



BELFAST

Has COVID-19 changed our city?



Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity

PEACE

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Publications

There are six publications, referred to as chapters, in *BELFAST Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity: Has Covid-19 changed our city?*

They are based on the 6P framework of Belfast being a member of Phase VII (2019 – 2025) of the World Health Organization European Healthy Cities Network:



Previous Publications

There are six publications, referred to as chapters, in *BELFAST Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity*, and a summary document.

They are based on the 6P framework of Belfast being a member of Phase VII (2019 – 2025) of the World Health Organization European Healthy Cities Network:



Foreword

The Belfast Healthy Cities City Health Profile is an important document that will help set out the challenges and opportunities for us all to improve the Health and Wellbeing of the city into the future going forward.

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we continue to see pressures on the cost of living, the city is clearly in a very different place now and we must take the opportunity to reflect both on the impact of the pandemic and refocus our thoughts as we move forward. This profile, and the key learning within, will help us do that.

Has COVID-19 changed our city? Undoubtedly the answer is yes. The wider health and social care system had to adapt to meet the challenge of COVID-19. Prior to the pandemic, our health and social care system was already facing huge strategic challenges in the form of an ageing population, increasing demand, long and growing waiting lists, workforce pressures and the emergence of new and more expensive treatments. All of these pressures were exacerbated by the pandemic. The Department of Health and the wider service also need to plan for potential further outbreaks of the virus and use the learning from the pandemic to assist this planning.

To support the overall work on recovery, we need to understand what has, and has not, worked in terms in addressing the impact of the pandemic around the world. While no one nation or region will map precisely to our situation, there will be a strong evidence base to draw from.

It is apparent across many areas that there are opportunities to use the new ways of working and opportunities from the current crisis and not simply to return to the way things were done previously. This continues to be a feature of the future thinking on recovery.

I see continued collaboration as key going forward, we can all learn so much from each other, as is evidenced in the Chapters. I whole-heartedly support cross-departmental and cross-agency liaison. This is at the heart of Making Life Better, the Executive's framework for improving health and addressing health inequalities. We all have so much to contribute towards the health of our population and we can do this better together.

I am delighted to be working closely with Belfast Healthy Cities and I commend the organisation on this very important piece of work.



Prof Sir Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer

Preface

This chapter, PEACE, in 'BELFAST, Profiling Health, Wellbeing and Prosperity: has COVID-19 changed our city?' is a follow up to the initial chapter on PEACE, produced as part of, 'BELFAST Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity: The data behind the people and the city', produced in 2022. Based on the availability of data, key indicators were selected from the initial PEACE chapter to outline the changes that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic across the city in the period March 2020 – May 2022. The benefit of this chapter is that whilst a wide range of data are available from various sources, they are presented here in an accessible, concise and integrated format.

Injury and violence remain the leading causes of death in young people in the WHO European Region. Peace is critical to maintaining good health and wellbeing. There are serious short and long-term health effects from exposure to crime and violence in one's community. Addressing exposure to crime and violence as a public health issue may help prevent and reduce the harms to individual and community health and well-being.

Children and adolescents exposed to violence are at risk for poor long-term behavioural and mental health outcomes, such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder, regardless of whether they are victims, direct witnesses, or hear about the crime. Low-income neighbourhoods are more likely to be affected by crime and property crime than high-income neighbourhoods. Building multi-agency solutions and working together across the city is critical to maintaining peace.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, the rate of police recorded crime in Belfast City Policing District decreased overall but was highest among policing districts across Northern Ireland.

In the same period, the rate of domestic abuse crimes and incidents increased in Belfast City Policing District, and again these figures were the highest in Northern Ireland, with the most crimes recorded in North Belfast.

As regards hate crime, across Northern Ireland, the rate of incidents and crimes with racist, homophobic and sectarian hate motivation increased in Belfast City Policing District. Outcome rates increased but were lower than compared to other policing districts. South and North Belfast showed the highest concentration of these incidents and crimes.

As regards child protection, between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2022, the number of children and young people on the Child Protection Register in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) increased and comprised between 11% and 14% of Northern Ireland's total.

This profile can be used as an evidence base to highlight actions needed by statutory and voluntary sectors to address the link between peace and health following the pandemic.

Many families and individuals came out of the pandemic in a much worse place, with the increase in mental health and cost of living crisis. The Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership have embraced this challenge by working with Belfast City Policing District on its local policing plans. They have developed various projects to reduce domestic abuse and hate crime and have assisted in collaborative working alongside multi-agency support hubs to improve health and wellbeing in the community whilst reducing inequalities.

Chief Superintendent Darrin Jones
Belfast Commander
Belfast City Policing District

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Indicator	Policing district*	Local policing team	HSCCT	Northern Ireland	Assembly area	DEA	Other
Police recorded crime							
Domestic abuse							
Number of incidents							
Number of recorded crimes							
Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime							
Hate crime with a racist motivation							
Number of incidents							
Number of recorded crimes							
Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime							
Hate crime with a homophobic motivation							
Number of incidents							
Number of recorded crimes							
Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime							
Hate crime with a sectarian motivation							
Number of incidents							
Number of recorded crimes							
Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime							
Child Protection Register							By age group for children and young people

* Policing districts are coterminous with LGDs

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SECTION 1

Police Recorded Crime

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Police Service Northern Ireland, Police Recorded Crime Statistics, Police recorded crime Annual Trends 1998/99 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Excel spreadsheet.¹

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

In the Police Recorded Crime Bulletin Period ending 31st March 2023, it states that:

“Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, lockdown measures were introduced in Northern Ireland on 23rd March 2020 which had a substantial impact on the level of police recorded crime during 2020/21. With a fall of 11.5 per cent compared with 2019/20, 2020/21 recorded the lowest level of crime since the start of the data series in 1998/99. Levels have since increased in both 2021/22 and 2022/23, with the latest financial year recording the highest crime level in sixteen years.”²

-
1. Police Recorded Crime Statistics | PSNI (Last accessed 2 May 2023)
 2. Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland Monthly Update (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 25 June 2023)

PROFILE FINDINGS

In Belfast City Policing District, the rate of police recorded crime:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 82 per 1,000 population
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 95 per 1,000 population

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of police recorded crime decreased by 4 per 1,000 population, from 99 to 95 per 1,000 population.

Differences by local policing team

There was variation in the numbers³ of police recorded crime across Belfast's local policing teams.

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest number of police recorded crimes, and East Local Policing Team had the lowest
- In 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest number of police recorded crimes, and East Local Policing Team had the lowest
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest number of police recorded crimes, and East Local Policing Team had the lowest (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 1)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of police recorded crimes:

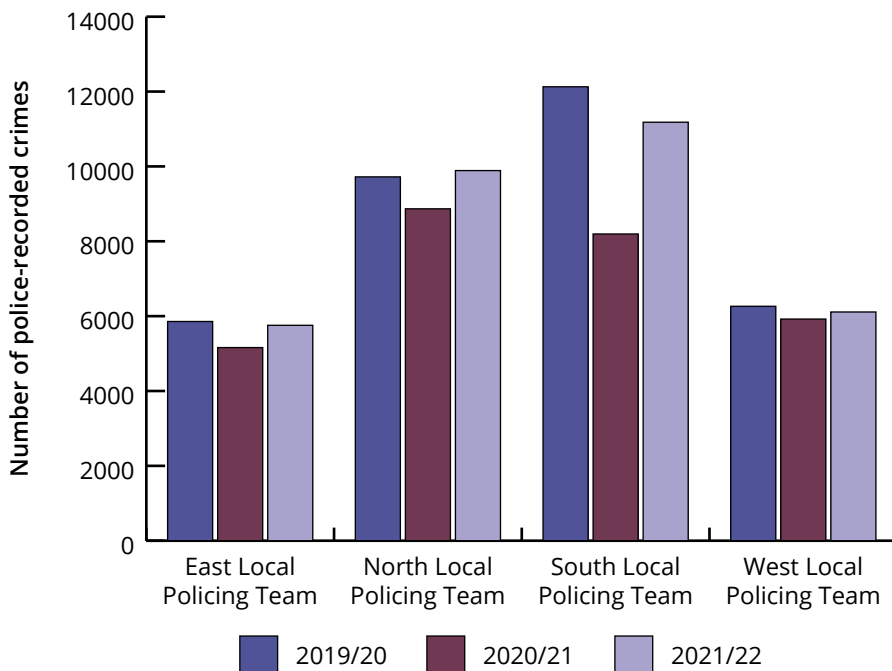
- Decreased overall in East, South, and West Local Policing Teams
- Increased overall in North Local Policing Team (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 1)

3. Population rates for the four local policing teams within Belfast City have not been provided by the data holder as "the required geographic breakdown that would allow these rates to be calculated is not available" (see Note 2, Table 9.3 in Excel spreadsheet in Footnote 1 above)



COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 1:

Number of police recorded crimes by Belfast’s local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Police Recorded Crime Statistics, Police recorded crime Annual Trends 1998/99 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Excel spreadsheet, Table 9.1

See pages 25-38, in the Peace Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

When compared with Northern Ireland the rate of police recorded crime in Belfast City Policing District was higher in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 2)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of police recorded crime:

- **Decreased overall in Belfast City Policing District, by 4 per 1,000 population, from 99 to 95 per 1,000 population (a percentage decrease of 4.04%)**
- **Remained the same overall in Northern Ireland, at 56 per 1,000 population (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 2)**

Comparison with other policing districts

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of police-recorded crime in:

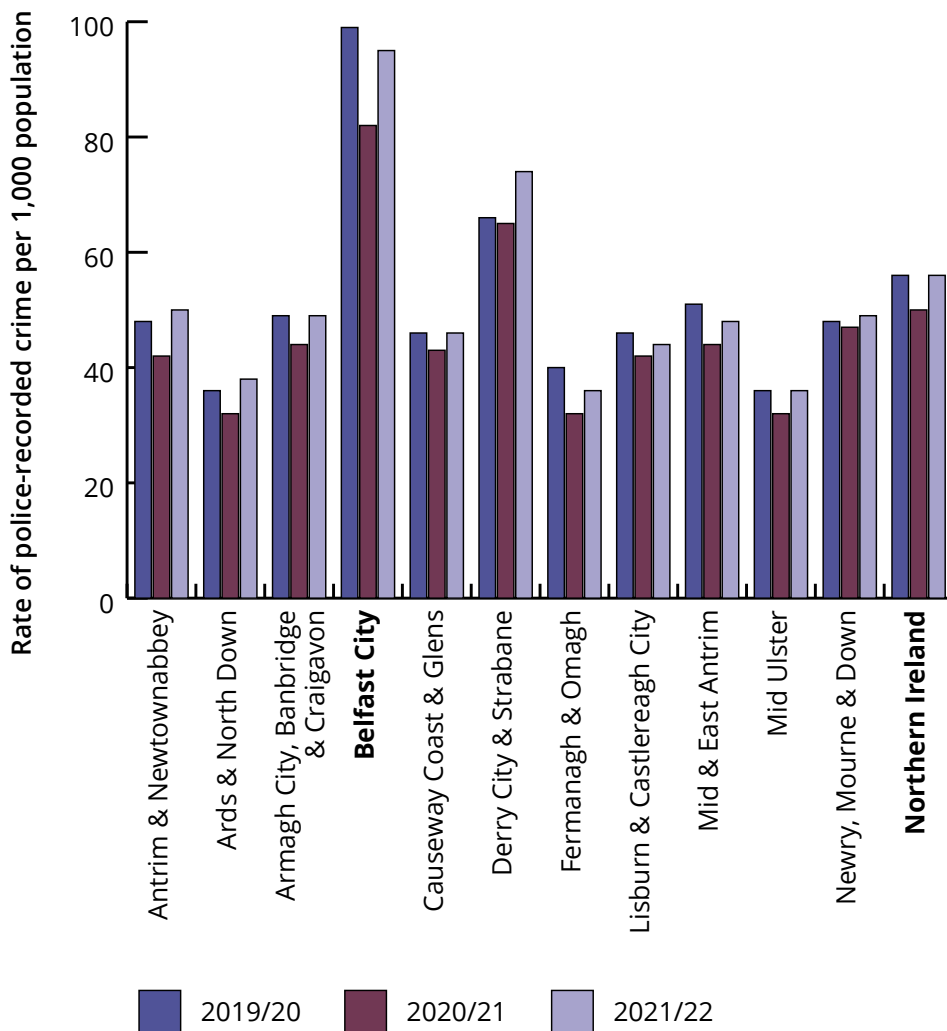
- **2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic**
- **2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic**
- **2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 2)**

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of police recorded crime:

- **Increased overall in 4 policing districts**
- **Decreased overall in 4 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District**
- **Remained the same overall in 3 policing districts (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 2)**

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 2:

Rate of police recorded crime per 1,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Police Recorded Crime Statistics, Police recorded crime Annual Trends 1998/99 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Excel spreadsheet, Table 9.3

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In comparison with Northern Ireland, before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of police recorded crime; however, owing to a decrease in police recorded crime in Belfast City Policing District, whereas police recorded crime remained the same in Northern Ireland, the gap between the two narrowed.

It is noticeable that in both Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, the rate of police recorded crime:

- **Decreased between 2019/20 and 2020/21, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic**
- **Increased between 2020/21 and 2021/22, the second year of the pandemic**

The difference between Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland is that the increase between 2020/21 and 2021/22 in Northern Ireland was a return to pre-pandemic levels, whereas in Belfast although there was an increase during this time-period it did not reach pre-pandemic levels of police recorded crime.

Comparison with other policing districts

In comparison with other policing districts, before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of police recorded crime, consequently there was no change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District among other policing districts.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, of the 4 policing districts in which there was a decrease in police recorded crime:

- **Belfast City Policing District had the smallest percentage decrease at 4.04%**
- **Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the greatest percentage decrease at 10.00%**

The median percentage decrease was 5.12%.

It is noticeable that in all policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District, the rate of police recorded crime:

- **Decreased between 2019/20 and 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic**
- **Increased between 2020/21 and 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic**

In Belfast City Policing District, and three other policing districts, although it increased, the rate of police recorded crime did not return to pre-pandemic levels, whereas in three policing districts it did return to pre-pandemic levels. In four policing districts, however, the rates of police recorded crime increased to levels greater than those before the pandemic; this percentage increase was greatest in Derry City & Strabane Policing District at 12.12%, and smallest in Newry, Mourne & Down Policing District at 2.08%.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of police recorded crime:

- **Decreased overall in 4 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District**
- **Increased overall in 4 policing districts**
- **Remained the same overall Northern Ireland**
- **Remained the same overall in 3 policing districts**

Although Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of police recorded crime than Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the gap between the two narrowed due to an overall decrease in the rate in Belfast City Policing District when compared with Northern Ireland, in which the rate overall remained the same.

Among policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of police-recorded crime both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an overall decrease in the rate of police recorded crime. This decrease in police recorded crime was most noticeable during the first full year of the COVID-19

pandemic, when periods of lockdown may have reduced the opportunity for crime, with less movement and the reduced congregation of people, combined with people being in their home environment to a much greater extent. During the second full year of the pandemic, the rate of police recorded crime did increase in Belfast City Policing District but not to pre-pandemic levels.

Inequalities, with the potential for inequity

Of Belfast's local policing teams:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest number of police recorded crimes, followed by North Local Policing Team
- In 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest number, due to a larger decrease in the number of police recorded crimes in South Local Policing Team
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team returned to having the highest number, with a larger increase in the number of police recorded crimes than that in North Local Policing Team

As for Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, it is noticeable that in all local policing teams the rate of police recorded crime:

- Decreased between 2019/20 and 2020/21, over the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Increased between 2020/21 and 2021/22, over the second full year of the pandemic

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, however, North Local Policing Team was the only local policing team to have an overall increase in the rate of police recorded crime from before the COVID-19 pandemic, whereas for the other three local policing teams, despite the increases in rates, the rates after two years of the pandemic did not reach pre-pandemic levels.

SECTION 2

Domestic Abuse

- 2.1 Incidents with a domestic abuse motivation**
- 2.2 Recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation**
- 2.3 Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation**

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Police Service Northern Ireland, Domestic Abuse Statistics, Domestic abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Excel spreadsheet.⁴

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

4. Domestic Abuse Statistics | PSNI (Last accessed 2 May 2023)

Incidents with a domestic abuse motivation

In Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 23 per 1,000 population
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 25 per 1,000 population

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and during the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation remained the same overall at 25 per 1,000 population.

Recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation

In Belfast City Policing District, the rate of recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 14 per 1,000 population
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 16 per 1,000 population

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and during the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation increased by 2 per 1,000 population, from 14 to 16 per 1,000 population.

Sanction outcome rate with a domestic abuse motivation

In Belfast City Policing District, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 29.6%
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 25.8%

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and during the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation increased by 0.2 percentage points, from 25.6% to 25.8%.

Differences by local policing team

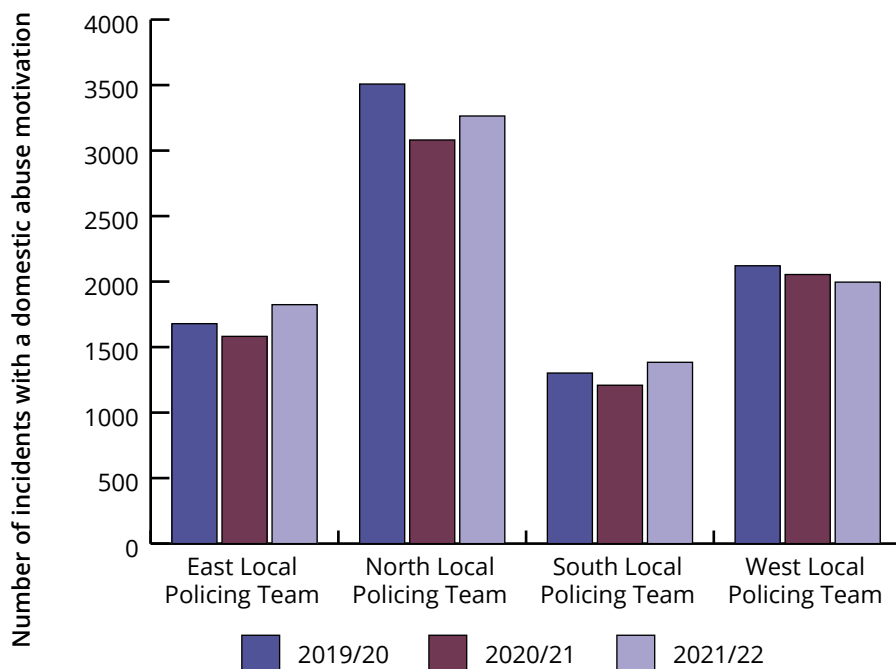
Incidents with a domestic abuse motivation

There was variation in the numbers of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation across Belfast's local policing teams. From before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019/20 through to the second full year of the pandemic in 2021/22:

- **North Local Policing Team had the highest numbers of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation, followed by West Local Policing Team**
- **South Local Policing Team had the lowest numbers of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation, followed by East Local Policing Team (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 3)**

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering two full years of the pandemic, the number of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation:

- **Increased overall in East Local Policing Team and South Local Policing Team**
- **Decreased overall in North Local Policing Team and West Local Policing Team (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 3)**

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 3:**Number of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation by Belfast's local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22**

Source: PSNI: Domestic Abuse Statistics, Domestic abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Excel spreadsheet, Table 6.1

Recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation

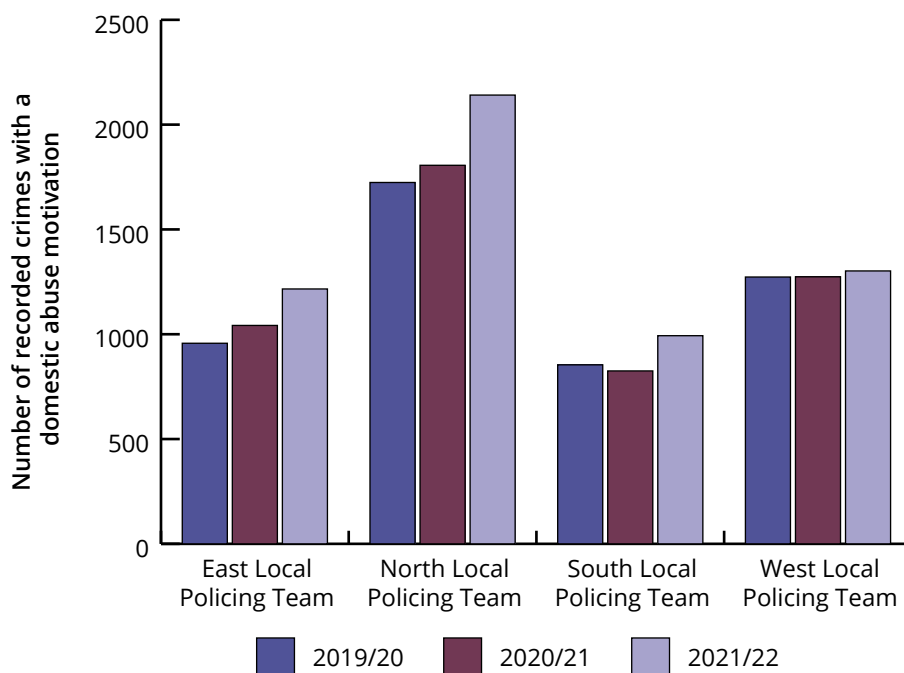
There was variation in the numbers of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation across Belfast's local policing teams. From before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019/20 through to the second full year of the pandemic in 2021/22:

- North Local Policing Team had the highest numbers of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation, followed by West Local Policing Team
- South Local Policing Team had the lowest numbers of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation, followed by East Local Policing Team (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 4)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation increased overall in all Belfast's local policing teams (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 4).

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 4:

Number of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation by Belfast's local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Domestic Abuse Statistics, Domestic abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Excel spreadsheet, Table 6.2

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation

There was variation in the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation across Belfast's local policing teams.

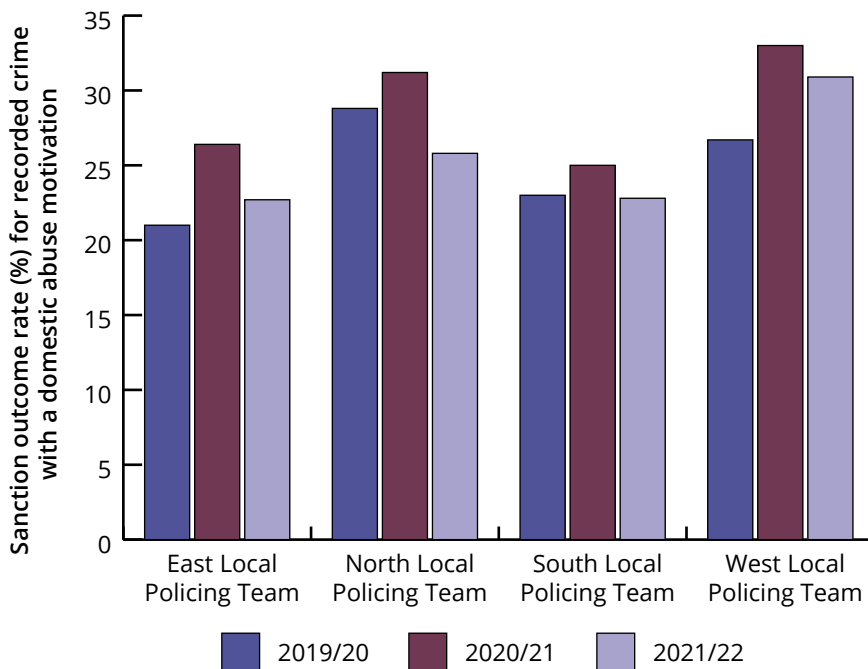
- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, East Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate, followed by South Local Policing Team
- In 2020/21, during the first full year of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate, closely followed by East Local Policing Team
- In 2021/22, during the second full year of the pandemic, East and South had the lowest rates with only 0.1% difference between them (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 5)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation:

- Increased overall in East Local Policing Team and West Local Policing Team
- Decreased overall in North Local Policing Team and South Local Policing Team (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 5)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 5:

Sanction outcome rate (%) for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation by Belfast’s local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Domestic Abuse Statistics, Domestic abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Excel spreadsheet, Table 6.3

See pages 66-75, in the Peace Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Incidents with a domestic abuse motivation

When compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation in Belfast City Policing District was higher in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 6)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation remained the same overall in:

- Belfast City Policing District, at 25 per 1,000 population,
- Northern Ireland, at 17 per 1,000 population (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 6)

Recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation

When compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in Belfast City Policing District was higher in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 7)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation increased overall in:

- Belfast City Policing District, by 2 per 1,000 population, from 14 to 16 per 1,000 population (a percentage increase of 14.29%)
- Northern Ireland, by 1 per 1,000 population, from 10 to 11 per 1,000 population (a percentage increase of 10.00%; see COVID-19 Peace Figure 7)

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation

When compared with Northern Ireland, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation in Belfast City Policing District was:

- Lower in 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- Higher in 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- Lower in 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 8)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation increased overall in:

- Belfast City Policing District, by 0.2 percentage points, from 25.6% to 25.8% (a percentage increase of 0.78%)
- Northern Ireland, by 1.3 percentage points, from 26.3% to 27.6% (a percentage increase of 4.94%; see COVID-19 Peace Figure 8)

Comparison with other policing districts

Incidents with a domestic abuse motivation

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation in:

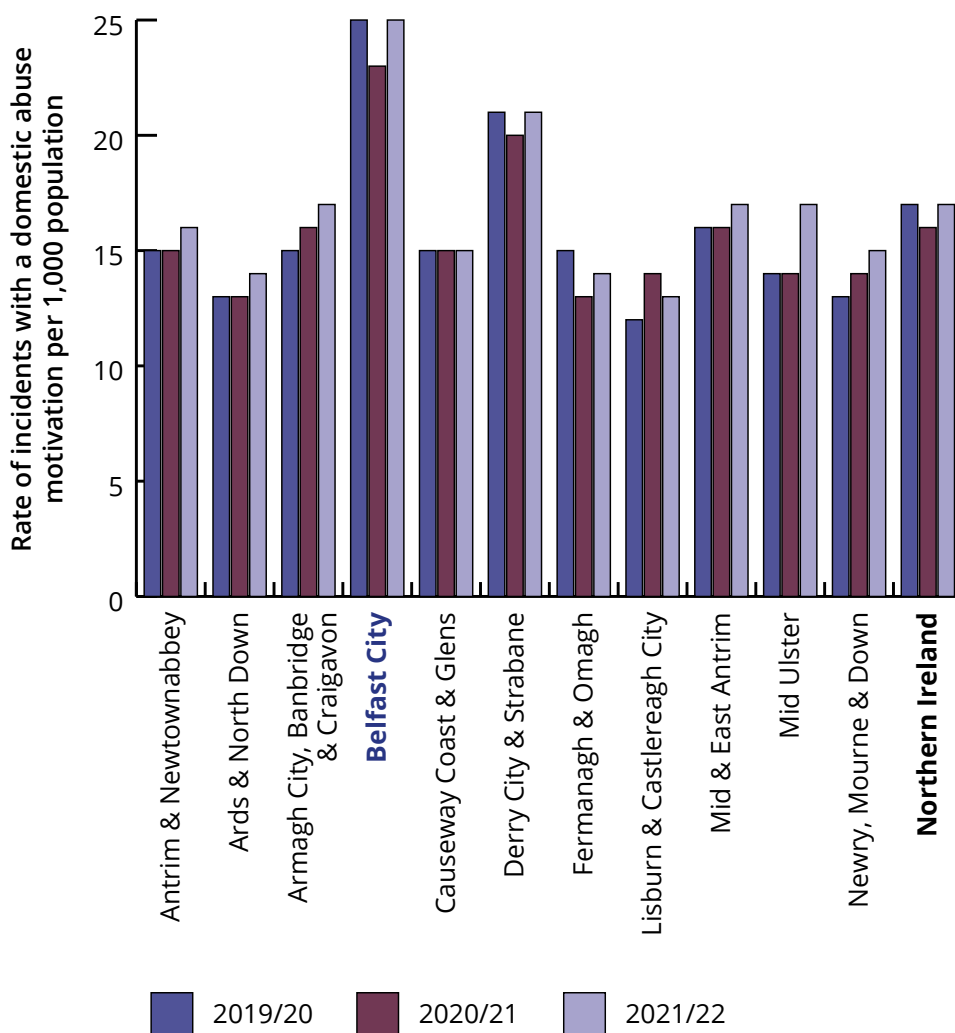
- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 6)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation:

- Increased overall in 7 policing districts
- Decreased overall in one policing district
- Remained the same overall in 3 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 6)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 6:

Rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation per 1,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Domestic Abuse Statistics, Domestic abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Excel spreadsheet, Table 6.4

Recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had:

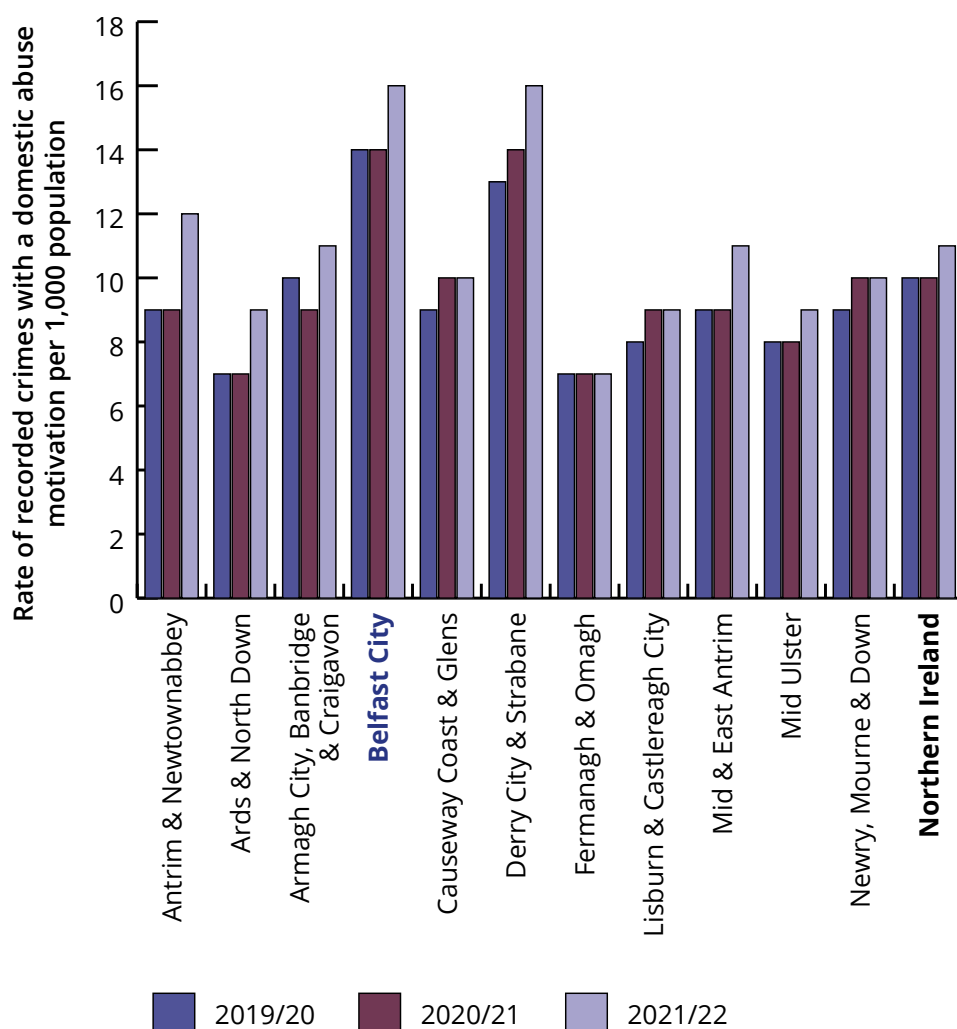
- The highest rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation in 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- The equal highest rate in 2020/21 and 2021/22, together with Derry City & Strabane Policing District, during the first two full years of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 7)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation:

- Increased overall in 10 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Remained the same overall in one policing district (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 7)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 7:

Rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation per 1,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Domestic Abuse Statistics, Domestic abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Excel spreadsheet, Table 6.5

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had:

- The fifth lowest sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation in 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- The fifth highest sanction outcome rate in 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- The fourth lowest sanction outcome rate in 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 8)

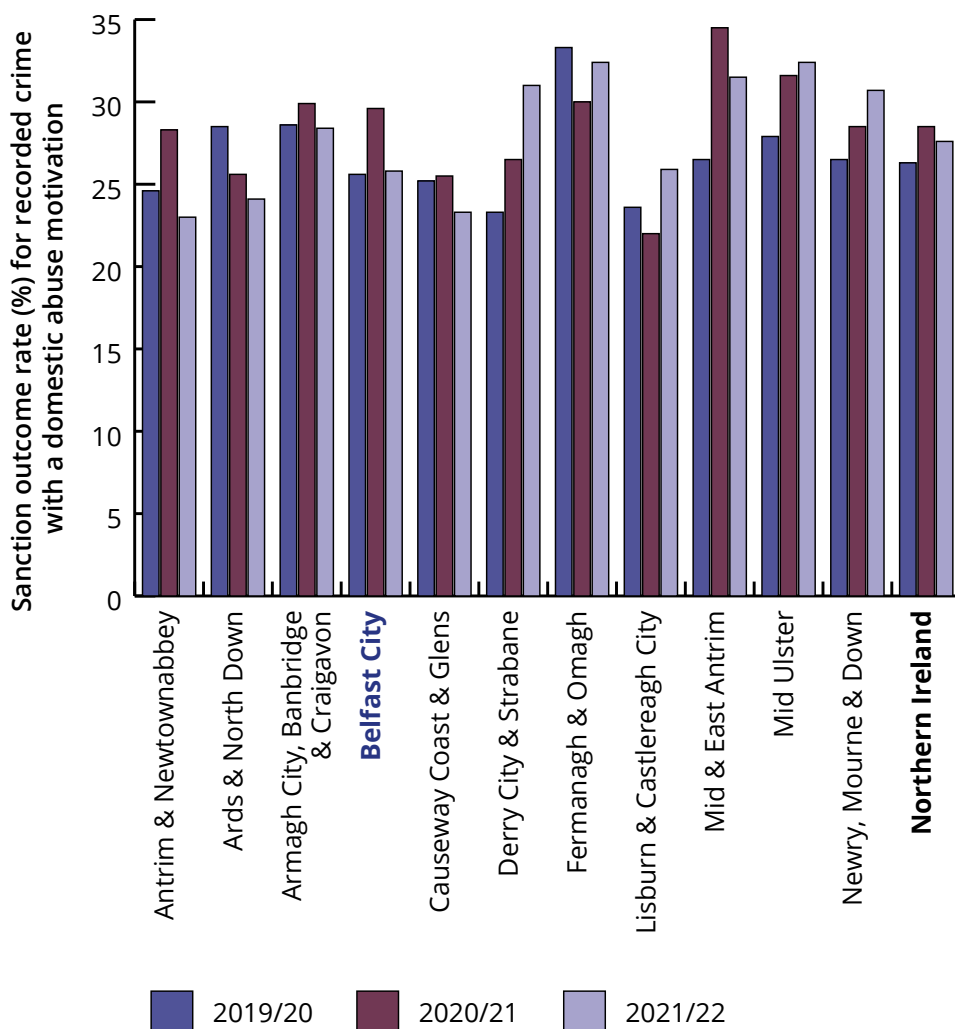
Consequently, among policing districts, there was a change overall in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District: it dropped from fifth to fourth lowest from before the COVID-19 pandemic to the second full year of the pandemic; however, during the first full year of the pandemic it had risen to be the fifth highest.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation:

- Increased overall in 6 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Decreased overall in 5 policing districts (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 8)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 8:

Sanction outcome rate (%) for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Domestic Abuse Statistics, Domestic abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Excel spreadsheet, Table 6.3

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Incidents with a domestic abuse motivation

In comparison with Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation. As rates in both Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland remained the same overall, the gap between the two remained unchanged.

It is noticeable that in both Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation:

- **Decreased between 2019/20 and 2020/21, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first full year of the pandemic**
- **Increased between 2020/21 and 2021/22, the first and second full years of the pandemic**

For both Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, the increase between 2020/21 and 2021/22 was a return to pre-pandemic levels of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation.

Recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation

In comparison with Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation. As Belfast City Policing District had a greater percentage increase in the rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation when compared with Northern Ireland, the gap between the two widened.

It is noticeable that in both Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, the rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation:

- **Remained the same between 2019/20 and 2020/21, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first full year of the pandemic**
- **Increased between 2020/21 and 2021/22, the first and second full years of the pandemic**

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation

In comparison with Northern Ireland, Belfast City Policing District had:

- A lower sanction outcome rate for recorded crime before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019/20 and during the second full year of the pandemic in 2021/22
- A higher sanction outcome rate during the first full year of the pandemic in 2020/21

As Northern Ireland had a greater percentage increase overall in the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation when compared with Belfast City Policing District, the gap between the two widened.

It is noticeable that in both Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation:

- Increased between 2019/20 and 2020/21, from before the COVID-19 pandemic to the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Decreased between 2020/21 and 2021/22, the first and second full years of the pandemic

For both Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, the overall increase between 2019/20 and 2021/22 resulted in a sanction outcome rate that was slightly higher than pre-pandemic levels for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation.

Comparison with other policing districts

Incidents with a domestic abuse motivation

In comparison with other policing districts, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation, consequently there was no change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District among policing districts.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District was one of 3 policing districts in which the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation remained the same overall, whereas in 7 policing districts the rate of incidents increased and in one policing district it decreased.

Recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation

In comparison with other policing districts, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation, consequently there was no change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District among policing districts, except that in the first two full years of the pandemic Belfast City Policing District shared the highest rate with Derry City & Strabane Policing District.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, of the 10 policing districts in which there was an increase in the rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation:

- **Belfast City Policing District had the fifth highest percentage increase at 14.29%**
- **Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District had the highest percentage increase at 33.33%**
- **Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District had the smallest percentage increase at 10.00%**

The median percentage increase was 13.40%.

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation

In comparison with other policing districts, both before and during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the relative position of Belfast City Policing District for the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation changed each year, although before the pandemic in 2019/20 and for the second full year of the pandemic in 2021/22 Belfast had a relatively lower sanction outcome rate; it was during only the first full year of the pandemic in 2020/21 that Belfast City Policing District had a relatively higher sanction outcome rate of recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation than most other policing districts.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, although Belfast City Policing District was one of 6 policing districts in which the sanction outcome rate of recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation increased overall:

- **Belfast City Policing District had the smallest percentage increase at 0.78%**
- **Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the greatest percentage increase at 33.05%**

The median percentage increase was 15.99%.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Incidents with a domestic abuse motivation

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation:

- Increased overall in 7 policing districts
- Decreased overall in one policing district
- Remained the same overall in 3 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Remained the same overall in Northern Ireland

Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation than Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the gap between the two remained unchanged because in both Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland there was no overall change in rate.

Among policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with no overall change in the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation; however, there was a decrease in rate between 2019/20 and 2020/21, during the first full year of the pandemic, which could reflect a decrease in incidents or it could reflect a reduced opportunity for victims of domestic abuse to report incidents to the police during periods of lockdown, when people were restricted to the home environment with other family members to a much greater extent. Between 2020/21 and 2021/22, however, during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation did increase in Belfast City Policing District and returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before and covering the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation:

- **Increased overall in 10 policing districts including Belfast City Policing District**
- **Increased overall in Northern Ireland**
- **Remained the same overall in one policing district**

Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation than Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the gap between the two widened with a greater percentage increase in Belfast City Policing District when compared with Northern Ireland.

Among policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District shared the highest rate with Derry City & Strabane Policing District.

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the rate of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation, which occurred between 2020/21 and 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic. This increase could be due in part to increased strain and tension within families exacerbated by episodes of lockdown, when people were restricted to the home environment and in greater proximity for extended periods.

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before and covering the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation:

- **Increased overall in 6 policing districts including Belfast City Policing District**
- **Increased overall in Northern Ireland**
- **Decreased overall in 5 policing districts**

Belfast City Policing District had a lower sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation than Northern Ireland, both before and during the second full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, Belfast City Policing District's rate was higher in 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic. Despite this, the gap between the two widened overall because Northern Ireland had a much greater percentage increase in rate compared with Belfast City Policing District, in which the percentage increase was less than 1%.

Among policing districts, before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019/20 and during the second full year of the pandemic in 2021/22, Belfast City Policing District had a relatively lower sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation; during the first full year of the pandemic in 2020/21, however, the rate did increase, and Belfast City Policing District did have a relatively higher rate among policing districts.

In 2021/22, in Belfast City Policing District, between 2 and 3 out of every 10 recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation had a sanction outcome, compared with:

- **Approaching 3 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland**
- **Over 3 out of every 10 in Mid Ulster, Fermanagh & Omagh, Mid & East Antrim, Derry City & Strabane, and Newry, Mourne & Down Policing Districts**

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with a slight overall increase in the sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation, reflecting an increase between 2019/20 and 2020/21 with a subsequent decrease between 2020/21 and 2021/22 to very close to pre-pandemic levels.

Inequalities, with the potential for inequity

Incidents with a domestic abuse motivation

Of Belfast's local policing teams, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation, followed by West Local Policing Team.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, however, the number of incidents with a domestic abuse motivation:

- **Increased in East and South Local Policing Teams to levels higher than those pre-pandemic**
- **Decreased in North and West Local Policing Teams to levels lower than those pre-pandemic**

Recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation

Of Belfast's local policing teams, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest number of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation, followed by West Local Policing Team.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation increased in all local policing teams.

- East Local Policing Team had the greatest percentage increase at 27.06%, followed by North Local Policing Team at 24.19%
- West Local Policing Team had the smallest percentage increase at 2.28%
- South Local Policing Team had a 16.28% percentage increase

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation

Of Belfast's local policing teams:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, East Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation, followed by South Local Policing Team
- In 2020/21, during the first full year of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate, followed by East Local Policing Team
- In 2021/22, during the second full year of the pandemic, East Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate, very closely followed by South Local Policing Team

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rates for recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation decreased in North Local Policing Team and South Local Policing Team. North Local Policing Team had the greatest percentage decrease at 10.42%, whereas the percentage decrease in South Local Policing Team was relatively slight at 0.87%. In both these local policing teams, these decreases in rates were to levels below those pre-pandemic.

In 2021/22, in both East and South Local Policing Teams, over 2 out of every 10 recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation had a sanction outcome compared with between 2 and 3 out of every 10 in North Local Policing Team, and 3 out of every 10 in West Local Policing Team.

SECTION 3

Hate Crime: Racist Motivations

- 3.1 Incidents with a racist motivation**
- 3.2 Recorded crimes with a racist motivation**
- 3.3 Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation**

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Police Service Northern Ireland, Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Racist motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet.⁵

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

5. Hate Motivation Statistics | PSNI (Last accessed 3 May 2023)

PROFILE FINDINGS

Incidents with a racist motivation

In Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a racist motivation:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 13 per 10,000 population
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 17 per 10,000 population

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a racist motivation increased by 5 per 10,000 population from 12 to 17 per 10,000 population.

Recorded crimes with a racist motivation

In Belfast City Policing District, the rate of recorded crime with a racist motivation:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 9 per 10,000 population
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 11 per 10,000 population

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of recorded crime with a racist motivation increased by 4 per 10,000 population, from 7 to 11 per 10,000 population.

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation

In Belfast City Policing District, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 6.8%
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 12.5%

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation increased by 1.3 percentage points, from 11.2% to 12.5%.

Differences by local policing team

Incidents with a racist motivation

There was variation in the numbers of incidents with a racist motivation across Belfast's local policing teams.

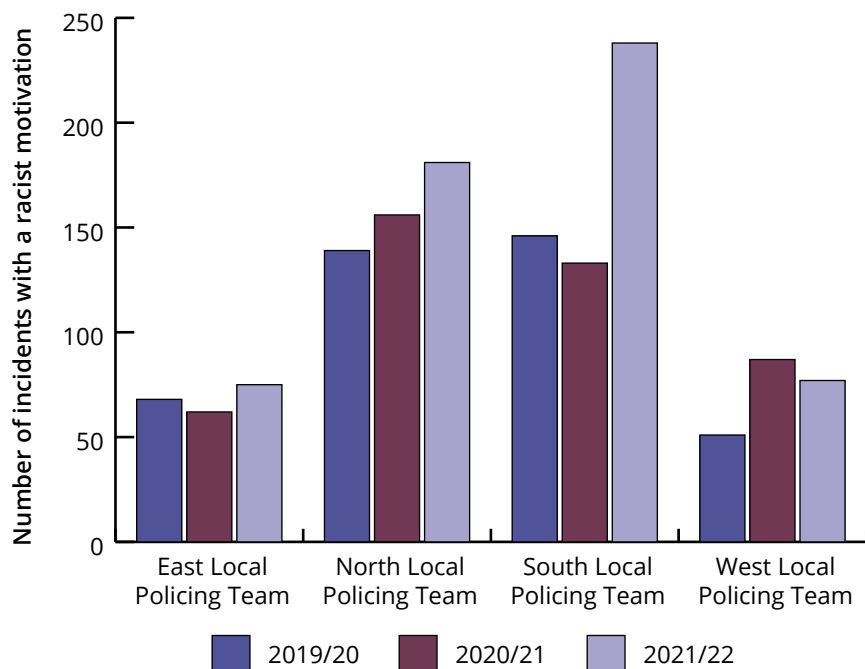
- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents, closely followed by North Local Policing Team, whereas West Local Policing Team had the lowest number, followed by East Local Policing Team
- In 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents, followed by South Local Policing Team, whereas East Local Policing Team had the lowest number, followed by West Local Policing Team
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents, followed by North Local Policing Team, whereas East Local Policing Team had the lowest number, closely followed by West Local Policing Team (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 9)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of incidents with a racist motivation increased overall in all Belfast's local policing teams (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 9).



COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 9:

Number of incidents with a racist motivation by Belfast's local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Racist motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 2.13

Recorded crimes with a racist motivation

There was variation in the numbers of recorded crimes with a racist motivation across Belfast's local policing teams.

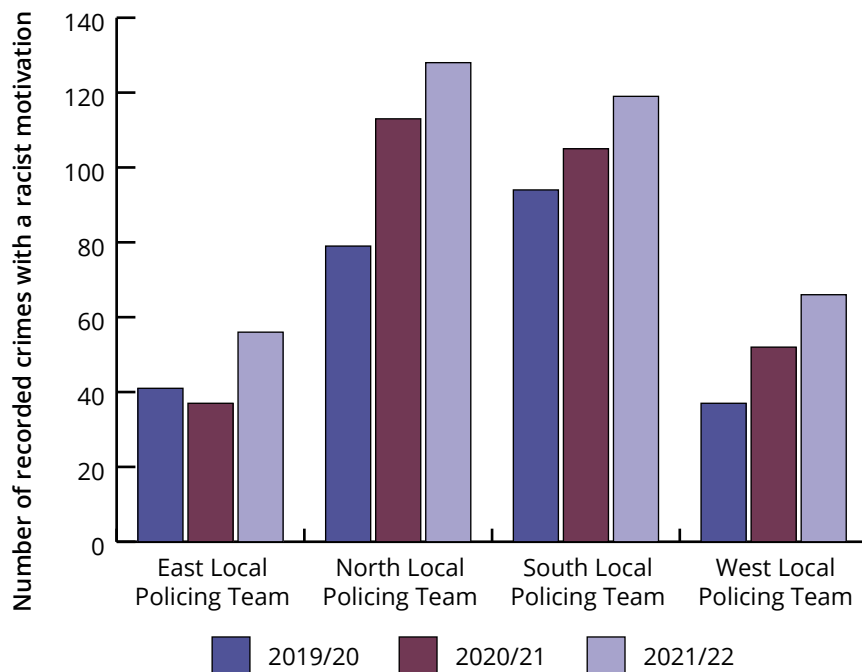
- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest number of recorded crimes, followed by North Local Policing Team, whereas West Local Policing Team had the lowest number of recorded crimes, closely followed by East Local Policing Team
- In 2020/21 and 2021/22, the first and second full years of the pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest numbers of recorded crimes, followed by South Local Policing Team, and East Local Policing Team had the lowest number of recorded crimes, followed by West Local Policing Team (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 10)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of recorded crimes with a racist motivation increased overall in all Belfast's local policing teams (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 10).



COVID-19 FIGURE 10:

Number of recorded crimes with a racist motivation by Belfast's local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Racist motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 2.14

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation

There was variation in the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation across Belfast's local policing teams.

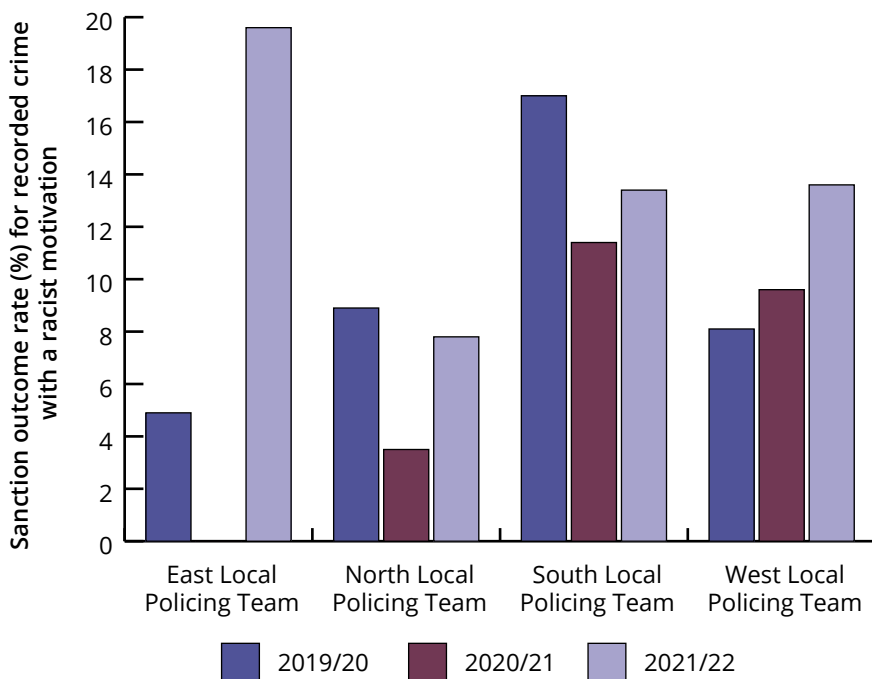
- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, and in 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest sanction outcome rate, and East Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate (in 2020/21 the sanction rate in East was 0.0%)
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, East Local Policing Team had the highest sanction outcome rate, whereas North Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 11)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation:

- Increased overall in East Local Policing Team and West Local Policing Team
- Decreased overall in North Local Policing Team and South Local Policing Team (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 11)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 11:

Sanction outcome rate (%) for recorded crime with a racist motivation by Belfast’s local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Racist motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 2.15

See pages 76-84, in the Peace Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Incidents with a racist motivation

When compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of incidents with a racist motivation in Belfast City Policing District was higher in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 12)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of incidents with a racist motivation increased overall in:

- Belfast City Policing District, by 5 per 10,000 population, from 12 to 17 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 41.67%)
- Northern Ireland, by 2 per 10,000 population, from 5 to 7 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 40.00%; see COVID-19 Peace Figure 12)

Recorded crimes with a racist motivation

When compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation in Belfast City Policing District was higher in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 13)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation increased overall in:

- Belfast City Policing District, by 4 per 10,000 population, from 7 to 11 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 57.14%)
- Northern Ireland, by 2 per 10,000 population, from 3 to 5 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 66.67%; see COVID-19 Peace Figure 13)

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation

When compared with Northern Ireland, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation in Belfast City Policing District was lower in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 14)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation increased overall in:

- Belfast City Policing District, by 1.3 percentage points, from 11.2% to 12.5% (a percentage increase of 11.61%)
- Northern Ireland, by 3.7 percentage points, from 13.8% to 17.5% (a percentage increase of 26.81%; see COVID-19 Peace Figure 14)

Comparison with other policing districts

Incidents with a racist motivation

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a racist motivation in:

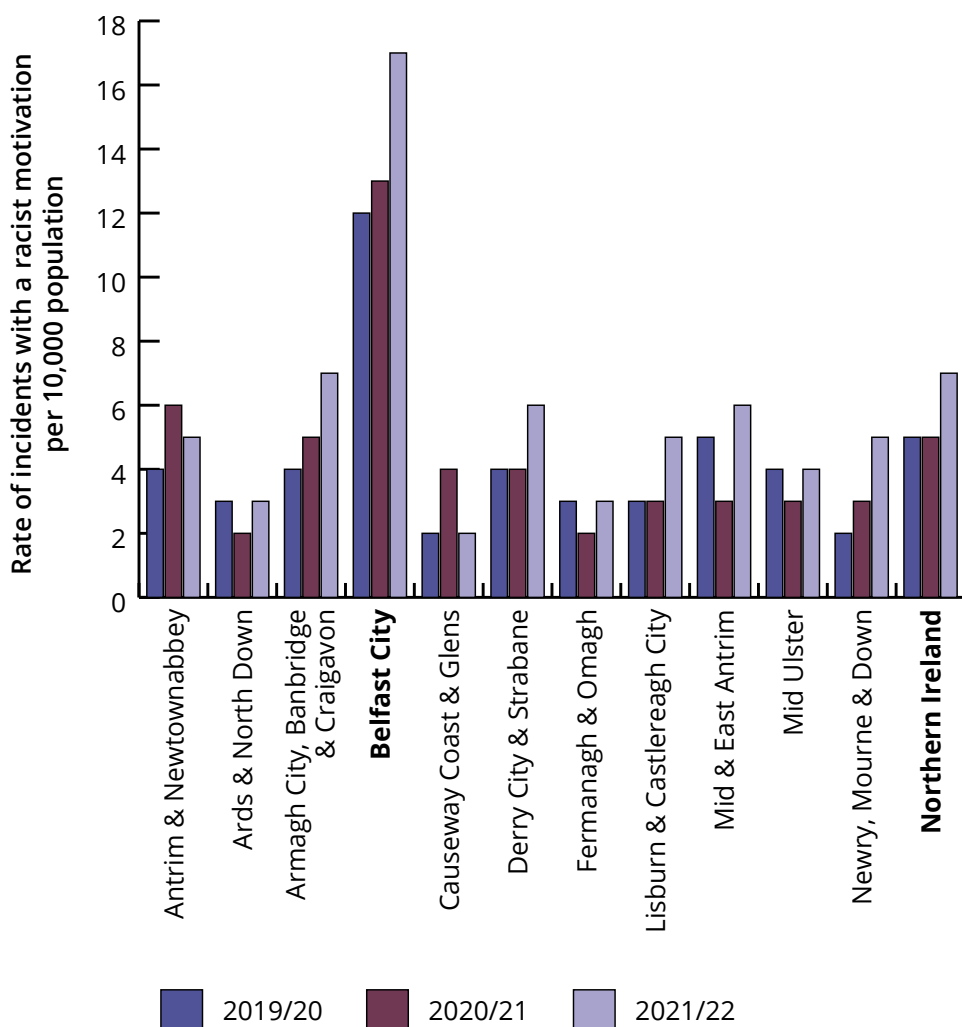
- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 12)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, the rate of incidents with a racist motivation:

- Increased overall in 7 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Remained the same overall in 4 policing districts (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 12)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 12:

Rate of incidents with a racist motivation per 10,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Racist motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 2.16

Recorded crimes with a racist motivation

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a racist motivation in:

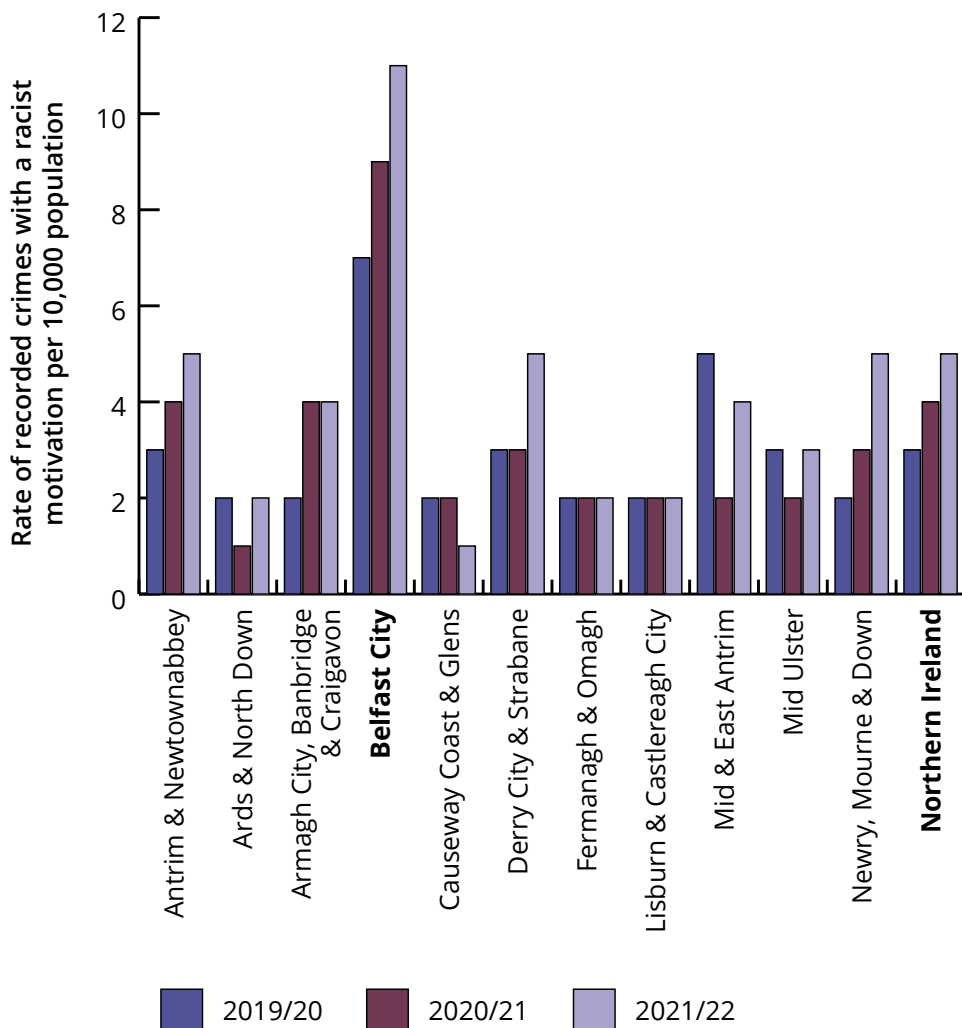
- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 13)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation:

- Increased overall in 5 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Decreased overall in 2 policing districts
- Remained the same overall in 4 policing districts (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 13)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 13:

Rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation per 10,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Racist motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 2.17

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had relatively low sanction outcome rates for recorded crime with a racist motivation:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the third lowest sanction outcome rate
- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the lowest sanction outcome rate
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the third lowest sanction outcome rate (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 14)

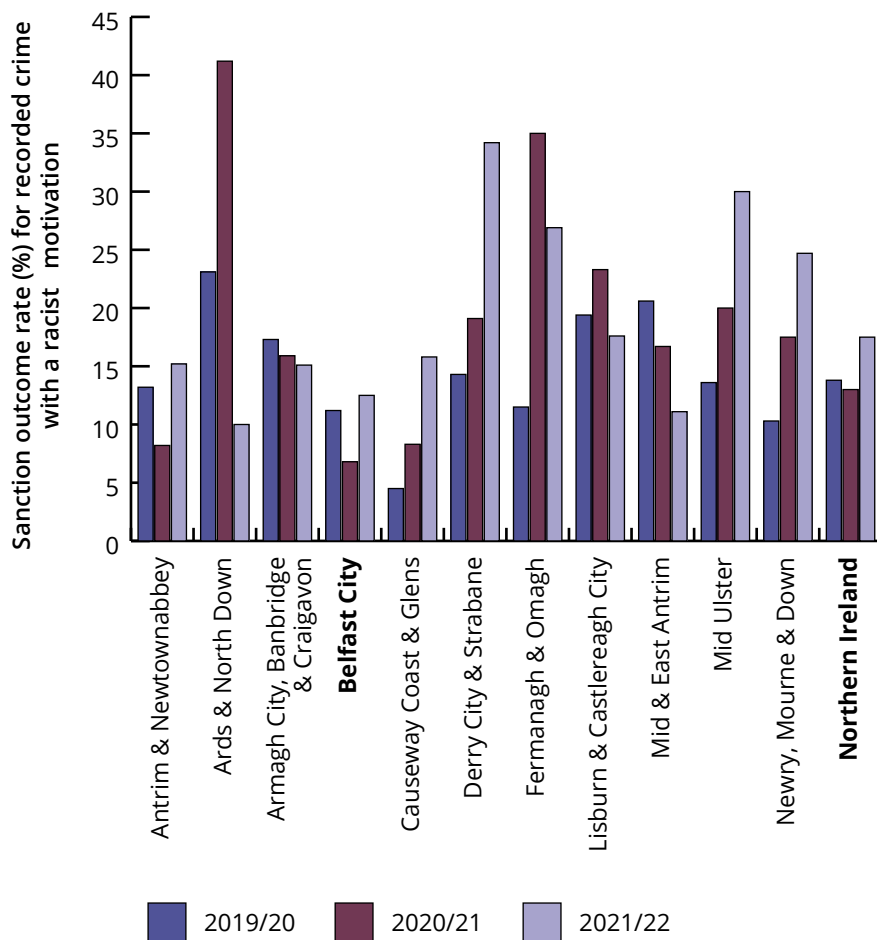
Consequently, there was no overall change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District among policing districts: it dropped from third lowest to the lowest from before the COVID-19 pandemic to the first full year of the pandemic; however, during the second full year of the pandemic it had risen to its pre-pandemic level of third lowest.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation:

- Increased overall in 7 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Decreased overall in 4 policing districts (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 14)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 14:

Sanction outcome rate (%) for recorded crime with a racist motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Racist motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 2.17

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Incidents with a racist motivation

In comparison with Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of incidents with a racist motivation; however, as Belfast City Policing District had a greater percentage increase in the rate of incidents with a racist motivation when compared with Northern Ireland, the gap between the two widened.

Recorded crimes with a racist motivation

In comparison with Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation. As Northern Ireland had a greater percentage increase in the rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation when compared with Belfast City Policing District, the gap between the two narrowed.

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation

In comparison with Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had a lower sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation. As Northern Ireland had a greater percentage increase overall in the sanction outcome rate when compared with Belfast City Policing District, the gap between the two widened.

It is noticeable that in both Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation:

- **Decreased between 2019/20 and 2020/21, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and the first full year of the pandemic**
- **Increased between 2020/21 and 2021/22, the first and second full years of the pandemic**

For both Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland, the overall increase between 2019/20 and 2021/22 resulted in a sanction outcome rate that was higher than pre-pandemic levels for recorded crimes with a racist motivation.

Comparison with other policing districts

Incidents with a racist motivation

In comparison with other policing districts, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a racist motivation, consequently there was no change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District among policing districts.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District was one of 7 policing districts in which the rate of incidents with a racist motivation increased overall:

- Belfast City Policing District had the third lowest percentage increase at 41.67%
- Newry, Mourne & Down Policing District had the greatest percentage increase at 150.00%
- Mid & East Antrim Policing District had the smallest percentage increase at 20.00%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the median percentage increase at 50.00%

Recorded crimes with a racist motivation

In comparison with other policing districts, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation, consequently there was no change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District among policing districts.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District was one of 5 policing districts in which there was an increase in the rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation:

- Belfast City Policing District had the lowest percentage increase at 57.14%
- Newry, Mourne & Down Policing District had the greatest percentage increase at 150.00%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey and Derry City & Strabane Policing Districts had the median percentage increase at 66.67%

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation

In comparison with other policing districts, both before and during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the relative position of Belfast City Policing District for the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation did not change overall, although during the first full year of the pandemic in 2020/21 it dropped to the lowest sanction outcome rate from the third lowest but returned to the third lowest in the second full year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District was one of 7

policing districts in which the sanction outcome rate of recorded crime with a racist motivation increased overall:

- **Belfast City Policing District had the smallest percentage increase at 11.61%**
- **Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the greatest percentage increase at 251.11%**
- **Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the median percentage increase at 133.91%**

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Incidents with a racist motivation

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of incidents with a racist motivation:

- **Increased overall in 7 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District**
- **Increased overall in Northern Ireland**
- **Remained the same overall in 4 policing districts**

Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of incidents with a racist motivation than Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the gap between the two widened with a greater percentage increase in Belfast City Policing District.

Among policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a racist motivation both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the rate of incidents with a racist motivation.

Recorded crimes with a racist motivation

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation:

- **Increased overall in 5 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District**
- **Increased overall in Northern Ireland**
- **Decreased overall in 2 policing districts**
- **Remained the same overall in 4 policing districts**

Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation than Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the gap between the two narrowed because Northern Ireland had a greater percentage increase when compared with Belfast City Policing District.

Among policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the rate of recorded crimes with a racist motivation.

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before and covering the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation:

- **Increased overall in 7 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District**
- **Increased overall in Northern Ireland**
- **Decreased overall in 4 policing districts**

Belfast City Policing District had a lower sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation than Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the gap between the two widened because Northern Ireland had a greater percentage increase in rate when compared with Belfast City Policing District.

Among policing districts, before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019/20 and during the second full year of the pandemic in 2021/22, Belfast City Policing District had a relatively lower sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation; during the first full year of the pandemic in 2020/21, however, the rate dropped, and Belfast City Policing District had the lowest sanction outcome rate.

In 2021/22, in Belfast City Policing District, over 1 out of every 10 recorded crimes with a racist motivation had a sanction outcome, compared with:

- Approaching 2 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Between 3 and 4 out of every 10 in Derry City & Strabane Policing District
- 3 out of every 10 in Mid Ulster Policing District
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 in Fermanagh & Omagh, and Newry, Mourne & Down Policing Districts

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with a slight overall increase in the sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a racist motivation, reflecting a decrease between 2019/20 and 2020/21 with a subsequent increase between 2020/21 and 2021/22 to slightly higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Inequalities, with the potential for inequity

Incidents with a racist motivation

Of Belfast's local policing teams, North and South Local Policing Teams had the highest number of incidents with a racist motivation.

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents with a racist motivation, followed by North Local Policing Team
- In 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents with a racist motivation, followed by South Local Policing Team
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents with a racist motivation, closely followed by North Local Policing Team

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of incidents with a racist motivation increased in all Belfast's local policing teams:

- South Local Policing Team had the greatest percentage increase at 63.01%, followed by West Local Policing Team at 50.98%
- East Local Policing Team had the smallest percentage increase at 10.29%
- North Local Policing Team had a percentage increase of 30.22%.

Recorded crimes with a racist motivation

Of Belfast's local policing teams:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest number of recorded crimes with a racist motivation, followed by North Local Policing Team
- In 2020/21 and 2021/22, during the first two full years of the pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest number of recorded crimes with a racist motivation, followed by South Local Policing Team

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of recorded crimes with a racist motivation increased in all Belfast's local policing teams:

- West Local Policing Team had the greatest percentage increase at 78.38%, followed by North Local Policing Team at 62.03%
- South Local Policing Team had the smallest percentage increase at 26.60%
- East Local Policing Team had a 36.59% percentage increase

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation

Of Belfast's local policing teams:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, and in 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic, East Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation
- In 2021/22, during the second full year of the pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate

It is noticeable that East Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rates in 2019/20 and 2020/21, but the highest rate in 2021/22, especially as the rate in East in 2020/21 was 0.0%. It is not clear whether this is an anomaly introduced in the data collection system during the COVID-19 pandemic or reflects a very low number of recorded crimes with a racist motivation that were sanctioned.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rates for recorded crime with a racist motivation decreased in North Local Policing Team and South Local Policing Team. South Local Policing Team had the greatest percentage decrease at 21.18%, and North Local Policing Team had a percentage decrease of 12.36%. In both Local Policing Teams, these decreases in rates were to levels below those pre-pandemic.

In 2021/22, in North Local Policing Team, less than 1 out of every 10 recorded crimes with a racist motivation had a sanction outcome compared with almost 2 out of every 10 in East Local Policing Team, and over 1 out of every 10 in South and West Local Policing Teams.

SECTION 4

Hate Crime: Homophobic Motivations

- 4.1 Incidents with a homophobic motivation**
- 4.2 Recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation**
- 4.3 Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation**

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Police Service Northern Ireland, Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Homophobic motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet.⁶

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

6. Hate Motivation Statistics | PSNI (Last accessed 3 May 2023)

Incidents with a homophobic motivation

In Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 5 per 10,000 population
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 5 per 10,000 population

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation increased by 2 per 10,000 population from 3 to 5 per 10,000 population.

Recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation

In Belfast City Policing District, the rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 3 per 10,000 population
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 3 per 10,000 population

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of recorded crime with a homophobic motivation increased by 1 per 10,000 population, from 2 to 3 per 10,000 population.

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation

In Belfast City Policing District, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 7.1%
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 17.3%

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation increased by 1.4 percentage points, from 15.9% to 17.3%.

Differences by local policing team

Incidents with a homophobic motivation

There was variation in the numbers of incidents with a homophobic motivation across Belfast's local policing teams.

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, West Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents, followed by North and South Local Policing Teams, whereas East Local Policing Team had the lowest number
- In 2020/21 and 2021/22, the first and second two full years of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents, followed by North Local Policing Team, whereas West Local Policing Team had the lowest number in 2020/21, and East Local Policing Team had the lowest number in 2021/22 (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 15)

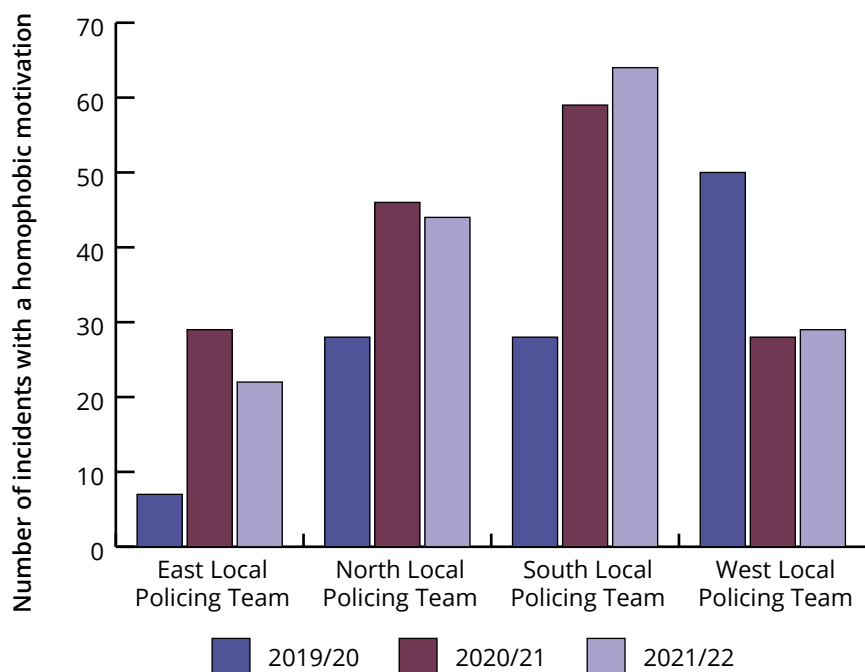
Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of incidents with a homophobic motivation:

- Increased overall in East, North, and South Local Policing Teams
- Decreased overall in West Local Policing Team (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 15)



COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 15:

Number of incidents with a homophobic motivation by Belfast's local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Homophobic motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 3.10

Recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation

There was variation in the numbers of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

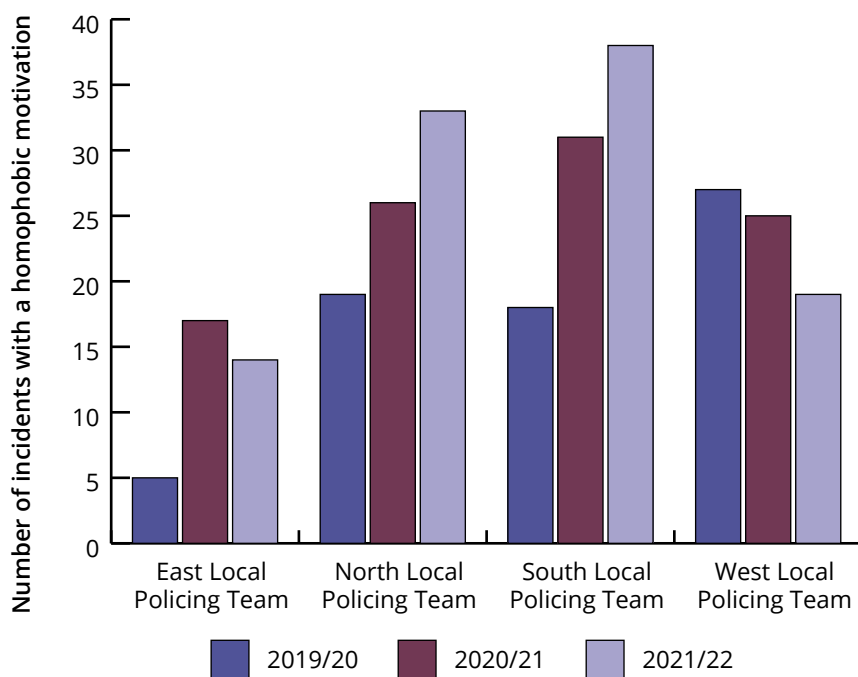
- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, West Local Policing Team had the highest number of recorded crimes, followed by North and South Local Policing Teams, whereas East Local Policing Team had the lowest number of recorded crimes
- In 2020/21 and 2021/22, the first and second full years of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest numbers of recorded crimes, followed by North Local Policing Team, and East Local Policing Team had the lowest numbers of recorded crimes (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 16)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation:

- Increased overall in East, North, and South Local Policing Teams
- Decreased overall in West Local Policing Team (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 16)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 16:

Number of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation by Belfast’s local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Homophobic motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 3.11

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation

There was variation in the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation across Belfast's local policing teams:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, East Local Policing Team had the highest sanction outcome rate, closely followed by North Local Policing Team, whereas South Local Policing Team had the lowest rate (at 0.0%), followed by West Local Policing Team
- In 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest sanction outcome rate, followed by North Local Policing Team, whereas West and East Local Policing Teams had the lowest rates (at 0.0%)
- In 2020/21, the second full year of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest sanction outcome rate, followed by West Local Policing Team, whereas North Local Policing Team had the lowest rate, followed by East Local Policing Team (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 17)

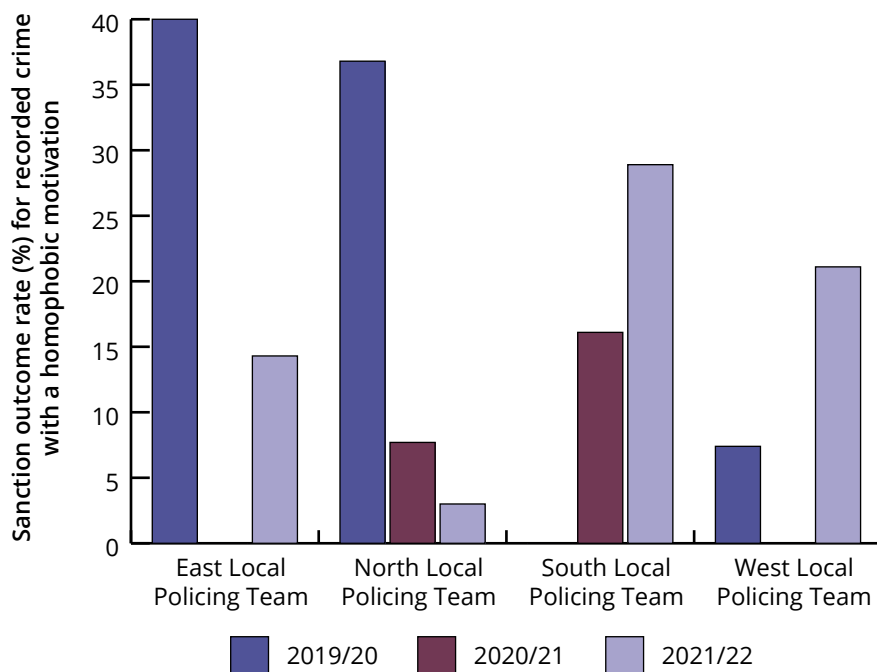
Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation:

- Increased overall in South and West Local Policing Teams
- Decreased overall in East and North Local Policing Teams (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 17)



COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 17:

Sanction outcome rate (%) for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation by Belfast's local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Homophobic motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 3.12

See pages 85-93, in the Peace Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Incidents with a homophobic motivation

When compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation in Belfast City Policing District was higher in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 18)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation increased overall in:

- Belfast City Policing District, by 2 per 10,000 population, from 3 to 5 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 66.67%)
- Northern Ireland, by 1 per 10,000 population, from 1 to 2 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 100.00%; see COVID-19 Peace Figure 18)

Recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation

When compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation in Belfast City Policing District was higher in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 19)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation increased overall in:

- Belfast City Policing District, by 1 per 10,000 population, from 2 to 3 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 50.00%)
- Northern Ireland, by 1 per 10,000 population, from 1 to 2 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 100.00%; see COVID-19 Peace Figure 19)

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation

When compared with Northern Ireland, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation in Belfast City Policing District was lower in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 20)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation:

- Increased overall in Belfast City Policing District, by 1.4 percentage points, from 15.9% to 17.3% (a percentage increase of 8.81%)
- Decreased overall in Northern Ireland, by 1.7 percentage points, from 24.6% to 22.9% (a percentage decrease of 6.91%; see COVID-19 Peace Figure 20)

Comparison with other policing districts

Incidents with a homophobic motivation

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation in:

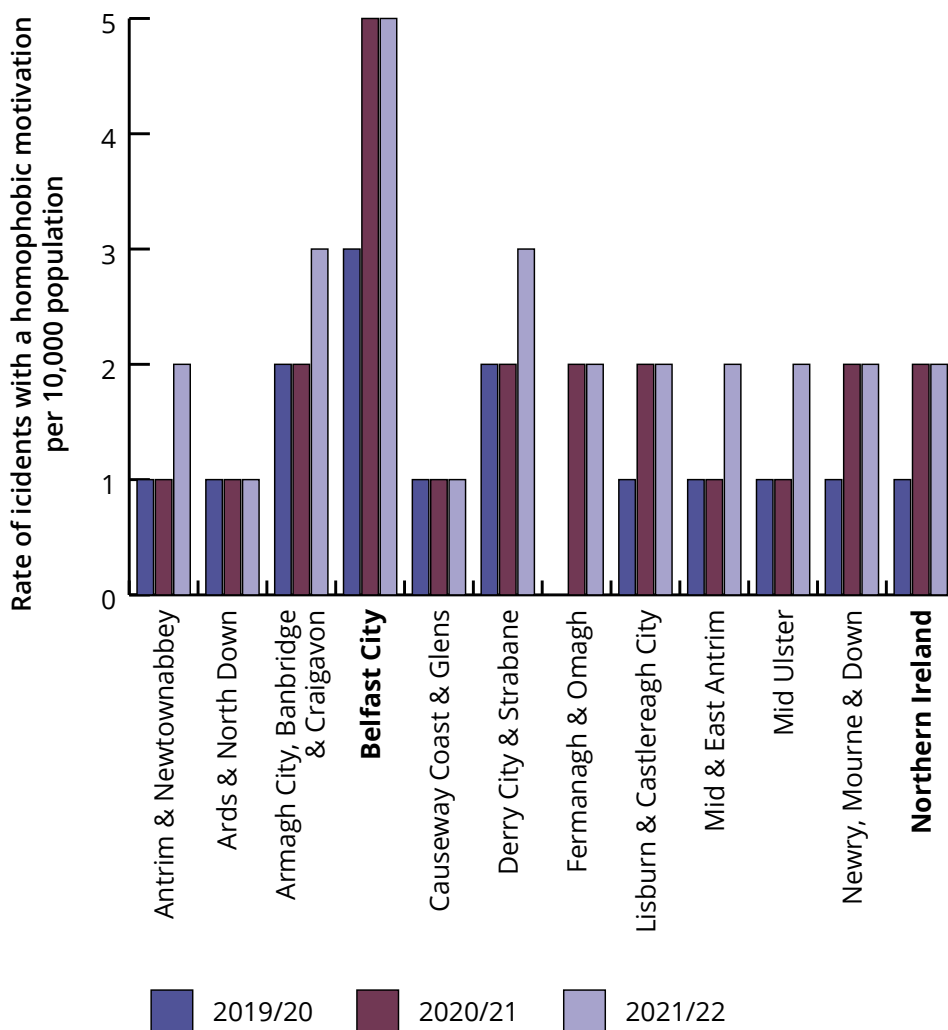
- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 18)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation:

- Increased overall in 9 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Remained the same overall in 2 policing districts (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 18)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 18:

Rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation per 10,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Homophobic motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 3.13

Recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District:

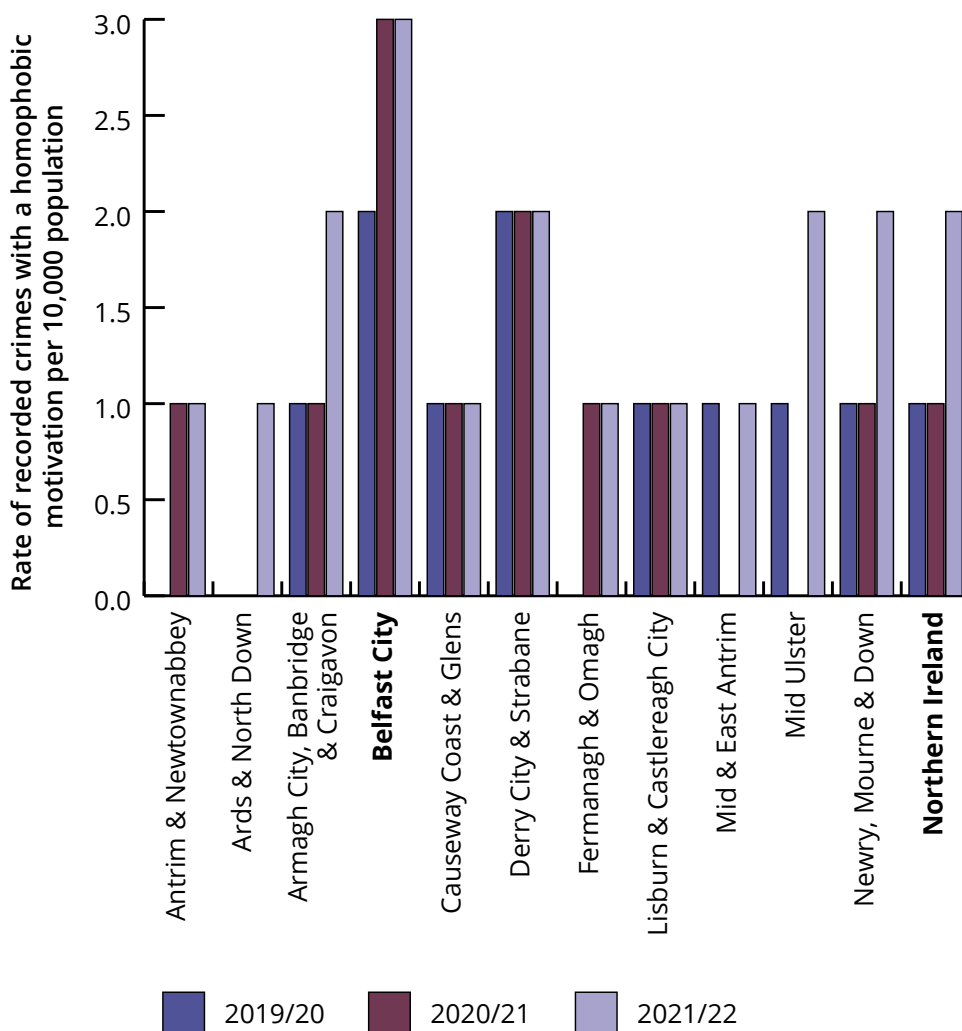
- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, had the equal highest rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation, together with Derry City & Strabane Policing District
- In 2020/21 and 2021/22, the first and second full years of the pandemic, had the highest rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 19)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation:

- Increased overall in 7 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Remained the same overall in 4 policing Districts (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 19)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 19:

Rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation per 10,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Homophobic motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 3.14

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had relatively low sanction outcome rates for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the fourth lowest sanction outcome rate
- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the second lowest sanction outcome rate
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the fifth lowest sanction outcome rate (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 20)

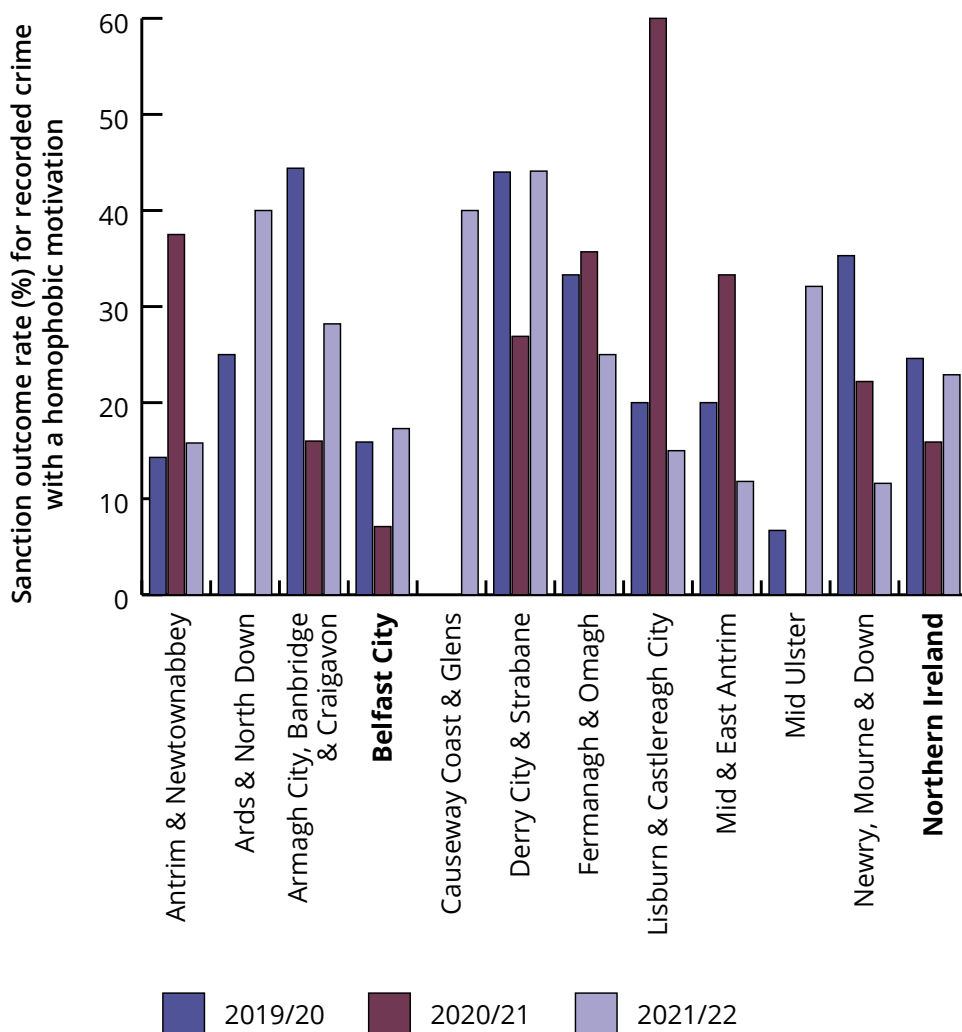
Among policing districts, there was a change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District: it rose from fourth lowest to the fifth lowest from before the COVID-19 pandemic to the second full year of the pandemic; however, during the first full year of the pandemic it had dropped to below pre-pandemic levels at second lowest.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a racist motivation:

- Increased overall in 6 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Decreased overall in 5 policing districts (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 20)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 20:

Sanction outcome rate (%) for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Homophobic motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 3.12

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Incidents with a homophobic motivation

In comparison with Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation; however, as Northern Ireland had a greater percentage increase when compared with Belfast City Policing District, the gap between the two narrowed.

Recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation

In comparison with Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation. As Northern Ireland had a greater percentage increase in the rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation when compared with Belfast City Policing District, the gap between the two narrowed.

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation

In comparison with Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had a lower sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation; however, as Belfast City Policing District had an increase in rate overall and Northern Ireland had a decrease in rate overall, the gap between the two narrowed.

In Belfast City Policing District, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation increased to a higher level than the pre-pandemic rate.

Comparison with other policing districts

Incidents with a homophobic motivation

In comparison with other policing districts, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation, consequently there was no change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District among policing districts.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District was one of 9 policing districts in which the rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation increased overall⁷:

- Belfast City Policing District had the equal lowest percentage increase at 50.00%, together with Derry City & Strabane Policing District
- 5 policing districts had the greatest percentage increase at 100.00%
- The median percentage increase was also 100.00%

Recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation

In comparison with other policing districts, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation, consequently there was no change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District among policing districts, except that before the pandemic Belfast City Policing District shared the highest rate with Derry City & Strabane Policing District, whereas it did not during the first two full years of the pandemic.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District was one of 7 policing districts in which there was an overall increase in the rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation⁸:

- Belfast City Policing District had the smallest percentage increase at 50.00%
- 3 policing districts had the greatest percentage increase at 100.00%
- The median percentage increase was 75.00%

7. It was possible to calculate the percentage increase for only 8 of the 9 policing districts because Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had a pre-pandemic baseline rate of 0.0 per 10,000 population

8. It was possible to calculate the percentage increase for only 4 of the 7 policing districts because 3 of the policing districts had a pre-pandemic baseline rate of 0.0 per 10,000 population

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation

In comparison with other policing districts, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the relative position of Belfast City Policing District for the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation changed overall and across each year, although from 2019/20 to 2021/22 Belfast City Policing District was among the policing districts with the lowest sanction outcome rates.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District was one of 6 policing districts in which the sanction outcome rate of recorded crime with a racist motivation increased overall⁹:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second smallest percentage increase at 8.81%
- Mid Ulster Policing District had the greatest percentage increase at 379.10% (this percentage increase was from a relatively low pre-pandemic baseline)
- Derry City & Strabane had the lowest percentage increase at 0.23%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District had the median percentage increase at 10.49%

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Incidents with a homophobic motivation

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation:

- Increased overall in 9 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Increased overall in Northern Ireland
- Remained the same overall in 2 policing districts

9. It was possible to calculate the percentage increase for only 5 of the 6 policing districts because Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had a pre-pandemic baseline rate of 0.0 per 10,000 population

Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation than Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the gap between the two narrowed with a greater percentage increase in Northern Ireland.

Among policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the rate of incidents with a homophobic motivation.

Recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation:

- **Increased overall in 7 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District**
- **Increased overall in Northern Ireland**
- **Remained the same overall in 4 policing districts**

Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation than Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the gap between the two narrowed because Northern Ireland had a greater percentage increase than Belfast City Policing District.

Among policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the pandemic, however, Belfast City Policing District shared the highest rate with Derry City & Strabane Policing District.

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the rate of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation.

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation:

- Increased overall in 6 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Decreased overall in Northern Ireland
- Decreased overall in 5 policing districts

Belfast City Policing District had a lower sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation than Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the gap between the two narrowed because Northern Ireland had an overall decrease in rate, whereas Belfast City Policing District had an overall increase in rate.

Among policing districts, before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019/20 and during the second full year of the pandemic in 2021/22, although Belfast City Policing District had one of the relatively lower sanction outcome rates for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation, during the first full year of the pandemic in 2020/21 the rate dropped, and Belfast City Policing District had the lowest sanction outcome rate of all policing districts.

In 2021/22, in Belfast City Policing District, approaching 2 out of every 10 recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation had a sanction outcome, compared with:

- Over 2 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Between 4 and 5 out of every 10 in Derry City & Strabane Policing District
- 4 out of every 10 in Ards & North Down and Causeway Coast & Glens Policing Districts
- Over 3 out of every 10 in Mid Ulster Policing District
- Approaching 3 out of every 10 in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Policing District
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 in Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with a slight overall increase in the sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation, reflecting a decrease between 2019/20 and 2020/21 with a subsequent increase between 2020/21 and 2021/22 to slightly higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Inequalities, with the potential for inequity

Incidents with a homophobic motivation

Of Belfast's local policing teams:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, West Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents with a homophobic motivation, followed by North and South Local Policing Teams
- In 2020/21 and 2021/22, during the first and second full years of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents with a homophobic motivation, followed by North Local Policing Team

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of incidents with a homophobic motivation:

Increased in East, North and South Local Policing Teams:

- East Local Policing Team had the greatest percentage increase at 214.29%
- North Local Policing Team had the smallest percentage increase at 57.14%
- South Local Policing Team had the median percentage increase of 128.57%

Recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation

Of Belfast's local policing teams:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, West Local Policing Team had the highest number of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation, followed by North and South Local Policing Teams
- In 2020/21 and 2021/22, during the first and second full years of the pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the highest number of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation, followed by North Local Policing Team

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation increased in East, North, and South Local Policing Teams:

- East Local Policing Team had the greatest percentage increase at 180.00%
- North Local Policing Team had the smallest percentage increase at 73.68%
- South Local Policing Team had the median percentage increase at 111.11%

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation

Of Belfast's local policing teams:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation (at 0.0%), followed by West Local Policing Team
- In 2020/21, during the first full year of the pandemic, East and West Local Policing Teams had the lowest rates (at 0.0%) each, followed by North Local Policing Team
- In 2021/22, during the second full year of the pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rates for recorded crime with a homophobic motivation decreased in East Local Policing Team and North Local Policing Team. North Local Policing Team had the greatest percentage decrease at 91.85%, and the percentage decrease in East Local Policing Team was 64.25%. In both these local policing teams, the decreases in rates were to levels considerably below pre-pandemic levels.

In 2021/22, in North Local Policing Team, less than 1 out of every 10 recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation had a sanction outcome, and in East Local Policing Team, between 1 and 2 out of every 10 had a sanction outcome compared with almost 3 out of every 10 in South Local Policing Team, and over 2 out of every 10 in West Local Policing Team.

SECTION 5

Hate Crime: Sectarian Motivations

- 5.1 Incidents with a sectarian motivation**
- 5.2 Recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation**
- 5.3 Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation**

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Police Service Northern Ireland, Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Sectarian motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet.¹⁰

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

10. Hate Motivation Statistics | PSNI (Last accessed 3 May 2023)

Incidents with a sectarian motivation

In Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 11 per 10,000 population
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 9 per 10,000 population

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation increased by 1 per 10,000 population from 8 to 9 per 10,000 population.

Recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation

In Belfast City Policing District, the rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 8 per 10,000 population
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 7 per 10,000 population

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the rate of recorded crime with a sectarian motivation increased by 2 per 10,000 population, from 5 to 7 per 10,000 population.

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation

In Belfast City Policing District, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 10.9%
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 12.0%

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation increased by 3.6 percentage points, from 8.4% to 12.0%.

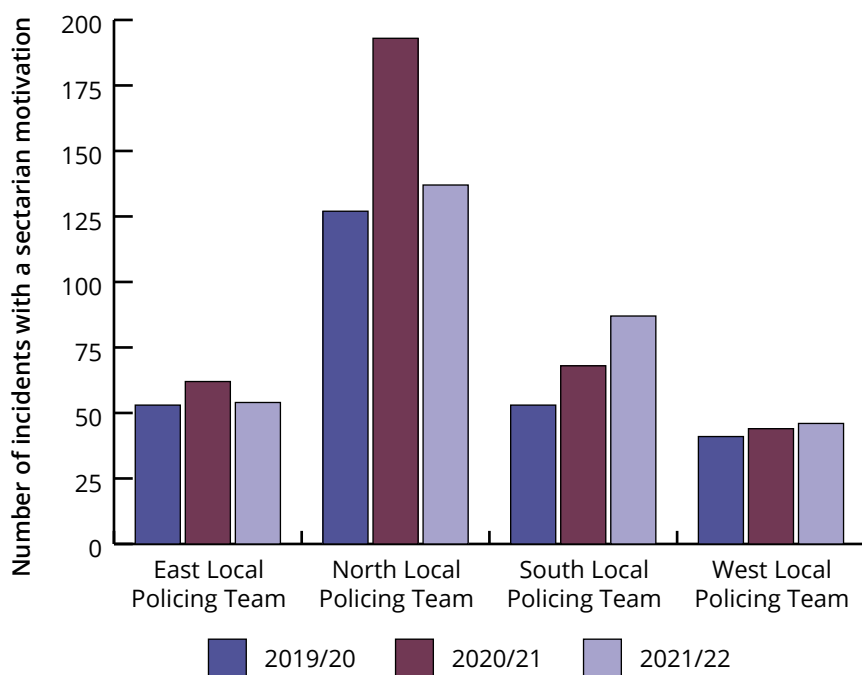
Differences by local policing team

Incidents with a sectarian motivation

There was variation in the numbers of incidents with a sectarian motivation across Belfast's local policing teams.

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents, followed by South and West Local Policing Teams with the same number
- In 2020/21 and 2021/22, the first and second full years of the pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest numbers of incidents, followed by South Local Policing Team, whereas West Local Policing Team had the lowest numbers (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 21)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of incidents with a sectarian motivation increased overall in all Belfast's local policing teams (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 21).

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 21:**Number of incidents with a sectarian motivation by Belfast's local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22**

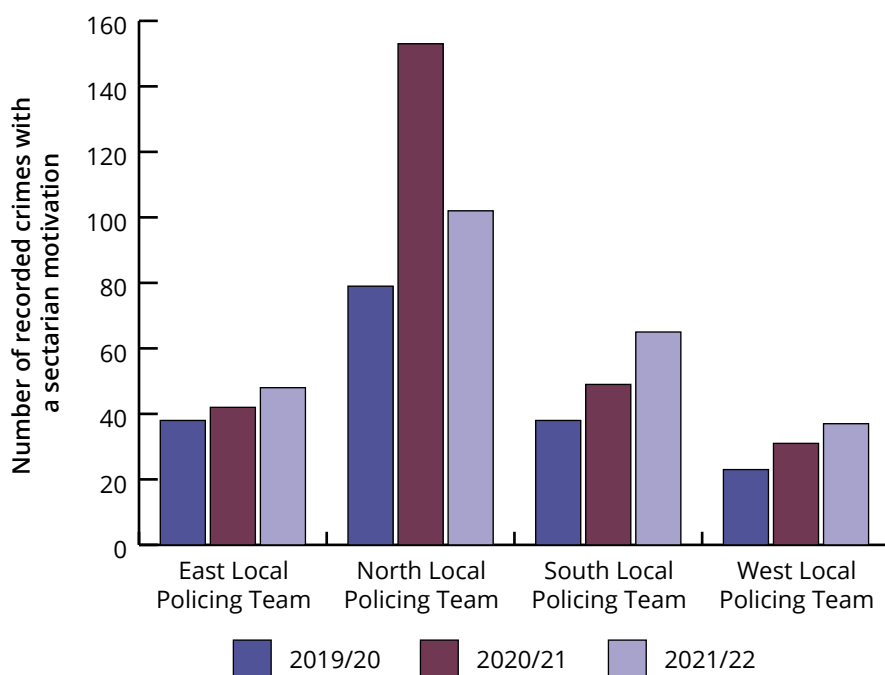
Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Sectarian motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 4.10

Recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation

There was variation in the numbers of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation across Belfast's local policing teams.

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest number of recorded crimes, whereas West Local Policing Team had the lowest number
- In 2020/21 and 2021/22, the first and second full years of the pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest numbers of recorded crimes, followed by South Local Policing Team, whereas West Local Policing Team had the lowest numbers (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 22)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation increased overall in all Belfast's local policing teams (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 22).

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 22:**Number of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation by Belfast's local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22**

Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Sectarian motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 4.11

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation

There was variation in the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation across Belfast's local policing teams.

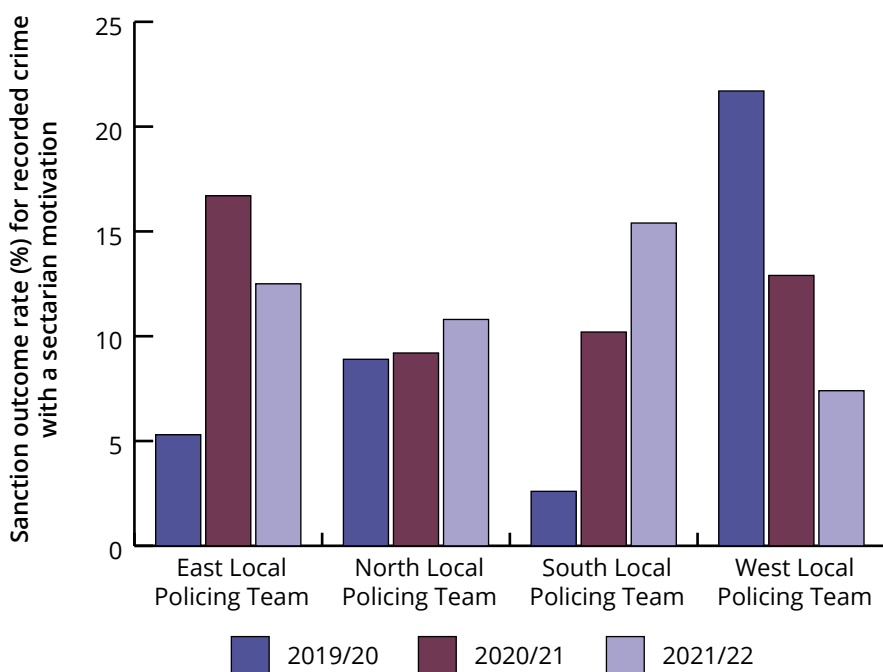
- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate, followed by East Local Policing Team, whereas West Local Policing Team had the highest rate
- In 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate, followed by South Local Policing Team, whereas East Local Policing Team had the highest rate
- In 2020/21, the second full year of the pandemic, West Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate, whereas South Local Policing Team had the highest rate (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 23)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation:

- Increased overall in East, North, and South Local Policing Teams
- Decreased overall in West Local Policing Team (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 23)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 23:

Sanction outcome rate (%) for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation by Belfast’s local policing teams, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Sectarian motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 4.12

See pages 94–102, in the Peace Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Incidents with a sectarian motivation

When compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation in Belfast City Policing District was higher in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 24)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation increased overall in:

- Belfast City Policing District, by 1 per 10,000 population, from 8 to 9 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 12.50%)
- Northern Ireland, by 1 per 10,000 population, from 5 to 6 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 20.00%; see COVID-19 Peace Figure 24)

Recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation

When compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation in Belfast City Policing District was higher in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 25)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years, the rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation increased overall in:

- Belfast City Policing District, by 2 per 10,000 population, from 5 to 7 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 40.00%)
- Northern Ireland, by 1 per 10,000 population, from 3 to 4 per 10,000 population (a percentage increase of 33.33%; see COVID-19 Peace Figure 25)

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation

When compared with Northern Ireland, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation in Belfast City Policing District was lower in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 26)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation increased overall in:

- Belfast City Policing District, by 3.6 percentage points, from 8.4% to 12.0% (a percentage increase of 42.86%)
- Northern Ireland, by 0.1 percentage points, from 12.2% to 12.3% (a percentage increase of 0.82%; see COVID-19 Peace Figure 26)

Comparison with other policing districts

Incidents with a sectarian motivation

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District:

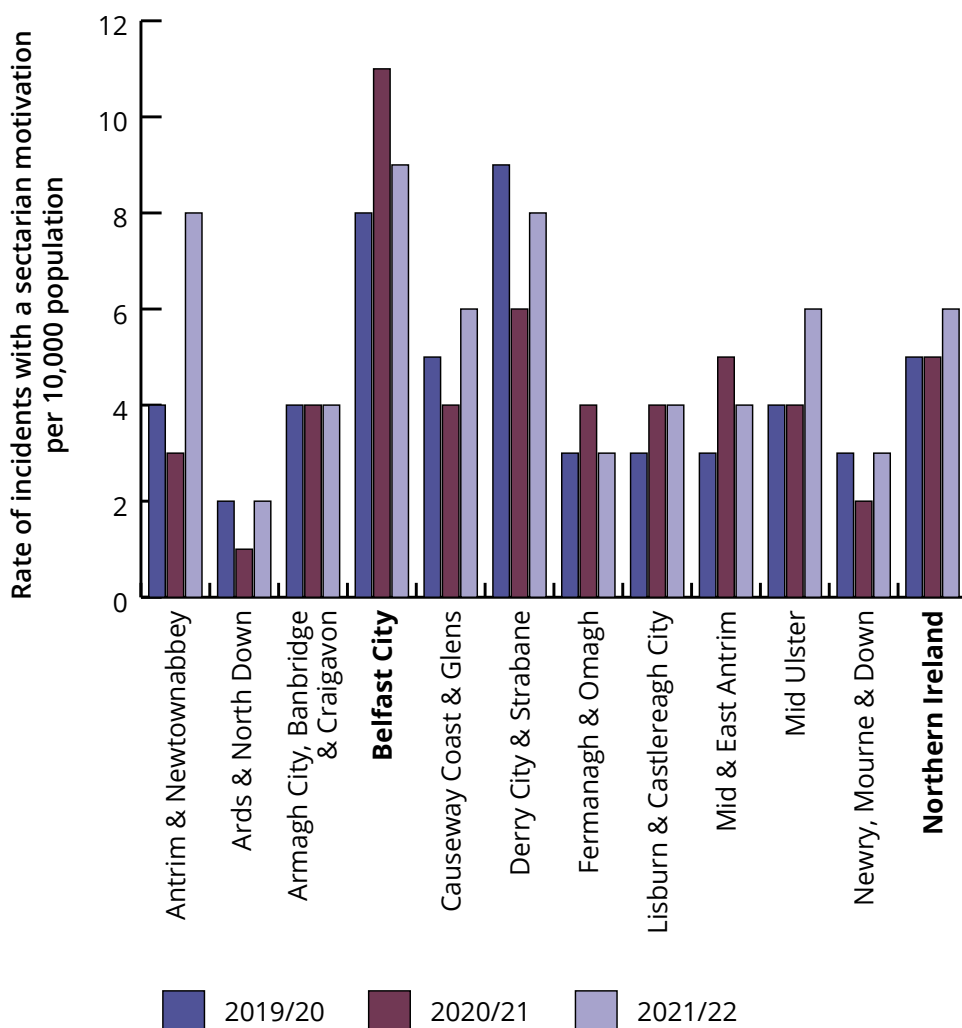
- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, had the second highest rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation, after Derry City & Strabane Policing District
- In 2020/21 and 2021/22, during the first and second full years of the pandemic, had the highest rate of incidents (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 24)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation:

- Increased overall in 6 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Decreased overall in one policing district
- Remained the same overall in 4 policing districts (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 24)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 24:

Rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation per 10,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Sectarian motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 4.13

Recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District:

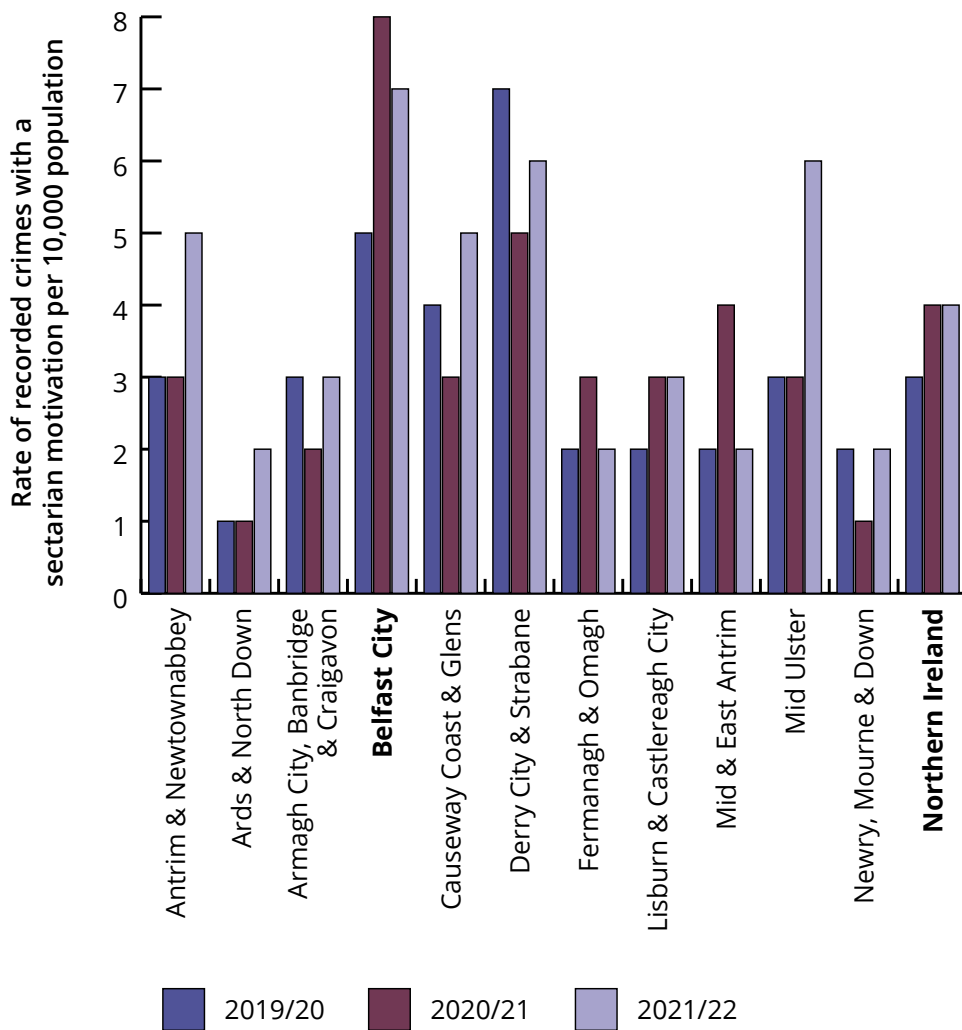
- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, had the second highest rate of recorded crime with a sectarian motivation, after Derry City & Strabane Policing District
- In 2020/21 and 2021/22, during the first and second full years of the pandemic, had the highest rate of recorded crime with a sectarian motivation (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 25)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation:

- Increased overall in 6 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Decreased overall in one policing district
- Remained the same overall in 4 policing districts (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 25)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 25:

Rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation per 10,000 population by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Sectarian motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 4.14

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had relatively low sanction outcome rates for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, and in 2020/21, during the first full year of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the fourth lowest sanction outcome rate
- In 2021/22, during the second full year of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the median sanction outcome rate (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 26)

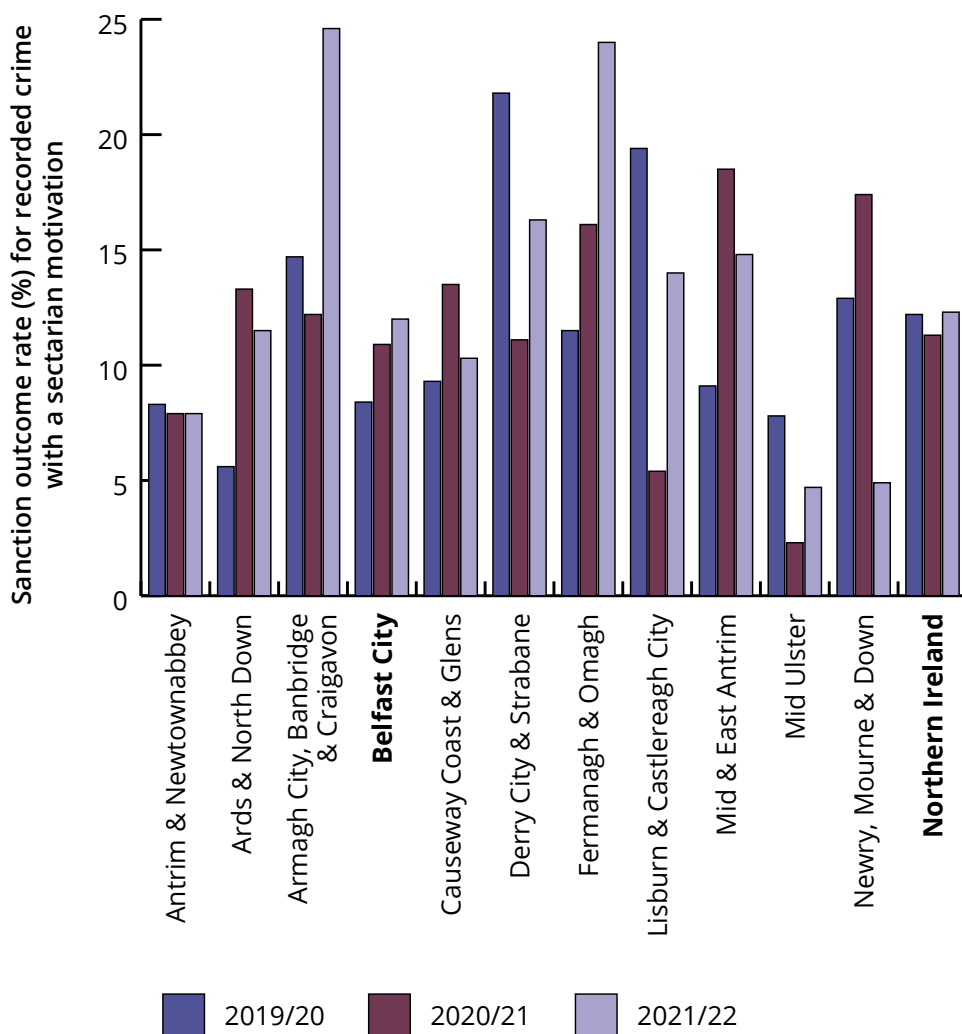
Among policing districts, there was a change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District: it rose from fourth lowest to the median from before the COVID-19 pandemic to after the second full year of the pandemic.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation:

- Increased overall in 6 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Decreased overall in 5 policing districts (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 26)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 26:

Sanction outcome rate (%) for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation by policing district and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: PSNI: Hate Motivation Statistics, Hate motivation Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2021/22 (published 2 December 2022), Sectarian motivations summary tables, Excel spreadsheet, Table 4.12

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Incidents with a sectarian motivation

In comparison with Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation; however, as Northern Ireland had a greater percentage increase when compared with Belfast City Policing District, the gap between the two narrowed.

Recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation

In comparison with Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation. As Belfast City Policing District had a greater percentage increase in the rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation when compared with Northern Ireland, the gap between the two widened.

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation

In comparison with Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had a lower sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation; however, as Belfast City Policing District had a much greater percentage increase in sanction outcome rate overall than that in Northern Ireland, the gap between the two narrowed.

Comparison with other policing districts

Incidents with a sectarian motivation

Of all policing districts, in:

- **2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the second highest rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation**
- **2020/21 and 2021/22, during the first and second full years of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of incidents**

Consequently, there was a change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District among policing districts, from the second highest to the highest rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District was one of 6 policing districts in which the rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation increased overall:

- Belfast City Policing District had the lowest percentage increase at 12.50%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District had the greatest percentage increase at 100.00%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City and Mid & East Antrim Policing Districts had the median percentage increase at 33.33%

Recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation

Of all policing districts, in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the second highest rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation
- 2020/21 and 2021/22, during the first and second full years of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District had the highest rate of recorded crimes

Consequently, there was a change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District among Policing Districts, from the second highest to the highest rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District was one of 6 policing districts in which there was an overall increase in the rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second lowest percentage increase at 40.00%
- Ards & North Down and Mid Ulster Policing Districts had the greatest percentage increase at 100.00%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the smallest percentage increase at 25.00%
- The median percentage increase was 58.34%

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation

Among policing districts, from before to covering the second full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the relative position of Belfast City Policing District with respect to the sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation rose from fourth lowest to the median.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District was one of 6 policing districts in which the sanction outcome rate of recorded crime with a sectarian motivation increased overall:

- Belfast City Policing District had the second smallest percentage increase at 42.86%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the greatest percentage increase at 108.70%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the smallest percentage increase at 10.75%
- The median percentage increase was 63.50%

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Incidents with a sectarian motivation

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation:

- Increased overall in 6 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Increased overall in Northern Ireland
- Decreased overall in one policing district
- Remained the same overall in 4 policing districts

Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation than Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the gap between the two narrowed with a greater percentage increase in Northern Ireland.

Among policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the second highest rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the highest rate of incidents during the first two full years of the pandemic.

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the rate of incidents with a sectarian motivation.

Recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation:

- **Increased overall in 6 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District**
- **Increased overall in Northern Ireland**
- **Decreased overall in one policing district**
- **Remained the same overall in 4 policing districts**

Belfast City Policing District had a higher rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation than Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the gap between the two widened with a greater percentage increase in Belfast City Policing District.

Among policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had the second highest rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the highest rate of recorded crimes during the first two full years of the pandemic.

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the rate of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation.

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation:

- **Increased overall in 6 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District**
- **Increased overall in Northern Ireland**
- **Decreased overall in 5 policing districts**

Belfast City Policing District had a lower sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation than Northern Ireland, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the gap between the two narrowed because Northern Ireland had only a very small percentage increase in rate when compared with that of Belfast City Policing District.

Among policing districts, before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019/20 and during the first full year of the pandemic in 2020/21, Belfast City Policing District had a relatively lower sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation; during the second full year of the pandemic in 2021/22, however, Belfast City Policing District's position rose to the median.

In 2021/22, in Belfast City Policing District, over 1 out of every 10 recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation had a sanction outcome, which was similar to that in Northern Ireland, but was lower than that in 5 other policing districts, as follows:

- **Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon, and Fermanagh & Omagh Policing Districts**
- **Between 1 and 2 out of every 10 in Derry City & Strabane, Lisburn & Castlereagh, and Mid & East Antrim Policing Districts**

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an overall increase in the sanction outcome rate for recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation.

Inequalities, with the potential for inequity

Incidents with a sectarian motivation

Of Belfast's local policing teams, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest number of incidents with a sectarian motivation, followed by East and South Local Policing Teams.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of incidents with a sectarian motivation increased in all Belfast's local policing teams, but South Local Policing Team had the greatest percentage increase at 64.15%.

Recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation

Of Belfast's local policing teams, both before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the highest number of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation, followed by East and South Local Policing Teams.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation increased in all Belfast's local policing teams. South Local

Policing Team had the greatest percentage increase at 71.05%, followed by West Local Policing Team at 60.87%.

Sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation

Of Belfast's local policing teams:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, South Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation at 2.6%, followed by East Local Policing Team at 5.3%
- In 2020/21, during the first full year of the pandemic, North Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate at 9.2%, followed by South Local Policing Team at 10.2%
- In 2021/22, during the second full year of the pandemic, West Local Policing Team had the lowest sanction outcome rate at 7.4%

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the sanction outcome rates for recorded crime with a sectarian motivation decreased in West Local Policing Team, with a percentage decrease of 65.90%.

In 2021/22, in West Local Policing Team, less than 1 out of every 10 recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation had a sanction outcome, and in East and North Local Policing Teams over 1 out of every 10 had a sanction outcome, compared with between 1 and 2 out of every 10 in South Local Policing Team.

SECTION 6

Child Protection Register

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Department of Health, Child Protection Register, Current publication, Children's social care statistics for Northern Ireland, 2021/22.¹¹

TIMEPOINTS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Timepoints at 31 March 2021, and 31 March 2022

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the number of children on the Child Protection Register:

- At 31 March 2021, the end of the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 335
- At 31 March 2022, the end of the second full year of the pandemic, was 345

Between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the number of children on the Child Protection Register increased by 94, from 251 to 345.

11. Child protection register | Department of Health (health-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 7 May 2023)

Differences by age group

There was variation by age group in the numbers of children on the Child Protection Register in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

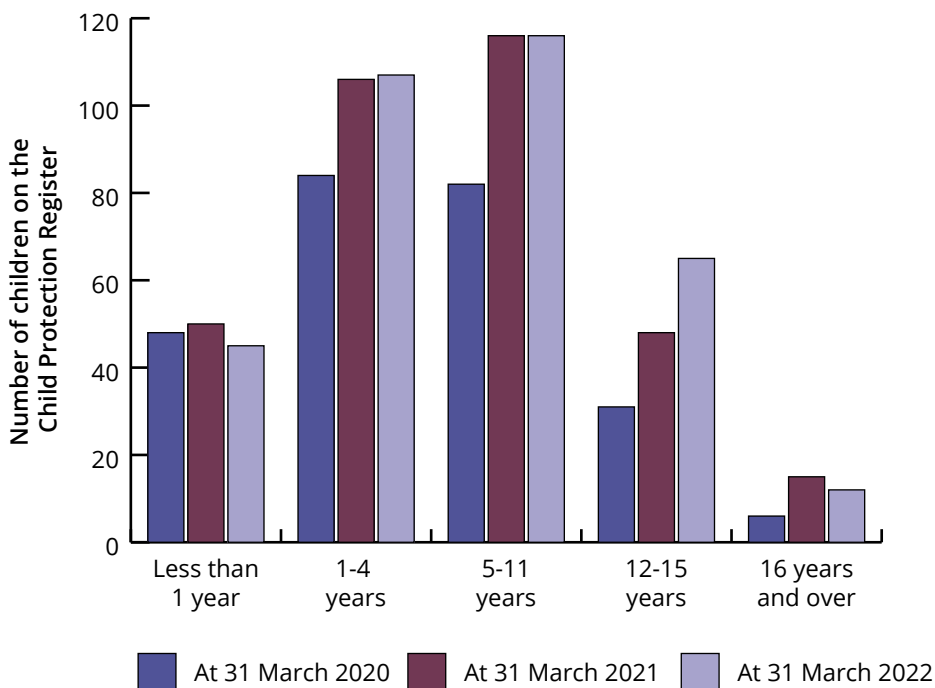
- At 31 March 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the largest number of children on the Child Protection Register was in the 1-4 years age group at 84, closely followed by the number in the 5-11 years age group at 82; the smallest number of children on the Child Protection Register was in the 16 years and over age group at 6, and the median number of children was in the less than one year age group at 48
- At 31 March 2021, at the end of the first full year of the pandemic, the largest number of children on the Child Protection Register was in the 5-11 years age group at 116, followed by the 1-4 years age group at 106; the smallest number of children on the Child Protection Register was in the 16 years and over age group at 15, and the median number of children was in the less than one year age group at 50
- At 31 March 2022, at the end of the second full year of the pandemic, the largest number of children on the Child Protection Register was in the 5-11 years age group at 116, followed by the 1-4 years age group at 107; the smallest number of children on the Child Protection Register was in the 16 years and over age group at 12, and the median number of children was in the 12-15 years age group at 65 (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 27)

Between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of children on the Child Protection Register in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust:

- Decreased overall in the less than one year age group
- Increased overall in the four other age groups (1-4 years, 5-11 years, 12-15 years, and 16 years and over; see COVID-19 Peace Figure 27)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 27:

Number of children on the Child Protection Register by age group in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, at 31 March 2020, at 31 March 2021, and at 31 March 2022



Source: Department of Health: Child Protection Register, Current publication, Children’s social care statistics for Northern Ireland 2021/22

See pages 196-218, in the Peace Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Of the total number of children in Northern Ireland on the Child Protection Register, the number in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust comprised:

- At 31 March 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic, 10.92% of the total
- At 31 March 2021, at the end of the first full year of the pandemic, 14.58% of the total
- At 31 March 2022, at the end of the second full year of the pandemic, 14.71% of the total

Between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust's percentage share of Northern Ireland's total number of children on the Child Protection Register increased by 3.79 percentage points, from 10.92% to 14.71%.

Between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of children on the Child Protection Register increased:

- In Belfast Health and Social Care Trust by 94, from 251 to 345 (a percentage increase of 37.45%)
- In Northern Ireland by 48, from 2,298 to 2,346 (a percentage increase of 2.09%)

Comparison with other health and social care trusts

When compared with other health and social care trusts, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust had the lowest number of children on the Child Protection Register:

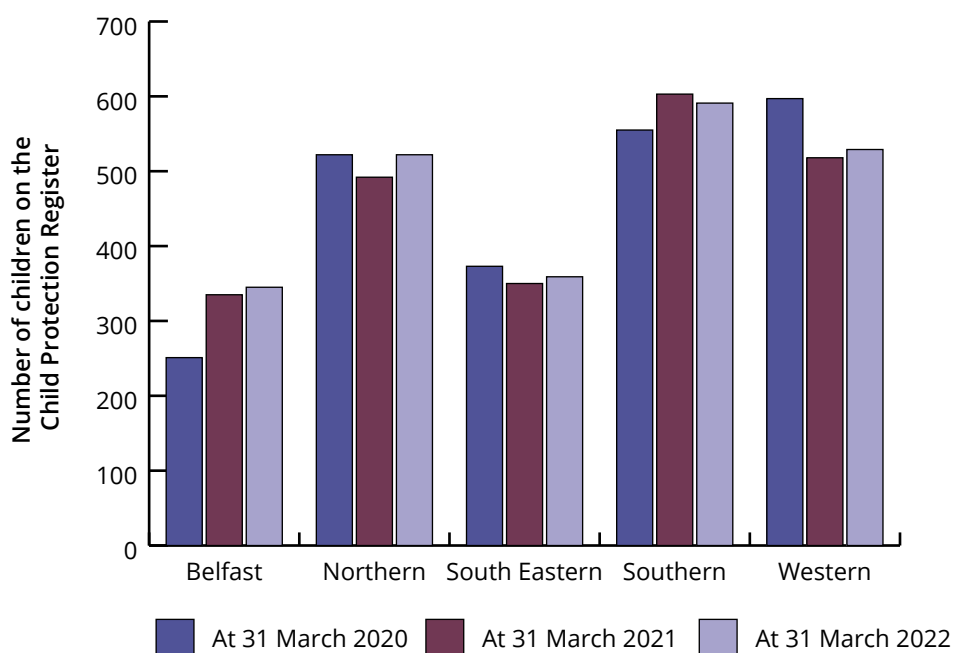
- At 31 March 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- At 31 March 2021, at the end of the first full year of the pandemic
- At 31 March 2022, at the end of the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 28)

Between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of children on the Child Protection Register:

- Increased overall in 2 health and social care trusts, including Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
- Decreased overall in 2 health and social care trusts
- Remained the same overall in one health and social care trust (see COVID-19 Peace Figure 28)

COVID-19 PEACE FIGURE 28:

Number of children on the Child Protection Register by health and social care trust, at 31 March 2020, at 31 March 2021, and at 31 March 2022



Source: Department of Health: Child Protection Register, Current publication, Children's social care statistics for Northern Ireland 2021/22

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

From before the COVID-19 pandemic to at the end of the first two years of the pandemic, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust had an increase in the percentage share of the total number of children in Northern Ireland on the Child Protection Register.

Owing to a much greater percentage increase in the number of children on the Child Protection Register in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust when compared with Northern Ireland, the gap between the two widened.

Comparison with other health and social care trusts

In comparison with other health and social care trusts, both before and at the end of the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust had the lowest number of children on the Child Protection Register, consequently there was no change in the relative position of Belfast Health and Social Care Trust among health and social care trusts.

Between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, of the 2 health and social care trusts in which there was an increase in the number of children on the Child Protection Register:

- **Belfast Health and Social Care Trust had the greatest percentage increase at 37.45%**
- **Southern Health and Social Care Trust had the smallest percentage increase at 6.49%**

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2022, from before and at the end of the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of children on the Child Protection Register:

- **Increased overall in 2 health and social care trusts, including Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**
- **Increased overall in Northern Ireland**
- **Decreased overall in 2 health and social care trusts**
- **Remained the same overall in one health and social care trust**

Although the number of children on the Child Protection Register increased in both Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Northern Ireland, the percentage increase was much greater in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust when compared with Northern Ireland.

Among health and social care trusts, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust had the lowest number of children on the Child Protection Register both before and at the end of the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the number of children on the Child Protection Register.

Inequalities, with the potential for inequity

In Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, both before and at the end of each of the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the children's age groups with the highest numbers on the Child Protection Register were:

- 1-4 years
- 5-11 years

Between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, however, the children's age groups in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust with the greatest percentage increases in the number on the Child Protection Register were:

- **The 12-15 years age group, where the number more than doubled during the pandemic, with a percentage increase of 109.68%**
- **The 16 years and over age group, where the number also doubled, with a percentage increase of 100.00%, although the baseline number of children aged 16 years and over before the pandemic was low**



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