COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MPTC

Municipal Police Training Committee

Freedom and Hate: Speech, Crimes & Groups

In-Service Training 2025 | *The First Amendment*

Introductions

- Instructor Introduction
- Professional Background
- Why This Training Matters

Learning Objectives

1. Evaluate the limitations and protections of the First Amendment when differentiating free speech from hate speech using prevalent case law.

2. Review prevalent hate crime statutes, relevant terminology and current hate crimes data.

3. Identify the attributes of hate groups and movements currently active in Massachusetts.

4. Discuss the current resources made available to Massachusetts police officers and victims when investigating hate crimes.

Learning Objective 1

Evaluate the limitations and protections of the First Amendment when differentiating free speech from hate speech using prevalent case law.

What is Hate Speech?

- The United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech defines hate speech as:

  "any kind of communication in speech, writing or behavior, that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are, in other words, based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, color, descent, gender or other identity factor."

- Hate speech:
  - can be conveyed through any form of expression.
  - can be disseminated offline or online.

Cyberhate

- Cyberhate is the use of electronic devices to commit hate crimes; increasing
- Experienced through:
  - Online Forums
  - "Zoombombing"- unwanted disruptions of online learning by a cyber intruder
  - School community communications
  - Online Harassment

Video- Winthrop Antisemitic ‘Zoombombing’

Online Hate Speech

- Technology advances have impacted the spread of hate
- Can be produced and shared easily, at low cost and anonymously.
- Has potential to reach a global and diverse audience in real time.
- Permanence of hateful online content is problematic, can resurface and (re)gain popularity over time.
- All online activity leaves a trail in its metadata→ any investigation about online communications should consider what metadata may be helpful

Video- What Does “Freedom of Speech” Mean in the U.S.?

Hate Speech is Protected Speech

- “Hate speech” is not defined under U.S. law, as it is not an outlawed class of language. It is not treated differently than any other protected speech under U.S. law.
- The United States Supreme Court has held that openly offensive and/or hateful speech do not automatically incite others to imminent lawless actions and are, thus, protected under the United States Constitution.

Restrictions of the First Amendment

- There is a very narrow category of expressive conduct that is NOT protected by the First Amendment.
- These categories include:
    - Obscenities
    - Incitement
    - True threats
    - Defamation
- If speech, hateful or not, falls within one of these unprotected categories, then it is **not** protected by the First Amendment. Speech that does not fall within one of these categories is protected by the First Amendment in most contexts.

Statement 1

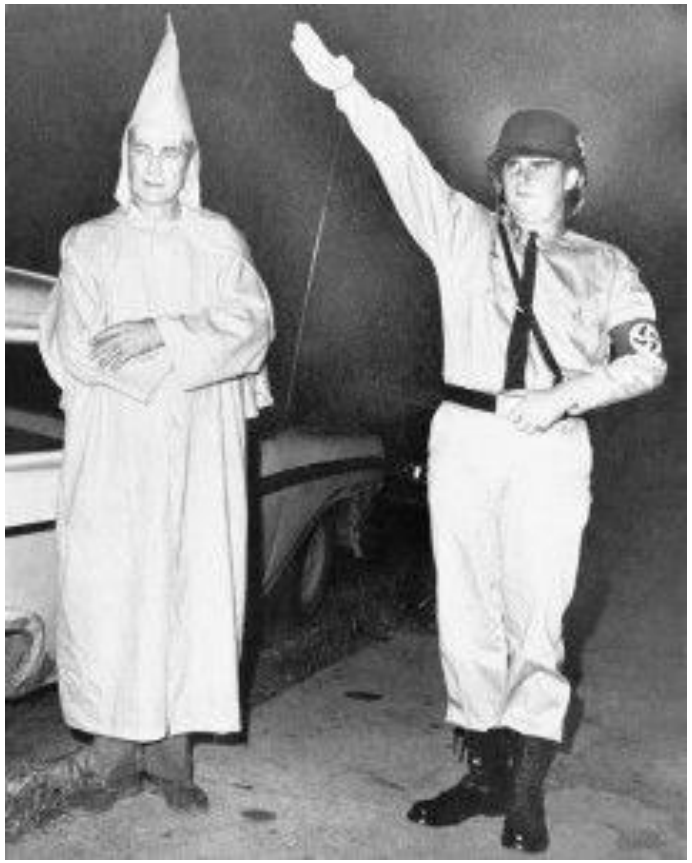
A local white supremacist group is holding a gathering at a local park. Members can be overheard making several anti-Semitic and anti-Black statements. Several members give speeches during the gathering. In one of the speeches which is recorded and later broadcast by a local news station, the speaker says, “Our members are not vengeful. That is not what our group is about. But if this President, this Congress, this Supreme Court continues to suppress the God given rights of the white, Caucasian race, it is possible that some revenge might have to be taken.”

1. ***Would this speech be protected by the First Amendment?***
2. ***Why or why not?***

Brandenburg v. Ohio (1969)

- The U.S. Supreme Court established that speech advocating illegal conduct is protected under the First Amendment unless the speech is likely to incite "imminent lawless action."
- Clarence Brandenburg was the leader of a Ku Klux Klan group in Ohio, the group held a rally during which Brandenburg gave a speech stating:

  "*We're not a revengent organization, but if our President, our Congress, our Supreme Court, continues to suppress the white, Caucasian race, it's possible that there might have to be some revengeance taken*."
- Supreme Court found that the Ohio statute violated the First Amendment because the statute punished mere advocacy and the assembly with others for that advocacy.



Statement 2

The legislature is scheduled to debate a highly publicized proposal for stricter gun regulations on Beacon Hill today. Two groups with opposing views on the proposal have gathered on Boston Common. Local news crews are on scene recording footage of the protests and interviewing some of the attendees. During an interview that is later broadcast during the 6 o'clock news, one of the protesters said:

> *"The world is crazy now. I am afraid to send my kids to school. The Commonwealth has to do more to protect our kids. If this law doesn't pass, I'll have to take matters into my own hands and get a gun. Then the first thing I am going to do is find my local rep and see how much they like my new toy."*

1. ***Would this speech be considered protected?***
2. ***Why or why not?***

Watts v. United States (1969)

- The U.S. Supreme Court held that the First Amendment does not protect true threats.
- In August 1966, an 18-year-old African American war protestor, Robert Watts, attended an anti-war rally at the Washington Monument. During a small discussion about police brutality, Watts said:

  "They always holler at us to get an education. And now I have already received my draft classification as 1-A and I have got to report for my physical this Monday coming. I am not going. If they ever make me carry a rifle the first man I want to get in my sights is L.B.J. . . .They are not going to make me kill my black brothers."

- Supreme Court determined that the "political hyperbole" at issue here did not qualify as a true threat.

Statement 3

An individual is attending the annual town fair. It is a busy Saturday, and the fair is well attended by families with young children as well as adults. A woman tells you there is someone wearing a vulgar t-shirt in line to get tickets. You go to the ticket booth and see a female, 20-25 years old, wearing a t-shirt that says, "*Fuck the Police*."

1. ***Is this protected speech?***
2. ***Why or why not?***

Cohen v. California (1971)

- The U.S. Supreme Court established that the government cannot, without a particularized and compelling reason, criminalize the display of profane words in public places.
- In April 1968, Paul Robert Cohen wore a jacket bearing the words "*Fuck the Draft*" into a Los Angeles courthouse.
- The U.S. Supreme Court found that individuals cannot be punished for expressing their views. Nothing in the wearing of the shirt would rise to the level of incitement or threatening.
- People who were offended by Mr. Cohen's jacket could "avoid further bombardment of their sensibilities simply by averting their eyes."

Statement 4

Earl Sholley was an active member of a father's rights organization. The group was critical of the justice system and what it believed to be the unfair treatment of men in domestic violence cases. Sholley and other members of the group often protested outside the local District Court. Sholley also directed some of his activities toward the Assistant District Attorney (ADA) who handled the majority of domestic violence cases in that court.

Sholley went to the courthouse one day to check on a domestic violence trial that started the previous day. He was told by the court officer that the defendant had been found guilty and was sentenced to the house of correction. Upon learning this, Sholley began yelling and shouting. When he got to the top of a set of stairs he yelled several times "*This means war! There's going to be bloodshed all over the streets!*"

When the ADA heard the commotion, she left the courtroom on the first floor and headed up the stairs. She encountered Sholley, whom she recognized from prior dealings, on the stairs. Sholley pointed a finger in the ADAs face and yelled, "*Watch out, Counselor*."

1. ***Would this speech be considered protected?***
2. ***Why or why not?***

Commonwealth v. Sholley (2000)

- Sholley argued that his statement to the ADA did not express an intent to commit a crime. In its decision the court found that when considering whether words constitute a threat, context matters.

  > *"the assessment whether the defendant made a threat is not confined to a technical analysis of the precise words uttered. Rather, the jury may consider the context in which the allegedly threatening statement was made and all of the surrounding circumstances."*

- When the statements were made, the defendant was yelling and screaming as he ran through the halls and down the stairs of the courthouse and was described by witnesses as being "out of control." Based upon the statement made in this context, it was reasonable for a jury to find that the statement was intended to be a threat.

Statement 5

Fred Phelps founded the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas. Members of the congregation often picket military funerals because of the church's belief that "God hates and punishes the United States for its tolerance of homosexuality, particularly in America's military."

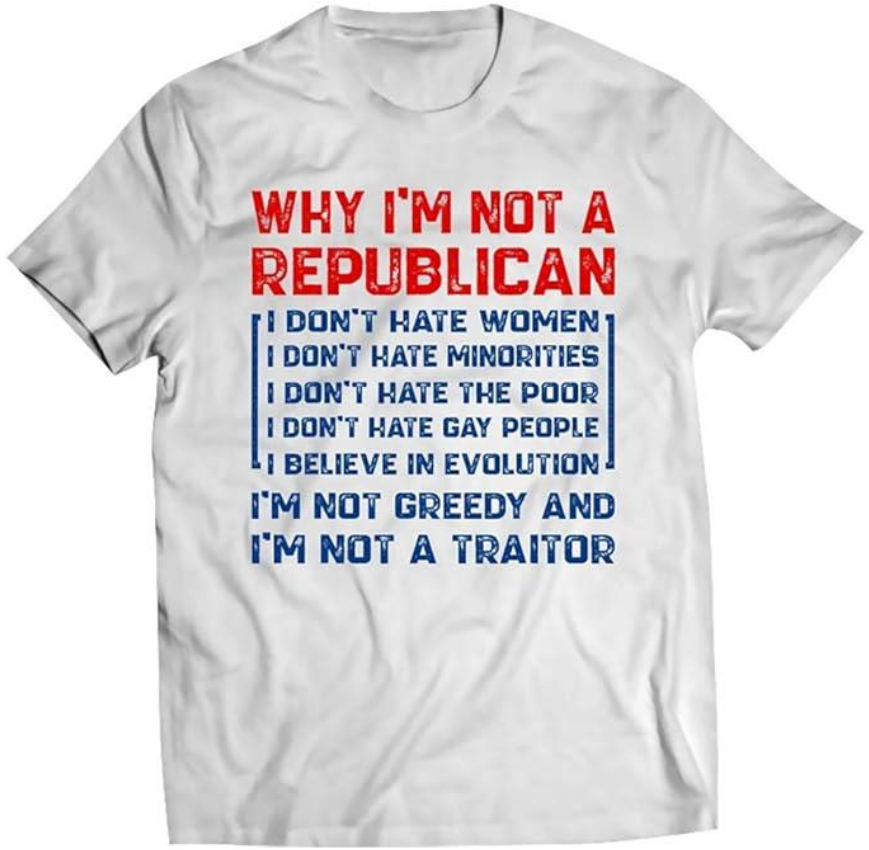
Marine Lance Corporal Matthew Snyder died in the line of duty in Iraq. Phelps and other members of his congregation learned of the funeral arrangements for Lance Corporal Snyder. The group traveled from Kansas to Maryland. On the day of the services, the group picketed on public streets adjacent to the Maryland State House, the US Naval Academy and the funeral. They carried signs that said things such as: "God Hates the USA/Thank God for 911"; "Thank God for IEDs"; "Thank God for Dead Soldiers"; and "You're going to Hell."

The authorities were notified in advance that the picketers were coming. The group complied with police instructions regarding staging their picket line. The picketing took place about 1,000 feet away from the funeral on public land adjacent to a public street. The group showed their signs, sang hymns and recited Bible verses for approximately 30 minutes before the funeral.

1. ***Are the actions of the pickets protected by the First Amendment?***

Snyder v. Phelps (2011)

"Speech cannot be restricted simply because it is upsetting or arouses contempt." "Speech is powerful. It can stir people to action, move them to tears of both joy and sorrow, and – as it did here – inflict great pain. On the facts before us, we cannot react to that pain as punishing the speaker. As a Nation we have chosen a different course – to protect even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate. That choice requires that we shield Westboro from tort liability for its picketing in this case."



You are called to your local Stop and Shop grocery store on a report of a heated verbal altercation in the parking lot. Upon arrival you observe an individual (Max) bleeding and holding his nose. The second individual (Keith) had bloody knuckles and was shouting profanities at the Max. Keith begins explaining to you that "*he hit his sissy ass because these snowflake liberals think they can get away with anything.*" You talk to Max who is wearing the shirt pictured. Max tells you that Keith approached him and stated that his shirt is very offensive because he himself was a gay Latino man who is Republican. The two began to argue. During the argument Max began making comments about border control and how Keith should really take that into consideration when voting seeing as he is Hispanic. Keith then punched him in the face. Max wants to press charges against Keith. You talk to Keith who admits to losing his temper and hitting Max. He asks if Max can be charged with a hate crime because of his offensive shirt.

What do you do?

Learning Objective 2

Review prevalent hate crime statutes, relevant terminology and current hate crimes data.

Underreporting

- The NCVS from 2012-2016:
  - More than 2.4 million bias-motivated criminal acts; FBI recorded 30,000
  - 2/3 of victims lacked tangible evidence to pursue criminal charges
- Annually, 200,000 to 300,000 hate crimes occur
  - FBI data records less than 10,000 of them
  - Roughly 40-50% go unreported
  - Second study found 30% of victims did not report due to distrust in law enforcement

Historical Significance of Hate Crimes

1865-1965 → 1882 → 1830-1939 → 1942-1945 → 1969 → 2001 → 2020-2023

Lynching & Jim Crow Laws	**Chinese Exclusion Act**	**Antisemitism in America**	**Japanese Internment**	**Stonewall Uprising**	**9/11**	**COVID-19 Pandemic**

Barriers to Reporting

Internal	External
Internalization	Fear of consequence
Lack of awareness	Lack of trust in statutory agencies

Internal Barriers to Reporting

- **Internalization**: are the beliefs or perceptions that normalize hate victimization
- **Lack of awareness**: may not know what hate crime is, why it happens, and their rights
- **A lack of awareness in the community** surrounding these points will affect the reporting of hate incidents.

External Barriers to Reporting

- **Fear of consequences:** victims feel insecure about reporting their victimization
- **Lack of trust** in law enforcement or criminal justice system.
- **Disbelief** and feeling that **reporting the incident is useless** or have doubts about coming forward to report because they **fear how they will be treated**.
- **Inaccessibility**
- **Language limitations**

Massachusetts Hate Crime Reporting Act (1991)

- The Hate Crime Reporting Act, M.G.L. c 22C § 32 defines ***hate crime*** as:

  *"any criminal act coupled with overt **actions motivated by bigotry and bias** including, but not limited to a threatened, attempted or completed overt act motivated at least in part by the victims **race, ethnicity, national origin, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, handicap** (physical, mental or health), or **gender/gender identity** (male, female, transgender, and non-binary), or which otherwise **deprives another person of his constitutional rights** by threats, intimidation or coercion, or which seek to **interfere with or disrupt a person's exercise of constitutional rights** through harassment or intimidation."*

What is a hate crime in Massachusetts

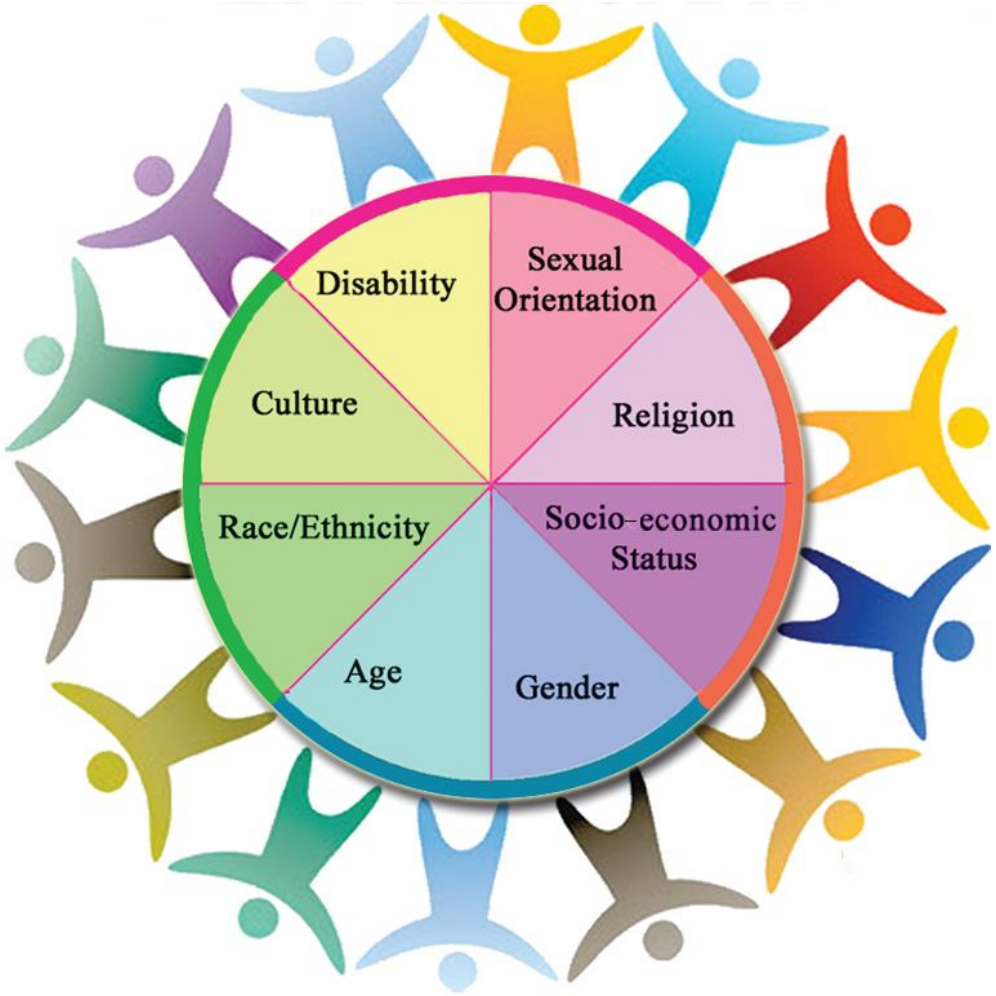
- Violations of the following criminal statutes are considered hate crimes under MGL c 22C § 32:
  - MGL c 265 § 37 – Violations of Constitutional Rights
  - MGL c 265 § 39 – Assault or battery for purposes of intimidation
  - MGL c 266 § 127A Destruction of place of worship
  - MGL c 272 § 92A Advertisement, book, notice or sign relative to discrimination.
- Just because an offender is biased against a person's actual or perceived race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender and/or gender identity does not mean a hate crime was committed. To be a hate crime, the criminal act must have been motivated, in whole or in part, by the suspect's bias.
- Before an act can be reported as a hate crime, objective facts (bias indicators) must be present to lead a reasonable person to believe the offender's actions were motivated by bias.

Bias Indicators

- ***Bias indicators*** are objective facts circumstances, or patterns attending a criminal act which, standing alone or in conjunction with other facts or circumstances, suggest that the offender's actions were motivated, in whole or in part, by any form of bias

- ***Bias Motive*** is hatred, hostility, or negative attitudes towards, or prejudice against, any group or individual on account of race, religion, ethnicity, handicap, gender, or sexual orientation, which is a contributing factor, in whole or in part, in the commission of a criminal act.

What is a Hate Crime?



- In this context, “hate” means bias against people or groups with specific characteristics defined by the law.
- Violate a person’s civil rights

Hate Crime vs. Hate Incident

Hate Crime		Hate Incident
• A **crime** where the suspect selects a victim (or property) because they are an actual or perceived protected class member. • Any criminal act coupled with overt actions motivated by bigotry and bias • ***Added element of bias***	**vs.**	• Relates to the actions conducted by an individual or group • Motivated by hate or bias, but does not rise to the level of a criminal offense

Video- Belmont Road Rage Homicide

Violation of Civil Rights (MGL c 265 § 37)

1. the victim was exercising a right or privilege protected by the Constitution or laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or of the United States;
2. the defendant either injured, intimidated, interfered with, oppressed or threatened the exercise or enjoyment of that legally protected right by the victim, or attempted to do so;
3. That the defendant did so by using force or by threatening to use force; and
4. That the defendant did so willfully.

Right of arrest:

- **Felony if bodily injury occurs.**
- **Presence for breach of peace.**
- **Complaint for all others**.

Element 1: Rights / Privileges

- A person is exercising a right if it is protected by federal or state law.
  - Personal Security
  - Housing: right to own, rent, occupy without discrimination
  - Travel: freely between states and on public transit

Element 1: Rights / Privileges (con.)

- Employment
- Religious worship
- Voting: right to vote and run for office
- Education
- Public accommodations and facilities
- Private establishments open to the public
- Excessive use of force by police

Element 2

The defendant either injured, intimidated, interfered with, oppressed or threatened the exercise or enjoyment of that legally protected right by the victim, or attempted to do so

Element 3: Force / Threat of

That the defendant did so by using force or by threatening to use force

Element 4: Violation of Civil Rights

- To meet the fourth element (willful), Commonwealth must prove
  - defendant's acts with EITHER the specific purpose of interfering with victim's enjoyment of interests protected by their Constitutional right, OR
  - that it was done because the victim had exercised that right.

Assault and Battery to Intimidate (MGL c 265 § 39)

1. The defendant touched the victim;
2. The defendant intended to touch the victim;
3. The touching was either likely to cause bodily harm or was offensive; and
4. At the time of the touching the defendant had the specific intent to intimidate the victim because of their race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

Right of arrest:

- **Felony if bodily injury occurs or if the defendant committed the offense while armed with a firearm, rifle, shotgun or assault weapon.**
- **Otherwise, presence for breach of peace.**
- **Complaint for all others.**

Destruction of a Place of Worship (MGL c 266 § 127A)

1. The defendant destroyed, defaced, marred or injured any of the following:
    a. Church
    b. Synagogue
    c. Other building, structure or place used for the purpose of burial or memorializing the dead
    d. A school or educational facility
    e. community center
    f. the ground adjacent to and owned or leased by any of the above listed places
2. the defendant either acted willfully, intentionally, and without right OR was wanton and without cause.

Right of Arrest: Felony if damage or loss to property exceed $5,000.00. Otherwise, presence for breach of peace. Complaint for all others.

Notice or Sign Relative to Discrimination (MGL c 272 § 92A)

1. The defendant is an owner, lessee, proprietor, manager, superintendent, agent or employee of any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement
2. Directly or indirectly publish, issue, circulate, distribute or display, in any way, any advertisement, circular, folder, book, pamphlet, written or painted or printed notice or sign, of any kind or description;
3. Defendant does so with the intent to discriminate against a person or persons of any religious sect, creed, class, race, color, denomination, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality or because of deafness or blindness or any physical or mental disability
4. While the victim is in the full enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges offered to the general public by such places of public accommodation, resort or amusement.

Right of Arrest: in presence for breach of peace or complaint

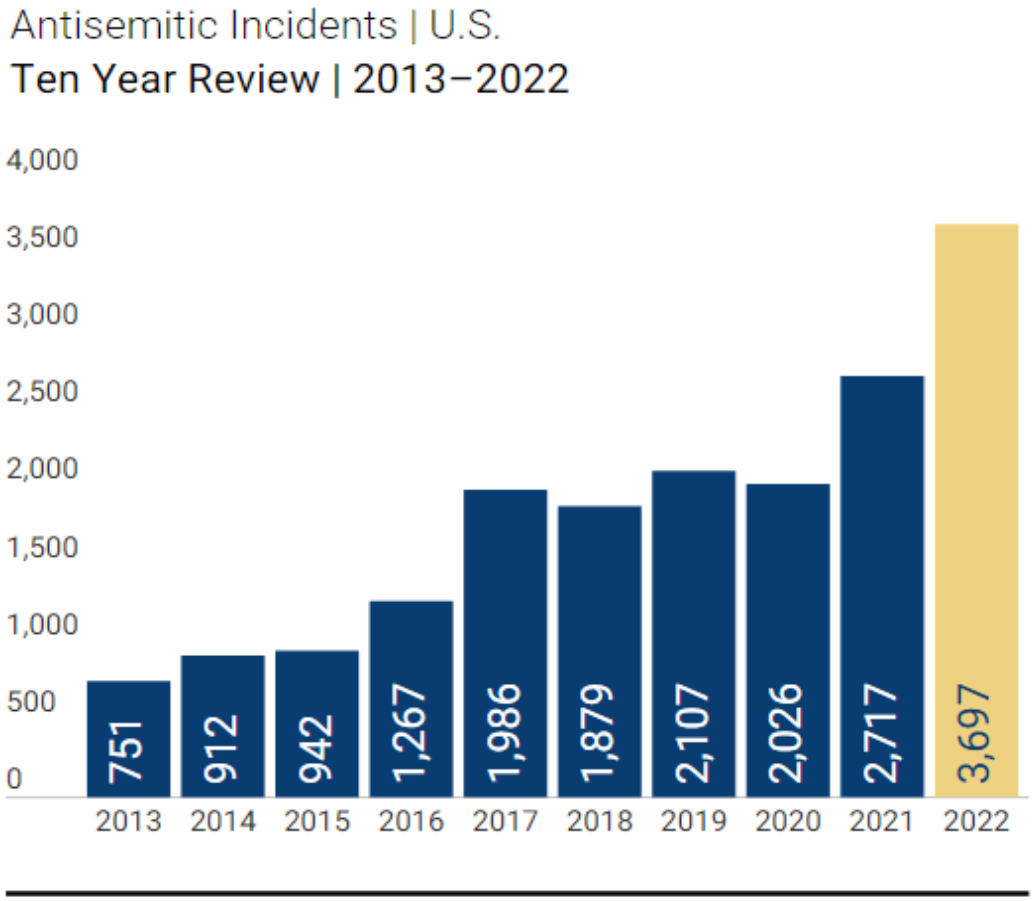
Potential Hate Crimes

The following crimes are likely to meet the definition of a hate crime if the motivation of the suspect is known:

- Destroying Grave Sites (MGL c 272 § 73)
- Defacement or Injury to Schoolhouse or Church (MGL c 266 § 98)
- Disturbance of Assembly of Worship (MGL c 272 § 38)
- Arson of a Meeting House or Church (MGL c 266 § 2)

National Scope

- 2020 FBI UCR:
  - 64% of hate crimes were motivated by a bias against race, ethnicity or ancestry
  - 36% were anti-Black or anti-African-American
  - 10% were anti-white
  - 9% were anti-Jewish
  - Number of recorded bias incidents reported by FBI was highest since 2008
- 2022 ADL report:
  - 36% increase of antisemitic incidents
  - highest number on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979.



Rise of Hate Crimes in Massachusetts

Counts of Incidents and Offenses 2014 - 2022										
Crime Count	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**Average**
Incidents	415	411	389	427	351	376	385	406	440	400
Offenses	429	424	411	438	390	421	395	424	458	421.1

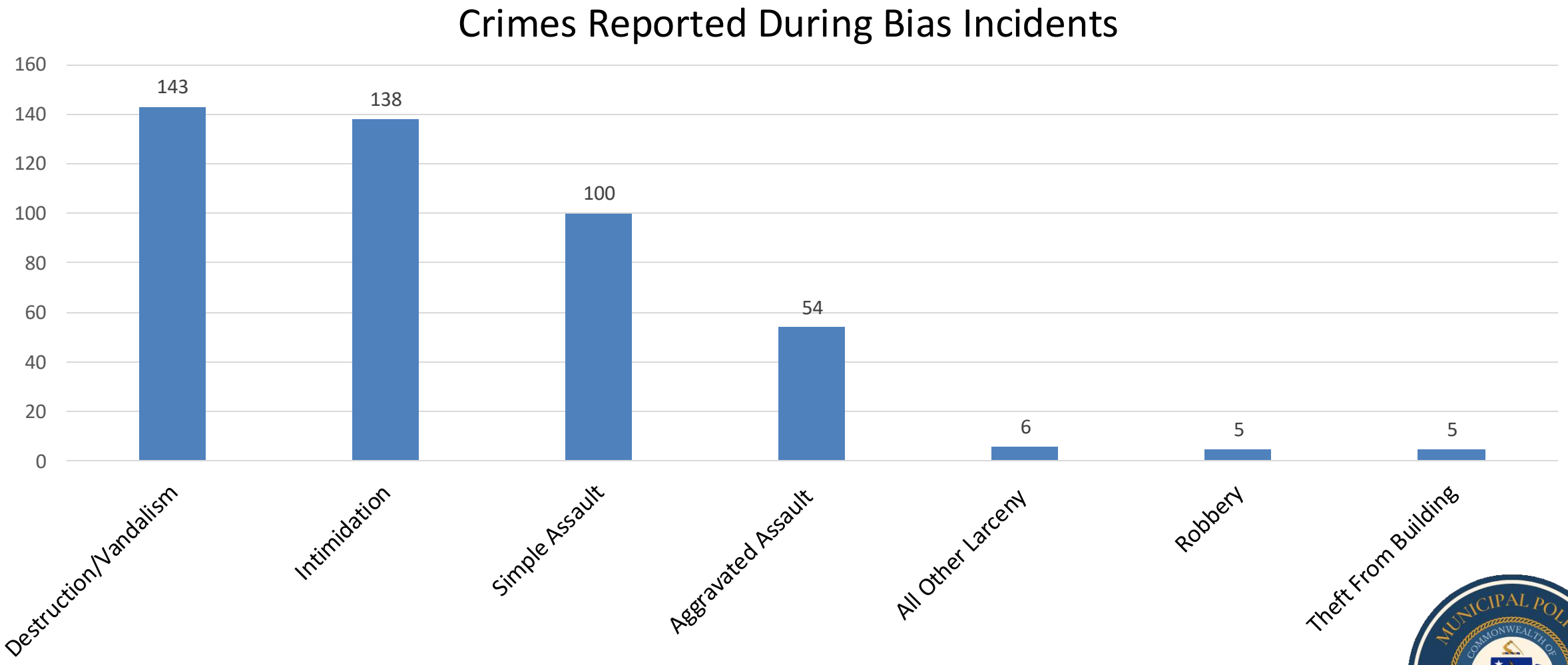
- Between 2000 and 2002, approximately 500 bias motivated incidents were reported each year
- From 2003 through 2018, the number declined to an average of about 360 incidents per year

EOPSS 2022 Annual Hate Crimes Data

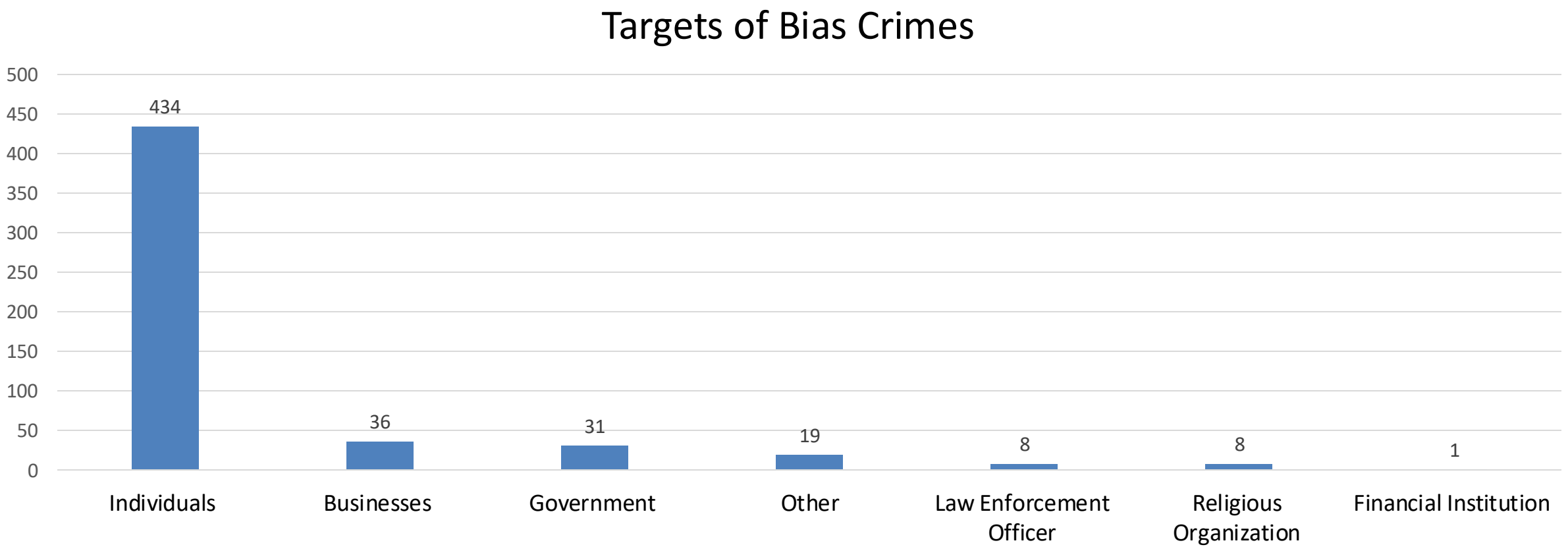
The 2022 EOPSS Annual Hate Crimes data summary found that there were 440 total reported bias incidents, the highest reported count since 2002

Hate Crime by Bias Category	
Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry Bias:	53.6%
Religious Bias:	21.3%
Sexual Orientation Bias:	19.3%
Gender Identity Bias:	5.3%
Gender Bias:	0.5%

What Crimes are Being Reported?

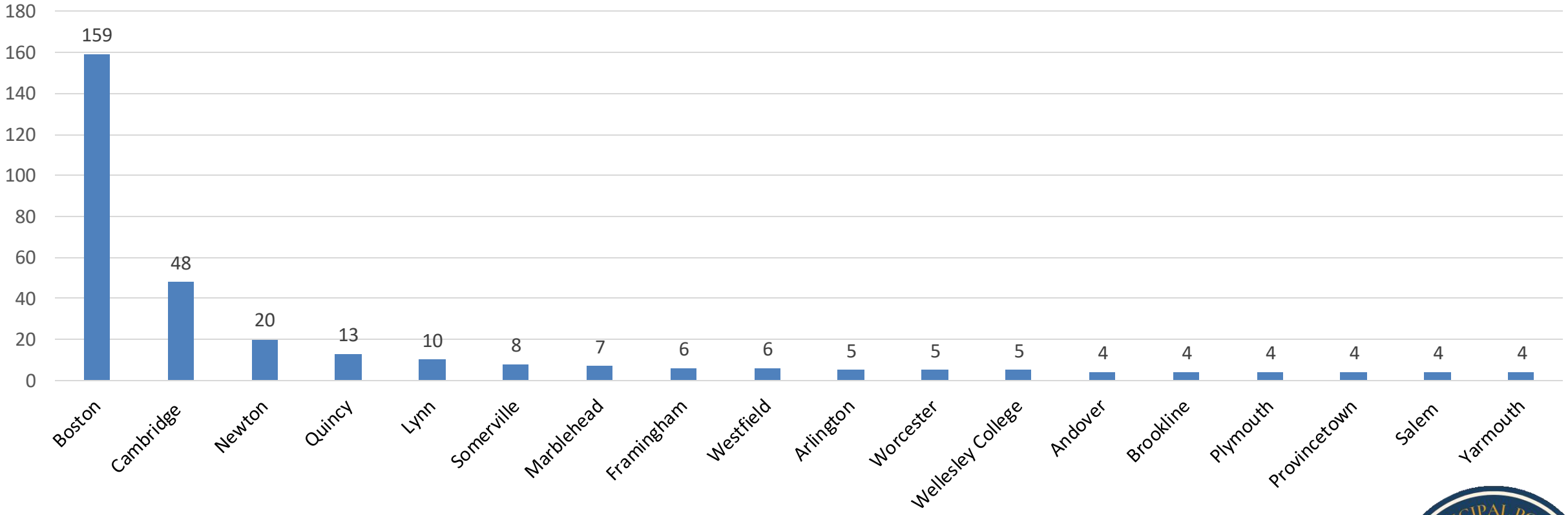


Who/What is Being Targeted?

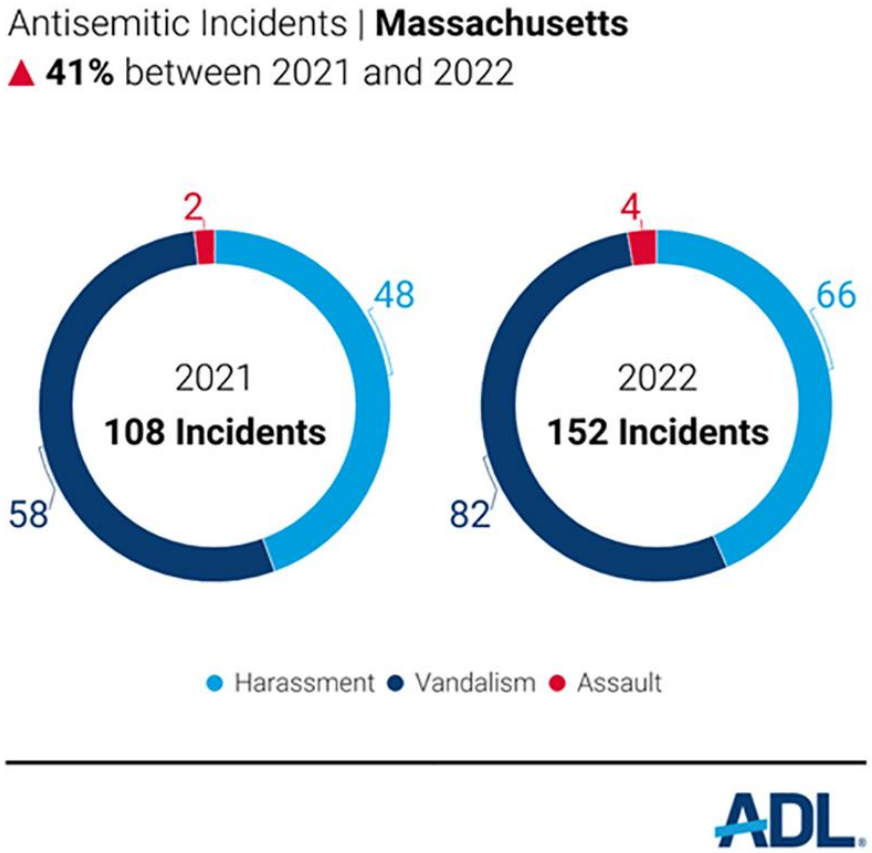


Top Communities Affected

Agencies with 4 or More Reported Hate Crime Incidents



Hate Crimes in Massachusetts



- 2023 ADL report:
  - 6th highest number of reported antisemitic incidents in 2022
  - 2nd highest number of white supremacist propaganda in the U.S.
  - antisemitic incidents rose by 41%
  - incidents of harassment increased by 38%
  - hate crimes increased by 33%
  - white supremacist propaganda increased by 83%
  - surge in anti-LGBTQ+ hate & extremism

Surge in Antisemitic Incidents

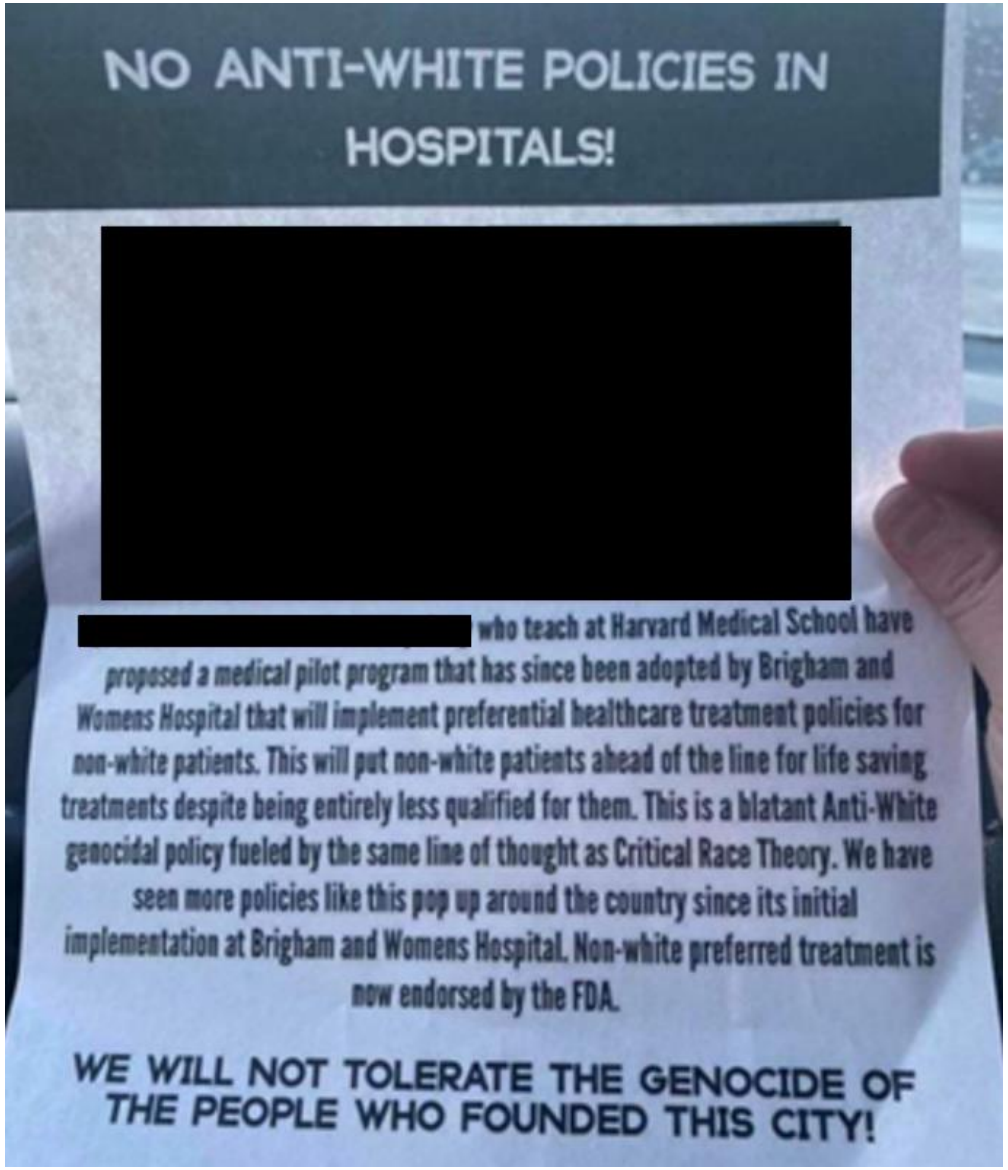
- The ADL's New England region saw a staggering surge in antisemitic incidents in 2023:
  - 623 antisemitic incidents of assault, harassment and vandalism.
  - the total is a record high for the region, represents a 205% increase over 2022.
  - A dramatic spike in antisemitism began in NE after Hamas' attack on Israel last fall.
  - 44% of all incidents in the region occurred after October 7th last year.
  - MA recorded the 5th highest number of incidents per state in the country.

Learning Objective 3

Identify the attributes of hate groups and movements currently active in Massachusetts.

Scenario

You are called to the local medical facility on the report of around two dozen people demonstrating outside. Upon arrival you observe the large group of individuals dressed in identical beige khaki pants and dark hoodies holding a bedsheet with black lettering reading “[name of local hospital] Hospital Kills Whites.” The group is rowdy and can be heard making claims that the hospital’s doctors are “putting non-white patients ahead of the line for life saving treatments.” Furthermore, the group can be heard saying that the hospital is anti-white and genocidal.



Scenario (con.)

A nurse from the hospital provides you with a flier that the group was handing out to patients and employees. He claims that the group had been asked to leave several times as they were disrupting patient care and safety, they have refused to leave and have become more combative.

What do you do?

Hate Group

Hate Group:	an organization, formal or informal, that promotes bias, animosity, hostility, or malice against persons belonging to a racial, religious, ethnic/national origin, sexual orientation, handicap, or gender group.

Prevalent Hate Groups in Massachusetts

- Not all hate crimes or incidents are committed by groups, individuals can be perpetrators on their own.
- It is helpful to learn about hate groups in the area in order for officers to identify potential motives behind criminal acts.
- Hate groups differ by geographic area and can change over time.
- The groups covered in this following section are research backed and have been the most commonly identified by the:
    - Massachusetts State Police HART Unit
    - Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
    - Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

Nationalist Social Club (NSC-131)

- The ***Nationalist Social Club*** is a neo-Nazi group founded in Massachusetts; also referred to as NSC-131
- Since 2021:
    - group has grown rapidly
    - one of New England's most active white supremacist groups
    - presence is particularly significant in MA
    - increased willingness to physically engage with perceived enemies

Nationalist Social Club (NSC-131)

Patriot Front

- ***Patriot Front*** is a Texas-based white supremacist group with members all over the country. Have been increasingly active in MA due to state's ties to the founding of the United States
- Responsible for overwhelming majority of white supremacist propaganda content being produced & distributed in MA
- MA is one of Patriot Front's most active areas

Video- Patriot Front has Long History in MA

Discussion

1. What stood out to you the most as you watched this video?
2. In your role as an officer in Massachusetts, how does this information help you moving forward?

Proud Boys

- The ***Proud Boys*** are a right-wing extremist group with a violent agenda.
  - stage frequent rallies around the country that turn into violent street riots.
  - 119 active Proud Boys chapters across 46 states and international chapters
- During the capitol insurrection a member ripped a riot shield from the hands of a Capitol Police officer, before using it to smash a window through which rioters gained access to the building.
  - members played key roles in the insurrection
  - members accounted for the highest number of arrestees in relation to the insurrection
- Have continued to engage in localized on-the-ground activity, targeting school board meetings, public forums and local LGBTQ+ events

Proud Boys

Antifa

- ***Antifa*** refers to a decentralized network of far-left militants that oppose what they believe are fascist, racist, or otherwise right-wing extremists.
  - frequently conduct counter-protests to disrupt far-right gatherings and rallies.
  - often wear black clothing, ski masks, scarves, sunglasses, and other material to conceal their faces
  - use improvised explosive devices, other homemade weapons, and resort to vandalism.
  - members organize their activities through social media, encrypted peer-to-peer networks, and encrypted messaging services such as Signal
  - have been increasingly active in protests and rallies over the past few years

Antifa

Moms for Liberty

- ***Moms for Liberty (M4L)*** is a conservative "parents' rights" organization, that has emerged as a visible player in U.S. education politics.
  - national organization that oversees dozens of semi-autonomous county chapters; amounting to about 103,000 members across 278 chapters in 45 states.
  - engaged in local school board politics and elections across the country.
  - at the forefront of the conservative movement targeting books that reference race and gender identity and electing right-wing candidates to local school boards nationwide
  - designated M4L as an "anti-government extremist" group.
  - members use parents' rights as a vehicle to attack public education and make schools less welcoming for minority and LGBTQ+ students

Super Happy Fun America

- ***Super Happy Fun America*** **is** a right-wing, Massachusetts-based group which first drew national attention for organizing a 2019 Straight Pride Parade in Boston.
    - based in Lexington MA, group likes to consider themselves to be the re-founding fathers.
    - right-winged civil rights organization focused on defending the Constitution, opposing gender madness and defeating cultural Marxism.
    - developed a 10-point plan to save America.
    - group boasts about 400 “card-carrying” members.
    - leaders founded the group in 2019 and incorporated it as a MA nonprofit, telling the secretary of state’s office that it would “advocate on behalf of the heterosexual community.”

Super Happy Fun America

Extinction Rebellion

- In the U.K., ***Extinction Rebellion (or XR)*** is a household name, able to generate enough pressure to reach milestones that traditional environmental campaigners spent decades chasing.
  - describes itself as "*a politically non-partisan international movement that uses non-violent direct action to persuade governments to act justly on the Climate and Ecological Emergency*."
  - have staged demonstrations across the globe.
  - members state that life on Earth is in crisis and facing a mass extinction.
- The group has four demands in the US:

  1. Tell the truth
  2. Act now
  3. Beyond politics
  4. Just transition

Extinction Rebellion

No Coal No Gas

- The ***No Coal No Gas*** campaign was formed in 2019 as a regional coalition of affinity groups, partner organizations, and individual humans.
  - defines themselves as a direct-action campaign dedicated to ending the burning of fossil fuels in New England.
  - argues that "*climate change and air pollution from the continued burning of fossil fuels affect everyone - but the first and worst impacts are born by people in the Global South, poor folks, Black and Indigenous communities, and People of Color. Climate change is a justice issue that demands our immediate action*."

Why are we discussing this?

- The focus on each of these hate groups and movements stems from the fact that these groups have been highly active across Massachusetts.
- Being able to recognize the groups logos, appearance, and having an understanding of their mission grants you the ability to recognize propaganda or harmful rhetoric when they occur in your community.
- Recognizing the signs and being in tune with what is going on/present in your community helps you better prepare for situations that may arise.

Learning Objective 4

Discuss the current resources made available to Massachusetts police officers and victims when investigating hate crimes.

Creation of HART Unit

- In November 2023, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced a new statewide initiative to confront and deter hate crimes
- Massachusetts State Police formed the Hate Crime Awareness and Response Team (HART)
- HART is assigned under the Department of Homeland Security, Anti-Terrorism Unit
- Comprised of 5 sworn Massachusetts State Police members that are located across the state

HART Mission

- Dedicated to enhancing federal, state and local partnerships
- Work to strengthen relationships with community leaders for a more effective and efficient response to hate crimes and hate-based incidents
- Enhance statewide data collection and information sharing in order to identify statewide, national, and global patterns and trends
- Increase stakeholder collaboration and educational outreach
- Partner with the Municipal Police Training Committee to equip law enforcement with best practices for hate crime response

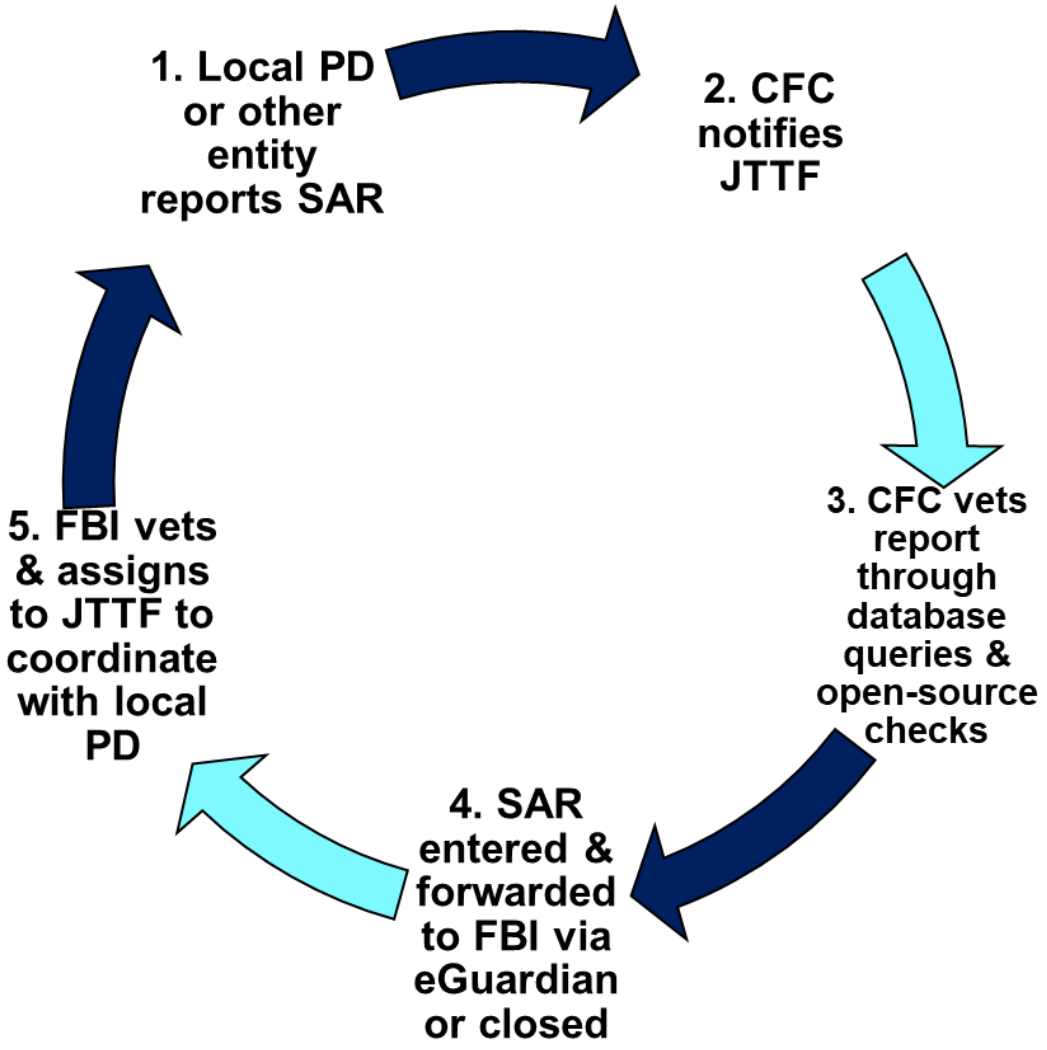
Suspicious Activity Reporting Commonwealth Fusion Center (CFC)

- Background:
  - State and major urban area fusion centers serve as primary focal points within the state and local environment for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat-related information among state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal partners.
- A suspicious activity report (SAR) is used to document any reported or observed activity or criminal act that an officer believes may reveal a nexus to terrorism. The information reported may be the result of observations or investigations by police officers or may be reported to them by private parties.

Reporting of SARs

- The CFC encourages all SARs, including threats to schools or houses of worship, to be reported to the police department of jurisdiction.
- The police department of jurisdiction should report all SARs to their fusion center of jurisdiction.
- Any SARs involving threats of an immediate nature should be reported to the fusion center of jurisdiction & Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) immediately

Role of the CFC & JTTF



- Essential Partnerships:
  - General Public
  - Local Business Partners
  - Local Police Agencies
  - School / University / Campus Police
  - District Attorneys' Offices
  - Attorney General's Office
  - United States Attorney's Office

Attorney General's Office Criminal Bureau

- Information and Resources surrounding the AGO's Anti Hate work is located at https://www.mass.gov/addressing-hate-in-our-communities
- The Criminal Bureau has recent experience with referrals related to hate groups:
  - "Tagging" vandalism conduct by white nationalist organization, Patriot Front
  - Military-style marching and parading by masked members of hate groups
  - Violent confrontations in public spaces instigated by local neo-Nazi group, NSC-131

Attorney General Office Resources

- AG office can file an Injunction in Superior Court
- Provides information to residents
- accepts and reviews **complaints alleging civil rights violations** and brings enforcement actions under state and federal laws that prohibit discrimination
- Individuals can file a civil rights complaint on the AG's website or they can call with any questions: (617) 963-2917.

Conclusion

- The police officer pictured was working a security detail in front of a KKK rally in Charlottesville, VA, in 2016. He stated:

  "I swore to protect my city and that's what I was there to do. I don't think it makes me a hero, just doing what I believe in."

- It is important to remember that no matter what your personal views on a particular topic may be, you:
  - took an oath,
  - have a duty to uphold the Constitution,
  - serve and protect your community.
- This includes protecting the First Amendment rights of people you disagree with.
- Thoroughly document evidence in all bias-motivated incidents, even if criminal charges cannot be brought forth.