

United States Hate Crimes (1991-2018)

The Goal of this Case Study

- The main focus of this project is to Analyze the ways in which hate crimes have behaved over the past few decades in the United States, in the hopes that our findings--whatever they may be--will raise awareness to the serious issues that make up the subject matter of this analysis.

- **Content:** This dataset was found in [kaggle.com](https://www.kaggle.com) and it provides information about differing hate crime incidents from 1991 to 2018. Thousands of law enforcement agencies voluntarily submit data to the [Uniform Crime Reporting Program's \(UCR\)](#) Hate Crime Statistics Data Collection on crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, gender and gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientations, or ethnicity.

This effort, which includes data from city, county, college and university, state, tribal, and federal agencies, allows the law enforcement community to recognize and document hate crimes. These statistics may be used to:

- help law enforcement address issues for their communities
- provide lawmakers with justification for certain legislation
- supply the media with credible information
- show hate crime victims that they are not alone
- help researchers in determining trends in hate crimes

Participation in the data collection is voluntary for state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, but it is mandatory for federal law enforcement.

Definition of a Hate Crime

The UCR Program defines hate crime as a committed criminal offence which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias(es) against a:

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

Hate Crime Biases

The Hate Crime Data Collection gathers data on the following biases:

Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry

- Anti-American Indian or Alaska Native
- Anti-Arab
- Anti-Asian
- Anti-Black or African American
- Anti-Hispanic or Latino
- Anti-Multiple Races, Group
- Anti-Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Anti-Other Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry
- Anti-White

Religion

- Anti-Buddhist
- Anti-Catholic
- Anti-Eastern Orthodox (Russian, Greek, Other)
- Anti-Hindu
- Anti-Islamic
- Anti-Jehovah's Witness
- Anti-Jewish
- Anti-Mormon
- Anti-Multiple Religions, Group
- Anti-Other Christian
- Anti-Other Religion
- Anti-Protestant
- Anti-Sikh
- Anti-Atheism/Agnosticism, etc.

The most common hate crimes reported to the data collection are destruction/damage/vandalism, intimidation, and simple assault.

Sexual Orientation

- Anti-Bisexual
- Anti-Gay (Male)
- Anti-Heterosexual
- Anti-Lesbian
- Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (Mixed Group)

Disability

- Anti-Mental Disability
- Anti-Physical Disability

Gender

- Anti-Male
- Anti-Female

Gender Identity

- Anti-Transgender
- Anti-Gender Non-Conforming

Information Collected

The types of hate crimes reported to the UCR Program's Hate Crime Statistics Collection are broken down by specific categories. The aggregate hate crime data collected for each incident includes:

- **Bias Motivation:** Incidents may include one or more offence types. Up to five bias motivation types can be reported per offence. The FBI collects information about single-bias incidents (crimes motivated by one type of bias) and multiple-bias incidents (offences motivated by two or more biases.)
- **Victims:** The types of victims collected for hate crime incidents include individuals (adults and juveniles), businesses, institutions, and society. Law enforcement can also indicate the number of individual victims, as well as the number of adult victims, and the number of victims under the age of 18.

- **Offenders:** The collection includes the number of offenders (adults and juveniles), and when possible, the race and ethnicity of the offender or offenders. In the data collection, the term “known offender” does not imply the suspect’s identity is known, but rather some aspect of the offender is known, such as the offender’s age or gender.
- **Location Type:** One of 46 location types can be designated as the location, such as house of worship, sidewalk, home, school, or unknown.
- **Jurisdiction:** The jurisdiction includes data about hate crimes by judicial district (federal), state, and agency.

Column	Description	Data Type	Time Variant (yes/no?)
INCIDENT_ID	ID number assigned to incident	Qualitative, Nominal	No
DATA YEAR	Incident year (from 1991 to 2018)	Qualitative, Ordinal	No
ORI	State abbreviation and numerical values assigned to incident	Qualitative, Ordinal	No
PUB_AGENCY_NAME	Name of Agency	Qualitative, Nominal	No
AGENCY_TYPE_NAME	Type assigned to Agency	Qualitative, Ordinal	No
STATE_ABBR	State abbreviation	Qualitative, Ordinal	No
STATE_NAME	State name	Qualitative, Nominal	No
DIVISION_NAME	Name of the division	Qualitative, Nominal	No
REGION_NAME	Name of the region	Qualitative, Nominal	No

Column	Description	Data Type	Time Variant (yes/no?)
POPULATION_GROUP_CODE	Range of population code	Qualitative, Ordinal	No
POPULATION_GROUP_DESC	Population assigned to each population group code	Qualitative, Ordinal	No
INCIDENT_DATE	Date of incident (MM-DD-YYYY)	Qualitative, Ordinal	No
TOTAL_OFFENDER_COUNT	Number of offender by the incident	Quantitative, Discrete	Yes
OFFENDER_RACE	Race of the offender	Qualitative, Nominal	No
VICTIM_COUNT	Number of victims in the incident	Quantitative, Discrete	Yes
OFFENSE_NAME	Name of the offence	Qualitative, Nominal	No
TOTAL_INDIVIDUAL_VICTIMS	Total victims of the incident	Quantitative, Discrete	Yes
LOCATION_NAME	Location where the incident occurred	Qualitative, Ordinal	No
BIAS_DESC	Description of bias	Qualitative, Nominal	No
VICTIM_TYPES	Type of victims: individual, organization, religious, business	Qualitative, Ordinal	No
MULTIPLE_OFFENCE	S (single) or M (multiple) offence	Qualitative, Ordinal	No
MULTIPLE_BIAS	S (single) or M (multiple) bias	Qualitative, Ordinal	No

Data Cleaning & Data Consistency Check

- Checked for missing data
- Checked for duplicate data
- Adjusted data type

Data Profile

- Original data: 201,403 rows and 28 columns.
- Current Data: 201,403 rows and 22 columns.

The 6 dropped columns were completely empty

Limitations and Ethics

The data is not up to date (last data recorded was in 2018).

Because motivation is subjective, it is sometimes difficult to know with certainty whether a crime resulted from the offender's bias. Moreover, the presence of bias alone does not necessarily mean that a crime can be considered a hate crime. Only when a law enforcement investigation reveals sufficient evidence to lead a reasonable and prudent person to conclude that the offender's actions were motivated, in whole or in part, by his or her bias, should an agency report an incident as a hate crime.

Questions to explore

1. What type of hate crimes are more prevalent throughout 1991-2018?
2. Have crimes increased, decreased or remained constant?
3. Is there additional data that would support causation of the rise/decline of hate crimes?
4. Which states have the highest/lowest hate crime incidents?

REFERENCES:

<https://www.kaggle.com/code/jcraggy/us-hate-crime-r/input>

<https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/ucr/hate-crime>



