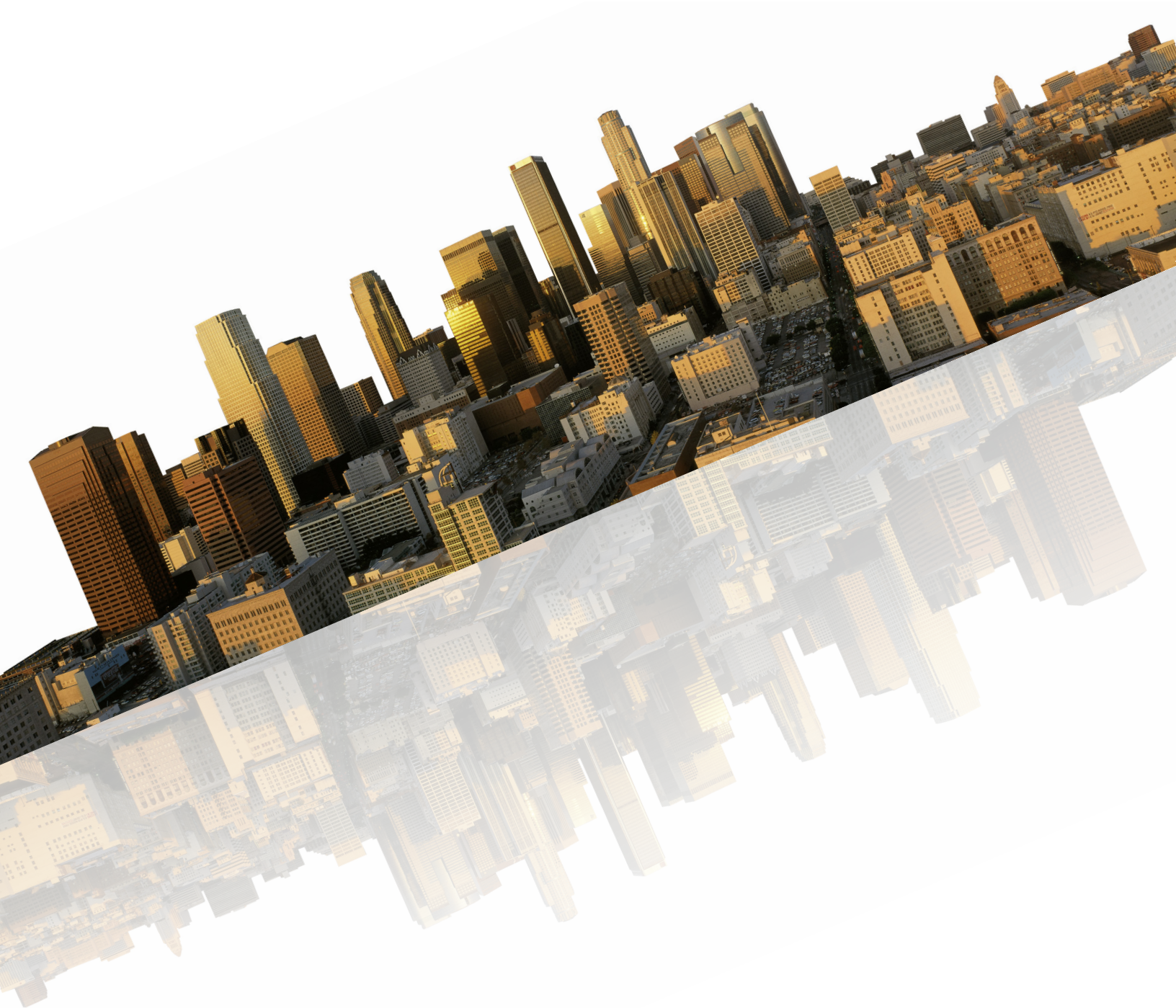
## Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

# 2015 HATE CRIME REPORT



# 2015 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes

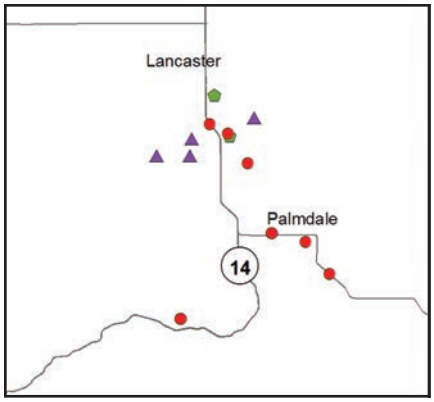
Santa Clarita
Angeles National Forest
Ventura County
5
La Cañada Flintridge
Burbank
Glendale
101
Van Nuys
Pasadena
210
Monrovia
Azusa
Temple City
Covina
Santa Monica Mountains
Alhambra
Beverly Hills
10
Pomona
Montebello
La Puente
Los Angeles
Santa Monica
Walnut
Pico Rivera
605
Whittier
Huntington Park
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
- Unknown

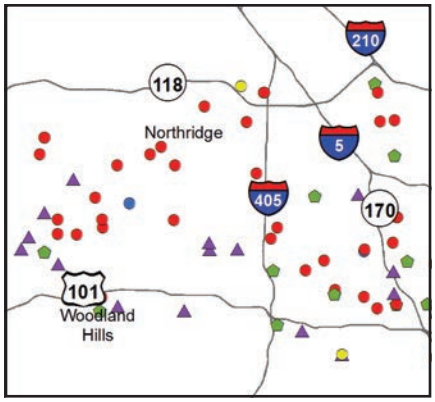
Miles
0 2 4
N

Note: In addition to the Hate Crimes shown on this map, there were 41 crimes that are not displayed due to insufficient address information.

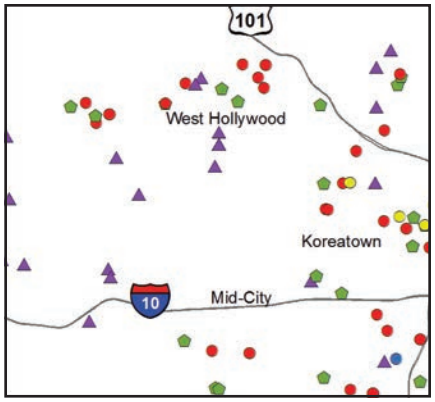
## Antelope Valley




## San Fernando Valley




## Hollywood/West Hollywood




*Maps by Juan Carlos Martinez*

# 2015 HATE CRIME REPORT



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# Preface

**Since 1980, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations has compiled, analyzed, and produced an annual report of hate crime 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 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 the Commission produces 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, unconditional and unequivocal. It must also cause the victim sustained fear. Frequently, derogatory words or epithets are directed against a member of a protected class, but no violence is threatened. 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 probably 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 published by the U.S. Justice Department in 2014 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 crimes:**

- 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 2015.

*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 rights 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.

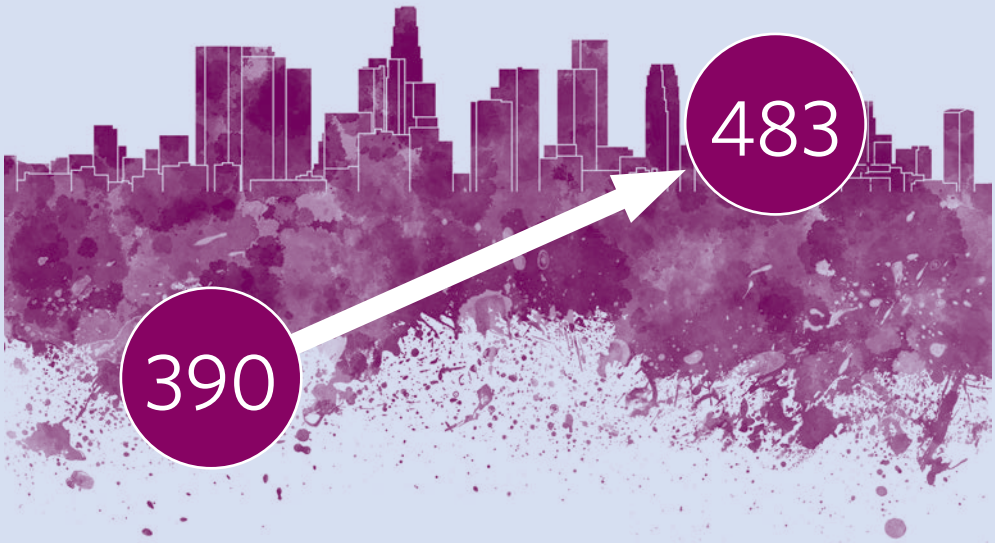
The U.S. Constitution states that the Constitution and Treaties are the Supreme Law of the Land. Thus, all levels of government in the U.S. -including counties, cities and school districts- and individuals have a duty to uphold these treaty obligations by addressing discrimination manifested in hate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

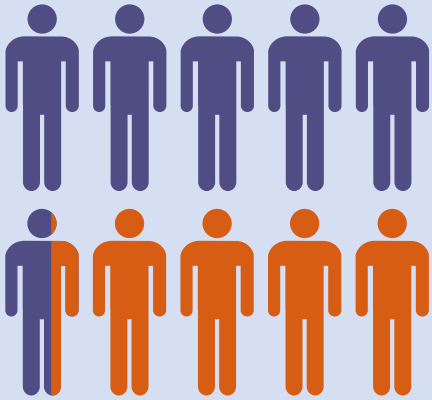
# 2015 Quick Facts



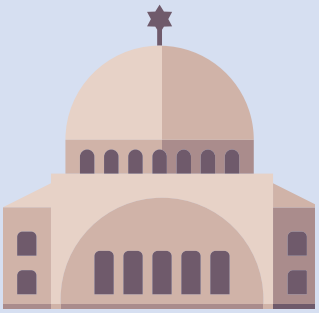

Hate crimes in Los Angeles County rose from 390 to 483, a **24% increase**. This is the largest number reported since 2011. Statewide, hate crimes increased only 10%.

**Across the board, there was an escalation** of hate crimes motivated by race, sexual orientation, religion, and gender.

Sexual orientation crimes comprised 25% of hate crimes and the **rate of violence spiraled to 84%**, the highest level in more than a decade.



Half of all hate crimes were racially-motivated and **58% of these attacks targeted African Americans**, although they constitute only 8.3% of L.A. County's population.

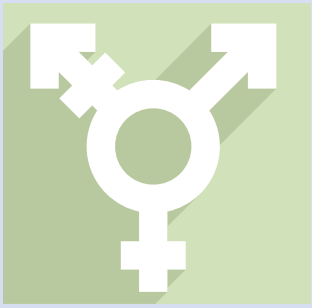


Religious crimes constituted 20% of all hate crimes and **71% were anti-Jewish**.

**Anti-Muslim crimes jumped** from 3 to 19 and most occurred after terrorist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino.

Gang members were suspects in 12% of hate crimes and these were overwhelming cases of **Latino/a gangs targeting African American victims**. Seventy-five percent of these crimes were of a violent nature.

There was evidence of **white supremacist ideology in 13% of hate crimes** but nearly all were acts of vandalism or other non-violent defacement of property.



**Gender-motivated crimes rose 47%,** from 15 to 22. Eighteen of these were violent attacks on transgender women and 4 were anti-female.

**The largest number of hate crimes** took place in the San Fernando Valley Service Area (SPA) Region II followed by the Metro SPA Region IV. However, if one accounts for population **the highest rate** was in the Metro SPA followed by West SPA Region V.

# 2015 Hate Crimes in Perspective

## Hate Crimes Increase 24%

Following seven years of trending downward, hate crimes in Los Angeles County rose sharply in 2015, from 390 to 483, a 24% increase. This is the largest number reported since 2011, but well below the numbers reported for 20 years, 1990 through 2009.

During the same year the State of California also saw an increase in hate crime. The California Attorney General's Office reported that there were 1,041 persons who were victims of hate crime in 2015 compared to 943 the previous year. This represented a 10% increase. At the time of this report's release, the FBI had not released national hate crime statistics for 2015.

The Los Angeles Police Department reported that violent crimes increased 20.2% in 2015 and property crimes increased 10.7%. Despite the uptick, the numbers of crimes were still among the lowest recorded over the past 50 years. Driving the increase in violent crimes were aggravated assaults committed by gang members and cases of domestic violence. The increase in property crimes was largely due to automobile theft and property stolen from unlocked vehicles.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department documented a smaller 7% increase in Part I crimes (homicides, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglary, theft and arson).

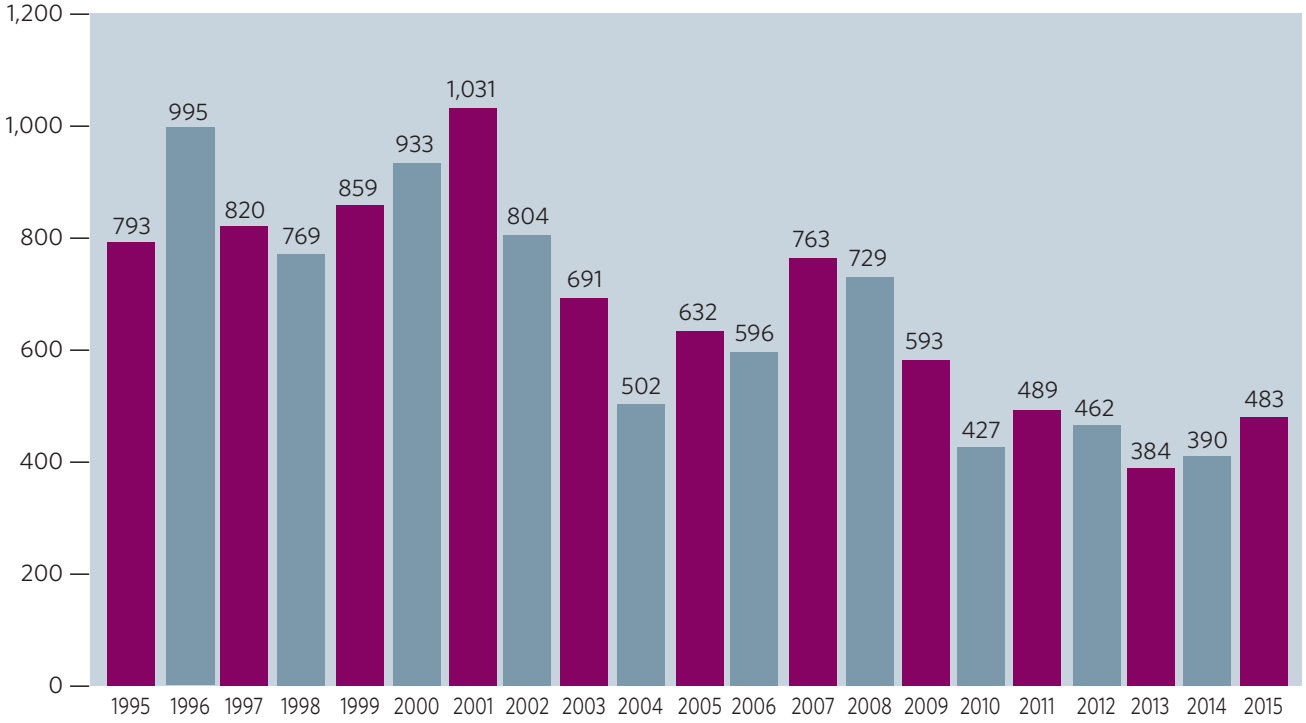
## Hate Crimes by Motivation and Targeted Group

The increase in hate crimes in 2015 was due to a spike in crimes targeting multiple communities. There was an across-the-board rise in hate crimes based on race, sexual orientation, religion and gender. Only disability-motivated crimes decreased. Crimes based on the real or perceived race, ethnicity, or national origin* remained by far the largest category, constituting 50% of all hate crimes. Racial hate crimes rose 21% from 199 to 241. As in previous years the second largest group of hate crimes was motivated by sexual orientation. They constituted 25% of all hate crimes. Sexual orientation crimes rose 11% from 108 to 120. Religious crimes remained the third largest group, comprising 20% of the total. Religious crimes rose 38% from 72 to 99. Gender-based crimes constituted the fourth largest group and rose 47% from 15 to 22. Disability crimes decreased from 3 to 1. What is striking is that the distribution of crimes based on motivation remained nearly identical to the previous year. There were also 13 crimes in which the motive was undetermined. These cases most commonly included 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 property owners. These crimes could also be cases of mistaken identity. This report classifies these crimes as having "unknown" motivation.

As in the past, the overwhelming number of hate crimes (81%) targeted four groups: African Americans, gay men/lesbians/LGBT organizations, Jews and Latino/as. The previous year these four groups constituted 86% of the total. Anti-black and homophobic crimes increased slightly. But anti-Jewish crimes rose 27% from 55 to 70, and crimes targeting Latino/as jumped 69% from 36 to 61. A few other communities experienced increases, as well. Anti-Muslim crimes rose from 3 to 19. And the number of crimes targeting Asians and Pacific Islanders tripled from 6 to 18 and offenses targeting Armenians increased from 1 to 6.

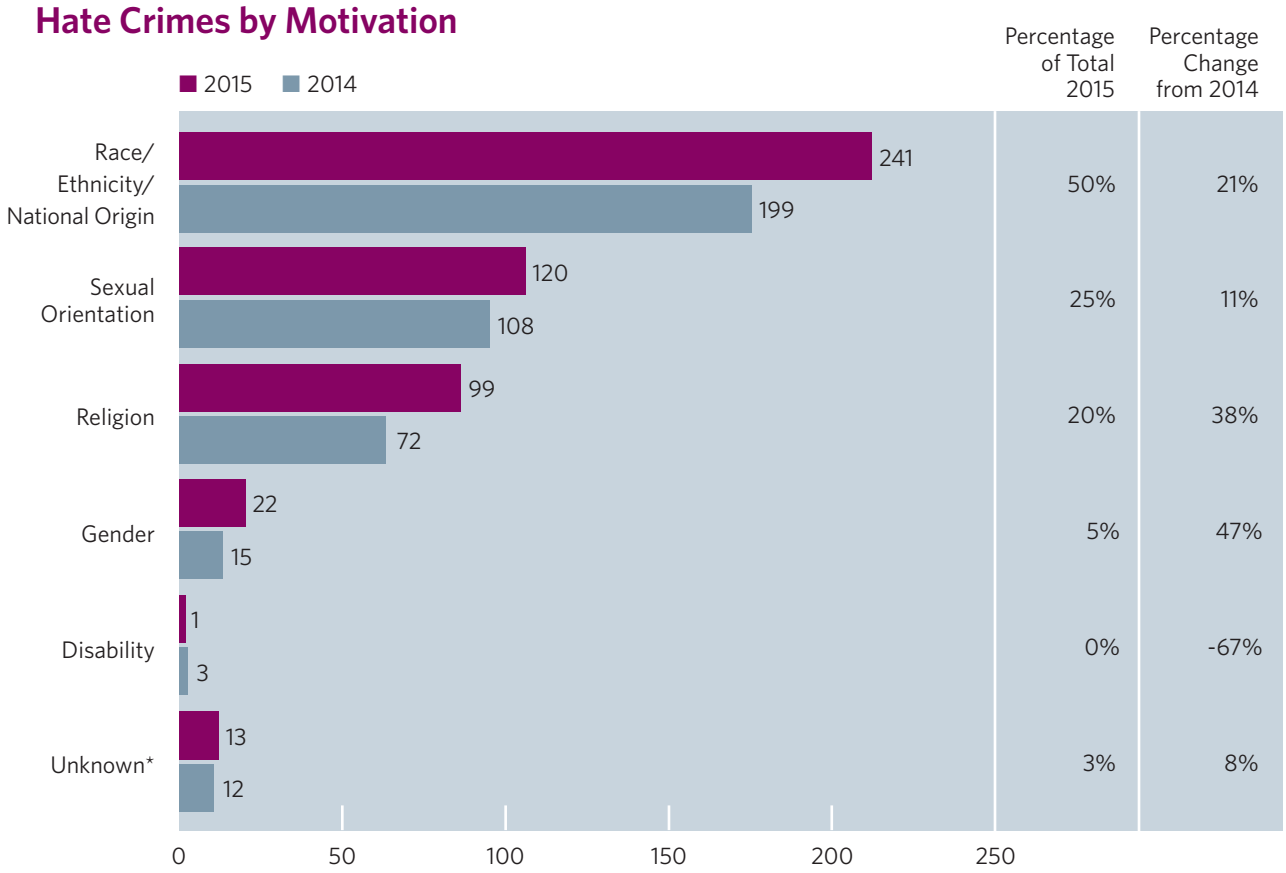
*For the sake of brevity, we refer to these as "racial" hate crimes throughout this report.

## Total Number of Reported Hate Crimes by Year



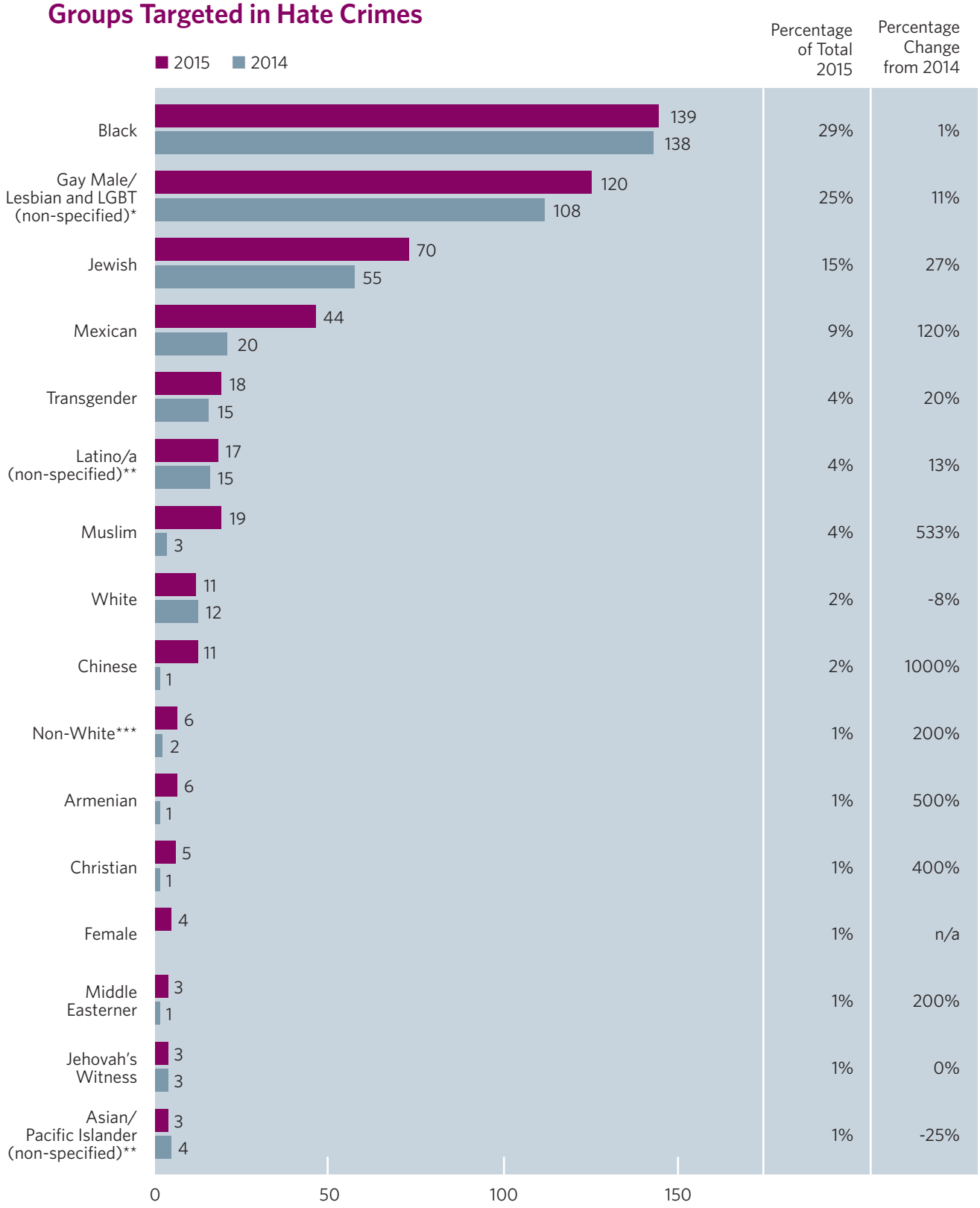

**Reported hate crimes rose in the 1990s, following adoption of legislation by the California State legislature in 1989 that mandated law enforcement to record and report hate crimes.**

## 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



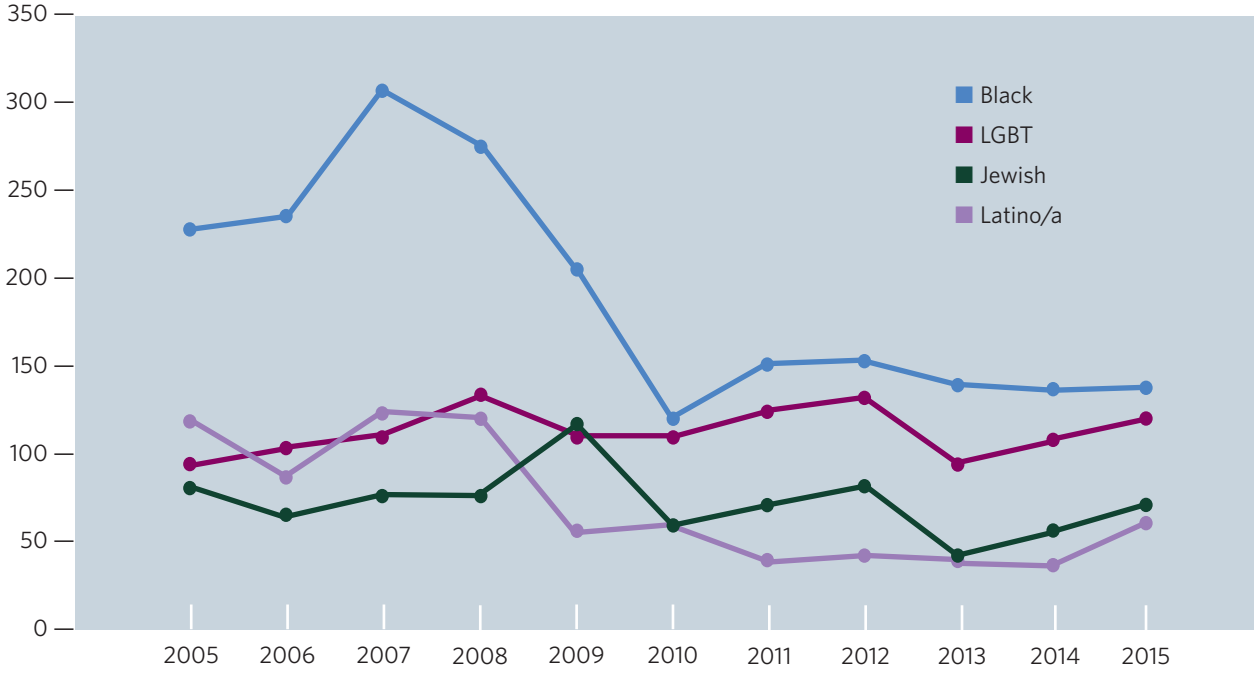

**In 2015 there were also 2 cases targeting Catholics, Indians and single crimes that targeted Africans, Americans, Egyptians, Filipinos, Iraqis, Koreans, and persons with physical disabilities.**

*** "LGBT non-specified" refers to hate crimes that targeted LGBT organizations or businesses, not an individual.**

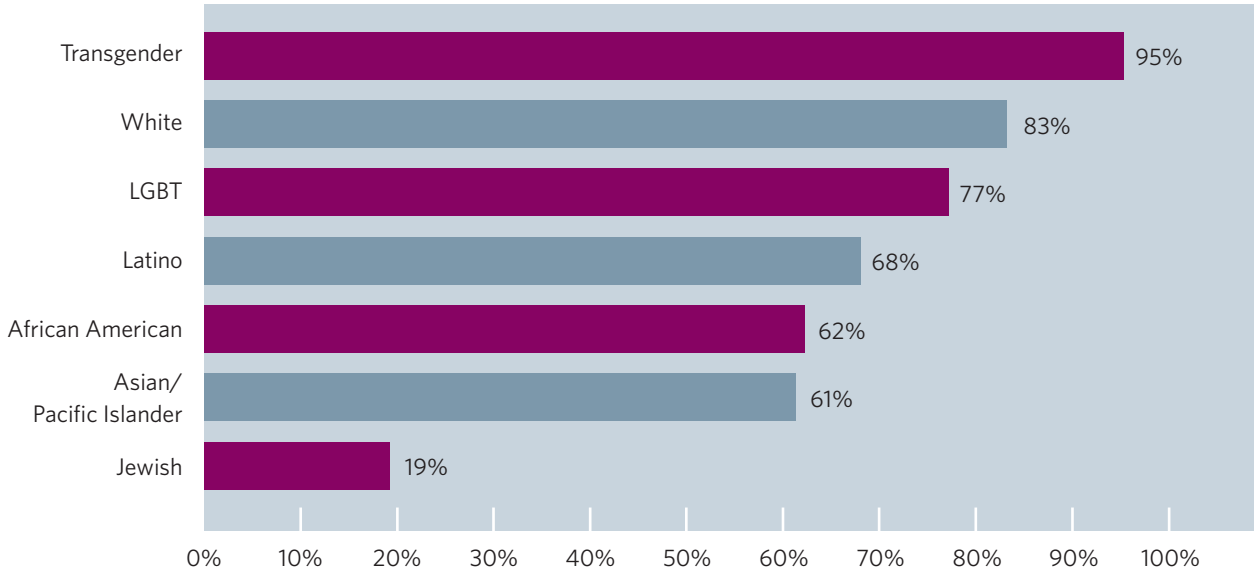
**** "Non-specified" crimes targeting Latinos and Asians refer to crimes in which these groups were targeted but there were no slurs made against a specific nationality (e.g. Chinese, Mexicans, Salvadorans).**

*****"Non-White" refers to cases of white supremacist graffiti in which no specific group is named (e.g. "White Power).**

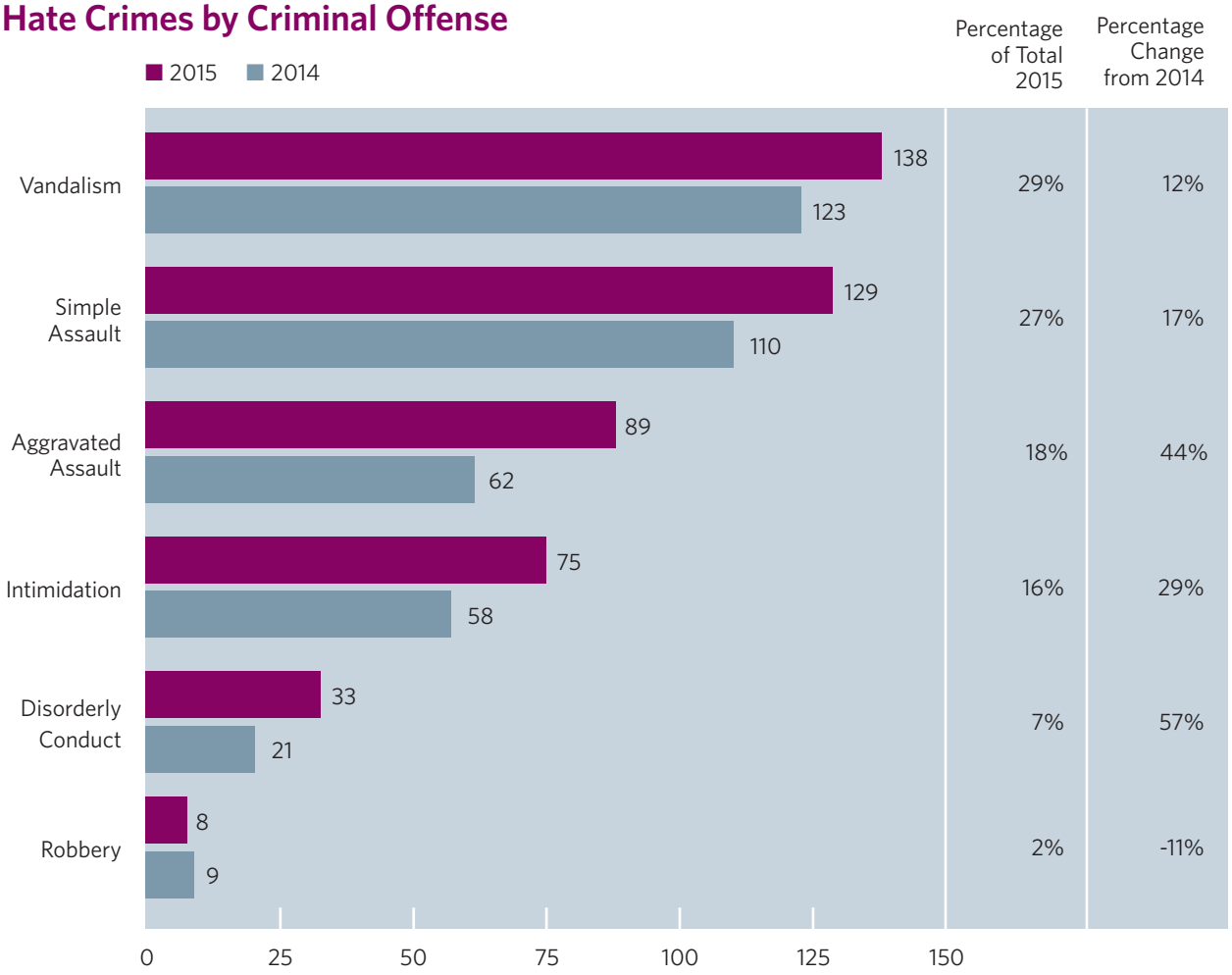
## 2005–2015 Hate Crimes: Most Frequently Targeted Groups




## 2011–2015 Hate Crimes: Rate of Violence Against Selected Groups



## Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense




**In 2015, there were also 4 cases of arson, 3 cases of attempted murders, burglaries, and 1 case of sexual assault.**

## Criminal Offenses and Rate of Violence

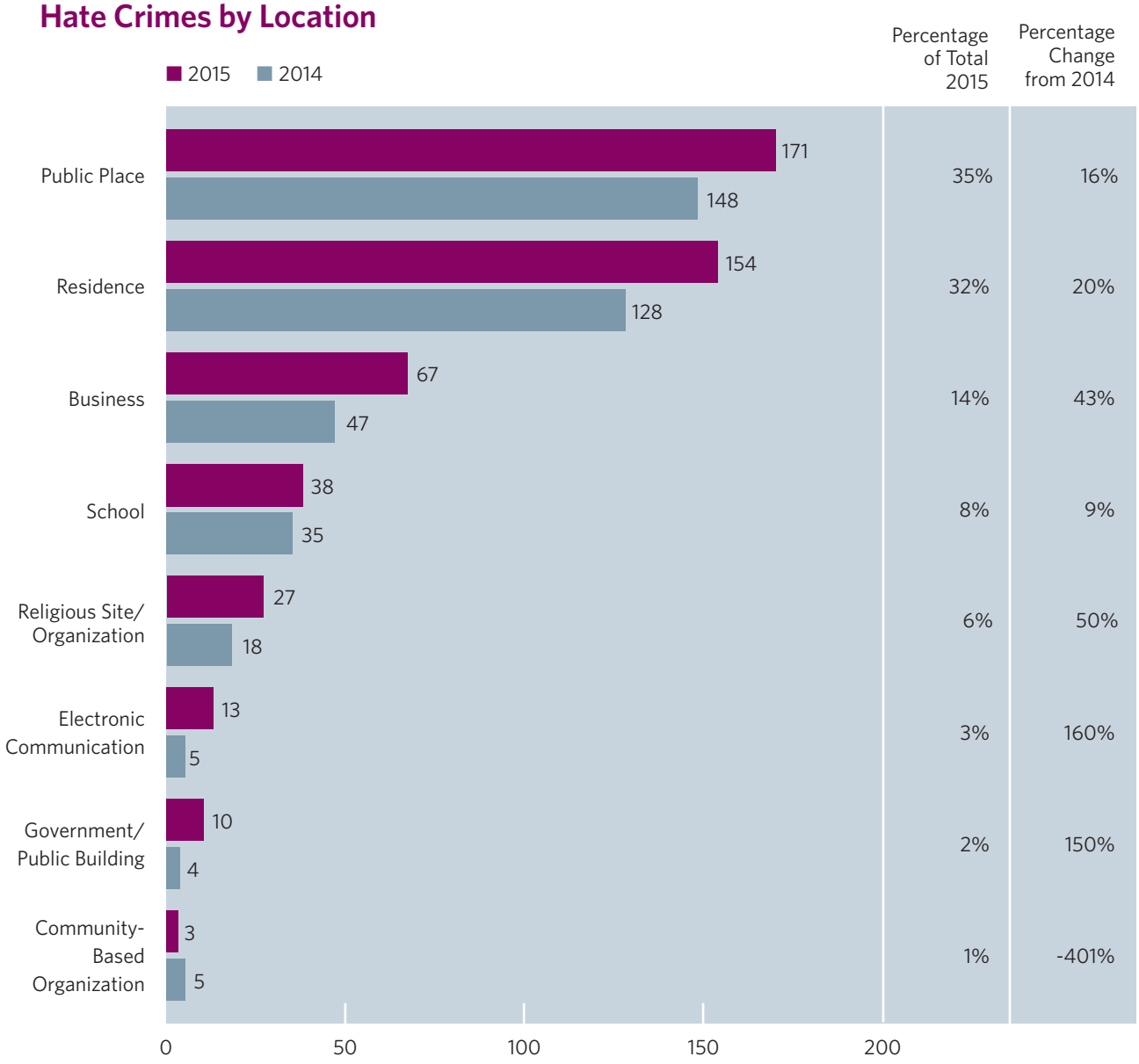
The overall rate of violence (crimes in which victims were attacked or threatened with physical harm) rose slightly from 62% to 63%.

The most common criminal offense was vandalism (29%) followed by simple assaults (27%), aggravated assaults (18%) and acts of intimidation (16%). These 4 offenses comprised 89% of all hate crimes. The distribution of these criminal offenses was remarkably similar to the previous year.

In 2015, there were no reported hate murders but there were 2 cases involving the attempted murders of 3 victims.

- A black teenager employed by a big box store was retrieving shopping carts in the parking lot. Without warning, a Latino gang member stabbed him in the right shoulder. The suspect yelled, "What's up nigger?" He then attacked a second black male who was shopping, stabbing him also in the shoulder. The second victim ran inside a store to escape but the suspect followed him into the business and stabbed him a second time in the knee. The second victim knocked the knife from the suspect's hand who then fled the scene. He was arrested hiding in the backyard of a nearby residence.

## Hate Crimes by Location




- A Latino male got off a bus and was approached by a black male who asked him, "Where are you from?" The victim kept walking and ignored the suspect. The suspect said "This is Grape Street Watts!" and yelled "Fuck Mexicans!" and stabbed him twice in his back. The suspect then threw the victim to the ground and searched his pockets. The suspect stole $20 and then fled. The victim had emergency surgery for a collapsed lung.

As in previous years, there were dramatically different rates of violence based on motivation. 95% of gender-motivated crimes were violent, followed by sexual orientation (84%), racial (66%) and religion (31%). The lone disability-motivated crime was non-violent. The rate of violence for sexual orientation crimes rose and is the highest in more than a decade.

## Location

The largest number of hate crimes (35%) occurred in public places (e.g., streets, sidewalks, parks), followed by residences (32%), businesses (14%), schools (8%) and religious sites (6%). The distribution was very similar to the previous year.

## Geographic Distribution

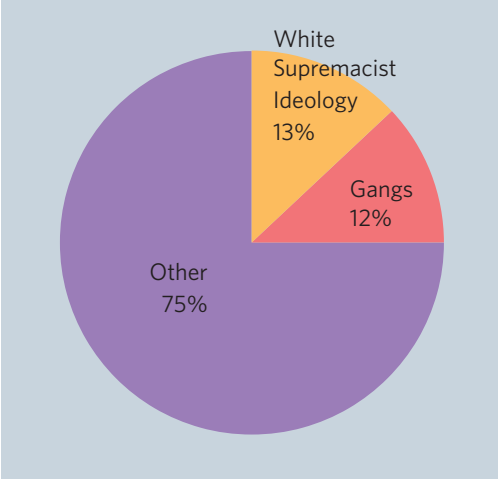
The largest number of hate crimes (107) took place in the San Fernando Valley Service Area (SPA) Region II. It was followed by the Metro SPA Region IV which stretches from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights. But if one compares the population of the regions to the number of reported hate crimes, the Metro SPA has the highest rate of hate crimes, followed by West SPA Region V (which includes Beverly Hills, Culver City and a number of affluent beach cities). The regions with the lowest rates of hate crime 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 81% of hate crimes. San Gabriel Valley and East SPAs have extremely low numbers of black residents, LGBT-oriented businesses and Jewish religious sites, which could account for the low rates of hate crimes. For more information, see Appendix A.

## 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. In 2015, white supremacist crimes rose 13% from 56 to 63. White supremacist crimes constituted 13% of all hate crimes, a proportion similar to the previous year.

### Hate Crimes Involving Gangs or White Supremacist Ideology




The largest group of white supremacist crimes were motivated by religion (57%), followed by race (33%) and sexual orientation (6%). In 10% of the cases the motivation was unknown. The previous year racial crimes were the most numerous. Religious-motivated white supremacist crimes increased 89% from 19 to 36. Jews were targeted in 52% of white supremacist crimes, followed by African Americans (19%). In 10% of the cases property was vandalized with general white supremacist symbols or slogans not targeting a specific community.

The great majority of these crimes were acts of vandalism (70%), followed by disorderly conduct (25%). Acts of disorderly conduct includes cases in which swastikas are drawn on private property but do not constitute vandalism because they are easily removable. Only 5% of white supremacist crimes were of a violent nature.

As in previous years, residences were the most common location (44%), followed by businesses (16%), religious sites (13%), public places and schools (11% 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 espouse 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.

During the first half of 2016, white supremacists held rallies in cities of Anaheim and Sacramento. In both cases, only a handful of white supremacists showed up and were met by much larger groups of counter-protesters. Violence erupted at both sites leading to arrests and serious injuries.

## 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, crimes fitting this profile have plummeted even though Muslims, South Asians and Middle Easterners still report harassment, racial/religious profiling, and discrimination. The California chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-California) documented a 58% increase in anti-Muslim bias incidents in 2015. A total of 1,556 incidents, 554 from the Los Angeles area alone, were reported to CAIR-California. These included complaints involving: employment discrimination, federal law enforcement questioning, housing discrimination, immigration issues, hate crimes, school bullying and several others. It should be noted that hate crimes comprise only a small percentage of these complaints of harassment and discrimination.

In 2015, crimes related to terrorism and the Middle East increased from 10 to 19. Fourteen of these crimes were anti-Muslim, and one was anti-Middle Easterner. There were also 2 crimes that contained both anti-Muslim and anti-Middle Easterner slurs and 2 crimes that targeted Jews. The following are examples of these crimes:

- A Middle Eastern man was securing his bicycle in front of a restaurant. A Latino male approached him and asked, "Where are you from? Como estas?" The victim replied that he was from Saudi Arabia. The suspect told him, "You must be one of those Jihadists, then." Then the suspect punched the victim and kicked him 7 times before walking away.

- A Muslim female was sitting in her car when a white male suspect approached her vehicle and yelled, "I have three hundred friends that were killed by Muslims. You're a fucking terrorist. You are probably wearing bombs under that dress. Get the fuck out of the country!" The victim denied being a terrorist and the suspect said, "If I ever see you, I'll fucking kill you."

- A man received threatening calls from an anonymous male on three separate occasions. The suspect stated, "You are a Muslim, one of those ISIS, and I am going to burn your shop!" The victim is a Christian.

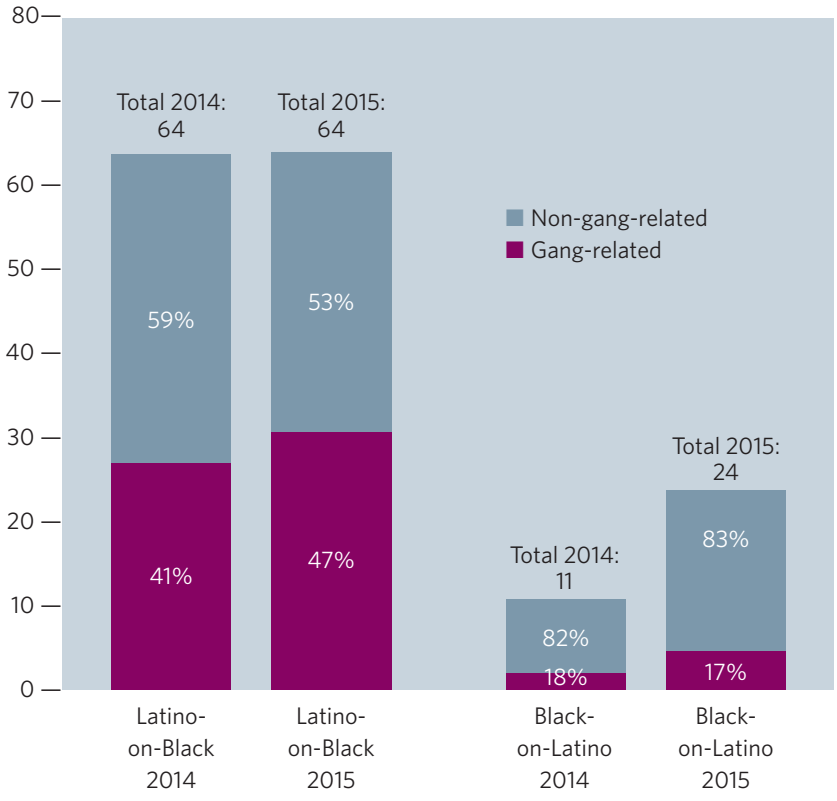
In addition, there were 5 other anti-Muslim and/or anti-Middle Eastern crimes. Although there were no specific slurs, like "terrorist" or "Taliban," used it is possible that the perpetrators possessed such sentiments.

In 2015, some of the anti-Muslim/Middle Eastern crimes took place following two well-publicized attacks by religious extremists. Four of these crimes occurred after the November 13 terrorist attacks in Paris and 9 took place following the December 2 massacre of San Bernardino County employees.

## Hate Crimes Between African Americans and Latino/as

The great majority of African Americans and Latino/as 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 Latino/as and vice versa. This is particularly true in neighborhoods that have undergone rapid demographic shifts from being primarily black to majority Latino/a. The other factor driving this phenomenon is the large number of Latino/a 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.

### Black-Latino Hate Crimes in 2014–2015




In 2015, 59% of anti-black crimes were committed by Latinos/as. By contrast, a smaller percentage of anti-Latino/a crimes (52%) were committed by African Americans and 46% were perpetrated by white suspects.

In terms of gang involvement, of the 64 Latino/a-on-black crimes, 30 (or 47%) were committed by gang members. In comparison, of the 24 black-on-Latino/a hate crimes, only 4 (17%) were committed by gang members.

## Gangs

There were 57 hate crimes committed by gang members in 2015, a slight increase from the 54 reported the previous year. Gang members were responsible for 12% of all hate crimes (compared to 14% the previous year) and 18% 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 actually higher.

Seventy-seven percent of the crimes committed by gang members were motivated by race, and 23% were based on sexual orientation. In past years, gang members were responsible for committing religious and gender crimes but there were no such cases reported in 2015. Of the racial crimes, the overwhelming majority (73%) targeted African Americans and 11% were against Latino/as. Gang members also committed small numbers of crimes targeting whites and Asians.

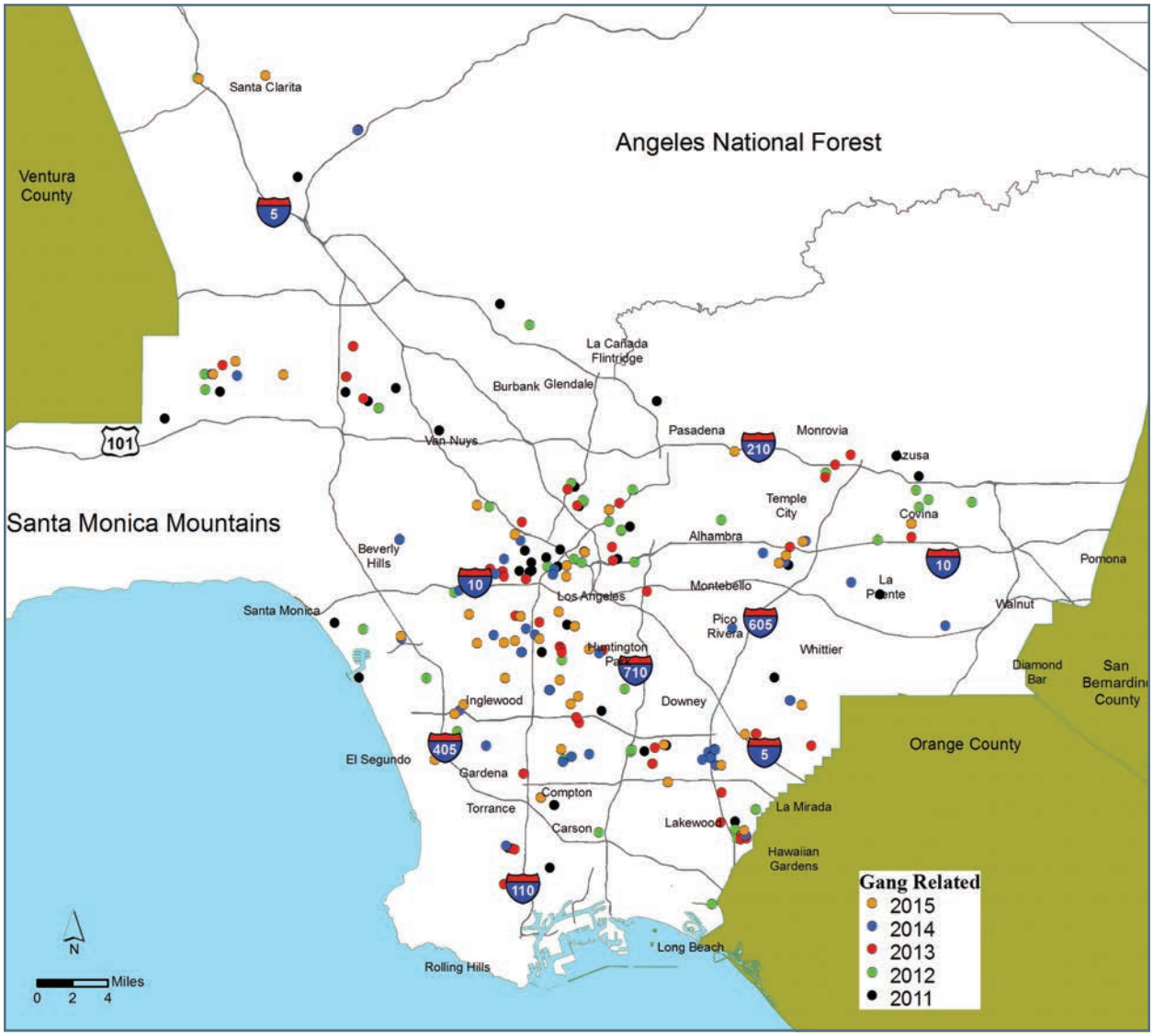
Seventy-five percent of hate crimes committed by gang members were of a violent nature, compared to 61% the previous year. The most common criminal offense was aggravated assaults (39%), followed by vandalism and simple assaults (19% each) and acts of intimidation (7%). This represents an increase in aggravated assaults and a drop in cases of vandalism and intimidation.

Gang members committed hate crimes most frequently at residences (42%) followed by public places (40%) and businesses (9%). This is the fifth year in a row in which the largest number of gang-related hate crimes occurred at residences.

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 29 gangs identified as being involved in hate crimes in 2015 included 18th Street*, 38th Street, 115th Street, 55 Bunch, Bloods*, Canoga Park Alabama Street*, Chino Street, Crips*, Dog Town Rifa, Dogpatch*, El Monte Flores*, FDK, Grape Street Watts Crips*, Lennox-13*, Mara Salvatrucha-13*, Mexican Mafia*, Mint Canyon Gang, Neighborhood Norwalk, NFD, Pasadena Denver Lanes, Piru, Rancho San Pedro Locos, Rooks Town, The Avenues*, Varrio Hawaiian Gardens*, Varrio Norwalk*, Victoria Park Locos, Vinlanders Social Club and Westside Rollin 60s Neighborhood Crips.

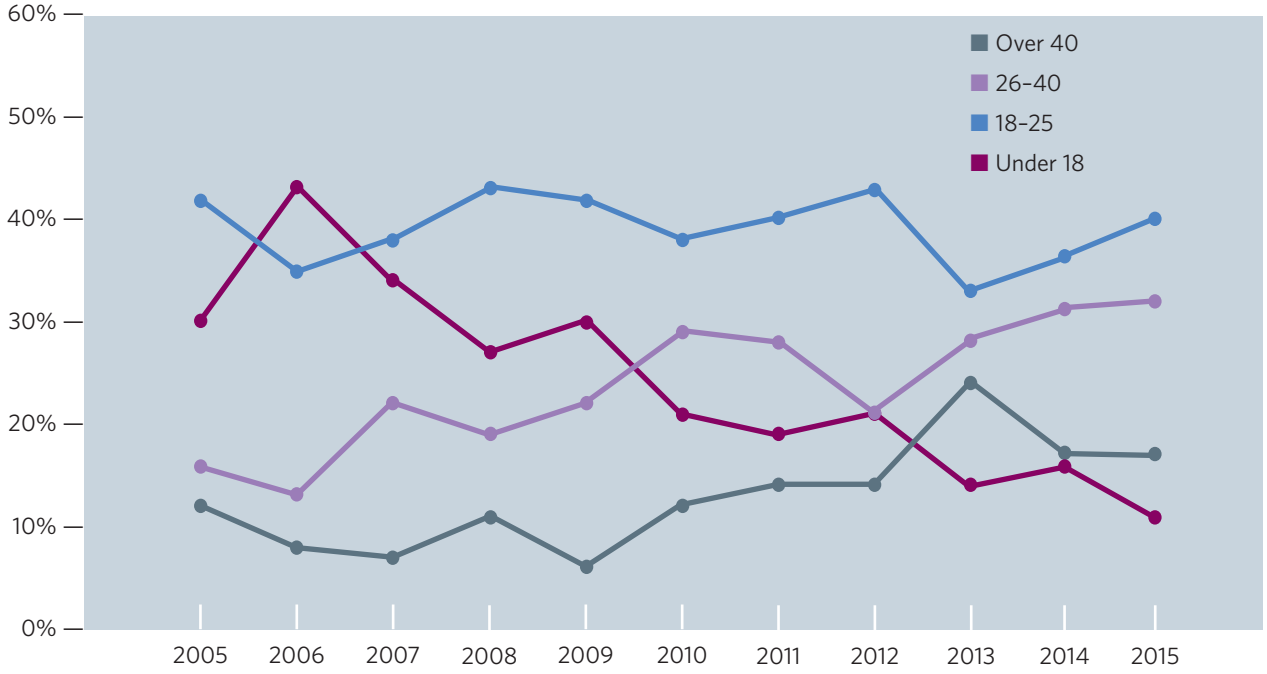
**Members of these gangs have committed other hate crimes during the past three years.*

## 2011–2015 Gang-Related Hate Crimes




*Map by Juan Carlos Martinez*

## 2005–2015 Hate Crimes: Known Suspects by Age




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

## Suspects

The number of hate crime suspects identified in 2015 rose from 344 to 421. As in previous years, these suspects were overwhelmingly male (91%).

Consistent with previous years, the largest group of suspects (40%) were young adults age 18 – 25. The second largest group (32%) were suspects age 26-40. Persons over 40 comprised 17% of all suspects. For the third year in a row, juveniles comprised the smallest group of suspects (11%).

## Hate Crimes Committed by Groups of Suspects

This report tracks the number of hate crimes committed by multiple suspects. In 2015, in cases in which suspects were identified, 82% of the crimes were committed by lone suspects, a percentage identical to the previous year. In 9% of the crimes there were 2 suspects, and in 3% there were 3. Crimes involving groups of 4 or 5 suspects constituted 2% each. There were 2 cases involving very large groups of attackers:

- A black male victim was walking towards his car in the parking lot of a community college. A group of at least 15 Armenian males approached him yelling, "Nigger!" and "Ape!" The group surrounded him and shouted, "Let's lynch him and let's kill him!" The victim tried to defend himself but was overpowered by the suspects who tackled him to the ground and then punched and kicked him repeatedly, including in the back of his head. A Good Samaritan intervened and the suspects dispersed. The victim was later taken to the hospital because of nausea and headaches where he was treated for concussions and bruises.

- A group of approximately 13 Latino males knocked on the door of a home in a housing project. When one of the occupants answered they forced their way inside and attacked two black teenagers with their fists and struck one of them with a brick on the back of his head and the other with a metal scooter. A third black female victim was sleeping upstairs during the home invasion. She woke up and tried to stop the suspects from beating the teenagers but one of the suspects threatened her with a closed fist. The suspects then smashed a television and a window and vandalizing the home. 1 of the suspects yelled, "Fuck niggers! Fuck mayates! This is Dogtown."

# Preventing and Responding to Hate Violence

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

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.

Hate violence can be viewed as the physical evidence of the deeply rooted societal prejudices against members of protected classes. Because of this, the Commission's work is aimed at preventing as well as responding to hate violence. Our programs address this issue at many levels, whether we are working with youth to build their human relations knowledge and skills and improve their intergroup relations; reducing disparate treatment in L.A. County criminal justice systems; developing training and practices to reduce implicit bias; or analyzing and reporting on the occurrence of hate crimes in the county. Below we set forth our Commission's recently developed strategic plan elements for the 2016-2019 period.

## Promote Youth Human Relations Leadership

In order to transform prejudice into acceptance, we must continue to focus on preparing more of our youth with the knowledge, skills, ability and values to lead now and in the future towards greater justice, equity, compassion and non-violence in human relations

***Rise-up Youth Conference***

The Youth Human Relations Leadership Development Initiative addresses these issues using proven tools for schools and youth organizations. Experienced LACCHR staff work directly with school and other youth-serving organization staff, coaching them to create and implement customized strategies for engaging youth in human relations training and projects. Participating organizations can join a countywide youth human relations network, coordinated by a coalition of youth human relations leaders. This coalition of youth leaders receives intensive direct attention to equip them to engage their peers in human relations projects.

## Increase Fairness and Equity in LA County's Criminal Justice Systems

Racial discrimination and other inequities in our criminal justice system are among the greatest barriers to our mission of transforming equity into justice. When the likelihood of being arrested, jailed, shot, executed, or rearrested in LA County is tied to one's race, ethnicity, gender, or other protected characteristics, fundamental human rights are at issue. We must strategically work to change these systems to break the cycle of incarceration

**Policing and Human Relations Hearings**—in recent months local and national attention has been drawn to the need for serious, comprehensive review of policing policy and practice. Highly publicized incidents of law enforcement use of force highlight the need for careful consideration of reform in policing policy and practice. The existence of more than 40 separate law enforcement agencies in LA County further obfuscates this very complex issue.

Based on its historical role in addressing police-community relations, and using its distinct role in county government, LACCHR has initiated an effort to identify and facilitate implementation of needed local policing reform. The three planned phases of the project are: a countywide series of hearings to formally record the experiences of community members, concerns and recommendations of community stakeholders and responses from law enforcement leaders; compiling the results of the hearings and synthesizing them to identify key needed reforms; and, finally, initiating a concerted, collaborative effort to bring about the identified reforms.

**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.

## Strengthen Effective Hate Crime Prevention and Response

We must make sure our leadership and our communities understand hate crime and acts to effectively prevent and respond to it in smart and socially responsible ways. Transforming hostility into peace requires that we build on and advance beyond current efforts. We can create intergroup solidarity by ensuring a message of unity and peace from affected communities.

The following LACCHR programs build upon the data in the annual Hate Crime Report to expand prevention, education, documentation and response resources in L.A. County:

**The Network Against Hate Crime (NAHC)**—This countywide coalition brings together representatives of law enforcement agencies, civil and human rights organizations, educators, faith communities and social service groups to coordinate efforts to combat intolerance and hate crime. NAHC meets quarterly for professional development, to share resources and to hear updates about related legislation.

**The Hate Violence Prevention Partnership LA (HVPPLA)**—Made up of grass roots organizations throughout Los Angeles County working to reduce and end hate violence, this network provides opportunities for practitioners to share best practices for education and prevention and exchange relevant and timely information about hate violence in the county.

**L.A. County Dispute Resolution Program (DRP)**—DRP's 12 contract agencies mediate community disputes, including merchant-customer, landlord-tenant, family, neighbor to neighbor and debt disputes. These mediations can prevent minor disputes from escalating into hate incidents or crimes.

**Implicit Bias Communication and Training Project**—LACCHR is collaborating with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) Office of Communications and Public Affairs to produce a communication procedural guidebook, templates, online learning and train-the-trainer modules and in-person training for LACDPH staff to address implicit bias and conscious bias, culturally appropriate communication and fear scapegoating reduction techniques specific to the circumstances surrounding an infectious disease/

major public health outbreak as well as other interaction with the public. The training will enable LACDPH staff to better respond and communicate to the public during public health crises and other times of significant community fear as well as during "normal" agency service provision.

**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 International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, Network Against Hate Crime, Bienestar Human Services, UCLA Vietnamese Student Union, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, the Hate Violence Prevention Partnership-LA, East Los Angeles College Department of Sociology, 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.

***Human Relations Commissioners and Staff at the John Anson Ford Awards***

## Improve the Organizational Effectiveness of the Human Relations Commission

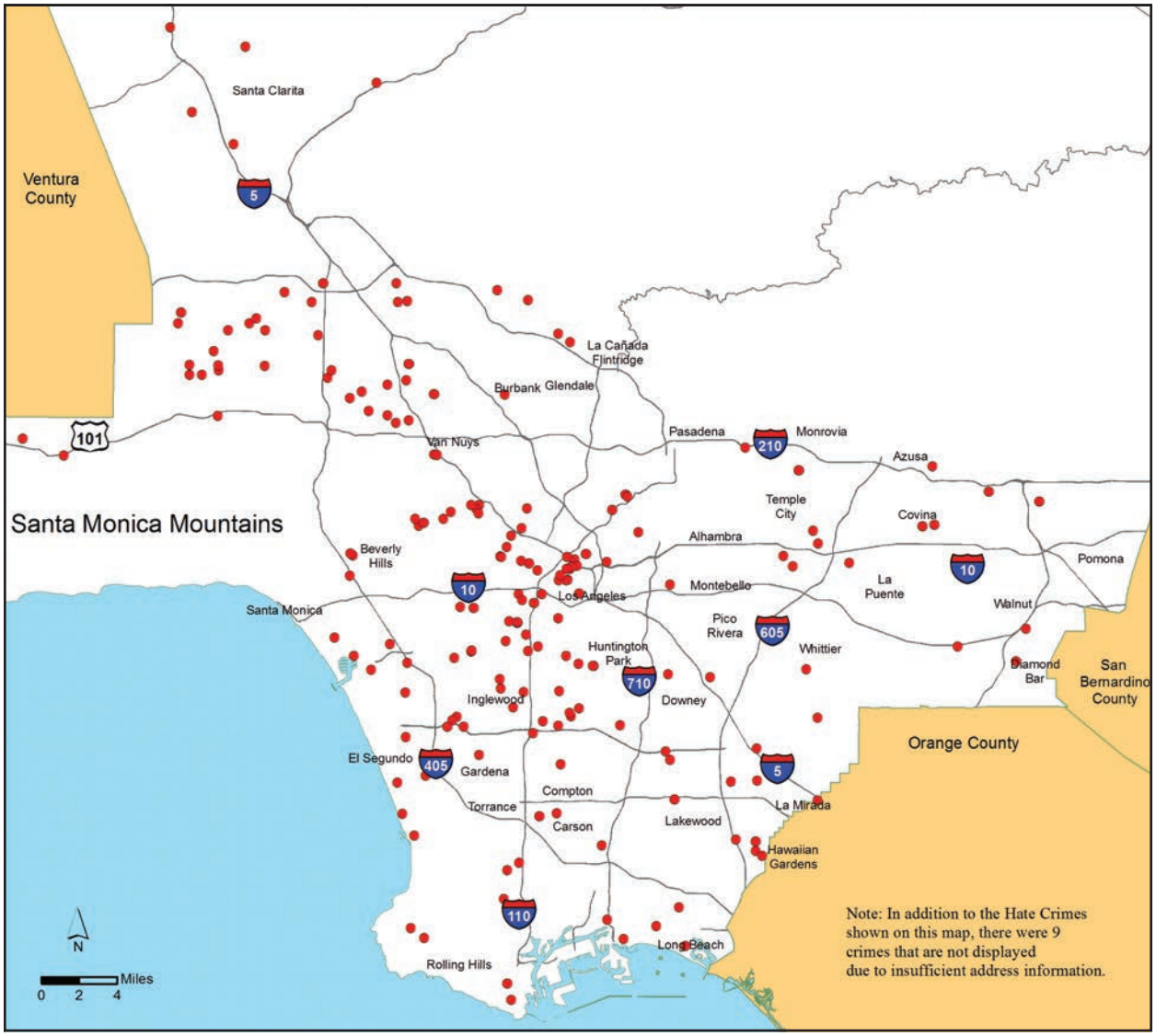
In order to fulfill its mission and vision, the commission needs to develop a greater ability to assert and protect the fundamental human rights of vulnerable populations, especially during time of crisis. To have a greater impact with limited staff resources in such a large and populous county, we need to increasingly shift our approach to become more effective at building the capacity of communities and institutions, away from service delivery oriented projects that cannot be institutionalized or replicated in other contexts.

**Training County Employees**—LACCHR staff provide Human Relations training for L.A. County Departments and community agencies so they can create and maintain more inclusive work environments that lead to more productive collaborations and, in that way, contributing to efforts to prevent hate acts and crimes in L.A. County.

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 and supporters to honor outstanding achievements in human relations.

# A Closer Look at Racial* Hate Crimes

## 2015 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Race/Ethnicity/National Origin




*Map by Juan Carlos Martinez*

*For brevity, hate crimes motivated by the victim's real or perceived race, ethnicity, or national origin are referred to as "racial" hate crimes throughout in this report.

Racial hate crimes increased 21% from 199 to 241. Similar to previous years, they constituted 50% of all hate crimes.

## Race/Ethnicity of Victims and Suspects

Fifty-eight percent of racial hate crimes targeted African Americans, compared to 69% the previous year. Anti-black crimes increased slightly from 138 to 139. Blacks constitute less than 9% of the total population of Los Angeles County but are grossly over-represented each year as victims of hate crime. As mentioned in the 2015 Hate Crimes in Perspective section, large numbers of these crimes were committed by Latino/a gang members. Of the 64 Latino/a-on-black crimes, 47% of the suspects belonged to gangs.

Anti-Latino/a crimes grew 69% from 36 to 61. Latino/as were targeted in 25% of racial hate crimes, compared to 18% the previous year. Because Latino/as comprise about half of L.A. County residents, this is still a surprisingly low number despite the sharp increase in 2015. Previously, anti-Latino/a hate crimes had been trending downward since 2008.

Crimes targeting Asians also increased from 6 to 18. However, prior to 2007, there were often more than twice as many anti-Asian hate crimes reported each year. Although Asian Americans constitute 14% of Los Angeles County residents, they reported only 7% of racial hate crimes 2015.

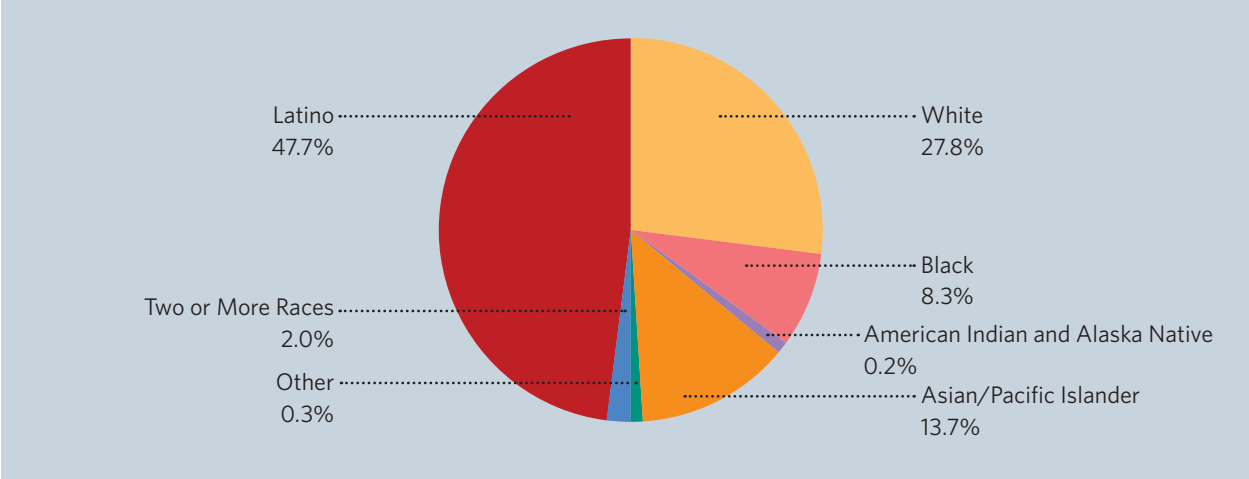
Anti-white crimes declined slightly from 12 to 11. Whites make up nearly 28% of the county's population but represented only 5% of racial hate crime victims in 2015.

There were 6 cases of white supremacist graffiti that did not mention specific targets. There were also 6 crimes targeting Armenians (including 1 case with 4 victims), 5 anti-Middle Easterner, 1 anti-African and an unusual "anti-American" crime. In this last case, an elderly white male was backing up his car in a parking lot. A white male motorist pulled up behind him, blocked his path, and started to yell at the victim. Both men exited their vehicles and the suspect said, "We Russians take care of you Americans." He then pushed the victim to the ground.

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

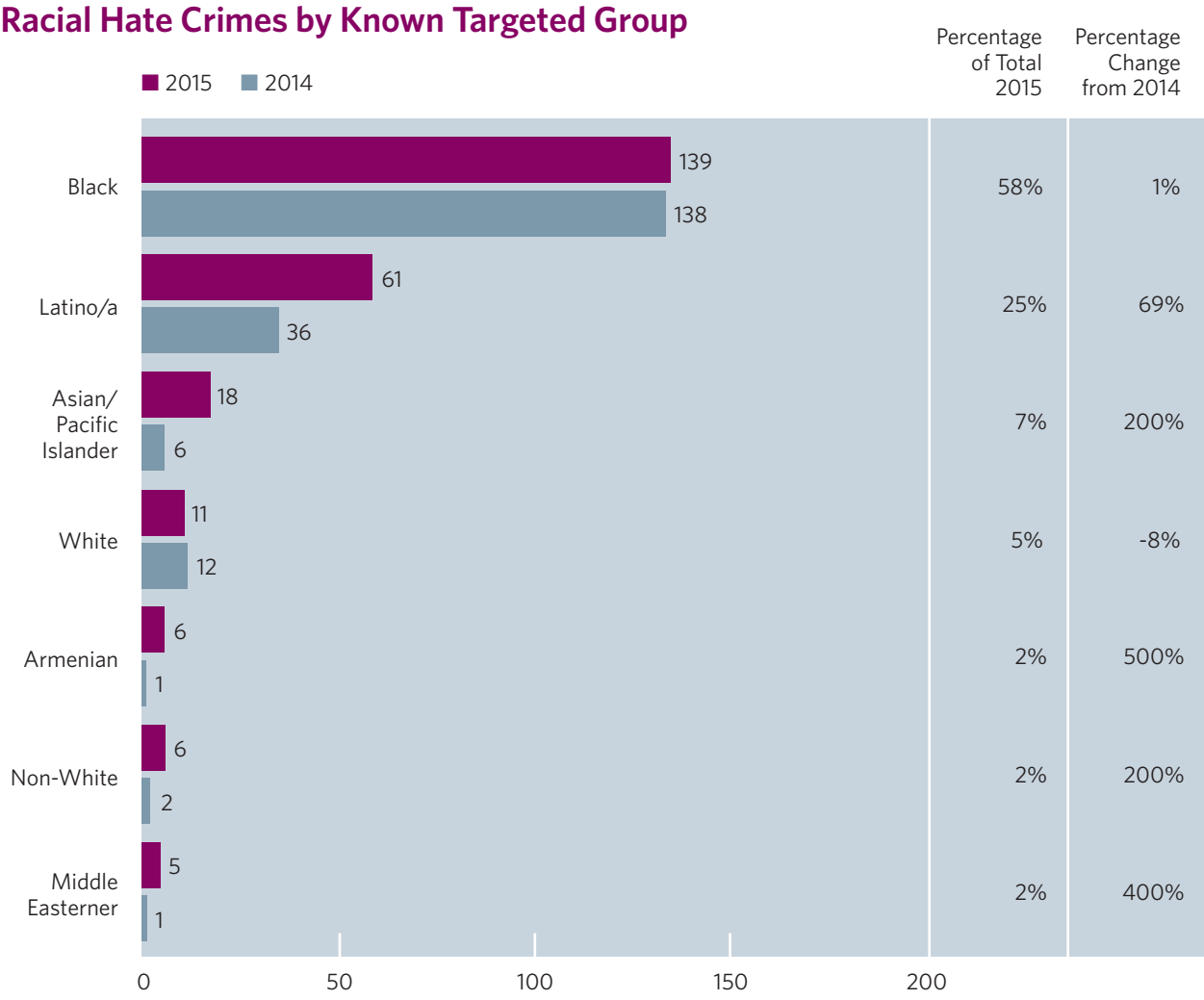
- Blacks were most frequently targeted by Latino/as (59%) and whites (35%). This was similar to the previous year.
- Latino/as were targeted in similar numbers by blacks (52%) and whites (46%). This represented an increase in the percentage of black suspects.
- Consistent with the previous year, whites were targeted by blacks in 90% of the crimes. The remaining 10% of suspects were Latino/a.
- Anti-Asian crimes were committed most frequently by whites (60%) followed by equal numbers of blacks and Latino/as (20% each). This represented a growth in the percentage of white suspects.

## Los Angeles County Population by Race/Ethnicity



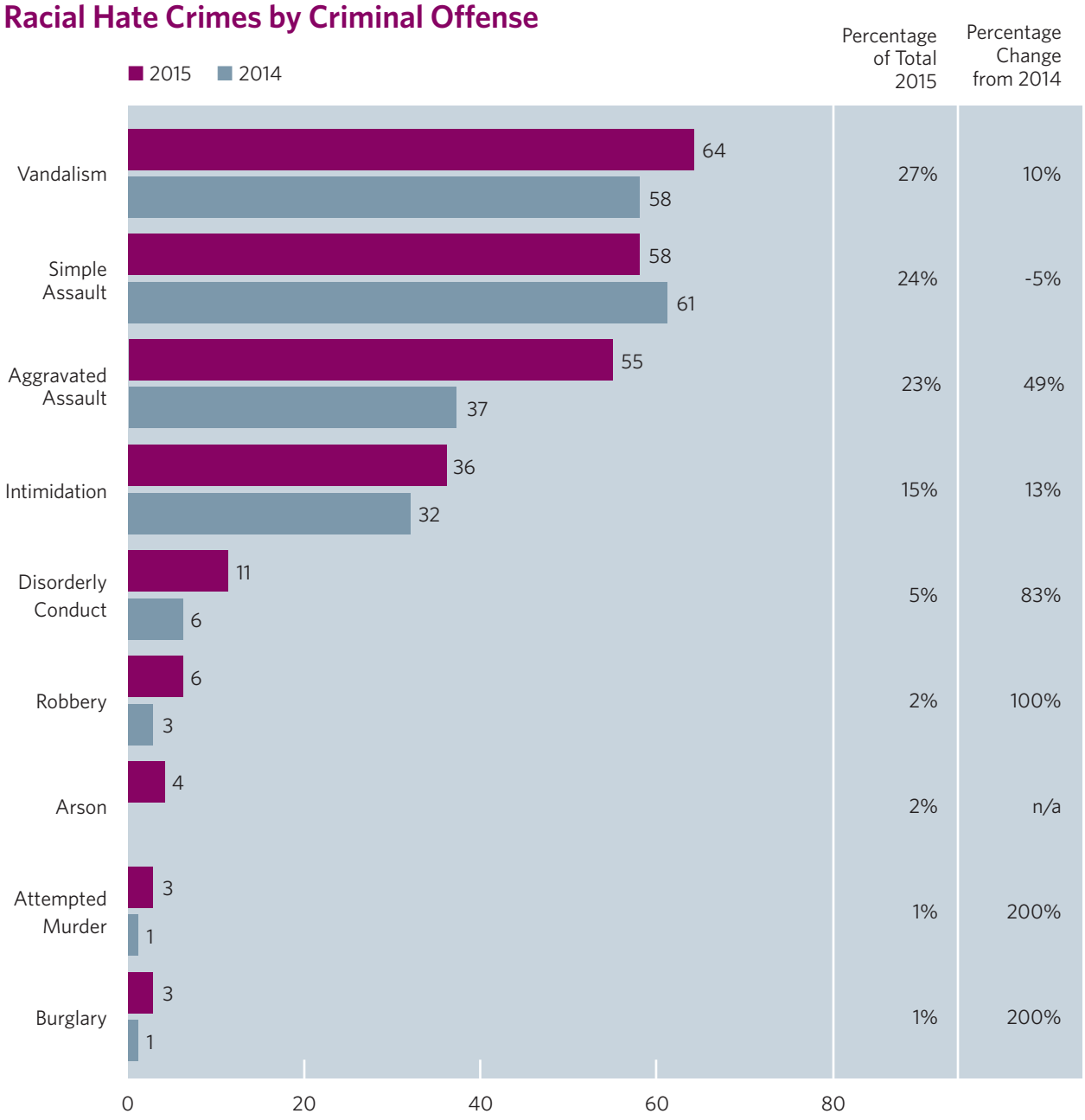

**Source: 2010 U.S. Census. Persons who identify as Latino on the U.S. Census can be of any race. Except for "Latino," all other groups on this chart refer to persons who do not identify as Latino.**

## Racial Hate Crimes by Known Targeted Group




**This chart aggregates major racial and ethnic groups. In 2015, there were also single crimes targeting Africans and Americans.**

## Racial Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense




**In 2015, there was also a single case of sexual assault.**

## Criminal Offenses and Rates of Violence

Sixty-six percent of racial crimes were of a violent nature, a slight decrease from the previous year. The largest numbers of criminal offenses were vandalism (27%), simple assaults (24%), aggravated assaults (23%) and intimidation (15%). The biggest change was that aggravated assaults jumped 49% from 37 to 55.

As mentioned in "2015 Hate Crimes in Perspective" there were two anti-black and one anti-Latino attempted murders.

Of the larger groups of victims which experienced at least 10 hate crimes, offenses targeting whites were most likely to be violent (91%), followed by Asians (83%), Latino/as (69%), and African Americans (65%). The biggest change is that the rate of violence in anti-Asian crimes jumped from 50% to 83%. This was also the second year in a row that anti-white crimes were the most likely to be of a violent nature.

## Location

The distribution of locations of racial crimes was remarkably similar to the previous year. Forty-two percent occurred in public places followed by residences (27%), businesses (17%) and schools (9%).

## Anti-Immigrant Slurs

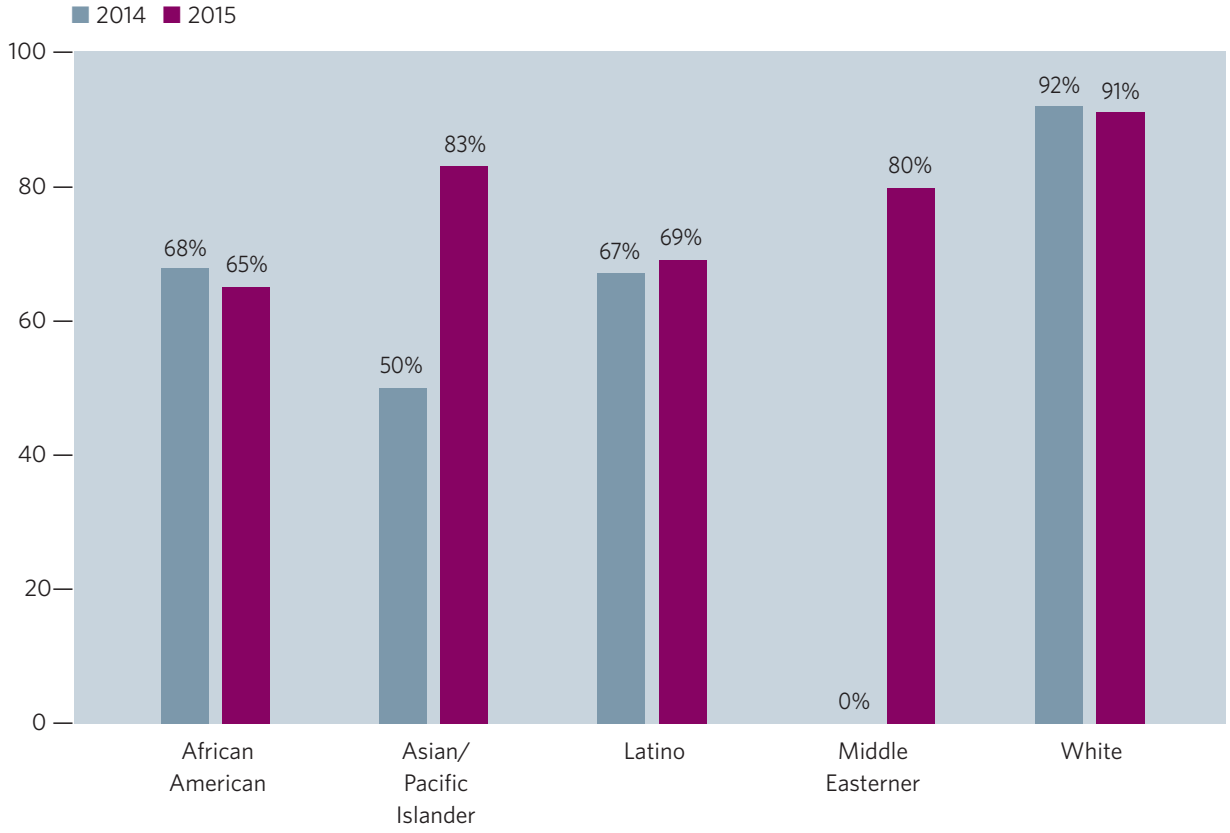
There were 34 crimes in which the suspects used specifically anti-immigrant language, such as "Wetback!" or "You don't belong here." Latino/as were targeted in the great majority of these crimes (85%). Of these, cases in which the slurs were specifically anti-Mexican numbered 19, and there were 10 in which the slurs were anti-Latino/a but did not mention a specific nationality. Anti-immigrant insults were also used in 3 anti-Middle Eastern, and single anti-Jewish and anti-Asian Indian crimes.

Seventy-four percent of crimes involving anti-immigrant slurs were of a violent nature, compared to 81% the previous year. Simple assaults were the most common offense (38%), followed by vandalism (26%), aggravated assaults (18%) and intimidation (15%). Compared with the previous year, cases of vandalism and simple assaults increased.

Forty-one percent of the victims were attacked in public places, and 24% took place in businesses. Hate crimes involving anti-immigrant language at businesses grew from 1 to 8.

Of the suspects identified in these crimes, 13 were white and 10 were black.

## Rate of Violence for Victims of Racial Hate Crime



## Actual Racial Crimes

**January 9, Northridge**—A black male reported that he and his roommates found a 5 by 6 foot cross burnt into the lawn of a house they are renting.

**April 22, North Hollywood**—Four Armenian victims found their cars vandalized. Two of the vehicles displayed Armenian flags and were spray-painted with the date, "1915," the year of the Armenian genocide.

**April 27, San Pedro**—A black female living at a public housing development found the word, "Niggers," and the gang name, "Rancho San Pedro." Since moving into the development she had been racially harassed by other residents.

**April 29, Exposition Park**—An Asian male was riding his bicycle when he passed a white female. The suspect suddenly pushed the victim, causing him to fall to the ground, and then fled on foot. Police detained the suspect and she admitted that she assaulted the victim because she hated Chinese people. The suspect also made derogatory remarks to the officer about African Americans and other groups.

**May 8, Huntington Park**—A Latino male was walking from a bus stop when he was approached by a black male who asked him, "Where are you from?" The victim ignored the suspect. The suspect said, "This is Grape Street Watts!" and yelled, "Fuck Mexicans" before stabbing the victim twice. The suspect then threw the victim to the ground, searched the victim's pockets, and stole $20. The victim underwent surgery for a collapsed lung.

**June 1, South L.A.**—A Latino male victim was walking to a liquor store when he heard someone behind him say, "Fuck Mexicans!" He then heard 3 gunshots. The victim turned and saw the black male in the passenger's side of a vehicle pointing a black semi-auto handgun at him. The car sped away and the victim suddenly felt pain on the left side of his back. Fire department rescue workers treated his injuries and transported him to a hospital for further evaluation.

**September 3, Lancaster**—A black male was in the holding cell at a courthouse. A Latino male punched him twice in the back of his head. Prior to the attack the victim and another witness had heard the suspect say that he does not like blacks.

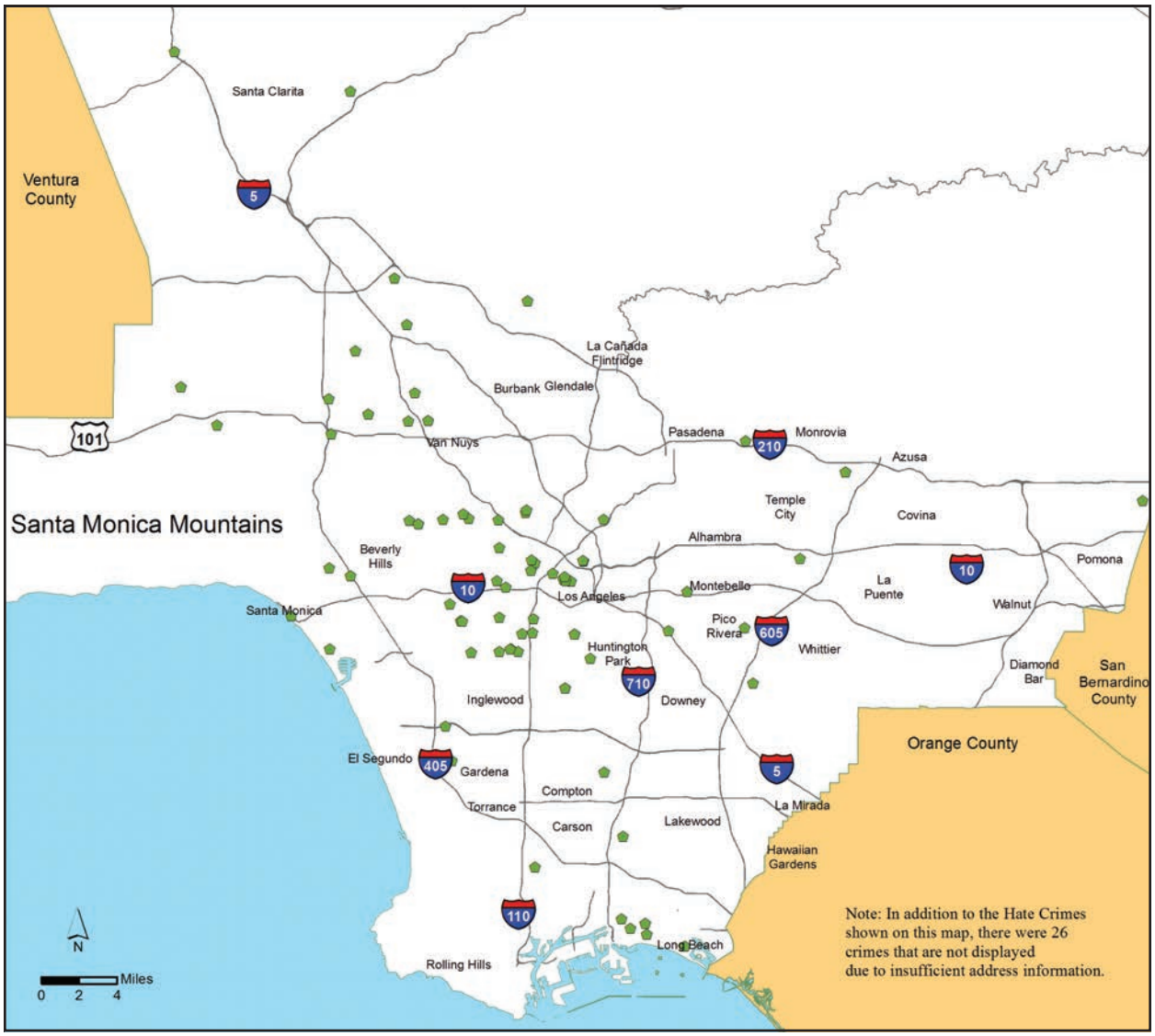
**September 7, Santa Clarita**—A white male was walking across a parking lot when he noticed a vehicle following him. The victim had just finished a phone call. A black male exited the car and said, "You calling the cops, white boy?" The suspect struck the victim on the right side of his face, causing him to lose consciousness briefly. The suspect then ran to some nearby bushes and grabbed a tree branch. He struck the victim in the head repeatedly. A black female then exited the vehicle, called the victim "cracker," and struck him several times. Both suspects then entered their vehicle and attempted to flee. The victim tried to get their license plate number. The suspects attempted to run over the victim before speeding away.

**September 21, Glendora**—An interracial couple (white male and black female) found racial slurs written in permanent marker on their car. Three days later, the window of the vehicle was shattered with a piece of brick. The male victim saw three young people running away from the vandalism. He reported the crime to police and the responding officer speculated that the suspect was a Latino male living in the neighborhood who had been in trouble repeatedly with the law. The officer visited the suspect's residence and found bricks matching the one used to vandalize the car. The officer placed the suspect and two of his friends (an Asian male and a black male) under arrest.

**November 18, Long Beach**—A Middle Eastern male was driving on a major thoroughfare when a white male motorist pulled alongside him. He asked the victim if he was "Arab." The victim replied that he was Egyptian. The suspect then began to call him a "terrorist," "Nigger," and "a Muslim freak." The suspect also threatened to kill the victim and his family. Both the suspect and victim filmed each other with their cell phones. The suspect also threw a bottle at the victim's car.

# A Closer Look at Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes

## 2015 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Sexual Orientation




*Map by Juan Carlos Martinez*

## Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes Increase 11%

Consistent with previous years, sexual orientation-motivated crimes were the second largest motivation category in 2015. They represented 25% of all hate crimes, a slight decrease from 2014. However, in actual numbers, sexual orientation crimes rose 11% from 108 to 120.

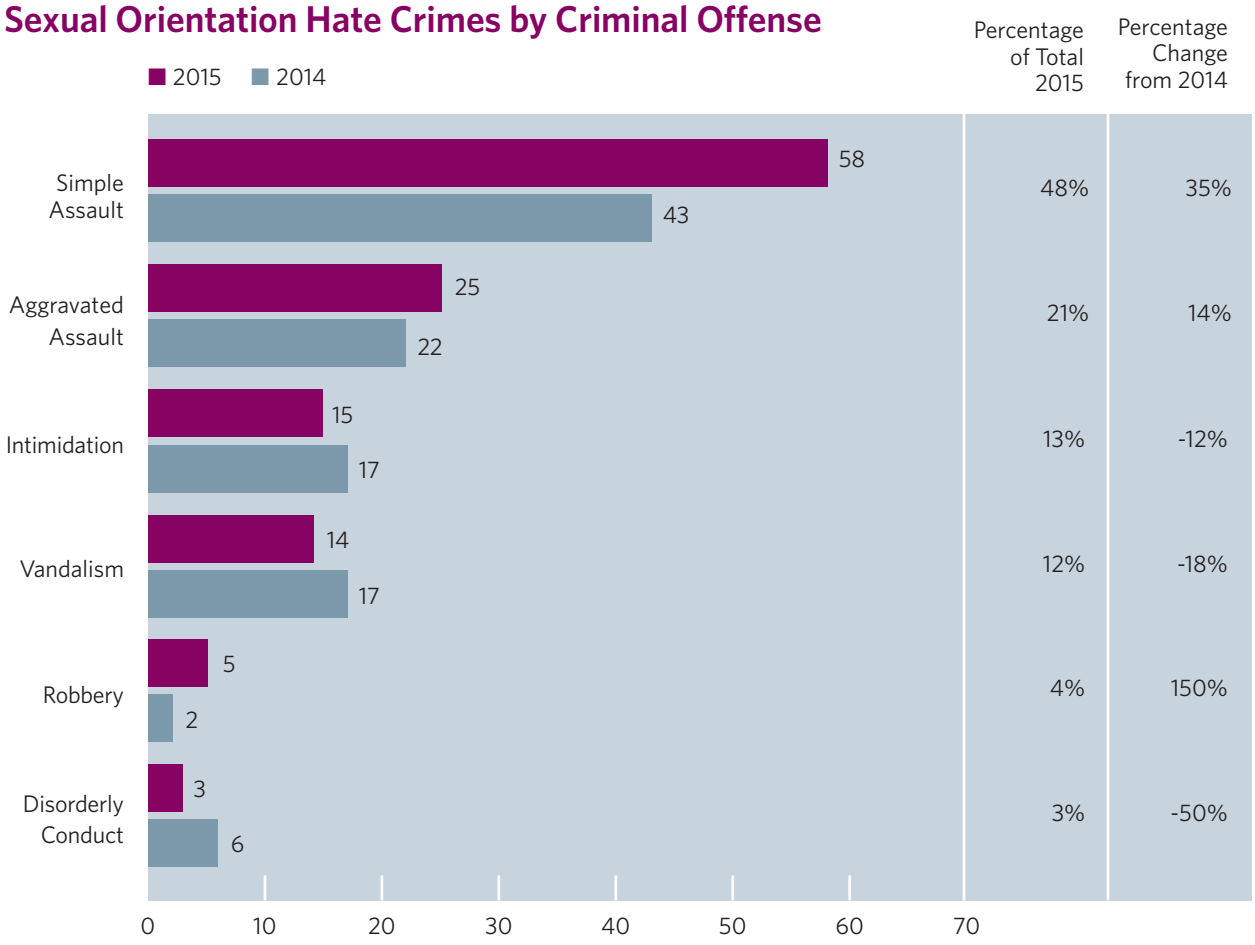
Crimes targeting gay men rose for the second year in a row from 92 to 104, a 13% increase. Anti-gay male crimes constituted 87% of all sexual orientation hate crimes. Anti-lesbian crimes, which had declined dramatically the previous year, grew 13% from 13 to 15. There was 1 anti-bisexual crime.

## 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 trend continued in 2015 when the rate of violence grew from 81% to 84%. This is the highest rate of violence for homophobic crimes since 2003.

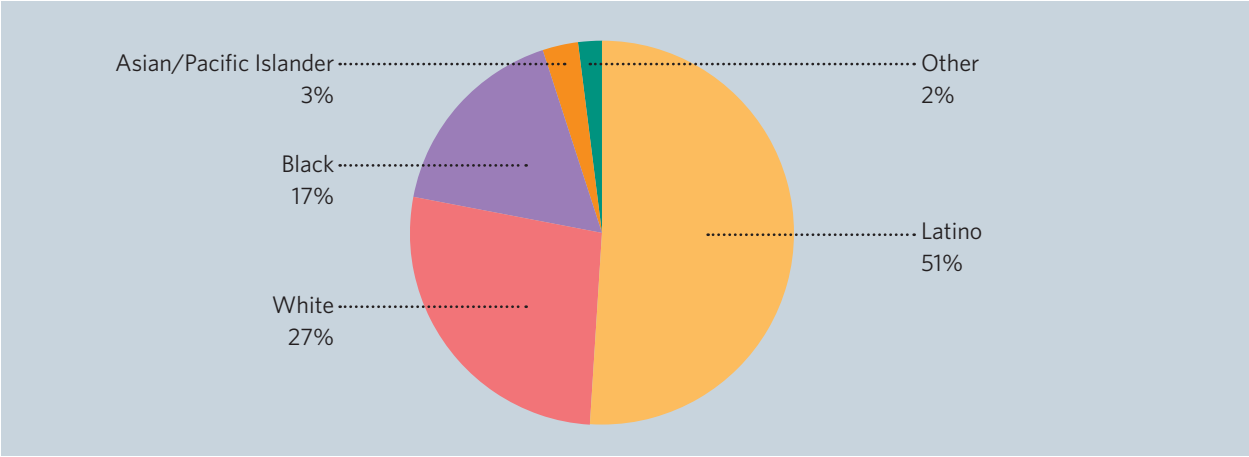
The most common criminal offense was simple assault (48%), followed by aggravated assault (21%), intimidation (13%) and vandalism (12%). The biggest change was that simple assaults grew 35%. Otherwise, the distribution of criminal offenses was similar to the previous year.

## Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense




**In 2015, there was a single case of theft.**

## Sexual Orientation Hate Crimes by Known Victim Race/Ethnicity




## Race/Ethnicity of Victims and Suspects

Latino/as remained the largest group of sexual orientation hate crime victims (51%), just slightly higher than the proportion of Latino/as in the total population of Los Angeles County residents. Whites comprised the second largest group of victims (27%), followed by blacks (17%). These percentages were similar to the previous year.

In the past, victims of homophobic crime were most likely to be targeted by suspects of the same race. This remained true for Latino/as who were targeted most frequently by other Latino/as (77%), followed by blacks (18%). African American victims were targeted most often by other blacks (67%), followed by Latino/as (33%). But white victims had a more racially-mixed group of assailants. Forty-seven percent of white victims were attacked by Latino/as, followed by other whites (26%) and blacks (21%).

## Location

The largest number of sexual orientation hate crimes took place in residences (43%), followed by public places (34%) and businesses (13%). This represented increases in residences and businesses and a decrease in crimes taking place at public places.

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

## Actual Sexual Orientation Crimes

**January 7, Koreatown**—A gay Latino male was working out at a gym with a friend. He gave his friend a hug. A few men approached them and started calling them faggots. He responded, "Yeah I am. So what?" The men pushed him and knocked him to the ground.

**April 28, Downtown L.A**—A white female was waiting on the platform of a Metro station when she was approached by a black male. He bumped her with his shoulder nearly causing the victim to fall. The suspect shouted, "You might look like a man with your lesbian haircut but that doesn't make you a man like me." A train arrived and the victim boarded. The suspect followed her and continued to verbally harass her until she exited the train.

**June 30, Whittier**—A white lesbian was walking to a store when a vehicle with two Latino males approached her. One of them pointed a gun at her and yelled, "I should kill you, faggot!" The car made a U-turn and then left the area.

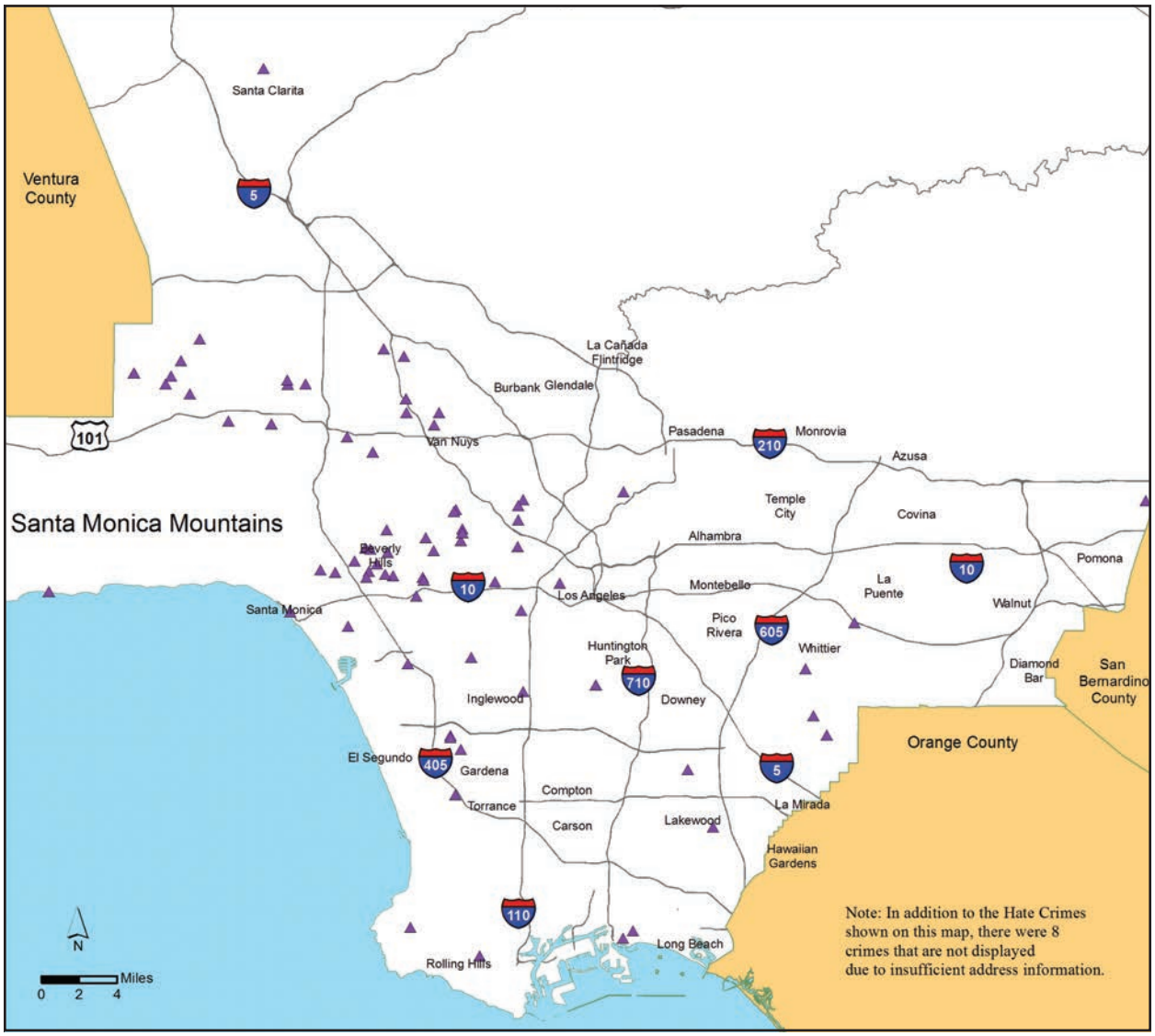
**September 2, Downtown L.A.**—At a County Jail, a suspect entered a cell where a Pacific Islander male was housed. The victim had long hair, painted toenails and wore a tank top and leggings. The suspect told him, "Don't touch my food, faggot." The suspect spat in the victim's direction, starting an altercation. The suspect swung his fist at the victim. They both fell to the ground and continued fighting until they were separated by jail guards.

**September 9, South L.A.**—Four gay Latino males were at a restaurant having lunch. Two of them held hands and acted affectionately. A group of five Latino males confronted them. One said, "Hey, where are you from? You bang?" One of the victims answered that he was from "nowhere." The suspect then yelled, "Get the fuck out of our 'hood faggot! This is 38th St. 'hood!" and brandished a gun. The four friends exited the restaurant and drove away. The suspects followed in a car, continued to threaten the victims and pointed the gun at them. The victims sped away and lost the assailants.

**November 1, West Adams**—A Latina lesbian had been harassed by a black male neighbor and secured a restraining order against him. While at home she heard the suspect yelling, "Come out you lesbian so I can show you what a real man feels like!" She also heard a scratching noise on her front door. Through her window, she saw the suspect walking away with a knife in his hand.

# A Closer Look at Religious Hate Crimes

## 2015 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes Motivated by Religion




*Map by Juan Carlos Martinez*

## Religious Hate Crimes Increase 38%

Religious-motivated hate crimes rose 38% from 72 to 99. They constituted 20% of all hate crimes compared to 15% the previous year. As in the past, the great majority of these crimes (71%) targeted the Jewish community. Anti-Semitic crimes grew 27% from 55 to 70.

Anti-Jewish crimes were followed by those targeting Muslims (19%), Christians (5%), Jehovah's Witnesses (3%) and Catholics (2%). This represented a large increase in the number of anti-Muslim crimes, from to 3 to 19. As a percentage of all religious crimes, anti-Muslim crimes jumped from 4% to 19%. Four of these took place after the November 13 terrorist attacks in Paris that claimed the lives of 130 people and seriously wounded nearly 100 more. There were also 9 anti-Muslim/Middle Eastern crimes that occurred following the December 2 terrorist attack in San Bernardino in which a Muslim couple attacked a San Bernardino County Department of Public Health holiday party killing 14 employees and seriously wounding 22.

## Criminal Offenses and Rate of Violence

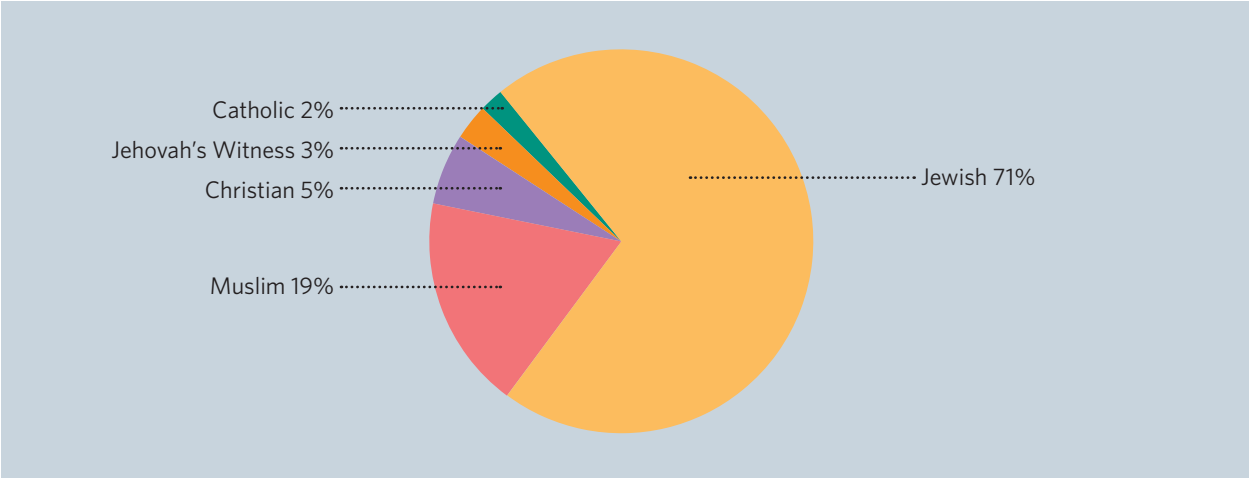
Thirty one percent of these crimes were of a violent nature, an increase from the 21% rate of violence recorded the previous year. However, the rate of violence is still much lower than crimes motivated by race, sexual orientation and gender/gender identity.

Fifty-two percent of religious hate crimes were acts of vandalism, followed by intimidation and disorderly conduct (18% each). Disorderly conduct includes displays of swastikas and other hate symbols on private property that are intended to terrorize the owners or occupants. These crimes don't rise to the level of vandalism because they are easily removable and cause no property damage (for example, a swastika written in chalk on a car). Eight percent were simple assaults and 4% were aggravated assaults

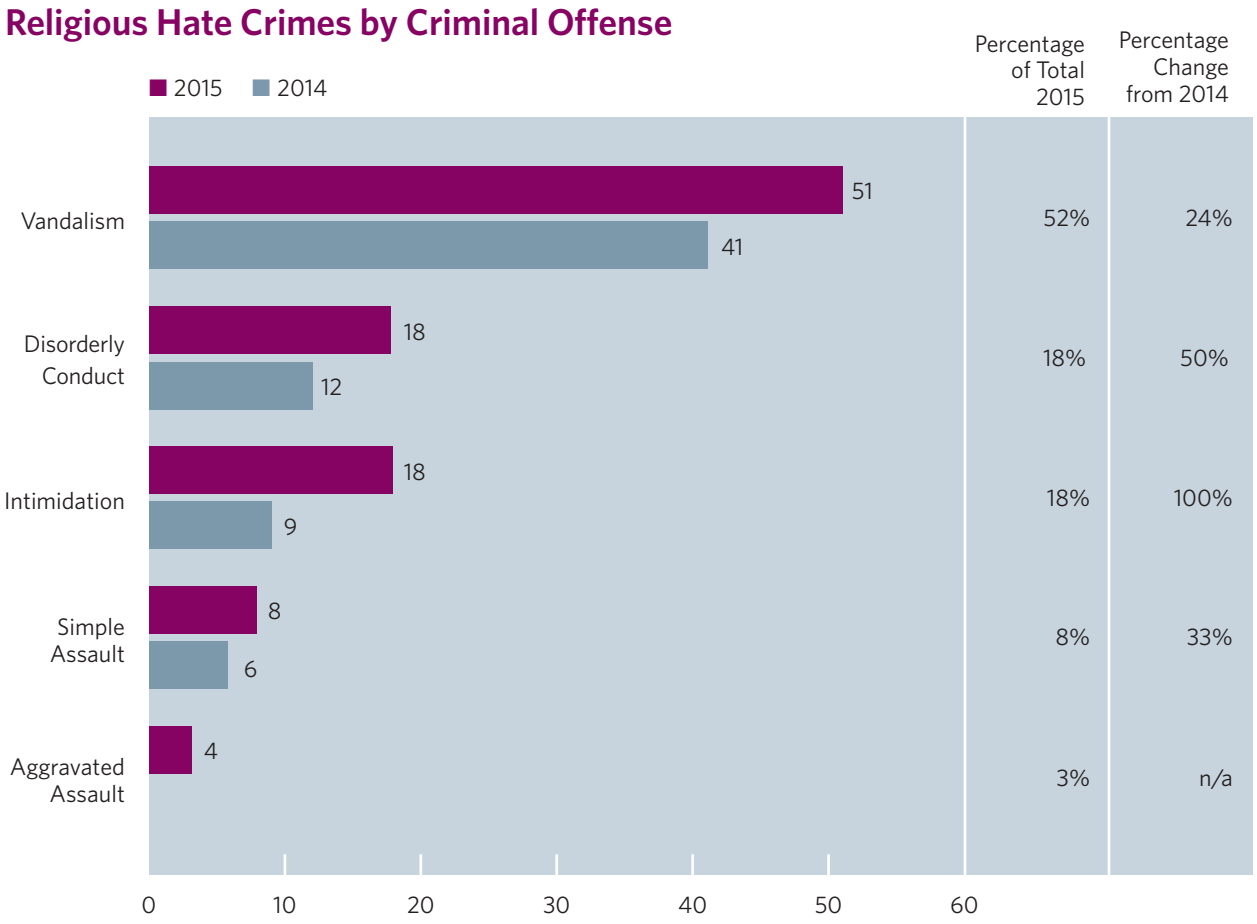
As in previous years, there were several cases of vandalism of Catholic and other Christian churches that included pentagrams and other Satanic symbols. It is impossible to know from the available information if the perpetrators were actually Satanists or simply malicious pranksters.

Religious crimes in which there was evidence of white supremacist ideology (most frequently the use of swastikas) grew from 26% to 36%.

## Religious Hate Crimes by Targeted Group



## Religious Hate Crimes by Criminal Offense




**In 2015 there was also one case of aggravated assault.**

## Race/Ethnicity of Victims and Suspects

The great majority of victims (72%) were white. 13% were Middle Eastern and 10% were Latino/a. In 2015, only 25 suspects were identified in religious crimes and 68% were white, an increase from the previous year. Four of the suspects were black and 2 were Middle Eastern.

## Location

Thirty-four percent of religious hate crimes took place at residences, followed by religious sites (24%), public places (15%), businesses (10%), schools (9%) and electronic communication (7%). This represented increases in religious crimes at residences, public places and religious sites.

A disproportionate number (69%) 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.

## Actual Religious Crimes

**January 7, Sherman Oaks**—A Rabbi found a swastika written in black ink on his home's fence.

**January 23, Tarzana**—The wall across the street from a charter school was spray-painted with the graffiti, "DEATH TO ISIS," and "ISLAM WILL BURN 14/88." 14/88 is a white supremacist code. "14" refers to the 14 words: "That the beauty of the white Aryan woman will not perish from the earth." "88" is shorthand for "Heil Hilter," as "H" is the eighth letter of the alphabet.

**February 1, Fairfax**—A Middle Eastern male entered a synagogue and shouted, "I'm going to kill all Jews". The suspect attempted to use a stun gun to harm one of the members. Police arrested the suspect.

**April 27, Bellflower**—A Latino/a Christian church was spray-painted with multiple pentagrams.

**June 19, Beverly Hills**—A Muslim female was sitting in her car when a white male suspect approached her vehicle and yelled, "I have three hundred friends that were killed by Muslims. You're a fucking terrorist. You are probably wearing bombs under that dress. Get the fuck out of the country!" The victim denied being a terrorist and the suspect said, "If I ever see you, I'll fucking kill you."

**July 1, Hollywood**—At the entrance to a school a swastika was drawn along with the graffiti, "Kill Jewish Boys."

# A Closer Look at Gender Hate Crimes

There were 22 crimes reported in which gender/gender identity was the motivation. Eighteen of these crimes targeted transgender women and 4 were anti-female.

## Anti-Transgender Crimes

Similar to previous years, all 18 anti-transgender crimes were of a violent nature. The most frequent offenses were simple assaults (44%), followed by aggravated assaults (33%) and criminal threats (22%).

As in past years, the great majority of anti-transgender crimes occurred in public places (78%), followed by single crimes that took place in a residence, business, school and via electronic communication.

44% of the victims were Latina, 33% were black, 11% were white and one victim's race was not recorded. Most of the black victims were attacked by black suspects but the remaining victims were targeted by suspects of different races.

All of the suspects were male. Most of them were complete strangers to the victims. However, 2 of the victims were teenagers who were targeted by other students and one of the victims was attacked by a neighbor who lived in the same housing complex.

## Anti-Female Crimes

There were 2 anti-female cases, one involving 3 victims.

- A man boarded a Metro bus and told all the women on board that he was going to kill them. He pointed at two women and called to them in Spanish, "Bitches! Whores! Sluts! I will kill all you women on this bus and no one can stop me. God is my protector. All you whores will die including the bus driver. I'm killing all of you." He then started moving toward the bus driver. Fearing for her safety, the bus driver fled the bus. Police were called to the scene and arrested the suspect.
- The male suspect was the ex-business partner of the female victim's boyfriend. He left a series of voice mail and Facebook messages containing anti-Semitic and anti-female slurs for both the victim and her son. The messages included, "You are an ugly cunt," "I will close your shit hole office down. Trust me Jew cunt," and, "Hitler rules!"

## Actual Anti-Transgender Crimes

**April 18, Macarthur Park**—Two transgender African American women were leaving a transgender event. They noticed a black male following them into a Metro station. The suspect began to shout, "Motherfuckers!" and "Faggots!" He then punched one of the victims in the face. The victims tried to escape but the suspect followed them and punched the second victim in the back of her head. The victims tried to defend themselves and the suspect tried to flee the scene. One of the victims called 911 and police arrived and arrested the suspect.

**July 1, Hollywood**—A white transgender woman was walking with a friend. A white male who had a history of verbally harassing the victim approached on a skateboard. The suspect yelled, "You fucking faggot" as he held the skateboard in a threatening manner. Then he punched the victim in the face and fled on his skateboard.

**July 30, Pasadena**—A transgender Latina was walking home when a black male motorist drove alongside her and yelled, "Why are you dressed like that?" and "Fuck you mother fucking faggot!" The suspect exited his vehicle and chased the victim. He grabbed the victims hair with one hand and punched her twice with the other. The victim suffered a sore jaw, loosened teeth and was bleeding from the attack.

# A Closer Look at Disability Hate Crimes

There was one hate crime in 2015 which was motivated in part by the victim's perceived disability, compared to 3 the previous year. A white male found his home had been vandalized with black spray paint. In several different locations someone had written, "HIV +". The victim told police that he believed that he had been targeted because he was gay. Based on the references to "HIV+" in all the graffiti, it is reasonable to assume that the suspect also perceived him to be HIV positive and hence targeted the victim due to his prejudice against that disability.

# Hate Crime Prosecutions

The District Attorney's Office handles the great majority of hate crime prosecutions in Los Angeles County. In 2015, 68 hate crime cases were referred to the District Attorney. Of those, prosecutors filed charges in 47 of the cases. Of these, 42 were adults and 5 were juveniles.

Thirty-seven adults were charged with felony hate crimes and 5 were charged with misdemeanors. Of the felony charges, the largest number of defendants (21) were charged with crimes motivated by race, followed by sexual orientation (13), and religion (3). Of the misdemeanor charges, 2 were motivated by race, 2 by gender and 1 by sexual orientation. There was no information about the 5 juveniles charged with hate crime because those records are confidential.

Thirty-two hate crime investigations were referred to the L.A. City Attorney's Office in 2015. All of the defendants were adults as the City Attorney has no jurisdiction to prosecute juveniles. Hate crime charges were filed in all 32 cases. Race was the most common motivation (16), followed by sexual orientation (14) and religion (2).

The Office of the U.S. Attorney generally prosecutes hate crimes that are violations of federal laws, but in recent years it has been given the authority to step in when local prosecutors lack the necessary resources or experience. The U.S. Attorney did not prosecute any hate crimes in Los Angeles County in 2015.

# Review of 2015–2016 Hate Crime Legislation



## California State Legislation

**AB 636 (Medina)**

(a) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (6), the governing board of each community college district, the Trustees of the California State University, the Board of Directors of the Hastings College of the Law, the Regents of the University of California, and the governing board of any postsecondary educational institution receiving public funds for student financial assistance shall do all of the following:

(1) Require the appropriate officials at each campus within their respective jurisdictions to compile records of both of the following:

(A) All occurrences reported to campus police, campus security personnel, or campus safety authorities of, and arrests for, crimes that are committed on campus and that involve violence, hate violence, theft, and destruction of property, illegal drugs, or alcohol intoxication.

(B) All occurrences of noncriminal acts of hate violence reported to, and for which a written report is prepared by, designated campus authorities.

(2) Require any written record of a noncriminal act of hate violence to include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) A description of the act of hate violence.

(B) Victim characteristics.

(C) Offender characteristics, if known.

Among other things.

Approved by the Governor on October 9, 2015.

**Assembly Bill 913 (Santiago)**

The Kristin Smart Campus Safety Act of 1998 requires the governing boards of each community college district, the Trustees of the California State University, the Regents of the University of California, and the governing boards of independent postsecondary institutions, as defined, to adopt rules requiring each of their respective campuses to enter into a written agreement with local law enforcement agencies relating to certain violent crimes.

These agreements are required to designate the law enforcement agency that will have operational responsibility for the investigation of these crimes. Existing law provides that these provisions do not apply to the University of California except to the extent that the regents, by appropriate resolution, make the provisions applicable.

This bill would, for the Trustees of the California State University, the governing boards of independent postsecondary institutions, and, subject to appropriate resolution, the Regents of the University of California, require these written agreements to designate the law enforcement agency that will have operational responsibility for the investigation of each sexual assault and hate crime, as defined, and require these written agreements to be reviewed, updated if necessary, and made available to the public by July 1, 2016, and every 5 years thereafter. Upon the governing board of a community college district adopting a rule requiring its campuses to update these agreements, the bill would subject the community college district and its campuses to the requirements imposed on other postsecondary institutions by the bill. The bill would encourage the governing board of each community college district to adopt a rule requiring its respective campuses to update these agreements. By expanding the duties of community college districts and local law enforcement agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Kristin Smart disappeared on May 25, 1996 while attending California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo after attending a party on Memorial Day Weekend. Three fellow students escorted her back to her hall of residence after a party. One of them was the last person known to have seen her alive, and he claims that he left her to return to her dorm alone.

Approved by the Governor on October 9, 2015.

**Assembly Bill 827 (O'Donnell)**

Existing law, the Safe Place to Learn Act, requires the State Department of Education, as part of its regular monitoring and review of a local educational agency, to assess whether the local educational agency has, among other things, adopted a policy that prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, as specified, and has publicized that policy to pupils, parents, employees, agents of the governing board, and the general public.

This bill requires the State Department of Education to assess whether the local agency has provided to certificated school site employees who serve pupils in any grades 7 to 12, inclusive, information on existing school site and community resources related to the support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning pupils, as specified. This includes information on LGBTQ specific supportive resources and on how to file an anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, anti-intimidation, and anti-bullying complaint.

Passed by the Legislature. Signed by the Governor on October 7, 2015.

**AB 2845 (Williams)**

Existing law, the Safe Place to Learn Act, requires the State Department of Education, as part of its regular monitoring and review of a local educational agency, to assess whether the local educational agency has, among other things, adopted a policy that prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, as specified, and has publicized that policy to pupils, parents, employees, agents of the governing board, and the general public.

Existing law also requires the State Department of Education to assess whether the local educational agency has provided to certificated school site employees who serve pupils in any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, information on existing school site and community resources related to the support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning pupils, as specified.

This bill would express legislative findings and declarations relating to pupils who are subject to verbal, physical, and online harassment. The bill would add the support of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, Sikh, and South Asian pupils or the support of other pupils who may face bias or bullying to the matters the State Department of Education is required to assess with respect to local educational agencies, as referenced above.

This bill was introduced on February 19, 2016 and referred to the Committee on Education on March 28, 2016.

## Federal legislation

**House Resolution 413 (Johnson)**

Honoring the victims of hate crimes of Islamophobia and anti-immigrant sentiment, in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, where individuals were targeted by violence and hatred, because they were Muslim or perceived to be Muslim.

Introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on September 9, 2015.

**House Resolution 569 (Beyer)**

Condemning violence, bigotry, and hateful rhetoric towards Muslims in the United States. This bill was introduced on December 17, 2015 and referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice on January 15, 2016.

**House Resolution 4603 (Cicilline)**

To prevent a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, or received an enhanced sentence for a misdemeanor because of hate or bias in its commission, from obtaining a firearm. This Act may be cited as the "Hate Crimes Prevention Act". This bill was introduced in the House on 2/24/2016 and referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations on 2/29/2016.

**House Resolution 4760 (Buck)**

To make an attack on a police officer a hate crime, and for other purposes. This Act may be cited as the "Blue Lives Matter Act of 2016". This was introduced to the House on March 16, 2016. This bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeless Security, and Investigations on April 1, 2016.

# Methodology

The 2015 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 636 reports of hate events (both crimes and incidents) received for 2015, 416 events involving 483 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 483 hate crimes for 2015. 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 2014 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 | 2015 Hate Crimes | 2015 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 | 19 | 5.1 |
| Region II: San Fernando Valley SPA | All of the San Fernando Valley, including Burbank, Glendale, Newhall, Northridge, San Fernando, Santa Clarita, Val Verde, Westlake Village, East & West Valley areas | 2,215,358 | 107 | 4.8 |
| Region III: San Gabriel Valley SPA | All of the San Gabriel Valley, including Alhambra, Altadena, Irwindale, La Puente, Pasadena, Pomona, El Monte, Azusa, San Dimas | 1,888,771 | 32 | 1.7 |
| 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 | 99 | 7.9 |
| Region V: West SPA | Beverly Hills, Culver City, Malibu, Marina del Rey, Pacific Palisades, Playa del Rey, Santa Monica, Venice, Westchester | 659,937 | 40 | 6.1 |
| Region VI: South SPA | Compton, Florence, Lynwood, South Los Angeles, Watts | 1,069,244 | 61 | 3.7 |
| 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 | 34 | 2.5 |
| Region VIII: South Bay SPA | Inglewood, Torrance, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, San Pedro | 1,620,848 | 49 | 3.1 |

There are 41 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

Los Angeles Police Department
Los Angeles County Sheriff Department
California Highway Patrol
Alhambra Police Department
Arcadia Police Department
Azusa Police Department
Baldwin Park Police Department
Bell Police Department
Bell Gardens Police Department
Beverly Hills Police Department
Burbank Police Department
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
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 Fernando Police Department
San Gabriel Police Department
San Marino Police Department
Santa Monica Police Department
Sierra Madre Police Department
Signal Hill 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

Antelope Valley Joint Union High School District
Bellflower Unified School District
Burbank Unified School District
Castaic Union School District
Covina-Valley Unified School District
El Monte City School District
El Monte Union High School District
El Segundo Unified School District
Garvey School District
Glendora Unified School District
Gorman Joint School District
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District
Inglewood Unified School District
Keppel Union School District
Lancaster School District
Las Virgenes Unified School District
Los Angeles Unified School District
Lowell Joint School District
Manhattan Beach Unified School District
Monrovia Unified School District
Montebello Unified School Districts
Mountain View School District
Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District
Palmdale School District
Paramount Unified School District
Rosemead School District
San Gabriel Unified School District
Sulphur Springs Union School District
Temple City Unified School District
Torrance Unified School District
Walnut Valley Unified School District
West Covina Unified School District
Whittier City School District
Whittier Union High School District

### COLLEGES

Antelope Valley College
California Poly Pomona
California State University, Dominguez Hills
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Northridge
Cerritos College
Citrus College
El Camino College
Glendale Community College District
Long Beach Community College District
Los Angeles Community College District
Mount Saint Mary's
Occidental College
Pasadena City Community College District
Rio Hondo College
Santa Monica College

### COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Anti-Defamation League
Council on American Islamic Relations
L.A. LGBT Center

# Acknowledgements

This report was developed by the Human Relations Commission.

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

Special thanks to Deputy Chief Matt Blake, Commander Kevin McCarthy, Captain William P. Hayes, and Detective Monica Quijano of the Los Angeles Police Department and Lieutenant Brian Moriguchi, Captain Bobby Wyche, Sean Minami and the Criminal Intelligence Bureau Statistical Unit 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 2015 hate crime data used in this report.

# 2011–2015 Los Angeles County Hate Crimes

Antelope Valley

San Fernando Valley

Hollywood/West Hollywood

*Maps by Juan Carlos Martinez*

# 2015 Hate Crime Report

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

**www.LAHumanRelations.org**