



Ministry of JUSTICE

28 July 2010

Statistical Notice: Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) Statistics England and Wales 2008

Statistics on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) administered in the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2008 in England and Wales are released today and can be accessed from either of the following two locations.

1. On the Home Office website:
<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/antisocial1.html>
2. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) website:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html>

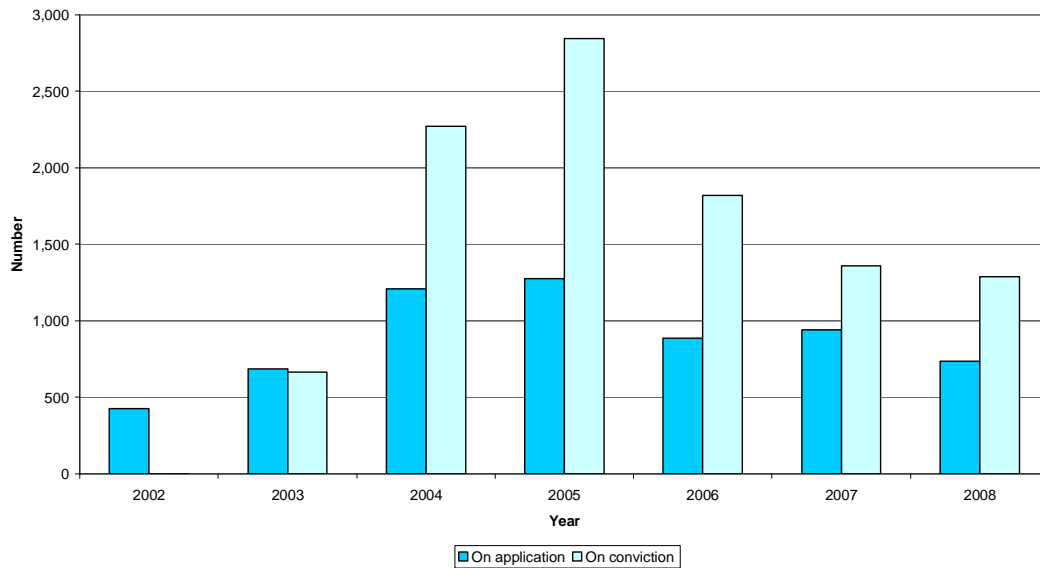
These statistics are based on ASBOs issued after application either by magistrates' courts (acting in their civil capacity) or by county courts and ASBOs issued following conviction for a criminal offence¹ either by magistrates' courts (acting in their criminal capacity) or the Crown Court.

Number of ASBOs issued (in the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2008):

- In total 16,999 ASBOs have been issued over this period. (Table 1)
- The highest number of ASBOs issued in any calendar year was 4,122 in 2005. The number issued has declined in each subsequent year and was 2,027 in 2008 – down from 2,299 in 2007. (Table 1).
- Eighty-six percent of ASBOs have been issued to males (14,566 ASBOs were issued to males – 2,329 to females). (Table 2).
- Since 2004 more ASBOs have been issued following conviction for a criminal offence than following an application. 64 percent of ASBOs issued in 2008 were following conviction for a criminal offence. (Table 3).

¹ Details of the offences and behaviours that can lead the issue of an ASBO can be found in "A guide to anti-social behaviour orders" available from the Home Office.

Figure 1: The number of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) issued on application and following conviction 2002 to 2008



Sixty percent of ASBOs issued were for between two and three years (of those ASBOs where the duration is known). The duration of ASBOs issued has been similar for each year from 2003 onwards. (Table 4).

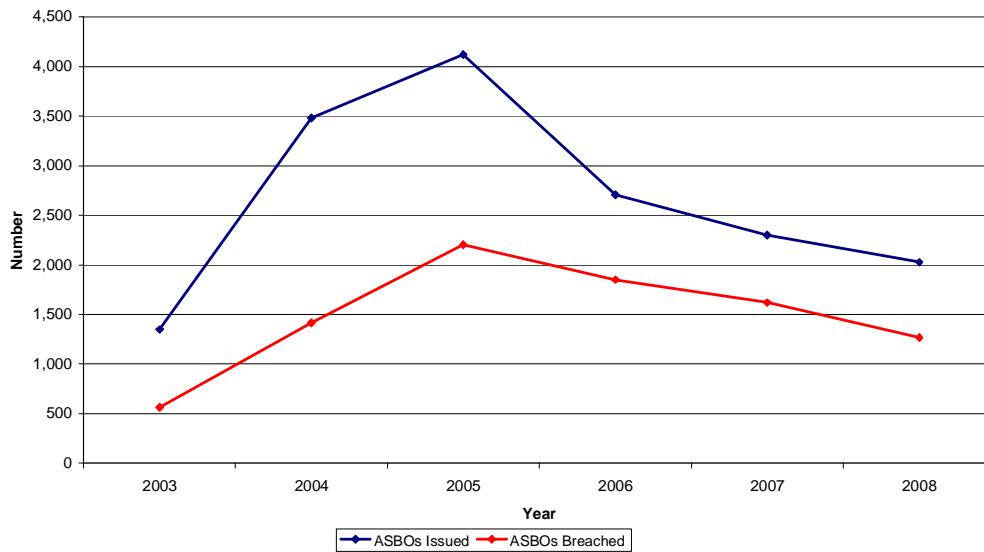
- Of the 16,999 ASBOs issued, 6,783 were made as the result of an application made to magistrates' or county courts. 95 percent of applications were made by the police or local government authority (where the applicant is known). (Table 6).

Breaches of ASBOs issued (in the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2008)

Note the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) do not know the age or sex of 104 individuals issued an ASBO during the period 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000, or the number of ASBOs breached, as information about individual ASBOs is unavailable.

- Of the 16,895 ASBOs issued, 9,247 (55 percent) were breached at least once (tables 7 and table 11); with 6,804 (40 percent) breached more than once (table 9).
- Forty-nine percent of individuals aged 18 or over breached their ASBO at least once compared with 65 percent of individuals aged between 10 and 17. (Table 2 and 7).
- In 2008 there were 1,266 ASBOs breached for the first time, compared with 2,204 breached in 2005, the year the highest number of ASBOs were breached. (Table 8).

Figure 2: The number of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) issued and the number proved at court to have been breached⁽¹⁾ during the years 2003 to 2008⁽²⁾



- (1) ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. ASBOs in this figure are counted once only within the year they were first breached.
 - (2) ASBOs are issued with at least two years' duration and may remain 'until further notice'. The number of ASBOs breached in a year will be related to the number of ASBOs still in force in that year, many of which will have been issued in previous years.
- There have been a total of 39,141 separate breaches of ASBOs. If an ASBO is breached, it is breached an average of 4.2 times. (Table 10).

Sentencing for ASBOs breached (in the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2008)

- Of the 9,247 ASBOs breached at least once, 53 percent were given an immediate custodial sentence. A further 26 percent were given a community sentence. Of the remaining 21 percent sentences for breaches include: fines, one day in police cells and disqualification from driving. (Table 12).
- Immediate custodial sentences were given to 4,944 offenders for breaches of ASBOs with an average length of 5.2 months. (Table 13).

Notes to editors

1. The latest available data on ASBOs issued and breached currently cover the period from 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2008. The data for ASBOs issued and breached are collated via separate systems. Information on ASBOs breached are subject to the same validation and quality assurance process undertaken on court proceedings data used for the annual publication *Criminal Statistics England and Wales*.
2. As announced by the Ministry of Justice on 9 October 2009, *Criminal Statistics England and Wales* needed to be delayed in order to resolve a number of data quality issues. During 2008 magistrates' courts gradually moved to the LIBRA case management system which was subsequently discovered to have been underreporting a number of offences. The process to recover the missing data took longer than expected. The 2008 data were therefore not ready for use until January 2010. Once final ASBO breach data are available a matching exercise is undertaken to match breaches with the ASBOs issued which is a time-consuming process.
3. The availability of more timely data from the LIBRA case management system may enable MOJ to improve the timeliness of ASBO statistics. MOJ aim to publish data for 2009 by the end of December 2010 and data for 2010 by the end of October 2011. The ASBO publication will continue to be treated as an Official Statistics publication and precise publication dates will be pre-announced as soon as possible following the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Contact details and further information

Press enquiries about the policy of administering ASBOs should be directed to the Home Office press office:

Tel: 020 7035 3535 Email: david.langton@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Press enquiries about the statistics presented in the National Statistics publication should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

Tel: 020 3334 3536 Email: newsdesk@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Other enquiries about this statistical note or the statistics publications should be directed to:

Ministry of Justice, Justice Statistics Analytical Services 7th Floor 102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

Tel: 020 3334 5887

statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk