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A Study into the Characteristics of Police Recorded Hate Crime in Scotland



CRIME AND JUSTICE



A study into the characteristics of police recorded hate crime in Scotland

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Executive summary

This report presents the findings of a study into the nature of police recorded hate aggravated crimes in Scotland. This includes new details on the characteristics of these cases, based on a random sample of police recorded crimes.

Hate crimes recorded by the police

The police recorded 6,448 hate crimes in 2019-20. Since 2014-15, the number of hate crimes recorded has fluctuated between 6,300 and 7,000 crimes.

In 2019-20, around three-fifths (62%) of hate crimes included a race aggravator with one in five (20%) including a sexual orientation aggravator.

Hate crimes in 2018-19:

The following summary excludes the estimated one in five hate crimes where the victim was a police officer in the line of duty. These cases are summarised separately further below.

Characteristics of hate crime:

Around a third of hate crime in Scotland involved a victim who experienced the incident at their place of work or whilst undertaking duties as part of their occupation. Most of these victims were working in retail or other service industries.

Almost two-thirds of hate crime victims and three quarters of perpetrators were male. In around half of crimes the victim did not know the perpetrator, with more than a third involving a perpetrator who was an acquaintance of the victim.

Cases occur in a range of settings. One in ten crimes involved a victim and perpetrator who were in different physical locations (including phone calls and cyber-enabled technologies).

The vast majority of hate crimes were reported by victims themselves, or those acting on their behalf such as parents, teachers, carers and employers.

For race aggravated hate crimes:

Where information was available on the ethnicity of victims, almost two-thirds (or 64%) of race aggravated hate crimes had a victim from a visible minority ethnic (non-white) group. This compares to 4% of Scotland's population at the time of the last census in 2011.

An estimated 18% of race aggravated hate crimes had a victim of Pakistani, Pakistani British or Pakistani Scottish ethnicity. This was followed by African, Caribbean or Black (17% of cases), Polish or Other white (15%), White Scottish (10%), Other White British (7%) and Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British (6%).

In just over a third of race aggravated hate crimes, the words used or actions taken by the perpetrator suggested an anti-Black prejudice and in just over a quarter of cases prejudice was shown towards the Pakistani community. In around one in six crimes the perpetrator made general xenophobic remarks not directed at any one group.

For the other hate aggravators:

A majority of disability aggravated hate crimes included a prejudice to those with a learning disability (59%). A further one in five (21%) showed a prejudice to those with a physical disability.

In around two-fifths of religion aggravated hate crimes the perpetrator showed prejudice towards the Catholic community. In over a quarter of crimes, prejudice was shown towards the Muslim community and in one in ten it was towards the Protestant community.

In the vast majority (94%) of sexual-orientation aggravated hate crimes, the perpetrator showed prejudice towards the gay and lesbian community.

In the vast majority (85%) of transgender identity aggravated hate crimes, the perpetrator showed prejudice towards those from the transgender community.

For hate crimes with a police officer victim:

In over two-fifths of hate crimes experienced by police officers (45%), the perpetrator showed a prejudice towards the gay and lesbian community. This was followed by anti-Pakistani and anti-Black prejudice (13% and 12% of hate crimes respectively).

Introduction

This report presents updated information on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police in Scotland during 2018-19 and 2019-20. It also includes new details on the characteristics of hate crime, based on a random sample of cases recorded by the police in 2018-19.

Users should view this publication as a follow up to the earlier report '[Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland](#)'. Published in February 2019, this provided background information on the legislation used to record hate crime in Scotland and data on the number of cases that came to the attention of the police during 2014-15 to 2017-18. This analysis has been updated below to include the two subsequent years of 2018-19 and 2019-20.

The earlier report also highlighted that Scottish Government statisticians would continue to engage with Police Scotland on how more detailed analysis on the characteristics of recorded hate crime might be produced. Through this engagement with Police Scotland and the Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Group¹, it was agreed that new research would be carried out on the nature of hate crime, based on the review of a large sample of records from 2018-19.

The findings of this research are also provided below, including new analysis on the characteristics of those involved (i.e. age, gender and ethnicity of victims and perpetrators), the types of prejudice shown by those committing hate crimes and how these cases came to the attention of the police.

The report is split into the following sections:

1. A summary of information on the volume of hate crime recorded by the police between 2014-15 and 2019-20;
 - In relation to disability, race, religion, sexual orientation and transgender identity.
2. A description of hate crime characteristics for cases recorded by the police in 2018-19 (i.e. findings from the research outlined above) and;
3. An outline of plans to ensure the future production of disaggregated data on recorded hate crime in Scotland.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/groups/tackling-prejudice-and-building-connected-communities-action-group/>

Recording of hate crime by police

What is the definition of a police recorded hate crime?

This report draws on information recorded by Police Scotland and adopts the categorisations and definitions used by them when they do this. Further information on how Police Scotland record hate crimes is provided below.

For the purposes of this report, a **hate crime** is any crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards a social group.

In Scotland, the law recognises hate crimes as crimes motivated by prejudice based on the characteristics listed below. Further information on the legislation used by the police to record hate crime is also available within Section One of the earlier [‘Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland’](#) report.

- Disability,
- Race,
- Religion,
- Sexual orientation,
- Transgender identity.

A person does not need to be a member of the social group being targeted by the perpetrator to be the victim of a hate crime. The law states that the identity of the victim is irrelevant as to whether something is a hate crime or not; the motivation of the perpetrator is the key factor in defining a hate crime.

Furthermore, in some cases a hate crime may be committed against a person where the prejudice being shown by the perpetrator was towards a third party who was not present at the time of the crime (albeit in the vast majority of hate crimes, the victim and the target are the same person(s)). Again, as noted above this is because the motivation of the perpetrator is the key factor in defining a hate crime, and not the victim’s background. In these cases, they will still be recorded as a victim of a hate aggravated crime and will therefore appear in the analysis below of victim characteristics.

It should be noted that a single report of hate crime can result in more than one hate crime being recorded and can include other crimes which are not hate-related.

Furthermore, not all hate-related incidents which come to the attention of the police will necessarily constitute a criminal offence (though the vast majority do). Where an incident does not include the recording of a hate crime, a similar definition to that outlined above (i.e. the perception of the victim or any other person of a perpetrator’s malice and ill-will towards a social group) is relevant as to whether or not it is defined as hate-related by Police Scotland.

What happens when a hate crime is reported to the police?

When a member of the public contacts the police to report an incident (or if a police officer is witness to an incident) the information is logged on Police Scotland's System for Tasking and Operational Resource Management (STORM) - this is Police Scotland's national command and control system.

STORM is largely used for resource allocation purposes. Depending on the information supplied and the outcome of additional enquiries, the incident may result in the creation of one or more crime reports on the relevant crime management system (CMS). If a crime report includes a hate element then the relevant aggravator(s) (i.e. disability, race, religion, sexual orientation and/or transgender identity) will also be highlighted on the crime report.

If the incident is assessed to have a hate element, a record should also be added to Police Scotland's Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (IVPD). The purpose of the IVPD is to ensure that any concerns for the victim, or any other person (subjects of concern), are assessed and the appropriate action taken. The IVPD is Police Scotland's national database for recording all hate-related information, allowing them to enhance understanding of the extent of hate-related activity across the country. It enables identification of repeat victims and offenders and allows for a holistic assessment of wellbeing concerns and needs which influence multi-agency investigations, interventions and support.

It should be noted that these systems operate independently of each other, although reference numbers should be recorded on each system for cross referral.

How are hate crimes reported to the Crown Office?

For police recording purposes, the perception of the victim or any other person is relevant when considering whether an incident is hate-related or in recognising the malice element of the crime. The perception of the victim should always be explored, however they do not have to justify or provide evidence of their belief and police officers or staff members will not directly challenge this perception.

In terms of reporting hate crimes to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), Lord Advocate guidelines state that the victim's belief alone that an offence was aggravated by prejudice does not justify the charging of a statutory aggravation. If there is evidence to support that opinion, whether from one or more sources (including the victim), that should be reflected in the draft charge presented to the Procurator Fiscal, by including the relevant aggravation. This evidence will most frequently come from words spoken by the accused, but the important point is that there is evidence in addition to the victim's belief.

A hate crime is reportable to COPFS when the charge in aggravated form is assessed as having sufficient evidence of malice and ill-will to be put before the court. In absence of words spoken, any report submitted should detail course of conduct by the accused that would evidence the crime was motivated by malice and ill-will.

Hate crimes recorded by the police

Overview

There are a range of factors that could influence the number of hate crimes recorded by the police. Whilst changes in the number of crimes recorded could reflect a change in the number of crimes experienced by the population of Scotland, other factors are also likely to have an impact.

Trends can be affected by public reporting practices; attitudes to certain behaviour may change over time and reporting rates may vary by the type of crime.

Under-reporting of hate crime is also recognised as a key factor, and it could be that different groups in society may be more or less likely to report to the police that they have been the victim of a hate crime. For a broad example of this, the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) estimated that 36% of all crimes (as defined by the SCJS) were reported to the police in 2018-19².

Given the above, and as with all crime committed in Scotland, the analysis provided in this report on the characteristics of hate crime can only inform users about cases that were reported to the police. These may not necessarily be the same as for those hate crimes that didn't get reported by a victim or anyone else, and therefore the characteristics of **all** hate crime in Scotland could be different.

Recording procedures

Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are generally divided for statistical purposes into crimes or offences. For the purposes of this report the term 'hate crime' includes both crimes and offences.

'Crime' is generally used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious termed 'offences', although the term 'offence' may also be used in relation to serious breaches of criminal law. The distinction is made only for working purposes and the 'seriousness' of the offence is generally related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed. More information can be found in the [Annex](#), along with definitions of the most frequently committed hate crimes.

The information provided below on the volume of hate crime recorded by the police during 2014-15 to 2019-20 is drawn from the Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (IVPD). Whilst the IVPD itself is not Police Scotland's crime recording system, should criminality be identified as part of a hate-related incident then the appropriate crimes will also be recorded in the IVPD.

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-justice-survey-2018-19-main-findings/>

Further information on the recording of crime can be found in the guidance provided to officers in the Scottish Crime Recording Standard: Crime Recording and Counting Rules³.

As noted in the introduction, for the purpose of this report, a hate crime is any crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards a social group.

Not all crimes will necessarily have a victim. One example may be where racist graffiti not directed at any individual (i.e. a hate crime of vandalism with a race aggravator) is discovered and reported. A hate concern would be raised on the IVPD with the witness (i.e. the person reporting) being identified as the subject of concern.

Number of hate crimes

The police recorded 6,448 hate crimes in the IVPD in 2019-20. Since 2014-15, the number of hate crimes recorded in the IVPD has fluctuated between 6,300 and 7,000 crimes ([Table 4](#)).

Geographic location of hate crimes

In 2019-20, the number of hate crimes recorded by Police Scotland per 10,000 of the population was highest in Glasgow City and the City of Edinburgh local authority areas (25 and 23 crimes per 10,000 population respectively) ([Table 5](#)). The Shetland Islands and Orkney Islands had the lowest rates.

Whilst the Glasgow City and City of Edinburgh local authority areas collectively accounted for 21% of Scotland's population in 2019⁴, they accounted for over two-fifths (43%) of all hate crimes recorded by Police Scotland in 2019-20. This could, at least in part, relate to the relatively higher level of ethnic diversity present within these two areas (the majority of associated hate crimes included a race aggravation - see [Table 6](#)). The 2011 Scottish Census⁵ reported that Glasgow City and the City of Edinburgh local authority areas have a relatively higher proportion of their population comprised of non-white ethnic groups, 12% and 8% respectively, compared to the Scottish average of 4%. Other factors that may lead to the relatively higher number of recorded crimes within these two local authorities include the presence of a large night-time economy, and a large daily influx of visitors, workers and tourists. They are also more frequently used as the location for large scale events and the holding of demonstrations.

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scrb-manual/>

⁴ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates>

⁵ <https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/>

Hate crimes by aggravator

In 2019-20, around three-fifths (62%) of hate crimes included a race aggravator, one in five (20%) included a sexual orientation aggravator, 8% a religion aggravator, 4% a disability aggravator and 1% a transgender identity aggravator ([Table 6](#)). The remaining 5% of crimes and offences included more than one aggravator.

Since 2014-15, there has been a fall in the number of race aggravated hate crimes (down 20% from 4,967 crimes in 2014-15 to 3,969 crimes in 2019-20). Over the same period, sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes have increased (up 30%) and the number of transgender identity aggravated hate crimes has doubled (from 48 to 96).

Hate crimes by crime type

In 2019-20, just over half (51%) of hate crimes recorded were 'Threatening or abusive behaviour' under Section 38 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 ([Table 7](#)) (see the [Annex](#) for definitions of selected crimes). This was followed by 'Racially aggravated conduct' which represented 16% of hate crimes recorded. 'Racially aggravated conduct' covers some offences under Section 50A of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 where the perpetrator acts in a racially aggravated manner and this causes, or is intended to cause, a person alarm or distress. 'Racially aggravated conduct' is recorded where the behaviour is corroborated by one or more witnesses, otherwise an offence such as 'Threatening or abusive behaviour' with a racist aggravator would be recorded. A further 12% of hate crimes recorded in the IVPD in 2019-20 were 'Common assault' (see the [Annex](#) for more information on the definition of 'Common assault').

The total number of 'Threatening or abusive behaviour' offences recorded in the IVPD has increased from 2,432 in 2014-15 to 3,301 in 2019-20. Over the same period, the number of 'Racially aggravated conduct' offences recorded in the IVPD has fallen from 2,196 to 1,054.

Type of hate crime by hate aggravator

For the purposes of this analysis we have included any crime which includes the aggravator in question, including occasions where there may have been multiple aggravators. Therefore, crimes with multiple aggravators will be included in the figures for each of the aggravators associated with it. For example, if a crime was aggravated by race and sexual orientation, it will be included in the total number of race crimes and in the total number of sexual orientation crimes. This means the total number of crimes for each aggravator in [Table 6](#) below will not match the totals in [Table 4](#) and [Table 5](#).

With the exception of race, in 2019-20 the most common hate crime recorded across each of the different aggravators was 'Threatening or abusive behaviour' ([Table 7](#)).

As might be expected, a far higher proportion of crimes recorded with a race aggravator were 'Racially aggravated conduct'. This is because it is a standalone

offence relating to racially aggravated behaviour, whereas there are no standalone offences relating to the other strands. There was a correspondingly lower proportion of 'Threatening or abusive behaviour' offences recorded in the IVPD for crimes with a racial aggravator. Again, this would be expected as the offence of 'Racially aggravated conduct' is similar to the offence of 'Threatening or abusive behaviour'⁶.

There were a slightly higher proportion of 'Vandalism etc.' crimes recorded in the IVPD for hate crimes with a religious aggravator than for the other strands. There are some other small differences in the proportions across other categories, however due to the smaller number of crimes recorded with a disability and transgender identity aggravator, the proportions are more likely to fluctuate year to year. Further definitions can be found in the [Annex](#).

⁶ The difference being that corroboration of the racially aggravated nature of the victim's behaviour is required to record the standalone offences of 'Racially aggravated conduct' and 'Racially aggravated harassment'.

Characteristics of hate crimes recorded in 2018-19

Methods

Two systems were used to review the characteristics of hate crimes recorded by the police in Scotland – the Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (IVPD) and the Crime Management Systems (CMSs).

The IVPD is an incident based database which was introduced in 2013, and became a national system in 2014. Police Scotland use the IVPD to record information about individuals who are, or are perceived to be, experiencing some form of adversity and/or situational vulnerability which may impact on their current or future wellbeing. This is the only national system that can currently identify the totality of hate crime recorded by the police in Scotland.

In addition to the IVPD, hate crimes will also be recorded on a local CMS. The CMS is used to actively manage the investigation of recorded crime, and like the IVPD, it also holds details of the people involved. As highlighted on [page 8](#), the process of recording crimes through a CMS is governed by the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS)⁷.

Given the established governance arrangements for the recording of crime through the CMSs, these were chosen as the basis for this research, rather than a review of records held within the IVPD. However, at present, Police Scotland use a number of local CMSs, which were inherited from the previous legacy police forces. As such the research methodology was designed to use the national coverage of the IVPD to identify all hate crimes recorded in Scotland. From this, a sample of crime records was randomly drawn, with Scottish Government statisticians then using the associated reference numbers to locate each hate crime within a local CMS. These cases were then reviewed, with information recorded about their characteristics.

Using the methodology outlined above, a total of 2,114 hate aggravated crime records were sampled from 2018-19, representing just over one-third (34%) of all cases recorded by the police during this year. The proportion sampled varied across the five hate aggravators, ranging from 24% for Race to 100% (or all records identified within the IVPD) for both Disability and Transgender identity ([Table 1](#)). This variation ensured a sufficiently large number of records were reviewed for those aggravations with relatively fewer cases, so as to allow a robust measure of their characteristics to be produced. The sample was also stratified by Police Scotland division, ensuring the prevalence of hate crime across the 13 geographic areas covered by those divisions was reflected within the research.

⁷ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scrb-manual/>

Information was recorded about the circumstances of each crime and the characteristics of the people involved. No personal information relating to those involved (such as names, dates of birth and addresses) was collected.

With the exception of the Disability and Transgender Identity strands, this research is based on a sample of police records (rather than all records), therefore the percentages (proportions) presented in this report are estimates. The true value may differ slightly from the findings presented below due to sampling error. As such, users should treat the following analysis as a broad indication of the characteristics of hate crime, rather than as an exact measure. Figures are presented at the national level, as sample sizes are insufficient to provide robust estimates at local authority and individual police division level.

There are several methods of calculating an average, in this report the median is used to present the average age of victims and perpetrators (i.e. the age at which half the individuals are older and half are younger). The mean measure of average age can be more influenced by values at the upper end of the distribution (i.e. the older ages) and may not be truly representative of the average age. By taking the middle value of the data, after sorting in ascending order, the median avoids this issue and is consequently considered a better indication of a typical 'average' age.

Table 1. Proportion of crimes sampled by hate aggravation.

Aggravation	Sample	Population^{8,9}	% of population sampled
All hate crimes	2,114	6,303	34%
Disability	312	312	100%
Race	1,000	4,251	24%
Religion	300	566	53%
Sexual orientation	400	1,331	30%
Transgender identity	102	102	100%

Discussion of relative sample weights for summary analysis

As shown in [Table 1](#), there is some variation in the proportion of records sampled across the five aggravators. As such some aggravators made up a greater proportion of the sample than they do the overall population (for example disability aggravated crimes - which are 15% of the sample and 5% of all hate crimes).

⁸ These figures are accurate as of August 2019, when the data was originally extracted from the IVPD. As this is a live operational system these figures will not match those presented in the [Tables](#).

⁹ The combined total for the individual aggravators exceeds the total of hate aggravated crimes recorded by the police as any individual crime can include the recording of one or more aggravators.

Others make up a smaller proportion of the sample than they do the population (with racially aggravated crimes making up 48% of the sample and 67% of all hate crimes).

The majority of the findings presented in this report focus on discussing each of the five hate aggravators in isolation, rather than making any direct comparisons between them. For these findings the variation in the proportion of records sampled by aggravation has no effect on the results. However some sections look at hate crime as a whole (i.e. across all aggravators). This includes the [Summary of recorded hate crimes](#), [Summary of hate crimes with a non-police officer victim](#) and [Police officer victims of hate crime](#) sections.

Due to the difference between the proportions of each aggravator within the sample and their proportions within the overall population of hate crime, it was necessary to apply a weighted adjustment to the findings in these sections. This was carried out according to the proportion of each respective aggravator within the overall population of hate crime. Continuing with the illustration above, it means that each sampled race aggravated crime was given a greater weight in the analysis looking at hate crime as a whole, and each sampled disability aggravated crime was given a lower weight. This means that when presenting findings on hate crime as a whole it is reflective of the distribution of aggravators within it.

Categorisation of the ethnicity of victims and perpetrators

When reviewing each crime record, the available information on the ethnicity of victims and perpetrators was collected and, where possible, assigned to one of the 20 census codes as defined in Scotland's Census¹⁰.

Records excluded from the analysis

One in ten crimes (10%) in the original sample of 2,114 hate crimes has been excluded from the analysis presented below. This includes cases where (i) analysts were unable to locate a hate crime in the CMS due to issues with the crime reference recorded within the IVPD, (ii) a crime did not appear to include a hate element (in some cases this may also have been an issue with the crime reference), and (iii) on further investigation by the police, the hate crime had been re-designated to not constitute a crime or offence (a process known as 'no-criming').

Further analysis

This report focuses on providing a high level summary of the characteristics of hate crime in Scotland. Further analysis and breakdowns are available at request from: justice_analysts@gov.scot.

¹⁰ <https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/variables-classification/ethnic-group>

Summary of recorded hate crimes

While there are important distinctions across the five hate aggravators in terms of their characteristics, including who was involved, where they happened, and how they were reported to the police, there are some general statements that can be made about hate crime as a whole.

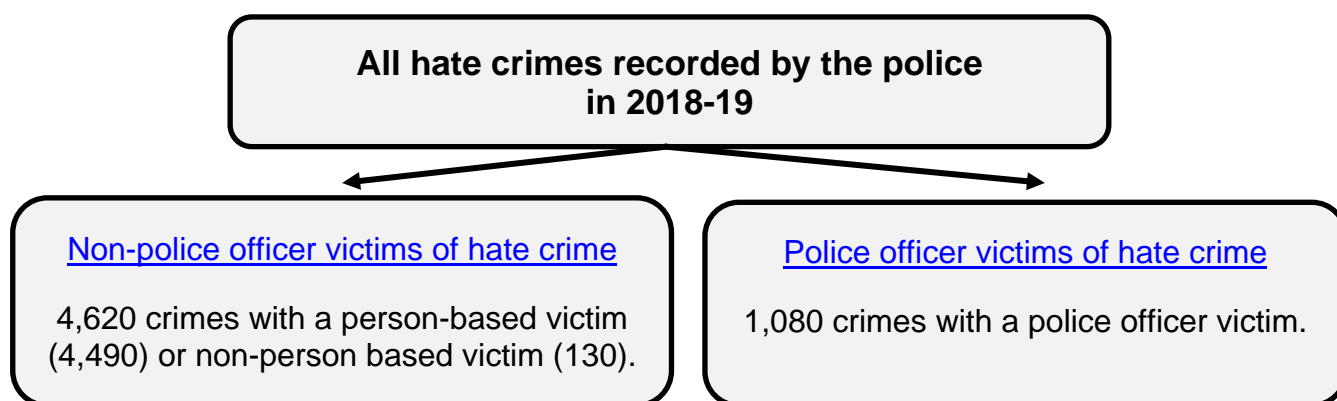
In a majority of hate crimes, the victim was a male or all male group. This is the case across all aggravators with the exception of [transgender identity](#) aggravated crimes. The perpetrators in a majority of hate crimes were also male or an all male group.

We estimate from the research that there were 5,570 hate crimes in 2018-19 that had a person-based victim, whilst a relatively smaller number (130) either had no victim or the victim was a business or organisation.

For those 5,570 hate crimes that were estimated to have a person-based victim, one in five (or 1,080) had a victim who was a police officer in the line of duty. The remaining 4,490 hate crimes had a victim who was not a police officer.

Given the relatively high proportion of hate crimes with a police officer victim, the characteristics of these cases have been detailed separately in the [second section](#) below, with the [first section](#) focusing on the characteristics of those crimes where the victim was not a police officer.

As noted on [page 8](#), police recorded hate crime only covers those cases that come to the attention of the police. Given it is likely that all (or almost all) hate crime targeted against the police will be included within the measure of recorded hate crime, the estimated one in five cases with a police officer victim will likely be higher than the equivalent measure for all hate crime committed in Scotland (i.e. including those cases that don't get reported).



In over half of crimes (58%), the victim did not know the perpetrator, whilst in a further 30% of cases, the perpetrator was an acquaintance¹¹ of the victim.

¹¹ Acquaintances include individuals who have a prior relationship with the victim but are not a family member, a partner or ex-partner for example a friend, neighbour, work colleague or classmate.

Where the victim was not a police officer, the vast majority of crimes were reported to the police by the victim, equating to around 3,860 crimes. This includes around one in ten cases which were reported by someone on behalf of the victim - including parents, teachers, carers and employers.

Non-police officer victims of hate crime

The information presented in this section includes only those cases where the victim was not a police officer. Information on the characteristics of cases where the victim was a police officer is provided in the [Police officer victims of hate crimes](#) section.

Where information is presented on the characteristics of victims, including their age, gender and ethnicity, relationship with perpetrator and whether they were working, this only includes those cases that had a person-based victim, and excludes those which either had no victim or the victim was a business or organisation. Those such cases are however included in the discussion of all other factors, such as the age and gender of the perpetrator, location of the crime and how it was reported to the police.

Summary of hate crimes with a non-police officer victim

What proportion of victims were working at the time of the crime?

Across the five hate aggravators, around a third (34%) of these crimes involved a victim who experienced the incident at their place of work or whilst undertaking duties as part of their occupation ([Table 8](#)). This figure is relatively higher than for all crime committed in Scotland, albeit it only covers hate crimes reported to the police. The Scottish Crime & Justice Survey suggested that 12% of crimes (including both those reported to the police and not reported) happened to people at their place of work in 2018-19¹². Of this, over two thirds (71%) were working in Retail or other service industries, which equates to around a quarter (24%) of hate crimes with a person-based victim.

What was the gender of victims, and how did they know the perpetrator?

The majority of hate crime involved a male or all male group of victims (63%), with a third involving a female or all female group (32%) ([Table 9](#)). Four percent of crimes involved a mixed group.

In around half of crimes (48%), the victim did not know the perpetrator, whilst in a further 37% of cases, the perpetrator was an acquaintance of the victim ([Table 10](#)).

Where did the crimes happen and how were they reported to the police?

Around a third of crimes (34%) occurred in an Open space, with a further fifth occurring in both a Retail or service industry setting or in or around a Dwelling (22% and 20% respectively) ([Table 11](#)).

In one in ten crimes (11%) the victim and perpetrator were not in the same location (including the use of phone calls and cyber-enabled technologies). Less than one-in-ten hate crimes (7%) specifically involved the use of cyber-enabled technologies ([Table 12](#)).

¹² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-justice-survey-2018-19-main-findings/>.

The vast majority of hate crimes were reported to the police by the victim (84%) ([Table 13](#)). This splits into 74% which were reported by the victim directly and 10% which were reported by someone on behalf of the victim (including parents, teachers, carers and employers). In 12% of cases, the crime was reported by a witness.

What was the gender of the perpetrators?

The majority of hate crimes, where an individual was identified, had a male or all male group of offenders, representing 73% of crimes. Around a quarter of these crimes (25%) had a female or all female group of perpetrators with a further 2% involving a mixed group of perpetrators ([Table 14](#)).

Disability aggravated crime

What proportion of victims were working at the time of the crime?

The vast majority of disability aggravated hate crime victims (93%) did not experience the incident whilst at a place of work, or whilst undertaking duties as part of an occupation ([Table 8](#)).

What was the age and gender of victims, and how did they know the perpetrator?

Victims of disability aggravated hate crimes were evenly split between male or all male groups (50%) and female or all female groups (49%). The average age of a victim was 35 years old ([Table 9](#)).

In over half of these crimes (59%), the victim and perpetrator were acquaintances, with a further 21% involving a perpetrator not known to the victim ([Table 10](#)).

What was the ethnicity of victims?

Where information was available on the ethnicity of victims, four in five (or 80%) of disability aggravated hate crimes had a victim of White Scottish ethnicity ([Table 15](#)). The second largest ethnic group was Other White British (14% of victims). All other ethnic groups accounted for the remaining 5% of victims.

Where did the crimes happen and how were they reported to the police?

The most common locations for disability aggravated hate crimes were in and around a Dwelling, and an Open space (28% each) ([Table 11](#)). In 17% of crimes, the victim and the perpetrator were not in the same location. Just over one-in-ten disability aggravated hate crimes (12%) specifically involved the use of cyber-enabled technologies ([Table 12](#)).

The majority of disability aggravated hate crimes were reported to the police by the victim (79%) ([Table 13](#)). This breaks down into 64% reported by the victim directly and 15% which were reported by someone on behalf of the victim (including parents, teachers, carers or employers). In 16% of cases, the crime was reported by a witness.

What was the age, gender and ethnicity of perpetrators?

The majority of disability aggravated hate crimes had a male or all male group of perpetrators, representing over two-thirds (67%) of crimes ([Table 14](#)). The average age of a perpetrator was 20 years old.

Where information was available on the ethnicity of perpetrators, around four in five (or 79%) of disability aggravated hate crimes had a perpetrator of White Scottish ethnicity ([Table 16](#)). The second largest ethnic group was Other White British (14% of perpetrators). All other ethnic groups accounted for the remaining 7% of perpetrators.

When committing disability aggravated hate crimes, what prejudices were shown by perpetrators?

The information provided below on the prejudice shown by the perpetrator is most often based on the words used or actions taken during the crime. A person does not need to be a member of the social group being targeted by the perpetrator to be the victim of a hate crime and their identity or other characteristics do not need to align with the perpetrator's perceptions. A perpetrator can also show prejudice against multiple social groups as part of the same crime.

Over half (57%) of disability aggravated hate crimes involved the perpetrator showing prejudice towards those with a Learning disability, which equates to an estimated 130 crimes ([Table 17](#)). Around a fifth of crimes (21%) involved the perpetrator showing prejudice towards those with a Physical disability (around 50 crimes). In around one in six crimes (17%), the perpetrator's actions didn't include remarks directed at any specific disability, equating to around 40 crimes.

More detailed analysis of the prejudices shown by perpetrators for disability aggravated hate crime

Where prejudice was shown towards those with a learning disability

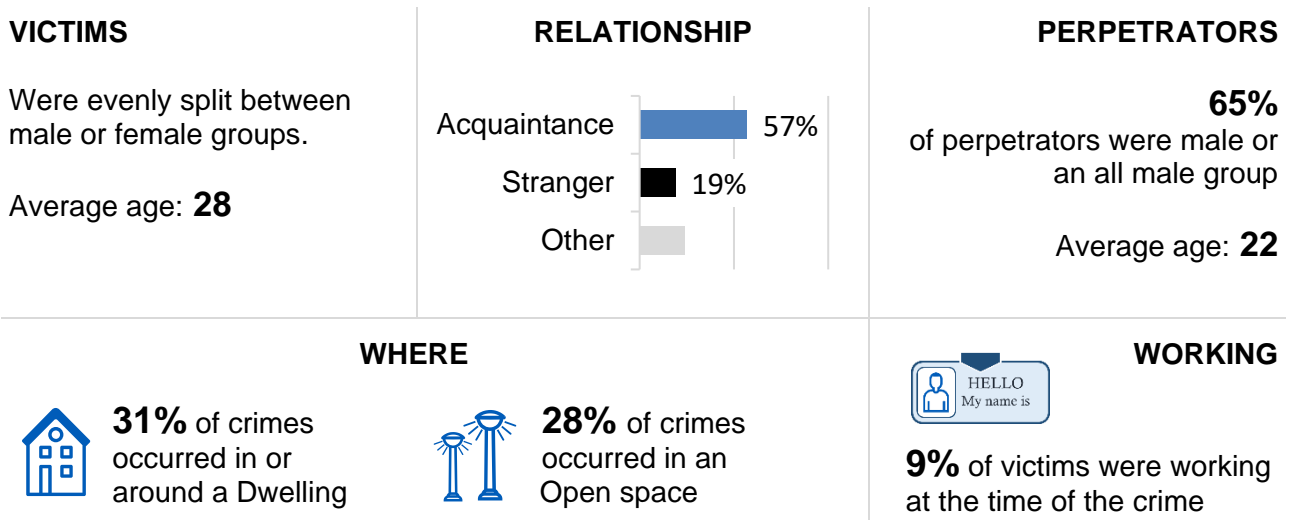
In over half of disability aggravated hate crimes, the perpetrator showed a prejudice towards those with a Learning disability (59%). This equates to around 130 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. In the majority of crimes, the victim and the perpetrator were acquaintances (57%) and these crimes were equally split between those with male or all male groups and female or all female groups of victims.

Where prejudice was shown towards those with a physical disability

In around a fifth of disability aggravated hate crimes the perpetrator showed a prejudice towards those with a Physical disability (21%). This equates to around 50 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. In the majority of crimes, the victim and the perpetrator were acquaintances (65%).

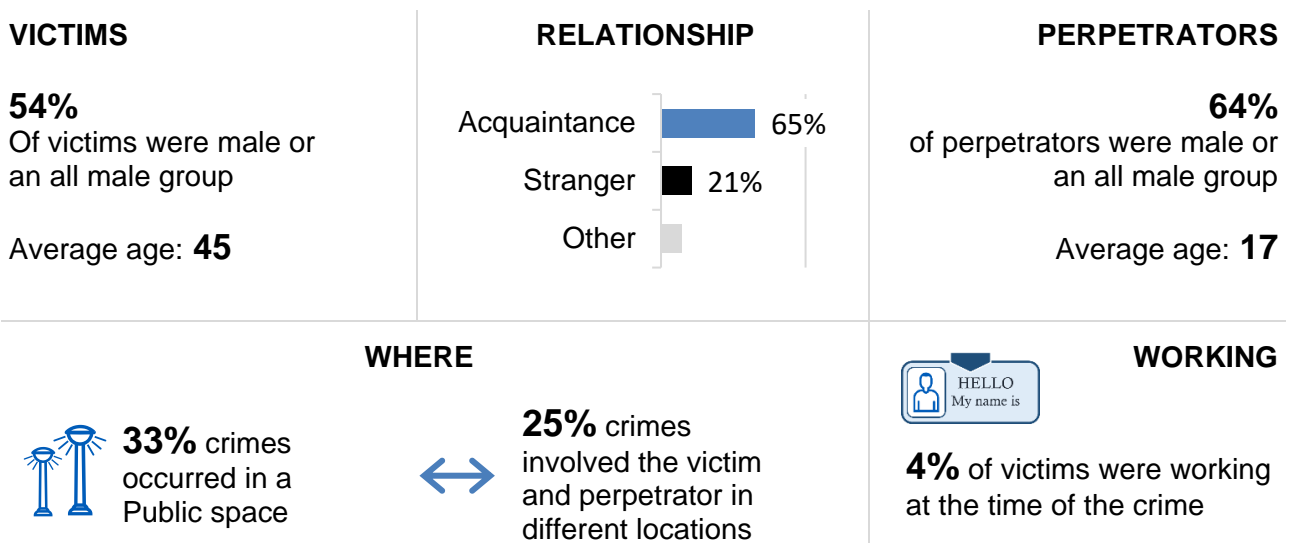
Where prejudice was shown towards those with a learning disability

Representing 59% of disability aggravated hate crimes, equating to 130 crimes in 2018-19.



Where prejudice was shown towards those with a physical disability

Representing 21% of disability aggravated hate crimes, equating to 50 crimes in 2018-19.



Race aggravated crime

What proportion of victims were working at the time of the crime?

Just over two-fifths of racially aggravated hate crime victims (41% of cases) experienced the incident at their place of work or whilst undertaking duties as part of their occupation ([Table 8](#)). The other 59% were not at their place of work or undertaking work-related duties. Where victims were working, most were in Retail and service related industries, representing 76% of victims in work and 31% of all victims.

What was the age and gender of victims, and how did they know the perpetrator?

The majority of racially aggravated hate crimes had a male or all male group of victims, representing almost two-thirds (64%) of crimes. The average age of a victim was 36 years old ([Table 9](#)).

In around half of these crimes (52%), the victim did not know the perpetrator, with a further third (34%) involving a perpetrator who was an acquaintance ([Table 10](#)).

What was the ethnicity of victims?

Where information was available on the ethnicity of victims, almost two-thirds (or 64%) of race aggravated hate crimes had a victim from a visible minority ethnic (non-white) group ([Table 18](#)). This compares to 4% of Scotland's population at the time of the last census in 2011.

[Table 18](#) provides a more detailed breakdown of victims by ethnic group. Further analysis on those ethnic groups that feature most frequently within the research is also provided below.

Where did the crimes happen and how were they reported to the police?

Just over a third of racially aggravated hate crimes (35%) occurred in an Open space, followed by a Retail or hospitality setting (26%) and in or around a Dwelling (19%) ([Table 11](#)). In around one in ten crimes (9%) the victim and perpetrator were not in the same location. This category includes cases that involved the use of cyber-enabled technologies, accounting for around one in twenty (or 6%) of racially aggravated hate crimes ([Table 12](#)).

The vast majority of racially aggravated hate crimes were reported to the police by the victim (85%) ([Table 13](#)). This breaks down into 76% reported by the victim directly and 9% which were reported by someone on behalf of the victim (including parents, teachers, carers or employers). In 11% of cases, the crime was reported by a witness.

What was the age, gender and ethnicity of perpetrators?

The majority of racially aggravated hate crimes had a male or all male group of perpetrators, representing almost three-quarters (71%) of crimes ([Table 14](#)). The average age of a perpetrator was 30 years old.

Where information was available on the ethnicity of perpetrators, around four in five (or 78%) of racially aggravated hate crimes had a perpetrator of White Scottish ethnicity ([Table 18](#)). The second largest ethnic group was Other White British (11% of perpetrators). All other ethnic groups accounted for the remaining 10% of perpetrators.

When committing racially aggravated hate crimes, what prejudices were shown by perpetrators?

The information provided below on the prejudice shown by the perpetrator is most often based on the words used or actions taken during the crime. A person does not need to be a member of the social group being targeted by the perpetrator to be the victim of a hate crime and their identity or other characteristics do not need to align with the perpetrator's perceptions. A perpetrator can also show prejudice against multiple social groups as part of the same crime.

In 35% of race aggravated hate crimes, the words used or actions taken by the perpetrator suggested an anti-black prejudice. As noted above, in these crimes the victim does not necessarily need to self-identify as black and in some cases they may have been targeted simply because the perpetrator perceived them to be from a visible minority ethnic (non-white) group.

In 26% of hate crimes the prejudice shown was towards the Pakistani community. In around one in six crimes (15%), the perpetrator made general xenophobic remarks not directed at any one group. [Table 17](#) provides a more detailed breakdown of the prejudices shown by perpetrators when committing race-aggravated hate crimes.

More detailed analysis of victim ethnicity for race aggravated hate crime

Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British

An estimated 18% of racially aggravated hate crimes had a victim of Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British ethnicity (compared to 1% of the population in the 2011 census). This equates to around 580 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. In 64% of these crimes, the prejudice shown by the perpetrator was against those from the Pakistani community, and in 36% of crimes it was against those who are black.

African, Caribbean or Black

An estimated 17% of racially aggravated hate crimes had a victim of African, Caribbean or Black ethnicity (compared to 1% of the population in the 2011 census). This equates to around 520 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. In 83% of these crimes, the prejudice shown by the perpetrator was against those who are black, and in 11% of cases the prejudice took the form of general xenophobia (i.e. without reference to any specific group).

Polish or Other White

An estimated 15% of racially aggravated hate crimes had a victim of Polish or Other White ethnicity (compared to 3% of the population in the 2011 census)¹³. This equates to around 480 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. In 40% of these crimes, the prejudice shown by the perpetrator was against those from the Polish community, and in 35% of cases the prejudice took the form of general xenophobia (i.e. without reference to any specific group).

White Scottish

An estimated 10% of racially aggravated hate crimes had a victim of White Scottish ethnicity (compared to 84% of the population in the 2011 census). This equates to around 320 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. In 29% of these crimes, the prejudice shown by the perpetrator was against those who are black. Some of these cases related to incidents where the prejudice shown was directed towards a third party who was not present at the time and not the person who was the victim of the crime. In other cases, the victim's self-identified ethnicity did not align with the prejudice shown by the perpetrator.

In 20% of cases with a White Scottish victim, the prejudice shown by the perpetrator was against those who are white. For the remaining cases with a White Scottish victim (where the prejudice shown wasn't anti-black or anti-white) a diverse range of racial prejudices were shown.

Other White British

An estimated 7% of racially aggravated hate crimes had a victim of Other White British ethnicity (compared to 8% of the population in the 2011 census). This equates to around 230 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. In 68% of these crimes, the prejudice shown by the perpetrator was against those from the English community, and in 6% of cases the prejudice took the form of general xenophobia (i.e. without reference to any specific group).

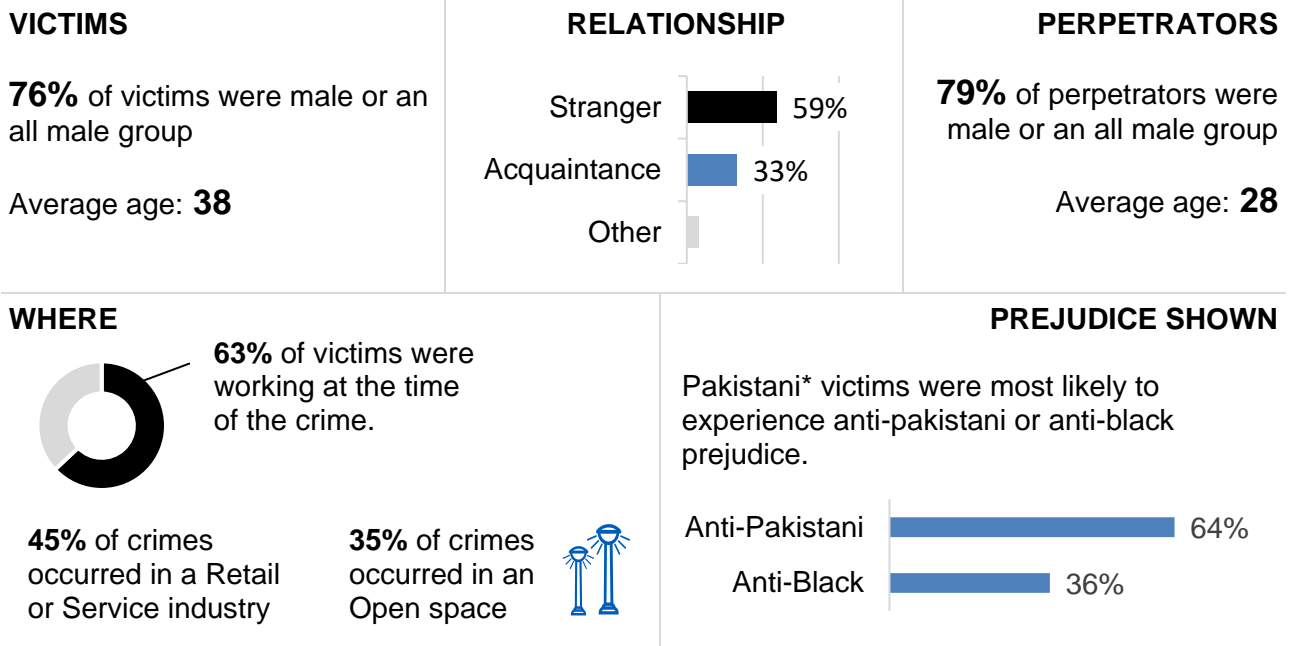
Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British

An estimated 6% of racially aggravated hate crimes had a victim of Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British ethnicity (compared to 1% of the population in the 2011 census). This equates to around 190 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. In 58% of these crimes, the prejudice shown by the perpetrator was against those from the Pakistani community, and in 27% of crimes it was against those who are black.

¹³ Note that for the purpose of providing this analysis, the 'Other White' category excludes those of White Scottish, Other White British or White Irish ethnicities.

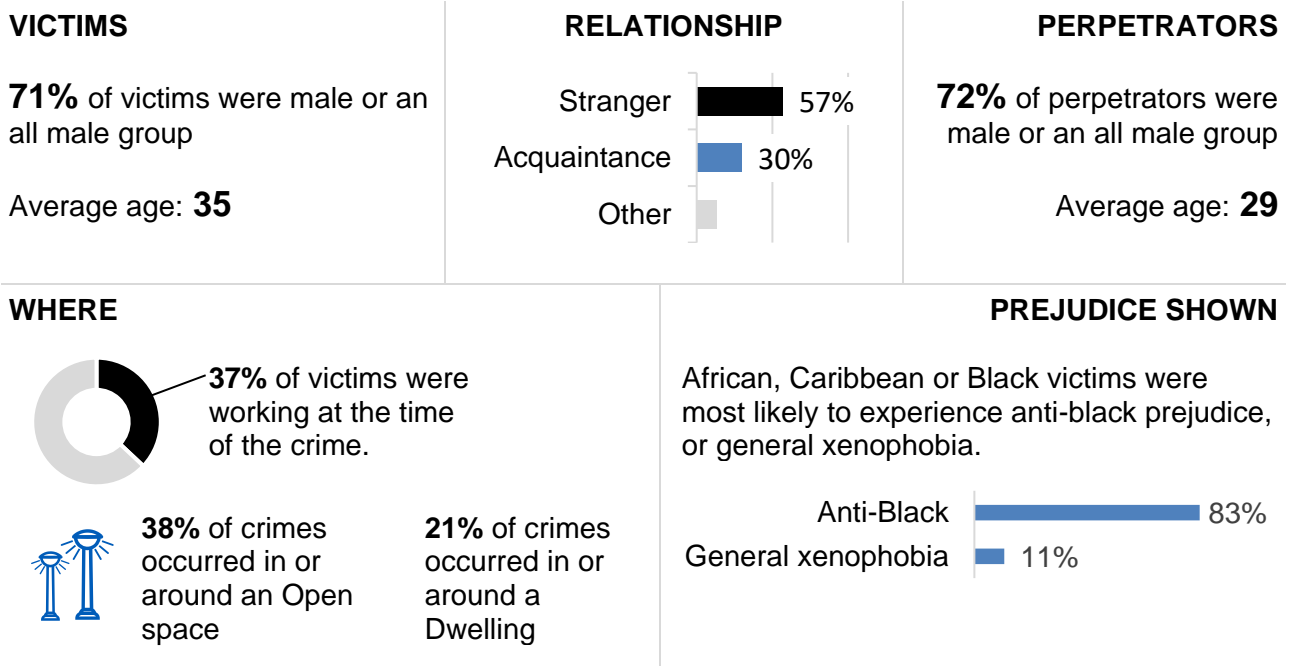
Where the victim was Pakistani¹⁴

Representing 18% of race aggravated hate crimes, equating to 580 crimes in 2018-19.



Where the victim was African, Caribbean or Black¹⁵

Representing 17% of race aggravated hate crimes, equating to 520 crimes in 2018-19.



¹⁴ Includes the 'Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani' British census group.

¹⁵ Includes the African, African Scottish or African British', 'Other African', 'Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British', 'Black, Black Scottish or Black British', 'Other Caribbean or Black' census groups

Where the victim was Polish or Other White¹⁶

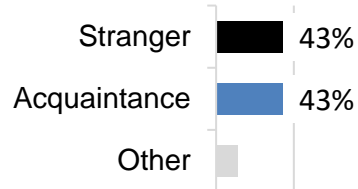
Representing 15% of race aggravated hate crimes, equating to 480 crimes in 2018-19.

VICTIMS

52% of victims were male or an all male group

Average age: **34**

RELATIONSHIP

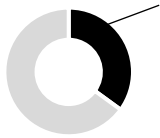


PERPETRATORS

55% of perpetrators were male or an all male group

Average age: **33**

WHERE



35% of victims were working at the time of the crime.

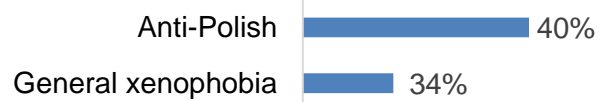
32% of crimes occurred in or around a Dwelling

27% of crimes occurred in an Open space



PREJUDICE SHOWN

Polish or Other white* victims were most likely to experience anti-polish or general xenophobia.



Where the victim was White Scottish

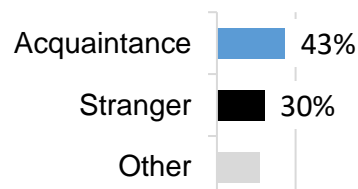
Representing 10% of race aggravated hate crimes, equating to 320 crimes in 2018-19.

VICTIMS

62% of victims were female or an all female group

Average age: **37**

RELATIONSHIP



PERPETRATORS

62% of perpetrators were male or an all male group

Average age: **29**

WHERE



26% of victims were working at the time of the crime.



33% of crimes occurred in or around an Open space

28% of crimes occurred in a Dwelling

PREJUDICE SHOWN

White Scottish* victims were most likely to experience anti-black or anti-white prejudice.



¹⁶ Includes the 'White Polish' and 'Other White' census groups.

Where the victim was Other White British

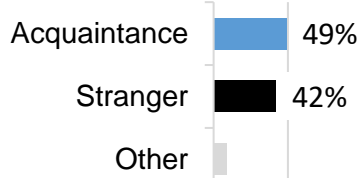
Representing 7% of race aggravated hate crimes, equating to 230 crimes in 2018-19.

VICTIMS

57% of victims were male or an all male group

Average age: **40**

RELATIONSHIP

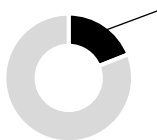


PERPETRATORS

77% of perpetrators were male or an all male group

Average age: **36**

WHERE



19% of victims were working at the time of the crime.

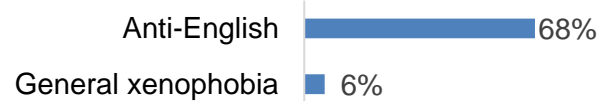


34% of crimes occurred in or around an Open space

25% of crimes occurred in or around a Dwelling

PREJUDICE SHOWN

Other White British* victims were most likely to experience anti-english or general xenophobia.



Where the victim was Indian¹⁷

Representing 6% of race aggravated hate crimes, equating to 190 crimes in 2018-19.

VICTIMS

73% of victims were male or an all male group

Average age: **37**

RELATIONSHIP

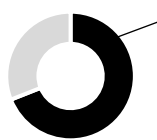


PERPETRATORS

72% of perpetrators were male or an all male group

Average age: **29**

WHERE



69% of victims were working at the time of the crime.

56% of crimes occurred in a Retail or Service industry

27% of crimes occurred in an Open space



PREJUDICE SHOWN

Indian* victims were most likely to experience anti-pakistani or anti-black prejudice.



¹⁷ Includes the 'Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British' census group.

Religion aggravated crime

What proportion of victims were working at the time of the crime?

Over a quarter of religion aggravated hate crime victims (28% of cases) experienced the incident at their place of work or whilst undertaking duties as part of their occupation ([Table 8](#)). The other 71% were not at their place of work or undertaking work-related duties. Where victims were working, they were generally in either Retail and service industries or Other areas, each of which represented 11% of all victims.

What was the age and gender of victims, and how did they know the perpetrator?

Most religion aggravated hate crimes had a male or all male group of victims, representing almost three-fifths (57%) of crimes. The average age of a victim was 38 years old ([Table 9](#)).

In around half of these crimes (49%), the victim did not know the perpetrator, with a further 29% involving a perpetrator who was an acquaintance ([Table 10](#)).

What was the ethnicity of victims?

Where information was available on the ethnicity of victims, over half (or 58%) of religion aggravated hate crimes had a victim of White Scottish ethnicity ([Table 15](#)). The second largest ethnic group was Other Ethnic Group (7% of victims) followed by 6% for Other White British and 5% each for Other White, Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British and Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British. All other ethnic groups accounted for the remaining 14% of victims.

Where did the crimes happen and how were they reported to the police?

A third of religion aggravated hate crimes (33%) occurred in an Open space, followed by in and around a Dwelling (22%) ([Table 11](#)). In 14% of crimes, the victim and the perpetrator were not in the same location. Less than one in ten (8%) crimes specifically involved the use of cyber-enabled technologies ([Table 12](#)).

The majority of religion aggravated hate crimes were reported to the police by the victim (69%) ([Table 13](#)). This splits into 65% which were reported by the victim directly and 4% which were reported on behalf of the victim (including parents, teachers, carers or employers). In a further 24% of cases, the crime was reported by a witness.

What was the age, gender and ethnicity of perpetrators?

The majority of religion aggravated hate crimes had a male or all male group of perpetrators, representing over four fifths (85%) of crimes ([Table 14](#)). The average age of a perpetrator was 39 years old.

Where information was available on the ethnicity of perpetrators, over four in five (or 82%) of religion aggravated hate crimes had a perpetrator of White Scottish ethnicity ([Table 16](#)). The second largest ethnic group was Other White British (8%

of perpetrators). All other ethnic groups accounted for the remaining 10% of perpetrators.

When committing religiously aggravated hate crimes, what prejudices were shown by perpetrators?

The information provided below on the prejudice shown by the perpetrator is most often based on the words used or actions taken during the crime. A person does not need to be a member of the social group being targeted by the perpetrator to be the victim of a hate crime and their identity or other characteristics do not need to align with the perpetrator's perceptions. A perpetrator can also show prejudice against multiple social groups as part of the same crime.

In two-fifths (42%) of religion aggravated hate crimes, the perpetrator showed prejudice towards the Catholic community, which equates to an estimated 150 crimes ([Table 17](#)). In over a quarter of crimes (26%), the perpetrator showed prejudice towards the Muslim community, equating to around 90 crimes. In around one in ten crimes (12%), the perpetrator showed prejudice towards the Protestant community, equating to around 40 crimes.

More detailed analysis of the prejudices shown by perpetrators for religion aggravated hate crime

Where the perpetrator showed prejudice towards the Catholic community

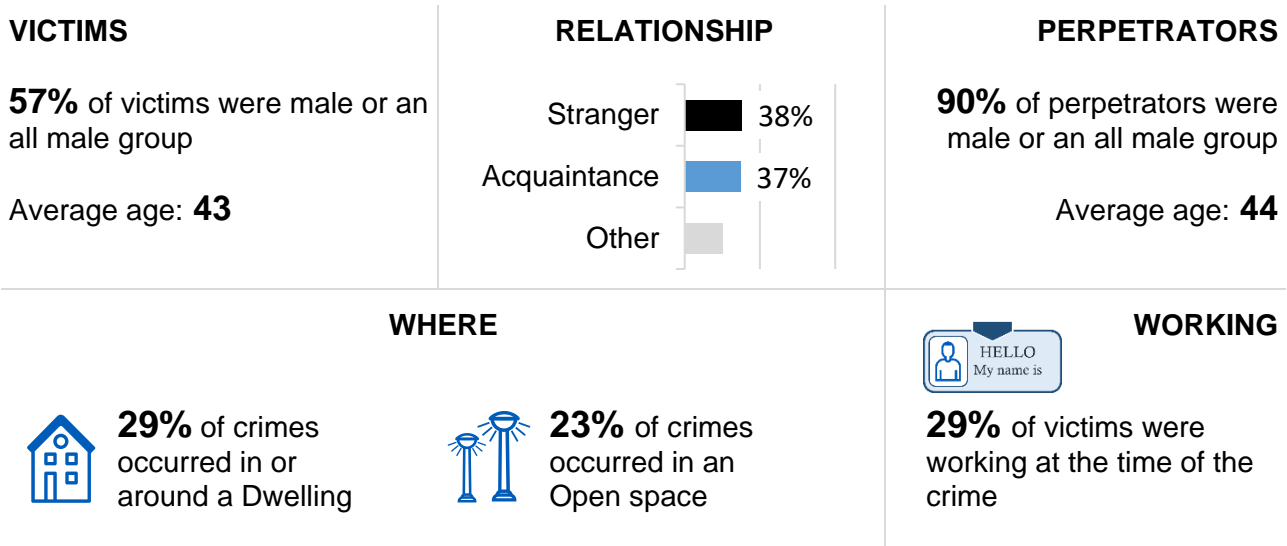
In two-fifths of religion aggravated hate crimes the perpetrator showed a prejudice towards the Catholic community (42%). This equates to around 150 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. The majority of these crimes involved a victim and perpetrator who were male, of a similar average age (43 years old for both) and of White Scottish ethnicity (85% and 83% respectively).

Where the perpetrator showed prejudice towards the Muslim community

In over a quarter of religion aggravated hate crimes the perpetrator showed a prejudice towards the Muslim community (26%). This equates to around 90 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. The majority of these crimes involved a victim and perpetrator who were male, of a similar average age (33 and 34 years old respectively) and where the victim did not know the perpetrator. While the majority of perpetrators in these cases were of White Scottish ethnicity (57%) victims came from a wider range of ethnic groups.

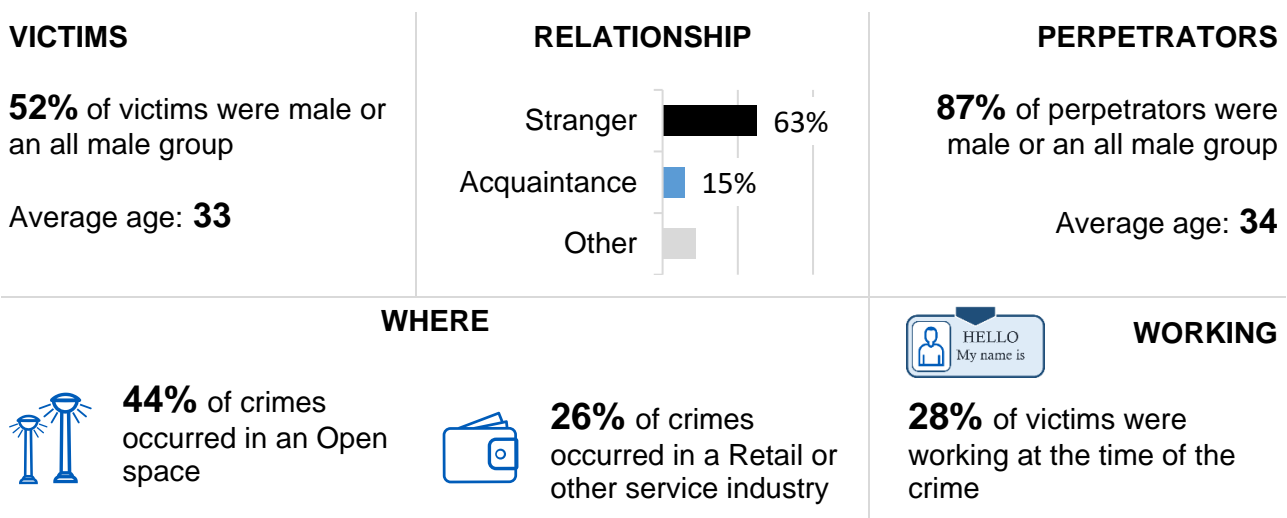
Where prejudice was shown towards the Catholic community

Representing 42% of religion aggravated hate crimes, equating to 150 crimes in 2018-19.



Where prejudice was shown towards the Muslim community

Representing 26% of religion aggravated hate crimes, equating to 90 crimes in 2018-19.



Sexual orientation aggravated crime

What proportion of victims were working at the time of the crime?

Just over a fifth of sexual orientation aggravated hate crime victims experienced the incident at their place of work or whilst undertaking duties as part of their occupation (21% of cases) ([Table 8](#)). The other 77% were not at their place of work or undertaking work-related duties. Where victims were working, most were in Retail and service related industries, representing 50% of victims in work.

What was the age and gender of victims, and how did they know the perpetrator?

Over two-thirds of sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes had a male or all male group of victims (68%) ([Table 9](#)). Crimes with a female or all female group of victims accounted for 26%. Further analysis on the characteristics of these crimes by victim gender is provided below. The average age of a victim was 30 years old.

In over two-fifths of these crimes (43%), the victim and perpetrator were acquaintances. In a further 39% of cases, the victim did not know the perpetrator ([Table 10](#)).

What was the ethnicity of victims?

Where information was available on the ethnicity of victims, three-quarters (or 75%) of sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes had a victim of White Scottish ethnicity ([Table 15](#)). The second largest ethnic group was Other White British (13% of victims) followed by 6% for Other White. All other ethnic groups accounted for the remaining 6% of victims.

Where did the crimes happen and how were they reported to the police?

29% of sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes occurred in an Open space, followed by in and around a Dwelling (26%) ([Table 11](#)). In 13% of crimes, the victim and perpetrator were not in the same location. This category includes cases that involved the use of cyber-enabled technologies, accounting for around one-in-ten (or 9%) of sexual orientation aggravated hate crime.

The vast majority of sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes were reported to the police by the victim (85%) ([Table 13](#)). This breaks down into 69% which were reported by the victim directly and 16% which were reported by someone on behalf of the victim (including parents, teachers, carers or employers). In 10% of cases, the crime was reported by a witness.

What was the age, gender and ethnicity of perpetrators?

The majority of sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes had a male or all male group of perpetrators, representing around four fifths (81%) of crimes ([Table 14](#)). The average age of a perpetrator was 29 years old.

Where information was available on the ethnicity of perpetrators, more than four in five (or 83%) of sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes had a perpetrator of

White Scottish ethnicity ([Table 16](#)). The second largest ethnic group was Other White British (9% of perpetrators). All other ethnic groups accounted for the remaining 8% of perpetrators.

When committing sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes, what prejudices were shown by perpetrators?

The information provided below on the prejudice shown by the perpetrator is most often based on the words used or actions taken during the crime. A person does not need to be a member of the social group being targeted by the perpetrator, to be the victim of a hate crime and their identity or other characteristics do not need to align with the perpetrator's perceptions. A perpetrator can also show prejudice against multiple social groups as part of the same crime.

In the vast majority (94%) of sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes, the perpetrator showed prejudice towards the gay and lesbian community ([Table 17](#)). This includes over two-thirds (69%) of crimes where the words used or actions taken by the perpetrator showed a prejudice towards the gay community, with a further quarter (25%) showing prejudice towards the lesbian community. In the small number of remaining cases, perpetrators either made remarks that targeted other groups, or were not directed at any specific community. A further breakdown of these cases isn't possible given the infrequency with which they were found within the sample.

More detailed analysis of sexual orientation aggravated hate crime by gender of victim

Male or all male group

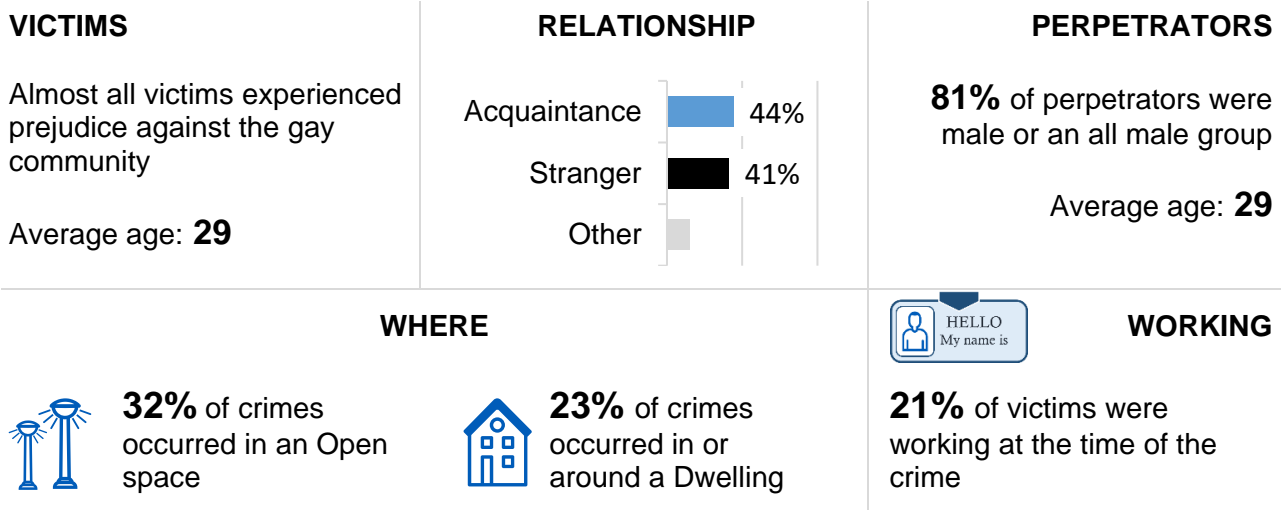
Over two-thirds of sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes had a male or all male group of victims (68%) This equates to around 490 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. In almost all cases (98%), the prejudice shown by the perpetrator was against those from the gay community.

Female or all female Group

26% of sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes had a female or all female group of victims. This equates to around 190 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. In the vast majority of cases (89%), the prejudice shown by the perpetrator was against those from the lesbian community.

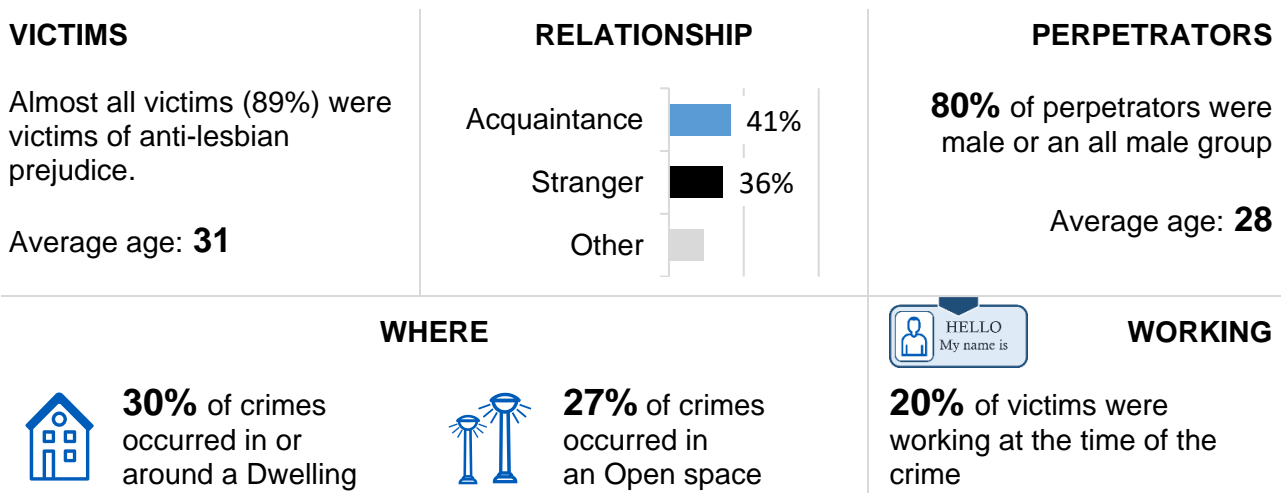
Where the victim was male or an all male group

Representing 68% of sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes, equating to 490 crimes in 2018-19.



Where the victim was female or an all female group

Representing 26% of sexual orientation aggravated hate crimes, equating to 190 crimes in 2018-19.



Transgender identity aggravated crime

What proportion of victims were working at the time of the crime?

Fewer than one in ten transgender identity aggravated hate crime victims experienced the incident at their place of work or whilst undertaking duties as part of their occupation (8%) ([Table 8](#)). The vast majority of victims (92%) were not at their place of work or undertaking work-related duties.

What was the age and gender of victims, and how did they know the perpetrator?

Over half of transgender identity aggravated hate crimes had a female or all female group of victims (55%) ([Table 9](#)). Crimes with a male or all male group of victims accounted for 37%. The average age of a victim was 26 years old.

In just under half of crimes (46%), the victim and perpetrator were acquaintances, with a further 34% of crimes involving a perpetrator not known to the victim ([Table 10](#)).

Where did the crimes happen and how were they reported to the police?

Over a third of transgender identity aggravated hate crimes (35%) occurred in an Open space, followed by those crimes where the victim and perpetrator were not in the same location (28%) ([Table 11](#)). 17% of crimes occurred in and around a Dwelling. Over a quarter (27%) of crimes specifically involved the use of cyber-enabled technologies ([Table 12](#)).

The vast majority of transgender identity aggravated hate crimes were reported to the police by the victim (85%) ([Table 13](#)). This breaks down into 75% which were reported by the victim directly and 10% which were reported by someone on behalf of the victim (including parents, teachers, carers or employers). In a further 7% of cases, the crime was reported by a witness.

What was the age, gender and ethnicity of perpetrators?

The majority of transgender identity aggravated hate crimes had a male or all male group of perpetrators, representing around three quarters (76%) of crimes ([Table 14](#)). The average age of a perpetrator was 22 years old.

Where information was available on the ethnicity of perpetrators, around three in four (or 76%) of transgender identity aggravated hate crimes had a perpetrator of White Scottish ethnicity ([Table 16](#)). The second largest ethnic group was Other White British (19% of perpetrators). All other ethnic groups accounted for the remaining 5% of perpetrators.

When committing transgender identity aggravated hate crimes, what prejudices were shown by perpetrators?

The information provided below on the prejudice shown by the perpetrator is most often based on the words used or actions taken during the crime. A person does not need to be a member of the social group being targeted by the perpetrator to be

the victim of a hate crime and their identity or other characteristics do not need to align with the perpetrator's perceptions. A perpetrator can also show prejudice against multiple social groups as part of the same crime.

In the vast majority (85%) of transgender identity aggravated hate crimes, the perpetrator showed prejudice towards those from the transgender community (based on the words used, actions taken or perceptions of the victim) ([Table 17](#)). In the small number of remaining cases, perpetrators either made remarks that targeted other groups, or were not directed at any specific community. A further breakdown of these cases isn't possible given the infrequency with which they were found within the sample.

More detailed analysis of transgender identity aggravated hate crime by gender of victim

Female or all female group

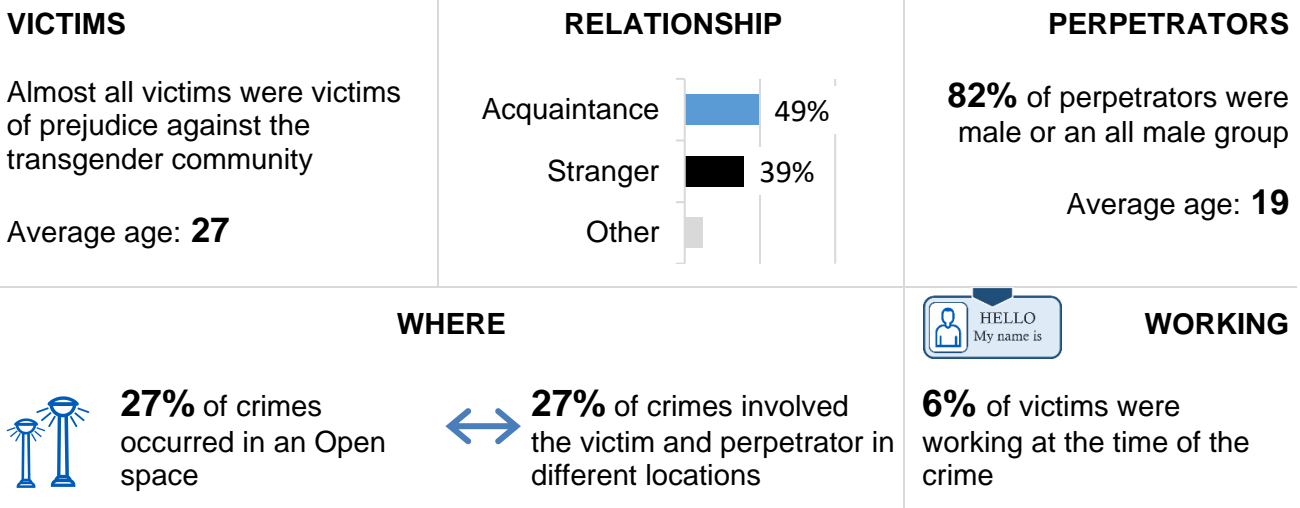
Over half of transgender identity aggravated hate crimes had a female or all female group of victims (55%). This equates to around 50 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. In almost all cases (86%), the prejudice shown by the perpetrator was against those from the transgender community.

Male or all male group

Over a third of transgender identity aggravated hate crimes had a male or all male group of victims (37%). This equates to around 30 crimes recorded by the police in 2018-19. In 79% of those cases, the prejudice shown by the perpetrator was against those from the transgender community.

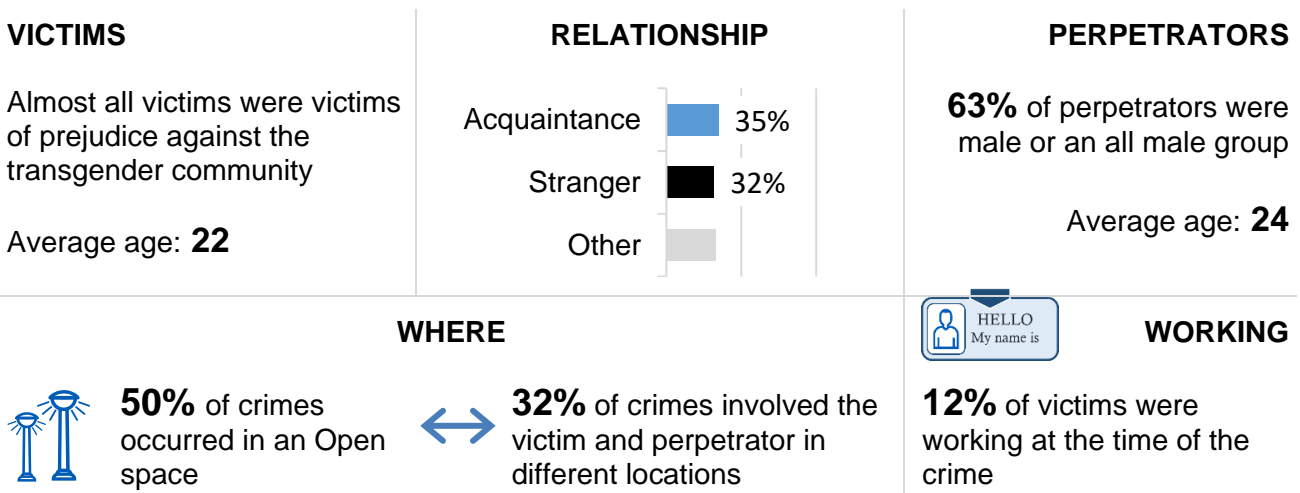
Where the victim was female or an all female group

Representing 55% of transgender identity aggravated hate crimes, equating to 50 crimes in 2018-19.



Where the victim was male or an all male group

Representing 37% of transgender identity aggravated hate crimes, equating to 30 crimes in 2018-19.



Police officer victims of hate crime

As outlined in the [Summary of recorded hate crimes section](#), in an estimated one in five (or 1,080) hate crimes recorded in 2018-19, the victim was a police officer in the line of duty.

[Table 2](#) below provides an estimate of the volume of hate crime with a police officer victim by hate aggravation. Sexual orientation and religion aggravated hate crimes had the largest proportion of cases where the victim was a police officer (at 39% and 32% respectively). Whilst relatively fewer race aggravated hate crimes had a police officer victim (13%), they accounted for the largest volume of these cases – given race accounts for 67% of all hate crime in 2018-19.

Table 2. Proportion of crimes with a police officer victim and estimated volume of crimes by hate aggravation.

Aggravation	% of crimes	Estimated volume ¹
All hate crimes	19%	1,080
Disability	15%	40
Race	13%	490
Religion	32%	150
Sexual orientation	39%	460
Transgender identity	*	*

1. The estimated volume for each aggravator will not total that for all hate crime as any individual crime could include one or more aggravators.

Where did the crimes happen?

Around half (49%) of these crimes occurred in a Police facility, including police stations and police vehicles ([Table 11](#)). A further 25% happened in an Open space and around one in ten each occurred in another Public Sector setting or in or around a Dwelling (10% each).

What was the age, gender and ethnicity of perpetrators?

Where at least one perpetrator was identified the vast majority were male or an all male group, representing almost nine in ten (87%) cases ([Table 14](#)). The average age of a perpetrator was 28 years old.

Where information was available on the ethnicity of perpetrators, three quarters (or 75%) of hate crimes with a police officer victim had a perpetrator of White Scottish ethnicity. The second largest ethnic group was Other White British (12% of

perpetrators). All other ethnic groups accounted for the remaining 12% of perpetrators.

What prejudice was experienced by police officers?

The information provided below on the prejudice shown by the perpetrator is most often based on the words used or actions taken during the crime. A person (or in these cases a police officer) does not need to be a member of the social group being targeted by the perpetrator to be the victim of a hate crime and their identity or other characteristics do not need to align with the perpetrator’s perceptions. A perpetrator can also show prejudice against multiple social groups as part of the same crime.

Crimes in which the victim was a police officer were generally aggravated by either race (43% of crimes) or sexual orientation (40%). Around one in ten (13%) were for religion and less than one in twenty (4%) were disability aggravated.

Looking at the prejudices shown, in almost half of hate crimes experienced by police officers (45%), the perpetrator showed a prejudice towards the gay and lesbian community, this equates to around 480 crimes.

In over one in ten crimes, the perpetrator showed prejudice toward either the Pakistani community or those that are Black (13% and 12% respectively). This equates to an estimated 140 crimes with anti-Pakistani prejudice and 130 crimes with anti-Black prejudice.

In less than one in ten crimes, the perpetrator showed prejudice toward the Irish and Catholic communities (8% for each), equating to 90 and 80 crimes respectively.

Table 3. Proportion and estimated volume of crimes with a police officer by the prejudice shown by the perpetrator

Prejudice shown	% of crimes ¹	Estimated volume
Against the Gay and lesbian community	45%	480
Anti-Pakistani	13%	140
Anti-Black	12%	130
Anti-Irish	8%	90
Anti-Catholic	8%	80

1. It is important to note that as part of any individual hate crime, the perpetrator can show prejudice towards more than one community.

Where the victim of the crime was a Police officer

Representing 19% of hate aggravated crimes, equating to 1,080 crimes in 2018-19.



PERPETRATORS

87%
involved a male or an all male group of perpetrators

Average age: **28**

WHERE



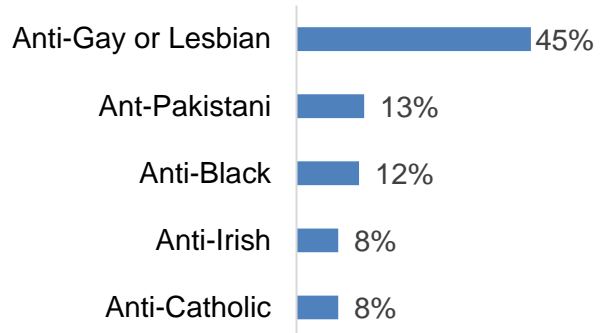
49%
of crimes occurred
In a Police facility



25%
of crimes occurred
In an Open space

PREJUDICE

The most common prejudice shown by perpetrators towards police officers was against the lesbian and gay community, representing 45% of crimes with a police officer victim.



Future production of data on hate crime

Going forward, Scottish Government statisticians will continue to engage with Police Scotland and the Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Group, to assess options for the production of information on the characteristics of hate crime in Scotland.

This will include the consideration of any requirements for the publication of disaggregated data as a result of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill¹⁸. Consideration will also be given to any related recommendations resulting from the thematic review of the policing response to hate crime carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland¹⁹.

In the shorter term, Scottish Government statisticians will also work with Police Scotland to produce a refreshed version of this report, based on a further review of hate crimes records for the reporting year of 2020-21. Updates on this project will be provided through the ScotStat user network²⁰.

Finally, to support the work above, we would welcome any feedback on the value of the information provided in this report. Please contact us at:

Justice_Analysts@gov.scot

¹⁸ <https://beta.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

¹⁹ <https://www.hmics.scot/publications/thematic-inspection-hate-crime-terms-reference>

²⁰ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotstat-register-guidance/>

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Notes for tables

Please note:

- '*' indicates a value of less than 5, 0.5% or 0.5 per 10,000 population (or based on a figure less than 5) but greater than zero.
- Where no records were found a dash (-) has been used to signify this.
- All figures for percentages and rates are rounded to the nearest whole number
- Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding

Table 4. Number of hate crimes recorded by the police, by local authority, 2014-15 to 2019-20

Local Authority	Number					
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Scotland	7,029	6,786	6,577	6,736	6,327	6,448
Aberdeen City	315	302	259	258	241	277
Aberdeenshire	82	55	83	108	107	117
Angus	73	71	56	88	79	77
Argyll & Bute	49	37	55	50	36	34
City of Edinburgh	1,422	1,320	1,324	1,343	1,247	1,209
Clackmannanshire	63	82	73	62	66	85
Dumfries & Galloway	121	97	69	98	112	96
Dundee City	171	192	142	169	190	280
East Ayrshire	110	98	84	106	104	110
East Dunbartonshire	63	61	67	65	61	63
East Lothian	73	48	61	78	65	95
East Renfrewshire	79	51	88	62	41	47
Na h-Eileanan Siar	5	8	7	4	4	14
Falkirk	219	198	199	203	258	271
Fife	392	436	379	398	381	363
Glasgow City	1,857	1,747	1,865	1,867	1,576	1,574
Highland	134	128	76	105	123	75
Inverclyde	64	67	79	69	58	79
Midlothian	93	86	96	79	96	86
Moray	31	25	41	50	59	64
North Ayrshire	140	139	115	109	141	135
North Lanarkshire	306	333	281	293	280	310
Orkney Islands	5	9	4	4	2	2
Perth and Kinross	101	92	78	72	69	85
Renfrewshire	192	233	187	178	159	152
Scottish Borders	65	77	56	40	61	80
Shetland Islands	10	8	4	1	8	1
South Ayrshire	82	89	68	84	101	71
South Lanarkshire	264	263	242	269	237	254
Stirling	116	140	125	118	94	111
West Dunbartonshire	73	100	81	58	64	58
West Lothian	259	194	233	248	207	173

Table 5. Rate per 10,000 of hate crimes recorded by the police, by local authority, 2014-15 to 2019-20

Local Authority	Rate per 10,000					
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Scotland	13	13	12	12	12	12
Aberdeen City	14	13	11	11	11	12
Aberdeenshire	3	2	3	4	4	4
Angus	6	6	5	8	7	7
Argyll & Bute	6	4	6	6	4	4
City of Edinburgh	29	26	26	26	24	23
Clackmannanshire	12	16	14	12	13	16
Dumfries & Galloway	8	6	5	7	8	6
Dundee City	12	13	10	11	13	19
East Ayrshire	9	8	7	9	9	9
East Dunbartonshire	6	6	6	6	6	6
East Lothian	7	5	6	7	6	9
East Renfrewshire	9	5	9	7	4	5
Na h-Eileanan Siar	2	3	3	1	1	5
Falkirk	14	12	12	13	16	17
Fife	11	12	10	11	10	10
Glasgow City	31	29	30	30	25	25
Highland	6	5	3	4	5	3
Inverclyde	8	8	10	9	7	10
Midlothian	11	10	11	9	11	9
Moray	3	3	4	5	6	7
North Ayrshire	10	10	8	8	10	10
North Lanarkshire	9	10	8	9	8	9
Orkney Islands	2	4	2	2	1	1
Perth and Kinross	7	6	5	5	5	6
Renfrewshire	11	13	11	10	9	8
Scottish Borders	6	7	5	3	5	7
Shetland Islands	4	3	2	0	3	0
South Ayrshire	7	8	6	7	9	6
South Lanarkshire	8	8	8	8	7	8
Stirling	13	15	13	13	10	12
West Dunbartonshire	8	11	9	6	7	7
West Lothian	15	11	13	14	11	9

Table 6. Hate crimes recorded by the police, by aggravator, 2014-15 to 2019-20

Aggravator	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	7,029	100	6,786	100	6,577	100	6,736	100	6,327	100	6,448	100
Disability	244	3	239	4	235	4	274	4	260	4	267	4
Race	4,967	71	4,666	69	4,435	67	4,491	67	4,086	65	3,969	62
Religion	520	7	521	8	504	8	504	7	452	7	501	8
Sexual Orientation	1,010	14	1,020	15	1,025	16	1,085	16	1,209	19	1,314	20
Transgender Identity	48	1	45	1	61	1	59	1	87	1	96	1
Multiple aggravators	240	3	295	4	317	5	323	5	233	4	301	5
<i>Race & Religion</i>	134	2	153	2	154	2	160	2	82	1	80	1
<i>Other (incl. Race or Religion)</i>	94	1	126	2	134	2	138	2	116	2	173	3
<i>Other (excl. Race or Religion)</i>	12	0	16	0	29	0	25	0	35	1	48	1

Table 7. Hate crimes recorded by the police, by type of crime, 2014-15 to 2019-20

Crime/Offence Type	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	%
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	
Total	7,029	6,786	6,577	6,736	6,327	6,448	100
Crimes of violence and sexual crimes	153	92	106	143	137	127	2
Crimes of dishonesty	34	31	41	41	35	27	0
Vandalism, fire-raising etc. - of which	290	259	247	250	197	215	3
Vandalism etc.	286	253	240	243	195	209	3
Fire-raising	4	6	7	7	2	6	0
Other crimes	43	35	38	55	76	56	1
Offences - of which:	6,316	6,161	6,144	6,215	5,881	6,022	93
Common assault	822	714	828	886	786	752	12
Threatening or abusive behaviour	2,432	2,772	2,939	3,031	3,086	3,301	51
Breach of the peace etc.	190	138	103	107	56	81	1
Racially aggravated harassment	249	187	178	216	375	409	6
Racially aggravated conduct	2,196	1,904	1,668	1,561	1,134	1,054	16
Communications Act 2003 offences	377	406	375	364	418	412	6
Other offences	50	40	53	50	26	13	0
Unknown crimes	193	208	1	32	1	1	0

Table 8. Proportion of victims¹ where the crime occurred at their place of work, by hate aggravator

	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexual orientation	Transgender identity	Total²
Victim not working	93%	59%	71%	77%	92%	65%
Victim working	7%	41%	28%	21%	8%	34%
Retail and other service industries	*	31%	11%	11%	5%	24%
Other industries ³	5%	10%	16%	11%	*	10%
Unknown	-	*	*	*	-	1%
Number sampled⁴	224	777	160	214	92	1,527

1. Including only crimes where the victim was not a police officer in the line of duty, a business or organisation.

2. Includes all hate aggravators and calculated using weighted values as discussed in the [Discussion of relative sample weights for summary analysis](#) section.

3. Includes victims working in Education, Health, Prison, Other emergency services and Public transport

4. Excludes those cases discussed in the [Records excluded from the analysis](#) section.

Table 9. Gender and median age of victims¹, by hate aggravator

	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexual orientation	Transgender identity	Total²
Male or all male group	50%	64%	57%	68%	37%	63%
Female or all female group	49%	30%	38%	26%	55%	32%
Mixed group	*	5%	4%	5%	*	4%
Other / Unknown	-	1%	-	-	5%	1%
Median age	35	36	38	30	26	35
Number sampled³	224	777	160	214	92	1,527

1. Including only crimes where the victim was not a police officer in the line of duty, a business or organization.

2. Includes all hate aggravators and calculated using weighted values as discussed in the [Discussion of relative sample weights for summary analysis](#) section.

3. Excludes those cases discussed in the [Records excluded from the analysis](#) section.

Table 10. The relationship between the victim¹ and perpetrator, by hate aggravator

	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexual orientation	Transgender identity	Total²
Partner / ex-partner	6%	2%	6%	4%	*	3%
Family ³	4%	1%	3%	*	*	1%
Acquaintance ⁴	56%	34%	29%	43%	46%	37%
Professional ⁵	7%	6%	4%	7%	*	6%
Stranger	21%	52%	49%	39%	34%	48%
Unknown	6%	5%	8%	6%	11%	5%
Number sampled⁶	224	777	160	214	92	1,527

1. Including only crimes where the victim was not a police officer in the line of duty, or a business or organization.

2. Includes all hate aggravators and calculated using weighted values as discussed in the [Discussion of relative sample weights for summary analysis](#) section.

3. Includes members of the same family, excluding partners and ex-partners.

4. Includes where the victim has a prior relationship with the perpetrator but are not family members, partners or ex-partners, such as friends, neighbours, work colleagues and classmates.

5. Including where the victim has a professional relationship with the perpetrator such as a social worker or teacher.

6. Excludes those cases discussed in the [Records excluded from the analysis](#) section

Table 11. Location of the crime, by hate aggravator

	Non-police officer victims ¹						Police officer victims ²
	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexual orientation	Transgender identity	Total ²	
Dwelling	28%	19%	22%	26%	17%	20%	10%
Open space	28%	35%	33%	29%	35%	34%	25%
Public Sector	14%	7%	7%	9%	5%	7%	10%
Public Transport	4%	3%	*	6%	*	3%	*
Remote ³	17%	9%	14%	13%	28%	11%	2%
Retail and hospitality	6%	26%	15%	15%	10%	22%	3%
Police Facility	-	*	-	-	-	*	49%
Other ⁴ / Unknown	3%	2%	7%	*	*	2%	-
Number sampled⁵	225	794	189	215	92	1,571	367

1. Including only crimes where the victim was not a police officer in the line of duty.

2. Includes all hate aggravators and calculated using weighted values as discussed in the [Discussion of relative sample weights for summary analysis](#) section.

3. Remote includes cases where the victim and perpetrator were not in the same location (including the use of phone calls and cyber-enabled technologies).

4. Includes leisure or community centres, places of worship, sporting venues and other businesses

5. Excludes those cases discussed in the [Records excluded from the analysis](#) section.

Table 12. Proportion of crimes¹ that were cyber-enabled, by hate aggravator

	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexual orientation	Transgender identity	Total²
Cyber-enabled	12%	6%	8%	9%	27%	7%
Not cyber-enabled	88%	94%	92%	91%	73%	93%
Number sampled³	225	794	189	215	92	1,571

1. Including only crimes where the victim was not a police officer in the line of duty.

2. Includes all hate aggravators and calculated using weighted values as discussed in the [Discussion of relative sample weights for summary analysis](#) section.

3. Excludes those cases discussed in the [Records excluded from the analysis](#) section.

Table 13. How the crime¹ was reported to the police, by hate aggravator

	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexual orientation	Transgender identity	Total²
Total victim reported	79%	85%	69%	85%	85%	84%
Victim	64%	76%	65%	69%	75%	74%
On behalf of victim ³	15%	9%	4%	16%	10%	10%
Witness	16%	11%	24%	10%	7%	12%
Police on patrol or dealing with another incident	*	2%	6%	2%	*	2%
Perpetrator	*	1%	*	*	*	1%
Other / Unknown	3%	1%	*	2%	7%	1%
Number sampled⁴	225	794	189	215	92	1,571

1. Including only crimes where the victim was not a police officer in the line of duty.

2. Includes all hate aggravators and calculated using weighted values as discussed in the [Discussion of relative sample weights for summary analysis](#) section.

3. Includes parents, teachers, carers and employers.

4. Excludes those cases discussed in the [Records excluded from the analysis](#) section.

Table 14. Gender and median age of perpetrators¹, by hate aggravator

	Non-police officer victims ²						Police officer victims ³
	Disability	Race	Religion	Sexual orientation	Transgender identity	Total ³	
Male or all male group	67%	71%	85%	81%	76%	73%	87%
Female or all female group	31%	27%	14%	18%	21%	25%	12%
Mixed group	*	2%	*	*	*	2%	*
Unknown	-	*	-	-	-	*	*
Median age	20	30	39	29	22	30	28
Number sampled⁴	196	596	124	162	68	1,174	365

1. Including only crimes where a perpetrator was identified.

2. Including only crimes where the victim was not a police officer in the line of duty.

3. Includes all hate aggravators and calculated using weighted values as discussed in the [Discussion of relative sample weights for summary analysis](#) section.

4. Excludes those cases discussed in the [Records excluded from the analysis](#) section.

Table 15. Ethnicity of victims, by hate aggravator¹

	Percentage
Disability hate crimes	
White Scottish	80%
Other White British	14%
All other ethnicity groups	5%
Religion hate crimes	
White Scottish	58%
Other Ethnic Group	7%
Other White British	6%
Other White	5%
Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British	5%
Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British	5%
All other ethnicity groups	14%
Sexual orientation hate crimes	
White Scottish	75%
Other White British	13%
Other White	6%
All other ethnicity groups	6%
Transgender hate crimes	
White Scottish	64%
Other White British	29%
Other White	4%
All other ethnicity groups	2%

1. Information on the ethnicity of victims for racially aggravated hate crimes is provided in [Table 18](#).

Table 16. Ethnicity of perpetrators¹, by hate aggravator²

	Percentage
Disability hate crimes	
White Scottish	79%
Other White British	14%
All other groups	7%
Religion hate crimes	
White Scottish	82%
Other White British	8%
All other ethnicity groups	10%
Sexual orientation hate crimes	
White Scottish	83%
Other White British	9%
All other ethnicity groups	8%
Transgender hate crimes	
White Scottish	76%
Other White British	19%
All other ethnicity groups	5%

1. Including only crimes where a perpetrator was identified.

2. Information on the ethnicity of perpetrators for racially aggravated hate crimes is provided in [Table 18](#).

Table 17. What prejudices were shown by perpetrators, by hate aggravator

	Percentage
Disability hate crimes (n=225)	
Learning disability	59%
Physical disability	21%
Unspecified disability	17%
Race hate crimes (n=794)	
Black	35%
Pakistani	26%
Polish	7%
English	6%
Chinese	3%
White	3%
Gypsy / Traveller	2%
Other East Europe countries	2%
General xenophobia	15%
Unspecified race	4%
Religion hate crimes (n=189)	
Catholicism	42%
Islam	26%
Protestantism	12%
Judaism	7%
Sexual orientation hate crimes (n=215)	
Gay	69%
Lesbian	25%
Other sexual orientation	3%
Transgender hate crimes (n=92)	
Transgender community	85%

Table 18. Ethnicity of victims and perpetrators and estimated volume of crimes for racially aggravated hate crimes

Ethnicity category	Victims ¹		Perpetrators ²	
	Proportion (%)	Estimated volume	Proportion (%)	Estimated volume
White Scottish	10%	320	78%	2,160
Other White British	7%	230	11%	310
White Irish	2%	60	2%	40
Gypsy / Traveller	*	*	-	-
White Polish	8%	240	1%	40
Other White	8%	230	1%	20
Mixed or multiple ethnic group	3%	90	*	*
Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British	18%	580	1%	20
Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British	6%	190	*	*
Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi Scottish or Bangladeshi British	1%	40	-	-
Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British	2%	60	-	-
Other Asian	9%	290	1%	20
African, African Scottish or African British	12%	380	2%	60
Other African	*	*	-	-
Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British	*	*	-	-
Black, Black Scottish or Black British	2%	60	*	*
Other Caribbean or Black	2%	50	*	*
Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British	3%	110	*	*
Other Ethnic Group	4%	120	1%	30

1. Including only crimes where the victim was not a police officer in the line of duty, or a business or organisation.

2. Including only crimes where a perpetrator was identified.

Annex

Recording of crimes and offences

Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are generally divided for statistical purposes into crimes or offences. 'Crime' is generally used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious termed 'offences', although the term 'offence' may also be used in relation to serious breaches of criminal law. The distinction is made only for working purposes and the 'seriousness' of the offence is generally related to the maximum sentence that can be imposed.

The detailed classification of crimes used by the Scottish Government to collect criminal statistics contains around 500 crime codes. These are grouped in the bulletin as shown in the table below:

Crimes	Includes
Crimes of violence and sexual crimes	Murder, attempted murder, serious assault, culpable homicide, robbery, threats and extortion. Rape & attempted rape, sexual assault, crimes associated with prostitution, other sexual crimes.
Crimes of dishonesty	Housebreaking, theft of motor vehicle, shoplifting, fraud, other crimes of dishonesty.
Vandalism, fire-raising etc.	Fire-raising, vandalism, other malicious and reckless conduct.
Other crimes	Crimes against public justice, handling offensive weapons, drugs crimes, crimes against public justice.
Offences	Includes
All offences	Common assault, breach of the peace, threatening or abusive behaviour, stalking, offensive behaviour at football, threatening communications, racially aggravated harassment, racially aggravated conduct, antisocial behaviour offences, Communications Act 2003 offences, motor vehicle offences.

Crime definitions

Assault - In Scotland, assault is a common law offence. In order to distinguish between serious and common assaults, Police Scotland use a common definition for serious assault as outlined in the Scottish Crime Recording Standard²¹:

‘An assault or attack in which the victim/reporter sustains injury resulting in detention in hospital as an inpatient, for the treatment of that injury, or any of the following injuries whether or not detained in hospital:

- Fractures (the breaking or cracking of a bone. Note - nose is cartilage not bone, so a 'broken nose' should not be classified unless it meets one of the other criteria)
- Internal injuries
- Severe concussion
- Lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement
- Any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement.’

Threatening or abusive behaviour - Section 38, Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 - a person commits an offence if,

- a) they behave in a threatening or abusive manner,
- b) the behaviour would be likely to cause a reasonable person to suffer fear or alarm, and
- c) intends by the behaviour to cause fear or alarm or is reckless as to whether the behaviour would cause fear or alarm.

This applies to,

- a) behaviour of any kind including, in particular, things said or otherwise communicated as well as things done, and
- b) behaviour consisting of –
 - i. a single act, or
 - ii. a course of conduct

²¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scrb-manual/>

Standalone racially aggravated offences - the offender asserts towards the person affected, malice and ill-will based on that person's membership (or presumed membership) of a racial group; or the course of conduct or action is motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards members of a racial group based on their membership of that group:

- **Racially aggravated harassment** - a racially aggravated course of conduct, amounting to harassment.
- **Racially aggravated conduct** - to act in a manner, including speech, which is racially aggravated and which causes, or is intended to cause, a person alarm or distress.

Communications Act 2003 offences - Section 127(1) (Non-Sexual) - a person is guilty of an offence if they:

- a) send by means of a public electronic communications network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character, or
- b) causes any such message or matter to be sent.

How to access background or source data

The data collected for this social research publication:

- are available in more detail through statistics.gov.scot
- are available via an alternative route
- may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact JusticeAnalysts@gov.scot for further information.
- cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.



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