

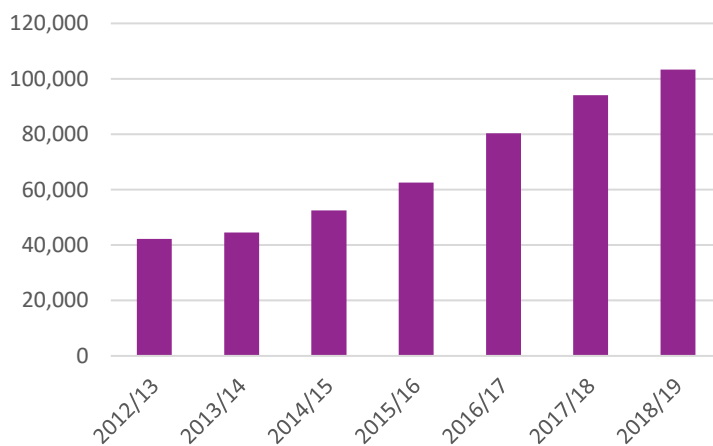


Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2018/19

This release contains statistics about hate crime offences recorded by the police in England and Wales.

Key results

- In 2018/19, there were 103,379 hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales, an increase of 10 per cent compared with 2017/18 (94,121 offences).



- This continues the upward trend in recent years with the number of hate crimes recorded by the police having more than doubled since 2012/13 (from 42,255 to 103,379 offences).
- While increases in hate crime over the last five years have been mainly driven by improvements in crime recording by the police, there has been spikes in hate crime following certain events such as the EU Referendum and the terrorist attacks in 2017.
- The majority of hate crimes were race hate crimes, accounting for around three-quarters of offences (76%; 78,991 offences).

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1 Introduction

OVERVIEW

This statistical bulletin provides information on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in 2018/19.

Hate crimes 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.’ This common definition was agreed in 2007 by the police, Crown Prosecution Service, Prison Service (now the National Offender Management Service) and other agencies that make up the criminal justice system. There are five centrally monitored strands of hate crime:

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

The College of Policing provided operational guidance in 2014 to police forces around hate crime, including information on what can be covered by race hate crime. The guidance stated:

“Race hate crime can include any group defined by race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origin, including countries within the UK, and Gypsy or Irish Travellers. It automatically includes a person who is targeted because they are an asylum seeker or refugee as this is intrinsically linked to their ethnicity and origins. Policy and legislation takes a ‘human rights’ approach and covers majority as well as minority groups.”

This means that offences with a xenophobic element (such as graffiti targeting certain nationalities) can be recorded as race hate crimes by the police. Further information on how the police record hate crime can be found in the Hate Crime Operational Guidance¹.

An offence may be motivated by hatred towards a characteristic (strand) that is not centrally monitored and does not form part of the data collection presented in this statistical bulletin (age or gender for example).

Terrorist offences may also be considered a hate crime and the College of Policing operational guidance states, there is “a clear overlap between hate crime and terrorist activity”. Terrorist activity (such as the Manchester Arena attack in May 2017), may be targeted against general British or Western values rather than one of the five specific strands and is therefore not covered by this statistical collection.

¹ http://www.report-it.org.uk/files/hate_crime_operational_guidance.pdf

However, other terrorist attacks do fit within the centrally monitored hate crime strands covered by this statistical bulletin. For example, the Finsbury Park Mosque attack in June 2017 has been classified as a hate crime because the victims were thought to be targeted because of their religious affiliation.

The bulletin includes a section which provides experimental statistics on the perceived religion of victims of religious hate crimes.

In April 2015, it became mandatory for all forces to return quarterly information on the number of crimes flagged as being committed online (in full or in part). There are some large variations in the proportion of offences flagged by each force depending on crime type and there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that the flag is currently underused. Due to the ongoing development of the statistics and concerns around the quality of the data they have been badged as Experimental Statistics. The '[Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2017/18](#)' bulletin included some exploratory analysis of the number of hate crimes that had been flagged as online. The analysis showed that only two per cent of hate crime offences had an online flag, which was likely to have been an underestimate and therefore any conclusions drawn from the data were done so with caution. Due to the uncertainty around the quality of the data, the analysis has not been repeated in this bulletin.

Hate crimes and racially or religiously aggravated offences

There are some offences in the main police recorded crime collection which have a specific racially or religiously motivated element defined by statute. These constitute a set of offences which are distinct from their non-racially or religiously aggravated equivalents (the full list of these is shown in Table 1). These racially or religiously aggravated offences are by definition hate crimes.

Table 1: The five racially or religiously aggravated offences and their non-aggravated equivalents

Table 1: The five racially or religiously aggravated offences and their non-aggravated equivalents

Racially or religiously aggravated offences		Non-aggravated equivalent offences	
Offence code	Offence	Offence code	Offence
8P	Racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury	8N	Assault with injury
105B	Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury	105A	Assault without Injury
8M	Racially or religiously aggravated harassment	8L	Harassment
9B	Racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress	9A	Public fear, alarm or distress
58J	Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage	58A	Criminal damage to a dwelling
		58B	Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling
		58C	Criminal damage to a vehicle
		58D	Other criminal damage

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

However, the hate crime collection has a wider coverage of offences in which the police have identified racial or religious hatred as an aggravating factor. In addition to those offences defined above, in the process of recording a crime, the police can flag an offence as being motivated by one or more of the five monitored strands² listed in the overview (for example, an offence can be motivated by hostility towards the victim's race and religion). For more information, see Section 4 - Hate Crime data sources and quality. Figures in this

² Forces may collect wider hate crime data; these are not centrally monitored by the Home Office.

bulletin are therefore dependent on a flag being correctly applied to an offence that is identified as a hate crime.

Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

The CSEW is a face-to-face victimisation survey and also provides information on hate crimes experienced by people resident in England and Wales. As the CSEW is a general household population survey, the number of hate crime incidents and victims estimated in a single survey year is too unreliable to report on. Therefore, three annual datasets are combined in order to provide a larger sample which can be used to produce robust estimates for hate crime. Estimates from the survey were last published in '[Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2017/18](#)' and will next be published in the 2020/21 statistical bulletin.

2 Police recorded hate crime

Key results

- There were 103,379 hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in 2018/19, an increase of ten per cent compared with 2017/18 (94,121 offences). While increases in hate crime over the last five years have been mainly driven by improvements in crime recording by the police, there has been spikes in hate crime following certain events such as the EU Referendum and the terrorist attacks in 2017.
- The majority of hate crimes were race hate crimes, accounting for around three-quarters of offences (76%; 78,991 offences). These increased by 11 per cent between 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- Religious hate crimes increased by three per cent (to 8,566 offences), sexual orientation hate crimes increased 25 per cent (to 14,491), disability hate crimes by 14 per cent (to 8,256) and transgender identity hate crimes by 37 per cent (to 2,333).
- Around twelve per cent of hate crime offences in 2018/19 were estimated to have involved more than one motivating factor, the majority of these were hate crimes related to both race and religion.
- Over half (54%) of the hate crimes recorded by the police were for public order offences³ and a further third (36%) were for violence against the person offences. Five per cent were recorded as criminal damage and arson offences.

2.1 PREVALENCE AND TRENDS

Hate crimes are a subset of notifiable offences that are recorded by the police and made up less than two per cent of such crimes in 2018/19, similar to previous years.

There were 103,379 hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in 2018/19, an increase of ten per cent compared with 2017/18 (94,121 offences; see Table 2). This is the lowest percentage increase in these offences since 2013/14, when there was a five per cent rise. There were increases in all five of centrally monitored strands.

The increases seen over the last five years are thought to have been driven by improvements in crime recording by the police following a review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)⁴ in 2014 and the removal of the designation of police recorded crime as National Statistics.⁵ It also thought

³ In 2018/19, 85% of public order offences were public alarm, fear of distress (including racially or religiously aggravated offences).

⁴ <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/crime-recording-making-the-victim-count/>

⁵ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/archive/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-268---statistics-on-crime-in-england-and-wales.pdf>

that growing awareness of hate crime is likely to have led to improved identification of such offences. Although these improvements are thought to be the main drivers for the increases seen, there have been short-term genuine rises in hate crime following certain events such as the EU Referendum in June 2016 and the terrorist attacks in 2017. Part of the increase over the last year may reflect a real rise in hate crimes recorded by the police.

Table 2: Hate crimes recorded by the police by monitored strand, 2011/12 to 2018/19

Hate crime strand	England and Wales, recorded crime								% change 2017/18 to 2018/19
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	
Race	35,944	35,845	37,575	42,862	49,419	62,685	71,264	78,991	11
Religion	1,618	1,572	2,264	3,293	4,400	5,949	8,339	8,566	3
Sexual orientation	4,345	4,241	4,588	5,591	7,194	9,157	11,592	14,491	25
Disability	1,748	1,911	2,020	2,515	3,629	5,558	7,221	8,256	14
Transgender	313	364	559	607	858	1,248	1,703	2,333	37
Total number of motivating factors	43,968	43,933	47,006	54,868	65,500	84,597	100,119	112,637	13
Total number of offences	N/A	42,255	44,577	52,465	62,518	80,393	94,121	103,379	10

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office.

See Bulletin Table 2 for detailed footnotes

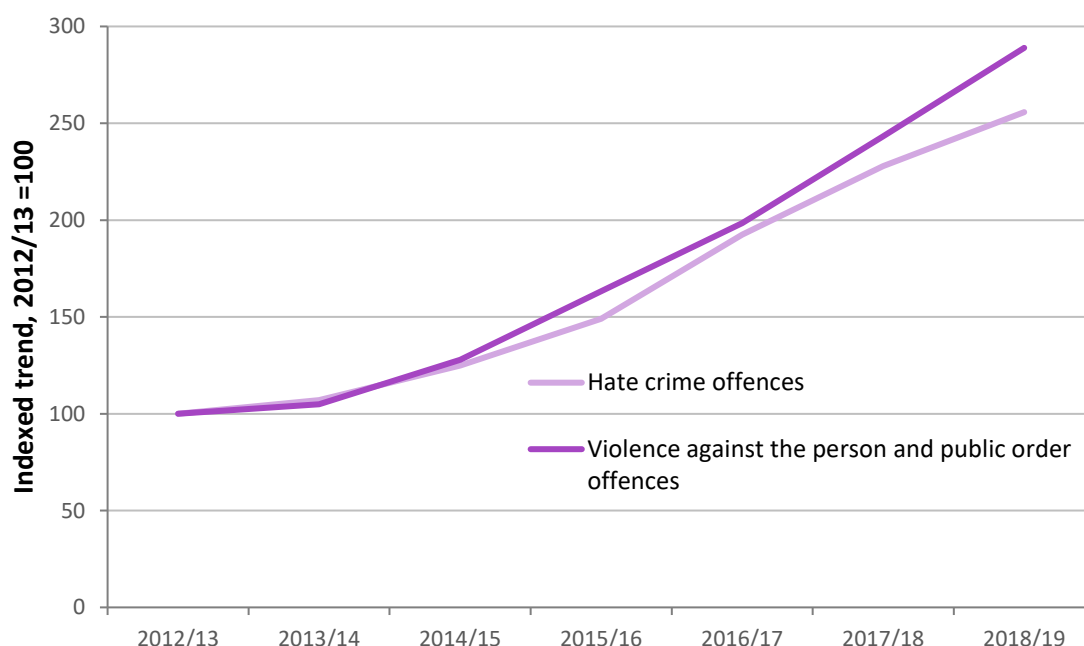
It is possible for a crime to have more than one motivating factor (for example an offence may be motivated by hostility towards both the victim's race and religion). Thus, as well as recording the overall number of hate crimes, the police also collect data on the number of motivating factors by strand as shown in Table 2. For this reason, the sum of the five motivating factors in the above exceeds the 103,379 overall hate crime offences recorded by the police. Around twelve per cent of hate crime offences in 2018/19 were estimated to have involved more than one motivating factor, the majority of these were hate crimes related to both race and religion.⁶ Hate crime data by Police Force Area from 2011/12 to 2018/19 can be found in the [Home Office Open Data tables](#).

Improvements in police recording have been mentioned as a driver in the increase seen in hate crime offences recorded by the police. Section 2.2 shows that 91 per cent of hate crimes in 2018/19 were for either public order or violence against the person offences, continuing the pattern seen in previous years. These are two offence groups thought to have been previously subject to relatively large levels of under-recording and thus improvements in crime recording is likely to have had a larger impact on these than other offences. Figure 1 shows the indexed trend in overall violent and public order offences since 2012/13 compared with all hate crime offences over the same period. As can be seen, there is a strong correlation between the increase in overall public order and violence against the person offences and hate crime.

⁶ Estimation based upon data from 29 forces who supplied data to the Home Office Data Hub.

In contrast, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)⁷, which is unaffected by changes in recording practice, shows a fall in hate crime over the last decade. According to the CSEW, the estimated number of hate crime incidents experienced by adults aged 16 and over fell from 307,000 in the combined 2007/08 and 2008/09 surveys to 184,000 in the combined 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 surveys, a fall of 40 per cent. However, due to the combined survey years the CSEW is not able to identify changes in hate crime over shorter-term periods, and the most recently published estimates do not cover 2018/19.

Figure 1: Indexed trends in the number of violence against the person and public order and hate crime offences, 2012/13 to 2018/19 (2012/13 = 100)



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Race and religious hate crimes

The number of race hate crimes increased by 11 per cent (up 7,727 to 78,991 offences; Table 2) between 2017/18 and 2018/19. Over the same period, religious hate crime rose by three per cent (up 227 to 8,566 offences; Table 2).

Race hate crime was the most commonly recorded strand of hate crime in all 44 police forces. (Appendix Table 1).

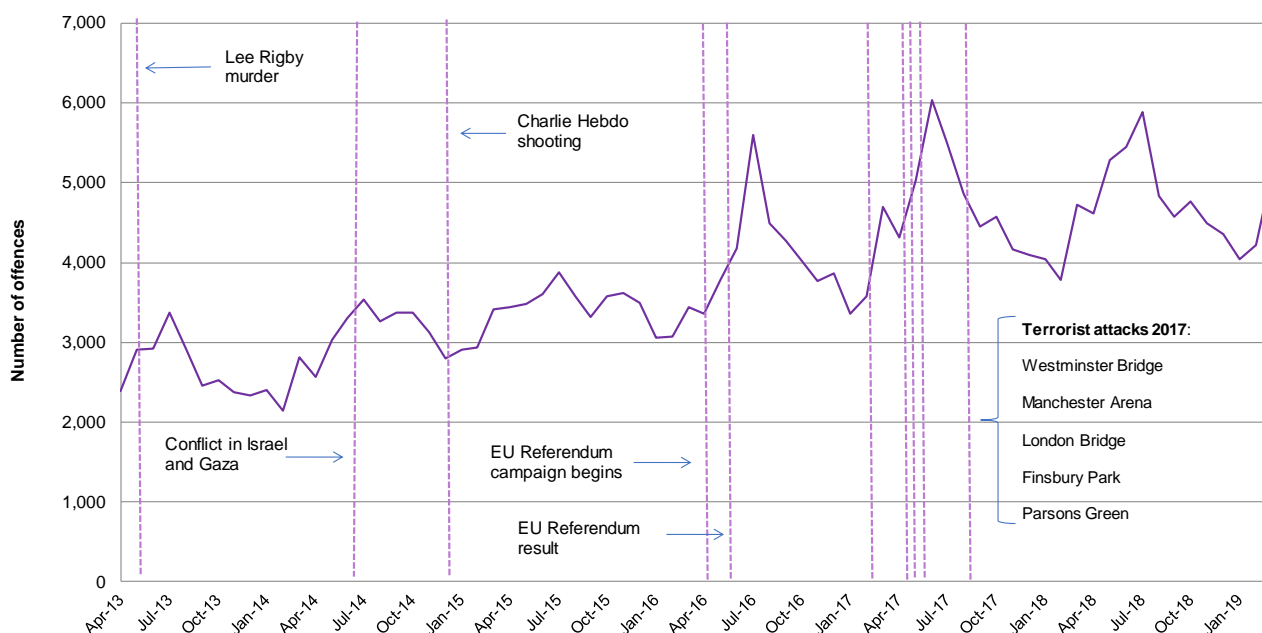
Racial or religiously aggravated offences

The data the Home Office receives from the police in the main police recorded crime return for racially or religiously aggravated offences is available on a monthly basis⁸. This allows in-year trend in these offences to be seen around the time of particular incidents (Figure 2).

⁷ The CSEW asks questions about whether an incident was deemed by the victim to be motivated by one of the five centrally monitored strands. Due to the low volume of hate crime incidents in the sample survey, the figures are not sufficiently robust to report for a single year of the CSEW.

⁸ Although data from the main police recorded crime collection are sent to the Home Office broken down by month, the data are only quality assured with police forces on a quarterly basis.

Figure 2: Number of racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police by month, April 2013 to March 2019



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Figure 2 shows a:

- general increase in the number of racially or religiously aggravated offences over the six-year period, reflecting improvements in crime recording by the police;
- peak in July 2013 following the Lee Rigby murder;
- rise during the EU Referendum campaign, from April 2016, to a peak in offences after the result, in July 2016; and
- sharp increase in hate crime in June 2017 following terrorist attacks in May and June.

As police recorded crime data are predominantly on a financial year basis, there are commonly 'increases' in crime in March of each year as police forces reconcile their annual data, which can also be seen in Figure 2.

Sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity

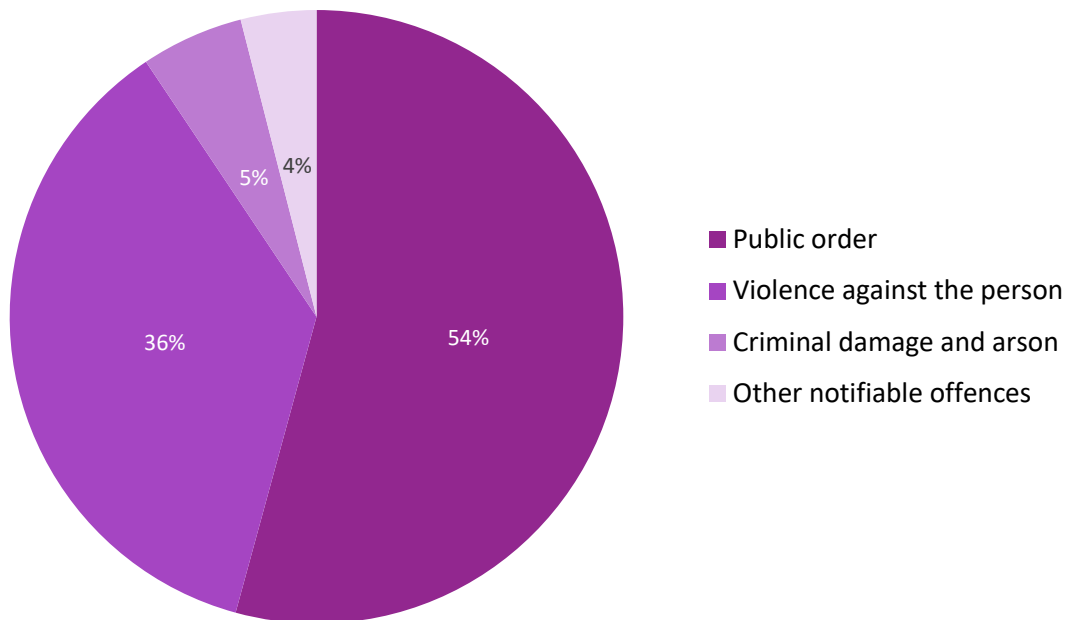
In 2018/19, the police recorded 14,491 sexual orientation hate crimes (up 25% compared with the previous year), 8,256 disability hate crimes (up 14%) and 2,333 transgender identity hate crimes (up 37%). These large percentage increases across all three strands are partly due to the smaller number of these crimes. However, they may also suggest that increases are due to the improvements made by the police in their identification and recording of these hate crime offences and more people coming forward to report these crimes rather than a genuine increase. However, genuine increases cannot be ruled out.

As in previous years, sexual orientation hate crime was the second most commonly recorded hate crime in the vast majority of forces (38 of 44). Transgender identity hate crime was the least commonly recorded hate crime in 42 of 44 forces (Appendix Table 1).

2.2 HATE CRIMES BY TYPE OF OFFENCE

Over half (54%) of the hate crimes recorded by the police were for public order offences⁹ and a further third (36%) were for violence against the person offences (Figure 3; Appendix Table 2). Together, these offence categories accounted for just over nine in ten (91%) of all hate crimes recorded by the police.

Figure 3: Distribution of offences flagged as hate crimes, 2018/19

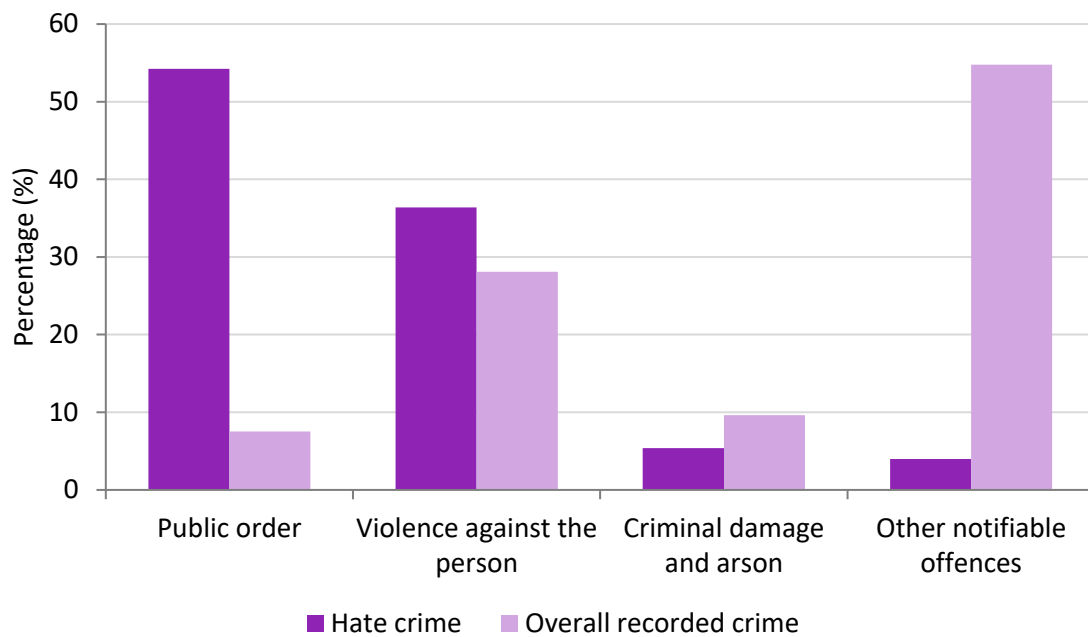


Source: *Police recorded crime, Home Office*

The distribution of hate crime offences differs markedly from overall police recorded crime. Theft offences accounted for over a third of all recorded crime in 2018/19; these offences are unlikely to involve a motivating factor against a monitored strand. In contrast, public order offences accounted for just eight per cent of all notifiable offences compared with 54 per cent of hate crime offences (Figure 4).

⁹ In 2018/19, 85% of public order offences were public alarm, fear of distress (including racially or religiously aggravated offences).

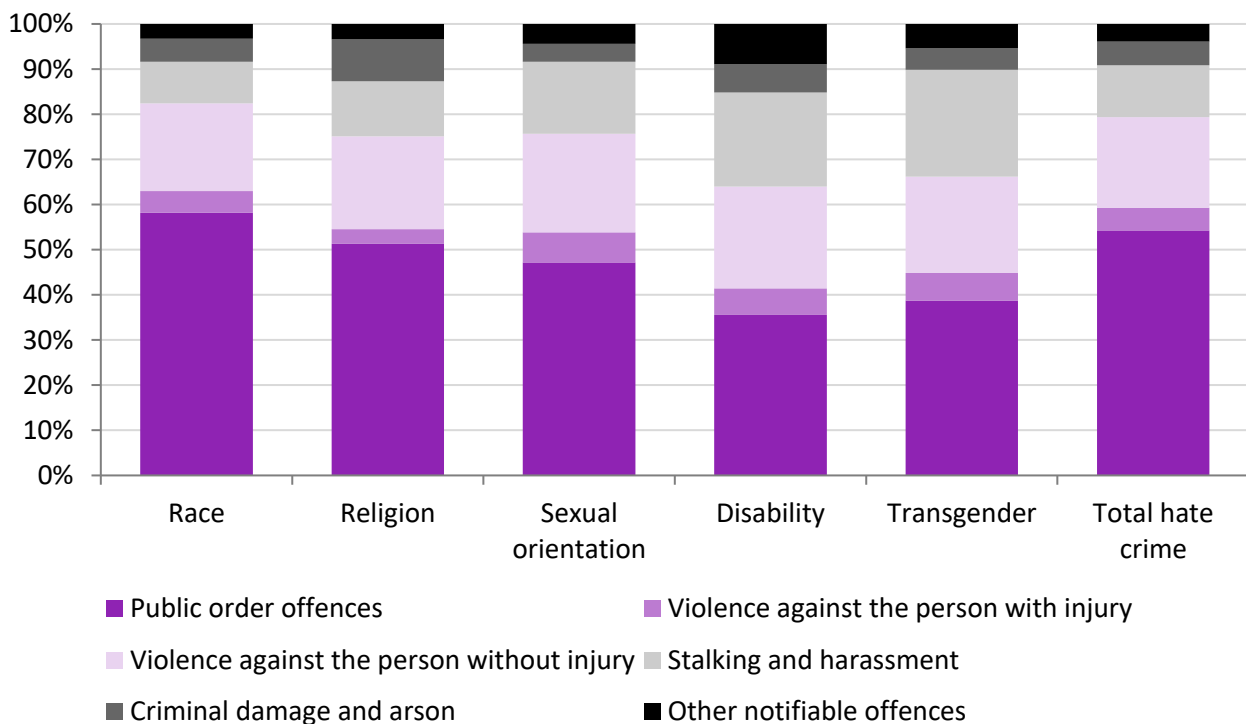
Figure 4: Breakdown of hate crimes and overall recorded crime by selected offence types, 2018/19



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Figure 5 shows what type of offences are being recorded for each monitored strand. As in previous years, for all strands, public order offences were the most common offence to be recorded.

Figure 5: Breakdown of hate crime by selected offence types and monitored strand, 2018/19



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

2.3 HATE CRIME OUTCOMES

The Home Office collects information on the outcomes of police recorded offences, including those that are flagged as hate crimes. For more information on outcomes see [Crime Outcomes in England and Wales: Year ending March 2019](#).

This section covers how the police have dealt with hate crimes recorded in the year ending March 2019. This analysis is based on the outcomes assigned to crimes recorded in 2018/19 at the time the data were extracted (28 August 2019) for analysis. Some offences will not have been assigned an outcome at this time and therefore these figures are subject to change.

Racially or religiously aggravated offence outcomes

Data presented in this section are for racially or religiously aggravated offences as these data are available for all police forces. Data on outcomes for all hate crime offences, which are available for 26 of the 44 police forces¹⁰, are presented in the next section.

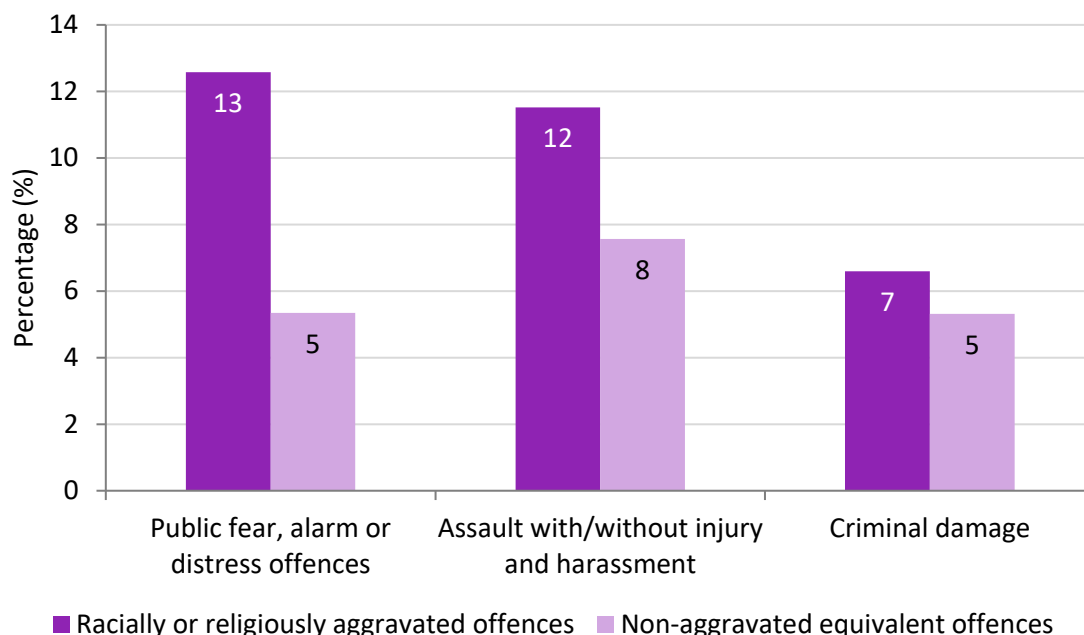
At the time these data were extracted, 88 per cent of racially or religiously aggravated offences had been assigned an outcome compared with 93 per cent of their non-aggravated counterparts (data not shown).

Figure 6 shows that racially or religiously aggravated offences were more likely to be dealt with by a charge/summons than their non-aggravated counterparts, reflecting the serious nature of racially or religiously aggravated offences. In particular:

- thirteen per cent of racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm and distress offences had been dealt with by charge/summons compared with five per cent of the non-aggravated equivalent offences;
- twelve per cent of racially or religiously aggravated assault offences had been dealt with by charge/summons compared with eight per cent of non-aggravated assaults; and
- seven per cent of racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage offences resulted in charge/summons, compared with five per cent of non-aggravated criminal damage offences.

¹⁰ Avon and Somerset, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Derbyshire, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, City of London, Metropolitan Police, Norfolk, North Wales, North Yorkshire, Northumbria, South Wales, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Thames Valley, and West Yorkshire.

Figure 6: Percentage of racially or religiously aggravated offences and their non-aggravated equivalents recorded in 2018/19 resulting in charge/summons, by offence type



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

Racially or religiously aggravated offences were less likely to be dealt with by a formal caution (1%) than non-aggravated versions of these offences (2%; Appendix Table 3).

Flagged hate crime offences – Home Office Data Hub

The Home Office have implemented an improved data collection system called the Home Office Data Hub which is designed to streamline the process by which forces submit data. The Data Hub replaces the old system by capturing record level crime data via direct extracts from forces' own crime recording systems. This allows the police to provide more detailed information to the Home Office enabling a greater range of analyses to be carried out.

Using the Data Hub, it is possible to see how offences flagged as being motivated by one or more of the five monitored strands have been dealt with by the police. The analyses presented are based on data from 26¹¹ of the 44 police forces in England and Wales that supplied adequate data to the Data Hub; these forces data accounted for 62 per cent of all police recorded hate crime in 2018/19.

In total, 94 per cent of hate crime flagged offences recorded in 2018/19 had been assigned an outcome at the time the data were extracted from the Data Hub.¹² The remaining six per cent were still under investigation. Similarly, 92 per cent of non-hate crime offences had been assigned an outcome at the time of data extraction.

¹¹ Avon and Somerset, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Derbyshire, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, City of London, Metropolitan Police, Norfolk, North Wales, North Yorkshire, Northumbria, South Wales, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Thames Valley and West Yorkshire.

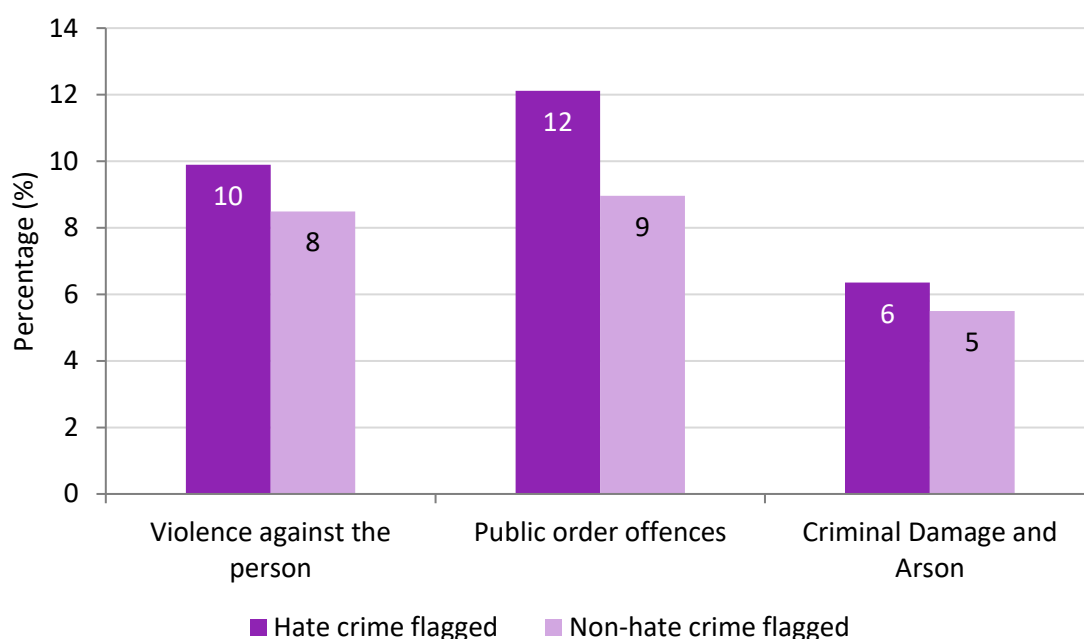
¹² Data were extracted in 28 August 2019.

Appendix Table 4 shows that 11 per cent of all hate crime flagged offences had been dealt with by a charge or summons. As shown in Figure 4, the offences recorded by the police that constitute hate crimes were very different to overall crime. Therefore, to provide more meaningful comparisons charge/summons rates are shown below for certain offence groups.

Figure 4 shows that violence against the person, public order offences and criminal damage and arson offences comprised 96 per cent of hate crime flagged offences. This proportion is the same for the 26 forces included in this analysis, suggesting that these forces are broadly representative of all. The proportions of outcomes assigned varied by offence type, with hate crime offences having a consistently higher charge / summons rate than non-hate crime offences. (Appendix Table 5; Figure 7):

- ten per cent of violence against the person offences flagged as hate crimes were dealt with by charge/summons, compared with eight per cent for non-flagged offences.
- twelve per cent of hate crime flagged public order offences had been dealt with a charge or summons compared with nine per cent for non-hate crime flagged public order offences; and
- six per cent of hate crime flagged criminal damage and arson offences had been dealt with by a charge or summons compared with five percent of non-hate crime flagged criminal damage and arson offences.

Figure 7: Percentage of selected offences dealt with by a charge/summons, offences recorded in 2018/19, 26 forces



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office Data Hub

The most frequent outcome recorded for violent offences was “evidential difficulties as the victim does not support action”; this was the outcome for 32 per cent of hate crime flagged violence against the person offences compared with 42 per cent of non-hate crime flagged offences (Appendix Table 5).

Figure 8 shows the proportion of hate crimes that were dealt with by charge or summons for each of the five hate crime strands for three offence groups.

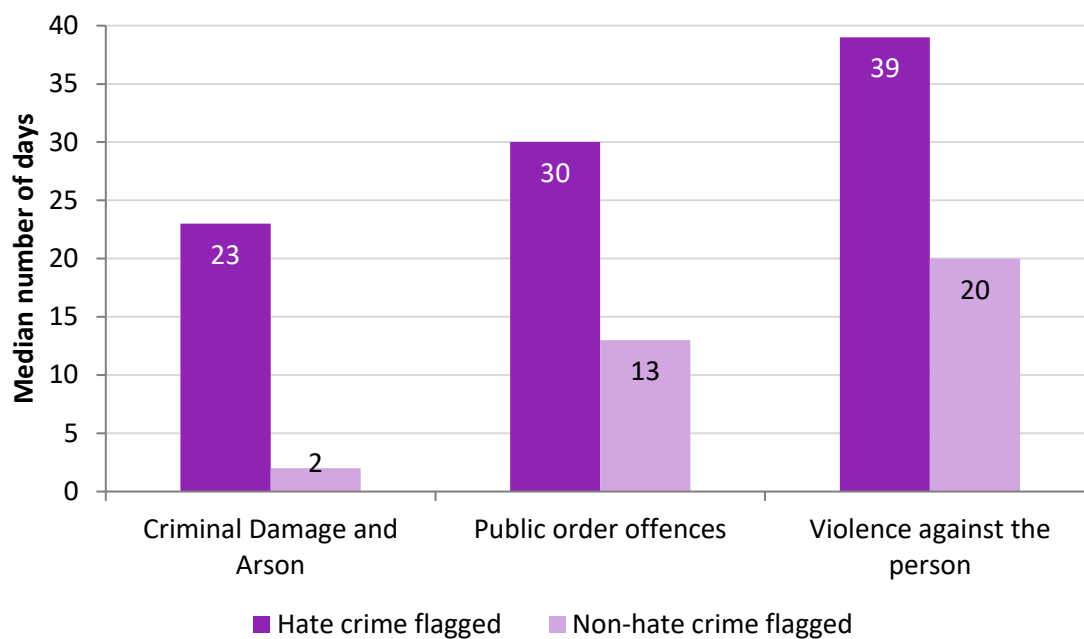
Figure 8: Percentage of selected offences resulting in charge/summons, by hate crime strand, offences recorded in 2018/19, 26 forces



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office Data Hub

Figure 9 shows the median number of days taken to assign an outcome to selected hate crime and non-hate crime offences. Hate crime offences, on average, took longer to be assigned a final outcome than non-hate crime offences. For example, the median number of days taken to assign an outcome to criminal damage and arson hate crime offences was 23 days, compared with two days for non-hate crime offences. Similarly, it took longer to assign an outcome to violence against the person hate crime offences (median=39 days) than to non-hate crime flagged violent offences (median=20 days). This suggests more investigative effort may have been devoted to hate crime offences.

Figure 9: Median number of days taken to assign an outcome, hate crime flagged and non-hate crime flagged offences, offences recorded in 2018/19, 26 forces



Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office Data Hub

3 Perceived religion of victims of religious hate crimes

Key results

- Just under half (47%) of religious hate crime offences were targeted against Muslims (3,530 offences), a similar proportion to last year;
- A further 18% religious hate crime offences were targeted against Jewish people (1,326 offences).

In April 2016, the Home Office began collecting information from the police on the *perceived* religion of victims of religious hate crime. By perceived, we mean the religion targeted by the offender. While in the majority of offences the perceived and actual religion of the victim will be the same, in some cases this will differ. For example, if anti-Muslim graffiti is sprayed on a religious temple of another faith, this would be recorded as an offence of racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage and flagged by the respective police force as a religious hate crime against Muslims.

The collection of these data in 2016/17 was on a voluntary basis and became mandatory in 2017/18. These data are published as Experimental Statistics.

There are nine different perceived religion flags in this collection, which match those reported upon in the 2011 Census:

- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- other
- no religion
- unknown.

Of the 8,566 religious hate crimes recorded by the police in 2018/19, information on the targeted religion was provided in 7,446 of the offences, or 87 per cent.¹³

In some cases, more than one perceived religion has been flagged on one offence (for example, a piece of graffiti may have targeted more than one religion). All police forces have sent data on the perceived religion of the victims of religious hate crimes, although for some forces the number of offences recorded with 'unknown religion' is relatively high.

Home Office statisticians will continue to work with police forces to improve this data collection.

¹³ Includes cases where religion has been flagged as unknown.

In 2018/19, where the perceived religion of the victim was recorded, in just under half (47%) of religious hate crime offences were targeted against Muslims (3,530 offences). The next most commonly targeted group were Jewish people, who were targeted in 18 per cent of religious hate crimes (1,326 offences).

In 17 per cent of offences, the targeted religion was not known. Information on other religions can be found in Table 3.

Table 3: Number and proportion of religious hate crimes recorded by the police¹, by the perceived targeted religion, 2018/19

<i>Numbers and percentages</i>	England and Wales, recorded crime	
	2018/19	
Perceived religion of the victim	Number of offences	%
Buddhist	19	0
Christian	535	7
Hindu	114	2
Jewish	1,326	18
Muslim	3,530	47
Sikh	188	3
Other	535	7
No religion	215	3
Unknown	1,255	17
Total number of targeted religions	7,717	
Total number of offences	7,446	

*Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office
See Bulletin Table 3 for detailed footnotes.*

4 Hate Crime data sources and quality

INTRODUCTION

In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority published its assessment of ONS crime statistics. It found that statistics based on police recorded crime data, having been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (now the Code of Practice for Statistics), did not meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The UK Statistics Authority published a list of requirements for these statistics to regain the National Statistics accreditation.

Some of the requirements of this assessment were to provide more detail on how data sources were used to produce these statistics, along with more information on the quality of the statistics. Additionally, there was a requirement to provide information on the process used by police forces to submit and revise data, and the validation processes used by the Home Office. In order to ensure that this publication meets the high standards required by the UK Statistics Authority, details are provided below.

POLICE RECORDED CRIME DATA SOURCES AND VALIDATION PROCESS

Hate crime data are supplied to the Home Office by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. Forces either supply the data at least monthly via the Home Office Data Hub (HODH) or on an annual basis in a manual return. For forces with data on the Data Hub, the Home Office extracts the number of offences for each force which have been flagged by forces as having been motivated by one or more of the monitored strands. Therefore, counts of hate crime via the HODH are dependent on the flag being used for each hate crime offence. It is then possible to derive the count of offences and the monitored strands covered.

In the manual return, police forces submit both the total number of hate crime offences (that is a count of the number of unique offences motivated by one or more of the five monitored strands) and the monitored strands (or motivating factors) associated with these offences. From 2015/16, police forces who returned data manually were required to provide an offence group breakdown for recorded hate crimes; prior to 2015/16 only an aggregated total of hate crimes for each of the five strands was asked for. It is possible for more than one of the monitored strands (motivating factors) to be assigned to a crime. For example, an offence could be motivated by hostility to race and religion, so would be counted under both strands but would only constitute one offence.

Further information on how the police record hate crime can be found in the Hate Crime Operational Guidance¹⁴ publication.

At the end of each financial year, the Home Office carry out a series of quality assurance checks on the hate crime data collected from the police forces (either by aggregate return or via the HODH).

¹⁴ For recording purposes, 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. The victim does not have to justify or provide evidence of their belief, and police officers or staff should not directly challenge this perception. Evidence of the hostility is not required for an incident or crime to be recorded as a hate crime or hate incident. (http://www.report-it.org.uk/files/hate_crime_operational_guidance.pdf)

These checks include:

- Looking for any large or unusual changes in hate crimes from the previous year.
- Looking for outliers.
- Checking that the number of hate crimes by strand is higher than the total number of offences. Where these two figures were the same, the force was asked to confirm they were recording multiple hate crime strands.

Police forces are then asked to investigate these trends and either provide an explanation or resubmit figures where the reconciliation identifies data quality issues.

The data are then tabulated by monitored strand and year and sent back to forces for them to verify. At this stage, they are asked to confirm in writing that the data they submitted are correct and if they are not, then they have the opportunity to revise their figures.

From April 2016, the Home Office began collecting information from the police on the *perceived* religion of victims of religious hate crimes – that the religion targeted by the offender. While in the majority of offences the perceived and actual religion of the victim will be the same, in some cases this will differ. For example, if anti-Muslim graffiti is sprayed on a religious temple of another faith, this would be recorded as an offence of racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage and flagged by the respective police force as a religious hate crime against Muslims.

This collection was voluntary in 2016/17 and made mandatory for 2017/18. The data are published as experimental statistics. Home Office statisticians will continue to work with police forces to improve this data collection.

5 Further information

Accompanying user guide and tables

See the accompanying [user guide](#) for information including:

- background information on the data collection
- uses of the statistics, and links to related statistics
- details on methodology and data quality issues

The data tables can be found on the [Hate crime, England and Wales, 2018 to 2019 publication page](#).

Other related publications

Previous hate crime statistical bulletins published by the Home Office are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hate-crime-statistics>

The Office for National Statistics publishes quarterly publications on crime in England and Wales: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice>

Information on crime outcomes can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-statistics>

Police recorded crime and outcomes Open Data Tables:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables>

The True Vision website contains more information about hate crime and how to report it:

<http://www.report-it.org.uk/home>

The Crown Prosecution Service website also carries information about hate crime, including policy and guidance and performance information, which can be found here:

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/hate-crime>

The government's plan for dealing with hate crime in England and Wales can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hate-crime-action-plan-2016>

Hate crime statistics for Northern Ireland can be found here:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/>

Hate crime statistics for Scotland for 2018/19 can be found here:

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/1845-hate-crime-in-scotland-2018-19>

(figures published by the Scottish Government are based on the number of offenders charged, rather than police recorded crime).

Feedback and enquiries

We welcome feedback on the annual statistics release. If you have any feedback or enquiries about this publication, please contact Crime and Policing Statistics via crimeandpolicestats@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

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