



CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS 2025 HATE CRIMES AND HATE INCIDENTS REPORT JULY 1, 2025

Nancy C. Andrade
Commissioner

Mayor Brandon Johnson

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Executive Summary..... | 2 |
| Introduction | 3 |
| Overview of Hate Crimes from National, Local, and Regional Perspectives | 3 |
| Overview of CCHR Activities to Address Hate Crimes | 12 |
| 2024 Hate Crime Data | 19 |
| Findings and Recommendations | 20 |
| Conclusion..... | 21 |
| Acknowledgements..... | 21 |

Executive Summary

This report of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) provides an overview of hate crimes information for 2024 from local, regional, and national perspectives. It also contains information regarding some of CCHR's activities that address hate crimes and hate incidents; plus, findings and recommendations aimed at reducing or eliminating hate crimes and hate incidents in the City of Chicago.

Main Points

- In 2023, hate crimes hit an all-time high across the United States.
- In 2023, hate crimes also reached record highs in the City of Chicago.
- In 2024, hate crimes nationally declined slightly—2.7%—across 42 major cities.
- Despite this slight decline, anti-religious hate crimes rose across the U.S.
- In 2024, Chicago led the nation with a 25.5% decline in hate crimes.
- Chicago's decline in hate crimes trends with its overall decline in serious crime.
- This year, all violent crime victimizations in Chicago are down 22.2% over the previous year.
- In 2024, hate crimes in Chicago decreased in nearly every category.
- Only two pre-existing categories of hate crimes went up last year in Chicago.
- Anti-Gay (Male) hate crimes rose 25%.
- Anti-Jewish hate crimes rose 58%.

The following report contains a more in-depth discussion of these main points, followed by findings and recommendations.

Introduction

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR), the City's civil rights agency, is mandated to produce this annual report by the City's Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Ordinance (Section 2-120-518 of the Municipal Code of Chicago).¹ The report is a snapshot of hate crimes nationally, regionally, and locally. It describes CCHR's work in addressing hate crimes and incidents that occur within the City of Chicago and makes findings and recommendations. Its purpose is to inform the City Council and the public about the City's initiatives for addressing the problem of hate crimes and incidents.

The first annual CCHR hate crimes report was published in 2024 and presented data for 2023. This report highlights data for 2024. The 2024 report is comprehensive and contains sections on CCHR's history and purpose, definitions of hate crimes and hate incidents, a note on the challenges of data gathering on the national and local level, additional information on measures being taken by state and county governments, and detailed information regarding Chicago's 2023 numbers. Readers who want to learn more about those topics are encouraged to read that report, which can be found on the CCHR website.²

Overview of Hate Crimes: National, Local, and Regional

National

FBI data shows that hate crimes in the United States reached an all-time high in 2023.³ That year also saw the highest annual number of hate crimes ever recorded in the City of Chicago, as documented in CCHR's 2024 hate crimes and hate incidents report.⁴

2024: Hate Crimes Declined Modestly Nationwide

Comprehensive full-year 2024 national hate crime statistics are not yet available. The FBI typically releases annual data in late September; thus 2024 figures likely will not be finalized until fall 2025.⁵ Nevertheless, preliminary data indicates that hate crimes in major

¹https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/chicago/latest/chicago_il/0-0-0-2603267

²<https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cchr/general/2024%20CCHR%20Hate%20Crimes%20and%20Hate%20Incidents%20Report.pdf>

³ <https://wdet.org/2024/09/24/hate-crimes-in-us-reached-all-time-high-in-2023-fbi-data-shows/>

⁴ *Supra* note 2.

⁵<https://www.justice.gov/crs/news/2023-hate-crime-statistics>

U.S. cities declined slightly in 2024.⁶ This was unexpected in an election year when some experts anticipated that the number of hate crimes would increase.⁷

According to preliminary data from a new survey by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism (Center) at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB), police reports of hate crimes in 42 major U.S. cities decreased by 2.7% in 2024.⁸

According to the survey, hate crimes against Blacks/African Americans essentially held steady, as they slightly declined from 456 to 453.⁹ Hate crimes against gay men declined 8%, from 346 to 318.¹⁰ Hate crimes against transgender people declined 19.6%, from 107 to 86.¹¹ Anti-Asian hate crimes, which rose exponentially at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, decreased more than 14% in 2024 in 29 cities.¹² Anti-Hispanic/Latino hate crimes, which hit a record high in 2023, declined 5.5%.¹³

Despite a Modest Overall Decline, Anti-Religious Hate Crimes Rose Across the U.S.

In 2024, anti-religious hate crimes increased nationally, despite the slight overall decline in hate crimes.¹⁴ Brian Levin, professor emeritus of criminal justice at CSUSB observed that, “Multi-year overall hate crime trends remain elevated...as hate crimes related to religion register another year of consecutive double-digit percentage increases.”¹⁵

According to this early data, despite the national decline in 2024, anti-Jewish hate crimes rose nationally by 12%, from 576 to 644.¹⁶ Anti-Muslim hate crimes also increased 18%, from 73 to 86.¹⁷ These two categories in particular form part of an upward trend correlated to the Israel-Hamas War.¹⁸ The FBI confirmed that by the end of 2023, anti-Jewish hate crimes had increased by 63% nationwide.¹⁹

⁶ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/03/03/hate-crimes-decline-2024/79454473007/>

⁷ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/04/26/election-2024-hate-crimes-spike-anticipated/11706654002/>

⁸ <https://crimeandjusticeresearchalliance.org/incidences-of-urban-u-s-hate-crime-declined-slightly-in-2024-but-anti-jewish-and-anti-muslim-crimes-continued-to-rise/>

⁹ <https://crimeandjusticeresearchalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Brian-Levin-Hate-Crime-Report-2024.pdf>

¹⁰ Id.

¹¹ Id.

¹² Id.

¹³ Id.

¹⁴ Id.

¹⁵ *Supra* note 8.

¹⁶ *Supra* note 9.

¹⁷ Id.

¹⁸ *Supra* note 8.

¹⁹ <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/new-fbi-data-reflects-record-high-number-anti-jewish-hate-crimes>

Per the CSUSB survey, in 2024, annual records for anti-Jewish hate crimes were broken in several major cities across the U.S.²⁰ Hate crimes against the Jewish community accounted for the largest representation in the survey's subsample, at 25% of the national total.²¹ Since the Jewish community comprises only 2.4% of the U.S. population,²² this means that in 2024, nationally, Jews were targeted for hate crimes at a rate which is approximately ten (10) times their population share.

According to Levin, "The online narrative of threatening stereotypes around religious minorities, the LGBTQIA+ community, immigrants, and others, both individually and as part of a broad conspiracy, has correlated in recent reporting periods to records in hate crimes toward those groups, but no more so than with hate crimes related to religion, which rose for a fourth consecutive year and were accelerated by the Gaza War."²³

In late 2023, Christopher Wray, then-FBI director under the Administration of President Joseph R. Biden, warned a Senate panel that antisemitism in the U.S. was reaching "historic levels" in the wake of violence in Israel and Gaza.²⁴ Wray testified that 60% of all religious-based hate crimes targeted Jewish people.²⁵ He also added that this figure had likely, "increased amid anger caused by the ongoing violence in Gaza."²⁶ In 2024, the Biden Administration expanded nonprofit security grant programs to protect institutions at risk of hate crimes, "aimed at addressing a rise in antisemitism since Oct. 7."²⁷

In 2024, the Biden Administration also announced the development of the first-ever National Strategy to Counter Islamophobia and Anti-Arab Hate.²⁸ The strategy has four priorities: increase awareness of hatred against Muslims and Arabs and broaden recognition of these communities' heritages; improve safety and security for Muslims and Arabs; tackle discrimination against Muslims and Arabs and appropriately accommodate their religious practices; and continue to build cross-community solidarity and collective action to counter hate.²⁹

²⁰ *Supra* note 8.

²¹ *Supra* note 9.

²² <https://ajpp.brandeis.edu/documents/2020/JewishPopulationDataBrief2020.pdf>

²³ *Supra* note 8.

²⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-67281042>

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ <https://www.jta.org/2024/08/27/united-states/us-government-spends-record-454-million-to-secure-religious-institutions-amid-rising-antisemitism>

²⁸ <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/12/12/biden-harris-administration-releases-first-ever-u-s-national-strategy-to-counter-islamophobia-and-anti-arab-hate/>

²⁹ *Id.*

In February 2025, a man was convicted of murder and hate crime charges in the 2023 fatal stabbing of 6-year-old Palestinian American Wadee Alfayoumi, as well as the stabbing of his mother inside their home in Plainfield, Illinois.³⁰ Authorities said the landlord targeted his tenants because they were Muslim and in response to the Israel-Hamas war.³¹

In 2025, the White House issued an Executive Order (EO14188),³² which builds on a previous order (EO 13899), to prevent antisemitism by making it easier to use laws which prohibit institutional discrimination against people based on race, color or national origin to apply to discrimination against Jewish people.³³ Pursuant to these orders, the U.S. Department of Justice formed a multi-agency Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism.³⁴

Local

Chicago Leads the Nation with a 25.5% Decline in Hate Crimes in 2024

Based on the data available on the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) public facing Hate Crimes Dashboard, after a record high year in 2023, Chicago experienced approximately a 25.5% overall drop in hate crimes from 2023 to 2024, from 282 to 210.³⁵ Hate crimes decreased in nearly every category.

During this period, in Chicago:

- Anti-American Indian/Alaskan Native hate crimes **decreased 100%**, from 4 to 0.³⁶
- Anti-Islamic/Muslim hate crimes **decreased 62%**, from 16 to 6.³⁷
- Anti-Black/African American hate crimes **decreased 56%**, from 76 to 33.³⁸
- Anti-White hate crimes **decreased 50%**, from 16 to 8.³⁹
- Anti-Lesbian hate crimes **decreased 50%**, from 6 to 3.⁴⁰
- Anti-Asian hate crimes **decreased 45%**, from 11 to 6.⁴¹
- Anti-Transgender hate crimes **decreased 36%**, from 11 to 7.⁴²

³⁰ <https://abcnews.go.com/US/illinois-stabbing-verdict-hate-crime-murder-charges/story?id=119293881>

³¹ Id.

³² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/additional-measures-to-combat-anti-semitism/>

³³ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/DCPD-201900859/pdf/DCPD-201900859.pdf>

³⁴ <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-formation-task-force-combat-anti-semitism>

³⁵ <https://www.chicagopolice.org/statistics-data/data-dashboards/hate-crime-dashboard/>

³⁶ Id.

³⁷ Id.

³⁸ Id.

³⁹ Id.

⁴⁰ Id.

⁴¹ Id.

⁴² Id.

- Anti-Hispanic/Latino hate crimes **decreased 18%**, from 28 to 23.⁴³
- Anti-LGBT (Mixed Group) hate crimes **decreased 16%**, from 19 to 16.⁴⁴
- Anti-Arab hate crimes remained steady at 5 for each year.⁴⁵
- Anti-Gender Nonconforming hate crimes were reported for the first time, totaling 3 in 2024.⁴⁶

According to the CCUSB report, in 2024 Chicago had the largest annual numeric drop (-72) in hate crimes of any major U.S. city.⁴⁷ The average decline in hate crimes for the ten largest cities in the U.S. stands at -9.1%, but this fact is largely driven by Chicago’s ‘unusual decline’ of -25.5%.⁴⁸ Excluding Chicago’s 25.5% decrease, the decline in hate crimes across the other nine largest cities is much smaller—just 6.5%.⁴⁹

Chicago’s Sharp Decline in Hate Crimes Mirrors the City’s Drop in Serious Crime

In 2024, violent crime in Chicago trended downward. The University of Chicago Crime Lab issued a report highlighting ‘signs of progress’ in the City’s new approach to community safety, noting a “decline in murders and non-fatal shootings.”⁵⁰

Despite this decline, the report noted that, due to inequities resulting from past disinvestment, “Black residents remain disproportionately impacted by gun violence, being 22 times more likely to be killed compared to White residents.”⁵¹ The disparity becomes even greater when factoring for geography, in that, “neighborhoods with the highest homicide rates experience approximately 68 times more homicides than those with the lowest rates.”⁵²

Nevertheless, in 2025, Chicago’s downward trend in serious crime continues. According to the Office of the Mayor’s Violence Reduction Dashboard, ‘all violent crime victimizations’ are down 22.2% this year over the previous year.⁵³ The 2025 Memorial Day weekend tested the City’s safety plan, which includes investing in people, summer jobs for youth, expanding access to mental health care, and collaborating with community-based

⁴³ Id.

⁴⁴ Id.

⁴⁵ Id.

⁴⁶ Id.

⁴⁷ *Supra* note 9.

⁴⁸ Id.

⁴⁹ Id.

⁵⁰ <https://crimelab.uchicago.edu/resources/2024-end-of-year-analysis-chicago-crime-trends/>

⁵¹ Id.

⁵² Id.

⁵³ <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/vrd/home.html>

organizations and violence interrupters.⁵⁴ Historically, this three-day weekend, which marks the unofficial start of summer, has been marred by high numbers of deadly and non-fatal shootings.⁵⁵ About half as many people were shot during the 2025 Memorial Day weekend as in recent years,⁵⁶ making it the least violent Memorial Day weekend in (16) sixteen years.⁵⁷

The City's success in reducing hate crimes from a record high must be viewed in the context of the overall drop in crime that is resulting from its community safety plan. As stated by Mayor Brandon Johnson, "Our investments are clearly having some strong returns as violence continues to go down in the city of Chicago."⁵⁸

While Most Hate Crimes Categories Decreased in Chicago, Two Increased

In 2024, only two pre-existing categories of hate crimes went up in Chicago: Anti-Gay (Male) hate crimes and Anti-Jewish hate crimes.⁵⁹

Anti-Gay (Male) hate crimes rose 25%, from 36 to 45.⁶⁰ Anti-Gay (Male) hate crimes comprised about 21% of the total hate crimes reported in Chicago. In a 2018 study conducted by the Chicago Department of Public Health, the City estimated that 7.1% of Chicagoans identify as Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual.⁶¹ While precise male-only figures are not readily available, if we conservatively split the 7.1% identified as LGB, a reasonable estimate is that around 3–4% of Chicago's adult population are gay or bisexual men. Below is a breakdown of the types of Anti-Gay (Male) hate crimes reported to CPD in 2024.

⁵⁴ <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/chicago-summer-safety-program-passes-test-violent-crime-lower/>

⁵⁵ Id.

⁵⁶ Id.

⁵⁷ <https://chicago.suntimes.com/crime/2025/05/27/chicago-memorial-day-weekend-violence-drop>

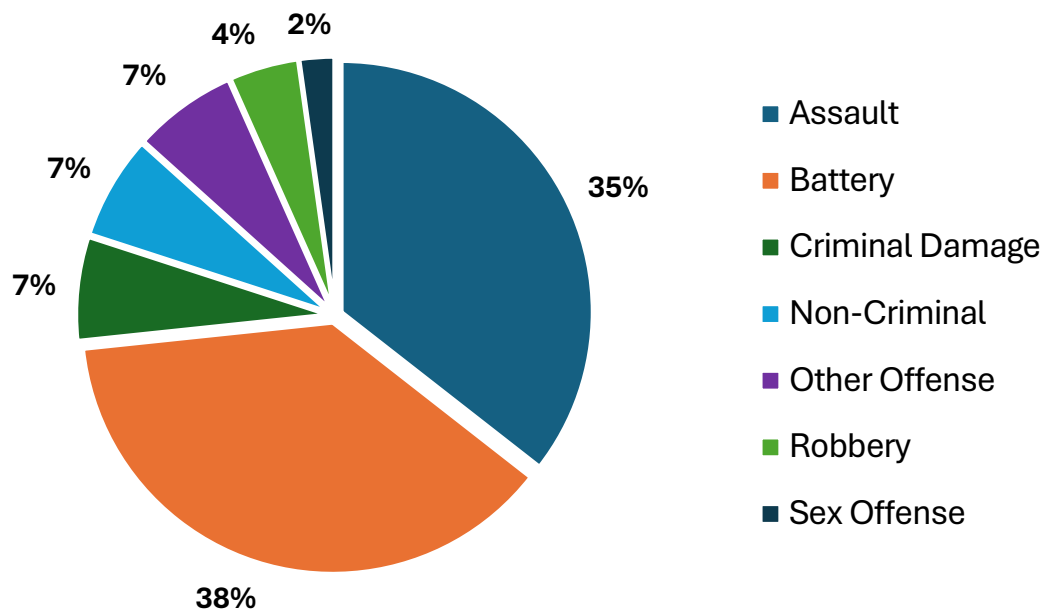
⁵⁸ Id.

⁵⁹ *Supra* note 35.

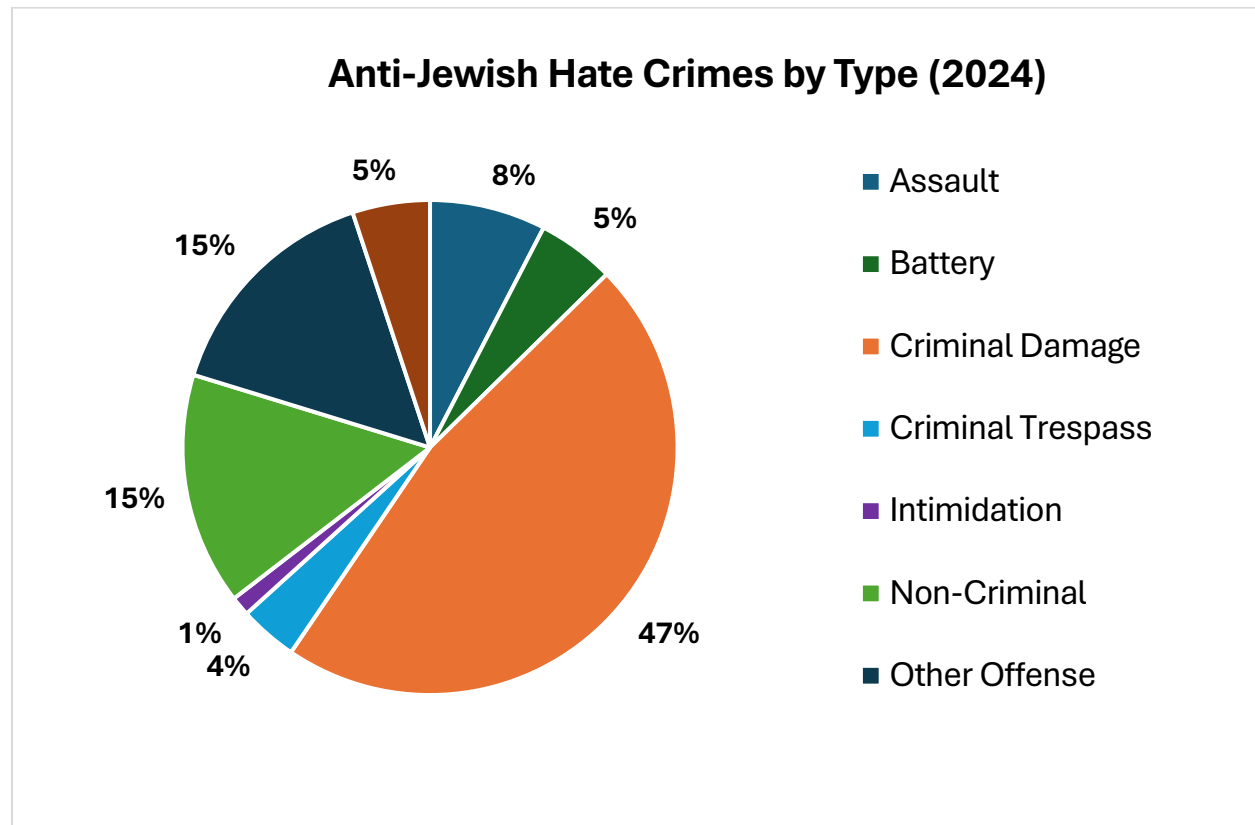
⁶⁰ Id.

⁶¹ https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cdph/LGBTQHealth/CDPH_2017LGBT_Report_r6a.pdf

Anti-Gay (Male) Hate Crimes by Type (2024)



In 2024, Anti-Jewish hate crimes rose 58%, from 50 to 79.⁶² This followed the trend of a national increase in Anti-Jewish hate crimes fueled by reactions to the Israel-Hamas War.⁶³ In 2024, Anti-Jewish hate crimes comprised 37.6% of all hate crimes reported to CPD. Approximately 3% of Chicago’s population identifies as Jewish.⁶⁴ Below is a breakdown of all Anti-Jewish hate crimes reported to CPD in 2024.



⁶² *Supra* note 35.

⁶³ *Supra* note 8.

⁶⁴ <https://www.pewresearch.org/religious-landscape-study/>

Regional

Cook County United Against Hate

Cook County does not publish data on hate crimes. Nevertheless, in 2024, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution declaring September 21 - 27, 2024 as Cook County United Against Hate Week.⁶⁵ The Board committed to welcoming all people regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, class, or other background.⁶⁶

The Board further resolved that during United Against Hate Week, Cook County encourages seven days of local civil action by residents, governments, and organizations in every community to denounce racism, sexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, agism, classism, ableism, audism, and discrimination and implicit bias of any kind.⁶⁷ Finally, they resolved that Cook County pledges to unite against prejudice, to advocate for justice, and to promote equity at every level.⁶⁸

Illinois Help Stop Hate

In October 2024, the State of Illinois launched the Help Stop Hate program to combat the “severe increase in hate crime throughout the state.”⁶⁹ Governor J.B. Pritzker stated that it would serve as, “a new resource that will help protect and empower victims and witnesses to incidents of hate through a free, confidential and multilingual service.”⁷⁰

CCHR’s state counterparts, the Illinois Department of Human Rights, and the Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes oversee the program. It allows people who experience hate crimes to go to [IlStopHate.org](https://ilstophate.org) or call 877-458-HATE to report the crime.⁷¹ They can speak to professionals from their own communities, acquire help dealing with trauma or connect with resources that can provide additional safety measures. The multifaceted approach will also support data collection on hate-motivated crimes, which have historically been underreported, often because some victims are reluctant to report hate crimes. This measure is intended to supplement the work of law enforcement, not replace it, so victims can still report the crime to state or local police, who will investigate further.⁷²

⁶⁵ <https://www.cookcountyunitedagainsthate.com/unitedagainsthateweek#:~:text=September%2021%2D27%2C%202024,course%20of%20this%20growing%20intolerance.>

⁶⁶ Id.

⁶⁷ Id.

⁶⁸ Id.

⁶⁹ <https://capitolnewsillinois.com/news/state-unveils-help-stop-hate-program-in-response-to-rising-hate-crimes/>

⁷⁰ Id.

⁷¹ Id.

⁷² Id.

CCHR participates in the program as a designated resource for callers who experience hate in Chicago.

Illinois Senate Bill 3552

Last year, the Illinois Senate passed a bill, by a vote of 58-0, that would require specialized hate crime training for all police statewide.⁷³ Under the proposal, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board would develop or approve a hate crimes training program, which would become part of police officers' introductory and continuing mandatory education.⁷⁴ CCHR Commissioner Nancy Andrade joined a coalition of leaders in support of the bill, including some from groups representing Illinois Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Black, Latino, Asian, and LGBTQ+ individuals, who called for Illinois to mandate that police receive training in how to recognize, handle and investigate potential hate crimes.⁷⁵

A companion measure, House Bill 5368 passed a House committee 15-0 in May, but was not brought to the floor for a vote.⁷⁶ Work continues in the Illinois legislature to pass a new bill on statewide hate crime training for law enforcement.

Overview of CCHR Activities to Address Hate Crimes

Hate Crime Victim Advocacy

Once a victim reports a hate crime to CPD, that report is forwarded to CPD's Civil Rights Unit, which oversees hate crimes investigations. If the Unit determines that sufficient evidence exists to warrant an investigation for a hate crime, they forward that report CCHR.

CCHR assists as a civilian agency. CCHR does not have law enforcement authority. CCHR does not have any contact with a hate crime matter or a victim until it receives a hate crime report from CPD. Once it does, it is the Hate Crime Victim Advocate (HCVA) who contacts the victim to provide support. The HCVA also notifies the local alderperson that a hate crime occurred in their ward.

Victim advocacy in this context does not involve legal representation. Each case is unique, but typically the HCVA will provide emotional support, help in accessing resources, and assistance in filling out crime victim related forms. The HCVA often accompanies victims

⁷³ <https://news.wttw.com/2024/12/09/police-illinois-should-receive-specialized-training-responding-hate-crimes-advocates-say>

⁷⁴ <https://patch.com/illinois/chicago/mandatory-hate-crime-training-cops-awaits-house-approval>

⁷⁵ Id.

⁷⁶ Id.

and their family members through the criminal justice proceedings. The HCVA tracks cases to their conclusion and collaborates with other organizations, such as criminal justice or social service agencies, to get help or information for the victims.

One example of how the HCVA supports victims involves the case of an Orthodox Jewish man who was shot on the way to synagogue in the West Ridge neighborhood of Chicago.⁷⁷ The alleged shooter remained in the area and reappeared to exchange gunfire with responding officers.⁷⁸ Local doorbell cameras captured the dramatic footage.⁷⁹ The alleged shooter was shot by police as EMTs rushed the victim to the hospital. The victim recovered from his injuries. The alleged shooter was arrested, and after an investigation that included a review of his social media and internet searches, he was charged with a hate crime.

The case generated significant media coverage. When the HCVA contacted the victim, he learned that the victim and his wife feared for their safety, and wished not to attend court proceedings, to maintain their anonymity. On their behalf, the HCVA attended all court proceedings and conferred with the Cook County State Attorney's Office to track the case and report back to them. He consulted with them often, by phone, not only to keep them abreast of the case's progress but also to offer emotional support until the case ended.

Hate Crime Reporting Community Pilot Program

As noted in CCHR's 2024 annual hate crimes report, the underreporting of hate crimes results in skewed data.⁸⁰ It also means that harmful behavior is not addressed.

Underreporting is due to multiple factors, including cultural differences, language issues, mistrust of law enforcement, fear of deportation, and lack of knowledge of the law.

CCHR seeks to address these issues with a Hate Crime Reporting Community Pilot Program. This program entails working with a racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse group of community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve populations most often targeted for hate crimes: Blacks, Whites, Asians, Latinx, members of the LGBTQ+ community, Jews, and Muslims, among others. The agencies are strategically located to enable access to potential victims across Chicago.

The initial cohort of CBOs on this initiative includes: the Chicago Urban League; the Anti-Defamation League; the Center on Halsted; Metropolitan Community Services; the Chinese American Service League; the Instituto del Progreso Latino; and Northside

⁷⁷ <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/10/30/us/chicago-man-multiple-charges-shooting-man-walking-synagogue>

⁷⁸ <https://www.fox32chicago.com/news/west-ridge-shooting-man-charged-video>

⁷⁹ Id.

⁸⁰ *Supra* note 2.

Community Resources. The agencies are well established with strong relationships within the communities they serve.

These partners collaborate with CCHR to amplify our outreach to their constituents and clients. Over time they may serve as alternate sites where Chicagoans can go to report hate crimes in a culturally competent space, in their own language, with people they trust. When this happens, agency representatives will not take reports but instead call 911 to have a police officer come to the agency. The agency representative will be with the victim to provide support and assistance, including translation services if needed. CCHR provides training to the agencies about hate crimes and the victim assistance process.

An important goal for the pilot is to build trust in the community to reach out to CPD. The pilot program is not designed to replace 911 or 311, but to supplement those avenues for reporting.

In 2023, CCHR partnered with CPD to successfully apply for a DOJ Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program grant. Under the Biden Administration, the City was awarded \$400,000 to assist with the implementation of the program. Unfortunately, delays in securing the funds from the federal government held up the implementation. The new Administration's policies threaten further delays if not outright cancellation of the grant.

Nevertheless, CCHR has opted to move forward with or without the federal funding and has already started a strategic outreach campaign in partnership with the CBOs. This year, the City's Office of Budget and Management approved CCHR to hire a second HCVA. The agency and the Department of Human Resources have concluded the hiring process and a new HCVA will begin City service on August 1, 2025. That individual's initial duties will include continuing the roll out of the Hate Crime Community Pilot Program, which is already underway.

Community Tension Mediations

CCHR's Human Relations Specialist II, a trained mediator provides conflict resolution for community tensions, primarily through mediation. CCHR intervenes in community tensions that are based on one party's membership in one of the protected classes enumerated by the Human Rights and Fair Housing ordinances. The protected classes include: Age (over 40); Ancestry, Bodily Autonomy; Color; Credit History (employment only); Criminal History (employment only); Disability; Gender identity; Marital Status; Military Status; National Origin; Parental Status; Race; religion; Retaliation, Sex (including Pregnancy and Sexual Harassment); Sexual orientation; and Source of Income.

CCHR's intervention work is civilian based and not in a law enforcement capacity. Matters involving crime are addressed by law enforcement and the State's Attorney Office. CCHR

offers this service, free of charge, to facilitate peacemaking and prevent situations from escalating to the point where hate crimes may occur. A 'community tension' is an incident, series of incidents, situation or condition between individuals or groups that threatens the peace and stability of a community. Community tension can develop when conflict leads to a lack of trust, respect, or understanding between diverse individuals or communities.

CCHR receives community tension cases from 311, phone calls from parties seeking assistance, referrals from community-based organizations, CPD C.A.P.S., alderpersons, church groups, businesses, and more.

Over the years, CCHR has intervened in a wide variety of community tensions. Some have divided a block, a school, communities versus local businesses, even a senior center. Often, they are aggravated by racial and ethnic differences. Many tensions involve neighbor to neighbor disputes.

Experience over the decades taught CCHR staff that any community tension can escalate from routine conflict into harassment, crime, and violence. Racist graffiti may go up on a person's home or business. A family, even young children, may be stalked. A brick may be thrown through a window. A garage might be set on fire. A family could be forced to leave their home, their current community, and in some cases may even contemplate leaving the city of Chicago because of unresolved community tension. Tragically, community tension can even result in homicide. While these are not the norm, they highlight the fact that community tensions are urgent because they involve aggrieved parties and are a potential threat to peace and stability. In 2024, CCHR responded to one hundred (100) community tensions.

Workshops

CCHR's Project Coordinator's primary responsibilities include conducting workshops and outreach. Workshops are the delivery of an education training module. They are distinct from a presentation in that they usually entail a brief, intensive course of education for a small group, emphasizing interaction, awareness, empowerment, and practical problem solving. They can be on any topic of human relations or anti-discrimination. Examples include discrimination, bullying/cyberbullying, conflict resolution, and peace circles.

Tools used during workshops include age-appropriate videos, handouts, surveys, worksheets, Power Points, and brochures. Techniques include breakout sessions designed to make the experience interactive and to encourage participants to share their own experiences and acknowledge the experiences of others.

CCHR workshops are free of charge and provide people with tools to prevent situations from escalating to the point where a hate crime may occur.

Hate Littering

Beginning in the fall of 2023, following the start of the Israel-Hamas War, and extending through the first half of 2024, a nationally active White supremacist group began to leave antisemitic flyers on cars and people's doorsteps in several Chicago neighborhoods which seemed to be targeted due to their high concentrations of Jewish residents.⁸¹ A comprehensive description of this hateful campaign may be found in CCHR's 2024 hate crimes report.⁸²

At first, CCHR responded by counter-leafletting in the impacted areas with local alderpersons, but the perpetrators continued targeting different neighborhoods. Then CCHR collaborated with Alderman Timmy Knudsen (43rd) on his draft of an anti-hate littering proposed ordinance designed to disincentivize such inflammatory and dangerous actions while still protecting free speech rights.⁸³ CCHR's 2024 hate crimes report urged passage of this ordinance in its findings and recommendations.⁸⁴

In a meeting with Ald. Knudsen and CPD, CCHR learned that CPD was monitoring the White supremacists' social media activity. CPD discovered that the group was aware of the proposed ordinance and concerned about its passage. The City Council passed the ordinance at its first meeting after CCHR published its hate crimes report.⁸⁵ Since then, CCHR has not received any new reports of the group distributing any more flyers in Chicago, even though they continue their hateful campaign in other parts of the country.⁸⁶

Hate Incidents

In December 2023, Chicago amended the city's hate crimes ordinance.⁸⁷ The amendments added a new term to the ordinance: "hate incidents."⁸⁸ Readers can learn more about this category by referring to the 2024 Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents report.⁸⁹

The amended ordinance defines hate incidents as "any action that: (A) targets an individual or group based on their actual or perceived race, color, sex, gender identity, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, or sexual orientation; (B) consists of clear and

⁸¹ <https://hoodline.com/2024/02/chicago-rattled-by-antisemitic-flyers-community-leaders-and-authorities-respond-to-hate-surge/>

⁸² *Supra* note 2.

⁸³ *Id.*

⁸⁴ *Id.*

⁸⁵ <https://abc7chicago.com/post/chicago-city-council-passes-hate-littering-ordinance-would/15065883/>

⁸⁶ <https://www.wsaz.com/2025/01/22/antisemitic-white-supremacist-flyers-are-appearing-all-over-these-communities-officials-say/>

⁸⁷ *Supra* note 2.

⁸⁸ *Supra* note 1.

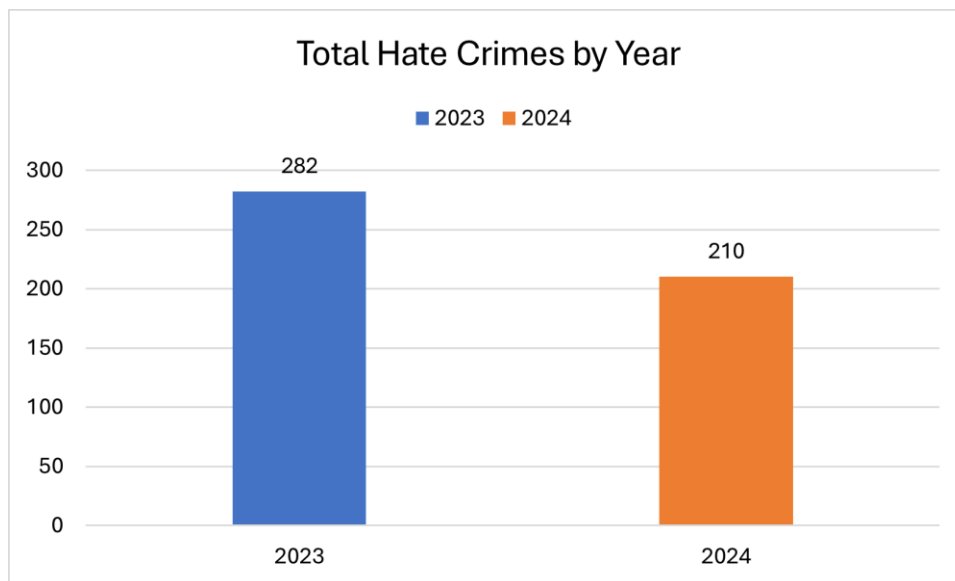
⁸⁹ *Supra* note 2.

intentional acts of bias, prejudice or hostility, including but not limited to offensive language, symbols, or threats, that place the targeted individual or group in reasonable apprehension of a hate crime; and (C) is not classified as a criminal offense or as a violation of,” the city’s municipal code.⁹⁰

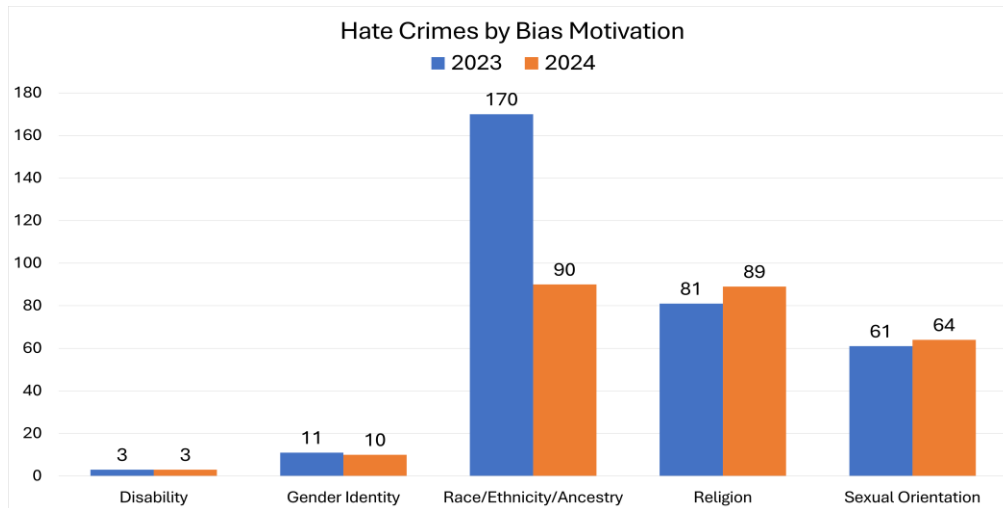
Hate incidents are any non-criminal act that targets a person or group based on a bias against their protected class. The amended ordinance added the ability to report hate incidents to 311.

In 2024, the first year under the amended ordinance, 311 received twenty-one (21) bona fide reports of hate incidents. Two were anti-Transgender nonconforming. One was anti-Arab. Three were anti-Black or African American. One was anti-Hindu. Three were anti-Jewish. One was anti-Other Christian. Three were anti-Gay (Male). Seven were anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (Mixed Group).

2024 Data for Hate Crimes (as reported by the Chicago Police Department)



⁹⁰ *Supra* note 1.

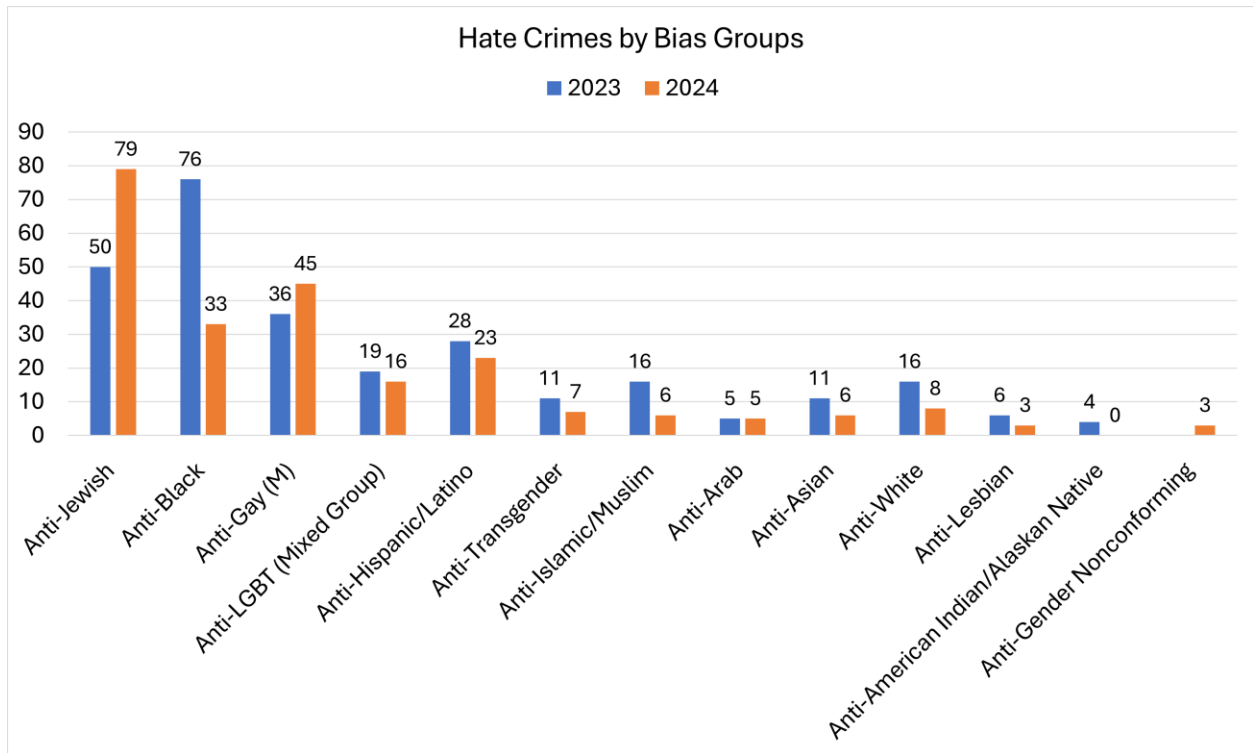


Hate Crimes by Demographic Groups

| | 2023 | 2024 |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|
| Anti-Jewish | 50 | 79 |
| Anti-Black | 76 | 33 |
| Anti-Gay (M) | 36 | 45 |
| Anti-LGBT (Mixed Group) | 19 | 16 |
| Anti-Hispanic/Latino | 28 | 23 |
| Anti-Transgender | 11 | 7 |
| Anti-Islamic/Muslim | 16 | 6 |
| Anti-Arab | 5 | 5 |
| Anti-Asian | 11 | 6 |
| Anti-White | 16 | 8 |
| Anti-Lesbian | 6 | 3 |
| Anti-American Indian Alaskan Native | 4 | 0 |
| Anti-Gender Nonconforming | | 3 |

Hate Crimes by Bias Motivation

| Bias Motivation | 2023 | 2024 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| Disability | 3 | 3 |
| Gender Identity | 11 | 10 |
| Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry | 170 | 90 |
| Religion | 81 | 89 |
| Sexual Orientation | 61 | 64 |
| Total | 326 | 256 |



Findings and Recommendations

While Chicago experienced a significant drop in hate crimes in nearly every category last year, two categories of hate crimes increased: Anti-Gay (Male) and Anti-Jewish.⁹¹

Chicago's Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents ordinance requires CCHR to produce this report and specifies that the report should contain, "any findings and recommendations to reduce or eliminate hate crimes and hate incidents."⁹²

Pursuant to that directive, CCHR respectfully makes the following recommendations:

1. CCHR proposes to collaborate with the Mayor's LGBTQ+ Advisory Council to address the rise in Anti-Gay (Male) hate crimes. The Mayor's Office is in the process of hiring a Director of LGBTQ+ Affairs. This person will serve as a liaison with the LGBTQ+ community and advocate for resources and policies that support the community. As CCHR will soon be onboarding a new Hate Crime Victim Advocate, we suggest that an early priority for both new hires should be to serve as the front lines on a partnership to explore how we can increase safety for every member of the LGBTQ+ community, including gay males. This work would dovetail with the work that CCHR is already conducting as it implements Mayor Johnson's Executive Order declaring a transfemicide state of emergency and establishing the Transfemicide Working Group, which is spearheaded by CCHR.
2. CCHR further proposes, pursuant to its powers under Section 2-120-518 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, to call for hearings to address the pattern of anti-Jewish hate crimes, hate incidents, and hate-based tensions; to receive and hear testimony from victims, witnesses and experts; to invite all relevant state, county, and federal partners to participate and collaborate as needed; to issue subpoenas as needed; to design and conduct such hearings to be inclusive and representative of the diverse communities of our Jewish residents; to provide a platform to hear the Jewish community's concerns on how the City can improve the safety of the Jewish community; to produce a report summarizing its findings and recommendations within ninety (90) days of the final hearing; to make said report available to the public; and to issue progress reports as part of CCHR's annual hate crimes report, starting with the annual report due July 1, 2026.

⁹¹ *Supra* note 35.

⁹² *Supra* note 1.

Conclusion

Global conflicts and national trends affect us at the local level. While Chicago has experienced a significant drop in serious crimes generally, and hate crimes specifically, challenges persist, and we must remain vigilant. The work of CCHR remains critical. CCHR will continue to collaborate with government partners like CPD, community-based stakeholders, the business community, faith-based leaders, and other stakeholders, to continue to serve and uplift the people of Chicago. Together, we will succeed in building a better, safer, stronger Chicago.

Acknowledgements

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

- Office of the Mayor
- Chicago Police Department
- Mayor's Office of Equity and Racial Justice
- Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs