

The Truth Behind racist incident figures

Published 2001

- A report by the Policing Studies Institute in 1984 suggested that the actual number of racial attacks would be ten times higher than the actual numbers of incidents reported to the police.
- The 1990 European Commission Enquiry Into Racial Violence estimated 70,000 racial attacks in Britain.
- In 1993, the Home Office estimated that over 130,000 racial attacks occur every year and accepted that, as a result of underreporting of incidents a more realistic figure would be in the region of 330,000, an average of some 900 racial attacks every day.
- The British Crime Survey estimated that during in 1995, 382,000 offences were considered by the victim to be motivated by racism. For the year 1995/96, the police recorded only 12,222 racial incidents.

Racist incidents are not just a problem associated with inner cities and urban areas. Racial harassment and abuse has been and continues to be a significant problem for many minority ethnic people living, working and visiting mainly 'white' rural areas:

Figures published by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) show that during the year 1996/97 a total of **82** racist incidents were reported to Devon and Cornwall Police.

90 racist incidents were reported to the police during the year 1997/98. The number of racist incidents reported to the police increased to **116** during 1998/99.

In January **2001**, a **Home Office** statistical report revealed a huge increase in racist incidents taking place within the Devon and Cornwall Police area. During the year 1999/2000, a total of **538** racist incidents were reported to the police, which represent a **364% increase** on the previous year.