



2023 ANTI-LATINO/A HATE CRIMES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

After rising 3% in 2022, reported anti-Latino/a crimes in Los Angeles County climbed another 19% in 2023 from 121 to 144. They comprised 22% of racial crimes.

Because Latino/as comprise about half of L.A. County residents, this is a surprisingly low percentage especially in light of the on-going, volatile public debate on immigration policy which has resulted in increased xenophobia. It is possible that many Latino/a victims are reluctant to contact law enforcement due to the possible questioning of their immigration status, a language barrier, or a general mistrust in law enforcement.

A 2021 study funded by the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, showed that Latino/as who experience discrimination or "other forms of victimization" are reluctant to call the police and instead seek help from relatives, community members, or their church. The study's sample included people living in the San Diego metro area, the Galveston and Houston metro areas, and Boston.*

Suspects used anti-immigrant slurs in 71% of anti-Latino/a crimes. In 58% of these crimes specifically anti-Mexican slurs were employed. There was one crime that was specifically anti-Venezuelan, and the remainder did not specify any Latino/a ethnicity.

Of the larger victim groups, reported crimes targeting Latino/as were the most likely to be violent (87%, up 11% from the previous year). This was the eighth year in a row that Latino/a victims of racial crime experienced the highest rate of violence among the larger groups.

The most common criminal offense was simple assault (35%), followed by aggravated assault (28%), and intimidation (21%). There were 2 attempted murders.

Latino/as were attacked most frequently in public places (47%), followed by businesses (26%), and residences (20%). There were also five crimes that occurred via electronic communication, two crimes occurred at community-based organizations, and a single crime that took place at a school. This represented an increase in anti-Latino/a crimes at residences and an increase in public places.

Fifty-two percent of anti-Latino/as were committed by African Americans, followed by Whites (33%), and Latino/as (16%). This distribution showed a slight increase in the percentage of Black suspects and a slight decrease in the White suspects. In Latino/a-on-Latino/a crimes, many of the suspects used anti-immigrant slurs, sometimes in Spanish.

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 (53%, up from 48%) and anti-transgender crimes (70%, up from 49%).

**Longitudinal Examination of Victimization Experiences of Latinos (LEVEL): Extending the Bias Victimization Study*, Office of Justice Programs <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/301673.pdf>





ACTUAL 2023 LATINO/A HATE CRIMES IN L.A. COUNTY

October 7, Downtown LA

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

March 25, Jefferson Park

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

