

POLICE RECORDED HATE CRIME

This briefing is in two parts, the first part covers the local figures from the police recorded crime (including district breakdowns), and the second part provides context and explanation of cohesion concepts and national data. Additional resources are included for use, although the list is not exhaustive.

1. Local Profile

Table 1 below highlights the annual count of police recorded hate crimes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough over the past 5 years (the 12 month period July to June). These include all racially aggravated crimes and any other crime where a hate marker¹ has been applied. It should be noted that Cambridgeshire Constabulary and partners have been actively seeking to increase reporting of hate crime and therefore increases in recording are not necessarily viewed as negative.

Table 1. Count of police recorded hate crime in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough by District

Year	Cambridge City District	East Cambridgeshire District	Fenland District	Huntingdonshire District	Peterborough	South Cambridgeshire District	Total	% increase from previous year
July-11-June 12	70	19	27	38	184	24	362	
July 12-June 13	100	10	22	33	127	24	316	12.71
July13-June 14	118	10	27	43	153	26	377	19.30
July 14-June15	155	17	23	41	249	43	528	40.05
July 15-June 16	160	38	44	87	303	68	700	32.58

Source: CADET

In June 2016 the UK held a referendum on whether to remain within in the European Union. During this time and immediately after the vote took place on the 23rd June there was perceived increases in tension within some communities. This local data supports the increased tensions.

¹ Markers are applied to any crime where the victim or witness perceives that the crime was motivated by or was associated with hate for the victim based on a protected characteristic.

Racially (Race*) or Religiously Motivated Hate Crime

Nationally, around 82% of police recorded hate crimes are race related. The table below breaks down race specific crimes by district.

Table 1. Breakdown of racially & religiously motivated crimes by district – July 15-June 15*

District	Count of Race Related Crimes (July 15-June 16)
Cambridge District	111
East Cambridgeshire District	18
Fenland District	30
Huntingdonshire District	53
South Cambridgeshire District	51
Grand Total	263

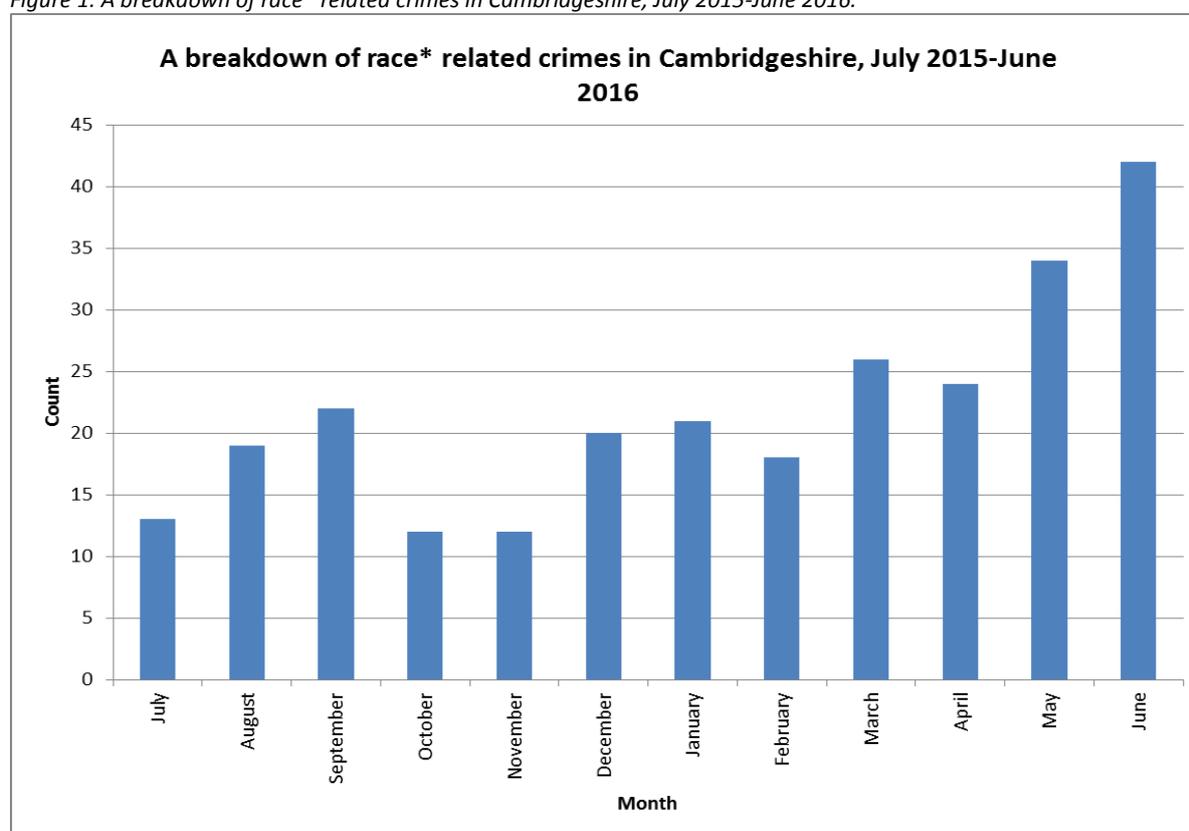
*includes racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury, racially or religiously aggravated common assault, racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage, racially or religiously aggravated harassment and racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress

Source: CADET

In June 2016, there was a total of 92 police recorded Hate Crimes in the force wide area (including Peterborough). This was double the amount of the same month last year (46) and the highest count for any month since the beginning of the recording of hate crime in April 2011.

Over the last twelve months, there has been an average of 58 police recorded hate crimes per month in the force wide area and this is over double the monthly average between July 12 and June 13 (26).

Figure 1: A breakdown of race related crimes in Cambridgeshire, July 2015-June 2016.*



*includes racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury, racially or religiously aggravated common assault, racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage, racially or religiously aggravated harassment and racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress-excludes Peterborough.

Source: CADET

2. Cohesion

Cohesive communities have been defined as having five key attributes: a sense of community; similar life opportunities; respect for diversity; political trust; and a sense of belonging. A correlation analysis by Wedlock² argues that those local areas that have a high sense of community, political trust and a sense of belonging generally show significantly lower levels of 'all' reported crime.

One indicator of a less cohesive community is the presence of hate crime and there is a need to address levels of this crime type across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

HATE CRIME

Hate crime is defined as 'any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic.'³ This definition was agreed in 2007 by the main statutory criminal justice agencies. There are five centrally monitored strands of hate crime:

- race or ethnicity;
- religion or beliefs;
- sexual orientation;
- disability; and
- transgender identity.

A person does not have to be an actual member of an identifiable group to be a victim; the defining factor is the perpetrator's motivation.

RECORDED HATE CRIME OFFENCES

In 2014/15, there were 52,528 hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales. This can be broken down by crimes linked to each of the five centrally monitored strands:

- 82% were race hate crimes;
- 11% were sexual orientation hate crimes;
- 6% were religion hate crimes;
- 5% were disability hate crimes;
- 1% were transgender hate crimes.⁴

Between the 2013/14 and the 2014/15 financial year, there was a 43% increase in the number of Religious linked hate crimes in England and Wales. The concern from the constabulary is that we do not have a strong grasp of the true extent of religious based hate crime, although an internal crime review carried out within the constabulary showed that overall, crimes are not going up as a result of religious intolerance. The constabulary have stressed the point that online hate crime is the most likely form in Cambridgeshire.

² Wedlock, Crime and Cohesive Communities, Home Office, 2006

³ Hate Crimes, England and Wales 2013/14 Home Officer Statistical Bulletin 02/14 – October 2014

⁴ Hate Crime 2014/15, Home Office,

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/467366/hosb0515.pdf

Under-reporting of hate crime remains a significant problem for agencies. With victims often reluctant to come forward for many reasons, including fear of reprisals, low confidence in the police to effectively deal with the issue, embarrassment or feeling that it is 'not a police matter'. There is also concern; both locally and nationally, that Hate Crimes linked to disability are severely under-reported. Despite this, the Justice Inspectorates highlighted a new national impetus that focuses on improving awareness of what disability hate crime is, increasing the reporting of disability hate crime and embedding hate crime processes within the routine working practices of the police, Crown Prosecution Service and probation trust.⁵

FURTHER RESOURCES

1. Cambridgeshire Constabulary – Hate Crime (what it is and how to report it)
http://www.cambs.police.uk/victims/hate_crime.asp
2. Cambridgeshire Research Group – Hate Crime Infographic
<https://magic.piktochart.com/output/15635357-cambspeterb-hate-crime-2016>
3. Compendium of practices to tackle hate crime – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
<http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/hate-crime/compendium-practices>
4. Human Rights Equality Commission research
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/healing-divided-britain-need-comprehensive-race-equality-strategy>
5. The Policing of Hate Crime In Nottinghamshire, Dr Loretta Trickett
http://www.report-it.org.uk/files/nottinghamshire_police_final_draft.pdf

Contact Us

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⁵ Joint Review of Disability Hate Crime; Living in A Difference World, Justice Inspectorates, <http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/media/a-joint-review-of-disability-hate-crime-living-in-a-different-world-20130321.pdf>