



## HATE CRIME STATISTICS - 2006

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## HATE CRIME STATISTICS 2006

In November 2007, the Federal Bureau of Investigation released the publication, *Hate Crime Statistics 2006*. Produced in compliance with the federal Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990, the publication has been released annually since 1992.

Hate crimes, also known as bias crimes, are criminal offenses committed against a person, property, or society that are motivated, in part or in whole, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity/national origin.

The report is based on data submitted to the FBI's hate crime statistics program through a standardized hate crime supplement to UCR and NIBRS reports. Nationally, 12,620 law enforcement agencies representing 85.2 percent of the nation's population participated in the hate crime reporting program in 2006.

The information contained in this report is subject to strenuous qualifiers. As the FBI report itself states, "Because motivation is subjective, it is difficult to know with certainty whether a crime was a result of the offender's bias." Law enforcement investigation must reveal with sufficient evidence to lead a person to conclude that the offender's actions were motivated in whole or in part by his or her bias. This uncertainty of identifying a crime based on bias is compounded by the newness of hate crime reporting and the limited number of law enforcement agencies participating in the program.

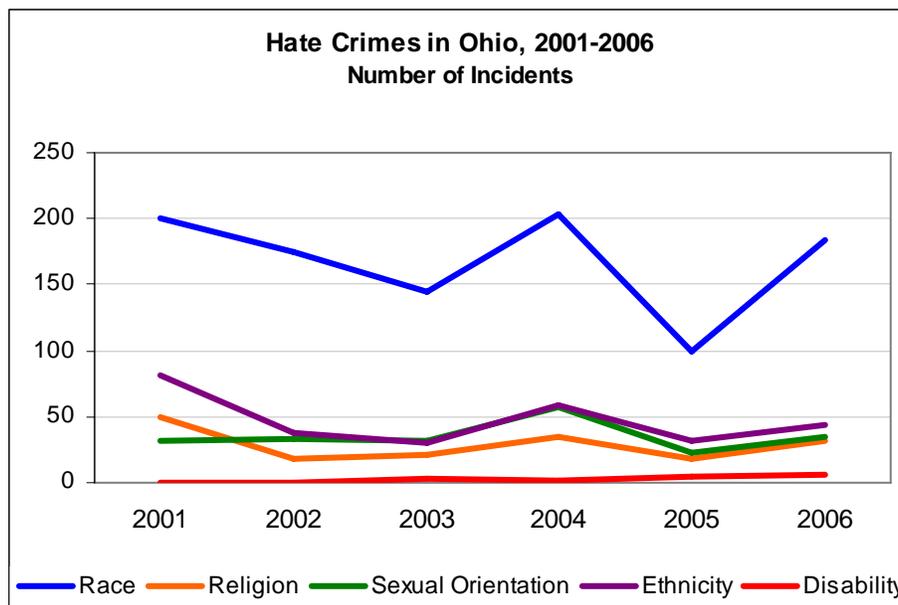
The following is a brief review of this year's report. Whenever available, Ohio statistics are reported, and may be supplemented by U.S. statistics.

### Hate crime reporting

- The number of Ohio law enforcement agencies who submitted the hate crime supplement increased from 443 in 2005 to 493 in 2006, an 11 percent increase.
- Of the 493 Ohio law enforcement agencies who submitted the hate crime supplement, 406 reported no incidents of hate crimes in their jurisdictions.
- The number of hate crime incidents reported by Ohio law enforcement has fluctuated drastically over the past several years. In 2006, 87 Ohio law enforcement agencies reported a total of 300 hate crime incidents, an increase of 70 percent over 2005, but still less than 353 incidents reported in 2004. Nationwide statistics show fluctuation as well, but on a much smaller scale than that shown in Ohio.
- The Ohio hate crime rate of 3.5 incidents per 100,000 population is above the national average of 3.0 incidents per 100,000 population.
- Nationwide, the majority of hate crime incidents, 52 percent, involved racial bias. The remaining incidents involved religion (19 percent), sexual orientation (15 percent), ethnicity/national origin (13 percent), and disability (1 percent).

In Ohio, 61 percent of hate crime incidents were related to race, followed by ethnicity/national origin (15 percent), religion (11 percent), sexual orientation (11 percent), and disability (two percent).

- Nationwide data on the specific types of racial bias show that 66 percent of such incidents were anti-Black and 22 percent were anti-White. Fifty-eight percent of ethnicity bias incidents (or 7 percent of all bias incidents) were anti-Hispanic.
- Nationwide data show that 66 percent of religious bias incidents were anti-Jewish, while 11 percent were anti-Islamic.
- Of the 87 Ohio law enforcement agencies reporting incidents of hate crime in their jurisdictions, Columbus accounted for 27 percent of all the reported incidents.
- Nationwide, 60 percent of all hate crime offenses<sup>1</sup> were crimes against persons. The majority of these offenses involved intimidation (46 percent), simple assault (32 percent) and aggravated assault (22 percent). There were three murders as a result of a hate bias.
- Nationwide, of the 40 percent of hate crime offenses committed against property, the overwhelming majority, 81 percent, involved destruction, damage, or vandalism.



<sup>1</sup> Offenses differ from incidents in that there may be multiple offenses, multiple victims, and/or multiple offenders within one hate crime incident.