

2021

HATE CRIMES IN TENNESSEE

- *CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS*
- *CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY*
- *AGENCY BREAKDOWN*



A PUBLICATION OF THE TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER | CRIME STATISTICS UNIT



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DAVID B. RAUSCH
Director

August 22, 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to present the 2021 Hate Crime annual report. This report is published by the TBI presenting information on reported crimes motivated by bias that occurred in Tennessee. The information contained in the report is based on crime statistics information submitted by law enforcement agencies, colleges and universities in Tennessee to TBI's Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS) program. TIBRS is the state version of the FBI's National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) program. Please see [https:// crimeinsight.tbi.tn.gov/](https://crimeinsight.tbi.tn.gov/) for additional information.

The groups toward which bias-motivated crimes may be directed are based on the national definitions and conform to the same standards used in the annual Hate Crime report published by the FBI for the United States. Any offense may be motivated by bias. The bias motivation is an element of the offense and is not reported as a separate crime occurrence.

I am very proud of the efforts of all participating law enforcement agencies, colleges and universities in the state to provide the data necessary to produce this report. Our combined efforts have resulted in this annual report detailing the nature of bias-motivated crime occurrences in our state.

Sincerely,

David B. Rausch
Director



INTRODUCTION

This report examines hate crimes reported to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS) by Tennessee law enforcement agencies, colleges, and universities for the year 2021. Reporting agencies were contacted and asked to verify the accuracy of the hate crime data reported for their jurisdiction. An examination of the reported data revealed several trends and noteworthy facts that are detailed in the body of this report.

BIAS MOTIVATION

Hate crimes are often committed based on differences in personal characteristics such as appearance, language, nationality, or religion. The key element of any hate crime is the presence of a bias motivation. The criminal act alone does not define a hate crime; rather, the investigation of the crime must conclude that the offender was bias motivated. Eight bias categories are used when reporting hate crimes: Anti-Racial, Anti-Ethnicity/National Origin, Anti-Religious, Anti-Sexual Orientation, Gender Bias, Gender Identity Bias, and Non-Specific.¹

Please note that there is an “Unknown” bias code in the Non-Specific category. The purpose of the “Unknown” bias code is to serve as a category for those offenses thought to be bias motivated and which are currently under investigation. These crimes demonstrate the characteristics of a hate crime; however, a specific bias motivation code/category has not been determined. Therefore, it should be noted that a hate crime *may or may not have* transpired. Once a conclusion is made, the agencies are responsible for removing the “Unknown” bias code and properly categorizing the crime. Incidents that do not involve facts and/or evidence of the offender’s bias motivation are to be reported as “None.”

METHODOLOGY

The TBI collects hate crime data regarding criminal offenses that are motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender’s bias against a race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, ancestry, gender, gender identity, or disability and are committed against persons or property. It is difficult to know with certainty whether a crime was a result of the offender’s bias because motivation is subjective. Law enforcement investigation is crucial for accurate hate crime reporting because it must reveal sufficient evidence to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the offender’s actions were motivated by his or her bias. Only then can law enforcement report an incident as a hate crime.

Note: This report is based upon data submitted as of July 18, 2022. As agencies update their 2021 data, the changes will be reflected at <https://crimeinsight.tbi.tn.gov/>. Although changes will be reflected on the site, this publication will not be updated.

¹ Global Law Enforcement Support Section, and Crime and Law Enforcement Statistics Unit. “Hate Crime Data Collection Guidelines and Training Manual Version 3.0.” *FBI*, FBI, 1 Mar. 2022, <https://le.fbi.gov/file-repository/hate-crime-data-collection-guidelines-and-training-manual.pdf/view>.

CATEGORIES OF BIAS CODES

Anti-Religious		Anti-Sexual Orientation
Jewish	Mormon	Male Homosexual (Gay)
Catholic	Jehovah's Witness	Female Homosexual (Lesbian)
Protestant	Eastern Orthodox – Greek	Homosexual (Gay & Lesbian)
Islamic	Other Christian	Bisexual
Multi-Religious Group	Buddhist	Heterosexual
Atheism/Agnosticism	Hindu	Anti- Gender
Other Religion	Sikh	Male
Anti-Racial/ Ethnicity/ Ancestry		Female
American Indian/Alaskan Native	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	Anti- Gender Identity
Asian	White	Transgender
Black or African American	Arab	Gender Non-Conforming
Hispanic or Latino	Non-Specific	Anti-Disability
Other Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry	Unknown	Physical Disability
Multi-Racial	None	Mental Disability

DATA COLLECTION

All law enforcement agencies are mandated by the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 to report all hate crimes to the Attorney General. This report utilizes data collected through the Tennessee Incident Based Report System (TIBRS) to identify bias motivated offenses. The national data collection guidelines stipulate that a hate crime may involve multiple offenses, victims, and offenders within one incident. Counting crimes follows the same standards used in the Crime in Tennessee publication. Crimes Against Persons and Robbery are a count of the individual victims while Crimes Against Property count as one offense for each incident, regardless of the number of victims.

This report uses the minimally accepted designations for race and ethnicity as established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and published in the Federal Register. The revised standards have six minimum categories for data on race and three categories for data on ethnicity. In complying with published standards, the following racial designations are used in the hate crime data collection program: White, Black or African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Multiple Races. The ethnic/ancestral designations are Hispanic, Arab, and Other Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry.

EVIDENCE A CRIME IS MOTIVATED BY BIAS

Because motivation is subjective, it is difficult to know with certainty whether a crime is the result of the offender's bias. Therefore, before an incident can be reported as a hate crime, objective facts must be present to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the offender's actions were motivated by bias. While no single fact may be conclusive, facts such as the following are supportive of finding a bias.

- The offender and the victim were of a different race, religion, disability status, sexual orientation, and/or ethnicity/national origin. For example, the victim was black and the offender was white.
- Bias related drawings, markings, symbols, or graffiti were left at the crime scene. For instance, a swastika painted on a synagogue.
- Bias related verbal comments, written statements, or gestures were made by the offender which indicated his or her bias. For example, the offender shouted racial epithets at the victim.
- Certain objects or items that indicate that bias was involved. For instance, the offenders wore white hooded robes covering their faces, or a burning cross was left in front of the victim's house.
- The victim is the member of a racial, religious, disability, sexual-orientation, or ethnic/national origin group which is overwhelmingly outnumbered by other residents in the neighborhood where the victim lives and the incident took place. This factor loses significance with the passage of time; i.e., it is most significant when the victim first moved into the neighborhood and become less and less significant as time passes without incident.
- Several incidents occurred in the same locality at or about the same time and all the victims were all of the same race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity/national origin.
- A substantial portion of the community where the crime occurred perceived the incident as motivated by bias.
- The victim was engaged in activities promoting his/her race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, sexual orientation, or ethnicity/national origin. For example, the victim was a member of NAACP or participated in gay rights demonstrations.
- The incident coincided with a holiday or a date of particular significance relating to race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity/national origin such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day or Rosh Hashanah.²

² Global Law Enforcement Support Section, and Crime and Law Enforcement Statistics Unit. "Hate Crime Data Collection Guidelines and Training Manual Version 3.0." *FBI*, FBI, 1 Mar. 2022, <https://le.fbi.gov/file-repository/hate-crime-data-collection-guidelines-and-training-manual.pdf/view>.

FEDERAL AND LOCAL HATE CRIME LEGISLATION

Hate crimes have been the topic of several discussions and forum in legislation across the country for multiple decades. The push for legislative action often occurs after a highly publicized incident in which some form of bias is determined to be the main motivation for the offense. These cases involving hate crimes have significantly contributed to the development and enhancement of federal and/or state hate crime statutes.

The chart below details some significant Hate Crime Statutes at both the Federal and State levels.

Tennessee Hate Crime Statutes (State)		United States Hate Crime Statutes (Federal)	
1989	Tennessee Code Ann. 39-17-311	1969	Hate Crimes Provision Act
Criminalizes intentional desecration of places of worship and burial as well as the state or national flag.		Permits federal punishment for bias motivated crimes based on religion, race, and national origin.	
1990	Tennessee Code Ann. 39-17-309	1990	Hate Crime Statistics Act
Establishes intimidation of others from exercising civil rights through injury or threat of injury as well as damaging or defacing real or personal property as a Class D felony. Also allows victims to seek remedies in criminal or civil court in addition to the provided penalties.		Requires all law enforcement agencies in the United States to submit annual hate crime data to Attorney General. Establishes guidelines for data collection and states that data will only be used for research and/or statistical purposes. Attorney General will publish an annual summary of data acquired.	
2008	Tennessee Code Ann. 40-35-114	1999	Hate Crimes Prevention Act
Amends Criminal Sentencing Reform Act of 1989 so court may consider enhancing defendant's sentence when victim vulnerable due to age or physical or mental disability. Also enhances sentence if victim was intentionally selected due to defendant's belief or perception of race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, or gender.		Prohibits intentional bodily injury based on race, religion, or national origin. Adds gender, sexual orientation and disabilities as federal hate crime categories. Offenses prosecuted as felonies when fire, firearm, or explosive is used to attempt or achieve bodily injury or death.	
		2009	Matthew Shepard & James Byrd, Jr. Act
		Extends Federal Hate Crime Act of 1969 to include crimes motivated by individual's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.	

2019-2021 BIAS MOTIVATION OCCURRENCES

Bias Motivation Type	2019		2020		2021	
	Total	% of Total	Total	% of Total	Total	% of Total
Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry Bias	80	71.42%	83	68.03%	77	57.89%
Anti-White	14	12.5%	17	13.93%	11	8.27%
Anti-Black or African American	52	46.43%	46	37.7%	49	36.84%
Anti-American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0.89%	0	0%	0	0%
Anti-Asian	1	0.89%	2	1.64%	4	3.01%
Anti-Multiple Races, Group	1	0.89%	3	2.46%	2	1.5%
Anti-Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Anti-Arab	0	0%	2	1.64%	0	0%
Anti-Hispanic or Latino	7	6.25%	9	7.38%	9	6.77%
Anti-Other Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry	4	3.57%	4	3.28%	2	1.5%
Religious Bias	13	11.61%	6	4.92%	13	9.77%
Anti-Jewish	5	4.46%	4	3.28%	2	1.5%
Anti-Catholic	1	0.89%	0	0%	0	0%
Anti-Protestant	2	1.79%	0	0%	1	0.75%
Anti-Islamic (Muslim)	0	0%	1	0.82%	1	0.75%
Anti-Atheism/Agnosticism	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Anti-Mormon	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Anti-Jehovah's Witness	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Anti-Eastern Orthodox (Russian, Greek, Other)	0	0%	0	0%	2	1.5%
Anti-Other Christian	2	1.79%	0	0%	3	2.26%
Anti-Buddhist	0	0%	1	0.82%	0	0%
Anti-Hindu	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Anti-Sikh	0	0%	0	0%	3	2.26%
Anti-Multiple Religions, Group	1	0.89%	0	0%	0	0%
Anti-Other Religion	2	1.79%	0	0%	1	0.75%
Sexual Bias	16	14.29%	26	21.31%	31	23.31%
Anti-Gay	3	2.68%	9	7.38%	4	3.01%
Anti-Lesbian	1	0.89%	3	2.46%	1	0.75%
Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (Mixed Group)	9	8.04%	9	7.38%	18	13.53%
Anti-Heterosexual	0	0%	0	0%	2	1.5%
Anti-Bisexual	0	0%	2	1.64%	0	0%
Anti-Male	1	0.89%	0	0%	4	3.01%
Anti-Female	2	1.79%	0	0%	0	0%
Anti-Transgender	0	0%	1	0.82%	2	1.5%
Anti-Gender Non-Conforming	0	0%	2	1.64%	0	0%
Disability Bias	3	2.68%	7	5.74%	12	9.02%
Anti-Physical Disability	1	0.89%	2	1.64%	5	3.76%
Anti-Mental Disability	2	1.79%	5	4.1%	7	5.26%
Total Known Bias	112	100%	122	100%	133	100%
Unknown (offender's motivation not known)	314		266		69	

AGENCIES REPORTING A BIAS OF UNKNOWN

The 2021 offenses reported with an Unknown Bias are being reviewed and the number should be decreasing. Please check <https://crimeinsight.tbi.tn.gov/> for updated information. Below is a list of agencies reporting Unknown bias. For the purpose of this report, all data analysis will exclude the category of Unknown.

Agencies Reporting a Bias of Unknown	#
Athens Police Department	3
Benton County Sheriff's Office	3
Bluff City Police Department	1
Collierville Police Department	9
Columbia Police Department	1
Franklin Police Department	3
Johnson County Sheriff's Office	4
Lenoir City Police Department	2
Lewis County Sheriff's Office	1
Lewisburg Police Department	3
Madison County Sheriff's Office	1
Meigs County Sheriff's Office	6
Monroe County Sheriff's Office	6
Morristown Police Department	3
Mount Carmel Police Department	1
Mount Pleasant Police Department	3
Murfreesboro Police Department	2
Nashville Metro Airport Police Department	4
Northeast State Community College	1
Parsons Police Department	1
Smyrna Police Department	1
Sumner County Sheriff's Office	2
Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission	1
Tennessee Department of Safety	6
Union County Sheriff's Office	1

A bias motivation of "Unknown" is generally not a Hate Crime. Whoever entered the report did not know if there was a bias motivation or not. However, if the incident is entered with a bias of "Unknown" rather than "None," the incident will be classified as a Hate Crime.

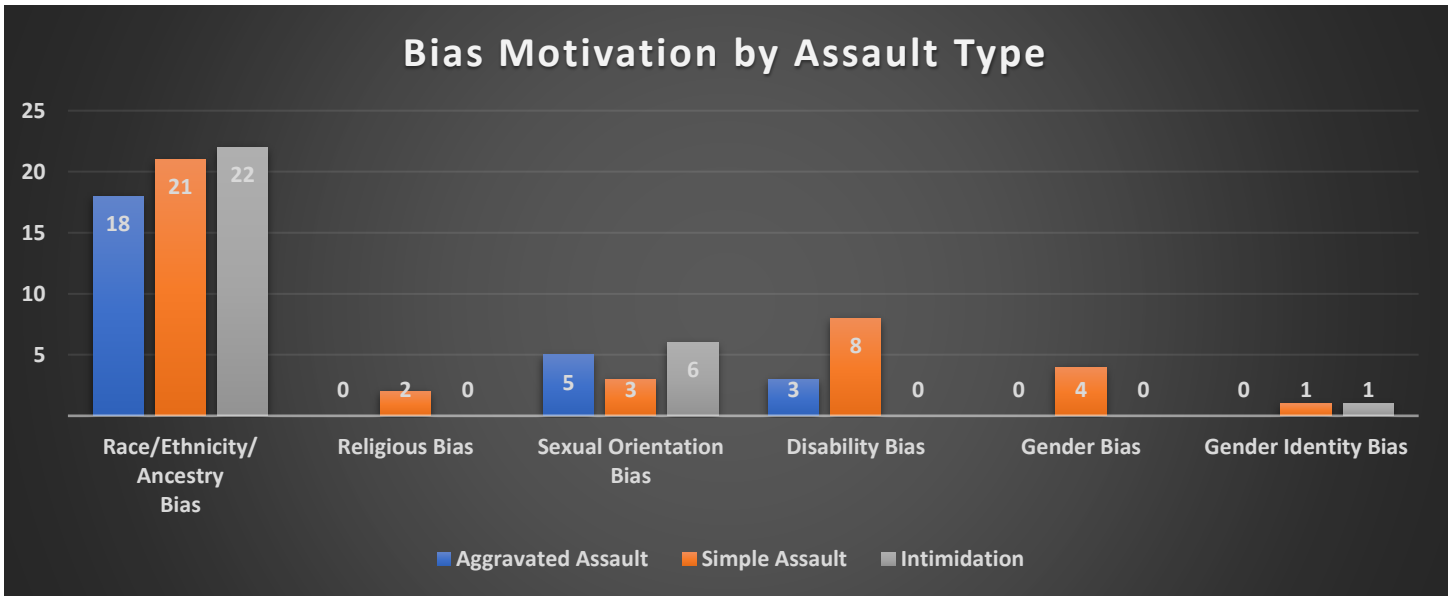
COMPARISON OF OFFENSE TYPES MOTIVATED BY BIAS

Hate crimes, by their nature, are committed against individuals, and as such society is almost never applicable as the victim of a bias motivated offense and as such Crimes Against Society will not be examined in this report. With this in mind, this report will be looking at Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Property. Crimes where the bias is reported as “Unknown” will not be included in this report.

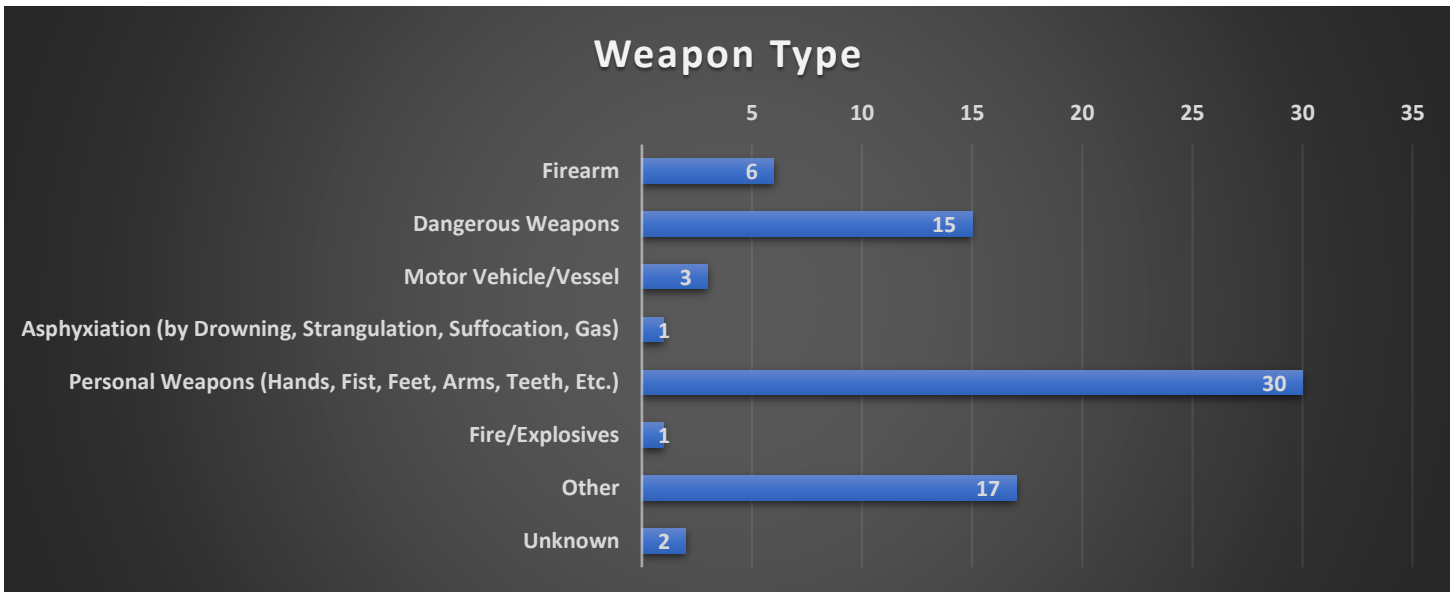
Crimes Against Persons	
Offense Type	Total
Murder	0
Aggravated Assault	26
Simple Assault	39
Intimidation	29
Stalking	2
Total	96
Crimes Against Property	
Offense Type	Total
Arson	0
Burglary	2
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	29
Robbery	0
Fraud – False Pretenses	1
Stolen Property Offenses	1
Theft – All Other Larceny	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	1
Total	35

Bias Motivated offenses categorized as Crimes Against Persons account for 73.48% of reported hate crimes in 2021, with Crimes Against Property making up the remaining 26.52%. Among the specific types of offenses reported as being bias-motivated, the most common is Simple Assault, making up 29.55% of reports, followed by Intimidation and Destruction/Damage/Vandalism, making up 21.97% of reports each.

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS



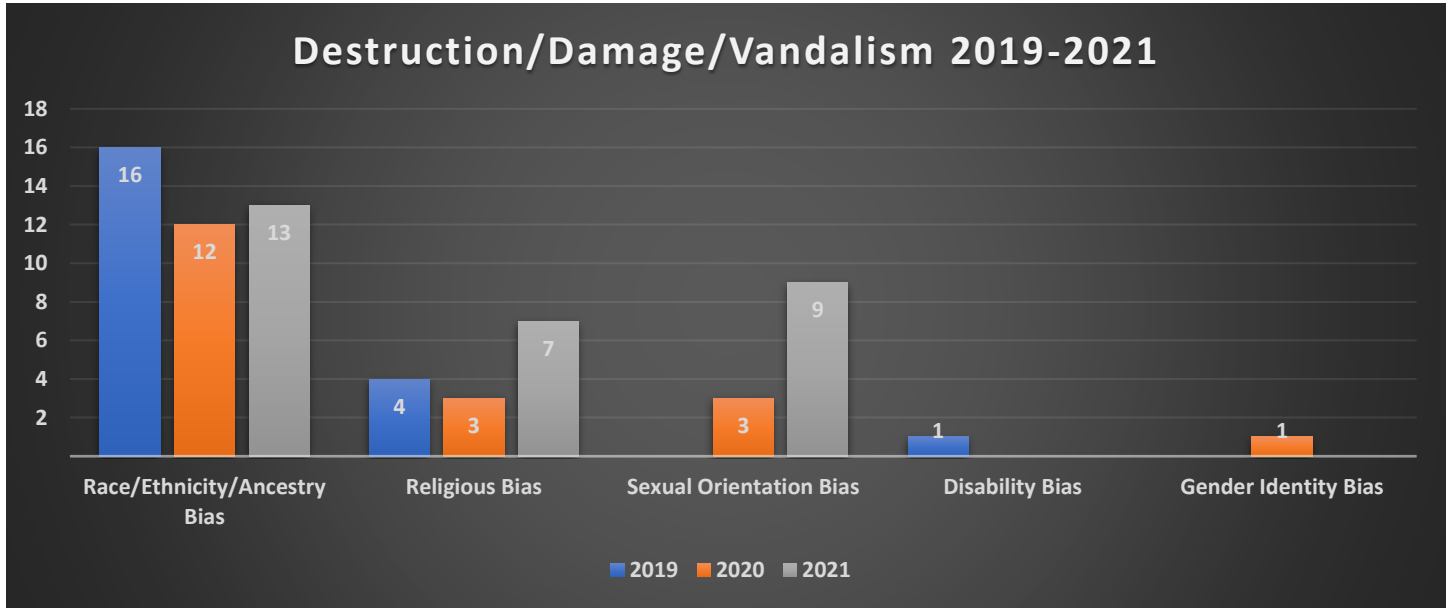
Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry Bias was shown to be the most common bias motivation in all reported assault types, making up 61 of 94, or 64.89% of reported bias motivated assault offenses. Sexual Orientation Bias was the second most commonly reported type of bias motivated assault with 14 victims, or 14.89% of the total.



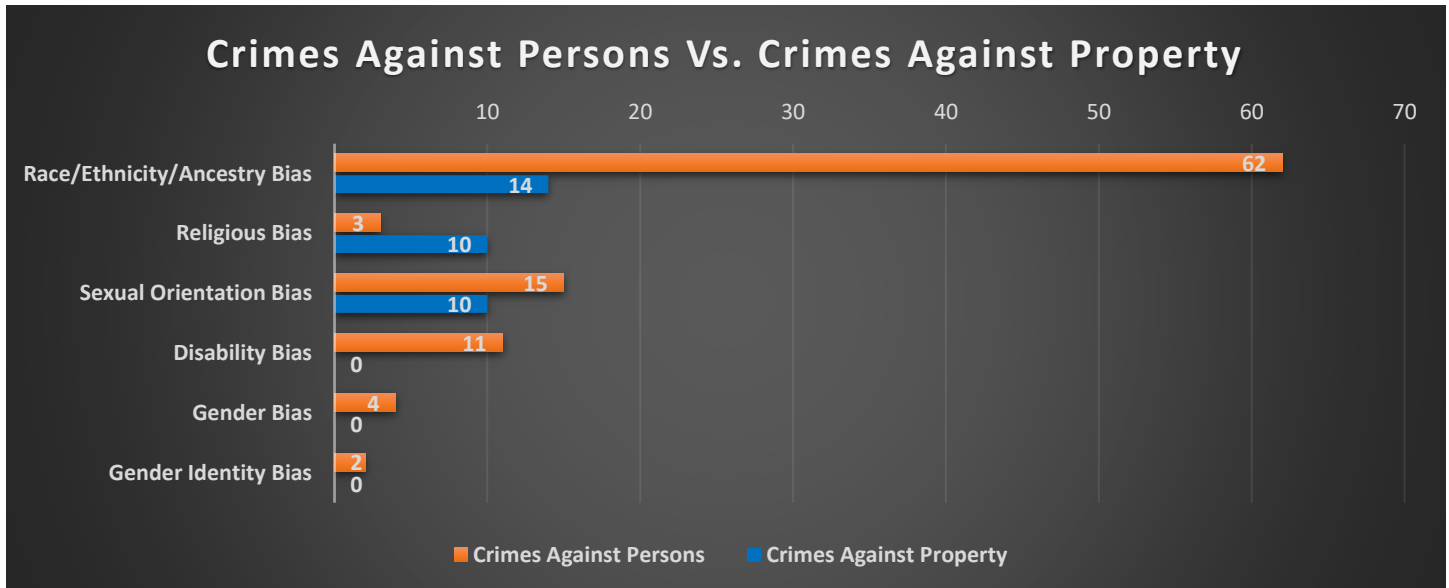
When examining bias motivated crimes by the type of weapon reported to have been used most often in a given incident is Personal Weapons (Hands, Fists, Feet, Arms, Teeth, Etc.), accounting for 30 of 75 weapons used, or 40% of the reported weapons. This is unsurprising given that Simple Assault accounted for the majority of Assault incidents reported as having a motivation bias.

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

The TIBRS category of Crimes Against Property includes offenses such as Burglary, Counterfeiting/Forgery, Destruction/Damage/Vandalism, Fraud, Robbery and Theft – All Other Larceny. As with the past two years, bias motivated crimes categorized as Destruction/Damage/Vandalism made up the majority of reported Crimes Against Property in 2021.

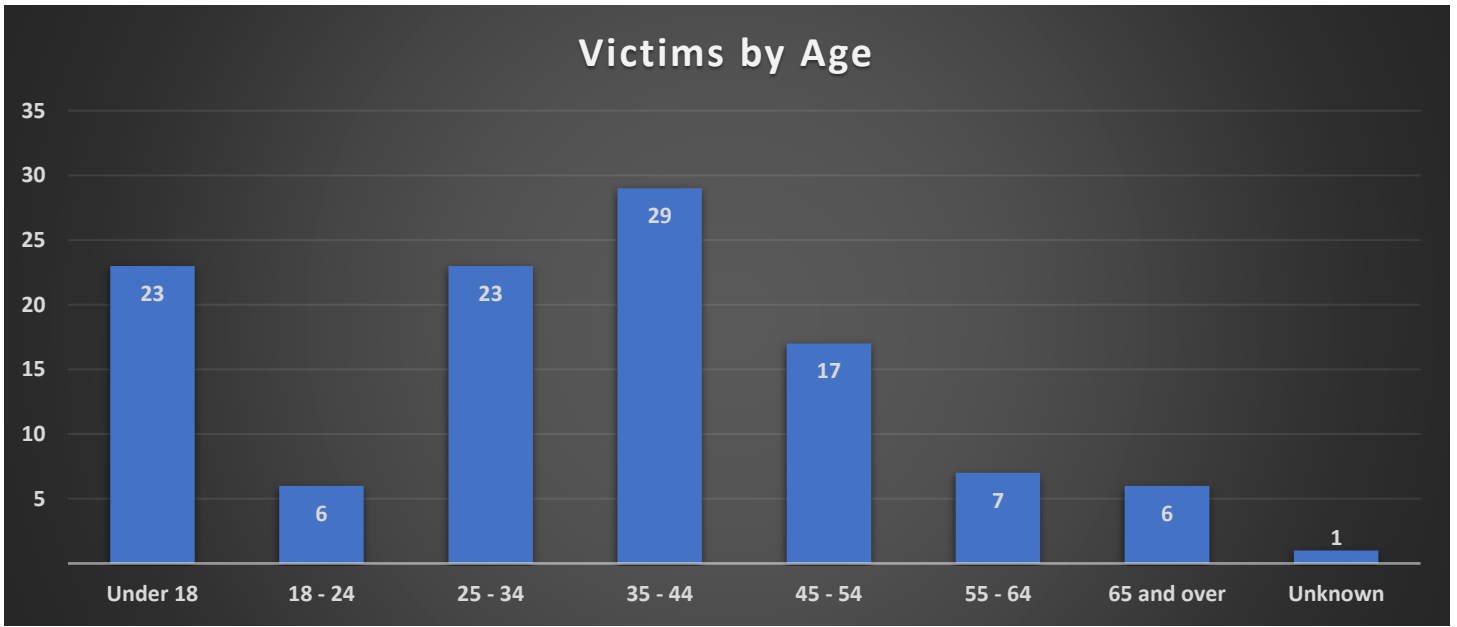


When examining a 3-year trend of bias motivated Destruction/Damage/Vandalism incidents, an overall increase can be seen, with offenses containing a Sexual Orientation Bias showing the sharpest increase of 200% from 2020. On the other hand, since 2019, Vandalism charges showing a Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry Bias have dropped 18.75%.

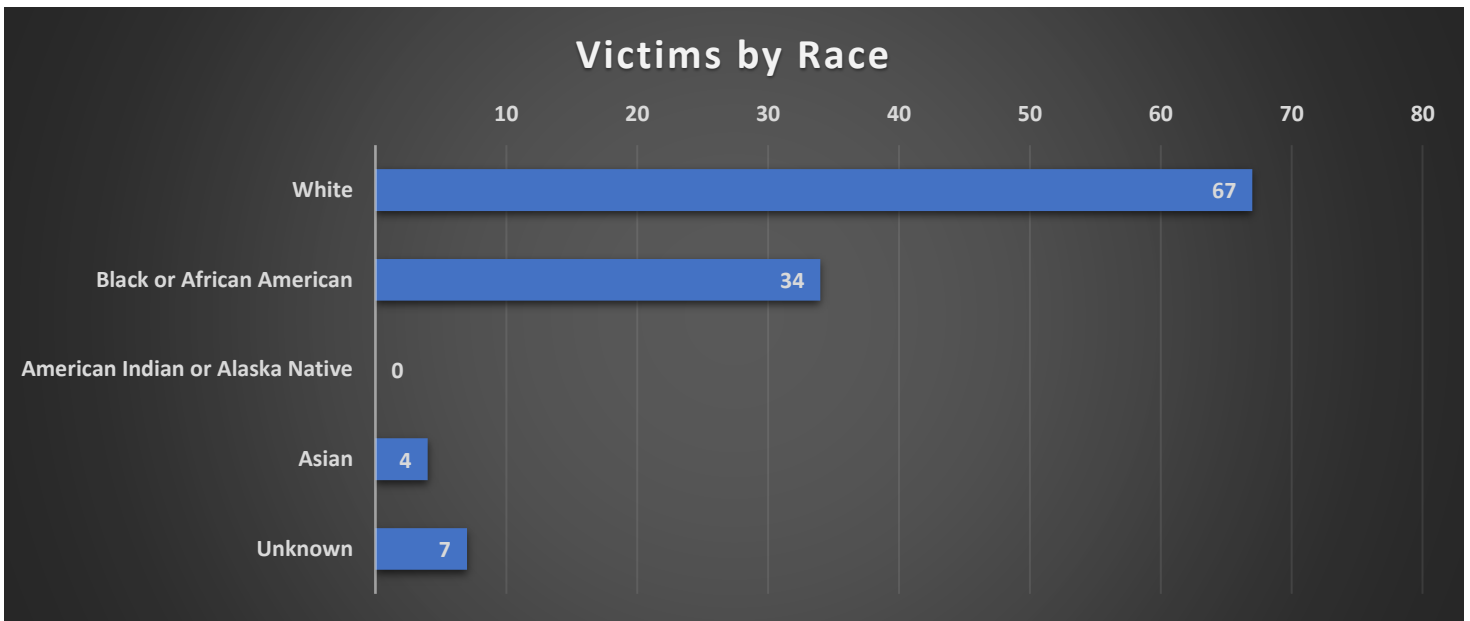


The above chart shows the relationship between Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against properties, with the Crimes Against Persons being more frequent in almost all types of bias. The sole exception is Religious Bias, where Crimes Against Property occurs 233.33% more often than Crimes Against Persons.

HATE CRIME VICTIMS

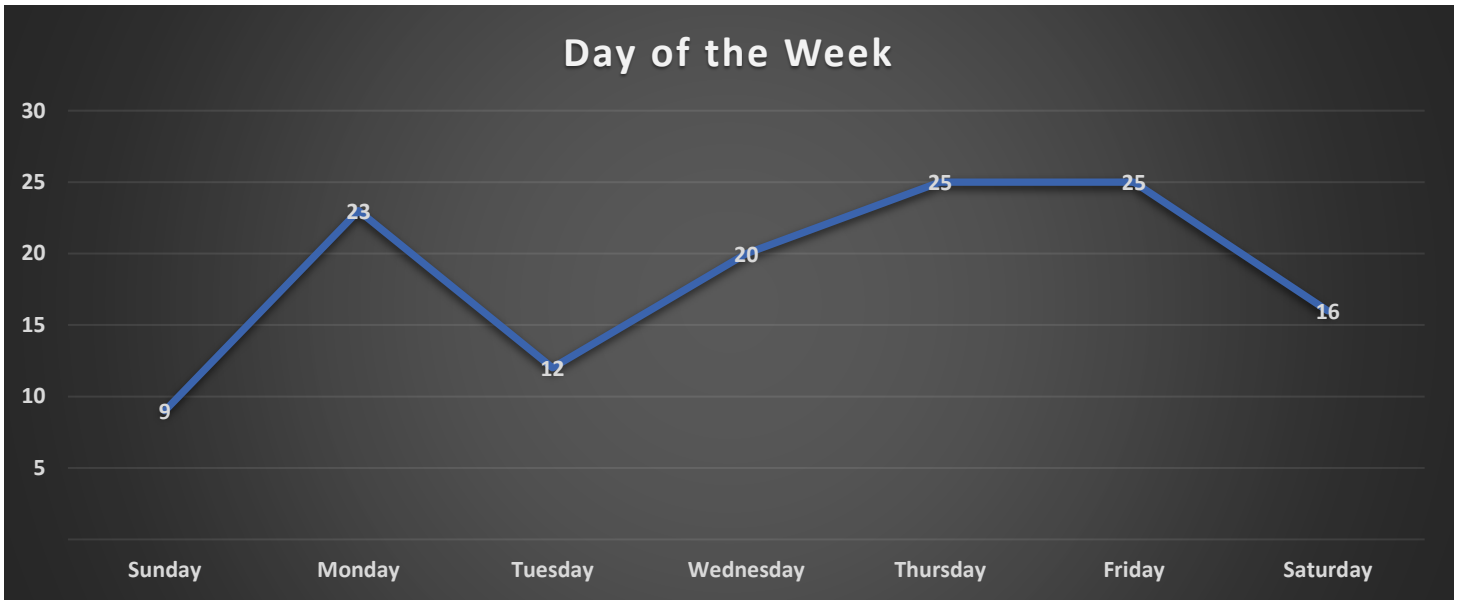


The most commonly reported victims of a Bias Motivated Crime were those falling into the 35-44 age range 25.89% of reported victims, followed by both Under 18 and 25-34 at 20.54% of the total.

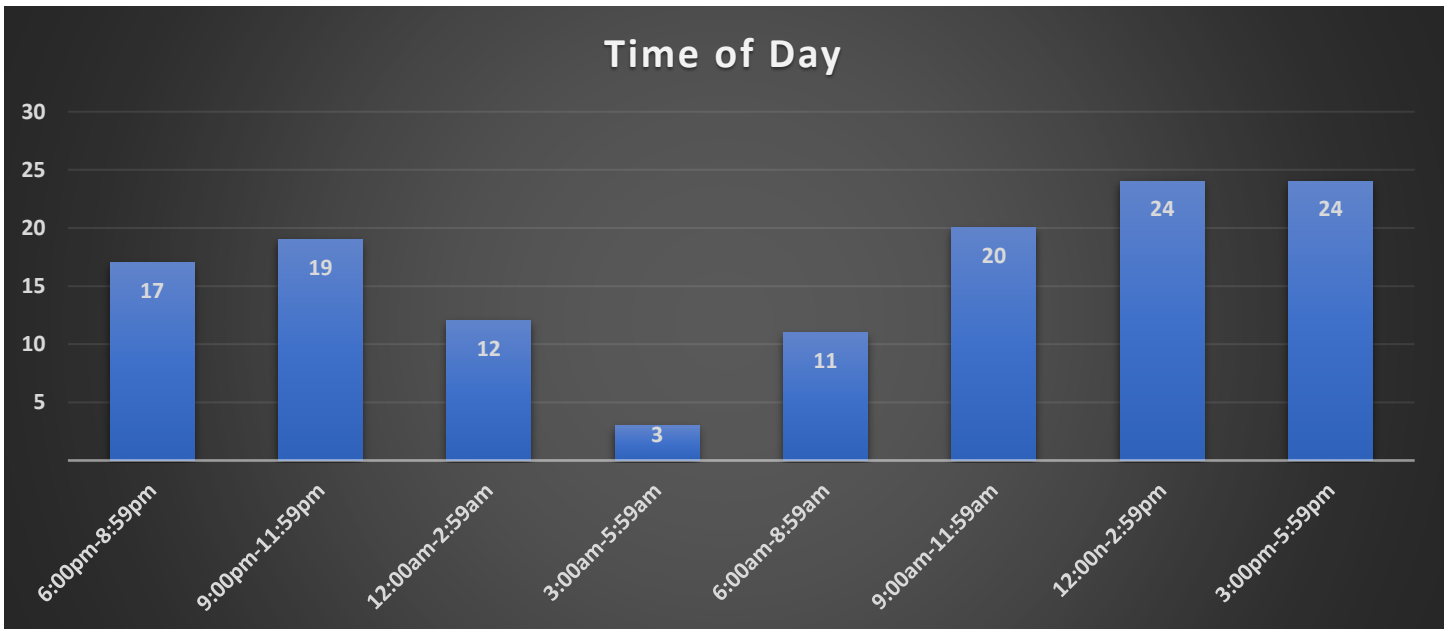


Looking at Hate Crime victims by race people categorized as White make up over half of reports, or 50.82% of victims. Black or African American victims make up the other large portion of those affected by Bias Motivated crimes, making up 30.36% of reported victims. The remainder is made up of Asian victims, and victims whose race could not be sufficiently determined by the entering agency.

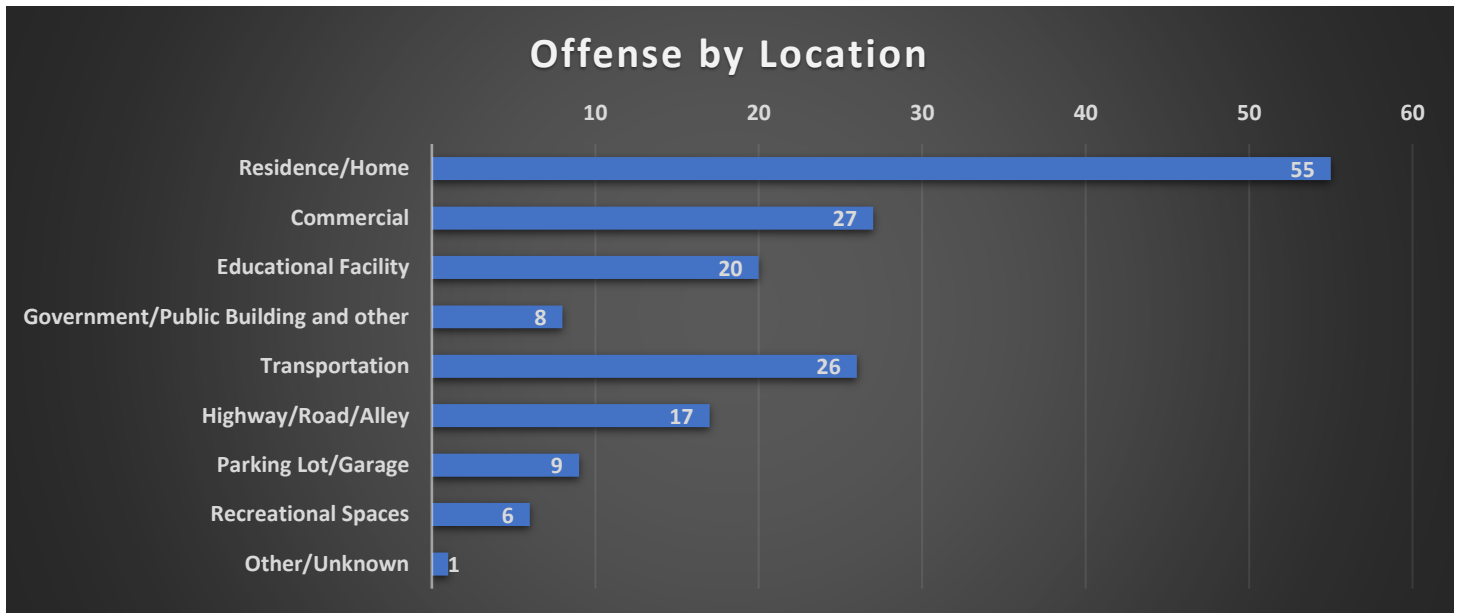
WHERE AND WHEN?



A facet of information to consider when examining occurrences of Hate Crime is exactly when and where they are reported to happen. When looking at day of the week Hate Crimes were reported to have happened in 2021, the most common days reported were Thursday and Friday with 25 incidents apiece, or 19.23% of total incidents each. The least common day of the week for a Hate Crime to be reported as having happened was Sunday, only making up 6.92% of incidents.

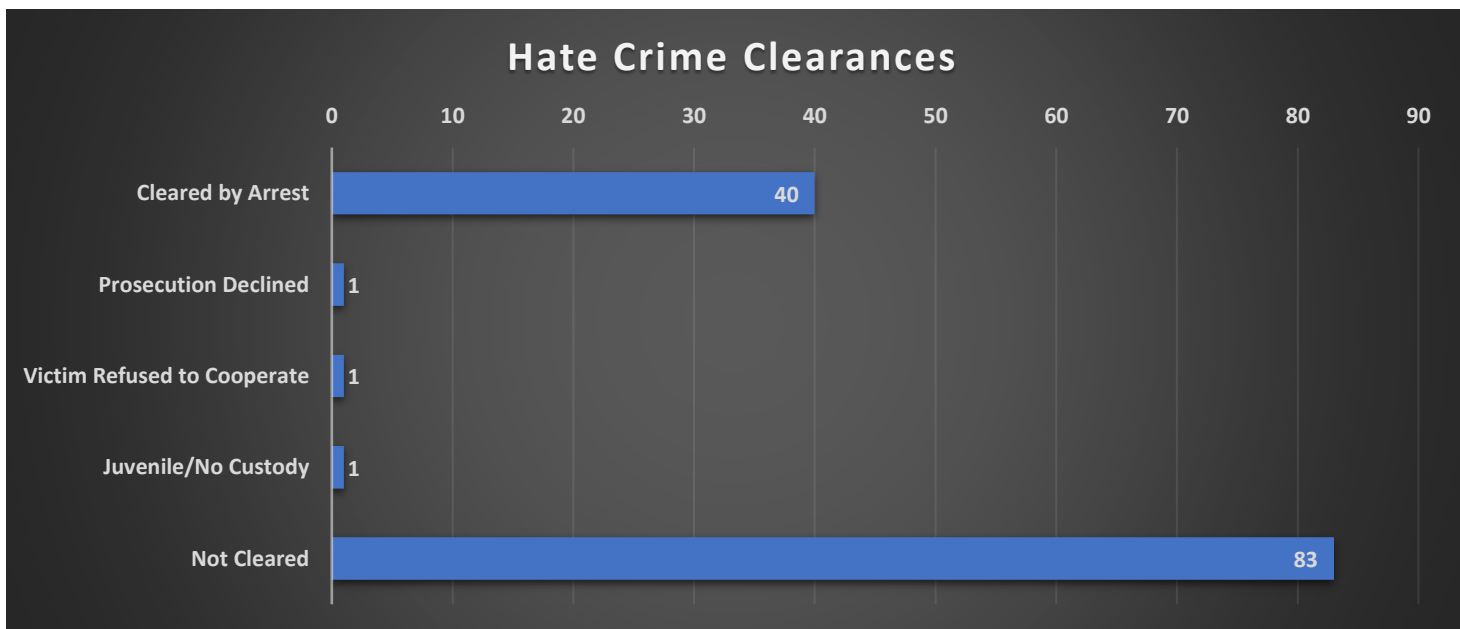


Looking at Hate crimes by the time of day at which they were reported to have had occurred throughout 2021, the majority of incidents were reported to have happened in the afternoon, with the time frames 12:00pm-2:59pm and 3:00pm-5:59pm with 24, or 18.46%, reported incidents each. Conversely, the early morning hours of 3:00am-5:59am have the fewest incidences of bias motivated crime, making up only 2.31% of incidents.



When looking at the locations Hate Crimes occurred in 2021, the most broadly reported category was that of Residence/Home, making up 32.54% of reported locations. The next two most widely reported locations were Commercial and Transportation, making up 15.98% and 15.38% of reported locations respectively.

HATE CRIMES AND CLEARANCES



As can be seen in the chart above, the majority (65.87%) of Hate Crimes were not cleared. However, when a Bias Motivated crime is cleared, it tends to be by arrest rather than exceptional clearance, with 40 of 43 clearances being by arrest. Below is a chart showing exactly which crimes were cleared by arrest in 2021.

Hate Crime Incidents Cleared by Arrest

Offense Type	Cleared
Crimes Against Persons	
Aggravated Assault	14
Simple Assault	14
Intimidation	7
Crimes Against Property	
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	3
Stolen Property Offenses	1
Burglary	1
Total	40

Anti-Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry

Agency	Crimes Against Persons	Victim Count
Anti-White		
Bartlett Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Cleveland Police Department	Aggravated Assault	1
Jackson Police Department	Intimidation	1
Johnson County Sheriff's Office	Intimidation	1
Knoxville Police Department	Aggravated Assault	3
McMinn County Sheriff's Office	Aggravated Assault	1
Oakland Police Department	Simple Assault	2
Pigeon Forge Police Department	Intimidation	1
Anti-Black or African American		
Bartlett Police Department	Aggravated Assault	1
Cheatham County Sheriff's Office	Intimidation	1
Clarksville Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Cleveland Police Department	Aggravated Assault	2
Cleveland Police Department	Simple Assault	2
Cleveland Police Department	Intimidation	1
Clinton Police Department	Aggravated Assault	2
Collierville Police Department	Aggravated Assault	1
Collierville Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Crossville Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Dyersburg Police Department	Simple Assault	2
Franklin Police Department	Simple Assault	2
Franklin Police Department	Intimidation	2
Jackson Police Department	Aggravated Assault	1
Lebanon Police Department	Intimidation	4
Lewisburg Police Department	Intimidation	1
Manchester Police Department	Intimidation	1
Meigs County Sheriff's Office	Aggravated Assault	1
Memphis Police Department	Aggravated Assault	1
Memphis Police Department	Stalking	1
Monroe County Sheriff's Office	Intimidation	1
Nashville Metro Police Department	Aggravated Assault	2
Nashville Metro Police Department	Intimidation	1
Oakland Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Rutherford County Sheriff's Office	Aggravated Assault	1
Rutherford County Sheriff's Office	Intimidation	1
Shelby County Sheriff's Office	Simple Assault	1
Washington County Sheriff's Office	Simple Assault	1
Winchester Police Department	Aggravated Assault	1
Anti-Asian		
Cleveland Police Department	Intimidation	1
Elizabethton Police Department	Intimidation	1
Germantown Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Anti-Multiple Races, Group		
Lebanon Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Pigeon Forge Police Department	Intimidation	1
Anti-Hispanic or Latino		
Cleveland Police Department	Simple Assault	2
Johnson County Sheriff's Office	Intimidation	2
Knoxville Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Knoxville Police Department	Intimidation	1
Lenoir City Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Martin Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Rogersville Police Department	Simple Assault	1

Anti-Religious		
Agency	Crimes Against Persons	Victim Count
Anti-Other Christian		
Oakland Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Anti-Sikh		
Hardin County Sheriff's Office	Stalking	1
Anti-Other Religion		
Oakland Police Department	Simple Assault	1

Anti-Sexual Orientation or Gender Bias		
Agency	Crimes Against Persons	Victim Count
Anti-Male		
Cowan Police Department	Simple Assault	4
Anti-Transgender		
Franklin Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Rutherford County Sheriff's Office	Intimidation	1
Anti-Gay		
Cleveland Police Department	Intimidation	1
Lebanon Police Department	Intimidation	1
Anti-Lesbian		
LaVergne Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (Mixed Group)		
Cleveland Police Department	Aggravated Assault	5
Cleveland Police Department	Intimidation	4
Millington Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Anti-Heterosexual		
Oakland Police Department	Simple Assault	1

Anti-Physical and Anti-Mental Disability		
Agency	Crimes Against Persons	Victim Count
Anti-Physical Disability		
Cleveland Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation	Simple Assault	4
Anti-Mental Disability		
Covington Police Department	Aggravated Assault	1
Knoxville Police Department	Simple Assault	1
Lebanon Police Department	Aggravated Assault	1
Oakland Police Department	Simple Assault	2
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation	Aggravated Assault	1
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation	Simple Assault	1

Anti-Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry		
Agency	Crimes Against Property	Victim Count
Anti-Black or African American		
Blount County Sheriff's Office	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Cleveland Police Department	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Knox County Sheriff's Office	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Lebanon Police Department	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Lewisburg Police Department	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Memphis Police Department	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Middle Tennessee State University	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	2
Spring Hill Police Department	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Tennessee Department of Safety	Stolen Property Offenses	1
Winchester Police Department	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Anti-Asian		
Bradley County Sheriff's Office	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Anti-Other Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry		
Austin Peay State University	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Rutherford County Sheriff's Office	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1

Anti-Religious		
Agency	Crimes Against Property	Victim Count
Anti-Jewish		
East Tennessee State University	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Johnson County Sheriff's Office	Burglary	1
Johnson County Sheriff's Office	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Anti-Protestant		
Collierville Police Department	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Anti-Islamic (Muslim)		
Franklin Police Department	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Anti-Eastern Orthodox (Russian, Greek, Other)		
Robertson County Sheriff's Office	Burglary	1
Robertson County Sheriff's Office	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Anti-Other Christian		
Chattanooga Police Department	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Anti-Sikh		
Carter County Sheriff's Office	Fraud-False Pretenses	1
Monroe County Sheriff's Office	Motor Vehicle Theft	1

Anti-Sexual Orientation or Gender Bias		
Agency	Crimes Against Property	Victim Count
Anti-Gay		
East Tennessee State University	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Nashville Metro Police Department	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (Mixed Group)		
Blount County Sheriff's Office	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Collierville Police Department	Theft- All Other Larceny	1
Columbia Police Department	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Elkton Police Department	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1
Johnson County Sheriff's Office	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	3
Anti-Heterosexual		
Monroe County Sheriff's Office	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	1

TIBRS Group A

Offense Definitions

Animal Cruelty – Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly taking an action that mistreats or kills any animal without just cause, such as torturing, tormenting, mutilation, maiming, poisoning, or abandonment. Included are instances of duty to provide care, e.g., shelter, food, water, care if sick or injured; transporting or confining an animal in a manner likely to cause injury or death; causing an animal to fight with another; inflicting excessive or repeated unnecessary pain or suffering, e.g., uses objects to beat or injure an animal. This definition does not include proper maintenance of animals for show or sport; use of animals for food, lawful hunting, fishing or trapping.

Arson – To unlawfully and intentionally damage, or attempt to damage, any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device.

Assault Offenses – An unlawful attack by one person on another.

Aggravated Assault – An unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration or loss of consciousness.

Simple Assault – An unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration or loss of consciousness.

Intimidation – To unlawfully place another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct, but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to actual physical attack.

Stalking – To intentionally and repeatedly follow or harass another person in such a manner as would cause that person to be in reasonable fear of being assaulted, suffering bodily injury or death.

Bribery – The offering, giving, receiving or soliciting of anything of value (i.e., a bribe, gratuity or kickback) to sway the judgment or action of a person in a position of trust or influence.

Burglary/Breaking and Entering – The unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft.

Counterfeiting/Forgery – The altering, copying or imitation of something, without authority or right, with the intent to deceive or defraud by passing the copy or thing altered or imitated as that which is original or genuine; or the selling, buying or possession of an altered, copied or imitated thing with the intent to deceive or defraud.

Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property – To willfully or maliciously destroy, damage, deface or otherwise injure real or personal property without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it.

Drug/Narcotic Offenses – The violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, and/or use of certain controlled substances and the equipment or devices utilized in their preparation and/or use.

Drug/Narcotic Violations – The unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance.

Drug Equipment Violations – The unlawful manufacture, sale, purchase, possession or transportation of equipment or devices utilized in preparing and/or using drugs or narcotics.

Embezzlement – The unlawful misappropriation by an offender to his/her own use or purpose of money, property, or some other thing of value entrusted to his/her care, custody or control.

Extortion/Blackmail – To unlawfully obtain money, property, or any other thing of value, either tangible or intangible, through the use or threat of force, misuse of authority, threat of criminal prosecution, threat of destruction of reputation or social standing or through other coercive means.

Fraud Offenses – The intentional perversion of the truth for the purpose of inducing another person or other entity in reliance upon it to part with something of value or surrender a legal right.

False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game – The intentional misrepresentation of existing facts or conditions, or the use of some other deceptive scheme or device to obtain money, goods, or other things of value.

Credit Card/Automatic Teller Machine Fraud – The unlawful use of a credit or debit card or automatic teller machine for fraudulent purposes.

Impersonation – Falsely representing one's identity or position, and acting in the character or position thus unlawfully assumed, to deceive others and thereby gain a profit or advantage, enjoy some right or privilege, or subject another person or entity to an expense, charge, or liability which would not have otherwise been incurred.

Welfare Fraud – The use of deceitful statements, practices or devices to unlawfully obtain welfare benefits.

Wire Fraud – The use of an electric or electronic communications facility to intentionally transmit a false and/or deceptive message in furtherance of a fraudulent activity.

Identity Theft – Wrongfully obtaining and using another person's personal data (e.g., name, date of birth, Social Security number, driver's license number, credit card number).

Computer Hacking/Invasion – Wrongfully gaining access to another person's or institution's computer software, hardware, or networks without authorized permissions or security clearances.

Gambling Offenses – To unlawfully bet or wager money or something else of value; assist, promote or operate a game of chance for money or some other stake; possess or transmit wagering information; manufacture, sell, purchase, possess or transport gambling equipment, devices or goods; or tamper with the outcome of a sporting event or contest to gain a gambling advantage.

Betting/Wagering – To unlawfully stake money or something else of value on the happening of an uncertain event or on the ascertainment of a fact in dispute.

Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling – To unlawfully operate, promote or assist in the operation of a game of chance, lottery or other gambling activity.

Gambling Equipment Violations – To unlawfully manufacture, sell, buy, possess or transport equipment, devices and/or goods used for gambling purposes.

Sports Tampering – To unlawfully alter, meddle in or otherwise interfere with a sporting contest or event for the purpose of gaining a gambling advantage.

Homicide Offenses

Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter – The willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.

Negligent Manslaughter – The killing of another person through negligence.

Justifiable Homicide – The killing of a perpetrator of a serious criminal offense by a peace officer in the line of duty; or the killing, during the commission of a serious criminal offense, of the perpetrator by a private individual.

** Justifiable homicide is not an actual offense, is not considered a crime and is not included in an agency's crime counts.*

Negligent Vehicular Manslaughter – The negligent killing of another person by the driver of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Not included in this category are deaths of persons due to their own negligence; accidental deaths resulting from non-alcohol or drug related negligence (i.e. distracted driving such as tuning a car radio, talking on a phone, texting, etc.); and other accidental traffic fatalities. Victims in this category may include people inside or outside of the offender's vehicle (passengers, pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.).

Human Trafficking Offenses

Commercial Sex Acts – Inducing a person by force, fraud, or coercion to participate in commercial sex acts, or in which the person induced to perform such act(s) has not attained 18 years of age.

Involuntary Servitude – The obtaining of a person(s) through recruitment, harboring, transportation, or provision, and subjecting such person(s) by force, fraud, or coercion into involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (not to include commercial sex acts).

Kidnapping/Abduction – The unlawful seizure, transportation, and/or detention of a person against his/her will, or of a minor without the consent of his/her custodial parent(s) or legal guardian.

Larceny/Theft Offenses – The unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away of property from the possession, or constructive possession, of another person.

Pocket-Picking – The theft of articles from another person’s physical possession by stealth where the victim does not become immediately aware of the theft.

Purse Snatching – The grabbing or snatching of a purse, handbag, etc., from the physical possession of another person.

Shoplifting – The theft, by someone other than an employee of the victim, of goods or merchandise exposed for sale.

Theft from Building – A theft from within a building which is either open to the general public or of which the offender has legal access.

Theft from Coin-Operated Machine or Device – A theft from a machine or device which is operated or activated by the use of coins.

Theft from Motor Vehicle – The theft of articles from a motor vehicle, whether locked or unlocked.

Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories – The theft of any part or accessory affixed to the interior or exterior of a motor vehicle in a manner which would make the item an attachment of the vehicle or necessary for its operation.

All Other Larceny – All thefts which do not fit any of the definitions of the specific subcategories of Larceny/Theft listed above.

Motor Vehicle Theft – The theft of a motor vehicle.

Pornography/Obscene Material – The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, publishing, sale, purchase or possession of sexually explicit material, e.g., literature, photographs, etc.

Prostitution Offenses

Prostitution – To unlawfully engage in sexual relations for profit.

Assisting or Promoting Prostitution – To solicit customers or transport persons for prostitution purposes; to own, manage or operate a dwelling or other establishment for the purpose of providing a place where prostitution is performed; or to otherwise assist or promote prostitution.

Purchasing Prostitution – To purchase, or trade, anything of value for commercial sex acts.

Robbery – The taking, or attempting to take, anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence, and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.

Sex Offenses, Forcible – Any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and/or against that person’s will; or not forcibly or against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

Rape – The carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and/or against that person’s will; or not forcibly or against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Sodomy – Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, forcibly and/or against that person’s will; or not forcibly or against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Sexual Assault With An Object – To use an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, forcibly and/or against that person’s will; or not forcibly or against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Fondling – The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, forcibly and/or against that person’s will; or not forcibly or against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Sex Offenses, Nonforcible – Unlawful, Nonforcible sexual intercourse.

Incest – Nonforcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.

Statutory Rape – Nonforcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent.

Note: By Tennessee Statute the victim must be between ages 13-17 and the offender must be at least four years older for an offense to be classified as Statutory Rape.

Stolen Property Offense – Receiving, buying, selling, possessing, concealing or transporting any property with the knowledge that it has been unlawfully taken, as by burglary, embezzlement, fraud, larceny, robbery, etc.

Weapon Law Violations – The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, concealment or use of firearms, cutting instruments, explosives, incendiary devices or other deadly weapons. This category includes violations such as the manufacture, sale or possession of deadly weapons; carrying deadly weapons, concealed or openly; using, manufacturing, etc., silencers; and furnishing deadly weapons to minors.

TIBRS Group B Offense Definitions

There are ten Group B offense categories and they encompass all of the crimes which are not Group A offenses, with the exception of most traffic offenses which TIBRS does not collect information on.

Bad Checks – Knowingly and intentionally writing and/or negotiating checks drawn against insufficient or nonexistent funds.

Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations – The violation of a court order, regulation, ordinance or law requiring the withdrawal of persons from the streets or other specified areas; prohibiting persons from remaining in an area or place in an idle or aimless manner; or prohibiting persons from going from place to place without visible means of support.

Disorderly Conduct – Any behavior that tends to disturb the public peace or decorum, scandalize the community or shock the public sense of morality.

Driving Under the Influence – Driving or operating a motor vehicle or common carrier while mentally or physically impaired as the result of consuming an alcoholic beverage or using a drug or narcotic.

Drunkness – To drink alcoholic beverages to the extent that one's mental faculties and physical coordination are substantially impaired.

Family Offense, Nonviolent – Unlawful, nonviolent acts by a family member (or legal guardian) which threaten the physical, mental or economic well-being or morals of another family member and which are not classifiable as other offenses, such as Assault, Incest, Statutory Rape, etc.

Liquor Law Violations – The violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession or use of alcoholic beverages.

Peeping Tom – To secretly look through a window, doorway, keyhole or other aperture for the purpose of voyeurism.

Trespass of Real Property – To unlawfully enter land, a dwelling or other real property.

All Other Offenses – All crimes which are not Group A offenses and not included in one of the specifically named Group B crime categories listed above.

Includes: Contempt of Court, Failure to Appear, Violation of Probation / Parole.

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

Bias Motivation	Data element collecting hate or bias motivated crime information.
CJIS	Criminal Justice Information Services
CSC	Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Support Center – TBI unit responsible for day to day operations of Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System Program.
Element	A component or part of any given criminal incident.
Exceptional Clearance	An incident is cleared by exceptional means when circumstances beyond law enforcement control prevents a physical arrest. The offender is known as is his/her location.
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Group A Offense	Twenty-four classification of crime categories comprised of 54 separate criminal offenses.
Group B Offense	Ten classifications of activities that violate state statutes or local ordinances that are reported to TIBRS when an arrest is made.
Incident	An incident is defined as all offenses committed by one or more offenders acting in concert and occurring at the same time and place.
Incident Number	A number used to uniquely identify an incident at a reporting agency.
LEOKA	Law Enforcement Officer Killed or Assaulted – a national program that collects information on any incidents involving an assault or killing of a law enforcement official.
Multiple Arrest Indicator	A field used if investigation determines that the current arrestee committed other unsolved crimes and will be charged with those crimes.
NIBRS	National Incident Based Reporting System – the FBI’s system to collect crime statistics information in an incident-based format.
Offense	Criminal Activity that has been identified and reported to TIBRS in the established format.
ORI Number	A 9-character number used as an agency identifier assigned by the FBI.
RAC	Reporting Agency Coordinator – the person designated to be the local agency contact for the TIBRS program.

Glossary of Terms and Definitions (continued)

Summary System	A system of reporting eight index crimes to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting system. The system collects information in the aggregate or summary format instead of incident based. Only the most serious crime in an incident is reported.
TBI	Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
TIBRS	Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System – the state system for collection of crime statistics information in an incident-based format.
TCA	Tennessee Code Annotated
UCR	Uniform Crime Reporting – the national system for collection of crime statistics based upon standard offense definitions.

Units of Count – Offense

The units of count principles are based upon FBI practices and conform to national standards for counting offenses.

Crimes Against Persons – Homicide, Assaults, Sex Offenses (forcible and non-forcible), Kidnapping, Human Trafficking. Each victim equals one offense. Example – an incident involving an aggravated assault with two victims will be counted as two aggravated assaults.

Crimes Against Property – Each offense counts as one occurrence with the exception of Motor Vehicle Theft which is the count of the number of vehicles stolen.

Crimes Against Society – Each offense counts as one occurrence. Example – one drug narcotic violation counts as one offense.

Units of Count – Clearances

The units of count for clearances are based upon FBI practices and conform to national standards for counting clearances. Example – one arrest or exceptional clearance will clear all offenses in the incident.

Updated statistics may be found at <https://crimeinsight.tbi.tn.gov/>



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