



Police Service
of Northern Ireland



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

2004/05 to 2023/24

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

Things you need to know about this release

Coverage

This 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.

Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to. You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards by emailing statistics@psni.police.uk. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the [OSR website \(opens in a new window\)](#).

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 2023/24. 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, along with an explanation of the perception test.

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

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

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.

Stalking and Harassment (including malicious communications):

1st April 2017: recording of malicious communications started.

1st April 2018: the Home Office introduced a change requiring harassment to be recorded in addition to the most serious additional victim-based offence. The changes in recording practice introduced in April 2017 and April 2018, along with increasing awareness of the application of these rules in the recording process, contributed to increased levels recorded in the overall Stalking and Harassment classification, particularly since 2018/19.

1st May 2023: the Home Office introduced a further change in respect of these 'behavioural crimes' by reversing the requirement to record the most serious additional victim-based offence. This latest change has had the greatest impact on malicious communications offences, with fewer such offences required to be recorded.

In practice these changes meant that between 1st April 2018 and 30th April 2023 there was some 'double counting' of offences when an incident involved a conduct/behaviour offence (Harassment, stalking, coercive or controlling behaviour) and another offence, which would have led to an increase in the number of crimes recorded. From 1st May 2023, this practice was reversed, and the current approach is more similar to the period prior to 1st April 2018, where a conduct/behaviour offence will only be recorded when it is deemed to be the most serious offence.

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 2025. 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 has remained the case with the exception of 2022/23 when there were 17 more sectarian than racist incidents. The number of race incidents in 2023/24 was the highest level recorded since the start of the data series, while the number of sectarian incidents was the seventh lowest.
- 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, except for 2019/20 and 2022/23 when the number of sectarian crimes were higher by 10 and 41 respectively.
- 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 up to 2022/23. In 2023/24 the number of sectarian incidents fell but remained at the second highest level since 2015/16. The 1,091 incidents recorded in 2023/24 was just under three fifths of the highest level in the data series.
- The highest level 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 2014/15 to 2023/24¹

	Race		Sexual Orientation		Sectarian		Faith/Religion		Disability		Transgender Identity	
	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime	Incident	Crime
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	164	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	289	1,238	921	46	33	139	102	72	39
2023/24	1,353	839	384	241	1,091	730	77	48	97	58	68	41

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

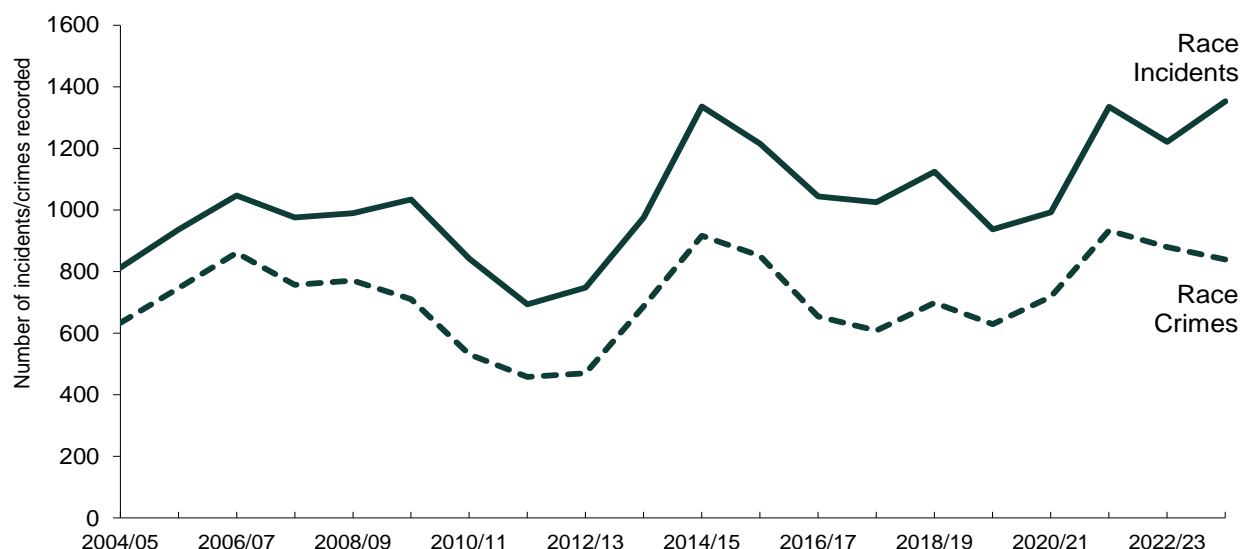
Due to the variation in volumes recorded within each of the hate motivations, the charts in figures 1.1 to 1.6 are not shown to the same scale.

1.2 Race motivated incidents and crimes

Following a decline in levels of race 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 race incidents and crimes between 2020/21 and 2021/22. The number of race incidents fell back in 2022/23, but rose again in 2023/24 to reach the highest level in the data series. The number of race crimes, which fell in 2022/23, continued to decline in 2023/24.

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

Figure 1.1 Trends in race motivated incidents and crimes, 2004/05 to 2023/24

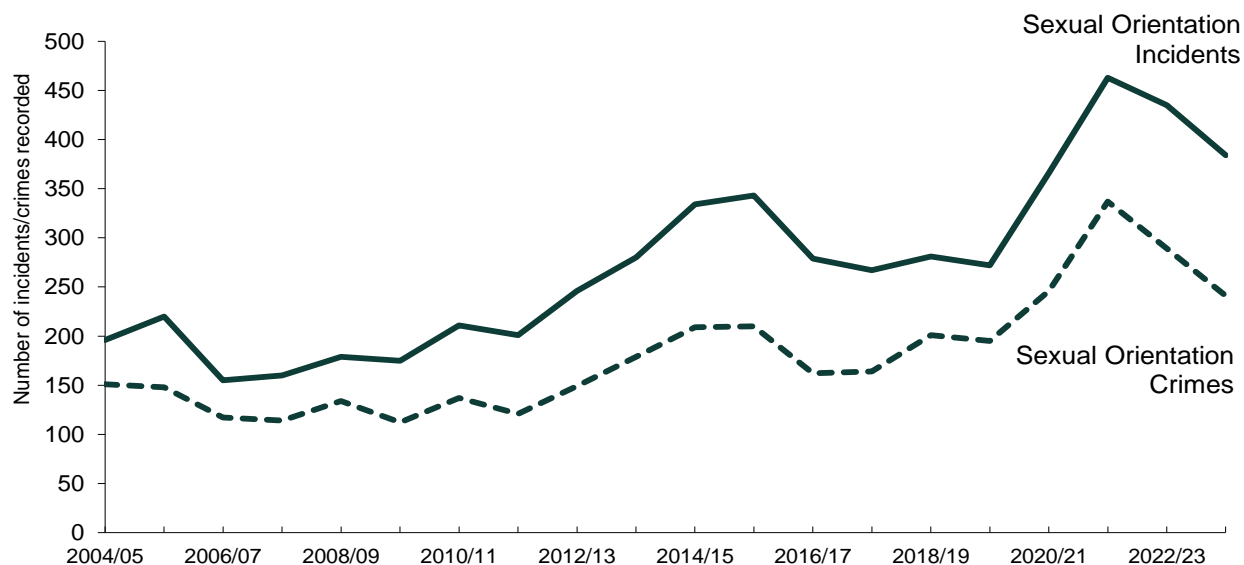


1.3 Sexual Orientation motivated incidents and crimes

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 both 2022/23 and 2023/24. Despite these falls, both incidents and crimes in 2023/24 recorded, respectively, their third and fourth 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 population¹ 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 2023/24



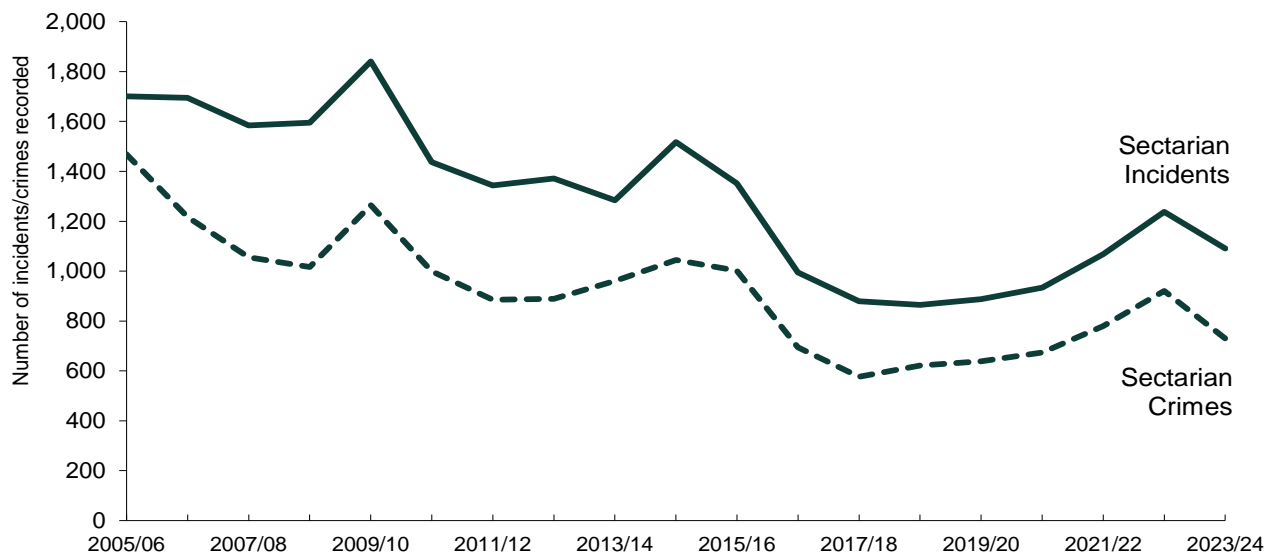
¹ Crime per 10,000 population is calculated using the Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates published by NISRA, with the latest estimates available in tables 2.18, 3.15 and 4.15 of the [spreadsheets accompanying this bulletin](#).

1.4 Sectarian motivated incidents and crimes

The number of sectarian incidents was at its highest level in 2009/10 with 1,840 incidents recorded. Levels generally fell between 2009/10 and 2018/19, which was the lowest financial year figure in the data series and less than half of the peak level recorded in 2009/10. The number of incidents increased in each year between 2018/19 and 2022/23 before falling in 2023/24. The number of sectarian crimes fell to its lowest level in 2017/18. Levels rose in each subsequent year up to 2022/23, before falling again in 2023/24. The crime level recorded in 2023/24 is 50 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 population¹ is between 5 and 10, while for the number of sectarian crimes the figure is between 3 and 9 per 10,000 population.

Figure 1.3 Trends in sectarian motivated incidents and crimes, 2005/06 to 2023/24

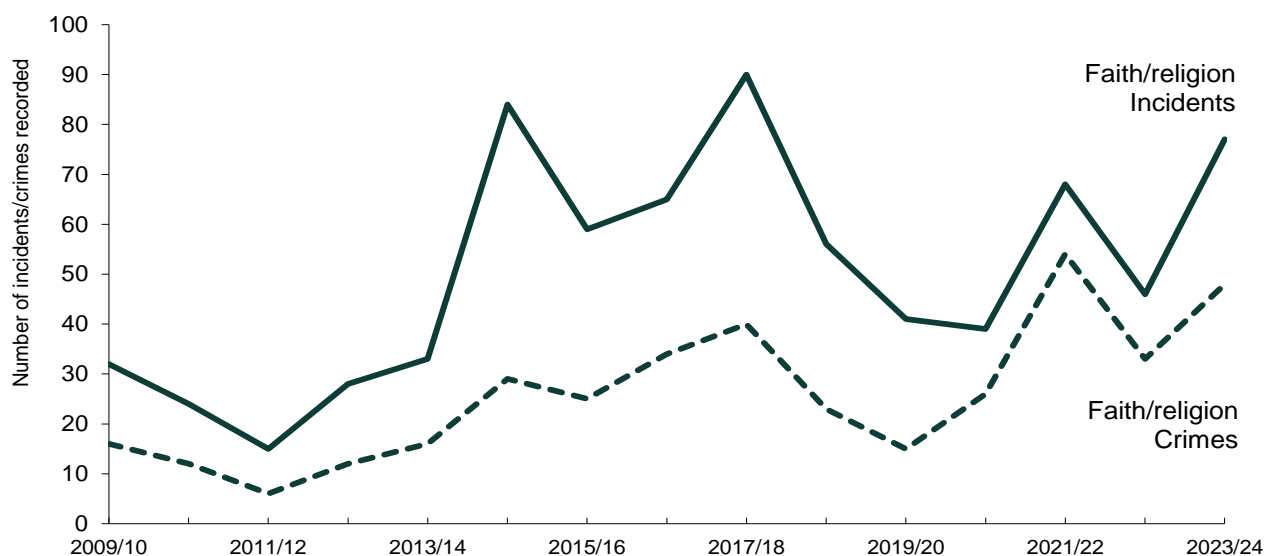


1.5 Faith/religion motivated incidents and crimes

The number of faith/religion incidents generally increased between 2009/10 and 2014/15 and have been at their highest in 2017/18 (90), 2023/24 (77) and 2021/22 (68). 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, while the number of crimes in 2023/24 was the second highest level recorded.

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 2023/24



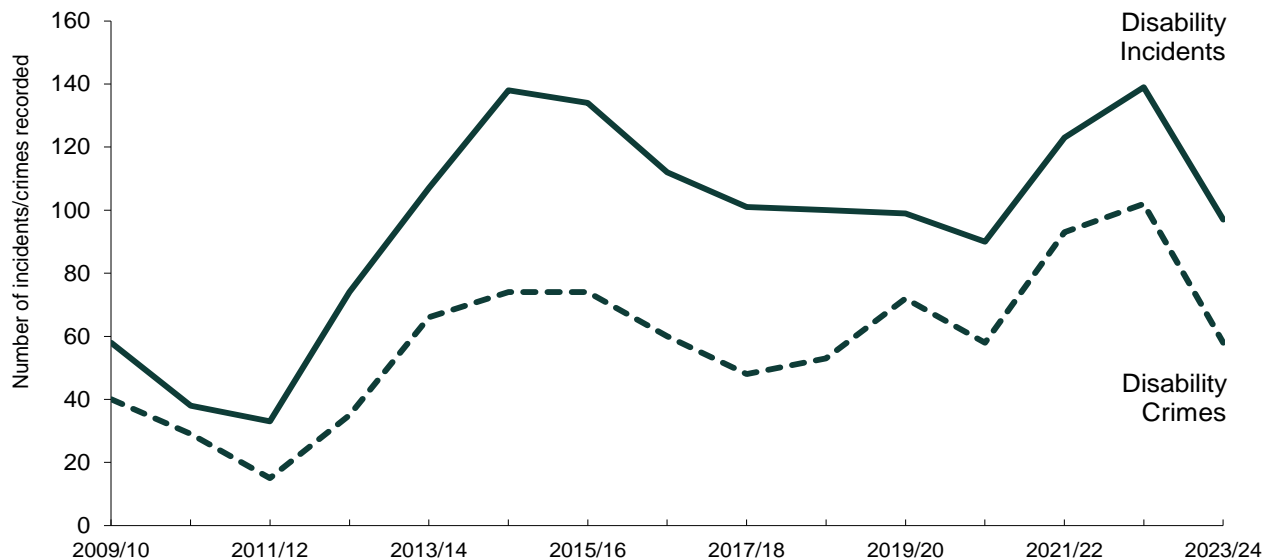
¹ Crime per 10,000 population is calculated using the Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates published by NISRA, with the latest estimates available in tables 2.18, 3.15 and 4.15 of the [spreadsheets accompanying this bulletin](#).

1.6 Disability motivated incidents and crimes

Disability motivated incidents and crimes were showing decreasing levels between 2009/10 and 2011/12, after which levels started to increase considerably. Levels of incidents fell between 2014/15 and 2020/21, increased in 2021/22 and 2022/23, and then fell in 2023/24 to a level previously seen in 2019/20. The number of disability motivated crimes rose between 2017/18 and 2022/23, with the exception of 2020/21. In 2023/23 the number of disability motivated crimes fell sharply, matching the level recorded in 2020/21.

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 2023/24

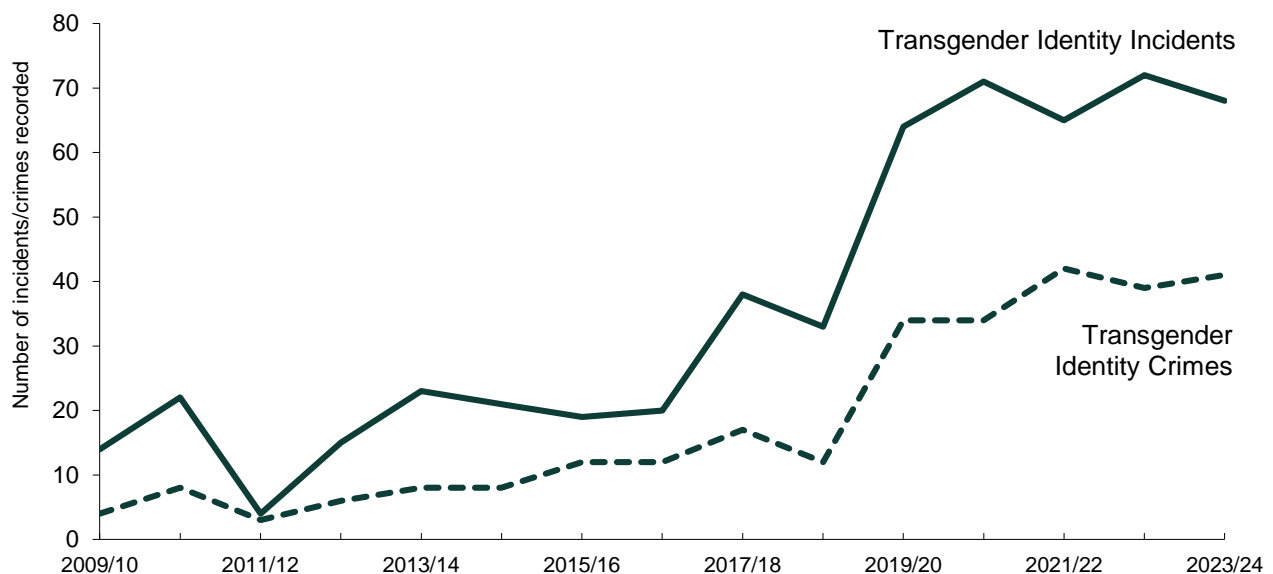


1.7 Transgender identity motivated incidents and crimes

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. The number of transgender identity motivated incidents reached their highest level in 2022/23, with 2023/24 showing the third highest level. The number of transgender identity motivated crimes was highest in 2021/22 (42), one higher than the level recorded in 2023/24.

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 2014/15 attacks on symbolic premises represented between 2 per cent and 6 per cent of all sectarian crimes; in 2023/24 the proportion was 2 per cent.

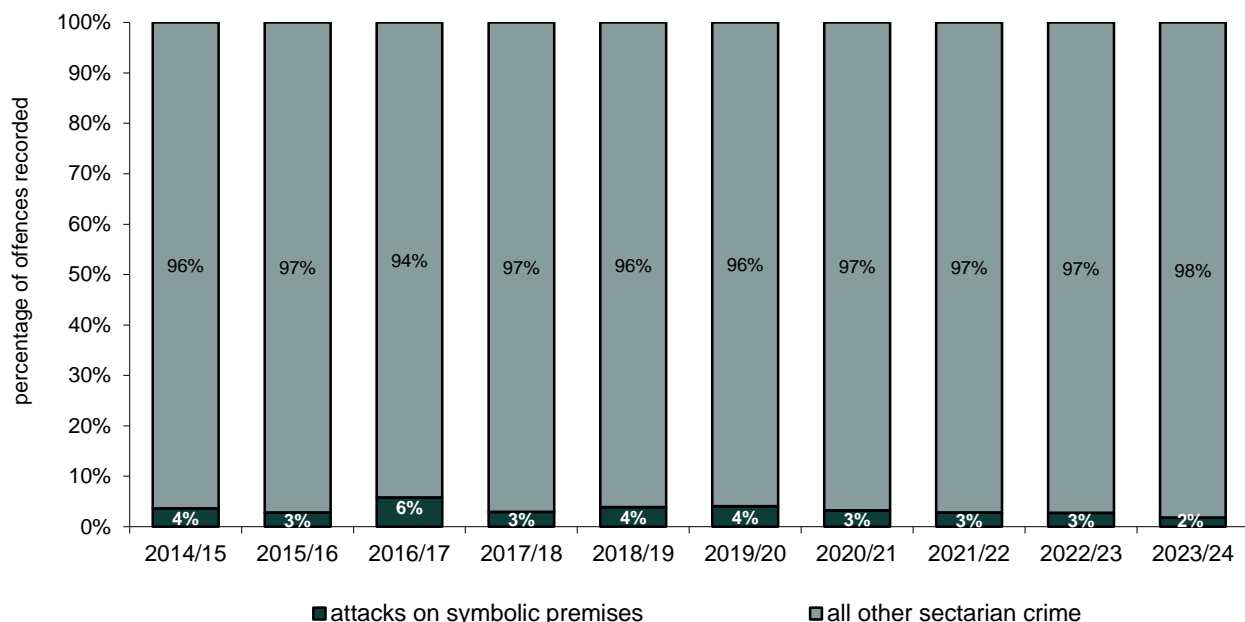
Table 1.2 Attacks on symbolic premises, latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24^{1,2}

	Church or Chapel	GAA or Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall	Orange or Apprentice Boys Hall	School
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	*
2023/24	*	*	7	*

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

² 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 2014/15 to 2023/24



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

Race incidents reached their highest level in 2014/15 before falling each year through to 2019/20, with the exception of 2018/19. Levels of race 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 race crimes fell in both 2022/23 and 2023/24, but the number of race incidents rose to 1,353 in 2023/24, the 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, rates per 10,000 population and sanction outcomes¹, 2004/05 and latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24

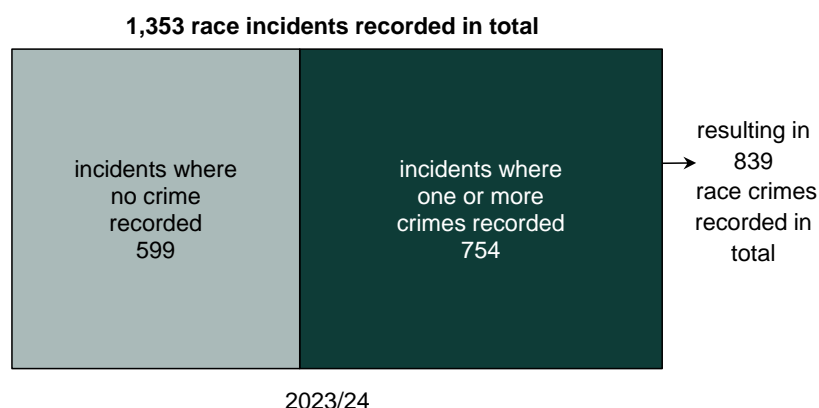
	Race Incidents	Race Incidents per 10,000 population	Race Crimes	Race Crimes per 10,000 population	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2004/05	813	5	633	4	-	-
...
2014/15	1,336	7	916	5	128	14.0
2015/16	1,215	7	851	5	162	19.0
2016/17	1,044	6	654	4	119	18.2
2017/18	1,025	5	609	3	93	15.3
2018/19	1,124	6	699	4	117	16.7
2019/20	937	5	629	3	87	13.8
2020/21	993	5	718	4	93	13.0
2021/22	1,335	7	933	5	164	17.6
2022/23	1,221	6	880	5	150	17.0
2023/24	1,353	7	839	4	134	16.0

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

² Incidents and Crimes per 10,000 population are calculated using the Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates published by NISRA, with the latest estimates available in table 2.18 of the [spreadsheets accompanying this bulletin](#)

During 2023/24 there were 1,353 incidents recorded where there was a racist motivation. Of these, there were 599 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 754 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 839 racist crimes in total). Around two in five of all incidents recorded during 2023/24 did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 2.1 Incidents and crimes with a race motivation, 2023/24

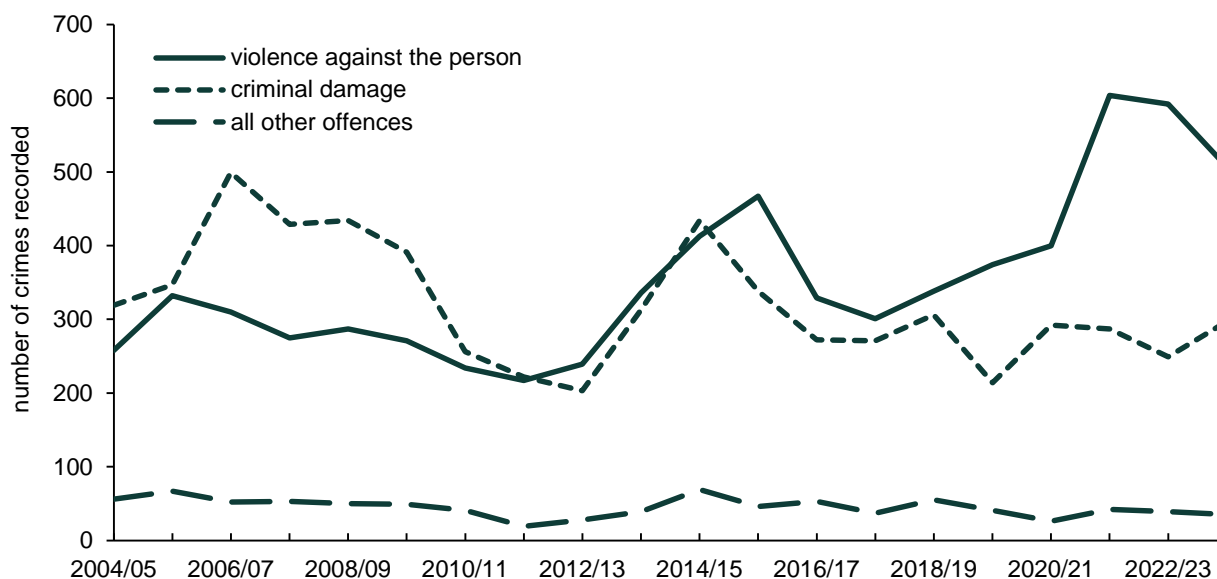


2.2 Trends in crimes with a race motivation by crime type

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 2023/24



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 up 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 generally increased, most notably in 2020/21 when for the first time the level of stalking and harassment was higher than violence without injury. Levels for both violence without injury and stalking and harassment fell in 2023/24. Details of changes in recording practice within the overall stalking and harassment classification are provided in the Points to Note (page 5).

Figure 2.3 Violence against the person with a race motivation, 2004/05 to 2023/24



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 2023/24 criminal damage represented around one third of race motivated crimes, the majority of these relating to criminal damage – residential. Criminal damage – business & community more than doubled in 2023/24 to 76, twice the previous highest level in the data series. 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 86 to 95 in 2324 per cent of cases, while in 4 to 13% in 2324 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

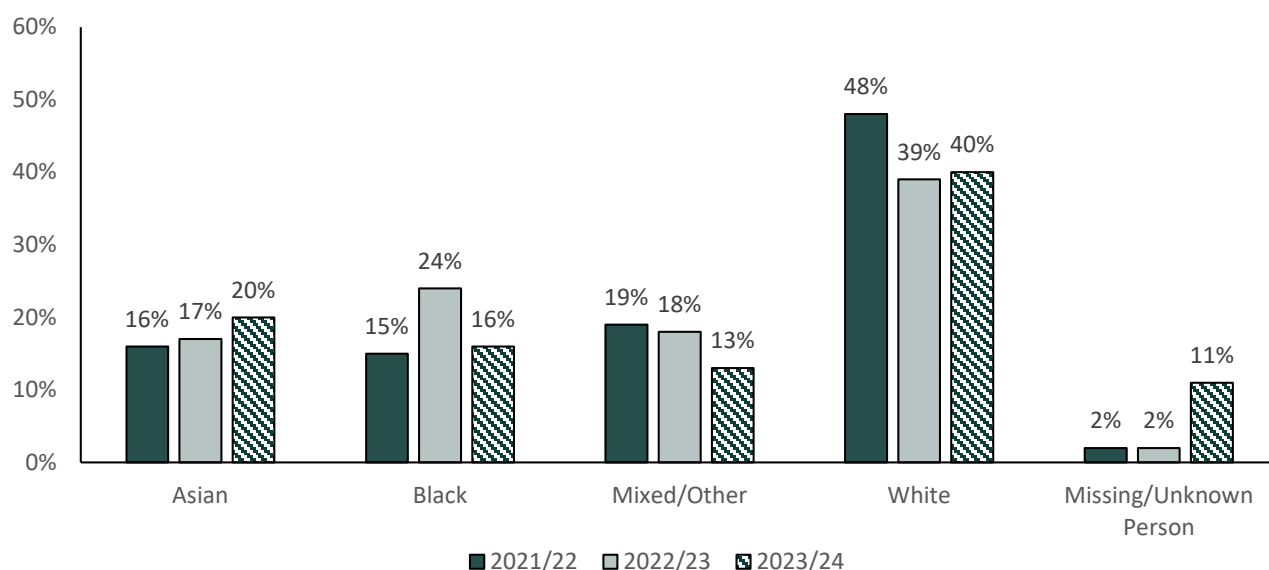
Between 2007/08 and 2017/18 the ethnicity and nationality of victims of race crimes was typically available in at least 90 per cent of records. From 2018/19, the proportion of records where the ethnicity and nationality information was missing began to increase. By 2022/23 ethnicity was missing in around 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 in data quality 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. Improvements in the process of recording the victim's ethnicity and nationality continued in 2023/24, which led to the proportion of missing data returning to levels similar to those previously seen in 2018/19 (11 per cent of ethnicity and 12 per cent of nationality missing from records). However, as no revision exercise took place, levels of missing data were higher than those now available for 2020/21 and 2022/23. Therefore comparison between 2023/24 and the previous two years should be made with caution. Figures for the period 2007/08 to 2023/24 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.

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.

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.

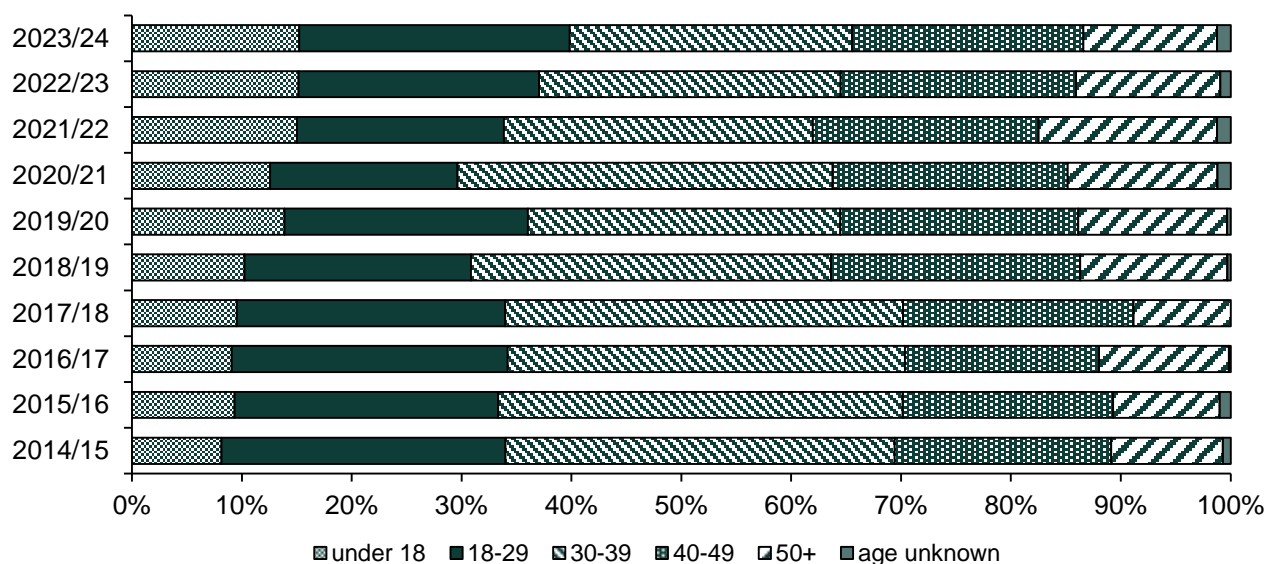
Figure 2.4 Ethnicity of victims of race crimes, 2021/22 to 2023/24



2.3.2 Race crimes: age and gender of victims

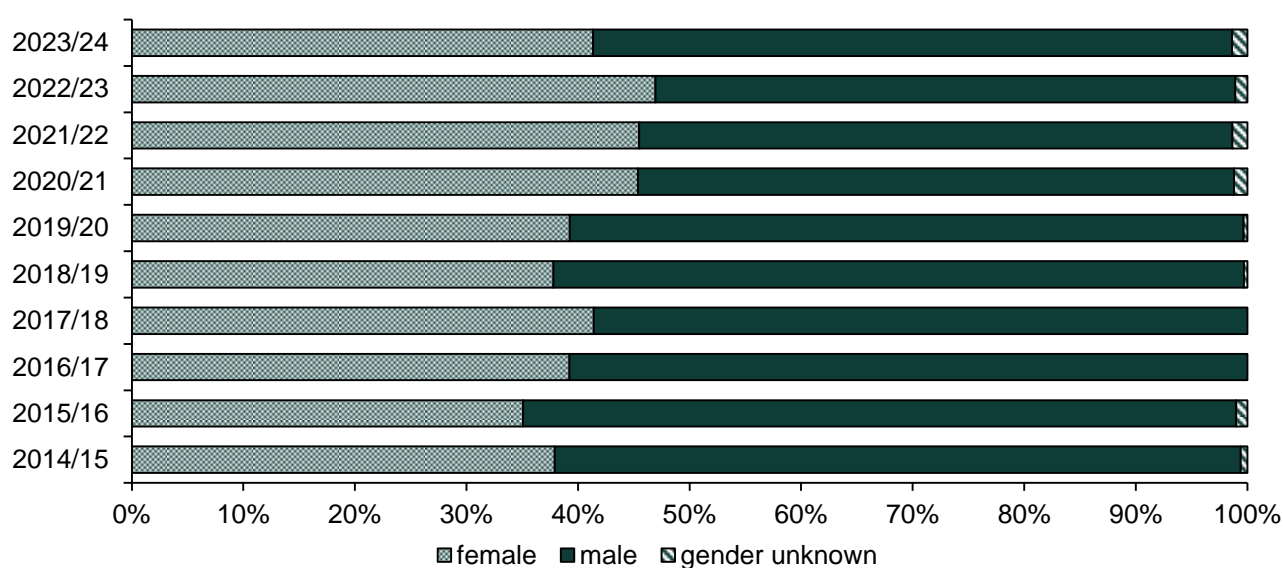
Victim age: Between 2007/08 and 2020/21, the proportion of race crimes where the victim was in the 18 to 29 age group generally fell, while the proportion for victims aged 30 or over generally increased. From 2021/22 these trends have started to reverse, with victims aged between 18 and 29 again showing an increasing proportion, alongside a falling proportion of victims aged 30 or over. The proportion of victims under the age of 18 has been fairly consistent throughout much of the data series but has risen in recent years, particularly since 2019/20. The proportion of victims under the age of 18 was 15% in each year between 2021/22 and 2023/24, the highest proportion in the data series. [Table 2.8]

Figure 2.5 Race crimes by age of victim, latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24



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. In 2023/24 the proportion of race crimes with a female victim was 41 per cent and the proportion with a male victim was 57 per cent. Figure 2.6 shows these changes. [Table 2.9]

Figure 2.6 Race crimes by gender of victim, latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24



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

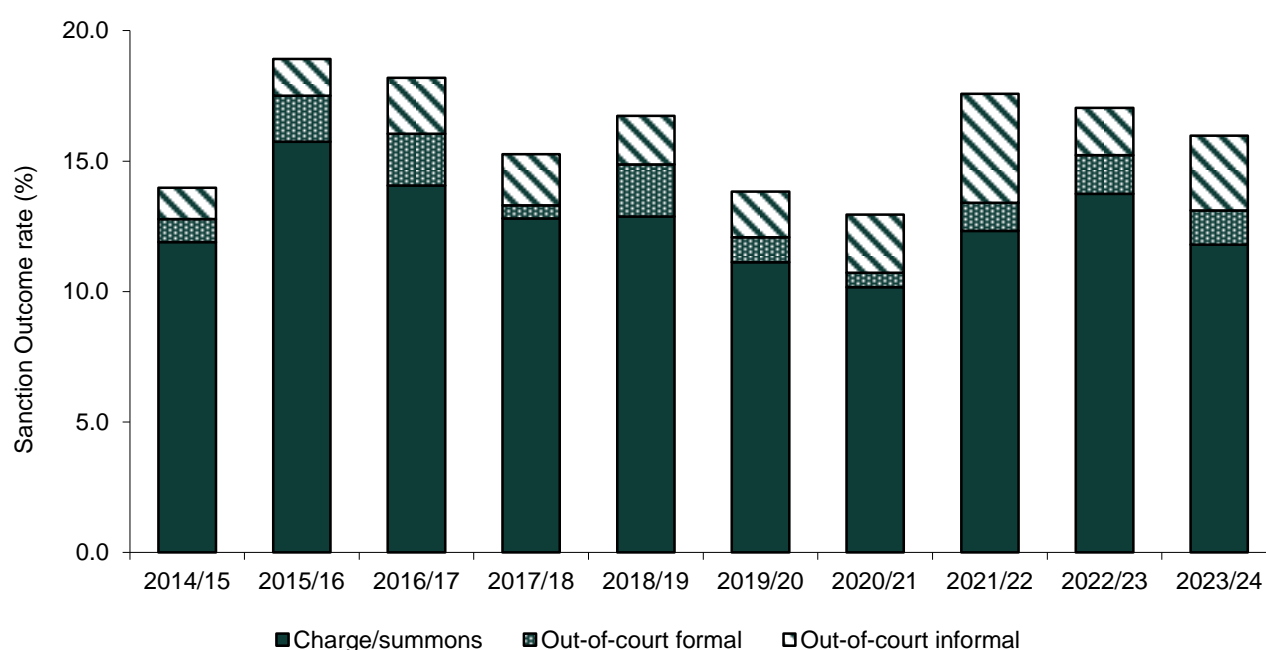
Figure 2.7 shows the trend in the sanction outcome rate for crimes with a race motivation since 2014/15. It also shows the split by the method of disposal. [Table 2.12]

Over the last ten financial years, charge/summons outcomes have accounted for between 70 per cent and 85 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 7 per cent of sanction outcomes in 2015/16 to 24 per cent in 2021/22, with an outcome rate ranging from 1.2% in 2014/15 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 2014/15 to 2023/24



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 2023/24 \(opens in a new window\)](#). 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 2014/15 to 2023/24

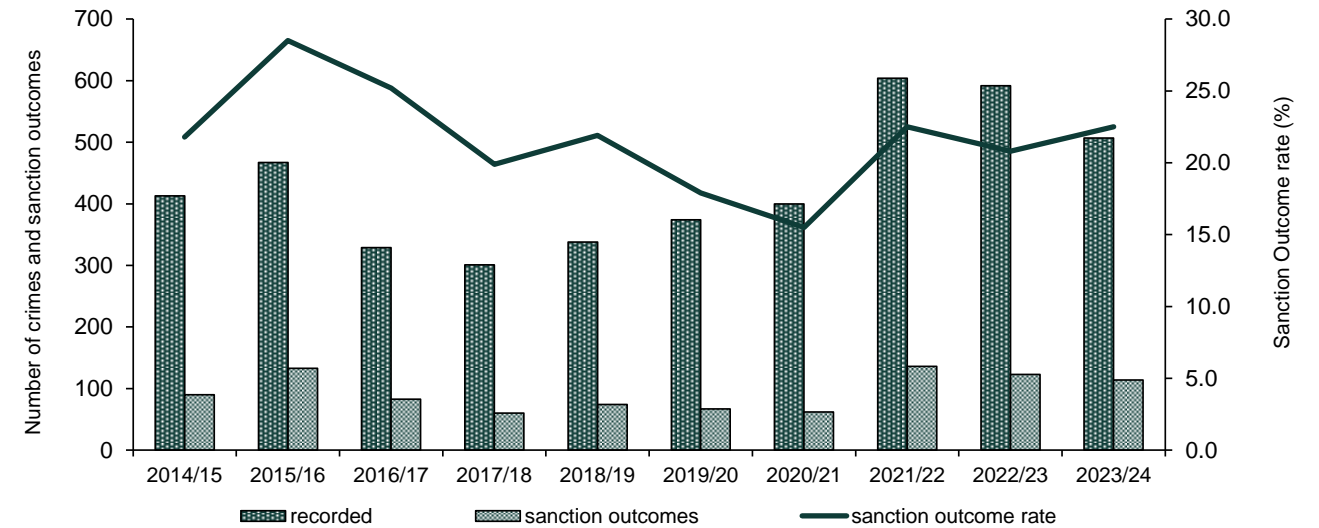
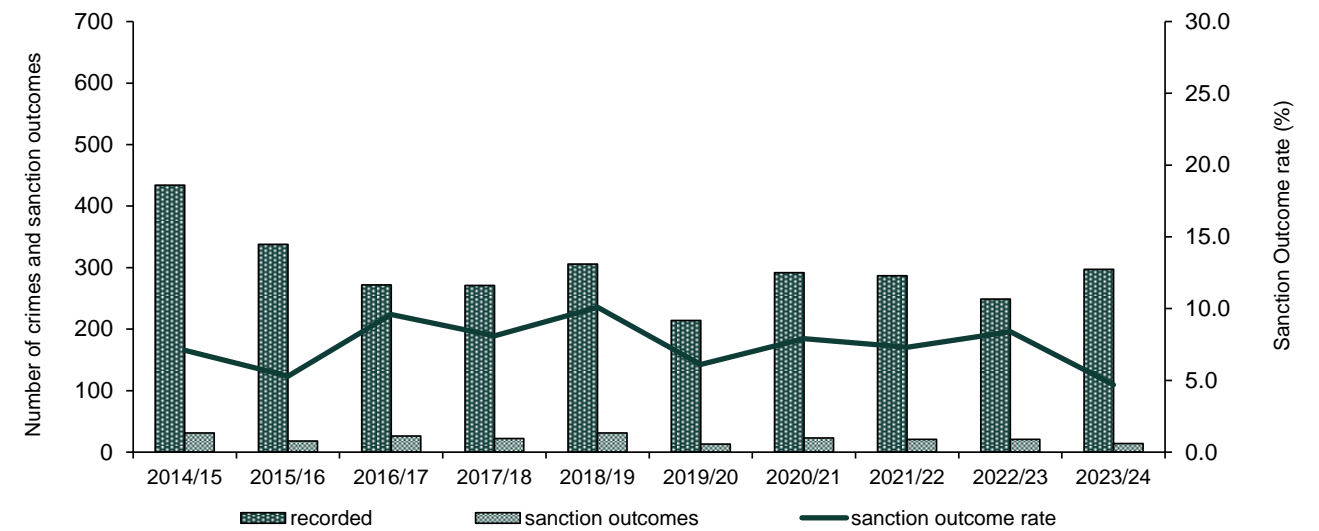
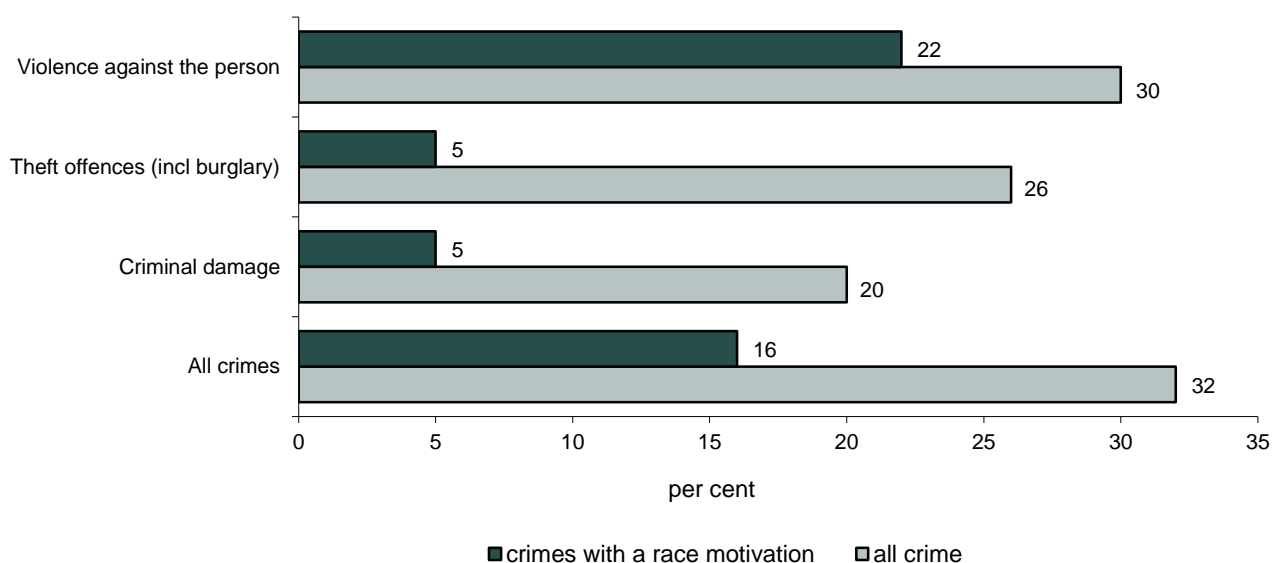


Figure 2.9 Criminal damage with a race motivation; crimes recorded, outcomes and outcome rates, latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24



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 2023/24 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, 2023/24



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, followed by lower levels between 2016/17 and 2019/20. A sharp increase in 2020/21 and 2021/22 led to the highest recorded levels in 2021/22. Despite falling levels in 2022/23 and 2023/24, the number of sexual orientation incidents and crimes in each year 2020/21 to 2023/24 remain the highest in the data series.

In 2023/24 crimes with a sexual orientation motivation represent 0.2 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police [Table 3.3]

Table 3.1 Sexual orientation motivations: incidents, crimes, rates per 10,000 population and sanction outcomes¹, 2004/05 and latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24

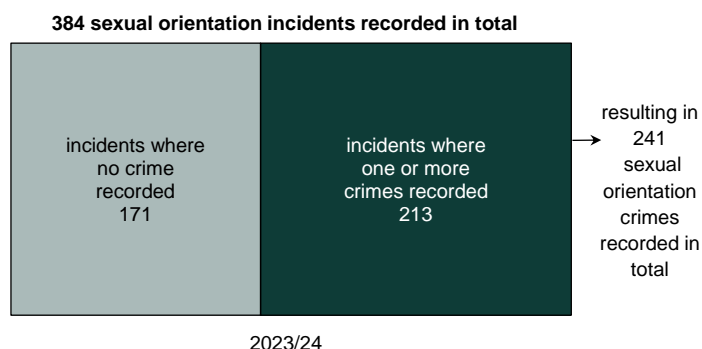
	Sexual Orientation Incidents	Sexual Orientation Incidents per 10,000 population	Sexual Orientation Crimes	Sexual Orientation Crimes per 10,000 population	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2004/05	196	1	151	1	-	-
...
2014/15	334	2	209	1	44	21.1
2015/16	343	2	210	1	55	26.2
2016/17	279	1	162	1	35	21.6
2017/18	267	1	164	1	36	22.0
2018/19	281	1	201	1	39	19.4
2019/20	272	1	195	1	48	24.6
2020/21	366	2	246	1	39	15.9
2021/22	463	2	337	2	78	23.1
2022/23	435	2	289	2	67	23.2
2023/24	384	2	241	1	47	19.5

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

² Incidents and Crimes per 10,000 population are calculated using the Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates published by NISRA, with the latest estimates available in table 3.15 of the [spreadsheets accompanying this bulletin](#)

During 2023/24 there were 384 incidents recorded where there was a sexual orientation motivation. Of these, there were 171 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 213 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 241 sexual orientation crimes). Around two in five of all incidents recorded during 2023/24 did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 3.1 Incidents and crimes with a sexual orientation motivation, 2023/24

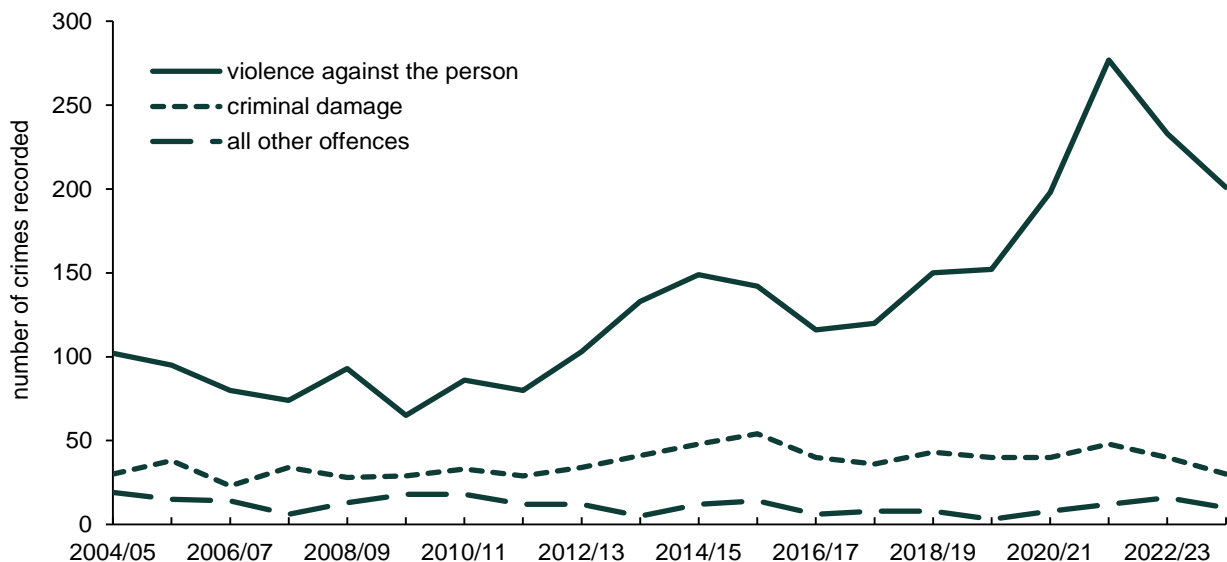


3.2 Trends in crimes with a sexual orientation motivation by crime type

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

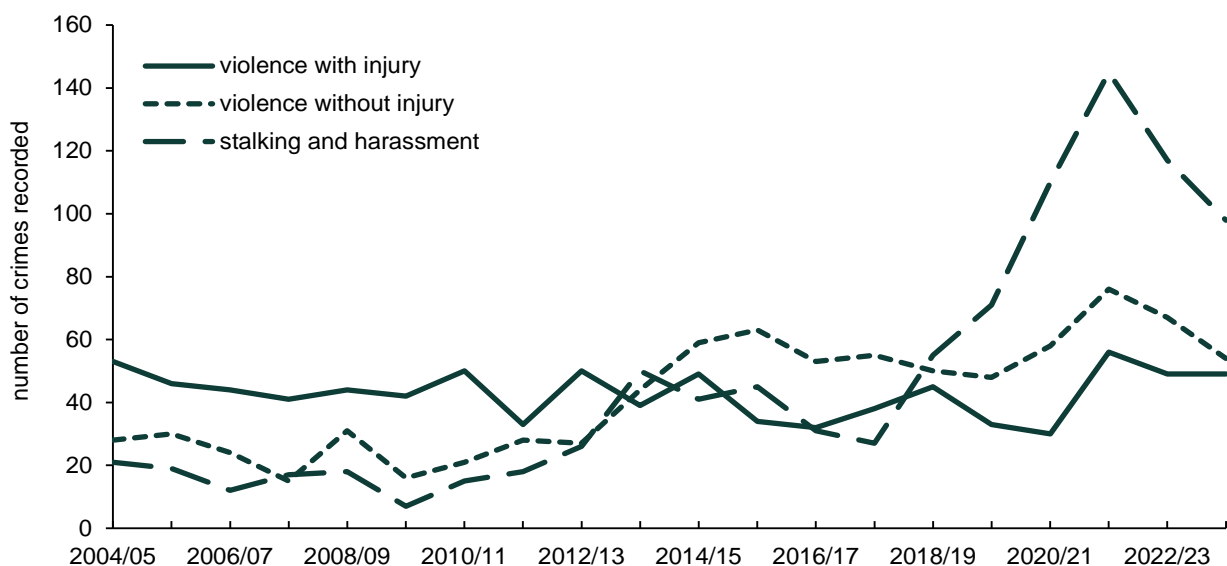
Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a sexual orientation motivation are shown in figure 3.2 below. The full range of crime types for crimes with a sexual orientation motivation is available in Table 3.2.

Figure 3.2 Crimes with a sexual orientation motivation by crime type, 2004/05 to 2023/24



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 2023/24



All other crimes with a sexual orientation motivation: Criminal damage typically represented at least a fifth of all crimes with a sexual orientation motivation until 2021/22 when it fell below 20 per cent for the first time; in 2023/24 it has fallen to 15 per cent. With the exception of 2021/22 and 2023/24, 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.

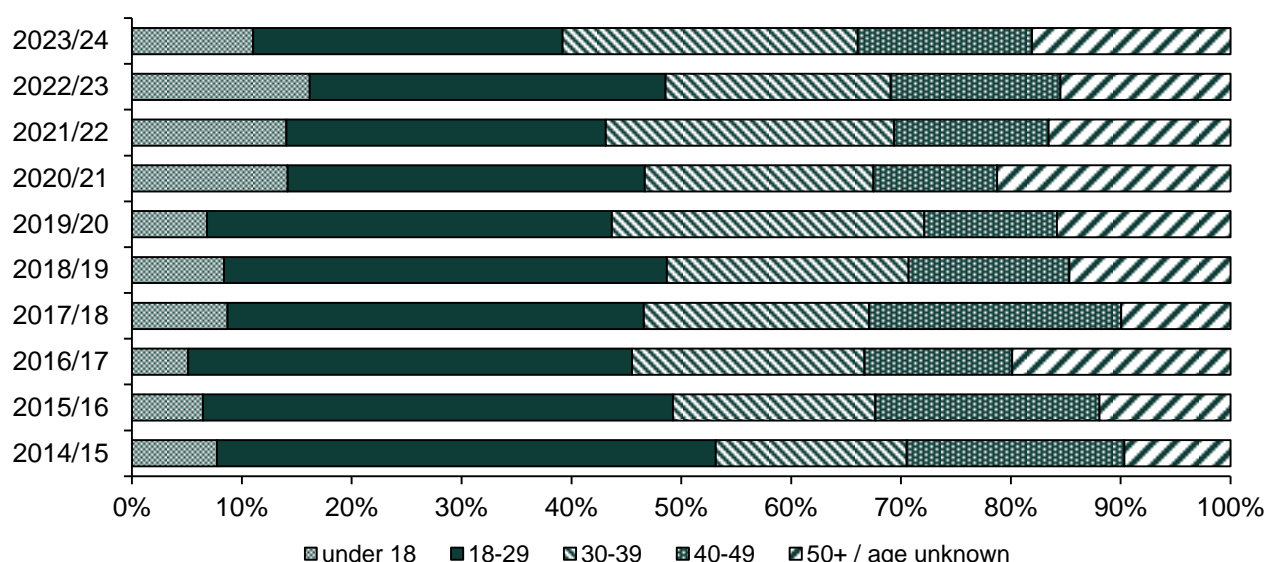
The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2007/08, a person is the victim of a sexual orientation crime in 93 to 99 per cent of cases, while in 1 to 6 per cent of sexual orientation crimes the victim is 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

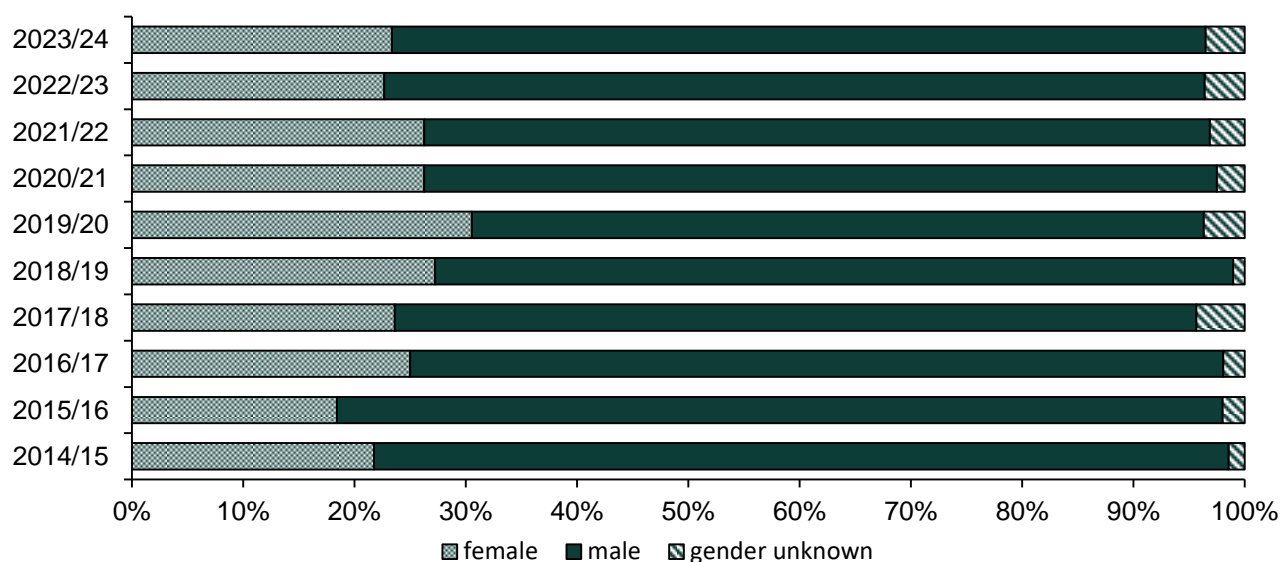
Victim age: Between 28 and 51 per cent of victims of sexual orientation crime are between the ages of 18 and 29, with the proportion having declined in more recent years from 40 per cent in 2018/19 to 28 per cent in 2023/24. Between 2007/08 and 2019/20 the proportion of victims under 18 ranged from 4 per cent to 9 per cent, before increasing to 16 per cent in 2022/23, the highest proportion in the data series; the proportion in 2023/24 was 11 per cent. 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 2014/15 to 2023/24



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 2014/15 to 2023/24



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

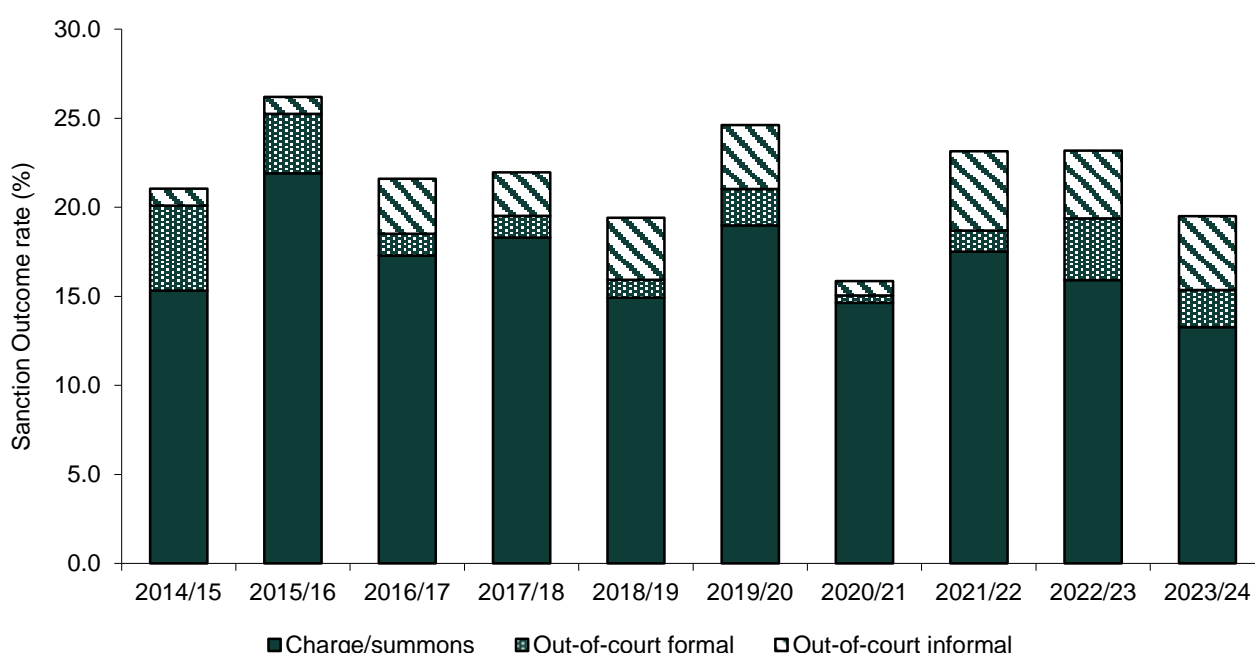
Figure 3.6 shows the trend in the sanction outcome rate for crimes with a sexual orientation motivation since 2014/15. It also shows the split by the method of disposal. [Table 3.9]

Over the last ten financial years since 2014/15, charge/summons outcomes have accounted for between 68 per cent and 92 per cent of all sanction outcomes, with a charge/summons outcome rate ranging from 13.3% in 2023/24 to 21.9% in 2015/16.

During the same time period, out-of-court formal sanctions (cautions and PNDs) have represented between 3 percent 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 21 per cent in 2023/24, 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 2014/15 to 2023/24



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 2023/24 \(opens in a new window\)](#). 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 2014/15 to 2023/24

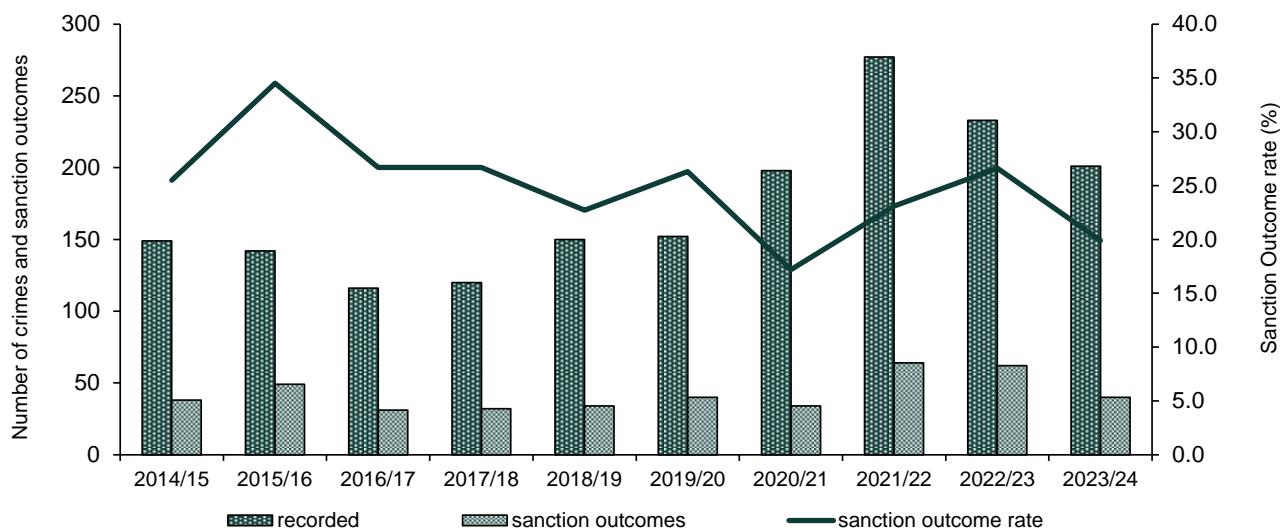
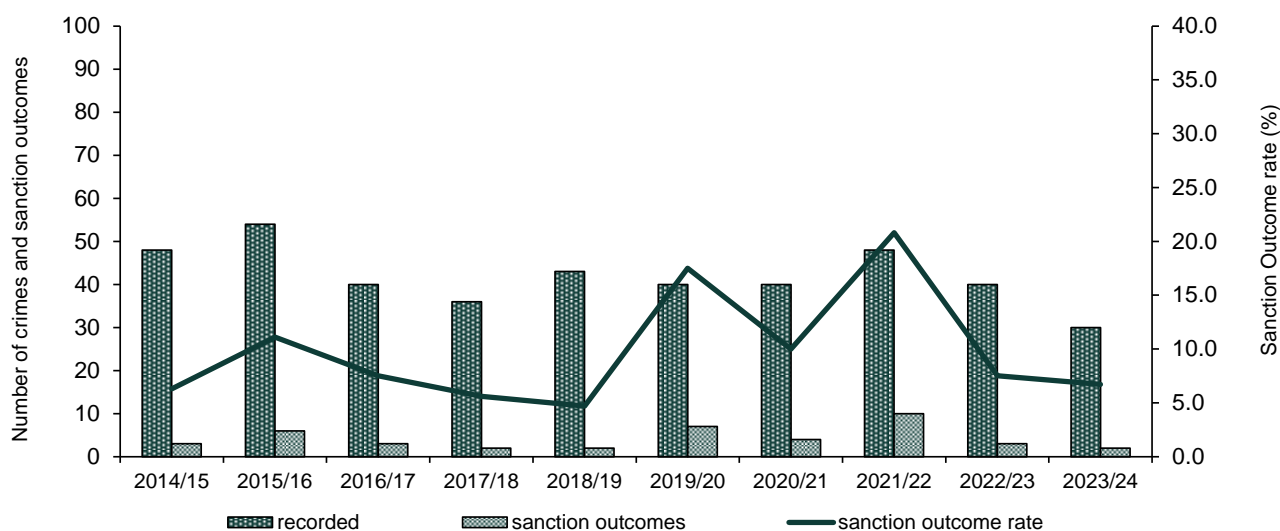
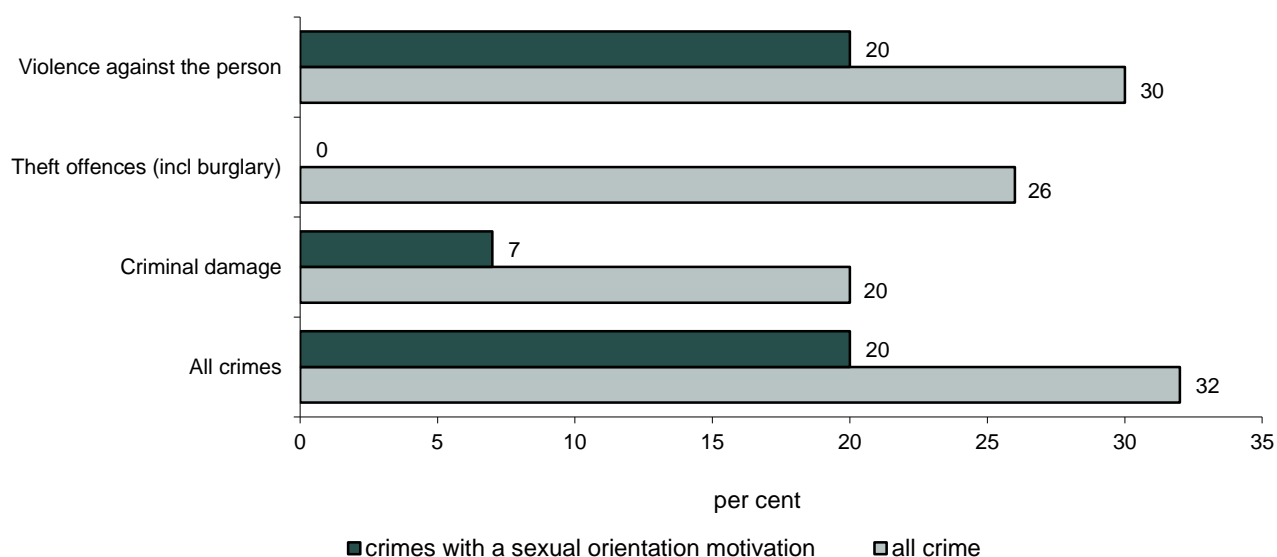


Figure 3.8 Criminal damage with a sexual orientation motivation; crimes recorded, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates, latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24



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 2023/24 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, 2023/24



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 while sectarian crimes were at their highest in 2005/06. Levels generally fell from these peaks to the lowest levels recorded in 2018/19 (incidents) and 2017/18 (crimes). The number of sectarian incidents and crimes increased each year from their respective low points to 2022/23 before falling again in 2023/24 to the seventh and sixth lowest levels respectively.

In 2023/24 crimes with a sectarian motivation represent 0.7 per cent of all police recorded crime [Table 4.3].

Table 4.1 Sectarian motivations: incidents, crimes, rates per 10,000 population and sanction outcomes¹, 2005/06 and latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24

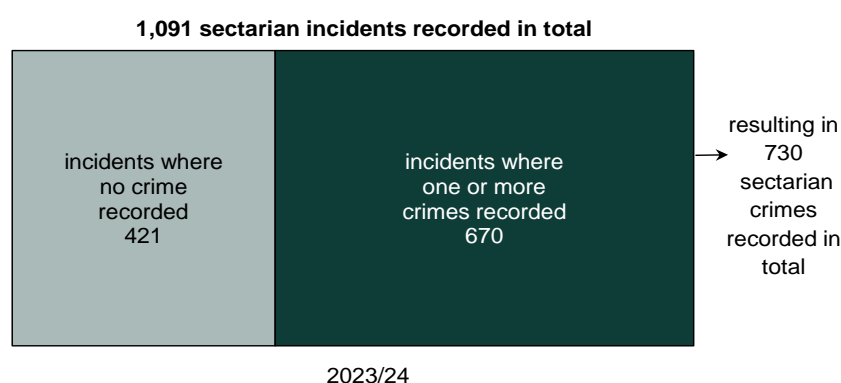
	Sectarian Incidents	Sectarian Incidents per 10,000 population	Sectarian Crimes	Sectarian Crimes per 10,000 population	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2005/06	1,701	10	1,469	9	-	-
...
2014/15	1,517	8	1,044	6	151	14.5
2015/16	1,352	7	1,002	5	146	14.6
2016/17	995	5	695	4	90	12.9
2017/18	879	5	576	3	69	12.0
2018/19	865	5	622	3	63	10.1
2019/20	888	5	639	3	78	12.2
2020/21	934	5	674	4	76	11.3
2021/22	1,067	6	780	4	96	12.3
2022/23	1,238	6	921	5	137	14.9
2023/24	1,091	6	730	4	91	12.5

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

² Incidents and Crimes per 10,000 population are calculated using the Northern Ireland mid-year population estimates published by NISRA, with the latest estimates available in table 4.16 of the [spreadsheets accompanying this bulletin](#)

During 2023/24 there were 1,091 incidents recorded where there was a sectarian motivation. Of these, there were 421 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 670 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 730 sectarian crimes in total). Around two in five incidents recorded during 2023/24 did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 4.1 Incidents and crimes with a sectarian motivation, 2023/24

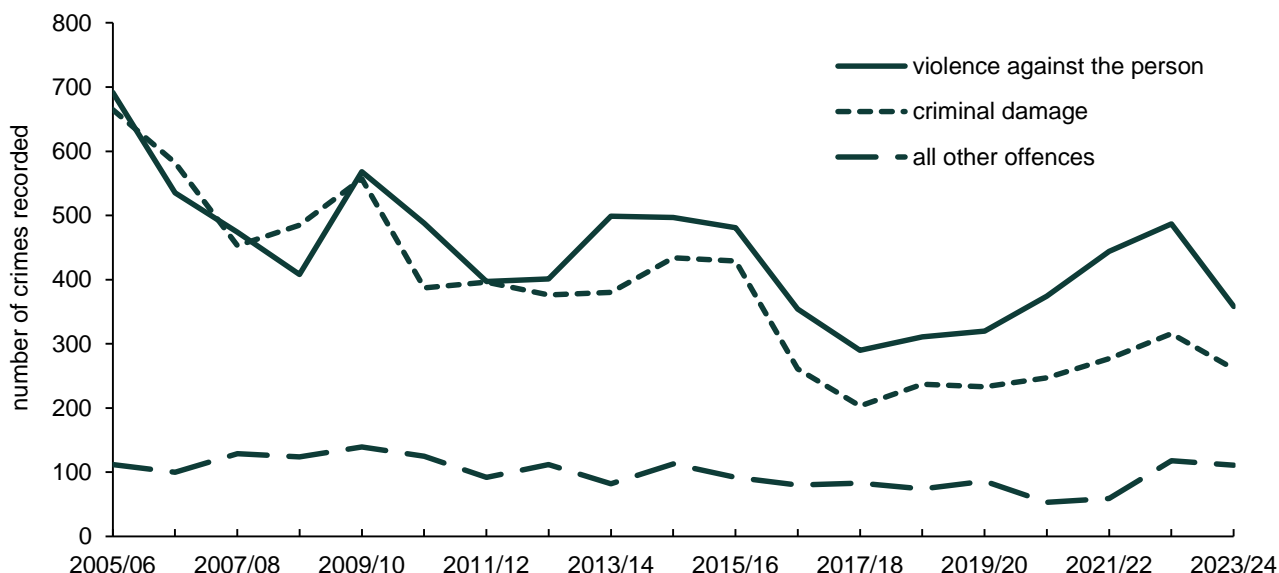


4.2 Trends in crimes with a sectarian motivation by crime type

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

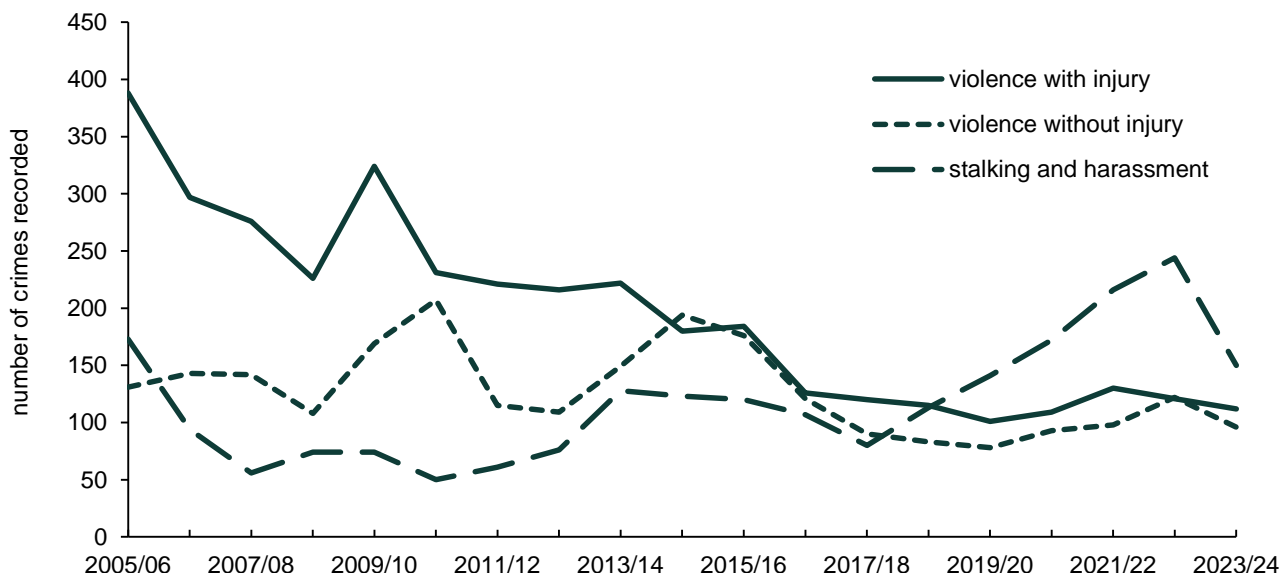
Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a sectarian motivation are shown in figure 4.2 below. The full range of crime types for crimes with a sectarian motivation is available in Table 4.2.

Figure 4.2 Crimes with a sectarian motivation by crime type, 2005/06 to 2023/24



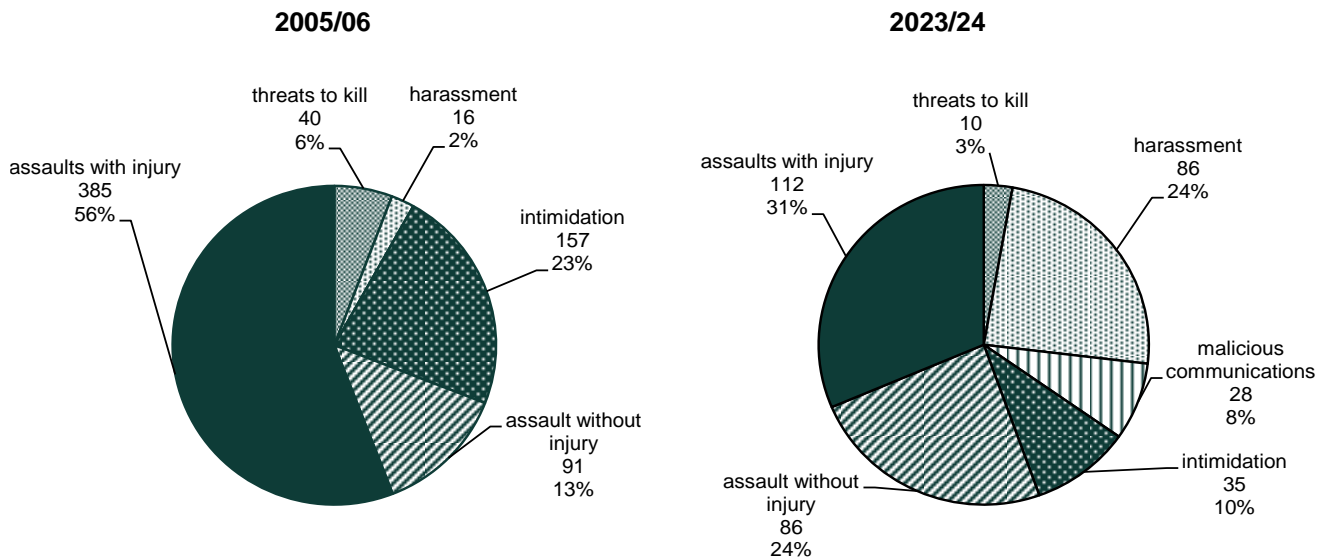
Violence against the person with a sectarian motivation: Around half of all crimes with a sectarian motivation fall within violence against the person; in 2023/24 the proportion was 49 per cent. This classification covers a wide range of offences including behavioural crimes (such as harassment), minor 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 112 offences recorded in 2023/24 remains well below the 388 offences recorded in 2005/06. Levels of violence without injury have been more stable. Between 2017/18 and 2023/24 they have remained below 100 offences each year, with the exception of 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. Changes in recording practice to the stalking and harassment classification were introduced in May 2023. These changes contributed to the decline in the number of stalking and harassment offences recorded in 2023/24. 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 2023/24



The makeup of classifications within violence against the person has changed between 2005/06 and 2023/24. The proportion of assault with injury, intimidation and threats to kill offences have fallen by 25 percentage points, 13 percentage points and 3 percentage points respectively, while the proportion of assault without injury offences has increased by 11 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 22 percentage points and malicious communications representing 8 per cent of violence against the person in 2023/24, 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. Within criminal damage, between one third and two fifths of offences are criminal damage - residential. Between 2005/06 and 2018/19 offences of criminal damage to a building - business and community typically made up less than one fifth of all criminal damage offences; the proportion increased to around a quarter between 2019/20 and 2021/22 and further increased to a third in 2022/23 and 2023/24. 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 less than 20 per cent (12 per cent in 2023/24).

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; this was matched in 2023/24. 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. The number of sectarian public order offences in 2023/24 was 6.

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.

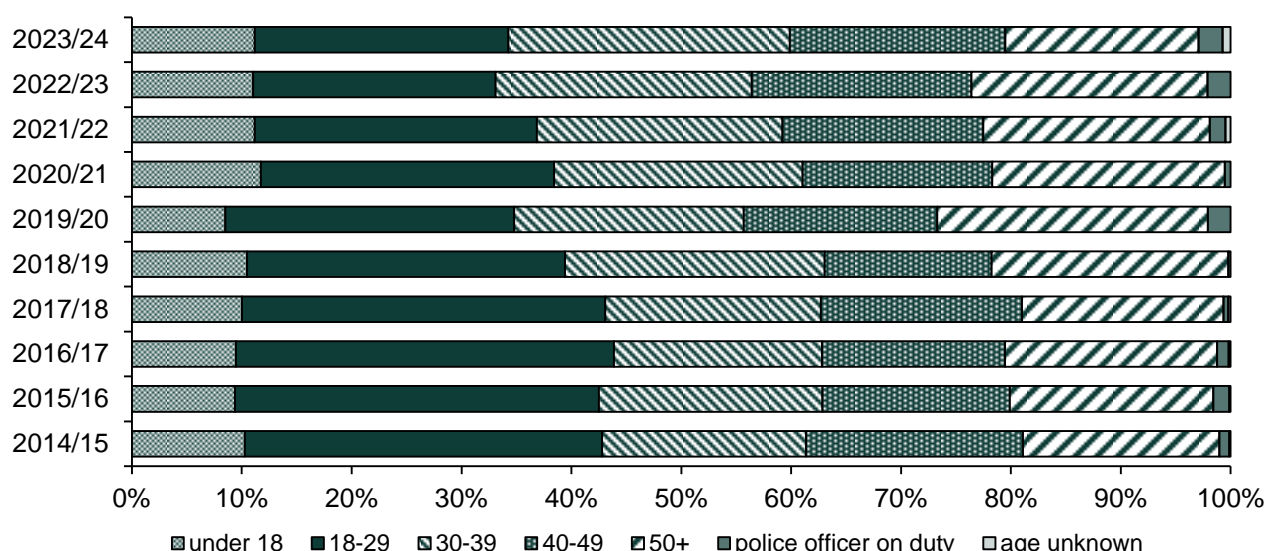
The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2007/08, a person is the victim of a sectarian crime in 74 to 83 per cent of cases, while in 13 to 24 per cent of sectarian crimes the victim is a business or organisation. 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

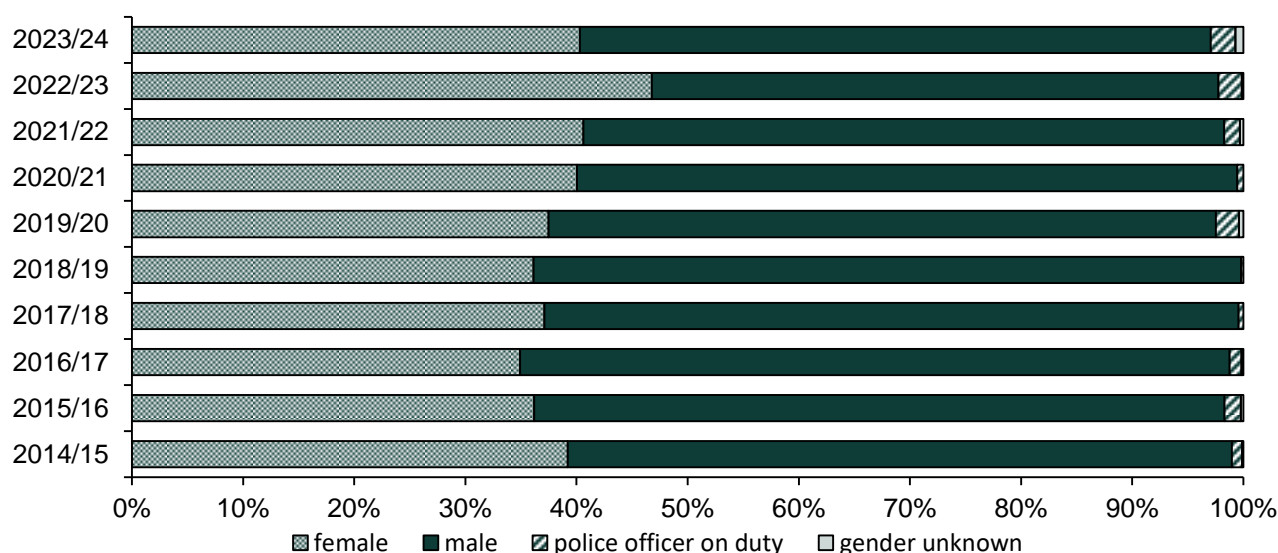
Victim age: Since 2007/08 the proportion of sectarian crimes by age of victim has tended to fluctuate from year to year. However there has been a general fall in the proportion of victims in the two youngest age bands (under the age of 18 and 18-29) and a general increase in the proportion of victims 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 2014/15 and 2023/24



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 2023/24, 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 2014/15 to 2023/24



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

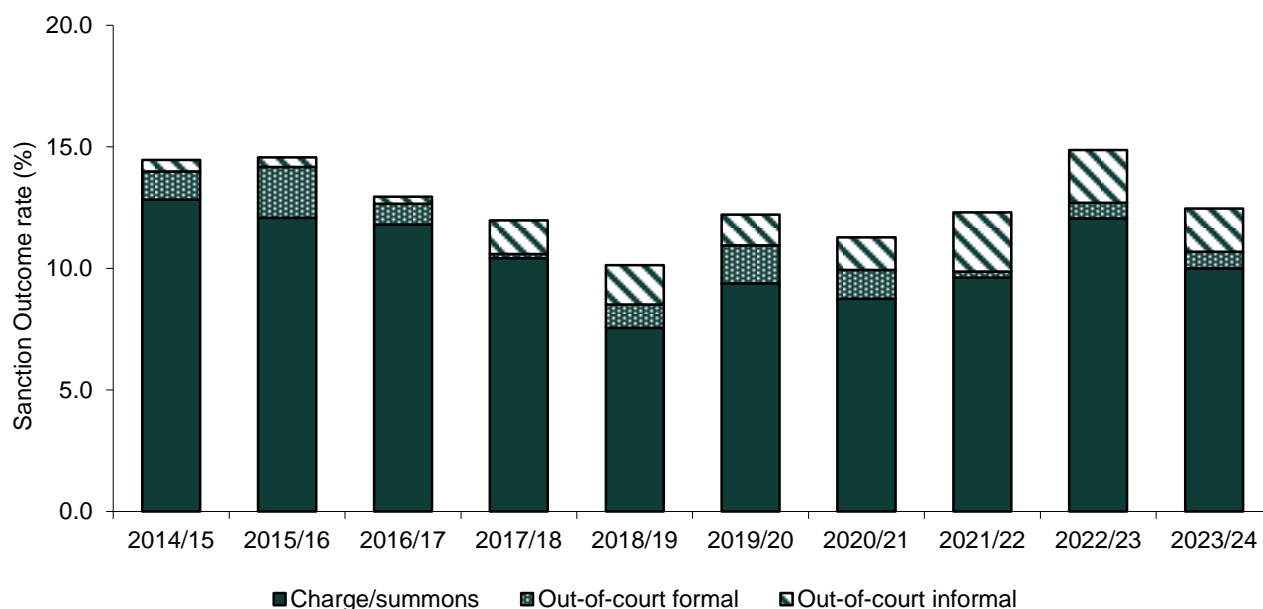
Figure 4.7 shows the trend in the sanction outcome rate for crimes with a sectarian motivation since 2014/15. It also shows the split by the method of disposal. [Table 4.9]

Over the last ten financial years since 2014/15, 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 12.8% in 2014/15.

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 2014/15 to 2023/24



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 2023/24 \(opens in a new window\)](#). 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, typically account for more than four out of every five 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 2014/15 to 2023/24

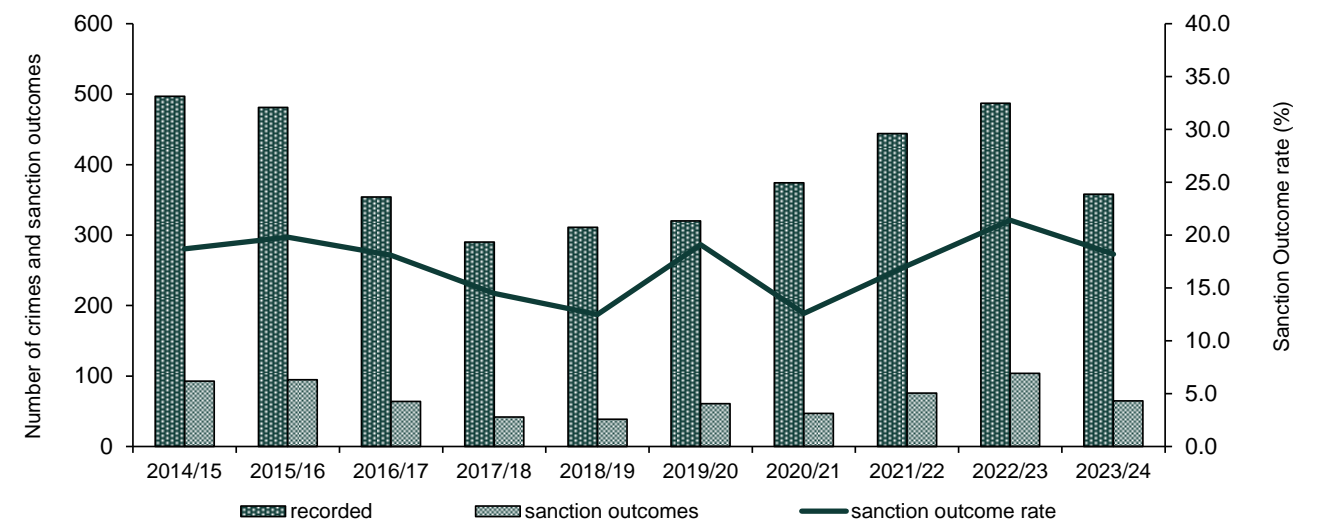
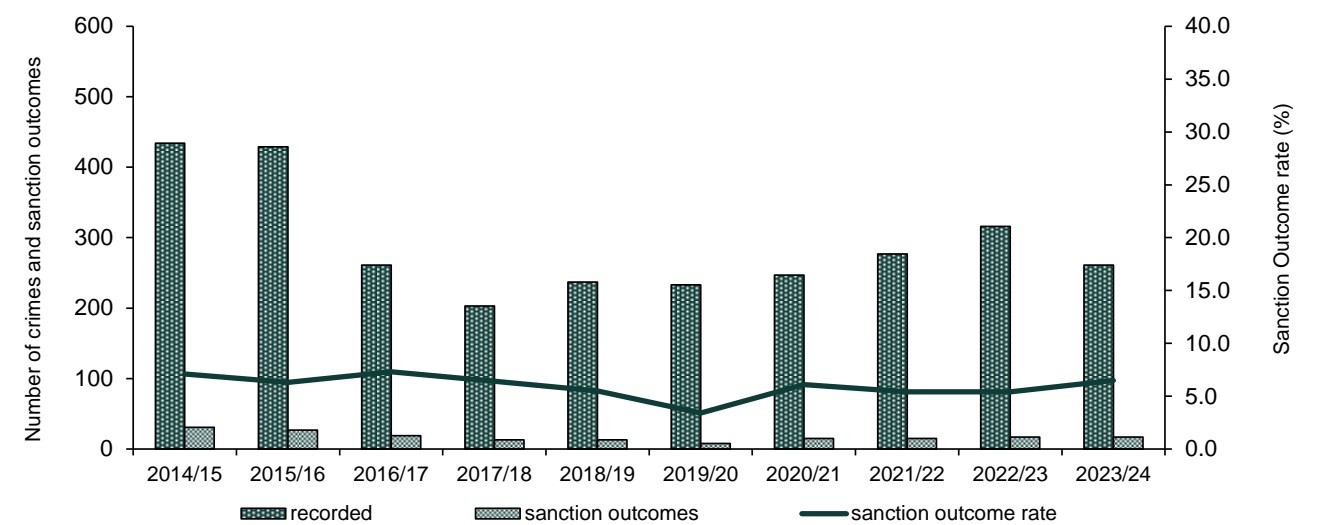
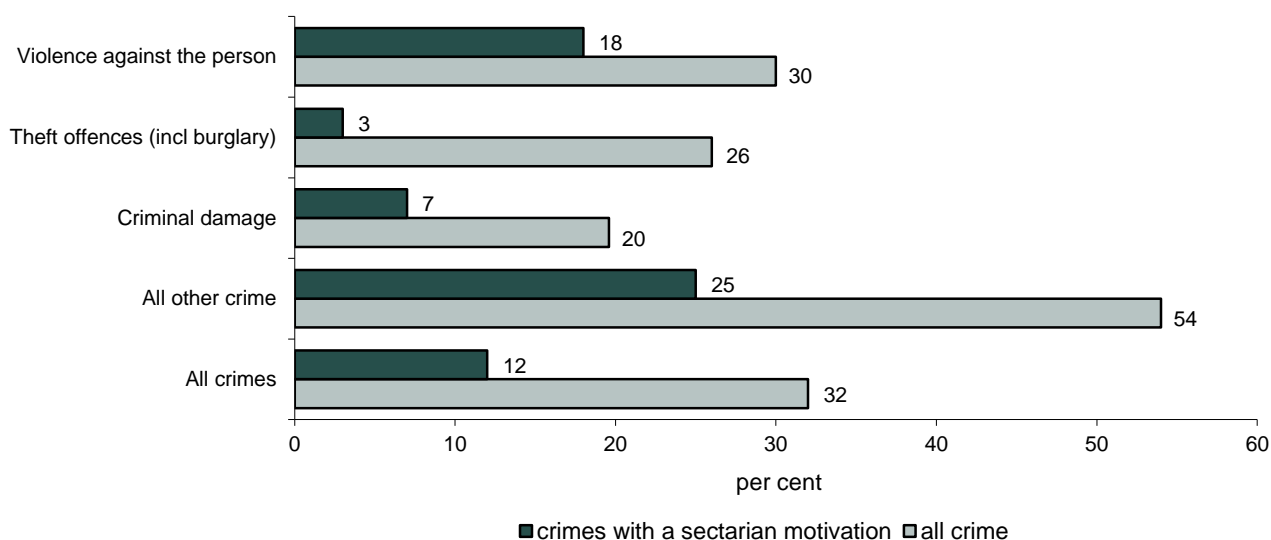


Figure 4.9 Criminal damage with a sectarian motivation; crimes recorded, sanction outcomes and sanction outcome rates, latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24



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, 2023/24



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 than the preceding years during the period 2014/15 to 2018/19, before falling again up to 2020/21. Since then, levels have been trending upwards, with 2021/22 and 2023/24 showing the fourth and third highest levels 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, while the number of crimes in 2023/24 was the second highest level recorded.

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

Population rates for crimes with a faith/religion motivation are fewer than 1 per 10,000 population.

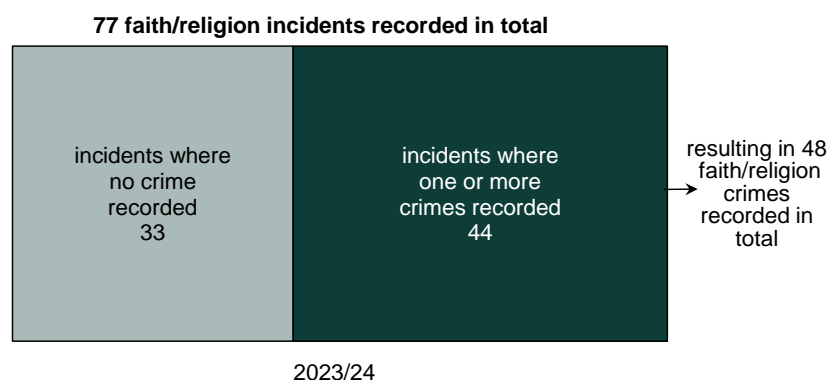
Table 5.1 Faith/Religion motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes¹, 2009/10 and latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24

	Faith/Religion Incidents	Faith/Religion Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2009/10	32	16	1	6.3
...
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
2023/24	77	48	10	20.8

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

During 2023/24 there were 77 incidents recorded where there was a faith/religion motivation. Of these, there were 33 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 44 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 48 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, 2023/24

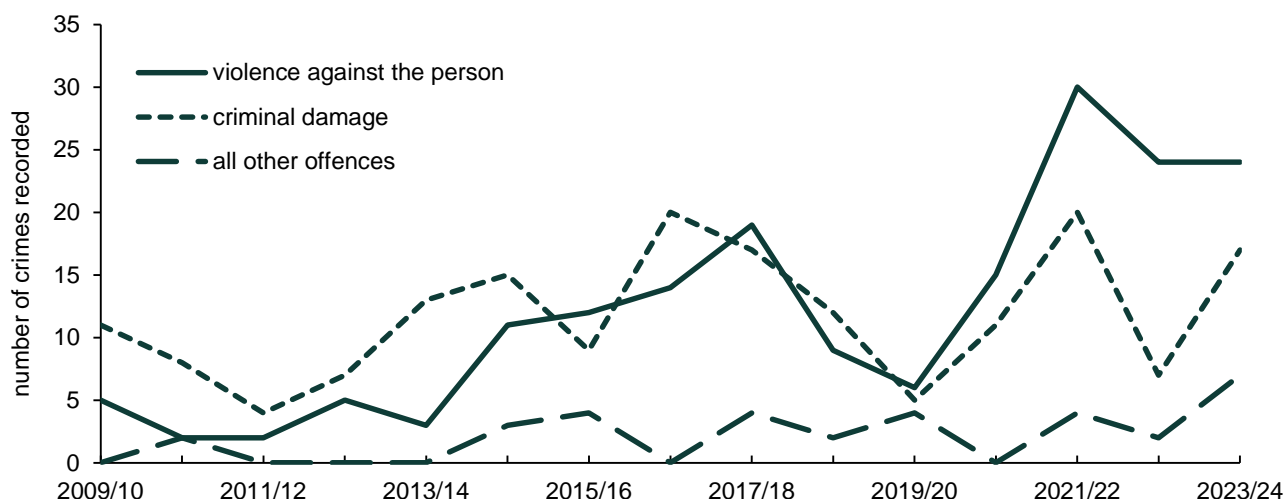


5.2 Trends in crimes with a faith/religion motivation by crime type

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.

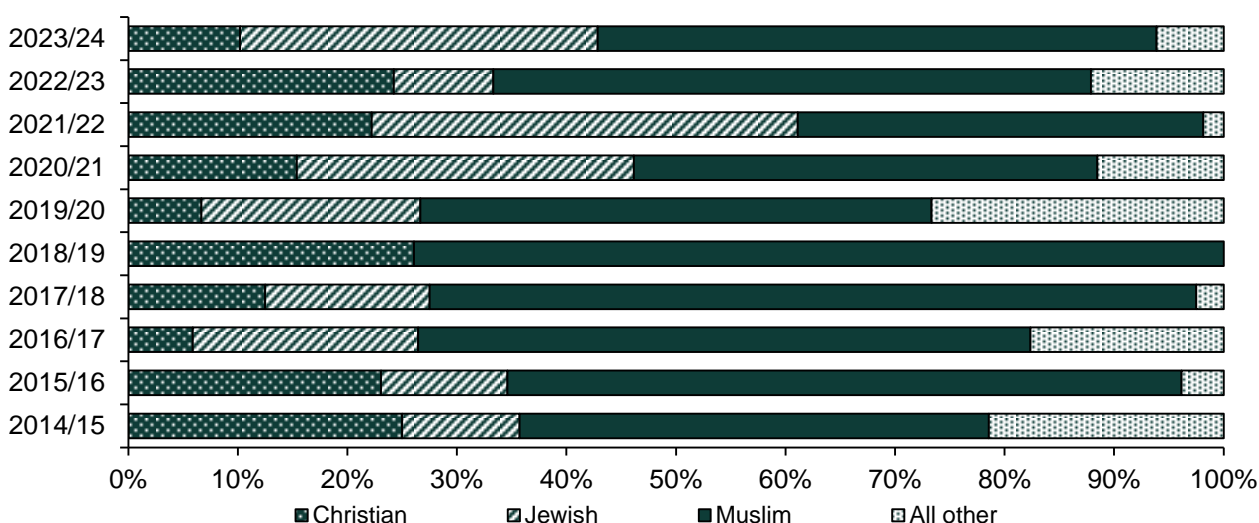
Figure 5.2 Crimes with a faith/religion motivation by crime type, 2009/10 to 2023/24



Between 2009/10 and 2014/15 criminal damage accounted for more than half of all faith/religion motivated crimes. In most of the years since 2015/16 violence against the person has accounted for a higher proportion of faith/religion crimes than criminal damage. In 2023/24 violence against the person offences accounted for 50 per cent of all crimes with a faith/religion motivation while criminal damage offences accounted for 35 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 majority of crimes with a faith/religion motivation target the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths. In nine of the ten years since 2014/15 crimes targeting the Muslim faith have accounted for the largest proportion of faith/religion crimes. [Table 5.3]

Figure 5.3 Proportion of hate crimes with a faith/religion motivation by perceived targeted religion, latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24



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.

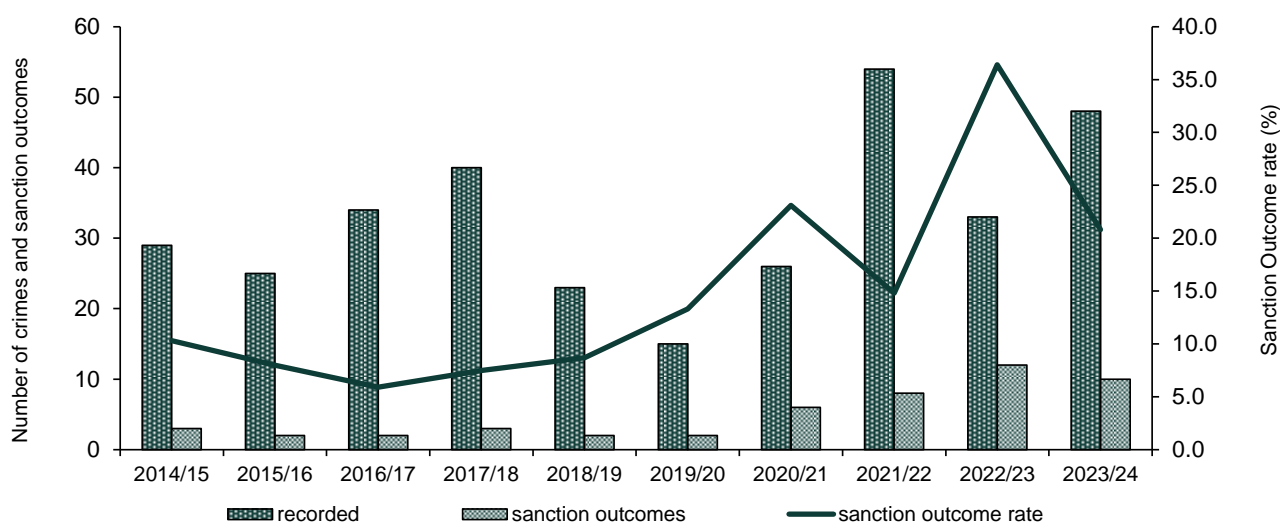
The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2009/10, a person is the victim of a faith/religion crime in 42 to 88 per cent of cases, while in 12 to 50 per cent of faith/religion crimes the victim is a business 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 2014/15 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 2014/15 to 2023/24



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, increased in 2021/22 and 2022/23, and then fell in 2023/24 to a level previously seen in 2019/20. The number of disability motivated crimes rose between 2017/18 and 2022/23, with the exception of 2020/21. In 2023/23 the number of disability motivated crimes fell sharply, matching the level recorded in 2020/21.

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

Population rates for crimes with a disability motivation are fewer than 1 per 10,000 population.

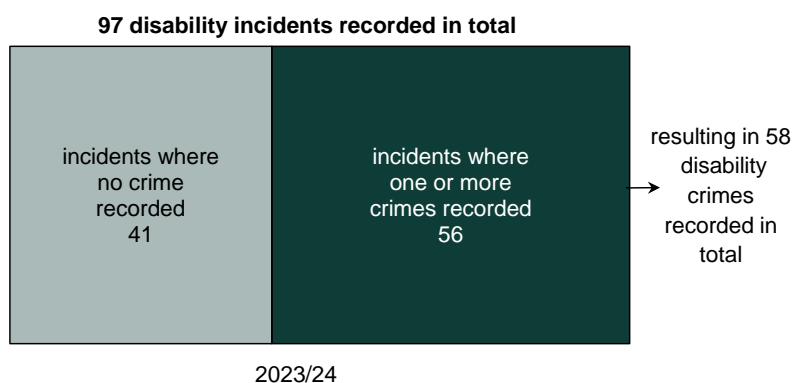
Table 6.1 Disability motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes¹, 2009/10 and latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24

	Disability Incidents	Disability Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2009/10	58	40	6	15.0
...
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
2023/24	97	58	11	19.0

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

During 2023/24 there were 97 incidents recorded where there was a disability motivation. Of these, there were 41 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 56 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 58 disability crimes in total). Just over two in five incidents did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 6.1 Incidents and crimes with a disability motivation, 2023/24

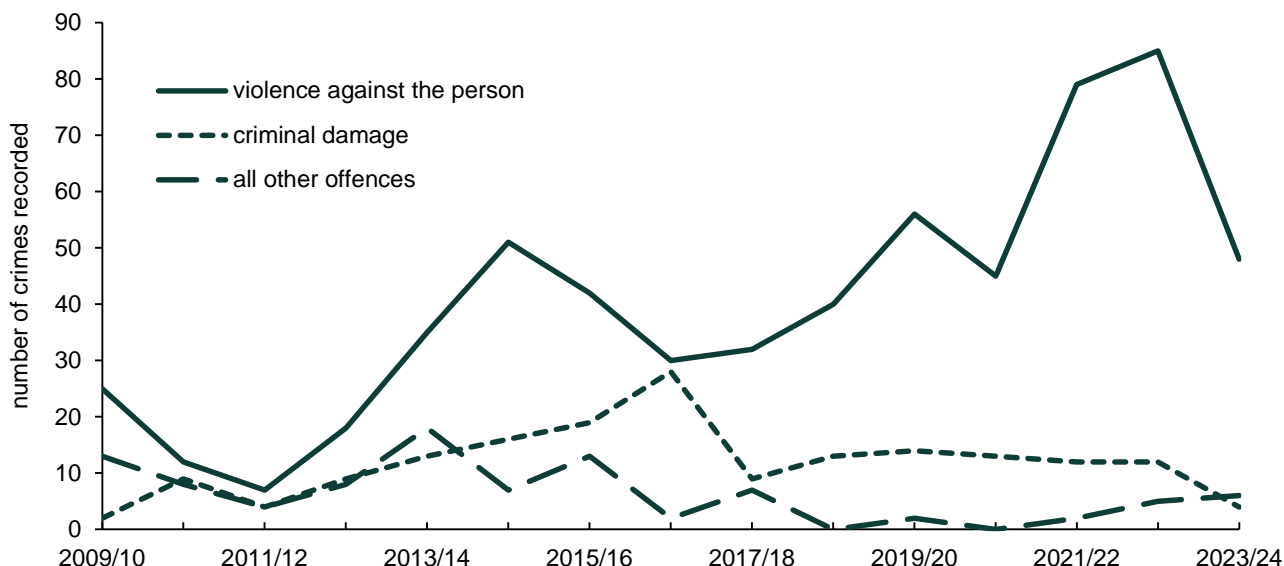


6.2 Trends in crimes with a disability motivation by crime type

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

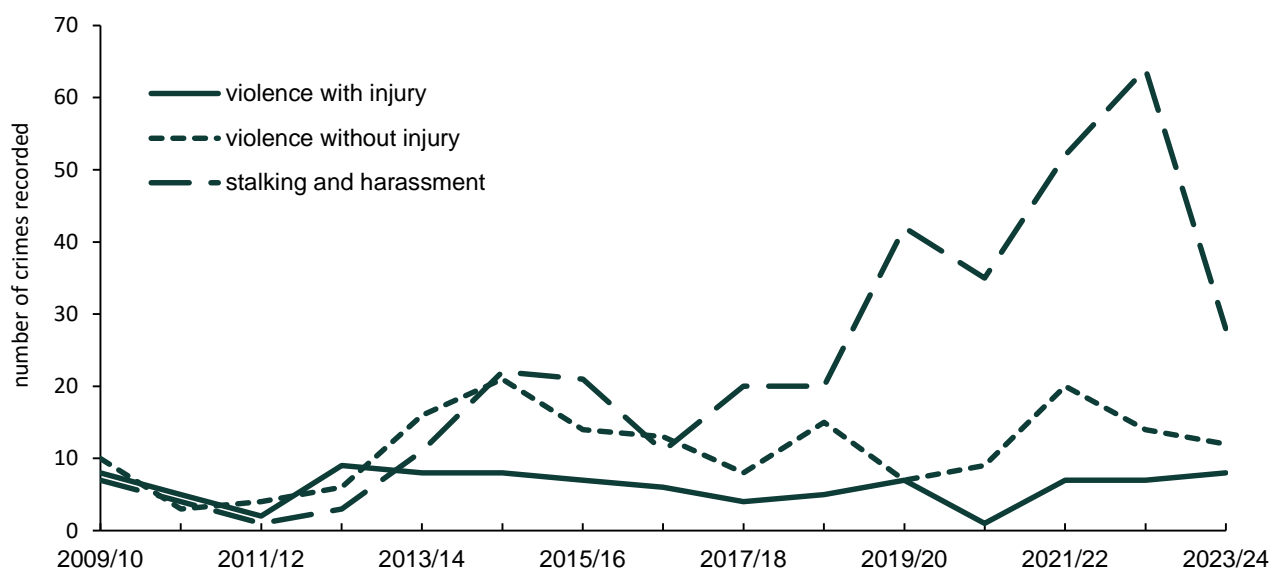
Trends within the main crime types of violence against the person, criminal damage and all other crimes with a disability motivation are shown in figure 6.2. The full range of crime types for crimes with a disability motivation is available in Table 6.2.

Figure 6.2 Crimes with a disability motivation by crime type, 2009/10 to 2023/24



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, contributed to the higher level of stalking and harassment offences shown in figure 6.3 below. The reversal of this requirement in May 2023 has contributed to the sharp fall in the level of stalking and harassment seen in 2023/24. 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 2023/24



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.

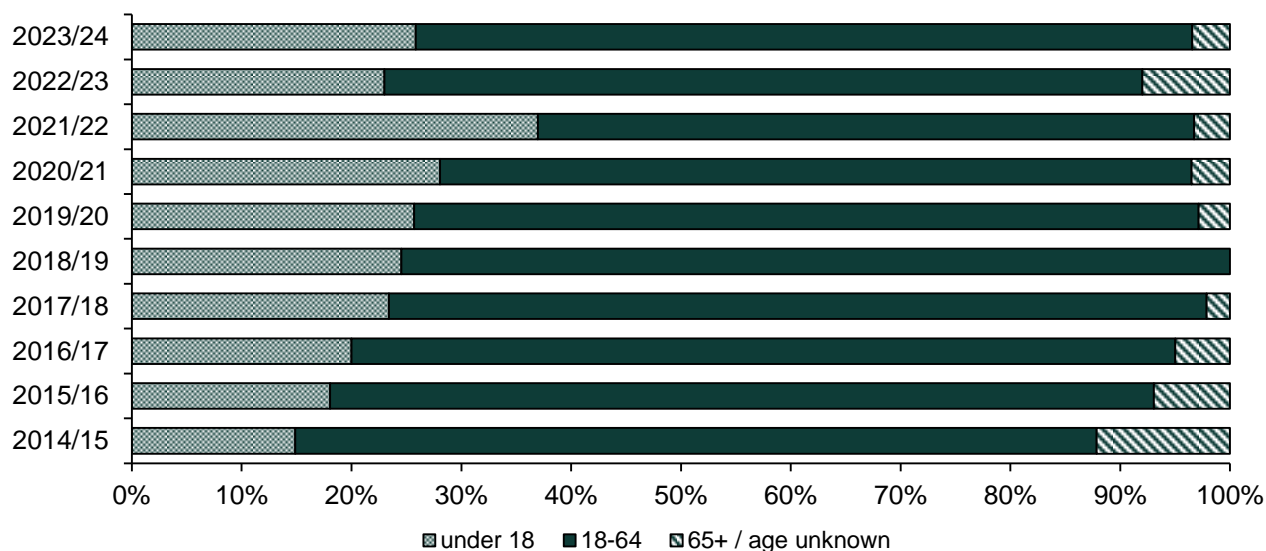
The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. Since 2009/10, a person is the victim of a disability crime in at least 93 per cent of cases, while in up to 7 per cent of disability crimes the victim is a business or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

Of the 58 crimes with a disability motivation recorded in 2023/24, all involved a person victim, with 15 of these persons identified as having a learning disability.

6.3.1 Disability crimes: age and gender of victims

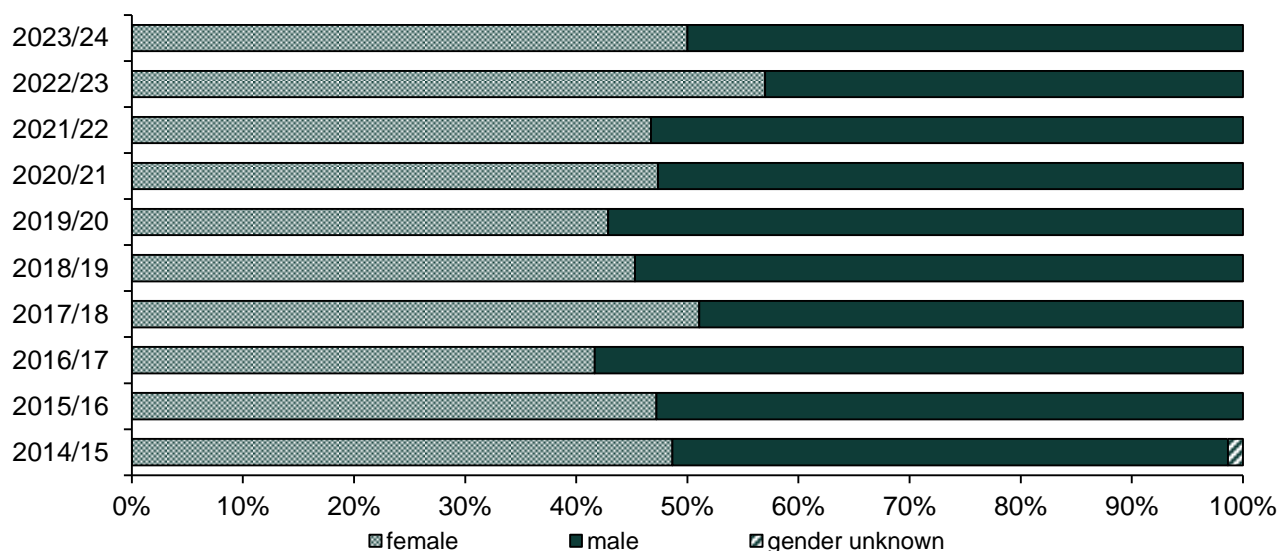
Victim age: The proportion of disability crimes where the victim is under 18 increased each year from 6 per cent in 2012/13 to 37 per cent in 2021/22 before falling to 23 per cent in 2022/23; the proportion in 2023/24 was 26 per cent. The proportions where the victim is 18-64 and 65+ tend to be lower 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 2014/15 to 2023/24



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. In 2023/24 the proportion of male and female victims was 50 per cent. [Table 6.5]

Figure 6.5 Disability crimes by gender of victim, latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24

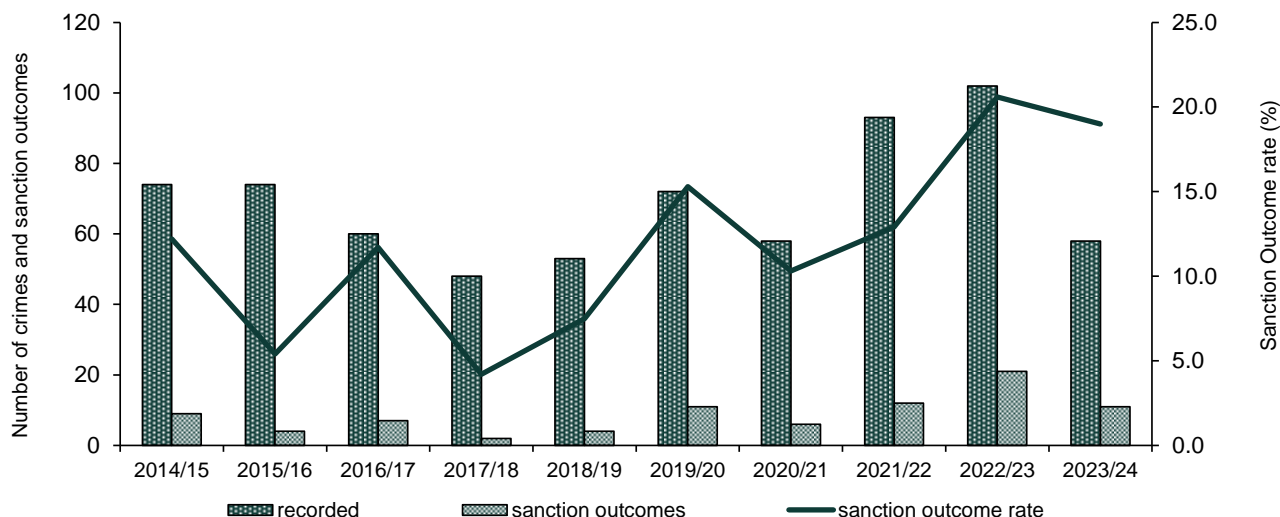


6.4 Sanction outcomes for crimes with a disability motivation

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 2014/15 to 2023/24



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 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. The number of transgender identity motivated incidents reached their highest level in 2022/23, with 2023/24 showing the third highest level. The number of transgender identity motivated crimes was highest in 2021/22 (42), one higher than the level recorded in 2023/24.

Crimes with a transgender identity motivation represent less than 0.1 per cent of all crimes recorded by the police. Population rates for crimes with a transgender identity motivation are fewer than 1 per 10,000 population.

Table 7.1 Transgender Identity motivations: incidents, crimes and sanction outcomes¹, 2009/10 and latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24

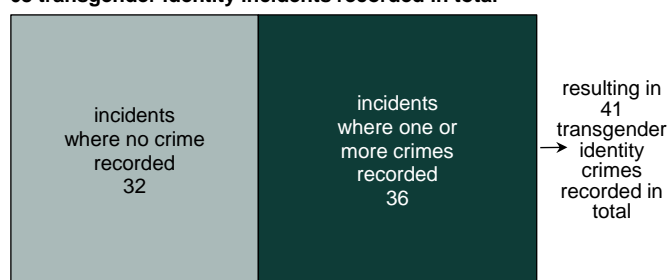
	Transgender Identity Incidents	Transgender Identity Crimes	Sanction Outcomes (numbers)	Sanction Outcomes (rates, %)
2009/10	14	4	0	0.0
...
2014/15	21	8	1	12.5
2015/16	19	12	0	0.0
2016/17	20	12	3	25.0
2017/18	38	17	4	23.5
2018/19	33	12	1	8.3
2019/20	64	34	4	11.8
2020/21	71	34	6	17.6
2021/22	65	42	5	11.9
2022/23	72	39	9	23.1
2023/24	68	41	3	7.3

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

During 2023/24 there were 68 incidents recorded where there was a transgender identity motivation. Of these, there were 32 which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 36 incidents contained one or more crimes (amounting to 41 transgender identity crimes in total). Just under half of transgender identity incidents did not result in a crime being recorded.

Figure 7.1 Incidents and crimes with a transgender identity motivation, 2023/24

68 transgender identity incidents recorded in total



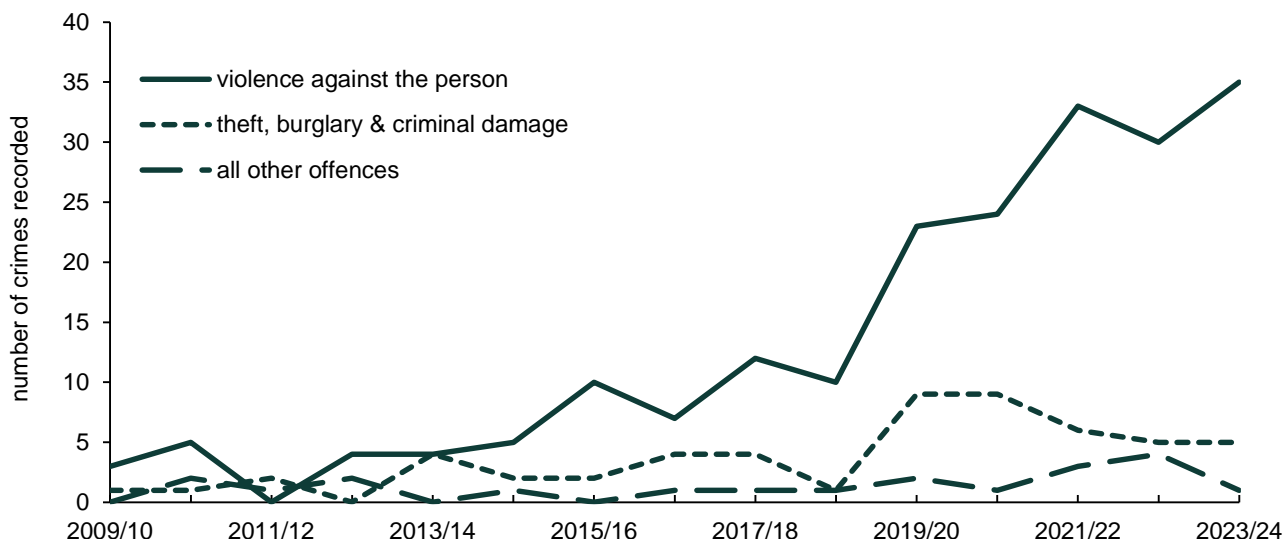
2023/24

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 2023/24



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.

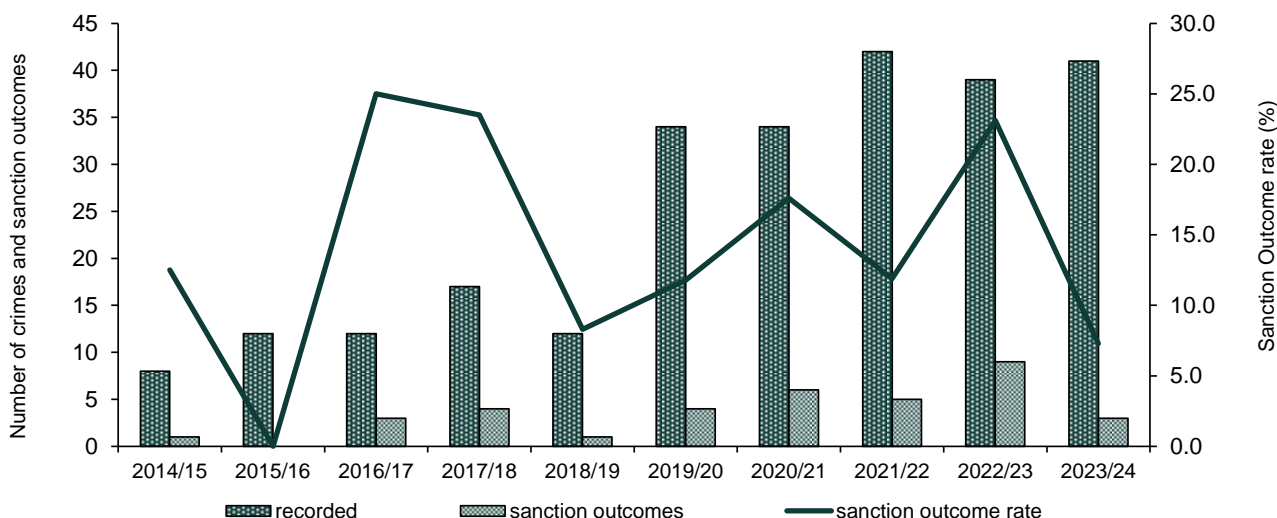
The introduction of the NICHE system in 2007/08 has enabled a breakdown of crime by the type of victim to be provided from this date. All crimes with a transgender identity motivation recorded since 2009/10 have had a person victim, with the exception of five crimes recorded with a business/organisation 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 2014/15 to 2023/24



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)¹

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

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

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

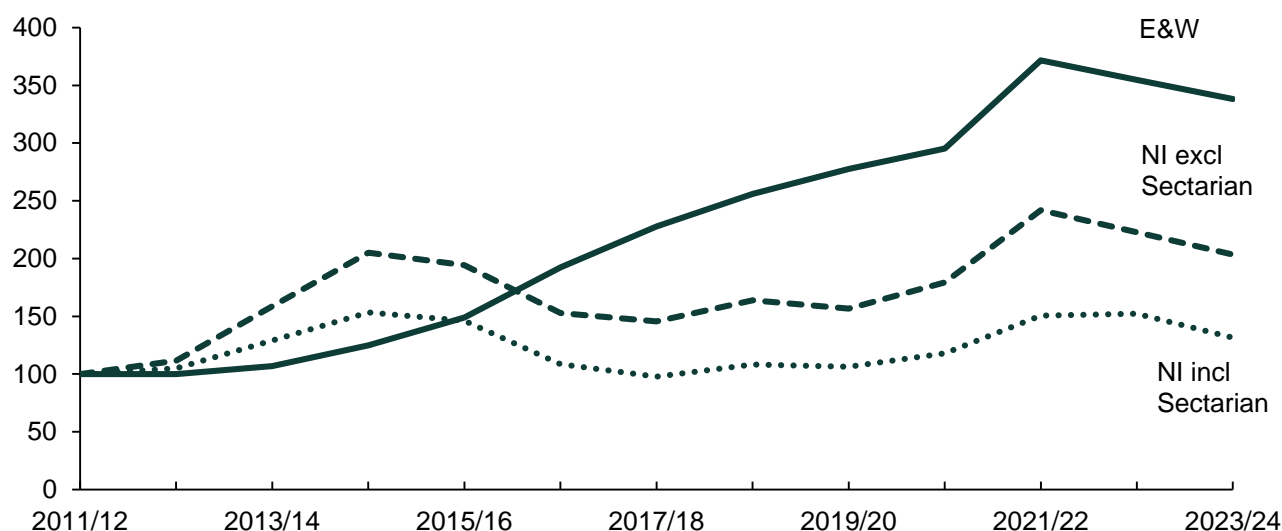
In England & Wales there are some offences in the main police recorded crime collection which have a specific racially or religiously motivated element. These are defined by statute and constitute a set of offences which are distinct from their non-racially or religiously aggravated equivalents. As police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

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

Figure 9.1 compares hate crimes in England & Wales with hate crimes in Northern Ireland over the last thirteen 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 37 per cent in 2023/24.

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 2023/24 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 & Wales¹, 2011/12 to 2023/24 (2011/12 = 100)



The Home Office publication on Hate Crime in England & Wales 2023/24 provides comment on hate crime following major events, focusing on the number of racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police by month.

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

¹ The England & Wales details have been sourced from the publication [Hate Crime in England & Wales 2023-24 \(opens in a new window\)](#). 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 \(opens in a new window\)](#).

Hate Motivated Incidents Where No Crime Was Recorded

Between 2014/15 and 2023/24, the proportion of hate motivated incidents where no crime was recorded (also referred to as 'Non-crime hate incidents') has been around two in every five hate motivated incidents, with a low of 38 percent in 2015/16 and a high of 44 per cent in 2017/18. Table A1 shows the number of hate motivated incidents where no crime was recorded, for each type of hate motivation, for each of the latest ten financial years. A single incident may involve more than one type of hate motivation, therefore the total number of hate motivated incidents where no crime was recorded will be smaller than the combined total for each type of hate motivation.

Table A1 Hate motivated incidents where no crime was recorded, latest ten financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total hate motivated incidents where no crime was recorded	1,343	1,179	1,009	1,035	1,006	897	953	1,204	1,254	1,266
Race	507	463	451	459	503	385	377	571	557	599
Sexual Orientation	143	153	130	118	110	111	162	187	216	171
Sectarian	575	465	353	348	303	319	342	379	504	421
Faith/Religion	56	34	32	53	35	27	14	24	20	33
Disability	68	69	56	54	54	36	41	53	59	41
Transgender Identity	13	8	9	21	21	33	40	26	37	32
Proportion of hate motivated incidents where no crime was recorded	39.7%	38.2%	40.9%	44.0%	41.7%	39.8%	39.3%	39.8%	40.6%	42.2%

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 2023/24 was published on 29 November 2024. 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 2023-24 \(opens in a new window\)](#) 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 \(opens in a new window\)](#).