Topic Area

Hate Crimes in the United States

Data Description

1. Hate crimes are defined by the FBI's page on civil rights and hate crimes as "a traditional offense like murder, arson, or vandalism with an added element of bias"click here to view FBI page. The FBI identifies specific biases underlying these crimes as bias on the basis of:

   - race
   - religion
   - disability
   - sexual orientation
   - ethnicity
   - gender or gender identity

   Note that this list reflects the expanded criteria set forth as of 2009 by the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention act of 2009, which expanded the definition of hate crimes to include sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, and gender. The FBI notes that hate crimes are highly prioritized by their civil rights program. The completeness of hate crimes data is reliant on law enforcement agencies to report their occurrence. Some news organizations have reported on a rise in prevalence of hate crimes in the United States in recent years. Click here to view a relevant article from the AP.

2. Questions someone might ask:

   (a) What are the most common types of hate crimes?
   (b) Are hate crimes typically performed by one individual or many?
   (c) Where do the most hate crimes occur (in terms of by state)?
   (d) What year had the most hate crimes?
   (e) What biases are commonly involved in hate crimes?

(f) Are hate crimes more common in rural areas or in cities?

(g) How many agencies report hate crimes?

(h) Are there usually multiple biases in hate crimes?

(i) Do hate crimes occur alone or along with multiple other crimes at the same time?

(j) Are individuals or groups of individuals more commonly targeted for hate crimes?

(k) Are private citizens or organizations more commonly targeted for hate crimes?

(l) What is the most common category of hate crime perpetrated against an organization? An individual?

(m) What type of organization is most often targeted? Ranked list?

(n) List above all-time and by year?

(o) Are hate crimes on the rise (ie are they increasing)

(p) Is there a region of the country that experiences more hate crimes?

(q) How many hate crimes has the FBI reported in Oregon?

(r) What year saw the most hate crimes reported in Oregon?

(s) Do hate crimes tend to occur more in a given month of the year (eg December, July)?

(t) What is the average number of hate crimes per year in the United States? The median?

I intend to use the FBI Crime Data Explorer as my primary data source. Looking at their data structure, I suspect that I could use their API to drill down keying off incident number in order to learn more per incident, offender, victim data so I may also pull in additional tables along the way. I need to verify that I can use the information this way and also that it is practical, given the volume of data. So far I have the data from 1991-2019 pulled down in csv format, however once I have designed a schema I will likely ingest with pandas and parse the csv information to output the individual tables I desire as csv's I can copy into my posgres database otherwise I will have a great deal of duplicated information where instead I would have multiple tables.