



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a hate crime?

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines hate crime as a committed criminal offense which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias(es) against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.

Note: For FBI UCR Program purposes, even if the offender was mistaken in his or her perception the victim was a member of the group he or she was acting against, the offense is still a bias crime because the offender was motivated by bias against the group.

2. What bias motivation categories are captured in the FBI UCR Program?

The FBI UCR Program's 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.

- **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
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- **Gender Identity**
 - Anti-Transgender
 - Anti-Gender Non-Conforming

3. What type of hate crime data does the FBI UCR Program collect?

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

- **Incidents and offenses by bias motivation:** Incidents may include one or more offense types; five bias motivation types can be reported per offense.
- **Victims:** The types of victims collected for hate crime incidents include individuals (adults and juveniles), businesses, institutions, and society as a whole.
- **Offenders:** The number of offenders (adults and juveniles), and when possible, the race and ethnicity of the offender or offenders as a group.
- **Location type:** One of 46 location types can be designated, e.g., church/synagogue/temple/mosque, highway/road/alley/street/sidewalk, residence/home, schools, and other/unknown.
- **Hate crime by jurisdiction:** Includes data about hate crimes by judicial district (federal), state, and agency.

4. What types of incidents are collected in the FBI UCR Program's hate crime data set?

The FBI UCR Program collects data about both single-bias and multiple-bias hate crimes.

A **single-bias incident** is an incident in which one or more offense types are motivated by the same bias.

A **multiple-bias incident** is an incident in which one or more offense types are motivated by two or more biases.

5. What type of offenses are collected as hate crimes?

The FBI UCR Program transitioned all federal, state, local, college/university, and tribal law enforcement agencies (LEAs) nationwide to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) on January 1, 2021. The NIBRS collects 71 offenses to include crimes against persons, crimes against property, and crimes against society.

NIBRS Offenses for Which Data Element 8A, Bias Motivation, Is Applicable

Offense Category	Offense	NIBRS Offense Code	Crimes Against
Animal Cruelty			
	Animal Cruelty	720	Society
Arson			
	Arson	200	Property
Assault Offenses			
	Aggravated Assault	13A	Person
	Simple Assault	13B	Person
	Intimidation	13C	Person
Bribery			
	Bribery	510	Property
Burglary/Breaking & Entering			
	Burglary/Breaking & Entering	220	Property
Commerce Violations			
	Import Violations*	58A	Society
	Export Violations*	58B	Society
	Federal Liquor Offenses*	61A	Society
	Federal Tobacco Offenses*	61B	Society
	Wildlife Trafficking*	620	Society

Offense Category	Offense	NIBRS Offense Code	Crimes Against
Counterfeiting/Forgery			
	Counterfeiting/Forgery	250	Property
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property			
	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	290	Property
Drug/Narcotic Offenses			
	Drug/Narcotic Violations	35A	Society
	Drug Equipment Violations	35B	Society
Embezzlement			
	Embezzlement	270	Property
Espionage			
	Espionage*	103	Society
Extortion/Blackmail			
	Extortion/Blackmail	210	Property
Fraud Offenses			
	False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	26A	Property
	Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	26B	Property
	Impersonation	26C	Property
	Welfare Fraud	26D	Property
	Wire Fraud	26E	Property
	Identity Theft	26F	Property
	Hacking/Computer Invasion	26G	Property
	Money Laundering*	26H	Property
Fugitive Offenses			
	Harboring Escapee/Concealing from Arrest*	49A	Society
	Flight to Avoid Prosecution*	49B	Society
	Flight to Avoid Deportation*	49C	Society
Gambling Offenses			
	Betting/Wagering	39A	Society
	Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	39B	Society
	Gambling Equipment Violation	39C	Society
	Sports Tampering	39D	Society
Homicide Offenses			
	Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	09A	Person
	Negligent Manslaughter	09B	Person
	Justifiable Homicide	09C	Not a crime

Offense Category	Offense	NIBRS Offense Code	Crimes Against
Human Trafficking			
	Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	64A	Person
	Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	64B	Person
Immigration Violations			
	Illegal Entry into the United States*	30A	Society
	False Citizenship*	30B	Society
	Smuggling Aliens*	30C	Society
	Re-entry after Deportation*	30D	Society
Kidnapping/Abduction			
	Kidnapping/Abduction	100	Person
Larceny/Theft Offenses			
	Pocket-picking	23A	Property
	Purse-snatching	23B	Property
	Shoplifting	23C	Property
	Theft From Building	23D	Property
	Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device	23E	Property
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	23F	Property
	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	23G	Property
	All Other Larceny	23H	Property
Motor Vehicle Theft			
	Motor Vehicle Theft	240	Property
Pornography/Obscene Material			
	Pornography/Obscene Material	370	Society
Prostitution Offenses			
	Prostitution	40A	Society
	Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	40B	Society
	Purchasing Prostitution	40C	Society
Robbery			
	Robbery	120	Property
Sex Offenses			
	Rape	11A	Person
	Sodomy	11B	Person
	Sexual Assault with an Object	11C	Person
	Fondling	11D	Person
	Incest	36A	Person
	Statutory Rape	36B	Person

Offense Category	Offense	NIBRS Offense Code	Crimes Against
Sex Offenses (continued)			
	Failure to Register as a Sex Offender*	360	Society
Stolen Property Offenses			
	Stolen Property Offenses	280	Property
Treason			
	Treason*	101	Society
Weapon Law Violations			
	Weapon Law Violations	520	Society
	Violation of National Firearm Act of 1934*	521	Society
	Weapons of Mass Destruction*	522	Society
	Explosives*	526	Society

* Denotes offense for federal and tribal LEA reporting only.

6. What are the top three offense types most frequently reported in the FBI UCR Program's hate crime data set?

The top three offenses reported in the FBI UCR Program's hate crime data set are destruction/damage/vandalism, intimidation, and simple assault.

7. What are the victim types collected in the FBI UCR Program's hate crime data set?

The victim of a hate crime can be an individual, a business, an institution, or society as a whole. Law enforcement can also indicate the number of individual victims, the number of victims 18 years of age and older, and the number of victims under the age of 18.

8. What information is collected on the offender(s) in the FBI UCR Program's hate crime data set?

The term *known offender* does not imply the suspect's identity is known; rather, the term indicates some aspect of the suspect was identified, thus distinguishing the suspect from an unknown offender. LEAs specify the number of offenders (adults and juveniles) and, when possible, the race and ethnicity of the offender or offenders as a group.

9. What are the Race and Ethnicity categories captured for offenders in FBI UCR Program?

The FBI UCR Program collects the following racial designations in the hate crime data set:

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

In addition, the FBI UCR Program uses the ethnic designations of:

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

10. How many biases can be reported per offense type in FBI UCR Program's hate crime data set?

LEAs can report up to five bias motivations per offense type.

11. Are federal, state, local, and tribal LEAs mandated to participate in the FBI UCR Program's hate crime data set?

Participation in the FBI UCR Program is voluntary for state, local, and tribal LEAs, but is mandatory for federal LEAs.

12. Where can users find the FBI UCR Program's *Hate Crime Statistics* publication?

The publication can be found at <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime>.

The *Hate Crime Statistics, 2020*, and future hate crime publications/data releases will be posted on the Crime Data Explorer website at: fbi.gov/cde. The specific link will be provided at the time of publication.

Hate Crime Statistics, 2021 Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does the transition to a NIBRS-only data collection effect the Hate Crime Statistics Data?

Beginning on January 1, 2021, only NIBRS-transitioned agencies could submit hate crime data. While a large number of contributors were successful in making the transition to NIBRS, many others faced challenges and were unable to modify their systems to begin submitting NIBRS data to meet the required cut-off date of March 14, 2022, for inclusion in the *Hate Crime Statistics, 2021*, release.

The *Hate Crime Statistics, 2021*, release will show a noticeable difference in the data due to being collected exclusively via the NIBRS in 2021. The FBI will continue engaging with and providing transitional support to our law enforcement agency contributors with the goal of increasing reported data for a more comprehensive national view of crime.

2. Now that the UCR Program has transitioned to a NIBRS-only crime data collection, will the Hate Crime data collection continue?

Yes. Although the FBI has transitioned to a NIBRS-only crime data collection, the UCR Program continues to collect and release the information received for the Hate Crime Statistics Data Collection.

3. How will the *Hate Crime Statistics, 2021*, release look different?

The overall volume of reported hate crime incidents decreased from 2020 to 2021. Although the hate crime statistics reported to the UCR Program are lower in 2021, hate crime statistics overall are not decreasing. The lower numbers are in direct correlation with the NIBRS transition.

4. How many agencies participate in the Hate Crime Statistics Collection?

- **2021:** 11,834 participating agencies covering 215,058,917 inhabitants
- **2020:** 15,138 participating agencies covering 306,085,895 inhabitants
- **2019:** 15,588 participating agencies covering 305,284,239 inhabitants
- **2018:** 16,039 participating agencies covering 306,874,326 inhabitants
- **2017:** 16,149 participating agencies covering 306,435,676 inhabitants
- **2016:** 15,254 participating agencies covering 289,814,003 inhabitants
- **2015:** 14,997 participating agencies covering 283,884,034 inhabitants
- **2014:** 15,494 participating agencies covering 297,926,030 inhabitants
- **2013:** 15,016 participating agencies covering 295,016,072 inhabitants
- **2012:** 14,515* participating agencies covering 275,529,666* inhabitants
- **2011:** 14,575 participating agencies covering 286,010,550 inhabitants

- **2010:** 14,977 participating agencies covering 285,001,266 inhabitants

*The number shown for 2012 includes those in *2012 Addendum* as well as those in the annual publication.

5. How does the FBI UCR Program seek to improve tracking hate crimes within the country?

The FBI UCR Program continues its efforts to assist law enforcement partners in collecting and submitting hate crime data and with establishing or updating hate crime training for personnel.

Recent program changes have been conveyed through training sessions, as well as through revised training materials such as the [*Hate Crime Data Collection Guidelines and Training Manual*](#), Version 2.0, which is available on the FBI's website. The manual includes definitions and scenarios that reflect changes to the hate crime data collection.

6. What will be included in the *Hate Crime Statistics, 2021* release?

The *Hate Crime Statistics, 2021*, release is based on data from law enforcement agencies that submitted one or more months of NIBRS data. The tables included in this release feature aggregated data from agencies that reported one or more months of NIBRS data.

7. Why is it required to submit 12 complete months of NIBRS data to be included in the yearly UCR release, but not for the hate crime statistics release?

When the *Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990* was released, the program was asked to count all accounts of hate crime reported by law enforcement.

8. Why are estimations not used for hate crime statistics?

Traditionally, the UCR Program's hate crime release has only included the reported counts of bias crimes and has not generated estimates, likewise, the newly released NIBRS estimates do not provide 2021 hate crime estimates. Applying hate crime rates across United States populations when the number of reported hate crime incidents is too small could lead to a misrepresentation of the actual occurrence of hate crime in the nation. As such, hate crime data is published as they are reported to the FBI UCR Program.

The FBI and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) are researching how hate crimes are defined, tracked, measured, and coded across states to determine if reporting is consistent from place to place. For these reasons, producing national estimates may be challenging

initially. As more agencies submit their crime data through NIBRS, the FBI and BJS will continue to explore the feasibility of producing such estimates and, if so, what estimates should be produced.

9. Are hate crimes up or down?

In 2021, the number of reported hate crime incidents and offense counts went down from the previous year.

- **2021:** 7,262 criminal incidents involving 8,673 offenses
- **2020:** 8,263 criminal incidents involving 11,472 offenses
- **2019:** 7,314 criminal incidents involving 8,559 offenses
- **2018:** 7,120 criminal incidents involving 8,496 offenses
- **2017:** 7,175 criminal incidents involving 8,437 offenses
- **2016:** 6,121 criminal incidents involving 7,321 offenses
- **2015:** 5,850 criminal incidents involving 6,885 offenses
- **2014:** 5,479 criminal incidents involving 6,418 offenses
- **2013:** 5,928 criminal incidents involving 6,933 offenses
- **2012:** 6,573* criminal incidents involving 6,718* offenses
- **2011:** 6,222 criminal incidents involving 7,254 offenses
- **2010:** 6,628 criminal incidents involving 7,699 offenses

* The number of incidents shown for 2012 includes those in *2012 Addendum* as well as those in the annual publication. The number of offenses shown includes only those in the annual publication; it does not include offenses represented by *2012 Addendum* incident data.

NOTE: Agency participation in the Hate Crime Statistics Collection for 2021 decreased from last year.

10. How long have hate crime statistics been collected as part of the FBI UCR Program?

Congress enacted the Hate Crime Statistics Act on April 23, 1990, requiring the attorney general to establish guidelines and collect data on hate crimes.

NOTE: The FBI UCR Program's first publication on the subject was *Hate Crime Statistics, 1990: A Resource Book*. The report was a compilation of hate crime data reported by 11 states that had collected the information under state authority in 1990 and were willing to offer their data as a prototype. Once the FBI UCR Program developed its uniform data collection method, it published

Hate Crime Statistics, 1992, which was the first presentation of hate crime data reported to FBI UCR Program. Subsequently, the FBI UCR Program has published annual data. Editions of *Hate Crime Statistics* for 1995 through 2019 are available on the FBI's website. *Hate*

Crime Statistics, 2020 will be available exclusively on the Crime Data Explorer at <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/>.

11. How is hate crime data collected by law enforcement agencies participating in the Hate Crime Statistics Collection?

Participating law enforcement agencies collect details about an offender's bias motivation associated with the following crimes against persons and crimes against property offense types:

- (1) murder and non-negligent manslaughter
- (2) rape (revised and legacy definitions)
- (3) aggravated assault
- (4) simple assault
- (5) intimidation
- (6) human trafficking—commercial sex acts
- (7) human trafficking—involuntary servitude
- (8) robbery
- (9) burglary
- (10) larceny-theft
- (11) motor vehicle theft
- (12) arson
- (13) destruction/damage/vandalism

Law enforcement agencies also collect additional offenses for crimes against persons and crimes against property. These appear in *Hate Crime Statistics* in the category of *other*. Crimes against society offenses are also included in the collection.

The FBI data collection guidelines stipulate a hate crime may involve multiple offenses, victims, and offenders within one incident; therefore, the hate crime data collection is incident-based. In addition, up to five bias motivations can be reported per offense.

12. How do you know that the figures in the Uniform Crime Reports are accurate?

The FBI UCR Program works closely with states to ensure agencies submit data to the FBI in strict compliance with FBI UCR guidelines. The FBI UCR Program meets with police agencies regularly to discuss issues related to crime reporting and provide updated training.

For more than 90 years the FBI UCR Program has enjoyed extraordinary cooperation from law enforcement agencies who are not required to participate. These agencies have become very familiar with our reporting requirements and policies.

13.How does the FBI UCR Program seek to improve tracking hate crimes within the country?

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14.How does the FBI UCR Program adjust their annual hate crime report to reflect potential emerging biases based on the ever-changing demographics of the United States?

The FBI approved a recommendation by the Criminal Justice Information Services Division's Advisory Policy Board to expand the bias types in the religious category to include Buddhist, Hindu, Eastern Orthodox (Russian, Greek, Other), Jehovah's Witness, Mormon, Other Christian, and Sikh. The hate crime data collection procedures were also modified to include an anti-Arab bias motivation.

The FBI began collecting these new biases on January 1, 2015. Although not all law enforcement agencies that submit data to the Hate Crime Statistics Collection have been able to modify their records management systems, data received from agencies that have made the change were made available beginning with *Hate Crime Statistics, 2015*.