

# A Preliminary Analysis of the Ministry of Justice Document: 'Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System - 2006'

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## Summary of Findings

A preliminary analysis of official crime data shows:

- Violence against the person is 5 times more prevalent in the black community, than in the white community.
- Drugs offences are 16 times more prevalent in the black community, and 3 times more prevalent in the Asian community, than in the white community.
- Robbery is over 9 times more prevalent in the black community, than in the white community.
- Committing homicide is 6 times more prevalent in the black community, and twice as prevalent in the Asian community, than it is in the white community.
- The homicidal killing of white people is 90 times more prevalent in the black community, than the homicidal killing of black people in the white community.
- The homicidal killing of white people is 30 times more prevalent in the Asian community, than the homicidal killing of Asian people in the white community.
- The number of white victims of interracial homicide is approximately 40 times greater than expected, when compared to the number of such victims in the minority (BME) community.
- The white community suffers more victims of interracial and racially motivated homicide than all of the minority (BME) communities put together – despite the BME communities being less than 10 per cent of the total population.
- The number of white victims of racially motivated homicide is approximately 50 times greater than expected, when compared to the number of such victims in the minority (BME) community

This study has been prepared under the auspices of DarkLake Synectics\* – an independent, non-political research organisation. This organisation has a particular interest in the development of social systems: of structures of complex social groups; emergent organisational behaviour (culture); co-evolutionary 'niche' development; cultural kinetics; social stability and of ethnic and cultural identity. The research concentrates on obtaining an understanding of the development and behaviours of highly complex social, economic and cultural groups.

\* sin-ek'tiks, n. the study of processes leading to invention, with the end aim of solving practical problems, esp. by a synectics group, a miscellaneous group of people of imagination and ability but varied interests. [Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary]

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## Summary Analysis

It is important that these studies into criminal susceptibility and interracial/racist crime should be an on-going process. Therefore as new criminal data becomes available, then new calculations will be performed in order to both improve the accuracy of the analysis, and to detect long-term trends with regard to experiences of crime within, and between, different ethnic communities. This interim report is a part of that process.

This analysis is in two parts: firstly an examination of criminal susceptibility; and secondly an examination of interracial and racist crime. In each case the results of the modelling process are evaluated, together with comments on general trends and patterns of (criminal) behaviour.

### Criminal Susceptibility

Both the criminal categories chosen (violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, drugs offences, burglary) and the ethnic/racial groupings (white, black, Asian, other) are, of course, somewhat arbitrary. However, the reasons for these choices are based on matters of practicability of study and of social relevance. They provide the means for making important observations on the state of our communities, and for making insightful comment and effective recommendations with regard to social/political policy.

The most obvious observation to make is the consistency of the results with that of earlier analysis covering the period from 1999 to 2005 – see [1]. And as seen from previous analysis, the observed differences in observed criminal behaviour are very noticeable. These are not differences of a few percent but ‘many-fold’ differences in rates of offence. Examples are as follows:

- 1) violence against the person is 5 times more prevalent in the black community, than in the white community;
- 2) drugs offences are 16 times more prevalent in the black community, and 3 times more prevalent in the Asian community, than in the white community;
- 3) robbery is over 9 times more prevalent in the black community, than in the white community.

Again, we find there is also little evidence of any long-term trends in these figures, despite social and demographic changes of this period under investigation.

### Interracial and Racially Motivated Crime

This (second) part of the study focused on the most serious forms of criminal activity – of homicide. The reason for this is twofold: (1) that this particular crime has the most profound effect on individuals and the community; and (2) that much of current legislation and much of statutory requirements and operational regulations for the law enforcement agencies have been formed as a result of perceptions regarding the nature of racist homicide (re. the murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993, and the Macpherson Inquiry Report of 1999 on ‘institutional racism’ within the police service).

Again we find it to be overwhelmingly the white community that suffers most from interracial and racially motivated homicide. More white people are killed by members of the ethnic minority community than *vice-versa*. This is despite there being approximately ten times more white people than there are people from the minority (BME) communities. A total of 212 white people are recorded as victims of interracial homicide, as against a total of 144 victims in the BME communities. Similarly, a total of 14 white people are recorded as victims of racially motivated homicide, as against 9 victims in the BME communities.

On analysis we find:

- 1) committing homicide is 6 times more prevalent in the black community, and twice as prevalent in the Asian community, than it is in the white community;
- 2) the homicidal killing of white people is 90 times more prevalent in the black community, than is the homicidal killing of black people in the white community;
- 3) the homicidal killing of white people is 30 times more prevalent in the Asian community, than is the homicidal killing of Asian people in the white community;
- 4) the number of white victims of interracial homicide is approximately 40 times greater than expected, when compared to the number of such victims in the minority (BME) community.

A similar pattern of behaviour emerges when we analyse the criminal data relating to racially motivated homicide. On analysis we find:

- 1) the white community suffers more victims of racially motivated homicide than all of the minority (BME) groups put together – despite the BME communities being less than 10 per cent of the total population;
- 2) the number of white victims of racist homicide is approximately 50 times greater than expected, when compared to the number of victims of racist homicide in the minority (BME) community.

Again, the most worrying aspect of this particular part of the analysis is that there are indications (based on comparisons of interracial and racially motivated homicide) that racially motivated murder of members of the white community are being significantly *under-reported*.

## The Analytical Model

A major part of the analysis involves the estimation of the likelihood, or ‘propensity’, of a perpetrator, or a victim, belonging to a particular ethnic group. We identify these measures of ‘propensity’ or ‘likelihood’ in terms of probability functions  $P(*)$ . As a part of this analysis we therefore identify members of ethnic communities as belonging to either offender (O) or victim (V) groups.

Given ethnic groups E, F, .... within a total population group T, we have a measure of  $P(x \in O \cap x \in E) \times \#(T)$  from the published criminal data. We also have a value of  $P(x \in E | x \in T)$  from the published data (ONS, census) on the demographic components of the population.

Most importantly we can compute the ratios of the ‘propensity’ for criminal offence, between ethnic groups, by the following means:

$$\frac{P(x \in O | x \in E)}{P(y \in O | y \in F)} = \frac{[P(x \in O \cap x \in E) \times \#(T)] / P(x \in E | x \in T)}{[P(y \in O \cap y \in F) \times \#(T)] / P(y \in F | y \in T)}$$

Of course for interracial crime (including racist murder) the modelling takes on particular characteristics since the offender ( $x \in O$ ) and victim ( $y \in V$ ) *must* belong to different ethnic groups (i.e.  $x \in E$ ,  $y \in F$ ,  $E \cap F = \emptyset$ ), and where the number of victims in (say) E *must* (overall) have an equal number of offenders in (T-E).

We can therefore compute the relative likelihood of being a victim within an ethnic group by comparison of the actual observations (of  $P(x \in V \cap x \in E) \times \#(T)$ , compared to  $P(y \in V \cap y \in F) \times \#(T)$  ... etc.) from the relationship:

$$\frac{P(x \in V | x \in E)}{P(y \in V | y \in (T - E))} = \frac{[P(x \in V \cap x \in E) \times \#(T)] (\#(T) - \#(E))}{[P(y \in V \cap y \in (T - E)) \times \#(T)] \times \#(E)}$$

- with the expected relative likelihood calculated from the relationship:

$$= \frac{P(x \in (T - E) | x \in T)^2}{[n - P(x \in (T - E) | x \in T)] \times P(x \in E | x \in T)}$$

- where n is the number of ethnic groups in T, *not* including E.

A detailed description of the derivation of this model (from first principles) can be found in [1]. This is a necessarily formal (mathematical) description such that ambiguities or vagueness of meaning can be removed.

### Model Specification [Data]

The population model is based on given data, linearly interpolated to provide adjustment for (estimated) date of offence. The population is that of those of 10 years or older (of criminal responsibility). The source for this information is ONS and census data, given within the Home Office reports [2].

The identity of the racial/ethnic groups is based on the Census Standard Home Office 4-point Classification ‘4+1’. More recent 16-point Classification ‘16+1’ data is converted to ‘4+1’ by transference of those of ‘mixed’ category to the other groups using information on self-identification reported by The Home Office study [3].

The generic term **BME** (Black and Minority Ethnic) community is used to describe, collectively, the ‘non-white’ population – that is, members of the Black, Asian and ‘other’ (Chinese, Japanese, etc.) communities.

Types of crime under study (with regard to offender O and victims V groups) are as follows:

- murder (including interracial and racially motivated murder);
- violence against the person;
- sexual offences;
- robbery;
- drugs offences; and
- burglary.

The choice of crime categories was based on perceived social impact, and the incontrovertible evidence that the crime had occurred (physical/forensic evidence in addition to testimony). Data for analysis was selected on the basis of sufficient evidence for a prosecution to proceed, or of proof of culpability by examination of the evidence in a court of law (such as prison admissions and prison population data).

### **Model Validation**

The accuracy and reliability of the model has been tested by:

- a) peer approval; and
- b) comparison with the results of similar studies, and by
- c) *reductio ad absurdum*

### **Model Implementation**

The model is implemented using the Microsoft 'Excel' software tool, output in the form of 'spreadsheets'.

### **Data Sources**

Crime data is obtained from the Ministry of Justice collated information [2]. The information has been obtained from information supplied by the Police service, the CPS, the Crown Courts, Magistrates Courts, the Prison Service and the Probation service.

The population data is originally sourced from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This analysis is limited to the population of England and Wales.

### **Use of Data (Selection Basis)**

The analysis is limited to serious criminal offences, with an emphasis on violent crime, or crime involving the use of force. This selection criteria is based on an acknowledgment that these types of crime are both the most distressing to the individual victims and their families, and have the greatest impact on social cohesion and community sustainability.

### **Statistical Significance**

Statistical analysis is not performed where the sample number is considered too small, or where the number of 'unknowns' is disproportionately too large.

### **Nota Bene**

This study refers to the 'propensity' for criminal activity within particular ethnic groups – compared to other ethnic groups. Of course that does *not* mean that *all* individuals within that group are more likely to engage in criminal activity – that would be an incorrect conclusion. The model used in this study provides measures of the frequency of occurrence of extreme, abnormal behaviour exhibited within that particular population sample (ethnic group). And, of course, it should be born in mind that criminal activity is still the exception – the overwhelming majority of people remain law abiding, responsible citizens.

## Computational Results

### Crime - General

The following analysis is of the prison population for a particular selection of serious crime offenders, and is based on data provided within published Home Office document [2]. This uses police records of the known ethnicity of the offender. This data is for the year 2006.

**Table 1 Prison Population for England and Wales, 2006**

#### Propensity for Crime Based on Prison Population

Data Set ID	England + Wales population demographics :		Ethnic Proportion <sup>2</sup>			
	Start <sup>1</sup>	End <sup>1</sup>	White	Black	Asian	Other
[a]	2005.5	2006.5	0.9184	0.0259	0.0440	0.0117

<sup>1</sup> Data is normally assumed to cover periods from mid-year start to mid-year finish.  
<sup>2</sup> Population proportions are calculated for the estimated date of the offence.  
 In this analysis **3** year is assumed to have elapsed from offence to conviction.

Type of Offence	Number of Inmates		General Population Propensity for Criminality	
	White	BME	BME:White	White:BME
Violence Against The Person	12627	3435	3.4	0.293
Sexual Offences	5502	1053	2.3	0.428
Robbery	5945	2412	5.1	0.195
Drugs offences	6274	4319	8.3	0.121
Burglary	6828	912	1.8	0.564
	White	Black	Black:White	White:Black
Violence Against The Person	12627	1937	5.6	0.180
Sexual Offences	5502	575	3.8	0.265
Robbery	5945	1549	9.4	0.106
Drugs offences	6274	2874	16.3	0.061
Burglary	6828	546	2.9	0.341
	White	Asian	Asian:White	White:Asian
Violence Against The Person	12627	915	1.5	0.662
Sexual Offences	5502	334	1.3	0.789
Robbery	5945	466	1.6	0.613
Drugs offences	6274	890	2.9	0.340
Burglary	6828	160	0.5	2.031
		Mixed <sup>3</sup>		
Violence Against The Person		454		
Sexual Offences		100		
Robbery		355		
Drugs offences		390		
Burglary		183		
	White	Other	Other:White	White:Other
Violence Against The Person	12627	129	2.7	0.366
Sexual Offences	5502	44	1.6	0.622
Robbery	5945	42	3.7	0.267
Drugs offences	6274	165	5.4	0.186
Burglary	6828	23	1.7	0.586

Perhaps the most significant result from this analysis is, except for the crime of burglary, the disproportional number of offences committed by the minority (BME) community, when compared to the White community. This difference is especially apparent for crimes of robbery and drugs offences. These results are consistent with previous studies – [2].

### Interracial Homicide – Suspects and Victims

The following analysis is of police data for interracial homicide, and is based on data provided referenced Ministry of Justice documents [2]. This uses evidential records of the known ethnicity of the victim, and the identified ethnicity of the suspect.

**Table 2 Interracial Homicide – Suspects and Victims**

Data Set ID	Start <sup>1</sup>	End <sup>1</sup>	England + Wales population demographics :				
			Ethnic Proportion <sup>2</sup>				
			White	Black	Asian	Other	
[a]	1997.5	2000.5	0.9414	0.0177	0.0297	0.0112	<sup>1</sup> Data is normally assumed to cover periods from mid-year start to mid-year finish. <sup>2</sup> Population proportions are calculated for the estimated date of the offence. In this analysis <b>0.5</b> year is assumed to have elapsed from offence to conviction.
[b]	2000.5	2003.5	0.9268	0.0229	0.0388	0.0116	
[c]	2001.5	2004.5	0.9212	0.0249	0.0423	0.0116	
[d]	2002.5	2005.5	0.9128	0.0279	0.0475	0.0118	
[e]	2003.5	2006.5	0.9072	0.0299	0.0510	0.0119	

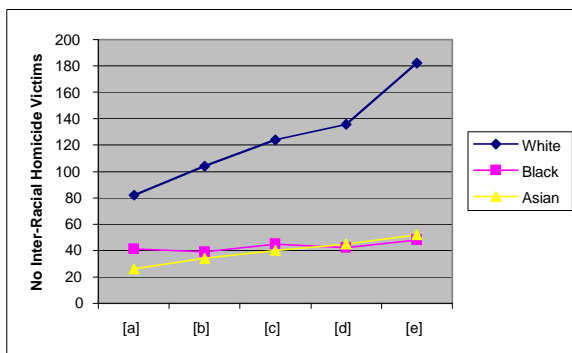
	actual homicide incidents						Ratio of x on y / y on x homicide	
	White on Black	Black on White	White on Asian	Asian on White	Black on Asian	Asian on Black	Black on White	Asian on White
[a]	35	56	23	26	3	6	85.0	35.8
[b]	34	71	22	33	12	5	84.5	35.9
[c]	38	87	28	37	12	7	84.7	28.8
[d]	37	103	32	33	13	5	91.1	19.8
[e]	39	125	36	57	16	9	97.2	28.2

	Total Number Homicides Committed			Propensity for homicide, x / y	
	White	Black	Asian	Black / White	Asian / White
[a]	1376	164	100	6.3	2.3
[b]	1708	219	135	5.2	1.9
[c]	1613	252	155	5.8	2.1
[d]	1667	282	135	5.5	1.6
[e]	1438	303	163	6.4	2.0

	Actual N ° Victims			Victim Likelihood ratio (White/BME)	
	White	Black	Asian	Expected	Actual
[a]	82	41	26	0.0019	0.076
[b]	104	39	34	0.0030	0.113
[c]	124	45	40	0.0035	0.125
[d]	136	42	45	0.0044	0.149
[e]	182	48	52	0.0050	0.186



The disproportionate number of white victims (of interracial homicide) compared to that of the BME community, is very evident from the above analysis. It is also very apparent that the trend is of a rapidly worsening situation.

Note that there is some ‘overlap’ in the sampling periods of the above data sets.

### Racially Motivated Homicide – Offenders and Victims

The following analysis is of incidences of convictions for racially motivated homicide, and is based on data provided within published Ministry of Justice documents [2].

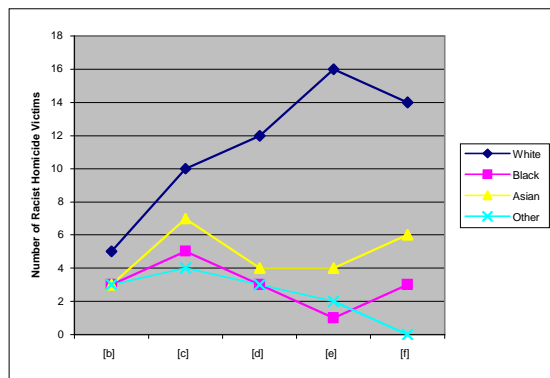
**Table 3 Racially Motivated Homicide – Offenders and Victims**

Data Set ID	Start <sup>1</sup>	End <sup>1</sup>	England + Wales population demographics :			
			Ethnic Proportion <sup>2</sup>			
			White	Black	Asian	Other
[a] <sup>3</sup>	1996.5	1998.5	0.9438	0.0170	0.0285	0.0107
[b]	1997.5	2000.5	0.9420	0.0175	0.0294	0.0111
[c]	2000.5	2003.5	0.9296	0.0219	0.0370	0.0115
[d]	2001.5	2004.5	0.9240	0.0239	0.0405	0.0116
[e]	2002.5	2005.5	0.9184	0.0259	0.0440	0.0117
[f]	2003.5	2006.5	0.9072	0.0299	0.0510	0.0119

	Actual N <sup>o</sup> Victims				Victim Likelihood ratio (White/BME)	
	White	Black	Asian	Other	Expected	Actual
[a]	4	1	2	1	0.0011	0.060
[b]	5	3	3	3	0.0012	0.034
[c]	10	5	7	4	0.0018	0.047
[d]	12	3	4	3	0.0021	0.099
[e]	16	1	4	2	0.0025	0.203
[f]	14	3	6	0	0.0033	0.159

<sup>1</sup> Data is normally assumed to cover periods from mid-year start to mid-year finish.  
<sup>2</sup> Population proportions are calculated for the estimated date of the offence.  
 In this analysis 1 year is assumed to have elapsed from offence to conviction.



This analysis indicates that, on a proportionate basis, members of the white community are much more likely to be victims of racist homicide than members of the ethnic minority communities.

Again, note that there is some ‘overlap’ of the sample periods in the above data sets.

## References

1. 'Ethnicity and The Experience of Crime in England and Wales', Tony Shell, Darklake Synectics, November 2006
2. 'Statistics on Race and The Criminal Justice System – 2006', Published by The Ministry of Justice, London, October 2007, ISBN *not given*
3. 'Hate Crime', The home Office, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/hate-crime/>

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**Disclaimer.** Every reasonable effort have been made to ensure that the information given in this report is accurate in content and fairly reported. However considerable difficulties have been encountered in gaining access to full information concerning crime and ethnicity – even from official sources. This is an ongoing investigation, therefore we would therefore welcome any additional information from authoritative, verifiable sources regarding the above issues – for the purpose of confirmation, amendment, correction or supplementary reporting.