

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

HATE CRIMES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN CALIFORNIA AND THE US

A Review of Existing Research

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Transgender people reside in every state across the nation and are diverse in terms of age, race, and other personal characteristics.¹ In 2025, the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law estimated that 2.1 million adults in the U.S. identify as transgender (0.8% of adults).² Of adults who identify as transgender, 698,500 are transgender women, 730,500 are transgender men, and about 707,100 are transgender nonbinary;³ 43.8% of transgender adults identify as people of color, compared to 40.1% of the general population.⁴ Using data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, researchers further estimated that 723,700 youth aged 13-17 identify as transgender, with 48% of transgender youth also identifying as people of color.⁵

This report presents data from the last 25 years on hate crimes and violence against transgender and nonbinary people. The report includes data specific to the state of California and localities within California, as well as research on anti-transgender violence and hate crimes at the national level.

KEY FINDINGS

Hate crimes and violence against transgender people have been documented in a variety of sources, including law enforcement reports, surveys of transgender people, and incident reports collected by community-based organizations that serve victims of violence.⁶

California

Hate Crime Reports Collected by Government Entities in California

- Data compiled annually by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) show an increase in anti-transgender and anti-gender nonconforming hate crimes over time. The California DOJ began to collect data on hate crimes motivated by anti-transgender bias in 1999. In that year, law enforcement reported 13 anti-transgender hate crime events. In 2013, when the California DOJ began to track anti-gender nonconforming hate crimes, law enforcement reported one hate crime event on this basis. In 2024, the California DOJ documented 73 anti-transgender and seven anti-gender nonconforming hate crime events.
- The Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations collects data on hate crimes that occurred within the county from law enforcement, school districts, universities, community-based organizations, and victim reports. In 2000, the county recorded eight anti-transgender hate crimes. In 2024, the most recent year of available data, the county recorded 102 anti-transgender hate crimes, the highest number ever recorded within the county in a single year.

¹ JODY L. HERMAN & ANDREW R. FLORES, WILLIAMS INST., HOW MANY ADULTS AND YOUTH IDENTIFY AS TRANSGENDER IN THE UNITED STATES? 10-11 (2025), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Trans-Pop-Update-Aug-2025.pdf>.

² *Id.* at 6.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.* at 9.

⁵ *Id.* at 6, 9, 22.

⁶ All sources referred to in the Executive Summary are fully cited in the report below. We use the term “victims” to refer to individuals who have reported experiencing hate crimes in the cited studies and reports.

Survey Data from California

- The California Health Interview Survey gathers data on hate acts perpetrated against transgender and gender expansive people. Data from the 2023 survey showed that 19% of transgender adults reported experiencing at least one hate act in the past year, and 48% said they had witnessed at least one. By comparison, only 7% of cisgender adults reported experiencing a hate act, and 13% reported witnessing one. Among transgender adults who experienced a hate act, 54% believed they were targeted because of their gender, sex, or gender identity, and 39% cited their sexual orientation as the reason.
- A 2024 Williams Institute study based on a survey of 322 transgender and nonbinary people in Los Angeles found that 26% reported experiencing verbal harassment, physical attacks, or unwanted sexual contact at work within the last year because of their transgender or nonbinary identity.
- The 2015 United States Transgender Survey report on 3,453 respondents from California found that, within the year prior to taking the survey, 2% had been physically attacked in a public accommodation, 1% were physically attacked in a restroom, and 1% were attacked at work because of their gender identity.
- Another 2021 study by Jane Gauthier et al. found that among 32 transgender focus group participants in Los Angeles, all except two experienced a hate incident or crime based on gender identity or expression. On average, participants reported experiencing 3.48 types of incidents measured in the study.
- A 2021 study by Akua Gyamerah et al. based on a survey of 629 transgender women in the San Francisco Bay Area found that 45.8% of respondents reported experiencing an anti-transgender hate crime. Many hate crimes involved personal violence (as opposed to destruction of property), with 39.8% of participants reporting physical assault, 37.3% reporting battery with a weapon, and 19.3% reporting sexual assault.

Reports from Community-Based Organizations, College Campuses, and Other Sources in California

- The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) partners with local organizations across the United States to assist hate violence survivors⁷ who are LGBTQ+ or are living with HIV. Between 1998 and 2017, NCAVP published reports based on information collected from these organizations. Two California-based organizations that were part of this coalition, the Community United Against Violence (CUAV) in San Francisco and the Los Angeles LGBT Center, reported that:
 - In 2016, the Los Angeles LGBT Center assisted 208 survivors of anti-LGBTQ hate violence. Twenty-six percent of survivors were transgender. In San Francisco, CUAV assisted 66 survivors of anti-LGBTQ hate violence. About one-third (32%) were transgender women.
 - In 2015, the Los Angeles LGBT Center assisted 205 survivors of anti-LGBTQ hate violence. Twenty-six percent of them were transgender. In San Francisco, CUAV assisted 123 survivors of anti-LGBTQ hate violence, 22% of whom identified as transgender.

⁷ NCAVP uses the term “survivors” to refer to victims of hate violence who survive the incident and “victims” to refer to those who die as a result of hate violence. This report will mirror the NCAVP language when discussing those reports. In all other places, we use “victims” to refer to anyone who has experienced hate violence.

United States

Hate Crime Records Collected by the Federal Government

- Comparing data from 2018 to data from 2024, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recorded an increase in the number of reported anti-transgender and anti-gender nonconforming hate crimes. In 2018, there were 184 hate crimes involving anti-transgender and anti-gender nonconforming bias. In 2024, the FBI reported 527 hate crimes involving anti-transgender and anti-gender nonconforming bias.
- The FBI also documented an increase in the proportion of hate crimes that were motivated by anti-transgender and anti-gender nonconforming bias over this time period. In 2018, 2.2% of all hate crimes were motivated by gender identity; in 2024, that proportion rose to 3.9%.

National Survey Data

- A 2025 Williams Institute analysis of 2022-2023 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) data found that transgender people experienced violence at a rate of 93.7 per 1,000 persons, compared with 21.1 per 1,000 among non-LGBT persons. Similarly, an earlier Williams Institute analysis of 2017-2018 NCVS data found that transgender people encountered violence at a rate of 86.2 victimizations per 1,000 persons, compared with cisgender people, who had a rate of 21.7 victimizations per 1,000 persons.
- A 2021 Williams Institute national probability survey of transgender people in the U.S. found that nearly half of transgender people (47.6%) reported being physically attacked or sexually assaulted, and 45.1% had property damaged, stolen, or were robbed.
- The Report of the 2015 United States Transgender Survey, which included 27,000 transgender respondents nationwide, found that 13% of all transgender respondents had been physically attacked in the past year, and 9% of all respondents believed they had been attacked because of their transgender identity or gender expression. Transgender people of color were more likely to have been physically attacked than white respondents, particularly American Indian (25%), Middle Eastern (25%), and multiracial (19%) respondents. Twenty-four percent of undocumented transgender U.S. residents reported being attacked within the year prior to taking the survey.

Reports from Community-Based Organizations and Other Sources

- The most recent reports published by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, based on data collected from several member organizations that serve LGBTQ survivors and survivors living with HIV across the country, found that:
 - In 2017, NCAVP collected information about 52 hate-related homicides. Twenty-seven victims were transgender or gender nonconforming, 22 of whom were transgender women of color. NCAVP also documented 825 reports of hate violence against LGBTQ people and people living with HIV, 142 of which involved anti-transgender bias.
 - In 2016, NCAVP collected information about 77 hate-related homicides, including 49 victims of the mass shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. While data on the gender identity of the victims of the Pulse Nightclub shooting are not available, among the other 28 victims of

hate-related homicides, 19 were transgender and gender nonconforming people, including 17 transgender women of color. NCAVP also documented 1,036 incidents of hate violence against LGBTQ people and people living with HIV. Of the 929 reports that indicated a bias motivation, 210 involved anti-transgender bias.

- In 2015, NCAVP collected information about 24 hate-related homicides. Sixteen homicide victims were transgender or gender nonconforming and 13 were transgender women of color. NCAVP also documented 1,253 reports of hate violence against LGBTQ people and people living with HIV, 293 of which involved anti-transgender bias.
- A 2024 study by Lantz et al. found that of 305 documented homicides of transgender people in the U.S. between 2010-2021, 92 were either confirmed or suspected hate crimes. Most transgender homicide victims were women of color: 70.5% were Black and 16.1% were Hispanic or Latinx.

GENDER IDENTITY HATE CRIMES AND ANTI-TRANSGENDER VIOLENCE IN CALIFORNIA

According to estimates from the Williams Institute, approximately 263,700 transgender adults and 84,600 transgender teenagers aged 13-17 reside in California.⁸ The majority of transgender adults in California identify as either Latinx (122,100) or white (78,300).⁹ Though existing research is limited, hate crimes,¹⁰ hate incidents,¹¹ and violence against transgender people¹² in California have been documented in several sources, including reports collected by government entities, surveys of transgender people, community-based reports, and qualitative studies.¹³

REPORTS OF HATE CRIMES IN CALIFORNIA COLLECTED BY GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

Data collected by government entities in California indicate that reports of anti-transgender hate crimes have risen over time and make up an increasingly larger share of all hate crimes reported in the state. State and local law enforcement agencies report their crime statistics, including hate crime statistics, to the California Department of Justice (DOJ), which subsequently publishes annual reports using this data.¹⁴ Data compiled by the California DOJ show an increase in the number of reported anti-transgender and anti-gender nonconforming hate crimes over time. The California DOJ began to collect data on hate crimes motivated by anti-transgender bias in 1999. In that year, law enforcement reported 13 anti-transgender hate crime events.¹⁵ In 2013, when the California DOJ began to track anti-gender nonconforming hate crimes, law enforcement reported one hate crime event on this basis.¹⁶ In 2024, the state recorded 73 anti-transgender hate crime events and seven anti-gender nonconforming hate crime events.¹⁷ These data also show that gender identity hate crimes make up an increasingly larger share of all hate crimes reported in the state. In 1999, anti-transgender hate crimes accounted for 0.7%, and in 2013, anti-gender nonconforming hate crimes accounted for 0.1% of all hate crimes reported in California. In 2024, the percentages rose to 3.6% and 0.3%, respectively.¹⁸

⁸ HERMAN & FLORES, *supra* note 1, at 13.

⁹ *Id.* at 15.

¹⁰ A hate crime is defined as a crime that is motivated by bias against a person for their actual or perceived characteristics. *Learn About Hate Crime*, U.S. DEP'T JUSTICE (July 2, 2024), <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/learn-about-hate-crimes>.

¹¹ A hate incident is defined as an expression or action that may be motivated by a person's actual or perceived characteristics. The CA Civil Rights Department demonstrates that there are two main kinds of hate incidents: acts of hate that are not crimes but which violate civil rights laws, and acts of hate that may not violate the law but significantly harm a community. *CA vs Hate*, STATE CAL. CIVIL RIGHTS DEP'T, <https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/ca-vs-hate-page/> (last visited Sept. 8, 2025).

¹² Violence against transgender people may or may not be motivated by anti-transgender bias. In this piece, we use violence against transgender people broadly to cover violence that may not be motivated by anti-transgender bias but which still targets transgender people.

¹³ *Quick Facts California*, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/CA/PST045223> (last visited June 30, 2025).

¹⁴ CAL. PENAL CODE § 13023 (Deering 2024).

¹⁵ CAL. DEP'T JUST., HATE CRIME IN CALIFORNIA 1999, at 7 (2000), <https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/cjsc/publications/hatecrimes/hc99-full-report.pdf>.

¹⁶ CAL. DEP'T JUST., HATE CRIME IN CALIFORNIA, 2013, at 5 (2014) <https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/cjsc/publications/hatecrimes/hc13/preface13.pdf>

¹⁷ CAL. DEP'T JUST., HATE CRIME IN CALIFORNIA 2024, at 9 (2025), <https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/Hate%20Crime%20In%20CA%202024.pdf>. The FBI documented 84 anti-transgender hate crimes and 8 anti-gender non-conforming hate crimes. Fed. Bureau Investigation: Unif. Crime Reporting Program, *Hate Crime*, FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION: CRIME DATA EXPLORER (Sept. 15, 2025), <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime> (under "Time Frame" set Start Date as January 2023 and End Date as December 2023).

¹⁸ CAL. DEP'T JUST., *supra* note 15; CAL. DEP'T JUST., *supra* note 16; CAL. DEP'T JUST., *supra* note 17.

Figure 1. Anti-transgender hate crime events recorded by the California DOJ (1999-2024)

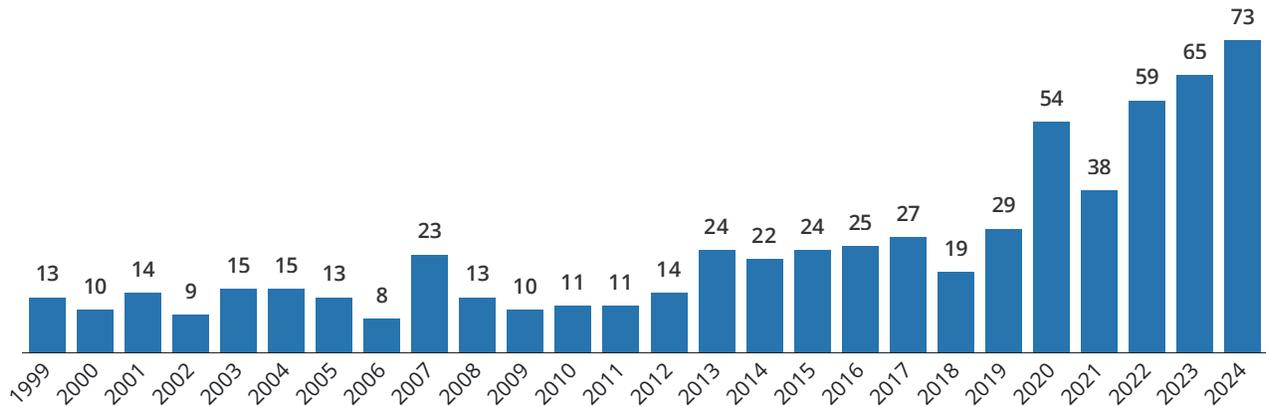
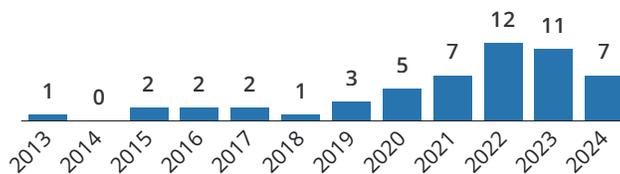


Figure 2. Anti-gender nonconforming hate crime events recorded by California DOJ (2013-2024)



While these reports represent an important source of information about the existence and prevalence of hate crimes in California, they likely do not capture the full extent of hate violence occurring in the state. These data and the resulting state reports are limited to incidents that are reported to law enforcement, classified by law enforcement as hate crimes, and then successfully reported to the DOJ.¹⁹ As a result, the state’s records do not fully capture the scope of such incidents.

Some organizations, like the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, compile more comprehensive data, which includes not only law enforcement reports but also data collected by school districts, universities, community-based organizations, and victim reports.²⁰ The Commission documented eight anti-transgender hate crimes²¹ within the county in 2000.²² In 2012, 13 hate crimes were documented.²³ Most recently, in 2024, the Commission documented 102 anti-transgender hate crimes.²⁴

¹⁹ See JORDAN GRASSO, NATHAN CISNEROS & ILAN H. MEYER, WILLIAMS INST., GENDER IDENTITY HATE CRIMES IN CALIFORNIA 27-28 (2025), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/CA-GI-Hate-Crimes-Dec-2025.pdf>.

²⁰ L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., 2022 HATE CRIME REPORT 42 (2023), <https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/aefb9bbb-8328-449d-82b0-6ad2f330169b/LA%20County%202022%20Report%20of%20Hate%20Crime.pdf>.

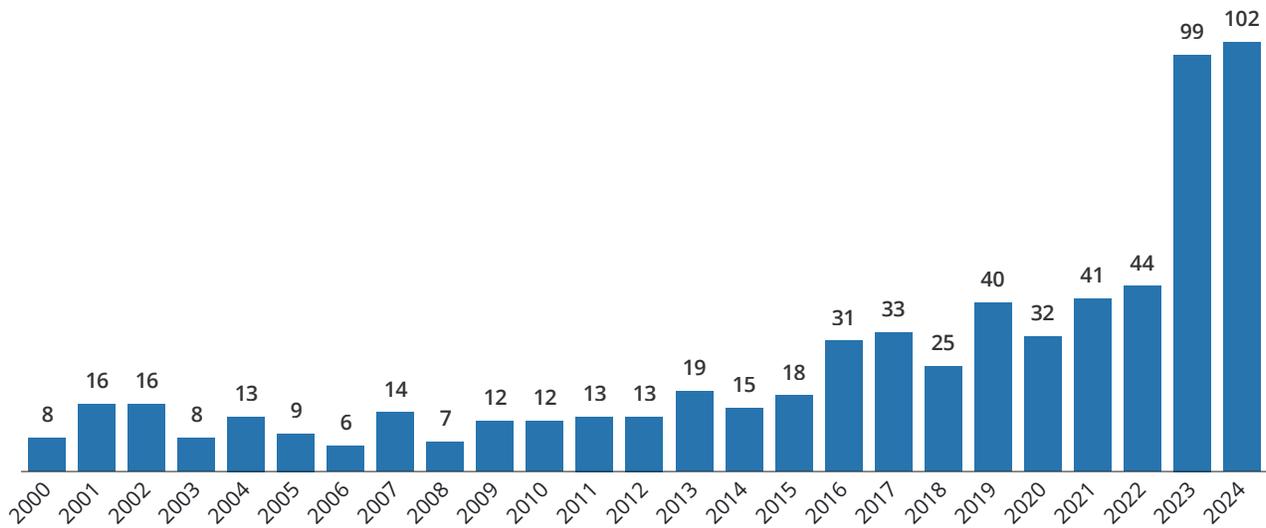
²¹ The Commission includes only reports that it determines “meet the criteria of the legal definition of hate crime in the California penal code.” *Id.* at 42.

²² L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., 2000 HATE CRIME REPORT 22 (2001), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/0da49da2-7d32-4f5f-b2a6-d6a97a11e859/2000_hateCrimeReport.pdf.

²³ L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., 2012 HATE CRIME REPORT 8 (2013), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/18de4564-a183-4411-908b-a1e0387ccdc8/2012_hateCrimeReport.pdf.

²⁴ L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., 2024 L.A. COUNTY HATE CRIME REPORT 36 (2025), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/958661b6-c74e-4b9a-ac6c-5108d1142356/Final_2024%20Hate%20Crime%20Report-Digital.pdf.

Figure 3. Anti-transgender hate crimes recorded by the LA County Human Relations Commission (2000-2024)



In 2002, when the County began to report anti-transgender hate crimes by gender, 15 anti-transgender hate crimes targeted transgender women.²⁵ Twenty years later, in 2024, 71 anti-transgender hate crimes against transgender women were recorded.²⁶ The proportion of anti-transgender hate crimes reported by transgender women over this time period has remained consistently high. Nine different years—2003, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2015—all saw 100% of anti-transgender crimes involving transgender women.²⁷ The lowest proportion of victims who were transgender women since 2002 was seen in 2007, with a rate of 64.3%.²⁸

²⁵ L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., 2002 HATE CRIME REPORT 3, 31 (2003), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/4ccf8298-89d5-4e4c-8b47-cfa9bcd70af6/2002_hateCrimeReport.pdf.

²⁶ L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., *supra* note 24.

²⁷ L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., 2003 HATE CRIME REPORT 26 (2004), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/b89613db-c1f5-4d42-804f-9ef677c09f27/2003_hateCrimeReport.pdf [hereinafter 2003 HATE CRIME REPORT]; L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., 2004 HATE CRIME REPORT 28 (2005), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/a8ee2e41-ceb6-4f49-bb14-b6cd7a3bce21/2004_hateCrimeReport.pdf [hereinafter 2004 HATE CRIME REPORT]; L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., 2006 HATE CRIME REPORT 26 (2007), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/0ef5d548-dff3-4ed4-aa97-261500d4581b/2006_hateCrimeReport.pdf [hereinafter 2006 HATE CRIME REPORT]; L.A. CNTY., COMM’N HUM. RELS., HATE CRIME REPORT 2008, at 32 (2009), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/5a83d08f-ba88-4bf3-adc4-b80889aaa34a/2008_hateCrimeReport.pdf [hereinafter 2008 HATE CRIME REPORT]; L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., 2009 HATE CRIME REPORT 32 (2010), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/028bf61c-b70b-4d60-b1e0-fb0ada4c5ad5/2009_hateCrimeReport.pdf [hereinafter 2009 HATE CRIME REPORT]; L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., 2011 HATE CRIME REPORT 33 (2012), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/8f8d3d56-bf0e-4321-aa8e-49cb0e660a42/2011_hateCrimeReport.pdf [hereinafter 2011 HATE CRIME REPORT]; L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., *supra* note 23, at 33; L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., 2014 HATE CRIME REPORT 37 (2015), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/8dd3832e-470e-46b7-a911-edcd33f8e826/2014_hateCrimeReport.pdf [hereinafter 2014 HATE CRIME REPORT].

²⁸ L.A. CNTY. COMM’N HUM. RELS., 2007 HATE CRIME REPORT 24 (2008), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/7106e381-30ff-4b2d-908e-817b2991e74c/2007_hateCrimeReport.pdf [hereinafter 2007 HATE CRIME REPORT].

Figure 4. Proportion of anti-transgender hate crimes in Los Angeles County targeting transgender women (2002-2024)²⁹



Many anti-transgender hate crimes documented in Los Angeles County have been classified by the County as violent crimes, such as crimes that involve physical assault, criminal threats, intimidation, and robbery, as distinguished from less severe offenses like vandalism.³⁰ Over the past 20 years, the rate of hate crimes involving violence in Los Angeles ranged from 50% to 100% of all anti-transgender hate crimes.³¹ In eight years—2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, and 2015—all reported hate crimes involved an act of violence.³²

²⁹ Information on the number of transgender women victimized is unavailable for 2000 and 2001. Numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.

³⁰ L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., 2013 HATE CRIME REPORT 37 (2014), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/acdf9218-9c95-4e8d-9993-5c73ded9646d/2013_hateCrimeReport.pdf [hereinafter 2013 HATE CRIME REPORT]; L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., 2015 HATE CRIME REPORT 36 (2016), <https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/d9cb9274-f8c8-4da0-b6e3-0d0289efbf47/2015-Hate-Crime-Report-PDF.pdf> [hereinafter 2015 HATE CRIME REPORT]. See reports for a full explanation of crimes categorized by the agency as “violent” versus other crimes.

³¹ L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., *supra* note 25, at 31; 2003 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 27 (rate of violence was 100%); 2004 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 27 (rate of violence was 93%); L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., 2005 HATE CRIME REPORT (2006), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/004c9fa1-d63d-4fe9-a71d-ad6cbf8db6fb/2005_hateCrimeReport.pdf (rate of violence was 100%) [hereinafter 2005 HATE CRIME REPORT]; 2006 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 27 (rate of violence was 50%); 2007 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 28 (rate of violence was 100%); 2008 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 27 (rate of violence was 100%); 2009 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 27 (rate of violence was 100%); L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., *supra* note 23, at 29 (rate of violence was 100%); 2011 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 27 (rate of violence was 86%); L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., *supra* note 23 (rate of violence was 92%); 2013 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 30 (rate of violence was 100%); 2014 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 27 (rate of violence was 93%); 2015 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 30 (rate of violence was 100%); L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., 2016 HATE CRIME REPORT 35 (2017), <https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/bb3a0043-88ae-4539-bb29-36066d8bf60e/2016-Annual-Report-of-Hate-Crime-in-Los-Angeles-County.pdf> (rate of violence was 97%); L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., 2017 HATE CRIME REPORT 37 (2018), <https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/8e86c89d-0a5c-446b-935a-e53dd74918c8/2017-Hate-Crime-Report.pdf> (rate of violence was 94%); L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., 2018 HATE CRIME REPORT 38 (2019), <https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/370cab3a-f3bb-4cdd-8f13-1e5cab18d5c/2018-Hate-Crime-Report.pdf> (rate of violence was 92%); L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., 2019 HATE CRIME REPORT 38 (2020), <https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/81f7f8a3-2edf-4a98-9ee8-09899c8d91d7/2019%20Hate%20Crime%20Report%20LA%20County.pdf> (rate of violence was 93%); L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., 2020 HATE CRIME REPORT 40 (2021), <https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/a0061e60-542f-4ca7-a79b-4b4cbdf9f82/2020-Hate-Crime-Report-LA-County.pdf> (rate of violence was 94%); L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., 2021 HATE CRIME REPORT 38 (2022), <https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/caa802e9-00f0-455e-9c44-db7ef7a06e4c/2021%20LA%20County%20Hate%20Crime%20Report.pdf>; L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., *supra* note 20, at 38; L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., 2023 L.A. COUNTY HATE CRIME REPORT 38 (2024), https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/20d12b6c-7e71-4244-802a-ce1fe5103c7e/2023%20Hate%20Crime%20Report_FINAL.pdf; L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., *supra* note 24.

³² 2015 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 30; 2013 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 30; L.A. CNTY. COMM'N HUM. RELS., *supra* note 23, at 29; 2009 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 27; 2008 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 27; 2007 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 28; 2005 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 31; 2003 HATE CRIME REPORT, *supra* note 27.

In 2025, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations announced the release of its first Hate Incident Report, which examined hate incidents that occurred in the county in 2022 and 2023. Hate incidents were defined as “noncriminal acts motivated by prejudice or bias against a person or group’s actual or perceived identit(ies). Hate incidents can include non-criminal verbal abuse, harassment, and display of offensive materials.”³³ The county documented 40 hate incidents involving transgender people, a 48% rise from 27 incidents in 2022.³⁴ In 2023, all of these incidents involved hate speech, with the most common location being a public setting (38%).³⁵

SURVEYS OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN CALIFORNIA

Although survey research on hate crimes and violence against transgender people in California is limited, existing data indicate that transgender people continue to experience violence because of their gender identity in the state.

The California Health Interview Survey gathers data on hate acts against transgender people, which can include hate crimes and non-criminal hate incidents. Findings from the 2023 survey showed that 19% of transgender and gender expansive adults reported experiencing a hate act in the past year, and 48% said they had witnessed one.³⁶ By comparison, only 7% of cisgender adults reported experiencing a hate act, and 13% reported witnessing one.³⁷ Among transgender and gender-expansive adults who experienced a hate act, 54% believed they were targeted because of their gender, sex, or gender identity, and 39% cited their sexual orientation as the reason.³⁸ Most respondents (69%) reported that the hate incidents they experienced occurred on public streets or sidewalks, though 34% of transgender and gender expansive adults said they experienced a hate incident in their own home.³⁹ Nearly all victims reported that incidents they experienced involved verbal abuse or insults (89%) or cyberbullying (33%), and 4% of respondents experienced physical violence.⁴⁰

A 2017 analysis of data from the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, which included 3,453 respondents from California, found that some transgender respondents in the state had experienced physical violence in public spaces within the year prior to taking the survey because of their gender identity.⁴¹ More specifically, 2% of California respondents had been physically attacked at a place of public accommodation, 1% reported being physically attacked in a restroom, and 1% of those who held jobs reported being physically attacked at work within the prior year because of their transgender identity.⁴²

³³ L.A. CNTY. COMMISSION HUM. RELS., 2023 L.A. COUNTY HATE INCIDENT REPORT (2025) 5, 9, https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/0dd2d243-f30e-453a-96ec-73c061535a53/2023%20Hate%20Incident%20Report%20Final.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.

³⁴ *Id.* at 3.

³⁵ *Id.* at 9.

³⁶ *California Health Interview Survey*, UCLA CTR. HEALTH POL’Y RSCH., <https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/our-work/california-health-interview-survey-chis> (last visited Sept. 30, 2025) (analysis on file with author).

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ NAT’L CTR. FOR TRANSGENDER EQUAL., 2015 U.S. TRANSGENDER SURVEY: CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT 1 (2017), [https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTSCAStateReport\(1017\).pdf](https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTSCAStateReport(1017).pdf)

⁴² *Id.* at 2.

A few community-based surveys have collected information about violence from transgender people in Los Angeles. For example, a 2021 study based on a survey of 150 transgender women in Los Angeles between 2014 and 2018 found 47% of participants reported being victims of violence perpetrated by acquaintances or strangers.⁴³ Additionally, a 2024 Williams Institute study based on a 2023-2024 survey of 322 transgender and nonbinary people in Los Angeles found that 38% of respondents named violence as an issue that was a serious problem for transgender and nonbinary people in Los Angeles.⁴⁴

A mixed-methods study published in 2021 collected information about anti-transgender hate incidents and violence through focus groups with a total of 32 participants in Los Angeles.⁴⁵ The participants in those focus groups also completed a survey.⁴⁶ Researchers found that, with the exception of two participants, all experienced a hate incident or crime based on gender identity or expression.⁴⁷ Of the six types of potential hate incidents measured by the researchers, respondents reported, on average, experiencing 3.48 types of incidents in their lives.⁴⁸ The types of hate incidents measured included discrimination, verbal harassment, vandalism, threats, physical attacks, and sexual assaults.⁴⁹ More than half of the participants reported being physically assaulted because of their gender at some point in their lives.⁵⁰

Another study surveyed 629 transgender women in person in the San Francisco Bay Area from 2016 to 2018 to assess whether certain factors influenced exposure to anti-transgender violence.⁵¹ Almost half of respondents (45.8%) reported ever experiencing an anti-transgender hate crime.⁵² Many crimes involved violence against the person (as opposed to a property crime), with 39.8% of participants reporting physical assault, 37.3% reporting battery with a weapon, and 19.3% reporting sexual assault.⁵³ The types of violence experienced by respondents differed by race and ethnicity: nearly half of Latina (49%) and Black (47.9%) transgender women reported an experience of battery with a weapon, compared to 28% of white transgender women.⁵⁴ In contrast, 26.7% of white transgender women and 25% of those of another race or ethnicity reported sexual assaults, compared to 12.5% of Black and 13.5% of Latina transgender women.⁵⁵ The study found several factors associated with higher odds of experiencing an anti-transgender hate crime. Transgender women who had ever experienced homelessness, engaged in sex work, been undocumented, had lower educational attainment, or felt that others questioned their gender identity were more likely to have experienced a hate crime.⁵⁶

⁴³ Frank H. Galvan, et al. *Violence Inflicted on Latina Transgender Women Living with HIV: Rates and Associated Factors by Perpetrator Type*, 25 AIDS & BEHAV. (Suppl 1), S116, S116, S121, S124 (2021).

⁴⁴ JODY L. HERMAN ET AL., WILLIAMS INST., PARA MI PUNTO DE VISTA/FROM MY POINT OF VIEW: RESULTS OF THE 2023 LA COUNTY TRANS & NONBINARY SURVEY 89, 91 (2024), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LACo-Trans-NB-Jun-2024.pdf>.

⁴⁵ Jane Gauthier, Kevin Medina & Carly Dierkhising, *Analysis of Hate Crimes in Transgender Communities*, 17 J. HATE STUD. 4, 6 (2021).

⁴⁶ *Id.* at 6-7

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ *Id.* at 7.

⁴⁹ *Id.* at 7-8.

⁵⁰ *Id.* at 7.

⁵¹ Akua O. Gyamerah et al., *Experiences and Factors Associated with Transphobic Hate Crimes Among Transgender Women in the San Francisco Bay Area: Comparisons Across Race*, 21 BMC PUB. HEALTH 1053, 1, 3 (2021).

⁵² *Id.* at 4.

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ *Id.*

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ *Id.* at 4, 6.

REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, COLLEGE CAMPUSES, AND OTHER SOURCES IN CALIFORNIA

Gender identity hate crimes and incidents of anti-transgender violence have also been documented in other sources, including in reports collected by community-based organizations and college campuses, and in qualitative studies.

The National Coalition for Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) is “comprised of organizations and groups across the country that work to prevent and respond to violence against LGBTQ+ survivors and survivors living with HIV.”⁵⁷ Historically, NCAVP partnered with community organizations to gather information for an annual national report on hate violence against LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities.⁵⁸ These organizations draw from victim reports and public sources, such as media and police reports, to compile an annual report.⁵⁹ As a result of the dependence on voluntary participation from community organizations, each report varies in its coverage of incidents. While NCAVP has not published a report since 2017, its data helps characterize hate crimes and trends from years prior.⁶⁰ Two California organizations, Community United Against Violence (CUAV) in San Francisco and the LGBT Center Anti-Violence Project in Los Angeles, provided information about anti-LGBTQ+ hate violence for these reports.⁶¹ Both CUAV and the Los Angeles LGBT Center reported to NCAVP for over sixteen years, though not all years included information on transgender victims specifically.⁶² Notable statistics throughout the years included the following:

2016

- In San Francisco, CUAV assisted 66 survivors of anti-LGBTQ hate violence.⁶³ Thirty-two percent of survivors were transgender women.⁶⁴
- The Los Angeles LGBT Center assisted 208 survivors of anti-LGBTQ hate violence.⁶⁵ Twenty-six percent of survivors were transgender.⁶⁶

2015

- CUAV assisted 123 survivors of anti-LGBTQ hate violence, and 22% identified as transgender.⁶⁷
- The Los Angeles LGBT Center assisted 205 survivors of anti-LGBTQ hate violence.⁶⁸ Twenty-six percent were transgender.⁶⁹

⁵⁷ NAT'L COAL. ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS, <https://avp.org/ncavp/> (last visited Sept. 12, 2025).

⁵⁸ EMILY WATERS ET AL., NAT'L COAL. ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS, LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, AND HIV-AFFECTED HATE VIOLENCE IN 2016, at 25 (2017), https://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/NCAVP_2016HateViolence_REPORT.pdf.

⁵⁹ See BEVERLY TILLERY ET AL., NAT'L COAL. ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS, LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, AND HIV-AFFECTED HATE AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN 2017, at 33 (2018), <https://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/NCAVP-HV-IPV-2017-report.pdf>; *id.* at 30; EMILY WATERS ET AL., NAT'L COAL. ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS, LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, AND HIV-AFFECTED HATE VIOLENCE IN 2015, at 14 (2016), https://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ncavp_hvreport_2015_final.pdf.

⁶⁰ See NAT'L COAL ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS, *supra* note 57.

⁶¹ *Id.* at 42, 55.

⁶² Here, reports from 2010-2017 are only included if they reported information on transgender victims.

⁶³ WATERS ET AL., *supra* note 58, at 42.

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ *Id.* at 55.

⁶⁶ *Id.* at 56.

⁶⁷ WATERS ET AL., *supra* note 59, at 48.

⁶⁸ *Id.* at 44.

⁶⁹ *Id.*

2012

- CUAV assisted 95 survivors of anti-LGBTQ hate violence.⁷⁰ Twenty-nine percent of survivors identified as transgender.⁷¹
- The Los Angeles LGBT Center assisted 435 survivors of anti-LGBTQ hate violence, of which 21.4% identified as transgender.⁷²

2011

- CUAV assisted 141 survivors of anti-LGBTQ hate violence; 13% identified as transgender.⁷³
- The Los Angeles LGBT Center assisted 515 survivors of anti-LGBTQ hate violence.⁷⁴ Of those who identified as transgender, 76% were transgender women of color, and more than half primarily spoke Spanish.⁷⁵ One homicide was documented.⁷⁶ The victim was a Black transgender woman.⁷⁷

2010

- CUAV assisted 213 survivors of anti-LGBT hate violence.⁷⁸ Twenty-five percent of incidents reported by survivors involved anti-transgender bias.⁷⁹

⁷⁰ SHELBY CHESTNUT ET AL., NAT'L COAL. ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS, LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER AND HIV-AFFECTED HATE VIOLENCE IN 2012, at 75, https://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ncavp_2012_hvreport_final.pdf.

⁷¹ *Id.*

⁷² *Id.* at 83-84.

⁷³ EJERIS DIXON ET AL., NAT'L COAL. ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS, HATE VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, AND HIV-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2011, at 69 (2012), https://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2011_ncavp_hate_violence_report.pdf.

⁷⁴ *Id.* at 79.

⁷⁵ *Id.* at 79-80.

⁷⁶ *Id.* at 80.

⁷⁷ *Id.*

⁷⁸ EJERIS DIXON ET AL., NAT'L COAL. ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS, HATE VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, AND HIV-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2010, at 55 (2011), https://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2011_NCAVP_HV_Reports.pdf.

⁷⁹ *Id.*

GENDER IDENTITY HATE CRIMES AND ANTI-TRANSGENDER VIOLENCE ACROSS THE US

National data sources, such as FBI data, also collect information on violence against transgender people across the country. Data and information from these sources indicate that such hate crimes and incidents are widespread and persistent.

HATE CRIME RECORDS COLLECTED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), within the U.S. Department of Justice, collects and compiles hate crime data from law enforcement and government agencies each year.⁸⁰ For the purposes of data collection, the FBI defines a hate crime as “a committed criminal offense which is motivated, in whole or in part, by an offender’s bias(es) against” a person based on their “race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.”⁸¹

Data collected by the FBI over the past six years show an increase in the number of reported hate crimes and an increase in the share of those crimes motivated by gender identity bias, which includes anti-transgender and anti-gender nonconforming hate crimes.⁸² In 2018, gender identity bias motivated 2.2% of 8,327 single-bias hate crime offenses.⁸³ Specifically, anti-transgender bias motivated 157 single-bias hate crime offenses, while anti-gender nonconforming bias motivated 27 offenses.⁸⁴

Most recently, in 2024, the FBI reported 13,683 single-bias hate crime offenses.⁸⁵ Gender identity bias motivated 3.9% of those crimes.⁸⁶ Anti-transgender bias and anti-gender nonconforming bias motivated 382 and 145 hate crimes, respectively.⁸⁷

⁸⁰ FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION, HATE CRIME STATISTICS, 2023: ABOUT HATE CRIME STATISTICS 5 (2024).

⁸¹ *Hate Crime Statistics*, FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION: HOW WE CAN HELP YOU, <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/ucr/hate-crime> (last visited Sept. 16, 2025).

⁸² FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION, *supra* note 17 (set time frame from “January 2018” to “December 2024”, toggle between “anti-transgender” and “anti-gender non-conforming” bias to view data).

⁸³ *Incidents and Offenses*, FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION: UNIF. CRIME REPORTING PROGRAM, [HTTPS://UCR.FBI.GOV/HATE-CRIME/2018/TOPIC-PAGES/INCIDENTS-AND-OFFENSES](https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2018/topic-pages/incidents-and-offenses) (last visited Sept. 16, 2025).

⁸⁴ *Id.* at 4.

⁸⁵ FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION, Table 1: Incidents, Offenses, Victims, and Known Offenders by Bias Motivation, 2024 (2025), <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/downloads> (download “2024” under “Hate Crime Statistics Annual Reports”). STATISTICS, 2023: INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES 2 (2024).

⁸⁶ *Id.*

⁸⁷ *Id.*

Table 1. Hate crime offenses reported to the FBI (2018-2024)

YEAR	SINGLE BIAS OFFENSES TOTAL ⁸⁸	SINGLE BIAS OFFENSES MOTIVATED BY GENDER IDENTITY BIAS ⁸⁹	ANTI-TRANSGENDER HATE CRIME OFFENSES ⁹⁰	ANTI-GENDER NONCONFORMING HATE OFFENSES ⁹¹
2024	13,683	3.9%	382	145
2023	13,298	4.1%	401	146
2022	12,913	4.0%	374	141
2021	8,419	3.6%	200	107
2020	10,790	2.7%	237	57
2019	8,302	2.7%	173	51
2018	8,327	2.2%	157	27

Currently, federal law does not require state and local law enforcement departments to report data— participation is voluntary.⁹² For example, from January 2020 to January 2025, the highest percentage of Mississippi’s population that was covered by the data provided to the FBI was 73.19% in 2020.⁹³ As a result, data collected by the FBI likely do not provide a complete picture of reported hate crimes against transgender people, and people more generally, across the U.S.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the Department of Health and Human Services collects information about homicides against transgender people, including whether they were motivated by anti-transgender bias, through the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS).⁹⁴ One study published in 2022 analyzed 2003-2018 NVDRS data on homicides committed against transgender people.⁹⁵ Of 147 homicides committed against transgender people in the NVDRS, 6.1% were categorized as hate crimes.⁹⁶ Compared to other victims, homicides of transgender individuals were more likely to be classified as hate crimes (6.1% vs. 0.1%).⁹⁷ The study also showed that, compared to all other victims, a larger portion of transgender victims were Black, sex workers, and had a history of a mental health

⁸⁸ FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION, *supra* note 83; *Incidents and Offenses*, FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION: UNIF. CRIME REPORTING PROGRAM, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2019/topic-pages/incidents-and-offenses> (last visited Sept. 16, 2025) [hereinafter 2019 INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES]; FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION, HATE CRIME STATISTICS, 2020: INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES 2 (2021) [hereinafter 2020 INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES]; FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION, HATE CRIME STATISTICS, 2021: INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES 2 (2022) [hereinafter 2021 INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES]; FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION, HATE CRIME STATISTICS, 2022: INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES 2 (2023) [hereinafter 2022 INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES]; FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION, HATE CRIME STATISTICS 2023: INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES 2 (2024) [hereinafter 2023 INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES].

⁸⁹ *Id.*

⁹⁰ FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION, *supra* 83; 2019 INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES, *supra* note 88; 2020 INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES, *supra* note 88, at 4; 2021 INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES, *supra* note 88, at 4; 2022 INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES, *supra* note 88, at 4; 2023 INCIDENTS AND OFFENSES, *supra* note 88, at 5; FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION, *supra* note 85.

⁹¹ *Id.*

⁹² FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION, *supra* note 81.

⁹³ FED. BUREAU INVESTIGATION, *supra* note 17 (in left sidebar select “Mississippi” under “Location.”) Population coverage means the percent of the population that is under reporting agencies.

⁹⁴ *National Violent Death Reporting System*, CTDS. DISEASE CONTROL (Aug. 25, 2025), <https://www.cdc.gov/nvdrs/about/index.html>.

⁹⁵ Tom W. Fouche, et al., *Demographic and Regional Factors Associated With Reporting Homicides of Transgender People in the United States*, 279 J. SURGICAL RSCH. 72, 73 (2022).

⁹⁶ *Id.* at 74.

⁹⁷ *Id.*

diagnosis.⁹⁸ The authors of the study highlighted that while homicides against transgender people appear disproportionately low (0.1% of all homicides), the discrepancy is likely due to underreporting or inaccurate reporting of victims' gender identity.⁹⁹ When a person dies, their survivors may lack information about that person's identification as an LGBTQ individual.¹⁰⁰ Since the NVDRS relies on a third party to classify a person as LGBTQ, those who are not open about their identity or refuse to use a label are likely missed by the death reporting system.¹⁰¹

NATIONAL SURVEYS OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

Several national surveys, including surveys by governmental, private, and non-profit organizations, have documented experiences of hate crimes, hate incidents, and violence against transgender people.

In terms of federal government data, the most comprehensive survey about violence and victimization is the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).¹⁰² The NCVS is a nationally representative survey administered by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics that gathers information about non-fatal crimes and, historically, included questions about respondents' gender identity and anti-transgender hate crimes.¹⁰³ As of May 2025, the federal government intends to stop collecting this information from NCVS respondents.¹⁰⁴ However, in the past, researchers have used NCVS data to study violence and perceived hate crimes against transgender people. For example, a 2025 Williams Institute analysis of 2022-2023 NCVS data found that transgender people experienced violence at a rate of 93.7 per 1,000 persons, compared with 21.1 per 1,000 among non-LGBT persons.¹⁰⁵ Similarly, an earlier Williams Institute analysis of 2017-2018 NCVS data found that transgender people experience much higher rates of violent victimization than cisgender people.¹⁰⁶ Specifically, transgender people encountered violence at a rate of 86.2 victimizations per 1,000 persons, while cisgender people encountered violence at a rate of 21.7 victimizations per 1,000 persons.¹⁰⁷ Transgender women experienced violence at a rate of 86.1 per 1,000 persons compared to 23.7 per 1,000 persons for cisgender women.¹⁰⁸ Transgender men had a rate of 107.5 victimizations per 1,000 persons, while cisgender men had a rate of 19.8 victimizations per 1,000 persons.¹⁰⁹ A large, though not statistically significant, difference was found in the percentage of violent victimizations that transgender and cisgender victims, overall, perceived as hate crimes: 19% of victimizations against transgender people and 9% of victimizations against cisgender people were

⁹⁸ *Id.*

⁹⁹ *Id.* at 75.

¹⁰⁰ Ann. P. Haas et al., *Collecting Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Information at Death*, 109 AM. J. PUB. HEALTH 255, 257 (2019).

¹⁰¹ *Id.*

¹⁰² *National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)*, U.S. DEP'T JUST.: BUREAU OF JUST. STAT., <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/ncvs> (last visited Sept. 16, 2025).

¹⁰³ Andrew R. Flores, et al., *Gender Identity Disparities in Criminal Victimization: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017-2018*, 111 AM. J. PUB. HEALTH 726, 726 (2021).

¹⁰⁴ Ethan Corey, *Trump DOJ Erases Trans People from Crime Data Surveys*, APPEAL (May 5, 2025), <https://theappeal.org/trump-doj-erases-trans-people-from-crime-data-surveys/>.

¹⁰⁵ ILAN H. MEYER & ANDREW R. FLORES, WILLIAMS INST., ANTI-LGBT VICTIMIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES: RESULTS FROM THE NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY (2022-2023) 3 (2025), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Anti-LGBT-Violence-Feb-2025.pdf>.

¹⁰⁶ Flores et al., *supra* note 103.

¹⁰⁷ Flores et al., *supra* note 103, at 727.

¹⁰⁸ Flores et al., *supra* note 103, at 727.

¹⁰⁹ *Id.*

perceived as hate crimes.¹¹⁰ However, the study's authors did find a large and statistically significant difference between perceptions of hate-motivated violent crime among cisgender and transgender women: 28% of violent victimizations against transgender women were perceived by the victims to be hate-motivated, while the same was true for 9% of violent victimizations against cisgender women.¹¹¹

Large, national surveys of transgender people have documented similarly high rates of violence, including hate violence, against transgender people. For example, data from the TransPop study, a nationally representative survey of 274 transgender people in the U.S. administered between 2016 and 2018, showed high rates of lifetime violence against transgender people.¹¹² Nearly half of transgender people (47.6%) reported being physically attacked or sexually assaulted as an adult, and 45.1% had property damaged, stolen, or were robbed.¹¹³ More than a quarter (28.5%) reported experiencing an attempted but unsuccessful attack, robbery, or damage to property.¹¹⁴

The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS), a survey of over 27,000 transgender people, found that 13% of all transgender respondents had been physically attacked in the past year and 9% of all respondents believed they had been attacked because of their transgender status or gender expression.¹¹⁵ People who worked in the underground economy, such as by doing sex work or drug sales, were more than three times more likely than all other respondents to report being physically attacked in the last year (41%).¹¹⁶ Twenty-four percent of undocumented residents reported being physically attacked.¹¹⁷ Transgender people of color were more likely to report being physically attacked than white respondents, particularly American Indian (25%), Middle Eastern (25%), and multiracial respondents (19%).¹¹⁸ The survey also found that Black (11%) and Latina (11%) transgender women were almost four times more likely to report being attacked with a gun than the general population of transgender people (3%).¹¹⁹

Similarly, a 2022 academic study based on the same dataset found that 6.3% of respondents reported that they had been physically attacked specifically because of their transgender status within the prior year.¹²⁰ Similar to findings related to physical violence based on both transgender status and gender

¹¹⁰ *Id.* at 728.

¹¹¹ *Id.*

¹¹² ILAN H. MEYER, BIANCA D.M. WILSON & KATHRYN O'NEILL, WILLIAMS INST., LGBTQ PEOPLE IN THE US: SELECT FINDINGS FROM THE GENERATIONS AND TRANSPop STUDIES 36 (2021), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Generations-TransPop-Toplines-Jun-2021.pdf>; TRANSPop: U.S. TRANSGENDER POPULATION HEALTH SURVEY, <https://www.transpop.org/> (last visited Sept. 30, 2025).

¹¹³ *Id.* at 18.

¹¹⁴ *Id.*

¹¹⁵ SANDY E. JAMES ET AL., NAT'L CTR. TRANSGENDER EQUAL., THE REPORT OF THE 2015 U.S. TRANSGENDER SURVEY 202-03 (2016), <https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-Full-Report-Dec17.pdf> [hereinafter 2015 U.S. TRANSGENDER SURVEY REPORT]. Under the 2022 USTS data, 3% of the sample reported being physically attacked in the last 12 months because of their gender identity or expression; 63% of those who were physically attacked believed it was because of their transgender identity. SANDY E. JAMES ET AL., NAT'L CTR. TRANSGENDER EQUAL., EARLY INSIGHTS: A REPORT OF THE 2022 U.S. TRANSGENDER SURVEY 21 (2024), https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/2022%20USTS%20Early%20Insights%20Report_FINAL.pdf; ANKIT RASTOGI ET AL., ADVOCs. TRANSGENDER EQUAL. 81 (2025), https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/USTS_2022Health%26WellbeingReport_WEB.pdf.

¹¹⁶ 2015 U.S. TRANSGENDER SURVEY REPORT, *supra* note 115, at 41, 202.

¹¹⁷ *Id.*

¹¹⁸ *Id.* at 202-03.

¹¹⁹ *Id.* at 204.

¹²⁰ Adam M. Messinger, Xavier L. Guadalupe-Diaz & Victoria Kurdyla, *Transgender Polyvictimization in the U.S. Transgender Survey*, 37 J. INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE NP118810, NP118819 (2022). This percentage differs from the percentage of past-year violence reported in the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey report. The difference may be due to the types of bias motivations considered in each study. The 2015 USTS presented the percentage of respondents

expression discussed above, this study found higher rates of violence motivated by gender identity among transgender respondents of color compared to white respondents. When analyzing victimization by race, people who identified as Alaskan Natives or American Indians, who were multiracial, or belonged to an “unlisted”¹²¹ race or ethnicity had greater odds of experiencing anti-transgender violence within the past year.¹²² Respondents who had ever been homeless, had a disability, or were more open about their transgender identity were also significantly more likely to have experienced anti-transgender violence in the past year.¹²³ By contrast, respondents faced lower odds of past-year anti-transgender violence if they were more visually conforming (or less visible as someone who is transgender), identified as genderqueer or nonbinary and were assigned female at birth, were older, or had a higher household income.¹²⁴

Surveys of subpopulations of transgender people have also documented hate violence. For example, a national survey conducted in 2017 by the National Korean American Coalition to End Domestic Abuse specifically focused on the experiences of queer and transgender Koreans in the United States.¹²⁵ Sixty-two percent reported that coming out as queer directly resulted in harassment and violence, while 75% experienced harassment or violence after coming out as transgender.¹²⁶ Sixty-four percent reported harassment or violence based on gender expression, with 79% continuing to fear the threat of violence due to their gender expression.¹²⁷

A 2005 study, based on a survey of transgender people assigned male at birth, assessed the frequency of potentially traumatic events, including violence.¹²⁸ The survey asked whether participants had ever experienced a potentially traumatic event, what kind of event, how often, and whether they perceived that the event happened because of their transgender status.¹²⁹ A “potentially traumatic event” captured a range of incidents, including car accidents, natural disasters, physical assault, and sexual assault.¹³⁰ The study found that of the 98% of respondents who experienced a potentially traumatic event, 42% reported experiencing a potentially traumatic event motivated by anti-transgender bias.¹³¹ Respondents who experienced traumatic events with anti-transgender bias often reported particularly violent events, with 77% having been hit, beaten, or badly injured by a stranger, 75% suffering sexual abuse or rape as an adult, and 72% being victims of stalking.¹³²

who experienced violence based on either their transgender status and/or gender expression, while Messinger, Guadalupe-Diaz & Kurdyla assessed only violence motivated by transgender status.

¹²¹ An “unlisted” race or ethnicity means the respondent’s identity is not listed as an option on the survey. The options listed for race/ethnicity on the survey were: African American, Alaska Native/American Indian, Asian American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Latinx, white, Middle Eastern/North African, multiracial.

¹²² Messinger, Guadalupe-Diaz & Kurdyla, *supra* note 120, at NP18821.

¹²³ *Id.* at NP18821, NP18824.

¹²⁴ *Id.* at NP18824-25.

¹²⁵ HYEJIN SHIM, KACEDA, WITH YOU: QUEER AND TRANS KOREANS SURVIVING VIOLENCE: A COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH REPORT (2018), <https://view.publitas.com/survived-and-punished/with-you-queer-trans-koreans-surviving-violence-english/page/1>.

¹²⁶ *Id.* at 17, 18.

¹²⁷ *Id.* at 22.

¹²⁸ Jillian Shipherd, et al., *Potentially Traumatic Events in a Transgender Sample: Frequency and Associated Symptoms*, 17 *TRAUMATOLOGY* 56, 56, 59 (2011).

¹²⁹ *Id.* at 59-60.

¹³⁰ *Id.* at 59.

¹³¹ *Id.* at 60-61.

¹³² *Id.* at 63.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY HATE CRIMES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN THE US

Hate violence against transgender people nationally has also been documented in community-based reports, media articles, and other anecdotal reports. One source of this information are the annual reports that were published by NCAVP through 2017. As a result of the dependence on voluntary participation from community organizations, each report varies in overall coverage. The reports gather information from NCAVP member organizations across the United States. Notable facts from the reports included the following:

- In 2017, NCAVP collected information about 52 hate-related homicides.¹³³ Twenty-seven victims were transgender or gender nonconforming, 22 of whom were transgender women of color.¹³⁴ NCAVP also documented 825 reports of hate violence against LGBTQ people and people living with HIV, 142 of which involved anti-transgender bias.¹³⁵ Among survivors of hate violence, 228 were transgender, nonbinary, or gender nonconforming.¹³⁶
- In 2016, NCAVP collected information about 77 hate-related homicides, including 49 victims of the mass shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando.¹³⁷ While data on the gender identity of the victims of the Pulse Nightclub shooting are not available, among the other 28 victims of hate-related homicides, 19 were transgender and gender nonconforming people, including 17 transgender women of color.¹³⁸ NCAVP also documented 1,036 incidents of hate violence against LGBTQ people and people living with HIV.¹³⁹ Of the 929 reports that indicated a bias motivation, 210 (23%) involved anti-transgender bias.¹⁴⁰ Among 912 survivors of hate violence whose gender identity was reported, 193 were transgender women, 44 were transgender men, and 52 were nonbinary or gender nonconforming people.¹⁴¹
- In 2015, NCAVP collected information about 24 hate-related homicides.¹⁴² Sixteen homicide victims were transgender or gender nonconforming, and 13 were transgender women of color.¹⁴³ NCAVP also documented 1,253 reports of hate violence against LGBTQ people and people living with HIV, 293 (26%) of which involved anti-transgender bias.¹⁴⁴ Among survivors of hate violence, 22% were transgender.¹⁴⁵

¹³³ TILLERY ET AL., *supra* note 59, at 13.

¹³⁴ *Id.* at 13, 33.

¹³⁵ *Id.* at 17, 55.

¹³⁶ *Id.* at 52.

¹³⁷ WATERS ET AL., *supra* note 58, at 28.

¹³⁸ *Id.*

¹³⁹ *Id.* at 30.

¹⁴⁰ *Id.* at 39.

¹⁴¹ *Id.* at 31. “Nonbinary or gender non-conforming people” captures the gender categories of “transgender nonbinary”, “gender nonconforming”, “genderfluid”, and “genderqueer”.

¹⁴² WATERS ET AL., *supra* note 59, at 18.

¹⁴³ *Id.*

¹⁴⁴ *Id.* at 21, 41.

¹⁴⁵ *Id.* at 19.

- In 2014, NCAVP collected information about 20 hate-related homicides.¹⁴⁶ Eleven victims were transgender women, 10 of whom were transgender women of color.¹⁴⁷ NCAVP also documented 1,359 reports of hate violence against LGBTQ people and people living with HIV.¹⁴⁸ Of the 848 reports that specified a bias motivation, one-fifth (20.64%) involved anti-transgender bias.¹⁴⁹ Among 691 reports of hate violence that included survivors' gender identity, 12% involved transgender survivors.¹⁵⁰ More than three-fourths (80.9%) of these survivors were transgender women.¹⁵¹
- In 2013, NCAVP collected information about 18 hate-related homicides.¹⁵² Twelve victims were transgender women of color.¹⁵³ NCAVP also documented 2,001 reports of hate violence against LGBTQ people and people living with HIV, 18.48% of which involved anti-transgender bias.¹⁵⁴ Among survivors of hate violence, 13% were transgender.¹⁵⁵
- In 2012, NCAVP collected information about 25 hate-related homicides.¹⁵⁶ Over half (53.8%) of these victims were transgender women.¹⁵⁷ NCAVP also documented 2,016 reports of hate violence against LGBTQ people and people living with HIV, 18.3% of which involved anti-transgender bias.¹⁵⁸ Among victims and survivors of hate violence, 10.5% were transgender.¹⁵⁹
- In 2011, NCAVP collected information about 30 hate-related homicides.¹⁶⁰ Among the victims, 40% were transgender women and 3% were gender nonconforming.¹⁶¹ NCAVP also documented 2,092 reports of hate violence against LGBTQ people and people living with HIV.¹⁶² Of the 898 reports that specified a bias motivation, 14% involved anti-transgender bias.¹⁶³ Among victims and survivors of hate violence, 18% were transgender.¹⁶⁴
- In 2010, NCAVP collected information about 27 hate-related homicides.¹⁶⁵ Among the victims, 44% were transgender women.¹⁶⁶ NCAVP also documented 2,476 reports of hate violence against

¹⁴⁶ OSMAN AHMED ET AL., NAT'L COAL. ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS, LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, AND HIV-AFFECTED HATE VIOLENCE IN 2014, at 24 (2015), https://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2014_HV_Report-Final.pdf.

¹⁴⁷ *Id.* at 55.

¹⁴⁸ *Id.* at 20.

¹⁴⁹ *Id.* at 43.

¹⁵⁰ *Id.* at 28.

¹⁵¹ *Id.* at 66.

¹⁵² OSMAN AHMED ET AL., NAT'L COAL. ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS, LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, AND HIV-AFFECTED HATE VIOLENCE IN 2013, at 22 (2014), https://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2013_ncavp_hvreport_final.pdf.

¹⁵³ *Id.*

¹⁵⁴ *Id.* at 45.

¹⁵⁵ *Id.* at 27.

¹⁵⁶ CHESTNUT ET AL., *supra* note 70, at 21.

¹⁵⁷ *Id.* at 21.

¹⁵⁸ *Id.* at 19, 37.

¹⁵⁹ *Id.* at 25.

¹⁶⁰ DIXON ET AL., *supra* note 73, at 19.

¹⁶¹ *Id.* at 20.

¹⁶² *Id.* at 19.

¹⁶³ *Id.* at 34.

¹⁶⁴ *Id.* at 23.

¹⁶⁵ DIXON ET AL., *supra* note 78, at 17, 19.

¹⁶⁶ DIXON ET AL., *supra* note 78, at 19.

LGBTQ people and people living with HIV.¹⁶⁷ Among all hate violence survivors and homicide victims, 17.2% were transgender, gender nonconforming, or intersex.¹⁶⁸

Another organization, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), tracked incidents of fatal violence against transgender people by working with local advocates, the media, and law enforcement.¹⁶⁹ Since starting data collection in 2013, HRC documented the highest number of homicides against transgender people in 2021, with at least 60 deaths.¹⁷⁰ HRC reports also show a high proportion of transgender homicide victims are people of color. In 2022, 83% of victims were people of color, and 54% were Black transgender women.¹⁷¹ In 2023, 84% of the 32 transgender and gender expansive individuals lost to violence were people of color, and at least 50% of all victims were Black transgender women.¹⁷² Finally, in 2024, HRC recorded 32 homicides of transgender people.¹⁷³ Seventy-eight percent were people of color, and more than half (56%) were Black transgender women.¹⁷⁴

An academic study published in 2024 tracked fatal violence against transgender people using open-source data, including news articles, from 2010-2021.¹⁷⁵ Of the 305 documented homicides of transgender people, 92 were either confirmed or suspected hate crimes.¹⁷⁶ Most transgender homicide victims were women of color: 64.3% of transgender homicide victims were Black transgender women, and 14.8% were Hispanic/Latinx transgender women.¹⁷⁷ The study also looked at the characteristics of perpetrators who committed homicide against transgender people. Black offenders made up 63.9% of perpetrators, and Hispanic/Latinx offenders made up 13.2% of perpetrators.¹⁷⁸ Researchers found that white perpetrators (23%) were slightly overrepresented compared to the number of white victims (10.8%).¹⁷⁹ More than three-fourths (82.7%) of perpetrators were age 39 or younger, with 62.6% aged 18-29 and 20.1% aged 30-39.¹⁸⁰ More than 90% of perpetrators were men.¹⁸¹ Even in cases where women perpetrators were involved, several acted as co-offenders alongside a male perpetrator.¹⁸²

¹⁶⁷ *Id.* at 17. This number represented the reported number of homicide and hate violence victims and survivors (2,503) minus the number of homicide victims (27).

¹⁶⁸ *Id.* at 25.

¹⁶⁹ Hum. Rts. Campaign Found., *Fatal Violence Against the Transgender and Gender-Expansive Community in 2023*, HUM. RTS. CAMPAIGN, <https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-gender-expansive-community-in-2023> (last visited Sept. 30, 2025).

¹⁷⁰ Hum. Rts. Campaign Found., *Fatal Violence Against the Transgender and Gender-Expansive Community in 2021*, HUM. RTS. CAMPAIGN, <https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-gender-expansive-community-in-2021> (last visited Sept. 15, 2025).

¹⁷¹ Hum. Rts. Campaign Found., *Fatal Violence Against the Transgender and Gender-Expansive Community in 2022*, HUM. RTS. CAMPAIGN, <https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-gender-expansive-community-in-2022> (last visited Sept. 15, 2025).

¹⁷² HUM. RTS. CAMPAIGN, *supra* note 169.

¹⁷³ Hum. Rts. Campaign Found., *Fatal Violence Against the Transgender and Gender-Expansive Community in 2024*, HUM. RTS. CAMPAIGN, <https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-gender-expansive-community-in-2024> (last visited Sept. 15, 2025).

¹⁷⁴ *Id.*

¹⁷⁵ Brendan Lantz, Lexi Faulker & Jack M. Mills, *A Descriptive Account of the Nature and Extent of Transgender Homicide in America, 2010 to 2021*, 39 J. INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE 341, 343 (2024).

¹⁷⁶ *Id.* at 353.

¹⁷⁷ *Id.* at 352.

¹⁷⁸ *Id.* at 353.

¹⁷⁹ *Id.* at 352.

¹⁸⁰ *Id.* at 351-52.

¹⁸¹ *Id.* at 353.

¹⁸² *Id.* at 352.

Other studies have used qualitative methods, or interviews, to examine hate crimes against transgender people. For example, a study published in 2022 interviewed LGBTQ people in the Miami-Dade area to assess the existence and underreporting of hate crimes.¹⁸³ From 2018-2019, researchers conducted 400 interviews with LGBTQ people who experienced crimes within the prior five years.¹⁸⁴ Thirty-six transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming hate crime victims were interviewed.¹⁸⁵ A quarter of these respondents were assaulted at least once within the prior five years.¹⁸⁶ Of those assaulted, 22.2% were assaulted physically, and 2.8% were sexually assaulted.¹⁸⁷ On average, gender minority respondents who were assaulted experienced at least one incident annually.¹⁸⁸ Of the 36 respondents, only three reported the incident to the police.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸³ Neal A. Palmer & Besiki Luka Kutateladze, *What Prosecutors and the Police Should Do About Underreporting of Anti-LGBTQ Hate Crime*, 19 *SEXUALITY Rsch. & Soc. Pol'y* 1190, 1190-1193 (2022).

¹⁸⁴ *Id.*

¹⁸⁵ *Id.* at 1200.

¹⁸⁶ *Id.* at 1200, 1201.

¹⁸⁷ *Id.* at 1201.

¹⁸⁸ *Id.*

¹⁸⁹ *Id.*

LEGAL OUTCOMES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

A study published in 2020 focused on the legal outcomes of 105 transgender homicide cases between 2010 and 2016.¹⁹⁰ While the researchers were unable to determine if cases were hate crimes, the data provide insight into the legal aftermath of fatal violence against transgender people. The study found that 40.95% of cases received a guilty verdict and 59.05% had an outcome other than guilty.¹⁹¹ Reasons for non-guilty outcomes included 38.1% unsolved cases, 11.43% pending cases, and 3.81% of cases ending in a verdict of not guilty.¹⁹² The authors note that in 2010, the unsolved case rate for homicides not involving transgender victims was 37%.¹⁹³ The vast majority of cases involved transgender women and Black victims. Among cases with guilty outcomes, 86.05% involved transgender women victims and 69.77% involved Black victims.¹⁹⁴ Similar percentages of cases without guilty outcomes involved transgender women (93.55%) and Black victims (80.65%).¹⁹⁵

¹⁹⁰ Rayna E. Momen & Lisa M. Dilks, *Examining Case Outcomes in US Transgender Homicides: An Exploratory Investigation of the Intersectionality of Victim Characteristics*, 41 SOCIO. SPECTRUM 53, 53, 62 (2020).

¹⁹¹ *Id.* at 62.

¹⁹² *Id.* at 63.

¹⁹³ *Id.* at 59, citing Meredith Talusan, *Documenting Trans Homicides*, MIC, [HTTPS://WWW.MIC.COM/UNERASED](https://www.mic.com/UNERASED) (last visited Feb. 7, 2017).

¹⁹⁴ *Id.* at 64.

¹⁹⁵ *Id.*

CONCLUSION

Over the past 25 years, data and research on hate crimes against transgender people have expanded substantially, though gaps remain. Law enforcement data collected by the California Department of Justice and the Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations indicate that reported hate crimes against transgender people have increased annually at the state level and in the state's largest county by population. The California DOJ has seen a rise in anti-transgender hate crimes from 13 in 1999 to 73 in 2024, and the LA Commission on Human Relations documented an increase from eight anti-transgender hate crimes in 2000 to 102 in 2024. These patterns are mirrored in national data on hate crimes collected by the FBI. Surveys of transgender people nationally and in California have found high rates of hate crimes, hate incidents, and violence against transgender people, particularly transgender women of color. Community-based reports, qualitative studies, and other sources have provided additional information about the existence and characteristics of anti-transgender violence and hate crimes. Despite this evidence, challenges to studying the prevalence of hate crimes against transgender people remain due to gaps in data collection and reporting.

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