

2023 LA COUNTY

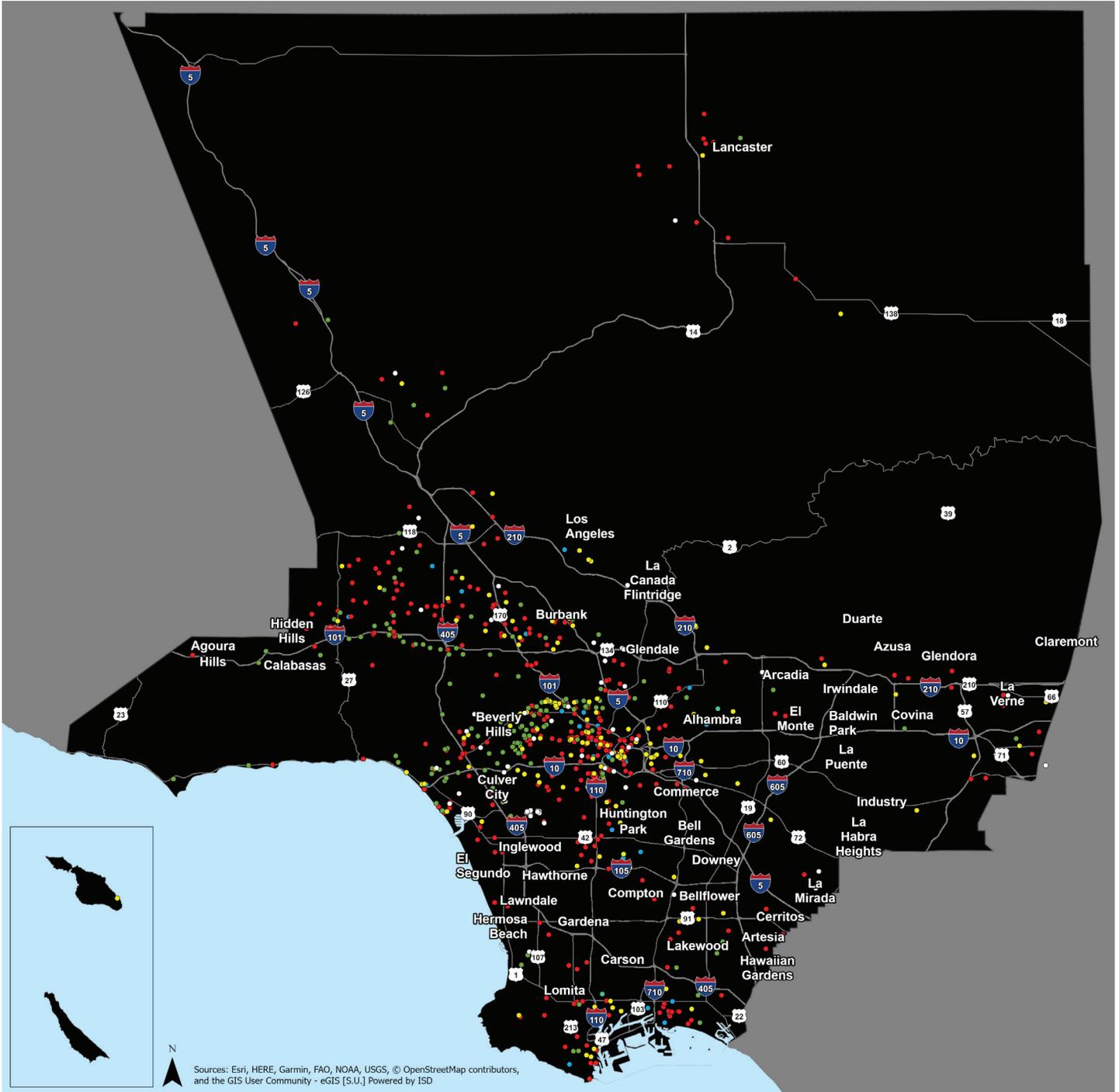
HATE CRIME

REPORT

NO MORE
SILENCE

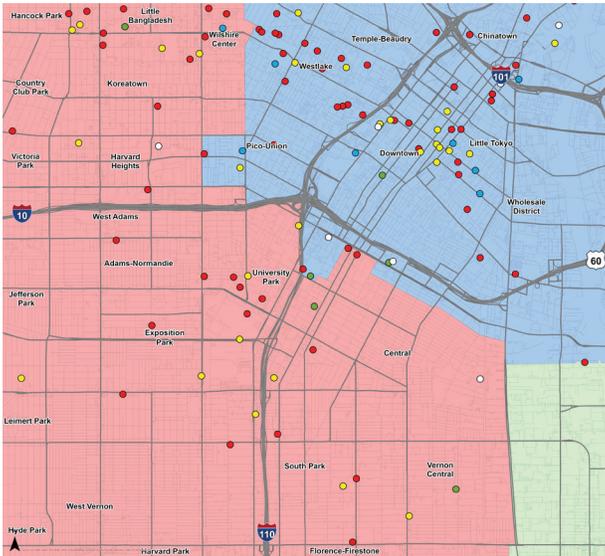


2023 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes



Motivation

- Disability
- Race/Ethnicity/National Origin
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender
- Religion
- Unknown

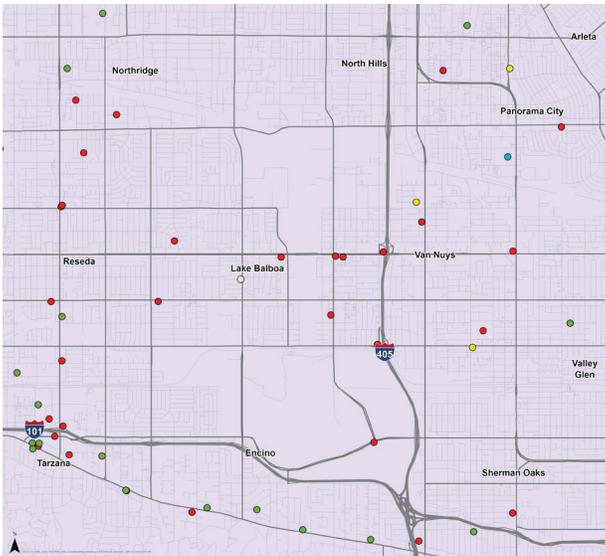


2023 Hate Crimes in Central/South Central L.A.

- Supervisory District 1
- Supervisory District 2
- Supervisory District 4

Motivation

- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity/National Origin
- Religion
- Sexual Orientation
- Unknown

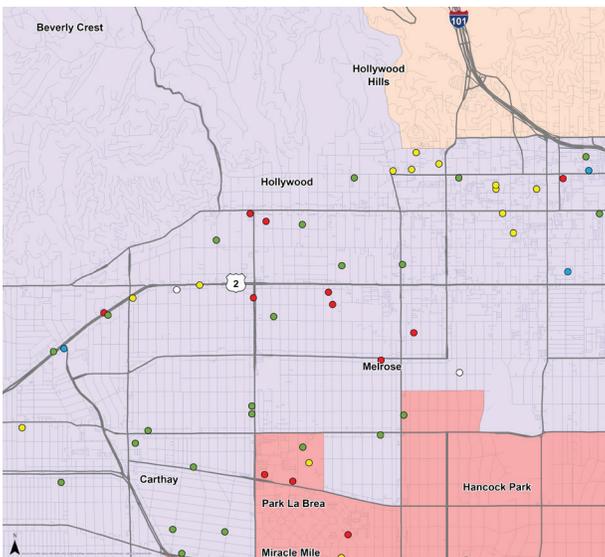


2023 Hate Crimes in the San Fernando Valley

- Supervisory District 3

Motivation

- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity/National Origin
- Religion
- Sexual Orientation
- Unknown



2023 Hate Crimes in Hollywood/West Hollywood

- Supervisory District 2
- Supervisory District 3
- Supervisory District 5

Motivation

- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity/National Origin
- Religion
- Sexual Orientation
- Unknown

2023 Hate Crime Report



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Securing Human Rights to Strengthen Healthy Human Relations

The County of Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations and its earlier forms have been at work for more than 80 years. In January 1944, in the aftermath of what has come to be called the “Zoot Suit Riots”, the County’s Board of Supervisors created the Joint Committee for Interracial Progress with the assignment of identifying and eliminating the causes of interracial tensions that had erupted in violent violations of the human rights of local young men of color by sailors, soldiers, marines, and others. Soon the Supervisors realized that the rights that needed support in order to strengthen intergroup relations both included and extended beyond those that related to race-based aggression. As a result, in 1946, the Joint Committee for Interracial Progress was renamed the Los Angeles County Committee on Human Relations. Just over 10 years later the work of fulfilling human rights to fuel human relations was given much needed structure and additional resources with the establishment, by County ordinance, of the Commission on Human Relations.¹

It was more than 4 years after the initial actions of LA County leaders that international bodies began to formally recognize the reality that enabling healthy human relations requires ensuring human rights. It was in May 1948 that the Ninth International Conference of American States approved the foundational “American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man”. The Preamble of this declaration

affirms that mutually beneficial relationships are reasonable to expect when we acknowledge that all people are “equal, in dignity and in rights”.² The Preamble of the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”, approved just seven months later by the United Nations General Assembly, agrees, declaring that “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world”. This standard-setting declaration also observes that disregarding or disparaging human rights results in “barbarous acts” that outrage the human “conscience”.³

The work of the Human Relations Commission continues. And since 1980 it has included compiling, analyzing, and producing an annual report of hate crime data from information provided by sheriff and city police agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations. This report is one of the longest-standing efforts in the nation to document hate crime. Since its inception, it has been disseminated widely to policymakers, law enforcement agencies, educators, and community groups throughout Los Angeles County and across the nation. It has gained a well-earned reputation as a reliable, crucial tool to better inform efforts to prevent, document, and remedy the consequences of acts of hate.

¹ A 25 Year History: a time for thought...a time for action. Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, 1969.

² “American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man.” Organization of American States. https://www.oas.org/dil/access_to_information_human_right_American_Declaration_of_the_Rights_and_Duties_of_Man.pdf

³ “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” United Nations. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/human-rights/universal-declaration/translations/english>

What is Hate Crime?

According to California state law, hate crime charges may be filed when there is evidence that bias based on the victim's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, or ancestry; religion; nationality; disability; gender; or sexual orientation; or association with a person or group with or perceived to have one or more of these characteristics is a substantial factor in motivation for crime. This definition is codified in the California Penal Code Sections 422.55 to 422.94. Evidence can be direct or circumstantial. It can become apparent before, during, or after the crime is committed.

Hate crimes not only violate state and federal laws. They also violate internationally recognized human rights. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for example, asserts that all human beings are equal in dignity and rights and, therefore, must not be subject to torture or to cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, signed by the United States and nearly 90 other nations, calls on signatories to combat racial and national origin discrimination and identifies hate crimes as serious human rights abuses. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, signed by the United States and nearly 75 other nations, commits signatories to respect and fulfill the right to life and security regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, or birth.

The U.S. Constitution states that the Constitution and treaties, such as these human rights documents, are the supreme law of the land. Thus, all levels of government in the U.S., including counties, cities, and even school districts, as well as individuals, are duty-bound to uphold these treaty obligations and address human rights violations in any form, including hate crime. Both government action and inaction can be violations of these treaties. Complacency or indifference by a government toward either public or private rights abuses, particularly when they include violence is inexcusable by international standards.

It is important to note that in the United States hate speech is not always a hate crime. It is a criminal offense when the perpetrator threatens violence with spoken or written words against a specific person or group. In order for it to be considered a crime, the threat must be immediate, unconditional, and unequivocal. And it must cause the victim sustained fear. Derogatory words or epithets directed against a member of a protected class without threat of violence are harmful, often traumatizing. And they are important indicators of intergroup hostility. But such language is protected by free speech guarantees established in the state and national constitutions and are not criminal offenses.

Similarly, graffiti that expresses prejudice is not always a hate crime. It is a criminal offense when it takes the form of vandalism that is disparaging to a class of people protected by hate crime laws. But to be a hate crime it must be directed at a specific target.

2023 Quick Facts



HATE CRIMES

Reported hate crimes dramatically increased 45% from 930 in 2022 to 1,350 in 2023, the largest number in the history of this report.



ANTI-TRANSGENDER CRIMES

There were 99 anti-transgender crimes, a 125% increase and the largest number ever documented in this report. A staggering 97% of these crimes were violent.



RELIGIOUS CRIMES

Religious crimes spiked 90% and anti-Jewish crimes rose 91% from 127 to 242. This is the largest number of anti-Jewish crimes ever recorded in the history of this report.



ANTI-AFRICAN AMERICAN CRIMES

African Americans made up 49% of racial hate crime victims. The 320 anti-Black crimes were the highest number ever recorded.



ANTI-LATINO/A CRIMES

Anti-Latino/a crimes rose 19% from 121 to 144. This is the highest number recorded in the history of this report.



ANTI-ASIAN CRIMES

Anti-Asian crimes increased 31%. The 80 victims were the second highest number ever recorded.

2023 Quick Facts



WHITE SUPREMACIST IDEOLOGY CRIMES

There were **209 crimes with evidence of White supremacist ideology**, and this was the highest number ever recorded in this report. They comprised 15% of all reported hate crimes.



ANTI-IMMIGRANT CRIMES

Hate crimes in which anti-immigrant slurs were used continued to climb - increasing **31% in 2023**. The 123 crimes comprised the largest number ever recorded for this report.



MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT RELATED CRIMES

Crimes in which there was specific language regarding conflict in the Middle East sharply increased from **2 to 64 in 2023** and accounted for 5% of all hate crimes. This is the largest number ever recorded.



ANTI-LGBT CRIMES

Anti-LGBT crimes rose 48% from 173 to 256. This was the largest number ever recorded. 73% of these crimes targeted gay men.



SCHOOL RELATED CRIMES

Hate crimes taking place at schools grew **46%** from 93 to 136 and accounted for 10% of all hate crimes.



RACIAL CRIMES

Race, ethnicity, and national origin was by far the most common motivation, constituting 45% of all hate crimes. This was an 18% increase.

Executive Summary

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (Commission) has produced an annual hate crime report since 1980, one of the longest standing efforts of its kind in the nation. Hate crimes are serious violations of state, federal, and international law as well as flagrant violations of internationally recognized human rights. The Commission collects reports from every law enforcement agency in Los Angeles County, as well as from some colleges, school districts, and community-based organizations.

Hate crimes documented in the year 2023 grew to a peak and set multiple records for highest counts of certain targeted groups—African Americans, Asians, Jewish people, Latino/as, LGBT* individuals, and transgender people—and included highest counts for anti-immigrant slurs, Middle East conflict related crimes, and crimes with evidence of White supremacist ideology. These numbers are unprecedented but also a testament to the work of our Commission in responding to and addressing hate. For example, our LA vs Hate system provides safe ways for people to report hate and has substantially increased awareness of the importance of reporting. We also received substantially more reports for 2023 from well-established sources such as community-based organizations, schools, and law enforcement jurisdictions. As a result, this report demonstrates that more and more victims of hate in LA County are no longer remaining silent.

Documented hate crimes represent only a portion of hate crimes actually committed in any year. The U.S. Justice Department has reported that more than half of all hate crimes are not reported to law enforcement. We can expect that an even greater portion of non-criminal hate acts are not reported.

Significant findings of this report include:

- Reported hate crimes dramatically increased 45% from 930 in 2022 to 1,350 in 2023, the largest number in the history of this report and surpassing the 1,031 hate crimes from 2001 when the September 11th attacks occurred.
- There were 99 anti-transgender crimes, representing a 125% increase. This is the largest number ever documented. A staggering 97% of these crimes were violent.
- Religious crimes spiked 90% and were the second largest motivation. Anti-Jewish hate crimes rose 91% from 127 to 242. This is the largest number of anti-Jewish crimes ever recorded.
- African Americans were again grossly over-represented in reported racial hate crimes, constituting 49% of racial hate crime victims. The 320 anti-Black crimes were the highest number ever recorded.
- Anti-LGBT* crimes rose 48% from 173 to 256. This was the largest number ever documented. 73% of these crimes targeted gay men.
- Anti-Latino/a crimes rose 19% from 121 to 144. This is the highest number ever recorded. Racial crimes targeting Latino/as were the most violent (87%) of all racial and ethnic groups.

*LGBT includes lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and LGBT (non-specified) cases in which an LGBT individual, business, or organization were targeted but there were no slurs made against a specific sexual orientation (e.g. gay, lesbian).

Executive Summary

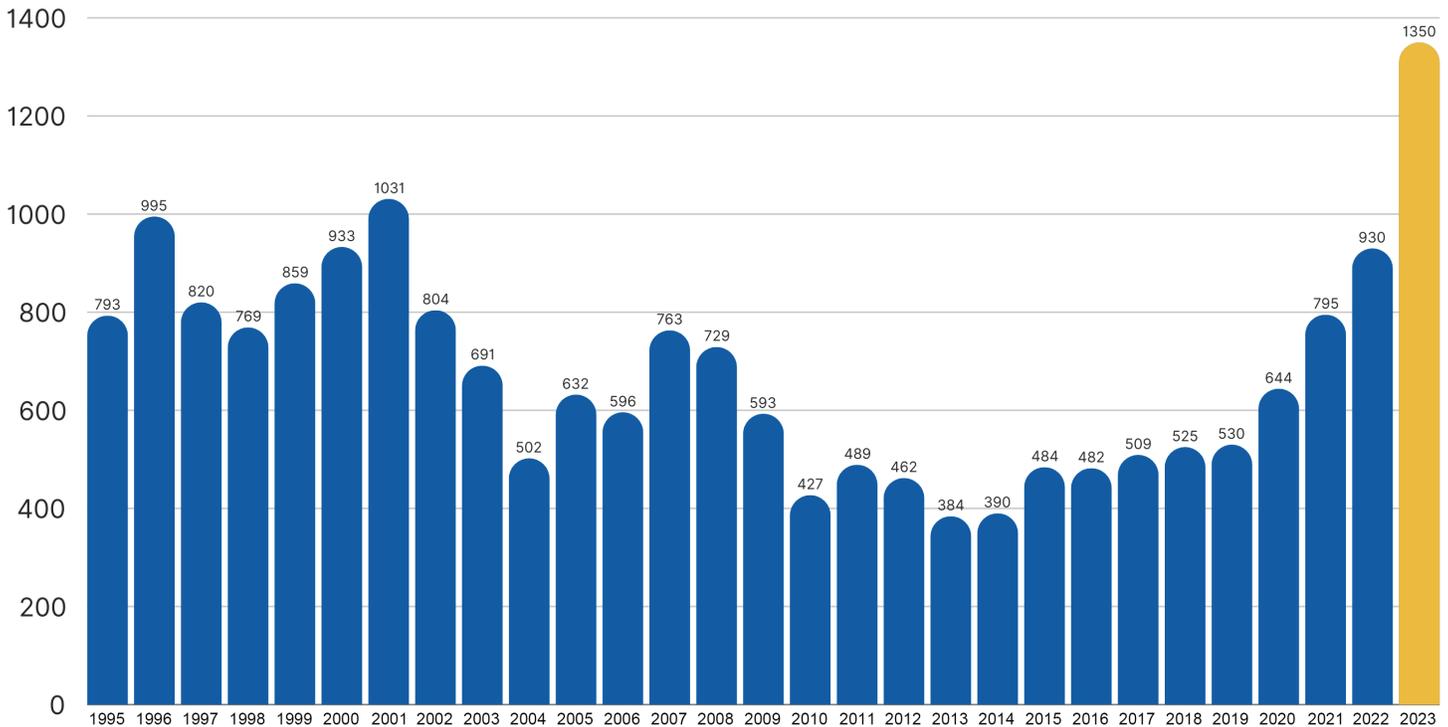
- Anti-Asian crimes, after dipping the year prior, increased 31%. The 80 victims were the second highest number ever recorded.
- In 2023, there were 209 crimes with evidence of White supremacist ideology, and this was the highest number ever recorded in this report. They comprised 15% of all reported hate crimes.
- Hate crimes in which anti-immigrant slurs were used climbed 31%. The 123 crimes recorded in 2023 comprised the largest number ever recorded. Suspects used anti-immigrant language in 71% of anti-Latino/a crimes and in 18% of anti-Asian offenses.
- Crimes in which there was specific language regarding conflict in the Middle East sharply increased from 2 to 64 in 2023 and accounted for 5% of all hate crimes. This is the largest number ever recorded since we began tracking this phenomenon in 2007.
- Hate crimes taking place at schools grew 46% from 93 to 136 and accounted for 10% of all hate crimes. Over half (57%) of hate crimes that occurred in schools were motivated by race, ethnicity, or national origin.
- There were sharp increases in hate crimes based on gender (142% increase), religion (90%), and sexual orientation (48% increase). Race, ethnicity, and national origin was by far the most common motivation, constituting 45% of all hate crimes. These crimes jumped 18%, from 547 to 646.
- 65% of reported hate crimes were of a violent nature compared to 72% the year prior. Vandalisms surpassed violent simple assaults, creating a drop in the percentage of violent crimes.
- The largest number of hate crimes took place in the Metro Region which stretches from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights, followed by the San Fernando Valley.

By providing the extensive information contained in this report on hate crimes in Los Angeles County, the Commission helps law enforcement as well as educational, community, governmental, and faith-based agencies to more effectively prevent and respond to these serious human rights violations.

2023 Hate Crimes in Perspective

In 2023, reported hate crimes sharply increased 45% from 930 to 1,350. This was the largest number ever recorded in our report's history. The second largest number of hate crimes was in 2001 following the September 11th attacks.

Total Number of Reported Hate Crimes by Year



Reported hate crimes rose in the 1990s, following adoption of legislation by the California State legislature in 1989 that mandated law enforcement to record and report hate crimes. The year 2023 marks our report's highest number of recorded hate crimes.

Hate Crime Motivations

In 2023 the largest number of reported hate crimes were motivated by race, ethnicity, or national origin.* They accounted for 45% of all hate crimes. These cases increased 18% from 547 the year prior to 646. Once again, African Americans were targeted at a higher rate (49%) than other racial groups. This represented an 8% increase from 297 to 320 and this number was the largest ever reported. Anti-Latino/a crimes increased by 19%, from 121 to 144, also setting a record for largest number ever reported. In addition, there were 80 anti-Asian crimes, the second-largest number in this report's history. Lastly, anti-White hate crimes slightly decreased and there was a pronounced increase in anti-Israeli and anti-Middle Easterner crimes (See *A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes*).

* These were primarily cases of vandalism that used hate symbols and the motivation could not be determined.

Note: Some cases contained multiple motivations. The total number of motivations does not equal the total number of hate crimes.

2023 Hate Crimes in Perspective

Religious crimes surpassed sexual orientation crimes as the second largest group at 20% compared to 16% the previous year. They increased a substantial 90% from 153 to 290. Crimes targeting Jewish persons were the largest number ever reported and spiked 91% from 127 to 242 and comprised 83% of all religious crimes, the same percentage as in 2022. Anti-Muslim crimes comprised the second largest targeted group at 6% and victims more than doubled from 7 to 19 (See *A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes*).

Sexual orientation crimes made up 18% of all reported hate crimes and were the third largest motivation. This represented a substantial 48% increase from 173 to 256. Anti-LGBT crimes were the largest number ever recorded in this report. Crimes targeting LGBT (non-specified)**, gay men, and bisexuals rose.

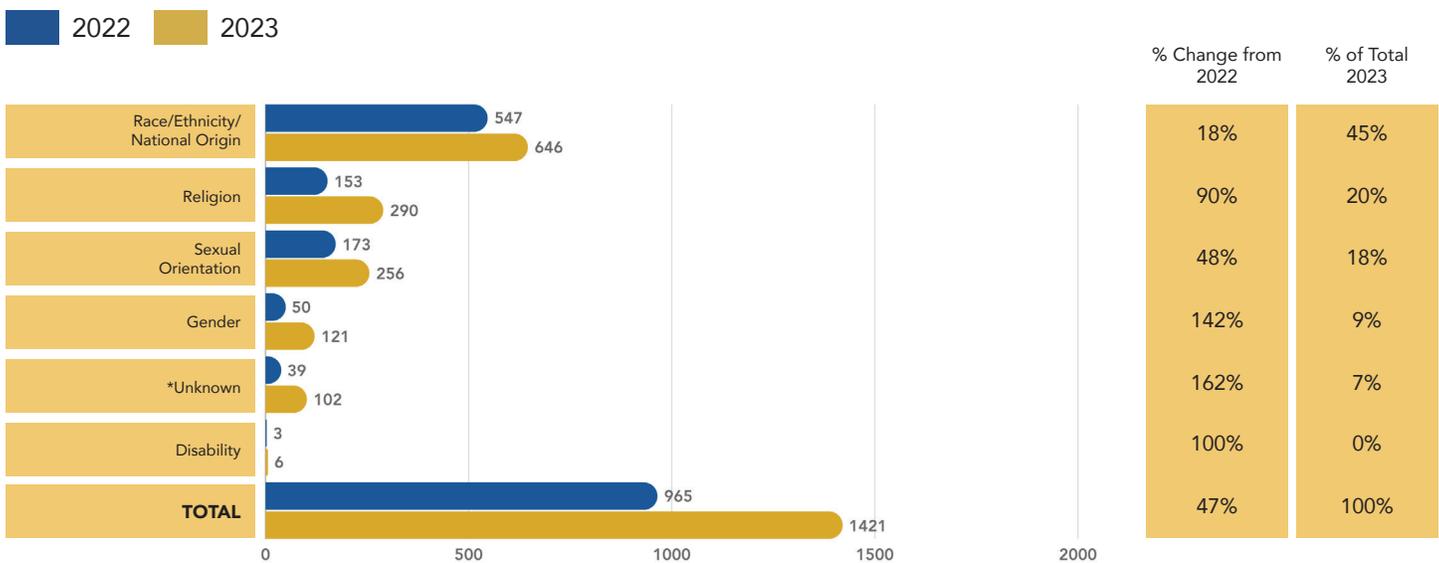
Gender motivated crimes comprised 9% of all hate crimes (up from 5%). Ninety-nine of these offenses targeted transgender individuals and 18 were anti-female. The 99 anti-transgender hate crimes were the most ever reported. Gender motivated hate crimes represent a large increase of 142% from 50 crimes in 2022 to 121 in 2023.

Crimes motivated by disability doubled from 3 to 6.

In addition, 7% of cases had an unknown motivation (up from 4%). These are cases in which the motive could not be determined (for example, a swastika appears on public property and the location does not suggest any particular victim group). This report classifies these crimes as having an “unknown” motivation.

As in previous years, the great majority of hate crimes (72%) targeted four groups: African Americans (24%); lesbian, gay (male), bisexual, and LGBT (non-specified) communities (19%); Jewish persons (18%); and Latino/as (11%).

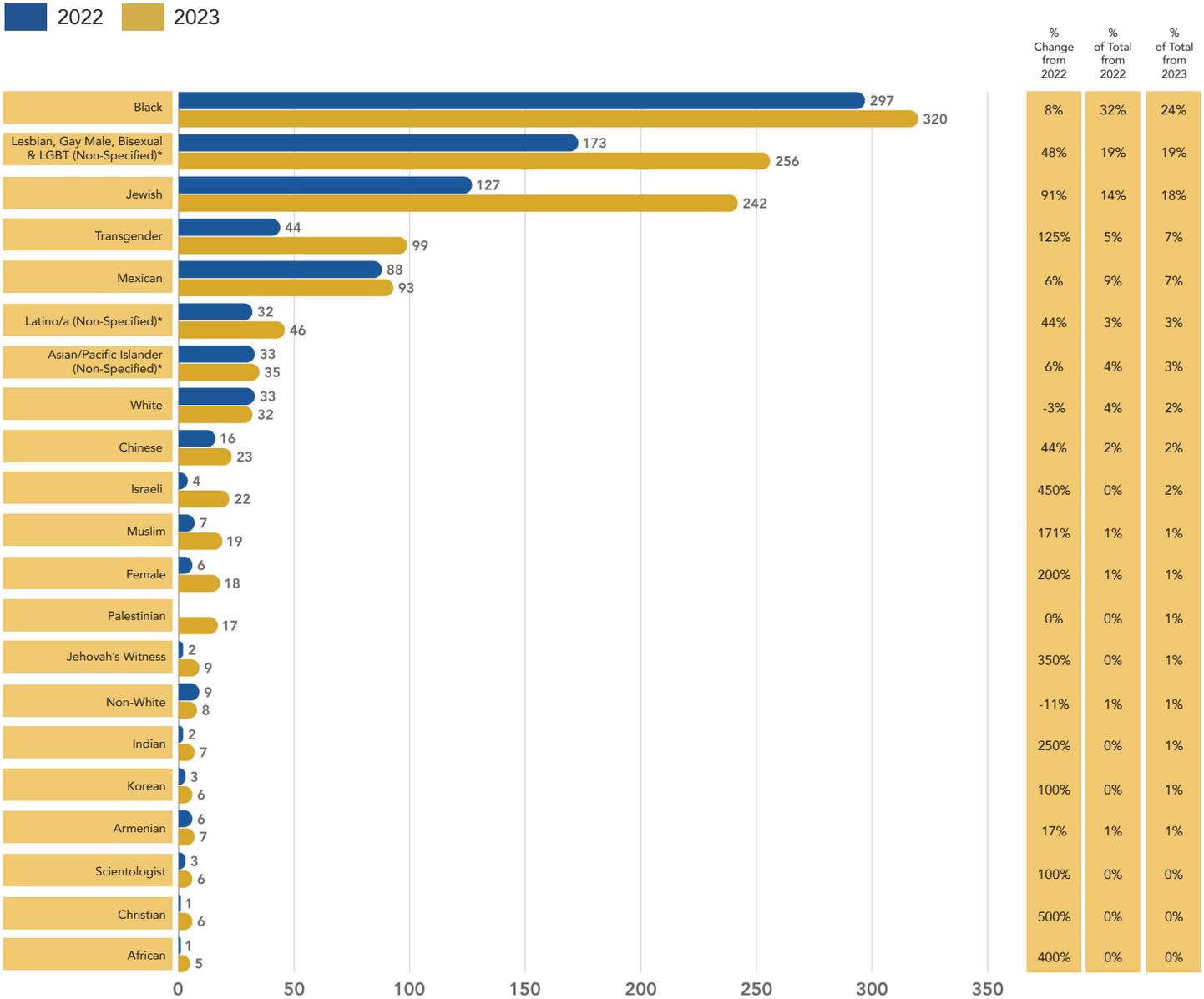
Motivations of Hate Crimes



**LGBT (non-specified) refers to cases in which an LGBT individual, business, or organization were targeted but there were no slurs made against a specific sexual orientation (e.g. gay, lesbian).

2023 Hate Crimes in Perspective

Groups Targeted in Hate Crimes

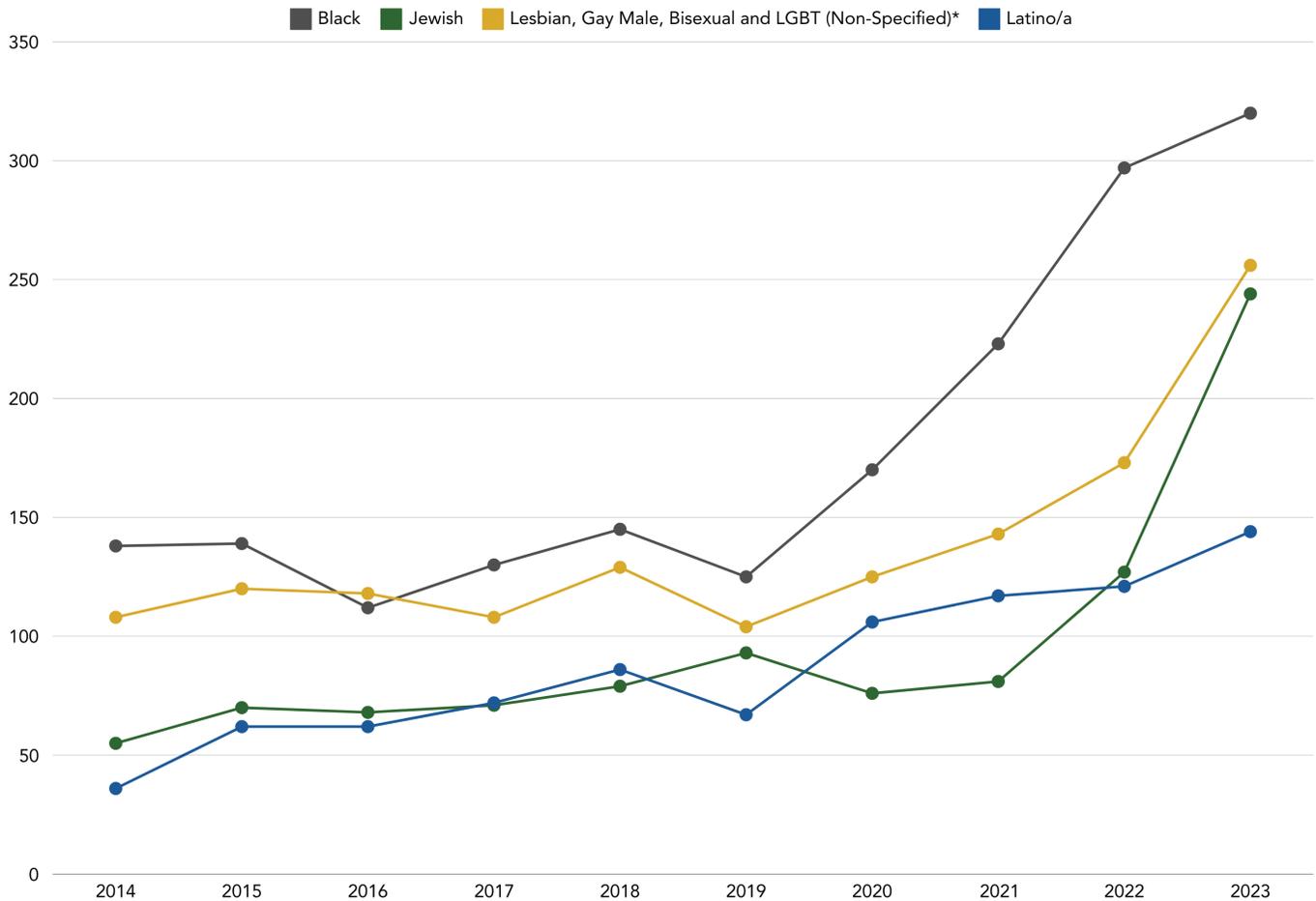


In 2023, there were four cases each targeting Colombians, Japanese, Russians, Turks, and people who identify as non-binary; three cases each targeting Hindus, Protestants, and people with physical disabilities and mental disabilities; two cases each targeting Arabs, Catholics, and Middle Easterners; and single crimes that targeted Christians (non-specified), Buddhists, Cambodians, Filipinos, Haitians, Iranians, Pakistanis, South Asians, Ukrainians, Venezuelans, and Vietnamese.

* "Non-Specified" crimes targeting Asians, Latino/as, and LGBT refer to crimes in which these groups were targeted but there were no slurs made against a specific nationality (e.g. Chinese, Mexicans, Salvadorans) or sexual orientation (e.g. gay, lesbian).

2023 Hate Crimes in Perspective

Groups Targeted Most Frequently in Hate Crimes (2013-2023)



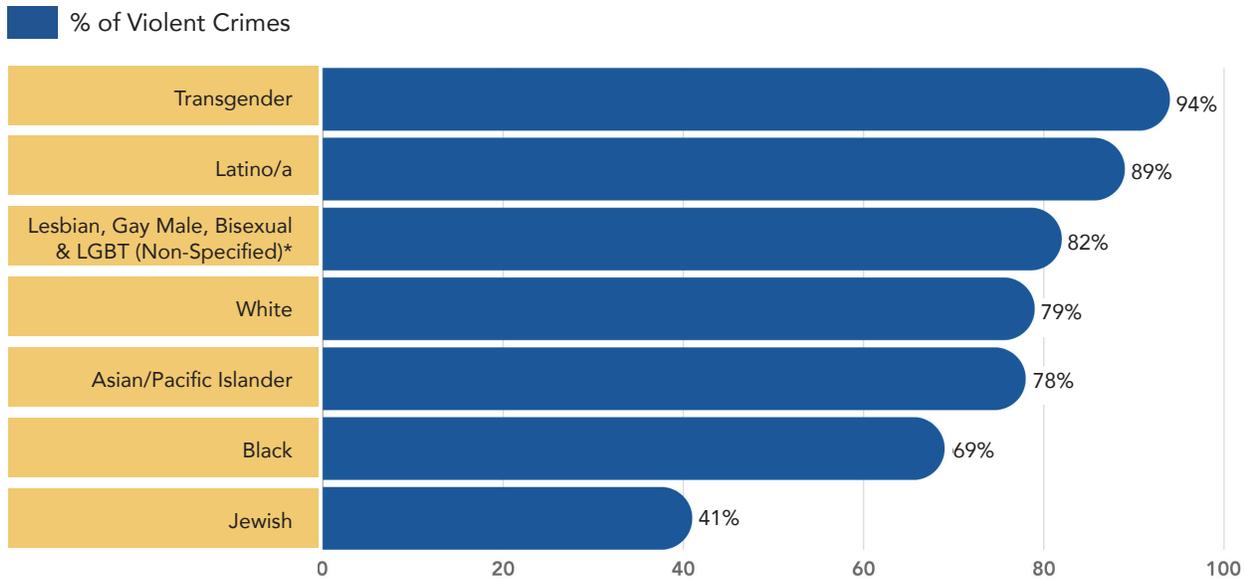
*LGBT (non-specified) refers to cases in which an LGBT individual, business, or organization were targeted but there were no slurs made against a specific sexual orientation (e.g. gay, lesbian).

Number of Violent Crimes Increases but the Percentage of Violent Crimes Declines

Numerically, the number of reported violent crimes grew 32% from 666 in 2022 to 880 in 2023, but the overall percentage of crimes that were violent declined from 72% to 65%. This can be explained by the number of non-violent vandalisms surpassing violent simple assaults, creating an overall drop in the percentage of violent crimes. As in previous years, violent crimes varied greatly based on the motivation. Ninety-two percent of gender-motivated crimes were violent, followed by sexual orientation (76%), race/ethnicity/national origin (71%), and religion (51%).

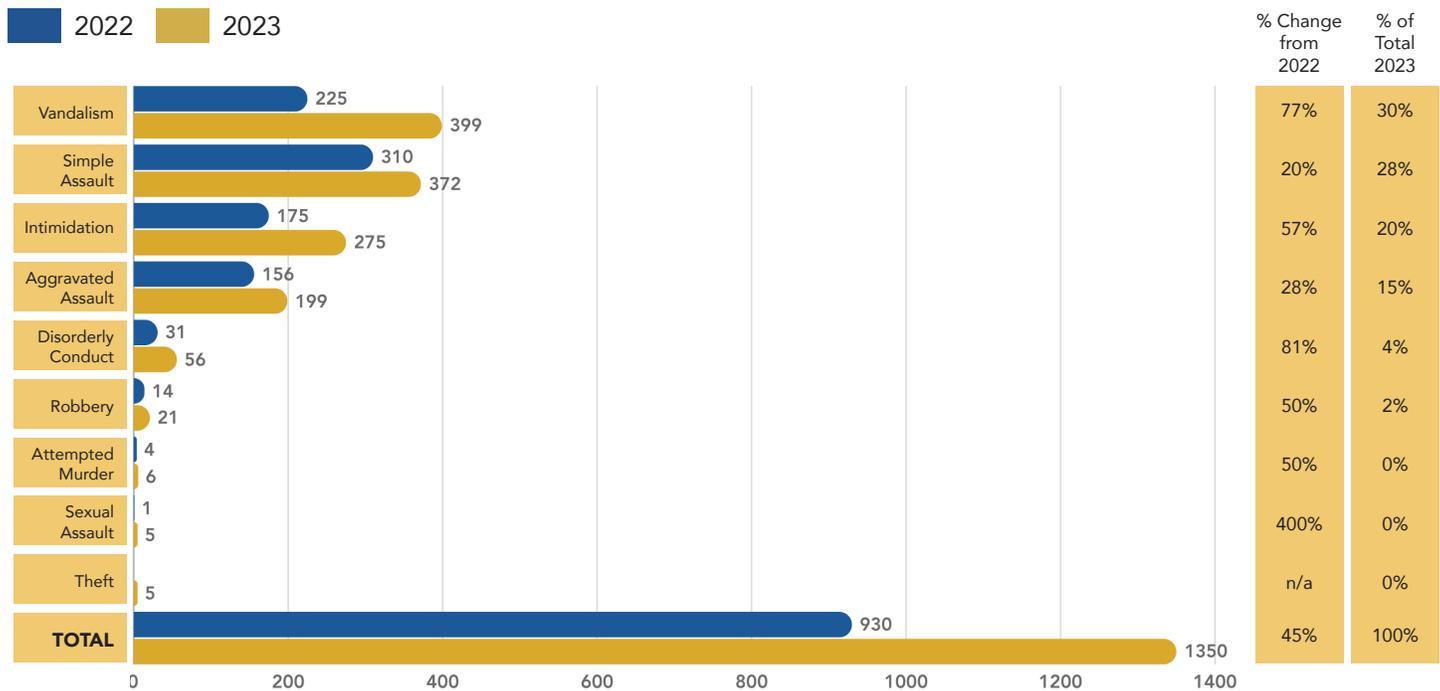
2023 Hate Crimes in Perspective

Violent Crimes Against Selected Groups (2019-2023)



*LGBT (non-specified) refers to cases in which an LGBT individual, business, or organization were targeted but there were no slurs made against a specific sexual orientation (e.g. gay, lesbian).

Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In 2023, there were three cases each of arson and violation of a restraining order, two cases of mailing matter that could kill or injure another person, and one case each of burglary, rape, trespassing, and extortion.

2023 Hate Crimes in Perspective

Criminal Offenses

The most common criminal offense reported was vandalism (30%), followed by simple assault (28%), acts of intimidation (20%), and aggravated assault (15%). This represented a large 77% increase in vandalism cases from 225 to 399. Simple assaults increased by 20% from 310 to 372. In addition, acts of intimidation increased 57% from 175 to 275. These 4 types of offenses comprised 93% of all reported hate crimes.

Additionally, there were 6 attempted murders compared to 4 the previous year. There were no murders in 2023. Two of the attempted murder cases in 2023 are described below:

December 22, Koreatown

A Latina transwoman victim reported that her ex-partner, a Latino male suspect, showed up unannounced at her doorstep. Despite feeling uneasy, she let him in, hoping for a calm conversation. However, the situation escalated quickly when the suspect became violent, pulling out a knife and threatening to kill the victim. The suspect repeatedly stabbed the victim in the arms, abdomen, chest, and face. He also attempted to strangle her, but she managed to escape through the door of her residence. Throughout the attack the suspect used derogatory slurs such as, "you're just a man in a dress" and "you're not a real woman."

March 25, Jefferson Park

A Latino male victim entered the bus, and a Black male suspect began yelling, "Fucking Mexican." The suspect then attempted to block the victim from reaching a seat near the back of the bus but the victim was able to push past the suspect. The victim asked the suspect to back up and said, "Don't put your hands on me." The suspect was standing in the middle of the bus yelling, "Black power" and "Fuck Mexicans." When the victim attempted to exit the bus, the suspect brandished a knife and began to stab the victim. Once outside of the bus, the suspect kicked the victim in the head four times. During the beating the suspect kept yelling, "Fucking Mexicans."

Location of Hate Crimes

As in previous years, the largest number of hate crimes occurred in public places (39%, up from 34%), followed by residences (21%), businesses (18%), schools (10%), and religious sites and/or organizations (6%). None of the other location types exceeded 4%. This represents a 31% increase in crimes occurring at residences from 221 to 290. Hate crimes at schools increased 46% from 93 to 136 (please see *Hate Crimes in Schools*).

Hate Crimes on Public Transportation

Since the year 2016, the Commission has been tracking reported hate crimes that take place on public transportation as well as at bus stops and Metro stations. Between the years 2017-2021, the average number of these crimes was 30. In 2023 hate crimes on public transportation increased 81% from 37 the year before to 67.

Fifty percent of these crimes were based on race (down from 67%), followed by sexual orientation (36%, up from 23%), and gender (13%, up from 8%). Other motivations did not exceed 1% of the total.

2023 Hate Crimes in Perspective

In 2023, gay men surpassed Blacks as the most targeted on public transportation. The most common groups targeted were gay men (28%, up from 21%) and Blacks 17% (down from 26%), followed by Mexicans (13%, down from 18%), and transgender people (12%, up from 8%). All the other targeted groups numbered 6 (9%) or fewer.

Alarming, all but two of these crimes were of a violent nature (97%) with the most common criminal offense being simple assault (43%, down from 70%), aggravated assault (31%, up from 14%) and intimidation (15%, up from 14%). All remaining offenses comprised 3 (4%) or fewer cases. Most notably, this includes two cases of attempted murder while on public transportation (one of these cases is featured earlier in this section under *Violent Crimes Decline*).

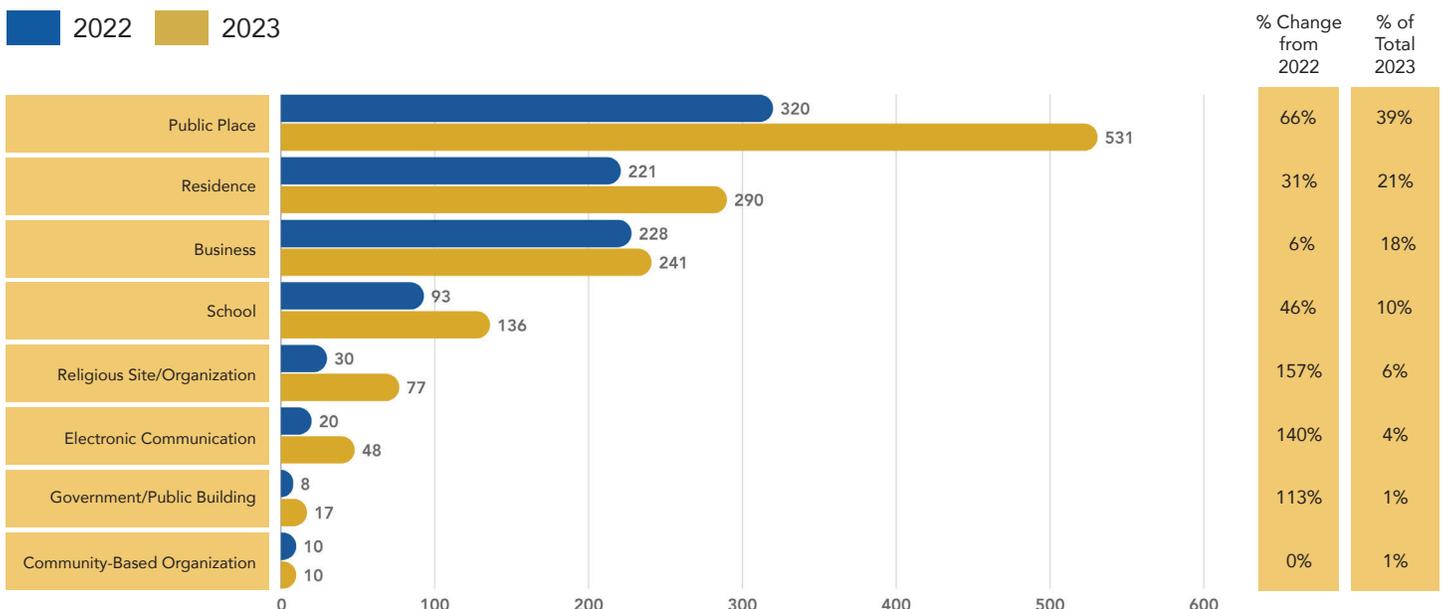
Regions with High Victim Concentration

Similar to the previous year, the largest number of hate crimes (263) reported in 2023 took place in the Metro Service Planning Area (SPA) Region IV (which stretches from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights) followed by San Fernando Valley SPA Region II (223).

This represents a small increase in the number of reported hate crimes in the Metro area and a large increase in the number of reported hate crimes in the San Fernando area. However, if one compares the populations of the regions to the numbers of reported hate crimes, the Metro SPA had the highest rate followed by West SPA Region V (which includes Beverly Hills, Culver City, and a number of affluent beach communities). These two regions have had the highest rates for several years in a row. The region with the lowest number of reported hate crimes (18) was Antelope Valley SPA Region I (which includes cities such as Palmdale and Lancaster) followed by East Region VII (26). The areas with the lowest rates of reported hate crime were East SPA Region VIII followed by San Gabriel SPA Region III.

As stated earlier, African Americans, gay men/lesbians/LGBT organizations, Jewish persons, and Latino/as were targeted in 72% of all hate crimes in 2023. The East and San Gabriel SPAs have relatively low numbers of black residents, LGBT-oriented businesses, and Jewish religious sites or businesses. This could account for the lower rates of hate crimes reported in those areas.

Hate Crimes by Location



2023 Hate Crimes in Perspective

White Supremacist Crimes

Since 2004, this report has tracked hate crime in which there is evidence of White supremacist ideology. Usually, these are crimes in which swastikas and other hate symbols are used in graffiti. Occasionally a suspect will yell out a White supremacist slogan or identify themselves as a skinhead or member of a specific hate group.

In 2023, there were 209 crimes with evidence of White supremacist ideology, compared to 140 the previous year. This is a remarkable 49% increase, and the 209 crimes reported in 2023 are the highest number ever documented in this report. They comprised 15% of all reported hate crimes. There was evidence of White supremacist belief systems in 24% of all religious hate crimes and 7% of racial crimes.

The largest group of White supremacist crimes was motivated by religion (55%), followed by race (37%) and sexual orientation (6%). In addition, there were two cases motivated by disability. It should be noted that these percentages do not include White supremacist crimes in which the motivation was unknown.

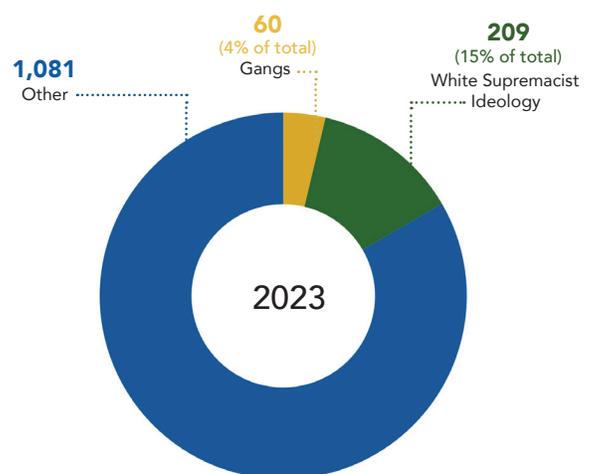
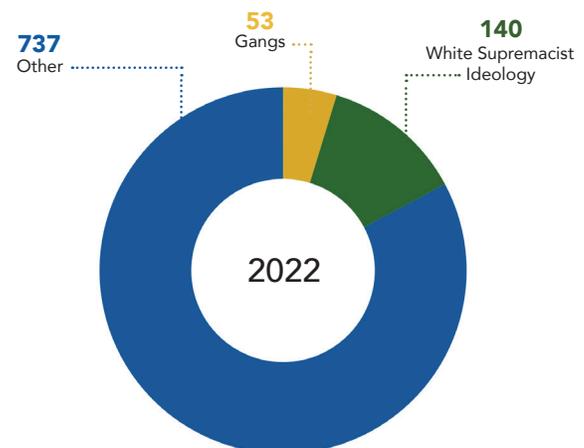
Jewish persons were the most frequently targeted group (50%), followed by African Americans (28%), and lesbians, gay males, bisexuals, and LGBT (non-specified) (6%).

The great majority of these crimes were acts of vandalism (87%), followed by disorderly conduct and intimidation (4% each), and simple assault (3%). There were also 2 cases of aggravated assault and 1 case of mailing matter that could kill or injure another person. Acts of disorderly conduct include cases in which swastikas are drawn on private property but do not constitute vandalism because they are easily removable and leave no permanent damage. Violent White supremacist crimes decreased to 8% (from 14%).

The relative frequency of White supremacist crime locations shifted in comparison to previous years.

In 2023, the largest number took place in public places (33%), schools (27%), residences (22%), and businesses (12%). This represented a significant 113% increase in public places from 32 to 68, a 50% increase in residences from 30 to 45, and a 44% increase in schools from 39 to 56.

Hate Crimes Involving Gangs or White Supremacist Ideology



In 2023, 15 cases were both gang-related and had evidence of White supremacist ideology.

2023 Hate Crimes in Perspective

Crimes Related to Conflict in the Middle East

Crimes in which there was specific language regarding conflict in the Middle East sharply increased from 2 to 64 in 2023 (a staggering 3,100% increase) and accounted for 5% of all hate crimes. This is the largest number ever recorded post 9/11. This major increase follows the lowest number ever recorded of such crimes in the year 2022.

More than half of these cases were motivated by race (51%), followed by religion (48%). There was one case motivated by sexual orientation. The largest group targeted were Jewish people (42%), followed by Israelis (27%), Palestinians (23%), and Muslims (6%). All other targeted groups comprised no more than 1%.

Half of the offenses related to the Middle East conflict were vandalism (50%), followed by simple assault (22%), and intimidation (17%). There were also 5 cases of disorderly conduct and two of aggravated assault. Overall, 42% of crimes related to the conflict in the Middle East were of a violent nature in 2023.

Nearly half (48%) of crimes occurred in a public place, 16% in a business, 11% in a religious site or organization, 9% via electronic communication, and 8% at a residence. The remaining locations included 4 cases occurring at a school and one case at a community-based organization.

Here are two examples of hate crimes that fall in this category:

November 28, Encino

A female victim who was an employee at a Mediterranean restaurant received a threat via telephone. A male suspect called the restaurant to make a reservation. After explaining that the restaurant does not take reservations, the suspect stated, "I am from Hamas, I am gonna come shoot you all."

December 26, Mid-Wilshire

While driving, a Black male suspect approached a Palestinian Muslim male victim and said, "Fuck Palestine, fuck your children and I hope they are dying." The victim was driving a car with a Palestinian flag displayed. The suspect then threw an object at the victim's car window. Both the suspect and the victim engaged in a physical altercation. The suspect was wearing a cap with the word, "Muslim" crossed out.

In addition to the crimes that specifically referenced the Middle East conflict, there were other crimes targeting Jews, Muslims, and people of Middle Eastern backgrounds without evidence they were specifically motivated by the Middle East conflict.

2023 Hate Crimes in Perspective

Gang Related Hate Crimes Remain Elevated

Gang related hate crimes remain elevated and follow similar patterns as the year prior. As a general rule, this report classifies suspects as gang members if they shout their affiliation during the commission of an offense or include gang names or monikers in graffiti. This report does not label suspects as gang members solely based on other presumed indicators such as appearance or clothing. Therefore, it is likely that the actual number of gang members who committed hate crimes is higher.

Reported hate crimes committed by gang members numbered 60 in 2023 (up from 53), an increase of 13%. Gang members were responsible for 4% of all hate crimes (down from 6%) and 7% of racial hate crimes (the same percentage as in 2022).

Victims of gang-related hate crimes were most commonly targeted because of race. Racially motivated crimes comprised 76% of all gang-related hate crimes in 2023, followed by sexual orientation (16%), and religion (5%). There were also two cases motivated by gender.

In 2023, gang-members targeted Blacks most frequently (61%), followed by gay men (12%). This represented a 6% increase in anti-Black gang-related crimes from 34 to 36. The number of anti-gay crimes remained the same at 7. There were also three cases targeting non-Whites. The remaining targeted groups comprised no more than 3% of the total each.

Fifty-seven percent of gang-related hate crimes were of a violent nature, compared to 85% the previous year. The most common criminal offense was vandalism (43%), followed by intimidation (18%), and aggravated assault and simple assault (17% each). In 2023 there were no attempted murders compared to 3 the previous year.

Gang members committed hate crimes most frequently in public places (35%), followed by residences (30%), schools (17%), and businesses (15%). This represented an increase in residences from 7 to 18 and a decrease in businesses from 16 to 9. Latinos/as comprised 70% of gang-related suspects in 2023, followed by Blacks (27%), and Whites (3%).

In 2023, there was evidence that members of the following gangs committed hate crimes:

84 Street Mafia Crips, Aryan Brotherhood*, Barrio Pobre, Big Hazard, Blythe Street*, Canoga Park Alabama Street 13*, Casa Blanca, Crazy Riders 13, Culver City Boys, Dog Town 13*, Eastside Longos*, Florencia 13 (2 separate events)*, KKK (8 separate events)*, Mara Salvatrucha (2 separate events)*, NeighborHood Pirus, Pasadena Denver Lane Bloods, Peckerwoods*, Proud Boys, Rancho San Pedro, Rollin 80's West Coast Crips, School Yard Crips, Suicidal Stoners, Sureños*, Tiny Locos, Varrío Eastside White Fence*, Varrío Nuevo Estrada, West Side Pirus, West Side Wilmas*

(*Members of these gangs have committed other hate crime during the past 3 years.)

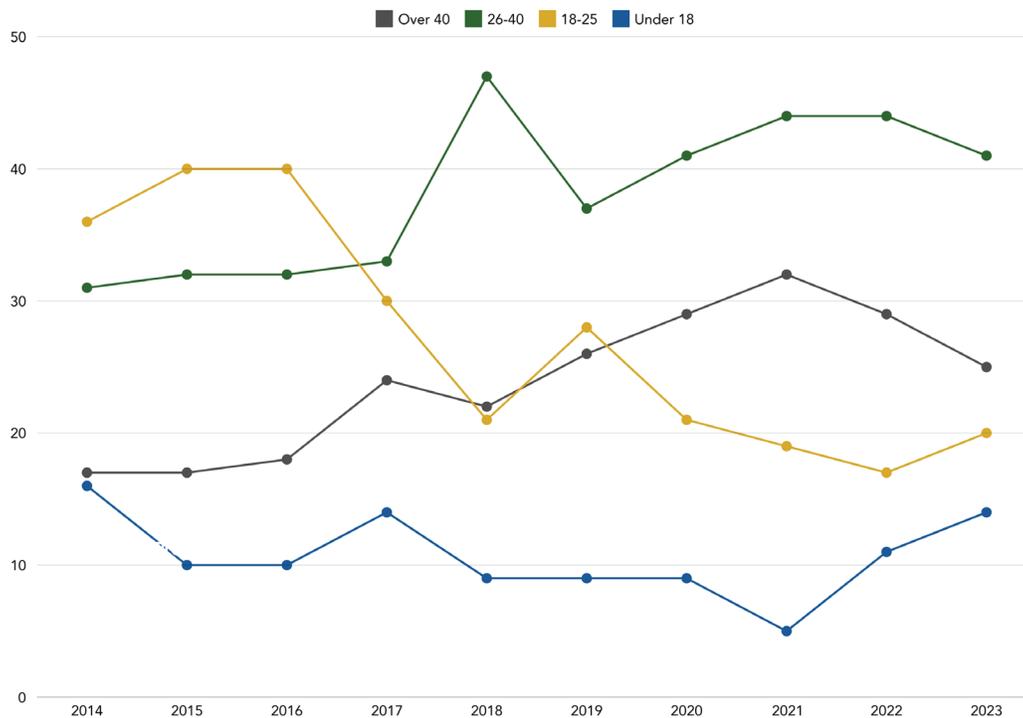
Suspects

As in previous years, the suspects were overwhelmingly male (85%) and 84% of the crimes committed by them were violent.

The largest group of suspects (41%) were adults aged 26-40, followed by persons 40 or older (25%), those 18-25 (20%), and juveniles (14%). This distribution was similar to the previous year, however there was an increase in juvenile suspects which rose to 14% (up from 11%).

2023 Hate Crimes in Perspective

Known Suspect Age: 2014 to 2023



This graph depicts what percentage of suspects fell within different age groups each year.

Hate Crimes in Schools

Reported hate crimes taking place at schools grew 46% from 93 to 136 and accounted for 10% of all hate crimes. These hate crimes include those taking place in K-12 schools as well as college and university campuses.

Over half (57%) of hate crimes that occurred in schools were racial, followed by religion (20%), sexual orientation (15%), gender (5%), and there were 3 disability motivated crimes. Religion-based hate crimes increased the most from 11 in 2022 to 24 in 2023.

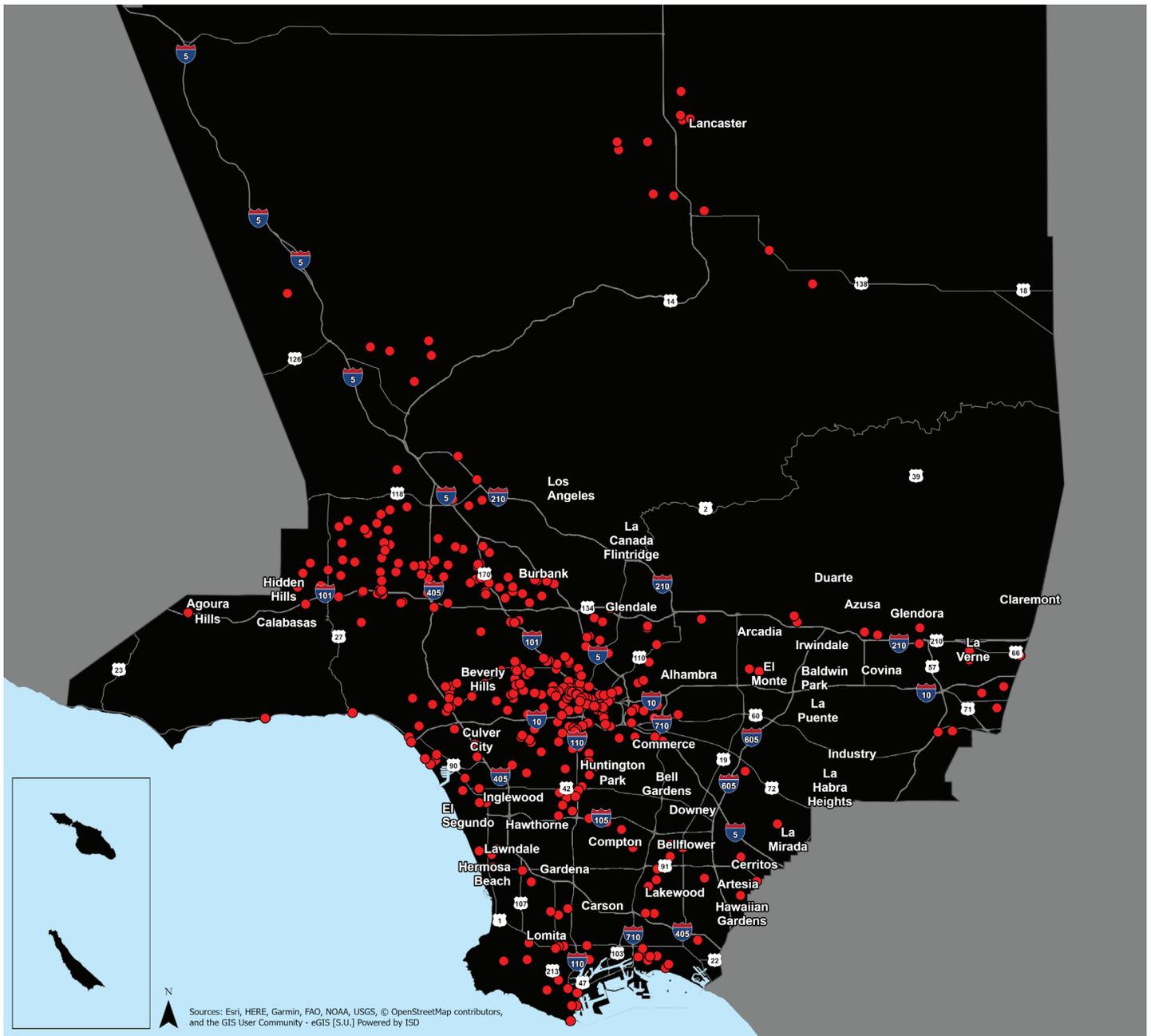
The most targeted groups were African Americans (43%); Jewish persons (20%); lesbian, gay males, bisexuals, and LGBT (non-specified) groups (15%); followed by Asian and Pacific Islanders (4%). All other groups involved no more than 3 victims.

The majority of these cases were cases of vandalism (59%), followed by simple assaults (19%), intimidation (13%), aggravated assaults (6%), and there were 4 cases of disorderly conduct. Lastly, 38% of hate crimes taking place at schools were violent.

*For the sake of brevity, we refer to crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, or national origin as "racial" hate crimes throughout this report.

** LGBT (non-specified) refers to cases in which an LGBT individual, business, or organization were targeted but there were no slurs made against a specific sexual orientation (e.g. gay, lesbian).

A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes



County of Los Angeles

2023 Race/Ethnicity/National Origin Motivated Hate Crimes

For the fourth year in a row, racial hate crimes spiked by double digits. Racial hate crimes climbed 18% in 2023, from 547 to 646. They constituted 45% of all reported hate crimes, a proportion smaller than the previous year. The racial group distribution of racial hate crimes was also similar to previous years.

A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes

Race/Ethnicity of Victims and Suspects

Anti-Black Crimes

Anti-Black crimes increased 8% from 297 to 320. Blacks comprised 49% of racial hate crime victims. Black persons constitute 9% of the total population of Los Angeles County but are grossly over-represented every year as victims of racial hate crime. For the third year in a row, Latino/as suspects were the most frequent suspects (52%) for these crimes, followed by Whites (41%).

Anti-Latino/a Crimes

The second largest group of victims of reported racial hate crimes were Latino/a. The same percentage as the previous year, they were targeted in 22% of racial hate crimes. Anti-Latino/a crimes rose 19% from 121 to 144. The 144 anti-Latino/a hate crimes are the highest in our searchable database and surpassed the highest Latino/a victim count from 2022. In 65% of these crimes, anti-Mexican slurs were employed. Four Colombians were targeted in 2023 and there was also a single crime targeting a Venezuelan person. In the remaining anti-Latino/a crimes, no specific ethnic group was mentioned. Latino/as comprise about half of L.A. County residents.

In 2023, African Americans were the largest group of suspects in anti-Latino/a crimes (52%), followed by Whites (33%), and Latino/as (16%). In Latino/a-on-Latino/a crimes, many of the suspects made anti-immigrant slurs, sometimes in Spanish. This distribution is similar to the suspect race distribution of 2022.

In anti-Latino/a crimes, 58% contained anti-immigrant language compared to 55% the previous year.

Anti-Asian Crimes

After declining in 2022, reported hate crimes against Asian Americans increased from 61 to 80 (up 31%). The 80 Asian victims is the second-highest number ever recorded, just one less than the 81 victims reported in 2021. Asian Americans constitute 16% of Los Angeles County residents and were targeted in 12% of racial hate crimes.

Anti-immigrant slurs were used in 28% of these cases, compared to 25% the previous year.

Anti-Chinese slurs were used in 29% out of all anti-Asian crimes reported in 2023, followed by crimes targeting Asian Indians (9%), Koreans (9%), and Japanese (5%). There were also single crimes each targeting the following nationalities: Cambodian, Filipino, Pakistani, South Asian, and Vietnamese.

In 2023, in cases in which suspects were identified, 38% were White, followed by African Americans (34%), and Latino/as (26%). The year prior the largest suspect group was African American.

Anti-White Crimes

Anti-White crimes decreased in 2023 from 33 to 32. White residents make up 25% of the county's population and in 2023 comprised 5% of racial hate crime victims. The largest group of suspects in anti-White crimes by far were African Americans (71%), distantly followed by Latino/as (29%). This pattern is consistent with previous years.

A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes

Other Targeted Racial and Ethnic Groups

- Anti-Israeli crimes sharply increased from 4 to 22.
- Crimes targeting Middle Eastern persons increased from 10 to 22.
- Non-White crimes decreased from 9 to 8. These were crimes where there was evidence of generalized White supremacist graffiti, but no specific group was targeted.
- Anti-Armenian crimes increased from 6 to 7.
- Crimes targeting Africans grew from 1 to 5.
- Anti-Russian crimes decreased from 5 to 4.
- There were 4 crimes targeting Turkish people.
- Anti-Ukrainian crimes decreased from 2 to 1.
- There was a single crime targeting a Haitian.

Criminal Offenses and Violent Crimes

2023 had a numeric increase of violent crimes from 422 to 459, however the percentage decreased from 77% to 71%. The most common criminal offense was simple assaults (29%), followed by vandalism (23%), and aggravated assaults and intimidation (20% each). This represented a significant increase in aggravated assaults and acts of vandalism.

Of the larger victim groups, crimes targeting Latino/as were the most violent (87%), followed by Middle Easterners (82%), Whites (81%), Asians (75%), and African Americans (67%). This was the eighth year in a row that Latino/a victims of racial crimes experienced the highest percentage of violent crimes.

Location

Forty-two percent of racial crimes occurred in public places, followed by residences (22%), businesses (20%), and schools (10%).

Anti-Immigrant Slurs

Crimes in which anti-immigrant slurs (e.g., “Wetback” or “Go back to your country”) were used, increased (31%) from 94 to 123 in 2023 and was the largest number since 2001 when this report began tracking anti-immigrant slurs. Of these, 71% targeted Latino/as (down from 72%) and of those 58% were specifically anti-Mexican. Eighteen percent targeted Asians (up from 16%), and 3% were anti-African.

Public places remained by far the most frequent location (41%), followed by residences (28%) and businesses (25%).

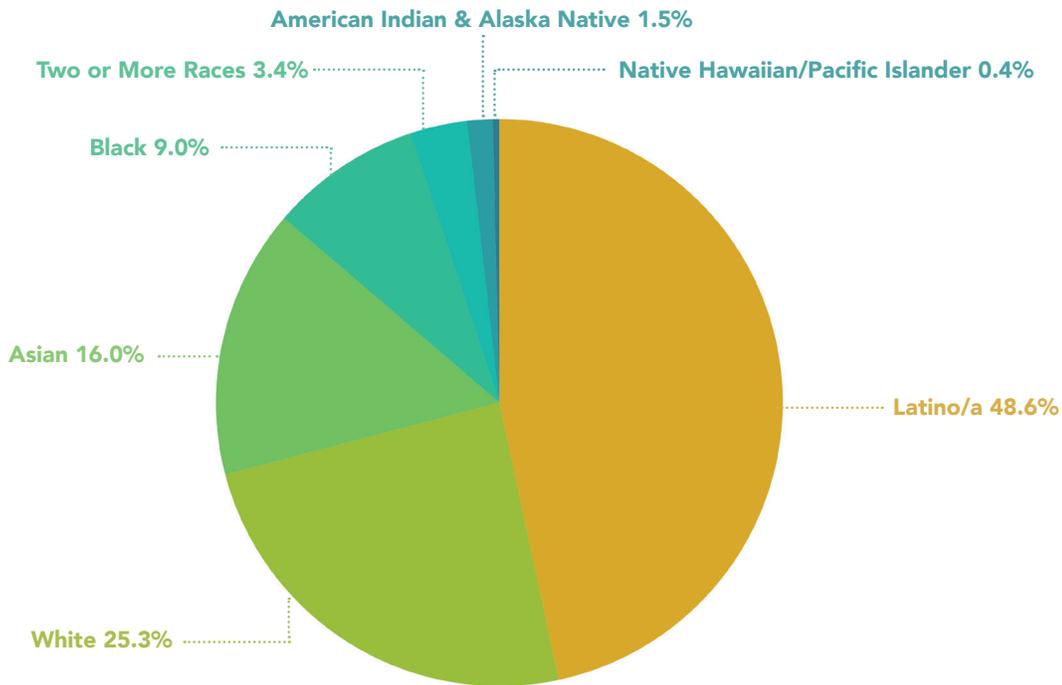
Eighty-four percent of these crimes were violent. Simple assaults were the most numerous criminal offense (34%), followed by aggravated assault (24%), intimidation (23%), and vandalism (11%). Aggravated assaults doubled from 15 in 2022 to 30 in 2023. Vandalisms increased from 2 to 14.

It is important to note that other racial crimes might also have been motivated by anti-immigrant sentiment, but the suspects did not use specific xenophobic language.

Reported racial hate crimes are not proportionate to the population size of racial/ethnic groups in Los Angeles County. For example, Blacks in L.A. County make up 9% of the population but are astoundingly 49% of the victims for racial hate crimes.

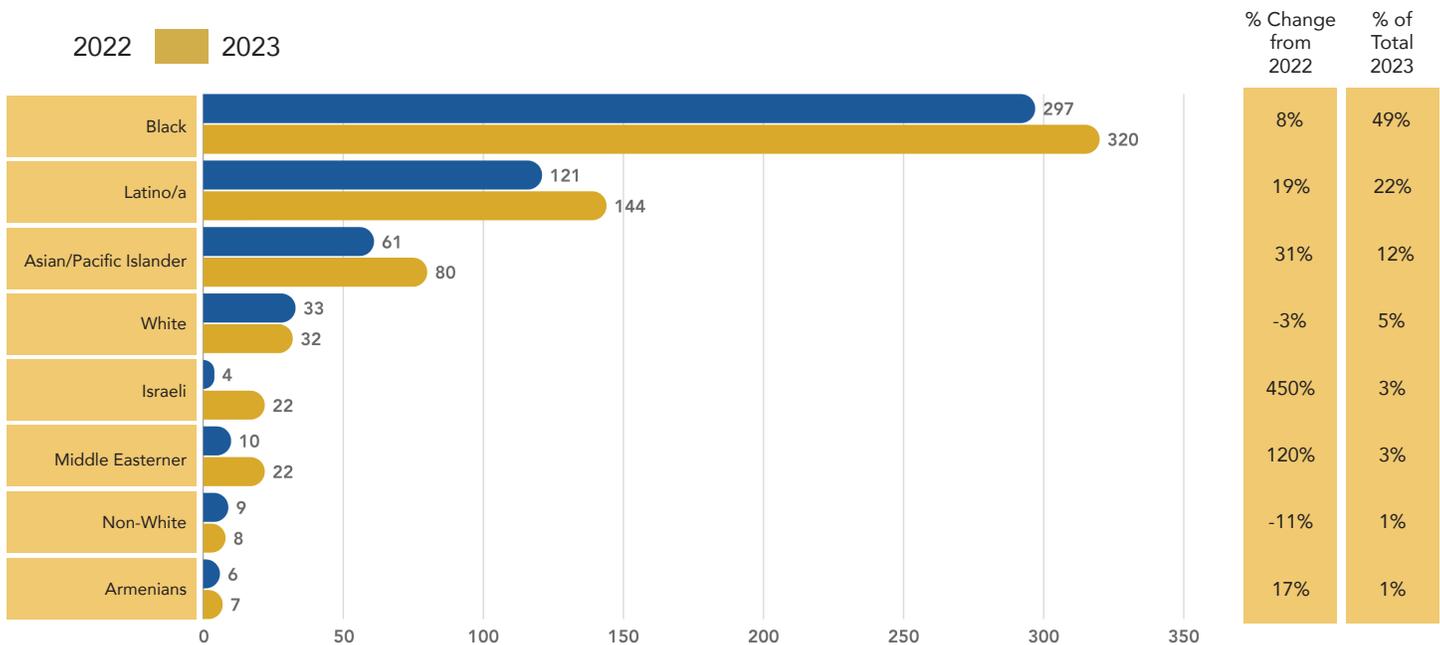
A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes

Los Angeles County Population by Race/Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Census Population Estimates, October 1, 2024. Persons who identify as Latino/a on the U.S. Census can be of any race. Except for "Latino/a," all other groups on this chart refer to persons who do not identify as Latino/a.

Racial Hate Crimes by Known Targeted Group

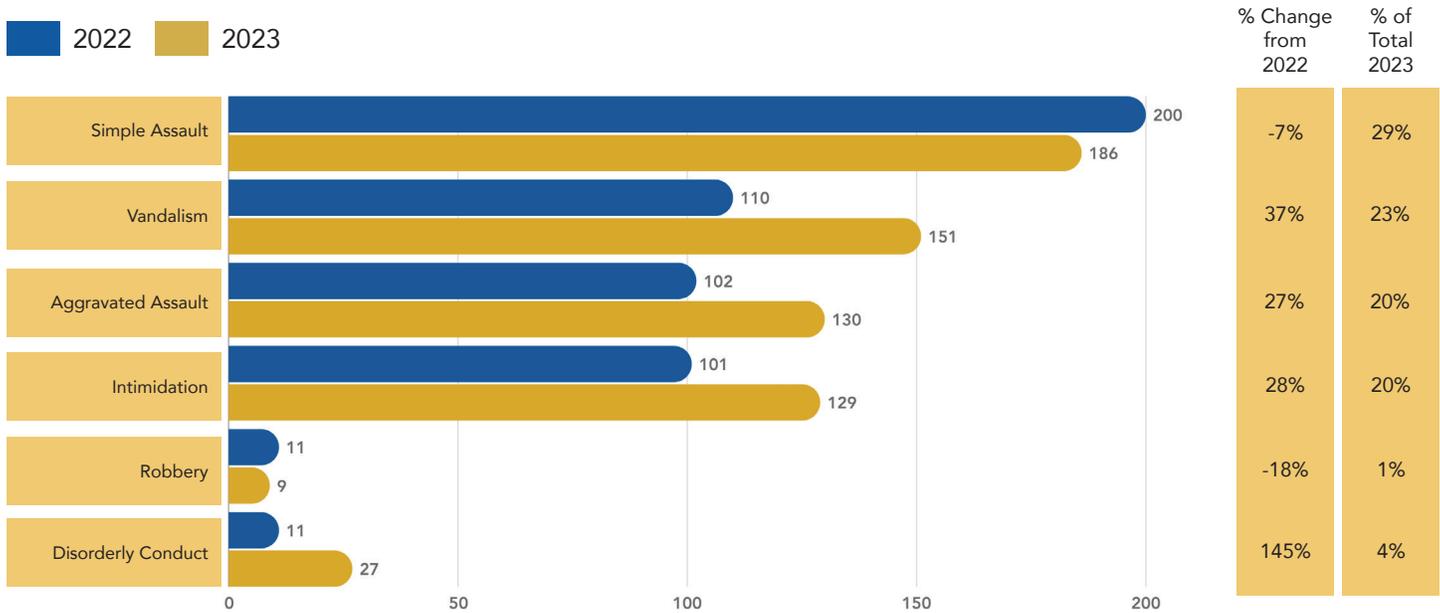


This chart aggregates major racial and ethnic groups. In 2023, there were 5 crimes targeting Africans, 4 each targeting Russians and Turks, and single crimes each targeting Haitians and Ukrainians.

In addition there were 9 cases where the targeted group was unknown.

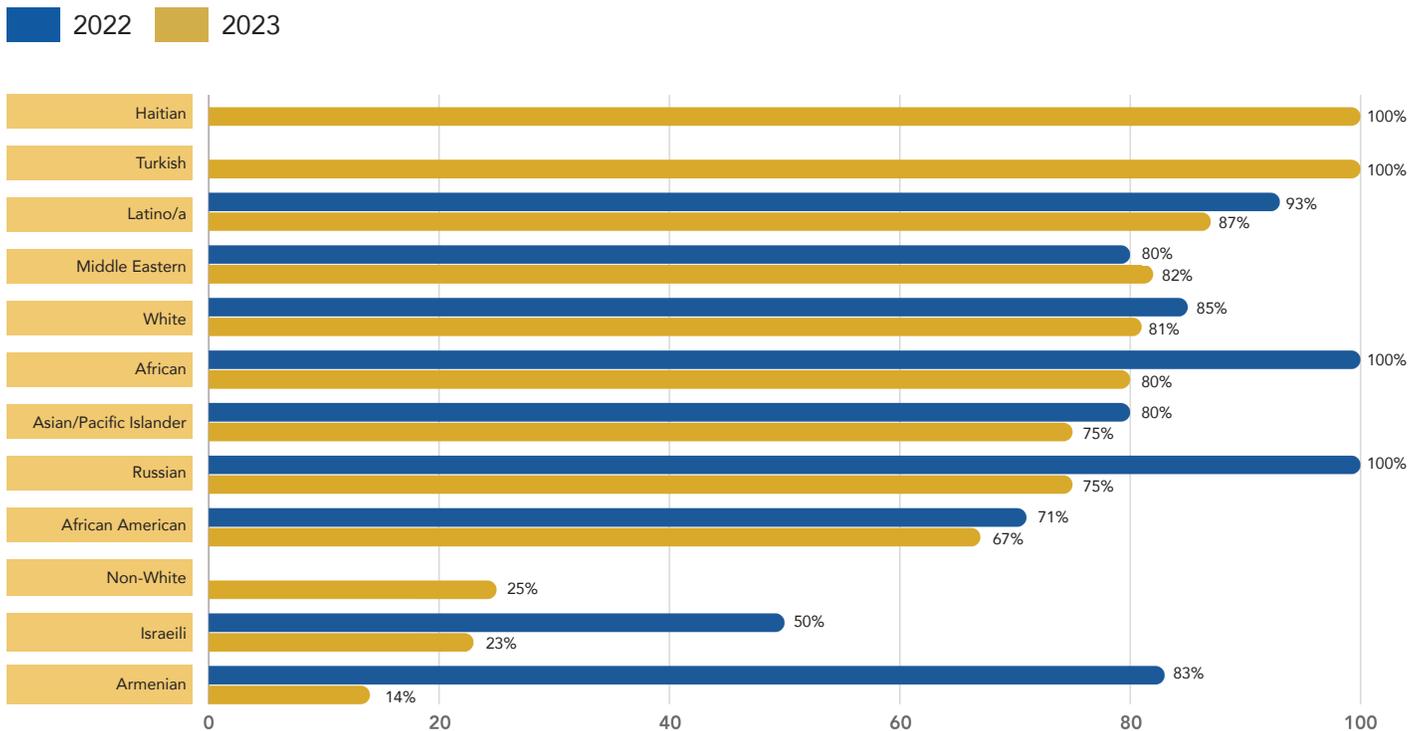
A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes

Racial Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In 2023, there were three cases each of attempted murder and violation of a restraining order, two cases each of arson and sexual assault, and one case each of theft, extortion, rape, and mailing matter that could kill or injure another person.

Victims of Violent Racial Hate Crimes



The percentages in this chart indicate the portion of violent crimes targeting a specific group.

A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes

Actual Racial Crimes

January 31, San Pedro

A White male suspect shouted, "Fuck you nigger," and threw a glass bottle at a Black female MTA bus driver who was taking her break next to her bus. The victim dodged the bottle, retreated to the bus interior, and locked the door. The suspect pounded on the bus door and window, until he fell and suffered a laceration to his nose. While being taken into custody, the suspect continued to yell, "Fuck you, nigger," repeatedly.

February 3, Azusa

An Asian male victim was waiting at the train station. Unprovoked, a Black male suspect approached him and began yelling. Despite the victim's efforts to defuse the situation, the suspect became increasingly agitated and eventually spat towards the victim, which struck him on the leg. The suspect continued to yell, "chink," "go back to China," "all Chinese are shit," and "the US should go to war with China." The suspect then said, "I will kill you," and "I'm gonna shoot you, I have a gun."

August 8, Palmdale

An unknown suspect drew two swastikas at a park and the letters "PWD," "Niggers NO," and "No niggers." There were several circles with crosses drawn in the circle with blue spray paint. Additionally, there was a park sign that was spray painted with a swastika, "no niggers," and SS in lightning bolts.

October 7, Downtown LA

A Latina female victim who was working at a restaurant was verbally insulted when she did not prepare the Black male suspect's sandwich as he had requested it. The suspect shouted, "Bitch! I bet you don't have papers. I'm going to call I.C.E on you." The suspect turned his attention to insult other customers, saying that they also do not have papers. He began to record the incident and said to the victim, "I'm going to beat you up and get you fired."

A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes

October 30, Tarzana

A White male victim observed a White male suspect removing Israeli missing children posters from the light poles. The victim asked the suspect why he was removing the posters and the suspect replied, "Mind your business, this is my job." The victim continued to ask why, and the suspect stated, "You fucking Israeli, this is my job." While holding a utility knife in his right hand, the suspect then said, "You Israeli Jew, if you don't go, I will kill you!"

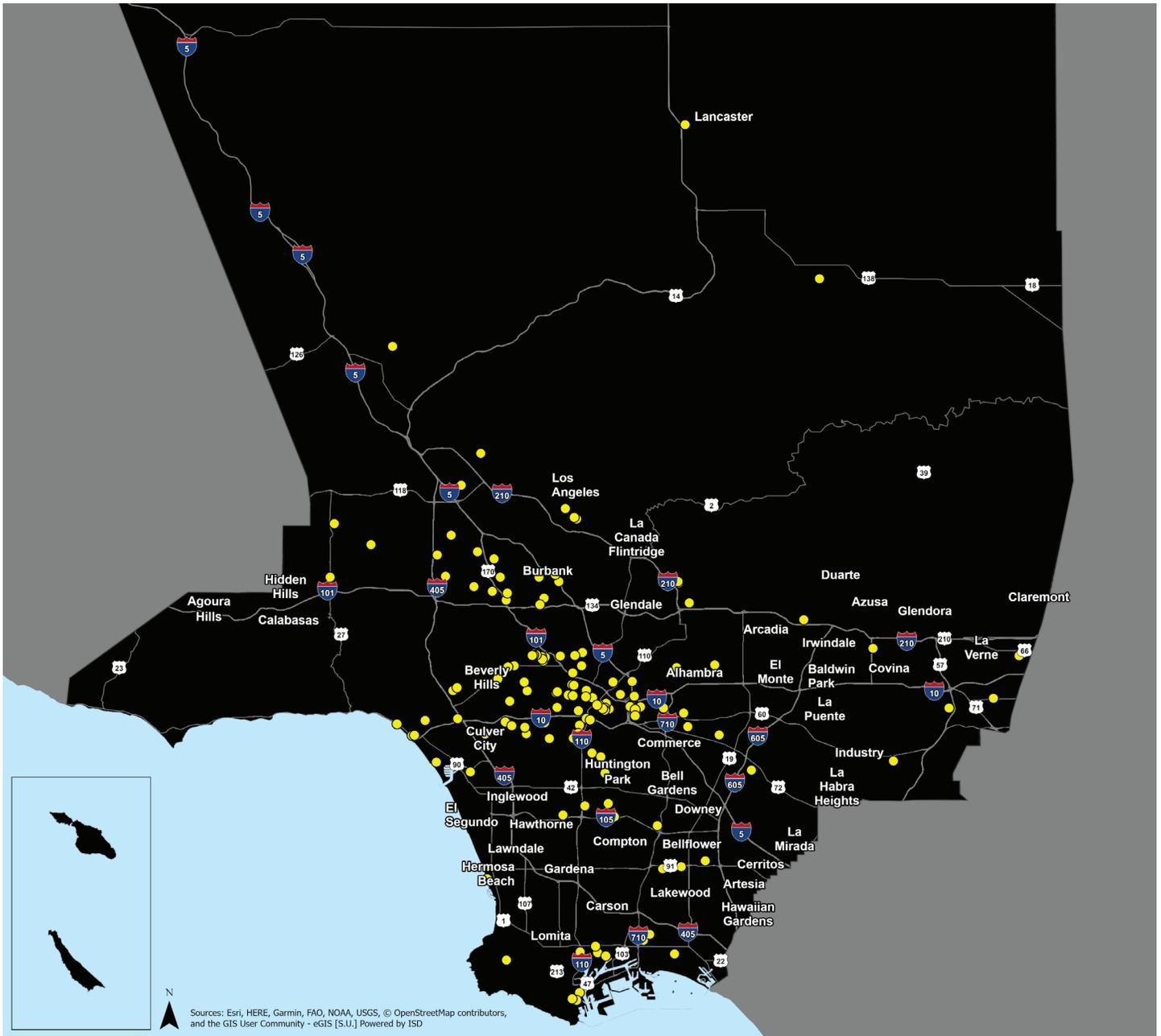
November 17, Hollywood

A Middle Eastern female victim stated that a White male suspect asked the victim if she supported Palestine, the suspect also stated that he was Jewish. The victim replied that she did support Palestine. The suspect then said, "You're all terrorists, you behead babies." The victim was seated in her vehicle and the suspect threw a plastic cup at her but missed and hit the window that was rolled up.

November 29, Downtown LA

A White female victim was sitting on the bus and talking to her husband when a Black male suspect that was seated in front of them, turned around and said, "That's a White accent. White people, fucking White people." The victim asked the suspect to stop being racist. The suspect then said, "I'm gonna get you White bitch." The suspect then rapidly got out of his seat and grabbed her by the throat and pushed her into the bus window while squeezing her neck. The suspect then punched the victim in the face twice with his other hand. Other bus riders intervened and pulled the suspect off the victim. As the suspect exited the bus, he told the victim that if he sees the victim again, that he was going to kill her.

A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes



County of Los Angeles

2023 Sexual Orientation Motivated Hate Crimes

Motivation

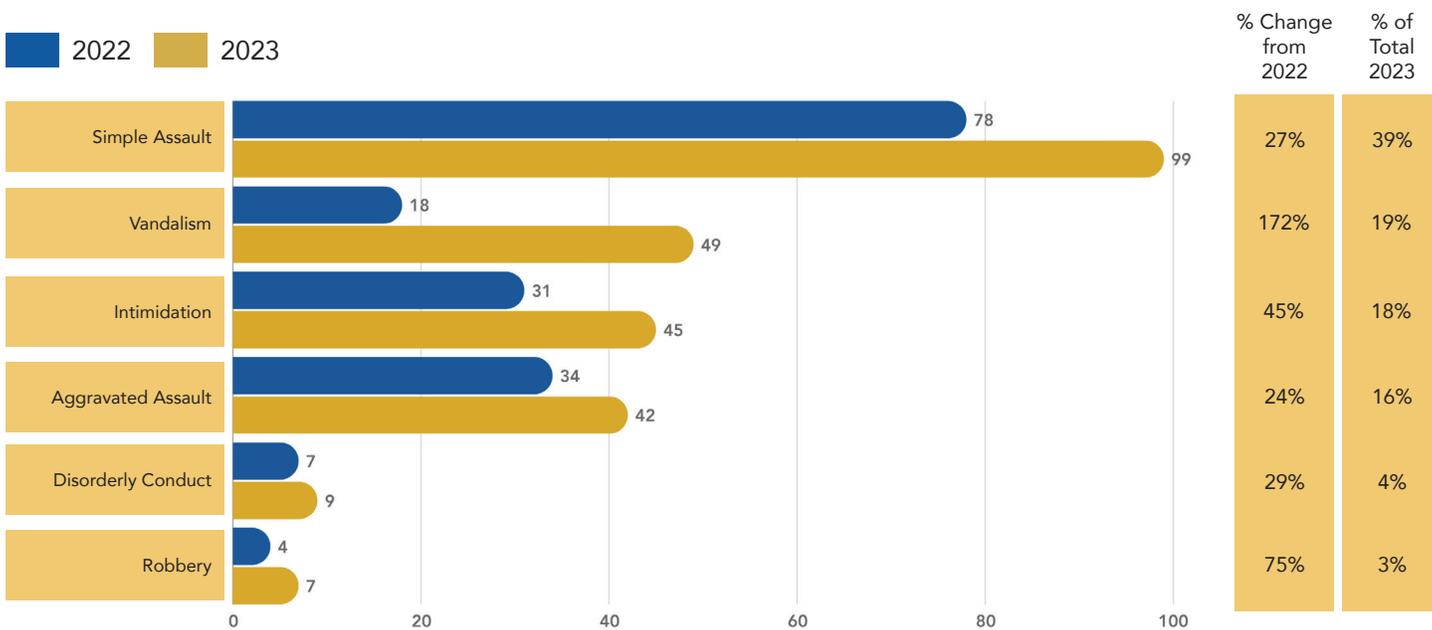
● Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes Continue to Rise

Reported crimes motivated by sexual orientation rose for the fourth year in a row. They increased 48% from 173 in 2022 to 256 in 2023. This was the highest number of homophobic crimes reported in Los Angeles County in our searchable database. The second highest number was the year prior in 2022.

A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In 2023, there were three cases of theft and a single case each of burglary and sexual assault.

Victims are Overwhelmingly Gay Men

As in past years, the great majority of sexual orientation crimes targeted gay men (73%). These cases increased 32% from 141 to 186. There were 47 crimes that were classified as “LGBT (non-specified)” in which LGBT individuals, businesses, or organizations were targeted but there were no slurs made against a specific sexual orientation (e.g. gay, lesbian) or it was unclear exactly how the suspect perceived the victim. These cases increased from 10 to 47, an increase of 370% and constituted the second largest targeted group.

Anti-lesbian crimes comprised 8% of the victims which remained level at 20. Lastly, there were 3 crimes that targeted bisexual victims. The distribution of targeted groups in sexual orientation crimes shifted with the increase in anti-LGBT (non-specified) hate crimes.

Anti-transgender crimes are discussed separately in the *A Closer Look at Gender Crimes* section of this report.

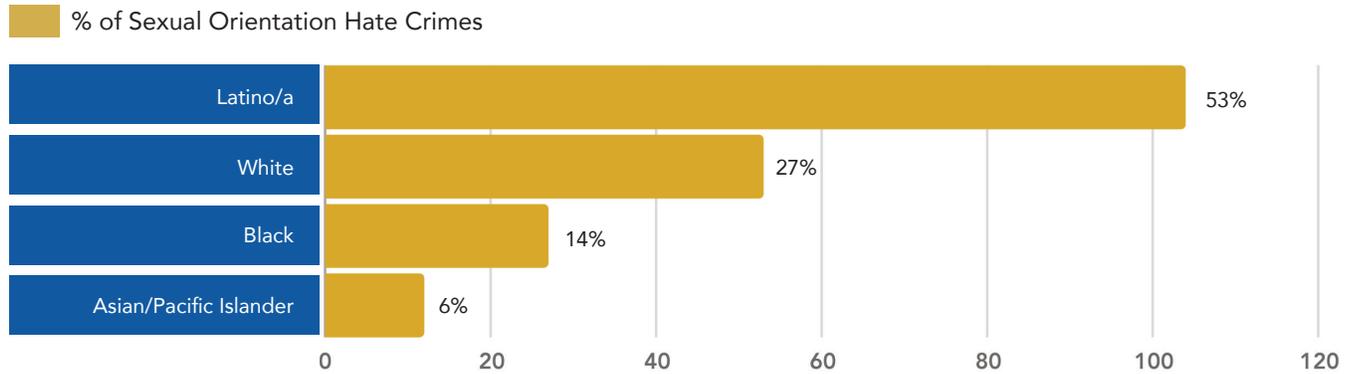
Rate of Violence Remains High

Sexual orientation hate crimes had the second highest rate of violence (76%) of any motivation in 2023. Eighty-three percent of hate crimes that targeted gay males were violent. Moreover, 16 of 20 anti-lesbian cases were violent (80%). Additionally, 41% of LGBT (non-specified) cases were violent and all three anti-bisexual cases were violent.

As in previous years, the most common criminal offense was simple assaults (39%), followed by vandalism (19%), intimidation (18%), and aggravated assaults (16%). This represented a 172% spike in vandalism from 18 to 49 and a 45% increase in intimidation cases (from 31 to 45). Vandalism cases in 2023 surpassed intimidation cases as the second largest group of offenses.

A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Known Victim Race/Ethnicity



In 2023 there was one case each targeting groups of more than one race and Middle Easterners.

Race and Ethnicity of Victims and Suspects

Latino/as were the largest group of victims (53%) that were targeted for sexual orientation hate crimes. This represented a 46% increase from 71 to 104. White victims were targeted in 27% of the cases, followed by African Americans (14%). This represented a 15% increase in White victims and a 35% increase in Black victims. In addition, there were 12 Asian American victims and 1 Middle Eastern victim. Latino/a victims were targeted most often by other Latino/as (61%), followed by Blacks (27%), and Whites (9%). This represented a small increase in the percentage of Black suspects and a small decrease in the percentage of White suspects.

White victims were targeted most often by other Whites (39%) and Black suspects (34%), followed by Latino/as (25%). This represented a small increase in the percentage of White and Black suspects and a percentage decrease in Latino/a suspects.

Black victims were primarily targeted by Black suspects (50%), followed by Whites (29%) and Latino/as (21%). This represented a decrease in the percentage of Black suspects, an increase in the percentage of White suspects, and a decrease in Latino/a suspects from 30% to 21%.

Largest Number of Sexual Orientation Crimes Occur in Public Places

Like previous years, the largest number of sexual orientation crimes occurred in public places (42%), followed by residences (25%), businesses (19%), and schools (7%). This represented a 69% increase in public places, from 64 to 108 and an 80% increase in schools from 10 to 18.

Suspects Are Overwhelmingly Male

Male suspects made up 89% of suspects and females constituted 11%. This is a similar gender distribution as the prior year.

Geographical Distribution

Seventy-two percent of sexual orientation motivation hate crimes occurred in the City of Los Angeles. There were also clusters in Burbank, Long Beach, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, and Wilmington. No other city reported more than 2 sexual orientation crimes.

A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes

Actual Sexual Orientation Crimes

January 1, Los Angeles

A Latino male suspect frequently picks fights with his housemates, but targets more frequently a Latina lesbian who lives in the home. On this day the suspect said to the victim, "You fucking bitch. You fucking dyke. Go find some pussy." The suspect then stated, "I'm going to beat you. I'm going to kill you."

January 22, Hollywood

While on the MTA Red Line, a Latino male suspect walked toward a Black male victim. The suspect then said, "I have a firearm. All you faggots should die. The world would be a better place without you."

February 1, Willowbrook

A Black male suspect and a Latino male victim were both on a train. Unprovoked, the suspect approached the victim and began yelling at him, "You faggot, long-haired faggot." The victim attempted to distance himself. The suspect then yelled, "I am going to knock you out, long haired faggot," before punching the victim in the back of the head with brass knuckles.

March 2, Baldwin Village

A Latina female victim arrived at her apartment complex, when she noticed that her neighbor, a Black male suspect was blocking the victim's entry into her designated parking spot. The victim exited her vehicle, approached the suspect, and asked if he could move his vehicle. The suspect exited his vehicle and told the victim to park somewhere else. The suspect called the victim, "a stupid lesbian bitch," and told the victim, "go back to your country, dumb Mexican bitch." The suspect then walked towards her and intentionally shoulder bumped her then walked back to his car.

April 15, Santa Monica

The victims are a lesbian Latina couple. The suspect attempted to pull down one of the victim's pants while yelling, "She's not a man." On another occasion, the suspect stole money from both victims.

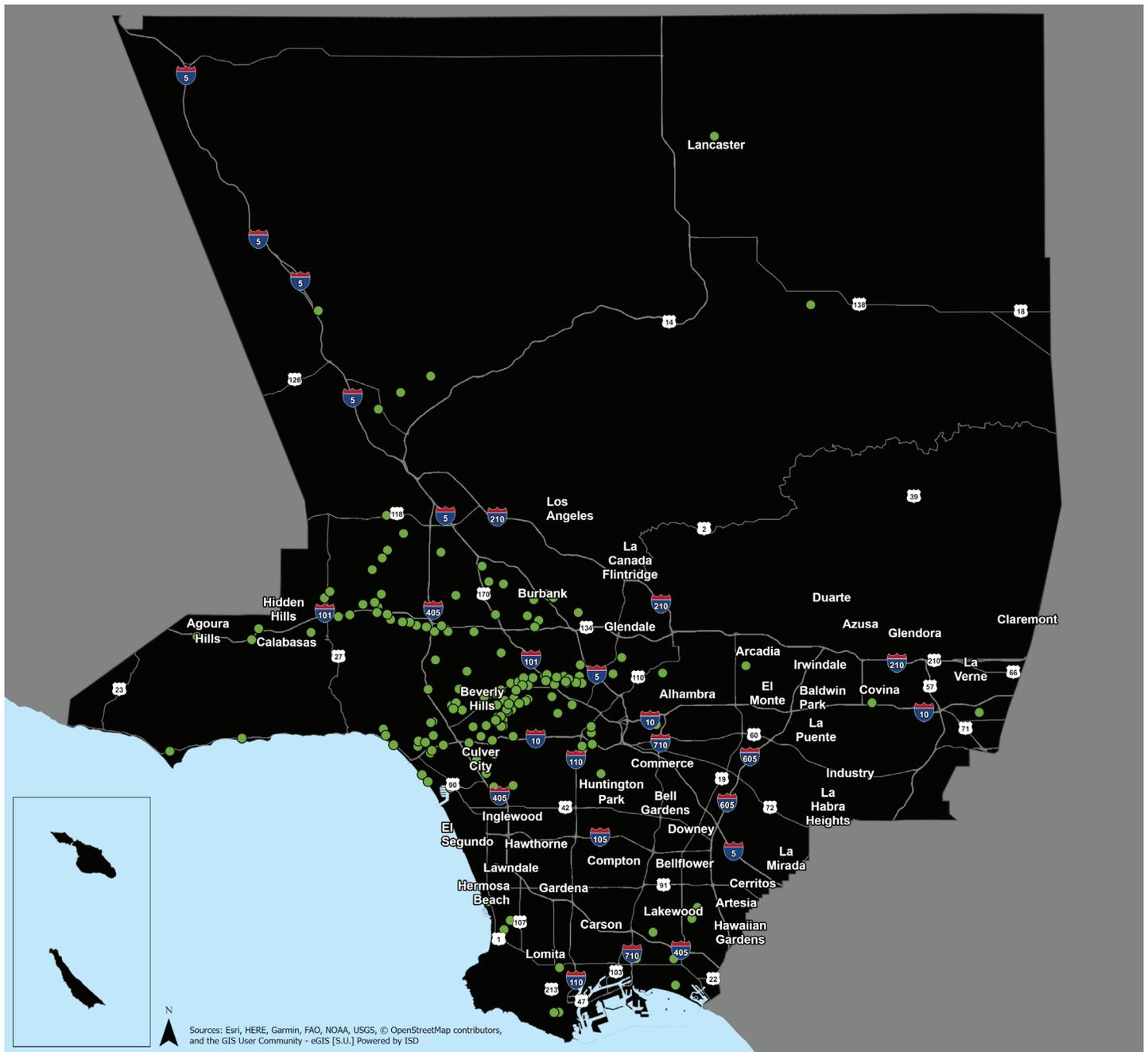
August 2, Koreatown

A Latino male victim was standing in front of a convenience store with his friend looking at their cell phones trying to find a route to their next destination. An Asian male suspect walked out of the convenience store and started smoking a cigarette near the door. The suspect looked in the direction of the victim and his friend, the suspect then said, "Bitch faggots," towards them. The victim then approached the suspect and said, "If you have something to say, say it to my face." The suspect then called the victim a "faggot" and punched the victim multiple times in the face and upper body. The victim lost consciousness and started having a seizure. A bystander got in between the suspect and the victim to protect the victim. The suspect then walked around the victim's friend and stomped the victim's face twice. The suspect then fled.

August 21, Miracle Mile

An Asian male victim was walking to the gym when an Asian male suspect approached the victim and asked why he was wearing long socks. The suspect said, "you're gay, right?" The victim answered, "yes" and both parties got into a verbal dispute. The victim then used his phone to record the confrontation. The suspect slapped the phone out of victim's hand. The suspect then pushed the victim.

A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes

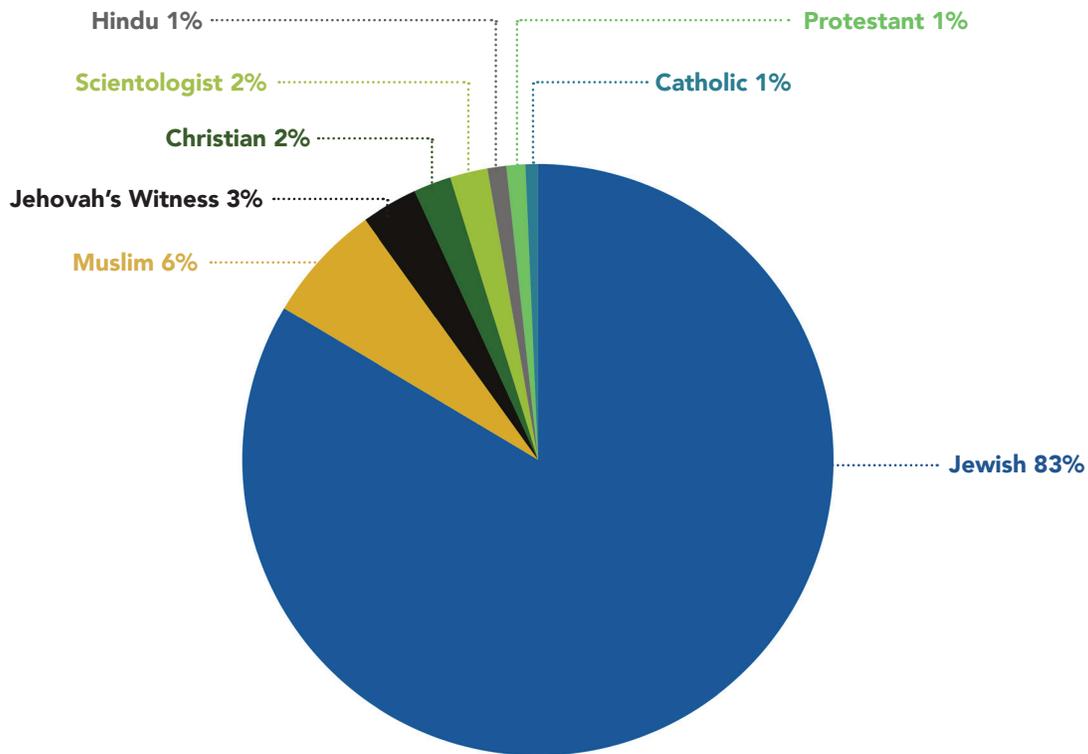


Religious Hate Crimes Remain Elevated

Religiously motivated hate crimes were the second largest group. They represented 20% of all reported hate crimes in 2023 (up from 16%). Religious hate crimes jumped 90% in 2023 from 153 to 290.

A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes

Religious Hate Crimes by Targeted Group



In addition, there were single crimes targeting Buddhists and Christians (non-specified).

Anti-Jewish Crimes Soar and Anti-Muslim Crimes Grow

Eighty-three percent of religiously motivated hate crimes targeted the Jewish community. Anti-Jewish hate crimes nearly doubled and rose 91% from 127 to 242 and set the record for the highest number of reported anti-Jewish crimes in our searchable database. Anti-Muslim crimes constituted 7% of all religious hate crimes. Muslims were the second largest targeted group and saw a near triple increase from 7 to 19 crimes which is an increase of 171%. The third largest targeted group were Jehovah's Witnesses (3%).

Violent Crimes Increased

The percentage of violent religious crimes increased from 42% to 51%. The most common criminal offense was vandalism (41%), followed by intimidation (32%), simple assault (14%), disorderly conduct (6%), aggravated assault (4%), and robbery (1%).

A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes

White Supremacist Vandalism Cases

In 2023 religious hate crimes in which there was evidence of White supremacist ideology increased 17% from 59 to 69, which represented 24% of all religious crimes. Ninety-one percent of these crimes targeted the Jewish community. Seventy-one percent of these were cases of vandalism, most often graffitied swastikas.

Majority of the Victims and Suspects are White

In crimes in which individual victims were targeted, the largest number were Whites (73%), followed by Latinos/as (10%), Middle Easterners (9%), Asians (4%), and Blacks (4%). In 2023, Whites remained the largest group of victims and Latino/as surpassed Middle Easterners as the second largest group.

Since many religious hate crimes were acts of vandalism, few suspects were identified. In cases where suspects were identified, the largest number were Whites (45%), followed by Blacks (17%), Latinos/as (16%), Middle Easterners (14%), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (6%). This represented a 39% increase in White suspects from 28 to 39.

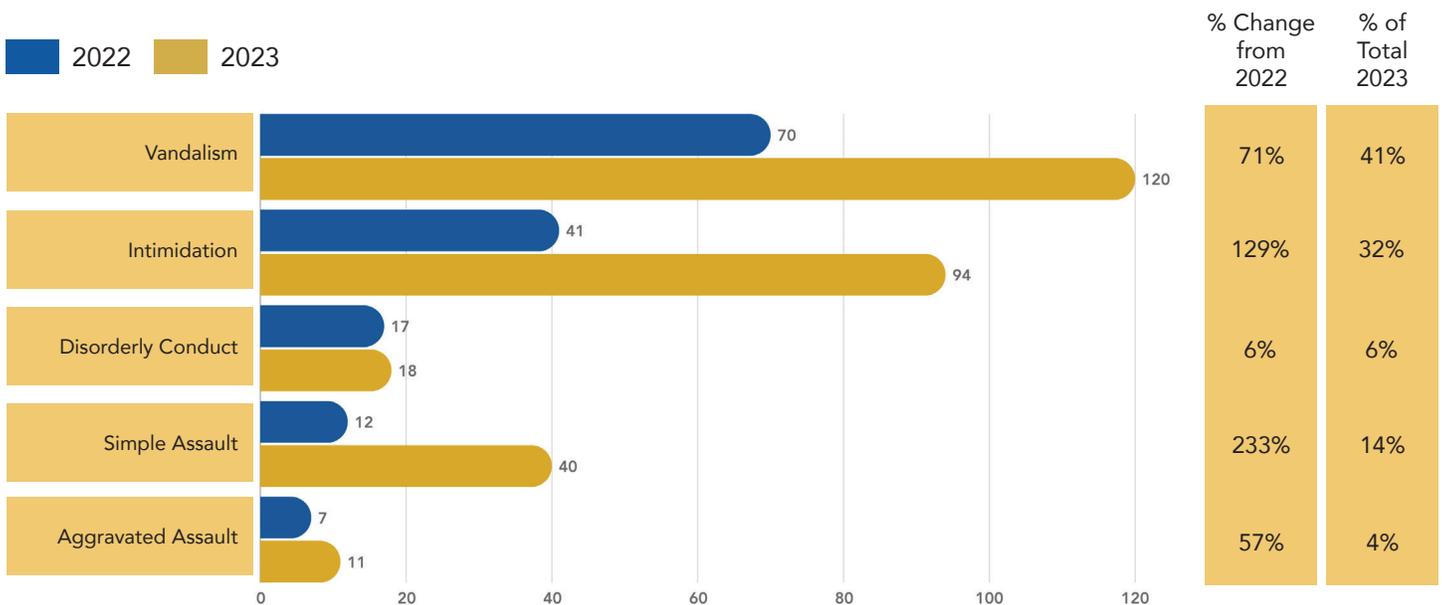
Religious Crimes Occurred Most Frequently at Public Places

Victims of religious hate crimes were most frequently targeted in public places (26%). The next most common locations were religious organizations (25%), followed by residences (18%), schools (8%), via electronic communication (6%), and government buildings and community-based organizations each at 1%. The biggest changes were a 185% increase in public places from 26 in 2022 to 74 in 2023; a 161% increase in religious sites/organizations from 28 to 73; and a 118% increase in schools from 11 to 24.

Geographic Distribution

The majority (77%) of reported religious crimes took place in the City of Los Angeles. There were small clusters of religious motivated hate crimes in the cities of Beverly Hills, Burbank, Long Beach, Santa Monica, and West Hollywood. No other city reported more than 3 religious crimes.

Religious Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In 2023, there were two cases of robbery and a single case each of arson, theft, trespassing, extortion, and mailing matter that could kill or injure another person.

A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes

Actual Religious Crimes

April 15, Los Angeles

An unknown suspect was on foot when he approached the male victim and said, "Fuck the Jewish community. You are all dirty." In an effort to get away from the suspect, the victim walked over to and entered his car. The suspect then stood in front of the victim's car, brandished a knife, waved it in the air and yelled, "Come outside. I got something for you."

July 12, Hollywood

A Latino male victim who is a member of the Church of Scientology and is also a security guard, was approached by a Black male suspect. The suspect said to the victim, "This Scientology building should be burned to the ground. I'm going to burn it to the ground. I'm gonna burn down the building. You know what? It might be me." The victim did not respond to the suspect and pulled out his cell phone to record the suspect. As the suspect was walking away, he turned back, walked towards the victim, got in his face and stated, "Go ahead, record me, I'm gonna kill you. Scientology is demonic, fuck you guys. I'm gonna kill Scientologists. I can't wait to see that."

July 28, Hollywood

An unknown suspect spray painted, "Organized religion is responsible for more deaths than all other human institutions combined" on the steps of a Protestant church.

September 22, San Pedro

A Latino male victim reported that his church van was burned by an unknown suspect. The victim is a pastor at a Christian church and stated that the van was wrapped in bible scriptures, biblical inscriptions, and bible commandments.

November 3, Venice Beach

Two Middle Eastern women went to get ice cream with their family and a White male suspect started following them and harassing them because they were wearing a hijab. The suspect yelled after them for about three blocks. The suspect yelled denigrating statements about their appearance. The husband of one of the victims tried to defend them by telling the suspect that he was going to call the police. The suspect then threw soda all over them.

November 24, Fairfax

A Black male victim was playing Muslim music and waving his Palestinian flag while he drove in his car. A male suspect approached the victim's driver's side and said, "We will fucking kill all of you like we did Palestinians. Muslims are terrorists." A verbal altercation ensued between the suspect and the victim. The suspect then threw an open water bottle that landed on the victim's arm and vehicle. The victim was able to flag down police officers.

December 16, Tarzana

A White male victim and his children were walking towards a synagogue when they were approached by a White male suspect. The suspect threatened to kill all Jews. The suspect said to the victim, "All you Jews should die. Fuck you Jews. I'm going to kill all of you Jews." The suspect then turned to the victim's child and said "You are a cutie. Your dad is a bad man." The victim said he did not acknowledge the suspect talking to the child. He remained quiet until the light changed, and he continued walking towards the synagogue.

A Closer Look at Gender Hate Crimes

There were 121 reported hate crimes motivated by the victim's perceived gender or gender identity. Ninety-nine of these crimes were anti-transgender, 18 were anti-female, and 4 targeted non-binary people*. Anti-transgender crimes rose dramatically from 44 victims in 2022 to 99 in 2023, constituting a 125% rise. Transgender victims comprised 82% of all gender motivated hate crimes.

The Highest Number of Anti-Transgender Crimes Ever Recorded

The 99 anti-transgender crimes are the highest ever recorded, surpassing the 44 reported in 2022. Seventy-five of the victims identified as transgender women and 12 as transgender men. In addition, 5 identified as cisgender** males, 4 as cisgender females, and 3 as non-binary individuals. This distribution of victim gender identities has been consistent for many years.

High Rate of Violence

As in the past, anti-transgender crimes had an extremely high rate of violence, 97% compared to 91% the previous year. Simple assaults constituted 48% of these crimes, followed by aggravated assault (22%), intimidation (17%), and robbery (4%). The remaining offenses were no more than 3% of the total each. Simple assaults jumped from 22 to 48. In addition, there were 3 attempted murders in 2023.

Largest Number of Anti-Trans Crimes Occurred in Public Places

The largest number of transgender hate crimes occurred in public places (58%), followed by residences (22%), and businesses (14%). Crimes occurring in public places rose 171% from 21 to 57 and those that occurred at residences increased from 9 to 22.

Latino/a Victims Remain the Most Frequent Target

In cases where the victims' race was identified, the majority (70%) were Latino/a (up from 49%), followed by Whites (14%), and Blacks (13%). This represented an increase in Latino/a victims from 19 to 63.

Latino/as constituted 58% of suspects in anti-transgender crimes, followed by Blacks (25%), and Whites (10%). This represented a 530% jump in the number of Latinos/a suspects (from 10 to 63) and a 42% increase in Black suspects from 19 to 27.

In cases in which the race of both the victim and suspect were identified, Latino/a victims were most often targeted by other Latino/as (65%) and by Blacks (25%). Black victims were targeted equally by other Blacks (43%) and Latino/as (43%). White victims were targeted by Latino/a suspects in 50% of reported anti-transgender cases, Whites in 25%, and Blacks in 17%. The biggest shift is that the previous year all Blacks were targeted by other Blacks.

Suspects are Overwhelmingly Male

Similar to the previous year, the overwhelming majority of the suspects were male (86%, up from 80%). Female suspects increased from 9 to 16.

*This report began to document crimes against non-binary people in the year 2023. Non-binary describes people who do not identify themselves exclusively as a man or a woman.

** The word "cisgender" denotes or relates to a person whose gender identity corresponds with the sex registered for them at birth; not transgender.

A Closer Look at Gender Hate Crimes

Actual Anti-Transgender Crimes

February 1, Koreatown

A transfemale victim was getting off the Metro when a suspect started to verbally abuse her, saying, "You should be in hell. You should not be living. You should die! You should not be a man trying or pretending to be a woman!" The suspect then tried to physically attack her, but she managed to escape.

July 30, South Los Angeles

A Black transfemale victim was walking with her groceries when she walked past a tire shop. While walking, she was attacked by two Latino male suspects. They punched her in the forearm, face, and all over her body. This caused the victim to drop her groceries and her phone. While being attacked, the suspects called the victim a "faggot" and a "nigger." The suspects were armed with sticks and began to chase her while calling her these slurs. The victim fled the scene, leaving her belongings behind.

October 5, Koreatown

A Latina transfemale victim was assaulted by a man and a woman of color. During the assault, she was robbed and physically attacked. The attackers yelled, "tranny" and "he-she" as they assaulted her.

October 5, Long Beach

A White transfemale victim was at a park listening to music and dancing. The victim then heard something behind them but did not think anything of it. Two Latino male suspects approached the victim from behind and pushed her to the ground. They sprayed her back with silly string, threw glass at her and a can which hit the top of her eyebrow. As the victim ran away, she heard the suspects yell, "faggot" at her.

October 28, Downtown LA

A multiracial transgender victim sat down on a seat while riding the Metro when a male suspect yelled that they look like a guy who is trying to be a girl. The suspect became hostile and started threatening the victim and said the victim was going to get killed for what they are doing. The suspect also said that the victim was going to hell and that they were wearing a mask to hide that they are a man. The suspect called the victim a "gay nigga" and stated that he could kill the victim right now.

A Closer Look at Gender Hate Crimes

Anti-Female Crimes

Anti-female crimes tripled from 6 to 18, constituting a 200% increase. Sixty-one percent of these crimes were violent.

Actual Anti-Female Crimes

August 15, South Los Angeles

Two Latino male suspects said to a White female suspect, "If you're still in my hood I will end you." The suspects then proceeded to say, "Give me all your shit, White bitch, or we'll show you. White bitch, mother fucker you damn White whore bitch."

August 25, Gardena

A Black female postal worker was delivering mail when a White male suspect approached her and said, "Fuck you bitch. You nigger. I'll kill you. I don't give a fuck about the post office." She ignored the suspect, but the suspect continued to follow and repeated the statements several times including, "You bitch nigger, I'm talking to you."

September 20, Harbor City

A Latina female victim was walking on the sidewalk when she heard a Black male suspect yell slurs at her. The suspect yelled out, "beaner," "Mexican bitch," and called the victim "dirty." The suspect pushed the victim from behind into a liquor store and began to punch her on the head. The victim fell and the suspect stepped over her and began to punch her ten to fifteen times on the head and torso. The store clerk then walked over to try to intervene which led to the suspect running out before the clerk could stop him.

A Closer Look at Disability Hate Crimes

There were 6 disability-motivated crimes reported in 2023 compared to 3 the previous year. There were 3 crimes targeting people with physical disabilities and 3 crimes targeting people with mental disabilities.

Actual Disability Crime

August 5, Alhambra

A White female victim was crossing the street in her wheelchair when two Latino male suspects approached her and began yelling, "You really aren't handicapped, and you can walk." They punched and kicked her multiple times, kicked her out of the chair, and threw the chair at her back. The two suspects fled.

Methodology

Unless otherwise noted, numbers in this report refer to victims, not events. The Commission receives reports from law enforcement agencies, school districts and universities, community-based organizations, and some victims. We eliminate duplication, such as a hate crime submitted by both a law enforcement agency and a school district. We review each case to identify those that meet the criteria for hate crime established in the California Penal Code. Of the 3,548 reports of hate events in 2023, 1,223 events involving 1,350 victims met the legal criteria for hate crime and are included in this report.

Note that in this report, we use “African American” and “Black” interchangeably. We also use “American Indian”, “Native”, and “Indigenous” interchangeably. In addition, in this report instead of the traditional “Latino” we use “Latino/a” as a more gender-inclusive alternative. Also, we use “Asian” and “Asian American” for quick references to persons described by the U.S. Census Bureau who identify origins from the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

Accurate understanding and responsible use of this report require awareness of the following:

- This report is based on information from initial descriptions of events, not results of fully completed investigations.
- We usually count each victim when a violent crime is committed against multiple persons.
- In this report, Target Groups indicate the perpetrator’s intention, not the victim’s identity.
- In this report, when cases involve epithets targeting more than one group, all are counted. The result may be higher totals for motivation or targeted group than the overall total count of victims.
- For cases in which a definite determination cannot be made from provided information, the motivation and targeted group are identified as “unknown”.
- Fluctuations from one year to the next do not confirm a pattern. Multi-year comparisons are required to identify trends.
- Sometimes, due to the use of alternate methodologies, there are differences in what we report and what is reported by a particular jurisdiction.
- Some numbers from our database have changed since the release of a previous report due to our ongoing process of updates and corrections.
- The U.S. Department of Justice states that more than half of all hate crimes are not reported to law enforcement.* Some victims disclose that they do not report hate crime because these acts are handled in a different way. Others state that the experience is not important enough to report to police, or that there is nothing police can do to help, or that police would not want to be bothered, or that reporting would result in more trouble for the victim. Victims may be unfamiliar with how to report, or they may have had negative experiences with law enforcement. They may fear unwanted publicity. It is important to recognize, then, that documented hate crimes are only a portion, and likely a small portion, of those actually committed.

*U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Hate Crime Victimization, 2005-2019,” September 2021.

Responding to Continued Increase of Reported Hate in LA County

Undoubtedly, the record-setting levels of reported hate crimes in 2023 are due in large part to improved reporting of these human rights violations. More people are reporting hate, and more organizations and groups are submitting reports. With improved reporting comes increased responsibility to respond to hate activity in our County. The Commission on Human Relations (“the Commission”), the staff, and our partners continue to use this report in multiple ways to inform and guide needed policy and practice in support of those targeted by hate and in fulfillment of human rights to foster healthy, thriving intergroup relations.

For example, every year our Hate Documentation and Data Analytics Team collaborates with policymakers and practitioners to share and explain countywide and community-specific hate crime data. In 2023, these collaborations included LA County Supervisors; the LA County District Attorney’s LGBTQ+ Advisory Board; the LAUSD Human Relations, Diversity, and Equity Commission; the Burbank Human Relations Council; the Claremont Human Relations Committee; the Culver City Equity and Human Relations Committee; NAACP-Pomona Valley Branch; the city of Redondo Beach; the San Gabriel Human Equity, Access, and Relations Commission; the Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs; the Muslim Public Affairs Council; the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team; St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Pomona; and a research group that included Syracuse University, the University of Chicago, and Harvard University.

The documentation and analytics team also hosts quarterly meetings of the countywide Network Against Hate Crime that includes representatives from government agencies, criminal justice jurisdictions, civil and human rights organizations, faith communities, educational institutions, and service and advocacy groups. The network supports coordination of efforts to challenge intolerance and eradicate hate crime. Network meetings include presentations on cases, trends, legislation, and resources, as well as networking opportunities.

Another response to the continued rise of hate crime in LA County documented in this annual report is the Commission’s LA vs Hate project, initiated with a unanimously approved motion sponsored by Supervisor Hilda Solis and Supervisor Shelia Kuehl in July 2018 to protect vulnerable communities from hate crime. LA vs Hate includes a reporting and service provision system and an ongoing, multi-sector, art-centered community-building, hate prevention, and marketing campaign.

During the last program year, nearly 850 reports of hate events were recorded by contacts to LA vs Hate intake contractor 211LA, including reports of discrimination, hate speech, threats of violence, and physical attacks. Contract Care Coordinators made and followed up on nearly 1,700 referrals for services to targeted persons. These referrals were for contact with law enforcement, legal aid, counseling, and housing-related services.

In response to the documented rise in hate activity in LA County, LA vs Hate workers and partners hosted or attended more than 50 events last year and made contact with nearly 80,000 community participants. Over 75,000 pieces of branded merchandise were distributed, including 18,000 posters. In addition, there was a 59% increase in monthly newsletter subscribers, there were 24,000 visitors to the website, and 84 million impressions from 115 print and digital stories and 105 broadcast segments and mentions were noted.

Responding to Continued Increase of Reported Hate in LA County

The year also included another highly successful United Against Hate Week and the production of 6 community-focused murals accompanied by community-building events. Ongoing marketing partners included elected leaders, County Departments, law enforcement agencies, and the LA Galaxy organization. The LA Kings organization was added, LA Metro displayed LA vs Hate messaging on 100 digital screens throughout their system, and the LA Firefighters Foundation funded access to advertising space on 40 lifeguard towers.

Another way Commission staff have responded to the documented rise in hate reports is through the Training Team. During the last year, the Training Team engaged with nearly 2,000 participants in 60 training experiences on topics such as Managing the Influence of Bias, Valuing Diversity and Robust Inclusiveness, The Power of Stereotypes and the Historical Impact of Racism, Active Ally Training, and Transforming Organizational Culture and Climate to Advance Equity.

Protecting human rights to promote healthy relations by using data documented in this report to shape policy and practice, increase awareness, unite people in community to stand against hate, and provide both safe alternatives for reporting and effective support services is central to the Commission's assignment detailed in 1958 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors ("the Supervisors") in the establishing ordinance. The ordinance identifies "injustices...resulting from prejudice, intolerance, and discrimination" as the impetus for creation of the Commission and assigns it responsibility to "eliminate such prejudice and... thereby promote public health, welfare, and security" by providing "practices to achieve better human relations" and assisting "persons and groups...in promoting good will and better relations among all people."¹ The Supervisors took this action nearly 10 years after the United Nations, in December 1948, affirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ("Universal Declaration") that injustices such as those cited by the Supervisors were violations of "inalienable rights of all members of the human family" and called for "every individual and every organ of society...to promote respect for these rights...and by progressive measures...to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction."²

The efforts described in the preceding paragraphs bear witness to the crucial role this annual report of hate crime holds in enabling the Commission, staff, and partners to demonstrate their unwavering commitment and determination to continue active, effective engagement in fulfilling this mandate.

Reporting Agencies

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Alhambra Police Department	Downey Police Department	La Verne Police Department	San Gabriel Police Department
Arcadia Police Department	El Monte Police Department	Long Beach Police Department	San Marino Police Department
Azusa Police Department	El Segundo Police Department	Los Angeles Police Department	Santa Monica Police Department
Baldwin Park Police Department	Gardena Police Department	Manhattan Beach Police Department	Sierra Madre Police Department
Bell Gardens Police Department	Glendale Police Department	Monrovia Police Department	Signal Hill Police Department
Bell Police Department	Glendora Police Department	Montebello Police Department	South Gate Police Department
Beverly Hills Police Department	Hawthorne Police Department	Monterey Park Police Department	South Pasadena Police Department
Burbank Police Department	Hermosa Beach Police Department	Palos Verdes Estates Police Department	Torrance Police Department
California Highway Patrol	Huntington Park Police Department	Pasadena Police Department	Vernon Police Department
Claremont Police Department	Inglewood Police Department	Pomona Police Department	West Covina Police Department
Covina Police Department	Irwindale Police Department	Redondo Beach Police Department	Whittier Police Department
Culver City Police Department	L.A. County Sheriff's Department	San Fernando Police Department	(serving Whittier and Santa Fe Springs)

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

211LA	Los Angeles LGBT Center
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)	South Asian Network
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL)	The LGBTQ Center Long Beach
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)	The TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC)

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Antelope Valley College	Citrus College	Occidental College
Cal Poly Pomona	College of the Canyons	Pasadena City College
California State University, Dominguez Hills	El Camino College	Rio Hondo College
California State University, Long Beach	Long Beach City College	Santa Clarita Community College District
California State University, Los Angeles	Los Angeles Community College District	Santa Monica College
California State University, Northridge	Loyola Marymount University	University of California, Los Angeles
Cerritos College	Mt. San Antonio College	University of Southern California

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District	Hermosa Beach City School District	Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District
Alhambra Unified School District	Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District	Paramount Unified School District
Antelope Valley Joint Union High School District	La Cañada Unified School District	Pasadena Unified School District
Beverly Hills Unified School District	Lancaster School District	Redondo Beach Unified School District
Burbank Unified School District	Las Virgenes Unified School District	Rosemead School District
Castaic Union School District	Lennox School District	Rowland Unified School District
Centinela Valley Union High School District	Little Lake City School District	San Gabriel Unified School District
Charter Oak Unified School District	Long Beach Unified School District	San Marino Unified School District
Claremont Unified School District	Los Angeles Unified School District	Saugus Union School District
Downey Unified School District	Los Nietos School District	South Whittier School District
Eastside Union School District	Lowell Joint School District	Sulphur Springs Union School District
El Rancho Unified School District	Mountain View School District	Torrance Unified School District
Garvey School District	Newhall School District	Valle Lindo School District
Glendale Unified School District	Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District	William S. Hart Union High School District

Acknowledgements

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Thanks to all of the Commission staff for their contributions and assistance.

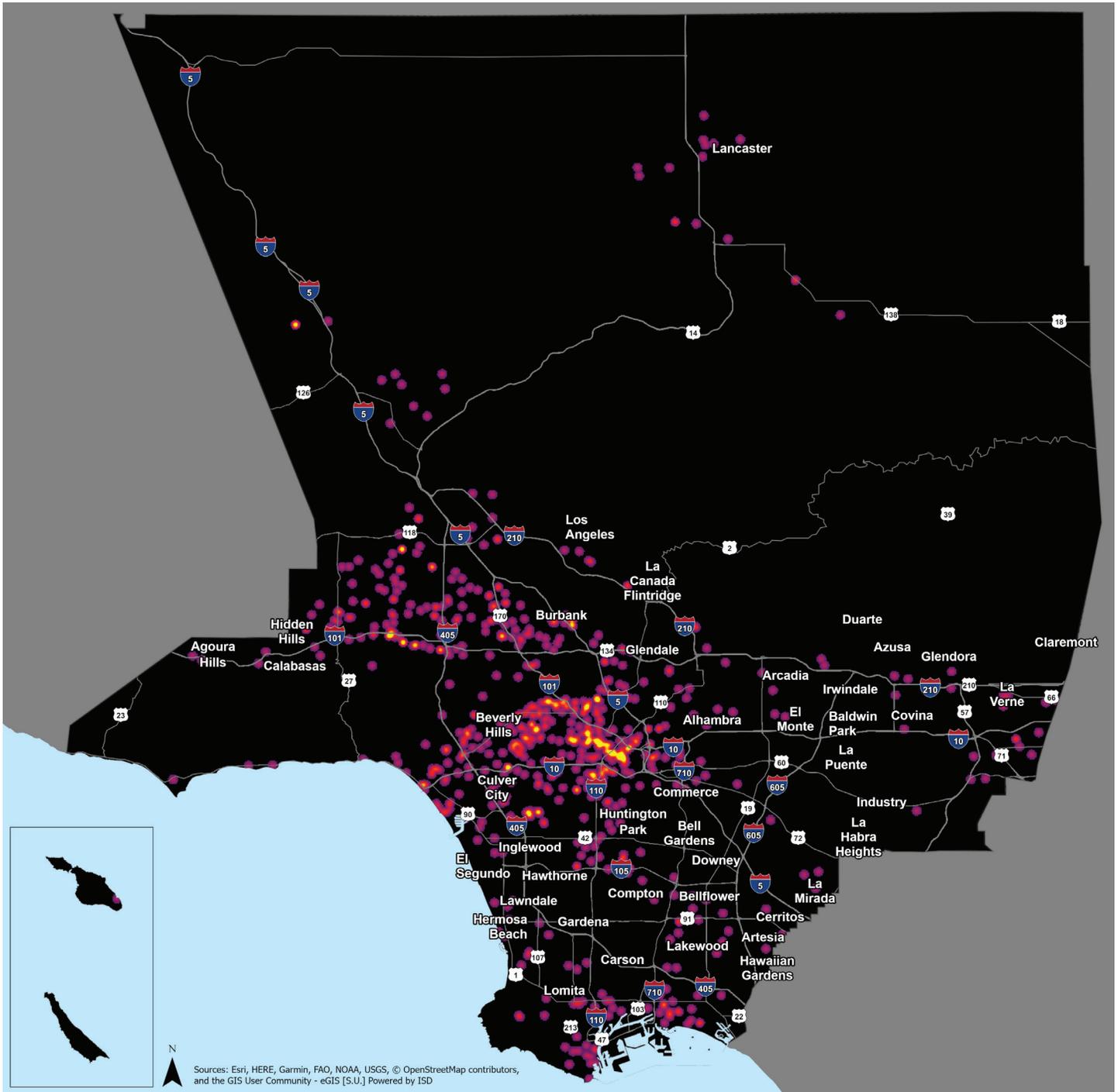
Special thanks to Deputy Chief Alan Hamilton, Commander Jay Mastic, Captain Scot Williams, Detective Orlando Martinez and the Crime & Intelligence Unit of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Thank you to Captain Calvin Mah, Lieutenant Jorge Marchena, Sergeant Shaun Kennedy, Detective Jan Wong and the Fraud and Cyber Crimes Bureau, Statistical Unit with the Los Angeles County Sheriff.

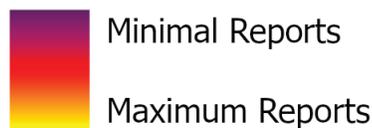
We would also like to recognize and thank the law enforcement agencies, school districts, universities, and community-based organizations that provided us with hate crime data used in this report.

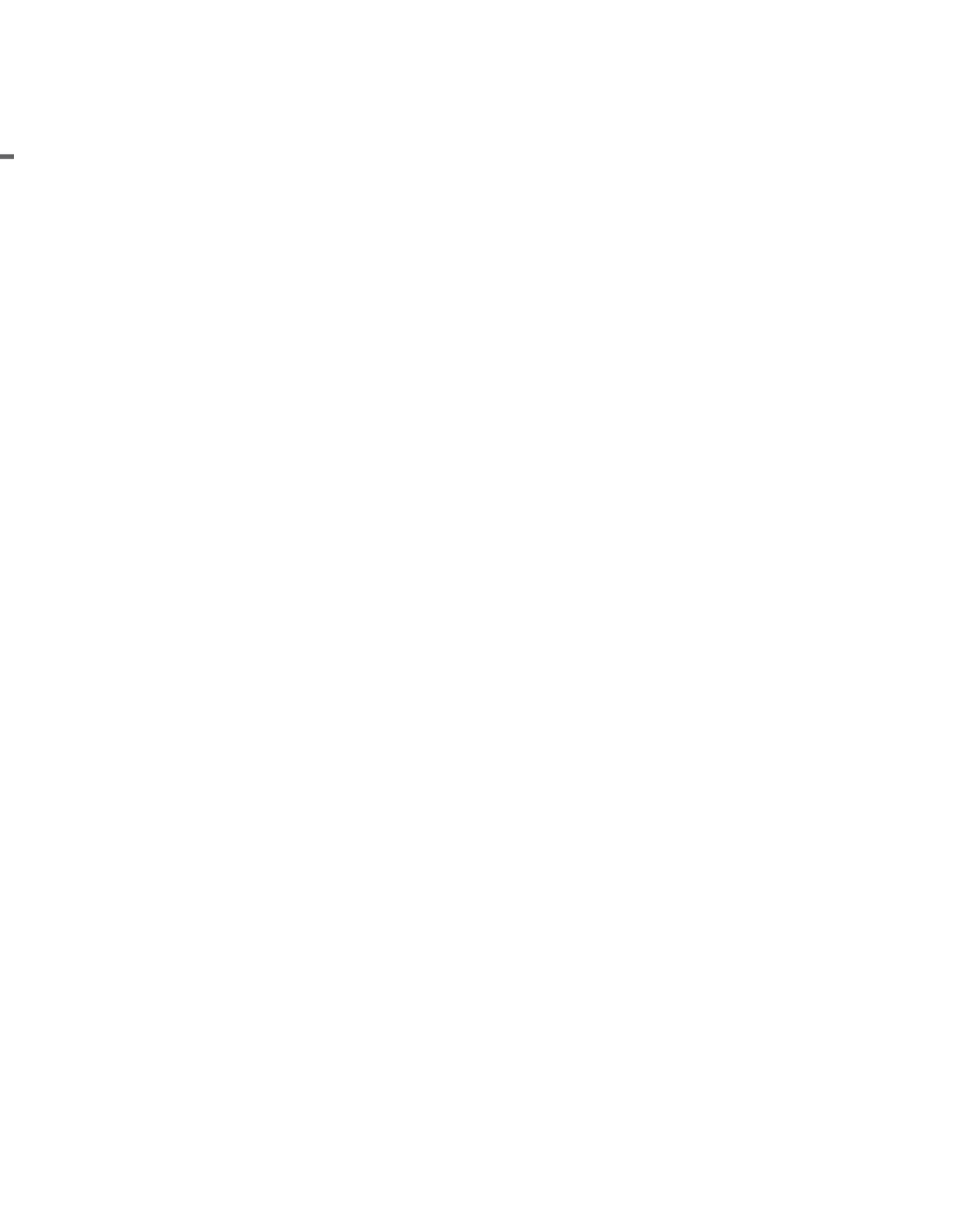
Lastly, we give a heartfelt thank you to the victims for coming forward and reporting.

2023 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes



Motivation







2023 HATE CRIME REPORT

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

WWW.LAHUMANRELATIONS.ORG