

2001 Hate Crime Report

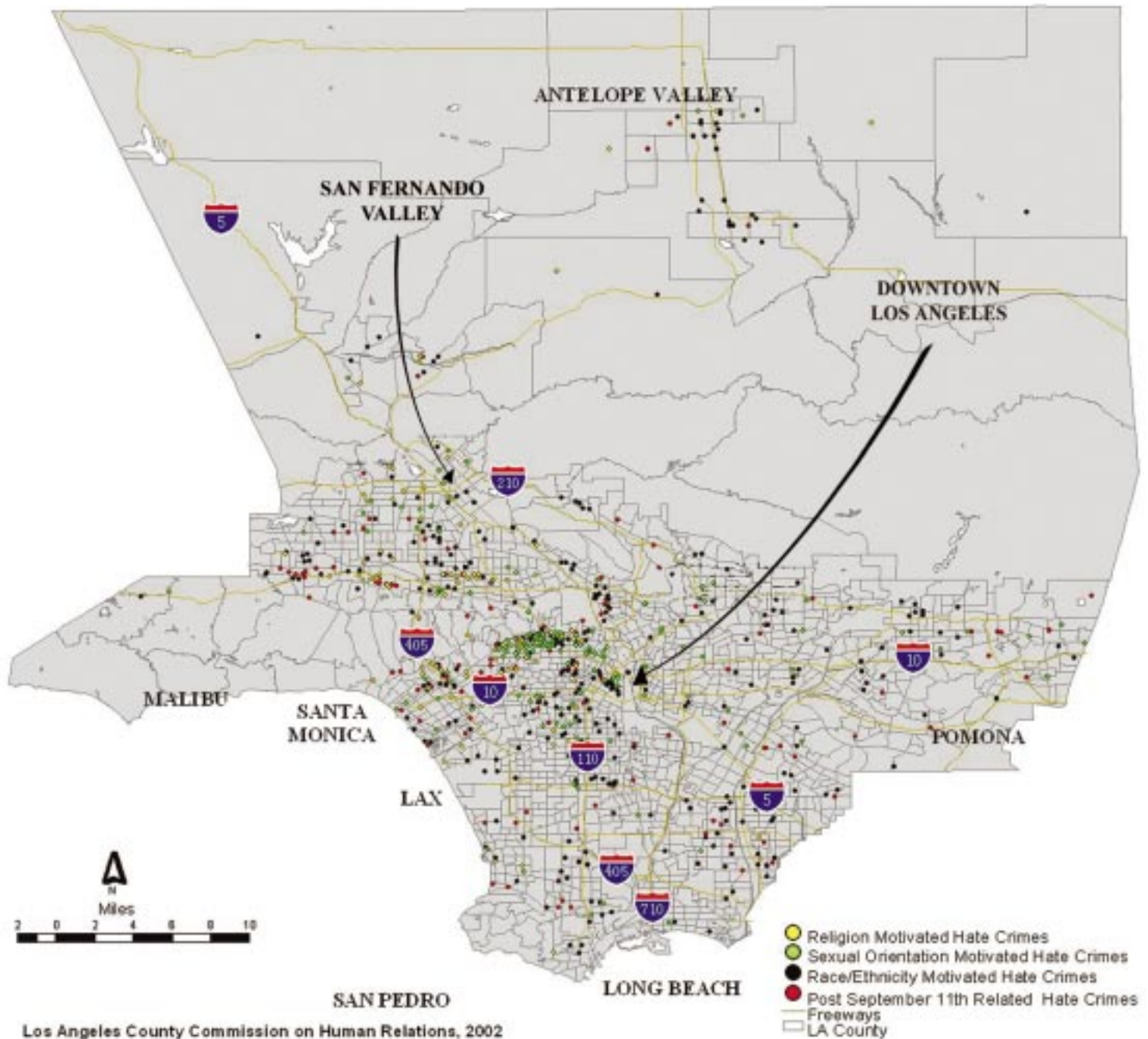
Compounding The Tragedy: The Other Victims of September 11th



Los Angeles County
Commission
On Human Relations



2001 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes



Compounding The Tragedy: The Other Victims of September 11th

2001 Hate Crime Report



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Preface

Since 1980, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) has compiled, analyzed and issued reports of hate crime data submitted by law enforcement agencies, school districts, fair housing councils, ethnic and religious organizations, and other concerned groups. This report represents one of the longest-standing efforts to document hate crime activity in the nation.

Using this report, the Commission sponsors a number of ongoing programs related to combating hate crime: the Network Against Hate Crime, Human Relations Mutual Assistance Consortium, the Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative, Corporate Advisory Committee, and Youth Public Education Campaign.

The report is disseminated broadly to policy-makers, law enforcement agencies, educators and community groups throughout Los Angeles County to better inform efforts to prevent, detect, report, investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

The Commission appreciates the cooperation of organizations and agencies listed in Appendix A who provided data for this report.

What Is a Hate Crime?

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office classifies as hate crimes those cases in which the facts indicate that bias, hatred, or prejudice based on the victim's real or perceived race, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation are substantial factors in the commission of the offense.

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

When the evidence of bias is based on speech alone, the speech must have threatened violence against a specific person or group of persons. It must also be clear that the defendant had the apparent ability to carry out that threat.

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 protected by free speech laws.

Graffiti is a hate crime when it is racial, ethnic, religious, homophobic, or sexist in nature. This is most often indicated by use of hate group symbols or slogans, or epithets. To be a hate crime, graffiti must be directed at a specific target. Racial graffiti on a freeway overpass that does not address itself to a particular person is not a hate crime.

Vandalism to a house of worship, or ethnic, religious, or gay and lesbian organization is generally considered a hate crime in the absence of evidence of other motives.

West Covina, CA
(Los Angeles Co.)
San Gabriel Valley
Daily Tribune
December 22, 2001
Above and Right



Summary of 2001 Hate Crime Report

Total Cases

There were 1,031 hate crimes reported in the year 2001, an 11% increase over the previous year, and the largest number ever reported in Los Angeles County. The increase is largely due to the 188 anti-Middle Eastern/Muslim hate crimes that were committed in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

These crimes include two murders (one of which is unsolved and may or may not ultimately be proven to be motivated by hate) and two attempted murders. There were 270 criminal threats, 262 assaults and batteries, 232 cases of vandalism, and 165 assaults with deadly weapons. Overall, 50% of these crimes were of a violent nature, a slight increase over the previous year.

September 11th-related Hate Crimes

The anti-Middle Eastern hate crime wave in 2001 was an unprecedented phenomenon that will be presented in this report as a special separate category for several reasons. First, the victims of a large number of these crimes were, in fact, not of Middle Eastern descent, but cases of mistaken identity. The 188 victims included South Asians (such as Sikh Indians and Pakistanis), Latinos, Armenians, and others. Second, in the majority of these cases it was not possible to determine whether the motivating factor was the presumed ethnic background or religion of the victims or both. In fact, it is likely that many of the perpetrators of these crimes erroneously believe that "Middle Eastern," Arab, "Muslim," or the wearing of a turban, are interchangeable characteristics to describe those responsible for terrorism. Therefore, these cases will be categorized as simply "September 11th-related."

It is important to note that if post-September 11th crimes are added to the other 2001 racial and religious hate crimes, they total 784, a 10% increase from 2000.

Racial Hate Crimes

Consistent with previous years, the largest number of hate crimes were motivated by hatred due to the race, ethnicity, or national origin of the victim, 472, or 46% of the total. This is a decrease of 16%, and does not include acts attributed to post-September 11th backlash.

The largest group of victims were African Americans, who were targeted in 220 cases, a decline of 21%. There were 100 Latino victims, a decrease of 24%. White victims numbered 84, 10% fewer than the previous year. Crimes against Asian Pacific Americans grew 40%, from 30 to 42.

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes

Hate crimes based on the victim's sexual orientation numbered 238 or 23% of the total, an increase of 9% from the previous year. Gay male victims declined 9% from 183 cases to 167. Anti-lesbian crime grew from 26 to 37, a 42% increase, and transgendered victims doubled, from 8 to 16.

Religious Hate Crimes

In 2001, 12% of non-September 11th-related hate crimes were religion-based. There were 124 reports of such crimes, a decrease of 16% from the previous year. Jewish targets decreased 31% from 123 to 85. Victims of Christian denominations dropped 21% from 19 to 15, and Muslim victims grew from two to seven.

Gender and Disability Hate Crimes

There were reports of one gender-motivated and one disability-motivated crime in 2001.

Multiple Motivation Hate Crimes

There were seven cases in which there was evidence of more than one motivation, such as graffiti in which both racist and homophobic slurs were used.

Hate Crime Suspects

There were descriptions of hate crime suspects in 572 of the cases. They were overwhelming male, of diverse ethnic backgrounds, and in those cases where age was indicated, 44% were 25 years old or younger.



Hate Crimes in L.A. County

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Methodology

Hate Crime Report 2001 provides a statistical snapshot of available information on hate crimes that can better inform efforts to combat bias-motivated activity. Such data collection and analysis provide policy-makers and practitioners insight into what are the most urgent issues and greatest areas of need for education, intervention, and assistance.

The Commission receives reports from the Sheriff's and all 45 police departments in Los Angeles County, most of the 86 school districts, an array of community-based organizations, and directly from victims themselves. Some victims of hate crime are reluctant to contact law enforcement directly due to a variety of factors: lack of knowledge about the criminal justice system, fear of retaliation, linguistic and cultural barriers, immigration status, and past negative experience with government agencies, to name a few. Therefore, the information contained in this report likely represents fewer than the total number of hate-motivated crimes actually committed in 2001.

By far the greatest number of cases are received from the two largest law enforcement agencies in the county: the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). Together they account for 65% of the total number of hate crimes included in this report.

The various jurisdictions polled vary greatly in their institutional policies and practices regarding hate crime. Some are very conscientious, training and directing police officers to recognize, report and investigate hate crimes and establish clear systems of responsibility and accountability. Others do not consider hate crime a high priority or are reluctant to admit to having a problem that could result in negative publicity for their cities.

There are other factors that influence the degree to which a city provides accurate and complete records on hate crimes. Some jurisdictions, for example, do not record hate motivation if crime victims or suspects are suspected gang members. Also, some reporting agencies overlook bias if other motives, such as financial gain, are apparent.

Each of the incidents reported is reviewed to ensure that the facts are consistent with the District Attorney's legal definition of hate crime which is based on California law. Those that do not meet the standard are not included in the Commission's database. For example, acts of racist graffiti and vandalism only are considered hate crimes if their locations suggest clear targets. In other words, slurs written on the home of a minority family would meet the criteria, but the same language on a freeway overpass probably would not. However, we encourage police departments to take reports on such hate incidents because this provides additional insight into the nature of intergroup relations and the degree of hostility that exists.

The reports are then reviewed to eliminate any duplicates in case, for example, a hate crime victim has contacted both a law enforcement agency and a civil rights group.

Because LACCHR receives reports from varied sources and screens each incident, the number of hate crimes contained in this report for any given geographic area may differ from the official number recorded by police.

Another factor which may cause discrepancies in the numbers reported by different agencies, is how crime victims and cases are counted. Generally, law enforcement agencies will submit single reports in cases involving multiple victims. For the purposes of this report, if a violent act is committed against more than one person, such as the assault and battery of a couple, LACCHR would count the incident as two separate crimes, just as any criminal charges filed could be two separate counts of a hate crime enhancement for each victim assaulted.

In some cases, there are multiple suspects involved in committing hate crimes. A typical scenario would involve a carload of youth who encounter a pedestrian, yell slurs, make criminal threats, and possibly throw an object at the victim. In the great majority of these cases, the suspects are never identified, and descriptions are very vague. It is also often difficult in such crimes to discern who made threats or actually threw an object. In cases such as these, only one suspect may be described and counted.

Analyzing hate crime data for 2001 posed new challenges. The majority of the large number of anti-Middle Eastern acts committed in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks crossed traditional bias-motivation categories. In most cases it was impossible to distinguish whether these crimes were based on the victims' perceived race/national origin/ethnic background, or religion, or both. For this reason, we created a separate bias category that is simply listed as "September 11th-related."

Another factor to consider in understanding this report is that the wave of anti-Middle Eastern crime claimed many victims who were mistakenly perceived to be Arab or Muslim but, in fact, were Sikh Indians or other South Asians, Latinos, Armenians, or persons of other cultural backgrounds. Therefore, there is a significant discrepancy between the higher number of anti-Middle Eastern motivated acts and the number of Middle Eastern victims. The motivations of such cases are listed as "September 11th-related" although the victims were of many ethnic backgrounds.

Of the 1,688 reports received for 2001, 1,031 met the above criteria and are included in this report.

2001 Hate Crimes in Perspective



The year 2001 will be remembered as an unprecedented milestone in the history of hate-motivated crime. In Los Angeles County there were a record 1031 crimes reported, the highest number in the 21 years that LACCHR has collected and analyzed hate crime data.

September 11th Backlash

The most significant factor in explaining this increase is the backlash that followed September 11th, a horrific period in which innocent persons of Middle Eastern background (or those perceived as such) were blamed for the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. The September 11th attacks inflamed pre-existing stereotypes in a manner reminiscent of, but more deadly than, the backlash after the 1991 Persian Gulf War and the 1979 Iran hostage crisis. Across L.A. County, vigilantes took revenge against anyone who resembled "the enemy." South Asians, especially turban-wearing Sikhs, were targeted disproportionately, constituting approximately one fifth of all post-September 11th hate crime victims.

Nearly two thirds of these cases were acts of graffiti, vandalism, or criminal threats, but they also included a homicide (which is still under investigation), numerous assaults with deadly weapons, battery, and arson. Community-based agencies serving these vulnerable populations were besieged with frightened callers who were victims of hatred or were seeking information and support.

These crimes do not include the larger universe of anti-Middle Eastern and anti-Muslim acts that did not meet the legal definition of hate crime, such as hateful, inflammatory speech and discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations (such as the now well-documented racial profiling at airports).

A Gallup Poll found that in the aftermath of September 11th, one third of Americans supported putting Arab Americans under special surveillance and incarcerating immigrants from "unfriendly countries." Nearly 60% supported subjecting Arab Americans to separate, more intensive security procedures at airports and about half favored requiring Arab Americans to carry special IDs.

Many leaders of targeted groups expressed shock and outrage at the xenophobia, racial hysteria, and religious bigotry that swept the nation. To illustrate the hypocrisy of blaming all Arab Americans and Muslims for the actions of terrorists, it was repeatedly pointed out that following the Oklahoma City bombing, white Christian males were not considered suspected terrorists because of Timothy McVeigh.

In the midst of the widespread anti-Middle Eastern/Muslim sentiment and crime that followed September 11th, there was much good news as well. Elected officials like L.A. County Supervisors Knabe and Burke spoke out quickly and strongly against acts of vigilantism. Some local mosques reported that they were overwhelmed by acts of compassion and concern as some religious congregations, law enforcement agencies, neighbors, and civic leaders reached out to them through calls, visits, and letters. Throughout L.A. County, concerned parties organized inter-faith worship services, anti-hate candlelight vigils, and educational programs on the history of Arab Americans and Islam. In the City of Claremont, the Human Relations Forum organized residents to escort Muslim women in public who were too frightened to take their children to school or to run errands alone.

An important lesson from September 11th is that terrorism prevention and preparation efforts must include plans for preventing hate crime through public education and ensuring that law enforcement is knowledgeable about vulnerable communities and sites.



LACCHR's
Youth Public Education
Campaign Bookmarks

Certain Groups of Hate Crime Victims Decline

Despite the overall growth of hate crime, it was also notable that certain categories of hate crime victims, specifically African Americans, Latinos, and Jews actually declined in 2001. When analyzing data, it is important to not view year by year fluctuations as evidence of significant trends. The previous year, for example, black victims grew by 20%, Jewish by 14%, and Latinos by 55%.

One possible explanation is that after September 11th, those persons prone to committing hate crimes had their attention diverted to a new set of targets, which might partially explain the decline in the number of certain categories of victims. It is also possible that efforts to prevent hate crime are having some limited success.

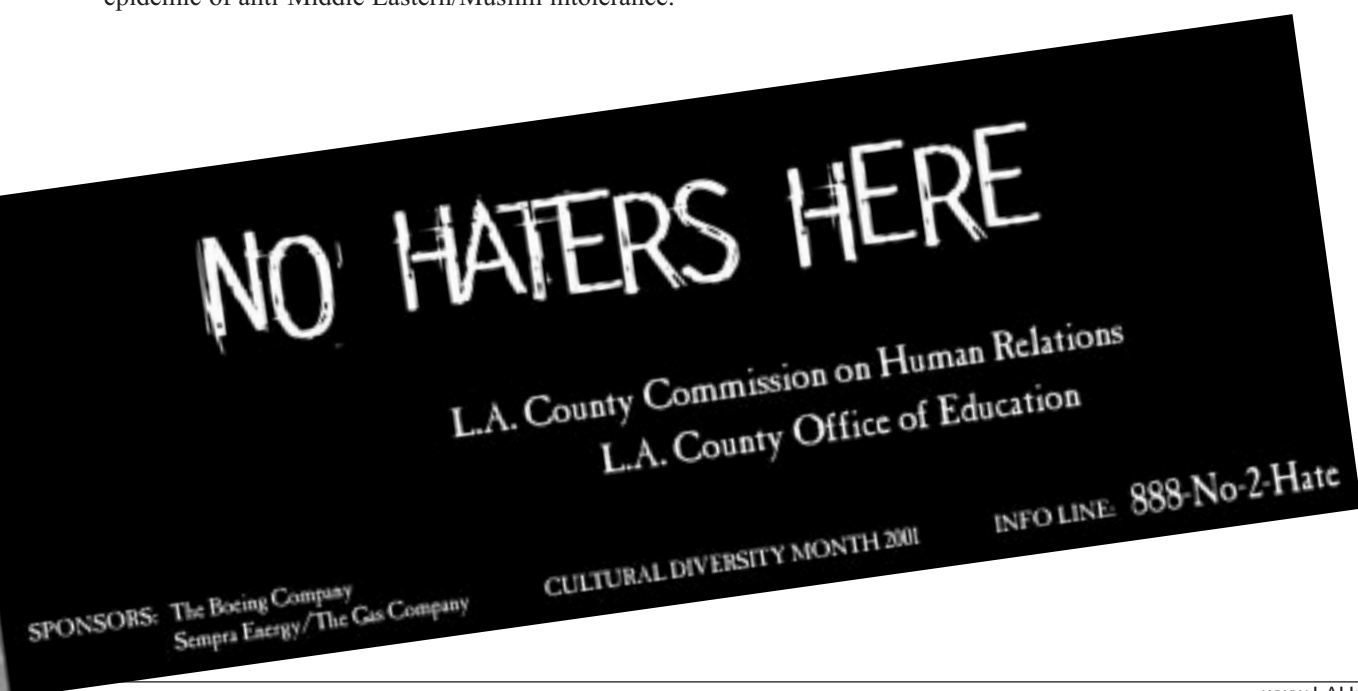
Growing Attention to Hate Crime and Human Relations

In 2001, there was a flurry of activity by various governmental agencies aimed at reducing hate crime. In January 2001, Sheriff Lee Baca created a specialized Hate Crime Investigations Unit in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The new unit sought to centralize expertise in hate crime investigations, provide training and support to officers throughout the county, and serve as a point of entry to community-based groups conducting anti-hate crime public education and assisting victims. The Hate Crime Investigations Unit was particularly visible during the post-September 11th epidemic of anti-Middle Eastern/Muslim intolerance.

Policy-makers also took action to develop legislation designed to strengthen efforts to combat hate crime. In 2001, the California State Assembly named first-term Assembly member Judy Chu to head the Select Committee on Hate Crime. The committee held two public hearings in the final months of 2001, including one in the City of Monterey Park. As a result, a package of hate suppression bills was introduced aimed at increasing penalties for offenders, providing support to victims, and developing anti-bias programs for incarcerated youth.

Local governments also made efforts to combat hate crime and the intolerance that fuels it. Both the City of Beverly Hills and the City of Azusa established human relations commissions, staffed by intergroup relations specialists, to recommend policies and practices designed to combat all forms of prejudice and hatred.

For the first time, in the second half of 2001, public schools were required by law to report hate-motivated acts as part of the California Safe Schools Assessment (CSSA) form which is submitted to the Office of the State Superintendent of Schools. The Anti-Defamation League conducted training workshops through the state, including several in Southern California, to enable school administrators to recognize and report hate crimes occurring on school campuses. Unfortunately, budget cuts in 2002 led to the closing of the office responsible for collecting and analyzing that data. That development, coupled with continued resistance by school districts to report hate crimes, endangers the effective implementation of the new law.



LACCHR Response



Action Plan to Lessen Hate Violence

In the two days after September 11th, LACCHR assembled a plan, dubbed the Plan for Unity and Tolerance (PUT) to mobilize the Commission in an effort to decrease the reported backlash against Muslim and Arab American members of the L.A. County community. As part of the Plan, the Commission convened a town hall meeting and press conference attended by more than one hundred community leaders and activists representing a broad array of community groups and constituencies. Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, LAUSD School Board members and other County and City officials called on local citizenry to stand together in the face of tragedy and not lash out at innocent Americans because of ethnic or religious differences. Local Muslim and Arab American leaders denounced the brutal attacks on east coast cities and expressed fear that members of their communities would be targets of vigilantism. Even at that early point, there were reports of hate acts and discrimination against innocent L.A. County residents because of anti-Muslim and Middle Eastern sentiment.

Actress Patricia Arquette contacted the Commission to join in the call for unity and tolerance in the aftermath of September 11th and encouraging the public to report acts of hatred and discrimination. She, Mary Louise Parker, and Elizabeth Cuthrell organized over 50 entertainment celebrities to create radio and television public service announcements that were distributed nation-wide.

The Commission also released a new version of its pamphlet, Salaam Means Peace, and produced a fact sheet on Sikh Americans to help educate the public and dispel myths about ethnic and religious groups who have been under attack since September 11th.

HRMAC Cities Protect Potential Targets of Hatred

A program of the Commission, the Human Relations Mutual Assistance Consortium (HRMAC) is a network of cities throughout Los Angeles County that have pledged to work cooperatively to address intergroup relations issues. Immediately following September 11th, HRMAC leapt into action to identify mosques, Islamic schools and other vulnerable sites that could become targets of misguided anger. HRMAC members reached out to the leaders of these organizations and worked to ensure that local law enforcement provided them adequate protection and support. HRMAC members held vigils, interfaith prayer meetings, dialogues and other acts of solidarity in the weeks following September 11th.

Increasing Hate Crime Victim Assistance Efforts

With emergency support from the Board of Supervisors, LACCHR was able to expand the Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative by funding two new community-based organizations that specifically serve South Asians and Muslim residents. With additional staffing and resources, these organizations conducted public information campaigns to educate their constituents about the importance of reporting hate crimes and helped link victims of hatred to culturally appropriate services.

Establishment of Hate Crime Information Line

The County Board of Supervisors also provided emergency funding to establish, in coordination with the Orange County Human Relations Commission, a special Hate Crime Information Line (1-888-No-2-Hate) staffed by multi-lingual staff to provide assistance to victims of anti-Middle Eastern crime and bigotry. LACCHR received a range of calls, from victims of post-September 11th hatred, to organizations wanting speakers and educational materials.



Whittier, CA
(Los Angeles Co.)
Whittier Daily News
December 21, 2001

Other Anti-Hate Activities

In addition to special efforts in response to September 11th related hate crime, LACCHR worked to combat hate crime on a number of fronts:

Youth Public Education Campaign

In October of 2001, the Commission began distribution of more than 10,000 posters and 60,000 bookmarks that promote tolerance with the slogan, "No Haters Here." The posters and bookmarks are part of the first phase of the Commission's Youth Public Education Campaign.

As a result of a generous seed fund grant from the Los Angeles County Quality & Productivity Commission, the Commission is partnering with Rock the Vote to launch a major media public education campaign to educate youth about non-violent conflict resolution. In the past, juveniles have accounted for more than half of the perpetrators in prosecuted hate crime cases. Plus, the number of hate crimes on school campuses is rising. This initiative will help to provide youth with the tools to curb these trends and reduce violence in their schools and communities. Over the past year, the Commission has conducted workshops for youth in conflict and generated student art used in initial promotional campaign material. The second phase of the marketing campaign will take full advantage of print and broadcast advertising, special promotions, school giveaways and will make exciting use of new technological marketing strategies such as a CD-ROM disks and youth interactive website. These website will be funded under a grant from the Los Angeles County Information Technology Fund. These seed funds will be leveraged by corporate and private foundation dollars to "grow" the campaign into a major county-wide campaign that will reach tens of thousands of youth.

Network Against Hate Crime

The LACCHR'S Network Against Hate Crime (NAHC), continued to hold quarterly meetings to offer educational and networking opportunities to anti-hate crime practitioners. Topics ranged from hate crime in public housing developments to a briefing by the U.S. Attorney's Office on the successful prosecution of a white supremacist who murdered Joseph Ito, a Filipino American postal worker and shot five at the North Valley Jewish Community Center.

Hate Crime Training and Technical Assistance

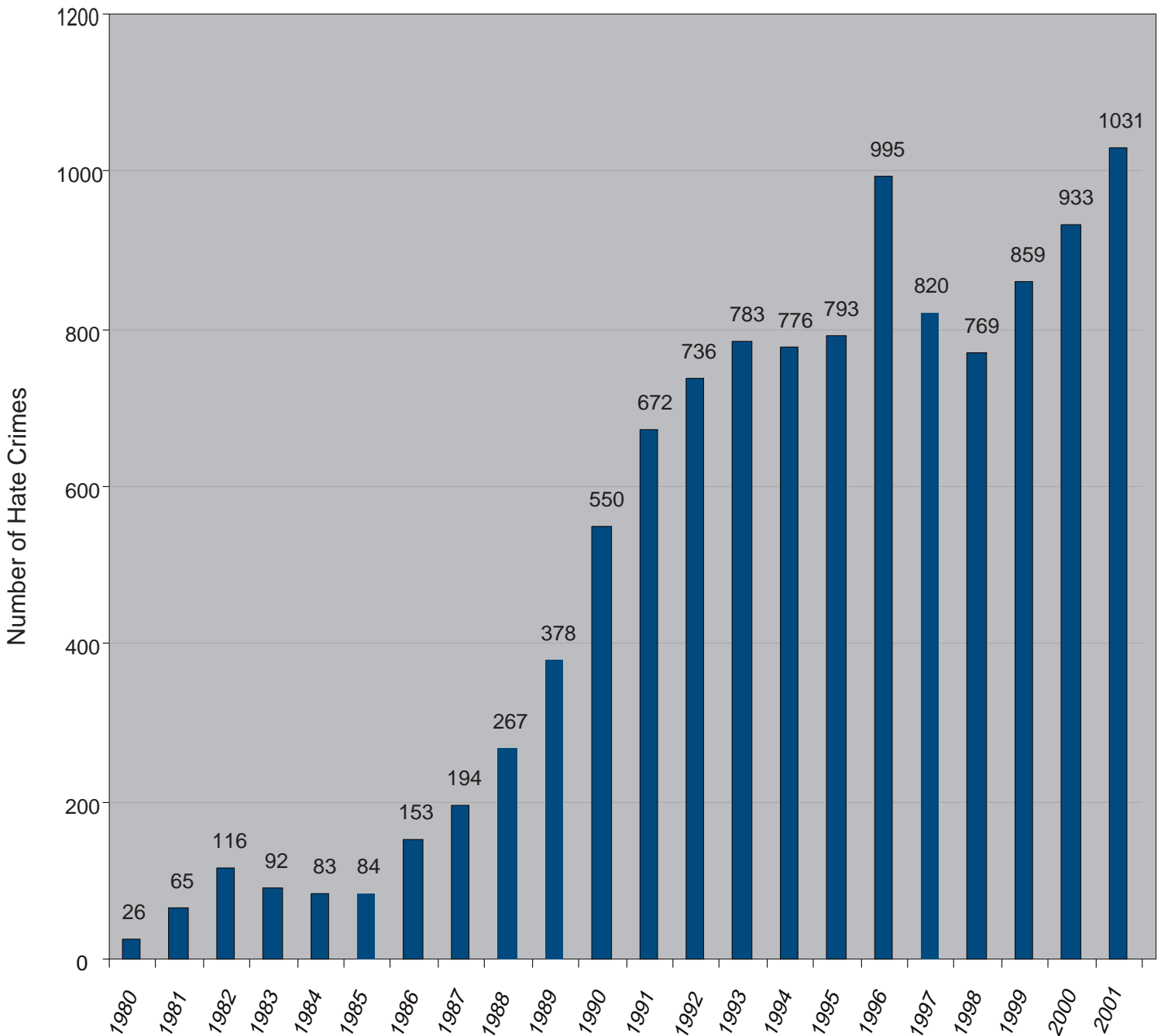
LACCHR also provided hate crime training and educational presentations to more than 20 different law enforcement agencies of L.A. County, as well as to educators, human relations professionals and the general public. LACCHR deployed staff to provide ongoing technical assistance to regional efforts to combat hate crime in the San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, South Los Angeles, Harbor area, and Antelope Valley.

LACCHR Website

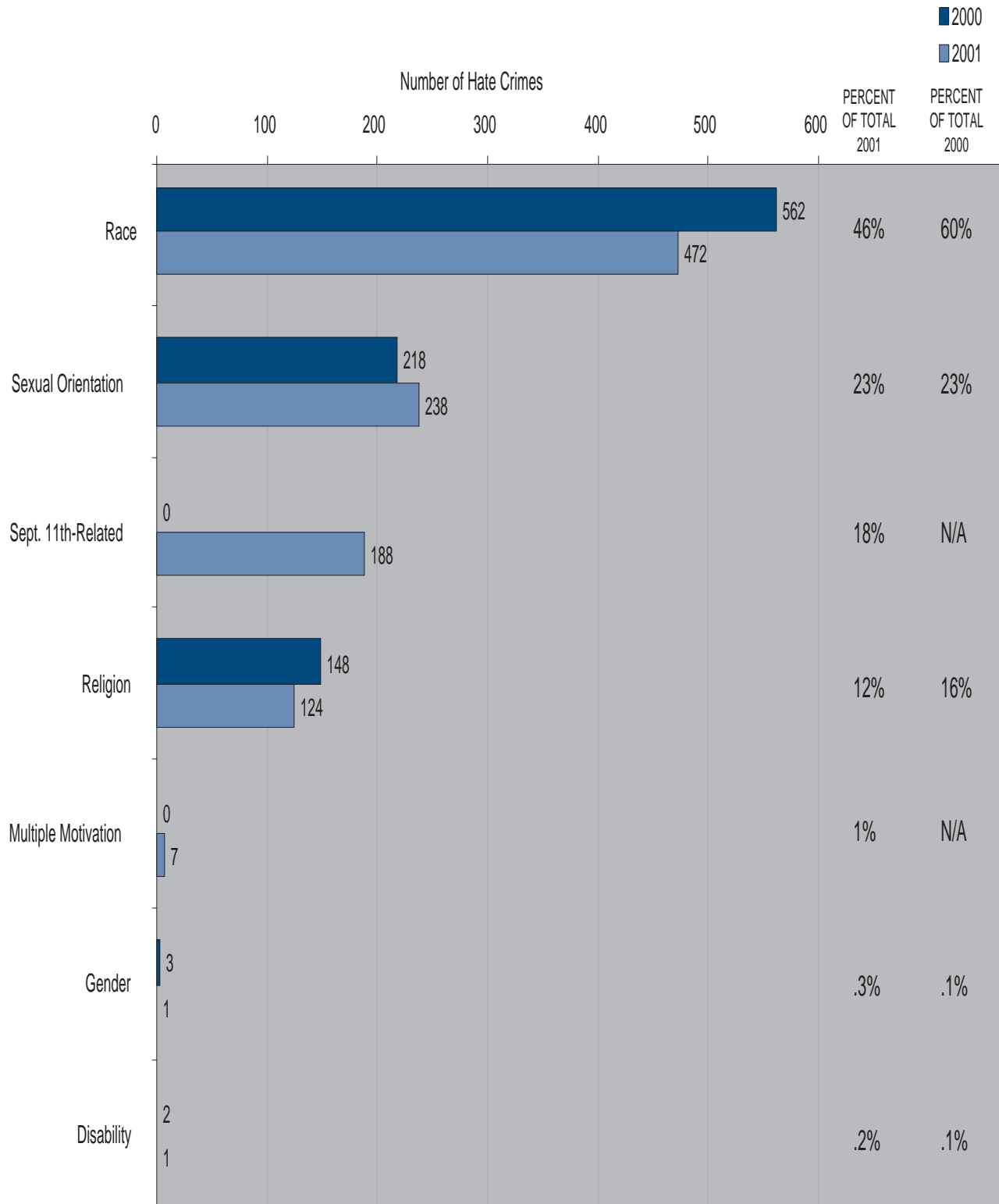
Finally, the Commission is looking to make use of several internet-based tools to assist local efforts against hate. First, LACCHR launched its website: www.LAHumanRelations.org which describes various hate crime-related programs and upcoming events, and allows visitors to pose questions and request information. Second, the Commission is developing a searchable database of hate crime and human relations-related resources for internet-users. Visitors can locate anything from victim assistance agencies to organizations combating homophobia and harassment in schools.



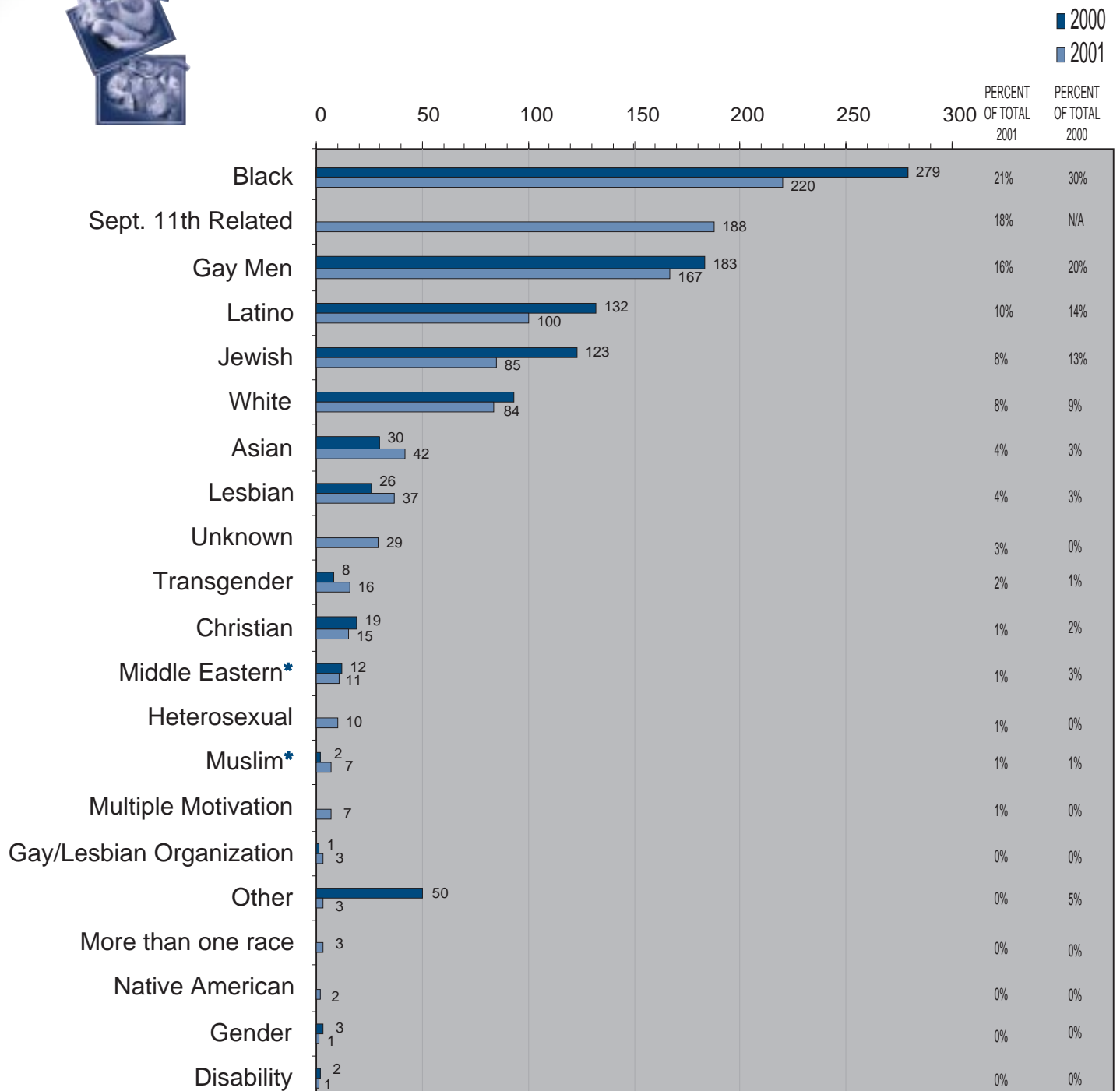
Reported Hate Crime Totals



Hate Crimes by Bias Category



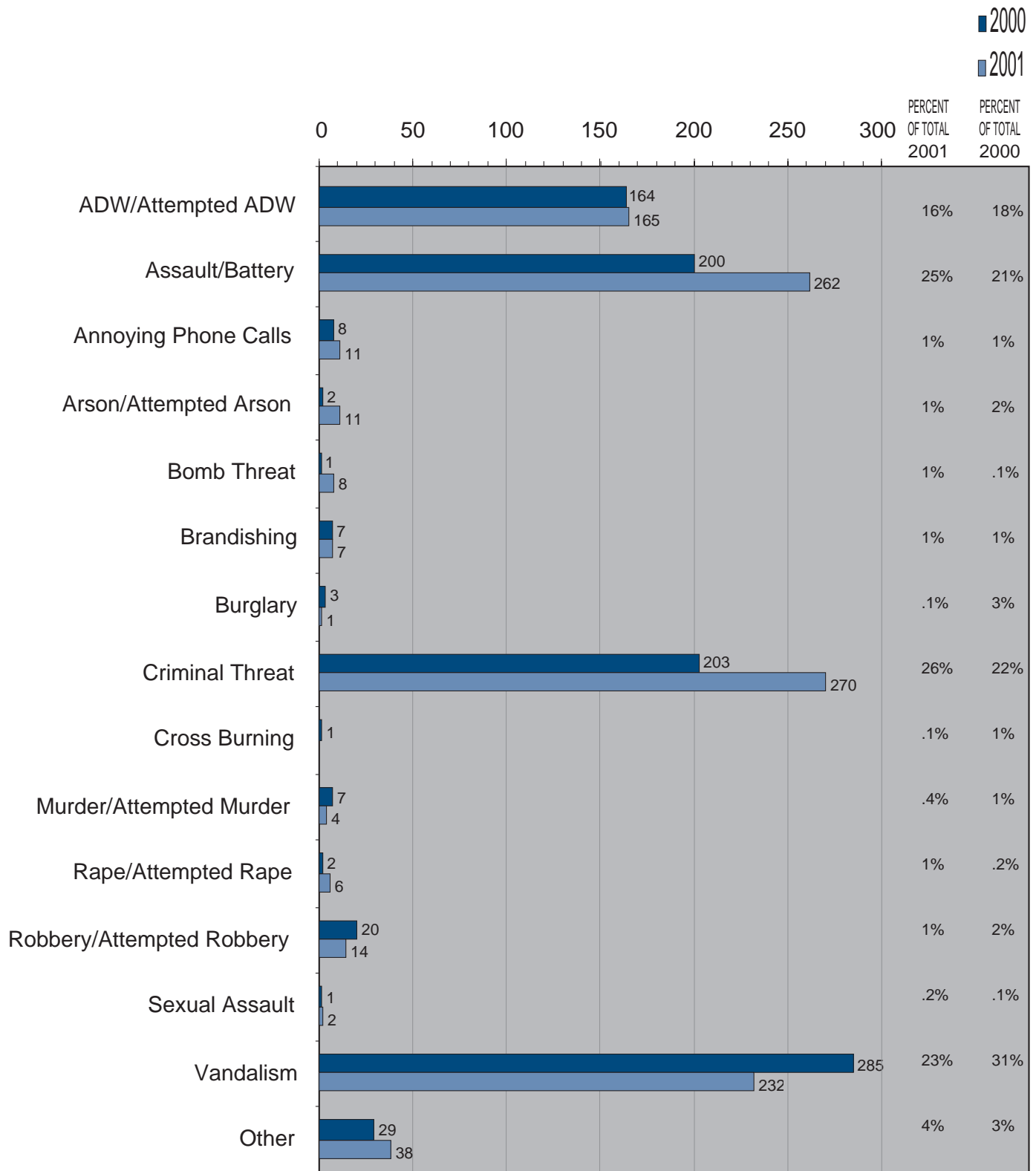
Hate Crimes By Targeted Group



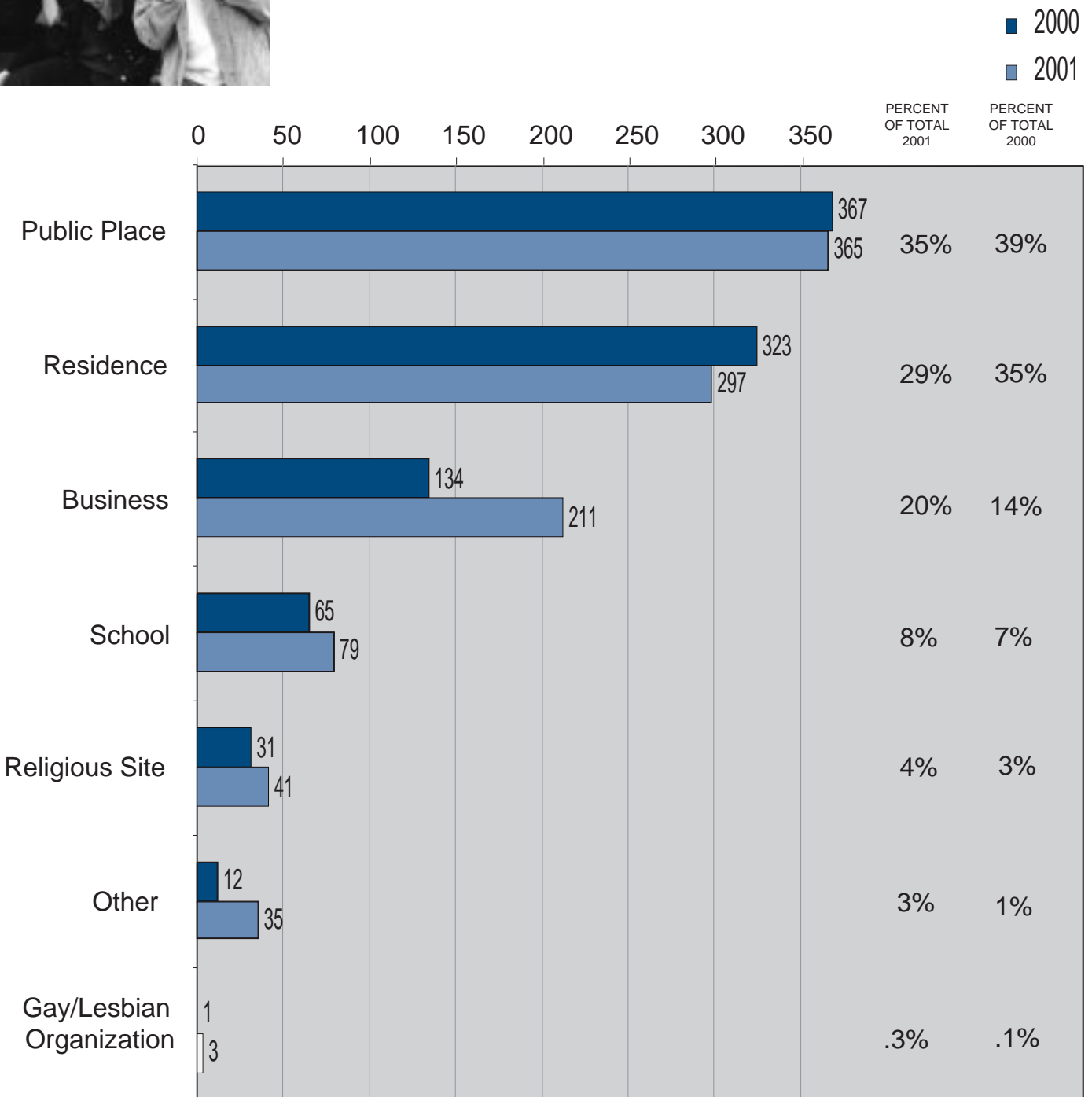
All numbers with 0% are less than 0.1%

* These occurred prior to September 11th.

Hate Crimes By Criminal Offense

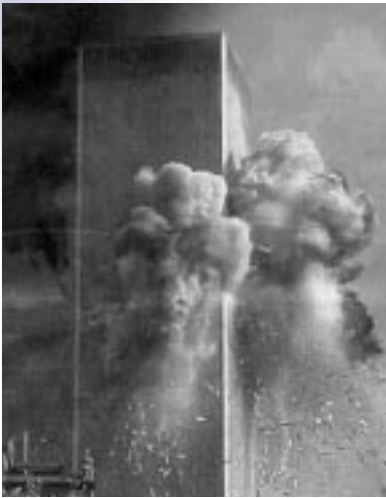


Hate Crimes by Location





September 11th-Related Hate Crime



The weeks immediately following the tragedies of September 11th provided a sad commentary to how some Americans acted on feelings of misplaced patriotism. One hundred thirty-five of the 188 September 11th-related hate crimes were concentrated during the first three weeks following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. In October, the frequency of these acts dramatically dropped to 29. In November, 14 such crimes were reported and in December, 10.

Many law enforcement agencies had difficulty identifying the racial and ethnic backgrounds of victims of post-September 11th backlash, perhaps because they did not fall into the traditionally targeted groups. In 67 of these cases, or 36%, the ethnic backgrounds of the victims were listed by the reporting authorities as "unknown" or "other." Of those that did identify race of victims, 48 were of Middle Eastern background and 38 were Pakistani, Indian, or of another South Asian nationality. Victims also included persons identified as white, Latino, black, Armenian, Jewish, and Native American.

One third of these acts were of a violent nature. Forty-four percent were criminal threats and 21% were acts of vandalism, but 25% were assaults, batteries, or assaults with deadly weapons.

The most notable of these crimes was the murder of Adel Karas, an Egyptian-born Christian who fled his native country because of religious persecution and settled in the Los Angeles area. On September 14, Mr. Karas was found shot to death in his San Gabriel store. Because of the timing of the event and other circumstances, the FBI initially investigated the case as a possible hate crime. At the time of this report's publication, no suspect had been identified, and the case remains an open investigation.

Another high profile homicide that occurred shortly after September 11th was also initially investigated for possible hate motivation. On October 3, 2001, Mr. Abdullah Nimer, a Palestinian door-to-door salesman was found fatally shot in South Los Angeles. Understandably, there were widespread fears that the slaying was committed in retaliation for the



LA Times
Sept. 12, 2001

September 11th attacks. In July, 2002, however, three gang members were charged with killing Mr. Nimer in the course of an attempted carjacking. With suspects in custody, the evidence was insufficient to support a charge of bias-motivation. This case is not included in this report.

The largest number of these post-September 11th crimes (42%) occurred in businesses, where persons of Middle Eastern descent (or those perceived to be) were employed. Gas stations, convenience stores, and restaurants were common targets. Another 20% occurred at the victims' residences and 20% took place in public places. Surprisingly, only 9% occurred at

religious sites despite widespread fears that Islamic mosques would be magnets for retaliation. This low number could be due to stepped up efforts by law enforcement and the community to protect these sites. (See LACCHR Response Section)

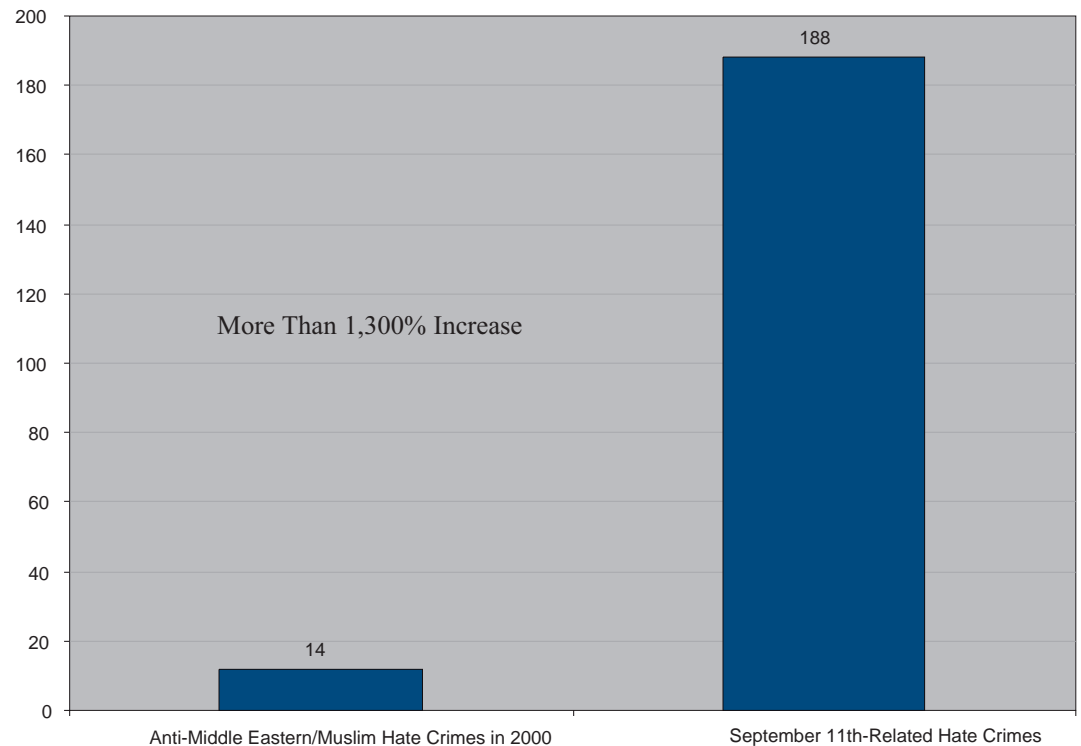
Of the 76 suspects whose race was identified, 54% were white, 20% were black and 16% were Latino.



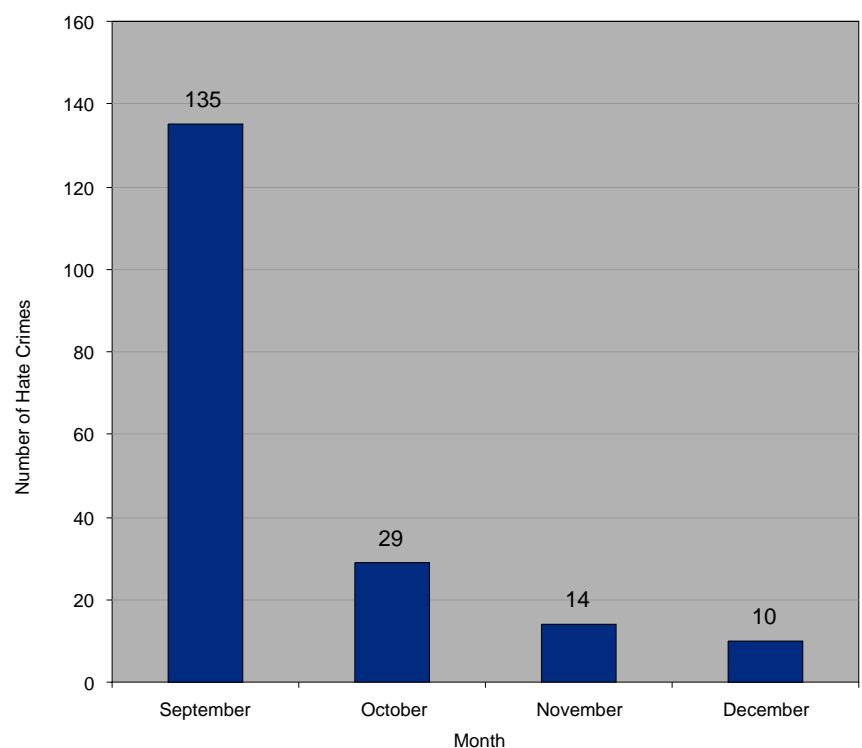
ACTUAL HATE CRIMES

- A week after September 11th, in North Hollywood, a Sikh high school student was confronted by a white adult male who called him a terrorist and said, "Go back to your own country." Shortly thereafter, the student found the four tires on his car slashed.
- In San Dimas, a Latino man was followed on the freeway by a carload of six white men who mistook him for being Middle Eastern. They forced him off the road, pulled him from his car and threatened him at gunpoint. It was only after he spoke to them in Spanish that he was released.
- In a La Mirada parking lot, a woman was called a "terrorist" by three white males who tore off her head scarf and slapped, bit, and kicked her.
- The Islamic Center of Claremont in the City of Pomona received several threatening phone calls after September 11th. One caller said, "You bombed my country. We are going to bomb your place"

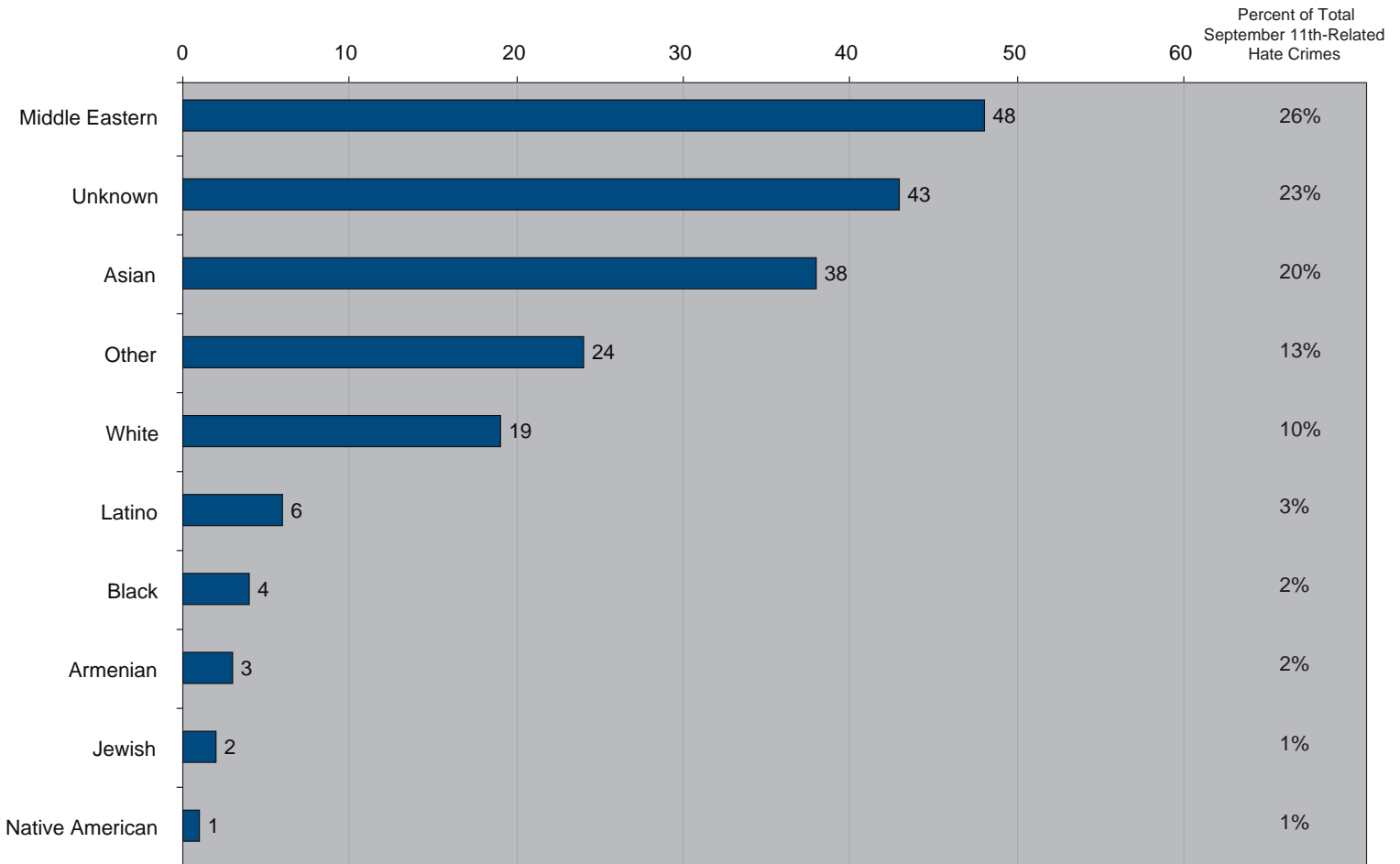
Anti-Middle Eastern/Muslim Hate Crimes in 2000 and September 11th-Related Hate Crimes in 2001



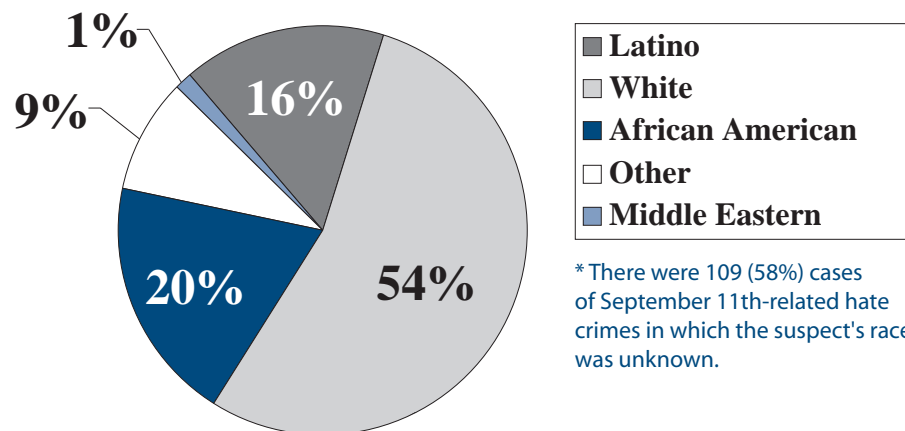
September 11th-Related Hate Crimes by Month



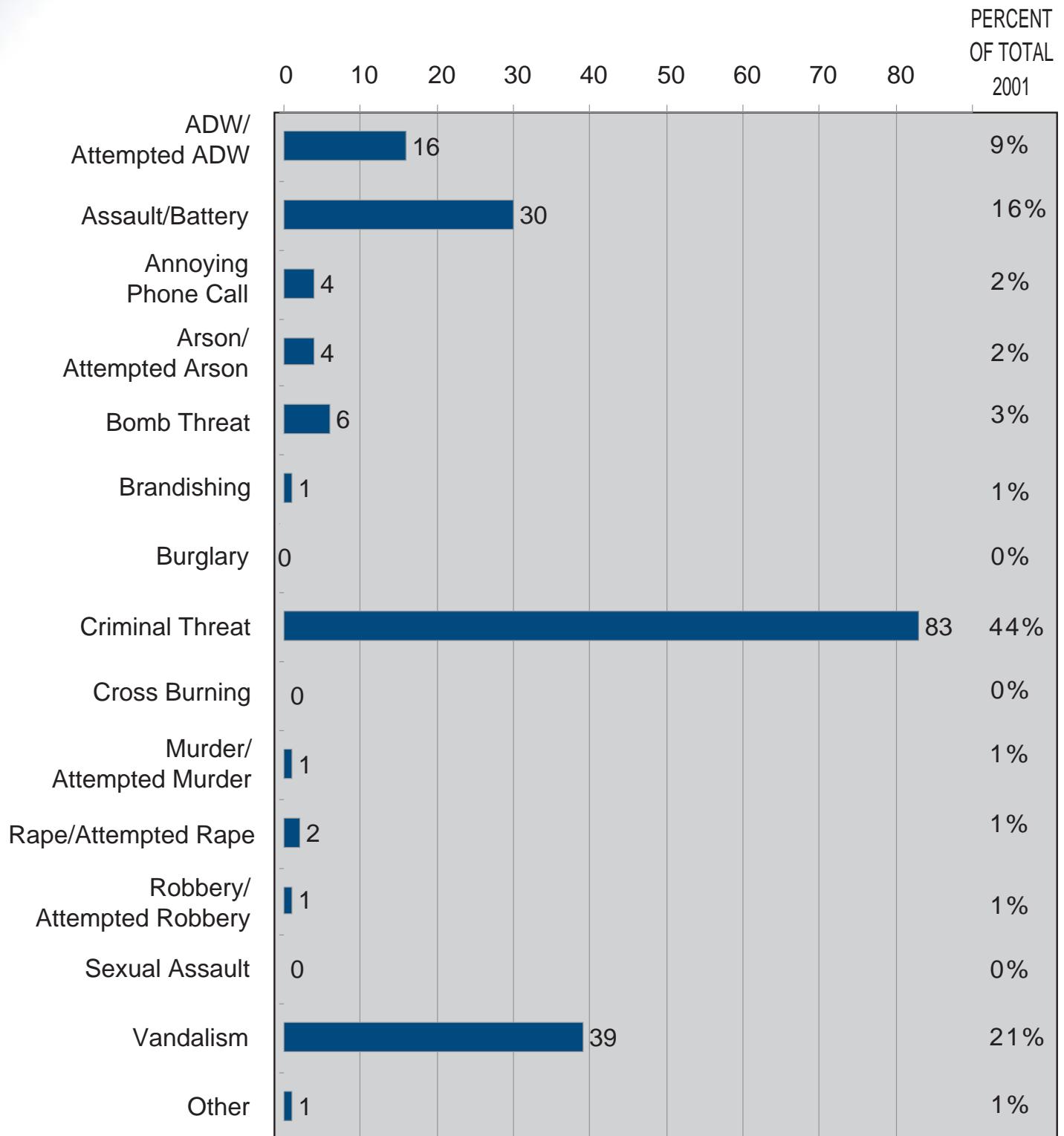
September 11th-Related Hate Crimes by Victim Race/Ethnicity



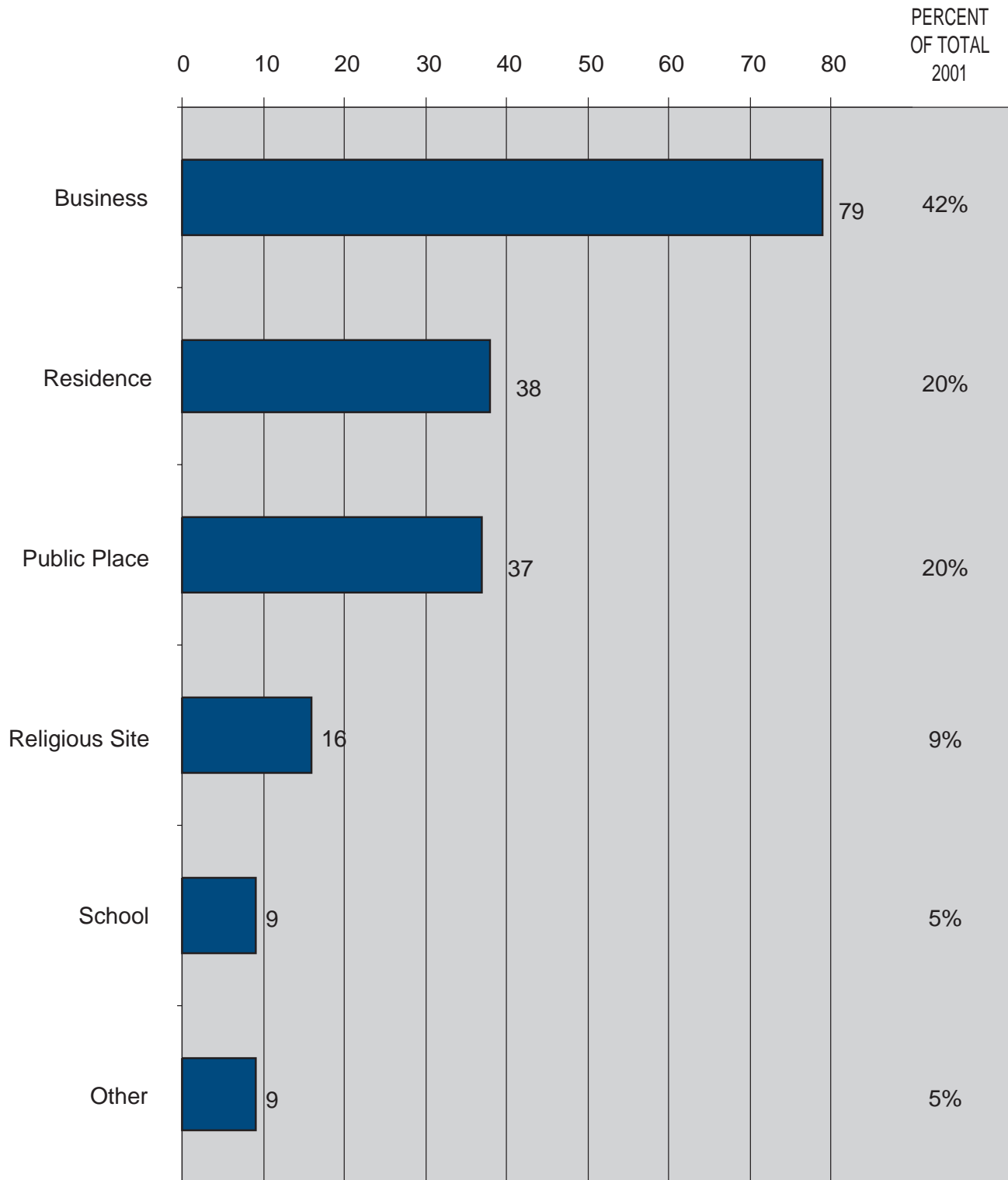
Race/Ethnicity of Identified Suspects September 11th-Related Hate Crimes



September 11th-Related Hate Crimes By Criminal Offense



September 11th-Related Hate Crimes by Location

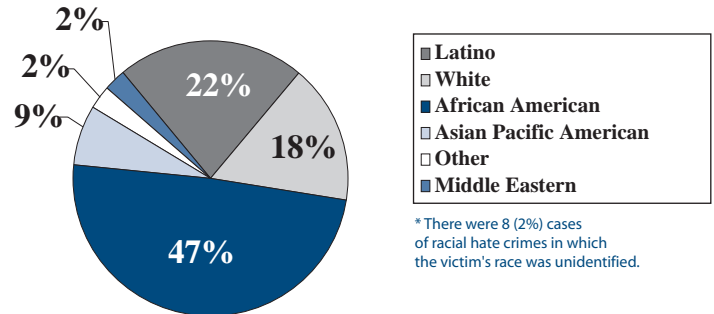


Racial Hate Crimes

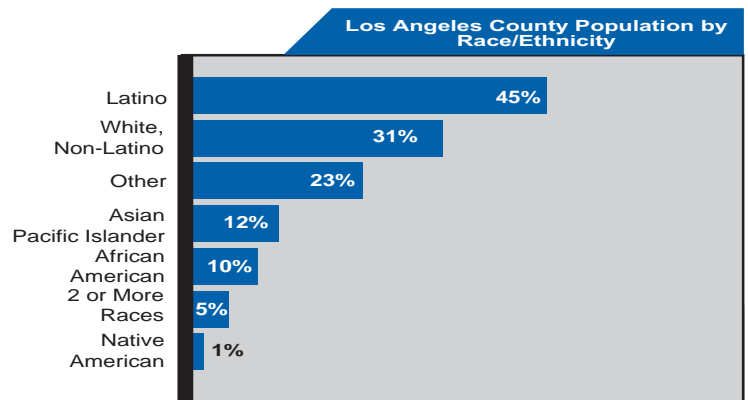
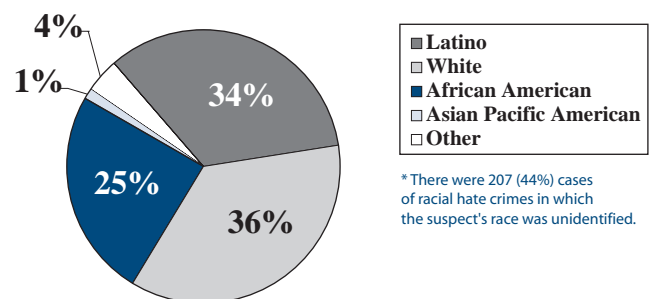
- In 2001, hate crimes motivated by race, ethnicity or national origin (to simplify, we will refer to this category as "racial" throughout this report) remained the largest category, constituting 46% of the total. Fifty-nine percent of these crimes were of a violent nature, which is second only to sexual orientation hate crimes.
- We note that this year race-based hate crimes can also be found within the separate category of September 11th-related crime.
- These non-September 11th –related crimes included one murder, the drive-by shooting of an African American man by Latino gang members who shouted racial slurs. There were also the attempted murders of two Asian teenagers in Long Beach by a Latino male who yelled epithets and shot at their vehicle.
- Again, African Americans were targeted more often than any other group even though the black population of Los Angeles County is smaller than the Latino, white, and Asian Pacific American communities. African Americans were victims in 47% of the cases in which the victim's race was identified. This was at a rate nearly five times their proportion of the general L.A. County population. Latinos comprised 22% and whites made up 18% of the cases, both at a rate of less than half of their presence in the County. Asian Pacific Americans constituted 9% of the victims, nearly at parity with their proportion of the general population.
- Anti-immigrant slurs were made in 18 of the racial hate crimes. (This number does not include September 11th-related cases). In 17 of racial hate crimes, victims were inter-racial couples or targeted because they were associating with persons of a different race.
- Racial hate crimes targeting whites numbered 84, but a closer look reveals much about the nature of these crimes. The majority of these cases involved members of racial minority groups threatening or physically attacking the victims while making anti-white slurs. However, more of a third of the 84 are crimes not typical of what one would expect to be a race-based anti-white hate crime. For example, in ten of these cases, homes or other property owned by white persons were the sites of specifically anti-African American or Latino graffiti. In six cases, swastikas or the letters "KKK" were written on property owned by white victims for no apparent reason. In six cases, white victims were

targeted because they were associating with people of color and in three cases whites were singled out because they had spouses or partners of a different race. Finally, in four of these cases, police reports revealed that the victims made racist statements during a scuffle or sported white supremacist tattoos, which raises the question whether they were cases of mutual combat, or if the crimes were politically-motivated instead of racially-motivated. It is also important to note that anti-white crimes included nine anti-Armenian, three anti-German, and one anti-Russian case, sometimes committed by white suspects. (A handful of crimes committed against African Americans and Latinos also appeared to be cases of mistaken identity.)

Known Victims of Racial Hate Crimes



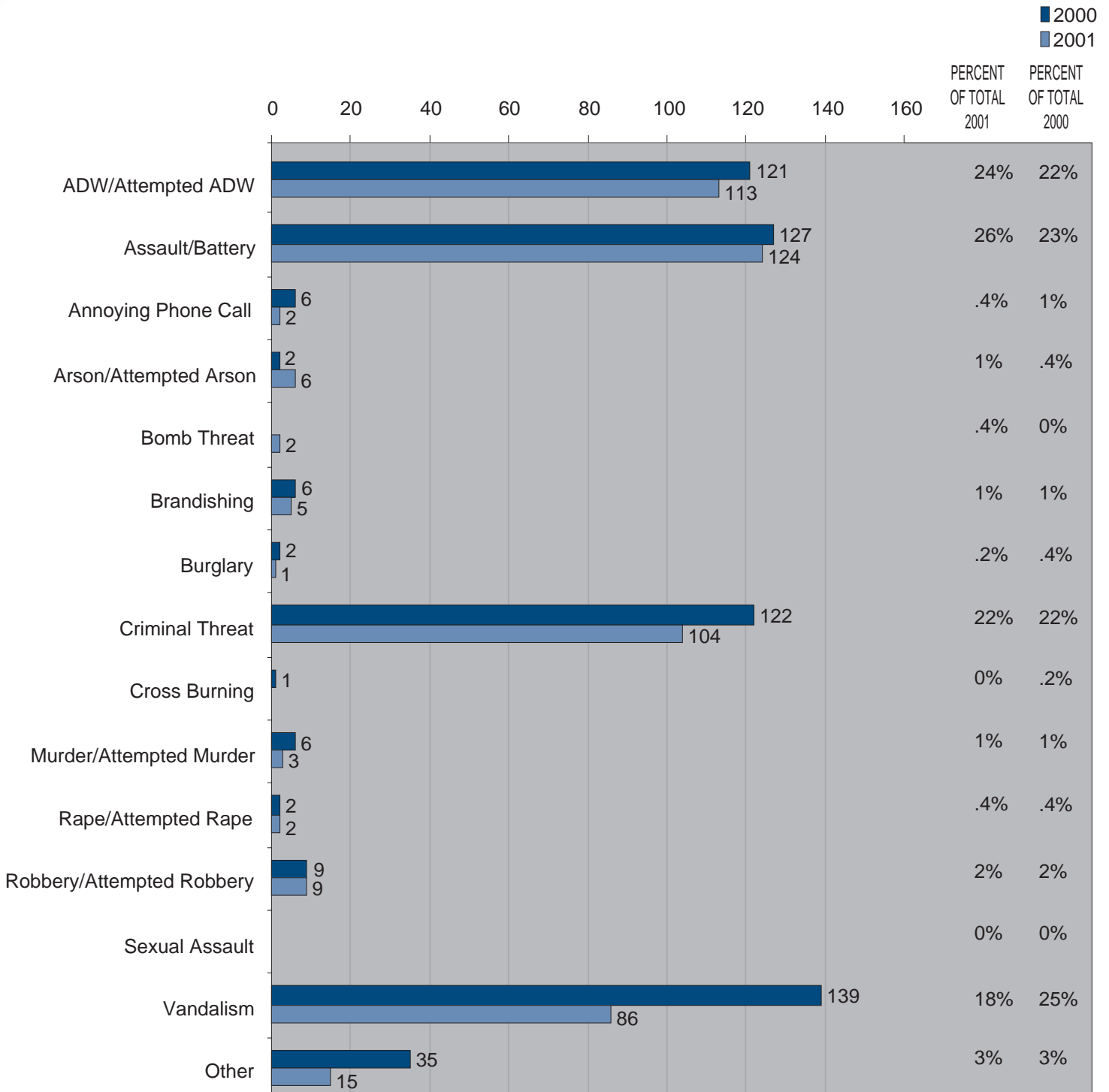
Known Suspects of Racial Hate Crimes



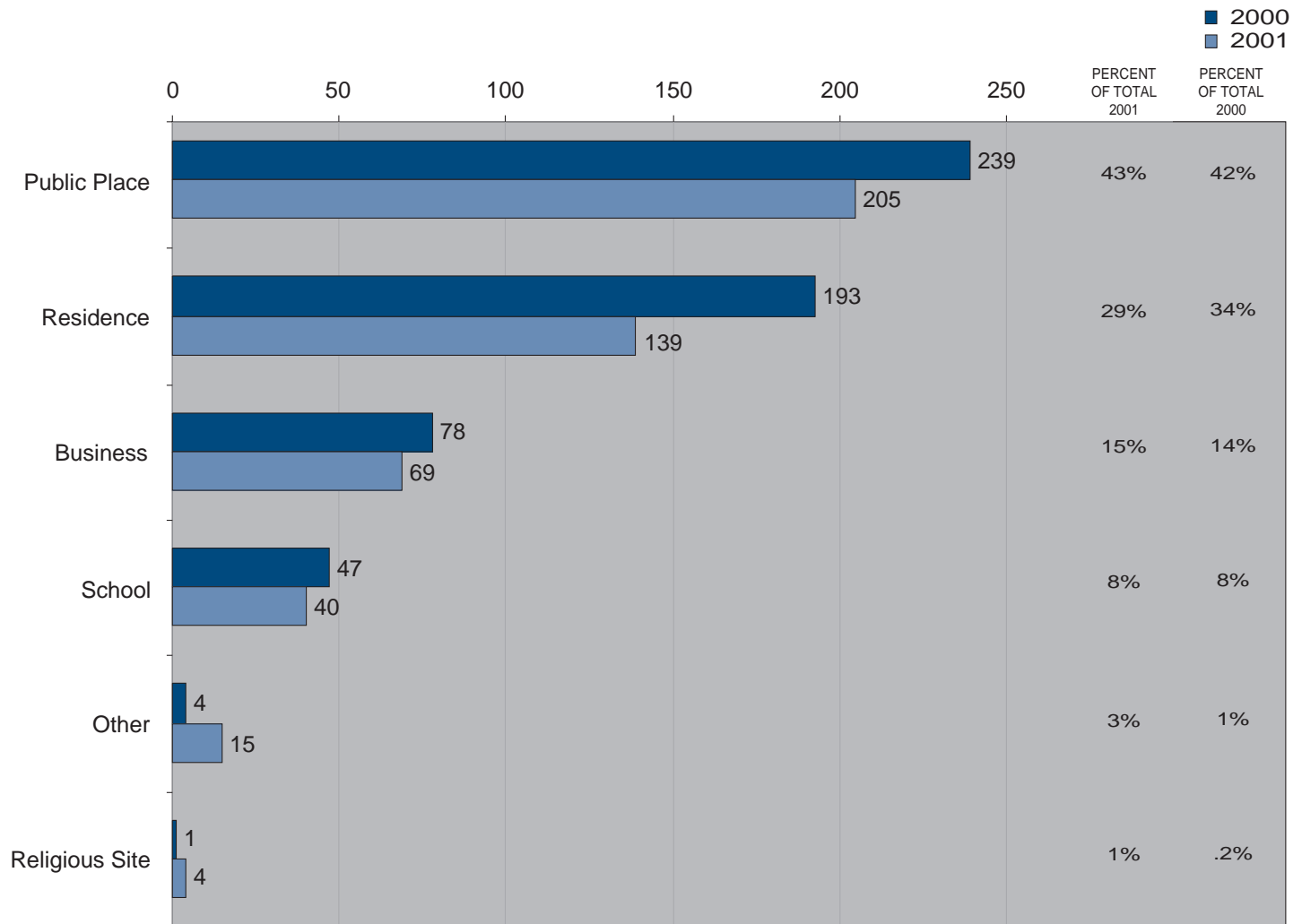
* Because Latinos may identify themselves as both Latino and white, black, other, etc., the sum of these categories does not equal 100%.



Racial Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



Racial Hate Crimes by Location



ACTUAL HATE CRIMES

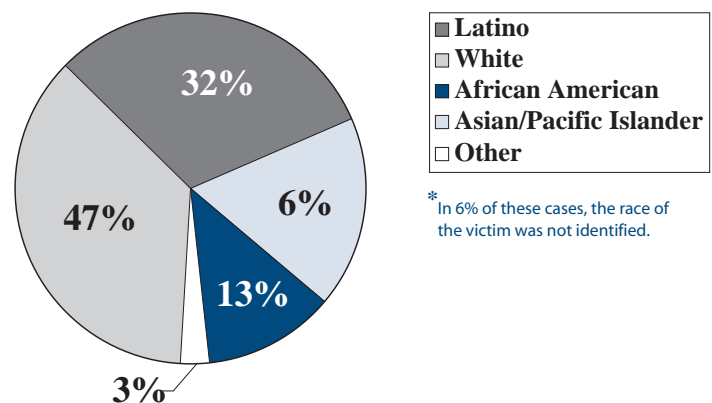
- In Van Nuys, a fourteen-year-old girl left her backpack on a lunch table. She later found that in several of her books and papers, someone had written, "Die, Armenian Death," "F--- Armenians," "Die Bitch," and swastikas.
- In Norwalk, a Latino male pulled alongside another car, yelled, "F___ Asians" and shot a 19-year-old Asian male passenger in the back.
- In Azusa, during a 20 minute period, unknown suspects threw molotov cocktails at the homes of three African American families, starting fires that the residents extinguished.
- A white customer at a Burger King in Manhattan Beach became enraged at one of the employees because she was speaking Spanish. He threatened to shoot her in the head, called her a "f----- Mexican bitch" and a "stupid f-----Mexican." He also made hand gestures as though he was firing a gun.
- On a street in East Valinda, a 19-year-old Latina was shot by a Latino acquaintance with a BB gun because he was enraged to see her walking with an African American man.

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes

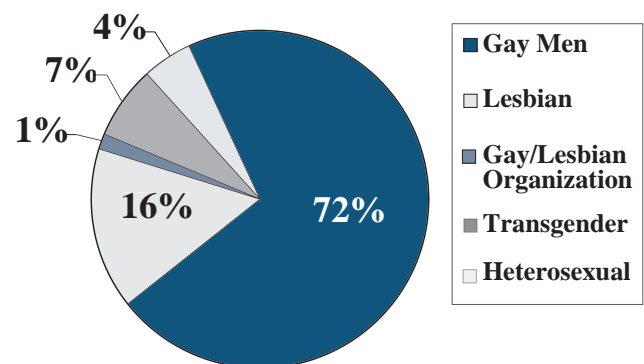


- Sexual orientation-based hate crime increased, from 218 to 238 cases, a 9% rise. As in past years, gay males, the largest proportion of the victims, where the sexual orientation was known, comprised 72%, while lesbians made up 16% and transgendered persons were 7% of the total. There were also ten sexual orientation hate crime victims who stated that they were heterosexual. In nine of these cases, the attackers mistakenly perceived their victims as gay.
- Once again, sexual orientation hate crimes were the most likely to be violent of any major category. Sixty-two percent of homophobic crimes involved violence, the highest percentage of any victim motivation category.
- In these types of hate crimes there was a 51% increase in the number of assaults and batteries and cases of vandalism rose 21%. The assaults ranged from vicious beatings to eggs being thrown from passing vehicles. The assaults also included a number of cases in which lesbians were attacked by former boyfriends or relatives.
- Reports of sexual orientation hate crimes in schools rose from 9 to 14, a 56% increase and cases occurring at businesses jumped 22%, from 36 to 44. *
- Both victims and suspects in cases of sexual orientation hate crime were from culturally diverse backgrounds. Whites comprised 104 of the victims of homophobic crime (44%) followed by Latinos, (72, or 30%) and African Americans (28 or 12%). Latinos made up 46% of the 149 known suspects in homophobic crimes, followed by whites (28%) and blacks (19%).
- "Businesses" can include public thoroughfares in front of the business property, as well. For example, a number of the victims of sexual orientation hate crimes in 2001 were targeted when they were entering or leaving gay or lesbian bars or nightclubs. In these cases, they were singled out because of their proximity to the business, although the attacks occurred on public sidewalks.

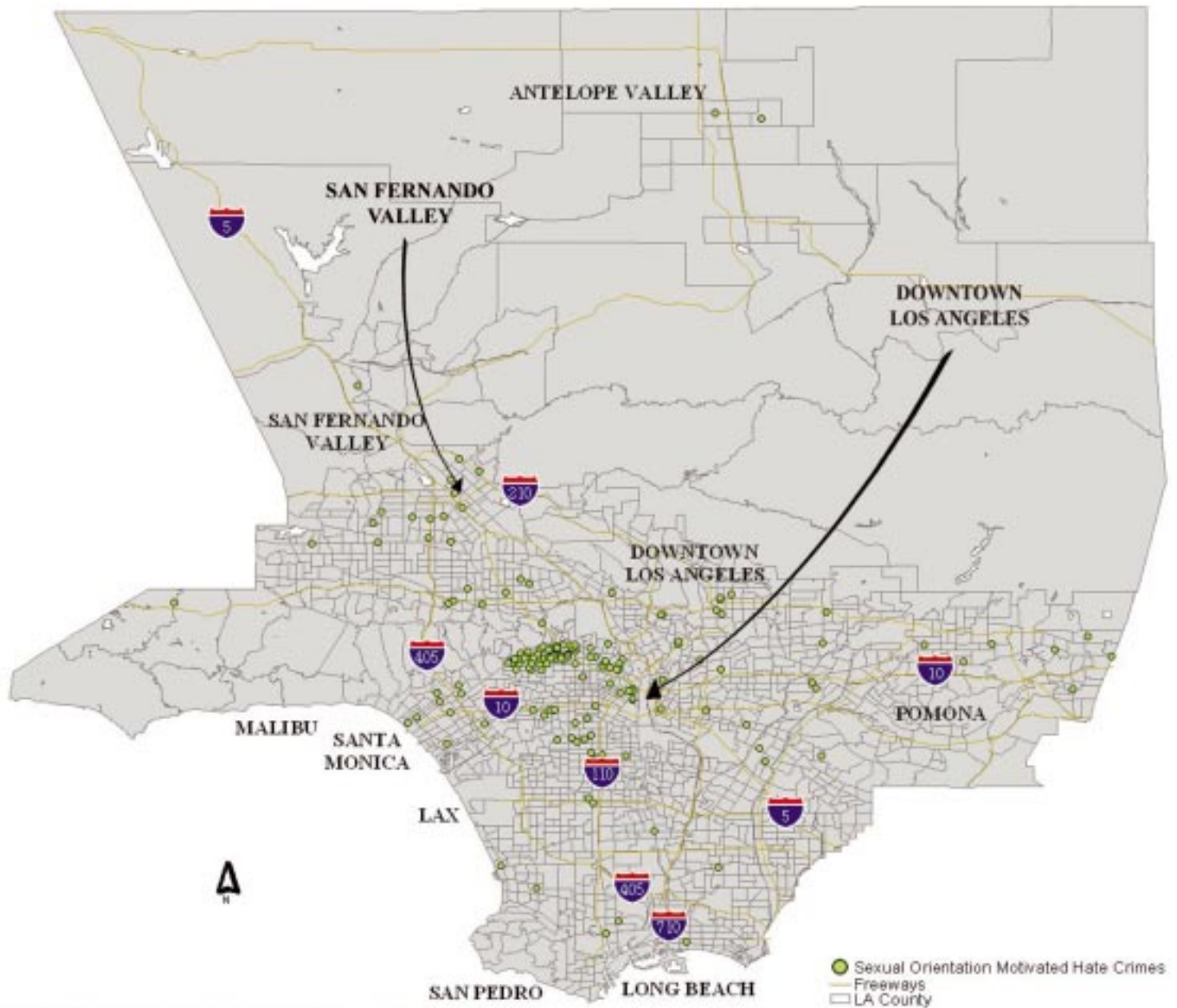
Known Race/Ethnicity of Victims of Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes



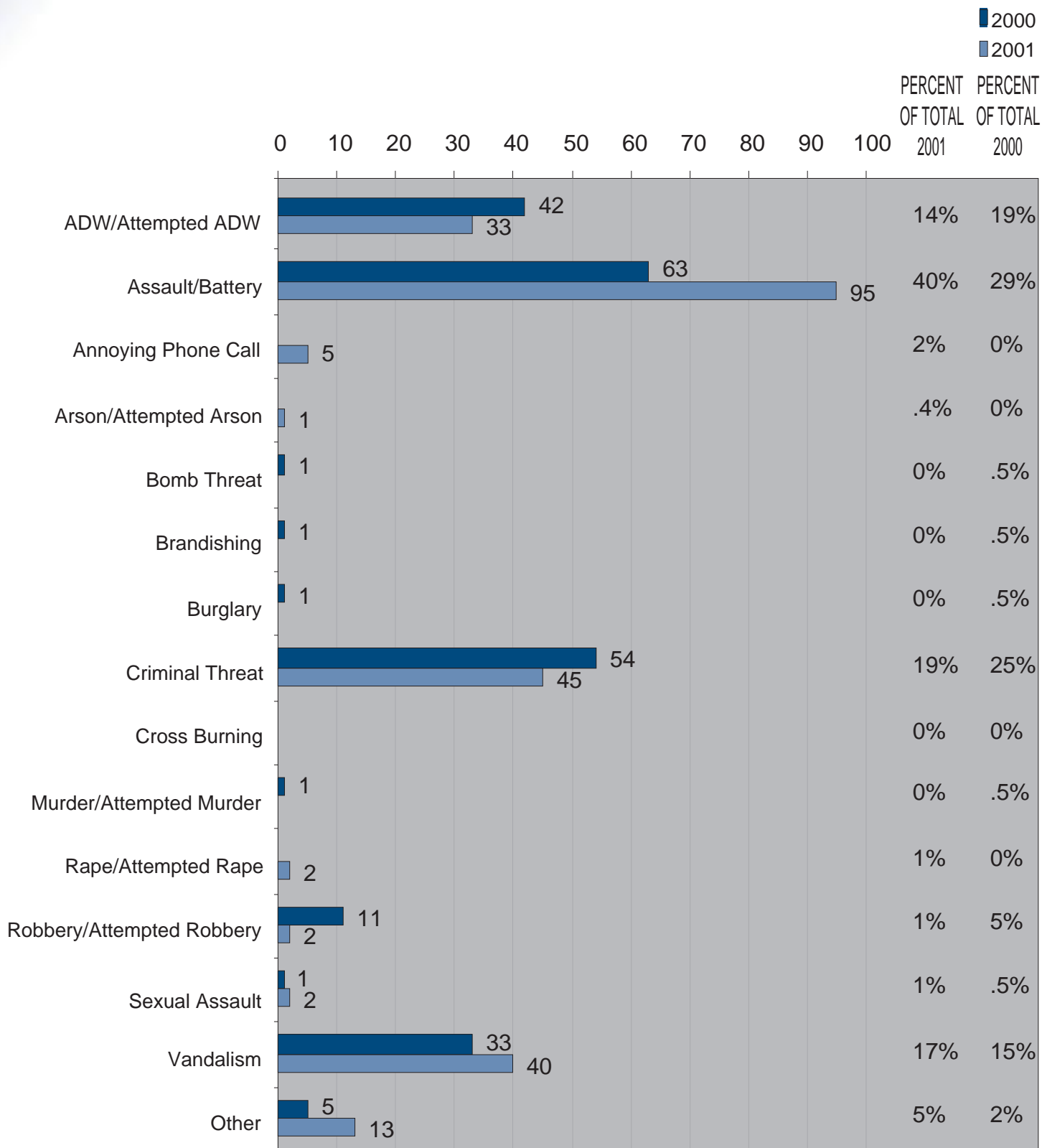
Known Victims of Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes



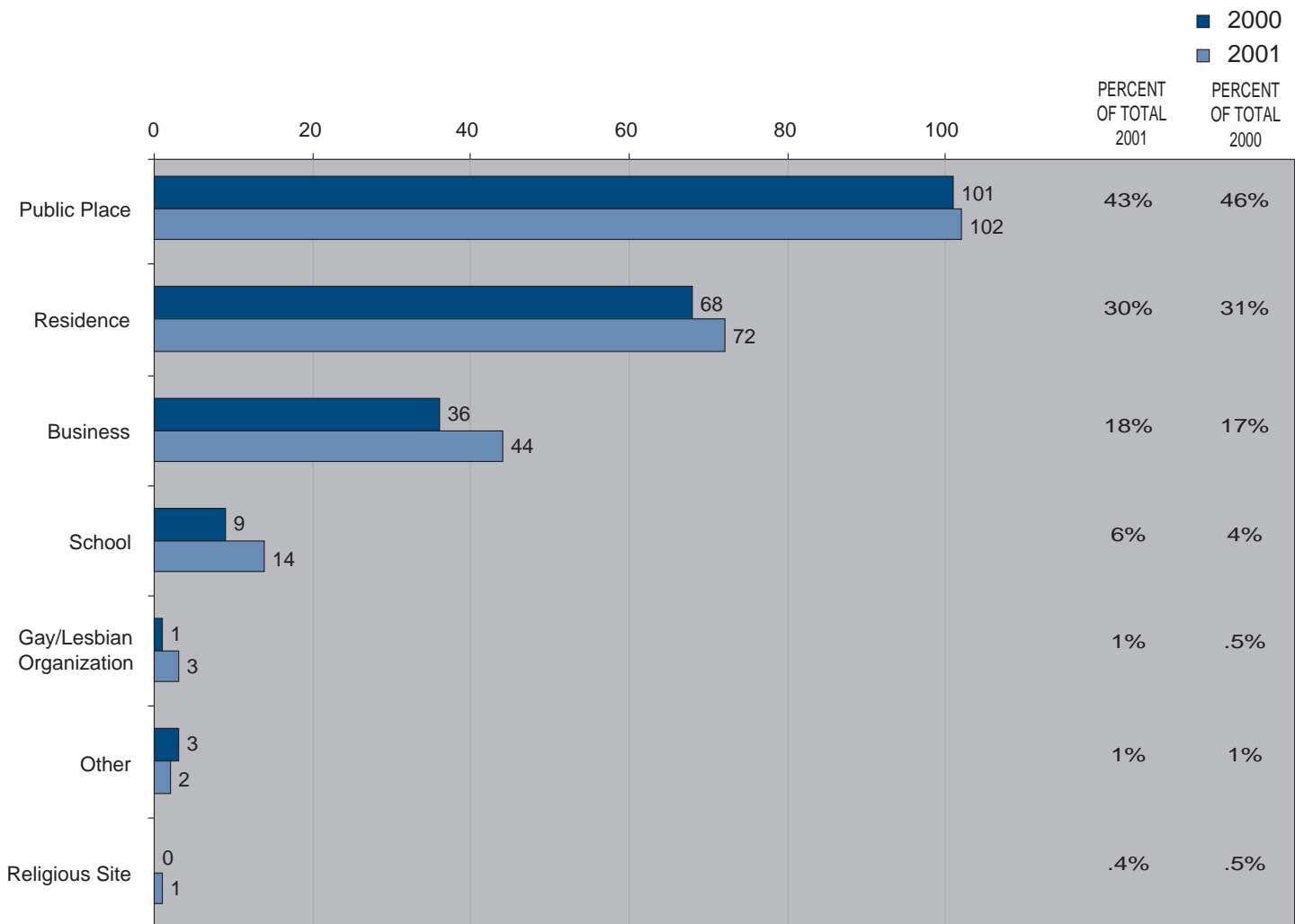
Locations of Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes



Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Location



ACTUAL HATE CRIMES

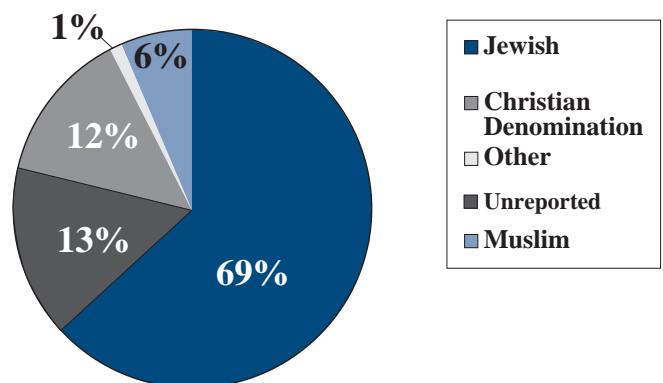
- In Los Angeles, a neighbor raped a 28-year-old lesbian a few weeks after he learned of her sexual orientation. Prior to the sexual assault the assailant told her she was "going to hell" for being a lesbian.
- In Hollywood, a gay white man was fixing his motorcycle in front of his residence when a white man walking by called him a "skinny faggot ass," spit in his face and kicked him.
- On four separate occasions, gay men in Hollywood and West Hollywood reported that a carload of young men yelled "faggot" and threw eggs at them.
- "Fag" was spray-painted in red 12-inch-high letters on a man's car while parked in front of his home in Agoura Hills.

Religious Hate Crimes

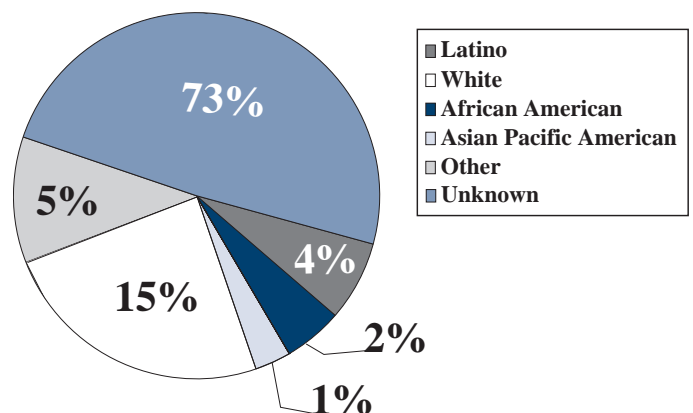


- Religion-based hate crimes unrelated to September 11th declined 16% in 2001, from 148 to 124 cases.
- Jewish persons were again the largest number of religious hate crime victims and comprised 69% of the total. Anti-Christian crimes comprised 12%, almost half of which were Catholic targets. Non-September 11th –related Muslim targets accounted for 6% of victims.
- Consistent with previous years, religious hate crimes were overwhelmingly crimes against property, not persons. Religion-based crimes were only violent in 21% of the cases. Vandalism remained the most common religion-motivated crime, constituting 48% of the total, but declined dramatically from 111 cases to 60. Criminal threats, on the other hand nearly doubled from 21 to 38 cases.
- As in previous years, the greatest number of religious hate crimes, or 38%, occurred at victims' residences. Nearly equal numbers took place in businesses, public places and religious sites.
- Due to the nature of the criminal acts, few suspects are ever identified in cases of religious hate crime. However, of the 33 cases where the suspect's race was identified, about half were white, 21% were considered "other" and 15% were Latino.

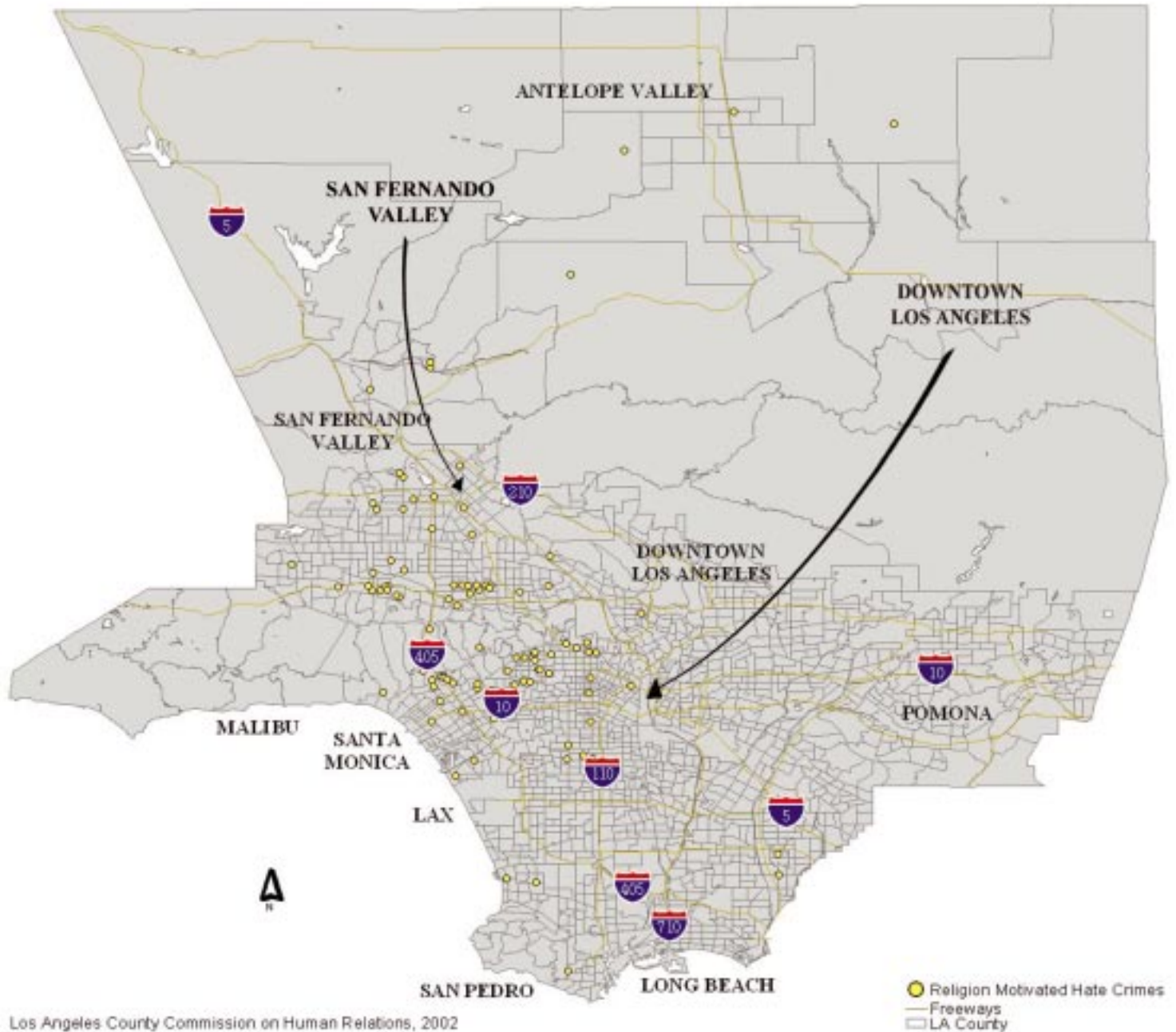
Victims Of Religious Hate Crimes



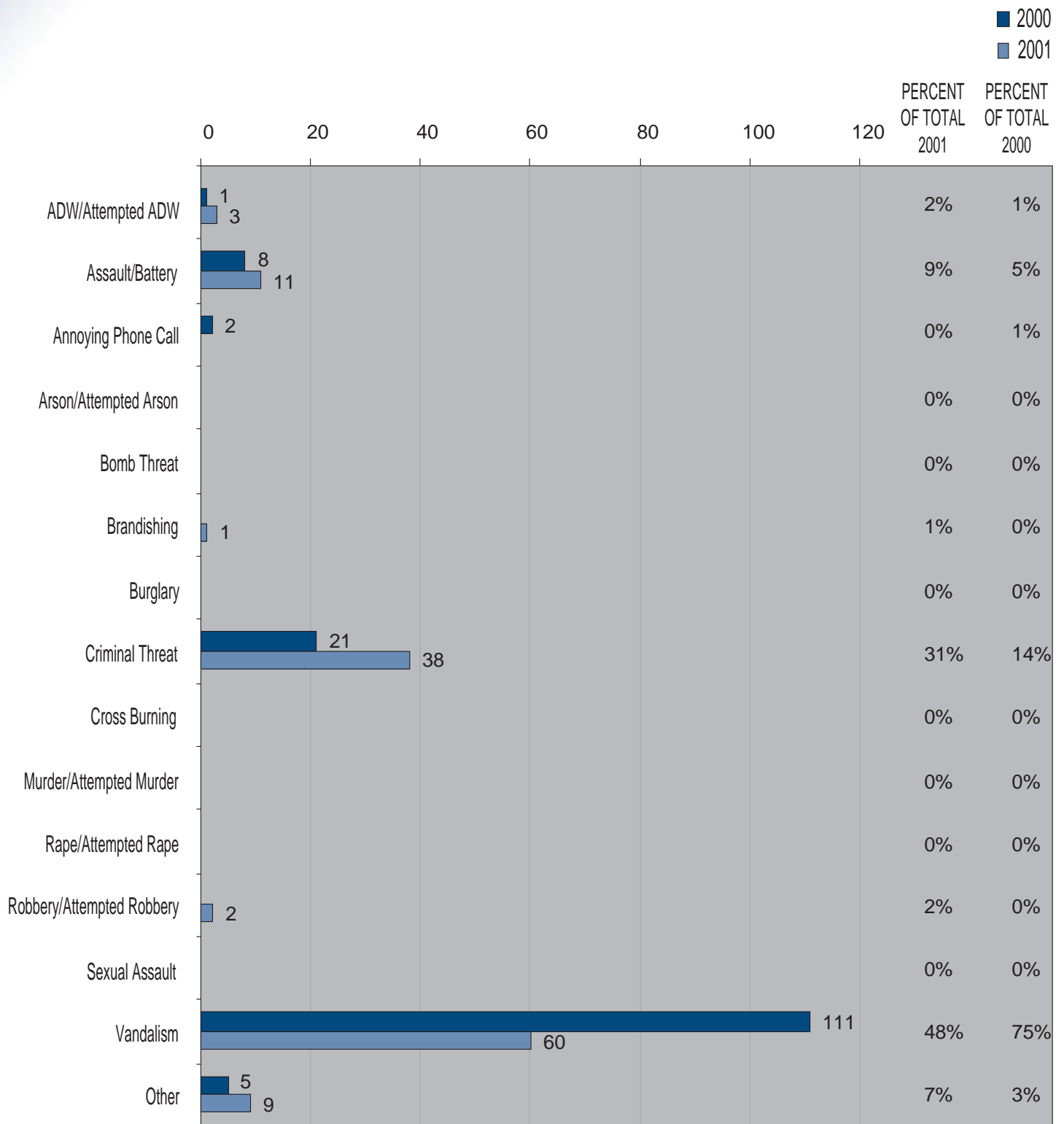
Suspects Of Religious Hate Crimes



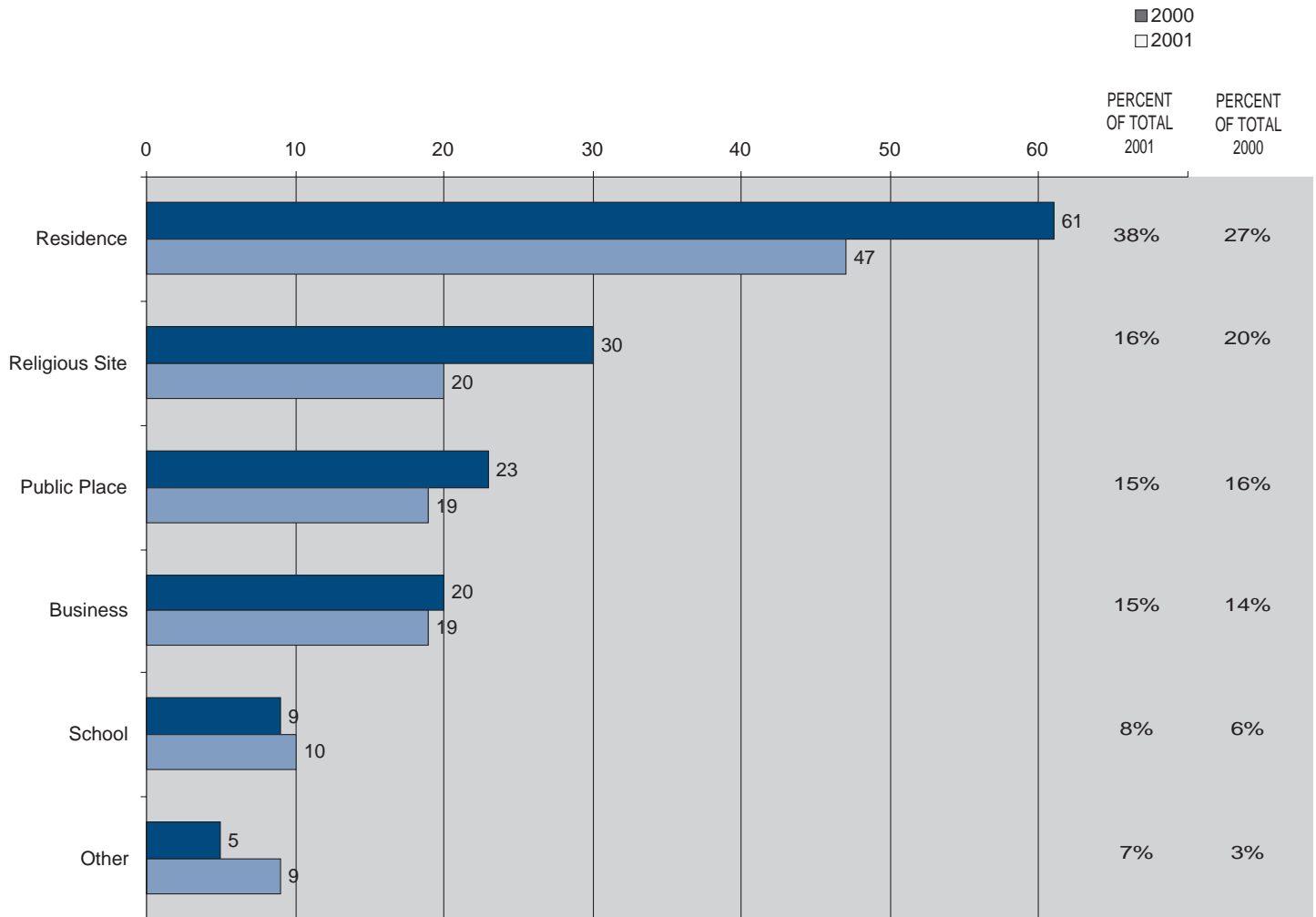
Location of Religious Hate Crimes



Religious Hate Crimes



Religious Hate Crimes by Location



ACTUAL HATE CRIMES

At a school parking lot, a Jewish teenager was speaking to a friend in Hebrew. One adult and 10-15 juvenile African Americans surrounded him, shouted anti-Jewish slurs, beat him, and wrecked his bicycle.

"Allah is the devil. Allah will take you to hell" was written on the wall of an Islamic center in Los Angeles.

An unknown suspect called a Jewish library in Los Angeles and said "Yeah, this is the KKK and we have a bomb threat on you guys."

A religious statue at a Catholic church in South Los Angeles was broken, and Muslim magazines were left at the site.

Gender Hate Crimes

- There was one gender-based assault and battery reported and one case of multiple motivation graffiti that included both racial and anti-female slurs.

ACTUAL HATE CRIME

In Huntington Park, while a man walked past a woman and her friend, he punched the woman in the face, unprovoked. He has a history of prior assaults against women, and later told police, "women are dogs."

A Closer Look

Disability Hate Crimes

- One disability based assault and battery was reported in 2001.

ACTUAL HATE CRIME

In Los Angeles, a black male suspect struck a white male victim and called him "retard."

Criminal Prosecution of Hate Crimes

District Attorney / City Attorney's Office

WHAT HAPPENS IN PROSECUTION OF A HATE CRIME:

1. THE INITIAL POLICE REPORT.

One of 45 police agencies in the county makes a police incident or arrest report. These are referred to the prosecutors' offices for possible prosecution. There are two reporting agencies represented here.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office prosecutes both felonies and misdemeanors and the Los Angeles City Attorney's office prosecutes only misdemeanors.

TOTAL NUMBER OF HATE CRIME REFERRALS			
District Attorney		City Attorney	
2000	214	2000	65
2001	139	2001	65

2. THE DECISION WHETHER TO FILE CHARGES.

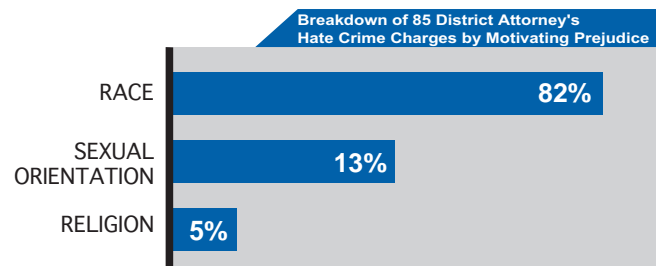
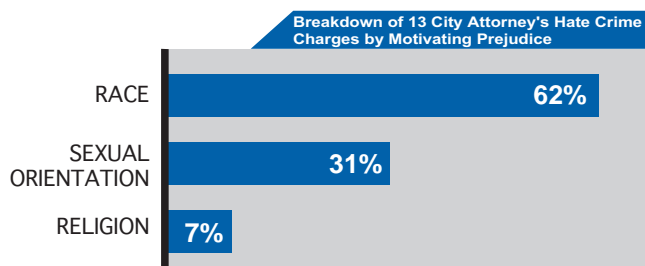
Prosecutors' office must review each case thoroughly and decide whether the filing of a complaint as a crime, or as a hate crime, is warranted.

A defendant accused of a hate crime indicates that bias, hatred or prejudice based on the victims' race, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation were substantial factors in the commission of the crime.

For City Attorney cases where cases don't support a hate crime filing, the parties involved are often brought into special hearings, where parties are lectured on the law and its consequences. This past year, seven such hearings were held. Violators may be sent to educational programs to gain greater understanding of the harm, history and impact of racist ideology and movements.

TOTAL NUMBER OF HATE CRIME CHARGES			
District Attorney		City Attorney	
2000	91 Adult 67 Juvenile Total 158	2000	17
2001	59 Adult 26 Juvenile Total 85	2001	13

Criminal Prosecution of Hate Crimes (continued)



3. THE ARRAIGNMENT.

Next, a defendant is informed of the charges and his/her constitutional rights at arraignment. An attorney is appointed if the defendant cannot afford one, and bail is set. Or, the defendant can decide to enter a plea, whether guilty or not guilty.

4. THE RESOLUTION.

The criminal case is resolved, either through a guilty or no contest plea, or a jury or court trial. In trials, the defendant is found not guilty or guilty. Some hate crimes result in findings by the prosecution, the judge or the jury that bias was not a substantial factor in commission of the crime.

5. THE SENTENCE.

If guilty, sentencing is made, including jail, diversion programs, probation or other conditions such as community service or cultural or racial sensitivity training. Note: such diversion or educational programs are scarce.

U.S. Attorney's Office

The Civil Rights Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted two cases involving hate crime in 2001. Two Rialto men pleaded guilty to committing a racially motivated arson fire of two vehicles parked in front of an interracial couple's home. Both defendants were sentenced to a one and a half year sentence. The Office also prosecuted Buford Furrow, Jr. on a 16-count indictment for the racially motivated murder of a federal employee and shooting of five others. The sentence imposed was life imprisonment without possibility of parole.



DAILY NEWS/FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14,
2001 / NEWS-11

Hate Crime Legislation

In 2001, five bills relevant to hate crimes were passed by the California State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis.

The most significant bill passed last year was Senate Bill 257 (Kuehl), which mandates that schools' safety plans include development of a discrimination and harassment policy and that schools report hate crimes to the State Superintendent of Schools.

Assembly Bill 1312 (Nakano) requires the Department of Justice to establish the Asian Pacific Islander Anti-Hate Crimes Program. This program would provide public education to Asian Pacific American communities on hate crimes and how to report them. Davis signed the bill, but vetoed the appropriations and instead requested that the Department of Justice administer the program with existing funds.

Assembly Bill 1193 (Steinberg) was enacted to protect organizations from losing their insurance after being subjected to a hate crime. The bill states that insurance policies held by educational, religious, or other non-profit organizations to protect against certain risks cannot be canceled solely on the basis that a claim made within the previous 60 months was for a loss due to a hate crime.

Assembly Bill 276 (Migden) extends from one to two years the time that the Department of Fair Employment and Housing can file an accusation alleging civil violations of California's hate crimes law—specifically, the Ralph Civil Rights Act. The Ralph Civil Rights Act states that people have the right to be free from bias-motivated violence or the threat of such violence, and gives a cause of action to sue for damages against anyone who violates this right. Because perpetrators of hate crime are oftentimes not identified because of the nature of the offense, i.e., vandalism, the extra year gives law enforcement additional time to investigate.

Senate Bill 551 (Machado), enacted in response to September 11th, reimburses counties for, among other things, activities designed to promote tolerance for individuals whose national origin or religion may be targets of discrimination as a result of terrorism. This law will be in effect until January 2004.

In addition, the Racial Classification Initiative, Ward Connerly's new ballot measure, previously known as the Racial Privacy Initiative, has qualified for the March 2004 ballot. This initiative would prevent state and local governments from using race, ethnicity, color, or national origin to classify individuals, with certain exceptions. If passed, the initiative could make illegal the Commission's efforts to collect, analyze, or publish (for example, this annual report) data on hate crime victims and perpetrators. The Commission unanimously voted to recommend that the Board of Supervisors go on record opposing this initiative.

On the federal level, the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act was introduced in the Senate in March 2001 by Senator Kennedy. This bill would amend the 1968 hate crimes law (which prohibits attacks based on race, religion, or national origin) and extend it to cover crimes targeting real or perceived sexual orientation, gender, and disability. Versions of this have been introduced since 1998, without success. This bill made very little progress in 2001, and in 2002 the Senate voted not to allow it to come to a vote. For the time being, its progress is blocked. The passage of this bill would not affect the state of California, because California law already has a comprehensive definition of hate crimes.



2001 Hate Crime Data: 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
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

School Districts*

Antelope Valley Community College District
Antelope Valley Union High School District
Arcadia Unified School District
Azusa Unified School District
Baldwin Park Unified School District
Bassett Unified School District
Bellflower Unified School District
Beverly Hills Unified School District
Bonia Unified School District
Burbank Unified School District
Citrus Community College District
Claremont Unified School District
College of the Canyons
Compton Community College District
Covina-Valley Unified School District
Culver City Unified School District
Downey Unified School District
Duarte Unified School District
East San Gabriel Valley ROP
East Whittier City School District
Eastside Union School District
El Monte City School District
El Monte Union High School District
El Rancho Unified School District
El Segundo Unified School District
Garvey Unified School District
Glendora Unified School District
Hawthorne School District
Inglewood Unified School District
Lancaster School District
Long Beach Unified School District
Los Angeles Unified School District
Los Nietos School District
Lowell Joint School District
Lynwood Unified School District
Montebello Unified School District
Mt. San Antonio Unified School District
Newhall School District
Palmdale School District
Paramount Unified School District
Pasadena Area Community College District
Pomona Unified School District
Rio Hondo Community College District
Rosemead School District
San Gabriel Unified School District
San Marino Unified School District
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
South Pasadena Unified School District
South Whittier School District
Sulphur Springs Union School District
Temple City Unified School District
Torrance Unified School District
Valle Lindo School District
Vasquez High School
West Covina Unified School District
Whittier City School District
William S. Hart Unified High School District

Fair Housing Councils

Fair Housing Council of San Gabriel Valley
Fair Housing Foundation
Fair Housing Foundation of Long Beach
Housing Rights Center

Community Organizations

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
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Long Beach Gay and Lesbian Center
South Asian Network

*2000 was the first year that LACCHR requested hate crime reports from all school districts throughout Los Angeles County.

Locations of Hate Crimes by Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Regions

REGION	POPULATION	HATE CRIMES	CRIMES PER 1,000,000 RESIDENTS 2000	2001
WESTSIDE	192,400	38	213.6	197.5
Beverly Hills Police Department • Santa Monica Police Department • Culver City Police Department • Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (West Hollywood)				
NORTH COUNTY	441,496	60	109.0	135.9
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Lancaster, Malibu, Palmdale, Santa Clarita, and West Village)				
WEST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY	725,668	48	41.5	66.1
Alhambra Police Department • Burbank Police Department • Glendale Police Department • Monterey Park Police Department • Pasadena Police Department • San Fernando Police Department • San Gabriel Police Department • South Pasadena Police Department • Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (La Cañada-Flintridge)				
LOS ANGELES	3,694,820	645	156.3	174.6
Los Angeles Police Department				
EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY	472,862	84	51.1	177.6
Arcadia Police Department • Azusa Police Department • Baldwin Park Police Department • Claremont Police Department • Covina Police Department • El Monte Police Department • Glendora Police Department • Irwindale Police Department • La Verne Police Department • Monrovia Police Department • Pomona Police Department • San Marino Police Department • Sierra Madre Police Department • West Covina Police Department • Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Bradbury, Diamond Bar, Duarte, Industry, La Habra Heights, La Puente, Rosemead, San Dimas, South El Monte, Temple City and Walnut)				
SOUTHEAST	1,219,764	85	30.1	69.7
Bell Police Department • Bell Gardens Police Department • Downey Police Department • Hawaiian Gardens Police Department • Huntington Park Police Department • Maywood Police Department • Montebello Police Department • South Gate Police Department • Vernon Police Department • Whittier Police Department • Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Artesia, Bellflower, Carson, Cerritos, Commerce, Cudahy, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, La Mirada, Lynwood, Norwalk, Paramount and Pico Rivera)				
LONG BEACH	461,522	45	55.6	97.5
Long Beach Police Department • Signal Hill Police Department				
SOUTH BAY	643,012	26	33.1	40.4
El Segundo Police Department • Gardena Police Department • Hawthorne Police Department • Hermosa Beach Police Department • Inglewood Police Department • Manhattan Beach Police Department • Palos Verdes Police Department • Redondo Beach Police Department • Torrance Police Department • Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Avalon, Lawndale, Lomita, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates)				

Acknowledgements

This report was developed by the Human Relations Commission Executive Director Robin S. Toma, Assistant Executive Director Terri Villa-Mc Dowell, and Commission staff member Marshall Wong (Editor), Phil Daniali, Lisa Hart, Caroline Hata, Silva Kechichian, Borden Olive, Ray Regalado, Dan Silverstein, Gulzar Sukhiyani, Sharon Williams, James Williams III, Todd Zagurski of the Department of Regional Planning and consultant Jeff Kim, Special thanks to Dr. Ali Modarres, Associate Director of the Edmund G. “Pat., Brown Institute at Cal State University at Los Angeles, for his assistance in data analysis and production of maps, and to the rest of the staff of the commission for their assistance. The Commission would also like to thank all of the law enforcement agencies, school districts, and community-based organizations that provided hate crime data for this report.

Hate Crime Resources:

Victim Assistance

Community Based Resources:

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

P.O. Box 1056, Stanton, CA 90680

Phone: 714.636.1232

Email: ADC@adc.org Website: www.adc.org

Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC)

1145 Wilshire Blvd. - 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: 213.977.7500 Fax: 213.977.7595

Website: www.apalc.org

California Association of Human Relations Organizations
(CAHRO)

23041 Avenida de la Carlota, Laguna Hills, CA, 92653

Phone: 949.586.6640

Email: kkiepa@juno.com Website: www.cahro.org

California Department of Fair Employment & Housing,
Los Angeles District Office (DFEH)

611 West Sixth Street - Suite 1500, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: 800.884.1684 Fax: 213.439.6715

Website: www.dfeh.ca.gov

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
(CHIRLA)

2533 W. 3rd st. Ste. 101, Los Angeles, CA 90057

Phone: 213.353.1333 Fax: 213.353.1344

Email: chirla@earthlink.net

Council on American Islamic Relations
(CAIR,) Southern California

2115 W. Crescent Avenue # 260, Anaheim, CA 92801

Phone: 714.776.1847 Fax: 714.776.8340

Website: www.cair-net.org

L.A. County District Attorney's Office

Victim-Witness Assistance Program

210 W. Temple Street, Room 12-514, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 213.974.7499 800.773.7574

Email: da.co.la.ca.us/vwap

Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center

1625 N. Schrader Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90038

Phone: 323.993.7400 Website: www.laglc.org

Muslim Public Affairs Council

3010 Wilshire Boulevard - Suite 217, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Phone: 800.898.3558 Fax: 213.383.9674

Email: sattar@mpac.org Website: www.mpac.org

South Asian Network (SAN)

18000 Pioneer Blvd. - Suite 101, Artesia, CA 90701

Phone: 562-403-0488 Fax: 562-403-0487

Email: saninfo@southasiannetwork.com

Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)

4182 Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90062

Phone: 323.290.4126 Fax: 323.296.4742

Email: sclcnational.org

US Department of Justice- Office for Victims of Crime

810 7th Street NW, Washington, DC 20531

Phone: 800.627.6872 Email: askovc@ojp.usdoj.gov

Website: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/

Hate Crime Training

Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

10495 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025

Phone: 310.446.8000 Fax: 310.470.8712

Email: los-angeles@adl.org Website: www.adl.org

California Association of Human Relations Organizations
(CAHRO) see aforementioned

California Attorney General's Office

300 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013

Phone: 800 952-5225

Council on American Islamic Relations, Southern California
(CAIR) see aforementioned

Museum of Tolerance (MOT)

9786 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90035

Phone: 310 553-8403

Website: www.museumoftolerance.com

National Conference for Community and Justice, Los Angeles
(NCCJ)

1055 Wilshire Blvd.- Suite 1615, Los Angeles, CA 90017-2499

Phone: 213.250.8787 Fax: 213.250.8799

Email: losangeles@nccj.org Website: www.nccjla.org

Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)

400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104

Phone: 334.956.8200 Fax: 334.956.8486

Email: www.splcenter.org

US Department of Justice- Office for Victims of Crime
(OVC) see aforementioned



**Los Angeles County
Commission
On Human Relations**

