



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION
MEMORANDUM

TO: Human Relations Commission

FROM: James R. Latta, L.C.S.W., Human Services Administrator 

DATE: November 15, 2012

SUBJECT: Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations 2011 Hate Crime Report

The following report is provided to the Human Relations Commission as an information item. No action is requested or required. Please note: In prior years, the Commission received hard copies of the annual report. This year, the report was distributed electronically. For the complete report including hate crime maps, graphs and tables, go to www.lahumanrelations.org. The Commission will receive a copy of the report via email prior to the meeting. To request an email copy, contact the Office of Human Services at 310-285-1006.

In October 2012, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) released its annual examination of hate crimes reported throughout Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations is one of the oldest and largest agencies of its kind in the United States. The Commission works to foster harmonious and equitable intergroup relations, empower communities and institutions, engage in non-violent conflict resolution and promote an informed and inclusive multicultural society.

The findings for 2011 show that after falling dramatically three years in a row, the number of hate crimes rose from 427 to 489, a 15% increase over the previous year. However, the annual total is still the second lowest recorded during the past 22 years.

All major categories of hate crimes increased: both race/ethnicity/national origin crimes and sexual orientation crimes rose 13%, and religion-motivated crimes grew by 24%. Hate crimes reflecting white supremacist ideology rose from being 18 to 21% of all hate crimes.

LACCHR Executive Director Robin Toma noted that the 15% increase in hate crime was cause for concern, since it exceeded the increase in crime in general but added that the LACCHR was encouraged that across the board hate crimes based on race, sexual orientation, and religion were still among the lowest reported in the past two decades. Further, the decreases in gang involved hate crimes in the four areas targeted by the county's Gang Violence Reduction Initiative came at the end of multi-year efforts by law enforcement crack-downs on gangs with histories of racial violence, and by LACCHR and Los Angeles County agencies and partners to increase reentry, violence intervention, and community engagement.

About half of all hate crimes were racially-motivated. African Americans were targeted most frequently (60%), and a greater percentage of hate crimes were committed by gang members.

A quarter of all hate crimes was motivated by the sexual orientation of the victims. As in the past, the overwhelming majority (84%) targeted gay men. Homophobic crimes were more likely to be of a violent nature (71%) than either racial (54%) or religious crimes (20%).

Religion-motivated crimes constituted 18% of all hate crimes. Consistent with previous years, the overwhelming number, 77%, were anti-Jewish.

Although there were no hate-motivated murders in 2011, there was a case in which gang members attempted to murder three African American victims.

Hate crimes occurred throughout the variety of regions of Los Angeles County, but the largest numbers were concentrated in the San Fernando Valley followed by the Metro region (stretching from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights). When accounting for population, the Metro region had the highest rate of hate crimes followed by the Antelope Valley.