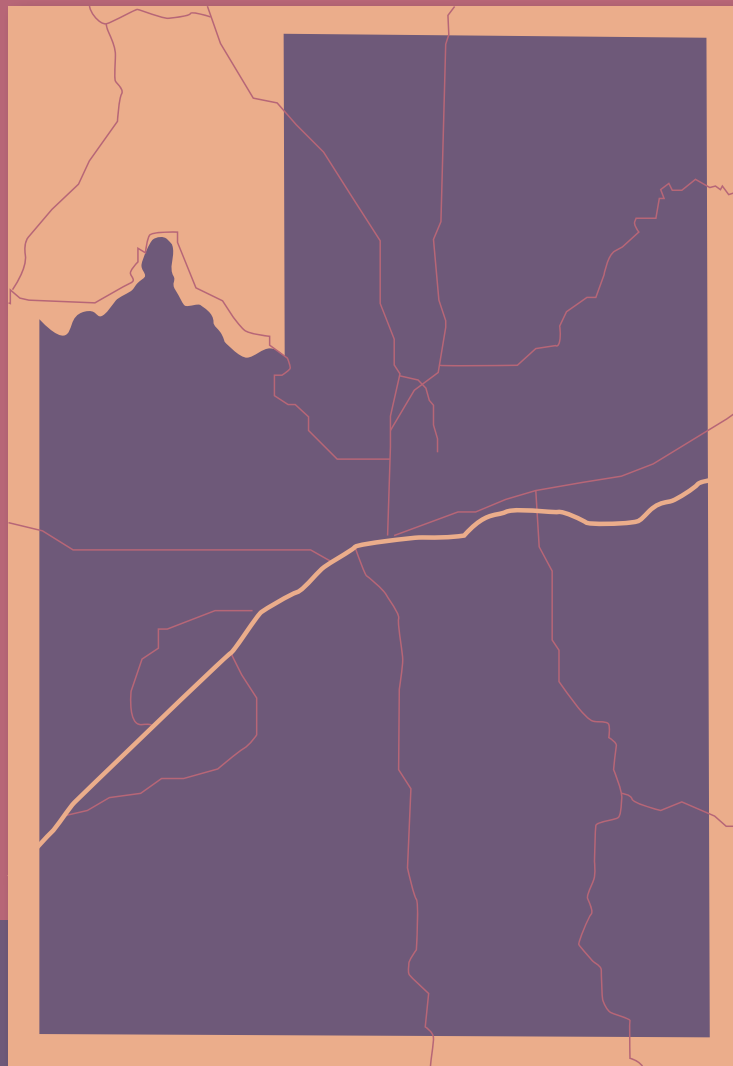




2022 Spokane County Hate Documentation Project Report



Published September 2023

Analysis of Reports to SCHRTF and to Law Enforcement 2022 data

8/30/2023

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Introduction

M.J. was streaming the evening news on a local T.V. station when he noticed something unusual. At each commercial break, in between the usual advertisements, would appear up to 10 ten-second spots recruiting for a white supremacist group. After enduring this for several days, M.J. contacted the Sales Manager of the station. She was appalled, but didn't know how the spots were making it on air. Upon investigation, she learned that the station contracts with a 3rd party agent who inadvertently sold dead time between the usual commercials to the white supremacists. The station leaned on the agent who then removed the offensive spots. Kudos to M.J. and the Sales Manager! More typical of the past year were reports of hate symbols (eg., swastikas) being spray painted on private property and derogatory verbal slurs being directed towards people different from the perpetrators.

That being said, there were very few reports of hate crimes or hate incidents submitted to the SCHRTF in 2022. Of the 23 total reports, 16 were deemed credible or were confirmed. This is compared to 2021 when 55 reports were submitted and 27 were deemed credible or confirmed. Speculation about why this occurred is offered in the "Discussion and Conclusions" section on page 14.

How we determine the credibility of a report is discussed in the 2021 Spokane County Hate Documentation Report, published August 2022, page 6: *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."*

The difference between a "hate crime" and "hate incident" is also discussed in the 2021 Spokane County Hate Documentation Report, page 5:

*According to Washington State 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.*

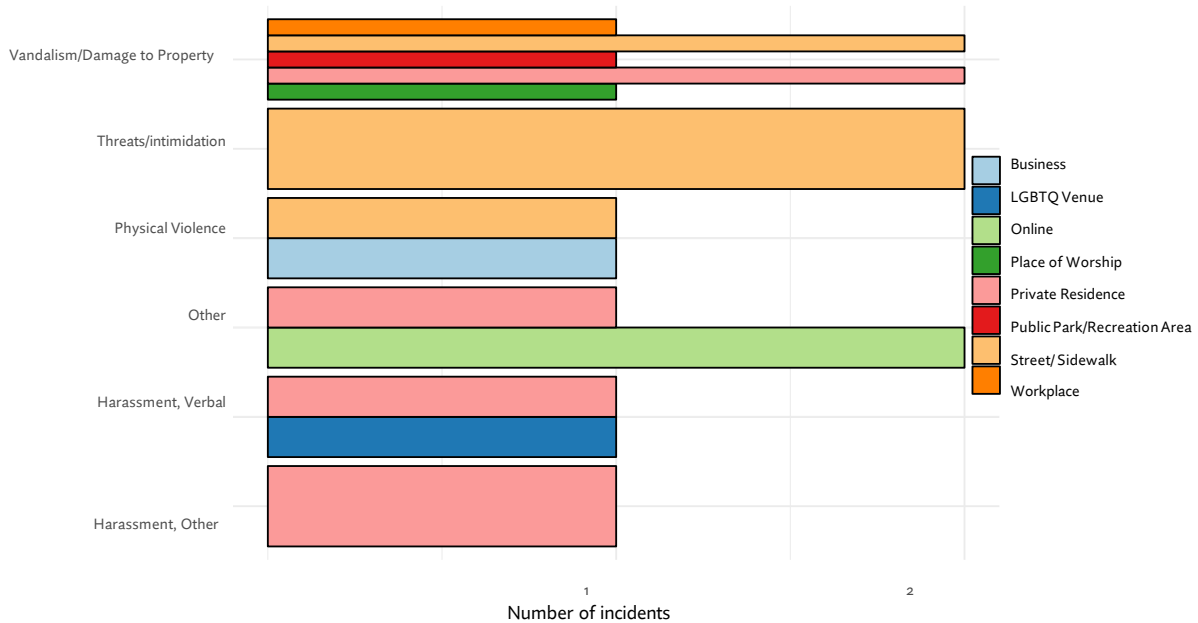
*A **hate incident** is a non-criminal action committed against a person or property, the motive for which is based in whole or in part upon the same characteristics mentioned above along with such additional characteristics as national origin and immigrant status. Because incidents are non-criminal 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.*

Like last year, episodes reported to Law Enforcement and deemed to be **hate crimes** are also charted and analyzed, starting on page 9.

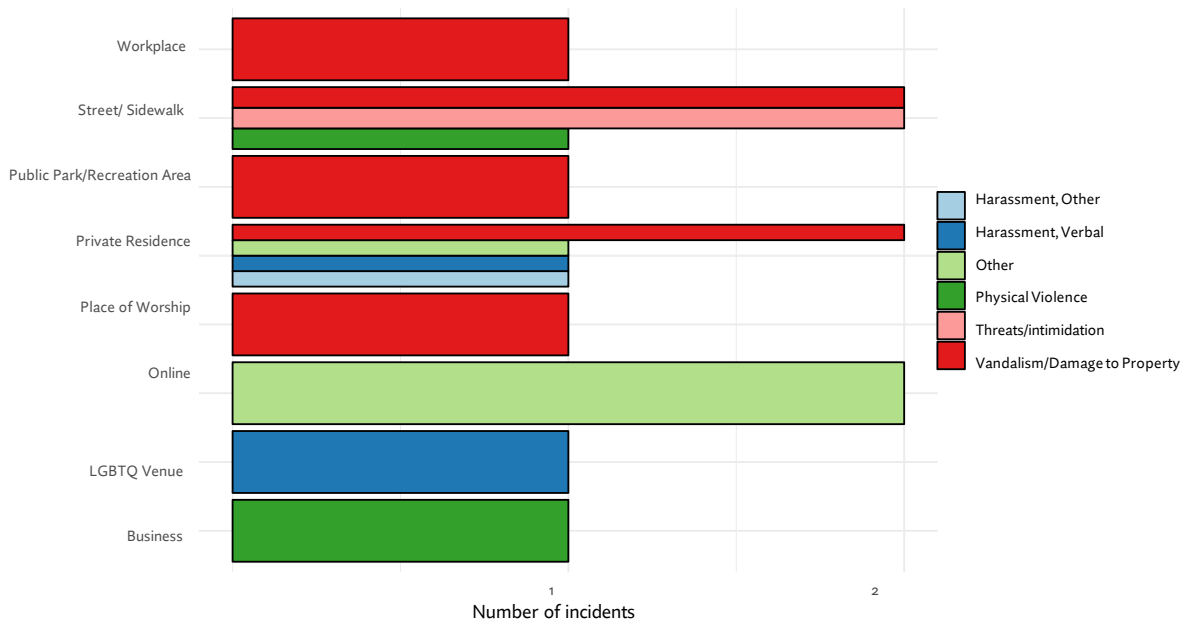
Charts Comparing Different Parameters of Hate Expression

There were 16 reports that were deemed to be credible. One of these one was from 2021 and 15 were from 2022. Given the small number of incidents, raw numbers are being used instead of percentages. In one report, the “Kinds of Hate Experienced” included Vandalism/Damage to property and Verbal harassment. This report is being treated as two reports when comparing “Kinds of Hate Experienced” to “Settings,” “Locations in Spokane County,” “Whether Police were Called/Whether They Responded,” and “Motivations for Hate.”

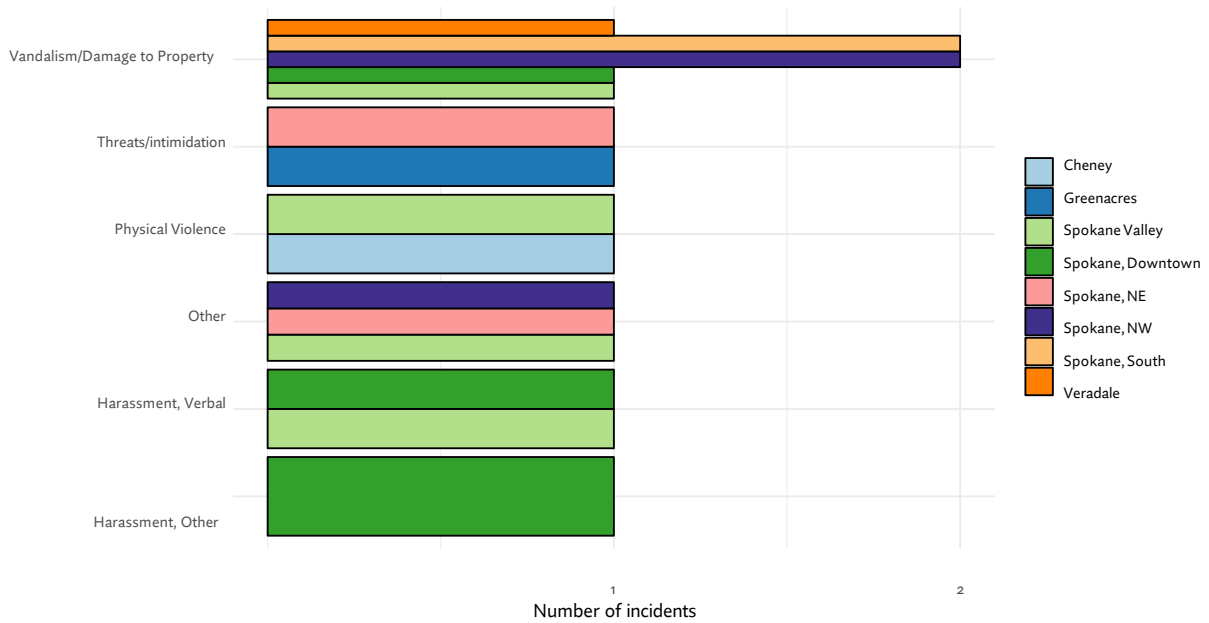
Kinds of Hate Experienced and the Settings in which Experienced



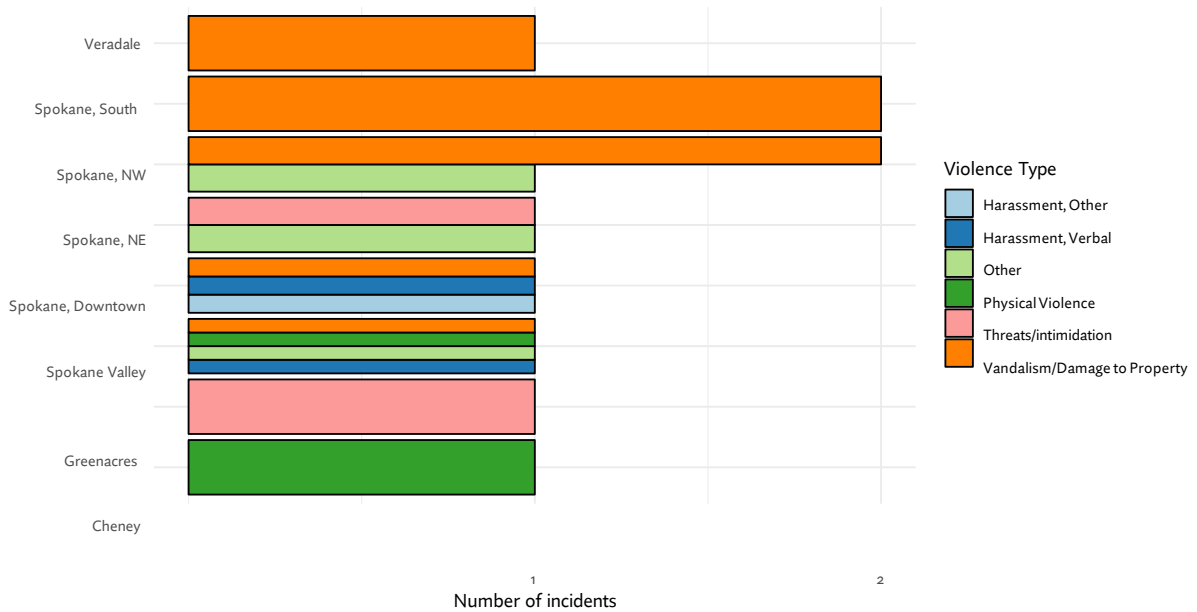
Different Settings and the Kinds of Hate Experienced



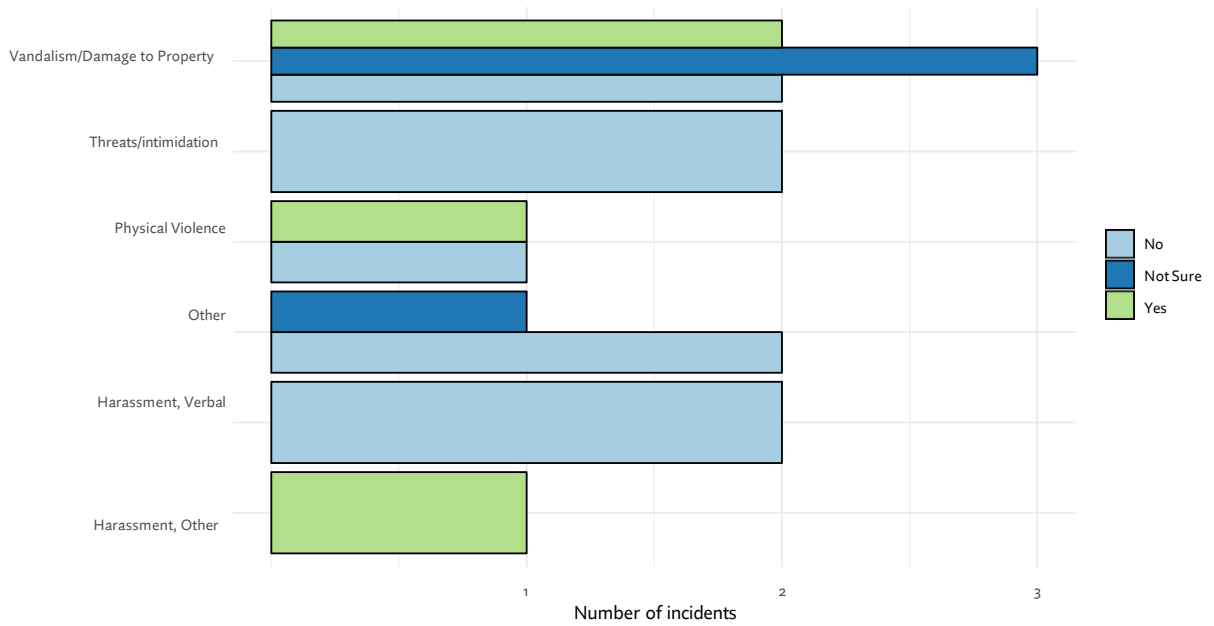
Kinds of Hate Experienced and Locations in Spokane County



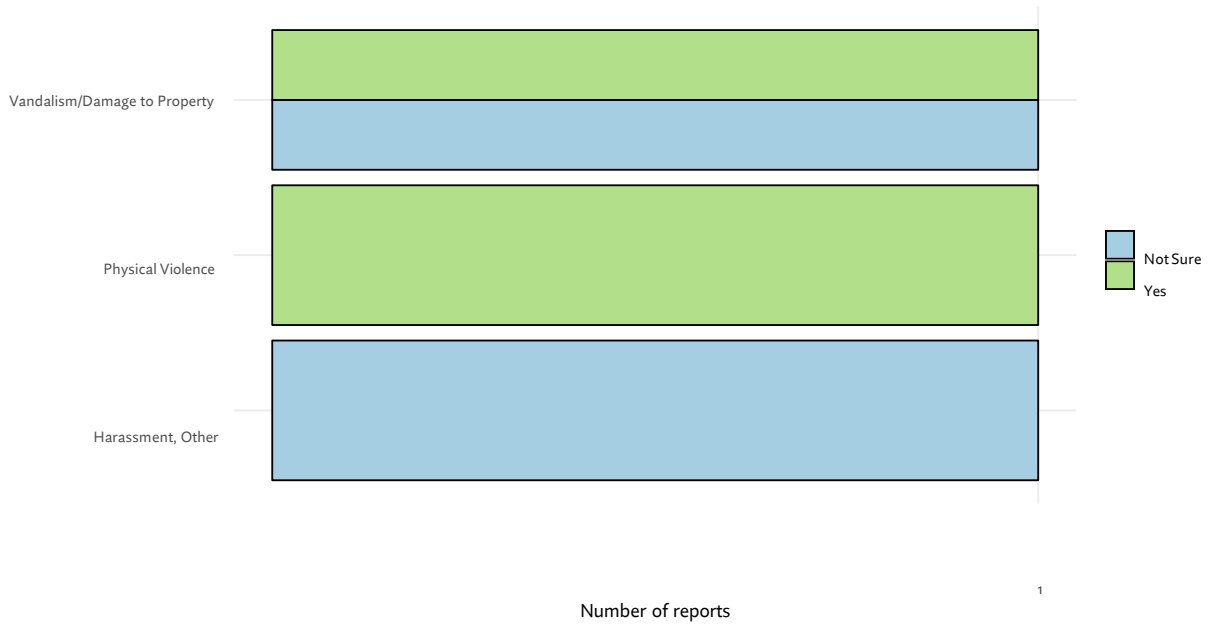
Locations in Spokane County and the Kinds of Hate Experienced



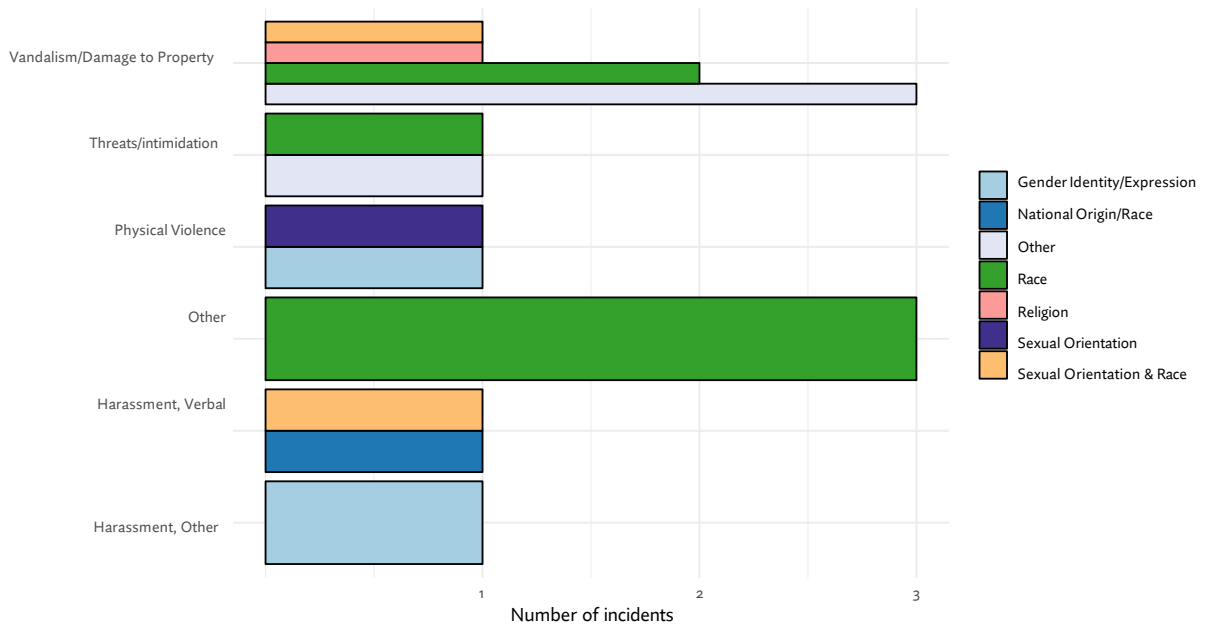
Kinds of Hate Experienced and Whether Police were Called



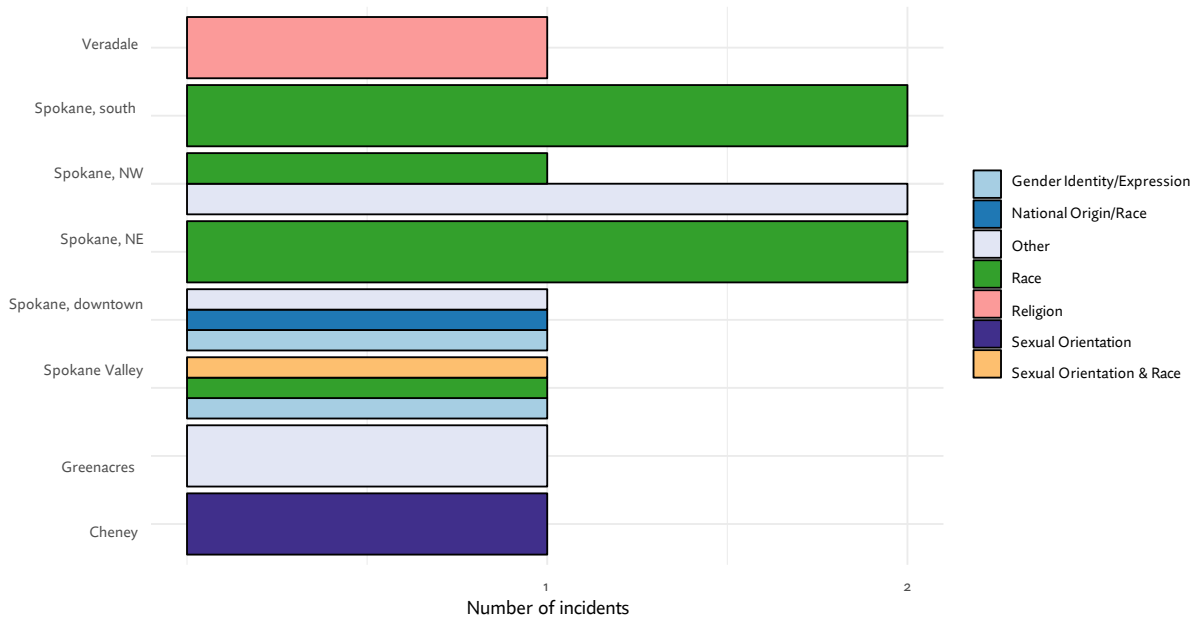
Police Response to Reports of Different Kinds of Hate



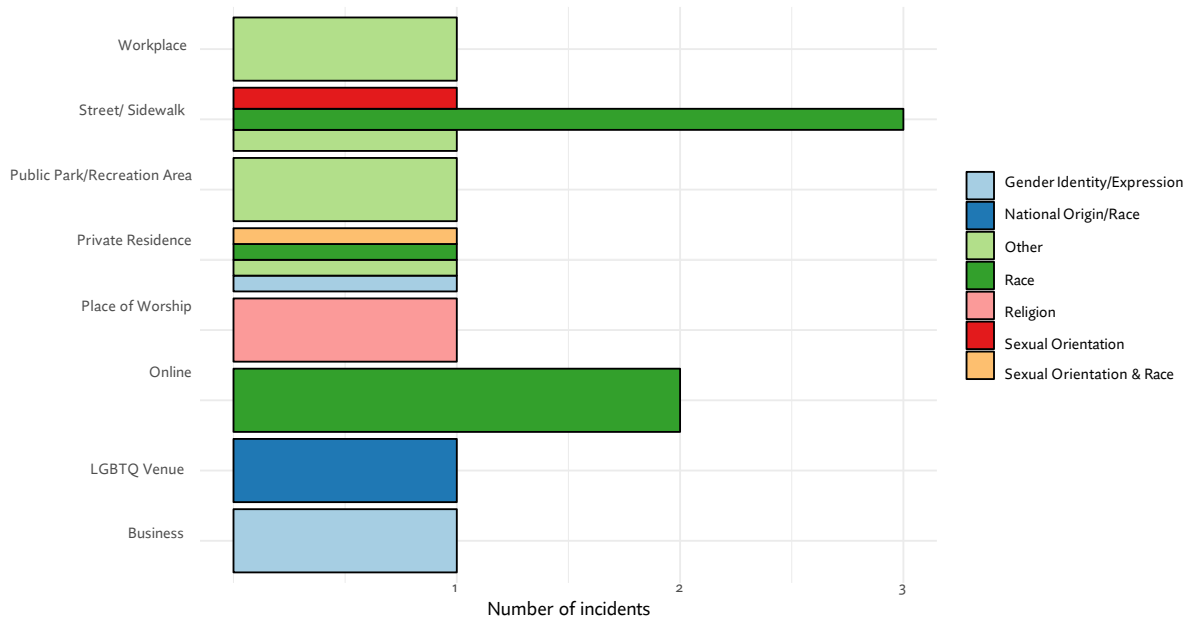
Motivations for Different Kinds of Hate



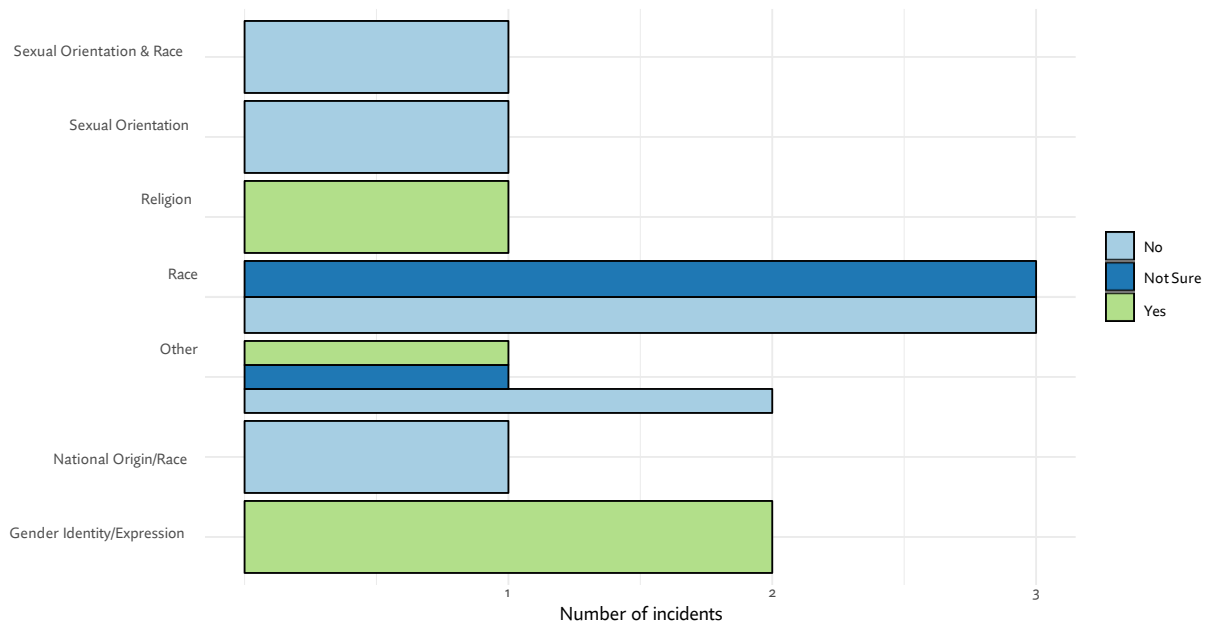
Motivations and Different Locations in Spokane County



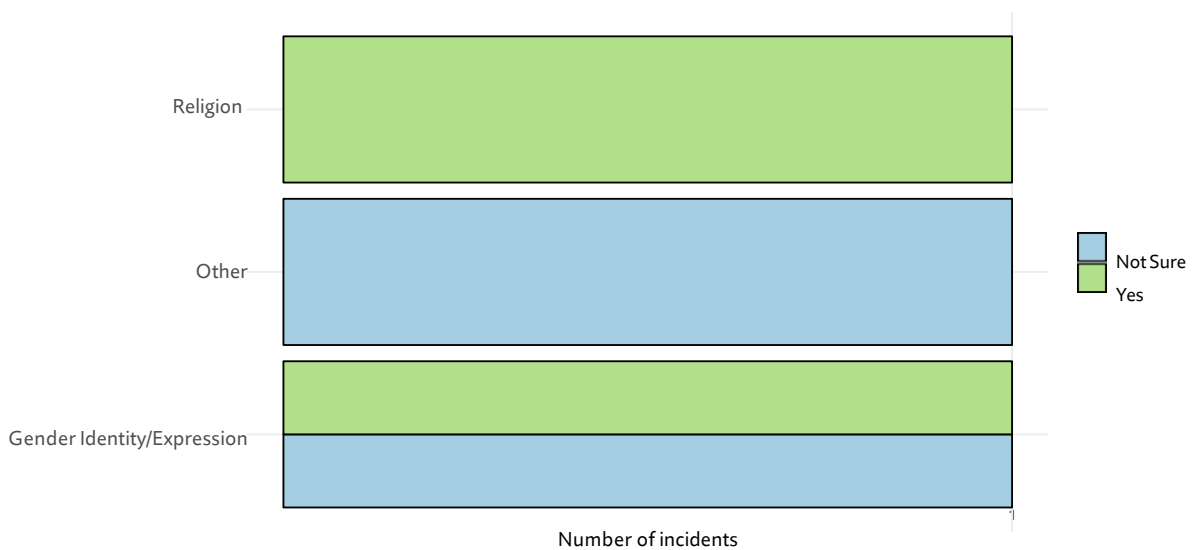
Motivations and Different Settings



Reports to Police Based on Different Motivations



Police Response to Different Motivations if a Report was Made



Analysis of Hate Report Data Submitted to the SCHRTF

It is difficult, and probably inappropriate, to draw any conclusions from the data submitted in 2022, due to the low number of submissions. In terms of a “broad brushstroke” comparison between the 2022 data and the 2021 Report:

Similarities:

- Race was the predominant motivator for hate crimes and incidents in both 2022 and the 2021 Report.
- Like in the 2021 Report, victims and witnesses who submitted reports tended not to call the police, no matter the type of hate experienced.

Differences:

- Vandalism and Damage to Property was the #1 Type of Hate Experienced in 2022, whereas Threats and Intimidation was #1 in 2021.
- Regarding all incidents, most occurred in South and Northwest Spokane in the 2021 Report, whereas there was no predominant location in 2022. • There was no predominant location for race-motivated incidents in 2022, whereas in the 2021 Report they mainly occurred downtown.

Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Data within Spokane County

There were 29 reports from law enforcement agencies in 2022. Of these, 3 were from the Kalispel Tribe, 2 from the Airway Heights PD, 1 from the Liberty Lake PD, 1 from the EWU PD, 2 from the Spokane County Sheriff's Office, 7 from the Spokane Valley PD, and 13 from the Spokane PD.

The total number and geographic distribution of the Law Enforcement reports in 2021 were very similar.

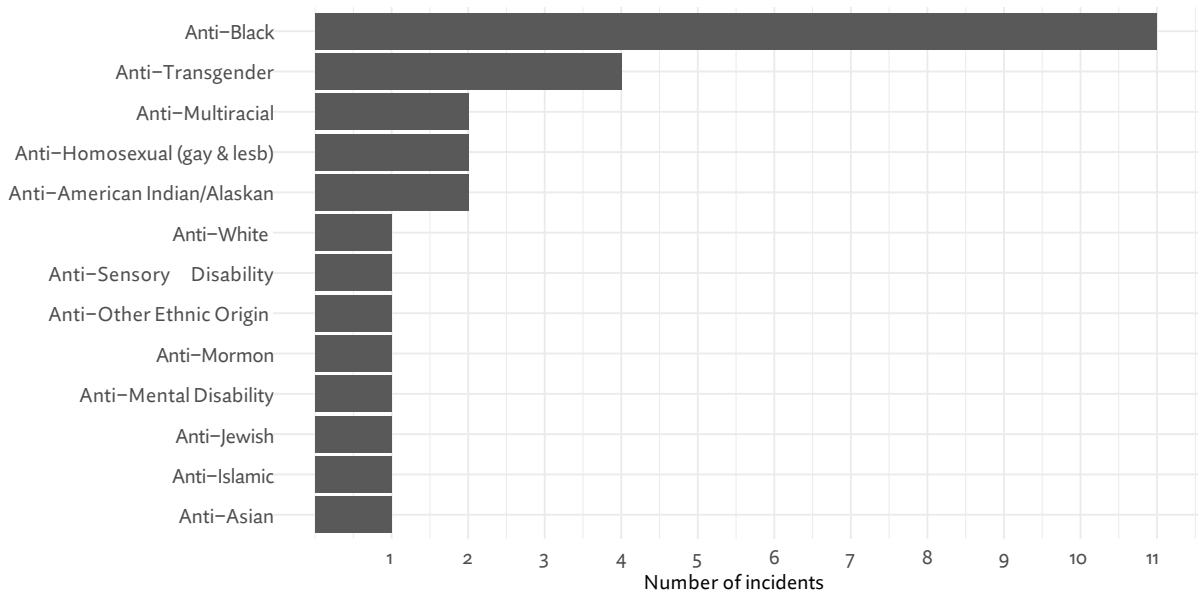
While there were 50% more hate crimes reported by law enforcement in 2022 than reported to the SCHRTF, the total number was still small. Thus, it is difficult to draw solid conclusions from these reports.

Types of Bias

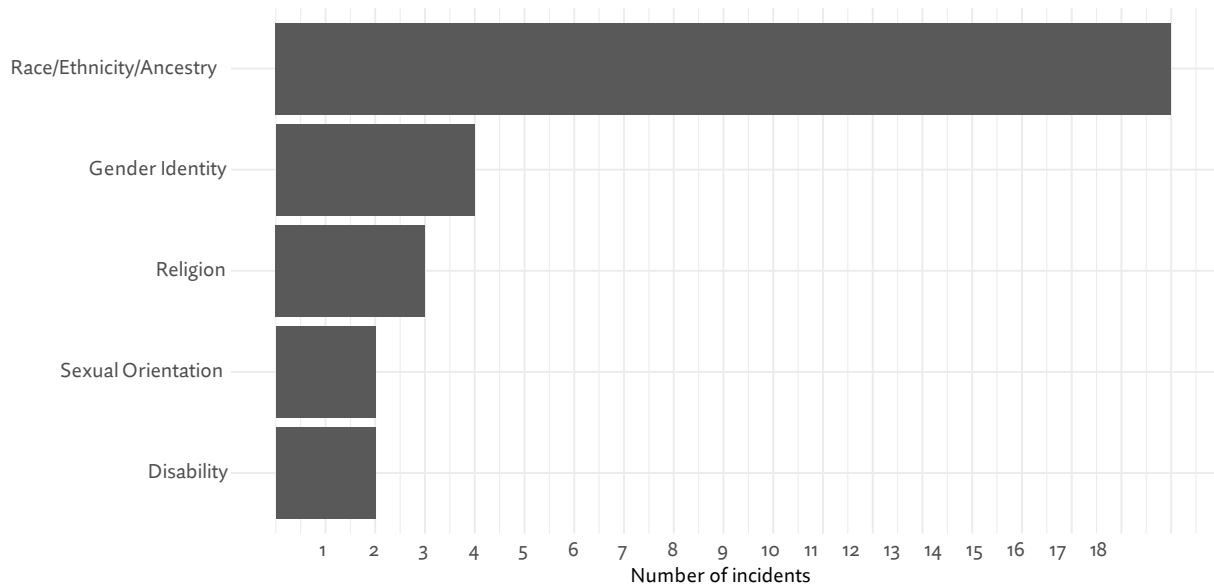
The 2 charts that follow suggest that by far the predominant Type of Bias reported by law enforcement in 2022 was based on Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry, with the majority being anti-Black.

This data is almost identical to that reported by law enforcement in the 2021 Report. This data is also compatible with that reported to the SCHRTF in 2022.

Reports of different types of bias



Reports of different categories of bias



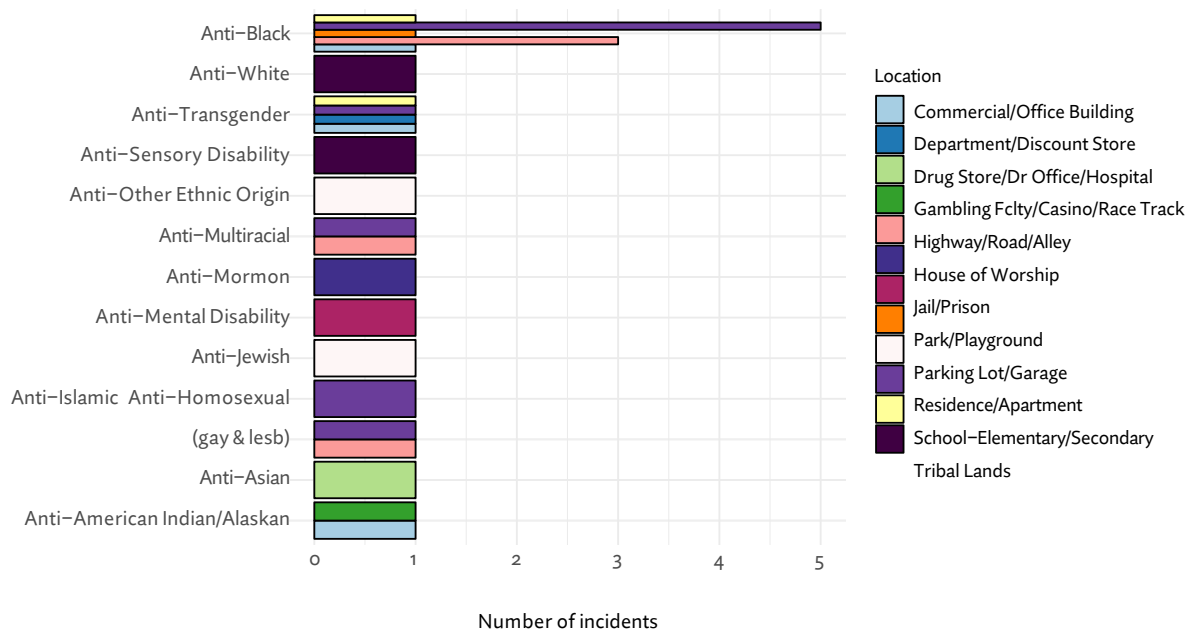
Types of Bias and Location Scenes of their Occurrence

The next two charts suggest that Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry-based and anti-Black hate crimes tend to occur more at home than any other Location Scene.

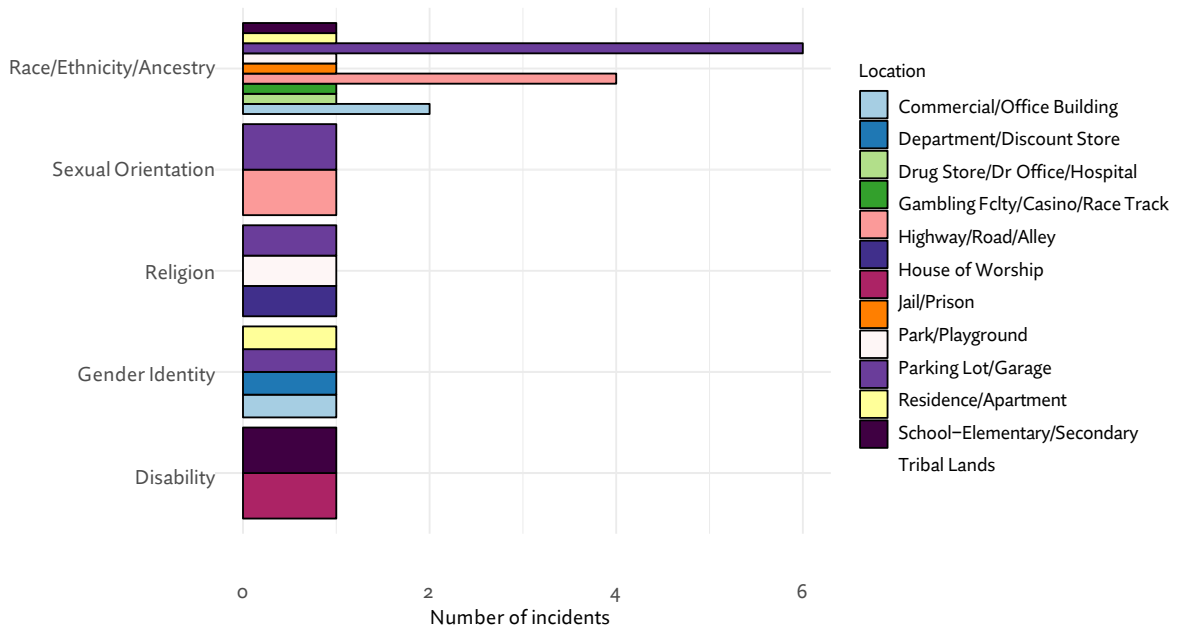
This is consistent with the law enforcement data from the 2021 Report.

Recognizing the limitations associated with the low number of reports submitted to the SCHRTF in 2022, race-based bias incidents appear to have occurred in several settings, including residences, street/sidewalks, and online.

Different types of Bias and Location scenes of their occurrence



Different categories of Bias and Location scenes of their occurrence



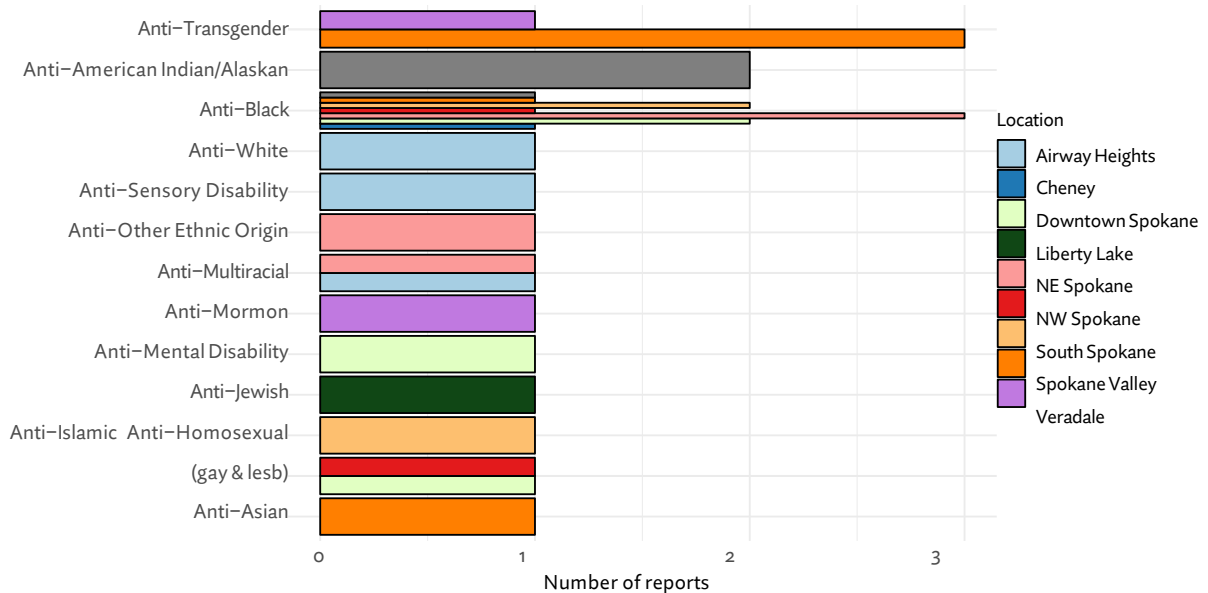
Types of Bias and Locations in Spokane County

The two charts that follow suggest that Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry-based and anti-Black hate crimes tend to occur more in the NE part of the City of Spokane.

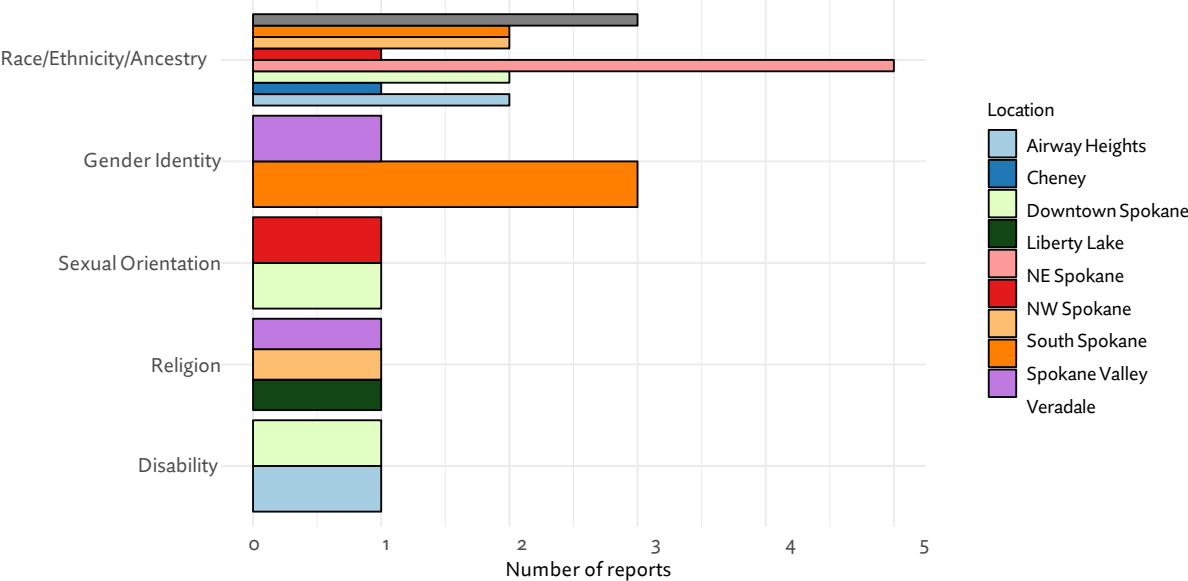
This is in contrast with the 2021 Report where more Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry-based and anti-Black hate crimes occurred in South Spokane.

From reports submitted to the SCHRTF in 2022, race-based bias incidents seemed to have occurred in equal numbers in South and NE Spokane.

Different types of Bias and Locations in Spokane County



Different types of Bias categories and Locations in Spokane County

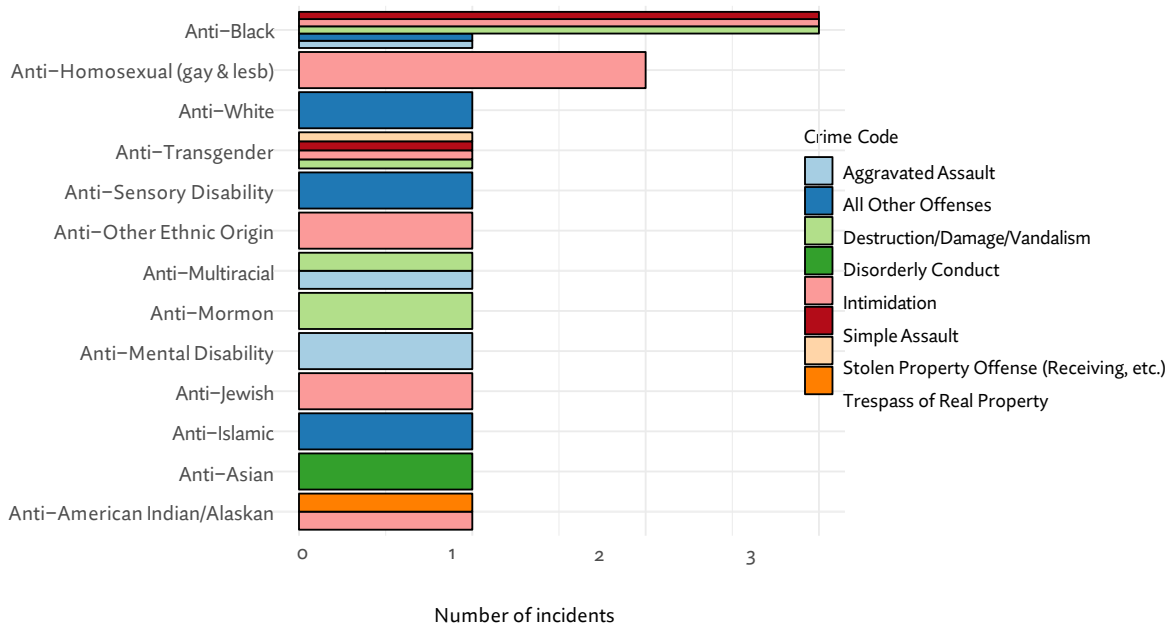


Type of Bias and Crime Code Description

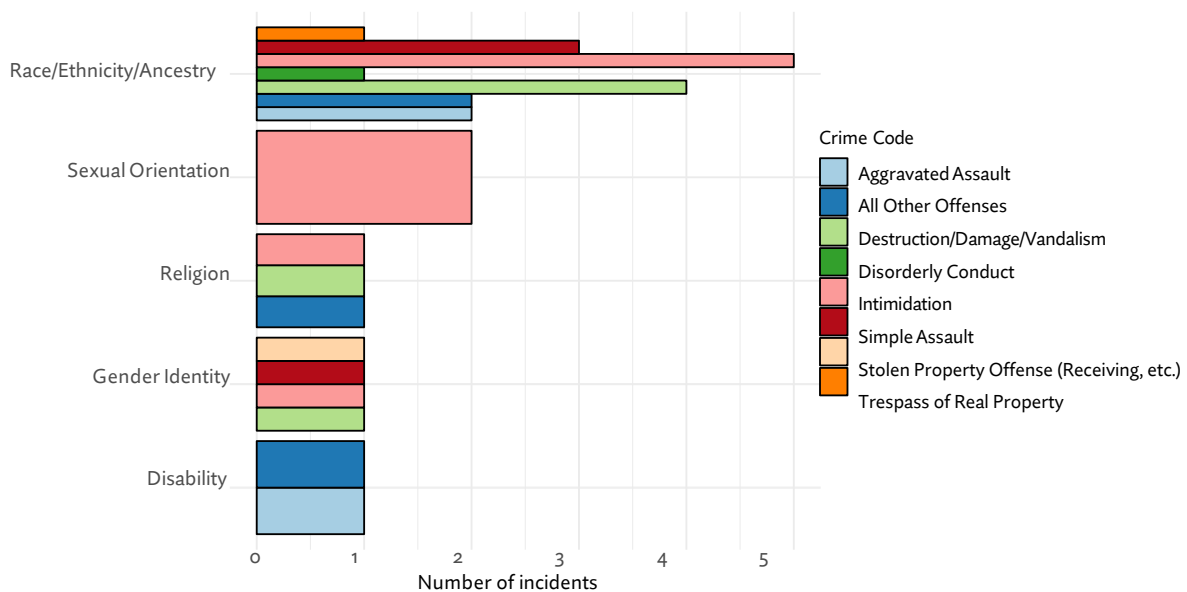
There was one instance of a crime code that was “Not Reportable.” It has been re-classified as “All Other Offenses.”

The next two charts suggest that there were many more Crime Codes associated with anti-Black and Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry-based bias than any other Type of Bias in 2022 – just like in the 2021 Report.

Different types of Bias and Crime Codes



Different types of Bias categories and Crime Codes



Discussion and Conclusions

After a reasonably successful year of data collection in 2021, the SCHRTF embarked on a campaign of Hate Reporting Tool promotion in 2022 that consisted of bus bench advertisements and poster distribution, rather than Facebook advertisements. The results were disappointing. Only half the number of reports were submitted compared to 2021. The difference seems to correlate with the time periods when promotion of the Reporting Tool occurred on Facebook. Supporting evidence: a significant bump in the numbers occurred in the spring of this year (2023) when Facebook was again used to advertise the Tool. Another method of getting the word out was initiated in the second half of 2022 when the Task Force started distributing business cards with guidance on how to access the Tool at various community events (eg, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Asian Pacific Islander-Native Hawaiian Heritage Day, Pride Festival, Juneteenth Celebration, Unity in the Community). Without polling each and every reporter, it is difficult to know which advertising method was most successful at attracting reports.

Hate crime reports from Law Enforcement Agencies in Spokane County in 2022 were comparable to the numbers and results described in the 2021 Report. While there were 50% more hate crimes reported by law enforcement in 2022 than credible and/or confirmed reports to the SCHRTF, the total number was still small making it difficult to draw solid conclusions.

The most consistent finding in the 2021 and 2022 reports of hate to the SCHRTF and from Law Enforcement Agencies in Spokane County was that race was the predominant motivator for hate crimes and incidents.

A trend that was noticed in the 2021 data persisted in 2022: victims and witnesses of hate incidents and crimes tended not to call the police. The Hate Reporting Tool was advertised as having no connection to law enforcement in hopes of attracting people who, for any number of reasons, did not want to interact with the police. Knowing that hate crimes and incidents are vastly under-reported, the Task Force seems to have been successful in documenting some of those events from reporters who would not have wanted to interact with the police.

The SCHRTF will continue to promote its Hate Reporting Tool using all methods currently in use and welcoming other innovative methods not yet considered by the Task Force. It will be revealing to see how many more reports we receive in 2023, compared to prior years. We aspire to have the Hate Reporting Tool become a respected source of data on the incidence of hate events in our county.