

Criminal Justice

Between 2000/01 and 2004/05, the number of racial incidents reported to the police in Scotland increased from 1036 to 3856...



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Experiences and perceptions of crime: The Scottish Crime Survey 2000 contained an BME booster sample to survey BME individuals' attitudes to crime. While this sample was relatively small (424 people) and perhaps not representative (tending to be younger and from higher socio-economic backgrounds than the White sample), some of its findings were interesting and informative.

- BME respondents had a higher risk of household victimisation, and a greater risk of multiple victimisations.

Risks of Victimisation in Scotland, 1999

	BME	White Sample
Household Offences (% of Households)	%	%
Vandalism	13.4	6.0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	5.7	2.7
Housebreaking	4.2	3.2
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1.4	0.8
Theft of Bicycle	0.5	0.8
Theft in Dwelling	0.5	0.6
Other Household Theft	4.2	3.6
All Household Offences	25.2	15.4
Personal Offences (% of Individuals)		
Assault	2.0	2.6
Theft from Person	0.7	0.4
Robbery	0.3	0.3
Other Personal Theft	2.4	2.0
All Personal Offences	4.5	4.8
Motor Vehicle Related Offences (% Of Vehicle Owners)		
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1.6	1.2
Theft from Motor Vehicle	6.4	4.4
Bicycle Related Offences (% Of Bicycle Owners)		
Theft of Bicycle	1.0	2.0

[Source: Scottish Crime Survey 2000, Ethnic Minority Booster Sample]



- 25% of incidents against ethnic minorities were considered by the victim to be ethnically motivated.
- BME respondents were less likely to know at least one of their offenders, and more likely to be victims of groups of three or more offenders.
- BME respondents were more inclined to regard household offences committed against them more seriously than did White victims, and more likely to be affected emotionally, and for a longer period.
- They were also more likely to have requested or to have been offered help. However, White victims having been in touch with Victim Support generally found the service to be useful, while ethnic minorities tended to find the service unhelpful.
- BME respondents were, naturally, significantly more likely than Whites to be concerned about racial attacks; they are also more likely to be concerned about vehicle-related crime. However, BME people were less likely to worry that their children would suffer assault (sexual or otherwise) or get into trouble with the police.

Concerns about being a Victim of Crime

Type of Crime	% 'Very' or 'Fairly' Worried				
	Pakistani	Chinese	Indian	All BME	White Sample
Having their Car Damaged by Vandals	55	54	51	51	37
Having Things Stolen from their Car	53	48	46	48	32
Having Home Broken Into	53	44	50	48	45
Having House Damaged by Vandals	43	37	34	39	37
Being Mugged and Robbed	39	35	37	37	35
Being Attacked Due to Colour/Race	39	26	36	34	7
Having their Car Stolen	36	35	42	36	31
Being Physically Assaulted in Street	31	28	32	30	32
Being Sexually Assaulted or Raped	28	26	19	25	25

[Source: Scottish Crime Survey 2000, Ethnic Minority Booster Sample]

- Ethnic minorities were significantly more likely than Whites to use risk avoidance strategies, such as avoiding certain people, making special transport arrangements, etc.
- BME victims of crime were less likely than White victims to report incidents to the police; they were more likely to report vehicle theft and housebreaking, but less likely to report vandalism, assault, robbery and theft from the person.
- However, regarding household incidents, BME victims consistently expressed higher levels of satisfaction towards the police than did White victims.

Victims' Reasons for Contacting the Police

Reason	Household Incidents		Personal Incidents	
	BME Sample	White Sample	BME Sample	White Sample
	%	%	%	%
All Crimes Should be Reported	61	53	47	37
So That Offenders Would be Caught	40	45	55	28
Serious, Major or Upsetting Crime	31	17	55	28
In Hope of Avoiding a Repetition of Incident	28	28	44	42
In Hope of Recovering Property	28	28	18	14
For Purposes of Insurance Claim	26	25	6	5

Victims' reasons for not contacting the police

Reason	Household Incidents		Personal Incidents	
	Bme Sample	White Sample	Bme Sample	White Sample
	%	%	%	%
Police Could Have Done Nothing	56	37	19	16
Too Trivial	37	38	62	26
Police Would Not Have Been Interested	30	26	12	27
Inconvenient or Too Much Trouble	17	7	4	2
Victim Dealt with Matter	12	11	5	21
Fear of Reprisals	5	1	0	6
Private, Personal or Family Matter	2	4	2	10

[Source: Scottish Crime Survey 2000, Ethnic Minority Booster Sample]



Victims' Assessment of the Police Response to Household Incidents

Assessment	% 'as much as you thought they should'	
	Ethnic Minorities	White Sample
How much interest did the police show?	83 (n=57)	67 (n=350)
How much effort did the police use?	73 (n=48)	64 (n=329)
	% 'very' or 'fairly' polite	
	Ethnic Minorities	White Sample
How polite were the police?	97 (n=66)	92 (n=453)
	% 'Very' Or 'Fairly' Satisfied	
	Ethnic Minorities	White Sample
Were you satisfied or dissatisfied?	76 (n=55)	74 (n=372)
	% 'More Favourable' - 'Less Favourable'	
	Ethnic Minorities	White Sample
Did this make you more or less favourable towards police?	+15 (n=21)	+9 (n=112)

- BME respondents claimed to have less knowledge of drugs than White respondents, and were more likely to see drug-taking behaviour as risky.

[Source: Scottish Crime Survey 2000, Ethnic Minority Booster Sample]

Feelings of safety: The NHS Greater Glasgow BME Health and Wellbeing Survey asked respondents about their feelings of safety.

- Respondents from Indian, Pakistani and African and Caribbean backgrounds were more likely than respondents from White and Chinese backgrounds to feel safe using public transport.
- Respondents from Indian and Pakistani backgrounds, and the general population were more likely to feel safe walking after dark than respondents from African and Caribbean backgrounds.
- Respondents from African and Caribbean backgrounds were also less likely to feel safe in their own home than respondents from Pakistani and Indian backgrounds.

[Source: NHS Greater Glasgow BME Health and Wellbeing Summary 2005]

Racial incidents:

- The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service received 4346 reports of charges of race crimes from the police in the year 2006-07. 64% of these related to racially aggravated harassment and behaviour, and 36% related to another offence with racial aggravation. In 87% of the charges, proceedings were taken, and a further 9% were dealt with by an alternative direct measure. These show an increase of 1.5% on the number of charges reported in 2005-06.

[Source: Procurator Fiscal statistics 2007]

- Between 2000/01 and 2004/05, the number of racial incidents reported to the police in Scotland increased from 1036 to 3856, representing an increase of 372%. These changes varied significantly by region, from an increase from 132 to 256 in Fife (194%) to an increase from 4 to 37 in Dumfries and Galloway (925%).



Racial Incidents by Police Region		Central	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Lothian & Border	Northern	Strathclyde	Tayside	Scotland
2000/01	Racially Aggravated Conduct	53	2	119	-	39	11	496	86	806
	Racially Aggravated Harassment	9	2	13	-	4	16	135	51	230
Total		62	4	132	-	43	27	631	137	1,036
2001/02	Racially Aggravated Conduct	127	18	139	-	106	34	840	89	1,353
	Racially Aggravated Harassment	9	6	14	-	24	28	236	29	346
Total		136	24	153	-	130	62	1076	118	1,699
2002/03	Racially Aggravated Conduct	184	23	179	287	153	29	1,026	317	2,198
	Racially Aggravated Harassment	12	4	9	11	13	29	336	61	475
Total		196	27	188	298	166	58	1362	378	2,673
2003/04	Racially Aggravated Conduct	252	23	232	258	270	47	1,181	402	2,665
	Racially Aggravated Harassment	12	4	12	7	32	10	307	48	432
Total		264	27	244	265	302	57	1488	450	3,097
2004/05	Racially Aggravated Conduct	331	33	253	386	338	77	1,417	489	3,306
	Racially Aggravated Harassment	22	4	12	16	20	15	422	39	550
Total		353	37	265	384	358	92	1839	528	3,856

[Source: HMIC data, <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/04/25104019/25>]

- The number of racial incidents reported to Strathclyde Police increased from 271 in 2000 to 1970 in 2007. This represents an increase of 727% in crimes reporting, which may reflect an increase in racial incidents, an increase in willingness to report, or a combination of factors.

Racial Incidents Reported to Strathclyde Police

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
271	631	1080	1371	1480	1833	1973	1970

- There is evidence that racial incidents are still significantly under-reported in Scotland. A recent piece of research conducted by Glasgow Caledonian University, commissioned by Lothian and Borders and Strathclyde police forces, looking into the perceptions of BME young people of policing, found that, while BME young people often had positive views of individual police officers, they felt that the police as a whole were racist and not to be trusted. Very few of the BME young people surveyed said that they would report a racist incident to the police, with many saying that they would not even contact the police if they were a victim of or a witness to a serious incident.
- The number of racial incidents reported to Strathclyde Police increased from 271 in 2000 to 1970 in 2007. This represents an increase of 727% in crime reporting, which may reflect an increase in racial incidents, an increase in willingness to report, or a combination of factors.

Prison population: As of June 2005, people from BME groups accounted for 2.46% of the Scottish prison population, a percentage relatively similar to the proportion of the adult population as a whole. The largest BME group was Pakistani (0.61% of total prison population) and the smallest was Bangladeshi (0.03% of the total prison population).

Scottish Prison Population by Ethnic Group					
Ethnic Group	Scottish Prison Population				
	Percentage				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
White	97.88	98.41	98.24	96.93	97.54
Black Carribean	0.21	0.21	0.31	0.34	0.36
Black-African	0.37	0.09	0.09	0.20	0.27
Black-Other	0.21	0.23	0.20	0.24	0.33
Indian	0.22	0.15	0.15	0.11	0.16
Pakistani	0.43	0.47	0.57	0.76	0.61
Bangladeshi	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.03
Chinese	0.16	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.15
Other Asian	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.04
Mixed Other	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.04
Other Ethnic Group	0.50	0.40	0.37	0.45	0.47
Unknown	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.88	n/a
All Ethnic Groups	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
All Minority Ethnic Groups	2.12	1.59	1.76	2.20	2.46

Notes: 1. A new prisoner records system was introduced in 2004 resulting in a number of prisoners with an 'Unknown' ethnicity in 2004

[Source: Prison Statistics Scotland, 2005-06
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/08/18103613/0>]

BME Police Staff: For information on BME police staffing, please see the employment chapter.



Community Penalties by ethnicity; The following table gives a breakdown of community penalties in Scotland by ethnicity, mainly derived from Local Authority Social Work management information systems.

Number of Reports/Orders by Ethnic Group

Number	2004-05					2005-06 (4,5)					2006-07 (6)				
	SER's (1)	CSO's (2)	PO's (2)	SAO's	DTTO's	SER's (1)	CSO's (2)	PO's (2)	SAO's	DTTO's	SER's (1)	CSO's (2)	PO's (2)	SAO's	DTTO's
White	28,195	6,752	7,047	2,990	385	27,610	6,881	6,754	3,423	404	28,361	6,690	7,042	2,688	587
Asian	209	73	61	10	-	242	71	56	13	-	286	66	59	17	-
Black	79	93	15	-	-	86	29	27	11	-	143	37	28	6	2
Mixed	94	19	100	4	1	84	23	21	3	4	111	23	22	2	6
Other	310	102	74	15	-	566	72	48	8	-	259	48	40	9	1
Unknown	5,414	1,291	1,168	341	163	2,791	764	821	312	84	5,341	752	870	233	88
Information not provided (3)	-	-	-	-	-	2,963	779	675	79	107	1,064	820	343	92	12
Total	34,301	8,330	8,465	3,360	549	35,342	8,619	8,402	3,849	599	35,565	8,436	8,404	3,047	696

Percentage of Reports/Orders by Ethnic Group

Percent	2004-05					2005-06 (4,5)					2006-07 (6)				
	SER's (1)	CSO's (2)	PO's (2)	SAO's	DTTO's	SER's (1)	CSO's (2)	PO's (2)	SAO's	DTTO's	SER's (1)	CSO's (2)	PO's (2)	SAO's	DTTO's
White	82.2	81.1	83.2	89.0	70.1	78.1	79.8	80.4	88.9	67.4	79.7	79.3	83.8	88.2	84.3
Asian	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.3	-	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.3	-	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	-
Black	0.2	1.1	0.2	-	-	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	-	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Mixed	0.3	0.2	1.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.9
Other	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.4	-	1.6	0.8	0.6	0.2	-	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.1
Unknown	15.8	15.5	13.8	10.1	29.7	7.9	8.9	9.8	8.1	14.0	15.0	8.9	10.4	7.6	12.6
Information Not Provided (3)	-	-	-	-	-	11.2	9.0	8.0	2.1	17.9	3.0	9.7	4.1	3.0	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes Overleaf

SER – Social Enquiry Report:

CSO – Community Service Order

PO – Probation Order

SAO – Supervised Attendance Order

DTTO – Drug Treatment and Testing Order

1. Reports submitted to Courts, excluding Supplementary Reports.
2. Includes POs with a Requirement of Unpaid Work.
3. SER information includes a small amount of estimated data for Glasgow.
4. The IT system in Moray records all instances of 'white' under 'white British'.
5. In 2005-06, all Dumfries & Galloway ethnicity information is recorded under 'information not provided' as their collection system for ethnicity had not yet been implemented. Similarly information on ethnicity for DTTOs was unavailable in Edinburgh - all cases recorded under 'information not provided'.
6. Figures for 2006-07 include some estimated data for Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire.

[Criminal Justice Social Work Statistics 2006-07:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/01/11134527/0>

