A Twitter Fate:
Racism in California
Hate Crimes and Social Media

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Contents

Methodology

Data Sets:

1. California Department of Justice Hate Crime Database
    - Contains hate crime data from 2001 to 2020

2. Demographic Data and Voter Registration Data by County
    - Both data sets are from the California government

3. Hate speech posts from Stormfront between 2002 and 2017
   - Stormfront is a right-wing social media site

How have hate crimes changed over time?

- 60% racially/ethnically motivated

- Racial/ethnic hate crimes decreased 2001-2013 and have increased 2013-2020

Hate Crimes by Type in California
from 2001 to 2020

Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry
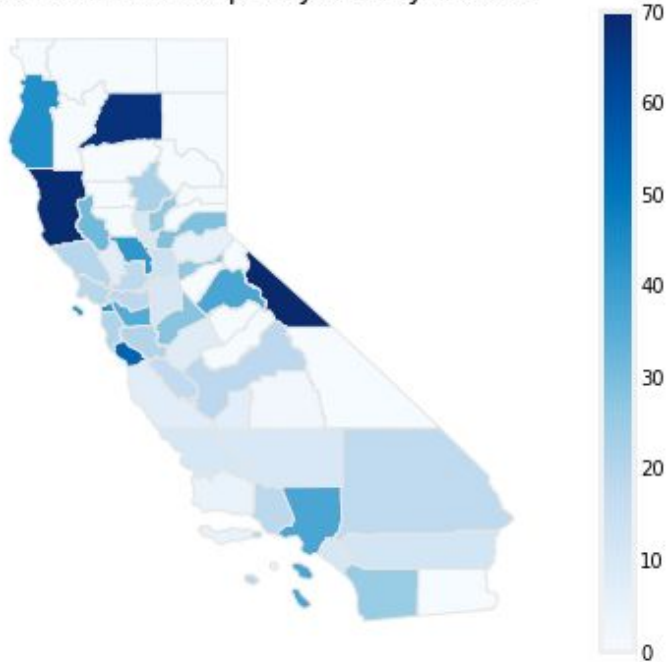Sexual Orientation
Religion
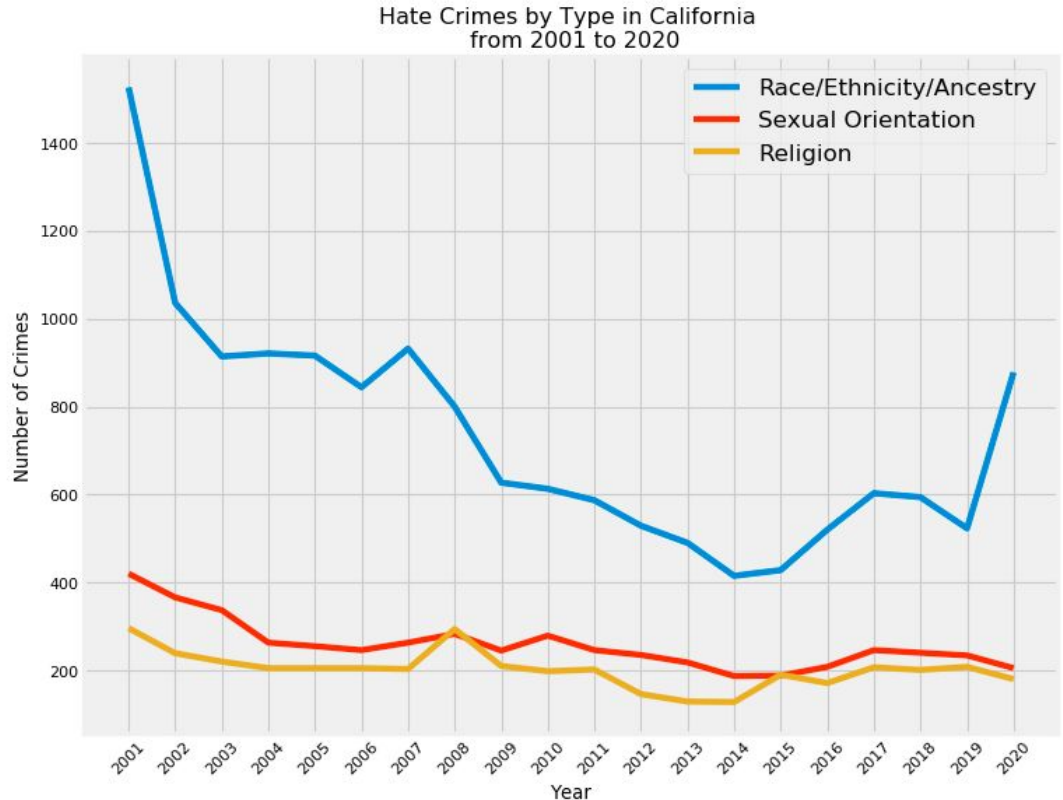
Which races/ethnicities report experiencing the most hate crimes?

- Only 5% of Californians are Black/African American

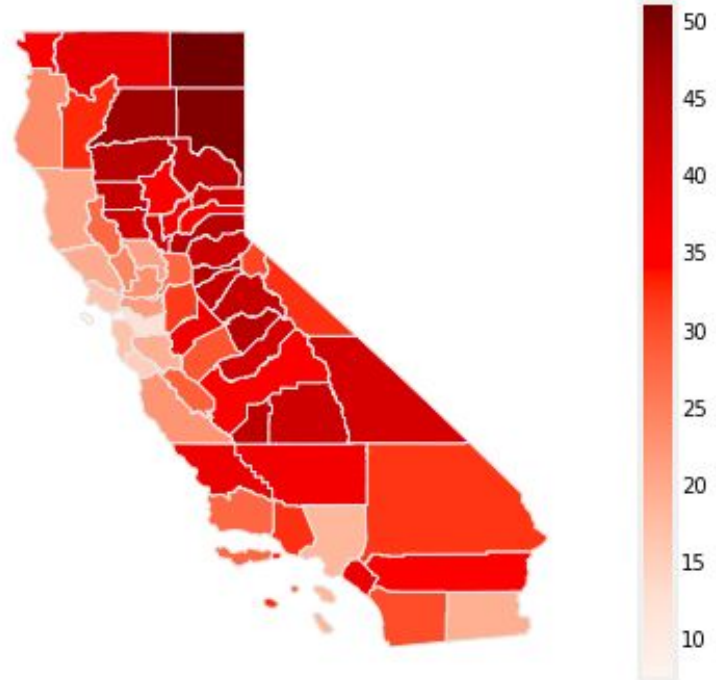- 51% of all racially motivated hate crimes are anti-Black
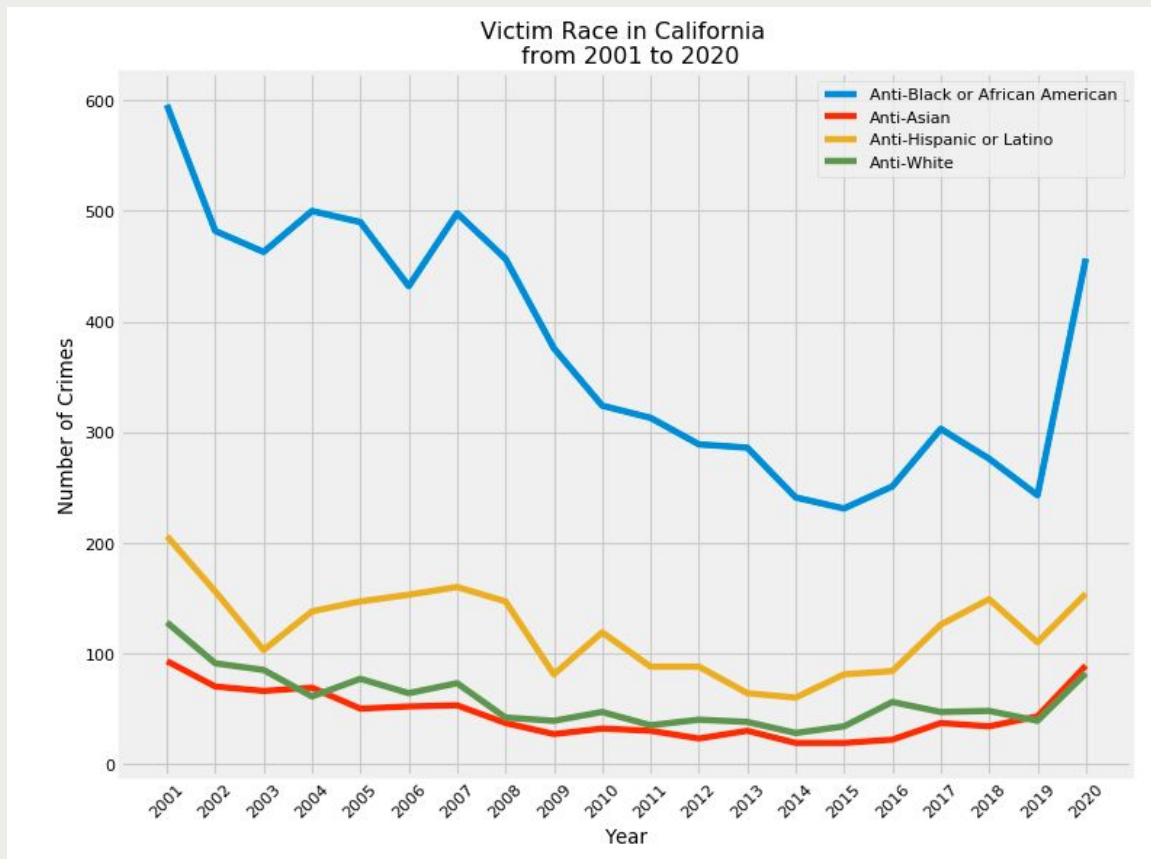
Victim Race in California from 2001 to 2020

How is the geographical distribution of hate crimes related to political affiliation?

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Relationship Between Hate Crimes and Political Affiliation by County in 2016

- Significant negative correlation between these variables (r = -0.46, p < .001).

- <u>Interpretation:</u> Counties with a lower proportion of Republican voters had a higher proportion of hate crimes per 1 million people.

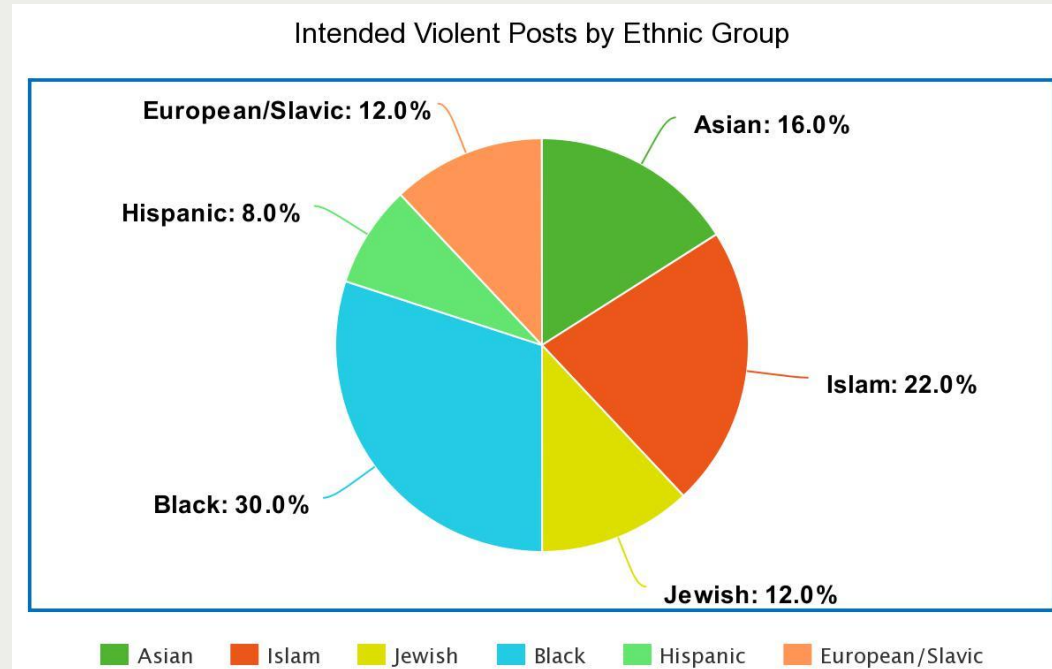# What proportion of social media posts are racially targeted?

- 47% of Stormfront posts include racist language

- 33% of these racist posts also use violent language targeting an individual
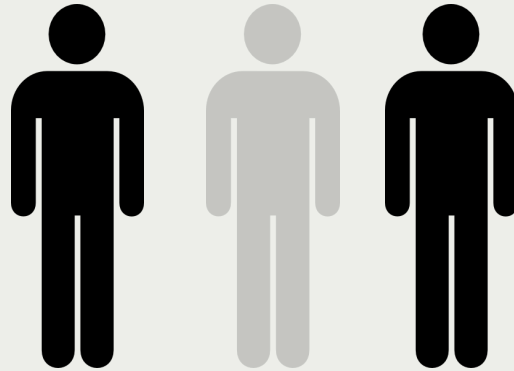
What racial/ethnic groups are being targeted by these posts?

- Women in particular are heavily targeted with racial language

- Black and African-American people are targeted by the largest share of violent and personal posts

Intended Violent Posts by Ethnic Group

European/Slavic: 12.0%

Hispanic: 8.0%

Asian: 16.0%

Islam: 22.0%

Black: 30.0%

Jewish: 12.0%

Asian   Islam   Jewish   Black   Hispanic   European/Slavic

Key Takeaways

Hate Crimes Over Time

Racial/ethnic hate crimes have spiked in recent years with Black communities being disproportionately targeted.
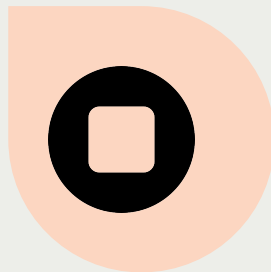
Race/Ethnicity and Social Media

Violent and targeted racial hate speech is a common phenomenon. Black people are most targeted.

Geographical Distribution and Political Affiliation

Hate crimes and Republican Party affiliation are negatively correlated by county in California.

Limitations

-Hate crimes are self-reported

-Social media posts aren't time stamped or geo-tagged.

Thank You

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Please raise Zoom hand to ask any questions

Research Questions

1. How have the number of hate crimes changed over time in California? How have the types of hate crimes changed over time?

2. How is the geographical distribution of hate crimes related to political affiliation?

3. What types of hate speech are being flagged on social media platforms?