



wdacs
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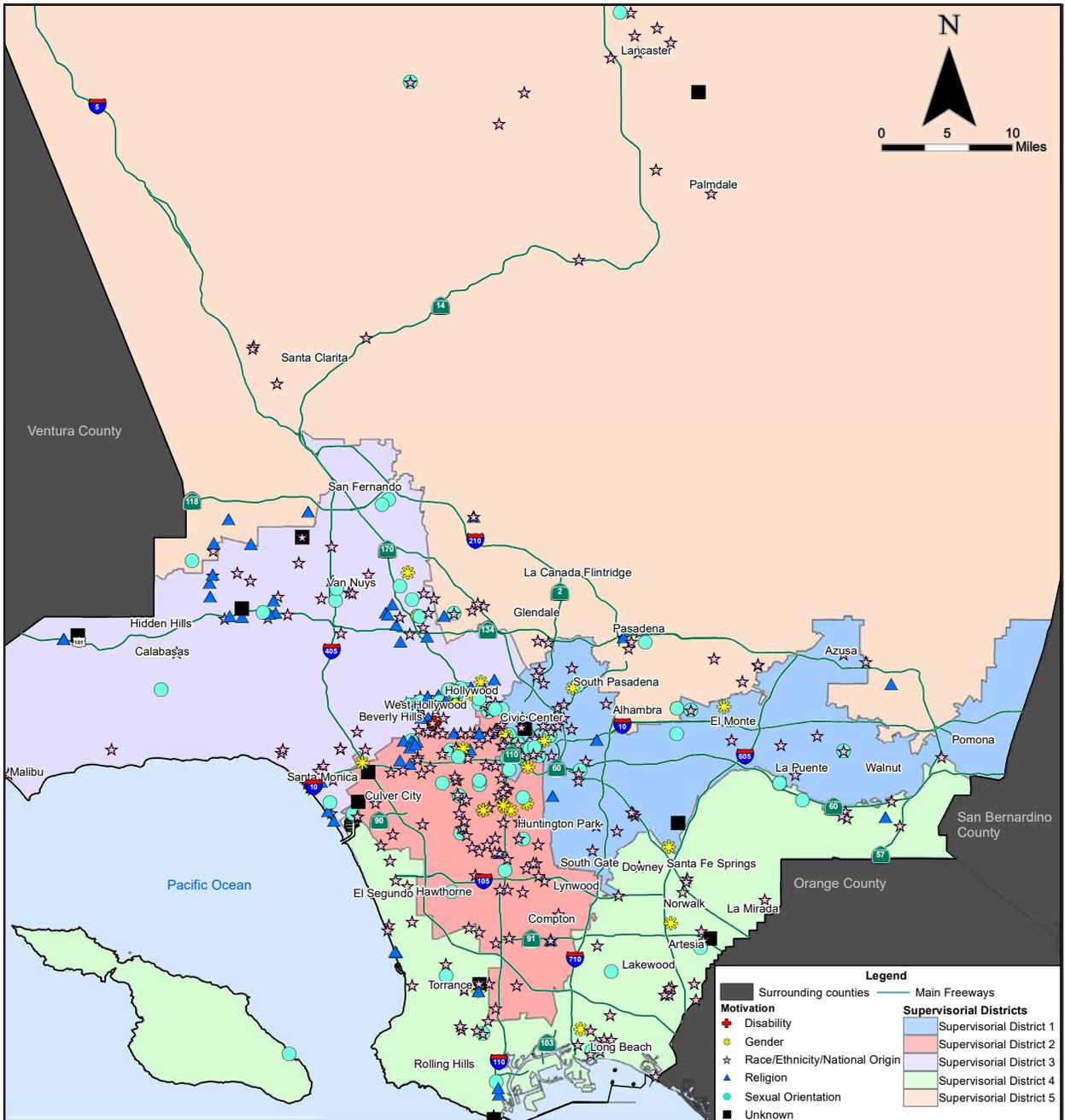
Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

2020 HATE CRIME REPORT

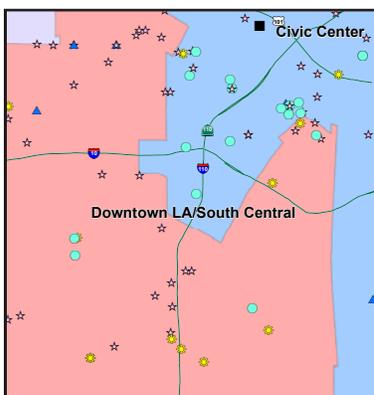
**Pandemic,
Protests,
and the
Presidential Race**



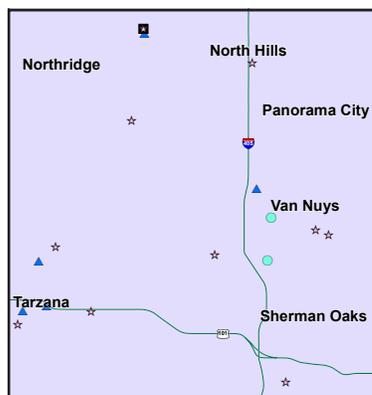
2020 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes



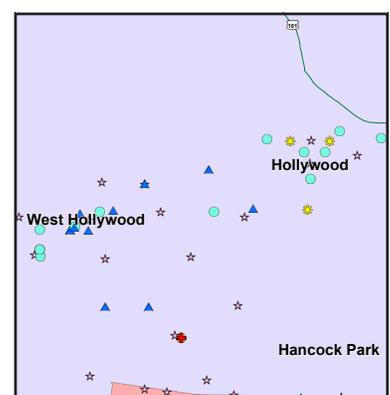
Central/South Central L.A.



San Fernando Valley



Hollywood/West Hollywood



In addition to the hate crimes shown on these maps, there are crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

Maps by Florentino Bernal Jr.

2020 HATE CRIME REPORT



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Table of Contents

Preface.....	3
What is a Hate Crime?	3
Underreporting of Hate Crimes.....	4
Hate Crime and Human Rights.....	5
2020 Quick Facts	6
Executive Summary	8
2020 Hate Crimes in Perspective.....	9
Documenting, Responding to, and Preventing Bias-Motivated Hostility.....	22
A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes	24
A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes	32
A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes.....	36
A Closer Look at Gender Hate Crimes.....	40
A Closer Look at Disability Hate Crimes.....	42
Hate Crime Prosecutions	42
Hate Crime Legislation	42
Methodology	43
Appendix A: Hate Crimes by Service Planning Areas	45
Appendix B: Reporting Agencies.....	46
Acknowledgements	47
Maps	
2020 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes.....	Inside Front Cover
2016–2020 Gang-Related Hate Crimes.....	19
2020 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Race/Ethnicity/National Origin	24
2020 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Sexual Orientation	32
2020 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Religion	36
Los Angeles County Service Planning Areas.....	44
2016–2020 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes	48
Charts	
Total Number of Reported Hate Crimes by Year.....	10
Hate Crimes by Motivation	10
Groups Targeted in Hate Crimes.....	11
2010–2020 Hate Crimes: Most Frequently Targeted Groups	12
2016–2020 Hate Crimes: Average Rates of Violence in Crimes Targeting Selected Groups.....	12
Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense	13
Hate Crimes by Location.....	15
Hate Crimes Involving Gangs or White Supremacist Ideology.....	16
Black-Latino/a Hate Crimes in 2019–2020	17
2010–2020 Hate Crimes: Known Suspects by Age.....	20
Los Angeles County Population by Race/Ethnicity	26
Racial Hate Crimes by Known Targeted Group	26
Racial Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense.....	27
Rates of Violence for Victims of Racial Hate Crime.....	28
Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense.....	33
Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Known Victim Race/Ethnicity	34
Religious Hate Crimes by Targeted Group.....	37
Religious Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense.....	38

Preface

Since 1980, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations has compiled, analyzed, and produced an annual report of hate crime data submitted by sheriff and city police agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations. This report is one of the longest-standing efforts in the nation to document hate crime.

Using information from the report, the Commission sponsors a number of ongoing programs related to preventing and combating hate crime, including the Network Against Hate Crime and the LA vs Hate Project.

The report has been disseminated widely 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 may be 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 is a criminal offense when the perpetrator has threatened violence with spoken or written words against a specific person or group of persons. The threat must be immediate, unconditional, and unequivocal. It must also cause the victim to be in a sustained state of fear. Frequently, derogatory words or epithets are directed against a member of a protected class, but no violence is threatened. Such hate incidents are important indicators of intergroup tensions. They are not, however, criminal offenses. Such language is protected 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 probably not considered a hate crime. Vandalism of a house of worship or of an ethnic, religious, or gay and lesbian organization may be investigated as a hate crime in the absence of evidence of other motives.

Underreporting of Hate Crimes

The U.S. Department of Justice reported that 54% of hate-motivated incidents, including hate crimes, were not reported to law enforcement during 2011-2015.* This result was obtained from the department's Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey. According to the survey, most of the incidents were not reported to law enforcement because they were handled in another way.

In addition, survey respondents identified the following beliefs as other reasons hate-motivated incidents were not reported to law enforcement:

- Incident was not important enough to be reported to police
- There was nothing police could do to help
- Police would not want to be bothered or to get involved
- Reporting the incident would bring more trouble for the victim

Other factors that may inhibit victims from reporting hate crimes include fear of retaliation, cultural and linguistic isolation, unfamiliarity with the criminal justice system, and previous negative experiences with law enforcement. For LGBT hate crime victims who are not "out" to their families, employers or neighbors there may also be fear of unwanted publicity that would disclose their sexual orientations or gender identities.

It is important to keep in mind, as well, that there is not consistent uniformity in the ways that law enforcement agencies identify hate crime. This may be due to a variety of reasons. For example, there may be differences in priorities and training among different agencies. Crimes with multiple motivations or involving gangs may not be formally identified as hate crimes. There is an additional burden on investigating detectives to identify and confirm evidence of hate motivation. Hate-motivated violence that occurs in schools, jails, and juvenile detention facilities, including large-scale racial brawls, may not be formally identified as hate crimes. In some cases, there may be reluctance to contribute to possible negative publicity for a neighborhood or municipality.

Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the hate crimes documented in this report likely represent only a portion of hate crimes actually committed in 2020.

*U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report: Hate Crime Victimization Statistical Tables, 2004 - 2015

Hate Crime and Human Rights

Hate crimes are not only illegal under state and federal laws, they also violate human rights as defined by the international community.

In the aftermath of World War II, leaders from many nations came together in 1948 to establish the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Among the principles included in this declaration are affirmations that all human beings are equal in dignity and rights and no one is to be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Groups and nations around the world continue to work diligently to turn the UDHR's powerful principles into action.

Since 1965, the U.S. and 176 other nations have signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which compels signatory nations to combat racial and national origin discrimination. Under this treaty, hate crimes are considered serious human rights abuses. The CERD Committee has stressed that government action as well as inaction can violate CERD, and there is no excuse for complacency or indifference by a government toward either public or private discrimination, particularly when it involves violence.

When the U.S. and 167 other nations signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), they committed to respect and fulfill the right to life and the security of the person regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status.

The U.S. Constitution states that the Constitution and treaties are the supreme law of the land. Thus, all levels of government in the U.S. – including counties, cities, and school districts – and individuals have a duty to uphold these treaty obligations to address discrimination in any form, including hate crime.

Human Rights First (www.humanrightsfirst.org/discrimination) suggests the following strategies for responding to hate crime:

- Acknowledge and condemn hate crimes whenever they occur. Senior leaders should send immediate, strong, public, and consistent messages that violent hate crimes—including against migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers—will be investigated thoroughly and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
- Strengthen enforcement and prosecute offenders. Governments should ensure that those responsible for hate crimes are held accountable under the law and that the prosecution of hate crimes against any individuals regardless of their legal status in the country is a priority for the criminal justice system.
- Develop educational and transformative approaches, particularly restorative justice mechanisms, for hate crime offenders. Governments need to use effective methods to heal communities and reduce recidivism.
- Monitor and report on hate crimes. Governments should maintain official systems of monitoring and public reporting to provide accurate data for informed policy decisions to combat hate crimes.
- Reach out to community groups. Governments should conduct outreach and education to communities to reduce fear and assist victims, advance police-community relations, encourage improved reporting of hate crimes to the police, and improve the quality of data collection by law enforcement bodies.

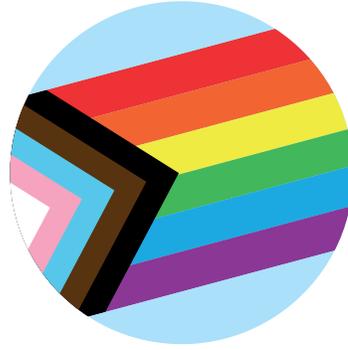
2020 Quick Facts



Reported **hate crimes in 2020 grew 20%** from 530 to 635, the largest number since 2008.



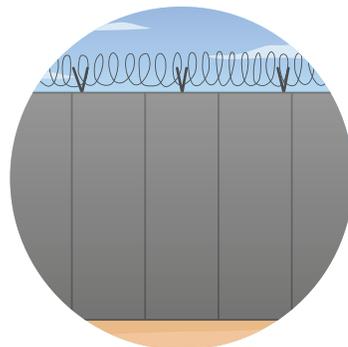
The increase is **mostly due to a 53% jump in racial hate crime**. Crimes targeting African Americans, Latino/as, whites, and Asians all rose dramatically. Once again, African Americans were grossly over-represented and comprised 42% of racial hate crime victims.



Sexual orientation crimes increased 17% and 84% of them targeted gay men.



Religious crimes declined 18% and comprised 13% of the total. These were overwhelmingly anti-Jewish (88%).



There were **56 crimes in which specifically anti-immigrant slurs were used**, a 14% increase.



Anti-transgender crimes declined from 42 to 32 but this was still the third-largest number ever reported.



The rate of violence grew from 65% to 68%, the highest rate since 2003.



There was explicit evidence of **white supremacist ideology in 19% of all hate crimes**, compared to 22% the previous year.



Hate crimes committed by gang members constituted 5% of the total, down from 6%.



The largest number of hate crimes took place in the Metro Region (which stretches from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights) followed by the San Fernando Valley. However, if one accounts for population the Metro Region had the highest rate followed by the West Region (which includes parts of West L.A., Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, etc.).

Executive Summary

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (Commission) has produced an annual Hate Crime Report since 1980, one of the longest running reports of its kind in the nation. Hate crimes are serious violations of state, federal, and international law. The Commission collects reports from every law enforcement agency in Los Angeles County, as well as from some colleges, school districts, and community-based organizations, and directly from victims (See page 46).

Yet, hate crimes documented in this and other reports represent only a portion of hate crimes actually committed in the year 2020. **The U.S. Justice Department reported in 2017 that more than half of all hate-motivated incidents, including hate crimes, were not reported to law enforcement during 2011-2015** (See page 4).

Nationally, the number of hate groups in the U.S. totaled 838 in 2020 according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. However, we know that hate crimes are not only committed by those with affiliations to hate groups.

Significant findings of this report include:

- **There were 635 hate crimes reported in the County in 2020**, a 20% increase from the previous year. This is the largest number reported since 2008. For the past 7 years, hate crimes have been trending upwards and since 2013 there has been a 65% rise.
- African Americans were again the largest group of victims and **anti-black hate crimes rose 35%** from 125 to 169. African Americans only comprise 9% of L.A. County residents but make up 42% of racial hate crime victims (See page 25). African Americans were also over-represented as victims of sexual orientation and anti-transgender crimes.
- After spiking 67% in 2016, **white supremacist crimes** declined in 2017 and 2018 but increased again in 2019 and **remained elevated in 2020**. Of those 119 crimes, 16% were of a violent nature. Seventy-one percent were acts of vandalism (See page 16).
- **Anti-Latino/a crimes spiked 58%**, from 67 to 106 (See page 25). Latino/as were the most likely of any racial/ethnic group to be victims of violent racially motivated crime (88%). Seventy-seven percent of the hate crimes in which anti-immigrant slurs were reported targeted Latino/as.
- Forty-four **crimes targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders** were reported (See page 25). This was the **largest number since 2001 and represents a 76% increase** from the year before.
- **Sexual orientation crimes increased 17%** and comprised 18% of all reported hate crimes. Eighty-three percent of these crimes were of a violent nature, a rate higher than those motivated by race (72%) or religion (23%) (See page 32).
- **There were 86 religious crimes, a decrease of 18%**. They comprised 13% of all hate crimes. **Eighty-eight percent were anti-Jewish** (See page 36).
- **There were 32 anti-transgender crimes**, the third highest number ever reported. Ninety-four percent were of a violent nature (See page 40).
- The overall **rate of violence increased from 65% to 68%**. This is the highest rate of violence reported since 2003 (See page 14).

By providing the extensive information contained in this report on hate crimes in Los Angeles County, the Commission helps law enforcement as well as educational, community, governmental and faith-based agencies to more effectively prevent and respond to this serious violation of human rights.

The full report is available at our website: www.hrc.lacounty.gov.

2020 Hate Crimes in Perspective

In America, the year 2020 will be remembered for three distinct but related stories that dominated headlines:

- **The contentious and polarizing presidential race that culminated with the election of Joe Biden.** No one could have anticipated the heightened drama after the polls closed on November 3rd while the world waited four more days before it was finally confirmed that Biden officially gained 270 electoral votes, the number required to win the election. Encouraged by the former president, loyal Trump supporters refused to accept the election outcome claiming voter fraud. This culminated in the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol which resulted in the deaths of 5 and many injuries, including 138 police officers.

- **A global pandemic that caused more than 345,000 deaths in the U.S., overwhelmed hospitals, caused the loss of millions of jobs, and severe damage to many sectors of the economy.**

- **Unprecedented grassroots demonstrations to protest the ongoing killings of unarmed African Americans by police, largely inspired by the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement.** The BLM organization was founded in 2013 after the acquittal of George Zimmerman for the death of Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida. Several other high-profile killings of mostly black men propelled the movement forward, but after the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, tens of millions of people took to the streets not only in the U.S. but around the world beginning in Spring, 2020. A number of factors may have contributed to the size of the crowds: 1) pent-up frustration from months of isolation due to the pandemic; 2) anger at the Trump administration's anti-BLM rhetoric and calls for state and local authorities to crack down on the protests; and, ironically, 3) large numbers of people having time and/or flexibility to join the demonstrations because, due to COVID, they were unemployed, laid-off, or working remotely.

Racial and Ethnic Terminology

For the purposes of this report, we use "African American" and "black" interchangeably.

We also use, "American Indian," "native," and "indigenous," interchangeably.

In traditional Spanish, the masculine noun "Latino" is used to refer to men and women of Latin American heritage. "Latino/a" is an alternative term that is more gender-inclusive.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau "Asian/Pacific Islander" and "Asian Pacific American" are both used to describe "a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent" or "any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands." For this report, we use "Asian" and "Asian American" as shorthands.

Anti-Asian Violence Was Tip of the Iceberg

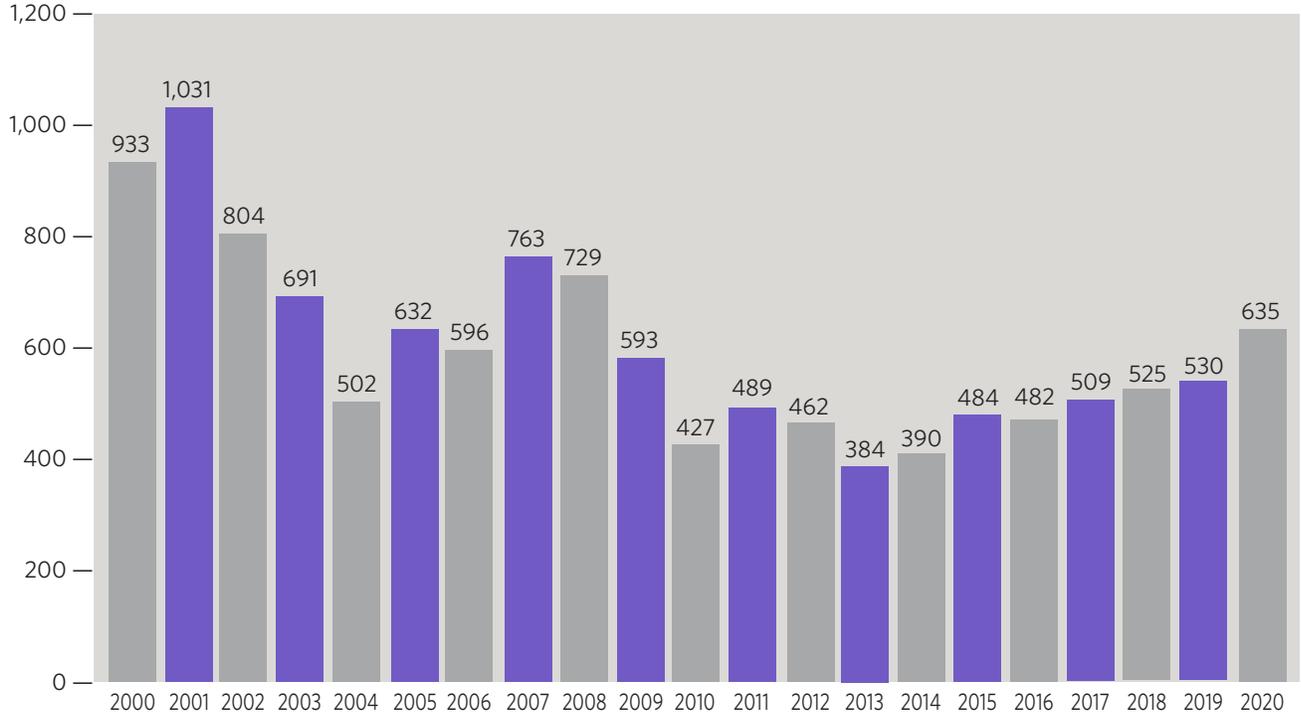
The tragedy of the pandemic was compounded by an upswing in anti-Asian hatred that included brutal, unprovoked attacks on senior citizens, women, and families. Horrific videos of some of the crimes went viral, there was unprecedented media attention, condemnation by elected officials, community leaders and civil rights groups, and mass protests by a community not known by many for "rocking the boat."

However, the biggest surprise that emerged from the compilation and analysis of Los Angeles County hate crime data was that the rise in anti-Asian hate crime in 2020 was exceeded by skyrocketing racial hate crimes* targeting African Americans, Latino/as, and whites. The Office of the California Attorney General recorded a similar phenomenon of increased racial hate crimes targeting all of these groups state-wide**.

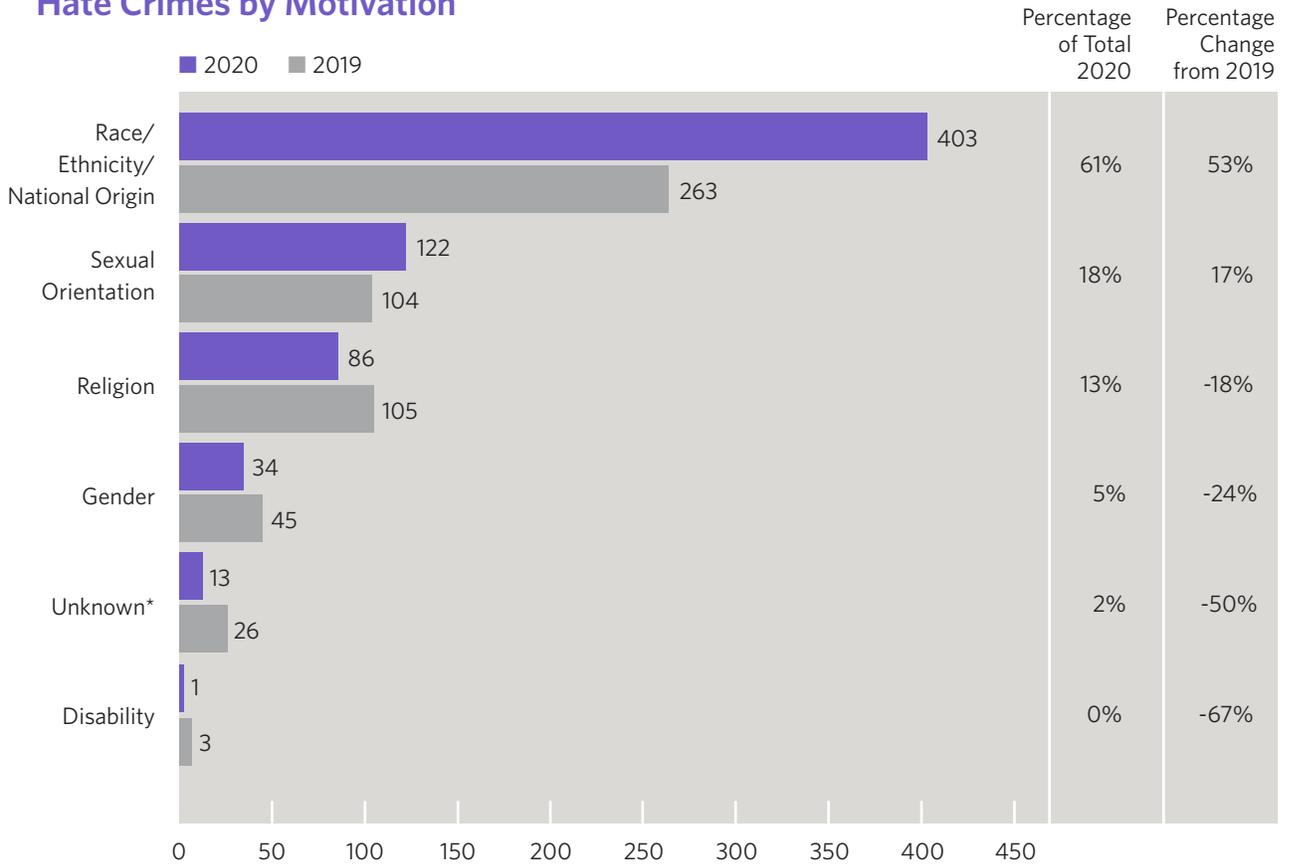
*For the sake of brevity, we refer to crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, or national origin as "racial" hate crimes throughout this report.

**Office of the California Attorney General, Hate Crime in California-2020, June 30, 2021

Total Number of Reported Hate Crimes by Year



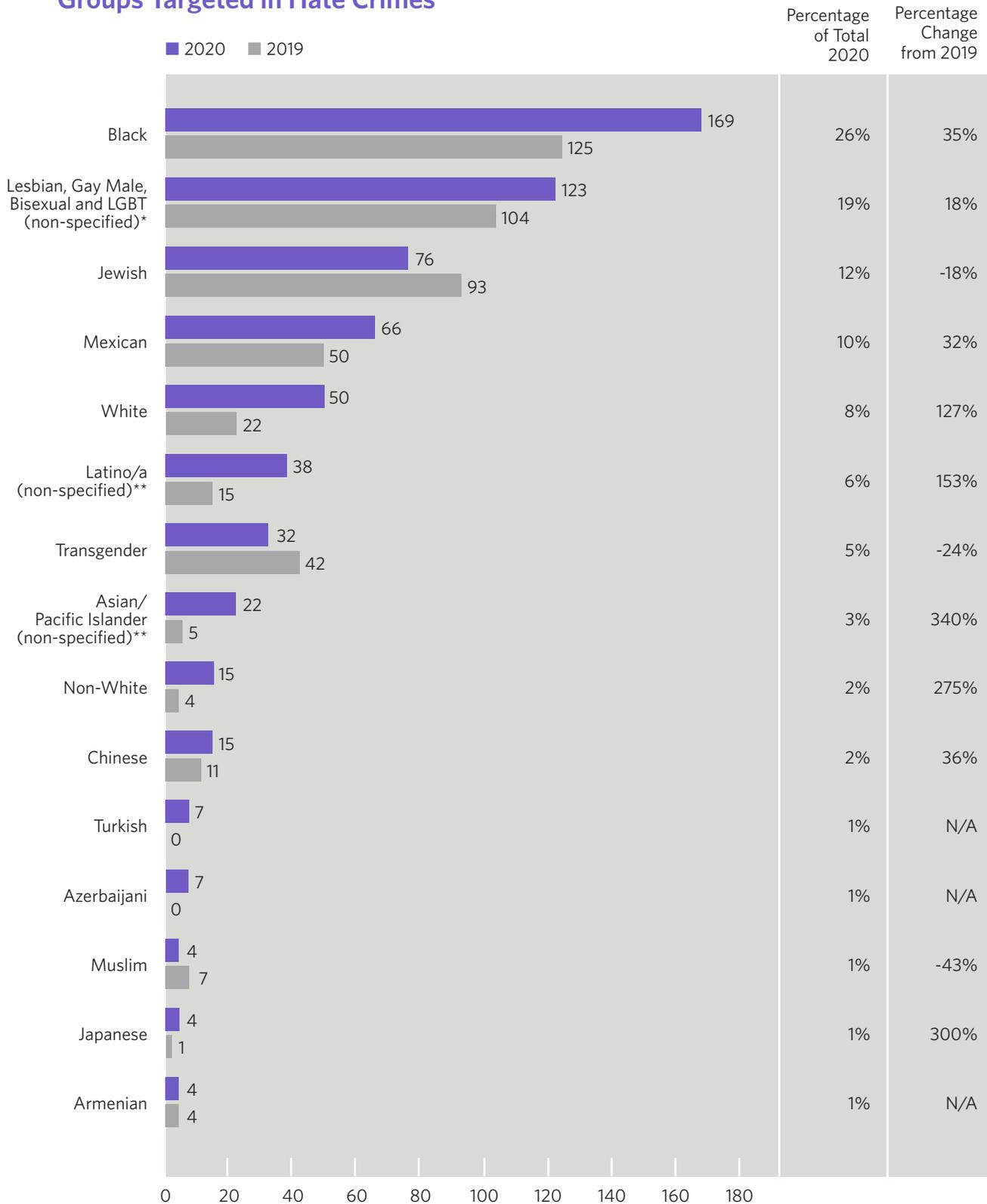
Hate Crimes by Motivation



* These were primarily cases of vandalism that used hate symbols and the motivation could not be determined.

Note: Some cases contained multiple motivations. The total number of motivations does not equal the total number of hate crimes.

Groups Targeted in Hate Crimes

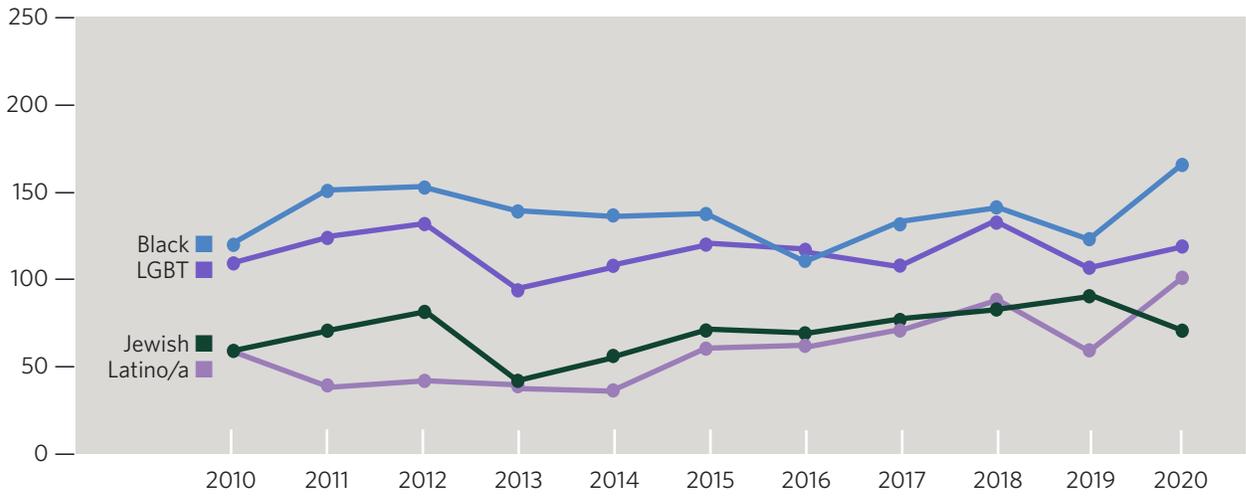


In 2020, there were 3 cases targeting Catholics, 2 cases targeting females and Middle Easterners, and single crimes that targeted Buddhists, Guatemalans, Hindus, Indians, Iranians, Peruvians, persons with physical disabilities, and Scientologists.

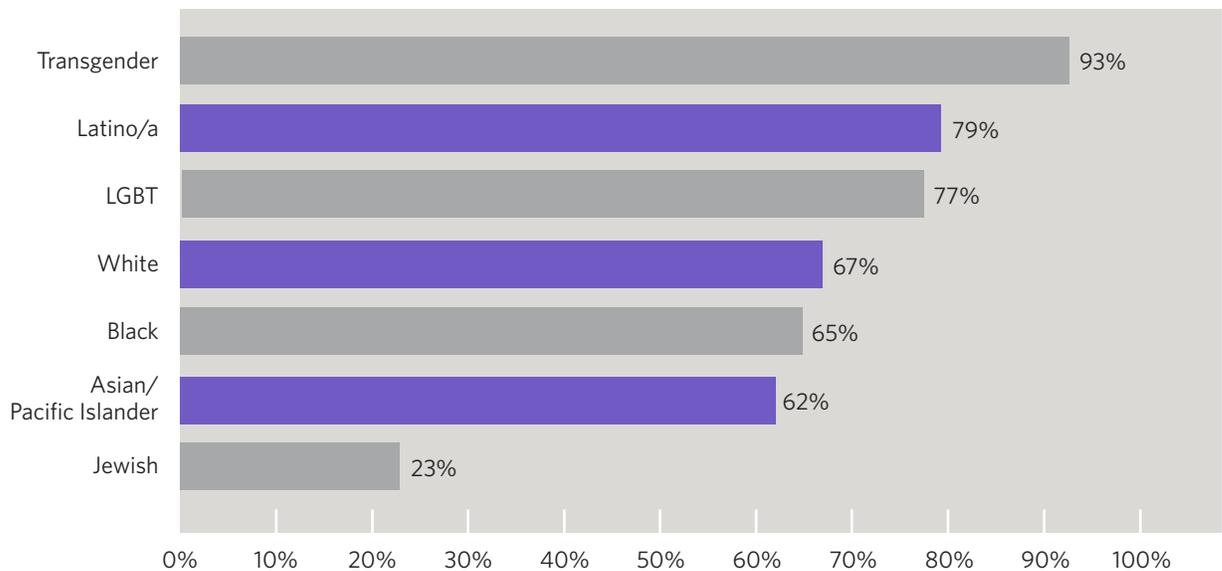
* "LGBT non-specified" refers to hate crimes that target LGBT organizations or businesses, not individuals.

** "Non-specified" crimes targeting Asians and Latino/as refer to crimes in which these groups were targeted but there were no slurs made against a specific nationality (e.g. Chinese, Mexicans, Salvadorans).

2010-2020 Hate Crimes: Most Frequently Targeted Groups



2016-2020 Hate Crimes: Average Rates of Violence Against Selected Groups



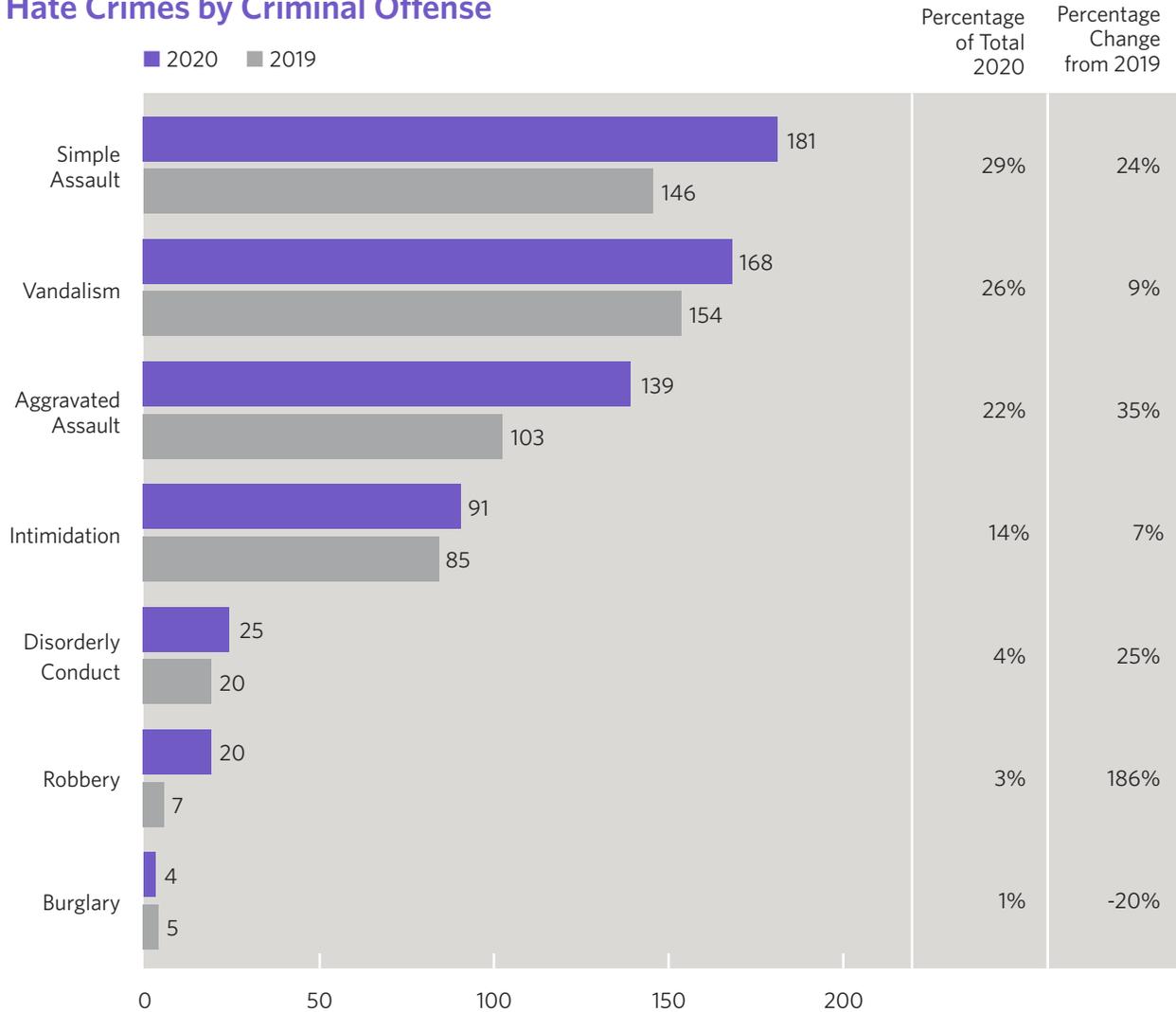
Hate Crimes Spike in Los Angeles County

After slowly climbing for six consecutive years, reported hate crime in Los Angeles County sharply increased 20%, from 530 to 635. This was the largest number recorded since 2008. Still the 2020 count is well below the numbers reported during the late 1990s and early 2000s.

The California State Attorney General reported that the number of hate crime victims* rose 23.2% from 1,247 in 2019 to 1,536 in 2020. The FBI found that hate crime victims increased nationally 30% from 8,552 to 11,126. It should be noted that both agencies report hate crimes by events, offenses, and victims but for purposes of comparison with our statistics, we quote victim data.

*As stated in the Methodology section, this report counts the number of hate crime victims, not events.

Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



These increases in Los Angeles County and throughout California took many people off-guard. Some predicted that with so many businesses and schools closed for most of 2020 and many people staying home, crime rates, including hate crime, would decline dramatically.

It can be helpful to consider the number of hate crimes in the context of overall crime statistics. With regard to general crime statistics, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) documented a 1.59% decline in violent crime and a 2.78% drop in property crime in 2020. Surprisingly, the LASD also recorded a shocking 37.24% increase in homicides. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) similarly reported a 4.7% decrease in violent crime and an 11.7% decline in property crime. But again, homicides city-wide jumped 36%.

Years from now, criminologists and other social scientists will probably be studying the surge in homicides and hate crimes in 2020 trying to find explanations. But the election, pandemic, and massive protests against anti-blackness were an unprecedented combination that surfaced pre-existing rage, fear, and social divisions.

Racial and Sexual Orientation Crimes Increase while Religious Crimes Fall

The distribution of hate crimes based on motivation shifted significantly in 2020. Racial hate crimes surged 53% from 263 to 403. They grew from 48% to 61% of all hate crimes. Racial hate crimes increased across the board with all of the larger racial and ethnic groups (African Americans, Latino/as, whites and Asians) reporting major numerical and percentage increases. (See A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes)

Sexual orientation crimes also increased 17% from 104 to 122. But because of the spike in racial crimes, homophobic offenses actually decreased slightly as a portion of the total from 19% to 18%.

Religious crimes declined 18% from 105 to 86 and decreased from 19% to 13% of all reported hate crimes.

Gender-motivated crimes declined 24% from 45 to 34 and dropped from 8% to 5% of the total. Thirty-two of these offenses targeted the transgender community and 2 were anti-female. Despite the decline, the number of anti-transgender crimes was the third largest in this report's history.

The number of hate crimes in which the motive could not be determined (for example, a swastika that appears on public property and the location cannot be connected with any particular victim group) fell by half from 26 to 13. This report classifies these crimes as having "unknown" motivation.

There was 1 crime in which the victim was targeted in part because of his physical disability.

As in the past, the great majority of hate crimes (75%) targeted four groups: African Americans, gay men/lesbians/LGBT organizations, Jewish persons, and Latino/as, the same percentage as the previous year. Of these communities, the only group to experience a decline was the Jewish community (down 18%). But the previous year anti-Semitic crimes rose 18% while the other groups decreased.

As mentioned in the Methodology section, fluctuations in numbers from year to year are common and don't necessarily indicate trends. It is more useful to study multi-year analyses to get an accurate picture of hate crime in Los Angeles County.

Highest Rate of Violence since 2003

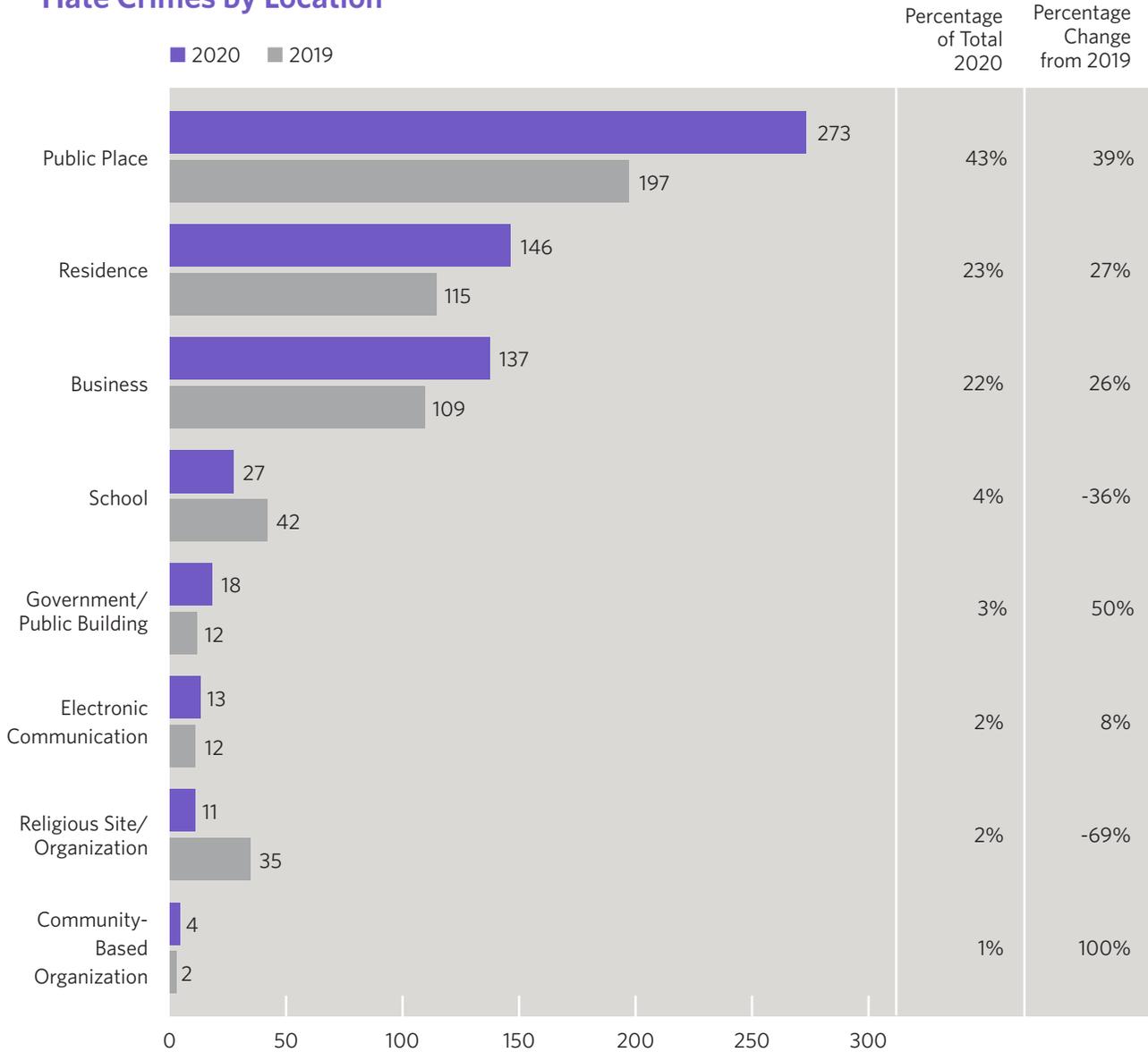
The most common criminal offense reported in 2020 was simple assaults (29%), followed by vandalism (26%), aggravated assaults (22%), and acts of intimidation (14%). These 4 offenses comprised 91% of all hate crimes, similar to past years. Although vandalism is usually the most common criminal offense, the distribution was quite similar to the previous year.

For the third year in a row the percentage of hate crimes that were of a violent nature rose. They grew from 65% to 68%. This is the highest rate of violence reported since 2003 and the 434 violent crimes reported in 2020 were the largest number since 2008. There were no hate-motivated murders but there was 1 attempted murder, similar to the previous year.

A transgender Latina was attacked by 3 Latino/a suspects who are members of the gang Mara Salvatrucha-13. They told her, "We don't want no gays here!" The suspects stabbed the victim 13 times the neck, chest, arms, abdomen and back and then fled. The 3 suspects were later arrested and 1 has been charged with attempted murder.

As in previous years, there were dramatically different rates of violence based on motivation. Ninety-four percent of gender-motivated crimes were violent, followed by sexual orientation (83%), racial (72%), and religious (23%). The biggest change was that the rate of violence for religious crimes fell from 32% to 23%.

Hate Crimes by Location



Hate Crimes Most Common in Public Places

As in the previous years, largest number of hate crimes occurred in public places (43%, up from 38%), followed by residences (23%), businesses (22%), schools (4%), government buildings (3%), and electronic communication and religious sites (2% each). The distribution was similar to the previous year except for the uptick in public places and hate crimes in schools declined from 8% to 4%. This is not surprising since most schools closed down in March, 2020 for the rest of the calendar year.

Metro Region Again Has Highest Rate of Hate Crimes

Similar to the previous year, the largest number of hate crimes (149) reported in 2020 took place in the Metro Service Planning Area (SPA) Region IV (which stretches from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights) followed by San Fernando Valley SPA Region II (76). This represents an increase in the number of hate crimes in SPA Region IV

and a decrease SPA II. However, if one compares the populations of the regions to the numbers of reported hate crimes, the Metro SPA had the highest rate followed by West SPA Region V (which includes parts of West Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Culver City and a number of affluent beach communities). These two regions have had the highest rates for several years in a row. The region with the lowest number of hate crimes (16) was the Antelope Valley SPA Region I (which includes cities such as Palmdale and Lancaster) followed by the East SPA Region VII (24). The areas with the lowest rates of hate crime were the East SPA followed by San Gabriel SPA Region III. This geographic distribution is similar to previous years.

As stated earlier, African Americans, gay men/lesbians/LGBT organizations, Jewish persons, and Latino/as were targeted in 75% of all hate crimes in 2020. The San Gabriel and East SPAs have extremely low numbers of black residents, LGBT-oriented businesses, and Jewish religious sites or businesses. This could account for the lower rates of hate crimes reported in those areas. More information on geographic distribution of reported hate crimes is provided in Appendix A.

White Supremacist Crimes Remain Elevated

This report has tracked hate crime in which there is evidence of white supremacist ideology since 2004. Usually, these are crimes in which swastikas and other hate symbols are used in graffiti. Occasionally a suspect will yell out a white supremacist slogan or identify himself as a skinhead or member of a specific hate group.

In 2020, there were 119 white supremacist crimes, 1 more than the previous year, but the largest number since 2009. The previous year they grew 38%. They constituted 19% of all hate crimes reported in 2020. There was evidence of white supremacist belief systems in 62% of all religious hate crimes (up from 47%) and 14% of racial crimes (down from 16%).

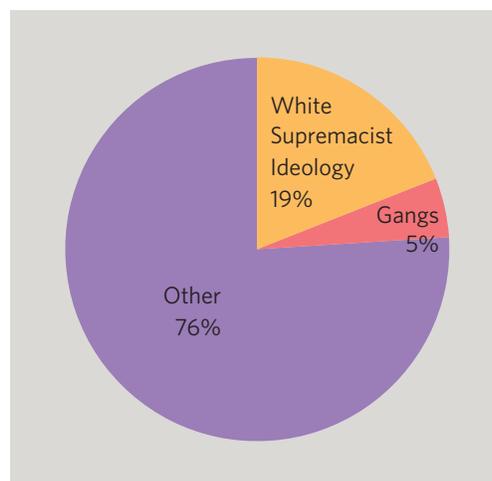
The largest group of white supremacist crimes were motivated by race (50%) followed by religion (47%), and sexual orientation (3%). It should be noted that these percentages do not include white supremacist crimes in which the motivation was unknown.

Jewish persons were the most frequently targeted group (45%), followed by African Americans (28%), and crimes targeting non-white people (12%), such as graffiti that reads, "SWP" (Supreme White Power). This represented a 19% increase in anti-black white supremacist crimes which had already risen 24% the previous year.

The great majority of these crimes were acts of vandalism (71%), followed by acts of intimidation and disorderly conduct (10% each). There were also 4 cases of simple assault and 3 cases of aggravated assault (3% each). Acts of disorderly conduct include cases in which swastikas are drawn on private property but do not constitute vandalism because they are easily removable and leave no permanent damage. Violent white supremacist crimes declined 21% from 24 to 19 and the rate of violence in white supremacist crimes decreased from 20 to 16%.

The locations of white supremacist crimes shifted in 2020. Businesses were the most common location (31%) followed by public places (28%), residences (17%), and schools (11%). This represented increases in white supremacist crimes at businesses and public places and decreases in residences and schools. White supremacist crimes at businesses nearly doubled from 19 to 37.

Hate Crimes Involving Gangs or White Supremacist Ideology



In 2020, 3 cases were both gang-related and had evidence of white supremacist ideology.

Crimes Related to Terrorism or Conflict in the Middle East

Since the attacks on September 11, 2001, this report has examined hate crimes in which the perpetrators used language that blamed the victims for terrorism or ongoing conflict in the Middle East. During the period immediately following 9/11, there were 188 reported anti-Muslim/Middle Eastern hate crimes committed in Los Angeles County. Since that time, crimes fitting this profile have plummeted locally even though Muslims, South Asians, and Middle Easterners still report harassment, racial/religious profiling, and discrimination.

Crimes in which there was specific language regarding terrorism and/or unrest in the Middle East remained at 1% of all hate crimes and grew from 3 to 5. The following is a description of 2 of those cases:

- A Middle Eastern man working at a liquor store was punched and tased by a white male suspect who called him a "terrorist," "sand nigger" and told him, "Fucking Muslim! Go back to your fuckin' country! Don't come back!"
- A synagogue was defaced with the graffiti, "Free Palestine" and "Fuck Israel."

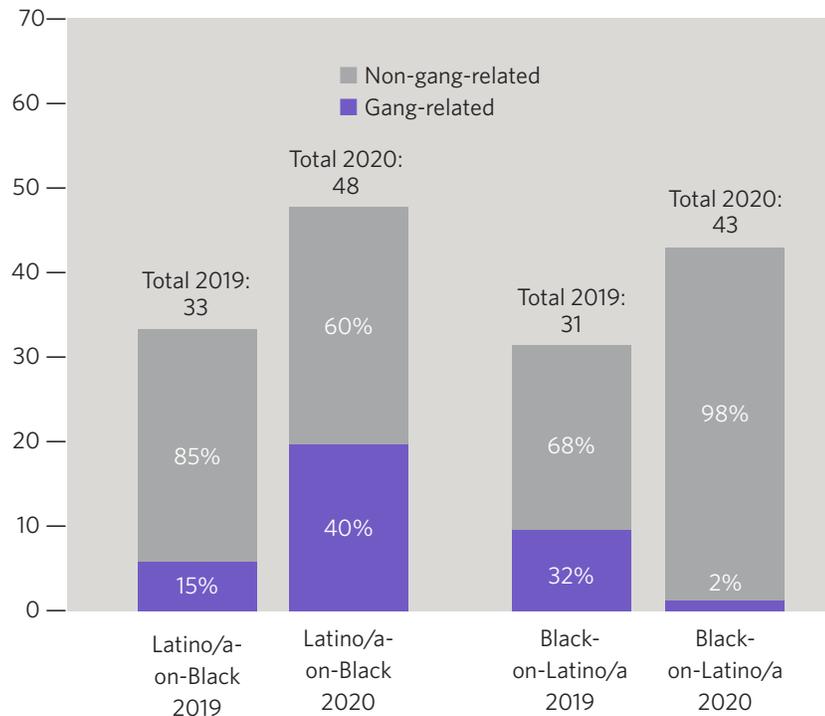
In addition to the 5 crimes that specifically referenced Middle East conflict, there were 6 other anti-Muslim and anti-Middle Eastern crimes. Although these contained no specific slurs like "terrorist," it is possible that the perpetrators were motivated by such sentiments.

Hate Crimes Between African Americans and Latino/as

The great majority of African Americans and Latino/as in Los Angeles County co-exist peacefully and are not involved in ongoing racial conflict. However, for many years this report has documented that most hate crimes targeting African Americans are committed by Latino/as and vice versa. This is particularly true in neighborhoods that have undergone rapid demographic shifts from being primarily black to majority Latino/a. Another factor driving this phenomenon is the large number of Latino/a street gangs which have ties to the Mexican Mafia, the largest and most violent prison-based gang. The Mexican Mafia has been feuding with black inmates for decades and has encouraged their affiliated street gangs to try to drive African Americans out of their neighborhoods.

There was a major shift from this pattern in both 2019 and 2020. For the past 2 years, anti-black crimes were most frequently committed by whites. In 2020, 52% of anti-black crimes were committed by white suspects (down from 61%) and 42% were committed by Latino/as (up from 37%). Since this report started analyzing victim-suspect racial correlations 21 years ago, this

Black-Latino/a Hate Crimes in 2019-2020



is only the second time that whites, not Latino/as, committed the largest number of anti-black crimes. However, because of the huge growth in anti-black hate crimes Latino/a-on-black crimes actually increased 45% from 33 to 48. They declined the previous year from 59 to 33, a 44% drop. The rate of violence in black-on-Latino crimes was 88%, compared to 94% the previous year.

Forty-seven percent of anti-Latino/a crimes were committed by African Americans compared to 51% in 2019. These crimes increased from 31 to 43, a 38% increase. The previous year they declined 25%. The rate of violence in these crimes was high: 91%, compared to 97% in 2019.

A major factor contributing to the rise in Latino/a-on-black crimes were hate crimes that were committed by gang members. In 2019 there was an 88% decline in the number committed by gang members. But in 2020 they nearly quadrupled from 5 to 19 and represented 40% of the Latino/a-on-black crimes.

Of the 43 black-on-Latino/a crimes, there was evidence of gang involvement in only 1 case (2%), compared to 10 the previous year.

Overall Gang Involvement in Hate Crimes Flattens

After decreasing 37% the previous year, hate crimes committed by gang members numbered 32, the same number reported in 2019. Gang members were responsible for 5% of all hate crimes (down from 6%) and 6% of racial hate crimes, compared to 9% the previous year.

As a general rule, this report classifies suspects as gang members if they shout their affiliation during the commission of an offense or include gang names or monikers in graffiti. This report does not label suspects as gang members solely based on appearance or clothing. Therefore, it is likely that the actual number of gang members who committed hate crimes is higher.

Reported hate crimes committed by gang members were overwhelmingly racially-motivated (76%, compared to 77% in 2019) and they grew slightly from 24 to 26. Sexual orientation crimes committed by gang members comprised 15% of the total (down from 19%). Gang members also targeted 2 transgender women and 1 Jewish victim.

Eighty-one percent of crimes committed by gang members were of a violent nature, compared to 88% the previous year. The most common criminal offenses were aggravated assaults (41%), followed by intimidation (22%), vandalism (19%), and simple assaults (9%). This represented a slight decrease in cases of intimidation and simple assaults and a small increase in vandalism.

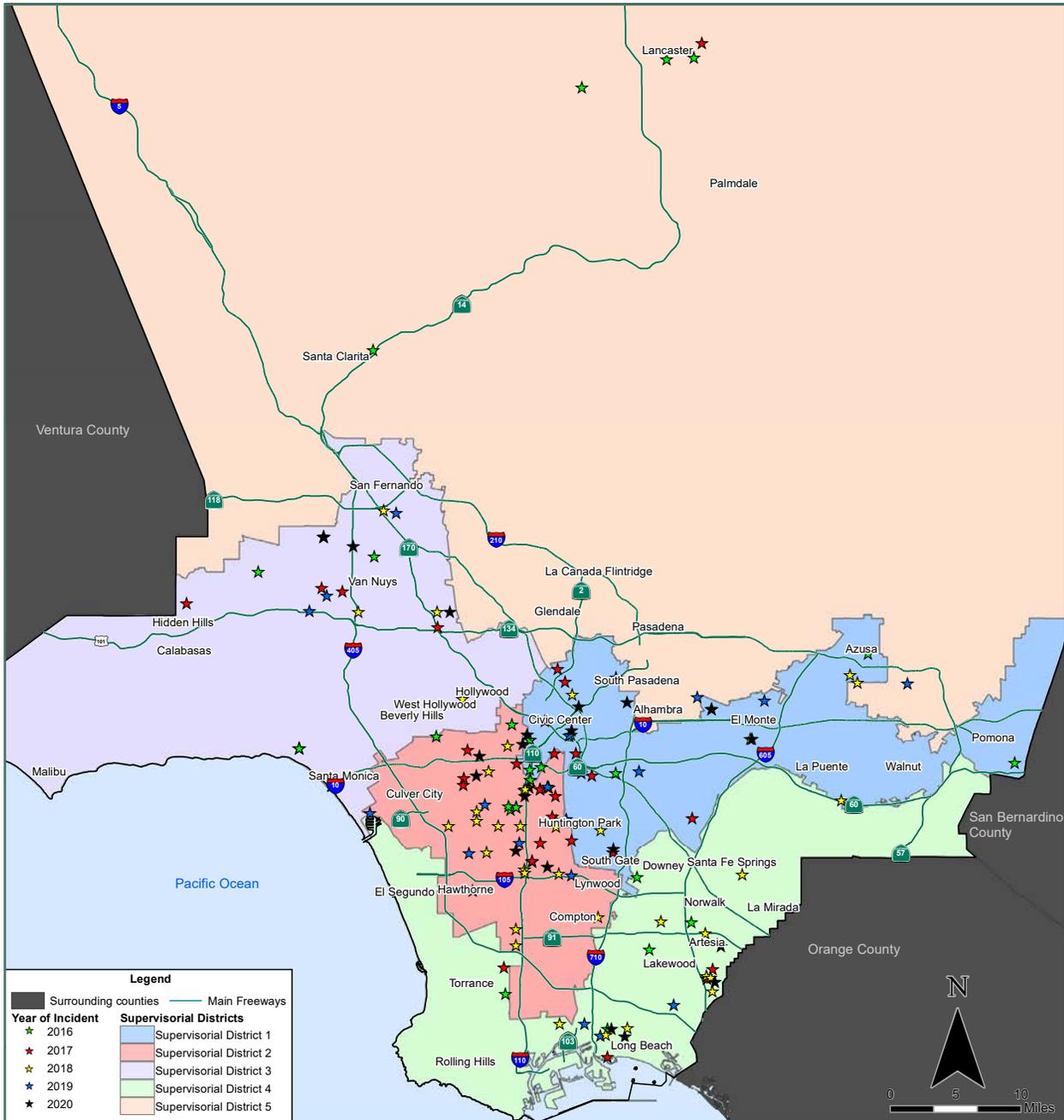
Similar to the previous year, gang members committed hate crimes most frequently at residences (38%), followed by businesses (28%), public places (25%), and schools (9%).

Latino/a suspects who were identified as gang members grew 46% from 26 to 38. Black suspects declined 92% from 24 to 2. The previous year almost as many black gang members as Latino/as who were hate crime suspects. There were no white suspects identified but there was one case of vandalism at a school which included an acronym associated with the Hells Angels gang. Much of the language in this case was more juvenile and obnoxious than hateful, but the graffiti included "KKK" and "Die Fags."

List of Gangs Involved in Hate Crimes

In 2020, there was evidence that members of the following gangs committed hate crimes: 16th Street (based in the San Francisco Bay Area), 18th Street, Rollin' 40s Crips, Cypress Park, Eastside Longo, El Monte Flores, El Sereno, Hang Out Boys, Hells Angels, Hoover Crips, Langdon, MS-13, Sangra, Sureños, Vatos Locos Mexicanos, White Fence.

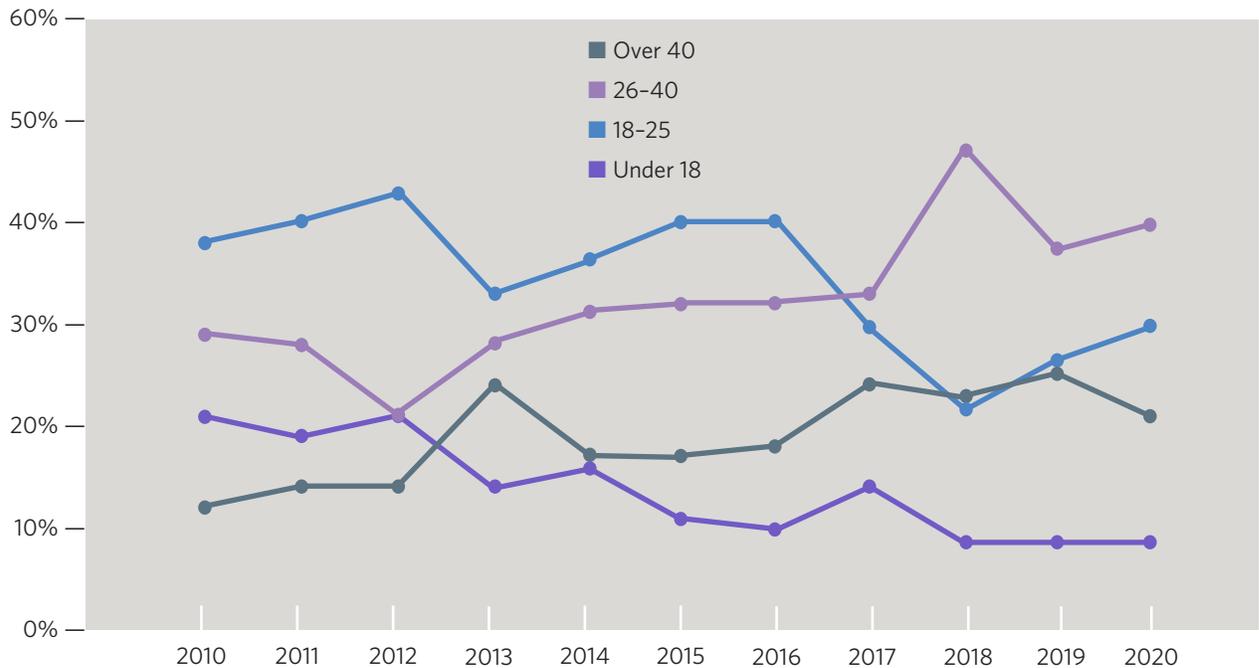
2016-2020 Gang-Related Hate Crimes



Map by Florentino Bernal Jr.

In addition to the hate crimes shown on this map, there are crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

2010-2020 Hate Crimes: Known Suspects by Age



This graph depicts what percentage of suspects fell within different age groups each year.

Suspects

As in previous years, the suspects were overwhelmingly male (87%).

The largest group of suspects (40%) were adults age 26-40, followed by persons 40 or older (30%), those 18-25 (21%), and juveniles (9%). This distribution was remarkably similar to the previous year.

Hate Crimes Committed by Groups of Suspects

This report tracks the number of hate crimes committed by multiple suspects. In 2020, in cases in which suspects were identified, 86% of the crimes were committed by lone suspects, similar to the previous year. In 9% of hate crimes there were 2 suspects, and in 3% there were 3. There were 2 crimes involving groups of 7 suspects 1 crime in which the suspects numbered 10.

Following are brief descriptions of the largest group attacks.

- A black teenager was jumped by 10 young Latino suspects who yelled, "Fuck niggers!" After knocking him to the ground they struck him repeatedly with a skateboard.
- A gay man was sitting at the bus stop when he was approached by 7 males who threw coffee on him, called him a "fag" and punched him in back of the head.
- As mentioned in greater detail on page 30, a group of 7 Armenian men invaded a Turkish restaurant, terrorized and assaulted employees, vandalized furniture and stole property.

Hate Crimes in Which Suspects Invoked the Former President's Name

Since 2016, this report has documented hate crimes in which President Trump's name was invoked. Given that the country has been increasingly polarized along the lines of race, sexual orientation, religion, and gender one might have expected that the number of these would increase. They have, in fact, fallen each year from 2017-2019.

But in 2020, perhaps due in part to heated emotions stoked by the presidential election, there were 7 crimes in which the suspects invoked President Trump's name, compared to 3 the previous year. They included simple assaults, aggravated assaults, vandalism, and criminal threats.

Four were committed by Trump supporters who invoked the President's name along with slurs that targeted African Americans, Mexicans, Asians and a case in which the slurs targeted non-whites. The other 3 crimes involved Latino/a and black suspects targeting victims, some of whom were Trump supporters and others simply because of their race.

Documenting, Responding to, and Preventing Bias-Motivated Hostility

Working to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace.

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) was first established as a committee by the County Board of Supervisors in January 1944, in response to what has been labelled as the “Zoot Suit Riots,” three days of racially-motivated street violence during the previous June. For nearly 80 years, LACCHR and its prior forms have been bringing people together across boundaries of difference to advance equity. We continue to support, inform, train, and mobilize groups and organizations to replace prejudice and fear with respect and trust in one of the most diverse regions in the world. These efforts are in service of LACCHR’s mission to promote better human relations in Los Angeles County by working to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace.

We are compelled by our vision for a County where the fundamental rights of every person are met, all people and groups are unrestricted in the pursuit of their full potential, conflicts are peacefully and equitably resolved, and County government leads and models the highest level of respect for civil liberties and human rights, safeguarding the intrinsic dignity of each individual.

Public displays of hate remind us of the ongoing challenge to fully realize this vision. In response to this challenge, LACCHR continues to work to document, respond to, and prevent bias-motivated hostility.

Assessment

To adequately address expressions of hate we must identify their roots, incidence, and impact. With this end in mind, Commission staff members gather, verify, and disseminate accurate information about hate acts and hostile situations that display prejudice. Since 1980, our assessment efforts have included this annual report that compiles and analyzes hate crime data submitted by sheriff and city police agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations. In September 2019, we began an anti-hate initiative, now called LA vs Hate, that contracts with 211LA to receive reports of hate incidents and hate crimes. During 2020, more than 1,700 calls were received by 211LA reporting hate events. The hate crimes reported to 211 in 2020 are included in this report’s analysis and documentation. Through this initiative we also coordinate services to persons targeted by bias-motivated hostility. More information on the services component of this project is provided under “Coalition-Building” that follows.

Training

Each year, Commission staff members speak on the scope and impact of bias-motivated hostility. In 2020, these activities included training and other presentations to the Rotary Club of Santa Monica, the South Asian Network, the USC MSW Program, LLA County Department of Mental Health’s LGBTQ+Workshop, 211LA staff, LA OASIS, the Hate Violence Prevention Partnership-LA, and the Network Against Hate Crime. Presentations on hate crime in 2020 included press briefings for multiple English, Spanish-language, Chinese, and Korean media organizations.

In addition, Commission staff members are regularly engaged to design and deliver training that facilitates change in underlying attitudes and overt behavior that, left unchecked, can lead to hate acts including hate crimes in their most extreme expressions. Topics we addressed in training during 2020 included equipping and engaging youth as social justice champions, managing implicit bias, constructive responses to conflict, strengthening cultural competence, effective cross-cultural collaboration, leadership and diversity, addressing systemic racism, engaging in constructively candid conversations, preventing bullying, and coming together to stand against hate.

Coalition-Building

While bias-motivated hostility is a concern for many different groups, strategic coordination, cooperation, and collaboration can multiply their impact. We bring stakeholders together and help them take the fullest possible advantage of their distinctive experiences, skills, and resources.

One of the long-standing coalitions our staff coordinates is a countywide Network Against Hate Crime that includes government representatives, law enforcement agencies, civil and human rights organizations, educators, faith communities, and service groups. We also assembled and continue to support the Hate Violence Prevention Partnership-LA that works to reduce and end hate violence by providing practitioners opportunities to share best practices and exchange relevant and timely information.

Through LA vs Hate, our anti-hate initiative, we coordinate a network of 103 organizations to provide support and services to persons targeted by hate. Referrals to these organizations are provided by Care Coordinators for whom we contract with 211LA. LA vs Hate also manages a network of community partners who support engagement of groups and individuals throughout LA County in advocating for and actively implementing acceptance rather than prejudice. A highlight of this effort during 2020 was our first LA County United Against Hate Week, November 30-December 6.

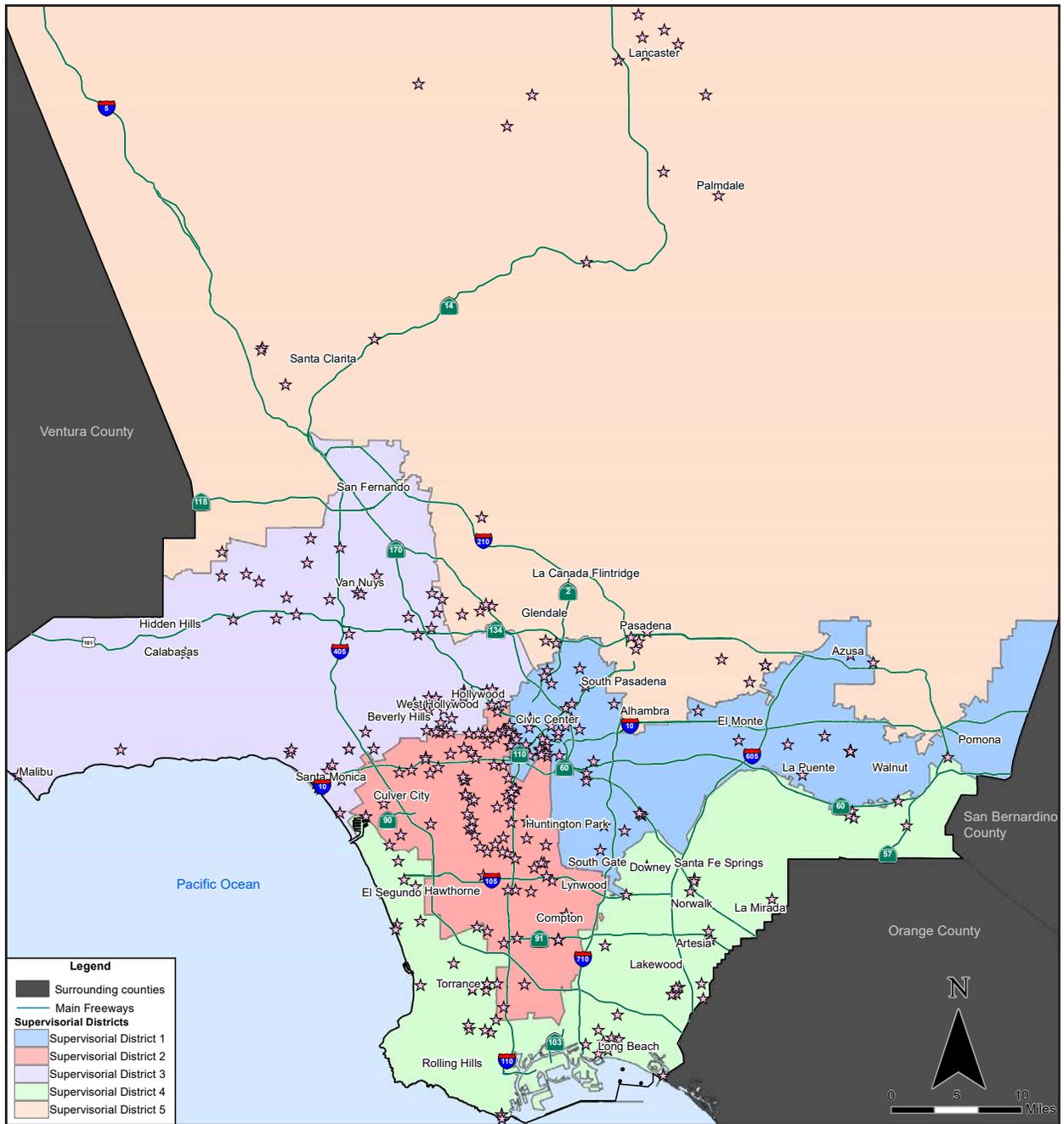


Working with Community Partners.



Bringing people together to stand against hate.

A Closer Look at Racial* Hate Crimes



Map by Florentino Bernal Jr.

2020 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Race/Ethnicity/National Origin

In addition to the hate crimes shown on this map, there are crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

Racial Crimes Skyrocket

After decreasing 9% the previous year, racial hate crimes skyrocketed 53% from 263 to 403 in 2020. This was the largest numeric and percentage increase since 2003.* They constituted 61% of all reported hate crimes, compared to 48% the previous year. Furthermore, racial hate crimes surged in multiple categories, with dramatic increases in crimes targeting African Americans, Latino/as, whites and Asians.

*At the time of this report's release, statistical information prior to 2003 was not searchable because of a change in methodologies and databases.

Race/Ethnicity of Victims and Suspects

ANTI-BLACK CRIMES

Anti-black crimes jumped 35% from 125 to 169. Blacks comprised 42% of racial hate crime victims (down from 46%). Black persons constitute 9% of the total population of Los Angeles County, but are grossly over-represented every year as victims of racial hate crime. As mentioned in the section, "2020 Hate Crimes in Perspective," for the past two years white suspects have emerged as the largest group for these crimes. Whites made up 52% of the identified suspects in anti-black crimes (down from 61%), followed by Latino/as (42%, up from 37%). There was evidence that 40% of the Latino/a-on-black crimes were committed by gang members, compared to 15% in 2019.

ANTI-LATINO/A CRIMES

The second largest group of victims were Latino/as. Similar to the previous year, they were targeted in 26% of racial hate crimes. Anti-Latino/a crimes spiked 58% from 67 to 106. In 62% of these crimes specifically anti-Mexican slurs were employed. There were single crimes targeting Guatemalans and Peruvians. In the remaining anti-Latino/a crimes, no specific ethnic group was mentioned. Because Latino/as comprise about half of L.A. County residents, this is a surprisingly low percentage. Major cities like Los Angeles, Houston, Denver, and Philadelphia have documented significant declines in the number of crimes reported by Latino/a victims since the start of the Trump presidency.* It is possible that growing numbers of Latino/a victims are increasingly reluctant to contact law enforcement because they fear detection by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement. This growing anxiety also could be a factor in the under-reporting of hate crimes.

*FiveThirtyEight, "Latinos in Three Cities Are Reporting Fewer Crimes Since Trump took Office," ABC News, May, 18, 2017

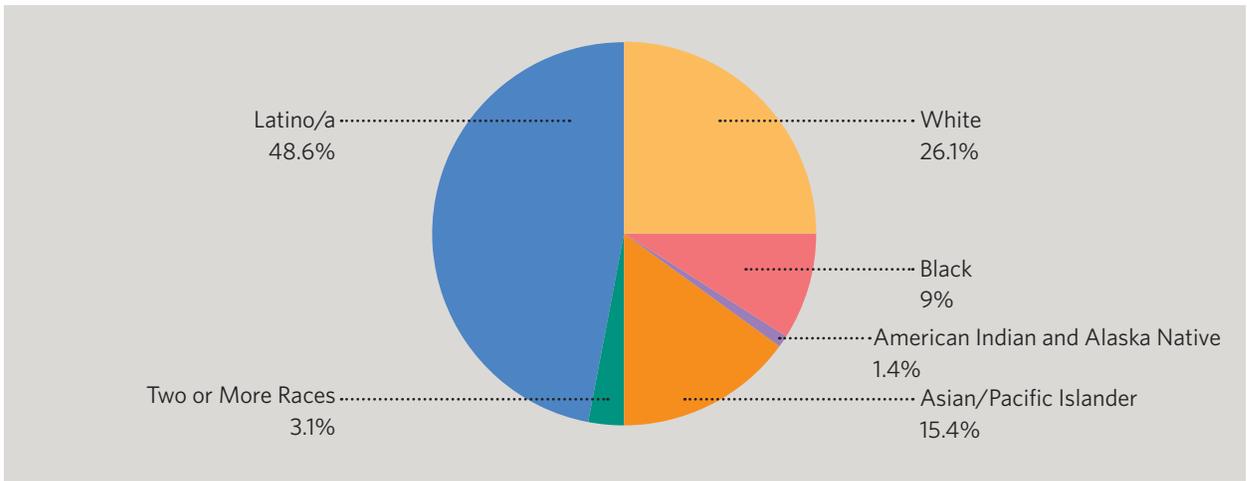
ANTI-WHITE CRIMES

One of the most surprising findings of this report is that anti-white crimes saw the highest percentage increase of any of the larger racial/ethnic groups. They rose 127% from 22 to 50, after decreasing the previous year by 15%. White residents make up nearly 28% of the county's population and in 2020 comprised 12% of racial hate crime victims, the largest percentage since 2003. The largest group of suspects in anti-white crimes by far were African Americans (78%), distantly followed by Latino/as (17%).

In a number of the anti-white cases, suspects made specific references to the Black Lives Matter movement. For example:

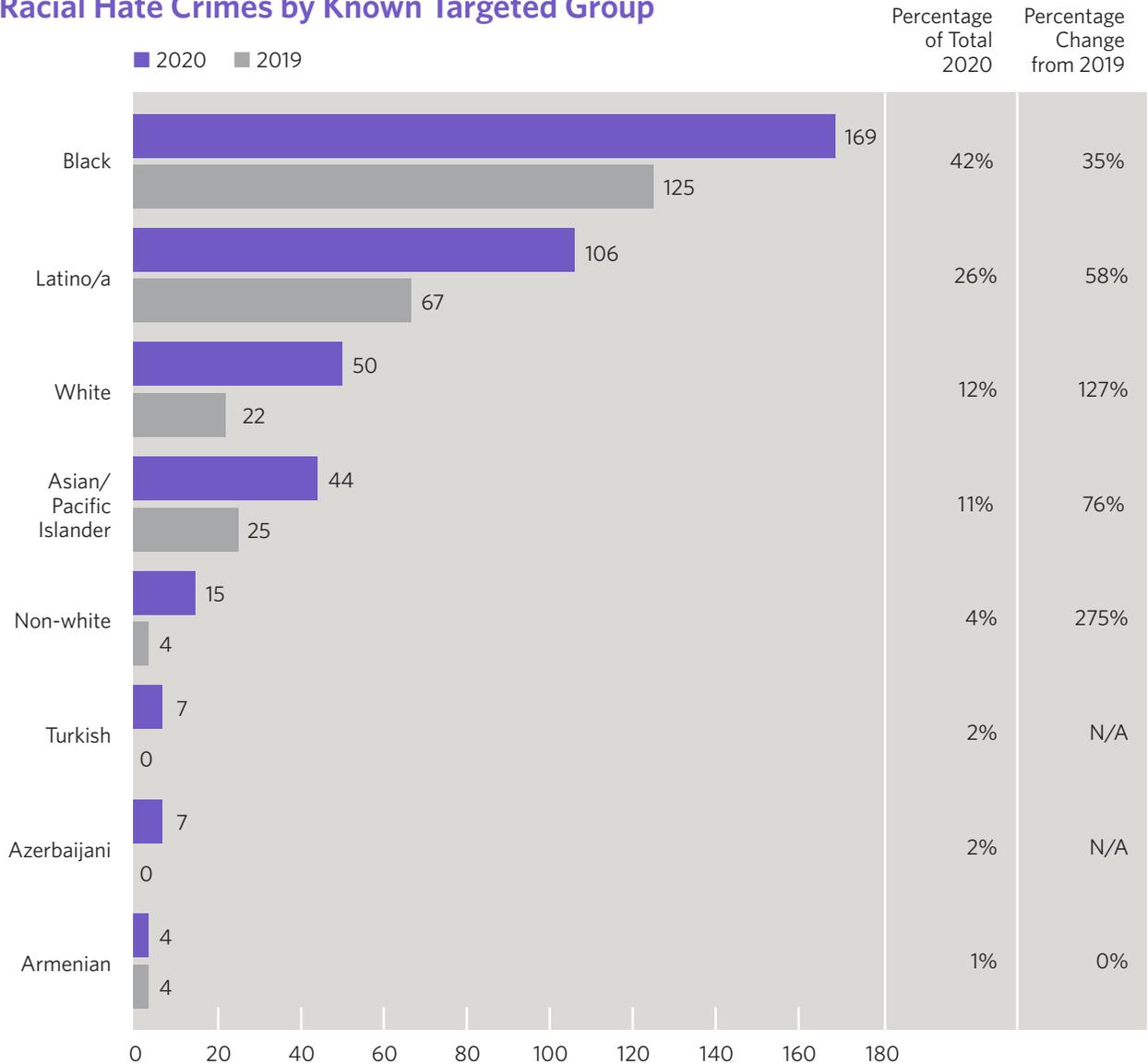
- A black male suspect pulled a gun on a white male and robbed him while cursing at him and calling him a white devil. He yelled, "This is for George Floyd!"
- A white male victim was waiting for a bus when a black male approached. He yelled, "I fucking hate all white people because you keep shooting us!" He then struck the victim repeatedly in the back of his head.

Los Angeles County Population by Race/Ethnicity



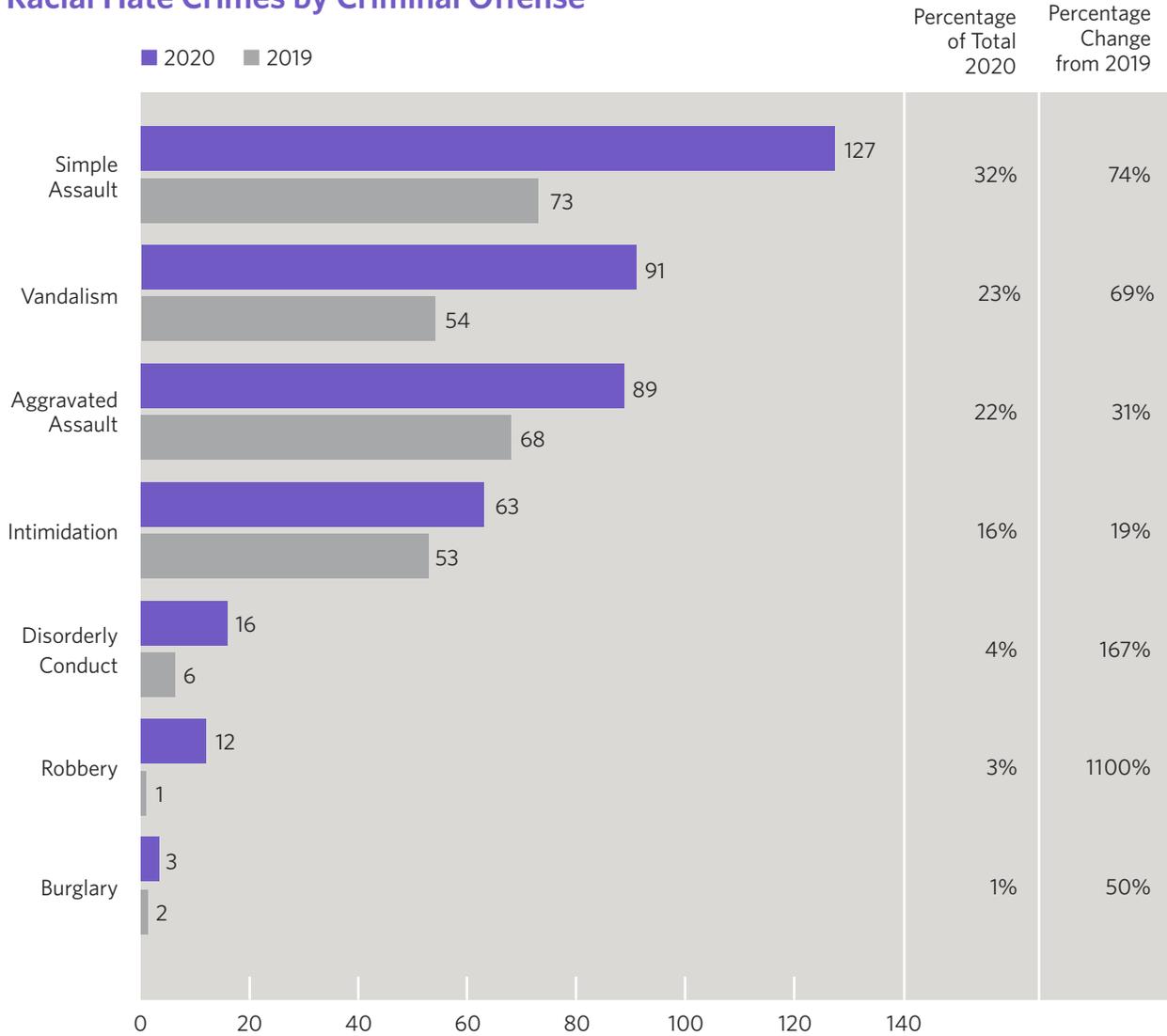
Source: U. S Census Population Estimates, July 1, 2019. Persons who identify as Latino/a on the U.S. Census can be of any race. Except for "Latino/a," all other groups on this chart refer to persons who do not identify as Latino/a.

Racial Hate Crimes by Known Targeted Group



This chart aggregates major racial and ethnic groups. In 2020, there were also 2 crimes targeting Middle Easterners.

Racial Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In 2020, there was a single case of arson.

In addition, there were three crimes in which the language included anti-Trump remarks. The following is one example:

A Trump supporter was wearing a MAGA cap and had a pro-Trump flag attached to his bicycle. A black male suspect yelled, "Fuck Trump! Fuck white people!" and grabbed the flag, knocking the victim to the ground and injuring his knees.

Still others neither directly referenced BLM or the former president but mingled anti-white slurs with quasi-political and social commentary. The following is one such example:

A Latino male suspect approached a white female victim and yelled, "You fucking white bitches! You are so fucking privileged!" He then smacked her hand, knocking her water bottle to the ground. He continued to swear at her and then fled in his car.

ANTI-ASIAN CRIMES

Crimes targeting Asian Pacific Americans increased 76% from 25 to 44. Asian Americans constitute 15% of Los Angeles County residents. In 2020 they were targeted in 11% of reported racial hate crimes. The 44 anti-Asian hate crimes are the largest number reported since 2001.*

In 10 of the crimes (23%) the suspects blamed the victims for COVID-19.

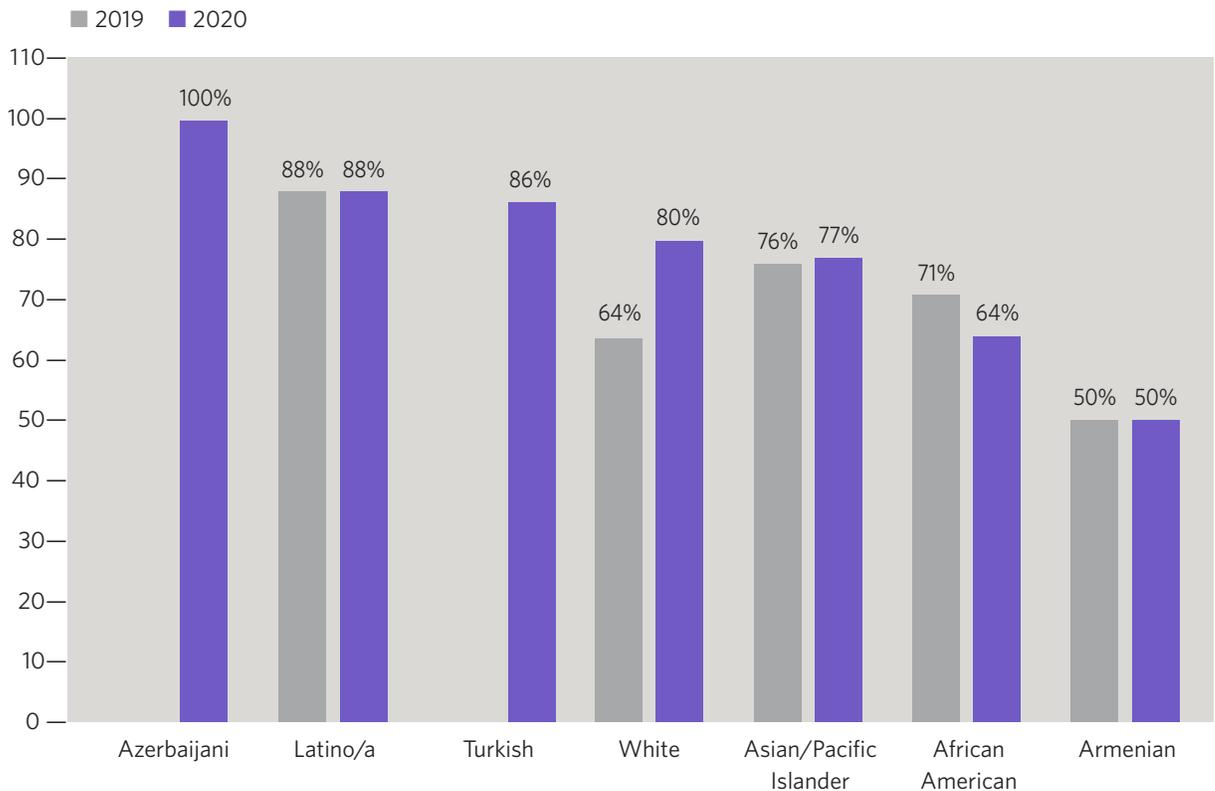
In 15 of these crimes (34%) specifically anti-Chinese slurs were used. Four crimes (9%) were anti-Japanese and three (7%) were anti-Asian Indian. In the remainder of the anti-Asian crimes, no specific ethnic group was singled out.

Anti-immigrant slurs were used in 11 (25%) of the crimes.

In cases in which a suspect was identified, 42% were white, followed by Latinos (36%) and African Americans (19%). There was a lone crime in which the suspect was an Asian man who asked the victim if she was Indian and then snatched a hijab off her head. The previous year the largest number of suspects in anti-Asian crimes were Latinos (42%), followed by whites (32%), and blacks (26%). This is significant because nationally there has been speculation that Africans Americans comprise the largest group of suspects in anti-Asian crimes.

*Following the September 11th terrorist attacks there was a national backlash against people who were perceived to be Middle Eastern or Muslim. In Los Angeles County, 38 9/11-related crimes were reported in which the victims were South Asian in 2001. In some of these cases it was difficult to discern if the victims were targeted because of their real or perceived race/ethnicity, religion, or both. Sometimes, victims were called generic slurs, such as “terrorist.” Nonetheless, 2001 was the year in which there was the highest count ever of Asian Pacific American hate crime victims.

Rates of Violence for Victims of Racial Hate Crime



In 2019, there were no reported hate crimes targeting Azerbaijanis and Turks.

Other Targeted Racial and Ethnic Groups

- Acts of white supremacist graffiti (e.g. “White Power”) that did not specify any racial or ethnic group are classified in this report as targeting “non-white” people and in 2020 they grew from 4 to 15.
- Because of anger over the conflict between Armenia and neighboring Azerbaijan, hate crimes against both Turks and Azerbaijanis grew from 0 to 7. Some of these occurred during clashes between protests and others were unprovoked attacks on individuals and businesses (as described on page 30).
- There were also 4 anti-Armenian offenses, the same number as the previous year.
- The previous year anti-Middle Eastern crimes jumped from 7 to 17 (including a case that had 5 victims) and comprised 6% of the total. But in 2020 they fell to 2.

Criminal Offenses and Rates of Violence

Seventy-two percent of racial crimes were of a violent nature (down from 75%). The most common criminal offense was simple assaults (32%), followed by vandalism (23%), aggravated assaults (22%), and acts of intimidation (16%), similar to 2019.

Of the larger victim groups, crimes targeting Latino/as were the most likely to be violent (88%, identical to the previous year), followed by whites (80%, up from 64%), Asians (77%, up from 76%), and African Americans (64%, down from 71%). This was the second year in a row that Latino/a victims of racial crime experienced the highest rate of violence and the 88% documented in 2019 and 2020 is the highest percentage experienced by Latino/a victims in our accessible records.

Location

Forty-four percent of racial crimes occurred in public places, followed by businesses (24%), residences (21%), and schools (4%). This pattern is consistent with the previous year.

Anti-Immigrant Slurs

There were 56 crimes in which the suspects used specifically anti-immigrant language, such as “Wetback!” or “Go back to your country!” compared to 49 the previous year (a 14% increase). All but one were racially-motivated. Of these, 77% targeted Latino/as (up from 65%) and of those 2/3 were specifically anti-Mexican. Twenty percent targeted Asians (up from 14%).

This is the largest number of crimes reported with specifically anti-immigrant language since this report started documenting anti-immigrant slurs in 2001. Forty-nine percent of the suspects were white (down from 63%), followed by blacks (38%, up from 27%) and Latino/as (14% up from 7%). For the past two years, there were no anti-immigrant hate crimes that invoked Trump-era rhetoric, such as “Build the wall.”

Ninety-one percent of crimes involving anti-immigrant slurs were of a violent nature, compared to 88% the previous year and only 69% in 2018. Simple assaults were the most common offense (36%), followed by aggravated assaults (29%), intimidation (21%), and vandalism (5%). This represented a decline in aggravated assaults and a rise in cases of intimidation.

It is important to note that other racial crimes might also have been motivated by anti-immigrant sentiment, but the suspects did not use specific xenophobic language. The number of specific anti-immigrant slurs is only one measure of racist nationalism.

Actual Racial Hate Crimes

February 5, Beverly Hills—At a Turkish restaurant, 6-8 Armenian males entered the property without permission and started vandalizing property while yelling, “We will kill you!” The suspects kicked over tables, smashed glassware, ripped out computer terminals and threw a chair at five victims, including the restaurant operator and employees. Finally, they stole an iPhone before departing. The damages to property were estimated at \$20,000 and several of the victims were injured.

The attack came a few weeks after tens of thousands of people protested outside the Turkish consulate in Beverly Hills in solidarity with Armenia following clashes that broke out with neighboring Azerbaijan over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Turkish government had expressed support for Azerbaijan. Tensions between Turks and Armenians have dated back to the Armenian Genocide of 1915 by the Ottoman Empire.

May 2, El Sereno—Two African American men were chatting in a parking lot. One was seated in his car and the other was standing nearby. Three Latino males approached, asking, “What are you laughing at?” The first suspect spit in the standing victim’s face and shouted, “Fuck you nigga!” He then punched him repeatedly in the face and head. Another suspect reached through the car window and grabbed the seated victim’s cell phone. The driver quickly reversed out of the parking lot and fled. The three suspects continued to strike and kick the other victim, but he managed to break free. Surveillance video confirmed the victims’ story. One of the suspects had an “El Sereno” gang tattoo on his abdomen.

June 15, Exposition Park—Two Latino males approached a black male victim and pointed handguns at him. They told him, “Ya’ll got a problem with us?” One of the suspects aimed his gun and yelled, “Fuck you Niggers. This is our ‘hood. The suspect then fired two shots, striking the victim and causing him to fall to the ground. Witnesses told police that then the two suspects fled in different directions

July 11, Arcadia—A Chinese man was waiting at a bus stop when across the street a white female started yelling, “Go back where you came from, you fucking Chinese!” She then crossed the street and punched him 3 times in the face. The victim yelled that he was going to call the police and the suspect fled on foot.

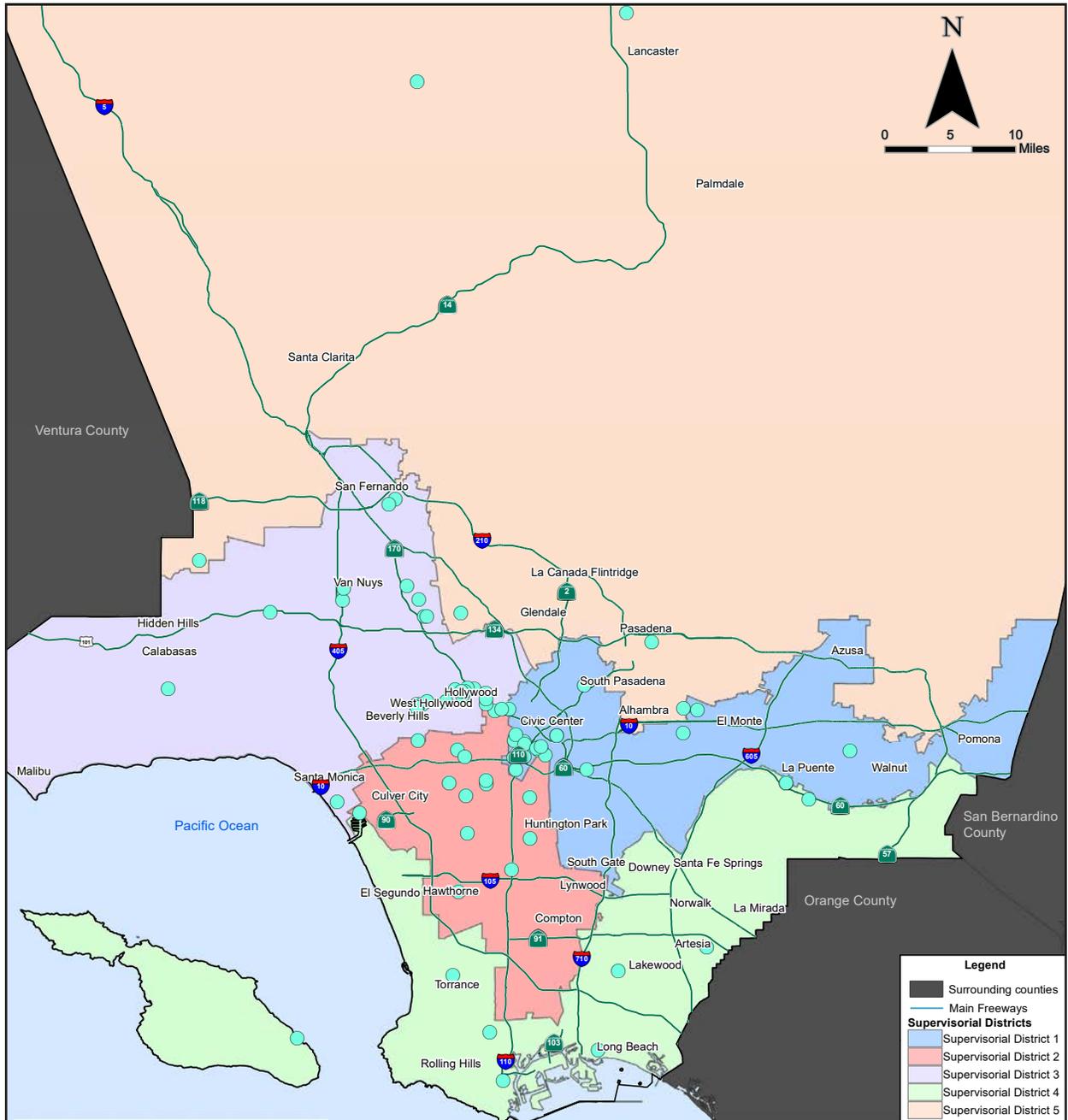
July 15, Van Nuys—A black woman and her son were at a post office. When she returned to parking lot, she found a van blocking her vehicle. She entered the building again and asked to whom the van belonged. A Latino male identified himself as the owner. She asked him to move the van, but he refused. The suspect followed her back to the lot and shouted, “Fuck you, bitch! I’ll shoot you and that nigger!” Startled, the victim turned around and saw the suspect retrieving a handgun from his van. He pointed the weapon at her with his finger on the trigger. The victim escaped by maneuvering her car around the van and driving away. Later, both victims were able to identify the suspect out of a photo line-up, leading to his arrest.

August 17, Palmdale—A white female and her child were walking their dog. A vehicle approached from behind occupied by an African American male and female. The male suspect yelled, “Die, white bitch!” The victim felt a shot in her left arm, possibly a BB gun. The vehicle then drove past her. Responding officers observed a large bruise under the victim’s armpit and she complained of great pain.

October 8, Venice—A black female motorist struck a parked car’s rear bumper. The vehicle’s owner, a Latino male, was sitting inside and emerged to see if there was any damage. The suspect got out of her car and swung a metal pipe attempting strike the victim in the head. The victim used his arms to protect himself and was stuck again in the elbow. The suspect yelled, “You fucking beaner! Go back to Mexico! Fuck you Mexican!” The suspect then struck the victim’s car 15-18 times.

October 22, South Los Angeles—A 60 year-old Latina woman and her daughter were walking past a black female when the suspect lunged at the victim. She ripped a chain off her neck, punched her in the face and beat her with a tent pole, while yelling, “Immigrant shit!” When officers arrived, they tried interviewing the victim but because she was bleeding profusely, they had her transported to the hospital and treated for her injuries.

A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes



Map by Florentino Bernal Jr.

2020 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Sexual Orientation

In addition to the hate crimes shown on this map, there are crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes Increase

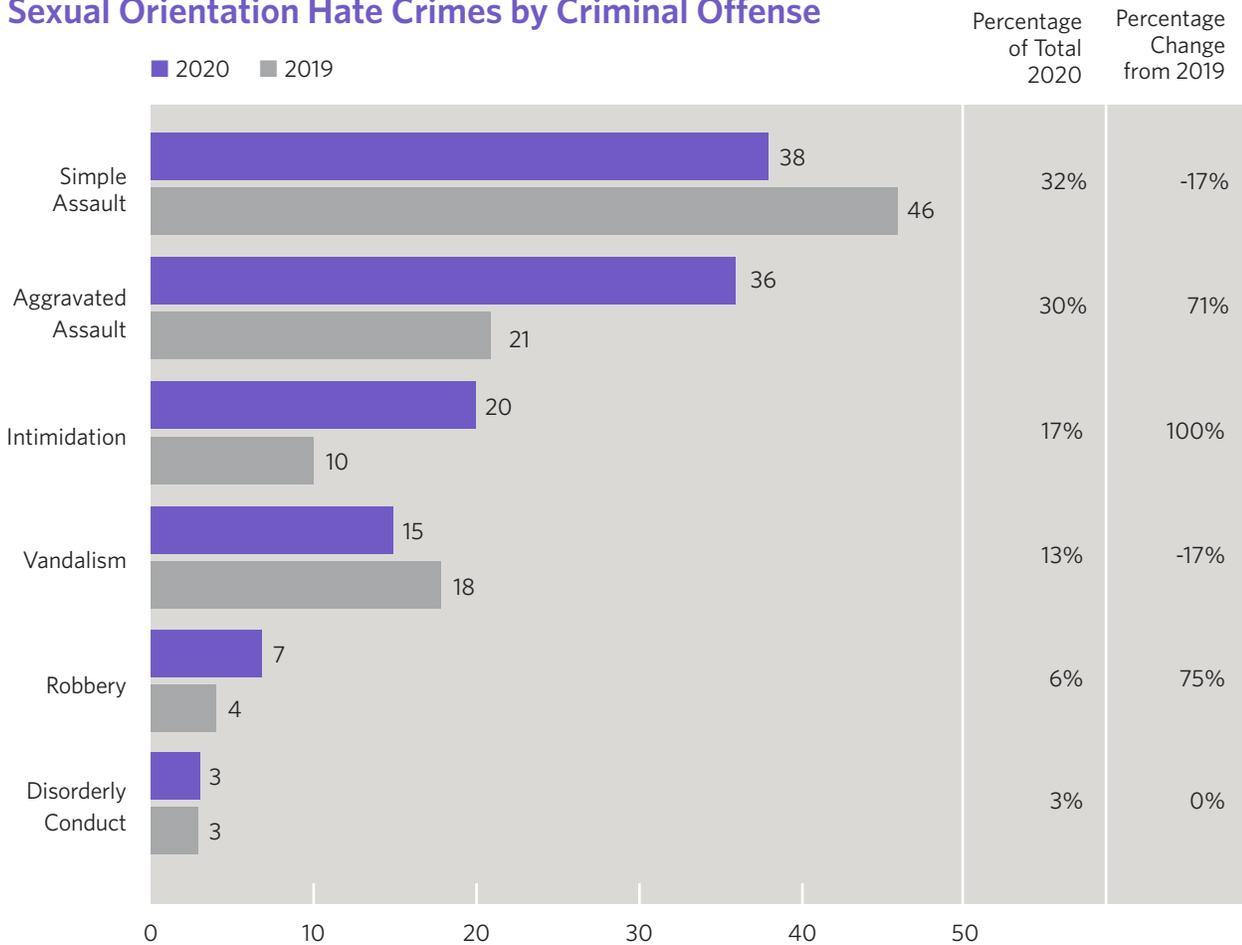
After falling sharply the previous year, sexual orientation-motivated hate crimes rose 17% from 104 to 122. They comprised 18% of all reported hate crimes, compared to 19% in 2019.

Victims are Overwhelmingly Gay Men

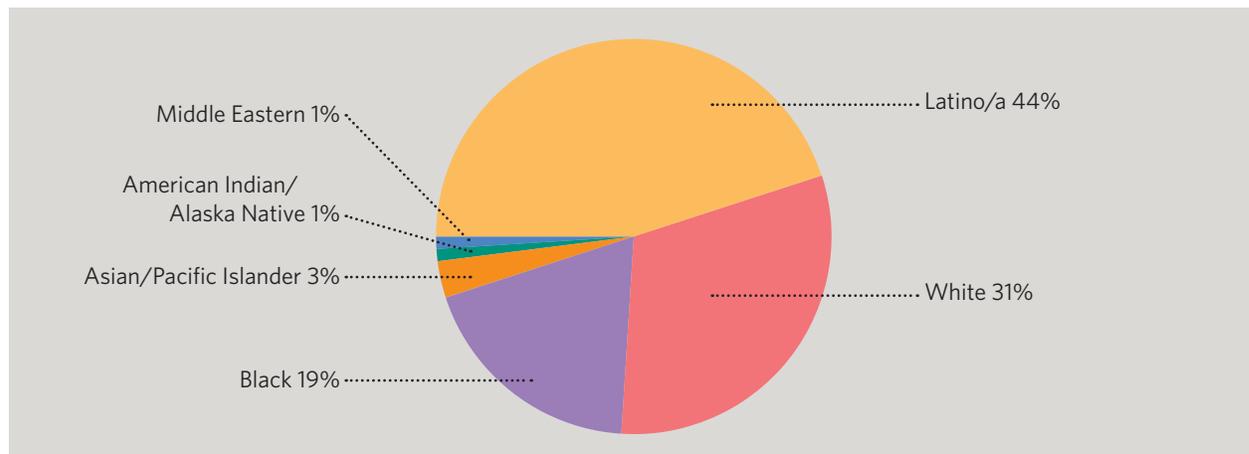
As in earlier years, the great majority of sexual orientation crimes targeted gay men (84%). These cases increased 18% from 87 to 103. For the second year in a row crimes targeting lesbians declined (20%). They decreased from 15 to 12 and comprised 10% of sexual orientation crimes. There were also 6 crimes which did not specifically target gay men or lesbians and instead were primarily directed at LGBT businesses or organizations. This report classifies those crimes as anti-LGBT (unspecified).

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

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Known Victim Race/Ethnicity



Extremely High Rate of Violence

Historically, crimes motivated by sexual orientation have had a significantly higher rate of violence than crimes based on race or religion. In 2020, violent sexual orientation crimes increased from 79% to 83%, the highest rate since 2015. Anti-gay male crimes were more likely to be of a violent nature (89%, up from 82%) than crimes targeting lesbians (75%, up from 67%).

As in previous years, the most common criminal offense was simple assault (32%), followed by aggravated assault (30%), intimidation (17%), and vandalism (13%). This represented substantial increases in aggravated assault and intimidation and a decrease in simple assaults.

White Victims Increase and Black Victims Decline

Latino/as remained the largest group of victims (44%), followed by whites (31%) and African Americans (19%). Given that African Americans comprise 9% of the total Los Angeles County population, they were over-represented as victims of sexual orientation hate crime. There were also 3 Asian American victims of homophobic offenses and lone crimes in which the victims were American Indian and Middle Eastern.

Victims of homophobic crimes were most likely to be targeted by members of the same race/ethnicity. Latino/as were again targeted most frequently by other Latino/as (56%), followed by blacks (31%) and whites (11%). This represented a decrease in Latino-on-Latino crimes and an increase in black suspects. White victims were targeted primarily by white suspects (58% up from 47%), followed by blacks (29% up from 21%) and Latino/as (13%, down from 21%). White and black suspects grew and Latino/as fell. Black victims were targeted by other blacks most often (50%), followed by whites (25%) and Latino/as (13%). Black-on-black crimes increased and Latino/a suspects declined.

Most Homophobic Crimes Occur in Public Places

The largest number of sexual orientation hate crimes reported in 2020 took place in public places (42%), followed by residences (35%) and businesses (16%). This distribution was very similar to the previous year.

Actual Sexual Orientation Crimes

May 2, Koreatown—A Latino man was purchasing beverages at a gas station. Another Latino male came up to the counter and told him, “Muevete, joto!” (Move it, faggot!). The victim asked the suspect to stop insulting him, but he continued to call him, “joto,” “faggot,” and “queer.” The suspect pushed him out the front door and punched him repeatedly in the face and body. The victim tried to push him away, but the attack continued until the clerk came outside and intervened. The victim returned to his office at a nearby supermarket and called police. The victim told officers that he is not gay. Surveillance video corroborated the victim’s story.

May 19, West Adams—A black man was riding on an MTA bus when a black female suspect started yelling, “Faggot! Get the fuck off the bus, faggot!” The victim became fearful when he noticed she was carrying a box cutter. The victim got up and moved towards the rear door to exit. The suspect continued yelling slurs and then threw a carton of juice and a can of beer at him. The victim exited the bus and called police who arrested the suspect. The bus driver confirmed victim’s account of the events.

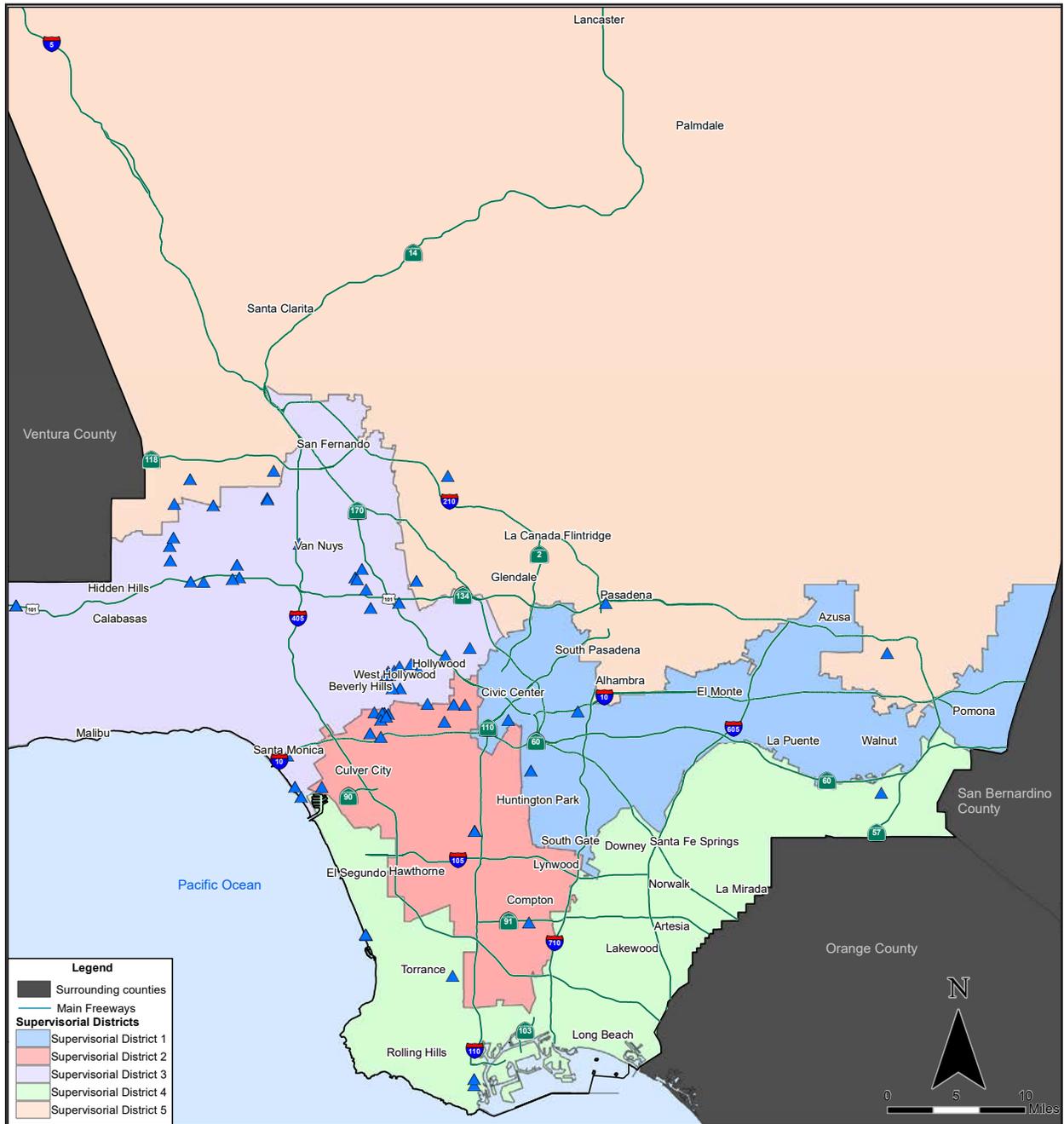
June 11, North Hollywood—A white college student was on an MTA bus. He observed a black male who approached him and struck him in the head with a hammer. The suspect yelled, “Faggot!” numerous times. The suspect struck the victim three more times, causing him to lose consciousness. When he came to, he observed the suspect running towards the MTA station.

June 26, Hacienda Heights—An elderly white woman displayed a rainbow flag during Pride Month in front of her home to indicate her support for her grandson who is part of the LGBT community. One morning she came outside to retrieve her newspaper and found someone had set it on fire.

November 17, Downtown Los Angeles—A white female apartment manager was speaking outdoors with a tenant. Suddenly, she heard yelling from across the street. She saw a white male tenant with whom she and her girlfriend had had problems. The suspect yelled, “Don’t look at me fuckin’ bitch! I’ll stab you in the fuckin’ neck, lesbian fuckin’ bitch!” She contacted police and explained that she had a restraining order against the suspect. Officers placed the suspect under arrest.

November 29, Hawthorne—A black male confronted a Latino male in parking lot of a small shopping center and told him, “You fucking faggot! Get the fuck away from here!” and “Don’t come back! This is my ‘hood.” The victim responded, “I’ll come back whenever I want. I live here.” The victim left the area and returned a short time later and the altercation resumed. During the second exchange the suspect said he was a member of the “Hoover Crips Gang.” The suspect took a handgun from his vehicle and pointed it at the victim and said, “You fucking faggot! I’m going to shoot you for being a faggot!” He then hit the victim in the face with the handgun knocking him to the ground. The suspect returned to his vehicle and shouted, “You fucking faggot, this is what you get”!

A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes



Map by Florentino Bernal Jr.

2020 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Religion

In addition to the hate crimes shown on this map, there are crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

Religious Hate Crimes Decline

After rising 11% the previous year, religious-motivated crime decreased 18% from 105 to 86. This represented a decline from 19% to 13% of all hate crimes.

As in the past, the great majority of these crimes (88%) targeted the Jewish community, followed by Muslims (5%) and Catholics (3%). Anti-Jewish crimes declined 18% from 93 to 76. There were single crimes each targeting Hindus, Buddhists, and Scientologists.

Rate of Violence Declines

The most common criminal offense was vandalism (67%, up from 55%), followed by intimidation (11%), and disorderly conduct (7%). The rate of violence declined from 32% to 23%.

A Growing Percentage of Religious Crimes Suggest White Supremacist Ideology

Religious crimes in which there was evidence of white supremacist ideology (most frequently the use of swastikas) rose from 47% to 62%.

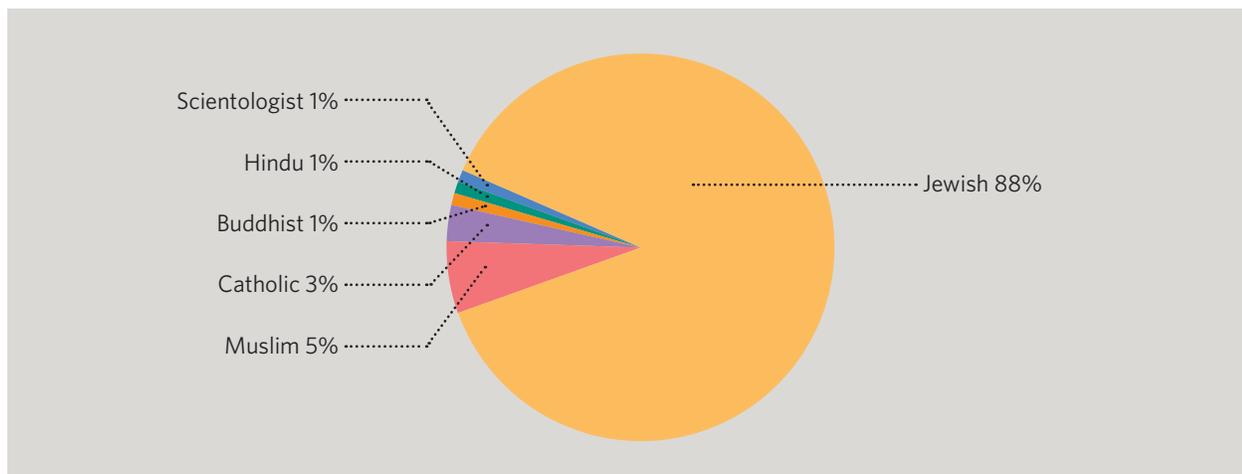
Victims and Suspects are Mostly White

Many religious crimes do not have individual victims because the suspects target religious congregations, organizations, schools, or public property. In crimes committed against individuals, the largest number of victims of religious-motivated hate crimes were white (74%, down from 79%), followed by blacks (11%), Middle Easterners (9%) and Latino/as (6%). Two of the black victims were women who were targeted because they wore head coverings.

Because so many religious crimes are acts of vandalism or displays of swastikas* few suspects are identified. In those cases in which a suspect was seen by a victim or witness or filmed by a surveillance camera, 10 were white, 2 were black, and there was 1 Latino/a suspect and 1 Middle Eastern suspect.

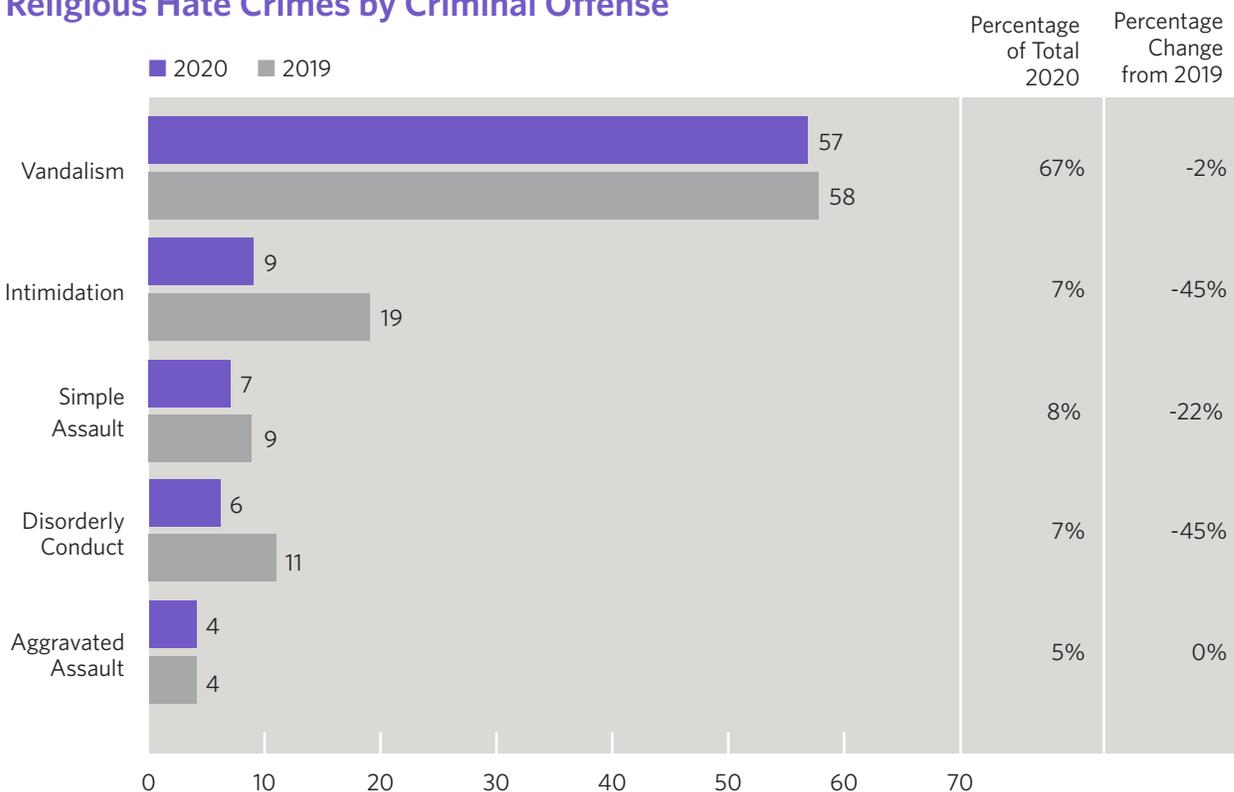
*Displaying swastikas is not charged as vandalism when there is no damage to property.

Religious Hate Crimes by Targeted Group



*Displaying swastikas is not charged as vandalism when there is no damage to property.

Religious Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In addition there were single cases of arson and burglary.

Religious Crimes Occur Most Frequently in Public Places

The most common location for religious crimes was public places (37%), followed by businesses (21%), residences (20%), religious sites (12%), and schools (8%). This represented increases in religious crimes at businesses and declines in those taking place at religious sites and schools. The previous year the most common location was religious sites.

Three Quarters of Religious Crimes Occur in City of Los Angeles

The overwhelming majority (72%) of religious crimes took place in the City of Los Angeles. The only other clusters of religious-motivated hate crimes were committed in the cities of Beverly Hills and West Hollywood.

Actual Religious Hate Crimes

June 21, Los Angeles—A Middle Eastern male was working at a liquor store. A white male came behind the counter, punched him, and used a taser gun to tase him in the stomach and chest. The suspect said, “Fucking Muslim! Go back to your fuckin’ country! Don’t come back!” He also called the victim, “sand nigger” and “terrorist.”

August 7, West Hollywood—The Iranian American Jewish Center was vandalized with graffiti. On the mailbox the words “Iranian” and “Jewish” were crossed out and the letters “SS” were written. The magazine stand and front wall were also defaced with the letters “88” (a shorthand for “Heil Hitler”) and the letters, “DPR” (Donetsk People’s Republic, a separatist rebel group in Ukraine, known for anti-Semitism). The damage was estimated at \$1,000.

September 7, North Hollywood—At a Catholic church a priest notified police after finding a statue of an Italian Archbishop on the church campus was defiled. Feces was smeared on the statue in the shape of an upside-down cross. The priest told police that he believed the church was targeted because of their religious beliefs, and an upside-down cross which is symbolic of the devil.

September 8, Burbank—A Jewish female found a pink swastika painted on the rear passenger door of her car. She is the only Jewish person living in her apartment building.

September 8, Chatsworth—A Rabbi discovered graffiti, “The Jews control the world,” on the perimeter wall of his temple. The vandalism was drawn in what appeared to be a marker and read, “The Jews control the world” with a red symbol in the shape of a circle with a cross above it. The Rabbi was concerned because the Jewish high holidays were approaching and due to the pandemic services would be held outside. He feared for the safety of his congregants.

October 19, Beverly Grove—A Jewish woman and her son-in-law who was wearing religious garb parked next to a car occupied by an elderly white woman. The suspect confronted the victim and told her she had parked too close to her vehicle. The victim replied that there was plenty of room to navigate and the suspect responded, “All you Hassidic Jews always break the law.” The suspect continued to harass victim by calling her “a fat slut,” then removed her mask and spat in the victim’s face. The suspect then drove off.

A Closer Look at Gender Hate Crimes

There were 34 hate crimes motivated by the victims' gender or gender identity. Thirty-two of the crimes were anti-transgender and 2 were anti-female.

Anti-Transgender Crimes

Third Highest Number of Anti-Transgender Hate Crimes Ever Reported

There were 32 hate crimes motivated by anti-transgender bias reported in 2020 compared to 42 the previous year. Despite the decline, the 32 anti-transgender crimes were the 3rd largest number ever reported. Twenty-one of the crimes (72%) targeted transgender women, 3 (10%) targeted transmen, and 2 (7%) of the victims were cis-gender men* who were attacked for being in the company of transgender women. The percentages of transwomen and transmen victims have been consistent for many years.

*A person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex.

High Rate of Violence

As in the past, anti-transgender crimes had an extremely high rate of violence, 94% compared to 93% the previous year. The most common criminal offense was aggravated assault (44%) which rose 40% from 10 to 14. They were followed by simple assault (38%) which declined from 18 to 12. There were also 2 cases each of robberies and vandalism, and single cases of intimidation and attempted murder (which is described on page 14).

Great Majority of Anti-Trans Crimes Occur in Public Places

The great majority of anti-transgender crimes occurred in public places (68%), followed by residences (16%), businesses (10%), and schools (6%). The location percentages were similar the previous year.

Latino/a Victims Remain Most Frequent Targets

In cases where the victims' race was identified, 56% were Latino/a (down from 64%). Twenty-eight percent were black, 16% were white, and there was a lone Asian victim. This represented a 44% decrease in Latino/a victims. In cases where suspects were identified, 54% were Latino/a, 43% were black, and 4% were white. The pattern the previous year was similar. In cases in which the race of both the victim and suspect were identified, 57% of Latino/a victims were attacked by blacks, followed by Latino/as (43%). White victims were targeted by equal numbers of black and Latino/a suspects. Black victims were selected most often by Latino/a suspects (50%), followed by Blacks (33%) and whites (17%).

Suspects are Overwhelmingly Male Strangers

Similar to the previous year, the overwhelming majority of the suspects (84%) were male. The great majority of the suspects were complete strangers to the victims. However, there were also cases in which a victim was attacked by a relative, gang members who extorted the victim, another resident of a youth shelter, and by former classmates.

Actual Anti-Transgender Hate Crimes

January 11, South Los Angeles—A Latina transwoman and four friends were shopping together at a supermarket. Two black females started following them. A verbal argument took place between the suspects and one of the friends. The confrontation was broken up by the arrival of store security.

The victim's group paid for their purchases and left the store. On her way home, the suspects confronted the victim and one suspect brandished a knife. The suspects told her, "You're nasty!" and "You're a bitch!" The victim assumed these statements were related to her gender identity. Fearful, she tried running away but the suspects cornered her and punched her repeatedly. The suspects then fled in a car.

January 23, West Los Angeles—A transwoman entered a Metro train and took a seat. A black male was standing nearby. The victim smiled and silently admired the suspect's leather jacket. The suspect told her, "What are you staring at, fucking faggot?" The suspect then punched her face, approximately 10 times, knocking her to the ground. He then repeatedly kicked the victim's face.

August 8, Pico Rivera—A young Latino transman was at a friend's house for a child's birthday party. The victim noticed a Latino male staring at him. The victim ignored him until the suspect approached and said, "Hey little man, nice to meet you" and then returned to his seat but continued to glare at him. Later, the victim was preparing a plate of food to take home. The suspect smacked the plate out of his hand and said, "You are not taking food home to your family." Fearing that the situation would escalate, the victim started to leave. The suspect followed him and punched him, saying, "Fuck you, fuckin' faggot" and then punched the victim a second time. Guests from the party appeared and held back the suspect, allowing the victim to escape.

October 29, Hollywood—A white transwoman was walking down the street when two cyclists passed by her and one said, "Fag" in a low voice. The victim responded, "That's right, that's right" and called the Latino male suspect a "homie clown." As the victim paused at a stop light the suspect pulled up, removed a metal bat from his backpack, and held it over his head as he approached her. The victim took out her phone and stated that she was calling law enforcement. The suspect's friend urged him to leave with her and the two fled the scene.

Anti-Female Crimes

There was 1 hate crime motivated solely by gender and 1 multiple-motivation case.

Actual Anti-Female Hate Crimes

November 19, Los Angeles—The victim, a Persian women's rights and student activist received several Instagram messages stating, "Fuck women rights. You're a minority. I don't hit girls. So Ima shoot you."

December 5, Torrance—A black female was driving in to work when she noticed someone tailgating her. The white male motorist followed her into the company parking lot, exited his car and yelled anti-black, anti-Muslim and anti-female slurs. He threatened to kill her. The victim isn't Muslim but was wearing a head scarf. She was extremely fearful because the suspect knows where she works.

A Closer Look at Disability Hate Crimes

There was 1 disability-motivated crime compared to 3 the previous year. A black trans male victim with multiple physical disabilities was punched and knocked to the ground by two Latino males who called him multiple slurs.

Hate Crime Prosecutions

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office handles the great majority of hate crime prosecutions in Los Angeles County. In 2020, 63 hate crime cases were referred to the District Attorney. Seven were declined and 5 were referred to the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. One of those was returned for further investigation. Prosecutors filed charges in 56 cases. Of those, 51 adults and 5 juveniles were charged with hate crime enhancements.

Forty-five adults were charged with felonies and 6 were charged with misdemeanors. The largest number of defendants were charged with crimes motivated by race or ethnicity.

Thirty-two cases were referred to the L.A. City Attorney's Office in 2020, compared to 47 the previous year. Race was the most common motivation (18), followed by sexual orientation (11), and religion (3). This does not include cases that were assigned to regional offices. No hate crime charges were filed in any of these cases.

Hate Crime Legislation

There was no significant hate crime legislation passed at the local, state, or federal levels in 2020. However, on May 21, 2021, President Biden signed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act into law. This will be discussed in detail in next year's report.

Methodology

The 2020 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 and include in this report those that meet 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 in this report. Nevertheless, we encourage law enforcement and community organizations to report hate incidents because they can be early indicators of intergroup tension and conflict.* From the 1,050 reports of hate events (both crimes and incidents) received for 2020, 566 events involving 635 victims were found to have 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 events.

Understanding the Numbers

- If a violent crime is committed against multiple victims, in most cases each victim is counted separately.
- We report the perpetrators' intended target 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/a victim is perceived by the perpetrator as African-American).
- A handful of cases involved epithets targeting more than 1 group. Therefore, the total number of cases by motivation or by targeted group actually exceeds the 635 hate crimes for 2020. We also received a small number 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 and targeted group. In these cases the motivation and targeted group are deemed "unknown."
- It is important to note that fluctuations in data from one year to the next do not necessarily indicate trends. Sometimes, an increase one year follows a notable decrease the previous year. Multi-year data provide 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 may be 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 hate crimes committed in 2019 have changed since last year's report due to an ongoing process of updates and corrections.

Los Angeles County Service Planning Areas



Map by Juan Carlos Martinez

Hate Crimes by Service Planning Area (SPA)

Name	Partial Listing of Cities and Areas	*2020 Population	2020 Hate Crimes	2020 Hate Crimes per 100,000 residents
Region I: Antelope Valley SPA	All of the Antelope Valley, including Acton, Gorman, Lancaster, Palmdale, Quartz Hill, Littlerock, Lake Los Angeles	396,432	16	4.0
Region II: San Fernando Valley SPA	All of the San Fernando Valley, including Burbank, Glendale, Newhall, Northridge, San Fernando, Santa Clarita, Val Verde, Westlake Village, East & West Valley areas	2,241,293	76	3.4
Region III: San Gabriel Valley SPA	All of the San Gabriel Valley, including Alhambra, Altadena, Irwindale, La Puente, Pasadena, Pomona, El Monte, Azusa, San Dimas	1,792,399	43	2.4
Region IV: Metro SPA	Atwater, Boyle Heights, Downtown, Eagle Rock, Echo Park, Glassell Park, Hancock Park, Koreatown, Hollywood, Park La Brea, West Hollywood, Silverlake	1,180,105	149	12.6
Region V: West SPA	Beverly Hills, Culver City, Malibu, Marina del Rey, Pacific Palisades, Playa del Rey, Santa Monica, Venice, Westchester	658,434	46	7.0
Region VI: South SPA	Compton, Florence, Lynwood, South Los Angeles, Watts	1,044,302	62	5.9
Region VII: East SPA	Vernon, Maywood, Huntington Park, Bellflower, South Gate, Lakewood, Hawaiian Gardens, Signal Hill, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Cerritos, La Mirada, Whittier, La Habra	1,311,096	24	1.8
Region VIII: South Bay SPA	Inglewood, Torrance, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, San Pedro	1,554,531	66	4.2

*2020 population estimate data source is ISD Urban Research.

Reporting Agencies

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Los Angeles Police Department
 Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
 Arcadia Police Department
 Azusa Police Department
 Bell Police Department
 Beverly Hills Police Department
 Burbank Police Department
 California Highway Patrol
 Claremont Police Department
 Covina Police Department
 Culver City Police Department
 El Monte Police Department
 El Segundo Police Department
 Gardena Police Department
 Hawthorne Police Department
 Hermosa Beach Police Department
 Huntington Park Police Department
 Inglewood Police Department
 Long Beach Police Department
 Manhattan Beach Police Department
 Montebello Police Department
 Monterey Park Police Department
 Pasadena Police Department
 Pomona Police Department
 Redondo Beach Police Department
 San Gabriel Police Department
 Santa Monica Police Department
 Signal Hill Police Department
 South Gate Police Department
 Torrance Police Department
 Vernon Police Department
 West Covina Police Department
 Whittier Police Department

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

211-LA vs Hate
 Anti-Defamation League
 Long Beach LGBT Center
 Los Angeles LGBT Center

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

California State University, Dominguez Hills
 California State University, Long Beach
 California State University, Northridge
 Citrus College
 College of the Canyons
 Glendale Community College District
 Long Beach Community College District
 Los Angeles Community College District
 Mt. San Antonio Community College District
 Pasadena City College
 Rio Hondo College
 Santa Monica College
 University of California, Los Angeles

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Alhambra Unified School District
 Bellflower Unified School District
 Claremont Unified School District
 Compton Unified School District
 Covina-Valley Unified School District
 Downey Unified School District
 Eastside Union School District
 El Monte Union High School District
 Garvey School District
 Glendale Unified School District
 Hawthorne School District
 Keppel Union School District
 Lawndale School District
 Los Angeles Unified School District
 Los Nietos School District
 Montebello Unified School District
 Mountain View School District
 Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District
 Redondo Beach Unified School District
 Rowland Unified School District
 Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
 South Pasadena Unified School District
 Sulpher Springs Union School District
 Valle Lindo School District
 Wilsona School District

Acknowledgements

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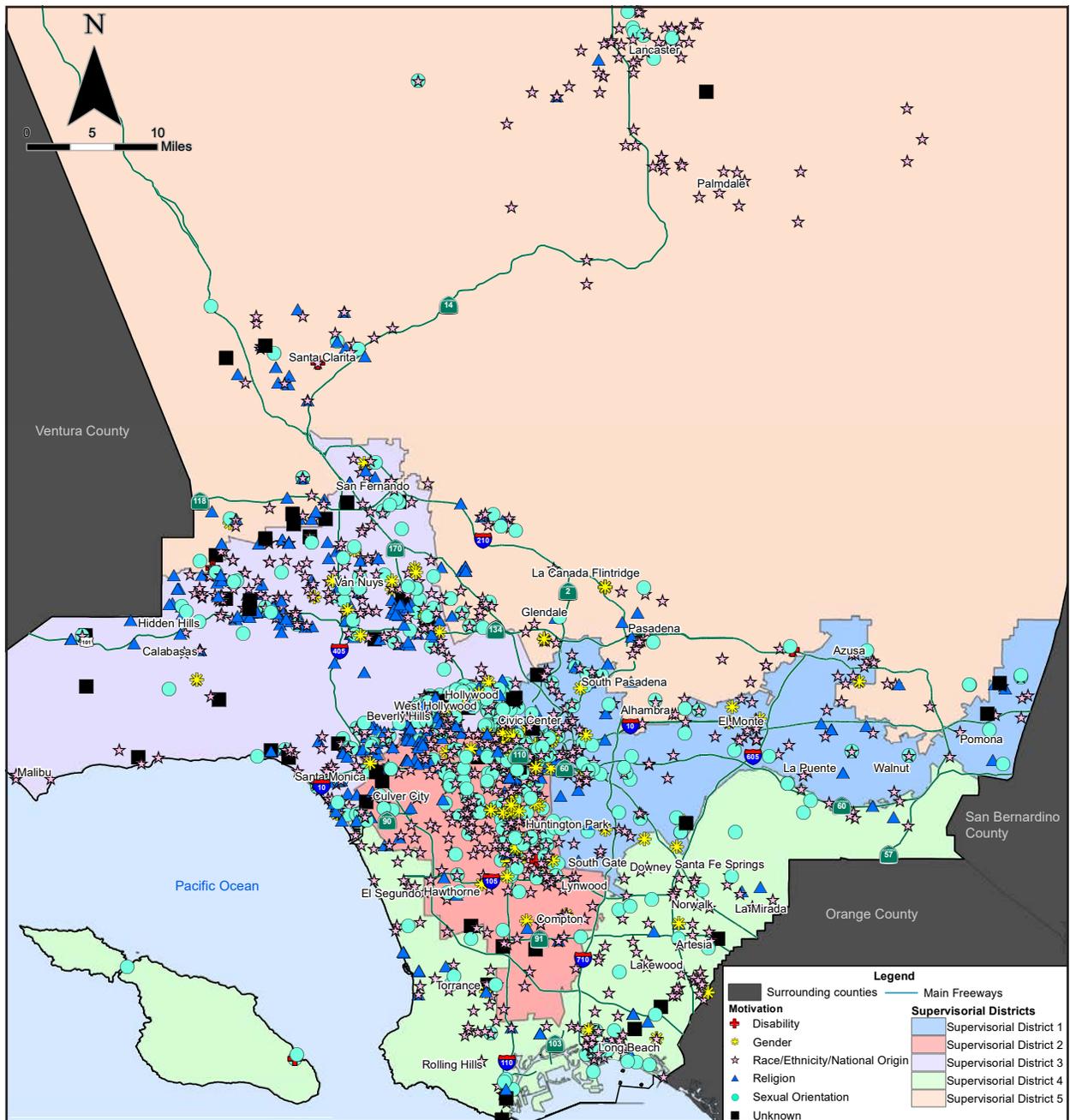
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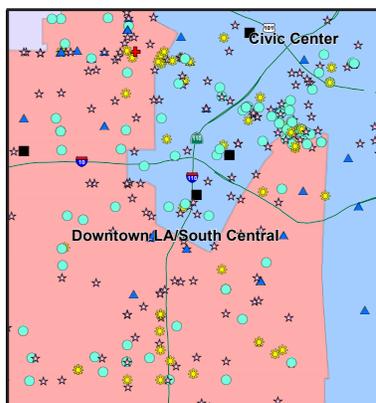
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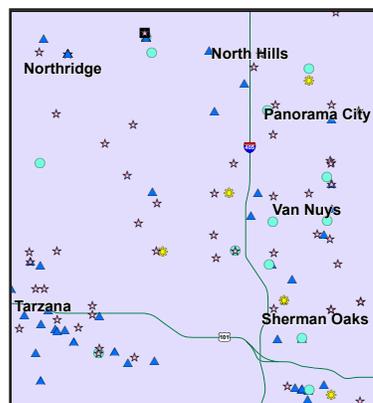
2016-2020 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes



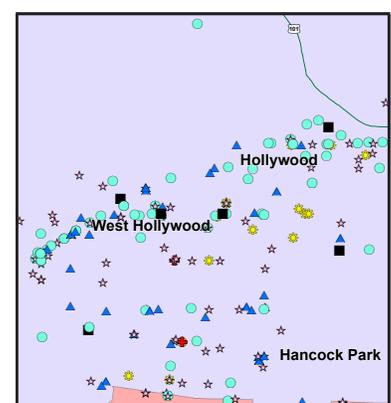
Central/South Central L.A.



San Fernando Valley



Hollywood/West Hollywood



In addition to the hate crimes shown on these maps, there are crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

Maps by Florentino Bernal Jr.



wdacs
workforce development
aging & community services



2020 Hate Crime Report

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

www.LAHumanRelations.org