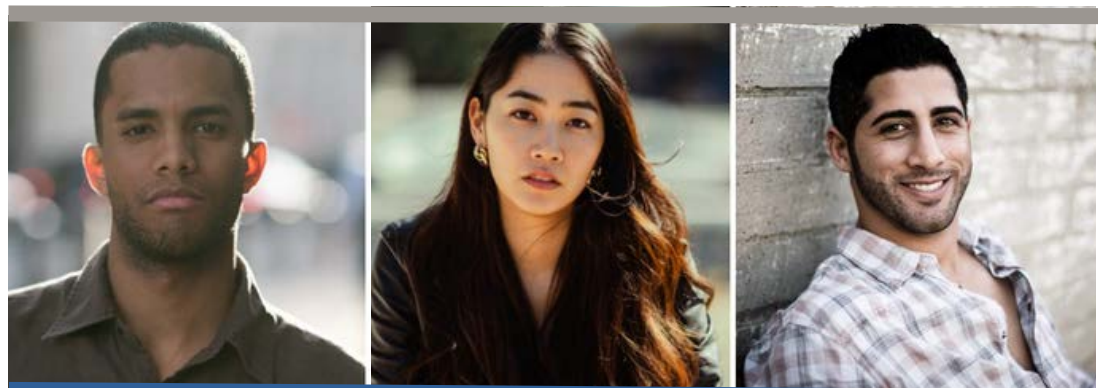
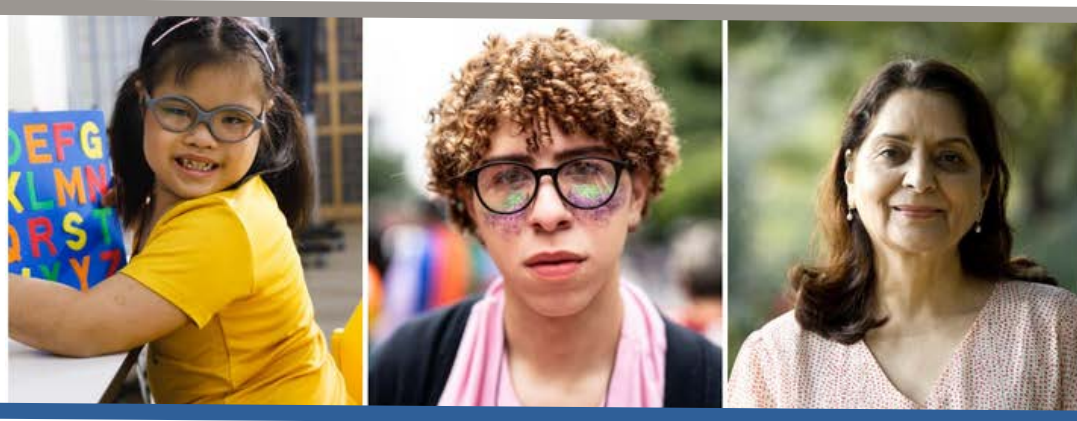




# 2022 ORANGE COUNTY HATE CRIMES REPORT



# A Message from the Chair of the OC Human Relations Commission

Orange County, California – Home to over 3.2 million people living within 34 cities and unincorporated communities, Orange County is one of America’s most diverse counties. Our county is home to a distinct urban community that has a large immigrant population, where over 45% of the population speaks a non-English language, and over 80 religions are practiced. The Orange County Human Relations Commission believes that our diversity enhances our county’s social fabric, and we should celebrate and be proud of the richness and abundance it brings. Unfortunately, hate activity has been on a steady incline in Orange County – reported hate incidents and crimes have increased by 13% in the last year and have risen by 94% in the last five years. This rise in hate activity is felt by all in our community and is also seen across our great state of California where hate activity has risen by over 20% in the last year. This alarming upward trend in hate activity doesn’t just impact the individuals and communities directly involved or targeted, it affects everyone in Orange County because Hate Hurts Us All.

In 2022, Orange County faced an unimaginable hate-motivated shooting at a place of worship. A gunman attacked a lunch banquet at a church in Laguna Woods where most of the congregants were elders of the Taiwanese community. Five congregants were wounded, and one life was lost. Dr. John Cheng, who charged the shooter and tried to disarm him, lost his life while sacrificing himself to save so many other lives. We honor his bravery and heroism.

Our focus is to work hard to combat the rise of hate each year. To combat what we are seeing and experiencing in our streets, parks, schools, neighborhoods, and places of worship. In response to this upward trend, the Orange County Human Relations Commission launched the Hate Hurts Us All campaign with the hope of:

1. Improving and increasing access to reporting platforms, ability to report in-language, and increasing access to resources in Orange County
2. Improving victim services and support by establishing a comprehensive referral infrastructure and expanding direct services
3. Improving community understanding and engagement in addressing hate and bias through the Hate Hurts Us All marketing campaign

The mission of the Orange County Human Relations Commission is to “seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance and attempt to eliminate those causes.” We continue to be grounded in our mission as we envision an Orange County where hate is fully eliminated. In publishing this annual report, it is our hope that it serves both as a reminder of the work still to be done and as a call to action for everyone. We know that Hate Hurts Us All and we also know that it will take all of us working together in collaboration and community to eliminate hate in Orange County.

For the Commission I am,  
Jo-Anne P. Matsuba, Chair  
OC Human Relations Commission

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# Hate Crimes Report 101

## What is Bias-Motivation, Hate Crimes, & Hate Incidents?

### **BIAS-MOTIVATION**

is a preexisting negative attitude toward actual or perceived characteristics categories: disability, gender, race/ethnicity/national origin, religion, sexual orientation.

### **HATE CRIMES**

A hate crime, defined by the California Attorney General, is a crime against a person, group, or property motivated by the victim's real or perceived protected social group. Bias motivation of a hate crime is when a victim is targeted because of their actual or perceived: disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and/or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Examples of hate crimes include:

- Graffiti or vandalization of private property
- Physical violence against another individual
- Criminal threat of violence against an individual or a group

### **HATE INCIDENTS**

A hate incident, defined by the California Department of Justice, is an action or behavior motivated by bias-motivated hate but which, for one or more reasons, is not a crime. The First Amendment allows for hate speech as long as it does not interfere with the civil rights of others. If this type of behavior escalates to threats against a person or property or becomes an incitement to commit violence, it would be classified as a hate crime.

Examples of bias-motivated hate incidents include:

- Distribution of non-threatening antisemitic flyers in a public place
- Yelling racial slurs and "Black lives don't matter" from a car window
- Anti-LGBTQ placards at a parade or funeral

## What is the Purpose of the Hate Crimes Report?

The purpose of creating a bias-motivated hate activity report is to document and analyze incidences of hate to understand the scope and nature of these offenses, identify trends, and develop strategies to prevent and address them. Bias-motivated hate activity reports serve several important purposes:

- Awareness and Public Safety
- Legal and Law Enforcement Response
- Resource Allocation
- Policy Development and Advocacy
- Education and Research
- Support for Victims and Communities

# Methodology

The collection of data and hate crime prevention work is a collaborative effort. The submission of bias-motivated hate data for this annual report is voluntary and confidential, which may result in limited categorical data that may be labeled "unknown."

The OC Human Relations Commission receives reports from individuals (most often victims) directly, law enforcement, school districts, colleges/universities, and community-based organizations.

Upon receipt of reports, duplicates are eliminated and referred cases are verified to meet the criteria of the legal definition of a hate crime in the California penal code. This report also includes hate incident data, which helps identify red flags for trends and areas of focus for prevention work. The data and analysis inform government and law enforcement agencies, engage the community to strengthen educational programs, training, and activities to confront and stop acts of hate, and establish cause for increasing funding for hate prevention and victim support services.

For 2022, 29 municipal police departments shared hate activity data. The OC Sheriff's Department also shared hate activity information. Four community organizations (211OC, ADL, CAIR, and LGBTQ Center OC), 6 higher-ed institutions, and 7 school districts shared bias-motivated hate data. Stop AAPI Hate submitted data but is not reflected since data was not for the current reporting year. We have also included 24 hate crime reports from the CA Attorney General's report.

The voluntary nature of submitting bias-motivated hate activity data has an impact on the consistency of annual report numbers, underreporting, and the ability to track and report trends. Reports (and/or disaggregated data) submitted are also confidential, which may have resulted in limited categorical data that has been labeled as "unknown" for the purposes of this report.

Underreporting is also caused by the following:

- Traumatic bias-motivated hate experience
- Fear of retaliation or continued harassment for reporting
- A belief that reporting will further stigmatize oneself, family, community, and/or culture
- Access to/knowledge of where and how to report

# 2022 Hate Activity in O.C.

450

reported hate crimes & incidents  
in Orange County in 2022

94%

increased hate  
activity compared to  
5 years ago (2018)

162

reported hate  
crimes in 2022

288

reported hate  
incidents in 2022

51%

hate crimes & incidents reported were  
motivated by race/ethnicity/national  
origin bias

95%

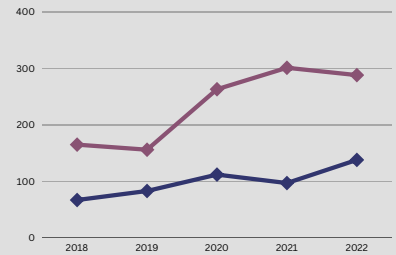
hate crimes & incidents reported with  
known data (all categorical data was  
present)

27%

hate crimes & incidents reported took  
place at schools (K-12th,  
College/University)

# 2022 Noteworthy Trends

Orange County has seen an increase in **hate crimes (75%)** & **hate incidents (142%)** in the last 5 years.



The Black community was the most targeted for race-related **hate crimes (52%)** & **hate incidents (43%)**.



The Jewish community was the most targeted for religious-related **hate activity (20%)**.



There was a **178% increase** of bias-motivated hate activity in schools compared to 2021.

There was a **126% increase** in Anti-LGBTQ hate activity reported compared to 2021.



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# 2022 Hate Crime Data

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# Analysis

## WHO HAS BEEN TARGETED?

Hate crimes were primarily motivated by the victim's race/ethnicity/national origin (53%), religion (32%), and/or sexual orientation (15%). Of the more than half of the hate crimes where the race/ethnicity of the victim was known and reported, 52% identified as Black, Indigenous, or as a person of color (BIPOC). More specifically, hate crimes were primarily motivated by anti-Black (52%), antisemitism (43%), anti-Christian (34%), and anti-Latino(a) (19%) bias. The top reported offenses include graffiti/vandalism (41%), physical assault/battery (28%), and threats of violence (17%).

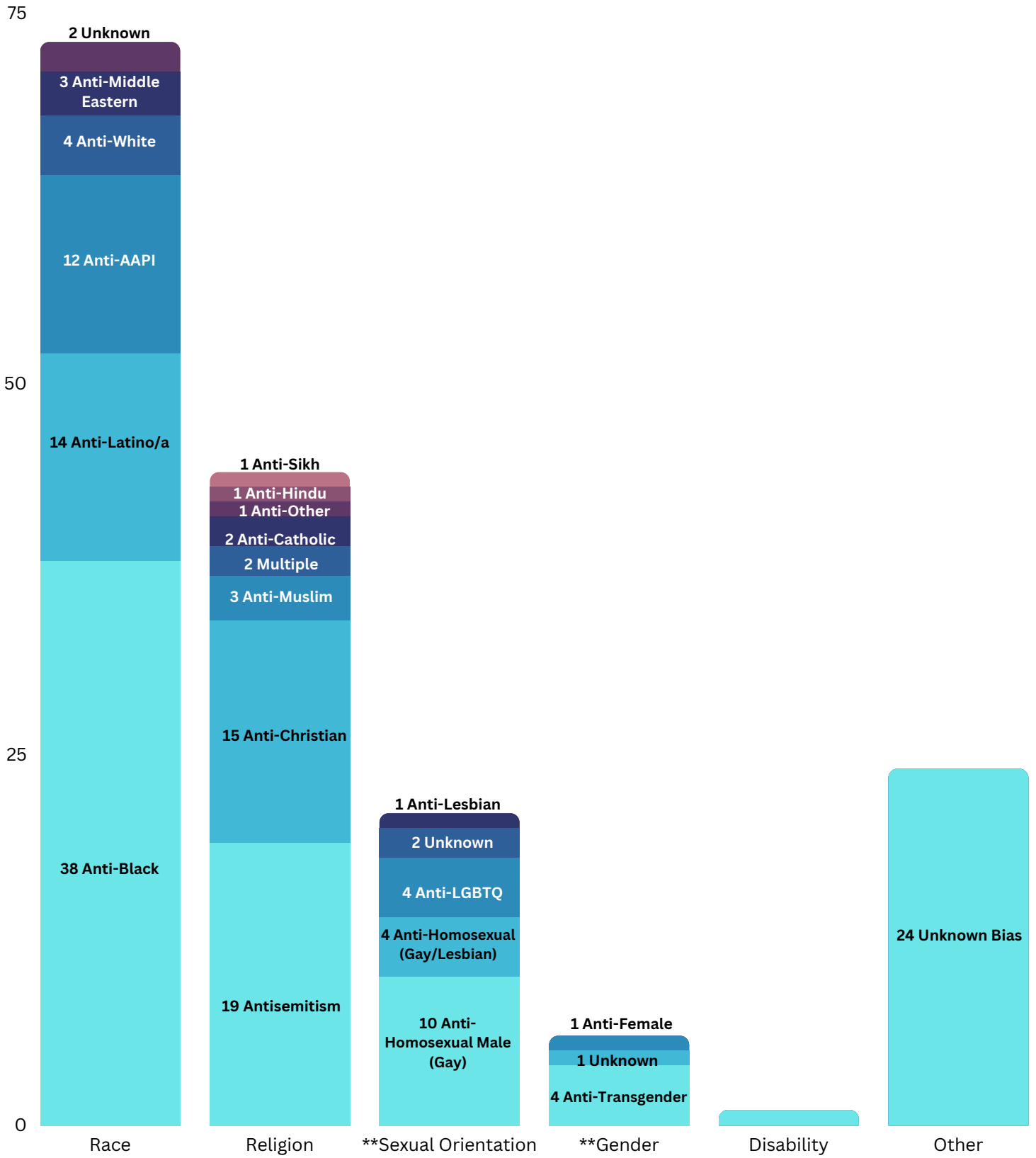
## WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OFFENDERS?

Men make up 85% of the offenders of hate crimes when gender was known, while women make up 15% of the offenders (73 men vs 13 women). There were 64 reports where the age of the offender was known and adults ages 26 to 40 made up 47% of offenders. In 97 reports, the race of the offender was known: 46% of offenders were identified as White/Caucasian, and 36% were identified as Latino/a.

## 2021 to 2022 OC HATE CRIME COMPARISON

Total number of reports:	2021	2022	% change
<i>hate crimes</i>	97	162	+67%
<i>motivated by race bias</i>	41	73	+78%
<i>motivated by religious bias</i>	15	44	+193%
<i>motivated by sexual orientation bias</i>	17	21	+24%
<i>with an anti-Black bias</i>	16	38	+138%
<i>with an anti-Latino/a bias</i>	7	14	+100%

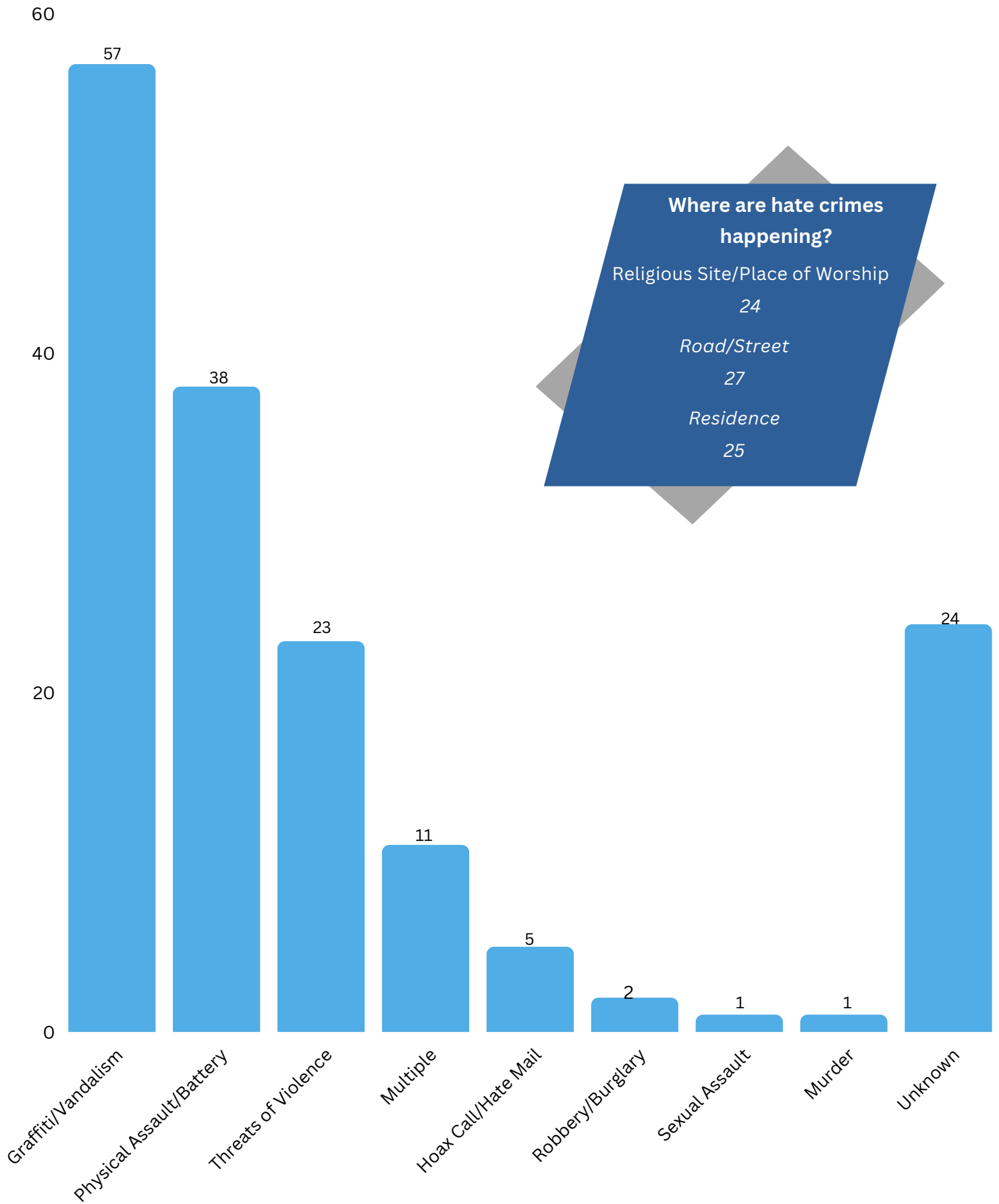
# HATE CRIMES 2022: BIAS MOTIVATION



\*Note: This graph does not add up to 162 due to some events presenting more than one bias.

\*\*Note: For Sexual Orientation & Gender bias categories, some reports included specific data on who was the target (i.e. Anti-Transgender) while other reports used general terms such as Anti-LGBTQ or Anti-Homosexual (Gay/Lesbian).

# HATE CRIMES 2022: Offense Type



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# 2022 Hate Incident Data

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# Analysis

## WHO HAS BEEN TARGETED?

Hate incidents were primarily motivated by the victim's race/ethnicity/national origin (55%), religion (27%), and sexual orientation (16%). Of hate incidents where the race/ethnicity of the victim was known and reported, 44% identified as black, indigenous, or as a person of color (BIPOC). More specifically, hate incidents were primarily motivated by anti-Black (43%), antisemitic (87%), and anti-Asian/Pacific Islander (21%) bias. Victims reported incidents of verbal/name calling (52%), harassment/taunting (22%), and discriminatory literature (8%).

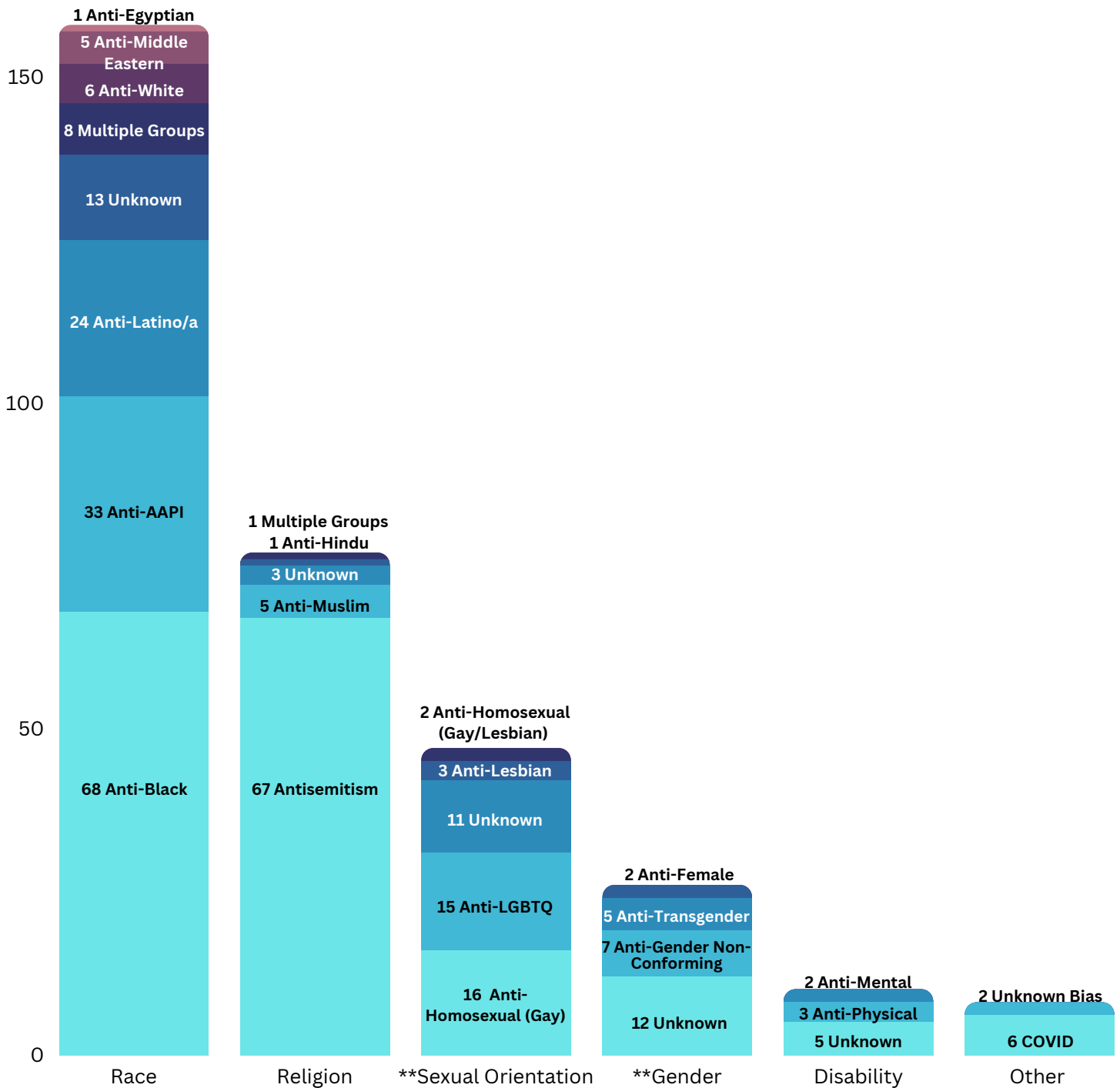
## WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OFFENDERS?

Men make up 76% of the offenders of hate incidents when gender was known, while women make up 24% of the offenders (129 men vs 40 women). There were 152 reports where the age of the offender was known: youth under 18 made up 58% of offenders followed by 24% of individuals over 40. In 153 reports, the race of the offender was known: 37% of offenders were identified as White/Caucasian, and 31% were identified as Latino/a.

## 2021 to 2022 OC HATE INCIDENT COMPARISON

<b>Total number of reports:</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>% change</b>
<i>hate incidents</i>	301	288	-4%
<i>in a school setting</i>	41	103	+151%
<i>motivated by race bias</i>	113	158	40%
<i>motivated by religious bias</i>	86	77	-10%
<i>motivated by sexual orientation bias</i>	18	47	+161%
<i>that occurred online</i>	7	25	+257%

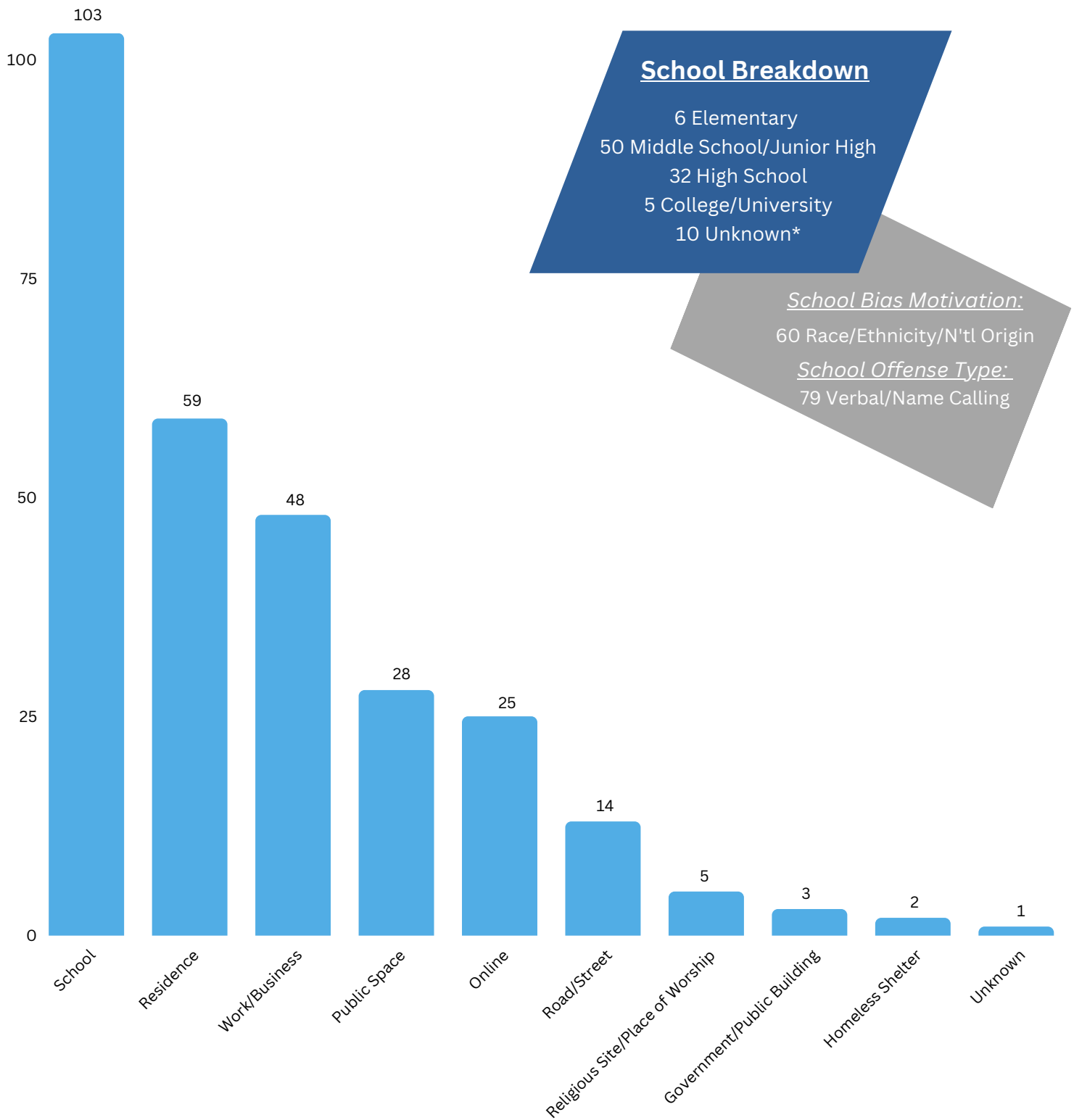
# HATE INCIDENTS 2022: Bias Motivation



\*Note: This graph does not add up to 288 due to some events presenting more than one bias.

\*\*Note: For Sexual Orientation & Gender bias categories, some reports included specific data on who was the target (i.e. Anti-Transgender) while other reports used general terms such as Anti-LGBTQ or Anti-Homosexual (Gay/Lesbian)

# HATE INCIDENTS 2022: LOCATION



\*Note: Reports did not specify grade level only indicated that incident happened at a “school.”



# Orange County District Attorney

## Summary of hate cases for 2022

Each year, the Orange County District Attorney's Office (OCDA) is responsible for reviewing possible hate crimes to determine whether any criminal charges, hate crimes or otherwise, should be filed.

These cases are submitted to the OCDA by local law enforcement agencies after an investigation by the agency and the identification of a possible suspect.

- In 2022, the OCDA received 37 cases that were directly referred to our office for hate crime consideration or initiated by our office. We filed hate crime charges for 16 of those cases.
- Nineteen of the cases were rejected for hate crimes and either non-hate crime charges were filed or the case was rejected entirely due to insufficient evidence to prove a crime occurred beyond a reasonable doubt. Two others were being reviewed at the time of this report's publishing deadline.
- The 16 cases that were filed as hate crimes involved crimes motivated by bias against race, national origin, religion, and sexual orientation.

Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer announced in 2021 the creation of its Hate Crimes Unit. The Hate Crimes Unit is overseen by the office's Special Prosecutions, an elite unit within the District Attorney's Office. The Hate Crimes Unit is focused on prosecuting crimes in which the perpetrators acted based on a bias against the victim's race, color, religion, national origin, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or gender.

The OCDA Hate Crimes Unit is staffed by three prosecutors, two investigators, and is supervised by the head of Special Prosecutions. In addition to prosecuting hate crimes, the Hate Crimes Unit works with our law enforcement partners to train first responders how to improve potential hate crime investigations as well as educating members of our community on how to identify hate crimes and hate incidents and how to effectively report them to law enforcement. Since January 2019, the OCDA's Office has prosecuted more than twice the number of hate crimes prosecuted in the previous 25 years by prior administrations.

“Hate is a venom that is sometimes deadly, sometimes debilitating – and always harmful, contaminating everyone and everything around it. Here in Orange County, we reject hate. As police officers and prosecutors, we never leave the side of victims. By prosecuting haters to the fullest extent of the law, we empower the victims of hate to be heard louder and stronger than the haters. We refuse to let hate be injected into our schools, our communities, and we refuse to let the beautiful diversity of Orange County be poisoned by those who target victims because of how they look, who they love, or what they believe in.”

– Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer



# Prevention Strategies

According to the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) in 2022, there were 1,225 active hate and anti-government groups in the United States, with 103 of these groups being involved in California, and 21 of these hate groups either having chapters in or calling Orange County home. Hate continues to rise around the world and here in Orange County with reported hate crimes and incidents rising by 94% compared to five years ago. We can see the trends and linkages both in the past history of our county as well as what is happening nationwide and worldwide as we look at and analyze our Hate Crimes Report data for 2022.

The Orange County Human Relations Commission (OCHRC) in collaboration with several local community partners offers many prevention strategies, trainings, and webinars for community members, educational institutions/districts, and organizations. It is clear that there is a need for a comprehensive and collective effort to keep the numbers from rising. These are just some examples of how a community can engage in a comprehensive approach to hate prevention.



Advocacy

Supporting anti-hate work through advocacy can look like monitoring anti-hate policies, encouraging county-wide anti-hate collaborations, and encouraging the investigation and use of restorative justice practices when hate occurs. While the voices of the most impacted should be at the forefront, everyone can be an advocate to stop hate.



Service Training

Training specific to individuals providing immediate services such as law enforcement, healthcare workers, and educators focused on identifying, investigating, and properly documenting hate crimes for potential prosecution, with emphasis on understanding diverse communities.



Reporting &  
Data Collection

Identifying and implementing safe, effective, and easy reporting mechanisms to encourage victims and witnesses to report. Accurate data on hate crimes is the initial step towards prevention efforts and policy.



Community Engagement  
& Education

Community awareness campaigns through outreach, workshops, and webinars challenge stereotypes and foster dialogues to increase understanding. Programs tailored for students, parents, and the community on how to create inclusive spaces, prevent bullying, and navigating social media with extremist content are just some examples.



**HATE**  
*HURTS US ALL*

# Anti-Hate Campaign

In response to the increase in hate activity, the Board of Supervisors reaffirmed its commitment to eradicating hate when it approved a \$1 million expansion program that paved the way for the Orange County Human Relations Commission to enhance and expand its efforts to address hate in Orange County.

The funding:

1. Improved accessibility to reporting platforms and resources that meet language, cultural, and diversity needs.
2. Improved community understanding and engagement to address hate and bias.
3. Expanded the network of organizations that engage in anti-hate work.
4. Created and implemented mobile-friendly ways to report hate.

## REPORT A HATE CRIME



**CALL US**

DIAL  
2-1-1 then  
press #6



**EMAIL US**

EMAIL  
ochateactivity  
@211OC.org



**TEXT US**

TEXT  
ochateactivity  
to 898211

**REPORT A**



**HATE CRIME**

You are not alone. Let's work *together*  
to fight against hate in *Orange County*.

# Victim Support & Assistance

The OC Human Relations Commission provides victims of hate crimes and hate incidents with support and appropriate resources. All services are confidential. The OC Human Relations Commission also provides presentations and puts 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 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 in crisis intervention and counseling
- Orientation to the criminal justice system
- Emergency financial assistance, support with property return, restitution assistance, filling compensation claims, temporary restraining orders, emergency transportation, and case status/disposition information.

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## VICTIM EXPERIENCES

Victims of a hate crime or incident may:

- Experience psychological distress
- Feel scared, vulnerable, worried, or targeted
- Lose trust in local law & safety enforcement
- Feel depressed, anxious, or preoccupied
- Feel unwelcome and dehumanized
- Stop doing things you previously enjoyed and felt safe doing
- Develop an "us vs. them" mentality

## SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR VICTIMS

Victims of a hate crime or incident can:

- Make a report & agree to receive referrals
- Talk to a counselor or case manager about emotions, thoughts, experiences, and needs
- Prioritize self-care
- Connect with others to rebuild a sense of community, connection, and interdependence
- Receive direct services through coordinated supporting agencies

# Resource Directory

Access California Services	(800) 287-1332
ACLU of Southern California, Orange County Branch	(213) 977-5253
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Orange County Office	(888) 349-9695
Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Orange County/Long Beach Region	(949) 679-3737
California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH)	(800) 844-1684
Cambodian Family Community Center	(714) 571-1966
CA Victim Compensation and Government Claim Board, Victim Support Hotline	(800) 777-9229
Council on American-Islamic Relations, Southern California (CAIR)	(714) 776-1847
Dayle McIntosh Center	(714) 621-330 or (949) 460-7784
Groundswell (formerly known as OC Human Relations Council)	(714) 480-6570
G.R.E.E.N. Foundation	(714) 210-7300
Fair Housing Council of Orange County	(714) 569-0823
Federal Bureau of Investigation Victim Assistance Program	(877) 236-8947
Japanese American Citizens League (Pacific Southwest Chapter)	(213) 626-4471
National Association for the Advancement of Color People	(657) 351-0168
OC Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA)	(714) 636-9095
Office of the Orange County District Attorney	(714) 834-3600
Office of Victim Services, California Attorney General	(877) 433-9069
Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)	(202) 467-8180
Sikh Council California	(877) 225-7454
Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)	(888) 414-7752
The LGBTQ Center of Orange County	(714) 953-5428
U.S. Department of Justice Office for Community Relations Service	(202) 305-2935
U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime	(202) 307-5983
Waymakers	(949) 250-0488

# Glossary of Terms\*

<b>Bias-Motivation Category</b>	a preexisting negative attitude toward actual or perceived characteristics categories: disability, gender, race/ethnicity/national origin, religion, sexual orientation
<b>Discriminatory Literature</b>	offensive literature/written words displayed or distributed publicly
<b>Destruction/Vandalism</b>	damage of property which can include graffiti, spray-paint, carving, or burning with discriminatory symbols, words, and/or messages
<b>Harassment</b>	unwelcome conduct that is aggressive, pressuring, menacing, and/or intimidating; harassment can be a crime
<b>Hate Incident</b>	an action or behavior motivated by bias against a characteristic of a protected social group but which, for one or more reasons, is not a crime
<b>Hoax calls/Hate mail</b>	voice, text, and/or written mail or messages that are targeted to specific individuals or groups; messages are deliberately fabricated or falsified information to spread judgment, rumors, or malicious deception
<b>Online Harassment</b>	unwelcome harassing behavior taking place online, including social media, text messages, and/or messaging apps
<b>Physical Violence</b>	application of physical force or pressure against another person with the intent to cause danger, harm, and/or pain
<b>Specific Bias</b>	a label that indicates with greater precision the bias-motivation category specific bias examples: Anti-Black, Antisemitic, Anti-LGBTQ, Anti-AAPI, Anti-Latinx, Anti-Mental Disability
<b>Type of Occurrence</b>	identification of hate activity as either a hate crime (criminal) or a hate incident (non-criminal)
<b>Type of Offense</b>	indication of type of criminal act or non-criminal behavior that occurred criminal offenses examples: assault, intimidation, theft, fraud, burglary, graffiti, damage to property, murder non-criminal offenses examples: harassment (unwelcome intimidation, name-calling, insults), displaying bias/hateful material on one's own private property, distribution of materials with hate messages in public places
<b>Verbal Harassment</b>	unwelcome use of oral, gestured, and/or written language with the intent to frighten, control, threaten, insult, and/or rebuke someone else in a public or private space

\*The glossary of terms has been developed and established by the State Attorney General and various federal agencies. Such terms have not been created, adopted, or approved by the Board of Supervisors, the OC Human Relations Commission, nor Orange County Community Resources.



# OC Human Relations Commission

[occr.ocgov.com/oc-human-relations-commission](http://occr.ocgov.com/oc-human-relations-commission)

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Vicente Sarmiento, Second District

Doug Chaffee, Fourth District

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