

HATE CRIME

DEFINITION

A hate crime, also known as a bias crime, is a criminal offense committed against a person, property, or society which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity/national origin.

Background

As a result of mounting national concern over crimes motivated by bias, Congress enacted the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990 (the Act). Signed into law on April 23, 1990, the Act required the Attorney General to collect data “about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.” Responsibilities of the Attorney General were delegated to the Director of the FBI, who in turn assigned the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program the tasks of developing the procedures for and managing the implementation of the collection of hate crime data. In September 1994, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act amended the Act to add both physical and mental disabilities as potential bias factors; actual collection of disability-bias data began in January 1997. Additionally, the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 mandated that hate crime data collection become a permanent part of the UCR Program.

Hate crime data are collected by capturing additional information about offenses currently being reported to UCR. In short they are traditional offenses motivated by the offender’s bias. Included are the offenses of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter; forcible rape; aggravated assault; simple assault; intimidation; robbery; burglary; larceny-theft; motor vehicle theft; arson; and destruction, damage, or vandalism of property.

Hate crime data can be submitted to the FBI in one of two ways. Agencies that report Summary data can forward their information on a Quarterly Hate Crime report that consists of a quarterly summary and an incident report for each bias incident. Agencies that report National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data can include the hate crime data element in their electronic submissions.

A hate crime abstract based on the data received from law enforcement agencies that provided 1 to 12 months of hate crime reports during 1999 follows. More detailed information concerning the characteristics of hate crime can be found in the annual UCR publication *Hate Crime Statistics*.

Nature

In 1999, there were 7,876 hate crime incidents reported to the FBI. The incidents involved 9,301 separate offenses, 9,802 victims, and 7,271 known offenders. Of the total reported incidents, 4,295 were motivated by racial bias, 1,411 by religious bias, 1,317 by sexual-orientation bias, 829 by ethnicity/national origin bias, 19 by disability bias, and 5 by multiple biases. (See Table 2.37.)

Table 2.37

Number of Incidents, Offenses, Victims, and Known Offenders by Bias Motivation, 1999

Bias motivation	Incidents	Offenses	Victims ¹	Known offenders ²
Total	7,876	9,301	9,802	7,271
Single-Bias Incidents	7,871	9,291	9,792	7,265
Race:	4,295	5,240	5,485	4,362
Anti-White	781	970	996	1,011
Anti-Black	2,958	3,542	3,679	2,861
Anti-American Indian/ Alaskan Native	47	49	50	40
Anti-Asian/Pacific Islander	298	363	379	288
Anti-Multi-Racial Group	211	316	381	162
Religion:	1,411	1,532	1,686	602
Anti-Jewish	1,109	1,198	1,289	429
Anti-Catholic	36	41	41	18
Anti-Protestant	48	49	50	19
Anti-Islamic	32	34	34	14
Anti-Other Religious Group	151	170	221	98
Anti-Multi-Religious Group	31	35	46	21
Anti-Atheism/Agnosticism/etc.	4	5	5	3
Sexual Orientation:	1,317	1,487	1,558	1,376
Anti-Male Homosexual	915	1,025	1,070	1,043
Anti-Female Homosexual	187	216	231	150
Anti-Homosexual	178	205	216	154
Anti-Heterosexual	14	16	16	15
Anti-Bisexual	23	25	25	14
Ethnicity/National Origin:	829	1,011	1,040	904
Anti-Hispanic	466	576	588	562
Anti-Other Ethnicity/ National Origin	363	435	452	342
Disability:	19	21	23	21
Anti-Physical	10	11	13	9
Anti-Mental	9	10	10	12
Multiple-Bias Incidents³	5	10	10	6

¹ The term *victim* may refer to a person, business, institution, or society as a whole.

² The term *known offender* does not imply that the identity of the suspect is known, but only that an attribute of the suspect is identified which distinguishes him/her from an unknown offender.

³ There were five multiple-bias incidents. Within these incidents, there were 10 offenses, 10 victims, and 6 known offenders.

Sixty-seven percent of the hate crime offenses reported to law enforcement were attributed to crimes against persons, 33 percent to crimes against property, and less than 1 percent to crimes against society. Of the crimes against persons, intimidation occurred in 53 percent of the offenses, simple assault in 29 percent, and aggravated assault in 18 percent. The most frequently reported offense of crimes against property was damage, destruction, or vandalism of property, accounting for 86 percent of that category.

Overall, intimidation was the single most frequently reported offense, accounting for 35 percent of the total. Following were damage, destruction, or vandalism of property, 29 percent; simple assault, 19 percent; and aggravated assault, 12 percent. (See Table 2.38.)

In 1999, racial bias represented the largest percentage of bias-motivated offenses. Of the reported offenses, 5,240 were motivated by racial bias, 1,532 by religious bias, 1,487 by sexual-orientation bias, 1,011 by ethnicity/national origin bias, and 21 by disability bias. Ten offenses were associated with multiple-bias incidents. (See Table 2.37 and Chart 2.18.)

Sixty-three percent of the 9,802 victims in 1999 were targets of crimes against persons. (See Table 2.38.) Over 50 percent of hate crime victims were attacked because of their race, with bias against blacks accounting for 38 percent of all hate crime victims. (See Table 2.37.)

Law enforcement agencies reported 7,271 known offenders in conjunction with the 7,876 incidents recorded in 1999. (See Table 2.37.) When considering offenses, 6,103 known offenders were associated with crimes against persons, 1,444 were linked to crimes against property, and 46 were connected with crimes against society. The single most reported offense, intimidation, was committed by 30 percent of known offenders. (See Table 2.38.) By race, 68 percent of the known offenders were white, and 16 percent were black. Nine percent of the offenders were of unknown races, and 7 percent were of other races. (See Table 2.39.)

Table 2.38

Number of Offenses, Victims, and Known Offenders by Offense, 1999			
Offense	Offenses	Victims ¹	Known offenders ²
Total	9,301	9,802	7,593³
Crimes against persons:	6,189	6,189	6,103
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	17	17	28
Forcible rape	6	6	6
Aggravated assault	1,120	1,120	1,482
Simple assault	1,766	1,766	2,267
Intimidation	3,268	3,268	2,308
Other ⁴	12	12	12
Crimes against property:	3,082	3,583	1,444
Robbery	129	158	275
Burglary	112	132	63
Larceny-theft	103	112	66
Motor vehicle theft	14	14	9
Arson	48	64	22
Destruction/damage/vandalism	2,654	3,078	988
Other ⁴	22	25	21
Crimes against society⁴	30	30	46

¹ The term *victim* may refer to a person, business, institution, or society as a whole.

² The term *known offender* does not imply that the identity of the suspect is known, but only that an attribute of the suspect is identified which distinguishes him/her from an unknown offender.

³ The actual number of known offenders is 7,271. (See Table 2.37.) Some offenders, however, may be responsible for more than one offense and are, therefore, counted more than once in this table.

⁴ Includes offenses other than those listed that are collected in NIBRS.

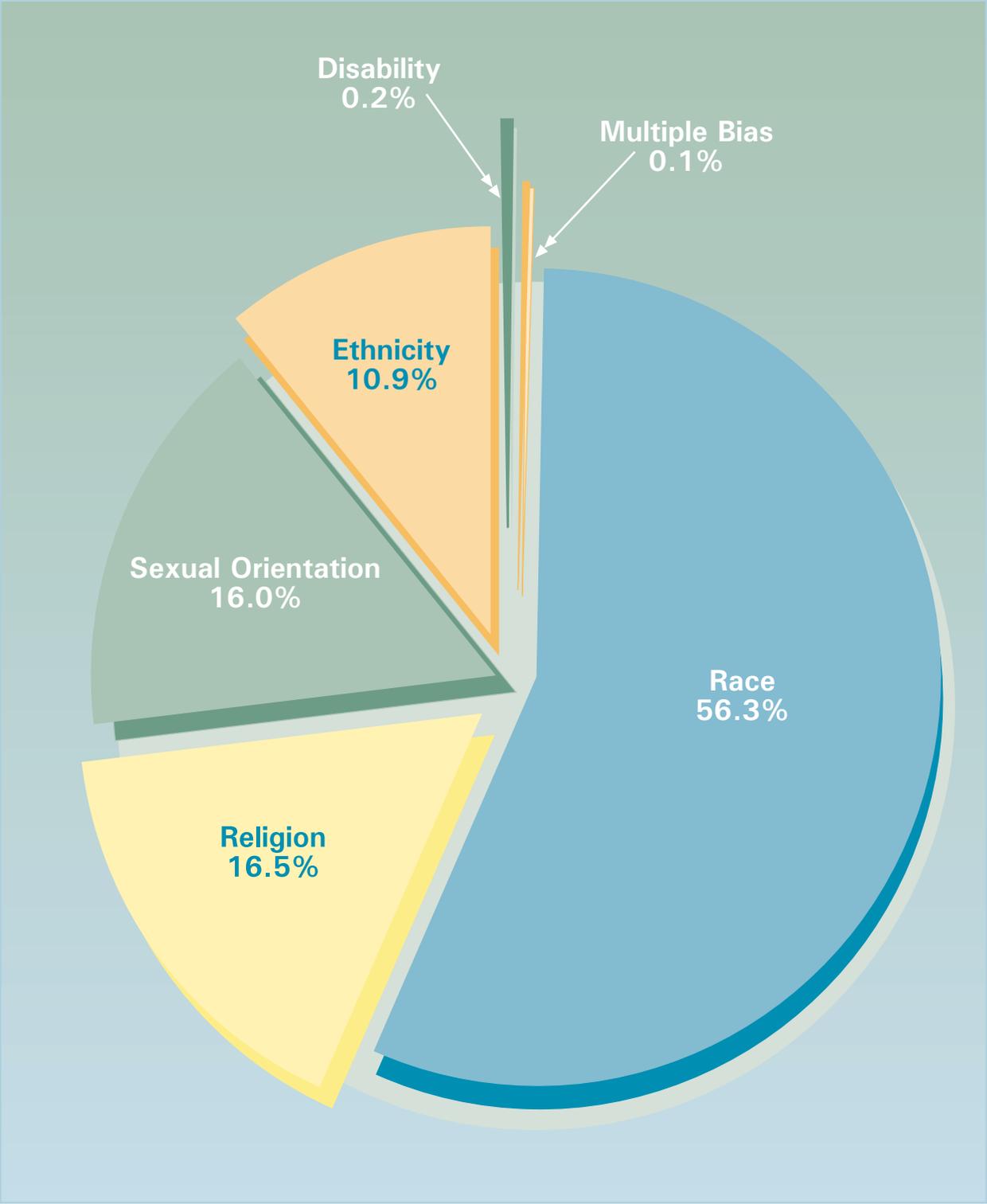
Table 2.39

Number of Known Offenders by Race, 1999

Suspected offender's race	
Total	7,271
White	4,954
Black	1,171
American Indian/Alaskan Native	55
Asian/Pacific Islander	117
Multi-Racial Group	312
Unknown Race	662

**Figure
2.19**

**Bias-Motivated
Offenses 1999**
Percent
Distribution



Law Enforcement Participation

Hate crime data for 1999 were supplied by 12,122 law enforcement agencies in 48 states and the District of Columbia. These agencies represented approximately 85 percent of the Nation's population, nearly 233 million people. (See Table 2.40.) Of the participating agencies, 15 percent reported that at least one hate crime occurred in their jurisdiction, and the other 85 percent reported that none occurred.

The law enforcement community has recognized that valid information is central to developing effective measures to deal with crime motivated by bias. Though reports from these agencies are not sufficient to allow valid national or regional measures of the volume and types of crimes motivated by hate, they offer perspectives on the general nature of hate crime occurrences.

Table 2.40

Agency Hate Crime Reporting by State, 1999

Participating states	Number of participating agencies	Population covered	Agencies submitting incident reports	Total number of incidents reported
Total	12,122	232,829,887	1,815	7,876
Alaska	1	257,762	1	5
Arizona	86	4,521,835	17	252
Arkansas	192	2,541,191	2	8
California	720	33,134,423	244	1,949
Colorado	235	4,056,000	39	148
Connecticut	98	3,187,762	55	135
Delaware	54	754,000	10	37
District of Columbia	1	519,000	1	4
Florida	483	15,072,712	93	267
Georgia	56	866,527	6	36
Idaho	121	1,252,000	22	34
Illinois	55	4,705,184	55	247
Indiana	143	3,078,689	19	111
Iowa	222	2,798,111	20	31
Kansas	1	332,286	1	41
Kentucky	251	2,729,076	36	71
Louisiana	172	3,728,405	3	6
Maine	165	1,247,758	6	22
Maryland	146	5,171,249	33	230
Massachusetts	303	5,379,671	105	443
Michigan	610	9,238,911	152	407
Minnesota	314	4,768,651	56	225
Mississippi	88	1,238,719	2	2
Missouri	209	4,279,658	26	83
Montana	86	748,010	8	27
Nebraska	233	1,526,562	9	35
Nevada	37	1,809,000	6	75
New Hampshire	86	585,459	16	20
New Jersey	565	8,143,000	250	617
New Mexico	59	1,176,591	2	16
New York	506	18,197,000	17	590
North Carolina	463	7,525,331	15	31
North Dakota	84	495,894	1	2
Ohio	351	8,042,784	67	232
Oklahoma	300	3,352,499	23	42
Oregon	239	3,314,028	27	123
Pennsylvania	1,140	11,744,864	34	185
Rhode Island	48	991,000	9	41
South Carolina	339	3,883,387	25	52
South Dakota	117	725,379	6	14
Tennessee	355	4,361,993	58	127
Texas	939	20,018,572	75	262
Utah	122	2,130,000	20	59
Vermont	43	499,346	10	16
Virginia	372	5,891,500	49	203
Washington	231	5,612,472	45	230
West Virginia	249	1,466,686	17	32
Wisconsin	364	5,250,000	20	49
Wyoming	68	478,950	2	2