

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

2017 HATE CRIME REPORT

Executive Summary

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (Commission) has produced an annual Hate Crime Report since 1980, one of the longest running reports of its kind in the nation. Hate crimes are serious violations of state, federal and international law. The Commission collects reports from every law enforcement agency in Los Angeles County, as well as from some colleges, school districts, and community-based organizations, and directly from victims (See page 47).

Yet, hate crimes documented in this and other reports represent only a portion of hate crimes actually committed in 2017. **The U.S. Justice Department reported in 2017 that more than half of all hate-motivated incidents, including hate crimes, were not reported to law enforcement during 2011-2015.** (See page 4.)

Nationally, the number of hate groups in the U.S. totaled 954 in 2017, and grew for a third year in a row, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. **The California Attorney General reported an 11 % increase in reported hate crimes statewide in 2017.**

Significant findings of this report include:

- **There were 508 hate crimes reported in the County in 2017**, a 5% increase from the previous year. For the past 4 years, hate crimes have been trending upwards and since 2013 there has been a 32% rise.
- After declining significantly the previous year, **anti-black hate crimes rose 15%** from 112 to 129. African Americans only comprise 9% of L.A. County residents but make up 50% of racial hate crime victims. (See page 24.) African Americans were also over-represented as victims of sexual orientation and anti-transgender crimes.
- After spiking 67% the previous year, **white supremacist crimes declined 11%**. Still, there were 93 reported. (See page 15.)
- **Anti-Latino/a* crimes rose for the third year in a row**, from 62 to 72, a 16% increase. (See page 24.) Latino/as were the most likely of any racial/ethnic group to be victims of violent racially-motivated crime (77%). Suspects used anti-immigrant slurs in 40% of these cases.
- **Crimes targeting gay men, lesbians and LGBT organizations declined 8%** but constituted 21% of all reported hate crimes. Seventy-six percent of these crimes were of a violent nature, a rate higher than those motivated by race (63%) or religion (20%). 100% of anti-lesbian crimes were of a violent nature. (See page 30.)
- **There were 101 religious crimes, the same number as the previous year.** They comprised 20% of all hate crimes and 72% were anti-Jewish. (See page 34.) 24 hate crimes were anti-Muslim/Middle Eastern or referenced Middle East conflict.
- **Anti-transgender crimes were the highest number ever reported (33)**, and 94% were of a violent nature. (See page 37.)
- **The overall rate of violence declined from 61% to 56%** but aggravated assaults rose 47% (See page 13.)

By providing the extensive information contained in this report on hate crimes in Los Angeles County, the Commission helps law enforcement as well as educational, community, governmental and faith based agencies to more effectively prevent and respond to this serious violation of human rights.

*In traditional Spanish, the masculine noun "Latino" is used to refer to men and women of Latin American heritage. "Latino/a" is an alternative term that is more gender-inclusive.