

Hate Crimes in New York City

Introduction

This analysis will attempt to answer how prevalent hate crimes are in New York City, which groups are most affected, and where hate crimes are most likely to occur.

To help answer these questions, this analysis will:

1. Define what a hate crime is and why it matters
2. Source available hate crime data for New York City
3. Explore the data to uncover insights and trends
4. Discuss the results of the analysis

What is a Hate Crime?

According to the New York State Anti-Hate Crime Resource Guide:

“A hate crime is a traditional offense that is motivated by bias. A person commits a hate crime when one of a specified set of crimes is committed targeting a victim because of a perception or belief about their race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation, or when such an act is committed as a result of that type of perception or belief. These crimes can target an individual, a group of individuals or public or private property. Hate crimes can be perpetrated against an individual, a group, or against public or private property. For example, hanging a noose or painting a swastika could be deemed hate crimes.”

Since this is New York City centric data, a definition of hate crime as determined by the New York Police Department (NYPD) is included below:

“The New York City Police Department uses the following guideline to identify hate crime and bias incidents: "A bias incident is any offense or unlawful act that is motivated in whole or substantial part by a person's, a group's or a place's identification with a particular race, color, religion, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, ancestry, national origin, or sexual orientation (including gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender) as determined by the commanding officer of the Hate Crime Task Force.

Hate crimes may have consequences far beyond the criminal act itself. Becoming the victim of a crime is traumatic, but if the act was committed because of who you are or what you believe, the violation is even more hurtful and may cause deep emotional impacts.”

Why is it important?

According to the American Psychological Association

"People victimized by violent hate crimes are more likely to experience more psychological distress than victims of other violent crimes.ⁱⁱ Specifically, victims of crimes that are bias-motivated are more likely to experience post-traumatic stress, safety concerns, depression, anxiety and anger than victims of crimes that are not motivated by bias.”

"Hate crimes send messages to members of the victim's group that they are unwelcome and unsafe in the community, victimizing the entire group and decreasing feelings of safety and security. Furthermore, witnessing discrimination against one's own group can lead to psychological distress and lower self-esteem.”

Data Sources and Methodology

The hate crime data used for this analysis comes from data compiled by the State of New York and includes hate crimes from 2010 to 2018 for each county within the state. To isolate data relevant to New York City, only the counties that comprise New York City were used. New York City is made up of five counties A.K.A. boroughs: Manhattan (New York), Brooklyn (Kings), Queens, The Bronx, and Staten Island (Richmond).

Additionally, to keep the data succinct, any hate crime incidents that had less than 30 occurrences between 2010 and 2018 were ignored.

Hate Crimes by County and Bias Type: Beginning 2010:

<https://data.ny.gov/Public-Safety/Hate-Crimes-by-County-and-Bias-Type-Beginning-2010/6xda-q7ev>

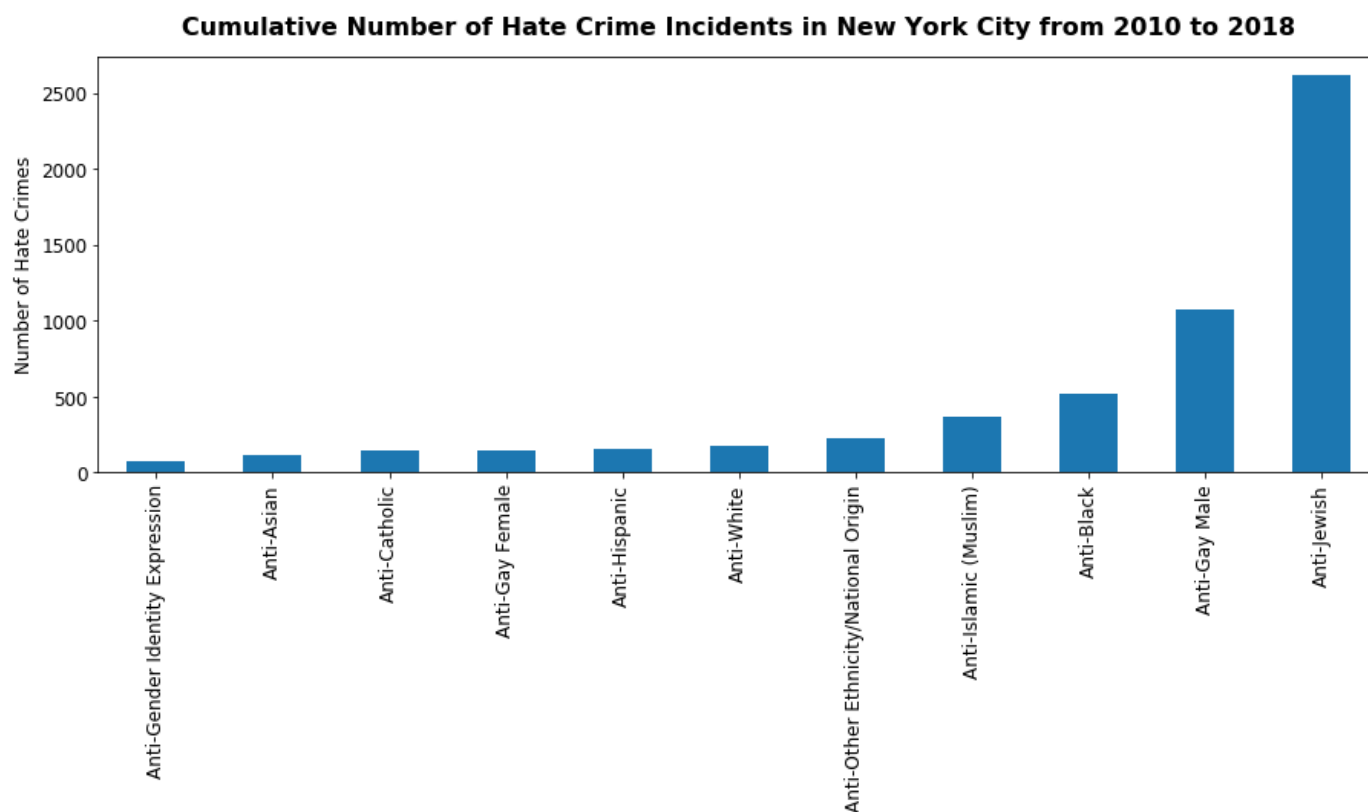
The demographic data that was used came from Wikipedia via the US Census Bureau and The Association of Religion Archives (ARDA)

Exploring the Data**Consolidated number of "Crimes Against Persons" and "Property Crimes" from 2010 to 2018 across the five boroughs (counties) of New York City**

	Anti-Gender Identity Expression	Anti-White	Anti-Black	Anti-Asian	Anti-Jewish	Anti-Catholic	Anti-Islamic (Muslim)	Anti-Hispanic	Anti-Other Ethnicity/National Origin	Anti-Gay Male	Anti-Gay Female
Year											
2010	0.0	4.0	36.0	12.0	137.0	4.0	22.0	27.0	9.0	65.0	6.0
2011	0.0	4.0	22.0	2.0	104.0	5.0	15.0	0.0	7.0	53.0	9.0
2012	0.0	6.0	33.0	3.0	218.0	9.0	25.0	10.0	4.0	45.0	7.0
2013	0.0	12.0	21.0	7.0	119.0	13.0	17.0	7.0	10.0	91.0	9.0
2014	0.0	8.0	25.0	2.0	126.0	13.0	23.0	8.0	14.0	71.0	5.0
2015	0.0	10.0	27.0	10.0	123.0	8.0	21.0	10.0	13.0	66.0	13.0
2016	17.0	16.0	20.0	8.0	138.0	10.0	29.0	3.0	28.0	70.0	14.0
2017	11.0	9.0	34.0	6.0	149.0	7.0	14.0	7.0	15.0	39.0	6.0
2018	10.0	18.0	39.0	5.0	192.0	4.0	16.0	7.0	12.0	36.0	5.0

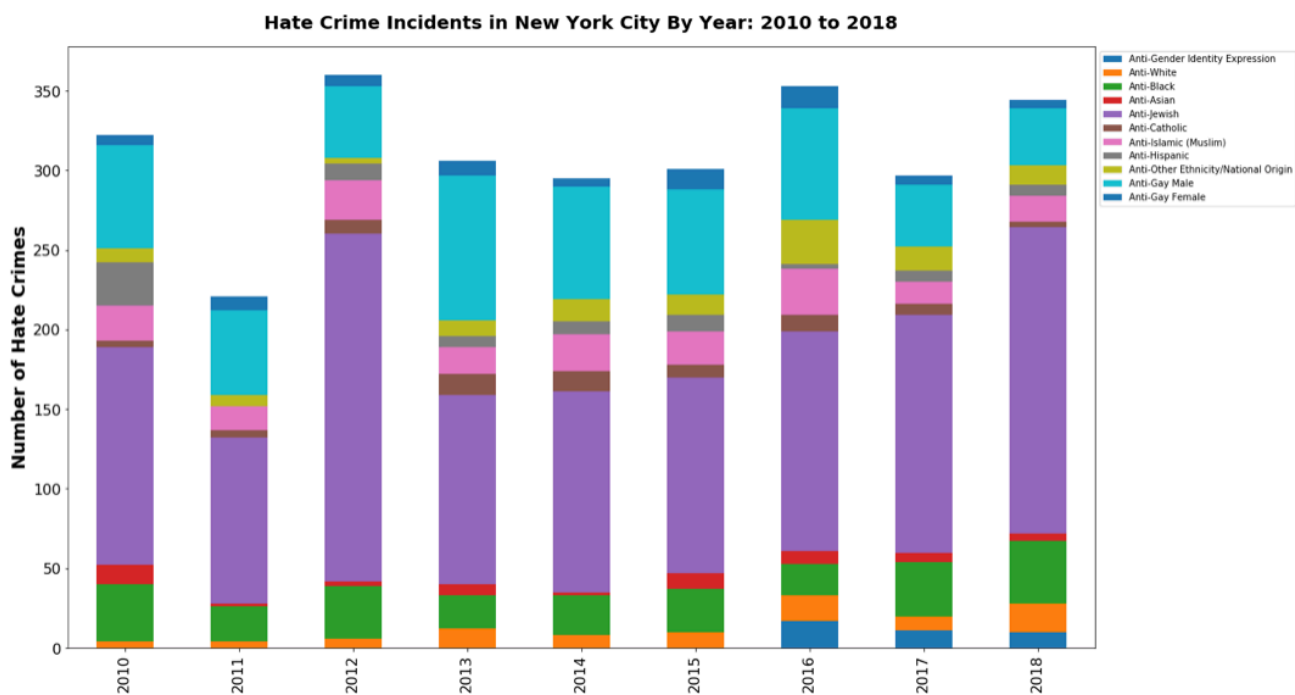
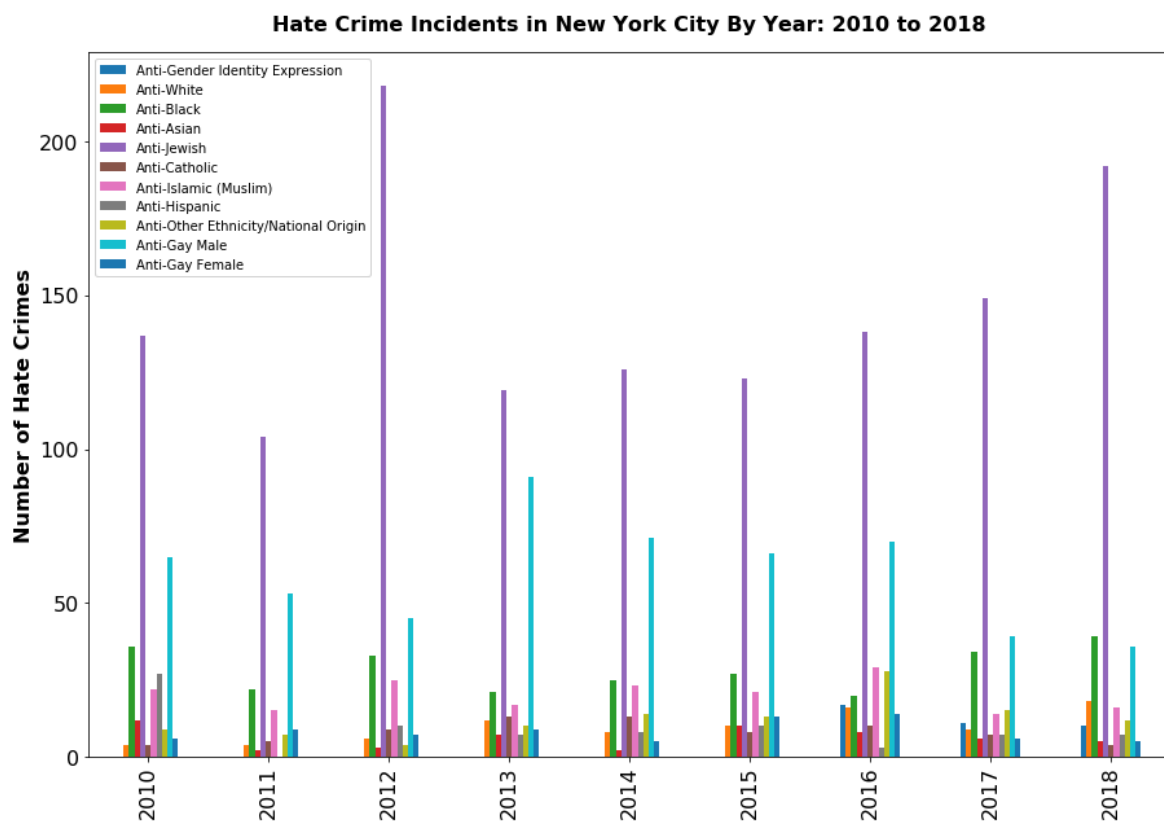
Most prevalent hate crimes in New York City from 2010 to 2018

	NYC_Total_Hate_Incidents
Anti-Gender Identity Expression	76
Anti-Asian	110
Anti-Catholic	146
Anti-Gay Female	148
Anti-Hispanic	158
Anti-White	174
Anti-Other Ethnicity/National Origin	224
Anti-Islamic (Muslim)	364
Anti-Black	514
Anti-Gay Male	1072
Anti-Jewish	2612



The graph above shows that the top five hate crimes incidents from 2010 to 2018 in NYC have been: Anti-National Origin, Anti-Islamic, Anti-Black, Anti-Gay Male, and Anti-Jewish. Have the number of hate crimes in those categories increased or decreased through the years? To answer this question, a breakdown of the number and nature of the incident types is required

Breakdown the number of hate crime incidents year by year to see if there are any trends



Interpreting the graphs

The graphs above show that the largest number of hate crime incidents in New York City from 2010 to 2018 have been Anti-Jewish followed by Anti-Gay (Male). The graph also shows that while the level of Anti-Gay (Male) incidents has been decreasing, Anti-Jewish incidents have been increasing.

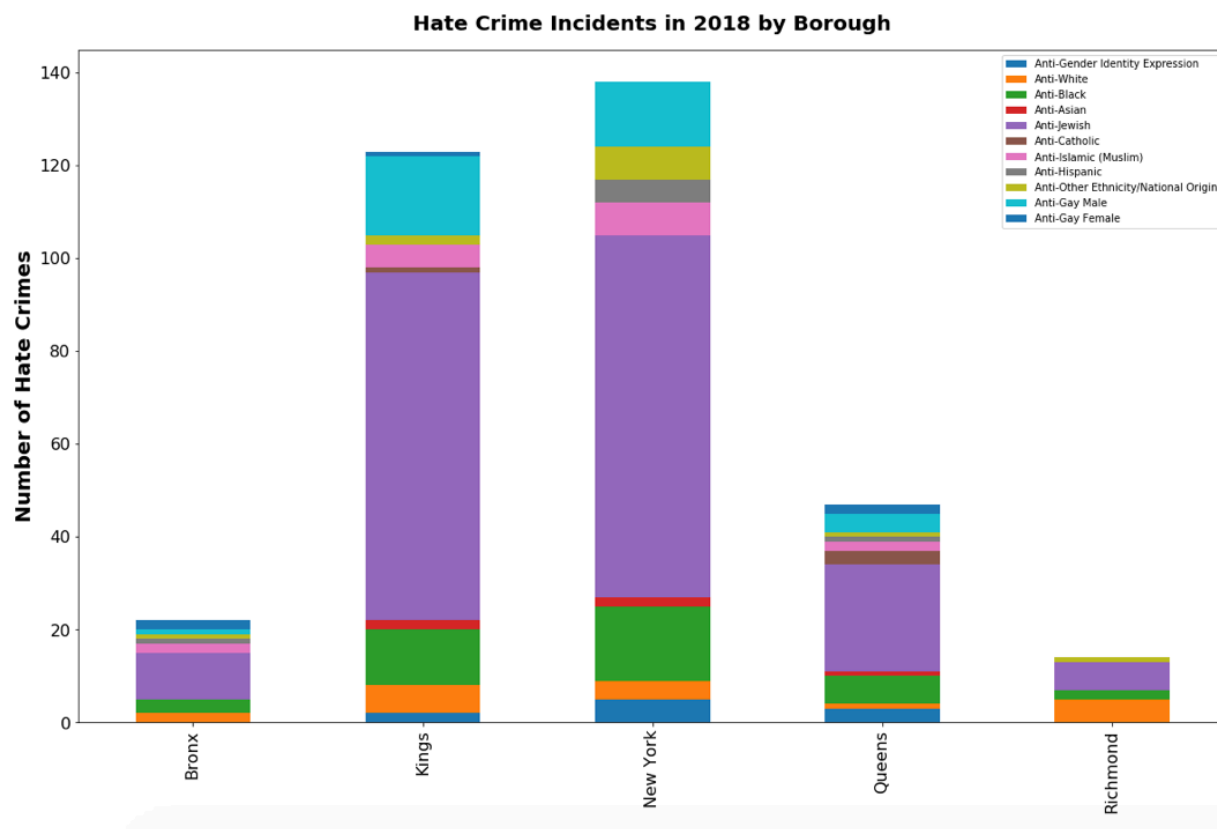
Are there certain parts of the city where hate crimes are more prevalent? If so, what is the nature of those crimes? To help answer this question, the incidents from 2018 across the five boroughs will be analyzed since that is the most recent data available

Further Analysis

Hate crimes in 2018 across the five boroughs of New York City

	Anti-Gender Identity Expression	Anti-White	Anti-Black	Anti-Asian	Anti-Jewish	Anti-Catholic	Anti-Islamic (Muslim)	Anti-Hispanic	Anti-Other Ethnicity/National Origin	Anti-Gay Male	Anti-Gay Female
County											
Bronx	0.0	2.0	3.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0
Kings	2.0	6.0	12.0	2.0	75.0	1.0	5.0	0.0	2.0	17.0	1.0
New York	5.0	4.0	16.0	2.0	78.0	0.0	7.0	5.0	7.0	14.0	0.0
Queens	3.0	1.0	6.0	1.0	23.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	4.0	2.0
Richmond	0.0	5.0	2.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0

Visualization of the hate crimes in 2018 across the five boroughs of New York City



The graph above shows that in 2018, the number of hate crime incidents that occurred in Manhattan (New York) and Brooklyn (Kings) far outnumbered the number of incidents in the other parts of the city.

Why the difference? Do Manhattan and Brooklyn have larger populations and therefore a greater chance for incidents to occur? Further analysis into the demographics is required.

Basic demographics data across the five boroughs of New York City

	Borough	County	Population Estimate (2019)
0	The Bronx	Bronx	1418207
1	Brooklyn	Kings	2559903
2	Manhattan	New York	1628706
3	Queens	Queens	2253858
4	Staten Island	Richmond	476143

Location	popula- tion 2000 Census	% white	% black	% asian	% other	% mixed race	% hispanic	% catholic	% no- taffil- iated	% jewish	% prote stant
Brooklyn	2465326	41.2	36.4	7.5	10.6	4.3	19.8	37	4	15	8
Queens	2229379	44.1	20.0	17.6	12.3	6.1	25.0	29	37	11	5
Manhattan	1537195	54.4	17.4	9.4	14.7	4.1	27.2	37	11	20	9
Bronx	1332650	29.9	35.6	3.0	25.7	5.8	48.4	44	14	6	5
Staten Island	443728	77.6	9.7	5.7	4.3	2.7	12.1	60	11	8	5
NYC Total	8008278	44.7	26.6	9.8	14.0	4.9	27.0	37	17	13	6
NY State	18976457	67.9	15.9	5.5	7.5	3.1	15.1	42	20	9	10
USA	281421906	75.1	12.3	3.6	6.5	2.4	12.5	22	37	2	23

Further interpretation of the borough by borough hate crime incident graph after reviewing borough level demographics

The graph titled "Hate Crime Incidents in 2018 by Borough" shows that the largest number of hate crimes occurred in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Are the populations levels in Manhattan and Brooklyn larger than the other parts of the city and therefore more likely to experience hate crime incidents? According to the demographics data, Brooklyn and its neighbor, Queens, have comparable populations. So why is there such a large difference in the number of hate crimes? According to the data, the largest number of hate crimes in New York City are directed at its Jewish population and according to the table above, Manhattan (20%) and Brooklyn (15%) have the highest Jewish populations. The data, however, does not explain *why* there are hate crimes against Jews in particular (or any other population)

Conclusion

New York City is one of the most diverse and cosmopolitan cities in the world so the number of hate crimes committed from 2010 to 2018 might seem a bit surprising at first glance, especially the number of hate crimes committed against Jews since, outside of Israel, New York City has the largest Jewish population in the world.

Additional Perspective

In addition to being incredibly diverse, New York City is also one of the most populated cities in the world with an estimated population of 8.3 million people. In a city this big and diverse, incidents are bound to occur. If we look at the overall hate crime incidents committed in 2018 vs. the estimated 2019 population levels and assume that the number of hate crime incidents remains similar, the hate crime levels do not appear as large. This is not a reason to be complacent however. Every effort should be made to eliminate hate crimes. Additionally, by analyzing hate crime data, we can spot and try to address disturbing trends before any group becomes marginalized.

Freedom of Speech vs. Hate Speech in the U.S.

The following is an excerpt from the NYPD Hate Crimes/Bias Incidents Website:

Freedom of Speech vs. Hate Crime

Freedom of speech is protected by our Constitution. Everyone has the right to express their likes, dislikes and opinions, no matter how offensive these expressions may be to others. Ultimately, offensive or hateful speech is still just speech and is protected.

A hate crime is a criminal act that is motivated in whole or substantial part by the perceived identity of the victim. For example, when a person calls another person an insulting name, it is just a name and not a crime, even if the name is hateful and offensive. This kind of name calling is generally protected as free speech.

In contrast, if someone calls a person a hateful name because of their identity alone and also assaults them, the assault is a crime, and the motivation makes the act a hate crime as well. The hate crime designation can also apply to other crimes, such as criminal mischief and graffiti, like painting racial slurs or swastikas on public or private property or the desecration of cemeteries associated with particular religious or racial groups. Free speech protections end

with the commission of a criminal act, and hateful speech or writing in conjunction with a crime is a hate crime.

Whether or not Freedom of Speech should be limited in an effort to eliminate / reduce hate crimes is beyond the scope of this analysis. The reader can decide for themselves what they believe is right.

Resources

New York State Hate Crime Data:

<https://data.ny.gov/Public-Safety/Hate-Crimes-by-County-and-Bias-Type-Beginning-2010/6xda-q7ev>

New York Police Department (NYPD) Data:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/services/law-enforcement/hate-crimes.page>

New York State Anti-Hate Crime Resource Guide:

<https://www.ny.gov/we-are-all-immigrants/new-york-state-anti-hate-crime-resource-guide>

New York City Demographics Data from Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_New_York_City#cite_note-64

Department of Justice (DOJ): Preventing Hate Crimes in Your Community:

<https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/preventing-hate-crimes-your-community>

American Psychological Association:

<https://www.apa.org/advocacy/interpersonal-violence/hate-crimes>