



Hate Crime

A hate crime is a **criminal offense that is motivated by personal prejudice** and directed at others because of their perceived race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religion, or disability. One hate crime offense may include multiple victimizations and may be characterized by hateful speech or symbols.^A

While the National Criminal Victimization Survey (NCVS), conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program both collect and publish information on the number of hate crime incidents, offenses, victims, and perpetrators in the United States, there is considerable variation between the two sources. For example, the NCVS estimates that there were about 250,000 hate crime victims every year between 2005 and 2015,^B while the UCR reported just over 7,000 bias-motivated victims in 2015.^C

This disparity between NCVS and UCR numbers sheds light on the **challenge of reporting hate crimes**—both for victims and agencies reporting on their prevalence. The FBI has been required to report on hate crime victimizations since 1991 but **cannot require** local agencies to provide such information. Of the 15,000 agencies that do participate, **nearly 88% reported zero incidents** in 2015. Further complicating the issue is the absence of a uniform definition of hate crime. For example, some state agencies include sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender-based offenses in their classification of hate crimes, while others do not.^D

For more on the differences between the NCVS and the UCR, see the Crime and Victimization in the United States fact sheet in this series.

CRIME TRENDS

According to the NCVS, **the rate of hate crime victimizations remained fairly constant** between 2005 and 2015. In 2015, the rates of violent and property hate crime victimization were less than 1 (0.7 and 0.1, respectively) of every 1,000 people. The rate of violent hate crime reported to the police has also remained constant (a slight decrease in 2011), with just over half of incidents reported to police. In 2015, the rate of violent hate crimes reported to police increased slightly from 0.3 in 2014 to 0.4 victimizations per 1,000 people.^B

DID YOU KNOW?

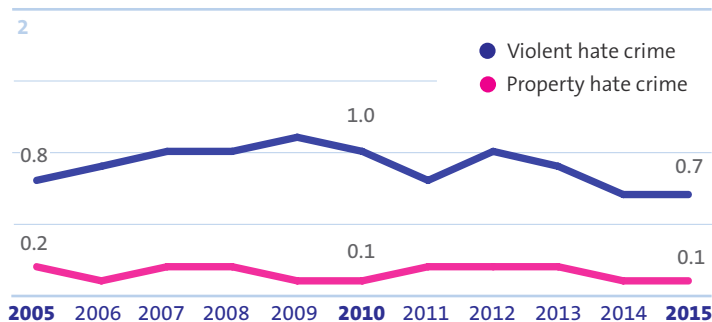
According to the UCR, **racially motivated** hate crimes are the **most frequent**.^C

Of racially motivated hate crime offenses committed in 2015, **48% were by white perpetrators, 24% by black perpetrators**.^C

1/3 of reported hate crimes occur in or near a **residence**.^C

Victims of **sexual orientation**-related hate crimes are most likely to be victimized in a **public place**.^C

Hate Crime Victimization^{B*}
rate per 1,000 people/households



**Based on 2-year rolling averages, centered on the most recent year.*

Violent Hate Crimes Reported to Police^B
rate per 1,000 people

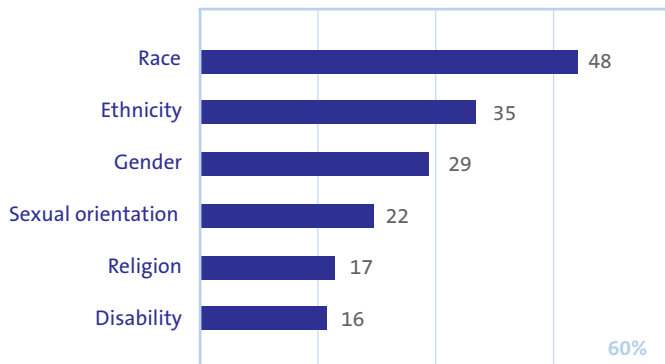


CURRENT DATA ON HATE CRIME

While the UCR and the NCVS collect and report information on bias-motivated victimization differently, both sources report that **racial and ethnicity-motivated hate crimes are the most prominent**. The NCVS distinguishes between racially and ethnicity-motivated victimizations, while the UCR does not. In 2015, the UCR reported that 59% of hate crime offenses were motivated by race or ethnicity, while the NCVS estimated that 48% of hate crimes reported were motivated by race and 35% were motivated by ethnicity. The NCVS also estimates that a much higher percentage of hate crime victimizations were motivated by disability (16%) and gender (29%), compared to the percentages reported by the UCR (1% and less than 1%, respectively).^{B,C}

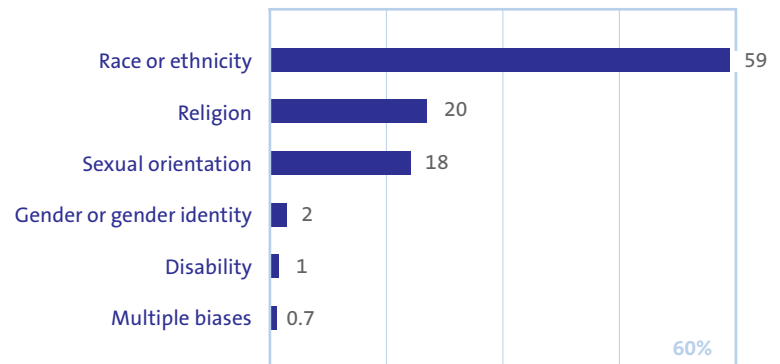
Victim's Perception of Bias in Hate Crime Victimization^B

percent estimated by the NCVS in 2015



Hate Crime Victims by Bias Category^C

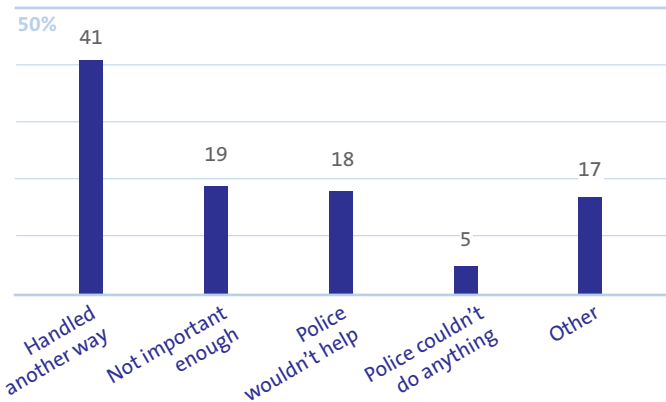
percent reported by the UCR in 2015



The NCVS reports that **54% of hate crimes** occurring between 2011 and 2015 **were not reported to police**. Of these, 41% were handled another way, 19% were not considered important enough to report, 18% were instances in which the police would not help, and 5% were instances in which the police could not do anything. **Arrests were made in only 4% of all violent hate crimes** (reported or unreported to police).^B

Most Important Reason Why Victimization Was Not Reported to the Police^B

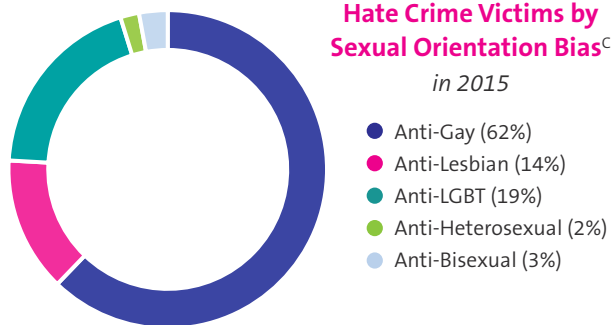
from 2011 to 2015



According to the UCR, nearly 18% of reported single-bias hate crime offenses in 2015 were committed because of the victim's perceived sexual orientation. **Sexual orientation victimizations were the most common LGBTQ victimizations** (62%) reported by the UCR, followed by victimizations directed at the LGBTQ community in general (19%).^C

Hate Crime Victims by Sexual Orientation Bias^C

in 2015



SOURCES

- A Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Hate Crime," www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=t-p&tid=37
- B Lynn Langton and Madeline Masucci, *Hate Crime Victimization, 2004 – 2015*, (Bureau of Justice Statistics), www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/hcv0415.pdf
- C FBI, *Hate Crime Statistics, 1995-2015*, (U.S. Department of Justice), <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2015> (Table 1)
- D Ken Schwenke, "Why America Fails at Gathering Hate Crime Statistics," *ProPublica*, (Dec. 4, 2017), www.propublica.org/article/why-america-fails-at-gathering-hate-crime-statistics