

PSNI Statistics

The incidence of racially motivated crime, recorded by the police, has tended to rise during the last decade. Between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009 there was a slight increase from 976 to 990. Of these crimes, 39.2% were violent while 59.7% were property crimes. There were 2 attempted murders, 17 threats or conspiracy to murder, 224 woundings or assaults and 44 cases of intimidation or harassment. The clearance rate was 12.5%, up slightly from the previous year.

The number of recorded racist incidents rose to 1,038 in 2009–10. During the same period the number of recorded racist crimes dropped from 771 to 712.* The clearance rate increased by 3.7% to 16.9%.

The *PSNI Annual Statistical Report No. 3: Hate Incidents & Crimes 1 April 2009 – 1st March 2010* gives more detailed statistics including the geographical areas where the reported incidents and crimes occurred.
www.psni.police.uk/3_08_09_hate_incidents_and_crimes.pdf

Underreporting

Many people do not report attacks. These are comments from a survey among Polish people. Of the people who said they had been harassed only about a third had gone to the police and were asked to explain why.

‘Because I didn’t have a clue where is the nearest station.’

‘Going to Police won’t change anything. You learn manners at home, that’s what they [local youths] lack. Police can’t teach them good behaviour’

‘Because I think the Police would not do anything about it.’

‘Because it doesn’t make any difference. I spoke with my landlord, he put in new windows but he was afraid to go to the Police himself in case of retaliation.’

The experience of Polish people surveyed by Dr Robbie McVeigh and Chris McAfee, ‘Za Chlebem’: The Impact of the Economic Downturn on the Polish Community in Northern Ireland, NICEM, 2009.

http://www.nicem.org.uk/uploads/publications/Za_Chlebem_Report.pdf

*The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) defines

A Hate Incident as: Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.

A Hate Crime as: Any hate incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.