

# Prevalence of Racial Hate Crimes in LA Crime Data

By Lilly K, Elizabeth B & Olivia VD.





# Data

The data we utilized for this project is from the city Los Angeles Police on [Data.gov](https://data.gov).

The data covers:

- crime and arrest reports from 2020-present including:
  1. crime type
  2. location
  3. race of victim
  4. weapon used

**FOR CONTEXT:** Our data sheet had millions of entries, so we narrowed it down to 250 entries to make it more manageable.





# Problem Statement

How do these 3 variables (race, location, and crime type) indicate a possible racial hate crime against African Americans? What information is missing that could further prove or disprove that a hate crime took place?





## Identifying Hate Crimes

What is  
our  
Method?



We will be using  
Poirier's "Reading  
Datasets" methods

1. **Denotative Reading (literal reading):** We will research how each category of the dataset is defined by officials
2. **Deconstructive Reading (critical reading):** We will research what has been left out of the dataset and how the exclusion of might cover up/expose hate crimes.
3. **Investigate** the proportion of hate crime victims that are African American vs other races.

# What is a hate crime?

**According to the FBI,** “A hate crime is a traditional offense like murder, arson, or vandalism with an added element of bias”

Biases include: **Race**, religion, gender, gender identity, sexuality, etc.



# What columns are included? What do they mean?

(According to the LAPD)

- Date Rptd (Date reported)
- Date OCC (Date crime was committed)
- Crm Cd (Indicates the crime committed)
- Vict Age (Victim age)
- Vict Sex (M = male, F = female, X = unknown)
- Vict Descent (Victim descent)
- Premis Cd (The type of structure, vehicle, or location where the crime took place)
- Weapon Used Cd (The type of weapon used in the crime)
- Location (Street address of crime incident rounded to the nearest hundred block to maintain anonymity)
- ETC.

# Victim Descents Include:



- A - Other Asian
- B - Black
- C - Chinese
- D - Cambodian
- F - Filipino
- G - Guamanian
- H - Hispanic/Latin/Mexican
- I - American Indian/Alaskan Native
- J - Japanese
- K - Korean
- L - Laotian
- O - Other
- P - Pacific Islander
- S - Samoan
- U - Hawaiian
- V - Vietnamese
- W - White
- X - Unknown
- Z - Asian Indian



# Our Findings



- ❑ Out of the 33 crimes against African Americans in the data, more than half (55%) were assaults
- ❑ Out of the victims, 51% were women.
- ❑ Majority of the crimes took place in areas of LA with higher crime rates and more police presence.
- ❑ Out of the 33 crimes, 10 or 30.3% of the crimes involved a possibly lethal weapon  
(however, some of the weapon descriptions were blank, so this number could possibly be higher if we had more information to work with)





# What data is missing?



1

## Perpetrator Race

Since the race of the perpetrator is not listed, it is hard to determine if the crime was done due to the victim's race. For example, the crime could've been committed against a individual by another person of the same race.

2

## Motivation

Though a crime might be committed against a POC, there is no motivation listed to prove if it was executed out of racial bias. Hypothetically, the crime and the race could have nothing to do with each other.

3

## Population of L.A.

In LA, only 8.5% of the population is African American. The ratio of this to the amount of victims that were African American is very telling.

**TLDR: A lot of information about the perpetrator and LA as a whole is missing**



# Connection



Our problem statement asks how race, location, and crime type may indicate a possible racial hate crime against African Americans. Our findings suggest a potential pattern of targeted violence.

The high level of violence may suggest targeted aggression. However, critical information is missing that would help confirm whether these incidents were racially motivated hate crimes.

The dataset lacks details about the perpetrators' race, which prevents us from identifying any cross-racial patterns in the violence. While the data raises important concerns and shows patterns that could align with racial bias, the absence of key variables limits our ability to make conclusions.

**Overall, the information provided in the dataset alone makes it hard to conclude if an act against an African American (or any POC) is out of racial bias. There is too much missing data to come to a concrete decision. It could be written off as someone being in the wrong place at the wrong time. However, it can be determined that the population of African Americans in LA, compared to the number of African American victims, is disproportionate and is something that needs to be investigated further by the LAPD.**





# Citations

- US Department of Commerce. “U.S. Census Bureau Quickfacts: Los Angeles City, California.” *QuickFacts Los Angeles, California* , United States Census Bureau , [www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/losangelescitycalifornia/PST045224](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/losangelescitycalifornia/PST045224). Accessed 3 June 2025.
- Department, Los Angeles Police. “Crime Data from 2020 to Present: Los Angeles - Open Data Portal.” *Crime Data from 2020 to Present | Los Angeles - Open Data Portal*, City of Los Angeles, 28 May 2025, [data.lacity.org/Public-Safety/Crime-Data-from-2020-to-Present/2nrs-mtv8/about\\_data](https://data.lacity.org/Public-Safety/Crime-Data-from-2020-to-Present/2nrs-mtv8/about_data).
- “Hate Crimes.” *FBI*, FBI, 3 May 2016, [www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/hate-crimes](https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/hate-crimes).
- S.A., Torrance. “LAPD - 77th Precinct Station.” *Los Angeles County Criminal Defense Lawyers Greg Hill & Associates*, Greg Hill and Associates, 2025, [www.greghillassociates.com/lapd-77th-precinct-station.html#:~:text=Criminal%20activity%20in%20the%2077th,and%20vandalism\)%20and%20drug%20trafficking](https://www.greghillassociates.com/lapd-77th-precinct-station.html#:~:text=Criminal%20activity%20in%20the%2077th,and%20vandalism)%20and%20drug%20trafficking).





# Thank You!

