



Police Service
of Northern Ireland



Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland

2004/05 to 2021/22

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We welcome comment and feedback on these statistics. If you would like to forward your views, receive notification of new publications or be kept informed of developments relating to PSNI statistics, please email your contact details using the email address provided on the cover page.

Things you need to know about this release

Coverage

This release is produced in accordance with the pillars and principles set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) publishes figures on the levels and trends in police recorded incidents and crimes with a hate motivation. As these figures only relate to those hate motivated incidents reported to the police, they only provide an indication of the true extent of hate motivations. The statistics are collated and produced by statisticians seconded to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Collation of this data started in 2004/05.

This release presents statistics relating to incidents and crimes with a hate motivation recorded by the police between 2004/05 and 2021/22. Supplementary data are available from the [PSNI website \(opens in a new window\)](#) in the accompanying spreadsheets.

What is a hate motivated incident or hate motivated crime as recorded by the police?

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. PSNI also use the principles of this definition to record non-crime hate incidents (see 'Hate Incident or Hate Crime' below).

Hate Incident or Hate Crime?

Police recorded crime data is a victim oriented approach to crime recording. A crime will be recorded as having a hate motivation where it meets the relevant definition provided above. Not all hate motivated incidents will result in the recording of a crime, as what has occurred in the incident may not be of the level of severity that would result in a crime being recorded. Where crimes with a hate abuse motivation are recorded, they are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall police recorded crime statistics. This means that the recording practices, methods of counting outcomes and allocation of crime types in respect of police recorded crime statistics apply equally to crimes with a hate motivation.

Further details of the background and recording practice in relation to police recorded crime statistics are available in the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#). An explanation of what constitutes a crime is provided in Section 3.1 of this guide, while reference to hate motivated incidents and crimes is available in Section 7.

The victim of the hate crime will be recorded as the person to whom the hostility or prejudice is displayed, even if they do not have the personal characteristic targeted but are connected to someone who has, for example a parent who is harassed because they have a child with a disability. In some cases the personal characteristic may be incorrectly perceived by the person displaying the hostility or prejudice.

Within PSNI there are six strands of hate motivation that are monitored; Race, Homophobia (sexual orientation), Sectarianism, Faith/religion (non-sectarian), Disability and Transphobia. The definition for each of these motivations is provided on the next page, while an explanation of the perception test is provided below.

The Perception Test

Evidence is not the test when reporting a hate incident; when an incident or crime has been reported to police by the victim or by any other person and they perceive it as being motivated by prejudice or hate, it will be recorded and investigated as a hate incident or crime. The perception of the victim, or any other person is the defining factor in determining whether an incident is a hate incident, or in recognising the hostility element of a hate crime. Perception-based recording refers to the perception of the victim, or any other person. It would not be appropriate to record a crime or incident as a hate crime or hate incident if it was based on the perception of a person or group who had no knowledge of the victim, crime or the area, and who may be responding to media or internet stories or who are reporting for a political or similar motive. The other person could, however, be one of a number of people, including: police officers or staff; witnesses; family members; civil society organisations who know details of the victim, the crime or hate crimes in the locality, such as a third-party reporting charity; a carer or other professional who supports the victim; someone who has knowledge of hate crime in the area – this could include many professionals and experts such as the manager of an education centre used by people with learning disabilities who regularly receives reports of abuse from students; a person from within the group targeted with the hostility, e.g., a Traveller who witnessed racist damage in a local park.

Race

A racial group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins (this includes UK National origins i.e. Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) and references to a person's racial group refer to any racial group into which he/she falls. Racial group includes the Irish Traveller community.

Homophobia (sexual orientation)

Homophobia can be defined as a fear or dislike directed towards lesbian, gay or bisexual people, or a fear or dislike directed towards their perceived lifestyle, culture or characteristics. Sexual orientation can be defined as an individual's preference for a particular sex (be it the opposite or the same), or an individual's view of their own sexuality.

Sectarianism

The term 'sectarian', whilst not clearly defined, is a term almost exclusively used in Northern Ireland to describe incidents of bigoted dislike or hatred of members of a different religious or political group. It is broadly accepted that within the Northern Ireland context an individual or group must be perceived to be Catholic or Protestant, Nationalist or Unionist, or Loyalist or Republican. However sectarianism can also relate to other religious denominations, for example, Sunni and Shi'ite in Islam.

Faith/Religion (non-sectarian)

A faith or religious group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief. This would include Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and different sects within a religion. It also includes people who hold no religious belief at all.

Disability (or Disablist)

Any disability including physical or sensory disability, learning disability, long-term illness and mental health.

Transphobia

People who are trans and those who hold the gender recognition certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

Points to note in this bulletin

Incidents and multiple motivations: A small number of incidents will have more than one type of hate motivation attributed to the incident. This means that summing up the totals for each year from Table 1.1 will provide a higher total than the number of incidents actually recorded.

Crimes: As there may be more than one crime recorded within an individual incident, it is possible for the number of crimes with a particular hate motivation to be higher than the number of incidents with that motivation.

Incidents and Crimes: Hate-motivated crimes and hate-motivated incidents should not be added together as crimes for each motivation strand are included in the incident count for each hate motivation strand.

Gender unknown: Where reference is made to gender unknown, this may include persons who have not identified as either male or female.

Harassment and Malicious communications: Recording of malicious communications started on 1st April 2017. A Home Office change introduced in April 2018 requires harassment to be recorded in addition to the most serious additional victim based offence. Both of these changes in recording practice, along with increasing awareness of the application of these rules in the recording process, will have contributed to the increased levels recorded in the overall harassment classification.

Faith/religion, Disability and Transphobic motivations: In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion, disability and transphobic motivation to ensure the motivations are being accurately assigned. Data for these motivations prior to 2009/10 (shaded in Table 1.1) should be regarded with caution. For this reason the sections within this bulletin covering these motivations comment on the trends from 2009/10.

Outcomes: Sanction outcomes presented here include charge/summons, cautions (adult and juvenile), community resolutions (formerly referred to as discretionary disposals), penalty notices for disorder, and offences taken into consideration. Figures for outcomes which were published in previous Annual Trends bulletins also included indictable only offences where no action was taken against the offender (died before proceedings or PPS did not prosecute). There have been no such outcomes in any financial year since 2007/08.

Annual Revisions: Revisions to previously published data are applied on an annual basis to financial year crime figures from 2015/16 onwards, as a result of the introduction of the wider outcomes framework in April 2015. These revisions take account of crime cancellations and sanction outcomes identified since the previous annual publication. Revisions of this nature will next be applied in May 2023. Further guidance on crime cancellation can be found in the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime.

Conventions used in figures and tables

While the sanction outcome rates are rounded to one decimal place, the sanction outcome rate change in % pts is calculated on the unrounded sanction outcome rates and then rounded to one decimal place.

‘-‘ indicates that for offences recorded a percentage change is not reported because the base number of offences is less than 50, and that for offences detected a sanction outcome rate cannot be calculated as there were no offences recorded.

‘..’ indicates that data are not available.

Disclosure control has been applied to some tables in line with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Where this applies cells have been merged or suppressed in order to ensure the identity of individuals/organisations or any private information relating to them is not revealed. ‘*’ indicates a cell has been suppressed.

The charts in this release are not all shown to same scale.

Population Rates

Population rates used in this bulletin are expressed per 10,000 population.

The population estimates used within this bulletin are the latest mid-year estimates available at time of compilation and are available in Tables 2.18, 3.15, and 4.15 of the [hate motivations spreadsheets that accompany this bulletin \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Mid-year population estimates are available from the [NISRA website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

1. Overview of Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes

Incidents and crimes with a racist or homophobic motivation have been collated by PSNI in their current format since 2004/05. Sectarian, faith/religion and disability motivated incidents and crimes have been collated since 2005/06. Incidents and crimes with a transphobic motivation have been collated since 2006/07.

There are a range of factors that can have an impact on the recorded crime data series. For example changes to existing legislation, the introduction of new legislation and clarifications or changes to the Home Office Counting Rules can all cause discontinuities to the data series. As far as possible these factors will be identified in the commentary within this bulletin. These are also highlighted in [Appendix 1](#).

1.1 Hate motivated incidents and crimes

Table 1.1 outlines the numbers of incidents and crimes recorded in each hate motivation strand.

- Between 2005/06 and 2015/16 sectarian incidents accounted for the largest number of incidents recorded in any of the hate motivation strands. In 2016/17 the number of sectarian incidents was exceeded by the number of racist incidents for the first time and this has remained the case since then. Sectarian crimes accounted for the largest number of crimes recorded in any of the hate motivation strands each year from 2005/06 to 2016/17. Since 2017/18, racist crimes accounted for the largest number of crimes, with the exception of 2019/20 when a higher number of sectarian crimes was recorded.
- While the highest levels of sectarian incidents were recorded early in the data series, the other hate motivated incidents have recorded their highest levels in more recent years; 2014/15 for racist and disability incidents, 2021/22 for homophobic incidents, 2017/18 for faith/religion and 2020/21 for transphobic incidents.
- Sectarian incidents were at their highest level in 2009/10 and have shown a general decline since then. The number of sectarian incidents in 2021/22 was just under three fifths of the highest number recorded.

Table 1.1 Number of incidents and crimes with a hate motivation, 2004/05 to 2021/22

	Racist		Homophobic		Sectarian		Faith/Religion ¹		Disability ¹		Transphobic ¹	
	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime
2004/05	813	633	196	151	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005/06	936	746	220	148	1,701	1,469	70	78	70	38	..	..
2006/07	1,047	861	155	117	1,695	1,217	136	120	48	26	32	14
2007/08	976	757	160	114	1,584	1,056	68	62	49	42	7	4
2008/09	990	771	179	134	1,595	1,017	46	35	44	28	10	2
2009/10	1,034	711	175	112	1,840	1,264	32	16	58	40	14	4
2010/11	842	531	211	137	1,437	1,000	24	12	38	29	22	8
2011/12	694	458	201	121	1,344	885	15	6	33	15	4	3
2012/13	748	470	246	149	1,372	889	28	12	74	35	15	6
2013/14	976	688	280	179	1,284	961	33	16	107	66	23	8
2014/15	1,336	916	334	209	1,517	1,044	84	29	138	74	21	8
2015/16	1,215	851	343	210	1,352	1,002	59	25	134	74	19	12
2016/17	1,044	654	279	162	995	695	65	34	112	60	20	12
2017/18	1,025	609	267	163	879	576	90	40	101	48	38	17
2018/19	1,124	699	281	201	865	622	56	23	100	53	33	12
2019/20	937	629	272	195	888	639	41	15	99	72	64	34
2020/21	993	718	366	246	934	674	39	26	90	58	71	34
2021/22	1,334	931	462	336	1,067	780	68	54	123	93	65	42

¹ In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion, disability and transphobic motivation. Data for these motivations prior to 2009/10 should be regarded with caution.

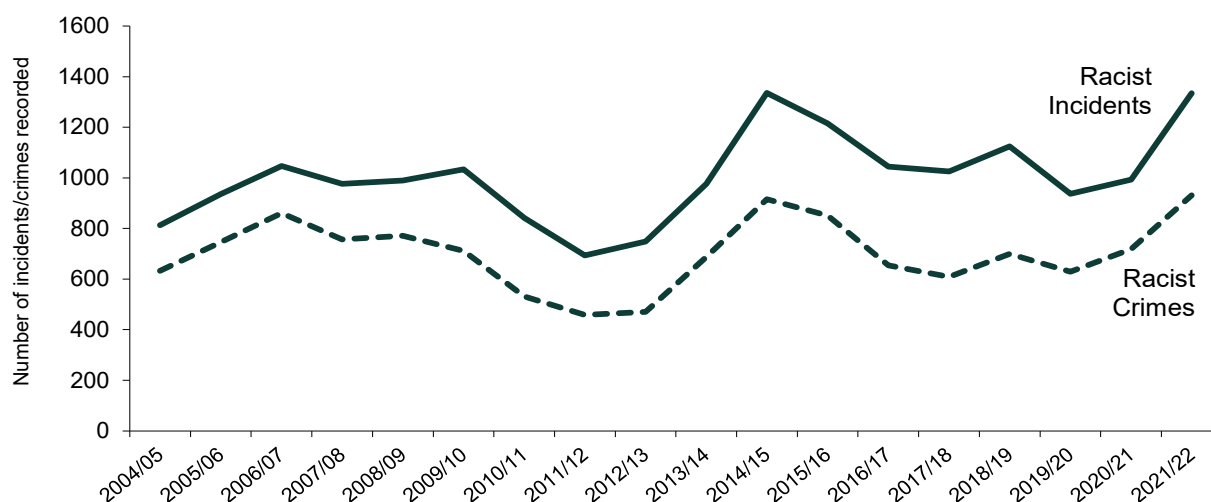
Due to the variation in volumes recorded within each of the hate motivations, the charts in figures 1.1 to 1.6 are not shown to the same scale.

1.2 Racist motivated incidents and crimes

Following a decline in levels of racist incidents and crimes between 2009/10 and 2011/12 increases were seen each year between 2011/12 and 2014/15. While levels subsequently trended downwards between 2014/15 and 2019/20, there was a sharp rise in the number of racist incidents and crimes between 2020/21 and 2021/22. The number of racist incidents recorded in 2021/22 is the second highest in the data series (there were 1,336 racist incidents recorded in 2014/15). The number of racist crimes recorded in 2021/22 is the highest since the start of the data series.

Population rates: Since 2004/05, the number of racist incidents recorded by the police per 10,000 population¹ is between 4 and 7, while for racist crimes the figure is between 3 and 5 per 10,000 population.

Figure 1.1 Trends in racist motivated incidents and crimes, 2004/05 to 2021/22

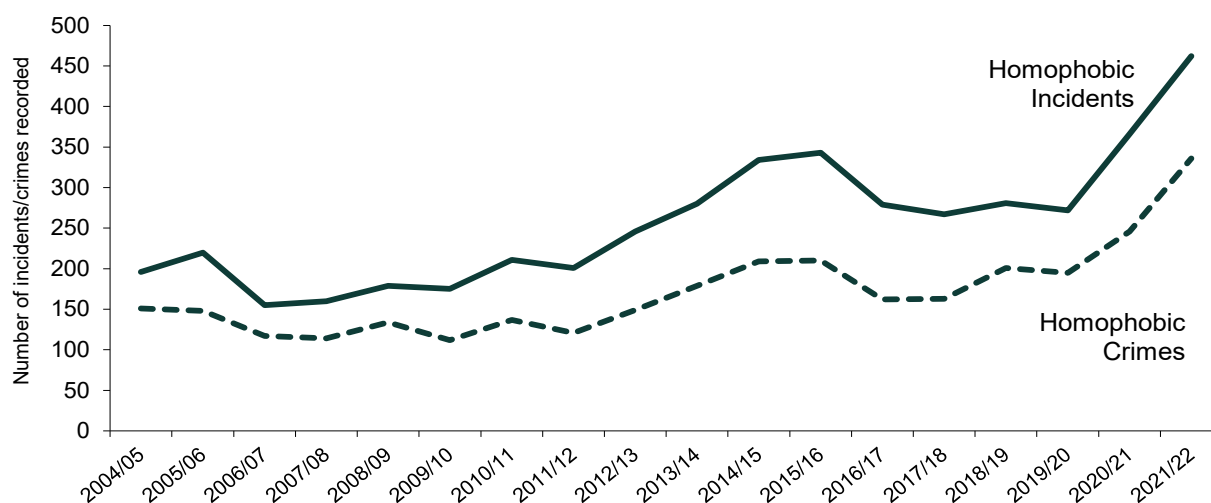


1.3 Homophobic motivated incidents and crimes

Homophobic motivated incidents and crimes generally increased between 2006/07 and 2015/16, while the period between 2016/17 and 2019/20 recorded levels that fell below those seen in 2015/16. The sharpest increase in the number of homophobic motivated incidents and crimes has been recorded in the latest two financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22, with both incidents and crimes rising to their highest levels recorded since the data series began in 2004/05.

Population rates: Since 2004/05, the number of homophobic incidents recorded by the police per 10,000 population¹ is between 1 and 2, while for homophobic crimes the figure is between 1 and 2 per 10,000 population.

Figure 1.2 Trends in homophobic motivated incidents and crimes, 2004/05 to 2021/22



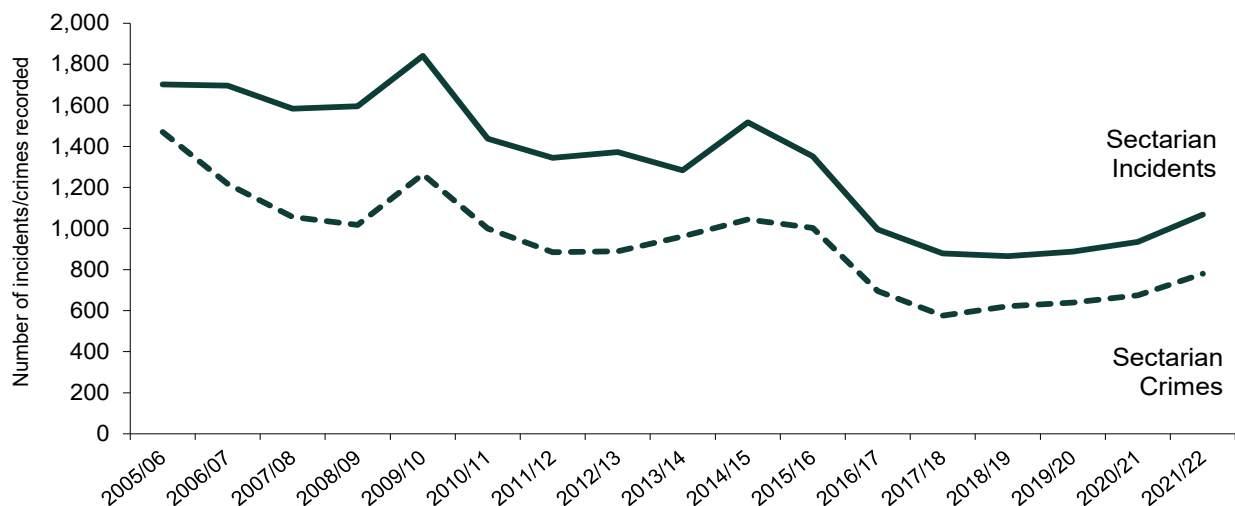
¹ Crime per 10,000 population is calculated using the Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates published by NISRA, with the latest estimates available in tables 2.18, 3.15 and 4.15 of the [spreadsheets accompanying this bulletin](#).

1.4 Sectarian motivated incidents and crimes

The number of sectarian incidents was at its highest level in 2009/10 with 1,840 incidents recorded. Levels generally fell between 2009/10 and 2018/19, which was the lowest financial year figure in the data series and less than half of the peak level recorded in 2009/10; the number of incidents has increased in each year since 2018/19. The number of sectarian crimes fell to its lowest level in 2017/18. While levels have since increased in each financial year to 2021/22, this is the sixth lowest level in the data series and shows a fall of 47 per cent when compared with the highest level which was recorded in 2005/06.

Population rates: Since 2005/06, the number of sectarian incidents recorded by the police per 10,000 population¹ is between 5 and 10, while for the number of sectarian crimes the figure is between 3 and 9 per 10,000 population.

Figure 1.3 Trends in sectarian motivated incidents and crimes, 2005/06 to 2021/22

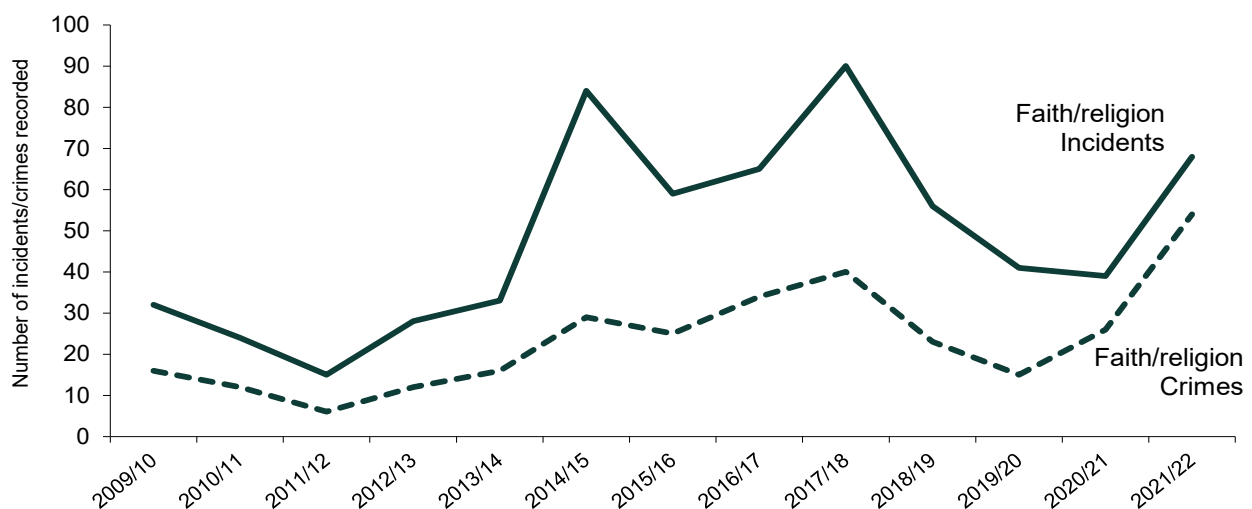


1.5 Faith/religion motivated incidents and crimes

Levels of faith/religion incidents and crimes were higher in each year of the period 2014/15 to 2018/19 than the levels recorded between 2009/10 and 2013/14. Levels of faith/religion incidents fell in each year between 2018/19 and 2020/21, and rose in 2021/22 to a level similar to that previously seen in 2016/17. The number of faith/religion crimes fell in 2018/19 and 2019/20. From 2020/21, the number of faith/religion crimes has increased, with 2021/22 reaching the highest level of recorded faith/religion crimes since 2009/10, when improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion motivation.

Population rates: The numbers of incidents and crimes with a faith/religion motivation are too small to provide a meaningful population rate (fewer than 1 per 10,000 population).

Figure 1.4 Trends in faith/religion motivated incidents and crimes, 2009/10 to 2021/22



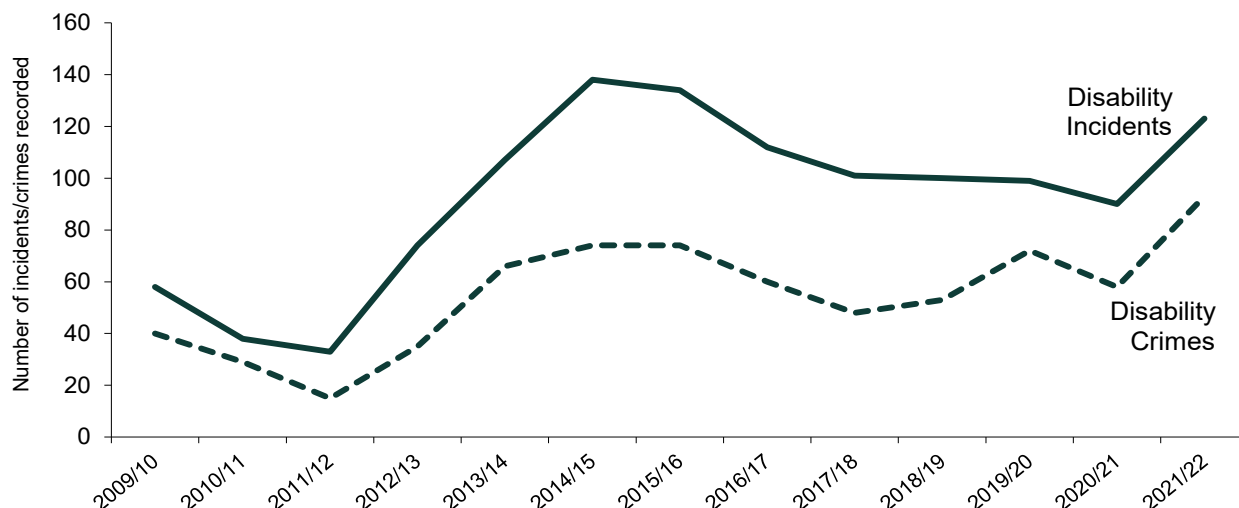
¹ Crime per 10,000 population is calculated using the Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates published by NISRA, with the latest estimates available in tables 2.18, 3.15 and 4.15 of the [spreadsheets accompanying this bulletin](#).

1.6 Disability motivated incidents and crimes

Disability motivated incidents and crimes were showing decreasing levels between 2009/10 and 2011/12, after which levels started to increase considerably. Levels of incidents fell between 2014/15 and 2020/21, and increased in 2021/22 to a level similar to that previously seen in 2015/16. The number of disability motivated crimes has been rising since 2017/18 (with the exception of 2020/21), and in 2021/22 rose to the highest level recorded in the data series.

Population rates: The numbers of incidents and crimes with a disability motivation are too small to provide a meaningful population rate (fewer than 1 per 10,000 population).

Figure 1.5 Trends in disability motivated incidents and crimes, 2009/10 to 2021/22

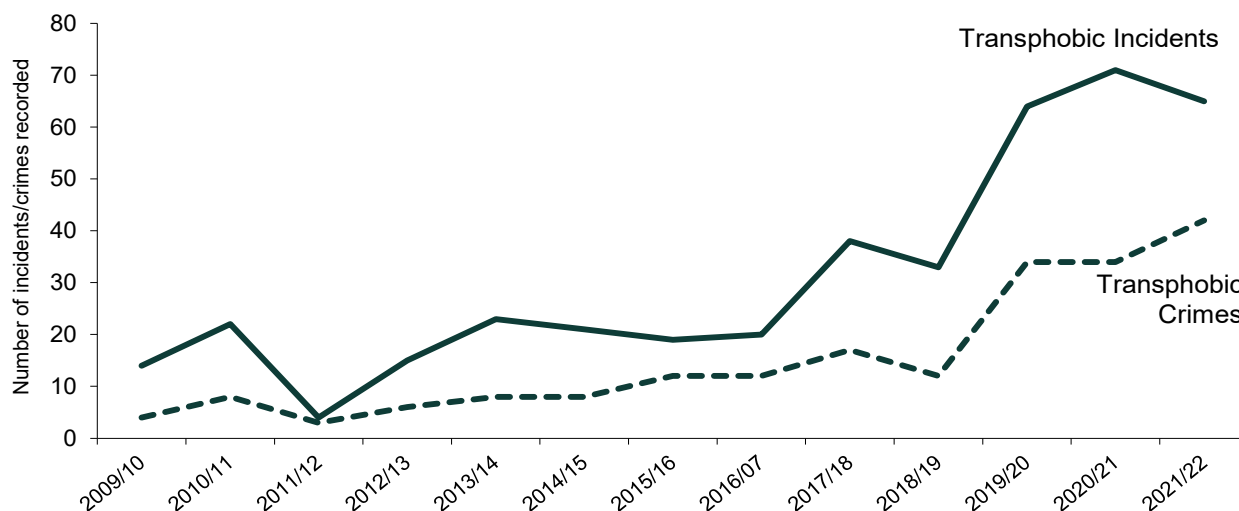


1.7 Transphobic motivated incidents and crimes

Between 2009/10 and 2016/17 the number of transphobic incidents ranged between 14 and 23, with the exception of 4 such incidents recorded in 2011/12. The number of transphobic crimes ranged between 3 and 12 over the same time period. The number of transphobic incidents and crimes increased from 2017/18 when compared with the earlier part of the data series, with a substantial increase seen in both incidents and crimes in 2019/20. In 2021/22 the number of transphobic motivated crimes recorded increased to the highest level in the data series.

Population rates: The numbers of incidents and crimes with a transphobic motivation are too small to provide a meaningful population rate (fewer than 1 per 10,000 population).

Figure 1.6 Trends in transphobic motivated incidents and crimes, 2009/10 to 2021/22



1.8 Attacks on symbolic premises

Attacks on symbolic premises are recorded where a crime has a sectarian motivation, where the premises is the intended target of the attack, and where the premises are one of the following; a church or chapel, a GAA or Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, an Orange Hall or Apprentice Boys Hall, or a school. These figures are a subset of sectarian motivated crimes and are available from 2007/08.

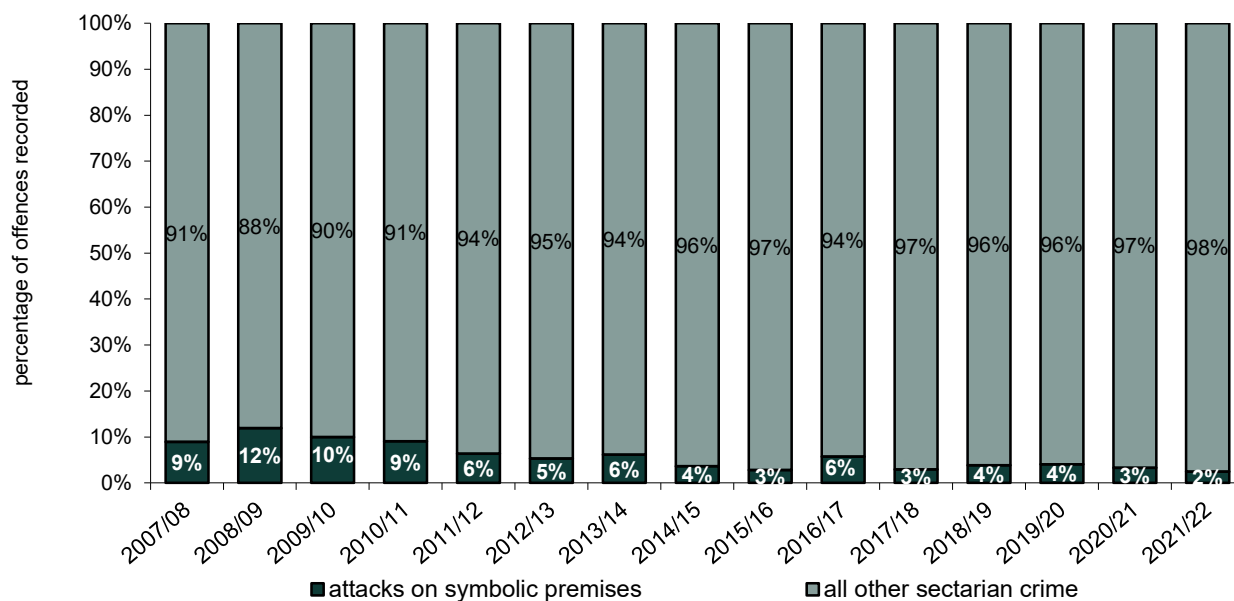
In 2021/22 attacks on symbolic premises represented 2 per cent of all sectarian crimes; this is the lowest proportion recorded in the data series.

Table 1.2 Attacks on symbolic premises, 2007/08 to 2020/22¹

	Church or Chapel	GAA or Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall	Orange or Apprentice Boys Hall	School
2007/08	19	6	63	6
2008/09	37	10	61	13
2009/10	24	15	72	15
2010/11	23	8	58	*
2011/12	12	6	34	4
2012/13	14	*	27	*
2013/14	17	*	40	*
2014/15	11	5	17	5
2015/16	5	*	17	*
2016/17	7	*	31	*
2017/18	4	*	11	*
2018/19	9	*	10	*
2019/20	7	*	14	*
2020/21	8	*	14	*
2021/22	7	*	12	*

¹ Cell suppression has been applied to ensure that the identity of individuals/organisations or any private information relating to them is not revealed.

Figure 1.7 Attacks on symbolic premises as a proportion of all sectarian crimes, 2007/08 to 2021/22



2. Racist Motivations: Trends since 2004/05

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. A racial group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins (this includes UK National origins i.e. Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) and references to a person's racial group refer to any racial group into which he/she falls. Racial group includes the Irish Traveller community.

All tables referred to in the commentary of Section 2 Racist Motivations can be found in the [racist motivations spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#).

2.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a racist motivation

Levels of racist incidents reached their highest level in 2014/15 before falling each year through to 2019/20, with the exception of 2018/19; levels of racist crimes followed a similar pattern. The number of incidents and crimes have since risen, and in 2021/22 reached the second highest level of incidents and the highest level of crimes in the data series.

Crimes with a racist motivation represent 0.9 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police [Table 2.3].

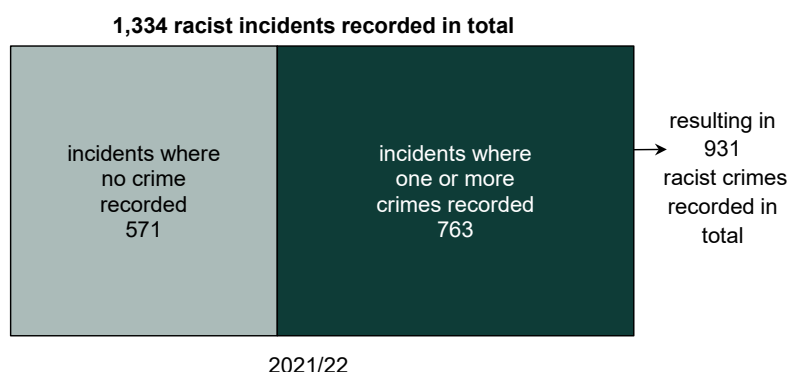
Table 2.1 Racist motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes¹, 2004/05 to 2021/22

	Race Incidents	Race Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2004/05	813	633	-	-
2005/06	936	746	-	-
2006/07	1,047	861	-	-
2007/08	976	757	86	11.4
2008/09	990	771	96	12.5
2009/10	1,034	711	115	16.2
2010/11	842	531	71	13.4
2011/12	694	458	88	19.2
2012/13	748	470	89	18.9
2013/14	976	688	119	17.3
2014/15	1,336	916	128	14.0
2015/16	1,215	851	162	19.0
2016/17	1,044	654	119	18.2
2017/18	1,025	609	93	15.3
2018/19	1,124	699	117	16.7
2019/20	937	629	87	13.8
2020/21	993	718	93	13.0
2021/22	1,334	931	163	17.5

¹ An explanation of the crime sanction outcomes data series can be found in section 3.5 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

During 2021/22 there were 1,334 incidents recorded where there was a racist motivation. Of these, there were 571 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 763 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 931 racist crimes in total). Around two out of every five incidents recorded during 2021/22 did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 2.1 Incidents and crimes with a racist motivation, 2021/22

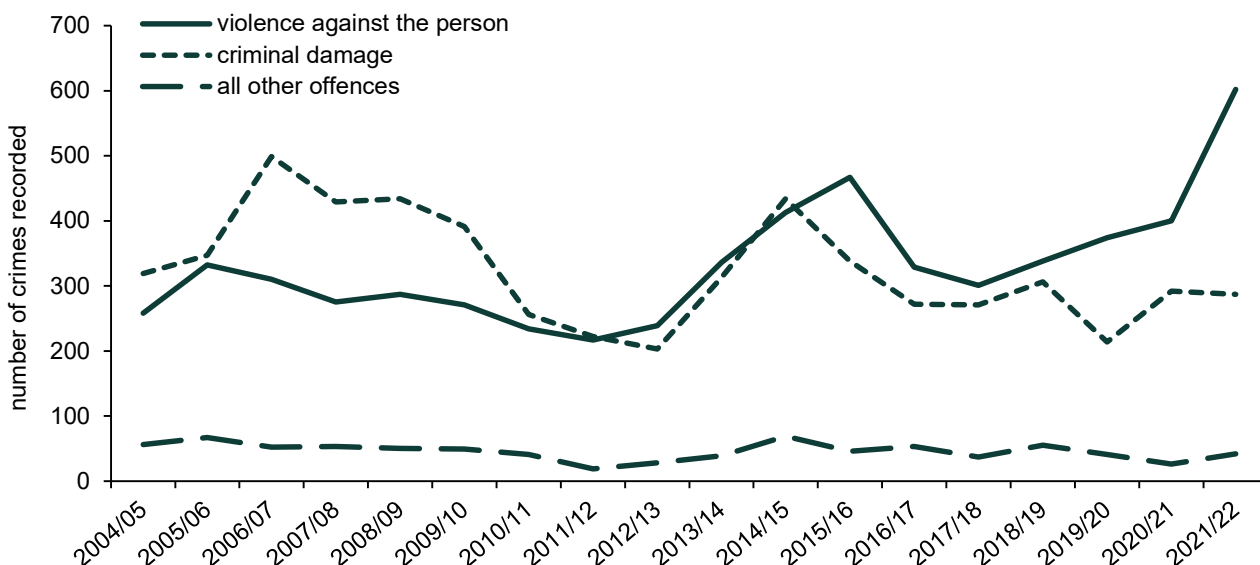


2.2 Trends in crimes with a racist motivation by crime type

A description of each main crime type is provided in Appendix 1 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

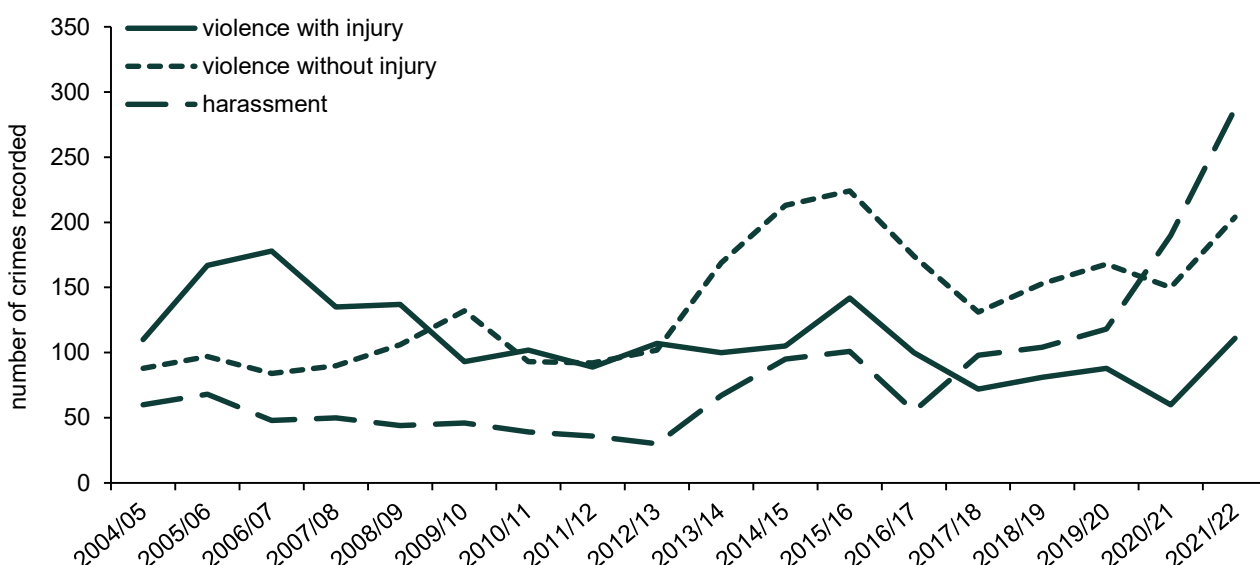
Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a racist motivation are shown in figure 2.2 below. The full data series is available in Table 2.2.

Figure 2.2 Crimes with a racist motivation by crime type, 2004/05 to 2021/22



Violence against the person with a racist motivation: From 2011/12 to 2018/19 around half of all racially motivated crimes have been classified to violence against the person; since 2019/20 this has risen to nearly two thirds of all racially motivated crimes. This classification includes a wide range of offences from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm to murder. Even within the same classification the degree of violence used can vary considerably between incidents. Figure 2.3 shows the generally declining levels of violence with injury (including homicide and death/serious injury by unlawful driving), alongside levels of violence without injury which have been higher than violence with injury in each year since 2013/14. Harassment has generally increased, most notably in 2020/21 when for the first time the level of harassment was higher than violence without injury. Details of changes in recording practice within the overall harassment classification are provided in the Points to Note (page 4).

Figure 2.3 Violence against the person with a racist motivation, 2004/05 to 2021/22



Criminal damage with a racist motivation: Between 2004/05 and 2011/12 criminal damage was at a higher level than violence against the person. This position has been reversed since 2015/16. During 2021/22 criminal damage represented around three in ten racist motivated crimes, the majority of these relating to criminal damage to a dwelling. The overall trend in criminal damage since 2004/05 is shown in figure 2.2 above.

2.3 Victims of racist crimes

The Home Office has identified offences as being victim-based, state-based or victim and state-based. State-based offences are those for which no member of the public or business/organisation is a victim. For victim-based offences, the victim can be a member of the public (referred to here as person victim), a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty, or a business or organisation.

The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2007/08, a person is the victim of a racist crime in 91 to 95 per cent of cases, while in 4 to 8 per cent of racist crimes the victim is a business or organisation. Up to one per cent of racist crimes are state-based. [Table 2.4].

2.3.1 Racist crimes: ethnicity and nationality of victims

Since 2007/08 the ethnicity of victims of racist crimes is available in at least 75 per cent of records, while the nationality of victims is available in at least 71 per cent of records. These proportions were around 90 per cent up to 2016/17 and have declined in the years since.

Ethnicity: Different ethnicity classifications have been used within the PSNI crime recording systems since 2007/08. Table 2.5 reflects racist crimes by the ethnicity of the victim grouped by Asian, Black, Mixed/Other and White ethnicities. The historic classifications that are no longer available for selection on the NICHE system are separately identified. These may still be identified in the data where the victim details were recorded while the historic classifications were in use.

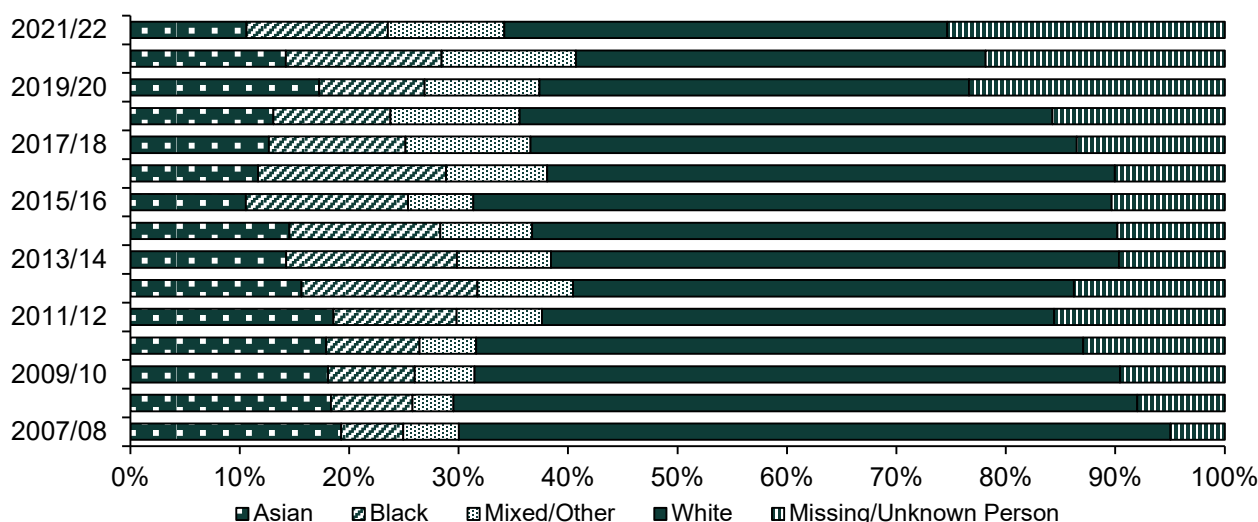
Between 2007/08 and 2015/16 there was an upwards trend in the number of racist crimes where the victim was of black ethnicity; there were 40 such crimes in 2007/08 with 2015/16 showing the highest level of 119. Levels fell between 2016/17 and 2019/20, and then rose sharply in 2020/21 (95 crimes) and 2021/22 (114 crimes) – the third highest in the data series. Racist crimes where the victim's ethnicity was recorded as Mixed, Other ethnic group or Roma was highest in 2021/22 (94 crimes). Levels within the remaining ethnicities have tended to fluctuate; racist crimes where the victim's ethnicity was recorded as white fell by 25% in 2019/20, and rose by 43% in 2021/22. [Table 2.5]

Nationality: Table 2.6 shows the nationalities of victims of racist crime. These figures are based on nationality only and do not take into account the victim's ethnicity.

Since 2007/08 levels of racist crime in relation to most nationalities has fluctuated. Across the data series, the highest numbers and proportions of racist crimes have been recorded against victims of the following nationalities: UK and Ireland, Poland, Lithuania, India and Romania. Of note in more recent years are sustained higher levels of racist crimes where the victim was of Syrian nationality. Between 2007/08 and 2016/17 there were 7 racist crimes against victims of Syrian nationality, with 117 recorded between 2017/18 and 2021/22. This is higher than the number of crimes recorded in this time period in respect of Lithuanian and Indian nationalities. [Table 2.6]

Ethnicity and Nationality combined: Not all victims of the same nationality have the same ethnicity. This is particularly evident for those victims of racist crimes who identify their nationality as UK and Ireland. Table 2.7 shows the most frequently recorded victim nationalities for each ethnicity. This makes it possible to see, for example, the number of victims with UK and Ireland nationality who have Asian, Black or White ethnicity. This can also be seen in relation to a number of other nationalities.

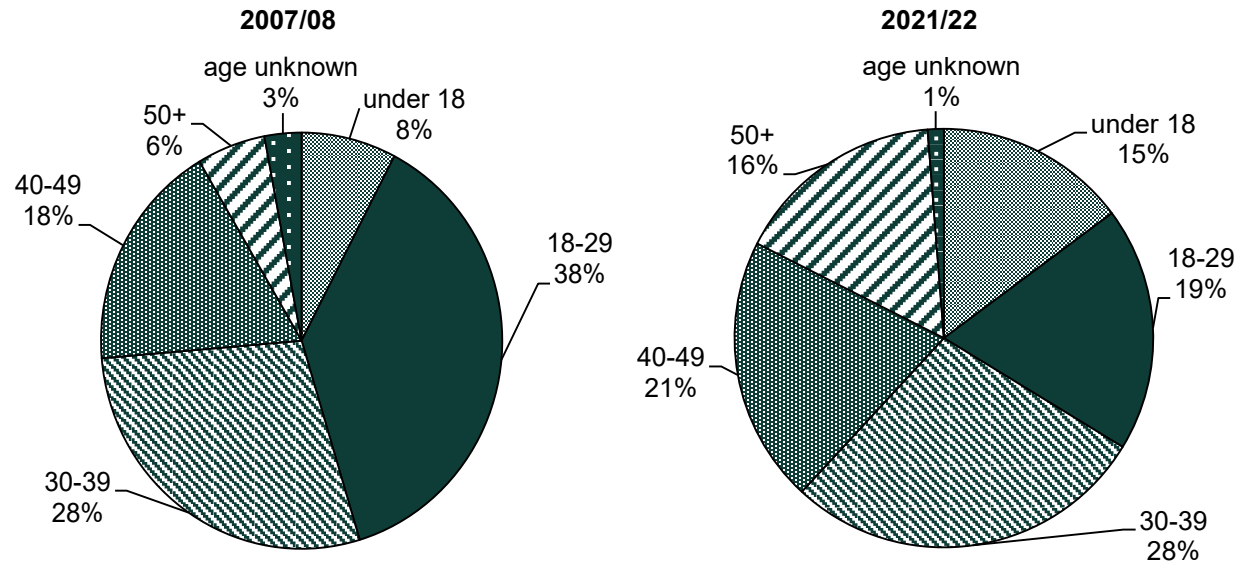
Figure 2.4 Ethnicity of victims of racist crimes, 2007/08 to 2021/22



2.3.2 Racist crimes: age and gender of victims

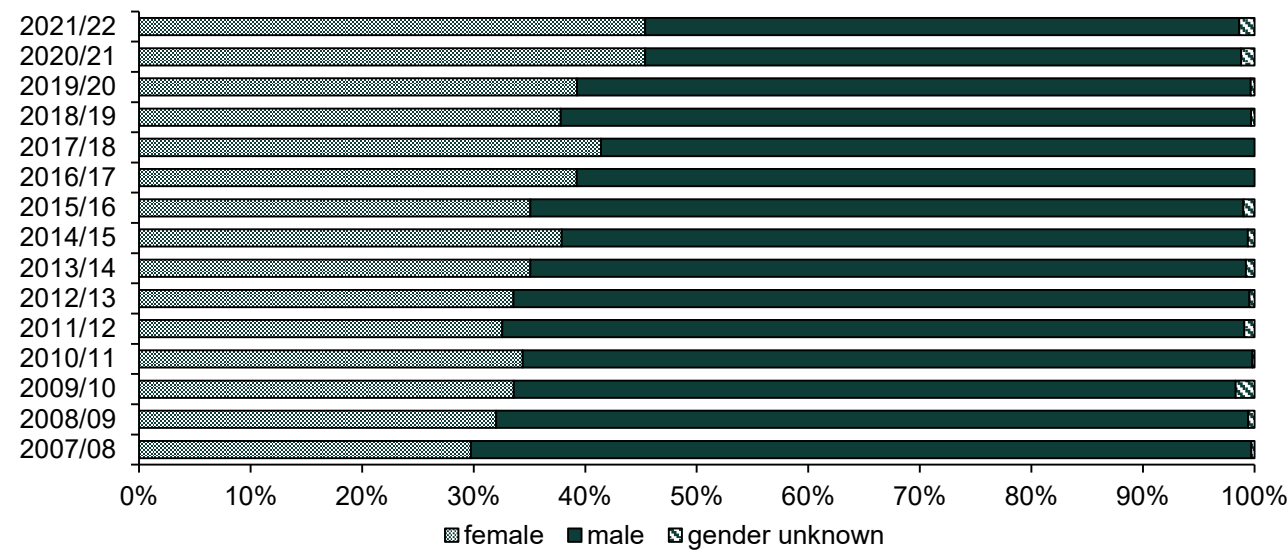
Victim age: Since 2007/08 the proportion of racist crimes where the victim is in the 18 to 29 age group has generally fallen, while the proportion for victims aged 30 or over has generally increased. The proportion of victims under the age of 18 has been fairly consistent throughout much of the data series but has been rising in recent years, particularly since 2019/20 when there were 82 victims aged under 18. This rose to 84 and 131 in 2020/21 and 2021/22 respectively; these represent the three highest levels in the data series. [Table 2.8]

Figure 2.5 Racist crimes by age of victim, 2007/08 and 2021/22



Victim gender: Since 2007/08 there has been a general increase in the proportion of racist crimes with female victims, from 30 per cent in 2007/08 to 45 per cent in 2020/21 and 2021/22, with a corresponding decrease in the proportion of male victims from 70 per cent to 53 per cent. Figure 2.6 shows these changes. [Table 2.9]

Figure 2.6 Racist crimes by gender of victim, 2007/08 to 2021/22

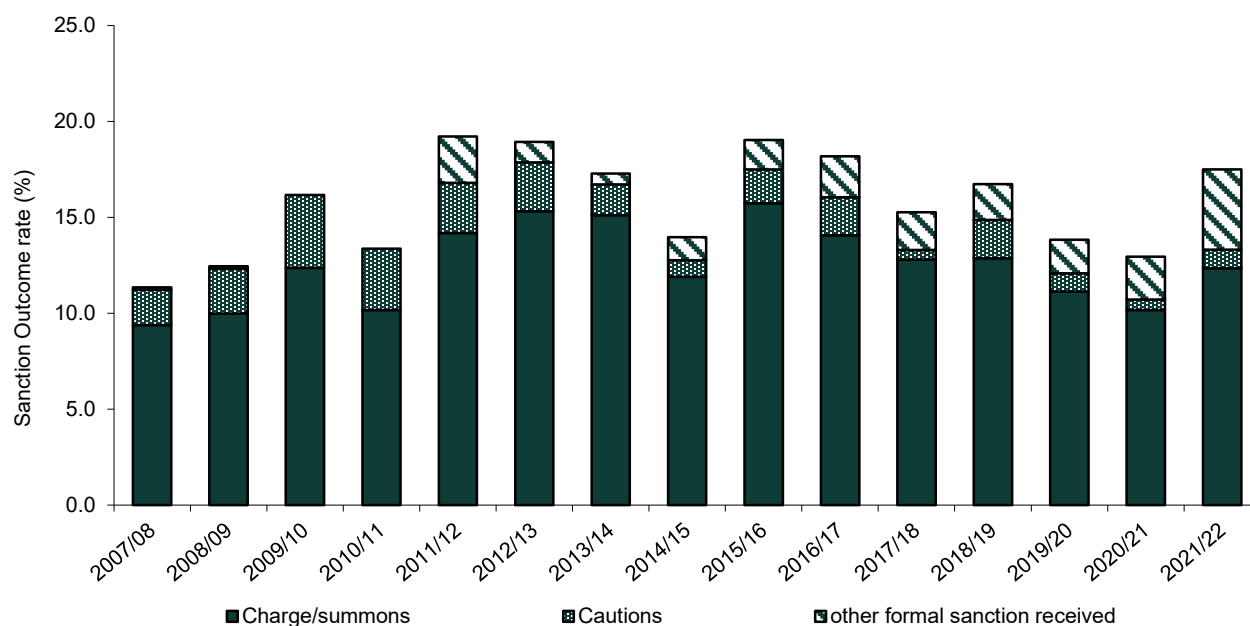


2.4 Sanction outcomes for crimes with a racist motivation

An explanation of the sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates presented in this section can be found in Section 3.5 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Figure 2.7 shows the trend in the sanction outcome rate for crimes with a racist motivation since 2007/08. It also shows the split by the method of disposal. Since 2007/08 charge/summons outcomes have accounted for between 71 per cent and 87 per cent of all sanction outcomes. Other formal sanctions (community resolutions and PNDs) have increased from 3 per cent of sanction outcomes in 2013/14 to 17 per cent of sanction outcomes in 2020/21 and nearly a quarter of sanction outcomes in 2021/22. [Table 2.12]

Figure 2.7 Sanction outcome rates for crimes with a racist motivation by method of disposal, 2007/08 to 2021/22



A full break down of all outcomes for crimes with a racist motivation from 2015/16 is available in Section 5 of the publication [Outcomes of Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2015/16 to 2021/22 \(opens in a new window\)](#). This includes outcomes which did not result in a sanction, for example those where there were evidential difficulties and those where the investigation was completed with no suspect identified.

Figures 2.8 and 2.9 show the trends in crimes, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates for offences within violence against the person and criminal damage, which together account for nine in every ten racist crimes recorded. Both charts are shown to the same scale and show how changing volumes of crimes and sanction outcomes can have an impact on the sanction outcome rate. [Tables 2.2, 2.11 (numbers) and 2.11 (rates)]

These charts also demonstrate the higher sanction outcome rate seen in relation to violence against the person offences when compared with criminal damage. Criminal damage offences may be harder to detect as it can be more difficult to identify a suspect.

Figure 2.8 Violence against the person with a racist motivation; crimes recorded, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates, 2007/08 to 2021/22

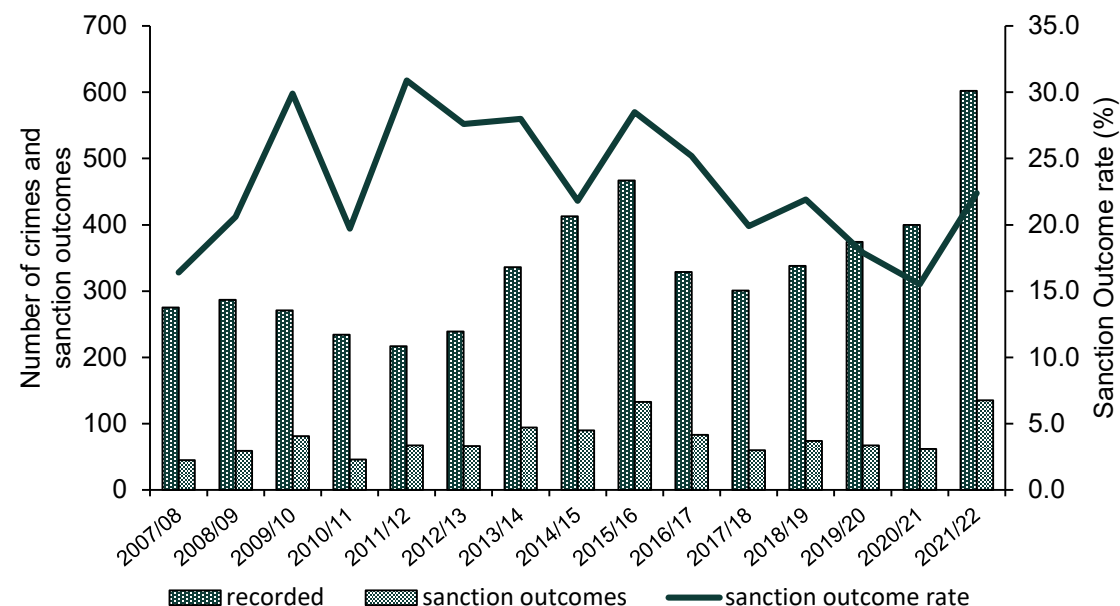
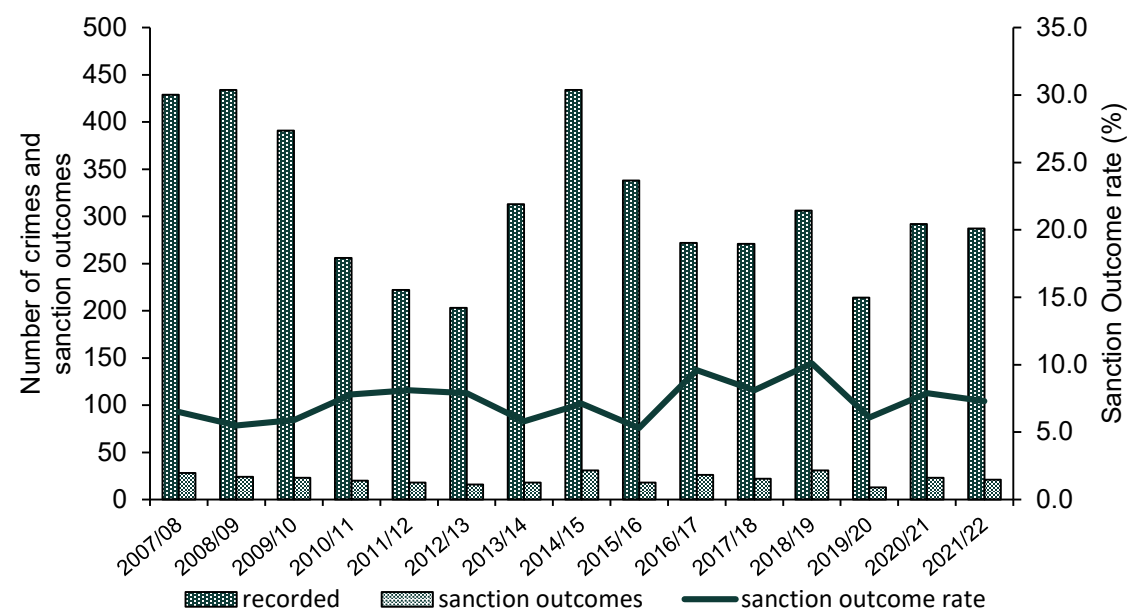
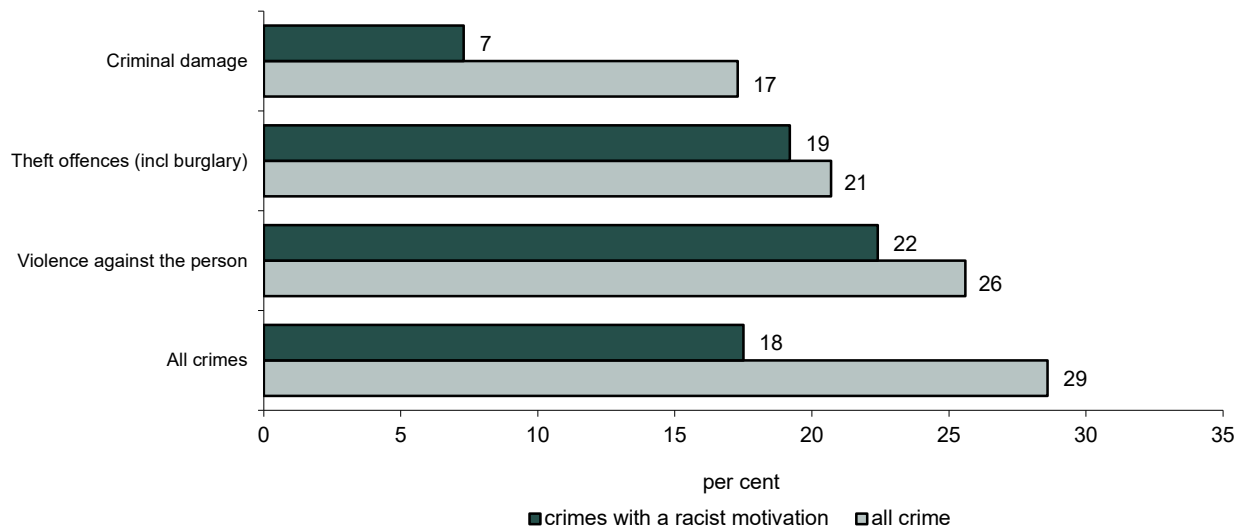


Figure 2.9 Criminal damage with a racist motivation; crimes recorded, outcomes and outcome rates, 2007/08 to 2021/22



Comparison of sanction outcome rates for crimes with a racist motivation and all crimes recorded by the police: Sanction outcome rates for crimes with a racist motivation tend to be lower than the sanction outcome rates for all crimes recorded by the police, regardless of crime type. This comparison for sanction outcome rates in 2021/22 is shown in figure 2.10 below.

Figure 2.10 Sanction outcome rates by crime type, racist motivated crimes and all crimes recorded by the police, 2021/22



3. Homophobic Motivations: Trends since 2004/05

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. Homophobia can be defined as a fear or dislike directed towards lesbian, gay or bisexual people, or a fear or dislike directed towards their perceived lifestyle, culture or characteristics. Sexual orientation can be defined as an individual's preference for a particular sex (be it the opposite or the same), or an individual's view of their own sexuality.

All tables referred to in the commentary of Section 3 Homophobic Motivations can be found in the [homophobic motivations spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#).

3.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a homophobic motivation

Homophobic motivated incidents and crimes showed a generally upwards trend between 2006/07 and 2015/16. Incidents and crimes fell below the 2015/16 level for the period between 2016/17 and 2019/20. There has been a sharp increase in the number of homophobic motivated incidents and crimes in 2020/21 and 2021/22, with both incidents and crimes rising to the highest level recorded since the data series began in 2004/05.

In 2021/22 crimes with a homophobic motivation represent 0.3 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police [Table 3.3]

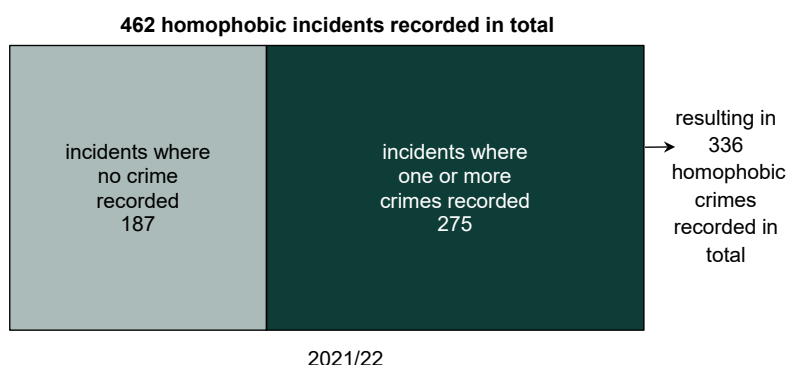
Table 3.1 Homophobic motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes¹, 2004/05 to 2021/22

	Homophobic Incidents	Homophobic Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2004/05	196	151	-	-
2005/06	220	148	-	-
2006/07	155	117	-	-
2007/08	160	114	18	15.8
2008/09	179	134	29	21.6
2009/10	175	112	21	18.8
2010/11	211	137	24	17.5
2011/12	201	121	19	15.7
2012/13	246	149	30	20.1
2013/14	280	179	31	17.3
2014/15	334	209	44	21.1
2015/16	343	210	55	26.2
2016/17	279	162	35	21.6
2017/18	267	163	36	22.1
2018/19	281	201	39	19.4
2019/20	272	195	48	24.6
2020/21	366	246	39	15.9
2021/22	462	336	77	22.9

¹ An explanation of the crime sanction outcomes data series can be found in section 3.5 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

During 2021/22 there were 462 incidents recorded where there was a homophobic motivation. Of these, there were 187 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 275 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 336 homophobic crimes). Around two out of every five incidents recorded during 2021/22 did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 3.1 Incidents and crimes with a homophobic motivation, 2021/22

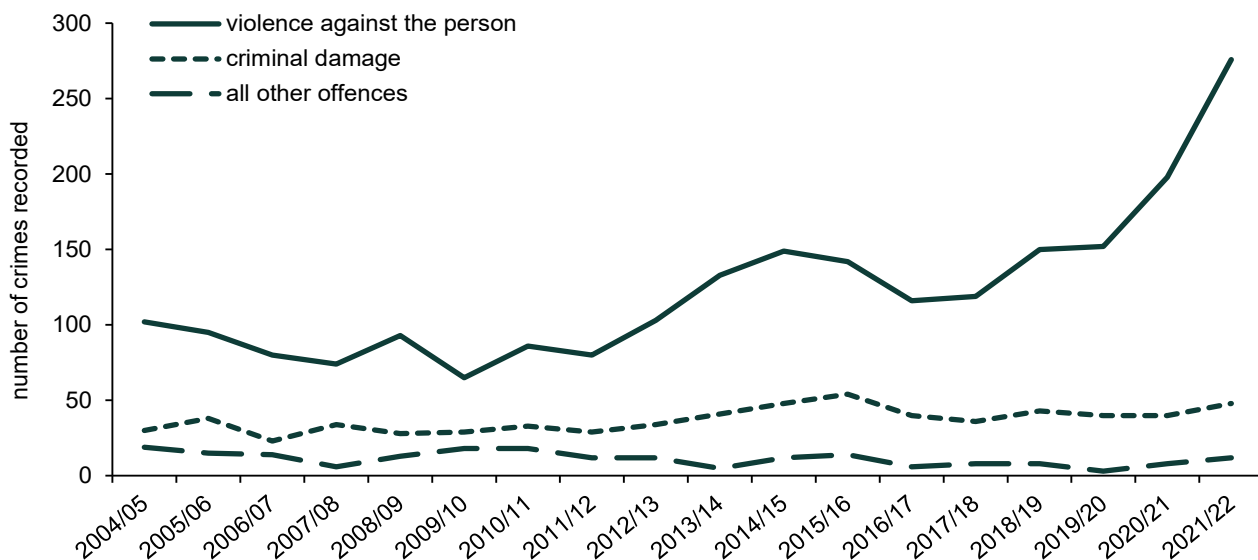


3.2 Trends in crimes with a homophobic motivation by crime type

A description of each main crime type is provided in Appendix 1 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

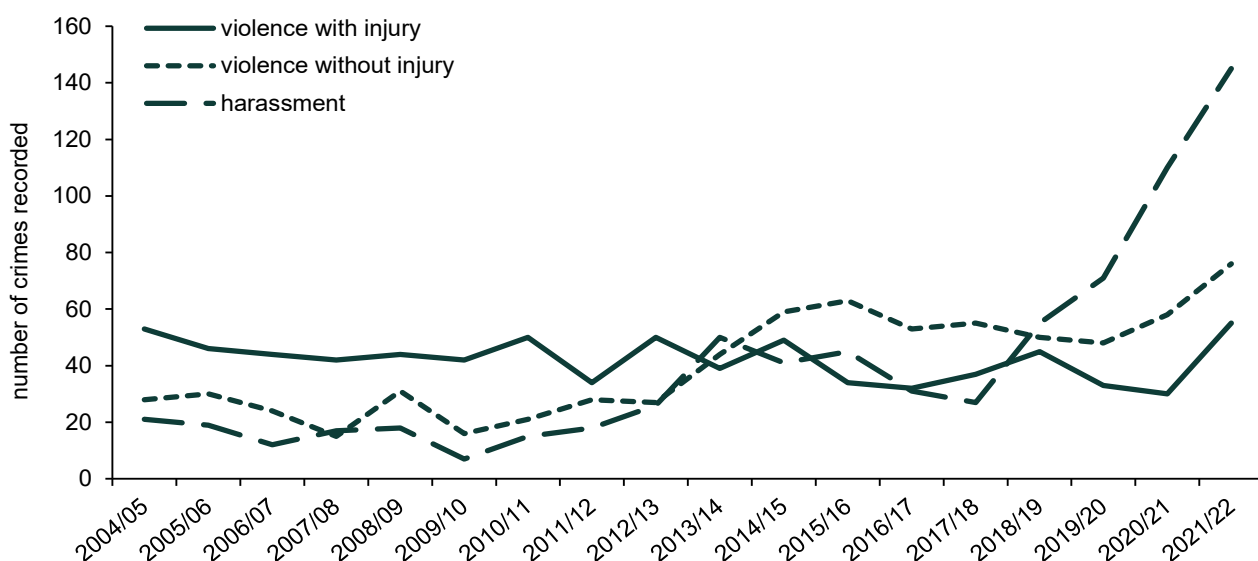
Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a homophobic motivation are shown in figure 3.2 below. The full data series for crimes with a homophobic motivation is available in Table 3.2.

Figure 3.2 Crimes with a homophobic motivation by crime type, 2004/05 to 2021/22



Violence against the person with a homophobic motivation: In 2004/05 around two thirds of crimes with a homophobic motivation fell within the violence against the person classification, generally increasing since then to reach four in every five crimes since 2020/21. This classification includes a wide range of offences from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm to murder. Even within the same classification the degree of violence used can vary considerably between incidents. It also includes offences such as harassment. Figure 3.3 shows violence with injury (including homicide and death/serious injury by unlawful driving), alongside levels of violence without injury which have been higher than violence with injury in each year since 2013/14. Harassment has increased, most notably from 2018/19 at which point the level of harassment exceeded the level of violence without injury. Since 2020/21 harassment has represented more than half of violence against the person offences, compared with one in ten on 2009/10. Details of changes in recording practice within the overall harassment classification are provided in the Points to Note (page 4).

Figure 3.3 Violence against the person with a homophobic motivation, 2004/05 to 2021/22



All other crimes with a homophobic motivation: Criminal damage typically represented around a fifth of all crimes with a homophobic motivation until 2020/21 and 2021/22 when it fell below 20 per cent. With the exception of the latest year 2021/22, the majority of these offences relate to criminal damage – residential. There are fewer than twenty offences recorded each year in the remaining classifications of sexual offences, robbery, theft, burglary and other crimes against society.

3.3 Victims of homophobic crimes

The Home Office has identified offences as being victim-based, state-based or victim and state-based. State-based offences are those for which no member of the public or business/organisation is a victim. For victim-based offences, the victim can be a member of the public (referred to here as person victim), a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty, or a business or organisation.

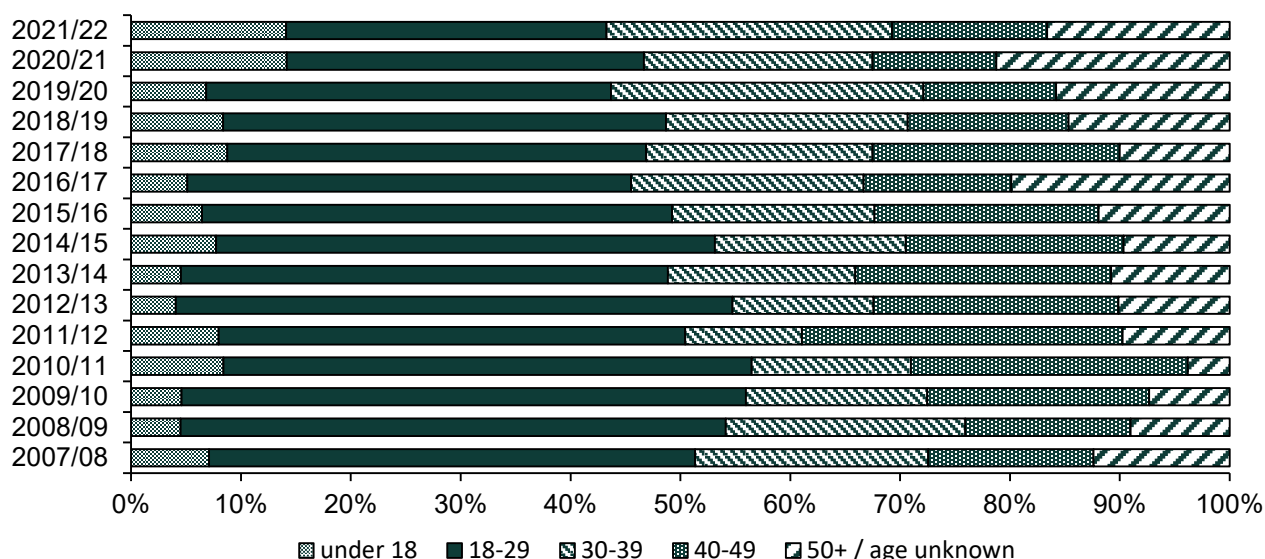
The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2007/08, a person is the victim of a homophobic crime in 93 to 99 per cent of cases, while in 1 to 6 per cent of homophobic crimes the victim is a business or organisation. In most years the proportion of homophobic crimes that are state-based is either zero or 1 per cent [Table 3.4].

In relation to the sexual orientation of the victims of homophobic crimes, this information is not sufficiently complete (either unknown or the victim refused to provide these details) to present meaningful statistics.

3.3.1 Homophobic crimes: age and gender of victims

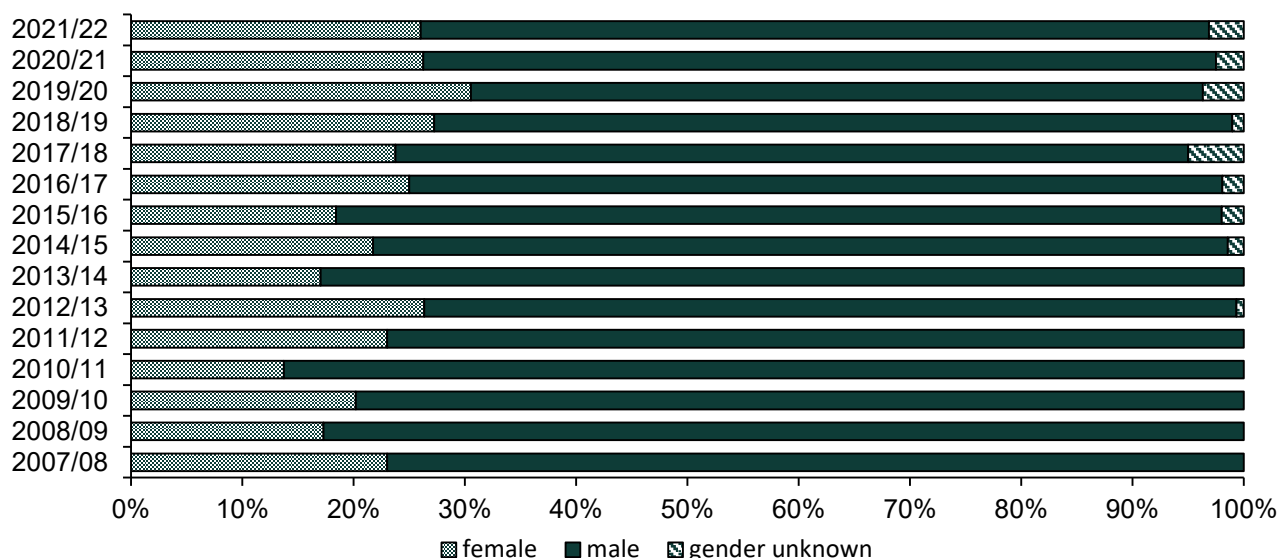
Victim age: Between 29 and 51 per cent of victims of homophobic crime are between the ages of 18 and 29, with the proportion having declined in the latest three years from 40 per cent in 2018/19 to 29 per cent in 2021/22. Between 2007/08 and 2019/20 the proportion of victims under 18 ranged from 4 per cent to 9 per cent; this has increased to 14 per cent in 2020/21 and 2021/22. Proportions in the remaining age groups have tended to fluctuate since 2007/08. [Table 3.5]

Figure 3.4 Homophobic crimes by age of victim, 2007/08 to 2021/22



Victim gender: In relation to the gender of victims of homophobic crimes, between 14 per cent and 31 per cent are female, and between 66 per cent and 86 per cent are male. [Table 3.6]

Figure 3.5 Homophobic crimes by gender of victim, 2007/08 to 2021/22

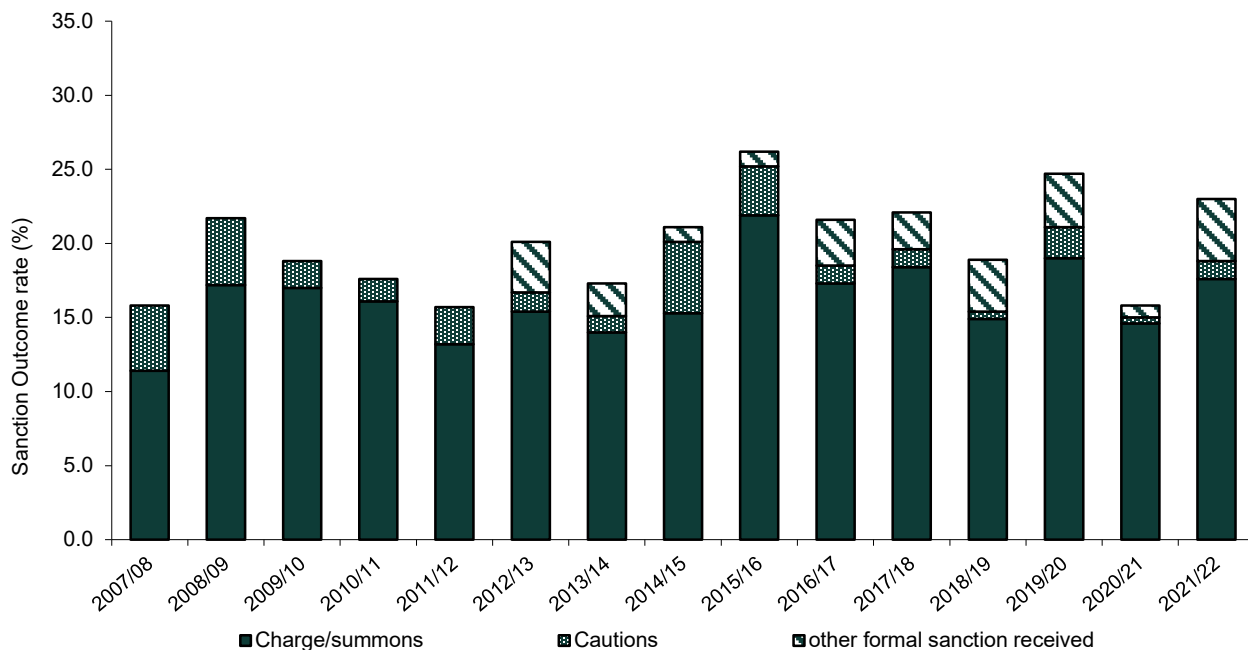


3.4 Outcomes for crimes with a homophobic motivation

An explanation of the sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates presented in this section can be found in Section 3.5 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Figure 3.6 shows the trend in the sanction outcome rate for crimes with a homophobic motivation since 2007/08. It also shows the split by the method of disposal. Since 2007/08 charge/summons outcomes have accounted for between 72 per cent and 92 per cent of all sanction outcomes. Community resolutions were first introduced as a disposal method in 2011/12; in 2012/13, 2018/19 and 2021/22 they represented nearly 20 per cent of all sanction outcomes.

Figure 3.6 Sanction outcome rates for crimes with a homophobic motivation by method of disposal, 2007/08 to 2021/22



A full break down of all outcomes for crimes with a homophobic motivation from 2015/16 is available in Section 5 of the publication [Outcomes of Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2015/16 to 2021/22 \(opens in a new window\)](#). This includes outcomes which did not result in a sanction, for example those where there were evidential difficulties and those where the investigation was completed with no suspect identified.

Figures 3.7 and 3.8 show the trends in crimes, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates for offences within violence against the person and criminal damage which, between them, account for more than 95 per cent of crimes recorded with a homophobic motivation. The sanction outcome rate for both charts is shown to the same scale and shows how changing volumes of crimes and sanction outcomes can have an impact on the sanction outcome rate. [Tables 3.2, 3.8 (numbers) and 3.8 (rates)]

These charts also demonstrate the higher outcome rate seen in relation to violence against the person offences when compared with criminal damage. Criminal damage offences may be harder to detect as it can be more difficult to identify a suspect.

Figure 3.7 Violence against the person with a homophobic motivation; crimes recorded, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates, 2007/08 to 2021/22

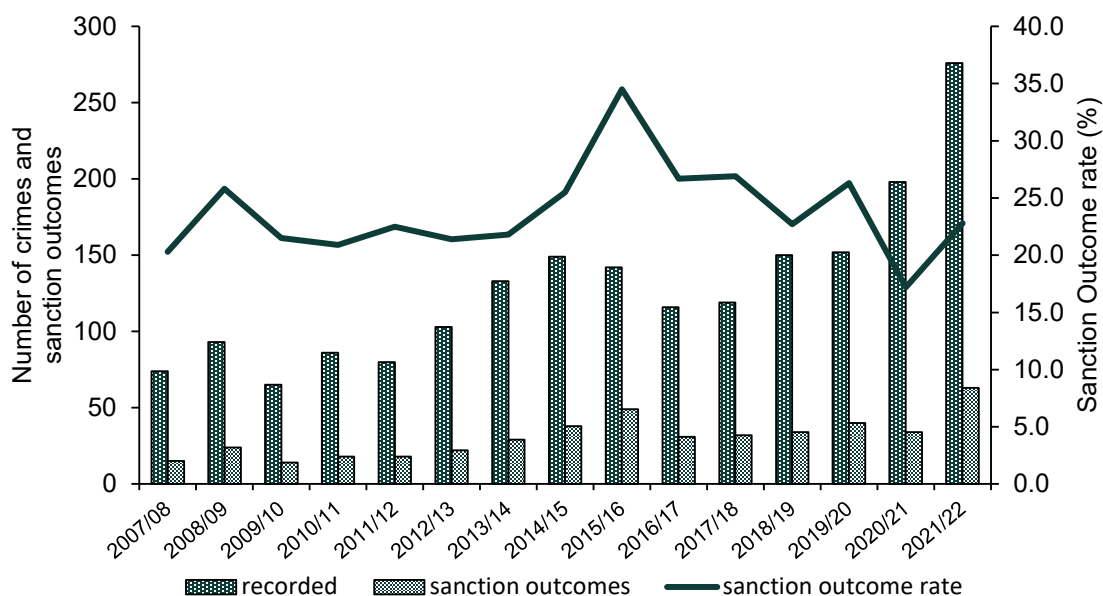
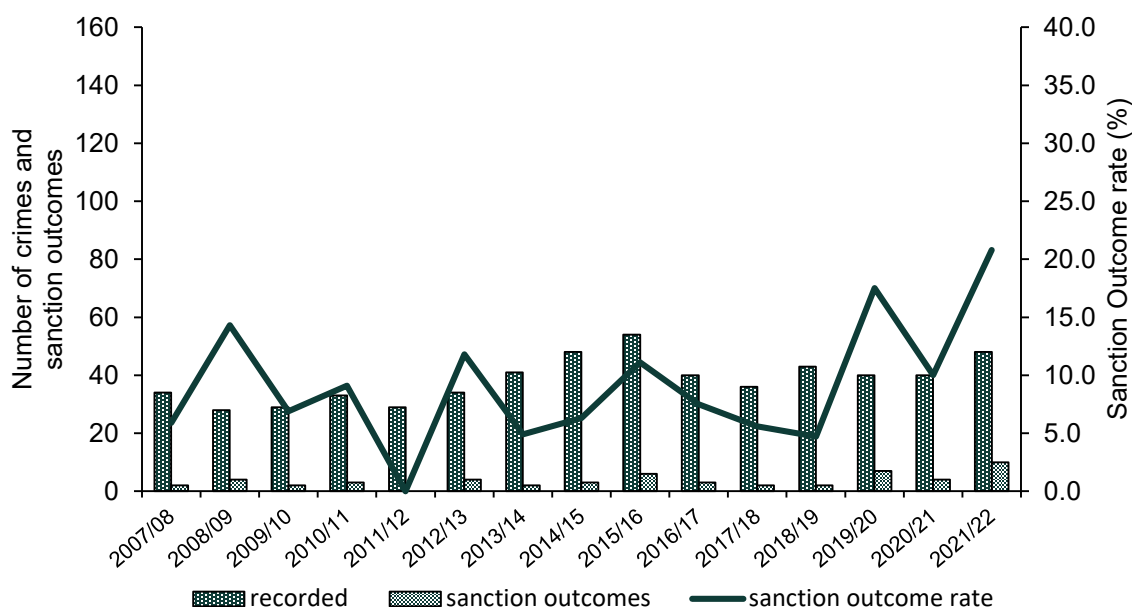
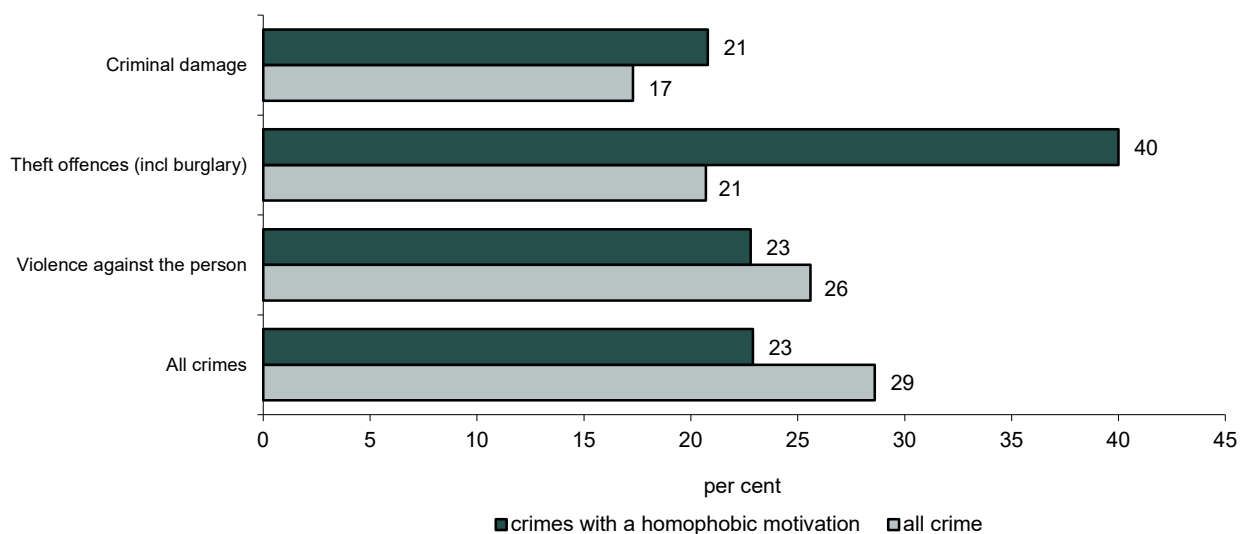


Figure 3.8 Criminal damage with a homophobic motivation; crimes recorded, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates, 2007/08 to 2021/22



Comparison of sanction outcome rates for crimes with a homophobic motivation and all crimes recorded by the police: Sanction outcome rates for crimes with a homophobic motivation tend to be lower than the outcome rates for all crimes recorded by the police. This comparison for outcome rates in 2021/22 is shown in figure 3.9 below.

Figure 3.9 Sanction outcome rates by crime type, homophobic motivated crimes and all crimes recorded by the police, 2020/21



4. Sectarian Motivations: Trends since 2004/05

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. The term 'sectarian', whilst not clearly defined, is a term almost exclusively used in Northern Ireland to describe incidents of bigoted dislike or hatred of members of a different religious or political group. It is broadly accepted that within the Northern Ireland context an individual or group must be perceived to be Catholic or Protestant, Nationalist or Unionist, or Loyalist or Republican. However sectarianism can also relate to other religious denominations, for example, Sunni and Shi'ite in Islam.

All tables referred to in the commentary of Section 4 Sectarian Motivations can be found in the [sectarian motivations spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#).

4.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a sectarian motivation

The number of sectarian incidents was at its highest level in 2009/10 with 1,840 incidents recorded. Levels generally fell until 2018/19 which was the lowest financial year figure in the data series and less than half of the peak level recorded in 2009/10; the number of incidents has increased in each year since 2018/19. The number of sectarian crimes was at its lowest in 2017/18 and has since increased each year to 2021/22. This latest year is the sixth lowest level in the data series showing a fall of 47 per cent when compared with the highest level recorded in 2005/06.

Crimes with a sectarian motivation represent 0.8 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police [Table 4.3].

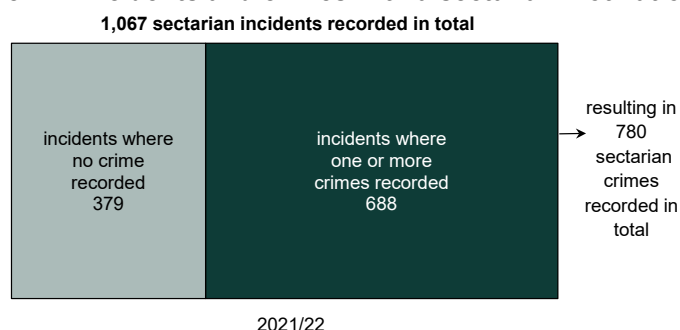
Table 4.1 Sectarian motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes¹, 2004/05 to 2021/22

	Sectarian Incidents	Sectarian Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2005/06	1,701	1,469	-	-
2006/07	1,695	1,217	-	-
2007/08	1,584	1,056	152	14.4
2008/09	1,595	1,017	155	15.2
2009/10	1,840	1,264	213	16.9
2010/11	1,437	1,000	287	28.7
2011/12	1,344	885	157	17.7
2012/13	1,372	889	146	16.4
2013/14	1,284	961	148	15.4
2014/15	1,517	1,044	151	14.5
2015/16	1,352	1,002	146	14.6
2016/17	995	695	90	12.9
2017/18	879	576	69	12.0
2018/19	865	622	63	10.1
2019/20	888	639	78	12.2
2020/21	934	674	76	11.3
2021/22	1,067	780	96	12.3

¹ An explanation of the crime sanction outcomes data series can be found in section 3.5 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

During 2021/22 there were 1,067 incidents recorded where there was a sectarian motivation. Of these, there were 379 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 688 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 780 sectarian crimes in total). Just over one third of incidents recorded during 2021/22 did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 4.1 Incidents and crimes with a sectarian motivation, 2021/22

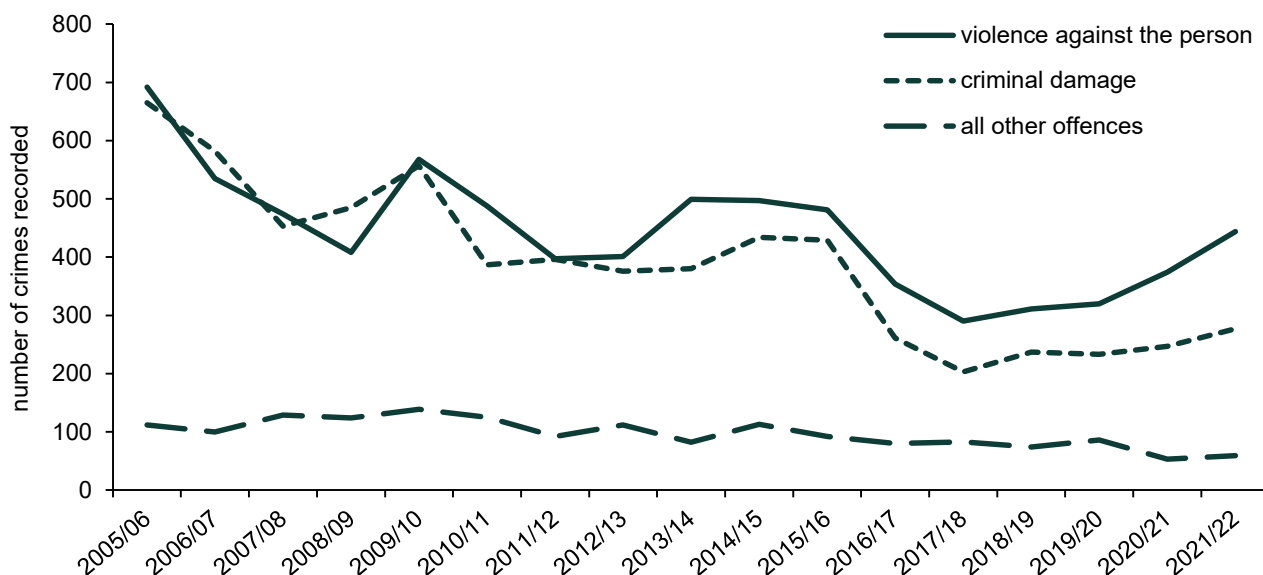


4.2 Trends in crimes with a sectarian motivation by crime type

A description of each main crime type is provided in Appendix 1 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

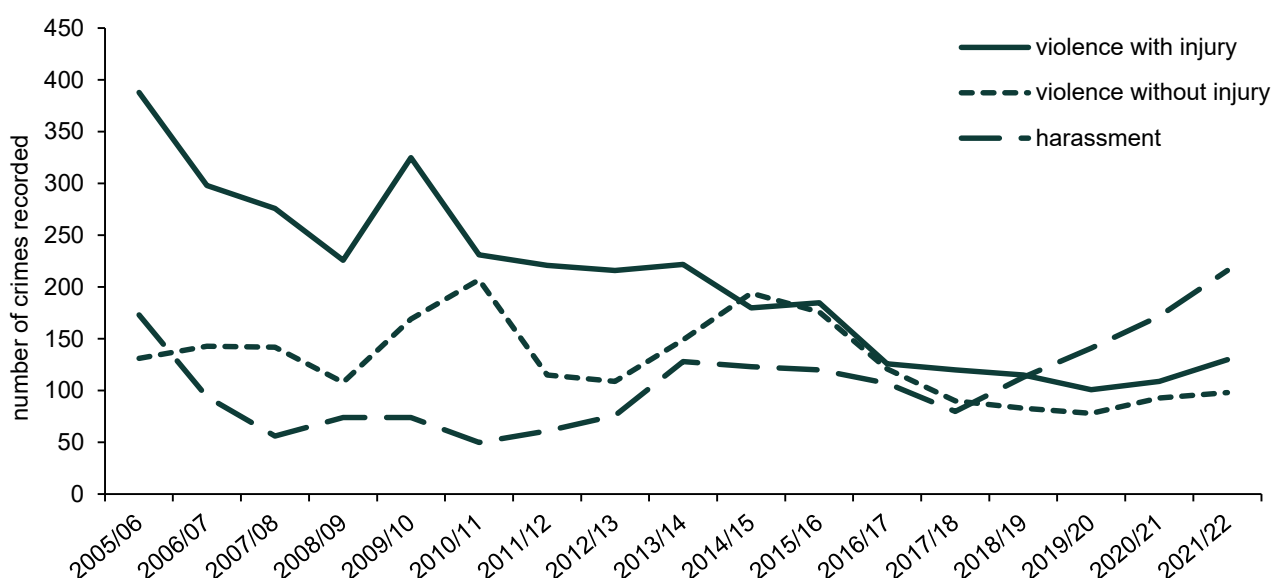
Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a sectarian motivation are shown in figure 4.2 below. The full data series for crimes with a sectarian motivation is available in Table 4.2.

Figure 4.2 Crimes with a sectarian motivation by crime type, 2005/06 to 2021/22



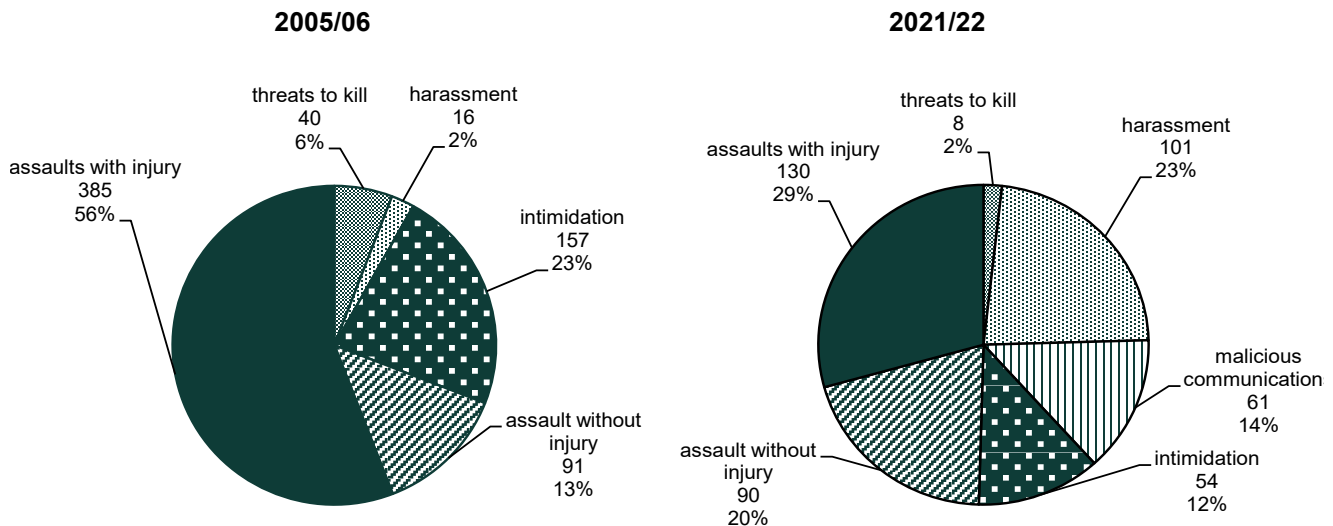
Violence against the person with a sectarian motivation: Around half of all crimes with a sectarian motivation fall within violence against the person, increasing to 57 per cent in 2021/22. This classification includes a wide range of offences from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm to murder. Even within the same classification the degree of violence used can vary considerably between incidents. Figure 4.3 shows the declining levels of violence with injury (including homicide and death/serious injury by unlawful driving), reaching a low of 101 offences in 2019/20; the 130 offences recorded in 2021/22 remains well below the 388 offences recorded in 2005/06. Levels of violence without injury have been more stable, although since 2017/18 they have remained below 100 offences each year. The overall harassment classification includes offences relating to harassment, malicious communications (from 2017/18) and intimidation, with overall harassment showing the greatest increase in levels following the inclusion of malicious communications. Details of changes in recording practice within the overall harassment classification are provided in the Points to Note (page 4) and the impact is shown in figure 4.4.

Figure 4.3 Violence against the person with a sectarian motivation, 2005/06 to 2021/22



The makeup of classifications within violence against the person has changed between 2005/06 and 2021/22. The proportion of assault with injury, intimidation and threats to kill offences have fallen by 27 percentage points, 11 percentage points and 6 percentage points respectively, while the proportion of assault without injury offences has increased by 7 percentage points. The recording of malicious communications from 2017/18 and the change in harassment recording practice have contributed to these shifts, with the proportion of harassment offences increasing by 21 percentage points and malicious communications representing 14 per cent of violence against the person in 2021/22, as shown in figure 4.4 below.

Figure 4.4 Selected violence against the person offences with a sectarian motivation, comparison of 2005/06 with 2021/22



Criminal damage with a sectarian motivation: These offences account for less than half of all sectarian crime; since 2016/17 it has been less than two in five offences and in 2021/22 it is closer to a third. Within criminal damage, between one third and two fifths of offences are criminal damage - residential. Prior to 2016/17 around a quarter of criminal damage offences were criminal damage to a vehicle; since 2016/17 the proportion has fallen and is now typically lower than for all other types of criminal damage.

All other crimes with a sectarian motivation: The number of theft offences (including burglary) showed generally higher levels between 2012/13 and 2019/20, with the highest level of 60 recorded in 2016/17; the latest two financial years have recorded 29 and 38 offences respectively. Public order offences have declined in number from the highest level of 68 in 2009/10 to the lowest level of 2 recorded in 2021/22.

4.3 Victims of sectarian crimes

The Home Office has identified offences as being victim-based, state-based or victim and state-based. State-based offences are those for which no member of the public or business/organisation is a victim. For victim-based offences, the victim can be a member of the public (referred to here as person victim), a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty, or a business or organisation.

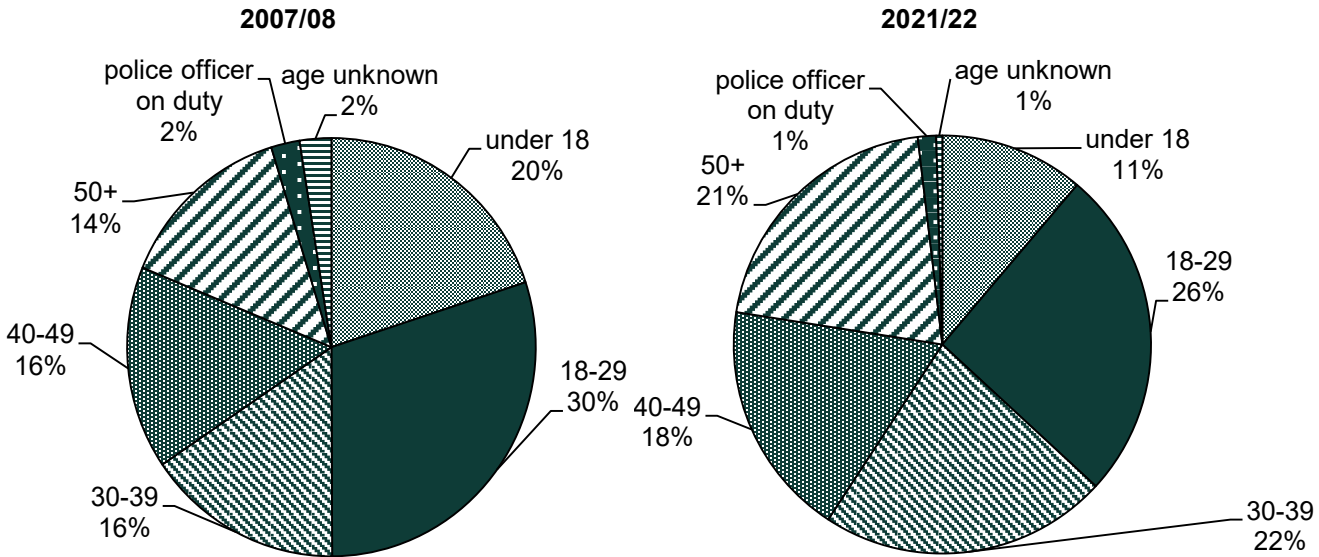
The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2007/08, a person is the victim of a sectarian crime in 74 to 83 per cent of cases, while in 13 to 21 per cent of sectarian crimes the victim is a business or organisation. Up to 9 per cent of sectarian crimes are state-based [Table 4.4].

In relation to the religious background of the victims of sectarian crimes, this information is not sufficiently complete (either unknown or the victim refused to provide) to present any meaningful statistics.

4.3.1 Sectarian crimes: age and gender of victims

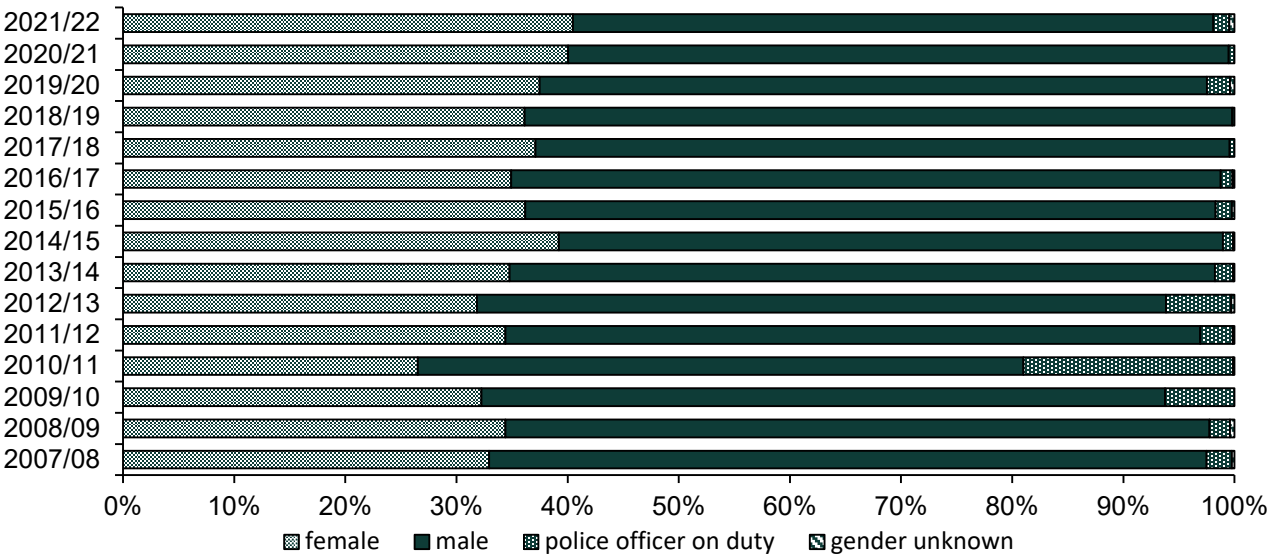
Victim age: Since 2007/08 the proportion of sectarian crimes by age of victim has tended to fluctuate from year to year. However there has been a general fall in the proportion of victims under the age of 18 and a general increase in the proportion of victims aged 30 to 39 and those aged 50 plus. [Table 4.5]

Figure 4.5 Sectarian crimes by age of victim, 2007/08 and 2021/22



Victim gender: In relation to the gender of victims of sectarian crimes, between 27 per cent and 40 per cent are female, and between 54 per cent and 65 per cent are male. In 2021/22, less than 1 per cent of victims of sectarian motivated crimes were police officers on duty. [Table 4.6]

Figure 4.6 Sectarian crimes by gender of victim, 2007/08 to 2021/22

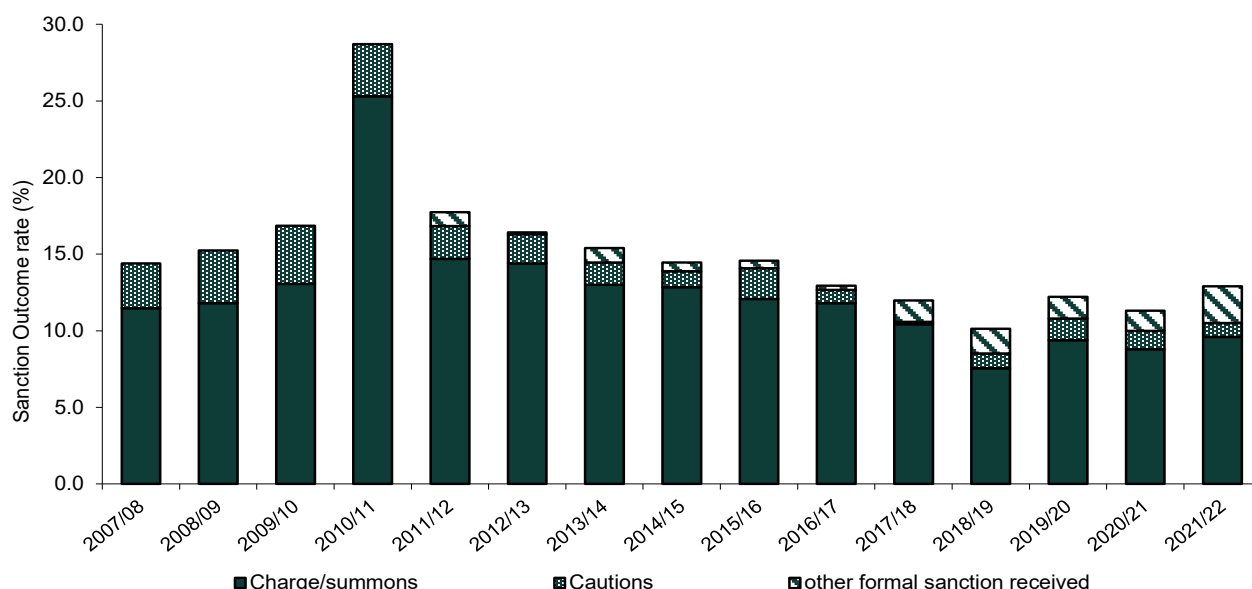


4.4 Outcomes for crimes with a sectarian motivation

An explanation of the sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates presented in this section can be found in Section 3.5 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Figure 4.7 shows the trend in the sanction outcome rate for crimes with a sectarian motivation since 2007/08. It also shows the split by the method of disposal. Since 2007/08 charge/summons outcomes have accounted for between 77 per cent and 91 per cent of all sanction outcomes. Since 2016/17 cautions have been used less frequently as a disposal method; in 2021/22 there were 2 caution disposals and 19 community resolutions.

Figure 4.7 Sanction outcome rates for crimes with a sectarian motivation by method of disposal, 2007/08 to 2021/22



A full break down of all outcomes for crimes with a sectarian motivation from 2015/16 is available in Section 5 of the publication [Outcomes of Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2015/16 to 2021/22 \(opens in a new window\)](#). This includes outcomes which did not result in a sanction, for example those where there were evidential difficulties and those where the investigation was completed with no suspect identified.

Figures 4.8 and 4.9 show the trends in crimes, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates for offences within violence against the person and criminal damage which, between them, account for around nine out of every ten sectarian crimes recorded. Both charts are shown to the same scale and show how changing volumes of crimes and sanction outcomes can have an impact on the sanction outcome rate. [Tables 4.2, 4.8 (numbers) and 4.8 (rates)]

These charts also demonstrate the higher sanction outcome rate seen in relation to violence against the person offences when compared with criminal damage. Criminal damage offences may be harder to detect as it can be more difficult to identify a suspect.

Figure 4.8 Violence against the person with a sectarian motivation; crimes recorded, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates, 2007/08 to 2021/22

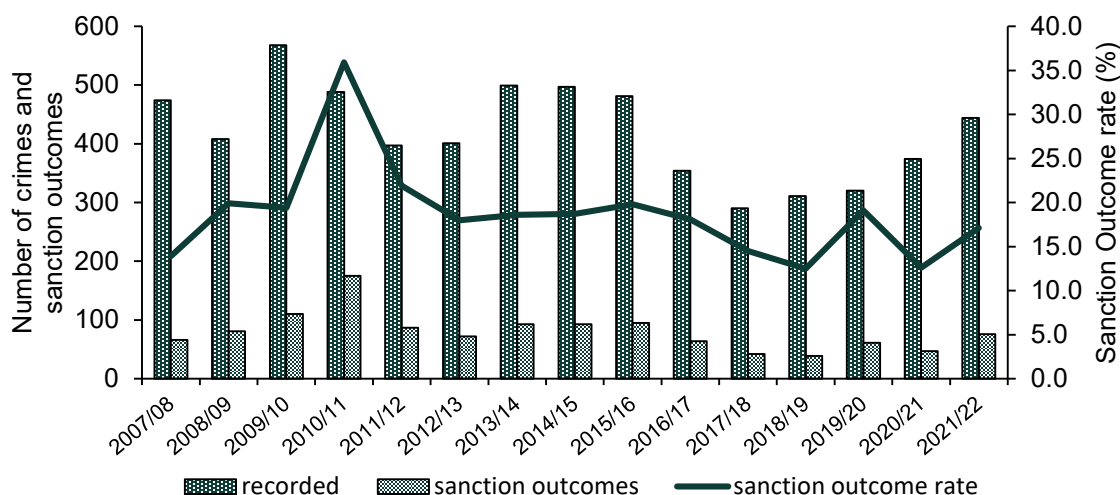
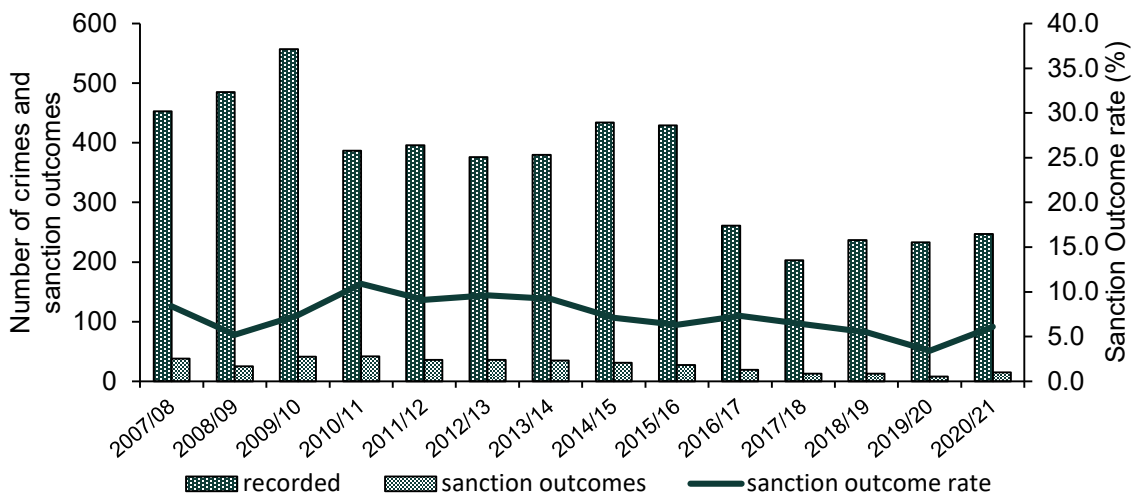
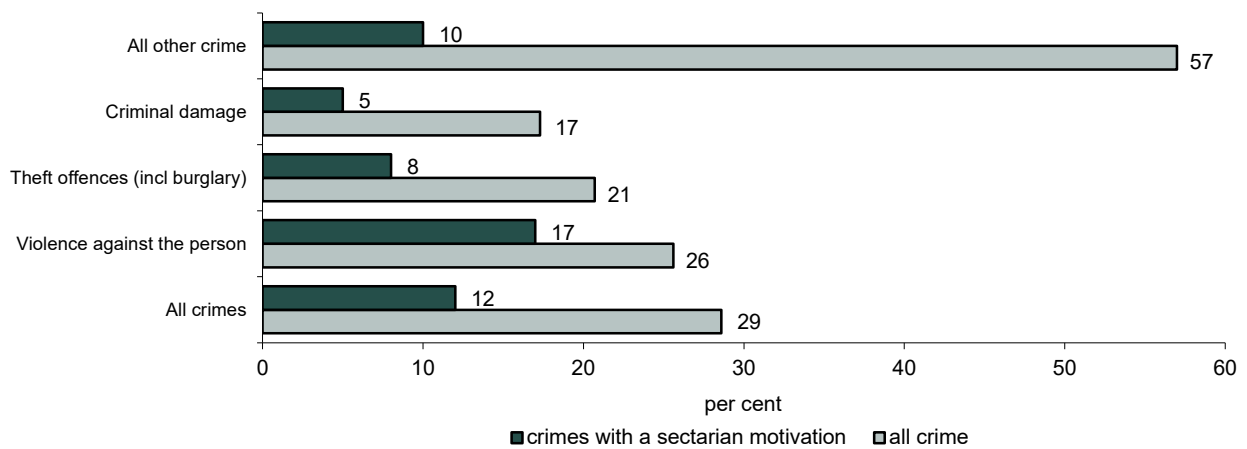


Figure 4.9 Criminal damage with a sectarian motivation; crimes recorded, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates, 2007/08 to 2021/22



Comparison of sanction outcome rates for crimes with a sectarian motivation and all crimes recorded by the police: Broadly speaking, sanction outcome rates for crimes with a sectarian motivation tend to be lower than those for all crimes recorded by the police, regardless of crime type. Between 2007/08 and 2010/11 there was an exception for the combined sanction outcome rate for crime types including other crimes against society (i.e. crime types other than violence against the person, theft offences (including burglary) and criminal damage); during this time period they showed a similar or higher outcome rate when compared with all crimes recorded by the police. Since then the sanction outcome rate for these crimes has shown the same pattern as the other sectarian crimes.

Figure 4.10 Sanction outcome rates by crime type, sectarian motivated crimes and all crimes recorded by the police, 2021/22



5. Faith/Religion Motivations: Trends since 2009/10

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. A faith or religious group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief. This would include Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and different sects within a religion. It also includes people who hold no religious belief at all.

All tables referred to in the commentary of Section 5 Faith/Religion Motivations can be found in the [faith/religion motivations spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#).

5.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a faith/religion motivation

Levels of faith/religion incidents and crimes were higher in each year 2014/15 to 2018/19 than the levels recorded between 2009/10 and 2013/14. The highest number of faith/religion incidents was seen in 2017/18. Levels of faith/religion incidents then fell in each year between 2018/19 and 2020/21, before increasing in 2021/22 to a level similar to that previously seen in 2016/17. The number of faith/religion crimes fell in 2018/19 and 2019/20 before increasing again in 2020/21 and 2021/22, with 2021/22 reaching the highest level of crimes since 2009/10 when improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion motivation.

Crimes with a faith/religion motivation represent less than 0.1 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police.

Table 5.1 Faith/Religion motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes¹, 2009/10 to 2021/22

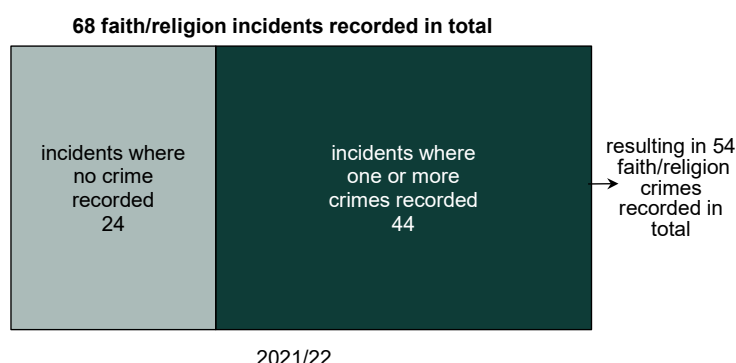
	Faith/Religion Incidents	Faith/Religion Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2009/10 ²	32	16	1	6.3
2010/11	24	12	0	0.0
2011/12	15	6	1	16.7
2012/13	28	12	2	16.7
2013/14	33	16	3	18.8
2014/15	84	29	3	10.3
2015/16	59	25	2	8.0
2016/17	65	34	2	5.9
2017/18	90	40	3	7.5
2018/19	56	23	2	8.7
2019/20	41	15	2	13.3
2020/21	39	26	6	23.1
2021/22	68	54	8	14.8

¹ An explanation of the crime sanction outcomes data series can be found in section 3.5 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

² In 2009/10 improvement were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion motivation; data for these motivations prior to 2009/10 are only presented in Table 1.1 and should be regarded with caution.

During 2021/22 there were 68 incidents recorded where there was a faith/religion motivation. Of these, there were 24 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 44 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 54 faith/religion crimes in total). Around a third of faith/religion incidents did not result in a crime being recorded. In previous years this proportion was generally closer to two thirds.

Figure 5.1 Incidents and crimes with a faith/religion motivation, 2021/22

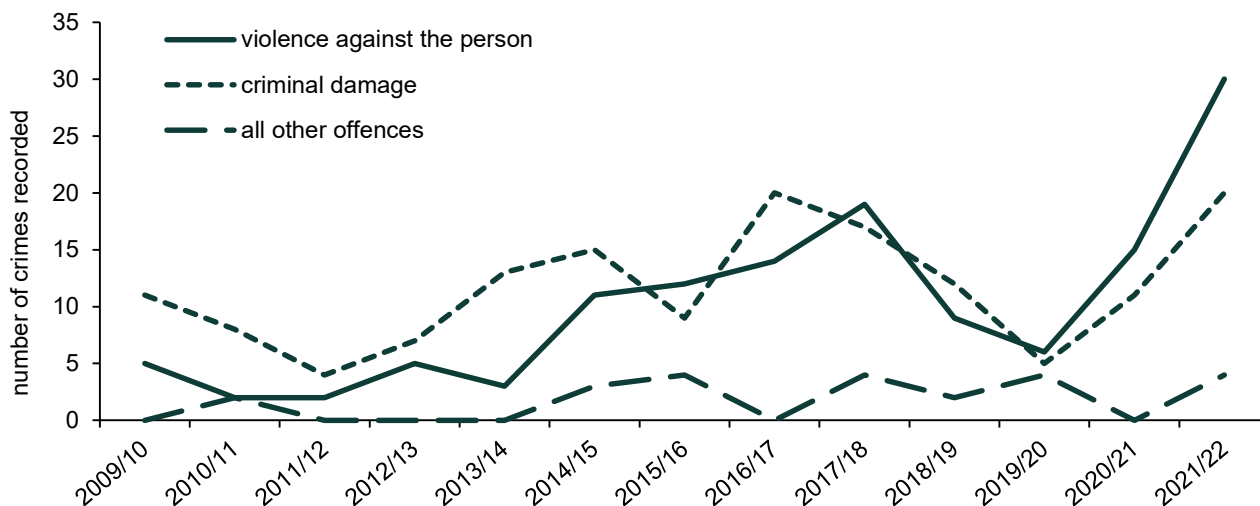


5.2 Trends in crimes with a faith/religion motivation by crime type

A description of each main crime type is provided in Appendix 1 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a faith/religion motivation are shown in figure 5.2. The full data series for crimes with a faith/religion motivation is available in Table 5.2.

Figure 5.2 Crimes with a faith/religion motivation by crime type, 2009/10 to 2021/22



In 2021/22 violence against the person offences accounted for 56 per cent of all crimes with a faith/religion motivation while criminal damage offences accounted for 37 per cent. Since 2018/19, harassment made up between 55 and 66 per cent of all violence against the person offences.

5.3 Victims of faith/religion crimes

The Home Office has identified offences as being victim-based, state-based or victim and state-based. State-based offences are those for which no member of the public or business/organisation is a victim. For victim-based offences, the victim can be a member of the public (referred to here as person victim), a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty, or a business or organisation.

The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2009/10, a person is the victim of a faith/religion crime in 42 to 88 per cent of cases, while in 12 to 50 per cent of faith/religion crimes the victim is a business or organisation. Up to eight per cent of faith/religion crimes are state-based. [Table 5.3]

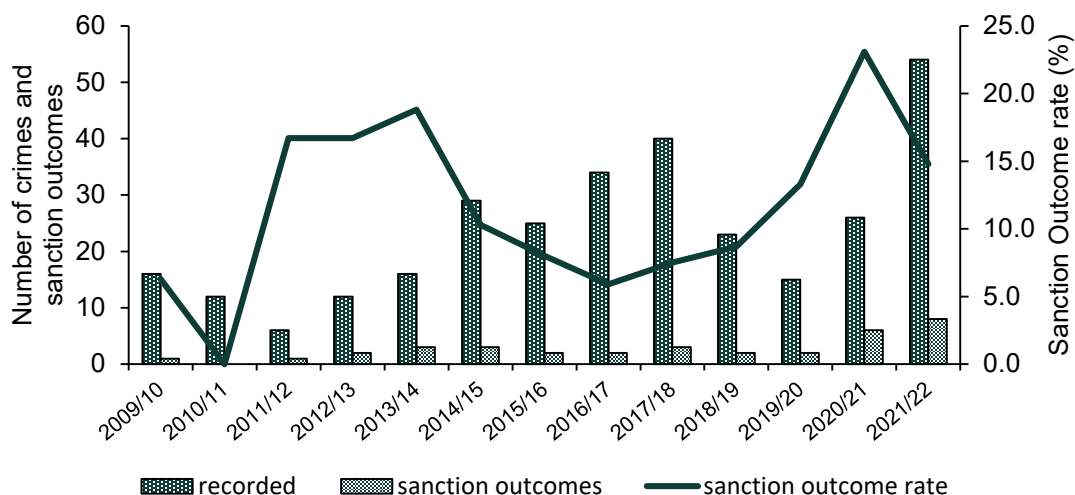
The number of person victims of faith/religion motivated crimes is too small to enable further details to be provided in relation to age, gender or religious background. In addition, the religious background of the victims of faith/religion crimes is not sufficiently complete (either unknown or the victim refused to provide).

5.4 Outcomes for crimes with a faith/religion motivation

An explanation of the sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates presented in this section can be found in Section 3.5 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Figure 5.3 shows the trend in the overall sanction outcome rate for crimes with a faith/religion motivation since 2009/10 and demonstrates the volatility of the sanction outcome rate when the levels of crimes and sanction outcomes recorded are small. [Tables 5.2, 5.4 (numbers) and 5.4 (rates)].

Figure 5.3 Crimes, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates for crimes with a faith/religion motivation, 2009/10 to 2021/22



6. Disability Motivations: Trends since 2009/10

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. Those with a disability motivation cover any disability including physical or sensory disability, learning disability, long-term illness and mental health.

All tables referred to in the commentary of Section 6 Disability Motivations can be found in the [disability motivations spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#).

6.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a disability motivation

Disability motivated incidents and crimes were showing decreasing levels between 2009/10 and 2011/12, after which levels started to increase considerably. Levels of incidents fell between 2014/15 and 2020/21 before increasing in 2021/22 to the third highest level recorded. The number of disability motivated crimes has been rising since 2017/18 (with the exception of 2020/21), and 2021/22 recorded the highest level in the data series.

Crimes with a disability motivation represent less than 0.1 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police.

Table 6.1 Disability motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes¹, 2009/10 to 2020/21

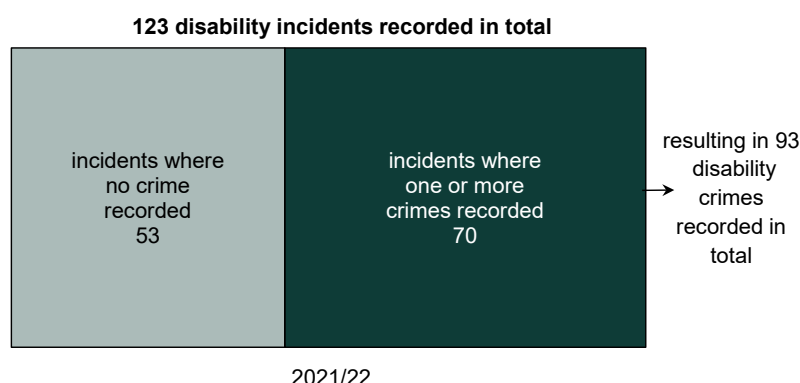
	Disability Incidents	Disability Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2009/10 ²	58	40	6	15.0
2010/11	38	29	4	13.8
2011/12	33	15	7	46.7
2012/13	74	35	5	14.3
2013/14	107	66	3	4.5
2014/15	138	74	9	12.2
2015/16	134	74	4	5.4
2016/17	112	60	7	11.7
2017/18	101	48	2	4.2
2018/19	100	53	4	7.5
2019/20	99	72	11	15.3
2020/21	90	58	6	10.3
2021/22	123	93	12	12.9

¹ An explanation of the crime sanction outcomes data series can be found in section 3.5 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

² In 2009/10 improvement were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion motivation; data for these motivations prior to 2009/10 are only presented in Table 1.1 and should be regarded with caution.

During 2021/22 there were 123 incidents recorded where there was a disability motivation. Of these, there were 53 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 70 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 93 disability crimes in total). Around two in five incidents did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 6.1 Incidents and crimes with a disability motivation, 2021/22

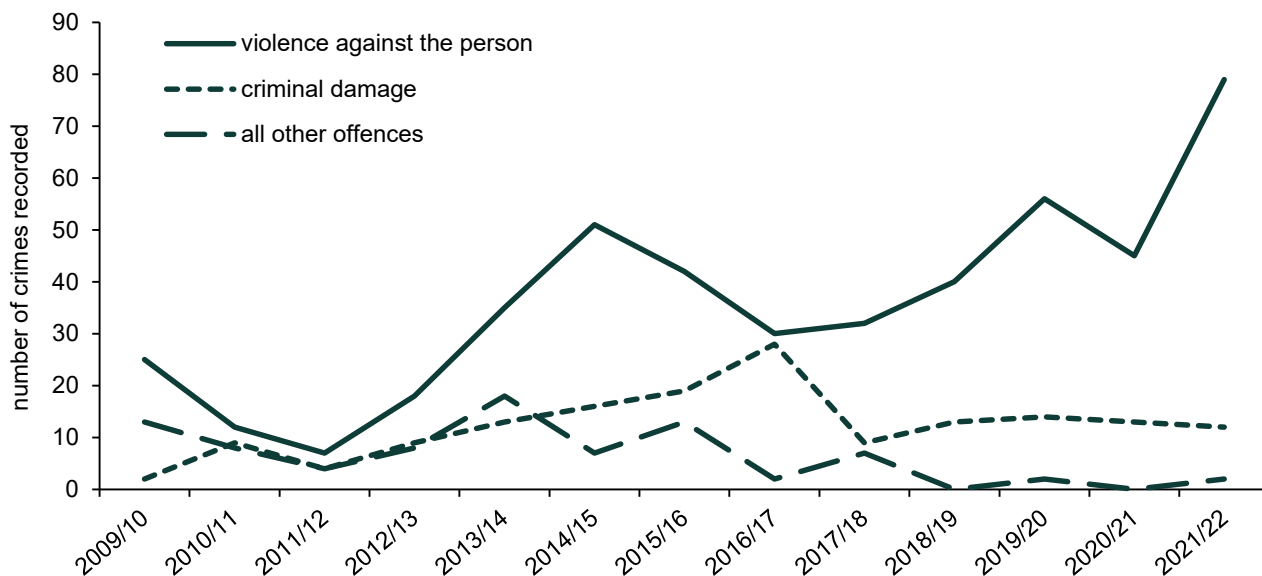


6.2 Trends in crimes with a disability motivation by crime type

A description of each main crime type is provided in Appendix 1 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

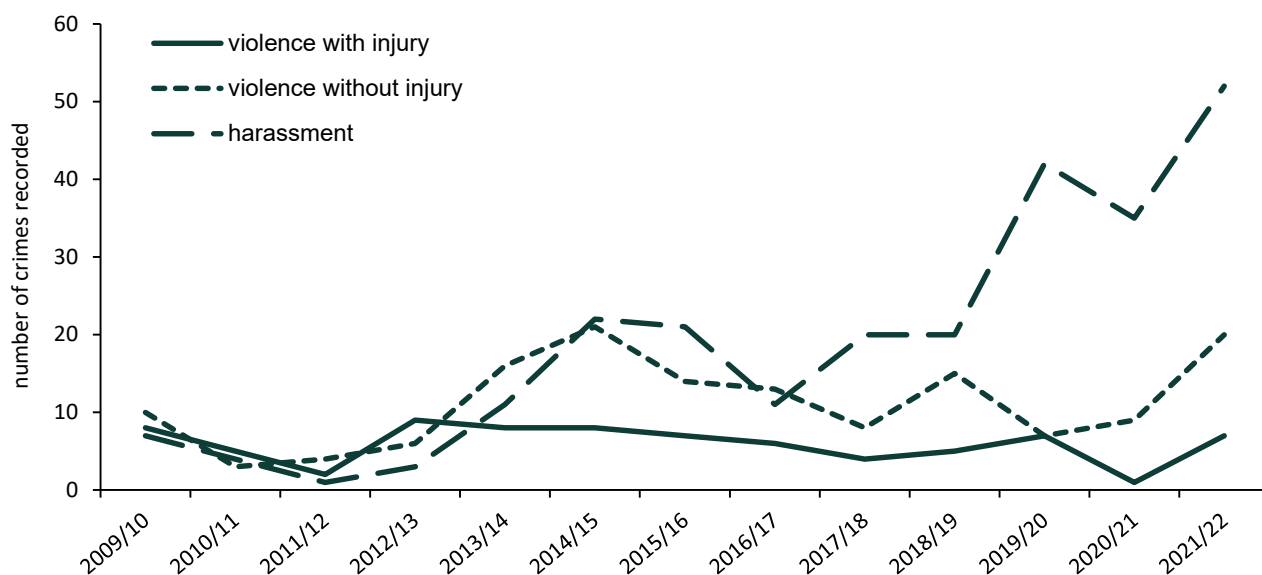
Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a disability motivation are shown in figure 6.2. The full data series for crimes with a disability motivation is available in Table 6.2.

Figure 6.2 Crimes with a disability motivation by crime type, 2009/10 to 2021/22



Violence against the person with a disability motivation: In most years at least half of all crimes with a disability motivation fall within violence against the person, and in more recent years this proportion has risen to at least three quarters. This classification includes a wide range of offences from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm to murder. Even within the same classification the degree of violence used can vary considerably between incidents. Figure 6.3 shows the changing pattern of violence with injury (including homicide and death/serious injury by unlawful driving), violence without injury and harassment since 2009/10. Recording of malicious communications, which started on 1st April 2017, and a Home Office change introduced in April 2018 requiring harassment to be recorded in addition to the most serious additional victim based offence, have contributed to the higher level of harassment offences shown in figure 6.3 below. Further details are provided in the Points to Note of page 4.

Figure 6.3 Violence against the person with a disability motivation by crime type, 2009/10 to 2021/22



6.3 Victims of disability crimes

The Home Office has identified offences as being victim-based, state-based or victim and state-based. State-based offences are those for which no member of the public or business/organisation is a victim. For victim-based offences, the victim can be a member of the public (referred to here as person victim), a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty, or a business or organisation.

The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2009/10, a person is the victim of a disability crime in at least 93 per cent of cases, while in up to 7 per cent of disability crimes the victim is a business or organisation. Up to 3 per cent of disability crimes are state-based. [Table 5.3]

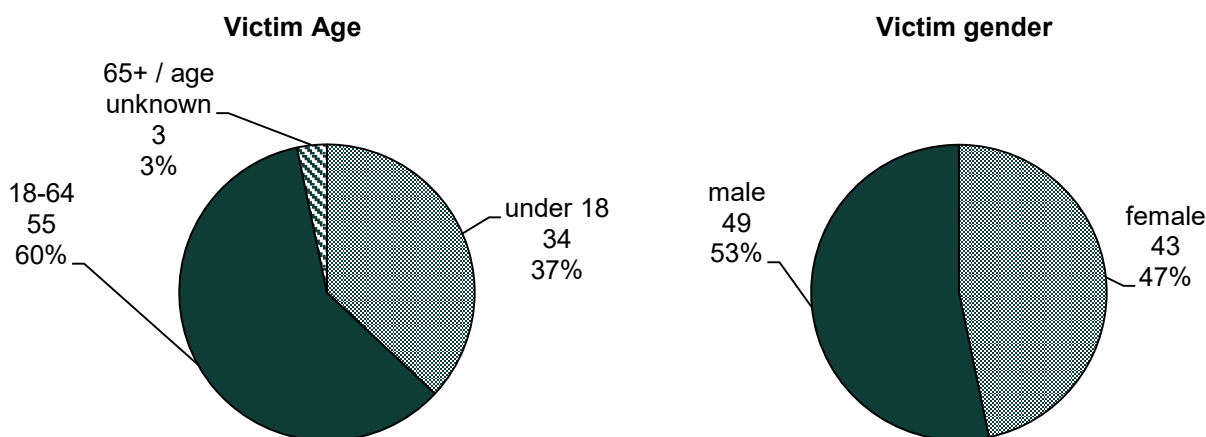
Of the 93 crimes with a disability motivation recorded in 2020/21, 92 involved a person victim with 25 of these persons identified as having a learning disability.

6.3.1 Disability crimes: age and gender of victims

Victim age: The proportion of disability crimes where the victim is under 18 has increased each year from 6 per cent in 2012/13 to 37 per cent in 2021/22. The proportions where the victim is 18-64 and 65+ tend to be lower in more recent years than at the start of the series in 2009/10. Figure 6.4 shows the age breakdown for 2021/22. [Table 6.4]

Victim gender: Figure 6.4 also shows the gender breakdown for 2021/22. The proportions have varied since 2009/10, ranging from 30 per cent to 51 per cent female victims and 49 per cent to 70 per cent male victims. There was a higher proportion of male victims in each year, with the exception of 2017/18. [Table 6.5]

Figure 6.4 Disability crimes by age and gender of victim, 2021/22

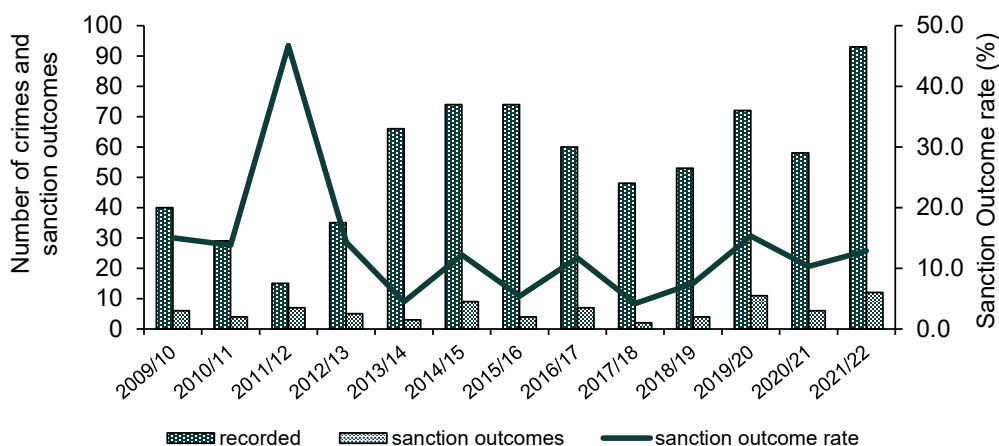


6.4 Sanction outcomes for crimes with a disability motivation

An explanation of the sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates presented in this section can be found in Section 3.5 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Figure 6.5 shows the trends in crimes, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates for all disability crimes. It demonstrates the volatility of the outcome rate when the levels of crimes and sanction outcomes recorded are small. [Tables 6.2, 6.6 (numbers) and 6.6 (rates)].

Figure 6.5 Crimes, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates with a disability motivation, 2009/10 to 2021/22



7. Transphobic Motivations: Trends since 2009/10

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic. In relation to transphobia this includes people who are trans and those who hold the gender recognition certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

All tables referred to in the commentary of Section 7 Transphobic Motivations can be found in the [transphobic motivations spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#).

7.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a transphobic motivation

Between 2009/10 and 2016/17 the number of transphobic incidents ranged between 14 and 23, with the exception of 4 such incidents recorded in 2011/12. The number of transphobic crimes ranged between 3 and 12 over the same time period. The number of transphobic incidents and crimes have mostly been higher since 2017/18 when compared with the earlier part of the data series, with a substantial increase seen in both incidents and crimes in 2019/20 and a further increase in the number of incidents in 2020/21. In 2021/22 the number of transphobic motivated crimes rose to the highest level in the data series.

Crimes with a transphobic motivation represent less than 0.1 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police.

Table 7.1 Transphobic motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes¹, 2009/10 to 2021/22

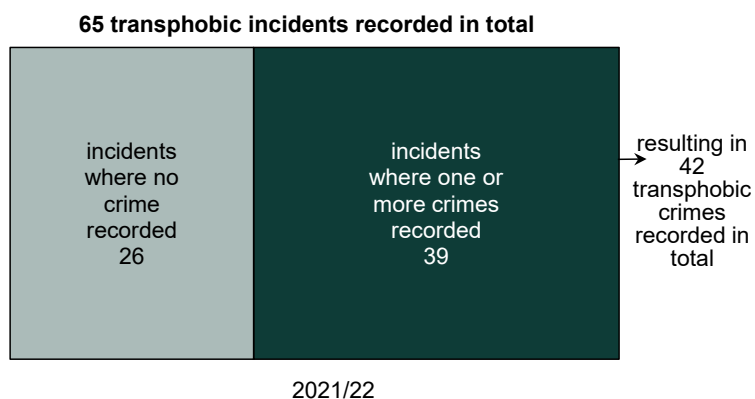
	Transphobic Incidents	Transphobic Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2009/10 ²	14	4	0	0.0
2010/11	22	8	1	12.5
2011/12	4	3	0	0.0
2012/13	15	6	0	0.0
2013/14	23	8	2	25.0
2014/15	21	8	1	12.5
2015/16	19	12	0	0.0
2016/17	20	12	3	25.0
2017/18	38	17	4	23.5
2018/19	33	12	1	8.3
2019/20	64	34	4	11.8
2020/21	71	34	6	17.6
2021/22	65	42	5	11.9

¹ An explanation of the crime sanction outcomes data series can be found in section 3.5 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

² In 2009/10 improvement were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion motivation; data for these motivations prior to 2009/10 are only presented in Table 1.1 and should be regarded with caution.

During 2021/22 there were 65 incidents recorded where there was a disability motivation. Of these, there were 26 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 39 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 42 transphobic crimes in total). Around two in five disability incidents did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 7.1 Incidents and crimes with a transphobic motivation, 2021/22

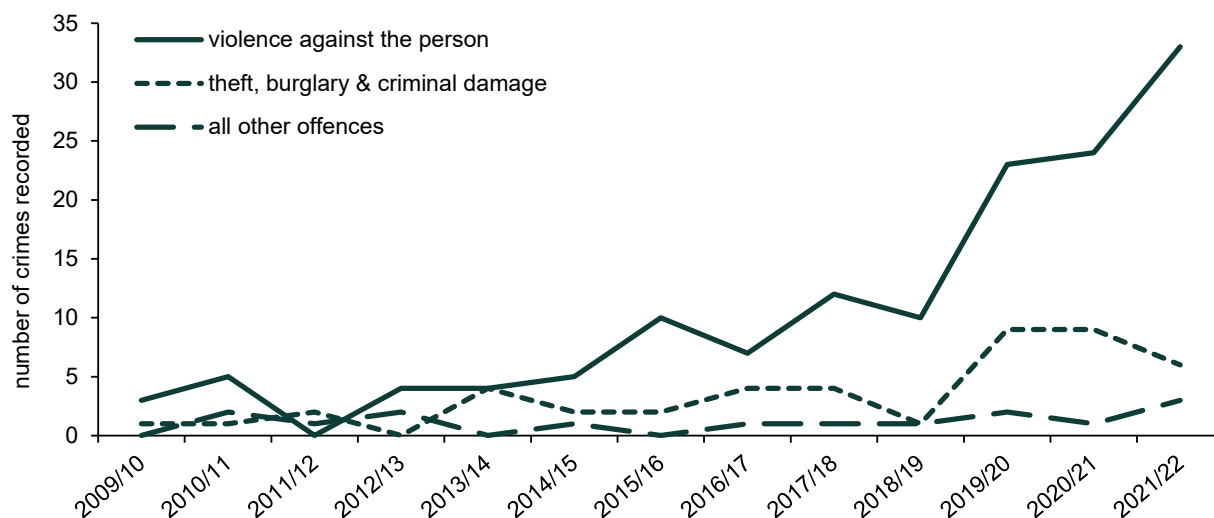


7.2 Trends in crimes with a transphobic motivation by crime type

A description of each main crime type is provided in Appendix 1 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, theft/criminal damage and all other crimes with a transphobic motivation are shown in figure 7.2. The full data series for crimes with a transphobic motivation is available in table 7.2.

Figure 7.2 Crimes with a transphobic motivation by crime type, 2009/10 to 2021/22



7.3 Victims of transphobic crimes

The Home Office has identified offences as being victim-based, state-based or victim and state-based. State-based offences are those for which no member of the public or business/organisation is a victim. For victim-based offences, the victim can be a member of the public (referred to here as person victim), a police officer who was the victim of a crime in the course of carrying out their duty, or a business or organisation.

The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. All crimes with a transphobic motivation recorded since 2006/07 have had a person victim, with the exception of four crimes recorded with a business/organisation victim and one state-based crime.

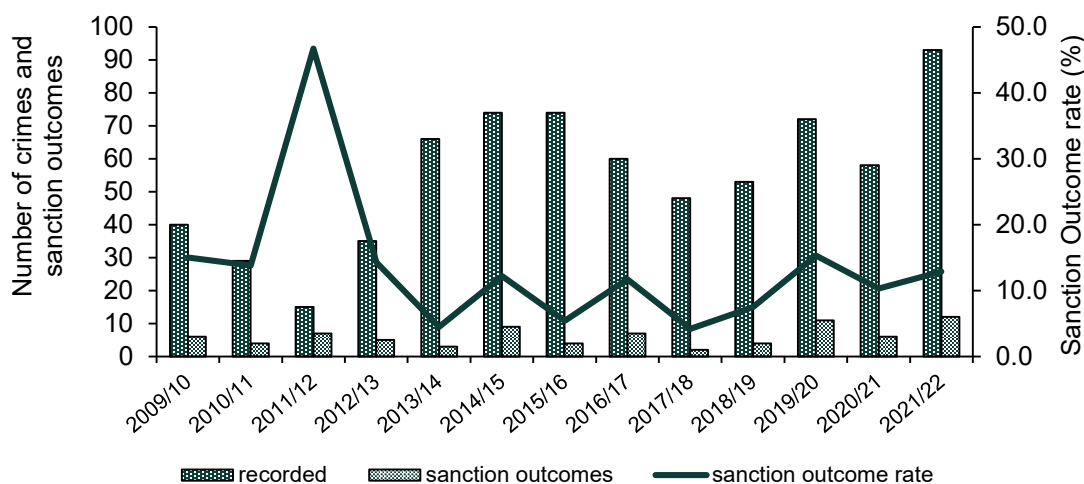
The number of person victims of transphobic motivated crimes is too small to enable further details to be provided in relation to age, gender or any other background information.

7.4 Sanction outcomes for crimes with a transphobic motivation

An explanation of the sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates presented in this section can be found in Section 3.5 of the [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Figure 7.3 shows the trends in crimes, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates for all transphobic crimes. It demonstrates the volatility of the sanction outcome rate when the levels of crimes and sanction outcomes recorded are small. [Tables 7.2, 7.3 (numbers) and 7.3 (rates)].

Figure 7.3 Crimes, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates with a transphobic motivation, 2009/10 to 2021/22



8. Geographic patterns of hate motivated incidents and crimes

As a general rule crimes are recorded geographically by the police based on the location in which the incident occurred.

As part of the Review of Public Administration which came into effect on 1st April 2015, PSNI moved from eight to eleven policing districts, with the new policing model becoming fully operational at the end of September 2015. The complete hate motivated crime data series was able to be allocated to the new policing districts. However the level of geographic information required to allocate hate motivated incident records to the new boundaries was insufficient for the financial years 2004/05 to 2006/07. For this reason, comparison of hate motivated incidents at policing district level is only available for the financial years dating back to 2007/08.

Belfast City, whilst being only one policing district, accounts for a reasonable proportion of all hate motivated incidents/crimes recorded in Northern Ireland. It includes four local policing teams based in Strandtown (East), Tennent Street (North), Lisburn Road (South), and Woodbourne (West). Figures for each of these local policing teams are made available to assist with district level comparisons.

8.1 Racist, Homophobic and Sectarian Motivations by policing district

Detailed tables are available in the [accompanying spreadsheets \(opens in a new window\)](#) covering incidents, recorded crime, outcome rates and population rates for incidents and crimes

Pivot tables are available providing a breakdown of crime type for each of recorded crime, outcomes (numbers and rates) and population rates

- Racist motivations spreadsheet [tables 2.13 to 2.18 and pivot table]
- Homophobic motivations spreadsheet [tables 3.10 to 3.15 and pivot table]
- Sectarian motivations spreadsheet [tables 4.10 to 4.15 and pivot table]

8.2 Faith/Religion and Disability Motivations by policing district

Detailed tables are available in the [accompanying spreadsheets \(opens in a new window\)](#) covering incidents, recorded crime and outcome rates. Levels are too small to provide meaningful population rates.

- Faith/religion motivations spreadsheet [tables 5.6 to 5.8]
- Disability motivations spreadsheet [tables 6.8 to 6.10]

8.3 Transphobic Motivations by policing district

Detailed tables are available in the [accompanying spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#) covering incidents and recorded crime. Outcome numbers are too small to provide outcome rates at policing district and crime levels are too small to provide meaningful population rates.

- Transphobic motivations spreadsheet [tables 7.4 and 7.5]

8.4 Additional geographic breakdowns of hate motivated incidents and crimes

The [Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service \(NINIS\) \(opens in a new window\)](#) website is updated annually in relation to incidents and crimes with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation. The available geographies are listed below:

Incidents with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation

Ward 2014, District Electoral Area (DEA) 2014 and Local Government District (LGD) 2014

Crimes with a racist, homophobic or sectarian motivation

Ward 2014, District Electoral Area (DEA) 2014, Local Government District (LGD) 2014, Assembly Area (AA), Education & Library Board (ELB), Health & Social Care Trust (HSCT), Urban/Rural and Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA)

9. Wider Context (comparison with England and Wales)¹

Hate crimes are recorded by the police in England and Wales under five centrally monitored strands:

- race or ethnicity;
- religion or beliefs;
- sexual orientation;
- disability; and
- transgender identify

The method of identifying hate crimes in England & Wales is similar to that within PSNI, through use of a flag as part of the crime recording process to identify the relevant motivation(s).

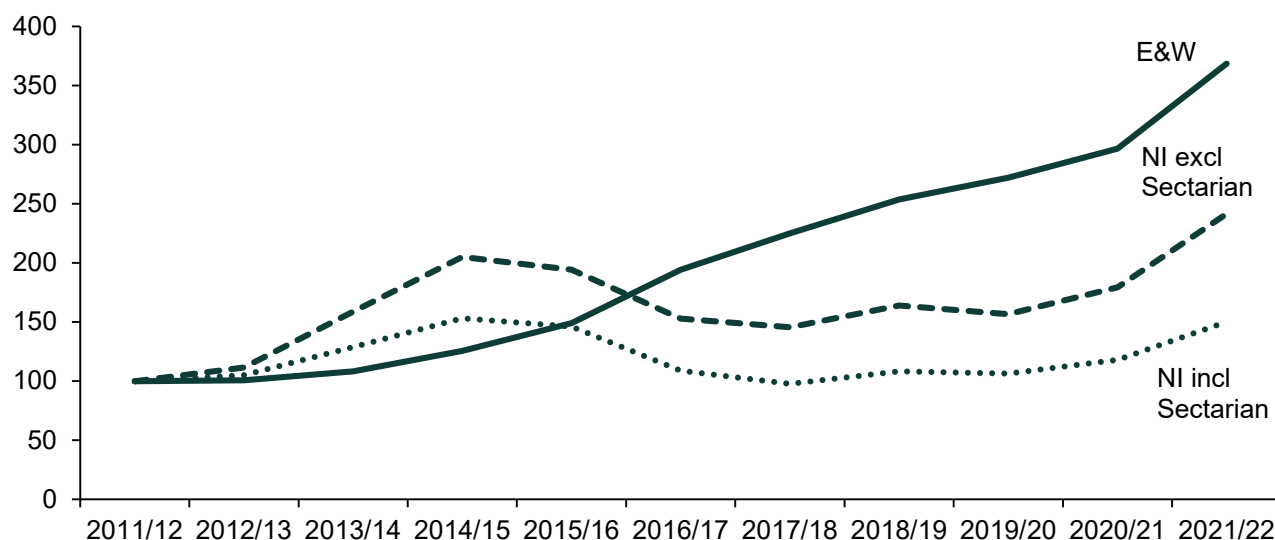
In England & Wales there are some offences in the main police recorded crime collection which have a specific racially or religiously motivated element. These are defined by statute and constitute a set of offences which are distinct from their non-racially or religiously aggravated equivalents. As police in England & Wales can identify other general offences as hate crimes, the total number of race or religious hate crimes will be greater than the number of police recorded racially or religiously aggravated offences.

These specific racially or religiously aggravated offences do not exist within Northern Ireland. Instead, all hate crimes are identified through a motivation 'tick box' on the system used within PSNI to record crime.

Figure 9.1 compares hate crimes in England & Wales with hate crimes in Northern Ireland over the last eleven years. The Northern Ireland figures are shown including and excluding crimes with a sectarian motivation which is a separate hate strand in Northern Ireland; in 2011/12 crimes with a sectarian motivation accounted for nearly 60 per cent of all crimes with a hate motivation, falling to 35 per cent in 2021/22.

As there is a large difference in the volume of hate crimes recorded between England & Wales and Northern Ireland, both data series have been indexed to allow a comparison to be made, where each year 2012/13 to 2021/22 is shown in relation to the level recorded in 2011/12.

Figure 9.1 Indexed trends in the number of hate crimes in Northern Ireland compared with England & Wales, 2011/12 to 2021/22 (2011/12 = 100)



The Home Office publication on Hate Crime in England & Wales 2021/22 provides comment on hate crime following major events, focusing on the number of racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police by month.

Within Northern Ireland, monthly data on all the strands of hate motivation is available in the [accompanying pivot table spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#). However numbers are small and the data series shows general fluctuations and peaks which would be difficult to attribute to the events highlighted by the Home Office. A second limitation is that the racially or religiously aggravated offences are not available within Northern Ireland and so there is no equivalent data series that can be produced.

¹ The England & Wales details have been sourced from the publication [Hate Crime in England & Wales 2021-22 \(opens in a new window\)](#). Data for Greater Manchester Police (GMP) have not been included in the above chart because of issues with their data supply following the implementation of new force IT systems.

Appendix 1. Background and Data Quality

Data collection and data quality

PSNI's Statistics Branch started compiling statistics on racist and homophobic incidents and crimes in April 2004. While PSNI compiled statistics on incidents with racist and homophobic motivations prior to 2004/05, the method of data collection and definitions of crimes and crime types was not comparable and so these figures are not included within this bulletin. The compilation of incidents and crimes with a sectarian, faith/religion or disability motivation started within PSNI from 2005/06, while those with a transphobic motivation started in 2006/07.

The identification of a hate motivation is derived from a motivation 'tick box' on the system used by PSNI to record crime. The motivation is identified and completed by a police officer or member of police staff for each such reported incident or crime. The correct application of a hate motivation for all such incidents/crimes is not quality assured by the PSNI's Statistics Branch, but audits and data quality checks are routinely conducted in an attempt to ensure that any under or over-recording is corrected. Crimes with a hate motivation are included within the police recorded crime statistics for Northern Ireland and these crimes are recorded in compliance with the Home Office Counting Rules. A comprehensive validation and quality assurance process has been set in place to ensure that the numbers and types of crimes being recorded meet the standards set down in these rules.

In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion, disability and transphobic motivation. Data for these motivations should be regarded with caution prior to this date.

Crime Statistics User Guide

The [User Guide to Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#) is a reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of police recorded crime statistics, incidents and crimes with a domestic or hate motivation and anti-social behaviour statistics. The guide provides background information on:

- definitions and methodology
- recording practices, data collection, compliance and quality assurance;
- revisions policy and data availability
- uses and user engagement

Changes to crime classifications: A list of the police recorded crime classifications and any impact classification changes have had on the police recorded crime time series is provided in Appendix 1 of user guide.

Police Recorded Crime Outcomes: Section 3.5 of the user guide provides the background to the compilation and presentation of crime outcomes, with Appendix 2 listing the disposal methods available within Northern Ireland.

Additional data available to accompany this release

This release provides an overview of hate motivated incidents and crimes recorded by the police for each financial year since the start of each data series. Additional Tables are available on the PSNI website to supplement the information contained in this bulletin. The data is available in both excel spreadsheet and open document spreadsheet formats in the [hate motivation section of the PSNI website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Web links to other information you may be interested in

[Hate Motivation in Northern Ireland quarterly updates \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[Police Recorded Crime Statistics \(opens in a new window\)](#): These statistics are updated on a monthly basis; an annual trends bulletin is also published.

[Crime Outcomes \(opens in a new window\)](#): The latest publication presenting the wider outcomes framework within PSNI and summarising the outcomes that have been assigned to crimes recorded by the police between 2015/16 and 2020/21 was published on 19 November 2021. The publication includes a section on outcomes relating to hate motivated crimes.

[NINIS \(opens in a new window\)](#): Access to a range of geographic areas for hate motivated incidents and crimes recorded by the police (annual totals only) is available through the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System (NINIS)

[Hate Crime in England & Wales 2021-22 \(opens in a new window\)](#) is published by the Home Office. There are some key differences in presentation of hate crime within England & Wales compared with Northern Ireland that should be considered. Further details are provided in Section 9 of the Annual Trends bulletin (see link above).

Copies of other PSNI publications are available from the [PSNI website \(opens in a new window\)](#).