



In Partnership:

Orange County Human Relations Commission

# 2016 Hate Crime Report

*Mission: Seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and attempt to eliminate those causes.*

## Dear Orange County Residents:

In reality, there are numerically fewer hate crimes and incidents in contrast with other types of crimes. However, the Orange County Human Relations Commission has prioritized this important social issue as part of a commitment to addressing inequities and bigotry. The laws state that crimes motivated by bias are to be more severely punished. In addition, hate crimes are viewed as an attack on both an individual and as an attack that seeks to terrorize an entire community.

The Orange County Human Relations Commission knows that the social ills manufactured by hate need to be proactively challenged and hate crimes statutes are just one tool in the arsenal. Reflecting on this past year, there are numerous examples of efforts that have made tremendous strides in developing social awareness around hate crimes and incidents.

In the face of hate, we are made strong by our diversity and we cannot let ourselves be pitted against one another based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, immigration status or disability. We hope that this report provides an overview of that work and that this compilation will inspire a redoubling of efforts in the coming year. We encourage you to use this annual report of Hate Crimes and Incidents in Orange County as a tool in your work.

The work of responding, reporting, documenting, tracking and educating about hate crime is only possible when the spirit of collaboration between Orange County's law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney's office, community organizations, schools and community members persists. Our work together creates more accurate reports, enables victims' assistance programs and brings the perpetrators of hate to justice.

Please support the Commission's newly-launched campaign #HateFreeOC, a public education and awareness campaign aiming to cultivate a hate-free environment in Orange County, bring diverse communities together, and promote a safe, peaceful, respectful, and inclusive community for ALL of us to live, work, go to school and do business.

For the Commission, I am,



Rabbi Rick Steinberg, Chair  
Orange County Human Relations Commission



*Orange County is home to 3,172,532 people, together we can cultivate a hate free environment for ALL.*

# What Are Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents and How Can YOU Stop Them?

## What is a Hate Crime?

In California, **hate crime** is defined as being 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 persons with one or more of the preceding actual or perceived characteristics.

### Examples of hate crime are:

- Painting racist, homophobic, and/or religious graffiti on private property.
- Burning a cross on an individual's lawn.
- An assault.
- A criminal threat of violence against an individual or a group.
- Attempted murder or murder.

## What is a Hate Incident?

A **hate incident** is behavior that is motivated by hate or bias towards a person's actual or perceived disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation but that it is not criminal in nature. Typically these behaviors are protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression.

If this type of activity escalates to threats being made or carried out against a person or property, or becomes an incitement to commit violence, it would be classified as a **hate crime**.

### Examples of a hate incident are:

- Distribution of non-threatening racist flyers in a public place.
- Anti-gay or lesbian placards at a parade or a funeral.
- Writing a letter to the editor ridiculing people with disabilities.

### A hate crime or incident may have occurred if any of the following were present:

- There was a perception that the victim was targeted because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, etc.
- The perpetrator wrote or spoke in a manner that indicated bias.
- The date of the incident or crime coincides with a date that is of significance to the victim's religion, nationality, ethnicity, etc.

## What Should I do if I'm Victimized?

- 1** Call the police or sheriff's department immediately and make a report.
- 2** Obtain medical attention, if needed. Be sure to keep all medical documentation.
- 3** Leave all evidence in place. Do not touch, remove and/or clean up anything.
- 4** Document what happened by taking photographs of the evidence, writing down exactly what was said, particularly any words that indicate bias, motivation, and other information that may be valuable.
- 5** Get the name(s), address(es) and phone number(s) of other victims and witnesses.
- 6** If possible, write down a description of the perpetrator and his or her vehicle.
- 7** Report the occurrence to **OC Human Relations at (714) 480-6570** or submit a hate crime report online at [www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime](http://www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime).

## 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.

To report a hate crime, please call 714-480-6570.

For more information, visit us at [www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime](http://www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime)

Don Han, Program Coordinator ~ [don@ochumanrelations.org](mailto:don@ochumanrelations.org)



# Analysis: Hate Crimes Increased in 2016

## Methodology

The 2016 Hate Crime Report provides a statistical snapshot of reported hate crimes to inform efforts to combat bias-motivated activity. The OC Human Relations 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 victim. We review each case counted in this report to ensure it meets 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.

We also document hate incidents because they can be early indicators of intergroup tension and conflict. Hate incidents are broken out separately from Hate Crimes.

## Orange County's Diversity

Orange County is home to 3,172,532 people, per recent census estimates. These are facts that demonstrate the diverse make-up of our County:

- The top three race/ethnic groups represented in Orange County are: Whites (43.5%), Latinos (33.8%), and Asian (18.2 %). The remaining 4.4% of the population is distributed between African Americans, Native Americans, Hawaiians, other races and those of multiple races.
- 30.4% of the population is foreign born – with approximately 47% coming from Latin America and 44% from Asia.
- 46% of Orange County's population speak a language other than English at home.
- There are over 80 faiths practiced in Orange County.

## Hate Crimes Increased in 2016

In 2016, 50 hate crimes were reported in Orange County. This is an increase from 2015 when 44 hate crimes were reported.

Examples of Hate Crimes reported in Orange County include:

- High school students vandalized the house of a fellow student by throwing a watermelon – which is associated with racist imagery – and harassed residents with racial epithets.
- The outside of a gated community was graffitied with racial and anti-LGBT slurs.
- A Latino man was struck in the

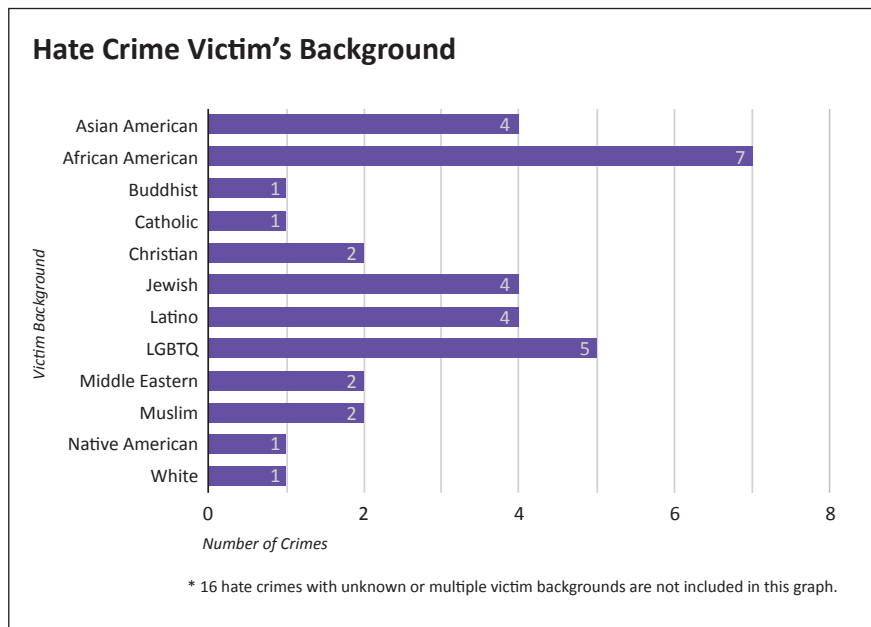
face in a downtown area; the perpetrator yelled white supremacist remarks before the attack.

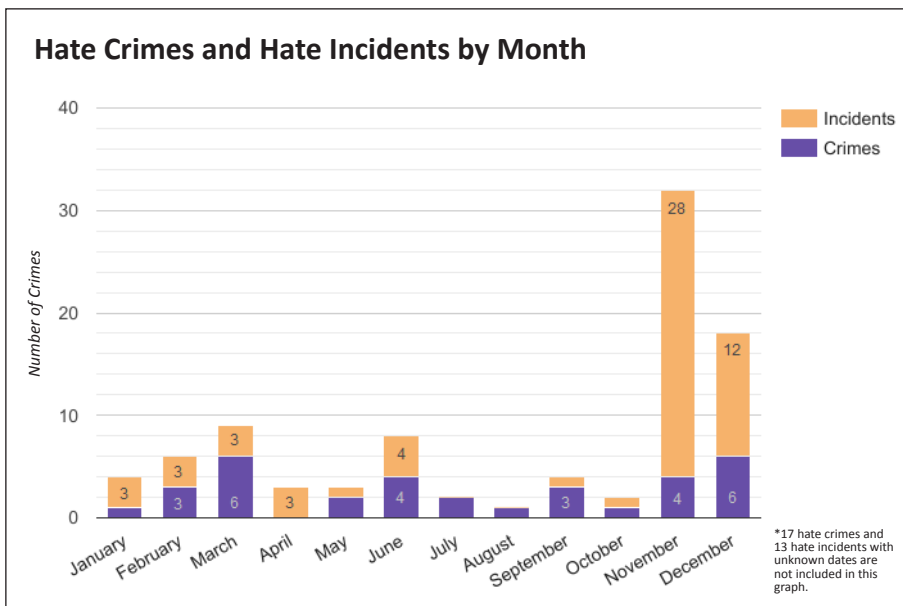
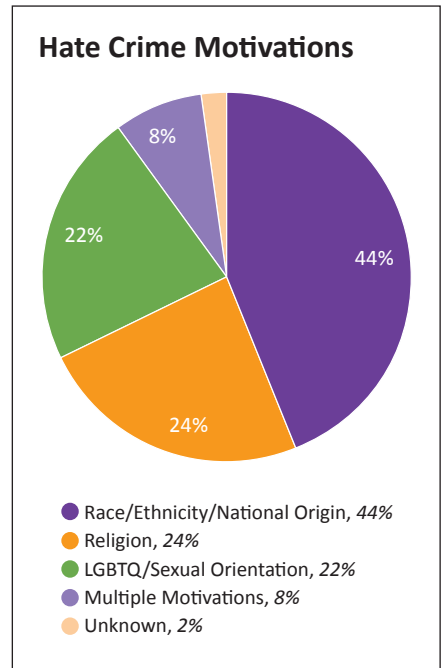
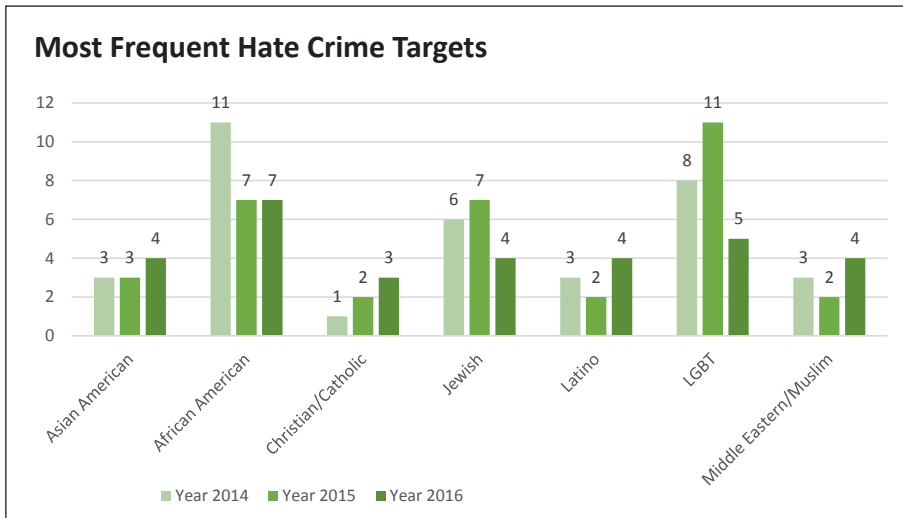
- Muslim woman was attacked, her eyes were pepper sprayed and her hijab yanked off her head.

## Targets of Hate Crimes

Hate crimes were most frequently motivated by the target's race, ethnicity and/or national origin (44% of the total crimes); religiously motivated hate crimes (24% of total) and LGBT motivated hate crimes (22%) were the next most frequent motivations.

- In 2016, African Americans were the most frequently targeted victims of hate crimes in Orange County. Despite only comprising 2.1% of Orange County's population, African Americans were the targets of 7 hate crimes.
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people were the second most targeted community, being 10% of the county's hate crime victims. This represented a dramatic drop in the number of LGBT victims from 11 in 2015 to 5 in 2016.
- The number of Latino hate crime victims doubled from 2 in 2015 to 4 in 2016.
- Hate crimes targeting the Asian community grew from 3 to 4 cases.
- Anti-Semitic hate crimes dropped from 7 in 2015 to 4 in 2016.
- Christians and Catholics were the targets of 3 hate crimes.
- Buddhist, Native American, and white community members were targeted 1 time each.
- Muslim/Middle Eastern individuals were the targets of 4 hate crimes.





## Hate Incidents Increased Dramatically in 2016

In 2016, Orange County reported 72 hate incidents, which is a dramatic increase from the 43 hate incidents reported in 2015.

Examples of Hate Incidents include:

- The two most frequent types of hate crime offenses were vandalism/destruction (22 cases or 44% of the total crimes) and assault (7 cases or 14%).

### Underreporting of Hate Crimes and Incidents

Common Reasons for Underreporting:

- Victims of hate are often traumatized after the incident and feel that reporting to law enforcement will further victimize them.
- People are often fearful the perpetrator will return and harass them further if they make a report.
- People often have little faith the perpetrators will be caught and successfully prosecuted.
- Immigration status, linguistic or cultural barriers, and lack of knowledge about the criminal justice system also contribute to underreporting.
- Hate crimes and especially incidents are often normalized in target communities.

- A Latino gardener was harassed by his client's neighbor, who told him to go back to his country.
- A Muslim community organization received harassing and threatening phone calls that featured xenophobic and islamophobic language.
- An Indian woman was harassed with derogatory remarks towards her race and skin color while picking up her daughter from school.

### Targets of Hate Incidents

- In 2016, Muslims (35% of reported incidents) and Latinos (18%) were the most frequent targets of hate incidents in Orange County.
- Hate incidents mainly involved harassment (40 cases or 56%) and email/mail/literature/internet (13 cases or 18%).
- Hate incidents also occurred most often in public areas (33%), with schools, disturbingly, being the second most frequent locations (24%).

## Orange County Human Relations Commission: Preventing and Responding to Hate Crimes in partnership with OC Human Relations



BRIDGES students made posters promoting unity and posted them all over campus.

The Orange County Human Relations (Commission) was founded in 1971 as an official governmental commission by the Board of Supervisors. Commission's mission is to seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and attempt to eliminate those causes.

To expand the capacity of the Commission, OC Human Relations was created in 1991 as a private, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. The nonprofit, OC Human Relations implements proactive human relations programs in partnership with schools, corporations, cities, foundations, and individuals. Through the BRIDGES



The Commission Staff conducted Police Community Dialogue in the City of Santa Ana.

school program, Community Building program, and Dispute Resolution program, OC Human Relations works to support a vision of Orange County where diversity is realized as a source of strength.

The Commission partners with OC Human Relations through the following programs to address, prevent and respond to human relations needs in the county.

- **Hate Crime Response and Education**  
 Assist and support victims of hate crime, document in collaboration with law enforcement agencies. Educate law enforcement agencies and community members about hate crimes and incidents.
- **Promote Positive Police/Community Relations**  
 Provide reconciliation program to police complaints and mediate resident disputes with law enforcement.
- **Diverse Community Outreach and Relationship Building**  
 Establish relations with diverse communities within the County of Orange to understand their issues and concerns, and communicate those to the Commission and public.
- **Relations Tools to Accomplish the Commission's mission**  
 Organize Listening Sessions for the Commission to hear from diverse communities and facilitate Community Forums to build understanding about important human relations issues.
- **Create Safe Inclusive School Climates**  
 Partner with schools to provide comprehensive BRIDGES school intergroup relations and violence prevention programs and conduct two human relations student's symposiums.
- **Mediate Conflicts**  
 Partner with the OC Courts to provide comprehensive mediation services in the courts and community.



# #HATEFREEOC

## *The #HateFreeOC public awareness campaign*

#HateFreeOC is a newly-launched public education and awareness campaign aiming to cultivate a hate-free environment in Orange County, bring diverse communities together, to promote a safe, peaceful, respectful, and inclusive community for ALL to live, work, go to school and do business.

Over the past year the United States has witnessed an increase in prejudice and hate across the country. This has been particularly directed at Mexicans, Muslims, immigrants, and women. There has been a spike in hate crimes and hate incidents in Orange County since November 2016 as some people, unfortunately, began to feel more emboldened to act on their hate-filled views.

All OC Human Relations' programing has one goal in mind: fight hate in Orange County. This takes form in teaching inclusion and acceptance to youth, building trust between the community and law enforcement, or producing reports, like this one, to educate the community.

## OC District Attorney Summary of Hate Cases for 2016

Each year, the Orange County District Attorney's Office ("OCDA") is responsible for reviewing possible hate crimes. These cases are submitted to the OCDA by local law enforcement agencies after investigation by the agency, and the identification of a possible suspect. The OCDA has deputy district attorneys specially assigned to review these cases, and determine whether any criminal charges, hate crime or otherwise, should be filed. The filing decision is guided by the state of the evidence, and the standard of whether criminal charges can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.



In 2016, the OCDA received 12 such cases for consideration and filed hate crime charges in 6 cases. The filed cases included crimes motivated by bias against race, religion, and sexual orientation. In all but one case, the charged defendant was convicted of or still faces hate crime charges. There is no "standard" sentence for a hate crime, as each case is reviewed on its own merits for a variety of factors. Victim input and community suggestions are always welcome. In 2016, convicted hate crime defendants received sentences ranging from probation to state prison.

Like any other type of case, hate crimes are occasionally filed and resolved in different calendar years. Thus, a look at multi-year data can be helpful in tracking the results of hate crime prosecutions. From 2014 to 2016, the OCDA filed hate crimes charges against 21 defendants, and in 95% of those cases (20 out of 21), the defendants were either convicted of or still face hate crime charges. The OCDA looks forward to continued successful prosecutions in 2017, with the help of Orange County's law enforcement agencies, outreach groups, and community members.

### *Reporting Agencies*

**Organizations:** ACLU of Southern California, Anti-Defamation League, Community Service Program, Inc.; Corbin Family Resource Center; Council on American Islamic Relations; Orange County District Attorney's Office; The LGBT Center OC, OC Human Relations and Orange County Human Relations Commission.

**Educational Institutions:** Brea Olinda Unified School District; California State University at Fullerton; Cypress School District; Fullerton School District; Fullerton Joint Union High School District; Garden Grove Unified School District; Irvine Valley College Police Department; Los Alamitos Unified School District; Orange Coast College; Rancho Santiago Community College District, Saddleback College Police Department and UC Irvine Police Department.

**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; Santa Ana; Tustin and 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; Stanton; Villa Park; Yorba Linda; Unincorporated Areas of Orange County

**Media:** online and print media such as the OC Register, OC Weekly magazine, Fullerton Observer, LA Times and Voice of OC.

Orange County Human Relations Commission respects confidentiality while suggesting appropriate actions and connecting victims to the resources they need. Reporting hate crimes and hate incidents ensures that these instances of hate are not normalized and helps to create a community standard that discourages hate and bigotry. We encourage reporting of hate crimes and incidents to give a voice to those victims and recognize the rights of all individuals to live their lives with dignity, free of discrimination, violence, and harassment. Staff is available to deliver workshops or trainings for organizations and community groups about hate crime education, collection, and awareness.

**Orange County Board of Supervisors**

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***This report was produced by Orange County Human Relations Commission in collaboration with OC Human Relations.***

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***Victim Assistance—help is available in the form of:***

- Support in communicating with the police, the court, and other authorities
- Translation services for non-English speakers
- Information resources and referrals
- Crisis intervention and counseling
- Orientation to the criminal justice system
- Emergency financial assistance

***Other organizations that support and defend victims of hate crimes:***

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) .....(213) 977-9500
- Anti-Defamation League (ADL)...(949) 679-3737
- Asian American Advancing Justice-OC .....(888) 349-9695
- CA Conference for Equality and Justice .....(562) 435-8184
- CA Dept. of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) .....(800) 884-1684
- California Sikh Council .....(877) 225-7454
- Community Service Program - Victims Assistance.....(949) 250-4058
- Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).....(714) 776-1847
- Dayle McIntosh Center .....(714) 621-3300
- Japanese-American Citizens League .....(213) 626-4471
- Los Amigos of Orange County (meets at 7:30am on Wednesdays @ Jagerhaus Restaurant, Anaheim)
- NAACP of Orange County .....(714) 543-3637
- OC Asian & Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA).....(714) 636-9095
- OC LULAC Foundation .....(714) 638-8332
- Office of Victims Services CA Attorney General’s Office ... (877) 433-9069
- Orange County District Attorney ..(714) 834-3600
- Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) ....(714) 997-8047
- The LGBT Center of Orange County .....(714) 953-5428



**OC Human Relations**

*Building community by fostering respect, resolving conflict and pursuing equality*

Serving Orange County Since 1971 and Celebrating 25 years of nonprofit service

***“We believe ALL people should live free of violence and discrimination”***

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

***Special Thanks to Our Sponsors:***



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 South East Los Angeles North Orange County Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League



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