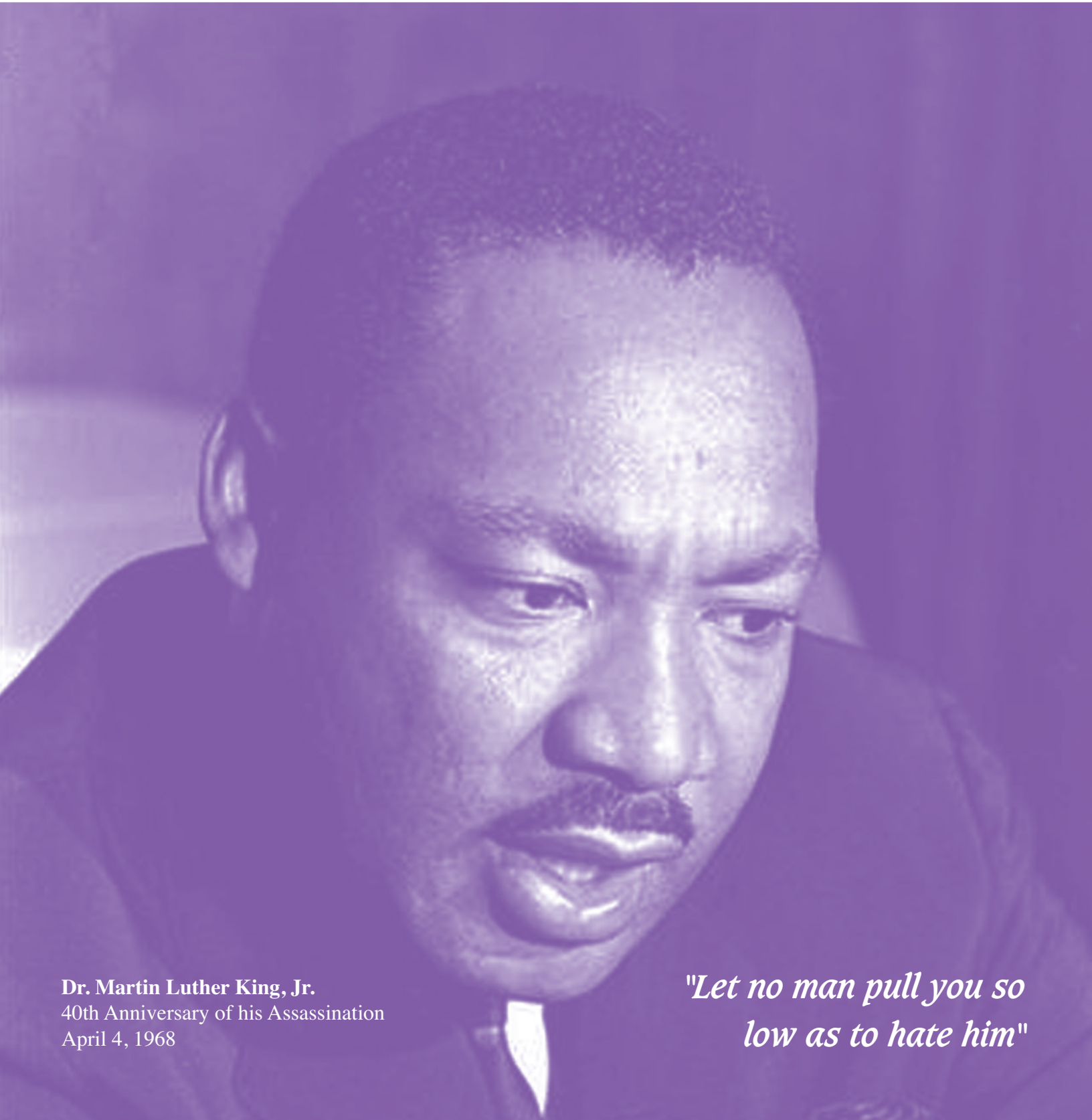


2007 HATE CRIME REPORT



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
40th Anniversary of his Assassination
April 4, 1968

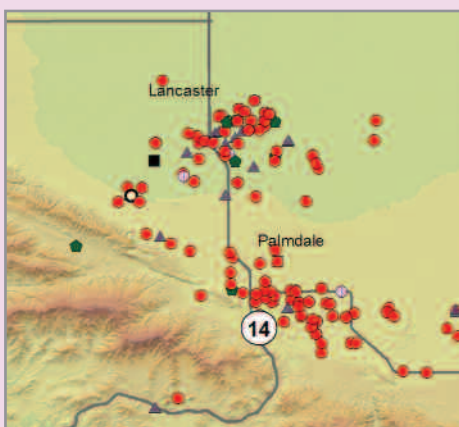
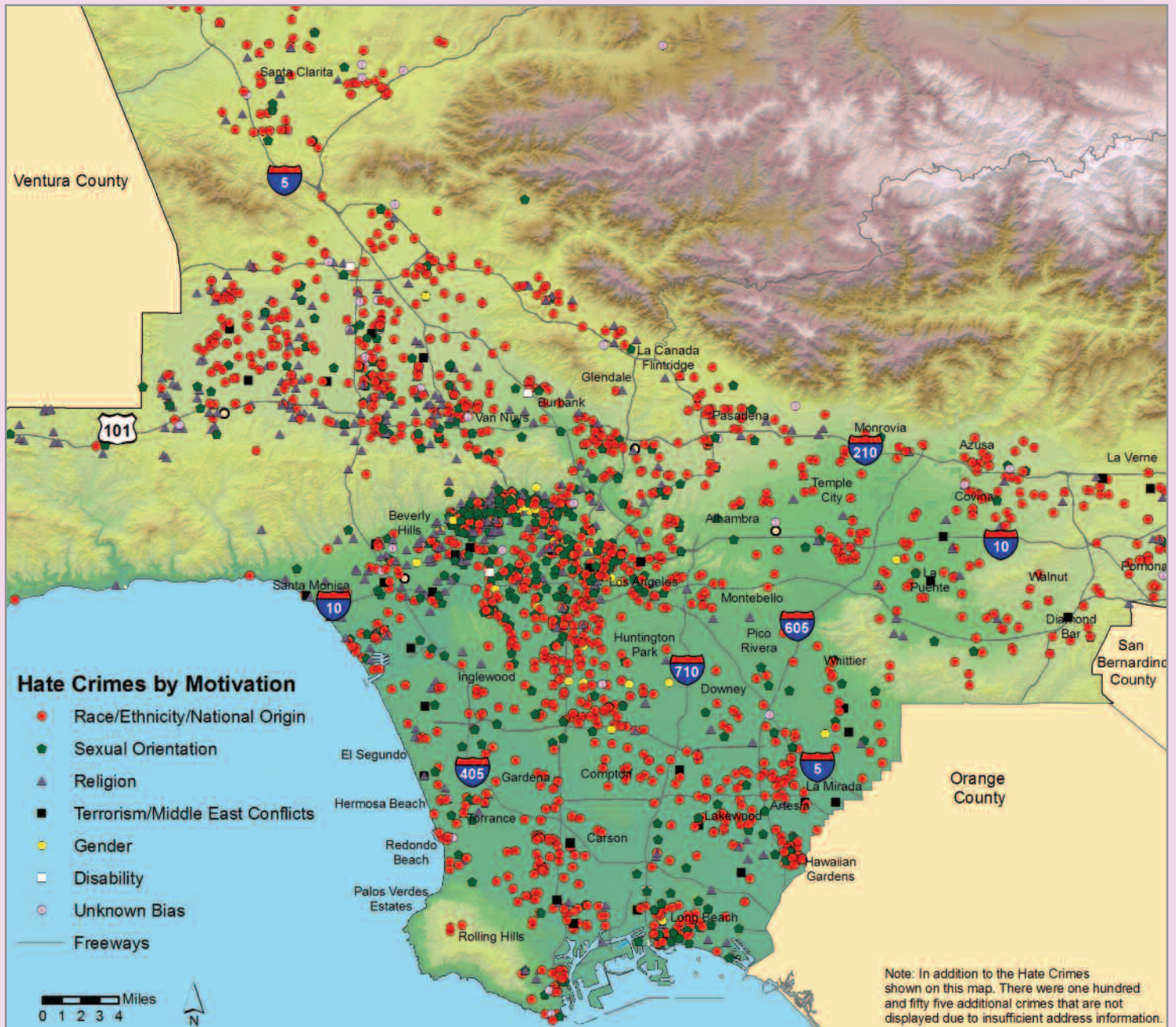
*"Let no man pull you so
low as to hate him"*



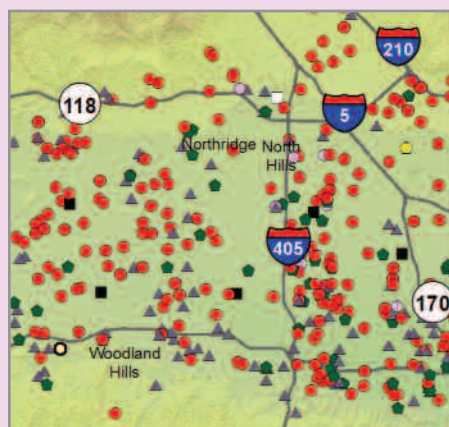
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS



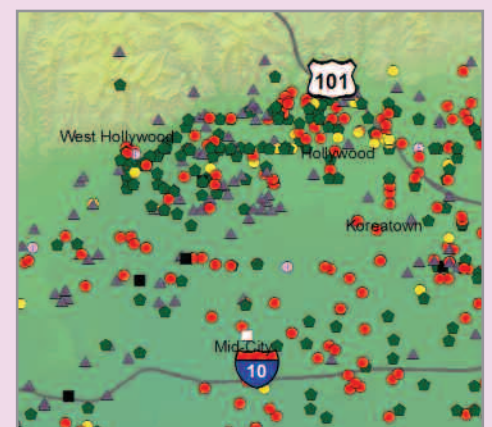
2003-2007 LOS ANGELES COUNTY HATE CRIMES



Antelope Valley



San Fernando Valley



Hollywood/West Hollywood

2007 HATE CRIME REPORT



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Preface

One of the Longest-Standing Reports in the Nation on Hate Crime

Since 1980, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations has compiled, analyzed, and produced an annual report of hate crime data submitted by all 47 sheriff and city police agencies, and numerous educational institutions and community-based organizations.

Using information from the report, the Commission sponsors a number of ongoing programs related to

combating hate crime: Network Against Hate Crime, Racialized Gang Violence Prevention Initiative, *zerohour/No Haters Here!* youth initiative, Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative, Human Relations Mutual Assistance Consortium, Corporate Advisory Committee, and Media Image Coalition.

L.A. County is one of the best trained jurisdictions in hate crime

investigation and prosecution and the Commission produces one of the longest-standing reports in the nation documenting hate crime. The report has been disseminated broadly to policy-makers, law enforcement agencies, educators, and community groups throughout Los Angeles County and across the nation in order to better inform efforts to prevent, detect, report, investigate, and prosecute hate crimes. ■

What is a Hate Crime?

According to California state law, hate crime charges are filed when there is evidence that bias, hatred, or prejudice based on the victim's real or perceived race/ethnicity, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation is a substantial factor in the commission of the offense. This definition is codified in the California Penal Code sections 422.55 to 422.95 pertaining to hate crime.

Evidence of such bias, hatred, or prejudice can be direct or circumstantial. It can occur before, during, or after the commission of the offense.

Hate speech may be a criminal offense when the speaker/writer has threatened violence against a

specific person or group of persons. The threat must be unequivocal, and the words used must be of an immediately threatening nature.

Evidence of hate can occur before, during or after the crime

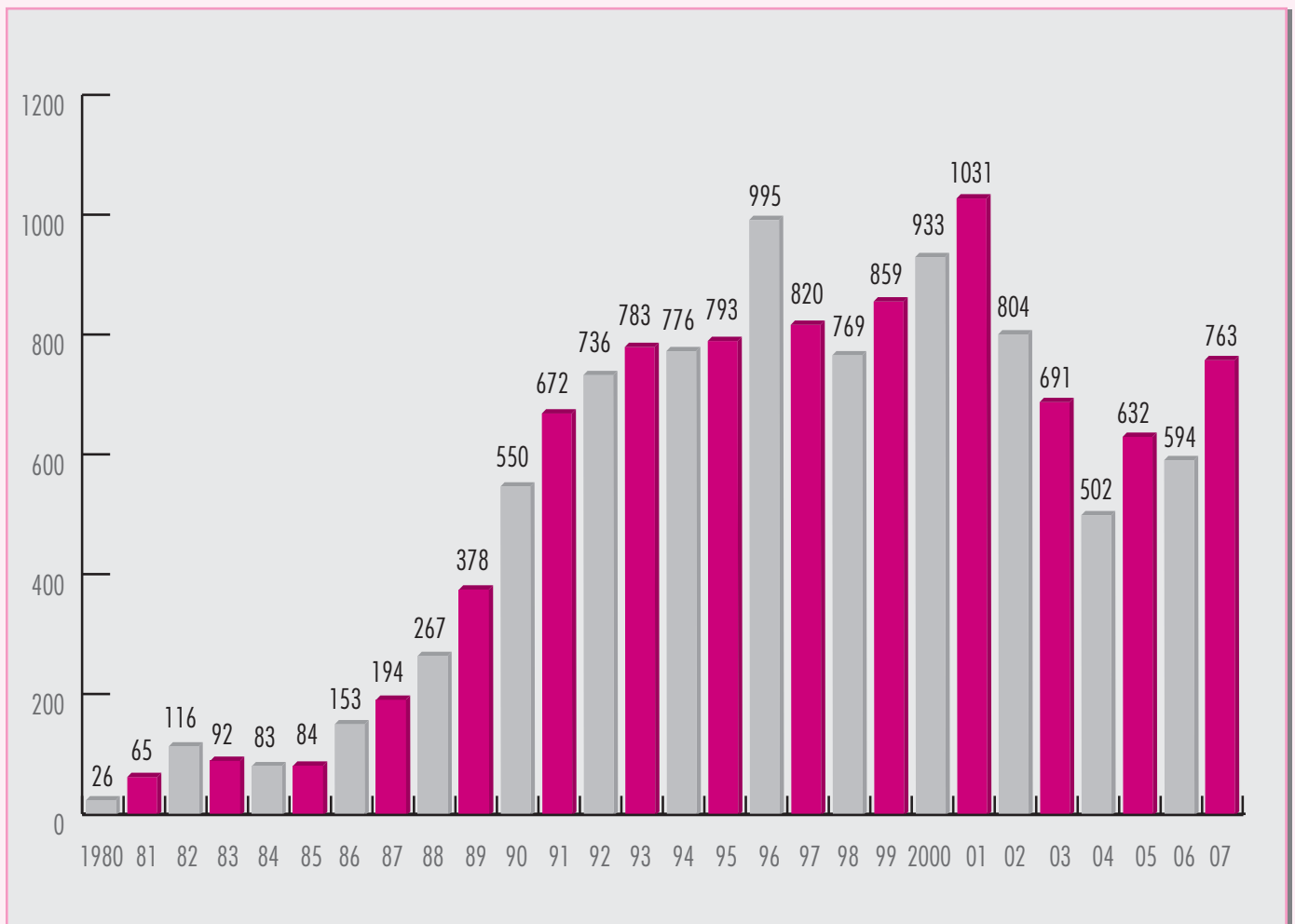
Frequently, derogatory words or epithets are directed against a member of a protected class, but no violence is threatened and there is no apparent ability to harm the target. Such hate incidents are important indicators of intergroup tensions. They are not, however, criminal offenses. Such language is protect-

ed by free speech rights set forth in the California and U.S. constitutions.

Graffiti is a hate crime when it is disparaging to a class of people protected by hate crime laws. This is most often indicated by the use of epithets or hate group symbols or slogans. To be a hate crime, graffiti must be directed at a specific target. For example, racial graffiti on a freeway overpass that does not address itself to a particular person is vandalism, and therefore illegal, but not considered a hate crime.

Vandalism of a house of worship or of an ethnic, religious, or gay and lesbian organization may be considered a hate crime in the absence of evidence of other motives. ■

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 mandates law enforcement to record and report hate crimes.

Underreporting of Hate Crime

The National Crime Victim Survey by the U.S. Justice Department found that hate crimes occurred 24 to 28 times more than the number reported by police to the FBI.* This is due to victims not reporting hate crimes to police as well as a failure of law enforcement to classify hate crimes and report them to federal authorities.

Common reasons victims don't report hate crime:

- Fear of retaliation
- Linguistic or cultural barriers

- Immigration status
- Lack of knowledge about the criminal justice system
- Fear of insensitive treatment or prior negative experience with government agencies

Common reasons law enforcement agencies don't report hate crime:

- Hate crime reporting a low priority
- Lack of formal hate crime policies, training or practices
- Crimes with multiple motivations or involving gangs are frequently not reported as hate crimes

- Reluctance to admit to a problem that could result in negative publicity

Hate crimes that occur in schools, jails, and juvenile detention facilities, including large-scale racial brawls are rarely reported as hate crimes. Therefore, the hate crimes contained in this report likely represent only a fraction of hate crimes actually committed in 2006.

*U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2005, "Hate Crime Reported by Victims and Police"

Summary of Hate Crime Report

2 0 0 7

■ **Hate crimes** in Los Angeles County rose 28%, from 594 to 763, the highest in five years.

■ **The most common type of hate crimes were those motivated by racial/ethnic or national origin bias** ("racial hate crimes"): 535, or 68% of the total. There were 310 anti-African American crimes (58%) followed by 125 anti-Latino crimes (23%). These represented sharp increases from the previous year. Crimes against Asians and whites also rose. Crimes in which anti-immigrant slurs were used declined slightly. Attacks on inter-racial couples and mixed race groups of friends grew.

■ **The second largest group of hate crimes were motivated by sexual orientation** (111) representing an increase of 9%. Of these, 92% targeted gay men and 8% were anti-lesbian.

■ **Religious crimes** were the third largest category (105) and grew 17%. Anti-Jewish crimes dominated (74%).

■ **Crimes motivated by gender more than doubled**, from 7 to 15. All but one of these crimes were based on gender identity and most targeted male-to-female transgender women.

■ **There was one lone reported crime** based on the victim's disability.

■ **Tension between African Americans and Latinos again characterized an alarming number of hate crimes.** In anti-black crimes, 71% of the suspects were Latino. In crimes targeting Latinos, black suspects constituted 56% of the total.

■ **Gang members committed a large number of racial hate crimes** and were responsible for two attempted murders. Sixteen percent of all hate crimes were tied to gangs. Gang members were suspects in 21% of racial hate crimes.

■ **White supremacists** were implicated in 17% of all hate crimes and committed overwhelmingly racial and religious crimes.

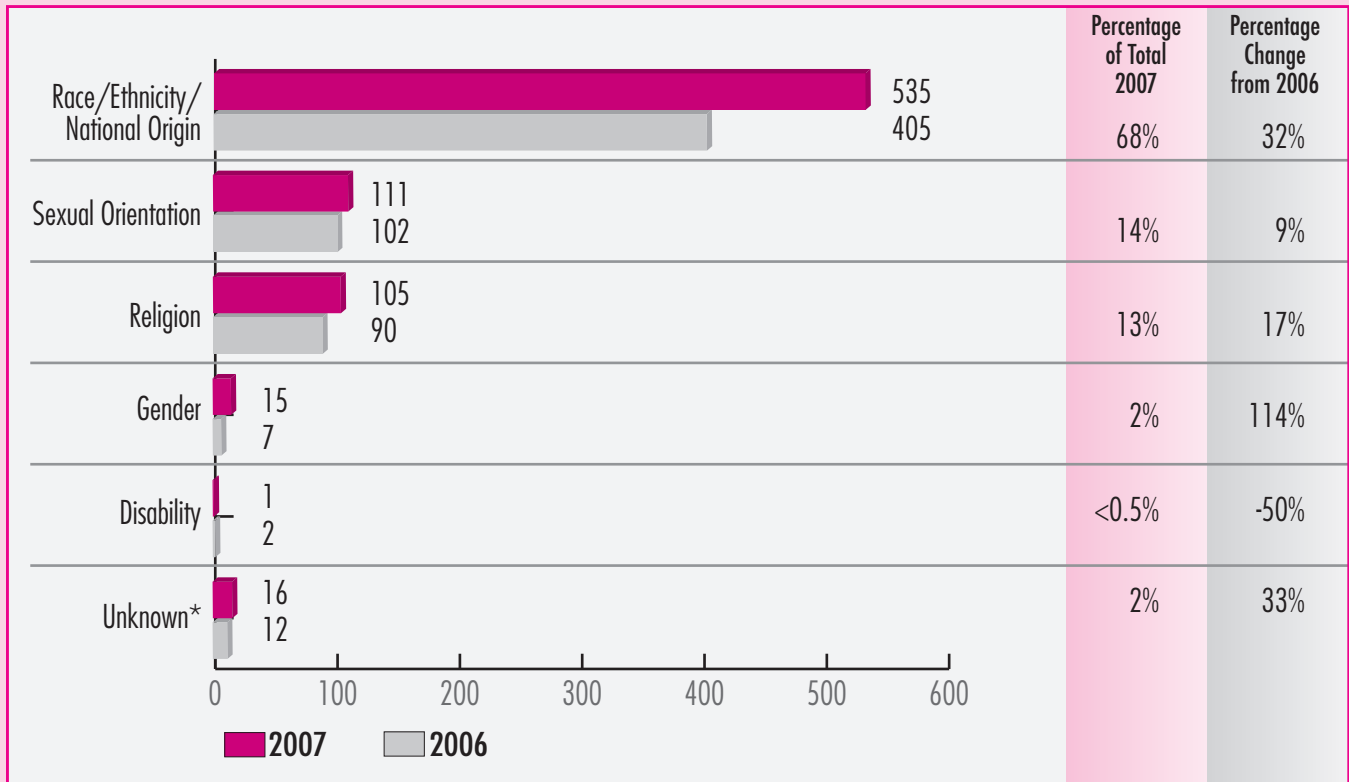
■ **All of the crimes targeting transgender victims (100%) were violent**, followed by 76% of sexual orientation, 71% of racial and 25% of religious crimes.

■ **A greater number of crimes were committed by groups** of two or more people, although there were fewer crimes committed by large mobs than the previous year.

■ **Suspects identified were overwhelmingly male** (91%) and 33% were juveniles; a 38% were young adults 18-25; and 29% were older than 25.

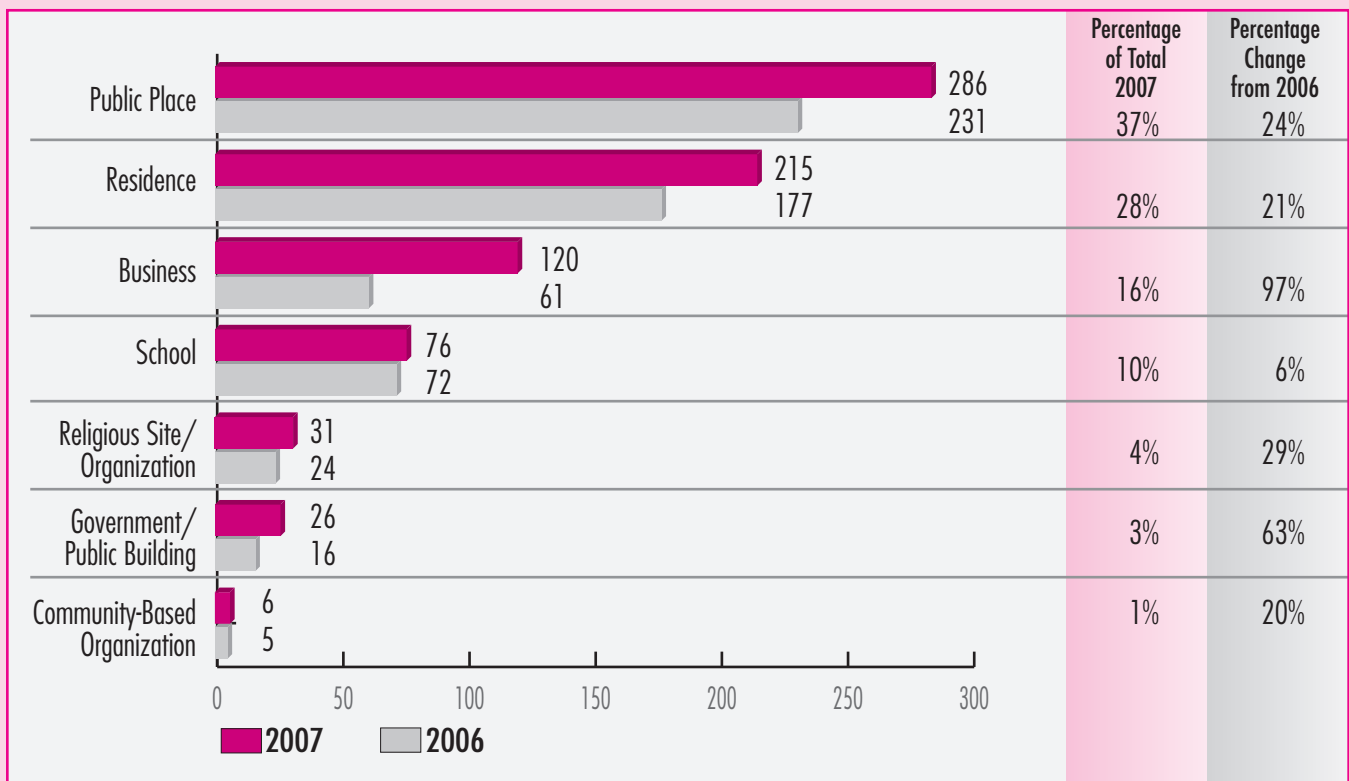
■ **Geographically, hate crimes took place across Los Angeles County**, but the largest numbers were clustered in the Metro, the Antelope Valley, the San Fernando Valley, and South regions. (See Appendix B) ■

Hate Crimes by Motivation



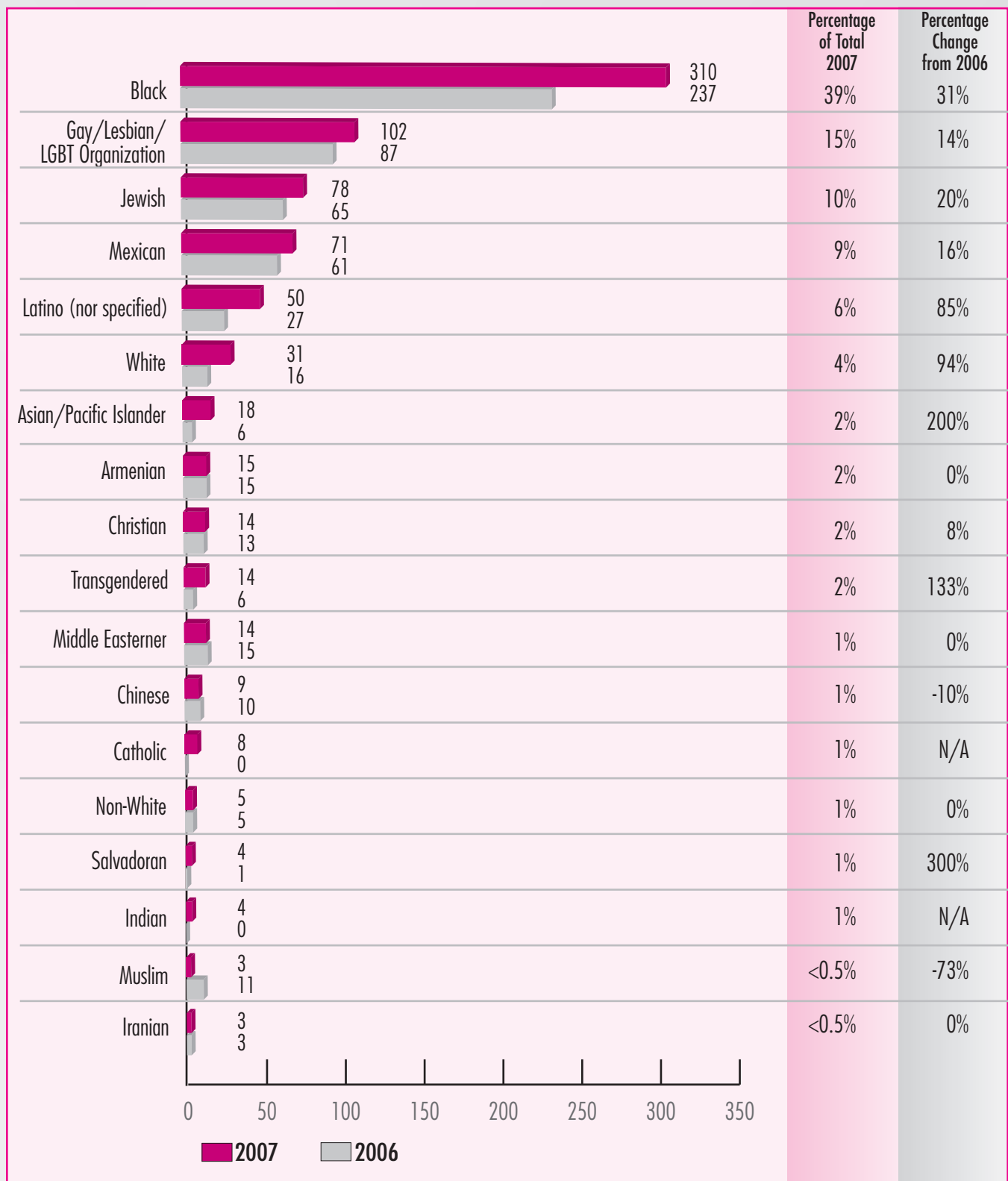
*These were primarily cases of vandalism that used hate symbols and it could not be determined if the crimes were motivated by race, religion, etc.

Locations of Hate Crimes



There were 3 hate crimes in which the location was unknown.

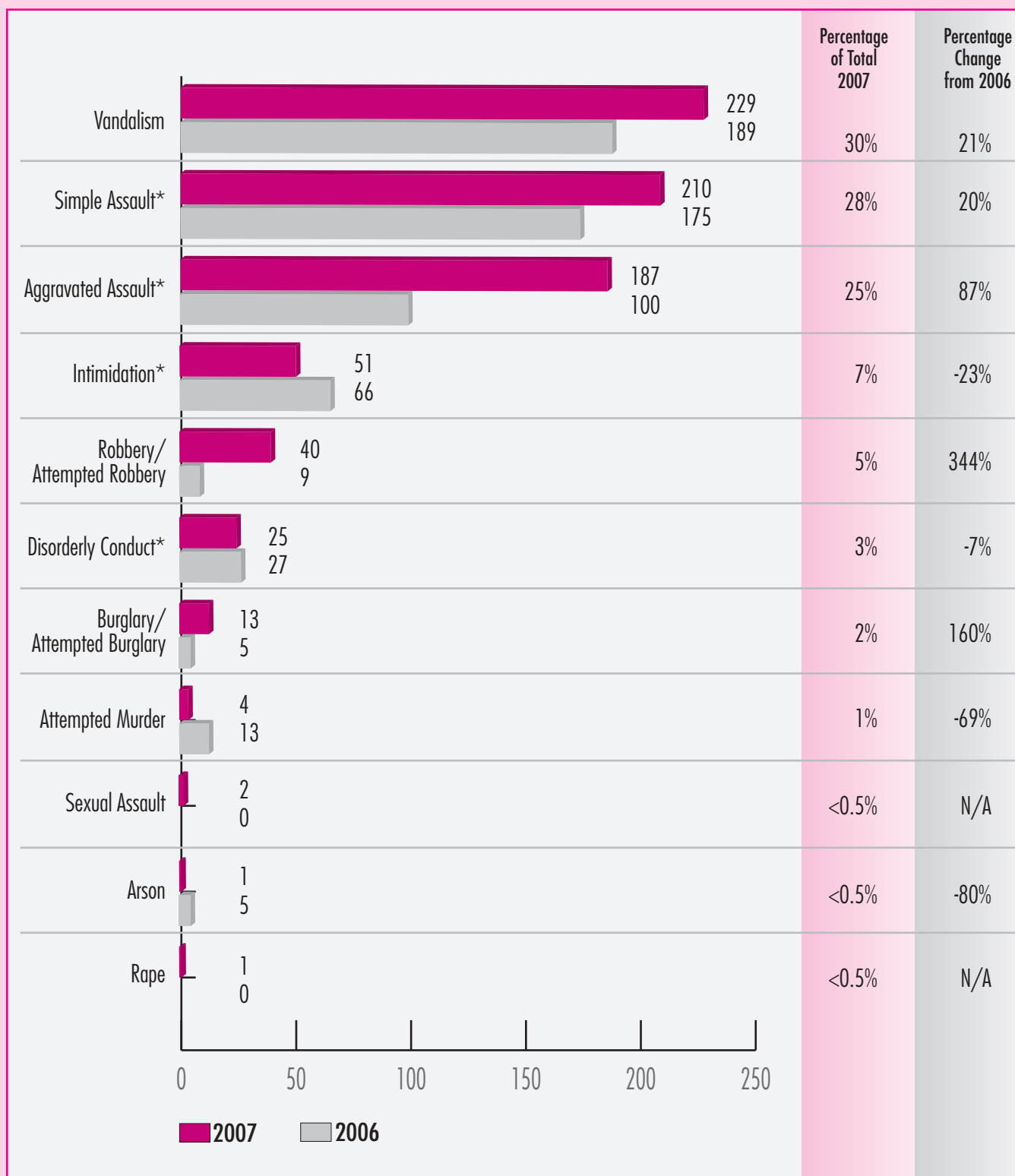
Groups Targeted in Hate Crimes



In 2007, there were single crimes that targeted Africans, females, Germans, the mentally-disabled, Pakistanis, and Samoans. There were two crimes each that targeted French people, Israelis, Koreans, and Mormons.

There were 15 crimes, primarily cases of vandalism, which employed hate symbols (e.g. swastikas) but it could not be determined what group was being targeted.

Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



*As noted in Methodology Section, some criminal offenses are being grouped under different categories. Therefore the numbers for 2006 listed in this chart are different than the numbers published in the 2006 hate crime report.

2007 Hate Crimes in Perspective

Hate crimes rose 28%, the highest number in five years

The year 2007 was not marked by headlines reporting widespread racial clashes in jails, juvenile detention facilities and public schools or high visibility hate crimes that had plagued the county in previous years.

From this, one might easily conclude that hate crimes had declined. In fact, hate crimes rose 28%, totaling 763, the highest number in the past five years. Moreover, hate crimes based on race, sexual orientation and religion rose across the board. Higher numbers of hate crimes were reported that targeted blacks,

Latinos, whites, Asians, Jews, gay men and transgender victims.

This stands in sharp contrast with the general crime rate in Los Angeles County.

Crimes based on race, sexual orientation, and religion all rose

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department reported a 6% reduction in crime overall from 2006 to 2007, and the Los Angeles Police Department reported a 5% decrease.

Even more disturbing, the level of violence rose: violent hate crimes increased from 62% to 65% of the total. Fortunately, there were no hate-motivated murders, and attempted murders declined from 13 to 4. But aggravated assaults increased 87%, and simple assaults rose 20%.

The distribution of hate crimes by motivation was similar to the previous year with racial hate crimes constituting 68% of the total, sexual orientation crimes 14% and religious crimes 13%.

White Supremacist Activity Continues to be Surprisingly High

This is the third year this report is examining the subset of hate crimes committed by white supremacists. Although the suspects may not be actual members of organized hate groups, these crimes evidence signs of white supremacist activity, most often the use of swastikas, white power symbols or slogans. On occasion the suspects proudly identified themselves as members of hate groups by name.

One hundred and thirty-one hate crimes showed such evidence, or 17%, a percentage identical to the previous year.

Some experts estimate that nationally only about five percent of hate crimes are committed by members of hate groups.

There was evidence of white supremacist ideology in 17% of all hate crimes

Many of the hate groups that claim Southern California chapters are not active and only retain a post office box or website. It is likely

that the majority of these crimes are committed by "lone wolves" who operate independently or with groups of friends, rather than members of formal, structured organizations. Sometimes these perpetrators are only connected with hate groups via the internet. In addition, some perpetrators may be young people who are surprisingly ignorant of the full meaning behind the symbols they use in random acts of vandalism at schools or other locations. Sometimes, swastikas are mingled with profanity, or anarchist symbols and target of the graffiti is ambiguous.

Gang rivalry grows into race war

Battle over the drug trade has led to escalating violence in Florence-Firestone.

By SAM QUINONES
Times Staff Writer

As the story goes, the East Coast Crips robbed a Florencia 13 drug connection of a large quantity of dope nearly a decade ago. Since then, the tale of how a black street gang ripped off a Latino rival has taken on mythic proportions.

But to this day police are uncertain if the fabled heist ever occurred.

"You hear so many different stories about this crime," said a Los Angeles police officer.



ROBERT DURELL Los Angeles Times

ONGOING: An employee of a graffiti removal company works on a garage in Florence-Firestone, where a Mexican Mafia order played a key role in escalating racial conflict, authorities say.

because of your color."

of gang-related hate crimes were violent, compared to 75% the previous year. Sharp increases in cases of aggravated assaults (from 24 to 43) and robberies (from 4 to 13) are responsible for the rise in the level of violence.

As distinct from the role of Latinos in overall anti-black crimes, gang members were reported suspects in 21% of racial hate crimes in 2007, compared to 23% in 2006. Ninety-four percent of hate crimes committed by gang members were racially-motivated. Of these, 74 (or 65%) of gang motivated crimes were anti-black. This represented 24% of all anti-black crimes. By contrast, only 25 (or 20%) of gang-related hate crimes were anti-Latino. However, although Latino on black hate crimes are increasing, the percentage of these crimes committed by gang members is declining.

Gangs Remain a Major Factor in Hate Crimes

Hate crimes committed by gang members increased from 105 to 120, a 14% increase. This represents 16% of all hate crimes compared to 18% the previous year. This report classifies as gang-related those crimes in which the suspects admitted their gang affiliation or used the names of gangs or tagging crews in graffiti or tattoos. We do not include

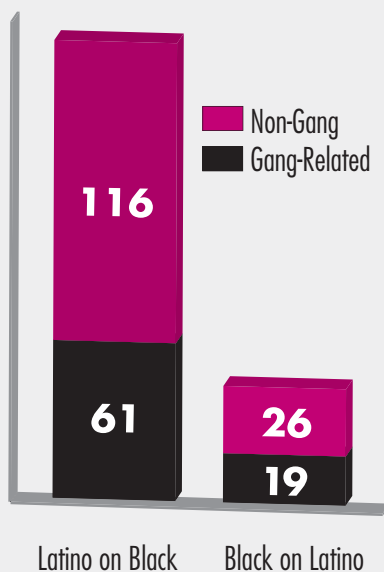
crimes in which solely the appearance of the suspects (e.g. shaved heads, baggy pants, non-gang tattoos) led witnesses to suspect they were gang members. Therefore, the actual number of suspects who were gang members may be higher.

The two attempted hate murders reported in 2007 involved gang members as suspects. Gang-related hate crime grew more violent: 79%

Gang members were suspects in 21% of racial hate crimes

Black-Latino Conflict

Tensions between African Americans and Latinos remained a major factor driving hate crimes. These two groups were the most frequent victims of hate crimes, and the majority of black victims were targeted by Latino suspects and vice versa. While most gang violence occurs within a racial or ethnic group (that is, black-on-black, Latino-on-Latino), Latino gang members were responsible for 34% of Latino on black crimes (see chart). In contrast, gang members were responsible for 42% of black on Latino crimes.



In contrast, black gang members comprise a growing percentage of suspects in anti-Latino crimes. The gangs and tagging crews identified in hate crime reports in 2007 included 12th Street, 18th Street, 204th Street, 238th St. Tiny Winos Clique, American Front Skinheads, Black P-Stones Nation, Bloods, Broadway Gangster Crip, Canoga Park-Alabama clique, Chatsworth Skin, Compton Varrio Setentas, Crazy Riders 13, East Side Longos, El Monte Flores 13, Florencia 13, Gardena 13, Hang Out Boys 13, Hoover

Criminal Gang, La Mirada Locos, Lennox 13, Mara Salvatrucha 13, Maravilla, Locke Street, MTC 13, Nazi Low Riders, NDT, Newhall 13, Orange Street, Paramount Longos, Pasadena Denver Lane Bloods, PJ Watts Crip, Peckerwoods, Rancho Santa Cruz, Rolling 60's Crip, SFT/SFTK, Supreme White Power, The Avenues, The Suicidals, TMF, Tortilla Flats 13, Whittier Varrio Locos, Young Crowd.

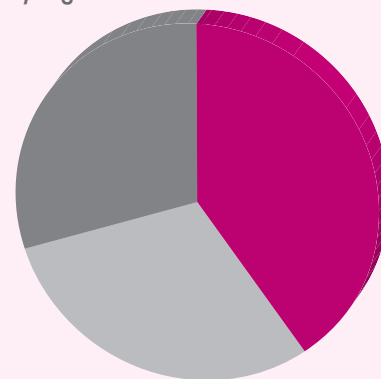
Number of Juvenile Offenders Declines

For hate crimes in which suspects were identified, juveniles decreased slightly from 233 to 226 (a decline of 3%). The previous year juveniles had ballooned 53% because of the large number of youth who

committed racial hate crimes in large groups. Even with this decline, juveniles remain 33% of all offenders, compared to 43% the previous year. Young adult offenders (18-25) rose from 190 to 264, a growth of 39%. They constituted 38% of all suspects. Those suspects over 25 grew 12% from 116 to 201 and represented 29% of all identified suspects.

Typical of each year, males comprised about 9 in 10 of identified suspects in 2007. Of those suspects committing violent hate crimes, males were approximately 90% as well. This is consistent with past years. Overall, male suspects were more likely to commit violent crimes than females, but the violence rates for both males and females aged 18-25 were similar.

Identified Suspects of Hate Crimes by Age

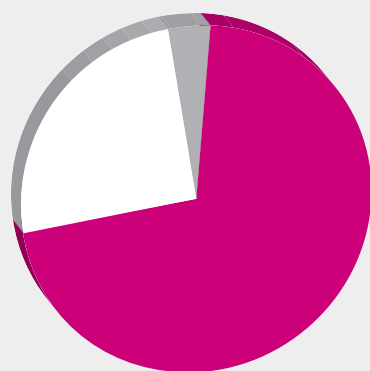


40% 18-25
30% Under 18
30% Over 25

Rise in Group Attacks

For some years, this report has noted that hate crime suspects frequently commit their crimes in groups. Lone individuals were suspects in 46% of hate crimes (compared to 53% the previous year) and 25% were committed by two people (down from 27%).

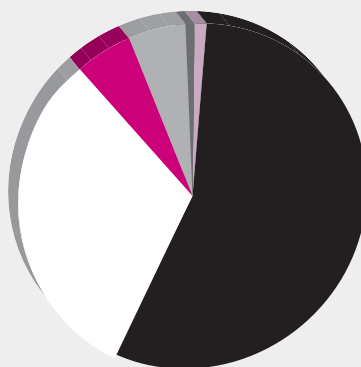
Anti-Black Hate Crime by Suspect's Race/Ethnicity



71% Latino
25% White
8% Multi-Racial

Unidentified suspects committed 72 additional crimes

Anti-Latino Hate Crime by Suspect's Race/Ethnicity



56% Black
32% White
6% Latino
6% Multi Racial
1% American Indian/Alaskan Native
1% Middle Eastern

Unidentified suspects committed 11 additional crimes

There were 155 hate crimes carried out by groups of three or more suspects in 2007

The number of hate crimes carried out by groups of three or more suspects rose by 25% compared to 2006, from 85 to 155. One horrific case involved 16 suspects attacking an Iranian student on his way home from high school. The previous year there were many more crimes committed by even larger groups.

The Challenge of Classifying Racially Motivated Gang Violence

Beginning in 2006, the Pasadena Police Department (PPD) began investigating a series of attacks on individual Latinos by groups of African Americans who were allegedly gang members. Many of the victims were immigrant low-wage workers who were beaten and robbed. Police officials saw many of these crimes as racially motivated, given the pattern of attacks, and since “the act of taking the victim’s property appeared to be an afterthought.” This appeared to be corroborated by

the District Attorney’s Office which also issued public statements about racial animus being a significant factor in the selection of the victims. By August, 2007 PPD had investigated 69 of these crimes and made arrests in the majority of these cases; 56 were reported to PPD in 2006, 19 were reported in 2007.

However, in 2006, the PPD submitted information about only a handful of crimes that fit this profile for inclusion in this report. In 2007, the PPD submitted none. LACCHR

made requests for additional information or clarification. In response, acting PPD Chief of Police Christopher Vicino provided a statement, which in relevant part says that the Pasadena Police Department theorized these crimes as being racially motivated, but “in many of these investigations it was impossible to meet the legal criteria required to submit these cases [to the prosecutors] as hate crimes, as they lacked overt acts by the suspects that would prove race as the motive.”

Hate Crimes Related to Terrorism or Middle East Conflicts

Following the spike in hate crimes after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, this report has examined the subset of hate crimes in which the victims are blamed for acts of terrorism or for ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. In 2007, the number of crimes which fit this profile fell from 25 to 7. However, in addition to these, it is unknown how many of the other ten anti-Middle Easterner and three anti-Muslim crimes reported were also inspired by such vengeful sentiment, but the suspects did not verbally express it.

Four of these crimes were simple assault, and there were single cases of vandalism, aggravated assault and intimidation, constituting a violence rate of 57%.

The slurs invoked in these crimes targeted Middle Easterners three times, and there were single cases in which Jews, Pakistanis and French people were singled out. There was also a case in which a black Muslim cab driver was

attacked by white supremacists who used both racial and religious slurs.

There was also a case in which a black Muslim cab driver was attacked by white supremacist

In one of the odder cases, two realtors met at an open house. When one learned that the other was French, he became enraged and attacked him, yelling, “You guys are pussy chicken bastards!” (referring to France’s opposition to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq). The victim was able to push the suspect out of the home, but he remained in front, shouting and kicking the door.

Among the suspects, three were Latino, two were white and in the remaining cases the race was unknown. ■

Commission Actions to Address Hate Crimes in 2007

The Commission engages in programs, initiatives, and partnerships to prevent and respond to hate crime throughout Los Angeles County. Addressing underlying issues and conditions of intergroup conflict through education, intervention and prevention is critical to a proactive stance against hate crime.

These actions include:

- Working with teens affected by hate crimes and interracial conflict through the *zerohour/No Haters Here!* school-based and community capacity building initiatives.
- Responding to intergroup crises in schools and communities.
- Launching a Racialized Gang Violence Prevention Initiative

that has introduced an innovative 'civic organizing' pilot in Pasadena-Alhambra that engages stakeholders in developing and implementing comprehensive strategies for addressing the root of the problem.

- Holding Network Against Hate Crime meetings with government agencies, law enforcement, community organizations and educators.
- Media Image Coalition's advocacy efforts in the radio, television and film industry.
- Coordinating the Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative.
- Conducting hate crime training, education and outreach.

League has prepared them to conduct peer to peer anti-bias trainings.

On-going human relations education is provided to 5 high schools

- School-wide student-produced 'human relations' themed assemblies such as the visit of Queen Rania of Jordan to Taft High to speak on tolerance and anti-discrimination as part of her global campaign, the second annual Unity Week assembly at Pomona High, and actor Lou Gossett Jr. speaking at Hart High on ERACISM, his non-profit organization to end violence.

Staff also supported:

Working to Institutionalize Human Relations in the Schools

- The **zerohour/No Haters Here!** youth initiative was launched in 2006 to institutionalize human relations in both the curriculum and culture of five high schools that have experienced serious intergroup conflict. On-going human relations education and training is provided to Artesia, Gardena, Grant, Hart, Pomona and Taft high schools. Successful efforts include:

- Full-credit human relations classes being offered at Taft, Artesia, Pomona high schools.
- Leadership development and human relations training through workshops on stereotypes, bias, the cycle of violence, different aspects of identity, and culture and community.
- Retreats where *A World of Difference* training on anti-bias education from the Anti-Defamation

- Parent Action Teams who met regularly and organized parent trainings and workshops.
- Campus Action Teams of zero-hour students at each school, including three such groups at Taft HS (Heart, Peer Mediation, and Spirit Class), who were trained and supported in their student-initiated campus-wide programs such as 'No Name Calling' week, Denim Day, Day of Silence, Cinco de Mayo, African-American History Month and many others.

Promoting Safer Schools and Communities by Engaging in Strategic Collaboration

Working with county agencies, local cities, school districts, law enforcement and community organizations is vital to keeping schools and communities safe from hate.

The **Juvenile Justice Task Force** is a partnership between the Commission, L.A. County Probation Department, Children's Planning Council, Department of Children and Family Services, LAUSD, L.A. City Human Relations Commission, and community organizations covering the west San Fernando Valley.

The Task Force launched three-year pilot projects in 2007 in Pacoima and Van Nuys at Grant and San Fernando High schools, Madison and Maclay Middle schools, and Erwin, Kittridge and Pacoima Charter Elementary schools

The JJTF is designed to prevent youth and families from entering or becoming further entrenched in the juvenile justice system by engaging the community to provide comprehensive prevention and intervention strategies for effective and sustained coordination of city, county, and community health and human resources, services, and information.

Law Enforcement agencies and School Districts reported a decline in hate acts and interracial tensions at Hart and Pomona High schools in reports to the Board of Education and in the media.

For example, school district officials submitted a report to the Hart Union High School governing board that bias related acts motivated by prejudice against another students because of race, religion or sexual orientation decreased by more than 50 percent (from 24 acts during the fall 2007 semester to 52 reported the previous year). Pomona Police Chief Joe Romero was quoted in a *Daily Bulletin* story on the Unity Week assembly saying "[s]omething has definitely changed at Pomona High as calls for service have dropped considerably since the human relations efforts have taken off."

Only one hate crime was reported in the Hart district last year, and none have been reported so far this year. Only four bias-motivated acts were reported in junior highs in Fall 2007, compared to 35 incidents reported in Fall 2006. The one hate crime reported in 2007 was a battery incident by a student who claimed to be a white supremacist.

Monitoring and Contributing to State and Federal Hate Crime Legislation

The Commission monitored the state and federal legislation that improves or strengthens hate crime reporting and enforcement. Staff worked closely with California State Assemblymember

Mike Eng, Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Hate Crimes, to support legislation to strengthen state laws against discrimination or bias towards protected classes.

Teen guilty in racial attack

Assault described as gang initiation

BY MARY FRANCES GURTON
STAFF WRITER

PASADENA — An African-American teenager was found guilty Monday of assaulting a Latino restaurant worker in an attack authorities said followed the pattern of dozens of similar incidents.

In the juvenile division of Pasadena Superior Court, Commissioner Robert Leventer "sustained" a charge of assault against 17-year-old Andre Rawal of Pasadena — the equivalent of a finding of guilt in adult court. Leventer dismissed a robbery charge against Rawal.

The commissioner remanded Rawal to juvenile hall until his probation officer finds what the court called "suitable placement" for him. Leventer said he would likely have remanded the teen to a youth center if he had not been found guilty of the assault.

Bringing Stakeholders Together and Coordinating Inter-Agency Cooperation

The Commission's Network Against Hate Crime hosted three meetings of its countywide network of community organizations, local, state and federal officials, human relations commissions and law enforcement covering:

- The Harbor Gateway murder of Cheryl Green and the Long Beach Halloween night attacks;
- Racial Hate Crimes and Gang Initiation - Focus on Pasadena;
- The white supremacist group, Berdoo Skins;
- The network also hosted Professor Karen Umemoto who discussed her book, *The Truce: Lessons from an L.A. Gang War*, on the gang violence that became a broader community conflict between Blacks and Latinos in Venice-Oakwood at three community forums on racialized gang conflict.

Indictment alleges campaign of racial violence

[Gang, from Page A1] Sheriff's Department sent more than 60 additional deputies to the area and conducted several mass arrests aimed at reducing racial violence. The district attorney's office devoted a special prosecutor to handle only Florence-Firestone homicides for two years.

Last year, homicides plummeted to 19.

Another piece of the stepped-up law enforcement effort was the undercover investigation. Officials said Tuesday that they had determined that 80 shootings since early 2005 had resulted from the gang violence.

In some cases, African Americans with no gang ties were caught up in the violence, prosecutors said. "In their attempt to intimidate African Americans in the community, they targeted innocent citizens," said U.S. Atty. Thomas P. O'Brien.

In one instance, an African American couple were robbed at gunpoint by gang members who were trying to send a message, prosecutors say. In another, a man was shot on Florence Ave.

"that all the F13 cliques were participating in the assaults of African American rival gang members," the indictments say.

Florence-Firestone is a collection of factories, stucco homes and mom-and-pop stores that has gone through dramatic demographic changes every 15 to 20 years since it formed in the early 1990s.

Poor Southern whites, middle-class blacks and poor Southern blacks have all entered Southern California via short stays in Florence-Firestone.

In the late 1980s, the neighborhood was about 80% African American. But most black residents have moved away. Today, the area is 90% Latino — mostly Mexican immigrants.

"The last five years has been the greatest influx" of Latinos, said Pastor Chris LeGrande of the Great Hope Fellowship of Faith on Compton Avenue, one of Florence-Firestone's largest black churches.

African Americans and Latinos are often separated by language and culture, and frequently compete for the same jobs. The area has two parks: Washington Park is used mostly by blacks; Roosevelt Park to the north is used mostly by Latinos.



AREA: Members and associates of the Florence 13, or F13, gang are accused of trying to drive their black rivals from the Florence-Firestone neighborhood, north of Watts.

Chamber of Commerce. "It's not just the children; it's that we've taught this to children. . . [We] respect each other, but there's not much closeness."

Sheriff Lee Baca said Tuesday that Florence's violence was notable given the fact that gang violence in Los Angeles in gen-

the early 1970s.

Authorities this year have vowed to focus more attention on race-motivated crimes involving gangs. The push started after a 14-year-old black girl was shot and killed last year, allegedly by members of a Latino gang, in the Harbor Gateway section of Los

of assaults and killings in the early 1990s targeting blacks in Highland Park.

Researchers who study homicides say, however, that such killings are unusual. A recent study by researchers at UC Irvine used data from the four precincts of the LAPD's South Bureau on homicides between 2000 and 2006 and found that black offenders were nearly eight times more likely to kill another black person than to kill a Latino, and Latino offenders were nearly twice as likely to kill another Latino.

A Times analysis of crime data earlier this year found that the vast majority of violent crimes in the city of Los Angeles involved assailants and victims of the same race. Last year, there were more than 2,700 black-on-black or Latino-on-Latino incidents, compared with slightly more than 500 interracial attacks.

The indictments unveiled Tuesday charged 81 Florence gang members and associates with a variety of felonies, including weapons violations, drug sales and conspiracy to commit murder. More than a dozen of the suspects were in custody on earlier charges, and 11 defendants are still at large. Many charges give prosecutors the option to

Florence 13

- Founded in the early 1990s around Florence Avenue in the Florence-Firestone area.
- Has at least 30 cliques, or subsets.
- Has more than 2,000 members.
- Is active in about three square miles in and around the unincorporated neighborhood.
- Is controlled by senior members, some of whom are also members and associates of the Mexican Mafia, a prison gang.

Sources: Federal prosecutors, L.A. County Sheriff's Department

Despite the gang tensions, many in Florence-Firestone say residents of different races get along for the most part and see a common enemy in the criminals.

But LeGrande, the pastor, said some residents worried that the thugs would widen their war beyond other gangs.

"At one time parents would say, 'Stay away from the gang and we'll be OK,' he said. 'Now you don't have to be in a gang.'"

Providing Training

Hate crime and diversity training was provided to law enforcement agencies; city officials, commissions, agencies; and at conferences including the Commission's Corporate Advisory Commission and seven non-profit community organizations that support our

Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative.

The Commission also carried out hate crime trainings to Culver City Commission on Parks, Recreation and Community Services, graduate psychology students at Alliant International University, San Fernando

Valley Hate Crimes Alliance, Long Beach hate crime response team, Association for Criminal Justice Research (California) conference, L.A. County's annual Diversity Conference, and the Lesbian and Gay Psychotherapy Associations annual conference.

Providing Hate Crime Assistance, Education and Outreach

The Commission established a Hate Crimes Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative in 2000 in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center, Muslim Public Affairs Council, South Asian Network and Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The partners:

- Provided assistance to over 200 victims of hate, discrimination or bias-crimes and non-crimes.
- Organized several hundred hate crime education and training programs in targeted communities.

- Promoted and/or distributed several thousand hate crime awareness resources and materials in multiple languages.

Staff built relationships between groups and communities in conflict across L.A. County

Staff responded to dozens of hate crimes or incidents, racialized gang violence and community/school intergroup crises following brawls, shootings or deaths by offering various services and support to address the initial incident and subsequent community response. ■

Addressing Stereotypes in the Media

The Commission's Media Image Coalition co-sponsored a screening of "Freedom Writers" at Paramount Studios for zerohour students, followed by a panel discussion on 'media images' and 'diversity in the film industry' with actors from the film.

A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes in 2007

Crimes based on the victim's real or perceived race, ethnicity or national origin (which are referred to as simply "racial hate crimes" in this report) increased 32% in 2007 from 405 to 535 and grew as a percentage of all hate crimes, from 63% to 68%. Crimes targeting African Americans, Latinos, Asians, and whites all rose.

Rates of Victimization

Consistent with previous years, anti-black crimes were not only by far the most numerous but also increased 21% compared to 2006. Although African Americans constitute only 9% of the total population in Los Angeles County, they represented 58% (310) of reported racial hate crime victims. Anti-Latino crimes grew 39% from 89 to 125. There were 35 anti-Asian crimes (up 17%), 31 anti-white (up 94%) and 15 anti-Middle Easterner (up 15%). Anti-Armenian (15) remained the same.

Racial hate crimes in general, and anti-black crimes in particular, have grown steadily as a proportion of all hate crimes since 2001.

Criminal Offenses

There were no murders and four attempted murders in 2007, an improvement compared to two murders and 13 attempted murders reported the previous year.

There were 157 aggravated assaults,

151 simple assaults, 133 cases of vandalism, and 40 intimidation crimes. This represented significant increases in the numbers of aggravated assaults (89%) and simple assaults (23%). Overall, 71% of racial hate crimes were violent compared to 67%* the previous year.

2007 Attempted Murders

- In Inglewood, a Latino neighbor stabbed his African American neighbor in the stomach after being ejected from a party for fighting. He shouted, "I'm going to kill the Nigga!" and continued to use racial slurs after police arrested him.

- In Bassett (an unincorporated area) a black man shot a Latino man in the head with a 12 gauge shotgun.

- At Men's Central Jail in downtown Los Angeles, three Latino inmates choked their black cell mate with a sock and bashed his head, while yelling the name of their gang, "Southsider."

- In Pacoima, a Latino gang member stabbed an Asian man in the neck during a house party. The victim was standing with his girlfriend in the home's driveway when the suspect stabbed him multiple times without provocation.

Location

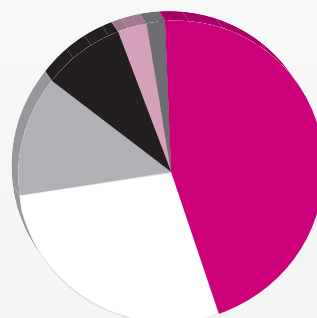
Thirty-nine percent of racial hate crimes took place in public places, 27% in residences, 16% in businesses and 11% at schools. This distribution is similar to 2006.

Differences in Levels of Violence

Anti-Latino crimes were the most likely to be violent (85%) followed closely by anti-white crimes (81%). 70% of anti-black crimes were violent, as were 60% of anti-Middle Easterner, 47% of anti-Armenian and 43% of anti-Asian crimes. Compared to the previous year, the rates of violence rose for all these groups except for Asians, which declined, and Armenians, which remained the same.

*Due to changes in methodology (see page 27), the 2006 violence rates cited in this report will be different than those our previously published 2006 report.

Los Angeles County Population by Race/Ethnicity



47% Latino
29% White (Non-Latino)
13% Asian/Pacific Islander
9% Black
3% Middle Eastern
2% Armenian

2007 Racial Hate Crime: Who is Targeting Whom?

TARGETED GROUP:	Armenian	African American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Latino	Middle Eastern	White
SUSPECT:						
American Indian/Alaskan Native	-	-	-	1	-	-
Asian/Pacific Islander	-	1	-	-	1	3
African American	1	-	-	64	1	10
Latino	4	170	13	6	3	12
Middle Eastern	-	-	-	1	-	-
White	2	59	7	36	2	1
Multi Racial Group	-	8	3	6	-	1
Unknown	8	72	12	11	8	9
Total	15	310	35	125	15	36

Victim-Suspect Correlations

Here are the largest suspect racial groups involved in each targeted victim group.

There were clear patterns in the races of victims and suspects:

Anti-black crimes: 71% of suspects were Latino and 25% were white.

Anti-Latino crimes: 56% of suspects were black and 32% were white.

Anti-Asian Pacific crimes: 57% of suspects were Latino and 30% were white.

Anti-white crimes: 44% of suspects were Latino and 37% were black.

Anti-Armenian crimes: 57% of suspects were Latino and 29% were white.

Anti-Middle Eastern crimes: 43% were Latino, 29% were white and 14% were black.

ACTUAL CASES

February 16, 2007 - Venice Beach

At a skate park on the grounds of a church, three white teenagers attacked two African-American boys. As the victims walked past, one of the suspects said "Look at those niggers... What are you going to do niggers?" During the ensuing fight, one of the suspects hit one of the victims in the head with a crutch.

May 7, 2007 - North Hollywood

Four African American males attacked a 22-year-

old white male with metal pipes. The victim was walking through an alley when he heard one of the suspects shout, "Hey white boy!" The suspects then chased the victim and beat him repeatedly with the pipes until he was able to escape.

May 20, 2007 - Glendale

A Latino male victim was ambushed in an alleyway by three Armenian males who beat him unconscious after they yelled "Armenian power!

Fuck wetbacks and beaners!"

December 3, 2007 - North Hollywood

A Korean woman walked past a group of 11 Latino youth when she heard them say, "Ching ching ching." The woman told them to shut up and walked away. As she walked away, the suspects chased her and threw a rock and water at her.

Cont. page 19

Hate crime ring said broken

Police still searching for fourth suspect in spree

BY FRANK C. GIRARDOT
STAFF WRITER

TEMPLE CITY — Authorities said Thursday they believe they broke up a ring responsible for several violent hate crimes with the arrest of a third teenager on Wednesday.

The latest arrest in connection with the crime spree was Temple City resident Christopher "CJ"

Mitcheltree, 18, who turned himself in Wednesday.

Previously arrested were Robert Yankowsky, 18, and Joshua Carlson, 17, both of Temple City. Yankowsky was arrested on July 19. Carlson was arrested on June 1, according to sheriff's deputies. Carlson and Richard Alexander, 17, of Temple City are facing charges as adults in the case, according to court records.

Alexander remained at large Thursday, authorities said.

Sources close to the investigation said detectives continued to explore connections the group might have to the murder of Deandre Netter, who was killed on July 25 in a drive-by shooting.

None of the teens arrested is a person of interest or suspect in the Netter case, those sources said.

Arrest warrants were

issued for Phillip Adrian Guerra and Christopher Gilbert Lopez, both 18 and from Temple City, sheriff's officials said. Both are wanted in connection with Netter's killing.

In the hate crime cases, seven of the nine allegations against the arrested teens carry hate crime enhancements, according to officials and court documents.

believes evidence will show that this group had a bias toward an African-American," said Jane Robinson, spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County District attorney's Office. "They targeted African-Americans for their attacks."

The three teens arrested described themselves to investiga-



For a video, visit our Web site at www.pasadenastarnews.com

"What's kind of ironic is that these kids all went to high school together," Keeling said. "And they all

Anti-Immigrant Hate Crimes

Despite the continued heated public debate about immigration, the number of crimes in which specific anti-immigrant comments were made, such as, "Go back to your country," decreased slightly from 42 to 39. Ninety-two percent of these crimes were violent, a slight decrease from the previous year. The largest number (49%) occurred in public places, but 36% occurred in businesses and 10% in residences.

These crimes were overwhelmingly anti-Latino (92%). There were also lone cases in which anti-Asian and anti-Middle Eastern slurs were used. The majority of these crimes (66%) were committed by whites and 26% of the suspects were black. The previous year black suspects who made anti-immigrant statements outnumbered whites.

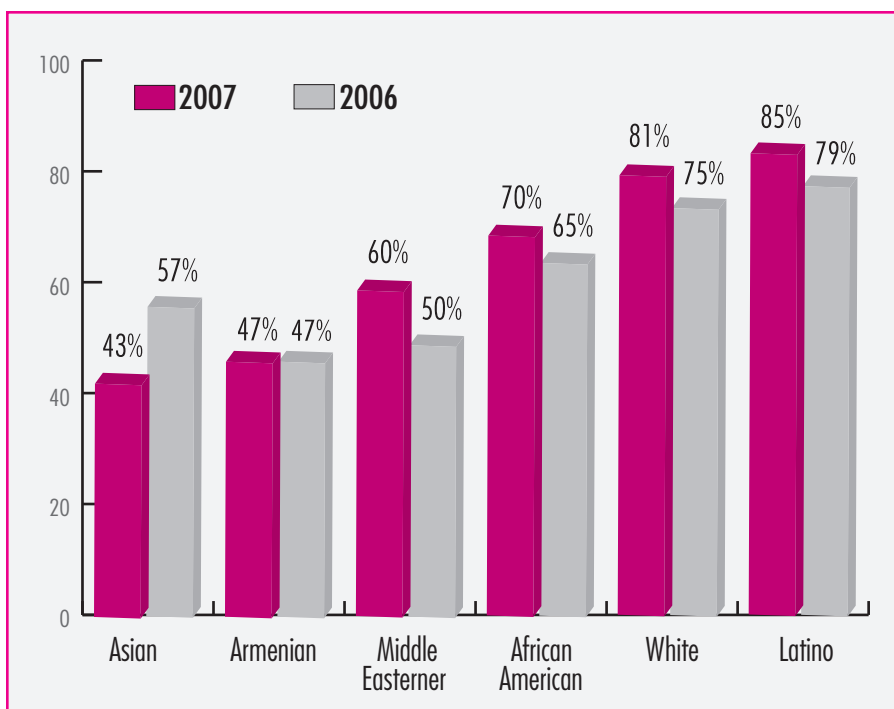
It is important to note that many other racial crimes may also be inspired

by anti-immigrant animus but it may not be explicitly verbalized.

92% of Anti-Immigrant Hate Crimes were violent

For example, a suspect who assaults a Latino victim while yelling, "Dirty Mexican!" may hate immigrants as much as one who specifically shouts, "Go back to where you came from!"

Targeted Groups by Rate of Violence* for Racial Hate Crimes

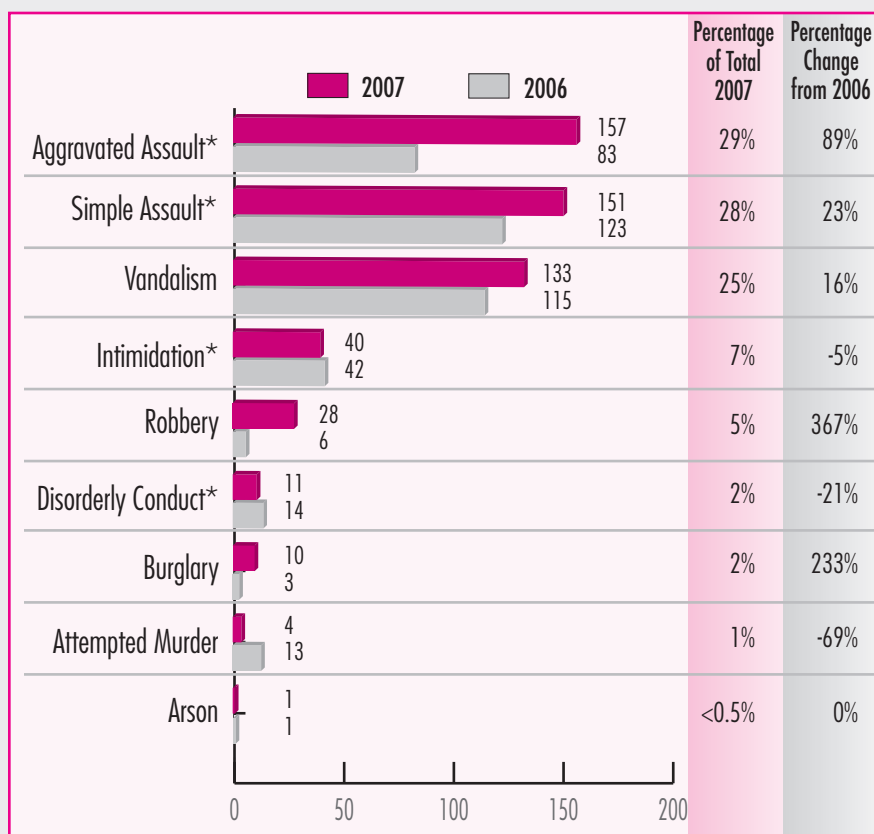


*Due to changes in methodology (see page 27), the 2006 violence rates cited in this report will be different than those our previously published 2006 report.

Anti-Interracial Relationship Crimes

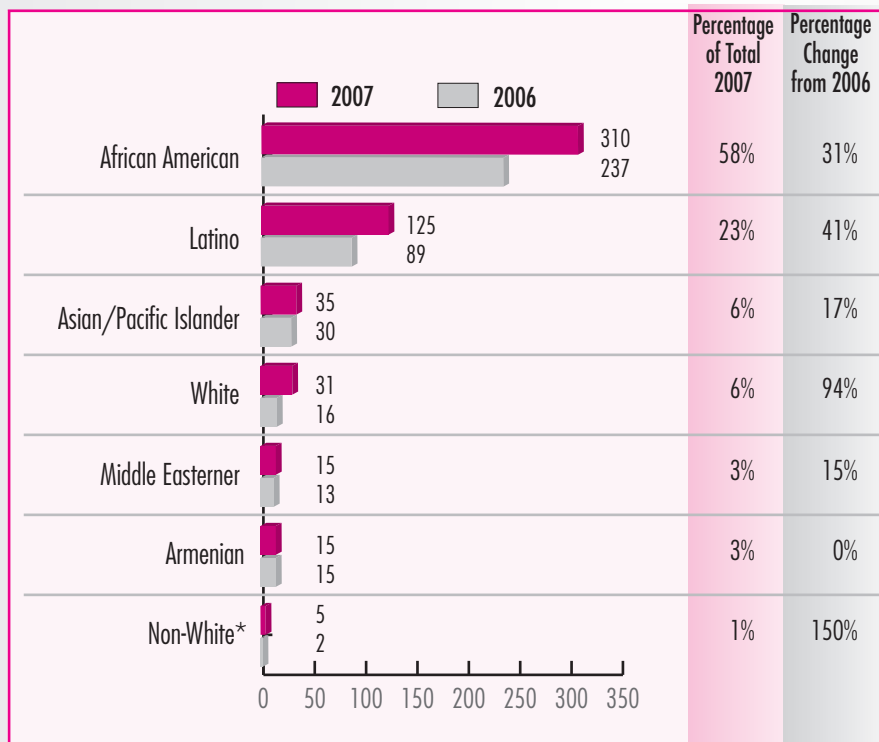
Crimes targeting inter-racial couples or racially-mixed friends rose dramatically from 11 to 31. The percentage of these crimes which were violent grew from 64% to 68%. One of these crimes was anti-Latino in nature, a second was anti-Asian and the remainder were anti-black. More than half of these cases involved Latino males who attacked or terrorized Latinas who had black husbands or boyfriends. This pattern is different from previous years, where the majority of cases involved white males attacking white females with black husbands or boyfriends. ■

Racial Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



*As noted in Methodology Section, some criminal offenses are being grouped under different categories. Therefore, the numbers for 2006 listed in this chart are different than the numbers published in the 2006 hate crime report.

Racial Hate Crimes by Known Targeted Group



This table aggregates crimes targeting various Asian, Latino and Middle Eastern groups. Middle Easterner also includes Iranian and Israeli. In 2007 there were single crimes in which the targeted groups were African or German, and two crimes targeting the French. *Crimes targeting non-whites involved white power symbols but the exact target was not known.

ACTUAL CASES

March 31, 2007 – La Puente

Three African-American males were sitting outside an apartment complex when a car pulled up. The Latino driver pointed a revolver at them and said "Where are you from?" They turned to run but were confronted by two additional Latino suspects who pulled revolvers from their waistbands and shot at them. The suspects chased the victims, caught one and severely beat him with a chair. The next day at the complex, a Latina victim who knew the victims in the earlier case, was sitting in her car holding her young daughter. A Latino male suspect approached the car, pulled her hair and placed a hard object against her temple that the victim believed was a gun. He told her, "You nigger lover! You and your nigger friends better move out or you and your daughter are gonna get hurt."

May 11, 2007 – South Los Angeles

Seven African American juvenile suspects beat, tried to rob, and spat on two Latino adult victims. The victims were walking down the street when the suspects approached them on their bikes. One of the suspects shouted "Fuck Mexicans!" as the suspects dismounted and surrounded the victims. The suspects attacked. When one of the victims tried to call the police, they fled. A witness reported that the youth had a history of robbing Latinos. While in the custody of police the suspects admitted to being members of the Hoover gang.

July 17, 2007 – Azusa

Two Latino middle school students beat a developmentally disabled African American student on a school bus. The suspects were sitting behind the victim and slapped him on the back of his neck while calling him "nigger" and "mayate". The victim pushed one of the suspects in self defense. The suspects then punched him multiple times in the face. The victim later reported that the suspects had a history of calling him racial slurs.

May 2, 2007 – Watts

A 22-year-old African American male screamed, "Fuck all Mexicans! Fuck all Mexicans! I'm going to kill them all!" He then randomly assaulted two Latinos, aged 5 and 19, with rocks.

May 15, 2007 – Sylmar

An African American male rode his bike up to a Latino male, shouted, "I hate you fucking Mexicans!" and struck him with a pad lock. ■

A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes

Hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation increased 9% in 2007 from 102 to 111.

As in 2006, the overwhelming number of these crimes targeted gay men (92%). Eight percent of these crimes targeted lesbians.

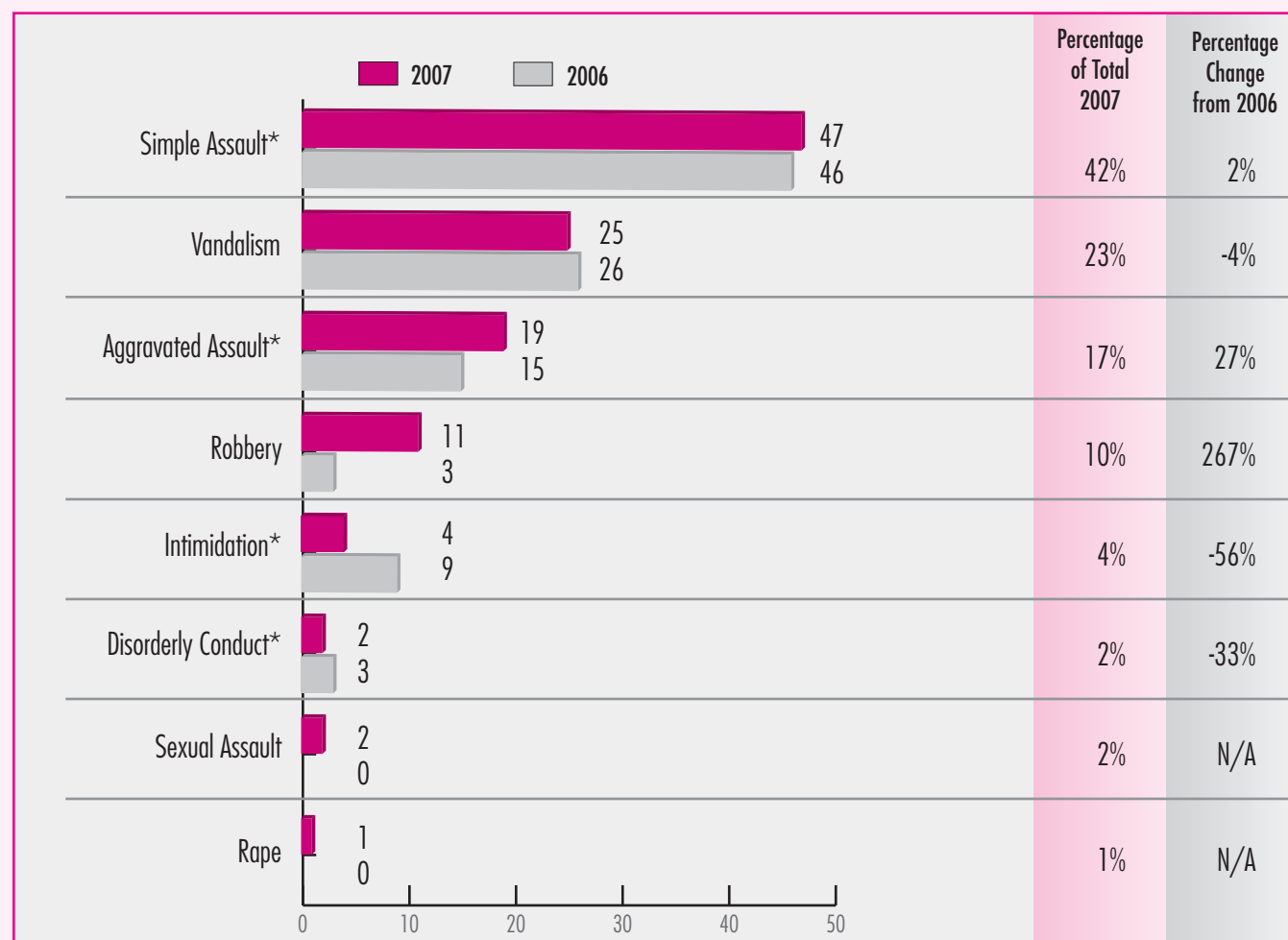
Consistent with the previous year,

76% of these crimes were violent; a percentage higher than either racial (71%) or religious (25%) crimes. 42% of these crimes were simple assaults, 23% were cases of vandalism, 17% were aggravated assaults, and only 4% were cases of intimidation. The biggest change in criminal offenses was an

increase in the number of robberies from 3 to 11.

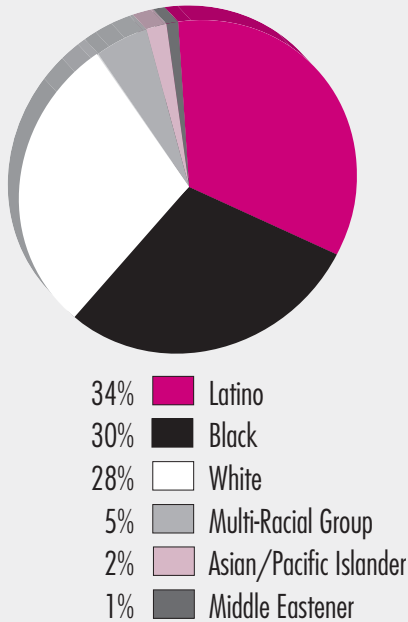
In past years, whites were the largest group of victims in these crimes. However, in 2007, Latinos constituted 42% of the victims, followed by whites (38%), blacks (14%) and Asians (6%).

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



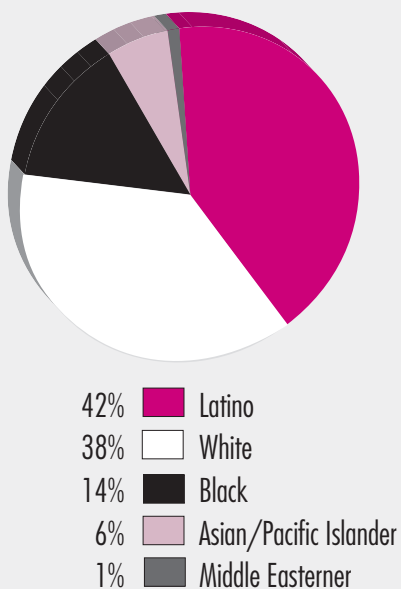
*As noted in Methodology Section, some criminal offenses are being grouped under different categories. Therefore the numbers for 2006 listed in this chart are different than the numbers published in the 2006 hate crime report.

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Known Suspect Race/Ethnicity



Unidentified suspects were involved in 23 additional crimes

Victims of Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Race/Ethnicity



Victims of sexual orientation hate crimes have been most often attacked by suspects of the same race. In 2007, however, in cases in which the suspect was identified, white victims were victimized by Latinos as frequently as by other whites (39%), and 21% by blacks. Forty-nine percent of Latino victims were targeted by other Latinos, 37% by blacks and 23% by whites. For black victims, a much higher percentage (75%) were attacked by members of their same race, 25% by Latinos and

17% whites. Among Asian victims, half of the suspects were Asian and half were white.*

49% of Latino victims were targeted by other Latinos

Crimes motivated by sexual orientation occurred most frequently in public places (50%), followed by residences (29%), and businesses (17%). ■

ACTUAL CASES

February 28, 2007 – Whittier

Three Latino students attacked another Latino student in the boys bathroom of a high school gymnasium. The victim was changing out of his color guard uniform. During the beating the suspects said, "Why do you have to be like that?" and called the victim "Fucking faggot!"

July 1, 2007 – West Hollywood

Two Asian male victims were struck repeatedly in the face by two white male suspects who yelled, "Fucking faggots! I hate you mother fuckers."

July 2, 2007 – Norwalk

Three Latino men were leaving a residence when they were confronted by a Latino male suspect who appeared to be intoxicated. The

suspect called them "Faggots" and followed them to their vehicle. He continued to verbally harass them and stood in front of the car to prevent them from leaving. When the owner of the vehicle stated that he was going to call police, the suspect threw a 40 oz. bottle of beer cracking the windshield.

June 4, 2007 – South Los Angeles

Two black males and two black females attacked two Latina lesbians waiting at a bus stop. The suspects drove up in a van and told the victims "Fuck you bitches! Bunch of gay bitches! What's up? I'm going to get out and hit you lesbian bitches. Let me see you smile one more time before I hit you in your mouth!" The suspects then exited their vehicle and beat up the victims. ■

* The reason that some of these figures do not add up to 100% is because some of the victims were attacked by groups of mixed race suspects.

Note: Anti-transgender hate crime is not counted in this section. Consistent with state law, anti-transgender attacks are classified in this report as gender-based hate crimes.

A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes

Hate crimes motivated by the victim's actual or perceived religion grew 17%, increasing from 90 in 2006 to 105 in 2007. As in previous years, they were overwhelmingly anti-Jewish (74%). Thirteen percent targeted Protestants, eight percent were anti-Catholic and three percent were anti-Muslim

As in the past, only a fraction of these crimes (25%) were violent. Sixty-three percent were acts of vandalism, ten percent were simple assault and ten percent were intimidation.

Religious hate crimes were overwhelmingly anti-Jewish

The largest number of religious crimes (39%) occurred in residences. It is often assumed that religious crimes primarily target synagogues, mosques, and other houses of worship. In fact, only 24% took place at religious sites. Crimes that target individuals where they live can be assumed to be particularly distressing to the

victims because most people probably believe that they are safest in their homes. Fourteen percent of crimes occurred at businesses and the same number in public places. Twelve percent took place in schools.

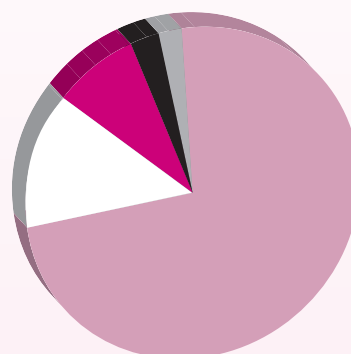
In 78% of religious crimes, no suspect was identified. The high percentage of unidentified suspects is due to the fact that most religious hate crimes are cases of vandalism, threatening calls and e-mails, and bomb threats which do not

involve face-to-face acts. In such cases, it is nearly impossible to identify suspects in terms of race or ethnicity, approximate age, etc.

Suspects were not identified in 78% of religious hate crimes

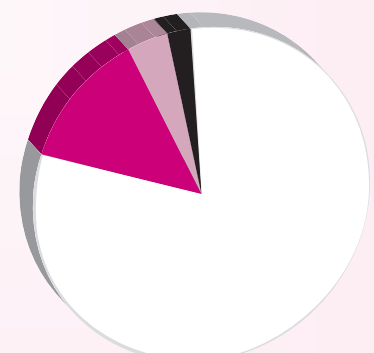
Of the 26 suspects who were identified, the majority (80%) were white and most (54%) were adults over the age of 25. ■

Religious Hate Crimes by Targeted Group



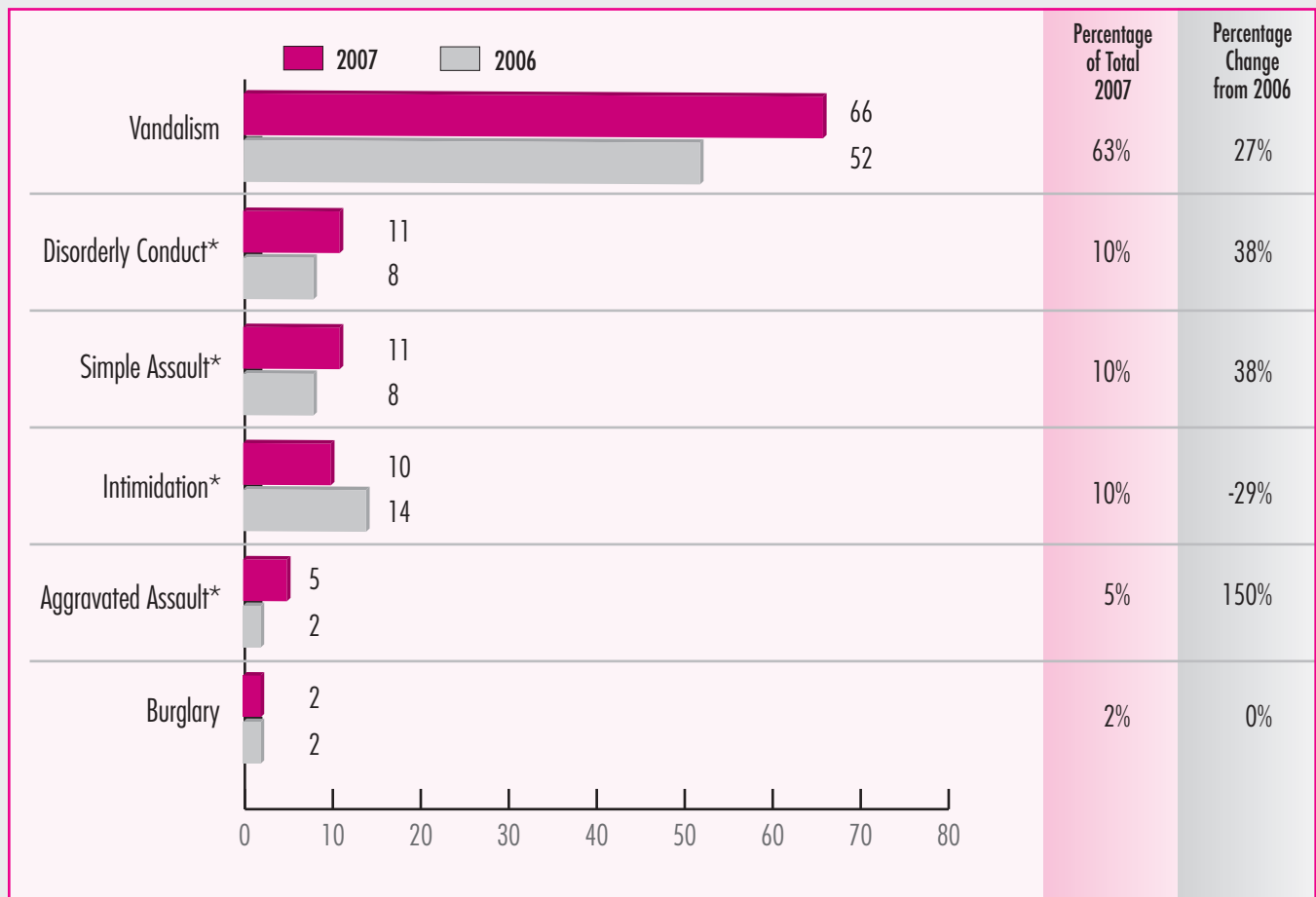
74% Jewish
13% Christian
8% Catholic
3% Muslim
2% Mormon

Victims of Religious Crimes by Known Race/Ethnicity



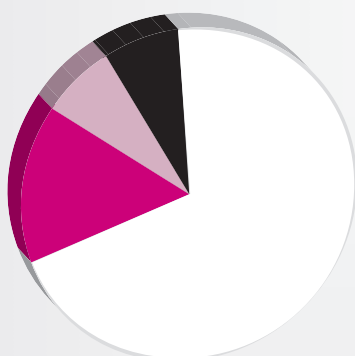
82% White
13% Latino
4% Middle Easterner
2% Black

Religious Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



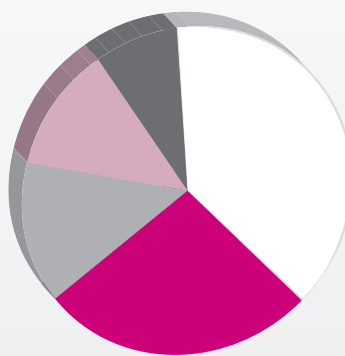
*As noted in Methodology Section, some criminal offenses are being grouped under different categories. Therefore the numbers for 2006 listed in this chart are different than the numbers published in the 2006 hate crime report.

Religious Hate Crimes by Known Suspect Race/Ethnicity



70% White
15% Latino
7% Middle Eastener
7% Black

Religious Hate Crimes by Location



39% Residence
27% Religious Site
14% Business
12% School
8% Other

Unidentified suspects were involved in 78 additional crimes

ACTUAL CASES

January 1, 2007 - San Dimas

Unknown suspects egged and threw toilet paper on a Jewish family's house. The suspect called the victim repeatedly soon after the incident and on the third call said "You Jew! It's going to be the Holocaust all over again."

April 8, 2007 - Glendale

A devout Catholic woman discovered her car had been vandalized by someone who used a marker to write "666," a swastika, and "Anarchy." The suspect also slashed the victim's tires. The victim may have been singled out because she has a Jesus bumper sticker on her car.

September 17, 2007 - Beverly Hills

An unknown suspect drew a swastika on the wall of a Jewish family's home. They may have been targeted because they mounted a mezuzah on their door frame. There were two other similar acts of vandalism that same week in Beverly Hills.

A Closer Look at Gender and Disability Crimes

Transgender victims were targets in the great majority of gender-based crimes

Gender Hate Crimes

Hate crime motivated by gender in LA County more than doubled in 2007 from 7 to 15. One of those crimes was anti-female and involved a Latina elementary school teacher who found graffiti including the word, “bitch” and a drawing of a vagina on her classroom door and wall. The other 14 victims were singled out because of gender identity.*

Of the 14 anti-transgender crimes, male-to-female transgender women were targets in nine cases. In an additional case, a woman waiting at a food catering truck was beaten by three males suspects for wearing traditionally male clothing. A man and a woman both tried to intervene and protect the victim and were also attacked, one with a glass bottle. In a final case, a man punched a lesbian in the face because her partner was dressed in men’s clothing and the suspect observed the two kissing.

All of the gender-identity crimes were violent. Since this report began tracking rates of violence by motivation and targeted

groups, transgender hate crime victims have experienced the highest rates of violence of any group (with the exception of 2006). In 2007, these crimes included six simple assaults and batteries, five aggravated assaults, two robberies, and a rape.

All gender-identity hate crimes were violent

In the gender identity crimes, seven of the victims were Latino, five were white, one was black and one was unidentified. The majority of the suspects were Latino and in one strange case, two gay Latino men confronted two Latina transgender women in front of a night club, yelling, “This is a gay

club! You are not welcome!” The victims tried to escape by crossing the street but the suspects followed, maced, and struck the victims with a club.

Nearly all of the anti-transgender crimes occurred in public places and nearly half of the victims were attacked in locations known as congregating points for sex workers.

Disability Hate Crime

There was a lone hate crime that targeted the disabled. A Latino suspect kicked a white mentally-disabled male victim at a bus stop, calling him “retard.” The suspect had been harassing the victim for several months. ■

**Transgender people are individuals whose appearance or behavior does not conform to society’s expectations of traditional male and female roles. They strongly identify with a gender other than the one they were assigned at birth, and may “cross dress,” or modify their appearance with hormones, surgery, or other procedures. It is common for homophobic slurs to be used during the commission of these offenses. In general, the lines between gender- and sexual orientation-motivated hate crimes are blurred because homophobia and hostility to non-traditional gender identity are closely related.*

Stabbing suspect surrenders

By FRANK C. GIRARDOT
STAFF WRITER

Teen to face charges in alleged hate crime

TEMPLE CITY — A teenager believed to be involved in a May stabbing outside a Carl's Jr. restaurant, which authorities suspect was a hate crime, turned himself in on Wednesday, officials said.

Christopher "CJ" Mitcheltree, 18, of Temple City is being held in lieu of \$1 million bail on suspicion of attempted murder, said Los Angeles County sheriff's Deputy Christopher Keeling of the Sheriff's Hate Crime Task Force.

Besides the attempted murder charge,

and a hate crime enhancement, Mitcheltree, who is white, is accused of participating in an unrelated assault and two robberies in Temple City, Keeling said.

"In the Carl's Jr. case, the suspect apparently had no other beef with the victim other than, 'I don't like them because they are black,'" Keeling said. "All indications are the victim was targeted."

A second man, identified as Yankowski, 19, of Temple City, is being held in connection with the May 25 stabbing of Don Meyer, 20, of Temple City at the Carl's Jr. on Las Tunas Drive, Keeling said.

Yankowski was arrested last week on unrelated charges, Keeling said.

An unidentified juvenile, also suspected of participating in the crime, has been in custody since June, Keeling said.

A second juvenile, also unidentified, is being sought.

The case against Mitcheltree was filed by deputies with the District Attorney's Hate Crime Division, Keeling said.

The four suspects in the stabbing are suspected of being part of a group that actively targeted victims based on race, Keeling said.

"But, the name of the group has yet to be identified," Keeling said.

Meanwhile, homicide detectives said Wednesday they think they know who killed a San Gabriel teenager in a drive-by shooting on Golden West Avenue last week, and they are asking the DA to file charges.

Mitcheltree was not identified as a person of interest in the shooting, sheriff's Detective Dan McElderry said Wednesday.

Staff Writer 17, www.losangeles.com

Hate Crime Prosecutions in 2007

Of those hate crimes in Los Angeles County which are referred for prosecution, the District Attorney's Office prosecutes the great majority. In 2007, law enforcement agencies referred 188 hate crimes to the District Attorney's Office, compared to 152 in 2006. Charges were filed in 167 cases in 2007, compared to 129 the previous year. Adults were charged in 85 of these cases and juveniles in 82. In the adult cases, 74 were charged with felonies and 11 with misdemeanors. Of those crimes, 59% were racial, 11% were based on sexual orientation and there were single crimes motivated by religion and disability.

There were 32 cases referred to the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney, which by law handles only misdemeanors. Sixteen of those were filed as hate crimes and three were filed without hate crime enhancements. The largest number of these were racially-

motivated (65%) and there were smaller numbers of crimes based on religion (26%), gender (6%) and sexual orientation (3%).

Charges were filed in 167 cases in 2007, compared to 129 the previous year.

The U.S. Attorney's Office generally only prosecutes hate crimes in which the criminal offense violates a federal law. Only one such crime was tried in 2007, the same as in 2006. A white man was charged with sending a series of racially abusive and threatening e-mails and text-messages to an African-American woman who was the former roommate of his girlfriend. He pled guilty to a misdemeanor of attempting to violate the victim's housing rights motivated by racial bias. ■

Review of 2007 Hate Crime Legislation

State Legislation

Assembly Bill 394 (Levine)

The Safe Place to Learn Act provides protection for youth in schools, including those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). It strengthens the state's ability to keep schools safe and fight bias and harassment in schools by requiring the California Department of Education to monitor school compliance with the state's existing anti-bias law, the Student Safety and Violence Protection Act of 2000. AB 394 guides school districts in adopting and publicizing anti-harassment policies and complaint procedures, updating publications on school safety and discrimination, keeping records of complaints and how they were resolved, and providing training for teachers on how to maintain a safe learning environment for all students. This bill became law on January 1, 2008.

Senate Bill 777 (Kuehl)

The California Student Civil Rights Act strengthens student civil rights protections to ensure that all students will have the opportunity to be safe in school. This law clarifies and simplifies the current list of protected classes and the kinds of prohibited instruction, activities, and instructional materials in the Education Code. This bill became law on January 1, 2008. Currently, the Save Our Kids Coalition is col-

lecting petition signatures to place on the statewide ballot an initiative to overturn SB 777. Save Our Kids Coalition has until August 29th, 2008 to gather 435,000 signatures for the initiative to be placed on the November statewide ballot.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 51 (Spitzer)

ACR 51 designated the month of June 2007 as **Hate Crimes Awareness Month** to increase awareness about diversity, tolerance, and hate crimes.

Assembly Joint Resolution 29 (Eng)

AJR 29 supports the Federal bill S 1105, Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, also known as the Matthew Shepard Act. It asks Congress and the President to

revise the federal hate crimes law to protect victims who are targeted based on their real or perceived gender, gender identity, sexual orientation and disability. This bill became law on August 29, 2007.

Federal Legislation

The Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Kennedy)

Although California law already covers hate crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability, federal prosecution of these crimes is needed when local authorities are unable or unwilling to prosecute. S 1145 would have amended federal hate crime law by adding protection for victims of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability hate crime to the existing list of protected groups (race, color, national origin, religion). Additionally this bill would have provided Federal assistance to state, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes against people based on real or perceived race, religion, or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. The House passed the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Act of 2007. The bill later died in Conference on December 6, 2007. ■

Pending Legislation

Assembly Bill 2799 (Saldana)

AB 2799 would require each county to establish a hate crimes commission or direct an existing board or committee to review the incidents of hate crimes within the county and ensure that local law enforcement agencies are responding to hate crimes and reporting these crimes to the Attorney General as specified. It was read in the Senate and sent to Committee for assignment on May 29, 2008

Methodology

The 2007 Hate Crime Report provides a statistical snapshot of reported hate crimes to inform efforts to combat bias-motivated activity. Such data collection and analysis provide policy-makers and practitioners insight into the urgent issues and greatest needs for education, prevention, intervention, victim assistance and advocacy. The Commission receives reports from law enforcement, school districts and universities, community based organizations, and directly from victims. We carefully eliminate any duplicates, such as a hate crime submitted by both a law enforcement agency and a school district. We review each case counted in this report to ensure it meets the criteria of the legal definition of hate crime in the California penal code. Those that do not meet that standard are not included as

hate crimes. Nevertheless, we encourage law enforcement and community organizations to report hate incidents because they can be early indicators of intergroup tension and conflict.

We carefully eliminate any duplicates, such as a hate crime submitted by both law enforcement agency and a school district

Of the 930 reports of hate events (both crimes and incidents) received for 2007, 614 events involving 763 victims and 1075 suspects met the legal criteria for hate crimes and are included in this report. Unless otherwise noted, all numbers in the report refer to victims, rather than cases. ■

Understanding the Numbers

Changes in Categories for Criminal Offenses

This year we adjusted our categorization of some criminal offenses to conform with reporting standards from the California Attorney General and the Justice Department, and to allow comparisons with other crime statistics.

Current Offense Category **Prior Offense Category*

Aggravated Assault

*Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Assault with Intent to Cause Great Bodily Injury, Brandishing a Weapon

Simple Assault

*Assault and Battery, Throwing Objects at a Vehicle with Intent to Commit Bodily Injury

Disorderly Conduct

*Annoying Phone Call or E-mail, Challenging to a Fight, Computer Hacking, Displaying Swastika to Terrorize Property Owner, Disturbing the Peace, Reckless Driving

Intimidation

*Bomb Threat, Criminal Threat, Stalking

- If a violent crime is committed against multiple victims, we count each victim separately.
- We report the perpetrators' intended targeted group instead of relying on the actual identity of the victim as a proxy. This accounts for cases in which the actual identities of the victims are not specified or where the victim's identity is mistaken (e.g., when a Latino victim is perceived by the perpetrator as African American).
- A handful of cases involved epithets targeting more than one group. Therefore, the total number of cases by motivation or by targeted group actually exceeds the 763 hate crimes for 2007.
- Again this year we present suspects' race in terms of the proportion of crimes committed by members of that racial/ethnic group, rather than the race of individual suspects involved for each victim of a hate crime. We have also separated out those cases involving multiracial groups of suspects.
- We also received a handful of reports, usually minor vandalism, in which the information provided in a law enforcement agency's report was too minimal to determine specific bias motivation. These are marked as "unknown targeted group."
- It is important to note that fluctuations in data from year to year do not necessarily indicate trends. Sometimes, an increase one year follows an equivalent decrease the previous year. Multi-year data can give a better sense of trends.
- The report may not reflect the actual outcome of the investigation of individual cases. We receive the original police incident report for cases in which the investigation is ongoing. We may review it and include it before the investigation is completed or charges are filed. Therefore, the number of hate crimes reported here may differ from the reporting law enforcement agency for a given jurisdiction.
- Some numbers referring to 2006 have changed since last year's report due to an ongoing process of updates and corrections. ■

Appendix A:

Reporting Agencies

Police Departments

Alhambra Police Department
Arcadia Police Department
Azusa Police Department
Baldwin Park Police Department
Bell Police Department
Bell Gardens Police Department
Beverly Hills Police Department
Burbank Police Department
Claremont Police Department
Covina Police Department
Culver City Police Department
Downey Police Department
El Monte Police Department
El Segundo Police Department
Gardena Police Department
Glendale Police Department

Glendora Police Department
Hawthorne Police Department
Hermosa Beach Police Department
Huntington Park Police Department
Inglewood Police Department
Irwindale Police Department
La Verne Police Department
Long Beach Police Department
Los Angeles Police Department
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Manhattan Beach Police Department
Maywood Police Department
Monrovia Police Department
Montebello Police Department
Monterey Park Police Department
Palos Verdes Police Department

Pasadena Police Department
Pomona Police Department
Redondo Beach Police Department
San Fernando Police Department
San Gabriel Police Department
San Marino Police Department
Santa Monica Police Department
Sierra Madre Police Department
Signal Hill Police Department
South Gate Police Department
South Pasadena Police Department
Torrance Police Department
Vernon Police Department
West Covina Police Department
Whittier Police Department

Educational Institutions

Antelope Valley Union High School District
Arcadia Unified School District
Bonita Unified School District
California Poly Pomona
Claremont Unified School District
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Northridge
Downey Unified School District
Duarte Unified School District

El Camino College
El Monte Union High School District
Hermosa Beach City School District
Lancaster School District
Las Virgenes Unified School District
Lennox School District
Long Beach Community College District
Los Angeles Community College District
Los Angeles Unified School District
Mt. San Antonio Community College District
Newhall School District

Occidental College
Pasadena Area Community College District
San Gabriel Unified School District
Santa Monica College
Sulphur Springs School District
Torrance Unified School District
Valle Lindo School District
Whittier Unified School District
William S. Hart Union High School District

Local Organizations

Antelope Valley Human Relations Task Force
Anti-Defamation League
Asian Pacific American Legal Center

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of
Los Angeles
L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center

Muslim Public Affairs Council
Southern Christian Leadership Council
South Asian Network

Appendix B:

Hate Crime by Service Planning Areas*

#	Name	Partial Listing of Cities and Areas	Population (2000 Census)	Hate Crimes 2007	2007 Hate Crimes per 100,000 Residents
1	Antelope Valley	All of the Antelope Valley, including Acton, Castaic, Gorman, Lancaster, Palmdale, Santa Clarita, Valencia	305,400	39	12.8
2	San Fernando Valley	All of the San Fernando Valley, including Glendale, Newhall, Northridge, San Fernando, Westlake Village, East & West Valley areas	1,981,961	190	9.6
3	San Gabriel Valley	All of the San Gabriel Valley, including Alhambra, Altadena, Foothill, Irwindale, La Puente, Pasadena, Pomona, El Monte	1,734,254	94	5.4
4	Metro	Atwater, Boyle Heights, Downtown, Eagle Rock, Echo Park, Glassell Park, Hancock Park, Koreatown, Hollywood, Park La Brea, West Hollywood, Silverlake	1,144,083	153	13.4
5	West	Beverly Hills, Culver City, Malibu, Marina del Rey, Pacific Palisades, Playa del Rey, Santa Monica, Venice, Westchester	613,191	37	6.0
6	South	Compton, Florence, Lynwood, South Los Angeles, Watts	955,054	101	10.6
7	East	Vernon, Maywood, Huntington Park, Bellflower, South Gate, Lakewood, Hawaiian Gardens, Signal Hill, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Cerritos, La Mirada, Whittier, La Habra	1,285,210	45	3.5
8	South Bay	Inglewood, Torrance, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, San Pedro	1,500,185	87	5.8

There are 17 additional hate crimes that were not able to be displayed because of insufficient address information.

* Service Planning Areas (SPA's) represent eight geographic regions of LA County. SPA's are widely used for social service and health care planning purposes and are linked through SPA Councils to community-based organizations, neighborhood groups, cities, schools, county and city government agencies.

Map of Hate Crime by Service Planning Areas



Acknowledgements

This report was developed by the Human Relations Commission Hate Crime Report team members Jacob Brown, Lisa Hart, Isaac Martinez, Juan Carlos Martinez and Marshall Wong (editor), Executive Director Robin S. Toma, Chief Deputy Director Richard Verches; report analysts Benjamin Angulo, Sikivu Hutchinson, Josh Parr, and Ray Regalado; staff member Sharon Williams and interns Francisco Reyes and John Soliman. Thanks to our report contributors John Allen Ramseyer of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, Richard Kraft of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Tammy Spertus of the U.S. Attorney's Office. Graphic design by

Isabel Charleston, Byte Design. Thanks to all of the Commission staff for their contributions and assistance. Special thanks to Maria De La Rosa and Alex Luna of the District Attorney's Graphics Unit, Carol Bowie and Pauline Belleville of the Los Angeles Police Department, and Lt. Brian Moriguchi and Wendy Harn of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department for their continuing support. We would also like to recognize and thank the law enforcement agencies, school districts, universities, and community-based organizations that provided us with 2007 hate crime data used in this report.

About the Back Cover

Thanks also to the teenage artists whose art was recognized in the Torrance Human Relations Forum Student Arts Contest, five images of which are fea-

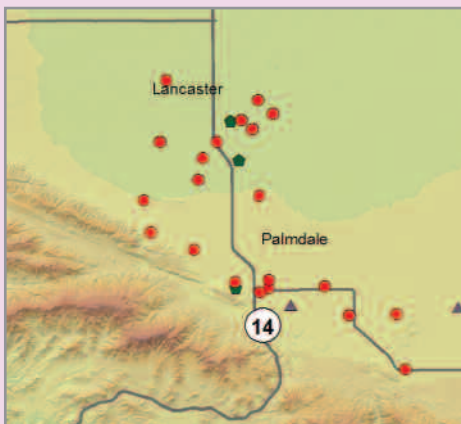
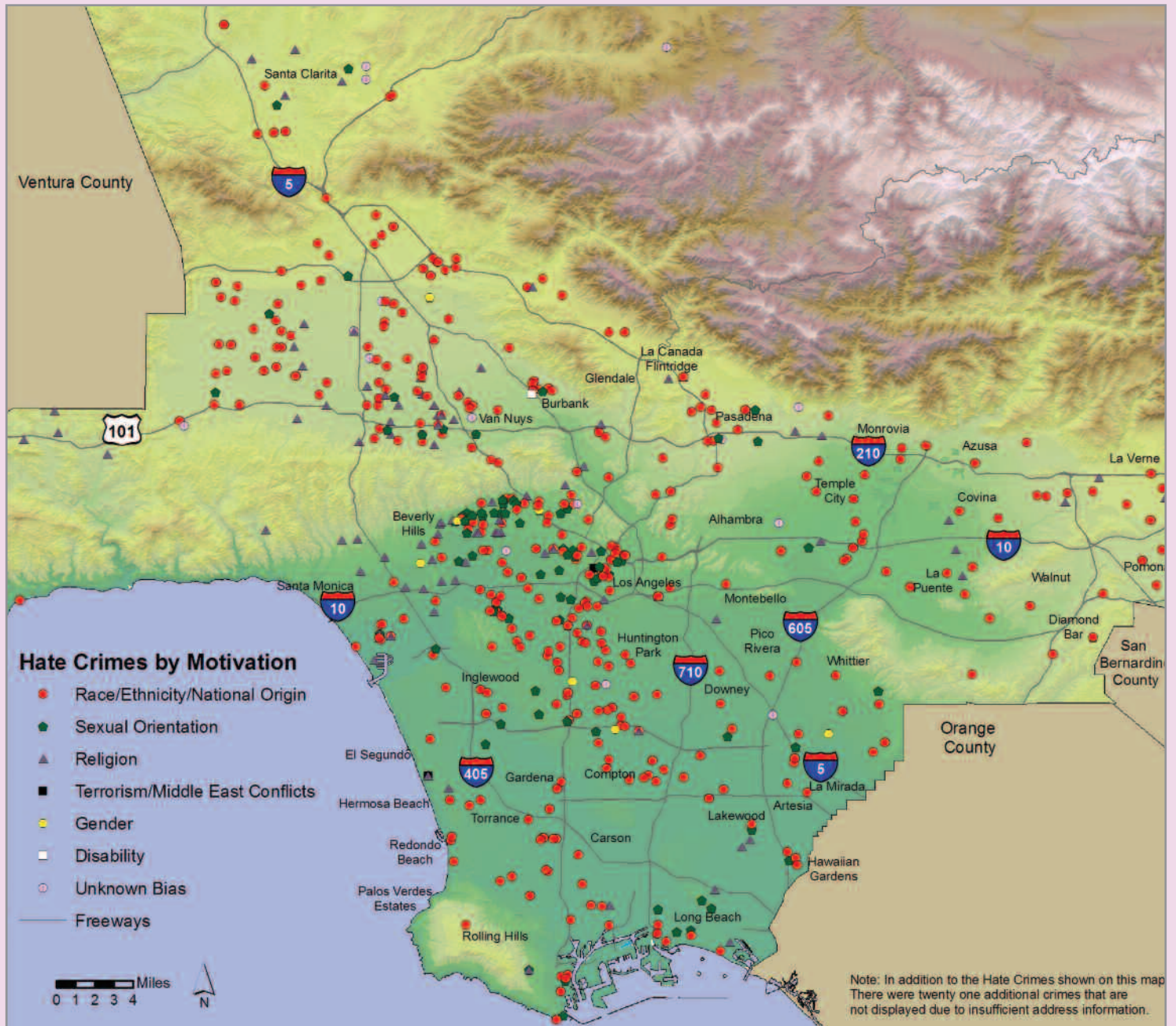
tured on the back cover of this report: Michelle Cho, Danbee Ha, Da Mi Kim, Ji Yong Kim, Janice Lee, Christine Seo, and Angela Yoo.

Dedication

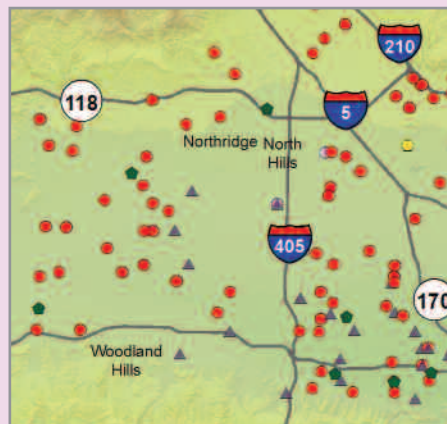
We dedicate the 2007 Hate Crime Report to the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who 40 years ago had his life cut short by a hate-motivated murder; and to Alan T. Kroner, a passionate bridge-builder between diverse groups of people who served for many years on the City of Claremont's Human Relations Committee and Hate Crime Human Response Team. He also served as chairperson of the Commission's Human Relations Mutual Assistance Consortium in his region and

was member of the California Association of Hate Crime Investigators. In 2001, the LA County Commission on Human Relations honored him as its County Volunteer of the Year. Alan knew the value of "paying it forward" and his personal mission to bring fairness, justice and love to his community will be deeply missed by those who worked with him and by those who have benefited from the human relations and community service work to which he was devoted. ■

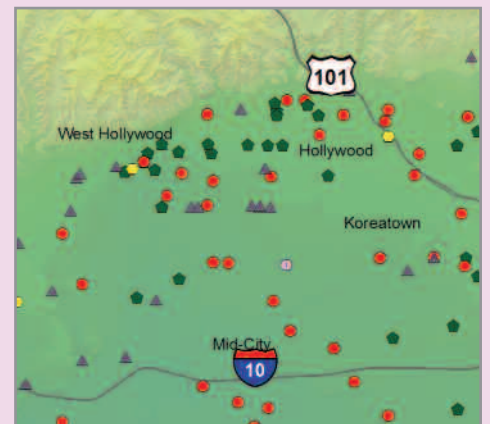
2007 LOS ANGELES COUNTY HATE CRIMES



Antelope Valley



San Fernando Valley



Hollywood/West Hollywood

The Human Relations Forum of
Torrance's Martin Luther King Student Arts Contest

