

# Hate Crimes and the FBI

U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Civil Rights Unit



## Federal Hate Crimes Statutes

### Conspiracy Against Rights (18 USC § 241)

Makes it unlawful for two or more persons to agree together to injure, threaten, or intimidate a person in any state, territory, or district in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him/her by the Constitution or the laws of the United States (or because of his/her having exercised the same).

### Federally Protected Activities (18 USC § 245)

Prohibits willfully injuring, intimidating, or interfering with any person— (or attempting to do so) by force or threat of force because of: race, color, religion, or national origin— because of their participation in a federally protected activity. These activities include public education, public facilities, employment, jury service, interstate commerce, and public accommodation.

### Church Arson Prevention Act (18 USC § 247)

Prohibits intentionally defacing, damaging, or destroying religious real property, or attempting to do so because of the religious character of that property. This statute also prohibits obstructing (or attempt), by force or threat of force, any person in the enjoyment of that person's free exercise of their religious beliefs or attempting to do so. The crime must affect interstate commerce.

### Hate Crimes Prevention Act (18 USC § 249)

Prohibits causing bodily injury (or attempting to do so) because of actual or perceived: race, color, religion, or national origin. This statute also prohibits causing bodily injury (or attempting to do so using fire, a firearm, or dangerous weapon) because of a person's actual or perceived: religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, national origin, or disability. The crime must affect interstate commerce.

### Fair Housing Act (42 USC § 3631)

Prohibits using force or threats of force to willfully injure, intimidate, or interfere with any person's housing rights because of: race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status.

To report a Hate Crime, contact your local FBI office and ask to submit a Hate Crime complaint to the Civil Rights squad, or go to [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov), and click on "Submit a Tip".

## FBI Field Office Telephone Numbers:

Albany	(518) 465-7551	Indianapolis	(317) 595-4000	Oklahoma City	(405) 290-7770
Albuquerque	(505) 889-1300	Jackson	(601) 948-5000	Omaha	(402) 493-8688
Anchorage	(907) 276-4441	Jacksonville	(904) 248-7000	Philadelphia	(215) 418-4000
Atlanta	(770) 216-3000	Kansas City	(816) 512-8200	Phoenix	(623) 466-1999
Baltimore	(410) 265-8080	Knoxville	(865) 544-0751	Pittsburgh	(412) 432-4000
Birmingham	(205) 326-6166	Las Vegas	(702) 385-1281	Portland	(503) 224-4181
Boston	(857) 386-2000	Little Rock	(501) 221-9100	Richmond	(804) 261-1044
Buffalo	(716) 856-7800	Los Angeles	(310) 477-6565	Sacramento	(916) 746-7000
Charlotte	(704) 672-6100	Louisville	(502) 263-6000	Salt Lake City	(801) 579-1400
Chicago	(312) 421-6700	Memphis	(901) 747-4300	San Antonio	(210) 225-6741
Cincinnati	(513) 421-4310	Miami	(754) 703-2000	San Diego	(858) 320-1800
Cleveland	(216) 522-1400	Milwaukee	(414) 276-4684	San Francisco	(415) 553-7400
Columbia	(803) 551-4200	Minneapolis	(763) 569-8000	San Juan	(787) 754-6000
Dallas	(972) 559-5000	Mobile	(251) 438-3674	Seattle	(206) 622-0460
Denver	(303) 629-7171	New Haven	(203) 777-6311	Springfield	(217) 522-9675
Detroit	(313) 965-2323	New Orleans	(504) 816-3000	St. Louis	(314) 589-2500
El Paso	(915) 832-5000	New York City	(212) 384-1000	Tampa	(813) 253-1000
Honolulu	(808) 566-4300	Newark	(973) 792-3000	Washington DC	(202) 278-2000
Houston	(713) 693-5000	Norfolk	(757) 455-0100		

Field office telephone numbers as of 02/2018. The most current field office telephone numbers can be found at <https://www.fbi.gov>.

# Hate Crimes and the FBI

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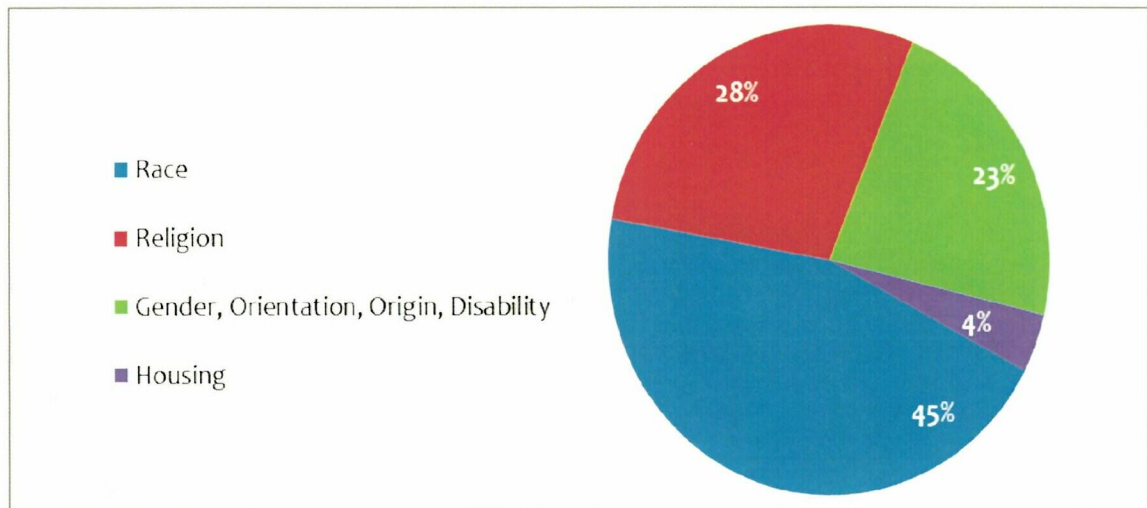


## What We Do...

The FBI is the primary federal agency responsible for investigating all allegations regarding violations of federal civil rights statutes. The Civil Rights Program is divided into four subprograms. In order of priority, these subprograms are: Hate Crimes, Color of Law Violations, Human Trafficking, and the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act.

The investigation of hate crimes is the top priority within the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Civil Rights Program due to the devastating impact these types of crimes can have on families and communities. A hate crime is defined as "a criminal offense against a person or property motivated by the individual's bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic/national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity."

The FBI investigates hundreds of hate crimes every year and works to detect and deter further incidents through law enforcement support, training, public outreach, and partnerships with a number of community groups. The FBI is currently investigating over 225 cases involving hate crimes nationwide, and a breakdown can be seen below.



## How We Do It...

**Law Enforcement Support:** The FBI works closely with state/local authorities in investigating hate crimes, even when federal charges are not pursued. FBI resources, forensic expertise, and experience in identification and proof of hate-based motivations often provide an invaluable complement to local law enforcement.

**Training:** The FBI conducts hundreds of seminars, workshops, and training sessions annually for federal and local law enforcement, minority and religious organizations, and community groups to promote cooperation and provide education about civil rights statutes. Each year, the FBI also provides hate crimes training for new agents, hundreds of current agents, and thousands of police officers worldwide.

**Public Outreach:** The FBI has forged partnerships nationally and locally with many civil rights organizations to establish rapport, share information, address concerns, and cooperate in solving problems.

**Data Collection and dissemination:** Through the use of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR), the FBI strives to collect and provide a comprehensive reporting of hate crimes committed within the U.S. on an annual basis.