



2024 ANTI-LATINO/A HATE CRIMES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

After rising 19% in 2023, reported anti-Latino/a crimes in Los Angeles County decreased slightly in 2024 from 145 to 143. This is the second highest victim count in our current database. Twenty-one percent of racially based hate crimes targeted Latino/as. Because Latino/as comprise about half of L.A. County residents, this may be a surprisingly low percentage especially considering the ongoing, volatile public debate on immigration policy coupled with relentless ICE raids in many states across the nation, which can be viewed as reinforcing xenophobia.

Studies funded by the federal Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs confirm that this underreporting of hate crimes should be expected. The studies found that Latino/as who experience discrimination or other forms of victimization are highly unlikely to report their experiences to the police and instead seek help from family and friends. The study's sample included people living in the San Diego metro area, the Galveston and Houston metro areas, and Boston.¹ Many Latino/a victims are reluctant to contact law enforcement due to possible questioning of their immigration status, language barriers, or general mistrust in law enforcement.

In anti-Latino/a crimes reported in LA County in 2024, 38% contained anti-immigrant language compared to 58% the previous year. This drop is likely due to limited narrative detail provided from some reporting agencies.

In crimes where specific ethnicities were identified, 48% included anti-Mexican slurs. There were two crimes that targeted Central Americans and a single crime targeting a Puerto Rican person. The remainder did not specify a specific nationality or ethnic group.

Of the larger victim groups overall, reported crimes targeting Latino/as were the most likely to be violent (85%, down from 87% the previous year). The most common criminal offense was simple assault (36%), followed by aggravated assault (29%), intimidation (13%), and vandalism (13%). There were 3 attempted murders in 2024.

Anti-Latino/as crimes most frequently took place in public places (39%), followed by residences (29%), and businesses (28%). This represented a decrease in anti-Latino/a crimes at public places and an increase in residences. Two crimes took place in schools.

It should be noted that in addition to being the targets of racial hate crime, Latino/as also comprised the largest group of victims in sexual orientation crimes (46%, down from 53%) and anti-transgender crimes (55%, down from 70%).

¹ [Experiences of Victimization Among Latinos: Studies Confirm Significant Victim Mental Health Impact and Mistrust of Authorities, National Institute of Justice Office of Justice Programs](#)





ACTUAL 2024 ANTI-LATINO/A HATE CRIME IN L.A. COUNTY

April 13, Willowbrook

A Latino male victim bus driver on his route made a stop to pick up passengers. A Black male suspect entered the bus talking about Black history. He told the victim that this was not the victim's city and that the victim was stealing jobs. The suspect brandished a knife and told the victim "Keep driving. Continue your regular route. Do not detour and don't stop." The victim saw a police car and attempted to flag it down. The suspect asked, "What are you doing?" The victim then brought the bus to a halt at a stop, opened both passenger doors, and opened the operator protective barrier and attempted to flee. The suspect unbuckled the victim's seatbelt and punched him in the face. The victim felt a warm tingling in his chest and began to feel pain. A struggle ensued between the suspect and the victim. The victim fell to his knees outside the bus and was able to get up and flee the scene. A witness motioned to the victim to get into her vehicle, and she took him to the hospital. An officer observed a laceration on the victim's chest, blood on his chest and hands, and a red area on his nose and ear.

