

Hate Crime

What is a Hate Crime?

A criminal offence against a person or property is considered a hate crime when there is evidence that the offence was motivated by hate, based on the victim's: race, ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or other similar factors.

Hate crime can involve "intimidation, harassment, physical force or threat of physical force against a person, a group or a property". The victims are targeted for who they are, not because of anything they have done.

Victims of hate crimes report a greater emotional impact such as sustained anger, depression, anxiety and fear, than victims of other crimes.

In Canada

The Criminal Code of Canada recognizes four specific offences as 'hate crime' :

- advocating genocide
- public incitement of hatred
- willful promotion of hatred
- mischief in relation to religious property

If a crime is motivated by hate this is taken into account during sentencing, which can increase the length of the sentence given to the offender.

Trends

Men commit most hate crimes. In 2012, more than 8 in 10 persons (84%) charged by police with hate crimes were male. (Statistics Canada, 2014)

Hate crimes are highest among those under 25 as both victims (40%) and offenders (57%).

Mischief accounted for half of all police reported hate crimes in 2012.

In 2012, most hate crimes were non-violent. Violence accounted for slightly less than one third (31%) of hate crimes. (Statistics Canada 2014)

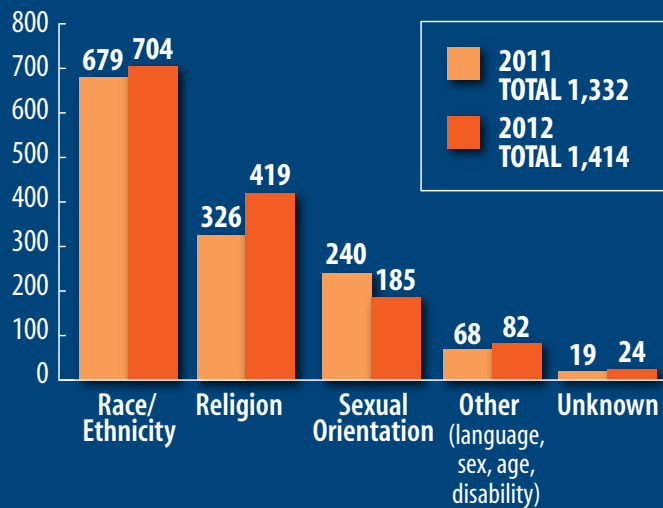
However, two-thirds of hate crimes that are based on sexual orientation are violent.

Over 50% of persons who are victims or perpetrators of hate crimes based on sexual orientation are males under 25.

Victims of hate crimes based on religion tend to be older (over 35).

Understanding the Issue

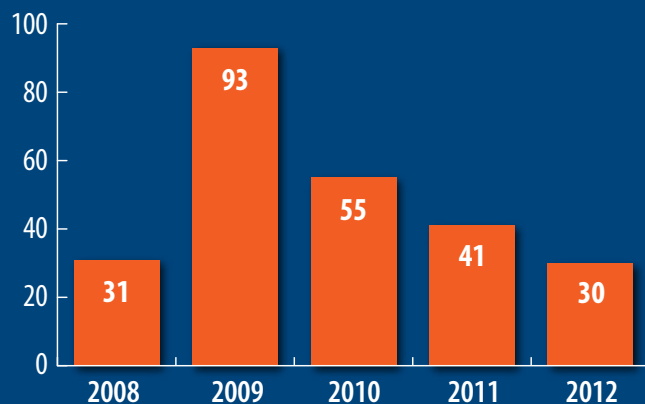
Police Reported Hate Crime (Canada)



Hate crime statistics in Canada are difficult to interpret. According to the General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization only about 1/3 of hate crimes are reported to police. This is consistent with underreporting of other crimes. Most commonly, hate crimes that are reported are related to mischief.

Hate crime reports are also subject to variances in classification. What one police service may classify as a hate crime another may not. Caution should be used when comparing hate crime statistics across municipalities unless there is certainty that police services are very similar in how they classify hate crimes.

Police Reported Hate Crime (Local)



"Hate crime not only harms the victims, it also injects fear in all those who belong to the same group as the victims and in that it has a big effect on the fabric of our societies."

Morten Kjaerum, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

What Can You Do?

- Speak of diversity as an asset.
- Be an ally to those who might become or have been a victim of a hate crime.
- Become familiar with how the law defines hate crime.
- Don't suffer in silence. Often victims of a hate crime have experienced discrimination in their past that make the experience of hate crime victimization even more traumatic.
- Know that there are local supports available to provide information on services and resources.
- Report it when you see it.
- If you see it on property, do not touch anything until police have examined the scene for evidence. The responding officer will inform you of further steps.
- Businesses should be familiar with local bylaws for clean up. Some municipalities have a time limit for removal.

Reporting a Hate Crime

To report a crime in progress or if there is an immediate threat to safety **call 9-1-1**.

If there is NOT an immediate concern for your safety, call 519-653-7700.

Waterloo Regional Police Service

www.wrps.on.ca

Local Support

Immigration Partnership Waterloo Region

www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca

Waterloo Region Rainbow Coalition

www.yourwrrc.ca



519-883-2304

www.preventingcrime.ca

