



**Police Service**  
of Northern Ireland



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

## 2004/05 to 2022/23

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# Contents

Contents.....	1
Things you need to know about this release .....	3
1. Overview of Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes .....	6
1.1 Hate motivated incidents and crimes .....	6
1.2 Race motivated incidents and crimes.....	7
1.3 Sexual Orientation motivated incidents and crimes.....	7
1.4 Sectarian motivated incidents and crimes .....	8
1.5 Faith/religion motivated incidents and crimes.....	8
1.6 Disability motivated incidents and crimes .....	9
1.7 Transgender identity motivated incidents and crimes .....	9
1.8 Attacks on symbolic premises .....	10
2. Race Motivations: Trends since 2004/05 .....	11
2.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a race motivation.....	11
2.2 Trends in crimes with a race motivation by crime type.....	12
2.3 Victims of race crimes.....	13
2.4 Sanction outcomes for crimes with a race motivation .....	15
3. Sexual Orientation Motivations: Trends since 2004/05 .....	18
3.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a sexual orientation motivation .....	18
3.2 Trends in crimes with a sexual orientation motivation by crime type .....	19
3.3 Victims of sexual orientation crimes .....	20
3.4 Outcomes for crimes with a sexual orientation motivation .....	21
4. Sectarian Motivations: Trends since 2004/05.....	24
4.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a sectarian motivation .....	24
4.2 Trends in crimes with a sectarian motivation by crime type .....	25
4.3 Victims of sectarian crimes .....	27
4.4 Outcomes for crimes with a sectarian motivation .....	28
5. Faith/Religion Motivations: Trends since 2009/10.....	31
5.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a faith/religion motivation .....	31
5.2 Trends in crimes with a faith/religion motivation by crime type .....	32
5.3 Victims of faith/religion crimes .....	33

5.4	Outcomes for crimes with a faith/religion motivation .....	33
6.	Disability Motivations: Trends since 2009/10 .....	34
6.1	Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a disability motivation .....	34
6.2	Trends in crimes with a disability motivation by crime type .....	35
6.3	Victims of disability crimes.....	36
6.4	Sanction outcomes for crimes with a disability motivation .....	37
7.	Transgender Identity Motivations: Trends since 2009/10.....	38
7.1	Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a transgender identity motivation .....	38
7.2	Trends in crimes with a transgender identity motivation by crime type .....	39
7.3	Victims of transgender identity crimes.....	39
7.4	Sanction outcomes for crimes with a transgender identity motivation.....	39
8.	Geographic patterns of hate motivated incidents and crimes .....	40
8.1	Race, Sexual Orientation and Sectarian Motivations by policing district.....	40
8.2	Faith/Religion and Disability Motivations by policing district .....	40
8.3	Transgender Identity Motivations by policing district .....	40
8.4	Additional geographic breakdowns of hate motivated incidents and crimes.....	40
9.	Wider Context (comparison with England and Wales) .....	41
Appendix 1.	Background and Data Quality.....	42

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 bulletin is an Official Statistics publication meaning it complies with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) as follows:

- Trustworthiness: the statistics are impartial, independent and released in an open and transparent manner in accordance with a pre-announced publication schedule
- Quality: the statistics are produced using robust and relevant data sources which undergo continuous quality improvement and assurance checks

Value: the statistics strive to meet user needs informed by ongoing feedback, providing sufficient detail which is widely accessible.

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 2022/23. 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, Sexual Orientation, Sectarianism, Faith/religion (non-sectarian), Disability and Transgender Identity. 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.

## **Hate Motivation Definitions**

### **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.

### **Sexual Orientation (previously referred to as 'Homophobia')**

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. The sexual orientation motivation 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.

### **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.

### **Transgender Identity (previously referred to as 'Transphobia')**

Includes people who are transgender 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.

**Sexual Orientation and Transgender Identity Motivations:** The language used to describe the Sexual Orientation and the Transgender Identity motivations has been updated in this bulletin. No changes have been made to the data captured by these motivations. Please see above section 'Hate Motivation Definitions' for more information.

**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 stalking and harassment classification.

**Faith/religion, Disability and Transgender identity motivations:** In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion, disability and transgender identity 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 2024. 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

All tables referred to in the commentary of this section can be found in the [hate motivations spreadsheets \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Incidents and crimes with a race or sexual orientation 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 transgender identity 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](#).

In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion, disability and transgender identity motivation. The trends in sections 1.5 Faith/religion, 1.6 Disability and 1.7 Transgender identity are presented from this date.

## 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. This remained the case until 2022/23 when sectarian incidents once again exceeded the number of racist incidents.
- 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 have accounted for the largest number of crimes, with the exception of 2019/20 and 2022/23 when a higher number of sectarian crimes was recorded.
- Higher levels of sectarian incidents were recorded early in the data series with 2009/10 being the highest level recorded. Levels showed a general decline between 2009/10 and 2018/19 before increasing in each year since then. In 2022/23 the number of sectarian incidents was just over two thirds of the highest number recorded.
- The highest level for racist incidents was 2014/15 and for faith/religion incidents was 2017/18. The remaining hate motivated incidents have recorded their highest levels more recently; 2021/22 for sexual orientation incidents and 2022/23 for disability and transgender identity incidents.

**Table 1.1 Number of incidents and crimes with a hate motivation, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23<sup>1</sup>**

	Race		Sexual Orientation		Sectarian		Faith/Religion		Disability		Transgender Identity	
	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime
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	1,335	933	463	337	1,067	780	68	54	123	93	65	42
2022/23	1,221	880	435	290	1,238	921	46	33	139	102	72	39

<sup>1</sup> The full data series for each motivation strand can be found in the relevant [hate motivation spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#).

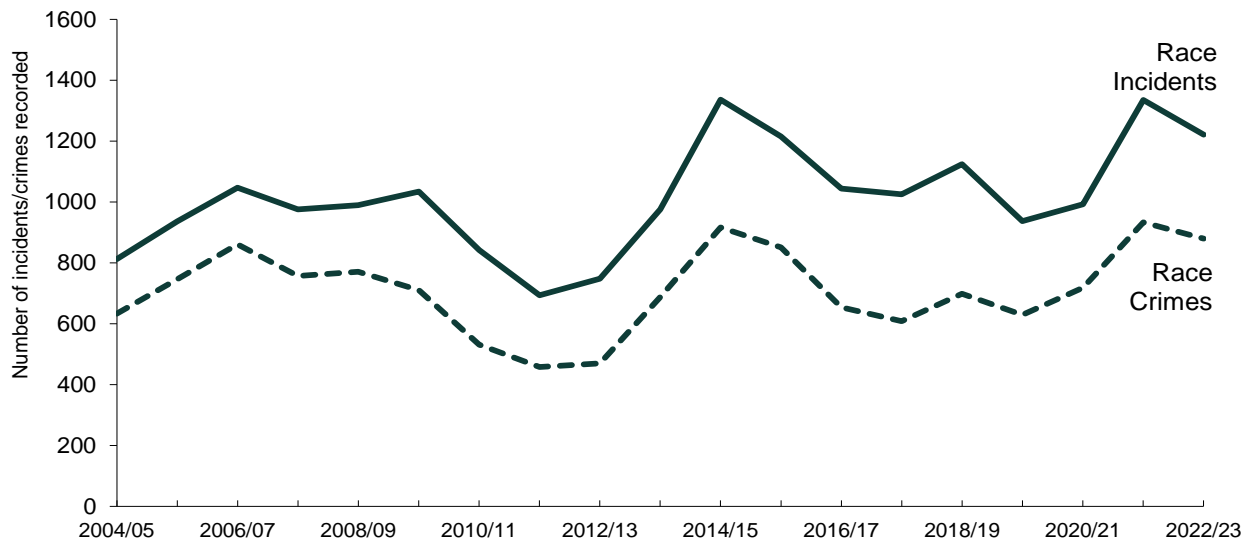
Due to the variation in volumes recorded within each of the hate motivations, the charts in figures 1.1 to 1.6 are not shown to the same scale.

## 1.2 Race 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 and crimes fell back in 2022/23, but each remains the third highest level in the data series.

**Population rates:** Since 2004/05, the number of racist incidents recorded by the police per 10,000 population<sup>1</sup> 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 race motivated incidents and crimes, 2004/05 to 2022/23**

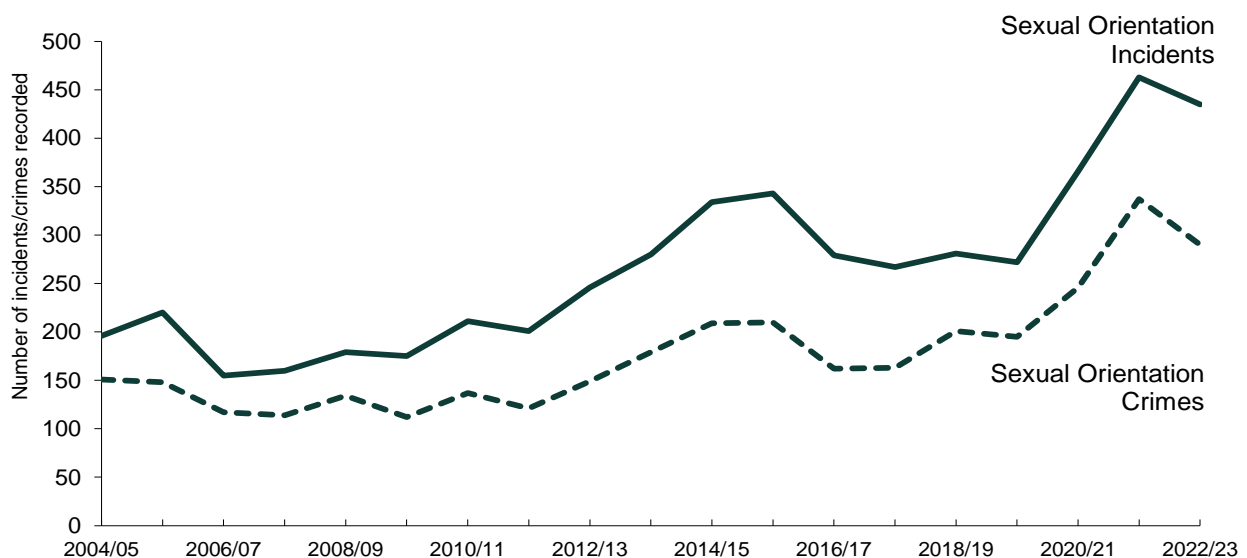


## 1.3 Sexual Orientation motivated incidents and crimes

Sexual orientation 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. There was a sharp increase in the number of sexual orientation motivated incidents and crimes in 2020/21 and 2021/22, followed by a decrease in the latest financial year, 2022/23. Despite this fall, both incidents and crimes in 2022/23 recorded their second highest levels since the data series began in 2004/05.

**Population rates:** Since 2004/05, the number of sexual orientation incidents recorded by the police per 10,000 population<sup>1</sup> is between 1 and 2, and for sexual orientation crimes the figure is also between 1 and 2 per 10,000 population.

**Figure 1.2 Trends in sexual orientation motivated incidents and crimes, 2004/05 to 2022/23**



<sup>1</sup> 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](#).

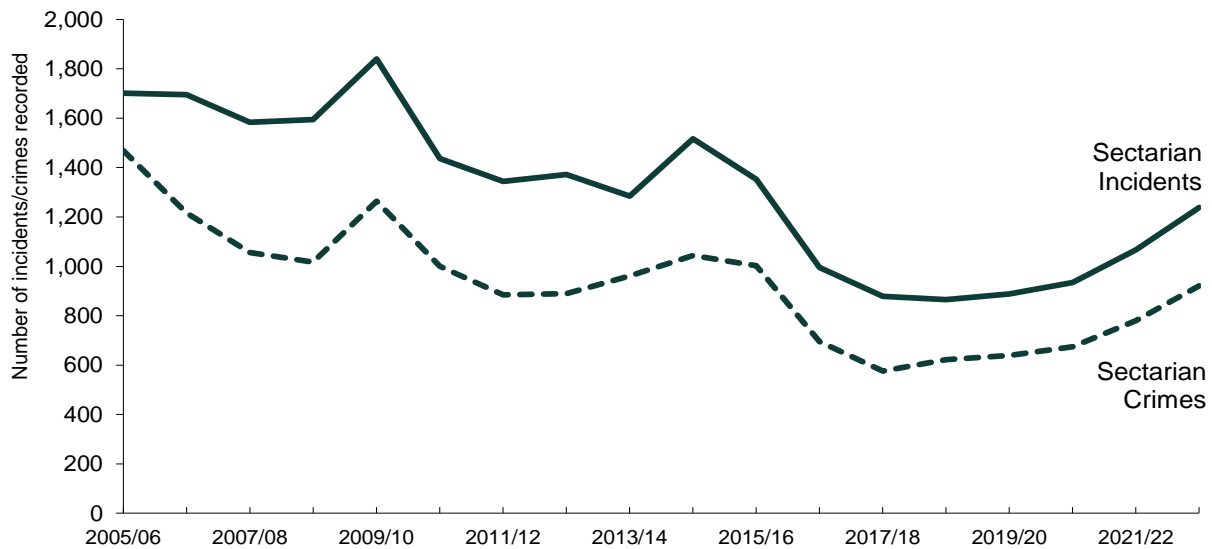


## 1.4 Sectarian motivated incidents and crimes

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 subsequent financial year, the crime level recorded in 2022/23 is 37 per cent lower than 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 population<sup>1</sup> 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 2022/23**

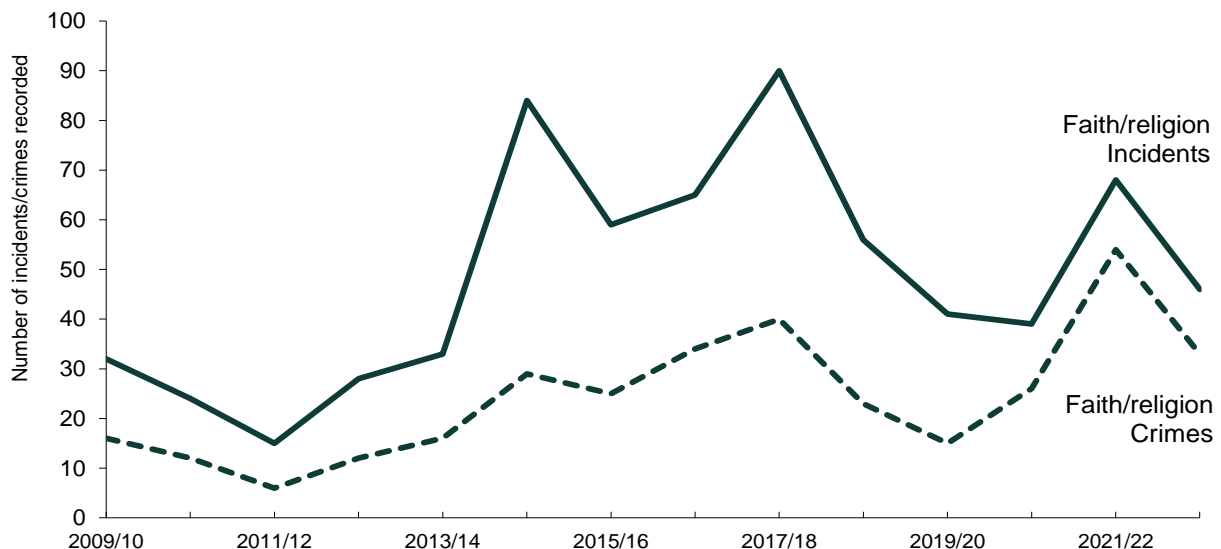


## 1.5 Faith/religion motivated incidents and crimes

Levels of faith/religion incidents were higher in each year during the period 2014/15 to 2018/19 than those recorded either before or since, with the exception of 2021/22 which recorded the third highest level since 2009/10. Faith/religion crimes generally increased between 2011/12 and 2017/18. The highest level of faith/religion crimes since 2009/10 was recorded in 2021/22, with the number of crimes in 2022/23 subsequently falling to a level similar to that previously seen in 2016/17.

**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 2022/23**



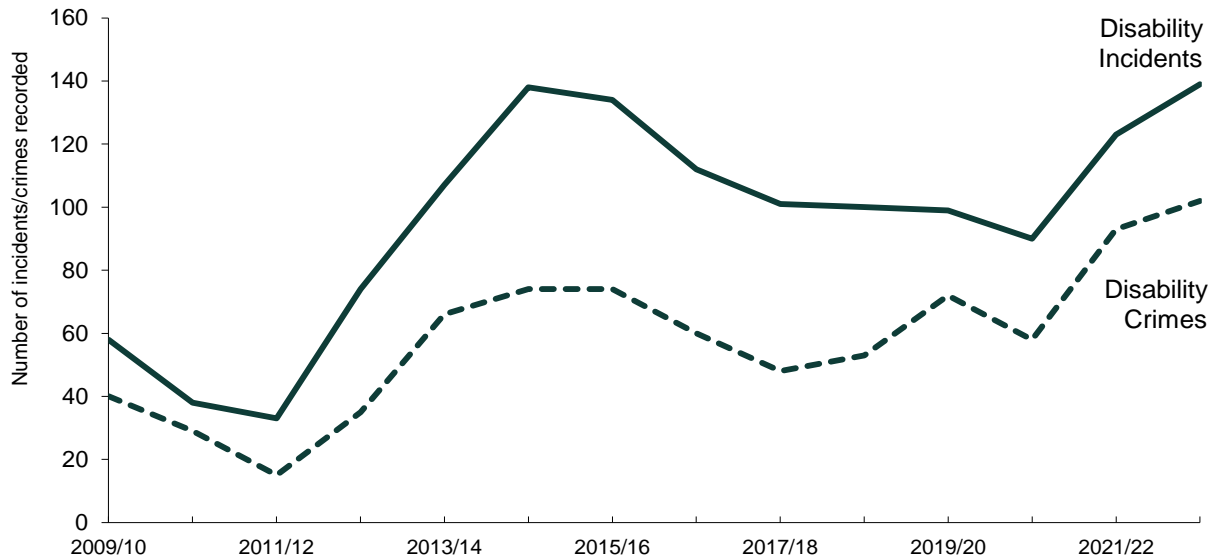
<sup>1</sup> Crime per 10,000 population is calculated using the Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates published by NISRA, with the latest estimates available in tables 2.18, 3.15 and 4.15 of the [spreadsheets accompanying this bulletin](#).

## 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 have increased in 2021/22 and 2022/23. The number of disability motivated crimes has been rising since 2017/18, with the exception of 2020/21. In 2022/23, both incidents and crimes with a disability motivation rose to their 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 2022/23**

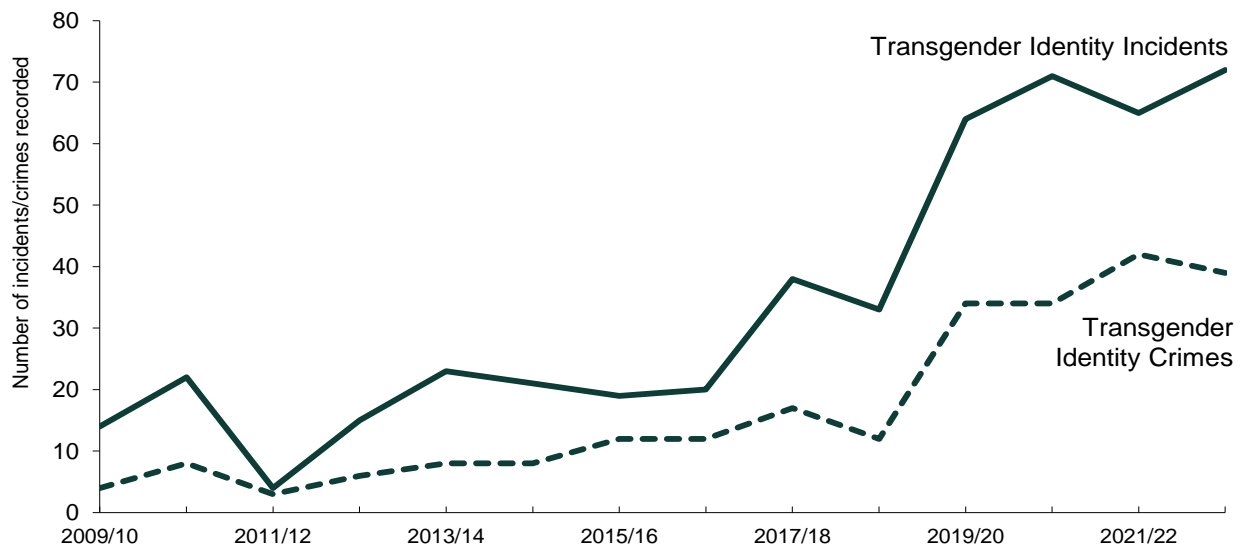


## 1.7 Transgender identity motivated incidents and crimes

Between 2009/10 and 2016/17 the number of transgender identity incidents ranged between 14 and 23, with the exception of 4 such incidents recorded in 2011/12. The number of transgender identity crimes ranged between 3 and 12 over the same time period. The number of transgender identity incidents and crimes generally 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 2022/23 the number of transgender identity motivated crimes recorded slightly decreased, but remains the second highest level in the data series and substantially above levels recorded prior to 2019/20. The number of transgender identity motivated incidents reached their highest level in 2022/23.

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

**Figure 1.6 Trends in transgender identity motivated incidents and crimes, 2009/10 to 2022/23**



## 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.

Since 2013/14 attacks on symbolic premises represented between 3 per cent and 6 per cent of all sectarian crimes; in 2022/23 the proportion was 3 per cent.

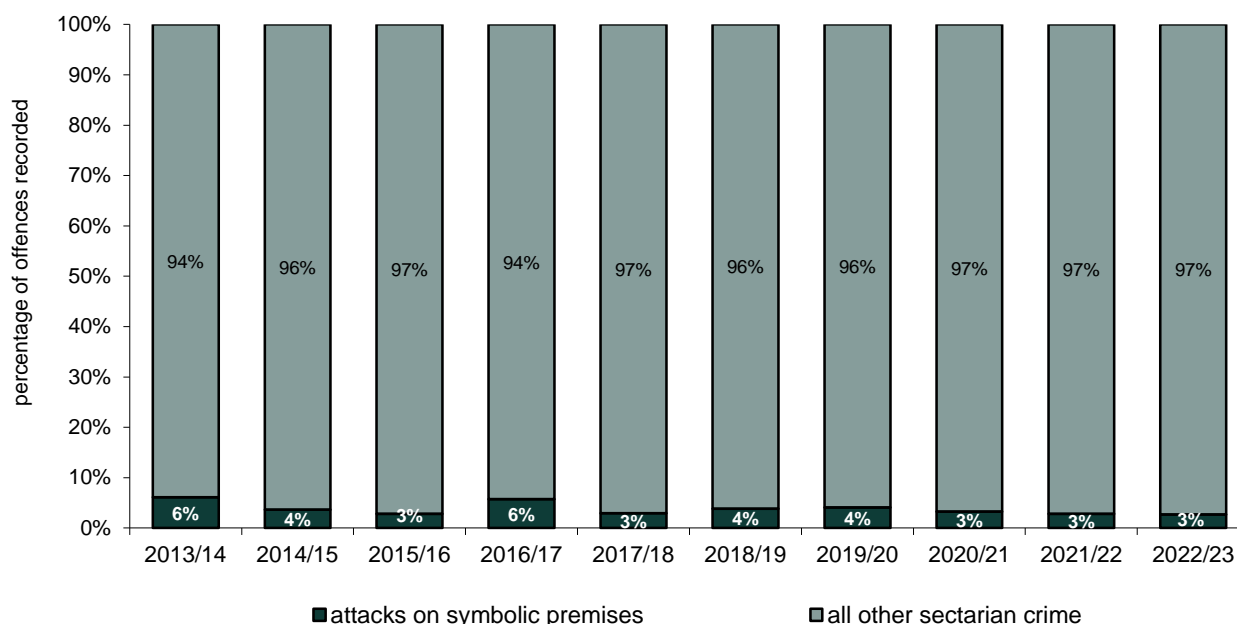
**Table 1.2 Attacks on symbolic premises, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23<sup>1,2</sup>**

	Church or Chapel	GAA or Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall	Orange or Apprentice Boys Hall	School
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	*
2022/23	*	*	19	*

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

<sup>2</sup> The full data series can be found in table 4.16 of the sectarian [hate motivation spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#).

**Figure 1.7 Attacks on symbolic premises as a proportion of all sectarian crimes, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



## 2. Race 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 Race Motivations can be found in the [race motivations spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#). For those tables and charts presenting part of the time series, the complete time series is available in this spreadsheet.

### 2.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a race 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 rose in 2020/21 and in 2021/22 reached the second highest level of incidents and the highest level of crimes in the data series. The number of racist incidents and crimes fell back in 2022/23, but each remains the third highest level in the data series.

Crimes with a racist motivation represent 0.8 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police [Table 2.3].

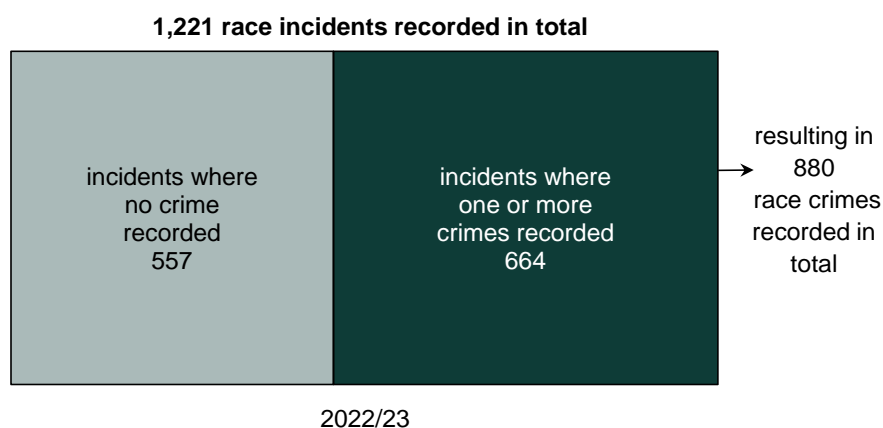
**Table 2.1 Race motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes<sup>1</sup>, 2004/05 and latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**

	Race Incidents	Race Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2004/05	813	633	-	-
...	...	...	...	...
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	1,335	933	164	17.6
2022/23	1,221	880	150	17.0

<sup>1</sup> 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 2022/23 there were 1,221 incidents recorded where there was a racist motivation. Of these, there were 557 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 664 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 880 racist crimes in total). Nearly half of all incidents recorded during 2022/23 did not result in a crime being recorded.

**Figure 2.1 Incidents and crimes with a race motivation, 2022/23**

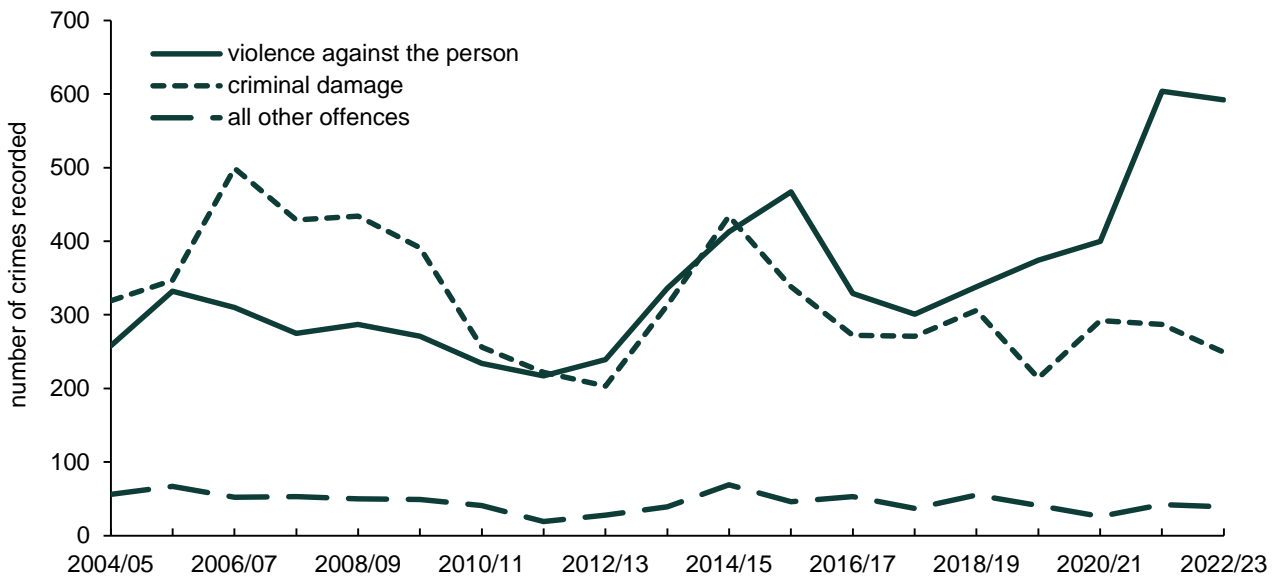


## 2.2 Trends in crimes with a race motivation by crime type

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

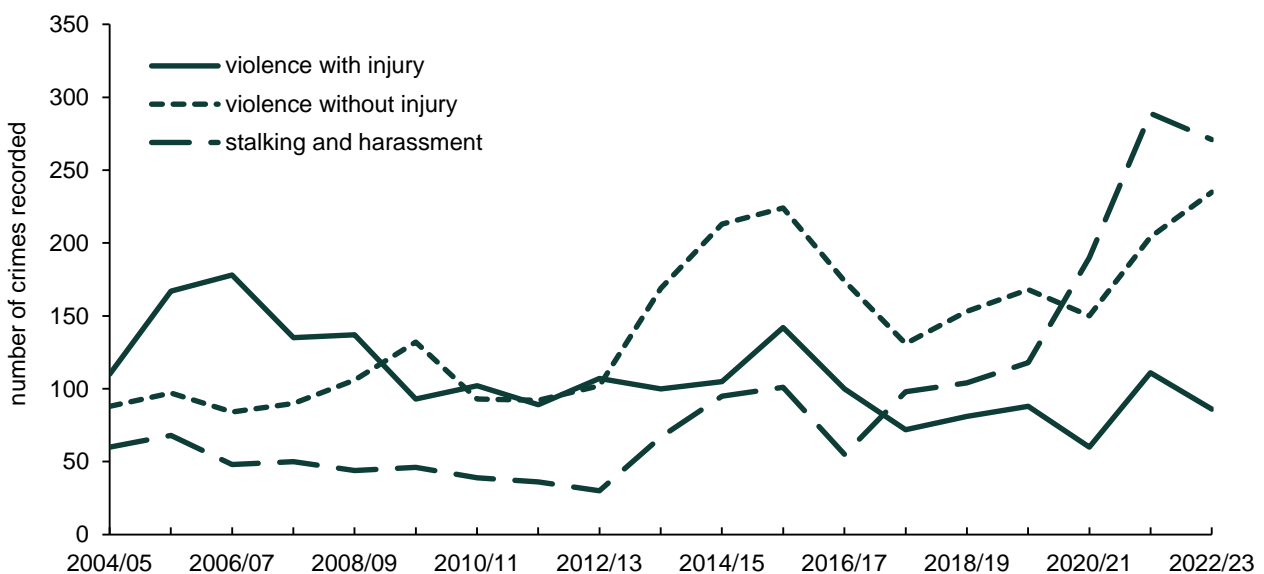
Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a race motivation are shown in figure 2.2 below. The full range of crime types is available in Table 2.2.

**Figure 2.2 Crimes with a race motivation by crime type, 2004/05 to 2022/23**



**Violence against the person with a race motivation:** From 2011/12 to 2018/19 between a third and half of all race motivated crimes were classified to violence against the person; since 2021/22 this has risen to two thirds of all race motivated crimes. This classification covers a wide range of offences including behavioural crimes (such as harassment), 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. Stalking and harassment has generally increased, most notably in 2020/21 when for the first time the level of stalking and harassment was higher than violence without injury. Details of changes in recording practice within the overall stalking and harassment classification are provided in the Points to Note (page 4).

**Figure 2.3 Violence against the person with a race motivation, 2004/05 to 2022/23**



**Criminal damage with a race motivation:** Between 2004/05 and 2011/12 criminal damage was at a higher level than violence against the person. This position has reversed since 2015/16. During 2022/23 criminal damage represented around three in ten race motivated crimes, the majority of these relating to criminal damage - residential. The overall trend in criminal damage since 2004/05 is shown in figure 2.2 above.

## 2.3 Victims of race 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 race crime in 91 to 95 per cent of cases, while in 4 to 8 per cent of race crimes the victim is a business or organisation. Up to one per cent of race crimes are state-based. [Table 2.4].

### 2.3.1 Race crimes: ethnicity and nationality of victims

Between 2007/08 and 2017/18 the ethnicity and nationality of victims of race crimes was typically available in at least 90 per cent of records. From 2018/19, the proportion of records where the ethnicity and nationality information was missing began to increase. By 2022/23 ethnicity was missing in around a quarter of records, and nationality was missing from almost 30 per cent of records. Due to the substantial increase in missing data, PSNI undertook an exercise to review these records from 2021/22 and 2022/23, and update the ethnicity and nationality information where possible. In over 90 per cent of cases the ethnicity or nationality information could be identified, and so the proportion of records with missing ethnicity or nationality information fell to 2% for both 2021/22 and 2022/23. The extent of these improvements is such that it has necessitated a break in the data series – 2007/08 to 2020/21 and from 2021/22 onwards; direct comparison should not be made between the two time periods. The remainder of this section will discuss the period from 2021/22. Figures for the period 2007/08 to 2020/21 can be found in the [race motivations spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#).

**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.

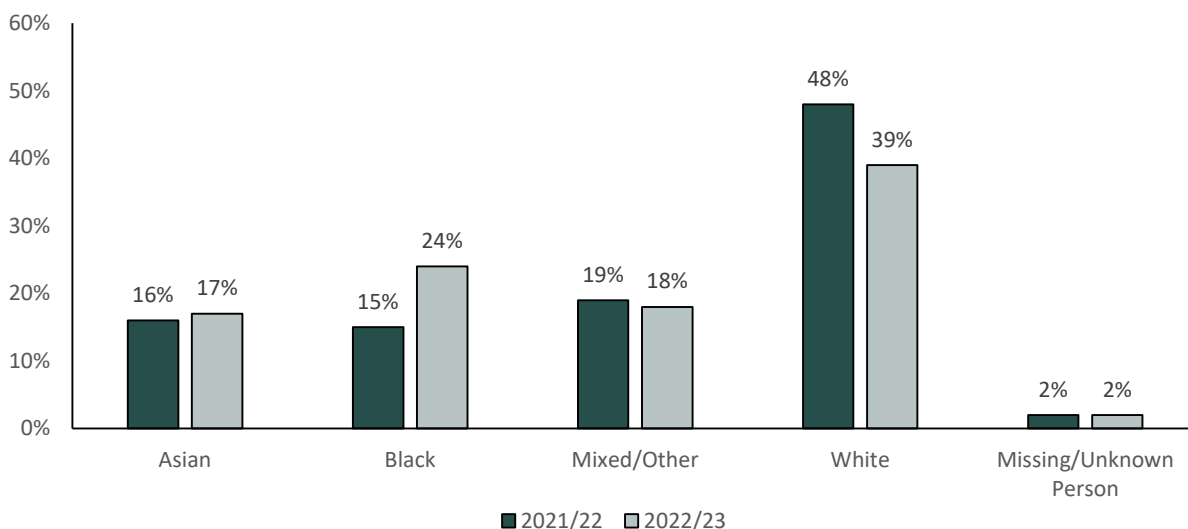
Between 2021/22 and 2022/23 the number of race crimes where the victim was of black ethnicity increased by 67 to 198; black ethnicity was the only ethnicity category to show an increase. The proportion of race crimes where the victim was of black ethnicity increased by 9 percentage points, while the proportion of race crimes where the victim was of white ethnicity fell by 9 percentage points.

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

The highest number of race crimes have been recorded against victims with a UK and Ireland nationality, with 280 victims in 2021/22 and 265 victims in 2022/23. The number of victims with a Polish nationality fell by 48 (46%) to 56, while the number of victims with a Nigerian nationality increased by 28 (100%) to 56; victims with Polish or Nigerian nationality represented the second highest level recorded in 2022/23.

**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.

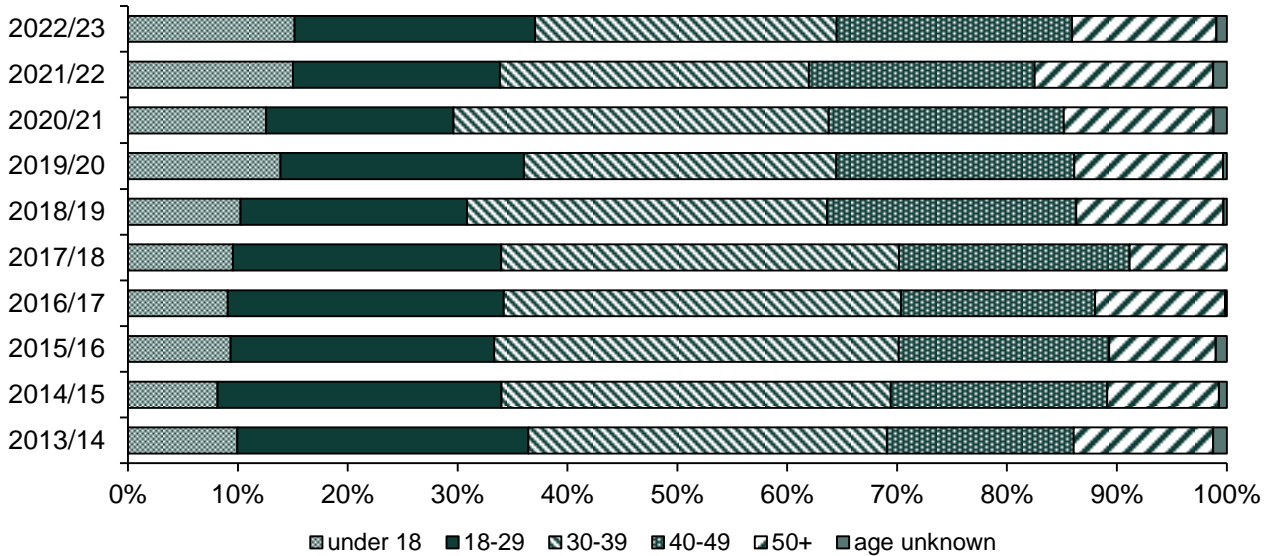
**Figure 2.4 Ethnicity of victims of race crimes, 2021/22 and 2022/23**



### 2.3.2 Race crimes: age and gender of victims

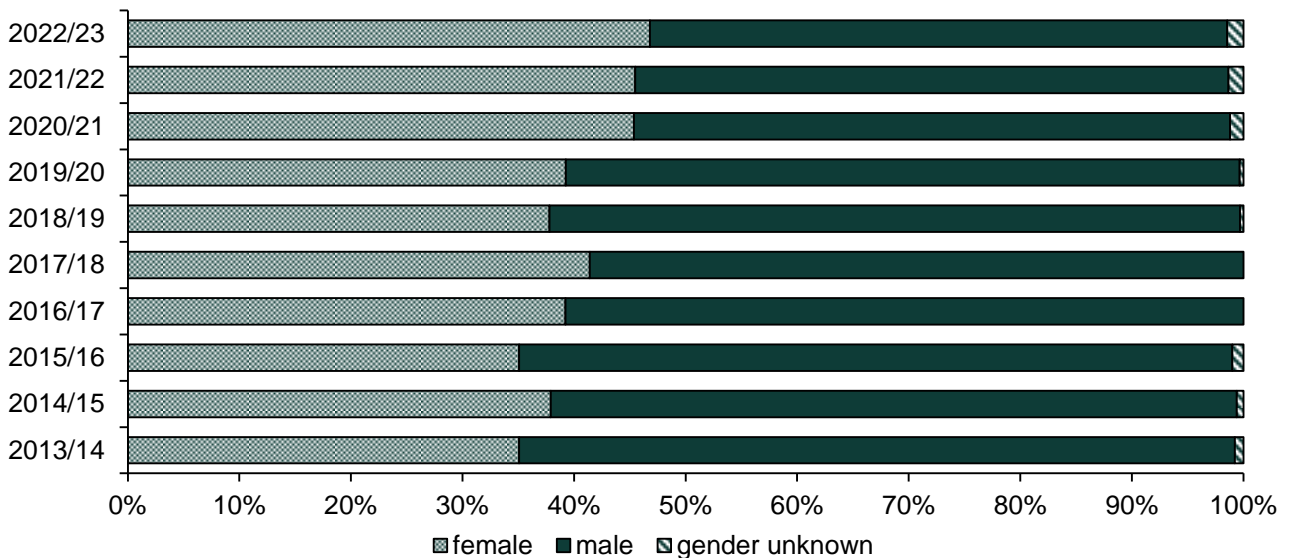
**Victim age:** Since 2007/08 the proportion of race crimes where the victim is in the 18 to 29 age group has generally fallen, while the proportion for victims aged 30 or over has generally increased. The proportion of victims under the age of 18 has been fairly consistent throughout much of the data series but has been rising in recent years, particularly since 2019/20. The proportion of victims under the age of 18 was 15% in both 2021/22 and 2022/23 (133 and 126 victims respectively), the highest proportion in the data series. [Table 2.8]

**Figure 2.5 Race crimes by age of victim, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



**Victim gender:** Since 2007/08 there has been a general increase in the proportion of race crimes with female victims, from 30 per cent in 2007/08 to 47 per cent in 2022/23, with a corresponding decrease in the proportion of male victims from 70 per cent to 52 per cent. Figure 2.6 shows these changes. [Table 2.9]

**Figure 2.6 Race crimes by gender of victim, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



## 2.4 Sanction outcomes for crimes with a race 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 \(opens in a new window\)](#).

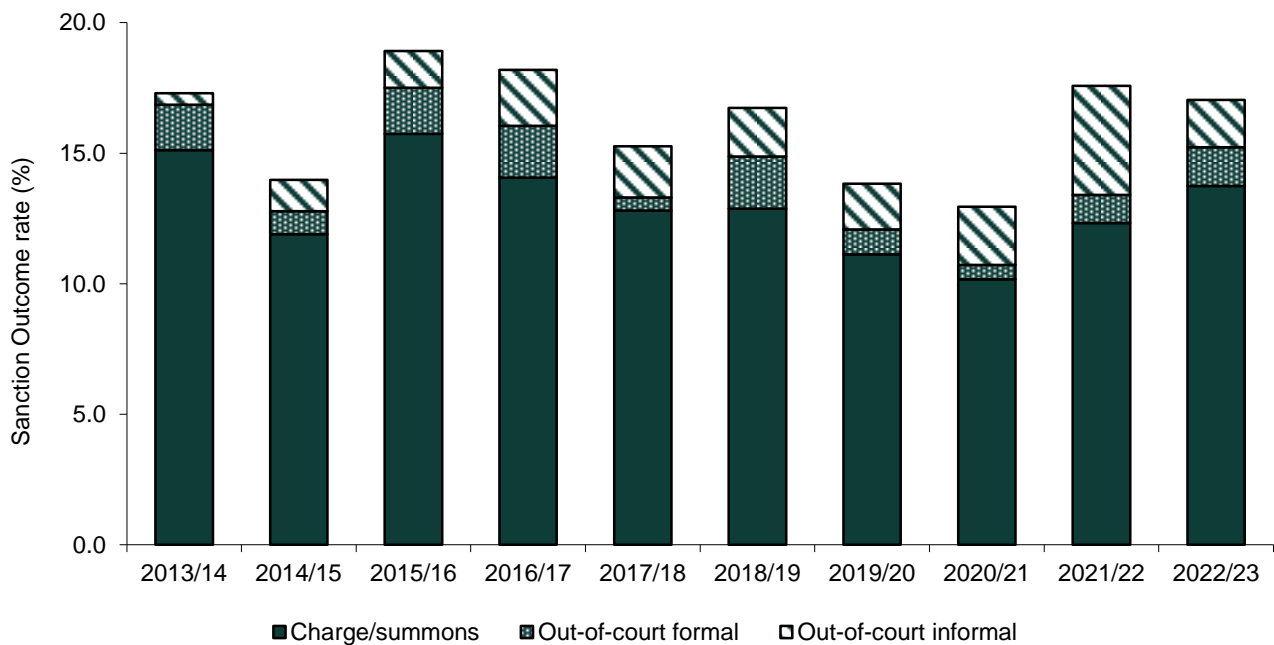
Figure 2.7 shows the trend in the sanction outcome rate for crimes with a race motivation since 2013/14. It also shows the split by the method of disposal. [Table 2.12]

Over the last ten financial years, charge/summons outcomes have accounted for between 70 per cent and 87 per cent of all sanction outcomes, with a charge/summons outcome rate ranging from 10.2% in 2020/21 to 15.7% in 2015/16.

During the same time period, the proportion of out-of-court formal sanctions (cautions and PNDs) ranged from 3 per cent of sanction outcomes in 2017/18 to 12 per cent in 2018/19 with an outcome rate ranging from 0.5% (2017/18) to 2.0% (2016/17 and 2018/19).

The proportion of out-of-court informal sanctions (community resolutions) has ranged from 3 per cent of sanction outcomes in 2013/14 to 24 per cent in 2021/22, with an outcome rate ranging from 0.4% in 2013/14 to 4.2% in 2021/22.

**Figure 2.7 Sanction outcome rates for crimes with a race motivation by method of disposal, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



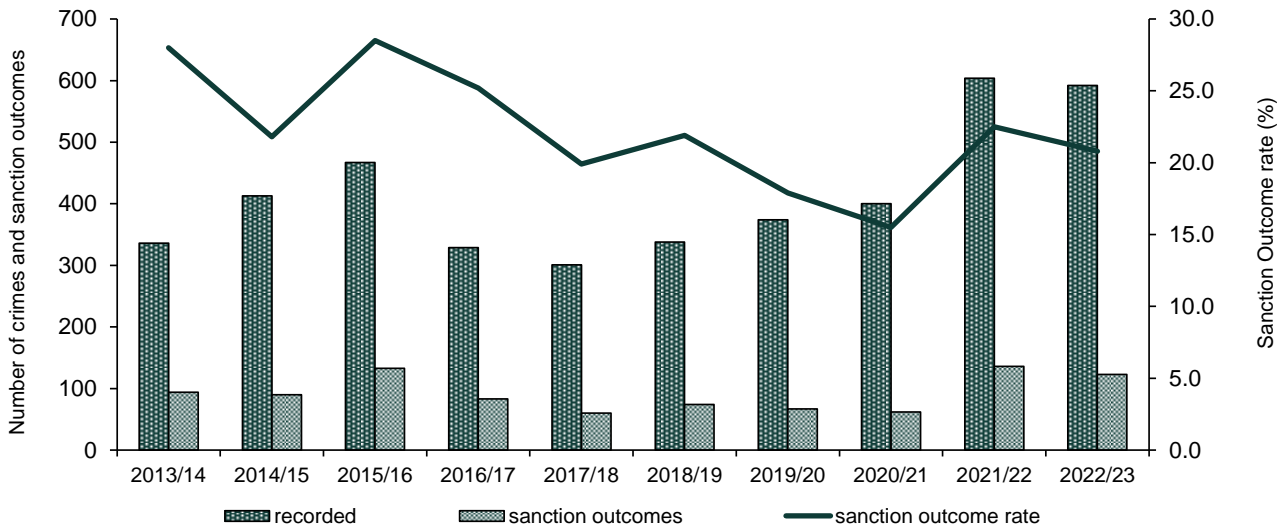
A full break down of all outcomes for crimes with a race motivation from 2015/16 is available in Section 5 of the publication [Outcomes of Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2015/16 to 2022/23 \(opens in a new window\)](#). This includes outcomes which did not result in a sanction, for example those where there were evidential difficulties and those where the investigation was completed with no suspect identified.



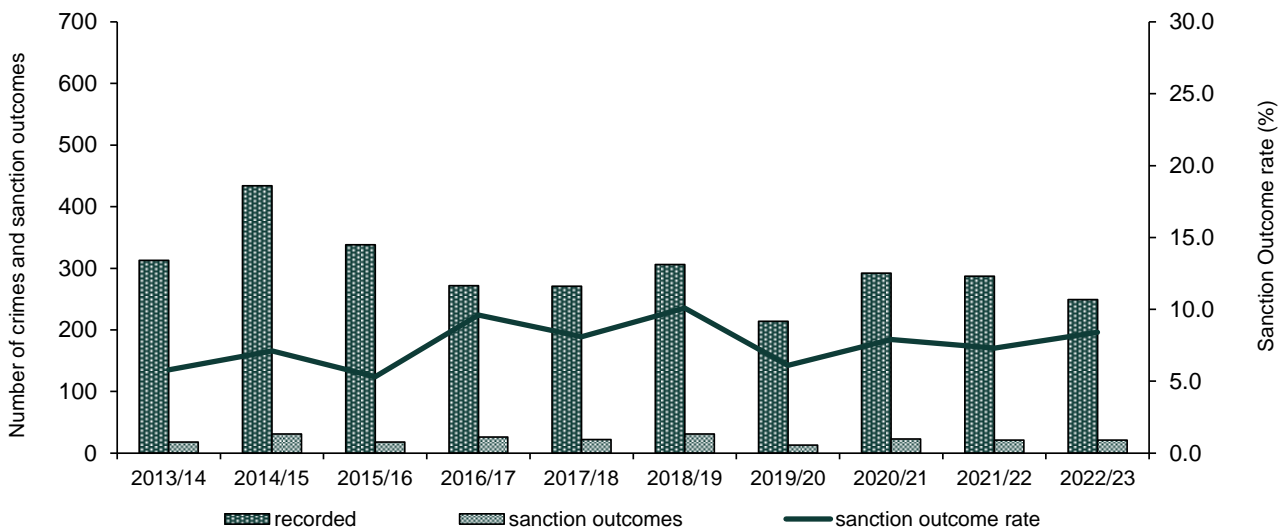
Figures 2.8 and 2.9 show the trends in crimes, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates for offences within violence against the person and criminal damage, which together account for nine in every ten race crimes recorded. Both charts are shown to the same scale and show how changing volumes of 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 race motivation; crimes recorded, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**

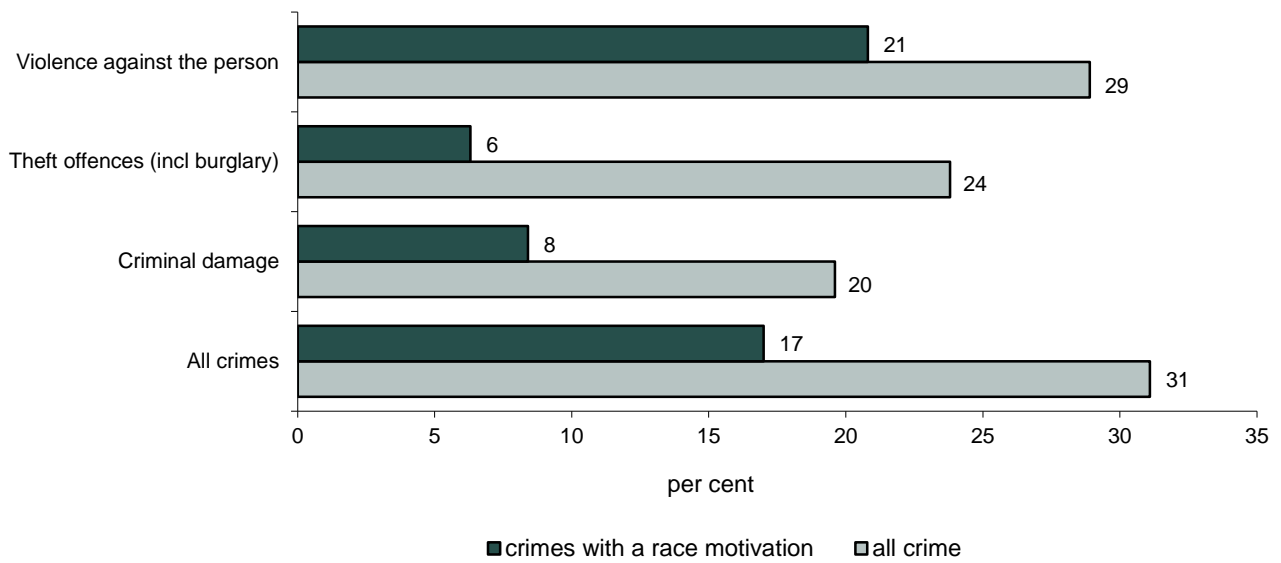


**Figure 2.9 Criminal damage with a race motivation; crimes recorded, outcomes and outcome rates, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



**Comparison of sanction outcome rates for crimes with a race motivation and all crimes recorded by the police:** Sanction outcome rates for crimes with a race 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 2022/23 is shown in figure 2.10 below.

**Figure 2.10 Sanction outcome rates by crime type, race motivated crimes and all crimes recorded by the police, 2022/23**



### 3. Sexual Orientation 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. 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. The sexual orientation motivation 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.

All tables referred to in the commentary of Section 3 Sexual Orientation Motivations can be found in the [sexual orientation motivations spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#). For those tables and charts presenting part of the time series, the complete time series is available in this spreadsheet.

#### 3.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a sexual orientation motivation

Sexual orientation 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 was a sharp increase in the number of sexual orientation motivated incidents and crimes in 2020/21 and 2021/22, followed by a decrease in the latest financial year, 2022/23. Despite this fall, both incidents and crimes recorded their second highest levels since the data series began in 2004/05.

In 2022/23 crimes with a sexual orientation motivation represent 0.3 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police [Table 3.3]

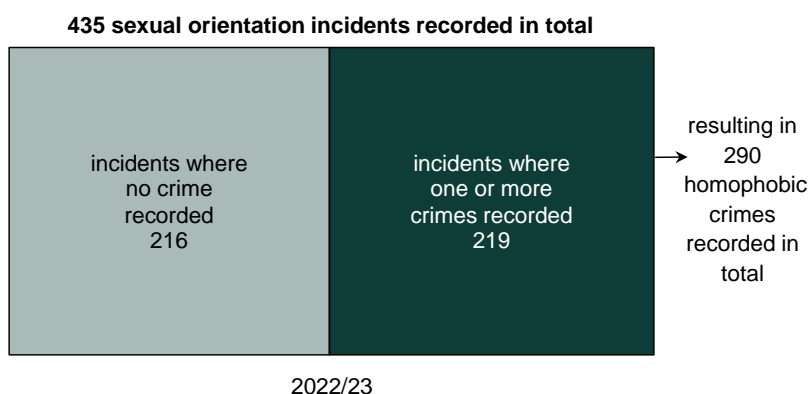
**Table 3.1 Sexual orientation motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes<sup>1</sup>, 2004/05 and latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**

	Sexual Orientation Incidents	Sexual Orientation Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2004/05	196	151	-	-
...	...	...	...	...
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	463	337	78	23.1
2022/23	435	290	67	23.1

<sup>1</sup> 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 2022/23 there were 435 incidents recorded where there was a sexual orientation motivation. Of these, there were 216 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 219 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 290 sexual orientation crimes). Around of all incidents recorded during 2022/23 did not result in a crime being recorded.

**Figure 3.1 Incidents and crimes with a sexual orientation motivation, 2022/23**

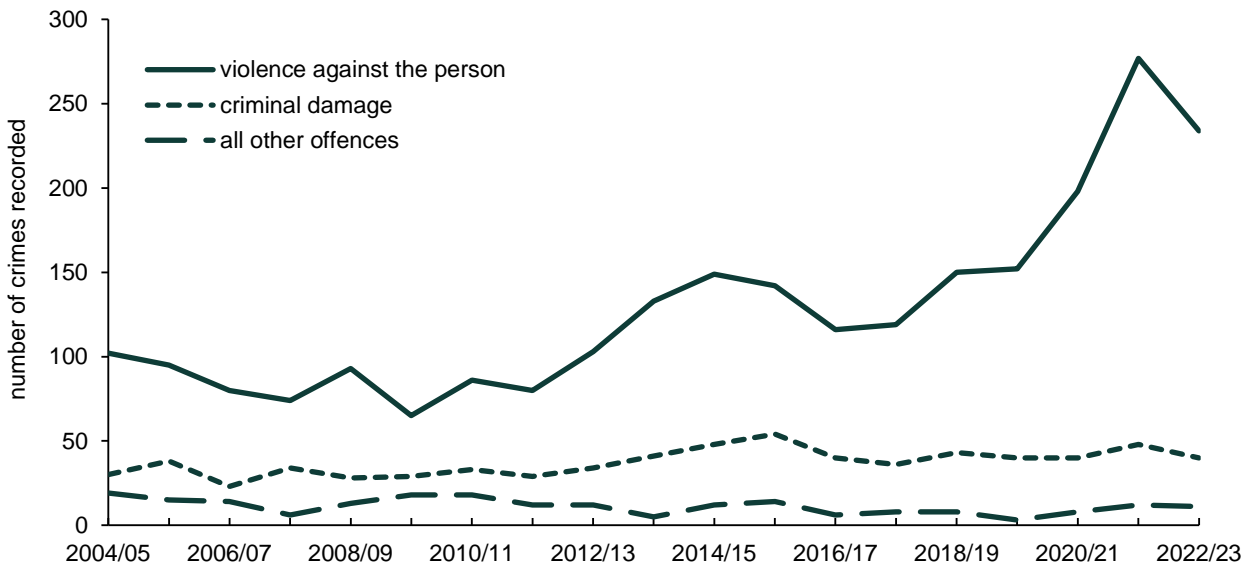


### 3.2 Trends in crimes with a sexual orientation motivation by crime type

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

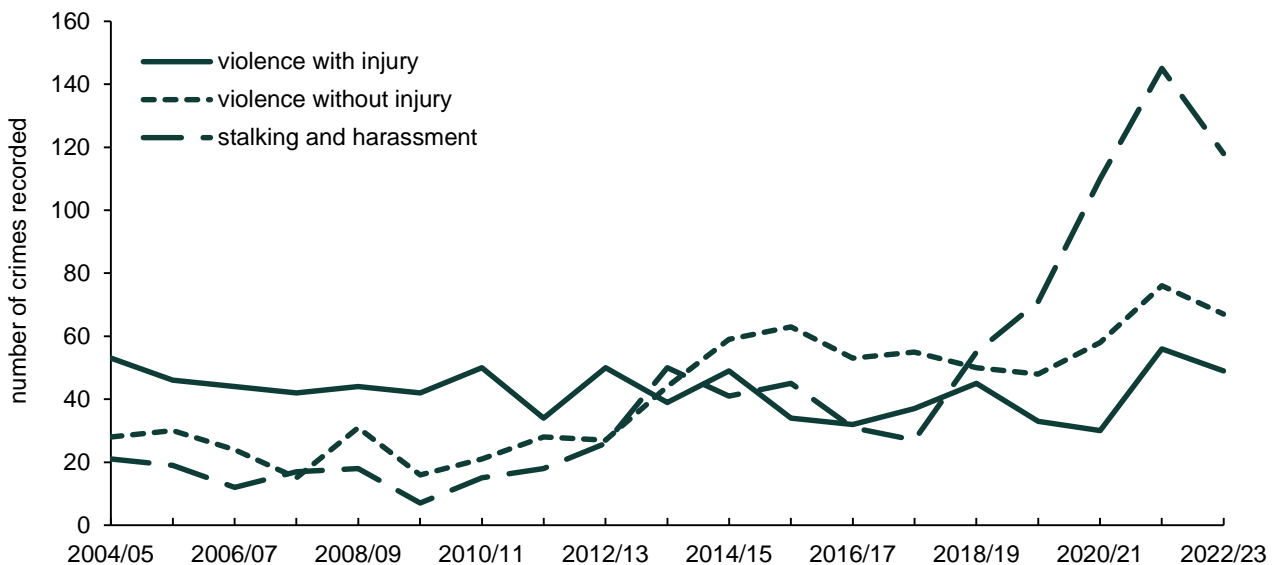
Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a sexual orientation motivation are shown in figure 3.2 below. The full range of crime types for crimes with a sexual orientation motivation is available in Table 3.2.

**Figure 3.2 Crimes with a sexual orientation motivation by crime type, 2004/05 to 2022/23**



**Violence against the person with a sexual orientation motivation:** In 2004/05 around two thirds of crimes with a sexual orientation 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 covers a wide range of offences including behavioural crimes (such as harassment), 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 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. Stalking and harassment has increased, most notably from 2018/19 at which point the level of stalking and harassment exceeded the level of violence without injury. Since 2020/21 stalking and harassment has represented more than half of violence against the person offences, compared with one in ten in 2009/10. Details of changes in recording practice within the overall stalking and harassment classification are provided in the Points to Note (page 4).

**Figure 3.3 Violence against the person with a sexual orientation motivation, 2004/05 to 2022/23**



**All other crimes with a sexual orientation motivation:** Criminal damage typically represented around a fifth of all crimes with a sexual orientation motivation until 2020/21 when it fell below 20 per cent for the first time; in 2021/22 and 2022/23 it has fallen to 14 per cent. With the exception of 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 sexual orientation 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.

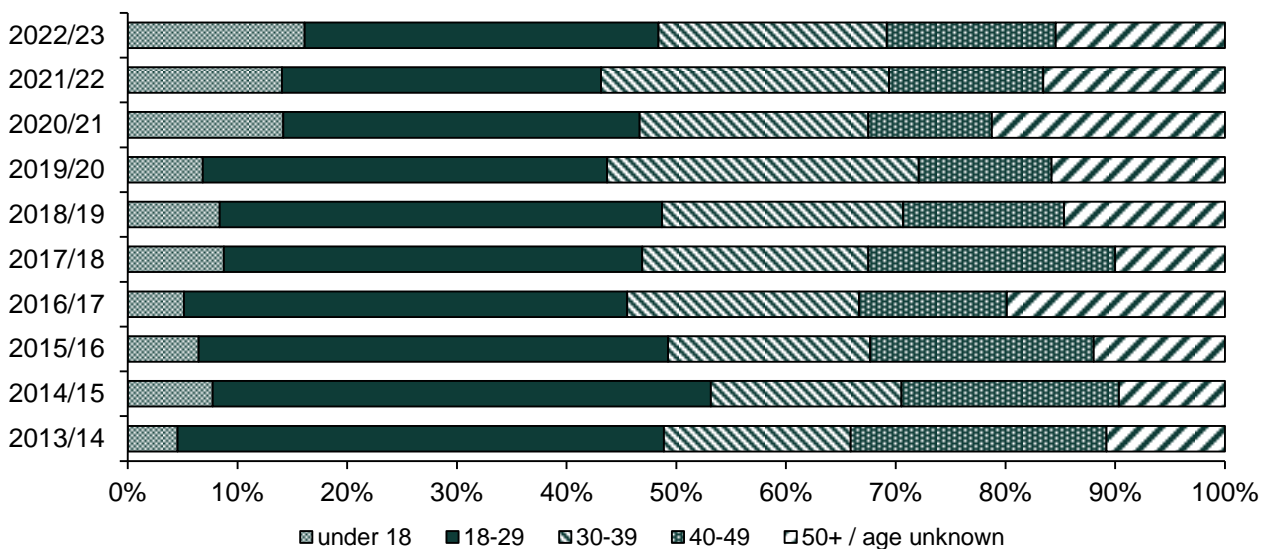
The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2007/08, a person is the victim of a sexual orientation crime in 93 to 99 per cent of cases, while in 1 to 6 per cent of sexual orientation crimes the victim is a business or organisation. In most years the proportion of sexual orientation 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 sexual orientation crimes, this information is not sufficiently complete (either unknown or the victim refused to provide these details) to present meaningful statistics.

#### 3.3.1 Sexual orientation crimes: age and gender of victims

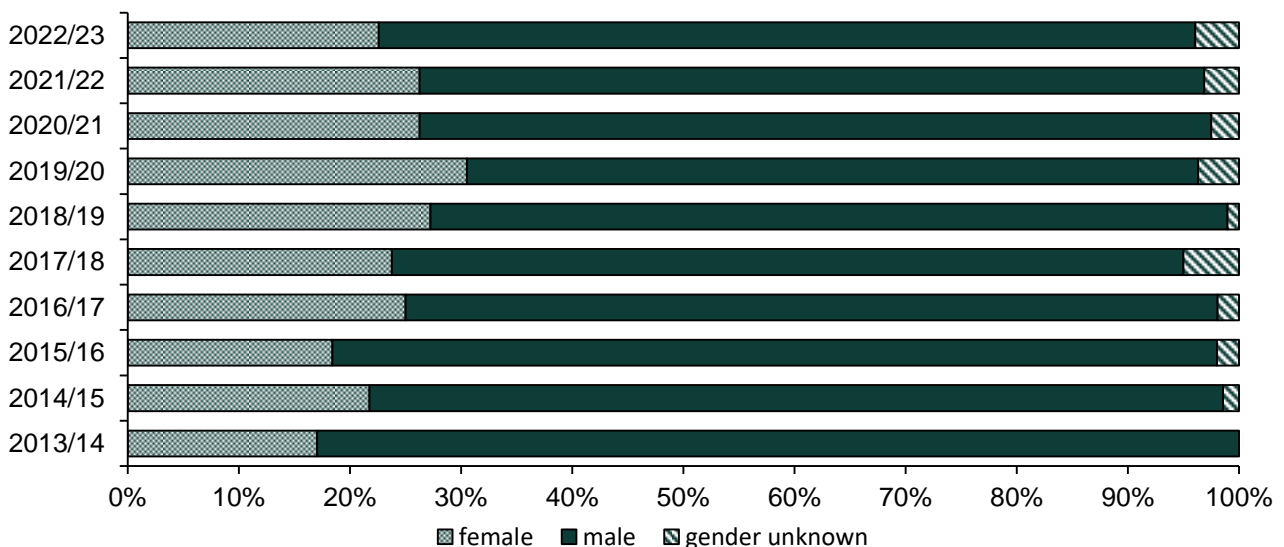
**Victim age:** Between 29 and 51 per cent of victims of sexual orientation crime are between the ages of 18 and 29, with the proportion having declined in more recent years from 40 per cent in 2018/19 to 29 per cent in 2021/22; in 2022/23 the proportion was 32 per cent. Between 2007/08 and 2019/20 the proportion of victims under 18 ranged from 4 per cent to 9 per cent; this has increased to 16 per cent in 2022/23. Proportions in the remaining age groups have tended to fluctuate since 2007/08. [Table 3.5]

**Figure 3.4 Sexual orientation crimes by age of victim, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



**Victim gender:** In relation to the gender of victims of sexual orientation 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 Sexual orientation crimes by gender of victim, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



### 3.4 Outcomes for crimes with a sexual orientation 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 \(opens in a new window\)](#).

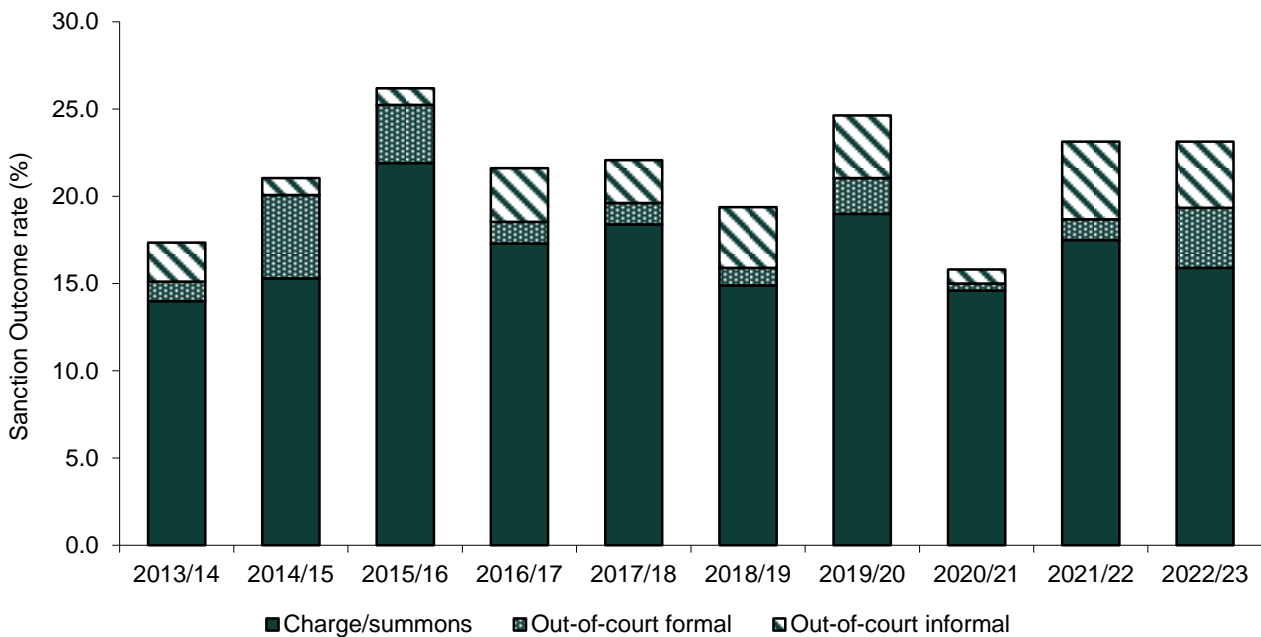
Figure 3.6 shows the trend in the sanction outcome rate for crimes with a sexual orientation motivation since 2013/14. It also shows the split by the method of disposal. [Table 3.9]

Over the last ten financial years since 2013/14, charge/summons outcomes have accounted for between 69 per cent and 92 per cent of all sanction outcomes, with a charge/summons outcome rate ranging from 14.0% in 2013/14 to 21.9% in 2015/16.

During the same time period, out-of-court formal sanctions (cautions and PNDs) have represented between 3 per cent and 23 per cent of all sanction outcomes, with an outcome rate ranging from 0.4% in 2020/21 to 4.8% in 2014/15.

The proportion of out-of-court informal sanctions (community resolutions) has ranged from 4 per cent of all sanction outcomes in 2015/16 to 19 per cent in 2021/22, with an outcome rate ranging from 0.8% in 2020/21 to 4.5% in 2021/22.

**Figure 3.6 Sanction outcome rates for crimes with a sexual orientation motivation by method of disposal, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**

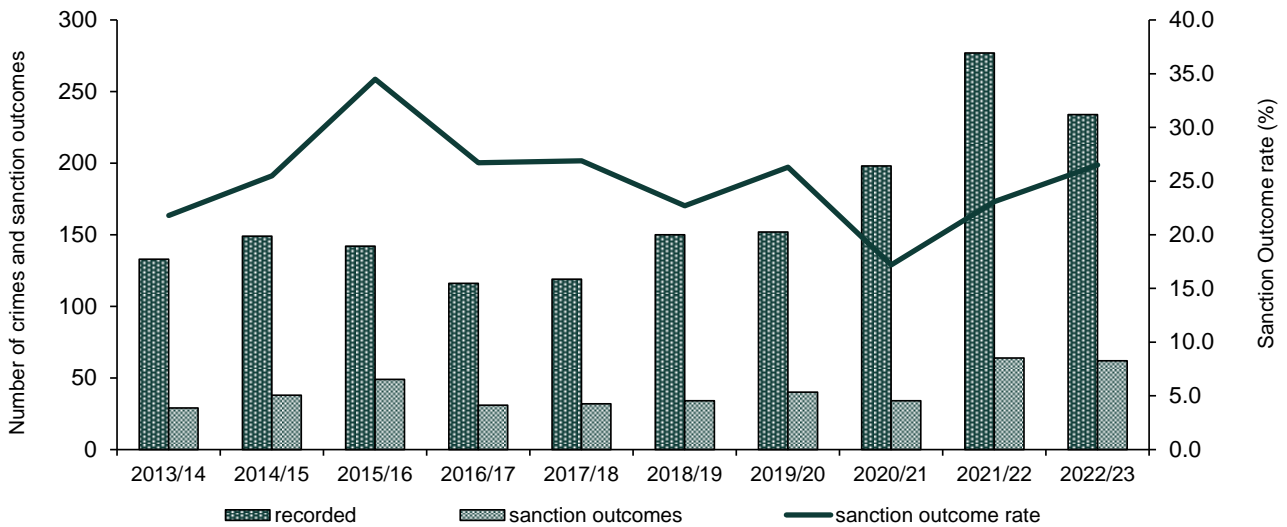


A full break down of all outcomes for crimes with a sexual orientation motivation from 2015/16 is available in Section 5 of the publication [Outcomes of Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2015/16 to 2022/23 \(opens in a new window\)](#). This includes outcomes which did not result in a sanction, for example those where there were evidential difficulties and those where the investigation was completed with no suspect identified.

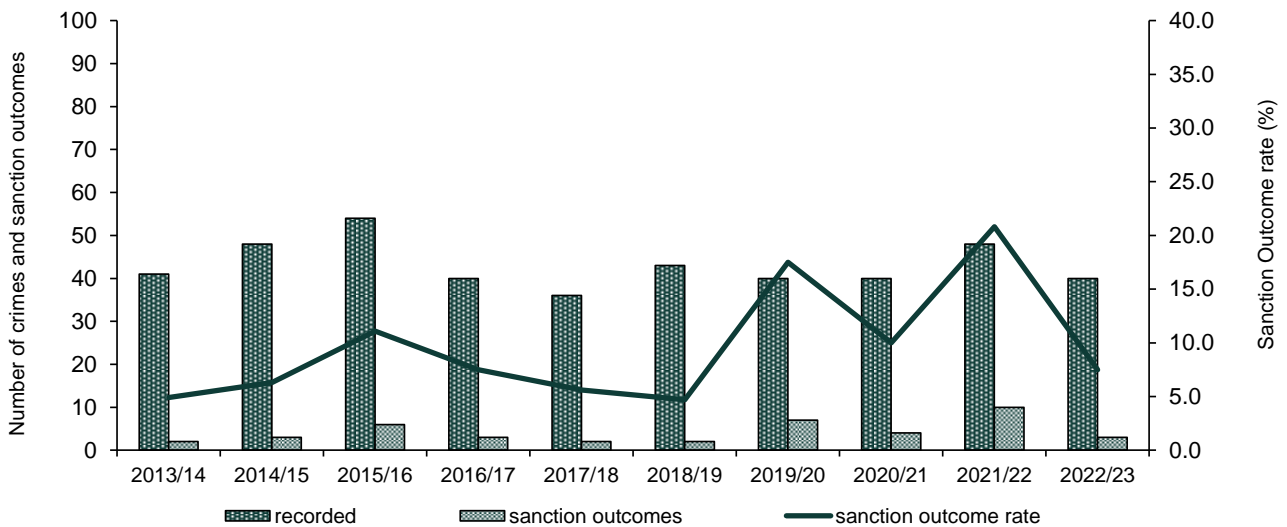
Figures 3.7 and 3.8 show the trends in crimes, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates for offences within violence against the person and criminal damage which, between them, account for around 95 per cent of crimes recorded with a sexual orientation motivation. The sanction outcome rate for both 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 sexual orientation motivation; crimes recorded, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**

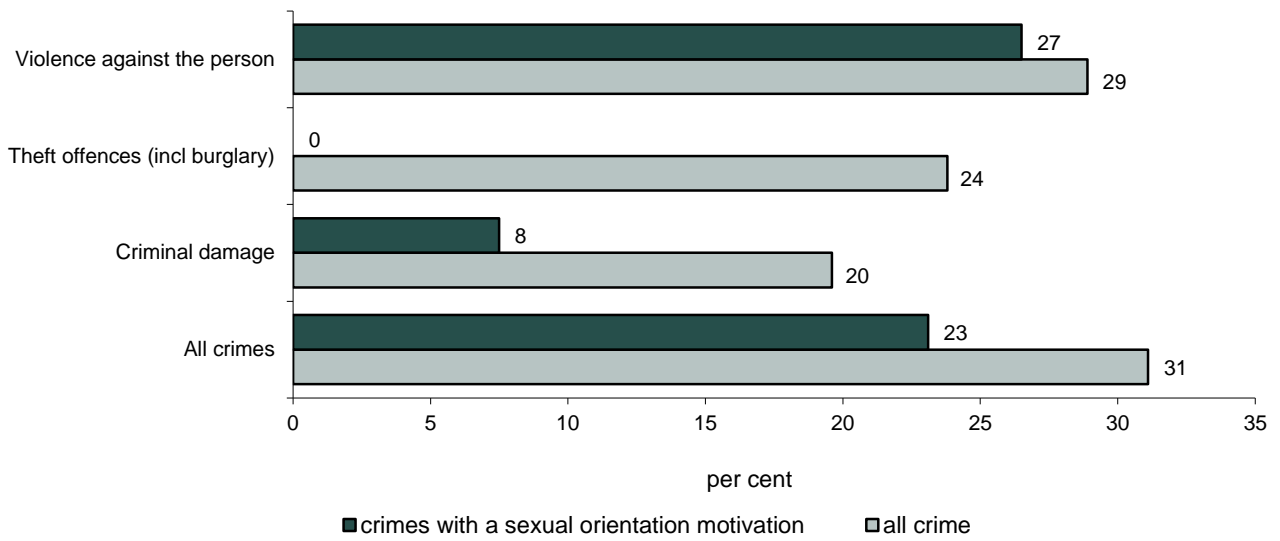


**Figure 3.8 Criminal damage with a sexual orientation motivation; crimes recorded, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



**Comparison of sanction outcome rates for crimes with a sexual orientation motivation and all crimes recorded by the police:** Sanction outcome rates for crimes with a sexual orientation motivation tend to be lower than the outcome rates for all crimes recorded by the police. This comparison for outcome rates in 2022/23 is shown in figure 3.9 below.

**Figure 3.9 Sanction outcome rates by crime type, sexual orientation motivated crimes and all crimes recorded by the police, 2022/23**





## 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 \(opens in a new window\)](#). For those tables and charts presenting part of the time series, the complete time series is available in this spreadsheet.

### 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 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 subsequent financial year, the crime level recorded in 2022/23 is 37 per cent lower than the highest level which was recorded in 2005/06.

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

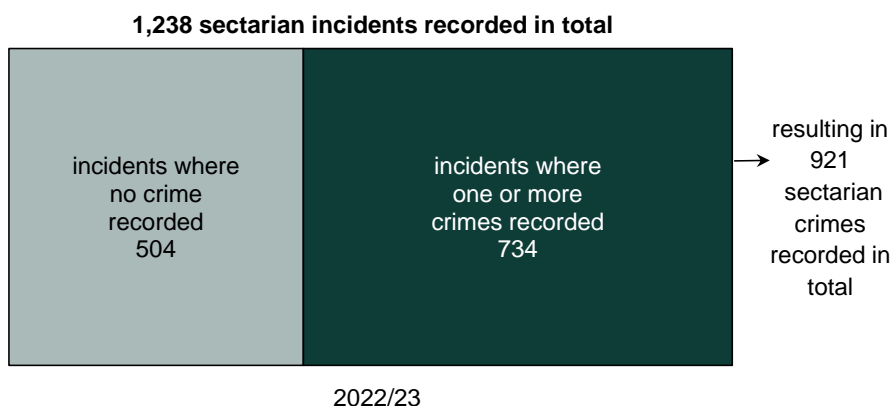
**Table 4.1 Sectarian motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes<sup>1</sup>, 2005/06 and latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**

	Sectarian Incidents	Sectarian Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2005/06	1,701	1,469	-	-
...	...	...	...	...
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
2022/23	1,238	921	137	14.9

<sup>1</sup> 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 2022/23 there were 1,238 incidents recorded where there was a sectarian motivation. Of these, there were 504 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 734 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 921 sectarian crimes in total). Around two in five incidents recorded during 2022/23 did not result in a crime being recorded.

**Figure 4.1 Incidents and crimes with a sectarian motivation, 2022/23**

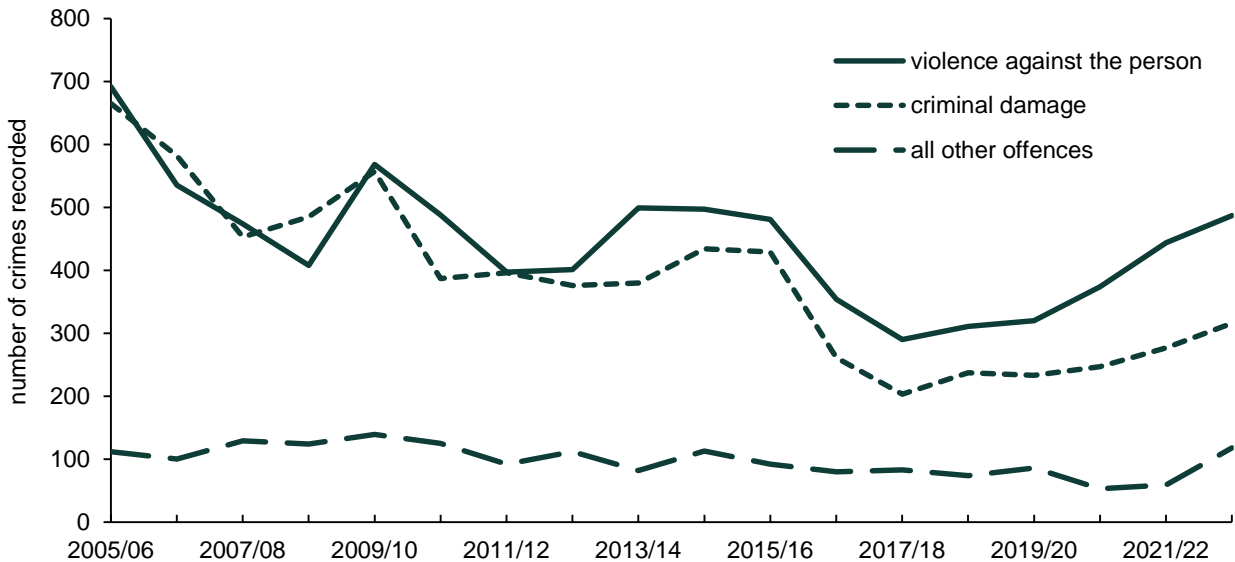


## 4.2 Trends in crimes with a sectarian motivation by crime type

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

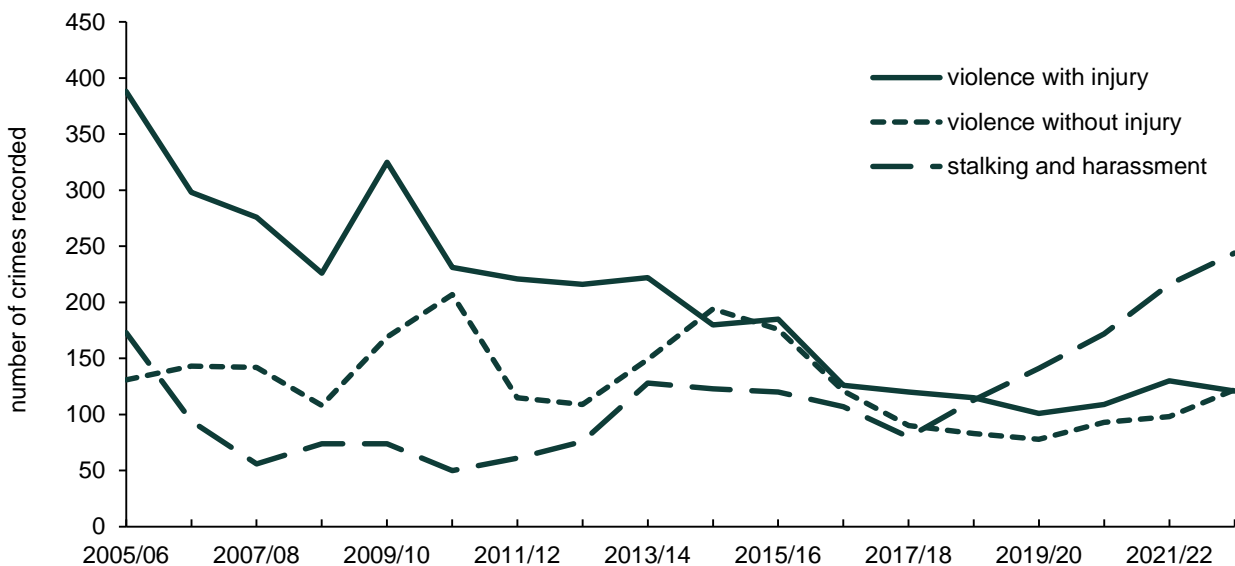
Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a sectarian motivation are shown in figure 4.2 below. The full range of crime types for crimes with a sectarian motivation is available in Table 4.2.

**Figure 4.2 Crimes with a sectarian motivation by crime type, 2005/06 to 2022/23**



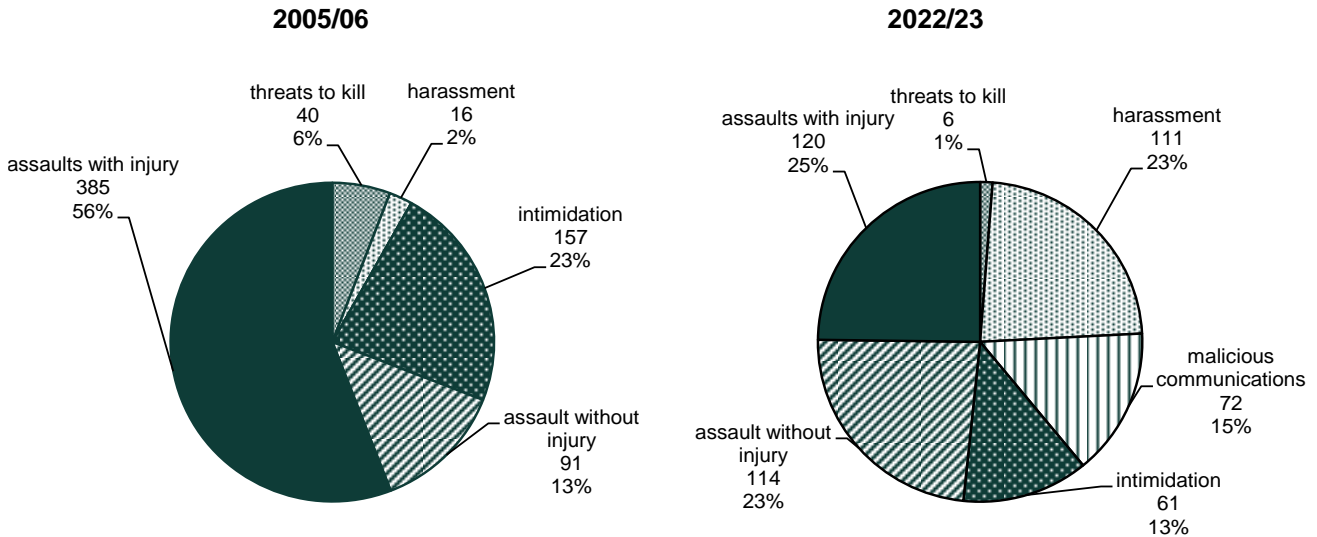
**Violence against the person with a sectarian motivation:** Around half of all crimes with a sectarian motivation fall within violence against the person; in 2022/23 the proportion was 53 per cent. This classification covers a wide range of offences including behavioural crimes (such as harassment), 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 121 offences recorded in 2022/23 remains well below the 388 offences recorded in 2005/06. Levels of violence without injury have been more stable. Between 2017/18 and 2021/22 they have remained below 100 offences each year, but increased to 122 in 2022/23. The overall stalking and harassment classification includes offences relating to harassment, malicious communications (from 2017/18) and intimidation, with stalking and harassment showing the greatest increase in levels following the inclusion of malicious communications. Details of changes in recording practice within the overall stalking and 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 2022/23**



The makeup of classifications within violence against the person has changed between 2005/06 and 2022/23. The proportion of assault with injury, intimidation and threats to kill offences have fallen by 31 percentage points, 10 percentage points and 5 percentage points respectively, while the proportion of assault without injury offences has increased by 10 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 15 per cent of violence against the person in 2022/23, 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 2022/23**



**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 2022/23 it is closer to a third. Within criminal damage, between one third and two fifths of offences are criminal damage - residential. Typically offences of criminal damage to a building - business and community have made up less than one fifth of all criminal damage offences. Since 2019/20 the level of criminal damage to a building - business and community has increased and in 2022/23 has overtaken criminal damage – residential as the largest proportion of all criminal damage offences. 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 similar to that of 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 lower levels in 2020/21 and 2021/22, before rising to its highest level of 87 in 2022/23. Public order offences have declined in number from the highest level of 68 in 2009/10 to the lowest level of 2 recorded in both 2021/22 and 2022/23.

### 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.

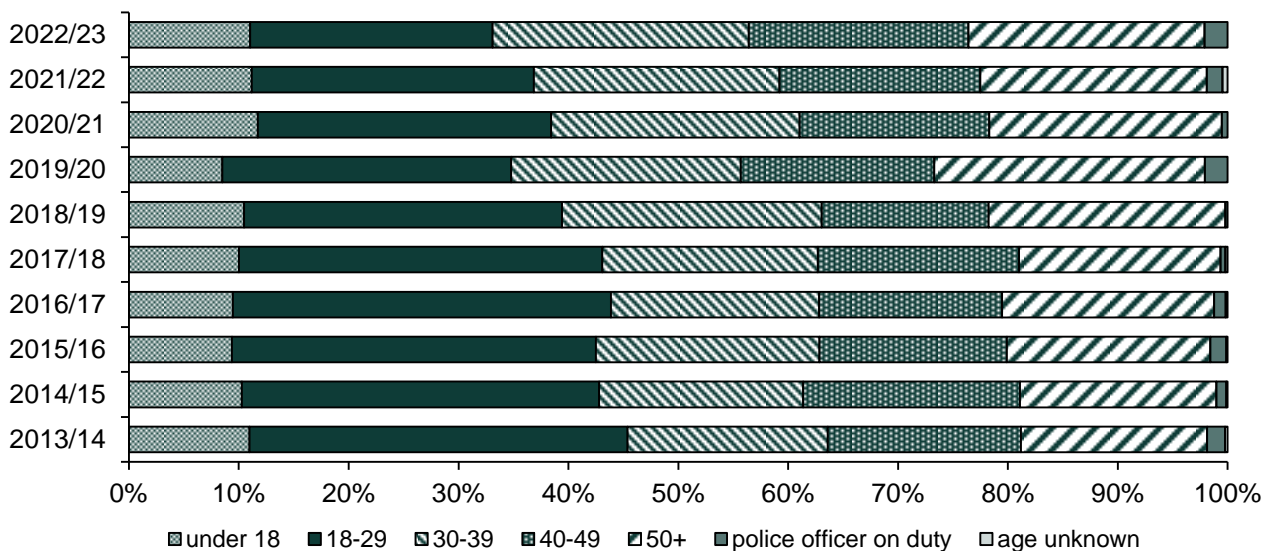
The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2007/08, a person is the victim of a sectarian crime in 74 to 83 per cent of cases, while in 13 to 21 per cent of sectarian crimes the victim is a business or organisation.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

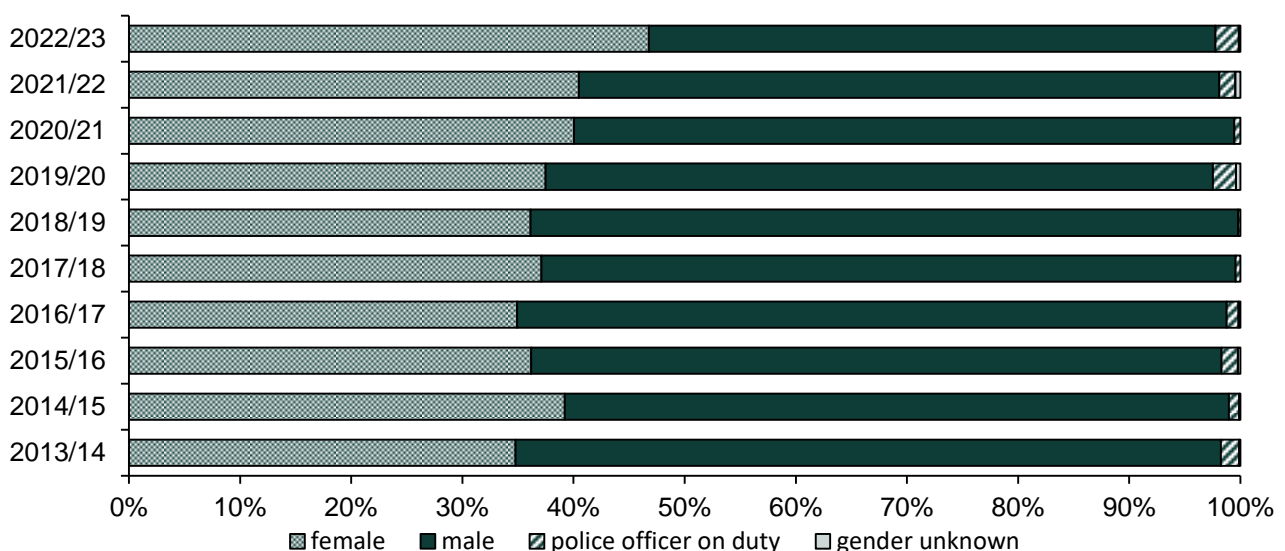
**Victim age:** Since 2007/08 the proportion of sectarian crimes by age of victim has tended to fluctuate from year to year. However there has been a general fall in the proportion of victims in the two youngest age bands (under the age of 18 and 18-29) and a general increase in the proportion of victims aged over 30 (30 to 39, 40-49 and those aged 50 plus). [Table 4.5]

**Figure 4.5 Sectarian crimes by age of victim, latest ten financial years 2013/14 and 2022/23**



**Victim gender:** In relation to the gender of victims of sectarian crimes, between 27 per cent and 47 per cent are female, and between 51 per cent and 65 per cent are male. In 2022/23, around 2 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, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



#### 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 \(opens in a new window\)](#).

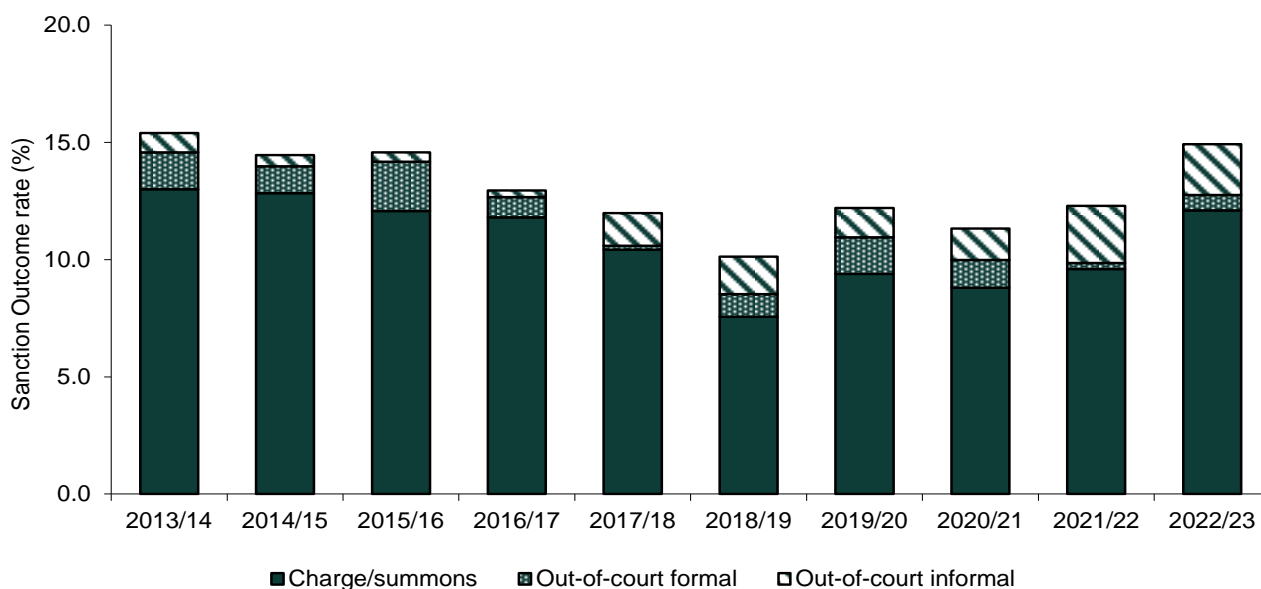
Figure 4.7 shows the trend in the sanction outcome rate for crimes with a sectarian motivation since 2013/14. It also shows the split by the method of disposal. [Table 4.9]

Over the last ten financial years since 2013/14, charge/summons outcomes have accounted for between 75 per cent and 91 per cent of all sanction outcomes, with a charge/summons outcome rate ranging from 7.6% in 2018/19 to 13.0% in 2013/14.

During the same time period, out-of-court formal sanctions (cautions and PNDs) accounted for between 1 per cent of sanction outcomes in 2017/18 and 14 per cent in 2015/16, with an outcome rate ranging from 0.2% in 2017/18 to 2.1% in 2015/16.

The proportion of out-of-court informal sanctions (community resolutions) has ranged from 2 per cent of all sanction outcomes in 2016/17 to 20 per cent in 2021/22, with an outcome rate ranging from 0.3% in 2016/17 to 2.4% in 2021/22.

**Figure 4.7 Sanction outcome rates for crimes with a sectarian motivation by method of disposal, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**

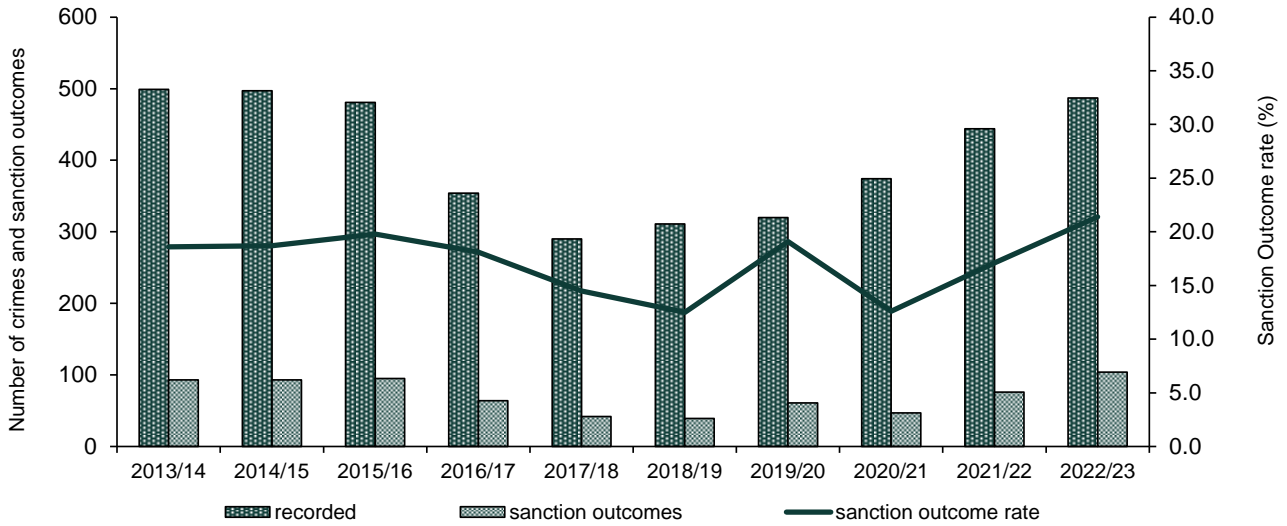


A full break down of all outcomes for crimes with a sectarian motivation from 2015/16 is available in Section 5 of the publication [Outcomes of Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2015/16 to 2022/23 \(opens in a new window\)](#). This includes outcomes which did not result in a sanction, for example those where there were evidential difficulties and those where the investigation was completed with no suspect identified.

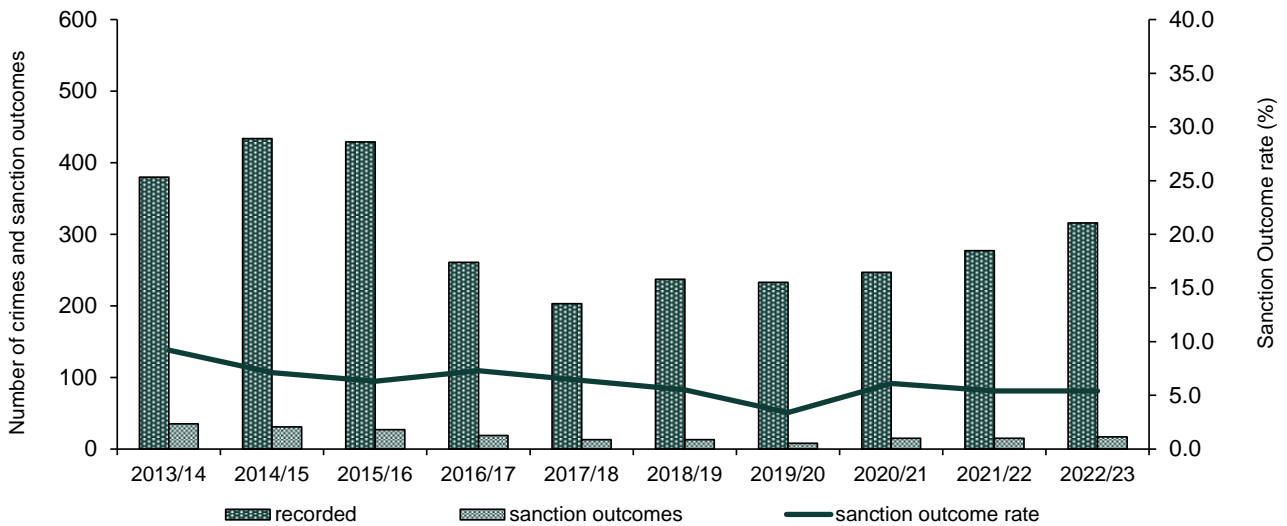
Figures 4.8 and 4.9 show the trends in crimes, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates for offences within violence against the person and criminal damage which, between them, account for around nine out of every ten sectarian crimes recorded. Both charts are shown to the same scale and show how 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, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**

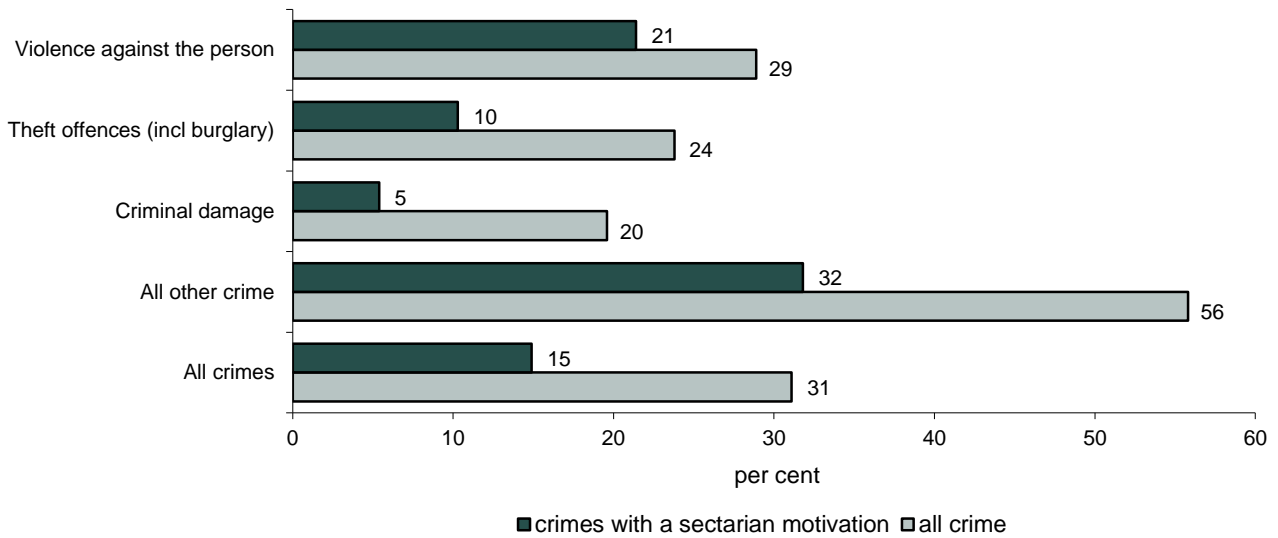


**Figure 4.9 Criminal damage with a sectarian motivation; crimes recorded, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



**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, 2022/23**



## 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.

In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a faith/religion motivation; trends in this section are presented from this date.

All tables referred to in the commentary of Section 5 Faith/Religion Motivations can be found in the [faith/religion motivations spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#). For those tables and charts presenting part of the time series, the complete time series is available in this spreadsheet.

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

Levels of faith/religion incidents were higher in each year during the period 2014/15 to 2018/19 than those recorded either before or since, with the exception of 2021/22 which recorded the third highest level since 2009/10. Faith/religion crimes generally increased between 2011/12 and 2017/18. The highest level of faith/religion crimes since 2009/10 was recorded in 2021/22, with the number of crimes in 2022/23 subsequently falling to a level similar to that previously seen in 2016/17.

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

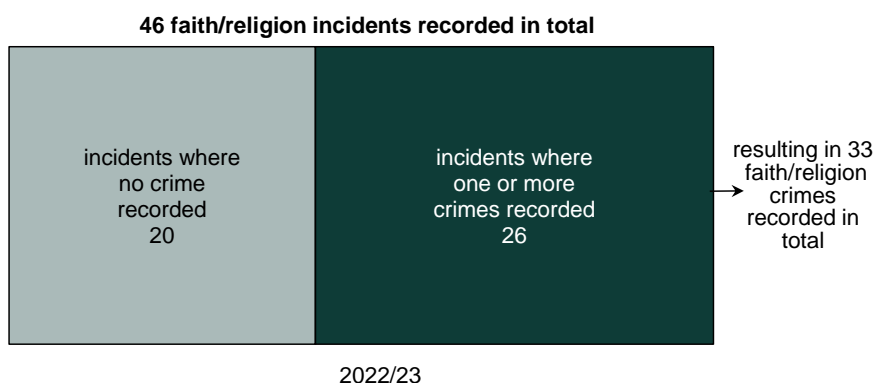
**Table 5.1 Faith/Religion motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes<sup>1</sup>, 2009/10 and latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**

	Faith/Religion Incidents	Faith/Religion Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2009/10	32	16	1	6.3
...	...	...	...	...
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
2022/23	46	33	12	36.4

<sup>1</sup> 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 2022/23 there were 46 incidents recorded where there was a faith/religion motivation. Of these, there were 20 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 26 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 33 faith/religion crimes in total). Just over two in five faith/religion incidents did not result in a crime being recorded.

**Figure 5.1 Incidents and crimes with a faith/religion motivation, 2022/23**



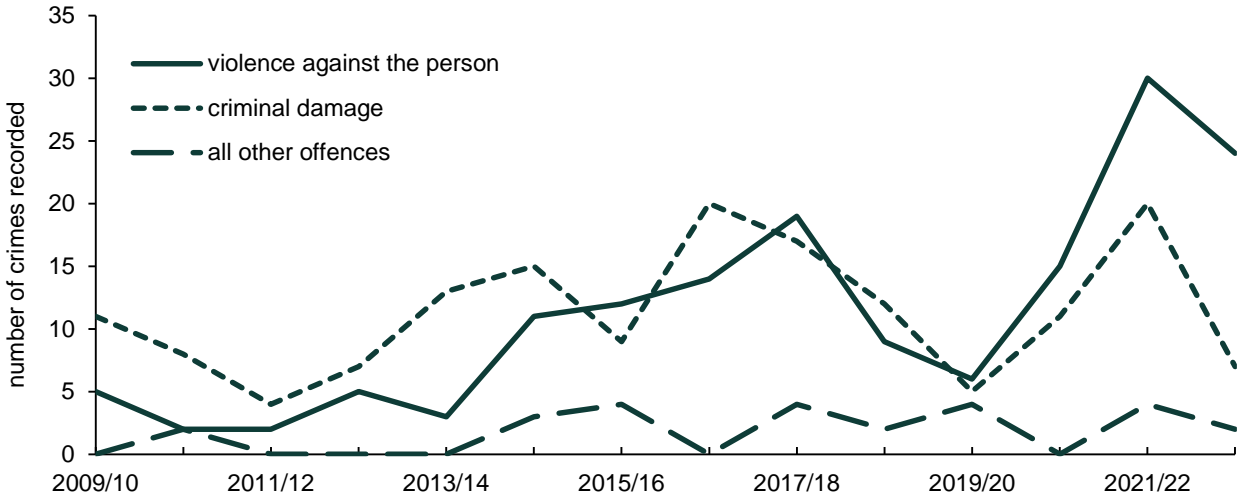


## 5.2 Trends in crimes with a faith/religion motivation by crime type

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 range of crime types for crimes with a faith/religion motivation is available in Table 5.2.

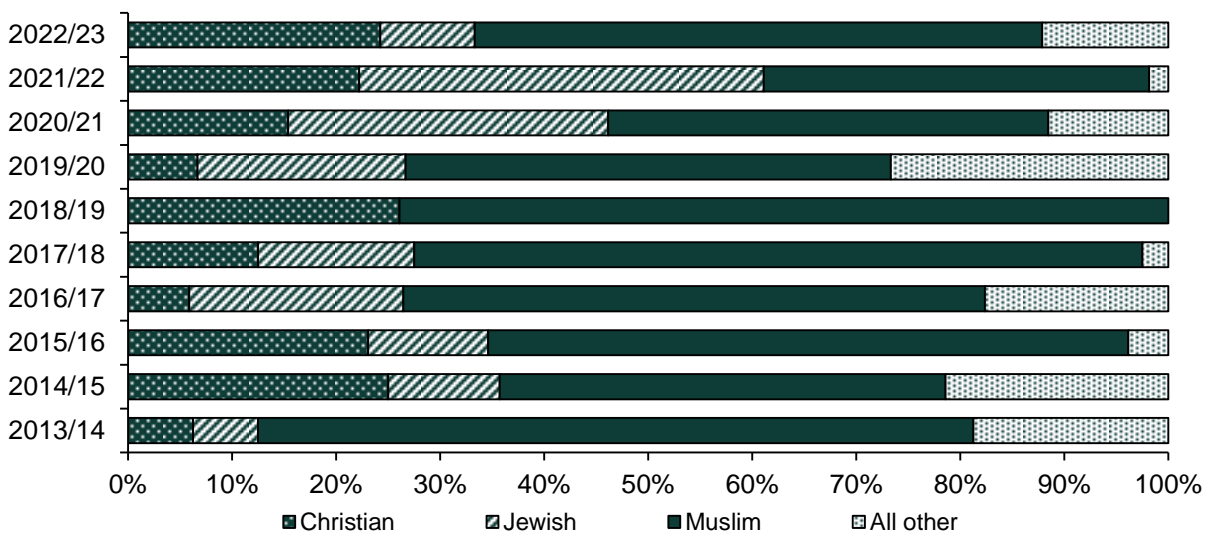
**Figure 5.2 Crimes with a faith/religion motivation by crime type, 2009/10 to 2022/23**



In 2022/23 violence against the person offences accounted for 73 per cent of all crimes with a faith/religion motivation while criminal damage offences accounted for 21 per cent. Since 2018/19, stalking and harassment have made up between 42 and 67 per cent of all violence against the person offences.

**Faith or religion against which hostility or prejudice is displayed:** All crimes with a faith/religion motivation are classified on the basis of the religious belief against which the hostility or prejudice has been displayed, even if the victim of the offence does not follow that faith or religion. The Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths account for the majority of crimes with a faith/religion motivation. In nine of the ten years since 2013/14 the Muslim faith has accounted for the largest proportion of faith/religion crimes. [Table 5.3]

**Figure 5.3 Religion/Perceived religion of victims of faith/religion crimes, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



### 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.

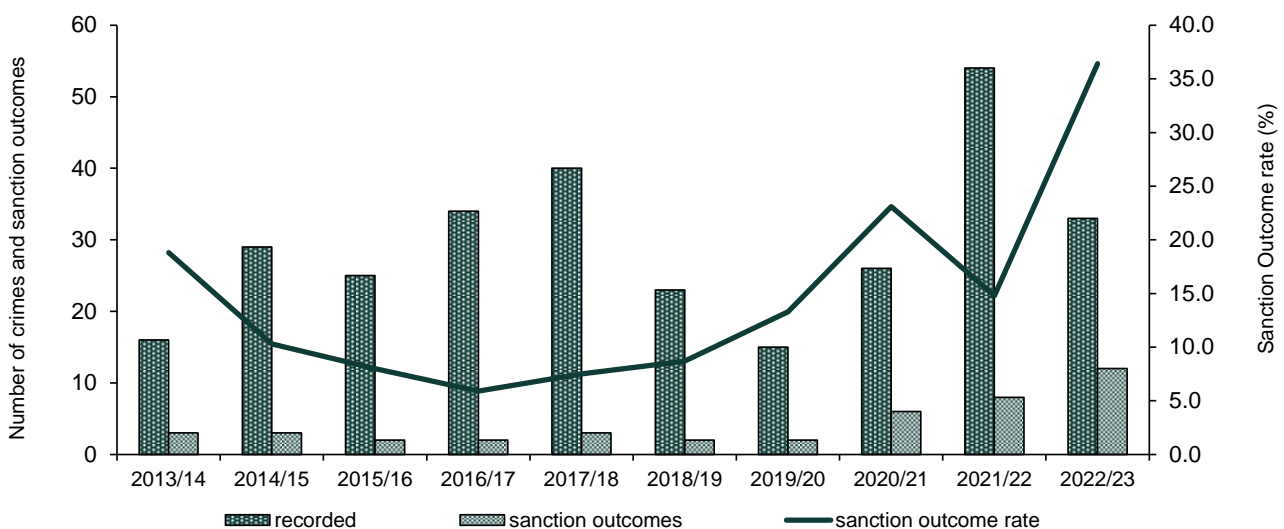
The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2009/10, a person is the victim of a faith/religion crime in 42 to 88 per cent of cases, while in 12 to 50 per cent of faith/religion crimes the victim is a business or organisation. Up to eight per cent of faith/religion crimes are state-based. [Table 5.4]

### 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 5.4 shows the trend in the overall sanction outcome rate for crimes with a faith/religion motivation since 2013/14 and demonstrates the volatility of the sanction outcome rate when the levels of crimes and sanction outcomes recorded are small. [Tables 5.2, 5.5 (numbers) and 5.5 (rates)].

**Figure 5.4 Crimes, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates for crimes with a faith/religion motivation, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



## 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.

In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a disability motivation; trends in this section are presented from this date.

All tables referred to in the commentary of Section 6 Disability Motivations can be found in the [disability motivations spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#). For those tables and charts presenting part of the time series, the complete time series is available in this spreadsheet.

### 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, and increased in 2021/22 and 2022/23. The number of disability motivated crimes has been rising since 2017/18, with the exception of 2020/21. In 2022/23, both incidents and crimes with a disability motivation rose to the highest levels recorded in the data series.

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

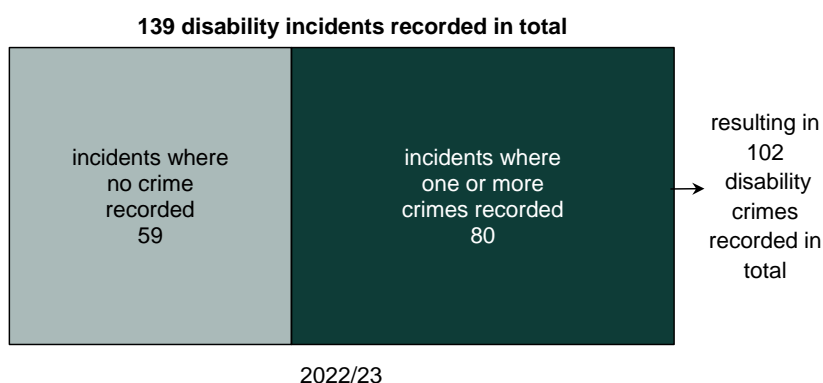
**Table 6.1 Disability motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes<sup>1</sup>, 2009/10 and latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**

	Disability Incidents	Disability Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2009/10	58	40	6	15.0
...	...	...	...	...
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
2022/23	139	102	21	20.6

<sup>1</sup> 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 2022/23 there were 139 incidents recorded where there was a disability motivation. Of these, there were 59 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 80 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 102 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, 2022/23**

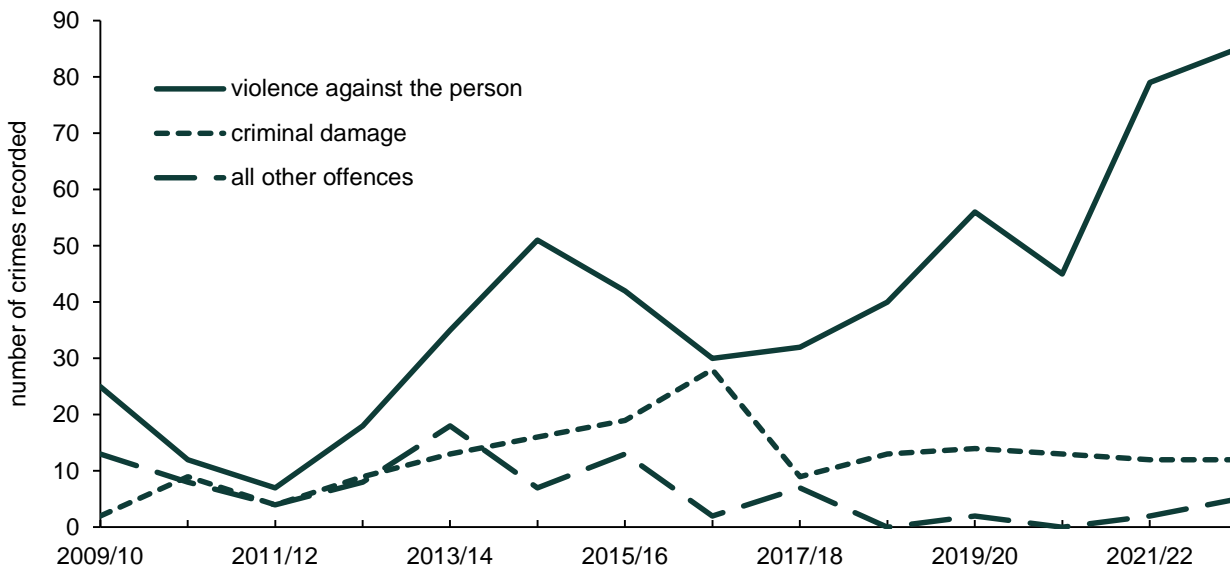


## 6.2 Trends in crimes with a disability motivation by crime type

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

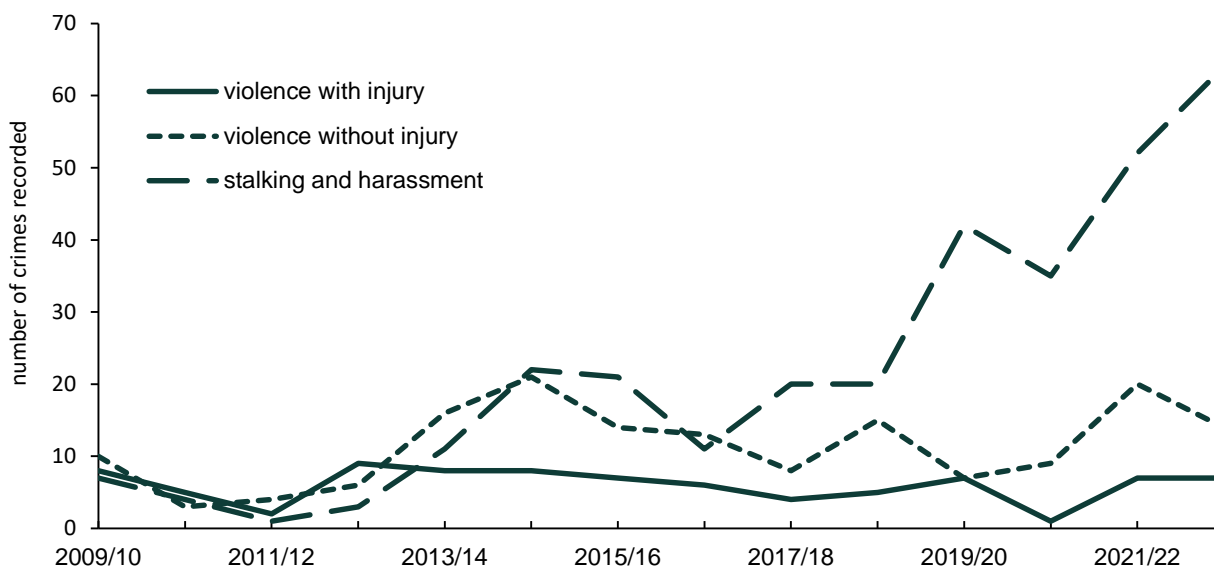
Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a disability motivation are shown in figure 6.2. The full range of crime types for crimes with a disability motivation is available in Table 6.2.

**Figure 6.2 Crimes with a disability motivation by crime type, 2009/10 to 2022/23**



**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 since 2018/19 this proportion has risen to at least three quarters. This classification covers a wide range of offences including behavioural crimes (such as harassment), 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 stalking 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 stalking and 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 2022/23**



### 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.

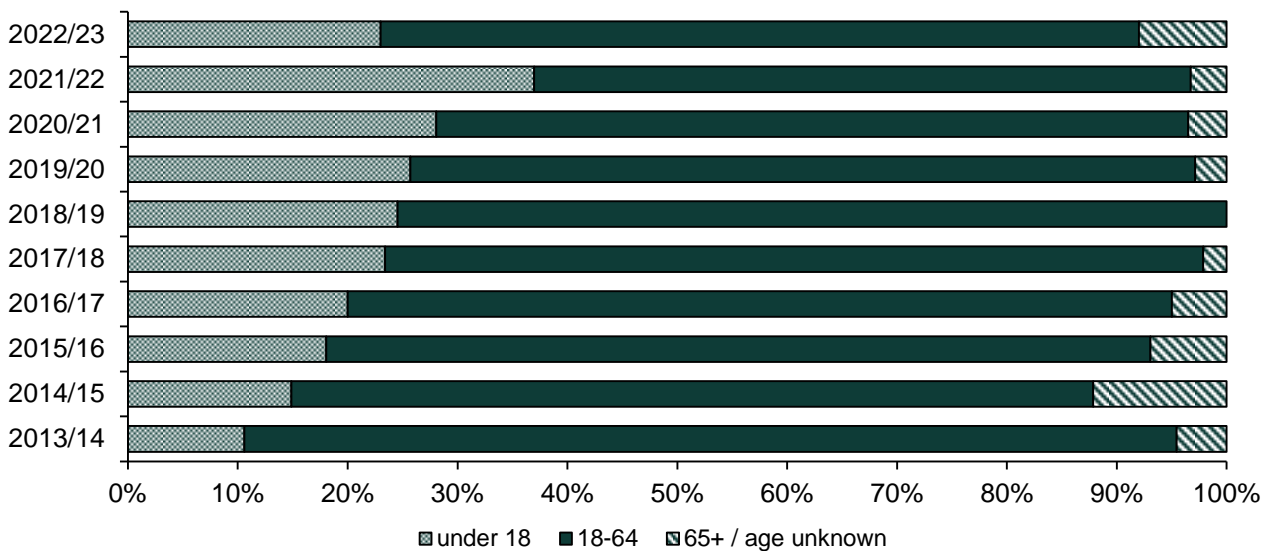
The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2009/10, a person is the victim of a disability crime in at least 93 per cent of cases, while in up to 7 per cent of disability crimes the victim is a business or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

Of the 102 crimes with a disability motivation recorded in 2022/23, 100 involved a person victim, with 18 of these persons identified as having a learning disability.

#### 6.3.1 Disability crimes: age and gender of victims

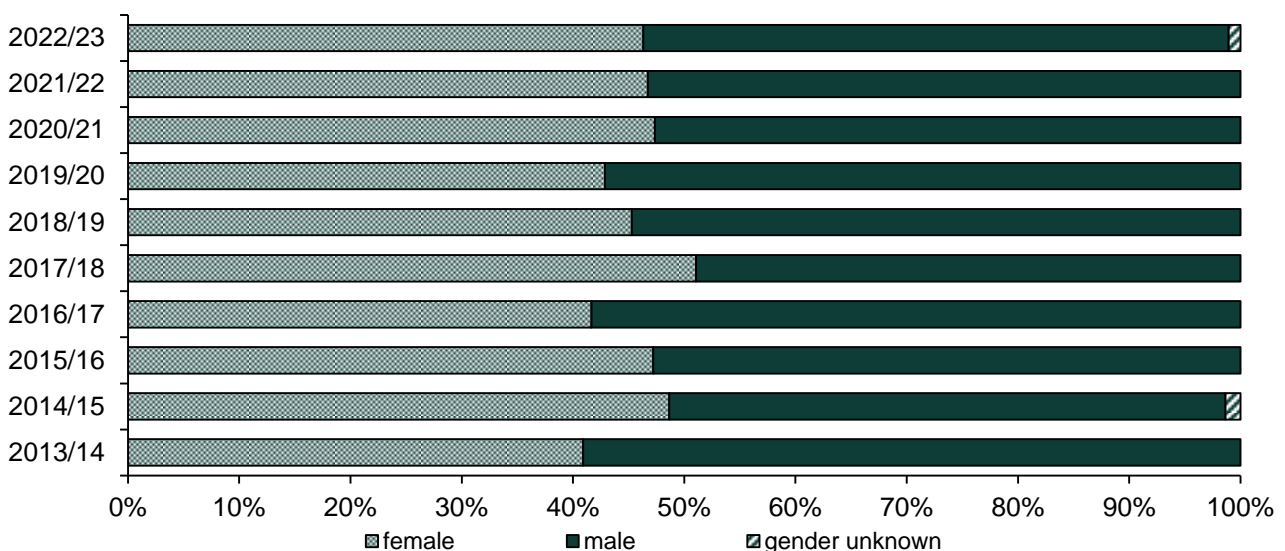
**Victim age:** The proportion of disability crimes where the victim is under 18 increased each year from 6 per cent in 2012/13 to 37 per cent in 2021/22 before falling to 23 per cent in 2022/23. The proportions where the victim is 18-64 and 65+ tend to be lower in more recent years than at the start of the series in 2009/10. [Table 6.4]

**Figure 6.4 Disability crimes by age of victim, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



**Victim gender:** In relation to the gender of victims of disability crimes, between 30 per cent and 57 per cent are female, and between 43 per cent and 70 per cent are male. There was a higher proportion of male victims in each year since 2009/10, with the exceptions of 2017/18 and 2022/23. [Table 6.5]

**Figure 6.5 Disability crimes by gender of victim, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**

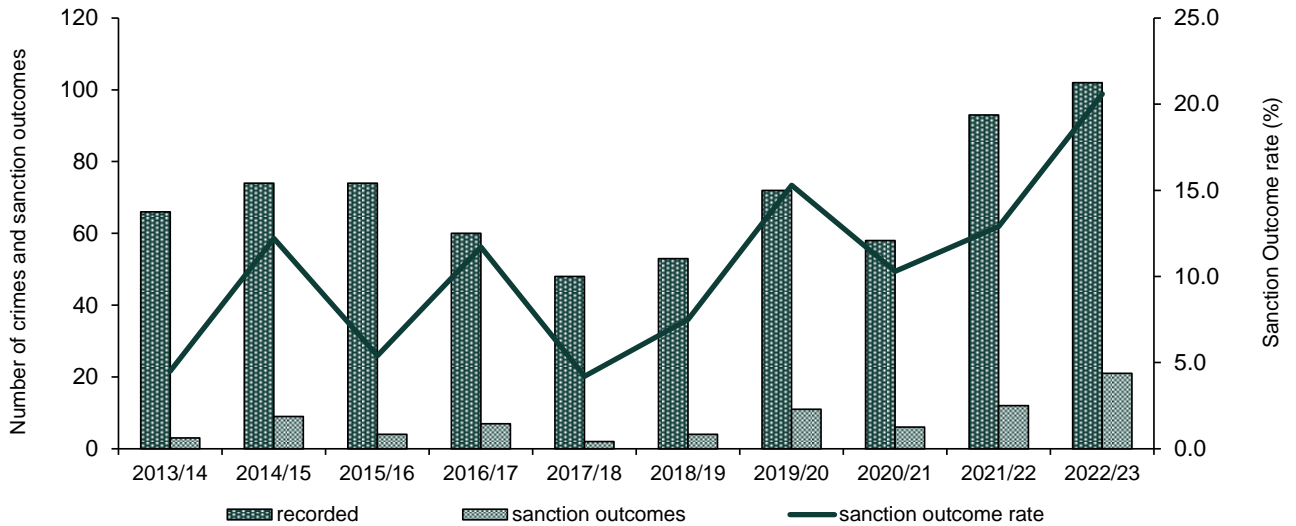


## 6.4 Sanction outcomes for crimes with a disability motivation

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, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**



# 7. Transgender Identity 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 transgender identity, this includes people who are transgender and those who hold the gender recognition certificate under the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

In 2009/10 improvements were made to the data quality assurance process for incidents and crimes with a transgender identity motivation; trends in this section are presented from this date.

All tables referred to in the commentary of Section 7 Transgender Identity Motivations can be found in the [transgender identity motivations spreadsheet \(opens in a new window\)](#). For those tables and charts presenting part of the time series, the complete time series is available in this spreadsheet.

## 7.1 Trends in incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes with a transgender identity motivation

Between 2009/10 and 2016/17 the number of transgender identity incidents ranged between 14 and 23, with the exception of 4 such incidents recorded in 2011/12. The number of transgender identity crimes ranged between 3 and 12 over the same time period. The number of transgender identity 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 2022/23 the number of transgender identity motivated crimes recorded slightly decreased, but remains at the second highest level in the data series and substantially above levels recorded prior to 2019/20.

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

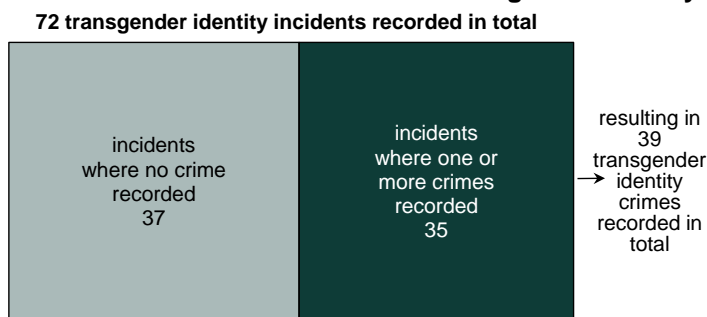
**Table 7.1 Transgender Identity motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes<sup>1</sup>, 2009/10 and latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**

	Transgender Identity Incidents	Transgender Identity Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2009/10 <sup>2</sup>	14	4	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
2022/23	72	39	9	23.1

<sup>1</sup> 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 2022/23 there were 72 incidents recorded where there was a transgender identity motivation. Of these, there were 37 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 35 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 39 transgender identity crimes in total). Just over half of transgender identity incidents did not result in a crime being recorded.

**Figure 7.1 Incidents and crimes with a transgender identity motivation, 2022/23**

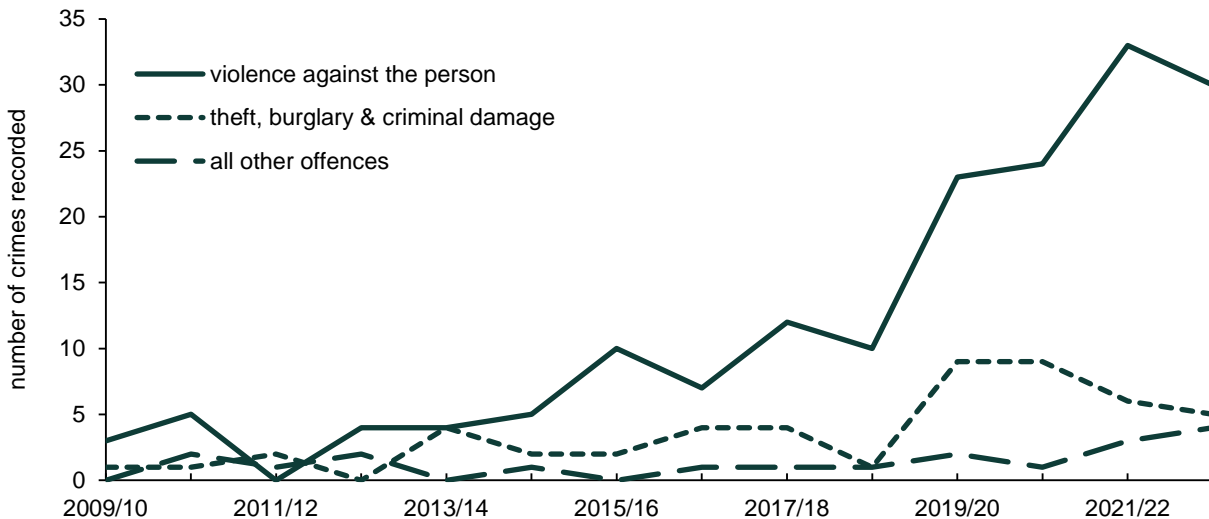


## 7.2 Trends in crimes with a transgender identity motivation by crime type

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 transgender identity motivation are shown in figure 7.2. The full range of crime types for crimes with a transgender identity motivation is available in table 7.2.

**Figure 7.2 Crimes with a transgender identity motivation by crime type, 2009/10 to 2022/23**



## 7.3 Victims of transgender identity 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.

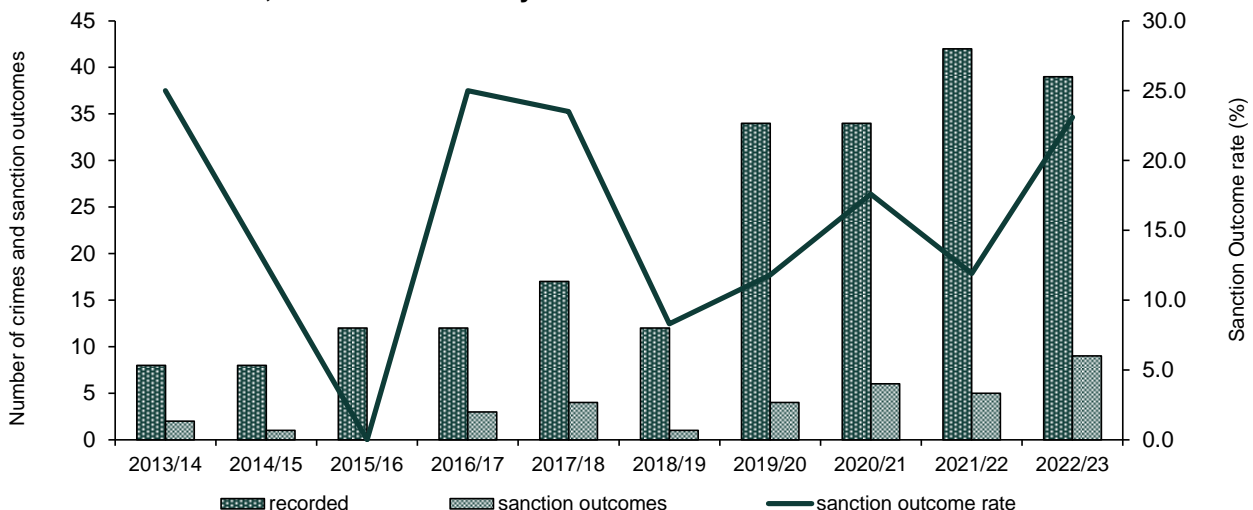
The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. All crimes with a transgender identity motivation recorded since 2006/07 have had a person victim, with the exception of five crimes recorded with a business/organisation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

## 7.4 Sanction outcomes for crimes with a transgender identity 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 transgender identity 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 transgender identity motivation, latest ten financial years 2013/14 to 2022/23**





## 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 Race, Sexual Orientation 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

- Race motivations spreadsheet [tables 2.13 to 2.18 and pivot table]
- Sexual Orientation 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 5.7 to 5.9]
- Disability motivations spreadsheet [tables 6.8 to 6.10]

### 8.3 Transgender Identity 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.

- Transgender Identity motivations spreadsheet [tables 7.4 and 7.5]

### 8.4 Additional geographic breakdowns of hate motivated incidents and crimes

The [NISRA Data Portal \(opens in a new window\)](#) website is updated annually in relation to incidents and crimes with a race, sexual orientation or sectarian motivation. The available geographies are listed below:

#### Incidents with a race, sexual orientation or sectarian motivation

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

#### Crimes with a race, sexual orientation or sectarian motivation

Ward 2014, District Electoral Area (DEA) 2014, Local Government District (LGD) 2014, Assembly Area (AA), Health & Social Care Trust (HSCT), and Urban/Rural

## 9. Wider Context (comparison with England and Wales)<sup>1</sup>

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).

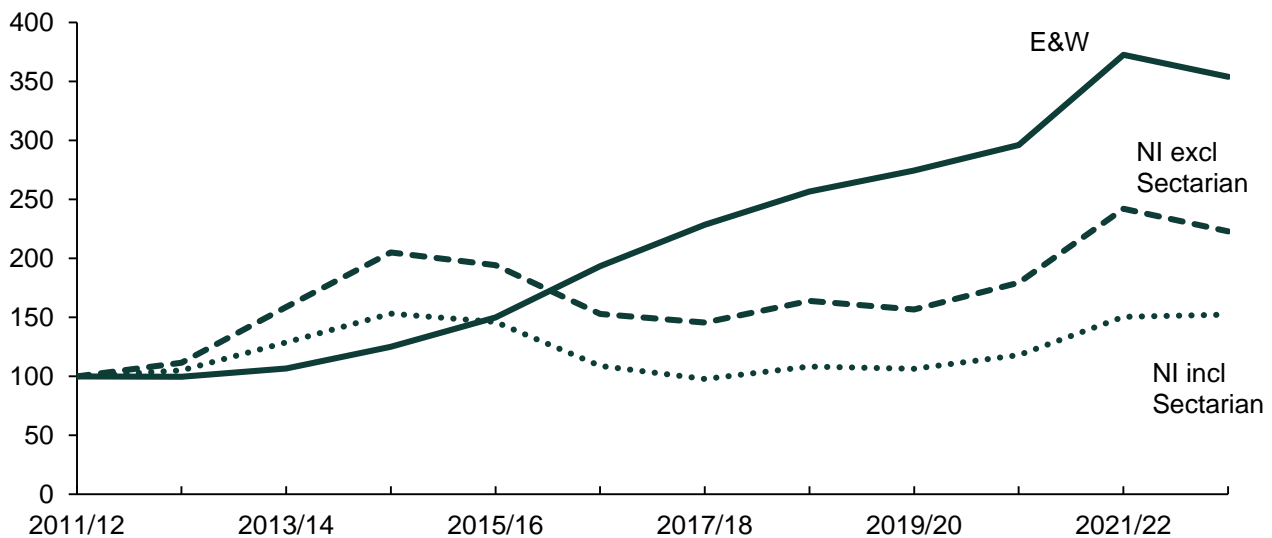
In England & Wales there are some offences in the main police recorded crime collection which have a specific racially or religiously motivated element. These are defined by statute and constitute a set of offences which are distinct from their non-racially or religiously aggravated equivalents. As police 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 twelve 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 41 per cent in 2022/23.

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 2022/23 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 2022/23 (2011/12 = 100)**



The Home Office publication on Hate Crime in England & Wales 2022/23 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.

<sup>1</sup> The England & Wales details have been sourced from the publication [Hate Crime in England & Wales 2022-23 \(opens in a new window\)](#). Data for Devon and Cornwall Police Force Area have not been included in the above chart because of issues with their data supply following the implementation of new IT systems. An estimated figure has been used for 2019/20 as Greater Manchester Police (GMP) were unable to supply data for this year following the implementation of new IT systems.

# Appendix 1. Background and Data Quality

## Data collection and data quality

PSNI's Statistics Branch started compiling statistics on racist and sexual orientation incidents and crimes in April 2004. While PSNI compiled statistics on incidents with racist and sexual orientation 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 transgender identity 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 transgender identity 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 2022/23 was published on 24 November 2023. The publication includes a section on outcomes relating to hate motivated crimes.

[NISRA Data Portal \(opens in a new window\)](#): Access to a range of geographic areas for hate motivated incidents and crimes recorded by the police (annual totals only) is available through the NISRA Data Portal.

[Hate Crime in England & Wales 2022-23 \(opens in a new window\)](#) 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 \(opens in a new window\)](#).