

# VICTIMS OF HATE CRIME

**What is a Hate Crime?** Hate crime is defined as a criminal violation motivated by hate, based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, or any other similar factor<sup>[1]</sup>

## Police-reported hate crime, 2021<sup>[2]</sup>



**3,360**

Total number of police-reported hate crime incidents in Canada



**22%**

Incidents perceived to be motivated by hate that were reported to the police



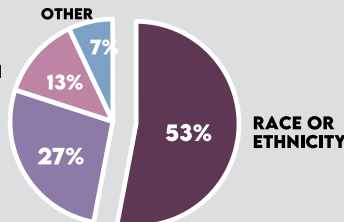
**1,251**

Victims of police-reported violent hate crimes in Canada

Majority of hate crimes were motivated by race or ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

RELIGION



Increases in various types of hate crimes in 2021 were as follows:

**+18%**

COMMUNAUTÉS DE L'ASIE DE L'EST OU DU SUD-EST ET DE L'ASIE DU SUD

**+46%**

COMMUNAUTÉS ARABES ET COMMUNAUTÉS DE L'ASIE DE L'OUEST

**+67%**

RELIGION

**+64%**

ORIENTATION SEXUELLE

COMPARED TO 2019, HATE CRIMES INCREASED 72%

**72%**

60% OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENT HATE CRIMES WERE IDENTIFIED AS MEN AND BOYS, WHILE 40% WERE IDENTIFIED AS WOMEN AND GIRLS\*

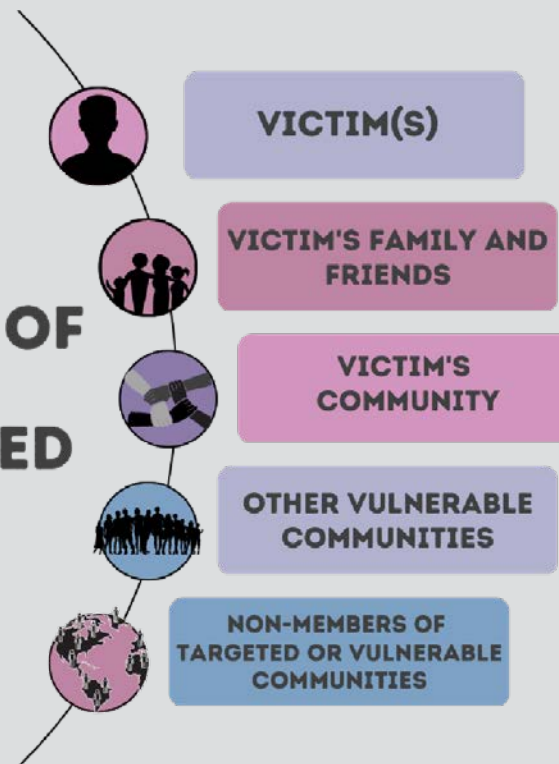
\*Note: Data excludes victims where gender is unknown. Given that small counts of victims and accused persons identified as "gender diverse" may exist, available UCR data was re-coded to assign these count to either "male" or "female" in order to ensure protection of confidentiality and privacy.<sup>[1]</sup> Additional data by special request from Statistics Canada

Hate crimes targeting the Black population (-5%) and the Indigenous population decreased (-1%) However, these decreases follow large increases in 2020 (Black +96%; Indigenous +169%)

## Impacts on Victims of Hate Crimes<sup>[3]</sup>

The harms of a hate crime can extend beyond the immediate victim to both direct and indirect impacts on the victim's community

### IMPACTS OF HATE-MOTIVATED CRIME



Hate crimes target integral parts of a person's identity and express a message of rejection towards both the target of the crime and their community. Impacts can include:

Direct:

- Physical harm
- Shock
- Socio-emotional and psychological distress
- Depression and withdrawal
- Vulnerability
- Anxiety and nervousness
- Extreme sense of isolation
- Long lasting fear of repeated victimization
- Protracted psychosomatic symptoms
- Significant problems with school, work, and friends and family

Indirect:

- Fear of future attacks
- Prevent communities from organizing activities or events in public spaces
- Self-censorship
- Loss of trust in security and state authorities
- Relocation to other places, cities or countries

## Types of Victim Support<sup>[3]</sup>



**Emotional and psychological support**

Victims of hate crime need to be heard, understood, believed and taken seriously

They need to feel empowered to share their experience through solidarity from the public and organizations as allies



**Personal safety and support**

Some victims may need urgent and immediate help to deal consequences of the crime

ex. Immediate medical assistance, relocation



**Practical Help**

Victims of hate crime need to feel safe and protected

They need to know they are safe from physical and mental harm



**Help navigating the criminal justice system**

Victims need help finding resources, information, and support

Victims of hate crimes can report the incident to police through a third party such as a friend, community representative of group

## Types of Victim Services<sup>[4]</sup>

Services are available across the country for victims of crime, including victims of hate-motivated crime. These services can include:

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**System-based**

Assists victims throughout their contact with criminal justice system. Service may include:

- Providing information, support, referrals
- Short term counselling
- Court preparation and accompaniment
- Victim impact statement preparation



**Police-based**

Provided following a victim's first contact with police. Services may include:

- Providing information and referrals
- Support
- Assistance
- Court orientation



**Court-based**

Provides support for victims or witnesses. Services may include:

- Orientation, preparation and accompaniment
- Updates on case progress
- Coordinating meetings with Crown counsel



**Community-based**

Provide direct services to victims. Services may include:

- Emotional support
- Practical assistance
- Information
- Court orientation
- Referrals

[1] Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics. 2022. Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) Manual, p.89-90  
 [2] Moreau, Greg. 2022. Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2021. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X. Juristat. Accessed at: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00013-eng.htm>  
 [3] Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. 2020. Understanding the Needs of Hate Crime Victims. OSCE ODIHR Hate Crime Victim Support. <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/0/5/463011.pdf>  
 [4] See Victim Services in Canada, 2018. Available upon request at [rtd.drs@justice.gc.ca](mailto:rtd.drs@justice.gc.ca)