

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

September 10, 2020, 11:00 A.M.

COMMISSION ROOM, FIRST FLOOR
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, California



MICHAEL REYNOLDS
Chair

M. FAREED FARUKHI
Vice Chair

AMY BUCH
Commissioner

TANYA DOBY
Commissioner

MIKE HAMEL
Commissioner

JANY LEE
Commissioner

JO-ANNE P. MATSUBA
Commissioner

ADEY NYAMATHI
Commissioner

DR. KERRY REYNOLDS
Commissioner

RABBI RICK STEINBERG
Commissioner

JENNIFER S. WANG
Commissioner

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Buch, Doby, Farukhi, Hamel, Lee, Nyamathi, K. Reynolds, M. Reynolds, Steinberg and Wang (all Commissioners participated via Zoom)

ABSENT: Commissioner Matsuba

PRESENT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Norma Lopez (participated via Zoom)
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION Jamie Ross & Dora Guillen, Deputy Clerks (participated via Zoom)

The Orange County Human Relations Commission is an independent advisory body, and our positions do not necessarily reflect the positions of the County of Orange Board of Supervisors.

1. Call the Meeting to Order
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:03 A.M. BY CHAIR M. REYNOLDS; THE CLERK CALLED ROLL AND CONFIRMED A QUORUM
2. Opening quote/reflection
COMMISSIONER BUCH OPENED WITH A QUOTE FROM VICTOR FRANKL AND ACKNOWLEDGED SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

3. Monthly Summary of Commission Activities

PRESENTED; COMMISSIONERS REQUESTED STAFF TO LIST TYPES OF HATE INCIDENTS AND CRIMES IN FUTURE MONTHLY SUMMARIES

OPEN FORUM

Pat Davis – Oral Re.: Assisting those who are unhoused. Those who are targeted by hate and the risk felt by reporting the incident.

ACTION ITEMS: (Item 4)

4. Approve release of 2019 Hate Crimes Report

841235679 10 11 **APPROVED RELEASE OF REPORT AS PRESENTED**

xx

COMMISSIONER WANG ASKED FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING ANTI-IMMIGRANT CRIMES/INCIDENTS

COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO BRING HATE INCIDENT/CRIME REPORT FORM TO NEXT MEETING FOR COMMISSION REVIEW

HEARING/SPEAKER/PRESENTATION: (None)

INFORMATION ITEMS: (Items 5 - 9)

5. Anti-Hate Campaign ad hoc update

PRESENTED

6. Forums ad hoc update: First Listening Session

PRESENTED

7. Commission staff reports

- a. Update on “To Know Better” Campaign and introduction of Program Coordinator
- b. California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO) Board 9/30 event

PRESENTED

8. Update from OC Chiefs and Sheriff

PRESENTED

9. OCSD Interfaith Council update

PRESENTED

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner K. Reynolds – Oral Re.: Provided an update on the Good Will Program. Deadline for nominations is 10/1/20. Award presentation to be made before the end of 2020.

ADJOURNED: 12:19 P.M.

*** KEY ***

Left Margin Notes

1 Amy Buch	A = Abstained
2 Tanya Doby	X = Excused
3 M. Fareed Farukhi	
4 Mike Hamel	N = No
5 Jany Lee	C.O. = Commission Order
6 Jo-Anne P. Matsuba	
7 Adey Nyamathi	Reso = Resolution
8 Dr. Kerry Reynolds	Ord = Ordinance
9 Mike Reynolds	
10 Rabbi Rick Steinberg	
11 Jennifer S. Wang	

(1st number = Moved by; 2nd number = Seconded by)

/s/

MICHAEL REYNOLDS
Chair

/s/

Jamie Ross, Deputy
Clerk of the Commission



DATE: Thursday, September 10, 2020

LOCATION: Zoom

TIME: 11:00 AM

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Call the Meeting to Order | Michael Reynolds |
| 2. Opening Quote/Reflection | Amy Buch |
| 3. Overview of Monthly Summary of Commission Activities | Jo-Anne Matsuba |

OPEN FORUM: *Members of the Public may address the Commission on human relations issues*

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

HEARING/SPEAKER/PRESENTATION

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 4. Anti-Hate Campaign Ad-Hoc Update | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |
| 5. Forums Ad-Hoc Update: First Listening Session | Fareed Farukhi |
| 6. Commission Staff Reports | Norma Lopez |
| a. Update on the "To Know Better" Campaign and introduction of Program Coordinator | |
| b. Status of 2019 Hate Crimes Report | |
| c. California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO) Board 9/30 Event | |

7. Update from OC Chiefs and Sheriff	Chief Mike Hamel
8. OCSD Interfaith Council Update	Rabbi Rick Steinberg
9. Announcements from Commissioners	All Commissioners
10. Adjourn Commission Meeting	Michael Reynolds



Orange County Human Relations Commission

MISSION: Seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and eliminate those causes

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: AUGUST 2020

FY JUL 20 - JUN 21 Commission Activities Matrix		
CONTRACT ACTIVITY	Goal	To-Date
A. Monthly HRC meetings	12	2
B. HRC Annual Report	1	0
C. Police-Community Reconciliation cases	20	5
D. Community-Police Meetings	4	1
E. Chief's Advisory Boards & Sherriff's Interfaith Council	8	3
F. Community Outreach & Relationship Building meetings	40	15
G. Police/Diverse Community Dialogues	2	0
H. Hate Crime Report & Network Meeting	1	0
I. Support to hate crime victims	8	23
J. Outreach efforts (speeches, presentations, etc.)	10	1
K. Community training on intergroup relations topics	4	1
L. Annual Awards program	1	0
M. Participate in community-based/outreach symposiums	2	0

Police-Community Relations

- Commission supported Tustin PD in hosting a virtual police-community meeting to speak about COVID-19 health guidelines & current PD-Community tensions.
- Commission Director facilitated OC Sheriff's Interfaith Advisory Council this month revisiting purpose and mission to plan for future of the Council.

Intergroup Relations & Relationship Building

- **Hate-motivated incidents, Community Conflict, & Crisis Response/Meetings**
 - A total of 14 hate-motivated events reported this month (5 - Hate Crimes & 9-Hate Incidents of which 1 was COVID-related).
 - Commission staff facilitated a dialogue between OCSD staff and Sandra Robbie to discuss a hate incident report submitted last October involving nooses & gallows in someone's front yard.
- **Relationship Building, Outreach, & Presentations**
 - Commission staff presented hate activity data and COVID-19 hate trends on webinar series educating folks on impact and how to respond to hate in their communities (approx. 43 attendees).
 - Commission Director is helping CAHRO board plan for another virtual convening for HRCs across CA on September 30th to network and share project ideas.
 - Commission staff continues to attend and support the Interfaith Taskforce meetings.



2019 Hate Crimes Report

A report from the County of Orange



A Message from the Chair of the OC Human Relations Commission

Orange County is one of America's most diverse counties, and the opportunities to enrich and expand our cultural awareness and appreciation are within grasp. According to U.S. Census estimates, roughly 3.2 million people call Orange County home. Consider some general facts about our County's make-up:

- Roughly 30% of Orange County's population is foreign-born.
- Over 40% of Orange County residents speak a language other than English at home, including roughly 25% who speak Spanish.
- There are over 80 faiths practiced in Orange County.

The Orange County Human Relations Commission believes our diversity, anchored to common values of tolerance, respect and goodwill, enhances our county's social fabric, and we should celebrate the richness and abundance it brings.

Unfortunately, hate crimes and incidents still occur in our county. Individuals have been targeted because of their actual or perceived race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion or some other aspect of their being.

Comparing 2018 to 2019, hate incidents dropped from 165 to 156, but hate crimes increased by over 20%, from 67 to 83. While some might say this is not a vast problem in a county of over 3 million residents, it is estimated only a small fraction of hate crimes and incidents are actually reported to law enforcement.

We cannot allow fear, hatred and bigotry to divide us. We must listen to one another, communicate respectfully, build bridges of understanding, and support each other through these traumatic events. Let us send the message that when our neighbors are attacked because of who they are, how they worship, or whom they love, we will denounce it loudly and stand against it fiercely. We believe ALL people should live free from harassment, discrimination and violence based on race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, disability or other fundamental aspects of their being.

In publishing this annual Hate Crime Report, we are confronted by the fact that hate crimes continue to rise. We can – and we must – do better. It is our hope that this report will inform ongoing conversations in different spaces about the need to support hate victims and, as a community, to commit to treat one another as we individually would want to be treated.

For the Commission, I am,



Michael Reynolds, Chair
Orange County Human Relations Commission

What are hate crimes and hate incidents?

What is a hate crime?

In California, the legal definition of a **hate crime** under California Penal Code 422.6 is defined as a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the actual or perceived characteristics of a person's disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group of persons with one or more of the preceding actual or perceived characteristics.

What is a hate incident?

A **hate incident** is behavior motivated by hate or bias toward a person's actual or perceived disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation but is not criminal in nature. Typically, these behaviors are protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of expression. If this type of behavior escalates to threats, is carried out against a person or property, or becomes an incitement to commit violence, it would be classified as a hate crime.

A HATE CRIME OR HATE INCIDENT MAY HAVE OCCURRED IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING IS PRESENT:

- There was a perception that the victim was targeted because of their race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, etc.
- The perpetrator wrote or spoke in a manner indicating bias.
- The date of the incident or crime coincides with a date of significance to the victim's religion, nationality, ethnicity, etc.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM VICTIMIZED?

- Contact law enforcement immediately to file a report.
- Obtain medical attention if needed. Be sure to keep all medical documentation.
- Leave all evidence in place. Do not touch, remove and/or clean up anything.
- Document what happened by taking photographs of the evidence and writing down exactly what was said, particularly any words indicating bias, motivation, and other valuable information.
- Get the name(s), address(es) and phone number(s) of other victim(s) and witness(es).
- If possible, write down a description of the perpetrator and the perpetrator's vehicle.
- Find support from friends and family, and seek professional help if needed.
- Report the occurrence to the OC Human Relations Commission at 714-480-6580.

To report a hate crime, call 714-480-6580
You can also report online at www.ochumanrelations.org/hatecrime

Hate Crimes in Orange County: Upward Trend Continues

Methodology

The 2019 Hate Crimes Report is intended to inform all residents of the human relations climate in Orange County. The Orange County Human Relations Commission received reports from 19 law enforcement agencies, 24 education institutions, and five community-based organizations. Duplicates are eliminated, and reports are verified to meet the criteria of the legal definition of a hate crime in the California penal code. This report also includes hate incident data, which helps identify red flags for trends and potential hate crimes. The statistics help inform and bring awareness to the general public, school administrations, law enforcement agencies, and elected officials. Hate crime and hate incident reports received are voluntary and confidential, which may result in limited categorical data labeled as “unknown” for this report.

Hate Crime Reports Continue to Rise

In Orange County, 83 hate crimes were reported in 2019, a 24% increase from 2018. This is the largest jump in hate crime activity in the last five years. The increase of hate crimes reported in Orange County differs from the California Department of Justice’s 2019 Hate Crime Report, which shows an 8.3% decrease in hate crime events. The Orange County data includes hate crime reports from several educational institutions, which are not reflected in the Attorney General’s report.

Main Motivation for Hate Crimes in 2019 – Race / Ethnicity / National Origin

The most frequently reported cases of hate crime were motivated by targets of Race, Ethnicity and/or National Origin (47%) followed by Religion (28%), Sexual Orientation (18%), Gender Identity (5%), and Disability (1%). Cases labeled “Unknown” (5%) are also included due to reporting parties providing limited categorical data.

Of the 47% of hate crime cases motivated by Race, Ethnicity, and/or National Origin, 53% were driven by Anti-Black sentiment, followed by Anti-Hispanic (30%) and Anti-Asian (17%), as seen in Figure 1 on page 4.

Of the 28% of hate crime cases motivated by Religion, the Jewish community was the primary target at 52% followed by Catholics, Christians, and Muslims (14% combined), as seen in Figure 2 on page 4.

Of the hate crime cases reported motivated by Sexual Orientation (18%) and Gender Identity (5%), 78% of the cases were Anti-Gay followed by Anti-Female (11%) and Anti-Transgender (11%), as seen in Figure 3 on page 4.

Hate Crime by Location & Offense

In 2019, most hate crimes took place in Public Places (37%) followed by Places of Worship (18%), Residences (17%), School Campuses (13%), Work/Businesses (12%), and Jail/Detention Centers (4%).

The most-reported hate-based criminal offense was Vandalism (44%) followed by Aggravated Assaults (22%), Simple Assaults (13%), Criminal Threats (9%), Harassment (5%), Theft (4%), Assault and Battery (3%), and Arson (1%).

Hate Crime Graphs

Figure 1

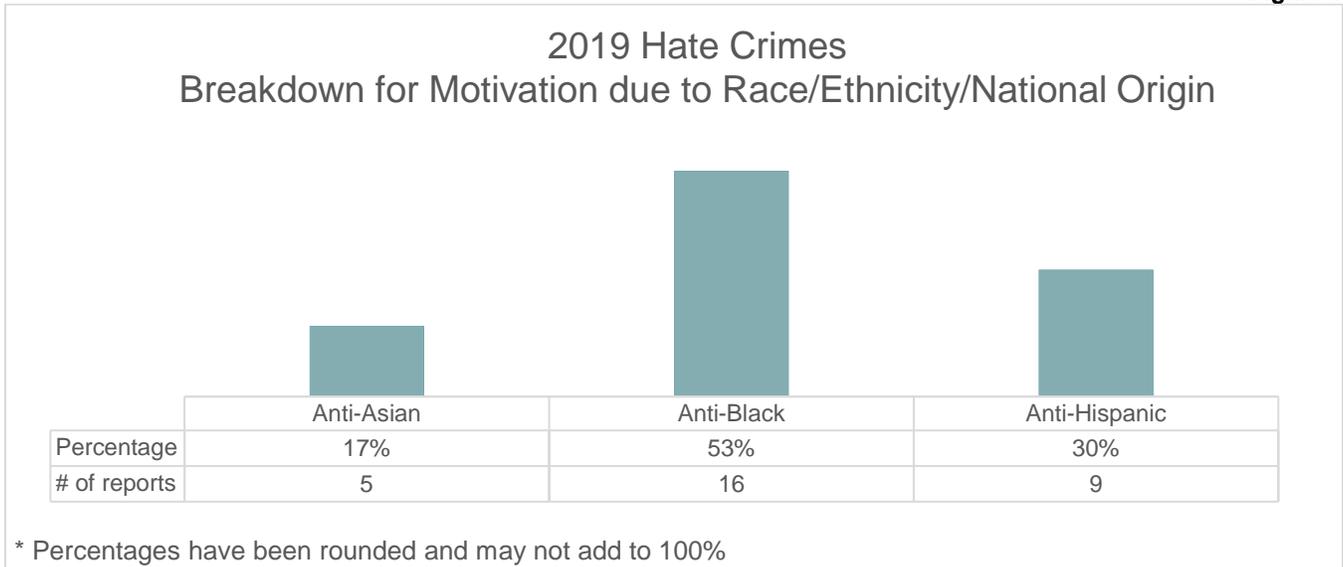


Figure 2

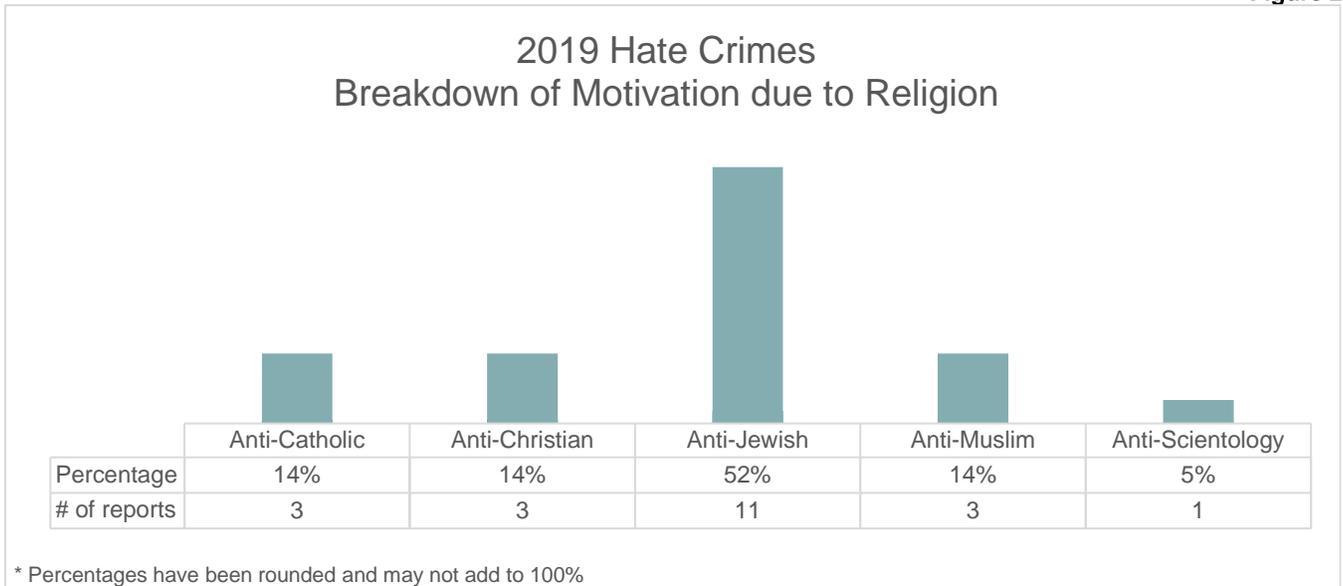
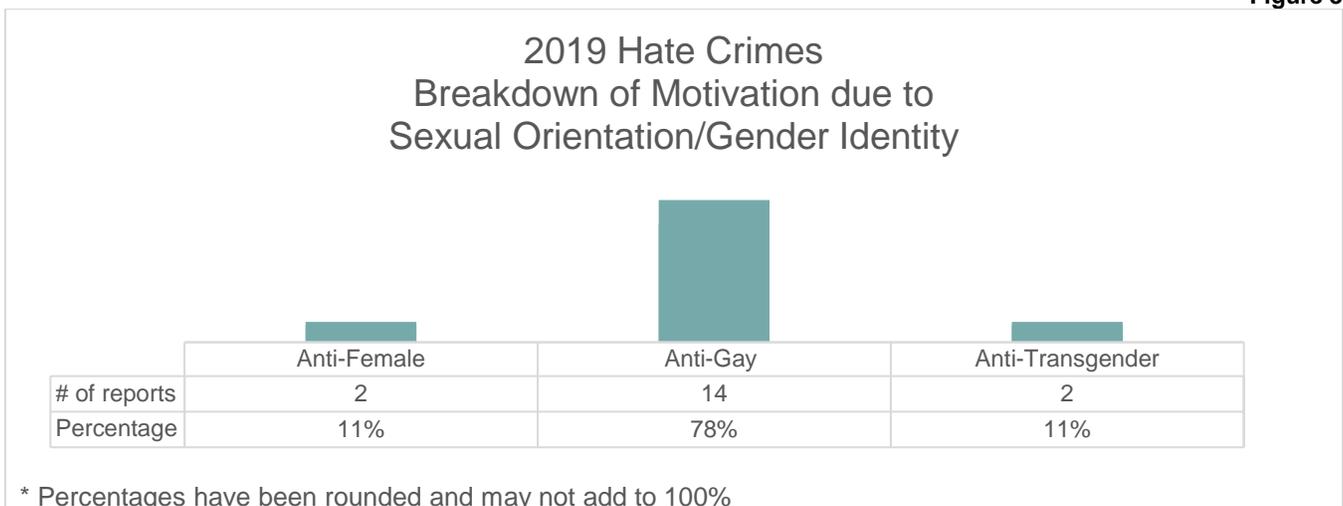


Figure 3



Hate Incidents: Slight Decrease Indicated

Hate Incident Reports Slightly Decrease

In Orange County, a total of 156 hate incidents were reported in 2019, a 6% decrease from last year. Hate incidents are notoriously underreported for a variety of reasons. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are up to 260,000 hate events that go unreported annually nationwide. Hate incidents are integral pieces of information offering a bigger picture, ascertaining specific red flags, and identifying trends in hate activity that may need to be addressed as a community.

Main Motivators for Hate Incidents

The main motivation for hate incidents was Religion (44%) followed by Race/Ethnicity/National Origin (39%), Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity (15%), and 2% targeted for more than one motive.

Similar to our hate crime data, of the 44% of hate incident cases motivated by Religion, the Jewish community was the primary target at 65% followed by the Muslim community (31%), as seen in Figure 4 on page 6.

Of the 39% of hate incident cases motivated by Race/Ethnicity/National Origin, 51% were Anti-Black followed by Anti-Hispanic (13%) and Anti-Multiple Races (13%), as seen in Figure 5 on page 6.

Of the hate incident cases reported motivated by Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity, 68% of the cases were Anti-Gay (68%) followed by Anti-Female (14%), Anti-Lesbian (9%), and Anti-LGBT in general (9%).

Hate Incidents by Location & Offense

In 2019, the highest hate incidents reported were Harassment and Hate Speech (74%) followed by Vandalism (21%), Simple Assault (3%), and Aggravated Assault (2%).

In 2019, the top location for hate incidents was at School Campuses (44%) followed by Work/Business (23%), Public Area (15%), Private Property (7%), Phone/Online (7%), and Place of Worship (3%).

A breakdown of where hate incidents mostly occurred on campuses is displayed in Figure 6 on page 6, which shows 41% reported in high schools, 25% in middle schools, 19% in colleges/universities, and 15% in elementary schools.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), students experiencing hate crimes or hate incidents are at increased risk for lower academic achievement as they tend to skip school and are more likely to drop out (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019). Studies show there is a link between school safety and students' academic performance. The effects of hate incidents and hate crimes are widespread. Along with the immediate and long-term effects on the victims, it also has longitudinal effects on the offenders, educators, parents, and school climates (Concordia University, 2016).

Hate Incident Graphs

Figure 4

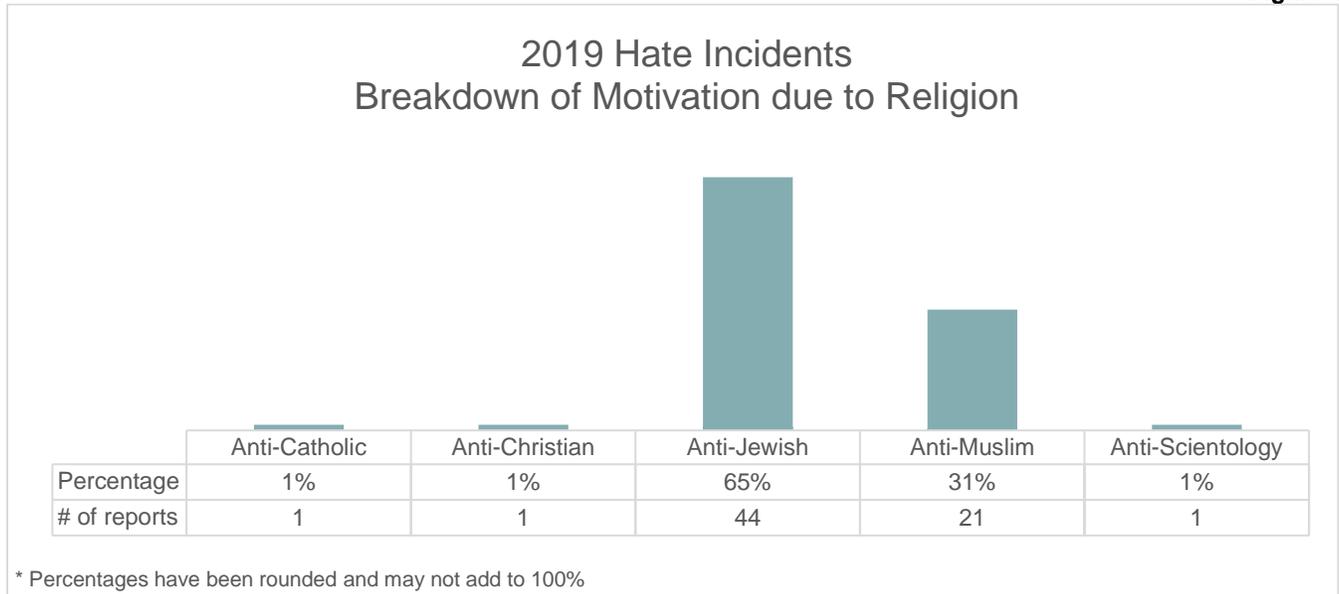


Figure 5

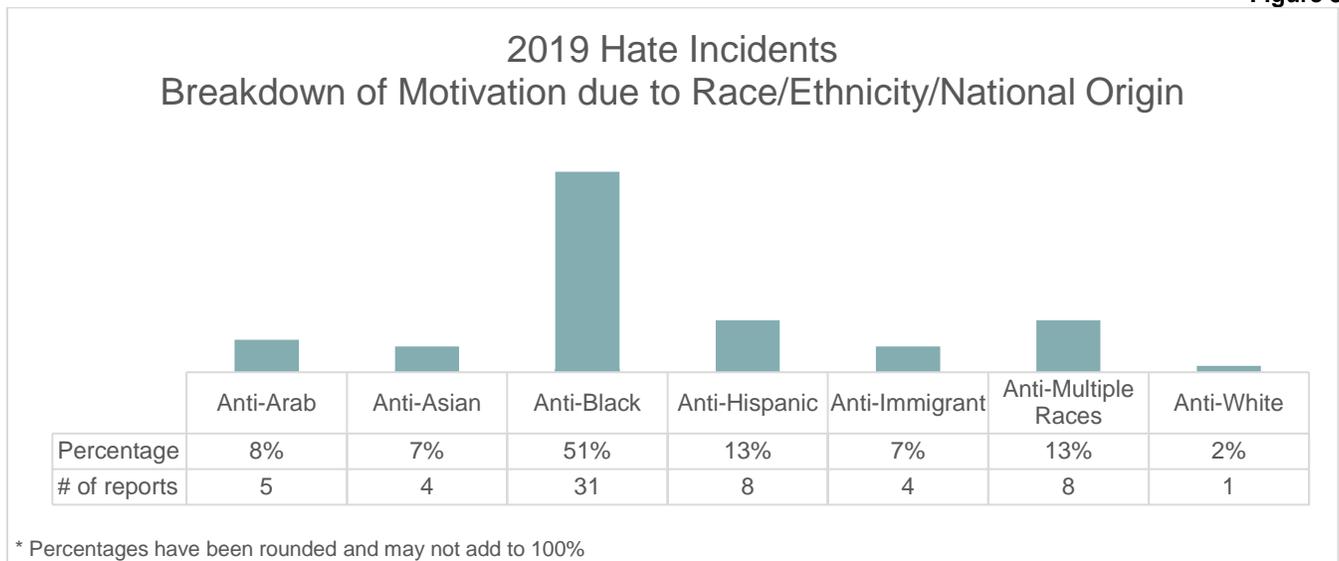
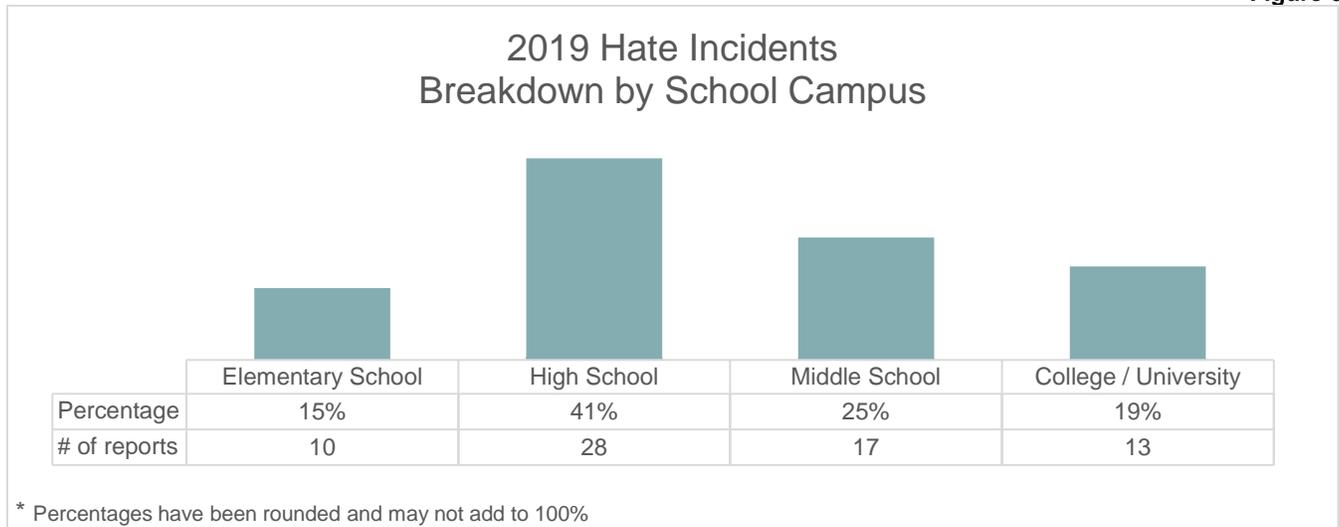


Figure 6



OC District Attorney Summary of Hate Cases for 2019



Each year, the Orange County District Attorney's Office ("OCDA") is responsible for reviewing possible hate crimes to determine whether any criminal charges, hate crime or otherwise, should be filed. These cases are submitted to the OCDA by local law enforcement agencies after an investigation by the agency and identification of a possible suspect. All prosecutors are instructed to proactively look for hate crime elements in submitted cases and alert the Special Prosecutions Unit, where specially assigned deputy district attorneys review these cases. The filing decision is guided by the state of the evidence and the standard of whether criminal charges can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

In 2019, the OCDA received 30 such cases for consideration and filed charges on 18 of them, while eight of the cases were rejected outright and four were pending the completion of additional investigation. Thirteen of the filed charges included hate crime charges. The cases referred for filing consideration included crimes motivated by bias against race, religion, and sexual orientation. In each of the 13 filed cases that included a hate crime, the charged defendant was convicted of or still faces hate crime charges. There is no "standard" sentence for a hate crime, as each case is reviewed on its own merits for a variety of factors including victim input. In 2019, convicted hate crime defendants received sentences ranging from probation to five years in state prison. Although a case may not resolve in the same year it was filed, a look at a given calendar year's statistics may show trends of increased awareness and reporting.

From 2014-2018, the OCDA saw an increase in the number of hate crimes reported to police agencies that were subsequently reviewed by prosecutors for filing of potential hate crime charges. In particular, the 30 cases received in 2019 and the 32 cases received in 2018 are substantially higher than the 17 cases received in 2017 and the 12 cases received in 2016. A look at multi-year data helps to demonstrate the increased awareness and recognition of hate crimes by both the public and our local law enforcement agencies. The OCDA looks forward to continued reasonable and fair prosecutions in 2020, with the help of Orange County's law enforcement agencies, outreach groups, and community members.

REPORTING AGENCIES

Organizations:

Anti-Defamation League
Council on American Islamic Relations
Waymakers,
OC Human Relations
Orange County Human Relations Commission

Education Institutions:

Brea Olinda Unified School District
Centralia Elementary School District
Fountain Valley School District
Fullerton Joint Union High School
Fullerton School District
Garden Grove Unified School District
Huntington Beach City School District
Huntington Union High School District
Los Alamitos Unified School District
Magnolia School District
Newport Mesa Unified School District
Ocean View School District
Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District
Rancho Santiago Community College District
Savanna School District
Soka University
Westminster School District
Coast Community College
CSU Fullerton
Cypress College
Fullerton College
Irvine Valley College
Orange Coast College
UC Irvine

City Police Departments:

Anaheim
Brea
Buena Park
Costa Mesa
Cypress
Fountain Valley
Fullerton
Garden Grove
Huntington Beach
Irvine
Laguna Beach
Los Alamitos
Newport Beach
Orange
Santa Ana
Seal Beach
Tustin
Westminster

Orange County Sheriff's Department

Unincorporated areas of Orange County
Aliso Viejo
Dana Point
Laguna Hills
Laguna Niguel
Lake Forest
Laguna Woods
Mission Viejo
Rancho Santa Margarita
San Clemente
San Juan Capistrano
Stanton
Villa Park
Yorba Linda

Need Support?

The **OC Human Relations Commission** provides individuals who have been targeted by hate crimes and/or hate incidents with support and appropriate resources. All information, support, and services provided are confidential. Throughout the year, the Commission provides presentations and releases the annual Hate Crimes Report informing the Orange County community on hate crimes and hate incidents because of the impact it has on the victims and society.

Victim Witness Assistance

Help is available in the form of:

- Support in communicating with law enforcement, the court, and other authorities
- Translation services for non-English speakers
- Informational resources and referrals
- Crisis intervention and counseling
- Orientation to the criminal justice system
- Emergency financial application assistance
- Support with property return, restitution assistance, filing compensation claims, temporary restraining orders, emergency transportation, and case status/disposition information

Other organizations that support and defend victims of hate crimes:

- ACLU of Southern California, Orange County Branch - (714) 450-3962
- Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Orange County/Long Beach Region - (949) 679-3737
- California Department of Fair Employment & Housing (DFEH) - (800) 884-1684 or (800) 700-2320
- California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board - (800) 777-9229
- Council on American-Islamic Relations, Southern California (CAIR) - (714) 776-1847
- Dayle McIntosh Center - (714) 621-3300
- Fair Housing Council of Orange County - (714) 569-0823
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Victim Assistance Program - (714) 542-8825
- Japanese American Citizens League (Pacific South West Chapter) - (213) 626-4471
- National Association for the Advancement of Color People of Orange County (NAACP) - (714) 543-3637
- OC Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) - (714) 636-9095
- Office of the Orange County District Attorney - (714) 834-3600
- Office of Victim Services, California Attorney General - (877) 433-9069
- Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) - (714) 997-8047
- Sikh Council California - 1-877-CALSIKH
- Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) - (334) 956-8200
- LGBTQ Center OC - (714) 953-5428
- U.S. Department of Justice's Office Hate Crime Suppression Unit - (213) 580-3358
- U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime - (800) 851-3420
- Waymakers - (949) 975-0488

County of Orange Board of Supervisors:

Michelle Steel, Chairwoman, Second District
Andrew Do, Vice Chairman, First District
Donald P. Wagner, Supervisor, Third District
Doug Chaffee, Supervisor, Fourth District
Lisa A. Bartlett, Supervisor, Fifth District

County of Orange Staff

Frank Kim, County Executive Officer
Dylan Wright, Director, OC Community Resources
Renee Ramirez, Director, OC Community Services

OC Human Relations Commission Members:

Michael Reynolds, Chair
Dr. Kerry Reynolds, Vice-Chair
Jo-Anne Matsuba
Chief Mike Hamel
M. Fareed Farukhi
Jany Lee
Jennifer Wang
Dr. Adeline Nyamathi
Amy Buch
Rabbi Richard Steinberg

This report was produced on behalf of the County of Orange, OC Human Relations Commission through a contract with the OC Human Relations Council.



OC Human Relations Commission

1300 S. Grand Ave. Bldg. B, Santa Ana, CA 92705

occommunityservices.org/human-relations-commission

“Seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance and attempt to eliminate those causes”