



# U.S. Department of Justice Understanding and Addressing Hate Crimes

## What is a hate crime?

A hate crime (or bias-motivated crime) is a criminal offense motivated by someone's actual or perceived bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.

## 2020 Hate Crime Single-Bias Incidents – by Bias Category

Race/  
Ethnicity  
/Ancestry

61.8%

### Hate Crimes Statistics

Hate crime incidents reported to the FBI increased by 13% in 2020. The gap between the number of hate crimes committed and those reported continues to rise.

### Hate Crimes Laws

As of 2021, 48 states, plus the District of Columbia, have hate crime laws. Federal hate crime laws apply to all U.S. states and territories.

Sexual  
Orientation

20.0%

Religion

13.3%

Gender  
Identity

2.7%

Disability

1.4%

Gender

0.7%

Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer, 2020 Hate Crime Statistics

## U.S. Department of Justice Support



### Investigations

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

[www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)

### Prosecutions

Civil Rights Division (CRT)

[www.justice.gov/crt/hate-crimes-prosecutions](http://www.justice.gov/crt/hate-crimes-prosecutions)

U.S. Attorney's Offices (USAO)

[www.justice.gov/usao](http://www.justice.gov/usao)

### Conflict Mediation and Training

Community Relations Service (CRS)

[www.justice.gov/crs](http://www.justice.gov/crs)

### Community Policing Training and Support

Community Oriented Policing Services  
(COPS Office)

[www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)



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## What to do when a Hate Crime occurs



### Get immediate help

Dial 9-1-1



### Report the hate crime to local police and your local FBI office:

[www.fbi.gov/cpntact-us/field-offices](http://www.fbi.gov/cpntact-us/field-offices)



### Seek out additional resources such as Community Relations Service (CRS) or Office for Victims of Crime

[www.justice.gov/crs](http://www.justice.gov/crs)

[www.ovc.gov/welcome.html](http://www.ovc.gov/welcome.html)

## Helpful Actions an Individual Can Take

Recognize hate crimes and incidents



Don't hesitate to report to police and FBI



Utilize local and federal resources for support



Build strong relationships with law enforcement



## Community Responses to Hate Crimes

