DECODING HATE CRIME IN THE U.S

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Contents

Introduction:

Did u ever wake up to horrific headlines over the media such as "A quiet morning in Pittsburgh was shattered when a gunman killed 11 people in anti-Semitic rampage " , "A black college student was fatally stabbed in College Park, Md., days before he would have graduated" , "Two men were killed and another wounded when they tried to stop a man's hateful rant on a train in Portland, Ore" etc. ? Do you know what category of crime all of the above headlines fall under? The answer is : Hate Crime.

According to Wikipedia, A hate crime is a prejudice-motivated crime which occurs when a perpetrator targets a victim because of his or her membership (or perceived membership) in a certain social group or race. Examples of such groups can include and are almost exclusively limited to: sex, ethnicity, disability, language, nationality, physical appearance, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation.

As of today, 49 states within the United States have hate crime statutes. Each states varies with respect to the groups protected under hate crime laws such as (race , ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation etc.), the penalty for the offenders etc. Most states and large cities now have hate crime task forces coordinating across several levels of government and working with community organizations. The data of hate crime is voluntarily submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I) by the city, county, college and university, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies.

Exploratory Analysis

One topic that instantly clicked my mind when I was asked to choose a dataset was "Hate Crime". The Hate Crime news I see every day certainly concerns me as it results in loss of precious lives. There has been an addition to total number of hate crime victims over years, and this calls in for a better analysis of the hate crime data. This analysis may help save lives through much stronger laws, policing or awareness.

As such, I decided to work on the hate crime data provided by the F.B.I. This dataset provides insights into the hate crime incidents within the United States from 1991 till 2016.

Data Cleaning:
From this data set, I have selected only the attributes which are required for my story. The attributes like the agency details which provide data to the F.B.I , the population group codes and description etc. were of no importance to this story. Hence I have deleted them.

Also, I have merged different values/names within each attributes conveying the common meaning into one value/name. For example, 'Air/Bus/Train Terminal' , 'Air/Bus/Train Terminal/Residence/Home', 'Air/Bus/Train Terminal/Field/Woods' etc into one variable mode_of_transport.

I have used only MS-Excel for cleaning and filtering data.

Below is the list of the attributes and their description from my primary dataset.

Attribute Name	Description
Incident_id	The distinct Numerical id given to the incidents
Data_Year	The year in which the incident occurred
State_abbr	The two digit abbreviation for the state
State_Name	The name of the state
Region_Name	The name of the region where the incident happened.
Incident_Date	The exact date of the incident
Total_offender_count	The count of the offenders per incident
Total_Victim_Count	The count of victims per incident
Offender_Race	The race of the offender
Offender_Ethnicity	The ethnicity of the offender
Offense_Name	The name of the offense
Location_Name	The location where the incident happened
Bias_Desc	The description of the bias
Victim_Types	The types of victims
Multiple_Bias	An incident in which one or more offence types were motivated by two or more biases (S – single, M-multilple)

Explanatory Analysis

Through this visualization, I will be providing insights into 'Hate Crime' few of which are mentioned below.

- The rise in the number of hate crime victims and the trend of such crimes from 1991 to 2016.
- The motivation for bias i.e. race / ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability to name a few and the total number of victims because of this bias.
- The offenders race such as American Indian / White/ African American etc. and the total number of offenders with respect to race.
- If a location such as Bar / School / Religious place is being targeted more for hate crimes.

This visualization may be used by

- The Law enforcement agencies to learn more about the issues within their locale and work on stronger hate crime law-making.
- The researchers to determine trends in hate crimes such as a particular location or bias being targeted in a particular region with a state etc.

The audience for this visualization can also be common people or victims or media whom I am not directly connected to. There is no defined relationship between me and the common people, but this visualization may be also be used by the

- Media which can provide the public better perception about the issue.
- The victims who have not reported the hate crimes may feel they are not alone and may be motivated to finally inform the police about the incident so that the offenders can be punished.

Story Boarding:

Background:

195,765 people have been victims of 'Hate Crime' from 1991 to 2016

People are still becoming victims of hate crime and the total number of victims till date have been increasing.

Create visualization to show statistics about the number of victims because of motivation for bias, offenders race, location type.

Create visualization to show number of victims in a particular region / state

Recommendation:
Analyze hate crime better,
Make stronger hate crime Laws,
Create more Counter hate crime forces to prevent such crimes.

Final Thoughts:

From this visual analysis it is evident that hate crime has been happening till date and many more people are becoming its victims. Therefore, it is important for the government to understand the patterns, casualties of such hate crimes and the mayhem it is creating amongst people. Hence, the government needs to work on analyzing hate crime trends better, making much stronger laws against hate crime and create more counter hate crime forces in order to stop such crimes from happening.

References:

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