Hate Crimes "Fact Sheet"

What is a Hate Crime?
According to Federal law, a Hate Crime is a criminal offense motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender or gender identity. [*Hate Crime Statistics* are compiled by the FBI under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which employs incidents that are voluntarily reported by law enforcement agencies.]

Number of Hate Crimes in Ohio in 2015:
109 (18.3%*) of 595 agencies (representing a population of 9.78 million) reported a total of **416 single-bias incidents** (mean = 3.8 incidents/reporting agency).
*Note: **Nationally**, 11.6% of agencies reported one or more hate crimes for a total of **5818 incidents** (mean = 3.4 incidents/agency).

Crime Category in Ohio (58% against persons; 42% against property)

Crime Category in US (61% against persons*[1]; 39% against property)

*[1]: When against persons, 41% were intimidation; 38% were simple assault; 20% were aggravated assault; and 1% were other crimes (including 18 murders)

Type of Hate Crimes in Ohio (N = 416)

Race	309 (74%)
Religion	39 (9%)
Sexual Orientation	58 (14%)
Disability	10 (2%)

Type of Hate Crimes in US (N = 5818)

Race*[1]	3310 (57%)
Religion*[2]	1244 (21%)
Sexual Orientation*[3]	1053 (18%)
Disability	74 (1%)
Gender	23 (0.4%)
Gender Identity	114 (2%)

*[1]: 53% African American; 18% White; 9% Hispanic/Latino; 7% AAPI/American Indian/Alaska Native; 1% Arab; 12% multiple race or other
*[2]: 51% Jewish; 22% Muslim; 26% other or unspecified
*[3]: 62% gay; 14% lesbian; 3% bisexual; 2% heterosexual; 19% multiple (LGBT)

Who Commits Hate Crimes in the US? White (40%); Black/African American (16%); mixed race (4%); AAPI/American Indian/Alaska Native (2%); unknown (37%)

Frequencies of Reported Hate Crimes in Ohio's Largest Cities (2015):

City	N	Population	Rate (crimes/10,000 residents)
Cincinnati	33	298,654	1.10
Cleveland	8	387,812	0.21
Columbus	137	850,044	1.61
Dayton	5	140,515	0.36
Toledo	19	279,676	0.68

Frequencies of Reported Hate Crimes in Ohio vs. in US
Tot. Ohio incidents (470) / Ohio pop. (11,614,373 est. in 2016): **0.40 per 10,000** residents
Tot. US incidents (5850) / US pop. (323,127,513 est. in 2016): **0.18 per 10,000** residents
Note: **The rate of reporting in Ohio is more than 2X that of the US.**

Does Ohio have a "Hate Crime" law?
"The only Ohio statute that speaks directly to hate crimes is the "ethnic intimidation" provision under section 2927.12 of the *Ohio Revised Code*, which prohibits commission of the misdemeanor crimes of aggravated menacing, menacing, criminal damaging, criminal mischief, and some types of telephone harassment, when done "by reason of" the race, color, religion or national origin of another person or group of persons. The statute does not currently include any specific reference to crimes motivated by prejudice/intolerance with respect to sexual orientation or gender identification." (Terry K. Sherman, writing for the *Ohio State Bar Assoc.*)

What is the penalty for a hate crime in Ohio?
When a misdemeanor is motivated by race, color, religion or national origin of another person or group of persons, the punishment can be "enhanced." For example, the most serious (first-degree) misdemeanor can be elevated to the lowest level (fifth-degree) felony. In felony cases, "…Ohio law allows judges to consider "hate" circumstances in sentencing if, "in committing the offense, the offender was motivated by prejudice based on race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation or religion." (Terry K. Sherman, writing for the *Ohio State Bar Assoc.*)

Why should individuals be concerned about hate crimes?
Crimes motivated by hate against a group of people make the entire community feel less welcome and more vulnerable.

What is the true prevalence and nature of hate crimes?
According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), an estimated annual average of 259,700 nonfatal violent and property hate crime victimizations occurred between 2007 and 2011. About **92%** of all hate crimes **were violent acts**, and the **estimated rate** of such crimes is about **9 in 10,000 residents**. About **54%** of hate crimes were **motivated by racial bias** and **21% by religious bias**. Only **35%** of hate crimes **were reported to police**, and only **4% of violent hate crimes resulted in an arrest**.

Why do so many hate crimes go unreported?
The NCVS found that **24% of victims** of violent hate crimes **do not report their attack to police** because **they believe the police cannot or will not help**. Victims may also believe **that the offender's motive is difficult to prove**, **that the offender might retaliate**, or **that their immigration status might be revealed**.

Is the frequency of hate crimes related to societal events and attitudes?
Hate crimes towards Asians increased after Pearl Harbor and towards Muslims after the 9-11 terrorist attacks. More recently, the Anti-Defamation League reported a spike of anti-Semitic graffiti and vandalism in the week following the 2016 elections. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), "In the first 10 days after his [Trump's] election, the SPLC documented 867 bias-related incidents, including more than 300 that targeted immigrants or Muslims." The Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, reported that hate crimes in 9 US metropolitan areas, including Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio, increased by 23% in the months following the elections of 2016 compared with the same period in the previous year. The California DOJ reported a 21% increase last year, with crimes towards African Americans and Latinos showing the largest increases. According to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), there was a 91% increase in hate crimes toward Muslims in April-June, 2017, compared to the same period in 2016.