

The Irish on probation in England

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Summary

The paper presents the findings of research on Irish men's experiences of probation supervision and criminal justice, in the context of a discussion of previous research on Irish people in Britain. The Irish sample was found to have lower levels of criminogenic needs than white British men who received the same sentences, and their orders tended to be longer than average. They reported high levels of personal and social problems, particularly in relation to health. In addition to disadvantages they share with other populations on probation, they also reported being the targets of racial discrimination in the criminal justice system, especially by the police. The special vulnerability of Travellers to discrimination and disadvantage is discussed and its practice implications are explored.