



CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS 2024 HATE CRIMES AND HATE INCIDENTS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

June 27, 2024

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Chair & Commissioner

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Executive Summary

PURPOSE

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR), the City’s civil rights agency, is mandated to produce this annual report by the City’s Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Ordinance (Section 2-120-518 of the Municipal Code of Chicago). The report is intended as a summary of our work addressing hate crimes and hate incidents that occur within the City of Chicago. Its purpose is to inform the City Council and the public about the City’s initiatives for addressing the problem of hate crimes and hate incidents.

The report is comprehensive. The ordinance requires CCHR to provide hate crimes and hate incidents data organized by community area, bias motivation, type of incident, and disposition (to the extent known). It also requires CCHR to provide an overview of hate crimes and hate incidents from local, regional, and national perspectives; an overview of CCHR’s activities regarding hate crimes and hate incidents; plus, any findings and recommendations to reduce or eliminate hate crimes and hate incidents.

MAIN POINTS

Hate crimes and hate incidents are national and regional problems that also impact Chicago.

There is no universal definition of hate crimes or hate incidents, nor universal standards of measurement and reporting. Nevertheless, data from across the various national, regional and local jurisdictions indicates that recent years have seen record-high increases in reported hate crimes and hate incidents.

Global crises drive these increases. So do political partisanship and rhetoric, White nationalist propaganda, and online conspiracy theories.

Historically, African Americans, Jews, and LGBTQ+ victims have been targeted most often. The COVID-19 pandemic also saw Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders targeted like never before. Likewise, the increase in asylum-seekers and other migrants has accompanied record numbers of hate crimes and hate incidents against Latinx victims.¹

¹ CCHR recognizes that individuals use a wide variety of terms to refer to members of their own demographic group. (For example Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino/Latinx, Asian/Asian American/Asian American-Pacific Islander, etc.) This report cites a wide range of sources which use various terms. Some sources use different terms interchangeably, within the same document. In this report, CCHR cautiously uses various terms, as well. Often this is done in direct quotes or in alignment with sources. CCHR recognizes that language evolves, and opinions differ as to appropriate terms. It is not CCHR’s intent to endorse any term. We encourage the use of whatever terms are deemed appropriate by members of a given group.

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Now, the Israel-Hamas war is driving a sharp increase in antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crimes and hate incidents.²

Despite these increases, only a fraction of hate crimes get reported. The reasons for this are complex. People do not always recognize a hate crime when they experience one. Some fear retaliation. Others may not trust the police or the criminal justice system.

CCHR works with the Chicago Police Department (CPD) to handle the civilian side of hate crimes reported in Chicago. Our Hate Crime Victim Advocate helps victims cope with the aftermath. The advocate tracks their cases through the criminal justice system, accompanies victims to court and meetings with detectives, and provides referrals for other City or non-profit services.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's Administration is expanding the City's response to the epidemic of hate. In December, the City Council amended the City's Hate Crimes Ordinance for the first time in 30 years. Now, it includes non-criminal hate incidents. It also includes new data collection and reporting requirements, to increase transparency. This new data may lead to new approaches to address the problem of hate.

CCHR partnered with CPD to win a U.S. Department of Justice grant to create a community-based hate crimes reporting pilot program. This pilot program will operate in collaboration with several community-based organizations (CBOs). The CBOs will help with outreach to educate their communities about hate crimes. The initial cohort of CBOs who have agreed to partner with us on this initiative include: the Chicago Urban League; the Anti-Defamation League; the Howard Brown Health Center; Metropolitan Community Services; the Chinese American Service League; the Instituto del Progreso Latino; and North Side Community Resources.

They will serve as culturally competent spaces for victims to report hate crimes to police. The program will supplement 911 and 311 reporting options, but not replace those. CCHR and CPD intend for the program to enhance police/community relations, build trust, and facilitate the reporting of hate crimes that otherwise would have gone unreported.

CCHR engages in various other initiatives and programming designed to bring people from different demographic groups together to discuss and work on solutions. Last December,

² https://www.apstylebook.com/topical_most_recent This report cautiously refers to the present conflict as the 'Israel-Hamas war.' This is the term recommended by the Associated Press (AP), a not-for-profit news service. Their guidance is, "compiled from Associated Press coverage, AP experts and the AP Stylebook." The AP states that words to describe the present conflict, "should be chosen carefully to reflect respect for different perspectives on the conflict." The AP further states that they are, "calling the present conflict...a war, given the widespread and ongoing nature of military operations." CCHR acknowledges that opinions differ over the conflict and over the appropriate terms to use. It is not CCHR's intent to endorse any position or term. Our work depends on remaining neutral. We serve every demographic group within the City, and we partner with communities across the City to advance peace.

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we launched the *Think Before You Hate* campaign on buses and trains. We are following up with posters, fliers, and social media to drive traffic to our website. We expect that this will help promote the amended ordinance and pilot program, plus our other initiatives.

KEY EVENTS TIMELINE

CCHR Unity Brunch	January 2023
CCHR Unity Summit	July 2023
Award of DOJ Grant	October 2023
<i>Think Before You Hate</i> Ad Campaign	December 2023
Hate Crimes Ordinance Amended	December 2023
Annual Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Report	June 2024

Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Total Numbers:

Hate Crimes Data for All of 2023 and for January 1, 2024 to June 13, 2024

Total Hate Crimes by Year	
2023	2024 (Year-to-Date) ³
303	124

Hate Crimes by Bias Motivation		
Bias Motivation	2023	2024
Sexual Orientation	61	28
Religion	81	55
Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry	170	40
Disability	3	1
Gender Identity	11	5
Total	326	129

³ The 2024 hate crimes data was extracted from the CPD Hate Crimes Dashboard as of June 13, 2024.

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Hate Crimes by Bias Groups

	2023	2024
Anti-Jewish	50	50
Anti-Black	76	19
Anti-Gay (M)	36	18
Anti-Homosexual	19	9
Anti-Hispanic/Latino	28	7
Anti-Transgender	11	5
Anti-Other Race	17	2
Anti-Islamic/Muslim	16	3
Anti-Arab	5	2
Anti-Asian	11	4
Anti-Hindu	1	1
Anti-White	16	0
Anti-Multiple Religions/Groups	7	2
Anti-Lesbian	6	1
Anti-American Indian Alaskan Native	4	0
Anti-Other Religion	3	2
Anti-Mental Disability	2	1
Anti-Catholic	1	0
Anti-Eastern Orthodox	1	0

Type of Hate Crimes

	2023	2024
Arson	1	1
By Fire	1	1
Assault	87	24
Simple	66	20
Aggravated		
By Handgun	8	1
Other Dangerous Weapon	9	1
By Knife	3	0
Police Officer	1	0
Protected Employee		
Hands/Fists/Feet	0	2

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Battery		69	17
	Simple	52	11
	Aggravated		
	By Knife	3	2
	By Handgun	1	1
	Hands/Fists/Feet	2	1
	Other Dangerous Weapon	9	2
	Of a Senior Citizen	1	0
	Of a Child	1	0
Criminal Damage		40	37
	Criminal Defacement	17	20
	To Property	12	10
	To Vehicle	5	5
	Institutional Vandalism	3	2
	To State Supported Property	2	0
	To City of Chicago	1	0
	Supported Property		
Criminal Trespass		1	0
	To Land	1	0
Intimidation		7	2
		7	2
Other Offense		54	18
	Telephone threat	15	8
	Harassment By Electronic Means	24	6
	Harassment By Telephone	6	3
	Other Crime Against Person	9	1
Public Peace Violation		6	1
	Bomb threat	3	1
	Mob Action	2	0
	Reckless Conduct	1	0
Robbery		1	0
	Attempted Strong Arm No Weapon	1	0
Sex Offense		1	0
	Attempted Criminal Sexual Abuse	1	0
Theft		5	0
	\$500 and Under	5	0

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Traffic Crash	1	0
Minor Personal Injury Crash	1	0
Weapons Violation	1	0
Reckless Firearm Discharge	1	0
Non-Criminal	20	20
Non-Criminal Person	15	12
Non-Criminal Property	4	8
Found Property	1	

Hate Crimes by Community Area

	2023	2024
West Ridge	12	13
North Park	1	1
Edgewater	12	5
Uptown	9	7
Lake View	16	8
Irving Park	11	1
Portage Park	13	1
Hermosa	3	1
Austin	4	2
Near North Side	22	5
Near South Side	0	2
New City	1	1
Hyde Park	1	1
Englewood	1	1
West Elsdon	0	1
Chatham	4	3
Mount Greenwood	0	1
Riverdale	1	1
Rogers Park	19	11
Forest Glen	2	0
Ohare	4	2
Albany Park	4	1
Dunning	4	1
West Town	1	6
Lincoln Park	10	7
Loop	27	5
West Garfield Park	1	0

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North Lawndale	3	2
Armour Square	4	1
Bridgeport	4	0
Fuller Park	2	0
West Englewood	3	0
Chicago Lawn	5	0
Clearing	2	1
Greater Grand Crossing	4	0
South Shore	6	2
Roseland	1	0
Pulman	1	0
Washington Heights	3	0

Total Non-Criminal Hate Crimes by Year

2023	2024
24	20

Dispositions of Hate Crimes

	2023	2024
Bona Fide	290	123
Undetermined	10	1
Unfounded	15	0

Hate Incidents Data for January 1, 2024 to June 13, 2024

Total Hate Incidents by Year 2024 (Year-to-Date)

17

Hate Incidents by Bias Motivation⁴

Bias Motivation	2024
Sexual Orientation	5
Religion	6
Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry	6
Disability	2
Gender Identity	4
Undisclosed	1
Total	24

Hate Incidents by Bias Groups 2024

Anti-Jewish	5
Anti-Black	1
Anti-Gay (M)	1
Anti-Homosexual	0
Anti-Hispanic/Latino	0
Anti-Transgender	1
Anti-Other Race	0
Anti-Islamic/Muslim	0
Anti-Arab	1
Anti-Asian	0
Anti-Hindu	0
Anti-White	0
Anti-Multiple Religions/Groups	0
Anti-Lesbian	0
Anti-American Indian Alaskan Native	0
Anti-Other Religion	0
Anti-Mental Disability	0
Anti-Catholic	0
Anti-Eastern Orthodox	0

⁴ The number of Hate Incidents by Bias Motivation is greater than the total number of Hate Incidents by Year because some of the hate incidents reports indicated more than one bias motivation within the same incident. For example, one report identified both race and religion as motivating factors for the hate incident, another report identified gender identity and sexual orientation as motivating factors for the hate incident, and a third report identified gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability as motivating factors for the hate incident.

Undisclosed

8

Type of Hate Incidents⁵

2024

Defamation	1
Printed material	1
Offensive Communication	12
Electronic Means	2
Other	1
Printed material	6
Verbal	3
Undetermined	4

Hate Incidents by Community Area

2024

Avondale	0
Douglas	0
East Side	0
Englewood	0
Garfield Ridge	0
Humboldt Park	1
Irving Park	0
Lake view	2
Lincoln Park	1
Logan square	1
Loop	1
Montclare	1
Near North Side	2
Near West Side	0
North Center	0
North Park	1
Portage Park	0

⁵ The Type of Hate Incidents categories will be different from the Type of Hate Crimes categories. This is because 'crime' is a term of art in the law, so all crimes are named and defined either by state statute or city ordinance. The concept of 'incidents' is not a term of art, so there is no closed universe of types of incidents that may occur.

Rogers Park	0
South Chicago	1
South Shore	1
West Ridge	4
West Town	1

Dispositions of Hate Incidents⁶

	2024
Total Reported	114
Bona Fide	17
Undetermined	14
Unfounded	83

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chicago’s Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Ordinance mandates that this annual report should contain findings and recommendations to reduce or eliminate hate crimes and hate incidents. These may include an evaluation of City policies and procedures ensuring that hate crimes and hate incidents are comprehensively investigated, tracked, and reported; and that survivors receive assistance from City agencies, as appropriate.

To that end, the report makes the following recommendations:

- 1. Pass the proposed hate littering ordinance.
- 2. Review the staffing model in the CPD Civil Rights Unit for mission optimization.
- 3. Connect 311 hate incident reporters to the Mental Health System Expansion Initiative.
- 4. Implement Educational Programs for Youth to Address the Problem of Hate.

⁶ For Dispositions of Hate Incidents this report utilizes the three categories of dispositions utilized by the CPD Hate Crimes Dashboard (Bona Fide, Undetermined, and Unfounded). CPD makes those determinations with regard to hate crimes and the numbers presented here reflect CPD’s assessment of each reported hate crime. The hate incidents data referenced here comes from the 311 dashboard, which does not provide information regarding the dispositions. CCHR reviewed the facts alleged in each reported hate incident and categorized each accordingly.

Conclusion

President Joseph R. Biden said, “Any hate crime is a stain on the soul of America.”⁷

CCHR could not agree more. Hate crimes and hate incidents are a scourge to the nation, our state, our county and our beloved City of Chicago.

Regardless of how the data is measured, recorded, and reported across the various jurisdictions, there is a consensus that the numbers of hate crimes and hate incidents have gone up. Clearly, many of our family, friends, and neighbors feel threatened by hate, hate incidents, and hate crimes.

This is not a new problem.

Hatred is an ancient malady. It has plagued humanity from early on.

That is why it is mentioned in some of the oldest texts, and why it has been rejected by some of the world’s most time-tested scriptures.

The Jewish Torah forbids hate.⁸

So does the Buddhist Dhammapada.⁹

So does the Christian New Testament.¹⁰

So does the Islamic Quran.¹¹

⁷ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/10/16/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-hate-crime-statistics/> (On the release of the FBI’s 2022 Annual Hate Crimes Report)

⁸ Leviticus 19:17 (stating, “Thou shall not hate thy brother in thine heart.”)

⁹ Dhammapada Verse 5 (stating, “Hatred does not cease by hatred; hatred ceases only by love, this is the eternal law.”)

¹⁰ 1John 2:9 (stating, “Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.”)

¹¹ Quran (5:8) (stating, “Let not hatred of a people incite you not to act equitably.”)

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In one of his most famous sermons, *Loving Your Enemies*, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”¹²

Peace, equity, and prosperity depend on all good people, and all good governments, to remain vigilant, and to stand against the hate that festers in the world.

We all have a responsibility to do our part.

That is why Mayor Johnson stated publicly: “*Hate*...has no home in Chicago.”

This is not a passive statement. It is a call to action.

We at the Chicago Commission on Human Relations stand ready to oppose hate.

We hope that you will join us. Thank you.

¹² Delivered at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, on November 17, 1957.

Acknowledgement

Special thanks to the following City departments for their collaboration on this report:

Office of the Mayor

Chicago Department of Police and the Civil Rights Unit

311 Office of Emergency Management Communications

Chicago Department of Law

Chicago Department of Public Health

Intergovernmental Affairs