



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

2016 HATE CRIME REPORT

Executive Summary

The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) has produced an annual Hate Crime Report since 1980, one of the longest running reports of its kind in the nation. The Commission collects reports from nearly every law enforcement agency in Los Angeles County, from which it derives the majority (85%) of its data. (See page 51.) Given the well-documented problem of underreporting, reports are also collected from school districts and universities, community-based organizations and directly from victims. **There were 482 documented hate crime victims reported in the County in 2016, one less than 2015. This represents a continued elevated level from 2015, when there was a 24% increase over the previous year and the highest total since 2011.** (See page 8.)

Significant findings include:

- **For the first time in many years, gay men, lesbians and LGBT organizations comprise the group most frequently targeted** for hate crime reported in the County, while also experiencing a high rate of violence (81%). (See page 12.) There were 118 crimes based on sexual orientation in 2016, comprising nearly one-quarter of all hate crimes. (See page 10.)
- **Hate crimes in which there was evidence of white supremacist ideology grew 67%**, from 63 to 105. This constituted 22% of all hate crimes reported in 2016, which is up from 13% the previous year. These were mostly acts of vandalism in which swastikas or other hate symbols were used. (See page 14.)
- **Anti-black hate crimes declined 19%**, from 139 to 112. This was partly due to a drop in the number of hate crimes by Latino gang members that targeted African Americans. (See page 15.) Nonetheless, reported racial hate crimes in the County disproportionately targeted African Americans, who represent only about 9% of County residents but were 46% of the victims of racial hate crime. (See page 22.)
- **Hate crimes during the post-presidential election period (from November 8, 2016 until year end) increased 9%**, from 75 to 82. It is important to note that the 75 crimes during the same period in 2015 represented a sharp 47% rise from the previous year, due in part to the 13 anti-Muslim/Middle Eastern crimes following terrorist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino. (See page 38.)
- **Gender-based crimes spiked by 77%**, from 22 to 39. Most of these were anti-transgender crimes, which jumped from 18 to 31, a 72% increase. The largest victim group was Latina transgender women. 97% of the anti-transgender crimes were of a violent nature, the highest of any major victim group. (See page 35.)
- **Religious hate crimes remained at a high level (101)**, with 67% disproportionately targeting the Jewish community, followed by Muslims (15%) and Christians (16%). (See page 32.)
- **After jumping 69% in 2015, anti-Latino crimes increased slightly**, from 61 to 62, comprising 26% of all racial hate crimes. The rate of violence for these crimes was high at 77%. (See page 21.)
- **Anti-white crimes jumped by 145%**, from 11 to 27. The only racial/ethnic group to experience a sharp increase in hate crimes were whites. However, hate crimes against whites still occurred at a lower rate than other ethnic groups, as whites make up nearly 28% of the County's population, but were 11% of hate crime victims. (See page 22.)
- **Youth (under 18) as suspects of hate crimes continued to decline**, from more than 40% of hate crime suspects in 2006 to less than 10% of suspects in 2016. During this period, youth have gone from the largest age group of hate crime suspects to the smallest. (See page 18.)

By providing the extensive information on hate crimes in Los Angeles County contained in this report, 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.