

Request for information

Could I please get the number of hate crimes recorded between January 1 2022 and September 30 2023, separated by ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender and any other category police record hate crimes against?

Could those crimes also please be broken down by month and police district?

Response

Background

References in this response to 'Police' refer to New Zealand Police. Police's working definition of 'hate crime' is *"any offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated, wholly or in part, by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's particular characteristic, such as race, religion, sexual orientation, gender/transgender identity, disability, or age."* The particular characteristics referred to in the definition are commonly referred to as 'protected characteristics'.

Police is guided by the Sentencing Act 2002 s9(1)(h) which outlines the 'aggravating factors' for any offence that is motivated (partly or wholly) by hostility towards a group of persons who share protected ('common enduring') characteristics. Hate crimes are not specific 'standalone' offences. An offence is 'flagged' as a hate crime when it is recorded and identified to have been motivated partly or wholly by hate or prejudice. Any recorded offence can be flagged for having a 'perceived hate' as a contributing factor. Offences flagged by Police are not necessarily consequently charged for or identified by the court as meeting the threshold of a hate crime.


In the absence of specific legislative definitions, Police has developed 'working definitions' in relation to hate crime, hate incidents and hate speech. Police use the term 'working definitions' as these are adopted, from a broad landscape of definitions and terminology across agencies and communities within Aotearoa and internationally, for Police's specific operational purposes. By adopting 'working definitions' rather than a single established and authoritative definition, Police definitions can evolve if required to reflect changes in the legislative framework, Police operational or agency advancements and societal progress around wider responses to hate.

Police's working definition of hate crime is perception based. This means that if Police, a victim, a witness or any third party perceives that an offence is motivated by hate then it must be recorded and flagged for 'perceived hate'. Unless there is immediate evidence to the contrary, the perception is recorded, and any further investigation carried out or subsequent Court proceedings (with consideration of s9(1)(h) of the Sentencing Act 2002) may determine whether hate is confirmed as the motivation for the offence.

The hate crime data within Police's recording system - the National Intelligence Application (NIA) - can be counted using different recording measures. An 'Occurrence' is our core measure and relates to a report to Police, or by Police, that has occurred in the same place, at the same time.

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At the time of reporting, Police may identify a potential hate motive – using a ‘perceived hate’ system flag (referred to as a ‘contributing factor’) applied at the offence level. An occurrence may have one or multiple offences (crimes) dependent on what happened to reflect the offences found by Police, and one or more offences could be flagged as perceived hate, dependent on whether Police’s definition for a hate crime applies.

For each offence flagged as ‘perceived hate,’ Police requires the capture of the protected characteristic targeted. Where the circumstances of an offence indicate that multiple protected characteristics were targeted, Police can record multiple protected characteristics against each offence.

Finally, as a subcategory of protected characteristic, we have ‘perceived prejudice’, which provides more granular data about the identity/person targeted by that offence. Again, as with protected characteristics there can multiple perceived prejudices identified as being targeted within the same offence.

Please note that the Police system’s capability to specifically flag records of hate (more commonly known as hate crimes) has been available since August 2019 following the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidian on 15 March 2019.

Police’s definition of hate crime is detailed above. Police captures groups/identities targeted as ‘perceived prejudices’ which are specific sub-categories (sub-types) to our six protected characteristic (‘Type’) groupings. Capability to record at this level was added to NIA in July 2022, and the Hate Crime Quality Assurance Team (HCQAT) back captured the data to 1 January 2022. Consequently, the data provided only goes back to 1 January 2022, as it does not exist prior to that.

Figure 1 presents a visual example of Police’s recording options. Both scenarios identified would be categorised as hate crimes. On the left is an occurrence with only one hate flagged offence reported, targeting a single protected characteristic, and a single perceived prejudice. On the right is one Occurrence with two offences, only one having been flagged as perceived hate. However, that offence reveals more than one protected characteristic was targeted, and one of the protected characteristics identified multiple perceived prejudices.

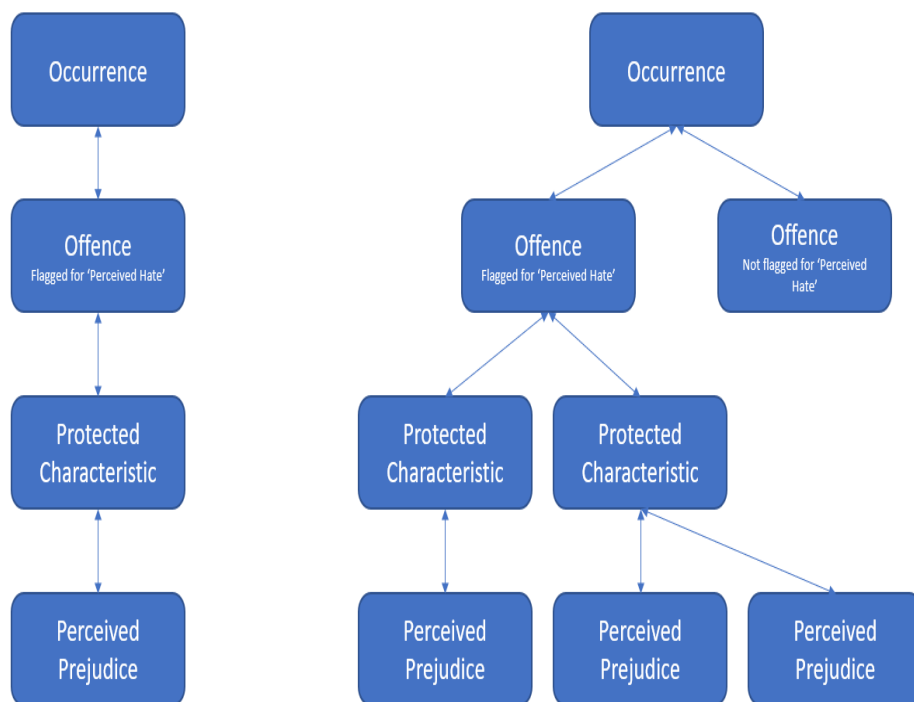


Figure 1. Recording of offences with perceived prejudice

Requested information


Please refer to Appendix 1 for the requested data.

It is important to recognise that the perceived prejudice figures do not align directly with offence-level or occurrence-level data previously reported. This is because each hate crime offence can target more than one protected characteristic, and likewise, within each protected characteristic more than one perceived prejudice can be targeted. For example, one offence may target both Race/Ethnicity – Middle Eastern and Religion/Faith – Muslim/Islam. That single offence would be counted twice, once in the Middle Eastern category, and once in the Muslim/Islam category.

This data is current as of 12 October 2023. The data is drawn from provisional operational Police data and is subject to change.

As reporting and recording of hate crime and hate incidents is relatively new in New Zealand, initial increase between 2019 and 2023 in headline numbers should not primarily be read as an increase in the overall level of hate crime and hate incidents in New Zealand, but rather as the increased awareness, improved reporting and recording of these crimes and incidents. It will be several years until the underlying level of hate crime and hate incidents in New Zealand becomes clear through the data.

As Police works to mitigate the likelihood of hate incidences over time, there may be a reduction on the number of reported incidences. Population growth and the social context may mean that reporting does not dramatically reduce; the objective will be to limit and contain recurrence.



Police is committed to the continued development of reporting capabilities and to providing more detailed data to communities when able to do so. These developments can include work by the Hate Crime Quality Assurance Team to audit, update and improve historical data. As capabilities advance, further detailed data will be available.

Appendix 1

Table 1: Count of NIA Occurrences with at least one offence flagged for hate, by scene District and month reported, 1 Jan 2022-30 Sept 2023.

Month Reported	National Total	Auckland City	Bay Of Plenty	Canterbury	Central	Counties Manukau	Eastern	Northland	Southern	Tasman	Waikato	Waitemata	Wellington
Jan-22	391	60	27	48	22	43	14	12	17	16	34	57	41
Feb-22	364	51	27	43	19	55	14	12	16	7	23	48	49
Mar-22	299	52	21	33	17	33	8	10	24	8	22	30	41
Apr-22	294	51	23	41	16	38	11	5	19	5	21	26	38
May-22	302	44	22	38	26	38	16	9	15	4	26	27	37
Jun-22	340	58	24	55	23	32	18	10	23	11	24	33	29
Jul-22	448	93	37	55	25	65	17	9	20	13	29	35	50
Aug-22	497	89	31	58	24	69	17	12	26	18	46	49	58
Sep-22	516	73	34	64	29	75	23	17	21	22	39	57	62
Oct-22	511	73	35	66	27	70	20	15	24	16	38	58	69
Nov-22	562	87	33	64	32	65	20	19	28	16	51	69	78
Dec-22	556	100	46	74	30	77	17	17	30	19	43	40	63
Jan-23	471	65	30	54	31	65	14	16	26	17	34	46	73
Feb-23	445	72	38	66	32	62	11	7	20	9	33	51	44
Mar-23	620	121	45	87	26	75	16	14	37	23	51	51	74
Apr-23	468	82	28	60	19	52	16	11	36	18	43	44	59
May-23	446	83	27	62	29	44	10	17	31	13	28	42	60
Jun-23	552	102	46	70	23	70	15	17	55	11	38	55	50
Jul-23	506	81	32	70	18	81	18	13	19	20	43	52	59
Aug-23	540	94	34	59	28	66	13	16	38	14	47	65	66
Sep-23	521	61	41	63	31	101	17	13	22	9	47	53	63
Total	9649	1592	681	1230	527	1276	325	271	547	289	760	988	1163

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Table 2: Count of NIA Occurrences with at least one offence flagged for hate, by scene District and Protected Characteristic targeted, 1 Jan 2022-30 Sept 2023

Protected Characteristic	National Total	Auckland City	Bay Of Plenty	Canterbury	Central	Counties Manukau	Eastern	Northland	Southern	Tasman	Waikato	Waitemata	Wellington
Age	74	9	15	6	5	2	2	5	4	1	11	5	9
Disability	197	16	20	28	15	19	6	12	14	11	13	11	32
Gender Identity	448	92	30	57	21	31	8	11	46	21	22	32	77
Race/Ethnicity	7932	1316	585	995	425	1049	282	221	431	223	656	857	892
Religion/Faith	578	102	19	79	22	136	10	5	28	16	31	60	70
Sexual Orientation	911	167	50	133	63	76	31	21	58	26	65	78	143
Grand Total	10140	1702	719	1298	551	1313	339	275	581	298	798	1043	1223