



# 2020 ORANGE COUNTY HATE CRIMES REPORT

***1800% increase motivated by anti-Asian Hate***



**A report from the County of Orange**

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE OC HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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This past year was challenging for many members of the Orange County community. Many families continued to be impacted in different ways due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our community wrestled with the economic and emotional impact of the lock-down and physical separation from loved ones. A dangerous riot took place in the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. Two months later, a mass shooting at three massage parlors in Atlanta, Georgia took place - taking the lives of Delaina Ashley Yaun, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Paul Andre Michels, Elcias R. Hernandez-Ortiz, Hyun Jung Grant, Soon Chung Park, Suncha Kim, and Yong Ae Yue.

In this past year alone, the Commission has seen an increase in racial violence and injustice amongst communities of color, and in particular towards the Asian and Black community across the nation. Unfortunately, Orange County was not the exception to the hate and bigotry we were witnessing. The county has witnessed an increase in hate activities towards, but not limited to, different ethnic groups, political affiliations, religious groups, and the trans-community.

However, when we reflect on the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Human Relations Commission has also seen tremendous resilience and eagerness to address these different areas of injustice across our neighborhoods, businesses, and institutions. Some examples include, but are not limited to, the "To Know Better" Anti-Hate campaign efforts to address the increase in hate, facilitating community dialogues on race relations, and reimagining what critical care can look like in Orange County.

The Commission is committed to seeking out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and fight to eliminate those causes. Let's come together to continue the fight against all forms of injustice and inequity.

For the Commission I am,

Jo-Anne P. Matsuba, Commission Chair  
OC Human Relations Commission

# WHAT ARE HATE CRIMES AND HATE INCIDENTS?

## What is a hate crime?

In California, a hate crime is defined by the Attorney General as a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group of persons with one or more of the preceding actual or perceived characteristics.

## Examples of hate crimes are:

- Painting racist, homophobic, and/or religious graffiti on private property.
- Burning a cross on an individual's lawn.
- An assault.
- A criminal threat of violence against an individual or a group.
- Attempted murder or murder.

## What is a hate incident?

A hate incident is a behavior motivated by hate or bias toward a person's actual or perceived disability, gender identity, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation but is not criminal in nature. Typically, these behaviors are protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression. If this type of behavior escalates to threats being made or carried out against a person or property, or becomes an incitement to commit violence, it would be classified as a hate crime.

## Examples of hate incidents are:

- Distribution of non-threatening racist flyers in a public place.
- Anti-gay or lesbian placards at a parade or funeral.
- Writing a letter to the editor ridiculing people with disabilities.
- Painting racist graffiti on a freeway overpass. (police would categorize it as a crime but not a hate crime.)

## A hate crime or incident may have occurred if any of the following were present:

- There was a perception the victim was targeted because of their race, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, etc.
- The perpetrator wrote or spoke in a manner indicating bias.
- The date of the incident or crime coincides with a date of significance to the victim's religion, nationality, ethnicity, etc.



## Defining Different Types of Hate Crimes:

- Simple Assault: Willfully inflict bodily harm.
- Aggravated Assault: Willfully inflict bodily harm with a deadly weapon.
- Sexual Assault: Unwanted sexual touching, fondling, or attempted rape.
- Intimidation: To intentionally say or do something which would cause a person of ordinary sensibilities to be fearful of bodily harm.
- Theft: The criminal act of stealing or removing an item without permission from the owner.
- Fraud: Wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in personal or financial gain.
- Burglary: Illegal entry into a location with the intent to steal or commit a crime.
- Graffiti: Drawings or writings sprayed, scribbled, or scratched onto a public wall or surface.
- Damage to property: Property defaced by graffiti or inscribed material.
- Murder: The unlawful and premeditated killing of another person.

## Defining Different Types of Hate Incidents:

- Verbal Abuse: When words are used to frighten, control, threaten, insult, or curse at someone else in a public or private space.
- Harassment: Intimidation or aggressive pressure.
- Bullying/Intimidation: Intentionally saying or doing something which would cause a person to be fearful of bodily harm.
- Hoax Calls: Deliberately fabricated or falsified information to spread judgment, rumors, or malicious deception.
- Hate Mail: Threatening letters sent to an individual or group.
- Online Abuse: Any type of abuse taking place online, including social media, text messages, and/or messaging apps.
- Discriminatory Literature/Posters: Written documents discriminatory in nature. It is used to exclude, create disadvantages, or create disadvantages for different individuals or groups.

# WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM VICTIMIZED?

1

Call the police or sheriff's department immediately and make a report.

2

Obtain medical attention if needed. Be sure to keep all medical documentation.

3

Leave all evidence in place. Do not touch, remove, and/or clean up anything.

4

Document what happened for evidence by taking photographs and writing down exactly what was said, particularly any words indicating bias, motivation, and other information that may be valuable.

5

Get the name(s), address(es), and phone number(s) of other victims or witnesses.

6

If possible, write down a description of the perpetrator and the perpetrator's vehicle.

7

Report the occurrence.

***To report a hate crime, please call 714-480-6570.***



# ANALYSIS: HATE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS INCREASED IN 2020

## Methodology

The 2020 Hate Crimes Report is intended to inform all residents of the human relations climate in Orange County. The OC Human Relations Commission receives reports from law enforcement, school districts, colleges, universities, community-based organizations, and individuals. Stop AAPI Hate, a non-profit tracking incidents of hate and discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, also reported hate incidents and crimes motivated by anti-Asian discrimination in Orange County. The data provided by Stop AAPI Hate was also included in the total number of hate incidents and hate crimes in this report.

Duplicates are eliminated, and reports are verified to meet the criteria of the legal definition of hate crime in the California penal code. This report also includes hate incident data, which helps identify red flags for trends and potential hate crimes. The statistics help to inform and engage the community to strengthen educational programs, training, and activities to confront and stop acts of hate.

The collection of data and hate crime prevention work is a collaborative effort, and as a community, we need to continue educating, intervening, but, most importantly, preventing hate crimes and hate incidents.

Hate crime and hate incident reports provided are voluntary and confidential, which may have resulted in limited categorical data that has been labeled as “unknown” for the purposes of this report.

## Increase in Hate Crimes Amidst a Global Pandemic

Orange County experienced 112 reported hate crimes in 2020, a 35% increase from 2019. In the last five years, hate crimes have steadily been on the rise with the largest jump occurring between 2016 to 2020.

In 2020 alone, there was an alarming rise in hate incidents. There was a 69% increase in the total number of hate incidents reported in 2020. Of the 263 reported cases, there was a 114% increase in anti-Semitic hate incidents, an 1800% increase motivated by anti-Asian hate, and a 23% increase motivated by anti-Black hate.

## Types of Criminal Offenses Reported as Hate Crimes in 2020

The most commonly reported hate-based criminal offense was anti-Black (27%) followed by anti-Semitic (11%), and anti-Hispanic (8%). These three offenses comprised 46% of all reported hate crimes.



# ANALYSIS: HATE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS INCREASED IN 2020

## Targets of Hate Crimes

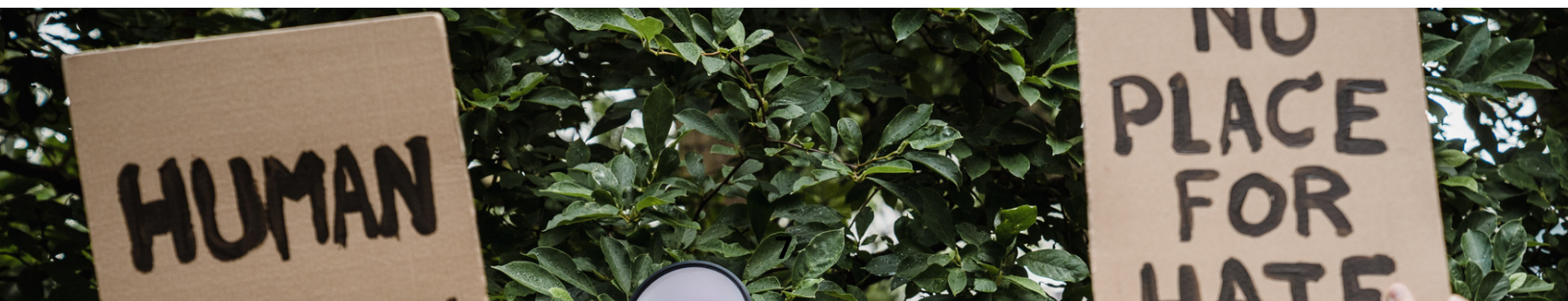
Hate crimes were primarily motivated by the person's race, ethnicity, or national origin (68% of the total); religious intolerance (21%); and anti-lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer (LGBTQ+) (11%).

## 2019 to 2020 Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Comparison

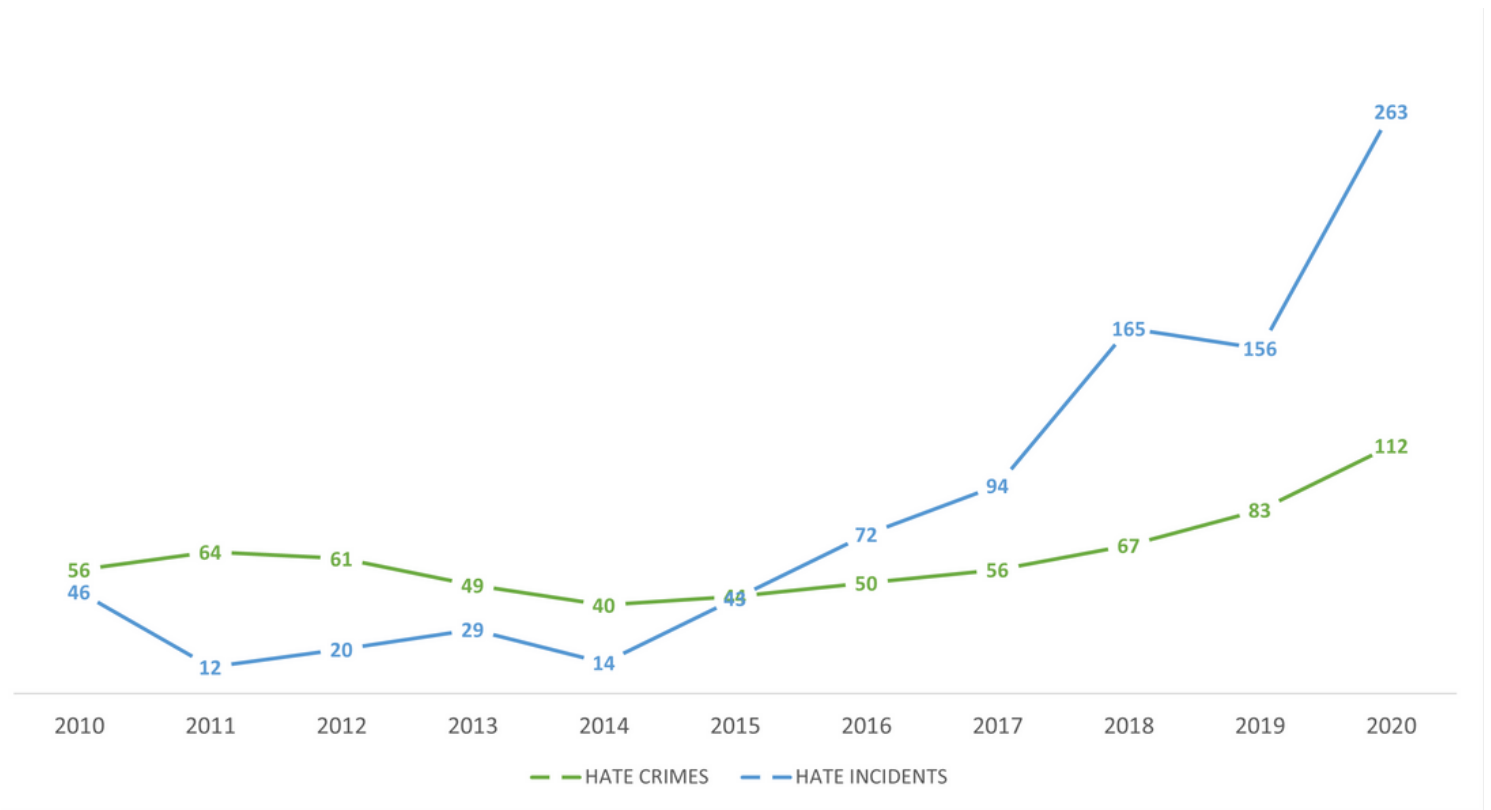
- A total of 112 hate crimes were reported in Orange County - a 35% increase from 2019.
- A total of 263 hate incidents were reported in Orange County - a 69% increase from 2019.
- Seven reported hate crimes and 76 reported hate incidents related to anti-Asian discrimination in 2020. This is a 40% increase in anti-Asian hate crimes and an 1800% increase in anti-Asian hate incidents.
- Four reported hate crimes related to anti-Buddhism discrimination in 2020. No reported hate crimes related to anti-Buddhism in 2019.
- There were six hate crimes motivated by anti-Arab discrimination in 2020. No reported hate crimes related to anti-Arab in 2019.
- A total of 94 hate incidents and 12 hate crimes related to anti-Semitism discrimination. This is an increase of 50 hate incidents in the past year.

## Examples of Hate Incidents

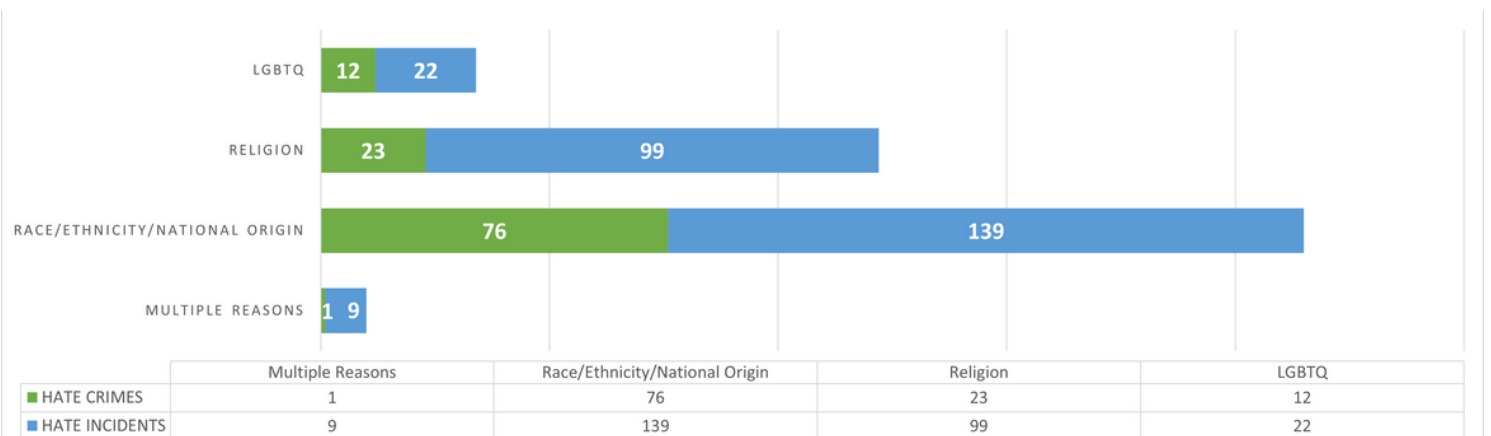
- A stranger yelled "f\*\*\*ing Chinese. Coronavirus" at an Asian family near a gas station.
- A Black woman is called the n-word by a neighbor. The male-identified neighbor points at the man as if to shoot.
- Protestors were advocating for action against the murder of George Floyd when a man yelled "white power," "f\*ck black lives," "come to my neighborhood and I will show you what white boys are about" and "f\*ck n\*\*\*\*\*" while holding a Trump flag out of his window.
- A stranger made racist and religious rhetorics towards a woman wearing a hijab.
- A video was posted on Twitter by a former high school student with anti-immigrant rhetoric. A rap video centered around how she wants to beat immigrants with 2x4s and put their heads on sticks.
- A transgender woman was verbally attacked and was told "you transvestite, I wish you die, people like you shouldn't live"



## THE 10-YEAR TREND FOR HATE CRIMES AND HATE INCIDENTS IN ORANGE COUNTY



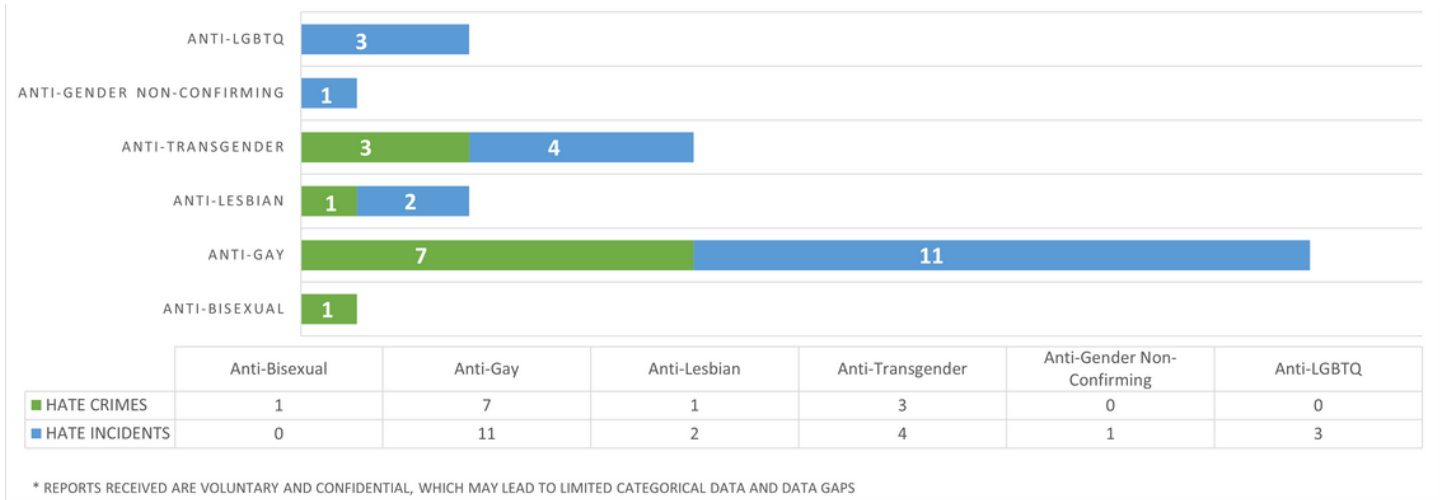
## 2020 HATE CRIME VS HATE INCIDENT COMPARISON: MOTIVATION BREAKDOWN



\* REPORTS RECEIVED ARE VOLUNTARY AND CONFIDENTIAL, WHICH MAY LEAD TO LIMITED CATEGORICAL DATA AND DATA GAPS

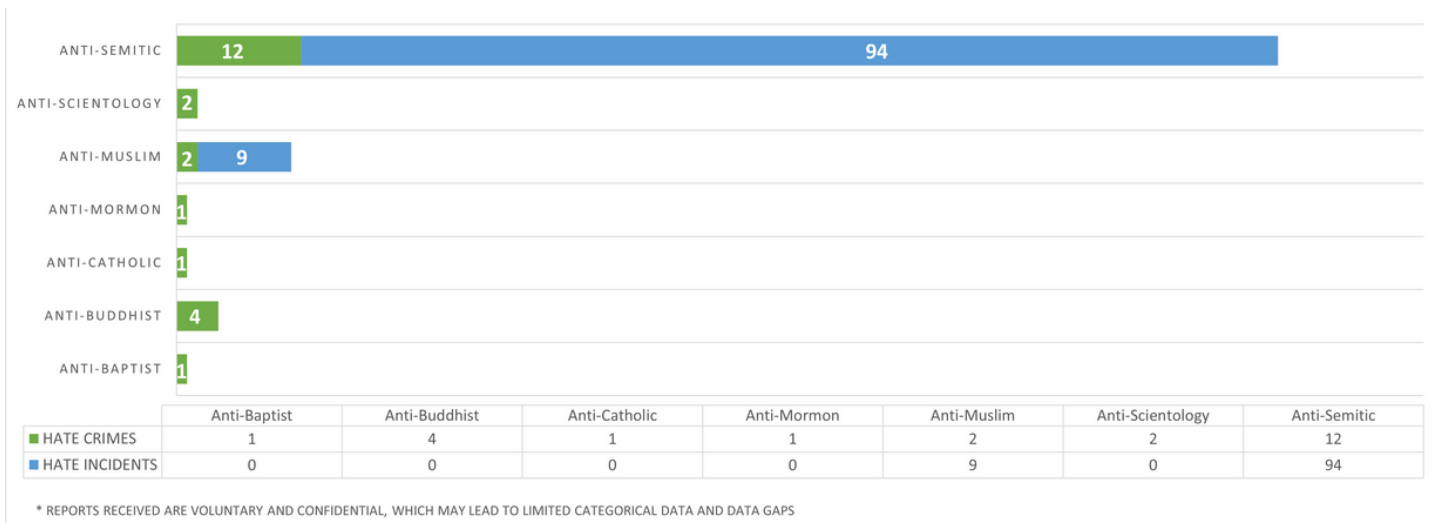


## MOTIVATION BREAKDOWN BY LGBTQ+ IDENTITIES

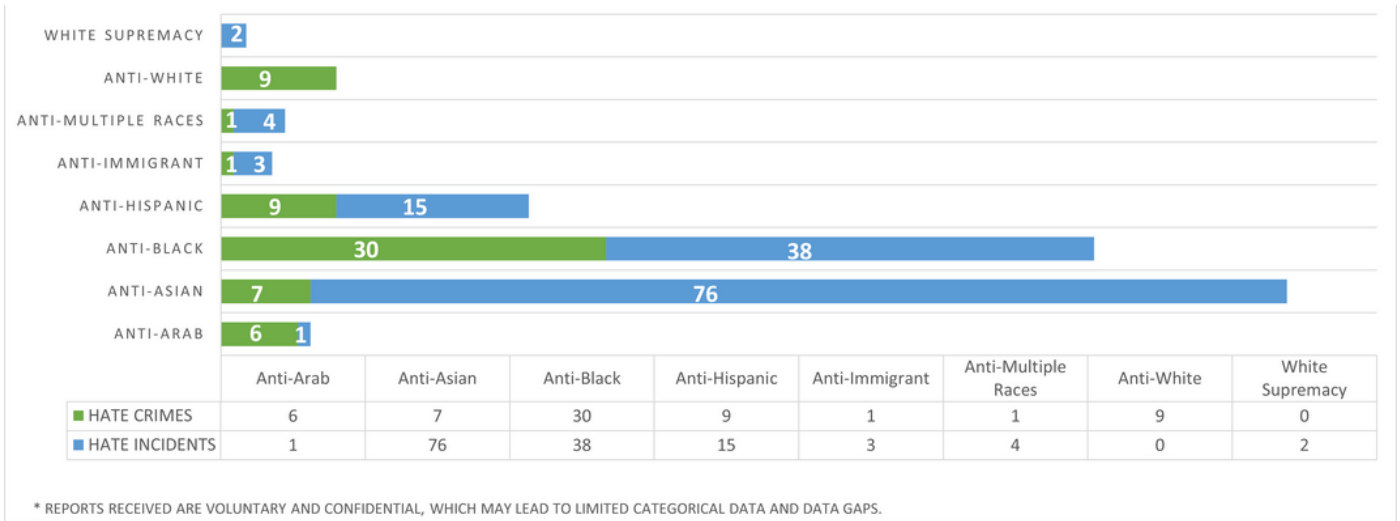


Note: Anti-LGBTQ category are unspecified reports.

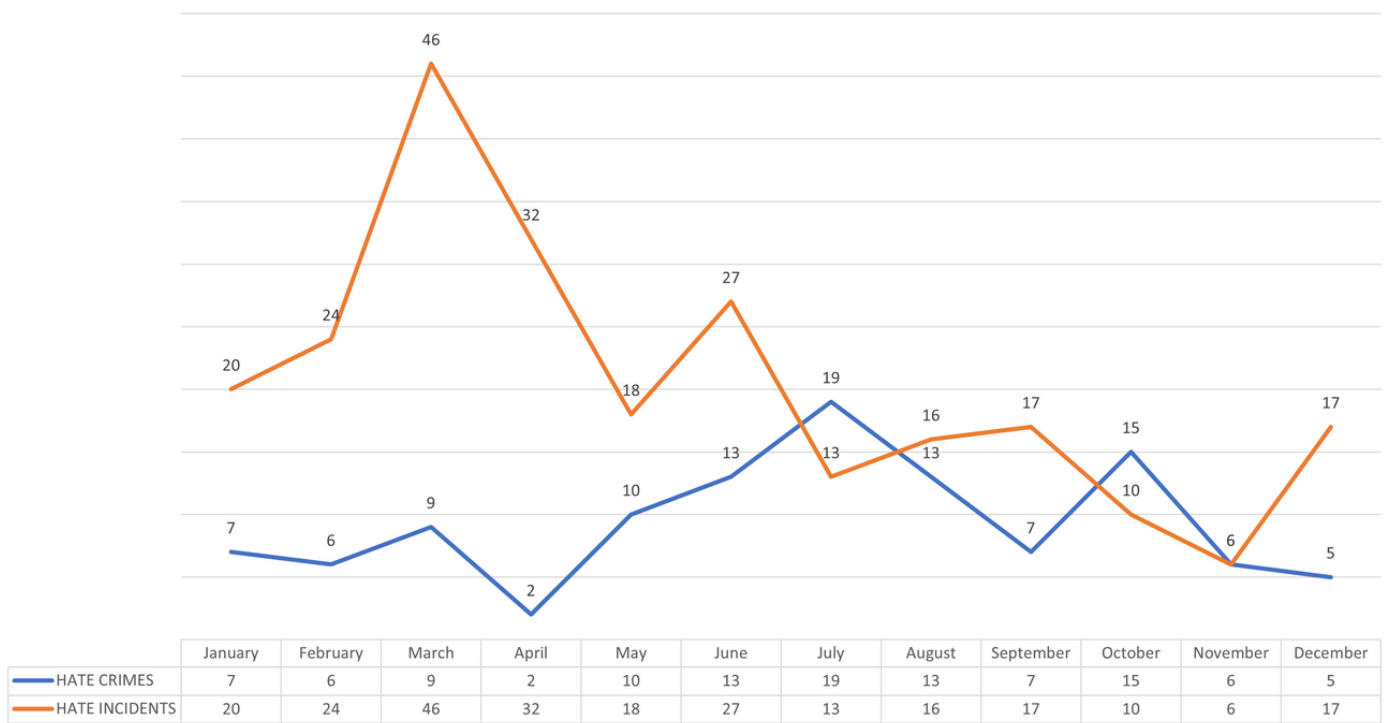
## MOTIVATION BREAKDOWN BY RELIGION



# MOTIVATION BREAKDOWN BY RACE/ETHNICITY/NATIONAL ORIGIN



## 2020 HATE CRIME VS HATE INCIDENTS BY MONTH



Note: In the month to month, 17 cases did not provide month nor date information, which is why it is not included in the month to month chart.

# TO KNOW BETTER OC

## OVERVIEW

As COVID-related discrimination and xenophobia reached an all-time high in 2020, Orange County Human Relations Commission responded by launching an anti-hate initiative named "To Know Better." This multimedia campaign contest was designed to promote cultural acceptance through the voices of Orange County middle and high schoolers.

## RESULTS

A total of 29 Orange County middle and high schools answered the call with over 100 campaign submissions. Each District chose a winning school, and each winning school received funds toward anti-hate initiatives; professional help in bringing those initiatives to life; and a strong communications campaign to add to their college, job, or internship applications.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNING SCHOOLS

- DISTRICT 1 - Samueli Academy
- DISTRICT 2 - Los Alamitos High
- DISTRICT 3 - Woodbridge High
- DISTRICT 4 - Western High
- DISTRICT 5 - San Juan Hills High

Have you been the victim of a hate crime in Orange County? OC Human Relations would like to know. Call our confidential hotline at 714-480-6570.



**Together, We  
Can Know  
Better.**

**COVID-19 Doesn't Discriminate. So  
Why Are Racism and Discrimination  
Unintended Symptoms?**



# ORANGE COUNTY OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SUMMARY OF HATE CASES FOR 2020

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 2020, the OCDA received 30 such cases for consideration and filed charges for 18 of them.
- Four of the cases were rejected and eight were pending the completion of additional investigation.
- Eight of the filed cases included hate crime charges. The cases referred for filing consideration included crimes motivated by bias against race, religion, and sexual orientation.
- From 2016-2020, the OCDA saw an increase in the number of hate crimes reported to police agencies.

## ***District Attorney Spitzer Announces Creation of New Hate Crimes Unit***

The Orange County District Attorney's Office is proud to announce the creation of its Hate Crimes Unit. This new unit will be overseen by the office's Special Prosecutions, an elite unit within the District Attorney's Office dedicated to seeking justice in the highest-profile cases. The Hate Crimes Unit will be dedicated to 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 newly created unit is staffed by three prosecutors, two investigators, and is supervised by the head of Special Prosecutions. Since January 2019, the Orange County District Attorney's Office has prosecuted more than twice the number of hate crimes that compared to the number of hate crimes prosecuted in the previous 25 years by prior administrations.

"We cannot change who we are and no one should be targeted and victimized because of who they are, how they look, or whom they love. The beauty of Orange County is found in its diversity. Hate will not be tolerated here. By working to educate our communities, better training our law enforcement officers, and sending a strong message to haters that hate-motivated crimes will not be tolerated, we are preventing hate crimes from ever occurring, and when they do occur we are standing up for victims and holding haters accountable."

# WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT HATE IN YOUR CITY?

## ***Educate Yourself and Others***

Understand what a hate crime and hate incident is. Share the information with others.

## ***Promote Acceptance***

Start with yourself. Look at your own biases. Reach out to people outside your own groups. Model respect, promote acceptance, and address hate incidents before they escalate to hate crimes. Hold events promoting diversity and acceptance—schools are a great place to hold events.

## ***Report***

Report hate crimes and hate incidents to your local law enforcement agency. Hate crimes can also be reported at 714-480-6570.

## ***Support the Victims***

Hate crime victims are especially vulnerable. If you're a victim, report every incident in detail and ask for help. If you learn about a hate crime victim in your community, show support. Let victims know you care. Surround them with comfort and protection.

## ***Speak Up***

Apathy will be interpreted as acceptance by the perpetrators, the public, and worse the victims. Hate must be exposed and denounced. Help news organizations achieve balance and depth. Do not debate hate group members in conflict-driven forums. Instead, speak up in ways that draw attention away from hate, toward unity.

## ***Create a Network***

Seek to create a group of diverse people to join forces and work to prevent hate crimes. Include people from churches, schools, law enforcement, and community agencies.

## ***Make City Leaders Aware***

Elected officials and other community leaders can be important allies. Make them aware of hate crimes and hate incidents so they can denounce and find ways to make their cities be inclusive.





# OC HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

## PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO HATE CRIMES

The County of Orange and OC Human Relations Commission address, prevent, and respond to human relations needs in the county, via the following programs:

### ***Hate Crime Response and Education***

- Assist and support victims of hate crime and, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, document hate crimes and incidents.
- Educate law enforcement agencies and community members about hate crimes and incidents.

### ***Positive Police/Community Relations***

- Offer the Police-Community Reconciliation program to mediate resident disputes and complaints with law enforcement.
- Work with law enforcement agencies to enhance and build positive relationships with OC residents and students through dialogues.

### ***Diverse Community Outreach and Relationship Building***

- Establish relations with diverse communities within the County of Orange to understand their issues and concerns.

### ***Listening and Dialogue Sessions***

- Organize Listening Sessions to hear from diverse communities and facilitate Community Forums to build understanding about important human relations issues.

### ***Denounces Injustice and Hate Publicly***

- Issues public media statements denouncing injustice, violence, hateful actions, and bigotry.
- Media advisories issued last year included:
  - Statement on the Death of George Floyd;
  - Statement of Solidarity;
  - Statement condemning racists and hateful rhetoric directed at Chairman Do and Councilwoman Rhonda Bolton; and
  - Statement in support of Ethnic Studies in the K-12 education curriculum.

Full statements available on the [OC Human Relations Commission page](#)

**No  
room  
for  
hate in  
Orange  
County**

# VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The **OC Human Relations Commission** provides victims of hate crimes and hate incidents with support and appropriate resources. All services are confidential. They also provide presentations and put 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



## **Board of Supervisors**

Andrew Do, Chairman, First District

Doug Chaffee, Vice Chairman, Fourth District

Katrina Foley, Second District

Donald P. Wagner, Third District

Lisa A. Bartlett, Fifth District

## **OC Human Relations Commission Members**

Jo-Anne P. Matsuba, Commission Chair

Jennifer Wang, Commission Vice-Chair

Ada Briceño

Amy Buch

Dot Leach

Dorothy O'Neill

Fareed Farukhi

Jany Lee

Chief Mike Hamel

Rabbi Rick Steinberg

Tanya Doby

# OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT AND DEFEND VICTIMS OF HATE CRIMES

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

California 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

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

LGBTQ Center OC - (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



## OC HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

1300 S. Grand Ave., Building B, Santa Ana, CA 92705 | 714-480-2801

[occommunityservices.org](http://occommunityservices.org)