Hate Crime Statistics

Briefing prepared for the Virginia Advisory Committee, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights,
Panel 1: Hate Crime History in VA, Current Legal Framework, Enforcement and Data

Barbara Oudekerk, PhD
Bureau of Justice Statistics

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BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

2 Federal Sources of Data on Hate Crime

FBI's Hate Crime Statistics Program

- Part of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program

- Hate crime data compiled from law enforcement agencies since 1990s

Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)

- Nationally representative, household-based survey administered by the U.S. Census Bureau

- Hate crime data collected since 2003

Both sources define hate crime according to the **Hate Crime Statistics Act**

- Motivated by bias against the victim due to his or her race, ethnicity, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, religion or disability

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NCVS Definition of Hate Crime

Victim believes the victimization was a hate crime, and he or she was targeted due to:

- Race

- Ethnicity

- Religion

- Sexual orientation

- Disability

- Gender

- Association with a group identified by one of these characteristics *(e.g., multi-racial couple)*

- Offender's perception that the victim belonged to a group identified by these characteristics *(e.g., perceived as Jewish because at a synagogue)*

Victim has corroborating evidence of hate motivation:

- Offender used language that made them suspect the incident was a hate crime

- Offender left hate symbols -OR-

- Victim reported that the police investigation confirmed that a hate crime occurred

Includes hate crimes reported and NOT REPORTED to police
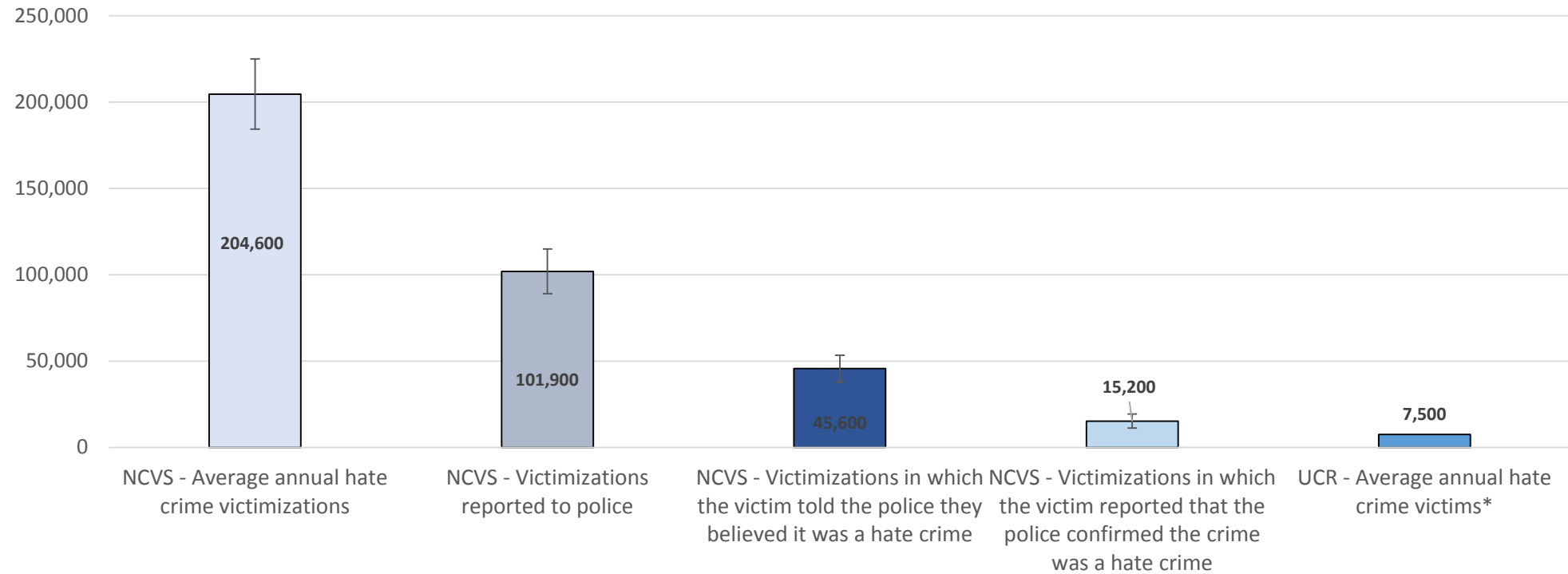
NCVS vs. FBI's UCR Hate Crime Statistics

Victimization Survey - NCVS

- Includes hate crime incidents and victimizations reported and not reported to police

- Based on victim perceptions and crime scene evidence; not necessarily recorded as hate-motivated by investigators

- Captures hate crimes against persons 12 or older

- Does not include businesses or organizations, institutionalized populations, or persons in military barracks

Police Data - UCR

- Based on law enforcement agency reports and classification

- Includes hate crime offenses, incidents, and offenders reported to police

- Includes homicide, arson, vandalism

- Captures offenses against all persons, regardless of age

- Captures hate crimes against organizations, businesses, institutions, schools, and religious facilities

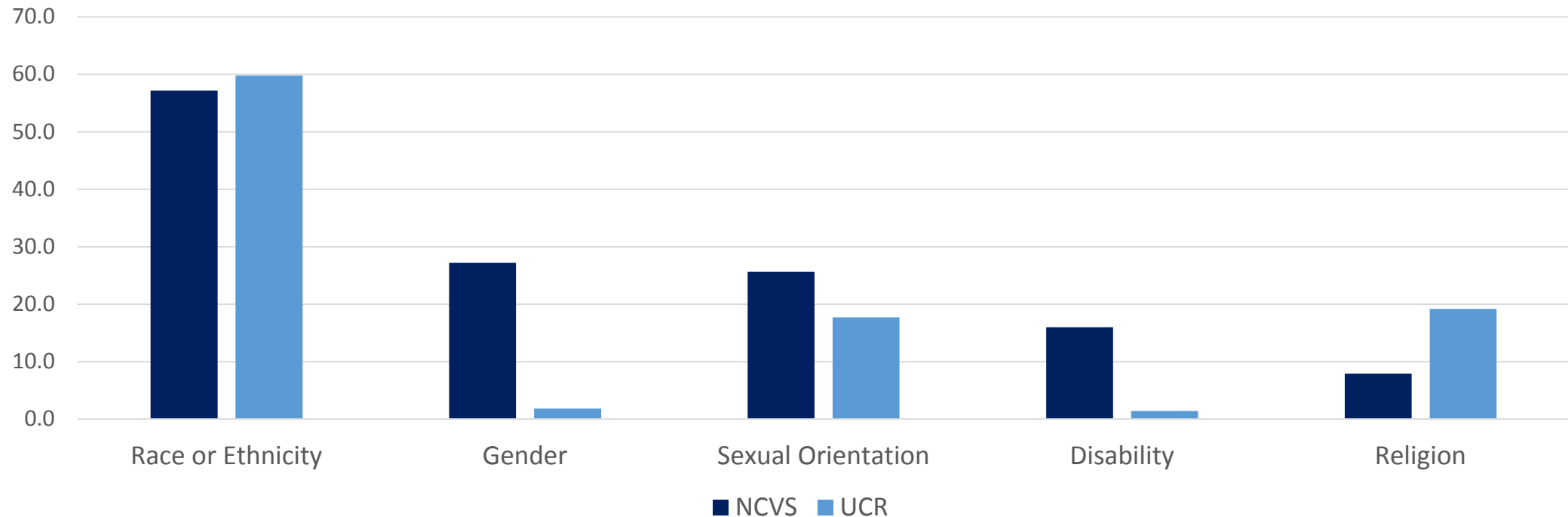# Figure 1. NCVS and UCR Hate Crime Statistics, 2013-2017

Note: In the NCVS, crime is classified as hate crime if the victim perceived that the offender was motivated by bias because the offender used hate language, left behind hate symbols, or the police investigators confirmed that the incident was a hate crime. Numbers rounded to the nearest 100. Error bars on NCVS estimates are based on 95% confidence levels. See appendix table 1 for standard errors.

*Includes victims who experienced murder/nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, other crimes against persons, robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, destruction/vandalism, other crimes against property, and crimes against society.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 2013–2017; and FBI, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, Hate Crime Statistics, 2013–2017.
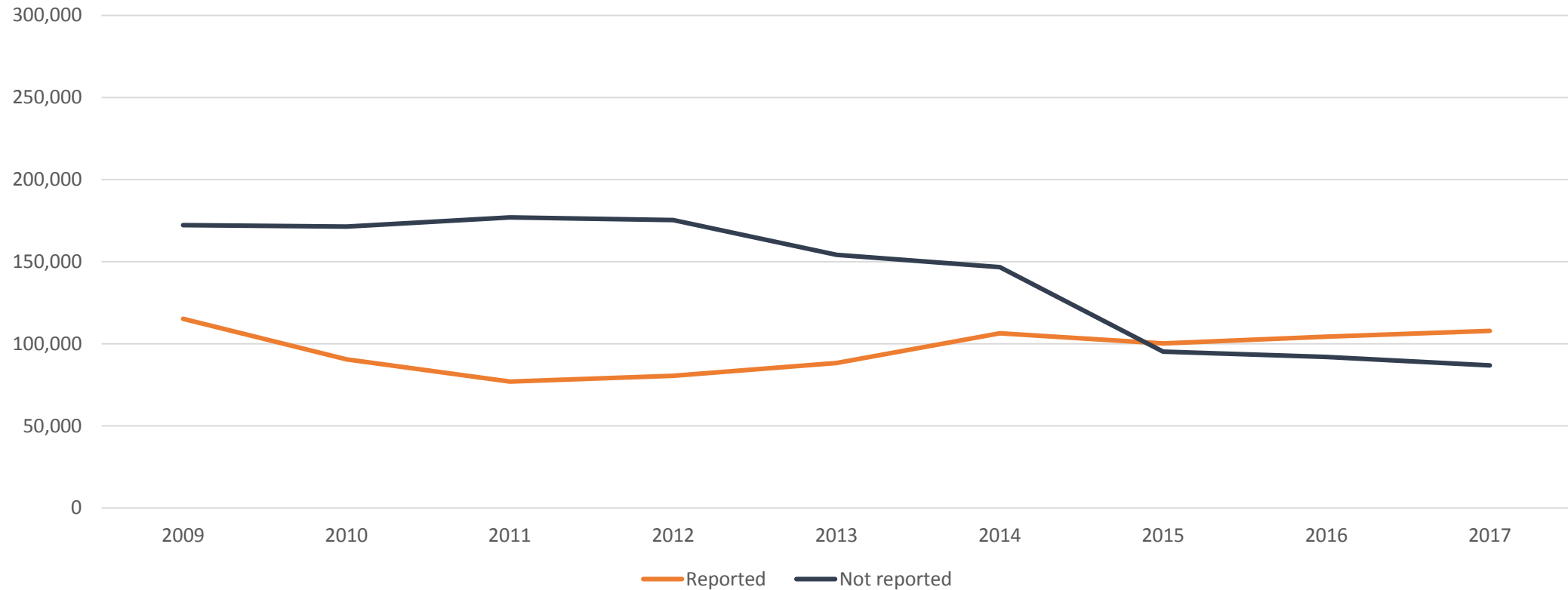
Figure 2. Percent of hate crime victimizations by type of bias in the NCVS and UCR, 2013-2017

Note: In the NCVS, hate crime includes incidents confirmed by police as bias-motivated and incidents perceived by victims to be bias-motivated because the offender used hate language or left behind hate symbols. Detail might not sum to total due to victims reporting more than one type of bias motivating the hate-related victimizations. In the UCR, hate crime includes victims of single-bias incidents who experienced murder/nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, other crimes against persons, robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, destruction/vandalism, other crimes against property, and crimes against society. About 1.5% of all hate crime victims reported multiple-bias incidents in the UCR. See appendix table 2 for estimates and standard errors.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 2013-2017; FBI, Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Hate Crime Statistics, 2013-2017.

Figure 3. Number of hate crime victimizations reported and not reported to police, 2009-2017

Note. Hate crime includes incidents confirmed by police as bias-motivated and incidents perceived by victims to be bias-motivated because the offender used hate language or left behind hate symbols. Estimates based on 3-year rolling averages. See appendix table 3 for estimates and standard errors.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2009-2017.

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Contact Information

Barbara Oudekerk, PhD
Statistician, Victimization Statistics
Barbara.a.oudekerk@ojp.usdoj.gov
202-598-0749

Appendix table 1. Estimates and standard errors for Figure 1 NCVS and UCR hate crime victimizations, 2013-2017

	Estimate	Standard error	95% confidence interval Lower bound	Upper bound
NCVS - Average annual hate crime victimizations	204,600	20,347	184,269	224,962
NCVS - Victimizations reported to police	101,900	12,954	88,991	114,899
NCVS - Victimizations in which the victim told the police they believed it was a hate crime	45,600	7,821	37,775	53,417
NCVS - Victimizations in which the victim reported that the police confirmed the crime was a hate crime	15,200	4,055	11,186	19,297
UCR - Average annual hate crime victims*	7,500	--		

Note: In the NCVS, crime is classified as hate crime if the victim perceived that the offender was motivated by bias because the offender used hate language, left behind hate symbols, or the police investigators confirmed that the incident was a hate crime. Numbers rounded to the nearest 100. Error bars on NCVS estimates are based on 95% confidence levels.
*Includes victims who experienced murder/nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, other crimes against persons, robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, destruction/vandalism, other crimes against property, and crimes against society.
-- Not applicable.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 2013–2017; and FBI, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, Hate Crime Statistics, 2013–2017.

Appendix table 2. Estimates and standard errors for Figure 2 Percent of hate crime victimizations by type of bias in the NCVS and UCR, 2013-2017

Type of bias	UCR[a]	NCVS[b]	NCVS 95% confidence interval	
			Lower bound	Upper bound
Race or ethnicity	59.8	57.2	53.3	61.1
Gender	1.8	27.2	23.8	30.6
Sexual orientation	17.7	25.7	22.4	29.0
Disability	1.4	16.0	13.3	18.7
Religion	19.2	7.9	6.0	9.8

[a]In the UCR, hate crime includes victims of single-bias incidents who experienced murder/nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, other crimes against persons, robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, destruction/vandalism, other crimes against property, and crimes against society. About 1.5% of all hate crime victims reported multiple-bias incidents in the UCR.

[b]In the NCVS, hate crime includes incidents confirmed by police as bias-motivated and incidents perceived by victims to be bias-motivated because the offender used hate language or left behind hate symbols. Detail might not sum to total due to victims reporting more than one type of bias motivating the hate-related victimizations.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 2013-2017; FBI, Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Hate Crime Statistics, 2013-2017

Appendix table 3. Estimates and standard errors for Figure 3 Number of hate crime victimizations reported and not reported to police, 2009-2017

		Estimates			Standard errors	
	Total	Reported	Not reported	Total	Reported	Not reported
2009	287,700 ‡	115,300	172,400 †	40,604	22,125	28,823
2010	261,800	90,500	171,400 †	36,801	18,402	27,817
2011	255,300	77,000	177,000 †	34,122	15,328	26,625
2012	268,000 ‡	80,500	175,400 †	31,156	14,159	23,498
2013	254,900	88,400	154,300 †	34,726	17,316	24,881
2014	266,000 ‡	106,500	146,700 †	28,919	15,896	19,558
2015	197,600	100,300	95,300	26,686	17,091	16,538
2016	200,100	104,400	92,100	26,607	17,564	16,234
2017*	197,700	107,900	86,900	24,008	16,366	14,306

Note. Hate crime includes incidents confirmed by police as bias-motivated and incidents perceived by victims to be bias-motivated because the offender used hate language or left behind hate symbols.

Estimates based on 3-year rolling averages.

*Comparison group.

‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2009-2017.

Appendix table 4. Percent of hate crime victimizations reported and not reported to police, 2009-2017

		Estimates			Standard errors	
	Total	Reported	Not reported		Reported	Not reported
2009	100 %	40.1 %†	59.9 %†		5.21 %	5.37 %
2010	100	34.5 †	65.5 †		5.08	5.31
2011	100	30.1 †	69.3 †		4.45	4.79
2012	100	30.0 †	65.4 †		3.97	4.36
2013	100	34.7 †	60.5 †		4.88	5.22
2014	100	40.0 †	55.2 ‡		4.10	4.25
2015	100	50.7	48.2		5.28	5.26
2016	100	52.2	46.0		5.37	5.32
2017*	100	54.6	44.0		4.96	4.88

Note. Detail might not sum to total due to missing data and rounding. Hate crime includes incidents confirmed by police as bias-motivated and incidents perceived by victims to be bias-motivated because the offender used hate language or left behind hate symbols. Estimates based on 3-year rolling averages.
*Comparison group.
‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.
†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statisics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2009-2017.