



HATE CRIME IN CALIFORNIA 2003



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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

The 2003 Hate Crime in California report shows that hate crime offenses have decreased for the second consecutive year. This welcome news brings hope that hate crime occurrences will continue to decrease, establishing a new trend of reduced hate crimes in California for the foreseeable future. Because of the disturbing nature of these crimes, this decrease hopefully signals a growing appreciation and tolerance for California's diverse peoples, cultures, lifestyles, and faiths.

In 2003, the 1,491 hate crime events reported represented a 10.1 percent decrease, while the 1,815 offenses reported reflected a 9.7 percent decrease from those reported in 2002. Victims of hate crimes decreased 9.6 percent, and suspects that committed these crimes decreased 17.0 percent. These new totals, along with other totals found throughout this report, show multiple categories of hate crime statistics decreasing over a broad range of areas. That's truly positive news for this year.

This annual report represents the concerted efforts of the entire criminal justice community in systematically responding to, investigating, and prosecuting hate crimes. In our ongoing commitment to improve these efforts, we will continue to work with law enforcement agencies and district attorneys to improve the quality and accuracy of the information reported in this publication.

Although I am pleased that the number of hate crimes decreased in 2003, we Californians must never tolerate any of these heinous crimes. Hate crimes are unique in that they impact not only their victims, but also spread concern throughout entire communities. Many of these communities and victims of hate crimes have long experienced such violence, and the fear and pain of a recurrence of historical injustice is deep and pervasive. Because hate crimes are among the most dehumanizing of crimes, we must continue our strong efforts to severely reduce these crimes, as well as fully prosecute hate crime offenders. I encourage all Californians to celebrate and cherish the richness of our diverse state, with its many peoples, faiths, and cultures, by continuing to treat each other with the dignity and respect we all want and deserve.

BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General

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INTRODUCTION

California Penal Code section 13023 (Appendix 2) requires the Attorney General to submit an annual report to the Legislature regarding crimes motivated by the victim's race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or physical or mental disability as reported by law enforcement agencies.

The Attorney General's Hate Crime Reporting Program was implemented in September 1994. Data collection began in the fall of 1994 after an orientation and training period was provided by the Department of Justice (DOJ). Agencies were requested to identify and submit all reports of hate crimes occurring on or after July 1 to December 31, 1994, to the DOJ. In 1995, the DOJ published its first report, *Hate Crime in California, July Through December 1994*. This is the tenth annual report and the ninth full-year report, which covers the period January 1 through December 31, 2003.

As defined in California Penal Code section 13023, hate crimes are "any criminal acts or attempted criminal acts to cause physical injury, emotional suffering, or property damage where there is a reasonable cause to believe that the crime was motivated, in whole or in part, by the victim's race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or physical or mental disability." Law enforcement agency crime reports are used to submit their data to the DOJ. Each crime report includes information about, but is not limited to, bias motivation, type of crime, location of crime, number of victims, and the number of known suspects.

All California law enforcement agencies 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

CRIME DATA

In 2003:

- **Hate crime events** decreased 10.1 percent from those reported for the year 2002 (1,491 vs. 1,659).
- **Hate crime offenses** decreased 9.7 percent from those reported for the year 2002 (1,815 vs. 2,009).
- **The number of victims** of reported hate crimes decreased 9.6 percent from those reported for the year 2002 (1,815 vs. 2,007).
- **The number of known suspects** of reported hate crimes decreased 17.0 percent from those reported for the year 2002 (1,629 vs. 1,963).

BIAS MOTIVATION

In 2003:

- **Race/ethnicity/national origin** hate crime events decreased 11.8 percent from those reported for the year 2002 (914 vs. 1,036).
- **Anti-Hispanic** hate crime events decreased 34.0 percent from those reported for the year 2002 (103 vs. 156).
- **Anti-other ethnicity/national origin*** hate crime events decreased 19.1 percent from those reported for the year 2002 (161 vs. 199).
- **Anti-male homosexual (gay)** hate crime events decreased 18.4 percent from those reported for the year 2002 (218 vs. 267).
- **Anti-Jewish** hate crime events decreased 11.4 percent from those reported for the year 2002 (155 vs. 175).

TYPE OF CRIME

In 2003:

- **Violent crime** offenses decreased 17.5 percent from those reported for the year 2002 (1,252 vs. 1,517).
- **Property crime** offenses increased 14.4 percent from those reported for the year 2002 (563 vs. 492).

PROSECUTORIAL DATA

In 2003:

- **304 complaints were filed as hate crimes** by district attorneys and city attorneys. Convictions were obtained in 197 cases; 128 were for hate crimes and 69 were for non-bias motivated crimes.

TREND DATA

- **Race/ethnicity/national origin** hate crime offenses for the period 1998-2003 have consistently totaled 60 percent or more of all bias-motivated crimes, ranging from 60.0 percent to 65.1 percent. The one exception was in 2001, when they rose to 67.5 percent of all bias-motivated crimes, due mostly to post-9/11 hate crime activity directed at Arab/Middle Easterners.
- **Anti-black** hate crime offenses have always been the #1 bias motivation since the first full year hate crime reporting began in 1995. For the period 1998-2003, they fluctuated from 28.9 percent to 32.3 percent of all bias-motivated crimes.
- **Anti-male homosexual (gay)** hate crime offenses have consistently been the #2 bias motivation since data collection began with the exception of 2001, when they slipped to #3 behind the "other ethnicity/national origin" category, which contains Arab/Middle Eastern offenses. This was largely the result of post-9/11 hate crime activity.
- **Destruction/vandalism** hate crime offenses have always been the #1 property crime since data collection began. For the period 1998-2003, they have accounted for 90 percent or more of all property crime in bias-motivated offenses, fluctuating from 90.9 to 94.1 percent.

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