



Los Angeles County
Department of Workforce Development,
Aging and Community Services
Commission on Human Relations
3175 W. Sixth Street, Ste. 400, Los Angeles, CA 90020
(213) 738-2788

ANTI-AFRICAN AMERICAN HATE CRIMES **IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY IN 2019**

There were 125 anti-black hate crimes reported in 2019. Forty-seven percent of racial hate crimes targeted African Americans, compared to 49% the previous year. Black persons constitute 9% of the total population of Los Angeles County, but each year are grossly over-represented as victims of racial hate crime.

Seventy-one percent of anti-black hate crimes were of a violent nature, compared to crimes targeting Latino/as (88%), Middle Easterners (82%), Asians (76%), and whites (64%).

The most common criminal offenses committed in anti-black crimes were aggravated and simple assaults (24% each), vandalism (23%), and intimidation (21%). There was one attempted murder of an African American man attacked on a Metro bus who was repeatedly stabbed by a stranger.

Crimes targeting African Americans occurred most often in public places (39%), followed by residences and businesses (23% each), and schools (9%).

Anti-black crimes were most frequently committed by whites (61%) and Latino/as (37%). This is the first time in 20 years that the majority of anti-black crimes were committed by white suspects, not Latino/as.

African Americans were the majority of suspects in anti-Latino/a and anti-white racial hate crimes.

Historically, large numbers of anti-black crimes have been committed by Latino/a gang members. The number of anti-black hate crimes committed by Latino gang members plummeted 72% from 29 to 8.

African Americans were again also over-represented as victims of sexual orientation and anti-transgender crimes.

The following are examples of anti-African American hate crimes reported in 2019:

February 25, Burbank

A middle-aged black woman parked her car at her residence and later found, "Nigga," scratched into the hood and "Bitch" scratched on the driver's side. Two tires were completely deflated.

June 22, Universal City

A white female suspect attempted to snatch the purse of a black female victim. The victim ran after the suspect and grabbed her by the arm. The suspect responded by punching the victim's face several times, then threw the purse at her and ran off. The victim was treated at the scene by paramedics. The attempted robbery was captured by a security camera. The suspect was detained a short time later. When questioned, the suspect stated, "I attacked that bitch because she's an Arab and I hate those motherfuckers."

August 22, South L.A.

A black female victim was walking towards Nickerson Gardens Housing Development when she heard someone yell, "Hey Nigger!" from a parked vehicle. A Latino male suspect exited the vehicle and punched her in the face, knocking the victim to the ground. Two other Latino males joined the first suspect in punching and kicking her. The victim lost consciousness and awoke to see a by-stander and paramedics. She blacked out again and was transported to a hospital.

September 13, West Los Angeles

Several boys were playing soccer at a Muslim retreat and several of them were Somali. A 40 year-old white male approached the victims with a knife and screamed "Nigger!" and other slurs and threatened to cut all of them. The suspect also stated that he was a Neo-Nazi and told the victims he would get his crew to "hang," "hurt," and "kill" them.

September 27, Torrance

A black teenager was walking when gray minivan pulled alongside of him. A middle-aged white male rolled down the window and pointed a semi-automatic handgun at him and yelled, " Hey Nigger! Pew, Pew!" (imitating the sound of gunshots). The victim feared for his life and ran away.

The full report is available at our website: www.hrc.lacounty.gov