



2021 ORANGE COUNTY HATE CRIMES REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE OC HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Life has drastically changed for many. The global pandemic hit like a tidal wave, and now we find ourselves trying to collect the broken pieces of what once was to create a new reality. Truth of the matter is that our landscape continues to shift and change because COVID is still in our midst. As we attempt to emerge from the ashes, there is one other reality that begins to emerge before us - hate-motivated behavior and incidents continue to increase at a rapid pace. Hate activity has steadily increased in Orange County - 424% increase compared to 10 years ago, and 165% increase compared to 5 years ago. This rise in hate-motivated behavior has not only been seen and felt in our home but it mirrors what is happening across our nation. The unimaginable has already and continues to happen- we've lost lives at the hands of hate. The question remains - what are we going to do about it?

In the last year, the OC Human Relations Commission has issued several statements denouncing local incidents of racism, discrimination, intolerance and hate speech. Additionally, at the behest of the Board of Supervisors, we embarked on a community learning journey and hosted several Community Forums to hear the stories, challenges, and needs of communities frequently targeted by hate. As a result, we submitted a \$1 million proposal to expand our anti-hate efforts which received a unanimous vote from the Board of Supervisors in December 2021. The expansion efforts focus on:

1. Expanding language accessibility and ways people can report bias-motivated hate
2. Creating a comprehensive service provider network to improve and expand support services for victims of hate; and
3. Launching a multicultural, multilingual, and diverse education/awareness campaign for all of Orange County.

The OC Human Relations Commission continues to be committed to lifelong learning through anti-racist education, creating listening spaces to understand the disparities that exist in communities, and be present in the collective efforts to address the social issues that fall within the Commission's purview.

In issuing this report, the Commission remains steadfast in its mission of identifying the root causes of tension and hopes that it sparks curiosity to explore community-focused strategies to eliminate hate. Let us rise from the ashes as one, to rebuild a safe, equitable, resilient, and inclusive Orange County for everyone.

For the Commission I am,

Jo-Anne P. Matsuba, Chair
OC Human Relations Commission

WHAT ARE HATE CRIMES & HATE INCIDENTS?

HATE CRIMES

A hate crime, defined by the California Attorney General, is a crime against a person, group, or property motivated by the victim's real or perceived protected social group. Bias motivation of a hate crime is when a victim is targeted because of their actual or perceived: disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and/or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Examples of hate crimes are any of the following motivated by bias of a protected social group:

- Graffiti or vandalism of private property
- Arson of property
- Physical violence against another individual
- Criminal threat of violence against an individual or a group

A hate crime or incident may have occurred if any of the following were present:

- Perception the victim was targeted because of their race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, or disability
- Perpetrator/offender wrote or spoke in a manner indicating bias
- Date of crime or incident coincides with a date of significance to the victim's identity that was targeted

HATE INCIDENTS

A hate incident, defined by the California Department of Justice, is an action or behavior motivated by bias-motivated hate but which, for one or more reasons, is not a crime. The First Amendment allows for hate speech as long as it does not interfere with the civil rights of others. If this type of behavior escalates to threats being made or carried out against a person or property, or becomes an incitement to commit violence, it would be classified as a hate crime.

Examples of bias-motivated hate incidents include:

- Distribution of non-threatening antisemitic flyers in a public place
- Yelling racial slurs and "Black lives don't matter" from a car window
- Anti-LGBTQ placards at a parade or funeral
- Writing a letter to the editor ridiculing people with disabilities
- Painting racist graffiti on a freeway overpass (police would categorize it as a crime but not a hate crime)



DEFINING BIAS-MOTIVATED HATE CRIME & HATE INCIDENT TERMS

HATE CRIME OFFENSES:

- **SIMPLE ASSAULT:** willfully inflict bodily harm
- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT:** willfully inflict bodily harm with a deadly weapon
- **SEXUAL ASSAULT:** unwanted sexual touching, fondling, or attempted rape
- **INTIMIDATION:** intentionally say or do something which would cause a person of ordinary sensibilities to be fearful of bodily harm
- **THEFT:** criminal act of stealing or removing an item without permission from the owner
- **FRAUD:** wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in personal or financial gain
- **BURGLARY:** illegal entry into a location with the intent to steal or commit a crime
- **GRAFFITI:** drawings or writings sprayed, scribbled, or scratched onto a public wall or surface
- **DAMAGE TO PROPERTY:** property defaced by graffiti or inscribed material
- **MURDER:** unlawful and premeditated killing of another person

HATE INCIDENT OFFENSES:

- **HARASSMENT:** unwelcome conduct that is aggressive, pressuring, menacing, and/or intimidating; harassment can be a crime
- **VERBAL HARASSMENT:** unwelcome use of oral, gestured, and/or written language with the intent to frighten, control, threaten, insult, and/or rebuke someone else in a public or private space
- **ONLINE HARASSMENT:** unwelcome harassing behavior taking place online, including social media, text messages, and/or messaging apps
- **DISCRIMINATORY LITERATURE:** offensive literature/written words displayed or distributed publicly
- **DESTRUCTION/VANDALISM:** damage of property which can include graffiti, spray paint, carving, or burning with discriminatory symbols, words, and/or messages
- **HOAX CALLS/HATE MAIL:** voice, text, and/or written mail or messages that are targeted to specific individuals or groups; messages are deliberately fabricated or falsified information to spread judgment, rumors, or malicious deception
- **PHYSICAL VIOLENCE:** application of physical force or pressure against another person with the intent to cause danger, harm, and/or pain

METHODOLOGY FOR HATE ACTIVITY REPORTING

METHODOLOGY

The 2021 Hate Crimes Report is intended to inform all residents of the human relations climate in Orange County. The OC Human Relations Commission receives reports from individuals (most often victims) directly, law enforcement, school districts, colleges/universities, and community-based organizations. ADL (Anti-Defamation League) and Stop AAPI Hate reported hate activity motivated by antisemitic and anti-Asian biases respectively.

Upon receipt of reports, duplicates are eliminated, and reports are verified to meet the criteria of the legal definition of hate crime in the California penal code. This report also includes hate incident data, which helps identify red flags for trends and areas of focus for prevention work. The data and analysis helps inform government and law enforcement agencies, engages the community to strengthen educational programs, trainings, and activities to confront and stop acts of hate, and establishes cause for increasing funding for hate prevention & victim support services.

The collection of data and hate crime prevention work is a collaborative effort, and as a community, we need to continue educating, intervening, and addressing the root causes of hate crimes and hate incidents.

REPORTING

Submitting hate crime and hate incident data for this annual report is voluntary. For 2021, 10 municipal police departments shared hate crime data. The OC Sheriff's Department and University of California, Irvine Police Department also shared hate crime information. Three community organizations (ADL, Stop AAPI Hate, and LGBTQ Center OC) and one municipal police department shared hate incident data.

The voluntary nature of submitting hate crime and incident data has an impact on the consistency of annual report numbers, underreporting, and ability to track and report trends. Reports (and/or disaggregated data) submitted are also confidential, which may have resulted in limited categorical data that has been labeled as "unknown" for the purposes of this report.

Underreporting is also affected by the following:

- Traumatic experience of experiencing bias-motivated hate
- Fear of retaliation or continued harassment for reporting
- Reporting will further stigmatize oneself, family, community, and/or culture
- Access to/knowledge of where and how to report



ANALYSIS:

HATE ACTIVITY IN OC INCREASED IN 2021

398

reported hate crimes & incidents in Orange County in 2021

165%

increased hate activity compared to 5 years ago (2017)

97

reported hate crimes in 2021

301

reported hate incidents in 2021

60%

hate crimes & incidents reported were motivated by race/ethnicity/national origin bias

73%

hate crimes & incidents reported with known data (all categorical data was present)

33%

hate crimes & incidents reported took place in a public area (public space, park, or street)

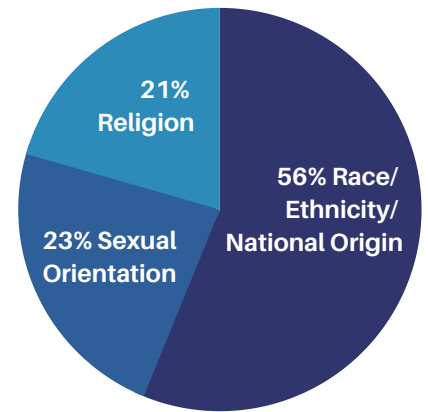
ANALYSIS: HATE ACTIVITY IN OC INCREASED IN 2021

WHO HAS BEEN TARGETED?

Hate crimes were primarily motivated by the victim's race/ethnicity/national origin, sexual orientation, and/or religion. More than half of the hate crimes where the race/ethnicity of the victim was known and reported (56%) identified as black, indigenous, person of color (BIPOC).

Hate incidents were also primarily motivated by the same biases--race/ethnicity/national origin (65%) and religion (29%).

More specifically, hate incidents were primarily motivated by anti-Asian/Pacific Islander (51%), antisemitic (26%), and anti-Black (8%) bias.



**Bias Motivation of
Hate Crimes**
(with known data)

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OFFENDERS?

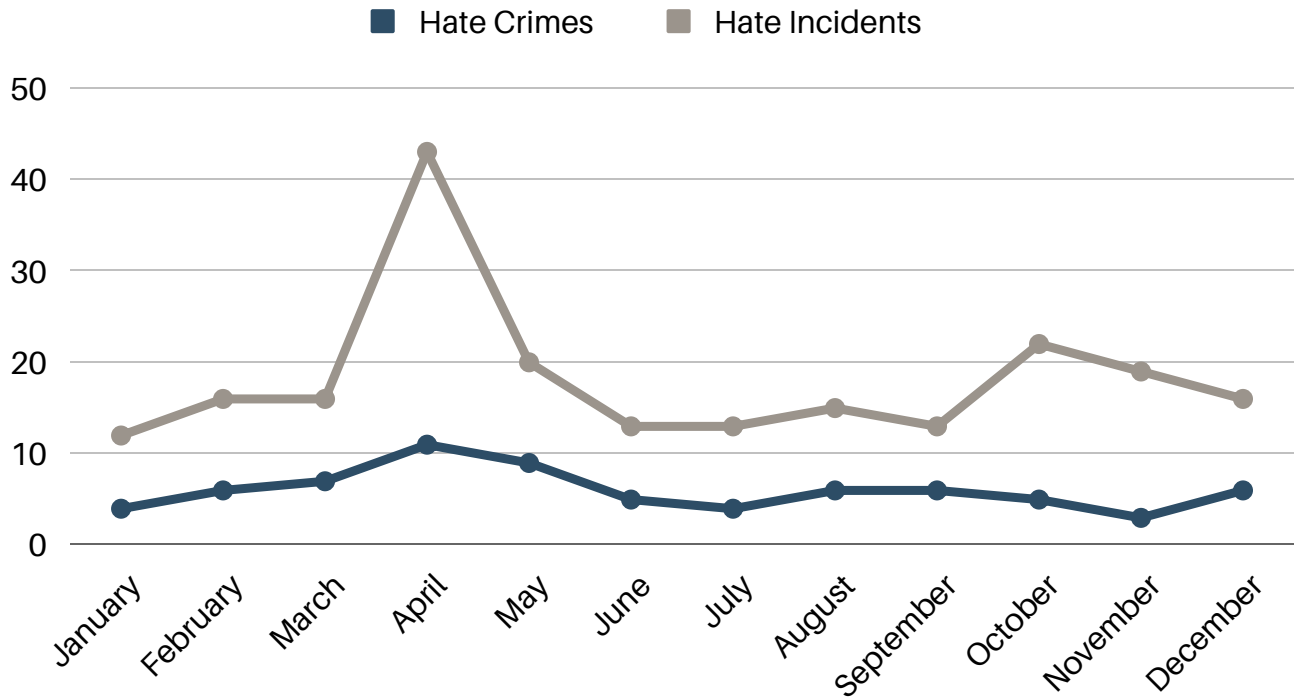
Males make up an average of 68% of the offenders of hate crimes and incidents when gender was known, while females make up an average of 32% of the offenders. The types of offenses of males were more aggressive than of females.

2020 to 2021 OC HATE CRIME & HATE INCIDENT COMPARISON

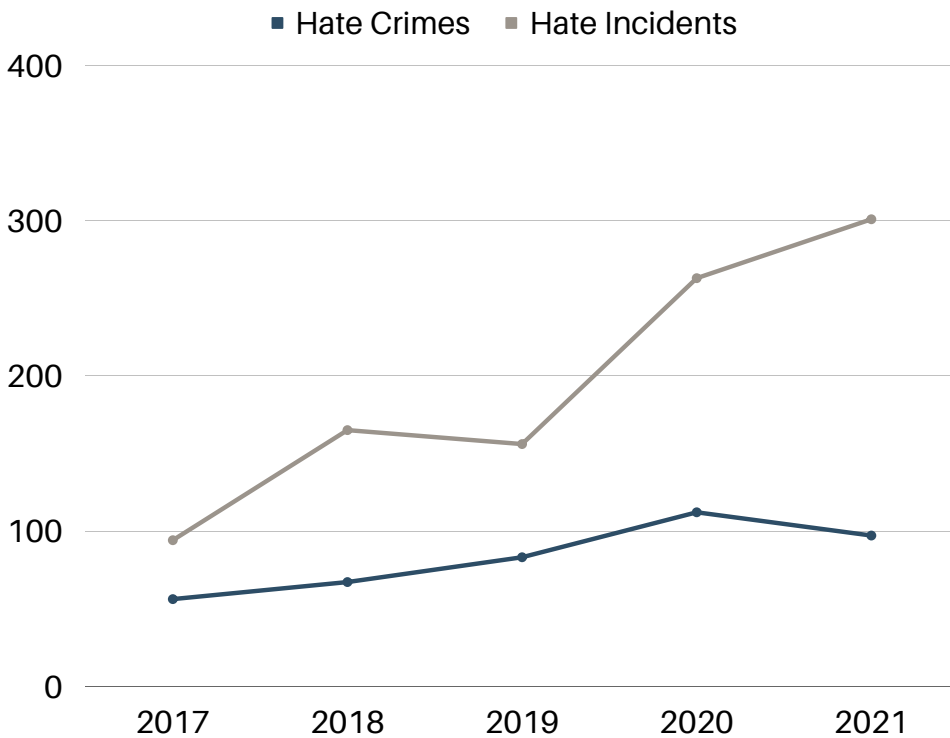
- 398 hate crimes and hate incidents were reported in 2021 - an increase of 6% from 2020
- 97 hate crimes were reported in 2021 - a 13% decrease from 2020
- 301 hate incidents were reported in 2021 - a 14% increase from 2020
- 22 reported hate crimes in 2021 were motivated by sexual orientation bias - an 83% increase from 2020
- 10 reported hate crimes in 2021 were anti-Asian/Pacific Islander - a 43% increase from 2020
- 153 reported hate incidents in 2021 were anti-Asian/Pacific Islander - a 164% increase from 2020



BIAS-MOTIVATED HATE ACTIVITY 2021: BY MONTH

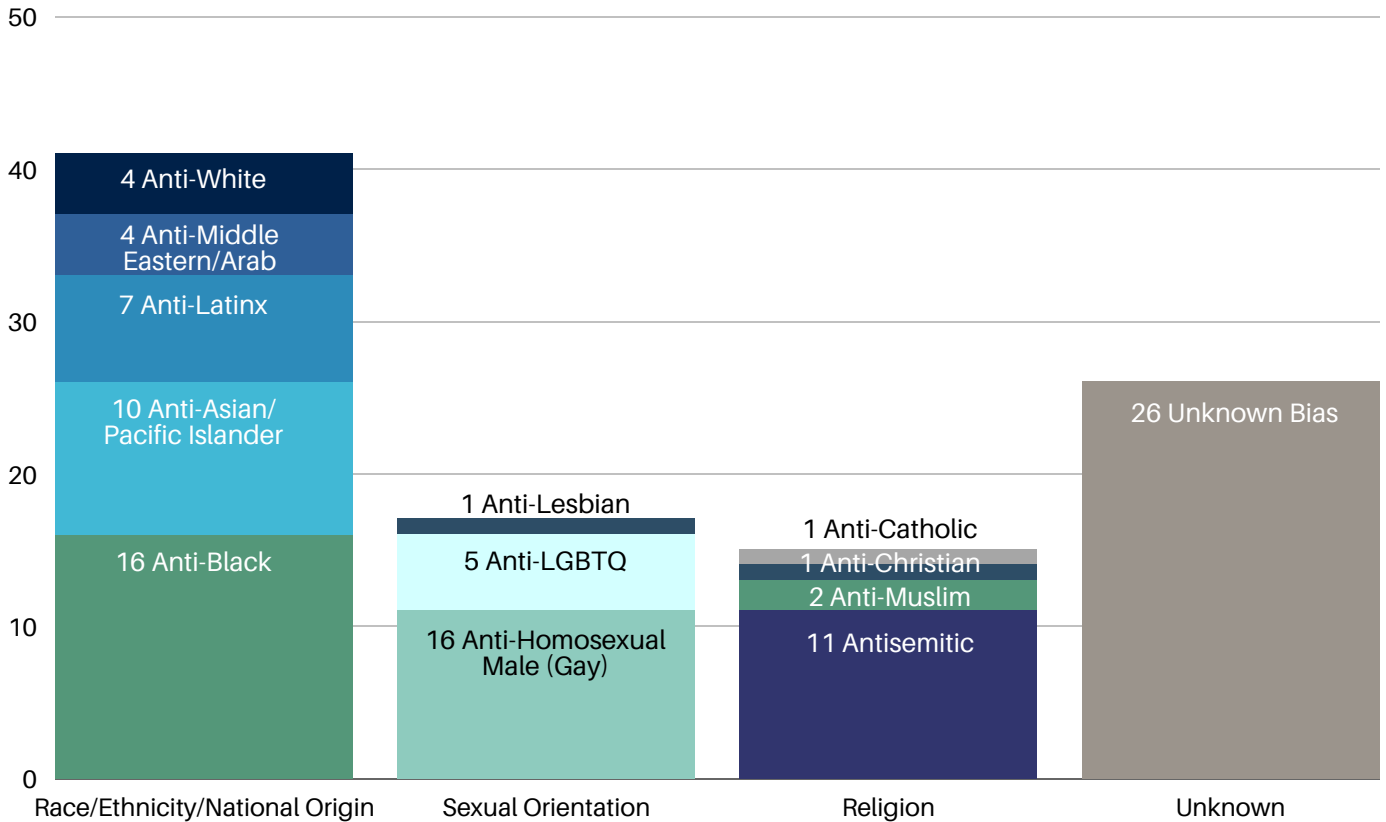


5-YEAR TREND: BIAS-MOTIVATED HATE ACTIVITY INCREASES

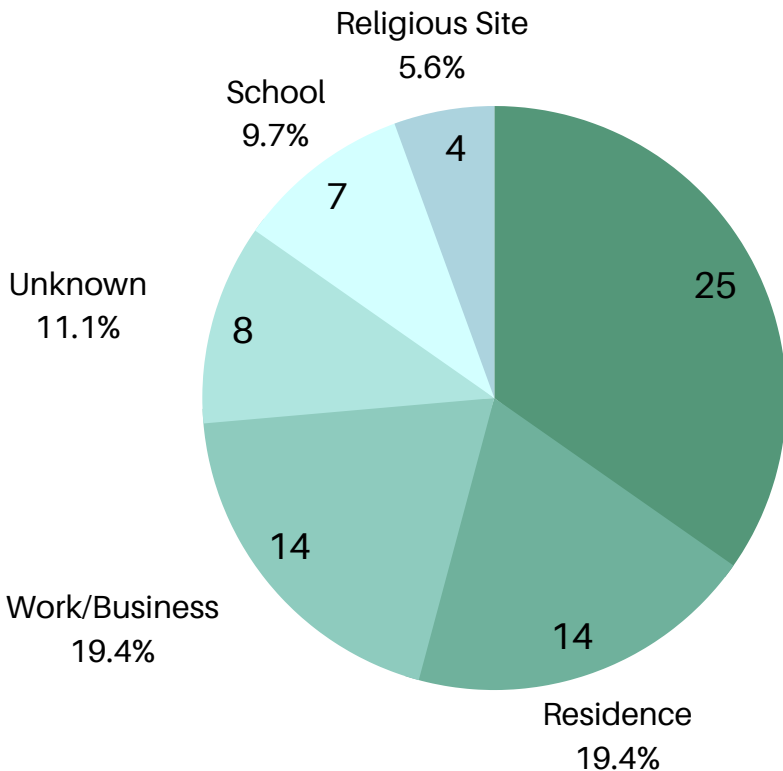


| Years | HATE CRIMES | HATE INCIDENTS |
|-------|-------------|----------------|
| 2017 | 56 | 94 |
| 2018 | 67 | 165 |
| 2019 | 83 | 156 |
| 2020 | 112 | 263 |
| 2021 | 97 | 301 |

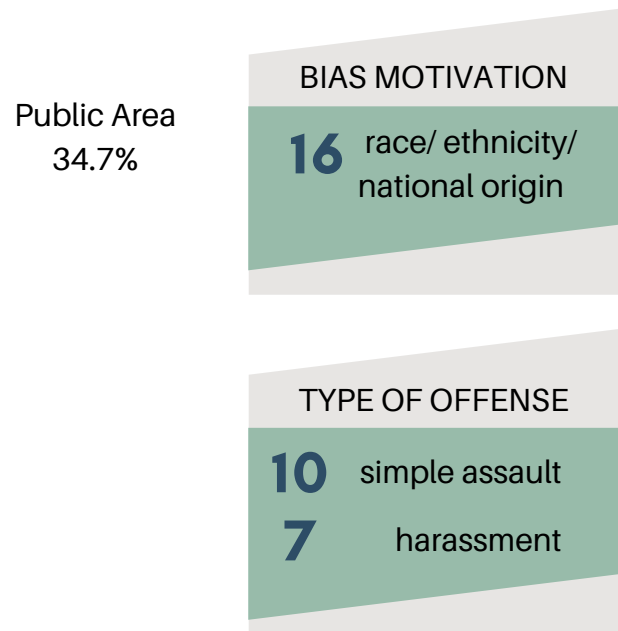
HATE CRIMES 2021: BIAS MOTIVATION



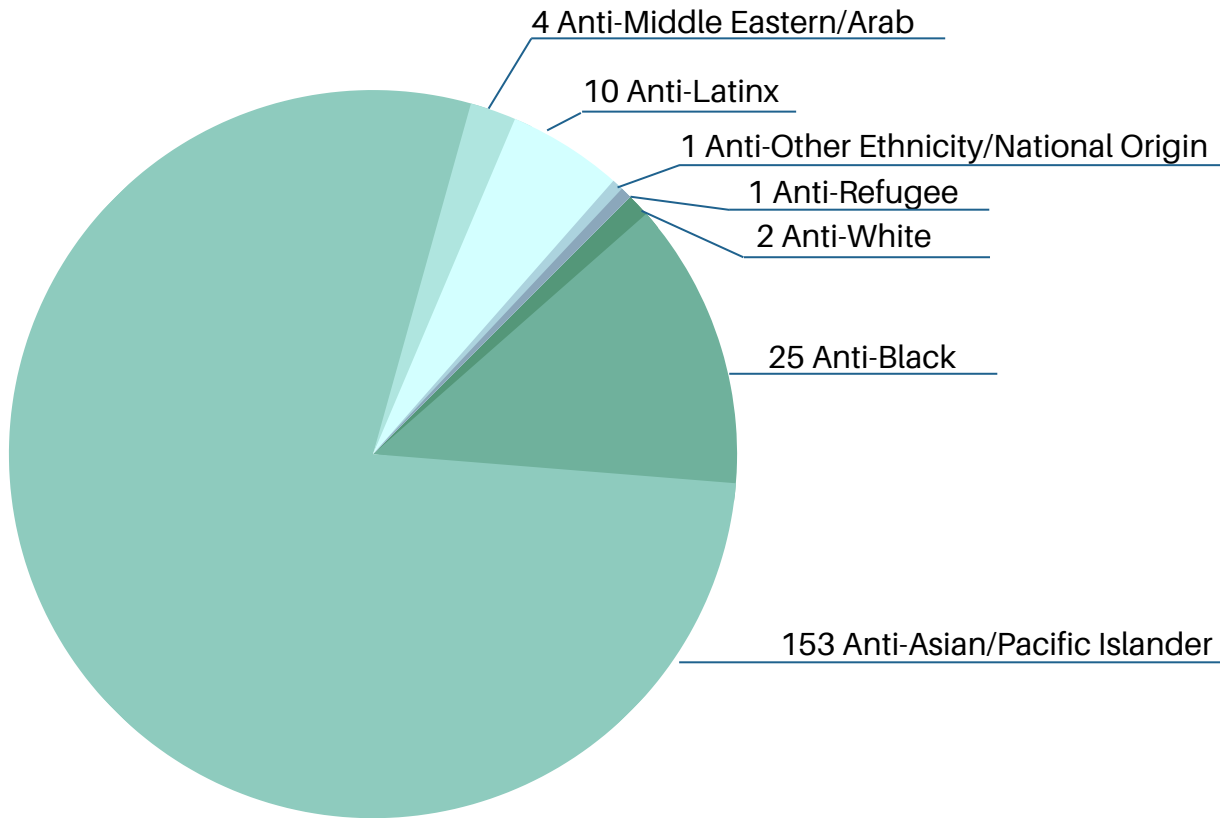
HATE CRIMES 2021: LOCATION



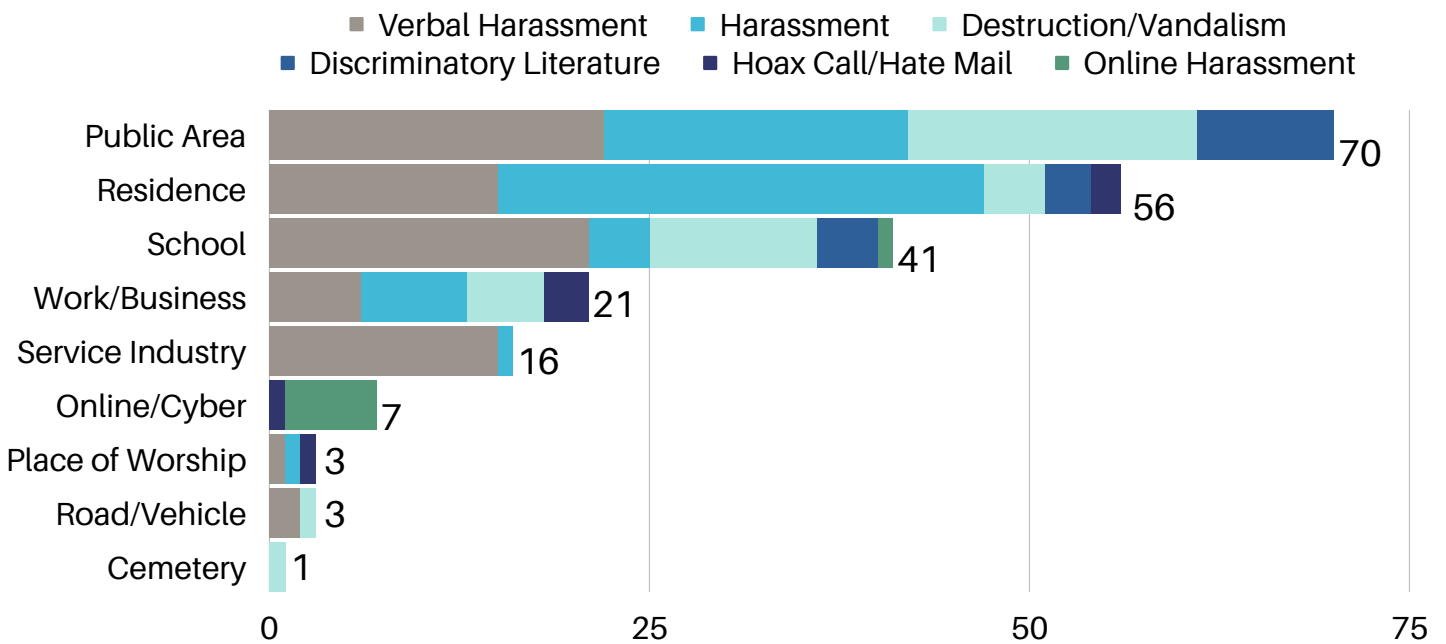
Hate Crimes in Public Areas



HATE INCIDENTS 2021: SPECIFIC BIAS OF RACE/ETHNICITY/NATIONAL ORIGIN



HATE INCIDENTS 2021: LOCATION & OFFENSE TYPE





ORANGE COUNTY OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SUMMARY OF HATE CASES FOR 2021

Each year, the Orange County District Attorney's Office (OCDA) is responsible for reviewing possible hate crimes to determine whether any criminal charges, hate crimes or otherwise, should be filed. These cases are submitted to the OCDA by local law enforcement agencies after an investigation by the agency and the identification of a possible suspect.

In 2021, the OCDA received 39 cases that were directly referred to our office for hate crime consideration or initiated by our office. We filed hate crime charges for 14 of those cases.

- 25 of the cases were rejected for hate crimes and either non-hate crime charges were filed or the case was rejected.
- The 14 cases that were filed as hate crimes involved crimes motivated by bias against race, national origin, religion, and sexual orientation.
- From 2016-2021, the OCDA saw an increase in the number of hate crimes reported to police.

Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer announced in 2020 the creation of its Hate Crimes Unit. The Hate Crimes Unit is overseen by the office's Special Prosecutions, an elite unit within the District Attorney's Office. The Hate Crimes Unit is focused on prosecuting crimes in which the perpetrators acted based on a bias against the victim's race, color, religion, national origin, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or gender. The OCDA Hate Crimes Unit is staffed by three prosecutors, two investigators, and is supervised by the head of Special Prosecutions. In addition to prosecuting hate crimes, the Hate Crimes Unit works with our law enforcement partners to train first responders how to improve potential hate crime investigations as well as educating members of our community on how to identify hate crimes and hate incidents and how to effectively report them to law enforcement. Since January 2019, the OCDA's Office has prosecuted more than twice the number of hate crimes prosecuted in the previous 25 years by prior administrations.

"No one is born into the world with hate in their heart; hate feeds off inaction and by looking the other way. Here in Orange County, we refuse to look the other way. We refuse to let hate fester and grow and for people to be victimized because of how they look, who they love, or what they believe in. As prosecutors and police officers, we are sending and prosecuting haters to the fullest extent of the law, we are preventing potential victims from ever becoming victimized and helping to create a community where everyone can safely celebrate the diversity that is Orange County's beauty."

PREVENTING BIAS-MOTIVATED HATE: PERSONALLY & IN THE COMMUNITY

ADDRESS THE ROOT OF BIAS-MOTIVATED HATE

- Explore how implicit & explicit bias impacts your daily life
- Learn more about different kinds of biases.
- Reflect on how stereotyping impacts you, communities you are a part of, and others who are different from you

NAME THE PROBLEM

- Understand the definitions of hate crime and hate incident and learn to recognize them
- Talk about bias-motivated hate as a problem in the community
- Stay attuned to how bias-motivated hate impacts us all, and yet impacts us all differently
- Share the information with others

PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE & UNITY

- Reach out to people outside of your own groups/communities/cultures/identities Model respect and the unacceptability of using biases and stereotypes
- Attend cultural events/activities that are different than your own

SUPPORT VICTIMS

- Acknowledge that hate crime victims are especially vulnerable
- Ask for help if you are a victim
- Let victims know you care; surround them with comfort and protection

SPEAK UP

- Apathy will be interpreted as acceptance by the perpetrators, the public, and worse the victims
- Expose and denounce hate
- Help news organizations achieve balance and depth of reporting about bias-motivated hate activity

REPORT

- When hate activity occurs, report it
- Check in with those who were impacted by the ripple effect of bias and hate (including yourself)

CREATE A NETWORK

- Seek to create a group of diverse people to join forces and work to prevent hate crimes
- Connect deeply and meaningfully to lessen/dissipate negative implicit associations
- Engage in dialogue and planning for how to challenge bias-motivated hate

MAKE CITY LEADERS AWARE

- Think about elected officials and other community leaders as important allies
- Make them aware of hate crimes and hate incidents so they can denounce and find ways to make their cities be inclusive
- Be seen, heard, and present at city and county meetings

OC HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

PREVENTING & RESPONDING TO HATE CRIMES

The County of Orange and OC Human Relations Commission address, prevent, and respond to human relations needs in the County via the following programs:

HATE CRIME RESPONSE AND EDUCATION

- Assist and support victims of hate crimes and, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, document hate crimes and incidents
- Educate law enforcement agencies and community members about hate crimes and incidents

POSITIVE POLICE/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Offer the Police-Community Reconciliation program to mediate resident disputes and complaints with law enforcement
- Work with law enforcement agencies to enhance and build positive relationships with OC residents and students through dialogues

DIVERSE COMMUNITY OUTREACH & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- Establish relations with diverse communities within the County of Orange to understand their issues and concerns

LISTENING & DIALOGUE SESSIONS

- Organize Listening Sessions to hear from diverse communities and facilitate Community Forums to build understanding about important human relations issues

DENOUNCES INJUSTICE & HATE PUBLICLY

- Issue public media statements denouncing injustice, violence, hateful actions, and bigotry
- Media advisories issued last year included:
 - Statement of Solidarity
 - Statement condemning racists and hateful rhetoric directed at Board of Supervisors Chairman Do and Councilwoman Rhonda Bolton
 - Statement in support of Ethnic Studies curriculum in K-12 education

Full statements available on the [OC Human Relations Commission website](#).



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM VICTIMIZED?

- 1** Call the police or sheriff's department immediately if it is an emergency or if you are in present danger.
- 2** Obtain medical attention if needed. Be sure to keep all medical documentation.
- 3** Leave all evidence in place. Do not touch, remove, and/or clean up anything.
- 4** Document what happened for evidence by taking photographs and writing down exactly what was said, particularly any words indicating bias, motivation, and other information that may be valuable.
- 5** Get the name(s), address(es), and phone number(s) of other victims or witnesses.
- 6** If possible, write down a description of the perpetrator and the perpetrator's vehicle.
- 7** Report the occurrence.

REPORTS CAN BE MADE:

Via phone - Dial 2-1-1 to report bias-motivated hate activity in Orange County

Via online form - hatecrime.211oc.org

Via text - Text OCHATEACTIVITY to 898211

Via email - Email OCHATEACTIVITY@211oc.org with a description of what happened

Reports can be made in multiple languages, including: English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Farsi, and Vietnamese

VICTIM EXPERIENCES

Victims of a hate crime or incident may:

- Experience psychological distress
- Feel scared, vulnerable, worried, or targeted
- Lose trust in local law & safety enforcement
- Feel depressed, anxious, or preoccupied
- Feel unwelcome and dehumanized
- Stop doing things you previously enjoyed and felt safe doing
- Develop an "us vs. them" mentality

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR VICTIMS

Victims of a hate crime or incident can:

- Make a report & agree to receive referrals
- Talk to a counselor or case manager about emotions, thoughts, experiences, and needs
- Prioritize self-care
- Connect with others to rebuild a sense of community, connection, and interdependence
- Receive direct services through coordinated supporting agencies

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

OC Human Relations Commission provides victims of hate crimes and hate incidents with support and appropriate resources. All services are confidential. The OC Human Relations Commission also provides presentations and puts together the annual Hate Crimes Report to inform the public of the state of Orange County regarding hate crimes and hate incidents because of the impact on victims and the community.

Victim Assistance—Help is available in the form of:

- Support in communicating with the police, the court, and other authorities
- Translation services for non-English speakers
- Information resources and referrals in crisis intervention and counseling
- Orientation to the criminal justice system
- Emergency financial assistance, support with property return, restitution assistance, filling compensation claims, temporary restraining orders, emergency transportation, and case status/disposition information

ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT AND DEFEND VICTIMS OF HATE CRIMES

ACLU of Southern California, Orange County Branch - (213) 977-5253

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Orange County Office - (888) 349-9695

Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Orange County/Long Beach Region - (949) 679-3737

California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) - (800) 844-1684

CA Victim Compensation and Government Claim Board, Victim Support Hotline (800) 777-9229

Council on American-Islamic Relations, Southern California (CAIR) - (714) 776-1847

Dayle McIntosh Center - (714) 621-330 or (949) 460-7784

Fair Housing Council of Orange County - (714) 569-0823

Federal Bureau of Investigation Victim Assistance Program - (877) 236-8947

Japanese American Citizens League (Pacific Southwest Chapter) - (213) 626-4471

National Association for the Advancement of Color People - (657) 351-0168

OC Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) - (714) 636-9095

Office of the Orange County District Attorney - (714) 834-3600

Office of Victim Services, California Attorney General - (877) 433-9069

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) - (202) 467-8180

Sikh Council California - (877) 225-7454

Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) - (888) 414-7752

LGBTQ Center OC - (714) 953-5428

U.S. Department of Justice Office for Community Relations Service - (202) 305-2935

U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime - (202) 307-5983

Waymakers - (949) 250-0488

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