



2015 Hate and Bias Report

Introduction

The City of Eugene, in alignment with the City Council Goal of creating a Safe Community, is committed to working with community partners to reach the vision of creating a community where every person regardless of their identity is safe, valued and welcome. We do this by providing sponsorship for critical community events, partnering to identify proactive campaigns to advance human rights and supporting policies that reflect our collective values. While we know that it is unlikely that the City can eradicate hate and bias activity completely, we will continue to make strides towards a better future for everyone in Eugene. In 2015 we worked with the NAACP Eugene-Springfield, LULAC and Lane County to put on 5 community conversations engaging 100 people on average at each event. These conversations allowed participants to engage in honest discussions about discrimination, learn about Oregon's history and deepen their commitment to taking action to build a community that is safe and welcoming. We partnered with local schools to support a Real Talk Youth Summit where a group of 120 racially diverse high school youth met with elders and organizations to talk frankly about hidden histories, racism and what they wanted to see for their community and future. The City's Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement (HRNI) is committed to meeting the needs of the community by preserving history, providing educational opportunities and supporting outreach to traditionally underserved communities. In the coming year we plan to continue to create events that build community, identify opportunities to work with community partners and to launch the "Be Campaign" a campaign that will focus on sharing positive messages and images to encourage inclusion.

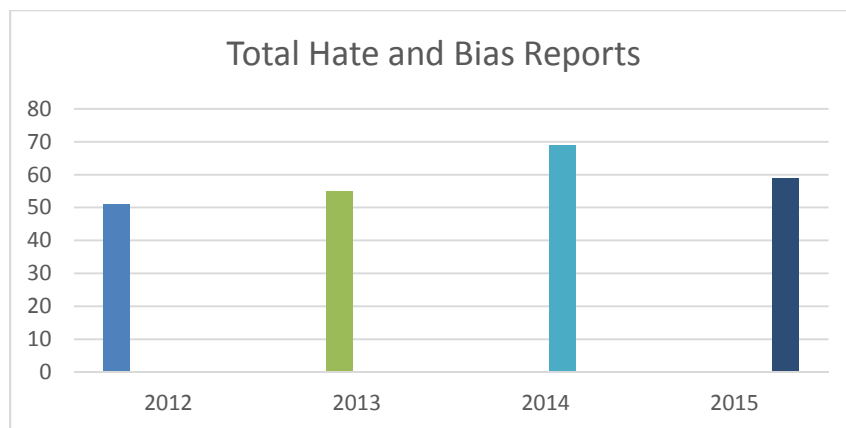
In accordance with the City of Eugene's Hate and Bias Incident Response Plan the Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement (HRNI) provides victim and community support for both bias crimes and non-criminal bias incidents, along with tracking and reporting of hate activity. Hate and bias activities are reported to the HRNI in a variety of ways, including victim or witness initiated contact, referral from community agencies, and referral from other City departments such as the Eugene Police Department (EPD).

Bias crimes can include all classes of crime motivated by prejudice based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. In addition to statutory reporting of state and federally classified hate crimes, EPD also tracks bias-related crimes motivated by perceived or actual age, economic status, social status, citizenship, marital

status, or political affiliation or beliefs, membership or activity in or on behalf of a labor organization or against a labor organization to better understand and gauge community trends.

This is the fourth annual report focusing on hate and bias incidents and response which has been compiled through partnership between HRNI and the EPD. The data collection methodology and format of reporting has been replicated from the 2012 report which serves as a baseline for evaluation of hate and bias activity.

This report covers January through December of 2015. In total there were 59 hate crimes and non-criminal incidents reported in 2015. According to the Department of Justice's most recent Hate Crime Victimization Report it was estimated nationallyⁱⁱ that between 25-42% of hate crimes were reported to police. Given this information, it is probable that the incidents reported in Eugene represent only a small percentage of the actual activity occurring.



Non-Criminal Bias Incidents

There are many behaviors and attitudes that, while not criminal, have a detrimental impact on our community. Often, the non-criminal incidents reported to HRNI fall under the protections of free speech. However, when appropriate HRNI staff in cooperation with the Human Rights Commission and community allies provide support and engage in the important work of tracking and making visible this type of activity. The goal is to project a clear message that hatred and bigotry are not acceptable, to act in solidarity with impacted communities, and to increase safety and inclusivity in Eugene.

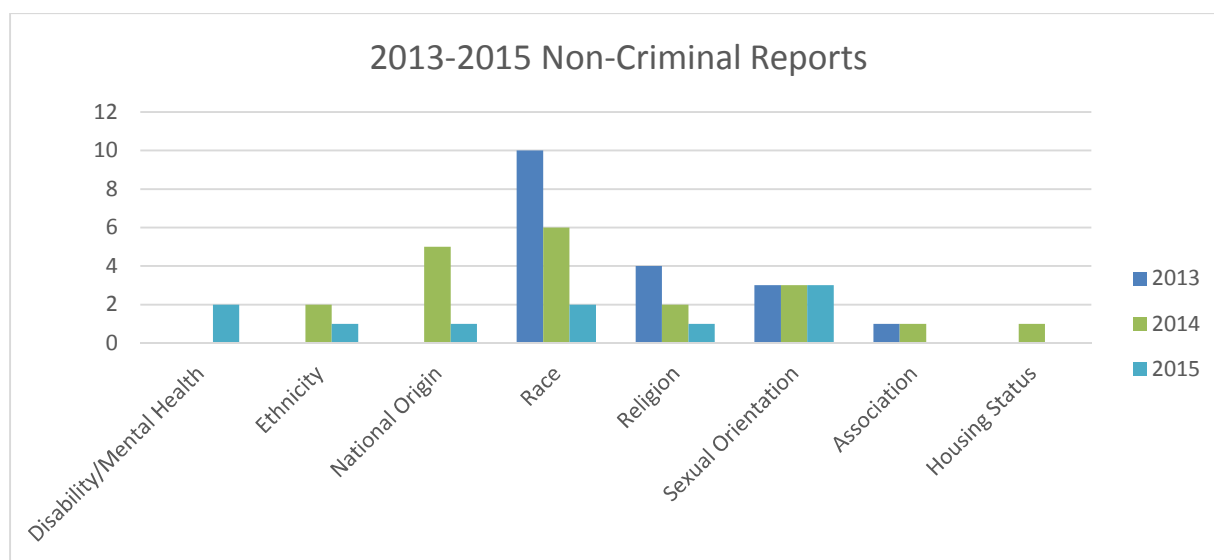
2015 Non-Criminal Reports Totalⁱⁱⁱ	10
Sexual Orientation	3
Race	2
Disability/Mental Health	2
National Origin	1
Ethnicity	1
Religion	1

There were a total of 10 non-criminal bias incidents reported to HRNI in 2015.

Sexual orientation replaced race as the most frequently reported motivating factor for non-criminal bias incidents in 2015. This represents a slight increase from 2014.

Several of the reports made to HRNI may have been criminal in nature however, the victims or witnesses refused to file police reports and these reports have been captured in the non-criminal numbers.

For the sake of comparison, there were a total of 22 non-criminal bias incidents reported to HRNI in 2014. Reported activity related to race in 2015 was lower than 2014 reports. This could be due to an increased level of reporting to EPD as they saw a significant increase in hate and bias crimes related to race.

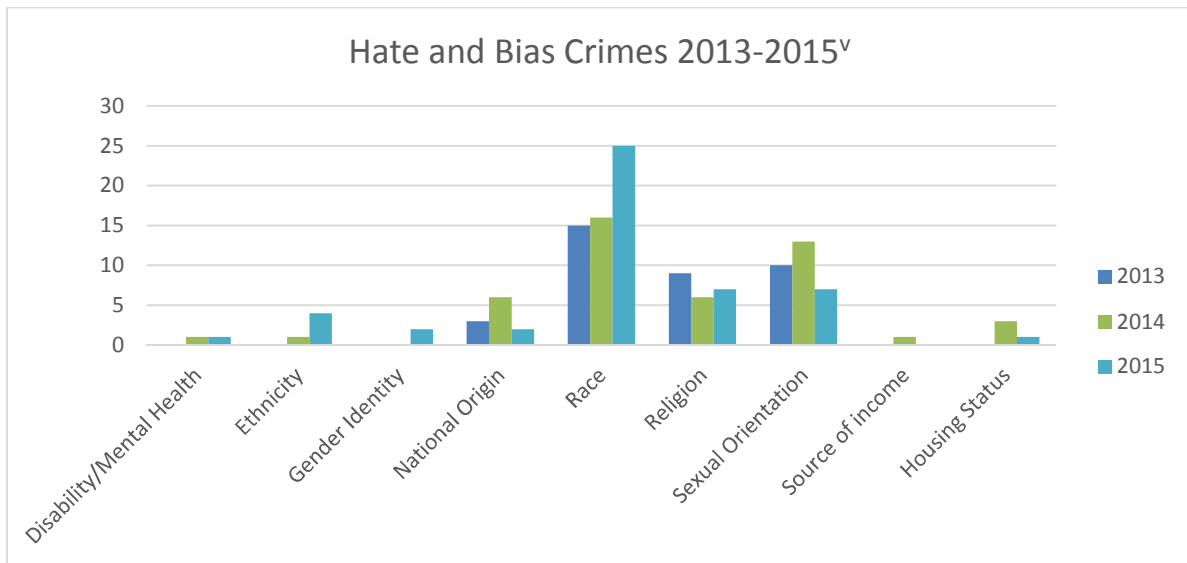


Bias Crimes

During 2015, 49 hate crimes were reported to the EPD. In a number of these situations more than one criminal charge was associated with a single event. For the purposes of this table the event as a whole has been counted as opposed to individual charges. As a result of investigation, five of these complaints were deemed unfounded and in 15 cases arrests were made.

2015 Criminal Reports Total^{iv}	49
Race	25
Sexual Orientation	7
Religion	7
Ethnicity	4
National Origin	2
Housing Status	1
Disability	1

In 2014 there were 47 hate crimes reported with five cases deemed unfounded and eight resulting in arrest. Consistent with the previous three years, race continues to be the leading factor in hate and bias crimes. EPD reported 25 hate crimes related to race in 2015 and 16 in 2014. African Americans in Eugene continue to be dramatically over represented in experiencing hate and bias crimes. Of the 25 reported hate crimes 20 were committed against African American community members. EPD also reported an increase of incidents related to ethnicity. While it may appear that hate crimes related to sexual orientation have gone down, some of these incidents are reflected under gender identity.



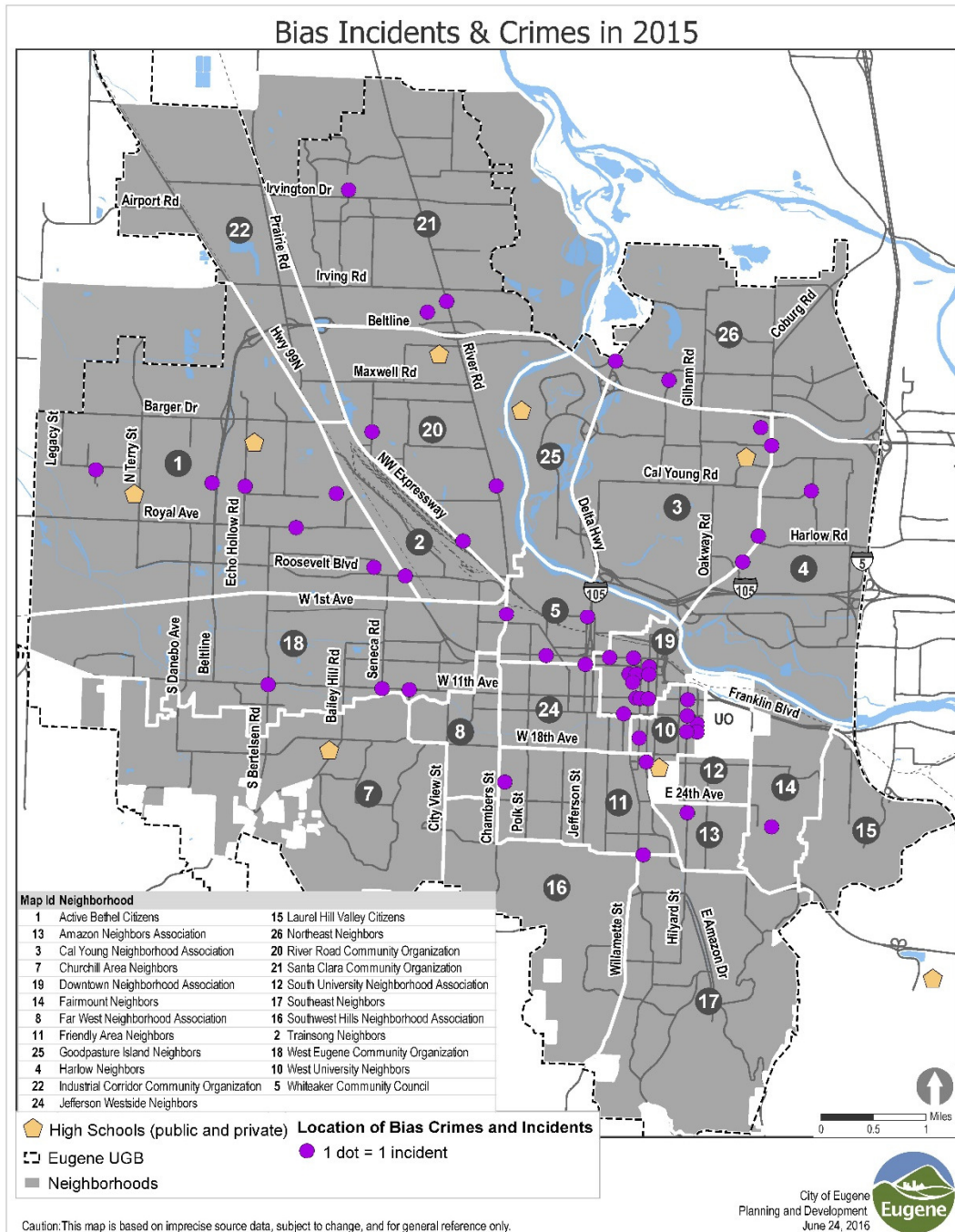
The most common hate crime charges were Intimidation 2 and Assault each accounting for 17% of criminal charges in 2015^v. Often when language or activity goes beyond the protections of free speech it becomes criminal intimidation.

There were 17 incidents involving physical violence in 2015 by comparison to 5 incidents in 2014. These assaults targeted one person because of their housing status, three people because of their ethnicity, four people because of their sexual orientation, and eight people because of their race. Of the eight targeted because of their race, five of the victims were African American.

School Resource Officers aided in reporting and responding to four hate and bias crimes that occurred in schools. The majority of this activity involved vandalism and graffiti, although one incident included the charges of Harassment and Disorderly Conduct and was cleared by arrest.

Geographic Distribution

Consistent with previous years, hate activity was reported throughout Eugene, leaving most neighborhoods affected by at least one incident. The Downtown and West University neighborhoods continued to experience the highest concentration of reported activity.



Response

The City responds to hate and bias activity in a variety of ways including nationally recognized best practices. The response is victim directed and protects victim confidentiality when requested. Various people provide support depending on the circumstances and the express wishes of the victim. HRNI, EPD, the Human Rights Commission, and community organizations regularly collaborate on response in the form of letters to the victims and their families, listening to victims' stories, Op-Ed articles and letters to the editor, hate free zone leafleting, alerts in neighborhood association newsletters and social media sites, assistance connecting victims with the media, and criminal investigation where warranted.

Conclusion and Next Steps

It is critical to recognize that communities of color, especially African Americans were significantly impacted by hate and bias activity in 2015. Race was the motivating factor in 51% of all reported hate crimes and 21% of all reported non-criminal bias incidents. Crimes reported based on race increased by just over 50% from 2014 to 2015, continuing the upward trend from 2012.

For the second year in a row crimes were reported based on actual or perceived housing status. Homelessness is not a protected class at the local, state or federal level. However, the State of Oregon requires that law enforcement track, investigate and report crimes targeting people because of their actual or perceived socio-economic status. In an effort to paint the clearest picture of what is happening in Eugene, hate and bias crimes related to homelessness are captured under housing status in this report. People experiencing homelessness across the United States of America are increasingly becoming victims of to hate and bias crimes. In 2013 it was reported that attacks against homeless people increased by 23.8% from the previous year^{vi}. We are mindful of this national trend and in turn are actively tracking hate and bias crimes against homeless people in Eugene.

Analyzing the data geographically can help direct resources more efficiently. Continued, targeted response in 2015 has involved close coordination between City staff, community leaders in our neighborhoods, schools, businesses, community agencies, and the Human Rights Commission. In cases where there has been repeated activity in the same location EPD has also assisted victims in improving their safety through proactive measures.

It is likely that criminal and non-criminal hate and bias incidents will continue to be underreported. Improving knowledge and sense of safety in community to report hate activity, both through EPD and HRNI is essential to improving the community's response to hate and bias. It's also critical to continue the ongoing training of police officers in the proper identification and documentation of hate crimes.

For Eugene to be truly safe, vibrant, and welcoming for all it is essential to continue to provide support to victims of bias activity and to develop and implement strategies to reduce this activity and the underlying attitudes that perpetuate it. In the coming year we will focus on making existing proactive programs and coordinated responses more robust and effective. These actions will allow us to grow closer to the community we strive to be. To achieve this it will be critical to create an environment where it is understood that bias activity is not welcome and directly undermines the Eugene we all want to live in.

ⁱ <http://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/536>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4614>

ⁱⁱⁱ Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement Bias Activity Log, January – December 2015

^{iv} EPD ICAPBIAS Report, January – December 2015

^v 4.731 Intimidation in the Second Degree

(1) A person commits the crime of intimidation in the second degree if the person:

(a) Tamper or interferes with property, having no right to do so nor reasonable ground to believe that the person has such right, with the intent to cause substantial inconvenience to another because of the person's perception of the other's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation;

(b) Intentionally subjects another to offensive physical contact because of the person's perception of the other's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation; or

(c) Intentionally, because of the person's perception of race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation of another or of a member of the other's family, subjects such other person to alarm by threatening:

1. To inflict serious physical injury upon or to commit a felony affecting such other person, or a member of the person's family; or

2. To cause substantial damage to the property of the other person or of a member of the other person's family.

(2) For purposes of this section, "property" means any tangible personal property or real property, and "sexual orientation" means heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality.

(Section 4.731 added by Ordinance No. 18826, enacted July 13, 1981; amended by Ordinance No. 19462, enacted April 13, 1987, and Ordinance No. 19686, enacted May 14, 1990.)

^{vi} <http://nationalhomeless.org/new-report-hate-crimes-homeless-2013/>