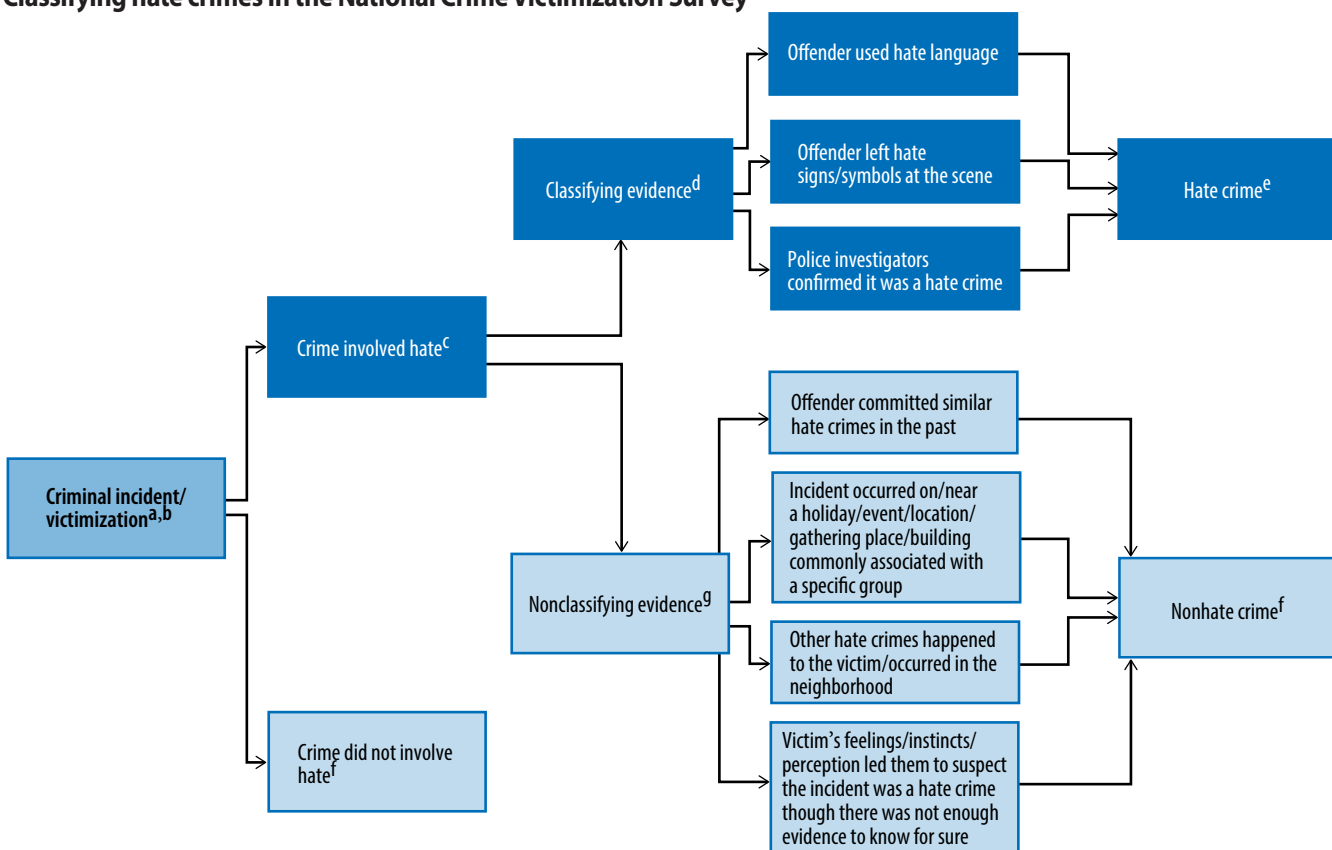


Classifying hate crimes in the National Crime Victimization Survey



^aThe National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) provides data on criminal incidents and criminal victimizations. An incident is a specific nonfatal criminal act involving one or more victims, whereas a victimization refers to a single victim or household that experienced a nonfatal criminal incident. Violent crimes in the NCVS include rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Personal larceny includes purse snatching and pick pocketing. Crimes against households (property crimes) include burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other theft.

^bNCVS data includes crimes reported and not reported to police. For crimes that are reported to police, police notification may occur during or immediately following a criminal incident or at a later date. In the NCVS, “police” includes municipal police departments, sheriff’s offices, and other state or local law enforcement agencies.

^cA nonfatal incident or victimization in which the victim suspected the offender’s motivation for committing the crime was based on bias against the victim’s characteristics or religious beliefs.

^dEvidence based on the victim’s report. At least one type of classifying evidence is needed to classify the crime as a hate crime in the NCVS, though a victim may report a mix of classifying and nonclassifying evidence. See footnote e for evidence types.

^eA nonfatal incident or victimization that police confirmed as bias-motivated, the victim perceived as bias-motivated because the offender(s) used hate language, or the victim perceived as bias-motivated because the offender(s) left behind hate symbols. At least one of these evidence types is needed to classify the crime as a hate crime. NCVS classifications of bias motivation rely on victim reports and include at least one of the following: bias against the victim’s race, ethnic background, or national origin; gender; association with people who have certain characteristics or religious beliefs; sexual orientation; disability; religion; and perceived characteristics or religious beliefs. A victim may report multiple bias motivations.

^fA nonfatal incident or victimization that was not motivated by bias against the victim’s characteristics or religious beliefs.

^gEvidence based on the victim’s report. If a victim reports only nonclassifying evidence of a bias motivation, the incident or victimization is not classified as a hate crime in the NCVS.

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