

Hate Crimes Reported in Grampian, 2023

Introduction

476* hate crimes were reported to police in Grampian in 2023, following a generally increasing trend. For comparison, figures for 2018-2023 are shown below.

Hate Crimes Reported to Police in Grampian

Year	Grampian Total	Aberdeen City	Aberdeen shire	Moray
2023	476	316	102	55
2022	452	297	89	66
2021	475	320	96	55
2020	444	279	105	59
2019	403	247	98	55
2018	318	180	80	57

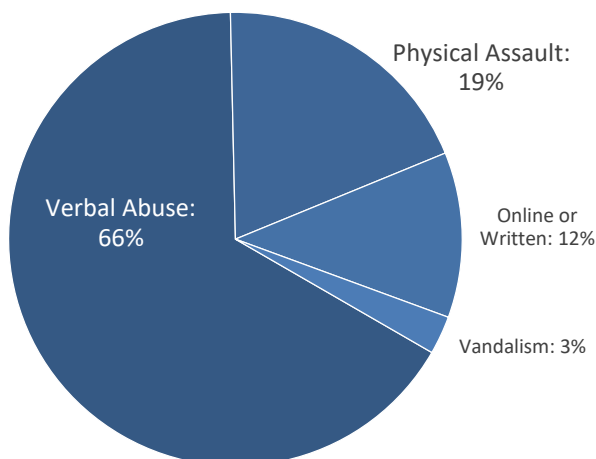
For several incidents, locations were unknown or outwith Grampian.

* Including 8 incidents reported in 2023 that took place earlier.

Type of Incident

Verbal abuse was the most frequently reported type of incident, with 315 recorded in 2023. Physical assault accounted for 92 incidents, including 68 with an element of verbal abuse, and one each with vandalism and sexual assault. 56 additional incidents were based on social media or other written communications, and there were 13 instances of vandalism (2 with verbal abuse). Due to under-reporting, the actual number of incidents is likely much higher.

Type of Incident



Most assaults included an element of verbal abuse, so these have not been counted separately in the chart above.

Type of Incident (continued)

Generally speaking, the proportions of incident types has remained similar over the past several years, though 2023 saw an increase in assaults relative to verbal abuse.

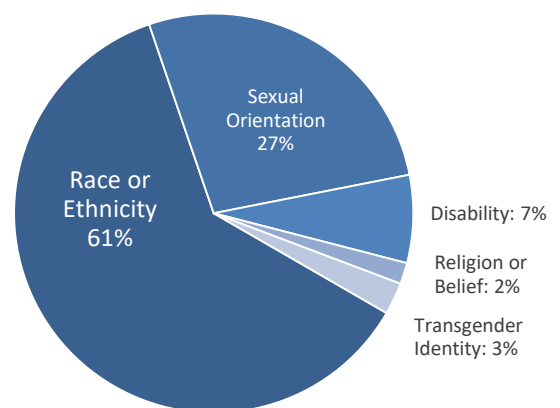
Type of Incident (Number & Proportion of Total)

Year	Verbal Abuse	Physical Assault	Online/ Phone	Vandalism etc.
2023	315	92	56	13
2022	329	68	46	11
2021	352	50	51	23
2020	327	56	50	13
2019	286	66	34	18
2018	222	52	31	13

Motivation for Incident

As shown below, the main motivators for hate crime were racism and homophobia, relating to 285 and 126 incidents, respectively. Another 33 related to disability, 8 to religion or belief, and 12 to transgender identity. In 26 incidents, multiple characteristics were targeted, all but one including race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, or both.* These figures are similar to previous years.

Motivation for Incident



	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Race / Ethnicity	285	270	308	300	263
Sexual Orientation	126	171	145	126	101
Disability	33	18	34	18	12
Faith / Religion	8	11	13	8	21
Transgender	12	9	7	8	9

* Nearly all incidents where multiple characteristics were targeted occurred in relation to police, likely due to 'scattershot' use of slurs rather than targeting a specific officer because of their characteristics.

Victim & Perpetrator Characteristics

Police Officers & Staff

In one quarter of incidents (119), the victim was a police officer. While racist and homophobic abuse are always unacceptable, it is important to consider the power relationship between law enforcement and those they are policing.

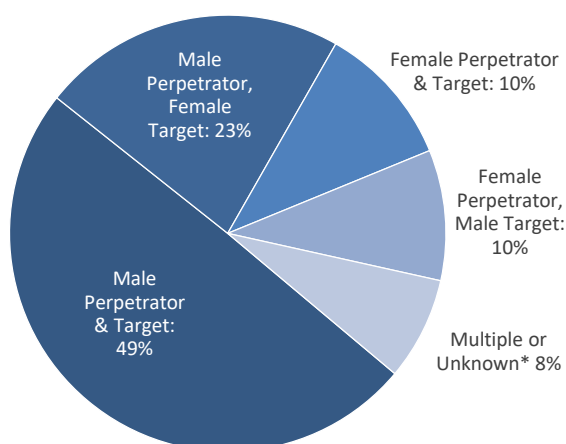
Ultimately, hate crime laws are designed to protect marginalised people from those who seek to harm them. Therefore, some sections below focus on incidents with non-police victims, where excluding police victims helps to clarify the overall picture.

Gender

Where known and recorded, just over one-third of victims were female (138) and just under two-thirds were male (368).^{*} This included one trans man and ten trans women and girls.

More than three-quarters of individual perpetrators were male (337) and less than a quarter were female (76). Broadly speaking, the gender ratio of victims, perpetrators, and the dynamics between them has been stable since 2015. Overall, 62% of female victims were targeted by male perpetrators, and 16% vice-versa. These proportions were similar whether police victims were included or excluded.

Gender Dynamics (all incidents)



**Including 18 incidents with perpetrators of unknown gender (10 targeting women, 7 targeting men, 1 targeting both), 4 incidents with both male and female perpetrators, and 6 incidents targeting both men and women.*

^{*} Some incidents had multiple victims, or no identifiable target (e.g. graffiti), and some had multiple perpetrators. In total, there were 368 individual victims, and 337 individual perpetrators identified.

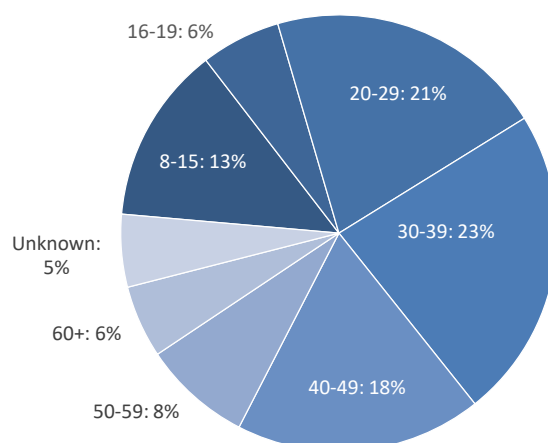
Age

Excluding incidents targeting police, victims' and perpetrators' ages (where known) are shown below. In around half of incidents, victims and perpetrators were similar ages (less than ten years apart, or five years for under-16s).

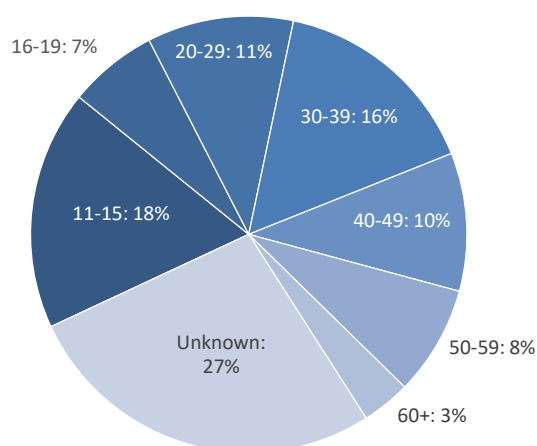
In 25% of incidents, the perpetrator was considerably younger than the victim, and in 21%, they were considerably older. There were not any notable differences between these three groups, either in terms of motivation or incident type.

Nearly all incidents with victims under age 20 involved perpetrators in a similar age range. However, in five cases, children aged 11 to 15 were targeted by adults in their 30s to 60s, including one assault.

Victim Age (excluding police)



Perpetrator Age (excluding police victims)



Victim & Perpetrator Characteristics

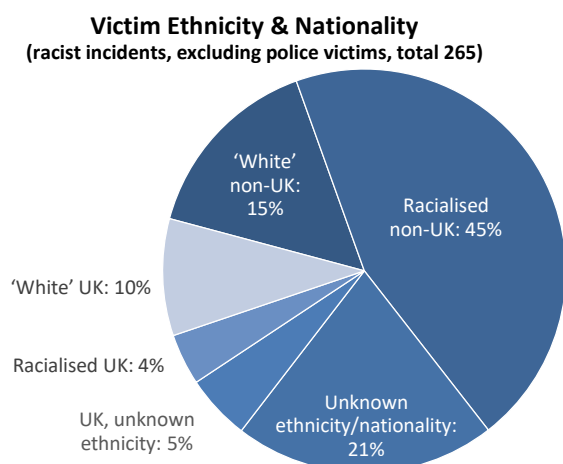
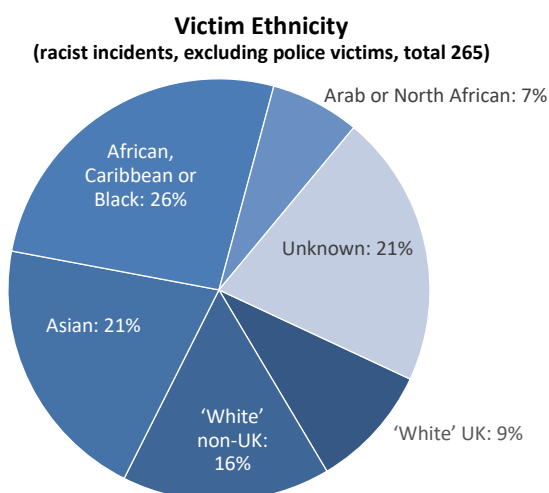
Race, Ethnicity & Nationality

Racially-motivated hate crime can target several aspects of a person's identity. Hate crime laws define 'race' as including 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, and both would be considered ethnic minorities. In total there 252 racist incidents were reported in 2023, with 265 victims.

As shown below, three times more non-UK nationals were targeted than UK nationals (161 vs 50), although ethnicity/nationality data were not available for more than a fifth of victims (55). Where ethnicity was recorded (210), two-thirds of victims (131) were from racialised (non-'White') ethnic backgrounds.

Victim Ethnicity & Nationality

Excluding police, victims' ethnicity and nationality in racist incidents are shown below.

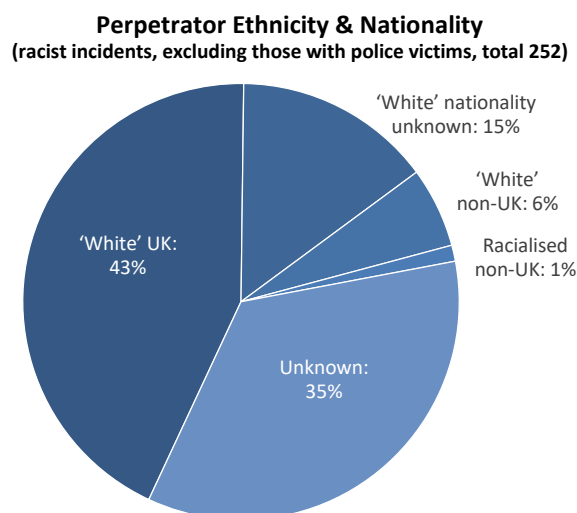


Victim Ethnicity & Nationality
(racist incidents, excluding police victims, total 265)

Ethnicity	Nationality	#	%	% of total
'White' (71)	UK	25	35%	9%
	Non-UK	41	57%	16%
	Unknown	5	7%	2%
Asian (54)	UK	4	7%	2%
	Non-UK	44	81%	17%
	Unknown	6	11%	2%
African, Caribbean or Black (69)	UK	7	10%	3%
	Non-UK	58	84%	22%
	Unknown	4	6%	2%
Arab or North African (18)	Non-UK	18	-	7%
Unknown (55)	UK	14	25%	5%
	Unknown	41	75%	15%

Perpetrator Ethnicity & Nationality

Excluding incidents targeting police, perpetrators' ethnicity and nationality in racist incidents are shown below. The details for one-third of perpetrators (88) were not identified; nearly all the rest (161) were 'White' – 37 with no nationality listed, 84 'White' Scottish, and 27 'White' British/English. 15 were from other countries, and alongside racialised perpetrators (3), nearly all targeted other ethnic minorities.



Proportions were similar for non-racist incidents (105 total), with one racialised and nine 'White' non-UK perpetrators. For incidents targeting police (119 total), nearly all perpetrators were 'White' – 72 UK nationals, 7 non-UK nationals, and 19 unknown nationality. 16 perpetrators were unknown ethnicity/nationality and 3 were racialised non-UK nationals.

Victim & Perpetrator Characteristics

Ethnicity & Nationality Dynamics

As shown below, there were very few incidents where both victim and perpetrator were ethnic minorities (14), or where 'White UK' victims were targeted by ethnic minority perpetrators (3).

Conversely, almost half of all ethnic minority victims involved in racist incidents (113) were targeted by 'White' or 'White UK' perpetrators.

Ethnicity & Nationality Dynamics (racist incidents, excluding those with police victims, total 265)					
Perpetrator					
Victim		Ethnic Minority	‘White’ UK	‘White’ (nationality unknown)	Unknown
	Ethnic Minority	14	83	30	50
		5%	31%	11%	19%
	‘White’ UK	3	9	4	6
		1%	3%	2%	2%
	‘White’ (nationality unknown)	-	-	-	3
					1%
	Unknown	4	25	3	31
	2%	9%	1%	12%	
‘Ethnic minority’ includes racialised UK and non-UK nationals, and ‘White’ non-UK nationals.					

Time & Place of Incidents

Incident Days & Times

Where known/recorded, the highest concentration of incidents took place on Saturdays (75) and Sundays (77), and during afternoons (156) and evenings (172). The full range is shown below, with a clear increase on Friday and Saturday afternoons, evenings and late nights (e.g. midnight to 6am Saturday and Sunday).

Incident Days & Times (all incidents)*					
	Midnight to 6am	6am to Noon	Noon to 6pm	6pm to Midnight	Total
Monday	3	9	19	20	51
Tuesday	7	12	22	26	67
Wednesday	18	13	36	20	87
Thursday	3	10	15	18	46
Friday	7	12	21	31	71
Saturday	8	13	23	31	75
Sunday	24	7	20	26	77
Total	70	76	156	172	474

**two incidents took place over several weeks, so are not included here.*

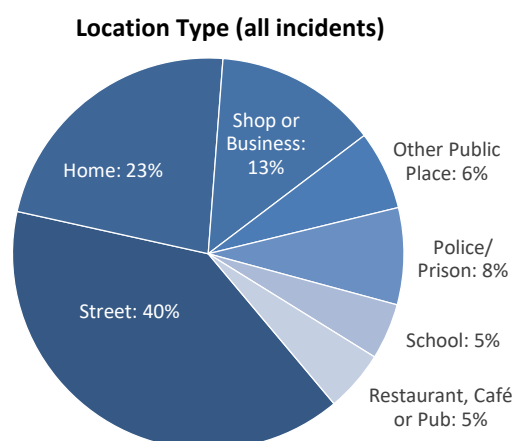
'White Scottish/British' Victims of Racism?

At first glance, it may be surprising that almost 10% of racist incidents targeted 'White' UK nationals, including 9 where both victim and perpetrator were 'White Scottish' or 'White British' (14 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.
- In incidents with multiple victims, one person may be 'White British,' with racist abuse directed at their ethnic minority partner, child, friend or colleague.
- In the most serious racist incidents (assaults), only 3% of victims were 'White Scottish/British.'

Location Type

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



Home includes gardens and shared spaces like stairwells and hallways. Other public places include parks, public transport, hospitals and one church. Prisons or Police Stations: all but 7 victims police officers/staff.

For assaults, most took place on the street (47) or at home (14). The rest took place in shops, pubs, or other public places (23), schools (5), or in police custody (3).

Time & Place of Incidents

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 below, nearly all areas had at least one or two incidents. Most areas had similar numbers of incidents in 2022 and 2023, with a few exceptions.

While the number of incidents to the east and north of Union Street (AB1101 and AB115) remained high (26 and 30 in 2023), those south of Union Street (AB116) decreased from 32 to 21.

Two key areas outside of Aberdeen City Centre also saw decreases: Northfield/Cummings Park (AB167) from 22 to 12 and Mastrick/Sheddocksley (AB166) from 10 to 4. Notable increases during this period included Bucksburn (AB219) from 5 to 14, and George Street/ Hutcheon Street (AB251) from 7 to 15.

Outside of Aberdeen City, incidents in Ellon (AB419) decreased from 9 to 3, and in Buckie (AB561) from 10 to 3. In Stonehaven (AB392) incidents increased from 2 to 8.

Location of Incidents by Postcode Area*

Postcode	Aberdeen City	2022	2023	Postcode	Aberdeenshire	2022	2023	Postcode	Moray	2022	2023
AB101	Union St / north	24	26	AB301	Laurencekirk	3	4	AB555	Keith	9	4
AB106	Holburn St, Mannofield	3	2	AB314	Torphins	1	1	AB561	Buckie	10	3
AB107	Garthdee, Ruthrieston	6	11	AB315	Banchory	1	2	AB564	Cullen	-	2
AB115	Union St / east, docks	26	30	AB344	Tarland	-	2	AB565	Portgordon	1	1
AB116	Union St / south	32	21	AB345	Aboyne	1	2	IV301	Elgin*	12	14
AB117	Ferryhill	1	1	AB368	Strathdon	-	1	IV304	Bishopmill	3	5
AB118	Torry	3	10	AB387	Rothies	1	1	IV305	Lossiemouth	4	1
AB119	Torry	8	4	AB392	Stonehaven	2	8	IV306	New Elgin	11	9
AB123	Tullos	7	10	AB418	Collieston	2	2	IV308	Elgin	1	1
AB124	Portlethen	5	4	AB419	Ellon	9	3	IV316	Lossiemouth	2	4
AB125	Kincorth	3	1	AB421	Peterhead North	7	8	IV327	Fochabers	2	6
AB140	Peterculter	-	3	AB422	Peterhead South*	4	8	IV361	Forres	6	4
AB154	Rubislaw	-	2	AB423	Peterhead outlying areas	5	2	IV362	Near Forres	-	1
AB155	Midstocket	1	2	AB425	Mintlaw, Stuartfield	-	2				
AB156	Summerhill, Woodend	5	7	AB436	Strichen	-	1				
AB158	Hazlehead, Kingswells	2	3	AB439	Fraserburgh	16	17				
AB159	Cults	2	1	AB441	Macduff	1	2				
AB165	Cornhill, Cairncry Rd	12	9	AB451	Banff	3	4				
AB166	Mastrick, Sheddocksley	10	4	AB452	Portsoy	-	3				
AB167	Northfield, Cummings Pk	22	12	AB510	Kintore, Oldmeldrum	1	5				
AB210	Dyce	2	1	AB511	Inverurie	-	1				
AB217	Dyce	5	5	AB513	Inverurie, Pt Elphinstone	4	8				
AB219	Bucksburn	5	14	AB514	Inverurie	3	2				
AB228	Bridge of Don	12	7	AB515	Kemnay	4	5				
AB238	Bridge of Don	4	4	AB518	Rothienorman	-	1				
AB241	Seaton, Aberdeen Uni	9	11	AB534	Turriff	-	1				
AB242	Tillydrone, Woodside	9	11	AB538	Fyvie	-	1				
AB243	Kittybrewster, Powis*	34	35	AB544	Huntly	-	1				
AB244	Woodside, Hilton	5	5	AB546	Huntly	-	1				
AB245	King St / east to Beach	13	19	AB548	Huntly	3	2				
AB251	George St, Hutcheon St	7	15								
AB252	Rosemount, ARI area*	8	13								
AB253	Frogghall, Westburn	4	8								

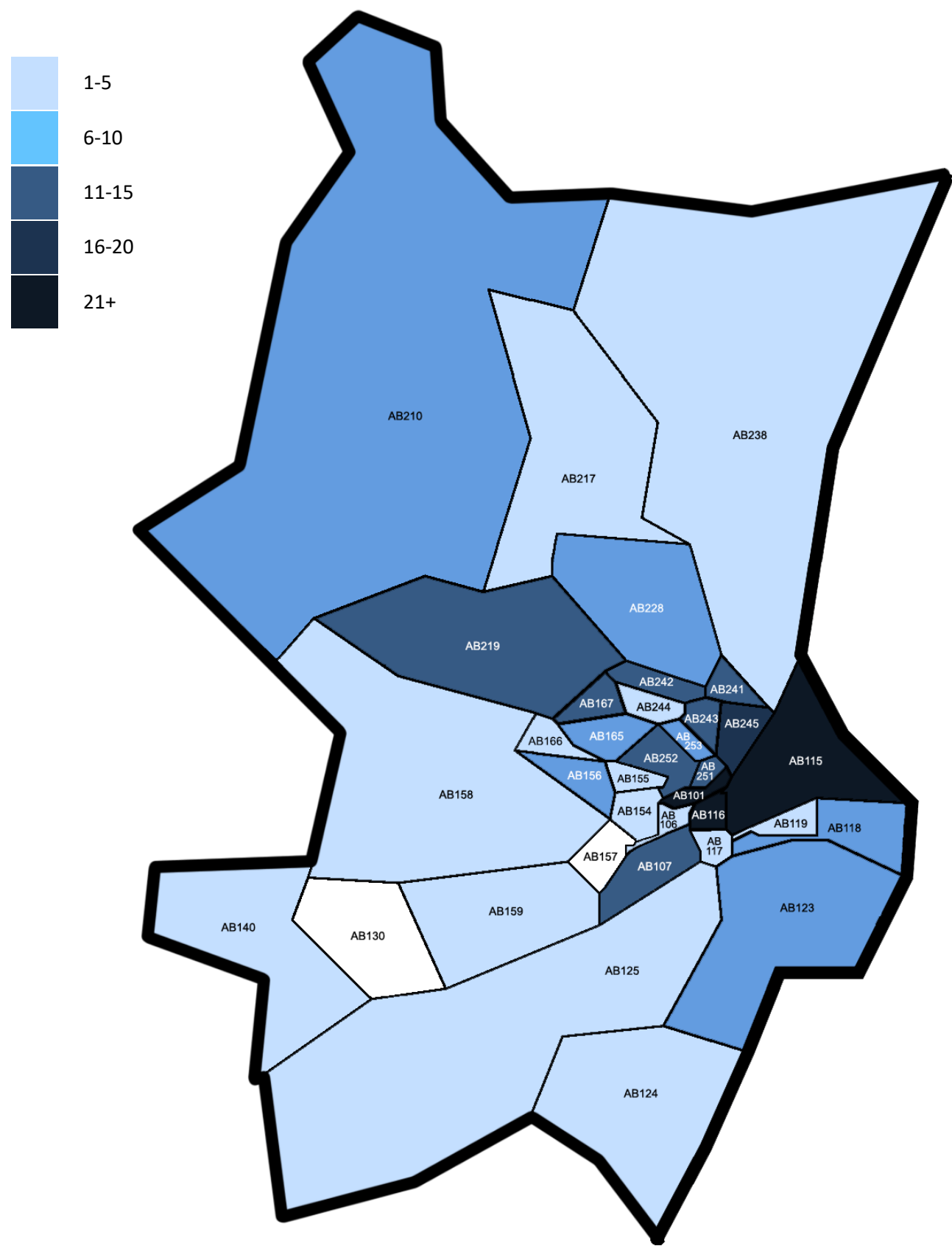
* Five incidents were associated with incomplete postcodes or postcodes containing typos. One incident did not include a postcode.

Areas with incidents in 2022 but not 2023:

Postcode	Area	2022	2023
AB157	Broomhill	2	-
AB326	Westhill	2	-
AB338	Alford	2	-
AB355	Ballater	1	-
AB416	Newburgh	1	-
AB420	Hatton, Cruden Bay	1	-
AB517	Monymusk, Sauchen	1	-
AB535	Turriff	2	-
AB547	Aberchirder	1	-
AB554	Dufftown	1	-
IV363	Kinloss	1	-

* AB243 included 25 incidents at Kittybrewster Police Station in 2023, 24 in 2022. AB252 included 8 incidents at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary in 2023, 4 in 2022. AB422 included 5 incidents at Peterhead Prison in 2023, 3 in 2022. IV301 included 4 incident at Elgin Police station in 2023, 1 in 2022.

Map of 2023 Incidents by Postcode Area, Aberdeen City



Map of 2023 Incidents by Postcode Area (5-digit), Grampian

