



An annual publication of Orange County Human Relations Commission

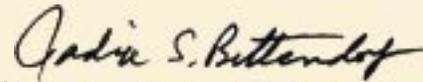
A message from the Commission



For the past 18 years, the Orange County Human Relations Commission has collected and analyzed hate crime data and compiled it into an annual report. As you read this document, keep in mind that each number represents pain, suffering, even death caused by hate and ignorance. Every digit represents an Orange County resident whose civil rights under the US Constitution have been violated simply because of who he or she is.



We encourage everyone to stand up against hate crimes when they occur, support victims of hate crime and educate yourself and others to eliminate hate in Orange County.



Nadia Saad Bettendorf, Chair
Orange County Human Relations Commission

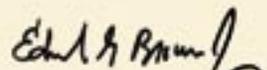
To the Residents of Orange County

California has the strongest laws of any state in the union to combat hate violence. These laws include the requirement that law enforcement agencies track and report hate crimes committed within their jurisdictions to the California Department of Justice. The statistics that are generated from these reports assist us in planning effective strategies to curb hate crimes. For our strategies to combat hate crimes to be effective, we must all work together to ensure that such crimes are reported to our local law enforcement agencies.

I commend the Orange County Human Relations Commission for its splendid work to improve reporting of these particularly pernicious crimes.



Sincerely,



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
State of California Attorney General

Methodology

This report provides a statistical overview on reported hate crimes and incidents that occurred in Orange County in 2008. There are a number of factors, elaborated below, that lead the Commission to conclude that the information contained in this report under represents the actual number of hate crimes.

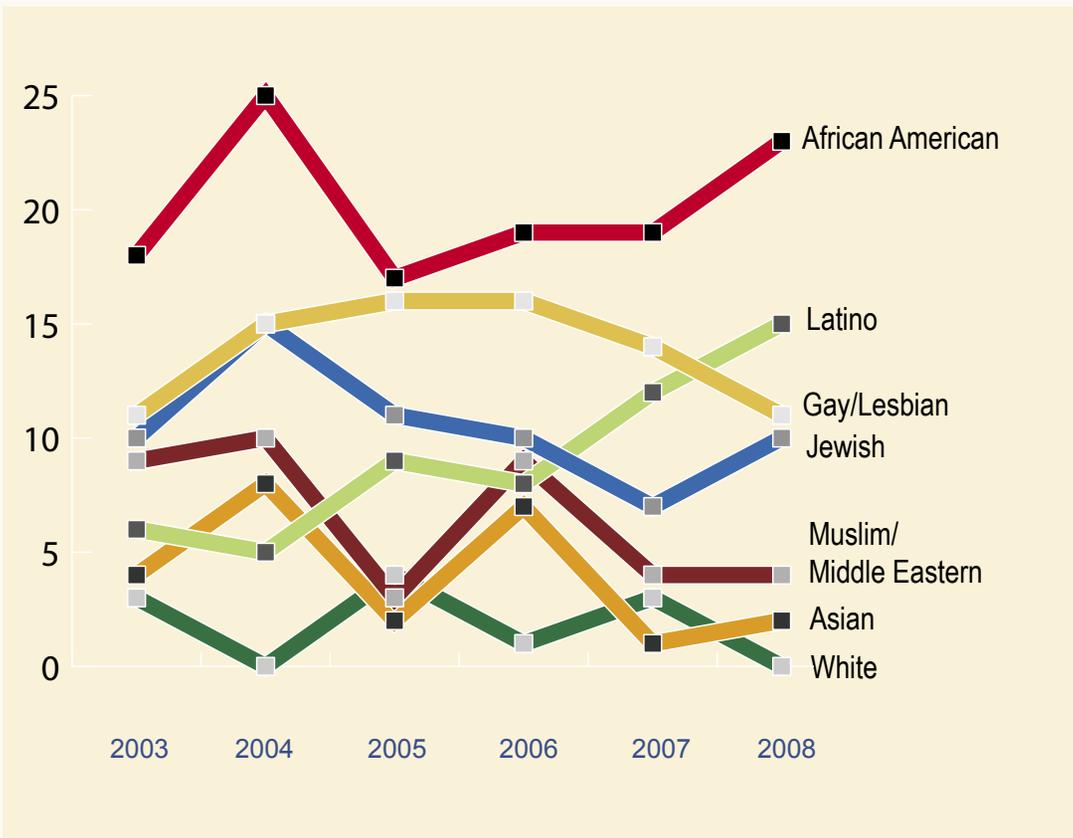
The Commission carefully cross-checks each case to eliminate duplication. Due to this careful gathering of information, the Commission contends that this report is an accurate overall reflection of hate crimes in Orange County.

Some communities can suffer from under reporting due to a lack of knowledge about the justice system, cultural and language barriers, fear of reprisals, immigration status and a lack of confidence in government agencies.

The Commission urges caution when drawing conclusions on trends based on year-to-year variations of data.



Targets of Hate Crimes 2003 to 2008



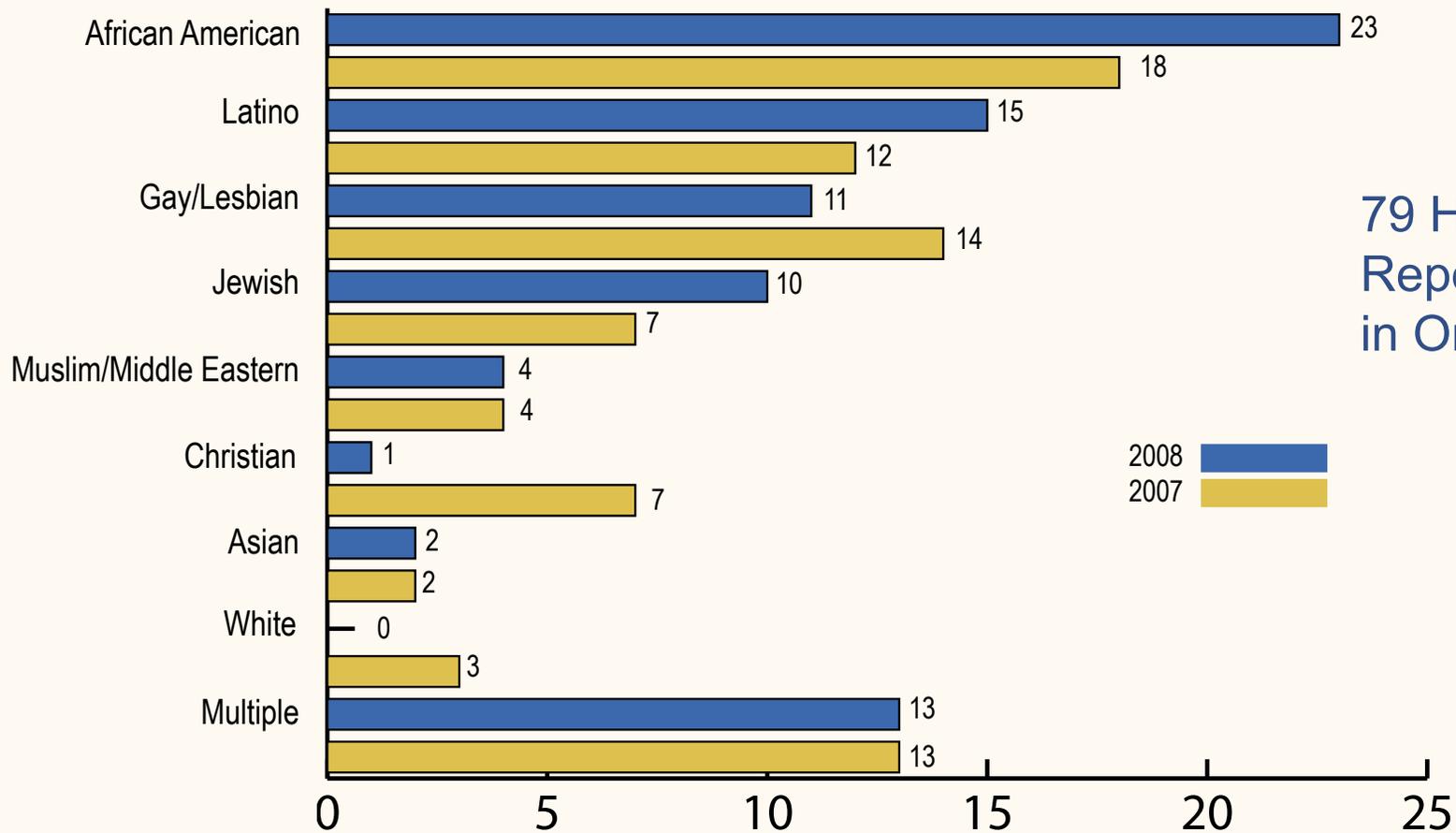
Hate Crime (P.C. § 422.6)

A Hate Crime is a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: Disability, Gender, Nationality, Race or Ethnicity, Religion, Sexual Orientation, association with a person or group of persons with one or more of the preceding actual or perceived characteristics. Under California law there are enhanced penalties for these types of crimes.

Analysis

The frequency of hate crimes against specific targets can reflect public policies, societal attitudes and national and international affairs. Thus, demographic changes, economic downturns, controversial legislation and other events may fuel bigotry and result in an increase in hate related activity.

- African Americans make up less than 2% of Orange County's population but are consistently the most frequent targets of hate crime.
- Hate Crime trends against Latinos are up, this may be due to misplaced concerns about the economy and the vilification of immigrants, as well as fear of foreigners.
- Gays and Lesbians are one of the most frequent targets of hate crime, the emotionally charged and protracted battle over the issue of gay marriage may contribute to this.
- Every hate crime is devastating to the victim as well as the community it targets for its hate message.
- Hate crime against some groups is under-reported due to fear and lack of trust.



79 Hate Crimes Reported in 2008 in Orange County

- Despite the fact that African Americans make up less than 2% of the population of Orange County, this group continues to be the most frequent target of hate crimes.

- Hate crimes targeting Latinos continued to increase. Since 2006, there has been almost a 100% increase in the number reported.

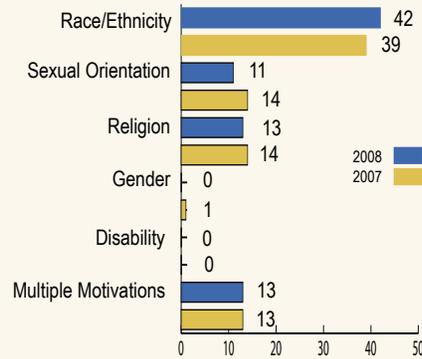
- While there were 7 crimes targeting Christian religious groups reported in 2007, that number dropped to one in 2008.

- There was a slight drop in reported crimes against members of the Gay and Lesbian community. This group, however, is one that frequently under reports.

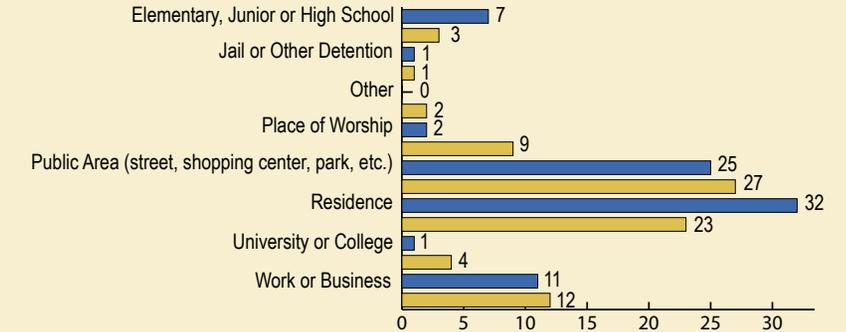
- Hate crimes targeting Jews increased, ending a four-year downward trend.

Hate Crimes By Motivation

The motivation for crimes reported in Orange County mirrors that of the national average. Crimes labeled "multiple motivation" typically involve graffiti that targets more than one group.

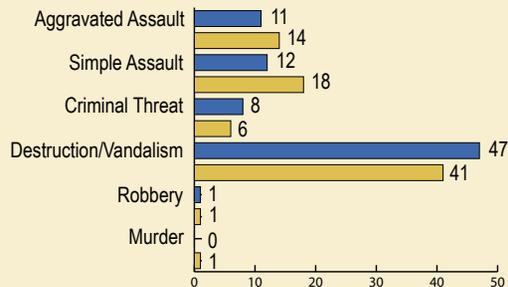


Hate Crimes By Location



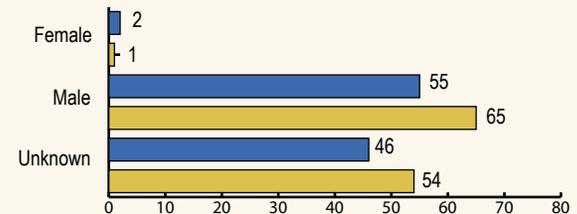
There was an upswing in crimes occurring at a residence - the majority of these involved vandalism. There was a significant increase in the number of hate crimes taking place on school campuses, the majority of these were acts of vandalism.

Hate Crimes By Type of Offense



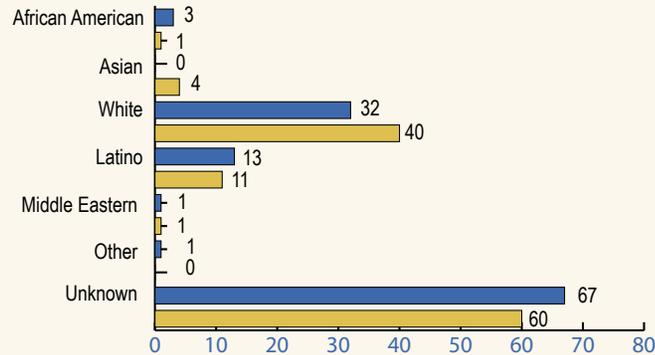
Almost half of the crimes reported in Orange County targeted property. This was usually vandalism involving graffiti. There was a reduction in crimes against individuals from 2007 to 2008

Perpetrators by Gender



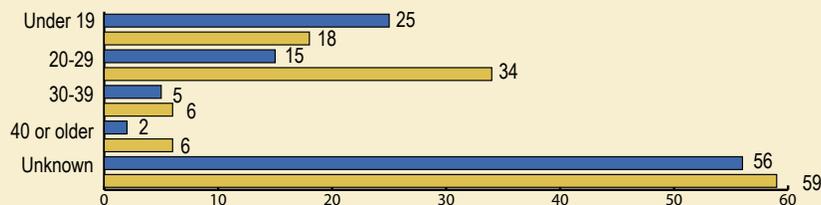
National statistics show the overwhelming number of hate crimes are perpetrated by males. The large number of "unknowns" primarily involve crimes against property.

Perpetrators by Ethnicity



The ethnicity of the perpetrators of over half Orange County's hate crimes is unknown - again these are typically crimes against property. However, as is true across the nation, the majority of known perpetrators were White.

Known Perpetrators by Age Group

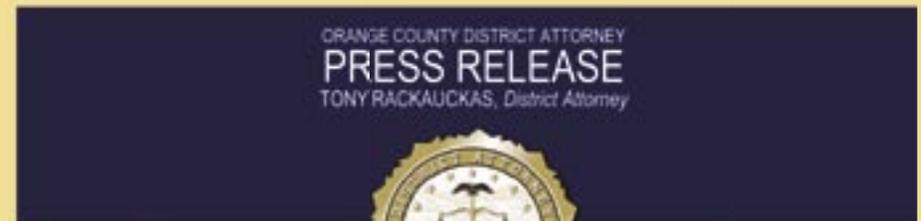


Across the nation, the majority of hate crimes are committed by males under the age of 30. There was an increase of over 50% in the number of perpetrators under the age of 19.

Orange County District Attorney

The following is a summary of hate crime cases handled by the District Attorney's Office:

- Twenty-seven cases were referred to the district attorney's office.
- Nineteen cases were filed.
- Twenty-five resulted in guilty pleas. (includes cases filed from the proceeding year)
- Six cases resulted in non-bias-motivated crime conviction.
- One resulted in a finding of not convicted.



Date: October 22, 2008

WHITE SUPREMACISTS CONVICTED OF BEATING STOMPING ON MAN IN SEAL BEACH HATE CRIME ATTACK

Two self-proclaimed white supremacists were convicted today of beating a man unconscious in Seal Beach, and Nicholas Tyler Gibbs, 20, Anaheim, pleaded guilty to a felony count of unlawful taking of a vehicle, one with serious and violent enhancements for committing a hate crime in concert with another person. Gibbs is currently in state prison.

- So what are you?
- I'm Salvadorian
- What's that?
- El Salvador is a country in Central America.
- So you're a dirty Mexican.
- No, I'm not Mexican, El Salvador is a different country next to Honduras.
- So you're still a F----- Mexican.

Minutes later, the 2 men proceeded to beat the victim and left him unconscious near an empty park in the middle of the night. Both have white supremacist tattoos, identified themselves as white supremacists to the

Hate Crime Indicators

A hate crime indicator, sometimes called a hate or bias-motivated incident, is an action or behavior that is motivated by hate, but is protected by the 1st Amendment right to freedom of expression. The Constitution allows for hateful rhetoric as long as it does not interfere with the rights of others. Indicators include: name calling, hate epithets and the distribution or display of non-threatening racist or homophobic flyers or placards. OC Human Relations encourages the reporting of such incidents because they reflect biases that may be addressed through education and/or dialogue.

The Hate Crime Indicators reported in 2008 are fairly typical of past years. African-Americans, Gays and Lesbians and members of the Jewish faith are frequent targets of both hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents. It is noteworthy that there were only two hate crimes targeting people perceived to be Muslim, however, there were an additional 10 hate incident reports targeting Muslims.

Agencies Providing Data

City Police

Departments

Anaheim
Brea/Yorba Linda
Buena Park
Costa Mesa
Cypress
Fountain Valley
Fullerton
Garden Grove
Huntington Beach
Irvine
La Habra
La Palma
Laguna Beach
Los Alamitos
Newport Beach
Orange
Placentia
Santa Ana
San Clemente
Seal Beach
Tustin
Westminster

Orange County Sheriff 's Department Representing

Aliso Viejo
Dana Point
Foothill Ranch
Ladera Ranch
Laguna Hills
Laguna Niguel
Laguna Woods
Lake Forest
Midway City
Mission Viejo
Rancho Santa Margarita
San Clemente
San Juan Capistrano
Seal Beach
Stanton
Villa Park
Unincorporated areas
of Orange County

Organizations:

Anti-Defamation League
Orange County Human Relations
Commission
The Center, Orange County
Orange County District
Attorney's Office
Orange County Asian Pacific Islander
Community Alliance
Council on American Islamic
Relations
PFLAG Orange County
Community Service Programs, Inc.

Schools, Universities and Colleges

California State University , Fullerton
University of California , Irvine
Chapman University
Irvine Valley College
Soka University
Fullerton Community College
Golden West College
Orange Coast College
Saddleback College
Orange County School Districts

Orange County Hate Crime Victim Assistance Partnership:

The OCHCVAP is a collaborative of community organizations and law enforcement that is concerned about the impact that hate crimes have on our communities. The partnership is committed to addressing the needs of hate crime victims. Created as a response to the disparate protocols of different agencies' responses to hate crimes and hate incidents, the partnership coalesced to reach the following goals:

- Increase the reporting of hate crimes and incidents (especially in communities with low reporting numbers)
- Increase immediate assistance to victims of hate.
- Increase collaboration amongst community organizations and between law enforcement.
- Our website contains useful resources, links and the ability to report a hate crime or incident online. For more information visit us at: www.ochatecrimevap.org



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To Report a Hate Crime
1.888.NO 2 HATE



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