

BSC Hate Crime Network/Policing Network

Developing an Understanding of Hate Crime Perpetration and Criminal Justice Responses: Where Are We Now?

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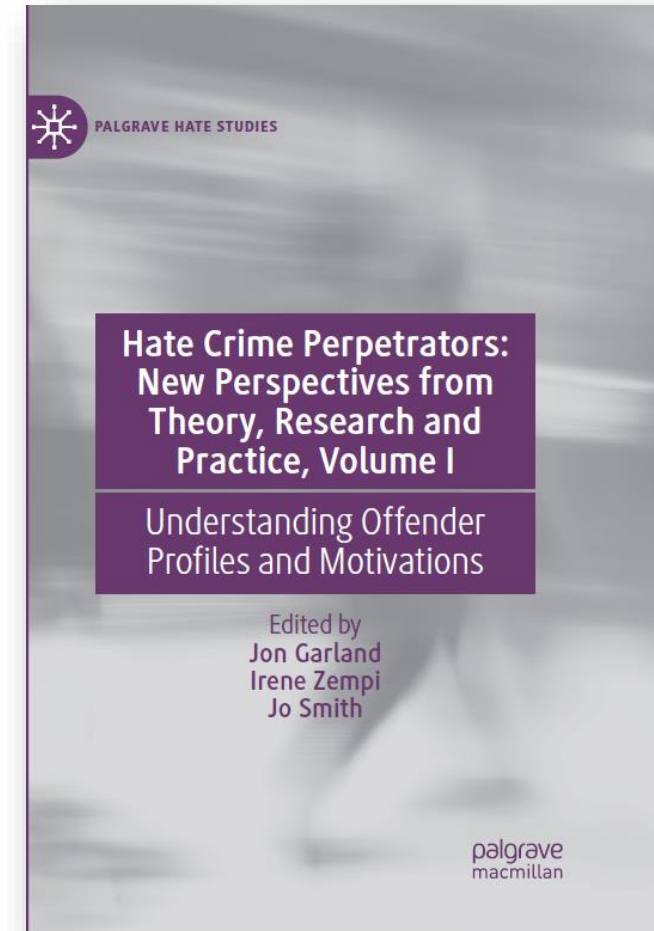
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New Edited Volumes on Hate Crime Perpetrators

Jolliffe, D., Garland, J. and Brunton-Smith, I. (2025) 'Examining the Reoffending of Hate Crime Offenders in England and Wales'



Researching Offenders: Setting the Scene



- *“What is needed for the purposes of explaining [hate crime] is for attention to be turned away from an analysis of the characteristics of victims to focus on the characteristics of offenders: their relationship with those they victimise; the social milieux in which anger, aggression, hostility, and violence are fostered; and the social processes by which violence becomes directed against minority groups...*
- *... Criminologists operate with scant evidence about what is going on in the lives of these people. Instead, we have only a devilish effigy for symbolic sacrifice” (Bowling, 1999: 305).*

Hate Crime Perpetrators

- Iganski (2008): hate crime seems to be typically committed by 'ordinary people' in the course of everyday interactions
- McDevitt, Levin & Bennett (2002): thrill; defensive; retaliatory; mission
- Iganski and Smith (2011); Dunbar (2003); Dunbar, Quinones and Crevecoeur (2005); Jolliffe and Farrington (2020)
 - hate crime perpetrators are:
 - predominantly male and White
 - generally aged under 30
 - Not 'mission' offenders
 - Many had prior convictions for non-hate offences

Hate Crime Offenders and Appropriate Police & CJS Interventions

Are those who commit hate crime ...

- Bias-motivated offenders?
- Or 'merely' high-volume offenders who commit their hate crime offence almost at random in a prolific criminal career?



Reoffending of Hate Offenders

Research questions:

- Do hate crime offenders (HCOs) released from short term incarceration differ from non-hate crime offenders (NHCOs) in their prevalence, frequency or speed of reoffending?
- To what extent is the prevalence of the reoffending of HCOs and NHCOs in line with their predicted reoffending using an actuarial risk assessment tool?
- Do HCOs differ from NHCOs in the profile of the type of their reoffence?



Data Issues



Data comes from the Police National Computer database (PNC)

The study is based on:

- a complete population of male offenders aged 18 and over who were released from short-term incarceration in England and Wales over the course of a year.
 - 355 hate (<1%) and 38,244 non-hate offenders
 - Short term prison sentences are those in which the individual was sentenced to prison for up to one year for their current offence.
- This data also included information about the type, timing and number of reoffences that were committed 12 months after the individual was released from prison.

Data Issues

The main limitation of this data is that it:

- only captures the behaviour of a very specific type of HCO
- does not capture those who committed a hate crime offence:
 - which was not recognised as such by the victims
 - which was not reported to or recorded by the police
 - Those who were not convicted or were convicted but received a lesser (e.g., community order) or more serious (e.g., incarceration for longer than a year) sanction

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of the Whole Sample

Demographic Information		Previous Offending	%
Ethnicity	%	With Previous Offences	95.7
White	82.8	With Previous Court Appearances	95.5
Black	10.2	With Previous Incarcerations	77.3
Asian	5.3	Frequency	M
Other	1.7	Av. Age at Index Offence	31.1
		Av. Age at First Offence	18.1
	M	Av. No. of Previous Offences	43.6
Age at Release	33.0	Av. No. Previous Court Appearances	18.7
		Av. No. Previous Incarcerations	7.4
		Av. OGRS Score (0-100)	55.6
		Av. Sentence Length (days)	127.2
		Av. Time Served (days)	51.6
		Av. Criminal Career Duration (days)	4,772

Table 2: Index Offences of Population

<i>Offence Type</i>	<i>% (n)</i>	<i>Offence Type</i>	<i>% (n)</i>
Absconding	3.49 (1348)	Sexual	1.23 (474)
Criminal Damage	2.36 (909)	Sexual Child	0.63 (243)
Domestic Burglary	2.06 (795)	Soliciting/Prostitution	0.09 (33)
Drink Driving	3.87(1494)	Taking and driving away	2.33 (899)
Drugs (import/export/supply)	0.52 (201)	Theft	23.95 (9240)
Drugs (possession)	2.19 (844)	Theft from Vehicle	1.89 (731)
Fraud/Forgery	3.15 (1217)	Violence	23.77 (9170)
Handling	1.56 (600)	Serious Violence	0.76 (292)
Other	5.59 (2158)	Hate Criminal Damage	0.04 (17)
Other Burglary	4.28 (1650)	Hate Public Order	0.12 (45)
Other Motoring	9.98 (3851)	Hate Violence	0.74 (287)
Public Order	4.89 (1885)	Hate Serious Violence	0.02 (6)
Robbery	0.49 (190)	Total	100 (38,579)

Table 3: Reoffending of Hate Crime Offenders (HCO) and Non-Hate Crime Offenders (NHCO)

	HCO	NHCO	
N	355	38,224	
	% (n)	% (n)	OR
Reoffending	61.7 (219)	62.7 (23,959)	0.96
Reincarcerated	22.8 (81)	29.7 (11,338)	0.65*
	M (sd)	M (sd)	OR
Number of Offences	5.7 (5.3)	5.4 (5.1)	1.11
Days to Reoffence	91.0 (94.7)	92.2 (92.0)	0.98
Days to Reoffence (median)	50	59	

Table 4: Reoffending Controlling for Risk of Reoffending

		HCO	Offend	NHC	Offend		HC	NHC	
	OGRS Score	Tot N	% Reoff	Tot N	% Reoff	OR	Av. No. Reoff M	Av. No. Reoff M	OR
Low	0 – 39	99	39.4	9,545	27.2	1.7*	3.5	3.0	1.3
Med	40 – 60	131	61.1	9,514	58.7	1.1	4.3	4.1	1.1
Med-High	60-74	90	76.7	9,556	75.8	1.0	6.6	5.0	1.9*
High	75 – 100	35	88.6	9,606	88.9	1.0	9.2	7.2	1.8

Table 5: Type of Reoffending of Hate Crime Offenders (HCO) and Non-Hate Crime Offenders (NHCO)

- Hate crime reoffences
 - Numbers small
 - But 'Hate public order' and 'Hate violence' may indicate something unusual
- Specialist hate offenders?
- Or just prolific offenders anyway who're at risk of accruing a hate offence?

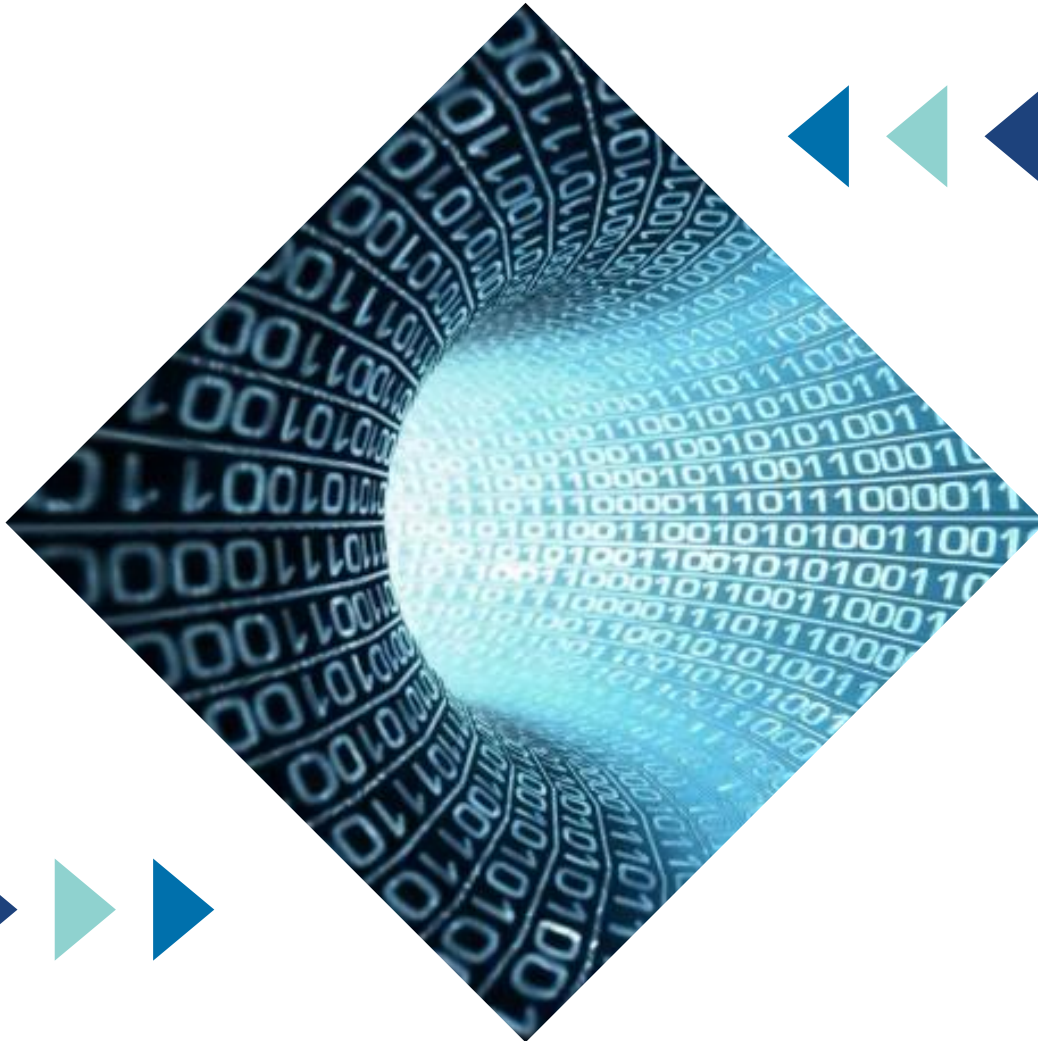
	HCO	NHCO	
Offence Type	%	%	OR
Abconding	3.7	3.0	1.2
Criminal Damage	8.2	5.3	1.6*
Domestic Burglary	1.4	2.5	0.5
Drink Driving	0.0	1.3	
Drugs			
(import/export/supply)	0.5	0.5	1.0
Drugs (possession)	4.1	5.1	0.8
Fraud/Forgery	1.4	1.4	1.0
Public Order	23.3	9.7	2.8*
Robbery	0.0	1.2	
Theft	17.8	33.4	0.4*
Theft from Vehicle	0.0	2.0	
Violence	18.7	12.9	1.5*
Serious Violence	2.3	0.7	3.3*
Hate Crime Reoffence Types			
Hate Criminal Damage	0.0	0.04	
Hate Public Order	1.4	0.3	4.2*
Hate Violence	4.1	0.3	12.3*
Hate Serious Violence	0.0	0.01	
Total (N)	219	23,960	

What Does All This Mean? Initial Thoughts

The profile of the reoffending of HCOs may increase the likelihood of them perpetrating hate crime

- HCOs were also significantly more likely to:
 - reoffend in non-hate crime offence categories that can have hate crime elements (e.g., criminal damage, public order, violence, serious violence)
 - and be less likely to commit offences that do not have the capacity for hate elements (e.g., motoring offences, theft).

Comparison HCO and NHCO (matched and unmatched offenders)



- A substantial minority (105) of hate offenders are different (e.g. can't be matched).
- Tend to be older, more likely to commit a range of offences, much more likely to reoffend and more likely to commit hate offences
 - 71% reoffend compared to 57% of matched HCOs (and 54% of matched NHCOs)
 - 9.3% hate reoffence compared to 3.5% of matched HCOs (and 1.3% of matched NHCOs)
 - Evidence of more serious offending history too

Where Are We Now?

- Initial research suggested that HCOs might 'merely' be prolific offenders who occasionally commit a hate offence as a broader part of their offending pattern
- But – there may, after all, be evidence that there is a specialist 'group' of HCOs who have a different profile from other HCOs and NHCs



Any questions?



