



Methodology

The FBI collects data regarding criminal offenses that are motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity/national origin, or disability and are committed against persons, property, or society. Because motivation is subjective, it is difficult to know with certainty whether a crime resulted from the offender's bias. Moreover, the presence of bias alone does not necessarily mean that a crime can be considered a hate crime. If law enforcement investigation reveals sufficient evidence to lead a reasonable and prudent person to conclude that the offender's *actions* were motivated, in whole or in part, by his or her bias, then the incident should be reported as a hate crime.

Data Collection

Offense types

The law enforcement agencies that voluntarily participate in the hate crime program collect details about an offender's bias motivation associated with 11 offense types already being reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, aggravated assault, simple assault, and intimidation (*crimes against persons*); and robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and destruction/damage/vandalism (*crimes against property*). The law enforcement agencies that participate in the UCR Program via the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) collect data about additional offenses for crimes against persons and crimes against property. These data appear in *Hate Crime Statistics* in the category of *other*. These agencies also collect hate crime data for the category called *crimes against society*, which includes drug or narcotic offenses, gambling offenses, prostitution offenses, and weapon law violations. Together, the offense classification *other* and the crime category *crimes against society* include 35 Group A Offenses (not listed) that are captured in the NIBRS, which also collects the previously mentioned 11 offense categories. The *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook, NIBRS Edition* [1992], provides an explanation of the 46 Group A Offenses.

Crimes against persons, property, or society

The UCR Program's data collection guidelines stipulate that a hate crime may involve multiple offenses, victims, and offenders within one incident; therefore, the hate crime data collection program is incident-based. According to UCR counting guidelines:

- One offense is counted for each victim in *crimes against persons*.
- One offense is counted for each offense type in *crimes against property*.
- One offense is counted for each offense type in *crimes against society*.

Race/ethnicity

The UCR Program uses designations for race and ethnicity as established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and published in the *Federal Register*. The revised standards have five minimum categories for data on race and two categories for data on ethnicity. In complying with the published standards, the FBI uses the following racial designations in its hate crime data collection program: White; Black; American Indian/Alaskan Native; Asian/Pacific Islander; and Multiple Races, Group. The ethnic designations are Hispanic and Other Ethnicity/National Origin.

Data Reporting

Law enforcement agencies may submit hate crime data in a NIBRS submission or an electronic hate crime record layout via e-mail, compact disc, zip disk, 3.5" disk, or cartridge. Agencies may also submit hate crime data on printed forms entitled the *Hate Crime Incident Report* and the *Quarterly Hate Crime Report*.

Reporting via the NIBRS

Agencies that report data to the FBI via the NIBRS use a data element within their reporting software to indicate whether an incident was motivated by bias. Because the NIBRS is an incident-based, comprehensive data collection system, these agencies can report considerably more information about a hate crime than that captured on the paper forms or in the current electronic record. For example, the data element that indicates bias motivation applies to all 46 Group A Offenses, and agencies can report information such as the age, sex, and race of victims, offenders, and arrestees. Though

the additional data are not maintained in the hate crime database, they are available in the NIBRS master files.

Reporting via the electronic hate crime record layout

Law enforcement agencies that prefer electronic submissions but do not report via the NIBRS may use the hate crime record layout specified in the publication *Hate Crime Magnetic Media Specifications for Tapes & Diskettes* (January 1997 [with subsequent amendments]). With FBI approval, agencies may use any of the previously mentioned electronic media to submit data.

Reporting via printed forms

Agencies that use the *Hate Crime Incident Report* and the *Quarterly Hate Crime Report* forms capture the following information about each hate crime incident:

- Offense type and the respective bias motivation
- Number and type of victims
- Location of the incident
- Number of known offenders
- Race of known offenders

During a calendar quarter, law enforcement agencies submit a *Hate Crime Incident Report* for each bias-motivated incident. At the end of each calendar quarter, agencies submit a *Quarterly Hate Crime Report* summarizing the total number of incidents reported for the quarter. On this form, agencies may also delete any previously reported incidents that were determined through subsequent investigation not to be bias-motivated. If no hate crime incidents occurred in their jurisdictions that quarter, the agencies must still submit the *Quarterly Hate Crime Report* to report zero hate crime incidents.

Notes

- When examining the data contained in this report, data users should be aware that the first line following each table number presents that table's unit of analysis: incident, offense, victim, or known offender.

- To be included in this publication, law enforcement agencies must have submitted hate crime data for at least 1 month of the calendar year. The published data, therefore, do not necessarily represent reports from each participating agency for 12 subsequent months or 4 quarters. Hate Crime by Jurisdiction furnishes individual state and agency information, including the number of quarters for which each agency reported data to the FBI.
- Based on the OMB's standards for defining Metropolitan Statistical Areas, the UCR Program refers to suburban counties as metropolitan counties and to rural counties as nonmetropolitan counties.
- Valid assessments about crime, including hate crime, are possible only with careful study and analysis of the various conditions affecting each local law enforcement jurisdiction. (See Variables Affecting Crime.) Therefore, the reader is cautioned against making simplistic comparisons between the statistical data of this program with that of others with differing methodologies or even comparing individual reporting units solely on the basis of their agency type.