



Hate Crime Victimization, 2005–2019

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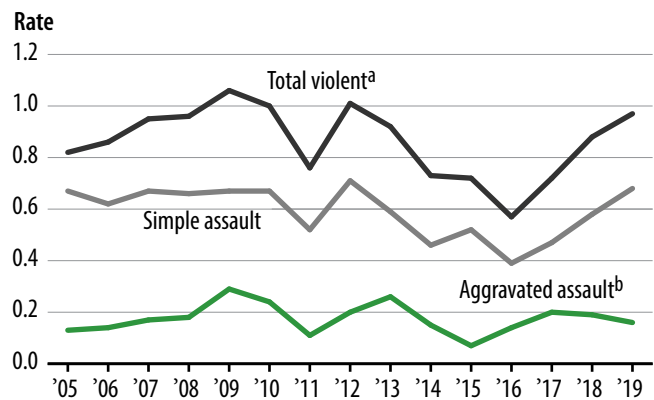
In 2019, the overall rate of hate crime victimizations involving nonfatal violence was 1.0 hate crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) (figure 1). During the 15-year period of 2005 to 2019, the rate of total violent hate crime victimizations fluctuated, ranging from about 0.6 to 1.1 per 1,000.^{1,2} The 2016 rate of violent hate crime victimizations (0.6 per 1,000) was lower than the rates in most years during the period. Between 2016 and 2019, this rate increased, reaching 1.0 per 1,000 in 2019. Despite the increase between 2016 and 2019, the 2019 rate was not significantly different from the 2005 rate (0.8 per 1,000).

Rates of hate crimes involving simple assault (0.7 per 1,000) and aggravated assault (0.2 per 1,000) in 2019 were not statistically different from the respective rates in 2005. Patterns for these crime types over the 15-year period were similar to those for total violent hate crime victimizations.

¹In this report, statistical significance is reported at both the 90% and 95% confidence levels for estimates based on the NCVS. See figures and tables for testing on specific findings.

²Nonfatal violent victimization in the NCVS includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault.

FIGURE 1
Rates of violent hate crime victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, 2005–2019



Note: Includes nonfatal incidents 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. Estimates are based on 2-year rolling averages centered on the most recent year (e.g., a 2005 estimate includes data for 2004 and 2005). See appendix table 2 for estimates and standard errors.

^aIncludes rape or sexual assault and robbery (not shown due to small numbers of sample cases), aggravated assault, and simple assault.

^bThe 2005 estimate for aggravated assault should be interpreted with caution as it is based on 10 or fewer sample cases or has a coefficient of variation greater than 50%.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005–2019.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2019, there were 1.0 violent hate crime victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.
- Hate crime victimizations accounted for 1.6% of all nonfatal victimizations in 2019, up from 0.9% in 2005.
- During 2015–19, nearly two-thirds (62%) of hate crime victimizations were simple assaults.
- A bias against the victim’s race, ethnicity, or national origin was the most common motivation for nonfatal violent hate crimes during 2015–19.
- During 2010–19, persons ages 12 to 17 accounted for a higher share of hate crime victims (17%) than their share of the U.S. population (9%).
- Most nonfatal violent hate crimes motivated by gender bias involved female victims during 2010–19.
- During 2015–19, more than half (56%) of nonfatal violent hate crime incidents were committed by a stranger.
- A greater percentage of violent hate crimes (23%) than violent nonhate crimes (13%) involved multiple offenders during 2015–19.

Measures and definitions of hate crime

This report presents trends and patterns in hate crime violence using data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The report also presents data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Hate Crime Statistics Program (HCSP). The NCVS and HCSP are the principal sources of annual information on hate crime in the United States and use the definition established by the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. § 534).³

These two data sources have different methodologies and provide distinct information about hate crimes. Together, the complementary measures provide an overview of official statistics on hate crime violence in the U.S.⁴

National Crime Victimization Survey

The NCVS is a self-reported household survey that measures nonfatal crimes against individuals and households reported and not reported to police. In the NCVS, hate crimes include those that victims perceive as motivated by the offender's bias against their 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. 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, or property crimes, include burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other theft. See *Methodology* for more information about the NCVS and measures used in this report.

BJS continues to refine and improve its measurement of hate crime in the NCVS. For more information, see the BJS-sponsored third-party report *Enhancing the Measurement of Hate Crime in the NCVS: Developing and Testing Improvements to the Survey Questions* (NCJ 301033, BJS, August 2021).

UCR Hate Crime Statistics Program

The HCSP includes crimes reported to police that, after investigation, reveal sufficient evidence to support being recorded as hate crimes. These include crimes

against individual victims, as well as hate crimes committed against businesses, religious institutions, other organizations, and society as a whole.

Through the HCSP, the UCR collects hate crime data on crimes that were motivated by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity. Bias motivation can be connected to only the following specific offenses: murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, human trafficking/commercial sex acts, human trafficking/involuntary servitude, robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and destruction/damage/vandalism.⁵ For more findings on hate crimes as measured in the UCR, see *Hate Crime Recorded by Law Enforcement, 2010-2019* (NCJ 301554, BJS, September 2021).

Differences in hate crime counts collected by the NCVS and the UCR Program can largely be attributed to victims' reporting and police classification

Because the NCVS and the UCR Program measure an overlapping, but not identical, set of offenses and use different approaches in measuring and classifying hate crimes, complete congruity should not be expected between hate crime estimates from these two sources.

During 2010-19, the NCVS captured an annual average of 243,770 hate crime victimizations of persons age 12 or older. (See appendix table 1.) Restricting the NCVS to crimes that were reported to police and confirmed by police investigators as hate crimes enhances the compatibility of the NCVS and UCR measures.⁶

About 44% (107,850) of the overall count of hate crime victimizations during 2010-19 were reported to police. Of those reported to police, 13% (13,850) were confirmed by police investigators as hate crimes, according to victims. (The remaining 87% (94,000) of those reported to police met the NCVS definition of a hate crime because the offender(s) used hate language or left hate symbols at the crime scene.) The UCR recorded an annual average of 7,830 hate crime victims during this same period.

³See the full text of the Hate Crime Statistics Act at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/101st-congress/house-bill/1048/text>.

⁴For more information on the differences between the NCVS and UCR data collections, see *The Nation's Two Crime Measures* (NCJ 246832, BJS, September 2014).

⁵For more information, see the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program's Hate Crime Data Collection Guidelines and Training Manual at <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/ucr/ucr-hate-crime-data-collection-guidelines-training-manual-02272015.pdf/view>.

⁶In the NCVS, information on whether a crime was confirmed by police investigators as a hate crime is reported by the victim.

Victimization estimates

Numbers of nonfatal violent and property hate crimes remained relatively stable between 2005 and 2019

On average, U.S. residents experienced approximately 246,900 hate crime victimizations each year between 2005 and 2019 (not shown in table). The number of hate crimes ranged from about 173,600 to 305,390 during this period (table 1). The number of total, violent, and property hate crime victimizations did not change significantly from 2005 to 2019.

The total number of victimizations (including hate and nonhate) decreased from 26.1 million in 2005 to 19.4 million in 2019. Similarly, the total number of property crime victimizations decreased from 19.0 million to 13.2 million during this period.

Overall, hate crime victimizations accounted for 1.6% of the total victimizations captured by the NCVS in 2019, up from 0.9% in 2005. In 2019, violent hate crime victimizations accounted for 4.4% of all violent victimizations, an increase from 2.9% in 2005. Property hate crime victimizations accounted for less than 1% of all property crime victimizations in 2019 (32,540) and throughout this period.

TABLE 1
Hate crime victimizations, by type of crime, 2005–2019

Year	Total ^a			Violent				Property			
	Total	Hate crime		Total	Hate crime			Total	Hate crime		
		Number	Percent		Number	Rate ^b	Percent		Number	Rate ^c	Percent
2005	26,097,760 †	223,060	0.9% †	6,836,930	198,400	0.8	2.9% †	19,034,070 †	21,740	0.2	0.1% †
2006	27,184,240 †	230,490	0.8 †	7,689,110 †	211,730	0.9	2.8 †	19,293,780 †	15,830	0.1	0.1 †
2007	27,037,120 †	263,440	1.0 †	7,622,310 †	236,860	1.0	3.1 †	19,215,320 †	24,640	0.2	0.1 ‡
2008	24,699,350 †	266,640	1.1 †	6,603,830	241,800	1.0	3.7	17,897,050 †	22,890	0.2	0.1 ‡
2009	22,933,870 †	284,620	1.2	6,031,350	267,170	1.1	4.4	16,750,320 †	17,450 !	0.1	0.1 †
2010	21,255,680 ‡	273,100	1.3	5,302,610 ‡	255,810	1.0	4.8	15,817,290 †	17,290 !	0.1	0.1 ‡
2011	21,763,690 †	218,010	1.0 †	5,374,250	195,880	0.8	3.6	16,237,380 †	22,130	0.2	0.1
2012	24,830,300 †	293,790	1.2 ‡	6,327,560	263,540	1.0	4.2	18,343,060 †	30,250	0.2	0.2
2013	24,830,130 †	272,420	1.1 ‡	6,484,510	242,190	0.9	3.7	18,198,530 †	30,230	0.2	0.2
2014	21,897,530 †	215,010	1.0 †	5,743,000	194,310	0.7	3.4	16,031,280 †	19,000	0.1	0.1 ‡
2015	20,230,240	207,880	1.0 †	5,183,090 †	192,020	0.7	3.7	14,949,760 †	14,160 !	0.1 !	0.1 !
2016	20,483,610	173,600 †	0.8 †	5,180,220 †	155,740 †	0.6 †	3.0 †	15,213,180 †	17,860 !	0.1	0.1 ‡
2017	20,157,090	215,150	1.1 †	5,483,240	194,890	0.7 ‡	3.6	14,577,760 †	20,260	0.2	0.1
2018	19,540,490	260,910	1.3	5,999,090	241,740	0.9	4.0	13,421,530	19,160	0.2	0.1
2019*	19,384,510	305,390	1.6	6,099,460	268,910	1.0	4.4	13,160,420	32,540	0.3	0.2

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Includes nonfatal incidents 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. Estimates are based on 2-year rolling averages centered on the most recent year (e.g., 2005 estimates include 2004 and 2005). See appendix table 5 for standard errors.

*Comparison year.

†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison year is significant at the 90% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes violent crime (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault), personal theft or larceny, and property crime (burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other theft).

^bVictimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

^cVictimizations per 1,000 households.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005–2019.

During 2015-19, nearly two-thirds (62%) of nonfatal hate crimes were simple assaults

During the 5-year aggregate period of 2015-19, nearly 90% of all hate crimes captured by the NCVS were violent crimes, while 10% were property crimes (table 2). The majority of hate crimes involved simple assault (62%) and aggravated assault (18%).

While simple assaults accounted for the largest percentage of hate crimes during 2015-19, aggravated assault hate crimes (68%) were more likely than simple assault hate crimes (56%) to be reported to police. By comparison, about one-third (35%) of hate crimes involving burglary or trespassing were reported to police during this period.

TABLE 2
Hate crime victimizations, by type of crime and reporting to police, 2015–19

Type of crime	Number	Percent of hate crime victimizations ^a	Percent of crime type—	
			Reported to police	Not reported to police
Violent	1,075,470	89.3%	57.3%	41.8%
Rape/sexual assault	32,760 †	2.7 †	42.0 †	58.0
Robbery	80,000 †	6.6 †	48.2	51.8
Aggravated assault	216,710 †	18.0 †	68.2 ‡	30.4 ‡
Simple assault*	746,010	62.0	55.7	43.3
Property^b	120,480	10.0%	29.4%	68.1%
Burglary/trespassing	63,880 †	5.3 †	35.2 ‡	60.1 †
Other theft ^c	55,980 †	4.7 †	21.9 †	78.1 †
Average annual victimizations^a	240,770			

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and missing data on reporting to police. For about 1% of all violent hate crime victimizations, it was unknown whether the respondent reported the victimization to police. Includes nonfatal incidents 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. See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes violent crime (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault), personal theft or larceny (not separately shown in table), and property crime (burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft (not separately shown in table), and other theft).

^bIncludes motor vehicle theft, which is not shown separately due to a small number of sample cases.

^cIncludes other unlawful taking or attempted unlawful taking of property or cash without personal contact with the victim. An incident involving theft of property from within the same household is classified as theft if the offender had a legal right to be in the house (such as a maid, delivery person, or guest). If the offender had no legal right to be in the house, the incident is classified as a burglary.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.

Measures and definitions of race and ethnicity

In the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) uses the race and ethnicity categories for data collection as specified by the Office of Management and Budget's Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity. The standards have five categories for data on race: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and White. There are two categories for data on ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino.

Given that NCVS data are derived from surveyed respondents, the relatively small sizes of certain population groups compared to the overall U.S. population can pose measurement difficulties. In addition, the relatively rare occurrence of hate crime victimization in the population can compound these

measurement challenges, often leading to even smaller sample sizes for particular demographic groups, including persons who are American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, or Asian. In accordance with standard statistical analysis methodology for reporting estimates from sample data, BJS may combine categories into an "Other" group to generate valid and reliable estimates or to protect the identity of individuals.

In this report, NCVS estimates for specific race and ethnicity groups are shown for different years based on data availability and measures of reliability. Some differences between these estimates that may seem substantial may not be statistically significant, due to the larger standard errors that typically result from smaller sample sizes. (See *Methodology*.)

Race, ethnicity, or national origin bias was the most common motivation for nonfatal violent hate crimes during 2015-19

The NCVS asks hate crime victims about the types of bias they suspected motivated the crime. Victims may report more than one type of bias for a given victimization; therefore, hate crime data may reflect incidents involving multiple bias motivations of the offender(s). Victims suspected that offender(s) were motivated by race, ethnicity, or national origin bias in 59% of violent hate crime victimizations during 2015-19 (table 3).⁷ In nearly one-quarter of violent hate crime victimizations, victims believed they were targeted because of bias against their gender (24%).

⁷In the NCVS, respondents are asked separately about bias against race and bias against ethnicity and national origin.

In about 1 in 5 violent hate crime victimizations, victims believed the hate crime was motivated by bias against persons or groups they were associated with (23%) or by bias against their sexual orientation (20%). Approximately 1 in 10 violent hate crime victimizations were thought to be motivated by bias against the victim’s disability (11%) or religion (9%).

Similar to violent hate crime victimizations, victims suspected that race, ethnicity, or national origin bias was the motivation for the crime in a majority of property hate crime victimizations (69%) during 2015-19. In nearly half of property hate crime victimizations, victims believed that the crime was motivated by bias against their religion (48%) or disability (45%). About 2 in 5 property hate crime victimizations were thought to be motivated by bias against the victim’s gender (43%).

TABLE 3
Hate crime victimizations, by type of crime and bias motivation, 2015–19

Bias motivation	Violent hate crime victimizations		Property hate crime victimizations	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Race/ethnicity/national origin ^{a*}	639,700	59.5%	82,980	68.9%
Gender ^b	260,140 †	24.2 †	52,190	43.3 ‡
Association ^c	242,170 †	22.5 †	23,930 †	19.9 †
Sexual orientation ^d	218,160 †	20.3 †	10,950 !	9.1 !
Disability ^e	117,930 †	11.0 †	54,300	45.1 ‡
Religion ^f	101,230 †	9.4 †	57,540	47.8
Perception ^g	74,630 †	6.9 †	20,910 †	17.4 !

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and some victims reporting more than one type of bias motivation. Includes nonfatal incidents 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. See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes victims who suspected that offender(s) targeted them because of bias against their race, ethnicity, or national origin. In the National Crime Victimization Survey, respondents are asked separately about bias against race and bias against ethnicity and national origin.

^bIncludes victims who suspected that the offender(s) targeted them because of their gender.

^cIncludes victims who suspected that offender(s) targeted them because of bias against their association with persons having certain characteristics or religious beliefs.

^dIncludes victims who suspected that offender(s) targeted them because of bias against their sexual orientation, such as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or straight or heterosexual.

^eIncludes victims who suspected that offender(s) targeted them because of bias against their physical, mental, or developmental disabilities.

^fIncludes victims who suspected that offender(s) targeted them because of bias against their religion.

^gIncludes victims who suspected that offender(s) targeted them because of bias against their perceived characteristics or religious beliefs.

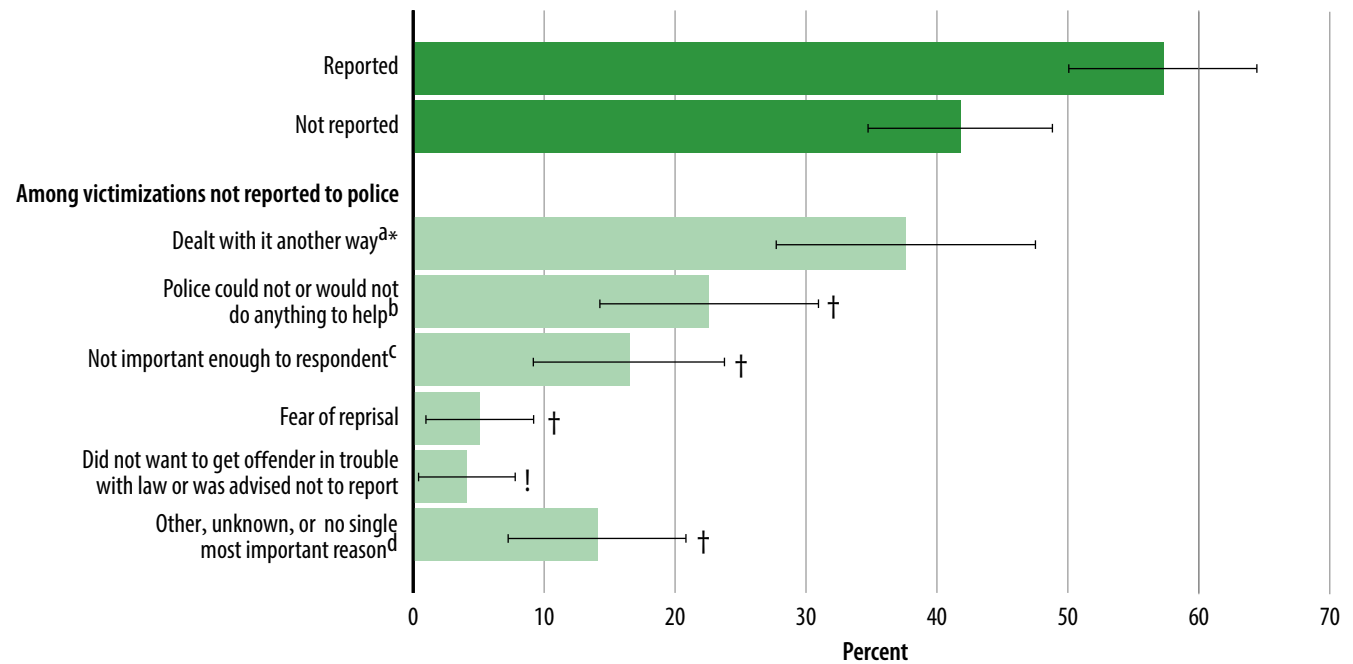
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.

About 2 in 5 violent hate crime victimizations not reported to police were handled another way

During 2015-19, approximately 42% of violent hate crime victimizations were not reported to police (figure 2). The most common reason that victims gave for not reporting to police was that the victimization was handled another way (38% of victimizations not reported to police), such as privately or through a non-law enforcement official. About one-quarter (23%) of violent hate crime victimizations not reported

to police involved victims who believed that police could not or would not do anything to help. In about 16% of violent hate crime victimizations not reported to police, the victim believed that the crime was not important enough to report to police. In 14% of violent hate crime victimizations not reported to police, victims indicated that there was another reason for not reporting, that it was too inconvenient, or that no one reason was most important. Another 5% were not reported to police because the victim feared reprisal.

FIGURE 2
Violent hate crime victimizations, by reporting to police and most important reason for not reporting, 2015–19



Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and missing data on reporting to police. For about 1% of all violent hate crime victimizations, it was unknown whether the respondent reported the victimization to police. Includes nonfatal incidents 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. The National Crime Victimization Survey asks respondents about 19 potential reasons for not reporting a victimization to police. For ease of presentation, those data are collapsed into the six categories presented here. See appendix table 3 for estimates and standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes crime reported to another official (e.g., guard, apartment manager, or school official) or victims who took care of it themselves or informally.

^bIncludes victims who indicated they did not find out about the crime until too late, they could not find or identify the offender, they lacked proof of the incident, they thought police would not think it was important enough, they believed police would be inefficient or ineffective, they thought police would cause trouble for the victim, or the offender was a police officer.

^cIncludes victims who said it was a minor or unsuccessful crime, the offender(s) was a child, it was not clear the incident was criminal or that harm was intended, or insurance would not cover the losses.

^dIncludes victims who indicated they did not want to or could not take time to report, provided some other reason for not reporting, said no one reason was more important than another, or had unknown reasons for not reporting.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.

Victim demographic characteristics in nonfatal violent hate crimes

During 2010-19, persons who are American Indian, Alaska Native, or two or more races had the highest rate of violent hate crime victimizations

During the 10-year aggregate period of 2010-19, the National Crime Victimization Survey captured 2.2 million violent hate crime victimizations, resulting in a rate of 0.8 violent hate crime victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older (table 4).⁸ Rates were similar for males (0.9 per 1,000) and females (0.8 per 1,000).

Persons of other races (2.4 per 1,000)—those who are American Indian, Alaska Native, or two or more races—and Hispanic persons (1.1 per 1,000) experienced higher rates of violent hate crime victimizations than white persons (0.7 per 1,000) during this period. The rate for Asian, Native Hawaiian,

and Other Pacific Islander persons (0.4 per 1,000) was lower than the rate for white persons. The rate for black persons (0.9 per 1,000) was not significantly different from the rate for white persons.

The rate of violent hate crime victimizations was higher for persons ages 12 to 17 (1.5 per 1,000) than for persons ages 18 to 24 (1.0 per 1,000) during 2010-19. Compared to the rate for persons ages 18 to 24, the rate was lower for persons age 65 or older (0.1 per 1,000) but was not significantly different from the rates for other age groups.

During 2010-19, the percentage of violent hate crime victimizations involving male victims (52%) was similar to the share of males in the U.S. population (49%). Likewise, females accounted for similar percentages of victims in violent hate crimes (48%) and of the population (51%).

⁸To facilitate comparisons for victims of violent hate crime victimizations among various demographic groups, table 5 and figure 3 use a 10-year span.

TABLE 4
Violent hate crime victimizations, by victim and population characteristics, 2010–19

Victim characteristic	Population ^a		Violent hate crime victimizations		
	Number	Percent	Rate ^b	Number	Percent
Total	2,672,974,360	100%	0.8	2,187,780	100%
Sex					
Male*	1,301,950,340	48.7%	0.9	1,131,890	51.7%
Female	1,371,024,020	51.3	0.8	1,055,890	48.3
Race/ethnicity					
White ^{c*}	1,725,137,350	64.5%	0.7	1,221,870	55.8%
Black ^c	324,567,800	12.1	0.9	304,260 †	13.9 †
Hispanic	423,787,920	15.9	1.1 †	482,640 †	22.1 †
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ^{c,d}	151,421,920	5.7	0.4 †	64,270 †	2.9 †
Other ^{c,d,e}	48,059,360	1.8	2.4 †	114,740 †	5.2 †
Age					
12–17	248,575,290	9.3%	1.5 †	372,820	17.0%
18–24*	301,596,250	11.3	1.0	300,880	13.8
25–34	433,819,250	16.2	1.0	446,180 †	20.4 †
35–49	614,690,210	23.0	0.9	529,560 †	24.2 †
50–64	617,322,150	23.1	0.8	470,190 †	21.5 †
65 or older	456,971,210	17.1	0.1 †	68,160 †	3.1 †

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Includes nonfatal incidents 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. See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aIncludes persons age 12 or older living in noninstitutionalized residential settings in the U.S.

^bVictimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

^cExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

^dCategories are not shown separately due to small numbers of sample cases.

^eIncludes American Indians and Alaska Natives and persons of two or more races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2010–19.

Continued on next page

Victim demographic characteristics in nonfatal violent hate crimes (continued)

Hispanic persons accounted for 16% of the U.S. population that was age 12 or older but were victims in 22% of violent hate crime victimizations. A similar finding was observed for persons of other races—American Indian persons, Alaska Native persons, and persons of two or more races—who collectively made up 2% of the population but 5% of victims in violent hate crime victimizations. In comparison, during 2010-19, Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander persons accounted for a smaller proportion of victims (3%) of violent hate crimes than of the population (6%). White persons also made up a smaller proportion of victims of violent hate crime (56%) than of the population (65%).

During 2010-19, persons ages 12 to 17 accounted for a higher share of hate crime victims (17%) than the population (9%). This was also true for persons ages 25 to 34, who made up 20% of hate crime victims versus 16% of the population. In comparison, persons age 65 or older had a smaller representation among hate crime victims (3%) than their share of the population (17%).

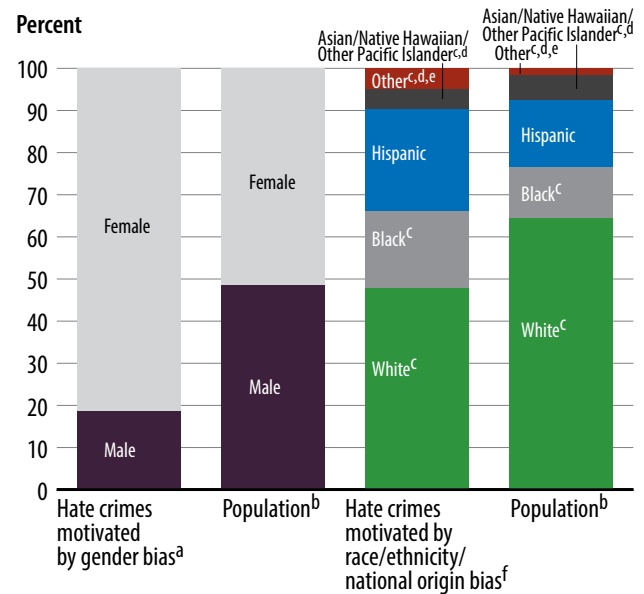
Most nonfatal violent hate crimes motivated by gender bias during 2010-19 involved female victims

Victims were female in most nonfatal violent hate crimes motivated by bias against the victim's gender (81%) during 2010-19 (figure 3).^{9,10} This percentage was greater than the proportion of female persons in the U.S. population (51%). Males were victims in 19% of violent hate crime victimizations motivated by gender bias, compared to 49% of the population.

During 2010-19, nearly one-quarter (24%) of victims of violent hate crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, or national origin bias were Hispanic, which was greater than the share of the U.S. population that was Hispanic (16%). Black persons accounted for 18% of victims of violent hate crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, national origin bias but 12% of the population. Persons who are American Indian or Alaska Native or who are two or more races also made up a greater proportion of

victims of such hate crimes (5%) than of the population (2%). Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders collectively made up similar shares of victims (5%) and the population (6%), while white persons accounted for a smaller proportion of victims (48%) than of the population (65%).

FIGURE 3
Percent of violent hate crime victimizations, by select characteristics of victims, bias motivations, and population, 2010-19



Note: Includes nonfatal incidents 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. See appendix table 4 for estimates and standard errors.

^aIncludes victims who suspected that the offender(s) targeted them because of their gender.

^bIncludes persons age 12 or older living in noninstitutionalized residential settings in the U.S.

^cExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic whites and "black" refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

^dCategories are not shown separately due to small numbers of sample cases.

^eIncludes American Indians and Alaska Natives and persons of two or more races.

^fIncludes victims who suspected that the offender(s) targeted them because of bias against their race, ethnicity, or national origin. In the National Crime Victimization Survey, respondents are asked separately about bias against race and bias against ethnicity and national origin.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2010-19.

⁹The NCVS measures sex by asking respondents whether they are male or female.

¹⁰Figure 3 examines the victim's sex in nonfatal violent hate crimes motivated by gender bias and the victim's race and ethnicity in nonfatal violent hate crimes motivated by bias against the victim's race, ethnicity, or national origin.

Incident estimates

Males were offenders in 72% of nonfatal violent hate crime incidents during 2015-19

During 2015-19, there were a total of 944,570 incidents of violent hate crime involving victims age 12 or older (table 5).^{11,12} The share of victims in violent hate crime incidents who were female was not significantly different from the share of females in the U.S. population of persons age 12 or older. The portion of males among violent hate crime victims was also similar compared to the portion of males in the population. However, according to victim reports,

¹¹An incident in the NCVS is a specific criminal act involving one or more victims.

¹²Tables 5 and 6 present incident-level data to facilitate comparisons between victim and offender demographic characteristics.

males were offenders in a higher percentage (72%) of violent hate crime incidents during 2015-19 than their share of the U.S. population (49%).¹³ Females were reported to be offenders in a lower percentage of violent hate crime incidents (20%) than their population share (51%). Victims also reported that 8% of violent hate crime incidents involved both male and female offenders.

During 2015-19, the percentage of violent hate crime incidents involving white victims (53%) was lower than the portion of the population that was white (63%). Similarly, the percentage of violent hate crime incidents in which white persons were perceived to

¹³The NCVS asks victims of violent crime about the characteristics of offenders. Offender characteristics in the NCVS (sex, race, ethnicity, national origin, and age) are based on victims' perceptions of the offenders and are reported at the incident level. The NCVS began collecting expanded race data on offenders in 2012. See *Methodology*.

TABLE 5
Violent hate crime incidents, by demographic characteristics of victims, offenders, and population, 2015-19

Demographic characteristic	Population ^a	Number of incidents		Percent of population ^{a*}	Percent of incidents	
		Victim	Offender ^b		Victim	Offender ^b
Total	1,366,396,990	944,570	944,570	100%	100%	100%
Sex						
Male	664,732,880	529,140	614,990	48.6%	56.0%	72.4% †
Female	701,664,110	415,420	169,780	51.4	44.0	20.0 †
Both male and female offenders	~	~	64,350	~	~	7.6
Race/ethnicity						
White ^c	860,297,530	501,280	361,940	63.0%	53.1% †	45.3% †
Black ^c	166,095,160	128,470	266,820	12.2	13.6	33.4 †
Hispanic ^d	228,155,830	235,320	123,200	16.7	24.9 †	15.4
Other ^{c,e}	111,848,480	79,502	34,802	8.2	8.4	4.4 †
Multiple offenders of various races ^c	~	~	12,690!	~	~	1.6!
Age^f						
12-17	124,639,490	123,460	95,480	9.1%	13.1%	12.0%
18-29	264,033,150	242,690	177,870	19.3	25.7	22.4
30 or older	977,724,360	578,410	438,860	71.6	61.2 †	55.3 †
Multiple offenders of various ages	~	~	81,550	~	~	10.3

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and missing data on offender characteristics. Includes nonfatal incidents 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. An incident is a specific criminal act involving one or more victims. Offender characteristics are based on victims' perceptions of offenders. See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

~Not applicable.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes persons age 12 or older living in noninstitutionalized residential settings in the U.S.

^bIncludes nonfatal hate crime incidents in which the perceived offender characteristics were reported. The sex of the offender was unknown in 10% of incidents, the race or ethnicity in 15% of incidents, and the age in 16% of incidents.

^cExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic whites and "black" refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

^dIf the victim perceived any of the offenders in a multiple-offender incident to be of Hispanic origin, they were classified as Hispanic.

^eIncludes Asians, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and persons of two or more races. Categories are not shown separately due to small numbers of sample cases.

^fWhile the National Crime Victimization Survey does not survey victims age 11 or younger, victims may report the offender(s) to be age 11 or younger. In this table, the count for offenders age 11 or younger rounds to 0 or the percentage is less than 0.05%.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015-19.

be offenders (45%) was lower than their share of the population. The percentage of violent hate crime incidents that involved black victims (14%) was similar to the share of the population for black persons (12%). Thirty-three percent of violent hate crime incidents involved offenders perceived by the victim to be black, which was higher than the share of the population that was black.

Hispanic persons were victims in a higher percentage of violent hate crime incidents (25%) than the percentage of the population that was Hispanic (17%). The percentage of offenders believed to be Hispanic was statistically similar (15%) to the share of the population that was Hispanic. Persons in other racial or ethnic groups—namely Asians, Native Hawaiians, Other Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and persons of two or more races—accounted for a similar share of victims in violent hate crime incidents to their collective share of the population (both 8%). The percentage of offenders believed to be persons of other races (4%) was lower than their share of the population.

Persons age 30 or older made up a smaller share of both victims (61%) and offenders (55%) in violent hate crime incidents than their portion of the U.S. population (72%). For persons ages 12 to 17 and ages 18 to 29, there were no significant differences between their representation in the population and their portion of victims or offenders in violent hate crime incidents. In 10% of violent hate crime incidents, victims reported multiple offenders of various ages.

A greater percentage of violent hate crimes (23%) than violent nonhate crimes (13%) involved multiple offenders

During 2015-19, an average of 188,910 violent hate crime incidents and 5.1 million violent nonhate crime

incidents occurred each year (**table 6**).¹⁴ As reported by victims, the majority of offenders acted alone in both violent hate crime incidents (69%) and violent nonhate crime incidents (83%). However, a greater percentage of violent hate crimes (23%) than violent nonhate crimes (13%) involved multiple offenders.

Victims reported that a greater percentage of offenders were male than female across violent hate and nonhate crimes. However, the percentage of males who were offenders in violent hate crimes was not statistically different from the percentage in violent nonhate crimes. The same was true for female offenders. During 2015-19, the percentage of black offenders was higher in violent hate crimes (28%) than violent nonhate crimes (21%).

More than half (56%) of nonfatal violent hate crime incidents were committed by a stranger during 2015-19

Among all age groups, persons age 30 or older accounted for the largest share of offenders in both violent hate crimes (46%) and violent nonhate crimes (43%). A smaller percentage of offenders were ages 18 to 29 in violent hate crimes (19%) than in violent nonhate crimes (24%). Violent hate crime incidents (9%) were more likely than violent nonhate crime incidents (4%) to involve offenders in multiple age groups.

More than half (56%) of violent hate crime incidents were committed by a stranger during 2015-19, according to victim reports. In comparison, the majority (53%) of violent nonhate victimizations were committed by someone at least casually known to the victim.

¹⁴Nonhate incidents include those that were not motivated by bias against the victim's characteristics or religious beliefs, as defined by NCVS criteria.

TABLE 6**Violent hate and nonhate crime incidents, by offender characteristics reported by victims, 2015–19**

Offender characteristic	Hate incidents	Nonhate incidents*
Number of offenders	100%	100%
1	68.5 †	82.8
2–3	13.6 †	7.8
4 or more	9.5 †	4.9
Unknown	8.4 ‡	4.5
Sex	100%	100%
Male	65.1	70.4
Female	18.0	17.9
Both male and female offenders	6.8	4.0
Unknown	10.1	7.6
Race/ethnicity	100%	100%
White ^a	38.3	44.3
Black ^a	28.2 †	21.3
Hispanic ^b	13.0	13.5
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ^{a,c}	2.7	1.6
Other ^{a,c,d}	1.0 !	2.6
Multiple offenders of various races ^a	1.3 !	0.9
Unknown	15.4	15.8
Age	100%	100%
11 or younger	--	2.1
12–17	10.1	12.6
18–29	18.8 ‡	24.0
30 or older	46.5	42.7
Two or more age groups	8.6 †	4.3
Unknown	16.0	14.4
Relationship to victim	100%	100%
At least casually known	30.7 †	53.3
Stranger	56.2 †	36.9
Unknown	13.1	9.8
Average annual incidents	188,910 †	5,055,360

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Includes nonfatal incidents 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. An incident is a specific criminal act involving one or more victims. Offender characteristics are based on victims' perceptions of offenders. Nonhate incidents include those that were not motivated by bias according to the above definition. See appendix table 10 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

--Rounds to less than 0.05%.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

^bIf the victim perceived any of the offenders in a multiple-offender incident to be of Hispanic origin, they were classified as Hispanic.

^cCategories are not shown separately due to small numbers of sample cases.

^dIncludes American Indians and Alaska Natives and persons of two or more races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.

Methodology

Survey coverage in the National Crime Victimization Survey

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is an annual data collection carried out by the U.S. Census Bureau on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NCVS is a self-reported survey that is administered annually from January 1 to December 31. Annual NCVS estimates are based on the number and characteristics of crimes that respondents experienced during the prior 6 months, not including the month in which they were interviewed. Therefore, the 2019 survey covers crimes experienced from July 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019, with March 15, 2019 as the middle of the reference period. Crimes are classified by the year of the survey and not by the year of the crime.

The NCVS is administered to persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households and collects information on personal and property crimes. Personal crimes include personal larceny (purse snatching and pick pocketing) and nonfatal violent crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault). Household property crimes include burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other types of theft. The survey collects information on threatened, attempted, and completed crimes. It collects data both on crimes reported and not reported to police. Unless specified otherwise, estimates in this report include threatened, attempted, and completed crimes. In addition to providing annual level and change estimates on criminal victimization, the NCVS is the primary source of information on the nature of criminal victimization incidents.

Survey respondents provide information about themselves, including age, sex, race, ethnicity, marital status, education level, and income and whether they experienced a victimization. For each victimization incident, respondents report information about the offender (including age, sex, race, ethnicity, and victim-offender relationship), characteristics of the crime (including time and place of occurrence, use of weapons, nature of injury, and economic consequences), whether the crime was reported to police, reasons the crime was or was not reported, and experiences with the criminal justice system.

Household information, including household-level demographics (e.g., income) and property victimizations committed against the household

(e.g., burglary or trespassing), is typically collected from the reference person. The reference person is any responsible adult member of the household who is not likely to permanently leave the household. Because an owner or renter of the sampled housing unit is normally the most responsible and knowledgeable household member, this person is generally designated as the reference person and household respondent. However, a household respondent does not have to be one of the household members who owns or rents the unit.

In the NCVS, a household is defined as a group of persons who all reside at a sampled address. Persons are considered household members when the sampled address is their usual place of residence at the time of the interview and when they have no primary place of residence elsewhere. Once selected, households remain in the sample for 3 1/2 years, and eligible persons in these households are interviewed every 6 months, either in person or over the phone, for a total of seven interviews.

First interviews are typically conducted in person, with subsequent interviews conducted either in person or by phone. New households rotate into the sample on an ongoing basis to replace outgoing households that have been in the sample for the full 3 1/2-year period. The sample includes persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings, and excludes persons living on military bases or in institutional settings such as correctional or hospital facilities.

Measurement of crime in the NCVS

BJS presents data from the NCVS on victimization and incident rates. Victimization rates measure the extent to which violent and property victimizations occur in a specified population during a specified time. Victimization numbers show the total number of times that people or households are victimized by crime. For crimes affecting persons, NCVS victimization rates are estimated by dividing the number of victimizations that occur during a specified time (T) by the population at risk for those victimizations and multiplying the rate by 1,000.

$$\text{Victimization rate}_T = \frac{\text{Number of victimizations experienced by a specified population}_T}{\text{Number of unique persons (or households) in the specified population}_T} \times 1,000$$

For victimization rates, each victimization represents one person (for personal crimes) or one household (for property crimes) affected by a crime.¹⁵ Every victimization experienced by a person or household during the year is counted. For example, if one person experiences two violent crimes during the year, both are counted in the victimization rate. If one household experiences two property crimes, both are counted in the victimization rate. Victimization estimates are presented in figures 1 through 4, tables 1 through 3, and table 5 in this report.

Incidents are another measure of crime. The number of incidents is the number of specific criminal acts involving one or more victims. If every victimization had one victim, the number of incidents would be the same as the number of victimizations. If there was more than one victim, the incident estimate is adjusted to compensate for the possibility that the incident could be reported several times by multiple victims and thus be overcounted. For example, if two people were robbed during the same incident, this crime would be counted as one incident and two victimizations. Incident estimates are presented in tables 4 and 6 in this report.

This report presents NCVS data on the characteristics of hate crimes and of hate crime victims and offenders from 2005 to 2019, the most recent data year available. Trend estimates are presented as 2-year rolling averages (e.g., estimates reported for 2019 represent the average of the estimates for 2018 and 2019). Other NCVS tables and figures in this report focus on aggregate periods of multiple data years, such as 2015-19, with some presenting the data as aggregate estimates and others as annual average estimates for the period. These approaches—using rolling averages and aggregating years—increase the reliability and stability of hate crime victimization estimates, facilitating comparisons over time and between subgroups.

Estimates are shown for different years based on data availability and measures of reliability. Some differences between estimates that may seem substantial may not be statistically significant, and are therefore not discussed in the text. NCVS estimates presented in this report include rates, percentages, and numbers. Rates are used to account for the size of the population in question for a given measure.

¹⁵In the NCVS, personal crimes are personal larceny (purse snatching and pick pocketing) and nonfatal violent victimizations (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault). Homicide is not included because the NCVS is based on interviews with victims. Property crimes are burglary, residential trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other theft.

NCVS nonresponse and weighting adjustments

The 2019 NCVS data file includes 155,076 household interviews. Overall, 71% of eligible households completed interviews. Within participating households, interviews with 249,008 persons were completed in 2019, representing an 83% response rate among eligible persons from responding households.

Victimizations that occurred outside of the U.S. were excluded from this report. In 2019, about 1% of the unweighted victimizations occurred outside of the U.S.

NCVS data are weighted to produce annual estimates of victimization for persons age 12 or older living in U.S. households. Because the NCVS relies on a sample rather than a census of the entire U.S. population, weights are designed to adjust to known population totals and to compensate for survey nonresponse and other aspects of the complex sample design.

NCVS data files include person, household, victimization, and incident weights. Person weights provide an estimate of the population represented by each person in the sample. Household weights provide an estimate of the household population represented by each household in the sample. After proper adjustment, both person and household weights are also typically used to form the denominator in calculations of crime rates. For personal crimes, the incident weight is derived by dividing the person weight of a victim by the total number of persons victimized during an incident, as reported by the respondent. For property crimes measured at the household level, the incident weight and the household weight are the same, because the victim of a property crime is considered to be the household as a whole. The incident weight is most frequently used to calculate estimates of offenders' and victims' demographics.

Victimization weights used in this report account for the number of persons victimized during an incident and for high-frequency repeat victimizations (i.e., series victimizations). Series victimizations are similar in type to one another but occur with such frequency that a victim is unable to recall each individual event or describe each event in detail. Survey procedures allow NCVS interviewers to identify and classify these similar victimizations as series victimizations and to collect detailed information on only the most recent incident in the series.

The weighting counts series victimizations as the actual number of victimizations reported by the victim, up to a maximum of 10. Doing so produces more reliable estimates of crime levels than counting such victimizations only once, while the cap at 10 minimizes the effect of extreme outliers on rates. According to the 2019 data, series victimizations accounted for 1.4% of all victimizations and 3.1% of all violent victimizations. Additional information on the enumeration of series victimizations is detailed in the report *Methods for Counting High-Frequency Repeat Victimizations in the National Crime Victimization Survey* (NCJ 237308, BJS, April 2012).

Revised 2016 NCVS data file

For 2016, BJS greatly increased the NCVS sample size to facilitate the ability to produce state-level victimization estimates for the 22 most populous states. At the same time, the sample was adjusted to reflect the U.S. population counts in the 2010 decennial census. These changes resulted in a historically large number of new households and first-time interviews in the first half of 2016 and produced challenges in comparing 2016 results to prior data years.

Working with the U.S. Census Bureau, BJS subsequently devised the methodology that was used to create the revised 2016 NCVS data file. The result was revised criminal victimization estimates that were nationally representative for 2016 and could be compared with prior and future years. For more information, see *National Crime Victimization Survey revised 2016 estimates* text box (pp. 3-4) and *Methodology* (pp. 15-18) in *Criminal Victimization, 2016: Revised* (NCJ 252121, BJS, October 2018).

Changes to the NCVS household weighting adjustment in 2017

The 2017 NCVS weights included a new adjustment that modified household weights to reflect independent housing-unit totals available internally at the U.S. Census Bureau. This new weighting adjustment improves on the prior one and better aligns the number of estimated households in the NCVS with other Census household-survey estimates. For more information on this household weighting adjustment and on weighting in the NCVS, see *Nonresponse and weighting adjustments* in this methodology and the report *National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016 Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, BJS, December 2017).

NCVS standard error computations

When national estimates are derived from a sample, as with the NCVS, caution must be used when comparing one estimate to another or when comparing estimates over time. Although one estimate may be larger than another, estimates based on a sample have some degree of sampling error. The sampling error of an estimate depends on several factors, including the amount of variation in the responses and the size of the sample. When the sampling error around an estimate is taken into account, estimates that appear different may not be statistically significant.

One measure of the sampling error associated with an estimate is the standard error. The standard error may vary from one estimate to the next. Generally, an estimate with a smaller standard error provides a more reliable approximation of the true value than an estimate with a larger standard error. Estimates with relatively large standard errors have less precision and reliability and should be interpreted with caution.

For complex sample designs, there are several methods that can be used to generate standard errors around a point estimate (e.g., numbers, percentages, and rates). In this report, generalized variance function (GVF) parameters were used for variance estimation. The U.S. Census Bureau produces GVF parameters for BJS, which account for aspects of the NCVS's complex sample design and represent the curve fitted to a selection of individual standard errors, using a specialized version of Balanced Repeated Replication based on Fay's method. GVFs express the variance as a function of the expected value of the survey estimate.¹⁶ For more information on GVFs, see *National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016 Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, BJS, December 2017).

BJS conducted statistical tests to determine whether differences in estimated numbers, percentages, and rates from the NCVS in this report were statistically significant once sampling error was taken into account. Using statistical analysis programs developed specifically for the NCVS, all comparisons in the text were tested for significance. The primary test procedure was the Student's t-statistic, which tests the difference between two sample estimates. Findings described in this report as increases or decreases passed a test at either the 0.05 level (95% confidence level) or 0.10 level

¹⁶Wolter, K. M. (1984). An Investigation of Some Estimators of Variance for Systematic Sampling. *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 79, 781-790.

(90% confidence level) of significance. Figures and tables in this report should be referenced for testing on specific findings.

NCVS estimates and standard errors of the estimates provided in this report may be used to generate a confidence interval around the estimate as a measure of the margin of error. The following example illustrates how standard errors may be used to generate confidence intervals:

According to the NCVS, during the aggregate period of 2015-19, the percent of violent hate crime victimizations reported to police was 57.3%. (See table 2.) Using the GVF, BJS determined that the estimated percentage has a standard error of 3.69%. (See appendix table 6.) A confidence interval around the estimate is generated by multiplying the standard error by ± 1.96 (the t-score of a normal, two-tailed distribution that excludes 2.5% at either end of the distribution). Therefore, the 95% confidence interval around the 57.3% estimate during 2015-19 is $57.3 \pm (3.69 \times 1.96)$ or (50.02 to 64.49). In other words, if BJS used the same sampling method to select different samples and computed an interval estimate for each sample, it would expect the true population parameter (percent of violent hate crime victimizations reported to police) to fall within the interval estimates 95% of the time.

For this report, BJS also calculated a coefficient of variation (CV) for all NCVS estimates, representing the ratio of the standard error to the estimate. CVs (not shown in tables) provide another measure of reliability and a means for comparing the precision of estimates across measures with differing levels or metrics.

Classification of hate crimes in the NCVS

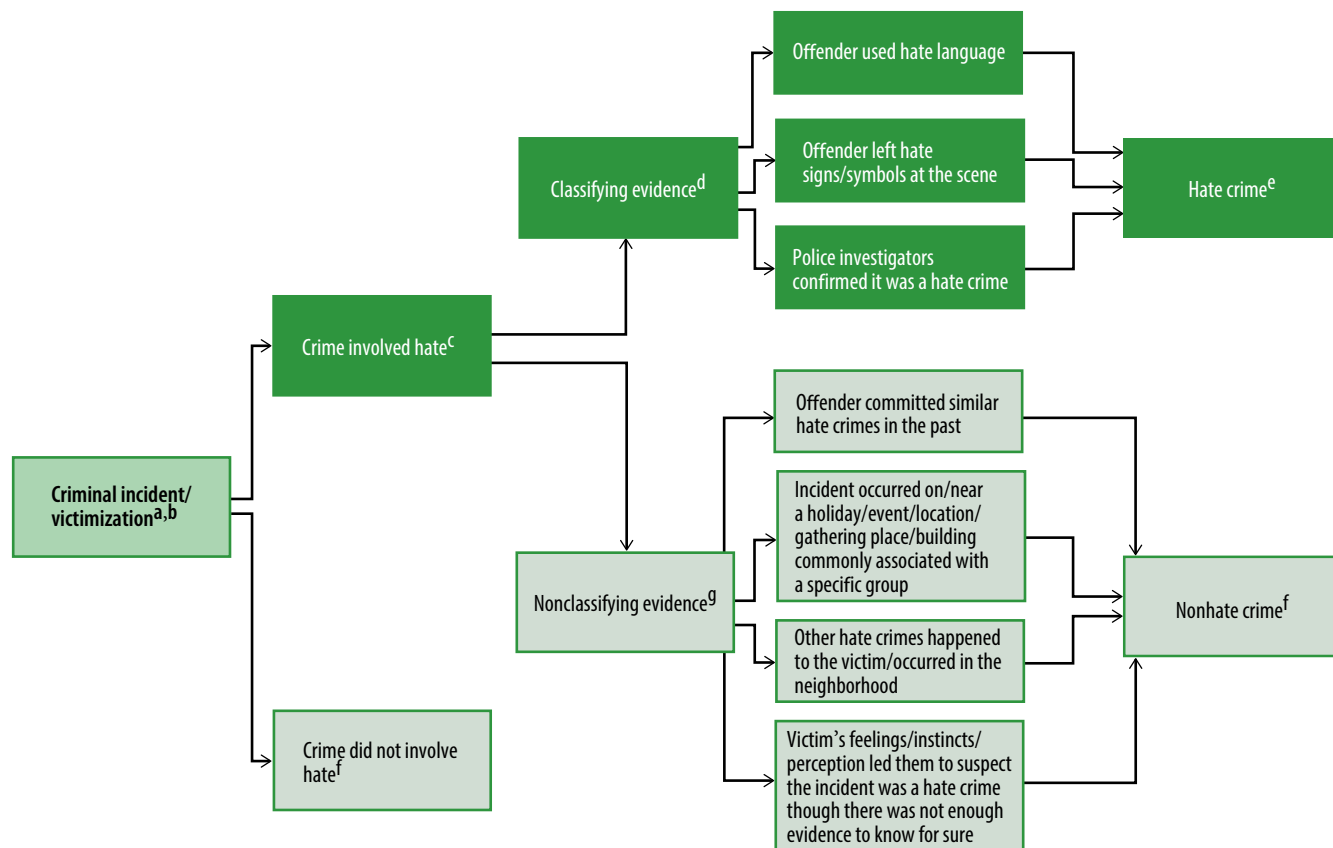
The NCVS has collected data on hate crime since 2003. For an NCVS crime to be classified as a hate crime, the victim had to report one of three types of evidence that the offender(s) were motivated by bias: (1) The offender(s) used hate language, (2) the offender(s) left hate signs or symbols at the scene, or (3) police investigators confirmed that it was a hate crime (figure 4).

In addition, victims may have had other reasons for believing that the victimization was bias-motivated. Victims could have also reported that—

- the offender(s) committed similar hate crimes or crimes of bigotry in the past
- the incident occurred on or near a holiday, event, location, gathering place, or building commonly associated with a specific group (e.g., a gay pride march, synagogue, or Korean church)
- other hate crimes or crimes of prejudice or bigotry happened to the victim or occurred in the neighborhood
- their feelings, instincts, or perception led them to suspect the incident was a hate crime or crime of prejudice or bigotry, even though there was not enough evidence to know for sure.

About 92% of persons who reported these other types of evidence also reported one of the three types needed to classify the crime as a hate crime for the NCVS. Modifying the classification standard to include these other types of evidence would have no statistically significant impact on the average annual number of hate crime victimizations. From 2015 to 2019, there were about 256,400 hate crime victimizations each year using the additional evidence categories, which was not statistically different from the 240,800 under the current definition.

FIGURE 4
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.

NCVS data on violent offenders' race and ethnicity

The NCVS collects offender information from victims in the Crime Incident Report (CIR).¹⁷ Offender demographic characteristics are based on victims' perceptions. The section in the CIR on offenders begins with a question about the number of offenders. For violent crime incidents involving a single offender, respondents are asked about the offender's relationship to the victim, demographic characteristics (including sex, race, ethnicity, and age), membership in a street gang, use of alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident, and previous crimes against the respondent or respondent's household.

¹⁷For all questions included on the NCVS CIR, see the BJS website.

For violent incidents involving multiple offenders, respondents are asked similar questions, such as whether the offender demographic characteristics applied to all or most of the offenders. Respondents are asked if any of the offenders were Hispanic or Latino, followed by whether they were mostly Hispanic, mostly non-Hispanic, or an equal number of Hispanic and non-Hispanic persons. Respondents were then asked what the race or races were of the offenders. Following the Office of Management and Budget standards for measuring race and ethnicity, the offender race categories in the NCVS are white, black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and persons of two or more races. Offenders reported as Hispanic are classified as Hispanic, regardless of their reported race.

APPENDIX TABLE 1

Average annual hate crimes reported to the National Crime Victimization Survey and the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, 2010–19

	Average annual number	Standard error	95% confidence interval	
			Lower bound	Upper bound
NCVS - total victimizations ^a	243,770	37,602	170,072	317,470
NCVS - reported to police	107,850	23,288	62,203	153,491
NCVS - confirmed by police investigators	13,850!	7,478	0	28,505
UCR - victims ^b	7,830	~	~	~

Note: Includes nonfatal incidents 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 in the National Crime Victimization Survey.

~Not applicable.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or the coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes violent crime (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault), personal theft or larceny, and property crime (burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other theft).

^bIncludes victims of murder or nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, other crimes against persons, robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, destruction or vandalism, other crimes against property, and crimes against society. Annual average is based on incidents reported directly to law enforcement. Standard errors cannot be produced for Uniform Crime Reporting data and are not found in this report.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2010–19; and Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Hate Crime Statistics Program, 2010–19.

APPENDIX TABLE 2

Estimates and standard errors for figure 1: Rates of violent hate crime victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older, 2005–2019

Year	Total violent ^a				Aggravated assault				Simple assault			
	Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older	Standard error	95% confidence interval		Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older	Standard error	95% confidence interval		Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older	Standard error	95% confidence interval	
			Lower bound	Upper bound			Lower bound	Upper bound			Lower bound	Upper bound
2005	0.8	0.13	0.56	1.07	0.1!	0.04	0.05	0.20	0.7	0.12	0.44	0.90
2006	0.9	0.12	0.62	1.10	0.1	0.04	0.07	0.22	0.6	0.10	0.42	0.82
2007	1.0	0.13	0.71	1.20	0.2	0.04	0.09	0.25	0.7	0.10	0.47	0.87
2008	1.0	0.14	0.68	1.24	0.2	0.04	0.09	0.27	0.7	0.11	0.44	0.88
2009	1.1	0.18	0.70	1.41	0.3	0.07	0.15	0.44	0.7	0.13	0.41	0.92
2010	1.0	0.16	0.68	1.33	0.2	0.06	0.12	0.35	0.7	0.12	0.43	0.90
2011	0.8	0.12	0.52	1.01	0.1	0.03	0.04	0.17	0.5	0.09	0.34	0.70
2012	1.0	0.14	0.75	1.28	0.2	0.05	0.11	0.30	0.7	0.10	0.51	0.92
2013	0.9	0.15	0.63	1.21	0.3	0.06	0.15	0.37	0.6	0.11	0.38	0.80
2014	0.7	0.11	0.51	0.95	0.2	0.04	0.07	0.24	0.5 ‡	0.08	0.29	0.62
2015	0.7	0.11	0.49	0.94	0.1 †	0.02	0.02	0.12	0.5	0.09	0.34	0.70
2016	0.6 †	0.10	0.39	0.76	0.1	0.04	0.06	0.22	0.4 †	0.08	0.24	0.53
2017	0.7 ‡	0.10	0.53	0.91	0.2	0.04	0.12	0.27	0.5 ‡	0.07	0.32	0.61
2018	0.9	0.10	0.69	1.07	0.2	0.04	0.11	0.27	0.6	0.07	0.44	0.73
2019*	1.0	0.12	0.73	1.22	0.2	0.04	0.09	0.23	0.7	0.10	0.49	0.87

Note: Includes nonfatal incidents 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. Estimates are based on 2-year rolling averages centered on the most recent year (e.g., a 2005 estimate includes data for 2004 and 2005).

*Comparison year.

†Difference with comparison year is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison year is significant at the 90% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes rape or sexual assault and robbery (not shown due to small numbers of sample cases), aggravated assault, and simple assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005–2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 3

Estimates and standard errors for figure 2: Violent hate crime victimizations, by reporting to police and most important reason for not reporting, 2015–19

Most important reason	Number	Standard error	95% confidence interval		Percent	Standard error	95% confidence interval	
			Lower bound	Upper bound			Lower bound	Upper bound
Total	1,075,470	98,861	881,703	1,269,239	100%	~	~	~
Reported	615,750	69,139	480,238	751,264	57.3%	3.69%	50.02%	64.49%
Not reported	449,480	56,719	338,312	560,650	41.8%	3.61%	34.71%	48.88%
Reason not reported	449,480	56,719	338,312	560,650	100	~	~	~
Dealt with it another way ^{a*}	169,180	31,239	107,953	230,411	37.6	5.07	27.69	47.58
Police could not or would not do anything to help ^b	101,640 ‡	23,138	56,288	146,988	22.6 †	4.28	14.21	31.01
Not important enough to respondent ^c	74,080 †	19,272	36,304	111,852	16.5 †	3.75	9.13	23.83
Fear of reprisal	22,950 †	9,998	3,358	42,550	5.1 †	2.13	0.93	9.28
Did not want to get offender in trouble with law or advised not to report	18,470 !	8,881	1,066	35,880	4.1 !	1.91	0.37	7.85
Other, unknown, or no single most important reason ^d	63,160 †	17,592	28,676	97,636	14.1 †	3.49	7.21	20.89

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding and missing data on reporting to police. For about 1% of all violent hate crime victimizations, it was unknown whether the respondent reported the victimization to police. Includes nonfatal incidents 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. The National Crime Victimization Survey asks respondents about 19 potential reasons for not reporting a victimization to police. For ease of presentation, those data are collapsed into the six categories presented here.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

~Not applicable.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes crime reported to another official (e.g., guard, apartment manager, or school official) or victims who took care of it themselves or informally.

^bIncludes victims who indicated they did not find out about the crime until too late, they could not find or identify the offender, they lacked proof of the incident, they thought police would not think it was important enough, they believed police would be inefficient or ineffective, they thought police would cause trouble for the victim, or the offender was a police officer.

^cIncludes victims who said it was a minor or unsuccessful crime, the offender(s) was a child, it was not clear the incident was criminal or that harm was intended, or insurance would not cover the losses.

^dIncludes victims who indicated they did not want to or could not take time to report, provided some other reason for not reporting, said no one reason was more important than another, or had unknown reasons for not reporting.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.

APPENDIX TABLE 4

Estimates and standard errors for figure 3: Percent of violent hate crime victimizations, by select characteristics of victims, bias motivations, and population, 2010–19

Sex	Percent of population ^{a*}	Hate crimes motivated by gender bias ^b				Race/ethnicity	Percent of population ^{a*}	Hate crimes motivated by race/ethnicity/national origin bias ^c			
		Percent	Standard error	95% confidence interval				Percent	Standard error	95% confidence interval	
				Lower bound	Upper bound					Lower bound	Upper bound
Male	48.7%	18.7% †	3.52%	11.77%	25.58%	White ^d	64.5%	47.8% †	3.40%	41.14%	54.47%
Female	51.3	81.3 †	3.78	73.91	88.73	Black ^d	12.1	18.3 †	2.47	13.40	23.10
						Hispanic	15.9	24.2 †	2.79	18.74	29.69
						Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander ^{d,e}	5.7	4.8	1.27	2.33	7.32
						Other ^{d,e,f}	1.8	4.9 †	1.28	2.38	7.42

Note: Includes nonfatal incidents 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.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aIncludes persons age 12 or older living in noninstitutionalized residential settings in the U.S.

^bIncludes victims who suspected that the offender(s) targeted them because of their gender.

^cIncludes victims who suspected that the offender(s) targeted them because of bias against their race, ethnicity, or national origin. In the National Crime Victimization Survey, respondents are asked separately about bias against race and bias against ethnicity and national origin.

^dExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

^eCategories are not shown separately due to small numbers of sample cases.

^fIncludes American Indians and Alaska Natives and persons of two or more races.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2010–19.

APPENDIX TABLE 5

Standard errors for table 1: Hate crime victimizations, by type of crime, 2005–2019

Year	Total			Violent				Property			
	Total	Hate crime		Total	Hate crime			Total	Hate crime		
		Number	Percent		Number	Rate	Percent		Number	Rate	Percent
2005	901,494	43,684	0.13%	372,799	40,606	0.13	0.44%	494,752	9,178	0.06	0.03%
2006	916,809	41,304	0.12	398,205	39,155	0.12	0.38	452,613	7,903	0.05	0.03
2007	891,531	41,808	0.12	384,240	38,905	0.13	0.38	479,226	10,939	0.07	0.04
2008	904,234	47,841	0.15	373,405	44,861	0.14	0.50	476,875	10,208	0.06	0.04
2009	934,446	61,025	0.20	382,847	58,627	0.18	0.71	451,645	8,907	0.05	0.04
2010	897,819	54,876	0.20	344,867	52,530	0.16	0.73	415,377	9,133	0.05	0.04
2011	917,397	42,840	0.15	349,735	39,880	0.12	0.55	424,610	10,119	0.06	0.04
2012	785,907	48,156	0.15	322,829	44,941	0.14	0.52	477,437	12,029	0.07	0.05
2013	952,239	52,884	0.16	391,586	48,992	0.15	0.56	424,178	11,367	0.06	0.04
2014	820,976	40,019	0.14	331,121	37,437	0.11	0.48	382,901	8,868	0.05	0.04
2015	735,167	41,455	0.16	299,929	39,429	0.11	0.56	386,384	8,055	0.04	0.04
2016	690,897	36,079	0.13	281,607	33,728	0.10	0.48	404,186	9,784	0.05	0.05
2017	593,049	36,274	0.14	256,236	34,122	0.10	0.45	295,000	8,802	0.05	0.04
2018	562,285	35,866	0.14	256,935	34,167	0.10	0.42	259,594	8,296	0.05	0.04
2019	683,577	47,019	0.18	313,440	43,310	0.12	0.52	265,151	10,763	0.06	0.06

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005–2019.

APPENDIX TABLE 6

Standard errors for table 2: Hate crime victimizations, by type of crime and reporting to police, 2015–19

Type of crime	Number	Percent of hate crime victimizations	Percent of crime type—	
			Reported to police	Not reported to police
Violent	98,861	2.26%	3.69%	3.61%
Rape/sexual assault	12,608	1.02	17.68	17.77
Robbery	17,829	1.39	10.09	10.10
Aggravated assault	32,705	2.31	6.18	5.94
Simple assault	78,189	3.48	4.29	4.23
Property	24,512	1.92%	9.07%	9.31%
Burglary/trespassing	15,053	1.21	11.08	11.38
Other theft	16,904	1.37	12.30	12.34
Average annual victimizations	38,623			

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.

APPENDIX TABLE 7

Standard errors for table 3: Hate crime victimizations, by type of crime and bias motivation, 2015–19

Bias motivation	Violent hate crime victimizations		Property hate crime victimizations	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Race/ethnicity/national origin	70,833	3.67%	20,229	9.25%
Gender	40,482	3.04	15,950	9.88
Association	38,759	2.95	10,723	7.93
Sexual orientation	36,386	2.82	7,216	5.70
Disability	25,238	2.12	16,276	9.92
Religion	23,083	1.96	16,767	9.96
Perception	19,355	1.68	10,012	7.52

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.

APPENDIX TABLE 8

Standard errors for table 4: Violent hate crime victimizations, by victim and population characteristics, 2010–19

Victim characteristic	Violent hate crime victimizations		
	Rate	Number	Percent
Total	0.06	150,055	~
Sex			
Male	0.07	97,632	2.71%
Female	0.07	93,367	2.69
Race/ethnicity			
White	0.06	102,566	2.70%
Black	0.13	42,971	1.72
Hispanic	0.13	56,997	2.12
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.11	17,338	0.77
Other	0.50	24,135	1.04
Age			
12–17	0.19	48,626	1.89%
18–24	0.14	42,681	1.71
25–34	0.12	54,296	2.05
35–49	0.10	60,374	2.20
50–64	0.09	56,083	2.10
65 or older	0.04	17,923	0.79

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2010–19.

APPENDIX TABLE 9

Standard errors for table 5: Violent hate crime incidents, by demographic characteristics of victims, offenders, and population, 2015–19

Demographic characteristic	Number of incidents		Percent of incidents					
			Standard error	Victim		Standard error	Offender	
				95% confidence interval			95% confidence interval	
Victim	Offender	Lower bound	Upper bound	Lower bound	Upper bound			
Total	90,899	90,899	~	~	~	~	~	~
Sex								
Male	62,828	69,085	3.90%	48.38%	63.66%	3.71%	65.15%	79.70%
Female	54,000	31,304	3.84	36.45	51.51	3.10	13.92	26.07
Both male and female offenders	~	17,781	~	~	~	1.95	3.75	11.41
Race/ethnicity								
White	60,728	49,575	3.91%	45.41%	60.72%	4.13%	37.17%	53.37%
Black	26,538	41,113	2.49	8.73	18.47	3.85	25.83	40.92
Hispanic	38,091	25,893	3.24	18.56	31.27	2.83	9.86	20.96
Other	9,593	10,106	1.96	4.57	12.27	1.51	1.39	7.31
Multiple offenders of various races	~	6,843	~	~	~	0.89	0.00	3.34
Age								
12–17	25,925	22,313	2.44%	8.29%	17.85%	2.53%	7.08%	16.98%
18–29	38,810	32,187	3.28	19.26	32.13	3.34	15.86	28.96
30 or older	66,456	55,878	3.84	53.70	68.77	4.18	47.09	63.49
Multiple offenders of various ages	~	20,367	~	~	~	2.34	5.69	14.86

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.

APPENDIX TABLE 10**Standard errors for table 6: Violent hate and nonhate crime incidents, by offender characteristics reported by victims, 2015–19**

Offender characteristic	Hate incidents	Nonhate incidents
Number of offenders	~	~
1	3.69%	0.97%
2–3	2.48	0.52
4 or more	2.09	0.40
Unknown	1.96	0.38
Sex	~	~
Male	3.77%	1.16%
Female	2.83	0.83
Both male and female offenders	1.76	0.35
Unknown	2.15	0.52
Race/ethnicity	~	~
White	3.73%	1.19%
Black	3.40	0.90
Hispanic	2.44	0.71
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1.08	0.20
Other	0.66	0.27
Multiple offenders of various races	0.76	0.14
Unknown	2.63	0.77
Age	~	~
11 or younger	~	0.24%
12–17	2.15%	0.68
18–29	2.89	0.96
30 or older	3.87	1.18
Two or more age groups	1.99	0.37
Unknown	2.68	0.74
Relationship to victim	~	~
At least casually known	3.50%	1.23%
Stranger	3.90	1.14
Unknown	2.44	0.59
Average annual incidents	33,369	276,979

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable and valid statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Doris J. James is the acting director.

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