

# Hate Crimes in Nevada and the United States (1991-2020)

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A hate crime is a crime motivated by the offender’s bias against a race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity. The United States has seen an average of over 7200 hate crimes each year since 1991. Nevada has seen an average of 60 each year since 1991, but the annual amount has been on the rise in recent years. This stat sheet compares hate crime trends in Nevada to trends across the rest of the nation.

## Key Stats

1

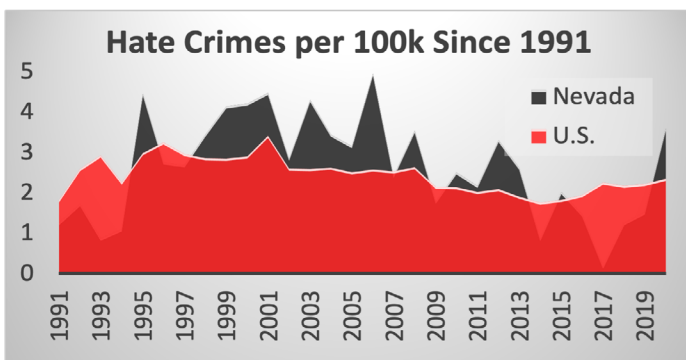


Figure 1.

Nevada’s rate of hate crimes per 100k residents has fluctuated over the past three decades but often exceeds the national average. Nevada’s average annual rate of hate crimes is 2.6 since 1991, whereas the national average annual rate is 2.5.

2

State Hate Crime Rates From 2016 to 2020

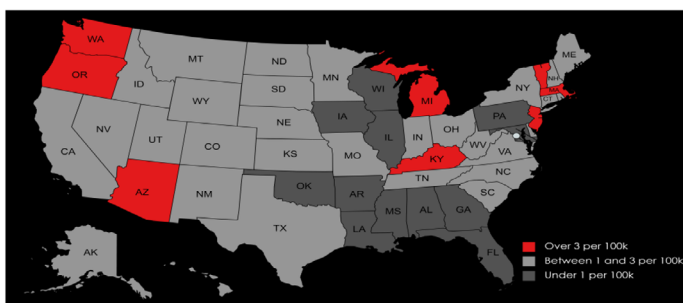


Figure 2.

Nevada’s rate of hate crimes from 2016 to 2020 was below the median among U.S. states. Nevada’s rate of 1.5 per 100,000 residents ranked 30th highest. High-rate states (in red) are distributed across the country, whereas low-rate states (in dark gray) are mostly concentrated in the Southeast and Midwest regions.

3

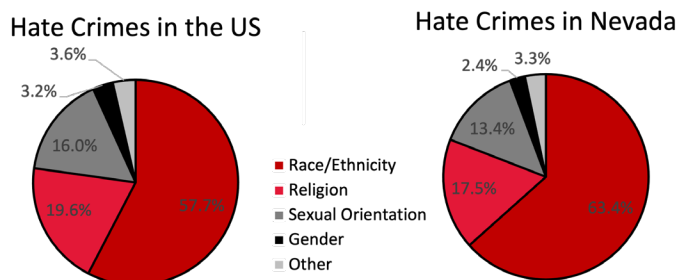


Figure 3.

From 2016 to 2020, the types of hate crimes committed in Nevada largely mirrored those committed across the country, with the majority based on race/ethnicity.

## Data Sources

**Figure 1.** The data for this graph come from the Federal Bureau of Investigations' (FBI) Crime Data Explorer (CDE). The CDE is an interactive online data tool that allows users to access the massive amounts of data collected via the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). The CDE allows users to filter data by location (e.g., state), reporting agency, and crime type, while also presenting the data using charts and graphs.

**Figure 2.** This map utilizes data from two sources. The number of hate crimes occurring in each state from 2016 to 2020 is taken from the FBI's Hate Crime Statistics, a subset of UCR data that has been collected since 1990. Population data was taken from the Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED), a online database of economic data maintained by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis' Research Department. FRED's population data are derived from data collected by the United States Census Bureau and were chosen for this figure due to the greater ease of accessibility offered by FRED's website in comparison to the Census Bureau's website. To standardize state rates, each state's number of hate crimes was divided by the respective state's population that year. For example, Nevada's 43 hate crimes in 2016 was then divided by Nevada's 2016 population. This was done for each year from 2016 to 2020. The five rates were then averaged to create the rates used for the map.

**Figure 3.** The data for this graph come from the FBI's CDE. The CDE breaks down hate crimes across type of bias, time of year (i.e., quarter), offense type (e.g., assault, destruction of property), location type (e.g., residence, hotel), offender race, and victim type (e.g., individual, business).

## Data Limitations

While the FBI's crime data are generally considered the most reliable state and national data available, these data come with some noteworthy limitations. First, UCR data are based on crimes known to the police. However, not all crimes are known to the police. Estimates vary regarding the amount of crime that goes unreported, but it can be safely assumed that UCR data undercount the actual amount of crime that occurs. Second, agency reporting to the FBI is done on a voluntary basis. Thus, not all agencies report crime data to the FBI each year. For example, Nevada's 2020 hate crime statistics are based on data reported to the FBI by only 48 of Nevada's 63 law enforcement agencies. Third, even among agencies that do

report crime data, the UCR records data on a quarterly basis (i.e., every three months), but not all agencies report for the entire year. While some agencies do report complete annual data, others only report for some quarterly periods. Finally, one of the primary criticisms of UCR data is the lack of uniform recording across jurisdictions. While the FBI does provide detailed instructions on how agencies should record and submit data, different agencies have different definitions for crimes. Thus, what one jurisdiction counts as a hate crime may not be considered as such in a different jurisdiction. Overall, the UCR data are the best crime data currently available, but it can reasonably be assumed that the UCR crime counts are only estimates and very likely undercount the true extent of crime, especially hate crimes, within the United States.

## Figure 2 Notes

Below are the hate crime rates relating to Figure 2. This chart displays the rates for the eight states with the highest rates (i.e., the red states), the twelve states with the lowest rates (i.e., the dark gray states), and Nevada. All other states are omitted for the sake of brevity but would fall between Arizona and Wisconsin.

State	Hate Crime Rate, 2016-2020
Washington	6.374
Vermont	6.312
Massachusetts	5.437
Kentucky	5.072
New Jersey	4.949
Michigan	4.205
Oregon	3.927
Arizona	3.159
Nevada	1.537
Wisconsin	0.957
Georgia	0.750
Louisiana	0.695
Illinois	0.661
Oklahoma	0.639
Maryland	0.636
Florida	0.568
Pennsylvania	0.513
Iowa	0.400
Arkansas	0.398
Mississippi	0.289
Alabama	0.204

### Figure 3 Notes

The category “Other” include cases of anti-disability bias and cases where multiple types of bias were involved. The category “Race/Ethnicity” also includes ancestry-related bias. The category “Gender” involves cases relating to both gender and gender identity.

### To Learn More About Hate Crimes

Department of Justice

Southern Poverty Law Center

Understanding Who Commits Hate Crimes

Hate Crimes: Worse by Definition

### References

FBI Crime Data Explorer

FBI Hate Crime Statistics Annual Reports

FRED State Population Data

**For references in this Stat Sheet, see the CCJP website: [www.unlv.edu/CCJP](http://www.unlv.edu/CCJP)**

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