

# Hate Crimes Reported in Grampian, 2021

## Introduction

489 hate crimes were reported to police in Grampian in 2021, which is lower than the number reported in 2020 (by 6.5%, or 34 incidents), but higher than in the period between 2015 and 2019.

In a shift from previous overviews, 2021 figures do not include prejudice incidents that were not reported to police. For comparison, the equivalent figures for 2018-20 are shown below. Figures for total incidents in 2016 and 2017 were 346 and 368.

Hate Crimes Reported to Police in Grampian

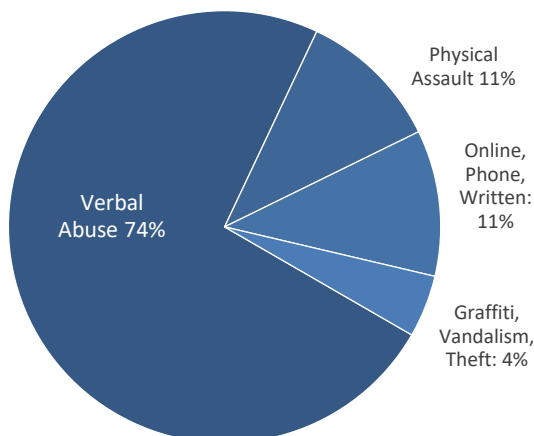
Year	Grampian Total	Aberdeen City	Aberdeen shire	Moray
2021	489*	333	99	54
2020	522*	329	128	65
2019	436*	266	106	57
2018	351	204	87	60

\*For several incidents, locations were unknown or outwith Grampian.

## Type of Incident

Verbal abuse was the most frequently reported type of incident, with 364 recorded in 2021. Physical assault accounted for 53 incidents, including 31 with an element of verbal abuse. There were 54 incidents involving social media, text message or telephone, and 23 instances of theft, vandalism or graffiti (3 with an element of verbal abuse). Due to under-reporting, the actual number of incidents is likely much higher.

Type of Incident



## Type of Incident (continued)

Generally speaking, the proportions of incident types has remained similar over the past several years.

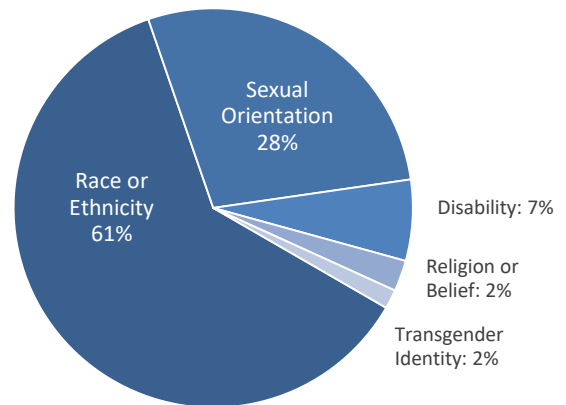
Type of Incident (Number & Proportion of Total)

Year	Verbal Abuse	Physical Assault	Online & Phone	Vandalism & Theft
2021	364 74%	53 11%	54 11%	23 4%
2020	388 74%	64 12%	60 11%	15 3%
2019	302 69%	77 18%	34 8%	22 5%
2018	224 64%	52 15%	31 9%	13 4%

## Motivation for Incident

As shown below, the main motivators for hate crime were racism and homophobia, relating to 318 and 145 incidents, respectively. For both, the figure was slightly lower than in 2020, but higher than in 2019. Additionally, 34 incidents related to disability, 13 to religion or belief, and 8 to transgender identity. In 32 incidents, multiple characteristics were involved, all including race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, or both.

Motivation for Incident



	2021	2020	2019	2018
Race / Ethnicity	318	349	290	243
Sexual Orientation	145	153	102	75
Disability	34	22	13	16
Faith / Religion	13	8	20	21
Transgender Identity	8	7	10	1

In most categories, figures for 2021 were higher than all previous years except 2020. Notably, disability-related incidents have nearly tripled since 2019, and increased by more than 50% since 2020.

## Victim & Perpetrator Characteristics

### Police & Prison Officers

There were 92 incidents where the victim was a police officer, police staff member, or prison guard.

While racist and homophobic abuse is unacceptable in any situation, it is important to consider the power relationship between law enforcement and the individuals and communities they are policing.

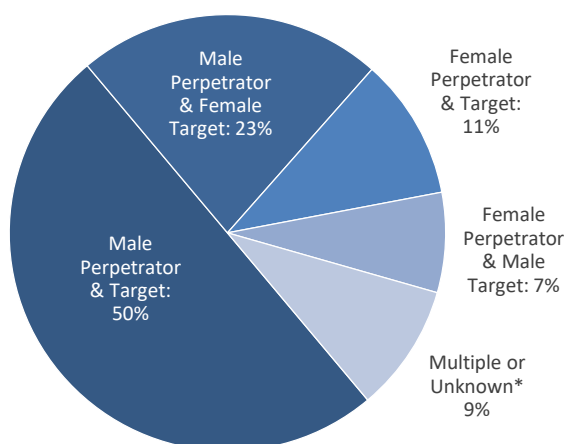
Ultimately, hate crime laws are designed to protect marginalised people from those who seek to harm them. Therefore, some sections below focus on incidents with non-police victims, where excluding police victims helps to clarify the overall picture.

### Gender

Where known and recorded, victims were female in around one-third of incidents (179) and male in two-thirds (304). This includes one trans man and seven trans women and girls, six of whom were aged 14-16.

Meanwhile, 80% of individual perpetrators were male (365) and 20% were female (89). Broadly speaking, the gender ratio of victims, perpetrators, and the dynamics between them has been stable since 2015. Overall, more than two-thirds of female victims were targeted by male perpetrators, and 13% vice-versa.

**Gender Dynamics (all incidents)**



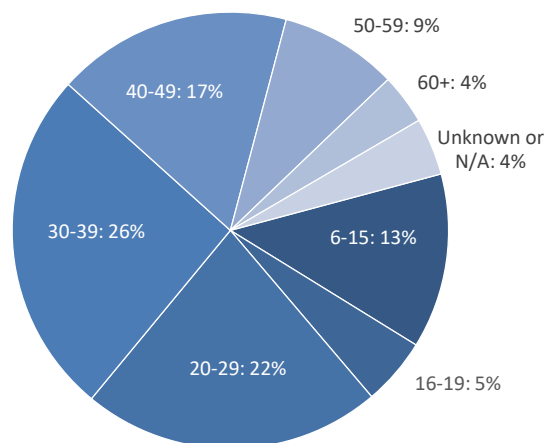
\*Including 25 incidents with perpetrators of unknown gender (17 targeting men and 8 targeting women), 6 where the perpetrators were a mixed-gender group (4 targeting women and 2 targeting men), and 9 incidents targeting mixed gender groups (all perpetrators male).

### Age

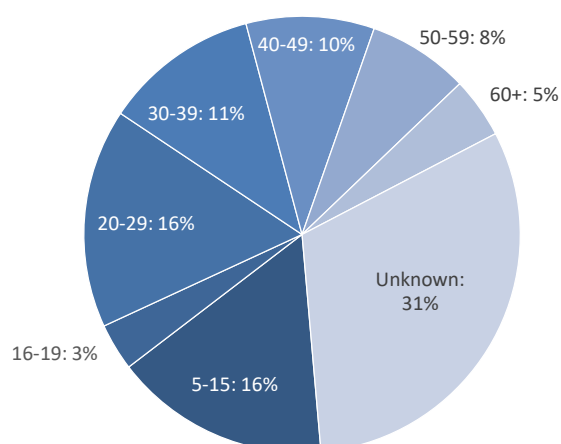
Excluding incidents targeting police and prison staff, victims' and perpetrators' ages are shown below. In around two-thirds (63%) of incidents, victims and perpetrators were similar ages (less than five years apart for under-16s, less than ten years apart for people aged 17-25, and less than 20 years apart for people over age 26).

In 22% of incidents, the perpetrator was considerably younger than the victim, and in 15%, they were considerably older. There were not any notable differences between these three groups, either in terms of motivation or incident type.

**Victim Age (excluding police)**



**Perpetrator Age (excluding police victims)**



Nearly all incidents with victims under age 20 involved perpetrators in a similar age range. However, in seven cases, children aged 10 to 16 were targeted by adults in their late 20s to late 40s, with an age gap between 12 and 38 years, including one racist assault.

## Victim & Perpetrator Characteristics

### Race, Ethnicity & Nationality

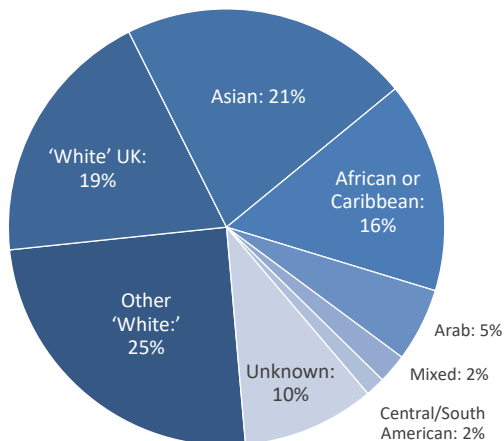
Racially-motivated hate crime can target several aspects of a person's identity. In the Equality Act 2010, 'race' includes a person's skin colour, ethnic origins, and nationality. So, for example, a Polish immigrant and a British citizen with Asian ancestry may both be targeted in racist incidents.

Due to updated police data, 2021 allows consideration these different aspects, both separately and together. As shown below, non-UK citizens were targeted more frequently than UK citizens, and there was roughly an even split between victims from 'White' and other ethnic backgrounds.

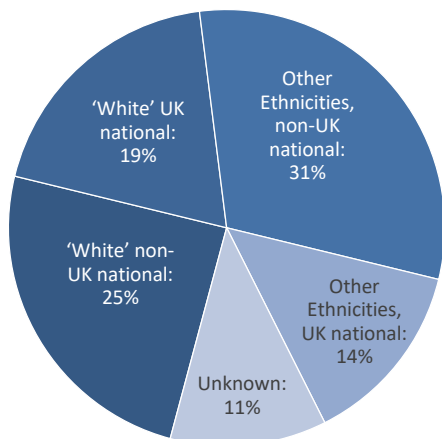
### Victim Ethnicity & Nationality

Excluding police and prison staff, victims' ethnicity and nationality for racist incidents are shown below.

**Victim Ethnicity**  
(racist incidents, excluding police victims, total 280)



**Victim Ethnicity & Nationality**  
(racist incidents, excluding police victims, total 280)



### Victim Ethnicity & Nationality

Ethnicity	Nationality	#	%
'White' (121)	UK	53	19%
	Non-UK	68	24%
Asian (59)	UK	23	8%
	Non-UK	36	12%
African or Caribbean (43)	UK	10	4%
	Non-UK	33	13%
Arab (15)	UK	1	0.3%
	Non-UK	14	5%
Mixed (6)	UK	4	1%
	Non-UK	2	0.7%
Central or South American (4)	Non-UK	4	1%
Unknown (32)	UK	9	3%
	Unknown	23	8%

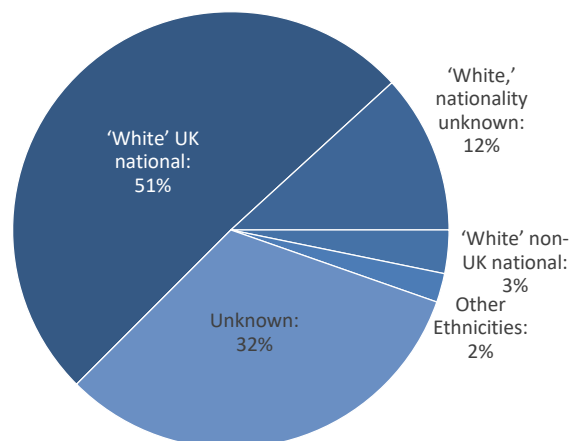
### Perpetrator Ethnicity & Nationality

Excluding incidents targeting police and prison staff, perpetrators' ethnicity and nationality for racist incidents are shown below.

The details for one-third of perpetrators (90) were not identified; nearly all the rest (184) were 'White.' 55 were 'White Scottish,' 87 'White British' or 'White UK,' 9 from other countries, and 33 were simply identified as 'White.'

Proportions were similar for non-racist incidents (113 total), though only one perpetrator was from an ethnic minority background. For incidents targeting police, 4% of perpetrators were ethnic minorities.

**Perpetrator Ethnicity & Nationality**  
(racist incidents, excluding those with police victims, total 280)



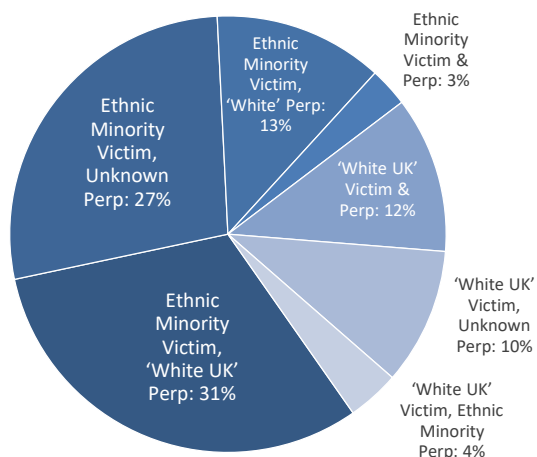
## Victim & Perpetrator Characteristics

### Ethnicity & Nationality Dynamics

As shown below, there were very few incidents where both victim and perpetrator were ethnic minorities (6), or where 'White UK' victims were targeted by ethnic minority perpetrators (8).

Conversely, nearly half of all racist incidents (91) were ethnic minority victims targeted by 'White' or 'White UK' perpetrators. This rises to nearly three-quarters (148), if we assume similar proportions among perpetrators with 'unknown' ethnicity.

**Ethnicity & Nationality Dynamics**  
(racist incidents, excluding those with police victims, total 280)



### Time & Place of Incidents

#### Incident Days & Times

Where known/recorded, the highest concentration of incidents took place on Thursdays (89), Fridays (80) and Saturdays (93), and from noon to 6pm (174) or 6pm to midnight (173). The full range is shown below.

**Incident Days & Times (all incidents)**

	6am to Noon	Noon to 6pm	6pm to Midnight	Midnight to 6am	Total
Monday	10	23	16	4	53
Tuesday	10	22	12	6	50
Wednesday	6	25	21	8	60
Thursday	12	31	36	10	89
Friday	7	25	31	17	80
Saturday	7	24	37	25	93
Sunday	7	24	20	7	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>483</b>

### 'White Scottish/British' Victims of Racism?

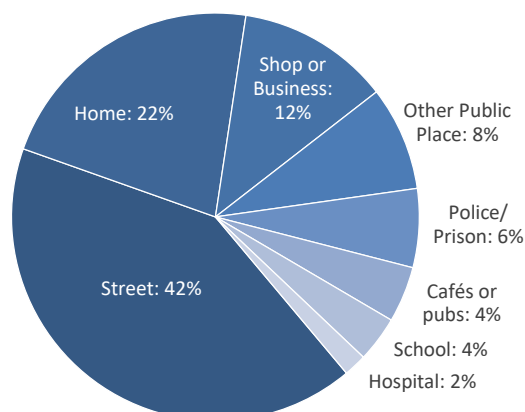
At first glance, it may be surprising that around one in five racist incidents targeted 'White' UK nationals, including 24 where both victim and perpetrator were 'White Scottish' or 'White British' (43 if we include racist incidents targeting police officers or staff). However, there are several points to consider here:

- When police respond to a conflict, a prejudice-related 'aggravation' is recorded if racist language is used (even between people in the same ethnic group). Without context, it is impossible to know how many incidents were part of other conflicts, rather than racism being the main motivation.
- 'White Scottish/British' may include European ethnic minorities with UK citizenship, who are often still perceived as 'outsiders.'
- Anti-English or anti-Scottish sentiment are unlikely to play a major role. For racist incidents with 'White English' victims (8), only two perpetrators were identified as Scottish or Irish. For racist incidents with 'White Scottish' victims (15), only one perpetrator was identified as English.
- In the most serious racist incidents (assaults), 80% of victims were ethnic minorities. Of the six who were not, none were targeted by ethnic minorities.

#### Location Type

Where known/recorded, incidents took place in the types of locations indicated below.

**Location Type (all incidents)**



*Other public places: parks, footpaths, sports facilities, public transport. Prisons or Police Stations/Offices/Vehicles: all victims prison/police officers/staff.*

## Time & Place of Incidents *(continued)*

### Geographic Location

The most common locations for hate crimes were in Aberdeen city centre, and in deprived residential areas throughout Grampian. As can be seen from the maps on the last two pages of this report, nearly all areas had at least one or two incidents. Most areas had a similar number of incidents between 2020 and 2021, with a few exceptions.

### Changes from 2020 to 2021 (increases)

Incidents around Union Street in Aberdeen (AB101 and AB116) increased from 31 in 2020 to 59 in 2021. Northfield & Cummings Park (AB167) increased from 12 to 23; and Elgin (IV301), from 11 to 20. These are all likely related to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions.

### Changes from 2020 to 2021 (decreases)

In Aberdeen City, Torry (AB118) decreased from 11 to 6; Bucksburn (AB219) from 15 to 3; and Hazlehead & Kingswells (AB158) from 15 to 4. In Aberdeenshire and Moray, Peterhead North (AB421) decreased from 14 to 3; Stonehaven (AB392) from 11 to 2; Keith (AB555) from 10 to 5; and Buckie (AB561) from 9 to 3.

### Changes from 2020 to 2021 (police incidents)

During this period, incidents in Kittybrewster/Powis, (AB243) decreased from 51 to 28; incidents with police victims, from 42 to 16. This accounts for most of the reduction of police victims of hate crime between 2020 and 2021 (from 114 to 92).

### Location of Incidents by Postcode Area

Postcode	Aberdeen City	2021	2020	Postcode	Aberdeenshire	2021	2020	Postcode	Moray	2021	2020
AB101	Union St / north	28	20	AB301	Laurencekirk	1	2	AB555	Keith	5	10
AB106	Holburn St, Mannofield	7	9	AB315	Banchory	3	4	AB561	Buckie	3	9
AB107	Garthdee, Ruthrieston	12	9	AB326	Westhill	5	5	AB564	Cullen	1	-
AB115	Union St / east, docks	17	17	AB338	Alford	2	2	AB565	Portgordon	2	1
AB116	Union St / south	31	11	AB345	Aboyne	2	2	IV301	Elgin	20	11
AB117	Ferryhill	1	2	AB392	Stonehaven	2	11	IV304	Bishopmill	2	6
AB118	Torry	6	11	AB393	Newtonhill	2	1	IV306	New Elgin	6	7
AB119	Torry	6	2	AB419	Ellon	3	2	IV308	Elgin	1	4
AB123	Tullos	9	4	AB420	Hatton, Cruden Bay	1	1	IV316	Lossiemouth	4	5
AB124	Portlethen	4	5	AB421	Peterhead North	3	14	IV327	Fochabers	2	1
AB125	Kincorth	8	5	AB422	Peterhead South	10	9	IV361	Forres	6	5
AB154	Rubislaw	3	4	AB424	Mintlaw	1	-	IV362	Near Forres	2	2
AB155	Midsocket	1	1	AB425	Mintlaw, Stuartfield	1	4	DD100	Inverbervie	2	-
AB156	Summerhill, Woodend	3	9	AB436	Strichen	3	3				
AB157	Broomhill	1	-	AB437	Rosehearty	3	1				
AB158	Hazlehead, Kingswells	4	15	AB439	Fraserburgh	18	18				
AB159	Cults	2	3	AB441	Macduff	6	4				
AB165	Cornhill, Cairncry Rd	12	11	AB451	Banff	4	-				
AB166	Mastrick, Sheddocksley	10	7	AB452	Portsoy	1	-				
AB167	Northfield, Cummings Pk	23	12	AB453	Banff outlying areas	1	-				
AB210	Dyce	6	4	AB510	Kintore, Oldmeldrum	4	2				
AB217	Dyce	5	2	AB513	Inverurie, Pt Elphinstone	6	6				
AB219	Bucksburn	3	15	AB514	Inverurie	3	3				
AB228	Bridge of Don	6	10	AB515	Kemnay	1	7				
AB238	Bridge of Don	3	2	AB518	Rothienorman	1	3				
AB241	Seaton, Aberdeen Uni	9	9	AB526	Insch	1	1				
AB242	Tillydrone, Woodside	22	27	AB534	Turriff	2	-				
AB243	Kittybrewster, Powis*	28	51	AB535	Turriff	1	1				
AB244	Woodside, Hilton	5	4	AB537	Turriff	1	-				
AB245	King St / east to Beach	20	16	AB544	Huntly	2	1				
AB251	George St, Hutcheon St	16	11	AB547	Aberchirder	3	-				
AB252	Rosemount, ARI area**	19	14								
AB253	Froghall, Westburn	5	11								

\* Including 42 incidents at Kittybrewster police station in 2020, 16 in 2021.

\*\* Including 9 incidents at ARI in 2020, 8 in 2021.

#### Areas with incidents in 2020 but not 2021:

AB344	Tarland	-	1
AB411	Ellon	-	1
AB416	Newburgh	-	2
AB417	Tarves, Pitmedden	-	2
AB418	Collieston	-	4
AB423	Peterhead outlying areas	-	2
AB548	Huntly	-	3
AB379	Ballinalloch	-	2
AB387	Rothies	-	1
AB389	Aberlour	-	1
IV363	Kinloss	-	1

## Time & Place of Incidents

Map of 2021 Incidents by Postcode Area, Aberdeen City

