

2011 Hate Crime Report

*An annual publication of the
OC Human Relations Commission*



1-888-402-Hate



OC Human Relations

Building community by fostering respect, resolving conflict and pursuing equality



A Message from the Commission

This is our 20th annual report on hate crime in Orange County. We track this bias-motivated crime because we consider it an important indicator of bigotry and discrimination in our community. Even as we have made strides in intergroup understanding, the fears brought on by uncertainty in the economy, changing demographics, and international turmoil can result in more of this bias-related crime.

OC Human Relations Commission concentrates our energy on assisting the victims, building collaboration between police and diverse communities, and preventative programs like mediation, anti-bullying, and community building. We appreciate the cooperation of the diverse community organizations and police departments whose collected data contributes to the publication of this report.

While this report focuses on reported hate crime, we recognize that many hate crimes and incidents go unreported each year. After a four-year downward trend, we documented a substantial increase in reported hate crimes in 2011. OC Human Relations Commission remains vigilant and calls upon all who read this to help us build a community where ALL people can live free from attack based on hate and bigotry.

Carol Turpen, Chair
OC Human Relations Commission

To the Residents of Orange County

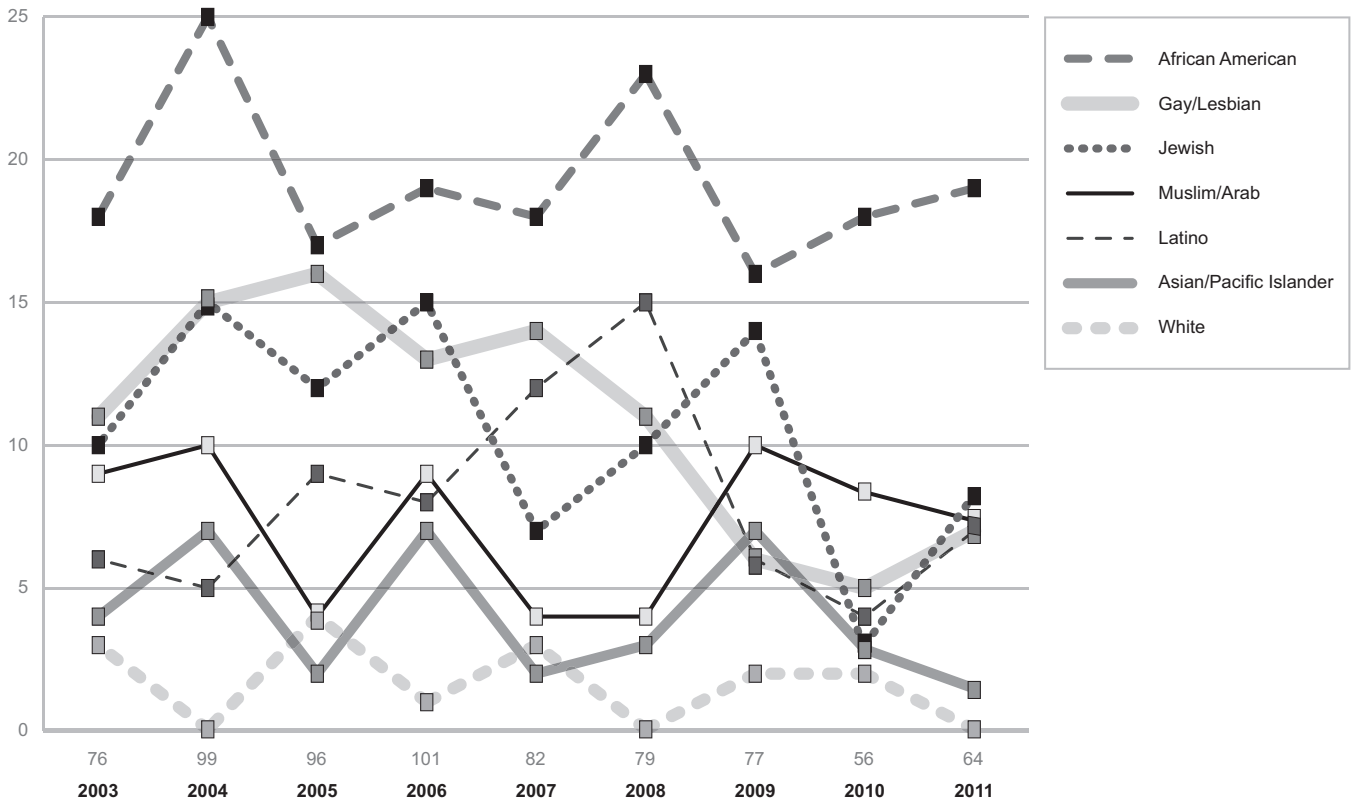
Over the course of my first year as Attorney General, one of my top priorities has been public safety. I believe public safety is a basic right and, whether a child on a playground or an adult in the workplace, every person has the right to be free from crime, especially crimes bred of bigotry, hate and intimidation based on perceived race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability, ethnicity or other arbitrary aspect of their being. Despite difficult budget constraints that impact all programs, I remain committed to reducing the incidence of hate crimes in California through prevention, education, and targeted enforcement.

A critical aspect of enhancing public safety is knowing the true scope of hate-driven violence in our state. I commend the Orange County Human Relations Commission for its work to secure the most accurate reporting of hate crimes by coordinating a network of community groups in a collaborative effort to raise awareness of these terrible acts. Yours is a model for community engagement on this important public safety issue.

Sincerely,

Kamala D. Harris
Attorney General
State of California

Main Targets of Hate Crime 2003 to 2011



Analysis

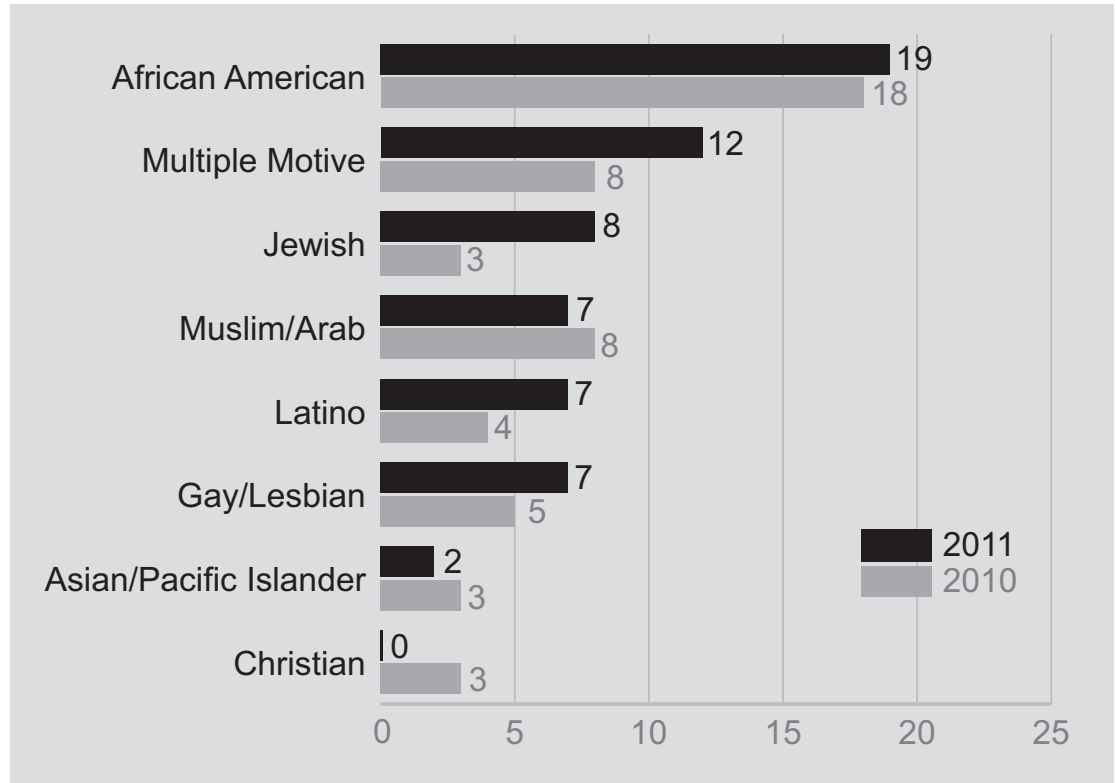
■ **Hate Crime Up:** Hate Crimes committed in Orange County rose 14% in 2011. This tally of 64 reported hate crimes in 2011 is up from 56 reported in 2010. While the reported numbers are small in a community of over three million people, each hate crime has a ripple effect as it sends a message of bigotry to entire communities of people.

■ **Race/Ethnicity Motive in Half:** 30 hate crimes reported in Orange County in 2011 targeted victims based on their perceived race, ethnicity or national origin making this the most common motive of hate perpetrators.

■ **Religious Hate Crime Up:** About one fourth of hate crimes targeted individuals based on their perceived religion. Eight of the 15 hate crimes motivated by the victim's religion targeted the Jewish community, while 7 targeted Muslims. The remaining two targeted Catholics and Mormons.

■ **Sexual Orientation Hate Crime Up:** Hate perpetrators continue to attack people based on their perceived sexual orientation with an increase in hate crimes against the Gay/Lesbian community which rose from 5 in 2010, to 7 in 2011.

64 Hate Crimes Reported in 2011 in Orange County

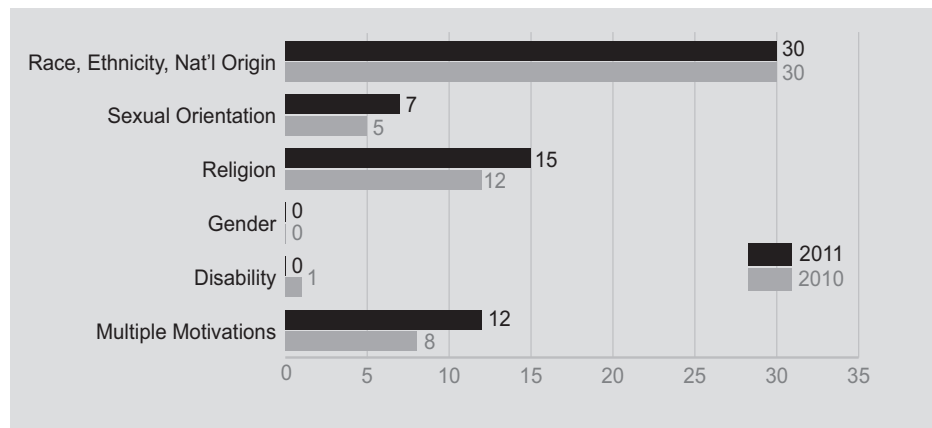


A Closer Look

- **African Americans** faced the highest number of reported hate crimes in Orange County, 19 in 2011, as they have almost every year since OC Human Relations Commission started documenting hate crime in 1991. African Americans, who comprise about 2% of the Orange County population, are targets of 30% of all reported hate crimes.
- The most substantial increase in hate crimes in 2011 were those targeting **Jews** which more than doubled from 3 the previous year to 8 in 2011.
- Hate crimes targeting **Muslims/Arabs** continued a three year downward trend from 10 in 2009, to 8 in 2010, to 7 in 2011.
- Hate crimes targeting the perceived **LGBT community** grew from 5 in 2010 to 7 in 2011, reversing a 4-year downward trend.
- Reported hate crimes against **Latinos** increased from 4 in 2010 to 7 in 2011.
- Hate crimes targeting **Asians/Pacific Islanders** dropped for a second year in a row from 7 in 2009, to 3 in 2010, to 2 in 2011.
- There was 1 hate crime reported targeting **Mormons** and 1 targeting **Catholics** in 2011.

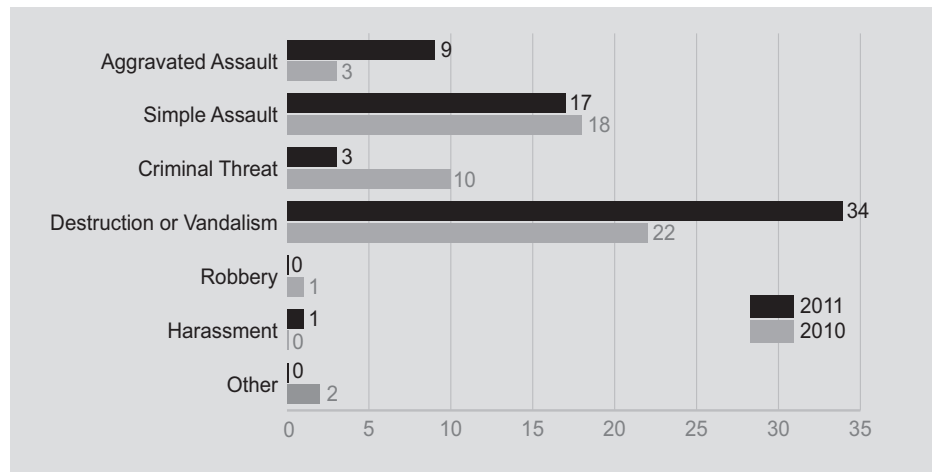
Hate Crimes by Motivation

Race and ethnicity were the most common hate crime motivations, accounting for 47% of all hate crimes reported in 2011, followed by religious motivation at 23%, multiple motivation at 19%, (which refers to crimes that target more than one community—often graffiti or hate literature), and perceived sexual orientation at 11%.



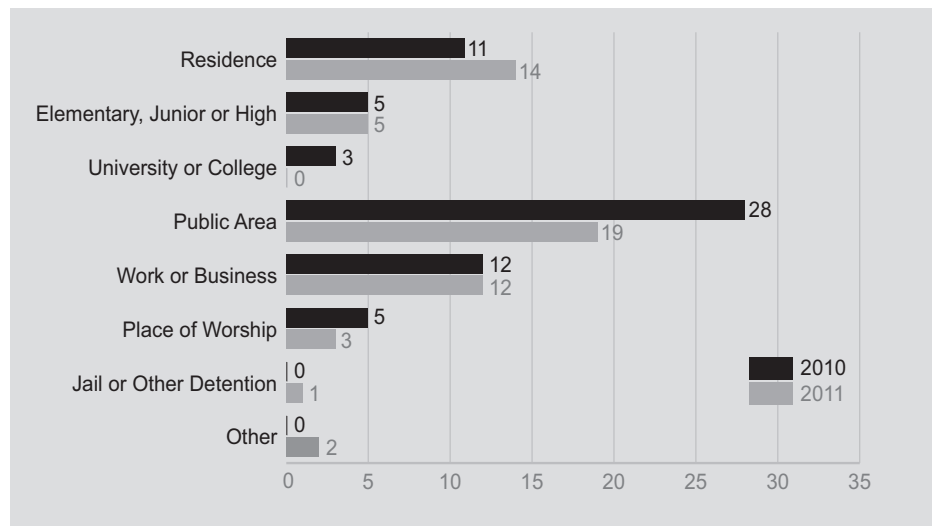
Hate Crimes by Type of Offense

Destruction/vandalism is the most common type of hate crime and rose from 22 to 34, accounting for 53% of hate crimes. Criminal threat decreased dramatically from 10 hate crimes to 3. Aggravated assault increased three-fold from 3 in 2010 to 9 in 2011.



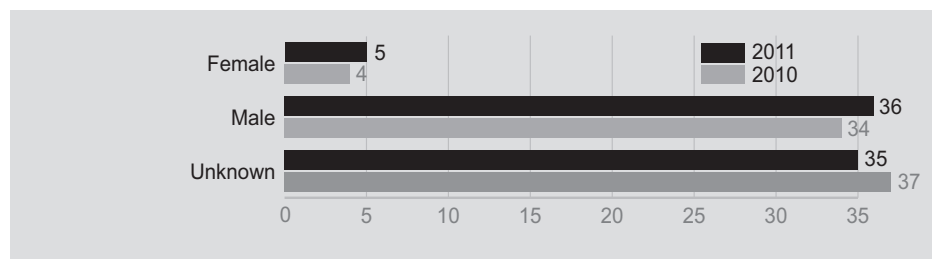
Hate Crimes by Location

Public areas were the most common location of hate crimes in 2011 with 28, followed by work-places at 12, and residences at 11.



Perpetrators by Gender

Almost half of all hate crimes in Orange County were committed by unknown perpetrators in 2011. Of those cases where the perpetrators are known, 87% were males.



Note: Most perpetrators of hate crime are not known, and hate crime is committed by people of all colors, ages and backgrounds. Of the hate crime perpetrators who are known, most are young, white males.



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 fell sharply from 46 in 2010 to 12 in 2011. Predominant targets of reported hate incidents in 2011 were the African American, and Gay/Lesbian communities with 4 each. (The majority of incidents in 2010 were Muslim threats received by the Muslim Student Union at UC Irvine after the Israeli Ambassador was repeatedly interrupted.)

Methodology

This report provides a statistical overview of reported hate crimes and incidents that occurred in Orange County during 2011. 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 21 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 2011



- Twenty-seven cases were referred to the district attorney's office.
- Fourteen referred cases were rejected for filing.
- Two cases referred as hate crimes were charged as other than a hate crime cases.
- Eleven cases were filed as hate crimes.
- Ten resulted in guilty pleas.
- 0 resulted in trial verdicts (none of these cases went to trial in 2011).

Two Men Sent to Prison for Anti-Semitic Hate Crime Attack

On April 6, 2011 two men violently attacked a 23 year old man in Coto de Caza while yelling anti-Semitic slurs. They left him with a concussion, broken jaw, eye socket fracture, broken nose, cracked ribs, severe facial bruising and cuts and bruises to his body and face.

The perpetrators were arrested by OC Sheriff's Department, prosecuted by OC District Attorney, convicted in OC Superior Court and sent to prison for 3 years.

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



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



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