

Statistical Bulletin

Crime and Justice Series

11 December 2012

An Official Statistics Publication for Scotland

RACIST INCIDENTS RECORDED BY THE POLICE IN SCOTLAND, 2011-12

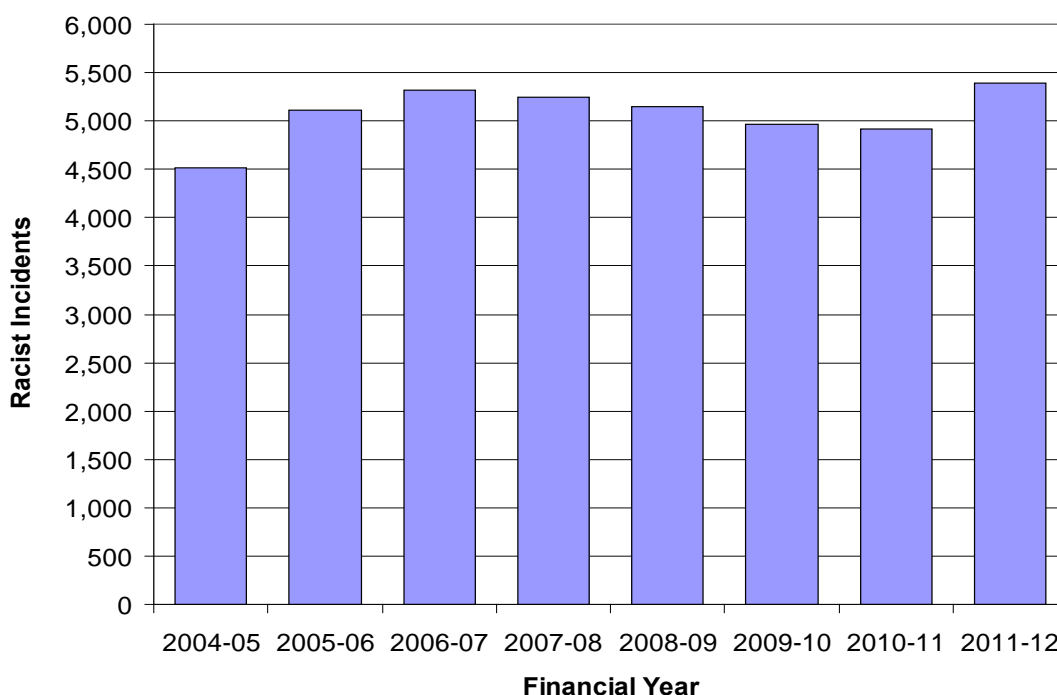
1. Introduction

1.1 This bulletin is part of a series of bulletins produced by the Scottish Government on the criminal justice system. It presents statistics on racist incidents recorded and cleared up by the eight Scottish police forces in 2011-12. Any racist incident reported to the police may involve one or more victims, one or more perpetrators, and result in one or more crimes or offences being recorded.

1.2 The definition of a racist incident, as given by Sir William MacPherson in his report on the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, is “any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person”.

1.3 The number of racist incidents recorded by the police in Scotland has increased for the first time in five years, with 5,389 racist incidents recorded in 2011-12, 10% higher than the 4,911 incidents recorded in 2010-11.

Chart 1 Racist incidents recorded by the police in Scotland, 2004-05 to 2011-12



| <u>Contents</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Introduction | 1 |
| 2. Main Points | 4 |
| 3. Commentary | 5 |
| 3.1. Incidents Recorded by the Police | 5 |
| 3.2. Detail of the Incidents | 5 |
| 3.3. Crimes Recorded | 8 |
| 3.4. Victims of Racist Incidents | 8 |
| 3.5. Perpetrators of Racist Incidents | 10 |
| 4. Notes on the Statistics used in this bulletin | 23 |
| 5. Classification of Crimes and Offences as used in this Bulletin..... | 29 |

List of Tables

| | |
|--|----|
| Table 1 Racist incidents recorded, by police force area, 2004-05 to 2011-12..... | 12 |
| Table 2 Racist incidents recorded, by local authority area, 2004-05 to 2011-12 | 13 |
| Table 3 Racist incidents recorded, by location of incident, 2004-05 to 2011-12..... | 14 |
| Table 4 Racist incidents recorded, by quarter, 2004-05 to 2011-12..... | 14 |
| Table 5 Racist incidents recorded, by day of week, 2004-05 to 2011-12 | 15 |
| Table 6 Racist incidents recorded, by category of person making initial report, 2004-05 to 2011-12 | 15 |
| Table 7a Crimes recorded by the police as part of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12 | 16 |
| Table 7b Clear-up rate of Crimes recorded by the police as part of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12 | 16 |
| Table 8 Ethnic origin of victims of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12..... | 17 |
| Table 9 Main language of victims of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12 | 17 |
| Table 10 Age and gender of victims of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12 | 18 |
| Table 11 Number of previous incidents reported to police by victim, 2004-05 to 2011-12 | 19 |
| Table 12 Ethnic origin of perpetrators of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12..... | 20 |
| Table 13 Main language of perpetrators of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12..... | 20 |
| Table 14 Age and gender of perpetrators of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12... | 21 |
| Table 15 Police action taken with regard to perpetrator, 2004-05 to 2011-12 | 22 |
| Table 16 Total incidents, crimes, victims and perpetrators, by financial year, 2004-05 to 2011-12 | 26 |

List of charts

| | |
|--|----|
| Chart 1 Racist incidents recorded by the police in Scotland, 2004-05 to 2011-12 | 1 |
| Chart 2 Racist Incidents recorded by the police per 10,000 population in 2011-12... | 6 |
| Chart 3 Location of racist incidents, Scotland, 2011-12 | 7 |
| Chart 4 Racist Incidents by weekday and time, 2004-05 to 2011-12..... | 7 |
| Chart 5 Rate per 10,000 population of victims and perpetrators of racist incidents, by age and gender of victim, Scotland, 2011-12 | 9 |
| Chart 6 Action taken against perpetrators of Racist Incidents, Scotland, 2011-12... | 10 |

2. Main Points

- There were 5,389 racist incidents recorded by the police in 2011-12, an increase of 10% compared to 2010-11 when 4,911 incidents were recorded. This is the first increase in the number of racist incidents recorded by the police in the last five years (Table 1).
- Racist Incidents resulted in the recording of 6,472 crimes in 2011-12, an increase of 5% compared to 2010-11 when 6,173 crimes were recorded. There was a 68% clear up rate on crimes recorded as part of a racist incident. This is a one percentage point increase on the 2010-11 clear up rate and the highest rate since 2004-05, when the racist incidents data collection started (Tables 1 and 7b).
- The most common crimes/offences recorded were racially aggravated conduct (57%) and breach of the peace etc. (19%). Please note that from in 2010-11 onwards, breach of the peace etc. includes a number of new statutory offences; Threatening or abusive behaviour, Stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications. See note 4.8. (Table 7a).
- In 2011-12, 34% of all racist incidents recorded by the police occurred on the street, while 19% took place in a dwelling house and a further 17% in a shop (where location of known) (Table 3).
- Of those who were victims of a racist incident, 34% were aged 26 to 35 years, compared to 13% who were aged 20 or under (where age and gender was known). Males were more likely to be a victim of a racist incident (17 per 10,000 population) than females (6 per 10,000 population) (Table 10). These rates have remained consistent since 2004-05.
- In 2011-12, where ethnic origin of the victim was known, 23% of victims were Pakistani, 22% were White British and 12% were Other white (which includes Gypsy Traveller, Polish White and Other White) (Table 8). These proportions have been changing gradually since 2004-05 when 36% of victims were Pakistani and 17% were White British and 3% were Other white.
- In 2011-12, 40% of perpetrators of racist incidents were aged 20 or under (where age and gender was known). Males were more likely to be a perpetrator of a racist incident (17 per 10,000 population) than females (4 per 10,000 population) (Table 14).
- Where the action taken against the perpetrator was known, 75% of perpetrators in 2011-12 were referred to the Procurator Fiscal or the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) (Table 15), 1 percentage point higher than in 2010-11.

3. Commentary

The statistics on racist incidents are used to inform National Outcome 9 – ‘we live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger’, National Outcome 11 – ‘we have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others’, as well as The Strategy for Justice in Scotland.

3.1. Incidents Recorded by the Police (tables 1, and 2 and charts 1 and 2)

- In 2011-12, there was a total of 5,389 racist incidents recorded by the police in Scotland, a 10% increase on the 4,911 racist incidents recorded in 2010-11. This is the first increase in the number of racist incidents recorded by the police in the last five years
- Grampian and Tayside recorded decreases in the number of racist incidents (8% and 5% respectively) between 2010-11 and 2011-12. The other six police forces all recorded an increase over the two year period ranging from 3% in Dumfries and Galloway to 37% in Northern.
- The number of racist incidents, as a rate per 10,000 population, is generally higher in urban areas. In 2011-12, the number of racist incidents recorded per head of population was highest in Glasgow City (25.0 per 10,000 population), followed by City of Edinburgh (20.5 per 10,000 population) and Aberdeen City (19.5 per 10,000 population).
- It should be noted that there are a number of factors that may influence the number of racist incidents recorded by the police. One reason is that police forces work with a range of victim support agencies to encourage reporting of such incidents. Other factors may be an increasing public intolerance of such behaviour, and increased public confidence that reporting such incidents is worthwhile. There have also been improvements in data collection by police forces, while the introduction of centralised call centres has encouraged the reporting of incidents. For example, in 2010-11, Fife attribute the increase in the number of racist incidents recorded in their area, from 2009-10 to 2010-11, to a revamp of their systems supporting the production of the data in April 2010, resulting in a more accurate number of racist incidents being recorded.
- Users of the statistics should note that data on the number of racist incidents recorded in Scotland is only available from 2004-05 onwards.

3.2. Detail of the Incidents (tables 3, 4, 5, and 6, and charts 3 and 4)

- Various details were recorded in relation to each racist incident, such as the location where the incident took place, the date and time of the incident, and whether a crime was recorded as part of the incident.

Chart 2 Racist Incidents recorded by the police per 10,000 population in 2011-12

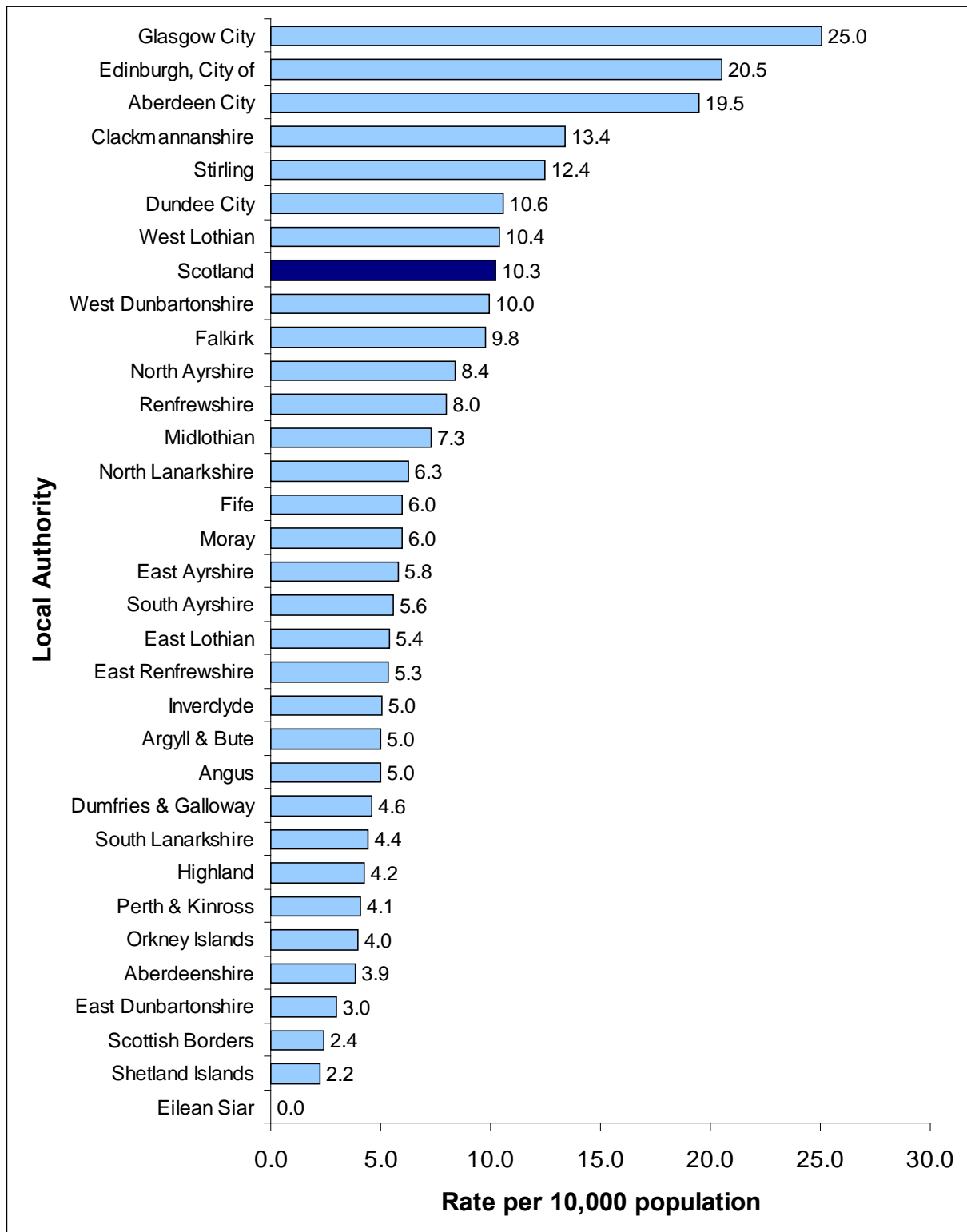
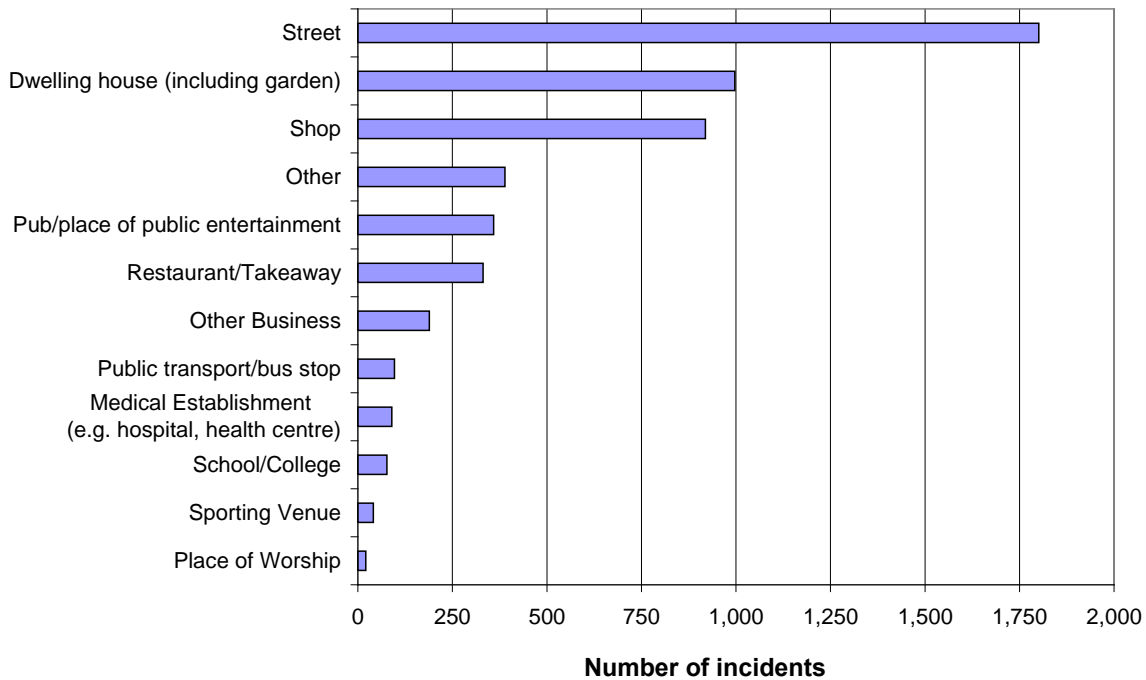
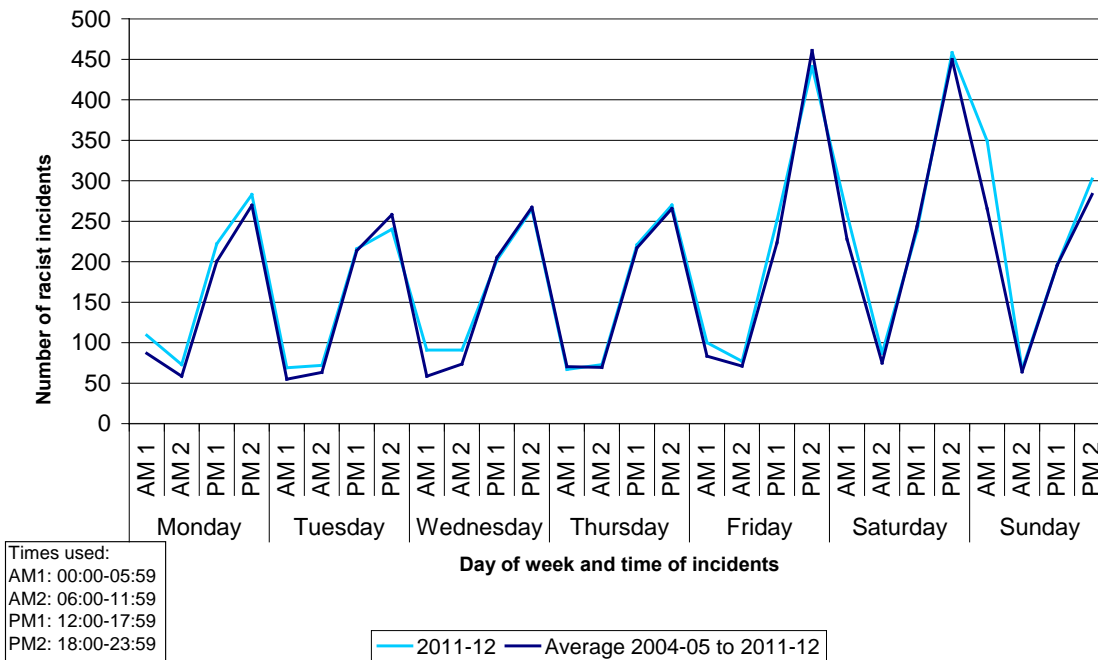


Chart 3 Location of racist incidents, Scotland, 2011-12



- The most common locations (where known) for an incident in 2011-12 were the street (34%), a dwelling house (19%) and in a shop (17%). Other locations included a pub/ place of entertainment (7%) and restaurant / takeaway (6%).

Chart 4 Racist Incidents by weekday and time, 2004-05 to 2011-12



- In 2011-12, the most common time of year at which racist incidents occurred was during July to September, although this varies from year to year. Just over half of all racist incidents (52%) were recorded between Friday and Sunday, with the remaining 48% spread fairly evenly throughout the other four days of

the week. Chart 4 shows that racist incidents peak between 6pm and midnight on every day of the week (Table 5).

- In 2011-12, where the person making the initial report about the incident was known, 69% of incidents were reported to the police by the victim, which is a 4 percentage point decrease on 2010-11. This proportion has been decreasing steadily since 2004-05 where 86% of incidents were reported by the victim. There have been steady increases in the percentage of incidents reported by witnesses (14% in 2011-12 compared to 4% in 2004-05) and the police (11% in 2011-12 compared to 4% in 2004-05). Information for 2009-10 onwards excludes Lothian & Borders, who were unable to provide data on who reported the incident (see note 4.3).

3.3. Crimes Recorded (tables 1, 7a, and 7b)

- In 2011-12, 99% of racist incidents recorded by the police resulted in one or more crimes being recorded.
- There was a total of 6,472 crimes recorded as part of racist incidents recorded in 2011-12, a 5% increase on the 6,173 crimes recorded in 2010-11. This is the first increase in the number of crimes recorded as part of a racist incident since 2007-08.
- In 2011-12, the crime/offence most frequently recorded as part of a racist incident was racially aggravated conduct, which accounted for 57% of all crimes recorded. Other crimes/offences recorded as part of a racist incident included breach of the peace etc. (19%), common assault (12%) and fire-raising / vandalism (5%). In 2011-12, these four crimes and offences account for 93% of all crime and offences recorded as part of a racist incident. Definitions of racially aggravated conduct and racially aggravated harassment are included in note 4.6. Please also note that Minor Assault has been renamed Common Assault, and that Crimes of Indecency have been renamed Sexual Offences.
- Overall, 68% of all crimes recorded by the police as part of a racist incident in 2011-12 were cleared up, up one percentage point from 2010-11. The clear-up rate varies depending on the crime recorded as part of the incident, with 38% of crimes involving fire-raising, vandalism being cleared up in 2011-12, compared to a clear-up rate of 75% for racially aggravated conduct. However, note that there were 325 crimes of fire-raising, vandalism recorded as part of an incident, compared to 3,658 offences of racially aggravated conduct. The clear-up rate for racially aggravated conduct has shown an increase every year since recording began, from the 56% cleared up in 2004-05. The definition of 'cleared-up' can be found in note 4.5.

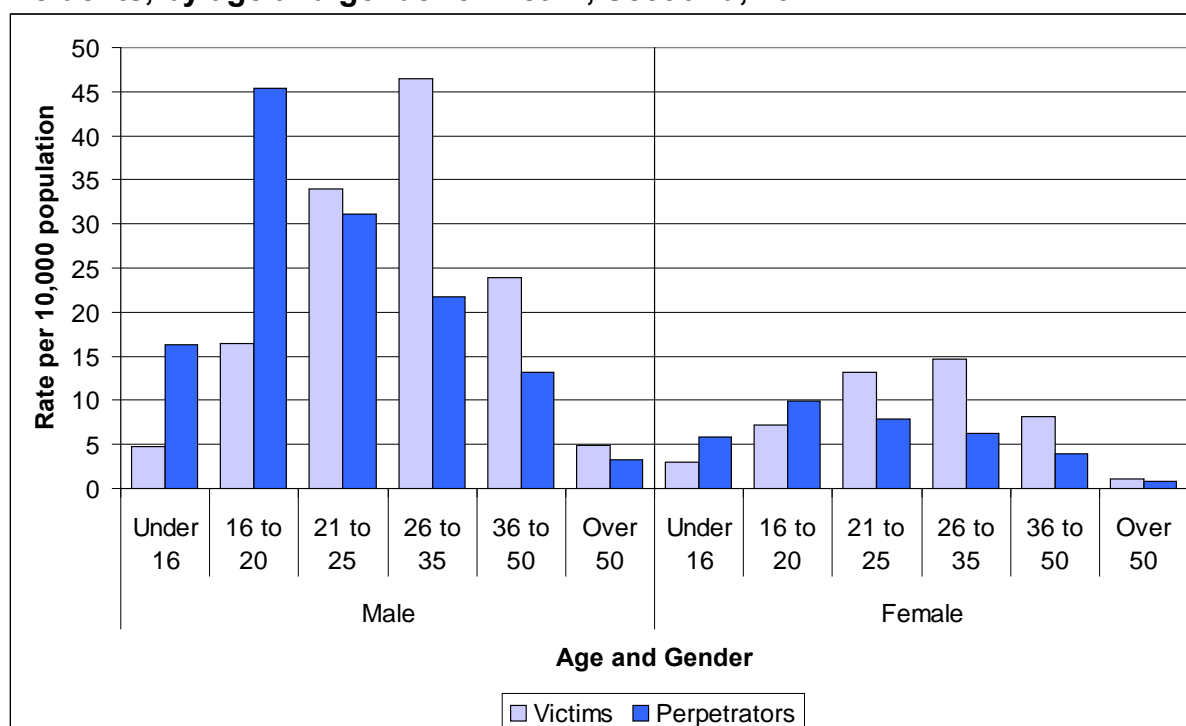
3.4. Victims of Racist Incidents (tables 8, 10 and 11 and chart 5)

- Where ethnic origin was known, 44% of victims were of Asian origin (that is Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese or Other Asian), the largest group being Pakistani (23%). Based on the 2001 Census figures, the largest

minority ethnic group in the Scottish population is Pakistani (note 4.10). The second largest ethnic group of victims of racist incidents in 2011-12 was White British (22%).

- Where age and gender was known, almost three quarters of victims of racist incidents recorded in 2011-12 were male, and this has remained relatively unchanged from previous years. Both males and females are most at risk of being a victim of a racist incidents when aged 26 to 35 years (46 per 10,000 population and 15 per 10,000 population, respectively).

Chart 5 Rate per 10,000 population of victims and perpetrators of racist incidents, by age and gender of victim, Scotland, 2011-12

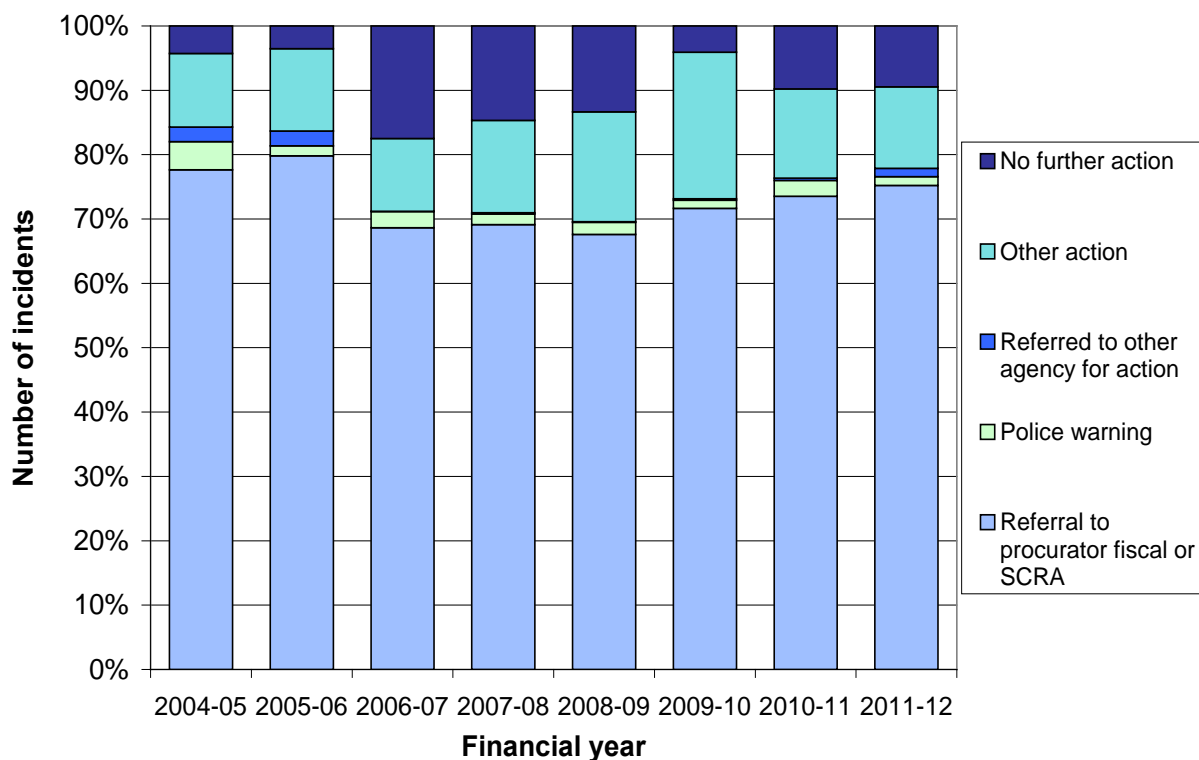


- In 2011-12, where the number of previous incidents occurring within the previous two years, reported to the police by the victim was known, 75% of victims were doing so for the first time, while 15% of victims had previously reported one or two racist incidents to the police. Note that these percentages were based on those incidents for which previous incident information was known. When recording whether the victim had reported previous racist incidents within the previous two years to the police, it was not always possible to determine the number of incidents previously reported. These have been described as 'unknown' in the table. 'Unknown' will also include victims for whom it was not known if they were a repeat victim or not. Central Scotland police force was unable to provide information for 2010-11 and 2011-12 on the number of previous incidents reported by the victim.

3.5. Perpetrators of Racist Incidents (tables 12, 13, 14 and 15 and chart 5)

- Information about perpetrators of racist incidents may only be fully available where the incident was resolved, and any crime involved has been cleared up (see note 4.5 for definition of cleared up).
- Where information on perpetrators was available, in 2011-12, 95% of perpetrators were of white origin, including White British (83%), White Irish (1%) and Other White (11%) (which includes Gypsy / Traveller and Polish White)
- Where age and gender was known, 40% of perpetrators in 2011-12 were aged 20 or under, with 21% of perpetrators under the age of 16 years, and therefore making them eligible for referral to the Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA) rather than the Procurator Fiscal.
- Males accounted for 78% of perpetrators of racist incidents recorded by the police in 2011-12. There were 373 perpetrators whose age and/or gender were not recorded and these were not included when calculating the relevant percentages above.
- Perpetrators of a racist incident were more likely to be aged 16 to 20 years for both males (45 per 10,000 population) and females (10 per 10,000 population). This age group has the highest rate per 10,000 population for both males and females in each year covered by the statistical bulletin.

Chart 6 Action taken against perpetrators of Racist Incidents, Scotland, 2011-12



- Where police action taken was known, 75% of perpetrators in 2011-12 were referred to the Procurator Fiscal or SCRA, while 1% received a police warning. No further action was taken against 9% of perpetrators of racist incidents recorded by the police in 2011-11. Information for 2011-12 was based on all forces apart from Lothian & Borders, who were unable to provide data on the police action taken with regard to the perpetrator (see note 4.3).

Table 1 Racist incidents recorded, by police force area, 2004-05 to 2011-12

| | | Number | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Police force | | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
| Central | Total Incidents | 280 | 355 | 357 | 336 | 381 | 267 | 278 | 332 |
| | Incidents which involved 1 or more crimes | 275 | 354 | 348 | 336 | 381 | 263 | 271 | 323 |
| | Total Crimes | 402 | 571 | 525 | 522 | 566 | 404 | 337 | 403 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | Total Incidents | 78 | 89 | 102 | 64 | 98 | 78 | 66 | 68 |
| | Incidents which involved 1 or more crimes | 69 | 73 | 71 | 58 | 82 | 67 | 62 | 61 |
| | Total Crimes | 85 | 91 | 95 | 58 | 95 | 74 | 69 | 64 |
| Fife ¹ | Total Incidents | 302 | 241 | 193 | 149 | 138 | 139 | 209 | 220 |
| | Incidents which involved 1 or more crimes | 276 | 205 | 193 | 149 | 138 | 139 | 209 | 216 |
| | Total Crimes | 464 | 355 | 271 | 218 | 187 | 177 | 260 | 252 |
| Grampian | Total Incidents | 437 | 386 | 439 | 391 | 621 | 624 | 629 | 577 |
| | Incidents which involved 1 or more crimes | 435 | 386 | 435 | 389 | 605 | 621 | 613 | 577 |
| | Total Crimes | 701 | 674 | 877 | 735 | 1,072 | 1,158 | 906 | 801 |
| Lothian and Borders | Total Incidents | 814 | 1,292 | 1,521 | 1,391 | 1,112 | 1,158 | 1,083 | 1,337 |
| | Incidents which involved 1 or more crimes | 814 | 1,280 | 1,521 | 1,390 | 1,112 | 1,154 | 1,083 | 1,337 |
| | Total Crimes | 913 | 1,306 | 1,543 | 1,493 | 1,366 | 1,348 | 1,368 | 1,579 |
| Northern | Total Incidents | 123 | 128 | 123 | 140 | 138 | 89 | 78 | 107 |
| | Incidents which involved 1 or more crimes | 116 | 128 | 113 | 130 | 138 | 88 | 67 | 90 |
| | Total Crimes | 217 | 143 | 144 | 188 | 139 | 89 | 94 | 94 |
| Strathclyde | Total Incidents | 2,152 | 2,216 | 2,213 | 2,396 | 2,289 | 2,321 | 2,284 | 2,478 |
| | Incidents which involved 1 or more crimes | 1,939 | 2,074 | 2,050 | 2,192 | 2,212 | 2,269 | 2,190 | 2,438 |
| | Total Crimes | 2,620 | 2,900 | 2,823 | 3,082 | 2,824 | 2,896 | 2,812 | 2,969 |
| Tayside | Total Incidents | 333 | 405 | 374 | 380 | 368 | 284 | 284 | 270 |
| | Incidents which involved 1 or more crimes | 332 | 405 | 374 | 380 | 368 | 284 | 284 | 270 |
| | Total Crimes | 332 | 404 | 376 | 380 | 368 | 324 | 327 | 310 |
| Scotland | Total Incidents | 4,519 | 5,112 | 5,322 | 5,247 | 5,145 | 4,960 | 4,911 | 5,389 |
| | Incidents which involved 1 or more crimes | 4,256 | 4,905 | 5,105 | 5,024 | 5,036 | 4,885 | 4,779 | 5,312 |
| | Total Crimes | 5,734 | 6,444 | 6,654 | 6,676 | 6,617 | 6,470 | 6,173 | 6,472 |

1. In April 2010, a revamp of the Fife police force systems which supports the production of racist incidents data has resulted in an increased and more accurate number of racist incidents being recorded in 2010-11.

Table 2 Racist incidents recorded, by local authority area, 2004-05 to 2011-12

Number and rate per 10,000 population

| Local Authority | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 | | 2010-11 | | 2011-12 | |
|---------------------|--------------|---|--------------|---|--------------|---|--------------|---|--------------|---|--------------|---|--------------|---|--------------|---|
| | Number | Rate per 10,000 population ¹ | Number | Rate per 10,000 population ¹ | Number | Rate per 10,000 population ¹ | Number | Rate per 10,000 population ¹ | Number | Rate per 10,000 population ¹ | Number | Rate per 10,000 population ¹ | Number | Rate per 10,000 population ¹ | Number | Rate per 10,000 population ¹ |
| Aberdeen City | 313 | 15 | 267 | 13 | 309 | 15 | 322 | 15 | 483 | 23 | 451 | 21 | 464 | 21 | 429 | 19 |
| Aberdeenshire | 86 | 4 | 75 | 3 | 88 | 4 | 31 | 1 | 107 | 4 | 90 | 4 | 90 | 4 | 96 | 4 |
| Angus | 46 | 4 | 66 | 6 | 55 | 5 | 50 | 5 | 65 | 6 | 45 | 4 | 49 | 4 | 55 | 5 |
| Argyll & Bute | 33 | 4 | 25 | 3 | 43 | 5 | 34 | 4 | 25 | 3 | 26 | 3 | 32 | 4 | 45 | 5 |
| Clackmannanshire | 50 | 10 | 49 | 10 | 58 | 12 | 58 | 12 | 53 | 10 | 41 | 8 | 35 | 7 | 68 | 13 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 78 | 5 | 89 | 6 | 102 | 7 | 64 | 4 | 98 | 7 | 78 | 5 | 66 | 4 | 68 | 5 |
| Dundee City | 217 | 15 | 246 | 17 | 242 | 17 | 244 | 17 | 215 | 15 | 160 | 11 | 157 | 11 | 154 | 11 |
| East Ayrshire | 75 | 6 | 67 | 6 | 78 | 7 | 69 | 6 | 71 | 6 | 81 | 7 | 74 | 6 | 70 | 6 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 41 | 4 | 33 | 3 | 33 | 3 | 42 | 4 | 38 | 4 | 41 | 4 | 40 | 4 | 31 | 3 |
| East Lothian | 28 | 3 | 38 | 4 | 64 | 7 | 54 | 6 | 35 | 4 | 35 | 4 | 47 | 5 | 53 | 5 |
| East Renfrewshire | 48 | 5 | 55 | 6 | 40 | 4 | 33 | 4 | 36 | 4 | 40 | 4 | 43 | 5 | 48 | 5 |
| Edinburgh, City of | 599 | 13 | 972 | 21 | 1,179 | 25 | 1,021 | 22 | 822 | 17 | 898 | 19 | 844 | 17 | 1,017 | 21 |
| Eilean Siar | 18 | 7 | 12 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 11 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | - |
| Falkirk | 160 | 11 | 182 | 12 | 167 | 11 | 171 | 11 | 215 | 14 | 124 | 8 | 152 | 10 | 151 | 10 |
| Fife | 302 | 9 | 241 | 7 | 193 | 5 | 149 | 4 | 138 | 4 | 139 | 4 | 209 | 6 | 220 | 6 |
| Glasgow City | 1,226 | 21 | 1,277 | 22 | 1,209 | 21 | 1,301 | 22 | 1,256 | 21 | 1,318 | 22 | 1,328 | 22 | 1,499 | 25 |
| Highland | 97 | 5 | 107 | 5 | 107 | 5 | 122 | 6 | 123 | 6 | 81 | 4 | 68 | 3 | 94 | 4 |
| Inverclyde | 32 | 4 | 36 | 4 | 31 | 4 | 52 | 6 | 38 | 5 | 20 | 2 | 27 | 3 | 40 | 5 |
| Midlothian | 52 | 7 | 81 | 10 | 40 | 5 | 65 | 8 | 43 | 5 | 35 | 4 | 46 | 6 | 60 | 7 |
| Moray | 38 | 4 | 44 | 5 | 42 | 5 | 38 | 4 | 31 | 4 | 83 | 9 | 75 | 9 | 52 | 6 |
| North Ayrshire | 91 | 7 | 103 | 8 | 102 | 8 | 99 | 7 | 100 | 7 | 92 | 7 | 88 | 7 | 113 | 8 |
| North Lanarkshire | 181 | 6 | 207 | 6 | 234 | 7 | 282 | 9 | 249 | 8 | 252 | 8 | 220 | 7 | 205 | 6 |
| Orkney Islands | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| Perth & Kinross | 70 | 5 | 93 | 7 | 77 | 5 | 86 | 6 | 88 | 6 | 79 | 5 | 78 | 5 | 61 | 4 |
| Renfrewshire | 131 | 8 | 86 | 5 | 130 | 8 | 123 | 7 | 118 | 7 | 122 | 7 | 145 | 9 | 136 | 8 |
| Scottish Borders | 26 | 2 | 43 | 4 | 41 | 4 | 47 | 4 | 46 | 4 | 43 | 4 | 38 | 3 | 27 | 2 |
| Shetland Islands | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| South Ayrshire | 42 | 4 | 64 | 6 | 45 | 4 | 63 | 6 | 53 | 5 | 77 | 7 | 50 | 4 | 62 | 6 |
| South Lanarkshire | 162 | 5 | 181 | 6 | 199 | 6 | 212 | 7 | 210 | 7 | 179 | 6 | 168 | 5 | 139 | 4 |
| Stirling | 70 | 8 | 124 | 14 | 132 | 15 | 107 | 12 | 113 | 13 | 102 | 11 | 91 | 10 | 113 | 12 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 90 | 10 | 82 | 9 | 69 | 8 | 86 | 9 | 95 | 10 | 73 | 8 | 69 | 8 | 90 | 10 |
| West Lothian | 109 | 7 | 158 | 10 | 197 | 12 | 204 | 12 | 166 | 10 | 147 | 9 | 108 | 6 | 180 | 10 |
| Scotland | 4,519 | 9 | 5,112 | 10 | 5,322 | 10 | 5,247 | 10 | 5,145 | 10 | 4,960 | 10 | 4,911 | 9 | 5,389 | 10 |

1. Population data used to calculate these rates are the relevant mid year population estimates prepared by the National Records of Scotland: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/index.html>

Table 3 Racist incidents recorded, by location of incident, 2004-05 to 2011-12

| Location | Number and percentage | | | | | | | | % breakdown 2011-12 |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 ¹ | 2009-10 ² | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | |
| Dwelling house (including garden) | 804 | 845 | 1,418 | 913 | 895 | 715 | 933 | 997 | 19 |
| Street | 1,396 | 1,763 | 1,818 | 1,626 | 1,652 | 1,240 | 1,623 | 1,801 | 34 |
| Shop | 1,101 | 1,145 | 823 | 1,121 | 718 | 677 | 834 | 919 | 17 |
| Restaurant/Takeaway | 388 | 449 | 353 | 389 | 369 | 317 | 390 | 331 | 6 |
| Other Business | 129 | 164 | 122 | 144 | 430 | 116 | 128 | 189 | 4 |
| Public transport/bus stop | 51 | 74 | 73 | 88 | 143 | 72 | 95 | 97 | 2 |
| School/College | 73 | 71 | 59 | 69 | 65 | 51 | 55 | 77 | 1 |
| Sporting Venue | 17 | 21 | 22 | 24 | 126 | 19 | 32 | 41 | 1 |
| Pub/place of public entertainment | 143 | 185 | 148 | 214 | 195 | 219 | 271 | 359 | 7 |
| Place of Worship | 12 | 28 | 19 | 31 | 13 | 11 | 15 | 21 | * |
| Medical Establishment (e.g. hospital, health centre) | 47 | 61 | 50 | 59 | 58 | 49 | 72 | 90 | 2 |
| Other | 358 | 305 | 417 | 566 | 468 | 331 | 463 | 389 | 7 |
| Unknown | - | 1 | - | 3 | 13 | 1,143 | - | 78 | |
| Total | 4,519 | 5,112 | 5,322 | 5,247 | 5,145 | 4,960 | 4,911 | 5,389 | 1 |

1. Information for 2008-09 is not directly comparable with previous years due to changes in recording practices for Lothian & Borders police force. Please see note 4.3.

2. Information on location of incident was not available for 2009-10 for Lothian & Borders police force. Please see note 4.3.

Table 4 Racist incidents recorded, by quarter¹, 2004-05 to 2011-12

| Month | Number | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
| April to June | 1,221 | 1,207 | 1,303 | 1,599 | 1,341 | 1,354 | 1,365 | 1,349 |
| July to September | 1,187 | 1,508 | 1,465 | 1,399 | 1,230 | 1,276 | 1,189 | 1,468 |
| October to December | 1,138 | 1,267 | 1,317 | 1,147 | 1,252 | 1,264 | 1,210 | 1,309 |
| January to March | 973 | 1,130 | 1,237 | 1,102 | 1,322 | 1,066 | 1,147 | 1,263 |
| Total | 4,519 | 5,112 | 5,322 | 5,247 | 5,145 | 4,960 | 4,911 | 5,389 |

1. Where the date was unknown, forces were asked to record as 15th of month; if month was unknown, forces were asked to record as 15th June.

Table 5 Racist incidents recorded, by day of week¹, 2004-05 to 2011-12

| Day | Number | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
| Monday | 569 | 639 | 624 | 621 | 642 | 573 | 570 | 687 |
| Tuesday | 538 | 576 | 624 | 661 | 595 | 544 | 585 | 597 |
| Wednesday | 557 | 600 | 652 | 641 | 593 | 585 | 561 | 649 |
| Thursday | 571 | 629 | 628 | 635 | 631 | 629 | 626 | 631 |
| Friday | 789 | 915 | 892 | 859 | 855 | 792 | 739 | 869 |
| Saturday | 834 | 999 | 1,088 | 1,037 | 984 | 1,012 | 973 | 1,042 |
| Sunday | 661 | 754 | 814 | 793 | 845 | 825 | 857 | 914 |
| Total | 4,519 | 5,112 | 5,322 | 5,247 | 5,145 | 4,960 | 4,911 | 5,389 |

1. Where the date was unknown, forces were asked to record as 15th of month; if month unknown, asked to record as 15th June. The 'day' variable was then calculated from this date. Some days will therefore include unknown values.

Table 6 Racist incidents recorded, by category of person making initial report, 2004-05 to 2011-12

| Reporter | Number | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 ¹ | 2010-11 ¹ | 2011-12 ¹ |
| Victim | 3,833 | 4,391 | 4,373 | 3,987 | 3,737 | 2,867 | 2,778 | 2,800 |
| Police | 158 | 220 | 350 | 518 | 671 | 329 | 355 | 462 |
| Third part agency report | 31 | 74 | 38 | 50 | 73 | 80 | 67 | 68 |
| Witness | 282 | 213 | 331 | 404 | 419 | 356 | 453 | 574 |
| Other | 215 | 214 | 230 | 285 | 230 | 170 | 175 | 148 |
| Unknown | - | - | - | 3 | 15 | 1,158 | 1,083 | 1,337 |
| Total | 4,519 | 5,112 | 5,322 | 5,247 | 5,145 | 4,960 | 4,911 | 5,389 |

1. Information on person making initial report was not available for Lothian & Borders for 2009-10 onwards.

Table 7a Crimes recorded by the police as part of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12

Number

| Crimes recorded | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Crimes of violence and sexual offences | 69 | 83 | 75 | 65 | 84 | 60 | 74 | 73 |
| Crimes of dishonesty | 62 | 67 | 83 | 73 | 72 | 91 | 48 | 52 |
| Fire-raising, vandalism etc | 468 | 571 | 473 | 456 | 366 | 403 | 353 | 325 |
| Other crimes | 82 | 96 | 105 | 84 | 69 | 94 | 46 | 34 |
| Total offences - of which | 5,053 | 5,627 | 5,915 | 5,989 | 6,026 | 5,822 | 5,652 | 5,988 |
| Common Assault | 750 | 876 | 908 | 812 | 739 | 884 | 848 | 803 |
| Breach of the peace | 915 | 795 | 859 | 1,066 | 1,125 | 829 | 820 | 1,201 |
| Racially aggravated harassment | 360 | 300 | 237 | 247 | 228 | 183 | 159 | 121 |
| Racially aggravated conduct | 2,969 | 3,583 | 3,808 | 3,778 | 3,815 | 3,801 | 3,683 | 3,658 |
| Other offences | 59 | 73 | 103 | 86 | 119 | 125 | 142 | 205 |
| Unknown crimes/offences | - | - | 3 | 9 | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 5,734 | 6,444 | 6,654 | 6,676 | 6,617 | 6,470 | 6,173 | 6,472 |

1. Includes Breach of the peace, Threatening or abusive behaviour, Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive behaviour at football and threatening communications Act 2012). See note 4.8.

Table 7b Clear-up rate of Crimes recorded by the police as part of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12

Percentage

| Crimes cleared up | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Crimes of violence and sexual offences | 49 | 34 | 49 | 55 | 62 | 70 | 69 | 73 |
| Crimes of dishonesty | 48 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 63 | 65 | 52 | 62 |
| Fire-raising, vandalism etc | 33 | 32 | 38 | 36 | 35 | 47 | 37 | 38 |
| Other crimes | 82 | 81 | 90 | 85 | 86 | 94 | 89 | 85 |
| Total offences - of which | 56 | 56 | 60 | 60 | 65 | 68 | 69 | 70 |
| Common Assault | 51 | 53 | 55 | 57 | 63 | 69 | 68 | 69 |
| Breach of the peace | 62 | 56 | 67 | 62 | 71 | 73 | 70 | 60 |
| Racially aggravated harassment | 57 | 46 | 57 | 57 | 61 | 63 | 67 | 62 |
| Racially aggravated conduct | 56 | 58 | 60 | 60 | 64 | 68 | 70 | 75 |
| Other offences | 24 | 32 | 38 | 29 | 46 | 61 | 44 | 51 |
| Total | 54 | 54 | 58 | 58 | 63 | 67 | 67 | 68 |

1. Includes Breach of the peace, Threatening or abusive behaviour, Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications (Offensive behaviour at football and threatening communications Act 2012). See note 4.8.

Table 8 Ethnic origin¹ of victims of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12

| Ethnic Group | Number and percentage | | | | | | | | % breakdown 2011-12 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | |
| White British | 826 | 1,030 | 983 | 1,030 | 1,095 | 1,158 | 1,048 | 1,295 | 22 |
| White Irish | 63 | 91 | 139 | 121 | 124 | 87 | 131 | 95 | 2 |
| Other White ² | 130 | 122 | 414 | 477 | 509 | 534 | 546 | 700 | 12 |
| Mixed | 127 | 149 | 170 | 152 | 150 | 129 | 248 | 151 | 3 |
| Indian | 443 | 431 | 507 | 488 | 609 | 557 | 536 | 486 | 8 |
| Pakistani | 1,773 | 1,545 | 1,833 | 1,654 | 1,584 | 1,458 | 1,376 | 1,357 | 23 |
| Bangladeshi | 67 | 26 | 67 | 48 | 54 | 62 | 95 | 57 | 1 |
| Other Asian | 508 | 984 | 532 | 559 | 505 | 497 | 503 | 520 | 9 |
| Caribbean | 92 | 171 | 59 | 53 | 59 | 46 | 46 | 35 | 1 |
| African | 321 | 325 | 404 | 443 | 478 | 505 | 416 | 539 | 9 |
| Other Black | 118 | 68 | 111 | 181 | 160 | 115 | 249 | 174 | 3 |
| Chinese | 151 | 153 | 183 | 117 | 152 | 127 | 110 | 153 | 3 |
| Other | 295 | 379 | 339 | 290 | 290 | 323 | 335 | 327 | 6 |
| Unknown | 145 | 346 | 222 | 177 | 226 | 185 | 267 | 422 | |
| Total | 5,059 | 5,820 | 5,963 | 5,790 | 5,995 | 5,783 | 5,906 | 6,311 | 100 |

1. See note 4.6 for detail of changes to ethnic origin classifications implemented in 2009-10.

2. Includes Gypsy/Traveller, Polish White and Other White.

Table 9 Main language of victims of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12

| Language | Number | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
| English | 4,238 | 4,770 | 5,058 | 3,880 | 3,846 | 3,559 | 3,399 | 4,022 |
| Other | 652 | 728 | 637 | 1,562 | 806 | 505 | 498 | 510 |
| Unknown ^{1,2} | 169 | 322 | 268 | 348 | 1,343 | 1,719 | 2,009 | 1,779 |
| Total | 5,059 | 5,820 | 5,963 | 5,790 | 5,995 | 5,783 | 5,906 | 6,311 |

1. Lothian & Borders police force was unable to provide data on main language of victim for 2008-09 onwards and have therefore been included as 'unknown'.

2. Central Scotland police force was unable to provide information for 2010-11 and 2011-12 on the main language of victim, and have therefore been included as 'unknown'.

Table 10 Age and gender of victims of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12

Number and rate per 10,000 population

| Gender | Age | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | rate per 10,000 population (2011-12) |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Male | Under 16 | 198 | 218 | 269 | 172 | 217 | 211 | 229 | 220 | 5 |
| | 16 to 20 | 279 | 332 | 346 | 306 | 288 | 285 | 286 | 277 | 16 |
| | 21 to 25 | 482 | 525 | 664 | 634 | 688 | 649 | 615 | 637 | 34 |
| | 26 to 35 | 1,172 | 1,286 | 1,413 | 1,315 | 1,484 | 1,450 | 1,545 | 1,566 | 46 |
| | 36 to 50 | 1,124 | 1,285 | 1,207 | 1,267 | 1,328 | 1,210 | 1,216 | 1,294 | 24 |
| | Over 50 | 356 | 346 | 313 | 369 | 341 | 330 | 346 | 420 | 5 |
| | Total Male | | 3,611 | 3,992 | 4,212 | 4,063 | 4,346 | 4,135 | 4,237 | 4,414 |
| Female | Under 16 | 116 | 135 | 200 | 115 | 126 | 115 | 153 | 133 | 3 |
| | 16 to 20 | 96 | 109 | 140 | 128 | 108 | 128 | 126 | 116 | 7 |
| | 21 to 25 | 165 | 188 | 182 | 203 | 199 | 168 | 183 | 238 | 13 |
| | 26 to 35 | 364 | 416 | 383 | 427 | 391 | 427 | 398 | 485 | 15 |
| | 36 to 50 | 363 | 455 | 415 | 412 | 413 | 427 | 444 | 475 | 8 |
| | Over 50 | 111 | 105 | 108 | 91 | 115 | 128 | 118 | 106 | 1 |
| | Total Female | | 1,215 | 1,408 | 1,428 | 1,376 | 1,352 | 1,393 | 1,422 | 1,553 |
| Unknown gender/age | | 233 | 420 | 323 | 351 | 297 | 255 | 247 | 344 | |
| Total | | 5,059 | 5,820 | 5,963 | 5,790 | 5,995 | 5,783 | 5,906 | 6,311 | 12 |

Table 11 Number of previous incidents¹ reported to police by victim, 2004-05 to 2011-12

| | Number | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Number of incidents | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
| None - first report | 3,543 | 4,157 | 4,350 | 3,918 | 4,043 | 3,910 | 3,959 | 4,073 |
| 1 | 447 | 508 | 517 | 475 | 544 | 541 | 518 | 542 |
| 2 | 216 | 241 | 245 | 250 | 240 | 253 | 218 | 255 |
| 3 | 121 | 132 | 130 | 143 | 152 | 151 | 134 | 142 |
| 4 | 73 | 96 | 74 | 91 | 97 | 79 | 77 | 77 |
| 5 | 52 | 61 | 49 | 66 | 69 | 75 | 53 | 54 |
| 6 | 47 | 47 | 49 | 34 | 42 | 53 | 37 | 35 |
| 7 | 32 | 34 | 36 | 19 | 27 | 41 | 37 | 34 |
| 8 | 24 | 21 | 31 | 21 | 24 | 28 | 37 | 27 |
| 9 | 20 | 20 | 24 | 16 | 19 | 22 | 22 | 19 |
| 10 or more | 110 | 105 | 150 | 136 | 172 | 124 | 126 | 158 |
| Unknown ² | 374 | 398 | 308 | 621 | 566 | 506 | 688 | 895 |
| Total | 5,059 | 5,820 | 5,963 | 5,790 | 5,995 | 5,783 | 5,906 | 6,311 |

1. Previous incidents occurring within the previous two years.

2. Central Scotland police force was unable to provide information for 2010-11 and 2011-12 on the number of previous incidents reported by the victim, and these incidents have therefore been included as 'unknown'.

Table 12 Ethnic origin of perpetrators of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12

| Ethnic Group | Number and percentage | | | | | | | | % breakdown 2011-12 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | |
| White British | 3,060 | 3,743 | 4,320 | 4,281 | 4,161 | 4,219 | 4,183 | 4,075 | 83 |
| White Irish | 16 | 32 | 32 | 58 | 43 | 36 | 71 | 38 | 1 |
| Other White ^{1,2} | 19 | 20 | 101 | 61 | 104 | 125 | 661 | 538 | 11 |
| Mixed | 42 | 14 | 13 | 16 | 24 | 20 | 17 | 18 | * |
| Asian ³ | 73 | 106 | 132 | 100 | 117 | 99 | 99 | 145 | 3 |
| Black ⁴ | 25 | 27 | 69 | 48 | 38 | 46 | 64 | 48 | 1 |
| Other | 11 | 22 | 11 | 14 | 26 | 23 | 30 | 26 | 1 |
| Unknown | 75 | 136 | 404 | 435 | 934 | 936 | 437 | 393 | |
| Total | 3,321 | 4,100 | 5,082 | 5,013 | 5,447 | 5,504 | 5,562 | 5,281 | 100 |

1. Following a transition to the 21 group ethnic classification codes, Central Scotland and Lothian & Borders have each had a larger number of perpetrators classing themselves as 'White European', who would therefore be classified as 'Other White'.

2. Includes Gypsy/Traveller, Polish White and Other White.

3. Includes Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese and Other Asian.

4. Includes Black African, Black Caribbean and Other Black.

Table 13 Main language of perpetrators of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12

| Language | Number | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
| English | 3,175 | 3,988 | 4,651 | 4,607 | 3,463 | 3,154 | 3,372 | 3,516 |
| Other | 56 | 20 | 38 | 56 | 45 | 31 | 46 | 45 |
| Unknown ¹ | 90 | 92 | 393 | 350 | 1,939 | 2,319 | 2,144 | 1,720 |
| Total | 3,321 | 4,100 | 5,082 | 5,013 | 5,447 | 5,504 | 5,562 | 5,281 |

1. Lothian & Borders were unable to provide information on main language of the perpetrator for 2008-09 onwards and have therefore been included as 'unknown'.

Table 14 Age and gender of perpetrators of racist incidents, 2004-05 to 2011-12

Number and rate per 10,000 population

| Gender | Age | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | rate per 10,000 population (2011-12) |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Male | Under 16 | 591 | 694 | 934 | 791 | 864 | 913 | 900 | 762 | 16 |
| | 16 to 20 | 643 | 939 | 911 | 841 | 939 | 1,016 | 970 | 765 | 45 |
| | 21 to 25 | 341 | 401 | 465 | 501 | 561 | 580 | 586 | 585 | 31 |
| | 26 to 35 | 435 | 489 | 612 | 564 | 666 | 659 | 679 | 735 | 22 |
| | 36 to 50 | 384 | 464 | 592 | 619 | 626 | 704 | 682 | 708 | 13 |
| | Over 50 | 121 | 121 | 202 | 223 | 222 | 203 | 238 | 278 | 3 |
| | Total Male | | 2,515 | 3,108 | 3,716 | 3,539 | 3,878 | 4,075 | 4,055 | 3,833 |
| Female | Under 16 | 162 | 286 | 303 | 228 | 263 | 254 | 288 | 258 | 6 |
| | 16 to 20 | 112 | 174 | 223 | 186 | 206 | 209 | 177 | 161 | 10 |
| | 21 to 25 | 67 | 78 | 83 | 100 | 112 | 115 | 130 | 143 | 8 |
| | 26 to 35 | 158 | 130 | 145 | 174 | 162 | 179 | 192 | 206 | 6 |
| | 36 to 50 | 132 | 158 | 189 | 191 | 205 | 214 | 213 | 229 | 4 |
| | Over 50 | 31 | 42 | 50 | 55 | 70 | 73 | 57 | 78 | 1 |
| | Total Female | | 662 | 868 | 993 | 934 | 1,018 | 1,044 | 1,057 | 1,075 |
| Unknown gender/age | | 144 | 124 | 373 | 540 | 551 | 385 | 450 | 373 | |
| Total | | 3,321 | 4,100 | 5,082 | 5,013 | 5,447 | 5,504 | 5,562 | 5,281 | 10 |

Table 15 Police action taken with regard to perpetrator, 2004-05 to 2011-12

| | Number | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Action taken | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
| Referral to Procurator Fiscal or SCRA | 2,512 | 3,181 | 3,353 | 3,446 | 3,652 | 2,477 | 2,699 | 2,846 |
| Police warning | 141 | 62 | 123 | 82 | 101 | 44 | 91 | 52 |
| Referred to other agency for action | 74 | 92 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 49 |
| Other action | 370 | 509 | 553 | 716 | 922 | 787 | 509 | 479 |
| No further action | 138 | 141 | 854 | 731 | 721 | 141 | 359 | 358 |
| Unknown ¹ | 86 | 115 | 197 | 29 | 46 | 2,047 | 1,891 | 1,497 |
| Total | 3,321 | 4,100 | 5,082 | 5,013 | 5,447 | 5,504 | 5,562 | 5,281 |

1. Lothian & Borders police force was unable to provide data on police action taken for 2009-10 onwards, and the action taken with regard to perpetrators of these incidents have therefore been included as 'unknown'.

4. Notes on the Statistics used in this bulletin

4.1 Background

In response to the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry in 1999, the then Scottish Executive produced an action plan to progress the recommendations set out in the MacPherson report, which included the setting up of a statistical collection covering racist incidents.

The definition of a racist incident as given by Sir William MacPherson in his report on the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry is:

“A racist incident is any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.”

In the context of the data for this bulletin, the above definition was used.

4.2 Returns

The returns from which figures in this bulletin are taken are a simple count of the number of incidents recorded by the police and the crimes, victims and perpetrators arising from these incidents. Only returns from the eight Scottish police forces are included in this bulletin.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, the estimated costs of responding to statistical surveys and data collection are to be published. The estimated cost of compliance for supplying and validating the data for this bulletin was: **£3,700**.

Details of the calculation methodology are available on the Scottish Government Crime and Justice website at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/statistics/browse/crime-justice/costcalculation.

4.3 Recording issues

In an incident, one or more victims may be involved, and there may be one or more perpetrators. There may be no criminal element, or several crimes may be recorded by the police.

In Scotland, assault is a common law offence. In order to distinguish between serious and common assault, police forces use a standard definition of what constitutes a serious assault. Definitions are listed in note 4.6.

In previous years, there has been an inconsistency in the number of crimes recorded by the eight Scottish police forces. Some forces were reporting only the racially aggravated crimes associated with the racist incident and others have reported all crimes associated with the racist incident, including those with no racial aggravation, for example motoring offences. As a result, there may have been an over count in the number of crimes recorded as part of a racist incident. Police forces have been reviewing how they return this data to us and as a result, data is becoming more consistent.

Due to recording issues, Lothian & Borders police force was unable to provide data for 2009-10 to 2011-12 on: who first reported the incident; any agency to whom the incident was first reported; the main language of the victim and perpetrator; and the action taken against the perpetrator.

Due to changes in recording practices by Lothian & Borders police force, the classification used to describe the location of an incident resulted in an increase in the number of incidents being recorded at 'sporting venues' and 'other businesses' in 2008-09. This corresponded to a decrease in the number of incidents recorded at locations classified as 'shops'. Lothian & Borders police force was unable to provide information on the location of an incident in the 2009-10 data submission, and these have been classified as 'unknown'. However, the problem was rectified in time for the provision of 2010-11 data.

During preparation of this current statistical bulletin, it was noticed that the numbers of previous incidents that victims had reported to the police has been counted incorrectly. The data collection template includes two questions on repeat incidents; Whether the victim claims to have been a victim of previous incidents ('Yes' or 'No') and the number of previous incidents reported to the police. Tables had previously been produced based on the number of repeat incidents, without taking account of the Yes/No question and as a result, where the victim states 'No' for the first question, and the number of repeats had left blank, these were coded as 'unknown', when they should have been included in 'none – first report'. As a result, there has been a slight revision to the numbers in 'non-first report' and 'unknown'.

4.4 Reporting Practice

These statistics do not record all occurrences of racist incidents in Scotland. Not all incidents are reported to the police. The 2010-11 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey estimated that approximately 39% of all crimes came to the attention of the police.

4.5 Crimes and offences cleared up

The definition of "cleared up" is noted below. This definition came into force with effect from 1 April 1996.

A crime or offence is regarded as cleared up where there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots law, to justify consideration of criminal proceedings notwithstanding that a report is not submitted to the Procurator Fiscal because either

- (i) by standing agreement with the Procurator Fiscal, the police warn the accused due to the minor nature of the offence, or
- (ii) reporting is inappropriate due to the non-age of the accused, death of the accused or other similar circumstances.

4.6 Definitions

Incident - an incident is any communication by whatever means about a matter which comes to the police attention which they may be required to act upon.

Crime - an act committed in violation of the law (common law or statute). Any single incident may include a number of crimes, or there might be no criminal element. See section 5.

Victim – the individual who perceived the incident to be racist. In any incident, there could be one or more victims, and in some cases, no victim (e.g. graffiti reported to the police but no specific victim targeted).

Perpetrator – the person who was deemed responsible for the incident. In any incident, there could be one or more perpetrators.

Racially-aggravated - 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.

Serious assault - A serious assault is an assault or attack in which the victim sustains an 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 (mean the breaking or cracking of a bone), internal injuries, severe concussion, lacerations requiring sutures which may lead to impairment or disfigurement, Any other injury which may lead to impairment or disfigurement.

Please note that nose is cartilage, not bone, so a 'broken nose' should not be classified as a serious assault unless it meets one of the other criteria.

Slight changes to the definition of serious assault were made in April 2011. Loss of consciousness is no longer included in the definition of what constitutes a serious assault.

Ethnicity – 2009-10 was the first year in which forces were asked to use the new classification of 21 groups (listed below) to record the ethnic group of victim and perpetrator. An individual is asked to 'self declare' their ethnic origin. Due to differences in recording systems used, not all police forces have been able to provide data using the new classification codes. For these areas, data was provided on the basis of the 13 group classification instead.

In order to compare ethnic classifications over the time period covered by the bulletin, the new ethnicity classifications have been aggregated to match the previous classification of 13 groups. This aggregation is detailed below.

In Table 8, changes in the figures of the ethnic origin of victims, from 2008-09 to 2011-12, may in part be due to the changes implemented in classification codes. Therefore, trend data within these ethnic classification groups should be treated with caution. This is less of a problem for Table 12, as the groups have been aggregated to avoid the reporting of small numbers which could result in self identification of individuals.

Ethnic Groups collected:

| Group Number | Ethnic group | Group Number | Mapped to |
|--------------|--|--------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Scottish White | 1 | White British |
| 2 | English White | 1 | White British |
| 3 | Welsh White | 1 | White British |
| 4 | Northern Irish White | 1 | White British |
| 5 | British White | 1 | White British |
| 6 | Irish White | 2 | White Irish |
| 7 | Gypsy/Traveller White | 3 | Other White background |
| 8 | Polish White | 3 | Other White background |
| 9 | Other White | 3 | Other White background |
| 10 | Mixed or multiple ethnic groups | 4 | Mixed |
| 11 | Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British | 6 | Pakistani |
| 12 | Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British | 5 | Indian |
| 13 | Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi Scottish or Bangladeshi British | 7 | Bangladeshi |
| 14 | Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British | 12 | Chinese |
| 15 | Other Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British | 8 | Other Asian background |
| 16 | African, African Scottish or African British | 10 | African |
| 17 | Caribbean, Caribbean Scottish or Caribbean British | 9 | Caribbean |
| 18 | Black, Black Scottish or Black British | 11 | Other Black Background |
| 19 | Other African, Caribbean or Black – please state | 11 | Other Black Background |
| 20 | Arab | 13 | Other |
| 21 | Other | 13 | Other |

4.7 Total Incidents, Crimes, Victims and Perpetrators

Table 16 shows the total number of incidents, crimes, victims and perpetrators recorded by the police. Note that crimes, victims and perpetrators can have multiple entries per incident as well as multiple entries with one another (i.e. one crime may have several victims/perpetrators).

Table 16 Total incidents, crimes, victims and perpetrators, by financial year, 2004-05 to 2011-12

| | Number | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
| Incidents | 4,519 | 5,112 | 5,322 | 5,247 | 5,145 | 4,960 | 4,911 | 5,389 |
| Crimes | 5,734 | 6,444 | 6,654 | 6,676 | 6,617 | 6,470 | 6,173 | 6,472 |
| Victims | 5,059 | 5,820 | 5,963 | 5,790 | 5,995 | 5,783 | 5,906 | 6,311 |
| Perpetrators | 3,321 | 4,100 | 5,082 | 5,013 | 5,447 | 5,504 | 5,562 | 5,281 |

4.8 Classification

Contraventions of Scottish criminal law are divided for statistical purposes into crimes and offences. The term "crime" is generally used for the more serious criminal acts; the less serious are 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 and offences used by The Scottish Government to collect criminal statistics contains approximately 475 crime codes. These are grouped in the bulletin as shown in note 5.

For 2011-12 there have been a number of changes to the standard breakdowns included in the bulletin tables. Group 2 offences, previously called Crimes of Indecency, are now referred to as Sexual offences. The crime category Minor assault has been renamed Common Assault.

The offence category 'Breach of the peace' has been changed to 'Breach of the peace etc'. The category has been renamed as it now includes the following offences in addition to breach of the peace: Threatening or abusive behaviour, Offence of stalking, Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communications.

Threatening or abusive behaviour and Stalking were introduced in late 2010 when the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 was implemented. In the 2010-11 statistical bulletin, these offences were included in the 'other offences' category.

Offensive behaviour at football and Threatening communication were introduced when the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012 was implemented on 1 March 2012.

4.9 Scottish Crime Recording Standard

It was expected that the number of crimes would have been affected by the implementation (from 1 April 2004) of the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS), which means that no corroborative evidence is required initially to record a crime related incident as a crime if so perceived by the victim. This was expected to increase the number of minor crimes recorded by the police, such as minor crimes of vandalism, minor assaults and breach of the peace.

Previously, where there were crimes which the victim did not wish the police to actively investigate (for instance, if they were concerned that this could lead to more trouble), the crime itself would not have been recorded. Therefore the SCRS is thought to have caused an increase in the number of crimes recorded where there is no real possibility of clearing up the crime, which has an impact on the clear up rates.

4.10 Census figures for Scottish Population 2001

The following table gives the most recent Census figures for the ethnicity of the population of Scotland.

Scottish Population by Ethnic Group, 2001

| Ethnic group | Percentage of Total Population | Percentage of Minority Ethnic Population | Base |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------|
| White British | 95.5 | n/a | 4,832,756 |
| Other White | 1.5 | n/a | 78,150 |
| White Irish | 1.0 | n/a | 49,428 |
| Pakistani | 0.6 | 31.3 | 31,793 |
| Chinese | 0.3 | 16.0 | 16,310 |
| Indian | 0.3 | 14.8 | 15,037 |
| Any Mixed Background | 0.3 | 12.6 | 12,764 |
| Other Ethnic Group | 0.2 | 9.4 | 9,571 |
| Other South Asian | 0.1 | 6.1 | 6,196 |
| African | 0.1 | 5.0 | 5,118 |
| Bangladeshi | 0.0 | 1.9 | 1,981 |
| Caribbean | 0.0 | 1.7 | 1,778 |
| Black Scottish or other Black | 0.0 | 1.1 | 1,129 |
| All Minority Ethnic Population | 2.0 | 100 | 101,677 |
| All Population | 100 | n/a | 5,062,011 |

Source: Scottish Executive, Analysis of Ethnicity in the 2001 Census

Updated information on Ethnic group from the 2011 census is to be included in the second release statistics from Summer 2013. Further information can be found in: Scotland's Census 2011 - Outputs Prospectus Scotland.

4.11 Other

The following symbols are used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

- = Nil

* = <0.5

n/a = Not applicable

5. Classification of Crimes and Offences as used in this Bulletin

| CRIMES | Includes |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Crimes of Violence | Murder, attempted murder, serious assault, culpable homicide, robbery, threats and extortion |
| Sexual Offences | Rape & attempted rape, lewd and libidinous practices, procurement, other sexual offences |
| Crimes Involving Dishonesty | Housebreaking, theft of motor vehicle, shoplifting, fraud, other crimes of dishonesty |
| Crimes of Fire-Raising, Vandalism etc | Fire-raising, vandalism, other malicious and reckless conduct |
| Other Crimes | Handling offensive weapons, drug crimes, resisting arrest, crimes against public order |
| 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, motor vehicle offences, anti-social behaviour offences |

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