



City of Eugene

Hate and Bias Crime and Incident Report

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Released March 10, 2018



2017 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 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 understand that it is unlikely that the City can eradicate hate and bias activity completely, we are committed to making strides towards a better future for everyone in Eugene.

The Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement (HRNI) has a unique relationship with the Eugene Police Department (EPD) which includes using a collaborative approach with an interdepartmental team that reviews each hate crime reported to EPD, analyzes case information to ensure accuracy and consistency in the reporting process and by having EPD provide victims with resources through HRNI. This relationship lends to the possibility of increased reporting of both hate and bias crimes and incidents in Eugene. In 2017, HRNI worked with leadership in the Eugene Police Department to create and facilitate training of sworn officers on classification of an event as hate or bias motivated, the impact experienced by victims of such acts, and the resources available to victims through HRNI and the greater community.

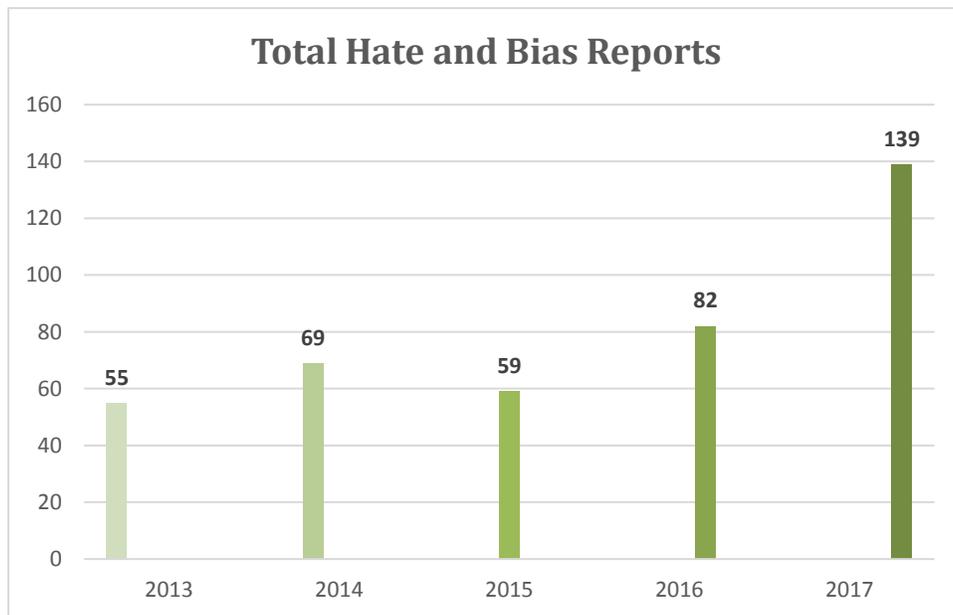
Bias crimes can include all classes of crime motivated by prejudice that is based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. In addition to statutory reporting of state and federally classified hate crimes, EPD also tracks bias-related crimes motivated by perceived or actual age, economic status, social status, citizenship, marital status, or political affiliation or beliefs, and 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 sixth annual report focusing on hate and bias activity and response which has been compiled through a partnership between HRNI and EPD. The data collection methodology and format of reporting has been replicated consistently since the 2012 report which serves as a baseline for evaluation of hate and bias activity.

2017 Hate and Bias Crimes and Incidents

This report covers January through December of 2017. In total there were 139 hate crimes and non-criminal incidents reported. According to the 2010 Department of Justice Hate Crime Victimization Report it was estimated¹ that nationally 25-42% of hate crimes are reported to police. Given this information, it is likely that the hate and bias incidents reported in Eugene represent only a fraction of the actual activity that is occurring.



Geographic Distribution

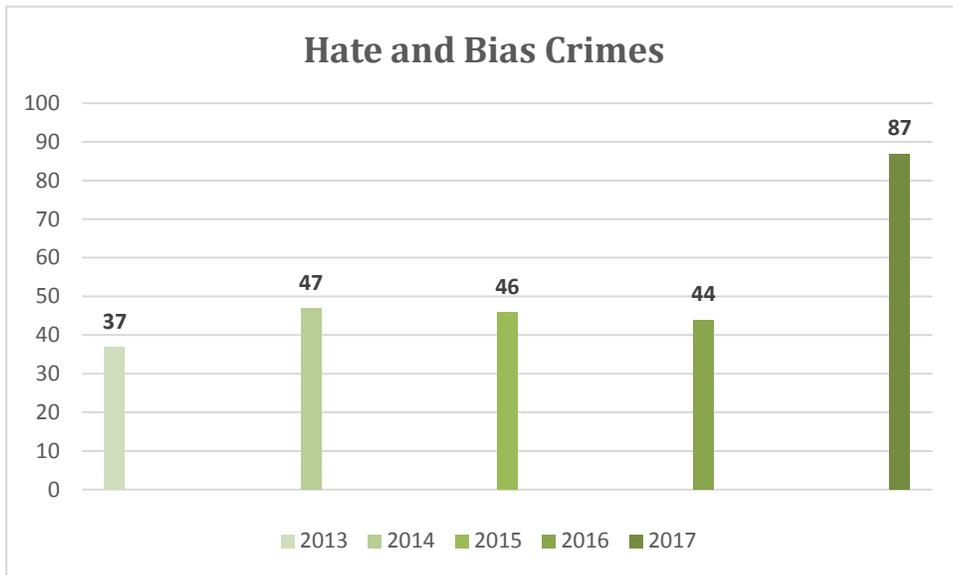
Consistent with previous years, hate and bias activity was reported throughout Eugene, leaving most neighborhoods affected by at least one incident. The Downtown and West University neighborhoods continued to experience the highest concentration of reported activity.

Notable Changes

The 2017 numbers indicate a significant increase in both hate and bias crimes and incidents compared to previous years. As indicated in the 2016 report, changes were anticipated due to increased outreach efforts to raise community awareness of the program. It is unclear whether that additional outreach is the primary reason for an increase in reported incidents. The increase may be a combination of factors that could include people feeling more emboldened to act on feelings of hate as well as people in the community feeling more empowered to report because they want to make sure incidents are being counted accurately..

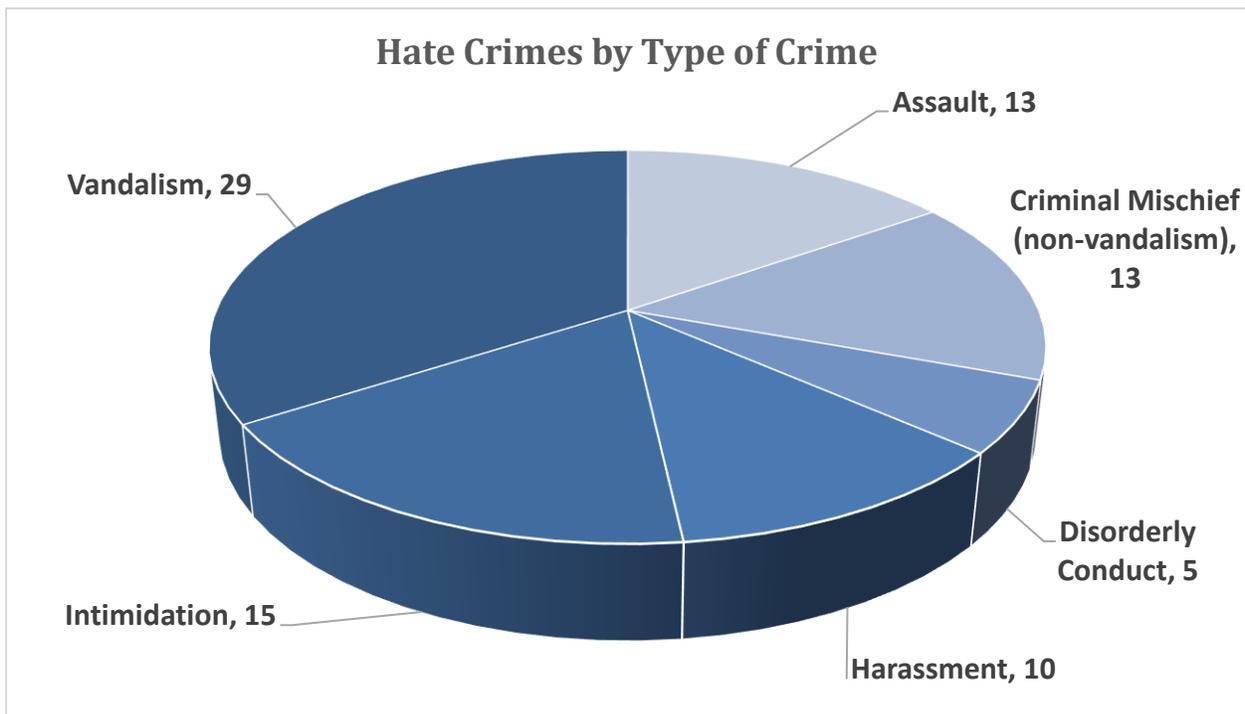
The City of Eugene and its community partners educate community members on reporting and share annual reports on hate and bias incidents through local media to increase awareness of how and what to report and to help people know how to use the reporting system.

Hate and Bias Crimes



Bias Crimes

In 2017, 87 hate crimes were reported to EPD. In a number of cases, more than one criminal charge was associated with a single event. *Vandalism* replaced *Intimidation 2ⁱⁱ* as the most common hate crime charge, accounting for 34% of the charges. When language or activity goes beyond the protections of free speech it may become criminal. This year, EPD altered their strategy in recording hate-related vandalism reports and in some cases officers took reports of graffiti when they witnessed the vandalism. In previous years, reports for vandalism and graffiti were recorded only when they were reported by the public. Crimes involving physical violence made up 15% of hate crimes in 2017. Together these two types of crimes accounted for about half of all hate crimes in 2017.

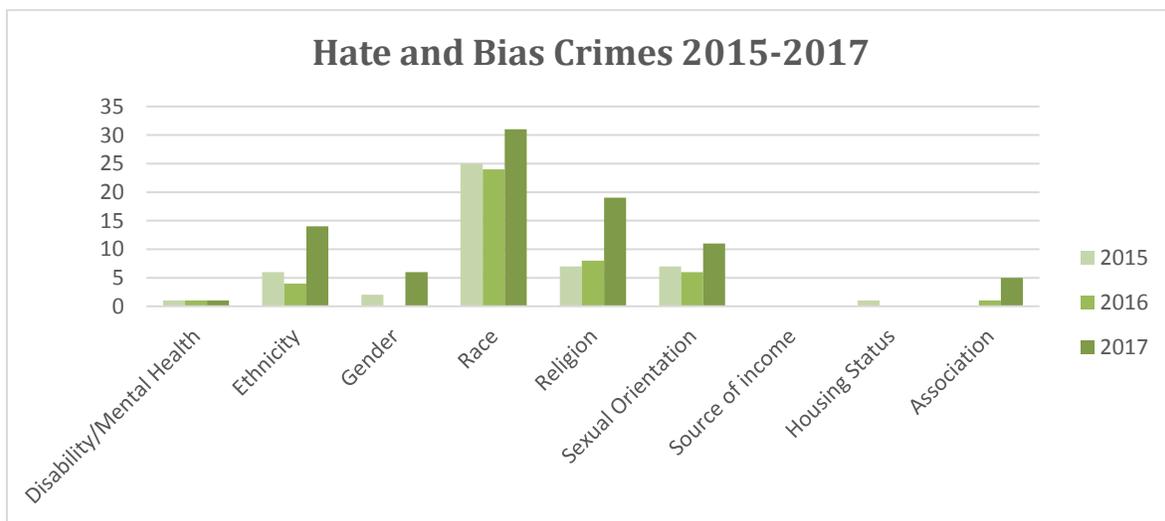


Of the 87 crimes reported in 2017, arrests were made in 20 cases. Of the charges cleared by arrest, 8 were motivated by race, 7 by either sexual orientation or gender identity, 3 by ethnicity and 2 by religion, 4 cases remain open, 1 was unfounded, 1 was declared exceptional and 61 were suspended or inactive with no more leads. For comparison, there were 44 hate crimes reported to EPD in 2016 and 46 reported in 2015.

2017 Criminal Reports Totalⁱⁱⁱ	87
Race	31
Religion	19
Ethnicity	14
Sexual Orientation	11
Gender Identity	6
Association	5
Disability	1

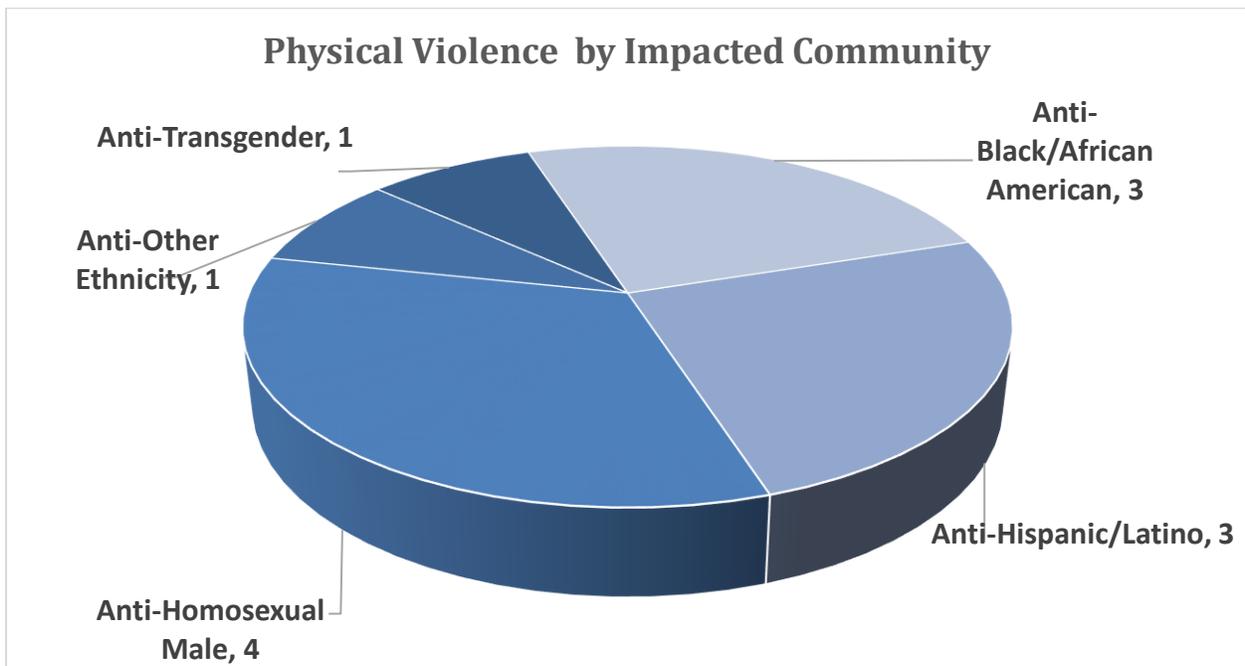
Consistent with the previous three years, race continues to be the leading motivating factor in hate and bias crimes reported in Eugene. The public reported 24 hate crimes related to race in 2016, 25 in 2015 and 16 in 2014. African Americans continue to be significantly over-represented in experiencing hate and bias crimes. Of the 31 reported race-related hate crimes, 25 were committed against African American community members.

The public reported a significant increase in crimes motivated by bias against religion, which more than doubled since 2016, when there were 4 crimes reported on the basis of religious discrimination, all against the Jewish community. This year, Jewish communities were targeted 15 times of the 19 reported crimes motivated by religious bias.



There were 12 incidents involving physical violence in 2017. By comparison there were 10 incidents involving physical violence in 2016 and 17 in 2015. From the 2017 data, we can see that people of color were the group that was most targeted for hate-based physical violence, accounting for 7 of the 13 crimes, and the LGBTQ community was targeted in the remaining physical-violence based crimes.

By comparison, in 2016, people of color were also the most targeted group for 5 hate crimes involving physical violence with 3 against Latinos and 2 against African Americans; 3 people were targeted based on sexual orientation, 1 on gender identity and one on political affiliation. In 2015, 11 people were targets of physical violence hate crimes, with 7 against African Americans, 3 against Latinos, 1 against an Asian individual and 5 based on sexual orientation.



Vandalism

Additionally, there were 65 combined instances of criminal and non-criminal vandalism that included hate speech -- swastikas, racial, homophobic, and transphobic slurs as well as white nationalist recruitment materials. Thirty seven (37) of these instances rose to the level of a crime, and 28 were classified as non-criminal incidents under the protections of free speech.

Some communities are disproportionately impacted by vandalism and graffiti. Specifically, the Jewish community experienced the most impact of vandalism and graffiti followed by the African American community.

Some instances of vandalism and graffiti target multiple groups. There were 7 instances in which African American and Jewish communities were both targeted. For consistency these crimes were categorized as anti-African American and it is worth noting the Jewish community was equally impacted by these incidents.

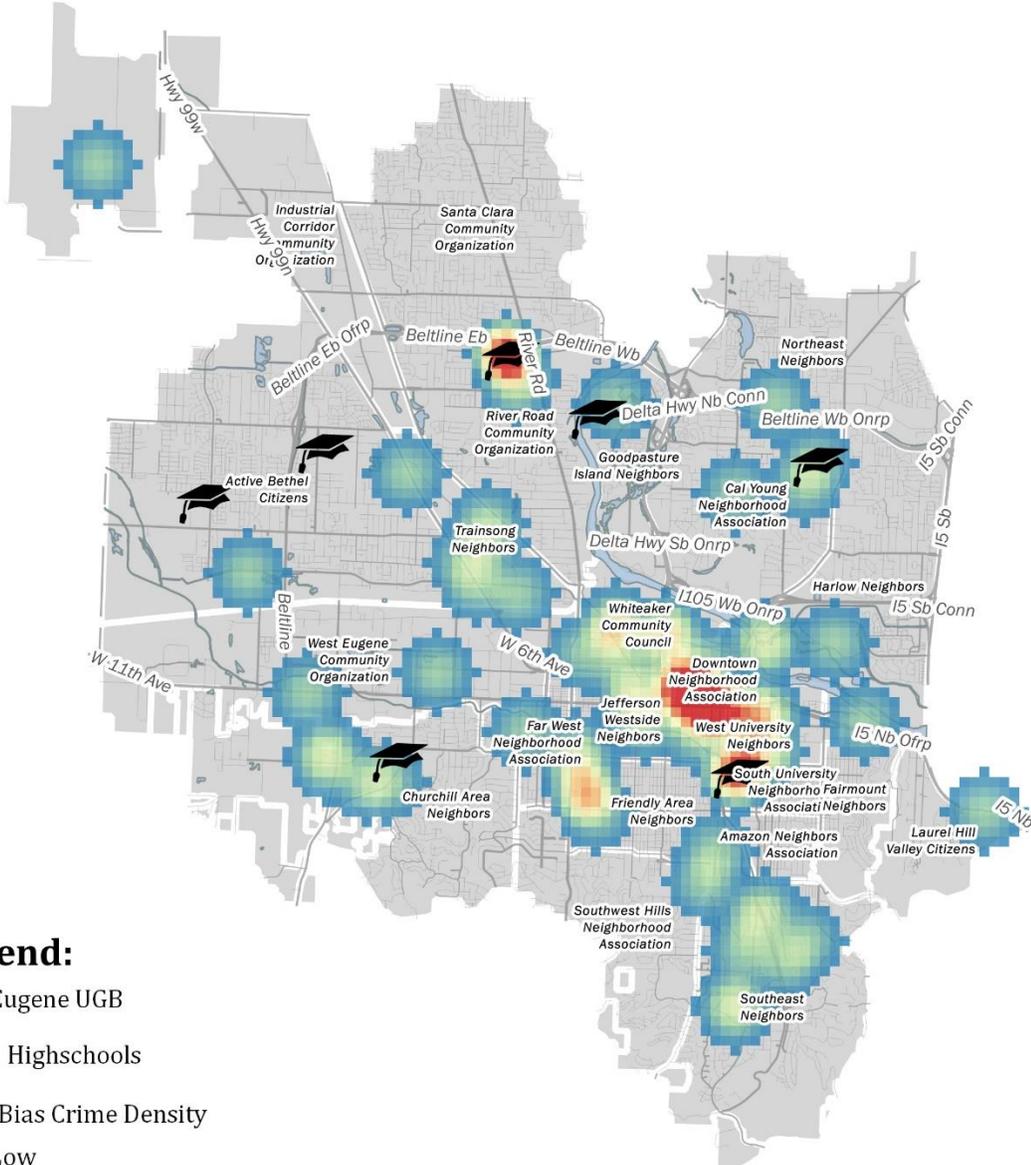
Many instances involving vandalism occurred in schools and School Resource Officers aided in reporting and responding to 19 hate and bias crimes. All of the crimes at schools involved vandalism and graffiti containing some or a combination of the following hate language: racial, anti-Semitic, homophobic, and transphobic, and one citing a bomb threat.

The Eugene Police Chief retired in 2017 and the City is engaging the community in searching for the ideal candidate to fill a pivotal role in the executive leadership team. HRNI staff joined staff from across the organization to facilitate listening sessions and attend community events to ask what people want in the next police chief for the Eugene Police Department. Staff attended over 50 events across the community to solicit feedback in the process, gathering over 600 responses about what people want to see in a police chief who represents the community.

The City Manager's Office, through the Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement, will work with the new Police Chief to develop their understanding of the program and continue to identify new strategies that align with the Eugene City Council's goal of creating and maintaining a Safe Community.

Hate and Bias Crime Density in 2017

0 5000 10000 Feet



Legend:

■ Eugene UGB

🎓 Highschools

Hate/Bias Crime Density

■ Low

■ Medium

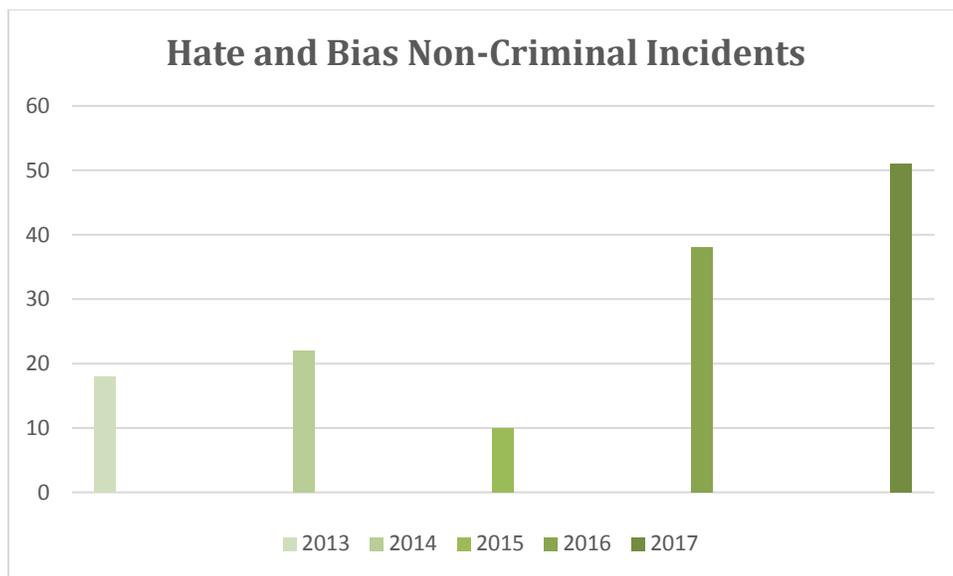
■ High

Caution: This map is based on source data subject to change and is for general reference only. Values represent incidents occurring from January 1st, 2017 through December 31st, 2017.

City of Eugene
Police Department
Crime Analysis Unit
January 12, 2018



Hate and Bias Non-Criminal Incidents



Non-Criminal Bias Incidents

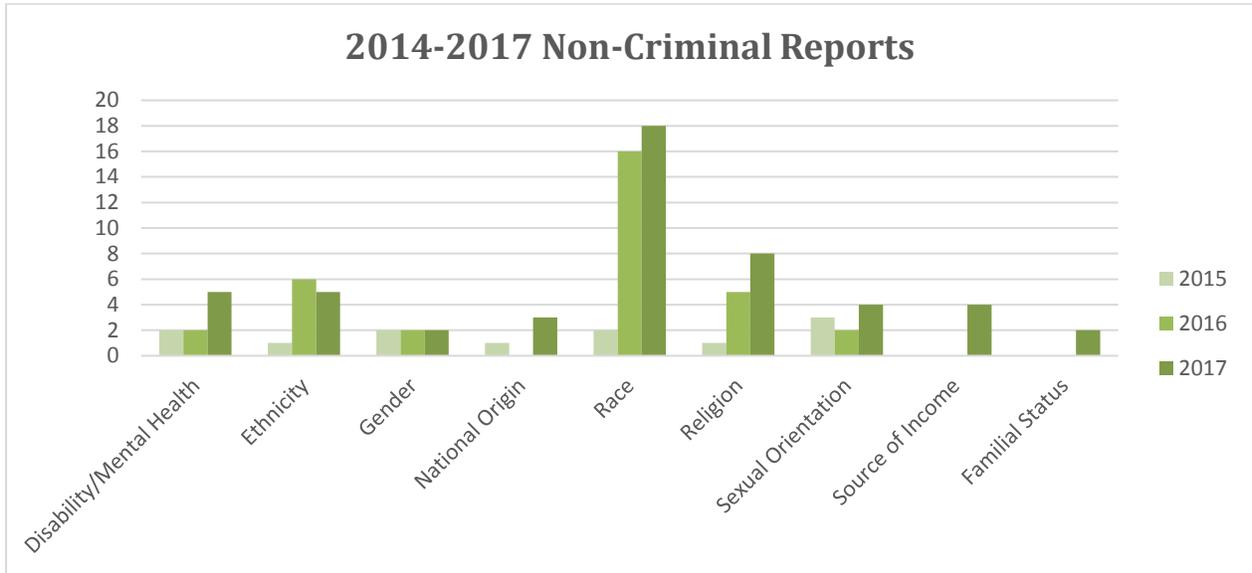
There are many behaviors and attitudes that, while not criminal, have a detrimental impact on our community. Often, the non-criminal incidents reported to HRNI fall under the protections of free speech. HRNI staff in cooperation with the Human Rights Commission and community allies provide support and engage in the work of tracking and making visible this type of activity even when doing so is not a legal requirement. 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.

2017 Non-Criminal Reports Total^{iv}	51
Race	18
Religion	8
Disability/Mental Health	5
Ethnicity	5
Sexual Orientation	4
Source of Income	4
National Origin	3
Gender	2
Familial Status	2

There were a total of 51 non-criminal bias incidents reported to HRNI in 2017. Some of the reports made to HRNI may have been criminal in nature however, the victims or witnesses chose not to file police reports and these reports have been captured in the non-criminal numbers.

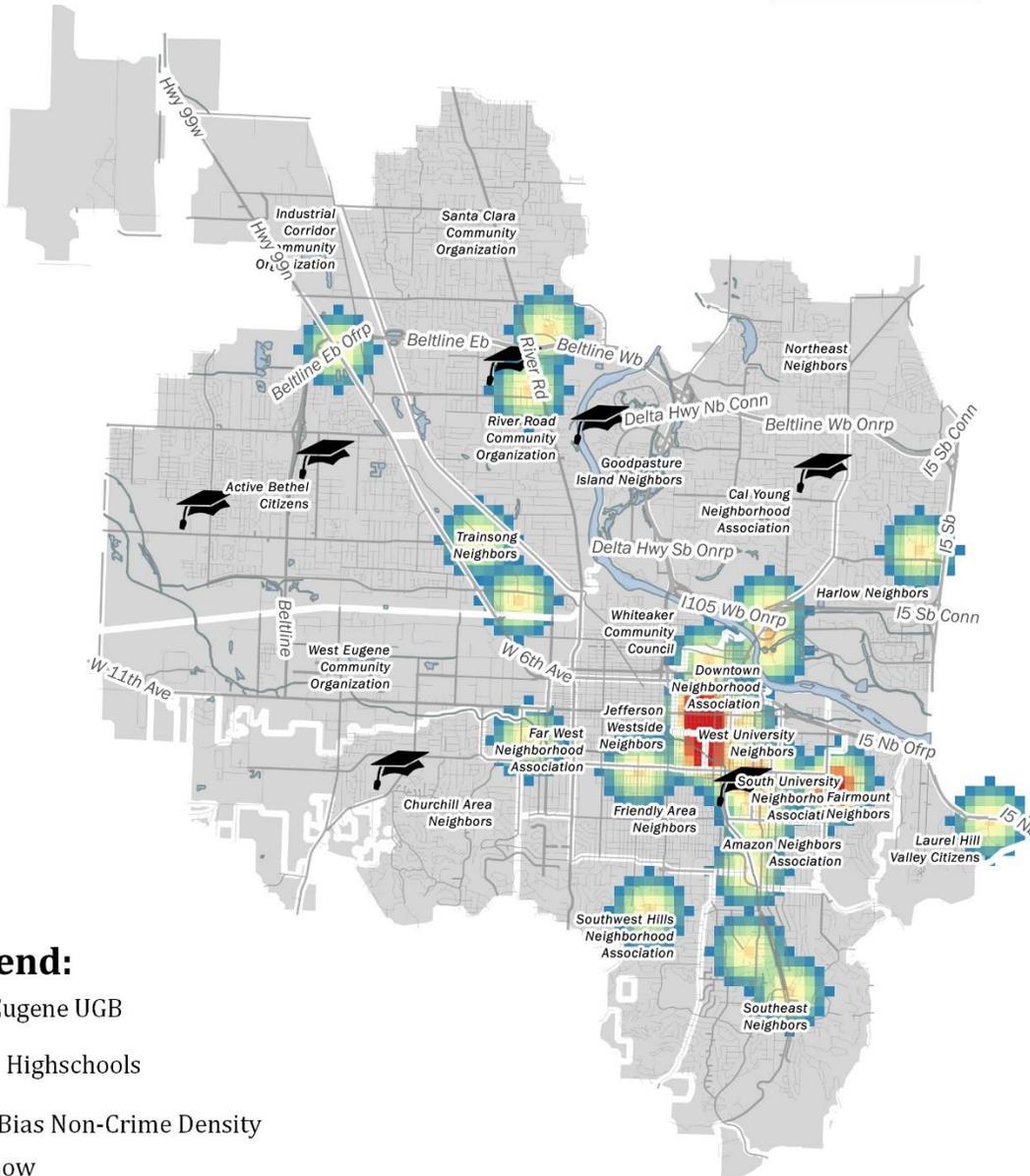
Race continued to be the most frequently reported motivating factor for non-criminal bias incidents in 2017. This remains consistent with trends in Eugene and is consistent with federally reported statistics on hate and bias crimes. Of the 18 non-criminal incidents based on race, 11 targeted African Americans.

For the sake of comparison, there were a total of 38 non-criminal bias incidents reported to HRNI in 2016 and 10 in 2015. Reported activity motivated by race was higher in 2017 than in previous years.



Hate and Bias Non-Crime Density in 2017

0 5000 10000 Feet



Legend:

— Eugene UGB

🎓 Highschools

Hate/Bias Non-Crime Density

Low



Medium



High

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Services and Response

In accordance with the City of Eugene's Hate and Bias Incident Response Plan^v 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 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).

The City of Eugene responds to hate and bias activity in a variety of ways based on nationally recognized best practices. The City's response is victim directed and protects victim confidentiality when requested. Various people provide support depending on the circumstances and the expressed wishes of the victim. HRNI, EPD, the Human Rights Commission, and community organizations regularly collaborate on hate and bias incident response by providing victims with referrals to other agencies for assistance, supporting Op-Ed articles and letters to the editor, alerts in neighborhood association newsletters and social media sites, assistance with connecting victims with the media, and criminal investigations where warranted.

As the climate surrounding hate and bias activity evolves, the Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement (HRNI) works to prepare community members with resources and skills for addressing hate and bias when it occurs close to home. HRNI met with a number of neighborhood associations throughout 2017 in response to both crimes and incidents that impacted their neighbors and the community. For example, some neighborhoods experienced recruitment leafletting for white supremacist groups or hate-based graffiti. HRNI staff met with neighborhood leaders to provide information on how HRNI can facilitate the reporting process with the Eugene Police Department, connect community members with resources to address the impacts of hate and bias on the community, and to explain the unique and robust reporting process in place with HRNI and the Eugene Police Department.

HRNI continues to connect with community organizations to provide resources to marginalized communities who experience a disproportionately larger amount of hate and

bias crimes and incidents. One opportunity for outreach in 2017 revolved around the recruitment process for a new police chief.

We recognize that building welcoming communities begins at a local level. HRNI staff provided hate and bias training at the annual Neighborhood Leaders training, Neighborhood Leaders Council and at neighborhood association meetings. These trainings were provided to share tools and resources with local leaders and support neighborhood associations with strategies to proactively address hate and bias.

HRNI and Human Resources collaborated to expand opportunities for City of Eugene employees to gain new perspectives through a series of book clubs and TED Talks that include facilitated discussions. In addition, HRNI staff piloted allyship training and began offering the training option to all city staff.

University of Oregon Process

The University of Oregon is a significant part of the Eugene community, and employs its own police jurisdiction. By federal law, each law enforcement jurisdiction reports hate and bias crimes back to the federal government. Along with its strong commitment to a safe, inclusive and welcoming campus, the University of Oregon is taking active steps to address hate and bias incidents on or near its campus. The University of Oregon Police Department (UOPD), as part of an educational institution, is also required to complete an annual report in compliance with the Clery Act. More information from UOPD can be found at this website: <https://police.uoregon.edu/annual-report>.

Police Auditor's Office Process

The City of Eugene employs an Independent Police Auditor to investigate allegations of misconduct against police officers, analyze trends of complaints and recommend improvements to police services in the city. Eugene City Code designates the Police Auditor's Office as the intake point for all complaints against employees of EPD. For more information on the Police Auditor's Office's and to review their annual report, visit this link: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/1039/Police-Auditor>.

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 2017. Race was the motivating factor in 36% of all reported hate crimes and 35% of all reported non-criminal bias incidents. Crimes reported nearly doubled from 2016 to 2017.

Analyzing the data geographically can help direct resources more efficiently. Continued, targeted response in 2017 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 understanding of how to report and a sense of safety in the community to report hate and bias activity, both through EPD and HRNI is essential to improving the community's experience. It is 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 providing support to victims of bias activity and to develop and implement strategies to reduce this activity and address underlying attitudes that perpetuate it. In the coming year we will focus on making existing proactive programs and coordinated responses more robust and effective. This will include a prevention and response toolkit for community members to address hate and bias in their own neighborhoods or community organizations. These actions will allow us to grow closer to being the community we strive to be. To achieve this it's important to create an environment in which bias activity is clearly not welcome as it directly undermines the Eugene in which we *all* want to live.

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

ⁱⁱ 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.)

ⁱⁱⁱ EPD ICAPBIAS Report, January – December 2017

^{iv} Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement Bias Activity Log, January – December 2017

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