

HATE CRIME

IN CALIFORNIA



2001



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

- **CRIME EVENTS**
- **PROSECUTORIAL DATA**
- **TREND DATA**
- **DATA TABLES**
- **APPENDIX**

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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;
 - Examine these data on an ongoing basis to better describe crime and the criminal justice system;
 - Promote the responsible presentation and use of crime statistics.
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HATE CRIME REPORT

Hate Crime in California, 2001 has a new look this year. It has been expanded to provide more hate crime data, including a Trend Data section, that covers seven years with Data Tables and additional charts summarizing the data in a user-friendly format.

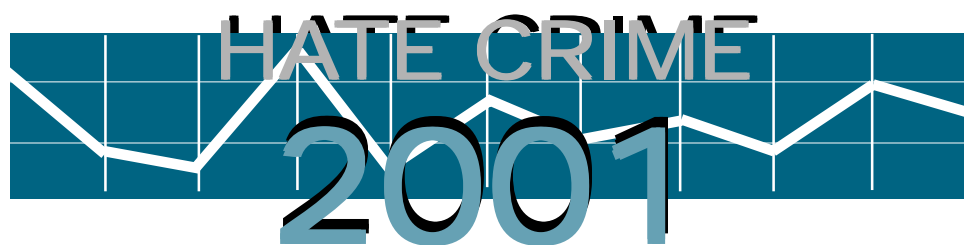
Hate crimes are among the most dehumanizing of crimes. A hate crime is defined as any criminal act or attempted criminal act that is motivated by hatred based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or mental/physical disability. Hate crimes impact not only their victims, but also spread concern throughout entire communities. Many victims of hate crimes have long experienced such violence, and the fear and pain of a recurrence of historical injustice is deep and pervasive.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, have had a profound impact on our country and each of us as individuals. As a country, we have entered a new era of increased security measures, a war on terrorism, and a commitment to bring those responsible for these terrorist acts to justice. As individuals, it has caused many Californians to reflect on our love for country, to come together and generously support the families of the victims, and resolve to become even more caring members of society. For some, in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, it brought fear, anger, and suspicion of Middle Eastern people. For a few, unfortunately, it brought out hatred aimed at either Muslims or people of Arab ancestry, or those appearing to be Middle Eastern, to perpetrators targeting these people. Hate crime events specifically targeting Arab or Middle Eastern victims - reported as anti-other ethnicity/national origin - increased by 345.8 percent over last year's total for this bias motivation category.

Hate crimes in total, also increased. Here are a few of the increases for 2001: hate crime events increased by 304 to 2,261; hate crime offenses increased by 263 to 2,265; victims of hate crimes increased by 460 to 2,812; and known suspects of hate crimes increased by 372 to 2,479.

This report represents more than crime statistics. These assaults on California, the nation's most diverse state, tarnish the opportunities and ideals that have brought us all to this great state to live. As Californians, we must unite to fight the forces that seek to divide us and continue to report, investigate, and prosecute hate violence.

BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General



HIGHLIGHTS

CRIME DATA

In 2001:

- **Hate crime events** increased 15.5 percent over events reported for the year 2000 (2,261 vs. 1,957).
- **The number of victims** of reported hate crimes increased 19.6 percent over the number of victims reported for the year 2000 (2,812 vs. 2,352).
- **The number of known suspects** of reported hate crimes increased 17.7 percent over suspects reported for the year 2000 (2,479 vs. 2,107).

BIAS MOTIVATION

In 2001:

- **Anti-other ethnicity/national origin*** hate crime events increased 345.8 percent over the year 2000 (428 vs. 96) because of anti-Arab hate crimes.
- **Anti-Islamic** hate crime events increased by 70 over anti-Islamic hate crime events reported in the year 2000 (73 vs. 3).
- **Anti-Jewish** hate crime events decreased 25.4 percent in contrast to anti-Jewish hate crime events reported in the year 2000 (176 vs. 236).

PROSECUTORIAL DATA

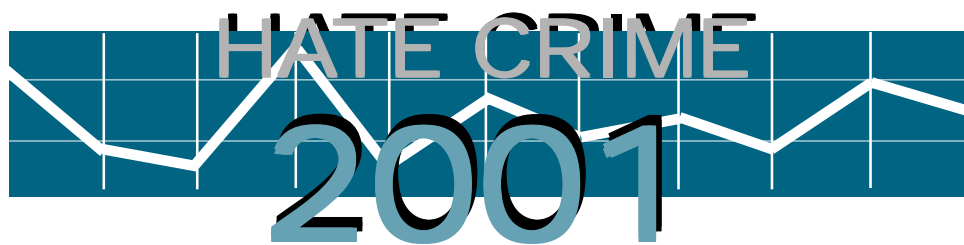
In 2001:

- **314 complaints were filed** as hate crimes by District Attorneys. 207 convictions were obtained; 136 were for hate crimes and 71 were for other non-bias motivated crimes.

TREND DATA

- **Anti-Asian/Pacific Islander** hate crime offenses decreased 37.2 percent in 2001 in contrast to the mean (average) for this bias motivation category for the years 1995-2000. Anti-Asian/Pacific Islander hate crime offenses have continually decreased each year since they peaked in 1996 with 180 hate crime offenses.
- **Anti-white** hate crime offenses decreased 29.7 percent in 2001 in contrast to the 1995-2000 mean for this bias motivation category. Anti-white hate crime offenses have continued to decrease, with the exception of 2000, since they peaked in 1996 with 260 hate crime offenses.
- **Aggravated assault** offenses decreased 19.4 percent in 2001 in contrast to the 1995-2000 mean for this type of crime. Aggravated assault offenses have continued to decrease, with the exception of 2000, since they peaked in 1996 with 391 aggravated assault offenses.

*Anti-other ethnicity/national origin includes Arab and Middle Eastern bias motivated hate crimes.

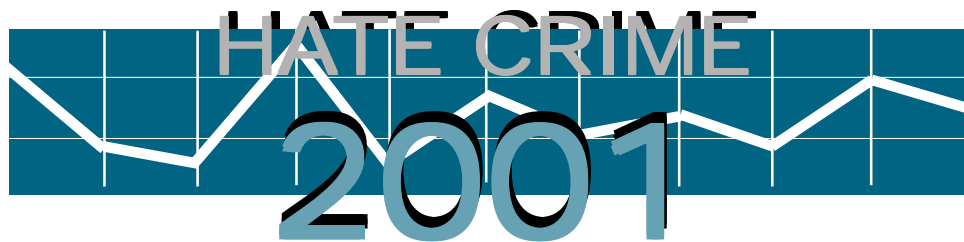


OVERVIEW

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 eighth annual publication, and seventh full year report, *Hate Crime in California, 2001*, includes data for January 1 through December 31, 2001. This year, for the first time, this report provides trend data.

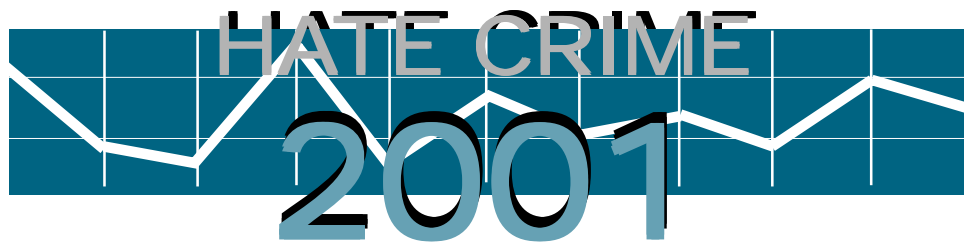
As defined in California Penal Code Section 13023 (see Appendix 1), a hate crime is any criminal act or attempted criminal act motivated by hatred based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. These crimes must be reported to the Department of Justice (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.



CONTENTS

Staff / Mission Statement	ii	DATA TABLES	
Attorney General's Message	iii	Hate Crime, 2001	
Highlights	iv	Table 1 Events, Offenses, Victims, and Known Suspects by Bias-Motivation	24
Overview	v	Table 2 Events, Offenses, Victims, and Known Suspects by Type of Crime	25
Introduction	2	Table 3 Events, Offenses, Victims, and Known Suspects by Location	26
Crime Events, 2001		Table 4 Victim Type by Bias Motivation	27
Bias Motivation	6	Table 5 Victim Type by Type of Crime	28
Race/Ethnicity/National Origin	6	Table 6 Victim Type by Location	29
Type of Crime	7	Table 7 Events, Offenses, Victims, and Known Suspects by County and Jurisdiction ..	30
Violent Crime	7	Table 8 Hate Crime Case Filings and Dispositions	36
Property Crime	7	Table 9 Cases Referred by Law Enforcement Agencies and Type of Filings	37
Location	8	Table 10 Hate Crime Case Dispositions	39
Type of Victim	8		
Individual Victims	9		
Institutional Victims	9		
Prosecutorial Data, 2001		Hate Crime, 1995-2001	
Total Cases Filed for Prosecution	12	Table 11 Hate Crime Complaints Filed and Total Convictions	41
Total Convictions	12	Table 12 Events by Bias Motivation	42
Hate Crime Convictions	13	Table 13 Events by Type of Crime	43
Hate Crime Prosecution Dispositions, 2001 ..	13	Table 14 Offenses by Bias Motivation	44
		Table 15 Offenses by Type of Crime	45
		Table 16 Offenses by Location of	46
Trend Data, 1995-2001			
Events, Offenses, Victims, and Known Suspects	16	Appendix	
Total Bias Motivation	17	Data Characteristics and Known Limitations	48
Selected Bias Motivation Categories	17	California Penal Code Section 13023	50
Type of Crime	19	Criminal Justice Glossary	51
Violent Crime	20		
Property Crime	21		
Location of Crime	22		



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, national origin*, 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 was provided by the Department of Justice. 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 eighth report and covers the period January 1 through December 31, 2001.

BACKGROUND

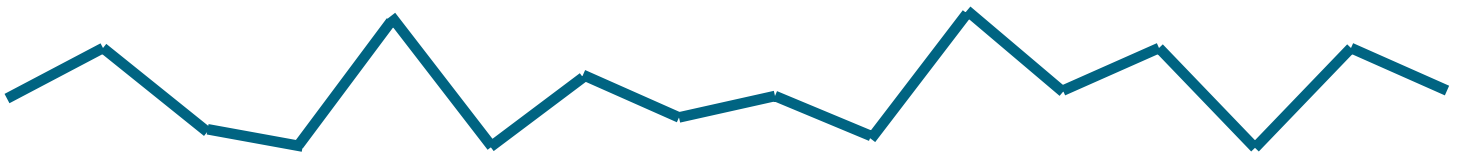
In January 1986, the California Department of Justice (DOJ) submitted a report to the Legislature in response to Senate Bill 2080 (Watson). This report, entitled *Racial, Ethnic, and Religious Crime Project, Preliminary Steps to Establish Statewide Collection of Data*, recommended the following:

- 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.

more 

* Effective January 1, 2001, national origin was added as an additional bias motivation category to Penal Code Section 13023 (see Appendix 1).



BACKGROUND (continued)

The federal "Hate Crime Statistics Act," Public Law 101-275, which became law on April 23, 1990, requires 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 by their office on a standard form. We now collect and report additional prosecutorial information, such as: total cases referred by law enforcement agencies in the prosecution's jurisdiction, the total number of dispositions on filed cases, and further breakdowns of conviction information.

METHODOLOGY

To ensure a consistent standard and quality control function, the DOJ requests that each agency establish a two-tier review process of possible bias-motivated crimes before they are reported to the DOJ as hate crimes.

Reports of hate crimes 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 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 System. The data reflected in this report are gathered from this system. The newly added hate crime Trend Data section is based on accumulated data for the years 1995-2001.

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■ TREND DATA ■ DATA TABLES ■ APPENDIX

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➡ AG's Home Page