



# Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

*National Criminal Victimization Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting*

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## Hate Crime Reported by Victims and Police

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An annual average of 210,000 hate crime victimizations occurred from July 2000 through December 2003. During that period an average of 191,000 hate crime incidents involving one or more victims occurred annually. Victims also indicated that 92,000 of these hate crime victimizations were reported to police. These estimates were derived from victim reports to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

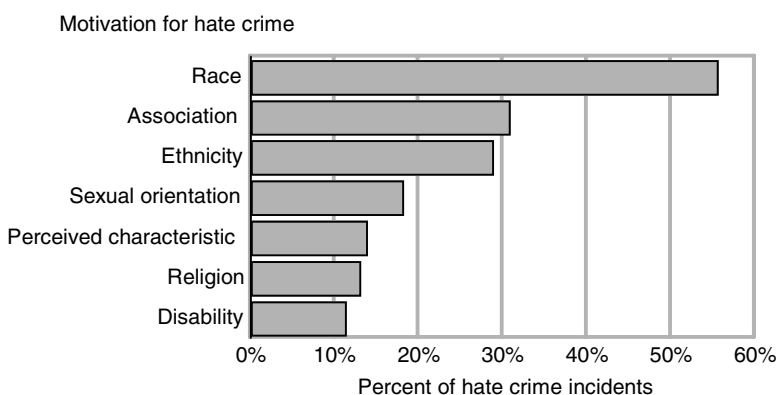
As defined here, an ordinary crime becomes a hate crime when offenders choose a victim because of some characteristic — for example, race, ethnicity, or religion — and provide evidence that hate prompted them to commit the crime. Bias crime is another term for hate crime. Hate crimes that respondents report in the NCVS are based on victims' perceptions of why they became crime victims.

National data on hate crimes come from two primary sources:

- NCVS — approximately 77,600 nationally representative persons interviewed biannually about their experiences with crime
- the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) — law enforcement agency reports to the FBI on crimes reported to police.

### Highlights

#### A majority of hate crime victims identified race as the offenders' motivation



- Most hate crimes described by victims accompanied violent crimes — a rape or other sexual assault, robbery, or assault (84%). The remaining 16% were associated with property crimes — burglary or theft.
- Victims reported a major violent crime — a rape, robbery, or an assault in which a victim was injured or threatened with a weapon — in a third of hate incidents.
- In about half of hate crimes, the victim was threatened verbally or assaulted without either a weapon or an injury being involved.
- An estimated 3% of all violent crimes revealed to the NCVS by victims were perceived to be hate crimes.
- Annually from July 2000 through December 2003 about 22,000 households experienced vandalism they thought was motivated by hate or bias.
- Approximately 44% of hate victimizations were reported to police.
- When the victims themselves reported to police, they did so primarily to prevent the offender from committing further offenses (35%) and to obtain help from the police (33%).
- In 41% of hate victimizations reported to police, law enforcement was at the scene within 10 minutes.
- Per capita rates of hate crime victimization varied little by race or ethnicity: about 0.9 per 1,000 whites, 0.7 per 1,000 blacks, and 0.9 per 1,000 Hispanics were reported to the National Crime Victimization Survey.
- Most likely to be offenders were men (79%) and strangers (51%). Two-thirds of violent hate victimizations involved a lone offender.

This BJS report uses data from the NCVS to provide information on hate crimes both reported and not reported to police and compares some of these findings to those reported by the FBI.

### Hate crimes committed because of prejudice

The 1990 Hate Crime Statistics Act charged the U.S. Attorney General to “acquire data... about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity, including, where appropriate, the crimes of murder, non-negligent manslaughter; forcible rape; aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation; arson; and destruction, damage or vandalism of property.” A 1994 amendment added the disabled to the list of groups to be tracked.

The Attorney General delegated data collection of hate crimes principally to the FBI. They appended information on bias motivation to the UCR. This program includes both the Summary Reporting System and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

In 1997 BJS and the U.S. Census Bureau, the data collection agent for the NCVS, developed questionnaire items to identify victims of hate crimes. The revised questions were fielded beginning in July 2000. This report analyzes data from July 2000 through December 2003.

Meeting the criteria established in the Hate Crime Statistics Act, the NCVS defines hate crimes as those incidents in which victims believe the offender selected them for a victimization because of one or more of their personal characteristics:

- race
- ethnicity
- religion
- sexual orientation
- disability.

The definition also encompasses crime incidents in which the offender perceives the victim as belonging to or associated with a group largely identified by one of these characteristics.

The NCVS definition requires that corroborating evidence of hate motivation must be present at the incident:

- the offender used derogatory language
- the offender left hate symbols, or
- the police confirmed that a hate crime had taken place.

Imputing offenders' motives is difficult. In the NCVS definition, hate or bias motivation is inferred from the words and symbols used by the offender. This may or may not be an accurate way to evaluate whether the crime was a hate crime. Victims or even police officers may misinterpret the symbols or words. The NCVS provides a measure of what victims describe as hate-based crimes, but it cannot directly interpret the offenders' intent.

The result is that estimates of the volume and rate of hate crime from the NCVS may not be consistent with other estimates, which may measure incidence differently. The NCVS does ensure a stable methodology for collecting the information over time and across jurisdictions. The questionnaire emphasizes corroborating information from the victim about the words or symbols that can be reasonably understood to represent offender bias.

Crimes reported to the NCVS — sexual assaults, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, or vandalism — with evidence of hatred toward any of these specific groups have been classified as crimes motivated by hate. The data for hate crimes from the NCVS include information about victims, offenders, and characteristics of crimes — both crimes reported to police and crimes not reported to police.

**Table 1. Annual number, rate, and percent of hate crimes reported to the National Crime Victimization Survey**

	Incidents	Victimizations
<b>Annual number of hate based crimes</b>		
All hate crimes	190,840	210,430
Violent	156,460	176,050
Major violent	67,290	80,060
Property	34,380	34,380
<b>Annual number reported to police</b>		
All hate crimes	80,760	91,630
Violent	66,650	77,520
Major violent	39,210	47,000
Property	14,110	14,110
<b>Rate per 1,000 persons/households</b>		
All hate crimes	0.8	0.9
Violent	0.7	0.8
Major violent	0.3	0.3
Property	0.3	0.3
<b>Hate crime as percent of —</b>		
All crime	0.8%	0.9%
Violent	3.0	3.1
Major violent	2.6	2.8
Property	0.2	0.2

Note: Crimes include rape and other sexual assault, robbery, assault, larceny, and burglary. Vandalism is not included. Major violent crime includes rape and other sexual assault, robbery, and assault either with a weapon or with injury.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

### Victims have reported an average of 191,000 hate crime incidents annually since 2000

Between July 2000 and December 31, 2003, an annual average of 191,000 hate crime incidents were estimated from victim reports to the NCVS (table 1). A hate crime incident may have more than one victim. Victimization count one person or household affected by a criminal incident. For violent crimes, the number of victimizations equals the number of persons involved. A crime against a household is assumed to involve a single victim—the affected household. Annually 210,000 victimizations motivated by hatred or bias occurred between July 2000 and December 31, 2003.

Approximately 3% of all violent crimes measured by the NCVS were hate crimes. About 1 in every 500 property

**Table 2. Motivation and evidence in hate crime**

	Percent of hate crime —	
	Inci- dents	Victim- zations
<b>Motivation</b>		
Race	55.4%	56.0%
Association	30.7	30.6
Ethnicity	28.7	27.9
Sexual orientation	18.0	17.9
Perceived characteristic	13.7	13.2
Religion	12.9	12.4
Disability	11.2	10.5
<b>Evidence of motivation</b>		
Negative comments, hurtful words, abusive language	98.5%	98.5%
Confirmation by police investigation	7.9	8.4
Hate symbols	7.6	7.8

Note: Detail adds to more than 100% because some respondents included more than one motivation or evidence of motivation.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

crimes were estimated to have been motivated by hate.

**Victims perceive race as the primary reason for hate crimes**

Hate crimes are criminal offenses — homicide, sexual assault, robbery, simple and aggravated assault, burglary, or theft — in which victims

perceive at least one of the offender's motivations to be prejudice. Victim race was the primary perceived offender motivation reported by victims for hate crimes (table 2). In half of hate crimes recorded by the NCVS, race was seen by hate crime victims as the underlying motivation. In 1 in 4 hate crimes, the victim's ethnic origin was viewed by the victim as the motivation for the crime.

Victims also revealed to the NCVS that they perceived the motive for about 3 in 10 hate crimes was the victim's association with persons who have certain characteristics, for example, a multiracial couple.

In about 1 in 6 incidents reported to the NCVS, sexual orientation was described by the victim to have been the basis for the crime.

The victim's religion was mentioned in about 1 in 8 hate crimes, and the victim's disability, in about 1 in 9.

**Over 4 in 5 NCVS hate crimes violent offenses**

According to victim reports, hate crimes were more likely to be violent — a sexual assault, robbery or simple or

**Almost all bias crime victims cited offenders' remarks as evidence for classifying the offense as a hate crime**

Victims of hate crimes knew the crime they experienced was hate related because offenders made fun of them, made negative comments, used slang, hurtful words, or abusive language. About 99% of victims encountered hate-related language, irrespective of the offenders' motives.

Evidence	Percent of victims identifying offenders' motivation		
	Race	Asso- ciation	Eth- nicity
Negative comments, hurtful words, or abusive language	98.7%	100%	97.4%
Confirmation by police investigators	6.8*	15.5	9.9*
Hate symbols	7.2*	15.8	8.8*

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

aggravated assault — than crimes not associated with the characteristics of a hate crime. Approximately 84% of NCVS hate crimes and 23% of non-hate crimes were violent offenses (table 3).

Hate crimes were also more likely to be among the most serious. In 38% of NCVS hate crimes, victims were raped, robbed, injured, or threatened with a weapon. Of those crime victimizations not based on hate of the victim, about 12% reached this level of seriousness.

Hate crimes included a higher percentage of less serious violent crimes as well. In about 46% of hate crimes and 12% of non-hate based NCVS crimes, victims were intimidated or assaulted without either an injury or having to face an offender with a weapon.

Victims reported that about 13% of hate crime victimizations and 63% of crimes in which hate was not a motivation involved a motor vehicle theft or the anonymous theft of property or household goods.

**Table 3. Hate and other crime victimizations, by type of crime**

Type of crime	Percent of victimizations by crimes of —	
	Hate	Other than hate
Total	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Violent crime</b>	83.7	22.9
Rape/sexual assault	4.0*	1.0
Robbery	5.0	2.5
Aggravated assault	18.5	4.5
With injury	5.0	1.4
Threatened with weapon	13.5	3.1
Simple assault	56.2	15.0
With injury	10.6	3.5
Without injury	17.6	5.5
Verbal threat	28.0	6.0
<b>Personal larceny</b>	0.0*%	0.7%
<b>Household crime</b>	16.3%	76.4%
Burglary	3.7*	13.3
Motor vehicle theft	0.3*	4.1
Theft	12.3	59.0

Note: *Other than hate crimes* are those described by victims as not having attributes that define hate crimes. Excluded from analysis were those crimes in which the victims did not know or did not answer whether they were targeted as hate victims (5.2% of all victimizations).

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

## 44% of hate crimes reported to police

A strength of the NCVS is the information provided by victims on their interactions with police after the crime. About 44% of hate crimes were reported to police (table 4). About a quarter of hate crimes were reported by the victim and a tenth by someone else — another victim, a household member, or an official such as a guard or school authority.

Hate crime accompanying a violent crime and violent offenses without a hate component were reported to police at the same rate (44% of violent hate crimes and 49% of other violent crimes). The difference between hate related (22%) and non-hate related (28%) violent crimes reported by the victim was not statistically significant.

In approximately 7 in 10 hate crimes reported to police, police were either at the scene or came after they were called (table 5). In the remaining victimizations, the victim went to police, the police didn't come to the scene, or the police were informed some other way. All information came from the period between the crimes' occurrence and the NCVS interview.

### Police confirmed 8% of hate victimizations

Overall, 8% of hate crime victims reported to the NCVS that law enforcement determined the victimization to be bias related. According to victims, police validated approximately 1 in 5 hate crime victimizations that were reported to them as hate crimes.

Hate crimes	Hate crime victimizations		
	Annual number	Percent of —	
		All	Reported to police
Total	210,430	100.0%	
Reported to police	92,100	43.8	100.0%
Confirmed by police	17,680	8.4	19.2

**Table 4. Reporting crimes of hate and other violent crimes to police**

Reporting to police	Percent of victimizations by crimes of —		
	Hate	Violence	
		Hate	Other than hate
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Reported	43.8%	44.1%	49.3
By victim	24.3	21.7	27.8
By someone else <sup>a</sup>	12.8	15.0	16.6
Other <sup>b</sup>	6.7	7.4	4.9
Not reported	54.5	55.4	49.5
Don't know if reported	1.7*	0.5*	1.2

Note: *Other than hate crimes* are those described by victims as not having attributes that define hate crimes. Excluded from analysis were those crimes in which the victims did not know or did not answer whether they were targeted as hate victims (5.2% of all victimizations).

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes other household members and official persons (guard, apartment manager, school authority, and others with official positions).

<sup>b</sup>Includes police at scene, police offenders, and other ways of reporting.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

Victims reported that the police took action in 85% of hate crimes. In half of hate crimes reported to law enforcement, the police took a report of the crime. In 32% of hate crimes, the police questioned witnesses or suspects.

In a third of hate crimes, the victim or another household member signed a complaint. In about 19% of hate

crimes, the police arrested someone for the offense.

Victims' self-reports indicated that police responded to a violent hate motivated crime as they did to a non-hate based violent crime. In half of the reported victimizations, police took a report, in about a third, they questioned witnesses or suspects; in about a quarter, they made an arrest.

**Table 5. Contacts with police for crimes of hate and other violent victimizations**

Of crimes reported to police	Percent of victimizations by crimes of —		
	Hate	Violence	
		Hate	Other than hate
<b>First contact with police</b>			
Police were at scene	8.6%*	10.2%*	6.1%
Police came within 10 minutes	32.0	32.2	43.6
Police came to scene after 10 minutes	27.6	24.4	26.6
Police came but victim didn't know when	5.6*	6.6*	3.3
Respondent went to police	7.3*	7.0*	6.0
Police didn't come to scene	12.8	12.9	10.6
Police found out another way	6.1*	6.6*	3.8
<b>Type of police contact</b>			
Any	85.0%	85.2%	85.7%
Police took report	51.3	51.8	64.0
Searched/looked around	17.1	12.1	13.1
Took evidence	5.9*	5.6*	5.9
Questioned witnesses/suspects	32.3	35.2	33.1
Did or promised surveillance/investigation	13.8	13.5	13.8
Made arrest	19.3	22.9	32.8
Recovered property	0.0*	0.0*	0.7*
Stayed in touch with victim	8.6*	9.3*	7.5
Other	34.9	37.6	25.8
None	15.0	14.8	14.3
<b>Victim or other household member signed complaint</b>	37.6%	42.1%	35.3%

Note: *Other than hate crimes* are those described by victims as not having attributes that define hate crimes. Excluded from analysis were those crimes in which the victims did not know or did not answer whether they were targeted as hate victims (5.2% of all victimizations). The detail for type of police contact adds to more than 100% because respondents could report more than one type of contact.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

In both hate and non-biased violent crimes about a third of victims or other members of their household signed a complaint.

**Victims who reported hate crimes to police wanted to punish the offender and prevent further crimes**

Victims of hate crime reported their experience to police for a number of reasons. Among those who called the police, about 35% said they notified police to get the offender, that is, to prevent the offender from committing further offenses, to punish the offender, or to catch the offender (table 6).

About 33% of those reporting hate crime said they reported the incident to get help; they were trying to stop or prevent the incident from happening; or they needed help because of an injury or other problem. About 23% wanted to let the police know about the crime to either improve police surveillance or perform their civic duty.

Victims of a violent hate crime who reported the crime to police expressed reasons similar to those of victims of other violent crimes — they wanted the offender to be apprehended and they sought help.

**4 in 10 who did not report hate crime to police preferred to handle it another way**

Four in 10 victims who did not ensure that the hate crime was reported to police said they didn't report it because it was handled another way (table 7). For example, the crime was reported to another official or kept private. A quarter said the incident was not important enough to report because it was a minor crime, "kid stuff," or it was not clear the offender intended harm.

Victims who did not report violent crimes to police expressed similar reasons for their behavior, regardless of whether the offense had hate crime characteristics. Fully 4 in 10 reported that they dealt with the violent crime another way.

**Table 6. Reasons victims reported crime to police, by type of crime**

Reasons victims reported crime	Percent of victimizations by crimes of —		
	Hate	Violence	
		Hate	Other than hate
To get offender	35.3%	38.7%	43.0%
To get help with this incident	32.8	37.7	32.7
It was a crime	28.3	27.6	23.6
To let police know	23.1	25.4	13.5
To recover loss	9.2*	0*	6.3
Other reason	7.8*	8.0*	11.2

Note: Reasons for reporting crime to police add to more than 100% because victims may have had more than one reason. *Other than hate crimes* are those described by victims as not having attributes that define hate crimes. Excluded from analysis were those crimes in which the victims did not know or did not answer whether they were targeted as hate victims (5.2% of all victimizations).

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

**Table 7. Reasons victims did not report crime to police, by type of crime**

Reasons victims did not report crime	Percent of victimizations by crimes of —		
	Hate	Violence	
		Hate	Other than hate
Dealt with another way	40.9%	43.7%	41.9%
Not important enough to respondent	26.1	25.8	24.4
Police wouldn't help	13.8	12.8	8.8
Police couldn't do anything	8.1	5.4*	5.2
Insurance wouldn't cover	0*	0*	0.1*
Other reason	30.2	26.4	28.7

Note: Reasons for not reporting crime to police add to more than 100% because victims may have had more than one reason. *Other than hate crimes* are those described by victims as not having attributes that define hate crimes. Excluded are crimes for which the victims did not know or answer whether they were targeted as hate victims (5.2% of all victimizations).

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

**1 in 10 victims of crime helped by an agency other than the police**

Some victims received help from nonpolice agencies. About 1 in 10 victims of all hate crimes, victims of violent hate crime, and victims of violent crimes not involving hate or bias said that they received help from another government office or a private agency.

Help from non-police agency	Percent of victimizations		
	Violence		
	Hate	Hate	Other than hate
Total	10.6%	10.2%	7.4%
Government	8.4	8.4	4.8
Private	2.2*	1.8*	2.6
No other help	89.4	89.8	92.6

Note: *Other than hate crimes* are those described by victims as not having attributes that define hate crimes. Excluded are crimes for which the victims did not know or answer whether they were targeted as hate victims (5.2% of all victimizations).

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

**Rates of hate crime similar across genders, races, and ethnic groups**

Generally, per capita rates of hate crime victimization do not appear to vary based upon victim's gender, race, ethnicity, or educational attainment. However, young people; those never married, separated, or divorced; those

with low incomes; and those living in urban areas did report experiencing hate crimes at higher rates.

Men and women were about equally likely to have experienced a hate or bias crime. Approximately 1.0 per 1,000 men and 0.8 per 1,000 women

indicated that they had been a victim of a hate crime (table 8).

There were no significant differences in rates of hate crime vulnerability for racial or ethnic groups. Whites were victimized at a rate of 0.9 per 1,000, blacks at 0.7 per 1,000, members of other races at 1.4 per 1,000, Hispanics at 0.9 per 1,000, and non-Hispanics at 0.9 per 1,000.

**Table 8. Characteristics of victims of hate crime**

Characteristic of victims	Annual rate of hate related victimizations per 1,000 persons	
	All	Violent
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	1.0	0.9
Female	0.8	0.6
<b>Race</b>		
White	0.9	0.8
Black	0.7	0.5
Other <sup>a</sup>	1.4	1.1
<b>Hispanic origin</b>		
Hispanic	0.9	0.8
Non-Hispanic	0.9	0.8
<b>Age</b>		
17 or younger	1.6	1.6
18-20	1.6	1.6
21-29	1.1	1.0
30-39	0.9	0.6
40-49	1.0	0.7
50 or older	0.5	0.3
<b>Marital status</b>		
Never married	1.5	1.4
Married	0.5	0.4
Separated/divorced	2.6	1.2
Widowed	0.1	0.2*
<b>Educational attainment</b>		
Less than high school diploma	1.1	1.0
High school diploma	0.9	0.6
More than high school diploma	0.8	0.7
<b>Household income</b>		
Less than \$25,000	1.3	1.0
\$25,000 - \$49,999	1.0	0.9
\$50,000 or more	0.7	0.7
Not reported	0.6	0.5
<b>Location</b>		
Urban	1.3	1.0
Suburban	0.8	0.7
Rural	0.7	0.6

Note: For property crimes, characteristics are those of the person reporting the incident to the NCVS.  
<sup>a</sup> Includes American Indians and Asians. Persons of more than one race are excluded.  
 \*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

Young people reported hate crime victimization at rates higher than those of older persons. Those 17 or younger experienced about 1.9 hate crimes per 1,000 persons, while those 50 or older experienced 0.4 per 1,000 annually.

Persons who lived in cities were more likely to be hate crime victims, compared to those living in suburbs or rural areas. About 1.3 per 1,000 living in urban areas were victims annually, compared to 0.8 per 1,000 in suburban areas and 0.7 in rural places.

**About 1 in every 265 vandalized households considered the vandalism a hate crime**

On an annual basis, an average of 5.9 million households were vandalized from July 2000 through December 2003. Approximately 22,500 households, 0.4% of all those vandalized, showed evidence of hate motivation.

Approximately 54 per 1,000 households had experienced vandalism.\* For 0.2 per 1,000 households (2 per 10,000), the vandalism had the earmarks of a hate crime.

Average annual estimates	
Total number of households	110,949,770
Vandalism incidents	5,942,610
Hate related vandalism	22,450
<b>Hate related vandalism as a percent of all vandalism</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
Rate per 1,000 households	
Vandalism	53.6
Hate related vandalism	0.2

\*Vandalized households include only those that reported whether the vandalism was hate related.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

Motivations attributed by hate crime victims to offenders did not vary significantly for male and female victims and young and old. About 1 in 6 of both men and women who were victims of hate crimes reported that they were victimized because of their sexual orientation.

Motivation for hate crimes	Gender of victims	
	Male	Female
Race	57.1%	54.7%
Association	30.2	30.9
Ethnicity	28.9	26.7
Sexual orientation	16.3	19.7
Perceived characteristics	15.7	10.1
Religion	11.9	13.1
Disability	10.3	10.8

Notes: Detail does not add to 100% because some respondents included more than one motivation.

Among victims of hate crimes, half of both whites and blacks and three-quarters of those identified as Asian or American Indian said they were victimized because of their race. Three-quarters of Hispanic victims of hate crime said they were victimized because of their ethnicity. The small numbers of sampled black hate crime victims limits analysis of the reasons they believe they were victimized.

Motivation for hate crimes	Race/Ethnicity of victims		
	White	Black	Other <sup>a</sup>
Race	54.7%	50.9%*	86.8%
Association	32.8	25.4*	0.0*
Ethnicity	24.3	35.7*	65.8*
Sexual orientation	19.6	11.7*	6.2*
Perceived characteristics	14.6	0.0*	16.9*
Religion	14.5	0.0*	5.3*
Disability	11.7	7.6*	0.0*

Race	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
	55.1%	56.4%
Association	20.2*	31.4
Ethnicity	77.5	22.3
Sexual orientation	3.5*	19.6
Perceived characteristics	7.0*	13.5
Religion	0.0*	13.4
Disability	3.1*	11.4

Notes: Detail does not add to 100% because some respondents included more than one motivation.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer cases.  
<sup>a</sup>Includes American Indians and Asians. Persons of more than one race are excluded.

A third of hate crime victims 20 or younger and a quarter of those 21 or older said they were selected as victims because of the people with whom they associated.

Motivation for hate crimes	Age of victims	
	20 or younger	21 or older
Race	51.7%	57.7%
Association	37.4	27.9
Ethnicity	22.4	30.0
Sexual orientation	16.0*	18.6
Perceived characteristics	9.5*	14.7
Religion	11.8*	12.7
Disability	8.5*	11.3

Notes: Detail does not add to 100% because some respondents included more than one motivation.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer cases.

### Hate crime offenders generally acted alone and were strangers to their victim

The NCVS has information on offenders who committed crimes because the victim was present, knew the offender, or learned something about the offender after the incident.

According to victim reports, crimes are generally committed by one offender. A sole offender committed about 68% of violent hate crimes (table 9). Hate crimes which accompanied a violent crime were more likely than violent crimes without hate characteristics to be carried out by two or more offenders (32.5% versus 18.5%).

Offenders are predominantly male. Approximately 79% of victims of a violent hate crime reported that at least one of the offenders was a man, as were 83% of offenders in violent crimes described as not being motivated by hate or bias.

A significantly higher percentage of victims of violent hate crimes than those reporting a non-hate related violent crime said the offenders were black — about 38% of hate crime victims and 24% of victims reporting a non-hate related violent victimization.

While victims of violent hate crimes reported white and black offenders in close percentages (44% white and 38% black), a higher percentage of those who were victims of violent crimes not related to hate reported having white rather than black offenders (62% white and 24% black).

About 26% of the offenders described by victims of violent hate crime and 33% of victims of non-hate related violent crime were 20 or younger, a nonsignificant difference.

Fifty-two percent of victims of violent hate crime and 45% of victims of other violent crimes were victimized by strangers or persons they recognized only by sight. These numbers were not statistically different.

About a quarter of offenders committing hate or nonbias crimes used a weapon, for example, a firearm, knife or other sharp object, or a blunt instrument.

About the same percentage of victims of violent hate crimes and victims of non-hate related violent crimes thought they were victimized by gang members (7% and 6%).

Motivations attributed to male and female hate crime offenders were not significantly different.

Motivation	Gender of offenders committing hate crimes		
	Male	Female	Both
Race	55.5%	68.8%	35.9*
Association	26.4	22.6	51.5*
Ethnicity	25.8	37.1	14.1*
Sexual orientation	19.4	7.3*	38.3*
Perceived characteristics	12.5	8.3*	7.6*
Religion	10.8	14.8*	6.2*
Disability	7.4	8.4*	37.0*

Notes: Detail does not add to 100% because some victims reported multiple motivations.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer cases.

**Table 9. Characteristics of offenders as reported by their victims**

Characteristic of offenders	Percent of victimizations for crimes of violence—	
	Hate	Other than hate
<b>Number of offenders</b>		
One	67.5%	80.5%
Two or three	16.3	12.2
Four or more	16.2	6.3
Unknown	0.0*	1.0
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	72.2%	79.5%
Female	21.2	17.2
Both male and female	6.6	3.2
<b>Race</b>		
White	43.5%	61.8%
Black	38.8	23.6
Other <sup>a</sup>	11.9	11.8
More than one race	5.7	2.8
<b>Age</b>		
17 or younger	19.7%	23.0%
18-20	6.5	9.7
21-29	21.4	23.7
30 or older	38.1	36.2
More than one age group	14.3	7.4
<b>Victim-offender relationship</b>		
Stranger	52.1%	45.4%
<b>Use of weapons</b>		
Weapon <sup>b</sup>	23.9%	24.2%
No weapon	69.8	68.8
Unknown	6.3	7.1
<b>Perceived gang membership</b>		
Gang member	7.1%	5.6%
Not a gang member	48.5	58.3
Unknown	44.4	36.0
<b>Perceived substance use</b>		
Offender drunk or on drugs	30.6%	30.6%
Offender not drunk or on drugs	41.7	40.1
Unknown	27.7	29.3
<b>Injury to victim</b>		
Injured	20.6%	28.2%

Note: *Other than hate crimes* are those described by victims as not having attributes that define hate crimes. Excluded are crimes for which the victims did not know or answer whether they were targeted as hate victims (5.2% of all victimizations). Offender characteristics are only from victimizations at which the victim was present or learned something about the offender.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes American Indians and Asians.

<sup>b</sup>Firearms, knives, and sharp and blunt objects.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

When hate victims reported that the persons committing the crime were black, 9 in 10 victims said they thought the offender's motive for the crime was their race; in 2 in 10, they thought it was ethnicity. For victims reporting white offenders, about 3 in 10 victims attributed the crime to race, 3 in 10 to the characteristics of associates of the victim, 3 in 10 to their ethnicity, and 3 in 10 to their sexual orientation.

	Race of offenders committing hate crimes		
	White	Black	Other <sup>a</sup>
Race	30.5%	89.1%	59.3%
Association	28.6	24.2	21.1*
Ethnicity	30.2	19.1	52.1
Sexual orientation	27.8	8.3*	12.4*
Perceived characteristics	16.2	8.8*	5.3*
Religion	17.0	1.9*	14.3*
Disability	13.5	2.0*	3.0*

Notes: Detail does not add to 100% because some victims reported multiple motivations.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer cases.

<sup>a</sup>Includes American Indians and Asians.

A quarter of the hate crime offenders identified as at least 21 were said by their victims to have committed the offense because of the victim's ethnicity or the characteristics of persons with whom they associated.

	Age of offenders committing hate crimes	
	20 or younger	21 or older
Race	50.5%	59.1%
Association	28.6	26.8
Ethnicity	24.6*	28.0
Sexual orientation	16.0*	19.6
Perceived characteristics	9.6*	12.0
Religion	14.5*	9.5
Disability	12.1*	9.1

Notes: Detail does not add to 100% because some victims reported multiple motivations.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer cases.

**Table 10. Hate crime and other types of crime, by time and place of occurrence**

Time and place of occurrence	Percent of victimizations for crimes of —		
	Hate	Violence	
		Hate	Other than hate
<b>Time</b>			
6 a.m. to noon	18.0%	18.7%	12.5%
Noon to 6 p.m.	41.3	42.5	36.7
6 p.m. to midnight	26.5	29.0	33.2
Midnight to 6 a.m.	8.2	7.9	12.4
Unknown	6.0	1.9*	5.3
<b>Type of place</b>			
At or near victim's home	26.2%	21.3%	30.7%
At a friend's house	6.3	6.6	9.9
Commercial place, parking, on street	37.9	42.0	38.5
School	20.1	20.3	12.9
Other	9.5	9.9	8.0
<b>Distance from home</b>			
At home/next door	31.0%	26.6%	32.5%
Less than a mile from home	20.5	22.4	18.4
1 to 5 miles from home	22.0	22.6	23.6
More than 5 miles from home	26.5	28.4	25.4
<b>Inside/outside</b>			
Inside	46.7	41.7%	47.9%
Outside	50.8	55.3	49.9
Both	2.5*	2.9*	2.2*

Note: *Other than hate crimes* are those described by victims as not having attributes that define hate crimes. Excluded are crimes for which the victims did not know or answer whether they were targeted as hate victims (5.2% of all victimizations).

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

### Hate crime victims and offenders differ in age

The following compares the gender, race, and age of crime victims with those of their offenders. Some table cells have few cases, making conclusions tentative.

About 9 in 10 male hate crime victims reported that the person who victimized them was also male. Female victims were almost equally likely to have been victimized by males and females, with 59% identifying a male offender and 50% a female offender (including the 9% who said both males and females committed the hate crime).

Gender of offender	Gender of victim	
	Male	Female
Male	89.3%	49.7%
Female	6.1*	41.0
Both	4.5*	9.3*

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

About 4 in 10 white hate crime victims indicated that the offenders were white, and the same proportion reported the offenders to have been black. The small number of black hate crime victims precludes analysis of the race of persons who victimized them.

Race of offender	Race of victim		
	White	Black	Other
White	43.2%	85.2%*	51.7%*
Black	43.3	14.8*	25.1*
Other	13.4	0.0*	23.2*

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

Young victims — those 20 or younger — reported young offenders, and older victims — those 21 or older — older offenders. Approximately 61% of young victims said the offenders were young, and 88% of older victims had older offenders.



Age of offender	Age of victim	
	20 or younger	21 or older
20 or younger	60.7%	11.8%
21 or older	39.3	88.2

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003.

### Hate crimes occur in public places

Both violent hate crimes and violent non-bias crimes took place between noon and midnight — 72% of violent hate crimes and 70% of violent non-hate related crimes (table 10).

About 62% of violent hate crimes took place in a public area, primarily a commercial establishment, parking area, the street, or a school. By comparison, 51% of violent offenses not hate related occurred in a public space.

Violent hate crimes were less likely than other violent crimes to take place at the victim's home — 21% of hate crimes and 31% of violent crimes not reflecting bias.

### Hate crime statistics from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) and the NCVS

The FBI has compiled statistics on hate crime based on reports of law enforcement agencies since 1992. The FBI appends reports on hate crimes to their existing data collection from law enforcement agencies through the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR).

The UCR collects nationwide counts for specific crimes reported to police from approximately 17,300 law enforcement agencies, representing 93.4% of the U.S. population in 2003. About 4,200 agencies report detailed information to an enhanced UCR program, the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Law enforcement agencies use one of these means to provide data on hate crimes:

**Table 11. Hate crime motivation reported to the NCVS and the UCR**

Basis of motivation	Percent of hate crime victimizations			
	National Crime Victimization Survey			Uniform Crime Reporting Program
	Total	Not reported to police	Reported to police	
Race	56.0%	54.7%	55.9%	51.4%
Association	30.6	29.6	30.0	/
Ethnicity	27.9	27.0	29.1	16.5
Sexual orientation	17.9	15.6	21.4	18.1
Perceived characteristic	13.2	15.1	11.4	/
Religion	12.4	11.5	11.2	13.4
Disability	10.5	11.5	9.7	0.6

Note: Detail does not add to 100% because some respondents included more than one motivation. The total NCVS column includes cases without data on reporting to police. /Not available.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003; and FBI, Uniform Crime Reporting Program Hate Crime File, 2002.

- For law enforcement agencies that report summary numbers of crimes, the FBI developed a brief form to collect incident-specific information about hate crime incidents, victims, and offenders, including motivation and other characteristics.
- For law enforcement agencies that provide incident-based records to the FBI, hate crime data are captured in the NIBRS framework.

The FBI combines the hate crime reports from both the summary program and NIBRS into a single file, the UCR Hate Crime file.

The NCVS does not include reports of crime from institutions, organizations, churches, schools, and businesses, although persons involved in these entities are included. It does, however, include crimes not reported to police. To make the data comparable, only UCR and NIBRS crimes in which an individual was the victim are analyzed for this report.

Both the NCVS and the UCR collect data on rape and other sexual assault, robbery, simple and aggravated assault, burglary, auto theft, and larceny. The UCR also collects incident-specific information on homicide. Both the NCVS and the NIBRS hate crimes provide information on victims — their gender, race, and age — and on offenders — their numbers, demographic characteristics, and weapons.

A comparison of these data provides some striking similarities but also some major differences.

### NCVS and UCR demonstrate similar motivations for hate crimes

Motivations reported for hate crimes were similar for the NCVS victimizations reported to police and UCR. In both, race is identified as the primary motivation for a hate crime (56% for NCVS and 51% for UCR) (table 11). Ethnicity is similarly ranked for the NCVS (29%) and for UCR (17%). Both NCVS and UCR numbers indicate about 1 in 6 hate crimes were motivated by bias against a sexual orientation and 1 in 9 by bias against a religion.

Motivations perceived by NCVS victims of crimes not reported to police are similar to ones for NCVS crimes reported to police. Race is still thought to be the primary reason for hate crimes (56% for crimes reported to police and 55% for those not reported). Ethnicity provides the basis for about 29% of crimes reported to police and 27% for those not reported. About 21% of NCVS crimes reported to police and 16% not reported were thought to be motivated by sexual orientation.

**Table 12. Type of hate crime reported to the NCVS and the UCR**

Type of crime	Percent of hate crime victimizations			
	Total	National Crime Victimization Survey		Uniform Crime Reporting Program
		Not reported to police	Reported to police	
<b>Violent crime</b>	83.7%	85.0%	84.2%	79.6%
Homicide	/	/	/	0.1
Rape/sexual assault	4.0*	2.3*	6.3*	0.2
Robbery	5.0	5.4*	4.6*	2.2
Aggravated assault	18.5	13.5	25.4	13.5
Simple assault	28.2	29.8	27.3	23.2
Verbal threat/intimidation	28.0	34.0	20.6	40.2
<b>Property crime</b>	16.3%	15.0%	15.8%	20.4%
Burglary	3.7*	0.6*	7.7*	1.5
Motor vehicle theft	0.3*	0.0*	0.7*	0.1
Theft	12.3	14.4	7.4	1.2
Vandalism <sup>a</sup>	/	/	/	17.5
Other property	/	/	/	0.1

Note: The NCVS total includes cases without data on reporting to police.  
 \*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.  
 /Not available.  
<sup>a</sup>Includes arson.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003; and FBI, Uniform Crime Reporting Program Hate Crime File, 2002.

**Basic categories of offenses motivated by hate similar for both NCVS and UCR**

About 8 in 10 hate crimes are violent crimes and the remaining 2 in 10 are property crimes as described by the NCVS and the UCR (table 12).

However, among violent hate crimes, the NCVS reports substantially higher percentages of aggravated assault — crimes involving injuries from attacks or the use of a weapon (25% of NCVS crimes reported to police versus 14% of UCR reports). The NCVS hate crimes include a smaller percentage of crimes classified as intimidation or verbal threats than the UCR (21% of NCVS crimes reported to police and 40% of UCR reports).

Among property crimes perceived to be hate related and said by NCVS victims to be reported to police, the NCVS and UCR both reported relatively small percentages of hate crime in burglary (8% and 2%) and larceny or household theft (7% and 1%).

NCVS hate crimes not reported to law enforcement differed in seriousness from the ones reported to police. A smaller percentage of the unreported

are aggravated assaults (14% versus 25%). A somewhat higher percentage of unreported crimes (34%) than reported crimes (21%) were crimes of intimidation.

**Some basic characteristics of hate crime victims differ in NCVS and NIBRS**

NIBRS data provide a richer array of information on victim and offender characteristics than does the UCR's reporting on hate crime from its summary program. However, NIBRS information can be attributed only to crimes in the NIBRS jurisdictions, for it is not statistically representative of crimes reported to police nationwide. Hence, any relationships between the NCVS and NIBRS data could be coincidental. NCVS figures are representative of hate crimes nationwide.

While the majority of hate crime victims described by both the NCVS crimes reported to police and the NIBRS are male, higher percentages of NCVS hate crime victims are women compared to NIBRS hate crime victims

**Table 13. Characteristics of victims of hate crime reported to NCVS and NIBRS**

Characteristics of victims	Percent of hate crime victimizations			
	Total	National Crime Victimization Survey		National Incident-Based Reporting Program
		Not reported to police	Reported to police	
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	55.4%	59.8%	51.0%	64.7%
Female	44.6	40.2	49.0	35.3
<b>Race</b>				
White	85.0%	85.1%	84.4%	66.5%
Black	9.2	8.0*	10.9	29.1
Other	5.8	6.9*	4.7*	4.4
<b>Ethnicity</b>				
Hispanic	11.4%	13.5%	9.2%	8.8%
Non-Hispanic	88.6	86.5	90.8	91.2
<b>Age</b>				
17 or younger	18.8%	28.0%	8.1%*	19.1%
18-20	9.3	9.4	9.6*	11.4
21-29	18.1	18.3	18.6	24.1
30-49	37.3	26.8	47.8	34.9
50 or older	16.5	17.5	15.9	10.4

Note: For property crimes, characteristics are those of head of household. For the 1,725 hate crime victimizations in NIBRS, the missing data for victim characteristics were as follows: 22 cases missing gender, 94 missing race, 721 missing ethnicity, and 72 missing age.  
 \*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003; and National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2002.

(49% of NCVS crimes reported to police and 35% of NIBRS).

Compared to NIBRS, the NCVS had a higher percentage of white hate crime victims. Among hate crime victims, approximately 84% of those in NCVS and 67% of those in NIBRS were white. Conversely, a smaller percentage of NCVS hate crime victims were black; 11% in the NCVS compared to 29% in NIBRS. NCVS victims were also older than those reported in NIBRS. About 64% were 30 or older among the NCVS victims and 45% among NIBRS victims.

**Some basic characteristics of hate crime offenders also differ between NCVS and NIBRS**

Hate crime offenders described by the NCVS crimes reported to police differ from those in the NIBRS in number of offenders, and their race, age, relationship to victim, and weapon use. Both the NCVS and NIBRS describe that half of the hate crime

**Table 14. Characteristics of offenders reported by hate crime victims to NCVS and NIBRS**

Characteristics of offenders	Percent of hate crime victimizations			
	Total	National Crime Victimization Survey		National Incident-based Reporting System
		Not reported to police	Reported to police	
<b>Number of offenders</b>				
One	67.5%	73.2%	60.4%	68.3%
Two or three	16.3	15.0	18.1	25.7
Four or more	16.2	11.8	21.5	6.0
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	72.2%	74.2%	69.4%	76.4%
Female	21.2	23.4	18.9	16.5
Both male and female	6.6	2.4*	11.7	7.2
<b>Race</b>				
White	43.9%	45.3%	42.6%	68.1%
Black	37.6	33.8	42.5	20.7
Other	13.2	14.7	10.3*	1.5
More than one racial group	5.4	6.2*	4.5*	9.7
<b>Age</b>				
17 or younger	21.0%	29.3%	11.5%	24.7%
18-20	6.2	7.3*	5.0*	9.7
21-29	21.1	17.3	24.6	15.9
30 or older	37.8	35.6	40.8	36.0
More than one age group	14.0	10.5*	18.2	13.6
<b>Victim-offender relationship<sup>a</sup></b>				
Stranger	51.3%	49.0%	54.8%	35.8%
<b>Use of weapons</b>				
Weapon <sup>b</sup>	23.9%	19.3%	30.1%	19.4%
Other weapon <sup>c</sup>	/	/	/	12.6
No weapon	69.8	75.8	61.8	64.4
Unknown	6.3	4.9*	8.2*	3.6

Note: The NCVS total includes cases without data on reporting to police. It also includes property crimes for which the victim provided information about the offender, unlike the figures in table 9. For NIBRS, of 1,725 of hate crime victimization in 2002, the missing data for offender characteristics were as follows: 416 cases missing number of offenders, 566 cases missing gender, 599 missing race, 637 age, 913 victim-offender relationship, and 946 use of weapons.

<sup>a</sup>For the National Incident-Based Reporting System, victim-offender relationship is only collected for crimes against persons.

<sup>b</sup>Includes firearms, knives, and sharp and blunt objects.

<sup>c</sup>Includes motor vehicles, personal weapons (hands, feet, teeth, and others), poison, explosives, incendiary devices, drugs and other items.

/Not available.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, July 2000 through December 2003; and FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2002.

victimizations are committed by one offender, although a smaller percentage of offenders described by the NCVS were committed by only one person (61% and 68%) (table 14).

Most offenders are male (81% of victimizations for the NCVS and 84% for NIBRS).

Although the NCVS shows about the same percentage of victimizations had white and black offenders (43% of those reported to police are white and 43% are black), NIBRS shows more white than black offenders (68% white and 21% black). Approximately 65% of

NCVS victimizations had offenders who were identified as 21 or older compared to 52% in NIBRS.

Offenders reported by the NCVS were more likely to be strangers than offenders in NIBRS (55% of victimizations versus 36%).

NCVS offenders were more likely than NIBRS offenders to have a firearm, sharp implement, or blunt object. Of those NCVS victimizations reported to police, 30% were said to have a weapon compared to 19% from NIBRS.

## Methodology

### NCVS response rates

For the NCVS response rates of all persons selected to be interviewed varied during the period of analysis from 87% to 90%. During the 2000 to 2003 period, approximately 500,000 interviews were conducted for the survey. Approximately 1% of those interviewed did not supply information on possible hate crime victimization, and 4.2% did not know if a crime was motivated by hate.

### UCR response rate

In 2002, 12,073 law enforcement agencies provided 1 to 12 months of hate crime data to the UCR Program. Of those agencies 15.5% (1,868 agencies) reported a total of 7,462 incidents. The remaining 84.5% indicated that no instances of hate crimes occurred within their jurisdiction.\*

The UCR hate crime file lists 9,222 hate victims in 2002; 7,646 are individual victims, and the remainder business, government, religious organizations, and the public. The NIBRS data file includes information on 1,725 individual victims of hate crimes.

For both the NCVS and UCR hate crime files, a hierarchy determines the type of crime, based on characteristics of the incident that described the offense seriousness. For example, if a crime involved both a rape and a robbery, it would be classified as a rape for analysis. The types of crime are listed in order of seriousness in tables 3 and 12.

Data from the NIBRS, taken from the public use file on January 1, 2005, had 3 victims from an uncertified State and 17 incidents with a 2001 date.

### Standard error computations

Comparisons of percentages and rates for the NCVS made in this report were

\*Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program, *Hate Crime Statistics 2002*.

tested to determine if observed differences were statistically significant.

Differences described as higher, lower, or different passed a hypothesis test at the .05 level of statistical significance (95% confidence level). The tested difference was greater than twice the standard error of that difference.

Significance testing calculations were conducted at BJS using statistical programs developed specifically for the NCVS by the US Census Bureau. These programs take into consideration many aspects of the complex NCVS sample design when calculating generalized variance estimates.

### *Vandalism*

The numbers on vandalism reported here differ from the BJS households-victimized-by-crime measure in several ways. This report uses data collected from July 2000 through December 2003 rather than victimizations

attributed to a specific calendar year. The numbers are also an annual average for the 3½ years, rather than numbers for a specific year.

A household was counted as having experienced vandalism if they were vandalized in any 6-month period, while the households-victimized-by-crime measure counts households vandalized within a year. Vandalism was not included in the analysis of NCVS hate crimes unless it was a part of another NCVS crime. See the box on page 6 for estimates of vandalism.

### *Some limitations of data*

The Hate Crime Statistics Act does not include gender as a hate condition and it has not been included in either NCVS or UCR publications. Some information relevant to analyzing hate crime is not included in either the NCVS or the UCR, such as, ethnicity other than Hispanic, sexual orientation, and religious background or affiliation.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Lawrence A. Greenfeld is director.

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Denise Lewis, NCVS Research Unit, Demographic Surveys Division, the U.S. Census Bureau, performed initial analysis of the hate crime variables and developed coded variables.

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