

Massachusetts Hate Crimes, 2006



Commonwealth Fusion Center
October, 2007

Executive Summary

The 2006 Hate Crime report for Massachusetts was compiled using data voluntarily supplied from police departments across the Commonwealth, including 73 municipal agencies, transit police, and nine campus police agencies. In total, the Commonwealth Fusion Center's Crime Reporting Unit received a total of 363 reports, which included 644 criminal offenses within those cases.

Examining the 2006 submissions for hate crimes revealed that bias against race/ethnicity or national origin was the most widely reported bias motivation, representing 52.9% of the total. Bias against sexual orientation is second, with 22.8% of the total, and religious bias is third with 23.6% of the total.

Hate crime in Massachusetts for 2006 focused on specific victims rather than religious, ethnic or government symbols. Individuals were primarily the targets for bias crimes in the Commonwealth, with 79.2% of the reports while private property was targeted 11.0%. Police cited religious targets in 3.5% of the incidents.

Males were the most frequent victims (73.3%) and offenders (86.2%) of hate crimes. Whites were also the most frequent racial category as victims (55.2%) and also as offenders (68.1%). Black victims of both genders did make up 31.3% of the total population of victims. The average age of victims was approximately 31.5 years old. Offenders were somewhat younger than victims, with an average age of 26.1 years.

Victims were reported to be injured in a small percentage of cases. Police officers investigating these incidents reported that in 71% of the cases where the information was provided there was no visible injury to the victim.

Bias incidents reported by police in Massachusetts occur in a variety of locations both public and private. Reportedly, 30.5% of incidents occurred in a residence, and an additional 21.8% occurred on a highway or street. An additional 11.5% were reported to have happened in a school or college. Approximately 4% of incidents occurred at religious sites such as churches or synagogues.

Specific types of bias motivations were reported to police departments as well. The largest category of bias incidents were determined to be anti-Black, with 28.3% of all incidents, or 108 of the incidents reported. Another 18.6%, or 71 incidents were classified as anti-gay. Anti-Semitic and anti-white cases ranked third and fourth, respectively, in frequency of occurrence. While a great deal of media attention has been given to discrimination against the Islamic religion or person from Arab countries, only 4.7% of the 2006 cases were classified as either anti-Arab or anti-Islamic.

Bias crimes entail a variety of different criminal offenses ranging from violent crimes to vandalism and harassment. In 2006, the significant portion of incidents involved harassment and criminal threats (34.5%). There were two bias-related sexual assaults reported in the 357 police reports submitted. There were, however, 54 aggravated assaults reported.

The reporting system used also captures information on the types of weapons used in the commission of the offense. Firearms were used in only 4 cases, or slightly more than 1% of the incidents, with knives or cutting instruments used in 13 cases or 3.9% of the total. Hate criminals most often fought without weapons 56.6% of the time or were involved in fistfights where hands, fists or feet were used (18.75%).

Definitions

Hate Crime	Any criminal act to which a bias motive is evident as a contributing factor. The Reporting Act covers bias on account of race, religion, ethnicity, handicap, gender, or sexual orientation. Hate crimes can be reported only by law enforcement agencies.
Zero Report	An official report by a police department stating that no hate crimes were reported to the department during the reporting period.
Non-reporting agencies	Local police departments and other law enforcement agencies which are not in compliance with the reporting provisions of the Reporting Act. These agencies have failed to indicate how many, if any, bias crimes occurred in their jurisdiction.
Reporting agencies	Local police departments and other law enforcement agencies which have voluntarily reported the incidence of identified bias crimes in their jurisdiction. Agencies can comply with the Reporting Act by reporting the number of bias crimes, even if zero. Participating agencies which reported zero hate crimes for 2006 are separately listed.

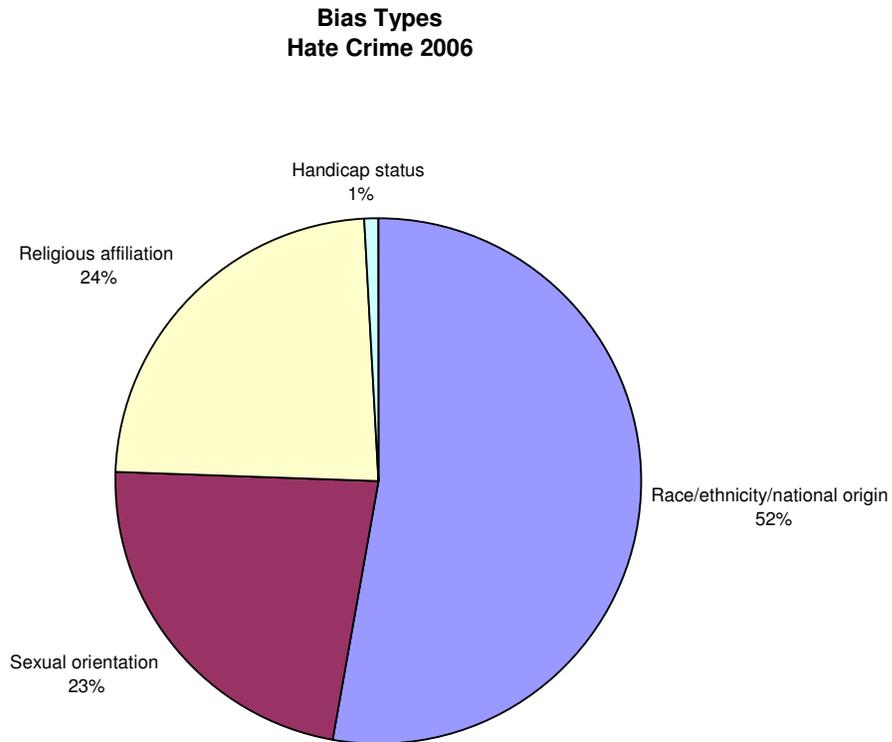
Reports by Law Enforcement Agencies

Hate crimes were reported by 73 local police departments, transit police and 9 campus police agencies. These agencies had a total population of 3,037,626. A total of 363 hate crime reports were filed by these agencies, which included 644 criminal offenses and 382 bias motivations. **[An additional 221 municipal police departments, 29 campus police agencies and one specialized agency reported zero hate crimes during 2006. These agencies had a total population of 3,172,842. Fifty-seven municipal police agencies and four campus police departments did not participate in the hate crime reporting program. These agencies had a population of 147,901.]**

In the report that follows, it should be noted that there may be multiple offenses, bias motivations, victims and offenders reported in each incident report. As a result, there are more responses than there are cases.

Categories of Bias Reported

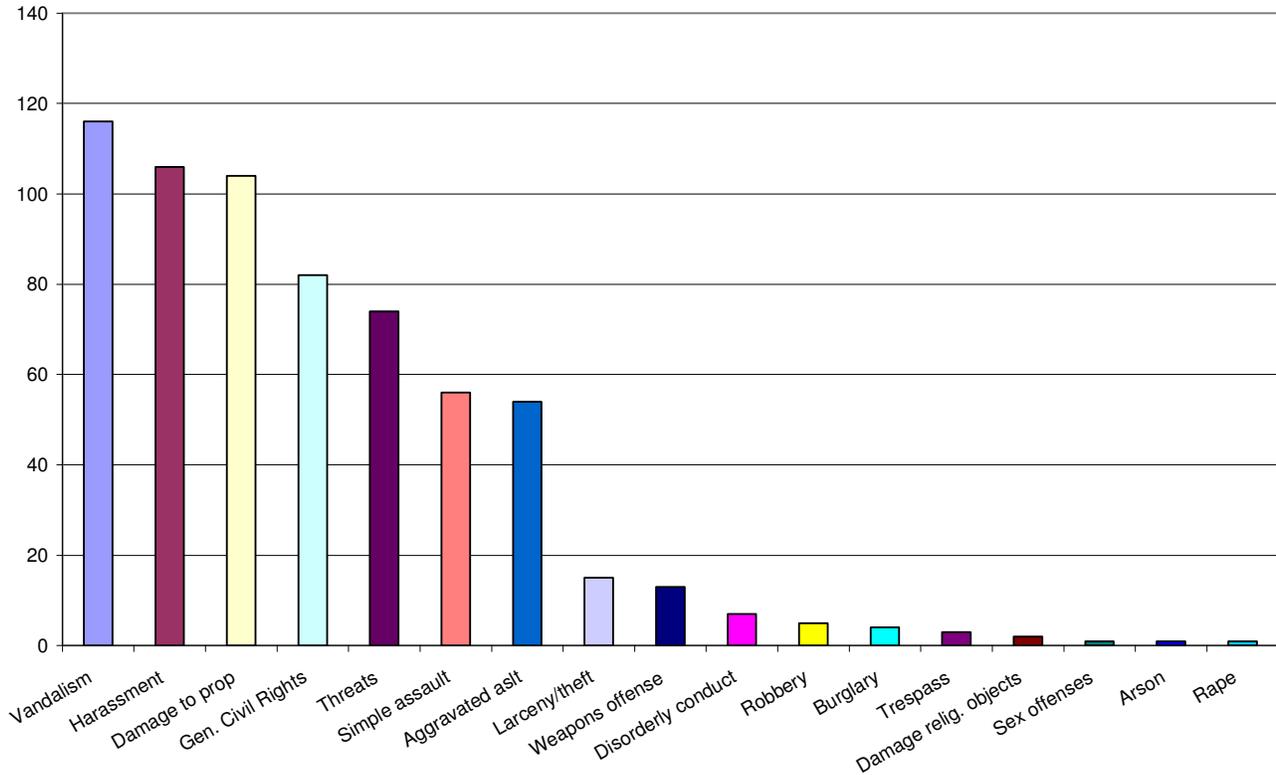
Bias motivations break down as follows: of the 382 bias motivations for particular crimes reported, race/ethnicity/national origin bias constituted the largest category of reported motives, with 52.9% of the total. Offenses motivated by sexual orientation bias were the second most frequent category, with 22.8% of the total. Offenses related to religious affiliation were the third most prevalent, with 23.6%, while offenses against mental or physical handicap status were reported as 0.5% and 0.3%, respectively, of the total.



Categories of Crimes Reported

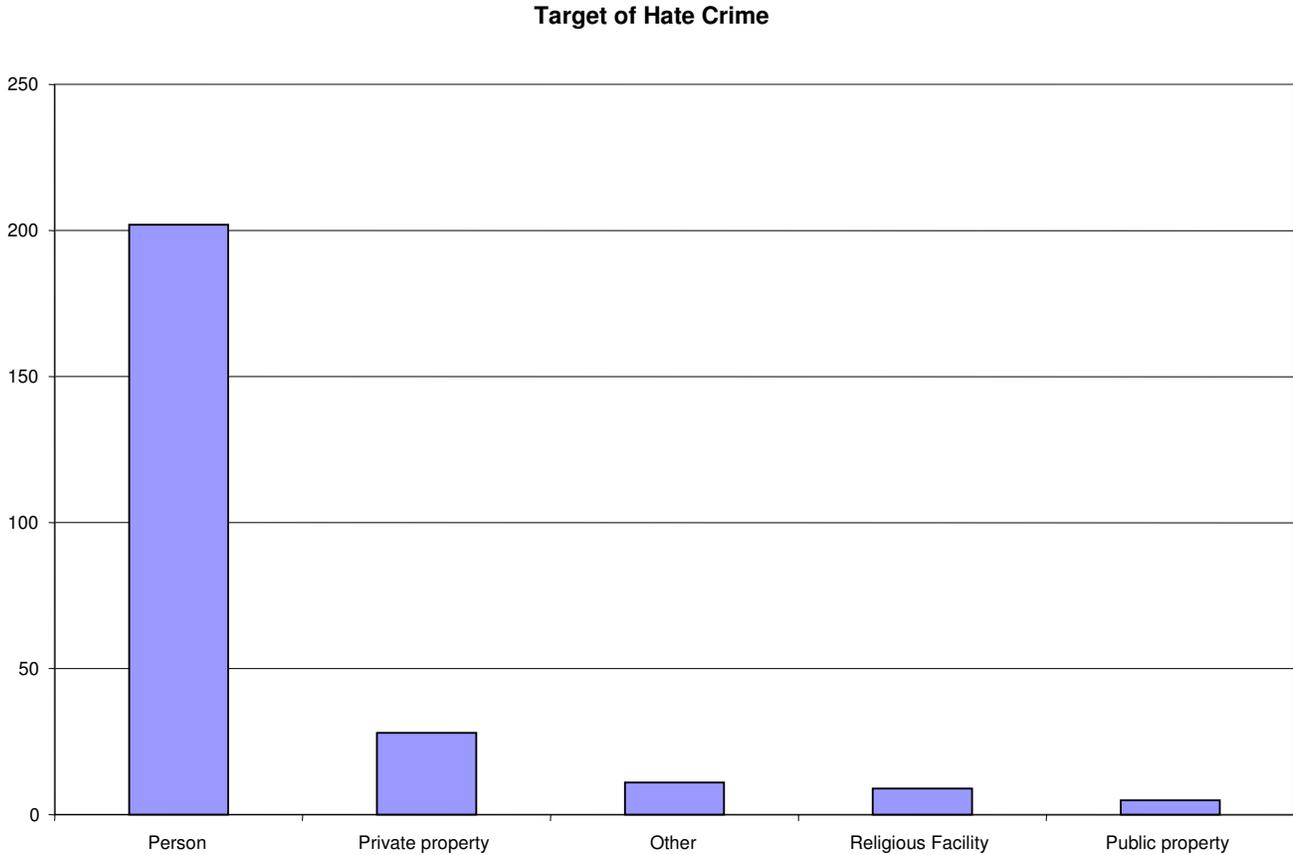
Of the total of 644 crimes reported, vandalism and destruction of property were the most frequent offenses, representing 34.1% of the total. Harassment and threats were the second most frequent categories, representing 28% of the total. Other frequent crime categories were general civil rights violations (12.7%), simple assault (8.7%), and aggravated assault (8.4%).

Crimes Committed During Bias Attacks



Victim and Offender Profile

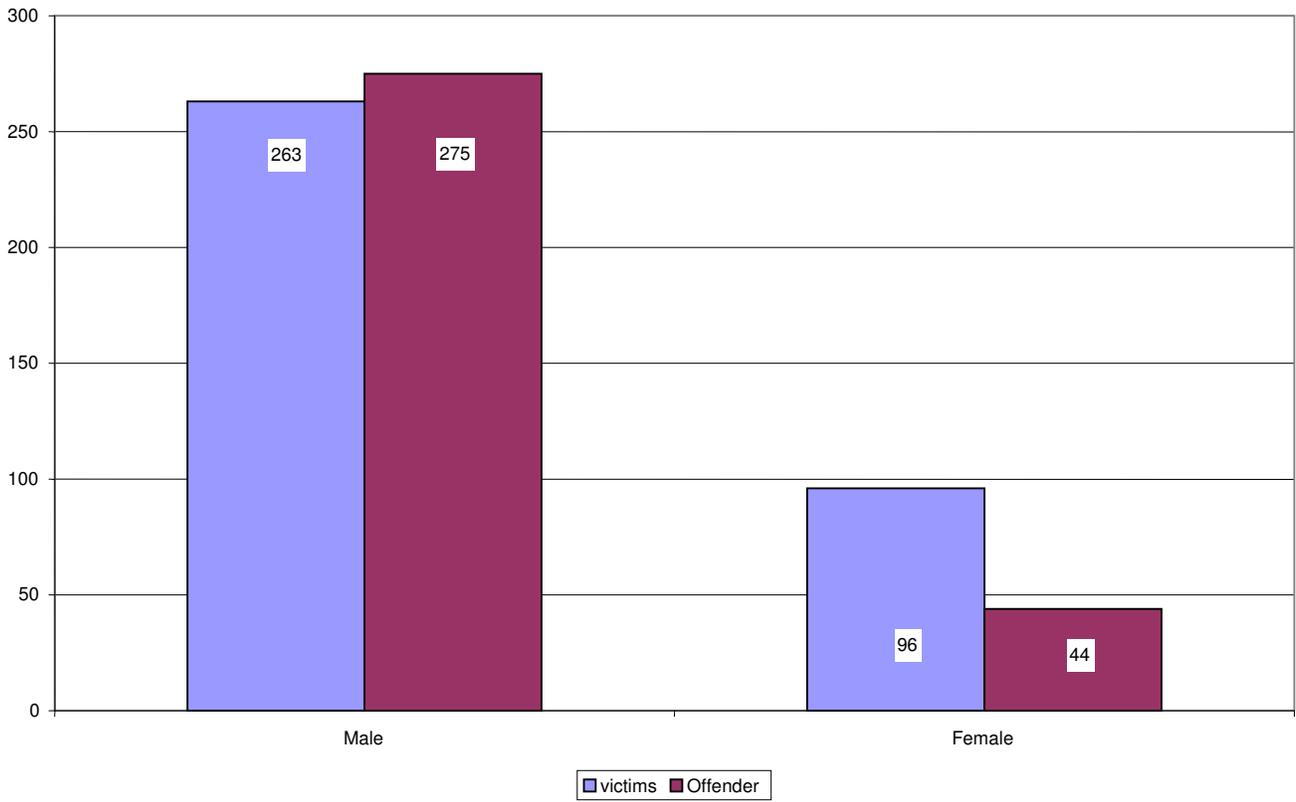
Of the cases with valid information, a person was the target in 79.2% of cases. Private property was the second most frequent target of bias crimes with 11.0% of incidents, and religious property was third, with 3.5% of the cases.



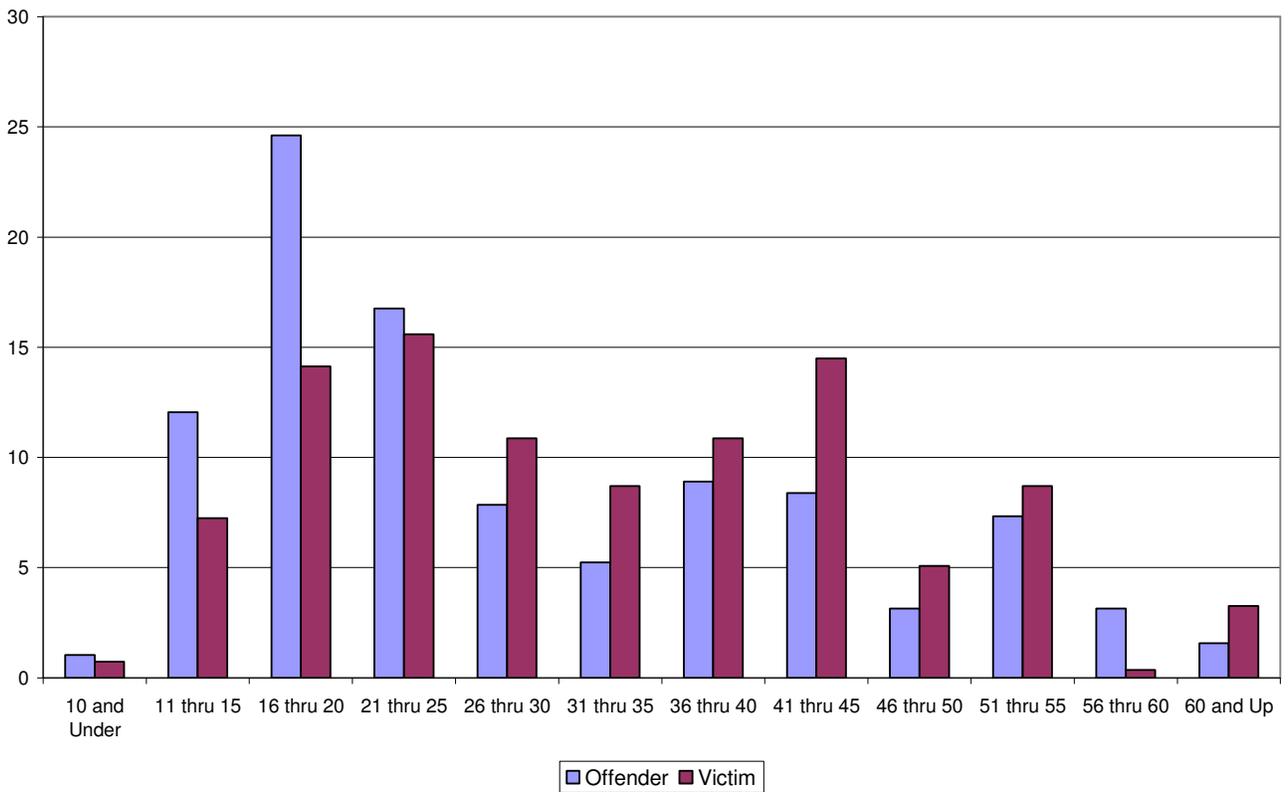
The victim of hate crimes (in the cases where information on the victim's race was available) was white in 55.2% of cases, black in 31.3% of cases. 73.3% of victims were male. Of the cases where the victim (s)'s age was reported, the mean age was 31.5 years, with a median age of 33.2 years.

The perpetrator of hate crimes was white in 68.1% of cases, and black in 25.8% of cases in the 274 cases where this information was available. The perpetrator was male in 86.2% of cases, and had a mean age of 26.1 years and a median age of 29.4.

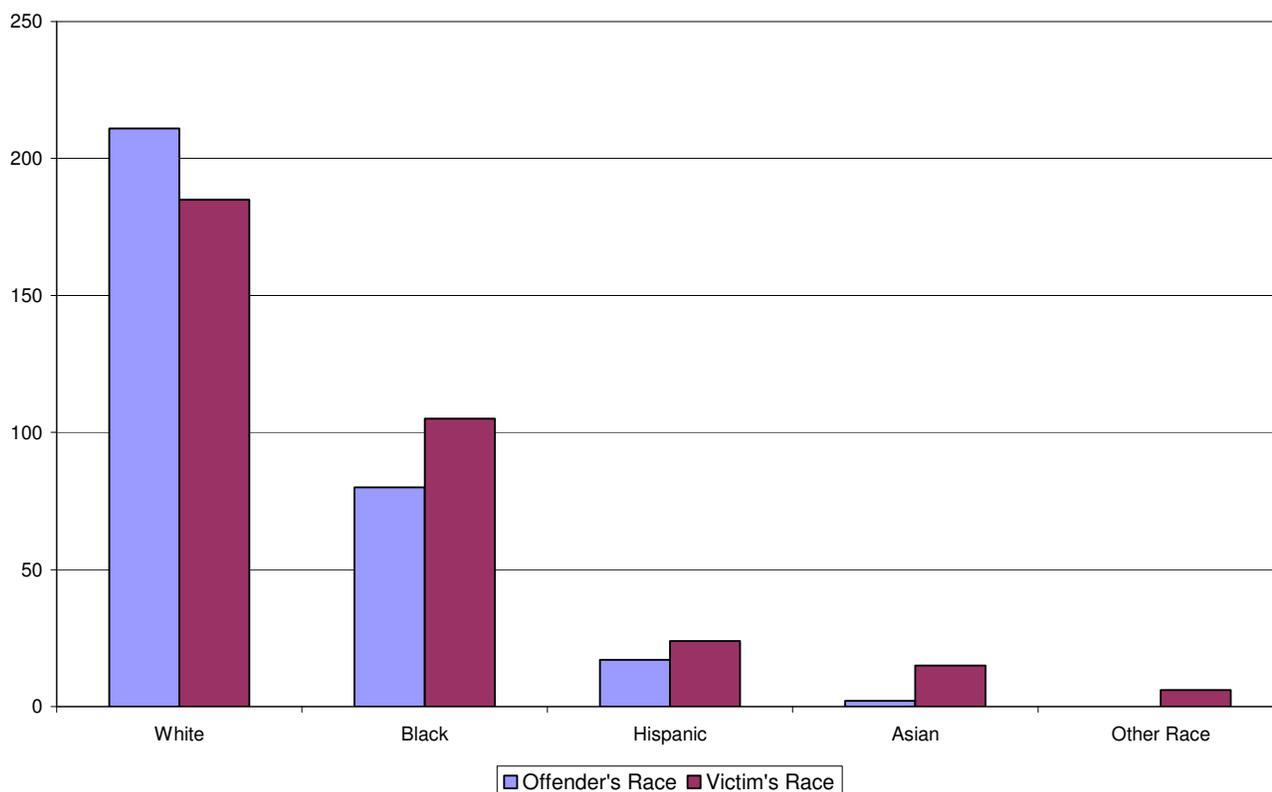
Victim & Offender Gender



Victim & Offender Age



Victim & Offender Race



Characteristics of the Incidents

The majority of incidents occurred in a residence (30.5%) or on a highway or street (21.8%). Other locations where incidents occurred were school/college (11.5%), parking lots/garages (4.8%), restaurants (4.5%) and religious facilities (3.9%).

Weapons of some type were used in 146 incidents. In cases where a weapon was identified, hands/fist/feet were used (18.8%) the majority of the time. "Other weapons" were listed in 12.8%, and knives were used in 3.9% of cases.

Tables

	Hate Crimes	% of Total
Vandalism	116	18.0
Harassment	106	16.5
Damage to Property	104	16.1
General Civil Rights	82	12.7
Threats	74	11.5
Simple Assault	56	8.7
Aggravated Assault	54	8.4
Larceny/Theft	15	2.3
Weapons Offense	13	2.0
Disorderly Conduct	7	1.1
Robbery	5	0.8
Burglary	4	0.6
Trespass	3	0.5
Damage Religious Objects	2	0.3
Sex Offenses	1	0.2
Arson	1	0.2
Rape	1	0.2
Total	644	100

	Bias Types	% of Total
Anti-Black	108	28.27
Anti-Gay (male)	71	18.59
Anti-Semitic	64	16.75
Anti-White	37	9.69
Anti-Hispanic	37	9.69
Anti-Islamic	13	3.40
Anti-Asian	12	3.14
Anti-Lesbian	12	3.14
Anti-Catholic	6	1.57
Anti-Protestant	6	1.57
Anti-Arab	5	1.31
Anti-Other Sexual	4	1.05
Anti-Other Race /Ethnicity	3	0.79
Anti-Mental Handicap	2	0.52
Anti-Other Religion	1	0.26
Anti-Physical Handicap	1	0.26
Total	382	100

	Frequency	Percent
Person	202	79.22
Private Property	28	10.98
Other	11	4.31
Religious Facility	9	3.53
Public Property	5	1.96
Total	255	100

	Frequency	Percent
10 and Under	2	0.72
11 thru 15	20	7.25
16 thru 20	39	14.13
21 thru 25	43	15.58
26 thru 30	30	10.87
31 thru 35	24	8.70
36 thru 40	30	10.87
41 thru 45	40	14.49
46 thru 50	14	5.07
51 thru 55	24	8.70
56 thru 60	1	0.36
60 and Up	9	3.26
Total	276	100

	Victim's Race	% of Total
White	185	55.22
Black	105	31.34
Hispanic	24	7.16
Asian	15	4.48
Other Race/Ethnicity	6	1.79
Total	335	100

	Victim's Sex	% of Total
Male	263	73.26
Female	96	26.74
Total	359	100

	Frequency	Percent
10 and Under	2	1.05
11 thru 15	23	12.04
16 thru 20	47	24.61
21 thru 25	32	16.75
26 thru 30	15	7.85
31 thru 35	10	5.24
36 thru 40	17	8.90
41 thru 45	16	8.38
46 thru 50	6	3.14
51 thru 55	14	7.33
56 thru 60	6	3.14
60 and Up	3	1.57
Total	191	100

	Offender's Race	% of Total
White	211	68.06
Black	80	25.81
Hispanic	17	5.48
Asian	2	0.65
Total	310	100

	Offender's Sex	% of Total
Male	275	86.21
Female	44	13.79
Total	319	100

	Frequency	Percent
Residence/Home	109	30.53
Highway/Road/Alley	78	21.85
School/College	41	11.48
Parking Lot/Garage	17	4.76
Restaurant	16	4.48
Church/Synagogue/Temple	14	3.92
Other/Unknown	13	3.64
Commercial/Office Building	12	3.36
Bar/Nightclub	11	3.08
Air/Bus/Train Terminal	8	2.24
Field/Woods	8	2.24
Government/Public Building	7	1.96
Bank/Savings and Loan	5	1.40
Convenience Store	3	0.84
Hotel/Motel/Etc.	3	0.84
Drugstore/Doctor's office/Hospital	2	0.56
Lake/Waterway	2	0.56
Service/Gas Station	2	0.56
Specialty Store	2	0.56
Construction Site	1	0.28
Department/Discount Store	1	0.28
Jail/Prison	1	0.28
Liquor Store	1	0.28
Total	357	100

	Frequency	Percent
None	190	56.55
Hands/Feet/Fists	63	18.75
Other	43	12.80
Knife/Cutting	13	3.87
Sticks/Clubs	13	3.87
Rocks/Bricks	10	2.98
Gun	4	1.19
Total	336	100

Table 12: Injury to Victim		
	Frequency	Percent
Apparent Broken Bones	7	2.66
Severe Lacerations	11	4.18
Other Major Injuries	2	0.76
Other Minor Injuries	54	20.53
None Visible	189	71.86
Total	263	100

Hate Crimes Reporting			
Agency	Population	Hate Crime Reports	Rate per 100,000
Abington	14,605	3	20.54
Acton	20,331	1	4.92
Agawam	28,144	2	7.11
Amherst	34,874	1	2.87
Andover	31,247	2	6.40
Arlington	42,389	2	4.72
Ashburnham	5,546	1	18.03
Barnstable	47,821	6	12.55
Belmont	24,194	4	16.53
Beverly	39,862	1	2.51
Boston	589,141	153	25.97
Braintree	33,828	1	2.96
Brewster	10,094	2	19.81
Brimfield	3,339	1	29.95
Brockton	94,304	14	14.85
Brookline	57,107	4	7.00
Burlington	22,876	1	4.37
Cambridge	101,355	9	8.88
Chelsea	35,080	1	2.85
Danvers	25,212	1	3.97
Douglas	7,045	1	14.19
East Longmeadow	14,100	2	14.18
Everett	38,037	1	2.63
Falmouth	32,660	2	6.12
Greenfield	18,168	1	5.50
Harwich	12,386	1	8.07
Haverhill	58,969	6	10.17
Holyoke	39,838	2	5.02
Ipswich	12,987	2	15.40
Longmeadow	15,633	1	6.40
Lowell	105,167	1	0.95
Lynn	89,050	3	3.37
Malden	56,340	4	7.10
Mansfield	22,414	2	8.92
Marblehead	20,377	2	9.81
Melrose	27,134	1	3.69
Mendon	5,286	1	18.92
Methuen	43,789	2	4.57
Middleboro	19,941	4	20.06
Millbury	12,784	1	7.82
Milton	26,062	1	3.84
Monson	8,359	1	11.96
Natick	32,170	2	6.22
New Bedford	93,768	4	4.27
Newton	83,829	3	3.58
North Attleboro	27,143	4	14.74

Northampton	28,978	5	17.25
Northfield	2,951	1	33.89
Oakham	1,673	1	59.77
Palmer	12,497	1	8.00
Peabody	48,129	5	10.39
Pepperell	11,142	1	8.98
Pittsfield	45,793	4	8.73
Plainville	7,683	1	13.02
Quincy	88,025	9	10.22
Randolph	30,963	2	6.46
Raynham	11,739	2	17.04
Revere	47,283	8	16.92
Salem	40,407	10	24.75
Somerville	77,478	1	1.29
South Hadley	17,196	2	11.63
Springfield	152,082	3	1.97
Waltham	59,226	4	6.75
Wayland	13,100	1	7.63
West Boylston	7,481	1	13.37
West Newbury	4,149	1	24.10
West Springfield	27,899	2	7.17
Westborough	17,997	1	5.56
Westfield	40,072	1	2.50
Westford	20,754	3	14.46
Westwood	14,117	1	7.08
Wilbraham	13,473	1	7.42
Wrentham	10,554	1	9.48
Totals	3,037,626	338	
MBTA-Essex		1	
MBTA-Suffolk		2	
Boston College		4	
Boston University		2	
Clark University		2	
Harvard University		1	
Merrimack College		2	
MIT		2	
Northeastern University		6	
U-Mass Amherst		2	
U-Mass Boston		1	

Non-reporting Agencies

Agency	Population
Alford	399
Aquinnah	344
Blandford	1,214
Brookfield	3,051
Chester	1,308
Chesterfield	1,201
Chilmark	843
Clarksburg	1,686
Colrain	1,813
Conway	1,809
Dighton	6,175
Dover	5,558
Dunstable	2,829
Duxbury	14,248
Essex	3,267
Florida	676
Gosnold	86
Granville	1,521
Hancock	721
Hawley	336
Heath	805
Holland	2,407
Huntington	2,174
Lanesboro	2,990
Leverett	1,663
Leyden	772
Middlefield	542
Monroe	93
Montgomery	654
Mount Washington	130
New Ashford	247
New Braintree	927
New Marlboro	1,494
Otis	1,365
Pelham	1,403
Peru	821
Petersham	1,180
Phillipston	1,621
Plainfield	589
Richmond	1,604
Rockport	7,767
Rowe	351
Russell	1,657
Sandisfield	824
Shutesbury	1,810
Tolland	426
Tyringham	350

Warwick	750
Washington	544
Wendell	986
West Stockbridge	1,416
Whitman	13,882
Windsor	875
Worthington	1,270
Total Population	105,474
Babson College	
Boston University	
U-Mass Lowell	
Wentworth Institute	