

Identifying Anti-immigration movements: Mapping Hate Crimes and Groups in the US

In the last two decades, there has been a significant rise of anti-immigrant sentiment in the U.S.¹ The severe economic recession following the financial crisis in 2008, the terrorist attacks, in particular the 9/11 attacks, and the growing number of foreign residents and undocumented immigrants are some of the factors that have fueled the rise of anti-immigrant movements (i.e. policies, groups, ideologies) and xenophobic actions (e.g. hate crimes, hate propaganda).

Additionally, the anti-immigrant rhetoric of President Trump has served as a bridge to criminalize immigrants and promote anti-immigrant policies: ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program (attempted but unsuccessful), banning of people from several Muslim countries, family separation at the border, reducing refugee admissions, and recently, the temporal suspension of foreign work visas (labeled by the Trump administration as an “effort” to preserve US jobs). Also, some members in top administrative positions in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have “close ties” to several anti-immigrant hate groups².

In this context, it is relevant to study hate groups and hate crimes in the U.S. as an alternative way to understand how the anti-immigrant sentiment has evolved in the U.S.

In this report, we used two sources of data: identified hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center and reported hate crimes by the Uniform Crime Report.

Hate Groups in the US

In the last four years, we have seen a persistent increase in the number of hate groups. Particularly, a significant raise in Anti-Immigrant groups is observed with an approximate of 20 anti-immigrant groups in 2019 (Figure 1). In this sense, it is worth noting that Anti-Immigrant groups are not as predominantly as White Nationalist or Black-separatist groups, in fact, Anti-Immigrant groups in 2019 represented only 2% of the total hate groups in the US.

¹ [The Rise of Anti-Immigrant Sentiments in the U.S.: Arizona and Alabama, emblematic cases](#). Mónica Vereá.

² [The Anti-Immigrant Extremists in Charge of the U.S. Immigration System](#). Jessica Cobian, June 2019.

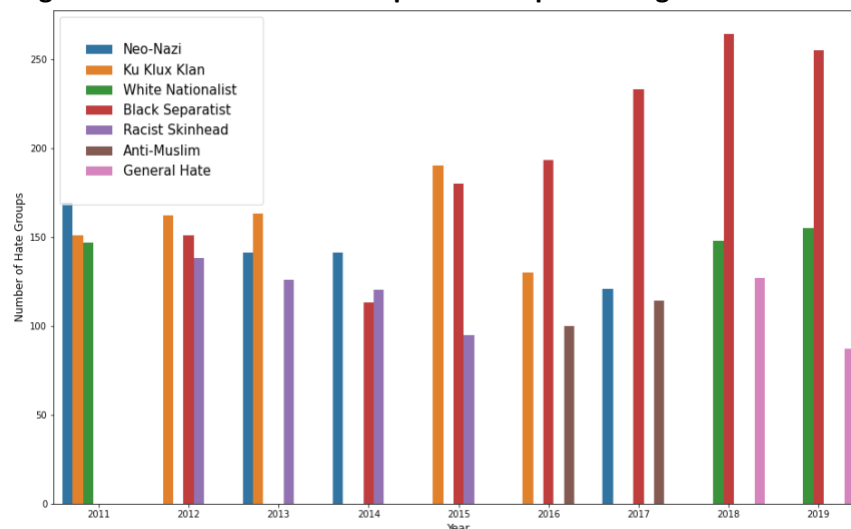
However, several hate groups with white nationalist or neo-Nazi ideologies have also targeted immigrant communities³. As example, on August 3rd, 2019, Patrick Crusius, a white nationalist shot and killed 23 people and injured 23 individuals with the intention to target Mexicans. As shown in figure 2, in the last decade, the most prominent ideology in hate groups has been black separatist followed by white nationalist ideologies, which shows that racism is the most important determinant of hate groups in the U.S.

Figure 1. Number of Hate Groups in the US
(Total and Anti-Immigrant Groups)



Source: Southern Poverty Law Center

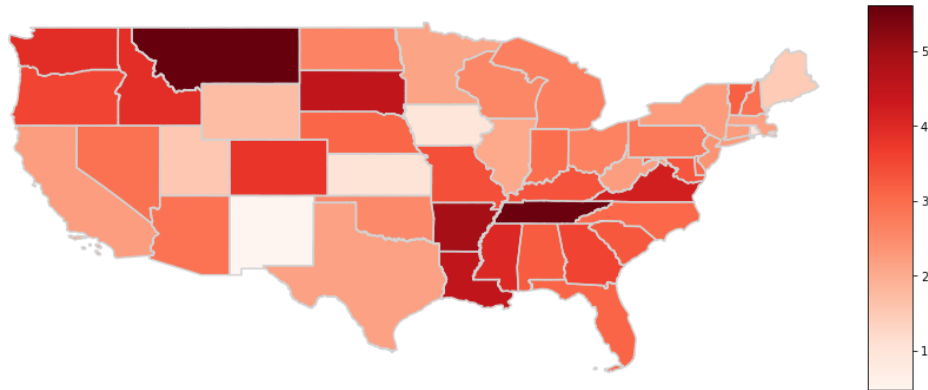
Figure 2. Number of Hate Groups in the Top 3 Ideologies of Each Year



Source: Southern Poverty Law Center

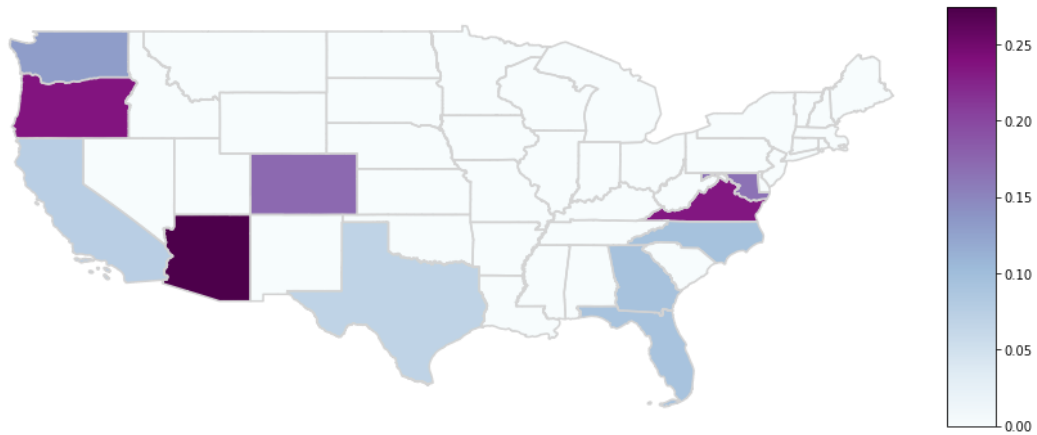
³ ['White power ideology': why El Paso is part of a growing global threat](#). August 2019.

Figure 3. Number of Hate Groups per Million People in 2019



Source: Southern Poverty Law Center and US Census Bureau Estimates

Figure 4. Number of Anti-Immigrant Hate Groups per Million People in 2019



Source: Southern Poverty Law Center and US Census Bureau Estimates

Hate Crimes