

# Police-reported hate crimes, 2015

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Hate crimes rose by 5% in Canada in 2015, largely due to an increase in incidents targeting certain religious and ethno-cultural groups, specifically the Muslim population and Arabs or West Asians. For the year, police reported 1,362 criminal incidents that were motivated by hate in Canada, 67 more than the previous year.

These findings are included in the new *Juristat* article "[Police-reported hate crime in Canada, 2015](#)" released today.

Police-reported hate crimes refer to criminal incidents that, upon investigation by police, are found to have been motivated by hatred toward an identifiable group, as defined in subparagraph 718.2(a)(i) of the *Criminal Code of Canada*. An incident may be against a person or property and may target race, colour, national or ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, language, sex, age, mental or physical disability, among other factors. In addition, there are four specific offences listed as hate propaganda offences or hate crimes in the *Criminal Code of Canada*: advocating genocide, public incitement of hatred, willful promotion of hatred, and mischief motivated by hate in relation to religious property. Police determine whether or not a crime was motivated by hatred based on information gathered during the investigation and common national guidelines for record classification.

Overall, police reported 469 *Criminal Code* incidents in 2015 that were motivated by hatred of a religion, 40 more incidents than the previous year. These accounted for 35% of hate-motivated crimes reported in 2015.

Police-reported hate crimes targeting the Muslim population increased from 99 incidents in 2014 to 159 incidents in 2015, an increase of 61%. At the same time, the number of police-reported crimes targeting the Jewish population declined from 213 in 2014 to 178 in 2015. Hate crimes targeting the Jewish population accounted for 13% of all hate crimes, followed closely by hate crimes targeting the Muslim population (12%).

Approximately 10% of the population in Canada were part of a non-Christian religion in 2016. According to recent projections by Statistics Canada, the number of people in Canada with a non-Christian religion could almost double by 2036. Within this group, the Muslim, Hindu and Sikh faiths would see the number of their followers grow more quickly, although still representing a small portion of the population overall. In 2015, a number of police services increased outreach to ethnic groups, including Muslim communities. In addition, the National Council of Canadian Muslims made efforts to encourage reporting of hate crimes to police.

## Increase in hate crimes against Arab and West Asian populations

From 2014 to 2015, the number of police-reported crimes motivated by hatred of a race or ethnicity increased 5%. Much of this increase was a result of more hate crimes targeting Arab and West Asian populations (+33%). Although down in 2015, crimes targeting Black populations remained the most common type of hate crime related to race or ethnicity (17% of all hate crimes). Overall, 48% of all police-reported hate crimes in 2015 were motivated by hatred of a race or ethnicity.

## National increase in hate crimes driven by more incidents being reported by police in Alberta

In all, 8 of 10 provinces reported an increase in the number of police-reported hate crimes from 2014 to 2015. The increase was most pronounced in Alberta, where police reported 193 hate crimes compared with 139 the year before (+39%). This increase was primarily driven by a higher number of police-reported crimes motivated by hatred against the Muslim population (+12 incidents), Arab or West Asian populations (+10), Black populations (+9), and the Jewish population (+8). It should be noted that Alberta also reported an overall increase in their 2015 crime statistics.

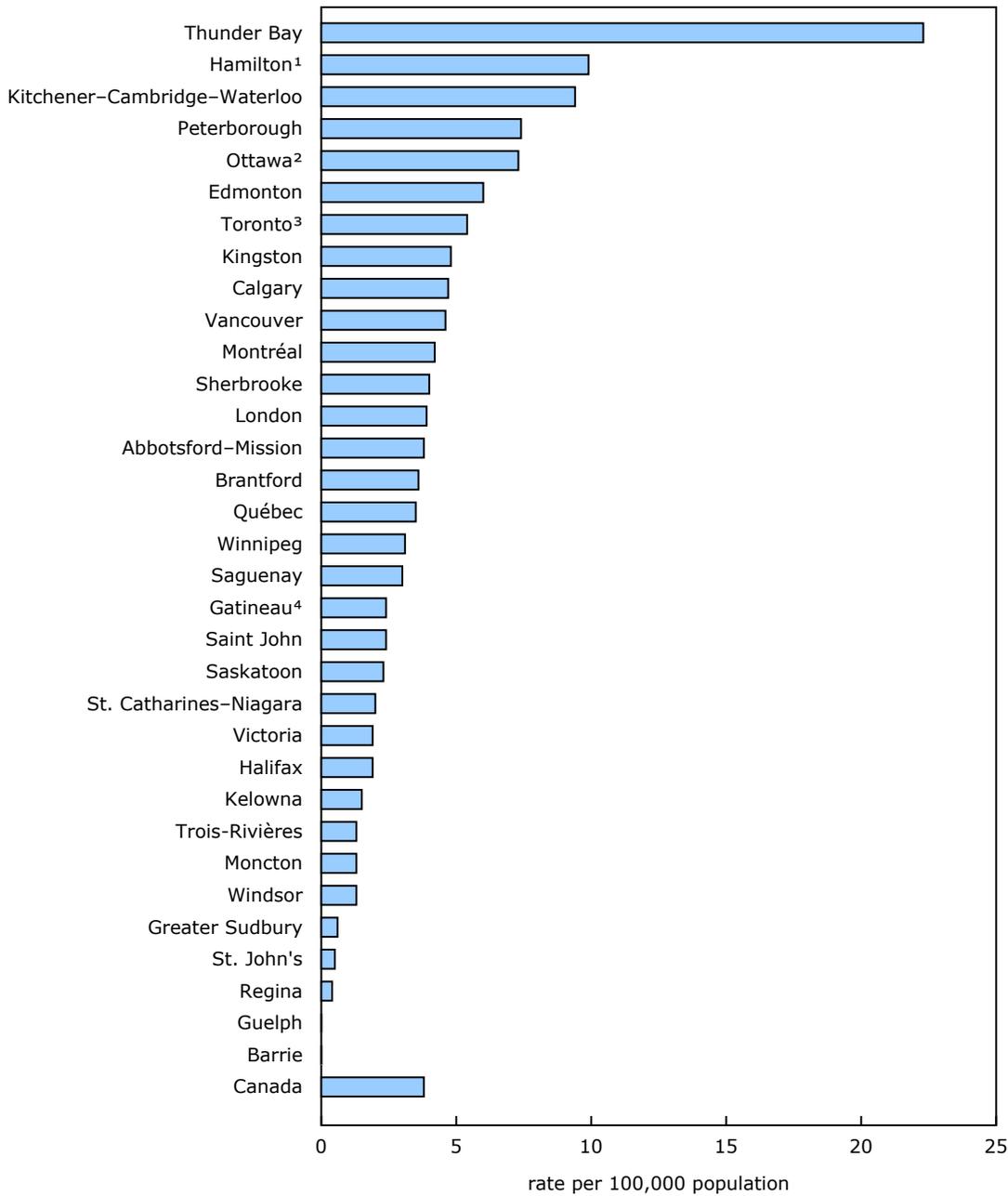
In contrast, in Ontario, which historically records close to half the total number of hate crimes in Canada (46%), the number of police-reported hate crimes declined by 5% from 2014. The decrease in Ontario was primarily driven by fewer police-reported hate crimes motivated by hatred against the Jewish religion (-30 incidents) and against the Black population (-19).



From 2014 to 2015, police-reported crime motivated by hatred against the Muslim population increased in all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where the totals remained virtually the same.

## Number of hate crime incidents grows in four of Canada's ten largest census metropolitan areas

**Chart 1**  
**Police-reported hate crimes, by census metropolitan area, 2015**



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1. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton CMA.
  2. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
  3. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto CMA.
  4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

**Note(s):** A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this chart due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. In 2015, coverage for each CMA was virtually 100%, with the exception of Saskatoon (99%), Brantford (95%), Windsor (91%), Toronto (91%), and Hamilton (74%).

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

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More than 80% of police-reported hate crimes in Canada occurred in census metropolitan areas (CMAs). The 10 largest CMAs in Canada, home to over half of Canada's population, accounted for 71% of hate crimes in 2015. The three most populous CMAs of Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver together accounted for 43% of police-reported incidents in 2015.

Of the 10 largest CMAs in Canada, 4 reported more hate crimes in 2015 compared with the previous year, while 5 reported fewer such crimes. Vancouver reported the same number of incidents in 2015 as in 2014. The largest increases in hate crime incidents were reported in Edmonton (+45 incidents), Montréal (+39) and Kitchener–Waterloo–Cambridge (+23).

The increase in the Edmonton CMA was driven by more reported hate crime incidents against a race or ethnicity (+25) and against a religion (+17), mainly targeting the Muslim (+8) and Jewish (+7) populations. The number of hate crimes in Montréal was attributable to 33 more reported incidents targeting a religion. Of the additional incidents, 20 of these targeted the Muslim population. In the CMA of Kitchener–Waterloo–Cambridge, counts were primarily driven by more incidents targeting different races or ethnicities (+12) and religions (+10).

### **Increase reported in number of female victims of violent hate crimes**

Females were more likely to be victims in incidents targeting a religion, and the presence of female victims in violent crimes motivated by hatred of a religion increased in 2015. That year, 53% of these victims were female, compared with 40% in 2014. The increase in female victims of religious hate crimes is attributed to an increase in female victims for Jewish and Muslim hate crimes from 2014 to 2015.

### **Victims of hate crimes targeting a sexual orientation are most likely to sustain an injury and know the accused**

Police-reported hate crimes targeting sexual orientation declined 9% for the year, down from 155 incidents in 2014 to 141 incidents in 2015. They accounted for 11% of the hate crimes reported in 2015.

Unlike other types of hate crimes, almost 6 in 10 of reported crimes motivated by hatred of a sexual orientation were violent. This compares with 45% of anti-race or ethnicity offences, and 24% of anti-religion hate crimes. Just over 4 in 10 victims of hate crimes targeting a sexual orientation (42%) reported an injury, compared with victims of violent crimes motivated by hatred of a race or ethnicity (29%) and of a religion (12%).

Victims of violent hate crimes targeting sexual orientation were more likely to list the relationship as acquaintance or family member (47%). This compares with victims of violent crimes motivated by hatred of a race or ethnicity (36%) and of a religion (26%).

### **Violent hate crimes increase in 2015, but still account for less than half of hate crimes**

Violent offences accounted for 38% of police-reported hate crimes in 2015. Violent offences included such things as assault, uttering threats, and criminal harassment. Overall, the number of violent hate crimes increased 15% from the previous year, driven by increases in common assault and uttering threats.

From 2014 to 2015, the total number of non-violent hate crime incidents increased by 5%. Mischief, which includes vandalism and graffiti, was the most commonly reported offence among police-reported hate crimes, accounting for 44% of all hate crime incidents in 2015.

**Note to readers**

Police-reported hate crime data have been collected on an annual basis since 2006 and, since 2010, data cover 99% of the population of Canada.

Fluctuations in the annual number of incidents can be influenced by changes in local police service practices and community involvement, as well as the willingness of victims to report incidents to police. The number of hate crimes presented in this release likely undercounts the true extent of hate crime in Canada, as not all crimes are reported to police. Self-reported victimization data from Canadians suggest that about one-third (35%) of incidents perceived by respondents to have been motivated by hate were reported to police.

Data on hate crime for 2015 are now available upon request for police services across Canada reporting to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

**Table 1**  
**Police-reported hate crimes, by detailed motivation, Canada, 2014 and 2015**

	2014		2015	
	number	%	number	%
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>48</b>
Black	238	19	224	17
East or Southeast Asian	52	4	49	4
South Asian	49	4	48	4
Arab or West Asian	69	5	92	7
Aboriginal	37	3	35	3
White	49	4	38	3
Other <sup>1</sup>	106	8	130	10
Race not specified	11	1	25	2
<b>Religion</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>35</b>
Jewish	213	17	178	13
Muslim	99	8	159	12
Catholic	35	3	55	4
Other <sup>2</sup>	49	4	41	3
Religion not specified	33	3	36	3
Sexual orientation	155	12	141	11
Other <sup>3</sup>	77	6	86	6
Unknown	23	...	25	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>100</b>

... not applicable

1. Includes motivations based upon race or ethnicity not otherwise stated (e.g. Latin American, South American) as well as hate crimes which target more than one race or ethnic group.

2. Includes motivations based upon religions not otherwise stated (e.g. Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist).

3. Includes mental or physical disability, language, sex and other similar factors (e.g. occupation or political beliefs).

**Note(s):** Information in this table reflects data reported by police services covering 99% of the population of Canada. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**Source(s):** Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (3302).

**Table 2**  
**Police-reported hate crimes, by most serious violation, Canada, 2015**

	Race or ethnicity		Religion		Sexual orientation		Other <sup>1</sup>		Total	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
<b>Non-violent</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>62</b>
Mischief in relation to religious property <sup>2</sup>	1	0 <sup>s</sup>	58	13	0	0	0	0	59	5
Other mischief	253	43	228	51	41	31	26	36	561	44
Public incitement of hatred and advocating genocide <sup>2</sup>	19	3	19	4	5	4	7	10	53	4
Other non-violent offences <sup>3</sup>	54	9	34	8	9	7	13	18	112	9
<b>Violent</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total assault</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>16</b>
Common assault (Level 1)	84	14	17	4	29	22	6	8	137	11
Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (Level 2) or aggravated assault (Level 3)	42	7	10	2	16	12	1	1	69	5
Uttering threats	75	13	53	12	14	11	9	12	155	12
Criminal harassment	32	5	14	3	11	8	4	5	62	5
Other violent offences <sup>4</sup>	32	5	16	4	8	6	7	10	64	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>100</b>

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0<sup>s</sup> value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Includes mental or physical disability, language, sex and other similar factors (e.g. occupation or political beliefs).

2. These offences are by definition hate crimes. The other listed offences are general *Criminal Code* offences, such as assault, uttering threats, etc., motivated by hate.

3. Other non-violent offences include crimes against property or other non-violent criminal violations.

4. Other violent offences include other crimes against persons involving violence or threat of violence such as homicide, attempted murder, robbery, harassing telephone calls or other assaults.

**Note(s):** Information in this table reflects data from municipal and provincial police services as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) covering 94% of the Canadian population. As such, this table excludes a small number of police services that do not report to the UCR2.2 Survey, among which are the municipal police services for Calgary, Quebec and Saint John. However, it does include any counts that occurred within the jurisdiction of police services not reporting to UCR2.2, but that were investigated by other police services that do report, such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Ontario Provincial Police, or the Sûreté du Québec. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Total includes incidents where hate motivation was unknown.

**Source(s):** Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (3302).

Available in CANSIM: tables [252-0092](#) to [252-0094](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3302](#).

The *Juristat* article "[Police-reported hate crime in Canada, 2015](#)" ([85-002-X](#)) is now available. From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Crime and Justice*, and *Juristat*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; [STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca)).