

2023 LA COUNTY

HATE INCIDENT

REPORT



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
HATE DOCUMENTATION AND DATA ANALYTICS TEAM

Table of Contents

3	Preface
3	What is a Hate Incident?
4-5	Hate Incidents in Perspective
5-7	A Closer Look at Racial Hate Incidents
7-8	A Closer Look at Religious Hate Incidents
8-9	A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Incidents
9-10	A Closer Look at Gender Hate Incidents
10	A Closer Look at Disability Hate Incidents
11	Reporting Agencies
11	Acknowledgements

Preface

This inaugural *Hate Incident Report*¹ produced by the LA County Commission on Human Relations is based on the reporting of hate incidents documented for the years 2022 and 2023. Hate Incident data are collected alongside hate crime data for our annual Hate Crime Report. This report follows the same methodology² used in the collection and analysis for our Hate Crime Report.

Our Commission has collected and reported on hate crime data since 1980 with the aim to document, prevent, and respond to hate. Hate crimes are violations of state and federal laws. Both hate crimes and hate incidents are serious breaches of international human rights standards. A central goal of the Hate Crime Report and this Hate Incident Report is to raise awareness about these human rights violations. Tracking hate crimes and incidents is vital to understanding and combating human rights violations in Los Angeles County.

¹ Owing to the ongoing process of updates and corrections to our data, some numbers will vary after this report is released.

What is a Hate Incident?

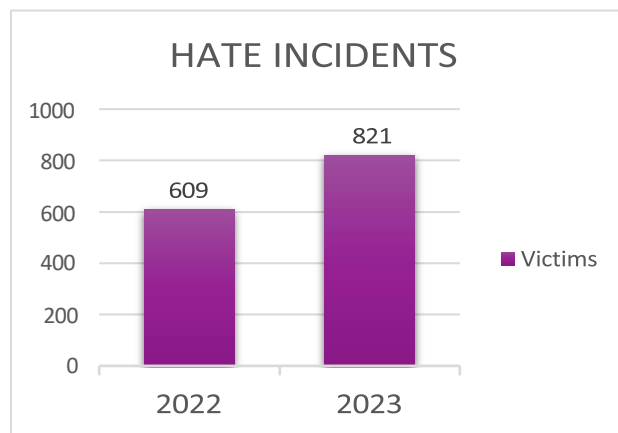
Hate incidents are noncriminal acts motivated by prejudice or bias against a person or group's actual or perceived identity(ies). Hate incidents can include non-criminal verbal abuse, harassment, and display of offensive materials.

Perpetrators may be motivated by bias on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or gender, including gender identity. Furthermore, there must be an identifiable victim or group of victims who are intended to be frightened, intimidated, or harmed by the speech or action.

In the United States hate speech is not necessarily a crime. It is a criminal offense when the perpetrator threatens violence with spoken or written words against a specific person or group. Hate speech may also be criminal if it is used against the same person or group of persons in a repeated pattern, which may constitute criminal harassment or stalking. This is an example of how tracking and documenting hate incidents can provide the basis for a criminal case.

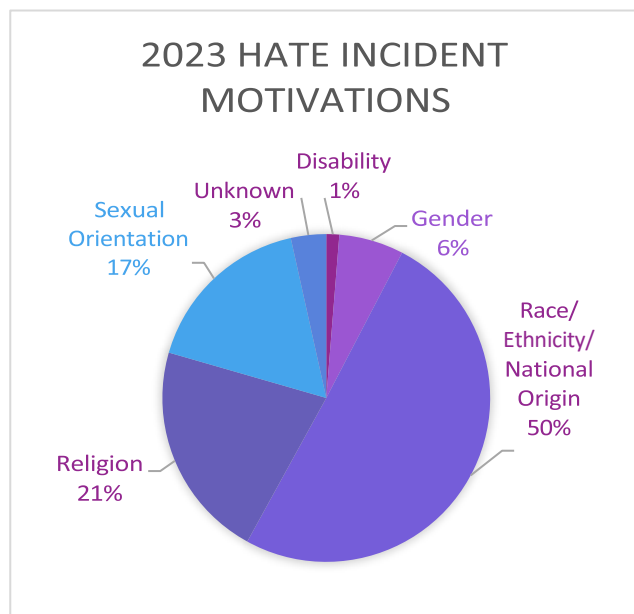
² Please visit [LA County Human Relations Commission website](#) to view the 2023 Hate Crime Report for details on the employed methodology.

Hate Incidents in Perspective



Reported hate incidents increased 35% from 609 in 2022 to 821 in 2023.

Hate Incident Motivations



In 2023, the largest number of reported hate incidents were motivated by race, ethnicity, or national

³ LGBT (non-specified) refers to cases in which an LGBT individual, business, or organization was targeted but there were no slurs made

origin. They increased 11% from 392 the previous year to 434 and accounted for 50% of all reported incidents. African Americans were targeted at a higher rate (52%) than other groups. Anti-Black incidents increased from 211 to 237, followed by Latino/as at 15%. Anti-Latino/a incidents increased from 60 to 69. Asians comprised 15% of all reported racial incidents with a decrease from 76 to 66. Hate incidents targeting Middle Easterners increased sharply from 9 to 23, an increase of 156%. Anti-White incidents decreased from 30 to 13.

Religious incidents surpassed sexual orientation incidents as the second largest group at 21% compared to 12% in 2022. They increased a substantial 131% from 80 to 185. Incidents targeting Jewish persons spiked 153%, from 66 to 167. Ninety percent of religiously motivated hate incidents targeted the Jewish community. Anti-Muslim incidents constituted 8% of all religious hate incidents in 2022 and 2023.

Sexual orientation incidents made up 17% of all reported hate incidents. This is the third largest motivation for hate incidents. These incidents increased 24% from 119 to 148. Incidents targeting gay males, lesbians, and LGBT (non-specified)³ also increased.

against a specific sexual orientation (e.g. gay, lesbian).

Gender motivated incidents increased 53% from 36 to 55. Forty of these incidents were against transgender individuals, and 13 were against females.

There were 11 disability-motivated incidents reported in 2023 compared to 3 the previous year. This is an increase of 267%.

Hate Incidents with Special Characteristics

White supremacist hate incidents increased from 33 to 74, an increase of 124%. Middle East conflict related incidents grew from 2 to 45, an astounding increase of 2,150%. Incidents occurring on public transportation rose from 5 to 14, an increase of 180%. Lastly, gang related incidents grew from 4 to 9, an increase of 125%.

Location of Hate Incidents

In 2023, 27% of hate incidents occurred in public places, a 103% increase from 109 in 2022 to 222. This was followed by residences at 26%, schools at 24%, and businesses at 14%. Schools rose from 59 to 197, an increase of 234%. Businesses went down from 18% the previous year. Electronic communication was only at 6%, but the number sharply increased from 24 to 46.

A Closer Look at Racial Hate Incidents

Racially motivated hate incidents were the most common type of incident in 2022 and 2023. In 2022, racial hate incidents constituted 61% of all incidents. In 2023 they were 50% of the total. Despite 2023 having a dip in percentage, the total number increased from 392 to 434.

Anti-Black Incidents

Anti-Black incidents increased 12% from 211 to 237. In 2023, Blacks comprised 52% of racial hate incidents and 53% in 2022. Black persons constitute 9% of the total population of Los Angeles County but are grossly over-represented as victims of racial hate incidents.

Anti-Latino/a Incidents

Anti-Latino/a incidents increased 15% from 60 to 69. Latino/as comprised 15% of total racial hate incidents in both 2022 and 2023. Mexicans were targeted the most. In 2023 they were targeted 31 times, which was 45% of all Latino/a hate incidents. In 2022, they were targeted 39 times which was 65% of all Latino/a hate incidents for that year.

Sixty percent of anti-Latino/a hate incidents contained anti-immigrant slurs in 2023 compared to 72% the previous year.

Anti-Asian Incidents

Reported racial hate incidents against Asian Americans decreased from 76 to 66. Asian Americans comprised 15% of the total in 2023, and 19% in 2022. In 2023, Chinese were targeted in 22 hate incidents comprising 33%, and 21 the previous year comprising 28% of racial hate incidents.

In 2023, 27% of hate incidents towards Asians contained anti-immigrant language, compared to 33% in 2022.

Anti-White Incidents

Anti-White racial hate incidents decreased in 2023 from 30 to 13. White residents make up 25% of the county's population and in 2023 constituted 3% of total racial hate incidents, compared to 7% in 2022.

Other Targeted Racial and Ethnic Groups

- Anti-Israeli incidents increased from 0 to 5.
- Non-White⁴ incidents increased from 1 to 9.
- Incidents targeting Middle Eastern persons increased sharply from 9 to 23.
- Anti-Armenian incidents decreased from 6 to 5.
- Incidents targeting Africans grew from 1 to 2.
- Anti-Russian incidents increased from 0 to 3.

- American Indian/Alaskan Native incidents remained level at 1.
- There were single incidents targeting a Romani/Gypsy and a Ukrainian.

Other Aspects of Racial Hate Incidents

The most common type of offense was hate speech. Hate speech increased from 381 to 429. In 2022, racial hate speech comprised 97% of the total and in 2023 it was 99% of the total. The other offense was non-criminal threat, which was 3% of the total in 2022, and 1% in 2023.

Incidents with evidence of White supremacist ideology increased 129%, from 7 to 16. Middle East conflict related incidents increased 950%, from 2 to 21. Gang related incidents increased from 3 to 7.

Five incidents occurred in a public transportation setting. Most offenses occurred at schools (30%), with a dramatic increase of 215%, from 41 to 129. This was followed by residences (28%), public places (24%), and businesses (12%).

Anti-Immigrant Slurs

Incidents containing anti-immigrant slurs (e.g., "Wetback" or "Go back to your country") decreased 12% from 86 to 76 in 2023. Of these, 54% targeted Latino/as (up from 51%) and of those

⁴ "Non-white" is used to describe a targeted group that is not specifically identified but may include Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color,

16% were specifically anti-Mexican, down from 30% the previous year. Twenty-four percent targeted Asians (down from 29%), and 3% were anti-Middle Eastern, Russian, and Armenian.

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

Actual Racial Hate Incidents

January 18, 2023, Mid-Wilshire

Two Latino male victims were getting ready to start work on a property when a Black female suspect approached them and started yelling, "I'm going to call ICE on you guys." The suspect also stated, "Do you have papers? You probably don't have papers."

February 25, 2023, La Crescenta

A Black female victim was standing in front of her home when two White male suspects drove by in a vehicle and yelled, "nigger!"

March 16, 2023, Koreatown

An Asian female victim was taking a subway train when a Latino male suspect said, "Fuck you. Fuck you, Asian people. You made Covid."

A Closer Look at Religious Hate Incidents

Religiously motivated hate incidents were the second largest group. They represented 21% of all reported hate incidents in 2023 (up from 12%). Religious hate incidents jumped 131% in 2023 from 80 to 185.

Anti-Jewish Incidents Soar and Anti-Muslim Incidents Grow

In 2023, 90% of religiously motivated hate incidents targeted the Jewish community, compared to 83% the previous year. Anti-Jewish hate incidents rose 153% and more than doubled from 66 to 167. Anti-Muslim incidents constituted 8% of all religious hate incidents in 2022 and in 2023. Muslims were the second largest targeted group and the number more than doubled from 6 to 14 incidents which is an increase of 133%. Scientologists were targeted in 2 incidents, and there was a single case targeting a Christian.

Other Aspects of Religious Hate Incidents

The most common type of offense was hate speech. Hate speech increased from 77 to 184. In 2023, hate speech comprised 99% of the total and in 2022 it was 96% of the total. The other offense was non-criminal threat, which was 1% of the total in 2023, and 4% in 2022.

Incidents with evidence of White supremacist ideology increased 76%, from 17 to 30. Middle East Conflict related incidents increased from 0 to 25, a significant increase.

Most offenses occurred in a public setting (34%), followed by residences at 17%, businesses (14%), and schools (13%). Electronic communication made up 12% but increased dramatically from 3 to 23. Public transportation related incidents increased from 0 to 2.

Actual Religious Hate Incidents

January 15, 2023, La Brea

A White male victim was sitting in a common area in his apartment complex. Next to him was a Middle Eastern male perpetrator playing loud music. An apartment manager requested that the perpetrator turn down his music and leave the common area for violating rules. The perpetrator became enraged and explained to the manager that he allows the victim, who is Jewish, to do what he pleases. The suspect called the victim a "Jewish bitch" multiple times and then said, "Let's see who is going to win, the Jewish or Muslims?"

July 12, 2023, Studio City

Two Middle Eastern girls, one ten years old and the other thirteen years old, were separately accosted by classmates at school who demanded the girls speak about whether they supported Israel. They were then called "terrorists" when they refused to engage in the conversation.

A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Incidents

Reported hate incidents motivated by sexual orientation rose from 119 in 2022 to 148, an increase of 24%.

Sexual orientation hate incidents comprised 17% of total hate incidents in 2023, down from 19%.

Victims are Overwhelmingly Gay Men

The great majority of sexual orientation incidents, 73%, targeted gay men. These cases increased 11% from 98 in 2022 to 108. Anti-lesbian incidents comprised 13% of the victims with a total of 19 incidents. The previous year lesbians were targeted 9 times, which is an increase of 111%. There were 16 incidents 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 45%, from 11 to 16. Lastly, there were 2 incidents that targeted bisexual victims.

Other Aspects of Sexual Orientation Hate Incidents

The most common type of offense was hate speech. Hate speech increased from 116 to 147. In 2023, hate speech

comprised 99% of the total and in 2022 it was 97% of the total. The other offense was non-criminal threat, which was 1% of the total in 2023, and 3% in 2022.

Incidents that occurred on public transportation increased from 1 to 7. Most offenses occurred at residences (40%), followed by public places (27%), businesses (15%), and schools (13%).

Anti-transgender incidents are discussed separately in the “A Closer Look at Gender Hate Incidents” section of this report.

Actual Sexual Orientation Hate Incidents

March 29, 2023, West Hollywood

A Latina female victim was shopping at the Beverly Center, and she was holding hands with her girlfriend. They were approached by a White male suspect who said to them, "You are fucking dykes. You're going to hell for kissing each other in front of kids."

October 11, 2023, West Hollywood

A White male victim was walking his dog when a White male suspect started screaming at him. The suspect said, "Faggots are not allowed on my street."

A Closer Look at Gender Hate Incidents

There were 55 reported hate incidents in 2023 motivated by the victim's perceived gender or gender identity. The previous year there were 36. Forty of these incidents were anti-transgender, and 13 were anti-female. Anti-transgender incidents rose dramatically from 27 victims in 2022 to 40 in 2023, constituting a 48% rise. Transgender victims comprised 71% of all gender motivated hate incidents.

The most common type of offense was hate speech. Hate speech increased from 35 to 55. In 2023, hate speech comprised 100% of the total and in 2022 it was 97% of the total. The other offense was non-criminal threat, which was 0% of the total in 2023, and 3% in 2022.

Incidents with evidence of White supremacy increased from 0 to 2.

Thirty-eight percent of these offenses took place in a public setting, 25% occurred at businesses, 18% at schools, and 15% at residences.

Actual Gender Hate Incidents

June 14, 2023, Eagle Rock

An unidentified individual disrupted a Drag Queen Story Hour at the Eagle Rock Library yelling, "This is not ok what they are doing. This is a man

dressed up as a woman. This is an abomination. You're putting children in danger."

August 4, 2023, North Hollywood

An Asian transwoman victim reported that a Black female suspect began making comments towards the victim for no reason. The suspect stated, "Get out of here you faggot. Get out of here with your fake vagina. You don't belong here. You're a man."

Anti-Female Incidents

Anti-female incidents increased from 9 to 13, constituting a 44% rise.

Actual Anti-Female Hate Incident

August 2, 2023, Beverly Hills

A Black female victim and her fiancé hired a moving company, and the victim was not happy with the service and price. So, she called the company while a white male suspect who was supervising the crew was present. The suspect began yelling profanities at her, including "bitch," "cunt," and "nigger." The victim then asked the suspect to leave the apartment.

eleven disability cases in 2023 targeted mentally disabled persons, and five targeted physically disabled persons.

Hate speech constituted all the cases in 2022 and 2023.

Fifty-five percent of disability cases occurred at schools, followed by residences at 27%, and businesses and electronic communication at 9% each.

Actual Disability Hate Incident

October 19, 2023, La Crescenta

During class a White male suspect called a White male victim "retarded." The victim has Down Syndrome.

A Closer Look at Disability Hate Incidents

In 2023, there were 11 disability-motivated incidents reported compared to 3 the previous year. This is an increase of 267%. Six of the

Reporting Agencies

Law Enforcement Agencies

Alhambra Police Department
Beverly Hills Police Department
Burbank Police Department
California Highway Patrol
Claremont Police Department
Covina Police Department
El Segundo Police Department
Gardena Police Department
L.A. County Sheriff's Department
Long Beach Police Department
Los Angeles Police Department
Manhattan Beach Police Department
Pasadena Police Department
San Marino Police Department
Santa Monica Police Department
South Pasadena Police Department
Torrance Police Department
Whittier Police Department (serving
Whittier and Santa Fe Springs)

Community-Based Organizations

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

Colleges and Universities

California State University, Northridge
Los Angeles Community College
District
Santa Monica College
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Southern California

School Districts

Alhambra Unified School District
Beverly Hills Unified School District
Castaic Union School District
Glendale Unified School District
Glendora Unified School District
Long Beach Unified School District
Los Angeles Unified School District
Redondo Beach Unified School District
Saugus Union School District
William S. Hart Union High School
District

Acknowledgements

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securing human rights
strengthening healthy relations