Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

2014 HATE CRIME REPORT

2014 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes

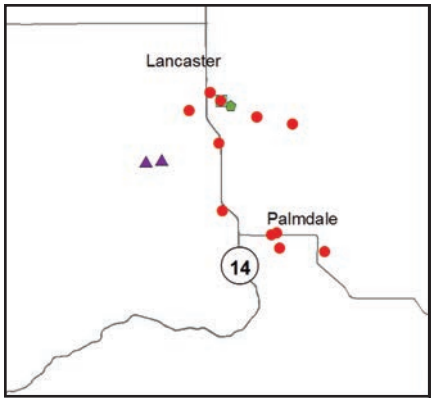
Santa Clarita
Angeles National Forest
Ventura County
5
La Cañada Flintridge
Burbank
Glendale
101
Van Nuys
Pasadena
210
Monrovia
Azusa
Temple City
Covina
Santa Monica Mountains
Alhambra
Beverly Hills
10
Los Angeles
Montebello
La Puente
Pomona
Walnut
Santa Monica
Pico Rivera
605
Whittier
Huntington Park
710
Diamond Bar
San Bernardino County
Inglewood
Downey
El Segundo
405
Gardena
5
Compton
Torrance
La Mirada
Orange County
Carson
Lakewood
Hawaiian Gardens
110
Long Beach
Rolling Hills

Motivation
- Race/Ethnicity/National Origin
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion
- Gender
- Disability

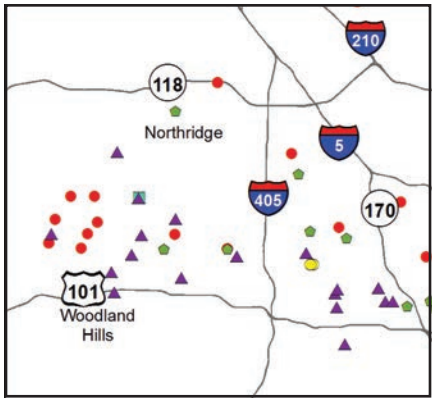
Miles
0 2 4
N

Note: In addition to the Hate Crimes shown on this map, there were 36 crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

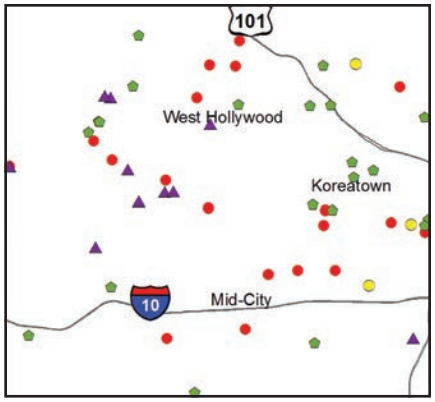
Antelope Valley



San Fernando Valley



Hollywood/West Hollywood



Maps by Juan Carlos Martinez

2014 Hate Crime Report

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor — Fifth District
Hilda L. Solis, Chair Pro Tem — First District
Mark Ridley-Thomas — Second District
Sheila Kuehl — Third District
Don Knabe — Fourth District

Sachi A. Hamai, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Community and Senior Services, Los Angeles County

Cynthia Banks, Director
Otto Solorzano, Chief Deputy Director

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

Susanne Cumming, Esq., President
Melina Abdullah, Ph.D, Vice President/Secretary
Donna Bojarsky, Vice President
Kathay Feng, Esq., Vice President
Sandra Thomas, Ph.D, Vice President
Cynthia Anderson Barker, Esq.
Jarrett Tomas Barrios, Esq.
Michael Gi-Hao Cheung
Adrian Dove
Isabelle Gunning, Esq.
Lea Ann King
Preeti Kulkarni
Daisy Ma
Eleanor R. Montaño
Ashlee Oh

Honorary Members

Vito Cannella
Philip R. Valera

Human Relations Commission Staff

Robin S. Toma, Esq. Executive Director
Elena Halpert-Schilt, Assistant Executive Director
Gustavo Guerra Vasquez, Human Services Administrator I
Sandra Mitchell, Human Services Administrator III
Robert Sowell, Human Services Administrator I
Yuisa Gimeno
Chrisshele Griffin
Sikivu Hutchinson
Grace Lowenberg
Juan Carlos Martinez
riKu Matsuda
Barbara Nolen
Emily Pacheco
Josh Parr
Gustavo Partida
Ray Regalado
Fidel Rodriguez
Sharon Williams
Marshall Wong

Table of Contents

Preface....3
What is a Hate Crime?....3
Underreporting of Hate Crimes....4
Hate Crime and Human Rights....5
2014 Quick Facts....6
2014 Hate Crimes in Perspective....8
Preventing and Responding to Hate Violence....19
A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes....22
A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes....29
A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes....33
A Closer Look at Gender Hate Crimes....37
A Closer Look at Disability Hate Crimes....38
Hate Crime Prosecutions....38
Review of 2014 Hate Crime Legislation....39
Methodology....40
Appendix A: Hate Crime by Service Planning Areas....42
Appendix B: Reporting Agencies....43
Acknowledgements....44

Maps

2014 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes....Inside Front Cover
2010–2014 Gang-Related Hate Crimes....15
2014 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Race/Ethnicity/National Origin....22
2014 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Sexual Orientation....29
2014 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Religion....33
Los Angeles County Service Planning Areas....41
2010–2014 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes....Inside Back Cover

Charts

Total Number of Reported Hate Crimes by Year....9
Hate Crimes by Motivation....9
Groups Targeted in Hate Crimes....10
2004–2014 Hate Crimes: Most Freqently Targeted Groups....11
2010–2014 Hate Crimes: Rate of Violence Against Selected Groups....11
Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense....12
Hate Crimes by Location....13
Black-Latino Hate Crimes in 2013–2014....14
Hate Crimes Involving Gangs or White Supremacist Ideology....16
2004–2014 Hate Crimes: Known Suspects by Age....18
Los Angeles County Population by Race/Ethnicity....24
Racial Hate Crimes by Known Targeted Group....24
Racial Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense....25
Rate of Violence for Victims of Racial Hate Crime....26
Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense....30
Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Known Victim Race/Ethnicity....31
Religious Hate Crimes by Targeted Group....34
Religious Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense....35

Preface

Since 1980, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations has compiled, analyzed, and produced an annual report of hate crime in the county based on data submitted by sheriff and city police agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations.

Using information from the report, the Commission sponsors a number of ongoing programs related to preventing and combating hate crime, including the Network Against Hate Crime, the Hate Violence Prevention Partners of LA, and the Youth Human Relations Leadership Development Initiative. L.A. County is one of the best trained jurisdictions in hate crime investigation and prosecution, and this annual report is one of the longest-standing reports in the nation documenting hate crime.

The report has been disseminated broadly to policy-makers, law enforcement agencies, educators, and community groups throughout Los Angeles County and across the nation in order to better inform efforts to prevent, detect, report, investigate, and prosecute hate crimes.

What is a Hate Crime?

According to California state law, hate crime charges may be filed when there is evidence that bias, hatred, or prejudice based on the victim's real or perceived race/ethnicity, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation is a substantial factor in the commission of the offense.

This definition is codified in the California penal code sections 422.55 to 422.95 pertaining to hate crime. Evidence of such bias, hatred, or prejudice can be direct or circumstantial. It can occur before, during, or after the commission of the offense.

Hate speech is a criminal offense when the perpetrator has threatened violence with spoken or written words against a specific person or group of persons. The threat must be immediate and unequivocal. The aggressor must also have the ability to carry out that threat. Frequently, derogatory words or epithets are directed against a member of a protected class, but no violence is threatened or there is no apparent ability to carry out the threat. Such hate incidents are important indicators of intergroup tensions. They are not, however, criminal offenses. Such language is protected by free speech rights set forth in the California and U.S. constitutions.

Graffiti is a hate crime when it is disparaging to a class of people protected by hate crime laws. This is most often indicated by the use of epithets or hate group symbols or slogans. To be a hate crime, graffiti must be directed at a specific target. For example, racial graffiti on a freeway overpass that does not address itself to a particular person is vandalism, and therefore illegal, but not considered a hate crime. Vandalism of a house of worship or of an ethnic, religious, or gay and lesbian organization may be investigated as a hate crime in the absence of evidence of other motives.

Underreporting of Hate Crimes

The National Crime Victim Survey by the U.S. Justice Department found that hate crimes occurred 22 to 40 times more than the number reported by police to the FBI.* This is due to victims not reporting hate crimes to police, as well as a failure of law enforcement to classify hate crimes and report them to federal authorities.

Common reasons victims don't report hate crimes to law enforcement:

- Fear of retaliation by the perpetrator(s) or friends, family, or fellow gang members of the perpetrator(s)
- Linguistic or cultural barriers
- Immigration status
- Lack of knowledge about the criminal justice system
- Fear of insensitive treatment or prior negative experience with government agencies

Common reasons law enforcement agencies don't report hate crime:

- Hate crime reporting is a low priority
- Lack of formal hate crime policies, training, or practices
- Crimes with multiple motivations or involving gangs are frequently not reported as hate crimes
- Reluctance to admit to a problem that could result in negative publicity for the city or neighborhood
- Burden on investigating detectives in order to prove bias motivation

Hate crimes that occur in schools, jails, and juvenile detention facilities, including large-scale racial brawls, are rarely reported as hate crimes.

For all of these reasons, it is reasonable to conclude that the hate crimes included in this report likely represent only a fraction of hate crimes actually committed in 2014.

*U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2014, "Hate Crime Victimization Statistical Tables, 2004 - 2012"

Hate Crime and Human Rights

Hate crimes are not only illegal under state and federal laws, but they violate human rights as defined by the international community[1].

In the aftermath of World War II, leaders from many nations came together to establish the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948.

Since then, people from all over Earth have taken steps towards turning the UDHR's powerful principles into action. Since 1965, the U.S. and 176 nations have signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which compels signatory nations to combat racial and national origin discrimination and report to the CERD committee. Under this treaty, hate crimes are considered serious human right abuses. The CERD Committee has stressed that government action as well as inaction can violate CERD, and there is no excuse for complacency or indifference by a government toward either public or private discrimination, particularly when it involves violence.

When the U.S. and 167 other nations signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), they committed their nations to respect and fulfill the right to life and the security of the person "without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." The ICCPR also requires governments to report to the Human Rights Committee on the actual measures taken to give effect to this treaty.

The U.S. Constitution states that the Constitution and Treaties are the Supreme Law of the Land. Thus, all levels of government in the U.S. -including counties, cities and school districts- and individuals have a duty to uphold these treaty obligations by addressing discrimination manifested in hate crimes.

Building on the Ten-Point Plan developed by Human Rights First (www.humanrightsfirst.org/discrimination), some of the key strategies responding to hate crime include:

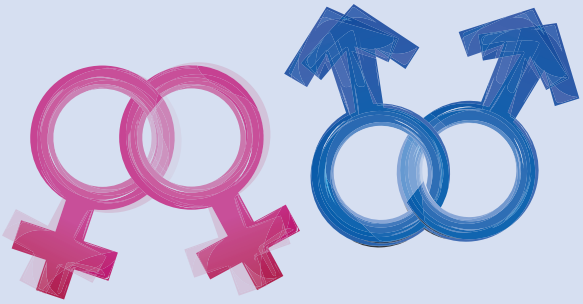
- Acknowledge and/or condemn hate crimes whenever they occur. Senior leaders should send immediate, strong, public, and consistent messages that violent hate crimes—including against migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers—will be investigated thoroughly and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
- Strengthen enforcement and prosecute offenders. Governments should ensure that those responsible for hate crimes are held accountable under the law, that the prosecution of hate crimes against any individuals regardless of their legal status in the country is a priority for the criminal justice system.
- Develop educational and transformative approaches, particular restorative justice mechanisms, for hate crime offenders. Governments need to be smarter in utilizing effective methods to heal communities and reduce recidivism.
- Monitor and report on hate crimes. Governments should maintain official systems of monitoring and public reporting to provide accurate data for informed policy decisions to combat hate crimes.
- Reach out to community groups. Governments should conduct outreach and education efforts to communities to reduce fear and assist victims, advance police-community relations, encourage improved reporting of hate crimes to the police and improve the quality of data collection by law enforcement bodies.

[1] We acknowledge and thank the organization Human Rights First (www.humanrightsfirst.org) for most of the substance of this section.

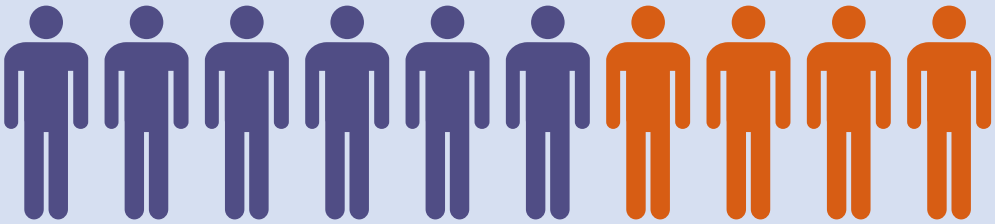
2014 Quick Facts

After trending downward for six years, hate crimes in Los Angeles County rose slightly (1%) from 383 to 389. This is the **second lowest number** reported in 25 years.

28% of hate crimes were motivated by **sexual orientation** and they **grew 14%**. After falling 41% the previous year, crimes targeting gay men rose 31%. The rate of violence for sexual orientation crimes grew from 71% to 81%, the highest rate of violence since 2003. This rate was much higher than the violence rate for racial crimes (68%) and religious ones (22%).



The overall **rate of violence increased slightly from 60% to 62%**. This is primarily due to acts of intimidation rising 16% and aggravated assaults increasing 13% (after falling the previous year).



Half of hate crimes were **racially-motivated** and **African Americans were targeted in more than 2/3 of those cases**.

19% of hate crimes were motivated by **religious bias** and **76% of these were anti-Jewish**.

Religious crimes grew 26%. After sharply declining 48% the previous year, anti-Jewish crimes rose 31%.

14% of all hate crimes were committed by **gang members.** 62% of these crimes targeted African Americans.

Anti-transgender crimes declined 21% from 19 to 15. 93% were of a violent nature.

The largest number of crimes occurred in the **Metro Service Planning Area** (SPA) Region IV followed by the **San Fernando Valley** SPA Region II. However if one accounts for population the highest rate was in the Metro Region SPA Region IV followed by the Antelope Valley SPA Region I.

2014 Hate Crimes in Perspective

Second Lowest Number of Hate Crimes in 25 Years

There were 389 hate crimes reported in Los Angeles County in 2014. After six years of trending downward, this represented a 1% increase; however, this was the second lowest number in the past 25 years. The Office of the California Attorney General reported that in 2014 the number of hate crime victims state-wide decreased 9.8% from 1,045 to 943. At the time of this report's publication, the U.S. Department of Justice had not released their statistics for 2014.

In 2014, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department reported a 5% decrease in Part I crimes (aggravated assaults, forcible rape, murder, robbery, burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft) and a 2% decline in Part II crimes (which include simple assaults, vandalism, disturbing the peace and other less serious offenses). During the same year, the Los Angeles Police Department reported that after a decade of decline, Part I crimes rose 12.3% and Part II crimes declined 4.4%.

Hate Crimes by Motivation and Targeted Group

As in previous years, crimes motivated by the victim's real or perceived race, ethnicity, or national origin (for the sake of brevity, we refer to these as "racial" hate crimes throughout this report) remained by far the largest category, constituting 51% of all hate crimes. These were followed by crimes motivated by sexual orientation (28%), religion (19%), gender (4%) and disability (1%). This represented a 7% decline in racial crimes, but a 14% increase in sexual orientation, and a 26% rise in religious crimes. It should be noted that sexual orientation and religious crimes fell dramatically the previous year. Gender crimes decreased 29% and the number of disability crimes grew from 0 to 3. There were also 12 crimes in which it was impossible to determine the motivation. These crimes were most commonly cases of swastikas painted on the property of white, non-Jewish victims. It is possible that these acts of vandalism were random and did not specifically target the owner of the property. These crimes could also be cases of mistaken identity. This report classifies these crimes as "unknown" motivation.

As in the past, the overwhelming number of hate crimes (86%) targeted four groups: African Americans, gay men/lesbians/LGBT organizations, Jews and Latinos. There were decreases in the number of offenses targeting Asians, lesbians, and transgender people and an increase in anti-white hate crimes.

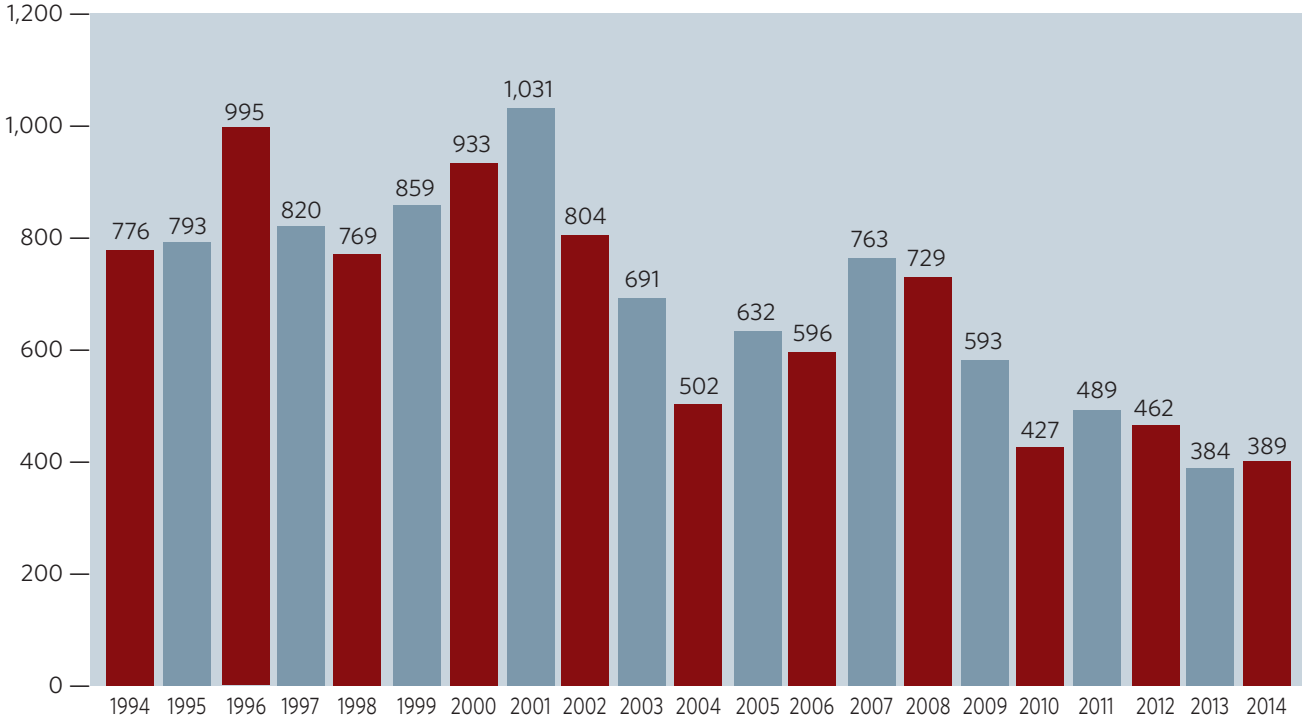
Criminal Offenses

The rate of violence (crimes against people as opposed to crimes against property) rose slightly from 60% to 62%. The most common criminal offense was vandalism (31%) followed by simple assaults (28%), aggravated assaults (16%) and acts of intimidation (15%). These four offenses comprised 90% of all hate crimes. The distribution of criminal offenses was remarkably similar to the previous year.

In 2013, there were no reported hate murders or attempted murders. There was one attempted murder in 2014. At the time of this report's publication the investigation was ongoing and no suspects had been identified. The case is complicated, involving multiple victims and suspects. Six white youth were leaving a restaurant and encountered 3 black males in the parking lot. Words were exchanged and the 2 groups separated but remained on the restaurant property. Another unrelated group of black and Latino males arrived and tried to intervene on behalf of the white youth. After some heated words, 1 of the suspects fired a gun, killing a black male who had intervened, and wounding 2 of his Latinos friends, and a white male who was part of the original group. Witnesses heard 1 of the suspects say, "Fuck white people."

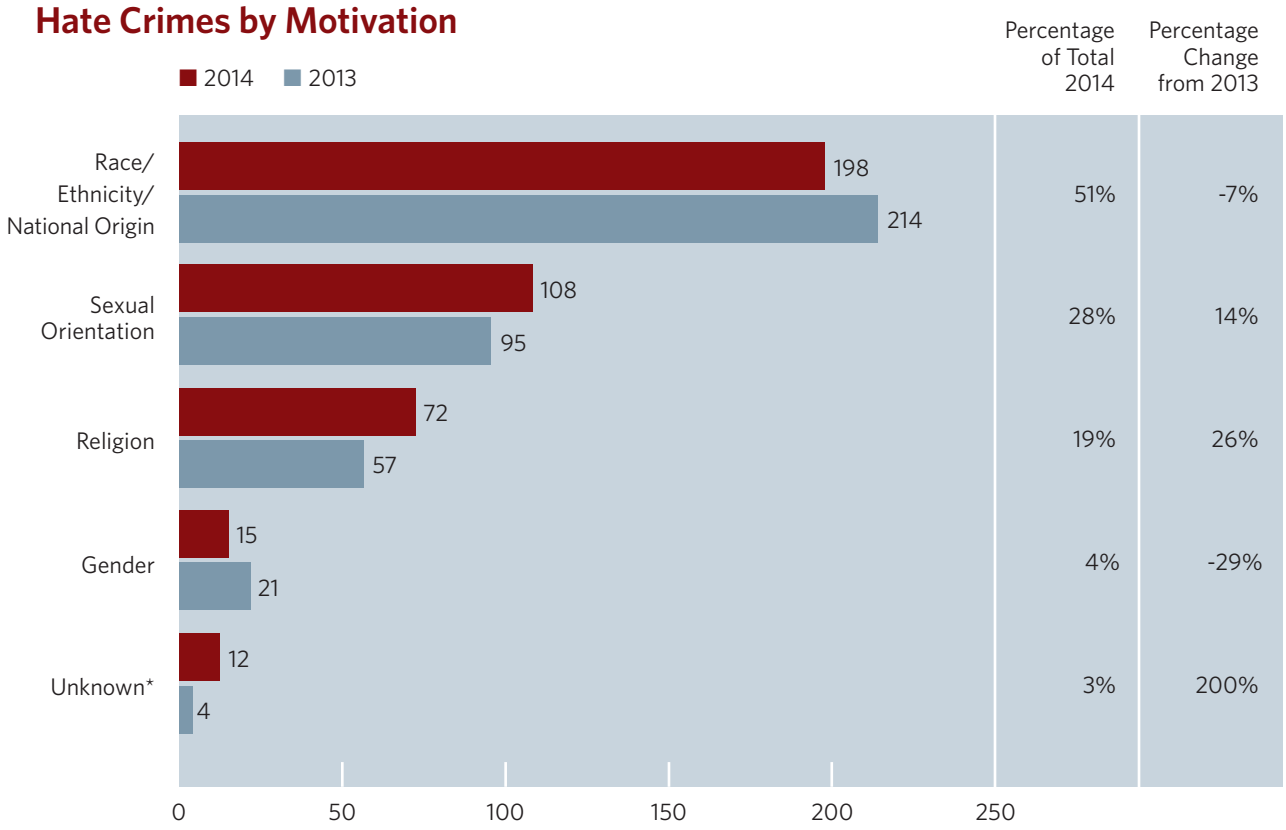
This report includes the wounding of the white male victim as a hate-motivated attempted murder. There is no evidence at this time that the homicide and the wounding of the 2 other victims were hate-motivated. It is likely that those crimes were committed because the shooter was angry that those victims intervened.

Total Number of Reported Hate Crimes by Year



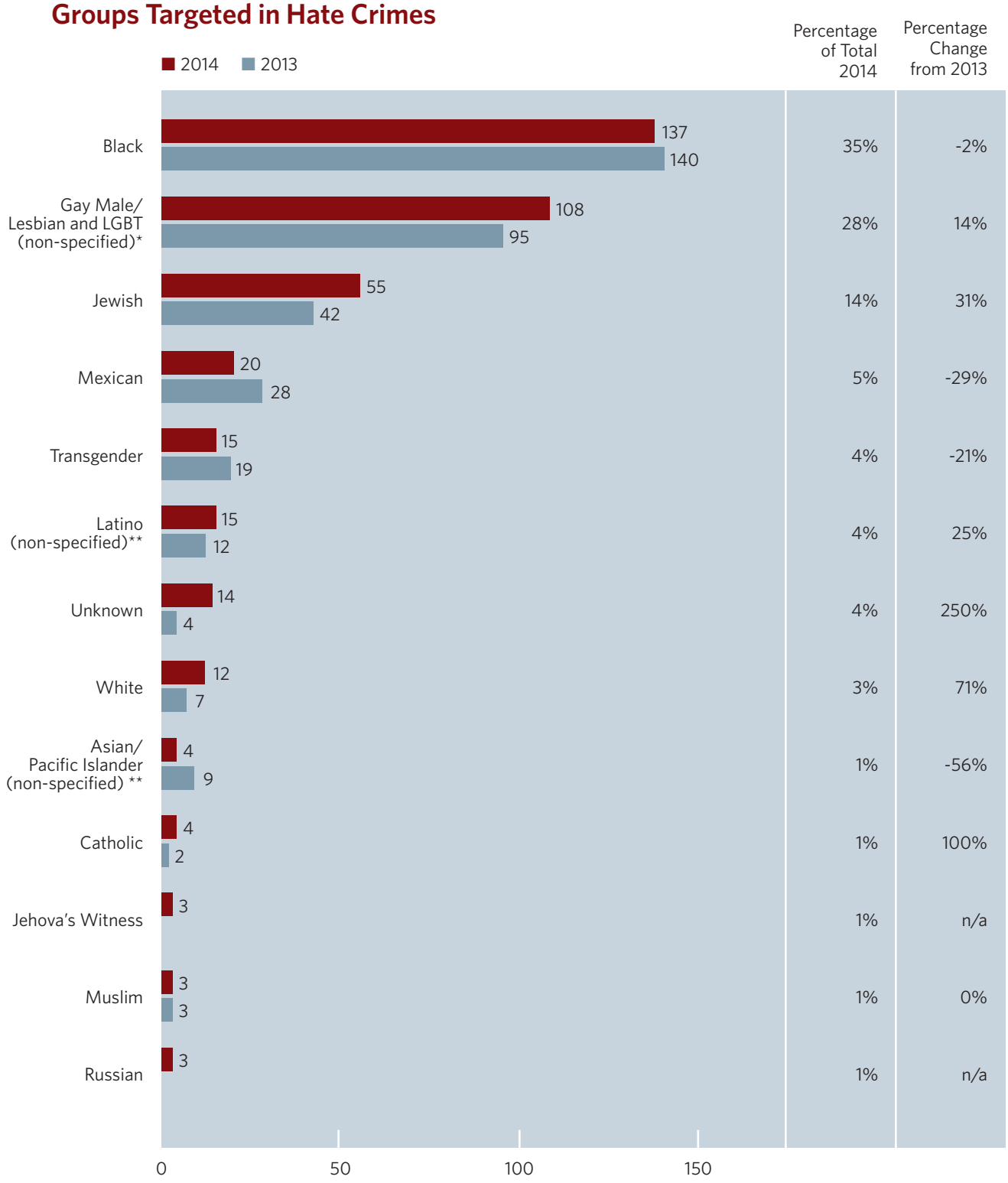
Reported hate crimes rose in the 1990s, following adoption of legislation by the California State legislature in 1989 that mandated law enforcement to record and report hate crimes.

Hate Crimes by Motivation



*** These were primarily cases of vandalism that used hate symbols and the motivation could not be determined.**

Groups Targeted in Hate Crimes

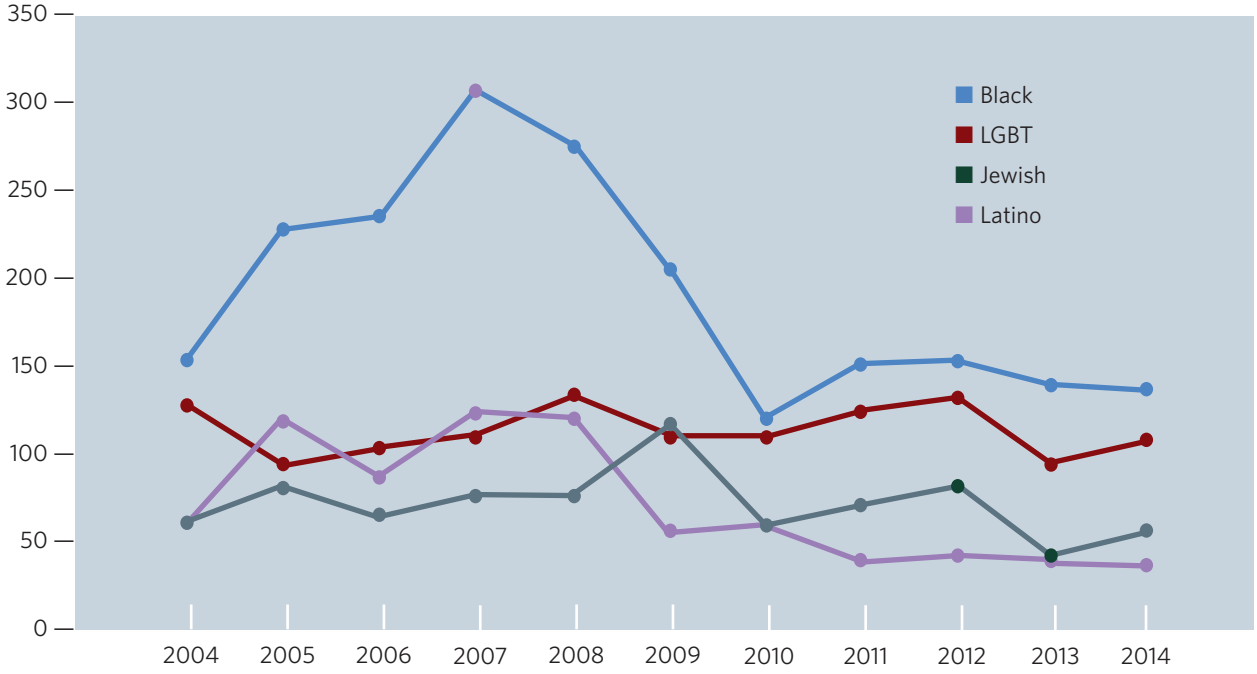


In 2014, there were 2 cases targeting non-whites, persons with mental disabilities, Protestants, and single crimes that targeted Armenians, Asian Indians, Chinese, Christians, Croatians, Ethiopians, Middle Easterners, Mormons, persons with physical disabilities, Salvadorans, Scientologists, and Sikhs.

*** "LGBT non-specified" refers to hate crimes that target an LGBT organization or business, not an individual.**

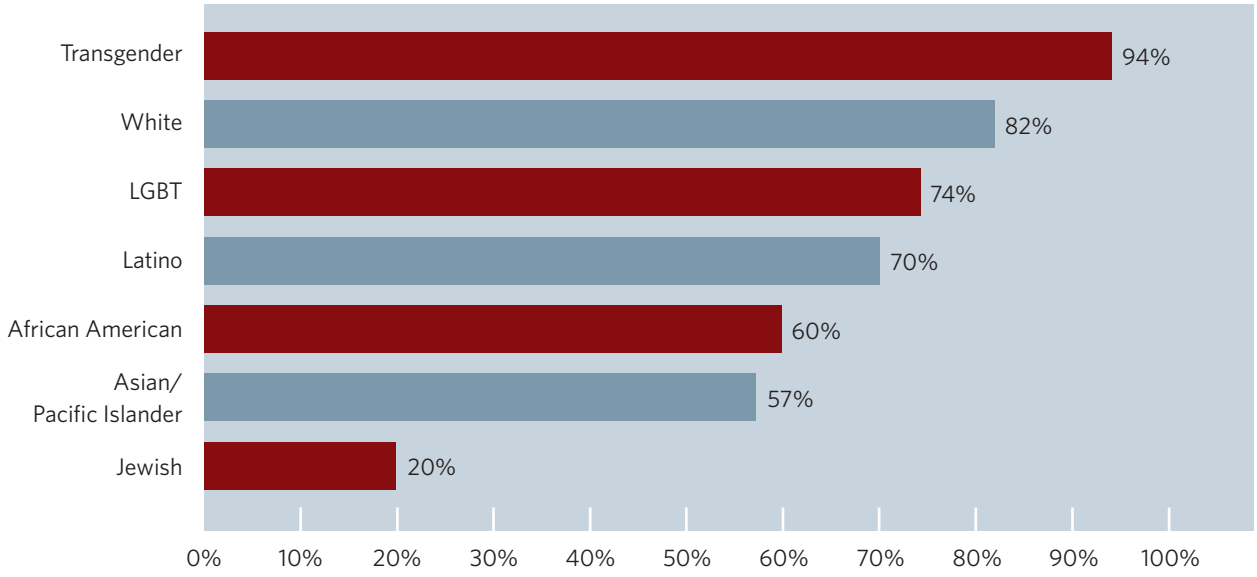
****"Non-specified" crimes targeting Asians and Latinos refer to crimes in which these groups were targeted but there were no slurs made against a specific nationality (e.g. Chinese, Mexicans, Salvadorans).**

2004–2013 Hate Crimes: Most Frequently Targeted Groups

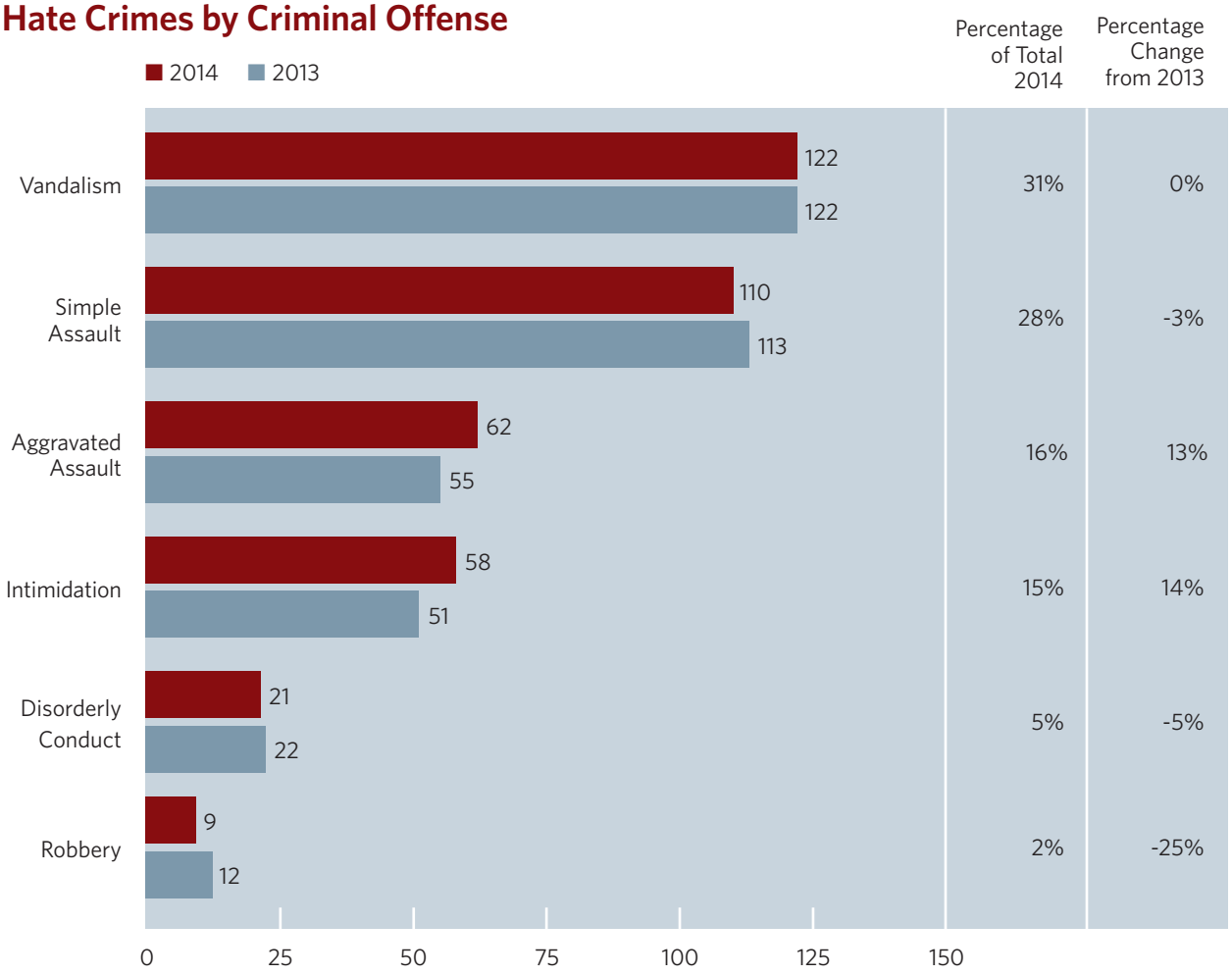


Black, LGBT, Jewish, and Latino targets constitute approximately 80% of all victims in any given year.

2010–2014 Hate Crimes: Rate of Violence Against Selected Groups



Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In 2014, there were also 4 burglaries and 1 case each of arson, attempted murder, and theft.

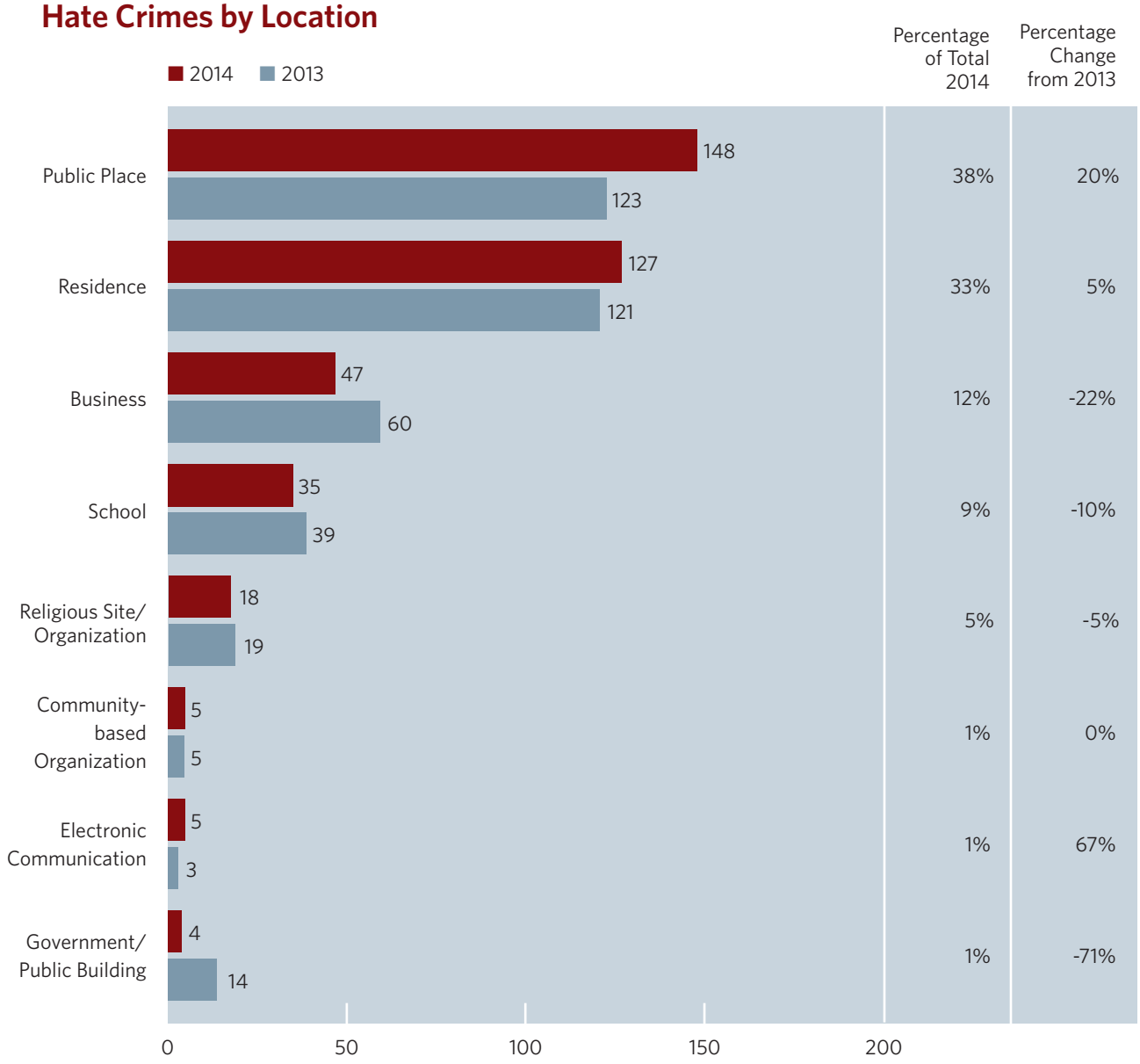
It should be noted that non-violent crimes such as vandalism can be traumatic for the victims. For example, Latino gang members painted racist graffiti on the home of an African American woman on 4 separate occasions during a 7-month period. She is the only black resident in the neighborhood. In another case, an African American man was standing next to his car in a supermarket parking lot chatting with three friends. Four Latino gang members confronted them and called them racist slurs and told them to get out of their city. They then shattered the rear and passenger windows of the vehicle. The victims quickly fled in the car, fearing for their safety.

As in previous years, there were dramatically different rates of violence based on motivation. 93% of gender-motivated crimes were violent, followed by sexual orientation (81%), race (68%) and religion (21%).

Location

The largest number of hate crimes (38%) occurred in public places (e.g., streets, sidewalks, parks), followed by residences (33%), businesses (12%), schools (9%), religious sites (5%), and community-based organizations, electronic communication, and government buildings (1% each). This represented an increase in the number of hate crimes that took place in public places and residences and a decrease in those that occurred in businesses and government buildings. Despite the growing popularity of e-mail, text messages, and social media, there were only 5 hate crimes reported using electronic communication, compared to 3 the previous year.

Hate Crimes by Location



Geographic Distribution

The largest number of hate crimes (86) took place in the Metro Service Planning Area (SPA) Region IV which stretches from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights. It was followed by the San Fernando Valley SPA Region II (84). But if one compares the population of the regions to the number of reported hate crimes, the Metro SPA Region IV had the highest rate followed by the Antelope Valley SPA Region I. This is ironic because the Antelope Valley SPA Region I had the lowest number of hate crimes (22) followed by the West SPA Region V (26) which includes Beverly Hills, Culver City and a number of affluent beach cities. The regions with the lowest rates of hate crimes were the San Gabriel Valley SPA Region III followed by the East Spa Region VII (which includes cities such as Huntington Park, South Gate, and Whittier).

As mentioned earlier, African Americans, gay men/lesbians/LGBT organizations, Jews and Latinos were targets in 86% of hate crimes. The San Gabriel Valley and East SPAs have extremely small numbers of black residents, LGBT-oriented businesses, and Jewish religious sites, which could account for the low rates of hate crimes.

Hate Crimes Between African Americans and Latinos

The great majority of African Americans and Latinos in Los Angeles County co-exist peacefully and are not involved in ongoing racial conflict. However, for many years this report has documented that most hate crimes targeting African Americans are committed by Latinos and vice versa. This is particularly true in neighborhoods that have undergone rapid demographic shifts from being primarily black to majority Latino. The other factor driving this phenomenon is the large number of Latino street gangs which have ties to the Mexican Mafia, the largest and most violent prison-based gang. The Mexican Mafia has been feuding with black inmates for decades and has encouraged their affiliated street gangs to drive African Americans out of their neighborhoods. In 2014, 59% of anti-black crimes were committed by Latinos. Of the 64 Latino-on-black crimes, 26 (or 41%) were committed by gang members. However, there was a marked shift in the composition of suspects who committed anti-Latino crimes. There were equal numbers of black and white suspects (44% each). Of the 11 black-on-Latino hate crimes, only 2 were committed by gang members.

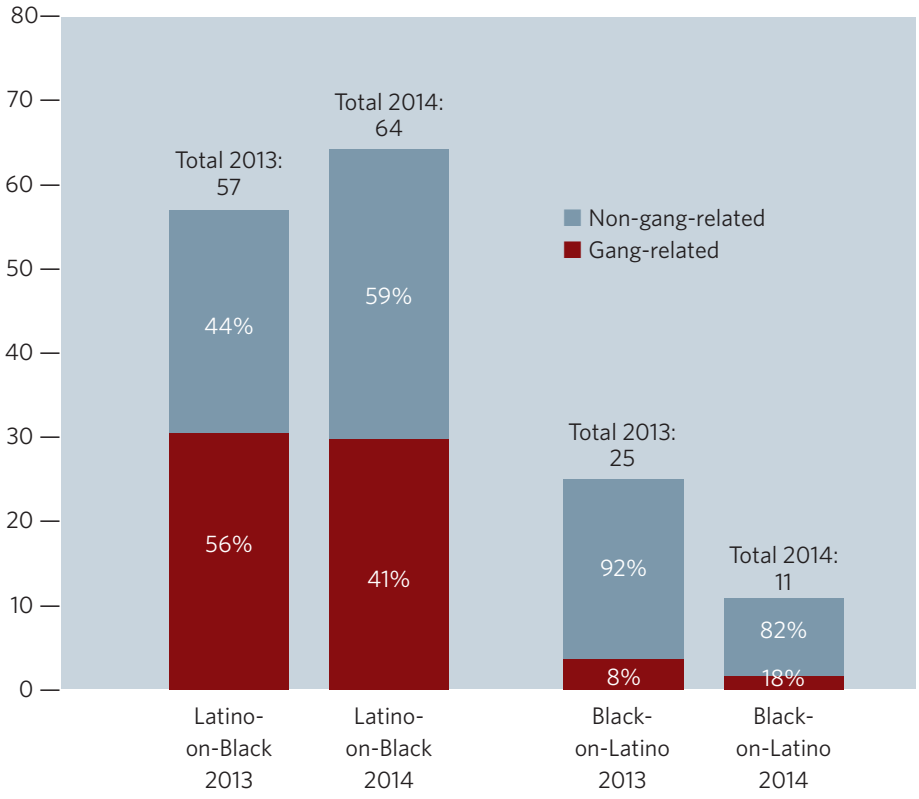
Gangs

There were 54 hate crimes committed by gang members in 2014, a decline from the 61 reported the previous year. Gang members were responsible for 14% of all hate crimes, and 20% of all racial hate crimes.

Generally, this report classifies suspects as gang members if they shout their affiliation during the commission of an offense or include gang names or monikers in graffiti. This report does not label suspects as gang members solely based on appearance or clothing. Therefore, it is likely that the actual number of gang members who committed hate crimes is higher.

Sixty-seven percent of the crimes committed by gang members were motivated by race, followed by sexual orientation (21%), gender (10%) and religion (2%). Sixty-one percent of hate crimes committed by gang members were of a violent nature, compared to 69% the previous year. The most common criminal offense was vandalism (37%), followed by aggravated assaults (26%), simple assaults (19%), and intimidation (17%). The most significant change from the previous year is that the incidents of simple assaults declined from 20 to 10.

Black-Latino Hate Crimes in 2013–2014

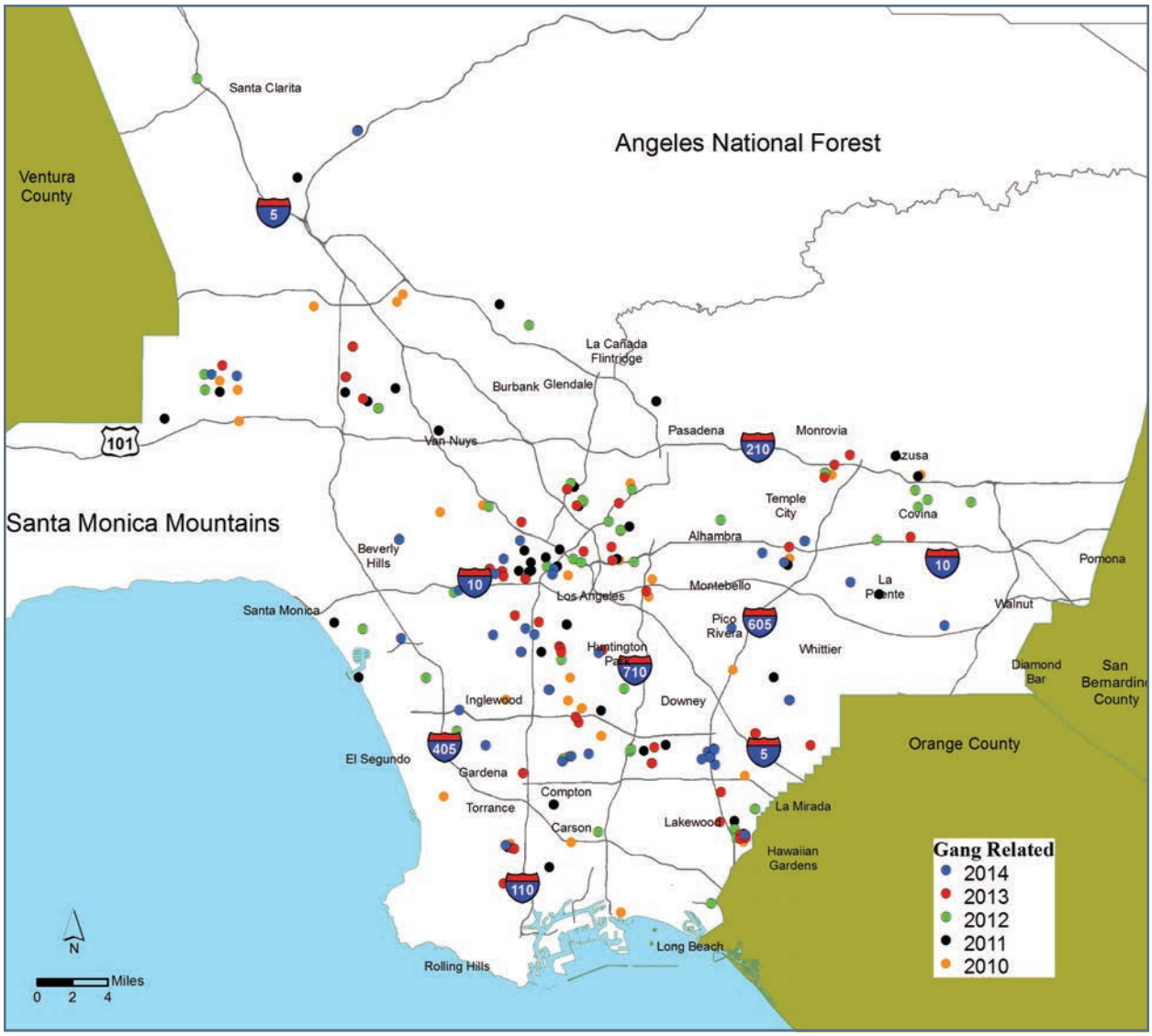


Fifty-two percent of gang-related crimes took place at residences, followed by public places (33%) and businesses and schools (7% each). This is the 4th year in a row in which the largest number of these hate crimes occurred at residences. These crimes are especially frightening for victims who sometimes are forced to move for their safety.

According to the CA Attorney General's 2010 report on organized crime, there are at least 1,250 known gangs in L.A. County. The gangs identified as being involved in hate crimes in 2014 included 18th Street*, 155th Street (Compton Varrio 155th), Bloods, Canoga Park Alabama*, Compton Crips, Culver City 13, Deuce Gang, Eastside Torrance*, El Monte Flores 13*, KOS (Kill on Sight), Grape Street Crips*, Lennox 13, Mara Salvatrucha 13*, Playboys 13, Rancho Park 18th Street, Sur 13 (Sureños)*, Varrio Hawaiian Gardens*, Varrio Norwalk 13*, Varrio Norwalk Parkside, and West Side Wilmas.

*Members of these gangs have committed other hate crimes during the past three years.

2010–2014 Gang-Related Hate Crimes



Map by Juan Carlos Martinez

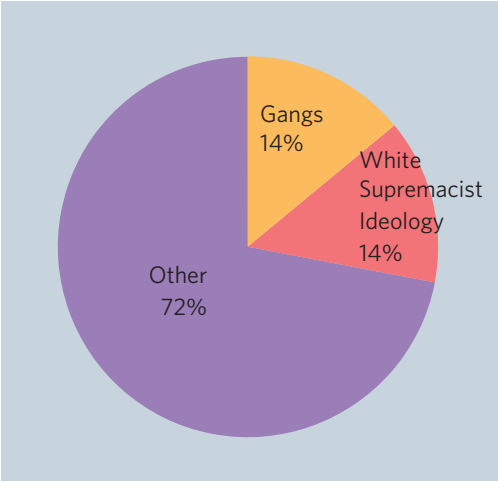
White Supremacist Crime

This report has tracked hate crime in which there is evidence of white supremacist ideology since 2004. Usually, these are crimes in which swastikas and other hate symbols are used in graffiti. Occasionally a suspect will yell out a white supremacist slogan or identify himself as a skinhead or member of a specific hate group. After a 33% decrease the previous year, white supremacist crimes rose from 52 to 56 in 2014. White supremacist crimes constituted 14% of all hate crimes, a proportion similar to the previous year.

The largest group were motivated by race (44%), followed by religion (33%) and the motivation was unknown in 21% of these crimes. Jews were targeted in about a third of these crimes, followed by African Americans (24%), and Latinos (12%).

The great majority of these crimes were acts of vandalism (68%), followed by disorderly conduct (16%). Acts of disorderly conduct includes cases in which swastikas are drawn on private property but don't constitute vandalism because they are easily removable. Only 14% of white supremacist crimes are of a violent nature.

Hate Crimes Involving Gangs or White Supremacist Ideology



As in previous years, residences were the most common location (38%), followed by public places (20%), schools and businesses (16% each).

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) reported in 2013 that there are more than 2,400 extremist organizations nationwide and classified more than 1,000 of them as hate groups. The majority, but not all, of these expound white supremacist views. Very few of these organizations have a presence in Southern California. Notable exceptions include the Nazi Lowriders and the Peckerwoods. It is likely that these white supremacist crimes are committed primarily by individuals who are acting on their own and may use the Internet to communicate with like-minded people. For example, at the time of this report's release, Dylan Roof, the suspect in the June 17, 2015 Charleston, South Carolina church massacre that claimed the lives of nine black worshipers, appeared to be acting alone, and he created and maintained his own website. Furthermore, according to the SPLC, Roof may have posted comments on the popular neo-Nazi website, the Daily Stormer.

Crimes Related to Terrorism or Conflict in the Middle East

Since the attacks on September 11, 2001, this report has examined hate crimes in which the perpetrators used language that blamed the victims for terrorism or ongoing conflict in the Middle East. During the period immediately following 9/11, there were 188 reported anti-Muslim/Middle Eastern hate crimes committed in Los Angeles County. Since that time, reported crimes fitting this profile have plummeted even though Muslims, South Asians and Middle Easterners still report bias-motivated incidents that don't qualify as hate crimes, such as harassment, racial/religious profiling, and discrimination. For example, the California chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-California) released their 2015 Civil Rights Report, which shows that reports of anti-Muslim bias incidents almost doubled between 2013 and 2014 from 63 to 115.

In 2014, crimes related to terrorism and the Middle East grew from 1 to 10. Interestingly, with 1 exception, all of these crimes were not only anti-Jewish, but they were also specifically critical of the government of Israel. During the summer of 2014, there was a series of violent attacks between Israel and Hamas, a Palestinian organization that governs the Gaza strip. This culminated in a bombardment resulted in many casualties, the great majority of whom were Gazans. The following are examples of the reported hate crimes related to events in the Middle East, most of which took place during the summer conflict:

- An elementary school with a large Jewish student body was vandalized with a drawing of the Star of David = swastika and the word, "Gaza."
- A synagogue's website was hacked and the contents were replaced with photos and anti-Israeli and anti-American messages, including, "This Hacked victory for the children of Gaza. Israel is a terrorist kills children."

Graffiti that is critical of a country's actions is not necessarily a hate crime. For example, if "Free Palestine" was written on a billboard, it could be considered a crime (vandalism) but the motivation could not be presumed to be hatred or religious bias, absent any other evidence. However, if that same graffiti is drawn on a Jewish home, business, organization, or synagogue, it may be a hate crime because the perpetrator is committing a crime targeting Jews with an explicit message blaming Jewish people for Israeli government actions in the Middle East.

There was only 1 anti-Muslim crime that referenced the Middle East.

- A Druze Muslim found a website that had several postings targeting him for his religious beliefs. One of the postings stated that the victim was a "tranny fucking homo Arab Muslim internet terrorist." The website also had a partial copy of the victim's tax form and photos of the victim in his backyard and on the front porch of his home.

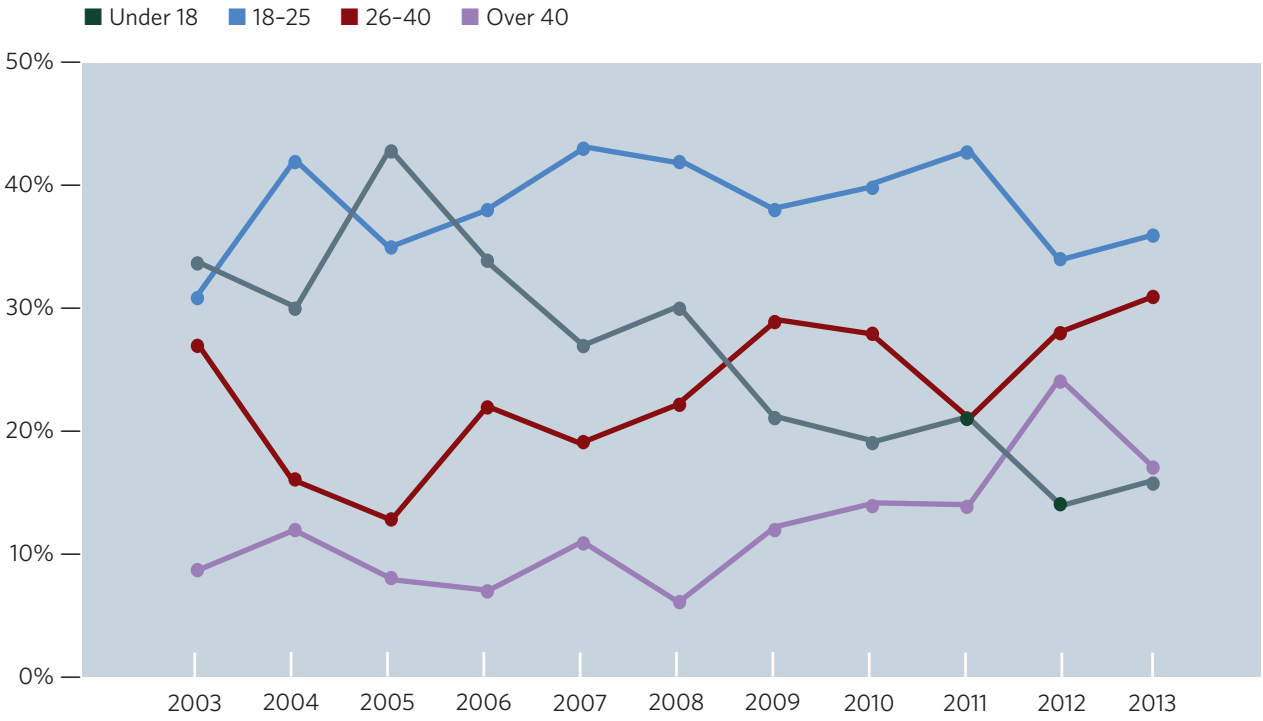
In addition there were 3 other anti-Muslim crimes, 1 anti-Sikh, and 1 anti-Middle Eastern. Although there were no specific slurs, like "terrorist" or "Taliban" used, it is possible that the perpetrators possessed such sentiments.

Suspects

The number of hate crime suspects identified in 2014 rose from 308 to 342. As in previous years, these suspects were overwhelmingly male (90%).

Consistent with previous years, the largest group of suspects (36%) were young adults age 18 – 25. The second largest group (31%) were suspects age 26-40. Persons over 40 have generally been the smallest group and in 2014 they comprised 17% of all suspects. For the second year in a row juveniles comprised the smallest group of suspects (16%).

2004–2014 Hate Crimes: Known Suspects by Age



This graph depicts the percentage of suspects that fell within different age groups each year.

Hate Crimes Committed by Groups of Suspects

This report tracks the number of hate crimes committed by multiple suspects. In 2014, in cases in which suspects were identified, 82% of the crimes were committed by lone suspects. In 8% of the crimes, there were 2 suspects, and in 6% there were 3. Three percent of the crimes had 4 suspects. There were single crimes with 5, 6, and 8 suspects each and 2 cases involving larger groups.

- In Highland Park, a group of 10 teenagers (age 14-15) threw rocks at a transgender victim while yelling, "You fucking faggot! We're going to kill you homo. You don't deserve to live! Get the fuck out of Highland Park or you will die!" The victim stated that for the past 8 months this group of youth yelled profanities and threw rocks at her approximately twice a week when she would pass them.
- 4 guests were leaving a party where many of the guests were gay or transgender. Outside the residence, a group of 28 people attacked them. The suspects struck them with their fists and other objects and yelled, "Faggots! You are a disgrace!"

Preventing and Responding to Hate Violence

Working to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace

About the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR)

LACCHR was first established by the Board of Supervisors in January, 1944, in response to the "Zoot Suit" riots, three days of racially-motivated civil unrest. For more than 70 years, LACCHR has been helping L.A. County residents replace prejudice and fear with respect and trust in a county that is one of the most culturally-diverse places in the world.

LACCHR's vision is for a County where the fundamental rights of every person are met, all people and groups enjoy equal opportunity to realize their full potential, conflicts are peacefully resolved, and County government leads and models the highest level of respect for civil liberties and the intrinsic dignity of each person.

LACCHR's mission is to promote better human relations in Los Angeles County by working to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace.

To that end, LACCHR has adopted the following strategic priorities below. LACCHR programs in 2014 are listed by priority area.

1. **DEVELOP YOUTH LEADERSHIP:**
   Preparing Young People to Work for Justice, Equity, and Non-Violence

   - **Youth Human Relations Leadership Development Initiative (YHRLD)**
     LACCHR designed human relations training for organizations (such as Challenger Memorial Camp's Christa McAuliffe High School and L.A. County Probation's San Fernando Valley Cluster) that serve youth from different parts of the county. As a result of that training, youth will engage in a variety of projects that address the conditions that lead to inequity, violence, and repression.

LACCHR staff partner with the Parks and Recreation Department for the Youth Human Relations Leadership Development Initiative.

- **Women's Leadership Project (WLP)**
  Gardena High School students participated in this mentoring and service learning advocacy program that helped them sharpen their critical thinking, writing, collaboration and leadership skills. Student projects included presentations on sexual assault awareness, reproductive justice, women's history, media literacy, Day of Silence (in collaboration with Gay Students Alliance) and Transgender Day of Remembrance.

- **Young Male Scholars (YMS) Program**
  Gardena High School 9–11th grade students in YMS learned to identify and challenge stereotypes and discrimination based on gender, race, sexuality, class, and disability.

2. **INCREASE FAIRNESS AND EQUITY IN LA COUNTY'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS:**
   Racial discrimination in our criminal justice system is one of the greatest barriers to our mission of "transforming inequity into justice."

   - **L.A. County Dispute Resolution Program (DRP)**
     DRP's 12 contract agencies train and supervise mediators to help people resolve their differences quickly, without the added time and cost required for full, formal court proceedings. Four of the agencies provided Victim-Offender mediations in which crime victims faced their perpetrators and agreed upon plans to make amends for the harm.

   - **Commercially Sexually-Exploited Minors**
     LACCHR and a Graduate Fellow from UCLA's Luskin School of Public Policy conducted a thorough review of how the county interacts with commercially sexually-exploited minors and prepared recommendations for improvements in the treatment of these victims.

3. **HATE CRIME PREVENTION AND RESPONSE:**
   Educating our communities about hate crime is the first step to combating it.

   - **Network Against Hate Crime (NAHC)**
     This countywide coalition of representatives of law enforcement agencies, civil and human relations organizations, educational institutions, faith communities, and social service and advocacy groups meets to coordinate efforts to combat intolerance and hate crime. In 2014, educational presentations included film maker Lydia Nibley screening her documentary, "Two Spirits" about the murder of a transgender Navajo teenager; an address by Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey who received national attention for her successful prosecution of the county's first race-based hate crime murder; and a tour of the Museum of Tolerance's exhibit GlobalHate.com that explores the dangerous proliferation of hate on the internet.

On behalf of the Network Against Hate Crime, LACCHR Executive Director Robin Toma receives an award from the Los Angeles County District Attorney Victim-Witness Assistance Program during Victims' Rights Week.

- **Hate Violence Prevention Partners of LA (HVPPLA)**
  HVPPLA's partner agencies, Bienestar; Brotherhood Crusade; Central American Resource Center; California Conference for Equality and Justice; Muslim Public Affairs Council; and Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, have formed a pilot collaborative (funded by the California Community Foundation) to develop more effective grass-root efforts to reduce hate–based behaviors in Los Angeles County. HVPPLA agency staff and board members received extensive training to increase their organizations' individual and collective capacity to integrate hate violence prevention and victim assistance work into their missions and programs.

- **Harbor Gateway's Gang Reduction and Community Enhancement (GRACE) Project**
  GRACE is a project of the Toberman Neighborhood Center with core funding from the LA County 4th District Supervisor's Office and receives technical assistance from LACCHR. GRACE continues to positively impact quality of life for residents in Harbor Gateway, the Tortilla Flats neighborhood of unincorporated Carson, and adjacent neighborhoods by reducing gang activity, and racially motivated violence.

- **Hate Crime Training**
  LACCHR provided educational presentations on hate crime to the Los Angeles Police Department, California Highway Patrol, California State University Los Angeles Department of Criminology, and the Constitutional Rights Foundation.

- **Hate Crime and Crisis Response**
  LACCHR deploys staff throughout the county to address individual hate crimes and larger manifestations of inter-group conflict.

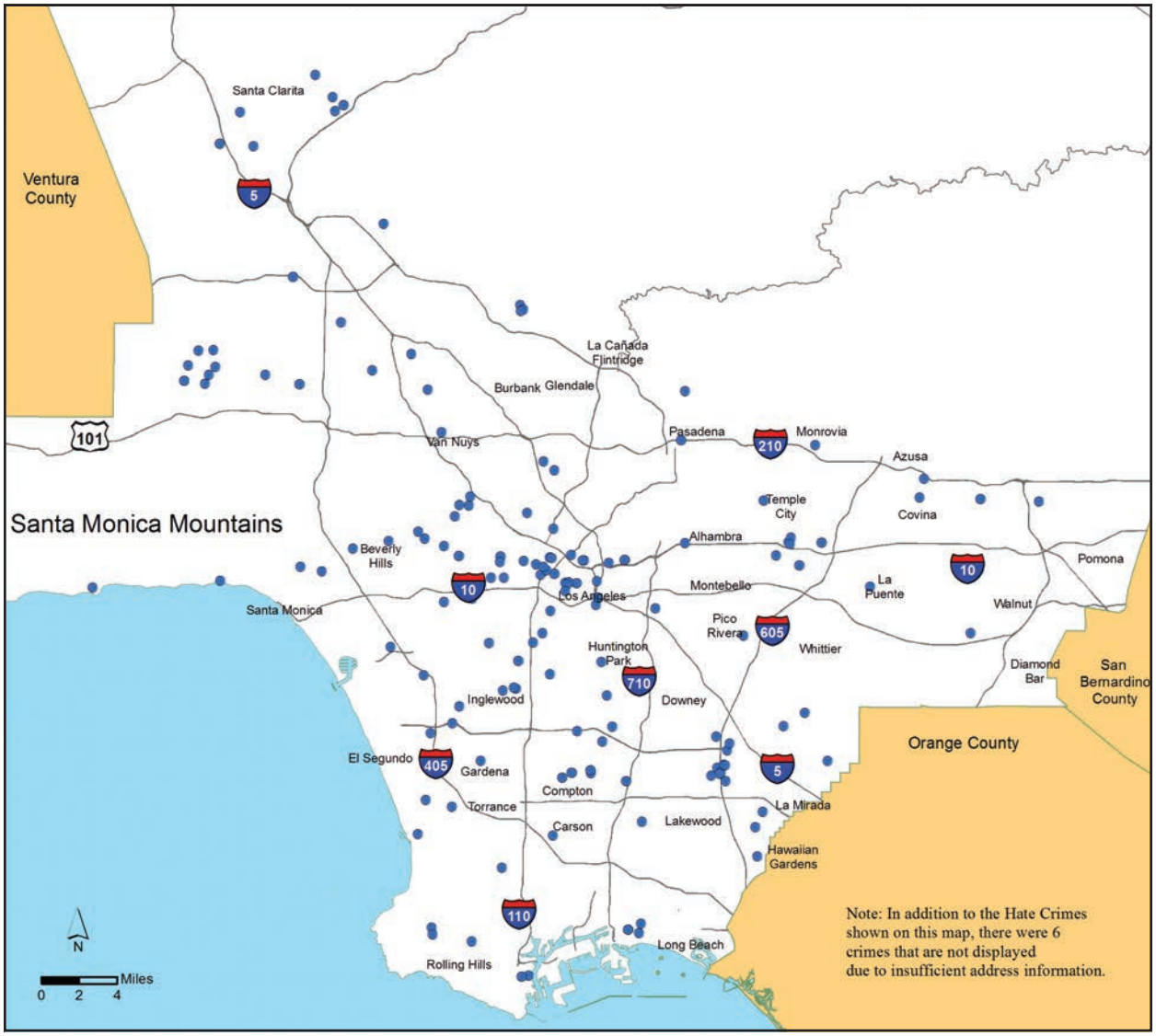
4. **ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**:
   LACCHR seeks to expand human relations skills and awareness throughout the County of Los Angeles

   - **Training of County Employees**
     LACCHR staff members provide human relations training for L.A. County departments and community agencies so they can create more inclusive work environments and reduce factors that cause intolerance and hatred.

   - **Recognizing Excellence in the Human Relations Field**
     Since 1972, LACCHR's John Anson Ford Human Relations Awards (JAF) Event has brought together hundreds of community leaders annually to honor outstanding achievements in human relations.

A Closer Look at Racial Hate Crimes

2013 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Race/Ethnicity/National Origin



Map by Juan Carlos Martinez

Crimes based on the victim's real or perceived race, ethnicity, or national origin (referred to in this report as "racial crimes" for brevity) declined 7% from 214 to 198. Similar to previous years, they constituted 51% of all hate crimes.

Race/Ethnicity of Victims and Suspects

Sixty-nine percent of racial hate crimes targeted African Americans, similar to the previous year. They declined slightly from 140 to 137. Blacks constitute less than 9% of the total population of Los Angeles County but are consistently over-represented as victims of hate crime.

Latinos were targeted in 18% of racial hate crimes, a slight decrease from 2013. Because Latinos comprise about half of L.A. County residents, this is a surprisingly low number. Anti-Latino hate crimes have been trending downward since 2008.

The decline in the number of anti-Latino hate crimes is quite surprising given that the national debate on immigration policy has polarized Americans and inflamed anti-immigrant sentiment for years. For example, when Donald Trump announced his candidacy for president on June 16, he said, "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're sending people that have a lot of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people." Given the hostile tone of public discourse like this, one might expect anti-Latino hate crimes to be on the rise. (Note: Trump's comments were made in 2015 and this report covers hate crimes reported in 2014, but similar incendiary rhetoric has been expressed for years).

One theory behind the decline is anxiety about immigration status. A report issued by Policy Link in 2013 found that of 2004 Latinos surveyed, "44% of them reported that they are less likely to contact police officers if they have been the victim of a crime because they fear that police officers will use this interaction as an opportunity to inquire into their immigration status." This increased to 70% for undocumented Latino respondents.

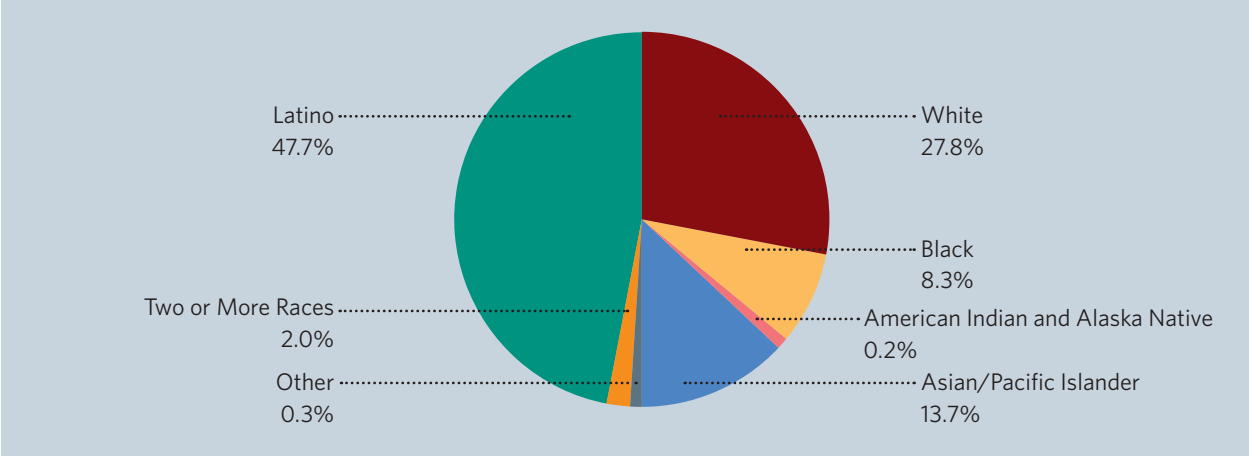
However, another theory for the low number of anti-Latino hate crimes could be that because Latinos constitute half the county's population and are visible in every arena of public life that there is less social-distance between Latinos and members of other racial and ethnic groups. With the rapid growth of the Latino population, other communities have more opportunities to have regular interaction with Latino co-workers, neighbors and classmates. Over time, such familiar contact may erode negative ethnic stereotypes and lessen anti-Latino sentiments. A large body of research supports this "contact" hypothesis that posits that diverse workplaces and neighborhoods reduce animosity toward "out-groups."

Crimes targeting Asians dropped 60% from 15 to 6, the lowest number in a decade. Although Asian Americans constitute 14% of Los Angeles County residents, they reported only 3% of hate crimes.

In contrast, anti-white crimes rose 71% from 7 to 12. Although this percentage change sounds alarming, this statistic needs to be put into perspective. Whites make up nearly 28% of the county's population, but they represented only 6% of racial hate crime victims in 2014.

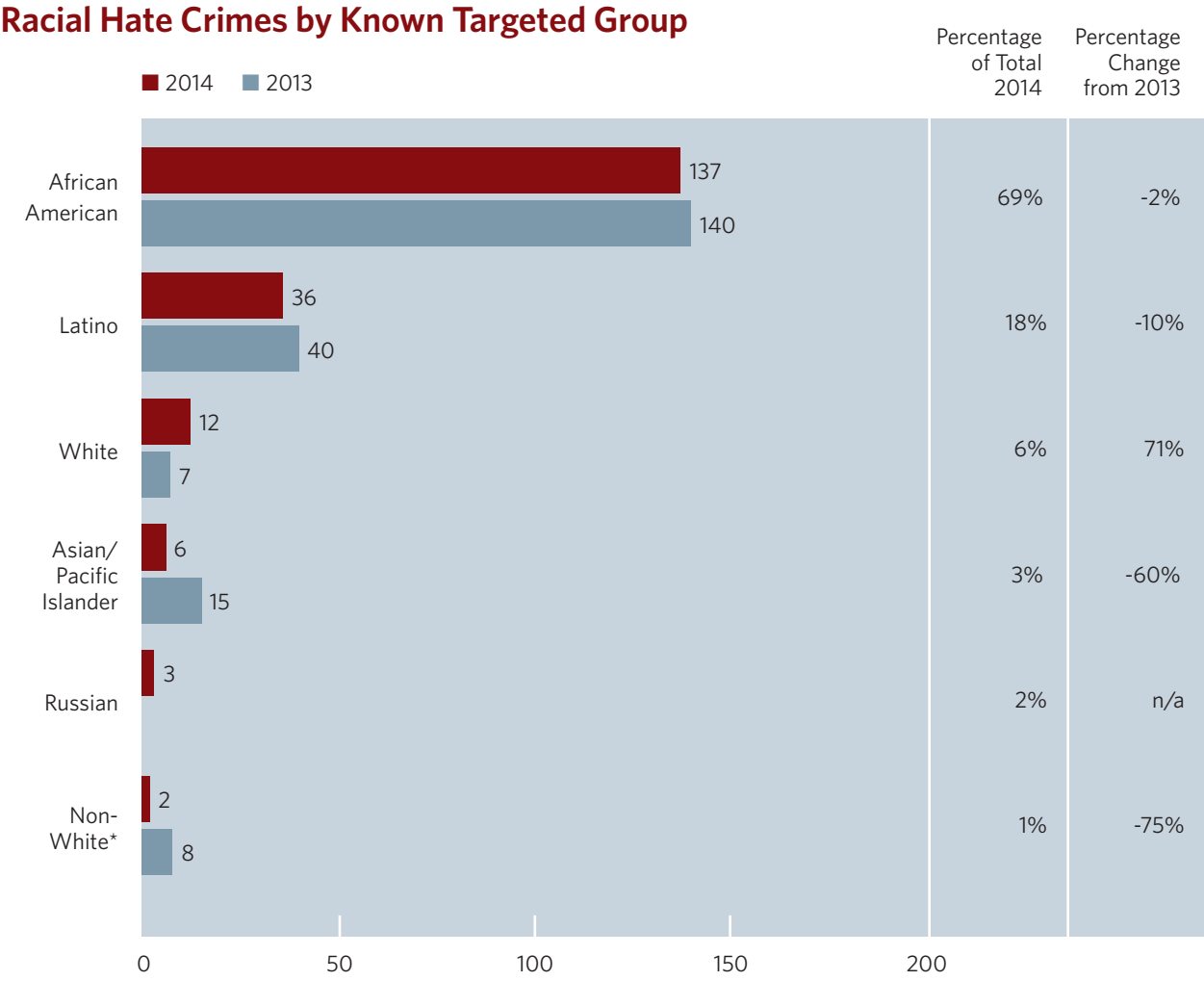
There were also very small numbers of reported crimes targeting Russians, and single anti-Armenian, Croatian, Middle Easterner and Ethiopian crimes.

Los Angeles County Population by Race/Ethnicity



Source: 2010 U.S. Census. Persons who identify as Latino on the U.S. Census can be of any race. Except for "Latino" all other groups on this chart refer to persons who do not identify as Latino.

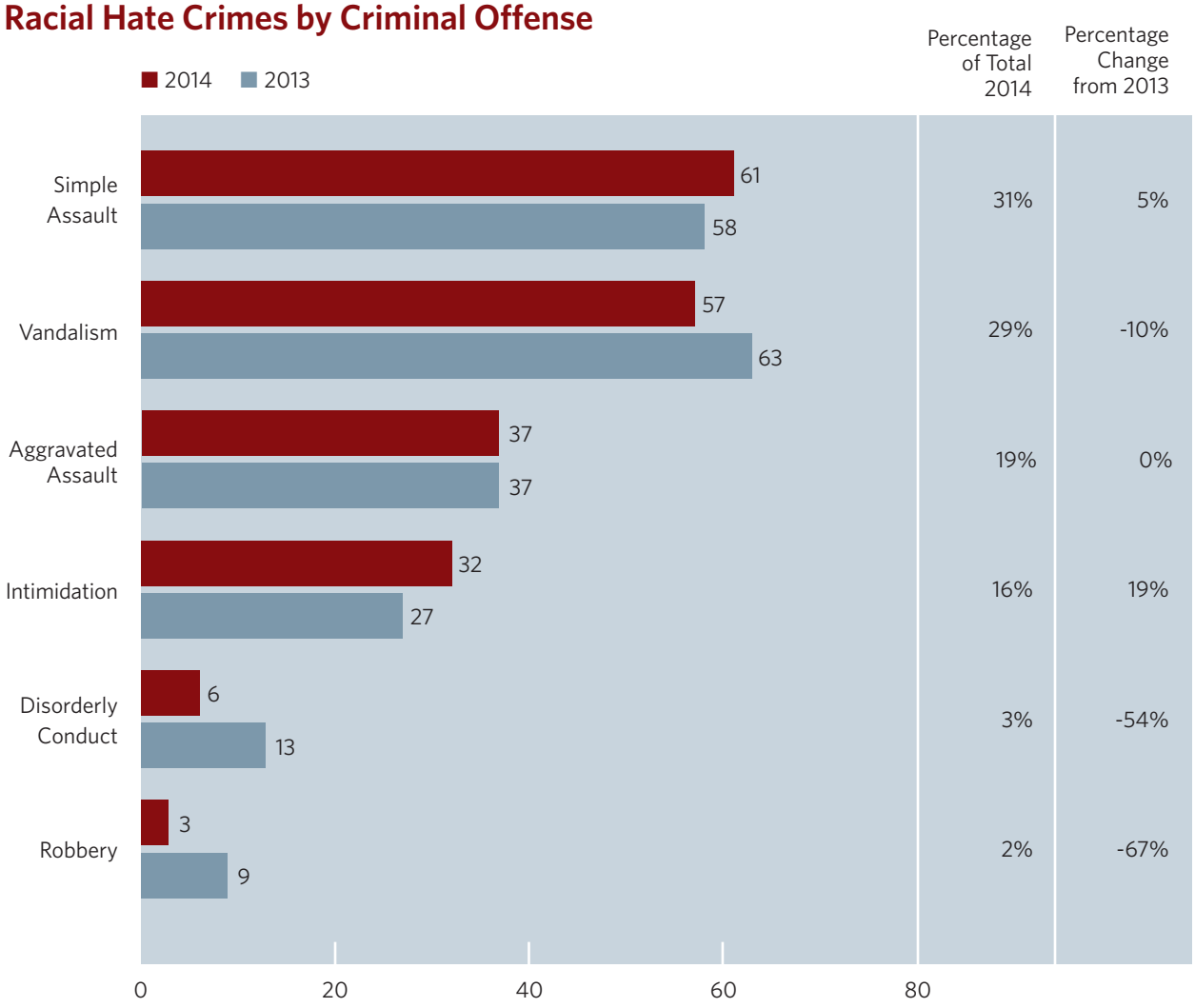
Racial Hate Crimes by Known Targeted Group



This chart aggregates major racial and ethnic groups. In 2014, there were also single crimes targeting Armenians, Croatians, Ethiopians, Middle Easterners, and unknown.

***"Non-White" refers to graffiti, such as "Supreme White Power," that does not single out specific racial or ethnic groups.**

Racial Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In 2014, there were also single cases of attempted murder and burglary.

There were some clear patterns of the racial/ethnic backgrounds of suspects and victims.

- Blacks were most frequently targeted by Latinos (59%) and whites (34%). This was similar to the previous year.
- Latinos were targeted by equal numbers of blacks and whites (44% each). This represented a decline in black suspects and a rise in the number of whites.
- Whites were targeted by blacks in 85% of the crimes. The previous year only 5 suspects were identified and they were both black and Latino.
- There were only 3 suspects identified in anti-Asian hate crimes. Two were white and one was Latino.

Criminal Offenses and Rates of Violence

Sixty-eight percent of racial crimes were of a violent nature, a slight increase from the previous year. The largest numbers of criminal offenses were simple assaults (31%), followed by acts of vandalism (29%), aggravated assaults (19%) and intimidation (16%). This distribution is very similar to the previous year.

Of the larger groups of victims, crimes targeting whites were most likely to be violent (92%), followed by African Americans (69%), Latinos (67%), and Asians (50%). This represented a large increase in the rate of violence experienced by white victims, a moderate increase for blacks and a moderate decrease for Latinos. The rate of violence experienced by Asian victims was similar to the previous year.

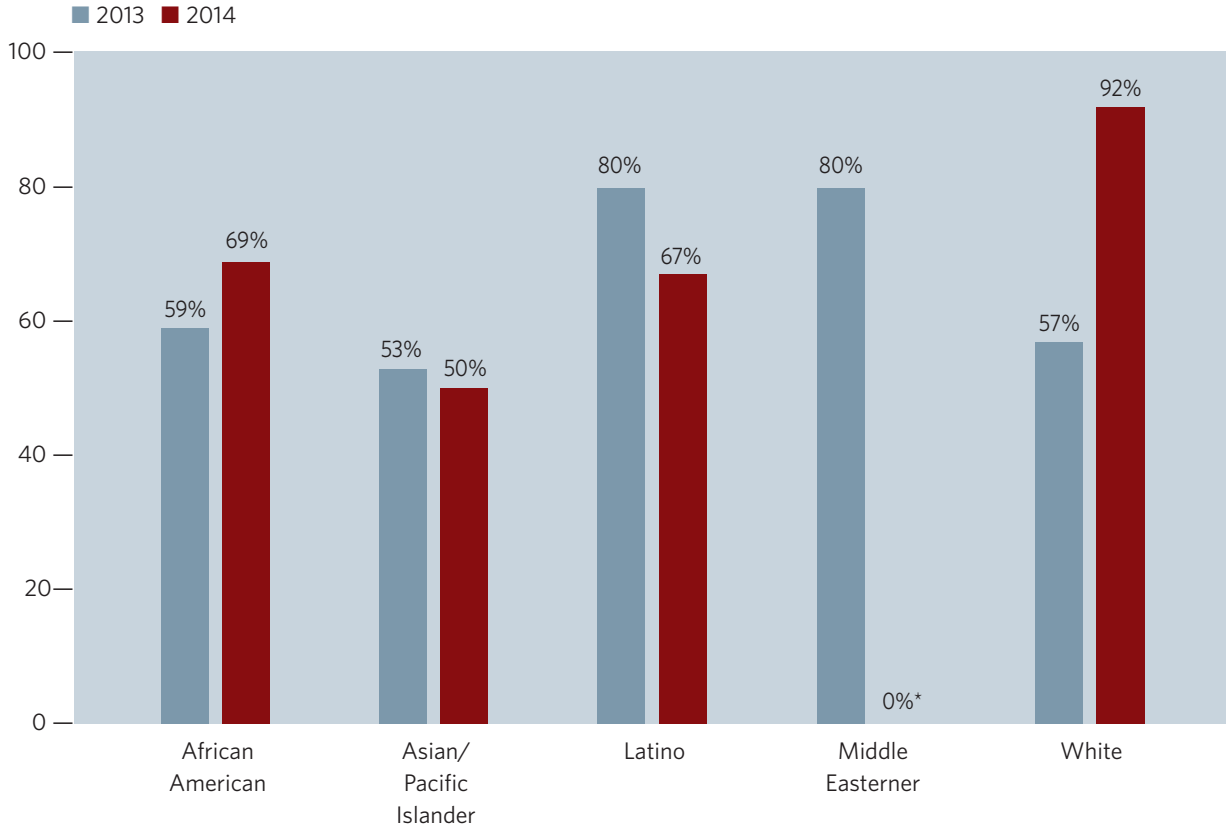
Location

The distribution of locations of racial crimes was remarkably similar to the previous year. Forty-one percent occurred in public places, followed by residences (31%), businesses (12%) and schools (11%).

Anti-Immigrant Slurs

In 2014, there were 21 crimes in which the suspects used specifically anti-immigrant language, such as "Wetback!" or "You don't belong here." Latinos were targeted in 15 of these crimes, Asians in 3 and there were single cases in which anti-immigrant slurs were used against Middle Easterners, Ethiopians, and Russians.

Rate of Violence for Victims of Racial Hate Crime



***There was 1 anti-Middle Easterner crime reported in 2015, but it was non-violent.**

Eighty-one percent of crimes involving anti-immigrant slurs were of a violent nature. Simple assaults were the most common offense (38%), followed by aggravated assaults (29%), vandalism (19%) and intimidation (14%)

Twelve of the victims were attacked in public places (an increase compared to the previous year), and 5 at their residences. Two occurred in government buildings and single crimes took place in businesses and schools.

Of the 15 anti-Latino crimes, 7 of the victims were attacked by whites and 5 by black suspects. In the remaining cases, the suspects were not identified.

Actual Racial Hate Crimes

January 22, Temple City—An elderly black female and her daughter were walking to a drugstore when they were approached by a white male who asked them for money. The mother responded, "I don't have any spare money. Please leave me alone." The suspect told her, "You fucking niggers always have money. Give me your money you fucking ghetto nigger bitch. You niggers on welfare have money, give me your money." The suspect swung his fist and struck her on the arm. The daughter ran to her mother's aid and tried to protect her. The suspect struck and scratched her several times while yelling "Fuck you nigger!" The daughter defended herself by picking up an object and striking him in the head. A drug store employee grabbed the suspect and restrained him until police arrived. When questioned by officers the suspect appeared intoxicated and acted belligerently towards them. He denied attacking the victims or asking them for money. While being transported by officers to a hospital, he began shouting at one of the officers, "Fuck you Mexican asshole cocksucker!" and kicked the cage in the police car.

April 4, Koreatown—On a public bus an African American male accused a Latino male of touching his backpack while sitting down next to him. The suspect then punched the victim repeatedly in the face and neck while calling him a "Fucking wetback! Fucking beaner!" During the attack he also struck another passenger, a Latina, on the hip. The suspect then got off the bus, removed his mountain bike from the bus' bike rack and rode away.

April 30, La Puente—A black male was walking when a vehicle with three Latino occupants pulled alongside him flashing gang signs. The driver asked him where he was from while pointing a handgun at him. The victim replied he did not "gang bang". The driver then yelled, "This is Puente! Fuck niggers!" and then fired four shots at the victim, missing him. One of the passengers flashed gang signs at the victim before the car sped off.

July 26, South Los Angeles—A Latino male was chatting with a female friend by his parked car. Two African American males who had recently moved into the neighborhood interrupted and called him, "You dirty fucking Mexican." The suspects then entered their residence. A few moments later, someone threw a rock at the victim's vehicle. Believing it was thrown by the suspects, the victim knocked on the door of the residence. The two suspects and a third black male emerged from the residence shouting profanities and threatening the victim. The third suspect pulled his shirt to show the handle of a handgun (later discovered to be a replica). Fearing for his life, the victim backed away towards his car. The three suspects punched and kicked the victim repeatedly until he lost consciousness. Police were called and apprehended all three suspects.

September 24, Boyle Heights—A Latina mother and her three children were in front of their apartment at a public housing development. A Latino male approached her and yelled, "Pinche mayatera!, (Fucking nigger) referring to her bi-racial children. A few days later the same suspect told her to move out of the projects and "Cuz I know you don't want those cocktails going in your house...This is a verbal warning." The suspect then placed his hand on the head of the victim's 3 year-old son and said, "Cuz something's going to happen to your little one and that's going to be my second warning."

Actual Racial Hate Crimes (continued)

November 13, Silverlake—A black female was inside her residence when a white male neighbor began banging on her door and yelling, "Fuck you, fucking nigger. Come outside!" The victim called the police, at which point the suspect started threatening her. He yelled, "Come outside! I'm going to knock the black off of you when you come outside!" When police arrived, the suspect told them, "You're not going to come here and do nothing. It's her you should take! That nigger should rip her skin off if she wants to be here." Police arrested the suspect and discovered that the suspect had previously been convicted of vandalism, assaulting police, assault with a semi-automatic firearm and battery.

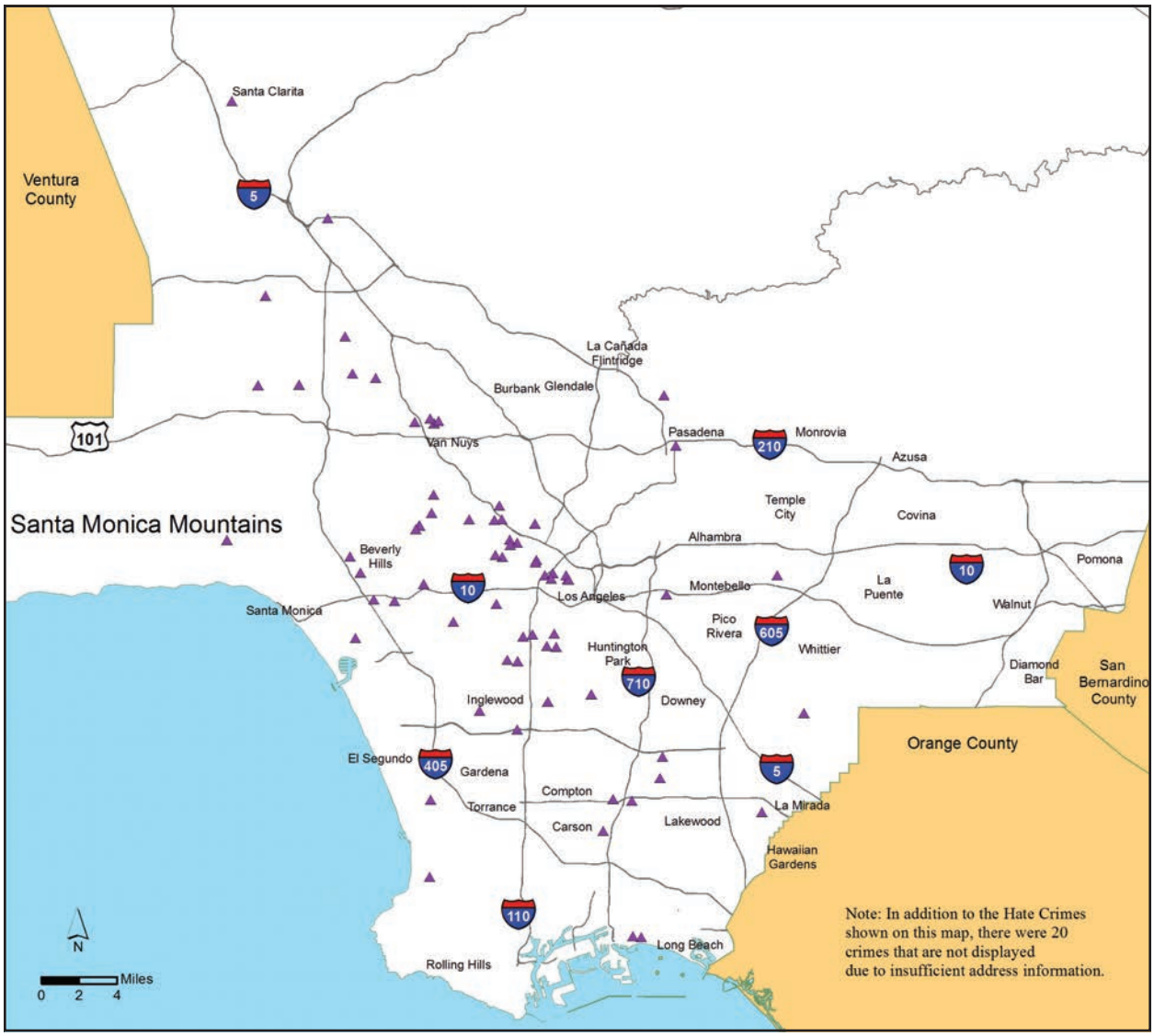
November 14, Koreatown—An Asian female apartment building manager encountered a young white male in a hallway. She asked if he was in the complex to meet someone. The suspect was incoherent leading the victim to believe he was intoxicated or high on drugs. The victim asked the suspect to leave the building and he began yelling "Heil Hitler!" and "White Power!" The victim knocked on an apartment door hoping to get help. The suspect then approached the victim and raised a glass beer bottle above his head and swung it at her face. He stopped short of striking her and instead touched the victim's cheek with the bottle. He shouted, "White power! Go back to China!" and then fled the scene.

November 20, Hollywood—A Middle Eastern male was driving and noticed a white male motorist driving aggressively toward him as though he was trying to collide with his car. When both cars came to a stop, the victim yelled, "What's the problem?" The suspect answered, "What the fuck! Go back to your Arab country!" The suspect then exited his vehicle and kicked the victim's rear passenger door. The victim tried to record the suspect with his cellular phone and threatened to call the police. The suspect continued to curse at the victim and spat on his car before fleeing the scene.

December 5, Downtown Los Angeles—A white couple were outside a Metro station when a black male approached them yelling, "You fucking white whore! Trailer trash!" The suspect then ran towards the female victim and attempted to strike her with a flashlight. The male victim stepped in front of his girlfriend to protect her and the suspect struck him several times in the head. The female victim jumped on the suspect's back in an effort to restrain him. The suspect then struck her head and sprayed her with an unknown substance (possibly pepper spray).

A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes

2014 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Sexual Orientation



Map by Juan Carlos Martinez

Consistent with previous years, sexual orientation-motivated crimes were the second largest motivation category in 2014. They represented 28% of all hate crimes, a slight increase from 2013. Sexual orientation crimes rose 14% from 95 to 108.

After dramatically declining the previous year, crimes targeting gay men rebounded 31% from 70 to 92. Anti-lesbian crimes which had more than doubled the previous year, declined 48% from 25 to 13. There were also 3 crimes in which LGBT organizations or businesses were targeted which are referred to in this report as "LGBT (un-specified)."

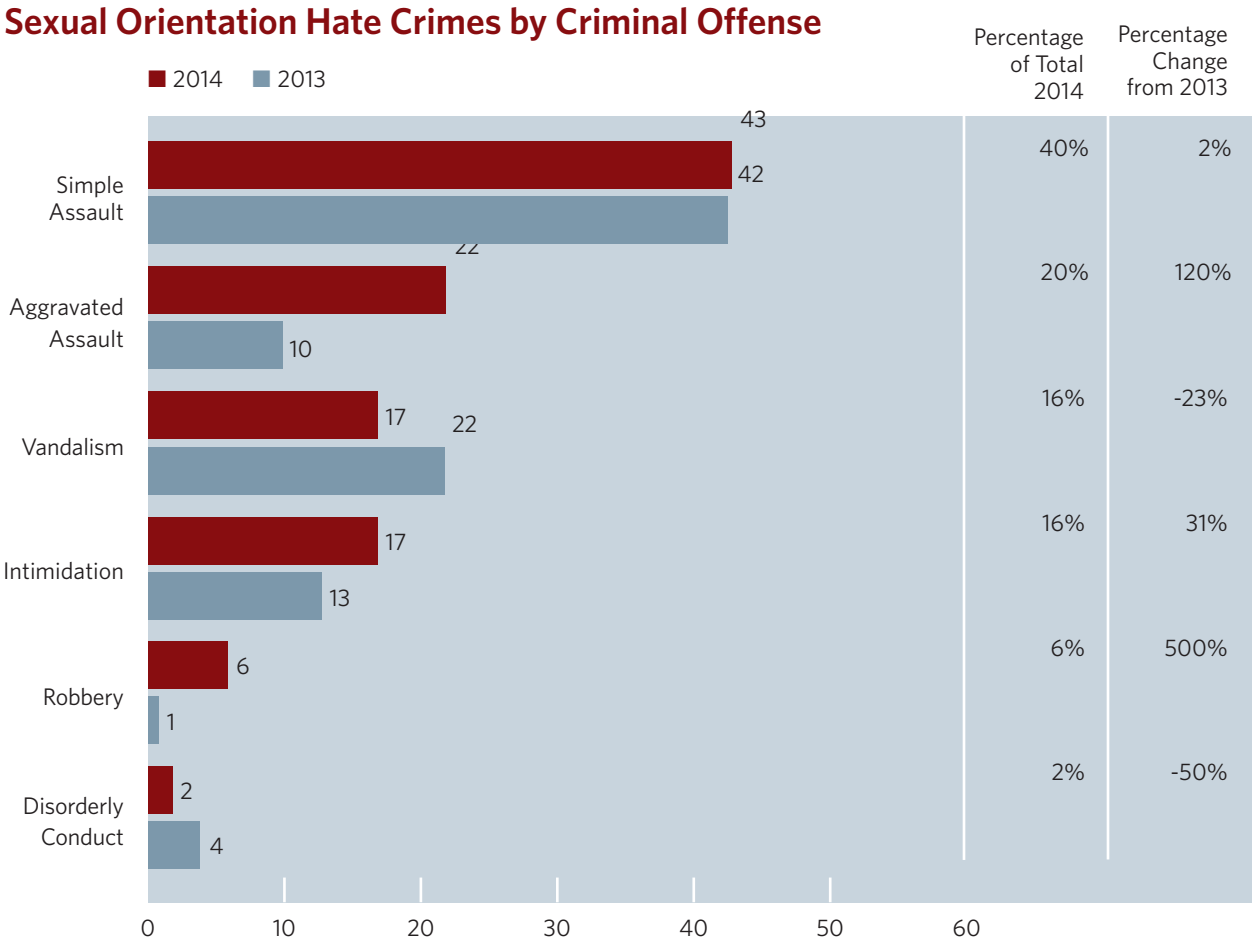
Criminal Offenses and Rate of Violence

Crimes motivated by sexual orientation have historically had a higher rate of violence than crimes based on race or religion. This was again the case in 2014 when the rate of violence grew from 71% to 81%. This is the highest rate of violence for homophobic crimes since 2003.

The most common criminal offense was simple assault (40%), followed by aggravated assaults (20%), and cases of vandalism and intimidation (16% each). There was a 120% jump in aggravated assaults from 10 to 22. These cases represented 18 individual events, some of which had multiple victims. In 3 of these crimes the victims knew the suspects. But the other 19 victims were attacked by complete strangers without any provocation, usually in public places. The weapons included a gun, knives, a box cutter, a hammer, a scraper, bottle, and unidentified "sharp" and "hard objects."

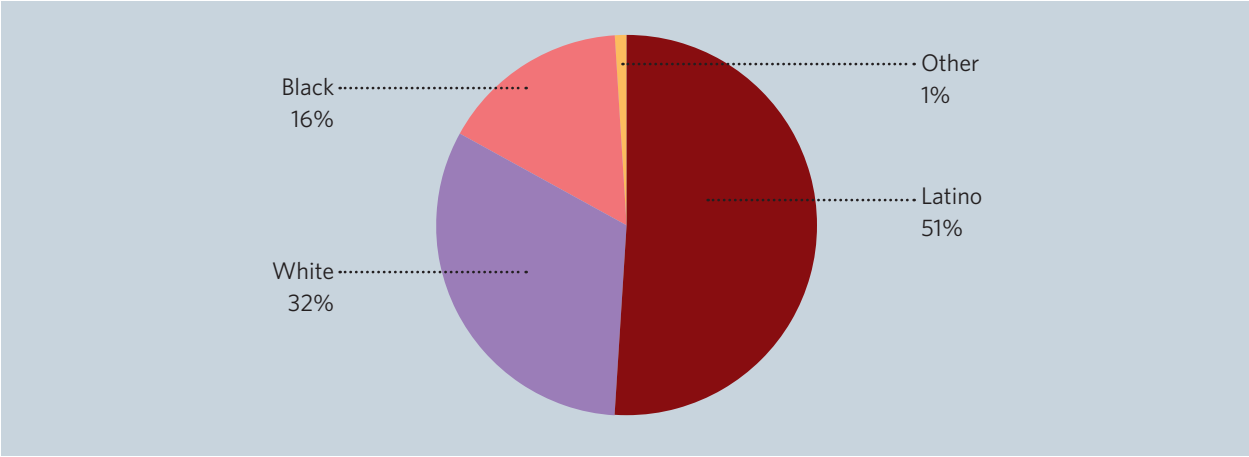
There was also a 23% decline in the number of vandalisms; otherwise the distribution of criminal offenses was similar to the previous year.

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In 2014, there was a single case of theft.

Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Known Victim Race/Ethnicity



Race/Ethnicity of Victims and Suspects

Latinos remained the largest group of victims (51%), which was an increase of 41% from 34 to 48. They were followed by whites (32%) and blacks (16%). White victims of sexual orientation crimes grew slightly while black victims declined.

In the past, victims of homophobic crime were most likely to be targeted by suspects of the same race. However, in 2014 there was a significant shift. In cases where a suspect was identified, Latinos represented nearly three-quarters of the perpetrators. Latinos were targeted by other Latinos in 71% of the cases, followed by blacks (20%) and whites (10%). White victims were attacked by Latinos in 50% of the cases followed by whites (31%) and blacks (13%). Fifty-five percent of Black victims were attacked by Latinos, followed by blacks (27%) and whites (18%).

Location

Fifty-three percent of homophobic hate crimes took place in the City of Los Angeles. There were also small clusters in Long Beach and West Hollywood, both of which have highly visible business districts serving the LGBT community.

Forty-eight percent of sexual orientation crimes occurred in public places, followed by residences (35%), businesses (8%) and schools (4%). This represented a 73% jump in sexual orientation crimes in public places.

It should be noted that anti-transgender crimes are discussed in *A Closer Look at Gender Crimes.*

Actual Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes

May 20, Paramount—A gay Latino male was walking on a street by a public park when he sensed someone following him. He then noticed two Latino males walking towards him. Fearing he was being surrounded he turned and ran. The three suspects chased him and yelled, "Don't run faggot". The victim heard a "popping noise" and realized he'd been shot in his right leg. The suspects fled the scene and the victim called police who transported him to a hospital Emergency Room.

August 4, West Los Angeles—An African American male was holding hands and walking with his Latino boyfriend. A car with four Latino occupants drove by and one of them shouted, "Faggots!" The vehicle made a U-turn and pulled up to the couple. Three of the suspects exited the car and approached the victims. One of the suspects said, "Oh you think you're going to bring West Hollywood to our neighborhood?" The black victim stepped forward to protect his boyfriend and told him, "I got this one baby." He was able to defend himself against the three attackers and even knocked two of them to the ground. The victim then punched the third suspect five times in the face. The suspect stumbled backwards and pulled out a switchblade from his waistband. As the victim continued to punch him, the suspect slashed him in the forearm and shin. The injured suspects retreated and fled the scene in their car.

November 11, North Hollywood—A teenage girl's stepfather searched her cell phone and realized she was dating another young woman. He began yelling at her that her relationship was "wrong" and "abnormal." He then struck her on the right side of her head. A short time later he began arguing with the victim again and struck her with the phone again, rupturing her ear drum.

November 19, Pacific Palisades—A white female couple found their cars vandalized in front of their residence. There were scratches on the doors and bumpers of the vehicles and one of the bumpers was dented. The word "Dyke" was smeared on the driver door with feces. The couple had an ongoing dispute concerning their dogs with a white male neighbor who lives in the same building. The previous month the neighbor had left a bag of dog feces on their front porch with a note, "Dykes move out." On another occasion the neighbor confronted one of the victims and told her, "Just wait until something happens to you or to your property."

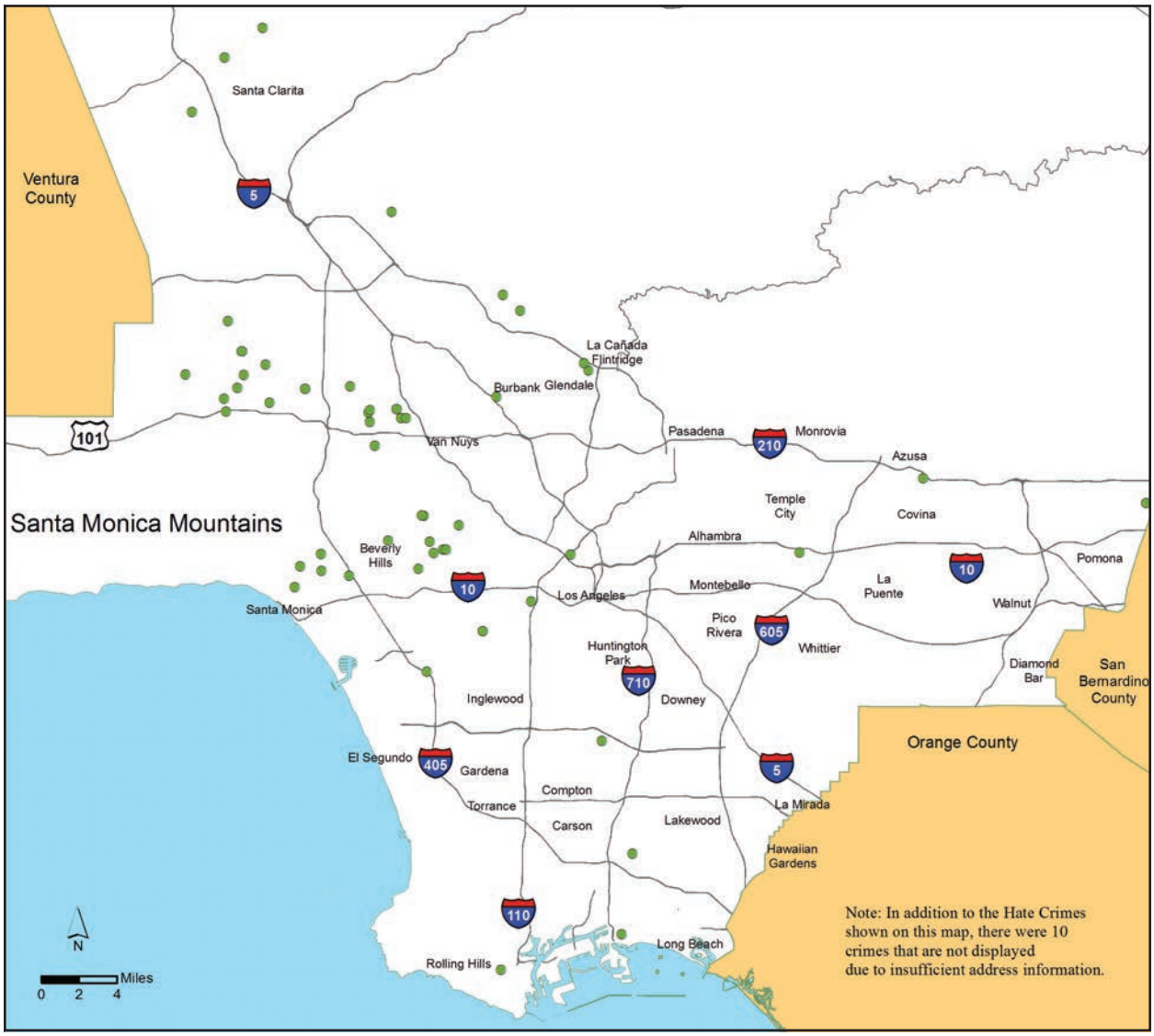
November 23, Long Beach—A married Latina lesbian couple and their children were at a laundromat. They kissed and a Latino male told them, "I hope your kids don't turn out gay." One of the victims told him to leave them alone. The suspect pulled out an eight-inch knife and lunged towards the women. The second victim stepped forward, pushed the victim away and told her wife to call the police. The suspect fled the scene.

November 24, Hollywood—A white female exited her apartment when a male suspect wearing a ski mask struck her on the face with a hard object knocking her briefly unconscious. When she woke up she found the suspect straddling her and holding a box cutter to her throat. The suspect whispered in the victim's ear, "This is what happens with dykes. I will be back for you." The suspect then fled the scene. Police and emergency medical personnel examined the victim and found contusions on her head, back and knee and cuts on her wrist. A few days earlier, the victim found a note on her car with homophobic threats.

December 6, Reseda—A gay male Latino couple were walking and holding hands. An Armenian male walked by and told them, "Fucking faggots." One of the victims turned toward the suspect and asked, "What you going to do?" The suspect said, "Come at me! I'll fucking kill you!" The victims crossed the street and called the police. Officers detained the suspect who initially denied saying anything to the victims except, "Good morning." He then added, "Come on. Really? Holding hands?" The officers ran a background check and learned that the suspect was on probation for assault with a deadly weapon. They placed the suspect under arrest.

A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes

2014 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Religion



Map by Juan Carlos Martinez

Religious-motivated hate crimes increased 26% in 2014 from 57 to 72. They constituted 19% of all hate crimes compared to 15% the previous year. As in the past, the great majority of these crimes (76%) targeted Jews. After dropping to a ten-year low the previous year, anti-Semitic crimes grew 31% from 42 to 55.

Anti-Jewish crimes were followed by those targeting Catholics (7%), Muslims and Jehovah Witnesses (4% each) and Protestants (3%). As mentioned in the section *2014 Hate Crimes in Perspective*, there was an unprecedented number of crimes targeting Jewish individuals and organizations that were specifically critical of the policies of the Israeli government.

Criminal Offenses and Rate of Violence

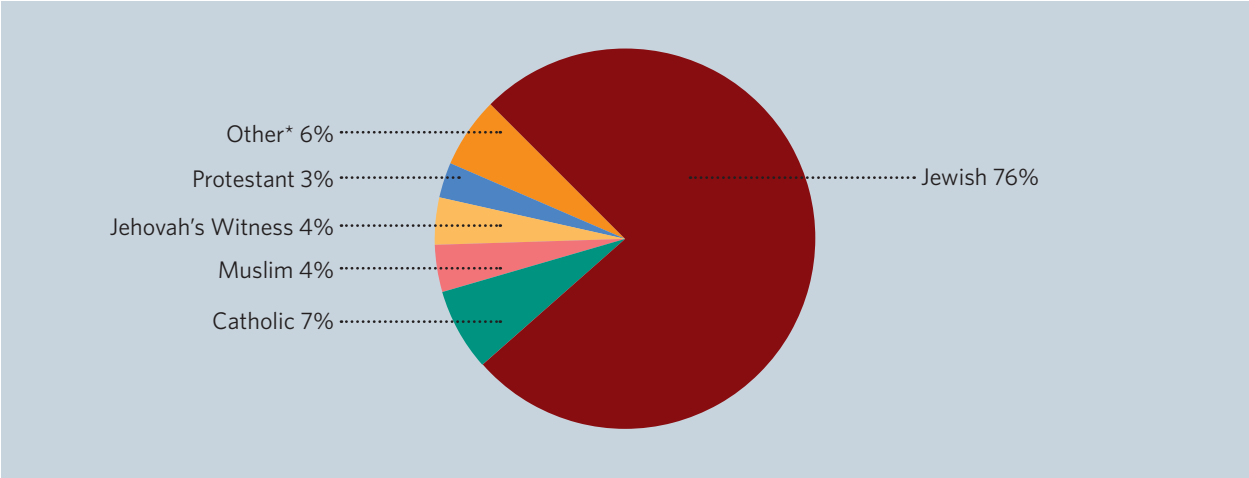
Only 21% of religious crimes were of a violent nature, a rate much lower than crimes motivated by race, sexual orientation or gender/gender identity.

Fifty-seven percent of religious hate crimes were acts of vandalism, followed by disorderly conduct (17%) which includes displays of swastikas and other hate symbols that don't rise to the level of vandalism. Thirteen percent were acts of intimidation and 8% were simple assaults. There was 1 act of arson, but it was relatively minor. A suspect set fire to a crucifix at a church.

As in previous years, vandalism of Protestant, Catholic and other Christian churches often included pentagrams and other Satanic symbols. It is impossible to know from the available information if the perpetrators were actually Satanists or simply malicious pranksters.

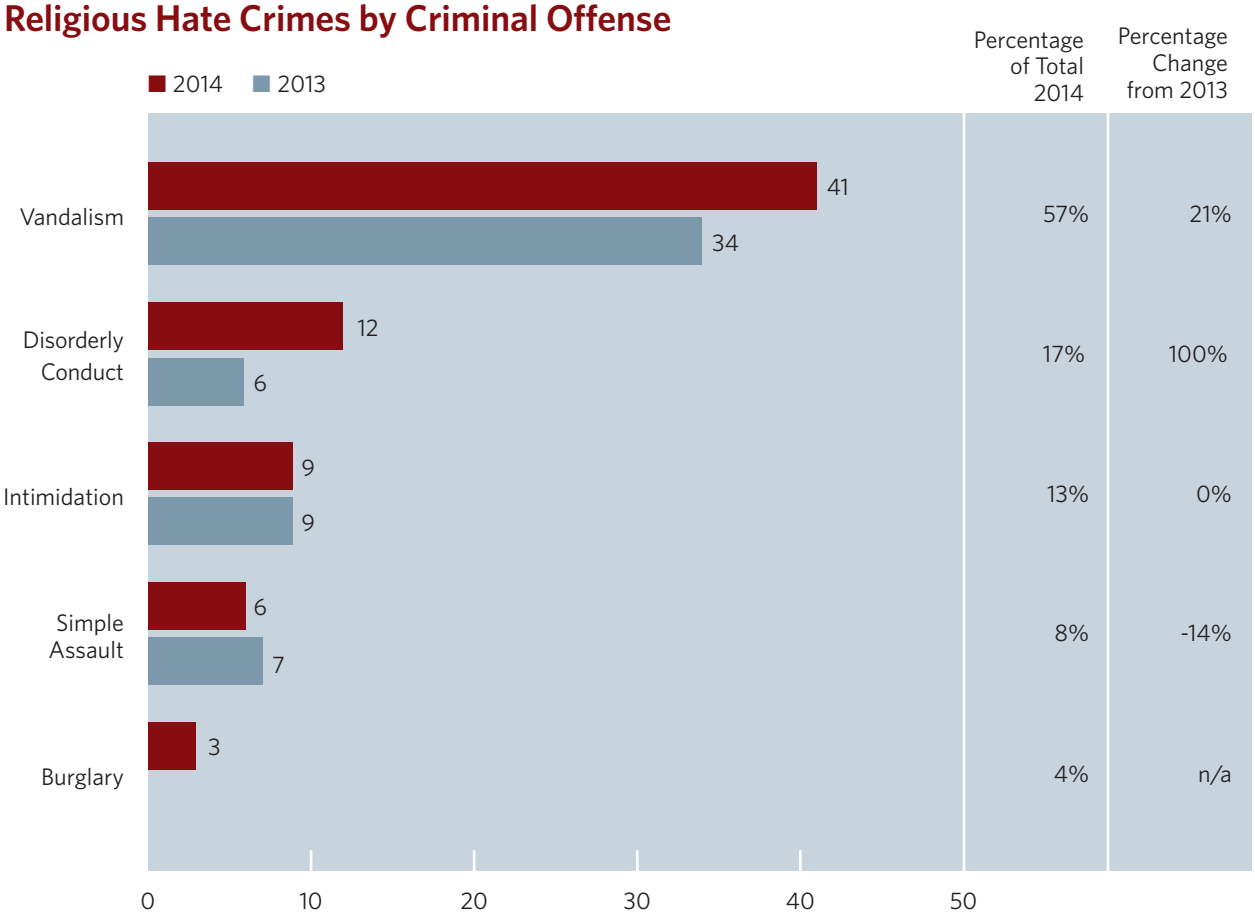
Religious crimes in which there was evidence of white supremacist ideology (most frequently the use of swastikas) declined from 35% to 26%.

Religious Hate Crimes by Targeted Group



*** "Other" consists of Scientologists, Mormons/LDS, Sikhs, other Christians, and unknown targets.**

Religious Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense



In 2014, there was also a single case of arson.

Location

About a third took place at residences, followed by religious sites and businesses (19% each), schools and public places (11% each). This represented slight increases in schools, businesses, and residences, and small decreases in public places and religious sites.

Two-thirds of religious crimes took place in the City of Los Angeles. There were no other clusters of religious crimes in other cities or unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

Race/Ethnicity of Victims and Suspects

More than a third of religious crimes had no specific victim, such as cases of vandalism of houses of worship. In cases where there were specific victims, the great majority were white. There were only 4 Middle Eastern victims of religious crimes in 2014. Only 20 suspects were identified in religious crimes, and about half were white and the rest were racially-mixed, similar to the previous year.

Actual Religious Hate Crimes

May 28, Hidden Hills—A business owner found that the fence on his property had been spray-painted with the phrase "Adolf was right. Kill Jews!"

July 2, Long Beach—A Muslim woman was leaving a grocery store and getting in her vehicle when a white male appeared behind and pulled her hijab (head covering). He twisted it around her neck and said: "Fuck you and fuck your hijab!" The suspect then pulled it completely off her head and walked away. Fearing for her safety, the victim entered her vehicle and drove away. She saw the suspect one last time making a menacing gesture with his thumb sliding it across his neck.

August 14, Fairfax—A Jewish Iranian male was talking with a friend in a pizzeria. A white male who was with another group of patrons asked the victim his nationality. The victim replied he was Persian. The suspect then asked if he was Jewish or Muslim. After the victim replied that he was Jewish the suspect struck him on his face and elbow. The victim ran from the scene. The suspect and several other males ran after him in pursuit. The victim ducked into a hotel lobby and called the police. The suspects fled the scene.

August 22, Azusa—An Asian Indian shopkeeper had banned a Latino man from his store six months earlier. The suspect entered his store and the victim asked him to leave. Angered, the suspect spit in his face and told him "take off that diaper from your head and go back to your own country". The victim is Sikh and wears a turban as a symbol of his faith.

September 25, Lancaster—"Hail Satan 666" was painted on church grounds.

November 29, Valley Village—The sign in front of a Jewish daycare center and Hebrew school was defaced with a swastika.

A Closer Look at Gender Hate Crimes

There were 15 crimes based on the victim's gender or gender-identity in 2014 compared to 19 the previous year (which included 2 anti-female crimes). In 2014, all of these hate crimes targeted transgender women. Consistent with previous years, the rate of violence was extremely high. Fourteen of the crimes (93%) were of a violent nature. Aggravated assaults were the most common offense (47%), followed by simple assaults (33%), criminal threats (13%), and a lone case of vandalism. The distribution of criminal offenses was similar to the previous year.

Eleven of the victims were Latina, 2 were black and 2 were white. Of the Latina victims, 9 were attacked by Latino suspects, 1 by a black suspect and 1 received anonymous threats. Of the black victims, 1 was attacked by a group of Latinos and the other by a black suspect. Of the white victims, 1 was attacked by a black suspect and the other by a group of Armenians. All of the suspects were male.

One of the victims was beaten up by a relative and 3 were targeted by suspects who lived in the same neighborhood who had harassed them previously. The remaining 11 were attacked by complete strangers.

The great majority (73%) took place in public places, followed by residences (13%) and single cases that occurred in businesses and via electronic communication, similar to previous years.

Actual Gender Hate Crimes

May 4, South Los Angeles—An 18-year old African American transgender woman was attacked by her uncle, who has never been accepting of her gender identity. He told her, "Fuck you, faggot! I don't deal with faggot shit!" and punched her in the face 3-4 times, causing her to fall to the ground. The victim fled her uncle's home and called police. The officers who responded tried to place the suspect under arrest but he resisted and began screaming at them. They tazed him in the abdomen and took him into custody.

July 7, Compton—A white transgender woman was riding a blue line train when 2 black males entered the car. They began to taunt her, "This is not San Francisco, and Boy George is better looking than you." They called her, "he-she," and "faggot." Fearful, the victim pressed the emergency button to seek help. The suspects then threatened her, saying, "We are going to beat you up and stab you and leave you for dead white faggot, and the police won't get here in time to help you. Do you know who we are? We are Compton Crips. We are in Compton."

October 18, Koreatown—A transgender Latina was parking her car when a homeless Latino male approached her and called her "fucking faggot" and "fucking prostitute" in Spanish. The suspect had harassed the victim previously. The victim exited her vehicle, walked into her driveway, and closed the gate behind her. The suspect followed her and produced a folding knife. He opened the blade and swung it at the victim's face from a distance of 3 feet, while yelling more anti-gay slurs. The victim retreated to her residence and called the police. Officers detained the suspect, recovered the knife from his pocket and placed him under arrest.

December 16, Van Nuys—A transgender Latina was driving and heard a thumping noise coming from the passenger window. The victim stopped her car to investigate and saw that someone had thrown a hamburger at her vehicle. The victim got back in her car and then observed a Latino male approach and open the driver side door. The suspect struck the victim in the face and yelled, "We don't want transgenders here!" The suspect grabbed the victim's hair and dragged her out of the car and then pushed her to the ground. 2 more Latino and 1 Latina suspects appeared. They all punched and kicked the victim. The first suspect then brandished a pocket knife in a threatening manner. The suspects then fled the scene.

A Closer Look at Disability Hate Crimes

There were 3 hate crimes in 2014 motivated by the victims' disability. A school serving developmentally disabled students was the target of graffiti on 2 occasions that read, "Fuck Retards." There was also a case of an African American man in a wheelchair who was confronted by a white male who taunted him saying, "Why are you in a wheelchair? You can't walk!" The suspect then punched the victim in the face knocking him to the ground. The suspect then threatened him with a knife, yelling, "I'm going to kill your black ass in the middle of the street."

Hate Crime Prosecutions

The District Attorney's Office handles the great majority of hate crime prosecutions in Los Angeles County. In 2014, the District Attorney filed charges in 49 hate crime cases. Of these, 41 were adults and 8 were juveniles.

There were 37 adults charged with felony hate crimes and 4 charged with misdemeanors. Of the adult charged with felonies, 23 were charged with crimes motivated by race (including ethnicity and national origin), 12 were based on sexual orientation, and 2 were based on religion. Of the adults charged with misdemeanors, 3 of the crimes were based on race and 1 was based on sexual orientation. There was no information about the 8 juveniles charged with hate crimes because those records are confidential.

Fifteen hate crime investigations were referred to the L.A. City Attorney's Office in 2014. Of those, 4 criminal cases were filed in 2014 in which the defendants were charged with hate crime enhancements. Two of these cases were motivated by sexual orientation, 1 by race and 1 by religion. None of the matters involved juvenile defendants. The Office of the City Attorney has no jurisdiction to prosecute minors.

The Office of the U.S. Attorney generally prosecutes hate crimes that are violations of federal laws, but in recent years have been given the authority to step in when local prosecutors lack the necessary resources or experience.

In February, 2014, the Civil Rights Division and U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California announced that two Latino men associated with the Compton 155 street gang had been sentenced for their racially-motivated attack on African American juveniles at a residence in Compton on Dec. 31, 2012. The two defendants were sentenced to 21 months in prison for striking one victim with a metal pipe and threatening to kill the other as part of a campaign of terror aimed at driving a black family out of the neighborhood.

Review of 2014 Hate Crime Legislation

California State Legislation

Assembly Bill 242 (Salas)
Existing law defines "hate crime" as a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of actual or perceived characteristics of the victim, including (but not limited to) race, religion, disability, and sexual orientation. AB 242 adds peace officer status to the list of actual or perceived characteristics necessary to determine whether a criminal act qualifies as a hate crime. By expanding the scope of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill was introduced February 5, 2015.

Assembly Bill 827 (O'Donnell)
AB 827 would create a teacher training program that would aid teachers in identifying and assisting LGBT students who may need support in the coming out process or dealing with bias-based bullying. This bill was read for the second time and amended on May 4, 2015.

Assembly Bill 830 (Eggman)
AB 830 would expand the definition of gender violence to include violence committed, at least in part, based on the sexual orientation of the victim, as specified, and would specify that gender has the same meaning as in the Unruh Civil Rights Act. This includes a person's gender identity and gender expression. This bill was introduced February 26, 2015.

Assembly Bill 2501 (Bonilla)
AB 2501 amends the California penal code to outlaw the use of a victim's sexual orientation or gender identity in a suspect's defense for committing physical assault. It prohibits the use of the "panic defense" because such claims promote that violence against the LGBT community is understandable or acceptable due to the victim's orientation or gender identity. This bill was chaptered on September 27 2014. It became effective on January 1, 2015.

Federal legislation

House Resolution 3878 (Jeffries)
H.R. 3878, known as the Hate Crime Reporting Act of 2014, directs the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to update a report for Congress concerning the role of telecommunications in the commission of hate crimes. The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology on January 17, 2014.

House Resolution 442 (Brady)
H.R. 442 amends title 18, United States code, to extend the coverage of the Federal prohibition against hate crimes in order to provide greater protections to persons who are gay, lesbian, or transgender. This bill was introduced in the House on January 21, 2015.

House Resolution 5711 (Brady)
H.R. 5711 amends title 18, United States code, to extend the coverage of the Federal prohibition against hate crimes in order to provide greater protections to persons who are gay, lesbian, or transgender. This bill was referred to the subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations on December 9, 2014.

House Resolution 5028 (Israel)
H.R. 5028, known as the National Hate Crimes Hotline Act of 2014, authorizes the Attorney General to award grants to: (1) private, nonprofit entities to establish and operate a national, toll-free telephone hotline and an Internet website to assist the victims of hate crimes; and (2) state and local law enforcement entities for educational and training programs on solving hate crimes and establishing dialogues with members of communities who are at-risk of being victims of hate crimes. This bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations on September 2, 2014.

S.2219 (Markey)
Known as the Hate Crime Reporting Act of 2014, Directs the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to update a report for Congress concerning the role of telecommunications in the commission of hate crimes. It was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on April 8, 2014.

Methodology

The 2014 Hate Crime Report provides a statistical snapshot of reported hate crimes to inform efforts to combat bias-motivated activity. Such data collection and analysis provide policy-makers and practitioners insight into the urgent issues and greatest needs for education, prevention, intervention, victim assistance and advocacy. The Commission receives reports from law enforcement, school districts and universities, community-based organizations, and directly from victims. We carefully eliminate any duplicates, such as a hate crime submitted by both a law enforcement agency and a school district. We review each case counted in this report to ensure it meets the criteria of the legal definition of hate crime in the California penal code. Those that do not meet that standard are not included as hate crimes. Nevertheless, we encourage law enforcement and community organizations to report hate incidents because they can be early indicators of intergroup tension and conflict. Of the 639 reports of hate events (both crimes and incidents) received for 2014, 338 events involving 389 victims met the legal criteria for hate crimes and are included in this report. Unless otherwise noted, all numbers in the report refer to victims, rather than cases.

Understanding the Numbers

- If a violent crime is committed against multiple victims, we count each victim separately.
- We report the perpetrators' intended targeted group instead of relying on the actual identity of the victim as a proxy. This accounts for cases in which the actual identities of the victims are not specified or where the victim's identity is mistaken (e.g., when a Latino victim is perceived by the perpetrator as African American).
- A handful of cases involved epithets targeting more than 1 group. Therefore the total number of cases by motivation or by targeted group actually exceeds the 393 hate crimes for 2014. We also received a handful of reports, usually minor vandalism, in which the information provided in a law enforcement agency's report was too minimal to determine specific bias motivation and targeted group. In these cases the motivation and targeted group are deemed "unknown."
- It is important to note that fluctuations in data from year to year do not necessarily indicate trends. Sometimes, an increase one year follows an equivalent decrease the previous year. Multi-year data can give a better sense of trends.
- The report may not reflect the actual outcome of the investigation of individual cases. We receive the original police incident report for cases in which the investigation is ongoing. We may review it and include it before the investigation is completed or charges are filed. Therefore, the number of hate crimes reported here may differ from the reporting law enforcement agency for a given jurisdiction.
- Some numbers referring to 2013 have changed since last year's report due to an ongoing process of updates and corrections.

Los Angeles County Service Planning Areas

Map by Juan Carlos Martinez

Appendix A:

Hate Crimes by Service Planning Area (SPA)

Name	Partial Listing of Cities and Areas	*2010 Population	2014 Hate Crimes	2014 Hate Crimes per 100,000 residents
Region I: Antelope Valley SPA	All of the Antelope Valley, including Acton, Gorman, Lancaster, Palmdale, Quartz Hill, Littlerock, Lake Los Angeles	373,098	22	5.9
Region II: San Fernando Valley SPA	All of San Fernando Valley, including Burbank, Glendale, Newhall, Northridge, San Fernando, Santa Clarita, Val Verde, Westlake Village, East & West Valley areas	2,215,358	84	3.8
Region III: San Gabriel Valley SPA	All of San Gabriel Valley, including Alhambra, Altadena, Irwindale, La Puente, Pasadena, Pomona, El Monte, Azusa, San Dimas	1,888,771	29	1.5
Region IV: Metro SPA	Atwater, Boyle Heights, Downtown, Eagle Rock, Echo Park, Glassell Park, Hancock Park, Koreatown, Hollywood, Park La Brea, West Hollywood, Silverlake	1,258,210	86	6.8
Region V: West SPA	Beverly Hills, Culver City, Malibu, Marina del Rey, Pacific Palisades, Playa del Rey, Santa Monica, Venice, Westchester	659,937	26	3.9
Region VI: South SPA	Compton, Florence, Lynwood, South Los Angeles, Watts	1,069,244	48	4.5
Region VII: East SPA	Vernon, Maywood, Huntington Park, Bellflower, South Gate, Lakewood, Hawaiian Gardens, Signal Hill, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Cerritos, La Mirada, Whittier, La Habra	1,377,438	28	2.0
Region VIII: South Bay SPA	Inglewood, Torrance, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, San Pedro	1,620,848	33	2.1

There are 12 additional hate crimes that were not included because of insufficient address information.

*2010 population estimates were provided by the Los Angeles Public County Department of Public Health and the Urban Research Division of Los Angeles County Internal Services Department. Service Planning Areas (SPAs) represent eight geographic regions of Los Angeles County. SPAs are widely used for social service and health care planning purposes and are linked through SPA Councils to community-based organizations, neighborhoods groups, cities, schools, and county and city government agencies.

Appendix B:

Reporting Agencies

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Alhambra Police Department
Arcadia Police Department
Azusa Police Department
Baldwin Park Police Department
Bell Police Department
Beverly Hills Police Department
Burbank Police Department
California Highway Patrol
Claremont Police Department
Covina Police Department
Culver City Police Department
Downey Police Department
El Monte Police Department
El Segundo Police Department
Gardena Police Department
Glendale Police Department
Glendora Police Department
Hawthorne Police Department
Hermosa Beach Police Department
Huntington Park Police Department
Inglewood Police Department
Irwindale Police Department
La Verne Police Department
Los Angeles Police Department
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Long Beach Police Department
Manhattan Beach Police Department
Monrovia Police Department
Montebello Police Department
Monterey Park Police Department
Palos Verdes Police Department
Pasadena Police Department
Pomona Police Department
Redondo Beach Police Department
San Gabriel Police Department
San Marino Police Department
Santa Monica Police Department
Sierra Madre Police Department
Signal Hills Police Department
South Gate Police Department
South Pasadena Police Department
Torrance Police Department
Vernon Police Department
West Covina Police Department
Whittier Police Department

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Alhambra Unified School District
Azusa Unified School District
Castaic Union School District
Charter Oak Unified School District
Culver City Unified School District
Downey Unified School District
El Segundo Unified School District
Garvey School District
La Canada Unified School District
Las Virgenes Unified School District
Lennox School District
Los Angeles Unified School District
Lowell Joint School District
Montebello Unified School Districts
Mountain View School District
Newhall School District
Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District
Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District
Rosemead School District
Rowland Unified School District
San Gabriel Unified School District
Saugus Union School District
Temple City Unified School District
Valle Lindo School District
West Covina Unified School District
Whittier Union High School District
William S. Hart Union High School District

COLLEGES

Antelope Valley College
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, Northridge
Citrus College
El Camino College
Glendale Community College District
Long Beach Community College District
Los Angeles Community College District
Mt. San Antonio Community College District
Occidental College
Pasadena City Community College District
Rio Hondo College
University of California, Los Angeles

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Anti-Defamation League
L.A. LGBT Center

Acknowledgements

This report was developed by the Human Relations Commission.

Hate Crime Report Team
Robin S. Toma, Executive Director
Elena Halpert-Schilt, Assistant Executive Director
Sandra Mitchell, Human Services Administrator III
Juan Carlos Martinez, GIS Analyst
riKu Matsuda, Report Analyst
Marshall Wong, Team Leader and Principal Author

Report Analysts
Billy Conway
Kaylee Dickerboom
Dr. Jane Gauthier
Daicy Orozco
Michelle Owiecki
Richard Salazar

Hate Crime Report Support Staff
Emily Pacheco
Sharon Williams

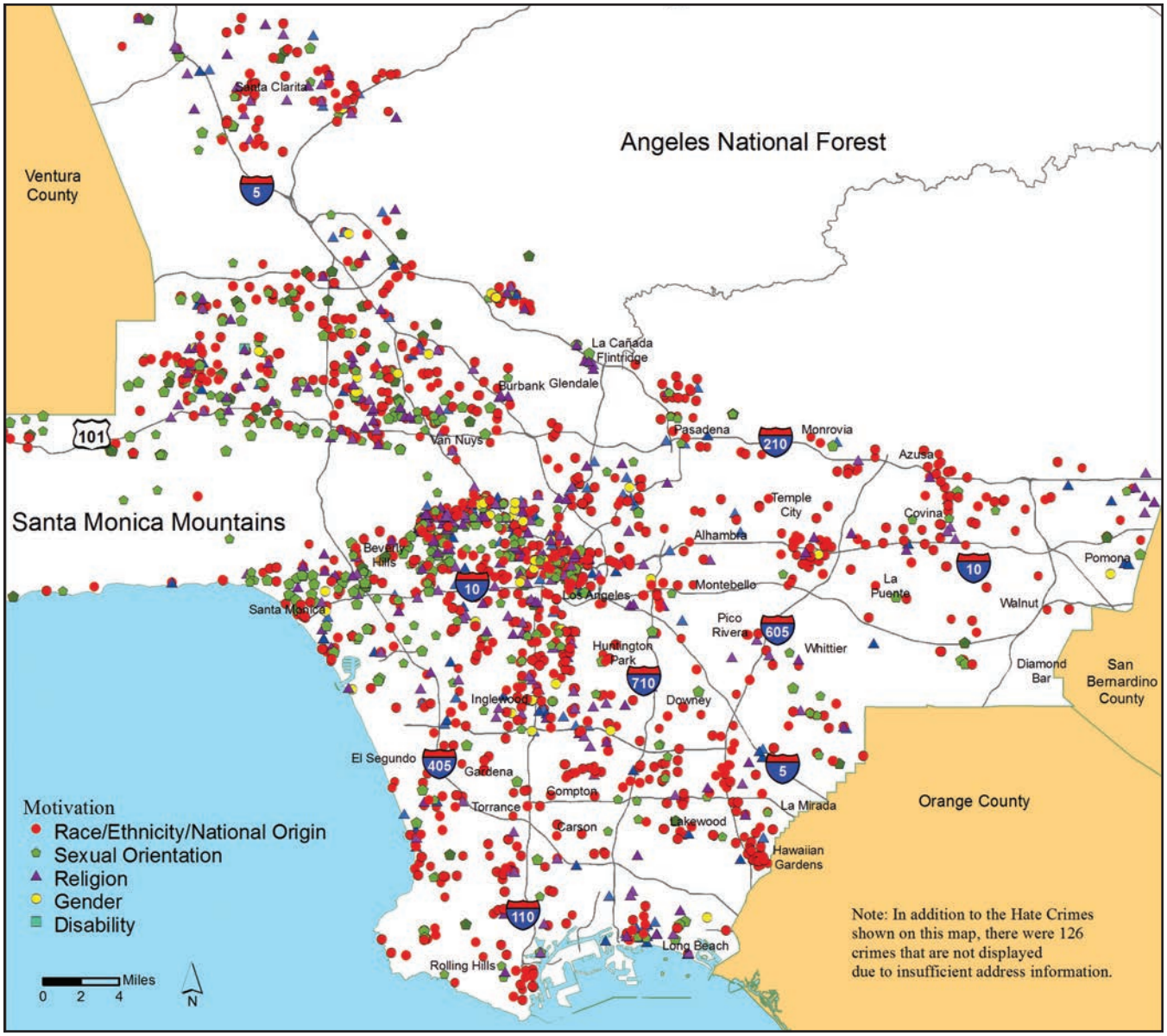
Prosecution Data Contributors
Richard Kraft of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
Kat Imuta-Sproston of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office
Bruce Riordan of the U.S. Attorney's Office

Cover concept and graphic design
San Luis Design

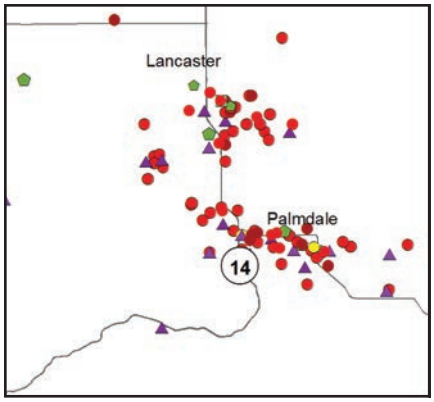
Thanks to all of the Commission staff for their contributions and assistance.

Special thanks to Commander Kevin McCarthy, Captain William P. Hayes and Detective Monica Quijano of the Los Angeles Police Department and Lieutenant Brian Moriguchi, Captain Joseph B. Nuñez, Lisa Marie Morissette, and Dara Long of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. We would also like to recognize and thank the law enforcement agencies, school districts, universities, and community based organizations that provided us with 2014 hate crime data used in this report.

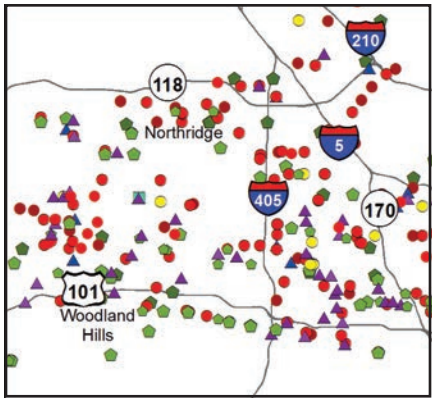
2010–2014 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes



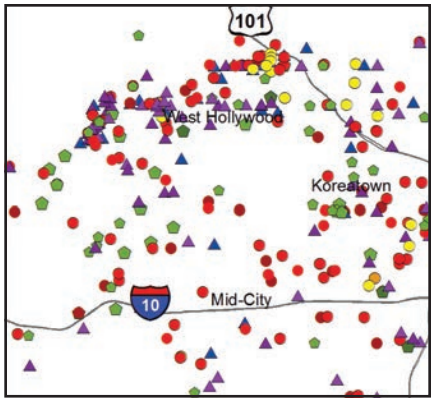
Antelope Valley



San Fernando Valley



Hollywood/West Hollywood



Maps by Juan Carlos Martinez

2014 Hate Crime Report

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

www.LAHumanRelations.org