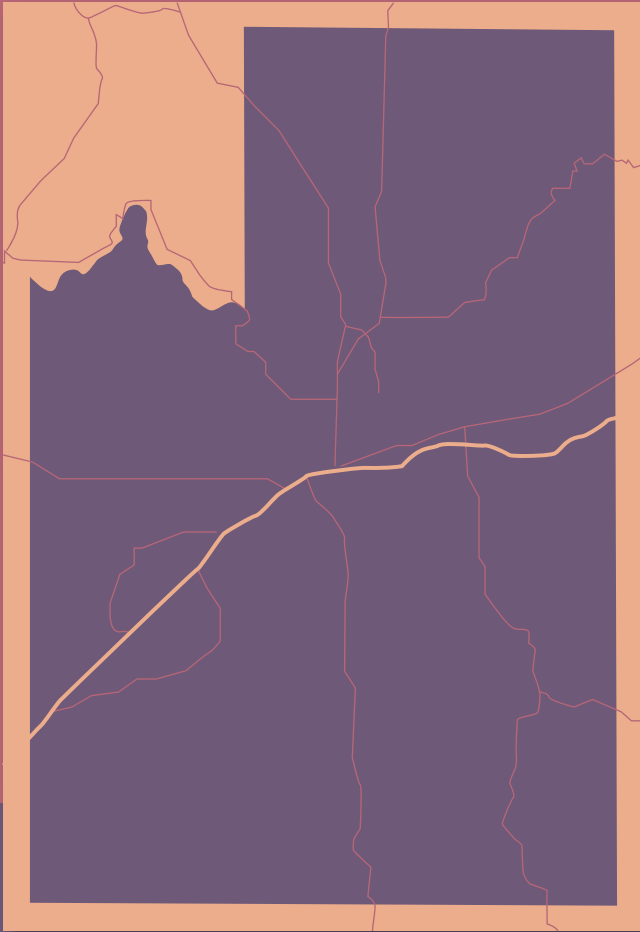




# 2021 Spokane County Hate Documentation Project Report



# Analysis of reports to Spokane County Human Rights Task Force (SCHRTF) and to Law Enforcement

5/22/2022

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## Introduction

The Spokane County Human Rights Task Force (SCHRTF) was founded in 2016 as a volunteer organization of community members whose purpose is to guard and advance human rights in order to create a region where all people feel welcomed, safe, and valued.

Our top 3 top priorities are:

- Support for people victimized by prejudice and bigotry
- Support education promoting positive human relations
- Monitor and document hate activity, crimes and incidents

As the SCHRTF worked on each of our priorities, we concluded that an area where we could make a significant impact is in the documenting of hate crimes and incidents. We believed hate-motivated crimes and incidents create distrust and harm our communities, which warranted documenting these occurrences to create a record in Spokane County. Our Hate Documentation Project went live on April 2, 2019.

## Spokane County Hate Documentation Project

The project has four core objectives:

1. Create a community record of hate crimes and incidents
2. Develop reports of crimes and incidents to share with the public
3. Use collected information to support and coordinate educational, programmatic, and awareness activities along with improving response and prevention efforts to hate in our community
4. Provide resources to individuals who choose to be contacted by a trained responder.

To document hate crimes and incidents, the Spokane County Hate Reporting Tool was developed and made available at [www.ReportHateBias.org](http://www.ReportHateBias.org) and [www.schrtf.org](http://www.schrtf.org). Since its inception the Tool has been translated into Spanish and Russian.

Reports may be filed anonymously, or a name and number can be provided if someone wants to be contacted. The SCHRTF's response is victim-centered and protects victim confidentiality. Trained responders communicate with individuals who have requested to be contacted and can provide referrals to other agencies for assistance. These reports are not connected to law enforcement, though we do encourage people who have experienced a hate crime to submit a report to police, or to call 911 if a more immediate response is needed.

Through the reporting tool, we collect the following information:

- Location
- Setting (e.g. private residence, place of worship, public transportation, etc.)
- Date and time of incident
- Type of hate (e.g. harassment, physical violence, vandalism, stalking, etc.)
- Motivation behind the experience (e.g. race, color, religion, sexual orientation, etc.)
- If the incident was reported to the police
- Uploaded pictures or files that might be relevant

## Partnerships and Promotions

The Hate Documentation Project is built on collaborations with our partners. In December 2020 the SCHRTF and the Pacific Northwest Anti-Defamation League developed a partnership to share hate incident data originating from Spokane County. Each agency conducts their own investigation of the reports they receive. The SCHRTF also partners with the City of Spokane Police Department, Cheney Police Department, Eastern Washington University Police Department, and the Spokane County Sheriff's Office. Reports that are shared are de-identified to protect the victims, witnesses, and perpetrators.

The NAACP receives a significant number of referrals/inquiries about discrimination and potential hate incidents. We are working with them to determine the best way that we can share each other's data.

To develop and promote the Hate Documentation Project we received a \$5000 grant in 2019 from the Pride Foundation and a \$7000 grant in 2021 from the Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund. We contracted with Thinking Cap Communications and Design to develop a marketing plan and to create graphics that could be used for print and online marketing. Funding was used to advertise the Reporting Tool in the Fig Tree, Black Lens, and La Prensa Bilingue, as well as on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Below are two of the images that were used in the promotions. We also created a short video that can be viewed via the QR code or the web link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liFUZmiLans>



In addition to these promotions, we sent out emails to over 120 area nonprofits, social service agencies, and trusted messengers inviting them to a Zoom presentation about the project. We held 4 Zoom sessions explaining the project and allowing time for questions.

Information about the Hate Documentation Project was also presented at the Gonzaga University International Conference on Hate Studies in November 2019 & 2021 and at the PICCE Community Engagement Institute Conference in May of 2021.

In the 2021 spring semester our Hate Documentation Project was the community involvement component for senior students at Gonzaga University enrolled in the Core Integration Seminar, "Why People Hate." The class learned about the purpose and development of the Hate Documentation Project, investigated the lives and needs of several underrepresented groups in Spokane, and developed materials for promoting the Hate Reporting Tool to these groups.

In October 2020 we did a press release to promote the Hate Reporting Tool and our president was interviewed by KHQ News.

## Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents

This project allows individuals to report hate crimes and incidents. As a community, we tend to focus on hate crimes, but hate incidents also cause harm and can cause a community to splinter.

For the purposes of this project, we use the Washington State definition of a hate crime. In 2019, Washington State changed the malicious harassment law to a hate crime offense law. According to the law, a person is guilty of a hate crime if they commit one of the following because of their perception of the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, or mental, physical or sensory disability:

- Causes physical injury to the victim or another person;
- Causes physical damage to or destruction of the property of the victim or another person;
- Threatens a specific person or group of people and places that person, or members of the specific group of persons, in reasonable fear of harm to person or property.

A hate incident is a non-criminal action committed against a person or property, the motive for which is based in whole or in part upon the same characteristics mentioned above along with such additional characteristics as national origin and immigrant status. Because incidents are non-criminal in nature, police involvement may be limited. For example, a report of someone shouting hateful rhetoric on a street corner would be classified as a hate incident and not a hate crime because they are engaging in protected free speech.

Hate incidents often go undocumented even though they can be just as damaging to a community as hate crimes. The ReportHateBias.org website

provides a place where these incidents along with hate crimes can be captured. By collecting and sharing this information, communities can be better informed about the impact of hate in Spokane County and then develop appropriate responses.

### Reports Received

This first report reflects data collected in 2019, 2020, and 2021. After this year the report will be generated annually. The Hate Reporting Tool had a soft launch with little marketing in April 2019 resulting in two reports total for that year. In 2020, due to COVID-19, we were delayed in getting the marketing of the tool done. People were struggling with work and living in a pandemic, so there was little attention given to the new project. We received 15 reports in 2020. In 2021 we had more success marketing the reporting process and received 55 additional reports.

### Determining Case Credibility

We rank cases based on whether we can confirm them or determine that they are credible. If a reporter provides their contact information, we will reach out to them to determine the report’s credibility and confirm its accuracy. If there is no contact information, but the information in the report is compelling, we rank the report as “credible.” If additional sources, like news stories and law enforcement investigations support the veracity of the report, we rank the report “confirmed.” If we cannot confirm the report or determine its credibility, it is ranked as “unconfirmed” and/or “not credible.” Finally, we get reports that do not meet the definition of a hate crime or hate incident and we classify those cases as “not qualifying.”

Of the 72 reports we received up until the end of December 2021, 35 were deemed credible and/or confirmed. The data analysis that follows focuses on these 35 reports.

This report also provides data from reports submitted to law enforcement agencies. The first data analysis is of reports made to the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force, which begins on the next page. The second data analysis is of reports filed with law enforcement agencies in Spokane County and begins on page 17.

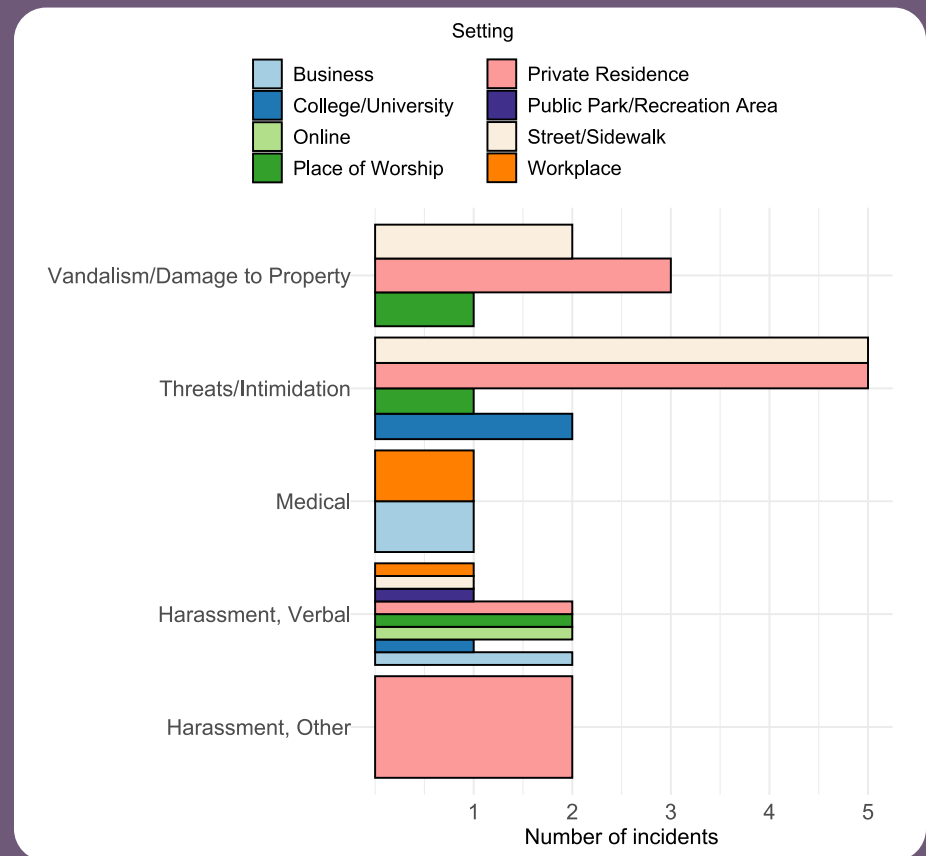
## Analysis of Reports made to the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force (SCHRTF)

As mentioned in the introduction, there were 35 reports that were deemed to be credible and/or confirmed. Two were from 2019, nine from 2020, and 24 from 2021. Given the small number of incidents, raw numbers are being used in the graphs instead of percentages. The majority of reports to the SCHRTF were about “hate incidents.”

### Kinds of Hate and the Settings in which Experienced

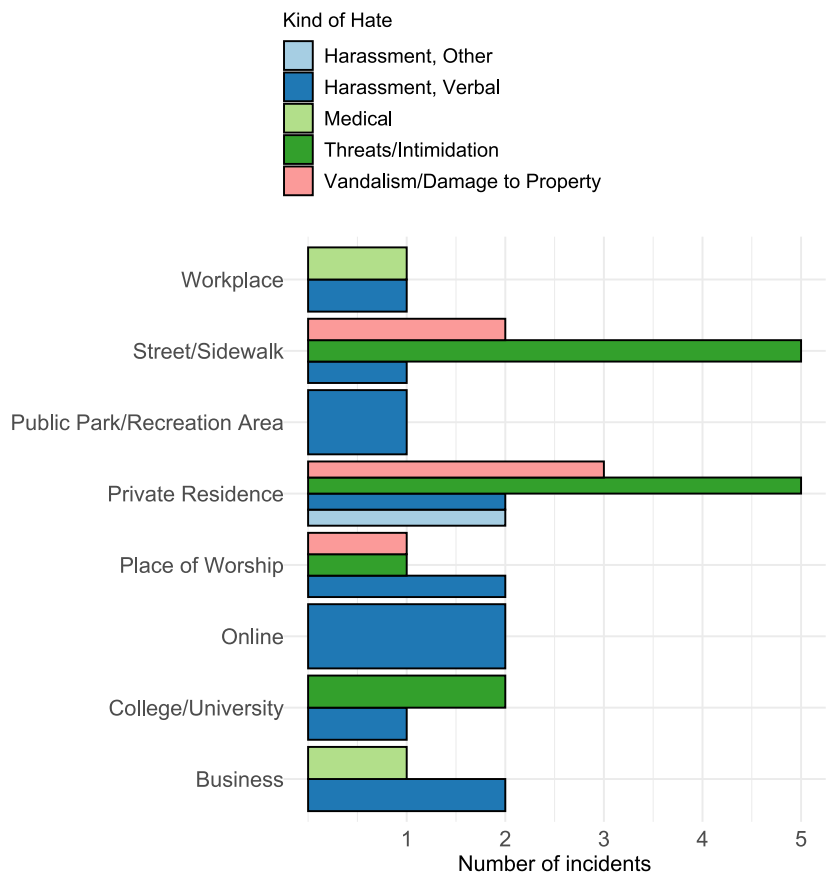
The Hate Documentation Project identifies the following kinds of hate: verbal harassment, sexual harassment, other harassment, threats/intimidations, physical violence, robbery, sexual violence, vandalism/damage to property, stalking, medical, or other.

This graph shows that most of the hate reported was either in the form of Vandalism/ Damage to Property or Threats/ Intimidation and that they mostly occurred at Private Residences or on Streets/Sidewalks. Verbal Harassment tended to occur equally across the spectrum of settings.



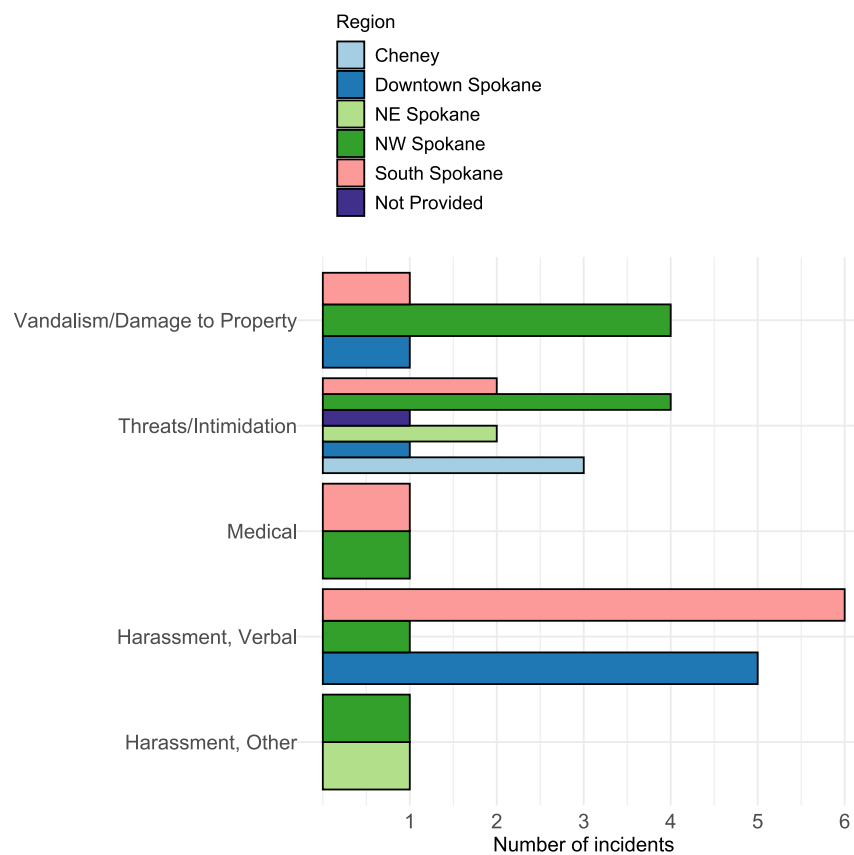
## Different Settings and the Kinds of Hate Experienced

This graph indicates that a wider variety of Kinds of Hate tended to occur at Private Residences than in other settings.



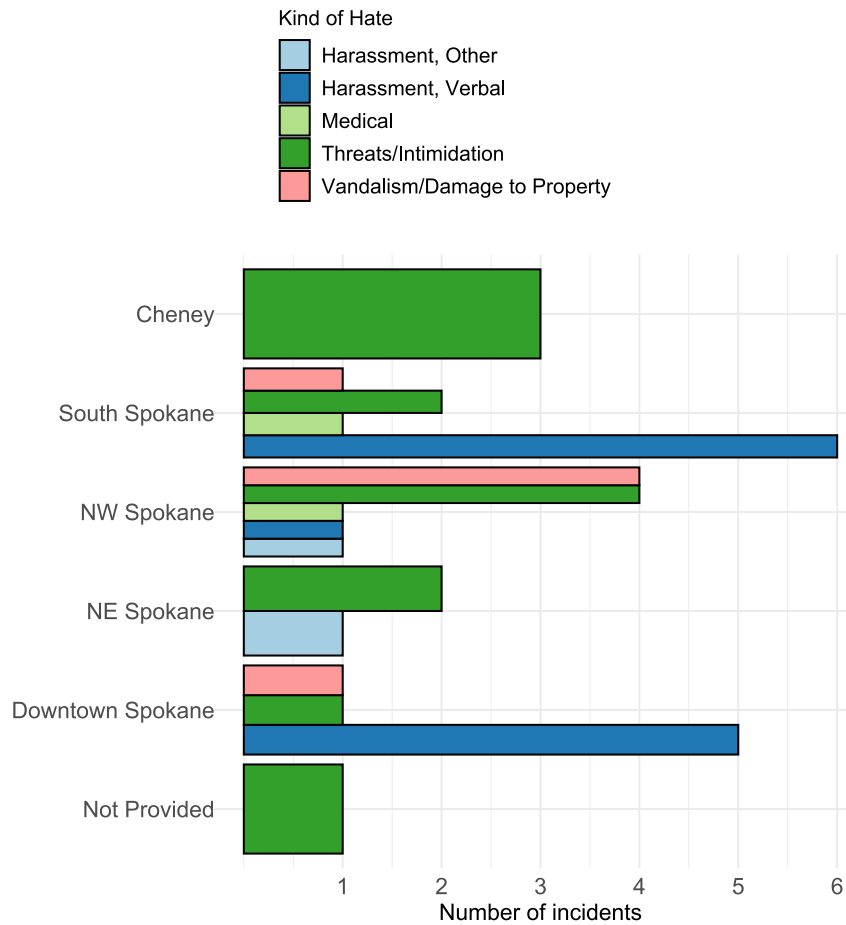
## Kinds of Hate Experienced and Locations in Spokane County

This graph suggests that Vandalism/Damage to Property occurred predominantly in NW Spokane while Harassment (Verbal) occurred predominantly in South Spokane and Downtown Spokane. Threats/Intimidation tended to occur in a wider variety of locations.



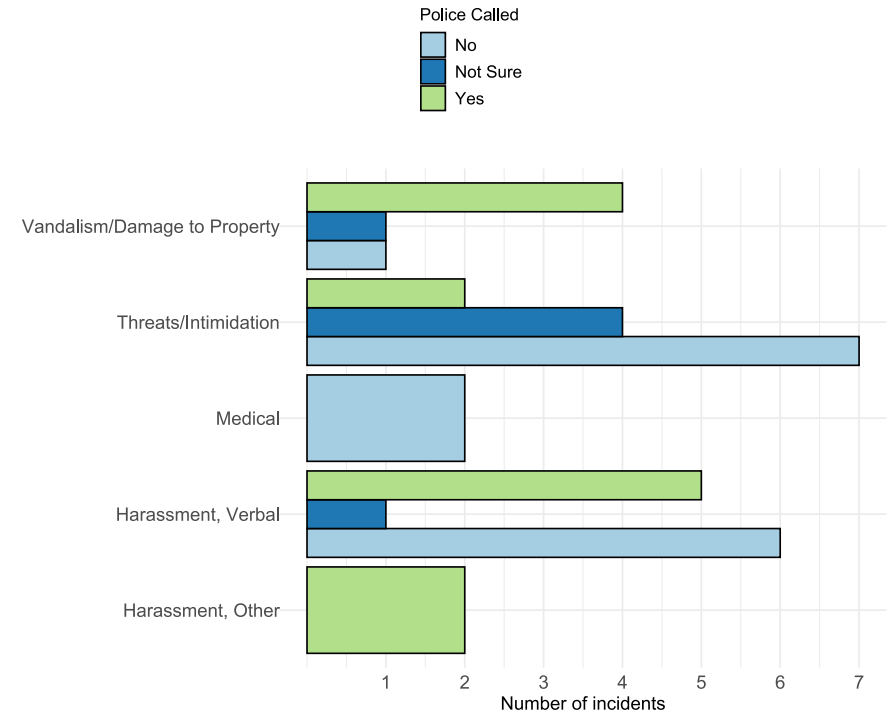
## Locations in Spokane County and the Kinds of Hate Experienced

This chart suggests that a wider variety of Kinds of Hate tended to occur in South Spokane and NW Spokane and that Verbal Harassment tended to be concentrated in South Spokane and Downtown Spokane.



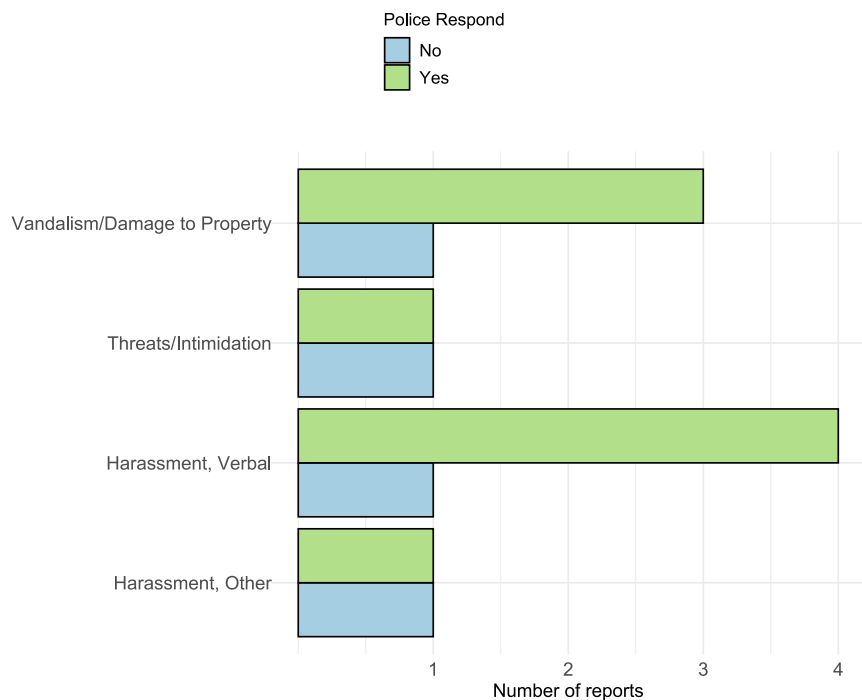
## Kinds of Hate Experienced and Whether Police Were Called

This graph suggests that, except for Vandalism/Damage to Property and Harassment (Verbal), most Kinds of Hate Experienced weren't reported to Police.



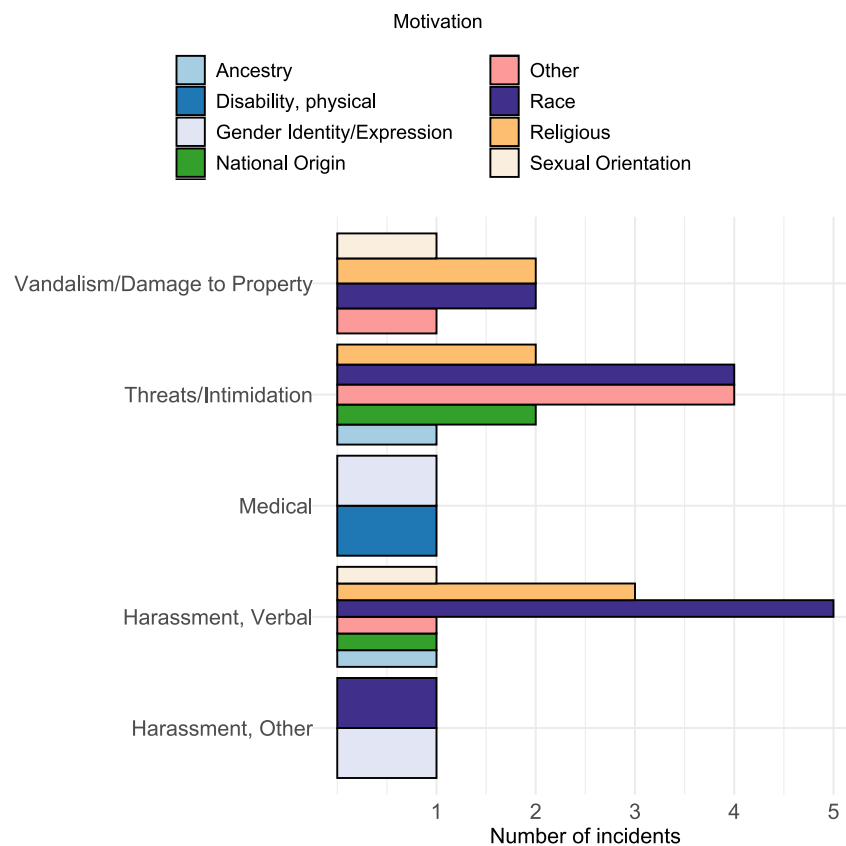
## Police Response to Reports of Different Kinds of Hate

Police tended to respond more consistently to calls about Verbal Harassment (4 of 5) and Vandalism/Damage to Property (3 of 4), both of which made up a majority of the Kinds of Hate Experienced that were called in.



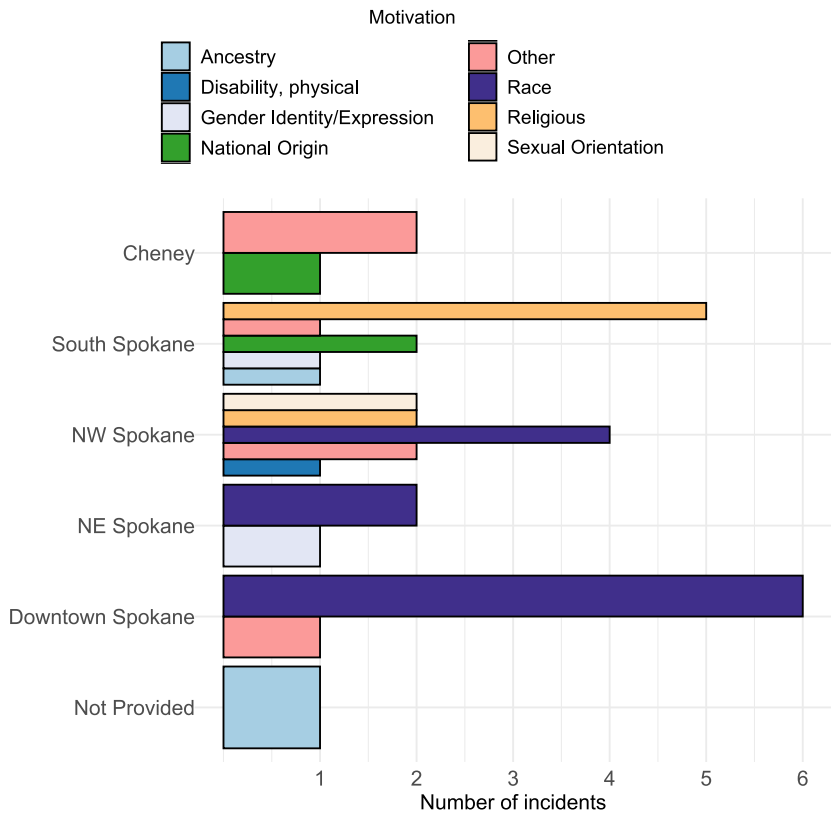
## Motivations for Different Kinds of Hate

This graph indicates that Racism and Religious Hatred were the primary motivators of Different Kinds of Hate Experienced.



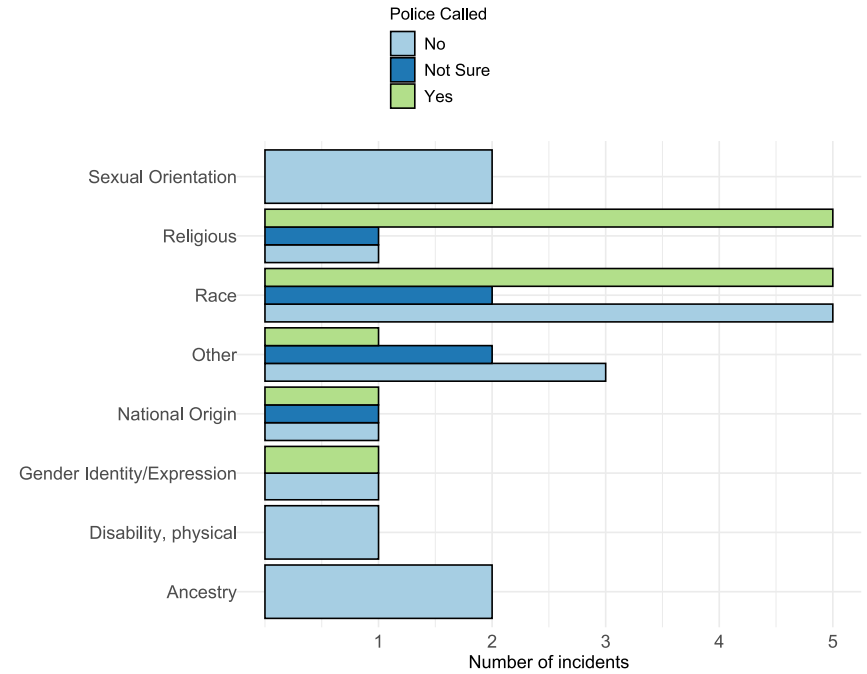
## Motivations and Different Locations in Spokane County

This graph suggests that hate events with Racial Motivations (the plurality of motivations) tended to occur primarily in Downtown and NW Spokane. Religious motivated hate events (in second place) occurred mostly in South Spokane, where it was directed almost exclusively towards Jews). South and NW Spokane experienced a wider variety of hate events based on motivation, whereas in Downtown Spokane events were almost exclusively motivated by race.



## Calls to Police Based on Different Motivations

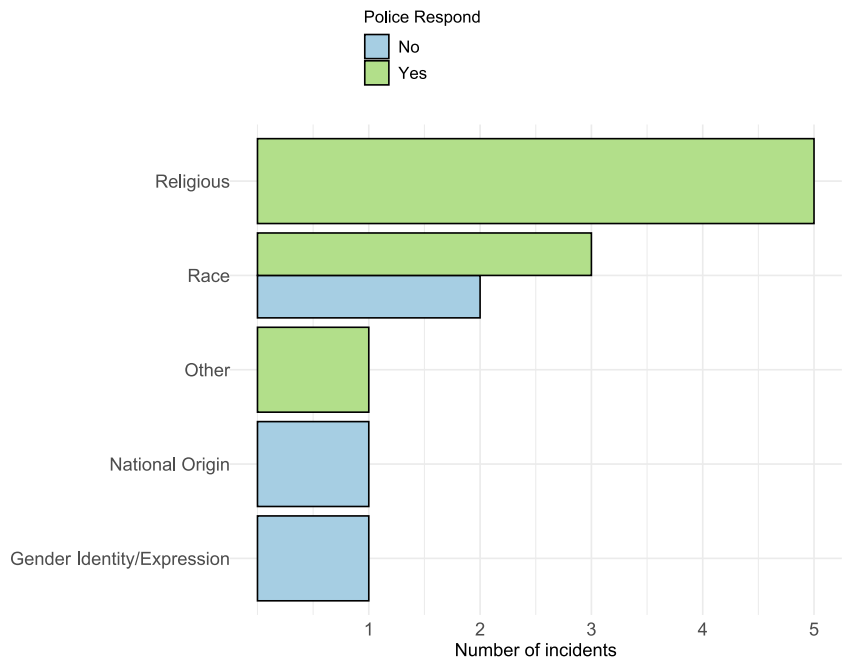
This graph suggests that Police were called most consistently when either a Religious or Racial Motivated hate event was being reported.





## Police Response to Different Motivations if a Call was Made

This graph suggests that Police responded most consistently to calls made after reports of Religious motivated hate.

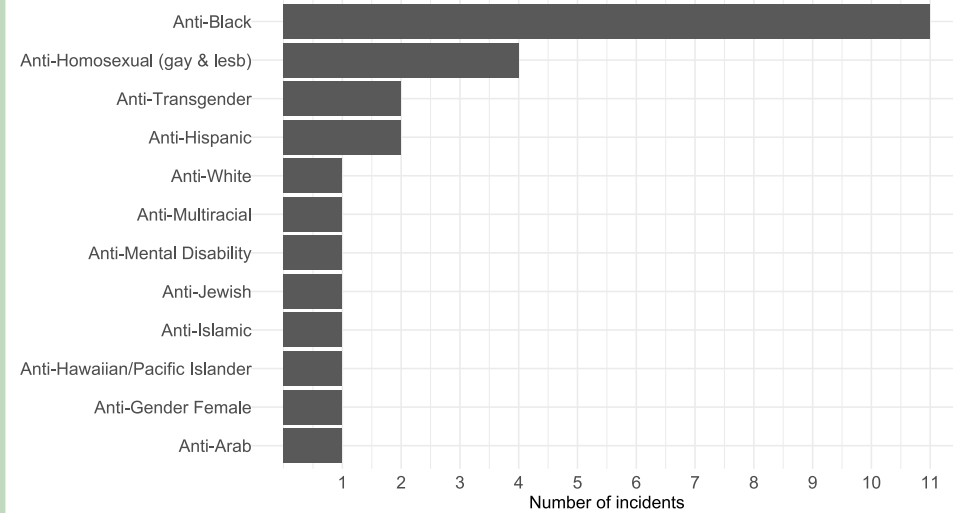


## Hate Crimes Reported to Law Enforcement within Spokane County

There were 26 reports to law enforcement agencies in 2021. Of these, 2 were reports to Kalispel, 2 to Liberty Lake PD, 2 to Cheney PD, 3 to Spokane County Sheriff's Office, 3 to Spokane Valley PD, and 14 to Spokane PD. Of these 26 reports, 13 are Closed/Settled, 3 are Open/Active, 2 are Inactive, 5 are Unassigned/Closed, 2 are Unassigned/INSUF Resource/Closed, and 1 is Assigned/Open. Please note that the different categories of the types of bias, location scenes, locations in Spokane County and crime code descriptions were determined by the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.

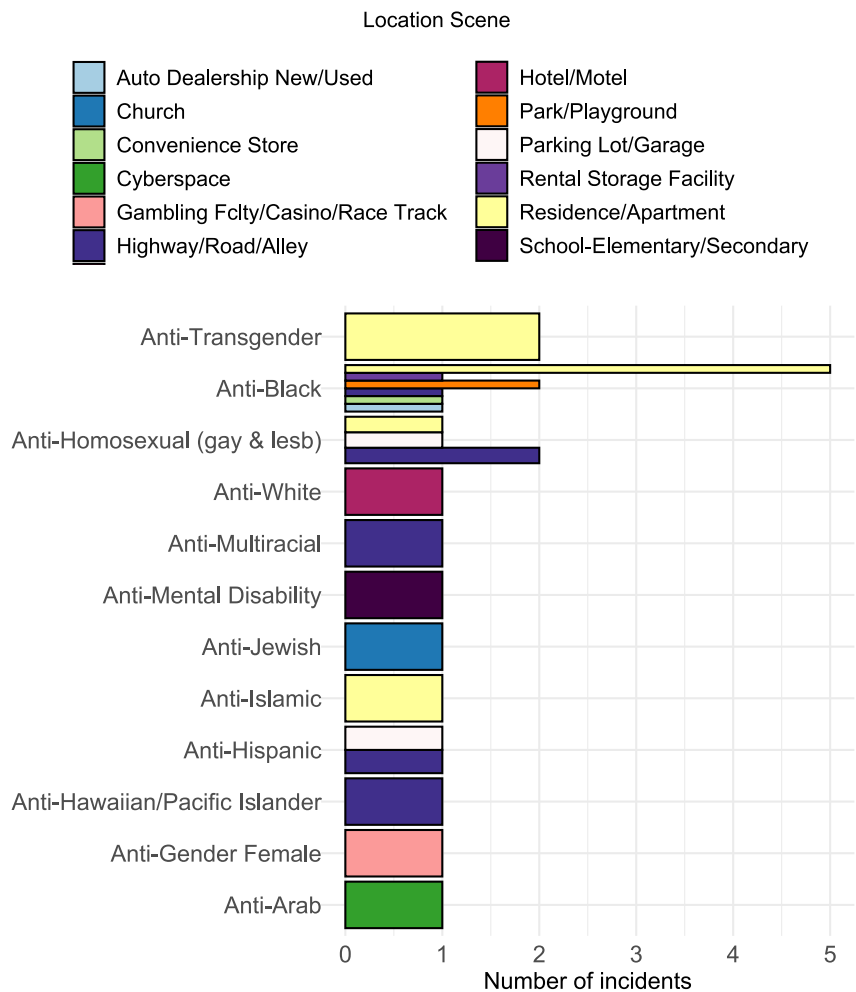
### Types of Bias

In terms of different bias categories, there was 1 report of disability bias, 2 of gender identity, 2 of religion, 1 of gender, 4 of sexual orientation, and 17 of biases that are based on race/ethnicity/ancestry. Please note that one report to the Cheney PD contained two biases - one related to sexual orientation (Anti-Homosexual) and the other related to race (Anti-Black). This report is therefore being treated as 2 in the following analysis. More details of the specific biases are provided below.



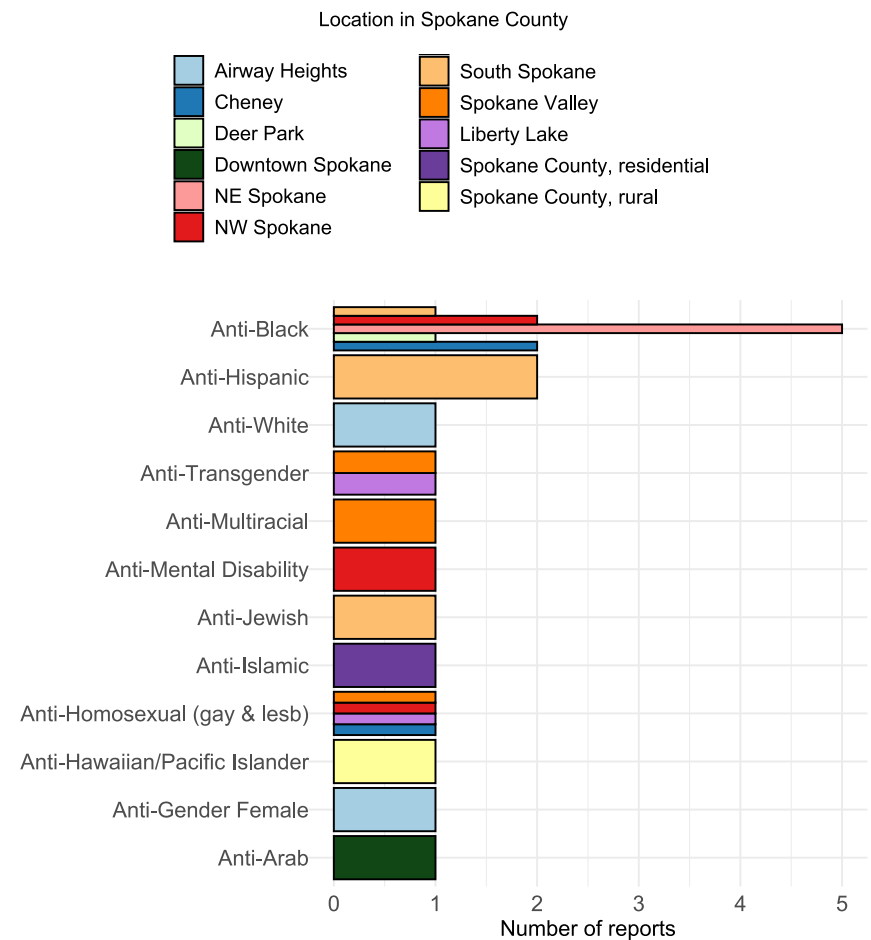
## Types of Bias and in What Location Scene They Occurred

This graph suggests that Anti-Black bias occurred in many location scenes, while most of the other biases occurred in limited location scenes. (We interpret the word "Church" to mean a "place of worship.")



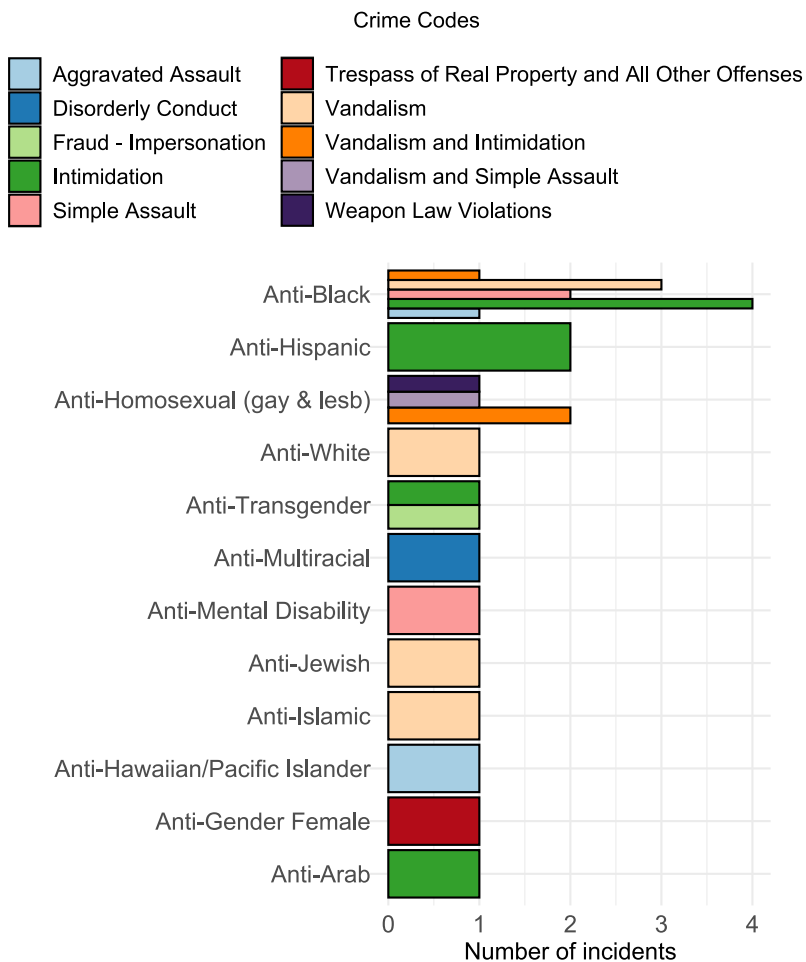
## Types of Bias and Locations in Spokane County

This graph suggests that Anti-Black and Anti-Homosexual (gay & lesb) biases tended to occur in many locations in Spokane County, while other biases occurred in either one or two locations.



## Type of Bias and Crime Code Description

This graph suggests that there are many more crime codes associated with Anti-Black bias than with any other bias.



## Discussion of Results

### Hate Reporting Tool Data

#### Experiences of Hate

The largest number of reports received by the SCHRTF were related to threats and intimidations (37%) followed by verbal harassment (34%). Vandalism and damage to property (17%), medical (6%), and other harassment (6%) make up the rest of the data. There were no reports of other types of hate experienced that the reporting tool documents: sexual harassment, robbery, physical violence, sexual violence, and stalking.

Threatening and intimidating acts were reported to have occurred in these locations: Northwest Spokane (31%), Cheney (23%), South Spokane (15%), Northeast Spokane (15%), Downtown Spokane (8%), and Not Provided (8%). The settings in which threatening and intimidating acts occurred were on streets/sidewalks (38%), private residences (38%), colleges/universities (15%), and places of worship (8%).

Reports of verbal harassment occurred in a variety of settings: the workplace, street/sidewalk, and colleges/universities at 9% each, as well as 18% each at public park/recreation areas, private residences, online, and businesses. Verbal harassment was reported to have occurred in these locations: South Spokane (50%), Downtown Spokane (42%), and NW Spokane (8%).

#### Motivations for hate

Race was a motivation in all hate types experienced except for medical. In each category where race was represented, it was either the dominate motivation or equal to another motivation. Religion was another motivation for hate that occurred across all expressions of hate except medical and other harassment. Race accounted for the dominate number of motivations at 35% of all reports. Religion was the second highest at 20% followed closely by Other at 17%. National Origin (9%), Ancestry (6%), Gender Identity/Expression (6%), Sexual Orientation (6%), and Disability, Physical (2%) make up the rest of the motivations.

It is possible to see what locations the three most reported motivations occurred. Of racially motivated acts, 50% were reported in Downtown Spokane, 33% in NW Spokane, and 17% in NE Spokane. For religiously motivated acts, 71% were reported in South Spokane and 29% were reported in NW Spokane. For reports based on Other, 33% were in Cheney, 17% in South Spokane, 33% in NW Spokane, and 17% in Downtown Spokane.

#### Police responses

Another aspect of this report was to determine if police were called and whether they responded to the call. This report shows that police were not called 16 times (46%), called 13 times (37%), and unsure was 6 (17%). If people were third-party reporters, they may not know whether the police were called so they selected not sure. When police were called, they were more likely to be called after acts of vandalism and damage to property and other harassment. They were less likely to be called for the areas of

threats and intimidation, medical, and verbal harassment. Out of the thirteen times police were called, they were reported as responding 9 times (69%) and not responding 4 times (31%).

Based on motivation for the crimes and incidents it is possible to see which motivations sparked the highest calls to police. To determine percentages, the Not Sure category was removed from the calculations. For the categories of Ancestry, Disability Physical, and Sexual Orientation, no calls were made to the police. For the categories of Race, National Origin, and Gender Identity/Expression 50% of the incidents led to a report to the police. For Religion it was 83% and for Other it was 25%. Though the numbers are low for each category, there seems to be a higher propensity for people who experience religiously motivated hate to contact police. The lower numbers for other groups can indicate a concern that police might not respond positively to their reports or may revictimize them.

Of the reports submitted for religiously motivated and other hate, police responded 100% of the time, for racially motivated hate they responded 60% of the time, and for national origin and gender identity/expression they did not respond.

### Law Enforcement Data

The bias type most often reported to police was race and ethnicity (anti-Black, anti-Hispanic, anti-White, anti-Multiracial, anti-Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and anti-Arab) making up 65% of all reports. Of those reports, 65% were anti-Black reports. The next highest percentage of reports concerned the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities at 23%. Of these reports, 67% were anti-Homosexual and 33% were anti-Transgender. Residence/Apartments reflect 35% of the locations for submitted reports. The next most reported location was Highway/Road/Alley at 23%.

Regarding where in Spokane County Hate Crimes are being reported, the data indicates: Northeast Spokane (19%), Northwest Spokane (15%), and South Spokane (15%). Anti-Black and anti-Homosexual/anti-Transgender motivations reflect the most geographically diverse occurrences across Spokane County with them happening across 5 and 4 different locations respectively.

Intimidation at 31% and Offenses Vandalism at 23% are the two most often reported crimes. The next closest was Simple Assault at 12%. Aggravated Assault and Vandalism/Intimidation were 7% each with Disorderly Conduct, Fraud, Trespass of Real Property and All Other, Vandalism and Simple Assault, and Weapon Law Violations at 4% each.

Race/ethnicity and Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender categories seem to experience violence in conjunction with other crimes. Intimidation, simple assault, aggravated assault, vandalism and intimidation, and weapons law violations are associated within these classifications. The two reported cases of religious-based crimes (anti-Jewish and anti-Islam) were both vandalism.

### SCHRTF and Law Enforcement

In both sets of reports, there were similarities related to location scenes, where hate crimes or incidents occurred. Residences/Apartments (38% for SCHRTF, 35% law enforcement) topped the location scenes for hate crimes and incidents. This pattern could indicate that when people feel threatened at their homes, a place where people

expect to feel safe, they are more likely to report an incident than if it happened at a different location. The other most highly reported location scenes were Street/Sidewalk (38%) for SCHRTF and Highway/Road/Alley (23%) for law enforcement.

### Limitations

This report reflects only those hate crimes and hate incidents that were reported to the SCHRTF and law enforcement. Hate crimes and incidents are known to be underreported and that is reflected by the low numbers represented here. With such limited data, we cannot make broad generalized conclusions. For example, the data shows 100% of phone calls to police based on the hate motivations of national origin and gender identity/expression did not receive a response. However, in both categories there is only one case. This data cannot be used to make conclusions about how police respond to reports for these motivations of hate. It is also impossible to determine why there was no response.

The Hate Reporting Tool was designed to serve all of Spokane County, but reports were limited to Cheney, Downtown Spokane, NE Spokane, NW Spokane, and South Spokane.

We did not attempt to merge data from SCHRTF with the data from law enforcement. Therefore, there is the possibility that some of the reports from the two sources are referencing the same event.

### Recommendations

Recommendations and observations that can be made from analysis of the data are provided below.

1. Conduct additional marketing to expand the reach of the Reporting Tool, particularly to those locations in Spokane County from which we received no reports. Marketing can include advertising in local print newspapers and journals, social media, relevant blogs, other internet sites, and outdoor advertising.
2. Increase partnerships with local non-profits, organizations, government agencies, law enforcement agencies, colleges/universities, and businesses. They can add information about the tool to their websites. They can inform their clients, customers, employees, volunteers, the general public, and others about the tool. They may also help people file reports about hate crimes and incidents or file their own third-party reports.
3. Outreach to marginalized groups by law enforcement and the Task Force could help increase the number of reports filed by these groups.

### Conclusion

The SCHRTF Hate Reporting Tool does provide an avenue for Spokane County residents to file confidential accounts of hate events experienced or witnessed that are outside the purview of law enforcement. Though the number of events reported in 2021 were similar for the SCHRTF and law enforcement (24 and 26 respectively), we predict that, with enhanced promotion, the SCHRTF will receive many more confirmed/credible reports of hate activity on an on-going basis.

**SEE IT.**



**REPORT IT.**



Spokane County  
**Human Rights  
Task Force**

[spokanecountyhumanrightstaskforce.org](http://spokanecountyhumanrightstaskforce.org)