# Prejudice Incidents & Hate Crimes in Grampian, 2020

There were 540 prejudice incidents and hate crimes reported in Grampian in 2020, which is the highest level in the past six years, by a considerable margin (see table below). Statistics and details of incidents were received from Police Scotland, and GREC. As in other years, most of the incidents (522) were reported directly to Police Scotland.

Year	Grampian Total	Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire	Moray
2020	540*	346	123	67
2019	485	302	100	65
2018	420	248	88	84
2017	457	306	87	63
2016	396	255	82	57
2015	425	312	68	45

*Three incidents took place in Montrose, one in Kirkcaldy, and one with no location recorded.

Motivation for Incident
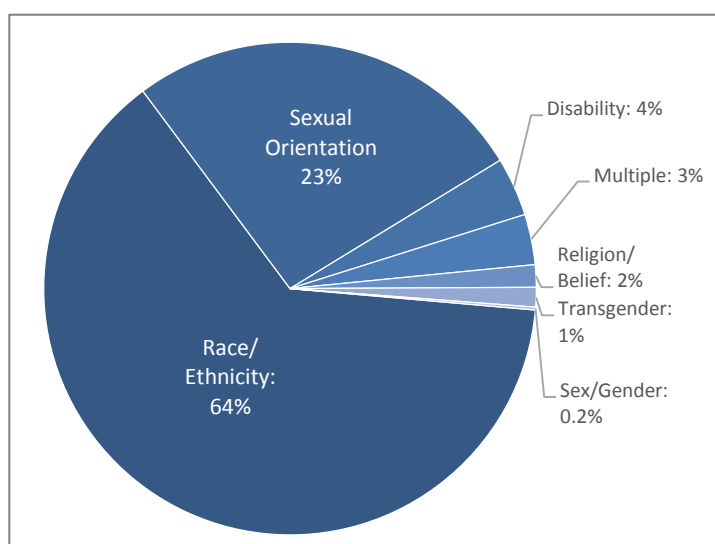
As shown in the chart, racism was the predominant motivator for hate crimes and prejudice, relating to 345 incidents (an 8% increase from 2019). The second-most prevalent motivator was sexual orientation, which related to 112 incidents (a 29% increase from 2019). Additionally, 21 incidents related to disability, 8 to religion or belief, 7 to transgender identity, 1 to gender, and 18 to multiple characteristics, all including race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, or both.

Since 2015, homophobic incidents have been increasing steadily each year, and racist incidents have fluctuated from around 250 to 350 per year. Prejudice against other characteristics has remained fairly constant during this period.
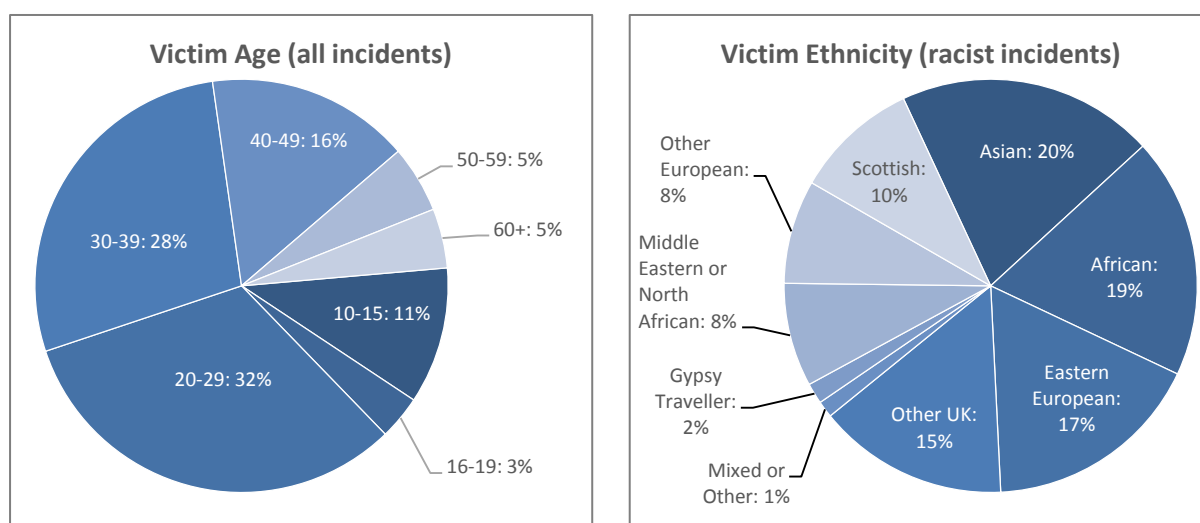
Type of Incident

Verbal abuse was the most frequently reported incident, with 399 recorded in 2020. There were 68 physical assaults, including 54 assaults with an element of verbal abuse, theft or vandalism. Unsurprisingly for 2020, 'non-contact' forms of abuse like online messages and threatening phone calls increased by two-thirds compared with 2019, from 38 incidents to 60. Due to under-reporting, the actual number is likely to be much higher.
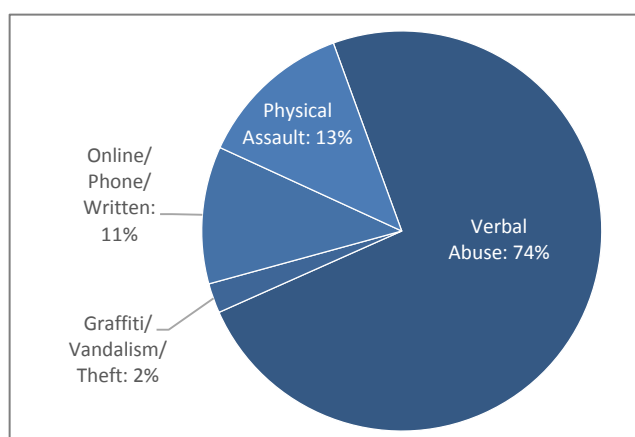
Victim Characteristics

Where known/recorded, victims were female in one-third of incidents (176), male in two-thirds (347), and non-binary or another gender identity in three incidents. The gender split has remained consistent since 2015, and 2020 was the first year when non-binary and other gender identities were recorded. Seven incidents targeted trans people: three trans men/boys and four trans women.

In 114 incidents, the victim was a police officer or staff member, reflecting increased awareness and reporting among officers. Where known/recorded, victims' ages for all incidents and ethnicities for racist incidents are shown below ('Asian' includes British/Scottish Asian, and 'African' includes British/Scottish African). For UK ethnicities, it was not always noted whether victims were European British or other British ethnicities.

Victim Age (all incidents)

40-49: 16%
50-59: 5%
60+: 5%
30-39: 28%
10-15: 11%
20-29: 32%
16-19: 3%

Victim Ethnicity (racist incidents)

Other European: 8%
Scottish: 10%
Asian: 20%
Middle Eastern or North African: 8%
African: 19%
Gypsy Traveller: 2%
Eastern European: 17%
Other UK: 15%
Mixed or Other: 1%

It is worth noting that incidents with victims aged 20 or younger decreased nearly 30% between 2019 and 2020, from 98 to 70. This is likely due to schools, colleges and universities being closed for much of the year. Conversely, there was nearly a 30% increase in incidents targeting people in their 30s, 40s and 50s, from 193 to 248; 39 of these were police officers. Incidents targeting people in their 20s or over 60 were broadly similar to 2019.

There appears to be a slight decrease in reported incidents that target Asian people: 9%, or six cases compared with 2019. However, a number of surveys and other reports indicate increased Covid-related prejudice towards Chinese and East Asians in particular. The discrepancy may reflect hesitance to report incidents, rather than an actual decrease. During the same period, there was a 26% increase in incidents targeting Africans, from 46 in 2019 to 58 in 2020, and incidents targeting people from the Middle East and North Africa nearly doubled, from 13 to 25.
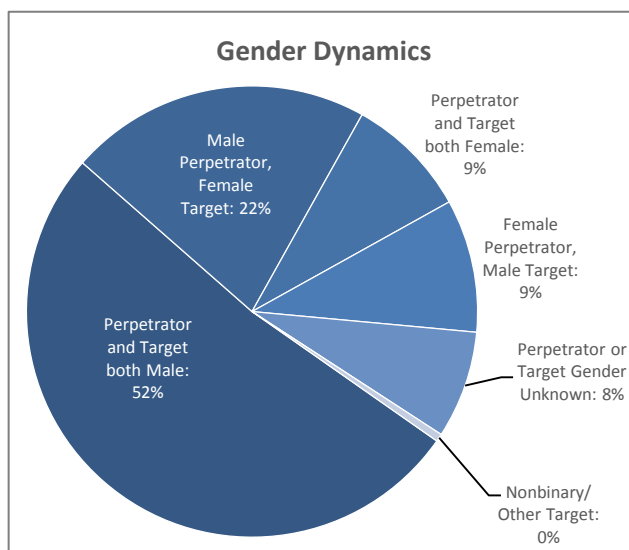
Perpetrator Characteristics

Where known/recorded, the age distribution for perpetrators was similar to that of victims, and more than 70% targeted people within similar age ranges or older. Where known/recorded, the perpetrator's nationality was Scottish in 238 incidents; English or 'British' in 29; from other European countries in 11; and from outwith Europe in 10. In two incidents, the perpetrator was of mixed ethnicity and British or European nationality.

For all but one of the incidents with ethnic minority perpetrators, racism was the motivator, and the victim was a person from a different ethnic minority two-thirds of the time (14 out of 23 incidents). In seven incidents, the victim's nationality was listed as Scottish or UK, without noting their ethnicity.
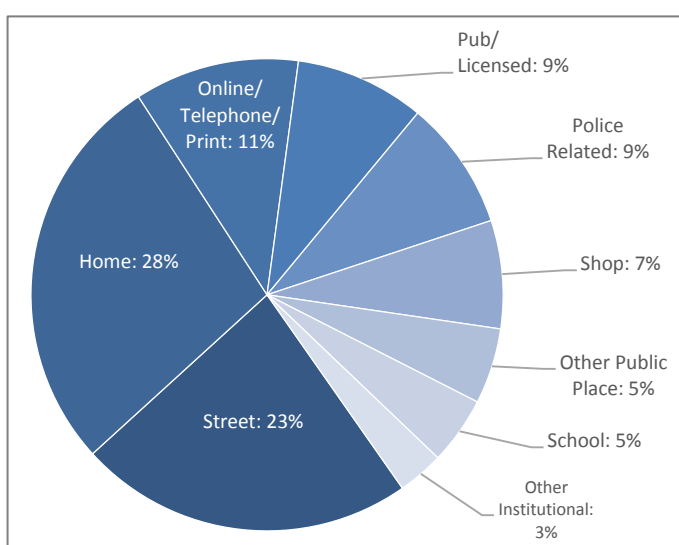
Perpetrator Characteristics (continued)

Where known/recorded, 80% of perpetrators were male (413) and 20% were female (101). The basic gender dynamics are shown here. Broadly speaking, more than two-thirds of female victims were targeted by male perpetrators, and 16% vice-versa. Of the three incidents targeting nonbinary people, two were perpetrated by men and one by a woman.

Gender Dynamics

- Male Perpetrator, Female Target: 22%
- Perpetrator and Target both Female: 9%
- Female Perpetrator, Male Target: 9%
- Perpetrator or Target Gender Unknown: 8%
- Perpetrator and Target both Male: 52%
- Nonbinary/Other Target: 0%

Location Type

Where known/recorded, incidents took place in the types of locations indicated here. Incidents most frequently took place in homes, on the street, or in other public places like bars, shops or public transport. 48 were recorded in police stations or vehicles, in which all victims were police officers. Of the 61 incidents of 'remote' abuse, nearly 80% of messages or phone calls were received in people's homes. Taking this into account, it is worth noting that the proportion of incidents at home increased from 23% of total incidents in 2019 to 59% in 2020. With under-reporting, the true extent of online abuse is likely to be much higher.

- Online/Telephone/Print: 11%
- Pub/Licensed: 9%
- Police Related: 9%
- Home: 28%
- Shop: 7%
- Other Public Place: 5%
- School: 5%
- Other Institutional: 3%
- Street: 23%

Other public places include sports facilities, public transport, bus stops and car parks. Other institutional settings include government buildings, hospitals and offices.
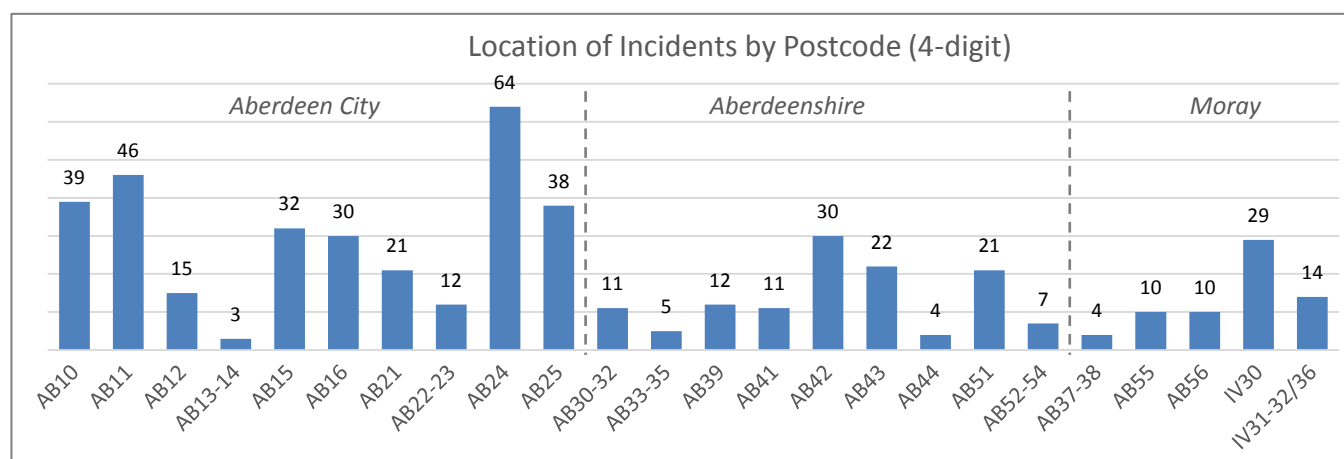
Location of Incidents

As shown below, the most common locations for hate crimes and prejudice incidents were in deprived areas of Aberdeen City. AB24 covers several regeneration areas (Tillydrone, Woodside, Seaton) along with the University area of Old Aberdeen, and AB16 covers the regeneration area of Northfield along with Mastrick and Sheddocksley. While AB24 saw a similar number of incidents in 2019 and 2020 (67* and 64), incidents in AB16 reduced by a third, from 46 in 2019 to 30 in 2020. This was due to a lack of incidents at Northfield Academy, which was closed for much of the year.

Similarly, incidents in the City Centre, Garthdee and Torry saw a drop of 42%, from 147 incidents in 2019 to 85 in 2020. This was almost certainly due to the closure of bars and nightclubs, which are a significant locus of incidents (both in these venues and on the streets around them).

42 incidents targeting police officers/staff were reported at Kittybrewster Police Station, which is also a detention facility. This was more than double the figure for 2019 (19). Apart from one incident each at Fraserburgh, Turriff and Elgin stations, there were no reported incidents at other local police stations (e.g. Queen Street, Bucksburn, Ellon, Kemnay, Peterhead, Stonehaven, etc).

In Aberdeenshire and Moray, incidents mostly took place in towns and larger population centres, with the highest numbers in Peterhead (30), Elgin (29), Fraserburgh (21) and Inverurie (21). However, as shown on the map below, most areas in Grampian saw at least a small number of incidents.

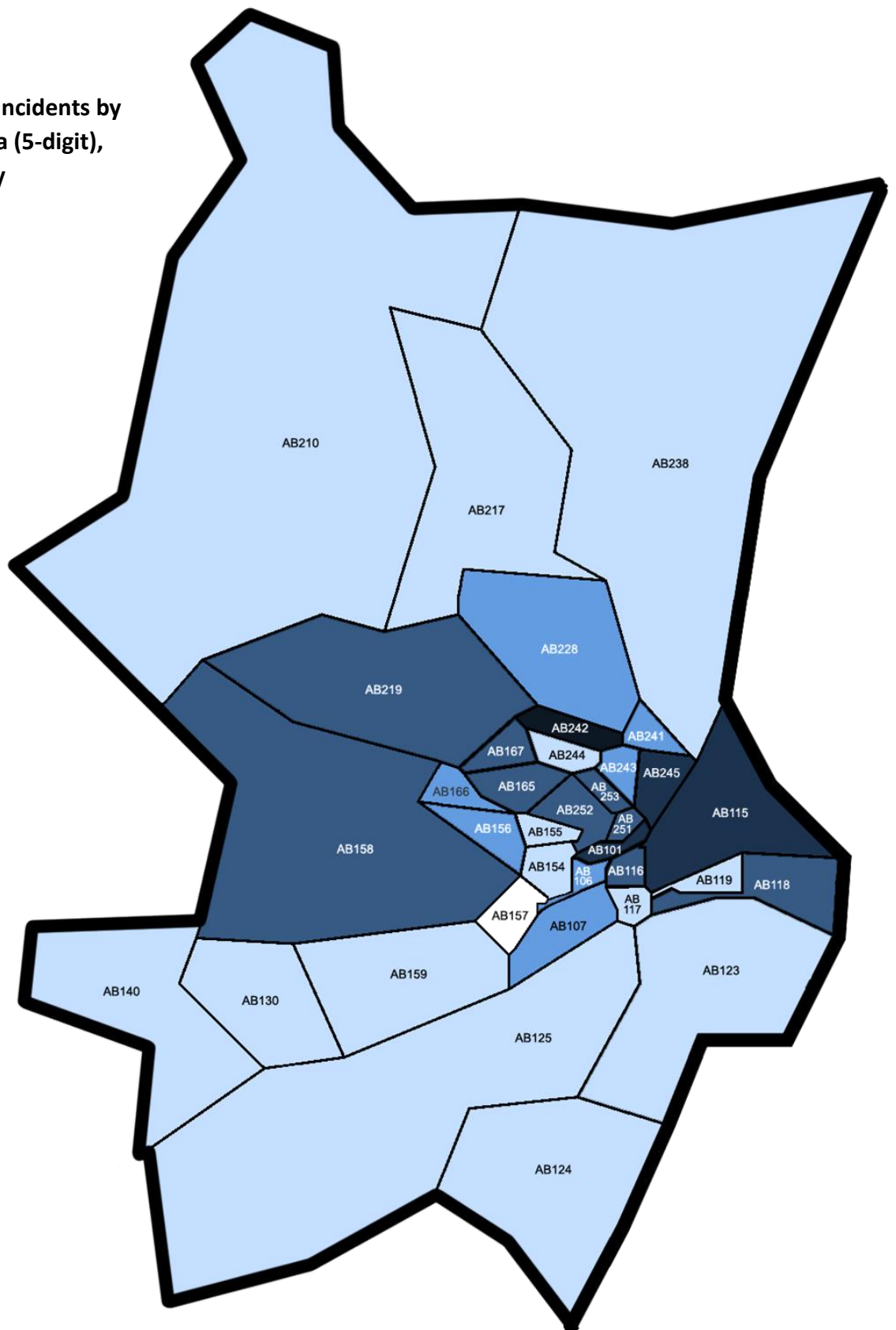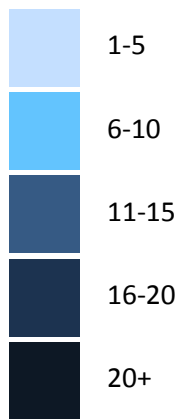*Excluding incidents at Kittybrewster police station, which were not separated from overall incidents in AB24 in 2019.*

Location of Incidents by Postcode (4-digit)

Aberdeen City			Aberdeenshire			Moray	
AB10: 39, AB11: 46, AB12: 15, AB13-14: 3, AB15: 32, AB16: 30, AB21: 21, AB22-23: 12, AB24: 64, AB25: 38			AB30-32: 11, AB33-35: 5, AB39: 12, AB41: 11, AB42: 30, AB43: 22, AB44: 4, AB51: 21, AB52-54: 7			AB37-38: 4, AB55: 10, AB56: 10, IV30: 29, IV31-32/36: 14	

Aberdeen City (346)		
Postcode	**Area**	**Incidents**
AB10	City Centre, Garthdee	39
AB11	City Centre, Torry, Ferryhill	46
AB12	Portlethen, Kincorth, Altens	15
AB13-14	Milltimber, Peterculter	3
AB15	Hazlehead, Kingswells, Cults	32
AB16	Northfield, Mastrick, Sheddocksley	30
AB21	Dyce, Bucksburn	21
AB22-23	Bridge of Don	12
AB24	Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Old Aberdeen, Sunnybank, Powis	64*
AB25	Rosemount, George St, Forresterhill, Gallowgate	38
Unknown	-	4

Excluding 42 incidents at Kittybrewster police station, targeting police officers/staff.

Aberdeenshire (123)		
Postcode	**Area**	**Incidents**
AB30-32	Laurencekirk, Banchory, Westhill	11
AB33-35	Alford, Aboyne	5
AB39	Stonehaven, Newtonhill	12
AB41	Ellon, Newburgh, Pitmedden	11
AB42	Peterhead	30
AB43	Fraserburgh	22
AB44	Macduff	4
AB51	Inverurie, Kintore, Kemnay, Oldmeldrum	21
AB52-54	Insch, Turriff, Huntly	7

Moray (67)		
Postcode	**Area**	**Incidents**
AB37-38	Ballindaloch, Rothes, Aberlour	4
AB55	Keith	10
AB56	Buckie, Portgordon	10
IV30	Elgin	29
IV31-32/36	Lossiemouth, Fochabers, Forres	14

Map of 2020 Incidents by Postcode Area (5-digit), Aberdeen City

Legend:
- 1-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 20+

Aberdeen City			AB125	Kincorth	5	AB219	Bucksburn	15
AB101	Union St and areas north	20	AB130	Milltimber	2	AB228	Bridge of Don	10
AB106	Holburn St, Broomhill, Mannofield	9	AB140	Peterculter	1	AB238	Bridge of Don	2
			AB154	Rubislaw	4	AB241	Seaton and Aberdeen Uni	9
AB107	Garthdee, Ruthrieston	9	AB155	Midstocket	1	AB242	Tillydrone, Hayton, Woodside	27
AB115	End of Union St to the Beach (south), docks, Union Sq	17	AB156	Summerhill, Woodend	9	AB243	Kittybrewster, Sunnybank, Powis (+42 at police station)	9
			AB158	Hazlehead and Kingswells	15			
AB116	Union St and areas south	11	AB159	Cults	3	AB244	Woodside, Hilton	4
AB117	Ferryhill	2	AB165	Cornhill, Cairncry Rd area	11	AB245	King St + east to the Beach (north)	16
AB118	Torry	11	AB166	Mastrick, Sheddocksley	7	AB251	George St and Hutcheon St	11
AB119	Torry	2	AB167	Northfield, Cummings Park	12	AB252	Rosemount, ARI area (incl 9 at hospital)	14
AB123	Tullos	4	AB210	Dyce	4			
AB124	Portlethen	5	AB217	Dyce	2	AB253	Berryden, Froghall, Westburn	11

Map of 2020 Incidents by Postcode Area (5-digit), Grampian
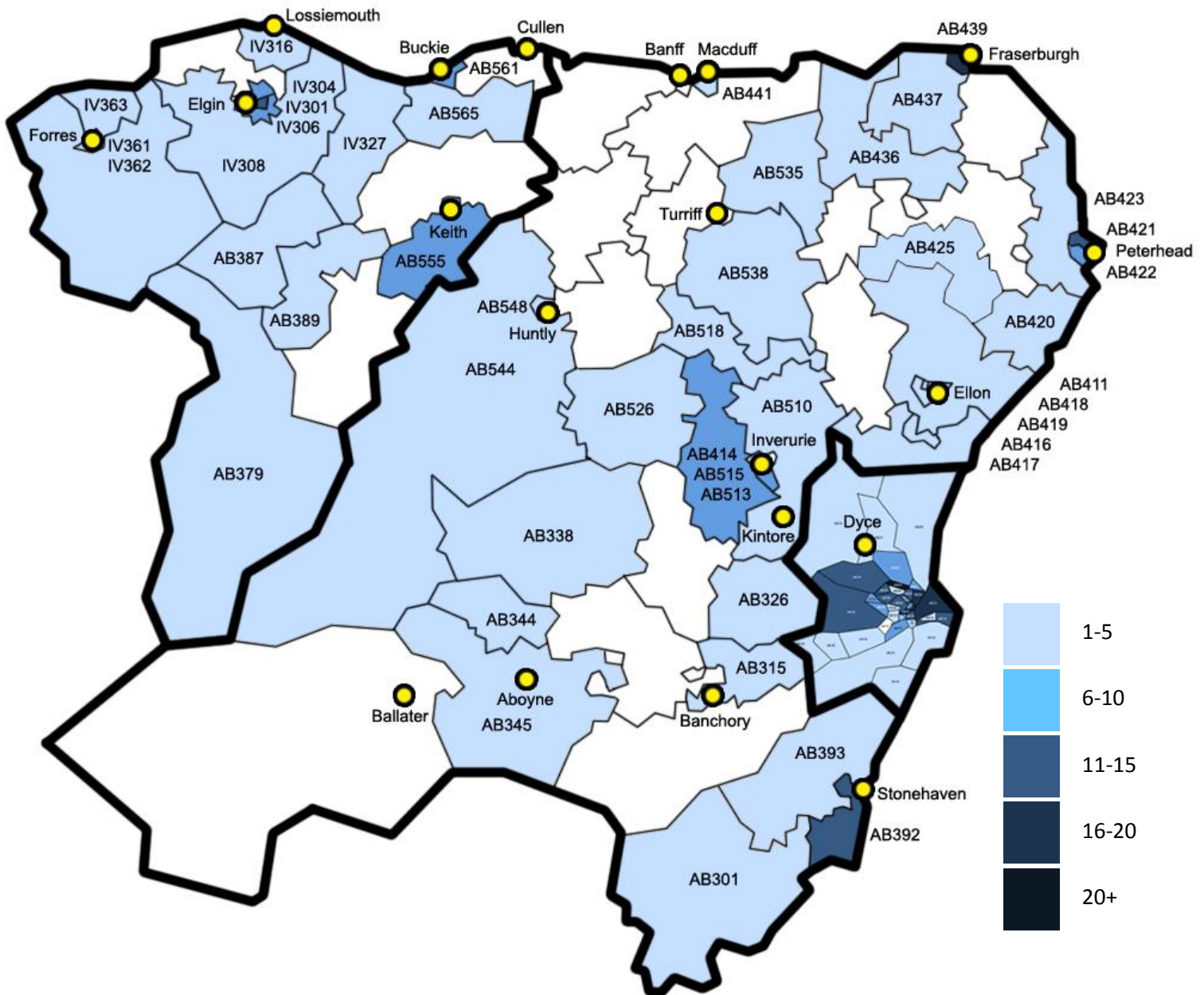
Aberdeenshire

Code	Area	Count
AB301	Laurencekirk	2
AB315	Banchory	4
AB326	Westhill	5
AB338	Alford	2
AB344	Tarland	1
AB345	Aboyne	2
AB392	Stonehaven	11
AB393	Newtonhill	1
AB411	Ellon	1
AB416	Newburgh	2
AB417	Tarves, Pitmedden	2
AB418	Collieston	4
AB419	Ellon	2
AB420	Hatton, Cruden Bay	1
AB421	Peterhead North	14
AB422	Peterhead South	9
AB423	Peterhead outlying areas	2
AB425	Mintlaw, Stuartfield	4
AB436	Strichen	3
AB437	Rosehearty	1
AB439	Fraserburgh	18
AB441	Macduff	4
AB510	Kintore, Oldmeldrum	2
AB513	Inverurie, Port Elphinstone	6
AB514	Inverurie	3
AB515	Kemnay	7
AB518	Rothienorman	3
AB526	Insch	1
AB535	Turriff	1
AB538	Turriff	1
AB544	Huntly	1
AB548	Huntly	3

Moray

Code	Area	Count
AB379	Ballindaloch	2
AB387	Rothes	1
AB389	Aberlour	1
AB555	Keith	10
AB561	Buckie	9
AB565	Portgordon	1
IV301	Elgin	11
IV304	Bishopmill	6
IV306	New Elgin	7
IV308	Elgin	4
IV316	Lossiemouth	5
IV327	Fochabers	1
IV361	Forres	5
IV362	Near Forres	2
IV363	Kinloss	1