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Policing the Pandemic in England and Wales: Police use of Fixed Penalty Notices from 27 March 2020 to 31 May 2021

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- The proportion of all FPN recipients, in both England and Wales, who were aged 18 to 24 rose from around a third in period one, to around a half in periods two and three.

Ethnicity

- The majority of individuals issued with FPNs for breaching the Regulations in England and Wales came from a white background (including white minorities), with one in five being issued to individuals from an ethnic minority background (excluding white minorities).
- Over a quarter (27.0%) of FPN recipients in England were from an ethnic minority background, which was around double their population share (13.7%). The equivalent figure for Wales was one in ten (10.7%), which was also double their population share (5.2%).¹
- In England, the rate of FPNs per 10,000 people from an ethnic minority background was 46.1, compared to 19.9 for white individuals, reflecting an ethnic disparity rate of 2.3. The equivalent figures for Wales were 119.0 and 42.7, respectively, reflecting a higher ethnic disparity rate of 2.8.
- The ethnic disparity rate in England was highest for people from a black ethnic background, who were 3.2 times more likely to be issued with an FPN than those from a white background. The equivalent figure for Wales was 2.9.
- The ethnic disparity rate in Wales was highest for people from mixed or Asian ethnic backgrounds who were 3.5 and 3.1 times, respectively, more likely to be issued with an FPN than those from a white background. The equivalent figures for England were 2.8 and 2.1.
- Ethnic disparities in the use of FPNs were highest in Wales during period one but declined over time; while ethnic disparities in England increased between periods one and three.
- Males had a higher ethnic disparity rate than females across all three time periods in England and Wales.
- Overall, the ethnic disparity rate was highest among FPN recipients aged 45 years or over, at 2.8 in England and 3.5 in Wales; although, differences between age groups were more notable during periods two and three than in period one.

¹ Particular caution should be exercised when interpreting rates in respect of Wales, where the total number of FPNs issued to people from an ethnic minority background over the 14-month period (n=1,255) was very small in absolute terms.