

# Hate Crime, 2003

## Executive Summary

### Participating Agencies

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been collecting data on hate crimes since 1991, under the Hate Crimes Reporting Act of 1990. A total of 321 law enforcement agencies participated in the Commonwealth's hate crime reporting program during 2003.

Hate crime occurrences were reported by 86 local police departments and 5 campus police agencies. A total of 396 hate crime incident reports were filed by these agencies. These incidents were comprised of 553 criminal offenses and 433 bias motivations. An additional 228 state, local and campus police departments reported "zero" hate crimes during 2003.

The reporting of hate crimes, like the reporting of other criminal incidents to the Crime Reporting Unit of the Massachusetts State Police, is a voluntary process. As a result, it is likely that the number of hate crimes is an undercount of the actual number of such incidents known to police agencies. In addition, not all bias crimes may be reported to police agencies, due to a number of factors. As a result, the data presented in this report must be viewed as an approximation of the true extent of hate crime in Massachusetts.

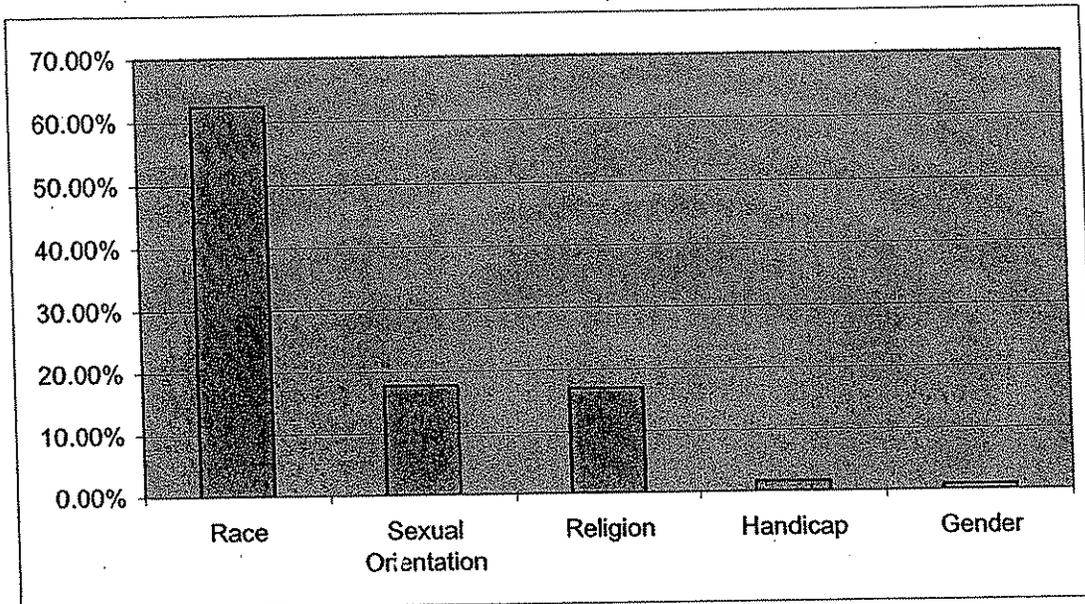
### Categories of Bias Reported

Bias incidents break down accordingly: of the 433 bias motivations for particular crimes reported, race/ethnicity/national origin bias constituted the largest category of reported motives, with 62.5% of the total. Within this category, anti-Black incidents were 21.9%, anti-White 12%, anti-Arab 8.5%, anti-Asian 7.9%, anti-Hispanic 6.2%, and anti-Other race 6.0%

Offenses related to sexual orientation were the second most frequent category, with 17.7% of the total, including anti-Gay, 13.6% and anti-Lesbian, 3.9% Religious affiliation comprised 17% of the total, including anti-Semitic, 12.9%, anti-Catholic, 1.8%, anti-Islamic, 1.6% Offenses against disability status and gender were reported as 1.6% and .9%, respectively.

**The prevalence of combined anti-Arab/anti-Islamic hate crimes dropped from 74 in 2001 to 44 in 2003, a decrease of 41%. The percentage of anti-gay hate crimes remained relatively the same from 13.4% in 2001 (87) to 13.6% in 2003 (59). There was a 1.1% drop in anti-Semitism hate crimes from 90 (14.0%) in 2001 to 56 (12.9%) in 2003.**

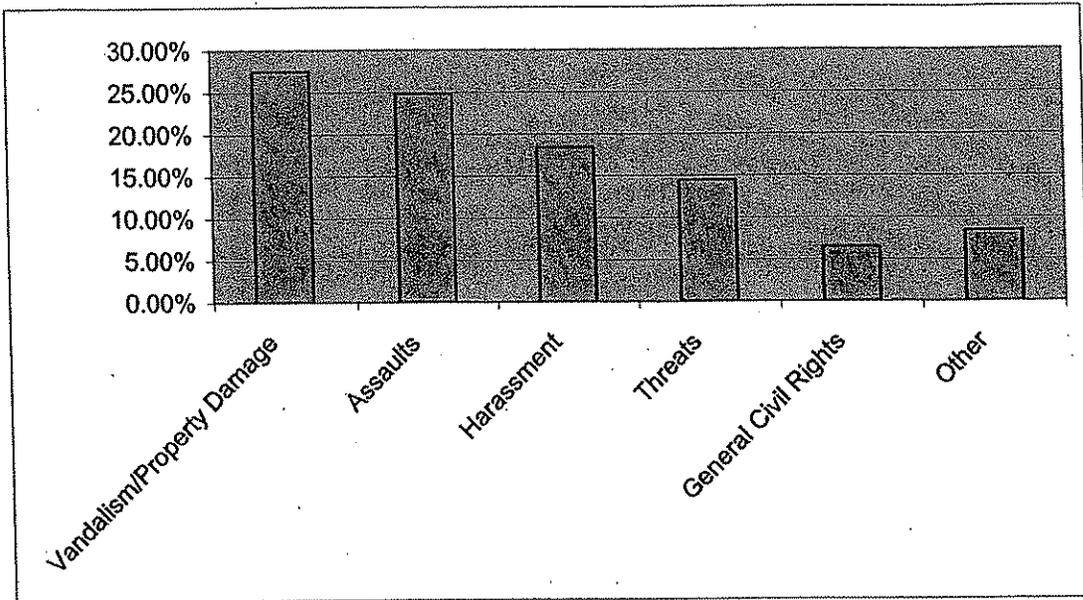
Given the high-profile media attention to the sex abuse scandal in the Catholic church, the incidence of anti-Catholic hate crime remained surprisingly steady, with 8 incidents in 2001 (1.2%) and 8 incidents in 2003 (1.8%).



### **Categories of Crimes Reported**

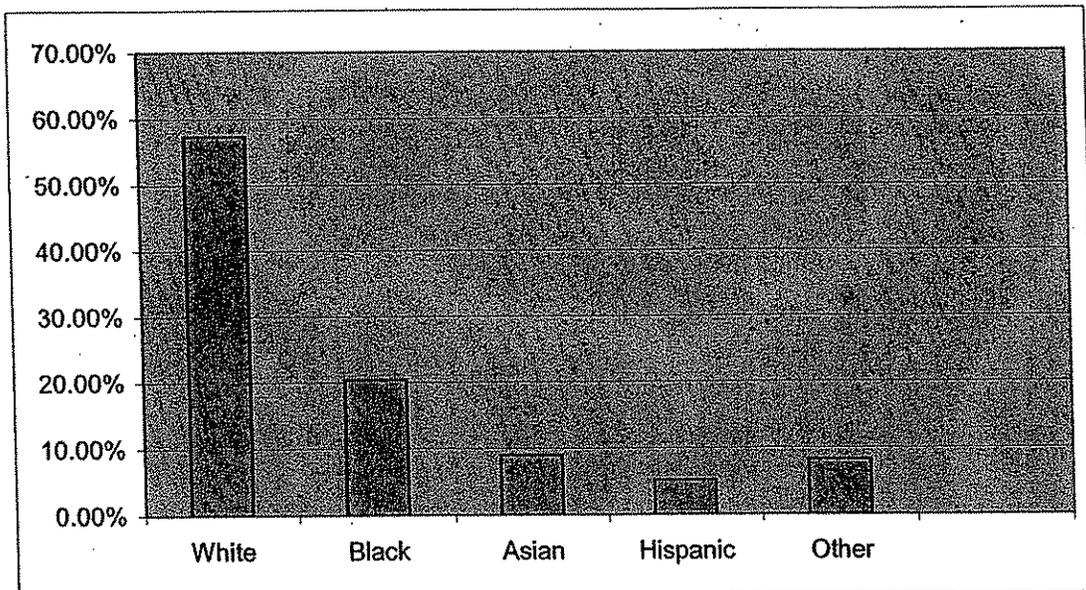
Of the total 553 criminal offenses reported, acts of vandalism and damage to property were the most frequent offenses, representing 27.5% of the total. **Vandalism is still the most-frequently committed crime** during bias attacks, but it has decreased from 181 in 2001 to 129 in 2003. Other frequent crime categories were aggravated and simple assaults 24.8%, harassment 18.4%, threats 14.5%, and general civil rights violations 6.5%. In the remaining 8.4% of cases, other crimes were reported.

In addition to the decline in vandalism, the number of assaults also decreased, from 164 in 2001 to 137 in 2003. However, the most significant decrease was in harassment, which went from 179 incidents in 2001 to 102 in 2003.



**Victim Profile**

The victim of hate crimes (in the 441 cases where information on the victim's race was available) was white in 57.3% of cases, black in 20.4% of cases, Asian in 8.9% of cases, Hispanic in 5.2% of cases, and other race in 8.2% of cases.

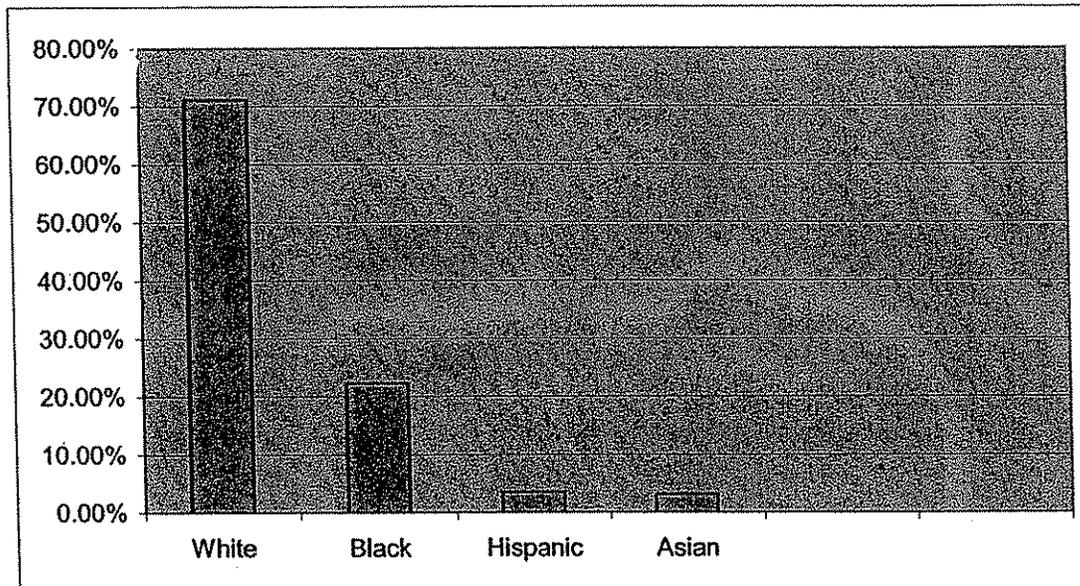


Notably, the largest percentage of victims' ages changed: in 2001, the largest percentage were in the 16-20 group (63, or 14.7%); while in 2003, the largest percentage were in the 21-25 group (42, or 14%).

Males were victims in **57.6%** of cases in 2003, compared to 62% of cases in 2001. Notwithstanding the **actual number** of female victims decreased from **203** in 2001 to **162** in 2003, the **percentage of female victims actually rose by 5%** from 37.4% in 2001 to 42.4% in 2003.

### **Offender Profile**

The perpetrator of hate crimes were white in **71.1%** of cases, black in **22.8%** of cases, Hispanic in **3.5%** of cases, and Asian in **3.1%** of cases where this information was available (**329** cases). The perpetrator was male in **77.5%** of the **311** cases where gender was known. It is particularly significant that in almost half of the hate crimes reported (**45%**), the perpetrators were **20 years old or younger**.

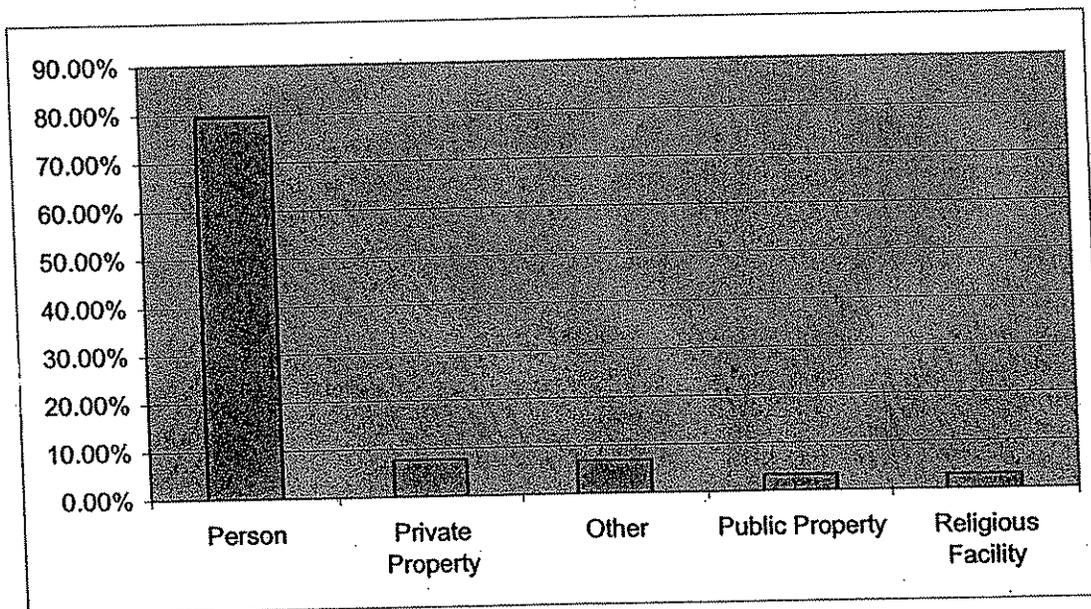


The **percentage of white offenders remained relatively steady**, from 331, or **71.4%** in 2001 to 204, or **71.1%** in 2003. The percentage and number of Hispanic offenders decreased during this same period from 32, or **6.9%**, in 2001 to 10, or **3.5%**, in 2003. The number of Black offenders increased from 20.9% (97) in 2001 to 22.3% (64) in 2003 and Asian offenders increased from 1, or **.2%**, in 2001 to 9, or **3.1%** in 2003.

Similarly, while the actual number of female offenders decreased from 87 in 2001 to 70 in 2003, the **percentage of female offenders also increased by 4.2%** from 18.3% in 2001 to 22.5% in 2003.

### Targets of Hate Crimes

The most frequent targets of hate crimes were individuals (79.4% of 369 cases), followed by private property (7.6%), other (6.8%), public property (3.3%), and religious facility (3.0%).



### Prior Offenses Involving Reported Victims or Locations

In 15.2% of the 178 cases for which this information is available, victims or locations reported being targeted in hate crimes at least once in the past, down from 16% in 2001.

### Details of the Offense

The most frequently reported location of hate crimes was in or around a home or residence (28.5% of the 389 cases), followed by a highway or road (17.5%). For cases in which the location is known, 13.1% of incidents occurred on school or college campuses. In 54.6% of all reported incidents a weapon was used.

School or college-based hate crimes decreased from 82 in 2001 to 51 in 2003.

### Role of Organized Hate Groups

There was evidence of an organized hate group in only 2.2% of cases. Such evidence might be the existence of printed hate literature, or distinctive clothing or patches on the perpetrators.

## Section 2: Tables

**Table 1: Crimes Committed during Bias Attacks**

	Hate Crimes	% of Total
Vandalism	129	23.3
Harassment	102	18.4
Simple assault	84	15.2
Threats	80	14.5
Aggravated aslt	53	9.6
Gen. Civil Rights	36	6.5
Damage to prop	23	4.2
Larceny/theft	17	3.1
Weapons offense	12	2.2
Burglary	5	0.9
Disorderly conduct	4	0.7
Robbery	4	0.7
Damage relig. objects	1	0.2
Trespass	1	0.2
Arson	1	0.2
Rape	1	0.2
Total	553	100.0

**Table 2: Bias Types as Reported to Police**

	Bias Types	% of Total
Anti-Black	95	21.9
Anti-gay (male)	59	13.6
Anti-Semitic	56	12.9
Anti-White	52	12.0
Anti-Arab	37	8.5
Anti-Asian	34	7.9
Anti-Hispanic	27	6.2
Anti-other race/eth.	26	6.0
Anti-Lesbian	17	3.9
Anti-Catholic	8	1.8
Anti-Islamic	7	1.6
Anti-mental handicap	4	0.9
Anti-physical handicap	3	0.7
Anti-Female	3	0.7
Anti-Protestant	2	0.5
Anti-other rel.	1	0.2
Anti-other sexual	1	0.2
Anti-Male	1	0.2
Total	433	100.0

	<b>Black</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Other race/eth.</b>	<b>Total</b>
Vandalism	12	42	10	4	2	70
Damage relig. objects		1				1
Harassment	15	48	8	5	11	87
Disorderly conduct	2					2
Trespass		1				1
Threats	17	34	4	6	10	71
Damage to prop.	4	8	4	1	1	18
Weapons offense	2	7			1	10
Simple assault	13	49	5	4	8	79
Larceny/theft	2	6	3			11
Burglary		5				5
Aggravated aslt	16	29	3	2		50
Robbery		4				4
Rape	1					1
Gen. Civil Rights	6	19	2	1	3	31
	60	173	24	14	20	441

	<b>Black</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Other race/eth.</b>	<b>Total</b>
Anti-Black	50	13	2	2	1	68
Anti-White	1	43		1		45
Anti-Asian		8	22			30
Anti-Hispanic	2	10		9		21
Anti-Arab		13		1	15	29
Anti-other race/eth.		10	1		5	16
Anti-Semitic		21	1		1	23
Anti-Catholic		3	1	1		5
Anti-Protestant		1				1
Anti-Islamic	2	1			2	5
Anti-other rel.					1	1
Anti-gay (male)	6	40				46
Anti-Lesbian	1	13				14
Anti-other sexual		1				1
Anti-mental handicap	1	2				3
Anti-physical handicap	1	1				2
Anti-Female		2				2
	64	182	27	14	25	312

Table 5: Crimes by County of Occurrence

Criminal Offense	Barns.	Berk.	Brist	Essex	Frank.	Hampden	Hampsh.	Middle.	Norfolk	Plym.	Suffolk	Worc.	Total
Vandalism	7	2	5	13	1	5	3	24	23	9	35	2	129
Damage relig. objects											1		1
Harassment		3						5	1		86	7	102
Disorderly conduct			1					1	1			1	4
Trespass											1		1
Threats	2		1	4		1	2	9	11	4	43	3	80
Damage to prop	1		1				1	3	2		15		23
Weapons offense	1							2		1	8		12
Arson						1							1
Simple assault	4		3	5	1	7	2	11	5	3	37	6	84
Larceny/theft			3					6	1	1	3	3	17
Burglary				1		1		2			1		5
Aggravated asit	7		3		1	1	2	4	3	12	18	2	53
Robbery									1		3		4
Rape								1					1
Gen. Civil Rights			4					5			27		36
Total	16	5	14	22	3	15	9	63	44	24	151	21	553

Table 6: Bias Types by County of Occurrence

Bias Types	Barns.	Berk.	Brist	Essex	Frank.	Hampden	Hampsh.	Middle.	Norfolk	Plym.	Suffolk	Worc.	Total
Anti-Black	9		4	7	2	2	1	12	12	8	31	7	95
Anti-White	1		3	1		3	2	13	2	4	22	1	52
Anti-Asian			2	1		2	1	3	6	1	17	1	34
Anti-Hispanic	2			2		3		4		3	10	3	27
Anti-Arab			1			2		6	3	1	23	1	37
Anti-other race/eth.			1	1	1	1		6	5	1	10	1	26
Anti-Semitic		4	2	8		3	1	9	12	3	11	3	56
Anti-Catholic	1		2	2						2	1		8
Anti-Protestant			1									1	2
Anti-Islamic			1					2			4		7
Anti-other rel.								1					1
Anti-gay (male)	1	2	1				2	8	9	1	31	4	59
Anti-Lesbian			2		1		2	1	2		8	1	17
Anti-other sexual											1		1
Anti-mental handicap								3			1		4
Anti-physical handicap						1		1		1			3
Anti-Male								1					1
Anti-Female									1		1	1	3
Total	14	6	20	22	3	17	9	70	52	25	171	24	433

	Black	White	Asian	Hispanic	Total
Vandalism	1	28			29
Harassment	19	45	2	4	70
Disorderly conduct		3			3
Threats	11	46	3		60
Damage to prop		9			9
Weapons offense	5	6			11
Simple assault	15	47	2	2	66
Larceny/theft	3	5	2		10
Burglary		1			1
Aggravated aslt	14	29	1	1	45
Robbery	1				1
Rape	1				1
Gen. Civil Rights	5	16	2		23
	42	159	7	5	329

	Black	White	Asian	Hispanic	Total
Anti-Black	4	46		2	52
Anti-White	20	8	2	1	31
Anti-Asian	2	17	1		20
Anti-Hispanic	2	13			15
Anti-Arab	4	22			26
Anti-other race/eth.	1	14	1		16
Anti-Semitic	1	13	1		15
Anti-Catholic	1	3			4
Anti-Protestant		1	1		2
Anti-Islamic	1	4			5
Anti-other rel.		1			1
Anti-gay (male)	6	21	1	2	30
Anti-Lesbian		11			11
Anti-other sexual	1				1
Anti-mental handicap	1	1			2
Anti-physical handicap		2			2
Anti-Female		1			1
	44	178	7	5	234

	Frequency	Percent
10 and Under	7	2.3
11 thru 15	28	9.3
16 thru 20	36	12.0
21 thru 25	42	14.0
26 thru 30	27	9.0
31 thru 35	30	10.0
36 thru 40	31	10.3
41 thru 45	28	9.3
46 thru 50	33	11.0
51 thru 55	15	5.0
56 thru 60	8	2.7
60 and Up	16	5.3
Total	301	100.0

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
10 and Under	4	1.8
11 thru 15	30	13.5
16 thru 20	66	29.7
21 thru 25	34	15.3
26 thru 30	18	8.1
31 thru 35	10	4.5
36 thru 40	20	9.0
41 thru 45	21	9.5
46 thru 50	9	4.1
51 thru 55	6	2.7
60 and Up	4	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>100.0</b>

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	27	15.2
No	151	84.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>100.0</b>

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Person	293	79.4
Private property	28	7.6
Public property	12	3.3
Religious Facility	11	3.0
Other	25	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>100.0</b>

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Verbal harassment/slurs	104	55.6
Spray painted graffiti	36	19.3
Other	25	13.4
Damage to prop	11	5.9
Threatening mail	11	5.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>100.0</b>

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	4	2.2
No	175	97.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 15: Location of Bias Crime**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Residence/home	111	28.5
Highway/road/alley	68	17.5
School/college	51	13.1
Parking lot/garage	30	7.7
Other/unknown	22	5.7
Commerical/office building	19	4.9
Restaurant	10	2.6
Bar/nightclub	9	2.3
Department/discount store	9	2.3
Government/public building	9	2.3
Church/synagogue/temple	8	2.1
Convenience store	8	2.1
Grocery/supermarket	6	1.5
Service/gas station	6	1.5
Field/woods	5	1.3
Speciality store	5	1.3
construction site	3	0.8
Hotel/motel/etc.	3	0.8
drug store/doctor's office/hospital	2	0.5
Air/bus/train term	1	0.3
Bank/savings and loan	1	0.3
Jail/prison	1	0.3
Liquor store	1	0.3
Rental storage facility	1	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Section 3: Non-reporting Agencies

Alford	Shutesbury
Aquinnah	Stoneham
Ashfield	Tisbury
Bernardston	Tolland
Blandford	Tyringham
Brookfield	Wareham
Buckland	Warwick
Chester	Washington
Chesterfield	Wellfleet
Chilmark	Wendell
Clarksburg	Westminster
Colrain	West Bridgewater
Conway	West Stockbridge
Dighton	Westhampton
Dover	Weymouth
Dudley	Whitman
Dunstable	Windsor
Duxbury	Worthington
Essex	
Fall River	MBTA-Bristol
Florida	MBTA-Essex
Foxborough	MBTA-Middlesex
Gosnold	MBTA-Norfolk
Granville	MBTA-Plymouth
Hancock	MBTA-Suffolk
Haverhill	MBTA-Worcester
Hawley	
Heath	
Holbrook	Babson College
Holland	Boston College
Huntington	Harvard University
Lakeville	Salem SC
Lanesboro	U-Mass Lowell
Lawrence	Wellesley College
Leverett	Western NE College
Leyden	
Lowell	
Middlefield	
Milford	
Milton	
Monroe	
Montgomery	
Mount Washington	
Nantucket	
New Ashford	
New Braintree	
New Marlboro	
Oak Bluffs	
Oakham	
Otis	
Pelham	
Peru	
Petersham	
Phillipston	
Plainfield	
Richmond	
Rowe	
Russell	
Salem	
Sandisfield	
Savoy	

## Section 4: Agencies Reporting "Zero" Hate Crime

Abington	Halifax	Plympton
Acton	Hamilton	Princeton
Acushnet	Hampden	Provincetown
Agawam	Hanover	Reading
Amesbury	Hanson	Rehoboth
Andover	Hardwick	Rochester
Ashburnham	Harvard	Rockland
Ashby	Harwich	Rockport
Athol	Hatfield	Rowley
Auburn	Hingham	Royalston
Avon	Hinsdale	Rutland
Ayer	Holliston	Salisbury
Barre	Holyoke	Sandwich
Becket	Hopedale	Saugus
Bedford	Hopkinton	Scituate
Berkley	Hubbardston	Seekonk
Berlin	Kingston	Sheffield
Billerica	Lee	Shelburne
Blackstone	Leicester	Sherborn
Bolton	Lenox	Shirley
Boxboro	Lincoln	Shrewsbury
Boxford	Longmeadow	Somerset
Boylston	Ludlow	South Hadley
Braintree	Lunenburg	Southampton
Brewster	Lynn	Southborough
Bridgewater	Lynnfield	Southbridge
Brimfield	Malden	Sterling
Canton	Manchester-by-the-sea	Stockbridge
Carlisle	Marion	Stow
Carver	Marlborough	Sturbridge
Charlemont	Marshfield	Sudbury
Charlton	Mashpee	Sunderland
Chatham	Mattapoisett	Swampscott
Cheshire	Maynard	Swansea
Concord	Mendon	Taunton
Dartmouth	Middleton	Templeton
Dedham	Millis	Tewksbury
Deerfield	Millville	Topsfield
Dennis	Montague	Truro
Douglas	Monterey	Tyngsboro
Dracut	Nahant	Upton
East Bridgewater	New Bedford	Uxbridge
East Brookfield	New Salem	Wakefield
East Longmeadow	Newbury	Walpole
Eastham	Newburyport	Ware
Easton	Newton	Warren
Edgartown	Norfolk	Wellesley
Egremont	North Adams	Wenham
Erving	North Brookfield	West Boylston
Fairhaven	Northboro	West Brookfield
Franklin	Northbridge	West Newbury
Gardner	Northfield	West Springfield
Georgetown	Norton	West Tisbury
Gill	Norwood	Weston
Goshen	Orange	Whately
Grafton	Orleans	Wilbraham
Granby	Oxford	Williamsburg
Great Barrington	Palmer	Williamstown
Groton	Paxton	Wilmington
Groveland	Pepperell	Winchester
Hadley	Plainville	Woburn

Worcester  
Wrentham  
Yarmouth

Barnstable State Police  
Berkshire State Police  
Bristol State Police  
Dukes State Police  
Essex State Police  
Franklin State Police  
Hampden State Police  
Hampshire State Police  
Middlesex State Police  
Nantucket State Police  
Norfolk State Police  
Plymouth State Police  
Suffolk State Police  
Worcester State Police

Assumption College  
Bentley College  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Bristol CC  
Emerson College  
Fitchburg SC  
Holyoke CC  
Lasell College  
MA College Liberal Arts  
Mass College of Art  
Massasoit CC  
MIT  
Mt. Holyoke College  
North Shore CC  
Quinsigamond CC  
Springfield College  
Tufts U Worcester  
Tufts U Suffolk  
Tufts University  
U-Mass Amherst  
U-Mass Boston  
U-Mass Dartmouth  
U-Mass Worcester  
Wentworth Institute  
Westfield SC  
Worcester Polytechnic In