



2014 Hate Crime Report

*An annual publication of the
OC Human Relations Commission since 1991*

A Message from the Commission

We believe that ALL people should live free from harassment, discrimination and violence based on race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, disability or other immutable aspect of their being. Over the last 44 years OC Human Relations Commission has helped people who have faced prejudice, intolerance and discrimination and sought to educate all residents about bigotry.

This year, we are pleased to share that the reported number of Hate Crimes in Orange County continued its downward trend in 2014. We are encouraged by this trend, but cannot forget the words of Martin Luther King Jr. who said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

The injustice of a hate crime must not be counted down to a single act against a single person, but must be recognized for the message of intolerance and intimidation it sends across a community of people. Hate crimes deny the sense of freedom and liberty that we so cherish in this country. If we truly believe that we all are created equal with the unalienable right to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness then we must remain vigilant in our commitment to standing up against hate and those forces who would determine some worthy of these rights and others not.

We stand with all people whose stories are in this report, we applaud your courage to share your story, even when painful. We also stand with all those whose stories are not in this report. We know that fear, shame and hate keep many, perhaps most, who are targeted from reporting. We call on our leaders, our ally organizations, our police and city staffs to continue to work with residents to bring those targeted out of the shadows and help them to report and support them when they have. Your work cannot be undervalued.

At OC Human Relations we bring people together to build safe, inclusive schools and communities throughout Orange County that champion justice, celebrate diversity, resolve conflict respectfully, promote tolerance and acceptance and advocate for the disadvantaged. Please join us in our mission to eliminate prejudice and discrimination in Orange County.

For the Commission I am,



Ken Inouye, Chair

Orange County Human Relations Commission

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.

Understanding the Report

This report provides a statistical overview of reported hate crimes and incidents that occurred in Orange County during 2014. 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. 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 24 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 jurisdictions 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.

Underreporting

No one really knows how many hate crimes are committed each year, locally, state-wide or nationally. The FBI reported 5,928 hate crimes in 2013, but the 2013 National Crime Victimization Survey estimated that 260,000 people are victimized by hate each year.

Those who have been targets of hate crimes often don’t report these crimes because they fear retaliation, are concerned about their privacy, have a fear of law enforcement, have cultural and language barriers and/or may not believe that reporting matter since so few reports end with an arrest.

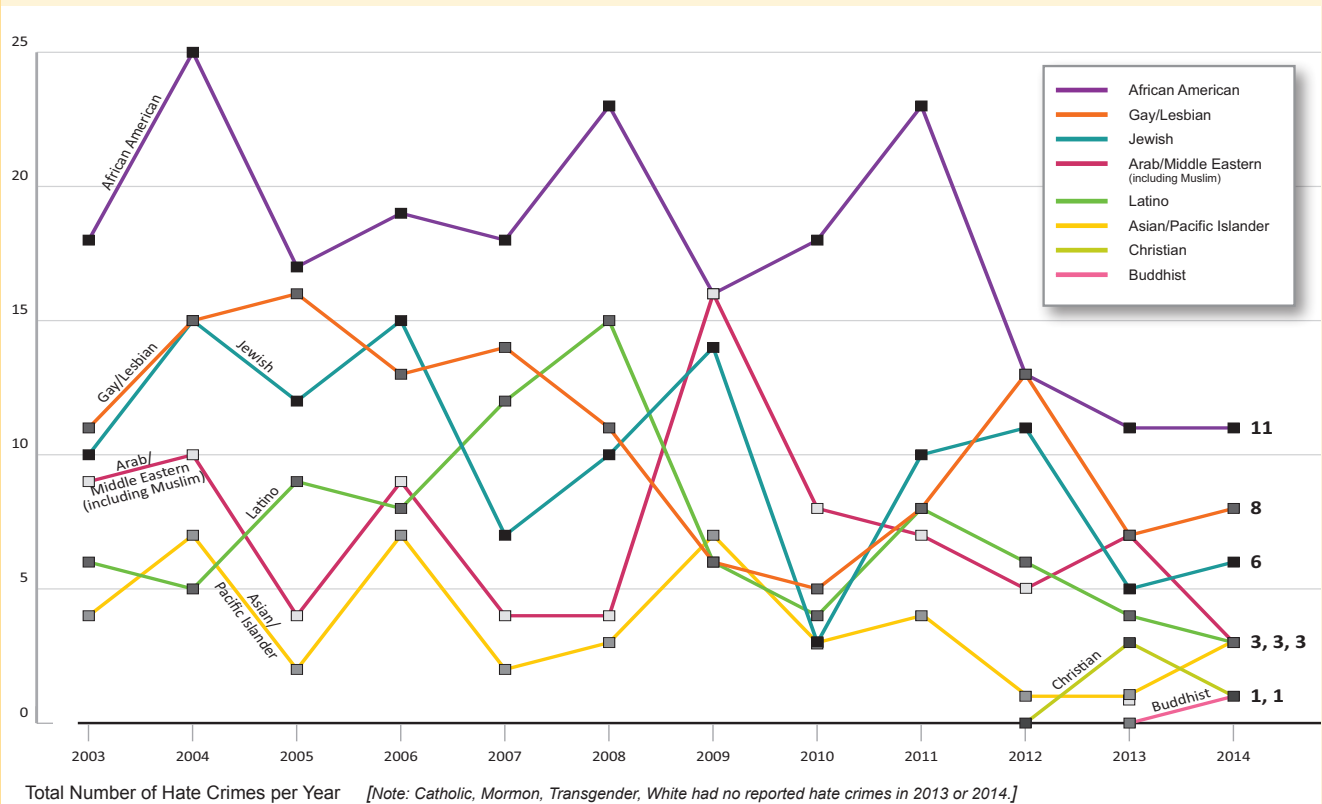
REPORTING IS IMPORTANT.

Hate crimes can be reported directly to OC Human Relations. We can provide victim assistance and help navigate the reporting process. Contact OC Human Relations at (714) 480-6570 or www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime.



HATE CRIME ANALYSIS

Main Targets of Hate Crime 2003 to 2014



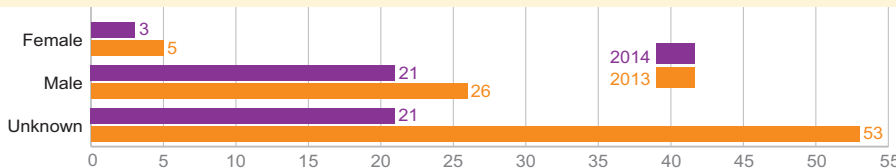
Hate Crime Continues to Fall in 2014

- The number of reported Hate Crimes in Orange County dropped from 49 in 2013 to 40 in 2014, an 18% decrease. This drop is part of a decade long trend, during which time the number of Hate Crimes reported has dropped by over 50%.
- Despite the drop in reported Hate Crimes, one-third of these crimes are considered violent crimes (simple and aggravated assault). It is important to note this because this indicates a shift in our county. Historically, most local hate crimes were property crimes like vandalism and not acts of violence directed at individuals.

Top Hate Crime Targets by Community

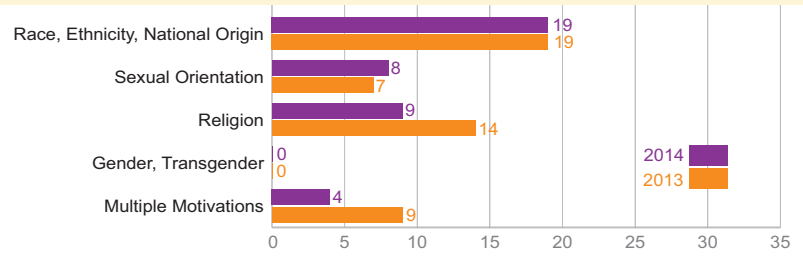
- As has been the trend over the last two decades, African Americans remain the most frequently targeted group in Orange County since 1991. They were the target of 11 reported hate crimes in 2014, the same as the past year. While they account for just under 2% of the county's population, African Americans account for 28% of the reported hate crimes.
- The number of reported hate crimes targeting the Gay and Lesbian community and those perceived to be Gay or Lesbian rose slightly from 7 in 2013 to 8 in 2014.
- There were 6 hate crimes targeting the Jewish community, one up from 2013.
- Both the Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander communities were targets in 3 reported hate crimes as was the combined total for the Muslim, Arab and Middle Eastern Communities.

Hate Crime Perpetrators

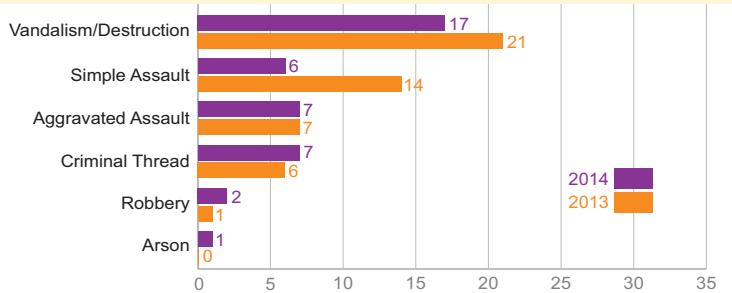


Note: some crimes have multiple perpetrators.

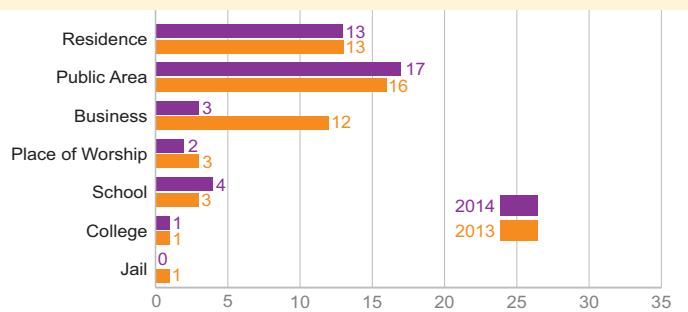
Hate Crime Motivations



Hate Crime Types



Most Common Hate Crime Locations



Case Studies

- In August a lesbian couple was shopping at a local store. A man walked up to them and asked if they were lesbians. When they said yes, he beat both of them up and they were taken to the emergency room. When the police arrived they interviewed witnesses and initially decided it was a robbery. After being contacted by the Commission and The Center OC, the police department determined that it would be charged as a hate crime and would be presented to the District Attorney for prosecution.
- A Vietnamese American woman traveled daily to a convalescent hospital where her husband lived on life support. She was in her 70's and was getting off the bus when a man shouted racial slurs and kicked her in the chest knocking her to the ground. When the folks on the bus came to her aid, the perp fled and was not caught.

Tracking Down Hate Across the Nation: Recent FBI Successes

The investigation of hate crimes remains a top priority of the FBI's civil rights program. They investigate hate crimes that fall under federal jurisdiction, can assist state and local authorities during their own investigations, and in some cases—with the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division—monitor developing situations to determine if federal action is appropriate. Here are several examples of cases they've recently investigated:

- In November 2014, a Texas man was sentenced to 15 years in prison for luring a young gay man to his home and brutally assaulting him because of his sexual orientation.
- In September 2014, a former member of the Ku Klux Klan pleaded guilty for his role in a cross burning in front of an interracial family's home in Tennessee.
- Also in September 2014, a Utah man pleaded guilty to interfering with the housing rights of three members of an interracial family by threatening to kill them if they did not make their African-American family member leave their home.
- In July 2014, four individuals were indicted for their alleged roles in a racially motivated crime spree targeting African-Americans in Jackson, Mississippi.
- In April 2014, a man was indicted on federal hate crime charges for making anti-Semitic threats against a Jewish businesswoman who owned an Albuquerque restaurant.

To the Residents of Orange County

I am pleased to again offer my commendation to the Orange County Human Relations Commission for highlighting the existence of hate crime and laying the groundwork for effective responses to community conflict. Orange County's ability to bring together diverse groups of people, such as community advocates, law enforcement agencies, and educators, is a model for how California can identify and reduce the kinds of misunderstanding, distrust and fear that can escalate to violence.

As California's chief law enforcement officer, I am working hard to address the crisis of confidence between law enforcement and the communities we are sworn to serve. We cannot enhance public safety and combat crime – including hate crime – unless we strengthen the public's trust in policing. In building these bonds of public trust, the importance of civic engagement, communication and understanding has never been more clear. These are the same trust-enhancing techniques used and perfected by the Commission, making it a key partner in the continued fight against bias-motivated crime in all its forms.

In addition to bringing community members together to ease tensions, the data the Commission annually publishes drives accountability and solutions. The data in the Commission's annual report on hate crime in Orange County and in the annual report published by my office, "Hate Crime in California," are vital to inform effective policy making, law enforcement responses and the use of our limited resources. With data-driven solutions, we can all be smarter fighters in the battle for a more inclusive California.

Every Californian is entitled to feel safe in his or her community, and to be free of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or violence because of one's personal characteristics. I thank the Commission for its efforts to bring about a more equitable, just and understanding California.

Sincerely,

Kamala D. Harris
California Attorney General

"Trust-enhancing techniques, used and perfected by the Commission, make OC Human Relations a key partner in the continued fight against bias-motivated crime in all its forms."

—Kamala D. Harris

OC District Attorney Summary of Hate Cases for 2014



- Twelve cases were referred to the district attorney's office.
- Three referred cases were rejected for filing of any charges.
- One case referred as a hate crime was charged as other than a hate crime.
- Eight cases were filed as hate crimes.
- Three cases resulted in hate crime convictions.

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
 California State University at Fullerton
 Capistrano Unified School District
 Cypress School District
 Fountain Valley School District
 Fullerton School District
 Huntington Beach City School District
 Irvine Unified School District
 Los Alamitos Unified School District
 Lowell Joint School District
 Magnolia School District
 Ocean View School District
 Orange Coast College
 Santa Ana College
 Santa Ana Unified School District Police Department
 Savanna School District
 Soka University
 University of California, Irvine

City Police Departments

Anaheim
 Brea
 Buena Park
 Costa Mesa
 Cypress
 Fountain Valley
 Fullerton
 Garden Grove
 Huntington Beach
 Irvine
 La Habra
 La Palma
 Laguna Beach
 Los Alamitos
 Newport Beach
 Orange
 Placentia
 Santa Ana
 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
 San Juan Capistrano
 Seal Beach
 Stanton
 Villa Park
 Yorba Linda
 Unincorporated areas of Orange County

What Can You Do to Stop Hate?

- Learn to recognize hate crimes and incidents.
- Report suspected hate crimes and incidents to your local police department and OC Human Relations.
- Maintain a respectful, inclusive climate in your school, community, neighborhood, work, and/or business.
- Create diverse teams to encourage people to work together on common goals.
- Model respect and inclusion towards others, especially when you are around children.
- Offer support and assist victims to let them know they are not alone.
- Speak out against acts of prejudice, discrimination, and hate in your community.



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OC Human Relations

Building community by fostering respect, resolving conflict and pursuing equality

1300 South Grand Avenue, Building B, Santa Ana, CA 92705
www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrimereport

To Report a Hate Crime, Dial 1-714-480-6570