



**OCA HUMAN RELATIONS**

*Building Bridges of Understanding*

# 2009 Hate Crime Report

- African Americans still the most frequent target of hate crimes in Orange County
- Hate Crimes against Latinos decrease in spite of a volatile immigration debate
- Hate Crimes targeting Jewish community up for second year in a row
- President Obama signs a federal hate crime law to include sexual orientation and gender identity



*An annual publication of the  
Orange County Human Relations Commission*

[www.ochumanrelations.org](http://www.ochumanrelations.org)



## A Message From the Commission

The annual report on Hate Crime is an important indicator of the health of Orange County's multi-cultural communities. Even though we have made great strides in race and religious relations, the stress brought on by the recession and unemployment has threatened to reignite old fears. While overall hate crime is down, aggressive acts against Muslims, Jews and Latinos have increased over the last year.

OC Human Relations Commission prevents hate crime by building understanding among diverse communities through mediation, education and consulting with law enforcement and community leaders. We recognize that many hate crimes go unreported each year, however we remain vigilant and hopeful for a better future.

Bill Wood Chair

Handwritten signature of C. William Wood in black ink.

Orange County Human Relations Commission



## To the Residents of Orange County

California has a proud tradition of protecting personal and civil rights, and we have some of the strongest laws in the nation to combat hate violence. These laws include the requirement that law enforcement agencies track hate crimes committed within their jurisdictions and report them to the California Department of Justice. The statistics that are generated from these reports assist us in our ongoing campaign to educate the public, engage in specific policing practices, and reduce the incidence of hate crimes.

For our strategies to combat hate crimes to be effective, we must all work together to ensure that such crimes are reported to our local law enforcement agencies. I commend the Orange County Human Relations Commission for its tireless efforts to engage the community in cooperative partnership against hate crimes and hate incidents and for its work to improve the reporting of these particularly pernicious crimes.

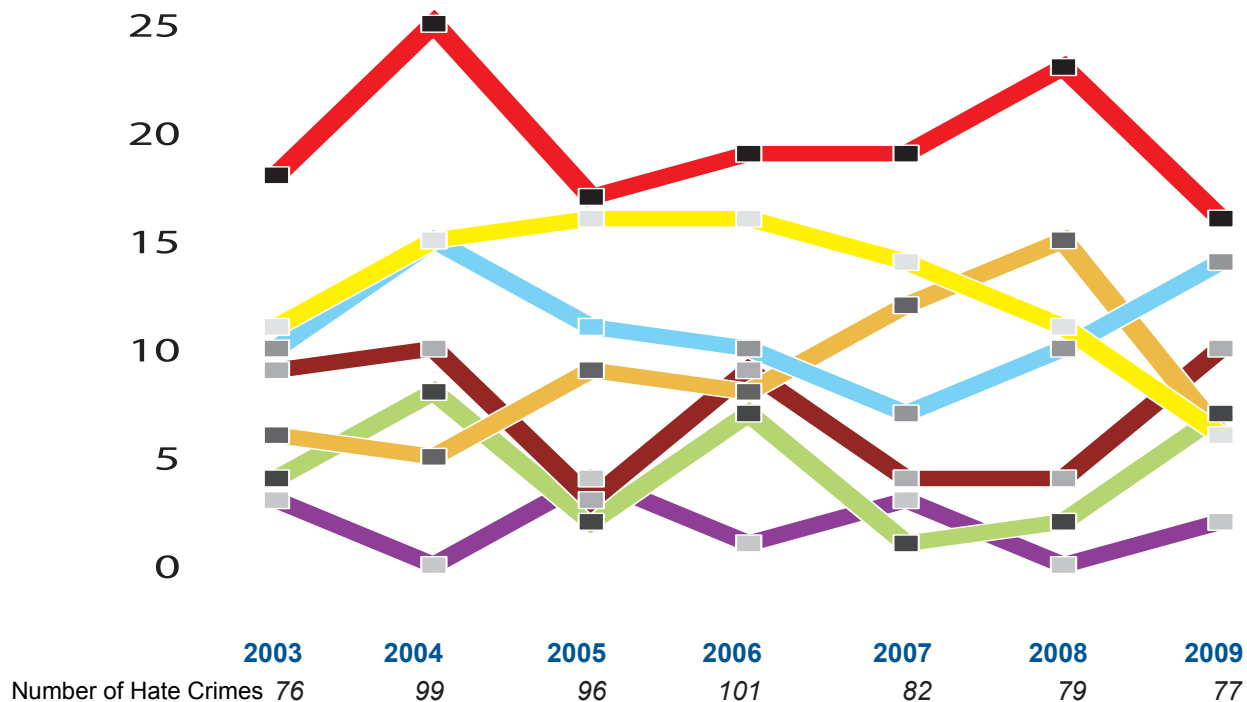
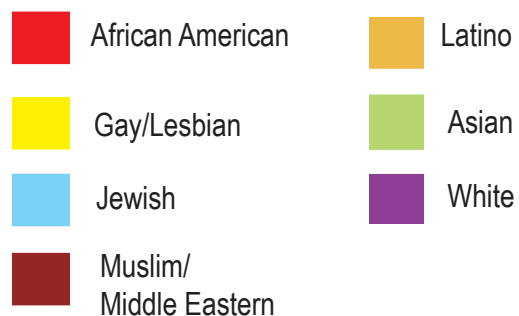
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Edmund G. Brown Jr. in black ink.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
State of California Attorney General



## Targets of Hate Crimes From 2003 to 2009



### Analysis

The frequency of hate crimes against specific targets can reflect public policies, societal attitudes and national and international affairs. Thus, demographic changes, economic downturn, controversial legislation and other events may fuel bigotry and result in an increase in hate related activity.

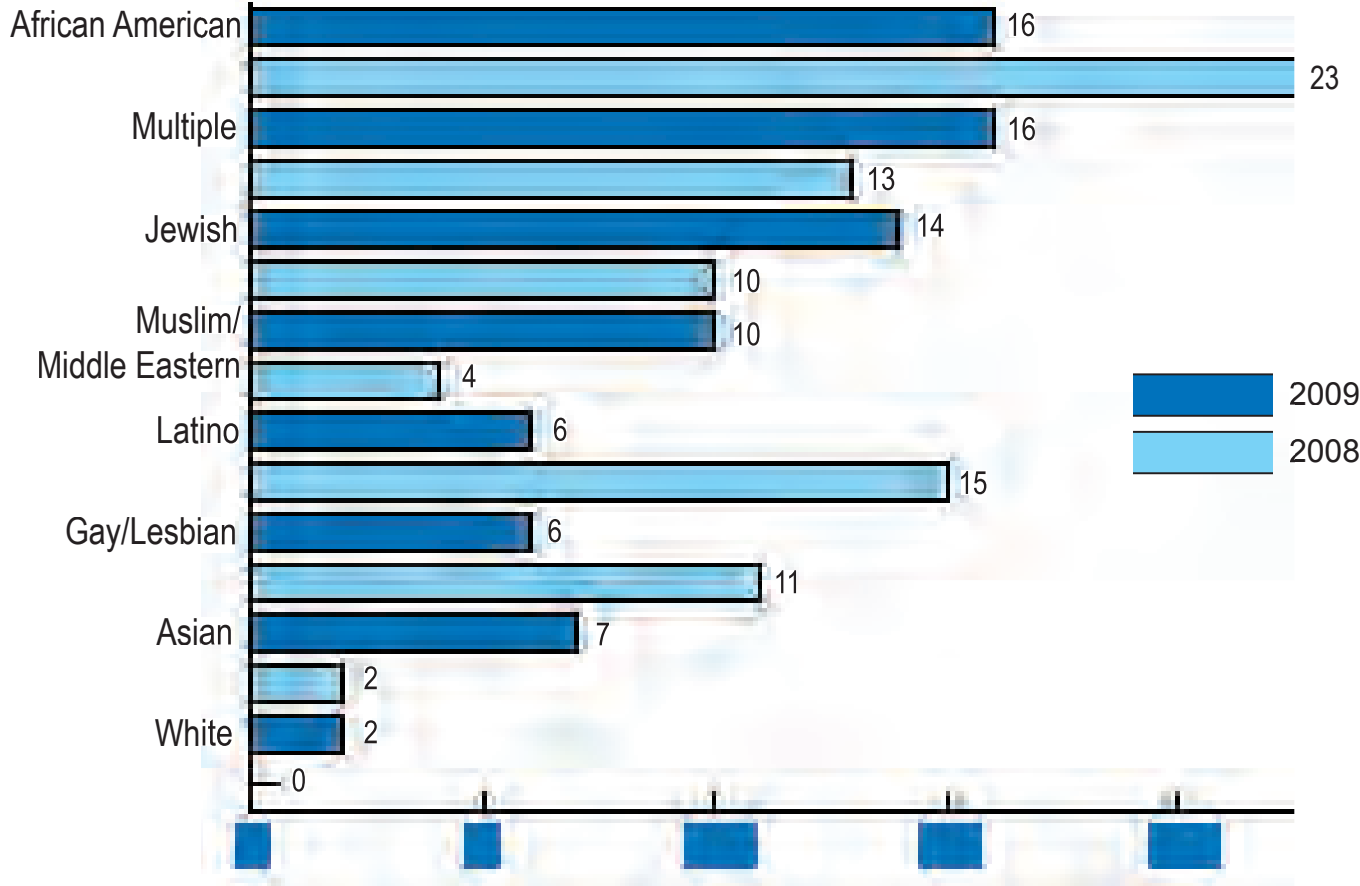
- African Americans make up less than 2% of Orange County's population, but are consistently the most frequent targets of hate crime.

- Jewish and Muslims communities experienced dramatic increases last year, a doubling of hate crimes against them in 2009.
- Hate crime trends against Latinos are down this year, ending a two-year upward trend.
- Hate crimes against the Gay and Lesbian community are down for a third year in a row.
- Hate crimes against some groups (e.g. members of the Gay and Lesbian community and undocumented immigrants) are under-reported due to fear and lack of trust.

### Hate Crime (P.C. § 422.6)

A Hate Crime is a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: Disability, Gender, Nationality, Race or Ethnicity, Religion, Sexual Orientation, association with a person or group of persons with one or more of the preceding actual or perceived characteristics. Under California law there are enhanced penalties for these types of crimes.

## 77 Hate Crimes Reported in 2009 in Orange County



- There was a 30% drop in the number of hate crimes targeting African-Americans. However, they remain the most frequent target of hate crimes.

- Hate crimes targeting Latinos took a dramatic drop, with less than half of the number reported last year. Six hate crimes is the lowest number reported since 2004.

- Hate crimes targeting Jews increased, dramatically for the second year in a row.

- While the number of hate crimes targeting the Asian Pacific Islander community is relatively low, there was a three-fold increase.

- Hate crimes against Muslim-Arabs rose at a highest rate since 2001.

- Hate Crimes targeting members of the Gay and Lesbian community continued a 3 year downward trend.

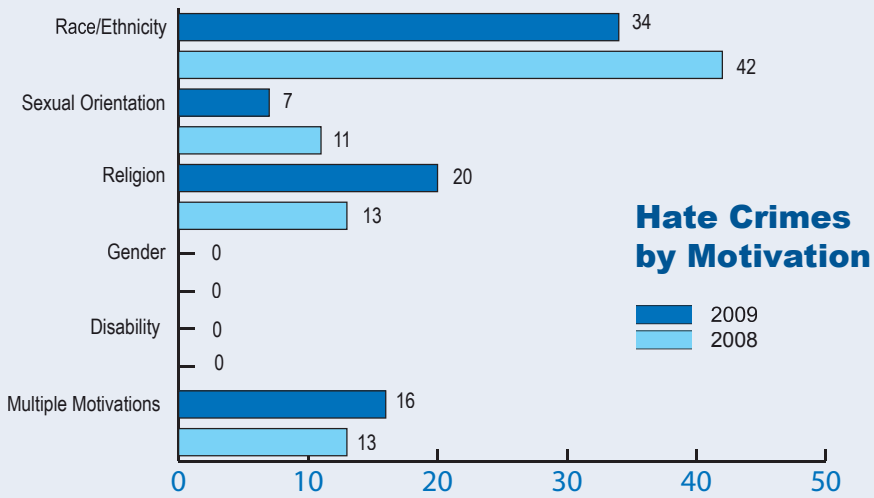
## Methodology

This report provides a statistical overview on reported hate crimes and incidents that occurred in Orange County in 2009. There are a number of factors, elaborated below, that lead the Commission to conclude that the information contained in this report under represents the actual number of hate crimes.

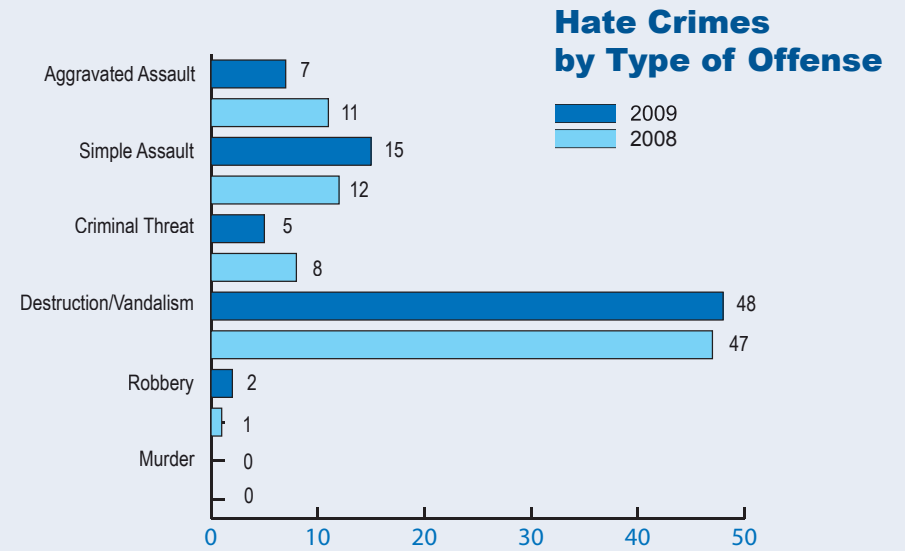
The Commission carefully crosschecks each case to eliminate duplication. Due to this careful gathering of information, the Commission contends that this report is an accurate overall reflection of reported hate crimes in Orange County.

Some communities can suffer from under reporting due to a lack of knowledge about the justice system, cultural and language barriers, fear of reprisals, immigration status and a lack of confidence in government agencies.

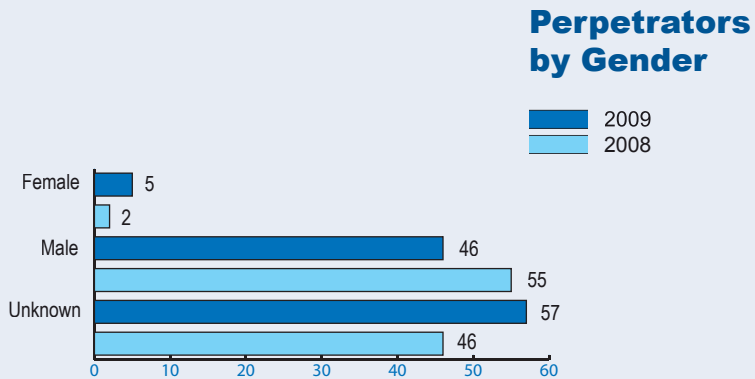
The Commission urges caution when drawing conclusions on trends based on year-to-year variations of data.



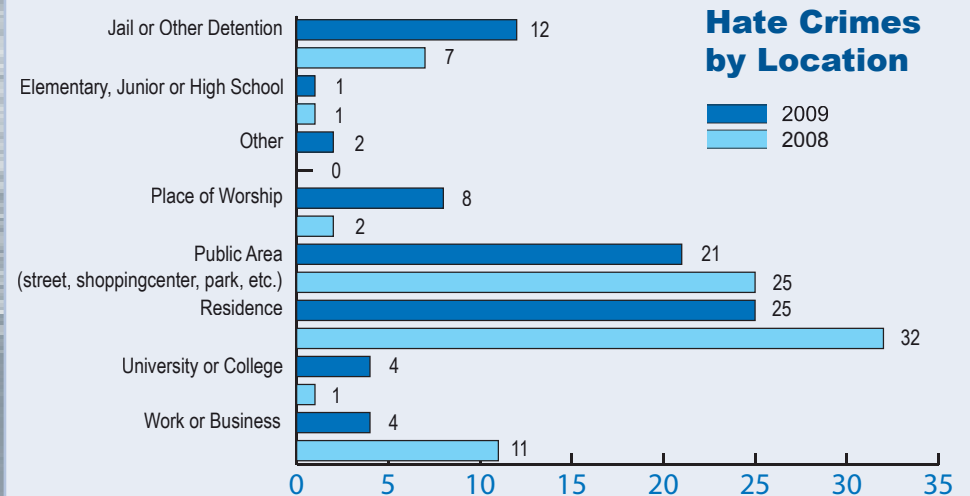
There was an 50% increase in hate crimes targeting people, because of their religious beliefs, while crimes motivated by race or ethnicity declined 20%. Crimes labeled "multiple motivation" typically involve graffiti that targets more than one group.



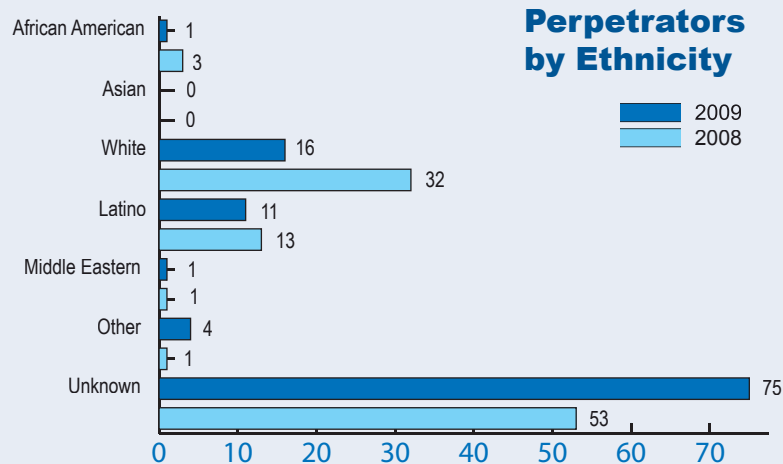
More than half of the hate crimes reported in the Orange County targeted property. This was usually vandalism involving graffiti. Crimes targeting individuals were very similar in number to those of 2008.



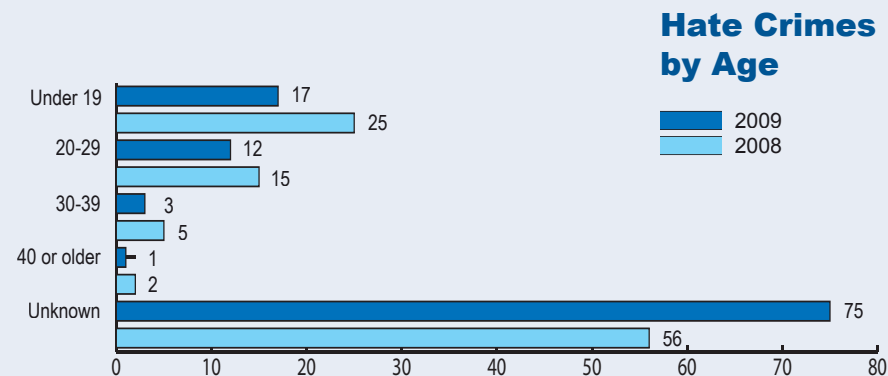
National statistics show the overwhelming number of hate crimes are perpetrated by males. The large number of 'unknown' perpetrators primarily involves crimes against property.



Again, in 2009 there were notable and disturbing increases in crimes and incidents reported on school campuses, while hate related activities reported at businesses dropped considerably.



The ethnicity of the perpetrators of over half Orange County's hate crimes is unknown- again these are typically crimes against property. However, as is true across the nation, the majority of known perpetrators were white.



In Orange County, as in the rest of the nation, the majority of hate crimes are committed by males under the age of 30.

## Orange County District Attorney



The following is a summary of hate crime cases handled by the District Attorney's Office:

- Thirty-Six cases were referred to the district attorney's office.
- Eight referred cases were rejected for filing.
- Nine cases referred as hate crimes were charged as other than a hate crime cases.
- Nineteen cases were filed as ha crimes.
  - Nine resulted in guilty pleas.
  - Two resulted in trial verdicts.

## President Obama Signs a National Hate Crime Law

On October 28, 2009, President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA), a law that makes it a federal crime to assault an individual because of his or her sexual orientation or gender identity.

The expanded federal hate crimes law was named for Matthew Shepard, a gay Wyoming teenager who died after being kidnapped and severely beaten in October 1998, and James Byrd Jr., an African-American man dragged to death in Texas the same year.

President Barack Obama hailed the hate crimes measure in the bill as a step toward change to "help protect our citizens from violence based on what they look like, who they love, how they pray."



## Hate Crime Indicators

A hate crime indicator, sometimes called a hate or bias-motivated incident, is an action or behavior that is motivated by hate, but is protected by the 1st Amendment right to freedom of expression. The Constitution allows for hateful rhetoric as long as it does not interfere with the rights of others. Indicators include: name calling, hate epithets and the distribution or display of non-threatening racist or homophobic flyers or placards. Last year there were 49 cases of hate incidents. These included 34 harassment cases, 8 phone call cases, 4 mail/literature cases and 1 other case. OC Human Relations encourag-

es the reporting of such incidents because they reflect bias that may be addressed through education and/or dialogue.

The Hate Crime Indicators reported in 2009 are fairly typical of past years. African-Americans, and members of the Jewish faith are frequent targets of both hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents. The number of hate crimes and incidents reports targeting Muslims rose last year.

## Agencies Providing Data

### Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union  
Anti-Defamation League  
Community Service Program, Inc  
Council on American Islamic Relations  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of Orange County  
Orange County District Attorney's Office  
Orange County Human Relations Commission  
Orange County Register

### Schools, Universities and Colleges

Anaheim City School District  
Brea Olinda Unified School District  
Buena Park School District  
Capistrano Unified School District  
Cypress School District  
Garden Grove Unified School District  
Huntington Beach City School District  
Los Alamitos Unified School District  
Lowell Joint School District  
Magnolia School District  
Newport-Mesa Unified School District  
Ocean View School District  
Orange Coast College  
Saddleback College  
Santa Ana College  
Soka University  
University of California, Irvine

### City Police Departments

Anaheim  
Brea/Yorba Linda  
Buena Park  
Costa Mesa  
Cypress  
Fountain Valley  
Fullerton  
Garden Grove  
Huntington Beach  
Irvine  
La Habra  
La Palma  
Laguna Beach  
Newport Beach  
Orange  
Placentia  
Santa Ana  
San Clemente  
Seal Beach  
Tustin  
Westminster

### Orange County Sheriff's Department

#### Representing:

Aliso Viejo  
Dana Point  
Foothill Ranch  
Ladera Ranch  
Laguna Hills  
Laguna Niguel  
Laguna Woods  
Lake Forest  
Midway City  
Mission Viejo  
Rancho Santa Margarita  
San Clemente  
San Juan Capistrano  
Seal Beach  
Stanton  
Villa Park  
Unincorporated areas of Orange County

## Hate crimes againts members of our community are intolerable, we encorage you to:

- Speak up against hate. If you witness acts of hate and intolerance, take a stand, report it and if possible support the victim.
- Learn about the cultures and religions of diverse people living in Orange County.
- Participate in dialogues with diverse neighbors or co-workers to help maintain a sense of community.
- Support organizations that promote mutual understanding and respect like OC Human Relations.

To Report a  
Hate Crime  
1.888  
NO 2 HATE



### OC Human Relations Needs Your Support

For almost 40 years OC Human Relations has created programs to create safe and inclusive communities. However, because the non-profit OC Human Relations Council is a partnership with the county's OC Human Relations Commission, we depend on donations to support our programs in schools and communities throughout Orange County.

Your 3-year Membership Pledge of  
\$35 year or more will make a difference!

Call 714.567.7470 today or go to:

[www.ochumanrelations.org](http://www.ochumanrelations.org)

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Shawn Nelson, Fourth District  
Patricia C. Bates, Fifth District

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