

“
*Orange County should be
known as more than the place
where our son died; it should
also be a place that acted
against Hate in all its forms.*”

—Gideon & Jeanne Bernstein



2018 Hate Crimes Report

A Message from the Chair of the OC Human Relations Commission

Orange County's diversity is growing, and the opportunities to enrich and expand our cultural awareness are within our grasp. Over 3.2 million people, per US Census estimates, are living in Orange County making us the third largest county in California. Some general facts about our County's make-up are:

- 31% of Orange County's population is foreign born – approximately 51% of these foreign born are U.S. citizens.
- 46% of the County's residents speak a language other than English at home. The largest group speaks Spanish – 25.84% of the population.
- There are over 80 faiths practiced in Orange County.

We cannot allow fear, hate and bigotry to divide us. We must listen to each other, communicate respectfully, build bridges of understanding, and support each other through these traumatic events.

The OC Human Relations Commission believes that our diversity enhances our county's social fabric, and we must celebrate the richness and abundance it brings.

The sad reality is that, in recent years, hate crimes and incidents have increased in our county, targeting individuals or groups because of their race, religion, sexual orientation or other aspect of their being. Temple walls continue to be defaced with racial slurs. People are being assaulted because they speak a different language or for the way they look. The worse possible outcome became a reality this past year when a young man was murdered because of who he was. We cannot allow fear, hate and bigotry to divide us. We must listen to each other, communicate respectfully, build bridges of understanding, and support each other through these traumatic events. Let's send the message that when one of our neighbors is attacked because of who they are, the way they worship, or whom they love, we will denounce it loudly and fiercely stand up against it.

We believe that ALL people should live free from harassment, discrimination and violence based on race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, disability or any other arbitrary aspect of their being.

In publishing this annual Hate Crime Report, we are confronted by the fact that hate crime and incidents continue to rise. Yet, according to the Bureau of Justice, only 3.5% of estimated hate crimes get reported through law enforcement to the FBI each year. The time is now for action. We must drive out hate from our communities. It is our hope that this report will help initiate important conversations in different spaces about the need for collective impact to support hate victims and, as a community, commit to drive out hate when it comes knocking.

For the Commission I am,



Rabbi Richard Steinberg, Chair
OC Human Relations Commission

What Are Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents?

What is a Hate Crime?

In California, a **hate crime** is defined as 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 crimes 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 is not criminal in nature. Typically, these behaviors are protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression.

If this type of behavior 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 fliers 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.
- Painting racist graffiti on a freeway overpass. (Police would categorize it as a crime but not a hate crime.)

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 the perpetrator's vehicle.
- 7** Report the occurrence.

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

Analysis: Hate Crimes and Incidents Continue to Increase in 2018

Methodology

The 2018 Hate Crimes Report is intended to inform all Orange County residents of the human relations climate in OC. The OC Human Relations Commission receives reports from law enforcement, school districts, colleges, universities, community-based organizations, and individuals. Duplicates are eliminated, and reports are verified to meet the criteria of the legal definition of hate crime in the California penal code. This report also includes hate incident data, which helps identify red flags for trends and potential hate crimes. The statistics help to inform and engage the community to strengthen educational programs, training, and activities to confront and stop acts of hate. The collection of data and hate crime prevention work is a collaborative effort, and we need to continue educating, intervening, but, most importantly, preventing hate crimes and hate incidents. Hate crime and hate incident reports provided are voluntary and confidential, which may have resulted in limited categorical data that has been labeled as “unknown” for the purposes of this report.

Trend continues Hate Crimes On the Rise

Orange County experienced 67 reported hate crimes in 2018, a 12% increase from 2017. In the last five years, hate crimes have steadily been on the rise with the largest jump occurring between 2017 to 2018. Orange County’s increase in reported hate crime numbers differs from the California Department of Justice’s 2018 Hate Crime Report, which shows that there was a 2.5% decrease of hate crime events. We found that our data included hate crime reports from several educational institutions in the County, which were not reflected in the Attorney General’s report.

The OC Human Relations Commission presented at the Walk In My Shoes Youth Conference



Types of Criminal Offenses Reported as Hate Crimes in 2018

The most commonly reported hate-based criminal offense was vandalism (21%) followed by simple assaults (13%), criminal threats (3%), and aggravated assaults (3%). These four offenses comprised 40% of all reported hate crimes. This year there were two significant hate crime events in Orange County: the murder of Blaze Bernstein and terrorist threat of a Jewish Center.

Targets of Hate Crimes

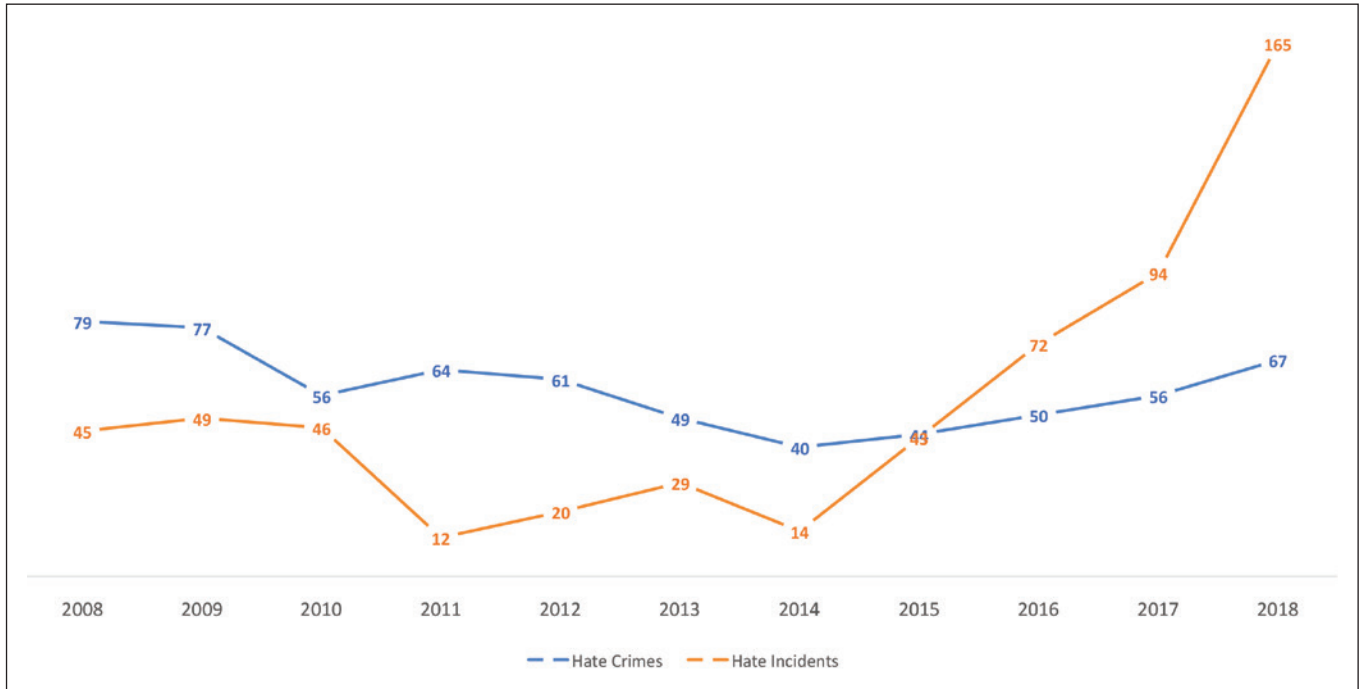
Hate crimes were most frequently motivated by the target’s race, ethnicity and/or national origin (42% of the total); hate crime motivated by religious intolerance (34%) and anti-LGBTQ (16%) was the next in frequency.

- In 2018, 13% of the county’s reported hate crimes targeted Jewish people, who are also the most frequent victims. This is more than the number of the past few years and appears to be part of a national trend that also shows an increase of hate crimes targeting people of the Jewish faith.
- Members of the Latino and Middle Eastern communities were the second most targeted groups, being 6% Latino and 6% Middle Eastern of the county’s total hate crime victims. Most of the hate crimes against the Latino and Middle Eastern communities comprised of vandalism.

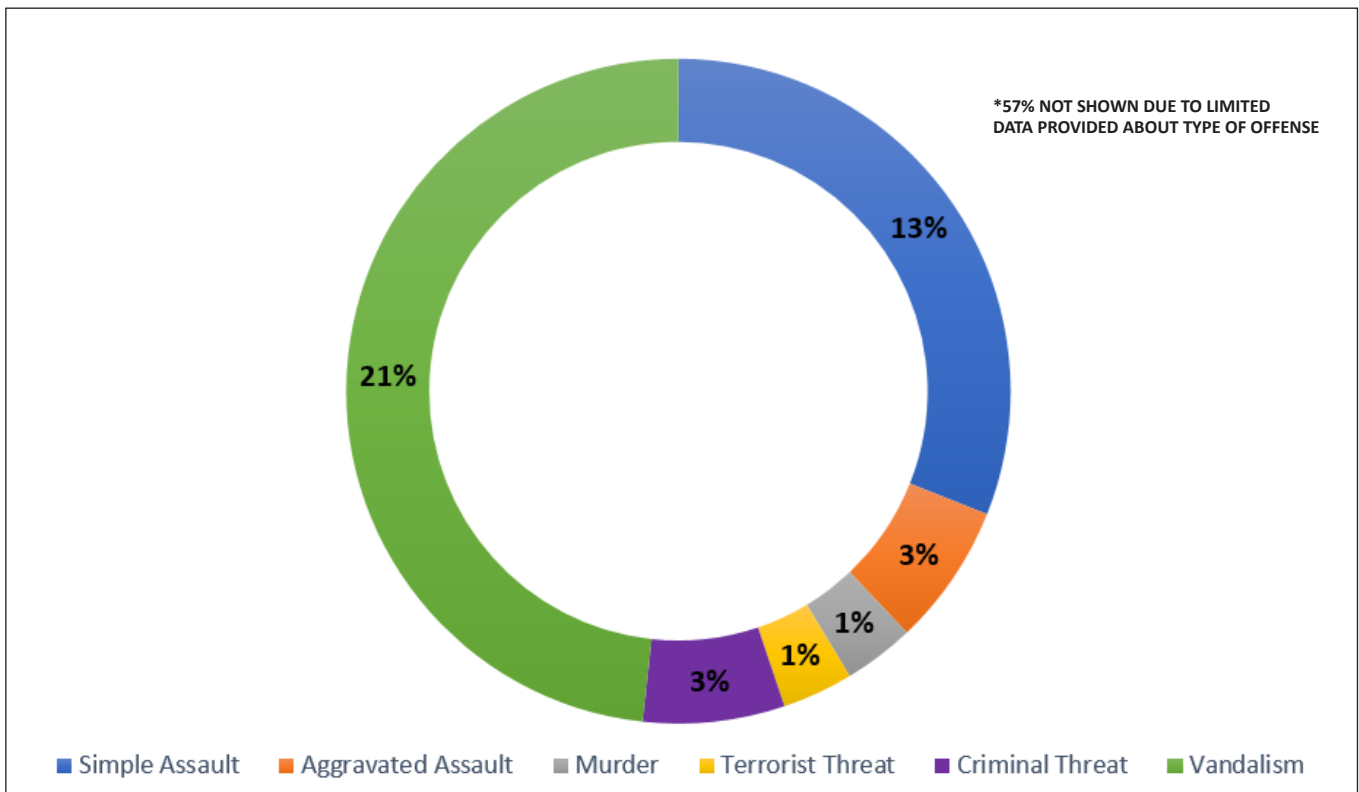
2017 to 2018 Hate Crimes Comparison

- African American victims decreased from 4 (2017) to 3 (2018).
- LGBT victims increased from 2 (2017) to 11 (2018).
- Latino victims increased from 3 (2017) to 4 (2018).
- Asian community remained the same 3 (2017) to 3 (2018).

10-Year Trend for Hate Crimes & Hate Incidents in Orange County



2018 Hate Crimes – Type of Offense



Alarming Rise in Hate Incidents

In 2018, 165 hate incidents were reported, which is an alarming 37% increase from last year. In the last four years, hate incidents have spiked with the largest jump occurring from 2017 to 2018.

Examples of Hate Incidents

- A Muslim woman wearing her hijab was given the middle finger and called a “baby killer and trash.”
- A bi-racial couple hired and gave deposit to a white male to fix their patio door. The person never did the job nor returned the deposit. When the wife asked for the money, the male messaged her, “You and your N word can f*** off, race traitor.”
- A Christian church’s door was graffitied with “God hates f****.” Below the graffiti was a deposit of fecal matter.

Underreporting of Hate Crimes and Incidents

Hate crime and incidents are underreported, often for valid reasons. Because of this, there is high certainty the

numbers contained in this report represent only a fraction of the hate crimes and incidents occurring in the county. According to the U.S. Justice Department National Crime Victim Survey, hate crimes and incidents potentially occur *24-28 times more often* than reported. Statistics show that only 3.5% of estimated hate crimes get reported through law enforcement to the FBI each year.

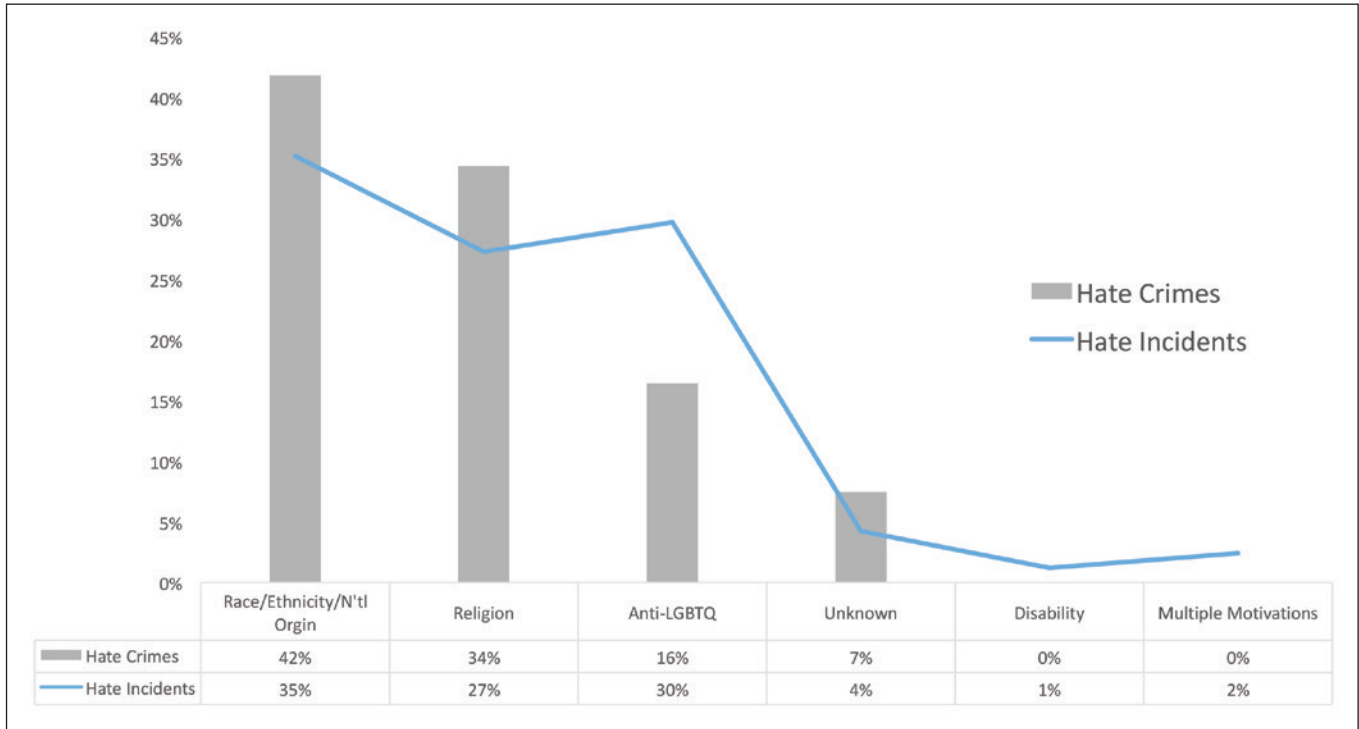
Common Reasons for Underreporting

- Victims of hate are often traumatized after the incident and feel that reporting to law enforcement will further victimize and traumatize 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.

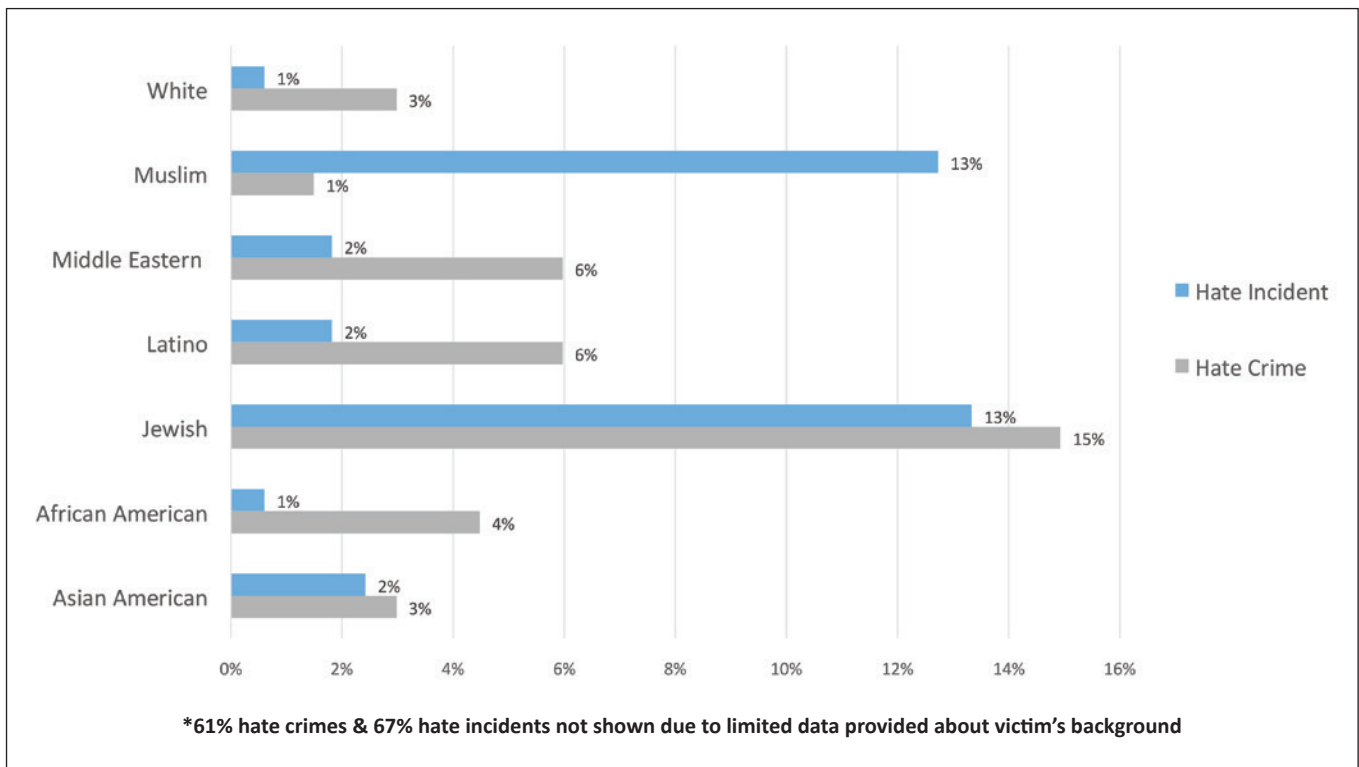


The OC Human Relations Commission monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at the County Hall of Administration.

2018 Hate Crime vs. Hate Incident – Motivations



2018 Hate Crime vs. Hate Incident – Victim's Background



A Hate Crime Snapshot



visit BlazeBernstein.org
to learn about Blaze



—By Gideon & Jeanne Bernstein

Everyone has a story to tell. Our story began in 2018 when our son Blaze Bernstein, then nineteen years old, was murdered in Foothill Ranch, Orange County. The radicalized neo-Nazi, accused of his murder, grew up here in Orange County and attended public high school, graduating from Corona Del Mar High School in 2016. The two teens were once classmates at the Orange County School of the Arts in Santa Ana. Blaze was a brilliant and kind teen who attended the University of Pennsylvania and made it his mission to help those in need. We use our story now to promote his legacy by changing the hearts and minds of Americans on the pressing issues that divide us; homophobia, racism, antisemitism and bigotry.

When we realized the power, we had to motivate people towards good, we created the #BlazeitForward Facebook group where over 25,000 members celebrate the intentional kind acts of their members. We also started the “The Blaze Bernstein Memorial Fund” that funds scholarships, internships, support schools and organizations promoting kindness with community service, protection of civil rights, LGBTQ equality, antisemitism education, mindfulness, and mental health. We engage with people that need help. Locally, we work with local organizations

to teach social empathy and provide education on the dangers of allowing bigotry and antisemitism to ripen into normative behavior. Ideally, we want to reach out to Orange County students before they turn to hate groups and radicalization. We envision every high school in Orange County with a diverse community service program using the #BlazeitForward moniker that specifically focuses on creating a kinder world, celebrating diversity in sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity and culture and educating about the dangers of Holocaust denial and antisemitism. This year, we assisted the Newport Harbor High School in Newport Beach, California when they started the first #BlazeitForward club.

The emotional impact of our story and loss influences students and parents everywhere. We inspire action, acceptance, kindness and community power to stop hate and bigotry in its tracks. The time is now. Don't wait for another tragedy. Make Orange County a leader in the kindness movement “blazing” across America. We ask you, our larger diverse community of Orange County, to join us today as we begin the hard work here that we must do to repair our world.

For more information about this campaign, visit blazebernstein.org

OC District Attorney Summary of Hate Cases for 2018

Each year, the Orange County District Attorney's Office ("OCDA") is responsible for reviewing possible hate crimes to determine whether any criminal charges, hate crime or otherwise, should be filed. These cases are submitted to the OCDA by local law enforcement agencies after investigation by the agency and the identification of a possible suspect. All prosecutors are instructed to proactively look for hate crime elements in submitted cases and alert the Special Prosecutions Unit, where specially assigned deputy district attorneys review these cases. 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 2018, the OCDA received 32 such cases for consideration and filed charges in 25 of them, while four of the cases were rejected outright and three are pending the completion of additional investigation. Fifteen of the filed charges included hate crime charges. The cases referred for filing consideration included crimes motivated by bias against race, religion, and sexual orientation. In all but one of the 15 filed cases that included a hate crime, 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 including victim input. In 2018, convicted hate crime defendants received sentences ranging from probation to five years in state prison.

Although a case may not resolve in the same year it was filed, a look at a given calendar year's statistics may show trends of increased awareness and reporting. In each of the last five years (2014-2018), the OCDA has seen an increase in the number of hate crimes reported to police agencies that were subsequently reviewed by prosecutors for filing of potential hate crime charges. In particular, the 32 cases received by the OCDA in 2018 was a dramatic increase from the 17 cases received in 2017 and the 12 cases received in 2016. A look at multi-year data helps to demonstrate the increased awareness and recognition of hate crimes by both the public and our local law enforcement agencies.

The OCDA looks forward to continued successful prosecutions in 2019, with the help of Orange County's law enforcement agencies, outreach groups, and community members.

Reporting Agencies

Organizations:

Anti-Defamation League
Council on American
Islamic Relations
OC Human Relations
Commission
OC Human Relations
Council

Educational Institutions:

Brea Olinda Unified
School District
Buena Park School
District
Centralia Elementary
School District
Cypress School District
Fullerton Joint Union
High School
Fullerton School District
Garden Grove Unified
School District
Irvine Unified School
District
Laguna Beach Unified
School District
Los Alamitos Unified
School District
Ocean View School
District
Santa Ana Unified
School District
Savanna School District
Tustin Unified School
District
Westminster School
District
Chapman University
Cypress College
Golden West College
Orange Coast College
Saddle Back College
Santa Ana College
Soka University
UC Irvine

City Police

Departments:

Anaheim
Brea
Buena Park
Costa Mesa
Cypress
Fountain Valley
Fullerton
Garden Grove
Huntington Beach
Irvine
Laguna Beach
Los Alamitos
Newport Beach
Orange
Santa Ana
Seal Beach
Tustin
Westminster

Orange County Sheriff's Department Representing:

Unincorporated Areas
of Orange County
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

What can *YOU* do to prevent hate in your town?

■ EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Understand what a hate crime and hate incident is. Share the information with others.

■ PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE

Start with yourself. Look at your own biases. Reach out to people outside your own groups. Model respect and promote acceptance and address hate incidents before they escalate to hate crimes. Hold events that promote diversity and acceptance—schools are a great place to hold events.

■ REPORT

Report hate crimes and hate incidents to your local law enforcement agency. Hate crime can also be reported at 714-480-6570.

■ SUPPORT THE VICTIMS

Hate crime victims are especially vulnerable. If you're a victim, report every incident in detail and ask for help. If you learn about a hate crime victim in your community, show support. Let victims know you care. Surround them with comfort and protection.

■ SPEAK UP

Apathy will be interpreted as acceptance by the perpetrators, the public, and worse the victims. Hate must be exposed and denounced. Help news organizations achieve balance and depth. Do not debate hate group members in conflict-driven forums. Instead, speak up in ways that draw attention away from hate, toward unity.

■ CREATE A NETWORK

Seek to create a group of diverse people to join forces and work to prevent hate crimes. Include people from churches, schools, law enforcement and community agencies.

■ MAKE CITY LEADERS AWARE

Elected officials and other community leaders can be important allies. Make them aware of hate crimes and hate incidents so they can denounce and find ways to make their cities be inclusive.



The OC Human Relations Commission presented at an event promoting diversity and acceptance with new police recruits and students.

OC Human Relations Commission

Preventing and Responding to Hate Crimes



Cultural Diversity Training: recruits talking to diverse community members

The County of Orange and the OC Human Relations Commission address, prevent and respond to human relations needs in the county, via the following programs:

1 Hate Crime Response and Education

- Assist and support victims of hate crime and, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, document hate crimes and incidents.
- Educate law enforcement agencies and community members about hate crimes and incidents.

2 Positive Police/Community Relations

- Offer the Police-Community Reconciliation program to mediate resident disputes and complaints with law enforcement.
- Work with law enforcement agencies to enhance and build positive relationships with OC residents and students through dialogues.

3 Diverse Community Outreach and Relationship Building

- Establish relations with diverse communities within the County of Orange to understand their issues and concerns.

4 Listening and Dialogue Sessions

- Organize Listening Sessions to hear from diverse communities and facilitate Community Forums to build understanding about important human relations issues.

The OC Human Relations Commission has a goal of developing and implementing proactive human relations programs to fight against hate in Orange County. This takes form in teaching inclusion and acceptance to youth, building trust between the community and law enforcement, and producing reports, like this one, to educate the community.

The **OC Human Relations Commission** provides victims of hate crimes and hate incidents with support and appropriate resources. All services are confidential. They also provide presentations and put together the annual Hate Crimes Report to inform the public of the state of Orange County regarding hate crimes and hate incidents because of the impact that has on victims and the community.

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, Support with property return, restitution assistance, filing compensation claims, temporary restraining orders, emergency transportation, and case status/disposition information

County of Orange Board of Supervisors

Lisa A. Bartlett, Fifth District,
Chairwoman
Michelle Steel, Second District,
Vice Chair
Andrew Do, First District
Donald Wagner, Third District
Doug Chaffee, Fourth District

County of Orange Staff
Frank Kim, County Executive Officer
Dylan Wright, OC Community Resources Director

OC Human Relations Commission Members

Rabbi Richard Steinberg, *Chair*
Dr. Kerry Reynolds, *Vice-Chair*
Bekele Demissie
Fareed Farukhi
Jany Lee
Kim Toan Do
Chief Mike Hamel
Michael Reynolds
Don Sedgwick
Michelle Steggell

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 Center for Advancing Justice(888) 349-9695
CA Conference for Equality and Justice(562) 435-8184
CA Dept. of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH).....(800) 884-1684
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).....(714) 776-1847
Dayle McIntosh Center(714) 621-3300
Japanese-American Citizens League(213) 626-4471
NAACP of Orange County(714) 543-3637
OC Asian & Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA)(714) 636-9095
OC Human Relations Council ..(714) 480-6570
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
Sikh Council California(877) 225-7454
The LGBT Center of Orange County(714) 953-5428
Waymakers.....(949) 250-0488



OC Human Relations Commission

1801 E. Edinger, Santa Ana, CA 92705 | 714-480-6570

www.occommunityservices.org/oc_human_relations_commission