

2012 Hate Crime Report

*An annual publication of the
OC Human Relations Commission*



1-888-No 2 Hate



OC Human Relations

Building community by fostering respect, resolving conflict and pursuing equality

A Message from the Commission

We believe that ALL people have the right to live free from harassment, discrimination and violence. Over the last 22 years of tracking hate crime and publishing findings through this report, a picture emerges that life in our community is experienced differently for some.

On October 16, 2012, Anitra called the Commission to report that she and her husband, both police officers, and their children discovered that their life was not going to be the suburban dream they sought. They were awakened in the middle of the night by the sound of rocks crashing through the windows of their house. Later they found that all 4 tires on both of their cars were slashed.

Months later, someone shot acid pellets on their garage door damaging the door, and ruining the paint and light on their car. Anitra then shared that when her 22 year old son moved out in August, he told her that he had been subjected to repeated calls of “nigger” from passing cars as he rode his bike to and from work at the local Home Depot. Finally, she learned that her 6 year old son had been ostracized at Travis Ranch Elementary School. When he went to play with a group of kids he was told “he can’t play over here” and the other kids were told “don’t listen to him he is Black.”

Ten days after reporting these hate incidents and crimes to the Commission, Anitra and her family moved out of Orange County in hopes of finding a more diverse and welcoming community.

So when you look at these numbers of hate crimes that we documented with local police and community organizations, remember that each one is about an individual or family like Anitra’s for whom the promise of our free community was denied based on their race, religion, sexual orientation or other aspect of their being.

And we should be aware of their experience living here, and take steps to create a safe community for ALL..

Carol Turpen, Chair
OC Human Relations Commission

To the Residents of Orange County

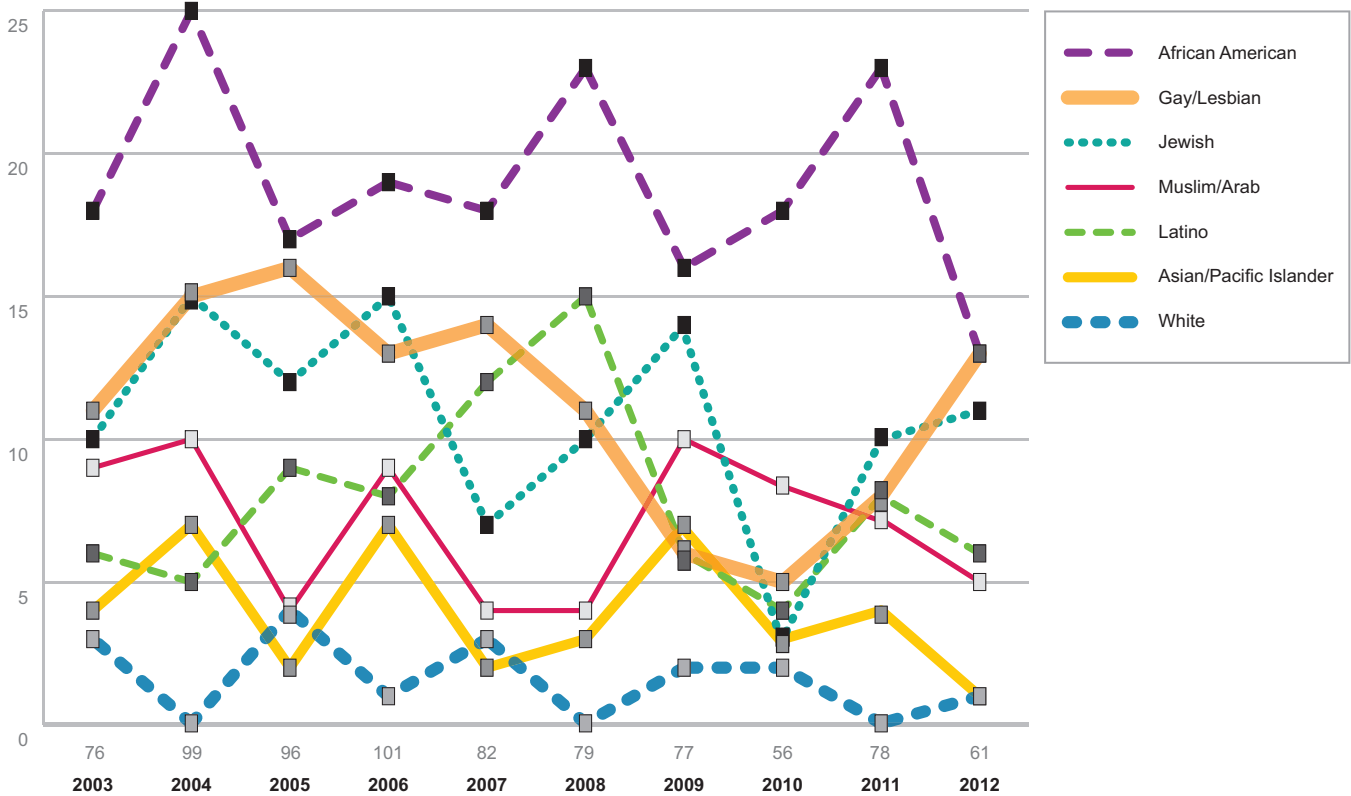
As Attorney General, I believe public safety is a basic right. We must protect and support all of California’s diverse communities by forcefully opposing bigotry in all of its forms, including hate and intimidation based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability, ethnicity or other inalienable characteristic of one’s being. I am committed to using every tool available to me to reduce the incidence of hate crimes in California.

Once again, I commend the Orange County Human Relations Commission for its work educating the public about hate crimes, coordinating community dialog, and responsiveness in the face of hate-based aggression, and securing and reporting accurate records of hate crimes and incidents through its well-developed network of community groups. Exceptional enterprises such as this Commission are key to preventing hate crime.

Sincerely,

Kamala D. Harris
Attorney General, State of California

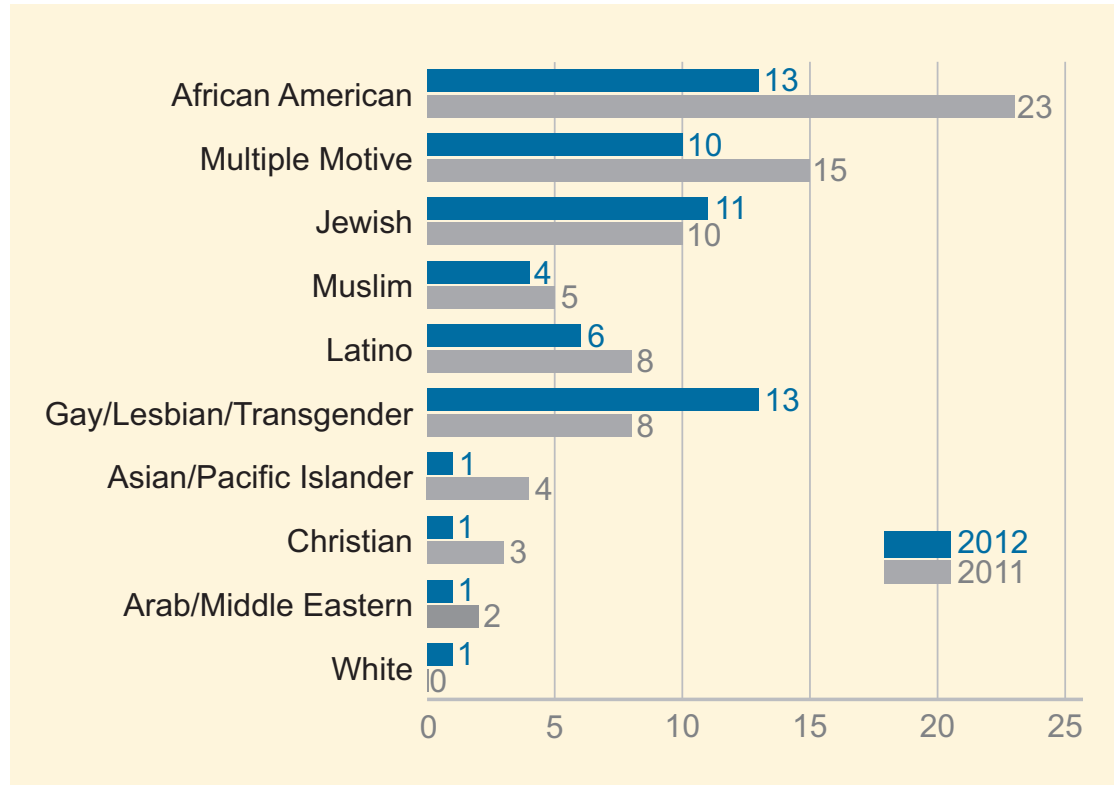
Main Targets of Hate Crime 2003 to 2012



Analysis

- Correction:** In 2011 we initially reported 64 hate crimes; since that time we discovered an additional 14 hate crimes that were not previously documented by the OC Human Relations Commission. This error reflects a breakdown in reporting between the Commission and a few cities where staff changes were underway. We have corrected those numbers in this report.
- Sexual Orientation Hate Doubles:** Hate crime targeting people perceived to be Gay or Lesbian nearly doubled from 7 in 2011, to 13 in 2012.
- Race/Ethnicity Accounts for One Third:** 22 of the 61 hate crimes reported in 2012 were motivated by the perceived race or ethnic origin of the victims.
- Hate Crime Up and Down:** Our corrected 2011 data shows hate crime rose from 56 in 2010 to 78 in 2011, a 40% increase. In 2012 hate crime came down about 21% to 61.
- Religious Hate Crime Down Slightly:** Hate crimes targeting individuals based on their perceived religion dropped slightly from 18 in 2011, to 16 in 2012, after jumping by 50% in 2011.

61 Hate Crimes Reported in 2012 in Orange County

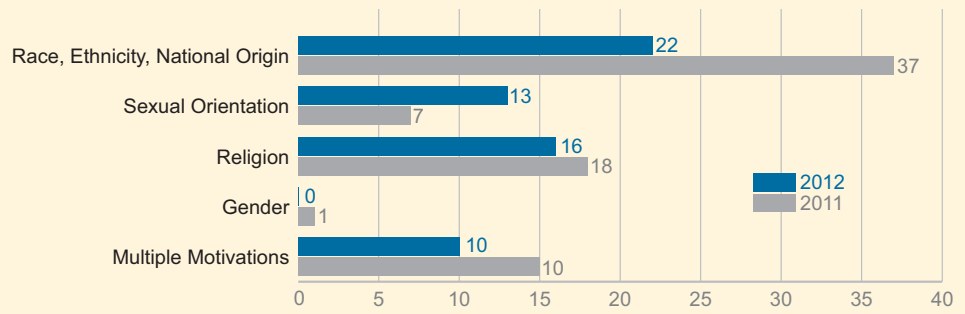


A Closer Look

- **LGBT Community** tied as the most frequent target of hate crime in 2012 at 13. This is a 38% increase from the 8 hate crimes reported in 2011 against those perceived to be Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender.
- **African Americans** were tied as the most frequent target of reported hate crime in 2012 at 13. The good news is that this is a 43% reduction from 23 in 2011, to 13 in 2012.
- **Muslims/Arabs** continued a three-year downward trend falling from 10 in 2009 to 5 in 2012.
- **Latinos** were targets of slightly fewer hate crimes from 8 in 2011, to 6 in 2012.
- **Others:** Christians were targets of 1 reported hate crime in 2012. One person was targeted as Irish. Multiple targets dropped by 1/3 from 15 in 2011, to 10 in 2012.
- **Asian/Pacific Islanders** continue as infrequent targets of reported hate crime falling from 4 in 2011, to 1 in 2012.

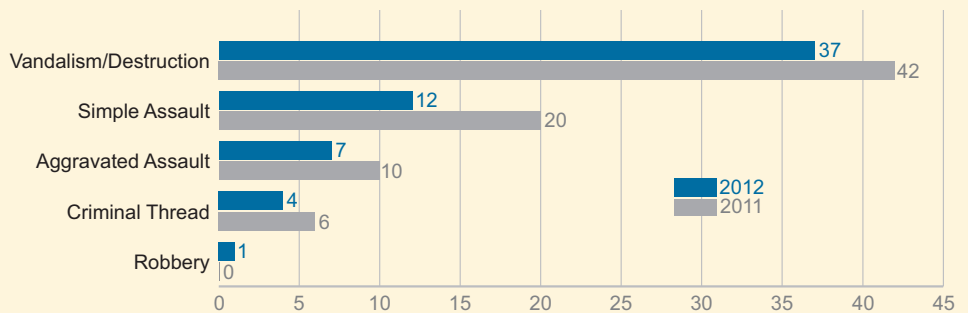
■ **Race and ethnicity** were the most frequent motivations accounting for 36% of reported hate crimes in 2012, followed by religious motivation at 26%, and perceived sexual orientation at 21%. Multiple motivations means that more than one category of people were targeted, often this will be hate graffiti/vandalism.

Hate Crimes by Motivation



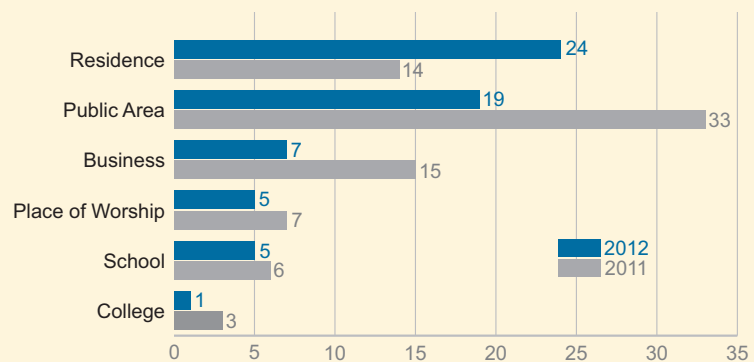
■ **Vandalism/ Destruction** was the most common type of hate crime accounting for 61% of reported hate crimes, with assaults reported at 31%.

Hate Crimes by Type of Offense



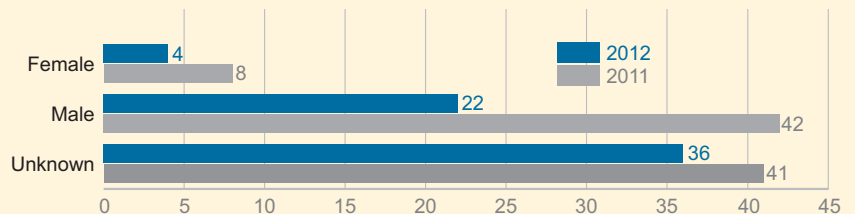
■ **Hate crimes at residences** accounted for 39% while those committed in public areas was 31%.

Hate Crimes by Location



■ 59% hate crimes in Orange County in 2012 were committed by unknown perpetrators. Of the cases where the perpetrator is known, **85% were males**.

Perpetrators by Gender



NOTE: 58% of known perpetrators were younger than thirty, 60% were White, and 31% were Latino.

Definitions

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,

or association with a person or group of people with one or more of the preceding actual or perceived characteristics. Under California law there are enhanced penalties for these types of crimes.

Hate Incident

A “hate incident” is a type of speech, act, or action that targets, threatens, or attacks an individual or group of individuals based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, gender, or disability, or their association with someone from these protected groups. Hate incidents are non-criminal in nature and are protected by the First Amendment’s free speech provisions. The Constitution allows for hateful rhetoric as long as it does not interfere with the rights of others.

OC Human Relations tracks hate incidents as indicators of potential problems and hate activity, where more serious crimes might follow, and preventative interventions might

be effective. Examples of hate incidents that slander groups based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, gender, or disability are: verbal abuse/profanity, offensive jokes, name calling, using slurs, threatening behavior such as intimidation, abusive correspondence by letter, e-mail, video, social networking sites, phone calls, text messages, demeaning written material such as caricatures of a certain group, and displaying symbols such as the swastika.

The number of reported hate incidents rose from 12 in 2011 to 20 in 2012. Predominant targets of reported hate incidents in 2012 were Muslims and Jews, with 5 each. African Americans were targets of 4 incidents.

Methodology

This report provides a statistical overview of reported hate crimes and incidents that occurred in Orange County during 2012. It is important to note that it only represents reported hate crimes and incidents. There are a number of factors that lead the Commission to conclude that the information contained in this report underrepresents the actual number of hate-motivated crimes and incidents that took place. The cases documented by the Commission are crosschecked to eliminate duplication caused, for example, by a hate crime being reported by a law enforcement agency and a community group. While the numbers reported do not represent every hate crime and incident that occurred, this information has been collected in the same manner for the last 22 years. Based on that consistent data collection, the Commission views this report as an important indicator of prejudice, intolerance, discrimination and bigotry over time.

Because some communities and/or juris-

dictions are more painstaking than others in documenting hate crimes and incidents it is not always meaningful to compare one community against another. For example, a community that actively promotes awareness around the importance of documenting hate crimes and incidents may report greater numbers than another community. However, this does not necessarily indicate that the community has a higher rate of hate crimes and incidents. Also, there are differences in the way some jurisdictions interpret the circumstances in which possible hate crimes and incidents occurred; therefore, a hate crime or incident might be counted in one city but will not be in another. Other factors that might lead to underreporting include: a lack of knowledge about the justice system, cultural and language barriers, fear of reprisals, insecurity about immigration status, lack of community organizations, or mistrust of government agencies.

OC District Attorney Summary of Hate Cases for 2012



- Sixteen cases were referred to the district attorney's office for prosecution as hate crimes.
- Four referred cases were rejected for filing of any charges.
- Four cases referred as hate crimes were charged as other than a hate crime.
- Eight cases were filed as hate crimes.
- Six hate crime cases resulted in guilty pleas (this includes cases that may have been filed in prior years).
- No cases went to trial in 2012.

Agencies Providing Data

Organizations

Anti-Defamation League
Community Service Program, Inc.
Council on American Islamic Relations
NAACP of Orange County
Orange County District Attorney's Office
Orange County Human Relations
Commission

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
Laguna Hills
Laguna Niguel
Laguna Woods
Lake Forest
Mission Viejo
Rancho Santa Margarita
San Clemente
Seal Beach
Stanton
Villa Park
Unincorporated areas
of Orange County

OC Human Relations is determined to implement comprehensive strategies for bringing our diverse community together.



OC Human Relations Commission

Carol Turpen, *Chair*
Kenneth Inouye, *Vice-Chair*
Ruben Barron, Ed.D.
Nadia Saad Bettendorf
Becky Esparza
Tim Kowal
Col. Leslie K. Le
Chief Dave Maggard
Rev. Dave Rader
C. William Wood
Doug Wooley

This report was produced by OC Human Relations Staff:

James Armendaris
Alison Edwards
Barbara Hunt
Rusty Kennedy
Special Thanks to Susan Reese,
Owner, Susan S. Reese Design
for the graphic arts.



OC Board of Supervisors

Shawn Nelson, *Chair, Fourth District*
Patricia C. Bates, *Vice-Chair, Fifth District*
John M.W. Moorlach, *Second District*
Janet Nguyen, *First District*
Todd Spitzer, *Third District*

Mike Giancola, *County Executive Officer*
Steve Franks, *OC Community Resources Director*

**To Report a Hate Crime,
Dial 1-888-No-2-Hate
(1-888-662-4283)**



OC Human Relations

Building community by fostering respect, resolving conflict and pursuing equality

1300 South Grand Avenue, Building B, Santa Ana, California 92705 ~ 714-567-7470
www.ochumanrelations.org