

2020

Hate Crime Profile

Safer Merton

Working Together To Keep Merton Safe & Sound

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1. Aims of the profile – the specification

- 1.1 In order to ensure that Safer Merton was able to meet the needs of the partnership the following specification, was drafted and circulated for comment, before finalisation. This specification underpins the whole of our work



Title	Hate Crime Profile
Details	Refreshed Hate Crime Strategy
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Date	10/07/20

Hate Crime Profile

2. Aim

- 2.1 To describe the extent of hate crime in the London borough of Merton and identify gaps in our knowledge and understanding of this problem.

3. Purposes

- To inform members of the Safer and Stronger Executive Board (SSE) and practitioners working on the borough.
- To update the profile written in August 2019.
- Provide evidence to support new projects and funding bids.

3. Data Period Covered and Data Limitations

- 3.1 The analysis used data from the publicly available Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) hate crime dashboard for the financial year 2019/20 to provide an annual perspective and data from the MPS internal CRIS (crime reporting system) system to look at the most recent trends.
- 3.2 The profile will be a “best known” picture of hate crime on the borough, based on available data.
- 3.3 This profile does NOT look at Domestic Violence offences as this is addressed in a separate profile.
- 3.4 A hate crime flag is applied to a recorded crime report or crime incident in line with the definition shown on the following page. It is possible for more than one flag to be applied to a single report. This can lead to some confusion when dealing with hate crime statistics as not every reported incident may justify a crime report being created. Unless otherwise stated the statistics used in this report relate to recorded crime reports

4. Hate Crime Definition and the National Picture

- 4.1 The MOPAC website defines hate crime as “any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic; specifically actual or perceived race, religion/faith, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity”
- 4.2 MPS Hate Crime aligns with the former Home Office (APACS) guidance and is a measure identifying offences that satisfy **both** of the following criteria:
1. The offence is a notifiable offence
 2. A feature code identifying a hate crime) has been added to the crime report. The feature codes identifying hate crime types are:
 - Religious hate flags FH,(Faith Hate;
 - RS & RT (Anti-Semitic)
 - IS (Islamaphobic)
 - Racist Hate Flags RI (Racial Incident)
 - Homophobic Hate Crime HO
 - Transgender Hate Crime HT
 - Disability Hate Crime VH
- 4.3 The flag should be applied to any incident that is perceived to be a hate crime by the victim or any other person, or any offence where the offender demonstrates hostility based on the victim’s membership of one or more of these groups.
- 4.4 A hate crime dashboard is maintained by the Metropolitan Police
<https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/hate-crime-dashboard/>
- 4.5 A revamped MOPAC Hate Crime Dashboard has been launched last year and can be found at:
<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/hate-crime-dashboard>
- 4.6 The interactive maps can be filtered by borough and hate crime strand
- The five monitored strands are:
- Race;
 - Religion/faith;
 - Sexual orientation; (Homophobic)
 - Disability;
 - Gender-identity (Transgender)
- 4.7 Domestic Violence is considered a sixth stand of hate crime but because of the much larger volumes of incidents and crime it is reported separately

5. Hate crime recording history

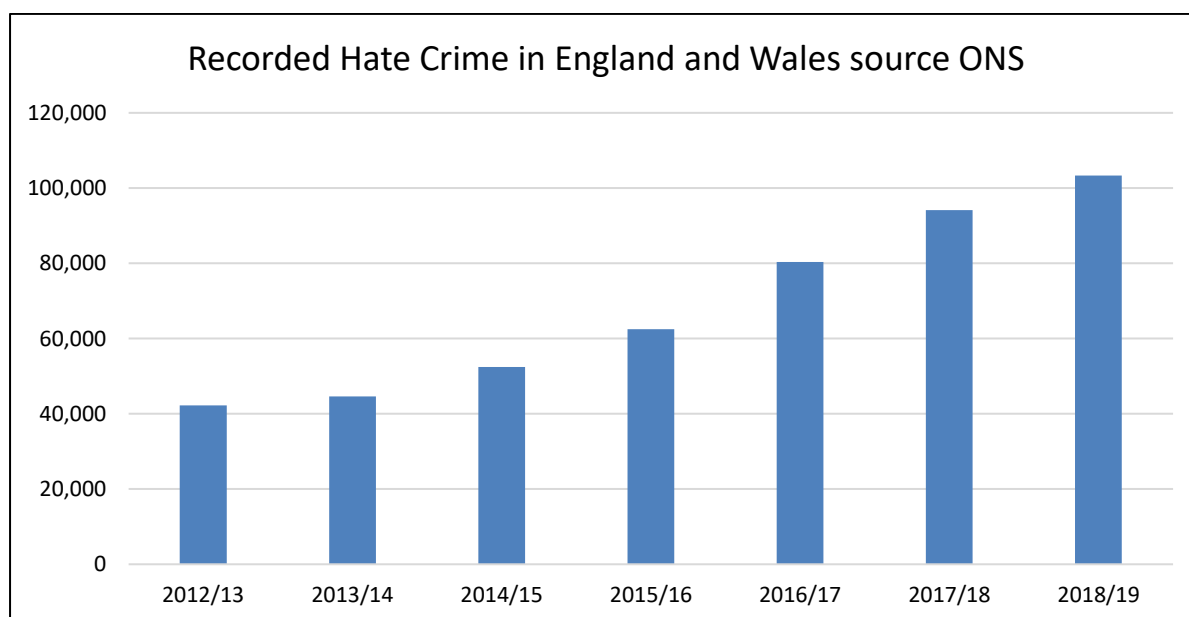
- 5.1 There has been a steady increase in reported hate crime since 2012. Action taken by police forces to improve their compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) led to improved recording of hate crime. Other causal factors for the rise are a greater public awareness and media attention on hate crime, and an improved confidence of victims to come forward.

5.2 Some Police forces are trialling flagging some incidents as Misogyny hate crime. This is defined as "incidents against women that are motivated by the attitude of men towards women and includes behaviour targeted at women by men simply because they are women".

5.3 Whilst many types of incident considered under this definition are substantive offences in their own right such as public order or sexual offences, others such as using sexually explicit language are not.

5.4 In March 2020 a private members bill the **Hate Crime (Misogyny) Bill 2019-21** had its first reading in the House of Commons the Bill is intended to make motivation by misogyny an aggravating factor in criminal sentencing; to require police forces to record hate crimes motivated by misogyny; and for connected purposes. The second reading of the bill is scheduled for November 2020.

5.5 Hate crimes are a subset of notifiable crimes that are recorded by the police. As can be seen in the table below in England and Wales total hate crime rose by 10% compared to the previous year whereas in 2017-18 the year on year increase was 17%. Figures for 2019/20 will not be published until October 2020.

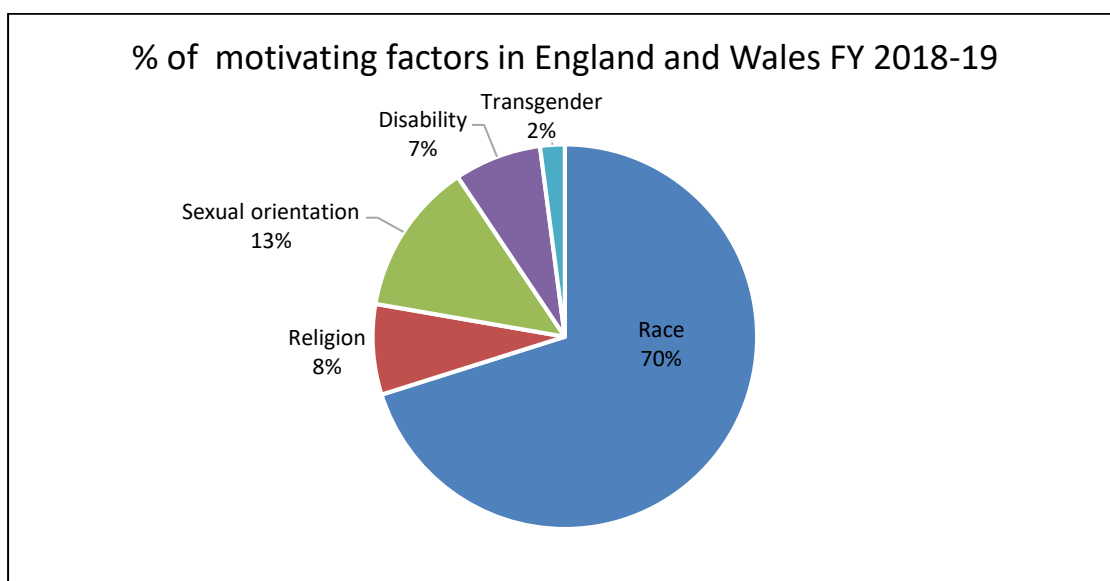


Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019>

6. Types of Hate Crime

6.1 In England and Wales in 2018/19, around 54% of all hate crime offences were classified as public order and 36% as violence against the person. These proportions are unchanged from the previous year.

- 6.2 In terms of the five strands of hate crime the majority of reports (70%) relate to race hate; 13% relate to sexual orientation and the remainder are made up of the other three strands.

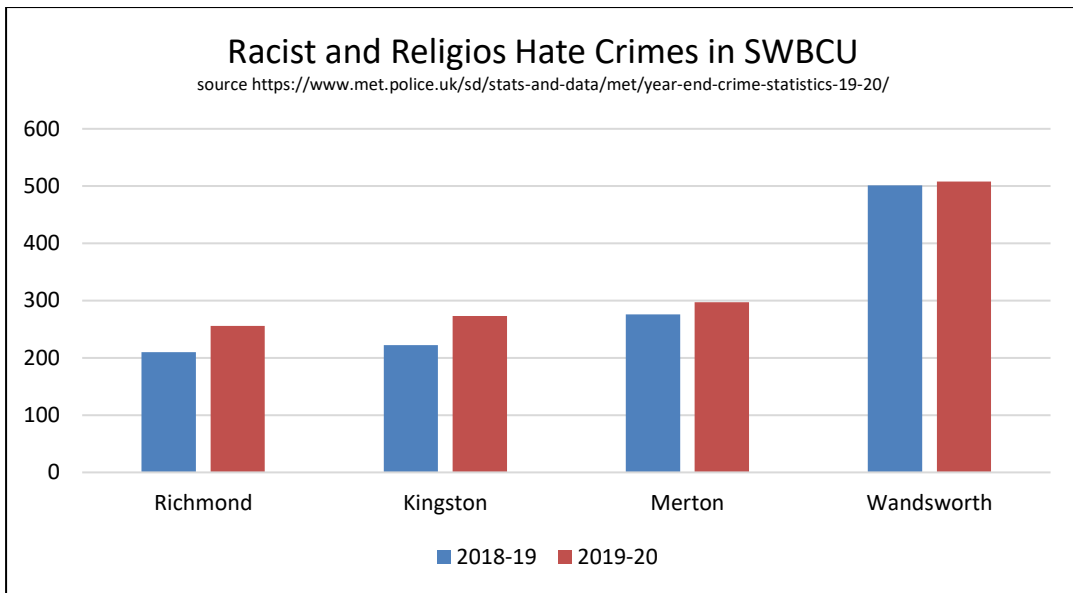


7. Influencing factors

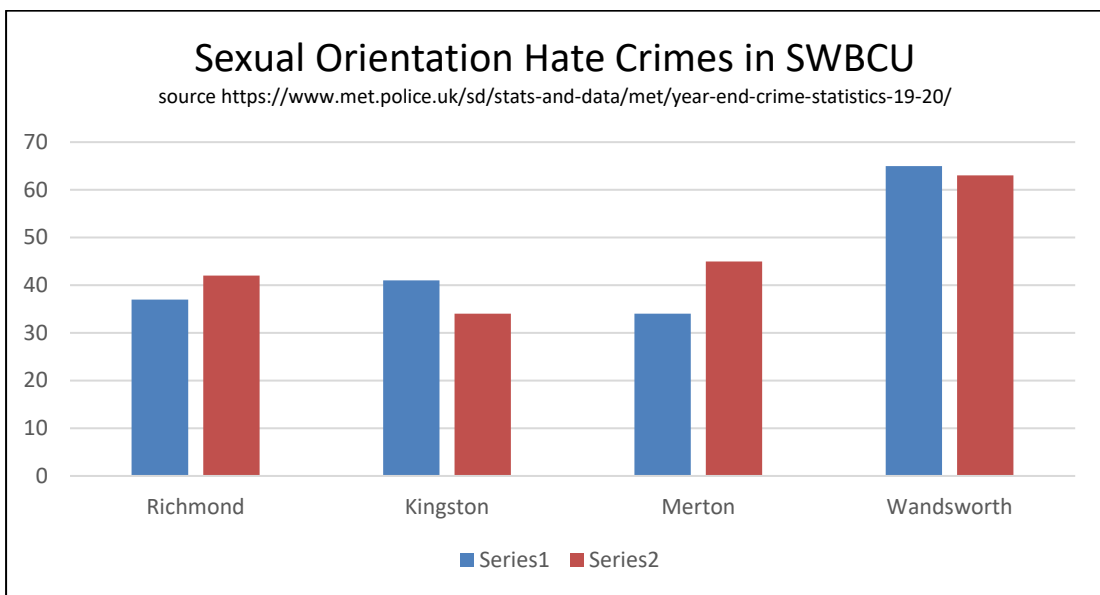
- 7.1 Following the last Merton hate crime report there have been further high profile terrorist incidents at London Bridge in November 2019 and a stabbing in Streatham in February 2020. In both instances, the attackers were wearing fake suicide vests and shot dead by the police.
- 7.2 Politically the issue of Brexit was resolved following the general election in December 2019. Subsequently the UK left the European Union at the end of January 2020.
- 7.3 Outside of the main reporting period for this report In May 2020 the death of George Floyd triggered the Black Lives Matter Campaign. June 2020 saw a spike in Racist hate crime in Merton and the MPS. National figures are not available.

8. BCU comparison

- 8.1 All boroughs in the South West Basic Command Unit (SWBCU) saw increases in Racist and Religious Hate crimes in 2019-20 compared to last year. In percentage terms both Richmond and Kingston rose by more than 20%, Merton by 8% and Wandsworth by 1%. The figure for the SWBCU as a whole was a 10% increase. This is in contrast to the last report when three of the boroughs saw slight decreases.



8.2 In respect of sexual orientation hate crime, the picture was mixed with Richmond and Merton seeing increases whilst Kingston and Wandsworth decreased.



8.3 Disability hate crimes across the SWBCU amounted to 34 offences compared to 28 in the last financial year.

8.4 Transgender crimes across the SWBCU amounted to 15 offences compared to 19 in the last financial year.

9. The Merton Picture

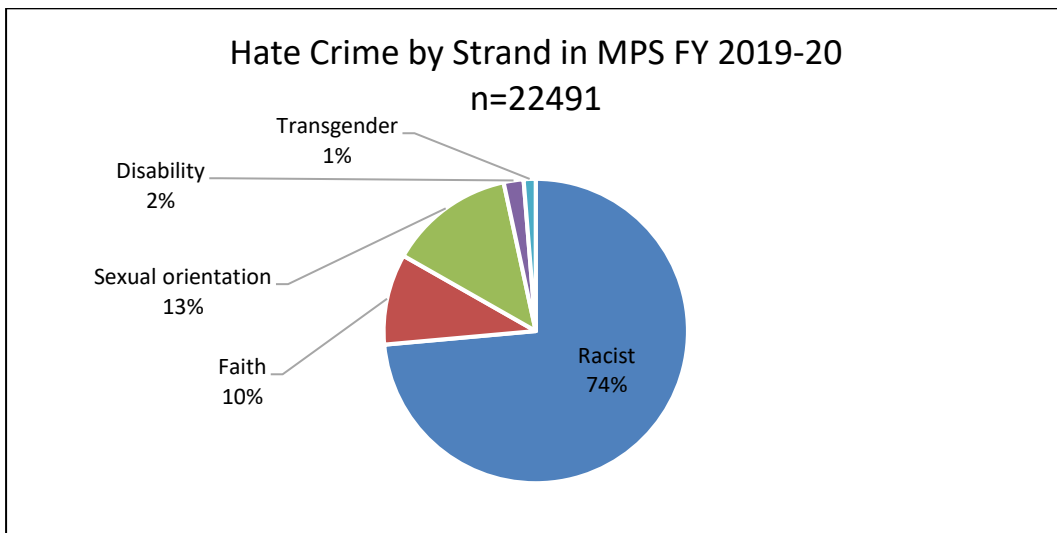
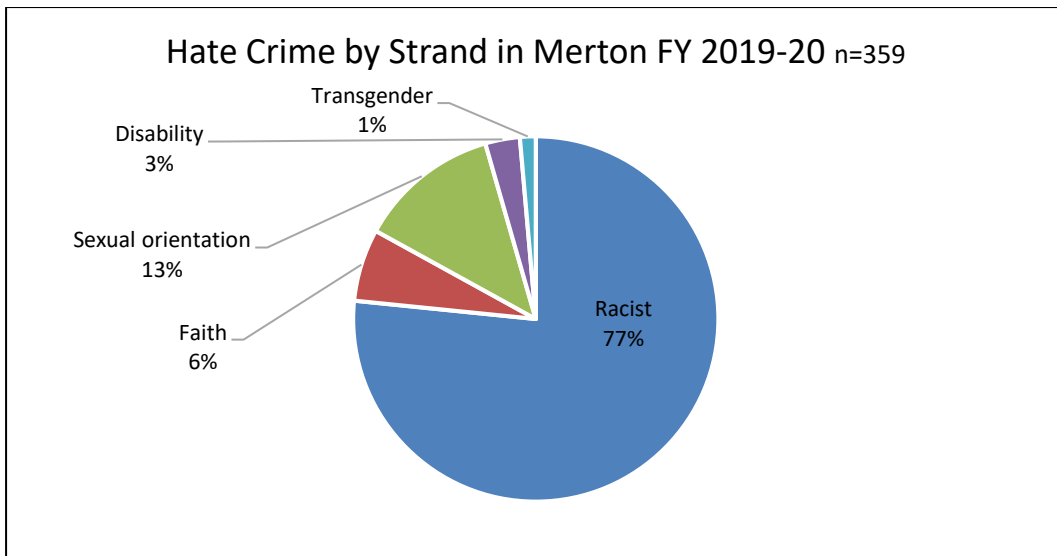
- 9.1 Data from the MPS hate crime dashboard shows that Hate Crime in Merton has increased by 9% in the last financial year compared to 2018-19. In the last report, the increase was 5%. The percentage swings for some of the strands are large because the base numbers are well below 100. For the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) as a whole the rise was 12% compared to 2% in the last report.

Merton	2018-19	2019-20	% change
Racist	246	275	12
Faith	30	23	-23
Sexual orientation	34	45	32
Disability	9	11	22
Transgender	9	5	-44
TOTAL	328	359	9

MPS	2018-19	2019-20	% change
Racist	14898	16547	11
Faith	2213	2172	-2
Sexual orientation	2379	3009	26
Disability	407	475	17
Transgender	233	288	24
TOTAL	20130	22491	12

10. Proportion of the differing strands of hate crime

- 10.1 The relative proportions of the hate crime strands in Merton broadly reflects the breakdown both across the MPS and Nationally. In the longer term the proportion of homophobic hate crime is increasing. (National figure for 2018/19 shown on page 6. National figure for 2019/20 not yet available.)

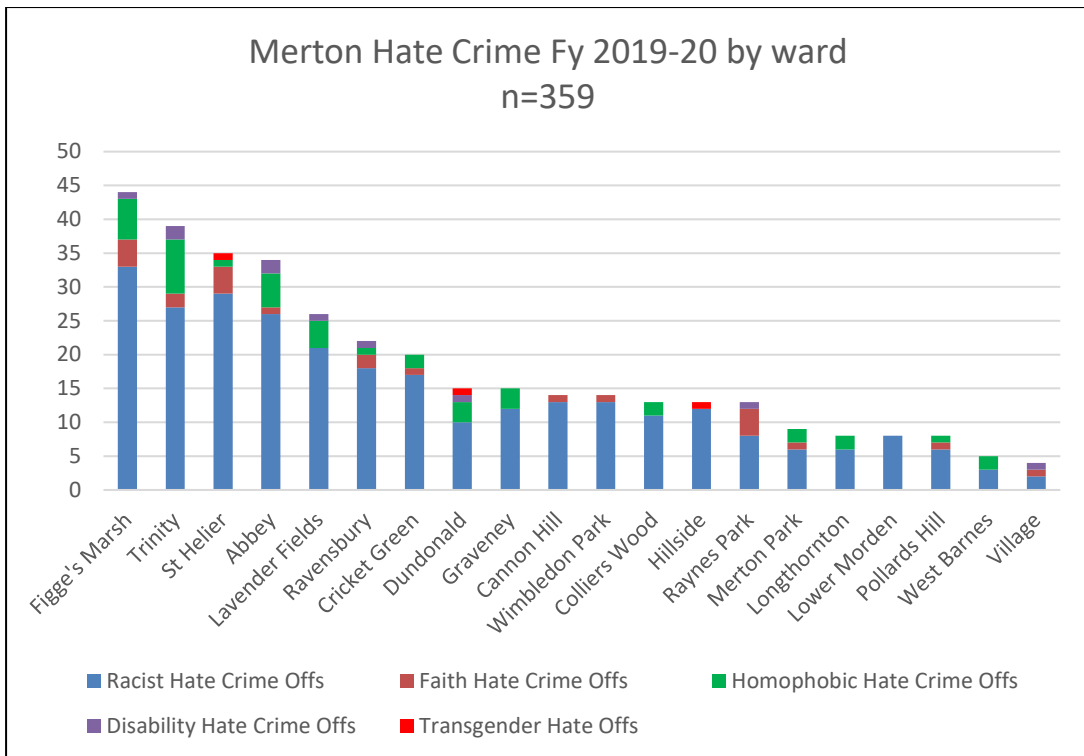


11. Violent Hate Crime

11.1 87% of all hate crime was classified as Violence against the Person (VAP) in Merton for 2019-2020 of which 3% percent is sub classified as violence with injury. The majority of reports are categorised as “harassment” which was included in the range of VAP offences from 2015.

12. Wards with the most Hate crime reports

12.1 The data set provided by Metstats2 for 2019-20 identifies individual wards in Merton. The breakdown by ward is shown in the table below. Compared to last year Figge’s Marsh, Trinity and Abbey have retained their place in top four. Cricket Green last year’s top ward dropped to seventh whilst St Helier rose from seventh to third



Victim Profile

13. Repeat victims

13.2 According to the MPS safeguarding dashboard the level of repeat victims of Hate crime in Merton is 7% This is 2% lower than the 2019 profile.

14. Victim profile methodology

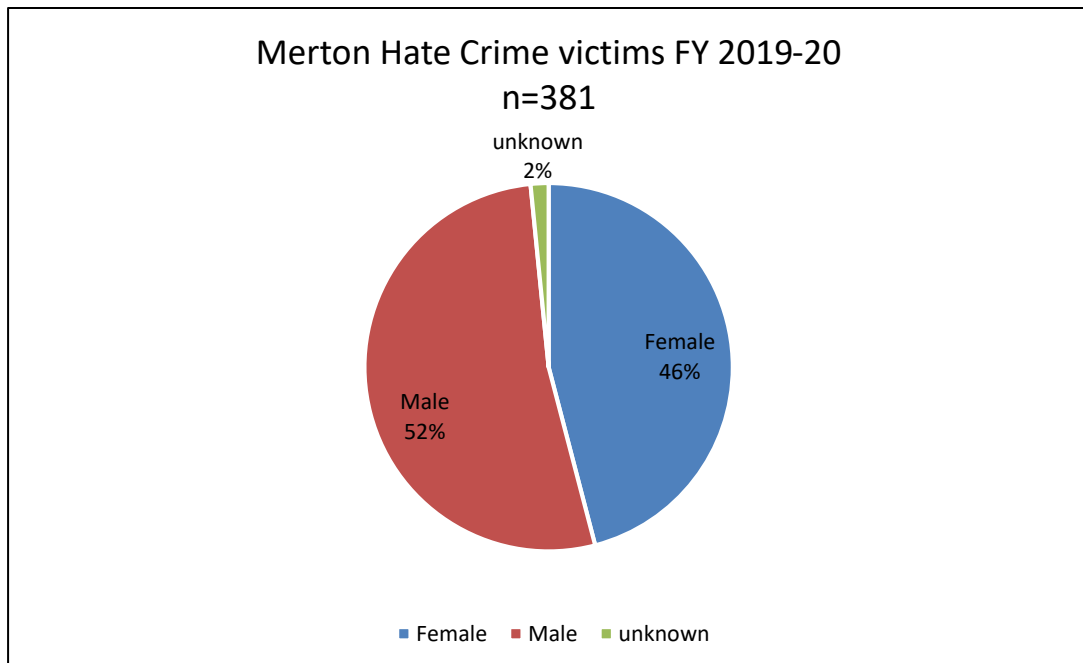
14.1 A search was constructed on the Police Cris enquiries system to attempt to return information on the victims and suspects of hate crime during the period under review.

14.2 Note the number of victims is larger than the number of reports and the number of suspects is lower than the number of reports. The search returned data on 89% of the relevant crime reports. The disparity in the data results from:

- a) The complex structure of the data
- b) An element of key fields not being completed in the records
- c) The skill of the author in constructing the search terms. Whilst not definitive the data sample is sufficient to produce a good overview of these groups. For this reason percentages rather than figures are shown.

15. Victim gender

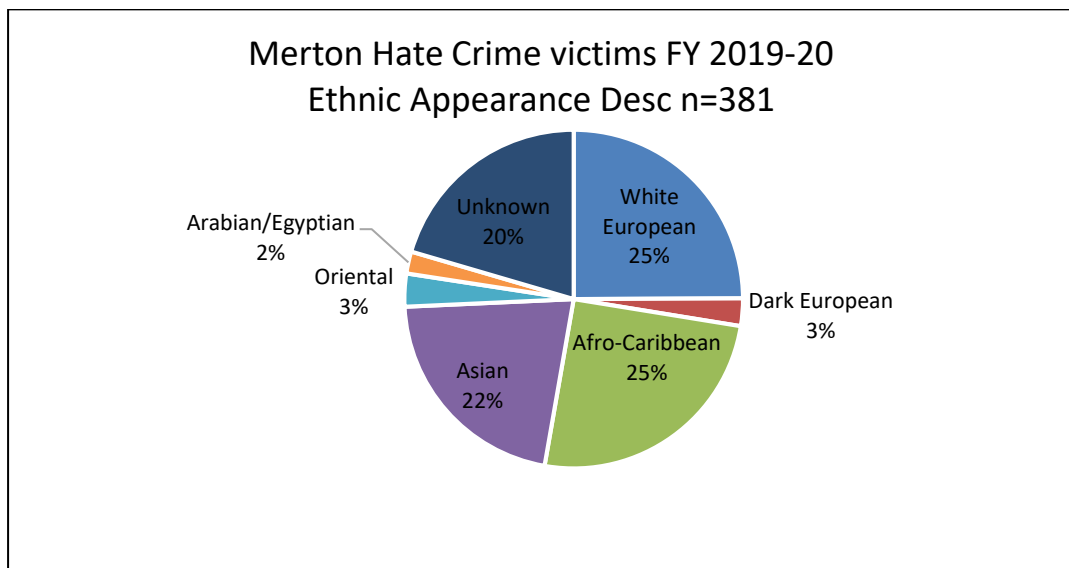
15.1 The gender split of all hate crime victims is shown in the pie chart below. There has been little change in this figure since last year with no one gender being especially victimised.



16. Victim Ethnicity

NB. The MPS crime recording system continues to use just 6 identity codes to describe ethnicity.¹

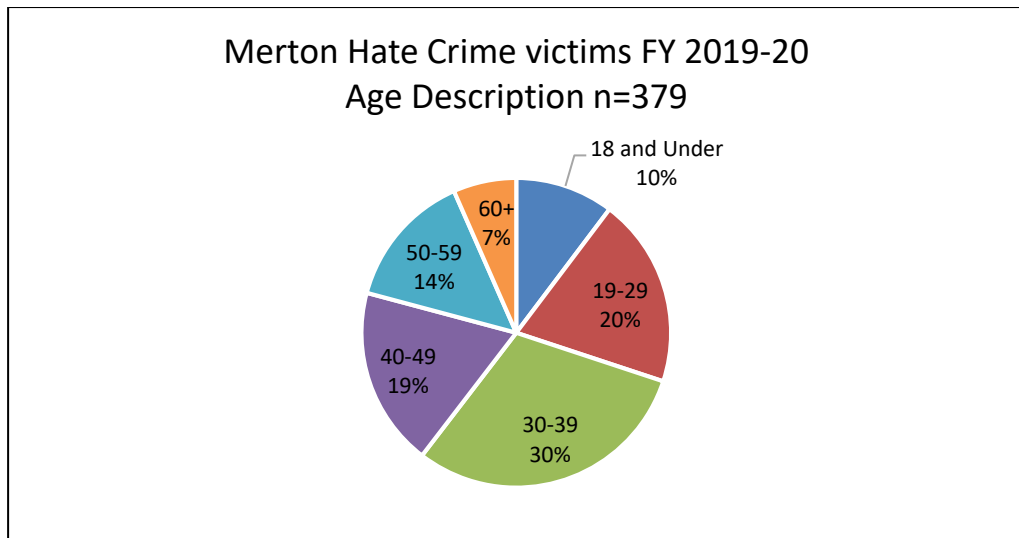
- 16.1 The ethnic breakdown of victims of racist hate crimes shows 52% from a BAME group. This is just 1% difference compared to the previous profile. Within the BAME grouping the percentage of Afro- Caribbean victims has decreased and was unchanged compared to the last profile as was the percentage of Unknown. The percentage of Oriental victims rose by 2% from 1% and this may be as a result of the covid 19 pandemic originating in China.



17. Victim Age

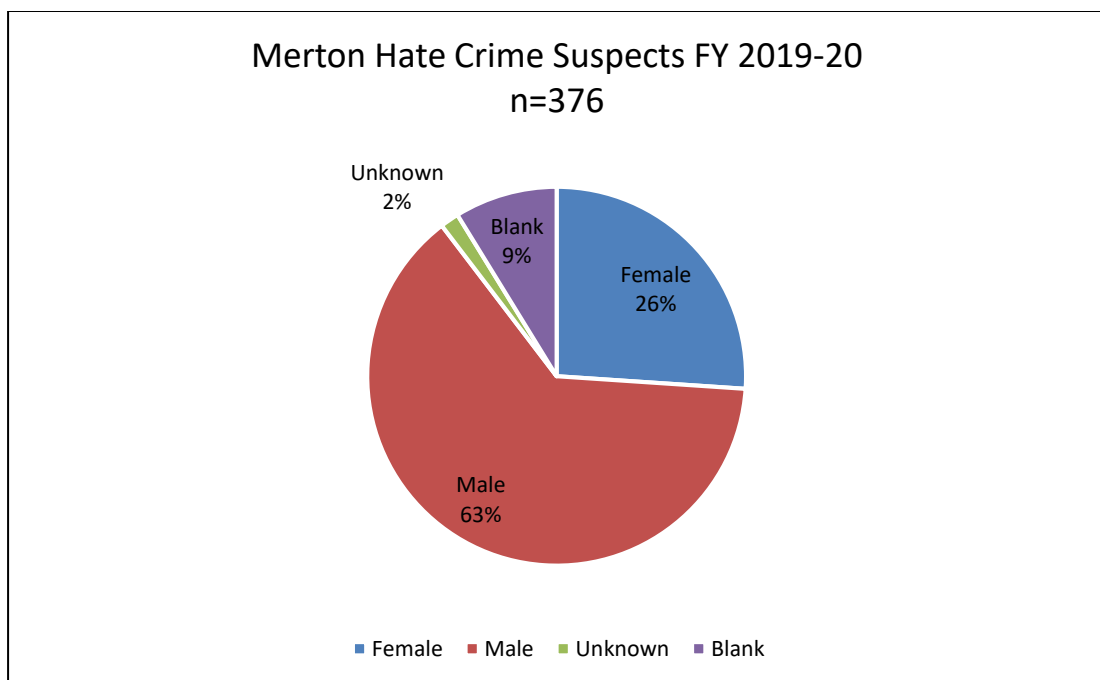
- 17.1 Just under half the victims of hate crime in Merton were aged between 30-50 whilst 30% were aged under 30 compared to 22% in the last profile.

¹ 0-Unknown 1 WHITE – NORTH EUROPEAN, 2 WHITE – SOUTH EUROPEAN, 3 BLACK, 4 ASIAN, 5 CHINESE, JAPANESE, OR OTHER SOUTH EAST ASIAN, 6 ARABIC OR NORTH AFRICAN



18. Suspect² profile

- 18.1 Given the large number of suspects who are not positively identified or subsequently proceeded against for hate crime in Merton some of the findings shown below cannot necessarily be said to represent the offending community as a whole.
- 18.2 The MOPAC Hate crime dashboard³ previously provided an age/ethnicity breakdown for perpetrators⁴ however due to the ongoing lockdown these figures have not been updated for the 2019-20 financial year and the previous breakdown removed.

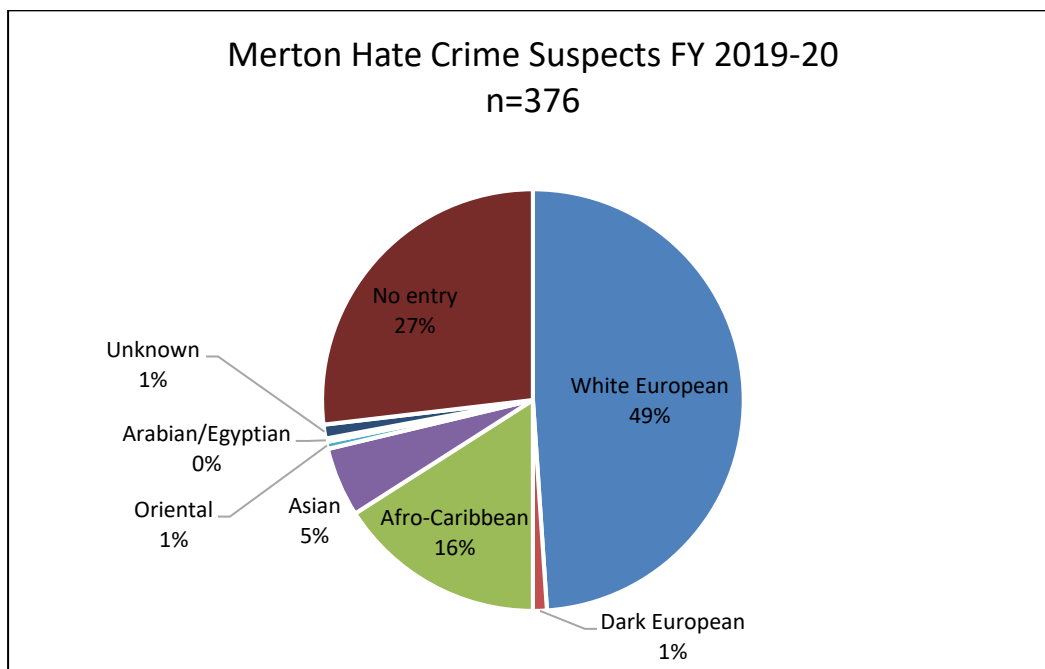


² The term Suspect has been used there rather than Perpetrator as the police data detailed those named as suspects of an offence rather than those convicted of an offence

³ <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/hate-crime-dashboard>

⁴ The term perpetrator in this case means a person against whom proceedings were commenced.

18.3 Whilst the victim population was fairly evenly split there was a clear majority of male suspects.



18.4 White people made up half the suspect cohort and there was no entry in a quarter of the records retrieved.

19. Motivations for hate crime

19.1 Whilst no form of hate crime should be condoned or excused it is worthy to consider the differing situations in which they occur. Whilst some are spontaneous acts of verbal or physical assault born out of prejudice, many result from disagreements between parties over a non hate issue such as parking or anti social behaviour. The situation then escalates resulting in a hate crime taking place.

19.2 It is impossible to judge whether the initial confrontation would have occurred if both parties had been of similar backgrounds. It is therefore hard to quantify with any certainty which are purely Hate motivated offences and which are Hate aggravated offences. However the perception is that there are more hate aggravated offences.

19.3 Where verbal abuse occurs there is a tendency for some to use whatever the eye perceives to influence their choice of language whether that be skin colour, headscarf, body shape or use of spectacles. This name-calling is an abusive way of expressing a person's anger to denigrate or control the other party.

19.4 The numbers of hate crime reports which result in people being proceeded with is low. The main reasons for this low figure are:-

- In many instances the victim and suspect are unknown to each other
- There may be no physical interaction between the parties and hence no forensic opportunities
- The incident occurs in a public place where there is no CCTV coverage
- No third party witnesses come forward.

19.5 Resultingly there are few practical lines of enquiry for police to pursue.

20. Sanctions and Court Outcomes

20.1 A successful outcome in any criminal offence as measured by the police is referred to as a Sanctioned Detection (SDet)⁵

20.2 The sanction detection (SDet) rate is calculated by using the following formula: SDet Rate = Number of SDets recorded in a particular period x 100 divided by the Number of offences recorded in the same period.

20.3 The SDet rate for Hate crime across the MPS has fallen slightly for all strands of hate crime, from 13% to 12% for the 12 months to June 2020. The figure for Merton borough is unchanged and also 12%

21. Key Judgement statements

21.1 National figures are several months behind those available at force and borough level and were showing Hate Crime reporting still increasing sharply. The picture in the MPS suggests a continuing increase in the most recent financial year (National figures are likely to be published in October). Merton was also up overall but this was less than the MPS as a whole. SWBCU neighbours Kingston and Richmond have seen increases in the order of 20% albeit from lower starting levels .

21.2 In Merton the sanctioned detection rates for Hate Crime has stabilised and is comparable to that of the MPS as a whole.

21.3 Without reading the details of individual reports it is not straightforward to identify if many hate crime flagged offences were motivated by hatred or aggravated by it. Anecdotally more are aggravated in nature.

21.4 The top wards for reported hate crime in Merton are the town centre wards in Wimbledon and the socio-economically challenged wards of Figge's Marsh. St Helier ward rose up the rankings from seventh to third in terms of total hate crimes.

21.5 Half of all victims are aged between 30-50.

21.6 Outside the parameters of this report the death of George Floyd and the emergence of the black lives matter movement saw a spike in reporting of racist hate crime in June 2020. It is hoped that numbers will decrease in coming months.

⁵ A sanction detection occurs when (1) a notifiable offence (crime) has been committed and recorded; (2) a suspect has been identified and is aware of the detection; (3) the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) evidential test is satisfied; (4) the victim has been informed that the offence has been detected, and; (5) the suspect has been charged, reported for summons, or cautioned, been issued with a penalty notice for disorder or the offence has been taken into consideration when an offender is sentenced.

22. Recommendations

- 22.1 To refresh and revisit the profile on an annual basis to support both the hate crime strategy and the strategic assessment process.
- 22.2 To use the findings of this report to shape the activities of Hate Crime Awareness Week.
- 22.3 To continue to monitor the hate crime detection rate for Merton for any changes.
- 22.4 To target engagement on countering Hate crime in wards with the highest volumes of offences.