
Mixed	55.4%	19.9%	1.9%	13.3%	5.3%	1.8%	2.4%	10073
Other	53.3%	20.2%	1.4%	14.2%	7.0%	2.3%	1.6%	4173
White	52.1%	24.2%	2.2%	10.9%	5.2%	3.0%	2.3%	343691
Not Provided	17.4%	54.2%	5.7%	5.3%	10.6%	5.7%	1.2%	70865
Not Stated	33.8%	34.7%	3.1%	10.4%	12.3%	3.5%	2.2%	29169

Table 9.4 Results of the charging process by all ethnicity categories: male cases

Ethnic group	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	Number of cases
A - Asian or Asian British	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%	0.0%	6
A1 – Indian	49.2%	29.6%	2.2%	9.8%	3.8%	2.6%	2.8%	5302
A2 – Pakistani	51.8%	28.6%	1.7%	8.4%	5.2%	2.1%	2.3%	9451
A3 - Bangladeshi	49.6%	25.6%	1.4%	13.7%	5.6%	2.2%	2.0%	2545
A9 – Any Other Asian Background	49.4%	27.0%	1.8%	11.3%	5.5%	2.4%	2.5%	5487
B - Black or Black British	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2
B1 – Caribbean	52.8%	21.8%	1.9%	13.4%	5.8%	1.8%	2.5%	17867
B2 – African	51.6%	20.5%	1.7%	15.4%	6.8%	1.7%	2.3%	9572
B9 – Any Other Black Background	52.6%	20.6%	2.0%	13.7%	6.8%	2.2%	2.2%	5478

Ethnic group	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	Number of cases
M – Mixed	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2
M1 – White and Black Caribbean	56.7%	19.8%	1.8%	12.7%	4.8%	1.7%	2.5%	5634
M2 – White and Black African	56.2%	19.2%	2.6%	11.2%	6.3%	2.0%	2.5%	1113
M3 – White and Asian	51.4%	22.5%	2.2%	14.3%	4.7%	2.3%	2.5%	1083
M9 – Any Other Mixed Background	53.7%	19.1%	1.7%	15.2%	6.3%	1.9%	2.1%	2241
NP – Not Provided	17.4%	54.2%	5.7%	5.3%	10.6%	5.7%	1.2%	70865
NS – Not Stated	33.8%	34.7%	3.1%	10.4%	12.3%	3.5%	2.2%	29169
O – Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5
O1 – Chinese	56.2%	16.8%	1.7%	12.8%	9.2%	1.8%	1.5%	1088
O9 – Any Other Ethnic Group	52.3%	21.4%	1.2%	14.5%	6.3%	2.5%	1.7%	3080
W – White	0.0%	40.9%	0.0%	4.5%	54.5%	0.0%	0.0%	22
								32997
W1 – British	52.2%	24.3%	2.2%	10.8%	5.2%	3.1%	2.3%	8
W2 – Irish	52.4%	23.1%	2.4%	12.6%	6.0%	1.8%	1.9%	3184
W9 – Any Other White Background	49.9%	21.2%	1.8%	15.6%	6.7%	2.8%	2.0%	10507

10. Analysis for gender/ethnicity and age together

10.1 Interest has been expressed in how gender, age and ethnicity classification interact and the government has recently responded to the recommendations from the Home Affairs Committee on Young Black People and the criminal justice system. The fact that CPS now has a reasonable analysis by age, for the first time, means that we are able to examine the possibility of discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity for specific sub groups of the population of suspects: ie we can look at the way that male suspects under 18 have been charged by the CPS.

10.2 Tables 10.1 to 10.14 show the pattern of charging for males and females, for each of the age groups. For many of these tables numbers in some categories become small and too much cannot be read into the analysis.

Table10.1 Results of the Charging process for males aged under 18

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	Number of cases
Asian	61.6%	18.2%	1.9%	7.7%	4.0%	3.1%	3.5%	1,749
Black	59.5%	15.6%	1.6%	13.5%	4.7%	2.5%	2.8%	4,159
Mixed	63.6%	14.2%	1.5%	13.1%	3.6%	1.6%	2.5%	2,013
Other	64.9%	12.4%	0.8%	15.3%	2.1%	3.3%	1.2%	242
White	62.3%	16.1%	1.7%	10.7%	3.6%	3.2%	2.4%	41,461
Not Provided	27.3%	46.4%	5.4%	5.4%	6.8%	7.5%	1.1%	6,380
Not Stated	49.1%	22.2%	2.0%	11.6%	8.8%	3.5%	2.8%	2,319
Total	33,710	11,431	1,235	6,051	2,466	2,076	1,354	58,323

Table 10.2 Results of the Charing process for females aged under 18

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	62.4%	21.5%	1.1%	5.4%	4.3%	2.2%	3.2%	93
Black	58.7%	15.2%	2.0%	10.8%	5.4%	4.2%	3.6%	499
Mixed	61.4%	12.2%	2.0%	10.8%	3.7%	3.7%	6.3%	352
Other	63.0%	14.8%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	3.7%	7.4%	27
White	59.4%	17.4%	2.7%	10.0%	3.2%	4.4%	2.9%	7,147
Not Provided	24.5%	41.6%	7.9%	3.9%	8.5%	11.2%	2.4%	670
Not Stated	47.3%	22.4%	2.4%	11.5%	6.7%	6.1%	3.6%	330
Total	5,151	1,740	269	879	353	446	280	9,118

10.3 For males under 18, fewer charges were made against Black suspects than Asian or White suspects, with more charges against Mixed or Other suspects. There are differences in percentages not charged due to evidence, with Asians having a high value here: and in those finalised by a decision, where the Mixed category is low. However, numbers are small, especially for women. The most interesting feature of these two tables, however, is the absolute number of Mixed ethnic category, which, for both sexes, is more than the Asian and Other category put together.

Table 10.3 Results of the Charging process for males aged 18-24

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	63.1%	15.9%	1.4%	11.7%	3.7%	1.3%	2.9%	4,959
Black	61.8%	12.7%	1.2%	16.2%	4.1%	0.9%	3.1%	6,239
Mixed	66.0%	10.8%	1.0%	15.8%	3.1%	0.9%	2.4%	2,322
Other	62.1%	11.3%	1.0%	18.8%	4.2%	1.6%	1.0%	708
White	64.5%	13.9%	1.1%	12.6%	3.2%	1.9%	2.7%	63,875
Not Provided	32.0%	43.2%	4.2%	7.7%	6.6%	4.6%	1.6%	8,791
Not Stated	52.5%	18.3%	1.3%	14.1%	8.7%	2.0%	3.0%	4,203
Total	55,178	15,354	1,313	11,416	3,562	1,871	2,403	91,097

Table10.4 Results of the charging process for females aged 18-24

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	56.9%	18.8%	2.2%	12.2%	2.2%	1.7%	6.1%	181
Black	60.7%	13.5%	2.0%	14.1%	3.7%	2.0%	4.1%	562
Mixed	65.9%	14.6%	1.1%	10.0%	2.7%	1.5%	4.2%	261
Other	74.7%	7.7%	0.0%	12.1%	3.3%	0.0%	2.2%	91
White	60.0%	18.1%	1.5%	11.3%	3.1%	3.4%	2.7%	7,462
Not Provided	24.0%	49.6%	4.5%	5.0%	6.7%	8.8%	1.4%	625
Not Stated	41.6%	26.5%	1.9%	16.3%	8.0%	3.5%	2.1%	423
Total	5,485	1,930	165	1,080	340	338	267	9,605

10.4 Female cases are too few in number to interpret patterns statistically. For males aged 18-24 Mixed suspects and White suspects were more likely to be charged: Mixed and 'Other' suspects were less likely to be not charged because of lack of evidence. No prosecutions in the public interest were very low for all ethnicities. For this age group the Mixed category is much less than the other categories.

Table 10.5 Results of the Charging process for males aged 25-34

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	63.4%	16.1%	1.2%	12.3%	3.3%	1.3%	2.5%	4,766
Black	64.2%	11.9%	1.5%	15.6%	3.8%	0.8%	2.3%	5,525
Mixed	64.5%	11.5%	1.1%	15.6%	3.5%	1.1%	2.6%	1,328
Other	64.4%	12.7%	0.4%	14.4%	4.1%	1.7%	2.3%	956
White	65.4%	14.0%	1.3%	12.2%	3.2%	1.5%	2.3%	51,774
Not Provided	32.8%	42.4%	4.9%	8.1%	6.5%	3.6%	1.6%	7,132
Not Stated	52.8%	18.8%	1.9%	14.8%	7.6%	1.7%	2.4%	3,569
Total	46,151	12,634	1,258	9,203	2,852	1,238	1,714	75,050

Table 10.6 Results of the Charging process for females aged 25-34

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	60.7%	18.7%	3.2%	8.7%	3.6%	2.0%	3.2%	252
Black	63.6%	12.6%	1.7%	13.5%	3.9%	2.6%	2.1%	665
Mixed	57.6%	18.7%	0.5%	16.7%	2.5%	1.0%	3.0%	203
Other	63.6%	9.1%	1.0%	16.2%	5.1%	0.0%	5.1%	99
White	58.4%	18.8%	1.7%	12.0%	3.7%	2.6%	2.9%	7,389
Not Provided	25.0%	46.8%	6.8%	7.4%	5.5%	5.9%	2.5%	632
Not Stated	46.2%	21.8%	4.4%	16.2%	7.7%	1.9%	1.9%	431
Total	5,427	1,957	208	1,163	385	262	269	9,671

10.5 Again female numbers are too small to make valid comments. For males, the percentage charged was higher than for younger people but there was little difference by ethnicity. Mixed numbers are not high in this age group.

Table 10.7 Results of the Charging process for males aged 35-44

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	61.1%	18.5%	1.2%	12.3%	3.1%	1.0%	2.8%	2,028
Black	63.5%	12.7%	1.4%	14.6%	4.3%	1.0%	2.5%	4,141
Mixed	63.5%	11.3%	2.0%	16.1%	3.8%	1.0%	2.3%	690
Other	63.5%	12.9%	0.8%	16.9%	3.4%	0.8%	1.6%	496
White	64.0%	15.9%	1.4%	11.5%	3.1%	1.7%	2.5%	36,883
Not Provided	30.4%	46.1%	4.8%	7.3%	5.7%	4.3%	1.4%	5,163
Not Stated	53.1%	18.8%	2.0%	14.0%	7.6%	2.1%	2.5%	2,362
Total	31,029	9,728	898	6,009	1,891	974	1,234	51,763

Table 10.8 Results of the charging process for females aged 35-44

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	63.6%	18.7%	1.9%	7.5%	2.8%	0.9%	4.7%	107
Black	59.8%	15.1%	2.3%	15.5%	2.8%	1.5%	3.0%	470
Mixed	67.7%	10.4%	1.0%	11.5%	2.1%	2.1%	5.2%	96
Other	65.8%	21.1%	2.6%	7.9%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	38
White	58.2%	20.6%	2.1%	10.2%	3.0%	3.2%	2.8%	5,735
Not Provided	25.9%	52.9%	4.7%	4.2%	5.3%	5.1%	1.9%	471
Not Stated	43.7%	24.0%	1.8%	15.7%	7.1%	5.2%	2.5%	325
Total	4,039	1,616	162	753	240	232	200	7,242

10.6 Female and Mixed numbers are quite low. For males aged 35-44, Asian suspects are less likely to be charged and more likely to have no prosecution on evidence grounds. No prosecutions in the public interest are quite low.

Table 10.9 Results of the charging process for males aged 45-54

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	57.1%	21.7%	1.6%	13.6%	2.0%	1.6%	2.5%	760
Black	61.1%	14.2%	1.5%	15.7%	3.9%	0.9%	2.8%	1,366
Mixed	63.6%	17.4%	0.5%	13.8%	2.6%	0.5%	1.5%	195
Other	61.3%	14.4%	2.1%	17.5%	3.1%	0.0%	1.5%	194
White	61.2%	18.2%	1.5%	11.5%	3.0%	2.2%	2.4%	13,700
Not Provided	26.8%	47.5%	5.4%	6.8%	6.1%	6.0%	1.4%	1,969
Not Stated	48.5%	23.4%	1.8%	13.0%	7.4%	2.6%	3.4%	937
Total	10,879	4,071	371	2,203	676	463	458	19,121

Table 10.10 Results of the Charging process for females 45-54

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	43.3%	23.9%	6.0%	14.9%	9.0%	0.0%	3.0%	67
Black	58.0%	17.6%	0.0%	14.5%	3.8%	1.5%	4.6%	131
Mixed	58.6%	10.3%	3.4%	17.2%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	29
Other	73.3%	20.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	30
White	55.8%	20.9%	2.9%	10.3%	3.9%	3.4%	2.8%	2,041
Not Provided	19.7%	53.6%	7.1%	3.3%	7.7%	7.7%	1.1%	183
Not Stated	44.9%	26.5%	3.1%	17.3%	3.1%	4.1%	1.0%	98
Total	1,362	598	80	269	108	92	70	2,579

10.7 Female and mixed suspect numbers are low. For males aged 45 to 54 Asians are less likely to be charged and more likely to have no prosecution on evidential grounds. Numbers of no prosecutions in the public interest are low.

Table 10.11 Results of the charging process for males aged 55-64

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	50.9%	26.3%	1.7%	13.1%	4.0%	1.7%	2.3%	175
Black	59.3%	21.1%	0.5%	12.6%	3.0%	2.5%	1.0%	199
Mixed	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33
Other	67.6%	21.6%	0.0%	8.1%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%	37
White	56.6%	20.7%	2.0%	12.3%	3.1%	2.4%	2.9%	4,676
Not Provided	24.6%	51.1%	4.3%	8.4%	4.3%	6.1%	1.2%	655
Not Stated	37.7%	30.4%	3.8%	14.2%	8.2%	2.8%	2.8%	316
Total	3,178	1,505	136	732	210	169	161	6,091

Table 10.12 results of the charging process for females 55-64

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	37.5%	31.3%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	16
Black	57.1%	7.1%	7.1%	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14
Mixed	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-
Other	25.0%	50.0%	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4
White	50.3%	26.0%	3.1%	10.8%	3.1%	3.6%	3.0%	604
Not Provided	18.8%	62.5%	10.4%	4.2%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	48
Not Stated	52.0%	20.0%	0.0%	24.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25
Total	341	200	25	82	22	22	19	711

10.8 Non-white suspects are few in this age group. Variations that do occur are because of small numbers and lack of full recording.

Table 10.13 Results of the charging process for males aged 65+

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	52.0%	22.5%	3.9%	8.8%	9.8%	0.0%	2.9%	102
Black	44.9%	23.5%	4.1%	16.3%	8.2%	0.0%	3.1%	98
Mixed	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15
White	52.3%	23.1%	3.2%	9.5%	6.8%	2.6%	2.5%	1,820
Not Provided	15.7%	49.5%	10.5%	8.7%	7.3%	5.9%	2.4%	287
Not Stated	19.5%	41.2%	6.3%	7.4%	21.7%	2.9%	1.0%	512
Total	1,201	826	129	272	279	79	64	2,850

Table 10.14 Results of the Charging process for females aged over 65

Ethnic origin	Charge	No Pros (evidence)	No Pros (public interest)	Other	Admin Finalised	Finalised by a decision	Incomplete Cases	number of cases
Asian	40.0%	60.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5
Black	80.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5
Mixed	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-
White	37.2%	25.1%	9.2%	7.2%	12.6%	5.3%	3.4%	207
Not Provided	4.8%	38.1%	33.3%	4.8%	9.5%	9.5%	0.0%	21
Not Stated	20.0%	33.3%	4.4%	15.6%	17.8%	0.0%	8.9%	45
Total	93	79	28	23	36	13	11	283

10.9 Again non-white suspect numbers are few in this age group and the variations by ethnicity are not statistically valid because of small numbers and lack of full data.

11. Suggestions for future analysis and publications on diversity

11.1 Now Statutory Charging is part of CPS core business it is important for statistics on the charging process, as well as EDIAs to be routinely made available for public discussion. It is good that CPS has also decided to produce an EDIA on the Statutory Charging process for 2006-7: 2007-8 and 2008-9.

11.2 In discussions with interest groups on the published EDIAs, concern has been raised that they have so far only covered cases that come to CPS and not cases where the police lead on the charge. COMPASS also includes material on such cases, which are reported to the CPS and which are part of the new CPS Streamlined Process being piloted in 2008. It is important that once the new streamlined process has been fully introduced an EDIA should be routinely produced on the patterns of case-ending where this is determined by the police.

11.3 It is also important that data is collected on as many relevant aspects as possible. It is good to see the recent developments on this: i.e. that age data is now available from COMPASS and that attempts are also being made to include disability data. However, both these suffer from underreporting in 2006-7. Strong efforts need to be made to improve recording in both areas: in particular for disability because whereas there is enough age data to make a good attempt at analysis by age, no such analysis is worth attempting for disability data as it now stands.

11.4 This is the third Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment of the CPS Charging process produced since 2004. The combined effect of these EDIAs has been to build up public reassurance that the CPS Charging process is broadly conducted in a fair manner, with little disproportionality across gender, age or ethnic groups. Moreover the routine publication of this material enables public discussion to take place in an informed manner and encourages other agencies to produce similar analyses for processes at other stages of the justice system.

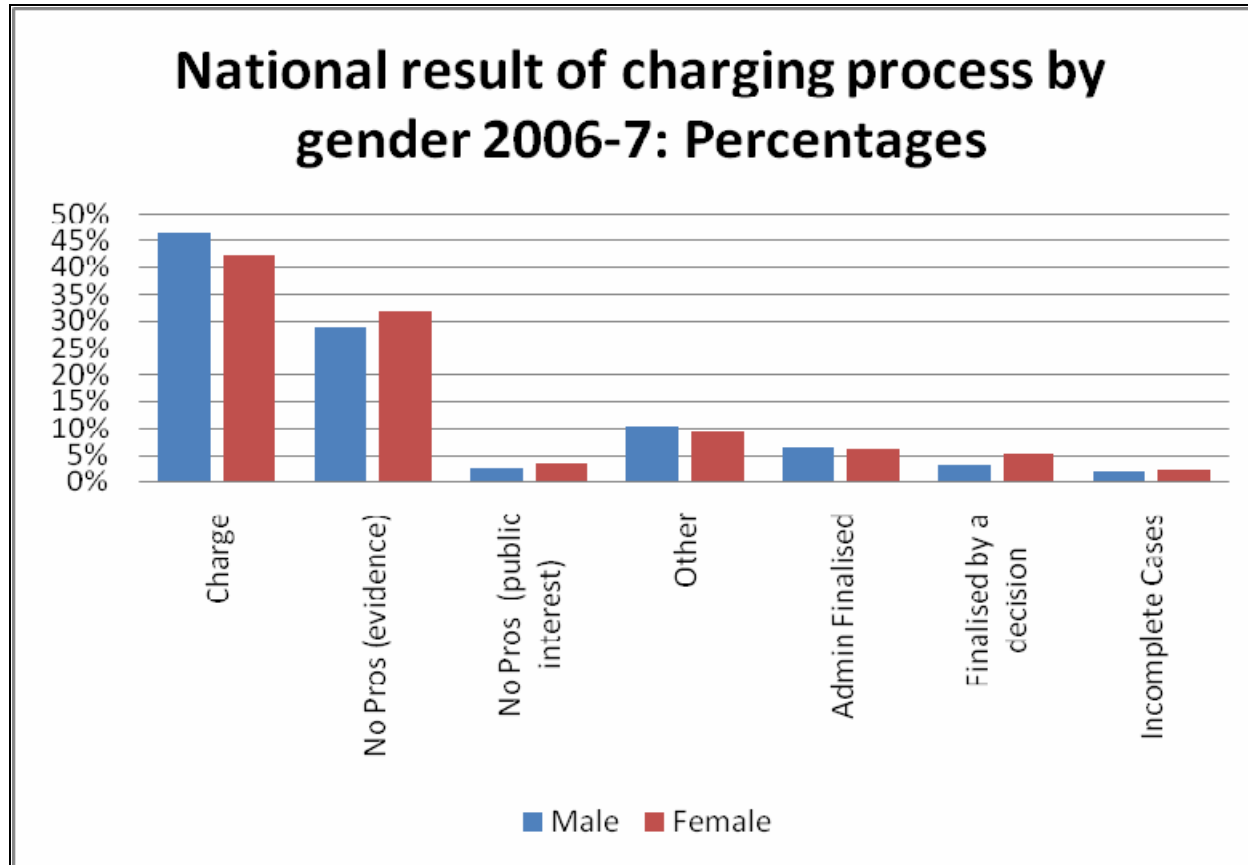
Yung-Fang Chen,, Chris Lewis, Independent Consultants, December 2008

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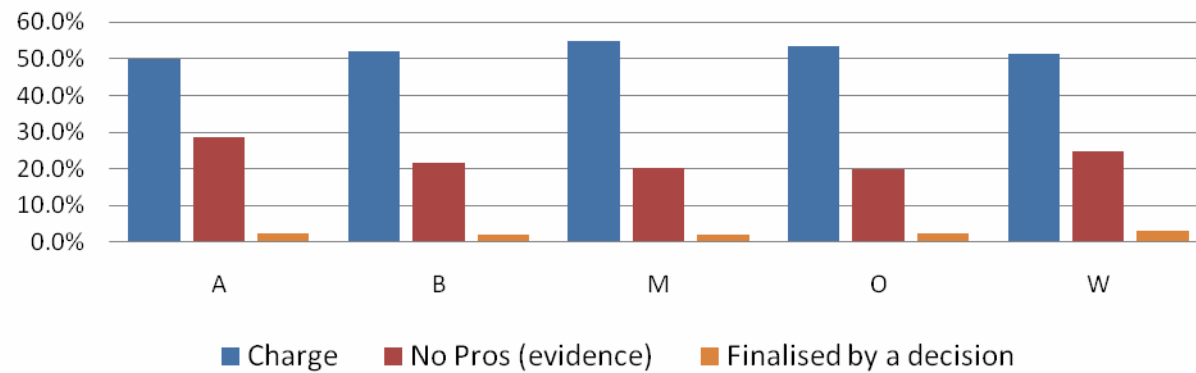
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**EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF CPS STATUTORY CHARGING:
ENGLAND AND WALES: APRIL 2006-MARCH 2007**

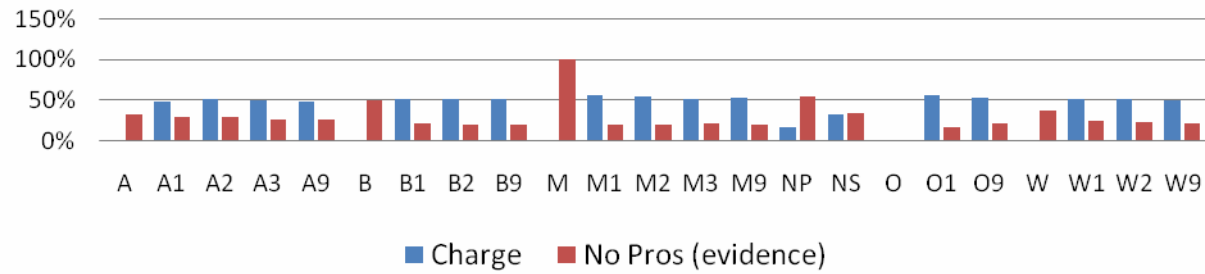
ANNEX A - CHARTS



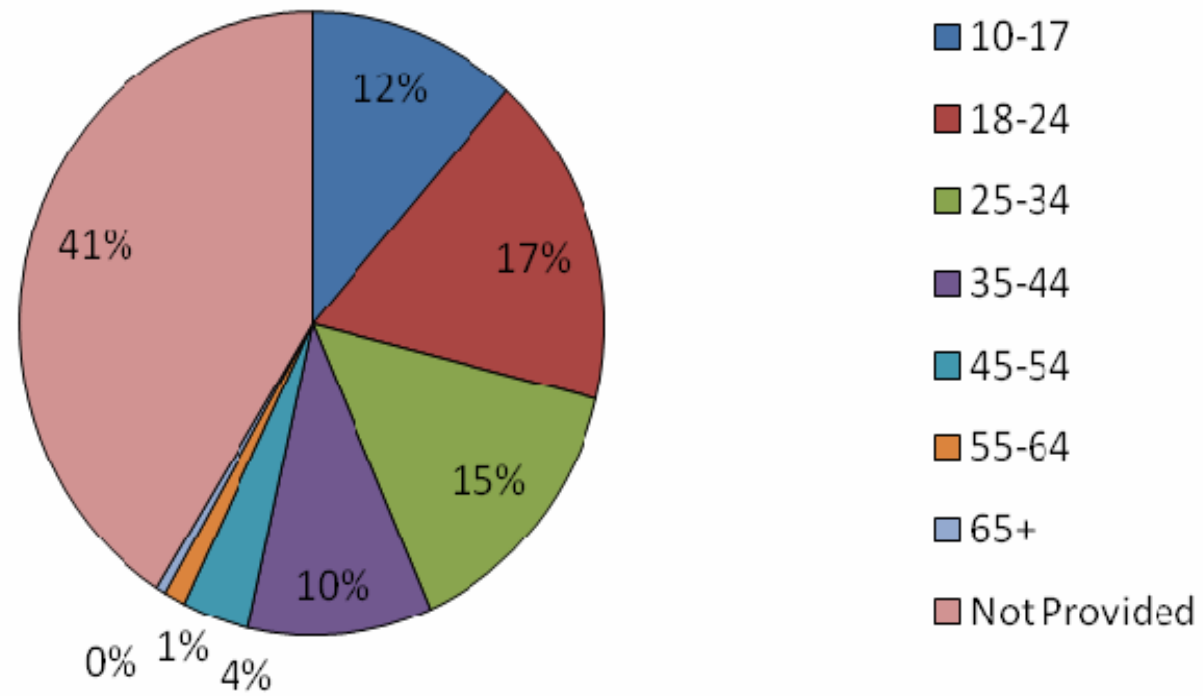
Result of the charging process by main ethnicity categories: When take out not provided / not stated



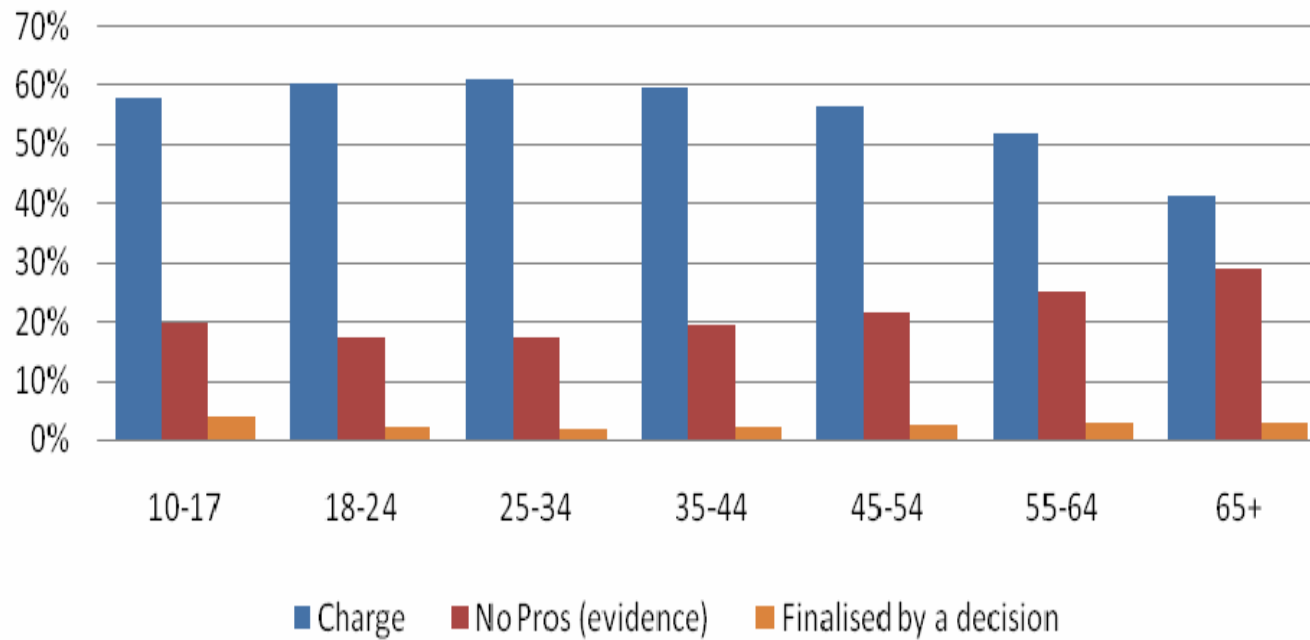
Charging process by 16 ethnicity categories: Percentages of cases finalised



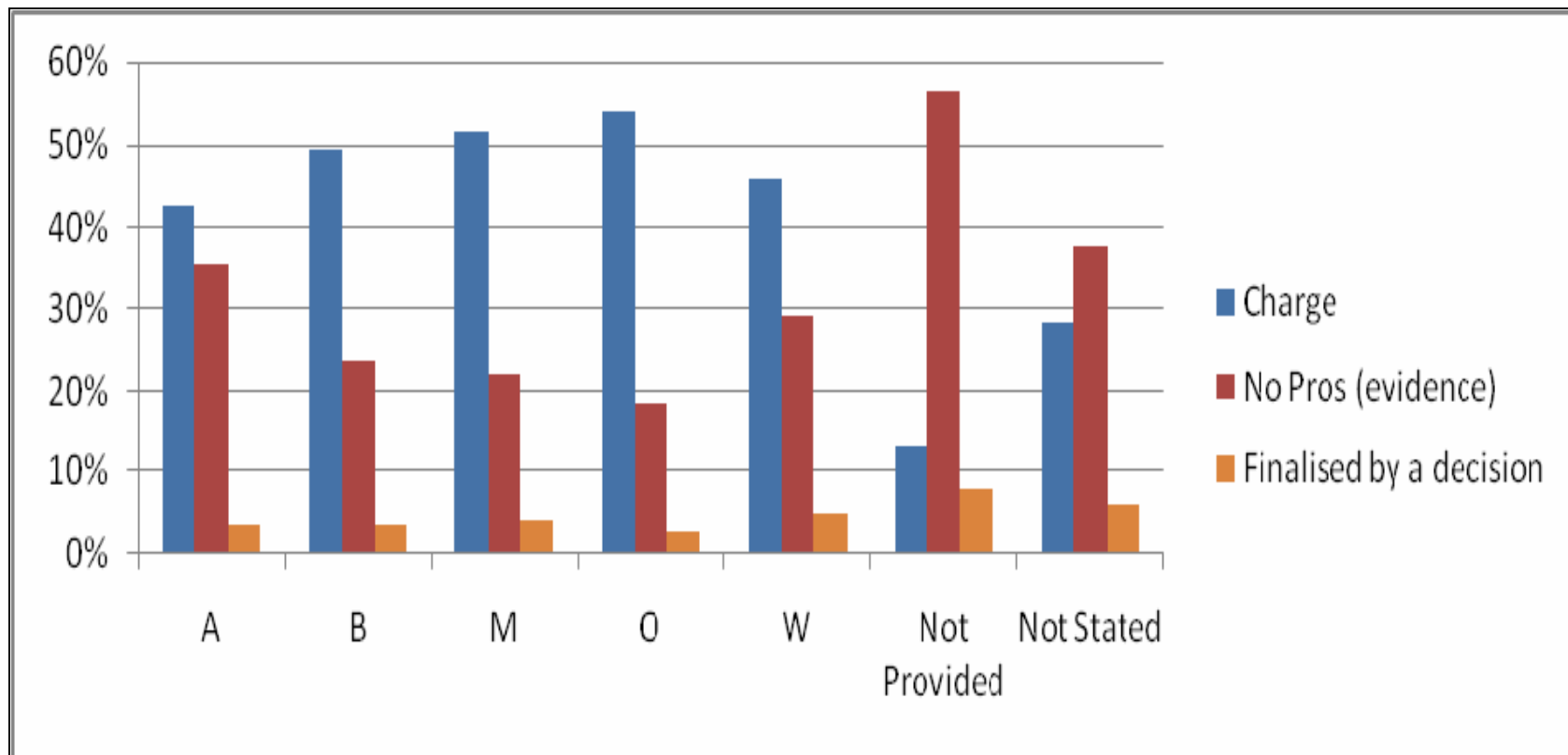
Variations in the charging process by age group



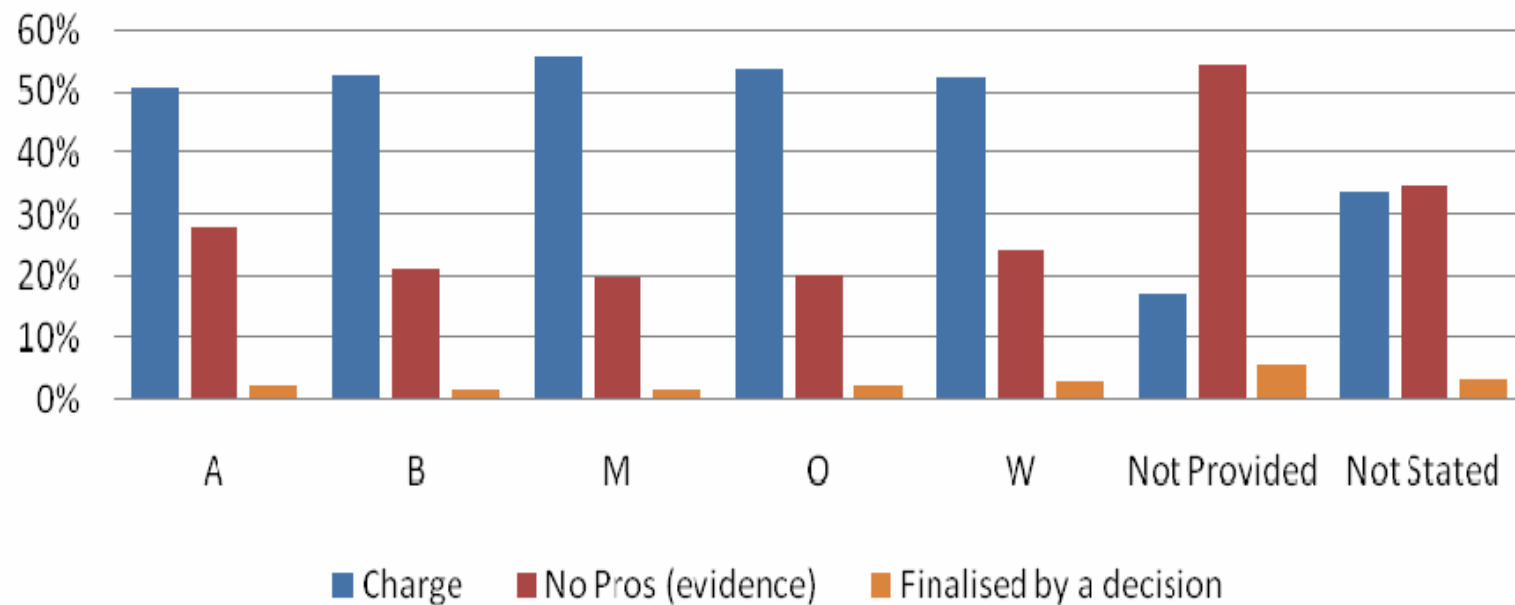
Result of charging process by age group: national



Results of the charging process by main ethnicity categories: Females



Results of the charging process by main ethnicity categories: Males



EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF CPS STATUTORY CHARGING: ENGLAND AND WALES: APRIL 2006-MARCH 2007

ANNEX B: SUMMARY OF THE STATISTICAL PROCESS

1. The data set on which this statistical analysis was based is drawn from the CPS case management system COMPASS records for April 2006 to March 2007. This totalled over 500,000 records and consisted of several EXCEL spreadsheets listing cases by gender, age, ethnic coding (using the 2001 Census 16+1 classification), CPS area, offence, the result of the charging process. Of the 580,000 cases around 270,000 were resulted in a charge: 20,500 finalised through a decision such as a caution or a final warning; 12,500 were incomplete cases; 170,000 had no prosecution on evidence grounds and 16,300 on public interest grounds; 37,000 cases were finalised administratively.
2. Of the 580,000 cases, around 513,000 were recorded as male suspects and 69,100 as female suspects. This 7.5 to 1 ratio is about the same as other statistics around the court stage of the criminal justice process. 396,000 suspects were Classified as White: 24,000 as Asian: 36,600 as Black: 11,620 as of Mixed ethnic group: 4,700 as 'Other'. Ethnicity was not provided in 77,000 cases and not stated in a further 33,000 cases. Of the 580,000 cases, 67,500 were for suspects under 18 years; 100,700 for those aged 18-25; 84,700 for those aged 25-34; 59,000 for those aged 35-44; 22,000 for those aged 45-54; 6,800 for those aged 55-64 and 3,100 for those aged over 65.
3. The data quality of the gender recorded on COMPASS was excellent, with under 1% of cases not having gender recorded. The data quality of ethnicity recorded was less complete, with 13% of records showing 'ethnicity not provided' by the suspect and 6% of records showing 'ethnicity not stated'. This is a considerable improvement from the last EDIA when the figures were 14% and 9% respectively, especially for 'not provided'. The data quality of the result of the charging process was quite good, with 10% of records showing the result of the charging process being 'other', 'not given or' undefined'. This is a lot better than the previous EDIA when the figure was 16%. The main statistical analysis essentially ignores the missing data, or, to put it another way, assumes that the missing data are distributed in the same way as the data for which the variable is present. The data for 2006-7 included an age variable for the first time. About 40% of suspects did not have their age recorded. This is a good start but needs to be improved in the future. The data for 2006-7 included a disability variable for the first time., However, this has not yet worked in recording the disability of enough suspects for any analysis to be attempted.
4. The data set made available for analysis did not include variables such as criminal history which are claimed by some commentators regard as being important predictors of the result of the charging process. This is because criminal history is not recorded on the COMPASS system. To do so would need a link with the Police National Computer.
5. The analysis was straightforward and showed the proportion of cases of a particular gender, ethnicity classification or gender/ethnicity cross classification, or age where the charging process resulted in: A Charge: A 'finalisation' by a decision such as a caution or a final warning; A 'finalisation' by an administrative process such as a request for further information (incomplete cases); No further action being taken on evidential grounds; No further action to be taken on public interest grounds; Any other result

6. The classification of the result of the charging decision did not change from the previous EDIA. The COMPASS categories used are:

- A- A charge is to be made and there is a request for the evidential file.
- B- A charge is to be made and there is a request for the expedited file.
- C- The case is to be finalised by a simple caution
- D- The case is to be finalised by a conditional caution
- E- The case is to be finalised by a reprimand
- F- The case is to be finalised by a final warning
- G- The case is to be finalised by the offence being taken into consideration in relation to another charge
- H- An incomplete case where further information is requested to be able to complete the evidential file
- I- An incomplete case where further information is requested to be able to complete the expedited file
- J- An incomplete case where early advice is requested and further action is deemed necessary.
- K- No prosecution to be made on public interest grounds
- L- No prosecution to be made on evidential grounds
- M- Other result of the charging process
- N- The result of the charging process is not given for this suspect
- O- The result of the charging process is undefined on the system
- Z- A case where the charging process has been finalised administratively for various reasons

7. These categories have been grouped into six categories for clarity of presentation in the tables and figures in this report: **Charge** (This includes Codes A and B above.) **Finalised by decision** (This includes Codes C, D, E, F, and G above.): **Incomplete cases** (This includes Codes H, I, and J above.): **No prosecution - Evidence** – Code K above: **No prosecution - Public interest** - Code L above.: **Finalised administratively** – Code Z, **Other** (Codes M, N, and O above.) The use of these codes is itself changing. Initial snags in the case management system have been ironed out and areas have become more familiar with the requirements of statutory charging. In particular, **Incomplete cases** fell to a lower level during 2006-7.

9. The statistical test used is found in Jones, 2002 and Spiegel, 1988 for the difference between proportions. It compares two proportions P_1 and P_2 , eg the proportion of males who were charged with the proportion of females who were charged. They are deemed to be significantly different if they differ by more than the statistic $1.96 \cdot \sqrt{P_1(1-P_1)/N_1 + (P_2(1-P_2)/N_2)}$ where N_1 and N_2 are the numbers of males and females in the analysis. This is more as rule of thumb than an exact statistical test, as the number of possible comparisons, and hence calculations of the significance statistic, is very large. Broadly speaking, proportions (which are percentages divided by 100) are more accurate if they are based on larger numbers, so that one can be very much more secure with a percentage based upon, say 90,000 white males, than on a percentage based upon just over 100 Indian females.