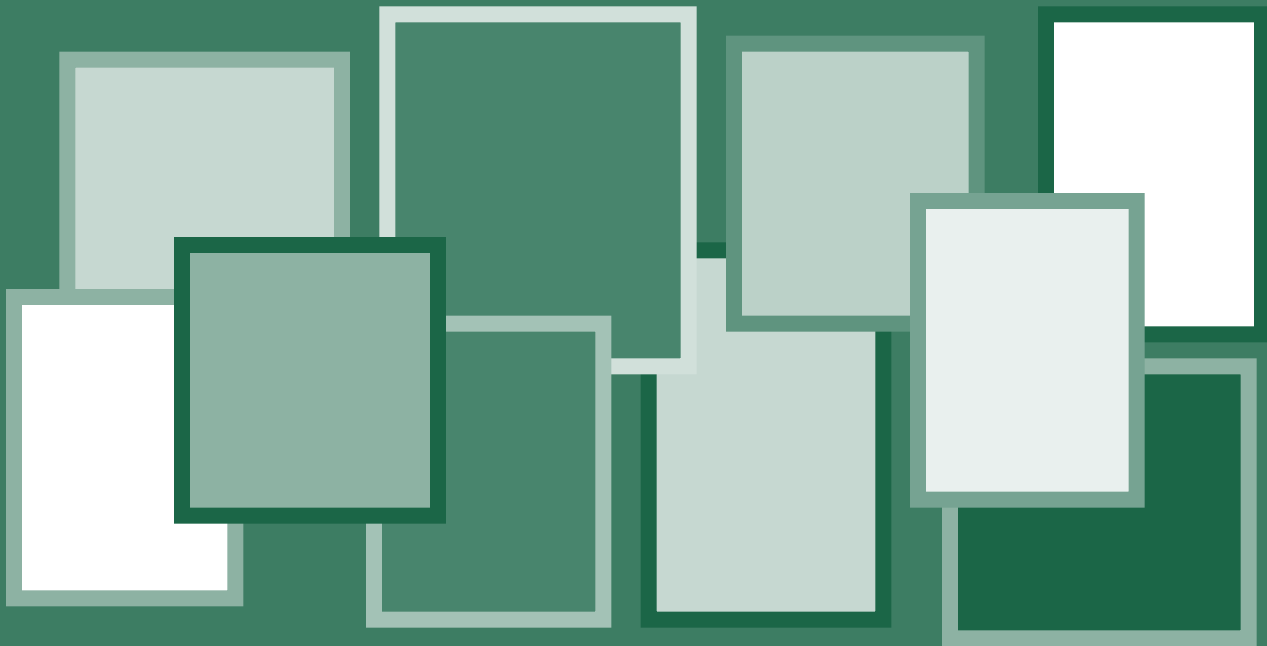


HATE CRIME IN CALIFORNIA

2000



California Department of Justice
Bill Lockyer, Attorney General
Division of Criminal Justice Information Services

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bill Lockyer, Attorney General

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES

Nick Dedier, Director

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

Douglas A. Smith, Chief

Mike Acosta, Assistant Chief

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS CENTER

Steve Galeria, Program Manager

STATISTICAL DATA CENTER

Debbie McLaughlin, Manager

PREPARED BY

Rey del Rio

Robin Tipton

Annette Ah Po

EDITED BY

Tad Davis

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rebecca Bowe

Leonard Marowitz

The role of the Criminal Justice Statistics Center is:

- To collect, analyze, and report statistical data which provide valid measures of crime and the criminal justice process;
 - To examine these data on an on-going basis to better describe crime and the criminal justice system;
 - To promote the responsible presentation and use of crime statistics.
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Criminal Justice Statistics Center
4949 Broadway
P.O. Box 903427
Sacramento, CA 94203-4270



HATE CRIME REPORT

Hate crimes are among the most dehumanizing of crimes. A hate crime is defined as any criminal act or attempted criminal act motivated by hatred based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability. The perpetrator views victims as lacking full human worth bearing any of those characteristics. Hate crimes impact not only their victims, but also spreads concern throughout entire communities. Victims of hate crimes have long experienced such violence, and the fear and pain of a recurrence of historical injustice is deep and pervasive. During the year 2000, California law enforcement agencies reported 1,957 hate crime events. As a result, these incidents involved 2,352 victims, 2,002 criminal offenses, and 2,107 known suspects identified.

The *Hate Crime in California, 2000* report represents the continued commitment of the California Department of Justice and the criminal justice community to accurately collect and report criminal justice statistics. This report represents the sixth full year of hate crime statistics published by the California Department of Justice. The continued cooperation, professionalism and expertise of the criminal justice community ensure that California's crime statistics are among the most valid and comprehensive in the country.

This report represents much more than crime statistics. Each hate crime reported represents devastating violations to victims, as well as their family and friends. These types of crimes shatter one's sense of security and spreads terror throughout communities. Victims must learn to cope with the crimes' after affects for the rest of their life. This is an assault on California's ideal and its diverse body of citizens.

With the release of this report, the California Department of Justice seeks to increase public awareness about hate crimes and the frequency of these types of crimes in California. Also, there is a clear message to perpetrators of these crimes that we, as a society, will not tolerate such hatred.

BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General

HATE CRIME IN CALIFORNIA 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

CRIME DATA

In 2000:

- 1,957 hate crime events were reported. These events included 2,352 victims, 2,002 criminal offenses, and 2,107 known suspects.
- 63.1 percent of the hate crime events reported were motivated by a victim's race/ethnicity.
- The most often reported bias motivations were:
 1. Anti-black - 31 percent of all hate crime events reported (606 events)
 2. Anti-male homosexual - 16.6 percent of all hate crime events reported (325 events)
 3. Anti-Jewish - 12.1 percent of all hate crime events reported (236 events)
 4. Anti-Hispanic - 10.2 percent of all hate crime events reported (199 events)
 5. Anti-white - 7.4 percent of all hate crime events reported (145 events)
- The top four types of offenses were:
 1. Destruction/vandalism - 31.1 percent (608 events)
 2. Intimidation - 28.2 percent (552 events)
 3. Simple assault - 18.7 percent (365 events)
 4. Aggravated assault - 16.1 percent (315 events)
- The top five locations where hate crime events occurred were:
 1. Residence/home/driveway - 36.6 percent (717 events)
 2. Highway/road/street/alley/sidewalk - 24 percent (470 events)
 3. School/college - 10.5 percent (205 events)
 4. Parking lot/garage - 5 percent (98 events)
 5. Church/synagogue/temple/center - 4.1 percent (80 events)

PROSECUTORIAL DATA

In 2000:

- 360 hate crime complaints were filed by district attorneys and elected city attorneys.
- 213 hate crime convictions were reported.

Overview

The Attorney General's Hate Crime Reporting Program was implemented in September 1994. In 1995, the first publication, *Hate Crime in California, July through December, 1994*, was published. This seventh annual publication, and sixth full year report, *Hate Crime in California, 2000*, includes data for January 1 through December 31, 2000.

As defined in California Penal Code Section 13023 (see Appendix 1), a hate crime is any criminal act or attempted criminal act motivated by hatred based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. These crimes must be reported to the Department of Justice (DOJ) by law enforcement agencies. Each crime report includes information about, but not limited to: bias motivation; type of crime; location of crime; number of victims; and number of known suspects.

All law enforcement agencies in California participate in this program. These agencies recognize that quality information is central to developing effective measures to deal with hate crime. In cooperation with the DOJ, agencies in California have developed local data collection programs, the results of which are presented in this publication.

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HATE CRIME IN CALIFORNIA 2000

Introduction

California Penal Code Section 13023 (Appendix 1) requires the Attorney General to submit an annual report to the Legislature regarding crimes motivated by the victim's race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability as reported by law enforcement agencies. Data collection began in the fall of 1994 after an orientation and training period. Agencies were requested to identify and submit all reports of hate crime occurring on or after July 1, 1994, to the Department of Justice. In 1995, the Department of Justice published its first report covering data reported for July through December 1994. This is the seventh report and covers the period January 1 through December 31, 2000.

Background

In January 1986, the California Department of Justice (DOJ) submitted a report to the Legislature in response to Senate Bill 2080 (Watson). This report, entitled *Racial, Ethnic, and Religious Crime Project, Preliminary Steps to Establish Statewide Collection of Data*, recommended:

- The DOJ be designated as the appropriate state agency to implement and coordinate statewide hate crime data collection.
- Law enforcement agencies submit existing crime reports identified as bias motivated to the DOJ.
- Uniform definitions and guidelines be established to ensure reliable and consistent identification of hate crimes.
- Adequate funding be provided for data collection and local law enforcement agency training.

Senate Bill 202 (Watson) was chaptered in 1989. The bill added Section 13023 to the Penal Code requiring the Attorney General to begin collecting and reporting hate crime information.

Background (continued)

The federal "Hate Crime Statistics Act," Public Law 101-275, which became law on April 23, 1990, required the United States Attorney General to collect bias motivated crime information. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) began collecting the data from volunteer agencies in 1991. The FBI's first report was published in 1992.

Law enforcement agencies were notified by Information Bulletin 94-25-OMET, issued September 30, 1994, to begin reporting hate crimes to the DOJ.

Information Bulletin 95-09-BCIA, issued March 24, 1995, requested California district attorneys and elected city attorneys to report information on complaints filed and convictions secured for hate crimes in their office on a standard form.

Methodology

Following the recommendations in the 1986 report, the DOJ requires each law enforcement agency in the State to submit copies of hate crime reports on a monthly basis. To ensure a consistent standard and quality control function, the DOJ requests that each agency establish a two-tier review process for possible bias-motivated incidents before reports are forwarded.

Reports received by the DOJ are reviewed by at least two members of the hate crime unit before the data are included in the aggregate reports. All crime reports that meet the bias motivated criteria stated in Penal Code Section 13023 are coded in a standard format by DOJ staff. If the report is not complete or if it appears that the incident is not bias-motivated, the agency is notified. The agency can either provide additional information or agree with the DOJ that the incident in question does not meet the criteria of a hate crime. Those crimes meeting the criteria of a hate crime are then entered into the Hate Crime Statistical Database.

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