

Massachusetts Hate Crimes, 2007



Commonwealth Fusion Center
June, 2008

Executive Summary

The 2007 Hate Crime report for Massachusetts was compiled using data voluntarily supplied from police departments across the Commonwealth, including 67 municipal agencies, transit police, and 15 campus police agencies. The Commonwealth Fusion Center's Crime Reporting Unit received a total of 350 reports, which included 586 criminal offenses within those cases.

Examining the 2007 submissions for hate crimes revealed that prejudice against race/ethnicity or national origin was the most widely reported bias motivation, representing 57.9% of the total. Bias against sexual orientation is second, with 24.5% of the total, and religious bias is third with 17.09% of the total.

Hate crime in Massachusetts for 2007 focused on specific victims rather than religious, ethnic or government symbols. Individuals were primarily the targets for bias crimes in the commonwealth, with 78.3% of the reports, while private property was targeted 11.3% of the time. Police cited public property in 2.03% of the incidents.

Notably, the female gender is on the rise as both the victim and offender with respect to hate crimes. In 2007 females comprised 33.2% of victims compared to 26.7% in 2006 (an increase of 24.3%), while they constituted 17.4% of offenders in 2007 versus 13.8% in 2006 (an increase of 26%). Echoing previous years, males were still the most frequent victims (66.8%) and offenders (82.6%) of hate crimes. Whites were also the most frequent racial category as victims (58.4%) and also as offenders (69.2%). Black victims of both genders composed 29.6% of the total population of victims. The average age of victims was approximately 31.5 years old. Offenders were somewhat younger than victims, with an average age of 26.1 years

Victims were reported to be injured in a small percentage of cases. Police officers investigating these incidents reported that in 71% of the cases where the information was provided there was no visible injury to the victim.

Bias incidents reported by police in Massachusetts occur in a variety of locations both public and private. In 2007 29.4% of incidents occurred on a highway or street, while an additional 28.8% occurred in a residence (a reversal of 2006, where residence was the primary location at 30.5%, followed by highway at 21.8%). An additional 11.3% were reported to have happened in a school or college in 2007, while approximately 2.6% of incidents occurred at religious sites such as churches or synagogues.

Specific types of bias motivations were reported to police departments as well. The largest category of bias incidents were determined to be anti-Black, with 33.3% of all incidents, or 121 of the incidents reported. Another 20.9% or 76 incidents were classified as anti-gay. Anti-Semitic and anti-white cases ranked third and fourth, at 16% and 11.6% respectively, in frequency of occurrence. While a great deal of media attention has been given to discrimination against the Islamic religion or persons from Arab countries, only 2.75 % (down from 4.7% of the 2006 cases) were classified as either anti-Arab or anti-Islamic.

Bias crimes entail a variety of different criminal offenses ranging from violent crimes to vandalism and harassment. In 2007, the significant portion of incidents involved vandalism (22%) with harassment (20%) and general civil rights (14.9%) following close behind. There were, however, 52 aggravated assaults reported.

The reporting system also captures information on the types of weapons used in the commission of the offense. Firearms were used in only 2 cases, accounting for less than 1% (0.64%) of the incidents, with knives or cutting

instruments used in 17 cases or 5.4% of the total. Hate criminals most often fought without weapons 50.8% of the time or were involved in fistfights where hands, fists or feet were used (24.3%).

Definitions

Hate Crime	Any criminal act to which a bias motive is evident as a contributing factor. The Reporting Act covers bias on account of race, religion, ethnicity, handicap, gender, or sexual orientation. Hate crimes can be reported only by law enforcement agencies.
Zero Report	An official report by a police department stating that no hate crimes were reported to the department during the reporting period.
Non-reporting agencies	Local police departments and other law enforcement agencies which are not in compliance with the reporting provisions of the Reporting Act. These agencies have failed to indicate how many, if any, bias crimes occurred in their jurisdiction.
Reporting agencies	Local police departments and other law enforcement agencies which have voluntarily reported the incidence of identified bias crimes in their jurisdiction. Agencies can comply with the Reporting Act by reporting the number of bias crimes, even if zero. Participating agencies which reported zero hate crimes for 2007 are separately listed.

Reports by Law Enforcement Agencies

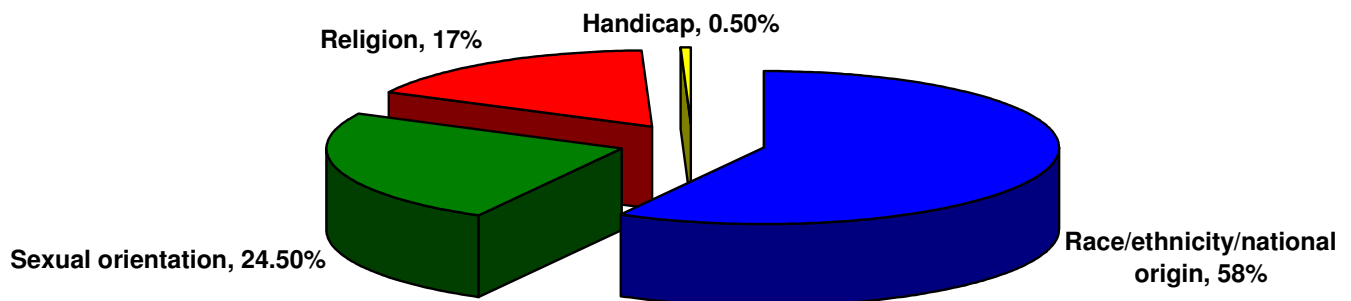
Hate crimes were reported by 67 local police departments, transit police and 15 campus police agencies. These agencies had a total population of 2,967,912. A total of 350 hate crime reports were filed by these agencies, which included 586 criminal offenses and 363 bias motivations. **[An additional 218 municipal police departments, 23 campus police agencies, 21 state police locations, five transit police locations, and one specialized agency reported zero hate crimes during 2007. These agencies had a total population of 3,094,423. Sixty-seven municipal police agencies and seven campus police departments did not participate in the hate crime reporting program. These agencies had a population of 286,762.]**

In the report that follows, it should be noted that there may be multiple offenses, bias motivations, victims and offenders reported in each incident report. As a result, there are more responses than there are cases.

Categories of Bias Reported

Bias motivations break down as follows: of the 363 bias motivations for particular crimes reported, race/ethnicity/national origin bias constituted the largest category of reported motives, with 58% of the total. Offenses motivated by sexual orientation bias were the second most frequent category, with 24.5% of the total. Offenses related to religious affiliation were the third most prevalent, with 17%, while offenses against mental or physical handicap status were reported as 0.28% each of the total.

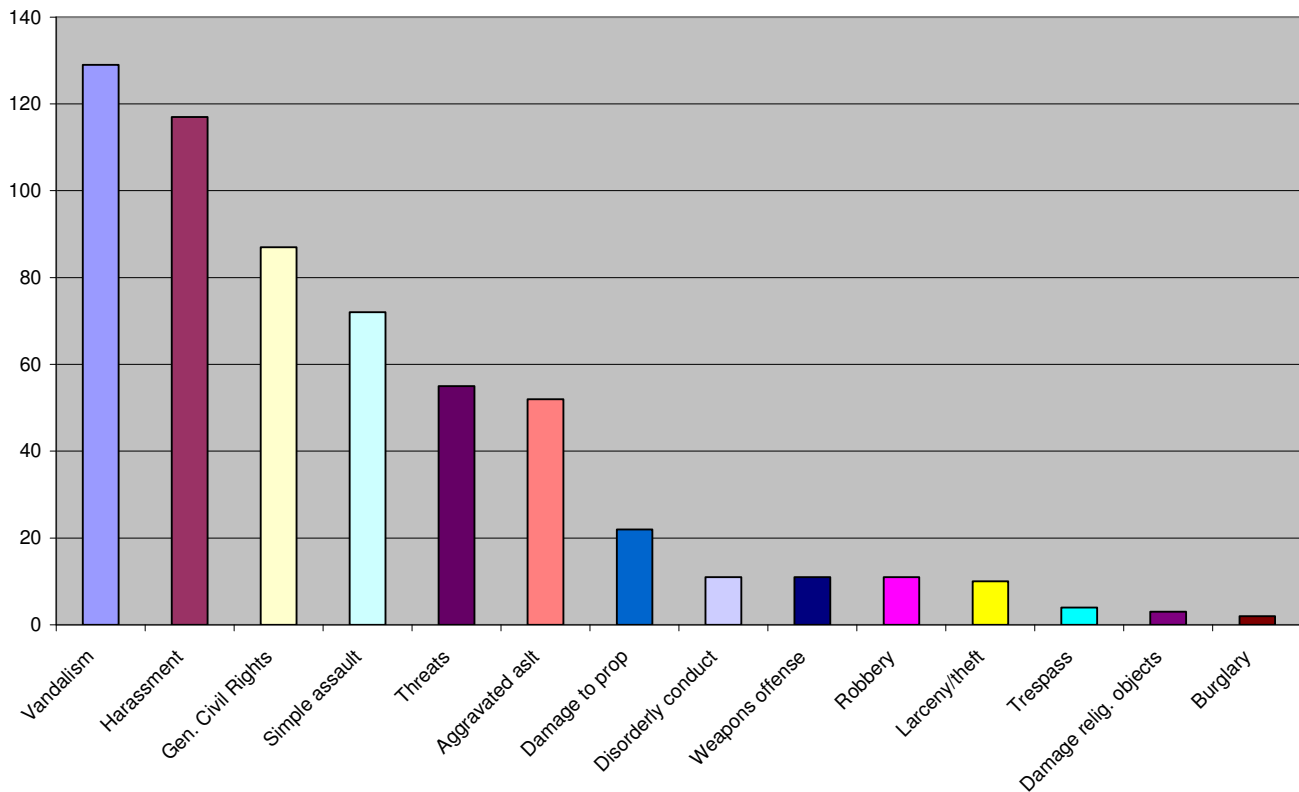
Bias Types



Categories of Crimes Reported

Of the total of 586 crimes reported, harassment and threats were the most frequent offenses, representing 29.4% of the total. Vandalism and destruction of property were the second most frequent offenses, representing 25.8% of the total (a decrease of 24.3% from 2007's 34.1%). Other frequent crime categories were general civil rights violations (14.9%), simple assault (12.3%), and aggravated assault (8.9%).

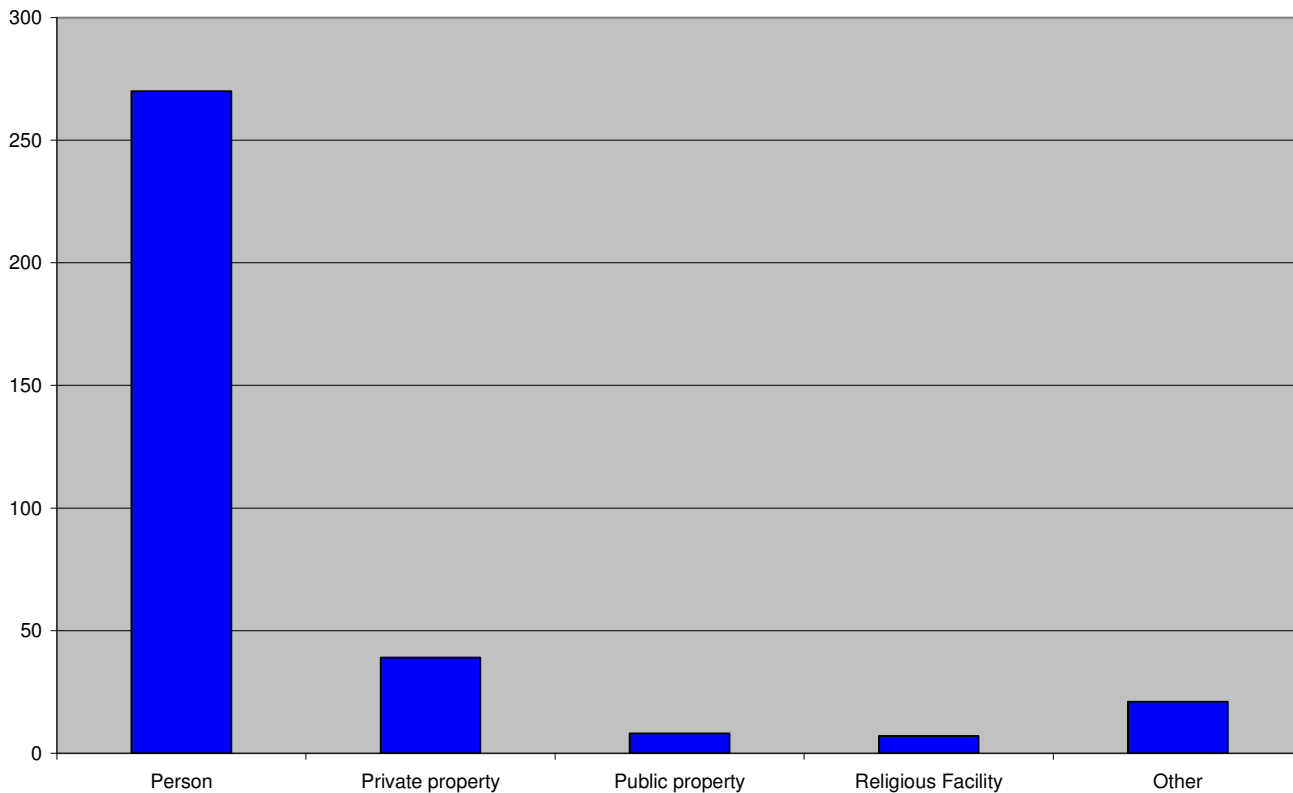
Crimes Committed During Bias Attacks



Victim and Offender Profile

Of the cases with valid information, a person was the target in 78.3% of cases. Private property was the second most frequent target of bias crimes with 11.3% of incidents. In a slight change from 2006, public property was third in 2007, with 2.3% of the cases. (Religious property was third in 2006 with 3.5% of the cases; however, it was fourth in 2007 with 2.0% of the cases).

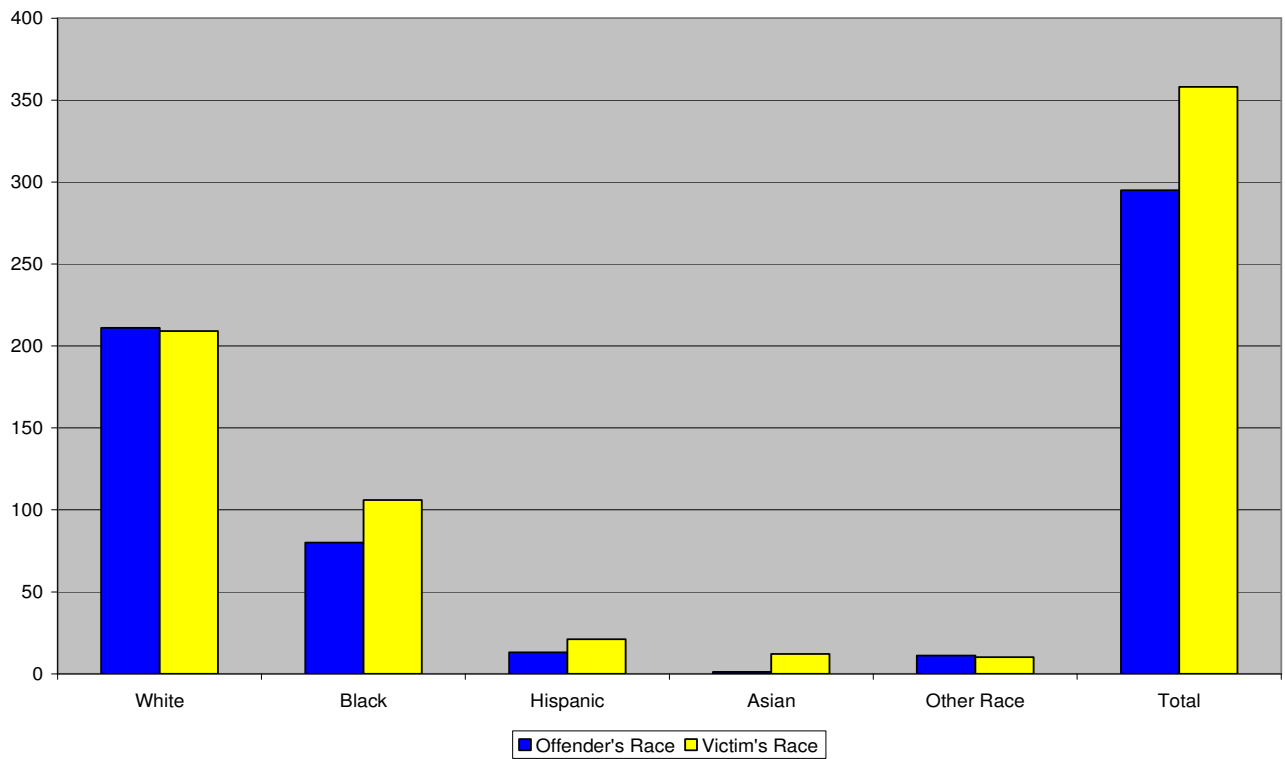
Target of Hate Crime



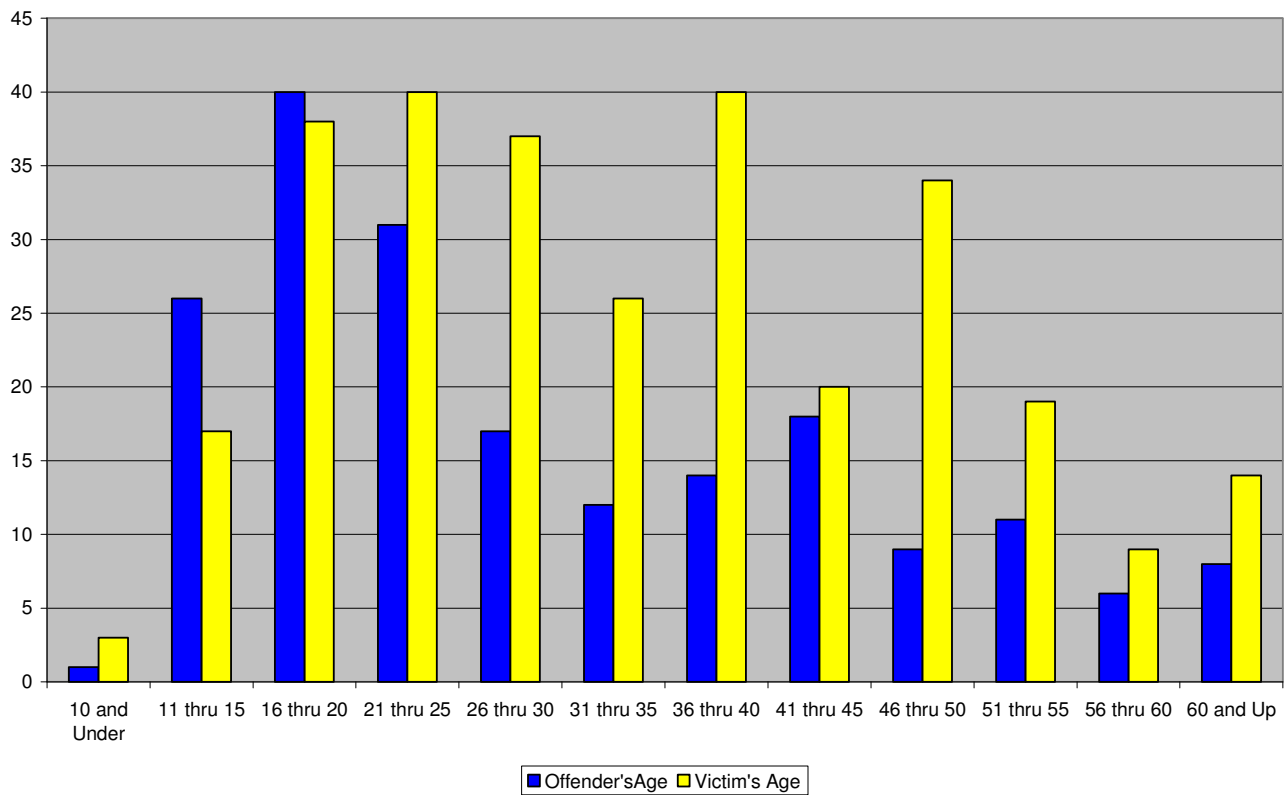
The victim(s) of hate crimes (in cases where the victim's race was available) were white in 58.4% of cases, black in 29.6% of cases. The victims were male in 66.8% of cases. Of the cases where the victim (s)'s age was reported, the mean age was 31.5 years, with a median age of 33.2 years.

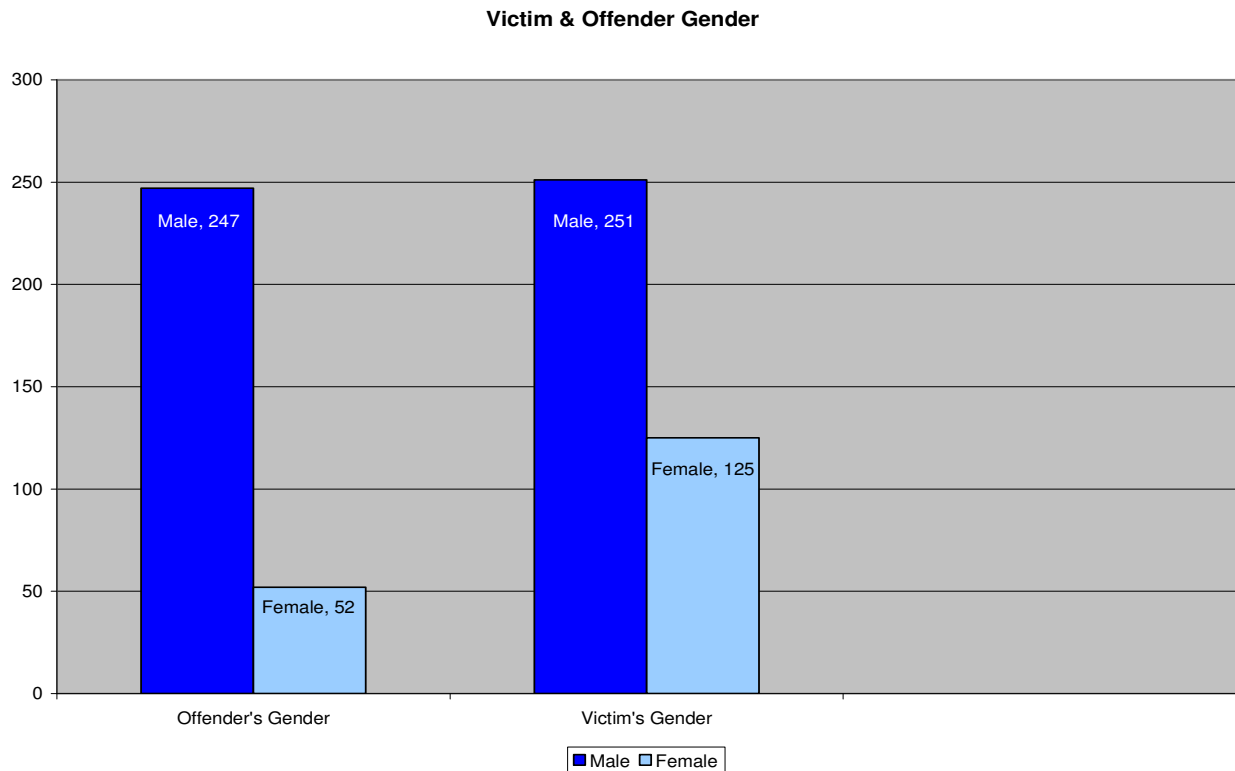
The perpetrator(s) of hate crimes were white in 69.1% of cases, and black in 22.4% of cases, in the 295 cases where this information was available. The perpetrator was male in 82.6% of cases, and had a mean age of 26.1 years and a median age of 29.4.

Victim & Offender Race



Victim & Offender Age





Characteristics of the Incidents

The majority of incidents occurred on a highway or street (29.4%) or in a residence (28.8%). Other locations where incidents occurred were schools/colleges (11.3%), parking lots/garages (3.8%), commercial/office buildings (3.2%), restaurants (2.9%), and religious facilities (2.6%).

Weapons of some type were used in 154 incidents. In cases where a weapon was identified, hands/fist/feet were used (24.3%) the majority of the time. “Other weapons” were listed in 14.4%, and knives were used in 5.4% of cases.

Tables

Table 1: Crimes Committed during Bias Attacks		
	Hate Crimes	% of Total
Vandalism	129	22.0
Harassment	117	20.0
General Civil Rights	87	14.9
Simple Assault	72	12.3
Threats	55	9.4
Aggravated Assault	52	8.9
Damage to Property	22	3.7
Disorderly Conduct	11	1.9
Weapons Offense	11	1.9
Robbery	11	1.9
Larceny/theft	10	1.7
Trespass	4	0.6
Damage Religious Objects	3	0.5
Burglary	2	0.3
Total	586	100

Table 2: Bias Types as Reported to Police		
	Bias Types	% of Total
Anti-Black	121	33.3
Anti-Gay (male)	76	20.9
Anti-Semitic	58	15.9
Anti-White	42	11.6
Anti-Hispanic	27	7.4
Anti-Lesbian	13	3.6
Anti-Arab	8	2.2
Anti-Asian	7	1.9
Anti-Other Race/ethno	5	1.4
Anti-Islamic	2	0.6
Anti-Catholic	1	0.3
Anti-Protestant	1	0.3
Anti-Mental Handicap	1	0.3
Anti-Physical Handicap	1	0.3
Total	363	100

Table 3: Target of Bias Crime		
	Frequency	Percent
Person	270	78.3
Private Property	39	11.3
Other	21	6.1
Public Property	8	2.3
Religious Facility	7	2.0
Total	345	100

Table 4: Age of Victim		
	Frequency	Percent
10 and Under	3	1.01
11 thru 15	17	5.72
16 thru 20	38	12.79
21 thru 25	40	13.47
26 thru 30	37	12.46
31 thru 35	26	8.75
36 thru 40	40	13.47
41 thru 45	20	6.73
46 thru 50	34	11.45
51 thru 55	19	6.4
56 thru 60	9	3.03
60 and Up	14	4.71
Total	297	100

Table 5: Race of Victims		
	Victim's Race	% of Total
White	209	58.38
Black	106	29.61
Hispanic	21	5.87
Asian	12	3.35
Other Race/Ethnicity	10	2.79
Total	358	100

Table 6: Victim's Gender		
	Victim's Sex	% of Total
Male	251	66.76
Female	125	33.24
Total	376	100

Table 7: Age of Perpetrator		
	Frequency	Percent
10 and Under	1	0.52
11 thru 15	26	13.47
16 thru 20	40	20.73
21 thru 25	31	16.06
26 thru 30	17	8.81
31 thru 35	12	6.22
36 thru 40	14	7.25
41 thru 45	18	9.33
46 thru 50	9	4.66
51 thru 55	11	5.7
56 thru 60	6	3.11
60 and Up	8	4.15
Total	191	100

Table 8: Race of Offenders		
	Offender's Race	% of Total
White	204	69.15
Black	66	22.37
Hispanic	13	4.41
Other Race/Ethnicity	11	3.73
Asian	1	0.34
Total	310	100

Table 9: Offender's Sex		
	Offender's Sex	% of Total
Male	247	82.61
Female	52	17.39
Total	319	100

Table 10: Location of Bias Crime		
	Frequency	Percent
Highway/Road/Alley	101	29.36
Residence/Home	99	28.78
School/College	39	11.34
Parking Lot/Garage	13	3.78
Commercial/Office Bldg	11	3.20
Restaurant	10	2.91
Church/synagogue/temple	9	2.62
Convenience Store	8	2.33
Field/Woods	8	2.33
Other/Unknown	8	2.33
Bar/Nightclub	7	2.03
Government/Public Building	6	1.74
Air/bus/train terminal	5	1.45
Grocery/supermarket	4	1.16
Specialty store	4	1.16
Construction site	3	0.87
Drugstore/Doctor's office/Hospital	3	0.87
Department/Discount Store	2	0.58
Hotel/motel	2	0.58
Service/gas station	1	0.29
Bank/savings and loan	1	0.29
Total	357	100

Table 11: Weapon Used During Incident		
	Frequency	Percent
None	159	50.8
Hands/Feet/Fists	76	24.28
Other	45	14.38
Knife/Cutting	17	5.43
Sticks/Clubs	9	2.88
Rocks/Bricks	5	1.6
Gun	2	0.64
Total	313	100

Table 12: Injury to Victim		
	Frequency	Percent
Apparent Broken Bones	7	2.66
Severe Lacerations	11	4.18
Other Major Injuries	2	0.76
Other Minor Injuries	54	20.53
None Visible	189	71.86
Total	263	100

Hate Crimes Reporting			
Agency	Population	Hate Crime Reports	Rate per 100,000
Acton	20,331	4	19.67
Amherst	34,874	1	2.87
Andover	31,247	1	3.20
Arlington	42,389	6	14.15
Ashby	2,845	2	70.30
Attleboro	42,068	1	2.38
Auburn	15,901	1	6.29
Ayer	7,287	1	13.72
Barnstable	47,821	3	6.27
Bellingham	15,314	1	6.53
Belmont	24,194	1	4.13
Beverly	39,862	2	5.02
Billerica	38,981	1	2.57
Boston	589,141	172	29.20
Brockton	94,304	6	6.36
Brookline	57,107	2	3.50
Burlington	22,876	1	4.37
Cambridge	101,355	10	9.87
Carver	11,163	1	8.96
Chelmsford	33,858	2	5.91
Dalton	6,892	2	29.02
Danvers	25,212	1	3.97
Douglas	7,045	1	14.19
Egremont	1,345	1	74.35
Everett	38,037	6	15.77
Falmouth	32,660	5	15.31
Greenfield	18,168	3	16.51
Hamilton	8,315	2	24.05
Haverhill	58,969	2	3.39
Lowell	105,167	4	3.80
Lynn	89,050	1	1.12
Malden	56,340	3	5.32
Mansfield	22,414	1	4.46
Medford	55,765	1	1.79
Middleboro	19,941	2	10.03
Milford	26,799	1	3.73
Milton	26,062	1	3.84
Monson	8,359	1	11.96
New Bedford	93,768	4	4.27
Newton	83,829	3	3.58
North Attleboro	27,143	33	11.05
Northampton	28,978	1	3.45
Oxford	13,352	1	7.49
Palmer	12,497	3	24.01
Peabody	48,129	1	2.08
Pittsfield	45,793	1	2.18

Plainville	7,683	1	13.02
Plymouth	51,701	1	1.93
Quincy	88,025	5	5.68
Randolph	30,963	2	6.46
Revere	47,283	8	16.92
Salem	40,407	5	12.37
Scituate	17,863	1	5.6
Sharon	17,408	1	5.74
Somerville	77,478	1	1.29
Southborough	8,781	2	22.78
Springfield	152,082	2	1.32
Sunderland	3,777	1	26.48
Uxbridge	11,156	1	8.96
Waltham	59,226	1	1.69
West Boylston	7,481	1	13.37
West Springfield	27,899	4	14.34
Winchester	20,810	1	4.81
Winthrop	18,303	1	5.46
Totals	2,967,912		
MBTA-Middlesex		3	
MBTA-Suffolk		1	
Amherst College		1	
Assumption College		1	
Bentley College		1	
Boston College		1	
Boston University		1	
Clark University		1	
Dean College		3	
Emerson College		1	
Framingham SC		1	
Harvard University		2	
MIT		1	
Northeastern University		7	
U-Mass Amherst		6	
U-Mass Boston		1	
Westfield SC		1	

Non-reporting Agencies

Agency	Population
Alford	399
Aquinnah	344
Bernardston	2155
Blandford	1,214
Brookfield	3,051
Buckland	1,991
Chester	1,308
Chesterfield	1,201
Chilmark	843
Clarksburg	1,686
Colrain	1,813
Conway	1,809
Cummington	978
Dighton	6,175
Dunstable	2,829
Duxbury	14,248
Edgartown	3,779
Essex	3,267
Fall River	91,938
Florida	676
Gosnold	86
Granville	1,521
Hancock	721
Harwich	12,386
Hawley	336
Heath	805
Holbrook	10,785
Holland	2,407
Huntington	2,174
Lanesboro	2,990
Leverett	1,663
Leyden	772
Manchester-by-the-sea	5,228
Middlefield	542
Monroe	93
Montgomery	654
Mount Washington	130
Nantucket	9,520
New Ashford	247
New Braintree	927
New Marlboro	1,494
Oak Bluffs	3,713
Otis	1,365
Pelham	1,403
Peru	821
Petersham	1,180
Phillipston	1,621
Plainfield	589

Richmond	1,604
Rowe	351
Russell	1,657
Sandisfield	824
Sheffield	3,335
Shutesbury	1,810
Stoneham	22,219
Tisbury	3,755
Tolland	426
Tyringham	350
Warwick	750
Washington	544
Wendell	986
West Stockbridge	1,416
Westhampton	1,468
Whitman	13,882
Wilmington	21,363
Windsor	875
Worthington	1,270
Babson College	0
Fisher College	0
Suffolk University	0
U-Mass Lowell	0
Total Population	105,474