

Brief on Police-Reported Crime Statistics in Canada, 2021: Hate Crimes Targeting Sexual Orientation

Key Takeaways

- The Statistics Canada (2022) report defines hate crimes as those that target a person's identity (e.g., race, religion, sexual orientation, and more).
- Since 2019, hate crimes targeting sexual orientation have risen significantly. In 2019, there were 265 hate crimes that targeted sexual orientation, and in 2021, this number rose to 423. Specifically, hate crimes targeting sexual orientation rose 64% (+165 incidents).
- Of these 423 hate crimes, a majority (77%) targeted the gay and lesbian community, a small number toward bisexuals (2%) and other sexual orientations (11%), and 10% of incidents had an unknown sexual orientation target.

Background

This Statistics Canada report on police-reported hate crime in Canada was released on August 2, 2022. The report defined hate crimes as those that target a person's identity based on factors such as gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, or religion, and that impact the wider community (see Statistics Canada [2022], text box 5 for full definition).

While the 2021 police-reported crime rates remained stable, as measured by the Crime Severity Index (CSI), there was an increase in violent crimes (+5%) and hate-reported crimes (+27%) since 2020. The latter increase can be attributed to an increase in hate-crimes targeting sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, and religion. There are several factors that impact police-reported crimes including (but not limited to) an individual's

decision to report a crime to police, differences in police services based on municipality and region, and socioeconomic factors.

What does the 2021 report state about hate crimes against 2SLGBTQI people? What has changed?

The report included statistics on hate crimes targeting sexual orientation, finding that of the 423 hate crimes targeting sexual orientation, most were targeted toward the gay and lesbian community (77%). This is an increase of 64% since 2019. While the report did not provide intersectional data, it is notable that hate crimes relating to race and ethnicity (+6%), as well as religion (+67%), also rose in 2021. Almost one-third of homicide victims were identified by police as persons designated as racialized.

References

Statistics Canada. (2022). *Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2021*.
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00013-eng.htm>