



HATE CRIMES 2005

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HATE CRIME STATISTICS 2005

In October 2006, the Federal Bureau of Investigation released the publication, *Hate Crime Statistics 2005*. Produced in compliance with the federal Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990, the publication has been released annually since 1992.

Hate crimes, also known as bias crimes, are criminal offenses committed against a person, property, or society that are motivated, in part or in whole, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity/national origin.

The report is based on data submitted to the FBI's hate crime statistics program through a standardized hate crime supplement to UCR and NIBRS reports. Nationally, 12,417 law enforcement agencies representing 82.7 percent of the nation's population participated in the hate crime reporting program in 2005.

The information contained in this report is subject to strenuous qualifiers. As the FBI report itself states, "Because motivation is subjective, it is difficult to know with certainty whether a crime was a result of the offender's bias." Law enforcement investigation must reveal with sufficient evidence to lead a person to conclude that the offender's actions were motivated in whole or in part by his or her bias. This uncertainty of identifying a crime based on bias is compounded by the newness of hate crime reporting and the limited number of law enforcement agencies participating in the program.

The following is a brief review of this year's report. Whenever available, Ohio statistics are reported, and may be supplemented by U.S. statistics.

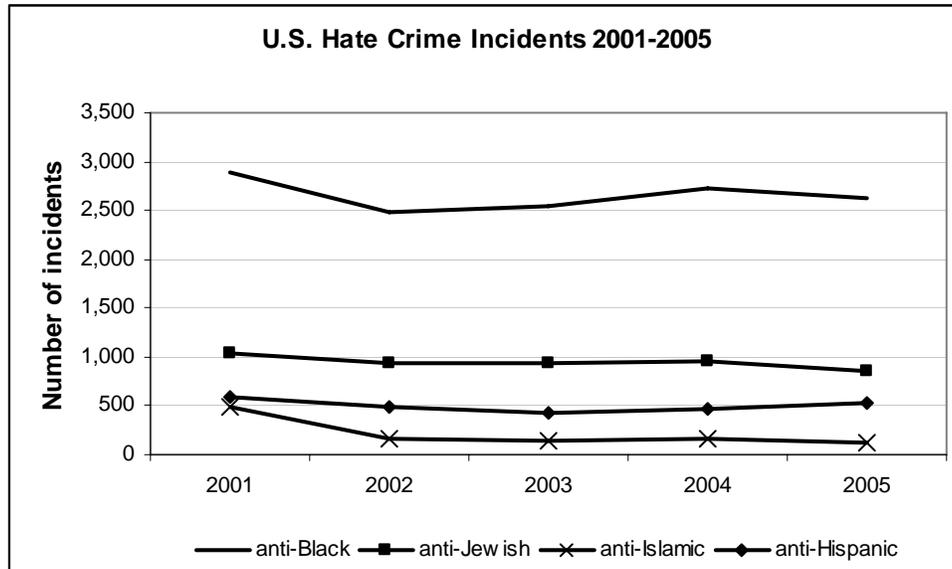
Hate crime reporting

- The number of Ohio law enforcement agencies who submitted the hate crime supplement increased from 410 in 2004 to 443 in 2005, an eight percent increase.
- Of the 443 Ohio law enforcement agencies who submitted the hate crime supplement, 383 reported no incidents of hate crimes in their jurisdictions.
- Sixty Ohio law enforcement agencies reported a total of 176 hate crime incidents during the year. The number of incidents decreased by 50 percent over 2004. Nationwide, the number of reported hate crimes decreased by more than six percent.

Note that in 2004, 353 hate crimes were reported in Ohio, an increase of nearly 53 percent over the previous year.

- The Ohio hate crime rate of 2.0 incidents per 100,000 population is below the national average of 2.9 incidents per 100,000 population.
- Nationwide, the majority of hate crime incidents, 55 percent, involved racial bias. The remaining incidents involved religion (17 percent), sexual orientation (14 percent), ethnicity/national origin (13 percent), and disability (< 1 percent).

- Compared to 2004, the total number of incidents nationwide decreased in every bias category. Sexual orientation bias showed the largest decrease (-15 percent), followed by religious bias (-11 percent), disability bias (-7 percent), racial bias (-3 percent) and ethnicity bias (-3 percent).
- Nationwide data on the specific types of racial bias show that 67 percent of such incidents were anti-Black and 21 percent were anti-White. Fifty-five percent of ethnicity bias incidents were anti-Hispanic.
- Nationwide data show that 69 percent of religious bias incidents were anti-Jewish, while 10 percent were anti-Islamic.
- Of the 60 Ohio law enforcement agencies reporting incidents of hate crime in their jurisdiction, Columbus accounted for 28 percent of all incidents. Taken together, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus accounted for 40 percent of all hate crime incidents.
- Nationwide, 62 percent of all hate crime offenses¹ were crimes against persons. The majority of these offenses involved intimidation (49 percent), simple assault (30 percent) and aggravated assault (20 percent). There were six murders as a result of a hate bias.
- Nationwide, of the 37 percent of hate crime offenses committed against property, the overwhelming majority, 81 percent, involved destruction, damage, or vandalism.



A link to this report can be found at the FBI's web site:
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/hc2005/index.html>.

¹ Offenses differ from incidents in that there may be multiple offenses, multiple victims, and/or multiple offenders within one hate crime incident.